



NEW SEAL TRAINING CAMP—California Seal coach and general manager Bert Olmstead (right), discusses training camp details with Morris Snyder, manager of the McMorran Sports Arena Complex in Port Huron, Mich.

Seals Pick New Site To Train

By SPENCE CONLEY

The California Seals, troubled by contractual difficulties and an awkward administrative situation, have decided to abandon their St. Catherine's, Ont. training camp in favor of ultra-modern facilities in Port Huron, Mich.

The switch was triggered, according to Seal coach and general manager Bert Olmstead, because the club discovered some inconsistencies in the arrangements for the two arena site in St. Catherine's.

Instead of having the main rink, with a 5,000-plus seating capacity right at the start, the Seals found that they would have to operate in the second building, which has no seats at all, thus preventing them from hosting exhibition games during the lengthy training period.

Another reason for the change, although unannounced for obvious reasons, is that St. Catherine's is the

is that St. Catherine's is the home-town of Rudy Pilous, who was recently fired by the Seals as general manager. Pilous had made all the arrangements to set up camp there in the first place.

The Seals, under the firm direction of Olmstead, are getting a fresh start.

Olmstead decided to shift to Port Huron, a busy Lake Huron community 80 miles north of Detroit, after a meeting and inspection trip there last week.

The Seals will take over facilities in the new 5,000-seat McMorran Sports Arena complex and the club has signed an agreement for the 185 x 85-foot ice surface with arena manager Morris G. Snyder.

"I'm very pleased with the location," said Olmstead. "The McMorran Complex has excellent facilities for training a big league team, including beautiful dressing rooms, a good ice surface, an ample supply of skates, plenty of office space and help."

The complex actually has two ice surfaces and both will be pressed into service if needed.

The Seals will be housed at the Port Huron Motor Inn, at the foot of the International Blue Water Bridge which joins the U.S. and Canada and from there to the training camps of other NHL clubs it's only a few hours by bus.

The Inn has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, steam rooms, exercise and massage facilities and a skating rink.

As a part of their agreement to train in Port Huron, the Seals have agreed to stock the Port Huron Flags of the International Hockey League with amateurs not turned pro by the Seals.