

Right Place For Hampton

By JOHN PORTER

It was nothing new for Rick Hampton to find himself in the right place at the right time. He just seems to be doing it more often.

The Seals' 19-year-old opted for the pros two years ago when the last of those gargantuan contracts was waved at the budding hockey talent in Canada.

What the young defenseman has learned in the big time is "to keep my mouth shut and go out and do the best I can."

Rick's best last night was two spectacular goals and a couple of team records for 5,009 smiles at the Arena as the Seals took apart the St. Louis Blues, 7-1.

"This summer would have been my draft year," said Rick, putting the finishing touch on his tie. "So, I'm just a rookie next year in a way. Actually, I guess it was fortunate I signed when I did."

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Records for a Seal

Cont. from 1st Sports Page

As the NHL and WHA move closer to some sort of merger, they also inch towards less competition bidding for talent. Only the big stars are expected to command those big salaries in the future.

"I was lucky to be with the Seals because I got a chance to play, especially this year," said Hampton, who sat on the bench much of his first season. "I've been happy for a whole season."

No one can dispute the importance of Rick's offensive stats. He has 47 points for one team record and eight power-play goals for another.

He scored his 13th and 14th goals of the season for two of the Seals' three power-play goals last night.

"I was beginning to wonder when I would get that record," said Hampton, who

had zero points in his last four games.

Hampton shots resulted in a red light in each of his last two games, but the referees washed out the first because a teammate was in the crease and the second for a high stick.

"I thought they were both good goals," said Rick.

Gary Simmons has reservations about offensive defense-men, but the Seals goalie made the supreme gesture.

"I don't like to say anything nice about anybody," he shouted across the dressing room to Hampton, "but that kid's all right."

Hampton grinned, saying: "It's a big step to go from juniors at 17 to the NHL, but I've made that step now."

NOTES: Rookie Bob Murdoch hit the 20-goal plateau and added No. 21 . . . "It's

end of the year time, time to make those bonuses," he said

. . . Simmons took six stitches for two cuts on his left thumb after the Blues' Garry Unger kicked his skate in a pileup in front of the net

. . . Former Seal Larry Patey gave St. Louis a short-lived 1-0 lead in the first period with the Blues' 20th short-handed goal of the season . . . Seals didn't blast the officials — St. Louis had five penalties and the Seals one . . . Dennis Maruk had a goal and three assists. . . Seals won season series (2-1-1) with Blues . . . St. Louis brass say they have permission to negotiate with Emile Francis of New York, but the Rangers' executive may have a salary they can't afford . . . Hampton took two shots that required good saves to prevent his hat trick.



Seals 7, Blues 1

FIRST PERIOD

SL	S	Player	Time
0	0	St. Louis (Patey)	9:19
		(Lefley, Affleck)	3:49
1	1	Seals (Murdoch)	20
		(Maruk, MacAdam)	5:45
1	2	Seals (Hampton)	13
		(Gardner, MacAdam)	13:53
1	3	Seals (Maruk)	28
		(Unassisted)	14:50
Shots on goal: SL 11, Seals 8			
Penalties: Smith, SL (tripping) 1:53; R. Pinger, SL (hooking) 12:44; Simmer, Seals (high-sticking) 15:43.			

SECOND PERIOD

1	4	Seals (Hampton)	14
		(Ahem, Klassen)	14:01
1	5	Seals (Murdoch)	21
		(MacAdam, Maruk)	15:31
Shots on goal: Seals 11, SL 30			
Penalties: Unger, SL (hooking) 11:44; Gossoff, SL (boarding) 13:16.			

THIRD PERIOD

1	6	Seals (Merrick)	31
		(Sabourin, Girard)	6:20
1	7	Seals (Ahem)	116
		(Stewart, Klassen)	17:06
Shots on goal: Seals 11, SL 4			
Penalty: Gossoff, SL (slashing) 15:28.			
Total shots: Seals 30, SL 27.			
Goalies: SL, Johnston; Seals, Simmons. 3 stars: 1, Simmons, Seals, 2, Hampton, Seals, 3, Maruk, Seals.			
Referee: Lloyd Gilmour.			
Att: 5,009.			