



STEVE CURRIER

THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SEALS

A TALE OF WHITE SKATES, RED INK, AND ONE OF THE NHL'S MOST OUTLANDISH TEAMS

NOVEMBER 2017

\$36.95 • HARDCOVER • 978-0-8032-8848-5
472 pp. 6 x 9 • 38 photographs, 8 illustrations,
25 tables, index

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"The Seals are remembered today as one of the most colorful outfits in hockey history. And now the whole story of hockey, chaos, and heartbreak is expertly told in Steve Currier's *The California Golden Seals*, a book that shines a long-overdue spotlight on a team and a time, the likes of which we shall never see again."—Todd Denault, author of *Jacques Plante: The Man Who Changed the Face of Hockey*

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Train wreck on ice

"This is my kind of book. Steve Currier dives head first into the history of the Seals. . . . This detailed history of the ill-fated and often forgotten team lets us in on everything that was right, and especially everything that was wrong with the Seals. . . . These were real men with real highs and real lows. Lots of lows. Steve Currier takes us on a great trip back in time to the NHL's original Northern California adventure."—Ken Reid, anchor for SportsNet and author of *Hockey Card Stories*

Hockey has had its share of bizarre tales over the years, but none compares to the fascinating story of the California Golden Seals, a team that remains the benchmark for how not to run a sports franchise. From 1967 to 1978, a revolving door of players, apathetic owners, and ridiculous marketing decisions turned the Seals, originally based in Oakland, into hockey's traveling circus. The team lost tons of money and games, cheated death more often than Evel Knievel, and left behind a long trail of broken dreams. Live seals were used as mascots, players wore skates that were painted white on an almost-daily basis, and draft picks were dealt away nonchalantly like cards at a poker game. One general manager was hauled in for questioning by mysterious men because he'd mismanaged a player contract, while one of the team's goaltenders regularly spat tobacco juice at the feet of referees.

The California Golden Seals examines the franchise's entire mismanaged—but always interesting—history, from its ballyhooed beginnings as a minor-league champion in the 1960s to its steep slide into oblivion in the late 1970s after moving to Cleveland. Through a comprehensive season-by-season narrative and a section of definitive statistics, Currier brings to life the Seals' entire history with lighthearted anecdotes, personal interviews, and statistics about hockey's most infamous losing team.

STEVE CURRIER is a hockey historian and member of the Society for International Hockey Research. He lives in Ottawa, Ontario, is a proud member of the Seals Booster Club, and is the creator and moderator of the tribute site GoldenSealsHockey.com.

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