

MEET 'THE POCKET WRECKER'

Seals Fans Will Like Whirlwind Maruk

By JOHN PORTER
Oakland Tribune

You're going to like Dennis Maruk. A lot.

Time was when Seals fans used to go ga-ga over a sawed-off center named Bobby Sheehan. The little downhill racer used to send a crowd into a tizzy every time he got near the puck. Opposing defensemen became tangle-legged trying to keep up with his blitzes down the ice.

Bobby's gone now, but the Seals may have snared a suitable replacement in the second round of last summer's amateur draft. Take a good look at Dennis Maruk, all 173 pounds of him. Don't blink, though. The rascal's so quick, you may miss everything except the red light glowing behind the other team's goalie.

Now if all this sounds as if it were concocted by Mother Goose, forget it. Dennis Maruk comes to town with spotless credentials.

Last year he scored 66 times in 65 games for the London Knights of the Ontario Hockey Association, which is Canada's No. 1 pool for hockey talent. Tack on his 79 assists for 145 points and that figures out to the third leading scorer in the OHA.

Not bad, right? Well, we've saved the best for last. Dennis Maruk scored 155 goals in three seasons for London to set the league's career goal-scoring record. As an interesting footnote, the fellow who held the old record of 150 was no slouch. The Los Angeles Kings traded away half their team and a lifetime pass to Disneyland to get the former record-holder, a lad named Marcel Dionne.

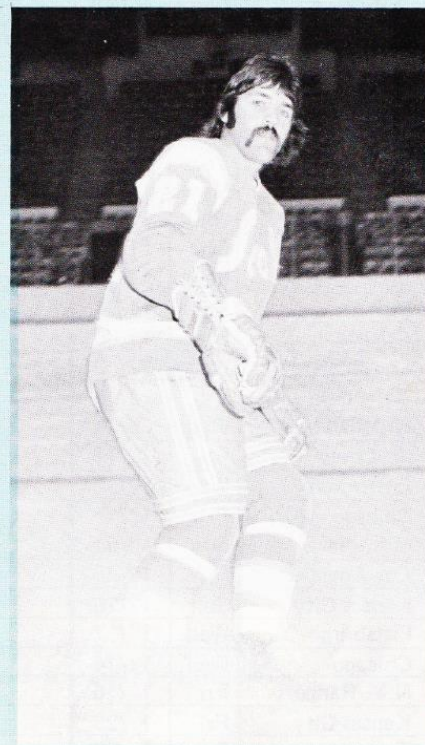
The comparisons are inescapable. All those goals, their sizes and the fact that they are both centers could mean a super future for Dennis Maruk.

"The only question is his durability," several Seals' officials confided after they drafted Maruk.

Their concern seemed natural enough. He weighed only 165 pounds at the time and the heavyweights of the National Hockey League love to bounce little guys around as if they were in a human bumper pool game.

"I've put on a bit since the draft," said Dennis. "I ended up with 60 minutes in penalties last year in junior. I can take the rough stuff."

Apparently, he also can dish it out.



Dennis Maruk

"You should have seen Maruk hit (Dave) Hutchison in Los Angeles," exulted Bill McCreary, "He really took care of himself."

The Seals' general manager had good reason to be happy. Mr. Hutchison is 6-foot-3 and weighs in at 205.

"I got that squared off right away," said Maruk. "I hit some of the L.A. players . . . the big guys . . . Hutchison a couple of times."

Dennis also had time to score a goal and drew enough attention during the exhibition that the Kings' broadcasters interviewed him during their post-game show.

Early indications are that his line should be quite successful with Al MacAdam on left wing and rookie Bobby Murdoch on right wing. All three finished in the top 5 for Seals scoring during the exhibition season. They combined for eight goals in seven games.

"Oh, I'm not shy," revealed Maruk, when asked if he were the quiet type.

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SEALS' RADIO BROADCAST INFORMATION

Seals' road games during the week (Monday through Friday) are broadcast on a tape-delay, with all games starting at 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time (7:50 for pre-game show).

All Saturday and Sunday road games are broadcast live, with pre-game show ten minutes in advance. Games are carried on KEEN (1370), KIDD (630), KKIS (990) & KSRO (1350).

Home games are all broadcast live at home starting times: 7:00 p.m. for Sundays and 8:00 p.m. for all other home games, with the usual 10-minute warm-up.

SEALS' AWAY BROADCAST TIMES

Sat.	18	at Los Angeles	7:50 p.m.
Sat.	25	at Toronto	3:50 p.m.
Sun.	26	at Buffalo	3:50 p.m.
Wed.	29	at Detroit	7:50 p.m.
Sun. Nov.	2	at Boston	3:50 p.m.
Tue.	4	at NY Islanders	7:50 p.m.
Wed.	5	at Kansas City	7:50 p.m.
Tue.	11	at Los Angeles	7:50 p.m.
Sun.	16	at Buffalo	3:50 p.m.
Tue.	18	at Pittsburgh	7:50 p.m.
Thurs.	20	at Philadelphia	7:50 p.m.
Fri.	21	at Washington	7:50 p.m.
Sun.	23	at NY Rangers	4:20 p.m.
Tue. Dec.	30	at Chicago	7:50 p.m.
Wed.	31	at Toronto	7:50 p.m.
Fri. Jan.	2 1976	at Washington	7:50 p.m.

SEALS PRE-SEASON RESULTS

(4-2-1)

Sept. 20	Seals 5	— Salt Lake 5
Sept. 27	Seals 4	— Salt Lake 1
Sept. 28	Seals 1	— Vancouver 3
Sept. 29	Seals 3	— Los Angeles 5
Oct. 3	Seals 5	— Salt Lake 1
Oct. 4	Seals 5	— Los Angeles 4
Oct. 6	Seals 6	— Vancouver 3

TOP PRE-SEASON SCORERS

(7 games)

	G	A	TPS	PIM
Al MacAdam	3	4	7	12
Ralph Klassen	0	7	7	0
Bob Murdoch	3	3	6	2
Dave Hrechkosy	4	1	5	2
Dennis Maruk	2	3	5	2
Gary Sabourin	3	1	4	4
Dave Gardner	1	3	4	0

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Seals Fans Will Like Whirlwind Maruk

"I'm a winner and I play to win. My first goal was to make the team. Then, I'd like to get 25 or 30 goals this season."

The Seals had a rookie last season, much taller and heavier, but equally outspoken. He ended up with 29 goals and a nickname — The Wrecker — that was a favorite with fans, press and players.

"They're calling me the 'Pocket Wrecker' and I don't mind that one bit," said Maruk with an engaging laugh. "Considering how good Dave Hrechkosy is, I like that name."

Dennis seems to have The Wrecker's flair for not only saying something outrageous, but backing it up, too.

"I expected hockey to be a lot quicker in the NHL," Maruk said matter-of-factly, "but it's not."

"I thought the checking would be a lot closer and it's not. It's more open if you're a skater and you have quite a bit of room to skate and think. I thought it would take me a while to get used to the NHL, but it didn't."

Like we said, you're going to like Dennis Maruk. A whole lot.



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