

# Mayor Young among nine named in suit

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — A \$1.18 million suit charges the mayor of Detroit and several prominent citizens reneged on an agreement to give part ownership of the new Detroit Wheels professional football team to a hospital recreation director.

Clarence "Bud" Hucul, 32, of Royal Oak, Mich. alleged in his suit filed Thursday in Oakland County Circuit Court that he did the original spadework on the new World Football League franchise.

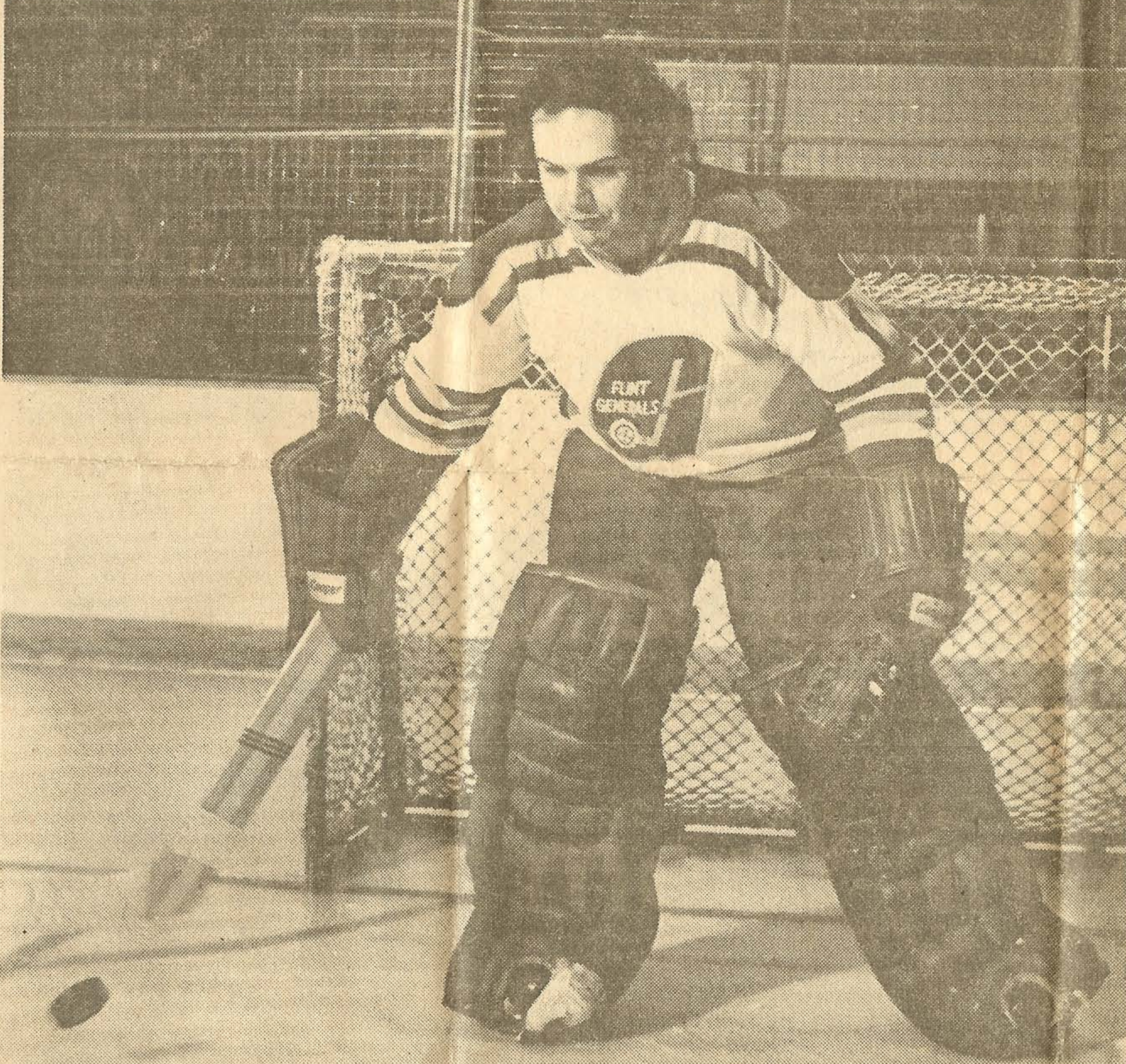
Hucul said he pulled out of competition for the franchise only after a written agreement with original Wheels promoters and investors, allegedly commissioned by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, to get the team.

He claimed the agreement, purportedly signed by Southfield attorney Erwin Ziegelman, was to have given him three per cent ownership, a \$35,000 a year job for five years and reimbursement for \$5,000 in expenses.

After several Wheels organizational meetings, Hucul said the group asked him to dissolve his association, but backed down on its original offer.

Hucul, a recreation director at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, said he had lined up 16 wealthy investors, including members of the hospital board, to back his efforts to obtain the franchise.

Mayor Young, one of nine persons named as defendants, replied Thursday: "I have no knowledge of any contracts or agreements made by the team. I'm not even going to hire a lawyer, though I may consult with one."



Bob Perani

FRI MAR 29 1974  
Last days as General may be happy ones for goalie

—Journal Photo by MICHAEL HAYMAN

## Goalie's play lifts playoff hopes

# Perani saves best for last

By LEN HOYES

It's ironical that the last hurrah of the Flint Generals' first major star may take place at the site of his first.

At the same time, if goalie Bob Perani and his mates play with the vigor of Wednesday's 4-3 victory tonight at Toledo, there may be more hurrahs ahead.

Perani has emerged from an almost-forgotten goalie at the end of the bench into one of the heroes in the International Hockey League's Turner Cup playoffs.

**HE STOPPED** 29 shots in Toledo's arena on March 22 while backstopping a vital 4-3 victory which virtually clinched a playoff berth. Wednesday he saved 28 times while helping preserve another one-goal victory.

Ironically, Perani has won more games on the road (five) than he's won at home (three) this season.

It hasn't been a happy season for the 31-year-old veteran of seven IHL campaigns. Just as he was getting into good condition, he suffered an ankle injury on Nov. 10 at Des Moines and missed 20 of the next 21 games. He played only briefly in the other game.

**THE INJURY**, plus fine performances by goalie Merlin Jenner, restricted Perani's play to 1,519 minutes in 29 games, the least he's ever played in the IHL. His goals-against average was 4.55, placing him in a category with such as Guy DeNoncourt, Dean Jeffrey and Jacques Lefebvre.

## Winning goal, newborn son, what's next for Gilbert?

Gary Gilbert may have difficulty coming up with an "encore" tonight for the Flint Generals.

At approximately 10 p.m. Wednesday, he scored the winning goal in a 4-3 victory at Toledo, keeping the Generals alive in the Turner Cup playoffs.

At approximately 3 a.m. Thursday, shortly after the team arrived home, Gilbert's wife, Cheryl, delivered the

Gilberts' first heir at St. Joseph Hospital. He's Cory Lee Gilbert who weighed in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces, obviously getting a good start toward being a defenseman.

At the latest report, mother and son were doing fine. Father was overwhelmed by the rapid happenings but trying to find a hockey stick with another key goal in it.

That was quite a switch from one who customarily rated with the Glenn Ramsays and Robbie Ironses of the IHL.

Earlier this month, Perani confirmed his membership in a group which is trying to finance the purchase of Genesee Iceland. If the purchase is completed, he'll retire from the Generals.

**WHEN THE** purchase story was confirmed, Perani said, "I know I'm not having a good year and I'm sorry. I felt I was going well until I hurt my ankle and haven't been the same."

Yet, Perani, who seemed to have lost

his zeal for competition, apparently has regained the vigor which made him an all-star three times, including once at Muskegon.

He's won three games in Toledo's arena where he seems to play well. The Generals have won four of six games there this season.

Perani's sparkle in Toledo's dingy arena kindles thoughts of the Generals' first season when he made his debut in Toledo's arena on Dec. 31, 1969. Only defenseman Gary Gilbert outranks him in seniority. It may be significant that the two "old timers" had key roles in Wednesday's victory. Gilbert scored the winning goal.

**IF THE** Generals can win tonight they'll survive the Turner Cup's first round for the first time in their five-season history.

After missing the playoffs their first year, they were eliminated by Dayton, four games to three, in 1971, by Port Huron, three games to one, in 1972 and by Fort Wayne, four games to one, in 1973.

Getting into the second round—even knowing that they'll have to meet Huber Trophy champ Des Moines — would be an accomplishment and help relieve frustrations of the regular season.

Maybe it's a case of the Generals — and Perani, too — saving their best for last.

## Ticket sale set if Flint wins playoff

If the Flint Generals win tonight's playoff game they will sell tickets for the next two home games starting a noon Saturday.

General Manager Frank Gallagher said games will be played here next Thursday and April 7.

Telephone reservations will be accepted and season ticket holders have until 48 hours before game time to pick up tickets or make other arrangements with the box office.

The prices are \$3, \$3.75 and \$4.75.