

Seals try to keep road streak alive

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DETROIT — The California Seals, happy with a 6-4 victory over the New York Rangers last night, hope their euphoria will last through tonight's game against the Detroit Red Wings.

The Red Wings were grounded last night by the Toronto Maple Leafs, 8-0, and they trail the Seals in this season's series, two games to one.

Whether the Detroit Club (embarrassed by last night's rout) will show muscle tonight is open to conjecture. The Seals must wonder because brawls were frequent against the Rangers.

Seals' goalie Gary Simmons today was asked for his appraisal of the New York rhubarb. After watching eight fights—nearly getting into one himself—and 10 goals (four of them into his net), Simmons said: "Strange. Very strange."

It was hard to argue with his reasoning. Seals right wing Al MacAdam scored three times but it took a tally by Fred Ahern with 2:47 remaining to save California.

Further, it was only the Seals' second victory in 23 games at Madison Square Garden, the last coming on March 12, 1972.

But things are different now, says Simmons. "I don't think our team is like it used to be. I don't think we're scared anymore."

There was no fear in their eyes during the frequent brawling which marred the second and third periods—fighting the Seals think was inspired by Rangers Coach John Ferguson.

"It appeared they were trying to intimidate us," offered California Coach Jack Evans. "But I don't think the Rangers have the kind of people for that type of play."

Simmons agreed. "They (the Rangers) have always been known as rather a timid team," he said.

Rookie New York defenseman Dave Maloney did what he could to change that, racking up a team record 33 minutes in penalties including two fights with Seals defenseman George Pesut—the second of which got him thrown out of the game—and another with left wing Bob Girard.

"It's just part of the game," Maloney insisted after the 14th game of his professional career. "I don't think we got a fair shake

from the referee, but if they (the Seals) had lost, they would be saying the same thing."

Instead, California looked to Ferguson, the fiery former Montreal Canadian, as the reason for the brawling.

"When he played in this league, California didn't win any games," said MacAdam. "When we beat them 7-0 back in California, it was one of his first games. I guess he didn't want his guys to forget that."

Some of the Seals' goals were strange. The first two came after Rangers turnovers. Then New York's Bill Fairbairn scored short-handed for only his second tally in 20 games and MacAdam added a pair for a 4-1 lead. The Rangers rebounded to a tie on goals by Ron Greschner, Carol Vadnais and Wayne Dillon before Ahern scored and Bob Stewart added an empty net goal with six seconds left.