

Seals Trip Stars

Special Correspondent

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The North Stars' bid for a third-place finish in the West Division of the National Hockey League appears rocky.

Suffering their third straight loss and remaining winless over four games, Minnesota bowed 4-1 Wednesday night to the last-place California Seals, a team it defeated four times earlier this season.

Minnesota now has one game left, that against Philadelphia Saturday on the Flyers' ice, Philadelphia, in fourth place by three points, has three games remaining and should it win two of them, including the one Saturday, it would mean a fourth-place finish for the Stars.

Another setback was Jude Drouin's failure to get a point. The rookie North Star, together with Tom Webster of Detroit, trails Gil Perreault by three points in the race for first-year scoring honors.

Buffalo's Perrault got a goal and two assists last night against Pittsburgh for 70 points, while Webster pickup up a goal to tie Drouin.

Only a 30-foot screen shot by Dennis O'Brien, which California goalie Gary Smith gloved and then dropped, kept the spattering North Stars being shut out. It came with seven minutes to play.

California roared to a 4-0

lead in the first two periods, Smith stopping 12 Minnesota shots in the second period to keep the North Stars blanked.

Tony Featherstone set the tone of the game when he deflected the puck past Gump Worsley of Minnesota at 10:19 of the first period for a 2-0 score, despite Worsley's objections.

Worsley said Featherstone hit the puck with his stick above his shoulder, and his complaints finally got him a misconduct penalty from referee John McCauley.

Gerry Ehman had given the Seals a 1-0 lead three minutes earlier, and Smith held the Stars scoreless, the first scoreless period by a team against California in 10 periods.

The game was a reversal for the Seals' defense.

Smith stopped several North Stars threats in the second period as Norm Ferguson raised the score to 3-0 on a power play goal at 5:04 and Earl Ingarfield pushed in California's fourth goal at 7:28.

MINNESOTA

Goal—Worsley.

Defense—Eld, Harris, Gibbs, Miles,

O'Brien, Molan, Niemi.

Forwards—Galdsworthy, Burns, Oliver,

Poise, Hanson, Drouin, Harvey,

Grant, Chossier, Lovgren.

CALIFORNIA

Goal—Smith.

Defense—Roberts, Raymond, Marmak,

Stackhouse.

Forwards—Ingarfield, Ehman, B.

Hoke, F. Hoke, O'Donoghue, Jant,

Hardy, Loughton, Featherstone,

Ferguson, Cross, Heald, Baugh-

way, Williams.

FIRST PERIOD

Cal.—Ehman 10 (E. Hoke, Stackhouse)

12:06.

Cal.—Featherstone 8 (Stackhouse, Co-

lland) 15:31.

Penalties—Stackhouse, 12:40; Loh-

man, 16:19; Worsley (misconduct)

18:31.

SECOND PERIOD

Cal.—Ferguson 14 (Roberts, Marmak)

5:04.

Cal.—Ingarfield 5 (B. Hoke, Marmak)

7:28.

Penalties—Stackhouse, 15:56; Gibbs,

17:12; Raymond, 9:21; Miles and

Heald, 9:41; Gibbs, 15:42.

THIRD PERIOD

Miss.—O'Brien 3 (Burns, Oliver), 13:28.

Penalties—Gibbs, 7:00; Poise, 15:52.

Shots on goal:

Minnesota 4 12 10-28

California 13 7 9-29

Att.—2,874.