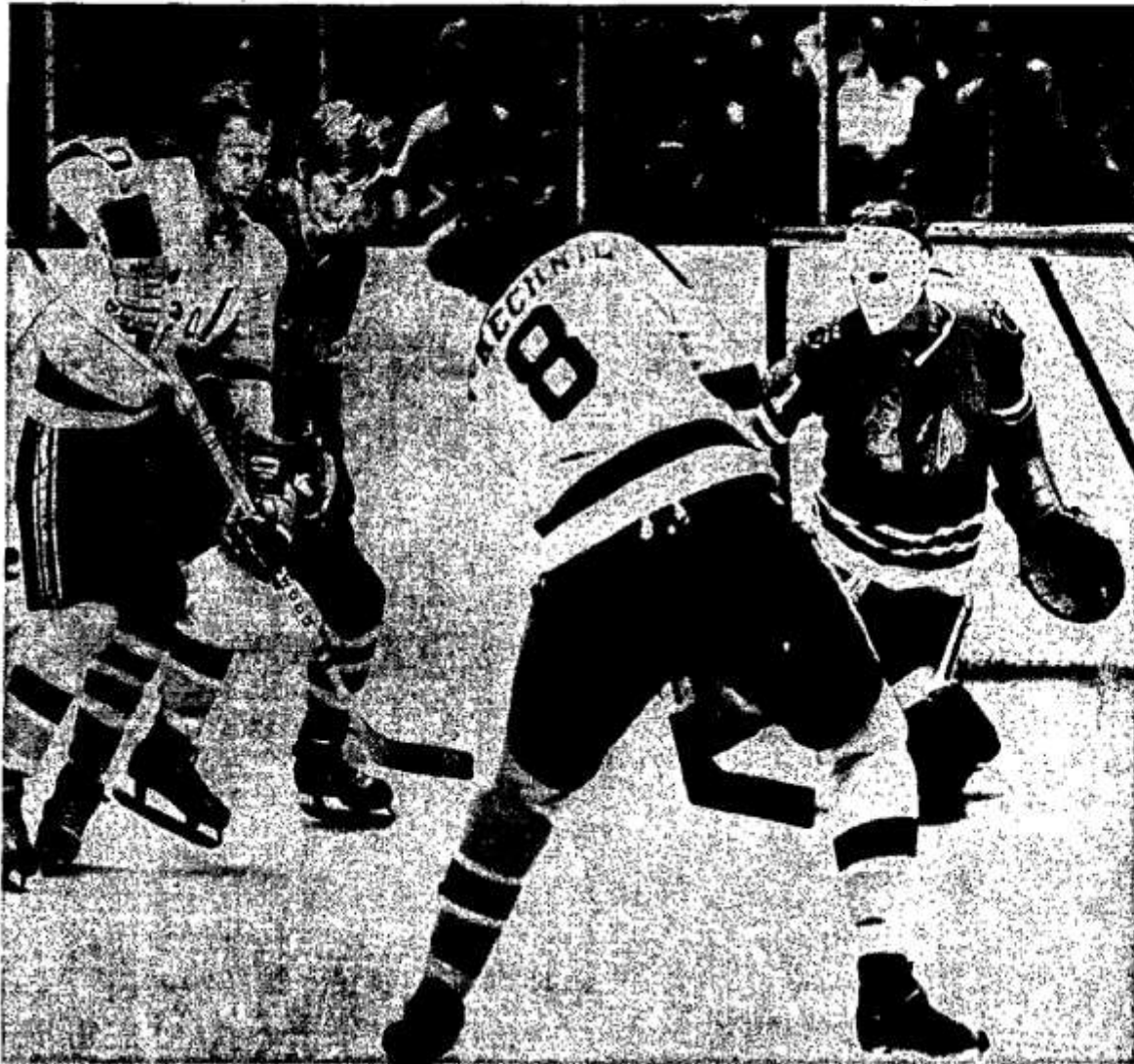


# Seals Beef at Hull Goal



Tribune photo by Ed R. Rostrom

**BLACK HAWK GOALIE GARY SMITH, WHO USED TO HELP THE SEALS WIN, HELPED THEM LOSE A GAME LAST NIGHT**  
Smith smothers shot by Walk McKechnie (8) as teammate Keith Magnuson blocks Seals' Stan Gilbertson from rebound

## Hawks Cruise to 4-1 Win

By JOHN PORTER  
Tribune Sports Writer

No one is going to make a big fuss if Bobby Hull puts his arm around the Oakland Seals goaltender and has a little private chit-chat — as long as it's after the game.

But when the Chicago Black Hawks No. 1 cannon tries it during the game — and in the first period with the score 0-0 no less — then there has to be a beef.

"What did Hull say?" Giles Meloche, Oakland's livid goalie, demanded to know after the Hawks cruised out of the Arena with a 4-1 split decision over the Seals.

Moments earlier, the balding Golden Jet with the \$5,000 hair transplant bent over to unlace his skates in the Hawks' dressing room. Behind him on the bench was the memento of the evening, the third puck he sent across the Seals' goal line for his 28th National Hockey League career hat trick.

Looking up with a puckish grin, Hull seemed almost offended that anyone would question the legitimacy of his first goal that put Chicago in front 1-0 at 5:30 of the opening period.

"I don't know why they argued about it," said No. 9. "I was skating all the way and tipped the puck with my stick before I was in the crease."

Referee Bob Sloan confirmed the goal and found himself encircled by protesting Seals. Meloche chased the official all the way to the semi-circle in front of the timer's bench known as the referee's crease, but to no avail.

"Hull was in the crease on their first goal," thundered Vic Stasiuk, his voice rising several decibels. "What do you expect him to say anyway? Hull's chest was right up against Giles."

"The referee helped the Hawks get the first and fourth goals. You know coaches aren't supposed to say anything about the officials, but sometimes, sometimes . . ."

The Seals coach decided he'd said enough. He went over to Meloche and said: "Don't worry, Gilles. It wasn't your fault. You played a good game."

The fourth goal for Chicago

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# Hull Hat Trick Paces Hawk Win

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was given rightfully to Stan Mikita, with assists from Dennis Hull and Jim Pappin, who got the puck off referee Sloan's skate.

Oakland's Gary Jarrett was trying to clear the puck out of the Seals' zone in the third period and shot up the ice. The disc hit the ref's skate and deflected back to Pappin.

"Sloan didn't attempt to jump or anything," said Jarrett. "I asked him afterward why he didn't and he said, 'You had the whole ice to shoot at, so why did you shoot at me?'"

Informed of that, Meloche waved his arms and said: "Oh geez. If he goes into the crease with the puck it's okay, but he was pushing me back."

Chicago hadn't penetrated the Seals' zone for the first five minutes of the game and Oakland nearly scored on a power play, but Stan Gilbertson's tip of Dick Redmond's drive angled the wrong way off the goal post.

Ex-Seal goalie Gary Smith then came up with a great save for Chicago, foiling Wayne Carleton on a setup from Ernie Hicke. It seemed the Seals were on their way, but they couldn't get that first goal before 8,285 fans.

You can't keep the Hawks out of your end all night and finally Chicago's Chico Maki wound up with the puck in the corner to Meloche's left. Hull made a bee-line for the net and crashed into the Seals goalie. In that instant Maki's pass wound up in the net.

"I had my stick on it," maintained Hull.

"He never did," countered Meloche. "I think it went off his skate, but he was in the crease."

The crease is that red rectangle painted on the ice. It's like a doormat for the net, but it belongs to the goalie. A player can skate through it with the puck, but can't receive the puck and score if he is already in the sanctuary.

Mikita's goal made it 4-1 for the Hawks at 6:23 of the final period and that was that for the Seals.

As for Hull's verbal exchange with Gilles at the end of the game: "It was just some personal talk. We never mentioned the game," the Chicago star said.

"That's right," said Meloche, "it was just something about our families."

The confrontation in the game was much more interesting.

NOTES: The Seals did win—the fight . . . Bad boy Keith Magnuson had more than he could handle when Oakland's Ivan The Terrible (Boldirev) rained a torrent of blows to force the Hawk backward and upon the cross-bar of his own net . . . Gerry Pinder scored the only Seals goal for his 11th of the season and the 100th for the team to make it 3-1 in the second period . . . Hull's first goal was the Hawk's first shot on the net in the game . . . His hat trick goal and 24th of the season came in the first minute of the second period . . . Chicago defenseman Bill White pulled a groin muscle and did not play the final period . . . The Seals open a six-game road trip Christmas night in Los Angeles.