

Fans devise wacky way to spur Canucks to Cup

Talismans join charge in hockey-mad Metro Vancouver

By John Colebourn, The Province, April 16, 2009

Psychics are working overtime, grown men are wearing their special team-logo boxers and radio DJs are talking non-stop. Even goats are getting in on the act.

And all because the Vancouver Canucks are in the NHL's Stanley Cup playoffs.

How the Canucks play against the St. Louis Blues in round one is all the talk in hockey-mad Metro Vancouver.

In Langley, Canucks super-fan Joel Nagtegaal and his roller-hockey buddies have come up with a novel idea as the Canucks battle it out on the ice. They plan on buying a goat for people living in poverty for every Canucks win.

"That's four goats per round, times four, which equals 16 goats," an optimistic Nagtegaal said of the Canucks bringing home the Stanley Cup.

They're setting up a "Goat Canucks Goat" Facebook group so others can join in to purchase the goats through a charity for a needy overseas village.

In another part of Langley, Barry Hanet, with a Canucks beer stein in hand, will be in full Canucks regalia.

As he has all season, he'll sport his Canucks hat, Canucks jersey with a vintage Canucks T-shirt underneath, Canucks socks and, to round out his sartorial splendour, a pair of Canucks-logo boxer shorts.

Flashlights shine the Canucks logo on his ceiling with every goal.

"Every game, I dress the same and it usually brings them good luck," he said of his fashion ritual.

He picks the Canucks to win the first round against St. Louis in five games.

"I think St. Louis will hit the wall because they have been playing so hard to get in the playoffs," he said. "I think we have enough experience to beat them."

His wife, Cheryl Hanet, admits her husband may be a bit extreme. "It's a bit over the top, but you gotta love him. He's a dedicated fan."

Virgin Radio FM 95.3's afternoon DJ, Buzz Bishop, held a "cleansing" in February when the Canucks seemed destined for a post-season golf game. After that on-air "positive energy thing," the Canucks turned the season around.

Now Bishop, who is also picking the Canucks to beat St. Louis, is planning an on-air session with psychic Paisley Town this afternoon.

Town is polishing up the crystals and jumping on the Canucks bandwagon. She's going back to GM Place later today with her crystals, stones, sweetgrass, sage and good-luck charms to help the Canucks win.

"If enough people focus on attracting abundance in their lives, they will play well," she maintains.

Meanwhile, a new Ipsos Reid poll among Vancouver Canucks fans shows only 21 per cent think the team will actually win the Stanley Cup.

jcolebourn@theprovince.com

© Copyright (c) The Province



Psychic Paisley Town is heading to GM Place today with all the tools of her trade.
Photograph by: Nick Procylo, The Province