



**GERRY EHMAN**  
The winning goal

# Hockey Power: Key to Victory

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Expansion teams in the National Hockey League are not blessed with exceptional talent. It can't be helped.

The key to success has to lie with physical prowess, a mixture with skill of roughly 70-30. It is a fact of life that escaped the Oakland Seals for the last two weeks. It nearly washed them out of the NHL playoffs.

Until returning to a 60-

minute checking effort yesterday afternoon at the Oakland Arena the Seals had gone nine games without a victory.

The break came at a vital time against a team the Seals had not mastered this season. Billy Hicke's first period goal and a Gerry Ehman break with less than four minutes left provided the impetus for a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers.

It placed Oakland in fourth place for a little over three hours. Minnesota came from behind to defeat the floundering New York Rangers last night and restore its one-point playoff lead.

### Goalie Ragged

Wayne Muloin, Bert Marshall, Carol Vadnais, Hicke, Ted Hampson, Harry Howell and Doug Roberts all contributed manfully to the checking game. Even goalie Gary

Smith got in his licks, drawing a cross-checking penalty for battering Flyer defenseman Reggie Fleming.

Hicke was credited by Coach Fred Glover with playing "his finest game of the season." After teaming with Hampson to score his 11th goal he nearly beat Flyers' goalie Bennie Parent with a 40-foot slap shot in the third period.

His hustle and checking

were sound at both ends of the ice.

Both Billy's goal and Ehman's were set up on mistakes by Flyer defenseman Larry Hillman.

A wide pass by Hillman led to a quick pass-out from Vadnais and launched the Hampson-Hicke express. Hampson took the puck down the middle, dropped it for Hicke and rode out the last Flyer defender, Ralph MacSweyn.

### Submarine Shot

Later Ehman, off a pass from Gary Jarrett, feinted Hillman out of position and led a second 2-1 break. The resultant 30-foot shot crashed between Parent's legs.

"Ehman had a pass-shoot option," Glover said. "Normally he would have centered it but the way our passing game has gone lately he probably didn't want to chance it."

"The option also gave the goalie just a little more to think about," Glover said.

Philadelphia opened the

scoring when a confusion in assignments developed between Howell and Marshall. Simon Nolet took a pass from Fleming alone in front of the net and rammed it past Smith for his 20th goal of the season.

From there Philly seemed content to play for the tie. The Flyers already have earned a share of the NHL record for ties in a season, 23. Their nickname in the East is the Flying Tyers.

### FIRST PERIOD

SCORING — 1, Philadelphia, Nolet (20); Fleming (5:31).  
PENALTIES — Muloin (5) 8:17; Fleming (P) and Smith (S) 7:13; Lacroix (P) 5:46; Vadnais (S) 12:46; Clarke (P) 13:09; Hale (P) 19:12; Matturasi (S) 19:23.  
SHOTS ON GOAL — Seals 6, Philadelphia 14.

### SECOND PERIOD

SCORING — 2, Seals, Hicke (11) Hampson Vadnais 2:54.  
PENALTIES — Parent (G) 25; Jarrett (S) 4:01; Lacroix (P) 11:51.  
SHOTS ON GOALS — Seals 14, Philadelphia 7.

### THIRD PERIOD

SCORING — 3, Seals, Ehman (10) Jarrett, Howell 16:47.  
PENALTIES — None.  
SHOTS ON GOAL — Seals 7, Philadelphia 12. TOTAL — Seals 27, Philadelphia 23.  
GOALIES — Seals, Smith; Philadelphia, Parent.  
ATTENDANCE — 4428.