Written by Alex Goff Sunday, 17 February 2013 21:26

SFGG remains happily on top of the Northern California DI club league after soundly beating Olympic Club Saturday 58-13.

Also in NorCal, the East Palo Alto Bulldogs put on an impressive display in beating the Bay Barbarians 47-16. Those results put both teams in excellent position to claim one of the four playoff spots; the top four face off with the top four from Southern California.

Northern California's league is anything but simple this year. Because Old Puget Sound started the year a club without a league, they are playing in a modified NorCal season. It all will, eventually, make sense; here's our attempt to explain it:

SFGG and Olympic Club will play OPSB twice, increasing the number of league games those two clubs play to 12. Sacramento Lions and EPA Bulldogs play OPSB once each, so their league season is 11 games. EPA Razorbacks and Bay Barbarians won't play OPSB at all, and so their league season is ten games. OPSB's competitive season is therefore six games.

This disparity in games for each team was the basis of Olympic Club's protest against the season's format. They didn't play their first two games of the year (more on that later).

The rankings will come down to two things: winning percentage, and how well each club does against OPSB.

OPSB will be ranked among these clubs based on how they do against each club – they are included in the standings, but that matters little. Instead think of each game as a tiebreaker between OPSB and the club they play. In addition, since they don't play a full schedule, the Seattle-based Old Puget Sound club cannot finish 1st no matter how well they do.

If they beat the Sacramento Lions, OPSB will be ranked above them, for example.

So, for example, let's say OPSB beats Olympic Club twice, Sacramento, and EPA. Here's how the standings might look:

Club W L T BT BL Pts
SFGG 12 0 0

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OPSB	4	2	0
Sacramento Lions	7	4	0
EPA Bulldogs	6	5	0
Olympic Club	5	7	0
EPA Razorbacks	1	9	0
Bay Barbarians	1	9	0

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In this scenario OPSB has the tiebreaker over everyone, and finishes 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Let's say instead OPSB manages to beat SFGG by enough points that they win the series between the two. But OPSB loses to Sacramento. OPSB might win the series over SFGG, but SFGG has the best record, finishes 1<sup>st</sup> anyway, and OPSB, losing the tiebreaker to Sacramento, drops to 3

Club		W	L	Т	ВТ	BL	Pts	
SFGG	11				1			0
Sacramento Lions	8				3			0
OPSB	4				2			0
EPA Bulldogs	6				5			0
Olympic Club	5				7			0

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EPA Razorbacks	1	9	0
Bay Barbarians	1	9	0

Now here's the scary part. Olympic Club not only was docked a point for each forfeit loss (they had two), they are also being docked a win for each forfeit. So if they play 12 games, and forfeited two and won the rest they would be 10-2, and then, being docked two wins, would officially be 8-4. This is relatively unprecedented to penalize a team twice for the same forfeit, and Olympic Club are appealing.

But if the appeal fails, what if OPSB beats Sacramento and EPA Bulldogs, but loses to Olympic Club?

Where does OPSB land then? They are higher than Sacramento and EPA, but not Olympic Club which, because they have been penalized those extra wins, would be hard-pressed to break .500.

In this scenario you could argue the standings are this:

Club		W	L	Т	BT	BL	Pts	
SFGG	11				1			0

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OPSB	2	4	0
Sacramento Lions	7	4	0
EPA Bulldogs	6	5	0
Olympic Club	6	6	0
EPA Razorbacks	1	9	0
Bay Barbarians	1	9	0

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or this:

Club		W	L	Τ	BT	BL	Pts	
SFGG	11				1			0
Sacramento Lions	7				4			0
EPA Bulldogs	6				5			0
Olympic Club	6				6			0
OPSB	2				4			0

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EPA Razorbacks 1 9 0

Bay Barbarians 1 9 0