

# Bouchard uses head to take fight, Canadiens win, Ivan feels terrible

By TIM BURKE  
of The Gazette

Ivan Boldirev scornfully discounted the price on Pierre Bouchard's curly head here Saturday night.

"One of the cheapest studs I've ever seen in hockey," the Yugoslav-born centre of the California Golden Seals said bitterly of Pierre's "nose bump" that shattered his nose during a fight in the first period. "You really have to stoop low to pull a stunt like that when you're as big as he is."

Boldirev, whose nose was spread all over his face and swollen by half again its normal size after the Canadiens' 5-0 — which clinched first place in the first half in the NHL East — victory ventured, "Where do the Canadiens get off thinking they're tough?"

## REMATCH DUE

"I sat on the bench with the Bruins for a couple of years and I didn't see any of them acting so tough down in Boston. In fact, I didn't see any of them at all... We'll see how tough they are when they come out to Oakland next week."

Rematch?

"Not really," he said, stroking the padding in one of his nostrils. "It's part of the game, I suppose. But if the occasion arises..."

The extremely-powerful DeMaisonneuve Butch said that he lowered the boom — in this case massive head — on Boldirev because he didn't like the way Ivan had bodied him a couple of minutes earlier at centre ice.

"It was a clean check," protested Boldirev. "Some guys think they shouldn't be hit because, for some reason, they've gotten the idea they're superstars."

## RIGHT-HAND BARRAGE

Anyway, when they collided, Pierre (6'2", 187) unleashed a barrage of right hands, about four which connected with the Boldirev (6', 190) profile. Ivan countered but the blows fell harmlessly on Pierre's shoulders. So he took the defensive and attempted to keep Butch at arm's length.

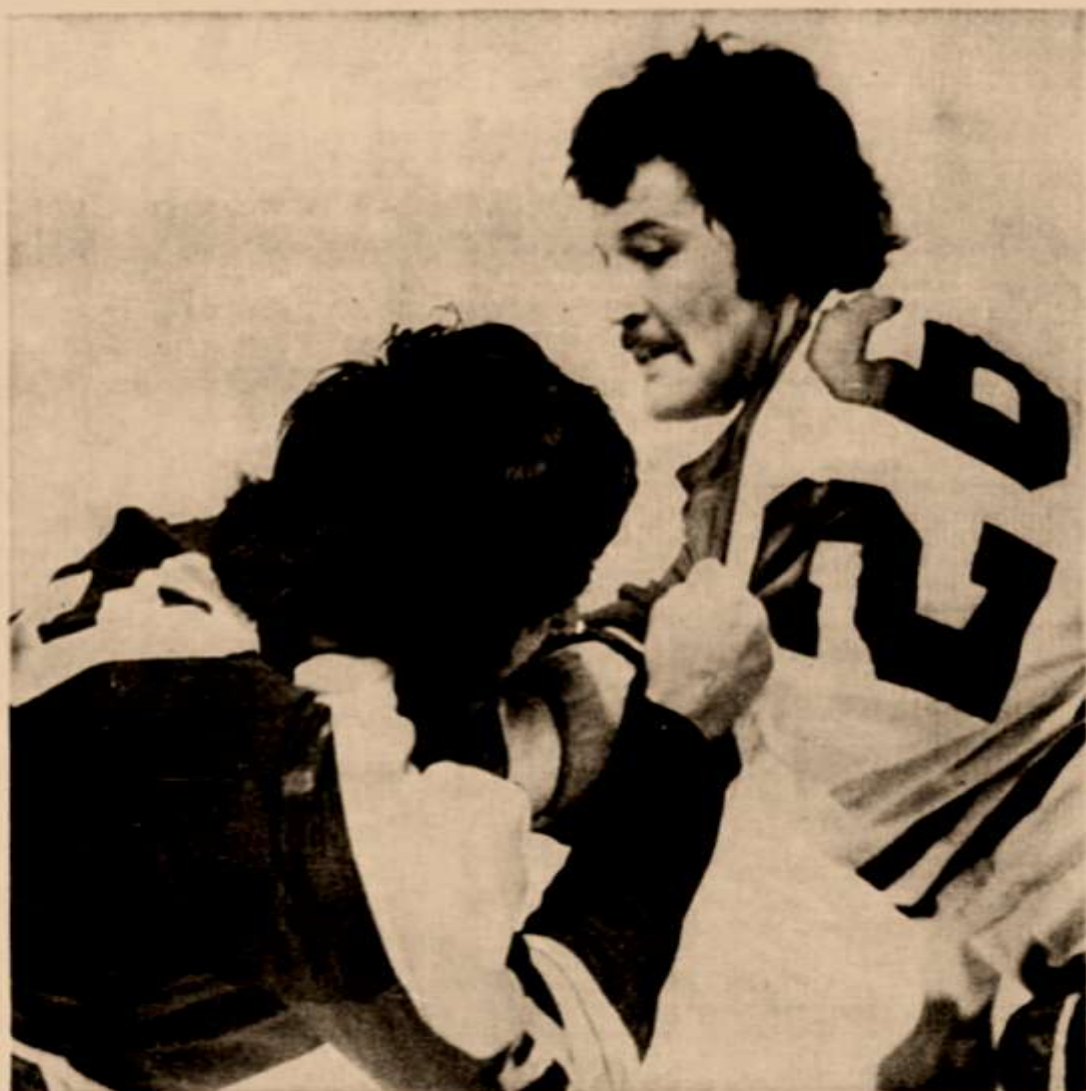
Butch broke the deadlock by literally using his head. Ivan's nose was the unfortunate recipient of what is sometimes described as the "Liverpool Kiss".

But Pierre paid a fairly high price for his unanimous decision, bruising a couple of tendons on a knuckle of his big right hand, and didn't see any further action. He's likely to be out for a couple of weeks. Boldirev, to his credit, played again despite his fractured nose.

"Ah, it's nothing much," he said. "I've broken it a few times before."

His anger over Bouchard began to subside and he managed a thin smile. "That

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Canadiens' Pierre Bouchard, left, Seals' Ivan Boldirev grapple for position during Saturday night fight

(Gazette, Michael Dupes)



**All alone - and blue:** An unhappy Gilles Meloche in the California Seals' goal — with no one in sight — has just fanned on Guy Lafleur's drive from the blueline Saturday

night. Canadiens won 5-0 as Lafleur scored twice and Meloche missed another long-range goal by Chuck Lefley.

(Gazette, Michael Dupes)

# Lafleur, Henri lead Canadiens

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guy throws punches real good," he said.

If the deck isn't stacked enough against the Golden Seals these days, what with everyone from owner Charlie Finley on down taking shots at them, didn't seven of them come down with the flu before the game. Rick Smith was too sick to play and the others managed despite fevers.

"In the circumstances," said Seals' coach Fred Glover. "I thought the team played very well. I wish people would stop talking about morale on this team. There's absolutely nothing wrong with the morale."

Still, the players are to meet with owner Finley when they return to Oakland Wednesday and in the words of Marshall Johnson, Seals' forward-defenceman, "thrash the whole thing out."

"The most important thing is the salaries," he said. "What disturbed us most was what Dick Redmond (now with the Black Hawks) was supposed to be getting \$60,000. He wasn't our most valuable defenceman, Paul Schmyr was and they let him go to the WHA. I don't think he would have gone if he had

been offered \$60,000. The highest salary should go to the best player, not the best negotiator."

## QUICK LEAD

As for the Canadiens, the victory that returned them to first place came with relative ease. Marc Tardif and Chuck Leisley putting them ahead 2-0 before the game was eight minutes old.

Ken Dryden, who registered his fourth shutout of the season, had to stop lively for a few minutes in the second period but the storm soon subsided and Ken could contemplate out-of-town scores.

If things weren't bad enough for the Seals, Bob Stewart was thumbed out of the game for violating the third-man-into - an altercation rule, assisting Bert Marshall who was about to be pummeled by Dale Hoganson. Marshall had elbowed Hogey in the head in the corner and as the red-headed Canadian defenceman says, "Nobody gives me an elbow and gets away with it."

So he went after Marshall who, with serious back problems, wanted no part of the action, sliding peacefully to the ice. Stewart, whose parents were here from Prince Edward Island to watch their

son as a big-leaguer for the first time, had the embarrassment of a game misconduct while Hogey and Marshall received only minors. (It's not necessary to have major penalties to invoke the third-man theme.)

## PAIR FOR LAFLEUR

It was a big night for Guy Lafleur, who was picked as the No. 1 star for his two goals and he said that he seems to fit in with Henri Richard better than any other centre. Henry, who was the game's second star, is beginning to wonder if indeed his supply of goals "somewhere up there" has been exhausted.

"Never mind," said Lafleur. "If he continues to play with me, he'll be getting that goal very soon."

Henri was only an eyelash away from the hat trick in this game, in all alone on Gilles Meloche three times but the little goalie, out of position on two occasions, frustrated him with desperation saves. Henri did assist on both of Lafleur's goals, though.

There was an indignant reaction to a goal that was taken away from Jacques Lemaitre in a freak play in the second period.

Meloche came out to stop

Coco's slap shot, and defenceman Ted McAneeley gloved the rebound. As Meloche retreated back toward the net he bumped into McAneeley who toppled into the net, pack in his glove.

## BLEW WHISTLE

Referee Ron Wicks disallowed the goal because he said he blew the whistle before McAneeley fell into the net. (When a ref loses sight of the puck, he must blow the whistle and Wicks certainly wasn't in a position to see it.)

Jimmy Roberts keeps plugging along in his jack-of-all-positions role and scored his eight goal of the season.

### First Period

1—Montreal, Tardif (18) 4:36  
(Richard)  
2—Montreal, Lafleur (11)  
(Lemaitre, Seward) 7:18  
Penalties — Boldrey (Cal) (minor)  
8:21, Stuchard (MT) (minor and  
major) 9:25, Laouette (MT) 12:25,  
McKeechle (Cal) 15:15.

### Second Period

2—Montreal, Lafleur (10) 11:28  
(Tardif, Dryden)  
Penalties — Marshall (Cal) 8:25,  
Stewart (Cal) (game misconduct)  
5:25, Seward (MT) 7:35.

### Third Period

4—Montreal, Roberts (8)  
(Lemaitre, F. Mahovitch) 2:17  
1—Montreal, Lafleur (11)  
(Richard, Tardif) 6:54  
Penalties — Shuff (MT) 16:25,  
Boldrey (Cal) 19:21.  
Shots on goal by:  
California 2 10 4 — 21  
Montreal 18 12 17 — 47

Goalkeepers — California, Meloche;  
Montreal, Dryden.

Attendance — 14,622.