

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 7



MATCHDAY



**BENNY
FEILHABER**

**SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2011 • 8:00 P.M.
GILLETTE STADIUM, FOXBOROUGH, MASS.**



**NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
VS. LA GALAXY**



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NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION as of May 23, 2011

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	Last Team
1	Matt Reis	GK	6-1	200	03/28/1975	Mission Viejo, Calif.	Los Angeles (MLS)
2	Franco Coria	DEF	6-0	170	07/08/1988	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Chacarita Juniors (ARG)
3	Didier Dorni	DEF	5-11	160	05/02/1978	Sarcelles, France	Olympiacos (GRE)
4	Otto Loewy	DEF	5-10	170	06/04/1987	Lawrenceville, Ga.	Winthrop
5	A.J. Soares	DEF	6-0	170	11/28/1988	Solana Beach, Calif.	California
6	Ousmane Dabo	MID	6-0	160	02/08/1977	Mayenne, France	Lazio (ITA)
7	Kenny Mansally	F/M	5-10	160	01/27/1989	Banjul, Gambia	Real de Banjul (GAM)
8	Chris Tierney	M/D	6-0	170	01/09/1986	Wellesley, Mass.	Virginia
10	Rajko Lekic	FWD	6-1	165	07/03/1981	Copenhagen, Denmark	Silkeborg (DEN)
11	Kheli Dube	FWD	5-11	155	06/18/1983	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	Coastal Carolina
12	Alan Koger	FWD	6-2	180	09/25/1987	Spencer, Va.	William & Mary
14	Diego Fagundez	F/M	5-8	125	02/14/1995	Leominster, Mass.	New England Revolution Academy
15	Zack Schilawski	FWD	5-10	165	04/14/1987	Cary, N.C.	Wake Forest
16	Michael Augustine	MID	5-10	160	12/09/1992	Kano, Nigeria	FCT Abuja (NGA)
17	Sainey Nyassi	MID	5-8	145	01/31/1989	Bwiam, Gambia	Ports Authority (GAM)
21	Shalrie Joseph	MID	6-3	185	05/24/1978	Brooklyn, N.Y.	New York Freedoms (PDL)
22	Benny Feilhaber	MID	5-9	150	01/19/1985	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	AGF Aarhus (DEN)
23	Andrew Sousa	MID	6-0	165	09/26/1989	Fall River, Mass.	Providence
25	Darrius Barnes	DEF	6-1	175	12/24/1986	Raleigh, N.C.	Duke
26	Stephen McCarthy	MID	6-4	185	07/21/1988	Dallas, Texas	North Carolina
28	Pat Phelan	MID	6-0	175	01/16/1985	Enfield, Conn.	Toronto FC (MLS)
29	Marko Perovic	MID	6-1	165	01/11/1984	Pristina, Serbia	FC Basel (SUI)
30	Kevin Alston	DEF	5-8	160	05/05/1988	Silver Spring, Md.	Indiana
33	Zak Boggs	F/M	6-0	180	12/25/1986	Vienna, W. Va.	South Florida
34	Bobby Shuttleworth	GK	6-2	195	05/13/1987	Tonawanda, N.Y.	Austin Aztex (USL)
35	Ryan Kinne	F/M	5-8	160	08/31/1989	Naugatuck, Conn.	Monmouth
40	Tim Murray	GK	6-2	185	07/30/1987	Haverhill, Mass.	Providence
45	Ryan Cochrane	DEF	6-1	180	08/08/1983	Portland, Ore.	Houston Dynamo (MLS)

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



LA GALAXY

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	Last Team
1	Donovan Ricketts	GK	6-4	200	07/06/1977	Montego Bay, Jamaica	Village United (Jamaica)
2	Todd Dunivant	DEF	6-1	175	12/26/1980	Wheat Ridge, Colorado	Toronto FC (MLS)
3	Gregg Berhalter	DEF	6-1	175	08/01/1973	Tenafly, N.J.	TSV 1860 Munich (GER)
4	Omar Gonzalez	DEF	6-5	210	10/11/1988	Dallas, Texas	Maryland
5	Sean Franklin	DEF	5-10	160	03/21/1985	Palmdale, Calif.	Cal State-Northridge
6	Frankie Hejduk	DEF	5-8	155	08/05/1974	Cardiff, Calif.	St. Gallen (Switzerland)
7	Jovan Kirovski	MID	6-1	180	03/18/1976	Escondido, Calif.	San Jose (MLS)
8	Chris Birchall	MID	5-9	180	05/05/1984	Stafford, England	Brighton & Hove Albion (ENG)
9	Juan Pablo Angel	FWD	6-1	170	10/24/1975	Medellin, Colombia	Aston Villa (ENG)
10	Landon Donovan	MID	5-8	155	03/04/1982	Redlands, Calif.	Bayer Leverkusen (GER)
11	Chad Barrett	FWD	5-11	180	04/30/1985	Beaverton, Ore.	Chicago (MLS)
12	Josh Saunders	GK	6-4	210	03/02/1981	Lake Forest, Calif.	Miami FC (USL)
15	Dan Keat	MID	5-10	165	09/28/1987	Wellington, New Zealand	Dartmouth
16	Hector Jimenez	MID	5-9	140	11/03/1988	Bell Gardens, Calif.	California
17	Adam Cristman	FWD	6-0	180	01/08/1985	Glen Allen, V.A.	Kansas City (MLS)
18	Mike Magee	FWD	5-10	160	09/02/1984	Chicago, Ill.	New York (MLS)
19	Juninho	MID	5-7	140	01/08/1989	San Jose dos Campos, Brazil	São Paulo (BRA)
20	A.J. DeLaGarza	DEF	5-9	145	11/04/1987	Bryans Road, M.D.	Maryland
21	Dustin McCarty	MID	5-8	165	10/12/1988	Maitland, Fla.	North Carolina
22	Leonardo	DEF	6-2	175	02/05/1988	São Paulo, Brazil	São Paulo (BRA)
23	David Beckham	MID	6-0	170	05/02/1975	London, England	Real Madrid (SPA)
24	Brian Perk	GK	5-11	175	07/21/1989	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.	Philadelphia (MLS)
25	Miguel Lopez	MID	5-9	160	06/09/1988	Ensenada, Argentina	Quilmes (ARG)
26	Michael Stephens	MID	5-9	155	04/03/1989	Naperville, Ill.	UCLA
27	Bryan Jordan	MID	5-8	155	09/13/1985	Temple City, Calif.	Portland (USL)
28	Ryan Thomas	DEF	5-9	160	03/20/1989	Claremont, Calif.	Stanford
29	Kyle Davies	DEF	5-9	160	04/11/1989	Danville, Calif.	FC Dallas (MLS)
30	Paolo Cardozo	MID	5-5	135	06/09/1989	Montevideo, Uruguay	Quilmes (ARG)
32	Jack McBean	FWD	6-1	175	12/15/1994	Newport Beach, Calif.	LA Galaxy Academy
33	Sean Alvarado	DEF	6-3	190	09/20/1987	West Orange, N.J.	Los Angeles (PDL)

Head Coach: Bruce Arena **Associate Head Coach:** Dave Sarachan **Assistant Coach:** Curt Onalfo **Goalkeeper Coach:** Ian Feuer



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**Matt
Reis**
1



**Franco
Coria**
2



**Didier
Domi**
3



**Otto
Loewy**
4



**A.J.
Soares**
5



**Ousmane
Dabo**
6



**Kenny
Mansally**
7



**Chris
Tierney**
8



**Rajko
Lekic**
10



**Kheli
Dube**
11



**Alan
Koger**
12



**Diego
Fagundez**
14



**Zack
Schilawski**
15



**Michael
Augustine**
16



**Sainey
Nyassy**
17



Shalrie
Joseph
21



Benny
Feilhaber
22



Andrew
Sousa
23



Darrius
Barnes
25



Stephen
McCarthy
26



Pat
Phelan
28



Marko
Perović
29



Kevin
Alston
30



Zak
Boggs
33



Bobby
Shuttleworth
34



Ryan
Kinne
35



Tim
Murray
40



Ryan
Cochrane
45



Steve Nicol
Head Coach



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

(3-4-4, 13 pts.) THROUGH GAMES OF MAY 21, 2011

UNF	POS	PLAYER	GP	GS	MIN	G	A	SHT	SOG	FC	FS	OFF	CK	C	E
21	M	Shalrie Joseph	10	10	880	4	1	16	7	16	14	3	0	3	1
29	M	Marko Perovic	4	4	262	1	1	10	3	5	3	0	6	1	0
15	F	Zack Schilawski	9	7	592	1	1	12	4	4	2	0	0	1	0
10	F	Rajko Lekic	6	6	531	1	0	9	3	15	14	9	0	1	0
26	M	Stephen McCarthy	10	10	720	1	0	6	3	10	4	0	0	3	0
9	F	Ilija Stolica	2	0	73	1	0	1	1	2	0	4	0	1	0
8	D	Chris Tierney	7	5	479	1	0	4	2	3	0	0	14	1	0
33	M	Zak Boggs	9	9	714	0	1	7	3	5	10	2	7	2	0
22	M	Benny Feilhaber	5	5	450	0	1	7	1	9	19	1	2	0	0
7	M	Kenny Mansally	8	3	398	0	1	11	1	12	7	2	14	1	0
28	M	Pat Phelan	5	5	446	0	1	4	1	8	9	0	0	0	1
30	D	Kevin Alston	10	10	900	0	0	5	0	10	13	0	0	1	0
25	D	Darius Barnes	6	4	412	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
45	D	Ryan Cochrane	8	6	521	0	0	4	0	10	2	0	0	1	0
2	D	Franco Coria	6	6	487	0	0	2	0	14	3	0	0	2	0
6	M	Ousmane Dabo	1	1	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	D	Didier Domi	6	6	527	0	0	3	0	6	2	0	0	1	0
11	F	Kheli Dube	2	0	66	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	3	0	0
35	M	Ryan Kinne	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	M	Sainey Nyassi	9	3	442	0	0	12	5	6	11	2	0	0	0
1	G	Matt Reis	8	8	720	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
34	G	Bobby Shuttleworth	3	3	270	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	D	A.J. Soares	10	10	884	0	0	4	0	11	12	0	0	1	1
16	M	Michael Augustine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	M	Diego Fagundez	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	F	Alan Koger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	D	Otto Loewy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	G	Tim Murray	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	M	Andrew Sousa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team totals			11	11	990	10	7	118	34	151	144	25	46	20	3
Opponent totals			11	11	990	14	10	144	56	144	151	25	71	22	5

GAME-WINNING GOALS: Shalrie Joseph 2, Rajko Lekic 1

GAME-WINNING ASSISTS: Zak Boggs 1

PENALTY KICK GOALS/ATTEMPTS: Shalrie Joseph 2-2

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION INDIVIDUAL GOALKEEPING

UNF	POS	GOALKEEPER	GP	GS	MIN	SHTS	SV	GA	GAA	PG	PA	W	L	T	SO
1	G	Matt Reis	8	8	720	41	30	8	1.00	2	2	3	2	3	2
34	G	Bobby Shuttleworth	3	3	270	15	9	6	2.00	1	1	0	2	1	0
Team totals			11	11	990	56	39	14	1.27	3	3	3	4	4	2
Opponent totals			11	11	990	34	22	10	0.91	2	2	4	3	4	4



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NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



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NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION VS. LA GALAXY



NEW ENGLAND VS. LA GALAXY

Overall: 13-15-6

Home games: 9-5-2 **Road games:** 4-10-4

LAST MEETINGS

7/04/09	New England 0 at LA 1	L
8/08/09	LA 2 at New England 1	L
3/27/10	New England 0 at LA 1	L
7/10/10	LA 0 at New England 2	W
3/20/11	New England 1 at LA 1	T

LA GALAXY PLAYER TO WATCH: 9 • F • JUAN PABLO ANGEL

In his fifth season in MLS and his first with LA, Juan Pablo Angel has already established himself as one of the league's premier forwards. In nine previous meetings against the Revs, the Colombian has scored two goals and two assists, all with New York. He made his LA debut against New England in the season opener on March 20. Angel has scored two goals and added one assist entering this week's action.



Photo by Stephen Dunn/Getty Images

NEW ENGLAND VS. LA GALAXY SERIES INFORMATION

- Saturday's game will be 35th all-time meeting between the Revs and Galaxy, with LA leading the all-time regular-season series history, 15-13-6
- New England has a modest two-game undefeated streak against LA following the teams' 1-1 draw at The Home Depot Center on March 20
- The Revs are 9-5-2 against LA at home, including a 6-1-2 mark at Gillette Stadium ... New England's 2-0 win against LA last year at home snapped the team's only two-game winless streak ever against LA at Gillette Stadium
- The Revs are 4-10-4 against LA on the road, including a 4-8-3 mark at The Home Depot Center ... the Revs are 2-2-1 in their last five visits to LA to face the Galaxy
- The winner of Saturday's game will win the 2011 season series between the teams ... the Revolution and Galaxy split the 2010 season series, with LA winning the opener, 1-0, in Carson, Calif., on March 27, and the Revs winning the return leg, 2-0, on July 10, at home
- LA won the first four season series (1996-99) between the two clubs, but nine consecutive season series were either won by the Revs or drawn between 2000 and 2008 ... LA won the 2009 series prior to last year's split
- New England and LA have met in the MLS Cup Playoffs twice - both the 2002 and 2005 MLS Cup Final ... the Galaxy won both meetings in overtime, 1-0 ... the 2002 meeting was in Foxborough, while the 2005 match was at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco, Texas
- The Revs and Galaxy have played in one U.S. Open Cup match - the 2001 championship game in Fullerton, Calif., which LA won, 2-1, in overtime

PLAYER NOTES VS. LA GALAXY

- Shalrie Joseph has recorded five goals and two assists in 16 career appearances against the Galaxy, tied for his second-highest offensive output against any team (Kansas City - 2 goals, 5 assists) ... Joseph has only produced greater numbers against New York (2G, 8A)
- Sainey Nyassi and Marko Perovic have scored one goal apiece against the Galaxy, with both players finding the net in a 2-0 win over the Galaxy on July 10, 2010, at Gillette Stadium
- Perovic also has recorded one assist against LA, picking up the helper on Shalrie Joseph's goal at The Home Depot Center earlier this year

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STANDINGS & SCHEDULE 2011 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	STREAKS	LAST 10
Philadelphia Union	10	5	3	2	17	8	7	Won 1	5-3-2
New York Red Bulls	10	4	2	4	16	15	8	Tied 1	4-2-4
Houston Dynamo	11	3	3	5	14	15	12	Tied 2	3-2-5
Columbus Crew	10	3	3	4	13	8	10	Lost 2	3-3-4
New England Revolution	11	3	4	4	13	10	14	Lost 1	3-4-3
D.C. United	10	3	4	3	12	13	18	Tied 2	3-4-3
Toronto FC	12	2	4	6	12	11	17	Tied 2	1-3-6
Chicago Fire	10	1	4	5	8	13	17	Lost 1	1-4-5
Sporting Kansas City	8	1	6	1	4	11	18	Lost 5	1-6-1



MLS WESTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	STREAKS	LAST 10
LA Galaxy	13	6	2	5	23	18	12	Won 2	5-1-4
FC Dallas	11	5	3	3	18	13	10	Tied 1	5-3-2
Real Salt Lake	8	5	1	2	17	9	2	Tied 2	5-1-2
Seattle Sounders FC	12	4	3	5	17	14	11	Won 1	4-1-5
Portland Timbers	10	5	3	2	17	13	14	Won 1	5-3-2
Colorado Rapids	11	4	3	4	16	12	10	Tied 3	3-3-4
Chivas USA	10	3	4	3	12	11	10	Lost 1	3-4-3
San Jose Earthquakes	10	3	4	3	12	12	12	Won 2	3-4-3
Vancouver Whitecaps FC	11	1	5	5	8	12	16	Lost 1	0-5-5

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES



LAST WEEK'S MATCHES

Saturday, May 21

Chicago 2 at Philadelphia 2

New York 2 at Houston 2

LA 1 at Chivas USA 0

Kansas City 0 at Seattle 1

New England 1 at San Jose 2

Columbus 0 at Portland 1

Sunday, May 22

Real Salt Lake 0 at Dallas 0

Toronto 0 at Colorado 0

Wednesday, May 25

Colorado at New York, 7:30 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Houston at LA, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 28

New York at Vancouver, 5:30 p.m.

Chivas USA at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

LA at New England, 8 p.m.

San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Dallas at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

Kansas City at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Seattle at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.

Sunday, May 29

D.C. at Portland, 5 p.m.

GOALS SCORING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	GOALS
Landon Donovan	LA	9	7
Charlie Davies	DC	9	6
Thierry Henry	NY	8	5
Chris Wondolowski	SJ	10	5
Shalrie Joseph	NE	10	4
Five other players			4

GOALKEEPING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	MIN	SHTS	SVS	GA	GAA	W-L-T	SHO
Nick Rimando	RSL	7	630	24	22	2	0.29	4-1-2	5
Donovan Ricketts	LA	9	810	31	25	6	0.67	4-1-4	4
Faryd Mondragon	PHI	10	900	25	18	7	0.70	5-3-2	4

All MLS statistics as of games played through May 22, 2011

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION VS. LA GALAXY

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2011 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION SCHEDULE

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

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (ET) / RESULT	TV
Sunday	March 20	at LA Galaxy (Home Depot Center)	T, 1-1	CSN/Galavision
Saturday	March 26	D.C. United (Gillette Stadium)	W, 2-1	CSN
Saturday	April 2	Portland Timbers (Gillette Stadium)	T, 1-1	CSN
Wednesday	April 6	at Vancouver Whitecaps FC (Empire Field)	T, 1-1	CSN
Saturday	April 9	Real Salt Lake (Gillette Stadium)	L, 0-2	CSN
Sunday	April 17	at Houston Dynamo (Robertson Stadium)	L, 0-1	CSN
Saturday	April 23	Sporting Kansas City (Gillette Stadium)	W, 3-2	CSN
Saturday	April 30	at Chivas USA (Home Depot Center)	L, 0-3	CSN
Saturday	May 7	Colorado Rapids (Gillette Stadium)	T, 0-0	CSN
Saturday	May 14	Vancouver Whitecaps FC (Gillette Stadium)	W, 1-0	CSN
Saturday	May 21	at San Jose Earthquakes (Buck Shaw Stadium)	L, 2-1	CSN
Saturday	May 28	LA Galaxy (Gillette Stadium)	8:00 pm	CSN/Galavision
Saturday	June 4	at FC Dallas (Pizza Hut Park)	8:30 pm	CSN
Friday	June 10	at New York Red Bulls (Red Bull Arena)	8:30 pm	Fox Soccer
Wednesday	June 15	Toronto FC (Gillette Stadium)	8:00 pm	CSN/TSN
Saturday	June 18	Chicago Fire (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Sunday	June 26	at Seattle Sounders FC (Qwest Field)	4:00 pm	CSN
Monday	July 4	at Real Salt Lake (Rio Tinto Stadium)	8:30 pm	ESPN2
Wednesday	July 13	Manchester United (friendly), (Gillette Stadium)	8:00 pm	TBA
Sunday	July 17	Philadelphia Union (Gillette Stadium)	7:00 pm	CSN
Wednesday	July 20	at D.C. United (RFK Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Saturday	July 23	at Colorado Rapids (Dick's Sporting Goods Park)	9:00 pm	CSN
Saturday	July 30	at Sporting Kansas City (Livestrong Sporting Park)	8:30 pm	CSN
Wednesday	August 3	San Jose Earthquakes (Gillette Stadium)	8:00 pm	CSN
Saturday	August 6	Chivas USA (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Saturday	August 13	at Columbus Crew (Crew Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Wednesday	August 17	Houston Dynamo (Gillette Stadium)	8:00 pm	CSN
Saturday	August 20	New York Red Bulls (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Sunday	August 28	at Philadelphia Union (PPL Park)	7:00 pm	CSN/Galavision
Saturday	September 10	FC Dallas (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Friday	September 16	at Portland Timbers (JELD-WEN Field)	11:00 pm	Fox Soccer
Sunday	September 25	at Chicago Fire (Toyota Park)	4:00 pm	CSN
Saturday	October 1	Seattle Sounders FC (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Saturday	October 15	Columbus Crew (Gillette Stadium)	7:30 pm	CSN
Saturday	October 22	at Toronto FC (BMO Field)	12:30 pm	CSN



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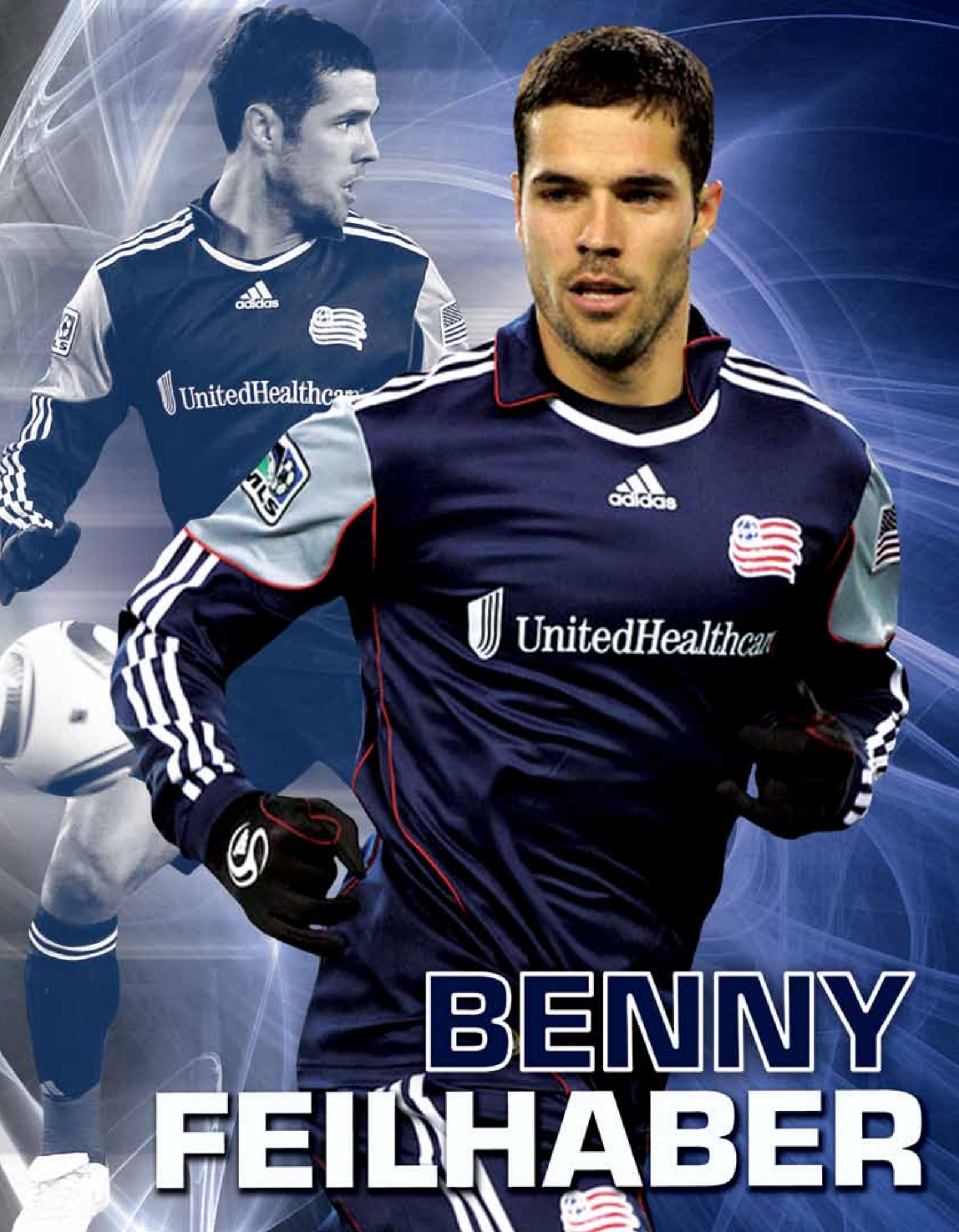
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Chicken Tenders, Chicken Wings, French Fries, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer



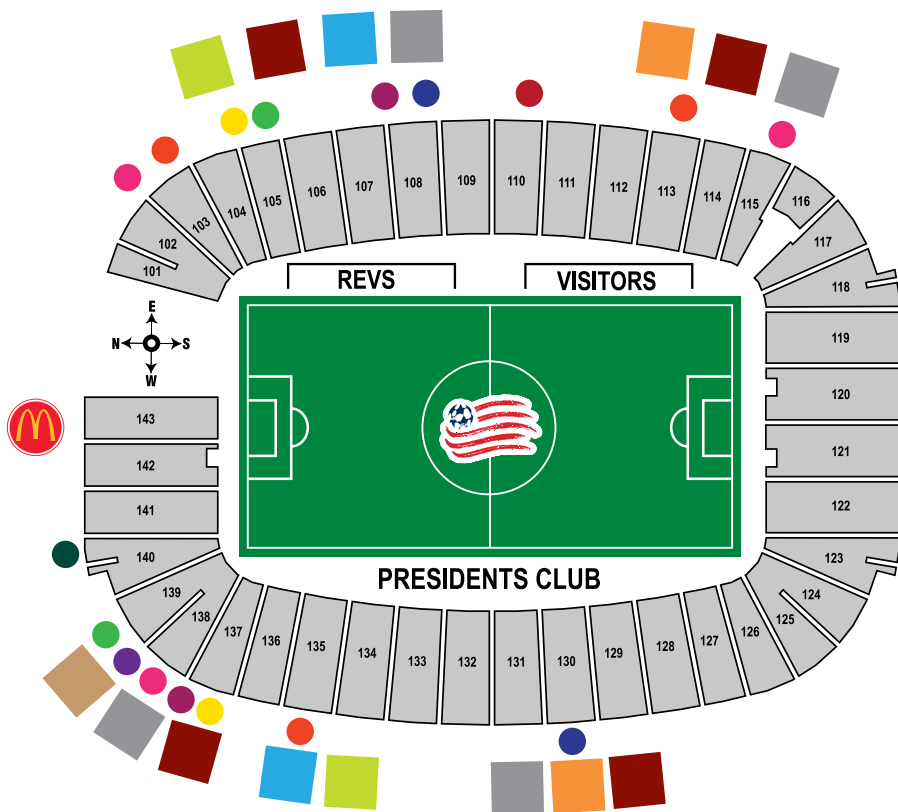
Hamburgers, Chicken Breasts, Cheesesteaks, French Fries, Chili Cheese Fries, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer
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Take the long way home

Benny Feilhaber's rollercoaster career has landed him happily in Major League Soccer

By Jeff Lemieux

Staff Writer & Online Host

F OXBOROUGH, Mass. – Benny Feilhaber is a 26-year-old World Cup veteran with an extensive European club career, not to mention a current home in the United States with the New England Revolution. He's an Olympian, to boot, having represented the United States at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

In short, the Brazilian-born playmaker has come to represent the personification of every young American soccer player's dream.

But to say Feilhaber has experienced a few bumps in the road along the path to stardom would be a massive understatement. The journey has been anything but smooth and it's taken equal doses of luck and determination to power through the adversity.

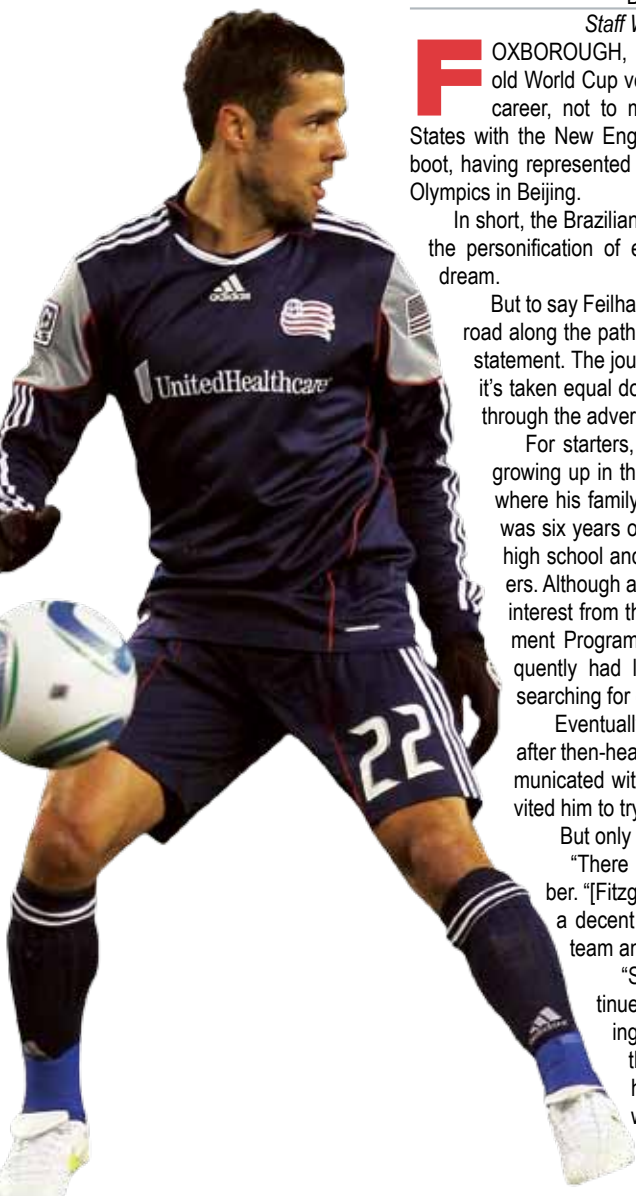
For starters, Feilhaber was never a soccer prodigy growing up in the New York City suburb of Scarsdale – where his family moved from his native Brazil when he was six years old – or Irvine, Calif., where he attended high school and played club soccer for the Irvine Strikers. Although a talented midfielder, Feilhaber drew little interest from the U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program during his teenage years and subsequently had limited scholarship opportunities when searching for colleges.

Eventually, Feilhaber decided to attend UCLA after then-head coach Tom Fitzgerald – who had communicated with Feilhaber via a string of e-mails – invited him to try out for the Bruins.

But only as a walk-on.

"There was nothing guaranteed," said Feilhaber. "[Fitzgerald] basically told me he thought I was a decent player, to come out and train with the team and he'd let me know.

"So that's what I ended up doing," he continued. "I got into the school. I was kind of using soccer to get into college and do well – that was my initial thought coming out of high school. I made it into UCLA, which was my main goal, and then hopefully I'd



CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

make the team. If not, I'll be a student, you know?"

Feilhaber didn't only make the team; he excelled. After playing 16 games as a freshman in 2003, he appeared in every match as a sophomore, registering five goals and three assists as he helped UCLA to a 14-4-2 record and an appearance in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

It was in the midst of Feilhaber's thriving college career that a stroke of luck changed his life forever.

Thomas Rongen had never given Feilhaber a look during his tenure as head coach of the United States Under-20 National Team, but a lucrative offer to take the reins of MLS expansion club Chivas USA meant Rongen vacated the post in 2004. Former UCLA head coach and longtime California resident Sigi Schmid stepped in to replace Rongen with the U20s and a door opened for Feilhaber.

Schmid called the burgeoning college star into camp with the Under-20 National Team in November 2004 – Feilhaber's first experience in the National Team program – and six months later he was starting for the United States at the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship.

Feilhaber shined on the international stage that summer and immediately drew interest from European clubs eager to acquire his services. In the span of six months he'd gone from quality college soccer player to sought-after American star.

With Germany calling in the form of Bundesliga side Hamburg SV, Feilhaber made the decision to leave school after two years and pursue a professional career in Europe.

"Players don't get that opportunity very often and it's not something you can just decide to do (when-ever you want)," said Feilhaber. "It's something that has to present itself. It did, and it was something that I couldn't pass up. Had it not worked out in the end, I could've always come back and finished up school. That was my thought process."

While Feilhaber never came back to finish his degree at UCLA, his time at Hamburg was far from an instant success story. After biding his time with the reserves throughout the 2005-06 campaign, the young American broke into the first team during his second season in Germany and slowly became a key piece of Hamburg's roster.

Until a coaching change once again altered the course of his career.

"For the first six months (of my second year with Hamburg), I was basically a starter and I think I played about 12 games, playing in Champions League, playing in the Bundesliga and I gained a lot of experience that way," said Feilhaber. "But our coach got fired at the break and the new coach who came in changed things up, and I wasn't part of his plans.

"I think the most important thing, regardless of what level you're playing at, is to play games and get experience," he continued. "I got some of that exposure (at Hamburg), but maybe not enough of it."

With his playing time limited and one eye toward a move away from Hamburg in the summer transfer window, Feilhaber began to focus on making the United States' roster for the 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup. He had made his full debut with the National Team in March 2007 and was considered an up-and-coming talent in the U.S. program.

Feilhaber made the Gold Cup roster. He also made an unmistakable impression with a highlight-reel goal to beat archrival Mexico in the tournament's championship match, launching him to instant hero status within the American soccer scene.

Once again, Feilhaber was a wanted man in Europe.

"At the end of [the Gold Cup], the coach who hadn't played me was obviously still at Hamburg, so it was a tough decision," Feilhaber admitted. "I had one more year on my contract, I loved Hamburg and of course I'd love to have stayed there and played. But at that point in time, I couldn't stay there and take the chance of not playing."

So Feilhaber made the move to England, where he joined up with newly-promoted Derby County and manager Billy Davies for the 2007-08 English Premier League campaign. A blossoming 22-year-old American star playing in the Premier League, Feilhaber thought everything was coming together, admitting that moving to Derby "felt like the perfect move."

Unfortunately, Feilhaber's dream turned into a nightmare in more ways than one. Derby won just one match in the 38-game season and accumulated the lowest point total (11) in the English top flight since teams began being awarded three points for a victory. The Rams were officially relegated from the Premier League by March, almost two months

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before the season ended in mid-May.

Despite Derby's struggles, Feilhaber was rarely given the chance to step on the field. Davies left the club in November and new manager Paul Jewell never found a place for Feilhaber in his plans.

"Billy always seemed pretty high on me and I think he was kind of building me into the team," said Feilhaber. "I played more as a sub in the beginning and I think he was finally starting to get some confidence in me, and then he was gone."

"So the whole thought was that the coach wants me here and he's going to play me," Feilhaber recalled. "Even if the team doesn't do well, at the very least I'm going to have one good full season under my belt in the [Premier League], which is the best league you can play in. It was another opportunity I felt I couldn't pass up. It was the [Premier League]. But it didn't pan out the way I thought it would."

While Feilhaber was discouraged at the time, he's able to look back on the experience now as a building block in his career.

"It was a really frustrating year for me," he admitted. "Looking back on it now, definitely I can take things that I learned there. I don't know if there are too many positives from that year, but there are things that I can take that I learned from that difficult experience to better myself as a person and a player."

With life experience gained, Feilhaber moved on from his unsuccessful stint at Derby in search of a different kind of experience – playing experience. Knowing he needed to find a club where he could be a regular contributor, Feilhaber turned to Denmark, where he landed with AGF Aarhus in August 2008.

Feilhaber finally found a home at Aarhus, featuring 54 times and scoring a few crucial goals as he carved out a spot for himself during a three-season stint in Denmark from

2008-11. A few injuries – most notably cartilage damage which sidelined him for five months in late 2008 and early 2009 – and relegation to the second division for the 2010-11 campaign provided additional obstacles, but the hurdles seemed minor compared to what he'd overcome in previous years.

"I had a little bit of a struggle my first year with some injuries, but after that I settled down and for the most part played pretty regularly there," Feilhaber said of his time with AGF. "That was very important for my career, especially at that age. I couldn't keep doing what I did at Hamburg and Derby, playing 10 games a year."

"It was important for me at that point to get regular game time and that's what I was able to do in Denmark," he continued. "And it was a high enough level for me to keep developing as a player."

Feilhaber developed so much as a player, in fact, that he featured three times for the U.S. National Team at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. With his star on the rise, Feilhaber eventually made a highly-publicized move back to the United States to join Major League Soccer, where he fell into the laps of the Revolution after both Chivas USA and the Philadelphia Union passed on his services in the Allocation Process.

Now settling into his new home in New England, Feilhaber hopes his progression continues in the right direction. And if there are a few snags along the way, it won't be anything he can't handle.

"The most important thing for me is to play and play well here, and help the team as much as I can," said Feilhaber. "Now I'm in MLS, I'm back in the U.S. and I want to keep improving my football and try to keep improving MLS."



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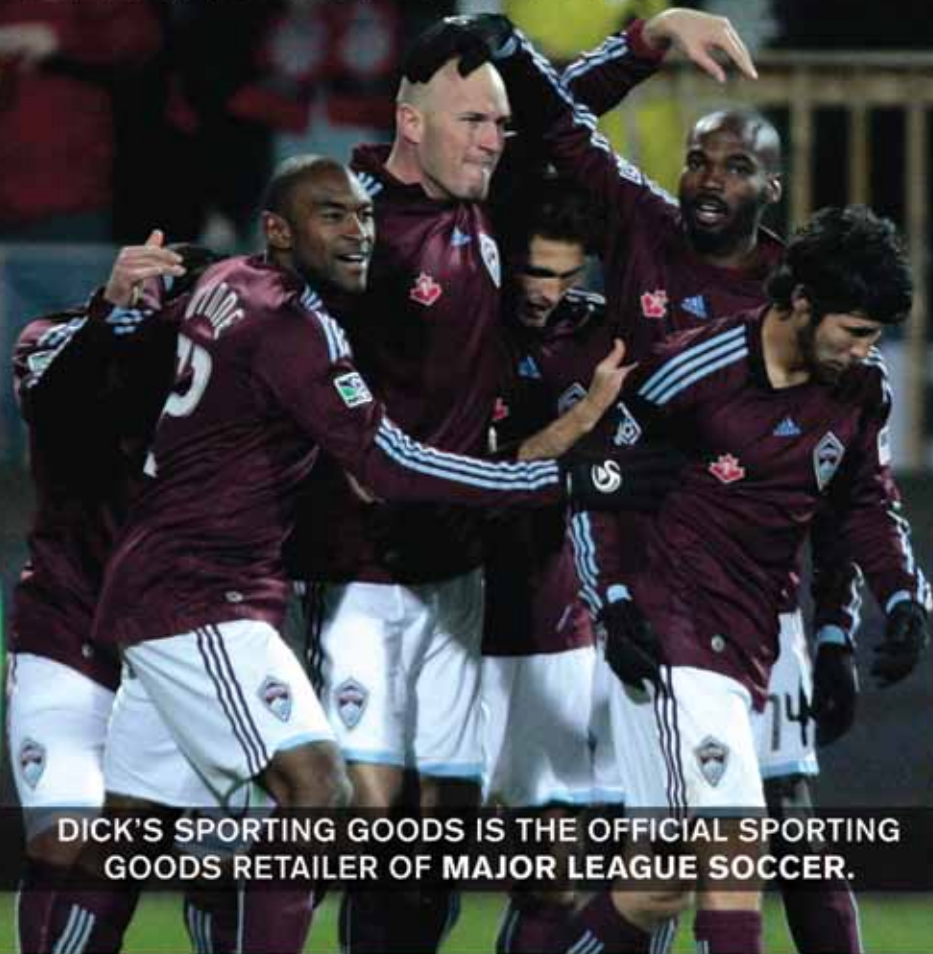
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MLS Cup Returns to Home Depot Center

League's championship set for Nov. 20; fourth time in Carson, Calif.

The Home Depot Center this fall will host Major League Soccer's championship event for the fourth time in league history.

MLS Cup 2011 will kick off at 9 p.m. ET (live on ESPN and Galavision in the United States; on TSN2 in Canada) on November 20, 2011 at the home of the LA Galaxy.

"We are proud and excited to bring Major League Soccer's championship event back to the City of Los Angeles and The Home Depot Center, one of the finest sports venues in the United States," said MLS Commissioner Don Garber. "MLS Cup has grown into a four-day celebration of the world's game in North America. We believe that Los Angeles and The Home Depot Center will be a superb stage for MLS Cup 2011."

The three previous MLS Cup matches held at The Home Depot Center were resounding successes with an average of five goals scored per game. In 2008, a sold-out crowd of 27,000 – including vibrant supporters' sections for both clubs – witnessed a virtuoso performance by the Columbus Crew's Guillermo Barros Schelotto. The playmaker set up all of his team's goals in a 3-1 victory over the New York Red Bulls, and Crew captain Frankie Hejduk nodded home the clincher. In 2004, D.C. United lifted the MLS Cup trophy after 3-2 win over the Kansas City Wizards. In 2003, another capacity crowd saw the San Jose Earthquakes defeat the Chicago Fire, 4-2, in a wide-open contest.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to once again host MLS Cup, our league's most important game, in the premier soccer stadium in this country, The Home Depot Center," Galaxy President Tom Payne said. "Los Angeles is very familiar with hosting major events and this championship game is going to be

embraced by the entire city. We would like nothing more than to be playing in MLS Cup 2011 at home in front of our fans."

Since opening its doors in 2003, The Home Depot Center has served as the home of the two-time MLS Cup Champion and five-time MLS Cup finalist LA Galaxy. Designated as an Official U.S. Olympic Training Site, this facility is also home to Chivas USA and the National Training Center for the United States Soccer Federation's Men's and Women's National Teams. In addition to three MLS Cups, the stadium has hosted numerous memorable soccer matches, including the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup Championship game, the 2003 MLS All-Star Game, and CONCACAF Men's and Women's Gold Cup matches.

MLS fans from around the world should not miss this opportunity to see a championship match at an extraordinary facility that has been called "the cathedral of U.S. soccer." MLS Cup has become an annual pilgrimage; fans from across the United States and Canada gather for the four-day celebration.

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Around The League

*News 'n' notes from around
Major League Soccer*

LOWERING THE BAR

Officially listed at 5-foot-2, Toronto FC striker Joao Plata is the shortest player to play in MLS history, based on measures reported by the league's clubs. Before Plata, the shortest recorded player to appear in a league game was 5-foot-3: Antony De Avila (MetroStars, 1996-97); Paul Dougherty (MetroStars, Tampa Bay, Chicago, Colorado; 1998-2000); and Trevor Perea (Columbus, D.C. United, 2003).

According to research by Elias Sports Bureau, Official Statistician of Major League Soccer, from credible published sources, Plata is also one of the shortest players in the history of the major professional sports leagues in North America. Note that heights are unknown for some players and published figures for heights can be unreliable.

MLB: Eddie Gaedel (3-7); St. Louis Browns (1951)

NFL: Jack Shapiro (5-1); Staten Island Stapletons (1929)

NBA: Muggsy Bogues (5-3); Washington Bullets (1987-88), Charlotte Hornets (1988-97), Golden State Warriors (1997-99), Toronto Raptors (1999-2001)

NHL: Darren Pang (5-5); Chicago Blackhawks (1985, 1987-89); Bobby Lalonde (5-5); Vancouver Canucks (1971-77), Atlanta Flames (1977-79), Boston Bruins (1979-81), Calgary Flames (1981); Nathan Gerbe (5-5); Buffalo Sabres (2008-11)

THE STARS COME OUT IN TINSELTOWN

When the New York Red Bulls traveled to The Home Depot Center to take on the LA Galaxy on May 7, it marked the second time in league history five designated players had played in the same game. Rafael Marquez and Thierry Henry started

for the Red Bulls, and Landon Donovan, David Beckham and Juan Pablo Angel were all in LA's first team.

The first time was last Aug. 8, when the Red Bulls (with Angel, along with Marquez and Henry) faced the Chicago Fire, who had Freddie Ljungberg and Nery Castillo – neither of whom are currently with that team.

COMPLETING A PAIR

When Michael and Gabriel Farfan started for Philadelphia Union in their May 6 match at the Portland Timbers, it was the first time in MLS history twins played in the same game.

Sainey (New England) and Sanna (Colorado, ex-Seattle) Nyassi – the first set of twins in MLS history – saw their clubs meet over their first two seasons together in the league, but the pair were never on the field at the same time. The Farfans are the 16th set of brothers to play in MLS history; 10 have played on the same time at one point in their MLS careers.

GIVE THE ROOKIE A HAT

Dynamo striker Will Bruin became the fourth rookie in MLS history to record a hat trick, and the second in as many seasons, when he scored three times in the Houston Dynamo's 4-1 win against D.C. United on April 29.

Bruin joined a pair of New England Revolution rookies -- Zack Schilawski, who performed the feat last year, and Pat Noonan (2003), as well as Brian Maisonneuve, who did it for Columbus in the league's inaugural season of 1006. Bruin is also the second-youngest player in MLS history to score a hat trick, just 17 days older than Stern John was when he netted three in 1998 for the Columbus Crew.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

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REAL'S DREAM COMES UP SHORT

When Real Salt Lake lost 1-0 to Mexico's CF Monterrey in the second leg of their CONCACAF Champions League on April 27, they lost the series 3-2 on aggregate and with it a chance to play in the FIFA Club World Cup in December in Japan.

The loss was RSL's first in 34 games in all competitions at Rio Tinto Stadium (23-0-9). The 2-2 draw in the first leg in Monterrey was just the fourth in 25 matches all-time by an MLS team in Mexico. No MLS club, or the U.S. national team (0-23-1 all-time), has ever won on Mexican soil in official competition.

COMING BACK FROM THE DEPTHS

Vancouver Whitecaps FC made an historic comeback for a 3-3 draw April 2 vs. Sporting Kansas City at Empire Field. Down 3-0 with less than a half-hour to play, Atiba Harris scored in the 73rd minute then Camilo scored twice in stoppage time.

Whitecaps FC became the fourth club in MLS history to overcome a deficit of three goals to gain a point, matching the largest in MLS history. All four matches ended in draws.

The pair of goals in stoppage time marked the sixth time two or more goals were scored in added time to gain a result, one shy of the record. On July 27, 2003, D.C. United scored three goals in stoppage time to overturn a 2-1 deficit for a 4-2 win against the New England Revolution. Camilo was the first player to score twice in added time.

OPENING A NEW HOME

Two new stadiums in Major League Soccer have been inaugurated with victories this year. Vancouver Whitecaps FC opened their MLS history with a 4-2 win against Toronto FC at Empire Field on March 19, while the Portland Timbers defeated the Chicago Fire 4-2 on April 14 in a remarkable night at Jeld-Wen Field.

At midseason, Whitecaps FC will be moving to their new home at BC Place in downtown Vancouver.

And Sporting Kansas City will also be opening their new home, Livestrong Sports Park, when they entertain Chicago on June 9.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

At age 39, Philadelphia Union's Colombian goalkeeper, Faryd Mondragon, is symbolic of a leaguewide trend toward older goalkeepers born outside the United States. From 1998 through 2005, 94 percent of MLS matches were started by GKs born in the U.S., including every match during the 2002 season.

But while the trend has been toward a decline in reliance on domestic goalkeepers – from 82 percent in 2006 to 71 percent this year, with an all-time low of 67 percent in 2007 – the average of goalkeepers in MLS has risen from 28 years, 13 days from 1998-2005 to an all-time high of 32 years, 219 days this season.

Along with the graying of longtime U.S. 'keepers such as Kevin Hartman, Zach Thornton, and Matt Reis, a number of older foreign-born goalkeepers have made an impact in recent seasons, including Pat Onstad (Canada), Donovan Ricketts (Jamaica), Dario Sala (Argentina), Jimmy Nielsen (Denmark), and now Mondragon.





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