

Harris Helps Seals Torpedo Flyers

BLUES NEXT

Billy Kills Philly

By HUGH McDONALD

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Now that they have found one team in the National Hockey League they can beat, the Oakland Seals on Saturday night will be looking for a second.

Led by Billy Harris' two-goal effort, the Seals downed the Philadelphia Flyers, 4-2, last night at the Oakland Arena. Of the six Oakland victories, three have been over second-place Philadelphia. On Saturday at 8 p.m. the fifth-place Seals meet the last-place St. Louis Blues for the first time this season.

The Seals were competing with themselves at the gate on television last night. They drew only 2,426 patrons through the turnstiles for their smallest crowd to date.

The faithful few saw the Seals come from behind to win a pretty fair hockey game and they sat in on a second period bout between Oakland's Bobby Baun and Philadelphia's had boy, Ed Van Impe, whom Baun scornfully referred to as a "lady fighter."

The smooth skating Harris has been riding the bench and he admitted that he "got a lift" out of his two goals. "I don't know what I was doing different," he said, "but when you get that first goal after you have been in a slump, it helps."

The Flyers opened the scoring at 13:37 after Claude LaForge relieved Oakland's George Swarbrick of the puck. He passed over to Pat Hannigan whose shot bounced off the top of the goal for Garry Peters to bat in.

The Seals' tying goal, with 63 seconds left in the period, was tainted, but it counted. Philadelphia's 39-year-old Larry Zeidel, who hasn't mellowed with the years, was off for board checking Harris when Gerry Ehman, on the power play, fired a hard shot at goalie Doug Favell. The rebound came ten feet out in front of the Flyers' cage and in trying to clear, Van Impe, who was having all sorts of different kinds of trouble, batted it into his own net.

At 2:41 of the middle frame, Harris rebounded Aut Erickson's shot to put the Seals ahead. The home team went two up while Van Impe was doing penance for hooking. Billy Hicke, recovered from a mild bout pneumonia, scored coolly over a prostrate Favell on Gerry Odrowski's rebound.

Van Impe was not long back on the ice before he was in trouble again. Seals' Mike Laughton had him pinned against the boards and Van Impe, evidently provoked, felled him to the ice with his warclub.

The referee called it "elbowing," but as Laughton said later, "It was the hardest elbow I ever felt."

Seals' captain Baun thought this was no way to treat his young teammate and he went over to Van Impe to impart some advice. Van Impe replied with a mild cross check, which was followed by fist-cuffs and a general melee. Van Impe was assessed a minor and a major penalty while Baun was given a major.

The advantage did the Seals no good. They forgot to check. Ed Hoekstra set up Leon Rochefort for the shot that beat goalie Charlie Hodge.

The Seals restored their two-goal margin at 2:51 of the last period. Harris broke in on the Philadelphia defense with Odrowski and, using the latter as a decoy, caught Favell moving the wrong way with a 35-foot shot.