

Flag & Whistle

The Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association - Summer 2009



40TH ANNIVERSARY AGM A SUCCESS

Nick Hawley elected as new Vice-President. *Christian Gayfer* ratified as Interior Director.

**BCSRA
1969-2009
40 Years**



May 23rd saw the membership celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the association at the Cloverdale Curling Club. In attendance were six founding members of the association (from the front row of the photo) L-R: *Robert Butler, J. Peter Turner, John W.A. Morris, Werner Winsemann, Reginald A.J. Clark, Norm Colclough*, who were roundly applauded by those in attendance. A great time was had by all.

A new executive was elected as follows: President: *Elvio Chies*, Vice-President: *Nick Hawley* (elected to a 2 year term), Secretary: *Richard Brownie*, Treasurer/Registrar: *Robin Woods* (elected to a 2 year term). Area Association-appointed Directors are as follows: *Christian Gayfer* (Interior), *Ron Schaeffer* (Van. Area). No name was received prior to the meeting for Fraser Valley-appointed Director. The Van. Island Area Association had not confirmed the name of Larry Cade as VISRA-appointed Director prior to the meeting.

Lastly, the annual Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield Match was declared a forfeit to the 604 side as the 250's could not muster a team for the annual friendly. (see accompanying article inside on pg 3 & 4)

RA MEMBER PAUL WARD OFFICIATES AT GOLD CUP

Canadian FIFA Referee and RA member Paul Ward officiated the Mexico v Nicaragua Gold Cup game this past Sunday, July 6th. Here we have presented a photo of Paul with Canadian FIFA AR Hector Vergara immediately to his left. The game was played at Oakland County Stadium, home of the baseball Oakland A's and ended up 2-0 for Mexico.

Paul and Hector were also called to action in the Mexico v Panama game where Paul was the 4th official in the game. The officials were ushered off the field after the game had finished in what was a heavily contested match after several incidents happened late in the game.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: HAIL TO THE CHIEF (der KAISER)

This month marks an important anniversary for it was 35 years ago that Canadian FIFA Referee Werner Winsemann became the first Canadian referee to officiate a World Cup match (1974 World Cup: Holland v Sweden). Many of you know that Werner Winsemann, also a founding member of the Referees Association, was appointed to two World Cups (1974 W. Germany and 1978 Argentina) the same as current FIFA Assistant Referee Hector Vergara. In fact before there was Hector there was Werner. However, what makes this anniversary most important is unlike Hector, Werner to this day remains the ONLY Canadian FIFA Referee to have refereed a game, "in the middle" as they say.

Despite his accomplishments, Werner was not the first Canadian to officiate at the World Cup. That honour goes to former CSA Referees Committee Chairman Ray Morgan. Mr. Morgan was appointed to the 1962 World Cup and saw action as a linesman (Ed note: for those younger members, Assistant Referees were originally termed as "Linesmen") in the infamous "Battle of Santiago" match between Italy and Chile refereed by Ken Aston. Mr. Aston would go on to Chair the FIFA Referees Committee and in fact was not only the Chairman at the time of the 1974 World Cup but Werner's assessor for his match on Wednesday June 19, 1974.

Werner's appointment was heralded in papers across the country.

Werner's appointment was heralded in papers across the country. Reading the news accounts of the day, there was much anticipation that Canada would finally see one of its own actually referee a match. And Werner did not disappoint. Mr. Aston had glowing praise for Werner saying: "That's how World Cup football should be handled...the referee knowing when to play the advantage and when to come in hard with a yellow (caution) card.

"And he's a Canadian, for goodness sake. It shows what can be done with the right training..."

Despite his accomplishment on the field, the fact that he was Canadian did not endear himself immediately to many of his fellow colleagues, who did not really know what to make of him. "How many international games have you done?", he was asked by many of the top referees that were appointed. "We get an international game every week," Werner shot back, referring to the weekly ethnic clashes that occurred on the local parks around Vancouver.



Former Canadian FIFA and BCSRA Founding/Life Member Werner Winsemann. June marks the 35th anniversary of Werner's game he refereed at the 1974 World Cup, still the only occasion that a Canadian has officiated a World Cup game.

Some could get rather snobbish and one had to have one's wits about oneself to respond to such retorts. For example, Werner's assistant, and roommate during the tournament, was

of his assistants was Welshman Clive Thomas who in his "By the Book" said this of Werner:

"...But in the first twelve minutes of the match he overruled me on two occasions with the result that I threw down my flag as we entered the dressing-room at half-time and asked, 'Do you want me or not?' 'Tonight', he (Werner) said, 'you are the linesman, I am the referee and you will do exactly as you are told.' It hurt my pride but I had to look up to him for being in control."

At the time of this writing the Vancouver Area Soccer Referees Association (VASRA) branch is planning to commemorate this event with a special education night featuring footage of his game (VASRA has a copy in its archives). Werner now is getting on years and this may represent the last time that members may get a chance to hear Werner recollect the trials and tribulations that went in to making this day in history. There is no doubt this marks the standard for which all referees in Canada will aspire to. Who knows who and when the next Canadian will be to referee at the World Cup, "in the middle"?

AGM NOTES:

FLAG & WHISTLE – AGM REPORT

The F&W has continued to publish as a Quarterly with good content dedicated to Soccer referees, mostly in part to the efforts of our staff writer, Tom Babic & part time contributors such as Emil Udovich, Nick Hawsley & Bill McNaughton to name a few. The brunt of this effort however, belongs to our tireless President, Elvio Chies, who never fails to provide a wide range of articles and usually a good Editorial on the State of the game from our perspective as Officials. Each publication reflects the efforts of all contributors, regular and casual alike and as such takes on a slightly different feel each time.

This is the biggest challenge, to publish each edition so that there is some consistency to the Flag & Whistle; with that in mind we've tried to give the newsletter a slight makeover. A bit of colour and a Header that is recognizable as belonging to the BCSRA, as well, we've tried to lay out the publication to promote ease of perusal for the reader. Regular columns such as the Presidents Corner & Short Takes create continuity from edition to edition, but this is where the improvements could take place.

We have tried over the past years to have Area Association reports included but always seem to come up short in getting a response from our A/A's. Let's have some input from around the province, this would definitely create a larger "family" feel and bring us closer together. Our "Get to know your fellow member" column had some limited success but again input from our brothers and sisters in the field is what keeps this going.

Without our fellow members contributing articles of different matches and tourneys, submitting photos of faraway places where games have been officiated or watched, we will be a dry, quick read. Diversity of individuals dispensing their talents as officials is what creates the wonderful mosaic of our provincial association and only by submissions from all and sundry will we continue to bring our provincial community together.

The Flag & Whistle is set to ramp up our publication schedule to 5 or 6 editions per calendar year but can only succeed at this level with the direct input of all members. Our success has been huge in the last two years. We have received requests from across our country to be put on the mailing list. Not bad for a publication that was little more than a two sided photo copy 4 years ago.

My thanks to all who have and continue to contribute articles, photos etc. We are reliant on input and hope that we can continue to provide a forum for communication of BC Soccer Referees and raise the profile of our association.

Regards, Jon Seeley - Editor F&W

REFEREE ASSOCIATION WEB FORUM IS NOW OPERATIONAL

Members can now sign up to participate in the BCSRA Web Forum. The forum can be found by clicking on the "BCSRA Web Forum" link on the top right page of the BCSRA website, www.bcsra.com.

After doing so, you will be diverted to a new screen. Click on "Register" and you will be asked for a username (of your own choice) and an email address. For security purposes, the web forum will be open to members only. To assist with verification, please use the email address you provided with your membership; it can be changed later on.

As all accounts have to be manually verified, please allow up to 24-36 hours for account activation.

SURPLUS TO BE USED TO HELP DIRECT MEMBERS

During the discussion of the association's finances the membership agreed to allow the provincial executive to use the surplus from the 2008-2009 fiscal year to assist Direct interior members in attending educational sessions such as, but not limited to, the BC Soccer conference. In so doing it was thought it could be seen as another benefit of membership in the association. It was stressed that this was a one-time occurrence and would have to be reviewed in future if surpluses were not realized.

JACK TINNION MEMORIAL SHIELD (604-250 FRIENDLY) ENDS IN DEFAULT FOR THE HOME SIDE

Owing to the various activities on the Island on the same day as the BCSRA Annual General Meeting/Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield Match, fellow members from VISRA (otherwise known as the 250 squad) regrettably defaulted this year's friendly to the 604 side. The Jack Tinnion Shield will be retrieved for engraving by RA President Elvio Chies at some point prior to next year's friendly, tentatively scheduled for Victoria.

Next year's event has every inkling of being an exciting twist to the annual derby-already the trash talking has begun. The late date of this year's AGM has many on the 250 side "crying foul" that the date was specifically picked by the 604 "Mainlanders" to ensure a victory, something that has only occurred twice in the last 5 years and three times in the last eleven. However, many 604 pundits have postulated the real reason for defaulting the match was the fact that an "easy victory" could not be had as Elvio Chies had abdicated the goaltending duties to new first stringer Andrew Kirk. Andrew stands all of 6 foot 6 inches tall...

AGM NOTES (cont'd from pg 3):

AREA ASSOCIATION CHANGES

As reported at the Annual General Meeting by FVSRA Life Member Al Docherty, the official formation of the Upper Fraser Valley Soccer Referees Association is one step closer to becoming reality. A school has been secured to hold meetings and a founder's night is scheduled tentatively for the early fall. Al indicates the executive of the Chilliwack Youth FC club is all on board with the idea giving the initiative its full support.

In other news, the Prince George Soccer Referees Association remains undecided as to whether to affiliate itself with the provincial association. For the time being referees in the area will be allowed to join as Direct members.

MEMBERS EXTEND A HAND TO DIRECT MEMBERS

In an attempt to forge a greater presence in remote areas of the province, the membership agreed to provide an anniversary discount fee to all potential Direct members. A Direct member is defined as someone living in the interior of the province who reside in areas where there is no Area Association to join. The membership has agreed to reduce fees by half for those District and higher classifications and associate members; there would be no discount for members who are of the Small-Sided or Youth classifications as they are already discounted.

AGM BRAINSTORMING NOTES

Due to the early editorial deadline the notes from the brainstorming sessions held at the May 23rd Annual General Meeting will be published in the Fall edition of the Flag & Whistle.

RA MEMBERS OFF TO TOURNEYS

Canadian FIFA Referees and RA members Michelle Pye and Paul Ward will be leaving, as of the time of editorial deadline in June for respective international duty.

As shown on page 1, Paul left for the U.S. on June 25th for a pre-tournament session before the July 4th start of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Michelle is off to Serbia the next day, June 26th, to officiate in the World University Games.

Congratulations to both members and we hope they will fly the flag well for Country and RA!

CSRA CORNER

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Layne Greenway, President of the Calgary District Soccer Referees Association (CDSRA) shares some great news to share about a few fellow CSRA members in Calgary. Garth Elgie, Richard Sansregret, and I have been selected by Canada Soccer to attend the FIFA FUTURO III Referee Instructors Course. The course is being hosted by the Canadian Soccer Association in Saskatchewan from September 4th -11th and focuses on teaching theories and enhancing techniques for referee instructors from across Canada. This is truly a great statement regarding the quality and support available to referee development in the Calgary referee community, and congratulations to the candidates on their selections.



DAN KULAI/JACK TINNON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FOR 2009

This year's recipient of the Dan Kulai/Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship was presented to Melissa Orton of Victoria. Melissa is a referee who primarily referees for games in the Gordon Head Soccer Club where, according to the scholarship LUncheon Program, was named Most Outstanding Referee. She is a District referee and also frequently acts as a mentor to newer, younger referees. Presenting the scholarship on behalf of the Referees Association was Provincial President Elvio chies.

The scholarship is worth \$1200 and is named after two individuals. Dan Kulai was one of Canada's first FIFA Referees and is inducted into the Builder's Category of the BC Sports Hall of Fame. Jack Tinnion was a Life Member of the Fraser Valley Soccer Referee Association (FVSRA) branch of the Referees Association and whose name the annual 604 v 250 Friendly is named in honour of. Originally two scholarships, with one scholarship to each individual's name, they were amalgamated into one in 2008. The scholarship is jointly funded from Referees Association, half from the provincial account of the Referees Association with the remaining half from the FVSRA, and BC Soccer.

The RA congratulates Melissa on being this year's recipient.

MEMBERS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Not to be outdone, two younger members of the Referees Association, Mary Katherine Battle of Richmond and Brianna Courteen-Nurse of Kamloops were also worthy recipients at this year's BC Soccer Scholarship Luncheon.



Mary Katherine Battle

Mary Katherine, or "MK" as she is nicknamed, was this year's recipient of the Tom Kelly Scholarship. Brianna was this year's recipient of the Janet Tyrell Scholarship

The Tom Kelly Scholarship is named in honour of the late secretary of the BC Soccer Assessment Sub-Committee. Tom was also made a Life member of the Vancouver Area Soccer Referees Association (VASRA) branch of the Referees Association, the only non-referee to hold that honour. The Janet Tyrell Scholarship was named in honour of the the late BC Soccer Life Member and made possible by a generous donation by Ken Lind, a past President of the old BC Youth Soccer Association.



Brianna Courteen-Nurse

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

MEMBERS AT ZIDANE AND FRIENDS MATCH

Congratulations to the four members of the RA were appointed to the Zidane and Friends match on July 12th at Swangard stadium. Pictured below with Zinedine Zidane himself, at the right of the photo, are (L-R): Noel Estacio (AR2), Joey Kenward (R), Mynor Campos (4th), Nick Hawley (AR1).

The Flag & Whistle thanks Jose Branco, BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator and RA Member for use of the photo.



Five-official experiment in UEFA Europa League

The refereeing experiment involving five match officials is to continue at fixtures in the 2009/10 UEFA Europa League on the proposal of the UEFA President Michel Platini, following the approval of the FIFA Executive Committee at their meeting in Nassau, Bahamas.

Football's lawmakers, the International FA Board (IFAB), had given their permission for the continuation of the experiment at their 2009 annual general meeting earlier this year. In addition to the match referee and two assistant referees on the touchline, two extra assistants are placed behind the goalline, with the mission of focusing on incidents which happen in the penalty area, such as fouls or misconduct. The latest tests will now take place in the UEFA Europa League and will be sure to focus even more attention on the new and enhanced European club competition next season.

The initial experiment with two additional assistant referees was successfully tested at qualifying round mini-tournaments during the UEFA European Under-19 Championship last autumn, and feedback was extremely positive from both match officials and observers. After receiving a report on the experiment involving the additional assistant referees, the members of the IFAB gave permission for the continuation of FIFA's experiment, this time in a professional league.

Mr Platini said of the experiment: "Everyone agrees on the need to help referees. With football getting ever faster and the players ever fitter, it sometimes seems the men in black face a mission impossible. Two extra pairs of eyes focusing on the penalty areas are of valuable assistance to the referee and strengthen the referee team in confidence and numbers, while allowing the game to flow. The best teams are often the ones who demonstrate the greatest cohesion – by strengthening the position of the main referee we are creating the ideal conditions for the referee team to also be one of the best."

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Referees see red over FA's Friedel U-turn

By Soccernet staff

(Ed note: here's an article that didn't make it in the Spring issue).



A row is brewing between Premier League referees and the Football Association following their decision to overturn goalkeeper Brad Friedel's red card at Liverpool. The Professional Game Match Officials Board, who represent football's leading officials, have written to the FA to demand an explanation.

The Aston Villa keeper was sent off by Martin Atkinson for fouling Fernando Torres in the penalty area during the Reds' 5-0 romp on Sunday and the referees argue that under the laws of the game a straight red card was the correct decision.

However, the FA have taken the view that Friedel was trying to get out of the way when he turned his back to Torres an instant before giving the penalty away.

A Premier League spokesman confirmed that the PGMO had written to the FA seeking an explanation over the U-turn.

"The PGMO have sought clarification from the FA on the reasons why the appeal panel found against the referee," the Premier League spokesman said. "Through a letter to the FA the PGMO just want to be sure to get all the detail on why the appeal panel found the way they did. Throughout the season you've got a number of different appeals that go forward and it's important the referees get to the bottom of precisely why the panel will have found in the way it did."

Friedel would normally have served a one-game ban for Villa as a result of the red card and missed the clash against Manchester United on Sunday week, but the 37-year-old will now add to his tally of 182 consecutive league appearances.

The Daily Mail reported on Wednesday that senior referees claim to be "disappointed and confused" by the FA's decision to overturn the red card.

Subject: The Renegade Ref says boo to the media

(Ed note: The "Renegade Ref" is a referee in England that runs a website by the same name. Designed as an editorial, he gives his rebuttals to pundits criticisms of referees).

Was it or wasn't it?

There are some things in life that are either black or white, right or wrong, night or day. These are things cannot be "either or", they are and that's it. Howard Webb's penalty decision in the Manchester United versus Tottenham Hotspur match - in fact anyone's penalty decision - falls into that category. It was either a penalty or it wasn't. Stem Cell Research It's Not. This wasn't Howard Webb deciding he should conduct stem cell research causing the great thinkers of the world to ponder the moral dilemma of interfering with nature. No HW decided that Gomes felled Carrick and gave

Manchester United a penalty. Was I unhappy that he gave a penalty against my Tottenham Hotspur? Of course I was, probably just as unhappy as the Manchester United supporters were when Chris Foy didn't give Ronaldo a penalty in the League Cup Final. Get over it... But like them I got over it - by the end of the match I was more vexed off at the

commentator - the failed restaurateur Craig Burley. For the rest of the match he was bleating and whining like a man who has not once made a mistake. The media seem to be the one part of football that is not open to criticism. They act as if they have a God given right to pass comment and criticism of all things football without having anyone questioning their performance. This is the media whose interviewers when given the chance to be on the same field as heroes and failed heroes - which they couldn't achieve through their own skill and abilities - ask such dull and insipid questions like: "how do you feel missing the penalty that lost your club the Champions League?"

If I ruled the world

If I ruled the world I would instruct every blessed sole (sic) being interviewed to answer any questions by reflecting the question back to the interviewer. Can you imagine how much more interesting the interviews would become?

Interviewer: "how do you feel missing the penalty that lost your club the Champions League?"

JT: "How do you think I feel missing the penalty that lost Chelsea the Champions League?"

Interviewer: "Pretty miffed?"

JT: "So why waste your breath asking such a dumb question?"

Interviewer: "Because I'm an interviewer and that's all I've been taught at Media School is to ask dumb banal questions!"

JT: "You're doing a good job!"

Keep on growling...

However, as next week I reach the ripe old age of 51 I guess ruling the world is out of the question so I'll have to make do with growling at the television "give me strength" when the interviewer trots out the same old lines.

But let's not give only interviewers grief. To be a TV director of live matches you've got to find a supporter biting his nails or holding his hands in a prayer like manner so the commentator can make some clichéd remark.

Can we strike a deal? So here's the deal: if the television production teams' stops being so flipping boring and players stop missing open goals, we as referees will stop making mistakes. Do we have a deal?

And finally ...

Bullet proofing your self-confidence

Last Thursday Performance Psychologist Karl Steptoe and I ran a course called "The Confident Referee". The room was crammed full of referees who wanted to improve their performances. Karl gave them excellent techniques to bullet proof their self-confidence and I spoke about the necessity of having a plan. Using the delegates feedback to improve the training course - and buoyed with other referees who have requested a re-run "up north" - we're putting on the course again on Sunday, August 23rd around the Leicester M1 corridor. E-mail Fiona....

Over the coming months I'll be giving you more details but in the meantime please put the date in your diary. The numbers will be limited so Layne if improving your enjoyment of refereeing is something you're interested in send Fiona an e-mail now to get on the mailing list.

The Renegade

PS Remember to e-mail Fiona at Fiona@touchline.demon.co.uk to register your interest for the course in August.

PPS Visit www.referee-equipment.co.uk for all of your refereeing needs

WPS WEEKLY ROUNDUP

DiCicco delivers critical verdict on WPS officiating

By Jacqueline Purdy

May 20, 2009

Two weeks after Abby Wambach's reckless challenge ended Daniela's season and a week after watching his own star player, Kelly Smith, get fouled seven times, Boston coach Tony DiCicco decided to discuss the officiating in Women's Professional Soccer. DiCicco spent a large portion of his news conference after Sunday's 1-1 draw with Washington addressing the quality of the refereeing so far.

"It's just not good enough. It's not good enough," DiCicco said. "They're over their head, and they have to learn; just like the players have to learn to play at this level and the coaches have to get better at coaching at this level, the refereeing has to get better at this level.

"It becomes a safety concern. Here's the thing — these games are gonna get more intense. They're not gonna be lesser games. They're gonna have more hitting and more combative play. The refereeing has to get better, and they have to find, if it isn't good enough, they have to find people that are good enough. It's not just the center referee, either, it's the assistant referees on the outside."

DiCicco was especially upset about what he felt was repeated fouling of his team's two stars, Smith and Kristine Lilly. Smith has been fouled a league-high 21 times (as has St. Louis captain Lori Chalupny). Lilly and fellow

Breakers forward Kelly Schmedes have each been fouled 14 times, third most in the league. Through seven games, Boston as a team has been fouled 87 times, 19 more times than the team in second place, the Los Angeles Sol, who also have played seven games. "I don't want to see my coach] Jim Gabarra and the players hurt, and I know [Freedom other coaches in the league don't want to see their players hurt. You've got to protect the creative player. Every time Kelly Smith gets the ball, they're at her heels. They're kicking, and she's not going to dive."

It's often easy -- too easy -- to complain about referees and to point to specific fouls that were or weren't called to try to make a point.

When asked whether Smith, who was less involved in Sunday's match than usual, was hurt, DiCicco continued to discuss the referees.

"[Smith] gets whacked every game. Last game, she was fouled seven times. Those are the ones that are called. ... The referee didn't give a yellow card until the 92nd minute. There is a rule called persistent infringement," he said, referring to the 0-0 draw in Los Angeles in which the Breakers and Sol combined for 34 fouls and Smith suffered seven fouls.

"She has a black eye if you notice from the last game, too, and this is what happens," DiCicco said. "Every league in the world has gone through this where they have to protect the creative player because you guys don't want to come out and watch just any player kicking the ball around.

"You want to come out and see players that are really good like Sonia Bompastor for Washington, that little central midfielder who's so good on the ball, but if they're kicked out of the game, we all lose."

This works both ways, though, and as DiCicco surely knows, one of the players he's trying to protect, Smith, often fouls opponents just as hard as they foul her. This issue isn't about just Smith, obviously, but she is tied for second in the league in fouls committed with 17. In Sunday's game, Smith got a large bruise on her thigh — and was not called for a foul — on what looked like contact she initiated, going to the ground and taking the ball from Bompastor.

If DiCicco gets the crackdown he wants, Smith will get more calls going in her favor, but she also will have more calls made against her.

It's often easy — too easy — to complain about referees and to point to specific fouls that were or weren't called to try to make a point. It's a fast game, and no one is perfect, but when DiCicco, one of the most respected coaches in the sport and former Women's United Soccer Association commissioner, complains extensively in a postgame news conference about the officiating, the league should take notice.

There are too many good things going on the field — just this week, there was Marta's nice move to get by Sky Blue FC

goalkeeper Jenni Branam to score her fourth goal of the season and Washington's Erin McLeod's game-saving stop of a left-footed Smith shot — to be talking about officiating, physical play and potential injuries.

But after the Freedom-Athletica match May 3 that saw Brazilian star Daniela injure her knee and referee Shane Butler seemingly unable to keep the game under control, physical play is being closely watched.

Without a lot of televised games or highlights available, the scrutiny tends to fall on the weekly nationally televised game on Fox Soccer Channel, as multiple highlights and angles are available for every play. During this week's nationally televised game, Breakers-Freedom, there were two elbows thrown at opposing players. Breakers forward Christine Latham elbowed Alex Singer in either the face or shoulder and received a yellow card. Latham's elbow was clearly visible in television replay and looked rather deliberate. The incident should have been a straight red card and probably deserves a one-game suspension. Breakers defender Alex Scott also appeared to get elbowed in the face late in the game, but it wasn't shown on replay and it was unclear who elbowed her.

When asked via e-mail about DiCicco's comments and the fouls in this particular game, the league said it reviews all physicals plays, officiating and postgame comments made by team officials, and the disciplinary committee meets once a week and will decide whether to take action. After the Freedom-Athletica game, the disciplinary committee decided no further action was warranted, but commissioner Tonya Antonucci stepped in and suspended Wambach and McNeill. Antonucci's statement on the matter also included a line about the officiating in the match: "I have directed that the circumstances of this match be brought to the attention of the US Soccer Federation, which provides referee assignments for WPS matches, and that serious consideration be given to avoiding these circumstances when making future referee assignments."

U.S. national team

Of the 17 WPS players on the U.S. national team roster for this weekend's camp and Monday's game versus Canada, 13 will miss WPS action, as the Breakers (who have four players called in) have a bye week. FC Gold Pride and Saint Louis are perhaps the hardest hit, as they will be without their starting goalkeepers, Nicole Barnhart and Hope Solo, respectively. Chicago will be without three of its top attacking options, Lindsay Tarpley, Carli Lloyd and Megan Rapinoe. Los Angeles also will be without its starting goalkeeper, Karina LeBlanc, who plays for Canada.

Maybe it all balances out because every team is missing a player, but it's too bad that six teams have to play without their stars and one team has a bye week. It's not exactly fair. The next U.S. national team games, also against Canada, are July 19 and July 22 as WPS teams get ready for the playoffs.

Euro 2009 in August could cause trouble and unfair advantages in the playoffs with international call-ups as well.

National team games and international tournaments are important, but it's unfortunate when they affect league play.

Power rankings

1. Boston Breakers (3-2-2): Another solid second-half effort from the Breakers in the 1-1 draw with the Freedom.
2. Los Angeles Sol (4-1-2): Los Angeles and Boston are pulling ahead of the pack, at least in terms of the power rankings. The Sol are back to their shutout streak again with two straight after losing 2-1 in Boston. Goal scoring has been a bit of a problem, though — since their 2-0 win in the inaugural game, Marta has four goals and the rest of the team has one.
3. FC Gold Pride (3-3-1): FC Gold Pride has eight goals on the season — from six goal scorers. Only the Freedom have been better at spreading the offense around.
4. Chicago Red Stars (2-2-2): Shut out for the third time this season.
5. Saint Louis Athletica (1-2-2): Coming off a bye week.
6. Washington Freedom (1-2-3): Erin McLeod bailed out the defense in the 1-1 draw with Boston. Tony DiCicco called her save on Kelly Smith in the 68th minute the best save of the season.
7. Sky Blue FC (1-3-2): Marta is quickly becoming a thorn in Sky Blue FC's side. Three of her four goals this season have come against the squad from New Jersey. Sky Blue FC has just three goals this season.

Jacqueline Purdy covers women's soccer for ESPN.com. She also is an editor for ESPNRadio.com. She can be reached by e-mail at jacquelinepurdy@gmail.com, followed on Twitter and friended on ESPN's fan profiles.

Do you have a submission for the Flag & Whistle?

Please email all material to either

jonsee@telus.net or *Ivo@direct.ca* or *F&W Staff Writer - stdy@telus.net*

Note : Deadline for submissions in the next issue will be August 31st/09

Flag and Whistle- BCSRA Newsletter

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The material presented is from contributors and the BCSRA assumes no responsibility for their contents. All submissions may be edited for reasons of clarity, brevity and taste. Thank you to all who've contributed articles and apologies to those whose submissions never made it into this edition.

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B.C.S.R.A.

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40 Years