

New Seals' mentor loses in debut

By MICHAEL WATSON

OAKLAND—Vic Stasiuk, the California Golden Seals' new coach, has made public one tall promise.

Now the onus is on to see if he can carry out the promise faster than Fred Glover fired yesterday afternoon, didn't in three years.

Acknowledging that he is from the old school of "rubbing elbows" with the other guy, real hard, when he was playing the National Hockey League for 13 years, he said last night, following a 9-6 disaster against the Vancouver Canucks, that "these boys are going to have to learn to 'rub

elbows' with the other guy, real hard.

"It might take a little time, but they're going to learn."

Stasiuk said it was a lack of such "elbow rubbing", or fore and back checking, that caused last night's loss.

"I also think that the boys got such a big lead so quick that they thought they were going to blow Vancouver right out of the rink. But then an error or two and a misplay or two just seem to take all the steam out of them.

"They forgot the game is 60 minutes long."

More precisely 43:29 as the Seals frittered away a 5-1

lead and completely wasted another three goal trick—this time by the speedy and flashy stick handling Bobby Sheehan.

Sheehan, sporting a fresh six inch long bruise up side his right eye where he caught goalie Dunc Wilson's stick in the final period, said he knows how Norm Feeguson feels, except worse.

"Losing makes it tough," Sheehan said. "Things have to change pretty soon." The hat trick was Bobby's second in HL play. He had one at Montreal last year.

Getting back to Stasiuk, a 42-year old Lethbridge, Alberta

rancher who was fired from the Philadelphia Flyers top post a year ago, he refused to blame goalie Gary Kurt and the injury-thinned defense corps for all the things that happened on the ice.

"When your front men don't start hitting people before they get to your blue line, you're in trouble," he boomed. "And this young goalie has enough problems without having to worry about a couple of the other guys coming booming in on him."

Unfortunately, Stasiuk admits that right now he hasn't any replacements or better

talent in reserve, but, until he gets a better feel of the club, is optimistic that the young Seals "have the potential there to be a good club.

"It takes time, especially when you're young like we are. We've got guys who can hit the net (on offense) so we're going to learn to 'rub elbows' a little better."

The Seals, now 0-2-2 with a visit from Pittsburgh's Penguins tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Coliseum Arena, did look like they'd rush the Canucks right back to British Columbia in the first 16:34.

Walt McKechnie's blue line steal resulted in a right-left

eight footer at 2:34, Gary Jarrett banged in an Ernie Hicke miss at 5:11, McKechnie hit a 10 foot right side backhander and Sheehan stroked in a 35 footer from the left for 4-0 California after 11:45.

Pat Quinn then poled home a 40 foot slapper that deflected in between Kurt's leg and the goal post to break the Vancouver ice with Sheehan countering on a short hand shovel shot from five feet after a Ron Stackhouse steal and feed up ice to Wayne Carleton.

The rest was all Vancouver with Andre Boudrias and Orland Kurtenbach scoring two each for the Canucks.



VIC STASIUK
... New Seals' head

'Mystery' to Glover

By HUGH McDONALD

The hottest coaching seat in the National Hockey League has a new occupant.

Coach Fred Glover has been fired and former coach of the Philadelphia Flyers, Vic Stasiuk, has been hired.

The announcement was made yesterday at 3:30 p.m. by Seals General Manager Garry Young at a hastily called press conference in Oakland. The change was so abrupt that the players were not advised of it until a team meeting prior to last night's game against the Vancouver Canucks.

Young said he had recommended the coaching change to owner Charles O. Finley because he felt a change was needed.

"We have a young club and we're looking forward to the future," said Young.

He added that although Glover's connection with the club has been severed in all capacities, Glover will be paid all of this year's salary.

Glover came to the club just over three years ago and had this year to go on a two-year contract.

Glover was at last night's game. Obviously embittered, he would only say, "It's all a mystery to me. I have some things to do and I'll stay around and finish them up. Otherwise, I have no comment."

Stasiuk has been out of hockey since last May when Philadelphia fired him and replaced him later with Fred Shero.

A native of Lethbridge, Alberta, Stasiuk was in the NHL for 13 seasons as a player.

He played with Chicago, Detroit and Boston and after his NHL career was over he was named playing coach of the AHL Pittsburgh Hornets in 1963-64. In the 1965-66 season he switched to the Central League Memphis club as player-coach.

"There is no better spot in hockey than behind the bench if you're not on the ice," said Stasiuk of his new job.

Forty-two years old, married and the father of four, he has the reputation of a hard taskmaster who is particularly good with young players.

He denied yesterday that he was a hard driver, but conceded that he expected hard work, believed in brisk, working practices, "not figure skating," and



Fred Glover

that he expected veterans who were making mistakes to sit down and discuss their mistakes and then go out and do something about them.

He said some of the usual things — "ready to meet a challenge," "glad to be back in hockey," "believed in fundamentals and checking in the opponents' end of the ice."

Specifically, he said he would be aiming for 70 points, which usually means a fourth place play-off finish in the NHL Western Division.

As to his contract, he said that he was offered a choice of

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 2)

Seals Lose Again

(Continued From Page 7)

said, "I'm not going to fault Kurt (goalie Gary Kurt). The forwards stopped doing their job. They forgot the game is 60 minutes and they forgot to check."

He insisted that hockey is a contact sport and that unless forwards are ready to meet man to man, they aren't ready for the game.

He admitted that his goalie "gave up one soft goal." Most of the jeering fans present would have made it three or four.

He said he saw potential in the club. This was borne out as the Seals scored their second hat trick in a row in as many losing causes. Norm Ferguson got one on Saturday and Tom Sheehan one last night.

The Seals showed plenty of potential in the opening minutes. Walt McKechnie stole the puck from Vancouver's Orland Kurtenbach and scored at 2:33. Gary Jarrett, playing his first shift of the season, got the second on a power play when Vancouver was assessed an unusual double penalty to John Schella and Fred Taylor for cross checking on the same play.

McKechnie added another and Tom Sheehan made it 4-0 before Pat Quinn put a soft shot by Kurt from well out.

Sheehan notched his second goal to restore the 4-goal margin, but Dennis Kearns deflected in a shot off a Seals player and Schella tallied, unassisted to close the gap to 5-3 by the end of the initial period.

Murray Hall shot from outside the blue line and the puck went through Kurt's legs at 5:21 of the second period. Andre Boudrias tied it at 5-all at 15:51 and at 18:11 Orland Kurtenbach deflected a goalmouth past the Seals goalie at 18:11 to give Vancouver a 6-5 lead.

ICE CHIPS — The Vancouver Canucks last season. But he and Mr. Finley have never had an imminent coaching change before the Seals players did. Early yesterday afternoon, Vancouver Coach Hal Laycoe caught sight of Vic Stasiuk at the airport. "Vic had all his clothes so I knew he wasn't here for a visit," said Laycoe.

Laycoe passed the word on to his team. He's not unaware of sudden coaching changes. His services with the Los Angeles Kings were abruptly severed two years ago by owner Jack Kent Cooke — which was probably one of the biggest hockey mistakes Cooke will ever make.

Seals' General Manager Garry Young smiled in reply to a question yesterday if he had a Seals coaching change in mind at training camp. He also denied that the firing of Glover was a sour moment. "Well, training camp had already been over two weeks ago and the coach is fired after the third game of the season, and if that isn't sudden there's a credibility gap somewhere, Mr. Young."

Some to think of it, there were reports that Charles O. Finley had offered Glover a front office job, which was rejected. And there was another report that NHL owner reported to his coach this morning that Stasiuk had been approached about the Seals job.

The abrupt dismissal was a shock to Mrs. Glover. A hockey wife of 23 years, standing there, aware of the sidereal limitations of hockey employment.

"This has never happened to us before," she said. "There was a real good reason I'd understand. Fred told me he could have understood it if the end of

the season had been a good one. But he and Mr. Finley have never had an imminent coaching change before the Seals players did. Early yesterday afternoon, Vancouver Coach Hal Laycoe caught sight of Vic Stasiuk at the airport. "Vic had all his clothes so I knew he wasn't here for a visit," said Laycoe.

How good a hockey coach Fred Glover was is a question hockey men can answer better than can a writer. But on the other hand a writer can testify that no body was more dedicated to hockey than Glover. He gave straighter answers in questions and he was a real man on and off the ice. This isn't an obituary, because it's a pretty safe prediction to make that Glover will be back in hockey before too long.

These coaching jobs are tough on wives, Stasiuk said this fall his was happy to have him home for this year. "Then I got the call from Garry Young," she cried, "and the change philosophically. They've come to expect changes in hockey and their prime concern is with their own game. Captain Carol Vadnais refused comment on Glover. One of the other players said simply, "There's gotta be a reason."

Stasiuk, former WHL Vancouver Canucks center, ice smoother and now a coach with the NHL, Canucks, wasn't impressed with either team. "Six-to-five and take your choice," he cracked. "Vic will reach the Seals fundamentals. This is a slick. This is a puck."

As Mr. and Mrs. Glover left the game, the fans in the corridors gave them a cheer.

Seals' New Leader Sounds Like Glover

By HUGH McDONALD

New Seals coach Vic Stasiuk intends to have a little get-to-know-each-other talk with his team today in preparation for tomorrow's 7 p.m. game against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Stasiuk saw his team build up a 4-0 lead by 11:48 of the first period and then watched it disintegrate as the Vancouver Canucks came on to win 9-6.

"Six goals. I don't think I've ever seen my team with that many goals," commented Stasiuk afterwards.

Then he added, "It isn't funny," and he proceeded to field blistering press questions directed at his rookie goalie and his defense.

He sounded much like his predecessor, Fred Glover, as he

Seals Hire New Coach

(Continued From Page 7)

a one or two year pact, but things had happened so suddenly this point had not been settled.

Commenting further on the change, Young said, "It's our aim to build a Stanley Cup team, just like we did in Boston."

He formerly was chief scout for Boston.