

Seals Near Point Record

By Nelson Cullenward
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California's Golden Seals are now within a game of their all-time point-making record for games in the Oakland Arena, but they had to withstand the myopic officiating of referee Wally Harris and twice come from behind to gain a 3-3 tie with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Going into last night's game the Seals hadn't scored on Toronto in two previous tries, but with 5294 of the faithful and the scrapping "Kid Line" spurring them on, Coach Fred Glover's charges came through.

That was despite the obvious deficiencies of Harris, who let a Leaf skater, Mike Pelyk, skate off the Toronto bench while his teammate George Ferguson was exchanging punches with Seal Rick Smith.

The appropriate penalty would have given the Seals a man advantage for the rest of the contest.

Seals Captain Bert Marshall asked Harris why he hadn't called the penalty.

"They were changing lines anyway," was the referee's excuse.

All night Harris seemed to be in the way of the play and before the contest was over he caught more pucks than the goalies.

Glover felt the Seals deserved more than a tie.

"They were aggressive and played well and certainly deserved better than a tie," said the coach.

He also had praise for his "Kid Line," as Hilly Graves scored two more goals and Stan Weir and Pete Laframboise each picked up an assist to raise the line's point total in the last five home games to 13 goals and 20 assists for 33 points.

"They have been working," said Glover. "That's the key. When they lose the puck they go back and get it again."

The first period was scoreless, though goalie Gilles Meloche was lucky to emerge unscathed. Midway through the stanza Darryl Sittler, who notched six assists in Toronto's two earlier shutouts against the Seals, broke loose with Meloche down and out of the net, but his shot ricocheted off the post on the left side.

Harris whistled two Seals

into the sin bin that period to one for the Leafs, preserving the Californians' bizarre fate of always drawing more penalties than the visitors in the Arena. This is something that never seems to happen on other home rinks.

California drew first blood at 13:13 of the second frame when Graves scored his 14th goal of the season, a soft shot that escaped Ron Low, who was busy watching the hustling Weir flying in on his other side.

Just 18 seconds later Erroll Thompson got the puck on the face off and raced to the left, then flipped a 25-footer by a surprised Meloche.

Sittler connected in the final period as he took a pass from Thompson at the left corner of the net at 3:53.

It took Reggie Leach less than two minutes to get it back as he duplicated the play on a pass from Stan Gilbertson at 5:49.

The Leafs went out in front again as Ron Ellis stood in front of the goal and took three rebound swipes before he finally got it over Meloche at 7:09.

Fifty-seven seconds later the hustling Graves tied it for the last time, scoring his 15th goal, upholding the honor of the "Kid Line" once again.

FIRST PERIOD

SCORING—None.
PENALTIES—Laframboise 5, 4:08; Clancy 1, 7:25; Leach 6, 11:26.
SHOTS ON GOAL—Seals 7, Toronto 11.

SECOND PERIOD

SCORING—Seals, Graves 14 (Laframboise, Smith) 2:32, Toronto, Thompson 10 (Clancy) 2:31.
PENALTIES—Stewart 5, 13:12; McKenny 1, 15:22.
SHOTS ON GOAL—Seals 8, Toronto 9.

THIRD PERIOD

SCORING—Toronto, Sittler 16 (Keefe, Monahan) 2:53, 4, Seals, Leach 17 (Gilbertson, Smith) 5:43, Toronto, Ellis 14 (Thompson, Smith) 7:09, 8, Seals, Graves 15 (McKachnia, Laframboise) 8:06.
PENALTIES—Stewart 5, 0:26; McKenny 1, 7:32; Ferguson, T. Marshall 14:22, Smith 8, 15:22.
SHOTS ON GOAL—Seals 11, Toronto 12. TOTAL—Seals 27, Toronto 34.
GOALIES—Seals, Meloche; Toronto, Low.
ATTENDANCE—5294.
REFEREE—Wally Harris.
1—with man advantage.