



NEWS
RELEASE

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SEALS VS. MINNESOTA NORTH STARS
Wednesday, February 26, 1975

SEALS' RECORD: 16-36-11

NORTH STARS' RECORD: 17-36-6

TEAM NOTES

SEALS VS. NORTH STARS--Fourth and final meeting of season with Minnesota. North Stars hold a 2-1-0 season series lead over Seals. Minnesota scored 3-1 and 8-4 wins at Met Center and Seals won 5-3 in Oakland on December 6.

SEALS AT HOME--Seals are 12-9-8 at home including Sunday's 2-2 tie with Los Angeles.

NORTH STARS ON ROAD--Minnesota is 3-22-4 on the road this season.

SEALS' STREAK--California is 3-1-2 in last five games and has a modest three game unbeaten string.

NORTH STARS' NEW FACES--Since their last visit to Oakland the North Stars have made wholesale changes in their lineup: right wing Craig Cameron, left wing Ernie Hicke and center Doug Rombough were obtained from the New York Islanders in separate trades for veterans Jude Drouin and J.P. Parise; center Dean Talafous and defenseman Dwight Bialowas came from Atlanta for veteran Barry Gibbs; left wing Norm Gratton obtained from Buffalo for veteran center Fred Stanfield and defenseman Chris Ahrens and goalie Fern Rivard were called up from New Haven (AHL).

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

SEALS' ROOKIE LEFT WING DAVE HRECHKOSY, with 26 goals, is the leading rookie goal scorer in the NHL. He has six goals in his last six games.



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TEAM NOTES

LINEUP ADDITIONS: Add to Minnesota lineup #9 Henry Boucha, Left Wing. Boucha, who sustained an eye injury in a stick swinging incident with Boston's Dave Forbes on January 4, 1975, has been back for four games.

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SEALS AT HOME--Seals are 12-9-8 at home including Sunday's 2-2 tie with Los Angeles.

NORTH STARS ON ROAD--Minnesota is 3-22-4 on the road this season and 2-1-1 in their last four road contests.

SEALS' STREAK--California is 3-1-2 in last five games and has a modest three game unbeaten string.

SEALS' POWER-PLAY--Seals have converted 37 times in 274 efforts (23 at home and 14 on road). Seals only scored 34 all last year.

SEALS' PENALTY KILLING--Seals have allowed 52 goals in 208 shorthanded situations.

NORTH STARS' POWER-PLAY--Minnesota has scored 34 power-play goals in 227 attempts.

NORTH STARS' PENALTY KILLING--Minnesota has allowed 65 goals in 232 shorthanded situations, second highest in NHL. Washington, with 70 goals, has allowed the most.

NORTH STARS' INJURIES--Defenseman Dennis O'Brien suffered a fractured left thumb last night against Toronto. He will be out of action from a week to 10 days.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

SEALS' ROOKIE LEFT WING DAVE HRECHKOSY, with 26 goals, is leading the rookie goal scorer in the NHL. Atlanta's Eric Vail, who is in action tonight against Philadelphia, is second with 25 goals.

SEALS' LEFT WING JOHN STEWART needs one more goal to equal his NHL best at 18, set last year with Atlanta.

SEALS' DEFENSEMAN JIM NEILSON has six points in his last five games.

SEALS' ROOKIE CENTER/LEFT WING CHARLIE SIMMER has scored 4 points in his last two games.

SEALS' ROOKIE CENTER LARRY PATEY has five points in last two games.

NORTH STARS' LEFT WING BILL GOLDSWORTHY, with 28 goals, needs two goals to reach the 30-goal mark for the fifth time in his last six seasons with the North Stars.

NORTH STARS' NORM GRATTON has scored 8 goals in 14 games since joining the North Stars.

SEALS' CENTER STAN WEIR is playing in his 200th NHL game tonight.

SEALS' GOALIE GILLES MELOCHE is playing in his 200th game as a Seal tonight.

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NHL STANDINGS

CLARENCE CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

Lester Patrick Division

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
PHILADELPHIA	60	35	16	9	203	137	79
NY RANGERS	62	30	19	13	250	205	73
NY ISLANDERS	62	26	21	15	202	167	67
ATLANTA	60	24	23	13	167	171	61

Conn Smythe Division

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
VANCOUVER	59	30	23	6	197	178	66
CHICAGO	63	29	27	7	208	189	65
ST. LOUIS	60	23	25	12	199	205	58
MINNESOTA	60	17	37	6	166	257	40
KANSAS CITY	61	14	39	8	146	248	36

LAST NIGHT'S SCORES:

St. Louis	0	at Islanders	3
Chicago	6	at Washington	2
Pittsburgh	4	at Boston	6
Toronto	9	at Minnesota	2

PRINCE OF WALES CONFERENCE

James Norris Division

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
MONTREAL	61	35	10	16	295	177	86
LOS ANGELES	60	33	11	16	209	128	82
PITTSBURGH	61	26	22	13	239	218	65
DETROIT	60	17	33	10	183	247	44
WASHINGTON	63	6	52	5	137	336	17

Charles F. Adams Division

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
BUFFALO	61	38	11	12	269	185	88
BOSTON	62	32	19	11	271	194	75
TORONTO	62	22	29	11	211	240	55
CALIFORNIA	63	16	36	11	170	240	43

GAMES TOMORROW:

Vancouver	at Philadelphia
Detroit	at Boston
Los Angeles	at Buffalo

GAMES TONIGHT:

St. Louis	at Rangers
Philadelphia	at Atlanta
Vancouver	at Montreal
Washington	at Pittsburgh
Los Angeles	at Detroit
Kansas City	at Toronto

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

SEALS

NO.	NAME	POS.	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
18	DAVE HRECHKOSY	LW	55	26	12	38	20
21	STAN WEIR	C	63	15	22	37	12
25	AL MacADAM	RW	63	15	21	36	41
9	LARRY PATEY	C	62	16	18	34	58
17	JOHN STEWART	LW	61	17	16	33	48
7	DAVE GARDNER	C	55	10	17	27	2
12	BUTCH WILLIAMS	RW	46	9	14	23	94
2	RICK HAMPTON	D	61	6	12	18	29
4	BOB STEWART	D	63	5	12	17	89
6	LEN FRIG	D	63	3	12	15	101
15	JIM NEILSON	D	59	2	12	14	54
10	CHARLIE SIMMER	C	19	5	6	11	12
20	MORRIS MOTT	RW	51	3	8	11	8
26	GEORGE PESUT	D	33	0	10	10	65
14	FRANK SPRING	RW	23	3	3	6	6
8	BRIAN LAVENDER	LW	48	1	5	6	36
27	GILLES MELOCHE	G	37	0	5	5	14
19	JIM MOXEY	RW	32	2	2	4	4
30	GARY SIMMONS	G	27	0	1	1	14

MINNESOTA NORTH STARS

NO.	NAME	POS.	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
22	DENNIS HEXTALL	C	60	12	41	53	117
8	BILL GOLDSWORTHY	RW	51	28	24	52	35
7	BLAKE DUNLOP	C	51	9	17	26	8
10	MURRAY OLIVER	C	60	13	12	25	16
9	HENRY BOUCHA	LW	41	12	11	23	23
11	NORM GRATTON	LW	39	11	12	23	4
15	DEAN TALAFOUS	RW/C	41	8	15	23	19
14	ERNIE HICKE	LW	42	10	12	22	67
2	DWIGHT BIALOWAS	D	60	3	18	21	20
12	DOUG ROMBOUGH	C	48	9	10	19	14
3	FRED BARRETT	D	44	3	14	17	53
24	DOUG HICKS	D	60	5	10	15	47
18	DON MARTINEAU	RW	56	6	6	12	42
28	CRAIG CAMERON	RW	57	3	8	11	6
23	LOU NANNE	RW	29	6	4	10	31
5	DENNIS O'BRIEN	D	43	4	4	8	106
20	TOM REID	D	55	1	3	4	76
4	CHRIS AHRENS	D	42	0	2	2	67
35	FERN RIVARD	G	8	0	0	0	2
1	PETE LOPRESTI	G	21	0	0	0	2
30	CESARE MANIAGO	G	36	0	0	0	2

GOALTENDING RECORDS

	GP	GA	SO	MINS	ENG	AVG
30 GARY SIMMONS	27	95	2	1609	1	3.54
	W=9	L=16	T=2			
27 GILLES MELOCHE	37	141	1	2171	3	3.90
	W=7	L=20	T=9			

	GP	GA	SO	MINS	ENG	AVG
35 FERN RIVARD	8	23	0	327	0	4.22
	W=1	L=4	T=0			
1 PETE LOPRESTI	21	85	1	1204	4	4.24
	W=5	L=13	T=2			
30 CESARE MANIAGO	36	144	1	2069	1	4.18
	W=11	L=20	T=4			

Coach Can't Explain Seals 'Flat Effort'

By HUGH McDONALD
Times Staff Writer

Lethargy.
Effort.

These were the words the opposing coaches used to describe the over-all play of their teams as the Seals fell 3-1 to the Minnesota North Stars at the Oakland Arena Wednesday night.

Both Bill McCreary of the Seals and Charlie Burns of the North Stars also were trying to explain the turnabouts displayed by their teams.

The Seals played brilliantly last Friday to defeat the Boston Bruins 6-4. The Stars played dismally Tuesday night in losing 9-2 to Toronto.

Of Wednesday night's sad showing, McCreary said, "It was a flat effort. The club as a whole had a breakdown on positional play. The players were watching the game, not playing it."

As to why his team could play so well on occasions and some bad on others, he could only say, "I wish I knew."

Burns was a bit more specific.

"We had a good effort tonight. We haven't always. Lack of consistency has been one of our problems."

It was the second time this season the North Stars have come off a 9-2 lacing on the previous night and then bounced back to beat the Seals.

Burns was definite in stating that he didn't think it was because of poor play by the Seals on either occasion.

"It's a matter of effort," he repeated. "There's no way a team like the Seals can beat a team like Boston on talent alone. It has to be effort."

Neither McCreary nor his players believed the Seals letdown was for lack of effort. Rather, they felt that it was simply a case of not being able to put their game together.

In any case, the outcome practically destroyed any chances the Seals may have had of wresting a playoff spot from Toronto, whom they now trail by 14 points.

The Seals took the lead at 4:53 of the first period on a power play. Al MacAdam beat goalie Pete Lopresti with a perfectly placed shot just four seconds before a penalty to Rombrough expired.

But just 16 seconds later Murray Oliver, on a play with Bill Godsworthy, tied the score.

Minnesota got what proved to be the winning goal on a deflection by Rombrough of Fred Barret's shot from the left point at 16:07.

The second period was dull and scoreless.

At 10:05 of the final period, Craig Cameron beat Seals' goalie Gilles Meloche with a 25-footer to settle the issue.

The Seals go on the road to play the New York Islanders on Saturday and the Montreal Canadiens on Monday. They return to the Oakland Arena Wednesday against the Chicago Black Hawks.

ICE CHIPS - Charlie Burns, the popular former minor league Seal who coaches the Minnesota North Stars, says he always enjoys his trips to the Bay Area where he has so many friends.

Charlie began the year as assistant to Jack Gordon, who was managing and coaching the North Stars. Things began to go sour and Gordon turned the coaching over to Burns while he tried to get something going on the managerial side.

Burns has felt that the North Star players haven't consistently given a full out effort this year. In other years, they kept up in the standings on the basis of good veteran players that they obtained by trading off draft rights. "The well has gone dry," said Burns, "and some of our young players haven't developed as fast as we had hoped."

He said the club has suffered from lack of ice leadership. He felt the trading of veteran defenseman Ted Harris had hurt. "He had an unbelievable presence as a team leader," said Burns.

An early season injury to their star player, Bill Godsworthy, forced the club into trades to get a right winger sooner than they had intended.

Burns said also that the spirit of unity that once existed on the North Stars has given way to cliques.

He is confident the team will bounce back, but added, "It's going to take time."

Henry Boucha, who suffered an eye injury in a stick swing incident with Boston's Dave Forbes, on January 4, has been back for four games.

"He still can't see the puck very well when it's at his feet said Burns. But he wants to get back in the game and I want to help him. He has a lot of talent."

Burns said the injury to Boucha was brutal and he compared it to another unseamy incident of this season when three Philadelphia Flyers climbed into the penalty box to pummel the Seals' Mike Christie.

Christie, who was lost to the club early in the season with torn leg ligaments, has been skating and will accompany the Seals on the road trip. His defensive abilities have been missed.

Brian Lavender, who took a regular spell on wing for the Seals last night instead of only filling his utility man role, would particularly have liked to have scored. His dad, who took part in the shoot-on-goal contest, is visiting from Edmonton, Alberta.

"He may be still here when we get back from the road trip next week," said Lavender. "Maybe I'll get a goal then."

X-rays showed that Joey Johnston's broken wrist isn't healing as rapidly as was hoped. Johnston, at best, could return for the last two weeks of the season.