

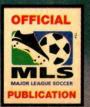
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Volume 2 Issue 4

The Official Program of Major League Soccer

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FREEKICK is published four times during the regular season but will feature a different collectable cover every game. FREEKICK is only available at Major League Soccer regular-season and playoff games. For ticket information, call (212) 450-1200

FREEKICK is printed with rub-resistant ink and on recycled newsprint.



Teams From All Levels Compete For the **US Open Cup**

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THE ULTIMATE

Major League Soccer Teams Are Gearing Up For the Stretch Run

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33 West 34th Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10001 (212) 629-9000 Fax: (212) 629-4089

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER . . .

As we enter the stretch run of Major League Soccer's second season, we would like to thank you for your continued support of this wonderful brand of soccer. We look forward to the exciting conclusion of the regular season in late September and the October pursuit of MLS Cup '97.

Our second season has featured many new developments, both on and off the field. We continued to bring home American stars such as Columbus' Thomas Dooley and Mike Lapper while also securing the talents of many exciting new international stars including Dallas' Alain Sutter, New England's Walter Zenga and Los Angeles' Martin Machon.

You will read inside about recent developments with MLS' two 1998 expansion teams in Miami and Chicago. The Tampa Bay Mutiny now has a cross-state rival in the Miami Fusion and Chicago expects to unveil its team name and logo later this summer. There is a great deal of excitement in both of these markets as season tickets and team merchandise become available.

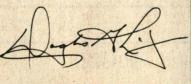
Once again, we appreciate your support of America's Division I professional soccer league. I look forward to sharing with you the many exciting days that lie ahead for Major League Soccer. Entrando a la parte final de la segunda temporada de La Liga de Futbol Major League Soccer, quisieramos agradecerles por su continuo apoyo en este bello deporte. Anticipamos un emocionante desenlace de la temporada a finales de Septiembre, y tambien una gran disputa por la MLS Cup '97 en Octubre.

DE PARTE DEL COMISIONADO . . .

Nuestra segunda temporada ha presenciado, dentro y fuera de la cancha, muchos nuevos desarrollos. Continuamos en traer a los Estados Unidos estrellas Americanas como Thomas Dooley y Mike Lapper de Columbus, al igual que muchas estrellas internacionales como Alain Sutter y Damian de Dallas, Walter Zenga de Nueva Inglaterra, y Martin Machon de Los Angeles.

En esta edicion, podra enterarse sobre las ultimas noticias de los dos equipos de expansion de Miami y Chicago para 1998. El Mutiny de Tampa Bay ahora tendra un rival estatal, la Fusion de Miami, y Chicago planea revelar su nombre y logo al final de este verano. Existe mucho entusiasmo en estas dos ciudades mientras se espera la disponibilidad de boletos de temporada y mercancia de los dos equipos.

Una vez mas, agradecemos su apoyo de la Primera Division de futbol profesional de los Estados Unidos. Espero compartir con Ustedes los muchos momentos emocionantes que La Liga de Futbol Major League Soccer tiene aun por delante.



Douglas G. Logan Commissioner



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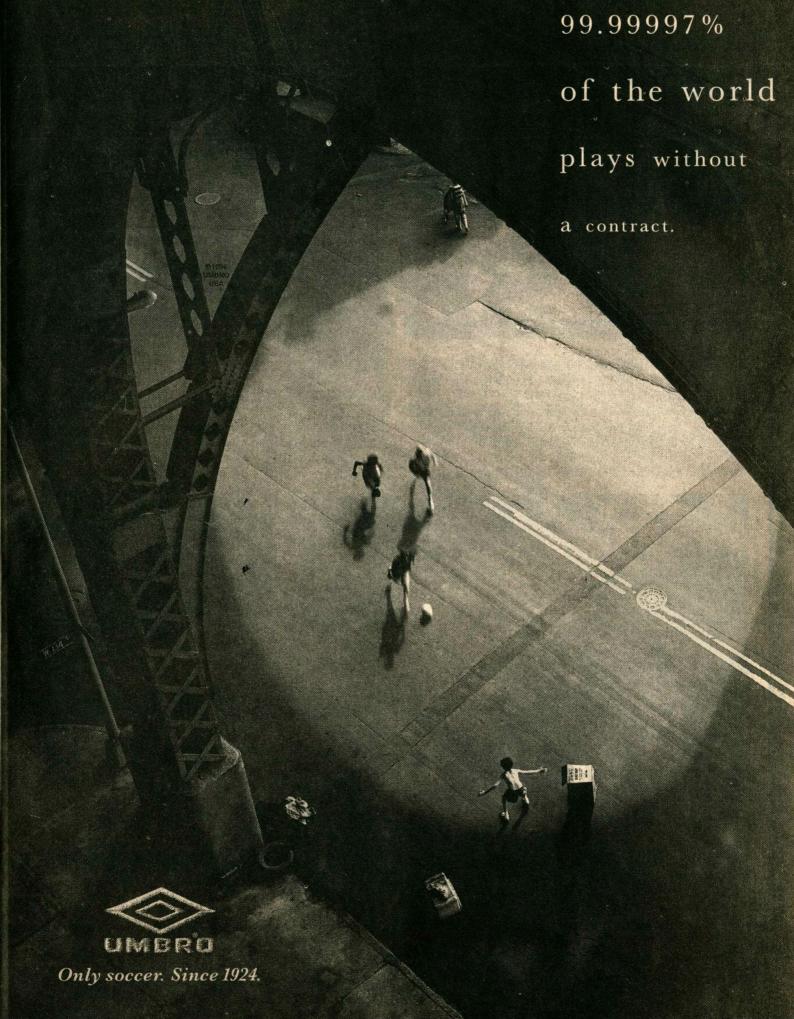
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Teams From All Levels Compete For the Country's Oldest Title

inning the US Open Cup has meant different things to different players. To Major League Soccer defender Mark Semioli, it was a moment

to cherish. To one-time player Bill Manning, it was a once-in-alife experience. To former MLS forward Ben Crawley, it was and still is a challenge.

While a new concept to many people on the American soccer scene, the Open Cup has been around since 1914, when the Brooklyn Field Club defeated Brooklyn Celtic, 2-1.

The Cup is the US equivalent of the English Football Association Cup, although it lacks the FA Cup's prestige and

ICHAEL

stature. But like the FA Cup, the Open Cup is open to any team in the country.

The 1996-97 campaign began last October with mostly amateur and semi-professional teams participating, while MLS, A-League and USISL teams got into the act this summer. This year's final is tentatively scheduled for early September.

One constant has remained: it is difficult to win two years in a row. Alkis Panagoulias, former US National Team coach and coach of the 1994 Greek World Cup team, directed Greek-American Atlas (New York) to three consecutive championships from 1967-69, the only time the triple has been pulled off. The N.Y. Pancyprian-Freedoms were the last team to win successive Cups (1983 and 1984).

Crawley, who plays for the Austin Lone Stars (USISL), failed in his attempt to accomplish what would have been a Cup first - playing for three straight winning teams with three clubs (Austin lost to the New Orleans Riverboat Gamblers in overtime, 1-0). He was a member of the Richmond Kickers' championship side in 1995 and was with D.C. United last year.

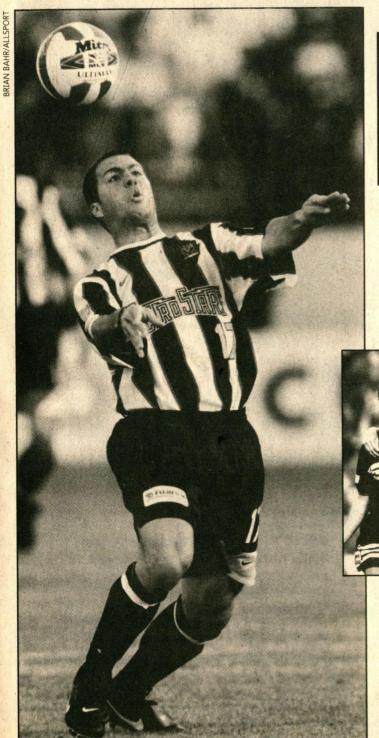
"I'm looking to win it again," he said. "It's a real good challenge."

For most players, winning it once might

Dallas forward Damian (11) ignited the Burn offense after arriving in May and earned himself a starting position on the MLS Western Conference All-Star Team







Giovanni Savarese will play a key role in the MetroStars' quest for the US Open Cup

"I STILL CHERISH (WINNING THE US OPEN CUP) MORE THAN ANYTHING. IT REALLY DEFINES WHY WE PLAY SOCCER. IT WASN'T FOR THE MONEY. IT WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE WAY WE GREW UP. IT WAS A REAL SPECIAL MOMENT. I DON'T THINK THAT THE OPEN CUP WILL BE THAT WAY AGAIN."

- MARK SEMIOLI

be enough. "That season would have been a disappointment if we hadn't won the championship," said Long Island Rough Riders general manager Bill Manning, a member of the Brooklyn Italians' 1991 Cup winners. "We focused the entire season around it."

Semioli, a former Los Angeles Galaxy defender who was dealt to the MetroStars in midseason, fondly remembers his experi-

TONY QUINN/MLS

Marco Etcheverry (10)

led D.C. United to the

and John Harkes (6)

1996 US Open Cup

Championship

ence with the 1994 champions, the Greek Americans.

"We won a cup that might have been the biggest trophy in American soccer that year," he said. "We had such a camaraderie on that team. We were on the same page and we had respect for each other. We were not making any money with that team. We wanted to be national champions.

"I still cherish that more than anything. I still have that medal. I keep it along with my championship ring (1991 A-League champions, the San Francisco Bay Blackhawks). It really defines why we play soccer. It wasn't for the money. It was a continuation of the way we grew up. It was a real special moment. I don't think that the Open Cup will be that way again."

In the past 10 years, the Open

Cup has evolved and developed a unique personality with more than its share of heroes, goats, upsets and controversies.

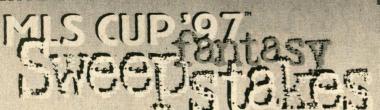
In 1989 and 1990, former North American Soccer League goalkeeper Dragan Radovich must have been the most frustrat-

Continued on page 15

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OPEN SEASON

Continued from page 13

ed keeper in the US as he lost twice in the final minutes with two teams.

He was in goal for the H.R.C. Kickers' 2-1 victory over Greek-American Atlas and then endured another loss, this time to the Chicago Eagles, 2-1, while playing with the Brooklyn Italians.

The 1990 defeat was most excruciating, as Radovich bobbled midfielder Piotr Modrzejewski's shot into the net with 30 seconds remaining.

"I think he's going to remember the goal all his life," Italians coach Mike Rybak said.

In 1991, Radovich gained a measure of revenge by recording a shutout for the Italians, who held off the Richardson Rockets (Texas), 1-0, on a goal by former Nigerian youth international Ernest Inneh.

The Italians had to play most of the way a man down after Manning was red-carded for a controversial professional foul in the 18th minute. Manning was escorted from the stadium at Brooklyn College, but managed to watch the game from his car in the parking lot.

That game was noteworthy because the Rockets (Tampa Bay forward Alan Prampin was on that team) became the first USISL team to reach the final, a preview

of things to come. "It was like a passing of the torch," Manning said.

But club teams enjoyed one big last hurrah that lasted three years. In 1992, the San Jose Oaks started a three-year championship run by San Francisco Major Division League teams. The Oaks defeated Vasco da Gama (Conn.), 2-1, as David Palic and John Hughes scored goals.

The next year C.D. Mexico rolled to a 5-0 victory over the German Hungarians (Pa.). C.D. Mexico overcame a pregame controversy that saw them and the Hungarians wearing similar-colored green jerseys. Mexico donned make-shift white

shirts with numbers hastily made from black magic markers. "You don't play with shirts, you play as a team," said forward Elias Fonseca, who scored twice en route to MVP honors.

In one rare meeting of former US National Team coaches, the Greek Americans defeated Bavarian-Leinenkugel (Milwaukee), 3-0, in the 1994 finale as Mike Deleray scored off two headers in the second half. Derek Van Rheenen added a goal.

The Greek Americans were directed by Lothar Osiander, former coach of the US National and Olympic teams and

Galaxy, and boasted such future MLS players as Paul Bravo, Paul Holocher and Tim Martin. Bavarian was guided by Bob Gansler, who coached the US in the 1990 World Cup.

Richmond capped a smashing summer for USISL teams in 1995 by winning the Cup. In fact, the USISL surprised A-League teams in three quarterfinals before the Kickers defeated the El Paso Patriots in the final in a shootout, 4-2, after playing to a 1-1 draw in regulation. Jeff Causey made two saves in the tiebreaker.

Last season it was the A-League's chance to turn some heads and make some headlines as the Rochester Raging Rhinos defeated not one, but two MLS teams – the Tampa Bay Mutiny and then the Colorado Rapids, in later-round matches.

But the Rhinos met more than their match against United, which, only 10 days after capturing MLS Cup '96, won the Open Cup with a solid 3-0 victory. Raul Diaz Arce, Eddie Pope and Jaime Moreno scored the goals.

"It capped a great year for us," United coach Bruce Arena said.

Who will win it this year? Can United become the first team in 13 years to win back-to-back titles? Will the Rhinos pull off another upset? Or will there be another Cinderella story from the USISL?

You will just have to stay tuned until the beginning of September.

BOB TRUBIA/ALLSPORT

Ted Chronopoulos and the New England Revolution will make their US Open Cup debut in 1997

Michael Lewis covers the MetroStars for the New York Daily News and is editor of Soccer Magazine.



Walter Zenga was the starting goalkeeper for the Italian National Team from 1986-92

Passion Poise

Persona

By FRANK DELL'APA

his is the first generation of Italian players motivated to pursue a career outside their country. Predictably, Walter Zenga has been near the forefront of the exodus, though not necessarily for the same reasons as his countrymen.

For many Italian players, immediate financial rewards have been the motivation to depart. Zenga, though, was purely seeking a fresh start, with a long-term goal to learn the business methods of foreign sporting leagues.

Major League Soccer has provided just what Zenga needed.

And Zenga has provided the high-profile, international star the New England Revolution lacked since releasing Giuseppe Galderisi last year.

"When I was a young player in the NASL, I saw older players come in who could have no life in their own country," Revolution coach Thomas Rongen said. "They couldn't walk on the streets. That's how it was with Walter.

"Here, he can go where he wants to without all that stress and it's given



New England Head

Coach Thomas

Rongen knows an

experienced

goalkeeper is one of

the keys to winning

an MLS Cup title

Zenga, 37, had been among the most outspoken, charismatic, and accomplished athletes in Italy in recent years. He overcame most of the pressures of Italian soccer with an uninhibited personality. But, eventually, even Zenga became desperate for a change.

"This is no longer my soccer,"

Zenga said in his farewell to Italy. "I am sick of being insulted. I am sick of being offended, me, my wife and my children. That is not written in any contract. They offend me, they spit on my back, and when I reply, what happens? The fourth official disqualifies me for two games."

Zenga's career in Serie A ended following a knee injury while he was playing for Sampdoria in 1995. Zenga went to Arizona

Continued on page 21

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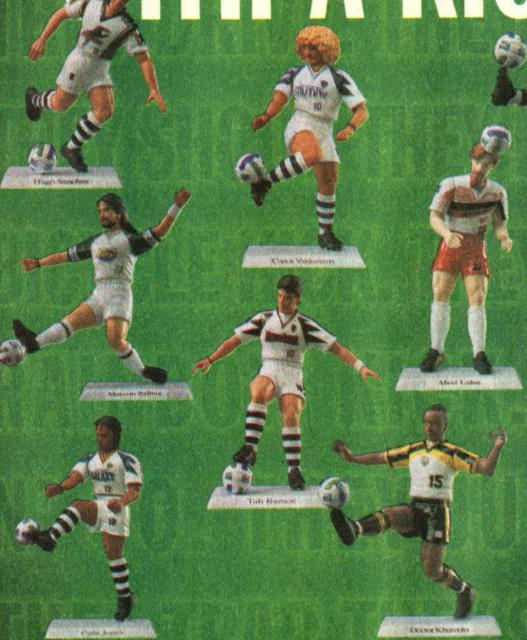
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Continued from page 16

for the surgery, then made a comeback with Padova in Serie B.

Zenga proved to himself that he could return to form, but the top Italian teams believed he was finished. So did others. Zenga hoped to join former national team mate Gianluca Vialli at Chelsea, but manager and former rival Ruud Gullit failed to reply.

Then, Zenga's thoughts turned to the US and Rongen was more than willing to take a chance.

"They said the same thing about Johan Cruyff, and he came back and led Feyenoord to the championship," Rongen

said. "Somebody like Zenga, who had one knee surgery, could do the same thing.

"Goalkeeper is an important position, where you need some flamboyance, a little bit of character. He is a great pro, a great team player. When we lost, 4-0, in Tampa, he said: 'It's better to lose, 4-0, once than to lose four times, 1-0. Saying something like that does a lot for the psyche, the confidence of the younger players. He's saying, 'don't worry about it.' "

There are many ironies about Zenga coming to America. He concluded his international career at Foxboro Stadium with a 2-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland in a US Cup match June 4, 1992. Zenga completed 533 scoreless minutes with that shutout, an unlikely time for coach Arrigo Sacchi to replace him.

"What did I do wrong?" Zenga said. "I did not give up a goal for five games."

His international career concluded, Zenga began planning for the future. He was popular in Europe, known as "L'Uomo

The Passion, Poise and Persona Of Spiderman

Ragno" ("Spiderman"), a nickname he earned during an extraordinary stretch when he helped Inter win the Italian championship and two UEFA championships. He was voted the world's best goalkeeper for the years 1987-96 by the International Federation of Football Statisticians.

Zenga hoped to parlay that fame with

SAWIK COAL

The starting goalkeeper for the Eastern Conference at the 1997 MLS All-Star Game, Zenga's leadership has been a key to New England's success

his sense of adventure to prepare for a post-playing career. In Italy, he has a restaurant in Santo Domingo and a boutique at Lake Como. But his life has been soccer, and soccer is his future. If Zenga can improve his English and learn the ways of the Western Hemisphere, he could become an advisor or director for a top-level Italian club.

Zenga signed with Internazionale in his hometown, Milan, at age 17. Inter sent Zenga to lower division teams Salernitana, Sayona and Sambenedettese before he became team's starting goalkeeper in 1983. He was selected as the national team goalkeeper, making his debut with MetroStars midfielder Roberto Donadoni in 1986

He played 58 games and allowed 21 goals in seven years. His acrobatics and instincts rescued the Azzurri countless times, including during a 1-0 win over the US when he blocked a potential tying shot by current Colorado Rapid Peter Vermes at Stadio Olympico in Rome during the 1990 World Cup

Then, it would have been difficult to imagine Zenga playing for a professional team in the US. But now he is eager to contribute to the development of soccer here.

"Soccer must earn respect in this coun-

try, and become on the level with every other sport, Zenga said. That will happen, but I don't know when It can get better here. There are many things that could help it."

His immediate suggestions would be to devise a more regular schedule, and to provide regulation-size playing fields. Zenga has been impressed with the technical level of MLS players but believes that US players must improve their tactical sense.

Zenga remains impulsive, high-profile, always the center of attention both off and on the field.

"It is necessary for the goalkeeper to have a personality on the field," Zenga said. "He has to be able to calm the team."

And that is Zenga's nature. Off the field, he is the same. In Europe, such behavior would continue to guarantee little peace for Zenga. The relative anonymity Zenga has discovered has justified his move to the MLS.

"This," Zenga said, "was one of the few reasoned-out choices of my life."



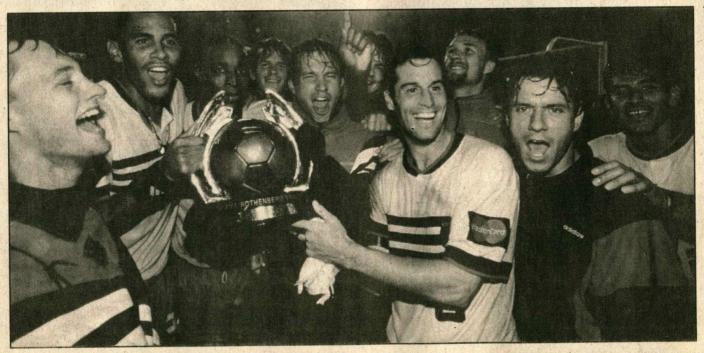
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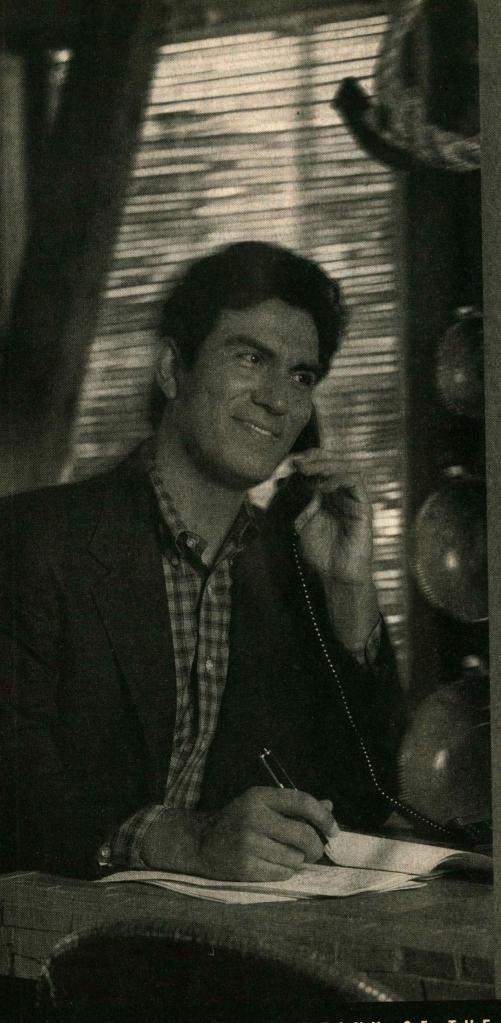
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COACH'S CORNER



There's Still Work Left to Be Done

By Octavio Zambrano

As the season continues, our team keeps improving and we are playing better team soccer. The only way the Galaxy will be a contender during playoff time is if we have the desire and effort it takes to win our games. Despite our slow start at the beginning of the season, we have played much better and as a result we have been victorious in many matches.

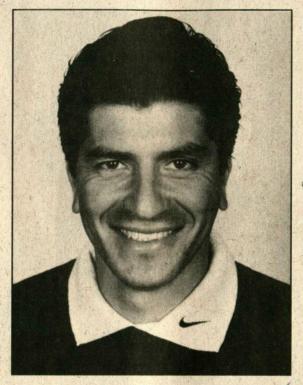
The offense has played a more freestyle form of soccer, which has resulted in more scoring opportunities. I constantly encourage the players to use their creativity on the field and showcase their talents. After winning matches when we score three or four goals in a game, our confidence builds and the players have the

desire to get on the field for their next match.

This team is incredibly talented and has enough courage and heart to go all the way. After winning some games, our spirits are high and we want to prove that we are one of the elite teams in the league.

As a result of more goal scoring and teamwork in the second half of the season, we have been fortunate enough to win some impressive games. We beat the MLS champions and the team with the best record this year, D.C. United, and we won games against two top Mexican club teams – Chivas of Guadalajara and Santos Laguna.

Although these victories against



Mexican League summer '97 and winter '96 champions, respectively, did not count in the MLS standings, the games helped our confidence and helped us get on the right path again.

Our recent success can be attributed to solid teamwork, leadership and the fact that players have settled into their specific roles on the field.

Cobi Jones and Mauricio Cienfuegos have done a good job of maintaining the offensive composure of the team and are the catalysts on the field. The addition of Welton has provided a powerful spark to the offense and he seems to energize the team late in the game.

"This team is incredibly talented and has enough courage and heart to go all the way. After winning some games, our spirits are high and we want to prove that we are one of the elite teams in the league."

- OCTAVIO ZAMBRANO

The Galaxy is a team on the rise and the players have high expectations for the remainder of the season. It was only a matter of time before the team started to play better soccer.

Although we have scored some goals and won a handful of games, we still have a lot of room to advance in the standings and we are capable of competing at a higher level.

I'd like to thank the fans for doing a great job of supporting us throughout the season. You guys have been great, but your work is not over. There are still a lot of very important games to be played as we are entering the most important part of our season.

As long as you are there for us, I can assure that the team will work hard on the field. This team has the ability and mind frame to be the best team in the league when it is all said and done.



OUR STARS



LOS ANGELES

GALAXY



14 Chris Armas Midfielder



8 Jose Botello Forward



6 Dan Calichman Defender



20 Paul Caligiuri Defender



9 Jorge Campos Goalkeeper/Forwad



10 Mauricio Cienfuegos Midfielder



4 Robin Fraser Defender



22 Kevin Hartman Goalkeeper



17 Ezra Hendrickson Defender



29 Eduardo Hurtado Forward



12 Guillermo Jara Forward



15 Steve Jolley Midfielder



13 Cobi Jones Midfielder



11 Harut Karapetyan Forward



3 Peter Lak Defender



21 Jerry Laterza Midfielder



5 Martin Machon Midfielder/Defender



Danny Peña Defender



7 Andrew Shue Midfielder



16 Bryan Taylor Forward



18 Greg Vanney Midfielder



HEAD COACH Octavio Zambrano

- Founded the Orange County Zodiac of the USISL, which serves as one of the Galaxy's A-League affiliates along with the Minnesota Thunder
- Played in Ecuador's First Division with Union Deportiva Valdez at the age of 18
- Former Assistant Coach and Director of Player Development for the California Emperors of the Western Soccer League
- Former Assistant Coach of the LA Salsa in the APSL and Head Coach of the LA Cobras



19 Welton Araujo Mello Midfielder/Forward

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i Orgulloso patrocinador del Galaxy!

Galaxy Debuta Programa de Radio

GALAXY

ue haría usted si fuera el técnico del Galaxy? O quizás usted tenga una opinión acerca del equipo, que le desea compartir con miles de personas.

Usted tiene suerte, Galaxy tiene su programa de radio. Si usted desea saber mas acerca de su equipo preferido, sintonice Galaxy Talk' 97, los sábados a partir de las 9 de la mañana en la radio XTRA, 690 en el dial AM.

Joe Tutino, Matt Cohen y Ricky Davis son los anfitriones de ese programa, con una hora de noticias, opiniones, discusiones, acerca de la Major League Soccer (MLS) y lo que ocurre a lo largo y ancho del mundo del futbol y por supuesto todo lo que usted debe de saber acerca de su club Galaxy. Los invitados van desde los jugadores del Galaxy, pasando por los grandes jugadores que actuan en la MLS, como lo es Brian McBride del equipo Columbus Crew, hasta Doug Logan Comisionado de la MLS.

Un programa de alta energía, emoción y experiencia, que llega a través de micrófonos dedicados a usted que desea conocer más acerca del Galaxy y la MLS. También encontrará análisis previos sobre el próximo partido del Galaxy, como se encuentran los jugadores y sus opiniones.

Tutino con 8 años de experiencia en los deportes radiales, es también el anfitrión de las opiniones y análisis previos a los juegos de los Chargers de San Diego. Cohen y Davis salen al aire desde el Rose Bowl, mientras que Tutino está en San Diego y coordina el show.

Tutino es un fanático del futbol-soccer desde su juventud, jugó para los Sockers de San Diego en la época de la North American Soccer League (NASL).

Cohen se inició en la radio en la Universidad de Penn State, donde fue el relator para el equipo de football americano Nittany Lions.



Paul Caligiuri se ha convertido en unos de los temas más comentado del programa de radio

Trabaja en la oficina de ventas del Galaxy y trae todo tipo de información y comentarios que sucede dentro del club. Cohen opina que el show es un vínculo entre el equipo y los fanáticos del Galaxy.

Davis es largamente conocido por los fanáticos de futbol, jugó para la selección de Estados Unidos entre 1976 y 1990 y fue director técnico de LA Salsa. Davis trae al show su experiencia en futbol, sus conocimientos tácticos del juego, su experiencia como jugador, además de haber sido relator y comentarista en otras épocas, cualidades que no muchas personas poseen.

Pero las verdaderas estrellas del show son los radioescuchas.

"Tenemos una enormidad de llamadas durante el show", señaló Tutino, las llamadas de los fanáticos son la verdad de nuestro show y llegan desde todos los lugares, de San Diego, del Este de LA, del Westside, de Ventura, algunos de ellos deben esperar por un rato antes de poder dar su opinión al aire o realizar sus preguntas.

"Tuvimos un señor de Vista que es muy conocido y sabía mucho, estuvimos largo rato recordando otras épocas y otros equipos de esta area de LA", recordó Matt.

A la hora de despedirnos quedó en claro una de las razones de nuestro show agregó Matt, es un foro donde los fanáticos del Galaxy pueden hablar de su amor por el futbol y por el Galaxy. Llamadas recientes se han concentrado en posibles intercambios de jugdores y en algunos momentos algunos de los escuchas tienen un consejo para el técnico, acerca del futuro del equipo.

Tutino señaló su sorpresa por el entusiasmo de los radioescuchas, agregando que no sabía de esa pasión que sienten los fanáticos por expresar sus ideas en un foro de futbol.

Uno de los temas que ha despertado gran expectativa es la selección de Estados Unidos y su camino hacia el mundial de 1998. Cada llamada sobre ese tema traía una estrategia de juego o un consejo para el técnico Steve Sampson, buscando ayudar a la clasificación de Estados Unidos al mundial de Francia.

Rick ha comentado que los oyentes de todos los días esperan ansiosos la hora del inicio del programa. "Tenemos radioescuchas que son como de la familia, que nos dicen que es una felicidad para ellos encender la radio y poder compartir con nosotros".

Asi que si usted desea decirle al mundo como se siente y opina acerca del club Galaxy o realizarle preguntas a los jugadores, sintonice los sábados a las 9 de la mañana a Galaxy Talk 97 a través de radio XTRA, 690 en el dial AM.

GALAXY ROLLER COR CONTINUES

t seems to be no coincidence any more that the Galaxy's surge in the second half of the season coincides with interim coach Octavio Zambrano's takeover after head coach Lothar Osiander was fired in June.

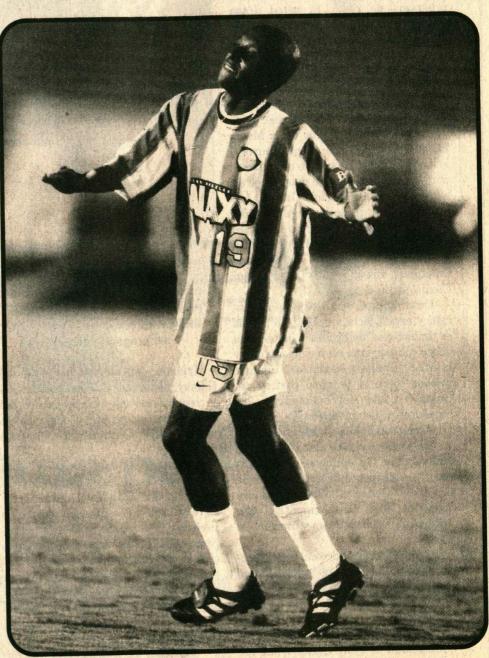
The Galaxy, which finished with a 1-4 record during July of 1996, finished this July without a blemish on its record, winning all five of its matches.

Los Angeles capped a rather disappointing first half of the 1997 season with a 2-0 victory over the New England Revolution on July 4th before the MLS All-Star game. The Galaxy picked up after the All-Star break right where it left off by winning its next four league matches, two exhibition games (July 6th vs. Chivas of Guadalajara of the Mexican League and July 16th vs. the Minnesota Thunder of the A-League) and a cup match on July 30th against Santos Laguna in the CONCACAF Champions Cup. The Galaxy tallied 14 goals during the month of July while allowing just two.

"The turnaround is impressive, but not as incredible as it might seem," said Zambrano. "All one has to do is look at the talent on this team, and you knew this team was capable of so much more than it had shown."

Indeed, the Galaxy's poor start was due in part to its inability to score goals. The Galaxy scored just nine goals in 12 games under Osiander (0.75 goals per game), but immediately picked up the pace under Zambrano, scoring 21 goals in the first eight games (2.6 per game) under his tutelage.

The Galaxy was 6-2 during that stretch, a span which included five



Welton has been doing the Samba a lot lately, a routine he does after every score

"We had a never say never attitude and we never cave up,
because we know we're a good team. The coaching change has
helped this team somehow, some way. We are playing with more
freedom. I think that we are playing our came and not workying about what
the other team is doing." - Cobi Jones



Kansas City defenders chase Mauricio Cienfuegos, but in the standings LA has chased the Wizards most of the season



Dan Calichman and company have been rock-solid on defense for the Galaxy

games where the Galaxy scored 14 times and allowed just two goals. Zambrano has instituted a more free-flowing offensive scheme, and that has sprung loose some of the Galaxy's more potent offensive players, including Cobi Jones, Welton and Mauricio Cienfuegos.

Welton, the Galaxy's Brazilian import, had a terrific July, scoring four goals and recording an assist in five regular—season games. For that accomplishment, he was selected Major League Soccer's Player of the Month for July.

The 22-year old forward, who was an All-Star in 1996 with the New England Revolution, shot to the team lead in goals. "This is how I knew I could play," Welton said. "This is a great team and my teammates make it easy to fit in. We

all just started playing well together at the same time." Meanwhile, midfielder Cienfuegos tallied four assists and one goal during the same five-game stretch. Cienfuegos is the Galaxy's career leader in assists.

And Jones was the hottest player in MLS for about two months, scoring four goals and tallying four assists from the middle of May to the middle of July.

"At the beginning of the season we were not playing well," said Jones. "However, we had a never say never attitude and we never gave up, because we know we're a good team. The coaching change has helped this team somehow, some way. We are playing with more freedom. I think that we are playing our game and not worrying about what the other team is doing." Jones has gotten a

second wind after a hectic schedule that hasn't really let up for several years. "I've gotten past the burnout stage," said Jones. "I haven't had a nice two-week vacation since August '93 – I remember it vividly. However, I am having a lot more fun. I've got the fun back and I'm having a blast."

"I think that Cobi has been one of, if not the, best player in the league," said Galaxy defender Dan Calichman. 'He started slow, but has been a force to be reckoned with."

The Galaxy, which has a defense anchored by Calichman, the team captain, Robin Fraser, Greg Vanney and Paul Caligiuri, continued to be among the league's stingiest, tallying seven

Continued on page 37



Galaxy Radio Is On the Air

BY JOHN KISSELL

What would you do if you were coach of the Galaxy? Or perhaps you have an opinion about the team that you'd like to express to thousands of people?

You're in luck. Galaxy radio is on the air! If you can't get enough of your home team, tune in to Galaxy Talk '97, Saturday mornings at 9:00 on XTRA radio, 690 on the AM dial.

Hosts Joe Tutino, Matt Cohen and Rick Davis serve up an entertaining hour of news, opinion and discussion about Major League Soccer, world soccer developments and, of course, the Galaxy. Their guests have ranged from Galaxy players to league stars like Brian McBride of the Columbus Crew to MLS Commissioner Doug Logan.

The high energy and broad experience they bring to the microphone means plenty of spirited debates. They also give in-depth previews of the next Galaxy opponent and bring fans up-to-date on the players' progress.

Tutino, an eight-year veteran of sports radio, who is also host for the San Diego Chargers post-game shows, is the broadcasting pro of the group. While Cohen and Davis are on the air from the Rose Bowl press box, Tutino is based in San Diego and coordinates the show.

Tutino is a soccer fan from his youth in San Diego, where he played the game and rooted for the San Diego

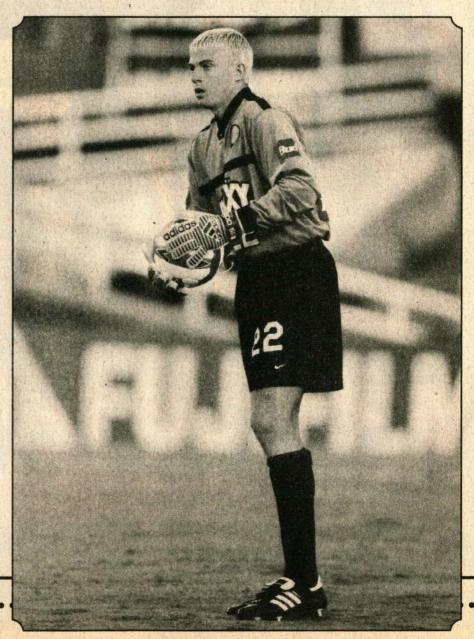
Radio listeners have been able to discuss some of the brightest young stars in MLS, including Galaxy rookie goalkeeper Kevin Hartman Sockers of the North American Soccer League.

Cohen got the broadcasting bug as an undergraduate at Penn State University, where he did play-by-play for the Nittany Lions football games.

He works in the sales office for the

Galaxy and brings an array of insider tips and opinions to the broadcast booth. Cohen sees the show as a way to showcase the Galaxy and build the fan base in Southern California.

Continued on page 43





Hablando de Deportes con Rolando "El Veloz" González Hipólito Gamboa

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El Segundo & Avalon	(213) 756-1443
King & Vermont	(213) 733-3961
29th & Crenshaw	(213) 733-0941
6th & Burlington	(213) 413-6257
Pico & Western	(213) 732-1332
Pico & La Brea	(213) 937-4575
Florence & Vermont	(213) 778-8791
Florence & Hooper	(213) 584-8211
27th & Western	(213) 732-8671
Central & Century	(213) 569-4929
Washington & Vermont	(213) 730-2584
Florence & Avalon	(213) 753-6965
Figueroa & Slauson	(213) 751-9150
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Galaxy Radio Is On the Air

Continued from page 40

Davis is familiar to longtime soccer fans. He played on the US national team from 1976 to 1990 and was coach of the LA Salsa. He brings to the show insights into tactics and on-field experience that few commentators can match. He's also had much experience in the broadcast booth as a soccer play-by-play announcer and commentator.

But the real stars of the show are the callers.

"We have full boards every show," Joe said. He said the fans' calls are knowledgeable and refreshing. They come from all over the region: from San Diego to East LA to the Westside and Ventura. Some callers have spent most of the hour on hold, waiting for their turn to voice an opinion or ask a question of the hosts.

"We had one gentleman from Vista,

who was very knowledgeable. He spent a long time reminiscing about the LAarea teams he's rooted for over the years," Matt said.

They finally had to say good-bye to him, but the call pointed out one of the show's strengths: It is becoming a forum for fans to get together to talk about their love of the game and hammer out opinions about the Galaxy. Recent calls have focused on possible player trades and some

pointed advice for the coaching staff about the team's fortunes.

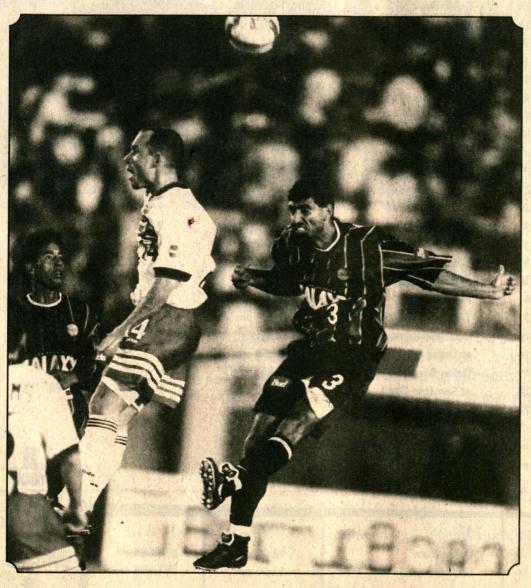
Tutino, also, is surprised by the enthusiasm of the audience. He said he hadn't realized how starved soccer fans in Los Angeles were for a soccer forum.

One of the hottest topics has been the prospect for the US National Team in its quest for World Cup '98. Nearly every caller has a strategy for National Team coach Steve Sampson to help the team earn a place in the World Cup finals.

Rick said there are even regular callers he looks forward to hearing from. He said, "We have appreciative listeners, who told us it's great to turn on the radio and hear you guys."

So, if you want to tell the world how feel about the Galaxy or ask a question about they players, give the Galaxy '97 broadcast team a call this Saturday morning.

Callers were debating the rumored deal of former Galaxy defender Mark Semioli before it happened





1997 SCHEDULE

Your Team On the Road

September is a busy month for the Galaxy. As well as getting down to the crunch time in the race for the playoffs, it must face division foes such as the Dallas Burn and the San Jose Clash on the road.

The Galaxy will have to try not to Burn when it travels to Dallas in the heat of the Texas sun on September 14, as both teams fight to jump higher in the standings before postseason. In order to do this, the Galaxy must shut down -Dante Washington and Damian, two of the league's leading scorers. The offense must also deal with scoring off Western Conference All-Star and one of the league's toughest goalkeepers, Mark Dodd.

A road trip to San Jose on September 21 pits the Galaxy against the duo of Eric Wynalda and John Doyle, Western Conference All-Stars who are out for revenge after being knocked out of the Western Conference semifinals by the Galaxy in '96

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	/RESU	JLT	RECO	RD	TV
Mar. 29	D.C. United	0-1	L	SO(2-3).	0-1	(0 pts)	
Apr. 5	at Kansas City Wizards	2-3	L		0-2	(0 pts)	
Apr. 12	at San Jose Clash	1-4	L		0-3	(0 pts)	
Apr. 18	Colorado Rapids	2-1	W	A Marchi	1-3	(3 pts)	
Apr. 26	Dallas Burn	1-2	L	50(1-4)	1-4	(3 pts)	
May 2	at D.C. United	0-2	L		1-5	(3 pts)	
May 4	at MetroStars	0-1	L	SO(1-2)	1-6	(3 pts)	
May 10	at Kansas City Wizards	0-1	L	A man	1-7	(3 pts)	
May 18	San Jose Clash	2-1	W	SO(3-2)	2-7	(4 pts)	
May 25	Columbus Crew	1-0	W	16,10 %	3-7	(7 pts)	
May 31	Kansas City Wizards	1-3	L		3-8	(7 pts)	
June 8	at New England Revolution	0-1	L	SO(0-2)	3-9	(7 pts)	
June 15	Tampa Bay Mutiny	41	W		4-9	(10 pts)	
June 21	at Colorado Rapids	1-2	L		4-10	(10 pts)	
June 28	at Tampa Bay Mutiny	2-3	L		4-11	(10 pts)	
July 4	New England Revolution	2-0	W		5-11	(13 pts)	
July 12	D.C. United	3-1	W		6-11	(16 pts)	1
July 20	at MetroStars	4-0	W		7-11	(19 pts)	
July 25	at Dallas Burn	3-0	W		8-11	(22 pts)	
July 27	at Colorado Rapids	2-1	W		9-11	(25 pts)	
Aug. 2	Columbus Crew	1-2	L		9-12	(25 pts)	
Aug. 9	at D.C. United	2-4	L		9-13	(25 pts)	
Aug. 14	at New England Revolution	4:30	pm				FSW
Aug. 17	San Jose Clash	4:30	pm				
Aug. 30	at Columbus Crew	4:30	pm				KTLA
Sep. 4	MetroStars	8:00	pm				espin
Sep. 7	Tampa Bay Mutiny	12:00) pm				UNIVISION
Sep. 10	Colorado Rapids	7:00	pm				
Sep. 14	at Dallas Burn	12:00) pm				UNIVISION
Sep. 19	Dallas Burn	7:30	pm				
Sep. 21	at San Jose Clash	12:00) pm			4.6	UNIVISION
Sep. 28	Kansas City Wizards	5:00	pm				esphy

FSW = Fox Sports West All times Pacific

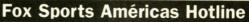
DATE	AT	TIME	TV
Sep. 14	Dallas Burn	12:00 pm	UNIVISION
Sep. 21	San Jose Clash	12:00 pm	UNIVISION





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Please rank 1-6 your favorite kind of movies in order of importance (1 is most favorite, 6 is least favorite): Horror Drama Family Comedy Action	G	FFICIAL MLS ALL-STAR AME PROGRAM FREE OF CHARGE*!!
In general, do you purchase products primarily based on brand appeal or price?	Name	B How many CDs do you buy each year? How often do you eat at a fast
Brand Price Other (explain)	Address	food restaurant? Do you currently play soccer or have children who play soccer?
Yes No If yes, how much does your family spend on computer hardware and	Telephone Mail survey to: MLS All-Star Program, International Sports Publishing, 33 W. 34th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY. 10001	Yes No If yes, how often do you buy the following soccer equipment:
Less than \$100 Less than \$500 Less than \$500 Less than \$2000	What was the price (retail value) of your most recently leased or purchased new car/truck?	Cleats: Every season Every year Every two years Less than every two years
More than \$2000 How many cars/trucks does your family currently own or lease?	Which type(s) of vehicles do you currently own/lease or plan to own/lease in the next two years?	Every season Every year Every two years Less than every two years
How often do you buy or lease a new car/truck?	Sport Utility Pick Up Truck Mini-Van Sedan Sports Car	Soccer Ball: Every season Every year Every two years Less than every two years





A New Way to Get Tickets



There's now an even easier way to get tickets for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

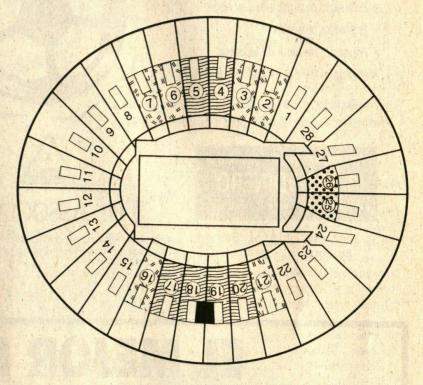
Simply dial the new toll-free ticket sales number (888) MLS-KICK.

This new number will take the place of the former 817-KICK number which was the sales number from 1996.

This number is a direct line to the Los Angeles Sales Office where there are bilingual sales representatives who have all the latest info on upcoming Galaxy home games. Both group and season tickets can be purchased at this number.

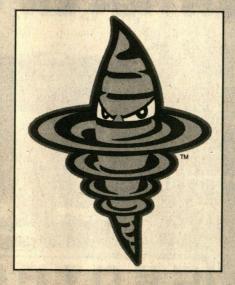
The system for season tickets is also advanced. Much like the TicketMaster system, interested fans can choose a specific seat in the Rose Bowl right over the phone. This new and improved system lets you know immediately what seats you will have for all of the exciting Galaxy action.

Call today at the new toll-free number (888) MLS-KICK and don't miss out on any more of the Los Angeles Galaxy excitement.



In case you missed it . . . The Galaxy has brought Soccer Celebration to the Arroyo. Your kids can now test their soccer skills at one of the Galaxy's many attractions: AT&T Long Distance Kick, Mitre Power Shot, Honda Obstacle Course and Snicker Kick Center, among others.

Food will also be a major part of the Galaxy's Soccer Celebration . . . gotta keep the little tikes happy! In addition to the great food, the Galaxy will also offer entertainment from local performers and radio stations. We'll even paint your face to keep you smiling. Face painting is really for the kids – well, kids of all ages of course!



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Soccer's Buried Treasure



By John Kissell

There is a buried treasure among Major League Soccer trading cards.

Collecting sports trading cards has been an important part of the American sports scene for over a century, and now MLS has taken a place in the display counters of collectors and fans.

The series, published for Bandai by Upper Deck, one of the elite trading card makers in this country, is already a collector's item by being the first issued for the new league.

Each of the 50 cards in the inaugural series will become an important memento of the early years of Major League Soccer. The cards represent top players from each of the MLS teams in full-color action poses. Each card has statistics and a short biography on the back.

A full set of Galaxy cards includes forward Cobi Jones, midfielder Mauricio Cienfuegos, defender and team captain Dan Calichman, midfielder Andrew Shue and goalkeeper/forward Jorge Campos.

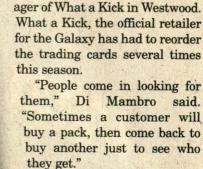
The series features league stars such as Tampa Bay Mutiny midfielder Carlos Valderrama, New York/New Jersey MetroStars midfielder Tab Ramos, Kansas City Wizards forward Preki, San Jose Clash forward Eric Wynalda and New England Revolution defender Alexi Lalas among a roster of top players. Also included are special-issue sets of team captains, MLS trophy winners, and signature cards.

"We're encouraged by the sales," said John Abrena of Bandai. He said the company had nearly sold out its stock by the halfway point in the season. Although Bandai has received requests for reruns of the series,

JORGE (AMPOS)

Abrena says the company won't print more this year, making the cards more scarce, and thus, adding to the value of the cards available.

Still, fans are clamoring for the cards. "It's one of our hottest items, especially with kids," said Connie Di Mambro, store man-



Mary Benton, a partner of Edwards Soccer in Torrance, said each time she has ordered the cards, her stock sold very quickly. She said she has regular customers for the series, but many customers see the cards in the display case and pick up a pack out of curiosity. Often they come back for more.

"We plan to order more for next season,"

Benton said.

Bandai is anticipating an even better year for the trading card series in 1998. They plan to include more players from each team and feature the new team uniforms.

About that buried treasure. The Alexi Lalas card is printed with an error, which collectors say boosts its value. See if you find it in the next pack you buy.





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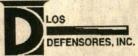
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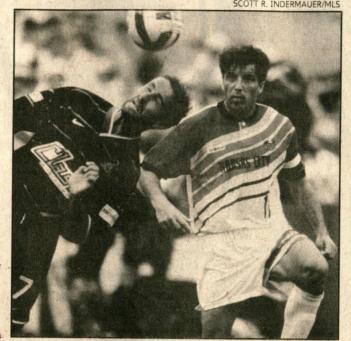
LOCKED LOADED

MLS Gunners Aim For Budweiser Scoring Title

By Trey Fitz-Gerald

Soccer's top sharpshooters have loaded up their heaviest ammunition as they gun for Roy Lassiter's Budweiser Scoring Championship, which the Tampa Bay Mutiny forward captured in 1996.

Beset by injuries, inconsistent play and US National Team duty, Lassiter has had to watch and wonder as several players, including teammate Carlos Valderrama, the Kansas, City Wizards' Preki, San Jose forward Eric Wynalda, and two D.C. United strikers, Jaime Moreno and Raul Diaz Arce, have torched the MLS nets in pursuit of the coveted 1997 Budweiser Scoring title.



Kansas City midfielder Preki is a one of the favorites to win the 1997 Budweiser Scoring Championship

Consistency has been the name of the game for Mr. Predrag Radosavljevic, better known as Preki, who tallied either a goal or an assist in 12 of Kansas City's first 15 games to cruise to the top of the Budweiser scoring leaders at the All-Star break.

Preki, who appeared in four of the United States' World Cup qualifying contests in late 1996 and early 1997, after he became a naturalized American citizen, set a then-MLS record by earning a point in seven straight games to open the season, breaking the mark of six consecutive games set twice by Lassiter (who utilized only goals) during the 1996 campaign.

Despite missing nearly half of D.C. United's first 16 games of the 1997 season, Bolivian forward Jaime Moreno and El Salvadoran attacker Raul Diaz Arce proved their value to their respective national teams, which were responsible for the duo's limited MLS action through early July.

Diaz Arce, who finished fourth in the 1996 Budweiser Scoring race with 23 goals and 3 assists, held the 1997 lead for most of April, May and June, by virtue of his four-goal performance at Mile High Stadium in Colorado on April 12.

The slew of goals duplicated Diaz Arce's feat of becoming the

first and only MLS player to score more than three goals in a game, set July 7, 1996, against the Dallas Burn.

Moreno, who came to MLS last season from Middlesbrough of the English Premiership at the tender age of 22, began 1997 on a tear, tallying 10 goals and three assists in just nine games before departing to South America for Copa America and World Cup qualifying duty in June and early July.

Mutiny playmaker Carlos Valderrama surged near the top of the Budweiser scoring table and brought Tampa Bay into a second-place tie in the Eastern Conference with him, notching one goal and five assists in just two home games during late June. That gave "El Pibe," recently named Colombia's Man of the Decade, a total of three

goals and 13 assists at the All-Star break.

After missing four of the Mutiny's five July contests due to World Cup qualifiers for the Colombian National Team, Major League Soccer's 1996 Honda Most Valuable Player will certainly have his work cut out during the last two months, as he, Lassiter and Mutiny teammates Steve Ralston and Giuseppe Galderisi challenge for the Budweiser title.

San Jose Clash forward Eric "The Finisher" Wynalda also utilized a double-digit assist total to surge among the scoring leaders, with four goals and 10 assists in just nine games before surgery to repair a nagging groin injury sidelined the United States National Team's all-time scoring leader for all of July and most of August.

Other faces to watch during August and September include Dallas forward Damian, Kansas City's Mo Johnston and Mark Chung, as well as the Columbus Crew's Brian McBride.

Colorado's Chris Henderson and Paul Bravo each rode fivegame point streaks entering the All-Star break, while Giovanni Savarese and Eduardo Hurtado need to increase their scoring for the MetroStars and Los Angeles Galaxy to make a run at a playoff berth.



Miami and Chicago Look to Make a Splash In 1998

hile your favorite Major League Soccer team is currently gearing up for a run at the playoffs and MLS Cup '97, the league's two newest teams are making plans of their own to hit the ground running in 1998.

Miami and Chicago, MLS' two 1998 expansion teams, recently made some exciting announcements and are scheduled to reveal more details about their plans later this

summer.

MLS Commissioner Douglas G. Logan and Miami Investor-Operator Kenneth A. Horowitz unveiled a dynamic team name and logo during the MLS All-Star break.

The new team will be known as the Umbro with Miami Fusion, International designing the team's primary, secondary and team lettering logos. The Fusion will play its home games at the Orange Bowl.

"Miami brings one of the country's strongest sports and entertainment markets into the MLS family," said Commissioner Logan. "The name Fusion symbolizes the relationship between world's most exciting sport and Miami's multicultural makeup. The addition of Miami and Chicago solidify Major League Soccer as a truly national league."



multinational groups. The name Fusion represents the unification of soccer fans of all nationalities with the force, power and passion of soccer.

"The beauty, sunshine, and excitement of Miami and the gathering of soccer fans of all backgrounds are aptly exem-

plified by the team's logo. We have every expectation that the Miami Fusion will deliver a dynamic caliber of play which will further soccer as the world's greatest sport. "

Umbro, a worldwide supplier of soccer uniforms, footwear, equipment and soccer-related apparel based Greenville, S.C., expanded its relationship with Major League Soccer by signing on as the official uniform supplier of the Fusion.

In addition to its agreement with South Florida's newest professional sports team, Umbro has been the exclusive outfitter of the Major League Soccer's referees since the league's inception. Umbro will design the Fusion uniform, as well as provide the team's entire on-field apparel.

"We are extremely pleased to have

Kenneth A. Horowitz heads up the Miami, Fusion investor group

Continued on page 59

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Miami and Chicago Look to Make a Splash In 1998

Continued from page 56

the Miami Fusion in Umbro apparel," said John Stevenson, Vice President/Soccer Umbro USA. "A company with the 73-year tradition of Umbro belongs on the playing fields of Major League Soccer. We are happy to introduce the Umbro look to the league, and we extend our best wishes for the future to both Major League Soccer and its newest team, the Miami Fusion."

"We are delighted to have Umbro on board as the official supplier of the Miami Fusion." said Logan. "Umbro has shown a strong commitment not only to Major League Soccer, but the entire soccer community. I am

sure the Fusion will be as happy with Umbro as the league's referees have been with their apparel for the last two seasons."

Chicago Names General Manager

In Chicago, recently named General Manager Peter Wilt is gushing with excitement about the return of Division I professional soccer to the Windy City.

"We hope to do the city proud," said Wilt, a Chicago-area native who was named the club's general manager on June 24. "The potential here is tremendous. The area has great soccer tradition dating back to the days of the NASL's Chicago Sting and more recently with the outstanding crowds for the 1994 World Cup."

The 37-year-old Wilt brings more than 10 years of experience in high-level management in three different professional soccer leagues to the new team. Most recently, he served as president and



Could we see Mexican National Team star Luis Garcia playing in Chicago or Miami next season?

general manager of the Minnesota Thunder, the top-drawing team during the 1996 USISL season.

"I selected someone who is old enough to have had 10 years of experience run-

ning soccer teams and has good business experience." said Robert Sanderman, president of Anchutz Chicago Soccer, Inc. "And I selected someone young enough to still have that passion and vitality to put into the game and do business. That's what it's going to take in Chicago."

The as-yet-unnamed Chicago team will call Soldier Field home. The stadium, which also is home to the NFL's Bears, hosted five matches during World Cup

USA '94. Featuring excellent soccer dimensions and a location adjacent to Lake Michigan, Soldier Field recently hosted an exhibition game which saw

MLS' Los Angeles Galaxy defeat Mexican Champion Chivas, 1-0, before 27,103 fans on July 6.

"Solidier Field is one of the premier soccer venues in the United States," Wilt said. "The sight lines are terrific and the location is great."

Wilt envisions the new Chicago team as providing an entertaining brand of soccer. and a club that is competitive from day one. He expects the league to assign the Chicago team a top international star in the near future and also is excited about the league's expansion draft which is scheduled for late November, Part of Wilt's plan to build the new team is hiring a first-class

coach by the end of the summer.

"We want someone well-known and respected in this area, someone who is multi-lingual," said Wilt. "We want a coach who's a winner, who knows this

> community, and is well respected by the players, fans and media."

> After determining a nickname, the team colors and a coach, Wilt plans to hire office staff of 20 to 30 people. All of the pieces are expected to be in place before MLS Cup '97 in late October.

> "This is a tremendous challenge," Wilt said. "We've

got a way to go with hiring a coaching staff, office staff and finalizing our team name and logo, but I am excited about this great opportunity. I



Peter Wilt was recently named general manager of MLS' Chicago team

look forward to putting together a hardworking staff to give Chicago a successful organization on and off the field."



1997 LEAGUE SCHEDULE

MetroStars	0	at	San Jose	1	(SO 3-4)	23,501	
SATURDAY, March 29							
Colorado	1	at	Columbus	2	(50 2-3)	14,485	
New England	1	at	Dallas	0		11,063	
MetroStars	1	at	Tampa Bay	2 3	(SO 3-4)	15,239 10,198	
San Jose Wash. D.C.	2	at	Kansas City Los Angeles	0	(SO 3-2)	53,147	
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ATURDAY, April 5						0.404	
Los Angeles	2	at	Kansas City	3		8,406 28,749	1
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Columbus	0	at	Colorado	2		15,325 6,195	
San Jose	1	at	Dallas	-		0,173	
New England	0	at	Tampa Bay	4		10,143	
SATURDAY, April 12							
Kansas City	1	at	Tampa Bay	2		9,512	
Los Angeles	1	at	San Jose	2 4		17,628	-
New England	1	at	MetroStars	3 2		20,328	THE WATER OF
Wash. D.C.	5	at	Colorado	2		4,434	
SUNDAY, April 13 Dallas	1	at	Columbus	2		10,662	
FRIDAY, April 18 Colorado	1	at	Los Angeles	2		10,205	
Dallas	i,	at	Kansas City	2		6,272	
SATURDAY, April 19			6.1	2	(60 1 3)	10 750	
San Jose	1	at	Columbus	2	(SO 1-2)	18,358 26,322	
Wash. D.C.	2	at	MetroStars			20,322	
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Colorado	1	at	Dallas	4		5,911	
Tampa Bay	1	at	New England	2		57,407	
WEDNESDAY, April 2	3 0	at	Colorado	1		4,120	
Dallas	Ü	a.	Colorado				
SATURDAY, April 26	1	at	New England	2	(SO 1-2)	12,219	
Colorado	1	at	MetroStars	2	(30 1-2)	18,107	
Columbus Dallas	2	at	Los Angeles	1	(SO 4-1)	18,107 15,247	
San Jose	3	at	Wash. D.C.	2	(SO 2-0)	24,775	
SUNDAY, April 27							
Tampa Bay	3	at	Kansas City	2	(SO 4-3)	9,154	
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Tampa Bay	Ó	at	Colorado	2		10,714	
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Columbus	2	at	New England	0		13,168	
San Jose	1	at	MetroStars	0		14,724	
SATURDAY, May 10	1		Tampa Ray	2		13,490	
Colorado	1 3	at	Tampa Bay Wash. D.C.	2 2	(SO 2-1)	15,493	1
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HURSDAY, Septembe	r 25				
Columbus	at	MetroStars	7:30 pm	esph	
New England	at	Dallas	7:30 pm 8:30 pm	12	
RIDAY, September 26					
Colorado	at	Kansas City	8:30 pm		
Wash. D.C.	at	Tampa Bay	7:30 pm		
UNDAY, September 2	8			12 12 17	
Colorado	at .	San Jose	8:00 pm	1	
Kansas City MetroStars	at at	Los Angeles Wash, D.C.	8:00 pm	esph/	
Tampa Bay	at	Columbus	8:00 pm 3:00 pm	UNIVISION	
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BY BRIAN TRUSDELL

nly one year ago, the Los Angeles Galaxy was Major League Soccer's glamour team, playing in the Rose Bowl, winning their first 12 games and heading everybody's list to reach MLS Cup '96.

In our nation's capital, D.C. United had lost 10 of 18, and

Head Coach Bruce Arena's time was almost fully concentrated on the US Olympic team. The Tampa Bay Mutiny was building what would become the league's best record.

Three months later, the Mutiny was watching at home, the Galaxy was wet, and United was showering itself with glory in the monsoon that was Foxboro.

It may take time to build a champion, but time can be a relative thing.

Now, just a little more than a year later, the Galaxy has a new coach, D.C. United is on everybody's list to lift the Alan I. Rothenberg Trophy again, and eight others are gearing for a

Look for Jorge
Campos and the
Los Angeles
Galaxy to elevate
their game during
the stretch run
for the playoffs



THEULT IN ATEGOAL TEAMS FINE TUNING FOR STRETCH RUN



late-season United-like run.

"D.C. is still the team to beat," says Dave Dir, Head Coach of the Dallas Burn, a team many see as a threat to earn the

ticket to RFK on Oct. 26. "Not only because of their record. They came in right where they left off. And until they prove otherwise, they're the team to beat."

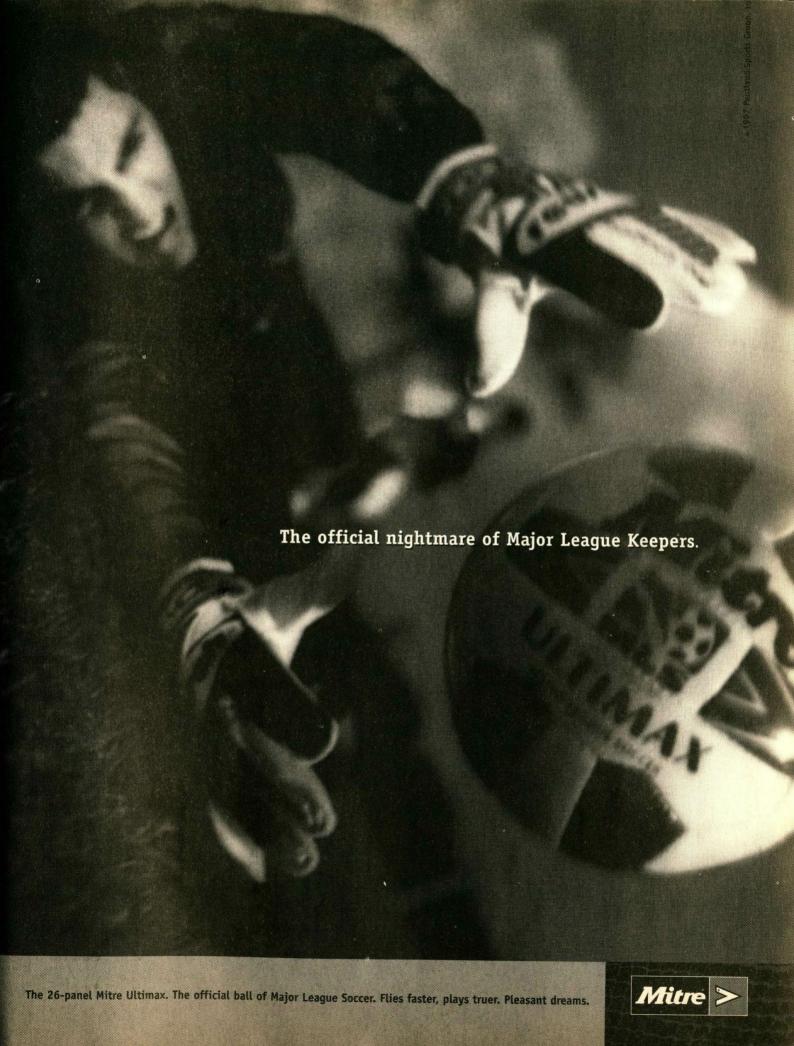
But the team to beat in July won't necessarily be the team to beat in October (see above).

"Injuries and a lack of form can bring you down, especially injuries in key positions," says Kansas City Head Coach Ron Newman, who had his Wizards at the top of the Western Conference approaching midseason.

"Once you get to the playoffs, you must really be motoring, playing really well. You have to make sure you're running hot going into playoffs."

It's advice that comes from one who knows. As a coach,

Continued on page 69



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THE ULTIMATE GOAL

Continued from page 66

Newman won two titles in the old North American Soccer League, and 10 more indoors in either the NASL or Major Indoor Soccer League.

Consistency may get you the regular-season title, but it won't guarantee a championship. Clinching a playoff berth too early can make a team complacent, sluggish, or peak too soon. Assuring yourself a place in the playoffs quickly to allow your players to heal and rest can backfire.

"You have to be careful of that syndrome," Newman says.

"What you can do, if you make it too early, is you might rest a player, change things, give a rookie a game. Suddenly you find that you lose what you're building. You need to be a little bit intense going into playoffs. You need the intensity at right level going into the playoffs.

"It's dangerous being too casual."

No team will have it easy through the end of the season.

World Cup qualifying in Latin and South America and

Europe will continue through November, meaning members

of the national teams from the United States, Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica and all of South America could be called away.

Many teams have recently added players to their squads: Mike Lapper and Thomas Dooley in Columbus, Damian in Dallas, Gilmar in Tampa. And some clubs only recently had players come off the injured reserve list: Joe-Max Moore in New England and Tab Ramos and Manny Lagos with the MetroStars.

But the stretch run for the playoffs also means the grace period is over.

"The quality will continue to go up, but in the second half, teams also will start playing more for a result," Revolution Head Coach Thomas Rongen says. "Last year, 50 percent of the coaches were fired (actually it was 40 percent). Everybody wants to see attractive play, but we get judged on results."

Already, Lothar Osiander has been let go by Los Angeles.

Interim Head Coach Octavio Zambrano is hoping to spark his lackluster club, maybe with the play of goalkeeper Jorge Campos or forward Eduardo "El Tanque" Hurtado.

The Colorado Rapids have improved vastly over last season with Chris Henderson having an all-star year and Mexican import David Patino settling in.

But the battle for the Western Conference seems to be between Dallas and Kansas City, or maybe it's just that the rivalry seems to be the fiercest in the West.

While nearly every league observer has been aware of the apparent hostility between the MetroStars and D.C. United, the Wizards-Burn struggle seems to be just as strident.

Intensifying it this year is the offensively-improved Burn.

with the additions of Alain Sutter and Damian, and the more defensively sound Wizards with former Scottish international Richard Gough.

But all three players joined their teams midway through the first half of the season.

In the East, besides D.C. United, questions abound.

New England has been carried offensively by Mozambican forward Chiquinho Conde and Alberto Naveda, but the Revolution has yet to get the full benefit of an injury-plagued Joe-Max Moore, who scored 11 goals in only 14 games after he joined the team more than midway through last season. How fast Moore returns to form and

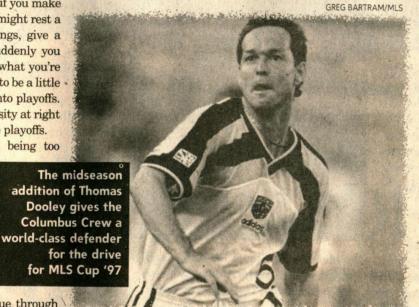
to what degree can only be speculated.

Similarly, Tampa Bay has had to compensate for the loss of Roy Lassiter due to injury and Carlos Valderrama due to national team commitments, causing the Mutiny to start quickly, struggle and then seemingly regain form as midseason approached. In addition, the Crew's top offensive threat, Brian McBride, was sidelined for a month with a severely sprained ankle.

And while the MetroStars waited until midseason for the return of both Lagos and Ramos in midfield – their injuries were severe – getting back up to playing speed as well as getting used to new regulars like midfielder Mike Sorber could take time.

Some teams are set to begin fine-tuning. Others are still trying to settle on a lineup.

But if last season was a gauge, don't make any bets with your friends until late October.





UKS SOCCER

US SOCCER NEWS

US Soccer Developmental Squads Vital to MLS Future

By Trey Fitz-Gerald

Who will man the nets for D.C. United in 2005? What young striker will set Major League Soccer scoring records 10 years from now? Who will provide the link from offense to defense for the 2002 Colorado Rapids? Which left-sided playmaker will serve so many stellar passes into the MetroStars' offensive zone that the soccer world takes notice?

The answers to these questions quite possibly are found on the rosters of the United States Under-17, U-18, U-20 or U-23 National Teams, in a pool of players in regional Olympic Developmental Programs maintained by US Soccer, or from any one of a number of inner-city or sparsely-populated areas in the United States, waiting to catch the eye of the US Soccer staff.

These entities are essential for America to develop a depth of professionally prepared players, in order to compete with the rest of the world on the international soccer stage. The

greater the number of players who are exposed to international experience and professional-level training, especially at a young age, the stronger the possibility that these aspiring competitors impact both the United States National Team and Major League Soccer.

"Programs such as Project-40, the adidas ESP summer camp, and the developmental national teams build and teach the most important soccer instincts," says Tim Hankinson, Major League Soccer's Director of Player Development. "In addition to honing their skills on the field, they begin to see what it takes off the field - diet, focus, commitment - to succeed at the professional level."

Teens in the rest of the world, especially the soccer-mad countries of Italy, Germany and Brazil, begin training with older professional players when they are 14-16 years of age.

The rigorous training elements combined with the mentor aspect of this environment produces world-class players in



The MetroStars' Carlos Parra, a member of the United States Under-20 team, is part of the Project-40 program

their early 20s, such as Ronaldo (Brazil), Alessandro del Piero (Italy) and Mathias Sammer (Germany).

Major League Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation have collaborated on Project-40, which enables selected players from the US Under-20 and Under-18 teams to train with MLS teams, sometimes earning valuable minutes.

Players forgo their college eligibility in exchange for the opportunity to play several quality contests each year not just with their MLS and US squads, but also on loan to A-League (Division II) and USISL D3 (Division III) teams. The USSF Foundation also provides a scholarship, so that educational opportunities are preserved.

The large amount of games on American soil affords the US Soccer coaches - Steve Sampson (National Team), Clive Charles (Olympic/U-23), Jay Hoffman (U-20), Mitch Murray (U-18) and Jay Miller (U-17) - consistent opportunities to see their players play

against various levels of competition, in different combinations, and on an accelerated learning curve.

"The increasing wealth of the volume, quality and occurrence of competition not only bodes well for Major League Soccer, but for the sport as a whole in this country," says Hankinson, the former USISL Coach of the Year (Charleston Battery) and Big East Coach of the Year (Syracuse University). "This affects everyone involved in the sport, from our World Cup teams on down through MLS, A-League, USISL and college and high school."

If you're a 13-year-old aspiring player from East Los Angeles looking for a game, a young teen from the concrete jungle of New York City who wants to make a name for himself, or a talented player from any point in between, your name could answer this future trivia question: What Major League Soccer MVP scored the winning goal for the United States in the 2010 World Cup?



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