

## NHL Skaters Off on 70 Game Grind

Brimsek, although his sen-

Brimsek, although his sensational play for the Bruins had earned him the nickname of "Mr. Zero" for all the shutouts he racked up, was unhappy in Boston. He wanted to play closer to his Eveleth, Minn., home and the Hawks obliged by shelling out \$25,000 for his contract, although he now is 34 years old. "He still has the reflexes of

"He still has the reflexes of a youngster," says Bill Tobin, owner of the Hawks. "And I

think he has three more good years left."

To aid Brimsek, Chicago has added defensive strength from

AF Newsfeatures Sports Writer
New York—The six teams in the National Hockey league get 10 more shots at the four playfor the playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playsince 1938 the regular goalone shots at the four playoff berths this season. tender for the Boston Bruins.

The league, never one to play 50 games when 70 will do, is underway with the longer card for this campaign. The boys won't be off the ice until mid-April, when a Stanley Cup winner will be crowned. The regular season runs until March 26 to eliminate two teams. The other four scramble for the

Toronto's Maple Leafs, who finished fourth last season, have won the Stanley play-offs three straight seasons. Experts figure their chance of holding on is excellent, and also pick them to move up a couple of notches in the stand-

ouple of notches in the standings.

The Detroit Red Wings, winners by nine games in last year's regular season scramble, again hockey, Ray Powell, to the forward line. In addition, Coach street abbed for the top. The Charlie Conacher has the Hawks wings, highest scorers in the loop in 1948-49, have added front of any team in the loop. Conach-line screek in Reta Bahanda and extremely a regular condition will be visited. line punch in Pete Babando and Jimmy Peters from Boston. This pair will add depth to the team in the forward line, where lack of reserve strength was the chief in the nets. Rookie Jack Gelicause of the Wings' loss to the

cause of the Wings loss to the Leafs in the cup finals.

Throughout the rest of the circuit, trading has been lively.

Also, a new coach, Buck Boucher, has taken over at Boston.

All four of the other clubs are depending on rookies in key spots, and behind Detroit and Toronto it will be a scramble for the other two playoff spots. The Chicago Black Hawks,





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for major league goaltending? Boucher thinks so.

Boston's Babando and Peters went to Detroit for ace Defenseman Bill Quackenbush, who won last year's Lady Byng trophy for gentlemanly conduct combined with effective play. He was the first rear guard man ever to capture that title. Forward Pete Horeck came along in the deal. Several others of the old guard are gone and rookies must fill in.

Montreal is the good field, no hit club of the NHL. The once-proud Canadians have been skidding downward for some time and will continue that trend unless they develop scoring punch.

At the Madison Square Garden home of the New York Rangers, Coach Lynn Patrick starts his first full season with hopes of landing a playoff berth. This would be a distinct novelty in the big town, where the Rangers have been pitiful since before the war, going as high as fourth but once. The splendid Chucky Rayner is back in the Blueshirt net, and among the proven new-comers is Norman (Bud) Polle, purchased from Detroit. Patrick weak at goal for more than 10 neau, former McGill university also is high on his rookies

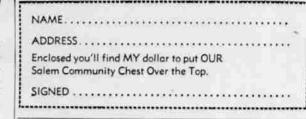


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