

# Seals swamp Penguins; bow to Islanders



—William O'Neill

**HE SHOOT, HE . . .** Pittsburgh Penguins had trouble finding the net with their shots Saturday night against the California Golden Seals at the Memorial Centre, but they were consistently extricating themselves from the goal. Here, Ron La-

onde (16) of the Penguins slides into the pads of California goaltender Gilles Meloche in one of several instances during the game where Pittsburgh players ended up in the net. The Seals won 8-1.

By **KEN FIDLIN**  
Staff Sports Writer

Fred Glover sat in his press box seat Sunday night and stared at the empty Memorial Centre ice surface below him . . . marvelling at what a difference a day can make.

Minutes before he had witnessed a lethargic performance by his California Golden Seals losing a National Hockey League exhibition game 3-1 to New York Islanders.

But just one day earlier, the Seals' general manager and coach had looked at an entirely different performance by his club as they mauled Pittsburgh Penguins 8-1.

"I gave some guys a chance to show me what they could do out there tonight and they didn't do a thing," muttered Glover.

"Not a thing."

The Islanders scored in each of the three periods and kept the Seals off the scoresheet until late in the third period before 1,739 fans last night, a far cry from Saturday night when California built up a 7-0 lead until early in the third against the Penguins.

Ed Westfall scored the first New York goal early in the first period when the New York captain stole the puck in the Seals' end and fired a wrist shot past California starting goaltender Marv Edwards on his glove side.

Late in the second period, Brian Spencer grabbed a pass from rookie defenceman Dennis Potvin at the California blue line, and ripped a 45-foot rising slap shot into the net behind Gilles Meloche, Edwards' replacement, for the eventual winning goal.

Ralph Stewart made it 3-0 at 12:38 of the final period when he raced in all alone on Meloche and threaded a wrist shot between the young goalie's legs.

Ray McKay scored the only California goal less than two minutes later on a screened slapshot from the point past New York's second goaltender Billy Smith.

Gerry Desjardins played two perfect periods in goal for the Islanders and faced only 11 shots, few of them dangerous. Desjardins was the key figure in the trade that sent Meloche to California from Chicago

Black Hawks just about two years ago.

Edwards and Meloche split the game evenly, both playing 30 minutes. They combined to block 20 of the 23 shots that came their way.

Sunday night's game produced three fights. In the first period, Islanders' Gary Howat and Seals' Hillyard Graves squared off in front of the New York goal. Bob Stewart of California and Jean Potvin of New York traded punches midway through the third period, just over a minute before Islanders' Andre St. Laurent decimated Ivan Boldirev.

"There'll be some changes in the lineup for our next game," said Glover. Six regulars — all forwards — sat out last night's game.

The next game for the Seals is next Sunday against Pittsburgh in London.

The Seals scored twice in the opening period and then added three more in each of the second and third in their easy win Saturday night in front of a crowd of 1,893.

Reg Leach and Stan Weir each scored in the first period, with Weir's goal being the eventual winner at 18:42, scored on Andy Brown, Pittsburgh's starting goaltender.

Brown surrendered two sec-

ond period goals by Walt McKechnie, California's top scorer last year, before he was lifted in favor of Jerry Ennis who completed the game in the Penguin net.

Del Hall scored the fifth Seal goal. Gary Croteau ripped in two more for California, just 12 seconds apart, early in the final frame before Larry Bignell broke the Seal shutout, after a perfect set-up from Syl Apps, on a low shot to the left-hand corner against Edwards.

Joey Johnston completed the scoring for California on a short-handed goal with less than nine minutes remaining.

The two teams Saturday night appeared as erratic around the net the Seals - Islanders Sunday night. California managed just 39 shots in the 120 minutes of hockey played over the weekend. The opposition had just 41 - 18 by Pittsburgh, 23 by New York.

**NOTES** — Weir, the hard-working second-year forward with the Seals, sat out Sunday's game with a leg injury . . . Stan Gilbertson, another forward didn't play either game. He has yet to sign a contract . . . One of the few players to supply any spark at all in Sunday's game was Islanders' Bill Harris, who was thwarted by Edwards on a couple of good scoring chances.