

# Charlie's Choices Opened the Gates For Sizzling Leafs

San Francisco 1, Victoria 6

By DOUG PEDEEN

The law of percentages and Charlie's choices finally caught up with San Francisco Seals Wednesday night and knocked the Seals out of the Western Hockey League playoffs.

Of course, Victoria Maple Leafs swung the most damaging punches, but for the previous three games of the best-of-seven semifinal, the Leafs had been battling the pesky percentages as well as the Seals.

It was a different story when the clubs tangled at Memorial Arena Wednesday night in the deciding game. With all the potatoes up for grabs, Victoria finally got a square deal in the percentage league and it was strictly no contest.

The charged-up Leafs hammered out a 6-1 triumph and it was "Farewell, 'Frisco; Hello, Portland," the club the Leafs will meet in the best-of-seven final that starts here Saturday night.

In the seventh game, the Leafs kept the Seals in deep trouble most of the way with superb checking, and they kept 4,850 fans howling with glee as they cut loose with a steady shooting barrage.

Coach Frank Mario's snipers fired 44 shots at the 'Frisco goal while the Seals managed only 20 at Victoria netminder John Henderson and the figures were good indicators of the 6-1 margin for the Leafs.

Shots on goal had been anything but good indicators of the scores since the Leafs had won the first two games on home ice and lost the third down at the Golden Gate.

In the fourth game, the Victorians blasted 32 shots at the nets guarded by league standby goalie Marcel Pelletier while the Seals drilled 28 on target. San Francisco won that one 3-2, in overtime.

## Harris Handed 'Stop Barlow' Job

With amateur Bob Gray in the nets for the fifth game when Doug Favell was late in arriving from Oklahoma City Blazer of the Central League, percentages played tricks on Victoria. The Leafs triggered 48 shots on goal, the Seals 19, but Gray came out a 5-4 winner.

Favell got the call when the series moved back to Victoria last Saturday, and almost became a hero when 43 shots by the Leafs and 28 by the Seals produced a 4-4 deadlock at the end of regulation time. Bob Barlow's overtime goal, his sixth tally of the series, rescued the Leafs from undeserved disaster and brought them the Wednesday game and Charlie's lie's choices.

Coach Charlie Burns, who was

continually pushing strategy buttons during the playoff, again selected Favell. And for his "stop Barlow" campaign, he chose rugged Ron Harris to mark the Victoria winger.

Favell pushed a big hole in Charlie's strategy in the opening minute. Trying to bat a pass by Victoria's Milan Marcetta behind his net, Favell had his stick at the wrong angle, knocked it into the net and Victoria was out in front.

Then Harris, who seemed to be waging a private "get Barlow" war during the series, had his turn in the strategy-wrecking business. He charged Barlow into 'Frisco defenceman Larry McNabb and McNabb wound up with a cross-checking penalty.

## Spirit Drained Away During Penalty

One minute later, Harris again charged into his target behind the San Francisco goal. Barlow shoved back in retaliation, Harris cracked his stick on the back of Barlow's head and started swinging punches at the Victoria sniping ace, on the ice and still dizzy from the stick-work.

When referee Lloyd Gilmour restored order, Harris went to the penalty box for five minutes and Barlow went to the dressing room for five stitches.

With the Seals two men short, defenceman Fred Hucul blazed a shot past Favell to make it 2-0 and although the Seals held out for the rest of Harris' penalty, their cohesion and spirit seemed to have evaporated.

They got another jolt a few minutes later while trying to exploit a penalty to Sandy Hucul when Dick Lamoureux broke away from the power play to whistle a long shot behind Favell.

Burns got San Francisco's lone goal before the first period ended, but with Henderson continuing his alert shot-stopping, the Leafs put it out of reach in the middle session. Favell looked amateurish as Gordie Redahl scored and Fred Hucul got his fifth playoff goal after intercepting a pass.

Gray was in goal as the third period started and yielded only one goal, on another whistling shot by Lamoureux, an outstanding two-way performer all night.

## Charlie Needed More Than Tricks

While Charlie's choices backfired, it is doubtful if Burns had anything in his bag of tricks that could have stopped the Leafs.

As they have done so often this season in "must win" games, the Leafs were overpowering.

There wasn't a weak link in the Victoria club as forwards checked the Seals to a standstill all over the ice and seldom slackened their pace on attack.

Victoria defencemen were also at their best. Fred Hucul, Claude Labrosse, Sandy Hucul, Bill Shvets, completing the series without a penalty, and Aut Erickson, hampered by a battered and aching foot, were too strong and capable for the Seals to handle.

Burns summed it up as well as anybody.

"We just got beat by a better hockey club, that's all there was to it," said the dejected coach.

"They checked us to a standstill and made their own breaks.

"They were too much for us and they should have a good chance of beating Portland."

There was joy in the Victoria dressing room where the Leafs were being praised by Punch Imlach, coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, and assistant Toronto coach King Clancy.

"These guys were great when the chips were down," Mario said. "Our defence and our checking was very good. Everybody played well.

"If we can play as well

against Portland as we played tonight, we'll beat them."

And there wasn't a Leaf in the room who didn't feel the same way.

### FIRST PERIOD

1—Victoria, Marcetta (Heberton) :47; 2—Victoria, F. Hucul (S. Hucul, Redahl) 7:28; 3—Victoria, Lamoureux (Keenan, Labrosse) 13:50; 4—San Francisco, Burns (Connelly, McNabb) 17:54.

Penalties—McNabb (S) 6:05; Harris (S) (major) 7:07; S. Hucul (V) 12:13; S. Hucul (V) 18:44.

### SECOND PERIOD

5—Victoria, Redahl (Jankowid, Erickson) 4:04; 6—Victoria, F. Hucul 6:35.

Penalties—None.

### THIRD PERIOD

7—Victoria, Lamoureux (Sieaver) 18:58.

Penalties—None.

Stops:

Henderson ..... 4 4 8-10

Favell ..... 12 15 —

Gray ..... — — 10-35

Attendance 4,850.