

High Point of Season

Christie, Seals Gain Revenge

OAKLAND (AP) — Mike Christie played as a rookie defenseman for California last National Hockey League season when the Seals were humiliated in New York 10-0 by the Rangers.

That experience lost some of its sting Friday night when the Seals trounced the Rangers 7-0, with goalie Gary Simmons, also a second-year man, getting his second straight shutout and fourth victory in a row.

"I was on the ice for the first seven goals that New York scored in that game last year," said Christie, who had two assists Friday. "I sure feel a lot better after this game."

California Coach Jack Evans said his Seals "are playing their best of the season — scoring goals and not giving up very many." The Seals are 4-1-1 in their last six games and play the Canucks in Vancouver tonight.

"Except for the first half of the first period, we played great hockey," said Evans. "Early in the game we were just banging the puck around and not taking a piece of anybody. Then we began to execute better. After that, our guys had the pressure on the man with the puck."

Phil Esposito, one Ranger to feel that pressure, got off only two shots in the matchup of division last-placers.



Mike Christie

The 6-foot-3 Simmons, who has allowed only six goals in his last four games after sitting out 11 straight, stopped 29 Ranger shots, 15 of them in the first period. "You have to have luck," he said. "The first period was tough for me, but after that it wasn't much."

Wayne Merrick scored midway in the first period and five minutes into the second period to give California a 2-0 lead. Bob Girard and captain Bob Stewart, the only Seal regular who had gone scoreless this NHL season, added second-period goals.

The Seals got three more in the third period, two by Fred Ahern and the other by Al MacAdam.

"New York doesn't have

the personnel to play the kind of game they tried to pay in the first period," Christie analyzed. "They were trying to hit us, but they are more of a finesse team."

Seals' Scoring

New York Rangers 0 0 0-0
California 1 3 3-7

First Period — 1, California, Merrick 16 (Sabourin), 11:23. Penalties — Holland, N.Y. 8:29; Klassen, Cal. 16:06; Christie Cal. 16:06; Vadnais, N.Y. 16:06; Marotte, N.Y. 16:59.

Second Period — 2, California, Merrick 17 (Girard, Christie), 5:00. 3, California, Girard 8 (Sabourin, Merrick), 14:11. 4, California, Stewart, 1 (Klassen, Hampton), 16:59. Penalties — None.

Third Period — 5, California, Ahern 3 (Moxey, Hampton), 3:16. 6, California, Ahern 4, 13:42. 7, California MacAdam 16 (Hampton, Christie) 17:39. Penalties — None.

Shots on goal: New York 15-5-9-29. California 4-15-12-31.

Goalies: New York, Wilson. California, Simmons. A: 8,858.