

Newcomer Bowman keys overtime Generals win

By LEN HOYES

Now for three more miracles. Kirk Bowman supplied the first one for the Flint Generals Wednesday night. Now they'll have to win three more uphill battles.

Even if they win no more in the Turner Cup semifinals, they proved to 4,044 fans at IMA Sports Arena that the will to win can overcome all kinds of adversity.

HERE WERE 14 GENERALS hanging on for dear life against an 0-3 deficit in the 'series' a 71-40 shot disadvantage and an opponent with four extra men.

But one deft shot by Bowman and it was all over, the Generals taking a 6-5

triumph in 9:03 of a sudden-death overtime.

In a little more than one game they doubled their goal production of three defeats and may have bought time to get their battered forces a little healthier for Saturday's fifth game at Fort Wayne.

It was only a little more than one game but goalie Bob Perani stopped enough shots for two games. "Maybe I should ask for double time," he said with a grin in the dressing room.

With all the hubbub, a mild-mannered 26-year-old strode from the shower. It was Bowman, who was a virtual stranger to Flint until noon Tuesday. That's when General Manager Frank Gallagher secured him from Greensboro of the Eastern Hockey League.

A FEW MORE choices like that and Gallagher will join the genius category.

He came as an emergency replacement because Flint's strength below the International Hockey League minimum of 14. Ironically, if one of five injured Generals gets well by Saturday, Bowman can't play.

Except for Doug Carpenter and Larry Gibbons, who also played in the EHL, Bowman was unfamiliar with the Generals until he arrived Tuesday night.

It took him a few minutes to get the feel of the Sports Arena ice, then he fit in well. He assisted on goals by Milt Hohol and Gaston Boulanger which gained a 5-3 lead and almost had a goal early in the second period on a breakaway.

BUT THAT WOULD have spoiled the finish.

"I didn't feel too strange. One team is pretty much like the other once you get the feel of things," said Bowman who played at the Sports Arena last season with Columbus.

His game-winning goal was set up by Ernie Moser who made two good plays. First, he took the puck from Fort Wayne's defense, then fed it to Bowman.

Moser said, "Once I got the puck from (Jim) Pearson the whole right side was open. I knew the other defenseman (Cal Purinton) was chasing me but I could see Bowman and Manchak. I thought about passing to Manchak but the goalie was protecting that side so I went the other way."

Fort Wayne goalie Don Atchison had no chance on Bowman's blast from 12 feet. Suddenly, it was all over.

THE GENERALS BEGAN with 12 skaters but went the last 12 minutes without defenseman Brian McBratney, who finally had to yield after hobbling on an injured knee for almost two periods.

That left only Carpenter, Rod Cox and Ken Southwick to play defense.

Against Flint's eight forwards and three defensemen, Fort Wayne had 10 forwards and five defensemen. The Komets were much fresher at the finish and had 10 chances at Perani in the overtime.

"I thought we should have won it earlier but one shot beat us," said Fort Wayne Coach Marc Boileau.

BY PERIODS, PERANI'S saves were 17-24-17-10-66 which came within six of equaling a 13-year-old record for the IHL. His first start of the playoffs may have been the "big game" the Generals needed to get started.

Two Fort Wayne goals came on power plays, Pearson scoring in the first period and Bob Fitchner getting a 5-5 tie at 9:57 of the third. In between came first-period goals by Wayne Ego and Brian Walker and a second-period tally by Ego.

Manchak and Dave Gorman scored on power plays to get Flint a 2-0 lead and Yaworski broke a 2-2 tie at 13:30 of the first. When Hohol (10:42) and Boulanger (12:39) scored less than two minutes apart, in the second period, it appeared the Generals might have enough strength to hold out and win in regulation.

They didn't quite make it. They made it more thrilling.

The summary:

First period — Scoring: 1. Flint, Manchak (Smith, Boulanger) 2:55. 2. Flint, Gorman (Yaworski, McBratney) 7:34. 3. Fort Wayne, Pearson (Ablett, McBratney) 9:02. 4. Fort Wayne, Ego (Ablett) 13:00. 5. Flint, Yaworski (Southwick) 13:30. 6. Fort Wayne, Walker (unassisted) 14:50. Penalties: Hryciuk, Fort Wayne 1:45. Pearson, Fort Wayne 6:40. Cox, Flint 7:57.

Second period — Scoring: 7. Flint, Hohol (Bowman, Yaworski) 10:42. 8. Flint, Boulanger (Bowman, Carpenter) 12:39. 9. Fort Wayne, Ego (unassisted) 19:16. Penalties: Carpenter, Flint 15:34.

Third period — Scoring: 10. Fort Wayne, Fitchner (Miller) 9:57. Penalties: Purinton, Fort Wayne 4:27. McBratney, Flint 8:14.

Overtime — Scoring: 11. Flint, Bowman (Moser) 9:03. Penalties: None.

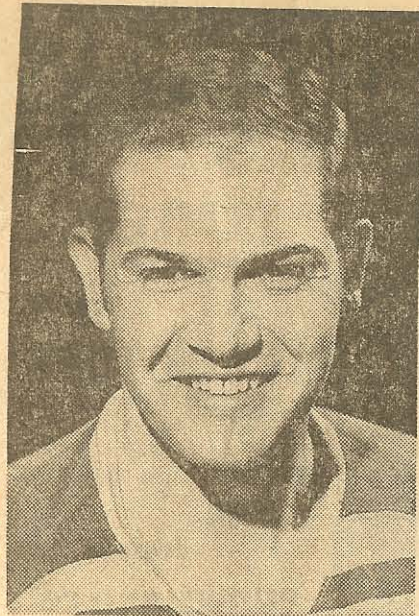
Shots on goal by: Flint 12 10 10 8-40 Fort Wayne 20 25 16 10-71

Goalies: Flint, Perani. Fort Wayne, Atchison. A-4,044.

Score by Periods: 3 2 0 1-6 Flint 3 1 1 0-5 Fort Wayne

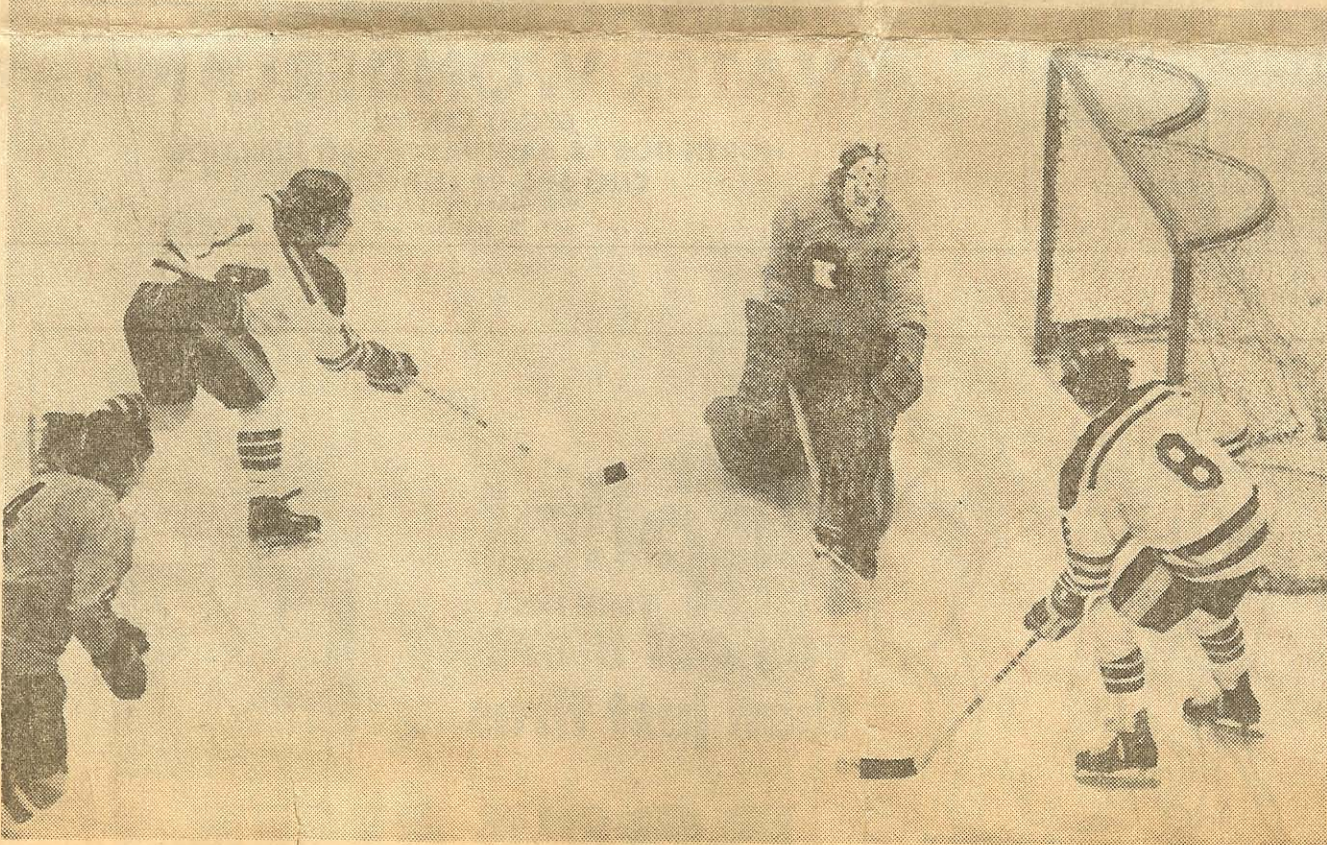
Reds cut a pair

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds today sent pitchers Joaquin Andujar and Wally Eastwick and outfielder Ed Armbrister to the club's minor league training complex.



Bob Perani

66 saves enough for two games

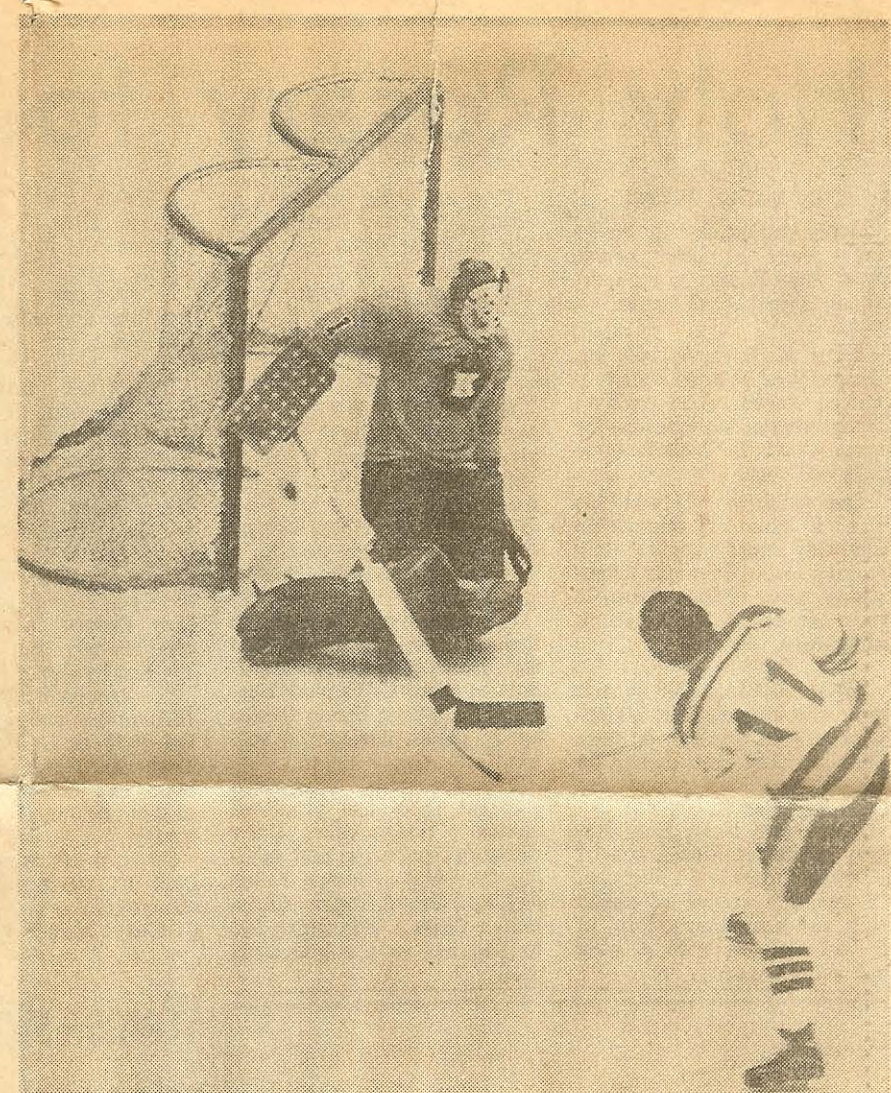


—Journal Photos by William M. Gallagher

Newcomer Kirk Bowman (8) watches Gaston Boulanger's shot move past Fort Wayne goalie Don Atchison



There's a celebration for a goal and 5-3 lead at 12:39 of second period



THERE IT GOES — Flint's Dave Gorman (11) whips the puck past Fort Wayne goalie Don Atchison to get a 2-0 lead in the first period of Wednesday's Turner Cup game at IMA Sports Arena. At right, Fort Wayne defenseman Terry Pembroke tries to tie up Flint's Milt Hohol (9). The Generals got their first victory of the series in overtime, 6-5. (Journal Photo by William F. Gallagher)

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