

California Puts Heat on Scouts' Rookie, 4-1.

By Steve Marantz

A Member of the Sports Staff

Oakland—Bill Oleschuk received a warm welcome to the National Hockey League last night from the California Golden Seals. In fact, he received 52 of them from the Seals as they gave the Scouts' rookie a memorable coming-out party.

Oleschuk, a 20-year-old goalie called up Wednesday from Port Huron, Mich., to replace Denis Herron, who is hospitalized with a kidney stone, was put to the acid test in the 4-1 loss to the Seals at Oakland Coliseum.

The Seals should have been charged with cruel and unusual punishment as they bombarded Oleschuk with 24 shots in the first period and finished with 52. Both were California club records.

The score might have been outlandish if it had not been for Oleschuk's spectacular performance. He was impregnable on three California power plays, stopped several breakaways and close-range shots. He was poised, quick, played good angles and was caught out of position only in a few instances.

And he was the brightest aspect of a dim performance by the Scouts as they dropped their 11th straight game.

"I was nervous," said Oleschuk. "There was pressure because I wanted to play well. Maybe there wouldn't have been as much if the team was winning."

It was Thursday that Oleschuk learned he finally was going to play, this being his second stint with the Scouts. He was with the team for eight games early in the season and rode the bench. Oleschuk's last game was a

week ago when his Port Huron team lost to Muskegon, 4-2.

His first N.H.L. observation last night was that the Oakland ice was soft and the Coliseum was stuffy. The heat of the Seals' attack he considered less annoying.

"We faced 70 shots in one game this year (at Port Huron)," said Oleschuk. "I only played two periods. A couple other games I faced 50 or more shots."

"It really depends on what type of shots they are. Sometimes 25 shots can seem like 50. Tonight they were average toughness."

Of the four goals he surrendered only the fourth could be considered bad. Dennis Maruk's 40-foot drive straight down the slot popped off Oleschuk's leg pads into the goal. "I lost it," said Oleschuk. "There were some players in front of me but I should have had it."

Sid Abel, Scouts' general manager and acting coach, graded Oleschuk high.

"He played a good game," said Abel. "As far as initial saves went he was excellent. But he got in trouble

with rebounds. He gave up a lot of rebounds. As soon as he learns that he's not going to be a bad kid."

Gary Croteau scored the lone Kansas City goal, deflecting in Jean-Guy Lagace's shot from the right point at 6:49 of the second period. At that point, the Scouts trailed, 2-1, until Bob Stewart scored for the Seals at 10:58, beating Oleschuk on his glove side from the blue line.

The Scouts continue on to Chicago for a 7:35 o'clock game tomorrow night.