

Alas, Poor Seals Set Records in Reverse

Islander Rookie Scores Hat Trick

By Nelson Cullenward
Examiner Sports Writer

Neophyte coach Garry Young was in a philosophic mood last night after his California Golden Seals broke a couple of records in reverse before 2189 unhappy fans at the Oakland Coliseum Arena.

They lost to the New York Islanders, an expansion team, 6-2.

And, the Seals defense allowed Germain Gagnon, a young Long Islander winger to score his first hat trick in the National Hockey League.

And, in allowing the Islanders their second win of the season, Young's charges also allowed the new team to set their all-time goal-scoring record.

The one ray of hope was Craig Patrick, who scored the Seals' goals, his first and second of the season, both on blistering shots.

Young held the press at bay for quite a while after the sorry affair while he held a team meeting "to discuss the mistakes we're making and talk them over."

He will also work on those mistakes when the Seals practice today for tomorrow night's invasion by the Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins.

Although the Islanders skated all around the veteran defenders, Young refused to single out any culprits.

"I believe in the old theory that when a goal is scored it is everyone's fault," said Young, adding,

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CRAIG PATRICK
Seals' ray of hope



Gerry Desjardine, outstanding Islander goalie, goes to ice to block shot by Bob Stewart

—Examiner photo by Bob Bryant

Desjardins Stops Seals

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"I can see signs of the young kids getting the drift of our system."

They had better get it soon. The Seals have already drifted down to the cellar.

Young also admitted he was disappointed by the loss.

"We thought this was a game we could win and come out winging with two

points," said Young, sadly.

The Long Island-based team came out winging and took a 2-1 lead in the first period as Gagnon and Jim Mair sandwiched goals around Patrick's backhand effort from in front of the net.

Don Blackburn of the Islanders scored midway through the second period

and Ed Westfall, Gagnon, Patrick and then Gagnon again, tallied in the final canto.

In the final period the Seals didn't get off a shot on goal when Gagnon, Dave Hudson and Mair were on the ice.

Gerry Desjardins finally got his chance to tend goal at the Oakland Arena, but it

wasn't in an Oakland uniform and he was chosen the outstanding player on the ice. Desjardins was traded by Chicago to the Seals last year, he had a broken arm so he never played a game in Seal livery, finally going back to Chicago.

Last night Gerry kicked out 31 Seals shots in a great effort.