

## = Ace Bailey Benefit Game =

The Ace Bailey Benefit Game was the first all @-@ star game in National Hockey League ( NHL ) history . It was played on February 14 , 1934 at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto to raise money to support Ace Bailey , whose career was ended by a violent hit by Eddie Shore during a game earlier in the 1933 ? 34 season . The Toronto Maple Leafs defeated a team made up of the top players from the rest of the league , 7 ? 3 , before a crowd of 14 @, @ 074 spectators .

The game was held two months following the incident between the Boston Bruins and the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Boston Garden that resulted in Bailey 's injuries . Toronto 's Red Horner dazed Shore with a heavy hit . Intent on revenge , Shore thought he was skating at Horner , but instead knocked Bailey over . Bailey flew through the air , and suffered a fractured skull when he landed on his head . Shore himself was knocked unconscious in the melee that resulted .

Though it was initially feared he would not survive his injuries , Bailey recovered enough to participate in the benefit game . He presented gifts and shook the hands of each player as they were introduced . Among them was Eddie Shore himself , who was playing for the NHL all @-@ stars . The crowd fell silent as Shore approached , then erupted into loud cheering when Bailey extended his hand toward his attacker . The Maple Leafs announced during the ceremonies that no player on their team would again wear Bailey 's number 6 , marking the first time in NHL history that a team retired a player 's uniform number .

## = = Bailey 's injury = =

The incident between Ace Bailey and Eddie Shore occurred in the Boston Garden during the second period of a regular league game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and Boston Bruins on December 12 , 1933 . Having taken two penalties in quick succession , the Maple Leafs were playing short handed , and sent Bailey , Red Horner and King Clancy out to defend against Boston 's power play . During that sequence , Clancy upended Shore with a hard check as the later player rushed up the ice . Angry , dazed , and thinking he was going after Clancy , Shore rushed at Bailey intent on revenge . He hit Bailey hard from the side , sending the stricken player flying through the air . Bailey struck the ice head first and lapsed into convulsions . Furious , Horner asked Shore what he was doing , and when met with only a smile in response , knocked Shore out cold with one punch .

Both players were carried off the ice , where Shore first regained consciousness . He was able to reach Bailey , who briefly regained consciousness himself , and attempted to apologize . Bailey was able to respond with " it 's all part of the game " before again passing out . As Maple Leafs owner Conn Smythe attempted to reach his team 's dressing room to find out the status of Bailey , he was accosted by angry Bruins fans , one of whom accused Bailey of faking his injury . An angry Smythe punched the fan in the mouth , and was later charged with assault .

Bailey was rushed to hospital in Boston with a fractured skull where neurosurgeons worked through the night to save his life . His injuries were so severe that doctors gave him only hours to live . Distraught over his son 's injuries , Bailey 's father boarded a train bound for Boston carrying a revolver , telling everyone he met of his intent to kill Shore . When Smythe found out about this , he contacted his assistant general manager , Frank Selke , for help . Selke got in touch with a friend of his who worked in the Boston Police , who met Bailey 's father at a hotel and talked the man out of his plan before returning him to Toronto .

Authorities in Boston made it known that they intended to charge Shore with manslaughter if the player died . Bailey held on , though his life hung in the balance for several days . Following several surgeries , doctors eventually found reason to hope Bailey would survive . He amazed observers by showing a steady recovery , and by mid January was well enough to be transferred home to Toronto .

The NHL quickly absolved the referees of blame , while Shore protested that he was in a dazed state and not conscious of his actions at the time . League president Frank Calder suspended Horner until January 1 , 1934 , a period of six games , and Shore indefinitely for their roles in the

incident . When he was assured that Bailey would survive , Calder set Shore 's suspension at 16 games . Bailey never played another game .

= = All @-@ Star benefit = =

As Bailey recovered , Ottawa Journal sports editor Walter Gilhooly proposed in an open letter that a benefit game be held . The Maple Leafs , Montreal Maroons and Ottawa Senators called a meeting of the board of governors to determine who would pay for Bailey 's recovery . Following the meeting , the governors announced that an exhibition would be held in Toronto between the Maple Leafs and a team of the top players from the rest of the league to raise money for Bailey and his family . The all @-@ star team was selected by a three @-@ man committee consisting of league president Calder , New York Rangers owner Frank Patrick and league director Thomas Arnold .

For the first all @-@ star game in NHL history , two players were selected from each of the other eight NHL teams , while Rangers coach Lester Patrick was named the coach . For his starting lineup , Patrick chose Charlie Gardiner in goal , Eddie Shore and Ching Johnson on defence , and Howie Morenz , Bill Cook and Aurel Joliat as his forwards . Patrick expressed confidence that the fans in Toronto would welcome Shore 's participation .

The game was held on February 14 , 1934 , and featured a lavish pre @-@ game ceremony that first saw the players assemble at centre ice to have photographs taken in their regular sweaters . They were then presented with their all @-@ star jerseys by Frank Calder , Lester Patrick , Leaf officials and Ace Bailey himself . Gardiner stepped out first to receive his number 1 uniform , and was then followed by Shore , who wore number 2 . The crowd of over 14 @,@ 000 fans went completely silent as Shore slowly skated toward Bailey . After a moment , Bailey extended his hand towards Shore , and the crowd erupted in loud cheering as the two shook hands .

The players were presented with medals and windbreakers by officials of the Canadiens and the Maple Leafs , and the fans cheered each player as they were introduced , even those who were previously unpopular with the Toronto crowd . The ceremony concluded with Conn Smythe presenting Bailey with his own sweater , and announcing to the crowd that no Leafs player would again wear Bailey 's number 6 . It marked the first time in NHL history that a team retired a player 's uniform number .

= = = Game play = = =

Bailey stepped out to ice to drop the puck for the ceremonial face off , after which the game began . The Leafs ' Charlie Conacher , who had been questionable before the game with an already infected knee , was forced to leave the game after being hit early , but otherwise the match @-@ up was a considerable departure from a regular league game and featured little physical play . Shore , who was visibly nervous before the game about the reception he would receive from the crowd , was cheered and supported when he rushed with the puck . The first goal was scored by Toronto 's Baldy Cotton , and was quickly followed up with a goal by Harvey Jackson to put Toronto up 2 ? 0 before Nels Stewart rounded out the offence in the first period with a goal for the All @-@ Stars .

After Toronto took a 3 ? 1 lead early in the second , Morenz scored the most impressive goal on the night , accepting a pass from Joliat at full speed as he raced around a Maple Leafs defenceman before shooting the puck over goaltender George Hainsworth 's shoulder . Frank Finnigan brought the All @-@ Stars even at the midway point of the period , but Toronto ended the period with a 4 ? 3 lead after the referees mistakenly ruled a Hap Day shot that hit the post as a goal .

Though the All @-@ Stars took many shots on Hainsworth in the third period , they were unable to score . Busher Jackson scored to put the Maple Leafs up by two early in the period , and after Patrick abandoned any attempt at defence by placing five forwards on the ice in a bid to tie the game , Toronto added two late goals to emerge with a 7 ? 3 victory .

= = Legacy = =

The proceeds from the game totaled \$ 20 @, @ 909 , which was given to Bailey . Additionally , he was presented with \$ 6 @, @ 000 raised by the Bruins in a separate benefit . Prior to the game , Bailey presented Calder with a trophy commissioned by the Maple Leafs and bearing his name that the team hoped would go to the winner of an annual all @-@ star game that would benefit injured players . That failed to materialize , though the NHL held two additional benefit games in the following five years . Memorial games were held for the families of Howie Morenz in 1937 and Babe Siebert in 1939 . It was not until 1947 that the idea became an annual event when the 1st National Hockey League All @-@ Star Game was held in Toronto .

Though Bailey never played again , he remained in the Maple Leafs organization for nearly a half century , working as a penalty box official for the team . He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1975 . Shore remained an NHL regular until 1940 then operated a minor league hockey team . He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1947 .

= = Rosters = =

= = Box score = =