



VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 14

MATCHDAY



**SETH
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Breast Cancer
Awareness Game

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010 • 7:30 P.M.
GILLETTE STADIUM, FOXBOROUGH, MASS.**



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**GRESH AND ZOLAK
10:00AM - 2:00PM**

**FELGER AND MASSAROTTI
2:00PM - 6:00PM**

**THE BASEBALL
REPORTERS
6:00PM - 7:00PM**

**DAMON AMENDOLARA
7:00PM - MIDNIGHT**





NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

as of September 28, 2010

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	Last Team
1	Matt Reis	GK	6-1	200	3/28/1975	Mission Viejo, Calif.	LA Galaxy (MLS)
5	Emmanuel Osei	DEF	5-9	170	8/23/1982	Accra, Ghana	Liberty Professional (GHA)
7	Kenny Mansally	F/M	5-10	160	1/27/1989	Banjul, Gambia	Real de Banjul (GAM)
8	Chris Tierney	D/M	6-1	170	1/9/1986	Wellesley, Mass.	Virginia
9	Ilija Stolica	F	6-1	185	7/7/1979	Belgrade, Serbia	FC Budonost (MNE)
11	Kheli Dube	FWD	5-11	155	6/18/1983	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	Coastal Carolina
12	Cory Gibbs	DEF	6-2	180	1/14/1980	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	Colorado Rapids (MLS)
15	Zack Schillawski	FWD	5-10	165	4/15/1987	Cary, N.C.	Wake Forest
16	Jason Griffiths	MID	5-11	165	3/22/1987	Bracknell, England	Kentucky
17	Sainey Nyassi	MID	5-8	145	1/31/1989	Bwiam, Gambia	Ports Authority FC (GAM)
18	Khano Smith	F/M	6-3	190	1/10/1981	Warwick, Bermuda	Lincoln City (ENG)
20	Taylor Twellman	FWD	5-11	175	2/29/1980	St. Louis, Mo.	1860 Munich (GER)
21	Shalrie Joseph	MID	6-3	185	5/24/1978	Brooklyn, N.Y.	St. John's (NY)
22	Roberto Linck	M/F	6-1	163	7/31/1988	Cachoeira do Sul, Brazil	CSM Râmnicu Vâlcea (ROU)
24	Preston Burpo	GK	6-3	200	9/26/1972	Seattle, Wash.	Colorado Rapids (MLS)
25	Darius Barnes	DEF	6-1	175	12/24/1986	Raleigh, N.C.	Duke
26	Nico Colaluca	MID	5-9	155	5/23/1986	Coventry, R.I.	Colorado Rapids (MLS)
27	Seth Sinovic	DEF	5-9	170	1/28/1987	Leawood, Kan.	Creighton
28	Pat Phelan	MID	6-1	185	1/16/1985	Enfield, Conn.	Toronto FC (MLS)
29	Marko Perović	MID	6-1	165	1/11/1984	Pristina, Serbia	FC Basel (SUI)
30	Kevin Alston	DEF	5-8	160	5/5/1988	Silver Spring, Md.	Indiana
33	Zak Boggs	FWD	6-1	180	12/25/1986	Vienna, W. Va.	South Florida
34	Bobby Shuttleworth	GK	6-2	195	5/13/1987	Tonawanda, N.Y.	Austin Aztex (USL-1)
40	Tim Murray	GK	6-2	185	7/30/1987	Haverhill, Mass.	Providence

Head Coach: Steve Nicol **Assistant Coach:** Stephen Myles **Goalkeeper Coach:** Remi Roy

Equipment Manager: Brian Banfill **Head Athletic Trainer:** Sean Kuplic **Massage Therapist:** Glenn O'Connor


REAL SALT LAKE

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	Last Team
1	Tim Melia	GK	6-1	195	3/15/1986	Great River, N.Y.	Rochester Rhinos (USFF D2)
2	Tony Beltran	DEF	5-8	150	10/11/1987	Claremont, Calif.	UCLA
3	Robbie Russell	D/M	6-1	200	7/16/1979	Amherst, Mass.	Viborg (DEN)
4	Jamison Olave	DEF	6-3	210	4/21/1981	Medellin, Colombia	Deportivo Cali (COL)
5	Kyle Beckerman	MID	5-11	165	4/23/1982	Crofton, Md.	Colorado Rapids (MLS)
6	Nat Borchers	DEF	6-2	175	4/13/1981	Pueblo, Colo.	Odd Grenland (NOR)
7	Alex Nimo	F/M	5-5	140	3/21/1990	Portland, Oreg.	
7	Fabian Espindola	FWD	5-9	160	5/4/1985	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Deportivo Anzoategui (VEN)
8	Will Johnson	MID	5-10	155	1/21/1987	Woodridge, Ill.	De Graafschap (NED)
10	Robbie Findley	FWD	5-9	165	8/4/1985	Phoenix, Ariz.	LA Galaxy (MLS)
11	Javier Morales	MID	5-9	165	1/10/1980	Buenos Aires, Argentina	UD Vecindario (ESP)
12	Jean Alexandre	MID	5-11	185	8/24/1986	Delray Beach, Fla.	Lynn
15	Alvaro Saborio	FWD	6-1	170	3/25/1982	San Carlos, Costa Rica	Bristol City (ENG)
17	Chris Wingert	DEF	5-10	170	6/16/1982	Babylon, N.Y.	Colorado Rapids (MLS)
18	Nick Rimando	GK	5-9	185	6/17/1979	Montclair, Calif.	New York Red Bulls (MLS)
19	Pablo Campos	FWD	6-3	200	11/29/1983	Sao Paulo, Brazil	San Jose Earthquakes (MLS)
20	Ned Grabavoy	MID	5-7	150	7/1/1983	New Lenox, Ill.	San Jose Earthquakes (MLS)
22	Nelson Gonzalez	M/F	5-6	155	9/22/1988	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Quilmes (ARG)
23	Paulo Aurajo Jr.	FWD	5-7	160	1/23/1989	Teresina, Brazil	Miami FC (USFF D2)
24	Kyle Reynish	GK	6-3	190	11/3/1984	Valencia, Calif.	Santa Barbara
26	Collen Warner	MID	5-10	170	6/24/1988	Denver, Colo.	Portland
28	Chris Schuler	DEF	6-4	185	9/6/1987	Aurora, Ill.	Creighton
30	Raushan McKenzie	DEF	6-1	185	11/19/1986	Hoffman Estates, Ill.	Kansas City Wizards (MLS)
33	David Horst	DEF	6-4	200	10/25/1985	Pine Grove, Pa.	Old Dominion
77	Andy Williams	MID	5-8	170	9/23/1977	Herriman, Utah	Chicago Fire (MLS)

Head Coach: Jason Kries **Assistant Coaches:** Jeff Cassar, Robin Fraser, Miles Joseph, Kevin Harter

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THE TEAM

2010 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



Matt
Reis
1



Emmanuel
Osei
5



Kenny
Mansally
7



Chris
Tierney
8



Ilija
Stolica
9



Kheli
Dube
11



Cory
Gibbs
12



Zack
Schilawski
15



Jason
Griffiths
16



Sainey
Nyassi
17



Khano
Smith
18



Taylor
Twellman
20



Shalrie
Joseph
21



Roberto
Linck
22



Preston
Burpo
24



Darrius
Barnes
25



Nico
Colaluca
26



Seth
Sinovic
27



Pat
Phelan
28



Marko
Perović
29



Kevin
Alston
30



Zak
Boggs
33



Bobby
Shuttleworth
34



Tim
Murray
40



Steve Nicol
Head Coach



Stephen Myles
Assistant
Coach



Remi Roy
Goalkeepers
Coach



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

(7-14-5, 26 pts.) THROUGH GAMES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

UNF	POS	PLAYER	GP	GS	MIN	G	A	SHT	SOG	FC	FS	OFF	CK	C	E
29	M	Marko Perovic	21	20	1726	6	2	50	20	21	24	14	81	6	1
15	F	Zack Schilawski	22	15	1206	5	0	17	9	12	7	13	0	0	0
9	F	Ilja Stolica	10	9	742	3	1	10	7	7	8	7	0	0	0
7	M-F	Kenny Mansally	18	5	658	3	0	20	8	11	14	6	11	0	0
21	M	Shalrie Joseph	18	18	1571	2	5	29	14	24	33	6	0	3	0
17	M	Sainey Nyassi	25	24	2027	2	2	29	7	30	40	2	0	3	0
28	M-D	Pat Phelan	25	23	1977	2	1	19	8	30	15	1	0	4	0
33	M	Zak Boggs	9	4	390	2	0	6	4	6	7	0	0	0	0
11	F	Kheli Dube	17	11	909	1	4	26	14	14	10	10	0	0	1
8	M-D	Chris Tierney	23	22	1878	1	3	19	12	8	13	1	15	0	0
30	D	Kevin Alston	22	22	1826	0	1	14	3	14	27	1	1	1	0
23	M	Joseph Niouky	13	11	1068	0	1	6	0	32	9	0	0	5	1
18	M	Khano Smith	15	5	682	0	1	12	4	12	7	0	0	1	0
25	D	Darrius Barnes	17	16	1440	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	2	0
24	GK	Preston Burpo	11	11	939	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
26	M	Nico Colaluca	1	0	14	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
12	D	Cory Gibbs	23	23	1999	0	0	7	1	21	14	1	0	4	1
16	M	Jason Griffiths	6	2	180	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
10	F	Edgaras Jankauskas	4	0	147	0	0	2	1	5	2	0	0	1	0
22	F-M	Roberto Linck	2	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	D	Emmanuel Osei	17	14	1366	0	0	4	0	12	9	0	0	2	0
1	GK	Matt Reis	13	13	1170	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
34	GK	Bobby Shuttleworth	3	2	231	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
27	D	Seth Sinovic	17	16	1415	0	0	7	1	9	10	0	0	2	0
40	GK	Tim Murray	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	F	Taylor Twellman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own-goals received						1									
Team totals			26	26	2340	28	21	279	114	277	283	62	108	35	4
Opponent totals			26	26	2340	45	45	363	155	283	277	62	147	40	2

GAME-WINNING GOALS: Zack Schilawski 2, Marko Perovic 2, Ilja Stolica 1, Pat Phelan 1, Kenny Mansally 1

GAME-WINNING ASSISTS: Chris Tierney 2, Sainey Nyassi 1, Shalrie Joseph 1, Joseph Niouky 1

PENALTY KICK GOALS/ATTEMPTS: Shalrie Joseph 1-1

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION INDIVIDUAL GOALKEEPING

UNF	POS	GOALKEEPER	GP	GS	MIN	SHTS	SV	GA	GAA	PG	PA	W	L	T	SO
24	GK	Preston Burpo	11	11	939	65	48	16	1.53	0	0	2	6	2	2
1	GK	Matt Reis	13	13	1170	76	50	23	1.77	2	3	4	6	3	3
34	GK	Bobby Shuttleworth	3	2	231	14	8	6	2.34	0	0	1	2	0	0
Team totals			26	26	2340	155	106	45	1.73	2	3	7	14	5	5
Opponent totals			26	26	2340	114	85	28	1.08	1	1	14	7	5	10

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NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



REAL SALT LAKE



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION VS. REAL SALT LAKE

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NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION VS. REAL SALT LAKE



NEW ENGLAND VS. SALT LAKE

Overall: 4-4-3

Home games: 2-1-2 Road games: 2-2-1

LAST MEETINGS

06/21/08 New England 1 at Real Salt Lake 2 L

10/04/08 Real Salt Lake 2 at New England 2 T

04/25/09 New England 0 at Real Salt Lake 6 L

08/23/09 Real Salt Lake 1 at New England 3 W

07/02/10 New England 0 at Real Salt Lake 5 L

SALT LAKE PLAYER TO WATCH:

#15 ALVARO SABORIO

Costa Rican international Alvaro Saborio joined Real Salt Lake this off-season and has given the reigning MLS Cup champions a scoring boost. A former member of the famed Costa Rican power, Saprissa, Saborio has scored nine goal and added four assists in 23 games. Included in that total are two goals – in a five-minute span - against the Revolution in the teams' July 2 meeting in Sandy.



Photo by Otto Greule Jr/Getty Images

NEW ENGLAND VS. SALT LAKE SERIES INFORMATION

- Saturday's match will be the 12th all-time meeting between the Revolution and Real Salt Lake, which entered the league as an expansion team in 2005 ... the all-time series is now knotted, 4-4-3, following the first meeting earlier this year in Sandy, Utah.
- Saturday's meeting is the second of two meetings between the two clubs this season, and the only one at Gillette Stadium ... earlier this year on July 2, RSL posted a 5-0 win at home against the Revs.
- New England and RSL split the 2009 regular season series, 1-1-0 ... in the teams' first meeting on April 25, 2009, the Revs suffered a 6-0 loss, their worst regular-season loss in club history ... the Revolution then exacted its revenge on Aug. 23 with a 3-1 win over RSL at Gillette Stadium.
- The Revs are 2-4-3 in their last nine meetings with Real Salt Lake after winning the first two games of the all-time series.
- Six of the Revolution's 14 goals against Real Salt Lake have been scored after the 75th minute, 43 percent of the club's total scoring output against RSL.
- New England and Real Salt Lake have never met outside of the MLS regular season.

PLAYER NOTES VS. SALT LAKE

- Taylor Twellman is one of two Revolution players with three career goals against Real Salt Lake ... in all, Twellman has three goals and one assist in six appearances against RSL.
- Kheli Dube became the fifth different player in Revolution history to register a hat trick when he netted three scores in a 3-1 win over Real Salt Lake at Gillette Stadium on Aug. 23, 2009.
- Khano Smith has scored two goals against Real Salt Lake, coming one each in the team's two meetings in 2005, and both after the 75th minute (90' - 8/10/05; 76' - 9/3/10)
- Matt Reis is 4-3-3 in his career against Real Salt Lake, posting a 1.50 goals against average and three shutouts ... Reis missed the 6-0 loss to RSL on April 25, 2009 with inflammation in his right knee, but was in goal for the 5-0 loss earlier this year.

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STANDINGS & SCHEDULE 2010 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Conference	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	STREAKS	LAST 10
Columbus Crew	26	13	7	6	45	35	29	Tied 1	4-4-2
New York Red Bulls	26	13	8	5	44	34	27	Won 1	5-2-3
Kansas City Wizards	25	9	10	6	33	29	30	Lost 1	5-2-3
Toronto FC	26	8	11	7	31	26	31	Lost 1	2-6-2
Philadelphia Union	25	7	12	6	27	30	39	Won 1	3-4-3
Chicago Fire	24	6	10	8	26	28	32	Lost 3	2-5-3
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION	26	7	14	5	26	28	45	Tied 2	3-5-2
D.C. United	26	5	18	3	18	18	24	Lost 2	2-8-0



MLS WESTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Western Conference	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	STREAKS	LAST 10
LA Galaxy	26	15	6	5	50	38	21	Lost 1	4-4-2
Real Salt Lake	26	16	4	9	48	39	17	Tied 1	4-0-6
FC Dallas	26	11	2	13	46	36	22	Won 1	5-0-5
San Jose Earthquakes	24	11	7	6	39	28	25	Won 2	5-3-2
Seattle Sounders FC	26	11	9	6	39	31	29	Won 2	7-1-2
Colorado Rapids	25	10	7	8	38	33	25	Tied 1	4-4-3
Houston Dynamo	26	7	14	5	26	35	45	Won 1	2-7-1
Chivas USA	25	7	14	4	25	25	34	Lost 2	3-5-2

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES



LAST WEEK'S MATCHES

Wednesday, September 29

Philadelphia at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

Chicago at San Jose, 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 2

Toronto FC at Seattle, 3:30 p.m.

Houston at Philadelphia, 4:00 p.m.

Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m.

Real Salt Lake at New England, 7:30 p.m.

San Jose at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

D.C. United at Colorado, 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 3

Los Angeles at Chivas USA, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22

New England 2 at FC Dallas 2

Houston 3 at Kansas City 4

Friday, September 24

New York 2 at Los Angeles 0

Saturday, September 25

Chivas USA 0 at Philadelphia 3

San Jose 3 at Toronto FC 2

Columbus 2 at New England 2

Houston 3 at D.C. United 1

FC Dallas 3 at Kansas City 1

Seattle 1 at Chicago 0

Colorado 1 at Real Salt Lake 1

GOALS SCORING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	GOALS
Edson Buddle	LA	21	14
Juan Pablo Angel	NY	26	13
Dwayne De Rosario	TFC	24	12
Sebastien Le Toux	PHI	23	12
Chris Wondolowski	SJ	22	12

GOALKEEPING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	MIN	SHTS	SVS	GA	GAA	W-L-T	SHO
Kevin Hartman	DAL	20	1755	68	56	12	.62	10-1-8	9
Nick Rimando	RSL	23	2070	81	66	15	.65	13-4-6	12
Donovan Ricketts	LA	25	2250	88	67	21	.84	15-6-4	10
Jon Busch	SJ	12	1080	65	54	11	.92	5-3-4	4
Matt Pickins	COL	24	2160	99	74	25	1.04	9-7-8	7

All MLS statistics as of games played through September 27, 2010

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2010 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MLS SCHEDULE

Subject to change. Updates will be listed on revolutionsoccer.net. All times listed Eastern.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (ET) / RESULT	TV
Saturday	March 27	at LA Galaxy (Carson, Calif.)	L, 0-1	FSC/FSE
Saturday	April 3	at D.C. United (Washington, D.C.)	W, 2-0	CSN
Saturday	April 10	TORONTO FC (Gillette Stadium)	W, 4-1	CSN
Saturday	April 17	at San Jose Earthquakes (Santa Clara, Calif.)	L, 0-2	CSN
Saturday	April 24	COLORADO RAPIDS (Gillette Stadium)	L, 1-2	CSN
Saturday	May 1	FC DALLAS (Gillette Stadium)	T, 1-1	CSN
Wednesday	May 5	CHIVAS USA (Gillette Stadium)	L, 0-4	CSN
Saturday	May 8	at Columbus Crew (Columbus, Ohio)	L, 2-3	FSC/FSE
Saturday	May 15	SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES (Gillette Stadium)	T, 0-0	CSN
Saturday	May 22	at Toronto FC (Toronto, Ontario)	L, 0-1	CSN
Saturday	May 29	NEW YORK RED BULLS (Gillette Stadium)	W, 3-2	CSN/Galavision
Saturday	June 5	at Seattle Sounders FC (Seattle, Wash.)	L, 0-3	CSN
Sunday	June 27	CHICAGO FIRE (Gillette Stadium)	L, 0-1	CSN
Friday	July 2	at Real Salt Lake (Sandy, Utah)	L, 0-5	CSN
Saturday	July 10	LA GALAXY (Gillette Stadium)	W, 2-0	CSN
Wednesday	July 14	SUPERLIGA: PUMAS UNAM	W, 1-0	Telefutura
Saturday	July 17	SUPERLIGA: AT CHICAGO FIRE	W, 1-0	Telefutura
Tuesday	July 20	SUPERLIGA: MONARCAS MORELIA	W, 1-0	Telefutura
Saturday	July 31	at Philadelphia Union (Chester, Pa.)	T, 1-1	CSN
Wednesday	August 4	SUPERLIGA SEMIFINAL: PUEBLA FC	T, 1-1	Telefutura
Saturday	August 7	D.C. UNITED (Gillette Stadium)	W, 1-0	CSN
Saturday	August 14	HOUSTON DYNAMO (Gillette Stadium)	W, 1-0	CSN
Wednesday	August 18	at Chicago Fire (Bridgeview, Ill.)	L, 1-2	CSN
Saturday	August 21	at Kansas City Wizards (Kansas City, Kan.)	L, 1-4	CSN
Saturday	August 28	PHILADELPHIA UNION (Gillette Stadium)	L, 1-2	CSN
Wednesday	September 1	SUPERLIGA FINAL: MONARCAS MORELIA	L, 1-2	Telefutura
Saturday	September 4	SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC (Gillette Stadium)	W, 3-1	CSN
Friday	September 10	at Chivas USA (Carson, Calif.)	L, 0-2	CSN
Saturday	September 18	at Colorado Rapids (Commerce City, Colo.)	L, 0-3	CSN
Wednesday	September 22	at FC Dallas (Frisco, Texas)	T, 2-2	CSN
Saturday	September 25	COLUMBUS CREW (Gillette Stadium)	T, 2-2	CSN
Saturday	October 2	REAL SALT LAKE (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 PM	CSN
Sunday	October 10	at Houston Dynamo (Houston, Texas)	8:30 PM	CSN
Saturday	October 16	KANSAS CITY WIZARDS (Gillette Stadium)	8:00 PM	CSN
Thursday	October 21	at New York Red Bulls (Harrison, N.J.)	7:30 PM	ESPN2



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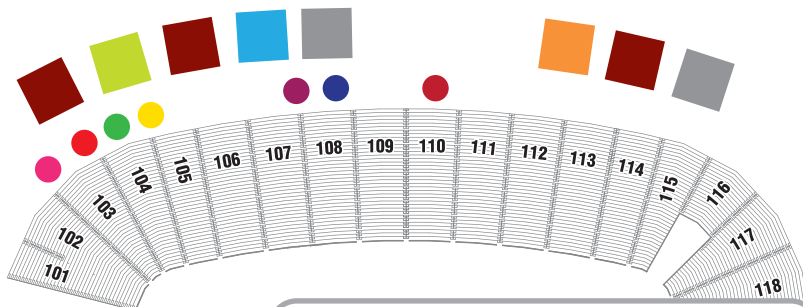
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Fortuitous misfortune

When Seth Sinovic was forced to sit out his freshman season at Creighton because of a back injury, there was no way of knowing it may have positively shaped his entire future

By Jeff Lemieux
Staff Writer & Online Host

F OXBOROUGH, Mass. – As 23-year-old rookie defender Seth Sinovic stood on the field at The Home Depot Center preparing to kick off the 2010 Major League Soccer season as the New England Revolution's starting left back, one thought dominated his consciousness.

How did I get here?

The path, it turns out, was anything but straightforward.

Sinovic's journey began approximately six years ago, when he was a standout forward playing high school soccer near his hometown of Leawood, Kan. When he was named the Western Missouri Offensive Player of the Year after scoring 25 goals as a senior, a number of college programs showed interest in Sinovic. He received a scholarship offer from the University of Evansville and walk-on opportunities from a few additional schools, including Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Instead of taking what could have been considered the safer route and accepting the scholarship offer from Evansville, Sinovic set his sights higher and decided to try his luck at Creighton, a school with a rich soccer history and an outside chance at a national championship.

"It's a good academic school, first and foremost, but it was an opportu-

nity for me to play at a big-time program and that's what I wanted to do," Sinovic said of his decision to try out for the nationally-ranked Jays. "I felt if I really worked hard enough, I would get there."

Sinovic's inclination proved prophetic as he earned a spot on Creighton's roster his freshman season, although he found himself playing slightly out of position in his college debut. A star forward in high school and attacking midfielder with his club team, Sinovic enrolled at Creighton planning to continue his career as an offensive-minded player, but he was deployed as a defensive midfielder during his first year with the Jays.

Nonetheless, Sinovic was thrilled simply to have made the team and have the opportunity to play college soccer.

That was, until, his true freshman season ended after just one appearance.

"I had lower back problems – spasms – and it just kind of escalated throughout the year," Sinovic recalled. "I played [one] game and then it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

just got worse and worse and I wasn't able to play anymore. It just kind of took off from there."

Intensely disappointed, Sinovic sat out the remainder of his freshman season and watched one of his four years of college eligibility slip away as the Jays made a magical run to the NCAA quarterfinals before losing a heartbreaker to Clemson.

Determined to make the most of his remaining three years at Creighton, Sinovic returned for his sophomore season healthy and ready to contribute. He did just that, making 20 appearances as a defensive midfielder and helping the Jays to their second straight Missouri Valley Conference title and yet another NCAA tournament appearance.

Sinovic's defensive transition went a step further in his third year at Creighton, as he moved to an unfamiliar left back position for the first time in his entire playing career. The shift paid dividends for the Jays, who posted seven shutouts and led the conference with a 0.79 goals against average as Sinovic led all field players in minutes played.

Creighton topped those statistics one year later, leading the nation in shutout percentage (.650) and finishing second in goals against average (0.48) while recording a school-record 13 shutouts. Once again, Sinovic was a key cog on the backline, earning first-team All-Missouri Valley Conference honors and a second-team All-Midwest Region nod.

Thinking his collegiate career had come to an end at the conclusion of the 2008 season, Sinovic began training for the 2009 MLS Combine after receiving an invitation to the annual event. But just days before he was set to display his skills in front of MLS coaches and technical directors, Sinovic received a call which may well have changed the course of his life.

"I was ready to go to the combine and I was training for that," Sinovic remembered. "I was interning in Chicago and living with my brother when I got a call from my (college) coach saying I got a red shirt about a week before the combine.

"I was really excited and it was something I couldn't turn down," Sinovic said about being granted another year of college eligibility because of the injury he sustained his freshman year. "I didn't even think twice about it. I loved being at Creighton and I had a lot of really good friends on the team, and I loved the coaches, so it was a no-brainer for me."

Instead of trying to make an MLS team as a defender with just two years of experience at the position, Sinovic was granted the opportunity to gain another year of practice on the backline in college before making the leap to the professional game. He made 16 more appearances during his final year at Creighton and was the Jays' second-leading scorer with three goals and four assists.

Ironically, the back injury Sinovic suffered as a freshman ultimately proved fortuitous when it provided a chance to continue his evolution as a defender a few years down the road.

"It was frustrating, but at the same time – even though I did get a little bit of (playing) time – I wasn't ever going to be an integral part of the team that freshman year," Sinovic said. "So the opportunity to come back later in my college career and be able to start every game my red-shirt senior year, looking back, it was a good thing for me."

The extra year of experience proved invaluable to Sinovic, who entered the 2010 MLS Combine more sure of himself as a left back.

"Especially since I was hoping to play professionally as a defender, it never hurts to get another year of experience under your belt," he said. "[Staying at Creighton for an extra year] was a good decision for me."

Not only did Sinovic benefit from the additional playing time, but he also matured as a person with another year of life experience, serving as co-captain with Creighton his final year.

"I think maturity played a big factor for me," Sinovic said. "I feel like from my senior year to my red-shirt senior year, I grew a lot as a player. As far as leadership skills both on the field and off the field, it made a big difference in my play."

That maturity may well have earned Sinovic a chance with the Revolution, as head coach Steve Nicol and New England's technical staff drafted the standout defender in the second round of the 2010 MLS SuperDraft after an impressive showing at the combine.

While younger, more inexperienced players showed up to the combine relying primarily on natural ability, Sinovic worked tirelessly in the preceding weeks to ensure he'd be in top shape for the multi-day event, which can be exhausting both physically and mentally.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



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"Going in there, I just wanted to make sure I was in great shape and I just tried to play within myself," said Sinovic about his wise approach. "There's obviously a lot of pressure, but you can tell when you get there that there are some guys who don't prepare as much as other guys. I felt like after the first game I knew I had an advantage because I knew I was in really good shape."

Sinovic's preparation led to an opportunity with the Revs, who ultimately signed the 23-year-old rookie in mid-March following a string of solid performances in preseason.

Still adapting to the subtle nuances of defending when he joined the Revolution, Sinovic likely couldn't have asked for a better spot to land in MLS. As he's continued to progress, Sinovic has benefited greatly from the guidance of Nicol, who made more than 300 appearances as a defender for legendary English club Liverpool throughout the 1980s and early 90s.

"It's always great to learn from somebody who's been there, especially at the highest level," said Sinovic of the education he's received from Nicol. "Having Stevie as a coach has been great for me – I've learned a ton this year and I think I've gotten a lot better as a player as the year's gone on."

"I think more than anything (I've learned about) just finding my spots and keeping the play in front of me," he continued. "In college I was a big chance-taker and I kind of got caught with the ball getting behind me quite a bit, but I think I keep the ball in front of me a lot more (now). I think I've become quite a bit better of a defender since college."

The biggest adjustment for Sinovic has been withholding the urge to push into the attack every time the opportunity presents itself. In college, Sinovic's background as a forward constantly crept into his game and he consistently bombed up and down the wing, as evidenced by his status as Creighton's second-leading scorer his red-shirt senior year.

With the Revs, Sinovic has learned the value of the defense-first mentality Nicol instills in his defenders.

"When I was in college, I was more of an integral part of the attack," Sinovic said. "A lot of the attack started from our outside backs getting forward, [but] it's not as much at this level because there are too many good players who can take advantage of the

mistakes that you make. You have to play defense first; that's something I've learned and hopefully I'll continue to learn as my career goes on."

Luckily for Sinovic, he's always been a quick study. He instilled enough faith in Nicol to earn the starting left back position in the Revolution's season opener against the LA Galaxy, a team which was one penalty kick away from claiming the 2009 MLS Cup title.

Of all the venues in MLS to make your professional debut, The Home Depot Center is quite possibly the most intimidating. But while that might be up for debate, there was no doubt about the daunting nature of Sinovic's first-ever professional marking assignment.

Defending league MVP and the U.S. National Team's all-time leading scorer, Landon Donovan.

"It was pretty crazy," Sinovic recalled with a chuckle. "Especially going up against Donovan in the first game – he's a U.S. Soccer legend."

"It was a great experience," he added. "I guess as far as nerves go, that's about as nerve-wracking as it can get – at The Home Depot Center against probably the best player in American soccer history."

As for that "How did I get here?" moment most rookies have in their first-ever professional appearance?

"That moment happened in warm-ups," Sinovic said with a laugh. "I was pretty nervous in warm-ups. I couldn't even complete a pass in warm-ups and everybody could see I had some trouble with my first few throw-ins in that game. It was an experience, but it was one I was glad to have."

Now that Sinovic has a chance to step back and process his astounding progression from star forward in high school six years ago to starting left back for a professional soccer team now, he can't quite comprehend the method in which circumstances fell into place in his favor.

But he sure is glad they did.

"It's incredible," Sinovic said with a shake of the head. "Even on top of [everything else], Jay Heaps happened to retire this year. Chris Albright was traded (in the offseason), so that's two other [defenders]. So I knew I had an opportunity to contribute when I made the team."

"It's incredible how it turned out," he repeated. "It's almost like it was meant to be."



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Homegrown Talent

MLS youth products making their mark this season

By David Agrell

When Major League Soccer this season announced teams can sign up to four homegrown players, it gave clubs a greater incentive to develop young local talent.

The new rules have already benefited those clubs with well-established youth programs. Chivas USA, D.C. United, the New York Red Bulls, FC Dallas, the Los Angeles Galaxy and Houston Dynamo have homegrown players on their first teams -- and already this year four have seen action.

"We've got Tyler [Deric] and Francisco [Navas Cobo], so it obviously opens up two (roster) spots and some extra money," said Houston head coach Dominic Kinnear. "It makes us more flexible in what we can do."

When MLS introduced the first draft of its homegrown player rules in 2007, it assumed all its teams would begin using the extra roster space to gradually grow a young player into a professional role. It wasn't expecting these players to earn minutes right off the bat.

But D.C. United signed 17-year-old Andy Najar from their academy just before this season began, and debuted the midfielder in their 2010 opener.

"Andy is a young player," United head coach Curt Onalfo said. "He's got a real bright future, and he's going to learn with each opportunity he gets on the field."

These homegrown players must have lived locally and played in the club's academy system. They don't enter the SuperDraft, and should they make the first team, they don't count against the salary cap. And while they're in the academy, they're protected from domestic poachers, meaning a club has first dibs on the players it develops -- even if that kid plays some college ball.

The first player signed from an academy to a first-team contract was Tristan Bowen, of the LA Galaxy. But this year he's been joined by Najar and Bill Hamid at D.C. United, and Bryan Leyva at FC Dallas and Navas Cobo with Houston.

And there are more to come.

"There are players within our youth system that are very good," Seattle's director of youth development Darren Sawatzky told MLSsoccer.com. "When it makes sense, we will bring these players along and give them opportunities with the first team."

Andy Najar: Quick to make jump

At first glance, Andy Najar looks just about old enough to be on the D.C. United U-16 academy team for which he was starring until recently.

Quiet, slightly built and profoundly unassuming, the D.C. United rookie bears the cautious demeanor most teenagers would need to adopt if they were to leave home for a foreign land in the midst of adolescence, as Najar did three years ago when his family emigrated from Choluteca, on Honduras' sultry Pacific coast, to the suburban world of Alexandria, Va.

He's still working his way towards his high school degree, he remains more comfortable answering media queries in Spanish and his teenage frame is still coming to terms with the harsh physical grind of Major League Soccer.

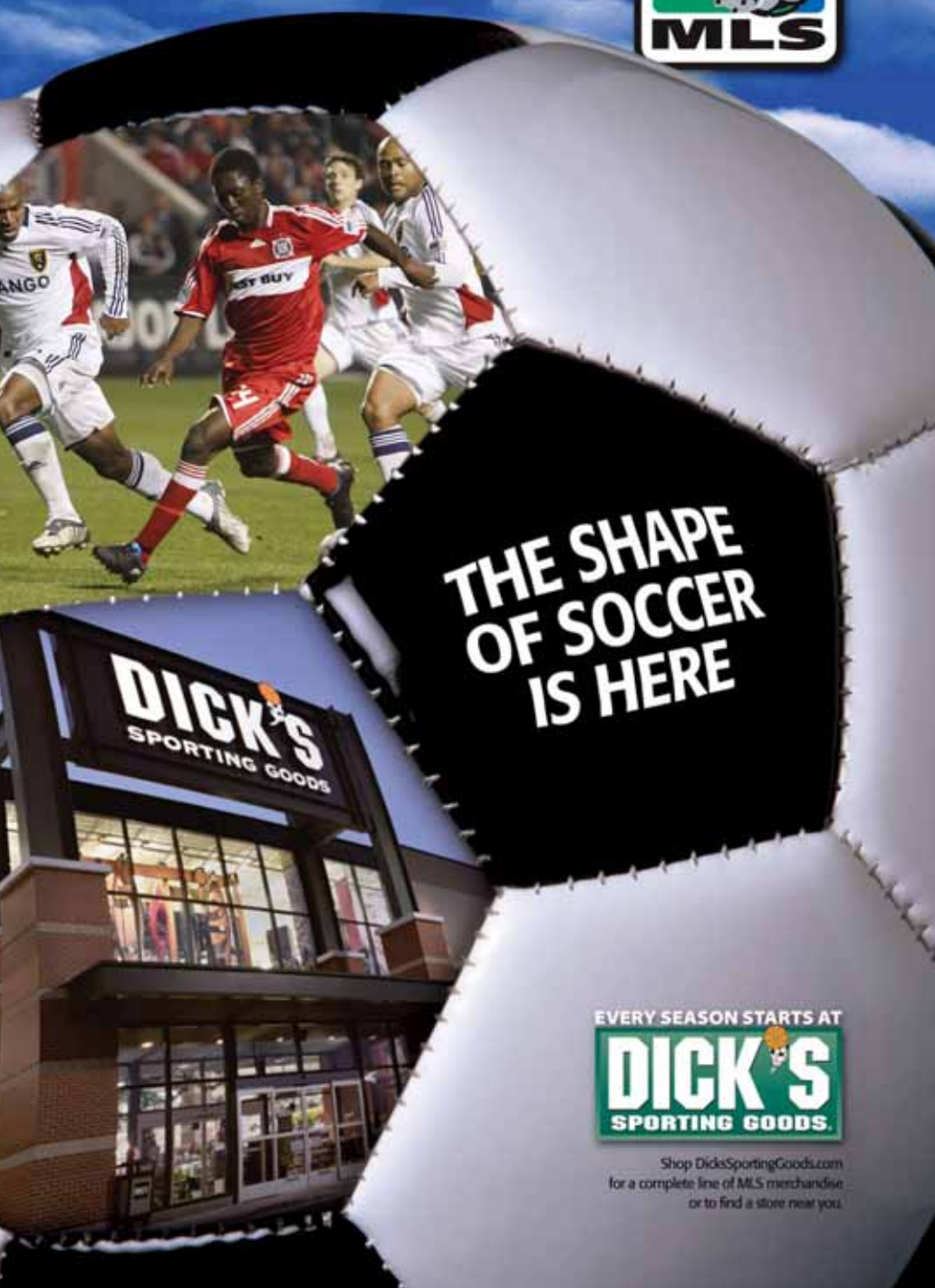
But Najar has met—and largely matched—the many challenges presented to him, especially on the field of play. He's risen through United's system with startling speed, blazing a trail from academy trainee to first-team starter in a manner often envisioned, but rarely seen, in MLS circles.

"I was coming up in a youth academy team -- it was more that they were going to prepare me to make that big jump to the first level," admitted the 17-year-old. "I'm feeling more confident and comfortable as the days progress, but I didn't expect that I would be having a lot of the impact that I'm having so far on the first team."

Najar, credits his academy experience for the tactical and positional understanding that has helped him contribute in various roles this season. Yet for all the promise represented in his progress, the roots of Najar's ability run far deeper than his time with United, introduced to the game at a young age by his father Wilson, who played for Broncos, the Honduran second-division side in Choluteca's capital city.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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"I started playing at age three, because obviously my dad played," Najar explained. "Me and my brothers would go with our dad. He's the one that taught us how to play, how to hit the ball properly. We were always with him, watching him play. He's the one that taught us.

"Ever since I can remember, since I was five years old, my dream was to be a professional someday. I'm thankful to God that I've gotten this opportunity."

Bill Hamid: Making history

D.C. United academy product Bill Hamid made history in his MLS debut.

Handed the start against the Kansas City Wizards on May 5 at RFK Stadium, Hamid nearly held onto a clean sheet until Kansas City scored in the final moments of the match. In the end United claimed an emphatic 2-1 result. Hamid's fine reflexes in goal helped to lift the weight off of the players' collective shoulders, giving the Black-and-Red their first MLS victory of 2010.

At 19 years and 161 days of age, Hamid surpassed former New York goalkeeper Tim Howard (now with Everton) by four days as the youngest goalkeeper in league history to record a win.

"When I was told, I was kind of happy, I was kind of more happy that it was Tim Howard. He was my idol, I'm a professional now and I'm pushing to get where he's at. That's something amazing to have and I'm just grateful. It's also something nice to have on your resume," said Hamid.

Hamid signed with United on Sept. 2, 2009, becoming the first player in club history to move from the Academy ranks to the first team. Andy Najar has since done the same, and former Academy player and 2010 MLS SuperDraft selection Jordan Graye has also been a regular starter this season.

Hamid was given the start in his debut ahead of Troy Perkins, the 2006 MLS Goalkeeper of the Year who this year returned to United after a couple of seasons in Norway. But Hamid is not overwhelmed by his circumstances.

"At my age, to be in goal, you have to be confident," said Hamid. "If you think about it, there's not many players that are 19 in this world that are playing for their first team, so you have to come in every day with the mentality that 'I am the No. 1' and fight for the job and be more mature than your age may say."

He's also attracted the attention of another

one-time young goalkeeper – former Chivas USA shot-stopper Brad Guzan, who moved from college right into a starting role in the league and now plays for Aston Villa in the English Premier League.

"Bill's done well. If I was 19 and put in that spot, I don't know if I'd do that well. He's certainly held his own, he's done what he needs to do and he's done an exceptional job," Guzan said.

Tristan Bowen: The first

When Edson Buddle and his 10 goals and Landon Donovan and his 10 assists left the league-leading LA Galaxy for the U.S. World Cup team, one option to fill a striker's role was Tristan Bowen, who had logged all of one minute before the 2010 campaign.

Massive drop-off, right? Bowen's play would suggest otherwise.

Bowen responded with a goal and an assist – his first in Major League Soccer – playing key roles in two Galaxy victories.

So what was the secret to his success?

"I think it's a lot of things. First and foremost, the guys on the team made my job a lot easier in the games," said Bowen. "They are giving me a lot of information about where I should be defensively [and] offensively; where I should make my runs to make the team more successful.

"I've been working hard in practice every day, I've been watching a lot of game tape and throughout the past three games I've been trying to improve on my weaknesses. I think [that] combination... just makes my performances steadily get better."

The first player signed by the Galaxy from the club's Academy, Bowen made his professional debut in New Zealand in a friendly against the Oceania All-Stars in December 2008. His MLS debut came on June 20, 2009 at San Jose, and he when he scored against Columbus on May 29 of this year, it made him the youngest goalscorer in Galaxy history at 19 years and 118 days.

"He's still a young, inexperienced player and he's worked hard to get on the field," Galaxy head coach Bruce Arena said. "You see some of the qualities there. He's a strong, powerful kid and has an uncanny ability to get chances and he's finished the chances that have come his way. He deserves a lot of credit."

As one would expect, the return of Donovan and Buddle to the Galaxy fold has limited his time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

But he's not ready to step aside just yet.

"Every day in practice determines whether you're going to be starting or not. All I can do is go out there and just work hard every day," he said. "I definitely feel part of the team. I definitely feel like I can contribute to the team when I step on the field. Every day I just go out there and try to put myself in a position to be called on and start and hopefully help the team."

Leyva, Navas Cobo, Agudelo making a mark

Midfielder Bryan Leyva, the first player signed from the FC Dallas youth system, made his MLS debut on May 20, coming on in the 77th minute for right back Zach Loyd.

The quick and energetic midfielder helped create a chance in stoppage time, getting the ball to teammate Eric Avila near the top of the arc. But Avila's effort went to the right of goal and FCD saw their 12-game home unbeaten streak come to a screeching halt.

"I think Leyva did well for his first game," Avila said. "He's my favorite player. He puts in his work and I'm happy he got in and he did well. He's proven that he can hang out with the big guys."

Leyva, a member of Mexico's 2009 Under-17 World Cup team, found out just a few days prior to the game that he would be included in the 18-man roster for the first time. But once game day arrived, he admits he wasn't positive he would play.

"I always said that I had to go in with that positive mentality and be prepared to go in," he said, "and when I did, I was going to give it my best shot. I won't forget this feeling. It's going to stay with me all my life."

Agudelo stays home

Juan Agudelo had been in the youth ranks for the New York Red Bulls since 2007. However, when Millionarios in his native Colombia showed interest, Agudelo took his chance and enjoyed a successful trial there. He even played in front of 30,000 fans in a tribute match for Pele, and reports suggested he would join the Colombian giants.

But the Red Bulls submitted an aggressive counteroffer, and signed the 17-year-old on March 25. He's since made his professional debut for the club in an Open Cup match.

"[Red Bulls head coach Hans Backe] just wants me to contribute to the team in any way,

and do that whether it's sitting on the bench or helping people at practice," Agudelo told the New York Post. "I know I'm young, I've got to be patient and he believes I'll get playing time soon if I keep working hard."

Other debuts

Houston midfielder Francisco Navas Cobo, signed earlier this year out of the Dynamo Academy, made his MLS debut on April 17 vs. Chivas USA and became the club's first homegrown player to see action.

In 2009, Chivas USA youth system product Cesar Zamora made his first team debut in Super-Liga, though he has yet to play in an MLS game. He is the third former Chivas USA youth player on the club's first-team roster, alongside local products Gerson Mayén (Los Angeles) and Jorge Flores (Anaheim).

While they have yet to action in an MLS game, Toronto FC academy products Doneil Henry and Nicholas Lindsay each signed senior contracts after appearing in Canadian Championship and CONCACAF Champions League games.

MLS Homegrown Players (as of Sept. 15)

Victor Pineda, Chicago Fire
Bryan de la Fuente, Chivas USA
Cesar Zamora, Chivas USA
Davy Armstrong, Colorado Rapids
Bill Hamid (GK), D.C. United
Andy Najar, D.C. United
Conor Shanosky, D.C. United
Bryan Leyva, FC Dallas
Ruben Luna, FC Dallas
Victor Ulloa, FC Dallas
Moises Hernandez, FC Dallas
Francisco Navas Cobo, Houston Dynamo
Tyler Deric (GK), Houston Dynamo
Jon Kempin (GK), Kansas City Wizards
Tristan Bowen, Los Angeles Galaxy
Juan Agudelo, New York Red Bulls
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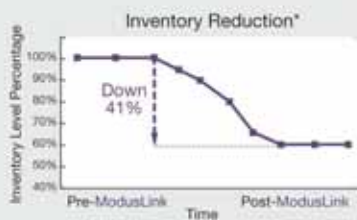


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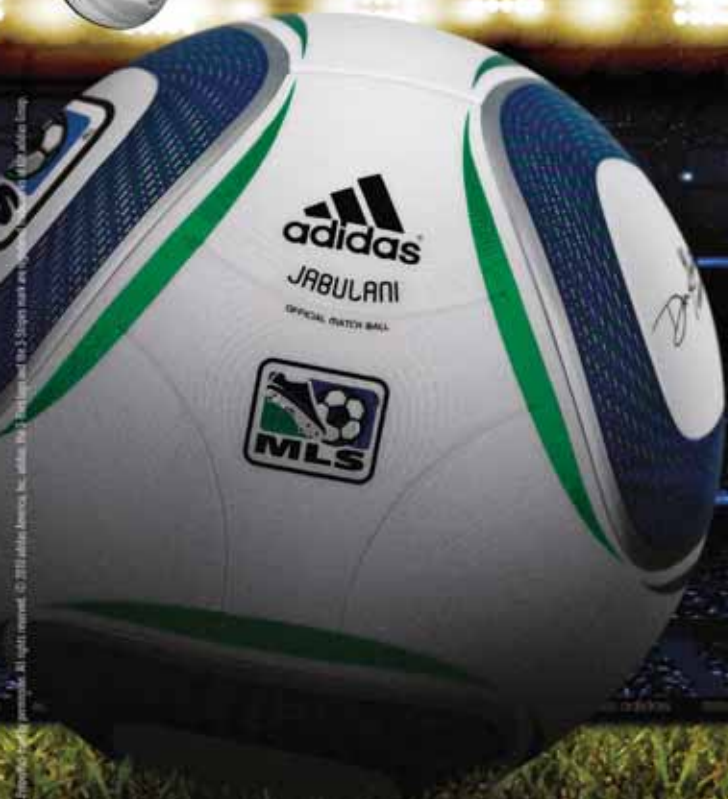


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