

# Even Refs Bug the Seals

ATLANTA — The Oakland Seals, like a comedian of the same nature, just get no respect at all.

At least, that's the way Fred Glover, the Seals' interim coach, looks at it.

"How can you break a slump like this," he moaned after last night's 3-1 loss to Atlanta, "when you keep getting so-called referees like that guy? It's ridiculous.

"It's tough enough to play

this game without having cheap penalties called on you. Any time a club on the road gets more penalties than the home team, then something's wrong."

Something was wrong again for Glover's last-place Seals last night and penalties were only a part of the story. Referee Ron Wicks handed out nine of 14 penalties to the Seals and two of the Atlanta goals came as a result.

The first score, a whistler by Ray Comeau, came on a powerplay with only one second left on Hil Graves' charging foul.

The third Atlanta goal, a semi-breakaway shot from the slot by rookie Jacques Richard, came while Pete Laframboise was twiddling his thumbs on an interference call.

"You know," said Glover, "nobody will listen to us when

we ask questions. Like tonight, when one of our guys would question Wicks on a call, he'd just laugh at them as though they were stupid or something.

"I can't understand it. And they (referees) wonder why nobody's got any respect for them. That's an easy question to answer when they treat a club like they do us."

In one locker room, Atlanta coach Boom Boom Geoffrion

was saying how he thought there was no pressure on the Seals and therefore they played better.

"They're loose," he said of the Seals. "They're playing for next year's contract right now. I saw this club make plays tonight they never made before. Put a little pressure on them and maybe those plays never happen. It's awfully hard to bring my club up to play a team like that."

Glover disagreed strongly. "Pressure," he chuckled, "there's more pressure on us now than ever before. Nine losses in a row. That's pressure. And we won't snap out of it until we get some decent officiating. That's the truth."

**While the expansion Flames, fighting for a playoff berth in the bunched-up West Division, were breaking a four-game**

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## Seals Lose Ninth in A Row, 3-1

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losing streak, the Seals were extending its own streak to nine in a row and 16 of the last 17 without a win.

"I was scared of this game," admitted Geoffrion afterwards. "The Seals, I knew, would be loosey-goosey and my guys are tight. Ask anybody, I was scared."

And through most of the game, it appeared he had reason. The Flames played poorly and couldn't capitalize on many scoring chances. Their tightness showed before the crowd of 13,442 fans.

Defense, a sore point in the four-game losing streak, came through finally for the Flames and they allowed the Seals only 20 shots on goaltender Dan Bouchard.

Joey Johnston scored his 20th of the season in the first period on a powerplay when he banged home a rebound off a Walt McKechnie shot. From that point on, however, the slate was clean offensively.

The Seals return home today at last after a three-week road trip to meet these same Flames Wednesday night.