

LA GALAXY



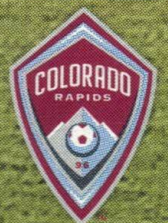
GAMEDAY PROGRAM

Presented by  HERBALIFE

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metroPCS
Wireless for All.

VS. COLORADO RAPIDS

Friday, September 14, 2012





Omar Gonzalez

5 SCHEDULE

6 GALAXY ROSTER

9 COLORADO RAPIDS

11 LA GALAXY'S INSIDER'S THREE KEYS

13 GET TO KNOW CHRISTIAN WILHELMSSON

18 BIG O'S RETURN HAS BEEN A BIG BOOST FOR THE GALAXY

23 HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT

25 FIVE QUESTIONS WITH HECTOR JIMENEZ

27 CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RECAP

31 Q&A WITH U-18 CAPTAIN DREW MURPHY

33 LA GALAXY FOUNDATION

36 DID YOU KNOW

TABLE OF CONTENTS



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SUPPORTERS' SHIELD
1998, 2002, 2010, 2011

MLS CUP CHAMPIONS
2002, 2005, 2011

U.S. OPEN CUP CHAMPIONS
2001, 2005

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS
2000

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LA GALAXY

2012 SCHEDULE

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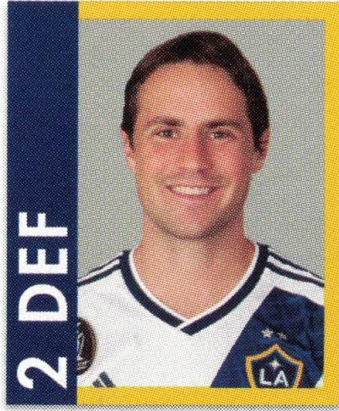
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV/GOALSCORERS
WED	MARCH 7	AT TORONTO FC	2-2 T	MAGEE, DONOVAN
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTERFINAL - 1ST LEG				
SAT	MARCH 10	VS. REAL SALT LAKE	1-3 L	BUDDLE
WED	MARCH 14	VS. TORONTO FC	1-2 L	OWN GOAL
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTERFINAL - 2ND LEG				
SUN	MARCH 18	VS. D.C. UNITED	3-1 W	KEANE (2), SARVAS
SAT	MARCH 31	VS. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION	1-3 L	KEANE
SAT	APRIL 7	AT SPORTING KANSAS CITY	0-1 L	-
SAT	APRIL 14	VS. PORTLAND TIMBERS	3-1 W	DONOVAN, JUNINHO, BECKHAM
SAT	APRIL 21	AT COLORADO RAPIDS	2-1 W	OWN GOAL, DONOVAN
SAT	APRIL 28	VS. FC DALLAS	1-1 T	NOONAN
WED	MAY 2	AT SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	0-2 L	-
SAT	MAY 5	VS. NEW YORK RED BULLS	0-1 L	-
SAT	MAY 12	AT MONTREAL IMPACT	1-1 T	BECKHAM
SAT	MAY 19	AT CHIVAS USA	0-1 L	-
WED	MAY 23	VS. SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	2-3 L	JIMENEZ, MAGEE
SAT	MAY 26	AT HOUSTON DYNAMO	1-2 L	BUDDLE
TUE	MAY 29	AT CAROLINA RAILHAWKS	1-2 L	NOONAN
LAMAR HUNT U.S. OPEN CUP THIRD ROUND AT WAKEMED SOCCER PARK				
SUN	JUNE 17	VS. PORTLAND TIMBERS	1-0 W	DUNIVANT
WED	JUNE 20	AT REAL SALT LAKE	3-2 W	DONOVAN (2), MAGEE
SAT	JUNE 23	VS. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	3-0 W	MAGEE, KEANE, DONOVAN
SAT	JUNE 30	AT SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	3-4 L	BECKHAM, OWN GOAL, DONOVAN
WED	JULY 4	VS. PHILADELPHIA UNION	1-2 L	BARRETT
SUN	JULY 8	AT CHICAGO FIRE	2-0 W	KEANE (2)
SAT	JULY 14	AT PORTLAND TIMBERS	5-3 W	BECKHAM (2), KEANE (2), DONOVAN
WED	JULY 18	AT VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	2-2 T	BECKHAM, VILLARREAL
SAT	JULY 21	VS. CHIVAS USA	3-1 W	DONOVAN (2), KEANE
TUE	JULY 24	VS. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	1-1 T	LOPES
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY AT THE HOME DEPOT CENTER				
SAT	JULY 28	AT FC DALLAS	1-0 W	MAGEE
THUR	AUGUST 2	VS. REAL MADRID	1-5 L	LOPES
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY AT THE HOME DEPOT CENTER				
SUN	AUGUST 5	AT SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	0-4 L	-
SUN	AUGUST 12	AT CHIVAS USA	4-0 W	JUNINHO (2), KEANE, GONZALEZ
WED	AUGUST 15	AT COLUMBUS CREW	1-1 T	KEANE
THUR	AUGUST 23	VS. ISIDRO METAPAN	5-2 W	JUNINHO (2), OWN GOAL, KEANE, BECKHAM
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - GROUP 5				
SUN	AUGUST 26	VS. FC DALLAS	2-0 W	JUNINHO, DUNIVANT
WED	AUGUST 29	VS. PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS	4-0 W	MEYER, VILLARREAL, MCBEAN, STEPHENS
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - GROUP 5				
SAT	SEPT. 1	VS. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	2-0 W	JUNINHO, BECKHAM
FRI	SEPT. 14	VS. COLORADO RAPIDS	8:00 P.M.	KDOC/UNIVISION DEPORTES
WED	SEPT. 19	AT PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS	5:00 P.M.	FOX SOCCER/UNIVISION DEPORTES DOS
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - GROUP 5				
SAT	SEPT. 22	VS. TORONTO FC	7:30 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SUN	SEPT. 30	AT COLORADO RAPIDS	4:00 P.M.	KDOC/GALAVISION
SAT	OCT. 6	VS. REAL SALT LAKE	6:00 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SUN	OCT. 21	AT SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	4:00 P.M.	TIME WARNER CABLE/GALAVISION
THUR	OCT. 25	AT ISIDRO METAPAN	7:00 P.M.	FOX SOCCER/UNIVISION DEPORTES
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - GROUP 5				
SUN	OCT. 28	VS. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	6:00 P.M.	ESPN/ESPN DEPORTES



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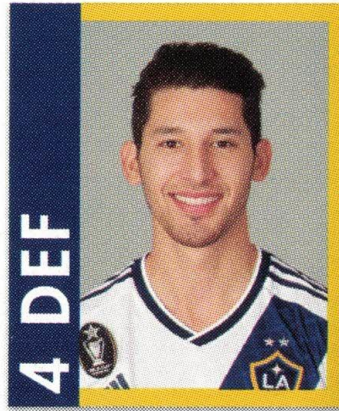
Brian **ROWE**



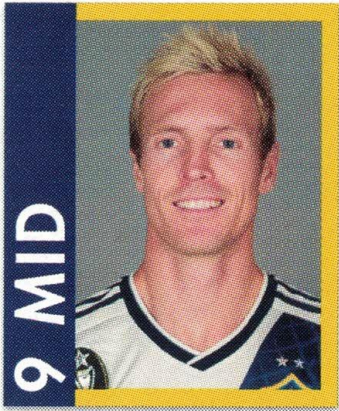
Todd **DUNIVANT**



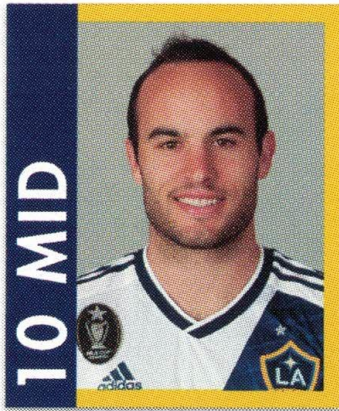
David Junior **LOPES**



Omar **GONZALEZ**



Christian **WILHELMSSON**



Landon **DONOVAN**



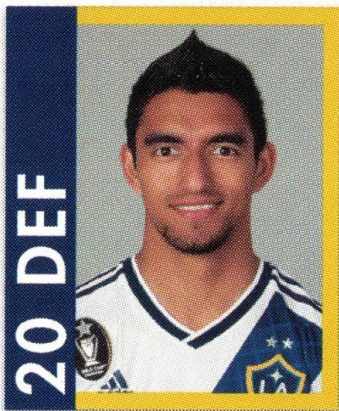
Pat **Noonan**



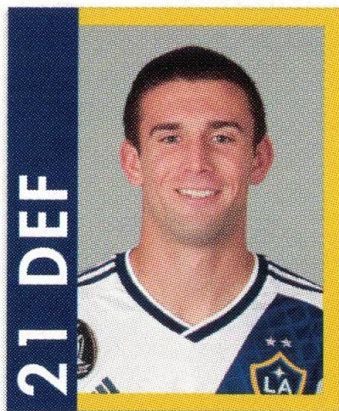
Josh **SAUNDERS**



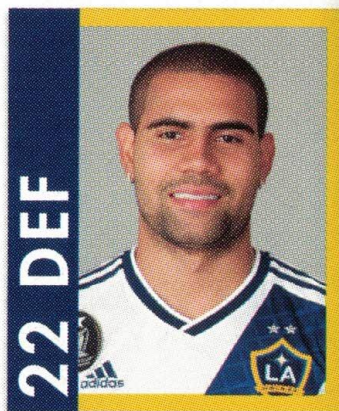
JUNINHO



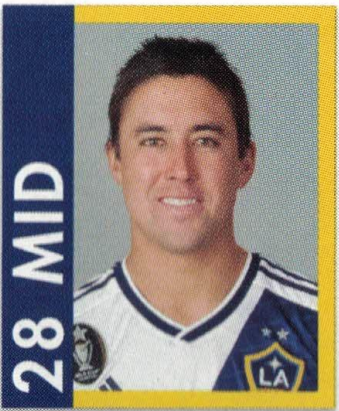
A.J. **DELAGARZA**



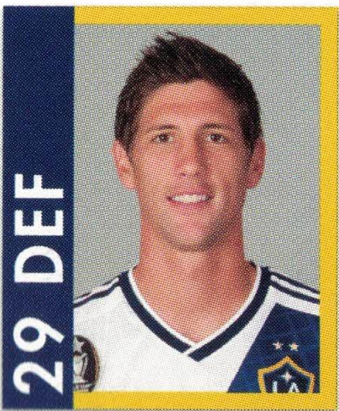
Tommy **MEYER**



LEONARDO



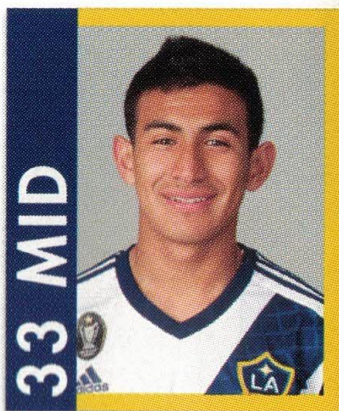
Kyle **NAKAZAWA**



Andrew **BOYENS**



Jack **MCBEAN**

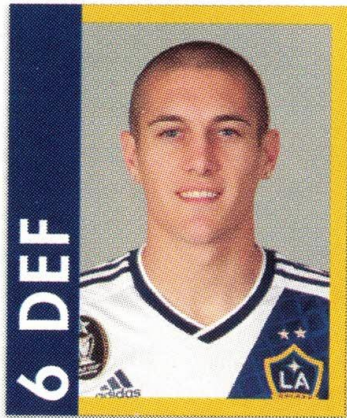


Jose **VILLARREAL**

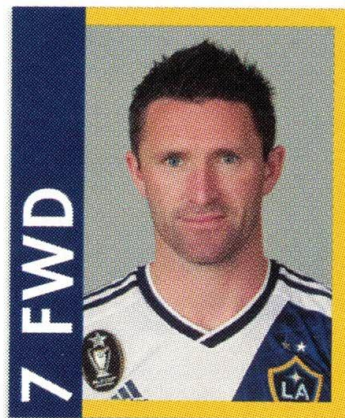
2012 LA GALAXY ROSTER



Sean **FRANKLIN**



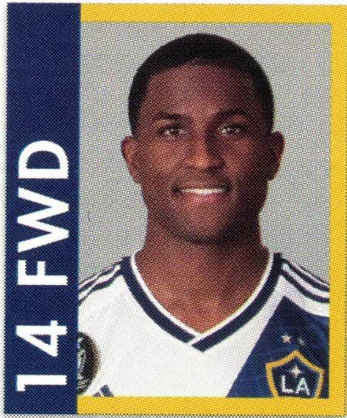
Bryan **Jordan**



Robbie **Keane**



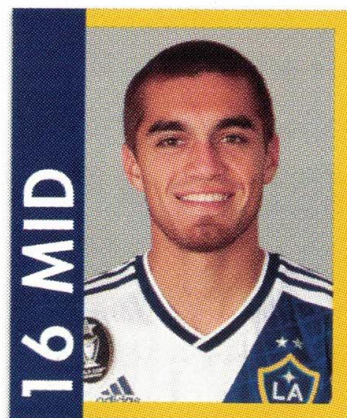
Marcelo **Sarvas**



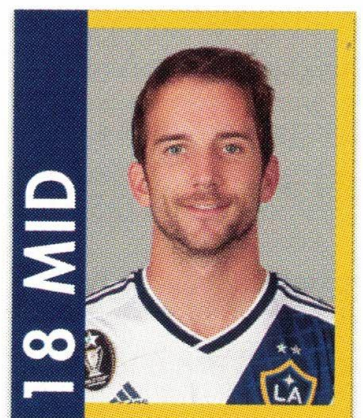
Edson **BUDDLE**



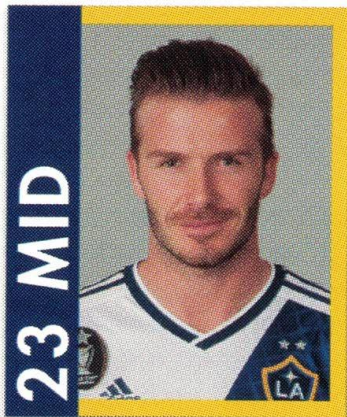
Dan **KEAT**



Hector **JIMENEZ**



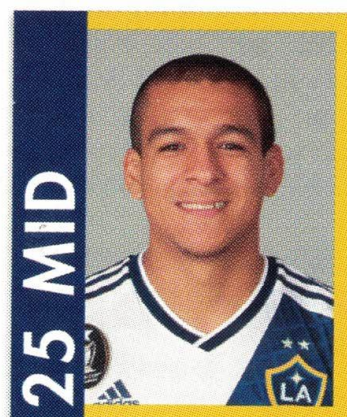
Mike **MAGEE**



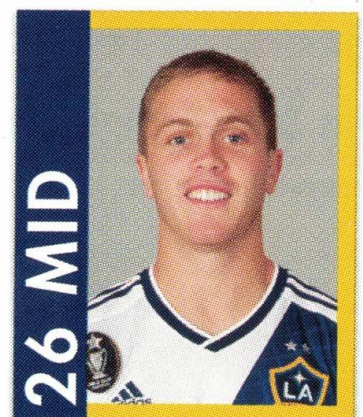
David **BECKHAM**



Brian **PERK**



Rafael **GARCIA**



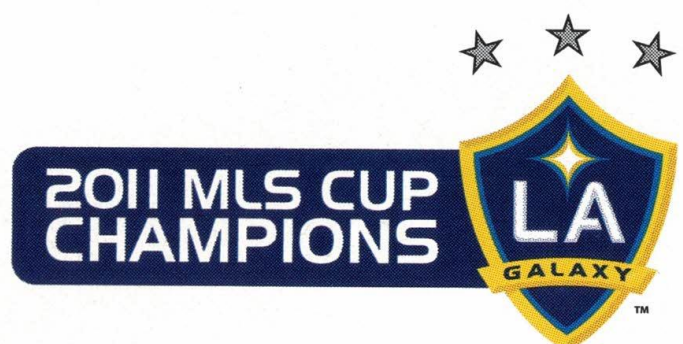
Michael **STEPHENS**



Kenney **WALKER**



Bryan **GAUL**



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VS



TONIGHT'S OPPONENT

Presented by  HERBALIFE.

The Colorado Rapids come to The Home Depot Center desperate for a result. Colorado is clinging to playoff hopes with six games left to play in the 2012 regular season and a win against the Galaxy would be a step in the right direction. Currently in seventh place, the Rapids are eight points out of the final playoff spot.

Under first-year head coach Oscar Pereja the Rapids have struggled to a record of 9-17-2 for 29 points. As recently as the beginning of the month Colorado was in last place in the Western Conference, but a recent 3-0 win over the Portland Timbers coupled with pair of Chivas USA losses has propelled the Rapids into seventh place.

To get into the playoffs the Rapids will have to catch sixth-place FC Dallas, currently with 33 points, and fifth-place Vancouver Whitecaps. Even though Colorado does not face Dallas again, the Rapids will have a number of chances to gain traction in the Western Conference race since five of their final six matches are against conference foes. After tonight's game, Colorado will travel to Vancouver for a crucial game on the 23rd, before returning home to host the Galaxy on the 30th.

The Rapids have been a different team away from their home of Dick's Sporting Goods Park. At home the Rapids have scored 25 goals and have a +11 goal differential, but when playing elsewhere, Colorado has scored only 11 times and conceded 27. The Rapids have won just twice in MLS games outside of Colorado this season.

When Colorado has been dangerous, the attack has flowed through its attacking midfielders. Jaime Castrillon leads the team with seven goals and added two assists. Martin Rivero and Brian Mullan lead the Rapids with eight and seven assists respectively. Rookie Tony Cascio has made an impression on the

left wing, recording three goals and three assists, including one of each in Colorado's recent 3-0 win over Portland.

Colorado recently added midfielder Hendry Thomas to bolster its lineup for the playoff push. Thomas joins MLS after playing the past three seasons in the English Premier League with Wigan Athletic. The 27-year-old Thomas is also an international veteran, playing for the Honduran National Team in the 2010 World Cup, the 2008 Olympics and multiple CONCACAF Gold Cups.

Forward Omar Cummings is second on the team with five goals, but he has been battling an ankle injury that has reduced his playing time recently.

Goalkeeper Matt Pickens has played every minute for Colorado keeping seven shutouts while giving up 1.46 goals per game. Pickens recently won his first MLS Save of the Week honor of the 2012 season for a reactionary kick save on a deflected shot by Portland's Franck Songo'o.

Mainstays in Pickens' defense include the Rapids' captain Drew Moor, former Galaxy defender Tyrone Marshall and the speedy Marvell Wynne as well as Luis Zapata, who is also tasked with getting involved in the attack down the left flank.

Colorado enters tonight's game on a mixed run of form, going 2-3-1 in its last six matches. As a part of their season-long road woes, the Rapids have not won an MLS away game since May 6. The Rapids need to start getting every result they can, starting with a big one tonight, if they hope to extend their season into the playoffs.

COLORADO RAPIDS EXPECTED LINEUP:

Matt Pickens; Drew Moor, Marvell Wynne, Tyrone Marshall, Luis Zapata; Hendry Thomas, Jeff Larentowicz, Jaime Castrillon, Tony Cascio; Martin Rivero, Omar Cummings

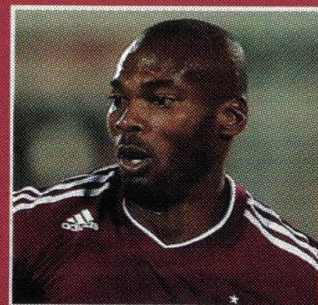
PLAYER TO WATCH: OMAR CUMMINGS

FORWARD OMAR CUMMINGS is returning to the Colorado Rapids just in time to help them make a push towards the postseason. Cummings is coming off of an international break where he was a part of the first Jamaican squad to defeat the United States when the Reggae Boyz beat the U.S. 2-1 in Kingston on September 7. Cummings made a short appearance in extra time of that game and then started and played 76 minutes in the September 11 return fixture in Columbus.

Cummings is the Rapids' second-leading scorer with five goals in 21 games this season. The 30-year-old forward has also tallied an assist this year.

Even before leaving for international duty Cummings was slowed by injuries to both ankles that had him in and out of the lineup. Cummings has not scored since July when he bagged goals in back-to-back games on July 7th and 14th.

With Colorado desperately needing to break free from its road-scoring woes for a shot at the playoffs, the form of Cummings in his return to the lineup should be a key factor to watch for tonight.





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LA Galaxy Insider **ADAM SERRANO** provides his Three Keys to tonight's match against the Colorado Rapids.

1 START QUICKLY

In their first match in 13 days, a quick start is a necessity for the Galaxy as they look to shake off any rust obtained during the International break.

Expect head coach Bruce Arena to give his club the liberty to attack from the outset as they look to get back into the form that saw LA win four consecutive matches in all competitions before the break. Leading the charge for the Galaxy will be their only player to play in a competitive match during the international break, forward Robbie Keane.

The Irish forward—who has a goal or an assist in each of his last five appearances for the Galaxy – returns after scoring a goal for Ireland in their dramatic World Cup qualifying victory over Kazakhstan on September 7th.

The Irish forward—who has a goal or an assist in each of his last five appearances for the Galaxy – returns after scoring a goal for Ireland in their dramatic World Cup qualifying victory over Kazakhstan on September 7th.

2 RAPIDS WITH NOTHING TO LOSE

While the LA Galaxy head into tonight's match with aspirations of moving up the Western Conference table, the Colorado Rapids are fighting for their very season.

Although Colorado may be mired in seventh place and eight points out of a playoff spot, they snapped a three game losing skid with a victory over the Portland Timbers on September 5th. Fueled by the play of youngsters Andre Akpan and Tony Cascio, the Rapids showed flashes of a dynamic attack that has been missing this season.

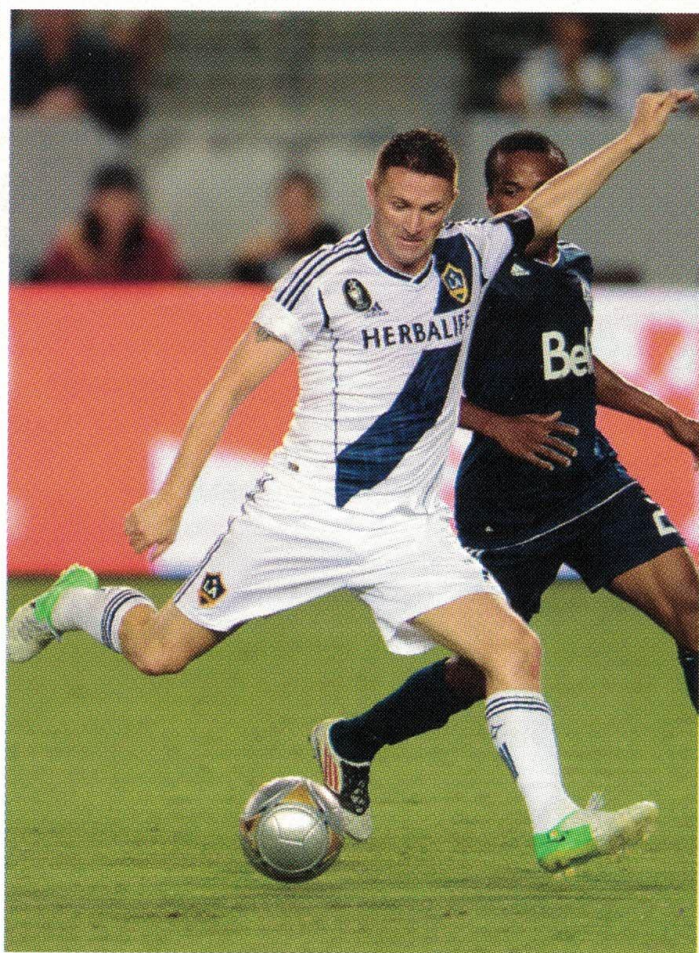
Teams fighting for their playoff lives are often the most dangerous to clubs like the Galaxy due to their dependence on emotion. Meaning that whoever scores the first goal will not only have a competitive, but emotional edge on their counterpart.

3 WILL DONOVAN PLAY?

After missing the Galaxy's last five matches with a left hamstring strain, Landon Donovan told reporters earlier in the week that he will be ready for selection for Friday's match against the Rapids. But just what role he will play against Colorado is still up for debate.

Despite suffering his injury during the United States' 1-0 friendly victory over Mexico on August 15th, Donovan has only just become a regular fixture in Galaxy training over the last seven days. But that did not stop Donovan from having an impressive 33 minute stint in LA's 4-0 Reserve League victory over the Timbers on Monday, scoring a goal and adding an assist.

With the club in the midst of the stretch run, it is likely that Donovan will be used in a reserve capacity against the Rapids as the Galaxy look to ease him back to full fitness.



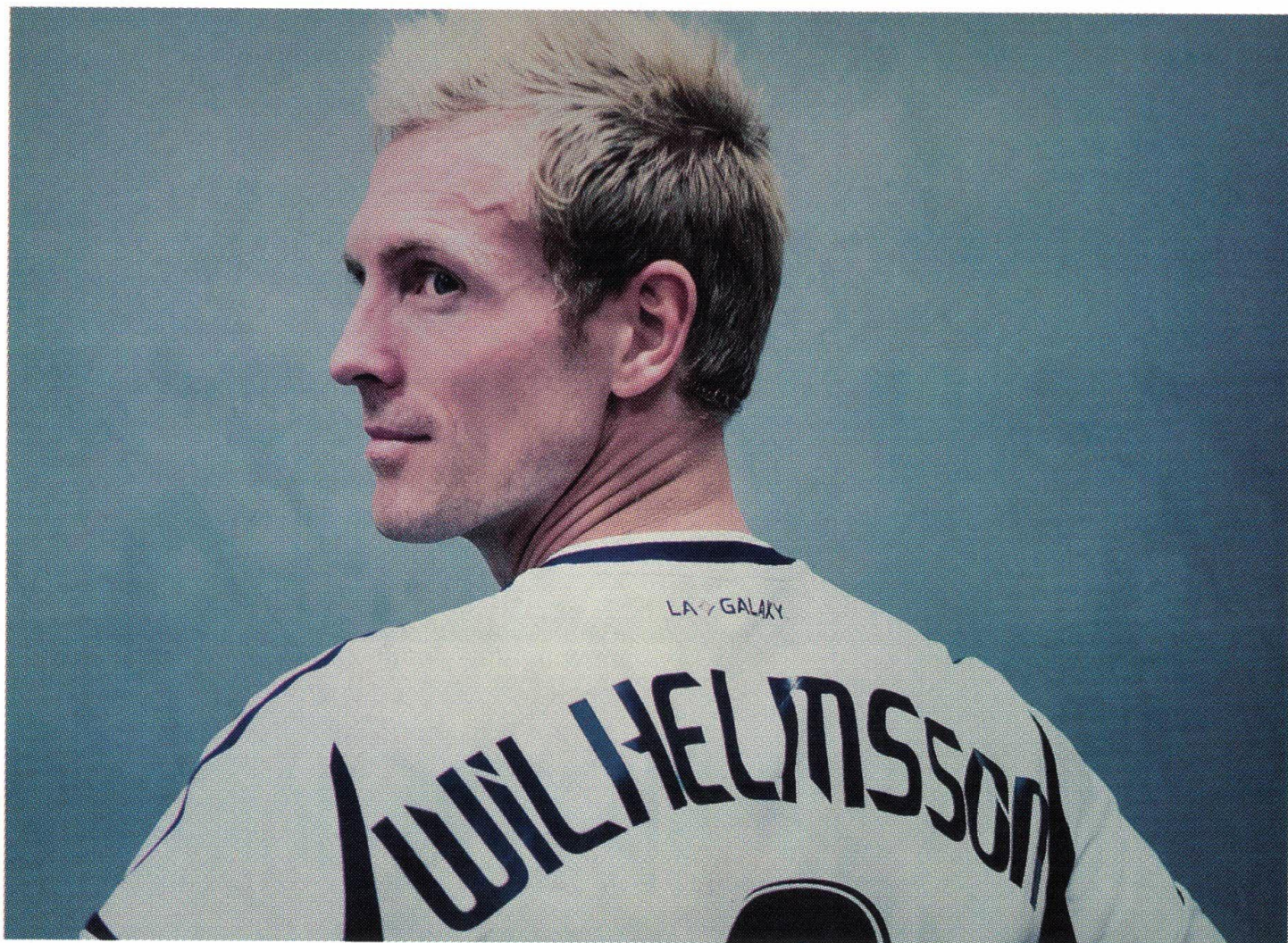
Adam Serrano is the LA Galaxy Insider. Read his blog at LAGalaxy.com/Insider and follow him on Twitter:

@LAGalaxyInsider



GET TO KNOW CHRISTIAN WILHELMSSON

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Christian Ulf Wilhelmsson, affectionately referred to in his home country as “Chippen” due to his personal tendency for chip shots, has finally brought his talents to the MLS.

The well-traveled veteran brings poise, experience and savvy to an LA Galaxy midfield that already includes David Beckham, Juninho, Mike Magee and Marcelo Sarvas. On top of experience, the 32-year-old also possesses the occasional scoring touch.

Wilhelmsson has been a professional footballer for over 15 years. His move to the Galaxy continues a career that now spans 10 leagues in 10 countries, stretching across three different continents. He says the MLS will provide a new challenge, but the Wilhelmsson is by no means intimidated by the Galaxy’s lofty annual goals. The longtime Swedish Inter-

national, with 78 caps for his homeland, is no stranger to success: Wilhelmsson has won league championships in Belgium and Saudi Arabia, captured the domestic cup in Italy, and played in the electrifying group stages of the UEFA Champions League.

The Galaxy’s new signing began his career at the young age of 17, starting out with Mjallby in Sweden’s second division before spending a few years in Norway on his way to signing with traditional Belgian power FC Anderlecht. Wilhelmsson helped guide the Belgian club to league championships in 2004 and 2006 before moving to France, where he spent time with Nantes in between loans to Italy, England, and Spain. Most memorably, Wilhelmsson spent 2007 with A.S. Roma, helping the Italian club capture the Coppa Italia and climb to a second-place finish in Serie A. The



GET TO KNOW CHRISTIAN WILHELMSSON

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Swede followed up his extensive European stretch with a three year stint in the Middle East, playing for Saudi Arabian and Qatari sides Al-Hilal and Al Ahli, respectively.

Now Wilhelmsson arrives in Los Angeles, eager to add a new domestic title to his trophy case. We sat down with Wilhelmsson and asked him about the move and his goals in MLS.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF OF THE CLUB AND THE HOME DEPOT CENTER WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED?

CW: First of all it was really professional; they have all the stuff working around the team, and all the equipment and everything that makes it really organized and really professional. The stadium was great, and I went outside on the field to see the field and it was perfect as well. So a really nice first impression.

BECAUSE THE MLS SEASON IS IN THE FINAL STRETCH, HAS IT BEEN DIFFICULT INTEGRATING WITH YOUR TEAMMATES?

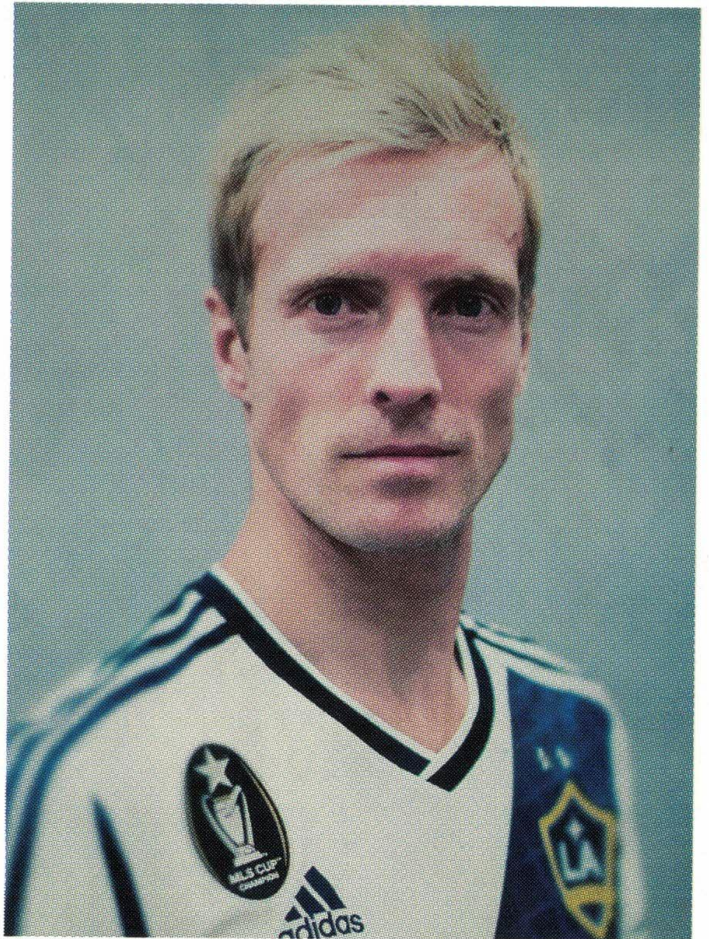
CW: They're all great guys. All of them are nice guys, it's quite easy to integrate and they're helping me, so that has not been a problem.

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE LA?

CW: There were some options in the end of August and after seeing overall what team and what kind of challenge it would be, then I thought this opportunity would be great for me, for me and my family, it was a great opportunity, so that's why I chose to try this challenge.

GIVEN WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR CAREER, WHAT CHALLENGES DOES THIS LEAGUE PROVIDE FOR YOU?

CW: It's an upcoming league, and an interesting style of football, and some great play-



ers here as well on the team, and that's what makes it so interesting and gives me this challenge that I need.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF HEAD COACH BRUCE ARENA?

CW: He's been National Team coach for USA, he's a coach with a lot of experience, and from what I've heard from the guys he's a great coach. So far, what I've seen, he's really ambitious and straightforward and really committed to the job. For me he seems to be a top coach, a really great coach.

WHAT GOALS HAVE YOU SET FOR YOURSELF FOR THIS SEASON?

CW: First I want to get to know the guys, get in to the team, and just start to play football. That's what I'm here for, to just help the team as much as I can with what I can offer and hopefully we will have a successful time, that's what I hope for.



BIG

IS BACK

It was on January 4, 2012, that Omar Gonzalez suffered the most devastating injury of his career. What started out like a dream, quickly turned into a nightmare when, during his first training session of a six-week loan with Bundesliga club FC Nuremberg, Gonzalez tore the ACL in his left knee—an injury that could take up to nine months to recover from.

What's a player to do at that point? Gonzalez was coming off a career year that culminated with MLS Defender of the Year honors and by raising the MLS Cup trophy at The Home Depot Center. Yet, as teammates were getting ready for the season, he was getting ready to start rehab.

The 6-foot-4 center back took it all in stride. Gonzalez quickly turned a negative into a positive. Yes, he couldn't kick a ball yet, but there were other things he could do. Things he otherwise would not have been able to experience if he wasn't injured. That helped him clear his head and keep his spirits up.

He soon started getting that itch and the field began to summon him. Being away from the game recharged his batteries and gave him a new outlook on his career.

Then, just six months after suffering his injury, he came back. Gonzalez started and played the first 45 minutes of the Galaxy's 2-1 loss to the Philadelphia Union. Prior to his return, the Galaxy had only recorded two shutouts in 2012 after keeping an impressive 17 clean sheets last season. In the 10 games since his return, the Galaxy has already had five shutouts.

The impact of his return has been immediate, and while all of his teammates are happy to have him back, no one is happier than his line mates A.J. DeLaGarza, Todd Dunivant, Sean Franklin and his goalkeeper Josh Saunders.

We sat down with Gonzalez this week to talk to him about his return to the field.

LAG: How do you feel right now that you've got eight games under your belt?

OG: I think I'm feeling the best right now since coming back. I had a little scare last week but I'm over that and now I'm even more mentally strong knowing that my knee is good and I can just go at it with a full head of steam. I'm feeling real confident right now.

LAG: In addition to the confidence, how comfortable is it having the starting back four

out there?

OG: It's great because we've been playing as a back four since 2009 with the exception of A.J. moving between right back and left back and having Gregg (Berhalter) in there, so for the most part we've had the same back four in there for a while now and we know each other and we're really comfortable. I think having a confident backline means that the rest of the team can be confident as well in doing what they have to do in their attacking part of the field and not have to worry about us making mistakes.

LAG: With the team playing so well what are these final games like as you look toward the playoffs?

OG: At this point of the season you always want to push more and more. I think that we're playing well but we can definitely play better. I think that we need to start perfecting things and getting them perfect for playoff time. We've got a little over a month and a half to go and in that month and a half we've got to work on everything so that we can be great in the playoffs because San Jose is looking like they're going to win the Supporters' Shield so we just have to be ready for the playoffs because after that it's a different ballgame. And we've had that feeling before where we won the Supporters' Shield and didn't win the Cup and we felt like we left empty-handed so the Cup is the most important thing to us.

LAG: Given all you've gone through this year, how rewarding would it be to get back to that level, back to MLS Cup?

OG: Oh, it'd be amazing. This is what we do, this

is what we play for, it's to win championships. I think everyone on this team, from the owners to equipment managers and everyone in between, wants to get back there and we have that hunger to win it again so it'd be amazing if we could get there and end up winning.

LAG: You've been looking like your old self out there, have you felt a moment where you say to yourself 'I'm back,' or do you still have a lot to work on to get back to feeling like your old self?

OG: I'm almost there. I'd say I'm in the 90's percentage-wise. I'm not at 100 percent but I'm getting very close and every week it gets stronger and stronger and my touch keeps getting better. More than my touch, I think my defense and reading the game and reacting is getting better, which is great for me because I'm a defender and that's what I live for.

LAG: How good is it then to be getting shutouts? As a defender you have to love the fact that the team is getting shutouts again.

OG: Yeah, I think that is the most rewarding thing for a backline and a keeper to get a shutout. If they don't score then they can't win, so it just gives us more opportunity to win the game.

LAG: At the same time, how rewarding was it to get that goal, your first of the season, against Chivas USA?

OG: It was great, but I want more of it. Hopefully (tonight) I can get a goal or in the next few games get my head on more opportunities so that if I'm not scoring then putting it back in the box for other guys to score. ■



WANT TO MEET ROBBIE KEANE?

Take "Robbie" on
the road and share
your photos on Twitter
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OR by uploading directly to
www.lagalaxy.com/letsdothisgalaxy



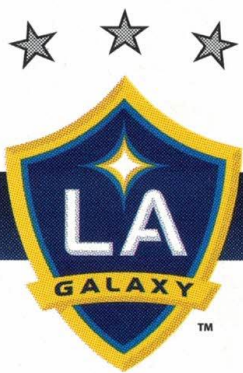
Ready To Play?
LET'S DO THIS!



THE GALAXY STREET TEAM DRIVEN BY CHEVROLET IS ON THE BEAT!

They can be found throughout the Southland over the coming weeks, rallying support for the Galaxy! The Street Team will bring all the excitement of the game of soccer to you with a series of entertaining and interactive exhibits, games and much more!

For a complete listing of events, please visit:
www.lagalaxy.com/galaxy-street-team.



¡BIENVENIDO A... HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT!

Presented by  HERBALIFE.



The city of Los Angeles and the game of soccer have in common a diverse heritage, colored with experiences and personalities of many different people and countries. Tonight the Galaxy is hosting Hispanic Heritage Night in honor of that rich culture, which plays an important role in both soccer and this city.

The night will specifically honor the nations of Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Spain, all of which celebrate their independence days in the coming month. The period between September 15 and October 15 is recognized as Hispanic Heritage Month in our country.

At halftime of the match, important role models from those communities will be welcomed onto the field for a special ceremony. Among those being honored are Ruth Garcia (Costa Rica), the Marketing and Advertising Manager for Curacao, TV personality Francisco Pinto (Chile) from the new Time Warner Cable Deportes network and Manny Poveda (Mexico), the Marketing Manager for NASCAR.

Fans will be transported to Latin American as soon as the walk into The Home Depot Center as they will be welcomed immediately with a musical or dance act performing at each of the

four stadium entrances. The four performing groups are Mariachi Los Toros, La Sirena y Orquesta Mar del Ashé, Ballet Folklorico de Los Angeles and LA Samba School.

Inside at SoccerFest there will be an added Latin American influence to the pregame entertainment. The country flags of Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Spain will all be on display and there will also be a face-painting booth where fans can show their pride by having their country's flag painted on them. The Museum of Latin American Art will have an art workshop where fans can get hands-on with traditional cultural art. Fans can also get involved with LA's very own The Piñata House, who will be creating a Galaxy piñata at SoccerFest which fans can help construct.

In addition to the usual food selection, Border Grill food truck will also be parked on the scene to provide Galaxy fans with some Hispanic favorites. All of this will be set against the backdrop of live music hosted by radio station Power 106.

The Galaxy and Metro PCS will be providing a giveaway of lanyards to the first 10,000 fans. The night's other official partners are Guerrero, Macy's and UPS.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH HECTOR JIMENEZ

Presented by  HERBALIFE.

Hector Jimenez is enjoying a good spell with the club. To call it a career year would be an understatement.

The LA Galaxy midfielder has figured in the last 15 games the club has had in all competitions, including 14 starts during that period. He's logged more than 900 minutes and has had two assists during that time. He even played at right back, helping the team get a 4-0 shutout win over the Puerto Rico Islanders.

Drafted in second-round of the 2011 MLS Super-Draft, the 23-year-old Jimenez certainly has a bright future ahead of him. He is committed to the present, however, and continuing to improve his game.

Jimenez, who grew up in Bell Gardens, knows that getting to this level was hard, but staying here is just as hard, if not harder. He draws on his father, Mauricio, who immigrated from Guadalajara, Mexico to the United States, for inspiration. The work ethic displayed by his father pushes the younger Jimenez to keep going forward.

With the LA Galaxy celebrating Hispanic Heritage Night tonight against the Colorado Rapids, we sat down with Jimenez to speak about his recent run of games, playing in the CONCACAF Champions League and what he is most proud of about his heritage.

HOW'S YOUR SECOND SEASON IN MLS GOING SO FAR?

HJ: It's going good. I've played in the last 15 games and I'm having fun. Things are going well and so I just have to keep pushing and hopefully keep performing well so that I can keep playing.

NOT ONLY ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A GOOD STRETCH, BUT SO IS THE TEAM. HOW MUCH DIFFERENT IS THE MOOD IN THE LOCKER ROOM RIGHT NOW AS OPPOSED TO THREE MONTHS AGO?

HJ: Oh, there's a huge difference in the locker room. There's more high-fives, more smiles, more joking around and it all comes back to our performance. So, it's really important that we keep winning because you see the vibe and the emotions that are going on in the locker room—and that's what we want to have going into the games.

HOW WAS IT PLAYING RIGHT BACK AGAINST PUERTO RICO IN THE CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE?

HJ: It's a position where I have to get used to a little bit, but Bruce (Arena) has been playing me there and I'll probably see more time there in a couple games coming up so I just have to be ready and listen to the coaching about playing there.

HOW IMPORTANT IS CCL IN YOUR CAREER?

HJ: I would say really important. It's one of the few



times I got to see some playing time, last year, and I know that when you come in as a sub you have to show that you really want to be out there playing. So, for me to be able to step onto the field in a CCL game was really important and luckily we got a victory that day when I came in. I'm very thankful that opportunity was presented that day.

AS AN L.A. NATIVE WHO GREW UP AN LA GALAXY FAN, WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK YOU AND YOUR TEAMMATES—OMAR GONZALEZ, RAFAEL GARCIA AND JOSE VILLARREAL, AMONG OTHERS—ARE HAVING IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY AS FAR AS HELPING THEM ASPIRE TO BE TO WHERE YOU ARE?

HJ: We are definitely role models. I know a lot of Hispanic players want to be in the shoes we are in, so being able to go out there and play well and do well, for young Mexican-Americans, it's a big thing. Hopefully one day they can accomplish their dream and be in our shoes.

WHAT GIVES YOU THE MOST AMOUNT OF PRIDE ABOUT YOUR HERITAGE?

HJ: My father. It's hard for a Mexican-American to make it in America. My father came illegally here and he worked hard for me to have a better life and that's what I'm most proud of, my father, for giving me a chance to follow my dream. For him to come here in search of a better life for his kids it's something I will cherish forever.

Presented by  **HERBALIFE.**

Midway through the Group Stage of the 2012-13 CONCACAF Champions League, the LA Galaxy are at the top of the table in their group. With six points from two home victories, LA is ahead of Isidro Metapan and the Puerto Rico Islanders in Group 5, but LA now faces the challenge of going on the road and getting the requisite results to advance to the knockout stages.

The format of the Group Stage was altered slightly for this season of the competition. The Group Stage was split up into more groups – eight – with just three teams in each and only the top team advancing.

Drawn into a group with Isidro Metapan of El Salvador and the Puerto Rico Islanders, LA began the 2012-13 competition with the luxury of two home games. The Galaxy took care of business in both home contests, beating Metapan 5-2 and then dispatching Puerto Rico by a score of 4-0 less than a week later.

Offense has been easy to come by for the Galaxy so far in the CCL, scoring nine goals in two games. An even bigger positive for the club is who those goals have come from, a balanced mix of top of the line stars and emerging young players. Thus far in the CCL, LA has gotten goals from Robbie Keane, David Beckham, Juninho, Tommy Meyer, Jose Villarreal, Jack McBean and Michael Stephens.

LA's six points and +7 goal differential put them three points ahead of Metapan who have three points from a victory over Puerto Rico in the group's opening match. The last-place Islanders are 0-2-0 with a -6 goal differential.

After a three week break, CCL play resumes on Wednesday with the Galaxy getting their first

road test away at Puerto Rico. The Islanders will certainly have the most recent matchup, the 4-0 thrashing by a Galaxy squad mainly made up of reserve players, on their mind as they host the reigning MLS champions. Puerto Rico has a history of standing toe-to-toe with MLS clubs in the CCL. The Islanders are now 1-3-1 all time against MLS teams, including a 5-3 aggregate victory over the Galaxy in the 2010-11 Preliminary Round. LA, however, fared well in their only previous visit to Puerto Rico, winning the second leg of that 2010 match 2-1.

Wednesday's match from Juan Ramón Loubriel Stadium in Bayamón, Puerto Rico is scheduled to kick off at 5 p.m. Galaxy fans can see the match on TV with English coverage on Fox Soccer and Spanish coverage on Univision Deportes Dos.

The Galaxy will have a break of almost a month from the competition after this Wednesday's match. In that time, Puerto Rico will host Metapan for their final matchup.

LA and Metapan will close out Group 5 play on October 25 when LA visits the Estadio Jorge "Calero" Suárez. CONCACAF teams are notorious for being more dangerous on their home grounds and LA will have to find a way to slow down Metapan forward Nicolas Munoz who scored both of the club's goals at The Home Depot Center and has netted all five of Metapan's goals thus far in the competition.

That game, which kicks off at 7 p.m., is also being televised on Fox Soccer and in Spanish on Univision Deportes. Depending on the results of the two upcoming matches, there is a good chance that the October 25th game against Metapan will decide who moves on to the Quarterfinals.



Q&A WITH U-18 CAPTAIN DREW MURPHY

ACADEMY



Drew Murphy is on a mission this season. The 17-year-old midfielder has two objectives, one is to lead his team to the U.S. Soccer Development Academy U-18 Championship and the other is to get on Bruce Arena's radar.

Last year, Murphy led the Galaxy U-18 squad in goals with 11. This year, he is being asked to play a more defensive role. Murphy's reaction to the change? Not a problem. It was that kind of attitude that led Galaxy U-18 Head Coach Eddie Soto to name Murphy his captain for this year's team.

Murphy, who is committed to UC Santa Barbara, one of the top men's soccer programs in the country, is also hoping to get more training time with "the big guys," a reference to the first team.

We sat down recently with the Palos Verdes native to ask him about the 2012-13 Development Academy season, being named captain and playing with childhood friend Jack McBean one more year...

LAST YEAR THE U-18'S MADE IT TO THE PLAYOFFS, BUT DID NOT ADVANCE TO FINAL WEEKS. WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM LAST YEAR THAT CAN HELP YOU TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER?

DM: Last year was probably the best team we'll ever see. But not all the time will superstars blend, and this year it's just going to take a lot of hard work and we know what not to do this year. We just have to work hard.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS NEEDED TO WIN IT ALL?

DM: Camaraderie is what's going to be needed. Last year we had a lot of talented players, we do have big-name players still this year, but for me, in my eyes, it's going to be a lot better year. Everyone's working hard, everyone's buzzing, and I think this year is going to be

better than last.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE NAMED TEAM CAPTAIN?

DM: I'm proud of it. It's my fifth year here and I feel that I need to step up and I need to lead the team. I feel that it's a role that I'm suited for and that I am more than comfortable with. I feel like it's an honor and I'm very proud to captain the LA Galaxy.

YOU AND JACK MCBEAN GO WAY BACK, WHAT'S IT LIKE PLAYING WITH A CHILDHOOD FRIEND AT THIS LEVEL?

DM: It's crazy, I've known Jack for so long now. We played against each other when we were little, and we played on other teams growing up, and for him to be able to play with us, it's just cool. It's something that not many people get to do, playing with one of your best friends is a pretty cool feeling and the fact that he's pro, I want be there now, it just makes me fight that much harder.

WHAT GOALS HAVE YOU SET FOR YOURSELF FOR THIS SEASON?

DM: First and foremost just for the team to do well. Play whatever role I have to do in order for the team to do well. On top of that, I want to be in the stadium. I want to be in with the big guys. Hopefully this year I can do some things to get me closer to there.

DOES THE FACT THAT THE CLUB HAS ALREADY SIGNED PLAYERS FROM THE ACADEMY, LIKE JACK MCBEAN AND JOSE VILLARREAL, MAKE THE DREAM OF PLAYING WITH THE GALAXY MORE TANGIBLE?

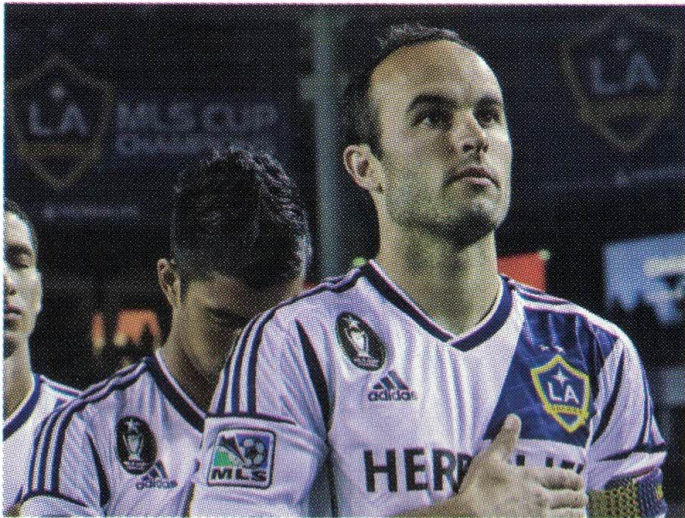
DM: I think a lot of guys look up to those guys and try to follow in their footsteps. At the end of the day the reason why we are here is to play for the first team, that's the reason we have this academy, to develop players and get them ready to play with to the big guys. So yes, it helps.



DID YOU KNOW

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- **AFTER PLAYING FOUR GAMES** in a 10-day stretch from August 23 until September 1, the Galaxy then went 12 days without a game until tonight. The club will now play three games in nine days, travelling to Puerto Rico for a Champions League game against the Islanders on September 19 and then returning home to host Toronto FC on September 22.



- **LANDON DONOVAN** has missed each of LA's last five games in all competitions. He was with the U.S. National Team in Mexico on August 15, forcing him to miss the 1-1 draw that night in Columbus. He then missed the next four games with a strained hamstring that he suffered in the game against Mexico. However, he did return to play 33 minutes in a Reserve League game against Portland on Monday. That was his first-ever appearance in an MLS Reserve League game.
- **THE BACK FOUR** of Sean Franklin, Omar Gonzalez, A.J. DeLaGarza and Todd Dunivant have started each of the last four games in front of goalkeeper Josh Saunders. That unit has kept a clean sheet in three of those four games while allowing just a single goal in the other and allowing just more than three shots on goal per game.

- **LA'S TWO CONSECUTIVE** clean sheets in the league and three in all competitions are each season-highs. The club now has eight shutouts in all competitions, with each coming since June 17.

- **EDSON BUDDLE** made the 100th regular season appearance of his Galaxy career against Vancouver on September 1, coming on late in place of David Beckham. He is the 19th player in club history to play in 100 regular season games, and the second to reach the milestone this season, joining Sean Franklin. A.J. DeLaGarza and Omar Gonzalez could also reach 100 regular season games played for the Galaxy this season with DeLaGarza having played 96 times and Gonzalez 95 heading into tonight's game.

- **CHRISTIAN WILHELMSSON** is the first Swedish international ever to sign for the Galaxy. With nine goals in 78 career appearances for his country, Wilhelmsson becomes the fourth current Galaxy player to have made more than 75 appearances for his country, joining Landon Donovan (144 caps for the U.S.), Robbie Keane (120 caps for Ireland) and David Beckham (115 caps for England).

- **KEANE AND WILHELMSSON** are the only current MLS players that played in this summer's European Championships. Additionally, the two new teammates could face one another in qualifying for the 2014 World Cup with Sweden hosting Ireland on March 22, 2013 and then Ireland hosting Sweden on June 9, 2013.

- **WITH A 5-3-1 RECORD** for 16 points this season, the Galaxy Reserves have set a club record for points in a single Reserve League season.

NUTRITION OF CHAMPIONS



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