VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

110-885 Dunsmuir Street,
Vancouver, B.C., Canada. V6C 1N5
Telephone (604) 683-2255
Telex 04-53475

OLD RIVALRY - NEW FACES

For the fans, the first meeting of the year between the Whitecaps and the Seattle Sounders is the continuation of an old and well established rivalry, which last season came to an abrupt halt in early August here at Empire Stadium. On the field, however,are a good many new faces who know little about any rivalry, and in the Whitecaps case will be out to prove that last weeks home opener was not indicative of the teams fortunes for this season.

The Seattle Sounders, well known as the NASL Championship finalists last year, have made relatively few changes from last years strong side.

Of local interest is the addition of two Simon Fraser University products in forwards Bruce Miller and Jack Attadia. As well, todays game will be a first measure of the loss of Dave Gillett, who was lost for the season with a fractured leg in Seattle's '78 opener last week.

With the loss of last week still fresh in their minds, the Whitecaps will be out to show their fans that they can indeed do the job over the long season still ahead. One new face in the line-up today is midfielder Steve Kember, on loan from Leicester City.

Todays Vancouver - Seattle matchup is the first Divisional match for both sides, and even this early into the season, the points at stake are important to both. Last year, the teams split their two game series, with Vancouver winning 1-0 at home before dropping a 3-1 decision at the Kingdome. That gave Seattle a 1 point edge in the series (9-8), but in the final standings Vancouver finished ahead of the Sounders - by 1 point.

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