



Peninsula Co-op goalkeeper Steph Parker goes up for a ball with teammate Becky Swan against Whitecaps striker Jenny Jeffers during their USL W-League season opener at Royal Athletic Park on Sunday.

ADRIAN LAM, TIMES COLONIST

## Victoria teams stun Whitecaps

CLEVE DHEENSAW  
Times Colonist

The biggest brand name in British Columbia soccer — Vancouver Whitecaps — came calling Sunday to Royal Athletic Park and were treated rather rudely by Island teams as the Caps squads came away with only one of a possible six points. Peninsula Co-op, just 1-10-3 with 13 goals scored last year as the Victoria Highlanders, recorded a stunner of a 3-2 victory over the Whitecaps to open the 2012 USL W-League season in what this year has become the top level of women's soccer in North America.

Then, the Victoria Highlanders (0-0-2) and the Whitecaps-U-23 (1-1-1) — the reserve team for the pro MLS Whitecaps — played to a 1-1 draw in the ensuing men's USL Premier Development League contest before 1,172 fans.

In the women's fixture, UVic Vikes players Stephanie Parker and Lindsay Hoetzel played signifi-

cant roles against a Whitecaps team that Sunday boasted 2011 World Cup player Mele French of France and Chelsea Buckland, who is preparing to play in the 2012 London Summer Olympics for Canada.

Parker was outstanding in goal for Co-op, while Hoetzel scored twice in six minutes in the second half, both off Janelle Smith assists, to give Co-op a 3-1 lead.

The most crucial moment was at 42 minutes, with Vancouver leading 1-0. The Whitecaps were red-carded and reduced to 10 players on a play that also gave Co-op a penalty kick. Liz Hansen converted to tie the game 1-1 as the momentum shifted dramatically.

"This was a huge start for us," said Co-op head coach Dave Dew.

"We competed really well. We used the same pattern as the [Highlanders] men's team — the blue-collar versus white-collar ethic, with us being the

hard-working blue-collar team. We especially responded well to being down 1-0 early."

Even reduced to 10 players, the Whitecaps remained dangerous and Dew tipped his hat to his club's defensive crease play.

"Stephanie [Parker] made some unbelievable saves for us," he said.

Co-op hosts the Colorado Rush next Sunday at 5 p.m. at RAP.

In the men's game, Long Tan put the Whitecaps — with Victoria product and former Canadian national team and Whitecaps player Martin Nash on the bench as assistant coach — ahead 1-0 at 40 minutes. The Highlanders levelled through Craig Gorman, off a Jared Stephens assist, at 45 minutes.

Victoria had opened the season the previous night with a 1-1 tie against Seattle Sounders U-23 and will play their third of three consecutive games against MLS reserve squads when they travel to Oregon to take on

Portland Timbers U-23 on Saturday.

"You feel kind of humble coming into these games because these are MLS reserve affiliate teams but we have competed well," said Thomas Mallette, a Highlanders striker who came close to scoring several times and was dangerous all weekend.

"We just have to keep going, and with a little more finishing practice, it will come," added the UVic Vikes speedster.

Highlanders head coach Ian Bridge concurred.

"We had the chances in both games but just missed getting that elusive winning goal. But we did lots of good things this weekend and I feel we are on the right track," said the 1986 World Cup player.

"We knew these were going to be two tough teams — MLS affiliates — to start the season against, and it doesn't get any easier as we get a third next week in Portland."

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### MLB ROUNDUP

## Morrow, Blue Jays pay price in loss to Rays

NEIL DAVIDSON  
The Canadian Press

TORONTO — Brandon Morrow started with two walks, then regrouped. But his night finished with another walk and five unearned runs.

The Toronto starter's career-high four-game win streak came to an end in a 7-1 loss to Tampa on Monday night that turned ugly in a six-run fifth inning.

"Too many walks ... That was a tough fifth," said a muted Morrow (4-2).

"Made some pitches to get out of it and then they kind of went out and got some good fastballs that were a touch off the plate. A couple of good pieces of hitting there, I guess, and [they] broke it open."

Morrow wobbled in the first, opening with two walks. But he recovered and did not yield a hit in the first four innings, striking out six.

Then the wheels fell off. Leading 1-0, Toronto gave up six runs in an inning that featured four hits, an error and wild pitch. Only the first run was earned as an error by first baseman Adam Lind and a wild pitch allowed the Rays batters to keep going with two outs.

Morrow exited after the inning, striking out seven and walking four while giving up four hits in total.

He threw 90 pitches, 56 for strikes. But Farrell said he didn't think his right-hander had the power he had shown recently.

Morrow hadn't lost since April 18, when he gave up six runs — including three homers — to the Rays at Tropicana Field.

In his four previous wins, he struck out 30 and had an 0.65 ERA. And in the first three of those, he gave up just one walk in total.

Morrow also gave up four walks in his last outing, a win over Oakland. He said he thought he had solved "a couple of mechanical things" only to "lose it for a few pitches."

He did not get much help from his teammates Monday.

"On a night when you're down a little bit offensively, that's where the pitching and defence has got to pick some things up and that wasn't the case tonight," manager John Farrell said.

He lamented the walks from his entire pitching staff, noting the Jays had given up 25 in the previous four days in Minnesota.

"Yes, we've issued far too many walks."

"And when you issue that many walks, we're creating issues for ourselves to have to battle through and pitch around. Particularly on a night where you put one up on the board offensively, those are going to contribute to a tough night," he added.

### Red Sox 6, Mariners 1

BOSTON — This wasn't the kind of game the Mariners were going to have a chance in once their pitcher gave up some fly balls too long for this tiny ballpark to contain.

The Mariners were already en route to being schooled at the plate by Jon Lester when Jason Vargas got hit a little too hard in the early innings. Two home runs and two doubles later, the Mariners were five runs down and eventually took a 6-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox on Monday.

Red Sox starter Lester allowed just an infield single through four innings. By the time the Mariners bunched together a pile of singles in the latter innings, they were already too far down for it to matter.

The Mariners suffered their third loss in four games on this trip.

Boston took the lead for good in the first inning when Dustin Pedroia walked and David Ortiz hit a ball off the Green Monster in left for a double to score the run. Adrian Gonzalez then doubled into the left-field corner to up the margin to 2-0.

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

## Pride on prowl for Island title

Times Colonist

Lambrick Park got off to a 2-0 start Monday at the Island girls double-A high school soccer championship taking place at St. Michaels University School.

The Pride defeated Ballenas of Parksville 3-1 and host SMUS 3-2 on opening day. SMUS rebounded to down the Gulf Islands Scorpions 6-1, while Ballenas edged the Scorpions 3-2.

The Parkland Panthers defeated the Esquimalt Dockers 4-1 in another game.

The tournament concludes today with Brentwood playing Parkland and Lambrick Park taking on Gulf Island at 8:45 a.m. At 10:30, SMUS battle Ballenas and Shawnigan plays Esquimalt.

The top two teams will play for the gold medal at 2:45 p.m.



Lambrick Park's Anna Prette gets the ball away while under pressure from SMUS' Rachel Olsen on Monday.

ADRIAN LAM, TIMES COLONIST

## 76ers hold off Celtic's old guard to draw even

Associated Press

BOSTON — Evan Turner scored the go-ahead layup with his back to the basket Monday night and the Philadelphia 76ers survived a frantic finish to beat the Boston Celtics 82-81 and even their semifinal series at a game apiece.

Jrue Holiday scored 18 points, Andre Iguodala had 13 and the Sixers nearly let another double-digit lead go to waste before pulling away in the final minute.

Kevin Garnett, who had 29 points in Boston's Game 1 win Saturday, was called for a moving screen with 10 seconds left and the Celtics trailing by three.

The offensive foul, which cleared Paul Pierce for a pass up top, allowed the Sixers to take a five-point lead on free throws with just 8.5 seconds left.

Garnett hit a meaningless 3 at the buzzer for the one-

point final margin as the Sixers won a playoff game in Boston for the first time since Game 7 of Eastern Conference Finals in 1982.

"You play a game like this," said Sixers coach Doug Collins, "and it's worth like 10 regular season games in terms of experience."

Game 3 of the Eastern Conference series is Wednesday night in Philadelphia.

Turner, one of Collins' core of young players, slipped past two defenders and spun his back to the rim on the left side, throwing the ball up for a bucket that made it 76-75 with 40.4 seconds remaining.

It put the eighth-seeded Sixers up for good and came after a flurry of 3s by both teams that had the score seesawing back and forth.

Holiday had one for Philadelphia, but it was sandwiched by a corner three by Avery Bradley and

a three at the top by Ray Allen that gave Boston a one-point lead.

The Sixers went 6-for-6 at the line in the last 12 seconds.

### Thunder 119, Lakers 90

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Thunder made an emphatic statement Monday, annihilating the title-tested Los Angeles Lakers 119-90 in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series.

The Thunder, well-rested following an opening-round sweep of the defending champion Mavericks, led by as many as 35 in the rout thanks to productive games by their all-star duo.

Russell Westbrook totaled 27 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, while Kevin Durant added 25 points and eight boards for Oklahoma City.

## Sanchez leaves CFL with head held high

MONTE STEWART  
The Canadian Press

SURREY — Davis Sanchez played football like few other Canadians.

In fact, he was the only Canadian to start at cornerback, a position dominated by imports, during his 11-season CFL career. The Delta native officially hung up his cleats Monday, retiring after he spent the last two campaigns with the B.C. Lions.

"I didn't see it any differently," said Sanchez, 37. "I was always the cornerback. Whether I was a Canadian or wherever I was from, it didn't make any difference, because that's all I've ever been."

Drafted by Montreal sixth overall in 1999, he played 155 career games with the Alouettes, Lions, Calgary Stampeders and Edmonton Eskimos. He recorded 28 interceptions and three fumbles, returning four of his takeaways for touchdowns.

Along the way, he earned three Grey Cups, with Edmonton in 2005, Montreal in 2009 and the Lions last year. He was a three-

time East Division all-star as well as league all-star one season.

Sanchez hopes he has opened CFL talent-seekers' eyes to Canadians' abilities to play the so-called skilled positions usually reserved for Americans. But he acknowledged that teams will be slow to adopt change.

"There's not going to be all Canadian corners," he said. "That's just not going to happen."

The University of Oregon alumnus also played in the NFL with the San Diego Chargers in 2001, recording 19 tackles over 16 games, and again briefly in 2002.

"I'll miss the game and I'm going to miss my teammates," said Sanchez, whose 2011 season was cut short by an elbow injury that limited him to five games. "It's been such a big part of my life."

Lions general manager Wally Buono and coach Mike Benevides hope a permanent replacement for Sanchez will emerge at rookie camp, which begins later this month, or when main camp opens in early June. Buono praised Sanchez for providing lead-

ership, even though he could not play, as the Lions completed their improbable march to a Grey Cup victory following a 0-5 start.

"I've always liked Davis and I've always liked the fact that he's been a good mentor to the young guys," said Buono. "He's been a good example to the young guys as far as work ethic and what it takes to be a pro."

Sanchez said he could not have displayed the same patience earlier in his career. But it was still difficult to have to watch the miraculous comeback following the disastrous start.

"It was kind of bitter-sweet," he said of the Grey Cup triumph.

As for the other championships, he will appreciate them more when he looks back on his career five or 10 years from now. He will now work full-time on a football academy that he operates across the B.C. Lower Mainland.

"I don't think people give him enough credit, because he's a man with a Canadian passport that played a position that not many Canadians did," said Benevides.

## Canada to host Davis Cup tie

MONTREAL — Due to financial constraints, South Africa has forfeited home-court advantage for the coming World Group playoff tie against Canada.

So the Canadians, who had initially lost the coin toss that determined home ground, will host the crucial tie Sept. 14-16 with Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver the likely candidates. Canada must win to remain in the Davis Cup's prestigious World Group for 2013.

"We're thrilled to have the opportunity to play in front of a home crowd," captain, Martin Laurendeau, said. — Postmedia News

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