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WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A FORWARD'S WORST NIGHTMARE



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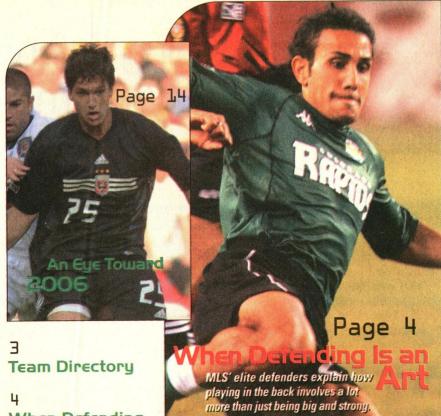
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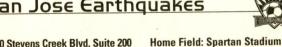
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When DEFENDING IS An Art

What it takes to be

a great defender

sk most soccer fans their opinion of what a good defender should do for a team, and you'll get answers that vary as widely as the players themselves. Stereotypes, such as the image of the burly fullback with missing teeth and legs like tree trunks, still exist in the minds of some. But modern soccer has come a long way from the truths that gave rise to such images.

"The game now cannot sustain a defender who is purely a defender and does nothing else," said MetroStars Head Coach Octavio Zambrano. "Those guys (pure defenders) are a dying breed, because inevitably you end up with the ball at your feet. You better know how to do something good with it, or you aren't going to stay on the team, because it's too much of a liability."

So has defending become an art form in and of itself? At least one MLS head coach believes that it has.

"For sure, it is an art," said Bob Bradley, head coach of the Chicago Fire. "I think that when you see the very best defenders, you are talking about players that are not just big and strong or hard-nosed. It's the reading of the game, the way they close down angles and organize people around them. That's the art."

No one hesitated when asked to name the best defenders in the League. San Jose captain Jeff Agoos and Chris Armas of the Fire were unanimously selected by coaches and players alike as epitomizing how far MLS has come in defensive capabilities.

"Jeff Agoos is probably the best in the League right now," Zambrano said. "He is a mature player who doesn't need to run and challenge with speed. He positions himself in the right place."

For Galaxy Head Coach Sigi Schmid, a team's defending goes hand-in-hand with its attacking.

"In soccer there are two scenarios," Schmid noted. "You either have the ball and want to keep it, or you don't have the ball and you want to get it back. So good defending is what you need to do if you want to play offense. Armas has a tremendous ability to win the ball back."

To understand a little more of what goes on defensively in a soccer game, it is necessary to talk a little about formations, of which there are basically two in common use.

In a 4-4-2 formation-the most popular, with four defenders, four midfielders and two forwards-there are two central defenders and two wing backs.

In a 3-5-2 formation, there are only three defenders-two outside backs and one central defender-who will mostly stay in a defensive role with a defensive midfielder (known as a stopper) acting as a "wind-shield wiper" in front of them. There are also more attack-minded 3-5-2 and 4-3-3 configurations, but the defensive responsibilities remain the same.

So the MLS defenders of today-the three or four players in the defensive back line and the defensive midfielder-have much more on their minds than simply stopping an opponent from scoring.

Young players, who grew up watching the offensive contributions of modern defenders, demand more of themselves in terms of contributing to the offensive aspect of their team. Simply clearing the ball into Row ZZ is no longer their primary weapon, but a last resort.

"Although a defender's main objective is still to destroy and distract, the days of a defender who only did that are over," the Galaxy's Alexi Lalas said. "Defenders are now required to attack, start attacks and be involved in attacking."

The modern era of soccer began in the mid-60s after Sir Alf Ramsey's England, dubbed "The Wingless Wonders," won the World Cup in 1966 playing a 4-4-2 that used George Cohen and Ray Wilson as overlapping players coming down the wings out of the defense.



Alan Yamamoto/MLS/Getty Image:

When DEFENDING Is An Art

Four years later, Brazilian fullback Carlos Alberto brought the new idea to a pinnacle, and Brazil stormed to the world championship, beating Italy 4-1 in the final.

"It changed the dynamics and created a new breed of defender, which we now call the wing back," Zambrano said. "The term describes it exactly. It's a winger who plays in the back, or more precisely, a back playing as a winger."

Not surprising, MLS coaches are more than willing to let their defensive charges join the ranks of the goal-scoring players in front of them. In the 2001 season, the Galaxy's Ezra Hendrickson scored five goals from his right back position, every one of them a game-winner, and was subsequently named the team's most valuable player.

Ted Chronopoulos is another such player, tallying 16 goals in his time as a defender, fourth highest on the New England Revolution scoring list.

In 1974, the world saw the rise of another defensive development when eventual World Cup winner West Germany and Der Kaiser Franz Beckenbauer showed how central defenders could also become a force in the attack. The graceful Beckenbauer, called by many the world's best player at the sweeper position, would swoop into the offensive half of the field and cause havoc.

"The sweeper in the mold of Beckenbauer is pretty much over," Zambrano said. "Spending that much time on the ball is a risky proposition, because you are immediately under pressure."

Although the days of the marauding sweeper have since passed, the influence of Beckenbauer is still felt today in the way that defenders now look to use their ball skills to move their team up the field. What used to be simply a negative force has now become a positive one.

"What has happened over time is that defenders have become better athletes and better soccer players," Schmid said. "If you watch really good defenders, they have the ability to win the ball, not only by bullying a forward off the ball, but also by stepping into passing lanes."

Bradley noted that it is important to look at the different roles assigned to wing backs and their central defending brethren.

"I think you need to differentiate with those players," the Fire coach said. "The role of wide defenders coming forward and joining the attack becomes very important. Roberto Carlos of Real Madrid epitomizes that role. Central defenders can't come forward in the same fashion, but you need them to help by playing out of the back, by passing the ball over short and long distances. Both contribute to the attack in different ways."

What does it take to make a great defender? According to the coaches and players who were asked, the answer to that simple question turns out to be more complex than most people would think.

"Positioning, having the ability to read the ball, one-on-one defending and distribution are all key's to defending," said Agoos, who has played the position since sixth grade. "You have to be a complete player. You have to be thinking one step ahead of what the opponent is thinking."

Anticipation and organizing the defense together with the goalkeeper is now a large part of the job for the modern central defender.

"You see everything in front of you," Lalas said. "When the ball is up the field and we are not heavily involved, we have time to look around and organize and preempt things. Seeing where danger lies is key to being a defender."



Stephen Dunn/Getty Image

When DEFENDING Is An Art

Eddie Pope (D.C. United) has been a top-level defender in MLS since the League's inception. For him, the most demanding part of his role as a defender is the constant focus needed during the game.

"As a defender, concentration level is one of the most important things," he said. "It's different on the other end of the field-if you make a mistake you can also score as a forward. In midfield you can also lose the ball and there are defenders behind you. But as a defender, you are pretty much it before the goal. You really have to concentrate hard for 90 minutes and not make any errors that can lead to goals against your team."

The Colorado Rapids' Pablo Mastroeni added, "There is a fine line between a perfect game and an awful game as a defender, especially in the back line. One bad play can cost you the game."

Playing defense asks a lot of a player, yet they get little recognition in return. U.S. Men's National Team assistant coach Glenn Myernick said that is simply part of the game.

"Most of the work that a defender does is without the ball," he noted. "When an opponent wants to pass the ball to an attacker that is being marked, the defender can be in such a good position that the passer needs find another option. Maybe by the time he finds that option he gets closed down. The defender has made a very good play to cause that to happen. Nobody knows about it, but it has changed the course of the game."

Llew Llewellyn is a co-founder of Cyber Soccer Associates and managing editor of cybersoccernews.com.



The National Guard

The 2002 World Cup will signal the end of many current U.S. players' international careers. Of all the defensive players on Bruce Arena's roster, probably only Steve Cherundolo, Pablo Mastroeni (Colorado Rapids) and perhaps Eddie Pope (D.C. United) seem likely to continue their international play for any length of time. So who will be in the next wave of defenders to fill the national team shoes of Jeff Agoos and Carlos Llamosa?

Two names came up every time MLS coaches and players were quizzed: The Chicago Fire's Carlos Bocanegra and The Los Angeles Galaxy's Danny Califf.

"Pablo Mastroeni, on the basis of his performance with the national team, has shown that he is a player for the future, as is Danny Califf."

Califf, Galaxy Defender of the Year as a rookie in 2000, seems confident that the new crop of U.S. defensive players will be able to fit the bill when the time comes.

"The changing of the guard will happen with players who have been playing professionally since they were 21, rather than players coming out of college at 23-24," Califf said. "That only bodes well for U.S. soccer."

Jim Curtin, also from the Fire, was another player to watch, according to Alexi Lalas, who noted that it takes more than physical ability to become a good defender.

"Chicago has had a lot of good young defensive players," Lalas said. "Bocanegra and Jim Curtin have come along, as has Nick Garcia of Kansas City. Physically, they are fast and strong and can run around, but their abilities to control emotions and settle things down come with time."

Califf agreed with his veteran Galaxy sidekick and has a few names of his own to add to the list.

"Pablo Mastroeni plays well; Carlos Bocanegra is in that class; and some of the players that were on the U.S. Under-20s with me, Nick Garcia and Rusty Pierce," Califf said. "These are guys Bruce (Arena) will look at."

De la crisis

a Las oportunidades

Dario Fabbro sale de

la Argentina agitada por

la crisis económica y pone

su empeño en triunfar en

los Estados unidos.

I nuevo delantero de los Kansas City Wizards, Darío Fabbro, sabe lo que es el placer y el privilegio de poder ganarse la vida como un jugador profesional de fútbol. Es un gusto poder jugar como profesional pero como cualquier empleo, al final del día: "Yo soy un jugador profesional y tengo que jugar por dinero," dice Fabbro.

El atacante argentino se unió a los Wizards escapando una situación comprometedora en Ecuador con el popular equipo Emelec, el cual afectado por la crisis económica que azota a Sudamérica, no pudo saldar una deuda con el jugador. La situación en su natal Argentina es aun peor.

"No puedo seguir acumulando deudas," dice el ex jugador de Huracán de Argentina. "Es una gran oportunidad venir a la MLS y poder vivir en los Estados Unidos con mi hijo de 2 años."

Fabbro, de 26 años de edad, dice que la MLS es percibida en el extranjero como una liga muy seria donde se trabaja ordenadamente y que se proyecta como una de las mejores ligas del mundo. "Estamos (los argentinos) familiarizados con la MLS," dice Fabbro. "ESPN transmitía todos los partidos. Muchos jugadores juegan o han jugado con la selección de EE.UU. como Tony Meola, Preki, (Peter) Vermes y (Roy) Lassiter. También conozco a otros jugadores como (Ariel) Graziani y (Marco) Etcheverry."

Observando partidos de la temporada actual, Fabbro estima que los cotejos son general-



mente muy cerrados, evidencia de la paridad entre los equipos y que "el nivel de juego esta subiendo y la liga es extremadamente competitiva."

Fabbro, quien también jugó con Concepción de Chile y estuvo bajo préstamo con el Barcelona de España, se caracteriza a sí mismo como humilde y un hombre de pocas palabras. "Todos verán lo que puedo hacer dentro de la cancha. Las palabras quedan de más," asegura.

Como todo delantero su misión es muy clara: anotar goles. También como todo delantero, Fabbro ha tenidos partidos muy productivos y partidos para el olvido. Recordando una ocasión singular en la que empezó mal y termino bien, Fabbro nos cuenta acerca de las "galletitas mágicas."

"Recuerdo que antes de un partido nocturno me encontraba muy nervioso. Había comido poco. Me perdí la comida de las 5 p.m. Durante el partido un aficionado del equipo rival ofuscado me tiró un paquete de galletas golpeándome en la cabeza. Entonces lo abrí y me lo comí. Diez minutos más tarde anote un gol. ¡Las galletas tenían las proteínas y vitaminas que necesitaba para marcar esa noche!"

Entre sus supersticiones menciona su habito de meter a su hijo a la cancha antes de los partidos y de tratar de imitar su rutina después de un partido productivo. Por ejemplo: "Si juego bien y anoto goles, trato de comer lo mismo y a la misma hora y de sentarme en el mismo lugar en los camerinos. También trato de usar los mismos botines que me dieron un resultado en el partido anterior."

A pesar de su amplia experiencia, jugar en la MLS representa un nuevo inicio para Fabbro. "Esta oportunidad me llega en un buen momento en mi carrera. Me siento como un novato otra vez."

Tab dice adios al fútbol

Tab Ramos, el legendario futbolista uruguayo / estadounidense, se retirará del fútbol profesional al final de esta temporada

Tab Ramos, considerado como uno de los mejores jugadores estadounidenses de todos los tiempos, se retirará del fútbol profesional al final de la actual temporada de la MLS segun lo anunció el propio jugador el pasado 14 de mayo en una conferencia de prensa en Nueva Jersey.

Ramos hizo el anuncio en la escuela

secundaria St. Benedict's Prep, la cual atendió como niño, acompañado por el Comisionado de la MLS Don Garber, Tony Meola y John Harkes, ambos ex compañeros de equipo con la selección de EE.UU. y también productos locales de Nueva Jersey. También presentes junto a Ramos, el gerente general de MetroStars, Nick Sakiewicz y el sacerdote Edwin Leahy, rector de la escuela St. Benedict's Prep.

"Realmente pienso que este es el momento para retirarme," dijo Ramos. "Este deporte ha significado tanto para mí y ha sido una parte integral de mi vida y siempre lo será. Pero prefiero saber que me retire un año más temprano que un año muy tarde."

Nacido en Uruguay, Ramos formó parte de "La Selección de Todos" en los mundiales de 1990, 1994 y 1998. Anotó ocho goles en 87 partidos, incluyendo uno contra Costa Rica, el 7 de septiembre de 1997, para una victoria 1-0, que resultó ser crucial para la clasificación al mundial del año siguiente en Francia.

"La MLS estará agradecida por siempre al espíritu pionero de Tab Ramos," dijo el Comisionado Garber. "Además de ser el primer jugador en firmar con la Liga, la devoción de Tab a la fomentación de nuestro deporte en los Estados Unidos ha servido como inspiración para todos nosotros."

Ramos, de 35 años de edad, llegó a militar en Figueres (1990-1992) y Real Betis (1992-1995), ambos de España y en Tigres de México (1995-1996). Ramos, quien actualmente milita con MetroStars, fue elegido junto a Marcelo Balboa para formar parte del "Equipo del Siglo Mastercard" de la región de CONCACAF en

1998 junto a otras luminarias del área incluyendo a Hugo Sánchez de México.

También se le recuerda por el fuerte codazo que el brasileño Leonardo le propinó en la cabeza en un partido de la segunda ronda del mundial de 1994 disputado en Estados Unidos, y que Brasil ganó 1-0.

Hijo de un futbolista profesional, Ramos emigró a Estados Unidos en 1978 a los once años y debutó con la selección Sub-20 de EE.UU. a los 15 años. Ramos fue el primer jugador firmado por la MLS, el 3 de enero de 1995.



David Cannon/Getty Image

An Eye Toward

What will the U.S.

World Cup Team look

like after Korea/Japan?

he current U.S. Men's National Team boasts an eclectic mix of young and veteran players, a somewhat older roster than previous American World Cup squads. But with young stars rising through the ranks of Major League Soccer, a younger squad is expected for World Cup Germany.

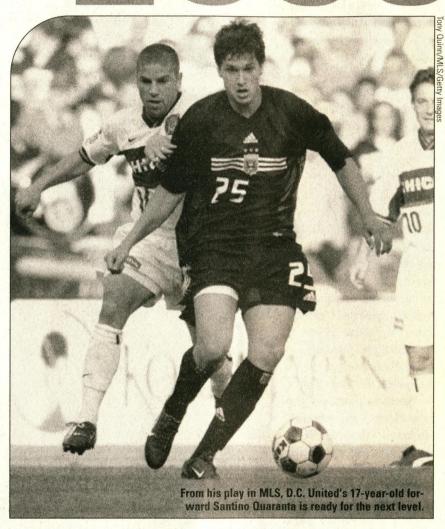
"Who knows what the team will look like in 2006?" U.S. Men's National Team Head Coach Bruce Arena said. "I'm sure there are players we haven't even heard of that can be part of it."

The average age of the U.S. World Cup Team is approximately 28, but some players feel that will come down in the future.

Earnie Stewart, the 33-year-old, all-time leader for the U.S. in World Cup qualifying appearances (27) and goals (nine), along with World Cup veterans Brad Friedel (31), Kasey Keller (32), Jeff Agoos (34), Cobi Jones (31) and Claudio Reyna (29), may be winding down their U.S. National Team careers with World Cup 2002. But Stewart feels that the national team is in good hands with the heir apparents quickly making their way up the ranks.

"I think we have a good mix right now of young kids and older guys on the team, and that's just the evolution of soccer. That's the way it's going to be," Stewart said. "If we just had old players on the team right now, I suspect there would be difficulties in the future. Right now, where things are going with MLS and everything, it's going to be good."

"The national team is going to be a lot younger," said U.S. and Chicago Fire midfielder DaMarcus Beasley, who, at 20, is the second-youngest member of the 2002 World Cup squad. "We're going to have a lot of young talent. The average age should be 25 or 24 in four years."



Beasley is one of the fastest rising stars in MLS, and he is known for his electric pace accompanied by strong dribbling and shooting skills. Before the 2002 World Cup, Beasley made his case for a starting spot when he scored twice, showing why coach Arena selected him for the squad despite his limited appearances (nine) for the national team at the time.

Beasley's fellow 20-year-old on the national team is Landon Donovan, regarded by many as one of the best young talents the U.S. has ever produced. He led his San Jose Earthquakes to the MLS Cup title last season, scoring five times in six playoff matches in 2001.

Donovan, who has 20 caps with the national team, credits MLS for the opportunity to showcase his skills domestically.

"MLS is the single best thing to happen to youth soccer and our national team," Donovan said. "It's fantastic. It's the best way to get into the environment that you need to be in to get to the national level."

While Donovan and Beasley are regarded as the two brightest young stars on the U.S. 2002 World Cup squad, there are a number of other upand-coming players who will vie for spots on the U.S. National Team in the near future. Players like Columbus' Kyle Martino; Chicago's Carlos

An Ey∈ Toward

Bocanegra, Kelly Gray and Craig Capano; Los Angeles' Danny Califf; Dallas' Eddie Johnson; and D.C. United's trio of Santino Quaranta, Bobby Convey and Justin Mapp.

"There are a lot of young guys coming up that can play," Beasley said. "Landon and I will still be there. But there are a lot of people who we can use."

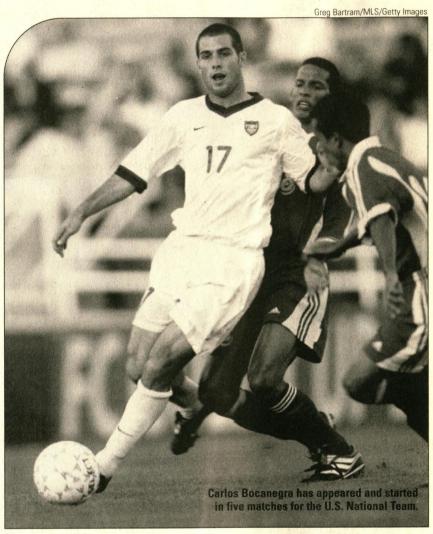
"You have another wave of talent right now with guys like Capano," Gray said. "These guys are 16, 17, and they're playing in an MLS environment and doing well. This is just the beginning. I think from here things will just keep getting better and better, and the next youth groups will surpass the last. It's what we've all been hoping for in American soccer."

Quaranta, 18, is a full-time starting striker in his second season with United and was named an MLS All-Star in his rookie year. He feels his time to shine on the national team will come.

"I'm really excited about the future-four years down the road," said Quaranta, a fan favorite in our nation's capital. "Hopefully, I can get in and prove myself. For the next World Cup I'm really excited about the prospect of a lot of young players who have done well for themselves today."

One of Quaranta's partners at the Under-17 level was Johnson, a striker for the Burn and a standout at the U-17 FIFA World Championships in 2001. Martino, Mapp and Capano are just starting their professional careers in MLS this season but have already shown their potential playing for the youth national teams. A native of Connecticut, Martino is already being labeled as the future No. 10 player for the U.S.-the team's source of creativity.

"It's probably a little ambitious of me to admit to now," Martino said. "But hopefully, if I keep on the path I'm going, keep training hard, get a lot of games with the Crew and if the Olympics (2004) go well—and I can get the confidence I feel I need in order to play the creative, playmaking No. 10 style in my head—then I can see myself a couple of years down the line wearing that No. 10 jersey."



Among the more established players in MLS is Califf, a full-time starter with the Galaxy since his rookie season in 2000. He debuted with the senior national team in October 2000 as a second-half substitute against Mexico and earned his first start for the U.S. in January 2002. He is considered to be in the next class of U.S. National Team central defenders.

Joining him on defense will likely be the 2000 MLS Rookie of the Year Bocanegra, who has made six appearances on the national team and is a starting defender for the staunch Chicago back line. Convey, a starting midfielder for United, had seven assists in 2001 and also has three caps for the national team.

Four years from now, Beasley will be 23 and will already have one World Cup under his belt. He looks forward to the challenge of being a mentor to some of the new players, once they make their way up to the national team in the coming years.

"Since I'm going to be one of the veterans in four years, I want to help the new, younger guys with what I experienced in the World Cup," Beasley said. "I just want to help like Eddie Pope and some of the veterans today have helped me out."

Flores is a Washington, D.C.—based free-lance writer.

FRANK YALLOP

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The energy and competitiveness that we have in training carry over into our games. Every player on our team is battling and doing anything possible to get the needed result."

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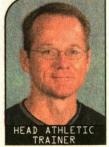




TIM HANLEY



MALCOLM PHILLIPS



BRUCE MORGAN

came out hard against us, and while we played well, they beat us, 1-0, in Denver. That game showed us that getting results this year would be difficult. However, a month later we had a rematch with them at Spartan Stadium, and we went at them right from the start and earned a 2-0 win. That win showed that we will not back down from anyone and that we are a team that hates to lose. And when we do lose, we want to prove that we can do better.

I believe that this team's success stems directly from that attitude. Our players don't even like to lose in small-sided games during practice, so we have great spirit within the team, even during training. The energy and competitiveness that we have in training carry over into our games. Every player on our team is battling and doing anything possible to get the needed result.

This season we have had more adversity than last year, due to national team absences, injuries and the mark of a champion on our back. The adversity, though, has only demonstrated to me that we can make the playoffs and, once there, make another strong run deep into the postseason. The difficulties we have gone through have only made us more resilient and more determined to do well. I am looking forward to the home stretch, and I hope that you fans of the Earthquakes are just as excited as I am.

Sincerely,

Frank Yallop

Dear Friends.

2002 has been a difficult but very rewarding season up to the midway point. Despite a number of obstacles, this team continues to rise to every challenge that is put in front of it. On a three-game road trip in late May and early June-with a number of players injured, and Landon Donovan and Jeff Agoos off at the World Cup-we finished with a 1-1-1 record, including a good tie in Chicago and a fantastic 2-0 win over the Revolution in New England. I think that once we have our entire squad on the same page and all of our players healthy and with the team we will only get better.

The biggest lesson that this team has learned this year is how hard it is to defend a championship. In 2001, we were able to sneak up on teams and simply go out and play our game, and we were very successful. It took teams a while to figure out a way to slow us down.

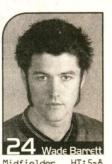
This year, however, every team has been looking out for us, and they are trying different methods to slow us down. But to our players' credit, the team has persevered, and we have gotten great results, despite having a mark on our back. A great example of our strong desire to get results was our first two matches with Colorado. In the second game of the year, the Rapids





WT:175 DOB:5-2-68









HT:5-11 Forward WT:165 DOB: 4-9-83

Midfielder HT:5-8 WT:155 DOB:6-23-76

Midfielder HT:5-8 WT:160 DOB:6-27-78

Goalkeeper HT:6-2 WT:190 DOB:1-1-75

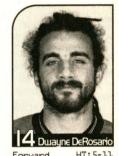




WT:205

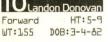






HT:5-11 HT:5-11 Forward WT:175 DOB:1-29-71 WT:164 DOB:5-15-78





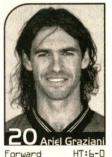


DOB: 5-6-77

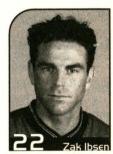
Midfielder HT:6-0 WT:180 DOB:8-21-72



Midfielder HT:5-8 WT:156 DOB:7-14-80



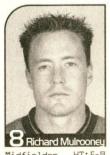
HT:6-0 Forward WT:165 DOB:6-7-71



HT:5-11 Defender WT:170 DOB:6-2-72



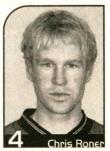
Midfielder HT:6-0 WT:165 DOB:6-11-71



Midfielder HT:5-9 WT:160 DOB:11-3-76



Defender HT:6-1 WT:180 DOB:6-19-78



Midfielder HT:b-L WT:185 DOB:3-4-80



Midfielder HT:5-10 WT:170 DOB:8-30-75





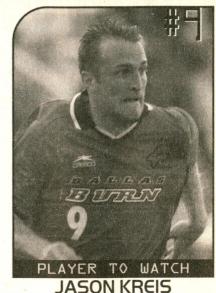
TYRONE MARSHALL

Coming off a 2001 campaign that saw the Galaxy capture the U.S. Open Cup and F.C. Champions' Cup, Los Angeles has set its sights on a return trip to the MLS Cup and acquiring that one final centerpiece for the club's trophy case. Sigi Schmid will be looking to fine tune a squad that he has led to two MLS Cup finals in his four years as head coach.

In the offseason, Los Angeles added three players with international resumes—Guatemalan striker Carlos "El Pescadito" Ruiz, Jamaican Tyrone Marshall and U.S. Olympian Chris Albright.

Returning veteran Cobi Jones will be splitting his time this year with the Galaxy and the U.S. National team at the 2002 World Cup in Korea/Japan. In the midfield, the dynamic trio of Mauricio Cienfuegos, Simon Elliott and Peter Vagenas will challenge any opposing defense. And on defense, Marshall will join defensive stalwarts Ezra Hendrickson, Alexi Lalas, Adam Frye and Danny Califf.

In net, Kevin Hartman and Matt Reis will battle for the starting spot. ROSTER **Player Name** Wt. No. Ht. Pos. 6-1 196 Matt Reis GK 2 Gavin Glinton F 5-10 150 Adam Frye D 5-8 159 Chris Albright F 6-1 185 D 195 Craig Waibel 6-1 F Isaias Bardales Jr. 5-10 170 M 5-8 160 Peter Vagenas SUNDAY -5-8 Brian Mullan F 150 Mauricio Cienfuegos M 5-6 143 11 Sasha Victorine M 6-2 170 12 Simon Elliott M 5-11 175 13 Cobi Jones M-F 5-7 145 14 Tyrone Marshall D/M 6-2 190 11-12-74 5-9 170 15 Alejandro Moreno F 16 Alex Bengard M 6-0 165 Ezra Hendrickson 17 6-3 185 D Jesus Ochoa 5-11 170 10-12-81 18 M Winston Griffiths 5-10 160 19 M 170 20 Carlos Ruiz F 5-9



As one of only two teams to make the playoffs all six years of the League's existence, the Burn entered the 2002 season with more aspi-

rations than merely keeping their playoff streak alive. The one goal this year is MLS Cup 2002. And second-year coach Mike Jeffries has certainly put his stamp on the team.

Another stellar draft has landed Dallas three-time All-American defender Chris Gbandi, 2001 Hermann Trophy finalist Carl Bussey, All-American defender Lee Morrison, and U.S. U-20 midfielder Jordan Stone.

In addition to his draft day moves, Jeffries has also brought in English Premiership veteran Steve Morrow to provide leadership and experience to the backline.

Perhaps the biggest move was the acquisition of three-time MLS All-Star Ronald Cerritos. Cerritos is the seventh all-time leading goal-scorer in MLS history and will provide a dangerous tandem with Jason Kreis, the fourth all-time leading scorer in MLS history. With a revamped backline and potent offense, the Burn is poised for a run at MLS Cup 2002.

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7:00

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No.	Player Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	D.O.B.
1	Matt Jordan	GK	6-2	185	10-13-75
2	Chris Gbandi	D	5-10	170	4-4-79
3	Ryan Suarez	D	6-2	185	7-28-77
4	Paul Broome	M	5-9	150	6-6-76
5	Tenywa Bonseu	D	6-1	176	10-28-76
6	Steve Morrow	D	6-0	170	7-2-70
7	Eddie Johnson	F	6-0	180	3-31-84
8	Oscar Pareja	M	5-8	150	8-10-68
9	Jason Kreis	F	5-10	155	12-29-72
10	Joselito Vaca	M	5-6	125	8-12-82
11	Antonio Martinez	M	5-7	140	7-9-77
12	Jordan Stone	M	5-9	145	3-16-84
13	Carl Bussey	M	5-10	165	10-11-78
14	Lee Morrison	D	6-1	170	8-10-79
15	Chad Deering	M	6-2	175	9-2-70
16	Matt Behncke	M	6-3	190	2-20-80
17	Jorge Rodriguez	D	5-9	155	5-20-71
18	Richard Farrer	D	6-0	175	4-9-71
19	Bobby Rhine	F	5-10	171	4-18-76
20	Ronald Cerritos	F	5-9	155	1-3-75
21	Hamisi Amani-Dove	F	5-11	180	3-28-74
22	D.J. Countess	GK	6-1	185	1-9-82

22

23

Kevin Hartman

Danny Califf

Alexi Lalas

GK

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6-1

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D.O.B.

3-28-75

3-1-79

2-15-74

1-14-79

8-21-75

8-18-79

2-6-78

4-23-78

2-12-68

2-3-78

6-10-74

6-16-70

7-8-79

3-13-79

1-16-72

5-12-78

9-15-79

5-25-74 3-17-80

6-1-70

7:00 PM **VEDNESDAY** -



ZACH THORNTON

The Fire enters 2002 with several familiar faces—and some fresh ones. Head Coach Bob Bradley returns with the core of the Fire intact since its inaugural 1998 season. Goalkeeper Zach Thornton, defender C.J. Brown, midfielders Chris Armas, Jesse Marsch, Peter Nowak, and forwards Ante Razov and Josh Wolff are all prepared to help the Fire earn more hardware, as is returning World Cup star Hristo Stoitchkov.

With the core group still together, 2002 will see the further development of defenders Carlos Bocanegra and Jim Curtin, midfielders DaMarcus Beasley, Sergi Daniy, and Dema Kovalenko along with versatile outside midfielder/defender Evan Whitfield.

The additions provide more depth. Draft choices Kelly Gray, Craig Capano, Mike Nugent, Billy Sleeth, and Steve Totten will offer more versatility when players are called to the U.S. National Team for the World Cup. Newly acquired forward Aleksey Korol and 18-year-old midfielder Miguel Saavedra enhance a team already laden with scoring threats.



	~			H	USIEK
No.	Player Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	D.O.B.
2	C.J. Brown	D	6-0	185	6-15-75
3	Evan Whitfield	D/M	5-11	155	6-23-77
4	Carlos Bocanegra	D	6-0	170	5-25-79
5	Jim Curtin	D	6-4	205	6-23-79
6	Kelly Gray	D/M	6-2	170	4-7-81
7	DaMarcus Beasley	M	5-7	126	5-24-82
8	Hristo Stoitchkov	F	5-9	165	2-8-66
9	Ante Razov	F	6-1	175	3-2-74
10	Peter Nowak	M	5-7	145	7-5-64
11	Billy Sleeth	D	5-11	170	10-23-79
12	Miguel Saavedra	M	5-11	155	7-3-83
13	Henry Ring	GK	6-3	185	3-16-77
14	Chris Armas	M	5-7	150	8-27-72
15	Jesse Marsch	M	5-11	170	11-8-73
16	Josh Wolff	F	5-8	160	2-25-77
17	Aleksey Korol	F	5-10	160	10-14-77
18	Zach Thornton	GK	6-3	230	10-10-73
19	Craig Capano	M	5-7	140	7-7-85
20	Sergi Daniv	M	5-8	150	8-23-75
21	Dema Kovalenko	M	5-8	145	8-28-77
22	David Vaudreuil	D/M	5-7	155	12-21-66
23	Mike Nugent	F	5-9	155	2-10-80
24	Jason Moore	M	5-11	170	4-4-78



EDDIE POPE

D.C. United enters the 2002 season with hopes of restoring its winning tradition. New head coach Ray Hudson and Technical Director Daye Kasper have been busy in their first months with the club, adding more young talent to an already youthful squad. The team acquired All-Star goalkeeper Nick Rimando and midfielder Lazo Alavanja in the 2002 MLS Allocation Draft and traded for Brandon Prideaux to solidify the back line. Midfielder Richie Williams returns after a one-year stint with the MetroStars.

On offense D.C. is led by Jaime Moreno, the club's all-time leading scorer. The Black-and-Red also returns Bolivian playmaker and perennial All-Star Marco Etcheverry.

The team is also counting on more experienced play from Bobby Convey and Santino Quaranta, who, at 19 and 17 years old, respectively, are two of the youngest players ever to play in MLS

Eddie Pope will once again be in charge of patrolling the backline, with the help of Prideaux, Honduran Milton Reyes and veteran Ivan McKinley. Newcomers Orlando Perez and Petter Villegas add depth to United's midfield.

TO A TIMITATED TO SATURDAY

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No.	Player Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	D.O.B.
1	Mike Ammann	GK	6-3	215	2-8-71
2	Orlando Perez	D	6-2	165	7-12-77
4	Brandon Prideaux	D	5-10	170	8-18-76
5	Milton Reyes	D	5-10	156	5-2-74
6	Lazo Alavanja	M	5-11	180	1-18-77
7	Ryan Nelsen	M	6-1	188	10-18-77
8	Ivan McKinley	D/M	6-2	185	6-15-69
9	Jaime Moreno	F	5-10	173	1-19-74
11	Petter Villegas	M	5-7	140	11-15-75
10	Marco Etcheverry	M	5-9	173	9-26-70
12	Bryan Namoff	M	5-10	170	5-28-79
13	Jose Alegria	M	5-8	155	10-5-80
14	Ben Olsen	M	5-8	150	5-3-77
15	Bobby Convey	M	5-8	150	5-27-83
16	Richie Williams	M	5-5	145	6-3-70
18	Nick Rimando	GK	5-10	185	6-17-79
21	Justin Mapp	M	5-10	140	10-18-84
22	Mike McGinty	GK	6-2	200	8-17-71
24	Dennis Ludwig	F	6-0	185	9-26-80
23	Eddie Pope	D	6-0	175	12-24-73
25	Santino Quaranta	F	6-1	185	10-14-84
28	Ali Curtis	F	5-10	175	12-18-78

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2002 EARTHQUAKES SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/ RESULT	TV
March		real Transfer	
Sat. 23	at Dallas	2-0 W	A The Part of the
Sat. 30	at Colorado	0-1 L	
April	and White the special con-		
Sat. 6	New England	2-1 W	
Sat. 13	at Kansas City	0-2 L	
Sat. 20	Colorado	2-0 W	
Sat. 27	at MetroStars	1-1 T	
May			
Sat. 4	Columbus	3-2 W	
Sat. 11	MetroStars	2-1 W	
Sat. 18	at Columbus	0-2 L	
Sun. 26	at Chicago	1-1 T	
June			
Sat. 1	at New England	2-0 W	good
Sat. 8	Kansas City	3-0 W	
Sat. 15	at Columbus	1-2 L	
Sat. 22	Colorado	7:00 p.m.	
Sat. 29	Kansas City	7:00 p.m.	
July			-
Thur. 4	at Los Angeles	7:00 p.m.	KICU
Sun. 7	Los Angeles	6:00 p.m.	
Sat. 13	at Dallas	5:30 p.m.	KICU
Sat. 20	Dallas	7:00 p.m.	
Wed. 24	Chicago	7:00 p.m.	
Sat. 27	at Kansas City	5:00 p.m.	FISN
August			
Sat. 17	DC United	1:00 p.m.	E.SPN2
Wed. 21	Dallas	7:00 p.m.	
Sat. 24	at Colorado	1:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat. 31	at DC United	4:30 p.m.	FSN
Septembe	er		
Sat. 7	Columbus	7:00 p.m.	
Sat. 14	at Los Angeles	7:00 p.m.	KICU
Sat. 21	Los Angeles	7:00 p.m.	

All times Pacific. Schedule subject to change. All home games played at Spartan Stadium. FSN— Figs Sports Net.



EARTHQUAKES PROMOTIONS

SPEND YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH THE QUAKES

Do you have a birthday coming up? Why not spend it with the Earthquakes at Spartan Stadium! The Earthquakes birthday bash is the ideal birthday present for your favorite Earthquakes fan. It includes 10 tickets, 10 Earthquakes meal deals (hot dog, drink, chips or candy), 10 Earthquakes bumper stickers, and a birthday greeting on the in-stadium message board.

The Earthquakes birthday bash is available for as low as \$160 for Rumble seats or \$205 for Shaker Seats. For more information, call the Earthquakes ticket office at (408) 985-GOAL or visit www.sjearthquakes.com.

MARDI GRAS MINI SOCCER BALL NIGHT

Don't miss the Earthquakes game versus the Burn on **Wednesday**, **Aug. 21**. The first 8,500 fans that enter Spartan Stadium receive a free mini soccer ball, presented by Mardi Gras. The game starts at 7:00 p.m., so get there early and pick one up.

GREAT SUMMER OUTING

Trying to come up with a fun group outing? What better way to enjoy the company of your friends or co-workers than coming out to see the defending MLS Champion San Jose Earthquakes! Groups of 20 or more can get a discount of up to 30% on Quakes tickets.

For more information on group tickets, call the Earthquakes ticket office at (408) 985-GOAL or log on to www.sjearthquakes.com.

MR. Consistency

John Todd/MLS/Getty Images Barrett has found a home at left back after moving there in the 2001 preseason.

an you name the senior member of the San Jose Earthquakes? If your answer was Wade Barrett, you are a true Earthquakes fan.

Barrett's tenure with the Quakes dates back to 1998, without interruption, but he doesn't get the attention that four-time MLS Cup Champion Jeff Agoos or rising star Landon Donovan receive. But no one is more valuable to or respected by his teammates.

San Jose drafted Barrett in the first round (12th overall) of the 1998 College Draft. He starred at William & Mary for four seasons, scoring 38 goals and notching 26 assists. In 1997 he was named an NSCAA First Team All-American and Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year. He was also a four-time CAA All-Conference First Team selection. As a senior at First Colonial High School in Virginia, he was a Parade All-American and State Player of the Year.

Barrett was familiar with the Silicon Valley prior to coming to the Earthquakes. While playing in a college tournament at Santa Clara University, Barrett and his William & Mary teammates saw a Clash game at Spartan Stadium.

"I was very happy when I got picked by San Jose," Barrett said. "I was very excited to come to this area and team."

Even though Barrett was thrilled about his new team, he knew it would take some adjusting.

"This was a big change to come all the way across country," Barrett said. "Other than D.C., there isn't a team close enough to home to feel like you're at home. So anywhere was going to be a big change."

The team finished 13-19 in Barrett's rookie season, during which he split time between defense and midfield, scoring two goals and two assists for six points. In 1999, the team improved to 19-13, and Barrett had 10 points (one goal and eight assists), while being named to *Soccer America's* Team of the Week three times.

Barrett's third MLS season, however, was one he'd love to forget. Sidelined by a groin injury, he played in only three games, while the team struggled to a League-worst 7-17-8 record.

"I was pretty much out from day one," Barrett said. "I sat out the preseason because of my injury and tried to get ready for the first game but ended up having surgery right before that. I came back for a few games, but I had to have another surgery partway through the season that ended my year. I really wasn't back from that until the 2001 preseason, so it was a long time that I was sitting out."

Earthquakes teammate Richard Mulrooney remembers what that season was like for Barrett.

"I lived with him during that year," Mulrooney said. "It was just frustrating. He'd be going to the gym, doing whatever he could to get back. Sometimes your body just doesn't allow that. He handled it well and he came back that much stronger. I think that shows what type a person he is-relentless."

The 2001 season brought many changes to the team. Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment

MR. Consistency

(SVS&E) took over operations of the club, Frank Yallop was named head coach, and multiple player changes followed. With all of these changes, combined with a nearly season-long injury, did Barrett feel his place on the Earthquakes was on the line?

"A little bit, but I'd had that pressure every year," Barrett said. "Every preseason you show

"I felt straight away we needed to get a left fullback, and Wade fit the bill nicely. I could see him growing into a really good player, and from that day on he has gotten better and better. I don't see a better player in the League at that position."

up with 26 or 27 guys in camp, so I don't know if I felt it any more than I had in previous seasons."

Barrett went on to start 23 of the 24 games he played in after moving to a new position, left fullback, notching eight points on a goal and six assists.

"The minute I saw him play in the preseason—talk about a tenacious player," Yallop said. "Great athlete. He'd played all over the place at San Jose earlier in his career. I felt

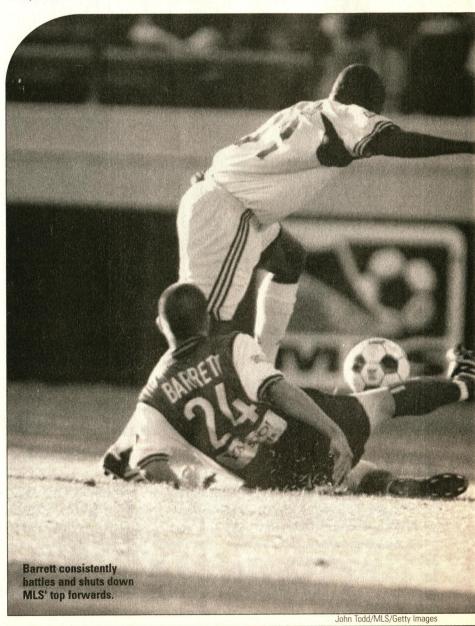
straight away we needed to get a left full-back and Wade fit the bill nicely. I could see him growing into a really good player, and from that day on he has gotten better and better. I don't see a better player in the League at that position."

The 2001 season turned out to be a magical one, not only for Barrett, but also for the Earthquakes. The team finished second in the

West with a 13-7-6 record and stormed through the playoffs to win the MLS Cup Championship.

"It was fantastic," Barrett said. "We beat Columbus, who were hot, and Miami, who were arguably one of the best teams. Then to beat L.A., our big rivals, in the final—it couldn't have worked out any better for us."

The Earthquakes have had another strong season this year, and Barrett's solid play is one



MR. Consistency

reason. In a key early-season road game at Chicago, with the team missing Agoos and Donovan (who were with the U.S. World Cup team) and battling some injuries, Barrett was switched to central defender, and the Earthquakes battled the Fire to a 1-1 tie.

"Eddie Robinson and Wade Barrett did a wonderful job for us in the middle of the field," Yallop said after the game. "They helped us keep strong players like (Ante) Razov and (Peter) Nowak off the scoreboard. Everyone contributed to the win, but those two were outstanding."

"I thought [Barrett] did great," Mulrooney said. "He's going to do what's best for the team, and do a good job at it."

How did Barrett feel after the game?

"It was a new spot for me. Ed and I hadn't played in there together," he said. "I think at the beginning we were a little bit disorganized, but as the game went on, we got better. You're not going to completely stop a good team like Chicago from getting chances. To only let them get one goal—I guess that's not too bad."

For Barrett, it's not just about playing for the Earthquakes; he's a strong believer in community service too. He's coached the West Valley Hurricanes for the past three years and has been a two-time recipient of the team's Geneva McAlavey Community Outreach Award.

"I've been associated with the West Valley club from when they were under-13 until present," Barrett said. "I know a lot of guys enjoy coaching, and it's just a fun thing for us. When I was growing up, we never had a professional player come out and interact with us at training and to be a person for us to look up to. It's kind of cool to be able to give that back."

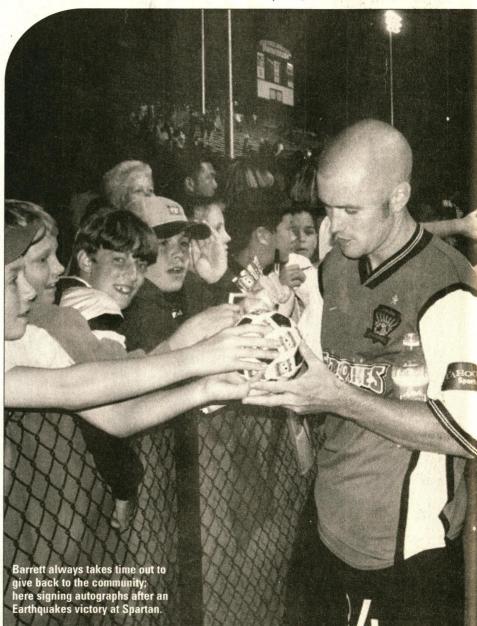
"Off the field, as a person, Wade's a great, great guy," Mulrooney said. "I'll talk to him about anything-soccer, family, life, etc. On the field, he's the unsung hero-does what he's got to do and doesn't expect any awards from it. He's real consistent at what he does, and he's

improved every year. When you're doing that in this League, you're going to succeed. I know he got his first national team call-up in the fall. I feel comfortable having him as my left back. Hopefully, other people will recognize it as well."

Fortunately for Barrett, his coach realizes his value to the team.

"He's got to keep going for us. His consistency now is excellent and he doesn't seem to have a bad game," Yallop said. "He's probably one of the fittest guys on the team. He knows what it takes to be a professional. This season, I think he's playing better than last, and last year he had a great year. I'm really happy with his progress, and I just want to see him get to the national team."

Justin Muskivitch/MLS/Earthquakes



It is with genuine pleasure and enthusiasm that the San Jose Earthquakes and San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzalez announce the return of the Mayor's Kicks for Kids program in 2002. This combined effort of the Earthquakes, Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment, the Office of the Mayor, and the City of San Jose, is a program designed to provide local at-risk youth the chance to attend an Earthquakes game during the 2002 Major League Soccer season.

Mayor's Kicks for Kids does more than provide a ticket to an MLS game; it provides hometown heroes and positive athletic role models in a world hungry for such leadership and personal commitment. Children will also have the opportunity to meet MLS athletes on a personal level after each game at the "Autograph Alley".

We encourage any corporation or private donor to join us in the growing effort to bring Major League Soccer excitement to local children. The Earthquakes would like to thank their premier Kicks for Kids partners: Wicks Consulting Corporation, Shakey's Pizza, USE Credit Union, Vasona Management/Pacific Hotels and Orchard Supply Hardware.

The organizations that participate in this program will receive acknowledgments during Earthquakes games throughout the season and recognition in Earthquakes publications and on the Earthquakes Web site. Corporations also will receive a letter from a Mayor's Kicks for Kids nonprofit organization thanking them for their involvement. As a partner, each corporation may select the benefiting organization for their donation, or the Earthquakes will find an appropriate organization match for them.

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the Mayor's Kicks for Kids program should call (408) 985-GOAL or check out www.sjearthquakes.com. Any nonprofit organizations that provide services to underprivileged youth and would like to benefit from this unique sports experience should submit requests in writing on official letterhead to:

Erika Guth
Mayor's Kicks for Kids
Request
3550 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Ste. 200
San Jose, CA 95117



The following organizations are proud to sponsor the Mayor's Kicks for Kids program.



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Eddie ROBINSON #C

Position: Defender

Date of Birth: 6-19-78

College:

University of Northern Carolina-Chapel Hill

Height: L-L Weight: L&D

What is your favorite food?

I love food in general. I will eat anything.

What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time?

Play video games.

What is your favorite video game?

Right now it is Tiger Woods Golf 2002, but it changes every month.

What is your favorite part about living in San Jose?

I love the weather and going to the beach.

Who influenced your soccer career the most? My parents.

What is your favorite sport besides soccer?
Lacrosse. My roommates played it in college.

How would your teammates describe you?Good ol' southern boy.

What is your favorite music or singers?

I like country, like Kenny Chesney. I also like John Mayer.

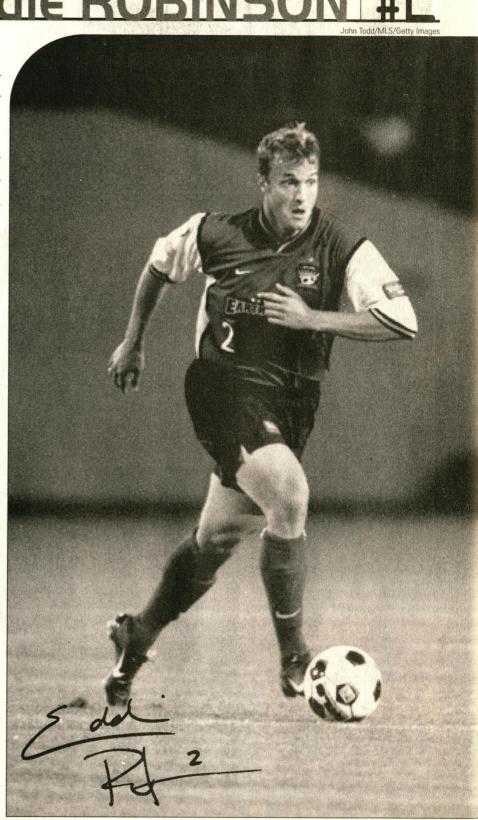
What is your most memorable soccer experience? Winning the MLS Cup.

Who have you learned the most from in MLS?

Frank Yallop, Jeff Agoos, Troy Dayak and Jimmy Conrad—guys who play the same position I do.

Did you play other sports as a kid?

Not really. I always liked soccer the best, so I focused on that, and I am happy that I did.



#6 Richard MULROONEY





45

Memorable Goals From One Magical Season

O01 was an incredible year for the San Jose Earthquakes. Here are the most memorable goals, from the perspectives of the players and Coach Frank Yallop.

Dwayne De Rosario April 7, 2001 Earthquakes at Galaxy

Play Recap: lan Russell received a pass at the midfield line and dribbled into L.A. territory before pushing a pass to Scott Bower. Bower then crossed a low ball to an onrushing Dwayne DeRosario, who volleyed a shot underneath Galaxy goalkeeper Kevin Hartman for his first MLS goal.

De Rosario on goal: "It was a good goal to start my career in MLS, as well as to prove ourselves as a rebuilding team in MLS."

Yallop on Goal: "It was an incredible goal [that put us] three up at L.A. Definitely a great start to the season."

Wade Barrett May 19, 2001 Earthquakes vs. MetroStars

Play Recap: Richard Mulrooney started the play with a long pass down the left flank to Manny Lagos at the end line. Lagos retained possession, beat two defenders and rolled across the top of the penalty box. He then back-heeled the ball to Barrett, whose right-footed blast curved into the far corner, giving the Quakes a 1-0 lead.

Barrett on goal: "Personally, I was happy to score the goal because I don't get the chance very often. It is important that we scored early in that game ,so it was nice that we were able to do that. As I recall, Manny Lagos did most of the work on that one."

Manny Lagos July 14, 2001 Earthquakes vs. Tampa Bay

Play Recap: Lagos' game-winning goal came in the 92nd minute after some strong work by Landon Donovan. Donovan received a pass from Lagos and ran to the top of the 18-yard box. After holding off the

Dayak's overtime header against the Mifami Fusion on Oct. 17, 2001, sent the Quakes into the MLS Cup Final.

Mutiny defense, he chipped a perfectly timed ball over the defensive line to the charging Lagos, who headed in his second goal of the match.

Lagos on goal: "It was not a great game for us, and it looked like we were going into overtime, but we snuck a goal in at the end. I liked the goal because it was one of those when Landon and I made eye contact and both of us knew what the other was going to do."

Yallop on goal: "Wonderful pass by Landon and a brave finish by Manny."

Troy Dayak Oct. 17, 2001 Earthquakes vs. Miami (Semifinals Game 3)

Play Recap: The Quakes won it in the third minute of overtime, as Troy Dayak scored the game-winner after a corner kick. Mulrooney curled

in a corner to the back post, where Jimmy Conrad out-leaped two defenders to knock the ball across the goalmouth. Dayak then headed it into the net to send the Quakes to their first MLS Cup Final.

Dayak on goal: "The goal versus Miami was the exclamation point to the end of a great season for me. I scored the first goal of the season for the team, so it was nice to score a goal at the end of the season to get us into the MLS Cup Final."

Yallop on Goal: "Brave header by Troy. The feeling was unbelievable going to the MLS Cup Final."

Dwayne De Rosario Oct. 21, 2001 Earthquakes vs. Los Angeles

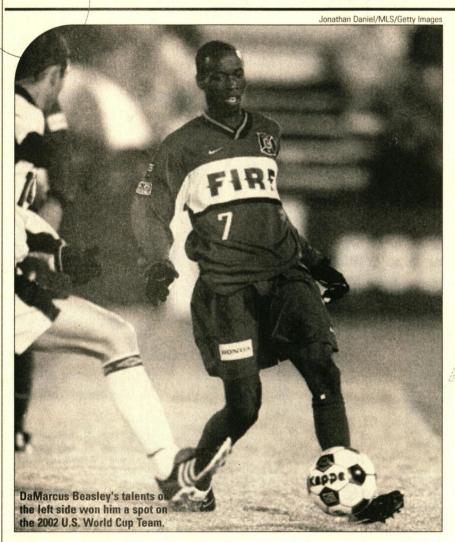
(MLS Cup Final)

Play Recap: DeRosario's golden goal won the championship for San Jose in the sixth minute of overtime. Ekelund sent a long ball to DeRosario on the left wing that gave him a one-on-one opportunity. DeRosario faked near post and then fired a shot into the back of the net.

De Rosario on goal: "It was the icing on the cake. It was nice to give something back to the fans who supported us through the years."

Yallop on Goal: "Talk about a fairy-tale ending to the season. We started as the worst team in the League, and we [went] on to win the Cup. Once Dwayne got the ball, I felt he would do something good, and he did."

A RARE Commodity



The worldwide shortage of left side players.

n a perfect soccer world, all players would be ambidextrous, with the ability to play anywhere on the field with perfect skill, embodying everything that is beautiful about the sport. In the real world, however, finding left-footed players is like striking gold. The low percentage natural lefties makes the search most difficult. Couple that with the fact that the skills of left wingers are not developed in this country, and finding a talented player to fill that spot gets even tougher.

If you dream of playing professional soccer, one sure way to have a chance is to be born left-footed, or you can work hard at becoming an exceptional left-footed player.

Although MLS coaches disagree on what they would ideally like out of their flank players, all seem to agree that good ones are a rare commodity-left or right. Since it's hard to separate the left attacking back in one system from the left midfielder in another, this debate will just center on the left wing midfielder.

THE IDEA

There are many debates among MLS coaches about what the make-up of a top left-sided mid-

fielder should be. Some feel that the most important qualities are the ability to get up and down the field, while others cite the ability to make quality crosses. Still others, like Colorado Rapids Head Coach Tim Hankinson, speak about the ability of the player to get behind defenses and get to the end line. There are even a few people, like Dallas Burn Head Coach Mike Jeffries, who want the player to converge inside and become a scoring threat.

Regardless of their personal feelings on a left-sider's role, all the coaches agreed that not only are they a rare quantity, but that the U.S. still has a long way to go in developing those types of players.

Under-20 National Team head coach Thomas Rongen, the all-time leader in MLS wins by a coach (82), paints the best picture of this shortage: "you have to have four sets of lungs in some systems."

A Worldwide Shortage

Some countries still develop great left-side wingers because of the playing systems they employ.

Countries like Portugal, Denmark and Holland always seem to produce a handful of left-side attackers, because their youth systems still work with wingers, whether it's a playing style involving flank midfielders or one with a three-forward alignment. The emphasis is placed on many of the qualities needed for true wide players.

"Marc Overmars (Holland), Rui Costa (Portugal) and even Ryan Giggs (England) are examples of true left-sided players, but the traditional wingers are dying out because of a team's susceptibility to the counterattack in the 4-3-3 (three-forward alignment)," Rongen said.

Having a true left footer is quite a luxury. Those teams in Europe and South America who carry such a player seem to be more balanced on the field.

In the recent high-profile youth tournament (Under-20) of Toulon, there were only a handful of players who could truly play the position, and that's at the highest level in those soccer nations.

A RARE Commodity

Ronald Martinez/Getty Images Dallas' Antonio Martinez is known for his quick sprints

players at any position," Hankinson said, a point which many coaches echoed. "The simple subtleties like hitting a good cross are instead replaced by small-sided activities with the focus on developing centrally rounded players."

Even at the club level, the emphasis on hard work, discovering playmakers and building outright speed of play seems to outweigh positional development.

The fact that our national teams have not consistently used the same playing system does not lend to a tradition of left-sided players. Part of the reason many countries do have an array of wingers is that they get a

Left-side players in MLS

down the left side and accurate crosses.

There are only a few standout American players in MLS who occupy the left flank. In the history of the League, the numbers are low:

Joey DiGiamarino, Chris Henderson, Diego Gutierrez, Mark Chung, Manny Lagos, Jeff Baicher, Ted Chronopoulos, Brian Haynes and Eddie Lewis have been the only true left-sided midfielders since the League's inception in 1996 to have any real impact. And being a left footer who can get behind defenses certainly extended many of those players' careers. The current crop features Lagos, Eddie Lewis, Antonio Martinez, DaMarcus Beasley, Gavin Glinton and Bobby Convey.

Where does that leave the U.S. National Team? Is that a position we will have to panic about for years to come? Beasley has staked his claim to

the position, making the biggest strides and proving to be an important addition to the World Cup team. He appears to be a fixture, along with D.C. United's Convey, as someone who will always be in the mix. Add to that John O'Brien, who plays the left back at Ajax, and maybe we are as well off as most countries.

Development

"We're not taking time to develop true wide

Gavin Glinton, ne of the candidates for Rookie of the Year, has made an impact the left flank. Stephen Dunn/Getty Images

similar style out of the players from generation to generation.

That picture doesn't bode well for our national team except for one caveat: MLS is now here to offer young players like Beasley an opportunity to play professionally during their developmental years, which gives them a chance to become complete left-sided player of the future.

CAPITAL Of ISTARS

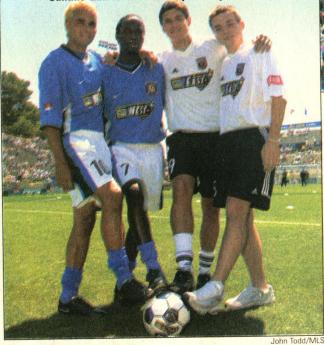
Washington, D.C.

hosts the Pepsi MLS

All-Star game on Aug. 3.



The 2001 All-Star Game marked the emergence of young players Landon Donovan, DaMarcus Beasley, Santino Quaranta and Bobby Convey (left to right).



ven though the cheers from the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Japan/Korea will have subsided by the end of July, American soccer fans will get one last chance to see their favorite MLS and U.S. National Team stars wearing the same uniforms.

It will happen at the 2002 Pepsi MLS All-Star Game at RFK Stadium on Saturday, Aug. 3, when the League's top players will invade the nation's capital for a grand weekend-long soccer celebration. RFK Stadium, the site of two MLS Cup Championship matches, will host its first MLS All-Star Game on Aug. 3, as the event returns to the East Coast for the first time since 1997.

From Aug. 2-3, Pepsi and MLS will host numerous family oriented events, activities and tournaments at RFK and around the Washington, D.C., area. The 2002 Pepsi MLS All-Star Game, which features the

League's brightest stars, is the main attraction of a weekend extravaganza full of soccerthemed events and programs.

After making their All-Star debuts last season, 20-year-olds Landon Donovan (San Jose Earthquakes) and DaMarcus Beasley (Chicago Fire), the two youngest members of the U.S. World Cup Team, are sure to be included in the All-Star lineups at RFK.

They'll be joined by their national team temmates and perennial MLS All-Stars Brian McBride (Columbus Crew), Clint Mathis

(MetroStars), Cobi Jones (Los Angeles Galaxy) and a host of other players who know the obligations of both club and country.

Donovan used last year's match as his own coming-out party by scoring a record four goals, including the game-tying goal in stoppage time, to rescue a thrilling 6-6 draw for the MLS West All-Stars.

Beasley looks set to steal the show this time around after his play with the Americans drew rave reviews leading up to the team's departure for the World's greatest sporting event, the FIFA World Cup.

The atmosphere is sure to be electric, as soccer fans in the nation's capital have proven to be some of the country's most loyal. D.C. United has seen its home attendance increase during each of the past three seasons, including a Leagueleading average of 21,518 in 2001.

United's passionate and knowledgeable supporter clubs, such as the Screaming Eagles and Barra Brava, have repeatedly given the Blackand-Red one of the most intimidating home-field advantages in MLS and are sure to provide a festive setting for this soccer spectacular.

individual tickets, call Ticketmaster at 202-432-SEAT. For group orders, call D.C. United at 703-478-6600.

2002 MLS SCHEDULE





march

Saturday, March 23

Chicago 2-0 Columbus
New England 1-3 MetroStars
Colorado 1-1 (OT) Kansas City
San Jose 2-0 Dallas
D.C. United 1-2 (OT) Los Angeles

Wednesday, March 27

Columbus 1-0 MetroStars

Saturday, March 30

Chicago 0-2 DC United San Jose 0-1 Colorado

april

Wednesday, April 3

D.C. United 0-2 Colorado

Saturday, April 6

New England 1-2 San Jose
D.C. United 1-2 Dallas
MetroStars 2-1 (OT) Columbus
Chicago 1-2 (OT) Los Angeles

Saturday, April 13

San Jose 0-2 Kansas City MetroStars 2-1 Colorado Dallas 1-1 (OT) Los Angeles

Saturday, April 20

New England 2-0 Columbus
Chicago 2-0 MetroStars
Kansas City 1-2 (OT) D.C. United
Los Angeles 1-1 (OT) Dallas
Colorado 0-2 San Jose

Saturday, April 27

Colorado 1-0 (OT) Los Angeles
San Jose 1-1 (OT) MetroStars
D.C. United 0-1 Columbus
New England 2-2 (OT) Chicago
Kansas City 1-1 (OT) Dallas

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Saturday, May 4

Golumbus 2-3 San Jose Chicago 3-0 D.C. United Los Angeles 2-1 (OT) Kansas City

Dallas	2-1	MetroStars	

Saturday, May 11

Los Angeles 1-0 Chicago
Dallas 0-2 New England
Kansas City 0-2 Colorado
MetroStars 1-2 San Jose

Sunday, May 12

Columbus 1-1 (OT) D.C. United

Saturday, May 18

Colorado 1-3 Dallas
MetroStars 2-4 D.C. United
San Jose 0-2 Columbus
Los Angeles 1-2 Kansas City

Sunday, May 19

Chicago 3-1 New England

Wednesday, May 22

New England 2-5 Colorado

Saturday, May 25

Dallas 1-1 (OT) Columbus
Kansas City 1-1 (OT) MetroStars
Los Angeles 2-3 New England

Sunday, May 26

San Jose 1-1 (OT) Chicago

june

Saturday, June 1

Los AngelesatColorado4:00San JoseatNew England6:30DallasatKansas City8:00

Sunday, June 2

Columbus at Chicago 7:00

Saturday, June 8

ChicagoatLos Angeles4:00New EnglandatD.C. United7:30ColoradoatDallas8:30Kansas CityatSan Jose10:00

Wednesday, June 12

Columbus at New England 7:00

Saturday, June 15

Los Angeles . . . at . . . MetroStars 4:00

San Jose at Columbus	7:30
D.C. United at Kansas City	8:00
New England at Colorado	9:00
Dallasat Chicago	8:30
Wednesday, June 19	
Colorado at D.C. United	7:30
Kansas Cityat Columbus	7:30

Saturday, June 22

MetroStars	. at	Chicago	4:00
New England.	. at	Kansas City	8:00
Colorado			10:00
Dallas	at	Los Angeles	10:00

Wednesday, June 26

Colorado.....at....MetroStars 7:30

Saturday, June 29

MetroStarsat	New England	4:00
Los Angeles at	D.C. United	7:30
Columbus at	Dallas	8:30
Kansas City at	San Jose	10:00

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Thursday, July 4

Columbus	at	New England	7:30
D.C. United	at	Kansas City	8:00
MetroStars	at	Dallas	8:00
Chicago	at	Colorado	9:30
San Jose	at	Los Angeles	10:00

Saturday, July 6

Dallas	at	Kansas City	4:00
D.C. United	at	New England	7:30
MetroStars	at	Columbus	7:30

Sunday, July 7

Colorado	at	Chicago	4:00
Los Angeles	. at	San Jose	9:00

Saturday, July 13

Chicago at MetroStars	4:00
Kansas City at New England	4:00
Columbus at D.C. United	7:30
San Jose at Dallas	8:30
Los Angeles at Colorado	9:00

Saturday, July 20

New England at N	MetroStars 4:00
Coloradoat C	olumbus 7:30

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Wednesday, July 31		7.00
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D.C. United at		8:30
Kansas City at	. Dallas	8:30
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Saturday, August 3		-
MLS All-Star Game in	Washington, D.0	3:30
Saturday, August 10		
	. Dallas	4:00
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Sunday, August 25	
D.C. United at MetroStars	4:00

Wednesday, August 28 Colorado.....at....New England 7:30

Saturday, August 31	
San Jose at D.C. United	7:30
New England at Columbus	7:30
Chicago at Kansas City	8:00
MetroStarsat Los Angeles	10:00

september

Sunday, September 1	
Dallas at Colorado	9:00
Thursday, September 5	
MetroStarsat Dallas	8:00
Saturday, September 7	

D.C. United at New England	7:30
Los Angeles at Chicago	8:30
Columbus at San Jose	10:00

Thursday, September 12	
D.C. United at MetroStars	7:30

Saturday, September 14	
MetroStarsat D.C. United	7:30
Chicago at Columbus	7:30
Colorado at Kansas City	8:00
New England at Dallas	8:30
San Joseat Los Angeles	10:00

Thursday,	Septemb	per 19	
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Friday, September 20	
Kansas City at Colorado	9:00

Saturday, September 21			
MetroStars	at	New England	7:30
Los Angeles	at	San Jose	10:00

Sunday, September 22	
Columbus at Chicago	4:00

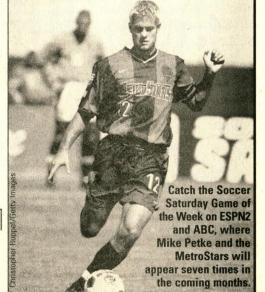
MLS playoffs

Quarterfinal and Semifinal schedule TBD

Sunday, October 20	
MLS Cup in Foxboro, Mass.	1:30

MLS 2002 TV Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	Event	Time (ET)	<u>Network</u>
	Sat., June 22	MetroStars at Chicago	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., June 29	MetroStars at New England	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., July 6	Dallas at Kansas City	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., July 13	Kansas City at New England	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., July 20	New England at MetroStars	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., July 27	MetroStars at Chicago	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., Aug. 3	2002 All-Star Game	3:30 p.m.	ABC
	Sat., Aug. 10	Chicago at Dallas	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., Aug. 17	D.C. United at San Jose	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., Aug. 24	San Jose at Colorado	4:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sat., Aug. 31	MetroStars at Los Angeles	1:00 a.m	ESPN2*
	Thurs., Sept. 5	MetroStars at Dallas	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
	Thurs., Sept. 12	D.C. United at MetroStars	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
	Thurs., Sept. 19	Dallas at D.C. United	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
	Thurs., Sept. 26	Playoff Game TBD	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
	Sun., Oct. 6	Playoff Game TBD	2:00 p.m.	ABC
1	Sun., Oct. 20	MLS Cup 2002 at CMGI Field	1:30 p.m.	ABC
	* - Tape delay			



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