



Bob Perani . . . Best Start in Generals' Three Seasons —Journal Photo By LLOYD MOEBIUS

Best Start in Five IHL Seasons

Perani 'Batting' Hot .927 As Generals' Netminder

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By LEN HOYES

Goalies have batting averages, too, and as long as Bob Perani sails along with .927 he's satisfied that he's doing the job for the Flint Generals.

The 29-year-old netminder is off to his best start in five seasons in the International Hockey League. It's significant that the Generals also are in their best relative position in their three IHL seasons.

"YOU KNOW you can't stop everything so you don't fret around all the goals that go in. But I keep track of my ratio of goals allowed against shots and that's the way I can tell if I'm doing the job," he explained.

Five-Goal Fisher Sparks 17-2 Waltz

Dennis Fisher was a one-man wrecking crew as Lamb Realty put together a football score while walloping Kurtz Gravel, 17-2, Thursday in an Intermediate B hockey game at IMA Sports Arena.

He tallied five goals and two assists, finishing with two in the final period when Lamb showered Kurtz's goalie, Randy Rice, with 26 shots.

Kevin McKenna added three goals and two assists, Rich Reeves and Carl Lamb had two goals and two assists and Larry Reemster two goals for the winner.

In other games, Jack Gebauer scored two goals as Flint Piston beat Doc Wise, 6-1, and Consumers Power beat Davison Merchants, 3-1

Perani figures that .900 is the marginal figure. Anything under is bad, over is good.

With the Generals preparing to host Columbus at 8 o'clock tonight at IMA Sports Arena, Perani is considerably above his personal medium. He's allowed 39 goals and made 494 saves for the .927 figure. His goals-against average is 2.56, by far the IHL's best.

FOR COMPARISON, last year he had a "batting average" of .917 in 43 appearances and in 1969-70 was .915 for 34 appearances with the Generals.

"That goals-against average can be ruined in one or two bad games," said Perani who has yet to experience a real blockbuster this season. His biggest yield was six on Nov. 30 at Muskegon where Flint lost by 6-5 in overtime.

In assessing his personal good fortunes, Perani complimented the Generals' defense.

"OVER THE whole season our defense has played well and that's a big help to a goalie. The forwards are checking and playing defensive-minded so it's bound to show up in our record," he said.

Flint has a nine-goal lead over Day-

ton as the best defensive team.

It's a good thing the Generals are playing better defense because their record otherwise would be poor.

PERANI HAS played in five one-goal games and a tie which wasn't settled in 10 minutes of overtime in his last six starts. It's significant that the Generals' 4-1-1 record in that period is a major reason they're only two points from the North Division lead and have two games in hand against top-ranking Port Huron.

There's a tinge of irony in Perani's job with the Generals because he originally had planned to locate in Muskegon. After playing two seasons with the Mohawks, helping them win the Turner Cup in 1968, he was drafted by Dayton in the intricacies of the pro-amateur situation in the IHL.

FROM THERE he was obtained by the Generals in a deal with Dayton. Further irony: Two days after agreeing to terms he received a better offer from the Columbus Checkers but had to honor his contract.

Otherwise, Perani might be on the opposite side tonight.

The Generals have had trouble enough with Columbus goalies without encountering Perani.

THEY'VE MADE instant stars of Ray Belanger, who had 54 saves on Oct. 15, and Ray Martyniuk, who had 53 on Wednesday. With six goals, the Generals have been "batted" to the tune of .947 by the Golden Seals' young netminders, although getting a 3-2 victory and a 3-3 tie.

If the Generals can get the same quota of shots and get the law of averages shifted to their side tonight, maybe the Seals won't give 'em so many problems.

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