

Seals Good for Laughs

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California's Golden Seals may not be winners and they have a penchant for trading off the fans' favorite players, yet they do give those in attendance a few laughs, even when they lose.

The list of Seals tradeoffs is now four favorites, with more undoubtedly to come.

First it was Charley Burns, the Seals' first fan-pleaser. Then came Gerry Odrowski. Harry Howell was next to go and only two days ago little Teddy Hampson was traded to Minnesota.

Hampson was the Seals' captain and their leader.

But they still provide a few laughs for the fans, even when they are being outplayed and outscored by a team like the Montreal Canadiens, who bombed them, 5-2, in the Oakland Arena last night.

The 4362 fans present were quick with the quips. Here are a few heard at rinkside:

"How to get old young: play goalie for the Seals."

"I want to see Finley's mule out there."

"How about half price tonight, only half the teams are playing?"

"Roberts, get off the ice."

"They don't need any help" (when a Seal passed to a Canadien in his own territory).

"The Canadiens played the Pee-wees. Of course, they are overage, but they play like Pee-wees."

There was one bright note as the Canadiens

outshot the Seals, a whopping 44 to 22.

The newest Seal, Tommy Williams, did score a goal with a couple of minutes left in the game.

Although they played some of their worst hockey of the season, the Seals trailed only 3-1 after the first two periods. The Canadiens had two goals tak-

en away from them in the second period.

Montreal took a 3-0 lead in the first period as the Canadiens out-skated, out-hit, out-shot and out-passed the hapless Seals who gave up two goals on power plays.

The first goal, Jean Beliveau's 19th of the season, came while Dennis Hextall

was sitting in the penalty box.

At 13:33 Beliveau passed to Phil Roberto, who rifled it in the nets, and at 16:50, just 10 seconds after a bewildered Doug Roberts was penalized for hooking, Beliveau scored again, making it two-for-two in the power play department.

Goals by Frank Mahov-

lich and John Ferguson were disallowed in the second period and the Seals finally dented the nets as Bert Marshall slapped one in from outside the blue line.

NOTES: Carol Vadnais, playing in his first game in more than a month, suffered a back injury in the final minutes when Frank Mahovich wrapped him around the Seals' goal post. . . . Williams, traded out of sure playoff money by Minnesota, naturally isn't ecstatic about coming to the Seals. "But I'm a professional hockey player and I want to play hockey and will for anyone," he said.

FIRST PERIOD

SCORING — 1, Montreal, Beliveau (19), F. Mahovich, Tremblay 4:18 (x)
2, Montreal, Roberto (10) Beliveau, F. Mahovich 13:30; 3, Montreal, Beliveau (20), Conner, Taidis 14:50 (x).

PENALTIES — Hextall (5) 3:16; Beliveau (M) 10:15; J. Ferguson (M) 13:33; Roberts (S) 16:40.

SHOTS ON GOAL — Seals 4, Montreal 12.

SECOND PERIOD

SCORING — 4, Seals, Marshall (2)

Ehman, Williams 13:32.

PENALTIES — Marshall (5) 12:20.

SHOTS ON GOAL — Seals 6, Montreal 11.

THIRD PERIOD

SCORING — 5, Montreal, Houle (7), Richard, Lemaire, 18:41, 6, Seals, Williams (11), Jarrett, Stackhouse 18:07, 7, Montreal, F. Mahovich (28) unassisted 19:40 xxx.

PENALTIES — Stackhouse (5) 3:26; Tardif (M) 19:17.

SHOTS ON GOAL — Seals 10, Montreal 21. TOTAL — Seals 22, Montreal 44.

GOALIES — Seals, Worthy; Montreal, Vachon.

ATTENDANCE — 4362.

REFEREE — Art Shaw.

x—with man advantage.

xxx—short-handed.