

Seals Blasted Again, Face Canadiens Here

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Home again, although just for tonight's game against Montreal at the Arena, the Oakland Seals try to break a four-game losing streak after a 6-1 disaster in St. Louis last night.

The Seals face off with the Canadiens at 7 o'clock. Tomorrow they depart on another four-game journey.

The Seals were down 2-0 in the first period before Hil Graves made the Seals look decent and Blues' goalie Bob Johnson indecent.

Scrappy Morris Mott was trying to get Blues' defenseman Jean Hamel off his back in the corner to Johnson's right. It had all the makings of a fight and distracted Johnson. Meanwhile, Ivan Boldirev passed to Graves just inside the blue line and the NHL's leading rookie goal-scorer swished the puck between the netminder's legs at 14:01.

It was Graves' 20th goal of the season, moving him one ahead of Joey Johnston for the team lead.

Little else went right for the Seals in the period. But then, little does. Oakland has had

one win in six years of play in Missouri.

St. Louis drew first blood midway through a power play. Seals' right wing Marshall Johnston was in the penalty box for hooking Jack Egers. It was a good penalty—the Blues' winger was breaking in alone on goal.

The Seals' penalty killers did an excellent job for the first minute and St. Louis couldn't mount an attack. Then Blues' defenseman Steve Durbano broke over the blue line on the left side and rapped a long shot at Meloche.

The goalie made the save,

but Phil Roberto was in position to swat in the rebound at 7:44 for a 1-0 St. Louis lead.

Reserve center Fran Huck increased that to 2-0 at 13:26. Again the Seals had four skaters on the ice, but so did St. Louis. Oakland's Pete Laframboise and the Blues' Pierre Plante were in the box for slashing.

Huck shot from the same point that Durbano had earlier. The puck went off Meloche's stick and into the net.

Less than a minute expired in the second period and it was 3-1 St. Louis. Danny O'Shea connected 22 seconds after the

faceoff for his ninth goal of the season.

Thompson drilled a shot from the left side through Meloche's pads at 16:51 for a 4-1 St. Louis lead, but the most excitement came at 20:00.

Graves and Roberto were jostling each other in the Blues' end of the rink when the period ended. A few insults and they dropped the gloves—it was later ruled roughing—but the linesmen quickly intervened.

It was Terry Pierce's misfortune to hold Roberto, who

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threw the linesman to the ice as if he were a sack of flour. It took a few minutes to convince Graves and Roberto to head for the dressing room.

The Seals were outshot, 29-10, in the first two periods, but that hasn't been unusual on this road trip.

St. Louis had some near misses. Hamel and Roberto hit the goal post, but Chris Evans had a breakaway for St. Louis while killing a penalty. Meloche made the best save of the game to stop the defenseman.