

Cloudy Seals Future

By JOHN PORTER

The Seals appear headed for better records in coming seasons, but it's still unclear if they'll be a Bay Area team.

The outlook within the hockey organization runs the gamut from growing optimism to increasing worry.

Should majority owner Mel Swig find it impossible to raise his San Francisco arena out of the political maneuvering surrounding the Yerba Buena project, then last night's 5-2 mastery of the Los Angeles Kings was the Seals' swan song here.

But Swig refuses to discuss or speculate what he might do if he runs into unyielding opposition to his arena. He claims he can't survive financially beyond two more seasons in Oakland.

"It's possible," Swig said when first asked if he thought he could bypass construction delays imposed by Mayor George Moscone of San Francisco.

Swig later amended his chances to "probable," but his concern was quite evident.

Seals President Munson Campbell, who has been through several hassles to keep big league hockey in the Bay Area, was another ob-

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Seals Will Improve, But Here?

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viously worried, but felt that the franchise could be saved.

"I've got plenty to do," he said. "I'm not going on any vacation, you can be sure of that."

Bill McCreary, the club's general manager, said he would get "12 hours of sleep," then finish signing the remaining players without contracts for next season. He anticipates no problems in the negotiations.

"My gut feeling," said McCreary, rubbing his stomach like a crystal ball, "is that the team will stay here."

Gary Simmons will stay here this summer because he owns a house in Hayward. The Seals goalie made some big saves until his teammates were able to run up the score last night.

"The biggest move this franchise made was to get Jack Evans as coach," said Simmons. "He drives you like nails, but there isn't a player on this team who wouldn't go out on the ice and die for him."

Evans was exuberant in running down the achievement list for his team. There were "improvements in every department," but his face clouded when discussing where the Seals will be skating next season.

"I hope we don't have a summer like the last one, he said.

The nine-year history of the franchise has been one threatened move after another. The eight rookies on this team are just beginning to discover that insecure feeling.

"I want to buy a house," said Dennis Maruk, who plans to get married in July. "You want to be sure before you buy one, but I think we'll be in Oakland two more years and then in San Francisco. At least, I hope so."

Simmons, at 32, understands Maruk's indecision.

"It's good that most of the kids on the team are going back to Canada for the summer," the goalie said. "Last year the team was leaving, then staying, then leaving, then staying.

"That can be quite disconcerting for a younger player. I just hope Mel and the boys can put it together," he said.

Considering 6,442 fans showed up for a game that had no meaning last night, he's not alone.

NOTES: Maruk scored twice to hit 30 goals, giving the team three players who reached that mark...In eight previous seasons, only Norm Ferguson reached that plateau and he did it only once...A! MacAdam scored his 32nd to tie Wayne Merrick for the team lead...Maruk had a couple of minor fights, but he wasn't upset. His fiancee is a nursing student...Seals called up right wing Frank Spring and rookie defenseman Greg Smith to sub for injured players and both were impressive.

Seals Summary

LA	S	FIRST PERIOD
0	1	Seals Maruk (29) (Murdach, Stewart) 10:08
1	1	Los Angeles Sargent (8) (Goring, Brown) 11:31
1	2	Seals Maruk (30) (MacAdam, Spring) 13:31
Shots on goal: LA 11, Seals 7		
Penalties: Maruk, Seals (roughing) 5:59; Murphy, LA (troughing) 5:59; Stewart, Seals (boarding) 6:17; Kozak, LA (high-sticking) 8:08; Murahy, LA (slashing) 10:08; Maruk, Seals (roughing) 10:08; Berry, LA (hooking) 12:02		
SECOND PERIOD		
1	2	No scoring.
Shots on goal: Seals 12, LA 5		
Penalties: Smith, Seals (fighting minor) 7:59; Kozak, LA (fighting minor, roughing) 7:59; Kamadoski, LA (cross-checking) 10:48; Hutchison, LA (unsportsmanlike conduct, served by Wilson; game misconduct) 10:48; Wilson, LA (hooking) 16:33; Simmer, Seals (hooking) 18:07		
THIRD PERIOD		
1	3	Seals Girard (16) (Merrick, Spring) 2:23
2	3	Los Angeles Dionne (40) (Sargent) 7:47
2	4	Seals MacAdam (32) (Smith, Stewart) 12:55
2	5	Seals Moxey (10) (Hampton) 19:58
Shots on goal: Seals 10, LA 10		
Penalties: Sargent, LA (tripping) 11:11; Simmer, Seals (roughing) 13:29; Brown, LA (roughing) 13:29		
Total shots: Seals 29, LA 26		
Goalies: LA, Vachon; Seals, Simmons		
3 stars: 1, Maruk, Seals, 2, Simmons, Seals, 3, MacAdam, Seals		
Referee: John McCauley		
Att: 6,442		



Seals 5, Kings 2