

Seals Lose a Slugfest

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — "Some people go goofy when you hit them," said Philadelphia Flyers' Coach Fred Shero. "I didn't think it was intentional, it was just an immediate reaction."

That "immediate reaction" by Seals rookie defenseman Barry Cummins opened a 24-stitch gash across the head of Flyers' center Bobby Clarke.

The Flyers went on to a 5-1 win over the Seals in a National Hockey League game at the Spectrum last night but not before a bloody melee erupted in the second period.

It all began when Cummins brought his hockey stick across the head of Clarke at the 11:32 mark. Seconds later the raucous activity began.

Led by Bill Flett and Bob

Kelly, the Flyers steamed off the bench, sticks in hand.

Cummins went down under the pile. After order was restored, he was ushered to the Seals' dressing room with his face wrapped in a bloody towel. He received three stitches and was ejected from the game.

"Somebody said I hit him in the face with my slick first," said Clarke, who later returned to the game.

But Flett disagreed. "I don't care what happened, you don't hit a guy over the head with a two-hander," the bearded winger said. "It's too easy to kill somebody."

Flett also received a three-stitch gash across the nose.

"It's an unwritten rule you don't hit anybody over the head," said Kelly, who was ejected by referee Art Skov for pummeling. "If they use him against us again, you can bet there will be a repeat."

However, less than four minutes later, another fracas erupted. And before it was settled, the Flyers had wingers Don Saleski and Dave Schultz and defenseman Ed Van Impe thrown out while the Seals

lost forward Hilliard Graves.

Referee Skov, fearing further violence, suspended the final 4:04 of the second period and tacked it onto the third.

When the game ended, a total of six players were banished and 129 minutes in penalties were called.

The Seals took a 1-0 lead at 14:37 of the first period with the Flyers short two men. Walt McKechnie rapped a rebound over Bernie Parent after the Flyer goalie had made

a sprawling stop of a Joey Johnston shot.

The Flyers took the lead by scoring twice within a 1:26 span of the second period.

Center Rick MacLeish beat Seals goalie Marv Edwards from 15 feet at 1:27 and Dave Schultz backhanded a shot off the netminder at 2:53.

The Flyers sewed up the game in the third period on goals by Flett, Ross Lonsberry and Simon Nolet.