



WSL NEWS

WEEK 1
April 22-23

Serving Seattle Storm • Portland Timbers • Sacramento Senators • San Francisco Bay Blackhawks • Real Santa Barbara • California Kickers • L.A. Heat • San Diego Nomads • Arizona Condors

9 CLUBS STRONG, LEAGUE OPENS 5TH SEASON

The Western Soccer League, boasting more teams, more games and more top American players, kicks off its fifth season this weekend when eight of the League's nine clubs swing into action.

Among the features of the WSL's 1989 campaign:

- * **Four new clubs**--the Arizona Condors, San Francisco Bay Blackhawks, Real Santa Barbara and Sacramento Senators.

- * **A 75-match schedule.** Each club will play a WSL-record 16 regular-season games (eight home, eight road).

- * **Two divisions.** In the WSL North are the Seattle Storm, Portland Timbers, Sacramento Senators and San Francisco Bay Blackhawks; the WSL South is composed of Real Santa Barbara, California Kickers, L.A. Heat, San Diego Nomads and Arizona Condors.

- * **Expanded playoffs.** Four clubs will qualify for the WSL American Airlines Soccer Championships. On July 29, the WSL North winner will play host to the WSL South runner up and the WSL South champ will entertain the WSL North second-place finisher. The two survivors meet August 12 for the WSL title.

* More U.S. International players.

Among the U.S. National Team members in the WSL ranks are forward Brent Goulet (Seattle), forward Scott Benedetti (Portland), defender John Doyle (San Francisco), defender Paul Krumpke (California), midfielder Hugo Perez (L.A.), goalkeeper David Vanole (L.A.) and defender Marcelo Balboa (San Diego).

Week 1 in the Western Soccer League features five matches. The season officially gets under way April 22 at 2 p.m. when the San Francisco Bay Blackhawks play host to the L.A. Heat at California High in San Ramon. Later that day the Sacramento Senators meet Real Santa Barbara at 7 p.m. at La Playa Stadium in Santa Barbara and the defending WSL champion Seattle Storm faces the Arizona Condors at 7:35 p.m. at John Riggs Stadium in Mesa. On April 23, Sacramento moves down the coast to Cal State Los Angeles for a 3 p.m. match with the host California Kickers and L.A. squares off against the San Diego Nomads at 7 p.m. at Balboa Stadium in San Diego.

WSL-ASL SHOWDOWN SET, MERGER PLANNED

SEATTLE, WA; SCARSDALE, NY--The Western Soccer League and American Soccer League champions will meet in San Jose, California, on September 9 in a national pro soccer championship game. WSL Chairman Bill Sage and ASL Chairman Clive Teye announced the title contest simultaneously on both coasts April 12.

Sage and Teye also announced that they have begun laying the foundation for a merger that will establish a professional circuit of at least 20 teams by 1992.

The two leagues' decision to begin working toward a merger represents a major development in support of the U.S. Soccer Federation's announced plan to establish a three-tiered national professional league system.

According to the joint resolution adopted by the two leagues' Boards of Directors, work will begin at once to finalize details of the eventual merger. A timetable for interleague play will be developed, as will a joint plan for expansion into the central U.S.

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L.A. HEAT

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The L.A. Heat has developed a reputation for staring down international foes, luring U.S. national team players and challenging for the playoffs.

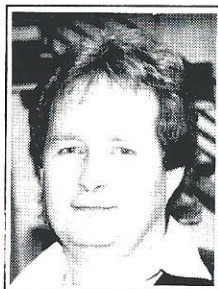
In the opening weeks of its inaugural 1986 season, the Heat played Dundee of the Scottish Premier Division to a scoreless draw, fared well in a 3-0 loss to the World Cup-bound Scottish National Team and limited Manchester City of the English First Division to a 1-1 tie. A pattern was set. The following year, L.A. threw a scare into Soviet Union power Dynamo Moscow before falling, 1-0. And in 1988 the Heat went undefeated, blanking Alianza of El Salvador, 2-0, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and trimming Calgary and Vancouver of the Canadian Soccer League by identical 2-1 scores. The Dundee, Manchester City, Calgary and Vancouver matches counted in the WSL standings those years, giving the Heat a 2-0-2 record against foreign clubs in League matches. (For the record, L.A. also notched a rousing 2-0 victory over the U.S. National Team last April.)

The club's knack for snaring U.S. national teamers also began with that first season as the club lined up with the likes of Hugo Perez, Mike Brady, Mike Fox, and Dale Ervine, and the tradition continued last year thanks to Billy Thompson and Steve Sharp. Unfortunately, L.A. narrowly missed the playoffs in 1988 for the second consecutive year. In 1987, the Heat finished in a tie for second based on record but lost out on total points; in '88 it tied for third on record and points but was nosed out through the WSL tie-breaker formula.

L.A. bows in with a new chairman at the helm in '89. Dan Olson, a graduate of Notre Dame, has logged 15 years in advertising, marketing and public relations with top agencies and currently is a founder and officer of C.A. Blockers of Louisville. As a youth soccer coach, he has guided the Manhattan Beach Hurricanes to back-to-back California Youth Soccer Association-South championships.



DAN OLSON
Chairman



MICHAEL HOGUE
President & Gen. Mgr.

THE HEAT AT A GLANCE

Chief Executive Officer: Dan Olson
General Manager: Michael Hogue
Assistant General Manager: Jill Fracisco
Game Day Director: Andy Hughes
Public Relations Director: Jill Fracisco
Coaches: John Britton (2nd year), Bob Sibbald (1st year)
Physician: Dr. Steven Waskow
Stadium: Warrior Stadium (West Torrance High), Del Amo Blvd. and Victor St., Torrance
Capacity: 6,000
Dimensions: 116 by 63 yards
Surface: Grass
Training Site: Manhattan Village Square Mall Field
Colors: Red, White
Tickets: Adults \$5, Youth \$2

1989 L.A. SCHEDULE

| Day | Date | Opponent | Kickoff |
|----------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Saturday | April 22 | at San Francisco Bay Blackhawks | 2:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | April 23 | at San Diego Nomads | 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | May 6 | ARIZONA CONDORS | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | May 7 | at Sacramento Senators | 3:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | May 14 | PORTLAND TIMBERS | 4:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | May 20 | SACRAMENTO SENATORS | 7:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | May 27 | at California Kickers | 7:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | June 3 | REAL SANTA BARBARA | 7:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | June 10 | at Arizona Condors | 7:35 p.m. |
| Sunday | June 18 | SEATTLE STORM | 4:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | June 24 | at Real Santa Barbara | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | July 2 | SAN FRANCISCO BAY BLACKHAWKS | 7:30 p.m. |
| Friday | July 7 | at Portland Timbers | 8:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | July 8 | at Seattle Storm | 7:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | July 15 | CALIFORNIA KICKERS | 7:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | July 22 | SAN DIEGO NOMADS | 7:30 p.m. |