

Late Seal Scores Tie Kings

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PORT HURON, Mich.—The California Seals, troubled by less than perfect backchecking and ragged conversion from defense to offense, demonstrated to the Los Angeles Kings last night that they are clutch opportunists.

Trailing 3-1 in the final period, the Seals got back-to-back power play goals from Wally Boyer and Bill Hickey, and salvaged a 3-3 tie.

Seal coach Bert Olmstead wasn't too happy with the game, but neither was he disappointed. After all, the three scores came in man-advantage situations. And success on the power play will be a key to winning in the National Hockey League.

"There were good things and bad," Olmstead said. "The power play worked well, but the problem is in the mental approach to an exhibition game. When the game isn't in a player's mind, it isn't in his legs."

Jacques Plante, the all-time great goal-keeper, performed very well, considering his two-year layoff, but he got erratic help from his defense.

"Plante directed his teammates every well," commented Olmstead, "He handled the puck authoratively and the fact he went 30 minutes his first time out is pleasing.

"But our trouble isn't the goal-tending. We backchecked poorly and we weren't clearing the puck well defensively.

Kings' Lowell McDonald, Terry Gray, and Eddie Joyal scored in each period, while Aut Erikson, signed yesterday along with Ron Harris and Ron Boehm, got a power-play goal from 50 feet in the first period to set the stage for the final period rally.

Center Mike Laughton and right winger George Swarbrick signed their NHL contracts this morning, leaving Charlie Burns, Gerry Odrowski and Jack McCartan the only unsigned players in camp.