

Canadien Goalie Picked 1st By Seals

By SPENCE CONLEY
Tribune Sports Writer

MONTREAL — Charlie Hodge, diminutive goal tender for the Montreal Canadiens, was the first-round draft selection of the California Seals, in the unprecedented National Hockey League expansion today.

Picking last, in the opening goal-keeper selection, the Seals snuck in to claim Hodge, a 5-6, 156-pound, 14-year veteran whom they had rated the third best net-minder available.

The Seals followed quickly in the next round by naming

tall Gary Smith of Toronto as their second-line goalie.

Smith, 6-4, 215 pounds, played for the Victoria Maple Leafs in the Western Hockey League last season. Smith is 23 and Hodge 34.

Then, in their first two selections in the skater draft, the Seals named Toronto's Bobby Baun and Kent Douglas, both of whom were highly rated on the Bay Area team's list of draftable defensemen.

Baun, 5-9, 182 pounds, has been with the Maple Leafs for the last 10 years, while Douglas has seen two years' duty with the Leafs and has a total

of 11 years in pro hockey. Both are 29.

With general manager Rudy Pilous naming the choices and coach Bert Olmstead at his right hand, the Seals continued by shifting to forward help in naming New York's Bill Hicke and Detroit's Billy Harris in third and fourth rounds.

Hicke, 29, played eight seasons with Montreal before being traded to the Rangers in 1965. He is 5-8, 165 pounds.

Harris, a muscular six-footer, alternated between the Red Wings and their Pittsburgh farm club last sea-

son. He had previously spent 10 seasons with Toronto.

"Our draft is going much better than we had anticipated," commented Pilous. "Even though we drafted last for goalkeepers, I think we got two of the best, a good mixture of experience and youth."

"Baun and Douglas will certainly give us two of the toughest defensemen in the National Hockey League's Western Division, and we know that Hicke and Harris can score."

"If the draft continues in this direction we should be all

right," Pilous said.

Before naming their fifth-round selection, the Seals delayed past the 30-second warning of their allotted three minutes, then quickly called for a 10-minute conference — one of three they were permitted during the drafting.

After their conference, the Seals named burly Vancouver defenseman Larry Cahan in the fifth round.

Cahan was an all-star choice in the WHL last season and winner of the outstanding defenseman award while playing for Olmstead's western league runners-up.

Cahan, 33, is a rugged six-foot, 200-pounder and a 13-year veteran owned by the New York Rangers.

In their final four picks in the morning drafting session, the Seals claimed centers Wally Boyer, 30, from the Chicago Black Hawks and Joe Szura, 29, a lanky 6-3, 185-pounder from Montreal. He was one of the top scorers for the Cleveland Barons of the AHL last season.

In a surprise selection the Seals got Bob Lemieux, 23, 6-2, 195, a star defenseman with the WHL champion Seattle Totems.

"I think we really stole him," said Pilous. "He's young, has size and is absolutely fearless."

Then Pilous named rugged left wing Jean Paul Parise, 26, who played for both the Boston Bruins and the Central League champion Oklahoma City Blazers.

By the conclusion of the morning session nine rounds had been completed with some 12 goal keepers and 42 skaters being selected by the six new franchises.

The No. 1 draft pick opening the unprecedented meeting

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GARY SMITH



BOB BAUN



KENT DOUGLAS

Seal Boss Calls Draft 'Fantastic' Seals Pick Hodge In Hockey Draft

MONTREAL — Barry Van Gerbig, the 27-year-old owner of the California Seals, called his club's opening National Hockey League draft "absolutely fantastic."

"Things just couldn't go any better for us," Van Gerbig enthused, "we've obtained just about everything we wanted so far."

"We're going to have the biggest, meanest and steadiest defense, possibly the best in the NHL," he declared.

Van Gerbig explained that tough defense was exactly what the Seals had sought as they sifted through nearly 300 draftable players in the giant NHL stocking draft.

"Nobody is going to shove us around," Van Gerbig said. "Our defense of course is the key, but we're going to be tough up front too."

He said the best pick of the day for the Seals was Bob Lemieux, the 23-year-old Seattle defenseman who helped lead the Totems to the WHL playoff championship this season.

"We stole him right out from under everybody's noses," he said.

Van Gerbig feels that with Lemieux, Toronto's Kent Douglas and Bobby Bann, and Larry Cahau, Vancouver's monstrous defensive star, the Seals will have a defense to strike fear into the hearts of opposition forwards.

He also feels the three centermen taken this morning — Chicago's Wally Boyer, Detroit's Billy Harris, and Montreal's Joe Szura — will give the Seals experienced playmaking and goal-scoring potential.

—By SPENCE CONLEY

Continued from 1st Sports Page was veteran Toronto goalie Terry Sawchuk.

He was taken by the Los Angeles Kings after selection order was determined by a draw of teams from the silver bowl atop the historic Stanley Cup.

More than 500 persons crowded into the grand ballroom of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel here to witness and participate in the relocation of 120 players as the NHL doubles in size.

Other first-round goalie selections included Minnesota, Cesare Maniago of New York; Philadelphia, Bernie Parent of Boston; Pittsburgh, Joe Daley of Detroit and St. Louis, Glenn Hall of Chicago.

First-round skaters included Los Angeles, Gordon Labossiere of Toronto; Minnesota, Dave Balon of Montreal; Philadelphia, Ed Van Impe of Chicago; Pittsburgh, Earl Ingarfield of New York; St. Louis, Jim Roberts of Montreal, and the Seals' Baun of Toronto.

The Seals also claimed Wally Boyer, a center from Chicago as their sixth pick.

In the remaining rounds during the afternoon the Seals concentrated on picking up younger and tougher players. Six of the seven rounds after Parise involved Western Leaguers.

First they picked Ron Harris, the muscular ex-California Seal who was owned by Boston; then, Terry Clancy, a 24-year-old son of King Clancy, the widely-known assistant general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Those selections were followed by claims of defenseman Tracy Pratt, 24, of Portland; Aut Erickson, 29, a Victoria defender; Ron Boehm, 24, WHL rookie of the year last season with Vancouver.

Then the Seals picked colorful Alain (Boom Boom) Caron, 29, the all-time leading goal-scorer in minor league hockey. He played for Portland last season.

Their 16th selection was Mike Loughton, 26, a Victoria player last year, followed by Bryan Hextall, a forward from Vancouver.

The Seals' last draftee of the day was Gary Kilpatrick, 24-year-old defenseman, from Los Angeles.

The Seals officially became a part of the NHL yesterday when they handed over a cashier's check for \$2 million to NHL Secretary Treasurer Bill Jennings in a ceremony so curt and unorganized that Barry Van Gerbig was in a fit of angry frustration.

After they handed over the

money to Jennings, in the presence of NHL President Clarence Campbell, the Seal contingent didn't receive so much as a handshake or word of welcome from the seemingly disinterested old guard.

It was a day of wheeling and dealing at the NHL meeting with several developments.

Los Angeles owner Jack Kent Cooke announced he has acquired the Springfield AHL franchise and purchased 29 of its players, renamed the club the Kings and will serve on the AHL's Board of Governors, in addition to the NHL's.

The New York Rangers announced they have entered a working agreement with Buffalo of the AHL; Pittsburgh will sponsor a minor league club in Baltimore; and Minnesota's North Stars have agreed to put a development club in Memphis.

The NHL rules committee cut back on the deadline for roster reduction, eliminating the Dec. 1 deadline for cutting from 18 skaters and two goalies to 16 and two, in favor of 16 plus two right at the start of the season.

It also said it will initiate a study to regulate the design of the popular curved sticks in an effort to control the amount of curve in the blade.

First round, goalies: 1. Los Angeles, Terry Sawchuk from Toronto; 2. Philadelphia, Bernie Parent from Boston; 3. St. Louis, Glenn Hall from Chicago; 4. Minnesota, Cesare Maniago from New York; 5. Pittsburgh, Joe Daley from Detroit; 6. California, Charlie Hodge from Montreal.

Second round, goalies: 1. California, Gary Smith from Toronto; 2. Pittsburgh, Roy Edwards from Chicago; 3. Minnesota, Garry Baunne from Montreal; 4. St. Louis, Don Caley from Detroit; 5. Philadelphia, Don Favelli from Boston; 6. Los Angeles, Wayne Rutledge from New York.

First round, forwards and defensemen: 1. Minnesota, Dave Balon, left wing, from Montreal; 2. California, Bob Baun, defense, from Toronto; 3. Pittsburgh, Earl Ingarfield, center, from New York; 4. Los Angeles, Gordon Labossiere, center, from Montreal; 5. Philadelphia, Ed Van Impe, defense, from Chicago; 6. St. Louis, Jim Roberts, right wing, from Montreal.

Second round: 1. California, Ken Douglas, defense, from Toronto; 2. Pittsburgh, Al MacNeil, defense, from New York; 3. Los Angeles, Bob Wall, defense, from Detroit; 4. Philadelphia, Joe Walton, defense, from Boston; 5. St. Louis, Noel Picard, defense, from Montreal; 6. Minnesota, Ray Collier, center, from Detroit.

Third round: 1. Pittsburgh, Larry Jeffrey, left wing, from Toronto; 2. Los Angeles, Eddie Joyal, center, from Toronto; 3. Philadelphia, Eric Selby, left wing, from Toronto; 4. St. Louis, Al Arbour, defense, from Toronto; 5. Minnesota, Bob Wojtowich, defense, from Boston; 6. California, Bill Hicke, right wing, from New York.

Fourth round: 1. Los Angeles, Real Lemieux, left wing, from Detroit; 2. Philadelphia, Lou Anzotti, center, from Chicago; 3. St. Louis, Rod Seiling, defense, from New York; 4. Minnesota, Jean-Sey Talbot, defense, from Montreal; 5. California, Billy Harris, center, from Detroit; 6. Pittsburgh, Ab McDonald, left wing, from Detroit.

Fifth round: 1. Philadelphia, Leon Rochefort, right wing, from Montreal; 2. St. Louis, Ron Schock, center, from Boston; 3. Minnesota, Wayne Connelly, right wing, from Boston; 4. California, Larry Cahau, defense, from New York; 5. Pittsburgh, Leon Bolvin, defense, from Detroit; 6. Los Angeles, Paul Popoli, defense, from Boston.

Sixth round: 1. St. Louis, Terry Crisp, right wing, from Boston; 2. Minnesota, Ted Taylor, left wing, from Detroit; 3. California, Wally Boyer, center, from Chicago; 4. Pittsburgh, Noel Price, defense, from Montreal; 5. Los Angeles, Terry Gray, right wing, from Detroit; 6. Philadelphia, Don Blackburn, center, from Toronto.