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24 Oct 2003 - 25 May 2006



CyberSoccerNews



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In-depth coverage of American soccer
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Monday, February 06, 2006

Charge hold Spirit 1-1

Philadelphia rebounds from injury to star to snatch draw at the final breath

by Brian J. Hegarty

Philadelphia, PA. July 6, 2003 (CSA) -- The Philadelphia Charge (2-6-4, 13 points) overcame an 80th minute goal from rookie striker Christine Latham and an injury to star striker Marinette Pichon to snatch a tie from the jaws of defeat when Stacey Tullock scored in injury time Saturday night to earn a 1-1 tie against the San Diego Spirit (5-5-6, 21 points).

The Spirit were obviously feeling a bit weary from the prior two games they had played in a home-and-home series against the San Jose CyberRays and were looking fairly leg-weary in the first half. Fortunately for them, the Charge seemed to be continuing their strategy of containing the game in the first half due to their lack of available subs, and were conserving their energy for the second half.

"We knew that with Trina in she was going to send the ball, I just had to time my run; I timed it and put it away..."

These factors combined to create a fairly tepid first half with very few opportunities on goal for either team.

The opportunities created, however, seemed to be through long balls for the Charge, with the midfield attempting to free Pichon from the attention of San Diego fullback Joy Fawcett, who drew the task of marking the French striker.

"She makes very good runs," Fawcett said of Pichon. "She'll make the run behind you where you can't see her, and she'll also pull away from you when you're watching the ball. She's very good at getting herself free and she's also a great finisher."

Fawcett proved to be the star of the match for the Spirit, and she was aware that having the midweek match off due to a red-card suspension probably helped a bit.

Results

Home team first

Final - Founders Cup III

Sunday, August 24
Atlanta 1 - Washington 2

Playoff semi-finals

Sunday, August 17
Atlanta 2 San Diego 1 - OT

Saturday, August 16
Boston 0 Washington 0 - OT
Washington wins in PKs

Final WUSA Standings - August 10

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	21	10	4	7	37	33	29
Atlanta	21	9	4	8	35	34	19
San Diego	21	8	6	7	31	27	26
Washington	21	9	8	4	31	40	31
xNew York	21	7	9	5	26	33	43
xSan Jose	21	7	10	4	25	23	30
x Carolina	21	7	10	4	25	31	33
x Philadelphia	21	5	11	5	20	30	40

x -Eliminated from playoff contention

Links

- WUSA.com
- PhiladelphiaCharge.com

<http://www.cybersoccernews.com/wusa/philadelphia/030705phl-sds.shtml>

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Charge Coach Mark Krikorian, however, was quick to point out that Fawcett is possibly the best fullback in the world.

"Joy Fawcett reads the play as well as any player in the world," he said. "She timed when to step up and when to drop off very well. When you're playing possibly one of the best backs of all time you expect that from her."

The Charge defense kept track of Canadian international Latham, as well as her strike partner, Scottish international Julie Fleeting, who were the targets for crosses coming in from the wings.

Wing-backs Jenny Benson and Rachel Kruze -- playing in place of the injured Heather Mitts -- worked in tandem on Latham while Charge captain Jen Tietjen-Prozzo and rookie centerback Mary McVeigh combined to help keep Fleeting in check.

"I was quite pleased with the team's defending," Krikorian said. "In the midfield we were a little soft in the first half, but not a lot of dangerous opportunities came about as a result of it."

It looked as if a scoreless draw was in the cards until the game sprung to life in the 80th minute. The Charge were unable to fully clear a Spirit corner, which came to Allie Sullivan, a second-half substitute for Zhang Ouying. Sullivan crossed to Fawcett, who sent the ball to the top of the penalty area, where Latham had created a bit of space for herself.

Her first-time volley went in past the dive of Charge goalkeeper Melissa Moore.

"I think its just my team, we're working really hard and they've been giving me really good balls to finish," Latham said.

The match started to open up a bit more, with the Spirit attempting to shut the doors on the Charge, while Philadelphia kept pushing up to find an elusive goal.

As opportunities were beginning to build, the referee showed three minutes of injury time and the unthinkable happened for the Charge. A cross came into the penalty area and Spirit goalkeeper Jaime Pagliarulo came out with authority to clear it.

In the way was Pichon, who took the brunt of the goalkeeper's challenge and went down hard.

Grasping at her back just above her left hip, the French international was taken off the field on a stretcher and brought immediately into the Charge dressing room.

The Charge resorted to long balls, targeting rookie striker Trina Maso de Moya. In the final minute of injury time, Kruze collected a ball deep in the Charge defensive third and sent a long-speculative ball up to Maso de Moya. She flicked the ball into space into the penalty area where Tullock ran onto the ball and smacked it past Pagliarulo.

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timed it and put it away."

"They had brought in Trina and they played a long ball," Spirit Coach Omid Namazi said. "Tullock got inside our defense and finished it pretty good, there's not much you can do about that."

"Kruze played excellent today, fought hard defensively," Tietjen-Prozzo said. "On the goal, she collected it and sent it to Trina who sent it to Tullock. You can't ask for any more than that."

However, Namazi thought his team were perhaps deserving of a bit more.

"We defended well enough to win the game but we relaxed for a second at the end and gave up the goal," he said. "We had a couple one-on-one situations and we didn't put those away. If you can take one of those chances and put them away, it takes pressure off the team as a whole.

"We had a tough schedule this past week. We played in San Diego, traveled to San Jose, went back to San Diego and then came to Philadelphia. I don't think our team had our legs tonight. I think that would account for why our team didn't play their best game tonight."

Scoring Summary:

	1	2	F
Philadelphia	0	1	1
San Diego	0	1	1

SDS -- Christine Latham (Fawcett) 80

PHI -- Stacey Tullock (Maso de Moya) 92+

Philadelphia

Melissa Moore, Rachel Kruze, Mary McVeigh (Trina Maso de Moya, 86), Jennifer Tietjen-Prozzo, Jenny Benson, Lorrie Fair, Anne Makinen, Stacey Tullock, Emily Burt, Marinette Pichon (Karyn Hall, 91), Melanie Hoffmann.

San Diego

Jaime Pagliarulo, Kim Pickup, Joy Fawcett, Lisa Krzykowski, Kerry Connors, Julie Foudy, Zhang Ouying (Allie Sullivan, 57), Aly Wagner (Jen Nielsen, 87), Susan Bush (Daniela, 61), Julie Fleeting (Ronnie Fair, 82), Christine Latham.

Statistic summaries

	PHL	SDS
Shots	14	11
Shots on Goal	4	5
Fouls	9	12
Offside	3	8
Corner kicks	4	1
Saves	4	3

Disciplinary summary

SDS -- Daniela (caution) 90

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Referee's Assistants: Melanie Johnson, Stanford Nagle
4th Official: Martha Sinclair.
Attendance: 8,602;
Temperature: Humid, Showers - 86 degrees.

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