



Canada vs. Japan, Oct. 2014
in BC Place Stadium



Team mascot Shuëme
hugs two young fans



Goal! Christine
Sinclair and
Sophie Schmidt
celebrate



Canada vs. France, April 2015

PHOTOS: CANADA VS. FRANCE BY VILLE VUORINEN ©CANADASOCCER. ALL OTHERS (BOTH PAGES) BY BOB FRID ©CANADASOCCER



The Beautiful Game

Don your best red-and-white gear and get ready to cheer for Team Canada as FIFA fever sweeps the country **BY SHERI RADFORD**

From Jun. 6 to Jul. 5, the world's largest women's sporting event takes over the country from coast to coast, as Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Moncton together host the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015. A total of 24 teams are participating, but (we confess) we'll be rooting hardest for Team Canada to emerge triumphant in the final match, taking place here in BC Place Stadium on Jul. 5.



PHOTO BY KK LAW

GAMES IN VANCOUVER

All Vancouver games take place in BC Place Stadium (see Map 1: D6). For information about purchasing tickets, visit www.fifa.com/womensworldcup.

June 8	4 pm	Cameroon vs. Ecuador
June 8	7 pm	Japan vs. Switzerland
June 12	4 pm	Switzerland vs. Ecuador
June 12	7 pm	Japan vs. Cameroon
June 16	5 pm	Nigeria vs. USA
June 21	4:30 pm	Round of 16
June 23	7 pm	Round of 16
June 27	4:30 pm	Quarter-finals
July 5	4 pm	Final

FAN ZONE VANCOUVER

Find free family fun, live music, a big screen and more at Larwill Park (West Georgia Street at Cambie; Map 1: C6).

June 6	12-7 pm	June 21	12-8 pm
June 8	3-10 pm	June 23	3-10 pm
June 11	12-9 pm	June 27	12-8 pm
June 12	3-10 pm	July 1	12-7 pm
June 15	12-8 pm	July 4	12-8 pm
June 16	3-8 pm	July 5	12-8 pm

WHERE TO WATCH

Five years ago, the gaze of the world fell upon Vancouver when we hosted the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Local proprietors of bars and restaurants found it prudent to purchase big-screen TVs to show the competitions, and many of those TVs remain to this day, making Vancouver uniquely well-equipped to air sporting events. Be sure to call ahead to popular pubs and eateries, as they fill up fast on game days.



JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

If you already have your hat, jersey and vuvu-zela ready for game day, please—we beg of you—leave the irritating horn at home and instead bring a copy of *FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015: The Official Book* (Whitecap Books; \$16.95). This comprehensive guide includes a detailed analysis of all 24 teams and their star players, as well as a review of the qualifying campaign, information on the tournament's six venues, and a look back at the first six FIFA Women's World Cups. Find it at local bookstores (page 26). We guarantee it'll be more useful than a vuvuzela.



Team Canada's captain is unstoppable on the field



PHOTOS: (L) BY PAUL YATES © CANADASOCCER, (R) BY JEFF VINNICK © CANADASOCCER

SPOTLIGHT ON CHRISTINE SINCLAIR

In Canada, women's soccer is practically synonymous with Christine Sinclair, who hails from Burnaby, BC. Now 31 (she turns 32 on Jun. 12) and team captain, this powerhouse made her first senior appearance at age 16, and she's earned more than 200 caps for Canada. She took some time out of her jam-packed schedule to answer our questions by email.

Q How is the team preparing for this World Cup on home soil?

A In these final weeks before the FIFA Women's World Cup, we have a job to do to ensure we are at our best when we step onto the field in Edmonton June 6th. It's our job, with John [Herdman, head coach] and the veteran players on the team, to create a family. And that is what we are. We always say we are the tightest team, but we have to create that same vibe we had in London [2012 Summer Olympics], where we would do absolutely anything for each other.

Q What can we expect from Team Canada?

A I think people are used to seeing the Canadian national team outwork other teams, being physical, but people will be surprised when they see how technical we have become.

Q How do you manage the pressure?

A I think of all the hard work that we as a team have put in—not just before and after the Olympics, but over the past 10 or 12 years. We've grown up together, and as a team we have become best friends. We've had the highs and the absolute low of lows, and there

was a time when we questioned ourselves, wondering if we would ever get on that podium and live up to our potential. In London we proved we could do it.

Q How has women's soccer changed?

A Women's soccer has come a long way during my career. I keep thinking back to watching the 1999 Women's World Cup in the US. That single tournament, I think, changed the sport of soccer within the States. I see this World Cup has the exact same chance, to have the same impact in Canada.

Q What's the secret to longevity in a soccer career?

A Believing you have a purpose.

Q What are your favourite things to do besides soccer?

A I like to listen to music, watch TV and relax. And I like to play golf.

Q What's it like to see your image on a Canada Post stamp?

A It's really an honour. It shows that Canada has embraced this team, and women's soccer. **W**