

# Bert Olmstead Of The Seals

*By Hugh McDonald*

"We'll beat every team in the National Hockey League this season," said California Seals General Manager-Coach Bert Olmstead.

He said it quietly and confidently—not boastfully. He did not say that the Seals, who with five other clubs are making up a second major hockey league division, would win more than they lost in playing 24 games with the established NHL clubs.

Nevertheless, he was asked, "You mean you'll beat all of the clubs in the new division?"

"No," he replied. "I mean the old clubs."

These are the Stanley Cup winning Toronto Maple Leafs, the spirited Montreal Canadiens, the Detroit Red Wings, New York Rangers and the Boston Bruins — the cream of hockeydom.

Hockey observers believe that the Seals very well could be the pick of the new division, which consists of the Philadelphia Flyers, against whom they open at the Oakland Arena next Wednesday night; the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Minneapolis

North Stars, the St. Louis Blues and the Los Angeles Kings.

"We're going to surprise a lot of people," said Olmstead who is pretty well satisfied with what the Seals picked up in the

NHL draft last summer. "We got some hockey players with whom I've played, some proven stars, some who have a chance to get more ice time and some who have been in the high minors and who



Two top draft choices, Kent Douglas (left) and Bob Bawn (right) confer with General Manager-Coach Bert Olmstead. Both players were defensemen with last year's Stanley Cup winners, the Toronto Maple Leafs.



Three Seals' forwards grind to a halt for the camera. Left to right are newcomers Terry Clancy and Billy Harris and Charlie Burns, player-coach last year and long a favorite of Seals' fans.