

**TWO FOR THE SHOW:** As the self-appointed authority in the land, WFP called **Bob Lenarduzzi** July 20 to congratulate him on his recent Order of BC induction, then to issue Bob a Red Card for his antics July 16 during the **Sunderland** match. In a lively exchange an excitable Lenarduzzi attempted to set official **Joe Branco** straight on the deal with unlimited substitutions. Teflon Bob was in fact proven correct by **Bob Sawtel** up in the press box, but not before a few fireworks. Lenarduzzi is however, most regretful, and humbly insists that his actions were in fact, way offside

# That's one way to skin a Cat



The Southside was in good voice July 16, singing first to **Kelvin Davis**, then to the less seasoned **Ben Alnwick**, who both had a stint guarding the bag for **Sunderland** against the **Whitecaps** in the marquee **IPSS** match at **Swangard Stadium**. Over 6,800 fans filled all quarters, and the chorus of "You fat bastard" proved as always a crowd pleaser, even if not particularly comforting to the visiting keepers.

In an unusual turn of events for the Whitecaps, the stadium was near-full long before kickoff. Pre-game sales had gone well. A testament of sorts to the improving efforts of the Whitecaps club to be as productive and creative with promotions and fan relations as the squad has been with moving the ball up the field.

"It's kind of rare when everything comes together; crowd, weather, performance. It all generates a great atmosphere and that's the best we've had at Swangard since the late 80's," claimed director of soccer operations, **Bob Lenarduzzi**. "We had a couple of issue with the sound-system, but the crowd did a pretty good job of making sure there weren't any quiet times."

Lenarduzzi was suitable delighted with the response to Sunderland's visit, and the efforts of the Caps staff to get them here, and you know damned well he's quietly tickled-pink by the result – a 3-0 demolition of the EPL-bound **Black Cats**. Sunderland's **Mick McCarthy** however, was playing it all down, but the British press isn't for due reason – four weeks from the EPL season-start Sunderland's upstarts were out to prove themselves and earn a starting 11 spot come August, and as **u18 Burnaby Royals** coach **Mimmo Marrello** will attest, these lads don't play to lose, they want to win. But they didn't. They got man-handled by an arguably inferior side on a backward continent. Lenarduzzi will tell you that the much-respected **Nick Dasovic** will tell you, that the top clubs of the USL might rank somewhere with the bottom end of the **Scottish Premier**, in which he played. Maybe **Carlo Corrazzin** would suggest the Caps are good to go against any lower-league English side, where he dirtied his boots before returning home to Vancouver. Maybe not, but then maybe Sunderland should have kept an eye on Corrazzin anyway, 'cause the stocky striker ran 'em ragged, scored the first and set up two (**Joey Gjertsen** and **Jason Jordan**), all of which came in the second half.

The funny thing is, perception can be cruel, and rather than delight in the fact the Caps won, many prefer to anguish and toil with the notions of why Sunderland lost. Regardless, lose they did, and they'll tell two friends who'll tell two friends and next year, others may come to kick Caps ass, and that's exactly what Lenarduzzi is shooting for. Under the banner of the **2006 IPSS** (in co-op with the **BCSA**) Lenarduzzi would like to stage in July a mini-tourney of four teams from across the footballing globe. The Caps are studying the demographics now, and looking to partner with community groups that could harness the feedback and support of their specific ethnic make-up. "We're looking at an ethnic twist, maybe Chinese, East Indian or Italian, but obviously we need to be cost conscious. We'd like to connect with those communities, which we've been trying to do for a number of years," Lenarduzzi suggested. "We've already started the process and we'd like this to become an annual tournament."

**Chelsea FC** 2-2 in 1992, **Sunderland AFC** skinned 3-0 in 2005... this could be the start of something beautiful.



MARK OKOTH / DIGITAL ACTION

