

## Vancouver's Next

# Seals Win a Yawner

By HUGH McDONALD  
Times Staff Writer

It should be a better hockey game tomorrow night when the Vancouver Canucks play the Seals at the Oakland Arena than it was last night.

The Seals won a yawner 5-2 over the expansionist Washington Capitals.

"It was two points," said Coach Marshall Johnston, whose Seals now trail the third place Toronto Maple Leafs by four points.

There really wasn't too much else to commend the game in which the Capitals kept their 17-game winless road streak intact. The Seals, who generally have to play up, seemed to be playing down to the quality of their opponents.

Tomorrow night's game finds a more formidable foe at the Arena. The Canucks shut the Seals out 3-0 in their first meeting in Vancouver and will be thirsting to com-

pensate for the 6-1 thrashing they took from the Montreal Canadiens last night.

Tomorrow night's game starts at 7 o'clock. There is the added attraction that fans will be allowed to bring their own skates and utilize the Arena ice after the contest.

Last night the Seals took a first period 3-0 lead on goals by Larry Patey, Al MacAdam and Morris Mott.

Then in the second period they gave an example of their bad power play at its worst. Washington's Bill Lesuk came on the ice for his first shift and promptly scored a goal, with an assist by Ron Lalonde. Thirty-one seconds later he got an assist on a goal by Lalonde.

"We were lax," explained Coach Johnston. "And I should have changed the line, but I thought they'd tighten

up. Instead they gave up another goal."

The Seals, however, got one of these back at 15:46 of the period when Ron Huston got the puck over to Dave Hrechkosy in the slot and the latter whistled a shot past Washington goalie Ron Low. It was Hrechkosy's 16th point in 16 games and his 11th goal in that cycle.

The Seals finally made a power play work when they gained a two-man advantage when two Washington players were banished on the same play. Dave Gardner closed out the scoring at 18:08 of the third period.

Washington's Jim Hryciuk crashed into the goalpost in the first period and had to be taken to hospital. He suffered torn ligaments in his left knee and probably will be out of action for a couple of months.

### ICE CHIPS

The Washington Capitals are experiencing all the woes of an expansion

team. They have won only three and tied four of the 34 games they have played.

Their outspoken coach, Jimmy Anderson, says it's no worse than what he expected when he took the job, but he says the team's owners are getting impatient.

He saw the results of an impatient owner when he was with the Los Angeles Kings organization and he is afraid that similar impatience will hurt the Capitals.

"If we can bring along our young players and pick up three or four in the summers, we'll have a good team in three or four years," said Anderson.

The club has been averaging about 5,500 fans for home games, which is better than the Seals, but Anderson says the owners don't like the sight of the empty seats.

He has some misgivings about the high salaries paid to youngsters just out of junior ranks. Greg Joly and 18-year-old Mike Marson are two of these.

"I think I would just as soon have a 23-year-old rookie," said Anderson.

He has been somewhat disappointed in Joly, the 20-year-old No. 1 draft pick, whom he says has not shown the maturity expected.

"Maybe it's the big money, the press notices, and trying too hard to live up to expectations," said Anderson.

Anderson believes the time is coming when hockey players will be getting more realistic salaries.

"A couple of players' lawyers have tried to renegotiate contracts. Hell, there isn't a player on our team who should have his contract renegotiated," said Anderson.

He underlined the expenses teams have to undergo these days, as he noted that this west coast swing of the Capitals is costing the team \$10,000.

Two shorthanded goals against on a single penalty is a rarity in hockey. But the Seals, who have one of the worst power plays around, managed it last night.

Seals Coach Marshall Johnston, in commenting on the lack of a power play, said the comparison is too often with a team like the Canadiens, especially when they had such Hall of Famers as Maurice Richard, Jean Beliveau and Doug Harvey.

"Come around in 15 years when maybe Hrechkosy will be a superstar," smiled Johnston, "and then see whether we have a power play."

He conceded the team didn't practice it as much as it should because in an hour and 15 minutes of practice time, a power play practice involves only five men while 17 sit on the bench and watch.

"We don't get the time to practice that the teams back east do because of the distance we have to travel for road games," said Johnston.

The Seals have achieved what is described as "a breakthrough of sorts." They have been selected to play on the NBC televised game of the week on January 9 against Chicago. This will be the first time they will have been in a nationally-televised game, although they did appear in two regionally televised CBS games in 1970.

While selection of the lowly Seals is duly appreciated by the management, it represents something less than a full vote of confidence by the NBC. They are regarded as a better draw than the Pittsburgh-Washington contest originally scheduled for video viewing.

# NEWS RELEASE

## *The Seals* THE BAY AREA'S HOCKEY TEAM

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SEALS VS. WASHINGTON CAPITALS  
Friday, December 20, 1974

SEALS' RECORD: 6-21-6

CAPITALS' RECORD: 3-25-4

### TEAM NOTES

SEALS VS. CAPITALS--Third meeting of the season with Washington. Caps and Seals split previous two meetings in Washington, Caps winning 6-4 and Seals victorious, 5-2, for their only road win of the season.

CAPS ON ROAD--Washington is the only team in NHL which has not won or tied on the road this year. Caps road record is 0-15-0. (Caps played in L.A. last night and results were not available by press time.)

EX-SEALS ON CAPS--There are two ex-Seals on the Caps' roster--center Pete Laframboise and center Tommy Williams, older brother of Seals' Butch Williams. Tommy played for the Seals in 1970-71 and 1971-72.

### INDIVIDUAL NOTES

SEALS' DAVE HRECHKOSY has now scored 15 points in his last 15 games--including 9 goals.

SEALS' ROOKIE BUTCH WILLIAMS has scored five goals in his last seven games.

SEALS' LEN FRIG will be playing in his 100th NHL game tonight.

CAPITALS' DENIS DUPERE'S 14th goal of the season against the New York Rangers Dec. 12 gives him a personal NHL goal scoring high. Prior to this season, his best goal production was 13 in 1971-72.

DOWN ON THE FARM--Salt Lake Eagles, with 44 points, currently lead the Central Hockey League's Northern Division by two points over the Denver Spurs. Individual statistical leaders: Goals--Bob Murdoch, 20; Assists--Denis Meloche, 25; Total Points--Meloche, 41; and Penalty Minutes--Gary Holt, 75.