

Seals bid adieu to pet patsies

By Glenn Schwarz

It was a sad moment for the California Golden Seals. The Minnesota North Stars all piled into a bus and were whisked away from the Coliseum Arena, never to be seen again this season.

Thus did the Seals say goodbye to these great morale-boosters. So long Dean Talafofus. So long Dwight Bialwas. So long Pete LoPresti.

Tomorrow night the Seals say hello to Bobby Clarke, Reggie Leach and the rest of the Philadelphia Flyers. Therefore it was only natural for the Golden Ones to savor their 6-3 victory over the North Stars, or No Stars, if you please.



DENNIS MARUK

"We got careless and they got a few goals, but even when it was 5-3 they weren't in contention," said one of the six Seals who scored last night, Dennis Maruk. "We beat them on their ice and there was no way they were going to get us here."

The Seals' only regret was that the North Stars couldn't stick around for a series of games, Minnesota being the only team California has beaten in the last 12 games.

To the Seals' credit, they earned the win, skating hard after a sluggish start. Among the highlights of their effort were Maruk's fifth shorthanded goal of the season and the killing of a seven-minute penalty.

Only St. Louis' Chuck Lefley has more man-short goals (seven) than Maruk, whose total is a record for National Hockey League rookies.

"(Al) MacAdam springs him loose for those goals," said Seals Coach Jack Evans. "He dumps the puck to Dennis and he goes. It's not a fluke."

Maruk wasn't too sure about this one, though. With the Seals up 2-0 early in the third period, Maruk and MacAdam were out there killing a penalty, which they do often, when the puck suddenly appeared on Dennis' stick outside the Minnesota blue line.

Maruk knew what to do with the thing, getting those powerful little legs in motion and firing a low shot by goalie LoPresti.

"This wasn't really a play," Maruk said. "I mean, the puck got to me, but Al was just trying to clear it out. He shot it off the boards, it hit one of their defensemen, then another North Star before I got it. Of course, I still had to shoot it."

The seven-minute penalty against the Seals came in the second period, which, like the first, did not prepare the 6,300 fans for the wild last session (Seals 4, North Stars 3). So effective were the Golden Ones during that stretch, while Gary Holt served a minor and major, the North Stars could not

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put one shot on goalie Gary Simmons (Actually, the Seals were shorthanded for only 5:41, or until Minnesota was hit with a penalty).

The victory brought the Seals back to within 10 points of the Toronto Maple Leafs and a playoff berth. Now if only they could arrange some more games with the North Stars.

NOTES: Simmons has played six consecutive games and Evans said he would stick with him for tomorrow night's Arena clash with the Flyers . . . Rumor dept: With Gilles Meloche getting so much

bench time, the whispers have picked up. One had the Seal goalie going to Vancouver for ex-Seal goalie Gary Smith and winger Dennis Ververgaert. California General Manager Bill McCreary denies them all. "I told Gilles we weren't about to trade him," McCreary said. . . . Dave (Wrecker) Hrechkosy, just recalled from Salt Lake City, took a few shifts between Holt and Wayne King.

FIRST PERIOD

SCORING: 1. Seals, MacAdam 22 (Murdoch, Maruk), 17:31x.

PENALTIES: Sather (M) 15:53, O'Brien (M) 17:56.

SHOTS: Seals 9, Minnesota 7

SECOND PERIOD

SCORING: 2. Seals, Ahern 8 (unassisted), 2:02.

PENALTIES: O'Brien (M) 7:16, Holt (S) major-minor, 10:11; Young (M) 15:58.

SHOTS: Seals 12, Minnesota 4

THIRD PERIOD

SCORING: 3. Seals, Maruk 22 (MacAdam) 2:19x, 4. Minnesota, Hicks 2 (unassisted) 3:49, 5. Seals, Sabourin 17 (Merrick, Hrechkosy) 4:36.6. Seals, Merrick 25 (Sabourin, Girard) 7:26, 7. Minnesota, Gratton 5 (Hicks, Reid) 10:25x, 8. Minnesota O'Brien 1 (un) 10:40, 9. Seals, Hampton 10 (Girard, Sabourin) 19:24.

PENALTIES: Moxey (S) 1:24, O'Brien (M) and Moxey (S) 4:42, King (S) 8:53, O'Brien (M) double minor, misconduct, 17:21.

SHOTS: Seals 11, Minnesota 9

TOTAL SHOTS: Seals 32, Minnesota 20

GOALIES: Seals, Simmons Minnesota LoPresti

REFEREE: Dave Newell

ATTENDANCE: 6339

X—man advantage

XX—shorthanded