

# Seals' Loss Sets Record

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INGLEWOOD — They call Jack Kent Cooke's fabulous Forum a pleasure palace hereabouts, but it's still a chamber of horrors for the Oakland Seals.

Scoring three times in the final period the Los Angeles Kings applied the coup de grace to the Seals' bleak season with a 6-4 victory last night before 7,699.

The loss was No. 53 for Oakland this year, which removed the Kings' record of 52 defeats last year from the National Hockey League record book.

In four seasons, the Seals

have won twice in the Forum. Last night they lost their 14th game here.

Los Angeles fought back from 3-0 and 4-3 deficits and finished off the Seals with goals by Bob Pulford, Ralph Backstrom, his second of the game, and Eddie Joyal.

A season of miscues, blunders, and dispirited play by the Seals surprisingly vanished in the first seven minutes of the game and Oakland was flaunting a 3-0 lead.

After successfully killing Tommy Williams' hooking penalties at 3:59 of the opener,

Continued Page 50, Col. 3

# Seals End Season With Another Loss

Continued from 1st Sports Page  
the Seals momentarily had three centers on the ice — Williams, Joe Hardy and Denis Hextall.

Hardy stole the puck just inside the Kings' blueline and left a drop-pass for Williams, who baffled goalie Denis DeJordy with three feints before slipping the puck beneath him.

Williams had been out of the box 21 seconds.

At 5:57 Norm Ferguson nudged a pass up the slot to Don O'Donoghue in front of the Kings' net. The first shot was blocked easily, but DeJordy was sprawled in the crease and O'Donoghue swept up the rebound and tapped it in for a 2-0 lead.

Hextall scored his 21st goal

of the season, his first in 10 games, when he crossed unchallenged before DeJordy and popped the puck past the goalie, who had charged out of his sanctuary. The time was 6:53 and Oakland led, 3-0.

Good times didn't last, though.

Harry Howell, who was Gary Smith's teammate at the beginning of the season, passed a perfect setup to Whitney Widging on the far corner of the Seals' crease at 10:01. That made it 3-1.

Los Angeles picked up two goals in the second period to tie the game, but Ron Stackhouse put the Seals back in front, 4-3, at 17:49.

Lucien Grenier went to the penalty box at 15:39 for the Kings' first infraction in the game. Oakland stumbled around with the extra skater for the two minutes.

Then 10 seconds after the penalty was killed, Stackhouse wound up with the puck on the right point and slapped an ice-level shot that zipped off a defenseman's skate and zipped into the net.