



Longtime Toronto Maple Leafs trainer, Tim Daly (standing), and his assistant, Tommy Naylor, use a sewing machine to sew a "C" onto the sweater of Leafs' captain, Ted Kennedy. Daly's service to the team pre-dates the Maple Leafs' name. He started his career as the trainer for the Toronto St. Pats in 1926 and kept the position until he retired in 1960. Naylor had a knack for customizing equipment, and a reputation for being the best skate sharpener in the business.

Tim Daly & Tommy Naylor

Most of the action in hockey takes place out on the ice, but a lot goes on behind the scenes, much of it banal, some of it humorous and some of it as exciting as the games themselves. Fortunately, cameras have been providing fascinating glimpses into what goes on in the hallways, dressing rooms and assorted nooks and crannies of NHL rinks since the game's early days. In fact, back when it was more of a game and the stakes were not quite so high, those who chronicled it in photographs faced fewer restrictions and therefore had more access. These are the results of that access.

The hockey dressing room is a place to prepare, or unwind. Many of the dressing room photos that follow also offer a glimpse at what players wore under their famous jerseys, like Leafs' legend Turk Broda's leather pads. Then there's fellow netminder Glenn Hall's flimsy chest protector, which he wore while facing down powerful players like Gordie Howe and Bernie "Boom-Boom" Geoffrion. No wonder he smoked. Consider too Maurice "Rocket" Richard and his heavy stick with its straight blade, the better to whip a hard backhand at the likes of Broda and Hall.

These photos also reveal why we call them "dressing rooms" and not "locker rooms" as they are called in other sports. Look beyond the players depicted in them and you'll find plaques on the wall, clothing on hooks, racks of sticks, chairs, benches, stalls and fedoras, plenty of fedoras... but no lockers (with one exception).

Some of the photos here are obviously staged, others, thanks to the more relaxed atmosphere of the time, capture truly unguarded moments. Both have their charms.

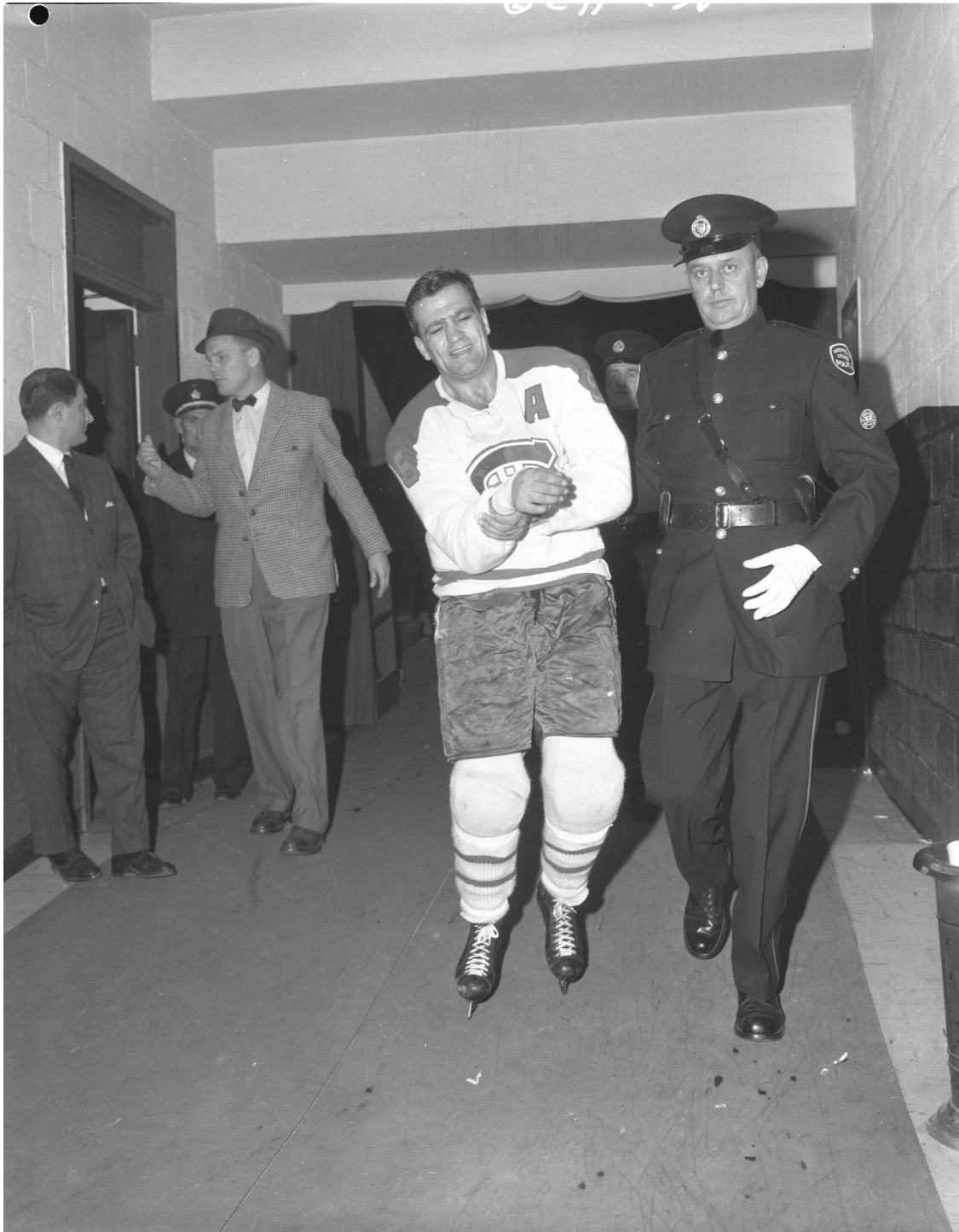
Such wonderful memories.



Walter "Turk" Broda poses with his goaltending equipment. Like most of his netminding colleagues, the Toronto Maple Leafs legend, who retired in 1951, used goalie pads made by Emil "Pops" Kenensky in his sporting goods store in Hamilton, Ontario. The bigger more protective pads caught on, and Kenensky's were soon the pads of choice for professional hockey goalies. Based on the design of cricket pads, Kenensky's were made of horsehide and generously filled with deer hair and later furniture stuffing.

Walter Broda

HHOF 1967



Bernard "Boom-Boom" Geoffrion is helped to the dressing room by security after injuring himself in a game. The oft-injured Boomer is said to have broken his nose nine times during his 16-year career, and received hundreds of stitches as well. A six-time Stanley Cup champion, and owner of one of hockey's hardest shots (thus the nickname), he enjoyed his best season in 1960-61, becoming only the second player in history to score 50 goals in a season and winning both the Art Ross and Hart trophies as the NHL's top scorer and MVP.

Bernard Geoffrion

HHOF 1972



Maurice "Rocket" Richard of the Montreal Canadiens inspects the straight blade of his hockey stick. Richard used Hespeler and Northland Pro sticks at various times early in his career and later played with a CCM "Pattern-Made" Professional model supplied by local sporting goods stores. Wooden sticks from this era, typically made of ash, like baseball bats, weighed approximately 25 ounces.

Maurice Richard

HHOF 1961



Bobby Rousseau of the Montreal Canadiens tapes his stick prior to a game. The Habs room was famous for honouring past greats from whom current players received the torch "to hold it high."

Bobby Rousseau



Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | February 2, 1935 | Turofsky | B/W · glass · 4" x 5"

The New York Americans loaned goaltender, Roy Worters, (right, enjoying a cigarette), to the Montreal Canadiens for one game, on February 27, 1930, to replace the ailing George Hainsworth (left, and seen here as a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs). The Hart Trophy winner of 1929 (a first for a goalie) and the Vezina Trophy winner of 1931, Worters helped Montreal win the game in question, 6-2 over Toronto. At 5'3", Worters, nicknamed "Shrimp," is the shortest ever NHL player.

George Hainsworth & Roy Worters

HHOF 1969



The first shoulder and elbow pads used by NHLers were made of felt and leather. Those gave way to more protective models with hard plastic shells. However, after a spate of facial injuries primarily caused by flying elbows, which Gordie Howe may have had something to do with, the NHL ordered that all pads must have a soft outer covering. "Mr. Hockey" was an offensive power (1,850 points in 1,767 NHL games) who amassed 1,685 career penalty minutes.

Gordie Howe

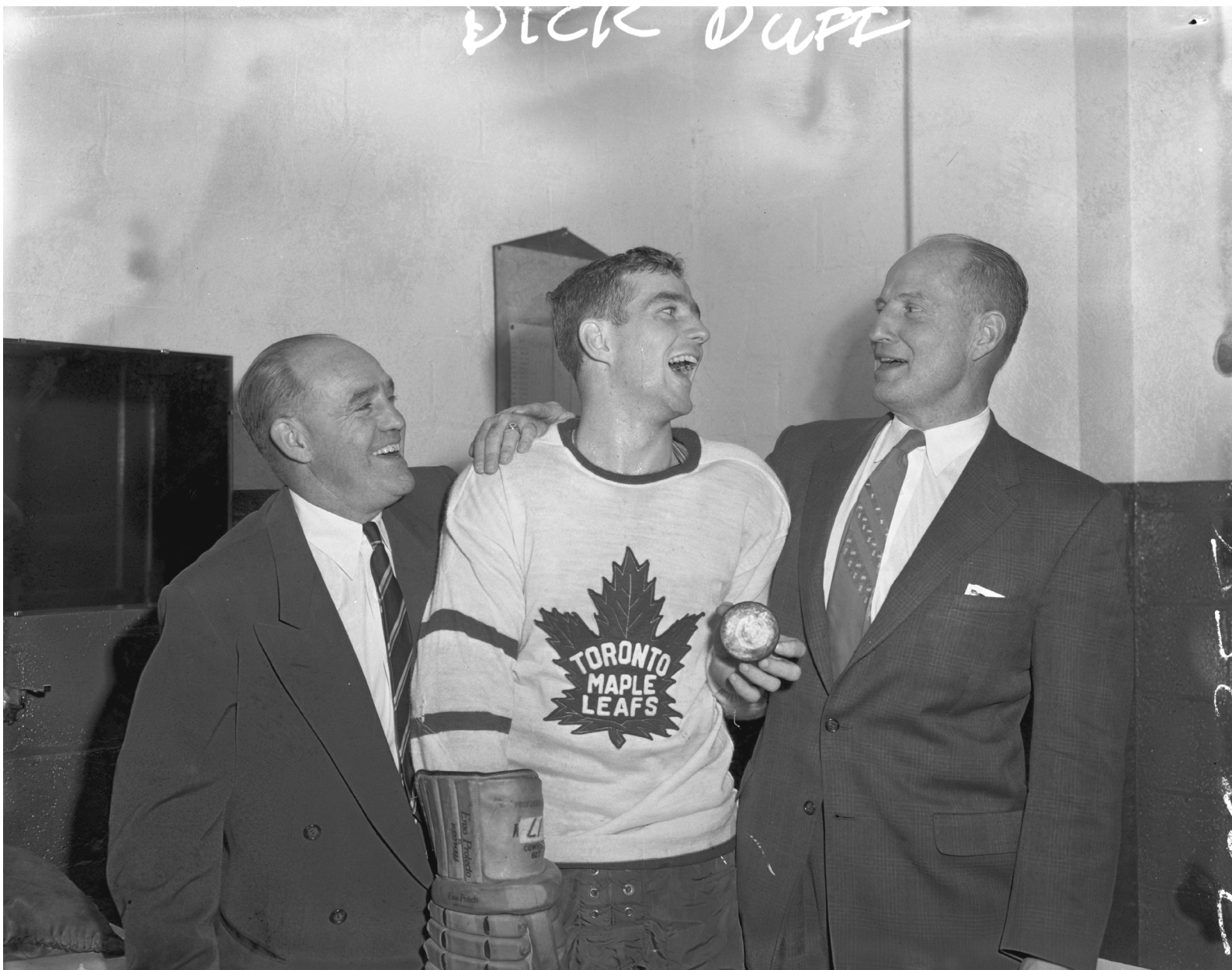
HHOF 1972



Aubrey Victor "Dit" Clapper of the Boston Bruins pulls on his sweater before a game. Between 1936 and 1948, the Bruins sweater featured player numbers on both the front and back. Clapper played 20 seasons in Boston, starring as both forward and defence between 1927 and 1947, and served as player coach for one season and head coach for three more. At 6'2" and 200 lbs, he was one of the biggest NHL players of his time. The only player to win three Stanley Cups as a Bruins, Clapper's nickname stems from his inability to pronounce his own name, Vic, as a young child.

Aubrey Clapper

HHOF 1947



Toronto Maple Leafs' rookie, Dick Duff, head coach, King Clancy, and general manager, Hap Day, celebrate the 19-year-old's first NHL goal. Duff, who would go on to win the Stanley Cup six times (two with Toronto and four with Montreal) in a career that spanned more than 20 seasons, wore No. 17 when he first arrived in Toronto, but was given the No. 9 shortly after the retirement of Leafs' captain Ted "Teeder" Kennedy.

Dick Duff

HHOF 2006

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | October 26, 1955 | Turofsky | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"



Prior to the 1980–81 season, only one player had scored 50 goals in 50 games — a certain Maurice Richard. Fellow Quebecer, Mike Bossy, would match the legendary Rocket's feat in the Islanders' 50th game, scoring two goals to add to his 48, including No. 50 with 1:29 remaining against the Quebec Nordiques' Ron Grahame.

Mike Bossy

HHOF 1991

Glenn Hall of the Chicago Blackhawks smokes a post-game cigarette. It may come as a surprise in this day and age of proper exercise and nutrition, but smoking was common among hockey players well into the 1980s, as was the drinking of soda pop in the pre-sports drink era. Like other goalies before him, the notoriously anxious Hall may have “sparked one up” after games to help calm his shaky nerves.

Glenn Hall

HHOF 1975



CLASSIC PHOTOS



Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | February 14, 1934 | Turofsky | B/W · glass

CLASSIC PHOTOS



The NHL's first All-Star Game was perhaps its most emotional. Known as the Ace Bailey Benefit Game, it was played to raise money for Bailey whose career was ended by a hit from Eddie Shore during the 1933-34 season. The game was won by the Maple Leafs against a team of NHL All-Stars. Bailey had recovered from his head injury to participate as well. The photo shows the dramatic moment when Shore and Bailey shook hands.

Eddie Shore & Ace Bailey