

10,000 WELCOME BRAWLING. SPRAWLING CLIMAX

Seals Finish Los Angeles

By HUGH McDONALD
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There'll be no California team in the Stanley Cup playdowns this year.

The Seals saw to that last night at the Oakland Arena when before 10,042 fans they removed the Los Angeles Kings from contention by a 3-1 score.

In so doing, the Seals, in the final game of their season, made good the boast of

Coach Fred Glover, that, "We'll bury them, too."

This was after the Seals had tied Pittsburgh to hamper that team's drive for a playoff spot, laced Toronto and put the skids under Detroit.

The Seals, doormats on the NHL West, then went to Los Angeles and defeated the Kings 3-1 on Wednesday and came back to Oakland to make the Kings' one remaining

game of their schedule tonight against Vancouver meaningless.

Now all the Seals have to do is prepare for next year and hope they can keep from repeating last year's error of letting a number of players defect to the World Hockey Association.

In last night's game, the Seals matched the Kings bump for bump in a rugged contest that threatened at times to get out of hand.

"They tried to intimidate us, but they got tired of it when we gave it to them back," said Glover.

As a result of their willingness to mix it, the Seals ran their winning streak to four, concluding what has been a disastrous season on a high note.

When defenseman Bobbie Stewart was assessed a double minor, and that was fol-

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Seals Finish

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lowed by a tripping penalty to Ted Macaneely, Butch Goring gave the Kings a 1-0 first-period lead.

Stewart took Bill Lesuk into the penalty box with him for roughing, Doug Volmar was given a game misconduct for being the third man in an altercation.

Before the period ended Stewart was out of the game, too. Don Maloney felled him with an elbow to the head and Stewart suffered a concussion. He was sent to the hospital for overnight observation.

Ivan Boldirev went to the showers early on a game misconduct when he intervened in a second period scrap between Macaneely and the Kings' Serge Bernier.

Stan Gilbertson, long in the doghouse for ineffective play this season, got his chance to shine and he scored on a backhand shot after taking a pass from defenseman Darryl Maggs.

Maggs, who assisted on all three Seals' goals, brought cheers from the crowd when he decked Maloney in the corner and sent him limping off the ice. Maloney, a rough, tough cookie, returned to action later. He was in a beef with the fans near the end of the game and was thoroughly drenched with beer by some alleged ger'men sitting at rinkside.

But before this happened, Reggie Leach took a pass from Stan Weir and scored his twenty-third goal of the season at 15:43 of the second period.

With elimination from post-season play facing them, the Kings couldn't shake the Seals' checking in the third period. With less than two minutes to play Pete Laframboise was put in the clear by Maggs and he gave the Seals their insurance goal.

The Kings now needed three goals for a victory that would keep them in contention with St. Louis for the final playoff spot.

They desperately tried to pull goalie Gary Edwards with a minute left in the game, but couldn't find an opportunity to get him off the ice until only 31 seconds remained. They couldn't (even with six attackers) get the puck past Seals' goalie

Gilles Meloche, who again played an outstanding game in the net.

ICE CHIPS

Don Maloney, who flattened Bobbie Stewart with an elbow last night, was the man who broke Joey Johnston's jaw earlier in the season when Maloney was with Chicago.

The Booster Club award to the most valuable Seal went to goalie Gilles Meloche. The most popular player award went to Stewart and the unsung hero award to Craig Patrick.

Meloche and No. 2 goalie Marv Edward were honored for the shutouts each posted during the season. Marshall Johnston and Joey Johnston received awards for hat tricks in games against Boston and Pete Laframboise for his four goals in a game against Vancouver.

Coach and General Manager Fred Glover says he has had long talks with all but one of the Seals in regard to next year's contracts and a talk with that one player is scheduled for the immediate future.

With their season abbreviated because they failed to make the playoffs, the Seals will scatter to various activities for the summer.

Meloche will stay in the Bay Area for awhile and later will instruct at hockey schools in his native Montreal and in Massachusetts.

Craig Patrick said he has been unable to find a summer job outside of hockey in the Bay region, so he will instruct at hockey schools in Minnesota and Washington.

Darryl Maggs will go back to work on his horse farm at Red Deer, Alberta, and will play some golf.

Ivan Boldirev intends to play some golf and tennis in the Bay Area and later instruct at a hockey school in Berkeley.

Ivan Smith will take a physical education program at Ottawa University, partly financed by the NHL, to go along with the B.A. degree he already has.

Morris Mott and Ted Macaneely have summer weddings scheduled.

Marshall Johnston is going to work on his master's degree paper in Minnesota, "but mostly fish."

Wait McKechnie intends to interrupt some golfing activities with hockey school work.

Joey Johnston has a similar program, but also intends to go back to Peterboro, Ont., to be best man at his brother's wedding this summer.

Gary Croteau has cancelled a hockey school program to concentrate on a physical fitness program to get his injured knees in shape for next season's play.

Hillard Graves will head back to Prince Edward Island just to relax.

Pete Laframboise has hockey schools and golf on his program.

It will be hockey schools for Stan Gilbertson.

For coach, general manager and vice president Fred Glover, there'll be paper work immediately, the WHL playoffs of the farm team at Salt Lake City, scouting reports and scouting in Canada junior playoffs.

The Seals don't have either a first or second draft choice this year. By the time they get to make a draft pick, their selection will be No. 34 on the list.