

# Seals, Canadiens Draw

By JOHN PORTER  
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Some 12,033 strong, they came at half-price and were rewarded with full hockey value last night at the Coliseum Arena.

Continuing to play the way they have recently at home, the Oakland Seals battled the first-place Montreal Canadiens to a 3-3 tie before the largest crowd here this season.

"It's nice to know people are here who like to go to hockey games," said Seals right wing Hil Graves, who potted his 11th and 12th goals of the season and set up Joey Johnston for his 19th.

"I hope," said Graves, "that they will come back."

The tie stretched the Seals' unbeaten streak at home to five games. Before the team can try for a record seven against Toronto and New York here next week, the Seals play tomorrow in Chicago.

"It's more exciting for sure," agreed Seals goaltender Gilles Meloche, who drew a standing ovation from the fans at one point in the third period for spectacular netminding. "I hope we were a good enough show."

After Frank Mahovlich scored Montreal's first goal in the opening period, the show could have been a flop. Graves turned it around by scoring once and setting up Joey Johnston in the second period.

Guy Lafleur made it 2-2 in the second period, but Graves came back with a big burst of speed at 2:45 of the last period to snare a loose puck and beat Montreal goalie Ken Dryden.

"On that third goal," said



Tribune photo by Robert Truax

Craig Patrick gets a stiff welcome from Montreal's Dale Hoganson as Ken Dryden kicks out shot

Seals Interim Coach Fred Glover, "a lot of guys would have quit and never reached the puck."

"Graves had two nice goals and Stan Weir made the good play to set the first one up," said Glover. "A good game for the fans? Yes, I think so."

Claude Larose spoiled what could have been a Seals win

when he scored early in the last period. From that point, Dryden and Meloche were impenetrable.

"What a difference," remarked Oakland's Craig Patrick. "When we went out for the first faceoff, what a feeling! It shouldn't make any difference, but it does."

To a full-house cheer of "Go

Seals Go," the Seals went out and played a good period of hockey, but trailed 1-0.

The goal came on a Montreal powerplay as Darryl Maggs was cooling his skates in the penalty box for cross-checking in front of his own net at 2:34.

Seals penalty killers Marshall Johnston and Morris Mott

had the puck under control, but as they were replaced by Walt McKechnie and Joey Johnston midway through the penalty, the Canadiens sneaked in down the right alley.

Guy Lafleur circled behind Meloche in the Oakland net

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# Canadiens Battle Seals to 3-3 Tie

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and drilled a pass to Frank Mahovlich, stationed 10 feet in front. It's a shot that the Big M shouldn't miss. He didn't as the clock stopped at 4:02.

The Seals were held to five shots, the best chance coming when Joey Johnston set up Craig Patrick while they were killing a penalty midway through the period.

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**Graves was the individual highlight of the second period, scoring the tying goal for 1-1 and setting up Joey Johnston with a difficult pass that put the Seals momentarily in front, 2-1.**

A powerplay goal at 16:10 of the period robbed the Seals of the lead. After a brilliant save on Pete Mahovlich, Meloche reset himself in the crease for the next Montreal rush and was burned on the near side by Lafleur's shot, which skidded off the goalie's pads.

Graves' first goal came at 9:07 after Laframboise chucked a pass between the legs of Montreal defenseman Guy Lapointe and center Stan Weir made a dash down the left side to pinpoint the puck to Graves, angling in from the right. Dryden never had a chance.

Joey scored four seconds be-

fore a Montreal penalty expired. The Seals were ragged on the powerplay until the last desperate dash into the Canadiens' zone. Graves, in full stride, passed backward before hitting the end boards and Johnston crammed the puck into the net at 12:01 from the corner of the crease.