

Confusion Now Running Seals

By HUGH McDONALD
Between the second and third periods of last night's hockey game Seals' Executive Vice President Bill Torrey announced his resignation.

Two weeks ago, General Manager Frank Seize quit. In between, club comptroller Larry Marshall left the club to join an accounting firm.

The decimated Seals' front office now is left with an absentee owner, Charles O. Finley, and Coach Fred Glover. The latter recently signed a two-year contract with Finley on the same terms as those which he held under Trans-National Communications, from whom Finley bought the club last spring.

Torrey's resignation was

handed to the press by Seals' public relations aide Frank Sanchez. Of his resignation, Torrey said in his statement: "A dispute over contractual obligations is the basis for this decision. Three years ago when I joined the team I did so with a clear understanding as to my duties, responsibilities and obligations. Likewise, the terms under which I would be compensated were not in doubt."

"Mr. Charles O. Finley, present owner of the Seals, has tendered me a new contract, asking that I remain as both vice president and general manager. While I am flattered by the offer, it does not meet the terms or conditions of my present contract, which remains

in full force, and I am naturally unwilling to accept anything less than that which was agreed to when I first joined the Seals."

Torrey refused to go into details of his dispute. He did say, however, after last night's game, that Finley had been aware of his stand since last July.

"I tried to reach him by phone at his office and at his home all afternoon," said Torrey, "but I was unable to get in touch with him."

Later Finley commented to the press from his home in LaPorte, Ind., to the effect that Torrey had been offered a contract with the same annual salary as the previous owners had paid him.

"Both Torrey and Selke have requested additional benefits which were not provided them by Trans-National. The Finley company had not agreed to and will not agree to these demands," said Finley.

Coach Glover, in his post-game meeting with the press, acknowledged that as things stand at the moment he is in fact filling the role of coach, executive vice president and general manager.

Asked if he was in line to become general manager, he said flatly, "I have been offered nothing."

When questioned about the Seals' disappointing performance in their 3-1 loss to Los Angeles Kings, Glover reflected the general rootless position of the Seals when he admitted that he didn't know whether he would bring any players up from the AHL Providence Reds with whom the Seals have a working liaison.

His reasons were technical: "Providence is in first place and I don't want to do anything to disrupt that team. We have some good young players on the Providence team, but I don't know whether they're ready for NHL play yet. It's a big jump from junior hockey and it could hurt their development."

So Glover finds himself the No. 2 man on the club behind Finley. This is a club which has made more noise off the ice than it has on since it came to the Bay Area as the San Francisco Seals of the Western Hockey League ten years ago.

It has undergone changes of ownership and financial control repeatedly. Typical of its confused course is the fact that a number of the original small investors in the San Francisco Seals, according to one of them, are considering going to court to collect the approximately \$20,000 they invested to bring hockey to the Bay Area. The investors themselves aren't even sure who now owes them the money.

As Bill Hicks, original draft choice of the NHL Seals said to Torrey in the dressing room last night in expressing his sympathy and regrets, "I don't know what to say."

Maybe unknowingly, Hicks was speaking for Seals fans in general as they have tried to unravel the intricacies of the Seals organization.

Seals Just Not Thinking, Says Glover

By HUGH McDONALD

The ceiling-dwelling California Golden Seals probably will be trying to reflect some of the glitter of their new uniforms when they meet the Minnesota North Stars at the Oakland Coliseum tomorrow night at 8 o'clock.



Fred Glover

The glitter was sadly tarnished last night as the Seals dropped a 3-1 decision to the second-to-last Los Angeles Kings before 5,437 fans.

"I don't know why we're not playing like we did on our last home stand," said Captain Ted Hampson. "The Kings got the first goal and we seemed to be chasing them around the rink for the rest of the night. That gets pretty tiring. Every time they passed along the boards there was someone there to pick up the puck. I know I got pretty tired chasing them by the third period."

Coach Glover was more specific in explaining his team's loss. "They just weren't thinking."

Thinking or not, the Seals allowed themselves to be pushed around the place by the Kings. The Kings forechecked the Seals to death. Seals' passes were behind the recipient throughout the night. When they did get a good shot on goal, Denis DeJordy, in the Los Angeles net, was on the spot to make the spectacular save.

The only goal that the Seals got to rob DeJordy of a well-deserved shutout was a shot by Gary Croteau that deflected in off Kings' defenseman Gilles Marote's skate in the third period when the Seals were trailing 3-0 with only 2:30 to play.

After a ragged and scoreless first period, the Kings took a 2-0 lead in the middle frame on goals by Mike Byers and Juha Widing. With only 78 seconds gone in the third period, Byers put it out of reach for the Seals when he tallied his second goal of the evening. Croteau's goal for the Seals came on a power play, with Kings' defenseman Noel Price off for holding, but it was more a fluke than a result of any Seals' coordinated attack.

Over-all, the Seals' effort was an explanation of why they are in the NHL Western Division basement.

Hampson refused to use the crutch of front office troubles to explain the team's poor play.

"We may unconsciously be concerned," he said, "but it isn't our problem. We just weren't playing well."