

Seal Job Fight at Climax

By SPENCE CONLEY
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OSHAWA, Ont. — Coach Fred Glover was understandably a little preoccupied as he picked at dinner last night in the Oakland Seals' Genesha Hotel training camp headquarters.

He didn't say much and when he did he spoke softly. His quietness reflected some weariness from a cold and the long hours he spent with the Seals on the practice ice.

Mostly, however, it reflected critical decisions he must make over the weekend about the players who will win — or lose — jobs this season.

Starting tonight in a rematch with the undefeated St. Louis Blues, the Seals will be involved in five games this weekend.

After tonight's game with the Blues where the Seals

hope to make amends for their 8-2 loss to St. Louis Wednesday, the Oaklanders travel to Quebec City to play Philadelphia and then hop down to Providence, R.I. to test their development team.

At the same time some 20 or so other Seals split off this week from the apparent regulars and will be in action tonight against the Montreal Voyageurs (AHL) and again Sunday at Providence.

By next Tuesday, Glover will have made up his mind about which of his 33 remaining squadmen will open for the Seals when the National Hockey League's West Division starts Oct. 11 in Pittsburgh.

The time for looking at new talent and re-evaluating the old is nearly over.

So far there have been

many pleasant aspects to camp — the unexpected development of versatile 20-year-old winger Don O'Donoghue, the promise of 6-4, 190-pound Ron Stackhouse, another youngster, the steady improvement of defenseman Wayne Muloin, 28, of Providence, to name a few.

Glover has had his disappointments too — his goalies have suffered from a bad case of the blahs, injuries have halted the work of defenseman Carol Vadnais (knee) and No. 1 draft choice Tony Featherstone, and Providence toughie Tony Geogan appears to be a shade too slow to play in the NHL.

"We are starting to run out of time. It's only 16 days until we open the season," Glover said. "We've looked at a lot of players, but the time for look-

ing is about finished. This weekend will give us a very good indication of who will stay and who will go."

Glover emphasizes that he's still got a few personnel switches in mind, but right now here is the team he'll field in these next exhibition games:

Center Mike Laughton with wings Bill Hicke and Brian Perry; Ted Hampson with Gary Jarrett and Don O'Donoghue; Earl Ingerfield with Norm Ferguson and Bob Dillabough; and finally Joe Hardy with Gerry Ehman and Gene Ubriaco.

Defensive pairings are Bert Marshall and Ron Stackhouse, Doug Roberts and Wayne Muloin, and Dick Mattiussi and Neil Nicholson.

The goalies include Chris Worthy, Charlie Hodge and Marcel Pailie.

In all, there are 21 players slated for duty with the club in the next three games, not counting the two Providence games.

Glover said he will take no more than 18 players to Oakland. Obviously, three players — a goalie, a defenseman and a forward won't make it.

Unless Ubriaco improves he will be displaced by O'Donoghue. Vadnais certainly has a job on defense, Stackhouse and Muloin are in a head-to-head battle for the remaining slot.

The goaltending job is wide open at this point, although Worthy has an apparent edge on Hodge and Pailie.

But that's only speculation and Glover isn't committing himself one way or the other today on who will be there Oct. 11.