

Vadnais Crowns Kings

Seals In 6-2 Victory

By JOHN PORTER
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Two nights ago in the Los Angeles International Airport Carol Vadnais was understandably upset with his good buddy Rogation Vachon.

"I put two good shots on his stick side," said unhappy Vadnais, captain of the Oakland Seals. "You'd think at least one would go in, but that Roggie wouldn't give me anything."

Los Angeles goaltender Rogation Vachon had put the gun to the Seals heart and pulled the trigger for a 4-1 win at the Forum in Inglewood.

Last night, Carol's good buddy came up with blanks and the Seals did some hot shooting of their own to gun down the royal wonders from down south, 6-2, at the Arena. Vad scored twice and assisted on two other goals.

"I knew we'd beat the Kings tonight, even before the game started," Vadnais claimed. "We were so flat the night before, we just had to win."

"I guess it's easier to say that after a game," he added

with a chuckle. "Really, before every game I say we're going to win."

For the Seals, it was about time to win. They'd gone six games without beating anyone, the last victory coming on Christmas night—in Los Angeles.

Fortunately for the Seals, the three teams hot on their heels have been able to lose just as consistently, so Oakland is still third in the National Hockey League's West Division.

Last night's win before 3,143 loyalists but the Seals three points ahead of Pittsburgh, which tied Chicago; four points in front of Philadelphia, which did not play, and five points to the good of St. Louis, which ought to stay out of New York.

Vadnais' first goal was an unassisted smash that glanced off Vachon's pads at 11:31 of the opening period to tie the game, 1-1. Less than six minutes later he popped in what proved to be the game-winner off a rebound for a 3-1 lead.

A defenseman who scores three goals in one game in the NHL is noteworthy, especially if he plays for New York. Brad Park, the Rangers' all-star blueliner did it this season and the Big Town press placed him on the same pedestal with Bobby Orr.

"I've never scored three," said Vadnais, who came close a couple of times to picking up that \$300 bounty the Seals fork out for the hat trick. "Once or twice I had two goals on defense, but that Roggie would never give me that third one. When he gets a chance to stop me, he will."

Vachon and Vadnais have been pals for more than 10 years. They both have big Stanley Cup diamond rings reminders of their 1966-67 season with Montreal when they were roommates.

"That shot at the end of the game was on the net," Vadnais said. "But it wasn't going in."

It did go in, though, after Gary Jarrett tipped the puck past Vachon. It was the reserve winger's second goal of the night, too.

"The shot was missing the net as far as I was concerned," Jarrett said afterward. "I had real good position on the goalie and tipped it."

"A reporter asked me if I was going to take the puck over to Freddie (Kings coach Fred Glover, who coached Oakland for two seasons) and presented it to him. But what for? He benched me a lot of times and since he's been gone I'm still being benched."

Jarrett did not play in any of the six games on the road the Seals just completed. Last night he was suited up to replace Tommy Williams on right wing.

"If Jarrett keeps jumping around in front of the net the way he did tonight," said Seals coach Vic Stasiuk, "he'll be in the lineup."

Oakland's other two goals came from Stan Gilbertson and Norm Ferguson.

Kings coach Glover counted up Oakland's first-period goals and said: "We gave them the first three. The Seals skated stronger tonight, especially in the first period, which I expected. There's no use crying about it. You don't get sympathy in this league."

"The whole Seals team played better and passed better and skated better for all three periods."

Stasiuk didn't seem concerned about what Glover said.

"What do I say when the other team says it gave us the first three goals?" he said. "I say thank you, that's what I say."