

# Western Hockey League Champions



Western Hockey league President Al Leader, left, congratulates members of the San Francisco Seals team after their overtime win last night of the league championship as he presents the Lester Patrick trophy which has been in contention

since 1952. Players, from left: Camille Bedard, Danny Belisle, Ed Panagabko, Nick Mickoski and Al Nicholson. The seventh game of the championship series was won by San Francisco, 4-3. All games were played at the Cow Palace. (AP Wirephoto)

# Record Crowd Sees Seals Do It

## WHL CHAMPIONS

### Kurtenbach is The Hero With 'Overdue' Goal

By HUGH McDONALD  
Times Staff Writer

"I was wondering if I'd ever score another goal. That was only the fourth in 17 playoff games." The speaker was 6-2, 185-pound Orland Kurtenbach, hero of the San Francisco Seals' dramatic 4-3 sudden death overtime victory over the Seattle Totems.

The goal, at 4:09 in the extra period, ended the seventh game of a bitterly fought series and brought San Francisco the Western Hockey League championship in its second year in the league.

In the post-game hubbub, amid the popping of champagne corks and with the Lester Patrick trophy overflowing, Kurtenbach described the goal that few of the wildly cheering, standing, record Cow Palace crowd of 12,404 saw go into the Seattle net.

"Danny Belisle shot the puck. It hit Seattle defenseman and bounced over to Larry McNabb. He shoved it over to me. I shot from 10 feet out and it went in. I heard a 'pl-iez' as it bounced off the inside of the post."

When Kurtenbach's goal ended the long WHL season, fans poured onto the ice. His teammates hugged and kissed him. The dejected Seattle players, who only last Thursday had traded punches en masse, rallied their spirits and skated over to shake hands with the victors.

Two brawny Seals defensemen lifted Coach Bud Poole to their shoulders. It was a sweet triumph for Poole who duplicated his last year's championship when he was at the helm of the Edmonton Flyers.

Last night was the sixth time in three playoff series that the Seals had to go into overtime. It was the fourth time in the final series, and of the sudden death thrillers. San Francisco won four of them.

To win the big one last night, the Seals stormed back from a two-goal deficit, went ahead 3-2, saw the score knotted at 3-3, and then made it the hard way. At one time, in the series, they trailed three games to one.

The crowd not only was the biggest in Cow Palace hockey history; it was the noisiest as the ardent Seals fans lived and died with the ups and down of their stalwarts' fortunes.

In the first period the Seals outshot the Totems, 17-4, but they couldn't penetrate the armor of the masked Al Millar in the Seattle net.

San Francisco forced the play in the second period, but it was Seattle who scored first—and not only once, but twice in 37 seconds.

At 6:37 Bob Sabourin took a pass from Bill MacFarland and stickhandled through the San Francisco defense to beat Jimmy McLeod. At 7:04 Sabourin made almost a carbon copy of his goal, with MacFarland and Don Chiupka assisting.

Close forechecking by the Totems not only nullified the Seals' counter attack, but also the noise of the crowd until Gordon Sinclair of Seattle was penalized at 13:45 for holding. During his penalty, the Seals were held

### Seals' Scoring

1st Period	
No Scoring.	
Penalties: None.	
Saves: McLeod 4, Millar 17.	
2nd Period	
1. Seattle, Sabourin (MacFarland) 6:27.	
2. Seattle, Sabourin (MacFarland, Chiupka) 7:04.	
3. San Francisco, Edmondson (Bedard, Chiupka) 13:58.	
4. San Francisco, Martha (Thurley, Panagabko) 19:50.	
Penalties: Mickoski (0:14), Sabourin (1:40), Kurtenbach (6:01), Sinclair (12:45).	
Saves: McLeod 4, Millar 11.	
3rd Period	
5. San Francisco, Belisle (McLeod).	
Kurtenbach 2:00.	
6. Seattle, Powers (Fielder, Sinclair) 3:19.	
Penalties: None.	
Saves: McLeod 12, Millar 12.	
Overtime Period	
7. San Francisco, Kurtenbach (McNabb, Belisle) 4:09.	
Penalties: None.	
Saves: McLeod 4-27, Millar 3-3.	
San Francisco . . . . . 4	1-4
Seattle . . . . . 3	0-2
Attendance: 12,404.	

at bay, but at 15:58 Duke Edmondson at the Seattle goalmouth batted down a shot by Camille Bedard and directed it behind Millar.

There were only 10 seconds left in the period when Mo Mantha, the Seals' flexie gun, took a pass from Ed Panagabko and blasted in one of his patented rockets to even the score and send the fans faint out of their minds.

The Seals went ahead at 5:09 of the third period, with Danny Belisle the triggerman after passes from McNabb and Kurtenbach.

That lead lasted exactly 70 seconds. Guyie Fielder set up the play and as players massed in front of the San Francisco goal and McLeod went down in anticipation of a low shot, Jim Powers lifted it over his head into the cage. It was Powers' 12th playoff goal.

As the teams struggled in the end of regulation time, Seattle was forcing the play and actually outshot the Seals, 13 to 12, for the only period in the game.

At 18:20 either jabs were exchanged in the only threat of extra-curricular violence in a game in which only three penalties were called.

The victory in overtime was followed by the presentation by WHL President Al Leader of the huge trophy to Seals Captain Ed Panagabko, who in a post-game, center ice speech, thanked the fans and concluded, "So long. See you next year."

The Seals Booster Club arranged a victory motorcade parade in San Francisco in which Mayor Christopher would pay tribute to the victorious Seals on the City Hall steps this afternoon.

### Ice Chips

ICE CHIPS—Orland Kurtenbach had more than hockey on his mind last night. At his duplex apartment, Mrs. Kurtenbach was listening to Ray Story's excellent radio coverage and awaiting the arrival of a mail order of a mild, cold, "Mickoski" this could have done it," said Kurt, brow furrowed, as the excitement from the game carried over into the dressing room. . . . It was a sweet victory for Nick Mickoski. He recalled another overtime game in which he was on the losing side. That time, was a Stanley Cup final when he was with New York. . . . Three weeks later, in the eyes of big Seattle defenseman Lou Kazawski, who desperately and vainly had tried to clear the puck in the Seals' last victorious attack. . . . The series win meant a playoff pool of nearly \$100, a man for each member of the Seals and about \$100 to coach Tatem. . . . Popular San Francisco trainer Bill Gray will get half a share. . . . Bill, who doesn't imbibe, made an exception in taking a swallow of champagne and a thorough drenching in it as he bowed to Panagabko's demand that he join in a victory toast. . . . When Al Leader presented the cup to the Seals, he was greeted with a round of boos, undoubtedly due to his action in curbing the rambunctious Seals after Thursday's brawl. "Think nothing of it," advised Leader's assistant and league statistician Murray Costello. "That happens every year at presentations." . . . Many of the Seals soon will scatter to their Canadian homes, although a number of them have expressed a desire to stay in the Bay Area. . . . Paul Jackson is going back to Toronto to lead a summer course towards his liberal arts degree. His mother came down from Canada to see him in the playoffs. She came for two weeks and stayed five.

### Final WHL Standings

FINAL WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYER STANDINGS (Best of Seven)				
	W	L	CF	GA
San Francisco . . . . .	4	3	23	22
Seattle . . . . .	4	3	23	25

Manday's Results (Decision Game)  
San Francisco 4, Seattle 3 (overtime)