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Charlie O. takes to the ice

Charles O. Finley, owner of the Oakland A's and new owner of the Oakland Seals, held a press conference yesterday about his latest acquisition, stating that "I know absolutely

nothing about Hockey." One of his newest ideas for the Seals is the uniform that is displayed in the picture he holds up for the press.

COF: I know nothing about hockey

OAKLAND (UPI)—Charles O. Finley, the P. T. Barnum of professional athletics, told his first news conference as owner of the Oakland Seals Monday that "I know absolutely nothing about hockey."

But the colorful Chicago insurance man knows a lot about razzle-dazzle, and he ticked off a few of his ideas for revitalizing the faltering National League club:

—Live seals in glass cages, to put on a balancing act between per ods.

—Promotional nights like those of Finley's baseball club, the Oakland A's—"sweet-heart night, hockey stick night puck night, youth hockey night..."

Finley snapped up the faltering Seals for \$4.5 million last week when they foundered in a sea of red ink and reverted to their former owners, TransNational Communications of New York.

In a move that came as no surprise to close

observers, club president Bill Creasy stepped down from his position. Creasy, who voted against Finley's purchase of the Seals, made the announcement during Finley's news conference.

At the same time Seals executive vice president Bill Torrey confirmed that general manager Frank Selke would be retained.

Finley went on to outline his plans for the Seals.

pickup 6th pgh: "my interest

"My interest in buying the club is that I see the Bay Area as a fast-growing sports center," he said. "I firmly believe that the Seals are here to stay and can become championship contenders.

"I think we'll have to employ more scouts, establish better working agreements with other teams, and develop farm clubs, including one in Birmingham, Ala., which will be the first one for the Seals."

Finley had already announced he planned to change the Seals' green and white uniforms to Kelly green and gold like the A's.

He also said he would put the Seals in white shoe skates similar to the A's famous white albino kangaroo footwear if the players will put up with it.

And he hinted he was negotiating for a trade that would bring a "super-star" to the Seals, "but I can't disclose the name just yet."

Finley was sometimes criticized for not moving his residence to Oakland after he moved his American League Athletics there from Kansas City.

Now that he has two teams in Oakland, he said, he's thinking about it.

"We are going to do everything in our power to bring a championship team to this area, but it will take some time," he said. "My only role is getting enough money to pay the bills."