

# Reganomics

## Cap Blues enter BCCAA fray without star forward

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**IT'S the morning after for the Capilano College Blues women's soccer team.**

They've rolled over, wiped the sleep from their eyes and realized that their go-to girl, Sarah Regan, has left the building.

Regan, a Carson Graham product now patrolling the pitch for the UBC T-Birds, led the Blues to their fifth national title in the last seven years during a stellar 2001 season full of personal bests.

Leading the BCCAA with nine goals in 11 games, Regan was named the CCAA player of the year and an all-Canadian, the Rucanor CCAA player of the year, a BCCAA, CCAA, provincial and national

tournament all-star and a BCCAA and CCAA athlete of the week.

Blues women's team head coach Doug Abercrombie admits that, despite the fact that 14 players are returning to the fold this year — the most he's ever had come back to a team after the off-season — it'll be tough to get over the loss of Regan.

"She was a big part of the team," he said. "It's tough to replace somebody like that."

But, he added, it can only serve to make a better team. Or, at the very least, a team that must now learn how to get more creative making scoring opportunities in her absence.

"Everybody's going to have to contribute a little bit more, but to be quite honest I think a lot of the time last year we just pounded the ball to her and said 'Here, Sarah — you go do it'.



**SARAH REGAN**

We didn't play the kind of soccer I'd like to see them play all the time, and I think this year without her we'll be forced to play as more of a team. We're going to need not just one person to step up, we're going to need five or six players to step

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up and we're going to need goal scoring from three or four different areas."

It doesn't help any that the Blues' second-in-command and heir to Regan's scoring crown — former Sutherland Sabre Sofia Hidalgo — is nursing a hamstring injury right now and has been unavailable until at least this weekend. She put on some offensive fireworks shows of her own last season, ending the season second in league scoring with nine markers in 12 games. She also was named the BCCAA rookie of the year, the 2001 provincial tournament all-star, a two-time BCCAA athlete of the week, a BCCAA first-team all-star and an all-Canadian as well.

"She's coming along good now and she'll probably be fit to play (this weekend). It hurts us up front, there's no question about that," said Abercrombie.

In the opening weekend of action against Langara Sept. 6-7, Burnaby Central product Kristina Roe stepped up to filled the void admirably — scoring a hat trick to pace the Blues to a 4-3 win on Saturday, and adding another goal on Sunday — alongside Burnaby's Danielle Tabo — in a come-from-behind 2-2 tie against the Falcons.

"We're going to need

somebody else like that to chip in here. It can't just be one player this year — it's going to have to come from a couple other people, too," said Abercrombie.

Abercrombie welcomes only five rookies to his team this season — although Kamloops import defender Adrienne Johnson can hardly be called a neophyte. The 5-8, former KLO student played a year with Okanagan and two more at Cariboo.

The other four new faces on the Blues team this time out are pure homegrown talent — Handsworth alum Kelly Oliver will take the field as a forward, while former West Van Highlander Kelly Huntingford will patrol defence and Sutherland product Samantha Cox will back up Burnaby's Jen Vachon in net. Former Windsor Duke Nicole Wells will suit up for the team at midfield as well.

There are a total of 10 North Shore fixtures on the team this time out.

Of the three sophomore defenders, Missy McIntosh and Melissa Howard both hail from Argyle, while two other Pipers — Jessica Kerr and Shannon Berardo — will play midfield and forward, respectively. The last local link on the team is second-year midfielder Danielle Martin, who lists Handsworth

on her resume.

Howard and Tabo — along with sophomore Burnaby North import Lindsay Sadgrove and assistant coach and Vancouver Breakers fixture Ciara McLoughlin — were all a part of Abercrombie's Surrey United team that claimed the Pacific Coast League gold medal in the summer.

Because of that extra training, said Abercrombie, "Danny and Lindsay are probably coming into the season in better shape than anybody else on the team."

Still, Abercrombie admits his team will have to fight hard to shake off a brutal preseason schedule which saw the Blues post a 1-4-1 record. They topped a UBC split squad 3-2 and tied Malaspina 3-3, but were routed by Trinity Western (8-1), shut out by UBC's full squad (6-0) and UVic (4-0) and dropped a 5-1 match to the SFU Clan.

"They're probably a little shell-shocked from the preseason — we got hammered pretty good by all the big schools," said Abercrombie. "It just seems like everything that could go wrong went wrong. If we get out of this weekend and do well, their confidence will be back up and we'll be off and running."

— files from Milt Williams