



## Caps Put Three Teams Through to Finals

by Craig Slay

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Well one could not have asked for a better day for the BCRU semi finals weather wise. Sunshine and 18 and as some were getting in to the spirit of summer the Lomas even helped by bringing the beach to the park. The Capilanos had five of the six Senior club sides make it to the BCRU semi finals and were hoping to pull off one better and have all five in the final but it wasn't to be this year. The only club side not to make it to the final four in the play offs was the second third division side which would have been a real feat. The number of teams that made it to where they were or are speak volumes about the club and hopefully the club will get there next year.

The first game of the day was the Ladies second division which were away to the top ranked United team. Although the Caps improved from the last time these two teams met, it wasn't enough and the first place United will follow through to the final week of play.

The Capilano Premier Women's team too had what was going to be the toughest game the club was to face taking on undefeated Burnaby at Burnaby. Number one Vs Four on the league table and a repeat of the BC final of last year. I don't know if Burnaby came in thinking the game was theirs or the Cap women put it all together and wanted it just that much more but the day belonged to the Ladies from the North Shore as they handed Burnaby its first loss and now the Cap girls have received a ticket to the show next weekend and as a bonus to them it will be played at home.

Many didn't know what the BC executives figured out in regards to the third division play off format but today saw # 2 Capilano Vs # 11 Abbotsford who had only won one game this Spring season. All credit to Abbotsford however as they had two home games with their 1st and 2nd team and sent a third team to Klahanie. It was a nice mix of under 19's and Senior Men but like one could guess with a large gap in the league standings this wasn't go to be much of a contest. Waiski Doughty aka WHISKEY was the player of the day as he ran in three tries and one was worthy of a international test match as the the stand off lofted a high kick to the wing which was pulled in by Whiskey at full pace in the air and he ran over untouched for the late try. Sam Dick who is on loan from Helensvale has been a stand out all year and has helped solidify the front row for the team. Overseas import John Allen from Gibsons is the most dominant centre in the league and hopefully will want to play up next year and challenge himself. Caps walked away with this 76-5 and are one step closer to repeating as BCRU champs as they take on the Kats next weekend at Klahanie.

First division saw the first place Capilano side take on the Vancouver Rowing club. They played each other just a few short weeks ago at the end of the league and that game went to the Capilanos 27-10. The Rowers came on the field looking to take a scalp and were fired up. Their sails were pulled down two minutes in to the game as Mark Sandrin stole a intercept ball on the fifty and the caps were up 7-0. The Caps veteran Jeff Chalmers at #9 kept trying to exploit the Rowers blind side and eventually after about 8 phases of play the ball found its way out to the wing Mark Sandrin and he ran in for his second try of the game and the Caps not long in to the game were up 12-0 and this is where the game changed. The Caps for what ever reason took the foot off the Gas and started to take a penalty here and there. Taking advantage of these errors the Rowers started to nickel and dime the Caps. 12-3 then the score was 12-6, then 12-9 and the comeback was starting to take shape and then thank God the half came and the Caps got to regroup and regroup they did.

Greg Jones distant relative to Harry, Ben and Charlie came on to the field and with him the intensity came back up and the Caps started to attack once again. Chalmers had to leave the field for a short while with a facial laceration (blood). Kevin Guidi took a couple of kicks of his own. A well deserved try was when the Caps attacked out of their own 15 meter line and freed Levi Broadland who was finally brought down at the Rowers 22. There was a set and the ball was spun back to the hands of Levi who finished running that last 22 meters for the try. Final score was 37 to 9 for the Caps and now they too see a rematch of last years final against James Bay which looks like it will be on the island.

The last semi final on the day was at the Meralomas home park although there seemed some doubt if that game would get off. Baseball was being played on the field a hour before kick off and there was no posts up. In fact the field had been left in such a state by Vancouver parks board that the Meralomas pulled in some favours and had local Vancouver Fire Dept come before the game and water the field so they could soften it up and keep the dust down to a minimum. Good effort by the Lomas as the game went on schedule. The Lomas scrum nicknamed "the Butchers" were to live up to their nick name as they were just a bit too big for the Capilano pack to handle on the day. Four minutes in to the game prop Joe Scale bowled over for the first try and not long after Greg Georgas followed suit. This found the Capilano team down by ten not long in to the game and even more before Dave Hillborne struck back with a pair of goals to bring it to 17-6. . The Lomas kicker on the day was off and missed over five makeable kicks and hopefully by next weekend he can turn his game around in that aspect. The Capilanos forwards were having a tough day and thus the back line lead by Tom Larish was having limited attacking opportunities. Tom was great out there and vocal with his troops. In fact I heard some one that knows rugby (not from the Caps) ask if he had been asked if he was in the mix with Canada. Gord Sawyer almost struck gold when he snatched the ball off a tackled Loma player

and started the attack that covered 70 meters but was eventually snuffed out by a poorly timed penalty against the Caps. At the end of the day it wasn't to be.

The Caps top side had a good year and hopefully next year it will be that little bit better. Still with players like Brady Carpenter, Gord Sawyer, Dave Hillborne, Christoff Strubin, Akio and others should the Capilanos have a go at this new summer 7's league they may yet get a BC title.

With 58 teams in the BCRU leagues that the Capilanos field teams in, for the club or any club for that matter to have more than one team in the Finals is a accomplishment. The Caps this year have three teams in the BCRU finals out of a possible five so Hats off to all the Players, Coaches, executives and fans as together they are doing things right and hopefully next year the BCRU finals will see a Capilano side in each of the five finals. GO Caps GO