

# Goal that wasn't a goal fires Bruins a little too late

By Francis Rosa, Globe Staff

The Toronto Maple Leafs? Well, maybe all right—at least they have some identifiable major league hockey players.

But the California Golden Seals? For goodness sake, really now.

For 46 minutes and 19 seconds, the Bruins were as cold and lumpy as yesterday's mashed potatoes. Then it took a referee's decision to shake them.

The Bruins, though, didn't complete what coach Tom Johnson called a "disastrous weekend" because of the disallowed goal. That goal would have given them merely a tie. The Bruins lost to Toronto, 3-2 Saturday night and to California, 2-1 last night, by playing poorly.

The goal that wasn't a goal? It went like this: First, the scene. The Bruins had been standing around all night. Johnson had already told them (at the end of the second period) there would be practice today. Now the game was nearing the six-minute mark of the third period and the Bruins trailed, 2-1.

The Bruins were in the midst of making a line change with action (I use the word loosely) in the center-ice zone. The Sanderson line was on the ice. John Bucyk got on at left wing and there was the puck. He carried it into the California zone, passed beautifully to defenseman Dallas Smith in the middle, who had Eddie Westfall on his right.

Smith hit a rising shot that went over

goalie Gary Smith's left arm, hit the upper part of the net and come down and out. The Bruins had tied the score? Oh, no, said referee Bryan Lewis, a rookie working his first full season in the NHL.

Oh no? screamed the Bruins. Oh, no! said the referee.

Now the Bruins came to life—but it was too little, too late. They then dominated the game so completely that California, which had two shots on net up until the disallowed goal, had only three more in the next 14 minutes. The Bruins lost anyway.

Goal judge Tom Moon said, "I put the light on, but I can't say too much because last year I got a letter reprimanding me from Clarence Campbell (president of the league)." That was the night Moon did not put the goal light on and referee Bill Friday ruled Gerry Pinder's shot on Eddie Johnston was a goal. Chicago won that game, 1-0, and the referee became forever famous in Boston as "Friday the bum."

"The strings moved, the goalie sagged, the way goalies do when a goal has been scored," said Moon, a one-time goalie himself. Then he asked a question. "How did the puck come out? Did it rebound way out?" It didn't. It just sort of dropped around the crease.

Another goalie, Eddie Johnston, sitting on the Bruins bench, said almost the same thing. "On a shot like that," he said, "you

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know if it hits the post, the cross-bar, it's going to carom off up into the stands, or come out to the side, or come away out. I saw the goalie slump a little, too."

Tom Johnson thought Moon was a little slow putting on the light. And a fan yelled at Tom Moon, "That's another one you cost us."

Eddie Westfall, skating at Dallas Smith's right, had the best view at the non-goal. "I thought he might pass it to me, so I was going for the net and I was about two feet away," said Westfall.

"I'm not sure the referee couldn't see it because of me. "I think he was behind me," Westfall went on. "I saw the twine move and a rising shot like that is either a goal or it's going to carom off the cross bar into the stands or the corner. It's not going to come out the way it did. The reaction of the puck is important."

The puck, said Westfall, "hit the flat piece of the net that runs around back of the net. The goal judge was maybe a little hesitant putting on the light, but he put it on. From the reaction of the puck, it had to have gone in. It couldn't hit a post and come out that way."

Dallas Smith, whose goals are infrequent, just kept shaking his head and saying in his quiet way: "I don't know how it wasn't a goal. I never dreamt they wouldn't allow it"

Smith added, "Sure, the twine moved (from the force of the shot. The shot wasn't high enough to have hit the bar. Goals are tough for me anyway. But you don't see that very often."

Bucyk, who gave Smith the puck on a great pass, said, "I didn't have that good a look because a defenseman rode me out after I passed to Dallas. But it was in."

If the Bruins had played the first 46 minutes the way they played the last 14 — well, the California Golden Seals wouldn't be hurrying home to buy \$200 suits, the kindness of owner Charles O. Finley.

He came into the Seals' dressing room after the game and rewarded his team for the victory. It was the first time he had seen the Seals win. He should have bought goalie Gary Smith a new car, for he played brilliantly during that last 14-minute barrage.

Congratulations to Dick Mattiussi, Joe Hardy, Tony Featherstone, Ron Stackhouse, and of course, Wayne Muloin, who are these total strangers? Why, California Golden Seals, of course.