

# Seals Try To Shake Trip Woes

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ST. LOUIS — Despite heavy opposition, the Oakland Seals made it to St. Louis from Boston yesterday.

What should have been a fairly easy haul became an ordeal of wasted time compounded by bad weather, a couple of jets which couldn't pass the pre-flight checks, and a dozen American Airline officials who performed pretty much on the order of the Keystone Kops.

Now that the Seals are safe in St. Louis, getting ready for their game tomorrow night with the West Division leading Blues, they can laugh at the confusion.

The original jet which was to have taken the Seals from Boston to New York and then on to St. Louis suffered a malfunction and was "taken out of service."

A replacement aircraft was obtained and, oops, it didn't work either.

Meanwhile, the Seals slumped drearily in the waiting room trying to pass the slowly advancing time.

Finally, four hours late and just a half hour before they were to arrive in St. Louis in the first place, the Seals got into the air. It was a commuter hop to New York.

Because of the air traffic tangle over Big Town, a 34-minute flight became an hour and 10 minutes holding pattern over Stamford, Conn.

When they eventually got down, they made it to a long-delayed connecting flight which took them from New York to St. Louis via Cincinnati.

Exhausted by the general emotional problems of such a journey, the Seals boarded the bus at the St. Louis airport, but then they couldn't find a bus driver — he showed up a half hour later.

The final blow was when the bus couldn't get into the parking lot at the Belaire West Motel and dropped the team a half a block away leaving them to tote luggage and suit carriers through a blowing snow storm which had popped up in the meantime.