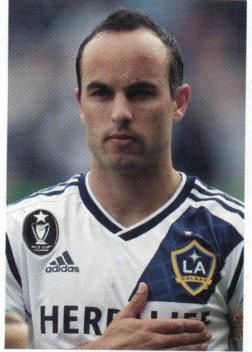




Presented by HERBALIFE.



HELLO GALAXY FANS and welcome back to The Home Depot

Center for tonight's game against the Portland Timbers.

There is no question that this is a big game for us and a game that we need to win. There are still plenty of games remaining to be played, but you always want to do well against teams from your own conference, especially those against teams that are around you in the standings when you're playing at home. Portland are just one point ahead of us and a victory will get us out of last place. More importantly, a win allows us to start to build some positive momentum for us as we move forward through our season.

We only have one game a week for the rest of the month so we should be able to use this time to continue to work on the things we need to in

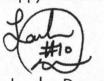
order to prepare for each game and improve.

However, Portland will not make things easy for us. John Spencer always has them motivated and ready to go. They are a big, physical team that is difficult to play against and they try to use their physicality to wear you down. At the other end of the field, Boyd is a big guy that has proven to be dangerous while Nagbe is only getting better. They are going to come here thinking that they can get something out of this game and it is our job to not let that happen.

Lastly, I would like to welcome David Lopes to our club. I've seen him play with Chivas USA and I think that he'll be a good addition to our locker room. Like any player, he is going to take some time to settle and learn how we do things, but he gives us something that we've been missing and creates more competition, which is

always a good thing.

Thank you all once again for coming out to support us, it does not go unnoticed, and we hope to send you home happy with three points.



Landon Donovan

#### SUPPORTERS' SHIELD 1998, 2002, 2010, 2011 MLS CUP CHAMPIONS:

2002, 2005, 2011

**U.S. OPEN CUP CHAMPIONS:** 2001, 2005

**CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS:** 2000

CONTACT:

LA Galaxy 18400 Avalon Blvd., Suite 200 Carson, CA 90746

> www.lagalaxy.com 310.630.2200

## TONIGHT AT THE HDC **TABLE OF CONTENTS SCHEDULE GALAXY ROSTER** PORTLAND TIMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY **GETTING BACK ON TRACK KNOW YOUR SPURS** 23 25 ROOMMATES **DAVID JUNIOR LOPES EASTER EGG HUNT ACADEMY UPDATE** 36 DID YOU KNOW





WELCOME TO THE HOME DEPOT CENTER for tonight's match, which is presented by Barry's Tickets, between the LA Galaxy and the Portland Timbers. In addition to the game on the field, there are a number of other exciting events happening at SoccerFest and throughout the stadium. Here are a few things to know about tonight's game in order to enhance your gameday experience.

#### PLAY THE LA GALAXY SCVNGR GAME PRESENTED BY HERBALIFE

Visit SCVNGR on your smart phone and play the LA Galaxy game presented by Herbalife. Compete in challenges and earn points for a chance to win a suite for you and 14 guests to a 2012 LA Galaxy regular season game. Food and non-alcoholic beverage will be included and all members of your party will be able to watch pre-game warm ups down on the field.

#### METRO PCS FAMILY FUN ZONE



Check out the Metro PCS Family Fun Zone and get your face painted by the airbrush artist, make a poster to cheer on your favorite Galaxy player and more!

#### GALAXY FUTBOLEROS FLAVORED BY SHASTA | 6:30 P.M. - SOCCERFEST

The Galaxy Futboleros flavored by Shasta are back, continuing to entertain fans at The Home Depot Center with their unique brand of soccer.



With a deep background in soccer entertainment, the Galaxy Futboleros perform soccer tricks and juggling skills that combine speed, strength and balance to create high energy performances that are truly one of a kind. Their freestyle performance consists of sequences and combinations of tricks, juggling skills, ground work and playing. With passion and excitement, the Galaxy Futboleros aim to bring any crowd to its feet with a complex freestyle

showcase of soccer skills. You can catch the Galaxy Futboleros at every Galaxy home game as they will be performing at SoccerFest starting an hour and a half before kickoff.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

Join the Galaxy supporters groups in the cross stadium chant in the 15th and 60th minutes of tonight's game and every Galaxy home game. All fans in the north end of the stadium say "L-A" and the south end responds with "GAL-AX-Y"

#### DIANE PANCEL TO SING NATIONAL ANTHEM





Presented by WHERBALIFE.

## LA GALAXY 2012 SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV/GOALSCORERS
WED	MARCH 7	AT TORONTO FC	2-2 T	MAGEE, DONOVAN
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTERFINAL - FIRST 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 - SECOND LEG (GALAXY LOSE 4-3 ON AGG.)				
SUN	MARCH 18	VS. D.C. UNITED	3-1W	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	7:30 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	APRIL 21	AT COLORADO RAPIDS	6:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	APRIL 28	VS. FC DALLAS	7:30 P.M.	RDOC/KWHY
WED	MAY 2	AT SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	7:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	MAY 5	VS. NEW YORK RED BULLS	5:00 P.M.	ESPN/ESPN DEPORTES
SAT	MAY 12	AT MONTREAL IMPACT	1:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	MAY 19	AT CHIVAS USA	7:30 P.M.	ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES
WED	MAY 23	VS. SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	7:30 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	MAY 26	AT HOUSTON DYNAMO	11:30 A.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SUN	JUNE 17	VS. PORTLAND TIMBERS	4:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
WED	JUNE 20	AT REAL SALT LAKE	6:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	JUNE 23	VS. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	7:30 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	JUNE 30	AT SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	7:00 P.M.	ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES
WED	JULY 4	VS. PHILADELPHIA UNION	7:30 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SUN	JULY 8	AT CHICAGO FIRE	12:00 P.M.	ESPN/ESPN DEPORTES
SAT	JULY 14	AT PORTLAND TIMBERS	8:00 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
WED	JULY 18	AT VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	7:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SAT	JULY 21	VS. CHIVAS USA	7:00 P.M.	KDOC/TELEFUTURA
TUESDAY	JULY 24	VS. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	7:30 P.M.	
	INTERNATIO	ONAL FRIENDLY AT THE HOME DEPC	T CENTER	
SAT	JULY 28	AT FC DALLAS	5:00 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SUN	AUGUST 5	AT SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	7:00 P.M.	ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES
SUN	AUGUST 12	AT CHIVAS USA	8:00 P.M.	ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES
WED	AUGUST 15	AT COLUMBUS CREW	5:00 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SUN	AUGUST 26	VS. FC DALLAS	4:00 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SAT	SEPT. 1	VS. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	7:00 P.M.	KDOC/KWHY
SUN	SEPT. 16	VS. COLORADO RAPIDS	4:00 P.M.	KDOC/GALAVISION
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/
SUN	OCT. 28	VS. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	6:00 P.M.	GALAVISION ESPN/ESPN DEPORTES

■ HOME GAME



Presented by HERBALIFE.



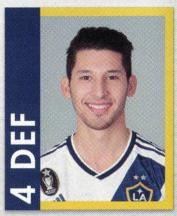
Bill GAUDETTE



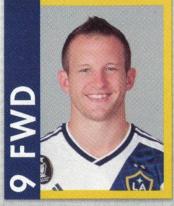
Todd **DUNIVANT** 



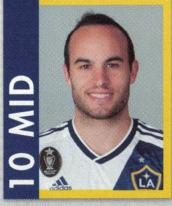
David Junior LOPES



Omar GONZALEZ



Chad BARRETT



Landon DONOVAN



Pat **Noonan** 



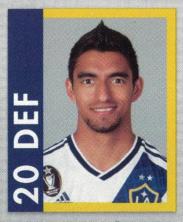
Josh SAUNDERS



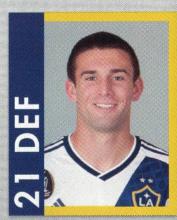
Mike **MAGEE** 



**JUNINHO** 



A.J. DELAGARZA



Tommy MEYER



Michael STEPHENS



Kyle NAKAZAWA



Andrew BOYENS



Jack MCBEAN

## **2012 LA GALAXY ROSTER**



Sean FRANKLIN



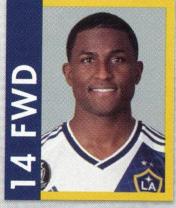
Bryan **Jordan** 



Robbie **Keane** 



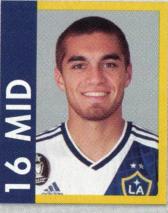
Marcelo Sarvas



Edson **BUDDLE** 



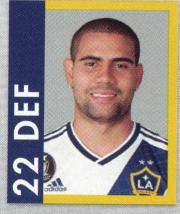
Dan **KEAT** 



Hector JIMENEZ



Adam Cristman



**LEONARDO** 



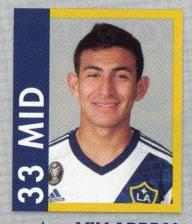
David BECKHAM



Brian PERK



Rafael GARCIA



Jose VILLARREAL



Kenney WALKER



Bryan **GAUL** 





Presented by HERBALIFE.

## PORTLAND TIMBERS

Just over a year ago, the Portland Timbers visited The Home Depot Center for the first time and found themselves behind 2-0 inside the opening 10 minutes en route to a 3-0 defeat. It was a result that could be best described as a "welcome to MLS moment" for the then-expansion team. Tonight they come to The Home Depot Center looking to snap a four-game unbeaten streak and get their season back on track.

While it was early goals that killed off the Timbers against LA last season, it has been late goals that gave done in John Spencer's group at home each of the last two weeks. Leading Real Salt Lake 2-1 late on, the Timbers conceded an 89th minute equalizer and then Kyle Beckerman scored the winner three minutes into stoppage time for a 3-1 RSL win. Last weekend, Nick LaBrocca scored in the 82nd minute as Chivas USA overturned a 1-0 deficit to claim a 2-1 win.

Despite their recent struggles, the Timbers continue to get strong contributions from the forward pairing of Kris Boyd and Darlington Nagbe. The second pick in the 2011 MLS SuperDraft, Nagbe has been one of the breakout stars in MLS this season, scoring three times through the first five games of the year including a pair of Goal of the Week strikes. Quick and unpredictable, he has paired well with Boyd, who will be a handful for whoever Bruce Arena starts in central defense.

While Boyd and Nagbe get the headlines, it is the work rate of Jack Jewsbury and Diego Chara in midfield that helps to set the tempo for the Portland attack. Jewsbury, who once again serves as the club captain, does much of the dirty work in the center of the park while Chara is best when he is on the ball and he can pick out forward runners. That pair have started all five of Portland's games this season along with Eric Alexander while Frank Songo'o or Kalif Alhassan, who had a goal and an assist in the season opening win over Philadelphia, will round out the midfield.

In defense, Eric Brunner and rookie Andrew Jean-Baptiste will likely return in central defense in front of goalkeeper Troy Perkins, who is good enough to keep the Timbers in games on occasion. Despite his struggles to contain Ryan Smith in the second half against Chivas USA, Lovel Palmer is expected to return at right back while Mike Chabala is in line to get his first start at left back in place of the injured Rodney Wallace.



#### **KEY MAN: KRIS BOYD**

The top scorer in the history of the Scottish Premier League, Kris Boyd has settled in immediately after joining the Timbers during the offseason. A big and physical force up front for John Spencer, Boyd has paired with Darlington Nagbe to give the Timbers a dangerous combination of speed and power that can threaten any defense. That duo has combined to score five of Portland's seven goals on the season with Boyd scoring twice, including once in last weekend's 2-1 home loss to Chivas USA.

#### **EXPECTED LINEUP (4-4-2)**

Troy Perkins; Lovel Palmer, Eric Brunner, Andrew Jean-Baptiste, Mike Chabala; Jack Jewsbury, Eric Alexander, Diego Chara, Franck Songo'o; Kris Boyd, Darlington Nagbe.

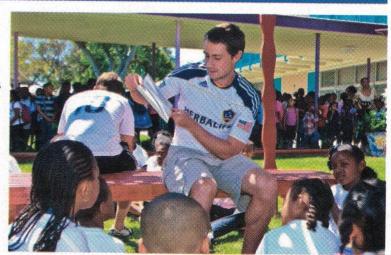




#### **DONATIONS AND PLAYER APPEARANCES**

Through donations and appearances, the LA Galaxy is able to support non-profit organizations and programs that make a positive impact in the community, assist children and grow the sport of soccer.

Please visit the Donation and Player Appearance Request Guidelines under the community section of the Galaxy website to request the LA Galaxy's support.





Visit the Galaxy Foundation booth to bid on exclusive autographed memorabilia and experiences.

Beginning in May, fans will be able to bid on exclusive player experiences such as meet and greets, access to Galaxy training sessions, and many more exciting opportunities.

All proceeds benefit the Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation.

#### NAME IN LIGHTS - GAMEDAY GREETINGS

During the 2012 season, the LA Galaxy will give fans the opportunity to see their name up in lights at The Home Depot Center.

Perfect for birthdays, anniversaries or any special occasion, Name in Lights is a program that allows fans to post a special message during a Galaxy home game. All proceeds benefit the Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation.

Visit www.lagalaxy.com/community/name-in-lights for more information.

#### **DONATE TODAY**

If you wish to make a donation to the Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation, you may visit the booth or mail a check or money order to:

Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation 18400 Avalon Boulevard, Suite 200 Carson, CA 90746

Please include your name and address with your check or money order. You will receive an acknowledgement letter for your charitable donation.



# 2011 MLS CUP CHAMPIONS



7 ROBBIE KEANE





SATURDAY, APRIL 28 • 7:30PM • THE HOME DEPOT CENTER

PRESENTED BY

CITY NATIONAL BANK

GREAT SEATS STILL AVAILABLE

metroPCS FRIENDS & FAMILY PACK I TICKET . I HOT DOG . I SODA . \$24

FOLLOW THE GALAXY ALL SEASON LONG ON













# INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY



LA GALAXY vs. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR TUESDAY, JULY 24 AT 7:30PM . THE HOME DEPOT CENTER

MATCH PRESENTED BY

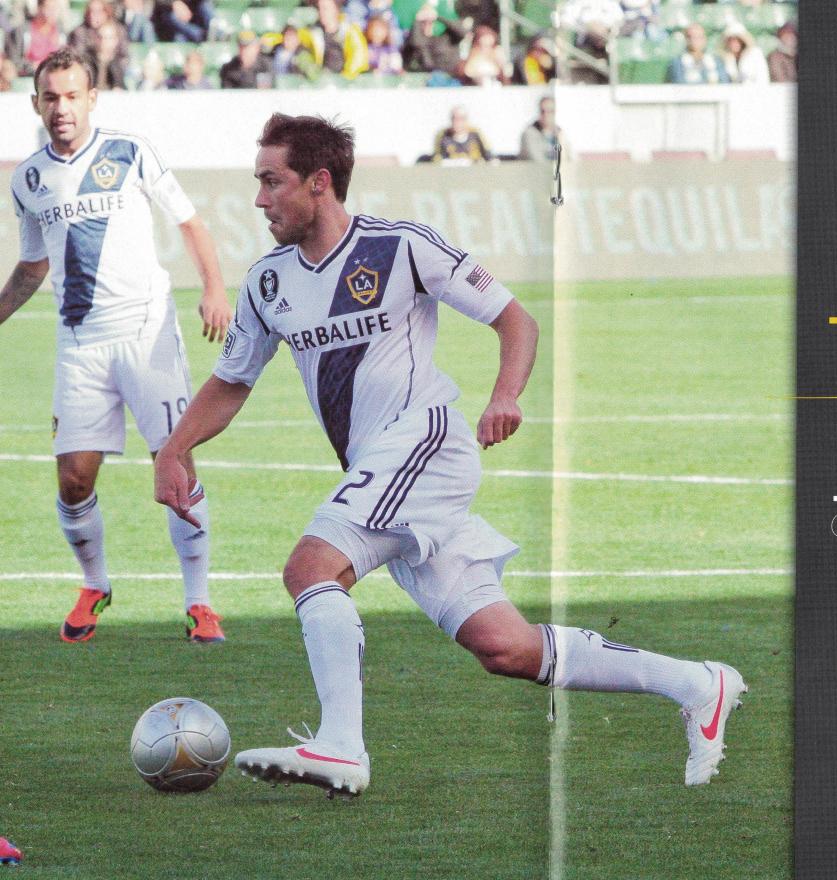


TICKETS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AS PART OF THE GALAXY'S SEASON TICKET PLAN FOR AS LOW AS \$20

I.B773GALAXY LAGALAXY.COM of /LAGALAXY le @LAGALAXY







# GETTING BACK ON TRACK

he last time the LA Galaxy faced the Portland Timbers they were defeated 3-0 at JELD-WEN Field in front of a capacity crowd and a national television audience.

Following that lost, the Galaxy went on a seven-game unbeaten streak in MLS that helped the club clinch a second straight Supporters' Shield and a mountain of positive momentum heading into the MLS Cup Playoffs. Sandwiched amongst those seven games were wins over Motagua, Alajuelense and Morelia in the CONCACAF Champions League that further buoyed the mood within the club.

As unpleasant as it was at the time, the loss in Portland turned out to be exactly the wake-up call Galaxy players and staff needed in order to go on and win MLS Cup.

It's been more than eight months since that defeat and the Galaxy are looking at this game to produce a similar outcome tonight, though not from a similar result. One month into the MLS season, the Galaxy find themselves with a 1-3-0 record and are currently at the bottom of the Western Conference table with just three points. The team knows that a win on Saturday can get improve those fortunes and get everyone moving in the right direction.

"We're kind of looking at it as an opportunity to get things right," defender Todd Dunivant said after training Tuesday. "If there's ever a time in the

season to do it, it would be now.

"It's about playing well again. Once we start playing well again and playing the way we know how to play, the results are going to start coming.

"It's not going to be easy, though. We need to put a good performance together against Port-

land. That's our goal."

Head Coach Bruce Arena, who lost consecutive regular season games with the Galaxy for just the fourth time last weekend, believes that the team can turn their season around.

"It's not time to hit the panic button," he said. "It's time of us to start winning, no question about it. Is it the panic button? No, but we have to win games."

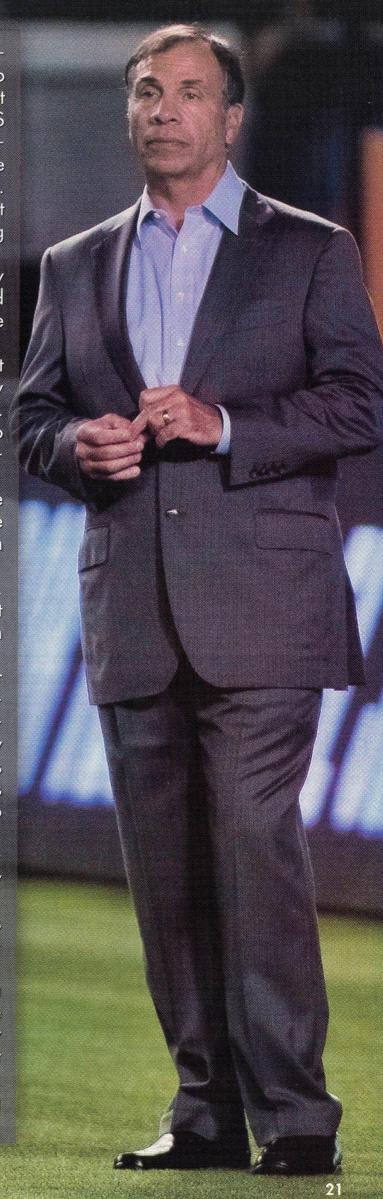
Arena, who has never lost three straight regular season games since coming to the Galaxy in August 2008, added: "Wins don't take care of everything, but a win helps. A win in the right way is even more important. A loss in the right way is even more important than a win. There are things we need to do better as a team and we want to see that we are moving in the right direction."

Under Arena, the Galaxy have a record of 2-0-1 following consecutive loses, a record that they

would like to improve on tonight.

Midfielder Kyle Nakazawa said the players inside the locker room have not lost their confidence.

"If we turn things around we're going to be a much stronger team throughout the rest of the season," said Nakazawa, who made his Galaxy debut in Kansas City last weekend. "It's not a start that any team wants, especially coming back from winning MLS Cup, (but) I think we're going to be a better team for it."



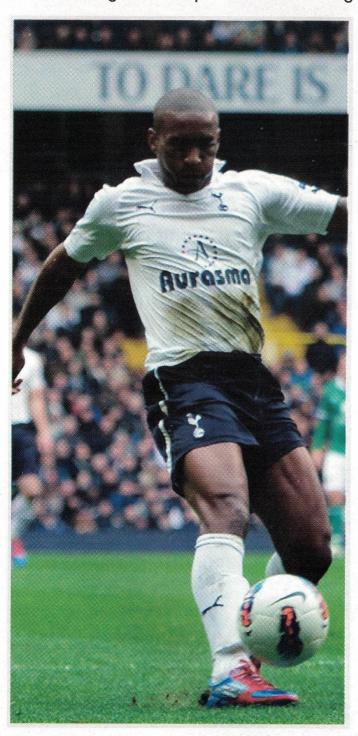


#### KNOW YOUR SPURS - JERMAIN DEFOE

Presented by HERBALIFE.

ONE OF THE TOP GOAL SCORERS in the history of the Premier League, Jermain Defoe is expected to lead the line for Tottenham Hotspur when they take on the LA Galaxy at The Home Depot Center on July 24 in their first-ever friendly here in Southern California.

After beginning his career as a youth player at West Ham, Defoe burst onto the scene in the 2000-01 with a highly successful loan spell at Bournemouth. He continued that form for West Ham, finishing as their top scorer the following



year. He reached double figures again in the 2002-03 season, but he could not prevent West

Ham from being relegated.

He stayed with the Hammers through the first half of the following season, tallying 11 goals in 19 games during their first season in the Championship. He eventually signed with Tottenham midway through the 2003-04 Premier League season and averaged nearly a goal every two games for the club over the second half of the year. He would continue to be one of the top scorers in the Premier League, reaching double figures for goals during the 2004-05 campaign when he scored a thenpersonal-best of 22 goals, and in the 2006-07 season when he scored 18 times in all competitions.

He joined Portsmouth in January 2008 and scored 17 goals for the club before returning to White Hart Lane a year later. His first season back with Spurs proved to be his best-ever with the club, tallying 18 times in the league and 24 in all competitions while helping his club qualify for the Champions League for the first time ever.

So far this season, Defoe has tallied 16 goals in all competition for Spurs, including 10 in the Premier League, making him their second leading scorer behind Emmanuel Adebayor.

In addition to his success in club football, Defoe is also dangerous for England, collecting 46 caps and tallying 15 goals for his country. He made his full international debut in 2004 at the age of 21 and scored his first goal six months later in a World Cup Qualifier against Poland. A member of England's team at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, he scored in a 1-0 win over Slovenia that gave England a berth in the Round of 16.

Defoe, who scored his first-ever hat trick for his country in their first game of Euro 2012 Qualifying against Bulgaria in September 2010, is battling to be included their squad tor this summer's tournament in Poland and the Ukraine. Only four current England players have scored more times for their country than Defoe, though he has not scored since his hat trick against Bulgaria, which was the first hat trick for an England player at the new Wembley.

# BOOMMATES

time very Galaxy hit the road, the more interesting items to look at is who gets paired up with who at the hotel. Some roommates have been paired together for years while others are only now beginning to get to know one another. Add into that a mix injuries or suspensions that all of a sudden break up an established pairing and you have the making of some interesting combinations.

Travelling with the club for the first time this season, Kyle Nakazawa could have

made for one of those interesting or awkward combinations. Instead, he was paired with former Youth National Team and UCLA teammate Michael Stephens. We spoke to the pair after returning from Kansas City to see what they though about being roommate on the road. All interviews were done individually and despite what it might seem below, neither player were told what the other had said.

Complete with sarcasm and sincerity, here is what they had to say...

#### KYLE NAKAZAWA

What were your thoughts when you found out that you'd be rooming with Michael Stephens?

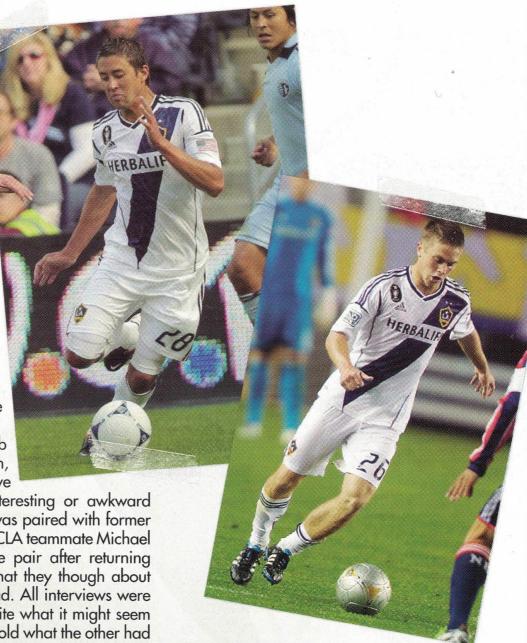
"Happiest guy in the world. Me and Mikey have a long history going back to UCLA and Residency, so it was just like old friends reuniting."

What are his best qualities as a roommate?

"He keeps the whole room clean and even cleans up after me when I'm messy. I've got to go with that."

What are his worst qualities as a roommate?

"He doesn't have any bad habits. He's just that good of a roommate so I don't have anything bad I can say about him."



MICHAEL STEPHENS

What are Kyle's best qualities as a roommate?

"He's very quiet, he goes to bed at the same time I do, which is pretty early and he's clean."

What are Kyle's worst qualities as a roommate?

"I can't even think of one. I can't answer that. He is the most perfect roommate that you can ask for. I'm thinking long and hard about things that he's done wrong but I just can't come up with anything. I lived with him for over a year and I can't even think of anything."

You've had a bunch of different roommates through the years; do you hope that this one sticks?

"I think the first year I was all over the place and then last year I was with Jovan. This year I was originally supposed to be with Perk but his injury has allowed me to get another Bruin, which is good."



#### **Q&A WITH... DAVID JUNIOR LOPES**

Presented by HERBALIFE.

avid Junior Lopes had an interesting Tuesday. He went from training with Chivas USA in the morning to finding out David Beckham, Landon Donovan and Robbie Keane are his new teammates in the afternoon.

The LA Galaxy acquired the Brazilian defender from Chivas USA in order to bolster their depth at center back. A native of Maringá, Brazil, Lopes is an experienced defender who has played in South America and Europe and is in his second year in MLS.

We spoke to Lopes this week about the trade, his thoughts on switching locker rooms and what he thinks of his new teammates.

# CAN YOU TALK ABOUT COMING OVER TO THE GALAXY, WHERE YOU SURPRISED WITH THE TRADE?

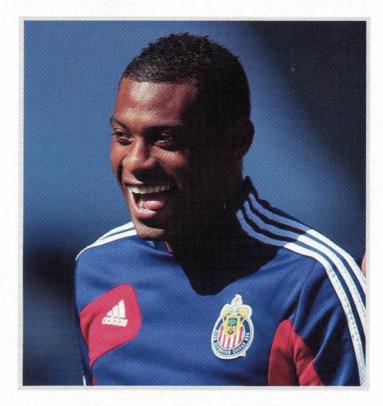
Galaxy. And yes, I was a little bit surprised because I wasn't expecting it. I didn't play many games with Chivas, I played in the final games of last year and I came back and started to train well and play well but didn't play many games. Now I'm here with the Galaxy, a very big club, and I want to train hard in order to play with my new teammates and do well with the club.

# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GALAXY?

DJL: The Galaxy are a great club. They are always getting results, always making history. Like any big club does, and they are always winning. They have players of high caliber, like Beckham, Donovan and Robbie Keane. They have a lot of quality players. And I'm happy, I'm very happy, and I hope to to help this club.

## WHAT TYPE OF MENTALITY DO YOU COME IN WITH?

DJL: I'm coming in with the mentality of wanting to work hard. I have an opportunity



here and I think that by working hard, taking advantage of the opportunity and doing the right thing, things will happen.

## HAVE YOU SPOKE WITH THE COACHING STAFF YET ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

DJL: When I got here (Bruce) told me what he expected of me. What he wanted me to do and didn't want me to do. Like any coach would do with a any new player that comes in. It comes down to me, though. I need to be smart. I need to always be working hard so that I am able to get an opportunity to get on the field.

# HOW HELPFUL IS IT THAT FELLOW BRAZILIAN PLAYERS JUNINHO, LEONARDO AND MARCELO SARVAS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR TRANSITION?

DJL: It's very helpful. It helps a lot. We speak the same language, have a lot of things in common, same culture, but it complicates matters a little bit because it doesn't force you to speak English, but I don't think that will be a problem at all. I'm still practicing my English. And I'm happy. I consider them my friends, even when I was playing with Chivas we spoke a lot and considered them my friends then. It's a good a group.





Presented by HERBALIFE.

# HAPPY EASTER!

The Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation and The Home Depot Center Charitable Foundation hosted their Sixth Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 6. The event, which was held on the Track & Field Facility at The Home Depot Center, attracted more than 600 children ages 1-10 to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Bryan Gaul, Dan Keat, Hector Jimenez and Kenney Walker were all in attendance, along with the Galaxy Street Team, LA Galaxy mascot Cozmo and the Easter Bunny provided by Southbay Pavilion Mall.



















#### **ACADEMY**

The LA Galaxy U-18 team returned from playing in the Real Sociedad XXVII Youth Invitational Tournament in Spain earlier this week. The club went 0-1-2 in the tournament (1-1-2 on the trip overall), but were never outplayed in any of the matches and represented the Galaxy and all of MLS with aplomb.

The Galaxy's lone win on the trip came in a tune-up game before the start of the tournament against Rayo Vallecano, with LA claiming a 2-1 victory. Once the tournament began, they drew Osasuna 1-1 in their opening game before winning on penalties. They drew Valencia 1-1 in their second game, only to lose on penalties in that one. Head coach Eddie Soto's team ended their stay in Spain with a 2-1 loss to tournament hosts, Real Sociedad, with the Spanish side scoring a late winner. Despite the results, the Galaxy left Spain having earned praise and respect from their opponents.

Nobody was more excited about the trip than midfielder Grady Howe. We sat down with Galaxy U-18 captain to talk about his time in Spain.

#### **HOW WAS THE TRIP TO SPAIN?**

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The fact that we went to Madrid and San Sebastian and played in games and got a chance to see Madrid and everything made it an amazing trip."

# made it an amazing trip." WAS THE LEVEL OF COMPETITION ABOUT WHAT YOU EXPECTED? "To be honest, I didn't know what to expect. But I was

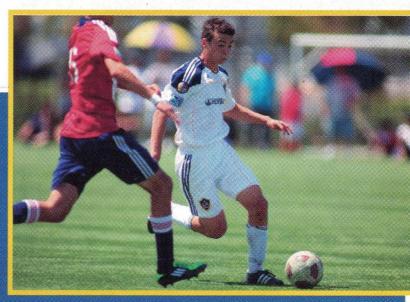
"To be honest, I didn't know what to expect. But I was definitely happy to see that we were not outmatched by any opponent. I thought we were technically the best team, I don't think we faced a team that was better than us. I thought those teams were going to be of a lot higher quality that us, but I thought we matched up well against them and we were happy to see that."

#### **DID THAT SURPRISE YOU?**

"Yeah, I thought these opponents were going to be very tough. They were, the level of competition was definitely much better than what we face here, it was much higher pace, much more physical, but definitely nothing out of our league. That was surprising."

# our league. That was surprising." IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE. WHAT DID YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR TEAMMATES SAID TO EACH OTHER AFTER GOING THROUGH IT?

"It was great. We got a ton of experience from playing against these opponents. It was a big confidence boost for all of us that we matched up well against these world class opponents. It was also an experience that we learned a lot from because we know what we definitely have to improve on, for sure. Also, we learned that we are at a good level but we also know that we need to be more physical and more cohesive as a unit. These guys



are fighting for their jobs, we are not necessarily doing that, but we have to have the same passion that they do. That physicality, that desire to win. They definitely have that and that's something we can work on."

## WHAT WAS TRAINING AT CIUDAD DE FUTBOL LIKE?

"Ciudad de Futbol was something I've never seen before. Obviously, the United States doesn't have (a complex like that). I mean, we have residency, but it's not really the same thing at all because this is somewhere where the national team not only trains but somewhere where they can spend time and get away. I feel like it's their get away. We saw Iker Casillas just sitting there having lunch, the day before Real Madrid's Champions League match. It was amazing to see that. So, we were basically sleeping in the same beds as the World Champions and the facility was unreal. Just the fact that they have something set up like that for their players is really cool to see and I hope one day the United States can build one of those."

# can build one of those." DID YOU ENJOY BEING AT THE FAMED SANTIAGO BERNABEU FOR A REAL MADRID CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH?

"Oh my gosh - that was breathtaking. Just sitting in that stadium, seeing the atmosphere surrounding before the game, hearing the chanting and songs, it gave us goose bumps. We got to experience what a world class soccer team is. We got to take a tour as well after the game and there's just so much history, so much pride, behind that program and it just makes you hope that one of us can play for a team like that one day. It was just an amazing experience. There's nothing else like it in the world."

# FINALLY, WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE HIGHLIGHT FROM THE TRIP?

"My favorite highlight was playing against teams, world class teams, and seeing that they are not out of our league. We are definitely on their level and we can compete with these teams. That was the highlight of this trip for me, seeing where we are as a soccer team, seeing what we need to work on individually and as a team."



# NUTRITION OF CHAMPIONS





Official Nutrition Company of the LA Galaxy

The LA Galaxy logo and graphics are the property of Major League Soccer, LLC. Used by permission. El logo y los gráficos del LA Galaxy son propiedad de la Major League Soccer, LLC. Utilizados con permiso.