



PIC: PREZ. PAUL ROSA

Well, here we are... the very first, 253 Defiance specific, monthly newsletter. So what is the purpose of this newsletter? Well first off, it's a new and improved way to provide our members with the knowledge and tools to support our club; but furthermore, it's a way to keep all of our south sound supporters informed on upcoming events and other items our leadership group has in the works. But before all else, let's talk about our leadership group.

Before the beginning of this year's season, 253D was faced with a problem... our size. With this, it was decided that a unified front would be ideal to meet the demands and needs of our growing group. It was through this decision that our new leadership group was formed. It needs to be said though, that one of the hardest things to do is to let go of something you love, and that's exactly what our President Paul Rosa did. Words can never express the love and passion that Paul has for 253D and how he literally used this love and passion to grow 253 Defiance from being a bunch of grass-roots soccer fans to arguably the biggest sub-group in the ECS. It's also because of this love that Paul has asked Janine Mann, Nick Hollywood, Ryan Marsh, and myself (Devon Hansen for those paying attention) to join and support him in growing 253 Defiance.

As a group we only see 253 Defiance growing and prospering in ways never seen before. In just a matter of weeks leading up to this newsletter 253D hosted the very successful

South Sound Membership Drive, started and grew our indoor soccer team, revived our partnership with our away match pub, The Twisted Kilt, and continued to be the loudest and rowdiest section in RBP... and to think, this is just the beginning. In the upcoming days and weeks there's only going to be more opportunities for everyone to show their love and support. As you can see in this article, there are already many events planned over the upcoming month. While some of these occasions are the traditional home and away viewings, we're also implementing more family friendly events such as Tifo Parties. Although this is a BYOB event it's also an opportunity to get our youth involved.

Another quick item I'd like to touch on is in regards to our away viewings. As mentioned earlier, our leadership group has recommitted our allegiance to The TK for away viewings; and in return, The TK has recommitted its allegiance to our partnership. It's through these talks that I'm happy to announce that the TK will be hosting different events throughout the year that will include door prizes and give-aways. This includes the upcoming Portland away viewing where The TK will be giving away two Sounders tickets to one lucky winner.

In the end, we all love our Sounders and will strive to grow the sport in our area. We'll always be loyal to the team and our 253D family and defiant towards anyone who stands in our way.

253 DEFIANCE

Supporters of Destiny



BY: DEVON HANSEN

Upcoming Events:

253 Defiance TIFO Party
Fri. 28 Mar., 2014 @ 6:00 pm PDT
Devon's Place: 8508 197th St. Ct. E.
Spanaway, WA. 98387

Sounders FC vs Columbus Crew
Sat. 29 Mar., 2014 @ 7:00 pm PDT
PreFunk - Temple Billiards (2hrs pre-match)

Sounders FC vs PortScum
Sat. 5 Apr., 2014 @ 12:00 PM PDT
Away Viewing – TK Irish Pub
(Free Sounders Ticket Give-Away)

Sounders FC vs FC Dallas
Sat 12 Apr., 2014 @ 5:30 PM PDT
Away Viewing – TK Irish Pub

Sounders FC vs Chivas USA
Sat. 19 Apr., 2014 @ 7:30 PM PDT
Away Viewing – TK Irish Pub

Sounders FC vs Colorado Rapids
Sat. 26 Apr., 2014 @ 1:00 PM PDT
PreFunk - Temple Billiards (2hrs pre-match)

SOUNDERS: ON THE PITCH -

If I was to come to you before our first match and asked you if you'd be ok with the Sounders being second in the West, Portland going winless, and The Galaxy being at the bottom of the table, after 3 games, I'd like to assume you all would be ok with that. Now I know it's too early to lay claim to the MLS Cup and all, just as it's too early to dismiss Portland or L.A., but man does it feel good looking at the standings. All-in-all, I'd have to say that our boys in Rave Green have shown rather well over the last few weeks. Yes, we had a tough go with Toronto but looking back on that game, we owned that match with possession and quality passing. As a matter of fact, if it wasn't for two major lapses in our midfield, I'd argue that we would have come away from that match with at least a point.

This time of season is always interesting; teams are trying to find their identity, players are trying to find their form, surprise studs and lackluster duds. And the Sounders are no different. It's only been three games into the season and we've already seen Sigi deploy 4-2-3-1 and 4-3-3 formations clearly trying to push the offence forward, yet the questions remains, what is the Sounders identity? Are they a counter attacking team? Perhaps they're a possession team. Any way you look at it though, the team's grit and determination to grind out wins is apparent.

The verdict is still out with some of the players as well. Take Marco Pappa for example. Prior to the season, Marco was suggested to be a Designated Player level type of talent; however the Guatemalan has shown some early signs of struggle that ended up resulting in his benching against Montreal. Nonetheless, we'd be wise to hold off our opinions until we have a bigger body of work to go off.

One Sounder that has been showing incredibly well of late is O'Dea High School's very own Deandre Yedlin. Every time this young star steps foot onto the pitch you know you're in for a show. Perhaps the



most impressive piece of Yedlin's game is how much he's improved from last season. Be it his most recent National Team call-ups, more experience, or a bowl of Wheaties for breakfast, no one can deny that Yedlin is on pace to becoming an American soccer icon.

With all that said, it's safe to assume that by the time our next newsletter comes out there's sure to be some more clarity of who this Sounders team truly is. Over the next five matches the team will be on the road three straight, including a visit down to see those pukers from the south. Our first and last matches aren't a walk in the park either with both Columbus and Dallas showing well lately as well.

Nonetheless, this year seems somewhat reminiscent of the 2011 season where depth was valued a little more than outright star power. The good news though is unlike 2011, we now have power and depth. I'm confident that our boys will be a force to be reckoned with and you can rest assured that when the our boys take the pitch at Century Link, we're going to show them what it means to play in front of the largest and unequivocally boisterous group of supporters this league has ever, or will ever, see.