

# Cummins readies for Flyers

By GARY HANLON  
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Barry Cummins marked his 25th birthday this morning, but the California Golden Seals' rookie isn't planning any celebration for awhile.

A native of Regina, Sask., Cummins has an 8 p.m. appointment with the Philadelphia Flyers on the ice of the Caliseum Arena tonight and the team from the City of Brotherly Love has no love for the young Seals' defenseman.

The last time the two teams met, Dec. 2 in the Philadelphia spectrum, Cummins was the target of the wrath of several of the truculent Flyers after a stick-swinging incident with Bobby Clarke.

"It's just another game," said Cummins shortly after the Seals arrived back in Oakland yesterday afternoon from Detroit. "I don't think anyone is going to be out there to do any head hunting . . . at least I hope not."

They're in first place and

trying to win every game they can and we're just trying to win. I think most of them know that what happened in Philadelphia was a reflex action and not an attempt to hurt anybody."

Cummins was fined \$300 and suspended for three games after the incident which occurred after the Flyer star hit him under the eye with his stick. The Seals' rookie responded with a blow to Clark's head.

"I called Bobby a couple days after the thing happened because I wanted to find out

how bad he was hurt," he said. "He told me that it wasn't as bad as everyone thought at first and not to let it bother my game."

"Fred Shero (the Flyer coach) wrote me a letter and said just about the same thing. I know some of the Flyers have said some things but I'm not going to let it bother me. If we run into each other out on the ice or if someone gives me a dirty check on the boards or I give some of them a dirty check, we'll just have to take it from there."

This is the last meeting of the season between the two teams and if there has been one thing constant in the first four outings, it has been the number of fights and penalties.

The last time they met in Oakland (Nov. 18) there were 19 penalties, good for 32 minutes. Included were two majors and a game misconduct on the Flyers' Dave Schultz, who was ejected after only 29 seconds.

In the Dec. 2 battle-royal, there were 229 minutes in penalties, including nine majors, five game misconducts and a match penalty against Cummins. Six players were sent to early showers.

"I think the ref will be watching things pretty close," pointed out Cummins, "just to make sure the game doesn't get out of hand."

The Flyers, who set an NHL record for the most penalties by a team last season, are well on their way to establishing a new mark this year for rule infractions. They are averaging 22.4 minutes per game.

Leading the league in individual penalty minutes is forward Schultz with 136. Despite his prolonged absence from the ice, he is still the club's ninth leading scorer (Continued on Page 18, Col. 3)



**BARRY BATTERED** — The last time the California Golden Seals and the Philadelphia Flyers met, Seals' rookie defenseman Barry Cummins had to be helped from the ice by his teammates

after being pounded by several Flyer skaters. The two clubs resume the battle tonight at 8 o'clock at the Caliseum Arena.

—UPI TELEPHOTO

## CUMMINS READY . . .

(Cont. From Page 17, Col. 3)  
with 26 points.

"Philadelphia is just an aggressive team," pointed out Cummins. "I'm aggressive so when we play each other something is bound to happen."

Barry, who has spent nine weeks of the season living out of a suitcase, isn't completely satisfied with his game but is happy for the chance to be playing in the NHL.

"I'm just a rookie so I've got a lot to learn about the game," he offered. "Things I thought I knew and found out I really didn't know at all, but I'm learning more with every game."

His future with the Seals is uncertain for this season at least, depending on coach Fred Glover's decision next week on how many defensemen he will carry the rest of the year.