

Smith Seal Goat



Tribune photo by Russ Reed

ALLAN SMITH OF PHILADELPHIA IS OUT-MANNED AT ARENA

Seals Norm Ferguson (17), Gene Ubriaco (16) and Joe Szura chase puck

Flyers Rally For Tie

By SPENCE CONLEY
Tribune Sports Writer

The relationship today between goalie Gary Smith and Coach Fred Glover has a certain resemblance to the one which exists between Israel and Egypt.

Big Smitty, who has had nights of glory for the Oakland Seals, turned up as the chief villain in Glover's outspoken opinion, in last night's ignominious 4-4 tie with the Philadelphia Flyers at the Coliseum Arena, before 4,584 fans.

The Seals were leading 4-1 and were grounding the Flyers with relative ease.

But all of a sudden the Philadelphians came up off the canvas with three goals, the last one on a desperation empty-net power play with seven seconds left in the game.

It wasn't bad enough that the Flyers were able to blitz Smitty for two, but Glover stated flatly that the play which led to the tying shot by Gary Dornhoefer, was three feet offside and wasn't called.

Glover, obviously frustrated

Continued Page 38, Col. 3

Three-Goal Seal Lead Evaporates

Continued from 1st Sports Page

by the failure of his club to pick off an important win when they appeared to have it easily, was upset more with Smith's performance in the nets than the missed offside call.

"I was very upset with the goaltending," began the National Hockey League's leading candidate for Coach of the Year honors.

"The first goal they got was an out-and-out gift, the second changed direction on Smith at the last minute, but the third and fourth scores I was definitely not happy about. I don't think he was ready for either of them."

Then he went after Smith directly. "There's a right way and a wrong way to play that position and he chooses to play it the wrong way."

"This guy has great potential, but potential isn't something that comes out like squeezing a tube of toothpaste. He's got to get up some morning and get with it."

"I've seen too many hockey players wasting their talent. You just can't just do enough to get by and expect to become great."

Glover was particularly irritated by the attitude of both Smith and veteran Charlie Hodge, toward practice.

"Goalies whether they like it or not, must work a little bit harder than the rest every single day. We have one (Chris Worthy) who does, and two (Hodge and Smith) who don't."

Clearly in control of the game in the opening 20 minutes, the Seals racked up a quick 2-0 lead on defenseman Dick Mattiussi's first goal of the year, and a shot by Bob Dillabough just 1:17 apart near the mid-way point.

But the Flyers came back in the second to make it 2-1 on a shot by Leon Rochefort, which Smitty blocked but according to Glover, knocked in himself.

Rookie Norm Ferguson got that one back, however, when he banked his 25th goal of the season off goalie Bernie Parent's back on a Seal power play.

Then at the 2:17 mark of the third period, Billy Hicke slammed home his 20th goal of the season and it looked as though the Seals were going to enjoy a laugh.

But the Flyers weren't laughing and began to take over the game, initiating a three-goal comeback just 38 seconds after Hicke's score had made it 4-1.

The first of the three was scored by 21-year NHL defenseman Allan Stanley, his 100th career goal, and followed by a shot by Jean Guy Gendron at the 6:53 mark.

The Seals tried to snap out of it, and even had a couple of decent scoring opportunities, but couldn't convert them.

Finally, Coach Keith Allen yanked Parent with about a minute left and replaced him with a sixth forward.

Dornhoefer, whom Glover declared was way offside on the rush into the Seal zone which resulted in the tie, got a feed pass from behind the net, and "I just shot it in desperation."

The Seal attack was bogged down a little in the third period when center Mike Laughton crashed into teammate Carol Vadnais during a scramble for the puck in the Flyer zone.

First period—1, Oakland, Mattiussi 1 (Jarrett, Hicke) 7:41. 2, Oakland, Dillabough 6 (Scuri, Ferguson) 8:58. Penalties—Parent, Philadelphia, served by Dornhoefer, 5:39; Gendron, Philadelphia, misconduct, 14:18.

Second period—3, Philadelphia, Rochefort 11 (Peters) 10:32. 4, Oakland, Ferguson 25 (Ubric, Marshall) 16:20. Penalties—Mattiussi, Oakland, 4:05; Watson, Philadelphia, 11:59; Watson, Philadelphia, 15:33.

Third period—5, Oakland, Hicke 20 (Roberts, Malmgren) 2:17. 6, Philadelphia, Stanley 4 (Lorcoix, Gendron) 2:55. 7, Philadelphia, Gendron 19 (Sarrasin, Lacroix) 6:53. 8, Philadelphia, Dornhoefer 5 (Jansson) 11:53. Penalties—none.

Shots on goal by:
Philadelphia 5 8 12—25
Oakland 18 9 12—27
Goalies—Philadelphia, Parent. Oakland, Smith
A—4,584

SEALS SEND HODGE TO VANCOUVER

The Oakland Seals today assigned veteran goaltender Charlie Hodge to their Vancouver farm club of the Western Hockey League.

This leaves the Seals with two goaltenders, Chris Worthy and Gary Smith, as they leave on a four-game road trip, playing at Minnesota tomorrow, St. Louis and Philadelphia on the weekend and Chicago next Wednesday.

The Seals also re-assigned defenseman Bob Lemieux from Vancouver to Rochester of the American Hockey League.

—By SPENCE CONLEY.