

Seals Win Costly War

By JOHN PORTER
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TORONTO — Vic Stasiuk called it a Civil War.

His side won the conflict, but the casualty report was cause for concern as the Oakland Seals made the two-hour bus ride from Buffalo to Toronto last night.

On one seat, his face contorted with pain and his bruised ribs wrapped up like a mummy, was goalie Lyle Carter.

"It felt like I had been electrocuted," Carter managed to say. "I thought the shot went right through me and stuck in my ribs."

In the seat in front of Carter was Gaty Croteau with his right fist encased in ice packs. He hammered Buffalo's Ron Anderson in a second-period fight.

Across the aisle was Wayne Carleton, who had reinjured his sore knee. There's a possibility he may fly back to Oakland today, missing tomorrow night's game against Toronto.

Perhaps most serious, or hopefully, least serious, was Gerry Pinder. He wasn't on the bus at all. He was left behind, despite his protestations, in a Buffalo hospital because Sabre defenseman Doug Barrie leveled him with a Sunday punch just 19 seconds before the finish of the Seals' 7-5 victory.

Seals Limp on to Toronto After Costly Win in Buffalo

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"I've never seen a game like that in my life," said Stasiuk, the Oakland coach. "They don't pay goalies enough to take all those shots. It was like a civil war. Pow, pow, pow."

Buffalo fired 41 shots at Carter and his replacement Gilles Meloche. While the Seals pelted Sabre goalie Roger Crozier 38 times.

Considering the Seals had lost four straight on the road and still have Toronto and New York to face on successive nights before returning home, the win against Buffalo was all-important.

It lifted some sagging spirits and kept fourth-place Philadelphia, also a winner last night, just a point ahead of the Seals.

From the way the game started, it looked as if the Seals would run Buffalo off the ice, but Crozier made several of his acrobatic saves and was burned only once in the first period. Ernie Hicke cleanly beat him for his fourth goal of the season after a nice setup from Pinder.

Carleton assisted the next goal early in the second period to shove the Seals ahead, 2-0. Joey Johnston blasted a 40-footer off Crozier's pads, but hard-shooting Richard Martin blazed one past Carter 37 seconds later to open the scoring gates.

"Make sure you get the right Johnston," cautioned Seals defenseman Marshall Johnston to reporters after the game.

Joey Johnston grinned. He also scored the winning goal with a minute and a half left in the game and nearly had a hat trick at the end, but settled for an assist on Craig Patrick's clinching goal.

"Gee," said J. Johnston of the game-winner, "I don't know how I got it in the net. I really didn't see it. I just remember I leaned to the left."

There was a lot of moaning from the Buffalo dressing room that the winning goal was off-side.

"I'm not supposed to say anything about the officials," said Sabre coach Punch Imlach. "What do you expect me to say? . . . He was off-side, though."

Some of the Seals hedged on the question, but not Patrick.

"What do you mean it was off-side?" he shouted. "It was a perfect pass right on the blue line."

J. Johnston took the pass, fired head-on at Crozier from 30 feet, dived and pushed the rebound across the goal line

as he slid past the left post.

The two teams were skating four to a side at the time because Pinder and Barrie were in the penalty box for roughing each other up at center ice. Oakland scored twice, the second one into an empty net, then the two emerged from the box with 30 seconds left in the game.

Barrie skated at Pinder from the blind side and socked him with a fist the 5-7, 150-pounder never saw. Afterward Barrie was mute about the incident, Pinder still dazed.

Pinder, who has been suffering from flu the last few days, scored his eighth goal of the season and third in two games, for a 4-2 Oakland lead in the second period.

Two minutes later Carter flopped to the ice after stopping a bullet fired by Martin. The goalie was taken away on a stretcher.

At that time Carleton was already gone with the bum knee and Croteau had his swollen fist.

"See that," ordered Croteau, pointing to a foot-long

welt on his thigh. "Anderson speared me behind our net, then he tried to give me an elbow at the other end. That's when I went after him."

Oakland 7 3 2-7
Buffalo 5 3 2-5

FIRST PERIOD

0-0 Oakland Hicke (4)
Pinder (1) 9:30

Shots on Goal

Oakland 13, Buffalo 4
Penalties — Rodman, Oak (troubling) 15:30; Schmyr, Cal (delay in game) 17:57; Watson, Buf (elbowing) 19:35.

SECOND PERIOD

2-0 Oakland J. Johnston (4)
(Carter, Schmyr) 2:19
2-1 Buffalo Martin (3)
(Barrie) 2:26
2-2 Buffalo Evans (1)
(Robitaille, Martin) 2:32
2-2 Oakland Sheehan (1)
(Gilbertson) 11:17
4-2 OAKLAND Pinder (8)
(vanam, Schmyr) 14:06
4-3 Buffalo Perrault (8)
(Gavette, Robitaille) 14:39

Shots on Goal

Penalties — Schmyr, Cal (cross checking) 6:20; Robitaille, Buf (high sticking) 7:29; Croteau, Cal (fighting) 12:14; Anderson, Buf (troubling) 12:14; Evans, Buf (flashing) 13:24; Luce, Buf (holding) 13:38.

THIRD PERIOD

(Perrault, Martin) 0-0
3-4 Oakland Boldvren (1)
(Pinder, Hicke) 4:38
3-5 Buffalo Watson (1)
(Martin, Shack) 9:51
4-5 Oakland Johnston (5)
7-5 Oakland Patrick (3)
(Gilbertson) 19:07

Shots on Goal

Buffalo 12, Oakland 11
Penalties—Shack, Buf (high sticking) Pinder, Cal (high sticking) 7:57; Robitaille, Buf (holding) 12:33; Rodman, Cal (troubling) 13:08; Pinder, Cal (troubling) 17:30; Barrie, Buf (troubling) 17:30; Barrie, Buf (troubling) 17:30; Barrie, Buf (troubling) 17:30.
Total shots on goal—Oak 38, Buf 37.
Goalies—Oak, Meloche; Buf, Crozier.
Attendance—15,000.