

# Unlikely duo giving Seals biggest lift

By Ken Miller

Off the ice, there could hardly be two more different personalities. On the ice, well, they might as well be skating in the same uniform.

Nothing is more visible in the improved play of the California Golden Seals as the club's penalty-killing, spearheaded by the extroverted Dennis Maruk and the introverted Al MacAdam. If they were brilliant Wednesday in a one-goal victory over Los Angeles—and they were—they were only less so last night at the Oakland Coliseum Arena, helping California to a 5-1 domination of the New York Islanders.

There is Maruk, the rookie who came into this season only with a reputation as the player who broke all the junior scoring records last year in the Ontario Hockey Association. The fans have taken to the kid, chanting "Ma-rook, Ma-rook," as he leads a rush up ice. Talking a streak, he'll tell you that he loves it.

And there is MacAdam, who is beginning to prove that the Seals might not have gotten the worst of the deal that sent 40-plus goal score to Philadelphia. His eight goals are second only to club leader Gary Sabourin's 11. Interestingly, he means it when he says "I want to be known as a quiet individual."

But these two skaters are working together, and with Sabourin and Ralph Klassen and Bob Girard are proving that no longer is a power play against the Seals an opportunity for the opponents to count the seconds until they score.

"MacAdam and I know where each other is all the time," said Maruk. "We know the way we both play and we know what we'll be trying to do. I don't know why we've picked it up so quickly, but we have."

After an excellent game Wednesday against Los Angeles, during which the Seals managed to kill off seven King power plays, MacAdam and Maruk came back last night to produce what was probably the key goal of the game.

Leading 1-0 early in the second period on Dave Gardner's fourth goal, MacAdam picked up a loose puck from fallen Islander defenseman Jean Potvin and broke away against goalie Glenn Resch. He tried to drive a hot shot between Resch's pads. He missed, but Maruk was right behind him to push in the rebound and give California a bigger lead that seemed to deflate the Islanders.

Maruk's goal gives him three shorthanded for the season—MacAdam has three, too—to set an NHL record for rookies.

"That's the game we try to play: skating," said Al. "We lose our checks and try to get open and then hope something develops. I've been working with Maruk since training camp, so I'm not surprised we've had as much success as we have."

"I wish I could have killed more penalties last year, I suppose, but I'm just glad to be doing it this year. I think everybody on this team should decide that we're supposed to win. We should have confidence, and play all the teams tough. I don't think the other clubs can take us as lightly as they used to, or play such a wide-open game against us."

From the way Maruk and MacAdam have played so far, there seems to be no reason they will.

**NOTES:** Defenseman Rick Hampton, off to a fast start with 11 points (4+7) in the first 17 games, could miss as many as the next three or four games after suffering a bruised shoulder Wednesday in L. A. . . Right wing Butch Williams has been optioned to Salt Lake City, and will play for the Golden Eagles provided he clears waivers. . . With last night's victory, the Seals moved 24 days ahead of last season's pace. They didn't get win number six until Dec. 6. . . Plenty of tickets are available for tomorrow night against Toronto, which could see its Adams Division lead over California cut to one point by a defeat.

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