

Seals' Offense Demolishes Washington

Special to The Tribune

LANDOVER, Md. — Wayne Merrick and the Seals made the Washington Capitals' fans look like Rhodes Scholars last night.

On first glance, the Caps' clientele appeared to be a breed of lunatic not seen since the Mets' loyalists circa 1964. After all, over 10,000 of them showed up to see their lowly Caps fall 8-5 to the almost as lowly Seals.

You'd think they would save their money until someone like the Montreal Canadiens come to town so they could see some good hockey for a change.

Merrick, the Seals, and the Capitals, however, treated the faithful to a game at least as entertaining as any recent Super Bowl.

The Seals came out on top of this one, spiced with goals galore, end-to-end rink rushes, two or



WAYNE MERRICK
A record night

three brawls and, believe it or not, some good play in goal.

Merrick, who is making the Seals' trade for him from St. Louis look more and more like a steal everyday, set a club record for points scored in a game with six—getting the hat trick and three assists.

The old record was five set by Gerry Pinder in the 1971-72 season.

The Seals also broke another club mark, peppering Cap goalies Ron Lowe and Bernie Wolfe with 51 shots. The old mark was 49 against Toronto in November, 1970.

"He had a real fantastic night," said an enthused Jack Evans of Merrick. "His line really clicked."

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Merrick on a Binge

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The Seal coach made several changes for the game including inserting Merrick to center a line with former teammate at St. Louis Gary Sabourin on the right and Bob Girard on the left.

"The line produced six of the Seals' eight goals, a season high. And Merrick had a stick in each one of his lines.

"I've always wanted to be known as a hockey player who works with his wingers and that his wings scored a lot of goals," said Merrick. "I would rather be known as a playmaker than a goal scorer."

Last night he had it both ways.

In between getting the Seals going in the opening minute and his hat trick shot with 7:02 left that put up the final score. Merrick scored another one as well as he set up Sabourin with his 13th, and Girard twice.

Girard deflected in a hard, low shot by Merrick for his first goal to climax a four-goal second period for the Seals that erased a 2-1 Washington lead and gave them a momentary 5-2 bulge.

Evans said Gary Simmons, despite giving up five goals, looked good in his first start

in 12 games "especially on the three breakaways Washington had."

The coach also was pleased with Pappin, moved from right wing to center a line of Gary Holt and Wayne King. Pappin and Al MacAdam scored the other two Seal goals.

"Yeah, I think I might have found a spot for Pappin," the coach said.

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FIRST PERIOD

1	0	Seals	Merrick (11)
		(Pappin, Hampton)	3:39
1	1	Washington	Joly (6)
		(unassisted)	7:25
1	2	Washington	White (12)
		(Marson)	9:39

Shots on goal: Seals 14, Wash 12.

Penalties: Lynch, Wash, 3:33; Maxey, Seals, 1:24; Marson, Wash, 1:24; Christie, Seals, 4:59; MacAdam, Seals, major, 18:15; Lynch, Wash, major, 18:15; Brossart, Wash, 19:16.

SECOND PERIOD

2	2	Seals	Sabourin (13)
		(Merrick, Pappin)	4:43
3	2	Seals	Merrick (12)
		(Sabourin)	11:51
4	2	Seals	Pappin (5)
		(Holt, King)	13:34
5	2	Seals	Girard (5)
		(Merrick, Jacobs)	15:09
5	3	Washington	Pvoti (16)
		(Lynch, Manahan)	18:41

Shots on goal: Seals 19, Wash 9.

Penalties: Labre, Wash, 15:40; Frig, Seals, 17:37.

THIRD PERIOD

6	3	Seals	MacAdam (72)
		(unassisted)	3:27
6	4	Washington	Joly (7)
		(Clement, Stewart)	4:07
7	4	Seals	Girard (6)
		(Merrick)	5:00
7	5	Washington	Stewart (6)
		(Sirois)	11:51
8	5	Seals	Merrick (13)
		(Girard, Frig)	12:58

Shots on goal: Seals 18, Wash 10.

Penalties: MacAdam, Seals, 4:01; Bailev, Wash, 5:26; Ahern, Seals, 5:39; Ahern, Seals, major-misconduct, 14:32; Lynch, Wash, major-misconduct, 14:32; Murdoch, Seals, 19:57; Marson, Wash, double minor, 19:57.

Total shots: Seals 51, Wash 31.

Referee: Bryan Lewis.

Goalies: Seals, Simmons; Wash, Lowe and Wolfe.

AT: 12,262.