

THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SEALS

A Tale of White Skates, Red Ink, and One of the NHL's Most Outlandish Teams

STEVE CURRIER

"The Seals were remarkable for their awfulness in an era of mediocrity."

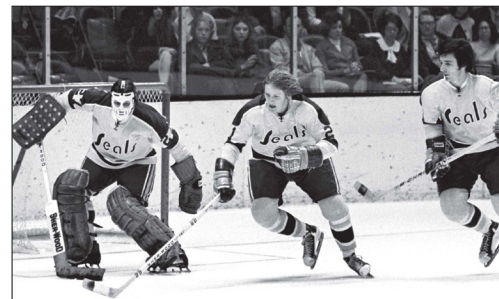
—Dave Buchanan, *Arete*

"[*The California Golden Seals*] 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*

Hockey has had its share of bizarre tales over the years, but none compare 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.

The California Golden Seals examines the franchise's 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 season-by-season narrative, Currier brings to life the Seals' 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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