

# Seals' Streak Already in Jeopardy



Oakland Seals defenseman Ant Erickson (4) goes to the ice as he blocks a shot by Los Angeles Kings center Ed Joyal (16) in first period action last night at Oakland. Adding to net confusion are Seals goal tender Charlie Hodge, wing Alain Caron (12) and defenseman Bob Baun (21) and Kings wing Real Lemieux (9). Seals won 4-1. (AP Wirephoto)

**TONIGHT**

## Detroit Will Be Tougher

By HUGH McDONALD

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Having discovered that hockey games can end in some other way besides defeat or a tie, the Oakland Seals can extend a one-game winning streak tonight at Oakland Coliseum Arena by trimming the redoubtable Detroit Red Wings.

That could be something of a problem, for the Red Wings have hockey's greatest, the fabulous Gordie Howe, going for them, not to mention the reformed Howie Young, who has been playing just fine on the ice and behaving himself off it.

There's also the matter of an 8-2 trouncing the Wings wrote into the NHL book in their first clash with the Seals in Detroit.

That being as it may, you can't take away from the Seals that last night they won their first game in 15 starts when they downed the western division leading Los Angeles Kings, 4-1.

As L.A.'s Coach Red Kelly, philosophical in defeat, put it, "They were due."

Matter of fact, Kelly was in a more cheerful after the game than the non-smiling Seals maestro, Bert Olmstead, a perfectionist who has suffered greatly during the Seals' skein of catastrophes, which since their first two games of the season has produced only three ties.

"It's nothing to get excited about — one win after all those blankety losses," growled Olmstead who emerged after due and long course from an inner sanctum to hold court with the suffering, patient minions of the press.

The Kings scored first, at 4:57 of the opening period, when Terry Gray stole the puck from George Swarbrick and waltzed in untouched by human Seal to put the puck past Oakland goalie Charlie Hodge.

"I thought here we go again," admitted Olmstead, whose sentiment was shared by the meager throng of 3,256 patrons.

However, defenseman Larry Cahon put the Seals back in the contest only 39 seconds later when he sank a partly screened 25 footer past Kings' goalie Terry Sawchuck.

Then at 9:06, Swarbrick atoned for his sin by giving the Seals the lead off Mike Laughton's rebound.

Olmstead said that he felt the turning point for the Seals came later in this period when Swarbrick and Cahon were off for penalties and the Seals throttled the Kings' attack while two men hort.

Charlie Burns scored his first goal of the season at 8:04 of the middle frame on a Seals power play that continued until one second after L.A.'s Dale Rolfe had returned from serving a holding penalty.

In the third period the Seals forechecked relentlessly and held the Kings at bay. With only 53 seconds left in the game, Swchuck left his cage to provide for an extra attacker. The strategy backfired as Laughton zeroed in with a 125-footer to make it 4-1 with only 29 seconds remaining in the contest.

The loss was the first by the Kings to an NHL expansion club and it evened the current series with the Seals at one loss apiece, plus a tie.

"This was our steadiest game," Olmstead said, "we kept our mistakes to a minimum."

Olmstead thought the key to the win was the fine steady skating of his three lines which "played well for the first time this season." He said this took the pressure off the defense which was reflected on the 19 shots on the Oakland goal compared to 26 shots taken by the Seals.