

# FREEKICK



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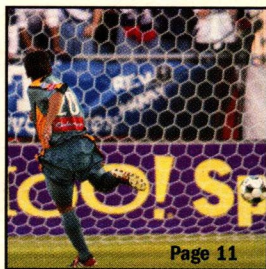
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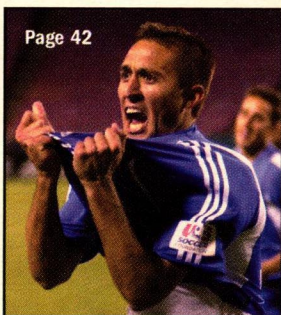
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LOS ANGELES GALAXY TEAM OFFICES

The Home Depot Center • 18400 Avalon Blvd. • Carson CA 90746

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# 2004 Schedule

Come see the Galaxy live at The Home Depot Center

## 2004 SEASON SCHEDULE

Sat.	April 3	NEW ENGLAND	3-2 W
Sat.	April 10	DC UNITED	1-1 T
Sat.	April 17	@ Colorado	1-1 T
Sat.	April 24	COLUMBUS	2-0 W
Sat.	May 1	@ New England	2-1 L
Sat.	May 8	@ Dallas	3-1 W
Sat.	May 15	COLORADO	1-1 T
Wed.	May 19	@ DC United	4-2 W
Sat.	May 22	@ San Jose	4-2 L
Sat.	May 29	DALLAS	4-1 W
Sat.	June 5	KANSAS CITY	2-1 L
Sat.	June 12	CHICAGO	3-2 W
Sat.	June 19	@ MetroStars	2-1 L
Wed.	June 23	METROSTARS	3-0 L
Sun.	June 27	@ Chicago	1-0 W
Sun.	July 4	SAN JOSE	2-1 W
Sat.	July 10	COLORADO	2-0 W
Sat.	July 14	@ Colorado	0-0 T
Sat.	July 17	@ DC United	1-1 T
Sat.	July 24	@ Kansas City	2-2 T
Sun.	Aug. 8	@ MetroStars	3:00 P.M. K
Sat.	Aug. 14	COLUMBUS	7:00 P.M.
Sat.	Aug. 21	CHICAGO	7:00 P.M. E2 (Tape Delayed 9PM)
Sat.	Sept. 4	@ Columbus	4:30 P.M. K
Sat.	Sept. 11	SAN JOSE	7:00 P.M.
Sat.	Sept. 18	@ Dallas	5:30 P.M. K (Tape Delayed 8PM)
Sat.	Sept. 25	@ San Jose	7:00 P.M. K (Tape Delayed 8PM)
Sat.	Oct. 2	KANSAS CITY	7:00 P.M.
Sat.	Oct. 9	DALLAS	7:00 P.M.
Sat.	Oct. 16	@ Kansas City	5:30 P.M. K
Sun.	Nov. 14	MLS CUP 2004 @ The Home Depot Center	12:30 P.M. ABC

Dates and times are subject to change.

K - KCAL 9

E2 - ESPN 2

KWHY - CHANNEL 22

Follow the Galaxy on:



# GM's Corner

Doug Hamilton looks at the Galaxy's MLS Cup run

## Galaxy Supporters:

As we approach the end of a season and begin to prepare for the playoffs, we are now well positioned to make a strong run toward our second MLS Cup Championship. With a new coach in charge, we must establish our confidence and rhythm of play, which will be two important elements as we prepare for the playoffs.

At present, our team is ready to make a playoff run. We've gone through a lot of different phases during the season. In the beginning of the year, we were a team whose offense got off to a very quick start – and we got significant points. Now, we look to return to those winning ways.

Our busy schedule helps us as we approach the end of the season – we should be able to get into a regular rhythm of games going from week to week. That is a plus for us. Though we had several players out due to injuries at various times throughout the season, there are a lot of players who have earned significant experience. Therefore, we are very confident that we can deal with any situation that gets thrown our way.

Once again, the League's premier event, MLS Cup, returns to The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. The Galaxy will host the League's ninth championship game, MLS Cup 2004, on Sunday, November 14, 2004 at 12:30 p.m. PT at The Home Depot Center. We have done everything possible to ensure that



*The GM feels the Galaxy are now set to make another late-season run at the MLS Cup Playoffs.*

we will not be spectators for a second consecutive year.

Thanks to all Galaxy fans. Your support has been great for us this year. We have re-established our dominance at home and have put ourselves back in the position we always want to be – which is to compete for the MLS Cup. The Home Depot Center is the loudest stadium in MLS and other teams never forget playing here.

So, come out support us, be that drumbeat that intertwines with our rhythm on the field that will carry us through the playoffs and back to the MLS Cup final.

*Best regards,  
Doug Hamilton  
President and General Manager*





**WELLS  
FARGO**

# OPEN A CHECKING ACCOUNT AND BE A WINNER!

Receive 2 tickets to a Galaxy home game  
and a commemorative Galaxy checkbook cover when you  
open a checking account before August 28, 2004.

And, if you also sign up for three or more select services  
or products,\* you can choose between 2 additional Galaxy home  
game tickets or 2 movie tickets.

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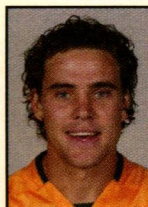
\* May include Online Banking, Online Bill Pay, ATM & Check Card, Savings Account, Credit Card, among others.  
Offer available at participating branches only. Offer valid June 14 through August 28, 2004 or while supplies last.  
Not valid with any other offer. Galaxy Ticket Vouchers/Movie Certificates will not be replaced if lost, stolen or  
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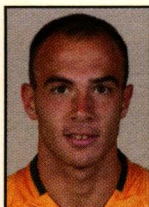




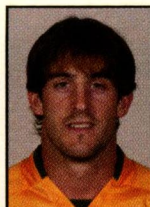
# 2004 Player Photos



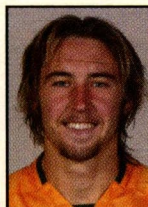
5 Chris Albright



28 Chris Aloisi



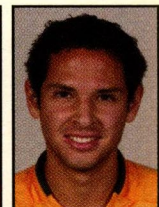
4 Paul Broome



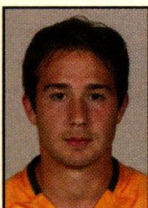
23 Danny Califf



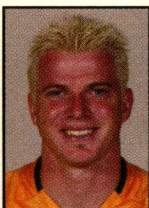
6 Josh Gardner



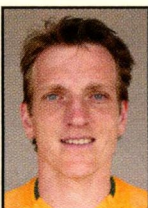
9 Guillermo Gonzalez



12 Ned Grabavoy



22 Kevin Hartman



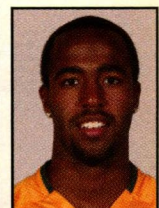
10 Andreas Herzog



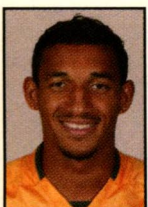
13 Cobi Jones



7 Jovan Kirovski



2 Ricky Lewis



14 Tyrone Marshall



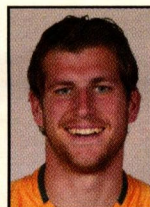
15 Alejandro Moreno



18 Hong Myung-Bo



27 Joseph Ngwenya



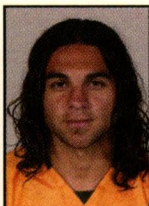
1 Dan Popik



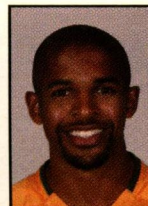
20 Carlos Ruiz



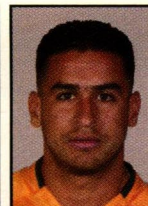
26 Marcelo Saragosa



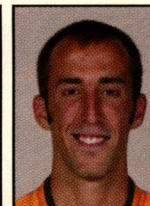
3 Ryan Suarez



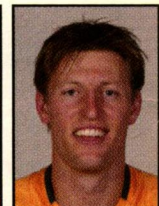
17 Scot Thompson



21 Arturo Torres



8 Peter Vagenas



11 Sasha Victorine



# 2004 Roster

## LOS ANGELES GALAXY 2004 ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	College	Status
5	Chris Albright	DEF	6-1	185	01/14/1979	Philadelphia, PA	Virginia	
28	Chris Aloisi	DEF	5-10	160	02/21/1981	North Babylon, NY	Syracuse	DEV
4	Paul Broome	DEF	5-9	150	06/06/1976	Dallas, TX	Southern Methodist	
23	Danny Califf	DEF	6-0	180	03/17/1980	Orange, CA	Maryland	
6	Josh Gardner	M/D	5-11	150	09/14/1982	Houston, TX	Cincinnati	P-40
9	Guillermo Gonzalez	MID	5-11	145	01/04/1986	Paramount, CA		P-40
12	Ned Grabavoy	MID	5-7	155	07/01/1983	New Lenox, IL	Indiana	P-40
22	Kevin Hartman	GK	6-1	185	05/25/1974	Palos Verdes, CA	UCLA	
10	Andreas Herzog	MID	6-0	176	09/10/1968	Vienna, Austria		SI/DISC
13	Cobi Jones	MID	5-7	145	06/16/1970	Westlake Village, CA	UCLA	
7	Jovan Kirovski	M/F	6-1	175	03/18/1976	Escondido, CA		
2	Ricky Lewis	DEF	6-0	170	05/29/1982	Spring, TX	Clemson	P-40
14	Tyrone Marshall	DEF	6-2	190	11/12/1974	Lauderhill, FL	Florida Intl.	GC
15	Alejandro Moreno	FWD	5-9	170	07/08/1979	Caracas, Venezuela	NC-Greensboro	GC
18	Hong Myung-Bo	DEF	6-0	161	02/12/1969	Seoul, South Korea		GC
27	Joseph Ngwenya	M/F	6-1	175	03/30/1981	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	Coastal Carolina	T-I
1	Dan Popik	GK	6-3	200	03/23/1979	Milwaukee, WI	St. John's	DISC
20	Carlos Ruiz	FWD	5-9	170	09/15/1979	Guatemala City, Guatemala		SI/DISC
26	Marcelo Saragosa	MID	5-11	158	01/22/1982	Campo Grande, Brazil		T-I
3	Ryan Suarez	DEF	6-2	185	07/28/1977	Roseville, CA	San Jose State	
17	Scot Thompson	DEF	6-0	180	02/11/1981	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA	UCLA	DEV
21	Arturo Torres	FWD	6-1	165	12/11/1980	Wilmington, CA	Loyola Marymount	
8	Peter Vagenas	MID	5-8	160	02/06/1978	Pasadena, CA	UCLA	
11	Sasha Victorine	MID	6-2	170	02/03/1978	Corona, CA	UCLA	

## LOS ANGELES GALAXY NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthplace	Birthdate	Exp.	Last Club
1	Dan Popik	GK	6-3	200	Syosset, NY	03/23/1979	1	Milwaukee Rampage (USL)
2	Ricky Lewis	D	6-0	170	Houston, TX	05/29/1982	1	Clemson
3	Ryan Suarez	D	6-2	185	Sacramento, CA	07/28/1977	3	Dallas (MLS)
4	Paul Broome	D-M	5-9	150	Dallas, TX	06/06/1976	5	Dallas (MLS)
5	Chris Albright	D	6-1	185	Philadelphia, PA	01/14/1979	5	D.C. United (MLS)
6	Josh Gardner	M	5-11	150	Brazoria, TX	09/14/1982	0	Cincinnati
7	Jovan Kirovski	M-F	6-1	175	Escondido, CA	03/18/1976	0	Birmingham City (England)
8	Peter Vagenas	M	5-11	160	Pasadena, CA	02/06/1978	4	UCLA
9	Guillermo Gonzalez	M	5-11	145	Paramount, CA	01/04/1986	1	U.S. U-17
10	Andreas Herzog	M-F	6-0	176	Vienna, Austria	09/10/1968	0	Rapid Vienna (Austria)
11	Sasha Victorine	M	6-2	170	Santa Ana, CA	02/03/1978	4	UCLA
12	Ned Grabavoy	M	5-7	155	Joliet, IL	07/01/1983	0	Indiana
13	Cobi Jones	M-F	5-7	145	Detroit, MI	06/16/1970	8	Vasco da Gama (Brazil)
14	Tyrone Marshall	D-M	6-2	190	Kingston, Jamaica	11/12/1974	6	Miami (MLS)
15	Alejandro Moreno	F	5-9	170	Barquisimeto, Venezuela	07/08/1979	2	North Carolina-Greensboro
17	Scot Thompson	D	6-0	180	New York, NY	02/11/1981	0	UCLA
18	Hong Myung-Bo	D	6-0	161	Seoul, South Korea	02/12/1969	1	Pohang Steelers (S. Korea)
20	Carlos Ruiz	F	5-9	170	Guatemala City, Guatemala	09/15/1979	2	CSD Municipal (Guatemala)
21	Arturo Torres	M-F	6-1	165	Harbor City, CA	12/11/1980	1	Loyola Marymount
22	Kevin Hartman	GK	6-1	185	Athens, OH	05/25/1974	7	UCLA
23	Danny Califf	D	6-0	180	Montclair, CA	03/17/1980	4	Maryland
26	Marcelo Saragosa	M	5-11	158	Campo Grande, Brazil	01/22/1982	0	Sao Paulo FC (Brazil)
27	Joseph Ngwenya	F	6-1	175	Plumtree, Zimbabwe	03/30/1981	0	Coastal Carolina
28	Chris Aloisi	D	5-10	160	North Babylon, NY	02/21/1981	0	Syracuse



# Galaxy At Home In The Playoffs

The only MLS club to qualify for the postseason in its first eight campaigns seeks a berth in its fifth MLS Cup final · By Rigo Cervantez

As the 2004 regular season comes to an end, the Los Angeles Galaxy are battling for first place in the Western Conference in preparation for their run toward a ninth straight Major League Soccer playoff appearance. The Galaxy are looking to extend their mark as the only club to participate in every postseason in MLS history. In eight playoff appearances, the Galaxy have qualified four times for the MLS Cup finals, a record number that they share only with D.C. United.

As the Galaxy begin their run for the 2004 MLS Cup, the club is looking for an unequalled fifth trip to the MLS final as well as their second league championship title. This after being crowned MLS

Cup Champions while defeating the home side New England Revolution in front of 61,316 fans at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts in 2002.

Head Coach Sigi Schmid, who led the Galaxy to their first league title, can't hide his satisfaction when discussing a side that has not only allowed him to overcome the demons of last year, but that also held the best record in MLS for much of the regular season in 2004.

"I'm optimistic about getting to the postseason with a team that has a variety of different options, including some rookies who came in here and have

*(Continued on page 13)*



Carlos "El Pescadito" Ruiz scored the golden goal in the 113th minute past a diving Adin Brown as the Galaxy won MLS Cup 2002.



*(Continued from page 11)*

played and made an impact right away," said Schmid. "This has allowed us to compensate for any absences we have had to overcome in the course of the season. We have had as many as six starters out for a variety of reasons and the team has not been affected," said the coach who hopes to lead the team to their sixth playoff appearance during his tenure.

## THE PLAYOFF SYSTEM

For the second year in a row, the playoffs will be determined in the traditional soccer format established by the league in 2003. The conference semifinals will be played in a two-game, home-and-home series, with the winner determined on aggregate goals. The conference finals will feature one game – played at the home of the higher-seeded team.

It is a simple – yet dangerous – format which can lead to the heights of taking a 2-0 aggregate lead, but in the very next match see it slip away slowly to an agonizing 5-4 elimination. That is the reason why each game has a heightened sense of drama and also ensures that every minute from start to finish will be full of end-to-end action from both clubs.

The Galaxy are always considered a favorite because of the support of their fans. This is true during the regular season, but is especially a factor in decisive post-season matches.

History does not lie. In their home playoff history, between 1996 and 2003, the Galaxy played in front 333,508 fans, giving them an average of nearly 20,000 per game, including drawing a crowd of more than 20,000 for their sole post-season match last season against San Jose.

## THE VETERAN FACTOR

What is the main ingredient that ensures that a team quali-

fies for the playoffs year after year?

"It's the consistency," said Cobi Jones, the only player to have been with the Galaxy since the club's inception in 1996, playing in each of the team's playoff runs. "I use the strength and experience I have drawn from competing in eight years worth of playoffs. This also helps me establish a leadership role on the team, especially with the younger players or the veterans who have not been there before," said the three-time World Cup veteran for the USA.

Jones is the Galaxy's all-time leader in goals scored with 59 during the regular season alone. In the playoffs, his numbers are equally impressive: 38 games played – 37 of them as a starter, six goals scored and 11 assists. Those totals give him a grand total of 23 points in his postseason career.

Once again, the Galaxy will also be counting on the presence of goalkeeper Kevin Hartman, now in his eighth season with the club. The veteran's career ranks up there with the best in MLS history at his position, and he was in the goal when the Galaxy won their lone MLS Cup championship in 2002.

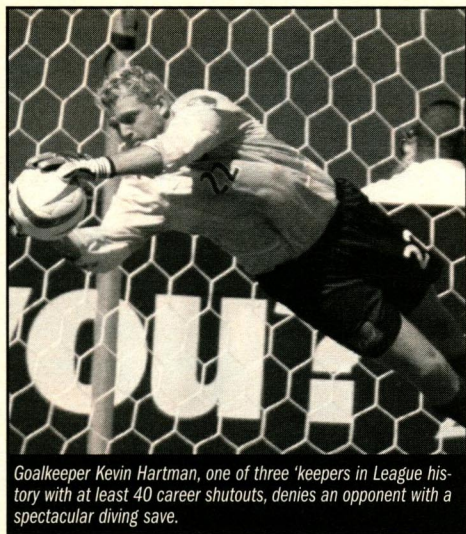
## TRIANGLE OR SQUARE?

Another factor that will help determine the potential of success for the Galaxy in the post-season  
*(Continued on page 15)*



*The Galaxy celebrate Ruiz's goal that gave them their first MLS Cup title in 2002.*





Goalkeeper Kevin Hartman, one of three 'keepers in League history with at least 40 career shutouts, denies an opponent with a spectacular diving save.

*(Continued from page 13)*

son is the now-famous offensive triangle of Carlos Ruiz, Jovan Kirovski and Andreas Herzog.

The club's offensive equation has produced a league leading number of goals and assists; this with the addition of Alejandro Moreno offers the opportunity to shift the attack into more of a square, if desired.

"I think that we have a good formula for our attack when we are all working for the same cause. We can accomplish a lot of things when we are all on the same page," said Carlos Ruiz. "As a team, we have set a goal, to get back to the final because it is once again being played here in Los Angeles."

Moreno, meanwhile, says the team will need more than the offensive performance to once again be crowned champions.

"I think that one of the most important things in the playoffs is a good organization in the defensive third – this is the base for a good attack," said the Venezuelan International who started for the 2002 MLS Cup team. "I am an optimist. The truth is that I have twice played in the playoffs and I have been on both ends of the spectrum (in 2002 and 2003). This year, I see a team that is confident that it can do things the right way, get the results we need away from home and take care of things in our own stadium."

## ROOKIE IMPACT

In the same Galaxy offensive scheme this season, there has also been an impact by a young forward, Joseph Ngwenya, recently drafted from the college ranks, but a native of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

"The crocodile" – as his name translates in the Ndebele dialect – has added an element of surprise and some athletic goals during the season. He is anxious for the moment of truth, to get in some action in the playoffs.

"It will be emotional for me as a rookie to have the chance to play in the playoffs," said Ngwenya. "I am surrounded by teammates that have played a lot of playoff games and that can help me when it is my turn to play. Obviously, I would love to score a goal or two and help the team get to the final."

Another rookie, midfielder Ned Grabavoy, was recruited this year from Indiana University. Thanks to his talent and the support of his more experienced teammates, the former U.S. U-20 National Team midfielder has earned significant minutes and is also anxious about making his postseason debut.

"Obviously, I feel very good about the chance to play in the playoffs. When I left college to turn pro, what I dreamed about was being part of a playoff team and that dream is about to become a reality," he said.

With all these factors, the interesting question that remains is which Galaxy player will shine brightest during the 2004 postseason?

Will it be one of those who already have experience like Carlos Ruiz, Cobi Jones, Kevin Hartman or even Alejandro Moreno?

Will it be one of the new arrivals – Herzog, Kirovski or Saragosa?

Or even one of the rookies, Grabavoy or Ngwenya?

With this mix of newcomers, with the arrival of players who have made their presence felt like Andreas Herzog, Jovan Kirovski and Marcelo Saragosa as well as veterans whose contributions have been invaluable, like goalkeeper Kevin Hartman and his defensive corps of Danny Califf, Tyrone Marshall, Ryan Suarez, Hong Myung Bo, Chris Albright and Sasha Victorine, the Galaxy are looking forward to beginning their next adventure in the playoffs. ☼



# En los playoffs el Galaxy se siente como en su casa

El equipo angelino es el único de la MLS que ha intervenido en todas las series de postemporada y en el 2004 busca llegar a su quinta final · Por: Rigo Cervantez

**E**l Galaxy encara su novena serie de campeonato consecutiva en la Major League Soccer, donde ha dejado impresa su marca como el único de todos los clubes de la liga con participación en todos y cada uno de los playoffs en la historia de la MLS, desde 1996.

Y cuando se habla de participación se pudiera

dar con ello fé a una referencia meramente estadística o histórica, pero en el caso del equipo angelino también podemos hablar de protagonismo, porque de sus ocho intervenciones anteriores en la serie de campeonato, en cuatro oportunidades ha llegado hasta la final, algo que supone una marca

*(Continuado)*



Carlos "El Pescadito" Ruiz anotó el gol de oro que en el minuto 113 dió la victoria al Galaxy en la final, pasando por el zambullo de Adin Brown.



en la liga, misma que los galácticos comparten con el DC United.

Por ello, el Galaxy inicia su travesía por los playoffs 2004 buscando llegar a una inédita quinta aparición en una final de la MLS, además de que tratará de sumar su segundo título de campeón.

Recordemos que en la temporada 2002, Los Angeles se coronó campeón de la Copa MLS al vencer al Revolution de Nueva Inglaterra en el Estadio Gillette de Foxboro, Massachussets.

Sigi Schmid, quien llevó al Galaxy a su primer título en la liga, no oculta su satisfacción por contar con un plantel amplio, renovado

que no sólo le ayudó a espantar los fantasmas de la pasada liguilla, sino que mantuvo a su equipo como superlíder del torneo regular la mayor parte del año:

“Estoy optimista por llegar a la postemporada con un equipo que cuenta con una variedad interesante de jugadores donde incluso los novatos y los que apenas llegaron en ésta temporada, han jugado con regularidad. Eso nos ha permitido reemplazar exitosamente cualquier ausencia de las que hemos padecido en el torneo, pues en algún momento llegamos a tener hasta a seis titulares fuera por diferentes razones, sin que el funcionamiento del equipo fuera afectado”, comentó el estratega galáctico, quien espera intervenir en su sexta postemporada con el equipo.

## EL NUEVO SISTEMA

Por segunda temporada, los playoffs se disputan bajo el nuevo sistema impuesto a partir de 2003 por la liga, donde las series de cuartos de final se



*El Galaxy celebró su primer título de la Copa MLS en el 2002, derrotando al New England Revolution por 1-0 el Domingo, 20 de octubre en el Estadio Gillette.*

disputan en tan sólo dos encuentros, a visitas recíprocas, donde prevalece el equipo que logra un mayor número de goles en el acumulado de ambos duelos. Las semifinales serán disputadas en un solo partido.

Este sistema le da a cada juego un tinte de alto dramatismo y por ello las emociones en los encuentros de playoffs están garantizadas.

Además, el Galaxy ha sido tradicionalmente favorecido por el apoyo de su público, tanto en juegos de temporada regular, pero muy especialmente en los duelos definitivos de la postemporada.

Y la historia no miente, pues en todos sus encuentros de playoffs, entre 1996 y 2003, el Galaxy ha jugado frente a 333,508 aficionados, lo que da un promedio de casi 20,000 por partido, incluyendo a mas de esta cifra el año pasado para su encuentro frente San Jose.

*(Continuado)*



## FACTOR VETERANOS

Pero, ¿cual es el ingrediente principal para que un equipo se capaz de no perderse la fiesta de la liguilla año con año?

“Es la consistencia”, explica Cobi Jones, el único jugador que ha vestido la camiseta del Galaxy en todas y cada una de sus apariciones en la postemporada. “Yo uso la fuerza y la experiencia que me da el haber participado en tantas series de campeonato, ya llevo nueve. Eso me ayuda también a proveer liderazgo dentro del equipo, especialmente con los más jóvenes y también con los veteranos que llegan por primera vez y necesitan familiarizarse con el grupo”, agregó el mundialista estadounidense.

Cobi es el líder absoluto en goles anotados en la historia del Galaxy, con 59 tantos, en juegos de temporada regular.

Porque en los playoffs, Cobi Jones ha disputado 38 partidos, de los cuales ha sido titular en 37, acumulando 6 goles y 11 pases para anotación, lo que da una suma de 23 puntos.

El Galaxy también contará con la presencia de arquero Kevin Hartman, quien juega en su octava temporada con el equipo. El veterano tiene una carrera entre las mejores de la historia de la Major League Soccer, y él fue en el arco cuando ganaron su primera Copa MLS en el 2002.

## ¿TRIANGULO O CUADRADO?

Otro elemento determinante en cuanto a las posibilidades de éxito del Galaxy en la postemporada, es el famoso triángulo ofensivo que integran Carlos ‘Pescadito’ Ruiz, Jovan Kirovski y Andy Herzog.

Aunque, en la ecuación también se incrusta la buena cuota ofensiva, de goles, de lucha permanente, que ofrece Alejandro Moreno y el triángulo pasa a ser un cuadrado.

“Pienso que integramos una buena fórmula ofensiva cuando todos trabajamos para una misma causa. Se pueden lograr muchas cosas, siempre y

*(Continuado)*

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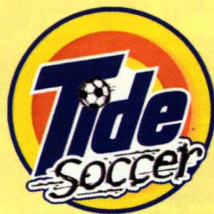
*Arquero Kevin Hartman, uno de tres arqueros en la historia de la liga con por lo menos cuarenta blanqueadas en su carrera, se zambulla para parar un tiro de un rival.*

cuando todos nos enchufemos”, señaló Carlos Ruiz, quien agregó: “Como equipo, nos hemos propuesto una meta, que es llegar a la final, porque se disputa nuevamente en Los Angeles”.

Por su parte, Moreno destacó que además de la buena propuesta ofensiva, para llegar al título hace falta algo más:

“Yo creo que lo más importante en juegos de playoffs es una buena organización defensiva y esa es la base para lograr un óptimo funcionamiento ofensivo”, apuntó el seleccionado de Venezuela, quien no ocultó su entusiasmo por encarar su tercer serie de postemorada: “Estoy optimista. La verdad he tenido oportunidad en disputar ya dos series de playoffs y me han tocado las dos caras de la moneda, pero éste año veo a un equipo confiado en que se pueden hacer las cosas bien y sacar los resultados necesarios cuando juguemos fuera de casa, para decidir todo en nuestro estadio.”

*(Continuado)*



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Mediocampista Cobi Jones, el líder en goles anotados en la historia del equipo, rondea la cancha de Gillette Stadium con el trofeo después de ganar la Copa MLS.

## LOS NOVATOS QUIEREN PROTAGONISMO

Y dentro del mismo esquema de ataque que el Galaxy ha presentado en ésta temporada, apareció un joven delantero, Joseph Ngwenya, procedente del circuito universitario, pero nativo de Bulawayo, Zimbawe.

‘El Cocodrilo’, como su nombre se traduce en el dialecto Ndebele, le ha dado frescura y goles al ataque galáctico y Joseph ansía que llegue el momento de la verdad y poder ver acción en la liguilla:

“Será algo muy emocionante para mí, como novato, poder jugar en los playoffs. Estoy rodeado de compañeros que han disputado muchos juegos de postemporada y sé que ellos me van a ayudar cuando me toque jugar. Obviamente, me gustaría anotar uno, o dos goles, en los playoffs y ayudar al equipo a llegar a la final”.

Otro novato, el mediocampista Ned Grabavoy,

reclutado éste año de la Universidad de Indiana, logró gracias a su talento y al apoyo de los más experimentados del equipo, ganarse un lugar en la alineación y también espera ansioso su debut en juegos de postemporada:

“Obviamente, uno se siente muy bien ante la posibilidad de jugar en la postemporada. Cuando dejé las filas universitarias para jugar en un equipo profesional, lo que soñaba era justamente llegar a los playoffs y ese sueño está por cumplirse”.

Con todo ésto, se abre una interesante interrogante sobre el jugador galáctico que brillará con mayor intensidad en la liguilla.

¿Será uno de los ya consagrados como Carlos ‘Pescadito’ Ruiz, Cobi Jones o el mismo Alejandro Moreno?

¿O acaso los recién llegados Herzog, Kirovski o Saragosa?

¿O tal vez los novatos, Ngwenya o Grabavoy?

Con éste mezcla de nuevos talentos, con el arribo de jugadores que han hecho sentir su presencia en el equipo en su primera temporada, como Andreas Herzog, Jovan Kirovski y Marcelo Saragoza, así como los veteranos cuya contribución es invaluable, como el caso del guardameta Kevin Hartman y sus defensores Danny Califf, Tyrone Marshall, Ryan Suárez, Hong Myung Bo, Chris Albright y Sasha Victorine, el Galaxy inicia una nueva aventura en los playoffs.



# Size Matters

Major League Soccer is expanding in 2005 when new teams begin in Salt Lake City and Los Angeles · By Mike Torto

When Major League Soccer kicks off early in 2005, there will be some new faces around the league. In another sign of the league's vitality and growth, two expansion teams will join the fray for MLS's 10th campaign, bringing the number of teams in the U.S. Division I professional league to 12.

The long-awaited addition of the two new teams to the league represents not only an expansion into new markets in the USA, but also the strengthening of those already existing.

On July 14, MLS Commissioner Don Garber

announced the arrival of a new franchise in Salt Lake City, Utah, under the ownership of legendary sports executive Dave Checketts.

Then three weeks later, the founder of Omnilife, Jorge Vergara, joined Commissioner Garber for the historic announcement of the second franchise in Los Angeles at the future site of MLS' most heated rivalry, The Home Depot Center. Also the owner of storied Mexican Primera Division team Club Deportivo Guadalajara (known as Chivas), Vergara combined with Mexican real estate mogul Antonio

*(Continued on page 22)*



*The passionate fans of legendary Mexican club Chivas – as CD Guadalajara is commonly known – are expected to fill The Home Depot Center beginning next year. Photo: Essy Ghavameddian*





*The vision of Salt Lake City native Dave Checketts (left) was a key factor to Commissioner Don Garber in attracting the league's 12th team. Photo: Ken Levine*

That vision included a recognition of the widespread grassroots youth soccer movement in Utah and a growing Hispanic demographic in the city, the desire and potential funding to build a soccer-specific stadium in the area, and the reputation for pride and devotion that Salt Lake residents have acquired in their support of the home team.

Checketts, a Salt Lake City native, wanted to reward the city for that great spirit, hoping to reintroduce his hometown to the global and national accolades it

garnered from the 2002 Winter Olympics.

"This is my effort with my partners to give something back that will put Salt Lake on the international scale because that's what soccer is," Checketts said.

With cities around the nation clamoring for a franchise, it could appear curious that the city of Los Angeles was awarded its second team, which will share the new Home Depot Center with the current tenants, the Los Angeles Galaxy.

In contrast to the breakneck speed of the Salt Lake deal, the new L.A. franchise concluded a long and carefully deliberated process that had its roots before the 2003 MLS All-Star Weekend when the MLS All-Stars faced off against Chivas, arguably the most popular club in Mexico because of its policy to field only native-born Mexican players.

At that time, Vergara, a self-made millionaire who owns the Grupo Omniflife, had expressed a willingness to expand the Chivas name to other countries. When Commissioner Garber delivered his State of the League address on the eve of the

*(Continued from page 21)*

Cue to secure not only the expansion fee but also the indemnity needed to secure the rights to operate the franchise from AEG, which owns and operates the Galaxy and four other teams.

The Salt Lake City declaration represented the culmination of whirlwind activity over the past few months that saw the Utah capital surprisingly emerge as the destination of Major League Soccer's 12th team. As Garber and Checketts revealed during their joint press conference, the transition of Checketts from possible owner in 2006 to the league's newest operator-investor happened over the course of a few weeks in the early summer.

Asked to clarify why Salt Lake City beat out other cities seeking expansion franchises, Garber said that when it came down to it, "we were much further along with our discussions with Dave (Checketts) and believed that his vision for what he wanted to achieve here in Salt Lake was something he could put together in 2005."

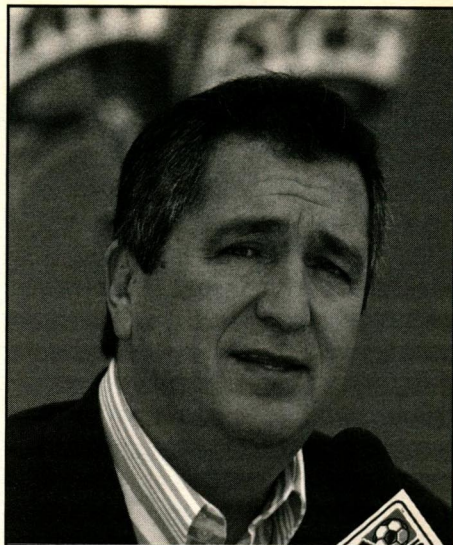


All-Star game in 2003, he confirmed that MLS had become the destination of choice for the extension of the Chivas franchise, but that the location had yet to be finalized.

Los Angeles, and more specifically The Home Depot Center, provides an optimal venue for MLS' 11th team. The Galaxy fan base is large enough to tolerate losing a number of fans to the new team in town. More importantly, that fan base consists of millions of Mexican-Americans who will flock to Carson to celebrate a team with an important relationship to one of Mexico's most successful clubs.

As area residents begin to gravitate toward supporting either the Galaxy or the city's new team, league officials are betting that an intense struggle will arise between the two organizations, infusing MLS with a high-profile rivalry.

Through Mexican-American fans and their relationship with the new club, mainstream America will experience the idea of soccer teams as a cultural phenomenon, as those who followed Chivas as children will now support L.A.'s new organiza-



Jorge Vergara, founder of Omnilife and owner of CD Guadalajara, who along with Antonio Cue will be the Investors-operators for L.A.'s new expansion team.

tion with a deep-seated sense of connection to the Chivas franchise and its history. As a nascent league, MLS cannot boast the same feeling of "growing up" with a team in the way many fans of baseball or American football express it. The new expansion club can change all of that.

With an eye toward the future, MLS has learned from its mistakes of the late 1990s, when it expanded too hastily only to find itself contracting again a few years down the line. The involvement of two dedicated, visionary owners in Dave Checketts and Jorge Vergara is just the first step of Major League Soccer's current growth spurt.

While no plans are final yet, league officials have made it clear that throwing two more teams into the mix for the 2006 season is a priority. With so many cities interested in becoming part of the MLS family, including Houston, Atlanta, Rochester, Seattle and Cleveland, MLS is poised to bring the beautiful game to millions more new fans over the next few years.



The rivalry the new L.A. expansion team will bring to MLS was shown at last year's All-Star Game, when the league's All-Stars defeated Chivas 3-1 at The Home Depot Center.



# Recipe for Success

Teams take different routes to becoming MLS Cup Champions

So what is it exactly that leads a team to become MLS Cup Champion? It is showing quality over the entire regular season, leading from wire-to-wire? Is it getting hot just at the right time, flying into the final after a thrilling late charge? Or is it something in between?

Quite simply, to get to a final, the answer is: All of the above.

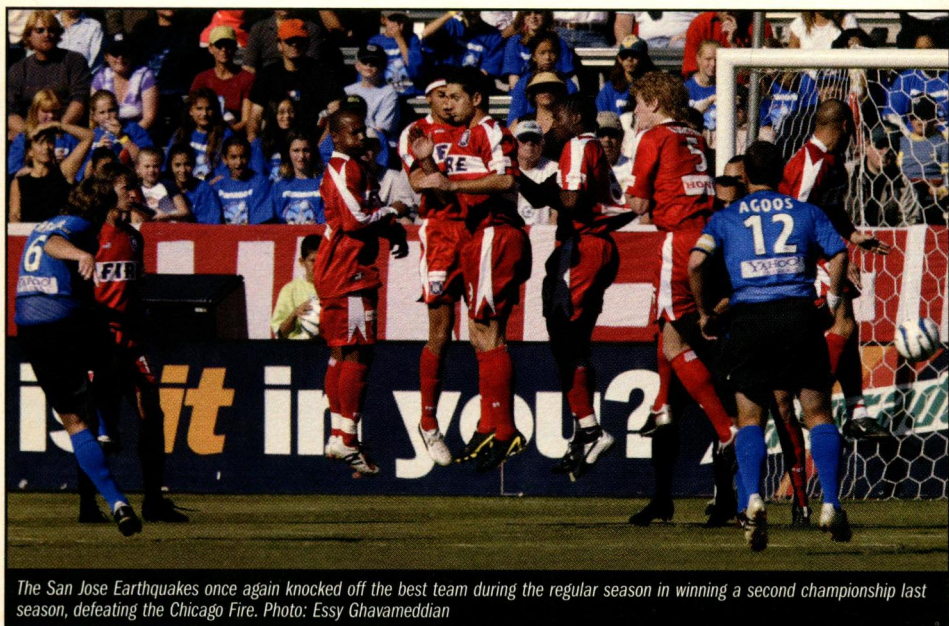
If there's anything the first nine years of Major League Soccer have shown is that there's no one road to the MLS Cup Final. There have been dominant teams, and Cinderella teams. There have been attacking juggernauts, and defensive blockhouses. There have been Steady Eddies, and roller-coaster rides ending on a high.

D.C. United showed both ends of the spectrum – and set the theme for the league ever since – in winning the first two championships in MLS history.

Not many people remember, but in that inaugural season United didn't get above the .500 mark until the season's final week. They then barely survived an opening-round playoff series against the MetroStars before eventually overcoming the two-goal deficit in the amazing inaugural Cup Final to defeat the Los Angeles Galaxy.

But the following season, there was no stopping United. They easily won the Supporters Shield indicative of the best overall team in the league, with the most powerful attack in MLS. There wasn't

*(Continued on page 28)*



The San Jose Earthquakes once again knocked off the best team during the regular season in winning a second championship last season, defeating the Chicago Fire. Photo: Essy Ghavameddian





*D.C. United were the league's first Cinderella, barely reaching .500 in the regular season before claiming MLS Cup '96.*

*(Continued from page 26)*

much through the playoffs, either, culminating in a victory against the Colorado Rapids. That Rapids team was also a bit of Cinderella, barely eking into the playoffs before surprisingly getting to the championship game.

The next year, United and the Galaxy owned the regular season and seemed to have another MLS Cup Final encounter all set up. But no one accounted for the Chicago Fire – who upset both clubs on their way to a championship in their inaugural season, though they had the third-best record in the league.

That United-Galaxy rematch was only delayed by a year, as it turned out. The two clubs once again

won their respective conferences in the regular season and the playoffs, with MLS Cup 1999 a matchup of the league's best attack (D.C. United) against the best defense (Los Angeles). On that occasion, the attackers won out 2-0 at Foxboro Stadium.

The best two teams in the overall table again reached the Cup Final the next season, again a match of the best attack in MLS (Chicago Fire) and the best defense (Kansas City Wizards). That's when the adage of "defense wins championships" finally played out in an MLS Cup Final – the Wizards scoring early and holding on for an appropriate 1-0 victory.

That's when Cinderella started to come back to the MLS Cup ball. OK, so the San Jose Earthquakes weren't the worst team in MLS during the 2001 season. But they were in the 2000 season, scoring the fewest goals in the league. The Los Angeles Galaxy reached the MLS Cup Final for the fourth time in six

seasons that year, but there was no stopping a worst-to-first run, and the Earthquakes lifted the Alan I. Rothenberg Trophy for the first time as their California rivals once again fell short.

2001 was also noteworthy for something that could lead to anyone looking for trends. While winning the Supporters Shield far from guarantees winning a title, that was the only season that either of the top two teams in the league's overall table did not reach the MLS Cup Final.

The Galaxy came back for one more bite of the cherry the following season, but too many things seemed far too similar to be comfortable. Once

*(Continued on page 30)*



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A black and white action photograph from a soccer match. In the foreground, a player in a white jersey with the number 6 is dribbling the ball with his right foot. He is being tackled from behind by a player in a dark jersey with the number 5. The player in white is leaning forward, and the player in dark is reaching out with his arms. The background is blurred, showing other players and spectators.

*The Chicago Fire got past the top teams in the regular season in defeating D.C. United to win MLS Cup '98 in their inaugural season.*

again, the Galaxy sailed through the regular season and posted the league's best overall record. But once again, they were facing a dangerous Cup Final opponent in the New England Revolution that had barely slipped into the playoffs, then had the added test of playing them on their home ground. This time, however, it was the time for the Galaxy to shine, winning in the third MLS Cup decided by a golden goal (and the second in as many years).

And so last year, form again won out, as the Chicago Fire and San Jose Earthquakes were the top two teams in the league and followed their regular-season conference championships with berths in the final. But this time, the Supporters Shield winners went down in the title game (as had happened once previously), the Earthquakes earning the right to a second star with a resounding victory.

So if your team's in first place at season's end, is it time to book those plane tickets to L.A.? Maybe, but wait: there's always that chance that the clock won't strike 12 again this year - it's happened before. 🕒



# Quest for the Cup

Format remains the same for MLS Cup Playoffs in 2004

In 2003, conference semifinal series were conducted for the first time under a home-and-home, aggregate goals format, with single game conference championships determining the MLS Cup Finalists. That will not change this season on the road to MLS Cup 2004.

The aggregate goal format follows the lead of various international competitions, such as the

tied after 180 minutes, a 30-minute golden-goal overtime was played, followed by a penalty kick shootout, if necessary.

After the ruling of the International Football Association Board on Feb. 28, 2004, and the MLS Competition Committee's ruling on March 16, 2004, the conference semifinal overtime remains at a total of 30 minutes but now excludes the sudden-

## Eastern Conference

### SEMIFINALS

**No. 1 vs. No. 4**

HOME & HOME  
AGGREGATE GOALS

### Finals

Single Game

### SEMIFINALS

**No. 2 vs. No. 3**

HOME & HOME  
AGGREGATE GOALS

## Western Conference

### SEMIFINALS

**No. 1 vs. No. 4**

HOME & HOME  
AGGREGATE GOALS

### Finals

Single Game

### SEMIFINALS

**No. 2 vs. No. 3**

HOME & HOME  
AGGREGATE GOALS

**MLS CUP 2004**

**November 14**

3:30 p.m. ET  
ABC Sports

Copa Libertadores (the annual South American club championship), the CONCACAF Champions Cup (the annual club championship for teams from North and Central America and the Caribbean), as well as England's divisional promotion playoffs.

The team that scores the most goals in the home-and-away series advance to the single-elimination conference finals. In 2003, if teams were

victory golden goal element, utilizing the penalty kick tiebreaker if the aggregate goal totals remain level after 120 minutes.

For the 2004 single game Eastern and Western Conference Finals, as well as the 2004 MLS Cup Final, 30 minutes of extra time (divided into two 15-minute periods), serve as the primary tiebreaker, with kicks from the penalty mark deciding a winner after 120 minutes.



# The Cup Goes 'Home'

The Home Depot Center to once again host MLS Cup

The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. will serve as the home to MLS Cup 2004 when the ninth championship game for Major League Soccer is played there on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004 (kickoff at 3:30 p.m. ET).

MLS Cup 2004 marks the third time that Major League Soccer's champion will be crowned in Southern California, as the Chicago Fire captured the Cup at the conclusion of their inaugural 1998 season and the San Jose Earthquakes captured their second Cup in three seasons with a thrilling 4-2 victory against the Fire at The Home Depot Center in last year's final.

A true "cathedral" for American soccer, The Home Depot Center opened on June 7, 2003, as the home of the Los Angeles Galaxy, who defeated the Colorado Rapids 2-0 before a capacity crowd of 27,000 fans, the first of three regular-season sell-outs for the then-defending MLS Cup champions in their new home. Los Angeles led MLS in average

attendance in 2003, with crowds of more than 20,000 for 11 of 15 home games.

The Home Depot Center was again sold out on August 2 for the 2003 Pepsi MLS All-Star Game, which saw a team of MLS All-Stars defeat fabled Mexican club Chivas de Guadalajara, 3-1. The Home Depot Center also hosted six contests during the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup USA, including the Third Place and Championship Games, and served as the cornerstone venue of Soccer United Marketing's eight-team, five-city Mexican club tournament, InterLiga, in January 2004.

Make plans now to be a part of the crowning of this year's champion of Major League Soccer. Ticket prices for the 2004 MLS Cup Final range from \$23 to \$55, across five pricing levels, and are on sale at The Home Depot Center, Staples Center and all TicketMaster outlets in the Los Angeles area (or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)). For more information, call the Galaxy toll-free at 1-877-3GALAXY.



The Home Depot Center will play host to its second MLS Cup Final, after the San Jose Earthquakes rolled to a 4-2 victory there last year for their second title. Photo: Tom Hauck





# Home-Field Advantage?

The reward for top teams after a long MLS season is home-field advantage in the playoffs. Is it worth it? · By Peter Hird

The moment has finally arrived — for coaches who were confident they'd reach the postseason and who spent the past six months settling for ties rather than playing for wins; and for writers and broadcasters who justified those coaches' tactics by reciting time and again that the regular season "doesn't matter." Well, we'll see now, won't we? Because the reward for those coaches whose teams

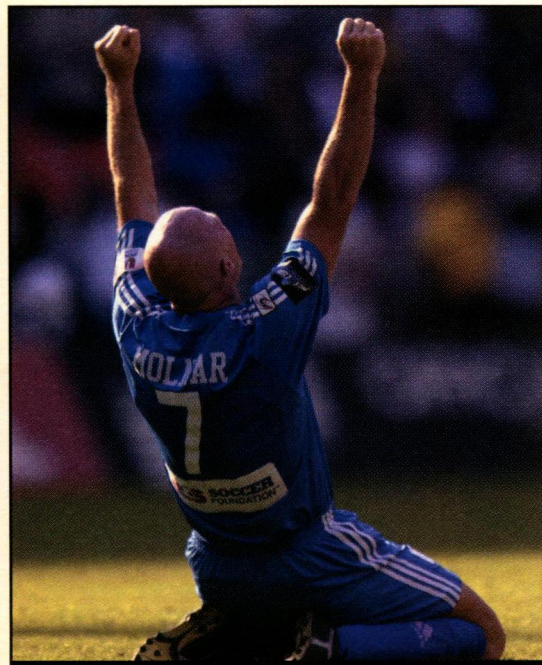
overachieved during the season is a home-field advantage in the playoffs.

And there's the rub. Many have suggested that a home-field "advantage" is too strong a term to describe the benefit that teams now earn by finishing the regular season with more points than their postseason opponents. Under the old "first-to-five" system, an underdog couldn't win a series without either winning on the road or tying both matches on its opponent's turf after winning at home. Since 2003, that's no longer the case.

Starting last year, teams now play a two-match series decided by total goals. If the aggregate score is tied after two 90-minute sessions (one at each team's home field), the teams play a 30-minute tie-breaking period, with the first goal deciding the series — the so-called "Golden Goal." That's the main element of the home-field advantage: Should additional time be required to decide the series, it's played on the field of the team with the better regular-season record.

Before we examine just how important that edge might be, let's take a moment to explore the concept of a home-field advantage in general in Major League Soccer. The following table shows the winning percentages of home teams, consistently near the .600 mark throughout MLS history. The

*(Continued on page 40)*



Miklos Molnar's goal gave the Kansas City Wizards victory in MLS Cup 2000 against the Chicago Fire, who had posted the best home record in the league during the season.



(Continued from page 38)

record for 2004 includes all games played up the All-Star break.

Year	W	L	T	Pct.
1996	99	61	0	.619
1997	99	61	0	.619
1998	119	73	0	.620
1999	110	82	0	.573
2000	105	53	34	.635
2001	83	47	28	.614
2002	77	41	22	.629
2003	71	38	41	.610
2004	40	22	30	.598

Those figures do indicate a significant advantage for home teams. But what of a two-game series in which each team plays one game at home? Except for that potential overtime session mentioned earlier, the home team benefits only in knowing what's needed in Game 2 and being at home to try to make it happen. We see that effect most clearly during the

regular season, when home teams are more successful at scoring late game-tying goals than road teams are. The home team knows what's needed — to score a goal — and can make it happen. Over the last five seasons, home teams trailing by a goal after 80 minutes were more likely to even the match (23 percent since 2000) than road teams were (17%). But as you can see, the margin isn't that wide.

In the 47 matches during that time that produced an overtime result, home teams posted a 35-12 record. That has to be a daunting figure for road-team coaches to consider, should the aggregate score be tied as the clock winds down in the return leg of a playoff series.

But how likely is it that a playoff series will be tied after two games? If regular-season results are any indication, it's not very likely at all. From 1996 through the midpoint of the 2004 season, there were 62 home-and-home series in which two teams faced each other in consecutive regular-season matches. Only seven produced an equal num-

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Carlos Ruiz scored in extra time to give the Los Angeles Galaxy their only MLS Cup victory in 2002, a season they lost just once at home. Photo: Joe Giblin

that finished within five points of each other in the standings—to look only at evenly-matched “playoff-type” matchups — the results are even more extreme: Only two of 22 such series ended with an aggregate goals tie.

So to summarize, a strong home-field advantage does exist in MLS, but the current playoff system doesn't provide much of an advantage for the favored team. Should a series end with the teams tied in aggregate goals, then the home team has a significant advantage in the golden goal period. And only then might a coach or two regret settling for ties that might have produced an extra win or two during the regular season to gain that home-field advantage in the postseason.

ber of goals by each team. And if we try to fine-tune the study by restricting it to matchup of teams

Peter Hirdt is Vice President of the Elias Sports Bureau, the official statistician of MLS.

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# Youth Movement

A string of high-flying, hard-working strikers bring new firepower to MLS · By Mike Levitt

If there's anything the first nine years of Major League Soccer have shown, it's the ability of the U.S. to produce world-class strikers. On a year that Jason Kreis became the league's all-time goalscoring leader, Brian McBride and Clint Mathis have taken the talents they learned in MLS and shown they translate at the next level, playing for Fulham FC (England) and Hannover 96 (Germany), respectively.

But if there's anything this season has shown, it's that MLS still has a wealth of young, talented, homegrown strikers, a group that has turned heads all season and all are among the MLS Budweiser Scoring Leaders.

Brian Ching of the San Jose Earthquakes, the

Kansas City Wizards' Davy Arnaud, young Dallas Burn striker Eddie Johnson and the New England Revolution's Pat Noonan have all become household names to MLS players, coaches and fans alike. These players have made immediate impacts on their teams without extensive success in the league – giving the game new light, a youthful exuberance if you prefer.

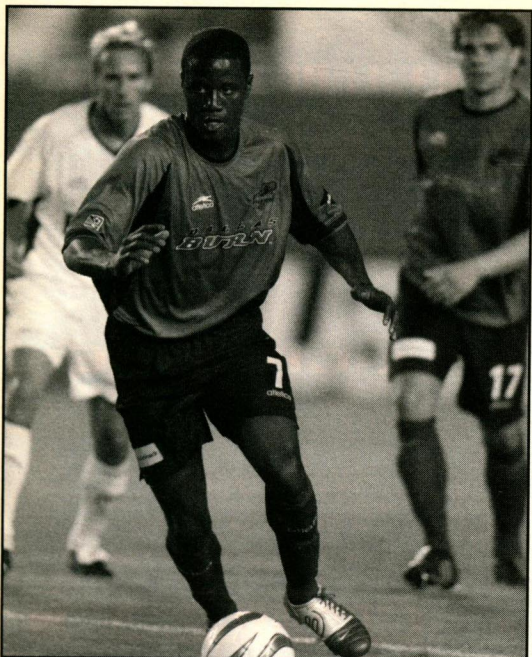
"It's exciting to see effort rewarded, seeing these young kids perform at such a high level, and without having to go overseas," Burn coach Colin Clarke said. "Allowing them to develop at home in front of their family and friends is a great attribute to the league."

*(Continued on page 44)*



Unheralded Davy Arnaud has taken advantage of his opportunity to become one of the most exciting young strikers in MLS, among the league's top marksmen this season. Photo: Ed Zurga





U.S. youth international Eddie Johnson has shown his immense promise this season for the Burn. Photo: Rick Yeatts

(Continued from page 42)

Ching, at 26 the oldest and most experienced of the group, earned his second career cap for the U.S. National Team in a July 11 friendly against Poland. After a brief stint with the L.A. Galaxy in 2001, Ching found himself on the Seattle Sounders of the A-League for the entirety of the 2002 season. Upon his return to MLS in 2003 with the San Jose Earthquakes, Ching made an immediate impact, netting six goals in 14 games until his season was cut short with an Achilles tendon injury midway through the campaign. Fast forward to 2004, where Ching has taken his rightful place among the league leaders, forming an impressive duo with national team star Landon Donovan, a grizzled 22-year-old veteran.

"When he went down last year, he was having a great season, and to come back this year even stronger is incredible," San Jose midfielder Brian Mullan said of Ching. "Brian is a huge part of the team and to get people involved and get his name out there more is going to be good for the team and good for the league."

The 24-year-old Noonan also made his debut for the U.S. this year, earning his first cap in a March 13 match against Haiti. In his rookie year in 2003, Noonan made an impact for the Revolution, and after beginning the year in a substitute role, finished strong by securing a starting role at forward. By the season's close, Noonan was among the league's top 10 in goals scored (10) and points (27).

"It's a great feeling to be able to contribute offensively for the team. Last year because of injuries I was able to get into the lineup at the end of the year and show what I could do to help this team. This year I've just worked hard to keep up what I started last year," Noonan said.

Arnaud and Johnson are teetering on the brink of stardom in the league, anticipating call-ups to the U.S. National Team in the near future. After coming literally out of nowhere (okay, West Texas A&M), Arnaud made seven starts among 21 appearances in his first two seasons, scoring three goals. But this season, with the league's all-time points leader Preki sidelined for the better part of the season, Arnaud had made the most of his newly acquired starting role and has



Pat Noonan of the Revolution has picked up right where he left off in his rookie season last year. Photo: David Silverman






San Jose's Brian Ching overcame an Achilles injury last year to move up the league's goal scoring charts this season.  
Photo: John Todd

done a superb job filling in as goal scorer and leader.


"My first couple of seasons I knew I might not get a chance early, but this year, because of injuries early on and in preseason, coach gave me a chance and I've made the most of it," Arnaud said.

Johnson is a Nike Project-40 signee from 2001, when at the age of 16 was one of the youngest signings in league history. He saw limited playing time in 2001 and 2002, starting only three games, but began to show his capabilities last year, starting 13 of the 22 games he appeared in. This season has witnessed his ascension to the top of the league's scoring charts, as he remains among the league's top 10 scorers.

"Eddie is a big reason we are in the hunt for the playoffs today. After the team had time to gel and get to know each other, we have been playing a good game, and Eddie has played a major role," Clarke said. "It's going to be an exciting second half, a real dogfight with so many teams in contention for the playoffs."





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# Natural Selections

Rookies in Class of 2004 could be the best crop ever in MLS history · By Marc Connolly

Carry the ball bags. Apply mink oil to endless pairs of F50s, Vapors and Predators. Sit in the middle aisle during every flight. Make more appearances "in the community" as a member of your team than you do as a player in the matches.

That's what being a rookie is supposed to be about.

Not this year.

While special duties are still being assigned to the first-year players in Major League Soccer – even

Freddy Adu – the term "rookie" doesn't seem to apply in 2004. Not when several of the 10 sides have received major contributions from players they drafted last January.

Where would New England be without the all-around, not to mention versatile, play of Clint Dempsey? How many more goals would Columbus have given up without Chad Marshall in the back? Or, better yet, has there ever been a better sixth-round draft pick than MetroStars center back Jeff Parke?

To answer the remaining lingering questions, as well as review a class of rookies that might be the league's top crop yet, here's a team-by-team evaluation:

## TOP OF THE POPS

⊕ **New England:** Through the All-Star break, Dempsey was the Revolution's top player, having scored six goals to go with one assist. Whether he's played as a holding midfielder, out wide or as a striker, the former Furman star has excelled, all the while exuding a wise-beyond-his-years sense of maturity. The Revs only made three other selections during the Draft, including two in the sixth-round in Felix Brillant and Andy Dorman, who both have made contributions, as has local product and fifth-rounder Luke Vercollone since coming over from Columbus.

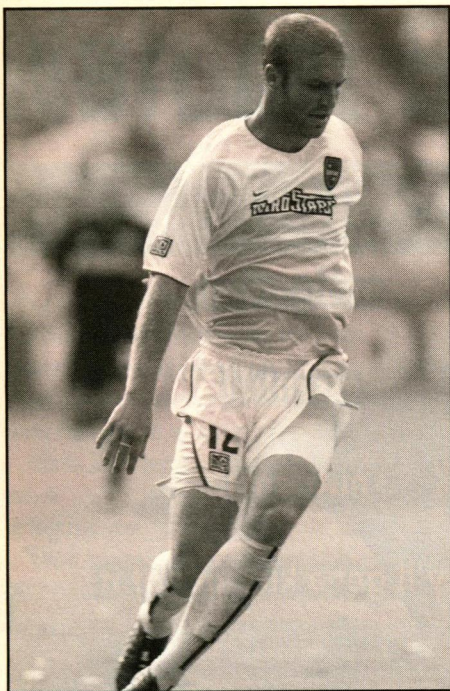
⊕ **Los Angeles:** The Galaxy's first two first picks – striker Joseph Ngwenya (third overall) and Ned Grabavoy (14th) – are a large part of the reason they rebounded from a down year to lead the league at the All-Star break. Ngwenya

(Continued on page 48)



His versatility and scoring have made New England's Clint Dempsey a Rookie of the Year favorite this year. Photo: David Silverman





*MetroStars defender Jeff Parke was the last player taken in this year's SuperDraft - and began the season as a starter. Photo: Tony Quinn*

*(Continued from page 46)*

has blazing speed with a nose for the goal, while Grabavoy has been able to contribute both as a holding midfielder and on the left side. Both players look like future All-Stars, and suitable replacements for 30-somethings Cobi Jones and Andreas Herzog. Sixth-round pick Chris Aloisi has been impressive when given the chance, as well. It remains to be seen whether Josh Gardner will make an impact in '04.

⊕ **MetroStars:** Cheers are in order to any team's scouting efforts when the last pick of the draft comes in as a rookie and earns a starting job, which is exactly what happened with center back Parke after being selected 60th in the Draft. The former Drexel standout has proven to be strong in the air and a reliable tackler. Where the Metros really earn their high marks is by drafting a Division II player in Southern Connecticut striker Olivier Occean, who was so good in the preseason that Norwegian club Odd Grenland

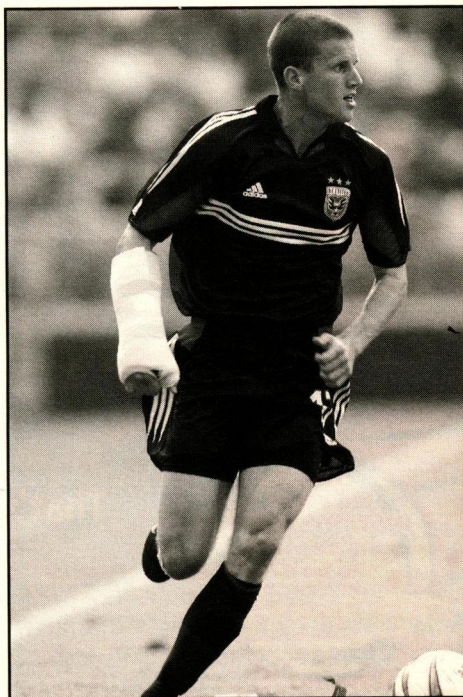
signed him away before the MLS season began. In addition, goalkeeper Zach Wells looks solid.

## **MIDDLE OF THE ROAD**

⊕ **D.C. United:** "Adumania" has made it more difficult to truly judge the 15-year-old's contributions to Peter Nowak's side. Put the hype and the expectations aside for a second, and you'll see a young player who has taken his knocks, yet has also been dangerous at times and given his team a different look when he's in there. With a little luck, Adu could have had five or six goals, not two, at the All-Star break. Former Rutgers midfielder Josh Gros had appeared in every match and been one of the team's most consistent players during stretches of the first half.

⊕ **Dallas:** Let's be real. The Burn didn't draft midfielder Ramon Nuñez and defender Clarence Goodson at six and seven in the first round to step right in and play. Considering the moves general

*(Continued on page 50)*



*Josh Gros has claimed a regular role as a wide midfielder for Peter Nowak's United team in his rookie season. Photo: Tony Quinn*



(Continued from page 48)

manager Greg Elliott made to bring in established veterans to the midfield and central defense, these selections were made for the future. Time will tell whether Elliott should have gone in a different direction.

☉ **San Jose:** Ryan Cochrane, the fifth selection overall, is the heir apparent to captain Jeff Agoos as the team's general in the central defense. Whether he's been paired with Agoos or with Troy Dayak in his absence, the former Under-20 National Team performer has proved he can start in this league as a 21-year-old. While several other selections haven't panned out, fifth-rounder Tighe Dombrowski looks like a keeper.

☉ **Colorado:** The top pick for the Rapids, 15th overall selection Adolfo Gregorio, never played a match in Colorado, choosing to go to Europe to play instead. To make up for it, Tim Hankinson's side has had a pair of pleasant surprises in fifth-round pick Gary Sullivan and undrafted striker Jordan Cila from Duke. Both have played significant roles off the bench and are two of the league's true surprises from this year's rookie class.

## FOOT OF THE TABLE

☉ **Columbus:** Marshall has been able to make a name for himself both as a defender and as a lethal weapon on set pieces during his rookie campaign. Former St. John's All-American Chris Wingert was a fine selection in the second-round, and has become a good role player in a few different positions. But the rest of their picks have either been let go or have only seen minimal playing time.



*Chad Marshall, the second pick overall by the Crew, has fulfilled his potential in his rookie year, moving into a starting role in Greg Andrulis's back line. (Photo: Essy Ghavameddian)*

☉ **Kansas City:** First-round pick Matt Taylor has done a fine job off the bench, scoring three goals in his first half of the season. The former UCLA star has shown flashes of brilliance when running at the defense, and has game-breaking speed. Once he gets a run in with Preki, his goal total might double. Outside of Taylor, no other rookie has been able to earn meaningful minutes, which is understandable considering how well Bob Gansler's veterans have performed in '04.

☉ **Chicago:** There hasn't been a Damani Ralph or even a Logan Pause lurking in this group. Instead, Dave Sarachan has received contributions from four of his 10 draftees, who look like MLS lifers at best rather than future stars. Left back Leonard Griffin may end up being the pick of the litter. ☉

*Marc Connolly reports on soccer for ESPN.com and several other publications. He has a weekly column on MLSnet.com.*





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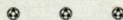
\* In Gardena, **El Pollo Inka** at  
1425 W. Artesia Blvd.; 310-516-  
7378.

\* In South Gate, **Maxsports Grill and Family Entertainment Center** at 8716 Garfield Ave. Suite 101 located next to the Edwards Cinemas. Phone # 562-928-8992. [www.maxsportsbarandgrill.com](http://www.maxsportsbarandgrill.com)

\* In Carson, **Plaza Bar & Grill** (Carson Hilton), 2 Civic Plaza Drive, 310-830-9200

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Sat. September 18 @ Dallas · 5:30 pm  
Sat. September 25 @ San Jose · 7:00 pm  
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# A Long, Hard Road To The Top

Beginning his journey in Washington, D.C., Chris Albright has overcome obstacle after obstacle during his career and now stands poised to earn a spot to Germany in 2006 · By Llew Llewellyn

After a rocky road trip that began five years ago in Washington, DC, in many ways it seems that Chris Albright's tenure with the Galaxy was simply not meant to be successful, but since the beginning of the 2004 season his fortunes with the team have taken an unexpected twist.

The difference came when the former striker and midfielder found himself starting at the right back position for both club and country, a turn of events that had begun in unlikely fashion.

U.S. National Team head coach Bruce Arena favors the 4-4-2 formation and is always on the lookout for a certain type of athlete at the outside back position. During the 2002 World Cup he utilized midfielder Tony Sanneh to great effect in a defensive role and during a national team training camp at The Home Depot Center late in 2003, he approached Albright.

"He pulled me aside and said, 'Look, what do you think about playing at right back?'

Just like that," said Albright with a smile. "I said 'Sure, I'll play there', anything to stay in the mix. It

*(Continued on page 63)*



Galaxy defender Chris Albright has made an impact on the U.S. National Team as well in 2004, earning quality minutes for Head Coach Bruce Arena's side.





*After U.S. National Team manager Bruce Arena asked Albright to change positions on his side, Galaxy Head Coach Sigi Schmid wisely decided that it was best for him at the club level as well.*

*(Continued from page 61)*

was a no-brainer for me, I was in the national team camp for the first time in 18 months and I wasn't about to sit there and argue with him."

Arena noted that he wanted to showcase Albright's talents in a different light. He explained that looking down the road towards the 2006 World Cup, the right back position on the US team was definitely not solidified.

"Given the direction Chris was heading in his career as a professional, it became apparent that he wasn't in L.A.'s plans to be a forward or midfielder," Arena said. "Given his qualities, I thought right back was a position he could embrace and perhaps excel at. He's certainly done well so far."

The first U.S. international game of 2004 was against Denmark on the Galaxy's home turf and also marked the first time that Albright lined up at his new defensive position. He played for 79 minutes in the 1-1 draw and acquitted himself well before giving way to veteran Frankie Hejduk.

The move did not go unnoticed by Galaxy head coach Sigi Schmid, who was looking to change from the 3-5-2 formation that had not worked in 2003, when Albright had been used as either a strike partner with Carlos Ruiz or increasingly more often as a midfielder.

"The decision was really easy after Bruce Arena used him there with the national team," said Schmid. "We watched him and then we tried him there during training and noted that he wasn't that bad."

"We sat down with him and asked him if it would be something that he would enjoy doing for us. He thought that it was good for him and we felt that it was good for the Galaxy, so it all came together."

Albright shakes his head when asked what he thought when the double-barreled proposal was made to him.

"Maybe inwardly I was laughing, but right away I was like 'Sure!' he said. "I immediately went to talk to Alexi Lalas about how to play defense and he laughed his head off."

Albright's teammates and his coach say that he has settled into his new role quickly.

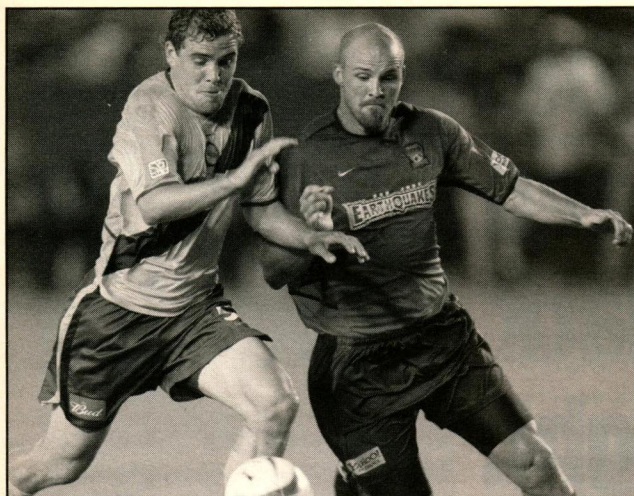
"His learning curve has been really good," said Schmid. "You don't see him repeating mistakes."

"He's been very steady," said Kevin Hartman, who has been playing behind him all year. "He can keep possession of the ball for us and he is passionate enough that he defends really well. It's been a process, but at the same time his learning process is very, very good."

"We continue to talk through stuff, but we have

*(Continued on page 65)*





*Albright's offensive abilities have been a major factor in the Galaxy attack, his assist totals putting him among the MLS leaders all season long.*

*(Continued from page 63)*

really come to rely upon him as a cornerstone of our defense."

Ryan Suarez has spent most of the 2004 season in the right central defender slot right next to Albright.

"Chris has been fantastic, he's been having a great year," he said. "His offense is incredible."

Albright comes from a Philadelphia family steeped in soccer; Larry Sullivan – the coach at Villanova University – is his uncle. His father John played for Walter Bahr – one member of the fabled 1950 U.S. team that beat England in the World Cup – while at Penn State and again at Temple when he returned from a hitch in the U.S. Army.

"That's how my dad met my mother," said Albright with a laugh. "She's one of nine kids and her five brothers all played and all my dad's brothers played. There was no real way out of playing soccer."

By the time he was a junior in high school, he was heavily recruited by colleges from both sides of the country. Bruce Arena talked to him about coming to the University of Virginia, while UCLA offered him a full ride, the first time Albright was to cross paths with Schmid.

"It was between the East and West Coast," he recalled. "I spoke to Sigi a lot at that time, because

they had offered me a full scholarship. That was the toughest night of my life trying to decide, but I really wasn't ready to go that far from all my friends and family. UVA was the better option."

In 1999, Schmid called Albright into the U.S. U-20 team that was to take part in the FIFA World Championship in Nigeria, an event that Albright was to remember fondly.

"That was another great experience," he said. "It was chaotic, but the Nigerian people were so happy to have a big international soccer event in their country.

They couldn't believe it and they came out in thousands. Our bus would have to drive through a sea of people to get to the games."

Soon after the tournament in Nigeria, he and another young player on that team were called up by Arena to take part in a national team camp – and that was when things began to become difficult for the 19-year-old.

"Landon Donovan and I were invited into a pre-game camp for a full national team game against Argentina," said Albright, "I had a great two weeks, I think that I surprised everyone with how well I trained.

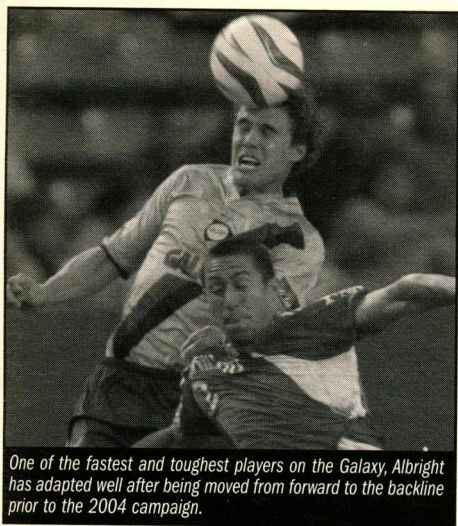
"Then Landon went to Leverskusen and they (MLS) were looking around to see who they could promote as being the new guy in the league. All of a sudden I was the golden child."

The Galaxy had lost the services of Carlos Hermosillo to retirement and were looking to the MLS front office for a player to replace him and Albright seemed to fit the bill. The forward and his family certainly thought that he was finally joining his U-20 coach in Los Angeles.

"I didn't know what happened, I was in a hotel room with my mother waiting on the news. I came out here and trained with the team for a week," he

*(Continued on page 67)*





One of the fastest and toughest players on the Galaxy, Albright has adapted well after being moved from forward to the backline prior to the 2004 campaign.

*(Continued from page 65)*

remembered. "For sure I was going to LA and then they came back and said they needed another day to figure things out and then I was going to D.C."

It soon became clear to the youngster that it was going to be much tougher to play professional soccer than he had anticipated. Albright freely admits that he was out of his depth when he first joined Thomas Rongen at D.C. United.

"To be honest, I wasn't ready for it," he said. "I didn't fully understand how it really was a profession. I treated it like a game and didn't take it seriously enough. At that point I didn't have enough guidance to be told 'This is what you need to be doing,' and then everything spiraled downward until I realized that I have to forget all that other stuff and try to move on."

Despite his rocky start at D.C., Clive Charles – "an amazing coach" – selected him for the 2000 Olympic team, where he joined future Galaxy teammates Sasha Victorine, Peter Vagenas and Danny Califf. It was also the first time he was moved to another position.

"I played wide right in the Olympics, Clive thought that was the best fit for me before I did," he said chuckling at the memory. "I wanted to play as a striker, because I thought that I had scored enough goals in qualifying to justify it. That was a mini-argu-

ment, but in the end that outside spot in a 3-5-2 is real similar to what I'm playing now."

Returning to D.C., Albright continued to struggle as an out-and-out goal scorer and by the time Los Angeles came to D.C. with a trade offer in 2002, Albright – the former golden child – had scored just three goals and had two assists in 56 games.

Although things didn't seem to be much better in his new home, Schmid retained faith in the young man he had attempted to recruit from high school. Arena also kept an eye on him and occasionally would call Albright into a camp for the national team.

"Looking back, I really wasn't ready and I think that Bruce just wanted to keep me in the mix," said Albright. "He knew that I had some talent and kept giving me a shot."

Arena and Schmid both say that Albright has a good chance to be on the national team in the 2006 World Cup in Germany and definitely in the running during the long qualifying process.

"We've identified about 35 players in our pool for World Cup qualifying and he's included," said Arena. "The competition at right back is fairly intense with the likes of Steve Cherundolo, Frankie Hejduk and Tony Sanneh. Chris has done well to put himself in that class already."

So while it has been a long and winding road from Philadelphia, after tallying six assists by the 2004 All-Star break – only one less than his MLS career total – Albright was voted to an All-Star starting lineup for the first time; appearing back in DC at RFK stadium at his new position for the Western Conference.

"It's happened so quickly that people seem to be more surprised than I am that I'm a defender," said Albright. "I really didn't have a second thought about it. If Bruce wants me to play at right back, lets go with it. I'm not sure I've ever envisioned scoring goals in the World Cup, I just want to be there. ☼"

*Llew Llewellyn is the managing editor for American Soccer News. ([www.cybersoccernews.com](http://www.cybersoccernews.com)). He has covered the Galaxy since 1996.*



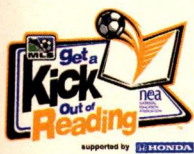
# Community Programs

The Galaxy give back to the area

The Los Angeles Galaxy is dedicated to giving back to the community. Through the involvement of our players, coaches and front office staff, the Los Angeles Galaxy will remain a responsible community and corporate partner. The following are various community programs and game day events and activities that enhance the lives of our community.

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The Galaxy has partnered with the California Teachers Association (CTA), and the County of Los Angeles Public Library to encourage kids and families to Get A Kick Out of Reading.



Major League Soccer's and the National Education Association's joint literacy initiative aimed at motivating and educating children and families about the fun and value of reading.

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Through the Make You Smile program, Galaxy player(s) make visits to local children's hospitals and wards to brighten patients day during their stay. Each child receives a "Make You Smile" card signed by the visiting player as well as a mini Galaxy soccer ball.

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The Galaxy Drive Series allows the Galaxy to team up with its fans to assist the community at-large by collecting much-needed items such as canned food, books, school supplies and coats throughout the Galaxy season. The collected items are donated to various community-based organizations to aid in their outreach and service endeavors.

### 2004 Drive Series Schedule

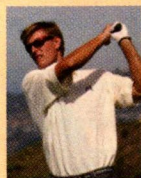
May 29th - Food Drive  
August 14th & 21st - Back to School Supply Drive  
October 9th - Coat/Clothing Drive  
(subject to change)

## THE GALAXY FOUNDATION

The Galaxy Foundation is dedicated to assisting the community in which we live and work. The Foundation continually strives to aid organizations that meet its mission of supporting and creating educational, health and recreational activities and programs for youth in the greater Los Angeles area, with a specific focus on disadvantaged and at-risk children.

## 3rd Annual "Day on the Links" Golf Outing Monday, September 27, 2004 Industry Hills Golf Club

Join your favorite Galaxy players (such as Sasha Victorine in photo) and coaches as they take to the links to raise money for kids in need! We hope you will be able to join us for this wonderful event!



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# Un largo y difícil camino a la cima

Desde el inicio de su jornada en Filadelfia, Albright ha superado obstáculos tras obstáculos durante su carrera y ahora se mantiene obsesionado en ganar un lugar en el Mundial de Alemania 2006 · por Llew Llewellyn

Luego de un extenuante viaje que se inició hace cinco años en Washington D.C., en más de un sentido, parecía que la aventura de Chris Albright con el Galaxy simplemente no iba a tener un final feliz, pero desde el inicio de la temporada 2004, su suerte ha dado un giro totalmente inesperado.

La diferencia se produjo cuando el ex-centro delantero y ex-mediocampista se encontró como titular en la posición de marcador de punta derecho, tanto para su club, como en la selección nacional, en una sucesión de eventos que se iniciaron en forma por demás inusual.

El técnico de la Selección de Estados Unidos, Bruce Arena, gusta de la formación 4-4-2 y siempre está en búsqueda de cierta clase de atletas para la posición de defensa por el flanco derecho. Durante la Copa Mundial 2002 utilizó al mediocampista Tony Sanneh en esa función defensiva y durante un campamento realizado en El Home Depot Center a finales de 2003, se acercó a Albright.

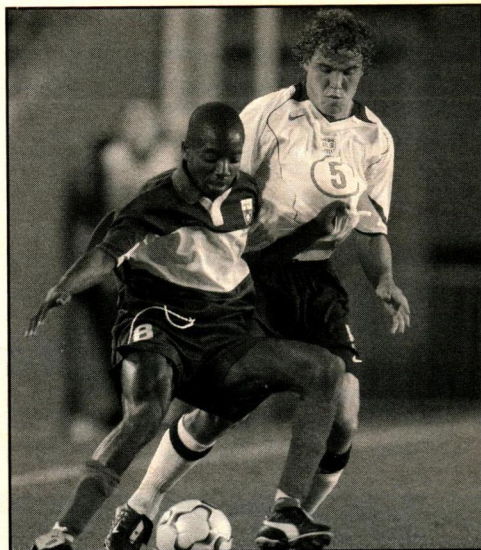
"Él me llamó a un costado y me dijo: ¿Qué te parecería jugar como marcador de punta derecho?, Así, no más", recordó Albright con una sonrisa. "Y yo le dije, seguro, yo puedo jugar esa posición y cualquier otra, con tal de estar en la selección. No tenía que pensarlo mucho. Era mi primer campamento con el equipo nacional en dieciocho meses y no podía darme el lujo de discutir con él".

Arena confió que su intención era la de proyectar el talento de Albright en una forma diferente.

Explicó que viendo a la distancia, hacia la Copa Mundial 2006, la posición de defensa lateral derecho en la selección nacional definitivamente no estaba solidificada.

"Dada la dirección que la carrera profesional de Chris iba tomando, se hizo evidente que en los planes del Galaxy de Los Angeles, no estaba que él actuara como delantero o mediocampista," dijo Arena, quien agregó: "Considerando sus condiciones, pensé que la posición de lateral derecho

*(Continuado en la página 73)*



Defensa del Galaxy Chris Albright ha tenido un gran impacto en la selección de los EE.UU. en el 2004 también, jugando para el equipo de Bruce Arena.





Chris Albright lleva la pelota a la parte ofensiva de la cancha para el Galaxy mientras Jaime Moreno, su ex-compañero con el D.C. United, se prepara para defender.

(Continuado de la página 71)

era la que él podía cumplir y hasta brillar en ella, como lo ha hecho hasta el momento".

El primer juego internacional de 2004 para Estados Unidos fue contra Dinamarca, en la propia casa del Galaxy y también marcó la primera vez que Albright apareció jugando en su nueva posición defensiva. Estuvo en la cancha durante 79 minutos en aquel empate 1-1, cumpliendo una buena actuación, antes de dejarle el lugar al veterano Frankie Hejduk.

Este movimiento no pasó inadvertido para el técnico del Galaxy, Sigi Schmid, quien estaba buscando un cambio a la formación de 3-5-2 utilizada con poco éxito por el equipo en la temporada 2003, donde Albright había sido colocado como compañero de ataque de Carlos Ruiz o más a menudo como mediocampista.

"La decisión fue realmente fácil después que Bruce Arena lo utilizó en esa posición con el equipo nacional," dijo Schmid. "Lo observamos y luego lo probamos en la nueva posición durante los entrenamientos y notamos que no lo hacía mal."

"Luego nos sentamos con él y le preguntamos si le gustaba esa posición. Él nos dijo que sentía que iba a ser benéfico para él y nosotros pensamos que iba a ser bueno para el Galaxy, así que todo se combinó muy bien."

Albright todavía no se explica lo que pensó

cuando recibió la doble propuesta.

"Tal vez, muy dentro de mí, me estaba riendo, pero de pronto lo único que pude decir, fue.. ¡'Seguro'!. Luego, fui a platicar con Alexi Lalas y le pregunté acerca de cómo era jugar de defensa y él no pudo más que soltar una carcajada".

El técnico y los compañeros de equipo de Albright están seguros que se ha adaptado rápidamente a su nueva posición.

"Su proceso de aprendizaje ha sido muy bueno," asegura Schmid. "No se le ve repitiendo errores."

"Ha sido muy regular," comenta Kevin Hartman, quien ha estado detrás de él toda la temporada. "Él puede mantener la posesión del balón cuando lo necesitamos y tiene la pasión necesaria para defender muy bien. Ha sido un proceso de adaptación, pero ha aprendido muy bien."

"Todavía seguimos repasando algunas jugadas, pero siento que hemos llegado a tenerle confianza, como uno de los pilares de nuestra defensa."

Ryan Suárez ha jugado casi toda la temporada 2004 como defensa central por derecha, junto a Albright.

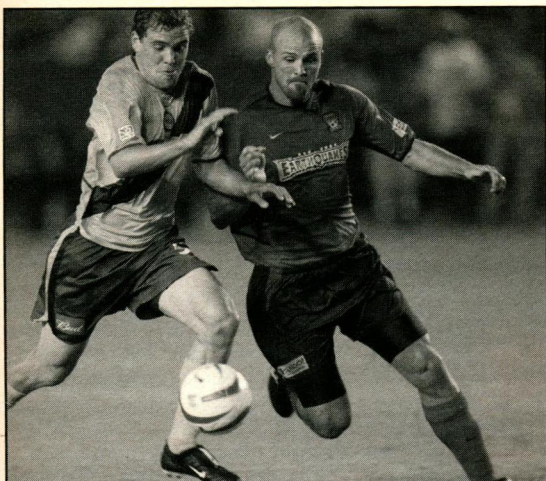
"Chris ha jugado fantástico, está disfrutando de una magnífica campaña," señaló Suárez. "Su capacidad ofensiva es increíble."

Albright creció en Filadelfia en el seno de una familia dedicada al fútbol. Larry Sullivan - el entrenador de la Universidad de Villanova - es su tío. Su padre, John jugó para Walter Bahr - uno de los integrantes de aquella gloriosa selección estadounidense que sorprendió al mundo en 1950 al vencer a Inglaterra en la Copa Mundial de Brasil - cuando estudiaba en Penn State y después en Temple, luego de servir en las Fuerzas Armadas.

"Así fue como mi padre conoció a mi madre," confía Albright con una sonrisa. "Ella era parte de una familia de nueve y cinco de sus hermanos jugaban al fútbol junto a los hermanos de mi

(Continuado en la página 75)





*Las habilidades de Albright han sido un gran factor para el ataque del Galaxy, sus pases a gol poniéndolo cerca del liderato en la MLS.*

*(Continuado de la página 73)*

padre. No había forma, para mí, de escapar al fútbol."

Antes de graduarse de secundaria, ya era solicitado por varias universidades de ambos lados del país. Bruce Arena lo invitó a enrolarse con la Universidad de Virginia, mientras que UCLA le hacía una interesante propuesta que lo llevó a cruzarse por primera vez con un técnico llamado Sigi Schmid.

"Era una decisión entre la costa del este y la del oeste," recuerda Albright. "Hablé varias veces con Sigi en esos días, porque ellos me ofrecían una beca escolar completa. Pasé la noche más difícil de mi vida, tratando de decidir, pero en realidad no estaba listo para irme tan lejos de mis amigos y de mi familia y la Universidad de Virginia fue la mejor opción."

En 1999, Schmid llamó a Albright a la Selección Sub-20 que se preparaba para intervenir en el Mundial FIFA de la categoría, a disputarse en Nigeria, un evento del que Chris tiene grandes recuerdos.

"Esa fue otra enorme experiencia," asegura. "Fue algo caótico, pero la gente de Nigeria estaba muy feliz por tener en su país un evento de fútbol internacional de tal magnitud. Ellos no lo podían creer y miles de personas estaban en las calles. Recuerdo

que nuestro autobús tenía que pasar en medio de multitudes para llegar a la sede de nuestros juegos."

Poco después del Mundial de Nigeria, él y otro jugador de esa selección Sub-20, fueron llamados por Arena para tomar parte de un campamento de la selección nacional y a partir de entonces, las cosas se empezaron a dificultar para éste jugador de 19 años de edad.

"Landon Donovan y yo fuimos invitados para un encuentro de la selección mayor contra Argentina," comenta Albright, "Fueron dos semanas extraordinarias y creo que sorprendí a todos por la forma en que me vieron entrenar."

"Luego, Landon se fue al Leverskusen y ellos (la MLS) estaban buscando a alguien para promoverlo como el nuevo jugador joven de la liga. Y de pronto, yo era el niño de oro".

El Galaxy había perdido los servicios de Carlos Hermosillo y estaban buscando a través de la MLS a un jugador que lo reemplazara y Albright parecía reunir las condiciones. El delantero y su familia estaban seguros de que finalmente se uniría a su director técnico de la Selección Sub-20 en Los Angeles.

"Yo no sé lo que pasó. Estaba en mi habitación, en un hotel, con mi madre, esperando noticias. Vine y entrené con el equipo por una semana", recuerda Albright. "Estaba seguro de que venía a Los Angeles, pero luego llegaron y me dijeron que necesitaban un día más para decidir y lo que siguió después, fue que me informaron que iba al DC United."

Muy pronto quedó claro para el joven futbolista que iba a ser mucho más difícil de lo anticipado ingresar al profesionalismo. Albright admite sin reservas que no estaba en su mejor forma cuando se puso a las órdenes de Thomas Rongen con el DC United.

"Para ser honesto, yo no estaba listo," lo admite. "No entendía a plenitud lo que envolvía ésta profesión. Lo tomé como un juego y no le di la seriedad

*(Continuado en la página 77)*





*Un de los jugadores más veloces y más fuerte del equipo, Albright se adaptó a un buen nivel después de ser mudado a la defensa en el 2004.*

*(Continuado de la página 77)*

que se merece. En ese momento, no contaba con alguien que me guiara y me dijera 'esto es lo que debes hacer'. Luego, todo fue como un rápido descenso en mi carrera, hasta que me di cuenta de que tenía que olvidar todo lo negativo y seguir adelante".

A pesar de su difícil inicio con el DC United, Clive Charles – "un entrenador magnífico" – lo seleccionó para el equipo nacional Olímpico del 2000, donde se unió a jugadores que eventualmente serían sus compañeros de equipo con el Galaxy, Sasha Victorine, Peter Vagenas y Danny Califf. Fue también la primera vez que jugó en una posición diferente.

"En la Olimpiada, jugué como puntero derecho. Clivë pensó que esa era la mejor posición para mí," recuerda Chris. "Yo quería jugar como centro delantero, porque sentía que había anotado suficientes goles durante la eliminatoria, para justificarlo, pero al final, jugar en esa posición por el costado en una formación de 3-5-2, es muy similar a lo que estoy jugando ahora."

De regreso con el DC, Albright siguió sufriendo, anotando goles en forma intermitente y cuando Los Angeles hizo una propuesta para adquirirlo en el 2002, Albright – el antiguo niño de oro – había logrado únicamente tres anotaciones, con dos pases para gol, en 56 partidos.

Y a pesar de que su producción no mejoró en

su nueva casa, Schmid mantuvo la fe en aquel joven jugador que había intentado reclutar de la secundaria. Mientras tanto, Arena también lo ha estado observando y ocasionalmente llama a Albright a los campamentos de la Selección Nacional.

"Viendo hacia el pasado, creo realmente que no estaba listo y siento que Bruce solo trataba de mantenerme en el grupo," reconoce Albright. "El sabía que yo tengo algún talento y siguió dándome la oportunidad."

Arena y Schmid concuerdan en que Albright tiene un buen chance de quedarse en la Selección Nacional para la Copa Mundial 2006 que se disputará en Alemania y que definitivamente interviendrá en el largo proceso eliminatorio.

"Hemos identificado a unos 35 jugadores que utilizaremos durante la eliminatoria de la Copa Mundial y él está incluido en el grupo," indicó Arena. "La competencia para esa posición de lateral derecho es algo intensa, con jugadores como Steve Cherundolo, Frankie Hejduk y Tony Sanneh. Pero Chris ya se ha colocado a la par de ellos."

Ciertamente, el camino desde Filadelfia ha sido largo y sinuoso, pero después de acumular seis pases para gol antes del Juego de Estrellas 2004 – uno menos que todos los logrados en su carrera en la MLS – Albright fue seleccionado por primera vez entre los titulares del Juego de Estrellas y regresará al estadio RFK, la casa del DC United, para estrenar su nueva posición con el equipo de Conferencia del Oeste.

"Todo ha sucedido en forma tan rápida que la gente parece más sorprendida que yo, de que ahora soy un defensa," dice Albright. "En realidad no tengo nada de qué arrepentirme. Si Bruce quiere que juegue de lateral derecho, estoy listo. No sé si alguna vez me he visto anotando goles en una Copa Mundial, por ahora solo me conformo con esta ahí."

*Llew Llewellyn es el Editor Ejecutivo de American Soccer News. (www.cybersoccernews.com). Él ha cubierto al Galaxy desde 1996.*



# One-on-One With ...

L.A. Galaxy midfielder Marcelo Saragosa

**Q: When did you first begin to play soccer?**

A: I began to play the game in Brazil when I was very young, about eight years old. I played at my school (Santa Caterina). I first arrived at Sao Paulo when I was 14. I was there until coming to the Galaxy.

**Q: Talk about the Sao Paulo experience ...**

A: I was there almost eight years. It was an incredible experience for me. I had a lot of good times with Sao Paulo and I can from experience say that it is a great club that did many things for me. The experience changes day-by-day. There are great players from all over the world who want to play for the club. It is the dream of every football player in Brazil to play for Sao Paulo. Playing for them was very important to my career.

**Q: Over the eight years there, is there one game that sticks out in your mind?**

A: Yes, my first game after I had been moved to the professional side from the junior teams. I was given the chance to play in a friendly against Sao Cateano. I will never forget that game as long as I live.

**Q: When was the first time you every heard the words Major League Soccer?**

A: Last December, when (Galaxy Assistant Coach) Martin Vazquez came to Brazil to meet with the Sao Paulo front office and coaches was the first time I heard people talking about the league.

**Q: Did the USA-Brazil game from the 1994 FIFA World Cup come to mind when you heard about MLS and thought about moving to the USA?**

A: Yes, everybody used to not think very highly of soccer in the United States. Then, we got here and things were completely different - football had evolved a great deal.

**Q: Discuss your Galaxy experience in you first season.**

A: First of all, I have to say that I am very happy to be with the Galaxy. We have enjoyed a great season. Coming to the USA is a dream come true for me because I have had the chance to play a lot of



*Young midfielder Marcelo Saragosa, here demonstrating his defensive skills, joined the Galaxy on loan from Brazilian powerhouse Sao Paulo FC prior to the 2004 season.*

games and will have a lot more experience by the end of the season.

**Q: Is the level of play in MLS higher than you expected?**

A: Yes, it is much higher. That makes me happy because the play here is growing and the USA is becoming a great soccer country. This league has made an impact because many nations are encountering problems playing against the USA - the USA has made a great evolution in football.

**Q: What does the Galaxy need to do to win a championship?**

A: We need to keep doing what we've done all season long - taking everything as a group and battling together and keeping in mind that our goal is nothing less than a championship - if we do this I am certain we will get the final and win the title in our home stadium.

**Q: Finally, the friendly earlier this season between the Galaxy and Sao Paulo - was it difficult to play against old friends and teammates?**

A: No, I am a professional. It is my job to defend my colors - right now those colors are green and gold. It was also almost important to show my former teammates that the Galaxy is a good club as well. ☼



# Unas preguntas con ...

Entrevista con el mediocampista del Galaxy Marcelo Saragosa

**Q: ¿A qué edad empezaste a jugar al fútbol?**

A: Empecé a jugar en Brasil siendo muy joven, aproximadamente a los ocho años de edad, en mi escuela (Santa Caterina).

**Q: ¿Cuándo te incorporaste al Sao Paulo?**

A: Llegué al Sao Paulo cuando tenía 14 años y permanecí en el club hasta que fui transferido al Galaxy.

**Q: Háblanos de la experiencia de ser parte de Sao Paulo ...**

A: Estuve con el equipo casi ocho años. Fue una experiencia increíble para mí. Viví grandes momentos con el Sao Paulo y puedo asegurar por mi propia experiencia que se trata de un gran club que hizo muchas cosas por mí. La experiencia va cambiando día a día. Existen grandes jugadores en el mundo que quieren jugar para el equipo. Y para los futbolistas brasileños, es como un sueño poder jugar para el Sao Paulo. Pertenecer a ese club fue algo muy importante en mi carrera.

**Q: ¿Cual es tu mejor recuerdo vestido en la camiseta del Sao Paulo?**

A: Lo más importante de mi carrera como jugador del Sao Paulo fue el momento en que logré ascender de las divisiones juveniles del club, al equipo profesional. Ese ha sido el mejor momento de mi vida, hasta el día de hoy.

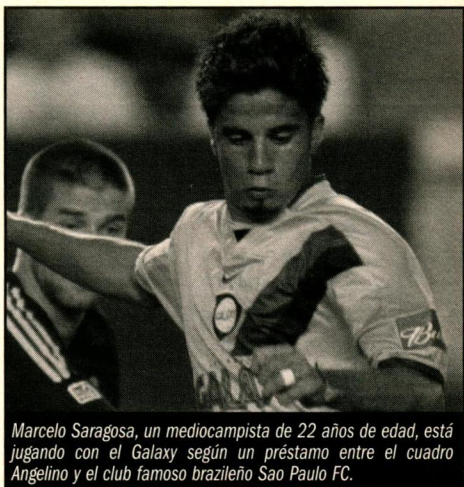
**Q: Durante los ocho años que pasaste con el club, ¿existe un juego que se quedó por siempre en tu memoria?**

A: Sí, fue mi primer juego, luego de haber sido incorporado al equipo profesional. Me dieron la oportunidad de jugar en un encuentro amistoso contra el Sao Cateano. Nunca olvidaré ese juego en toda mi vida.

**Q: Jugaste en alguna oportunidad para las selecciones nacionales juveniles de Brasil?**

A: No, en una oportunidad fui llamado a la selección Sub-20, pero no pude jugar porque me lastimé un tobillo.

**Q: Cuando escuchaste de la MLS y de la posibilidad de mudarte a Estados Unidos, ¿te vino a la**



*Marcelo Saragosa, un mediocampista de 22 años de edad, está jugando con el Galaxy según un préstamo entre el cuadro Angelino y el club famoso brasileño Sao Paulo FC.*

**mente el juego entre estados Unidos y Brasil durante la Copa Mundial FIFA de 1994?**

A: Si, porque casi todos en Brasil pensaban que el futbol de Estados Unidos no era muy competitivo. Pero, cuando llegamos aquí, descubrimos que la realidad es completamente diferente, porque el futbol estadounidense ha evolucionado notablemente.

**Q: ¿Qué necesita el Galaxy para ganar el campeonato?**

A: Necesitamos seguir jugando como lo hemos venido haciendo durante toda la temporada, encarando todo como grupo, batallando juntos y manteniendo en nuestra mente que la meta no es otra que ganar el campeonato. Si hacemos eso, estoy seguro que vamos a llegar a la final y que vamos a ganar el título en nuestro propio estadio.

**Q: Finalmente, háblanos un poco de ese juego amistoso entre el Galaxy y Sao Paulo. ¿Fue difícil enfrentar a tus amigos y ex-compañeros?**

A: No, yo soy un profesional. Mi trabajo es defender mis colores y en éste momento mis colores son verde y dorado. Por otra parte, para mí era muy importante mostrarles a mis antiguos compañeros que también el Galaxy es un magnífico club. ☼



# Did You Know?

## LA Galaxy soccer facts and trivia

✧ Midfielder **Mauricio Cienfuegos** and forward **Eduardo Hurtado** were both allocated to the Galaxy on February 5, 1996, becoming the third and fourth players in club history.

✧ The Los Angeles Galaxy defeated the Colorado Rapids 2-0 in the inaugural match at The Home Depot Center on June 7, 2003. **Carlos Ruiz** scored both goals to pace the home team's victory, much to the delight of the capacity crowd of 27,000 on hand for the historic occasion.

✧ The Los Angeles Galaxy and the MetroStars met in the first game in Galaxy history, a 2-1 victory for the home side on April 13, 1996 before a crowd of

**69,255** at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

✧ The Los Angeles Galaxy hold an all-time record of **5-3-1** in games played on the Fourth of July. The Galaxy have not lost on the Fourth of July since 2001.

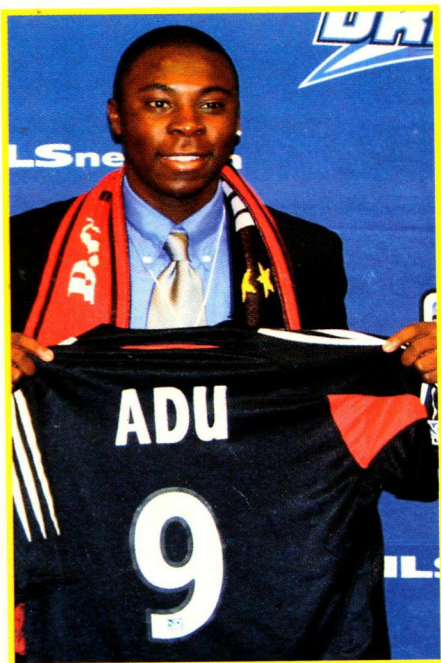
✧ Los Angeles Galaxy goalkeeper **Kevin Hartman** had recorded four shutouts at the all-star break in 2004 after 20 games, surpassing the number he registered in the entire 2003 season, when he played in all 30 Galaxy matches.

✧ The last name of Galaxy rookie **Joseph Ngwenya** means "crocodile" in the Zimbabwean dialect of Ndebele.



*Joseph Ngwenya: The crocodile*





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