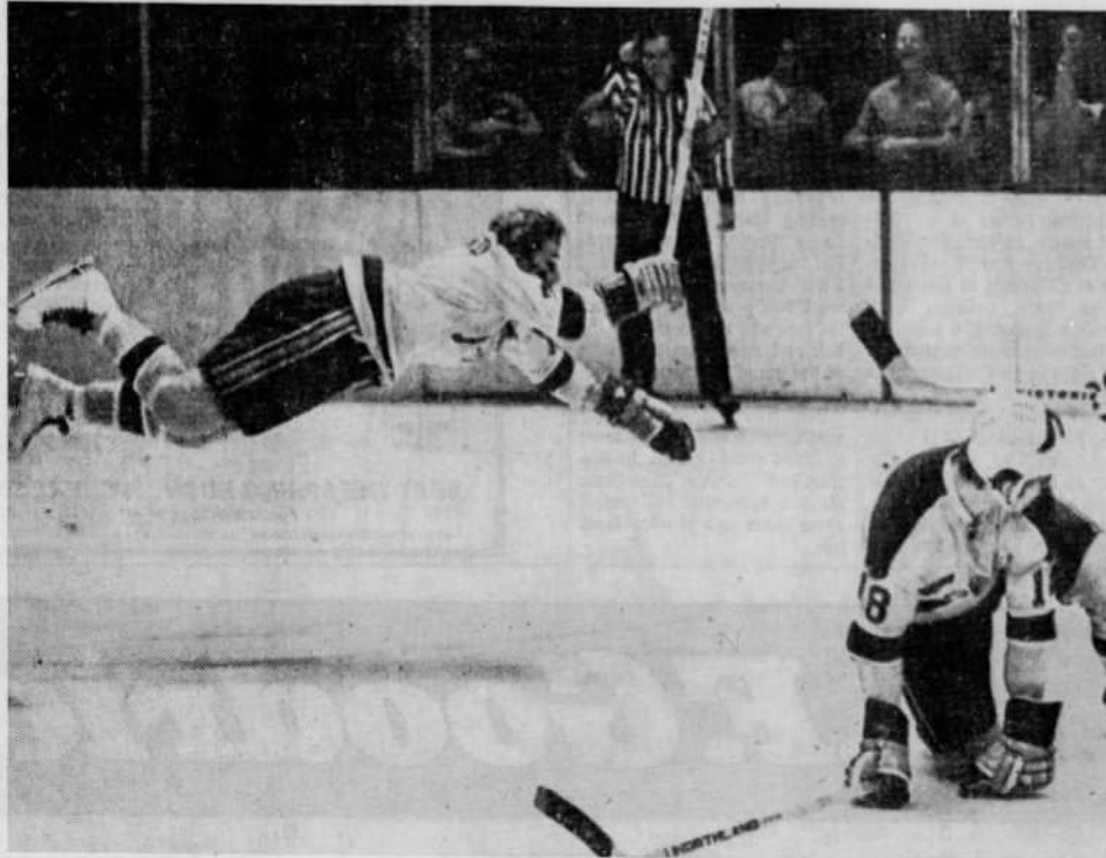


California Golden Seals Blow 5-Goal Lead, 8-6



SEAL SAILS — California Golden Seals' Dick Redmond plummeted face first after scoring opening period goal last night against the Boston Bruins in the Oakland

Coliseum-Arena. Redmond's cohort Gary Croteau (18) looked on with the referee. The acrobatics were apparently not enough as the Bruins rallied for an 8-6 victory. (UPI Telephoto)

Vadnais In Bruin Debut

By DAVID DIETZ

OAKLAND — Everything was strange to Carol Vadnais last night as he sat quietly in the Boston Bruins' dressing room at the Coliseum Arena, rubbing his perspiring head with a towel.

The quarters were new, since he had been accustomed to the dressing room down the hall occupied by his former squad, the California Seals. And not five feet away sat a new teammate, none other than rangy Phil Esposito, the National Hockey League's leading scorer. Bobby Orr was there, too, answering questions for a radio newsman.

But all that was circumstance when Vadnais recalled the incredible events of the previous two-and-a-half hours that brought cheer to the Bruins and gloom to the Seals. In the space of a period and a half, the marauding Bruins, helped by Fred Stanfield's three-goal hat trick, had methodically wiped out a 6-1 deficit to skate off as 8-6 victors.

Things, clearly, were never like this with the struggling Seals, from whom Boston acquired Vadnais late Tuesday for three younger players.

"It was 6-3," said Vadnais, his voice rising in awe, "and the guys said let's not give them any more goals, we're going to win."

And win they did, scoring five times in the final period and seven consecutive goals in all against a Seal team that appeared mesmerized. Vadnais shared a sense of disbelief with

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the sellout crowd over it all, although many of his teammates seemed to consider the outcome all in a day's carefree work.

"No problem, 8-6," said Vadnais in a dumbfounded tone. He shot a glance at Esposito.

"Naw, no problem," said Esposito with a laugh.

There were lots of problems, meanwhile, in the California dressing room down the hall.

"We got our points and started running away with it," said Seals' coach Vic Stasiuk. "Then we just stopped checking. That's it in a nutshell."

Squandering leads has become an ugly trait of the Seals lately, but neither Stasiuk nor Garry Young, the club's general manager, has found a way to stop it. Along the way last night, the Seals slipped out of third place in the NHL West as the St. Louis Blues beat Los Angeles.

California hopes the Vadnais trade, which brought burly winger Reg Leach and defenseman Rick Smith and Bob Stewart to the Seals, will take the club into the playoffs. Both Leach, who scored more than 180 goals in three years as a junior, and Smith, a capable player, performed well last night, despite the Boston onslaught.

Leach made a crisp goal-mouth pass to set up one of two scores by winger Gary Croteau, and Smith assisted on Wayne Carleton's 14th tally of the season. Defenseman Dick Redmond also scored twice for California.

Stanfield might have had four goals, but was thwarted by Seals' goalie Gilles Meloche on a rare penalty shot in the second period. The attempt was set p when defenseman Bert Marshall tripped the Boston centerman on a breakaway.

Esposito and Orr, meanwhile, had a fine night, too, compiling a total of three goals and four assists, with Esposito getting the tying and winning tallies.

As for Vadnais, whose play was ragged, he admits to a new hockey life, going from an expansion club to a squad which figures as the clear favorite to win the Stanley Cup.

Score by periods:

	1	2	3	—	8
Boston	3	2	0	—	6
California	1	2	3	—	6

First period — 1. California, Redmond 6 (Carleton, Marshall) 2:51; 2. California, Redmond 7 (unassisted) 12:22; 3. Boston, Stanfield 18 (McKenzie) 17:32; 4. California, Croteau 5 (Lynch) 19:52. Penalties — none.

Second period — 5. California, Carleton 14 (R. Smith) 3:58; 6. California, Croteau 6 (J. Johnston, Shmyr) 7:34; 7. California, Patrick 6 (M. Johnston, Jarrett) 8:53; 1. Boston, Cashman 18 (Orr, Walton) 14:36; 9. Boston, Stanfield 19 (Orr) 17:15. Penalties — Shmyr and Walton, majors 4:3.

Third period — 10. Boston, Orr 28 (Westfall) 2:52; 11. Boston, Stanfield 20 (Orr, Awrey) 5:59; 12. Boston, Esposito 53 (Westfall, D. Smith) 14:31.

Penalties — Westfall 8:17; 13. Boston, Esposito 54 (Cashman, D. Smith) 17:11; 14. Boston, Sanderson 21 Orr, Westfall) 19:46. Penalty — Westfall 8:17.

Shots on goal by:

Boston	10	12	15	—	37
California	11	12	19	—	33

Goalkeepers — Boston, E. Johnston; California, Meloche.