

## NHL COACH OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE

# Seals' Fred Glover—a Stranger in Town

By JOE SARGIS

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) — He walks down the street and no one knows him.

He goes into one of the nicer restaurants in town for a quiet dinner and the waiters figure him as a 10 per cent tipper.

The guy who runs the neighborhood knows his name but can't place the association. It's the same with the boys at the corner filling station, the man

who runs the dry cleaners, and all the way down the line.

And yet, Fred Glover, the stranger in town, may just wind up the season as the National Hockey League's Coach of the Year. He'll deserve it, too, after what he has done with the Oakland Seals in his first big league coaching assignment.

The fact no one recognizes him personally doesn't bother Fred Glover one whit. The fact

the crowds at the Oakland Coliseum have been small even while the team has been winning does.

"Everywhere we go now around the circuit people know us," said Glover, "and yet in our own home town we are virtual strangers. It bothered the players at first and I had to really talk to them about it. They still aren't happy but now that things have

leveled off at least they understand."

By level off, Glover was referring to the purchase of the club last week by a New York group, which includes former Yankee pitching star Whitey Ford. One of Ford's jobs with the club is liaison man between the players and management.

"They couldn't have gotten a better man," said Glover.

"Being a player once himself he knows how players think and can present their problems to management and management's problems to them."

That's Fred Glover for you. Try to get him to talk about himself and he easily shifts the conversation over to someone else.

As a player for more than 20

years, he was altogether different.

He spent all of his career in the minors except for a couple of coffee stops with the Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Black Hawks. Only three players ever scored more points than Fred Glover.

Around Cleveland, where Fred spent most of his playing career, his name is a household name.

(Continued on Page 20)

(Continued From Page 17)  
word. He not only was the team's greatest scorer but also the most penalized.

Some people equate penalty time in hockey with roughhouse play. And when they talk about that kind of play they immediately bring up Howie Young's name. Glover wasn't anything like Young. He spent a lot of time in the penalty box simply because he played the game harder than anyone else.

Now, he has the Oakland Seals playing the same way, and it's paying off. If not at the box office then at least in the standings where the Seals are second in the NHL's Western Division and own the best record of any of the expansion clubs against the established teams. Against the Montreal Canadiens, who've been at the top or near the top on the Eastern Division season long, the Seals are 3-2-1.

"We don't have any superstars on our team," said Glover, "but we can beat teams with superstars."

That's no idle boast, because the Seals have beaten Bobby Hull and the Black Hawks in four of five games.

What's Fred's magic with the

Seals, a team which was dead a year ago under tactful Bert Olmstead?

"Nothing special," he said. "All I told the guys at the beginning of the season is that if we skate hard, set up our

plays and shoot hard there would be no reason why we wouldn't win our share of the games."

Glover makes it sound simple, but it hasn't really been all that easy.