

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

October 10, 1966

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The Western Hockey League's 19th Season will get under way this week with all seven teams in action.

On Friday night, October 14, Los Angeles will be in Seattle, and San Diego, returning to the WHL for the first time since the 1949-50 campaign, will be in Vancouver.

On Saturday night, October 15, Portland's defending regular-season champions, will host Los Angeles, Victoria's Lester Patrick Cup titlists will host the California (San Francisco-Oakland) Seals and San Diego will visit Seattle.

A single Sunday night game on October 16th will send California to Portland.

Opening week highlights:

Friday, October 14

San Diego at Vancouver ----It'll be a "homecoming" for San Diego Coach Max McNab, who was Vancouver's skipper for three seasons, '63 through '65, and who was general manager of the Canucks last year...back at the Canuck helm will be Bert Olmstead, former all-time National League great, who as a rookie professional coach last season directed Vancouver to third place and extended Portland to seven games before losing in the playoff semifinals for San Diego, this will be the first of 13 straight road games to open the season....

Los Angeles at Seattle ----This one matches a coach new to the Western Hockey League, Ferny Flaman of the Blades, against a rookie skipper, Seattle's Bill MacFarland... Flaman, in his playing days, was rated one of the hardest hitters in National League history, while MacFarland, as a Seattle player, was the fifth highest goal scorer in Western League history.....Los Angeles, in five seasons back in the WHL, owns a 6-18-2 record in Seattle, trails the Totems overall by a 17-32-5 margin...Seattle was 8-4 against LA last season....

Saturday, October 15

California at Victoria ---- It's another "homecoming," Rudy Pilous returning to the WHL to direct his Seals against the club he coached to the Lester Patrick Cup finals in 1964-65.....after coaching Denver to the regular-season championship a year earlier.....again leading Victoria will be Frank Mario, who hit the jackpot last season, winning the Lester Patrick Cup in his first campaign as a professional skipper...the Seals last season were the only team to post a winning record against Victoria (7-3-2) and broke even (2-2-2) on Maple Leaf ice.....

San Diego at Seattle ----Gull's Coach McNab has a bit of special incentive going for him.....two years ago, while coaching Vancouver, McNab's club failed to win a game in eight appearances in Seattle.....it was the only time this ever had happened to one of his teams...he'll be out to see that there is no repeat.....

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Saturday, October 15th continued

Los Angeles at Portland ----Coach Hal Laycoe, who in six years has directed Portland to two Lester Patrick Cups and four league or divisional championships, will lead the Bucks against a one-time Boston teammate in Flamen.....Portland, in the past five years, leads the Los Angeles series 39-20-5 and holds a home-ice edge of 23-6-3....it's been the highest-scoring series in Portland history, 292 for the Bucks, the most against any single opponent, to 213 for the Blades, the most scored against Portland by any single club....LA last season handed Portland its worst defeat of all time, 10-0, and the Bucks retaliated with their highest single goal output in winning 13-7.....

Sunday, October 16

California at Portland ----Portland, in five years, holds an overall 40-21-3 edge over the Seals, owns a home-ice record of 23-7-2 against the California club..... but it was the Seals who knocked Portland out of the playoffs two straight years ('63 and '64).....The Bucks well remember Seal skipper Rudy Pilous.....it was his Denver team which in the 1963-64 campaign posted the biggest season edge ever registered against Portland, 9 victories, 4 defeats and 1 tie.....

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Milestones dead ahead:

Two Western Leaguers could reach major milestones in the first week of action--- Winger Al Nicholson has scored 199 goals, could join the WHL's 200-goal club with a red light either Saturday night in Victoria or Sunday night in Portland.

And defenseman Sandy Hucul has earned 299 assists in his Western League career, could make it 300 with a helper Saturday night in Victoria's home opener against the California Seals.

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For the record as changes occur this season, these are the top ten scorers, goal scorers and playmakers among players still active in the Western Hockey League:

<u>POINTS</u>		<u>GOALS</u>		<u>ASSISTS</u>	
1. Guyle Fielder	1330	Lou Jankowski	318	Guyle Fielder	1017
2. Phil Maloney	758	Guyle Fielder	313	Phil Maloney	477
3. Art Jones	757	Art Jones	290	Art Jones	467
4. Steve Witiuk	722	Steve Witiuk	289	Norm Johnson	441
5. Norm Johnson	664	Phil Maloney	281	Steve Witiuk	433
6. Lou Jankowski	619	Len Haley	271	Fred Hucul	419
7. Len Haley	609	Tommy McVie	254	Ron Matthews	402
8. Bruce Carmichael	569	Bruce Carmichael	244	Gordon Sinclair	370
9. Fred Hucul	567	Norm Johnson	223	Len Haley	338
10. Ron Matthews	541	Gerry Brisson	221	Bruce Carmichael	325

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Five of the seven most effective scorers in the history of the Western Hockey League are expected in action during the circuit's 19th campaign, which gets under way Friday, October 14.

Ranked on a basis of points scored per game, with a minimum of 300 points, the Western League's all-time top ten includes:

Player	Games	Points	Average
Guyle Fielder	950	1330	1.40
Phil Maloney	593	758	1.28
Art Jones	615	757	1.23
Eddie Dorohoy	714	830	1.16
Billy McNeill	354	412	1.16
Lou Jankowski	540	619	1.15
Norm Johnson	590	664	1.13
Sid Finney	694	767	1.11
Gene Mekilok	341	380	1.11
Jackie McLeod	479	511	1.07

Almost certain for action this year are Fielder with Seattle, Maloney with Vancouver, Jones with Portland, Jankowski with Victoria and Johnson with Los Angeles.

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The four top playmakers of all time ----Fielder, Maloney, Jones and Johnson-- will return to action.

The all-time top ten, ranked on assists per game with a minimum of 200, includes:

Player	Games	Assists	Average
Guyle Fielder	950	1017	1.071
Phil Maloney	593	477	.804
Art Jones	615	467	.759
Norm Johnson	590	441	.747
Eddie Dorohoy	714	533	.746
Billy McNeill	354	263	.743
Gene Mekilek	341	246	.721
Bobby Love	634	419	.661
Jerry Melnyk	316	201	.636
Rudy Filion	387	553	.623

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Among goal scorers, two of the three most effective snipers in the history of the WHL are expected back in action, and both are Victoria Maple Leafs--Lou Jankowski and Bob Barlow.

The all-time top ten, based on goals per game with a minimum of 100, includes:

Player	Games	Goals	Average
Lou Jankowski	540	318	.589
Gordon Fashoway	343	485	.575
Bob Barlow	277	154	.556
Bill Shill	219	118	.539
Sid Finney	694	368	.530
Joe Bell	258	133	.516

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Player	Games	Goals	Average
Jackie McLeod	479	246	.514
Bill Mosienko	253	129	.510
Tommy McVie	502	254	.506
Ron Rowe	220	111	.505

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And what about bad men? Well, it could be a rough year. Five of the all-time top ten are expected back in action ---- Howie Young, Connie Madigan, Doug Messier, Larry McNabb and Bill Shvetz.

Ranked on penalty minutes per game, with a minimum of 500 minutes, the leaders are:

PLAYER	Games	PIM	Average
Howie Young	150	560	3.73
Pete Durham	310	805	2.60
Connie Madigan	314	725	2.31
Frank Arnett	529	1218	2.30
Doug Messier	297	677	2.28
Larry McNabb	268	586	2.19
Bill Burega	590	1207	2.05
Fred Creighton	317	601	1.90
Bill Shvetz	569	1056	1.86
Larry Zeidel	413	710	1.72

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Incidentally, in total penalty minutes, these are the Western League's all-time leaders:

Frank Arnett 1218, Bill Burega 1207, Jim Hay 1148, Bill Shvetz 1056, Sandy Hucul 955, Les Hunt 843, Colin Kilburn 832, Steve Witiuk 806, Pete Durham 805, Carl Kaiser 800, Len Haley 795, Don Ward 794, Connie Madigan 725, Larry Zeidel 710, Eddie Dorohoy 681, George Senick 680.

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UPCOMING ACTION

The Portland Buckaroos will be the busiest team in the Western Hockey League this week, playing in four of the nine games scheduled.

The Buckaroos, shooting for a third straight regular-season title, will be in Victoria Wednesday night and in Vancouver Friday night before returning home to host Vancouver on Saturday night and San Diego on Sunday night.

In other action, the California Seals will be in Vancouver Tuesday night and Victoria will visit Seattle on Friday night. On Saturday night, California will be in Seattle and San Diego in Victoria. On Sunday night California will be the visitor for Los Angeles' home opener.

Brief highlights of the week's schedule:

Tuesday -- California at Vancouver

The Seals, since returning to the WHL for the 1961-62 season, have beaten Vancouver 30 times while losing 24 games. And it's been an astounding series in that there never has been a tie. In games in Vancouver, the Canucks hold a slim 15-12 edge. Despite San Francisco's winning record, the Canucks have outscored the Seals, 188-181, in the past five seasons. The Canucks held a 7-5 edge in last season's series.

Wednesday -- Portland at Victoria

It's the season's first meeting of the teams which finished 1 (Portland) and 2 (Victoria) during the last regular season, then reversed the order in the playoffs when the Maple Leafs won the Patrick Cup in a series that went the full seven games. Victoria was the only WHL team with a winning (6-4-2) record against Portland last year. And a defenseman, Fred Hucul, led the way in scoring with 12 points on 6 goals and 6 assists.

Friday -- Victoria at Seattle

This has been a tight, tight series the past two seasons since Victoria returned to the WHL, the Maple Leafs holding an overall edge of 14-12-1. In games played in Seattle, the Totems hold a 7-6-1 edge. Victoria, over two seasons, has outscored the Totems by a margin of 89 to 78. And even last season, when the Totems missed the Play-offs and Victoria won the Cup, the Maple Leaf advantage in goals was only 41-38.

Friday -- Portland at Vancouver

These two clubs loved home ice last season. Bert Olmstead's Canucks lost only once last year to the Buckaroos in their Forum, compiling a 4-1-1 record. But Portland, on home ice, didn't lose at all to Vancouver, winning six straight. Over six seasons, Portland holds 35-21-8 record against the Canucks, but in games in Vancouver, the Canucks have a winning record of 14-13-5 against Portland. Top scorers in last season's series were Billy McNeill (14 points) for Vancouver and Cliff Schmutz (18 points) for Portland.

Saturday -- California at Seattle

The Totems have won 29, lost 23 and tied 2 against the Seals since they returned to the WHL in the fall of 1961. On home ice, the Totem margin is a whopping 19-6-1. Overall, the Seattle club has outscored the Seals 213 to 186. The two teams battled until the final night last season for a playoff berth. San Francisco won the berth, yet Seattle held a 6-4-2 edge over the Seals in regular-season play.

Saturday - San Diego at Victoria

It's a new series, unless you go back to the San Diego club's last campaign in '49-'50. But there won't be any need for introduction of individual players. Such players as Fred Hilts and Larry McNabb and Len Haley of San Diego are well known in Victoria. Hilts is off to a fast start this year with three goals in his first two games.

Saturday -- Vancouver at Portland

This is the second game between the same clubs in two nights. And the Canucks will remember that they have won only one game in Portland in the past two regular seasons.

Sunday -- California at Los Angeles

The Blades will open their home season against their arch-rival, the Seals. It's been a tough, hard-fought series in the last five seasons, with San Francisco winning 39, losing 35 and tying 4. On Los Angeles ice, however, the Blades have a winning margin of almost two-to-one over San Francisco (24-13-2). The Seals hold the edge in goals scored, 292-213. San Francisco won 8 and lost 4 against Los Angeles during the last campaign.

Sunday -- San Diego at Portland

Don't get your dressing rooms mixed up in this one. Fred Hilts, Gordon Sinclair, Len Ronson and Eddie Panagabko all are wearing San Diego uniforms now. All formerly wore Buckaroo uniforms. Even San Diego Coach Max McNab was Buckaroo property as a player when Portland first returned to the WHL in the fall of 1960. It'll make no difference. A pair of pre-league exhibitions proved there is no love lost between these two clubs.

OPENING WEEK

The first week of the Western Hockey League season produced no major surprises. Victoria (1-0), Vancouver (1-0) and Portland(1-0-1) finished the week unbeaten. These were the three clubs which ranked first (Portland), second (Victoria) and third (Vancouver) during the last regular campaign.

Victoria, in a single appearance, stopped California, 2-0, behind the goal-tending of rookie Al Smith, with veteran Gordon Redahl scoring both Maple Leaf goals, the last into an empty net.

Vancouver, with a two-goal performance by Billy McNeill and a four-assist night by Phil Maloney, defeated San Diego, 5-3.

Portland whipped Los Angeles, 5-1, in the first meeting of Buck goalie Don Head and ex-Buck goalie Dave Kelly, then was forced by a hard-skating California Club to a 3-3 tie in the season's first overtime after the Bucks had led, 3-0, early in the final period.

Seattle broke even, stopping San Diego, 4-2, after losing, 5-2, to Los Angeles.

And these opening-week games left San Diego winless at 0-2, California winless but with a tie at 0-1-1 and Los Angeles even at 1-1.

SCORING LEADERS

Veteran Portland center Art Jones added four assists to a goal in two games to lead the Western Hockey League in scoring after the first week's action with five points.

Jones earned three assists in Portland's 5-1 victory over Los Angeles, scored one goal and one assist in the tie with San Francisco.

Arnie Schmautz of Portland and ex-Buckaroo Fred Hilts of San Diego both scored three goals in two games to top the WHL snipers during the opening week.

And Jones shared playmaking honors with Phil Maloney of Vancouver, each earning four assists, with Maloney getting all of his in one contest.

PENALTIES

Los Angeles defenseman Jack Hendrickson started the season mildly --- just one minor, the first penalty of the game, in his season opener against Seattle.

But he was whistled for 15 minutes -- a misconduct and a major --- against Portland in his next game.

And with 17 minutes off the ice, he's well out in front in the Western League penalty parade.

GOALKEEPERS

Opening-week honors must go to Victoria rookie Al Smith, a graduate of the Junior A Toronto Marlboros.

Smith, in his first game for the Maple Leafs, blanked California, 2-0, and made a pretty fair home-ice total of 33 saves in the process.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

No one broke any records in the first week of WHL action, but there are some strong candidates for player-of-the-week honors.

Rookie goalie Al Smith of Victoria posted a shutout in his one appearance and you can't improve on that. Art Jones of Portland assisted on three of his club's five goals in a victory over Los Angeles, then scored once and assisted once in a 3-3 tie with California. Arnie Schmautz scored three goals in two games for the Bucks. So did Fred Hilts of San Diego. And Vancouver's Phil Maloney assisted on four of his team's five goals in a victory over San Diego.

The nod goes this week to ART JONES.

THIS WEEKS GAMES

Eleven games are scheduled for this week. League leading Portland will play four times as will the Los Angeles Blades. California, Vancouver and Seattle will see action three times, San Diego and Victoria twice. Tuesday night the Blades will play in Vancouver for the first time in this young season. Wednesday they will visit Portland where they dropped the opening game of the season to the Bucks 5-1. Seattle will be in Victoria that night for their second encounter of the season. They played a 3-3 tie in Seattle two weeks ago.

Thursday the San Diego Gulls will play their first game in Los Angeles. Friday, Portland will be in Seattle for their first meeting of the season and California will play their second game in Vancouver. They were victorious 3-2 on their last visit. Saturday three games are on tap; San Diego again at Los Angeles, Vancouver makes their second trip to Portland and California their second to Victoria, where they lost a 2-0 battle to the Leafs. Sunday the game of the week will be played in Portland with the Lester Patrick Cup winners, Victoria, returning to the scene of the triumph last spring. California will be in Seattle the same night.

STANDINGS

The Portland Buckaroos hold a commanding lead in the league race with 13 points in eight games and are riding a five game winning streak. Victoria and California are tied for second place with eight points. The Leafs have played two less games than the Seals. Los Angeles hold fourth place with six points followed by Vancouver and Seattle with four points each. San Diego, having played all games on the road, follow with three points. They have five more games on the road before opening their new Coliseum on November 17th.

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Art Jones, clever Portland center, took a commanding lead in the individual scoring race the past week and now has 13 points on 3 goals and ten assists. His ten assists are tops in that department. Teammate Boom Boom Caron leads in goals scored with six, followed by Hilts of San Diego with five.

GOALKEEPERS

Jack Norris with two games played leads the goalkeepers with 1.50 goals against average followed by Al Smith of Victoria with 2.00 and Jack McCartan of California with 2.20. Three shutouts were turned in last week; Norris blanked Seattle 4-0, Don Simmons, San Diego 1-0 in overtime and Don Head also whitewashed San Diego 4-0.

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WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE - UPCOMING ACTION

The Portland Buckaroos are off to their best start in five years and held down first place

The Victoria Maple Leafs, still unbeaten, are off to their best start in a decade and trail Portland by only two points with two games to make up on the Buckaroos...

The California (San Francisco-Oakland) Seals continue to play amazing hockey on the road where they have posted a winning record to move into third place

And that's the picture as the Western Hockey League's third week of play gets under way.

The defending regular-season champion Bucks are 4-1-1, their best Western League start since the fall of '61 when they won five of their first six.

Victoria, meanwhile, is 3-0-1 behind the sizzling goaltending of rookie Al Smith. And no Victoria club has blazed off to such a good start since the old Cougars opened the '55-'56 season with four victories in a row.

Both the Buckaroos and the Maple Leafs are unbeaten this year on home ice. And that's where both will stay this week ---two home games each and no road tests.

California, meanwhile, has played five straight on the road, compiling a 2-1-2 record that could make the Seals a championship contender. And there'll be two more road tests for California this week.

The busiest team in the circuit this week will be the San Diego Gulls, still looking for their first victory. They'll get four chances this week as they play in exactly half of the eight games scheduled.

This week's schedule opens with San Diego at Victoria on Wednesday night, October 26th, and continues with the California Seals in Los Angeles on Thursday night, October 27th.

Two games Friday night, October 28th, will send Los Angeles to Seattle, where the Blades spoiled the Totems' home opener with a 5-2 victory, and San Diego to Vancouver. The Canucks' only victory was over the Gulls in an earlier test.

A full slate Saturday night, October 29th, sends California to Portland, San Diego to Seattle and Los Angeles to Victoria.

The week's schedule ends with a lone Sunday contest, the San Diego club moving into Portland for an afternoon game on the 30th.

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LAST WEEK'S GAMES --

Victoria and California were both undefeated in last week's action.

The Maple Leafs handed Portland the Buckaroos' worst loss ever to a Victoria club, 5-0, then tied Seattle, 3-3, in the Leafs' only road test of the young campaign. Victoria then returned to home ice and blistered San Diego with a 53-shot attack that resulted in a 3-1 victory.

California, behind the fine goaltending of Jack McCartan, also won a pair while battling a one tie. The Seals tipped Vancouver, 3-2, on George Swarbrick's overtime goal, tied Seattle (1-1) and then spoiled the home opener of the Los Angeles Blades with a 3-1 victory in this first meeting of the two bitter rivals.

Portland, meanwhile, recovered from the 5-0 thrashing in Victoria to win three straight. The Buckaroos nudged Vancouver in Vancouver, 3-2, behind a pair of goals by Art Jones, who scored one while his team was two men short. The Bucks returned home to outlast the Canucks, 7-5, in a rematch and then closed out this week with a 5-4 victory in their first meeting this season with San Diego.

Seattle failed to win during the week but didn't lose, either. The Totems tied Victoria, 3-3, and tied California, 1-1, in home-ice action.

SCORING LEADERS ----

Art Jones, off to his best start since the fall of 1961, was blanked by both Victoria and San Diego but picked up five points, two goals and three assists, in two games against Vancouver to hold the Western League scoring lead for the second straight week. Jones finished the week with 10 points for the season to 8 for runnerup Phil Maloney of Vancouver.

Maloney, however, is all alone in the playmaking department. All eight of his points have been earned on assists. Jones ranks second with seven.

Tied for the goal-scoring lead are Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava and Portland's Len Lunde with four each.

And what a contrast in seasons for the veteran Vejprava! This year he has scored four goals in four games. One year ago, starting with Los Angeles before he moved north to join the Canucks, he scored four goals in his first 32 games.

HAT TRICKS ----

Howie Hughes of Seattle scored the first hat trick of the Western League season and did it with a flair, too. He scored all three of the Totems' goals in a 3-3 tie with Victoria.

It was the third hat trick for Hughes in his Western League career. He sniped the first two last season with Vancouver.

PENALTIES -----

If you don't believe it, you couldn't be blamed.

Tied for the lead in penalty minutes in the Western League are Bill Saunders, Portland winger, and Bob Blackburn, Vancouver defenseman.

It's nothing new for Blackburn, who has reached three figures many times in his professional career.

But Saunders was the least-penalized player in the league during the '63-'64 campaign when he drew only 2 minutes while playing the entire 70-game schedule for Portland.

Blackburn has drawn 11 minors for his 22 minutes. Saunders has been whistled for six minors and one misconduct. Sixteen of the minutes were called in one game against Saunders as he set a new career record for a single contest.

GOALKEEPERS-----

It seems, in a sense, like one of those "instant replays."

In the fall of 1962, a rookie named Gilles Villemure stepped into the nets for Vancouver, opened the season with two straight shutouts, posted a total of 134 minutes and 15 seconds of shutout hockey before he yielded the first goal of his professional career.

This year a rookie named Al Smith took over the Victoria nets. He, too, opened with two straight shutouts and his season-opening scoreless string extended to 128 minutes and 7 seconds before he was beaten by Howie Hughes of Seattle.

Villemure yielded just four goals in his first four games. And that's Smith's record, too ---- four goals (three by Howie Hughes) in four games for a sizzling and league-leading 1.00 goals-against mark.

Smith, the leader, has been sensational. But you can't overlook California's Jack McCartan, either. He's off to his best WHL start, giving up just eight goals in five road tests for a 1.60 goals-against average that would lead the league during most seasons.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK -----

Player of the week honors, even though his record actually extends over a two-week period, go to rookie goalie Al Smith of the Victoria Maple Leafs.

He posted his second straight shutout last week, yielded just four goals in the three games he played and starts this week as the WHL's leading goalie with a 1.00 goals-against mark.

And a strong honorable mention goes to California goalie Jack McCartan for his 1.60 goals-against mark compiled entirely on the road. McCartan also yielded only four goals in three games last week.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

Dedication of the new 13,900-seat Oakland Coliseum, home of the California Seals, will highlight an 11-game schedule this week in the Western Hockey League.

The Seals, who represent both San Francisco and Oakland this season, will play for the first time in their gleaming new surroundings against the San Diego Gulls on Wednesday night, November 9th.

And what a "homecoming" it should be!

The Seals, after opening the season with a rugged schedule of 10 straight road tests, are coming home winners -- four victories, three defeats and three ties -- and tied for second in the Western League.

It was a remarkable swing for the California entry and one that stamps the Seals as definite championship contenders.

There is considerable irony in the California opener, too, in that wearing the uniforms of the visiting Gulls will be some all-time Seal favorites, including Larry McNabb, Len Haley, Al Nicholson, Eddie Panagabko and Jim Wilcox.

Other highlights of the week will include the first swing south this season by a northern team -- with Victoria scheduled for four games in California -- and a "celebration" on Saturday night in Portland.

The celebration will be held not by the Buckaroos but by the visiting San Diego club which will be playing the last of 13 straight road games, one of the toughest opening tests in the history of the WHL.

Play opens this week with the first meeting of the year of the WHL's two oldest rivals, Vancouver and Seattle. The Totems will be in Vancouver Tuesday night, November 8th. Seattle held a 6-5-1 edge last season, and overall it's been just as tight a series, Vancouver winning 105, losing 94 and tying 28 against the Totems.

On Wednesday night, November 9th, San Diego and California will clash in Oakland and Victoria will seek revenge in Los Angeles against the Blades, who handed the Leafs their first loss of the season on the only meeting of the two teams.

On Friday night, November 11th, Victoria again will be in Los Angeles, Seattle will host San Diego in a series deadlocked at one victory each and Portland will be in Vancouver shooting for a fourth straight triumph of the year over the Canucks.

On Saturday night, November 12th, the California Seals will host Victoria, San Diego will wind up its road trip in Portland with an 0-2 record against the Bucks going in and Los Angeles will be in Seattle looking for a third straight victory over the Totems.

The week's schedule winds up Sunday, November 13th, with Victoria on the California Seals' ice for a second straight night and Seattle visiting Portland for the first time for an afternoon clash.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

The fourth week of the Western Hockey League season was a tense one and wasn't pleasant for home town fans.

Five of the 11 games were fought into sudden death overtime.

And home teams, which normally win at a 2-1 ratio or better, could manage only three victories while losing four and tying four.

The Portland Buckaroos, shooting for an unprecedented third straight regular-season championship, increased their league lead to six points by playing .500 hockey.

The Bucks suffered their only home loss to Los Angeles, 7-6, then tied Seattle (2-2) on the Totems' home ice, returned to Portland to tip Vancouver (3-2) and tie Victoria (1-1).

California's Seals dropped their first test of the week in Vancouver, 5-1, then rallied to tie Victoria (3-3) and tip Seattle in overtime (2-1) to wind up their road swing on a winning note.

But for the Los Angeles Blades, tied for second with California, it was a really strange week. The Blades battled to a 4-4 tie in Vancouver and topped the Buckaroos in Portland to wind up a four-game road trip undefeated, three victories and a tie.

Then they returned to home ice and were bombed, 9-1, by San Diego. It was the third straight home loss for Los Angeles and the most decisive in the club's history. (The old record was a 10-3 loss to Portland in LA).

The Blades bounced back, however, to trip the Gulls, 6-1, for their first home victory.

SCORING LEADERS

For the fourth consecutive week, Art Jones, steady center and captain of the Portland Buckaroos, is the scoring leader of the Western Hockey League.

With 18 points on 5 goals and 13 assists, Jones holds a four-point margin over Phil Maloney of Vancouver. And steadiness has been the story of Jones. He has scored in 10 of Portland's 12 games and starts action this week with a six-game point scoring streak that ties him with three other players for the hottest streak of the season.

Jones scored five points, three goals and two assists, in four games last week.

Top snipers in the circuit are Los Angeles' Dick Meissner and San Diego's Fred Hilts, each with seven goals. Meissner hit his total with the league's third hat trick of the season against San Diego. Hilts hit the seven-mark with a goal in each of his club's games against the Blades.

Among playmakers, Jones ranks first with 13 assists, while Vancouver's Maloney is second with 11.

GOALKEEPERS

Western Hockey League fans are watching some remarkable goalkeeping this season, and the goals-against averages show it.

Rick Charron, who turned pro in the playoffs last spring, took over for veteran Don Head in the Portland nets over the weekend and allowed just three goals in two games for a 1.50 average that leads the circuit.

Among those netminders seeing more action, rookie Al Smith of Victoria continues to lead the way. He gave up just seven goals in three games last week and his goals-against mark now is a sparkling 2.11.

Also hot are Jack McCartan of California with a 2.50 average for 10 games and Jim Armstrong of Seattle, 2.60 for five clashes.

PENALTIES

Gary Kilpatrick, rangy Los Angeles defenseman playing his fourth pro season but first in the WHL, was steady last week.

He drew one minor in each of his club's four games to hold his WHL lead in penalty minutes with 34.

Kilpatrick, however, is being challenged by San Diego's big Jim Watson, who has been whistled for 30 minutes, all on minors, and who will take the ice this week with a seven-game penalty streak, longest in the league.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

It was extremely close, but winger Fred Stanfield of Los Angeles, who joined the Blades after playing last season with Buffalo in the American League, captures this week's Western League Player of the Week honors.

Stanfield scored four goals in the four games played by the Blades and added two assists for a total of six points.

He won over a number of players who collected five points in last week's action.

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PLAYER CHANGES

Add to Seattle - - - - -	Noel Picard	#4	Defense
	Dave Parenteau	#20	Center
Remove from California - - - - -	Jerry Brisson		
and add - - - - -	Doug Senior	#21	Center
Remove from Vancouver - - - - -	-Billy McNeill and		
	Bob Kabel		

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Release #15

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

The San Diego Gulls will find a home this week.

And for the Gulls, who have played 13 straight road clashes to open the season, a look at home ice certainly will be the highlight of the week's 10-game Western Hockey League schedule.

The Gulls will dedicate their new \$6.5 million International Sports Arena on Thursday night, November 17th, against the Seattle Totems.

It will be the first Western Hockey League game in San Diego since the spring of 1950, just before the start of the Korean war, when the old Skyhawks were in operation.

San Diego is not coming home a winner after the rugged season-opening swing. The Gulls managed only two victories and a tie in 13 games on the road.

But there are signs of encouragement.

The Gulls lost three games by a single goal, two of them in overtime. Three other defeats were by only two goals.

Reverse a few of those decisions -- something that could happen on home ice --- and the Gulls would be in strong contention for the playoffs.

And perhaps the most encouraging feature of San Diego's record is that in the Gulls' first 10 games they actually outscored opponents, 14-8, in final periods. It's a team that won't quit. And it's a spirited team, leading the league in major penalties and third in total penalty minutes.

Meanwhile, the league-leading (by six points) Portland Buckaroos will wind up their long season-opening home schedule with games against Los Angeles and Vancouver. The Bucks have been whipped only once in 11 games at home in building their early-season lead.

The Seattle Totems will be the second northern club to swing south, playing twice in San Diego and once in Los Angeles. And they'll hope to match the success of the first northern invader, Victoria. The Leafs won three of four on their California swing last week.

Busiest club in the league will be the Los Angeles Blades, who'll play in half of the 10 Western Hockey League games.

The Blades will play three of the five of the road and may be happy about it. Their record this season defies all traditions of hockey. They are 4-2-1 -- a winner-- in games away from home. But they have won only one while losing five on home ice.

This week's schedule opens Tuesday night, November 15th, with Los Angeles in Vancouver where the Blades and Canucks tied in their only previous meeting.

On Wednesday night, November 16th, Los Angeles will be in Portland where the Blades are 1-1 for the season and Vancouver will be in Victoria for the first meeting of the campaign of these long-time rivals. Vancouver failed to win a game in Victoria all last season, has won only twice there in 14 games in the past two years.

Continued-----

WHL - UPCOMING ACTION-continued

Seattle will help dedicate San Diego's new rink on Thursday night, November 17th, and the Totems hold a 2-1 edge in the season series.

On Friday night, November 18th, Seattle will move to Los Angeles, trailing (1-2) in the season series, and Victoria will cross the water to Vancouver.

A full Saturday night (November 19th) schedule sends Vancouver to Portland (the Bucks have won three and tied one in this season's series), Seattle back to San Diego and Los Angeles to Oakland to face the California Seals, who hold a 2-0 edge over the Blades this year.

A single game Sunday night, November 20th, will find the California Seals in Los Angeles.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

Only the Victoria Maple Leafs ripped up the form sheet last week in Western Hockey League action.

The Leafs, defending Lester Patrick Cup champions, won three of four games in California to return home with a 3-1-2 road record -- a mighty rough one -- for the campaign.

Otherwise, no home team lost in 11 games, although the Vancouver Canucks were tied in their Forum, 2-2, by Portland.

The Buckaroos, after their tie in Vancouver, nipped San Diego, 4-2, and then won by their biggest margin of the season (8-2) over Seattle on home ice. It was the Totems' 12th straight defeat in Portland.

The Bucks finished the week with a six-game undefeated string --- longest in the league this season.

The California Seals, meanwhile, found their new Coliseum in Oakland pleasant for two games --- a 6-5, come-from-behind victory over San Diego in the inaugural and a 2-1 win over Victoria --- before they were dumped Sunday night by the Maple Leafs, 7-2.

But you've got to hand it to the astounding Seals. They are 4-3-3 on the road. They are 2-1-0 at home. Yet they have been outscored, 39-33. They've scored the first goal only five times in 13 games. Their power play record is the worst in the league. They are the league's lowest-scoring team.

Yet, with 10 road games out of the way, they are in strong contention for first place.

Continued-----

SCORING LEADERS

For once, Art Jones, center and captain of the Portland Buckaroos, wasn't steady. He was blanked last week in his club's first game against Vancouver. He was blanked in his team's second game against San Diego.

But Sunday night he exploded for two goals and two assists against Seattle -- his hottest single night of the campaign.

And for the fifth straight week, he's the scoring leader of the Western League --- 22 points on 7 goals and 15 assists.

His closest competitor is teammate Alain (Boom Boom) Caron, 18 points, including eight goals.

Jones is alone in leading playmakers with 15 assists.

But there's a five-way deadlock for the goal-scoring lead among Caron, Len Lunde of Portland, Fred Hilts of San Diego, Larry Lund of Seattle and Dick Meisner of Los Angeles. Each has eight goals.

GOALKEEPERS

The kids are having a ball in the nets!

Young Rick/^{Charron} of Portland, who had played only one regular-season pro game until this year, held San Diego to two goals in his one appearance last week and kept the lead among WHL goalies with a goals-against mark of 1.67 for three games.

Rookie Gary Smith of Victoria, meanwhile, has played 13 games and his goals against mark is 2.23 for second place.

But watch out for veteran Den Simmons of Vancouver. He's a good 2.80 for the season but for the last six games he's a sizzling 2.00.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Player of the week honors go to Seattle center Larry Lund.

The hard-digging youngster scored five goals in four games and set up two others for a total of seven points.

He's tied for the league lead in goals with eight. He has the longest point-scoring streak of the season --- eight straight games --- and it's still alive. And he even drew 11 minutes in penalties in four games last week to demonstrate spirit.

PENALTIES

Gary Kilpatrick of Los Angeles was an angel last week --- not a single penalty.

But for the season he still leads the league with 41 minutes off the ice on 13 minors, 1 major and 1 misconduct.

UPCOMING ACTION

The first-place Portland Buckaroos will take an eight-game undefeated streak--- --longest in the Western Hockey League this season --- to California this week to highlight a 10-game schedule.

And in the race for the championship, it could be the most crucial week of the young campaign as the Buckaroos play their first four clashes of what will be a six-game swing through the south.

The Bucks, driving for an unprecedented third straight regular-season title, are the hottest club in the circuit right now with five victories and three ties in their last eight games.

They are off to their best start in their seven seasons back in the Western circuit, 26 points in the standing in 17 games. They are the highest-scoring (73 goals) team in the league and the highest-scoring club, at this stage of a campaign, in Portland history.

In their eight-game unbeaten string, the Bucks have proved explosive in final periods, outscoring opponents by an overwhelming 21-5 margin.

An Portland's normally-strong defense has toughened, goalies Don Head and Rick Charron allowing only 13 goals in the last eight games for a 1.63 average.

But home ice, where Portland has lost only once, has helped the Buckaroos to this early-season record. This week will mark the first extensive road test.

(Besides, Victoria was 13-2-2 for 28 points in the standings at this stage of the last campaign and still finished second -- so it's early yet.)

Portland's southern trip will begin Wednesday night, November 23rd, in the new Oakland Coliseum of the California Seals, with the Bucks holding a victory and a tie in two earlier meetings up north. The Buckaroos may want to play in the old Cow Palace, instead. Portland was the only club with a five-season winning record on San Francisco ice.

On Thursday night, November 23rd, the Bucks will move to Los Angeles with a two-one season edge over the Blades. But Los Angeles handed Portland its last defeat (7-6) back on November 2nd.

On Saturday night, November 26th, Portland players will get their first look at the new San Diego rink. They can expect an angry reception. The Buckaroos will be shooting for their fourth straight victory over the new Gulls.

And on Sunday night, November 27th, Portland will be back in Los Angeles.

In other action this week, Seattle will open the schedule on Tuesday night, November 22nd, in Vancouver, where the Totems lost, 5-2, in one earlier appearance.

On Wednesday night, Los Angeles will be in San Diego and Victoria in Seattle. Anything could happen in the Blades-Gulls clash. San Diego handed LA its worst home defeat (9-1) in history in the season's first meeting. But the Blades topped the Gulls, 6-1, in the second clash.

Victoria, meanwhile, is winless in two meetings with Seattle -- one defeat, one tie.

On Friday night, November 25th, Victoria will be in Vancouver with an 0-2 season mark against the Canucks.

On Saturday night, Los Angeles will be in Oakland to face the California Seals and Vancouver will be in Victoria in the second of a back-to-back set.

And on Sunday night Vancouver will play its first game of the year in Seattle. The Canucks had a winning (3-2-1) record there in the last campaign.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

Explosions --- of people and goals --- punctuated action last week in the Western Hockey League.

The biggest explosion resounded in San Diego, a turnout of 22,020 fans to welcome Gulls home for the first time since the spring of 1950.

(Opening night drew 11,692 fans --- best turnout in the league --- and the Gulls responded by tripping Seattle, 4-1, with Fred Hilts' hat trick leading the way.

The second game, before a crowd of 10,328 on Saturday night, couldn't have been more dramatic. The Gulls won over Seattle, 4-3, in overtime.)

It was long-time Seattle favorite, defenseman Gordon Sinclair, who scored the game winner.

And it was the 500th point of Sinclair's Western Hockey League career.

The other explosions came on the ice -- in Portland and in Vancouver.

The Buckaroos wiped out Los Angeles, 8-1, and repeated by the same score against Vancouver to end the Canucks' five-game undefeated string. And for Portland, that's three straight eight-goal outbursts.

In Vancouver, the Canucks handed the Victoria Maple Leafs their worst defeat, 9-1, since Leafs returned to the Western Hockey League in the fall of 1964. Bryan Hextall led the way with six points, most scored by any player in one game this season, and Ray Brunel scored the hat trick for the winners.

PENALTIES

A pair of San Diego challengers are closing in --- Jim Watson with 44 minutes and Larry McNabb with 40.

But Los Angeles defenseman Gary Kilpatrick still leads all Western League players in penalty minutes with 47. Kilpatrick picked up six minutes on three minors, all whistled in one game against Portland last week, to hold the top spot.

Continued-----

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SCORING LEADERS

Art Jones of Portland, off to the league's hottest start since Seattle's Guyle Fielder scored 30 points in 16 games to open the 1963-64 campaign, is the Western Hockey League's scoring leader for the sixth straight week.

Jones, in 17 games, has scored 12 goals and 18 assists for 30 points, eight more than runnerup Gordon Vejprava of Vancouver. He collected eight points (5 goals, 3 assists) in two games last week and has set an all-time Portland record of scoring 12 points in his last three games, collecting seven goals and five assists.

Jones also leads the league in game-winning goals (four) and is tied for first in game-winning assists (three). And he's tied for the league goal-scoring lead at 12 with Dick Meissner, winger of the Los Angeles Blades.

This is the best scoring start, incidentally, of Jones' 10-season professional career.

GOALKEEPERS

It took some time this season, but Portland Buckaroo goaltenders are back in first place in the race for the Western League's net-minding honors.

Rookie Rick Charron played once last week, held Los Angeles to a single goal and now tops all goalkeepers with a 1.50 average for four games played.

And veteran Don Head of the Buckaroos, who started the season tied for the lowest career goals-against mark in Western League history, also played one game, held Vancouver to a single goal and moved into second place with a 2.69 mark for 13 games played.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Art Jones (eight points in the two games he played) and Bryan Hextall (six points in a single game) were strong contenders.

But player of the week honors go to quiet Vancouver forward Gordon Vejprava. Vejprava scored points in all of the Canucks' four games, nine in all on three goals and six assists, to climb into second in the Western League scoring race.

Vejprava now has 22 points, a total he failed to reach in his first 42 games last season, and he leads the league in first goals of games with four and is tied for first in power play goals with five.

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UPCOMING ACTION

The hottest club in the Western Hockey League will stay on the road this week, and the second-hottest club will hit it.

The hottest club, of course, is the Portland Buckaroos, leading the circuit by nine points and losers only once in the team's last 12 games.

The Bucks, off to a 2-1-1 start in California last week, will complete their southern swing with two more clashes, then will head north for games in Victoria and Seattle

The Vancouver Canucks, meanwhile, will play once at home, then will head south for the first three clashes of a six-game swing through California.

It could be a crucial trip for the Canucks, who have won six of their last eight, to move into second place. Vancouver hasn't lost in nine straight home games -- seven victories, two ties. If the Canucks could prove tough on the road, they'll definitely rate as championship contenders.

This week's 13-game schedule, the league's heaviest of the season, opens Tuesday night, November 29, with Portland in San Diego and Seattle in Vancouver.

The Bucks will shoot for their fifth straight over the Gulls, Gerry Goyer's eight points pacing Portland to victories in the first four games played. Seattle broke the ice against Vancouver with a 5-1 victory Sunday night but lost both earlier games in Vancouver.

On Wednesday night, November 30, San Diego will be in Los Angeles, Portland will be in Oakland to face the California Seals and Seattle will be in Victoria.

The San Diego-Los Angeles game will be the first of three straight between the Gulls and Blades, the teams also meeting Thursday night, December 1, in San Diego and Saturday night, December 3, back in LA. San Diego holds a 2-1 edge in the series.

Portland is still undefeated (2-0-1) against California, although outshot in the last two game, and Seattle, paced by Howie Hughes' seven points, is unbeaten (also 2-0-1) against the Maple Leafs.

After Thursday's LA-San Diego clash, the schedule on Friday night, December 3, sends Victoria to Seattle for a second meeting of the week and Vancouver to Oakland. The Canucks and Seals split in two earlier meetings.

On Saturday night, December 3, besides the third straight San Diego-Los Angeles meeting, Vancouver will play a second straight in Oakland and Portland will be in Victoria.

The Buckaroos are 0-1-1 against the Leafs, only team Portland hasn't defeated. In fact, rookie Leaf goalie Al Smith held Portland to a single goal in the first two games combined.

The schedule winds up Sunday night, December 4, with Vancouver in San Diego and Seattle hosting Portland.

Continued-----

The Canucks are 2-0 against San Diego, firing a total of 79 shots on goal in the two victories, but both games were up north. Portland, meanwhile, is 1-0-1 against Seattle in two games that were tight except for one final-period explosion of five goals by the Buckaroos.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

The people explosion in San Diego continues to highlight the young Western Hockey League season.

The Gulls delighted 11,921 Thanksgiving Eve fans last week by staying unbeaten in three home games, tipping Los Angeles, 2-1. Then the Portland Buckaroos spoiled it (6-1) for a new record throng of 12,702 on Saturday night.

Unofficially, for four home games, San Diego's attendance is a staggering 46,643, an average of 11,661 a game. And a new all-time league attendance mark could be in the making in the WHL.

Other highlights last week included hat tricks by Ray Brunel of Vancouver against Seattle, his second in two consecutive home games, and by Ron Boehm of the Canucks against Victoria the Canucks' sudden turn on the Maple Leafs they are 4-0 against them this season, a record exactly reversed at this point in the last campaign Portland winning on the road in San Diego and in Oakland but continuing to have troubles against Los Angeles, losing one and tying one against the Blades . . . and the Bucks have lost only twice in 17 games, both times to Los Angeles. . . .

And then there are the hot individuals!

Vancouver's hard-checking Larry Popein starts the new week with an eight-game point-scoring streak. . . . so does Norm Johnson, veteran Los Angeles center, also with a seven-game assist streak so does Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava and all tie the best marks in the league this season . . . and Art Jones and Cliff Schmautz, Portland linemates, both have seven-game point-scoring streaks alive. . . .

Continuing with torrid individuals . . . Vejprava of Vancouver has scored 16 points in his last eight games . . . Gerry Goyer of Portland has collected 14 in his last nine games Bryan Hextall of Vancouver, until blanked Sunday night, had scored 16 points in six games . . . and Bill Saunders of Portland, until blanked Sunday, had collected 15 points in seven games.

SCORING LEADERS

Hottest individual of them all is Art Jones, center and captain of the Portland Buckaroos.

The Western League's scoring leader since the first week of the season, Jones now leads in points (37), in goals (16) and in assists (21) --- the best scoring start of his career.

Continued-----

In his last seven games, Jones has collected 19 points --- an average of almost three a game --- on 11 goals and 8 assists.

In four road games last week, he picked up seven points on four goals and three assists. He failed to score against Los Angeles Sunday night to end a six-game goal-scoring streak, longest in the league this year.

Trailing Jones are Gordon Vejprava of Vancouver in points with 29, Vejprava and Dick Van Impe of Portland in assists with 17 and Dick Meissner of Los Angeles in goals with fifteen.

GOALKEEPERS

Young Rick Charron of Portland played only one game last week, was punctured for six goals by Los Angeles and still held his Western League lead among goalies with an average for five games of 2.40.

Closing in, however, is his veteran teammate, Don Head, with a 2.50 mark for 16 games. Head yielded just three goals in five road tests last week. And for the season, strangely, Head is 2.29 for seven road games and 2.67 for nine home clashes.

PENALTIES

Rugged Jim Watson of San Diego, with five minors in two games last week, passed Gary Kilpatrick of Los Angeles to take the Western League lead in penalties with 54 minutes off the ice in 17 games. Kilpatrick is second with 51 minutes.

Watson has made his point the "hard way," too, 27 minors accounting for all of his penalty time. He's been whistled at least once in 15 of San Diego's 17 games and now has a five-game "streak" going after an earlier eight-game string that still ranks as the longest in the league this year.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

A number of Western Leaguers scored seven points in action last week, but Player of the Week honors go to the Vancouver center who scored eight --- Bryan Hextall.

Son of a Vancouver (and later New York Rangers) great of the '30s, Hextall collected a goal and seven assists in his club's first three games before he was stopped Sunday night by Seattle.

And he earned game-winning assists in two of the Canucks' three victories.

Hextall, with 24 points in 18 games, almost has matched his record for the entire season (although he played only 41 games) last year when he scored 28.

And he already has matched his goal output (8) of last season.

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LINEUP CHANGE ---- FROM California TO Los Angeles---- Albert Langlois #6 - Defense

UPCOMING ACTION -----

The Portland Buckaroos, rampaging through the Western Hockey League at an all-time record pace, will return to home ice where they have lost only once in 13 games

The Seattle Totems, suddenly clicking with five victories in their last six games, will see action three times and will try to improve their road record in two tests away from home

Vancouver's Canucks will complete their six-game swing through California where they have won two of their first three to stay in championship contention. . . .

The California Seals will begin an eight-game road trip and may be happy about it because they've played better away from home than in their new coliseum in Oakland. . . .

And a couple of hot individuals, Gordon Vejprava of Vancouver and Norm Johnson of Los Angeles will put the season's longest point-scoring streaks on the line

These are highlights of this week's light (eight games) Western Hockey League schedule.

The week's slate opens Wednesday night with Seattle in Portland and Vancouver in San Diego. The Buckaroos have owned the Totems the past two seasons but this campaign's series is all square a 1-1-1, with the Totems outshooting (104-83) the Portland club in the first three meetings. Top series scorers are Art Jones (3-2-5) for Portland and Larry Lund (four goals) for Seattle. The Totems will take the ice with a three game winning streak.

Vancouver, meanwhile, will shoot for its fourth straight victory over San Diego, led by veteran goalie Don Simmons who has held the Gulls to just 1.67 goals a game.

On Thursday night, Vancouver will be in Los Angeles and California in Seattle. Gordon Vejprava, with three goals and three assists, has paced Vancouver to a 1-0-1 record against the Blades, with Vancouver firing 93 shots on goal in the first two meetings.

California holds a 1-0-1 edge over Seattle because of goalie Jack McCartan, who held the Totems to a single goal in each of the first two meetings. The Totems outshot the Seals in both earlier games, by a total margin of 63-47.

A single Friday night game sends Los Angeles to San Diego. The Gulls held a 4-2 edge in a wild series that has produced 50 goals in six games. Al Nicholson (3-7-10) and Len Ronson (6-3-9) have paced the Gulls against the Blades, while top Blade scorers in the series have been Norm Johnson and Dick Meissner, each with 7 points.

On Saturday night, Vancouver returns to Los Angeles and Seattle will be in Victoria.

The Totems are almost perfect (4-0-1) against the Leafs this season, but what a close series it has been. Seattle has won the last four straight and every game was decided by a single goal. Top series scorers are Larry Lund and Howie Hughes (8-points each) for Seattle and Lou Jankowski (5 points) for Victoria.

Continued-----

The week's schedule winds up Sunday night with California in Portland seeking a first victory of the season over the Buckaroos. Portland holds a 3-0-1 edge, with Len Lunde's six points pacing the attack.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

Scoring streaks of Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava and Los Angeles' Norm Johnson, the road play of Portland and the Canucks and the resurgence of Seattle highlighted last week's WHL action.

Vejprava scored points in all four of Vancouver's games to stretch his current string to 12 straight games, longest in the league. And Johnson picked up points in all three of his team's games to stretch his point-scoring string to 11 straight games. Johnson also has earned assists in 10 straight games -- longest string in the league this year.

The Buckaroos, meanwhile, won three of four on the road to complete one of the best trips in the club's history. For an eight-game trip, Portland posted a 5-2-1 record.

At their current pace, incidentally, the Bucks would finish with 106 points in the standing, 12 over the all-time league record, and would win 46 games, two more than the current league mark.

And at their current pace, the Bucks would score 302 goals to tie the all-time league mark and would limit opponents to 175 goals, one off the all-time WHL record of 174.

Vancouver, meanwhile, won three of four last week to stay tough in second place. Seattle also won three of four behind the tough goal-tending of rookie Jim Armstrong, who turned in three one-goal efforts in the four clashes.

SCORING LEADERS

It's still Portland center Art Jones out in front in points (42), goals (19) and assists (23).

Jones last week missed one game, was blanked by Seattle in another but scored five points in the other two clashes, including his second hat trick of the season in a 4-2 victory over San Diego.

Jones also leads the league in game-winning goals with six and is tied for first in power-play goals with six and in game-winning assists with five.

At his current pace, Jones would finish the season with 55 goals (the league record is 57) and with 121 points (the league mark is 122).

The next point Jones scores, incidentally, will be the 800th of his Western Hockey League career.

GOALKEEPERS

Young Rick Charron took the nets for all four Portland games last week, yielded just nine goals and held his lead among Western League net-minders with a 2.33 goals-against mark.

Closing in, however, is Seattle rookie Jim Armstrong, who has a 2.44 average after holding four opponents to a total of just six goals last week.

Veteran Don Head, who did not see action last week, ranks third with a 2.50 average.

PENALTIES

Penalty leader of the WHL for the second straight week is San Diego defenseman Jim Watson with 66 minutes on 33 minors. He drew six minors in five games last week.

At his current rate, Watson would finish the season with 108 minor penalties and would break the all-time Western League record of 86 by 22.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Player of the Week honors in the Western League go this time around to quiet San Diego winger Len Ronson.

In five games with the Gulls, Ronson exploded for five goals (including a hat trick against Los Angeles) and earned five assists for a total of 10 points.

It was a remarkable surge for Ronson, who had picked up only 8 points in San Diego's first 17 games.

Ronson is well ahead of his pace of last season when, with the Portland Buckaroos, he scored his 11th goal (his current total) in his 32nd game and his 18th point (his current total) in his 31st game.

A strong honorable mention should go to Seattle goalie Jim Armstrong, whose goals-against mark for four games was a sizzling 1.50.

* * * * *

LINE UP CHANGE:

Add to the California Seals Keith Wright #18 Forward

* * * * *

SPECIAL NOTE: Ian "Scotty" Morrison, Supervisor of Officials for professional hockey made a swing through the Western Hockey League this past week.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

These "roadrunners" from the Bay Area, the California Seals, will shoot for second place in the Western Hockey League this week when they'll play in exactly half of the 10 games scheduled in the circuit.

The challenge for the Seals, unbeaten in their last three games, will be rugged -- five road games in six nights.

But the San Francisco-Oakland skaters of Rudy Pilous have thrived on road action this season, posting a 6-3-4 away-from-home record matched only by the first-place Portland Buckaroos.

Highlight of California's schedule will be two clashes in Vancouver with the second-place Canucks. The Canucks lead the Seals by six points but have played three more games. California could close the gap, or Vancouver could widen it.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night, December 13, with California in Victoria. The Seals, who have outshot opponents in 11 of their last 12 games, are 1-2-1 against the Maple Leafs this season chiefly because of the goaltending of rookie Al Smith, who has held California to just 1.75 goals a game.

On Wednesday night, December 14, the Seals will move into Vancouver for the first of the two crucials against the Canucks. The series is even at two victories each and again the Seals have faced stingy netminding --- a 2.25 average by Don Simmons of Vancouver. Top series scorer is the Canucks' Gordon Vejprava with six points.

Victoria will begin a four-game California swing on Thursday night, December 15, in Los Angeles. The Maple Leafs lead, 2-1-0, in the series.

On Friday night, December 16, the Seals and Canucks clash again in Vancouver, while Victoria will move to San Diego. The Maple Leafs have a victory and a tie in the series and bombarded the Gulls with a total of 104 shots -- an average of 52 a game --- in the first two meetings.

A full schedule on Saturday night, December 17, finds Victoria in San Diego again, California in Seattle and Vancouver in Portland.

The Seals are unbeaten (2-0-1) against the Totems, thanks chiefly to Jack McCartan's strong (1.33 average) goaltending in the series.

Vancouver, meanwhile, virtually must start beating Portland to contend for the WHL championship. The Buckaroos own a 4-0-1 record against the Canucks. Reverse that record and Vancouver would be leading the league by eight points. In five games, Art Jones has scored 11 points to pace a 23-goal attack on Don Simmons.

The Canucks have played 13 straight in Portland without a victory --- 12 defeats and a tie. Last Vancouver triumph in Portland was 5-4 on November 21, 1964.

Continued-----

The week's schedule winds up Sunday night, December 18, with California in Portland and Vancouver in Seattle.

Portland is 3-0-2 against the Seals, but both ties were on the Buckaroos' home ice.

Vancouver, meanwhile, is 3-1-0 against Seattle, despite Totem Jim Armstrong's 2.00 goals-against mark in the series.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

The biggest smiles last week were worn by the California Seals, the Victoria Maple Leafs and --- at least for one night --- by the Seattle Totems.

The Seals opened an eight-game road swing with a 3-2 triumph in Seattle and a 4-4 tie in Portland for three of a possible four points in the standings. And are those Seals ever tough in the close ones! They've played five games decided by a single goal and have won 'em all. And they're unbeaten (3-0-4) in seven overtimes.

The Maple Leafs snapped an eight-game losing streak, longest for the club since hockey returned to Victoria in the fall of '64, by stopping Seattle, 3-0, on Al Smith's third shutout of the season.

And the Totems? Well, they whipped Portland, 4-3 in overtime, to take a 2-1-1 lead in the season series against an opponent that stopped them 20 times in 26 games during the past two years.

It was Seattle's first victory in Portland since November 18, 1964, when the score also was 4-3. The long Totem drouth included 12 straight losses on Buckaroo ice.

Not so happy were a pair of veterans whose long scoring streaks were snapped.

Los Angeles center Norm Johnson had scored points in 13 straight games --- best record in the WHL this season --- until stopped by Vancouver goalie Don Simmons' third shutout Saturday night.

And a 12-game scoring string ended for Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava last Wednesday night in San Diego.

A pair of major milestones were reached Sunday night in Portland when center Art Jones of the Buckaroos scored his 800th Western League point and his teammate, center Gerry Goyer, collected the 500th of his WHL career.

SCORING LEADERS

Buckaroo center Art Jones still leads in points with 44, in goals with 20 and in assists with 24.

Jones collected one goal and one assist in two games played last week. Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava and Los Angeles' Norm Johnson are tied for second with the scoring race with 35 points each.

GOALKEEPERS

Veteran Don Head of Portland didn't see a minute of action last week and still moved into the lead among Western League goalies with a goals-against mark of 2.50 for 16 games played.

Rookie Jim Armstrong of Seattle yielded nine goals in three games but holds second with a 2.53 average. Last week's leader, rookie Rick Charron of Portland, was beaten eight times in two games and slipped to third with a 2.64 average.

PENALTIES

Jim Watson of San Diego was whistled for only one minor in two games last week but still is well out in front in penalty minutes for the season with 72 on 36 minors.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Even though he was blanked Saturday night, center Norm Johnson of Los Angeles scored six points on two goals and four assists in two previous games to win Player of the Week honors in the Western League.

Johnson, one of the WHL's all-time scoring leaders, started relatively slowly this season, 11 points in his first 14 games. Then he collected 24 points (8 goals, 16 assists) in his next 14 games and has moved into a tie for second in the scoring race.

MILESTONES -- SCORING STREAKS

A number of milestones are dead ahead in the Western Hockey League.

Los Angeles' Norm Johnson will hit the 700-point mark with his next goal or assist . . . the next game for Portland's Gerry Goyer will be the 500th of his WHL career . . . Phil Maloney of Vancouver now has 496 WHL assists, could hit the 500-mark with one big night . . . Andy Heberton of Victoria will play his 500th Western League game on Friday night, December 16, in San Diego. . . Tom Thurlby of California will play his 400th clash the same night in Vancouver . . . Al Nicholson of San Diego now has 493 Western League points. . . Sandy Hucul of Victoria has 989 minutes in penalties in his WHL career, could top the 1,000-mark in the near future.

Meanwhile, the hottest scorers in the league right now are a pair of San Diego Gulls, Al Nicholson and Len Ronson. . . Nicholson has scored points (a total of 11) in eight straight games . . . and Ronson has scored points (a total of 13) in seven straight games.

* * * * *

LINEUP CHANGES:

SAN DIEGO -- Add Ken Gustafson #18 forward
Remove Jim Eagle
VANCOUVER -- Add Barry Watson #10 forward

%%%%%%%%%

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

The Victoria Maple Leafs, suddenly hot again despite injuries to key players, could be the team to watch this week as the Western Hockey League schedule swings into the holiday season.

The defending Lester Patrick Cup champions have won four of their last five, including two of three on the road, behind the goal-tending of Al Smith.

In that five-game stretch, rookie netminder Smith regained his early-season form by holding opponents to an average of just 1.80 goals a game.

Victoria will play in four of the 12 Western League games scheduled this week --- including action next Monday, December 26, when three post-Christmas Day games are on tap.

Also scheduled for four games are Portland, still holding first despite dropping to .500 hockey in their last four home clashes; Seattle, which will start the week with a quick three-game trip through California, and the San Diego Gulls.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday, December 20, with Seattle in San Diego and Victoria in Los Angeles.

The Totems trail the Gulls, 2-3-0, in their season series despite holding an overall edge in goals (18-16) and in shots on goal (177-144). It's been a good series for Seattle's Guyle Fielder (8 points) and for Fred Hilts and Warren Hynes of San Diego each with 9.

The Maple Leafs, who have outshot opponents for nine straight games, are dead even with Los Angeles in both victories (2 each) and goals scored (16 each).

On Wednesday night, December 21, Victoria moves into Portland to continue a series now all square at 1-1-1. And goalie Smith of the Leafs has loved this one. He's a 1.33 for the first three tests against the Buckaroos, highest-scoring team in the League.

On Thursday, December 22, California will be in San Diego for the second meeting of the season between the Seals and Gulls (California won the first one, 6-5, despite four assists by San Diego's Gordon Sinclair), and Seattle will be in Los Angeles. The Blades lead this series, 3-1-0, paced by Tommy McVie's five points against one-time teammates. Yet Seattle, strangely, outshot LA in all four games.

Two games on Friday night, December 23, will find Seattle in Oakland to face the California Seals and Portland in Vancouver.

Seattle hasn't beaten the Seals (0-2-2) in four attempts, and this is the only club the Totems haven't whipped. Yet the goals are almost even, 11 for the Seals and 9 for Seattle. Guyle Fielder, with 7 points, has been the big gun in the series.

Vancouver, meanwhile, hasn't beaten Portland. And the Canucks have a winning record against every other opponent. Portland's 5-0-1 edge in the series is the difference between first and second place. And, again strangely, Portland leads in total goals, 27-15, but the Canucks lead in shots on goal 188-176.

Continued -----

It's been a sizzling series for WHL scoring leader Art Jones of Portland, who has collected 12 points in six games against Vancouver.

On Christmas Eve, a single contest will find Vancouver in Victoria. And the Canucks like the results so far in this series. They've whipped the Maple Leafs four times in four meetings, have outscored 'em, 23-9, and own a 132-105 margin in shots.

Vancouver's Bryan Hextall has scored a staggering 13 points in the four games against Victoria. Not so happy has been Leaf goalie Smith, with an overall goals-against mark of 2.85 but a record of 5.75 against Vancouver.

In the Christmas night traditional in Portland, the guests will be the San Diego Gulls. Portland is a perfect 5-0-0 against San Diego this season, Art Jones and Gerry Goyer leading the way with 8 points each.

In the windup games on Monday, December 26, San Diego will be in Seattle and Victoria will be in Vancouver for rematches of earlier clashes, and Portland will be in Los Angeles. The Bucks and Blades are all square (2-2-1) this year. Art Jones (10 points) and Bill Saunders (6 goals) have paced the Buckaroos. Norm Johnson (7 points) has led LA.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

Tight, tense clashes a continuation of "jinxes" and the finest single-game comeback of the season

Those were the stories in the Western Hockey League last week.

Action couldn't have been much tighter. Ten games were played. Five were decided by a single goal. Two were tied. A pair of clashes were decided by just two goals. And the most "lopsided" victory was 5-2 by Los Angeles over Victoria.

Ask the California Seals! They played five road games, lost 3-1 in Victoria, were tipped twice by a single goal in Vancouver, then fought to ties in Seattle and Portland. Not much room to breathe.

Or ask the Vancouver Canucks, who at one point in the week had closed to within four points of first-place Portland. They beat California twice by 2-1 scores, once in overtime. Then they lost, 4-3, to Portland and 2-1 to Seattle.

But the "jinxes" did continue. Vancouver is still winless in six games against the Buckaroos. Seattle is still winless in four efforts against California. And San Diego still can't claim a victory over Victoria.

The comeback?

The California Seals held a 5-0 lead over Seattle Saturday night with less than 24 minutes to play. So the Totems quit? Ha! They rallied for five goals to pull out a tie and scored two of them while playing short-handed because of penalties.

It must rank as one of the great comebacks of Western Hockey League history.

Continued-----

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

Suddenly it's the Los Angeles Blades who are the Western Hockey League's hottest club with four straight victories and six triumphs in their last seven games.

The Blades, who have moved to within four points of second-place Vancouver, will put their winning streak on the line only once this week among the nine games scheduled through Monday, January 2.

The Blades will be in Oakland to face the California Seals on New Year's Day and will hope for a change of luck against a team that has whipped 'em four times in five meetings this season.

Portland's Buckaroos, meanwhile, had a six-game unbeaten string snipped by the Blades Monday night but still hold first place by 11 points. And the Bucks will get three chances this week to widen their margin.

This week's schedule opens with Portland in Oakland and San Diego in Victoria on Wednesday night, December 28th.

The Seals are still looking for their first victory of the year over the Buckaroos, trailing 0-3-3 in the series, and the Gulls are still looking for their first triumph over the Maple Leafs, trailing 0-3-1 in the series.

The Buckaroos have given Seal goalie Jack McCartan more trouble than any other opponent, averaging four goals a game against him, while Don Head has paced Portland's defense in the series with a goals-against mark of 2.00 against the Seals. Portland's scoring has been balanced, four players collecting seven points against the San Francisco-Oakland entry, while Forbes Kennedy has led the Seals against the Bucks with six points.

Top scorer in the San Diego-Victoria series has been Maple Leaf center Milan Marcetta, with five points, while rookie Al Smith has been the hot goalie with a 2.00 goals against record against the Gulls.

On Friday night, December 30th, Portland will remain in Oakland for a rematch, while San Diego will move to Vancouver with a 1-3-0 record against the Canucks. Top series scorers with five points each have been Warren Hynes of the Gulls and Phil Maloney of Vancouver. And it's been a good series (2.00 goals-against mark) for Canuck goalie Don Simmons.

On New Year's Eve, Saturday night, December 31st, San Diego will be in Victoria for a rematch and Vancouver will be in Seattle.

Vancouver holds a 3-2-0 edge over the Totems despite being outshot in four of the first five meetings. Top scorers have been Bryan Hextall of Vancouver and Larry Lund of Seattle, each with six points in this series.

On Sunday night, January 1st, Los Angeles will be in Oakland and Victoria in Vancouver. The Blades-Seals series has been a torrid one for Charlie Burns of the California club. In five games against Los Angeles, Burns has collected 13 points on 5 goals and 8 assists.

Continued-----

Jerry Toppazzini with 10 points and Dick Meissner with 9 have paced LA against the Seals. Portland, meanwhile, holds a 2-1-1 edge over Victoria, finally solving Leaf goalie Al Smith for six goals the last time the clubs met. He had held the Bucks to a total of four goals in the first three games between these rivals who clashed for the Lester Patrick Cup last spring.

The week's schedule will wind up on Monday night, January 2nd, with Victoria in Seattle. The Totems lead this series, 4-1-1, with Howie Hughes and Larry Lund pacing the Seattle attack against the Leafs with eight points apiece. Lou Jankowski, with five points, has led the Leafs against Seattle.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

One jinx was shattered last week when Victoria finally tipped Vancouver for the first time in six games.

But some others held up.

The Portland Buckaroos whipped Vancouver and now hold a 6-0-1 record against the Canucks that clearly is the difference between first and second place in the championship race.

The Bucks also made it a perfect six straight victories over San Diego with a 4-1 Christmas night victory.

The Seattle Totems, meanwhile, won for the first time from California, although there are three ties in the series.

Meanwhile, there are some mighty hot players in the league right now.

Seattle center Larry Lund has scored goals in six straight games to tie Portland's Art Jones for the longest streak in the league this season.

San Francisco center Forbes Kennedy is on a four-game goal-scoring streak, with a total of five red lights after he had scored six in his first 25 games.

Portland's Bill Saunders has scored points in nine straight games, has collected goals (a total of eight) in seven of them.

Portland's Gerry Goyer has a seven-game point-scoring streak alive, and Seattle's Howie Hughes has picked up points in six straight games.

And for consistency, Cliff Schmautz of Portland has scored points in 17 of the last 19 games he has played.

SCORING LEADERS

Art Jones of Portland played only two games last week but picked up a goal and an assist in one of them to keep the Western League scoring lead he has held since the start of the season.-- Jones now has 47 points on 21 goals and 26 assists in 29 games.

His 21 goals make him the top sniper in the circuit, with Larry Lund of Seattle and Dick Meissner of Los Angeles top challengers with 19 each.

Vancouver center Bryan Hextall and Seattle's Golden Guyle Fielder moved to the top of the playmaking department with 27 assists, one more than Portland's Jones, who has led since the start of the year.

Continued -----

GOALKEEPERS

Don Head of Portland saw action twice last week, yielded six goals in two road games and held the lead among WHL goalies with a goals-against mark of 2.60.

Close behind is Portland's Rick Charron, who gave up five goals in two home-ice appearances, and now owns a season goals-against record of 2.62.

Victoria rookie Al Smith still leads in shutouts with four.

PENALTIES

For three straight games, San Diego defenseman Jim Watson never once saw a referee's arm go up.

It was a season record for the youngster.

But on Christmas night in Portland, Watson was shistled for 16 minutes on three minors and his first misconduct of the year.

And with 92 minutes off the ice, he is well out in front in the Western League's penalty parade.

Watson has drawn 41 minors and the lone misconduct to hit the 92-minute mark.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

It was definitely a six-point week in the Western Hockey League.

Los Angeles' Al Langlois scored six. So did Larry Lund, Howie Hughes, Bill Dineen and Guyle Fielder of Seattle. So did Len Lunde and Alain Caron and Bill Saunders of Portland.

So the player of the week nod goes to Los Angeles goalie Jack Norris, who twice took the Blade nets, posted one shutout against Victoria, held Seattle to a single goal in his other appearance, stopped a total of 59 shots and was instrumental in the current four-game winning streak of his teammates.

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LINEUP CHANGES:

Add to SAN DIEGO Jim Eagle #6 D

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

January 3, 1967

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Release #29

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

The Seattle Totems will take a four-game winning streak, a shaky grip on third place and a pair of the hottest players in the league south this week to highlight a Western Hockey League schedule of 11 games, including action next Monday, January 9.

Behind the first-place Portland Buckaroos who lead by 13 points, there is a spread of only six points between second and fifth place in a tight battle for playoff position.

The Totems can pick up plenty of points in the battle this week as they will play in five of the 11 games, four on the road and one at home.

The challenge for Seattle could be a tough one.

The Totems have been strong at home lately but have won only 4 of 14 road games.

Further, their combined record against the California opponents they'll face this week is 5 victories, 10 defeats and 2 ties. The Totems have proved strongest (11-5-1) against northern rivals Portland, Victoria and Vancouver.

Pacing the Totems right now are center Larry Lund, who has scored goals in eight straight games, longest streak in the league this season, and forward Howie Hughes, who has alive an eight-game scoring string that includes 14 points.

Also hot is Guyle Fielder with 24 points in his last 16 games.

The week's schedule opens with Portland in Victoria and Seattle in San Diego on Wednesday night, January 4. The Maple Leafs were the only club with a winning record against the Buckaroos last season, but Portland holds a 3-1-1 edge in the current series.

San Diego, meanwhile, is 4-3-0 against Seattle. Fred Hiltz of the Gulls has scored almost half his goals, 8 of 17, in the seven games, while Guyle Fielder has led Seattle with 12 assists in the high-scoring (50 goals) series.

On Thursday night, January 5, Seattle moves to Los Angeles. The Blades have won six of their last eight and have beaten Seattle four times in five meetings even though the Totems have outshot Los Angeles in all five games. One-time Totem Tommy McVie has paced the LA attack against Seattle with four goals and four assists.

The schedule Friday night, January 6, sends San Diego to Oakland to face the California Seals and Victoria to Vancouver.

The Seals and Gulls have clashed only twice, California winning both games by a single goal.

Vancouver, meanwhile, holds a solid 5-1 margin over Victoria, outscoring the Leafs, 30-14, in the first six games. The Canucks' Bryan Hextall has gone wild with 16 points in the six clashes and he's had plenty of help from defenseman Larry Cahan (11 assists) and forward Gordon Vejprava (11 points, including 5 goals). Don Simmons has been tough in the Canuck nets with a 2.33 goals-against mark against Victoria.

Continued-----

On Saturday night, January 7, there'll be a pair of rematches, Seattle returning to San Diego and Vancouver moving to Victoria. In addition, the California Seals will be in Los Angeles, hoping to continue their mastery over the Blades.

The Seals have won five of the six games played between the bitter California rivals, paced by their captain and pro-tem coach, Charlie Burns. Burns has scored 15 points, exactly half of his season total, against Los Angeles. It's been a productive series, too, for the Blades' Dick Meissner (5-6-11) and Jerry Toppazzini (4-6-10).

On Sunday night, January 8, Seattle will wind up the California tour in Oakland, and Los Angeles will be in Portland.

The Totems-Seals series has been a tight one, California holding a 2-1-2 edge, with both victories being by a single goal. Guyle Fielder (2-7-9) has paced the Seattle attack, with Wayne Maxner (0-4-4) leading California.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, holds a 3-2-1 season edge over the first-place Buckaroos, although the Bucks lead, 30-23, in goals and 224-186 in shots on goal. Art Jones and Bill Saunders, 10 points each, have paced Portland against LA, while Blade leaders have been Norm Johnson and Buddy Boone, each 4-3-7.

The schedule winds up Monday night, January 9, with Los Angeles in Seattle for a second meeting of the week.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

The California Seals finally beat Portland (for the first time in seven games although there had been three ties) but the rest of the "jinxes" pretty much held up last week in Western Hockey League action.

Victoria posted a win and a tie against San Diego to maintain the Leafs's unbeaten (4-0-2) record against the Gulls.

Seattle defeated Vancouver to go ahead in the season series against the Canucks and then exploded for an 8-3 victory over Victoria. The goals were the most scored by the Totems this season as they maintained their mastery (5-1-1 over the Leafs).

And California ended a Los Angeles winning string at four straight with a 5-4 victory, the Seals fifth in six games with the Blades.

And California's overtime magic held up, too. The Seals have played 12 extra-session clashes, four more than any other team, and have won five, tied six and lost only one.

Portland, meanwhile, bounced back from defeat in Oakland to trip the Seals the next time out and then returned home to stop Victoria and increase the first-place margin to 13 points.

Continued-----

SCORING LEADERS

Art Jones, plagued by injuries and serious illness in his family, played only one game last week but picked up an assist to hold the Western Hockey League scoring lead with 48 points. -- Teammate Gerry Goyer, also a center, moved into second with 41 points on the strength of a point-scoring string that now has reached 10 straight games.

In the playmaking department, Seattle's Guyle Fielder, the Western League's all-time scoring champ, took over first with 30 assists, two more than Dick Van Impe of Portland and Bryan Hextall of Vancouver.

And Dick Meissner of Los Angeles and Larry Lund of Seattle moved into a tie for first in goals with Jones. All three have 21, with Portland's Bill Saunders one back at 20.

GOALKEEPERS

Don Head of Portland yielded five goals in two appearances last week to drop his goals-against average to 2.59 --- the best in the league.

Coming on steadily, however, has been Vancouver's old pro, Don Simmons, who has taken over second with a 2.73 mark. Simmons was 3.17 for his first 18 games this season, but has been a sizzling 2.19 for his last 16 clashes.

PENALTIES

San Diego defenseman Jim Watson was whistled for three minors in three games last week to hold his league lead in penalty minutes with 98. He has drawn 44 minors and one misconduct in closing in on the century mark.

Seattle's Noel Picard and Vancouver's Bob Blackburn, each with 70 minutes, are top challengers.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Picking the Western League's Player of the Week was tough in a light schedule.

Six players scored five points, and Bill Dineen of Seattle picked up all of his in one game. Also with five-point weeks were Howie Hughes of Seattle, Gerry Goyer of Portland, Danny Belisle of California, Charlie Burns of California and Bruce Carmichael of Victoria.

The nod goes to Danny Belisle of the California Seals because four of his five points were goals and they were mighty big ones. He scored twice to pace his club to its first victory of the year over Portland, then he scored the overtime winner against arch-rival Los Angeles.

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LINEUP CHANGES:

Los Angeles Blades	Remove	- #15	George Hill
San Diego Gulls	Add	- #6	Jim Eagle
Victoria Maple Leafs	Add	- #1	Gary Smith - Goalie
	Remove	- #2	Fred Hucul
	Change number	from 21 to #2	Tom Polanic

January 9, 1967

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Release #31

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

The California Seals will put their longest winning streak of the season --- four straight victories --- on the line three times this week in a drive to move alone into second place in the Western Hockey League.

On paper, it looks easy for the Seals. All three games are against cellar-dwelling San Diego, and the California club boasts a perfect (3-0) season record against the Gulls.

But the Seals, now tied with Vancouver for second place, know hockey games are played on ice, not in the history book.

The Seal-Gull clashes will highlight a light (seven games) schedule.

In other action, Los Angeles will move into Canada for two games with Victoria and one with Vancouver, and Seattle will be in Portland for a single clash.

The California-San Diego series opens Friday night in Oakland, then moves to the Gulls' new arena for clashes Saturday and Sunday nights.

Despite the Seals' 3-0 record against the Gulls, the series has been a tough one. California's winning scores have been 6-5, 3-2 and 3-1. No player on either club has scored more than four points in the series.

The Seals, incidentally, have lost only two of their last nine games in their drive for second.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, will move into Victoria Wednesday night, cross the water to Vancouver for a Friday night game, then return to Victoria Saturday night.

And here's another hot hockey club. The Blades are 7-3-1 in their last 11 games. And They're finally starting to get that important jump. They've scored the first goal 12 times in their last 15 games after scoring first only 6 times in their first 21 contests.

Further, in their first 21 games, the Blades were outscored by a margin of 31-16 in opening periods. In their last 15 games, they've outscored opponents in first periods by a resounding 25 to 12.

The Blades are 3-2-0 against Victoria and 1-2-1 against Vancouver for the season.

The week's other clash send Seattle to Portland on Wednesday night to face the first-place Buckaroos.

And there's been a big switch in this series. The Buck dominated Seattle by a 20-6 margin over the past two seasons. But the Totems lead in this season's series, 2-1-1, paced by center Larry Lund, who has scored five goals in four games against Portland.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

You could hear the moans from border to border over the weekend.

In Los Angeles Saturday night, the Blades drew their largest home crowd of the season ----- and fell to the California Seals.

Continued -----

The same night in San Diego, a new record throng of 13,089 turned out --- largest crowd in the league this season. And the Gulls fell to Seattle.

The next night (Sunday) in Portland, the turnout was 10,075, largest home crowd of the season for the Buckaroos. Sure, Los Angeles won the game, 4-1.

Seattle was the busiest club last week, splitting a pair in San Diego, skating to a tie in Los Angeles and losing by one goal to California in Oakland.

The Victoria Maple Leafs continued to turn on the Vancouver Canucks. The Canucks won the first five straight in this season's series. But the Leafs blasted the Vancouver entry 4-1 and 7-0 last week to make in three straight for Victoria in the series.

Other "jinxes" held up. California whipped Los Angeles for the sixth time in seven meetings. And Los Angeles made it four straight without a loss against a Portland club the Blades now lead 4-2-1 for the season.

SCORING LEADERS

Portland Capt. Art Jones scored goals in both of his team's games last week to hold first, a spot he's held since the start of the season, in the scoring race.

Jones now has 50 points on 23 goals and 27 assists in 32 games.

Los Angeles' Dick Meissner picked up five points in three games last week to move into second with 45 points, and he's tied with Jones for the goal-scoring lead with 23.

Seattle's Guyle Fielder, meanwhile, turned goal scorer with three in four games last week but also earned an assist and still leads all playmakers with 31 for the season.

GOALKEEPERS

Portland's Don Head yielded eight goals in two games last week but still leads all Western League netminders with a 2.71 goals-against mark for the year.

His teammate, Rick Charron, is second at 2.86 and Don Simmons of Vancouver is third at 2.89.

But the goalie moving up the fastest is Seattle's Jimmy McLeod, Bombed for eight goals by Portland last November 13, McLeod left the ice with a 3.86 goals-against mark and was rested until December 23.

In six games since returning to action, McLeod has yielded only 11 goals (a 1.83 average) and his season mark has dropped to 2.92.

PENALTIES

It's still no contest at this point.

San Diego's Jim Watson drew two minors in three games, completed the first half of his schedule with 102 minutes off the ice to keep his league lead.

Watson's penalty-minute pace is not record-breaking. But if he matches his first-half total of 46 minors in his remaining 36 games, he will set a new all-time league record in this department.

Continued.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

For the third straight week, scoring was so evenly balanced in the Western League that picking a Player of the Week is tough.

Five players scored five points during the week --- Larry Keenan and Milan Marcetta of Victoria, Dick Meissner of Los Angeles and Danny Belisle and Forbes Kennedy of the California Seals.

The nod goes to Victoria's Larry Keenan, who returned to action on December 28 after missing 24 straight games with injuries. He bounced back by scoring in six of the seven games he's played and he takes a four-game point streak into action this week.

MILESTONES AND PLAYER NOTES

Vancouver's Phil Maloney now has 498 assists in Western Hockey League play, needs only 2 to crack the 500 circle . . . Also close is Portland's Art Jones, who now has 494 assists in the WHL career . . . and Sandy Hucul of Victoria needs only 7 more minutes in penalties to hit the 1,000 mark

Portland's Gerry Goyer had an 11-game point-scoring streak snapped by Los Angeles Sunday night. . . . the Bucks' Bill Saunders is hot, 12 goals in his last 14 games to climb to 21 for the season . . .

Seattle center Larry Lund's goal-scoring string was ended at eight straight games by San Diego early last week . . . it was the longest streak of the WHL season. . . .

California's Danny Belisle has scored seven goals in his last six games. . . and LA's Dick Meissner has sniped six in his last five games

Victoria's Bob Barlow ended the longest goal-scoring drouth of his WHL career last week. . . he had gone 22 games without a goal, then scored two in his next three clashes. . . . he led Victoria with 42 last season. . . .

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LINEUP CHANGES:

Seattle add #21 Pat Quinn D

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

The longest winning streak in the history of San Francisco-Oakland hockey will go on the line this week to highlight a nine-game schedule in the Western League.

The California Seals, representing both Oakland and San Francisco this season, won their seventh straight game Sunday night by tipping San Diego in overtime and will get two chances this week to extend the string --- Friday night in Vancouver and Saturday night in Victoria.

Old record for the Seals was six straight triumphs recorded during the 1962-63 campaign. Meanwhile, the Seals aren't the only hot club in the WHL.

Victoria has won four straight games and will get two chances this week to continue to sizzle. The Leafs, in their last four games, have outscored opponents by an overwhelming 20-3 margin reflected by a 160-83 bulge in shots on goals.

The Leafs have proved especially strong finishers, outscoring foes 16-1 in the final two periods of the last four clashes.

Portland's first-place Buckaroos, meanwhile, have won four of their last five and will hit the road this week for three clashes in three nights, two in San Diego and one in Los Angeles.

The Buckaroos, leading the WHL by 11 points over California, are playing road hockey at a pace that could set all-time Western League record. Their record away from home is 9-5-3. At this rate, they would set new all-time standards of 19 road victories and 43 points in the standings collected in games away from home.

And the Seattle Totems, who'll see action twice this week, in Vancouver and in Victoria, are also hot with a 6-3-1 record in their last 10 games.

The week's schedule begins Tuesday night with Los Angeles in Vancouver. The invading Blades hope to snap a four-game losing streak but the task will be tough. They are 1-3-1 against the Canucks. In the series, Phil Maloney has paced Vancouver with 11 points, while Norm Johnson has matched that output for Los Angeles.

On Wednesday night, Seattle will be in Victoria. The Totems will take a 5-1-1 edge into action chiefly because of Bill Dineen and Howie Hughes. Each has scored six goals and six assists for 12 points against the Leafs.

Portland will start its road swing Thursday night in San Diego. The Bucks are a perfect 6-0-0 against the Gulls, have outscored them, 27-10, and outshot them, 211-148. Art Jones, with 10 points, has paced Portland's attack in the series.

On Friday night, Portland will be in Los Angeles and California will put its seven-game winning streak on the line in Vancouver.

The Blades are the only team with a winning (4-2-1) record against Portland this season, Norm Johnson leading the way with nine points. Jones has sparked Portland with 11 points. The Blades have a four-game unbeaten string alive against Portland.

The Canucks, meanwhile, have handled the Seals but with considerable difficulty. Vancouver holds a 4-2-0 edge in a series in which four of six games have been decided by a single goal.

On Saturday night, Portland will be in San Diego for a rematch and California will be in Victoria. The Leafs lead the series against the Seals, 3-1-1.

The week's schedule winds up Sunday night with San Diego in Los Angeles and Seattle in Vancouver.

San Diego holds a 4-3 edge over the Blades in a high-scoring (60 goals in seven games) series. Al Nicholson (11 Points) and Len Ronson (10) have paced the San Diego attack.

The Seattle-Vancouver series, meanwhile, has been tight. Each club has won three times. The total goals are 15-14 for Seattle. And the high scorers in the series are Larry Lund of the Totems and Bryan Hextall of the Canucks, each with seven points.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

Last week's Western League action was highlighted by California's continued dominance of San Diego and continued amazing ability to win the close ones . . . by a resurgence of goalies who started slowly . . . and by some torrid individual streaks.

The Seals whipped the Gulls three times to make their season record 6-0-0 against San Diego. Their last victory, Sunday night, was 4-3 in overtime. And the Seals now have played 13 overtimes with only one loss. They boast a 6-1-6 record.

As for goalies, well check 'em off . . . Gary Smith of Victoria twice held Los Angeles to a single goal . . . he returned to the Leafs New Year's Eve and allowed 20 goals in his first four games . . . in his last four he has allowed only three goals for a 0.75 average. .

Jimmy McLeod of Seattle played only one game (except for less than a minute of action against Portland before he was injured slightly) and yielded just one goal. He's given up just 12 goals in his last seven appearances for a 1.71 average over that stretch.

And Jean Guy Morrisette of California has been beaten only eight times in his last four games for a 2.00 goals-against mark for the string.

As for hot scorers, check them off, too

California's Wayne Maxner has scored goals in six straight games, points in seven straight . . . the Seals' Forbes Kennedy has a six-game point string alive, has collected a goal or an assists in 12 of his last 13 clashes . . . George Swarbrick of the same club has five goals in his last five games

Continued -----

Norm Johnson of Los Angeles became the first Western Leaguer this season to score four goals in one game . . . the entire output of his team against Vancouver Friday night. . . and then made it five out of five for his club against Victoria the next night . . .

Bill Saunders of Portland has 13 goals in his last 15 games . . . Gerry Goyer of the Bucks has points in 12 of his last 13 clashes . . . Larry Lund of Seattle has picked up points in 12 of his last 14 games . . . Larry Keenan of Victoria has a six-game point-scoring string alive . . . and Milan Marcetta of the Leafs has scored nine points in his last four games. . .

SCORING LEADERS

Art Jones of Portland missed his club's only game last week because of his father's death in Saskatoon.

Jones, plagued by injuries and family problems in the past month, continues to lead WHL scorers with 50 points on 23 goals and 27 assists but is being pressed now by Norm Johnson of Los Angeles, who has 49 points on 21 goals and 28 assists.

Buckaroo Capt. Jones is tied with Los Angeles' Dick Meissner for the lead in goals with 23, while Seattle's Guyle Fielder leads in assists with 31.

GOALKEEPERS

Veteran Don Head of Portland, in his club's only appearance last week, scored his second shutout of the season and dropped his goals-against average to 2.60, lowest in the circuit.

Top contender right now is Jimmy McLeod of Seattle at 2.79.

PENALTIES

San Diego defenseman Jim Watson was whistled for three minors in three games last week, continues to lead Western Leaguers in penalty minutes with 108 for the season. He has been called for 49 minors and one misconduct.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

For the first time this season, a Western Leaguer repeats a Player of the Week.

California winger Danny Belisle sniped four goals and added three assists in three games last week for seven points, highest total in the circuit.

And is Belisle ever torrid right now!

He picked up only three goals in his first 23 games this season. But he now has scored goals in seven straight games, needs to click twice more in a row to set a new league standard for the campaign. He has collected 11 goals in his last nine games since returning to regular duty with the California club. ---AND the Seals, of course, have won each of the last seven games in which Belisle has scored goals.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE - UPCOMING ACTION

The Victoria Maple Leafs, suddenly one of the hottest clubs in the Western Hockey League, will also be the busiest team in the circuit this week.

The Leafs, who have won five of their last six clashes, will play in half of the 10 games scheduled in the WHL. And they'll play those five clashes in six nights. Further, four of them will be in California.

Meanwhile, the Vancouver Canucks will put a four-game winning streak on the line on home ice Friday night against first-place (by 11 points) Portland, then will swing south to open a seven-game stand in California.

The California trip could make or break the chances of the second-place Canucks to overtake Portland. Vancouver owns a sparkling 16-5-2 home record, but the Canucks are 6-11 on the road.

They have played .500 hockey in California this season, however, splitting in two-game sets in Oakland, San Diego and Los Angeles.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with the California Seals in Victoria. This is the first of three road tests this week for the Seals, who dropped a pair last week to end a seven-game winning streak, longest in the league this season.

Victoria owns a 4-1-1 season edge over California, Leaf center Milan Marcetta leading the way with 11 points that include 8 goals.

On Wednesday night, Victoria will be in San Diego and California in Portland.

The Leafs are still unbeaten against the Gulls, owning a 4-0-2 record in the season series. Victoria has averaged an astounding 41 shots on goal a game against San Diego. Top scorer in the series is Marcetta with 8 points, including 5 goals.

Portland holds a 4-1-3 advantage over California but in four games on the Buckaroos' home ice the Seals have battled to three ties while losing only once. Top series scorers have been Gerry Goyer (5-6-11) for Portland and rugged Forbes Kennedy (3-6-9) for the Seals.

Three games Friday night will send Victoria to Los Angeles, California to Seattle and Portland to Vancouver.

The Leafs are 4-3-0 against Los Angeles, paced by 9 points from both Marcetta and Andy Hebenton. Mel Pearson, with 8 points, has led the Blades against the Leafs.

California is 3-1-2 against Seattle, all three Seal victories being registered by a single goal. The Seals, astoundingly, are unbeaten in Seattle, owning a 2-0-2 record on the Totems' home ice. Top series scorer has been Guyle Fielder with 11 points, including 4 goals.

Portland, meanwhile, is still unbeaten (6-0-1) against Vancouver, and that's clearly the difference between first and second place. The series has defied all traditions of hockey in that Portland has outscored Vancouver by a whopping 30-16 margin and yet the Canucks have outshot the Buckaroos, 213 to 193. Top series scorer is Portland's Art Jones with 12 points.

Continued -----

A single Saturday night contest will send Victoria to San Diego for a rematch, but a full schedule on Sunday night will find Victoria in Los Angeles for another rematch, Vancouver in San Diego and Seattle in Portland.

Vancouver is 4-1-0 against the Gulls, thanks chiefly to goalie Don Simmons who has held San Diego to just 1.80 goals a game. It's been a low-scoring series (13-9 for Vancouver), with the top individuals Warren Hynes of the Gulls and Phil Maloney of the Canucks. Each has five points.

Seattle and Portland are dead even (2-2-1) in a series that matches the two most-penalized clubs in the circuit. These bitter rivals will face one another seven more times this season and the outcome could have a major effect on the championship race and the battle for playoff position. Top scorers in the series, each with six points, are Larry Lund of Seattle and Bill Saunders and Len Lunde of the Buckaroos.

LAST WEEK'S GAMES

There was no question about the biggest explosion in the Western Hockey League last week. Center Milan Marcetta of Victoria scored five goals against California's Jack McCartan to tie the all-time WHL record for goals in a single game.

Marcetta is the seventh player to hit the five-mark, the third to do it since 1949 and the first to score five since Seattle's Jim Powers did it against San Francisco on October 13, 1962.

Meanwhile, some major team "jinxes" continued to hold up.

San Diego defeated Portland for the first time after six straight losses, then was beaten in a rematch. And that's seven out of eight for the Buckaroos against the Gulls.

Los Angeles, to Portland, is an entirely different story. The Blades handed the Bucks their worst whipping (7-2) of the season. And LA is the only team with a winning (5-2-1) record against Portland and the only team to outscore (34-33) the Buckaroos.

Finally, Seattle ended a four-game winning streak of Victoria and that makes it six victories, one tie and only one defeat for the Totems against the Maple Leafs.

And the week ended with a number of players on torrid streaks.

Danny Belisle of California has scored points (17 in all) in 10 straight games, has sniped 12 goals in his last 11 clashes . . . Forbes Kennedy of the Seals has an eight-game point-scoring string alive, has collected points in 14 of the last 15 games he's played. . . Gerry Goyer of Portland has picked up points in 15 of his last 16 games . . . Bill Saunders of the Buckaroos has scored 14 goals in his last 18 games. . . .

Bob Barlow of Victoria has a five-game point-scoring streak alive . . . and old pro Andy Heberton of the Maple Leafs has collected 12 points (6 goals, 6 assists) in his last six games, 8 points (4 goals, 4 assists) in his last three.

Continued -----

SCORING LEADERS

Art Jones of Portland picked up a goal and an assist in three games last week to hold his Western Hockey League scoring lead with 52 points on 24 goals and 28 assists. The Buckaroo captain has held the top spot since the start of the campaign.

Milan Marcetta of Victoria, on his five-goal outburst against California, took over the goal-scoring lead with 25.

And Portland center Gerry Goyer moved into a tie with Seattle's Guyle Fielder for the lead in assists with 32.

GOALKEEPERS

It was pointed out two weeks ago that Seattle's Jimmy McLeod was hot in the nets.

And now he's taken over the lead among Western League netminders with a 2.63 goals-against average for 16 games. In his first seven games this season, McLeod allowed 27 goals for a 3.86 goals-against mark. In his last nine games, he's been beaten just 15 times for a 1.67 average and in his last six clashes he's yielded only 7 goals for a 1.17 record.

The race for the top is tight, however, with Portland's Rick Charron at 2.74, Vancouver's Don Simmons at 2.77 and Portland's Don Head at 2.78.

PENALTIES

San Diego defenseman Jim Watson drew two minors in three games last week to increase his penalty-minute total for the season to 112.

And no one else is close.

Watson has been called for 51 minors and one misconduct.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

There were two strong candidates for Player of the Week honors in the Western Hockey League.

Vancouver goalie Don Simmons started the week with a two-goal effort against Los Angeles, then held California to one goal and then shut out Seattle (his fourth of the season to tie for the league lead). That's three goals against in three games for a 1.00 average.

But the nod must go to Victoria center Milan Marcetta, who earned an assist in one game and then scored five goals in his second appearance, the first time this has happened in the WHL in more than four years.

Further, Marcetta is the hottest player in the league right now. He has collected 15 points in his last six games to climb to 45 for the season and eighth place in the WHL scoring race.

And he has scored nine goals in his last five games to take over the league lead with 25 for the campaign.

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WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

The Vancouver Canucks will continue their drive for first place against California clubs they have dominated this season.

And the California Seals will begin one of the most favorable late-season home schedules in history in their battle to overtake Vancouver and also shoot for the top.

These are highlights of a 13-game schedule this week in the Western Hockey League.

Vancouver, winners five times in their last six outings, will play four games in California, and the Canucks' combined record against Los Angeles, San Diego and the Seals of San Francisco-Oakland is a sizzling 14 victories, 4 defeats and 1 tie.

The major reason, without question, has been the tough goaltending of veteran Don Simmons against the California entries. He's faced them 19 times and has permitted only 40 goals for a sparkling combined average of 2.11 a contest.

California, meanwhile, will face the first three of 12 home tests in their next 13 games. The Seals will hit the road only once between now and March 4 --- for a single clash in San Diego. Of California's 29 games remaining on the schedule, 20 will be on home ice.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with Vancouver in Los Angeles and Portland, still leading the league by 13 points, in Seattle.

The Canucks will shoot for their fourth straight victory over the Blades in a series Vancouver leads, 5-2-0. Top scorer in the series has been veteran Vancouver center Phil Maloney, who has scored almost half (15 of 36) of his points against the Blades.

The Totems, meanwhile, lead their series against the Buckaroos, 3-2-1, reversing Portland's domination of the past two seasons. Top series scorer has been the Bucks' Len Lunde with 7 points.

On Wednesday night, Los Angeles will be in San Diego, Seattle in Oakland and Portland in Victoria.

The Gulls, despite their cellar position, hold a 5-3-0 edge over the Blades, paced by Al Nicholson's series-leading 12 points. The Seals, meanwhile, lead Seattle 3-2-2, all three California victories being registered by a single goal. It's been a hot series for the Totems' Guyle Fielder, whose 14 points has doubled the output of any Seal.

Portland, meanwhile, lost in this season's first meeting of last year's Lester Patrick Cup finalists but hasn't lost since in building a 4-1-1 edge.

Vancouver will be in Los Angeles for a rematch Thursday night, and on Friday night will move to San Diego while Seattle is in California for a rematch.

The Canucks hold a 5-1-0 edge over San Diego, with four of the six games decided by one goal. This has been Don Simmons' hottest series in the Canuck nets. He's held the Gulls to just 1.50 goals a game in six appearances.

On Saturday night, Seattle will be in Portland for a third meeting in seven days of the Buckaroos and Totems, and Los Angeles will move north to Victoria. The Blades lead this series, 5-4-0, with Jack Norris hot in the nets against the Leafs, a 2.29 goals-against mark for seven appearances.

The week's schedule winds up Sunday night with Victoria in Portland for a rematch, Vancouver in Oakland to face the Seals and Los Angeles in Seattle.

Vancouver leads the Seals, 5-2-0, in a tight series in which the score has been 2-1 in the last four games in a row, the Canucks winning the last three. In fact, five of the seven clashes have been decided by one goal. Seal Coach Rudy Pilous recently called Vancouver's Don Simmons the best goalie in the league right now. He has reasons. Simmons is 1.71 in seven games against the Seals.

The Los Angeles - Seattle series has been strange. The Blades lead the Totems, 4-2-1. Yet Seattle has outshot LA in all seven games. The Blades have yielded more goals than any team in the league, but Jack Norris (0.50 for two games) and Dave Kelly (2.60 for 5 games) have proved tough on the Totems. Top series scorer is LA's Tommy McVie, a one-time Totem, with eight points.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

One jinx continued last week as Vancouver lost to Portland, 3-2, but another was snapped when San Diego beat Victoria.

The Canucks are winners against every opponent except Portland. They have outscored every other rival except Seattle and are even in goals (15-15) with the Totems. And they have outshot the Buckaroos, 245-223. Yet Portland is still unbeaten (7-0-1) against Vancouver.

And that continues to be the difference between first and second place.

The Gulls, meanwhile, won for the first time against Victoria, 5-1, with their most goals in 16 games. But Victoria triumphed in a rematch to hold a 5-1-2 series lead.

Only perfect record left in the league is California's (6-0-0) against San Diego.

In other highlights of the past week, California played its 13th overtime, four more than any other team, and still has lost only once. The Seals tied Victoria, 3-3.

And Portland and Seattle demonstrated what can happen when the two most-penalized teams in the league clash. Twenty-six penalties ---- 24 minors, 1 major and 1 misconduct-- were whistled Sunday night as the Totems topped the Bucks, 3-1. It was the highest total in the league this season.

Individually, it was Forbes Kennedy of California collecting points in all three of his club's games to run his current point-scoring streak to 11 straight contests, two short of Norm Johnson's record of 13 for this season.

Continued -----

SCORING LEADERS

The signs now point to one of the tightest races for scoring honors in Western League history.

Portland's Art Jones still holds first, a spot he's occupied since the first of the season. He picked up a goal and two assists in three games last week to up his total for the campaign to 55 points, two more than his closest competitor.

The next six scorers, however, are separated by just one point on down the ladder. Norm Johnson of LA has 53, Dick Meissner of the Blades 52, Milan Marcetta of Victoria 51, Gordon Vejprava of Vancouver 50, Gerry Goyer of Portland 49 and Bill Saunders of the Buck 48.

Marcetta tops goal scorers with 28, three more than runnerup Jones, while Goyer and Seattle's Guyle Fielder are tied for first in assists with 34 each.

GOALKEEPERS

Seattle's Jimmy McLeod continues to sizzle. He gave up just three goals in two games last week, lowered his league-leading average to 2.50. In fact, Portland's second-place Rick Charron allowed only four goals in two games, dropped his average to 2.62 and lost ground.

In his last 11 games, McLeod has given up only 18 goals for a 1.63 mark over that stretch.

Vancouver's Don Simmons, meanwhile, blanked San Diego Sunday night to take the league lead in shutouts with five.

PENALTIES

San Diego's Jim Watson drew three minors in three games last week and still leads in the penalty department with 118 minutes off the ice. Closest challenger is Seattle's Noel Picard, who was whistled for five penalties --- four minors and one major --- against Portland Sunday night to set a single-game record for the 1966-67 season.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Victoria center Milan Marcetta slowed down a bit from his five-goal explosion in a single game a week earlier.

But he still collected six points, more than any other player, last week to win **PLAYER** of the WEEK honors for the second straight time. Marcetta collected three goals and three assists in five games to climb to fourth in the Western League scoring race with 51 points for the season.

MILESTONES

Portland's Art Jones now has 497 Western League assists in action through January 29, could hit the 500-mark with one explosion . . . Leo LaBine's next point will be his 300th in Western League play . . . and for Bill Shvets of Victoria, the next penalty he draws will put him over the 1,100-minute mark . . . and Bill Dineen of Seattle will play his 900th professional hockey game (league play only in all circuits) Wednesday night in Oakland.

February 6, 1967

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Release #39

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

This could prove one of the most exciting weeks in recent Western Hockey League history.

Just check off the highlights of a 12-game schedule!

ITEM:

The Vancouver Canucks have gone crazy. They are on a five-game winning streak, longest for the Canucks since 1963-64, and have won 9 of their last 10. They have won five straight on the road, tying Vancouver's all-time record for consecutive victories away from home.

The Canucks have cut Portland's lead to nine points and they have three games in hand on the first-place Buckaroos.

And they'll get four chances this week to drive for the championship, including a Saturday night crucial against the Buckaroos, and to set all-time club records.

ITEM:

Except for Vancouver, the Seattle Totems would be in the floodlights.

The Totems have won six of their last seven, trail second-place Vancouver by only three points and now lead fourth-place California by eight. They'll get three chances this week to try to move up.

The Totems have a goalie named Jimmy McLeod who now is playing at an all-time record pace in the WHL.

And they have a center who'll rate a 1,000-gun salute Wednesday night, February 8, at a game in Victoria. Guyle Fielder will play his 1,000th regular-season Western Hockey League game that evening. And Fielder, of course, is the all-time leader.

ITEM:

There's a three-way tie for the WHL scoring lead now among Art Jones of Portland and Norm Johnson and Dick Meissner of Los Angeles. The lead could change hands a dozen times in a dozen games this week.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with Vancouver in San Diego, shooting for six in a row on the road. And the Canucks have whipped the Gulls six times in seven meetings.

On Wednesday night, the Canucks will wind up a seven-game California swing in Oakland, Los Angeles will be in Portland and Seattle will be in Victoria.

The Blades may be tied for fifth but they are unbeaten in their last five games against the first-place Buckaroos. And this will be a head-on meeting of scoring leaders Jones, Meissner and Johnson.

Seattle, meanwhile, owns a 6-1-1 record against Victoria, thanks chiefly to 15 points by Bill Dineen, 14 by Howie Hughes and 12 by Larry Lund in the first eight meetings.

On Friday night, San Diego will be in Oakland, Portland in Seattle and Los Angeles in Vancouver.

Continued -----

The Seals of San Francisco-Oakland boast the WHL's only perfect series record against San Diego --- Six games, six victories. Seattle, after two seasons of frustration, has a winning (4-3-1) record against Portland in this campaign. And this is a meeting of the league's two most-penalized clubs. Vancouver, meanwhile, is 6-1-1 against Los Angeles.

On Saturday night, California will be in San Diego for a rematch, Los Angeles will be in Victoria and the main event of the week will find Vancouver in Portland.

If you don't think the Buckaroo-Canuck clash is the main event, then consider this. Portland is first in the WHL by nine points over Vancouver. Yet the Bucks are unbeaten (7-0-1) in eight meeting with the Canucks.

Reverse that record, and Vancouver would be leading the Western Hockey League by 16 points over Seattle. Portland would be third.

The week's schedule will wind up Sunday night with Victoria in Portland and San Diego in Seattle. The Bucks are 5-2-1 against the Leafs, while the last-place Gulls hold a 5-4-0 edge over the hot Totems.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Vancouver swept four straight in California. Seattle won four of five, the lone loss by a single goal in Portland.

But the first-place Buckaroos refused to fold.

The Bucks dropped early-week road tests in Seattle and Victoria. Their losing streak reached three straight, longest for the Portland club this season.

But Portland bounced back to defeat both Seattle and Victoria in return matches on home ice where Portland's record is now 18-4-4. (The Bucks also have the only winning road mark, 11-9-3, in the league.)

Individually, the boys who made 'em blink were Seattle's Jumbo Jim Powers and a pair of Vancouver Canucks, Gordon Vejprava and veteran Larry Popein.

Powers now has scored goals (total of nine) in seven straight games. One more and he'll tie this campaign's record of eight straight games, set by teammate Larry Lund.

Vejprava, enjoying the finest season of his long pro career, has collected points in 10 straight games, has scored goals in five straight and has earned a game-winning assist in five of Vancouver's last eight contests

Popein, the long-time New York Ranger; he's simply scored Vancouver's game-winning goal five times in the Canucks' last seven victories. In a sixth triumph, he had a game-winning assist. He scored his third straight game-winner Sunday afternoon against Calif.

SCORING LEADERS

There's no room at the top, and not much room in the top 10.

Art Jones of Portland, the season-long scoring leader, picked up three points in four games last week and has 58. But he's being shouldered now by LA Blades Dick Meissner and Norm Johnson, who also have 58. Meissner now is 27-31-58, Jones is 26-32-58 and Johnson is 23-35-58.

Continued -----

In goals, it's Victoria's Milan Marcetta, two in three games last week, leading with 30. And Seattle's Guyle Fielder, for the first time this year, leads playmakers with 43 assists, although he formerly was tied for first.

GOALKEEPERS

Seattle's Jimmy McLeod, in five games last week, yielded only 10 goals. And his season goals-against mark now is 2.39. That's the best in the WHL. And it's a pace which, if continued, would break the all-time Western League low average of 2.40 set by Gump Worsley in 1953-54. Worsley was 2.40 for the campaign.

McLeod, incidentally, is so hot that he was beaten four times in one game in Portland last week yet still was voted the first star of the game.

Second among goalies is Vancouver veteran Don Simmons, who gave up only 10 goals in four road tests last week, and now has a 2.69 average for the season.

PENALTIES

San Diego defenseman Jim Watson picked up one minor in two games last week, still leads the league with 120 penalty minutes for the season.

But he's now getting some competition. Seattle's Noel Picard, who drew seven minors in five games, now has 113 minutes for the season. And Totem forward Earl Heiskala was whistled for five minors and a major in five clashes to become the third WHL player to hit the 100-minute mark. (He's on the nose.)

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

There were at least six strong candidates, but none was more appropriate for Player of the Week honors than Seattle center Guyle Fielder, who'll play his 1,000th WHL game Wednesday night.

In five games, Fielder scored a goal and set up nine others for 10 points, moved into a tie for fifth in the WHL scoring race with 55 points, just three back of the leaders.

His closest competitors were teammates, Earl Heiskala, 4 goals and 5 assists in five games, and Jim Powers, 7 goals and 1 assist in five games.

It figured. These two wingers are now playing on Fielder's line.

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WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

The Portland Buckaroos, out in front by 11 points in their battle for an unprecedented third straight Western Hockey League regular-season championship, will hit the road this week.

The Bucks will play the first three of six straight tests away from home to highlight a light(eight games) schedule.

Games away from home mean trouble for some clubs, but Portland owns the best road record (12-9-3) in the circuit.

The Bucks will head south with a three-game winning streak and will leave in the north nothing but heartache for their closest challengers, the Vancouver Canucks and the Seattle Totems.

Look at it this way:

The torrid Canucks have won 11 of their last 14 games. Portland handed them two of their three defeats.

Seattle has won 8 of its last 10 clashes. Both losses were to the Buckaroos.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with San Diego in Vancouver. The Gulls will be in no Valentine's Day mood. They've faced the Canucks eight times and have dropped seven decisions. Yet it's been a tense series. Five of the first eight clashes were decided by a single goal. Vancouver goalie Don Simmons has been rough on the Gulls --- a 1.63 goals-against mark against them.

On Wednesday night, Victoria will be in California and will skate into action with a 4-1-2 edge over the Seals. Hot goalie in this series has been Leaf rookie Al Smith, a 1.60 average for five tests against the Seals. And it's been a big series for the league's top goal scorer, Victoria's Milan Marcetta, who has sniped 10 of his 32 in just seven games against the San Francisco-Oakland entry.

On Thursday night, Portland will be in Los Angeles and may not be happy about it. The Blades are the only club with a winning (6-2-1) record against Portland in a series that has produced 76 goals in nine games. The Blades haven't lost to Portland in the last six clashes, a record unmatched in history by any team now in the Western League. Chief Blade gunner has been Willie O'Ree, 14 points on 6 goals and 8 assists against the Bucks, while Art Jones (13 points) and Larry Leach (12) have paced Portland against LA.

There'll be rematches Friday night, with Victoria in Oakland and San Diego in Vancouver, and on Saturday night, with Portland winding up its regular-season slate in Los Angeles.

The week's schedule will end Sunday with Portland in Oakland and Seattle in Vancouver. Both clashes are scheduled at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Portland holds a 5-1-3 margin over the Seals and has won three of four in the new Oakland rink. Portland's Gerry Goyer is the top series scorer with 12 points, while rugged Forbes Kennedy has led the Seals against the Bucks with 10.

In the Seattle-Vancouver series, neither club has "broken service," to borrow a tennis term, this season. Seattle has lost four in Vancouver. Vancouver has lost three in Seattle. And the Canucks hold a 4-3-0 edge.

Vancouver, in the last five straight games against Seattle, has scored exactly one goal in each contest -- and has won twice.

That tells a story of the goal-tending in this rivalry. Simmons of Vancouver is 2.14 against Seattle, while Jim Armstrong is 1.75 and Jimmy McLeod 2.33 against the Canucks.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Both "jinxes" held up last week.

The California Seals whipped San Diego twice by 6-3 scores to make it eight straight without a loss to the Gulls.

And Portland remained unbeaten against Vancouver, the Bucks taking their eighth decision in nine meetings --- with a single tie thrown in.

Except for these two series, every club has defeated every other club at least once in Western League action this season.

The "spoilers" of the week, of course, were the Buckaroos.

They moved into Seattle to face a club that had won seven of its last eight, that was honoring Guyle Fielder (he was awarded \$1,000, one for each of his first 1,000 games in the WHL) and that was cheered by the Totems' largest crowd in two years --- more than 12,000. The Bucks won, 3-1.

Then Portland returned home to face a Vancouver team that had won six straight in California, a new all-time road winning streak for the Canucks, before losing once.

Vancouver was threatening to make it a battle to the wire for first. But Portland won, 4-1.

Individually, you spell it Gordon Vejprava of Vancouver. He earned points in all four of his club's games last week to run his current scoring streak to 14 straight contests. And that's the longest point string in the league this season.

Then there was Fred Hilts of San Diego, sniping three goals against California to become the first Western Leaguer this season with three hat-tricks.

Hard-luck award of the week must go to the Victoria Maple Leafs. Victoria now has outshot opponents in 14 consecutive periods --- and hasn't won a single game over that stretch. The Leafs bombarded Los Angeles with 53 shots Saturday night, yet lost, 3-1, to the hot goaltending of the Blades' young Jack Norris.

And one other team salute: The Vancouver Canucks now have played 11 straight games without once yielding a goal while short-handed because of penalties. The Canucks don't draw many penalties, but it's still a remarkable record.

SCORING LEADERS

Portland Capt. Art Jones, plagued by injuries for a month, got back in stride last week, scored eight points in four games, and is once again alone in leading Western League scorers.

Jones, tied with LA's Dick Meissner and Norm Johnson last week, now has 66 points to lead Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava by three.

Victoria's Milan Marcetta leads goal scorers with 32 but has a new challenger in Fred Hilts of San Diego, who scored five times in two games against California last week and now has 31 for the season.

Top playmakers, each with 44 assists, are Seattle's Guyle Fielder and Portland's Gerry Goyer.

GOALKEEPERS

One week ago, Seattle's Jimmy McLeod was playing goal at an all-time pace. Last week he was even better. He allowed only four goals in three games, posted his second shutout of the year and now leads Western League goalies with an average of 2.27.

The all-time Western League low for a season is 2.40.

McLeod, amazingly, gave up 27 goals in his first seven games this season, and his average stood at 3.86.

Since that start, McLeod has been beaten only 32 times in 19 games. You don't need the "new math" to figure that since November 13, McLeod's goals-against mark has been 1.68.

PENALTIES

It's still San Diego's Jim Watson leading the league in penalties with 130 minutes off the ice. In four games last week, Watson drew 10 minutes on five minors.

Keeping Watson in sight are Seattle's Noel Picard (117 minutes) and Earl Heiskala of the Totems (108 minutes).

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

In four games last week, center Art Jones of the Portland Buckaroos sniped three goals and set up five others to take the scoring lead by himself once again and win Player of the Week honors in the Western Hockey League.

Steady production has kept Jones at the top in the past two months. He has a six-game point-scoring streak alive, has picked up points in 12 of his last 13 games. But a three-point night Sunday against Victoria was his first since November.

This is the second time this season Jones has won Player of the Week honors. He first earned the award after the opening week of the season.

February 30, 1967

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Release #43

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

The Western Hockey League spotlight will shine this week on the rampaging Portland Buckaroos and the torrid Seattle Totems.

The Bucks and the Totems will play in seven of the nine WHL games scheduled. Portland will face three tests and Seattle four --- and all of them will be road clashes.

And what a pace these two clubs currently are setting!

The Buckaroos, leading the league by 13 points in their drive for an unprecedented third straight regular-season championship, will put on the line their longest winning streak of the campaign --- six in a row.

Further, Portland is playing at a pace which, if continued, will wreck four major all-time Western Hockey League team records.

The Bucks, if they continue their current pace, will finish the campaign with exactly 45 victories and 99 points in the standings. Both would be new all-time marks. Present records are 44 victories and 94 points.

In addition, Portland needs four victories in the club's final nine road games to set new all-time records of 19 triumphs and 41 points in the standings in games away from home. Portland currently is 15-9-3 in road action.

Seattle, meanwhile, has won 9 of its last 11 games and the only losses were to Portland. That makes it a nine-game winning streak against other WHL rivals.

The Totems will play this week the first four tests of a six-game road swing through California. And while their overall road mark is 11-15-1, the Totems have won six of their last eight away from home and both losses were by a single goals.

This week's schedule opens Tuesday night with Seattle in Los Angeles and Portland in Oakland to face the California Seals.

The LA-Seattle series has been astounding. The Blades are the only WHL team with a winning record 4-3-1 against the Totems. Yet Seattle has outshot LA in all eight meetings. In fact, the Totems have been outshot in only 4 of the 24 periods played. Hot Seattle goalie Jimmy McLeod, however, is 2.20 in five tests against LA and could prove the difference.

California, meanwhile, has defeated Portland only once in 10 games, although the Seals have fought to three ties. Portland has won four out of five in Oakland, paced by Gerry Goyer's series-high 13 points. The Seals have dropped three straight at home.

San Diego, fighting hard but winless in 10 straight games, will be in Victoria Wednesday night. Victoria, averaging better than 40 shots a game against the Gulls, hold a 5-1-2 series edge behind the goaltending (2.43 for seven of the eight) of rookie Al Smith.

Seattle will be in Los Angeles for a rematch on Thursday night, and on Friday night the Totems will be in Oakland to face California and Portland will be in Vancouver.

Continued -----

The Totems lead the series against the Seals, 4-3-2, and have won three straight since goalie McLeod started his hot streak. (McLeod, in fact, is 1.40 in five games against California.) Individually, big guns in the series have been the Totems' Guyle Fielder, 17 points in nine games, and Seattle sniper Bill Dineen, who has collected eight goals against the Seals.

The Portland-Vancouver series has been tough to believe. The Canucks actually have outshot the Buckaroos by a collective 276-252, yet Vancouver hasn't won a game. There have been eight Portland victories and one tie. This test obviously will be crucial to championship hopes of a Vancouver club that has a 13-4 record in its last 17 outings. Top series scorer has been Art Jones (15 points), while Don Head has been tough in the Buck nets, a 2.14 average in seven meetings with Vancouver.

The week's schedule winds up Saturday night (there is no Sunday action) with Seattle in Oakland for a rematch, Los Angeles in San Diego and Portland in Victoria.

The Gulls may be happy to see Los Angeles. They hold their only winning record (5-3-1) against the Blades, paced by 13 points apiece from Al Nicholson and Warren Hynes.

Portland, meanwhile, is 6-2-1 against Victoria and has won six of the last seven, despite being outshot the last five games in a row. Top series scorer is Bill Saunders of Portland with 14 points, double the output of any single Maple Leaf.

PAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Highlights of last week's action included: 1 -- A pair of all-time WHL records tied in a single clash in Vancouver; 2 -- Portland's three straight road victories; 3 -- Victoria's continued domination of California; and 4 -- a guy named Gordon Vejprava.

Taking 'em in order:

In Vancouver's 7-3 victory Tuesday night over San Diego, the Canucks exploded for five power play goals, four on exactly four chances in the first period alone, to tie the WHL record previously shared by Denver and Portland. And Canuck goalie Don Simmons had only 10 saves to tie the all-time low set by Bev Bentley of Seattle against Portland on March 25, 1961.

Portland, meanwhile, moved into LA with a six-game winless streak against the Blades, snipped it up with two straight victories and then completed the week with a triumph in Oakland.

Victoria, battling desperately for the playoffs, moved into Oakland and won two straight from the Seals -- the club the Leafs must beat. Victoria now has lost only once in nine games against California, and if you're looking for a reason, try rookie goalie Al Smith. He held the Seals to one goal in two games last week and for seven clashes against them this season is an astounding 1.29. (Against the rest of the league he is 3.58.)

And then there is Vejprava. Enjoying his finest professional season, Vejprava now has scored points in 17 straight games --- longest streak in the WHL this season. Barrie Ross, with Winnipeg in '58-'59, set the all-time WHL record of scoring points in 23 straight games.

Continued -----

SCORING LEADERS

Portland Capt. Art Jones, blazing again now after a month of injuries a short time back, continues to lead Western Hockey League scorers with 73 points on 32 goals and 41 assists in 49 games.

In three games last week, Jones picked up 7 points, including 3 goals, to increase his lead to four over Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava, who has 69 points for the season. Vejprava picked up 6 point, including 4 goals, in three games last week.

Jones, also, moved into a tie with Victoria's Milan Marcetta for the goal-scoring lead with 32, while Seattle's Guyle Fielder took the lead in assists with 45, one more than the 44 of Portland's Gerry Goyer.

GOALKEEPERS

Seattle's Jimmy McLeod had a "bad" week. He played one game, in Vancouver, and yielded three goals. It was only the third time he has given up this many in his last 16 games.

But he still leads all Western League goalies with a 2.30 average that continues well below the all-time WHL record of 2.40 set by Gump Worsley with Vancouver 13 years ago.

Rookie Al Smith of Victoria posted his fifth shutout last week to move into a tie with Vancouver's veteran Don Simmons for the league lead.

PENALTIES

It's elementary -- Watson!

San Diego's Jim, the big defenseman, drew three minors in two games, continues to lead the WHL in penalty minutes with 136 on 63 minors and a lone misconduct. In fact, Watson starts the week with a five-game "penalty streak" alive.

Top challengers are a pair of Seattle Totems, Noel Picard with 119 minutes and Earl Heiskala with 110.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

The Player of the Week honors are split this week.

Art Jones of Portland can't be ignored. He collected 7 points in three games, more than any other player, and qualifies to win the award for the second straight week. He has a nine-game point-scoring streak alive, has collected 14 points in his last six games on 6 goals and 8 assists.

But he shares honors with Victoria's first-year netminder, Al Smith. Smith moved into Oakland for two games vital to the Maple Leafs' playoff chances. He held the Seals to one goal in his first appearance, posted his fifth shutout in the second. It proved the difference between a California lead of 11 points and a lead of only 3 points over the challenging Leafs.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

The battle for playoff positions gets tougher and tenser this week in the Western Hockey League.

Key games involving the three top contenders for the fourth spot -- Los Angeles, California and Victoria --- will highlight a 10-game schedule.

California and Los Angeles, now tied for fourth with 54 points each, will clash twice. Counting this week's games, the Seals and Blades will square off five more times this season. A playoff berth could rest on the outcome of the series.

Victoria's Maple Leafs, meanwhile, are only two points back of California and Los Angeles. The Leafs this week will resume their season series against arch-rival Vancouver. Four games remain between these two clubs and the outcome of this series could determine both the Leafs' chances for the playoffs and Vancouver's chances to overtake first-place Portland.

Victoria, Los Angeles and California are all hot at the moment, too. The Leafs have a four-game winning streak alive. Los Angeles has won three straight. And the Seals have a two-game unbeaten string going.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with Seattle's third-place Totems in San Diego. This will be Seattle's fifth straight game in California, and the Totems are still looking for their first victory, although they fought to one tie in Oakland.

The Seattle-San Diego series is dead even, five victories for each club. Also dead even are the two leading goalies in the series. San Diego's Les Binkley is 2.33 in six tests against Seattle. The Totems' Jimmy McLeod is 2.33 in six games against the Gulls. It's been a torrid series for Seattle's Guyle Fielder, 15 points in 10 games, and for San Diego's Fred Hilts, who has scored nine goals against the Totems. San Diego will be out to snap a 12-game winless streak.

On Wednesday night, Los Angeles will be in Oakland to face the Seals and Victoria will be in Portland. The Seals have won six of seven from the Blades, paced by Charlie Burns who has scored a fantastic 17 points in seven games against the LA club. Seal goalie Jac McCartan has his best record (2.72) against the Blades. Top Blade scorer in the series has been Dick Meissner with 14 points.

Portland, meanwhile, is 6-3-1 against Victoria but will be facing a hot young goalie in Leaf rookie Al Smith, who has yielded just four goals in his last four games to keep the Leafs unbeaten in that stretch. Top series scorer has been Bill Saunders of the Bucks with 14 points.

On Thursday night, Portland will be in San Diego and Seattle will be in Los Angeles.

The Buckaroos, leading the league by 13 points, have won seven of eight from the Gulls, Art Jones and Gerry Goyer pacing the attack with 11 points each. It hasn't mattered much who was in the nets for Portland. Rick Charron is 1.50 for four games against San Diego and Don Head is 2.00 for the same number of tests.

Continued -----

Seattle, meanwhile, can't believe the series against Los Angeles. The Totems have outshot the Blades nine times in 10 games, hold a whopping overall margin of 354 to 262. Yet Los Angeles leads the series, 6-3-1. Goalies have been tough in this set. Jack Norris is 0.50 for two games against Seattle, and Dave Kelly is 2.63 for eight games -- best marks by each against any rival. Yet the Totems' Jim McLeod is 2.37 for six games against the Blades. Top series scorer is LA's Tommy McVie, a one-time Totem, who has picked up 12 points on 5 goals and 7 assists.

A lone contest Friday night will send Victoria across the water to Vancouver. Vancouver won the first five straight against the Leafs this season, but Victoria has taken the last three in a row, the last two by decisive margins of 4-1 and 7-0. It's been a big series for Bryan Hextall (16 points in eight games) and Larry Cahan (12 assists in eight games) of the Canucks.

Saturday night rematches will find Portland in San Diego, Vancouver in Victoria and California in Los Angeles, while a lone Sunday night game sends San Diego to Seattle to start a six-game road trip.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

The end of a jinx, the snipping of two hot individual scoring strings and an explosion in Victoria highlighted action last week in the Western Hockey League.

The jinx died Friday night in Vancouver where the Canucks tipped the Portland Buckaroos, 3-1, in a tense one, with the final Vancouver goal going into an empty net. It was Vancouver's first victory over Portland in 10 meetings this season.

Despite Vancouver's victory, the Canucks' Gordon Vejprava was blanked, ending a scoring string of 17 consecutive games -- longest in the Western Hockey League this season.

Portland Capt. Art Jones scored the only Buckaroo goal to run his point-scoring string to 11 straight games, longest in the league with the death of Vejprava's streak. But Jones (and all his teammates) was blanked Saturday night in Victoria.

The "explosion" echoed out of Victoria on Wednesday night when the Bob Barlow - Lou Jankowski - Mike Labadie line was on the ice for five Leaf goals -- three by Barlow and one each by his wingers.

SCORING LEADERS

Portland center Art Jones picked up two goals in three road tests last week to hold his Western Hockey League lead in total points (75) and in goals scored (34).

In the point-scoring race, Jones has a six-point lead over Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava, but the Canuck veteran has five games in hand on the Buckaroo captain and this one could tighten down the stretch.

Already tight is the battle for goal-scoring honors. Just one back of Jones are Milan Marcetta of Victoria and Fred Hiltz of San Diego, each with 33, and at the 32-mark is Dick Meissner of Los Angeles.

Continued -----

Seattle's Guyle Fielder leads in assists with 48, four more than the 44 of Portland's Gerry Goyer.

GOALKEEPERS

Seattle netminder Jimmy McLeod found the going rough on the road last week, yielding 13 goals in three games. His goals-against mark of 2.50 continues to lead all goalies, however, with Vancouver's Don Simmons (2.76) and Portland's Don Head (2.77) staying tough.

Victoria rookie Al Smith, meanwhile, posted his sixth shutout (against Portland) to take the league lead by himself. He previously was tied with Vancouver's Don Simmons at 5.

PENALTIES

San Diego defenseman, Jim Watson, drew only one minor in two games last week but continues to lead the Western League in penalty minutes with 138 on 64 minors and one misconduct. Seattle winger Earl Heiskala has moved into second with 124 minutes, three more than teammate Noel Picard.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

No question about Player of the Week honors. Victoria's Bob Barlow is "back" with a bang.

The winger converted to center exploded for four goals and three assists in two games last week, including a five-point performance and a hat trick against San Diego.

One of the top goal scorers in Western League history on a per-game basis, Barlow suffered through the worst slump of his career in the first half of the season, sniped only one goal in his first 32 games. His "return could mean bad news the rest of the way for Leaf opponents.

SPECIAL NOTE ON ROOKIE AWARD

An error in the official Western Hockey League pressbook has caused some confusion about eligibility of players for the league's annual rookie-of-the-year award.

The pressbook states that to be eligible, a player shall not have played "more than 30 games of professional hockey."

However, league directors before the start of the season decided that games played in the Central Professional Hockey League do not count in the 30 games.

Therefore, any Western Leaguer with previous professional experience only in the Central Pro League is eligible for this season's rookie-of-the-year award.

LINEUP CHANGES:

San Diego - remove James Eagle
 add Roger Cote #6 Defense
Seattle - add Bill MacFarland Forward
California- remove Jean Guy Morissette Goal
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WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- Upcoming action

This could be a week of decision for the California Seals in their battle against Los Angeles and Victoria to make the playoffs in the Western Hockey League.

The Seals will hit the road for four of the 11 games scheduled in the W.H.L.

And strangely, the Seals have a better road record (12-10-7) than one at home in Oakland (12-14-2).

California now is tied with LA, 57 points each, and is one point in front of Victoria in the fight for the playoffs.

Four road tests also are scheduled this week for the San Diego Gulls, who knocked form for a loop last week by twice whipping the first-place Portland Buckaroos.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with the Seals in Vancouver. This has been a tough series for California, the Canucks winning six and losing only three of the first nine games played.

On Wednesday night, San Diego will be in Portland, Vancouver will be in Seattle and the Seals will be in Victoria.

The series between the Gulls and Buckaroos has been a strange one, in a sense, since the cellar-dwellers have whipped the first-place club three times in the last four meetings. The Buckaroos, however, still lead the season series by a 7-3-0 margin.

Seattle and Vancouver, meanwhile, are dead even (4-4-0) in what shapes up as a battle for second place with a shot still alive at first.

Victoria holds a 6-1-2 edge over California in a series that is becoming a head-to-head battle for playoff position.

On Friday night, the Seals will be in Portland, Victoria will be in Seattle and San Diego will be in Vancouver.

All of these series have been one-sided --- to date!

The Buckaroos have lost only once in 11 games against California, although the Seals have battled to three ties in games in Portland.

Seattle has dominated Victoria by a 7-1-1 margin.

And Vancouver has whipped San Diego nine times in ten meetings.

Late-season games, however, seldom follow early-season form. And despite the overall advantages, none of the "leaders" in the series will go in over confident.

On Saturday night, Vancouver will be in Los Angeles, the California Seals will be in Seattle and San Diego will be in Victoria.

Vancouver holds a 7-1-1 edge over the Blades in the season series. Seattle is deadlocked (4-4-3) against the Seals going into the final meeting of the regular season. And Victoria holds a 6-1-2 edge over San Diego.

The week's schedule will wind up Sunday night with San Diego in Portland for a rematch.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

There were two major explosions last week in Western Hockey League action.

First, the San Diego Gulls bombed the Portland Buckaroos by a 9-1 count. It was Portland's worst defeat of the season and the second worst loss in Buckaroo history -- dating from the club's return to the Western Hockey League in the fall of 1960.

Worst Portland defeat of all time was a 10-0 loss in Los Angeles last season.

Then there was that 10-7 game in Seattle Sunday night, the Totems whipping the San Diego Gulls.

It was the highest-scoring game this season in the Western Hockey League.

Seattle center Guyle Fielder earned six assists to set a season record for the WHL and tie the league's all-time record for playmakers in one contest.

In the same game, Fred Hilts scored his fourth hat trick for San Diego to increase his lead in this department.

SCORING LEADERS

Portland Capt. Art Jones picked up six assists in three games last week to increase his season's scoring total to 81 points and hold the lead in the Western Hockey League.

Jones now has 34 goals and 47 assists.

Tied for second are Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava and Seattle's Guyle Fielder, each with 70 points.

San Diego's Fred Hilts scored four goals in three games to hit the 37-mark for the season and take the lead among WHL snipers. Jones of Portland and Milan Marcetta of Victoria are tied for second with 34 each.

Top playmaker in the WHL is Seattle's center Fielder with 57 assists.

GOALKEEPERS

Seattle's Jim McLeod had one of those nights Sunday.

His team won, 10-7, but it didn't help his goals-against average.

He still leads the Western League, however, with a goals-against mark of 2.70.

Second is Don Head of Portland with a record of 2.78.

PENALTIES

San Diego's Jim Watson was shistled for three minors in three games last week and continues to lead Western Leaguers in penalty minutes with 144 on 67 minors and one misconduct.

Continued -----

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

San Diego winger Len Ronson and Seattle center Guyle Fielder share Player of the Week honors in the Western Hockey League this week.

Ronson picked up five goals and four assists, while Fielder earned nine points on assists in setting up Seattle wingers.

Fielder scored six of his nine points for the week in one game against San Diego, while Ronson picked up five of his nine in one game against Portland.

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LINEUP CHANGES:

Seattle add Jim Paterson #20 Forward
Portland remove Wally Boyer
Vancouver add Wayne Mosdell #20 Def.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

There'll be two major highlights in this week's 11-game schedule in the Western Hockey League.

One will be the continued hot fight between Vancouver and Seattle for second place and a longshot chance at first.

The other will be the continued free-for-all for the fourth and last playoff position, with California's Seals, the Los Angeles Blades and the Victoria Maple Leafs all swinging.

Vancouver and Seattle will skate into action tied for second with 70 points each, 15 back of first-place Portland. At this point, it would take a major foldup by the Buckaroos to keep them from winning an unprecedented third straight regular-season championship.

But it could be a struggle to the wire for the runnerup spot. Vancouver has 12 games left, three more than the Totems. But Seattle has the best schedule, six at home and only three on the road to four at home and eight on the road for the Canucks.

California, meanwhile, is tied for fourth with Los Angeles at the 59-point mark, with Victoria one back at 58.

The Seals still rank as the favorites. They have 11 games left and 8 are on home ice. Seven of the 11, further, are against Los Angeles and San Diego. And the Seals have lost only once to LA, are unbeaten against the Gulls.

Los Angeles has 10 games left but only 3 are on home ice. The Blades must win on the road to stay in contention.

And Victoria has 10 games left, with 4 on home ice, 6 on the road.

The week's schedule opens Tuesday night with Vancouver in Los Angeles, playing the second game of a final five-game swing throught California. The Canucks are 7-2-1 against the Blades, have outshot them in seven straight games and in 9 of the 10 played. But Dave Kelly's shutout for LA ended a six-game Vancouver winning streak against the Blades last week, and maybe the tide has turned. Top series scorers are Phil Maloney (4-15-18) for Vancouver and Norm Johnson (6-7-13) for Los Angeles.

On Wednesday night, Seattle will be in Victoria and San Diego will be in Oakland to face the California Seals.

Seattle holds an 8-1-1 record against Victoria this season, but it hasn't been that easy. Six of the eight victories were by a single goal. The Totems will put a four-game winning streak on the line but will miss the top scorer in the series, injured Bill Dineen, who had collected 15 points against the Leafs. Howie Hughes, 14 points on 8 goals and 6 assists, has been the next most productive Totem.

San Diego, meanwhile, is winless against California --- eight straight losses. It's been the toughest series for Gull goalie Les Binkley, who is 5.17 against the Seals. Top series scorers have been Danny Belisle (8-4-12) for California and Fred Hiltz (6-4-10) for San Diego.

On Thursday night, Vancouver will be in San Diego and Portland will be in Seattle. The Canucks are 10-1-0 against the Gulls but have won six times by a single goal. It's been a brilliant series for Vancouver goalie Don Simmons, who is 1.64 for 11 games against the San Diego club. Gordon Vejprava's 16 points have paced the Canuck attack against the Gulls, while Len Ronson has led San Diego with 9.

The Seattle-Portland series, meanwhile, has been tough, tense and low-scoring. The bitter rivals are dead even at 4-4-1, with Portland holding a slim (26-25) edge in goals scored. Art Jones has paced Portland with 10 points, including 7 goals, while Larry Lund has led Seattle in the series with 8 points, including 5 goals. All goalies have proved tough, with Jim Armstrong (2.25 for four games) the hottest.

A lone Friday night game will send Vancouver to Oakland. The Canucks have won 7, lost 3 against the Seals. But again, 6 of the 10 games have been decided by a single goal. Don Simmons in the Canuck nets is 2.10 against the Seals. Top series scorers have been Larry Popein and Gordon Vejprava, 11 points each, for Vancouver and Forbes Kennedy with 9 points for California.

On Saturday night, Los Angeles will be in Victoria to start a five-game road swing and California will be in San Diego for a rematch. The Blades hold a 7-4-0 edge over the Leafs, paced by 14 points by Norm Johnson.

The week's schedule winds up Sunday night with Vancouver in Oakland and Victoria in Seattle for rematches and with Los Angeles in Portland.

The Blades are the only WHL team with a winning (6-4-1) record against the first-place Buckaroos, Willie O'Ree leading the way with 16 points in 11 games. Top series scorer, however, is Art Jones of Portland with 19 points.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

It was tight and tense last week in the Western Hockey League.

Six of 11 games were decided by one goal, three going into overtime to decisions. The Seattle Totems won all three games they played and took the last two by 3-2 scores to stretch their winning streak to four in a row, longest in the league at present.

Individually, a pair of one-time linemates, Guyle Fielder of Seattle and Tommy McVie of Los Angeles, continued what currently are the longest point-scoring streaks in the league, eight straight game. Fielder has picked up 16 points in that stretch. McVie has scored 10, including 5 goals.

Other hot individuals . . . Vancouver's Don Simmons posted two shutouts in four games, now has seven for the season and needs only one more to tie the all-time Western League record . . . George Swarbrick of California scored his third overtime goal, most in the league, to pace the Seals past Portland, 1-0 . . . Bob Barlow of Victoria scored three goals in three games and you can't keep a good sniper down forever. . . he collected 7 goals in his first 52 games this season, now has scored 11 in his last 8 contests . . .

. . . Willie O'Ree of LA picked up a goal in his only game, now has sniped 13 in his last 15 clashes . . . Gerry Goyer scored his 199th of his WHL career, will hit the 200-mark with his next red light.

SCORING LEADERS

Art Jones of Portland has blanked in his first two games last week, then picked up a goal and an assist Sunday night against San Diego and continues to lead the WHL in scoring with 83 points on 35 goals and 48 assists. Closest challengers are Guyle Fielder of Seattle with 75 points and Gordon Vejprava of Vancouver with 74.

Fred Hilts of San Diego sniped two goals in four games, continues to lead the league with 39 for the season, four more than Jones and Milan Marcetta of Victoria, who have 35 each.

Fielder, with 61 assists, is far out in front in the playmaking department.

GOALKEEPERS

It's still Jimmy McLeod of Seattle leading Western League netminders with a goals-against mark of 2.66 for 35 appearances. Still in contention for top honors are Don Head of Portland at 2.77 and Don Simmons of Vancouver at 2.80. Simmons, of course, leads in shutouts with seven.

PENALTIES

Jim Watson of San Diego has a challenger. Watson still leads the WHL in penalty minutes with 146 on 68 minors and a misconduct. But he drew only one minor in four games last week.

Seattle's Earl Heiskala, meanwhile, was whistled for three minors and a major in three games and now has 143 minutes for the season on 49 minors, 5 majors and 2 misconducts.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Player of the Week honors in the Western Hockey League go to one of the real old pros of the circuit ---- Lou Jankowski of the Victoria Maple Leafs.

Jankowski, second-highest goal scorer in WHL history, picked up six points on two goals and four assists in three games last week.

He has picked up points, incidentally, in 10 of his last 11 games --- a total of 19 over the hot stretch.

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COMPLETED SERIES:

Each club played one another twelve times during the season and series completed have shown the following results: Portland over San Diego 9-3, Portland over California 7-2 and 3 tied, Seattle over San Diego 7-5, Seattle over California 5-4 and 3 tied.

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WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

This could be the week the Portland Buckaroos write Western Hockey League history.

The magic number is "one" now for the Bucks in their drive to become the first WHL club of all time to capture the regular-season championship in three consecutive campaigns.

One more Portland victory -- or one defeat for either Seattle or Vancouver will wrap up the title for the Buckaroos.

The Bucks get three chances this week to do it themselves, two against Vancouver and one against Seattle, their top challengers.

Meanwhile, the battle for second could go to the wire between the Totems and the Canucks.

Seattle, hottest club in the league now with a seven-game undefeated streak alive, leads Vancouver by three points, 75 to 72, but the Canucks have eight games to play to only six for the Totems.

Vancouver and Seattle have three more head-to-head meetings, and the results of these clashes could decide who winds up in the runnerup spot.

The battle for the fourth and final playoff position also could go right to the final weekend of action on April 1 and 2.

The California Seals, who won three out of four last week, now hold fourth with 65 points, four more than the 61 of both LA and Victoria. All three clubs have seven games left.

The Maple Leafs will be in Oakland for a pair of clashes with the Seals this week, and in between the California entry will host Los Angeles. Three Seal victories could just about wrap it up.

Strangely, cellar-dwelling San Diego could decide which of the three gets into the playoffs. The Gulls have six games to play. And they have two left against LA, two against California and two against Victoria.

The week's 11-game schedule opens Tuesday night with Los Angeles in Vancouver. It's the final meeting of the Blades and Canucks, with Vancouver holding a 7-3-1 in the series despite losses in the last two games.

On Wednesday night, Seattle will be in Portland and Victoria in Oakland to face the California Seals.

The Totems lead their series against Portland, 5-4-1, but a Buckaroo victory would win the championship. California, meanwhile, has beaten Victoria only once in 10 games, with a pair of ties thrown in, and the chief reason has been Al Smith's hot goaltending for the Leafs. He's 1.63 for eight games against the Seals.

On Thursday night, Victoria will be in San Diego and Los Angeles in Seattle.

The Leafs hold a 6-2-2 edge over the Gulls, paced by Bob Barlow's 13 points. LA has proved the league's giant-killer. They have won their series against Portland's first-place club and lead second-place Seattle by a 7-3-1 margin, holding the Totems to just 26 goals in the first 11 games.

Two Friday night clashes will send Portland to Vancouver and Los Angeles to California. There is reason for bitterness in both series. If the Canucks miss second place, they can blame Portland, which owns an 8-1-1 advantage in the season series. And if the Blades miss the playoffs, they can blame California. The Seals are 7-1-1 against their arch-rivals.

On Saturday night, Victoria will be in San Diego for a rematch and Vancouver will be in Seattle. The Totems are 5-4-0 against the Canucks, Guyle Fielder and Larry Lund leading the way with nine points each in the series.

The week's slate will wind up Sunday night with a pair of rematches, Victoria in Oakland and Vancouver in Portland.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

The Seattle Totems made the big news last week. They tied Victoria, 0-0. They tipped Portland, 3-2, in overtime. And they blanked the Maple Leafs, 5-0. And they extended their unbeaten string to seven straight games in the process.

That scoreless tie, incidentally, was the first in the Western Hockey League since November 8, 1964, when the Totems hooked up with Los Angeles. And it was only the seventh in the history of the WHL. The magnificent goalies were Gary Smith of Victoria and Jim McLeod of Seattle.

The San Diego Gulls wrote a bit of personal history when they blasted California, 6-2, for their first victory over the Seals. The Gulls had suffered nine straight losses to the California entry.

And every Western League team now has defeated every other team at least once.

Seattle, in addition to winning, made news of a different nature. The Totems took over the lead in penalty minutes in the WHL with 841 to 833 for the Portland Buckaroos. The Bucks led the league in penalty minutes in '64, '65 and '66 but seem in danger of losing their "crown" in this campaign.

It was a great week for home clubs, visiting teams winning only one of 11 games. Vancouver did it by defeating San Diego, 7-4.

Individually, Ray Brunel of Vancouver sniped his third hat trick of the season in the triumph over the Gulls, and Portland's Alain Caron scored his first with a three-goal output in Portland's 4-2 victory over Los Angeles Sunday night.

SCORING LEADERS

Seattle's Guyle Fielder is coming on strong, but Portland's Art Jones still leads the battle for top scoring honors in the Western Hockey League.

Jones has 84 points on 36 goals and 48 assists. Fielder is second with 80 points on 15 goals and 65 assists. And Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava is third with 77 points on 32 goals and 45 assists.

Fielder picked up five points in three games last week, now has scored points in 10 of his last 11 games -- a total of 21 over the torrid stretch. Jones scored one goal in two games last week, while Vejprava collected a goal and two assists in four games.

San Diego's Fred Hilts, meanwhile, sniped a pair of goals in three games last week, leads the Western League with 41 for the season, five more than Jones and Milan Marcetta of Victoria, who have 36 each.

With 65 assists, Fielder is far out in front of playmakers. He has 17 more than runnerup Jones.

GOALKEEPERS

Seattle's Jimmy McLeod played in two of his club's three games last week, held Portland to two goals in an overtime victory and blanked Victoria and continues to lead Western League netminders with a goals-against mark of 2.57. Closest challenger in Portland's Don Head at 2.78.

PENALTIES

No all-time Western Hockey League record in record in reverse is possible.

But the circuit's penalty leader this season quite likely could have the lowest total in minutes in more than a decade.

San Diego's Jim Watson picked up two minors in three games last week, leads the league with 150 minutes, five more than the 145 of Seattle winger Earl Heiskala.

Either player could be the first league leader under 170 minutes since the 1955-56 campaign, when Pat Egan of Vancouver topped the circuit with 163.

The all-time low for a penalty leader is 148 minutes, drawn by Dough McCaig with Edmonton in 1951-52.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

There were no tremendous scoring outbursts by any players in the Western Hockey League last week. But it really wouldn't have mattered -- unless there was an explosion.

The Player of the Week award is shared by a pair of Seattle goalies, Jim McLeod and Jim Armstrong.

McLeod took the nets twice, blanked Victoria in the scoreless overtime tie and stopped first-place Portland with just two goals. He lowered his league-leading goals-against mark to 2.57.

Then rookie Armstrong stepped in to blank Victoria, 5-0, for his first shutout of the season.

It's pretty tough to whip netminders who give you 0.67 goals a contest.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE --- UPCOMING ACTION

The four playoff clubs are set --- the Portland Buckaroos, the Seattle Totems, the Vancouver Canucks and the California Seals!

The Seals wrapped up the final spot Sunday night by tipping Victoria, 6-4, to run their current unbeaten string to four straight. And, ironically, it was only the second victory for California in the 12-game series against the defending Lester Patrick Cup Champion Maple Leafs.

But don't go away!

There still could be tension to the wire in this final week of the Western Hockey League's regular season.

For one thing, the hottest club in Seattle hockey history ---- 10 straight games without a defeat --- still could tie the Portland Buckaroos for the regular-season championship.

It's a longshot, as they spell it in racing circles, but if the Totems win their final three games and the Buckaroos drop their last two, there will be a deadlock for the top spot.

Yet the Totems can't look over their shoulders. Vancouver is out of the running for the championship, but the Canucks still could move into second past Seattle.

Then there's a hot race for individual scoring honors between Seattle's Guyle Fielder, who now leads with 88 points, and Portland's Art Jones, two back with 86.

And finally, there could be a bid by Seattle goalie Jim McLeod to post the lowest goals-against average in Western Hockey League history.

More about the individual battles later. This is the team picture:

Portland leads Seattle, 87 points to 81, in the race for first. The Bucks have two games left, Friday night in Seattle and Saturday night in Victoria. The Totems have three games left, Tuesday night in Vancouver, the Friday night clash with Portland and a Saturday night home game against the Canucks.

One Portland victory or one Seattle defeat --- or one Portland tie or one Seattle tie --- will make the Buckaroos the first club in Western League history to capture the regular-season title in three straight campaigns.

But anything can happen --- and it's been happening lately.

Meanwhile, Seattle, with those three games to play, holds only a three-point lead over Vancouver. And the Canucks have four games left, the home and home series against Seattle and a home and home set against Victoria --- Wednesday night in the Maple Leafs' Memorial Arena, Friday night in the Canucks' Forum.

Again, anything can happen.

The crucial series up north stand this way:

Seattle leads Portland, 6-4-1. The Totems lead Vancouver, 6-4-0. Portland leads Victoria, 7-3-1. And the series between Vancouver and Victoria is deadlocked at five victories each.

In other final week action, the San Diego Gulls, riding their first three-game winning streak since November, will be in Los Angeles Tuesday night and in Oakland to face the California Seals on Wednesday night.

On Thursday night, Los Angeles will be in San Diego. The Blades then move to Oakland to face California on Friday night, return home to host the Seals on Saturday night.

And the regular season will wind up Sunday night with California in San Diego.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

The Seattle Totems and the California Seals made the big news last week --- unless you count Portland, which dropped three straight to postpone any championship celebration.

The Totems clinched their season series against Portland with a 3-1 victory on the Buckaroos' home ice, blasted Los Angeles 10-2 and then tipped Vancouver 2-0 in a tense one in which the final goal was scored into an empty net.

Three triumphs stretched Seattle's unbeaten string to 10 straight --- longest in Seattle history. Two home victories made it 9 straight on Totem ice --- another new all-time mark for the club.

It was the first time, incidentally, that Seattle has won a series from Portland since hockey returned to the Rose City in the fall of 1961.

And Seattle now needs only 3 of a possible 6 points in the club's final three games to finish with 84 in the standings and set an all-time high for a Totem hockey team.

If you're looking for a major, if offbeat, reason for Seattle's late-season surge, check the scoring in final periods of Totem games lately. In their first 59 games, the Totems were outscored, 60-64, in often vital third periods. In their last 10 games, the count in final periods has been 19-5 for Seattle.

Then there is California. The Seals fought their way into the playoffs last week by tying Victoria 2-2, blasting Los Angeles for the 8th time in 10 games, 7-1, and then tipping the Maple Leafs 6-4.

And if you're looking for reasons for California's late surge, check goalie Jack McCartan's sudden adjustment to home ice. Just a short time back, he was tough on the road (under 3.00) but at home had yielded 70 goals in 17.33 games for a 4.04 average. In his last seven home games, he's given up only 13 goals for a 1.86 average --- and there's quite a difference.

Continued -----

SCORING LEADERS

For the first time this season, the old pro took the lead.

Seattle's Guyle Fielder, bidding for this ninth Western Hockey League scoring championship, sniped four goals (including his first hat trick of the year) and earned four assists for eight points.

And with 88 points for the season, he now leads Portland's Art Jones, who has 86. The breakdown shows Fielder with 19 goals and 69 assists, Jones with 37 goals and 49 assists.

Fielder has three games to play, two at home, and Jones has a pair, both on the road.

Meanwhile, San Diego's Fred Hilts was blanked last week but still leads all goal scorers with 41 for the season. In playmaking, Fielder is far out in front with his 69 assists.

There could be two tight battles to the wire in other important scoring departments. Portland's Cliff Schmautz leads the league in game-winning goals (8) for the second straight season. But five players are one back with seven each --- Milan Marcetta of Victoria, Ray Brunel of Vancouver, Howie Hughes of Seattle and Art Jones and Bill Saunders of Portland.

In game-winning assists, Fielder and Vancouver's Gordon Vejprava are now tied for first with 11 each.

GOALKEEPERS

It's Jimmy McLeod of Seattle, a shutout (No. 4 for the season) and a one-goal effort last week, out in front of WHL goalkeepers with a mark of 2.46 for the season.

McLeod, if he plays Seattle's final three games, must give up only five goals to tie Gump Worsley's all-time league record low of a 2.40 goals-against mark for a season or four to finish a 2.38 and set a new record.

PENALTIES

San Diego defenseman Jim Watson drew two minors in two games last week, has a league-leading 154 minutes in penalties for the season. Still within range is Seattle forward Earl Heiskala, with 147 minutes off the ice.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

It couldn't be more appropriate, Guyle Fielder of Seattle as Player of the Week.

He collected eight points in three games, boomed into the lead in the individual scoring race. He has now collected 29 points in his last 14 games, was blanked over that stretch only in Seattle's scoreless tie in Victoria. Except for that game, he would have the season's longest assist streak of 14 straight games.

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WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE -- UPCOMING ACTION

The Western Hockey League's 1967 playoffs get under way this week with first-place Portland battling third-place Vancouver and second-place Seattle meeting fourth-place California.

This will be the third straight season that the Buckaroos and the Canucks have clashed in the semi-finals. Vancouver won the opening game of both previous series, but the Buckaroos went on to the finals both years, eliminating the Canucks four games to one in 1965 and four games to three last season.

Portland and Vancouver also clashed in the semi-finals in 1961, the Buckaroos winning that series, three games to one.

Meanwhile, this will be only the second meeting in the playoffs of Seattle and the California (formerly San Francisco) Seals. The Totems and Seals battled to overtime of the seventh game of the playoff finals in 1963 before the California entry took the Lester Patrick Cup.

The Portland-Vancouver series will open Wednesday night in Portland. The Teams then will meet Friday night in Vancouver, next Sunday night in Portland and Monday night, April 10, in Vancouver to complete the first four games.

The Seattle-California series will open with the Seals in Seattle on both Wednesday and Friday nights and with Seattle in Oakland on Sunday afternoon (2:30) and on Wednesday night, April 12, to complete the first four games.

In each series, of course, the first team to win four games will advance to the Lester Patrick Cup finals.

Portland will take an 8-3-1 season edge over Vancouver into playoff action, yet the Canucks closed the campaign with a three-game winning streak against the Buckaroos, so the Buck edge might not mean much. Against Vancouver, the Bucks were 5-1-0 at home and 3-2-1 on the road.

Despite a 43-30 Portland advantage in goals, it was a tight series. Four of Portland's eight victories were by a single goal and only two of 12 games were decided by more than two goals. The Canucks held the edge in shots in 7 of the 12 clashes.

Top series scorers were Art Jones (6-11-17), Bill Saunders (7-6-13) and Len Lunde (6-6-12) for Portland and Gordon Vejprava (4-6-10), Bryan Hextall (2-8-10) and Phil Maloney (1-6-7) for Vancouver.

Don Head of Portland posted a 2.33 goals-against mark in nine appearances against Vancouver, and Rick Charron was 2.67 for three tests. Vancouver's Don Simmons was 3.58 against the Buckaroos but was 2.86 for his last seven meetings with Portland.

The Seattle-California series, meanwhile, matches two of the hottest clubs of the final stages of the regular season.

Continued -----