

Thunder and Smoke Uprising by Seals

Record Five-Goal Burst In Rousing Third Period

By Jim Bainbridge

Staff Writer

The pattern was grotesquely familiar. It was like the third reel of a horror film.

Fred Glover's Oakland Seals were fore-checking, getting back on defense, hustling. They were again playing well enough to win. Also they were losing, 1-0, to Montreal.

Under similar circumstances last weekend, New York and Detroit had escaped Oakland with narrow victories.

The pep talk after the second period must have been a humdinger.

Vadnais Strikes Hard

When the Seals came out for the final session, it was thunder and smoke. Carol Vadnais tied the score at 2:10 from the left side of the goal crease. Six minutes later Vadnais banged a rebounding shot off the stick of Doug Roberts into the Canadian net off a power play.

Second-year wing Norm Ferguson deflected a third goal past Rogatien Vachon at 11:05. Captain Teddy Hampton scored with the Seals one man short, two minutes later.

After Sarge Savard beat Seals' goalie Gary Smith, Oakland struck again on a 20-foot shot off the stick of Gerry Ehman.

Futile for Montreal

The futility of Montreal's third period was best expressed by veteran Bobby Rousseau. When Hampton broke away to challenge Vachon one on one, Rousseau tried to stop him by sailing his stick in Hampton's path.

It is not a move associated with players in the National Hockey League. It also carries the award of a penalty shot.

If the Canadiens were non-plussed by

events, Oakland coach Glover was not. "I don't want anyone to get the wrong idea," Glover said. "This was just a turn-about game for us. We got some of the breaks that the other clubs have been getting lately."

"Our primary concern was shaking loose our power play," Glover said.

The power play has been one of the Seals' failings this season. Until they collected four against Toronto last month they had the worst record in the NHL. Last night they capitalized on one of five opportunities and burned Montreal while a man short.

Played Down His Role

Vadnais played down his role in the victory: "The two goals were laid out for me," he said. "Vachon protected on the initial shots and I was able to shoot by him into an open net."

Imports of the victory were many:

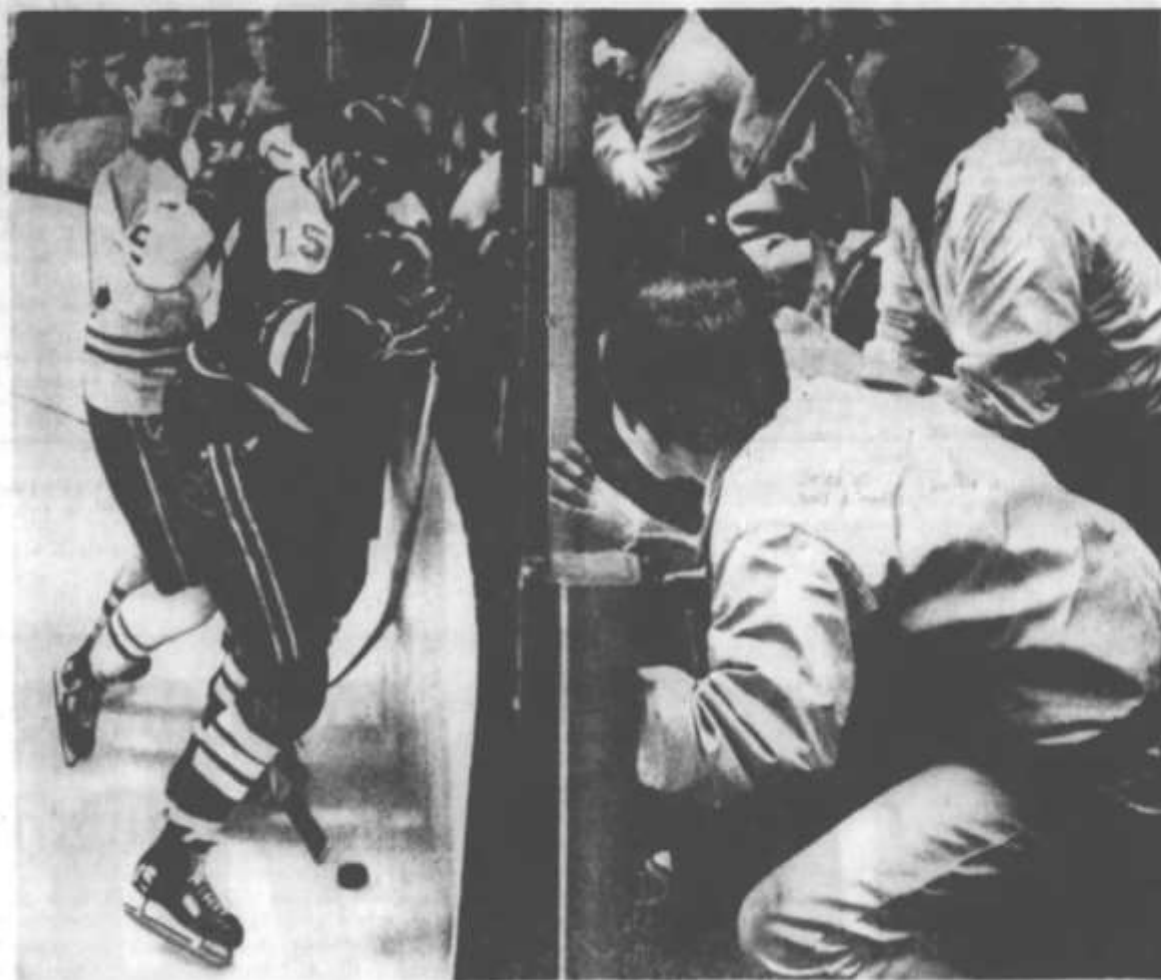
- The five goals were a one-period team record, beating the established mark of four against Minnesota.

- It lifted the Seals into a tie for the final Stanley Cup playoff berth with Minnesota.

- It broke a three-game losing streak, and gave the crowd of 3929 its first winner of the home stand.

- Prevented Montreal from taking over sole possession of second place in the Eastern Division.

Yet Glover allowed himself no joy in the dressing room. The win was great but he couldn't help but think of the road ahead. Friday the Seals challenge St. Louis on the Blues' ice with the cream of the Eastern Division to follow.



HOCKEY FANS BEND FORWARD EAGERLY FOR BETTER VIEW OF SEALS-CANADIENS BATTLE OF BOARDS
Mike Laughton protects puck as Oakland teammate Don O'Donoghue (obscured) engages Montreal's Robert Rousseau