



San Diego
SOCKERS

Footnotes

Volume 1

February, 1987

Number 4

Sockers Gear Up For Second Half Surge



As the All-Star break approaches, the San Diego Sockers find themselves in the unfamiliar position of not being in first place.

True, many of the teams in the West, such as Kansas City, Tacoma, and Los Angeles are greatly improved. However, the consensus of the players is that they haven't played particularly well in the first half of the season.

We all are aware of the team's woes in overtime, with nine of their first 21 games going into the extra session. The Sockers are a dismal 3-6 in OT, and 4-8 in one goal games in general.

The bad news is that the Sockers have not won these close games. The GOOD NEWS is that the Sockers are in every game they've played, and have usually lost as the result of a key penalty or unfortunate mistake.

"We've had a tremendous amount of bad luck in the early going," says Sockers Head Coach Ron Newman. "But there isn't any major problem with the team. We've been around long enough to realize that if you work hard and stay with your game, you will succeed."

Despite the fact that the Tacoma Stars have stormed the opposition, there is confidence among the Sockers that the team will make a strong run at first place.

While the Sockers rank near the top of the league in team defense,

Tacoma has had a bit of trouble trying to contain the opposing forwards. The San Diego goalkeeping tandem of Zoltan Toth and Jim Gorsek is arguably the league's best. Tacoma is relying on veteran Peter Mowlik and Joe Papaleo, two good goalkeepers who have limited experience in 'pressure' games.

The Sockers defensive corps is also among the league's best, and let's not forget that it's still defense that wins championships.

"If we can shut down Tacoma's offense, I think we can win," said Sockers midfielder Brian Quinn last month. "We know they have a great offense, but we can score too, you know. I think we match up very well with Tacoma."

The Stars have been getting balanced scoring from Steve Zungul, Preki, Godfrey Ingram and Gary Heale, all of whom are ranked in the top 20 of the MISL in scoring. Midfielder Gerry Gray has also made an impact on the Stars offense.

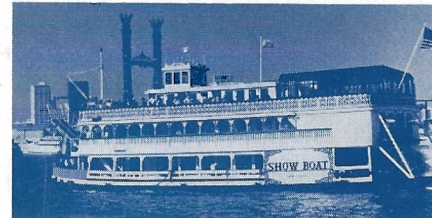
"We respect their talent, but we are still the champions," stated San Diego forward Juli Vee.

It's this sense of pride which will propel the Sockers back to the top of the Western Division. Branko Segota, Jean Willrich and Hugo Perez have all played well on offense, and now, midfielder Brian Quinn and defenders Kevin Crow and Fernando Clavijo have shown that it's time to make a move on Tacoma.

"The Sockers still have so many weapons, and now we'll have a battle on our hands," says Newman. "But this is a team that loves to win, and has to win. I guarantee that we'll be ready for what Tacoma or any other team has to offer."

Which means it should be a great second half of the 1986-87 MISL season.

"Cruise With The Sockers"



Captain Sam Diego and the San Diego Sockers invite you to set sail for the high seas Wednesday, February 25th, when the team hosts their 'Cruise with the Sockers' aboard the beautiful 'Showboat'.

Co-sponsored by Waterfront Promotions, fans as well as Salty Dogs participating in the 2½ hour cruise of San Diego Harbor will enjoy a breathtaking view of San Diego's nighttime skyline from the water. With boarding at the B Street Pier set for 6:30 pm, Captain Sam will greet you at the dock with a complimentary cocktail. During the voyage, fans will enjoy a beautiful array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, live music and dancing, and of course, there will be plenty of opportunities for player photos and autographs.

"This is an excellent chance for our fans to spend some time with the players in a relaxed atmosphere," said Sockers Vice President Randy Bernstein.

Boarding passes for the 'Cruise with the Sockers' are priced at \$25 for adults, and \$10 for children (18 & under) and seniors (65 & above). Discounted boarding passes are available to the Sockers Booster Club members at \$23 & \$9 respectively. Proceeds from the event, as are proceeds from the International Challenge Series game vs. Dynamo Moscow are being donated to Childrens Hospital.

Reservations for the 'Cruise With The Sockers' can be made by calling the Sockers office at 224-GOAL.

True Stories-As Told By Randy Hahn

Now in his fifth season as the Voice of the Sockers, Randy Hahn has seen many of the colorful personalities that made the Sockers indoor soccer's most successful franchise. He has been involved with the club since the team's initial MISL season in 1982-83, and has consented to describe some of the more memorable events that the Sockers of yesterday and today are responsible for.

1) THE STORY OF VOLKMAR GROSS, HEAD COACH:

This happened in my first season with the Sockers. We were in the middle of a five game road trip that started in Memphis and took us through Chicago, New York, Baltimore and Cleveland. As you can imagine, the team was pretty edgy throughout this trip.

As it turned out, we had three days in New York, and Ron Newman had to return to San Diego because his daughter was ill.

Volkmar Gross, who was larger than life, assumed command of the team. When we arrived at the Marriot Hotel where the team was staying, he ordered everyone "must report to the bar for happy hour, or it's a \$50 fine." Nobody dared to challenge Volkmar's authority.

Likes And Dislikes... Who The Sockers Root For When They're Watching TV

Like most of us, the Sockers frequently relax at home by watching sporting events on TV. Just what sports do the players watch, and who do they root for? Here's a partial list.

BRIAN QUINN—LIKES

Los Angeles Lakers
Montreal Canadiens
Boston Celtics
Indiana U. Basketball

DISLIKES

The only team Brian says he dislikes is the New York Islanders, probably because the Sockers P.R. Director is a big fan of theirs.

KEVIN CROW—LIKES

Los Angeles Raiders
Los Angeles Lakers
Tennis

Edmonton Oilers

San Diego Padres

DISLIKES

New York Yankees

BRANKO SEGOTA—LIKES

Miami Dolphins
New York Islanders
Toronto Maple Leafs

DISLIKES

Los Angeles Kings

RAFFAELE RUOTOLO—LIKES

New York Mets
New York Rangers

DISLIKES

New York Islanders

A consensus of the front office staff likes the Los Angeles Kings, San Diego State, USD, Philadelphia Flyers and Toronto Blue Jays.

Teams that are disliked are the Los Angeles Clippers, the L.A. Dodgers, New York Giants, and the rest of the NBA.



Brian Quinn is sick of hearing about the N.Y. Islanders



Raffaele Ruotolo was one happy Met fan this year.



Randy Hahn, Voice of the Sockers.



Cha Cha Namdar—He delivers.



Volkmar Gross had natural coaching ability.

3) THE STORY OF THE PING PONG HUSTLE:

In general, the writers who cover the team are the targets of ribbing. On this particular night, Brian Brown was once again

Brown was in Cleveland with the team. The hotel in Cleveland and there wasn't much else to do because the hotel was in the

Kaz Deyna also wanted to play table tennis, and he was a

Brown suggested he play Kazzie. Kazzie thought a bet should

Brown asked Brian Quinn a logical question. "Is he any good?"

"He's the worst player on the team," responded Quinnie.

Brian Brown, being a good reporter, thought he had it made

given an 18 point advantage.

Final score was Deyna 21, Brown 18.

"What happened," asked Brown.

"He's the best player on the team," laughed Quinnie.

Pepsi-Cola of San



2) THE STORY OF JULI VEE, BIRD LOVER:

Last season, the team was scheduled to play a Sunday afternoon game in Wichita. We had won our last five games, and everyone was in a good mood. As is the custom on the road, some of the players went to see a movie.

On the way back, Juli Vee spotted a big, dead crow lying at the side of the road. Juli probably did not know what this crow would bring him, but he couldn't let this prop pass by without a good use. So, he picked up the bird and returned to the hotel.

First stop was Jim Gorsek's room. When Jimmy returned from the movie and walked into his room, the bird was hanging over his bed with a sign around its neck that read, "You're Next."



Juli Vee—bird's best friend.

some good natured
recipient of this prank.
d had a ping pong table,
middle of nowhere.
panied by Brian Quinn.
e in order.
p"

He bet \$5 and was also

Everyone got a good laugh out of that, but there was more that could be done. As a final tribute to the crow, we snuck it into Brian Brown's room, who was covering the team at the time for the San Diego Union. I was the decoy as the bird was placed in Brown's bed. We all waited in the hall to see his reaction. Nothing happened.

The following morning, Brown came down to breakfast. Still, no reaction. Finally, we went up to his room and found the crow. He slept all night with the bird in his bed and didn't notice it. He thought it was his feet that fouled the air in his room.



Kaz Deyna—"He's the best player on the team."

4) THE STORY OF CHA CHA NAMDAR'S OTHER CAREER

This happened during the 1984-85 season. We were in Pittsburgh at the end of a road trip.

Cha Cha just happened to be sitting in the hotel lobby when a call came through to the bellman's desk. Namdar, being a courteous fellow, answered the phone because no bellman could be found.

The guy on the other end of the phone was a guest in the hotel. He wanted to order a pizza and a sandwich. Naturally, the guy thought he was talking to the bellman.

Cha Cha didn't help matters. He dutifully took the guy's order over the phone, then ran outside to find a pizza place to get the guy's order. He also happened to order a large pizza for himself.

When he returned to the hotel, he went to his room to stash the pie he got for himself. He then went to the guy's room who phoned in the order.

When Cha Cha arrived at this guy's room, he gave him the pizza and sandwich that was ordered. Namdar then showed him the bill, which included Cha Cha's pizza.

This unsuspecting character paid the whole bill and then gave Cha Cha a five dollar tip.

There are many more stories, but decorum prohibits me from telling them in this newsletter.

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**SOCKERS
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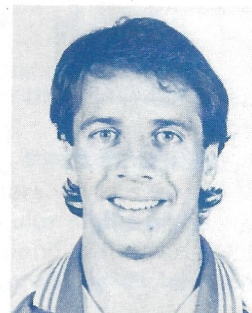


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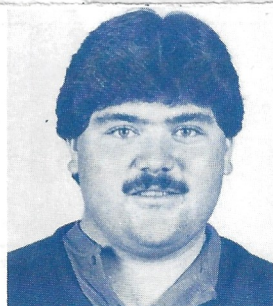


FERNANDO CLAVIJO
Met Life Player of the
Month for February
Four Goals, Two Assists

Met Life Oldtimers Classic April 11, 1986

Meet The Sockers Staff

If you are an avid viewer of the Sockers game introductions, no doubt you have seen a fellow run out to the Sockers bench immediately before the sign is lit. He is Ben Puente, and he is responsible for the team's equipment.



Just 20 years old, Ben is entering his second season as the team's equipment manager. His responsibilities include the cleaning and repair of the game uniforms, ordering warmups and sweat suits, making sure both the visiting and Sockers locker rooms are stocked with towels and refreshments, and storing such equipment as game balls and corner kick flags.

"I enjoy all aspects of my work," says Ben, "and I find the guys on the team very easy to get along with."

When he travels on the road, Ben frequently joins in

the card games which can extend into the wee hours of the morning.

"Kazzie (Deyna), Jean (Willrich) and Jimmy (Gorsek) are the players that I play cards with the most. They're very tricky, but I don't let them pull anything over on me," jokes Puente.

It was a natural occurrence for Ben to gain his position. His brother Bill was the Socks equipment manager in 1980. Ben frequently assisted his older brother and learned the ropes of the Sockers organization. He has been involved with every Sockers team since then.

A Chula Vista resident, Ben lives with his family.

Follow The Sockers On The Road

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	KLZZ	PRIME TICKET
Fri.	2/13	at Minn.	7:25 p.m. PST	
Wed.	2/18	at N.Y.	7:25 p.m. PST	
Fri.	2/20	at Balt.	8:30 p.m. PST	8:30 p.m. PST
Sat.	2/21	at Clev.	5:00 p.m. PST	5:00 p.m. PST

Don't forget, if you can't make it to the Sports Arena, follow the action on KLZZ AM 600 and XEXX AM 1420.