

## WUSA Roundup

**CHINA PIPELINE CLOSING.** The WUSA is having a tougher time in its second go-round with China.

Lauren Gregg, the league's vice president of player relations, has been attempting to sign forward Bai Jie, defender Li Jie and Olympic defender Wang Liping as discovery players for three teams — Bay Area, Atlanta and San Diego or Washington.

Gregg dropped Li from her list once she discovered China does not allow athletes

younger than 25, as Li is, to play abroad.

She might be able to sign only one of the remaining players because China is reluctant to lose more members of its national team.

The league already has five Chinese players on its books: Sun Wen, Gao Hong, Fan Yunjie, Liu Ailing and Wen Lirong.

"We may get one, and if we don't, we certainly feel they have been incredibly gracious to allow five players to come," Gregg said.

She also is pursuing discovery players from Nigeria, Italy and Denmark.

**WHO'S THE BOSS?** Lee Berke, formerly the WUSA's acting president, is now the chief televi-

sion and marketing officer. Tony DiCicco, formerly the acting commissioner, is now the chief operations officer.

For at least the first season, the league will not have a president or a commissioner.

**NEW SPIRIT.** Carlos Juarez added Martin Vasquez and Tommy Tate to his coaching staff. Vasquez, the former U.S. and Mexico player who played for San Jose and Tampa Bay in MLS, was an assistant to Juarez at Cal Poly Pomona the past two years. Tate, the former San Diego Flash goalkeeper, had been coaching the men's and women's goalkeepers at USD.

— Dean Caparaz