The Seals, winless in their last 10 games, have lost seven and tied three and the whole nightmarish string of unpleasantness began with the Kings.

After winning their first two games of the year, The Seals slowed to a 2-2 tie the first subsequently lost five straight, tied one, lost two and tied one and dropped from first to last in their half of the NHL.

Still, although last in the West, the Seals are only two points out of third place.

With the single exception of goalie Charlie Hodges the Seals have been erratic defensively and just terrible offensively.

Until G e o r g e Swarbrick scored at the 7:41 mark of the first period Sunday night in the Seals' 2-2 tie with Chicago, the club had gone for six consecutive periods without a goal.

But r e c e n t l y coach Bert Olmstead has come up with a combination of f o r w a r d s which has demonstrated a willingness to work: The Helmet Line.

Lanky, raw-boned c e n t e r Mike Laughton, just called up three games ago from Vancouver, pivots between swift Charlie Burns, shifted from c e n t e r to left wing, and Swarbrick, a right wing with great potential.

Laughton lacks style as a skater, but he's tough and digs for the puck. Burns has exceptional speed and know-how.

Both wear helmets.

Swarbrick has provided the sting for the line and currently is the hottest goal - getter with three in five games. Burns assisted on both goals Sunday and L a u g h t o n 's impressive fore - checking has drawn high praise from Olmstead.

"They've been going well and L a u g h t o n works like hell," explained Olmstead.

The big problem, however, is how to get the other two lines up to the same level. One-third of an offense and a good goaltender won't win the division title in this league.

Generally the team effort against Chicago was good, but thoughtless mistakes are really hurting the Seals.

A sustained high l e v e l of play is absolutely essential if the Seals are to catch up now, since starting tonight they play four games in six nights and three on the road, winding up in Boston and New York on the weekend.