

Spirits transfer approved

By LEN HOYES
Journal sports writer

A unanimous vote Wednesday made the new owners of the Flint Spirits official members of the International Hockey League.

"The transfer has been made," said Commissioner Bud Poile who conducted a conference call among the governors.

Representatives of eight teams were involved in the call and Poile later contacted two others. One of the two was President Laraine Lamb of the Spirits who turned over the ownership on Wednesday.

"I'm disappointed for the Lambs but I feel the IHL has a strong partner in the new Flint group," Poile said.

He added, "The new group advised us that there will be no immediate changes in their structure. They said their first priority is to establish an affiliation with a National Hockey League team."

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Bob Perani, former star goalie for the Flint Generals, is president of the new group and will be the Spirits' representative on the Board of Governors. C.J. Shelley, club treasurer, will be the alternate governor.

Poile said Wednesday's call included an informal poll among the other teams.

He said, "Jerry (Francis) is struggling at Toledo and Salt Lake City and Indianapolis are disappointed by attendance. But all assured me they'll be back next season."

"I'm recommending that we plan for a 10-team league against next season."