Marsh Trophy For The Rocket

He's Unanimous Pick Over James, Balding

By JIM HUNT

Hockey's greatest scoring machine - Maurice (The Rocket) Richard - is the 1957 winner of the Lou Marsh Trophy, it was announced today.

The Montreal Canadiens' winger, who passed the 500-goal milestone last October, was the unanimous choice of the board of judges for the award which goes annually to Canada's outstanding athlete-amateur or professional.

There wasn't really much doubt about this year's winner. It was Richard all the way. In his 16th season in the NHL, the Rocket was headed for one of the greatest when an injury cut him down in Toronto, Nov. 13, but not before he had scored his 500th goal in regular NHL play.

Only Howe Has Chance

It's a new record that may never be equaled. Only Gordie Howe, among players active in the game, has passed the 300-goal milestone.

Gerry James, the running star of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, was the runner-up for the award. Gerry came back to the football wars this season after two years of toil with the Toronto Maple Leafs. He broke the Canadian pro scoring record, the Western Conference rushing mark and was one big reason his team was in Varsity stadium on Grey Cup day.

Al Halding, the Toronto golfer who was a stroke away from golf's biggest payday with the $100,000 world's championship at Tami O'Shaunter was placed third. Al won $30,000 this year on the golf trail - the best showing ever by a Canadian.

Lindy Lindoerfer, the Vancouver fighter who won the U.S. amateur light heavyweight championship, received honorable mention.

The Rocket had scored 11 goals in Montreal's first two games when he was injured. But the big one was Oct. 19, the Habs. That was in 1955 when NHL president Clarence Campbell suspended him.

With Richard in the lineup, the Canadiens were leading the NHL. With his top scorer, the Habs lost the NHL title and the Stanley Cup to the Detroit Red Wings.

A Turning Point

The suspension seemed to be a turning point. In Rocket's absence, the Rocket has scored 11 playoff goals since he joined the Boston Bruins.

A playoff series since he joined the Boston Bruins.

The Rocket will be 37 next August. Time appears to have had little effect on his ability to score goals. He says he will quit the season he can't score 20. At the rate he started this season, that day may be a long way off.

Richard joins some of the greats in Canadian sports who have won the Marsh trophy—Marlene Stewart, Joe Krol, Marlyn Bell, Barbara Ann Scott Bob McFarlane. Few will deny the trophy ever has had a more deserving winner. Marine was last year's winner.

The Rocket is chairman of the board of judges. Other members are Charles Ring, Charles Higgins, Don Ross and Harry (Red) Foster.

The trophy was donated by Mr. Ring in memory of the former sports editor of The Star who died in 1936.