

What's Next for Glover's Seals?

By JOHN PORTER
Tribune Sports Writer

The interim stretched through 144 days for Fred Glover. Tonight it ends.

Tomorrow he can go back to being just the executive vice-president and general manager of the Seals. That's what he thought he was when this season began 77 games ago.

But life with the Seals rarely turns out to be what one had planned. So it was with Glover.

He became coach, until a new one could be found, after Garry Young announced his resignation in Minneapolis last November.

"I didn't want the job," Glover said at the time.

Looking back at it, who could blame him?

The few hockey people he felt were qualified to coach weren't interested in a last-place team. There were players dissatisfied with what they were making; there were others dissatisfied with the man who was paying it.

After all the losses, grumbling and unhappiness, the Seals could go out of this season with optimism for the next.

They've won three in a row, including two games (Detroit and Los Angeles) that could make playoff watchers out of potential playoff participants.

Tonight's big finale will be

the Los Angeles Kings, a gasp away from joining the Seals as also-rans. It was the team Glover coached last season.

"Regardless of who we're playing, we're out to win," said Glover. Now he knows no one is out to lose, but he avoids any mention of sticking it to his former club.

"Nobody," he says resolutely, "is going to back into the playoffs on our coattails."

The Kings and Pittsburgh trail fourth-place St. Louis by three points. Each team has two games left.

A Seals win tonight isn't impossible. It even becomes probable if they put a tight check on Serge Bernier, who

has eight goals in the five games the two teams have played this season.

Most players and fans here are happy this season is in its final hours, but the question lingers: What's happened in these last three games?

"You really don't know what to credit it to," says Glover.

"It could be a combination of things," he agreed. "You can speculate about that if you want."

So this comes under the heading SPECULATION:

The Seals are winning and worth watching because:

A) The team has no serious injuries; B) The rookies (6) have a season's experience;

C) Some players were/are close to individual records; D) There are personal contract bonuses to be made; E) It's contract time; F) The World Hockey Association isn't looking for duds; H) Gilles Meloche deserves most of the superlatives reserved for goaltenders; I) All of the above; J) Some of the above; K) None of the above.

How's that Fred?

One would think Glover would be relieved that tonight marks the end of coaching for him.

He remained commendably stoic after a number of his skaters expressed themselves forcefully about life in Finley

Green and Gold.

Even when some of the remarks zeroed in on Fred, he stood and took it.

When word came leaking out—like pressured steam—from the NHL's inner sanctum that there's a drive on to pick up the pieces from owner Finley and re-establish hockey here next season, Glover kept at his chores.

Maybe he's waiting for a better time to make his own views public, maybe just the drive to get this last one in the can and behind him is preoccupied. Glad it's (almost) over?

"I've never given it any

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thought," he says. "The next day I'll have to start looking at what's to be done for next year."

Seals Go Out Winning

By JOHN PORTER
Tribune Sports Writer

Fred Glover is in his office today. Gilles Meloche is sharpening up his golf game and Pete Laframboise regrets that the National Hockey League season ended last night when the Seals applied the coup d' grace to the Los Angeles Kings, 3-1.

"It's very likely I'll be in the office tomorrow," said Seals interim coach Fred Glover after coaching his last game. He is executive vice-president and general manager of the team.

"I'm glad it's over. It lasts long enough," said Meloche, the Seals Goalie who had another snazzy night as the Seals won their fourth straight.

"No, I don't want it to end now," said Laframboise as his teammates were popping champagne corks around the dressing room. "We're just starting to go now."

It was Laframboise's break-away goal late in the last period that cinched the Seals win before 10,042 ecstatic fans. Earlier, Stan Gilbertson and Reggie Leach tallied for the Seals after Butch Goring scored on a power play for Los Angeles.

It was a rough game. Los Angeles winger Dan Maloney cracked an elbow into Seals defenseman Bob Stewart, who

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spent last night in the hospital with a possible concussion.

"It was deliberate," said Glover, recalling that Maloney was the one who broke Joey Johnston's jaw earlier this season.

"He's a good hitter" said Seals defenseman Darryl Maggs, once a teammate of Maloney's at Chicago. "He's not a good even though he may look like one. I'd like to have him on my team because he's the hardest worker in the league."

But Maloney was on the other team so Maggs crunched him with a legal check that sent the Kings' bad guy reeling toward his bench. Later, the Los Angeles heavy threw his stick at fans in the stands.

The Seals big break came when Gilbertson, who hasn't played regularly in 24 games, replaced Ivan Boldirev and scored the tying goal. From that point the Seals got stronger and finished off the Kings.

When the second period began, the Seals already had lost Stewart, cutting them to just four defensemen. Four minutes into the session they had to go without one of those McAneeley for five minutes and center Ivan Boldirev for the rest of the game.