



Background

To start the 1962-63 Western Hockey League (WHL) season, the Seals lured Coach and General Manager Norman “Bud” Poile south from defending WHL champion Edmonton. Poile had won three championships in eight seasons with the Flyers.

Poile’s teams generally led the league in penalty minutes, and his 1962-63 Seals fit the mold. Led by hard-nosed players such as Orland Kurtenbach, Larry McNabb, Nick Mickoski and Charlie Burns, the Seals developed a fierce rivalry with the Portland Buckaroos, perennial WHL front-runners.

After finishing 44-25-1 in the 1962-63 regular season, the Seals eliminated the Los Angeles Blades in three games in the first-round of the playoffs, then outlasted Portland in seven rugged semifinal contests, taking the seventh and final game 3-1 on the road.

In the 1963 Lester Patrick Cup finals, the Seals faced the Seattle Totems, with all seven games played at the Cow Palace due to scheduling conflicts in Seattle. Trailing three games to one, the Seals came back to win the last three games -- the last two in overtime -- and captured San Francisco’s first professional hockey championship. Kurtenbach scored the Cup-winning goal four-minutes into overtime of the Seals 4-3 Game No. 7 victory.

Even though the WHL contracted in 1963-64 -- Edmonton and Calgary both requested a leave of absence following the playoffs -- the Seals finished a distant fourth during the regular season behind the Denver Invaders, who had relocated from Spokane. But superb play from forward Al Nicholson and goalie Bob Perreault helped the Seals win the final three games of their first-round playoff series against the Buckaroos. The Seals would go on to become the first team to win back-to-back Lester Patrick Cup titles, defeating the Blades in six games in the only all-California final.

1962-63

Cup Clinching Date: May 6 | Celebration: May 8

Members of the WHL champion San Francisco Seals and the press were entertained by club management with a victory dinner at the Fairmont Hotel on Wednesday, May 8. Two nights prior, the Seals captured the Lester Patrick Cup. Prior to the celebration, the team was paraded through the Financial District where some 50,000 fans lined the streets to cheer the champions. The 25-car procession made its way to City Hall. There they were greeted by Mayor George Christopher on the steps and given a key to the City. The Patrick Cup was present and filled with champagne and each team member took a sip.

1963-64

Cup Clinching Date: April 17 | Celebration: April 20

After winning their second-consecutive crown, owner Coley Hall was so jubilant that he announced that he would reward each player with a specially-made \$200 ring. The following evening, April 20, he hosted party at the Fairmont Hotel. The party was preceded by a civic ceremony at City Hall where Mayor Christopher proclaimed it to be "San Francisco Seals Day."



THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SEALS
1967-1976

San Jose Sharks Honor 50th Anniversary of Seals Franchise * SAP Center at San Jose *

SAP center
at San Jose

JANUARY 7, 2016

During their tenure in the Bay Area, the Seals played under a couple of nicknames -- California Seals (1967-68), Oakland Seals (1968-70), California Golden Seals (1970-76) and even the Bay Area Seals for two months in the 1970-71 season -- but the NHL persuaded late Seals and Oakland Athletics owner Charles Finley to revert to the Golden Seals.

The San Jose Sharks announced plans to celebrate, honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of the California Golden Seals and the National Hockey League coming to the Bay Area on Saturday, January 7, 2016 when the Sharks hosted the Detroit Red Wings.

Several prominent Seals alumni appeared at the game and were recognized, including the Seals' all-time games-played leader Bert Marshall, leading goal scorer Dennis Maruk, and the all-time winningest goalie in franchise history, Gilles Meloche. Norm "Fergie" Ferguson, who played in 279 games with the Seals from 1968-72 and Ernie Hicke, a veteran of 146 games with the Seals from 1970-72, along with goaltender Gary "Cobra" Simmons (74 games) was also in attendance. Furthermore, former Seals radio play-by-play announcers Tim Ryan and Joe Starkey, and long-time team public relations staffer Len Shapiro were also on-hand.

In preparation for the upcoming reunion, the Sharks held a meet and greet at Solar4America Ice -- the Sharks practice facility -- for media members to socialize with alumni of the defunct California Golden Seals team.

All six Seals alumni signed autographs for fans pre-game on SAP Center's North Concourse between 6:00-7:00 p.m. The North Concourse also featured a "pop-up" museum of Seals memorabilia, photos and mementos. Additional recognition of the Seals history took place pre-game and throughout the evening. All fans attending the game received a "throwback" Seals commemorative t-shirt.

As part of the NHL's first expansion, the league doubled in size for the 1967-68 season, expanding to 12 teams by adding the Los Angeles Kings, Minnesota North Stars, Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins, St. Louis Blues and the California Seals.

In nine NHL seasons (1967-1976), the Seals posted a 182-401-115 record (.343) in 698 games, playing their home games at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Arena. While the Seals struggled on and off the ice to establish a foothold in the Bay Area, the heritage of that franchise eventually came full circle into what today is the San Jose Sharks, regarded as one of the most successful expansion franchises in NHL history.

In 1974, Finley sold the team to the NHL and the following year, the NHL transferred the franchise to a Bay Area-based ownership group, which included minority partners George and Gordon Gund. When the group could not successfully get a San Francisco-based arena approved, the team relocated to Ohio following the 1975-76 season as the Cleveland Barons. Two seasons later, the

Barons relocated again, merging into the existing Minnesota North Stars club under the sole ownership of the Gunds.

The Gunds never hid their desire to return an NHL team to the Bay Area under the right circumstances and in 1990, they were granted the rights to an NHL expansion franchise, which would ultimately be placed in San Jose. Under the terms of the 1990 expansion agreement, the Sharks were allowed to participate in a dispersal draft, selecting players from the North Stars organization to comprise their expansion reserve list in San Jose, bringing the Seals genealogy back to the Bay Area.

Some of the most prominent players from the Sharks first few seasons were selected in that process, including; Arturs Irbe (183 games with San Jose), Rob Zettler (196), Tom Pederson (225 games), Neil Wilkinson (119), Rob Gaudreau (143), Doug Zmolek (152 games) and Brian Hayward (25 games).



The NHL brought back its Reverse Retro jersey program for the 2022-23 season. The league introduced reverse retro jerseys during the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season, but did not extend the program for the 2021-22 season. The jerseys for 2022-23 were be different from the reverse retro looks that teams debuted in 2020-21. The jerseys give every NHL team a third to sell, bringing it closer to the NBA, which has at least four jerseys for every team.

The Sharks Reverse Retro look, unveiled on Thursday, October 20, 2022, presented a uniform inspired by the 1974 California Golden Seals, the Bay Area’s first NHL team, remixed with a new Sharks word mark in Seals typography and colors. It can also be said that the Seals actually originated the teal jerseys. San Jose really owes them a nod for this.

The Sharks debuted their Reverse Retro look at its home -- SAP Center at San Jose -- on Friday, November 25 when they hosted Pacific Division rival, the Los Angeles Kings at 7:30 p.m.

The Sharks wore their Reverse Retro uniforms six times during the season. Here are the details:

Day / Date / Time	SJS Opponent	Game Location
Friday, November 25 / 7:30 p.m.	Los Angeles Kings	SAP Center at San Jose
Wednesday, December 7 / 7:30 p.m.	Vancouver Canucks	SAP Center at San Jose
Friday, December 9 / 7:00 p.m.	@ Anaheim Ducks	Honda Center
Tuesday, December 13 / 7:30 p.m.	Arizona Coyotes	SAP Center at San Jose
Tuesday, December 27 / 7:00 p.m.	@ Vancouver Canucks	Rogers Arena
Thursday, December 29 / 7:30 p.m.	Philadelphia Flyers	SAP Center at San Jose