

# Stewart Says Finley Image Hurts Seals.

By ED SCHOENFELD  
Tribune Sports Writer

"People back East don't like Charlie Finley," Bobby Stewart, a Seals' defenseman, said. "I think we get a little of that thrown against us."

Stewart was talking to a group of Eastbay sports writers yesterday about the treatment the Seals get from sports writers on the East Coast.

"No matter how well we play, it seems they always write that the other team played awful.

"We beat Buffalo back there with a helluva game. The reporters there said we played lousy. We've got some nicknames you wouldn't believe.

"In New York, we lost, 3-0. They scored on two tip-ins and one rebound. We hit the post three times and our goalie made some great saves. So we picked up the papers the next day and they said we played lousy."

It's not the treatment in the Eastern press that is the cause of the Seals being in the cellar, however. One big reason, Stewart claims, is that the Seals are not aggressive.

"We could sure use a couple

of goons, as they call them," Stewart said.

Stewart used to be the Seals' "policeman" but he said he hasn't been able to fight this year.

"I hurt my shoulder in our second game and had to wear a sling," he said, "so I couldn't even swing a punch. Then I hurt my thigh. I haven't had a fight yet."

Stewart said the attitude among the Seals is much better than it was last year.

"The guys want to play," he said. "It's pretty hard to keep your head up when you are down in the cellar. A lot of the guys are down in the dumps. They've been playing some tough teams and losing by only one or two goals. We're just going to have to work hard and get going. We've got the talent."

That's when Stewart brought up Gilles Meloche, the Seals' goalie.

"We've got the finest goalie in the NHL," he said. "That's a known fact throughout the league and every team has been after him. But, we just won't give him up."