

New game for Croatia

Champs adapt to a new-look team

The honeymoon is over for PG Croatia.

The former bridesmaids of the PG senior women's soccer league, Croatia got hitched last season to their first playoff championship, beating long-time rivals, the McQuik Shooters. But it could be a short-lived union for the defending champions as they take to the pitch this year with a team bearing little resemblance to last season's.

"Our team is a little different now. We've lost a few of our key plays," says assistant coach and player Cindy Choney. "We've had to pick up a couple of graduated youth players."

Among the lost is Croatia's goaltender and so far a replacement is not fast coming. The team is rotating players through the position, hoping someone will have the spark needed to stand in net for the defending champs.

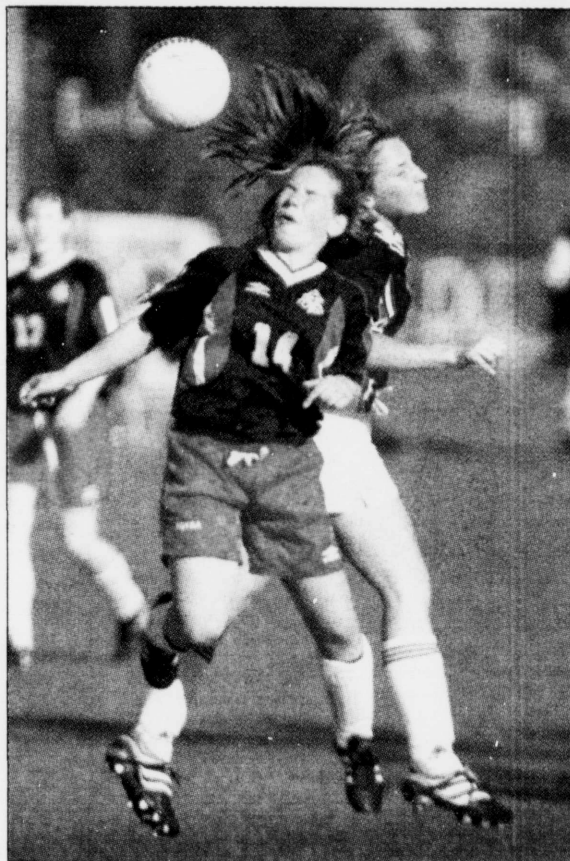
"Goalies are few and far between," says Choney, who's tried the position herself. "We're just looking for someone comfortable in net. None of us so far have the experience needed to react to the plays."

The results on the field so far back up the assertion that this year's Croatia needs some fine-tuning. With only one win to their name Croatia needs a quick fix. Choney hopes the upcoming rec provincials, next weekend in Vernon, will be the trial by fire the team needs to bond together.

"We have to get used to how each other plays. We have to spend time together, both on the field and off. You can't just throw people together and expect them to play well," she says.

Croatia qualified for the rec cup by virtue of last year's playoff win. Teams from all over B.C. will converge for the competition, which Croatia has played in only once, when PG hosted the provincials.

"Right now we all have to pull our weight," says Choney. "It's a little tight now, but it will turn around and the wins will come."



The Under-15 all star team beat up on PG Croatia Thursday night winning 3-1. JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

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FLOW FACTS

As of June 8, 2001 the release at the Skins Lake Spillway was 1896.4 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 53.7 cubic metres per second (cms). This release will remain constant until the beginning of the Summer Temperature Management Program ramp up on July 10th. Any changes to river flow between now and July 10th are natural inflow changes. The flow in the Nechako River at Vanderhoof as measured by the Water Survey of Canada Gauge is 4873.4 cfs, or 138 cms.

The reservoir level has now begun to increase as natural inflow from mountain snowmelt increases. The prolonged cool spring is one of the factors for below average inflows. Snow pack measurements taken May 29th indicate that reservoir levels this year will remain at 75% of the long-term average. The June 8th reservoir elevation was 2788.65 feet up from 2788.07 feet from last week.

For more information, please call Alcan's Regional Office in Vanderhoof at 567-5105 (Prince George: 561-1189; Burns Lake: 692-4315). Skins Lake Spillway discharges are posted on Alcan's home page at www.sno.net/alcan. Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program information can be accessed at www.NFCP.org. Flow Facts information is provided on Alcan's 24 hour information line in Vanderhoof at 567-5812.



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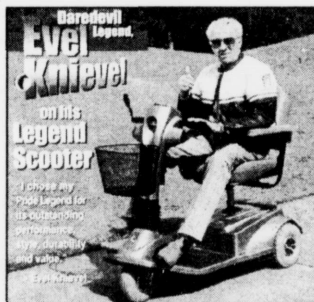
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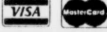
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