

“ T H E C O L L I S I O N ”

B Y

N O R M A N K . M A I L E R

(Written in January 1933, at the age of ten)

“WELL, I GUESS WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A PRETTY EASY SEASON OF IT”, said Bob Murray, left wing and Captain of the Sedley High School Six. He had just been talking after they had beaten another high school, which was supposed to give them trouble in their victorious season so far.

They still had several more games on their season. The Saturday following this occurrence they beat another High School 7–0. However, there was one very important game at the end of the season and that was a game between Sedley and Bartel. Both teams went through the season undefeated until this final game of the season, where both were to meet.

The Sedley coach had warned them that Bartel had a new trick called “collision”.

On the afternoon of the game five thousand people turned out to see the big game. There was a chill wind blowing but otherwise the weather was clear. In the dressing room the players were talking excitedly. Both teams skated out to the rink amid the cheering of the crowd.

The teams lined up for play. The referee tossed in the “puck” on the end of his stick, and the center crashed headlong into the other center. The impact of the collision sent the puck skimming over the ice to Bartel’s right wing. Immediately he dodged the defense man and taking a deep breath he aimed the puck at the cage. The goalie sent it back but the left wing again caught it on his stick and amid the cheering of the crowd sent the puck past the goalie’s knee. It was a score of 1–0. The game continued. It was a furious battle of wits and might.

After a while the left wing again succeeded in getting the puck in from the collision trick. Desperately Sedley tried to get a goal, but to no avail. Instead

Bartel got another goal, making the score 3–0. At the end of the first period Bartel was leading 3–0.

A sad group of players made their way to the Sedley dressing room and for ten minutes listened to the scolding of the coach.

At the start of the second period Bartel tried the Collision trick but when the left wing went after the puck, Bob came up to meet him. Instead of the Bartel left wing getting another goal Bob collided with him. The two hit each other very hard. Both were thrown off balance but Bob managed to send the puck against the other side boards. Picking himself up he and eleven other men chased the free puck, but Bartel reached it first. The defense man who caught the puck first, sent it skidding up to where Bob was skating toward the melee. Wheeling quickly he caught the puck in the crotch of his stick dodging the players who tried to stop him, he sent a black piece of rubber like lightning to the cage. The score board read 3–1 in favor of Bartel. Later in the period each team scored once, making it 4–2.

The beginning of the third period came. In the first five minutes both teams scored once more, making it 5–3. With ten minutes left to play, the regulation time, both teams tried desperately to score. The minutes passed. Hardly four minutes left to play; Bob whirled around the ends to receive a pass from the left defense. He sent the puck to the goalie but it was sent back to him by the goalie who had blocked it. Once more he sent it in the direction of the cage. The goalie half fell on it. With the puck right in the front of the cage it was an easy matter for Bob to send it in.

Sedley tried desperately to make a tying goal as the score board read two minutes to play.

The referee tossed in the puck. The two centers collided once more with the same result. The left wing sent it in the direction of Sedley's goal. The goalie stopped it and sent the puck back into play. Bob saw the puck in front of him. Taking it in the crotch of his stick, he crashed through the line. Getting through, a Bartel man blocked him. In trying to dodge, he slipped, and the puck banged against the side boards. The defense man tried to get it but just as he was about to hit it, Bob crashed into him and the two players were thrown with a crash on the side boards. Before other players could reach these two, Bob sent the puck skimming towards the goal. The goalie, however, stopped it and sent it back to where a wing smacked it against the sideboards. All players were like a flash at the place. They bumped each other and collided with each other. Finally, Bob caught the puck and sent it forward past the goalie to make the score 5–5 just as the red light flashed on the field.

The "overtime" began. Both teams hit each other just as Bartel's center

hit the puck out of reach of the players. Before they could reach it, a Bartel wing caught the xxxx puck and instead of hitting it, swept up to the goalie with Bob following him. The goalie helplessly trying to stop him as the player swept up. The player finally released the puck from his stick. The goalie by a miracle half stopped the puck with his knee. Just then, Bob swept and took the puck right under the player's nose. Sweeping up across the ice, he flicked a shot at the goal. The goalie easily stopped it however. Once more Bob returned the puck. The goalie tried to stop it but could not, and Sedley won 6–5.

As joyous players slapped him on the back, the coach came up and said with a smile, “Well, Captain Murray, do you think you can come for next year?”

“I’ll say I can”, replied Bob.

T H E E N D.