

Seals upset

Montreal

MONTREAL (UPI) — Gary Croteau scored the winning goal on a breakaway with 7:45 remaining in the game Saturday night to give the California Golden Seals a 4-3 win over Montreal and break their NHL record 24-game losing streak on the road.

It was only the second victory in 32 road games for the Seals this season and the loss was costly to the Canadiens as it narrowed their second-place lead over the New York Rangers to four points in the East.

The Seals were trailing 3-2 at 8:54 of the final frame when Stan Weir tied the game with a controversial goal.

Hilliard Graves had taken a slap shot which struck Montreal goalie Michel Plasse on the mask and knocked him out. Play did not stop and Weir fired the power play goal into the empty net. Referee Dave Shewchyk ruled that play could not stop and allowed the goal to stand. Plasse left the game with a severe head wound and was replaced by Bunny Larocque, who gave up the winning goal.

Reggie Leach scored the first Seals' goal in the opening period and Graves added another with just 11 seconds remaining in the second stanza when his shot deflected into the Montreal net off the skate of Canadian defenseman Guy Lapointe, who had lost the puck in front of his own net.

Score by Periods:

California	1 1 1—4
Montreal	1 2 0—3

First period: 1. Montreal, Larose 11 (F. Mahovlich, P. Mahovlich) 10:45; 2. California, Leach 17 (Johnston, McKay) 11:15. Penalties—Johnston 5:06, Johnston 12:18, Van Boxmeer 17:18.

Second period: 3. Montreal, Larose 12 (Savard, F. Mahovlich) 11:06; 4. Montreal, Lemaire 22 (Lefley, Lafleur) 16:21; 5. California, Graves (unassisted) 19:09. Penalties—None.

Third period: 6. California, Weir 9 (Croteau, Graves) 8:34; 7. California, Croteau 13 (Bodinev, Graves) 12:55. Penalties—Savard 1:06, Johnston 19:51.

Shots on goal by:

California	19 7 8—33
Montreal	15 14 12—41

Goalies—California, Meloche; Montreal, Plasse, Larocque

A: 14,955.