

Seals Turn Back Bad Bruins, 4-2

By JOHN PORTER
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He was one of the players many of the 7,738 fans at the Arena came to see.

And even though he averages nearly a goal per game — he got his 23rd of the season last night — Phil Esposito was sullen as he bent over to sign autographs for a handful of youngsters.

"Maybe we weren't as loose as we should be," he offered. "The young goalie plays well, you've got to give him credit."

Inside the Oakland Seals dressing room sat 21-year-old Gilles Meloche, who was one of several reasons why the Boston Bruins were bested 4-2 before that crowd which found out it had something of its own on skates worth rooting for.

"It's easier," claimed Gilles (say Jill), who made it hard for the Bruins all night, "to prepare for teams like Boston. I don't know why.

"Against big teams like Boston and Chicago I'm ready. Except for New York, I still don't know about them, it seems easy."

The Seals were leading 1-0 after the first period, but Bobby Orr had three wicked drives at the baby-faced goalie and Esposito drilled an unsuccessful pair.

"I don't worry about who the man coming at me is,"

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**Lakers Set
NBA Mark**

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ACE BAILEY OF BRUINS HEADS FOR FAN
Dallas Smith restrains teammate at the Arena

Another Meloche Triumph

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claimed Meloche (say May-lawsh). "I just watch the puck."

For once in a game against Boston, the Bruins goalie was forced to do a lot of watching the puck moving in at him. Three of his principle antagonists used to be from the Beantown area.

Bobby Sheehan grew up on the outskirts of Boston. He also scored Oakland's first goal, his 16th of the season, when he tipped in Dick Redmond's shot on a power play.

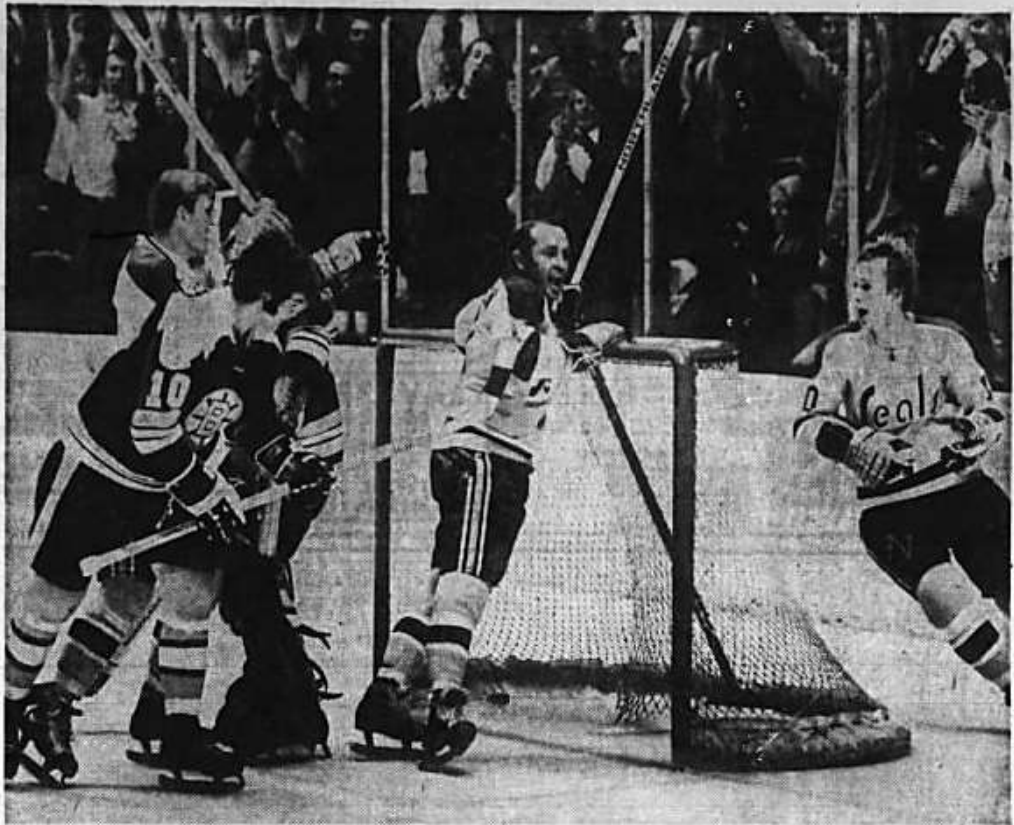
Ivan Boldirev, who was added to the Seals' roster after a trade with the Bruins earlier this season, made the fanciest move of the night to put Oakland in front 2-1 in the second period.

And lastly, Wayne Carleton, who played all last season for the Bruins and was picked up by Oakland in last summer's draft, slid the final goal of the game into an empty net from center ice with 30 seconds to go.

"We've played pretty good at home lately," said Carleton. "We're 2-2 with Boston now this season. We're in shape for the playoffs."

Last night's win put Oakland back into third place in the West Division, a point ahead of Pittsburgh, which must play Boston five more times.

"I love it, I love it," exulted Boldirev. "I don't know where that story came from about me refusing to go down to the minors when I was with Boston. At contract time they



BY THEIR WIDE GRINS YOU KNOW THE PUCK IN THE NET WAS PUT THERE BY WINNING SEALS
Norm Ferguson scored it, teammates Stan Gilbertson (right) and Paul Shmyr delight in beating Boston

asked me and I told them if I thought I couldn't play with them, I'd go down.

"This season I played the odd shift with them and I thought I did well. Then they benched me, but they never asked me after that to go to the minors. That's when I was traded."

Vic Stasiuk pointed to Boldirev as an example of a trade that worked well for the Seals.

"Maybe we're beginning to fall into place," said the coach, who spread his arms and took a deep breath to enjoy the winning atmosphere. "We were concerned about the trade for Meloche backfiring. I mean he was an unknown. Now look at the way he played. It was great."

Next to Boldirev stood Norm Ferguson, who tipped in a Carol Vandnais blast for the Seals' third and winning goal in the final period.

"I can't complain at all," said Fergie, who played a regular shift but got the goal when he replaced Gerry Pinder on the power play.

Pinder was booted out of the game late in the second period when he went to help out Sheehan in a tussle with Boston's Johnny McKenzie. It was the second time in a week that the Seals lost a player under the third man into an altercation rule.

However, when McKenzie stopped pushing the lineman (that's supposed to be a 10-minute penalty, but it wasn't forthcoming) and made his

way to the penalty box, the fans got into the action.

What resulted was a splitting duel between McKenzie and some Seals adherents. And in typical Boston style, the Bruins' Ace Bailey tried to scale the glass barrier to stickhandle through the first five rows of rinkside. He was less unsuccessful.

More fun with McKenzie erupted in the third period when Oakland's Paul Shmyr jacked - hammered him with a series of punches, Dallas Smith got the heave-ho by referee John McCouley for trying to help McKenzie and Bobby

Orr got nothing for a rather long heated discourse with the man wearing the red arm band.

"Everything goes well, so why worry?" philosophized Meloche, whose debut for Oakland was a 2-0 stunner in Boston. "Something is right for us when we play them. I must have their number."

Outside Esposito finished his autograph signing and departed into the gloom, just as Meloche walked out to be greeted by a mob of cheering fans.

Friday night when the Seals play Detroit at the Arena, who

knows, perhaps the fans will be coming to see the Seals.

NOTES: The Seals hadn't beaten Boston in Oakland since Feb. 17, 1969 . . . The Bruins left Oakland with a losing streak of one after winning 11 and tying one of their last 12.