

# Oakland Blanked By Blues

DETROIT — (Special) — The Oakland Seals wished fervently today that Santa Claus would pay an extra visit and unload a bulging bag of hockey goals.

He dropped three down their chimney Christmas eve, but they used them in a losing National Hockey League effort at Boston the next night.

Since that time the Seals have failed to score in four games, playing a tie at Pittsburgh last Wednesday, bowing to Montreal, 2-0, Saturday; losing to Chicago, 3-0, New Year's eve, and dropping a 4-0 game with the Blues at St. Louis last night. They haven't won in their last nine games.

Two brief fights broke out in the game last night. In one, St. Louis' Noel Picard and Tom Thurlby of the Seals mixed it up in the second period. Later, in the same stanza, Bob Plager of the Blues tangled with Oakland's Mike Laughton.

Tonight they must play the Red Wings at Detroit. The Seals hold down last place in the Western Division, while the Wings are next to last in the East.

Although Oakland has allowed only three more goals in 37 games than Detroit in 35, offensive figures tell the story. The Wings have scored 117 times to only 64 for the Seals, and have won 16 and tied 6, against Oakland's 7 and 6.

Glenn Hall, who had missed a week of action while attending his father's



Blues' Plager (above) belts fallen Mike Laughton with right. In another fight

(below) St. Louis' Picard gets headlock on Seals' Thurlby.

—UPI Photos

funeral in Edmonton, blanked the Californians last night. He has allowed only two scores in four games against Oakland — and has won 'em all.

Hall, who now has 70 NHL shutouts, got 63 with Detroit and Chicago before joining St. Louis this season.

Red Berenson's first-period goal clinched the game, as it turned out. Frank St. Marseille, a rookie, got the fifth and sixth counters of his NHL career, and Gerry Melnyk added the fourth goal.

In the Seals' defense, be reminded that they're hurting. Their leading scorers are missing, Billy Hicke having been sent to Arizona to

—Turn to Page 44, Col. 3



# Seals Lose 9 in Row

From Page 43

recuperate from an attack of asthma and George Swarbick is out with a fractured hand.

Hicke has 13 goals and Swarbick 10.

## FIRST PERIOD

SCORING — 1, St. Louis, Berenson ● (5); McKenney, Melnyk, 13:55. 2, St. Louis, St. Marseille (5), Sabourin, 18:43.

PENALTIES — Schock (SL), 11:29; Eroman (O), 12:17; R. Plager (SL), 15:51.

SHOTS ON GOAL — St. Louis 16, Oakland 9.

## SECOND PERIOD

SCORING — 3, St. Louis, St. Marseille (6), Sabourin, Hucut, 17:15.

PENALTIES — Laughton (O), 9:15; Douglas (O), major misconduct, 9:15; R. Plager (SL), double minor, 9:15; Picard (SL), major, 9:15; Picard (SL), 14:35.

SHOTS ON GOAL — St. Louis 11, Oakland 9.

## THIRD PERIOD

SCORING — 4, St. Louis, Melnyk (5), McKenney, Berenson 8:35.

PENALTIES — R. Plager (4:48), Douglas (Major, minor, misconduct) (13:23), R. Plager (Major, 19:23).

SHOTS ON GOAL — St. Louis 8, Oakland 9.

TOTAL SHOTS ON GOAL — St. Louis 21, Oakland 27.

ATTENDANCE — 5723.

● With man advantage.  
East Division