



Remember table-top hockey players? The flash in this photo captures Toronto's Bill Juzda and Detroit's Ted Lindsay in silhouette fashion, seemingly cutting them out of the surrounding play. "Terrible Ted," long-time NHL penalty minutes leader, shown carrying his stick high, was also the first player to hoist the Stanley Cup over his head and skate with it around the rink, now a player tradition.

Ted Lindsay

HHOF 1966

Maple Leafs Gardens · Toronto, ON | March 7, 1951 | Turofsky | B/W · Photo Description

That hockey, especially the professional variety, is a rough and tumble game is a clichéd but still universally accepted truth. It has been since Day One, or at least Day Three.

In its issue of March 3, 1875, previewing what is now considered the first-ever official game of hockey as we know it, *the Montreal Gazette* reported: "A game of hockey will be played at the Victoria Skating Rink this evening by two nines chosen from among the membership. Good fun may be expected as some of the players are reported to be exceedingly expert at the game."

If "good fun" was indeed had during the game, things went downhill rather quickly at some point, at least according to the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, which in its March 5 edition reported: "A disgraceful sight took place at Montreal at the Victoria Skating Rink after a game of hockey. Shins and heads were battered, benches smashed, and the lady spectators fled in confusion."

It is inevitable, really, that passionate and competitive athletes bearing sticks and dashing about on steel blades in what is essentially a caged environment has resulted and continues to result in violent collisions and clashes of all kinds. And that's usually between whistles. That tensions and tempers regularly boil over into less than salubrious and sporting behaviour after the whistle should be no surprise then, either. Hockey players, like everyone else, are flawed, and prone, perhaps more so than other athletes, to "losing their cool," as they say.

The purpose here is not to glorify violence in hockey, but to present captivating photographs that capture the game's inherent intensity and fury and the passions it inflames, as well as the often chaotic, sometimes even comical, scenes it inspires.

Remember these skirmishes?



Brawls were common in the 1970s, and their tell tale sign was a sheet of ice littered with gloves and sticks. This brouhaha occurred between the Blues and Bruins, a regular occurrence when the two tough teams got together, and often featured famous St. Louis defenceman, Bob Gassoff, in the middle of things. The Quesnel, B. C. native amassed 866 penalty minutes in just 245 NHL games.

Blues vs Bruins



Some of the Toronto Police Department's finest come over the boards to help end a bench-clearing brawl in a game between the Maple Leafs and visiting Chicago Blackhawks often considered one of the most famous bench clearing brawls in NHL history. The March 11 Massacre would eventually give to a 2-2 tie.

Leafs vs Blackhawks

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON, State | March 11, 1961 | Turofsky | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"

Mixed martial arts may be known for its octagon, but it isn't the first sport to feature caged combatants. That would be hockey, as illustrated in this photo of the fight between New York's Americans and Rangers with the ref in creamed-coloured sweater doing his best to regain order.

Americans vs Rangers





Left with no dance partner, Leafs' legend and member of the famed "Kid Line," Charlie Conacher, seen here with the New York Americans, looks on as his new teammates tangle with some of his old ones in a 1940 game at Maple Leaf Gardens. A gifted goal scorer, "The Big Bomber" was a key member of the Leafs for nine seasons in the 1930s, and helped them capture the Stanley Cup in 1932.

Charlie Conacher

HHOF 1961



They didn't call him "Leapin' Louie" for nothing. New York Rangers' defenceman, Lou Fontinato, gets airborne after his hit on a Toronto player while Andy Hebenton (No. 12) collects the loose puck. Fontinato was one of hockey's biggest hitters and toughest players over nine seasons with the Rangers and Canadiens. In his first full NHL season, 1955-56, his 202 penalty minutes set a new league record.

Lou Fontinato



Talk about getting your Irish up. Boston Bruins' defenceman, Adam McQuaid, sends a member of the Belfast Giants Elite League Selects flying. The Bruins took on the Selects, a team of all-stars from the United Kingdom Elite Ice Hockey League, as part of a pre-season trip to Europe. Boston prevailed by a score of 5-1. Nine months later, the Bruins won the Stanley Cup in Vancouver.

Adam McQuaid



Chicago Stadium · Chicago, IL | November 14, 1962 | Harold Barkley | colour · transparency · 4" x 5"



One of the latest additions to the Hall of Fame's collection — and to this book — is this personal favourite of Harold Barkley, which hasn't been published since his own photo book in 1969. It shows a who's-who of hockey greats, including Detroit's Gordie Howe, Ted Lindsay (No. 21) and Chicago's Bobby Hull (No. 7).

Blackhawks vs Red Wings

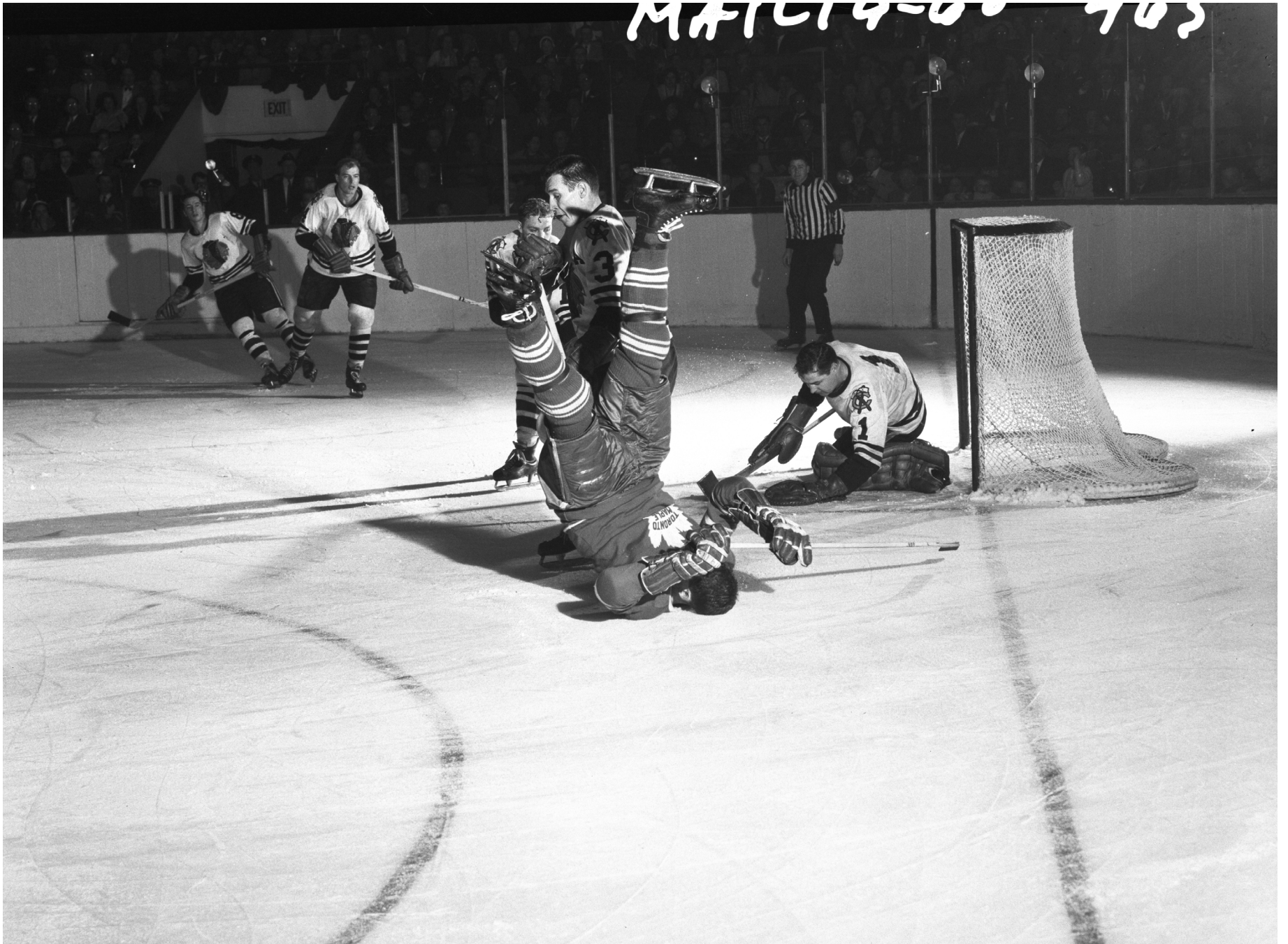


S-A-T-U-R-D-A-Y Night! Linesman, George Hayes, tries to separate the combatants in this game between the Rangers and Canadiens at the Montreal Forum (opposite). "Biggest Brawl in Years," read the headline to the game story in the *Montreal Gazette*. Canadiens' forward, Phil Goyette, who scored Montreal's fourth goal in what would be a 6-1 romp, lost his sweater in the third-period donnybrook, only to have teammate, Doug Harvey, recovered it (left).

Phil Goyette



Montreal Forum · Montreal, QC | February 28, 1959 | Studio Alain Brouillard | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"



Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | March 19, 1960 | Turofsky | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"

Timing is everything in sports — and in sports photography. Photographer, Leon Turofsky, captures the moment perfectly after Blackhawks' defenceman, Pierre Pilote (No. 3), flips Leafs, forward, Gerry James, onto his head in front of the Chicago net, guarded by goalie Glenn Hall, as Murray Balfour (No. 8), Elmer "Moose" Vasko (No. 4) and Bobby Hull (No. 16, hidden), look on.

Leafs vs Blackhawks



Linesman George Hayes was colourful, controversial and a trendsetter. He began officiating in 1946 and was the first NHL official to amass 1,000 games. The big, smooth-skating Hayes was known for his humour, flouting league rules (he was once fined for not shaving) and for scrap-booking. He was the first linesman to hand the puck over to his fellow officials at face-offs, instead of tossing it or sliding it along the ice. Hayes' NHL career ended in 1965 after being suspended indefinitely by league president Clarence Campbell for refusing to take an eye test mandated for league officials.

George Hayes

HHOF 1988



There's a Ford in your future, Taylor Hall. Florida's Jonathan Marchessault takes out the New Jersey Devil in this photo from the 2016-17 season. Hall, a native of Calgary whose family later moved to Kingston, Ontario, was the selected first overall by the Edmonton Oilers in the 2010 NHL Entry Draft. He was traded to New Jersey in the summer of 2016 for defenceman Adam Larsson.

Taylor Hall



The old adage was true even back in the old days. If you're going to go to the net in the NHL, you're going to have to be willing to pay the price. Here, a total of seven Leafs and Rangers — and one referee — vie for positioning during a goalmouth scramble with goalie "Gump" Worsley coolly in control.

Leafs vs Rangers

Location · City, State | Year  Photographer | Photo Description

CLASSIC PHOTOS



Alternately known as "The Entertainer" or "The Nose," Eddie Shack was a showman, spokesman and journerman playing for six NHL teams, including, most famously, the Leafs. He also had a No. 1 song written about him, "Clear the Track, Here Comes Shack", a tune California Seals, Gerry Ehman, clearly hadn't heard before taking the popular Shack for a ride... on his back.

Eddie Shack & Gerry Ehman