

# Lights out for McGill soccer in Victoria

Martlets walk off the pitch at women's nationals due to poor visibility, forfeit quarter-final game to UBC

DAVID KARP  
The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—McGill's undefeated record came to a bizarre end 9 November when the team forfeited its quarter-final match against UBC in the CIS women's soccer national championships.

The McGill Martlets left the field after 67 minutes of play when some of their players had difficulty seeing. The Martlets were trailing 2-0 at the time.

"I have really bad vision," Martlets goalkeeper Victoria Vallalba said. "I don't see in the dark," she added later.

Four sets of lights were used to illuminate the field, but only three were operating on game day. An events assistant with the University of Victoria said electricians were called, but didn't arrive before game time.

The game was scheduled to kick off at 3 pm local time, but started roughly 20 minutes late. According to

the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, the sun set at 4:42pm, with twilight ending at 5:16pm.

McGill coach Marc Mounicot called the referee over twice to protest that his players couldn't see, but the referee ruled it was safe for the game to continue.

"The conditions were not playable," Mounicot said. "I told my team to come off the field because they couldn't see anything."

UBC coach Dick Mosher, who didn't notice the lights were out, thought McGill should have kept playing.

"It's not a nice thing to happen to a top-flight tournament," Mosher said. "But [wins] all count on the way to the final."

After they left the field, it was determined that the Martlets had forfeited.

"The official determined that McGill had abandoned the game," said tournament convener James Keogh. "They had removed their players from the

field of play, and the game was called at that point."

McGill appealed the decision to the CIS, but their appeal was denied.

The CIS handed Mounicot a one-game suspension the morning after the match "for publicly questioning the integrity and competence of the officials and championship organizing committee" and for "failure to control his team." Nevertheless, the coach stood by his actions.

"Do I regret it? Not at all," he said.

Referee Carol-Anne Chenard, who has refereed in professional and international matches, wouldn't comment directly on the incident.

However, she said that for strange events "you need to know the rules, you need to know the spirit of the game, the laws of the game, and I think that's all you can do for any situation that happens to you on the field."

Joe Guest, director of refereeing

with the Canadian Soccer Association, backed Chenard's decision.

"When McGill removed themselves from the action, the referee had no alternative but to abandon the game," he said.

Martlets captain Shari Fraser said the team suggested that the lights be fixed, or the game moved into the fully lit stadium adjacent to the field.

"The ref didn't want to hear anything about it, so as a team we took the decision to walk off the field and to continue somewhere else when conditions were better," she said.

Although the decision resulted in McGill's elimination from the single-knockout tournament, Fraser said the team has no regrets.

"It was the coach's decision, but we stood by it right away, and we agree with him 110 per cent," she said. "How do you have a field without lights? This is a national championship—it's not the beer league."

## THE HAIKU RALLY

Adapted from a dream by Paul Owen

### Pandas Basketball

Girls beat Brandon big.  
Regina played them tougher.  
We won that one too.

### Bears Basketball

Guys don't fare as well.  
They lost both to the same teams.  
Horwood must be pissed.

### Bears Hockey

Upset twice in 'Toon.  
Didn't see that one coming.  
What the hell happened?

### Fantasy Hockey

Huet for Lindros?  
Kendrick is getting ripped off.  
No wonder he's losing.



MIKE KENDRICK

# After 94 years, you'd think the CFL could run a decent Grey Cup



PAUL OWEN

Sports Commentary

Leave it to Nelly Furtado to ruin a perfectly enjoyable football game. Okay, so the only entertaining part of the BC Lions' 25-14 win over the Montréal Alouettes in the 94th Grey Cup Sunday was listening to my Québec-born mother rant about how shitty the Als were playing. In fact, a terrible half-time show led by Furtado was simply the icing on the cake of a championship game that displayed many of the

CFL's problems.

It's clear that the divisions in the CFL continue to be blatantly unbalanced. Montréal has come out of the East five times in the past seven years, and won only once. While they've had some success, the Als have hardly been a dynasty—rather they've merely been the best of a bad bunch. The East hasn't had a truly dominant team since Doug Flutie left the Argos to be Rob Johnson's backup quarterback in Buffalo eight years ago.

This lack of balance is even more evident when watching the interdivisional games. The three playoff teams in the West went a combined 18-6 against the East Division. Only Edmonton didn't have a winning record, going a pathetic 1-7. The Grey Cup game itself

also proved how much better the West is. Unlike last season's double overtime thriller between Edmonton and the Als—a game that was only exciting because the Eskimos didn't deserve to be anywhere near it—this year's game was never really in doubt. The dominance that BC displayed on offence, especially in the first half, served to send those without a fiercely loyal French relative searching for their remote.

Of course, the CFL's other major problem is their poor marketing ability. More than any other major sport in Canada, the CFL relies on diehard, middle-aged fans. There's a reason Jackie Parker's death warranted such big coverage in the Edmonton media: the people who saw him play are the *Journal's* biggest readers. They are also the people who

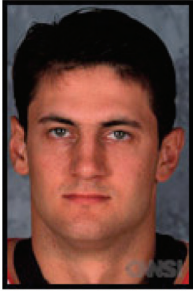
frequent Commonwealth Stadium. Beyond these folks, the CFL's market is university-aged males—the people the NFL attracts with the Madden video game franchise.

Nelly Furtado is about the second-least likely halftime act to appeal to this demographic (the only worse choice would have been the Black Eyed Peas, last year's halftime performers). Nubile young women looking sexy doesn't work to draw male viewers when those ladies are wearing parkas, toques and mittens. Additionally, rap and R&B music doesn't jive with the CFL's classic rock or country-loving audience.


The last memorable Grey Cup halftime performance was when the Guess Who's reunion tour made a stop in Calgary for the 2000 game. Instead

of insisting on whatever Canadian act is hottest at the time, the organizers need to stick with a classic rock group the bridges the generational gap, or else embrace the country music scene that dominates the Prairies and bring in a popular country group for a change of pace.

Finally, as if Furtado's style being entirely wrong for the CFL audience, her performance was just bad. Shouting Portuguese into a mic and screaming, "Who's your MVP?" doesn't count as music, in my opinion. If that weren't enough, a girl from Victoria, BC answered her own question with Montréal quarterback Anthony Calvillo, despite the fact that the Als were losing 19-3 at the time. I wonder if she even understands football.



**Raymond Murray's mother nicknamed him "Rem" because it rhymes with Gem.**



**We nicknamed Ross Prusakowski "The Pain Train" because he once broke a kid's ribs playing Red Rover.**

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