



HOME AND AWAY

WORLD SOCCER NEWS

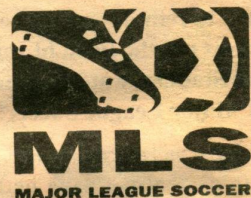
SPECIAL ISSUE

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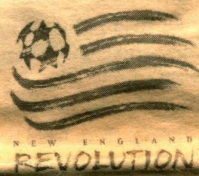


season preview

SAN JOSE CLASH VS. WASHINGTON D.C. UNITED



Above, USA and San Jose striker Eric Wynalda has already broken one significant record in 1996— but can lead his new club team to the first-ever MLS Championship?



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- ✿ THE EDITOR VOICES HIS HOPES FOR MLS
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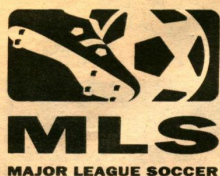
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Welcome, brave new league— it's about time

Here's hoping you'll be around for a long, long time



Just to remind you all before you get too carried away—no, this is not the twilight zone; and yes, you are sitting in Spartan Stadium watching (or about to do so) the inaugural game of Major League Soccer!

Not to sound too disappointed, but I think that we have perhaps waited a little too long for the MLS to finally get to this day.



**THE EDITOR'S
WELCOME
MESSAGE—
NOW THAT
MAJOR
LEAGUE
SOCCER HAS
ARRIVED...**

However, judging by the way that every team seems to have prepared, maybe the wait has been justified. Many of us forget what it takes to start a new company rather than put on a month-long competition, with reference to the World Cup.

Naturally, there have been a lot of naysayers, and I think right now (without mentioning any names) that they are, right now, eating crow—and a bloody big one at that!

I, for one, have never said that the U.S. was going to let down its soccer fans in bringing a real league to this vast land—and although we have only got ten teams, I think within a couple of seasons when (hopefully) we have eventually convinced all the other parties that soccer can make it in this country will we see a few more added to the mix.

Personally, I would have liked the league to start off with 14 teams. This would have been a better for the league and also stopped criticism from Europe, saying that the league lacks credibility.

However, the way that the league has armed itself with some top-quality players and managers gives the league the necessary tools in which to make it through the initial weening years.

Probably the biggest scoop that the MLS has been able to accomplish was the T.V. contract with ESPN and ABC Sports. Naturally we need the media to get involved with the game in the US, and one would say some coverage is better than

none. However, the coverage in the past was always a big negative towards the biggest game on the planet.

Even now, there are many national tabloids who will reiterate the misgivings of the past—namely hooliganism, nil-nil games and its boring taste spring immediately to mind whenever some deaf, dumb and blind commentator seeks to divulge into talking about a sport he or she barely knows anything about.

Depending where you come from in the world will obviously depend on how you look at any game. America has for the most part revolutionized the game in some respects. England, as many you will know has seen its dark days recently, however, non-qualification from World Cup-USA'94 acted in some ways as a blessing in disguise. The English saw how America prepared to stage the game, both from the management arena to the playing field. Hence, the English game has seen one of its biggest revolutions since 1966.

How will America change the game on the field of play is probably one of the bones of contention with most soccer fans. Recently, a proposal to widen the goals is under trial, as well as timeouts so our trusty advertiser can hit you with another bout of, candies, drinks, toys etc. And, unfortunately I think that we are going to see the implication of at least one of the above items. Fortunately—at least until FIFA has some official say-so—

MLS will be playing with the same-sized goals as is the global standard.

Getting back to MLS, remember that this is only the first game of a long and hopefully rewarding season. The start of qualification for the France'98 World Cup is underway, and with it comes even more coverage of the U.S. National team.

One thing which has struck me recently is the initial following of each of the conference teams is remarkably strong. The Worldwide Web is also acting as a catalyst not only for the American viewer to come up to speed on the top teams, marquee players, it has also acted as a very good media tool to let the rest of the world know that U.S. Soccer is ready to compete with the very best in the world—and believe me, once this league has secured itself then the rewards will be enormous.

Will there be a world championship in the offing for America? Probably not in 1998, but with the likes of Claudio Reyna and Juergen Sommer, the National team has two very young world-class players in which to build for the upcoming championship—more importantly, it (the USA) has at last identified that their youth wants to right to choose what it wants to play. Maybe the coaches of Baseball and Gridiron are too reserved to say it, but the writing has been on the wall for many years—soccer is finally getting its just rewards.

HOME AND AWAY WORLD SOCCER NEWS

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The Home And Away squad



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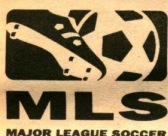
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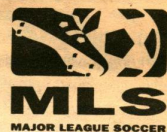
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EASTERN CONFERENCE PREVIEW



**WILLIAM W. OLSON,
AMERICAN
SOCCER
CORRESPONDENT,
LOOKS AT
MLS'S
BEASTS OF THE EAST**

PROSPECTUS: Teams playing in Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference, in terms of their projected ultimate order of finish, ought to be subject to more variables and subplots than their counterparts in the Western Conference.

Quite simply, the biggest query concerns the familiarity factor—just how long will it take for certain teams to find a rhythm and cohesion? There are far more teams in this conference who face this challenge than those in the other grouping. Otherwise, there are some very talented players who play for Eastern Conference teams, on attack and defense alike, who will do their part to make the league entertaining to watch in its initial season.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY METROSTARS

MANAGER: Eddie Firmani

HOME GROUND: Giants Stadium (capacity 77,000/26,691 for MLS)

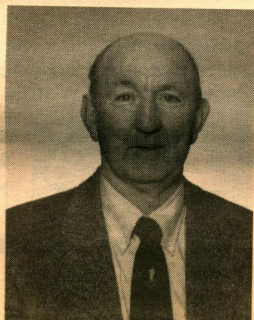
LOCAL TV: MSG (Prime Network affiliate), .. games

TICKET INFO: 1-(800)-330-4666 or (201) 531-2800

STRIP COLORS: Yellow, red, gray and black (Kits made by Nike)



ABOUT THE MANAGER: Firmani, a veteran of nearly 30 years of the coaching wars from various parts of the globe, returns to the scene of his best accomplishments, Giants Stadium, where he twice led the NASL's Cosmos to championships. While in the NASL, Firmani led the Tampa Bay Rowdies, as well as the '77 and '78 Cosmos to league



titles. Firmani has also coached teams on three continents, starting in England with Charlton Athletic before moving on to the NASL, and then proceeding to the Middle East in 1984, where he spent the next ten years between Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Firmani's playing career took him from Charlton to Italian Serie 'A' sides Sampdoria, Inter Milan and Genoa before returning to Charlton to finish his playing days. Born in South Africa and raised in England, Firmani—through his grandfather of Italian descent—represented Italy in full internationals on five occasions.

OUTLOOK: While the MetroStars' roster is far lacking the league-of-many-nations personnel he had with the Cosmos, Firmani does have a great deal of home-grown and international talent at his disposal. Skipper Peter Vermes, the former USA international, leads a list of talented strikers, which also includes fellow Jerseyite Jorge Acosta and USA Under-23 top scorer A.J. Wood. Former AC Milan and Italian World Cup star Roberto Donadoni, along with USA playmaker Tab Ramos, spur on what should be a very fluid midfield, and Firmani had enough faith in his defense—upon the prospect of drafting ex-Genoa man Nicola Caricola—to trade another high draft pick, hard man Troy Dayak, to the San Jose Clash.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Vermes and Wood up front; MFs Donadoni (who Firmani should plan to build the team around), Ramos and USA U-23 star Damian Silveira; D Caricola; ex-USA GK Tony Meola.

PLUSES: So many quality attacking options, especially through the midfield. Firmani, who should bring an atmosphere of *deja vu* to Giants Stadium. The wealth and balance of New Jersey- and international-based talent at Firmani's disposal.

MINUSES: With so much varied talent, who will sit—and will they be content doing so? There's only one ball for all these attacking midfielders. How will Firmani balance the team when all the USA U-23s are away? How's Meola's mindset entering the season?

PREDICTION: 1st in the East. Definite championship contender.

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

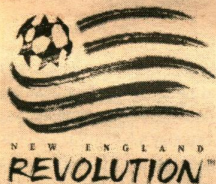
MANAGER: Frank Stapleton

HOME GROUND: Foxboro Stadium (capacity 60,312/22,365 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: 1-(800)-946-7287 or (508) 543-8200

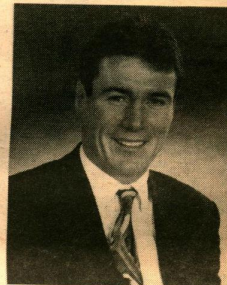
LOCAL TV: WABU-68. In total, 29 of New England's 32 games will be on TV. In other words, the Revolution will be televised... heavily.

COLORS: Red, white and blue (by Reebok)



ABOUT THE MANAGER: Frank Stapleton needs no introduction to fans of English and European soccer, for that he has one of the greatest track records of any player in the history of soccer leagues overseas. Stapleton, 39, the all-time leading scorer for the Republic of Ireland's national team with 20 goals in 71 appearances, played for 17 years on the European continent for such renowned clubs as Arsenal, Manchester United, Derby County and Blackburn Rovers in England, Ajax in Holland, and Le Havre in France. While in the English League, Stapleton holds the distinction of having played in more F.A. Cup finals than any other player in the long and storied history of that competition—having gone to Wembley five times, he played on three winning sides, twice with Man. Utd. and once with Arsenal.

While that F.A. Cup distinction should have a great motivational bearing on his play, it should fairly be noted that his great playing career has not as of yet translated into a steady managerial career. In less than three years, Stapleton has bounced around the English leagues from player/manager capacities with Huddersfield Town and Bradford City as well as an assistant coaching position with Queens Park Rangers last season. Perhaps New England will be his renaissance.



OUTLOOK: This should be an event-driven soccer summer in New England—with the USA Scotland and Liverpool-Juventus friendlies and U.S. Cup '96 going on, will the hometown MLS team be any exception? Stapleton has built his team around defense as Zak Ibsen, Canadian international Iain Fraser and USA international stars Alexi Lalas and Mike Burns line up in front of capable keeper Jim St. Andre. Stapleton's team ought to go forward just as easily as it stops opponents—Argentine Alberto Naveda has impressed in camp, as has Paul Keegan, the lone Dubliner on Stapleton's squad.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: The entire back-four, especially the partnership of Lalas and Burns; Fs Naveda, Yugoslav Bojan Vukovic and Italian Giuseppe Galderisi (Lalas' former teammate at Padova); USA U-23 star Imad Baba; MF John DeBrito ("a revelation" in camp, says Stapleton).

PLUSES: A strong defense—that simple. Lethal finishers in Galderisi, Vukovic, and Naveda.

MINUSES: Who will be the supplier from midfield?—Stapleton has hinted that Naveda or Vukovic may have to drop back. Who will step up when Lalas, Burns and Fraser are away on CONCACAF-based World Cup qualifying duty?

PREDICTION: 2nd, East. Foxboro will be hosting MLS's first-ever championship match—will the Revolution be a part of it?

TAMPA BAY MUTINY

MANAGER: Thomas Rongen

HOME GROUND: Tampa Stadium (capacity 74,301/16,000 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: (813) 289-6811

LOCAL TV: To be announced

STRIP COLORS: Chlorophyll green, midnight navy, chrome yellow, tropical blue (by Nike)



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Sun., April 14—Dallas vs. San Jose/KO 1 p.m.
Thurs., April 18—Dallas vs. Kansas City/KO 5:30 p.m.
Sat., April 20—New York/New Jersey vs. New England
or Washington vs. Los Angeles/KO 4:30 p.m.
Sun., April 21—San Jose vs. Kansas City/KO 1 p.m.

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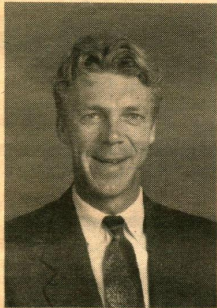


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CAN VALDERRAMA AND LASSITER INSPIRE THE MUTINY?

ABOUT THE MANAGER: Thomas Rongen, who will lead the Mutiny on its maiden voyage, has the luxury on his side of having been former teammates of two of the most charismatic and influential players from the old NASL—Johann Cryuff and Teofilo "Nene" Cubillas. But Rongen—who has been a fixture in Florida's soccer communities since 1981—was, during his playing days, a world-class player in his own right, and hopes that the experiences that he gained in a long and industrious playing career can rub off on his Mutiny players like playing with Cryuff and Cubillas once affected him.



To date, Rongen's credentials for being a manager in a domestic league leave him well-endowed. Prior to coming to the Mutiny, Rongen, 39, served as a player/manager with the APSL's Fort Lauderdale Strikers, leading them to a 73-62 record and one league title over six seasons. Simultaneously, Rongen served as the head coach of the men's soccer program at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, leading Nova to a 53-39-9 mark as well as frequent NAIA playoff appearances.

OUTLOOK: Rongen, to reflect on his days once upon a time playing with the likes of Cryuff and Cubillas, has something very close by focusing the emphasis of this team on Colombian

superstar Carlos Valderrama. Yet the flossy- and big-haired midfield maestro has plenty of support in attack, with USA international striker Roy Lassiter (who could at times be a withdrawn winger), Trinidad & Tobago international striker Evans Wise and last summer's A-League top scorer Peter Hattrup spearheading the Mutiny's forward sorties. Martin Vasquez, Frank Yallop and USA international Cle Kooiman spearhead what should be a hard-nosed defense.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Valderrama (definitely not past his prime); Lassiter; Wise; Hattrup; Kooiman; and GK Mark Dougherty—who may be the league's top 'keeper by season's end.

PLUSES: The attack, which promises to be quite creative—just watch Valderrama and Lassiter link up. Dougherty, long unheralded, should receive his due at long last.

MINUSES: Who will attack up the flanks? Team might be suspect to the odd counter-attack.

PREDICTION: 3rd, East. Given the right break or two, the Mutiny could be a darkhorse or a sleeper come playoff time.

WASHINGTON D.C. UNITED

CO-MANAGERS: Bruce Arena and Bob Bradley



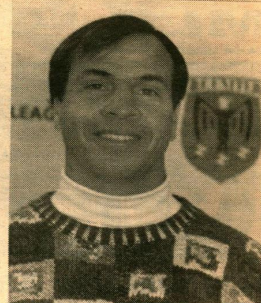
HOME GROUND: RFK Stadium (capacity 56,500/23,865 for MLS)

LOCAL TV: Home Team Sports (Prime Network affiliate), 19 games

TICKET INFO: (703) 478-6600

STRIP COLORS: Red, white and black (by adidas)

ABOUT THE MANAGER: For information about Arena, see the related feature on Page 9. Bradley—who will cover as the manager in charge when Arena is off on his other duty, as manager of the U.S. Under-23 National Team, the country's Olympic team-in-training—is reunited with Arena after leaving his post at Ivy League power Princeton University. Prior to taking charge of the Tigers in 1983, Bradley served as a top assistant under Arena at the University of Virginia.



OUTLOOK: Bruce Arena, whose honors included winning four straight NCAA titles and a staggering 83 percent of his games at the University of Virginia, has built what he hopes to be another winner by assembling eight ex-Cavs on the D.C. United roster, capped off by the supplemental draft-day trade acquisition of goalkeeper Jeff Causey from the Kansas City Wiz. But it is another pair of UVA alumni who will be United's centerpiece—USA internationals John Harkes and Jeff Agoos. United will go forward with the likes of Agoos, Harkes as well as Bolivian internationals Marco Antonio Echeverry and Juan Bertho Suarez, but will the defense have enough tact to keep the opponents out?

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Harkes; Agoos; Echeverry; back-line hard men Erik Imler, Clint Peay and Thor Lee.

PLUSES: A very competent attack, led by Harkes and Echeverry. The leadership of Arena. The UVA cohesion.

MINUSES: Will United have the same comfort zone and commitment under Bradley when Arena's away coaching the USA U-23s on Olympic duty? Will members of the back-four be together long enough at the same time—or will they be booked into submission? And after Harkes and Shawn Medved, who will anchor the midfield?

PREDICTION: 4th, East. Could be higher, but the Arena factor weighs as a heavy question-mark—perhaps the iffiest MLS has to offer.

COLUMBUS CREW

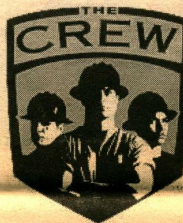
MANAGER: Timo Liekoski

HOME GROUND: Ohio Stadium (capacity 96,400/18,748 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: (614) 221-CREW [2739]

LOCAL TV: To be announced.

STRIP COLORS: Black, gold and metallic silver (by adidas)



ABOUT THE MANAGER: Timo Liekoski can best be described as a "lifer"—if not an outright coaching legend—in Ohio soccer circles. Liekoski, resident of Solon, Ohio, and a native of

Finland who attended college in the U.S. on the G.I. Bill, may have been in charge of every conceivable professional team the state has ever housed (i.e., the MISL's Cleveland Force, the NPSL's Canton Invaders), and led to championship-caliber situations. But, as an outdoor coach in the old NASL, Liekoski won Coach of the Year honors with the Houston Hurricane in 1978 after serving his apprenticeship under Ron Newman with the Dallas Tornado. Liekoski also went on to oversee the fortunes of the NASL's Edmonton Drillers.

Most recently, Liekoski served as an assistant to Bora Milutinovic and Steve Sampson with the U.S. National Team program before being appointed as manager of U.S. Soccer's Under-23 squad. But that was a head-coaching assignment which ended sour, when he was given the sack after the U-23s went winless and goalless in last year's Pan American Games in Argentina—this after the team had gone in as that Olympic-style tournament as defending champions.



OUTLOOK: This may be Liekoski's chance to redeem himself as a successful pro outdoor coach, after being ceremoniously dumped as the USA's U-23 boss. And the bevy of youth on this squad already makes for a daunting challenge ahead. But Liekoski does have at his disposal lots of international-caliber talent—South Africa's Doctor Khumalo, Uruguay's Adrian Paz, Canada's Mark Watson and USA defenders Brian Bliss and Paul Caligiuri lead the ranks. But with the likes of Brian Maisonneuve and Rob Smith, the Crew may be hit the heaviest come Olympic time. If any MLS managers get the sack in this first season, Liekoski may be the first to go—especially if the Crew start slowly and do not recover by the 4th of July.

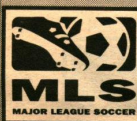
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Khumalo (coming off winning the African Nations Cup); Paz; Caligiuri; Watson; F Billy Thompson.

PLUSES: The leadership of Caligiuri and Khumalo. An undefeated preseason (3 wins, 3 draws) could bode well coming out of the gate. But it's a good thing MLS has no relegation issues to decide.

MINUSES: Too much youth. Can Brian McBride live up to being the league's top overall draft pick? Can Bo Oshonyi and Kevin East cut it at 'keeper? One could go on and on...

PREDICTION: 5th, East. Could challenge for the dishonor of being MLS's bottom club.

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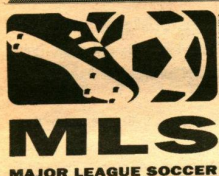
- SATURDAY, APRIL 13— TAMPA BAY MUTINY vs. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
VALDERRAMA against LALAS... a bad hair day?
LIVE FROM TAMPA STADIUM/KICKOFF 4:30 P.M.
- ALSO ON SAT., APRIL 13— LOS ANGELES GALAXY vs. NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY METRO-STARS
CAMPOS against MEOLA... goalkeeping clowns on display?
LIVE FROM THE ROSE BOWL/KICKOFF 7 P.M.
- SUNDAY, APRIL 14— DALLAS BURN vs. SAN JOSE CLASH
Managers DAVE DIR and LAURIE CALLOWAY renew their '90s rivalry
LIVE FROM THE COTTON BOWL/KICKOFF 1 P.M.
- THURSDAY, APRIL 18— DALLAS BURN vs. KANSAS CITY WIZ
LEONEL ALVAREZ and "SECCO" RODRIGUEZ vs. FRANK KLOPAS and "DIGITAL" TAKAWIRA
LIVE FROM THE COTTON BOWL/KICKOFF 5:30 P.M.
- SATURDAY, APRIL 20— NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY METRO-STARS vs. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
or WASHINGTON D.C. UNITED vs. LOS ANGELES GALAXY
LIVE KICKOFF AT 4:30 P.M., EITHER GAME
- SUNDAY, APRIL 21— SAN JOSE CLASH vs. KANSAS CITY WIZ
San Jose's WYNALDA and KC's TAKAWIRA headline an all-action showcase
LIVE FROM SPARTAN STADIUM/KICKOFF 1 P.M.

OTHER M.L.S. GAMES AVAILABLE— CALL FOR DETAILS

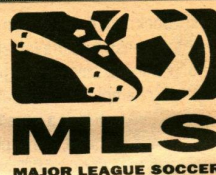
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WILL CLASH, RAPIDS GO NECK-AND-NECK FOR TOP SPOT?



WESTERN CONFERENCE PREVIEW



WILLIAM W. OLSON,
AMERICAN
SOCCER
CORRESPONDENT.
LOOKS AT MLS'S
WONDERS
OUT WEST

PROSPECTUS: Teams in Major League Soccer's Western Conference will stage a wide-open race for first place, as well as a maddening chase for the group's available playoff spots.

For the most part, expect nothing fancy in the West—except for good, old-fashioned, unabashed attacking soccer. That will be the conference's trademark of play, as this race may not be decided until the season's final weekend, come September 21 and 22.



SAN JOSE CLASH

MANAGER: Laurie Calloway

HOME GROUND: Spartan Stadium (capacity 31,218/19,166 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: (408) 985-GOAL (4625)

STRIP COLORS: Celery green, forest green, red, light teal, black (Kits made by Nike)

ABOUT THE MANAGER:

About Laurie Calloway, see related feature on Page 9. Calloway is backed up by Francisco Maturana Ruiz (assistant coach) and David Gold (goalkeepers coach).

OUTLOOK: Bay Area soccer icon Calloway appears to have given San Jose yet another winner in the city's storied pro soccer history. From an attacking standpoint, the Clash will quite simply be a delight to watch—with the likes of USA all-time top goalscorer Eric Wynalda, Jeff Baicher, Paul Bravo and even John Doyle and Troy Dayak coming out of the back, the ball will be in the back of the net quite often. And they may still be able to sign Mexico's top scorer Carlos Hermosillo to partner Wynalda. The defense, at least on paper, is solid, with Dayak, skipper Doyle, Nigerian world Cup star Michael Emenalo and the versatile Tim Martin all able to overpower opposing attackers.



PLAYERS TO WATCH: Wynalda (who could easily be MLS's MVP if he follows up his CONCACAF Gold Cup form); playmakers Baicher and Bravo; Doyle and Emenalo in the center of defense; and Dayak (few hard men come harder).

PLUSES: The overall attack, led by Bravo and Wynalda. The leadership of Doyle and Calloway. Their home pitch of Spartan Stadium—the league's narrowest field, while not conducive to wingers, allows Calloway to tailor his team precisely to his team's park.

MINUSES: When wingers are needed, will Altimont "Freddy" Butler and converted defender Ben Iroha (Emenalo's international teammate) cut the mustard? Can unproven 'keepers Dave Salzwedel and Tom Liner make a statement—or will it even matter on a team capable of scoring two, three or four goals in any given match? Can they fit Hermosillo under the salary cap?

PREDICTION: 1st in the West. Have all the pieces in place to win the league title.

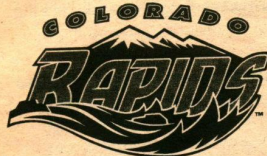
COLORADO RAPIDS

MANAGER: Bobby Houghton

HOME GROUND: Mile High Stadium (capacity 76,123/18,500 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: (303) 299-1599

LOCAL TV: To be announced.



STRIP COLORS: White, green, gold, blue and gray (by Puma)

ABOUT THE MANAGER: Bobby Houghton has never coached in Antarctica...it only seems like he has. Houghton, in returning to the climbs of North America where he once led the Toronto Blizzard to the NASL championship, has had an entire adulthood in which to shape his globe-trotting résumé.

"When I was 18, and playing for Fulham [in the English League], Bobby Robson, who was the coach there at the time, encouraged all his players to look ahead to the possibility of getting into the coaching profession. I took him up on it right away," says Houghton about one chance encounter with a man who would later become England's national team manager—and also about an odyssey which began back in 1968.

Since then, Houghton has spent the last 22 years in six countries over four continents, coaching a total of six different teams—Malmö FC (Sweden) twice, Ethnikos (Greece), Bristol City (England), the aforementioned Toronto Blizzard, Al-Ittihad (Saudi Arabia) in two tours of duty, and OIS Gothenborg (Sweden). In addition to the Blizzard, he has led Malmö and Al-Ittihad to championships, and in 1979—in only his fifth season as a top manager—he led Malmö to the prestigious European Cup Final before losing 1-0 to Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest.

OUTLOOK: Up front, Houghton has proven depth in Roy Wegerle, Jean Harbor, and South African international goalscorer Shaun Bartlett, a group which is capable of scoring a lot of goals. Midfielders Dominic Kinnear and Chris Henderson—both late rejects off Bora Milutinovic's USA 1994 World Cup squad—should combine well with Wegerle in playmaking endeavors. And USA captain and all-time caps leader Marcelo Balboa headlines a stout defense which includes former Norwich City skipper Ian Butterworth. A solid club, all the way around.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Wegerle; Harbor; Bartlett; Kinnear and Henderson, the strength of the squad in preseason, according to Houghton; Ds Balboa, Butterworth, Troy "Chopper" Edwards and Steve Trittschuh; GK Khalil Azmi, capped 70-plus times by Morocco.

PLUSES: The depth of proven, clinical finishers. The playmaking triangle of Wegerle, Kinnear and Henderson—all past or present USA internationals. Balboa's leadership, by example and otherwise. The winning reputation of Houghton. The thin air in Denver, which ought to cause crosses to stay afloat at least a split-second longer.

MINUSES: Houghton this past week said that even though he has Azmi, his team still needs "an international-class goalkeeper"—what does this say about the team's morale? Will the injury bug which plagued Wegerle at Coventry City bite him again? With all the attacking talent, who will sit—and will they be happy? The defense, though strong, cannot afford a long-term injury.

PREDICTION: 2nd, West. Could easily challenge San Jose for the top spot and, like the Clash and a couple of other teams from the East, a team of bonafide championship caliber.

KANSAS CITY WIZ

MANAGER: Ron Newman

HOME GROUND: Arrowhead Stadium

(capacity 73,873/24,500 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: (816) 472-GOAL (4625)

LOCAL TV: To be announced.

STRIP COLORS: Blue, orange, yellow, green, white and black (by adidas)



ABOUT THE MANAGER: Ron Newman has accomplished just about everything a manager in American soccer could possibly achieve since he started out in 1969. In the simplest terms possible, Newman is a living, breathing legend—having won a staggering total of 701 games, 61.1 percent of his games and a total of 13 championships split among five different teams in six different leagues over a total of 31 seasons, some overlapping within the same calendar year, in indoor and outdoor soccer alike.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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UPCOMING CLASH GAMES:

• SUNDAY, APRIL 14—DALLAS BURN vs. SAN JOSE CLASH
KICKOFF 1 P.M.

• SUNDAY, APRIL 21—SAN JOSE CLASH vs. KANSAS CITY WIZ
KICKOFF 1 P.M.

• SUNDAY, APRIL 28—LOS ANGELES GALAXY vs. SAN JOSE CLASH
KICKOFF 4:30 P.M.

• SAT., MAY 4—NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION vs. SAN JOSE CLASH
KICKOFF 4:30 P.M.

OTHER KEY M.L.S. GAMES:

• SATURDAY, APRIL 13—TAMPA BAY MUTINY vs. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
KICKOFF 4:30 P.M.

• SATURDAY, APRIL 13—LOS ANGELES GALAXY vs. N.Y./N.J. METROSTARS
KICKOFF 7 P.M.

• THURSDAY, APRIL 18—DALLAS BURN vs. KANSAS CITY WIZ
KICKOFF 5:30 P.M.

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OFFENSIVE WIZARDRY IN KANSAS CITY?

Such a track record made him a natural choice to be the first manager the league ever hired. "I came to Kansas City with a very short list of head-coaching candidates—one," said Wizg.m. Tim Latta upon announcing the hiring of Newman. "Ron Newman isn't just a winner, he's a champion. He's won championships in each of the last three decades, he has competed and coached internationally, and he's a remarkable ambassador for the sport," added Latta about the native of Portsmouth, England, whose playing career saw him wear the uniforms of Portsmouth, Crystal Palace, Leyton Orient and Gillingham before coming across the Atlantic to play for the NASL's Atlanta Chiefs in 1968 before taking his first coaching job in 1969 with the Dallas Tornado.

So what does Newman, after winning eight championships with the MISL's San Diego Sockers—four on the trot, twice—have to prove by coaching the Wiz? "I can't help it. Coaching's in my blood," he says. And about coming back to the outdoor game, which he's been away from for do long, it would seem? "I've never been that far away from it... I'm constantly watching it and tinkering around with ideas in my brain," he says.

We'll see if Newman still has the Midas touch.

OUTLOOK: The paradox surrounding Ron Newman's Wiz is fundamental: They will score lots of goals, but will they prevent enough from hitting the back of the net from the other direction? Newman does have a large enough caché of attacking talent in which to build an offensive system around, with the nucleus being USA international Frank Klopas, former Jamaican international Peter Isaacs, Paul Wright and Eric Eichmann, and—perhaps the find of all at this position—Zimbabwean star Vitalis "Digital" Takawira. While Newman can afford to drop some of his surplus strikers back into midfield to complement sublime playmakers Preki and Mark Chung, he may not have enough quality in his defense. Tommy Reasoner and Cameroonian international Samuel Ekeme may not be enough.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Takawira, perhaps the cream of the African players entering the league—he will score goals in literal bundles; Klopas; Preki and Chung; defensive midfielder Mike Sorber (alias, "the son Bora Milutinovic never had").

PLUSES: Potentially, an unstoppable attack with plenty of options and depth. Newman's niché for innovation.

MINUSES: Can the Wiz score enough goals to make up for what might be a porous defense? Will GK Garth Lagerwey be an adequate cover when Chris Snitko is away on USAU-23 duty? Newman has been away from the outdoor game, from a hands-on viewpoint, for the last 12 years—has the game passed him by?

PREDICTION: 3rd, West. A playoff cert—beyond that, may not win the championship, but will determine who does.

DALLAS BURN

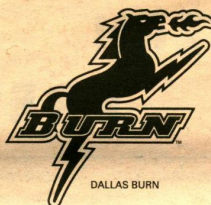
MANAGER: Dave Dir

HOME GROUND: Cotton Bowl (capacity 67,700/25,425 for MLS)

TICKET INFO: (214) 979-0303

LOCAL TV: PrimeNetwork Southwest

STRIP COLORS: Red, green and black (by Nike)



Dir, who has in-laws in the Dallas-Fort Worth area ("So this is like coming home to me," he says), rather relies on his record as a championship-winning manager with the APSL's Colorado Foxes, having won those titles in 1992 and '93.

OUTLOOK: Dir, arguably the most successful domestic club manager in the '90s, puts his credentials to the test in a hurry as his best defender Tom Soehn blew out his ACL during camp and is out for the season—this for a coach who builds his teams around defense. Even still, Dir had the Burn playing very physical in their preseason friendlies, fouling the opposition a minimum of 22 times per 90 minutes. Latins Hugo Sanchez (Mexico) and Leonel Alvarez (Colombia) should provide pizzazz up front, and Ted Eck can score, too. The midfield is as good as one gets with Alvarez, Chad Ashton, ex-Millwall favorite John Kerr Jr. and Trinidad and Tobago international Brian Haynes, and Mark Dodd is an outstanding 'keeper. But will this team survive without Soehn, its defensive kingpin?

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Alvarez (watch him emerge from Valderrama's shadow); MFs Washington "Secco" Rodriguez (Uruguay's reigning Footballer of the Year), Kerr and Haynes; Sanchez up front, Dodd in goal.

PLUSES: A capable attack, led by Alvarez, Rodriguez, and Eck. The cohesion of five ex-Colorado Foxes (including Ashton, Dodd, Haynes and Mark Santell), who played for Dir in the early '90s. Dir's as good as any tactician in American soccer.

MINUSES: The loss of Soehn may have a huge impact—will it cause the Burn to miss the playoffs? At 37, does Sanchez have enough left to compete at the highest level?

PREDICTION: 4th, West. May not look pretty—but Dir will make this team cause problems for the opposition. Their strip looks like Arsenal's, but they may wind up playing like Wimbledon.

LOS ANGELES GALAXY

MANAGER: Lothar Osiander

HOME GROUND: Rose Bowl (capacity 100,092/28,000 for MLS)

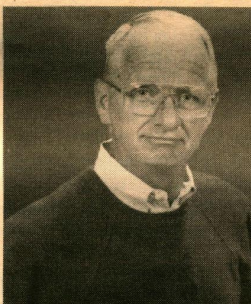
TICKET INFO: (800) 817-KICK (5425), or (310) 445-1260

LOCAL TV: To be announced—but likely on Prime Network

STRIP COLORS: Orange, yellow, blue and black (by Nike)



ABOUT THE MANAGER: It stands as common knowledge that virtually every struggling actor has to wait tables waiting for his or her big break to get into show business. But soccer coaches? In the case of Lothar Osiander, it's true.



While serving as the long-time coach of the semi-pro San Francisco Greek-Americans, Osiander paid his dues as a professional waiter at Graziano's, an upscale Italian eaterie in San Francisco's Financial District—all this while building up a reputation as a high-class soccer coach.

From the Greek-Americans, Osiander was hired by U.S. Soccer to take charge of the Olympic and National teams from 1986-89 and the Olympic team alone through the 1992 Barcelona Games. During this period, Osiander developed such future national team stars as Paul Caligiuri, Peter Vermes, John Harkes and others—all while the

United States was without a top-flight league.

After the last Olympic gig, Osiander—who finds that he doesn't have to wait tables anymore—was hired by the A-League's Atlanta Ruckus, a 1995 expansion team, in addition to serving as a consultant to U.S. Soccer's coaching department.

As far as coaching the Galaxy, Osiander sees it no different than any other professional challenge he's faced. But what does he get the greatest thrill out of in his profession? "Winning. And getting the most out of my players," he says, matter-of-factly.

OUTLOOK: Osiander, who doesn't seem to reap enough credit for developing U.S. Soccer's stars on the international stage in the '80s, may have to do his best coaching job here with the Galaxy. Cobi Jones leads the team with his scintillating sorties up the wings, but will they score enough goals? After Salvadoran Mauricio Cienfuegos, there is no other proven goalecorer. World-class 'keeper Jorge Campos may have to play up front! The defense, however, is solid, with Robin Fraser and Mark Semoli in the ranks, is a solid unit in front of Campos. One other note from the Galaxy camp: Andrew Shue (yes, he of "Melrose Place" fame) has been working out with the Galaxy and drawing rave reviews. Don't laugh; he just might make this team better.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Campos; Jones (and his sheer speed on the wings); Cienfuegos; Fraser and Semoli.

PLUSES: Crowd-pleasing Campos. It may be a young team, but Osiander works well with under-developed talent.

MINUSES: No apparent depth up front. The first six games—which includes home-and-aways with Washington and San Jose—could see the Galaxy go without a win; can they survive it? Is Shue going to be a real player, a publicity stunt, or even a distraction to this team?

PREDICTION: 5th, West. Could sneak into MLS's eighth and final playoff spot depending on how much Osiander gets out of his players and to what degree losing Soehn hurts Dallas.

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Cienfuegos vs. Tab Ramos—KICKOFF 7 P.M.

Sunday, April 14... DALLAS vs. SAN JOSE

Leonel Alvarez vs. Eric Wynalda—KICKOFF 1 P.M.

Thursday, April 18... DALLAS vs. KANSAS CITY

"Secco" Rodriguez vs. Preki—KICKOFF 5:30 P.M.

Sat., April 20... NY/NJ vs. NEW ENGLAND

and/or WASHINGTON vs. LOS ANGELES

KICKOFF for both games at 4:30 P.M.

Sun., April 21... SAN JOSE vs. KANSAS CITY

Wynalda versus "Digital" Takawira/KICKOFF 1 P.M.

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Home And Away — World Soccer News



The UNOFFICIAL Eric Wynalda Interview



The USA and San Jose striker talks about his prolific—and controversy-laden—career to date

With apologies to many international-class players in the CONCACAF region, including Caio of Brazil, Ramon Ramirez or Raul Rodrigo Lara of Mexico, Claudio Reyna or Tab Ramos of the USA, or even Dwight Yorke or Arnold Dwarika of Trinidad & Tobago, no other player had a better Gold Cup last month than the USA's Eric Wynalda. The 26-year-old native of Westlake Village, California, attained this status at this time by doing what he does best—scoring goals.

Although Wynalda's goalscoring prowess and abilities cannot be doubted—he led all Gold Cup scorers with four goals en route to becoming the U.S. National Team's all-time leading goalscorer, now with 22—Wynalda is, in truth, a solid all-around player. In fact, if he keeps playing the way he did at the Gold Cup, he will be MLS's MVP, as a member of the San Jose Clash, in the league's first season... guaranteed.

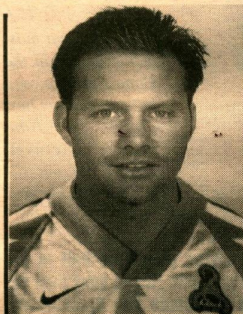
At the state of his game being where it is right now, can Eric Wynalda be considered a member of that rare category of player known as "world-class"? If he isn't there now, he's awfully close," Colorado Rapids and USA sweeper Marcelo Balboa told me about Wynalda during the course of the Gold Cup.

Yet Wynalda has had to pay his dues in getting to where he is today. He has had to endure his share of public controversies—none more notable than when, in 1992, then-San Francisco Bay Blackhawks manager Laurie Calloway threw Wynalda off the team for what at the time was termed "acts of insubordination". However, that turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as that allowed Wynalda to ply his trade in Europe, in the German Bundesliga, where he developed his game both professionally as well as personally.

And, oddly enough, he and Calloway have patched up their differences to the point where the two are now reunited with the Clash.



INTERVIEW
BY
WILLIAM W.
OLSON,
AMERICAN
SOCCER
CORRESPONDENT



Above, USA and San Jose Clash striker Eric Wynalda—can he keep up his prowess of scoring great goals like he has in the World Cup, Copa America and the Gold Cup over the last two-and-a-half years?

A.: Sure, we may have deserved to win that game—but just look at the evolution of progress we've made against Brazil. Four years ago [in a friendly in Fortaleza], we lost 3-0 in a game where we just went in to defend; we really didn't belong on the same field with them. Then we played them in the U.S. Cup [in 1993], losing 2-0 by basically playing them the same way. Then came the World Cup [second-round] match, where we lost 1-0 with both teams essentially

down to ten men apiece. There we didn't play well at all, but since then we've played them a lot better.

And then there was the Copa America, where we played them well. We were proud of ourselves in the respect that we played them well enough to win, rather than to lose against ten men. We came away from that saying, "Next time, we'll get 'em," and now [at the Gold Cup] we lose via

the own goal. I think we're working ourselves up the ladder—next time, we may tie them, and then we may beat them outright.

Q.: But what about the fact that the last six times you've played Brazil, from the Fortaleza match inclusive, four of those times the matches have been decided by the odd Brazilian goal either a quarter-hour within the start or end of the match? There has to be a significant amount of pain there, true?

A.: Really, we don't have that much further to go... When you check your watch 60 minutes into the game and it's still zero-zero, you say, "We have to win this," rather than, "We have a chance to win this." At that rate, all we really have to do is turn it up a notch in order to beat them.

Against a Germany, an Italy, an Argentina, (dramatic pause) a Brazil, the first time you make a mistake—it's like a bad boxer against a very good boxer, catching one in the eye and looking at the mat after the first mistake, wondering what happened. They capitalize on your mistakes, like all good teams do. Right now we are getting very good on capitalizing on other teams' mistakes, whether they happen very seldom or very often—but we have to stop making mistakes ourselves. And that's how we will beat the elite.

Q.: Going into the Gold Cup final, between Mexico and Brazil, Mexico had threatened to play the whole tournament under protest if they had lost to Brazil. Eventually, that did not happen. But does a statement like that, with regard to the second-place play-off which a Brazil win would have created, hint that Bora Milutinovic is trying to duck the USA?

A.: Are you implying that he is scared to play against us?

Q.: Maybe. Do you think so?

A.: I do think that Bora does not want to play against us.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Wynalda sat down with me recently at the Clash's executive offices in Santa Clara, Ca., for nearly 45 minutes, discussing matters such as the USA's Gold Cup performance, the coming of Major League Soccer, his experiences in the Bundesliga, and his up-and-down, halcyon days with the Blackhawks. Following are excerpts from what was a highly candid interview.

Q.: First question... your overall impression of the USA's performance at the Gold Cup?

A.: What the Gold Cup proved to me was that despite our third-place finish, we're still the force we were during Copa America [last summer]. And it was very important for us to prove that, to show that it was no fluke, and I think we achieved that goal. But compounded by the fact that we don't get together as a collective unit all that often, it really astonishes me how well we play when we actually do get together. All the top players, we don't seem to miss a beat.

Q.: You seemed to do very well with Joe-Max Moore partnering you up front—but he played extensively only because Ernie Stewart had to pull out with a late ankle injury. Just how much did you miss Ernie?

A.: A lot, really. But the depth of the talent level we have now shows how well any player can step into the starting lineup and produce.

Q.: Many of my peers at the Gold Cup felt that the USA had the best and most entertaining side. Do you concur?

A.: We might very well have been, but you have to give Mexico credit [for winning it]. And my hat's off to Bora [Milutinovic]—in the final against Brazil, he made sure he kept six, seven, eight men behind the ball, particularly when they were holding a lead. And he succeeded by having his team play a tight, physical game against the Brazilians. Bora just simply had the perfect gameplan. And let's not forget that he has developed and used the young players which he has at his disposal very well, to a point where they could win the tournament.

Q.: Given the way your team lost the semifinal—losing 1-0 by an own goal, despite dominating Brazil so heavily—tell me this: Just how badly do you want

Sunday climax to English Premiership season

Same-day, simultaneous May 5 fixtures hope to capture same season-ending spirit as last year's dramatic clincher

The final Premiership games of the English League season have once again been moved back 24 hours to allow live television coverage. Premier League chief executive Rick Parry announced that the precedent set two years ago and continued last term would apply this season as well.

It means that the games due to be played on Saturday, May 4, will be played on Sunday, May 5, with all the matches kicking off at 1600 GMT and BSkyB able to show games live. Last season, the

final days saw the title decided in the most bizarre of fashions, with Blackburn winning their first championship since 1914 despite losing at Liverpool because of Manchester United's failure to win at West Ham.

Parry said that the decision to move all the scheduled fixtures had been taken in the interest of fairness.

"This will be the third year that the final fixtures of the season have been moved by 24 hours," he said.

"The decision to move all games will enable the Premier League to ensure that no club receives an unfair advantage by playing their final match later than anyone else."



However, not every game will have to be moved. Parry explained: "Clubs may apply to have their final game moved back to the Saturday if the game in question has no bearing on the Championship, qualification for the UEFA Cup or relegation issues."

Last season the Endsleigh League Division One program, which finished a week ahead of the Premiership, was also moved back a day to allow for live televised coverage, although similar plans for this season have yet to be detailed.

April 6, 1996





WYNALDA ON SAMPSON: "...HE BELIEVES IN US MORE THAN WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES"

But looking at the Gold Cup, that tournament was designed for a Mexico-Brazil final. Brazil was given five days rest before their [semifinal] game with the United States, while we were getting one. And Mexico was given adequate rest to play against Guatemala, while Guatemala also had one day's rest before their semifinal [against Mexico]. When you look at that, it means that Guatemala is supposed to lose, coming off one day's rest—and America's supposed to lose, coming off one day's rest as well. You do the math.

If you're the organizer of the Gold Cup, you want a USA-Mexico second-place playoff. You have Azteca Stadium, the L.A. Coliseum, or possibly the Rose Bowl, plus TV rights—125,000 people, at least, at Azteca at \$25 a shot plus TV rights, plus "BOR-A, BOR-A, BOR-A" in the Coliseum, with the money that goes along with those TV rights. I would want that if I'm organizing the playoff because it's still a part of CONCACAF.

Q: You've just described a two-legged, home-and-away, money-spinning cup tie with championship implications—one that would be a "win-win" situation for all involved. If that's the case, then why would Bora want to duck it?

A: A "win-win" situation? Not for Bora. Bora can only lose. But the people organizing the games, they're the only winners out of that. There's just too much money changing hands.

Q: So then Bora could, regardless of winning or losing the playoff, only come out on minus side?

A: Oh, he's got a good side, but he knows that it's not easy to play against the United States anymore. Steve Sampson has said, "Bring him on." If that's our attitude, we'll play the game. He can't beat us.

Q: Describe what the U.S. National Team's chemistry is like right now.

A: When we played Brazil last summer in the Copa America, our coach, Steve Sampson, said, "We have to get on this team." The one thing we're realizing about Steve Sampson is that sometimes he believes in us more than we believe in ourselves. And that's unfortunate, because we as a team now are a close-knit group. We believe in ourselves now, but we cannot doubt ourselves anymore because, playing against Brazil, we came out and we were unsure of what we could do. But if we don't play, we don't have a chance. It's a shame we had to go a goal down in order to realize this. But we're young and we're learning.

Q: Speaking of Steve Sampson—do you think you've become a better attacking player under him than when Bora was your mentor?

A: I don't think I've become a better player; I think that I've fit better into a system. It goes back to the confidence factor, I think—this is just my opinion, and not a criticism of Bora, or of Steve, for that matter—but Bora believed in positioning. He would say to us, We keep our position or we are dead. If we lose position, we are dead."

...Steve Sampson, on the other hand, says, We are going to try to keep our position. We are going to try to keep the same position Bora has taught us. We are going to try to. But we are going to go forward. And I'm going to ask each and every one of you to make the commitment to get back and cover for the other players, because I believe in you as a coach that you will do it. And I'm putting you on the field because I know that you want to win. And this is how we can win."

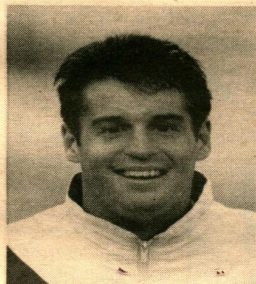
Now what this does to the rest of the players is that it says, "The coach has enough faith in me and my abilities going forward. I'll make that commitment because he believes that I can score a goal if I go forward." And he's not going to tell me, "Don't go forward"—you can't put restrictions on players like that. What Steve Sampson says to me—and I'm not going to be milk-and-cookies or a nice guy all the time—is that he's never put a restriction on me. Steve's gift is that he knows what we do well as individuals and tells us to do it collectively as a team. Each individual player is given one instruction by him—"Go out and do what you do best on the field, and I'll figure out how that works out for us as a team."

Yet you will see, on occasion, guys like John Harkes sitting on the bench. Or even a Tab Ramos sitting on the bench. But that's because [Sampson]'s a coach, and he's asked that from his team to understand. Frankie Klopas didn't play one minute in this tournament—and that is unbelievable because he is one of our best players. But Steve went to him and said, "This tour-

namment is not your tournament. I need you to understand that. I believe in you as a player and I love you as a player, and you'll always be a part of this team. However, I've got to try something new." And that was Jeff Agoos. If you have Jeff Agoos on the field, you cannot have Frankie Klopas on the field. Sometimes things work out that way.

Q: Therefore, has it become mindboggling to you just how deep this team has become?

A: Frankie Klopas is a great example, as far as his reaction to not playing. This is the guy who scored the first goal against Argentina and scored the winning penalty kick against Mexico [in the Copa America]—



there's no question how important he is to this team, but he sat for four games and just watched, trained every day and waited for his chance. ...Tab Ramos sat out most of the games in the Copa America, and he's one of our best players. John Harkes (pictured below) sat out the

first game against Jamaica in the 1993 Gold Cup, because Bora asked him to be a team player.

Q: Now you're back playing your club ball in the 'States, with the San Jose Clash. Given your past experiences with the San Francisco Bay Blackhawks, winning championships there—does it feel like your career has come full-circle in the last four or five years?

A: I have a way about me, that I am very honest; anyone in this soccer business, who has played with or against me, could attest to that. If you ask me a question, I give you an answer. But there was a time where with some of the answers, it was not the time to talk about them.

...Back in '92, for instance, with Laurie [Calloway], there were some issues I addressed that didn't need to be dealt with. I was upset with the management, and I was upset that this was a very good team and one which wasn't playing well at the time. I chose to voice my opinion—and that's all it was, my opinion. At that time, it wasn't the right thing to do. ...As a player, I used to get very mad when things weren't going well on the field, resorting to cheap shots and making "very young" mistakes—after all, young people tend to make mistakes.

But being on the field now, I have found that the most important part about winning is being a team player, and winning as a team. Being an individual is one thing, and doing well individually is great—but I had a bad way of dealing with it before. I made it a personal battle, and that doesn't help the team. Being in Europe, I've just become a better professional. Not so much of a better player, but a better professional. I think I've just been able to channel all of my energies into becoming a better professional. Before, there were always little things going on in my head, and I believe I've dealt with them.

...I still believe that team could beat 75 percent of the second-division teams in Germany and 50 percent of the first-division teams in Germany.

...[And] I'll tell you what—if someone threw together the best lineup you could put together of players from the San Francisco Bay Area, it would get a UEFA Cup place every year, and it would finish in the top six in Germany, France, or any other European league, every year.

—Wynalda on his days with the APSL's San Francisco Bay Blackhawks, and the general quality found in Bay Area-bred players

Q: But having played in Europe, like you've said, isn't coming back to America to play in MLS a bit of a sacrifice for you and your career?

A: You know, I've pondered the same thought. I talked to Steve Sampson about coming back, and he said something very unique to me that made me feel a lot better. I said to him, "What do you think about me coming back to play in MLS?", and he said, "As a coach, I'm going to say, 'Great! You're going to be available to play and help me qualify for the World Cup [in 1998].'"

So I said, "What about it affecting the way I play? Will it make me a better player or a worse player?" And he said, "I think you know that now. I think you have not [only] become a better player since 1987, when I tried to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

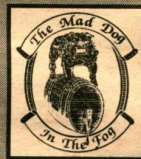
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Quiet, shy Arena looking for results; "natural" Calloway ready to rebuild a champion



Bruce Arena, who was hired as manager of Washington D.C. United on January 3, 1996, may in fact be the closest-watched manager in all of Major League Soccer, in this maiden season for the USA's new league. Is this, as an action, prudent? Perhaps not—if anyone other than a journalist were claiming to practice this, it would be considered tacky. But given Arena's influence, reputation and current status on the American soccer scene, it is an entirely just statement to make.

Reasons abound to explain why this manager will be scrutinized so closely. For starters, Arena is looked upon from afar as a collegiate coaching legend—over an 18-year reign at the University of Virginia by winning five NCAA championships outright, including four in a row over the last five years, and maintaining a winning percentage greater than 80 percent while stationed at the Charlottesville campus.

While at UVa, some of the best American players have participated in Arena's program, including national team and World Cup standouts Tony Meola, John Harkes, Claudio Reyna and Jeff Agoos, and he has also groomed USA U-23 Olympic hopefuls Clint Peay, A.J. Wood, Damian Silveira and Mike Fisher as UVa undergraduates. No matter how you look at it, Arena's reputation for success with the Cavaliers is very respected—not to mention a tough act to follow.

And speaking of the USA's U-23 Olympic squad... Arena was named its manager on October 24, 1995, succeeding Timo Liekoski, who was later installed as manager of the Columbus Crew. The 44-year-old Arena faces a lot of pressure with the Olympic team alone since it was expected to do so well under Liekoski yet went winless in three matches in last year's Pan American Games in Argentina.

"Bruce was really our only choice for the job," said Alan Rothenberg, U.S. Soccer president, at the time of Arena's Olympic appointment. Further specifying Arena's winning consistency as reason enough for Arena's hiring, Rothenberg was hopeful that Arena would also be in line for any MLS team's position, for which he'd have to depart Charlottesville, for which Rothenberg had a vested interest since he, too, happens to be MLS's chairman and CEO.

So the questions persist. Can Arena make the jump from college to the pros? Can he make the U-23s competitive enough to challenge for a medal 18 months after faltering in a major age-group competition?

Above that, just how effectively can Arena juggle the simultaneous jobs in charge? And how will his D.C. United players respond when he's away on U23 and Olympic duty?

His collegiate reputation for winning ought to serve as a strong starting point towards answering these questions.

"Bruce Arena has been an integral part of [UVa's athletic department] for 18 years and has always represented the very best that the University of Virginia has to offer," UVa's athletic director Terry Holland mused on the occasion of Arena's resignation for the greener professional pastures of D.C. United.

"Bruce's record as a coach speaks for itself... He possesses all the traits I wanted for the head coach at D.C. United. And that he will also add to our sales and marketing efforts because he has tremendous identification with this area is just icing on the cake," said D.C. United g.m. Kevin Payne upon announcing Arena's hiring.

What Arena has relied upon as the man in charge of both posts is an incredible faith in relying upon players he's won with before. This may be a common trend among coaches and managers in MLS, but only Laurie Calloway—who sits on the bench opposite Arena in MLS's inaugural match—has taken this trend to a greater extreme than Arena has.

Eight UVa alumni litter D.C. United's opening-day roster, and the likes of Harkes, Agoos and Peay just dot the top of the list. In addition, Arena has at his disposal a solid list of players who, like Harkes and Agoos, who've proven themselves at the international level in Bolivian stars Marco

Antonio Echeverry and Juan Berthy Suarez, plus the deadly finishing of El Salvador's CONCACAF Gold Cup star Raul Diaz Arce.

As far as playing style, Arena is a traditionalist via the modern game, opting to attack from a 4-4-2 formation while employing a sweeper. From this formation, Arena prefers to build from the back, utilizing his wingers to the utmost in his system. When all things are considered, this is just the icing on the cake when he pursues winning with D.C. United and the USA's U-23s by doing it the Virginia way.

Arena (pictured above left) may be, quite decidedly, a quiet, shy and reserved man. But if he continues to let his results do his talking for him, he and his teams should have no problem winning through 1996.

On the opposite bench sits San Jose Clash manager Laurie Calloway—a favorite of Bay Area soccer fans since his days as a defender for the North American Soccer League's San Jose Earthquakes from 1974-79—who was seemingly the only choice to head up Major League Soccer's San Jose Clash when his hiring was officially announced last December 7. And as natural as his appointment seemed to be at the time, Calloway has since wasted little or no time in re-assembling the pieces of a team he had previously coached to a championship just five years before MLS's opening campaign.

But, at least as importantly, his hiring continues a love affair he has had with the Bay Area, and specifically the environs of San Jose, ever since the first time he set foot on American shores back in 1974.

"When I first came to this country, I was hoping that soccer would succeed here, and finally we have a first-class professional soccer league. To be a part of it, and to be a part of it in my home, in the Bay Area, is something I've wanted very much," said Calloway upon his hiring to head up the Clash on the field.

How much does Calloway love the San Jose area? A particular incident from his playing days as a member of the Earthquakes seems to speak volumes about this.

Following the 1975 season, when the 'Quakes were seeking to rebuild, g.m. John Carbray sought to trade Calloway to their in-state rivals, the Los Angeles Aztecs, in a deal that would bring goalscorer striker Juli Vee to San Jose. Calloway refused to report to the Aztecs, citing that remaining in the Bay Area to raise his family was more important to him than anything. After all, Calloway had enjoyed a 12-year career in the English League, playing for clubs like Blackburn Rovers, Wolves, Shrewsbury Town and Stoke City, so he knew first-hand about the rigors and rewards of top-level soccer. He was simply ready for the next phase of his professional life.

A public row involving Calloway, the Aztecs and the Earthquakes ensued, and one which ended when the Los Angeles team relented and let Calloway remain with the Earthquakes. And the 'Quakes' loyal fans never let him forget his allegiance to their team and the area, capped off when team captain Calloway received the key to the city from then-San Jose Mayor Janet Gray Hayes—an honor usually reserved for politicians and other figures of public service—upon his retirement as a player in 1979.

Another fact Calloway (pictured above right) cited during his days with the Earthquakes was his desire to get into coaching. And Calloway, 50, has since proven to be, quite simply, a winner—boasting a 118-82-8 record over ten professional seasons spent with the American Soccer League's Los Angeles Lazers, the NASL's California Surf and Seattle Sounders, the American Professional

Soccer League's Salt Lake Sting and San Francisco Bay Blackhawks.

But getting a manager's job in a top-flight soccer league based in the United States, and specifically in the San Jose area, has always been his long-term goal. But it is one which has seen him endure considerable pain and sacrifice in the journey en route to his destination, putting him through "losing a couple of homes... and going through a divorce" and not to mention a good deal of considerable income otherwise.

And in getting the coaching job he has always wanted, even the Clash's top brass confess that he was a natural for the position.

"Given Laurie's history in the area, a lot of people say he's the obvious choice for the job, but what's more important is that he's the right choice," said Clash g.m. Peter Bridgewater upon announcing Calloway's hiring. "He's a man who I won a championship with in 1985—and he's the one I want to win a championship again [in MLS]," added Bridgewater, reflecting upon Calloway's stint as manager of the Earthquakes in the team's post-NASL incarnation as members of the Western Soccer League.

That was not Calloway's only championship success in San Jose. As a player, following the Aztecs row, he captained the 'Quakes to the NASL's Southern Division crown in 1976, then coached the Blackhawks to the APSL championship in 1991. Calloway also saw the 'Hawks cruise deep into CONCACAF play the following season, venturing into the semifinals of the Champions Cup before being ousted by eventual champs Club America of Mexico.

As he heads up the Clash, Calloway says, "We will look for players who like to attack, and we will play a style that emphasizes the attack," while seeking to achieve this with as many ex-Blackhawks as possible. The latter portion of the equation, so far, has been a success, as no fewer than nine former Blackhawks off that 1991 title team are now sporting the Clash's colorful strip.

Among the members of that team who are reunited with the Clash include U.S. National Team all-time leading goalscorer Eric Wynalda, striker Jeff Baicher, midfielders Paul Brwallo and Paul Holocher and defenders John Doyle and Troy Dayak. Add foreign internationals Mike Emenalo and Ben Iroha (both from Nigeria) and Jamaican Altimont "Freddy" Butler, and Calloway has at his disposal a mind-boggling total of ten players who, at one point or another in their careers, have represented their country at the topclass international level.

And this does not even include the Mexican League's top scorer, Carlos Hermosillo, rumored to link up with the Clash. At press time, the Clash and MLS had yet to agree on a transfer fee with Hermosillo's present club team in Mexico, Cruz Azul.

Is Calloway excited about having all these capped players? He said after the opening day of MLS's first player draft, "Of the 12 players we have, nine play for their [respective] national teams. I've never coached a team with nine internationals on it—and we may wind up with even more. I'm actually quite excited by that... We've got a tremendous team."

And about the cohesion factor created by reuniting all those ex-teammates? "It's a big edge [in MLS] if you know guys who already have a compatibility," he says. "It gives you a head start over others in this league when that's already done for you," adds Calloway.

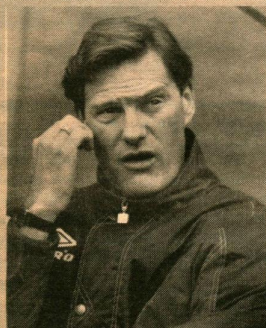
So do the Clash have what it takes to be a winner? Given Calloway's panache for recognizing and blending local and international talent alike, his record as a championship-caliber manager and how hard he has sacrificed to get this job with the team, plus the intangible called "karma," it's quite possible. The San Jose Clash, under his leadership, even have all the ingredients—on paper, at least—to contend for Major League Soccer's first championship.



Hoddle's the man for the job— Kinnear

Glenn Hoddle is destined to become England manager, believes FA Cup rival Joe Kinnear. The

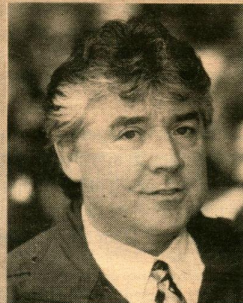
Wimbledon manager takes his 40-1 quarter-final outsiders to **Stamford Bridge** boosted by their Boxing Day win there. But an afternoon spent playing soccer war games with the Chelsea boss (pictured below left) has taught Kinnear not to



underestimate someone he has watched closely since Hoddle was a youngster emerging as the sun set on his own career at Tottenham. "Two weeks ago the Premiership sponsors Carling arranged a lunch with me, Glenn and Gerry Francis (current Spurs manager), chaired by Terry Venables, when we met and discussed football and the way it's shaping up," revealed Kinnear.

"We spent about six hours on the tactic board, defending and attacking against each other. It was very interesting. "Obviously we discussed England. Both Glenn and Gerry have the ability to be the next England manager, without any shadow of a doubt.

At the moment they don't want the job or feel the time is not right.



"But Glenn has all the right credentials and I have no doubt that, if not now, then one day he will end up as England manager, that's for sure. "Being Irish it's probably too late for me to throw my

hat into the ring. Mind you, I'm on first-name terms with all the officials at Lancaster Gate," he laughed!

Five out six on a knife's edge— Euro leagues set to go down to the wire

With just one month left in the major European leagues the heat is on for the likes of Manchester United, Barcelona, Paris Saint Germain and Glasgow Rangers—all leaders in their European countries' respective top leagues.

In England, while Manchester United and Liverpool were busy advancing their merry little ways to the F.A. Cup Final—2-1 over Chelsea and 3-0 over Aston Villa, respectively—Garry Flitcroft was sent off after just three minutes of his Blackburn debut and then watched as the defending (and soon to be ex-) champions slipped to a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Everton at Ewood Park. Flitcroft, a £3.2-million arrival from Manchester City, was dismissed after clashing with Tony Grant and Duncan Ferguson. Daniel Amokachi fired the Merseysiders ahead after 71 minutes and Andrei Kanchelskis then scored twice after 75 and 89 minutes against a Rovers side who could not cope with the loss of Flitcroft—and injured Alan Shearer.

Queens Park Rangers grasped a Premiership lifeline and plunged Southampton deeper into the relegation quicksand with a vital 3-0 victory in the basement clash at Loftus Road. Rangers boss Ray Wilkins, who had demanded maximum points from his side's last six matches as a minimum requirement for survival, had the extra boost of seeing his side climb off the bottom of the table above Southampton and Bolton following the Lancashire club's draw with Manchester City. Defender Rufus Brevett grabbed his first senior goal after 23 minutes, Daniele Dichio's 11th goal of the campaign after 59 minutes, and Kevin Gallen's 77th-minute strike completed a fine win.

But at least the Saints remain out of the bottom three as Coventry City's second-half collapse allowed Tottenham Hotspur to boost their challenge for a European place with a 3-1 win at White Hart Lane. Skipper Dion Dublin gave the Sky Blues an interval lead with his 16th goal of the season after 21 minutes, but Teddy Sheringham brought Spurs level after 51 minutes and Ruel Fox put them ahead a minute later before completing the scoring on 65 minutes.

Niall Quinn scored the fastest goal of the day for desperate Manchester City after one minute and 20 seconds against rapidly-improving Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. But the visitors were hanging on for a vital point after John McGinlay brought Wanderers level after 74 minutes—especially after Nicky Summerbee was sent off a minute later for his second bookable offense.

As mentioned, Bolton swap places with QPR at the bottom of the table, but the relegation equation is now even more complicated following the latest set of results. At least Wimbledon eased their worries, substitute Dean Holdsworth's 81st-minute strike—his 16th of the season—giving the Dons a 1-0 victory over Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park.

Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson, under intense pressure following last Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup final hammering by Aston Villa, warned his critics that he was not ready to quit before the Elland Road clash with fading Middlesbrough. But Wilkinson saw his woes increase with a 1-0 defeat, Graham Kavanagh settling the issue from the penalty spot after Lucas Radebe's fourth-minute foul on Nick Barnaby.

Wilkinson's mood would not have been helped by the loss of 'keeper John Lukic through injury at halftime—he was replaced in goal by Radebe—and a 48th-minute penalty miss by skipper Gary McAllister.

In Italy, French midfielder Marcel Desailly and striker Marco Simone scored second-half goals as injury-hit AC Milan beat Piacenza 2-0 to open up an eight-point lead at the top of the division with seven games left.

Desailly slotted in Roberto Baggio's 51st minute corner and Simone—playing his first game since fracturing his jaw earlier this month—netted his seventh goal of the season 15 minutes later.

Elsewhere, third-placed Fiorentina rallied with two goals in six minutes from Sandro Cois and Pasquale Padalino to end Inter

Milan's six-match winning streak 2-1 after Felice Centofanti had given them the lead. Italian international Giuseppe Signori scored a hat-trick to lead Lazio to a 3-0 win over Vicenza. AS Roma stayed even on points with Lazio by defeating Bari 2-1. Cremonese boosted their chances of staying in the first division by beating bottom club Padova, 2-1

Veteran forward Roberto Mancini scored twice to help Sampdoria to a 4-2 rout of Udinese in a late match interrupted by a stadium power cut. The lights went out as the players left the field at the end of the first half with the score 1-1. The power returned, although not completely, 40 minutes later and the referee ordered play to resume despite poor visibility. Former Italy international Mancini put visitors Sampdoria ahead after 31 minutes. Striker Oliver Bierhoff, who scored both of Germany's goals in their 2-0 win over Denmark last Wednesday, headed in Udinese's equalizer in first-half injury time. When the lights returned, Sampdoria dominated. Mancini turned in winger Enrico Chiesa's cross in the 55th minute and Chiesa scored his 16th goal of the season 10 minutes later from a breakaway. Croatian midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic's free kick slipped through reserve goalkeeper Attilio Gregori's hands in the 72nd minute to put Sampdoria 4-1 up before striker Francesco Marino notched his first Serie A goal in the 76th minute for Udinese.

Bayern Munich struck a major psychological blow in the German league's title race when they beat reigning champions Borussia Dortmund 1-0 to go top of the table Saturday night.

A superb goal from German international midfielder Mehmet Scholl in the 38th minute steered the record Bundesliga champions to a crucial victory in an intense top-of-the-table clash played before a capacity 63,000 crowd in Munich.

Bayern now have a two-point lead over second-placed Dortmund but have played one more game than their rivals.

However, the victory was marred at the end

when Scholl struck a Dortmund's Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat in the face in front of millions of television viewers.

Scholl said afterwards that he was sorry about the incident. "I will apologize. I did not mean it to be bad," he said. But Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said: "I think it's sad when a top player like Scholl loses his nerve." Bayern trainer Otto Rehhagel added: "He is a top player but he has a lot to learn. "He shouldn't have done that... If he wants to be a real world-class player, he must show class on and off the pitch."

The first half featured four yellow cards and few goalscoring chances until former German international captain Lothar Matthaus struck a perfectly-weighted pass from midfield to Scholl on the right-hand side of the box.

The diminutive midfielder, who is likely to play a leading role in Germany's European Championship campaign in June, lobbed the ball perfectly over Dortmund 'keeper Stefan Klos into the left-hand corner.

With third-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach 10 points behind Dortmund despite a 2-0 victory at struggling Eintracht Frankfurt, the title race is very much a two-horse race.

In Portugal, Benfica won 3-1 at Boavista to secure second place in the Portuguese first division—despite being reduced to 10 men from the 35th minute. Defending champions Porto have a comfortable 10-point lead with a game in hand. Bobby Robson's men meet Uniao de Leiria at home Sunday.

In Spain, a lucky goal by midfielder Oscar Garcia was enough to give Barcelona a 1-0 victory over struggling Albacete, a result which keeps Johan Cruyff's side still in the race for the Spanish title.

Barcelona had allowed Albacete to take control of the game in the first half but the Catalan side came out strongly after the break. And they went ahead in the 52nd minute when Abelardo

Fernandez rose to meet a cross from Guillermo Amor.

The ball broke kindly for Garcia, who side-footed home the winner. With eight games left to play after this weekend's fixtures, Spanish fans are already eagerly anticipating Barcelona's game with Atletico in the Nou Camp stadium scheduled for April 20, which will almost certainly decide the destiny of the championship.

Real Madrid did arch-rivals Barcelona an unexpected favor when they beat Spanish





YOUR FIXTURES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER SEASON

Colorado Rapids

Sat., Apr 13 @ Kansas City
Sun., Apr 21 @ Dallas
Sun., May 5 @ Kansas City
Wed., May 8 @ San Jose
Sat., May 11 @ Tampa Bay
Thurs., May 16 @ NY/NJ
Sun., May 19 @ Columbus
Sat., May 25 @ New England
Wed., May 29 @ Dallas
Sun., June 2 @ Washington DC
Sat., June 8 @ Tampa Bay
Wed., June 12 @ New England
Sat., June 15 @ Dallas
Wed., June 19 @ Columbus
Wed., June 26 @ Los Angeles
Sun., June 30 @ Los Angeles



Columbus Crew

Sat., Apr 13 @ Washington D.C.
Sat., Apr 20 @ Tampa Bay
Sat., Apr 27 @ NY/NJ
Th., May 2 @ Kansas City
Sun., May 5 @ Dallas
Sat., May 11 @ New England
Wed., May 15 @ Washington DC
Sun., May 19 @ Colorado
Sun., May 26 @ Los Angeles
Sat., June 1 @ San Jose
Sat., June 8 @ Kansas City
Wed., June 19 @ Colorado
Sat., June 22 @ Tampa Bay
Th., June 27 @ New England
Sun., June 30 @ NY/NJ
Th., July 4 @ Tampa Bay



Dallas Burn

Sun., Apr 14 @ San Jose
Th., Apr 18 @ Kansas City
Sun., Apr 21 @ Colorado
Sun., Apr 28 @ Tampa Bay
Wed., May 1 @ Washington
Sun., May 5 @ Columbus
Sat., May 11 @ Kansas City
Sat., May 18 @ Washington DC
Th., May 23 @ Tampa Bay
Wed., May 29 @ Colorado
Sun., June 2 @ NY/NJ
Sun., June 9 @ San Jose
Sat., June 15 @ Colorado
Wed., June 19 @ NY/NJ
Sun., June 23 @ New England



Kansas City Wiz

Sat., Apr 13 @ Colorado
Th., Apr 18 @ Dallas
Sun., Apr 21 @ San Jose
Th., May 2 @ Columbus
Sun., May 5 @ Colorado
Wed., May 8 @ Tampa Bay
Sat., May 11 @ Dallas
Sun., May 19 @ Los Angeles
Wed., May 22 @ NY/NJ
Wed., May 29 @ San Jose
Sat., June 1 @ New England
Wed., June 5 @ Tampa Bay
Sat., June 8 @ Columbus
Wed., June 12 @ Washington DC
Sat., June 15 @ New England



New England Revolution

Sat., Apr 13 @ Tampa Bay
Sat., Apr 20 @ NY/NJ
Sat., Apr 27 @ Washington DC
Sat., May 4 @ San Jose
Sat., May 11 @ Columbus
Sun., May 19 @ NY/NJ
Sat., May 25 @ Colorado
Sat., June 1 @ Kansas City
Th., June 6 @ Los Angeles
Wed., June 12 @ Colorado
Sat., June 15 @ Kansas City
Sun., June 23 @ Dallas
Th., June 27 @ Columbus
Sun., June 30 @ Washington DC
Th., July 4 @ Los Angeles
Sat., July 6 @ San Jose



Los Angeles Galaxy

Sat., Apr 13 @ NY/NJ
Sat., Apr 20 @ Washington DC
Sun., Apr 28 @ San Jose
Sun., May 5 @ Washington DC
Sun., May 12 @ San Jose
Sun., May 19 @ Kansas City
Sun., May 26 @ Columbus
Sat., June 1 @ Tampa Bay
Th., June 6 @ New England
Sun., June 9 @ NY/NJ
Sun., June 16 @ Tampa Bay
Wed., June 26 @ Colorado
Sun., June 30 @ Colorado
Th., July 4 @ New England
Sun., July 7 @ Kansas City
Wed., July 17 @ Dallas



NY/NJ MetroStars

Sat., Apr 13 @ Los Angeles
Sat., Apr 20 @ New England
Sat., Apr 27 @ Columbus
Sun., May 4 @ Tampa Bay
Sun., May 12 @ Washington DC
Th., May 16 @ Colorado
Sun., May 19 @ New England
Wed., May 22 @ Kansas City
Th., May 30 @ Washington DC
Sun., June 2 @ Dallas
Sun., June 9 @ Los Angeles
Sun., June 16 @ San Jose
Wed., June 19 @ Dallas
Wed., June 26 @ Kansas City
Sun., June 30 @ Columbus
Th., July 4 @ Colorado



San Jose Clash

Sat., Apr 6 @ Washington DC
Sun., Apr 14 @ Dallas
Sun., Apr 21 @ Kansas City
Sun., Apr 28 @ Los Angeles
Sat., May 4 @ New England
Wed., May 8 @ Colorado
Sun., May 12 @ Los Angeles
Sat., May 18 @ Tampa Bay
Wed., May 29 @ Kansas City
Sat., June 1 @ Columbus
Wed., June 5 @ Washington DC
Sun., June 9 @ Dallas
Sun., June 16 @ NY/NJ
Sun., June 23 @ Washington DC
Sun., June 30 @ Tampa Bay
Sat., July 6 @ New England
Wed., July 17 @ Colorado
Sat., July 20 @ Columbus



Tampa Bay Mutiny

Sat., Apr 13 @ New England
Sat., Apr 20 @ Columbus
Sun., Apr 28 @ Dallas
Sat., May 4 @ NY/NJ
Wed., May 8 @ Kansas City
Sat., May 11 @ Colorado
Sat., May 18 @ San Jose
Th., May 23 @ Dallas
Sat., June 1 @ Los Angeles
Wed., June 5 @ Kansas City
Sat., June 8 @ Colorado
Sun., June 16 @ Los Angeles
Sat., June 22 @ Columbus
Sun., June 30 @ San Jose
Th., July 4 @ Columbus
Fri., July 12 @ Washington DC



Washington DC Utd.

Sat., Apr 6 @ San Jose
Sat., Apr 13 @ Columbus
Sat., Apr 20 @ Los Angeles
Sat., Apr 27 @ New England
Sun., May 5 @ Los Angeles
Sun., May 12 @ NY/NJ
Wed., May 15 @ Columbus
Sat., May 18 @ Dallas
Th., May 30 @ NY/NJ
Sun., June 2 @ Colorado
Wed., June 5 @ San Jose
Wed., June 12 @ Kansas City
Th., June 20 @ Kansas City
Sun., June 23 @ San Jose
Sun., June 30 @ New England



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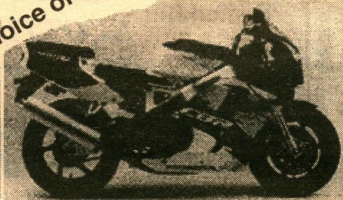
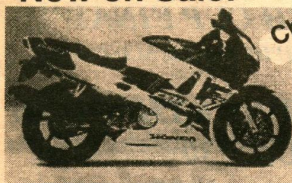
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