

Meloche Too Tough, Seals Trip Kings

By JOHN PORTER
Tribune Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD — The Oakland Seals forge into their second game in less than 24 hours today after skating easily for two periods and then having to go all out in the last session to repel the Los Angeles Kings, 3-1.

Scheduled for a matinee game in Vancouver this afternoon, the Seals made a hasty departure from Southern California and chartered north to British Columbia at 3 o'clock this morning.

If there was any thought that Seal goaltender Gilles Meloche could play both games, Coach Vic Stasiuk was having second thoughts after the Kings unleashed a 14-shot barrage in the third period last night.

Meloche may now be too tired to come back this afternoon, as the coach had hoped.

The Seals were leading 2-0 on goals by Craig Patrick and Walt McKechnie, but the Kings, who have held a 14-2 advantage win-loss over the Seals in The Forum, dented the lead when Whitey Widig scored on a power play early in the third period.

Meloche repeatedly was attacked by waves of Kings but came up with magnificent saves to turn back any further scoring.

The Kings pulled their goaltender with 34 seconds left in the game to add a sixth attacker, but Stan Gilbertson filched the puck from the

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Kings' Doug Barrie and filled the empty net to insure the victory.

It was the first game for Kings' Coach Fred Glover against his former team, which had not beaten Los Angeles on its home ice since March 22, 1960.

The win boosted the Seals two points ahead of fourth-place Pittsburgh in the West Division of the National Hockey League.

The Kings were a little too quick to make a rush up the ice and it cost them dearly in the first period. Defenseman Harry Howell, an ex-Seal, fired the puck around the boards behind his own net to two of his walling forwards.

It was a case of both L.A. skaters saying you take the puck and pass it to me. As a result, neither Butch Goring nor Mike Corrigan waited long enough. They both took off leaving Oakland's Joey Johnston alone to move in unimpeded.

The seals had 12 shots on goal in the second period and nearly scored early in the session when Joey Johnston set up Carol Vadnais on a two-on-one break, but Edwards made a pretty stick save to blunt the attack.

Nine minutes into the period a blocked shot from the point produced a pop fly in front of the Oakland net and a mass of bodies went up in the air in front of Meloche. When the pile of skaters on the ice was cleared, Vadnais was the last one up to reveal the puck.

Oakland's Bobby Sheehan gave Edwards a couple of hectic moments midway through the period when he broke in alone on the King's goal.

The Seals' speedster slowed down just enough before shooting to allow Potvin to catch up and check the puck harmlessly from behind.

Los Angeles came close to breaking in on Meloche in the last minute, but Paul Curtis' pass was offside and play was whistled dead.

Johnston passed to inmate Craig Patrick, who was stationed 10 feet in front of the Kings' goal with nary a defender in sight.

Craig's first shot plinged off the left goal post, but the rebound came back to his stick. Shot No. 2 forced goalie Gary Edwards to the ice as he made the save with his right pad.

Once again the rebound came back to Patrick, and this time he had two feet open on the right side and slithered the puck across the goal line at 12:51 for the 1-0 lead.

Early in the period, the action was livened with a brief match of fists between the Seals' Ernie Hicke, who had the best punches at the start, and L.A.'s Jean Potvin, who rallied to make the bout a draw.

The seals were short-handed once when Bobby Sheehan, replacing Hicke who was in the penalty box, was nabbed on a rare penalty for closing his hand on the puck. Penalty killer Wayne Carleton came close to scoring twice.

It seemed Seals center Walt McKechnie leaped over the boards at an opportune time during a line change in the second period. He came up with the puck on the Kings' blue line and broke in on goal only to have Doug Barrie poke the disc away.

Feeling he must have been robbed, Curtis took a swipe at the puck as the linesman bent over to pick it up for the face-off. It earned the unhappy King 10 minutes in the penalty box for misconduct.

The seals found themselves on the defensive early in the final period when Dick Redmond was banished for two minutes on a tripping penalty at 1:48.

Oakland's penalty killers handled the situation well enough, but they weren't as lucky five minutes later.

This time referee Lloyd Gilmour sent Stan Gilbertson to the penalty box for holding Barrie at 5:06. Wayne Carleton, Ivan Boldirev, Paul Shmyr and Vadnais came out to kill the two minutes and started out well enough by icing the puck four times.

However, the Kings finally managed to wedge their way into the Seals' zone and Bob Pulford passed to Potvin along the boards to Meloche's right. Center Whitey Widing cut through the faceoff circle and went to his left as Potvin passed.

The big blond Swede carried Shmyr and Vadnais across the ice in front of Meloche and backhanded a slow shot that was screened all the way to make the game tight, 2-1, at 6:38.

Barrie, however, tried to skate past Norm Ferguson and the Oakland right winger stripped the puck off the defenseman. A pass up the ice to McKechnie, who had been trailing the play, and the Seals were in business again.

Only Howell was back and McKechnie charged straight for him. Then blasted the puck along the ice from 25 feet out and sent the Forum siren into activity at 14:56. The puck had gone under Howell's stick and between the goalie's legs.

Even though Los Angeles didn't stagger Meloche with its firepower in the second period — the Kings managed just four shots — the Seals had to come up with two sparkling defensive plays.

First, Oakland defenseman Bert Marshall found himself the only man between three attacking Kings and his goal. Hounding the puck-carrier all the way, Marshall went on to the ice at the last crucial instant and smothered a pass that had goal stamped all over it.

Later Lucien Grenier ripped a shot at Meloche from point-blank range that the Seals goalie kicked out. Corrigan whipped up the rebound for another shot which the goalie cleared out of danger.

It was the first power play goal the Seals had given up in the last five games when Boston's Phil Esposito scored.

FIRST PERIOD

0	LA	Patrick (5)
1	0	Oakland	(J. Johnston)12:51
Shots on Goal			
Oakland 14, Los Angeles 10			
Penalties — Hicke, Oak (fighting), 2:04; Potvin, LA (fighting) 2:34; Sheehan, Oak (closing hand on puck) 2:41; Corrigan, LA (tripping) 4:44; McKechnie, Oak (hooking) 9:18; Howell, LA (tripping) 9:18; Barrie, LA (tripping) 12:38.			

SECOND PERIOD

2	0	OaklandMcKechnie (6)
(Ferguson)14:56			
Shots on Goal			
Oakland 12, Los Angeles 4			
Penalty — Curtis, LA (misconduct) 11:25.			

THIRD PERIOD

2	1	Los AngelesWiding (7)
(Potvin, Pulford) 6:26			
2	1	OaklandGilbertson (7)
(unassisted) 15:42			
Shots on Goal			
Los Angeles 14, Oakland 10			
Penalties—Redmond, Oak (tripping) 1:48; Gilbertson, Oak (holding) 3:06.			
Total shots on goal: Oak 25, LA 28.			
Goalies: Oak, Meloche; LA, Edwards.			
Referee: Lloyd Gilmour.			
3 stars: 1, McKechnie, Oak. 2, Vadnais, Oak. 3, Meloche, Oak.			
AP—7,251.			