

Seals playoff bid distant dream

By Ken Miller

Now that the large emotional buildup has ended, so seems to have ended, ironically, the playoff chances of the California Golden Seals.

As far back as the first week in November, the rhetoric began. It was repeated often. If only they stay close to their competition in

Seals' daily loss \$10,000; transfer due

United Press International

NEW YORK — Next season the National Hockey League most likely will play its own version of one-and-one, transferring the California Seals from Oakland to either Denver or Seattle, and granting an expansion franchise to the city which does not get the Seals.

"If the Seals are shifted and one other team comes in as an expansion team, that league," NHL president Clarence Campbell said yesterday following a meeting of the league board of governors.

The board of governors passed a unanimous resolution on which is designed to aid the financially troubled Pittsburgh Penguins.

The way to transfer to Oakland was cleared when Campbell revealed that the \$3 million lawsuit instituted by Barend Van Gerbig, the original owner of the 1967-68 Oakland Seals, had been settled.

the National Hockey League's Adams Division till Feb. 2, the Seals felt certain they could plan to make their first post-season appearance in six seasons.

Then, the party line would continue, the Seals would have the advantage of playing 19 of their final 27 games on home ice at the Oakland Coliseum Arena.

But now that it is Feb. 2, and the long stretch opens with a 7 p.m. game against the Montreal Canadiens tonight, prospects don't seem to be what they should. Even though the Seals trail the Toronto Maple Leafs by just 12 points, or what amounts to six victories in the standings, the job ap-

pears harder than you might imagine.

In the first place, it is almost unfair to the Seals to belabor the fact that they have a winning record at home. That is hardly a distinction in the NHL. Of the league's 18 clubs, 15 enjoy a winning record at home and two of the failures are the Washington Capitals and the Kansas City Scouts, playing their first seasons.

Two victories over the Philadelphia Flyers and another over the Boston Bruins at the Coliseum Arena have given the fans, at least, delusions of brilliance. The Seals are only 9-6-4 at home, and while they have been consistently entertaining

and normally competitive, they have been far from unbeatable.

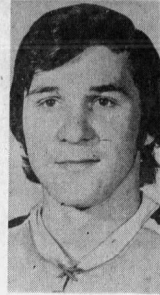
They need to be almost that over their remaining 19 games in Oakland to maintain any hopes of catching Toronto. California must play eight more games on the road this season, and the record away from home is 3-26-3. That doesn't provide much hope.

But the greatest danger to the Seals is not what they must do but what Toronto must start doing, namely losing almost every time out. As bad as that club has been, right now it is probably better than the Seals. Experience is far more effective than potential this

time of the season. Toronto's Dave Keon is more valuable now than California's Dave Hrechkosy.

What renewed all the hopes of the Seals overtaking the Leafs was a 6-1 victory in Oakland nine days ago. But Toronto came right back at home to whip California, 4-2, enjoying a four-goal lead at the end of two periods and then coasting.

Even with that victory over the team they must catch, the Seals have still won only one of their last 11 starts. Things won't be getting any easier tonight. The Canadiens, who haven't lost a game on the West Coast in



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their last 31 decisions, are the best road club in hockey.

At this critical point of the season, that isn't the kind of opposition the Seals need.

NHL SUMMARIES

N.Y. Islanders, 4-1

New York 4, Detroit 1
 Goals: G. Smith, Smith, Detroit, Rutherford.
 A-16:71.
 Second period — 1. New York, Nyström 18 (Lewis, Marshall), 3:01. 2. New York, Howatt 14 (Nyström, St. Laurent), 11:56. Penalties: Roberto, Del. 7:59; Hart, NY, 12:02.
 Third period — 3. Detroit, Hamel 4 (Hogoboom, 1:01), 5:58. 4. New York, Henning 2 (unassisted-penalty shot), 9:59. 5. New York, Westfall 11 (Paris, Brown), 16:42. Penalties: Hewitt, NY, 6:17; Weston, Det. 8:17; Marshall, NY, 8:40; St. Laurent, NY, double minor, 16:14; Watson, Det. minor-major, 16:14; Lewis, NY, 18:33.
 Shots on goal: New York 8-12 — 28. Detroit 10-8-9 — 28.
 Goalies: New York, Smith; Detroit, Rutherford.

N.Y. Rangers, 4-1

New York 4, Chicago 1
 First Period — 1. New York, Irvine 13 (Butler, Stankowski), 1:58. Penalties: Roth 5:11, Wilson 5:11, Jarrett 11:57, Jarrett 15:28.
 Second Period — 2. New York, Butler 10 (unassisted), 1:55. 3. Chicago, Gagnon 11 (Keroll, Marks), 5:58. 4. New York, Tkaczuk 6 (Greschner, Park), 10:00. Penalties: Greschner, Park, 7:57; Roth 7:57, Stankowski 7:27, Tkaczuk 13:51.
 Third Period — 5. New York, Stankowski 17 (Irvine, Park), 12:34. Penalties: Park, (double minor)

Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 4

Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 4
 Scores by period: Pittsburgh 1 1 2-4. St. Louis 1 3 0-4.
 First period — 1. St. Louis, Hess 8 (Schabruk, Palazzari), 15:30. 2. Pittsburgh, Angstrom 17 (Stackhouse, Gassoff), minor, 2:22 (misconduct). Under 11:24. Penalties: Under 11:24. Stackhouse 15:12, Thomson 16:57, Williams 18:19.
 Second period — 3. St. Louis, Berenson 7 (Bailey), 8:39. 4. Pittsburgh, Aops 20 (unassisted), 5:11. 5. St. Louis, Palazzari 9 (Lange, Berenson), 10:54. 6. St. Louis, Palazzari 10 (Collins, Gueverson), 11:08. Penalties: Gassoff 5:03, Campbell (major), 9:14 (misconduct), 8:04; Thomson (major and misconduct), 8:04.
 Third period — 7. Pittsburgh, Hagfield 13 (Morrison, Schock), 15:16. 8. Pittsburgh, Stackhouse 10 (Larouche, Hagfield), 15:16. Penalties: Bailey 7:48, Campbell (major), 11:12; Thomson (major), 11:12; Wilkins (game misconduct), 11:12.
 Shots on goal by: Pittsburgh 8 7 9-24. ST. LOUIS 8 8 7-23.
 Goalkeepers: Pittsburgh, Inness; St. Louis, Johnston.
 A-18:23.
 Toronto, 3-2
 Scores by period: Boston 1 1 0 — 2. Toronto 1 2 0 — 3.
 First Period: 1. Toronto, Williams 2 (Ellis), 12:33. 2. Boston, Bucyk 22 (Esposito, Cashman), 15:07. Penalties: Stoughton 2:48, Esposito 15:05, Williams 18:05.
 Second Period: 3. Boston, Cashman 6 (Esposito, Marcote), 6:57. 4. Toronto, Hammarstrom 14 (Keroll)

Nilet 20 (Charron, Powis), 8:26. Penalties: O'Brien 1:54, Barrett 6:32.
 Third Period — Minnesota, Dunlop 7 (Oliver, O'Brien), 6:38. 3. Kansas, 17. Charron, 9 (Gilbert), 9:23. Penalties: Reid 9:20, Gilbert 10:32, Reid 13:30, Nilet 13:39.
 Shots on goal by: MINNESOTA 9 7 7-32. KANSAS CITY 10 11 9-30.
 Goalkeepers: Minnesota, Lopresti; Kansas City, McGuire.

Montreal, 5-3

Montreal 5, Los Angeles 3
 First period — 1. Montreal, Lambert 24 (risebrough), 13:57. Penalties: Mahovic, M., 10:20; Mahovich, M., 14:20. Second period — 2. Montreal, Mahovich 2 (Lalleur, Rosemont), 2:14. 3. Los Angeles, Maloney 19 (Nevin, Goring), 2:18. 4. Los Angeles, Berry 17 (Widup, Harper), 14:30. 5. Montreal, Robinson 12. 19:18. Penalties: Murdoch, L.A., 6:25; Cournoyer, M., 8:17; Murphy, L.A., 9:57; Henevich, M., 11:27; Kannehlisser, L.A., 17:09; Huff, M., 17:49; Herber, L.A., 17:49.
 Third period — 4. Los Angeles, Berry 8 (Keroll, Williams), 5:20. 7. Montreal, Lemire 22 (Lalleur, Mahovich), 8:15. 8. Montreal, E. Lapointe, Roberts 10. 20. Penalties — Murdoch, L.A., 3:41; Cournoyer, M., 9:11; Komadoski, L.A., major, game misconduct, 10:20.
 Shots on goal: Montreal 8-15-31. Los Angeles 13-9-20.
 Goalies: Larouche, Montreal; Vachon, Los Angeles.
 A: 16,403.
 Philadelphia, 6-0
 Buffalo 6-0

ties: Van Impe 0:29, Schultz 14:35, Gare 14:35, Carriere (game misconduct), 14:35.
 Shots on goal by: BUFFALO 13 13 7-26. PHILADELPHIA 13 8 6-20.
 Goalies: Buffalo, Bromley; Philadelphia, Parent.
 A-17,007.

What's the score?

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Fri, Apr 5, 2019