

More Woes for Seals



The action wasn't only around net as Oakland Seals pin Bob Berry (R) to boards in free-for-all

Game, Goalie Lost

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Goaltending, Goaltending,
Goaltending!

That may be the only way the Oakland Seals will beat the new Atlanta Flames—half of the National Hockey League's latest labor pains—tonight in the Arena.

Goaltending could have won for the Seals last night in Inglewood. Goal-shooting, too.

The Seals lost to the Los Angeles Kings, 5-0, on goals from five shooters. Oakland goalies Marv Edwards and Gilles Meloche had their troubles.

"Hey, goalie," said Coach Garry Young to Edwards before last night's match. "You ready for tonight?"

Edwards grinned and nodded assent.

As the team prepared to bus it to Jack Kent Cooke's For-

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um, Meloche seemed relaxed. He said he wasn't.

"You always have the pressure," he said. "The pressure is what gets you. So it's good to have tonight off."

A few minutes later he was in action.

One of the Seals' newcomers, Hilliard Graves, slapped the puck during the warmup and caught Marv on the elbow, leaving the 37-year-old goalie with a numb arm.

It happened with four minutes left in the warmup and that's all the time Gilles had to prepare.

"The last-minute change has happened to me often. It's tough to do. You're not mentally prepared. You need 24 hours, not just 15 minutes."

Edwards has played one game this season for the Seals, guarding the net for their only win. Gilles (0-5-1) was scheduled to start tonight against Atlanta after the night's rest.

Who starts tonight depends on Marv's arm.

Under the circumstances,

Meloche did play a good game. Both Young and Kings Coach Bob Pulford said as much.

But what had been a football game, Seals did was not so praiseworthy. They were outshot 35-18.

"If this had been a football game," said Pulford, "what our team did would have been called third effort. This club showed its maturity tonight."

"No, I don't think the Seals are immature. They have fine players like Ivan Boldirev (injured) and they miss Rick Smith."

"I don't want to say anything I'm so stinking mad," Young said more than 20 minutes after the game. "We're not going the way we should. We had them going a bit at the first and the lines were all matched up."

"But the Kings have a good hockey club with a lot of experience," he added.

The Seals aren't running a nursery, but of their 19 players, seven are rookies and 10 have about a year's NHL experience.

That leaves two veterans—captain Bert Marshall and Gary Croteau.

"I hardly recognized the team," said defenseman Harry Howell, a Seal two years ago. "All you have left are Bert and Croteau."

"I don't think Meloche had much chance. All the goals were clean. We had our best night tonight, but when a goalie doesn't have time to get up for a game, the percentages are he'll lose."