

Leafs look like old Seals—new Seals romp

By JOHN HICKEY

OAKLAND — To the 3,864 that came out to see the California Golden Seals play the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Coliseum last night, it seemed that the Seals of old were back on the ice.

There were more missed passes, poor defensive plays and bad goaltending efforts than you could shake a hockey stick at.

There was only one difference. The team making all the mistakes was not wearing the Seals' green and gold, but the blue and white of the Maple Leafs.

California, taking full advantage of the poor play by the Leafs, easily coasted to

an 8-1 decision, and that, coupled by the loss of Pittsburgh to Chicago, vaulted the Seals into third place, the first time this season they have reached such a lofty height.

The Seals had no mercy on Toronto goalie Jacques Plante, firing 40 shots in his direction, while Seals goalie Gilles Meloche had an easy night, fending off just 14 shots by the Leafs.

"Boy, this was just the opposite of the game the other night," enthused Seals' coach, Vic Stasiuk after the game, referring to the 8-1 defeat handed to the Seals by the New York Rangers on Friday night. "The puck just seemed

to go where we wanted it. We were hitting openings and converting scoring opportunities every time we turned around."

Stasiuk "wasn't too impressed" with the Maple Leafs' defense, one that allowed eight scores by eight different members of the California squad.

Rookie goalie Meloche was happy about his performance on the ice — except for the one goal he surrendered to the Leafs' Dave Keon with just 3:31 left in the game. "I should have never had that one go through me. But I'm glad that the goal didn't cost us.

The man Stasiuk had the

most praise for last night was Dick Redmond, the big defenseman the Seals acquired in a trade last year.

"Dick was so sharp and quick, and was moving so well that the rest of the team pulled around him."

Redmond played down his own role — collecting two assists and stopping numerous Toronto drives at the Seals' net — and, instead praised the Seals' teamwork.

"It was about time we pulled one all together," the former Minnesota North Star grinned. "We turned the tables after that last game, and got fired out and took it to them as a team."

The Seals' initial score

came in the first period with 9:46 to go, with Stan Gilbertson drilling in the puck past Plante after grabbing a rebound off a shot by Walt McKenzie.

Bobby Sheehan fired in his tenth goal of the season five minutes later, and the third score of the period came with just 0:16 left as Don O'Donoghue scored on a straight-on shot from 20 feet out.

The shots on goal in the first period reflected the trend of the game as well as anything — the Seals getting off 14 shots to just 2 by Toronto.

Paul Shmyr tallied the lone goal of the second period,

boosting the Seals' lead to 4-0, and it could have been 6-0 except that California couldn't convert a pair of chances when the Leafs were short-handed.

Joey Johnston blew one past Plante with five minutes gone in the final period, and then California really began to find the range.

Scoring as quickly as they have all season, the Seals pushed their final three goals of the night by Plante in the space of just 0:52 with Carol Vadnais, Craig Patrick and Gerry Pinder doing the honors.

The Seals take off tomorrow for an extended trip to the east, visiting Boston on

Thursday night, and landing in St. Louis, Chicago, Montreal, Buffalo, Toronto and New York.

Score by periods:

Toronto	0	0	5	—1
California	3	1	4	—8

First period—1. California, Gilbertson 2 (McKenzie, Ferguson) 9:46. 2. California, Sheehan 10 (Pinder, Hicks) 16:20. 3. California, O'Donoghue 2 (Crofton, Johnston) 17:45. Penalty—Bain. Second period—4. California, Shmyr 2 (Ferguson, Vadnais) 12:04. Penalties—Manostat 13:27, Bain 16:21. Third period—5. California, Johnston 3 (Redmond, Crofton) 4:24. 6. California, Vadnais 3 (Gilbertson, Ferguson) 9:24. 7. California, Patrick 3 (Williams, Redmond) 5:54. 8. California, Pinder 3 (Crofton, Redmond) 11:30. 9. Toronto, Keon 2 (Marshall, Glennie) 16:29. Penalties—Spencer 7:57.

Shots on goal by:

Toronto	2	1	15
California	14	12	40

Goalkeepers: Toronto—Plante; California—Meloche
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