

# Seals look to Pappin as leader

By Ken Miller  
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LOS ANGELES—The play that showed what Jim Pappin will eventually mean to the California Golden Seals came up last Friday night, in what was just Pappin's third game with the club.

In a wild, up-and-down-the-ice game against the New York Rangers during which the two teams had already traded eight goals, Pappin took a long pass from center Larry Patey and blew down the right wing. But rather than fire off a shot, he spotted Rick Hampton, laid a perfect pass on Hampton's stick and then watched the young defenseman give the Seals a lead they would not lose again.

For a team which relies more on energy than experience, the sequence was interesting, and Coach Jack Evans and the rest of management would like to see more of them—specifically, tonight when the Seals take on the Kings at The Forum and tomorrow evening when they return to the Bay Area to take on the New York Islanders at the Oakland Coliseum Arena.

Pappin, at 36 the eldest of the Seals, is expected to create many such situations, producing the heady play that will help the rest of his teammates mature. And despite all the notoriety he achieved in a protracted holdout which lasted through training camp and the first 11 games of the season, he seems willing to help produce.

At least for now.

"I suppose that if I don't like the way things are," he said, "I can still quit. But right now I'm looking forward to this season. We've got a lot of good younger players and a real interesting team."

That observation belies the original dilemma of Jim Pappin, a highly-respected goal-scorer for the Chicago Black Hawks who was in no mood to tear up his roots and leave for the West Coast when he was traded to the Seals for Joey Johnston late last spring.

"When I found out I was traded, I was hoping I could be somewhere closer to home. I don't have any regrets about leaving Chicago, since I was sort of getting stale there during the last two years."

Even after 36 goals in 1974-75?

"The goals aren't that important. I just thought the team was getting boring and things were starting to go downhill. We had some good teams and we never won the Stanley Cup, and that was very disappointing.

"What is it they say—familiarity breeds contempt? That was the problem in Chicago."

He certainly doesn't have any familiarity with the rest of the Seals, nor even experience on such a team.

"I've never been on a club like the Seals, and it's going to be a novelty. The most significant thing will be the practices. On the Black Hawks, we were a veteran club, and we didn't work on the fundamentals; we just did the regular exercises, and that meant practices would become pretty boring.

"Right now I'm happy to be here, but I think we'll have to play a lot more consistently to win. We beat the Rangers Friday but then lost to the Bruins Sunday, and that was the result of not playing as hard as we did Friday.

"We're not the kind of club that's going to go on any six- or seven-game winning streaks, so we have to go out and work hard every night."

Pappin hasn't had the opportunity to work out as in practice, since the Seals have only had two—and four games—since he joined them on Long Island a week ago.