

LA GALAXY

CHAMPION

GALAXY

02

MLS CUP

Authentic Locker Room

Bud

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SPORTSNET

TIME WARNER CABLE
DEPORTES



GAMEDAY PROGRAM

VS. TORONTO FC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012



Presented by HERBALIFE

THE TEAMS



vs



Presented by HERBALIFE.

MATCH STATS GALAXY

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		
YELLOW:		
RED:		
GOALSCORERS:		

MATCH STATS TORONTO FC

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		
YELLOW:		
RED:		
GOALSCORERS:		

MATCH RESULT

HT SCORE:

FT SCORE:

NOTES:



Presented by HERBALIFE.

LA GALAXY

Head Coach: Bruce Arena

#	Player	Pos.
1	Brian Rowe	GK
2	Todd Dunivant	D
3	David Junior Lopes	D
4	Omar González	D
5	Sean Franklin	D
6	Bryan Jordan	D
7	Robbie Keane	F
8	Marcelo Sarvas	M
9	Christian Wilhelmsson	M
10	Landon Donovan	M
11	Pat Noonan	F
12	Josh Saunders	GK
14	Edson Buddle	F
15	Dan Keat	M
16	Hector Jimenez	M
18	Mike Magee	M
19	Juninho	M
20	A.J. DeLaGarza	D
21	Tommy Meyer	D
22	Leonardo	D
23	David Beckham	M
24	Brian Perk	GK
25	Rafael Garcia	M
26	Michael Stephens	M
28	Kyle Nakazawa	M
29	Andrew Boyens	D
32	Jack McBean	F
33	Jose Villarreal	M
34	Kenney Walker	M
35	Bryan Gaul	D

TORONTO FC

Head Coach: Paul Mariner

#	Player	Pos.
2	Logan Emory	D
4	Doneil Henry	D
5	Ashtone Morgan	D
7	Joao Plata	F
8	Eric Avila	M
9	Ryan Johnson	F
11	Luis Silva	M
12	Adrian Cann	D
13	Keith Makubuya	F
14	Danny Koevermans	F
15	Matt Stinson	M
16	Oscar Cordon	M
18	Quincy Amarikwa	F
19	Reggie Lambe	F
20	Ty Harden	D
21	Aaron Maund	D
22	Torsten Frings	M
23	Terry Dunfield	M
24	Stefan Frei	GK
25	Jeremy Hall	D
27	Richard Eckersley	D
29	Eric Hassli	F
30	Milos Kocic	GK
31	Dicoy Williams	D
32	Andrew Wiedeman	F
37	Nicholas Lindsay	F
40	Quillan Roberts	GK
41	Freddy Hall	GK
48	Darren O'Dea	D



Ten years ago Carlos Ruiz helped deliver the Galaxy their first MLS Cup.



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SUPPORTERS' SHIELD
1998, 2002, 2010, 2011

MLS CUP CHAMPIONS
2002, 2005, 2011

U.S. OPEN CUP CHAMPIONS
2001, 2005

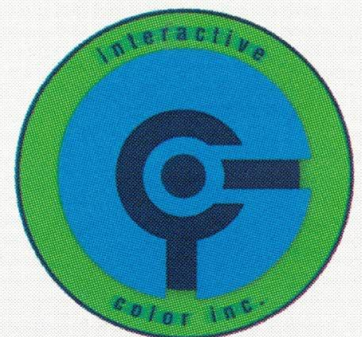
**CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
2000

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LA GALAXY

2012 SCHEDULE

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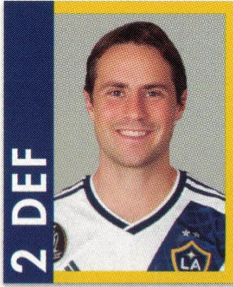
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV/GOALSCORERS
WED	MARCH 7	AT TORONTO FC	2-2 T	MAGEE, DONOVAN
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – QUARTERFINAL – 1ST LEG				
SAT	MARCH 10	VS. REAL SALT LAKE	1-3 L	BUDDLE
WED	MARCH 14	VS. TORONTO FC	1-2 L	OWN GOAL
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – QUARTERFINAL – 2ND LEG				
SUN	MARCH 18	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	2-0 W	KEANE, WILHELMSSON
WED	SEPT. 19	AT PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS	0-0 T	–
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



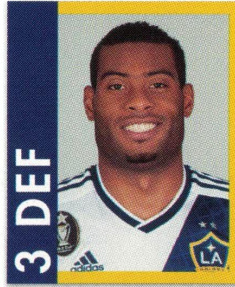
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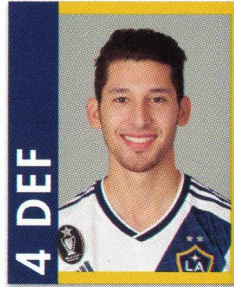
Brian **ROWE**



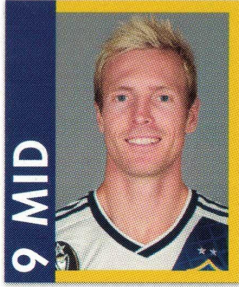
Todd **DUNIVANT**



David Junior **LOPES**



Omar **GONZALEZ**



Christian **WILHELMSSON**



Landon **DONOVAN**



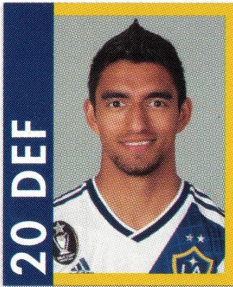
Pat **NOONAN**



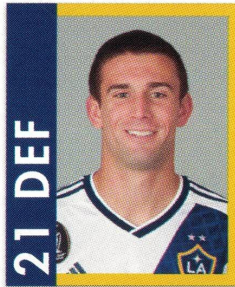
Josh **SAUNDERS**



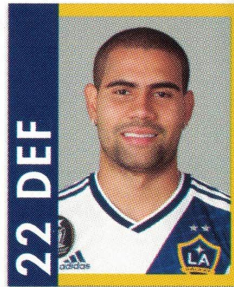
JUNINHO



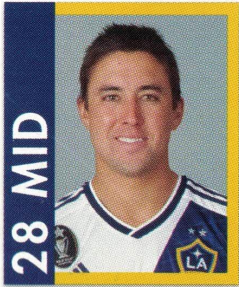
A.J. **DELAGARZA**



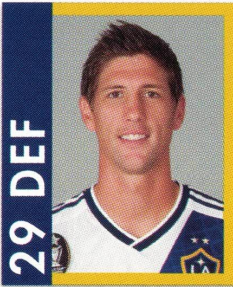
Tommy **MEYER**



LEONARDO



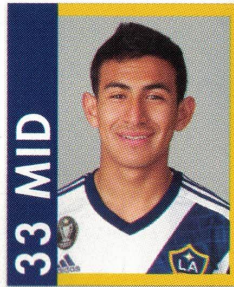
Kyle **NAKAZAWA**



Andrew **BOYENS**

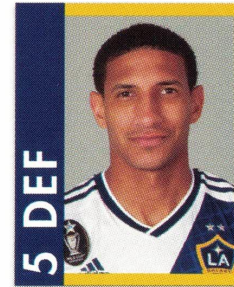


Jack **MCBEAN**

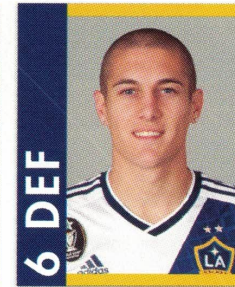


Jose **VILLARREAL**

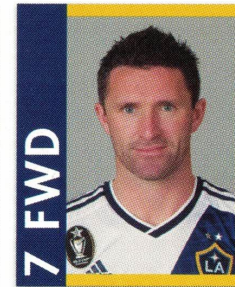
2012 LA GALAXY ROSTER



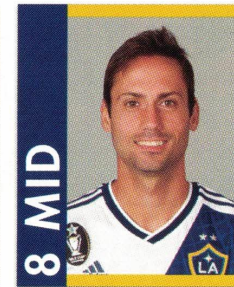
Sean **FRANKLIN**



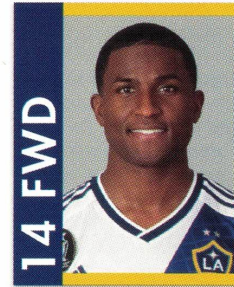
Bryan **JORDAN**



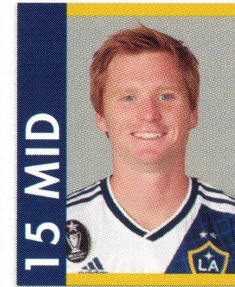
Robbie **KEANE**



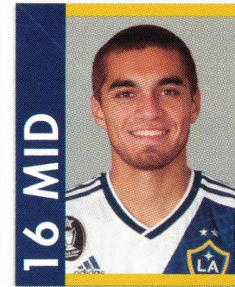
Marcelo **SARVAS**



Edson **BUDDLE**



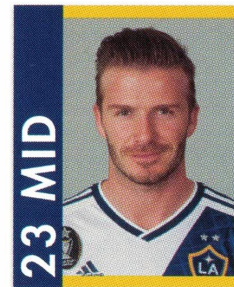
Dan **KEAT**



Hector **JIMENEZ**



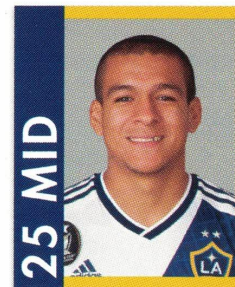
Mike **MAGEE**



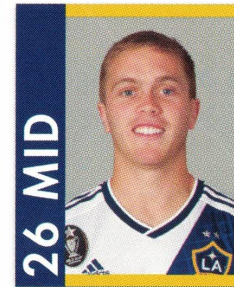
David **BECKHAM**



Brian **PERK**



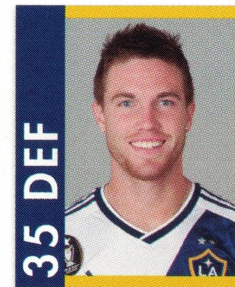
Rafael **GARCIA**



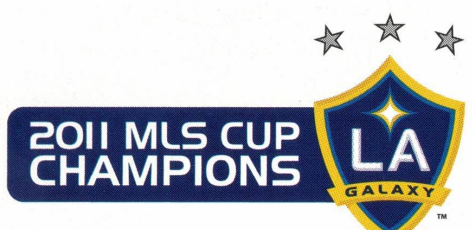
Michael **STEPHENS**



Kenney **WALKER**



Bryan **GAUL**



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VS



TONIGHT'S OPPONENT

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When Toronto FC visited The Home Depot Center in early March, things were looking up for Canada's original MLS side. Beginning their sixth season, head coach Aron Winter had built a veteran squad that appeared poised to challenge for a playoff spot for the first time in club history. Designated players Julian de Guzman, Torsten Frings and Danny Koevermans provided the mettle and experience down the spine of Winter's squad while Stefan Frei was on the verge of moving into the upper echelon of goalkeepers in MLS.

That night, Toronto FC shocked the Galaxy, beating them 2-1 to earn a berth in the 2011/12 CONCACAF Champions League semifinals and end the Galaxy's dreams of being crowned regional champions.

Now, more than six months later, the mood around BMO Field could not be more different. Winter and de Guzman are gone while Frei, Frings and Koevermans are all out for the season because of various injuries. Toronto are also dead last in MLS with just 22 points from a 5-17-7 record and became the first team to be eliminated from playoff contention earlier this month.

With his team's playoff fate already determined, new TFC head coach Paul Mariner will be looking to see how his team responds as they begin to prepare for next season.

Toronto have not won a match in all competitions since beating CD Aguila, 5-1, in a CONCACAF Champions League group match on August 1. It has been more than two months since their last win in the league, with that coming all the way back on July 18 in a 2-1 win over the Colorado Rapids. They are 0-6-3 in the nine games since that win and have scored more than one goal in just one of those matches.

Despite those numbers, the Toronto offense has been better as of late. The Reds have scored at least one goal in nine of their last 10 games in all competitions. It is the defense, however, that has struggled during that period, keeping just one clean sheet in that time and allowing a goal in the final five minutes of a half in each of their last three games, giving away points in each contest.

One bright spot for Toronto has been this emergence of rookie midfielder Luis Silva, who has four goals and four assists in 25 games this season. The Los Angeles native also scored against the Galaxy in the first leg of their March CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinal tie when he was making his professional debut. Second-year defender Ashtone Morgan leads Toronto with five assists in 2012 while forward Eric Hassli has added to the Toronto attack since being acquired from fellow Canadian side Vancouver Whitecaps FC in late July. Hassli has scored three goals and assisted on two in six games with the club, including scoring Toronto's only goal in each of the last two games. However, he is expected to miss tonight's game with an ankle injury that he picked up last weekend, meaning that Quincy Amarikwa could get the start in his place.

Milos Kocic has stepped up as Toronto's regular goalkeeper in the absence of Frei. Making 26 starts, Kocic has a 1.77 goal against average and three shutouts on the season. He has been in goal for all five of Toronto FC's victories, as well as six of their seven draws.

TORONTO FC EXPECTED LINEUP (4-4-2):

Milos Kocic; Jeremy Hall, Richard Eckersley, Darren O'Dea, Logan Emory; Reggie Lambe, Aaron Maund, Terry Dunfield, Ryan Johnson; Luis Silva, Eric Hassli, Quincy Amarikwa

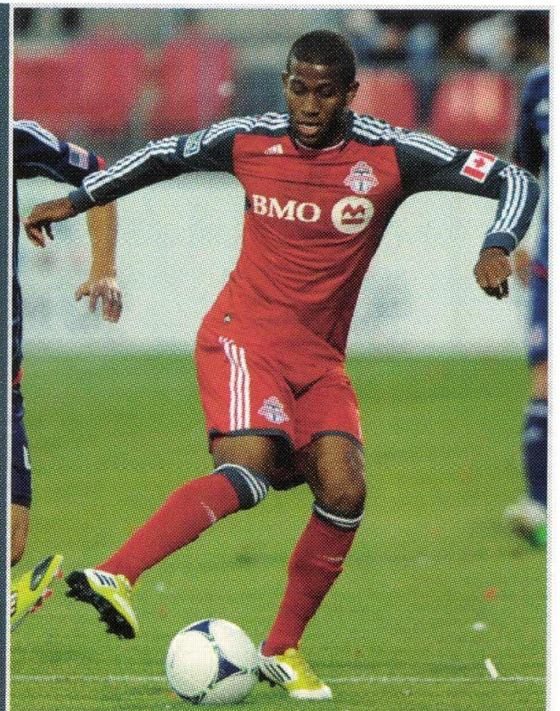
KEY MAN: RYAN JOHNSON

Galaxy fans will certainly remember Ryan Johnson when he takes the field for Toronto FC tonight, and they will not be fond memories. The last time Johnson was at The Home Depot Center, the Jamaican forward scored a goal and set up the series-winning goal as TFC knocked the Galaxy out of the 2011/12 CONCACAF Champions League.

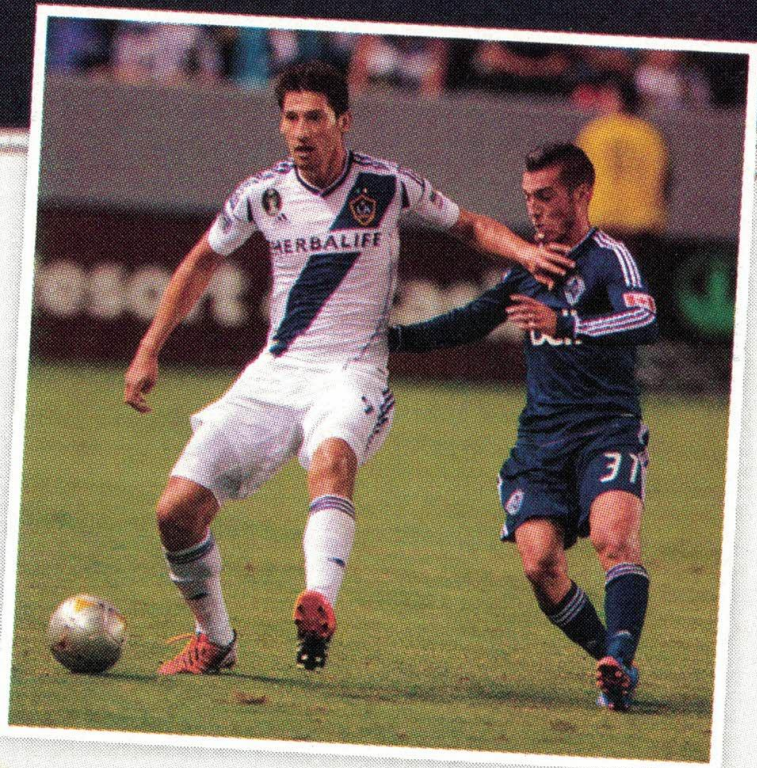
Johnson was a handful for the Galaxy both times LA and Toronto met in March. In addition to being a part of both goals in the second leg, Johnson opened the scoring just 12 minutes into the first leg of the 2012 Champions League quarterfinal tie. Of the four goals that Toronto scored to go through to the quarterfinals, 4-3 on aggregate, Johnson was involved in three of them.

In MLS play this season Johnson has been equally dangerous. The Jamaican is second on Toronto in both goals and assists having scored six and helped on four more.

The Jamaican international was called into World Cup Qualifying over the recent international break. Johnson played 90 minutes in both of the Reggae Boyz matches against the U.S., including the nation's historic first win over the Americans on September 7 in Kingston.



LA GALAXY INSIDER **ADAM SERRANO** PROVIDES HIS THREE KEYS TO TONIGHT'S MATCH AGAINST TORONTO FC...



DON'T OVERLOOK STRUGGLING TFC

1 With the LA Galaxy rapidly climbing the Western Conference table and Toronto FC in last in the East, LA are rightfully heavy favorites over TFC, but Saturday's match promises to be anything but easy.

Winless in MLS play since July 18 – going 0-6-3 in that span— Toronto may not be picking up victories, but their attacking duo of Ryan Johnson and Luis Silva has shown an ability to create numerous chances against opposing defenses.

For the Galaxy to earn three points, look for defenders Omar Gonzalez and A.J. DeLaGarza to physically pressure the Toronto's attackers from the start as they look to minimize scoring chances.

If the Galaxy cannot close out Toronto, all LA fans remember the last time that an underdog TFC squad came to The Home Depot Center in March and eliminated LA from the quarterfinals of the CONCACAF Champions League.

2

If the Galaxy are going to pull out a victory against TFC, LA must display the type of in-game focus that has eluded their opponents too frequently this season.

From the outset, expect the Galaxy attack, which will be spearheaded by the tandem of Landon Donovan and Robbie Keane to come out quickly and look to put the Eastern bottom-dwellers behind from the start. Aiding LA in this pursuit will be their fresh legs as five starters rested during LA's scoreless draw against the Puerto Rico Islanders on Wednesday while only three first team regulars participated, going no more than 30 minutes.

A fast start isn't the only key as LA force the issue late in the halves as well as Toronto have given up an astounding 17 goals in the last 15 minute of games in all competitions this year—many coming off costly turnovers.

3

The key target of the Galaxy attack tonight will be the outside backs of Toronto, who have been the source of considerable woe for TFC this season.

Using the speed and guile of likely starters Mike Magee and Christian Wilhelmsson, the Galaxy must force mistakes from TFC's error-prone outside back tandem of Logan Emory and Jeremy Hall. Throughout the season, the two young outside backs have shown a penchant for making turnovers once placed under pressure

and LA will need to test the pair early and often tonight.

While their defense is suspect, however, both possess speed going forward, which is something that the Galaxy flank players must be aware of to prevent them from connecting with their attackers.

WIN KEY MOMENTS

EXPLOIT THE FLANKS

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

[@LAGalaxyInsider](https://twitter.com/LAGalaxyInsider). Contact him at LAGalaxyInsider@gmail.com

LAST GAME
LA GALAXY 0 PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS 0



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012
JUAN RAMON LOUBRIEL STADIUM BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP 5, WEEK 4

SCORING SUMMARY

None

MISCONDUCT SUMMARY

None

LINEUPS

LA GALAXY Brian Perk; Hector Jimenez, Tommy Meyer, Andrew Boyens, Bryan Gaul; Michael Stephens, Kenney Walker (Juninho 80'), Rafael Garcia, Pat Noonan (Landon Donovan 60'); Jose Villarreal (Marcelo Sarvas 66'), Edson Buddle©.

SUBS NOT USED: Brian Rowe, A.J. DeLaGarza, Todd Dunivant, Jack McBean.

PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS Richard Martin; Edson Edward, Anthony Vasquez, Richard Martinez, Jay Needham; Jared van Schaik (Josh Hansen 70'), Noah Delgado© (Hector Ramos 77'), Alexis Rivera (Joseph Marrero 66'), Christopher Nurse; David Foley, Nicolas Addlery.

SUBS NOT USED: Cody Laurendi, Christian Ibeagha, Osei Telesford, Stephen de Roux.

REFEREE

Raymond Bogle (JAM)

The LA Galaxy remained unbeaten in the 2012/13 CONCACAF Champions League, playing to a 0-0 draw with the Puerto Rico Islanders on Wednesday night at Juan Ramon Loubriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. Using a largely reserve squad that was similar to the one that beat the Islanders 4-0 at The Home Depot Center on August 29, the Galaxy were able to create chances but were unable to convert any as they were shutout for the first time in their three Group Stage games.

"A game that I thought we did well to be in position to try to get a goal and get three points at the end and didn't do well with the chances we created," Galaxy head coach Bruce Arena said in his postgame press conference. "Still at the end of the day, a point on the road in this competition is still good and puts pressure on the team that is second in the group to get points now."

With the draw, the Galaxy (2-0-1, 7 pts., +7 goal differential) stretch their lead at the top of Group 5 to four points heading into their final game of the Group Stage on Thursday, October 25, away to Isidro Metapan in El Salvador. Prior to that game, Metapan, who are in second place (1-1-0, 3 pts., -1 goal differential) will visit Puerto Rico to face the Islanders on Thursday, September 27. If the Islanders win that game, the Galaxy will win book a berth in the quarterfinals for a second straight year. However, if Metapan are able to get at least a point in Bayamon, the group **CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**

LAST GAME

LA GALAXY 0 PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS 0



winner will not be decided until the final day of play when LA head to El Salvador.

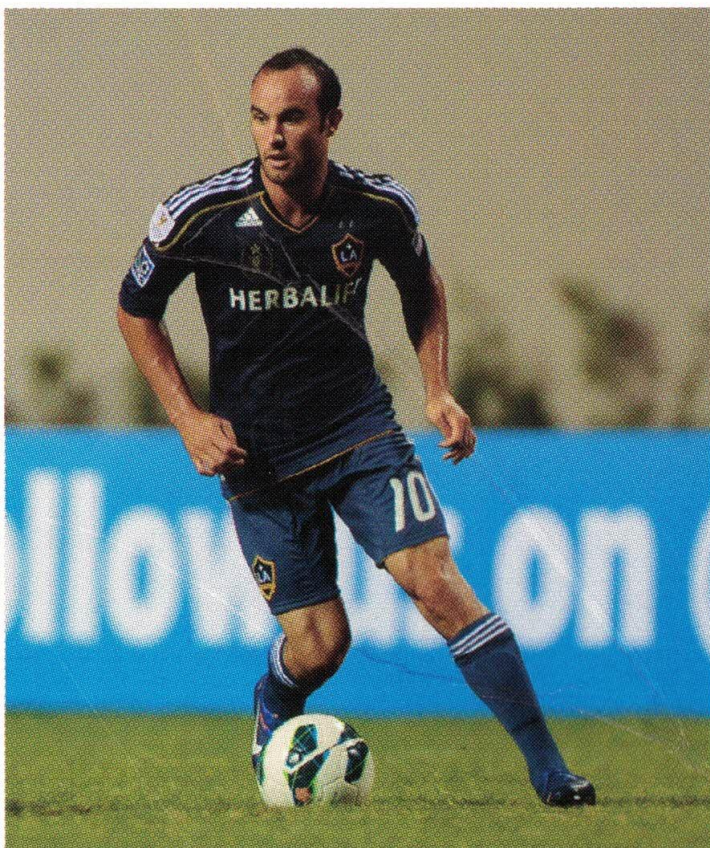
Jose Villarreal had the best chance of the opening 45 minutes for LA, snapping a close range shot right at Puerto Rico goalkeeper Richard Martin, who held his ground to keep the game scoreless. Just minutes before Villarreal's chance, Edson Buddle, who was making his first start since undergoing

knee surgery in June, fired a right-footed shot wide of the Puerto Rico net after a clever cross from Michael Stephens.

After the break, the Galaxy pushed forward in hopes of breaking the deadlock. Bruce Arena boosted his team's attack on the hour mark when Landon Donovan came on in place of Pat Noonan. He was later joined by Marcelo Sarvas and Juninho as LA looked to take control of the midfield. Villarreal, Buddle and Sarvas all had chances, but none could provide the breakthrough.

At the other end of the field, Brian Perk finished the game with seven saves to earn his second shutout in as many Champions League matches. Once again playing behind a back four of rookies Bryan Gaul and Tommy Meyer, midfielder turned defender Hector Jimenez and Andrew Boyens, Perk marshaled his box well and was rarely challenged over the top by the Islanders. When they were able to get off a shot, the former UCLA goalkeeper was equal to the challenge, perhaps no more so than in the 71st minute when he turned a low Noah Delgado shot around the post with a fingertip save, keeping the game scoreless.

Despite the hot and humid conditions as well as the heavy field, both teams pushed forward in the game's dying minutes to steal a winner. Juninho went close for the Galaxy in the 87th minute only to see his shot end up in the side netting while former Galaxy player Josh Hansen tested Perk for a final time in the 90th minute as the team's were forced to settle for a share of the points in a 0-0 draw. ■



CHAMPIONS AT LAST

OCTOBER 20, 2002 will be a date that long stands out in the minds and memories of Galaxy fans. It was on that afternoon, in the small town of Foxborough, Mass., that after seven years of searching, the club won their first MLS Cup.

The images of that day, Carlos Ruiz scoring the game-winner, veterans Mauricio Cienfuegos, Kevin Hartman, Cobi Jones and Alexi Lalas all celebrating their first MLS titles and doing so in front of a loyal contingent of Galaxy supporters who were greatly outnumbered in the crowd of more than 60,000 against the host Revolution, are still fresh to LA supporters everywhere. But while those images may seem like they happened just yesterday, the reality is that it was a decade ago that, in their fourth trip to the Final, the Galaxy won their first MLS Cup.

When you look at the Galaxy in the greater scope of MLS today, you see the three MLS Cup titles, a roster littered with some of the greatest players in the history of the league, the most successful coach in MLS history and an unmatched level of international recognition. But what many forget is that while the Galaxy were able to reach MLS Cup in three of their first six seasons of play, they lost each time, leaving the club at a crossroads.

"In 1997 (when I joined the team) we were fresh off a loss at MLS Cup in 1996 so I knew a lot of the guys that dealt with that," said current FC Dallas goalkeeper Kevin Hartman, who was in goal for the Galaxy in MLS Cup 2002. "I was a part of the '99 loss and the 2001 loss so it was a tough time. We didn't know if we were ever going to be able to do it. But fortunately we kept putting ourselves into that position and in 2002, Carlos Ruiz was on a tear and scored a ton of goals and he was able to

step up in overtime for us and get a great goal."

"To be a part of the first Galaxy team to win an MLS Cup is certainly something that I'm very proud of."

That pride is something that is felt by everyone who was connected to the 2002 squad, no matter if they were Galaxy originals such as Cobi Jones or Mauricio Cienfuegos, Southern California natives like Pete Vagenas or Danny Califf or even players who were new to the team like Chris Albright, Tyrone Marshall or Carlos Ruiz.

It is impossible to discuss the 2002 squad without mentioning Ruiz and the impact that his arrival had on the Galaxy. Lovingly known simply as "Fish", Ruiz scored a club record 24 goals en route to winning the MLS MVP award in his first season with the Galaxy. He was even better in the playoffs, adding eight goals in six games for a total of 32 goals in 32 games.

In the regular season, no player other than Ruiz scored more than four goals and the Guatemalan's 32 goal tally in regular season and postseason play was five more than the rest of his teammates combines.

"We were on the search for a forward and there were conversations at that time about trying to make a deal because Dallas was trying to get rid of Ariel Graziani, who was a prominent forward. We were considering that one and then we were watching Carlos play up at the Rose Bowl in some qualifying games there," said Ralph Perez, who was an assistant coach

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on the 2002 team and now serves as the analyst on Galaxy radio broadcasts on KTLK 1150 AM. "Myself, Zak Abdel and Sigi (Schmid), were doing a training camp in San Diego of all places and we were driving back and forth to the games and that left lots of time for conversation and debate on which way to go on that one. Sigi went with the decision that we were going to go with the younger, unproven guy and it obviously turned out to be a great decision."

That was just one of many great decisions made by Schmid and his staff, who believed that they could get back to MLS Cup after losing to San Jose in extratime the year before. Chris Albright and Tyrone Marshall were brought in to stiffen the club's defense. Simon Elliott and Pete Vagenas, despite having just five years of professional experience between them, were paired in central midfield, giving Mauricio Cienfuegos more of a free role behind the forward pairing of Ruiz and Jones, who scored just three goals that season, but added a career-high 13 assists.

While many of those decisions and changes took time to settle, by the time the playoffs rolled around, nobody was playing better. After edging past Kansas City in the first round of playoffs, winning the first to five points series 6-3 winning two of the three games with Ruiz scoring four times and Jones adding three, to equal his regular season total, LA cruised past Colorado, winning each of the first two games by a combined 5-0 scoreline to advance to their second straight MLS Cup and third in four years.

While the title game on that cool October afternoon



was by no means a classic, the result was all that mattered. The Galaxy dominated the match but were unable to find a breakthrough in regulation. The first half of extra time was the same as the players tired but kept pushing for a goal that would settle MLS Cup. That goal finally came in the 113th minute when Ruiz got on the end of a Tyrone Marshall cross and hit a first time shot into the New England goal to set of a series of wild celebrations.

Ten years on from that moment, the players may be a bit older and find themselves spread out around the country, some playing, some coaching and some no longer a part of the game. But you can bet that when they get together, the first topic that comes up is October 20, 2002, the day they permanently wrote their names in Galaxy history. ■


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THE PLAYOFF PUSH

Presented by HERBALIFE.



On June 17, just before the Galaxy played their first regular season game in more than three weeks, Bruce Arena's team found themselves in last place in the Western Conference. The first 13 games of the season had yielded just three wins and 11 points, leaving the Galaxy looking up at the rest of their conference foes. A repeat of their MLS Cup success from the year before was not even in the realm of possibility according to many who said that the Galaxy would have to fight and claw just to reach the playoffs.

What a difference three months can make.

A 1-0 win over Portland on that June afternoon started a stretch 16 games that has seen the club go 11-3-2 to move from ninth to third and a fourth straight postseason berth is all but assured. Following Chivas USA's late 1-0 loss at Columbus on Wednesday, the Galaxy can now clinch their spot in the MLS Cup Playoffs with a win

tonight over Toronto FC.

The four teams at the top of the Western Conference, San Jose, Seattle, LA and Real Salt Lake, have separated themselves from the rest of the conference. San Jose have a league-best 57 points with five games to go and have already qualified for the postseason. The Galaxy, Seattle and RSL are all within two points of each other, though Seattle, who

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WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	GD
SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	29	17	6	6	57	60	35	+25
SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	28	13	6	9	48	44	29	+15
LA GALAXY	29	14	11	4	46	50	40	+10
REAL SALT LAKE	29	14	11	4	46	38	33	+5
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	29	10	12	7	37	29	38	-9
FC DALLAS	30	9	12	9	36	35	38	-3
COLORADO RAPIDS	29	9	18	2	29	36	43	-7
PORTLAND TIMBERS	29	7	14	8	29	30	49	-19
CHIVAS USA	28	7	14	7	28	21	44	-23

THE PLAYOFF PUSH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

are second with 48 points, have a game in hand. All three could qualify for the postseason with wins this weekend.

With their playoff ticket as good as secured, the Galaxy can now begin shifting their focus toward finishing in one of the top three spots in the conference, allowing them to avoid the Knockout Round (to be played on October 31 or November 1) that will pit the conference's fourth place team against the fifth place team with the winner advancing to face the conference's top seed.

Home games against Real Salt Lake and Seattle still await the Galaxy, as do road trips to Colorado and San Jose, meaning that all four of LA's remaining regular season games come against Western Conference foes, with three of those coming against teams that they could likely face in the playoffs.

In addition to their game against the Galaxy on October 6, RSL play away to Seattle in an important six-pointer while they host Chivas USA and Vancouver, who are trying to maintain their grip on the fifth and final playoff spot despite losing their last five.

Starting with tonight's home game against San Jose, the Sounders face each of the top six teams in the conference, hosting Salt Lake and sixth place FC Dallas while playing away to their Cascadia Cup rivals Vancouver and Portland before ending the season at The Home Depot Center against the Galaxy on October 28.

San Jose close out their best season since returning to MLS in 2008 with three of their last four games coming against teams that are currently on the outside of the playoff picture, hosting FC Dallas while playing away to Colorado and Portland in addition to an October 21 showdown with the Galaxy at Buck Shaw Stadium.



REMAINING SCHEDULES

LA GALAXY

SUN 9/30	at Colorado Rapids
SAT 10/6	vs. Real Salt Lake
SUN 10/21	at San Jose Earthquakes
SUN 10/28	vs. Seattle Sounders F

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

SAT 9/29	vs. FC Dallas
SAT 10/6	at Colorado Rapids
SUN 10/21	vs. LA Galaxy
SAT 10/27	at Portland Timbers

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

SAT 9/29	at Vancouver Whitecaps FC
SUN 10/7	vs. Portland Timbers
WED 10/17	vs. Real Salt Lake
SUN 10/21	vs. FC Dallas
SUN 10/28	at LA Galaxy

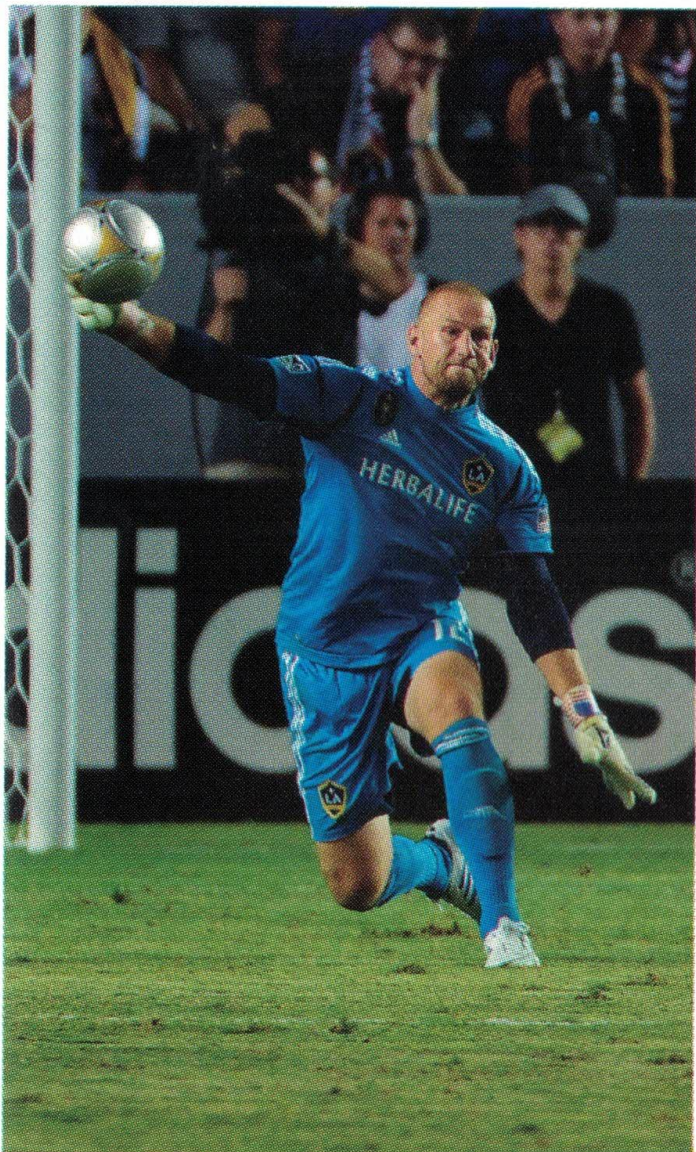
REAL SALT LAKE

SAT 9/29	at Chivas USA
SAT 10/6	at LA Galaxy
WED 10/17	at Seattle Sounders FC
SAT 10/27	vs. Vancouver Whitecaps FC



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH JOSH SAUNDERS

Presented by  HERBALIFE.



The Galaxy's steady climb up the Western Conference standings can be attributed to a number of factors: the form of strikers Robbie Keane and Landon Donovan, the midfield play of Marcelo Sarvas and Juninho, the return of Omar Gonzalez and a healthy backline. Another invaluable piece of the puzzle for Bruce Arena and the Galaxy has been the play of goalkeeper Josh Saunders. Since rejoining the club in late June following a month long absence, Saunders has started all 16 of LA's regular season matches, helping the Galaxy regain the stingy defensive form that led the club to consecutive Supporters' Shields in 2010 and 2011 and last year's MLS Cup. The Galaxy have won 11 of those 16 games and taken 35 of a possible 48 points to move from last place in the West to the verge of a postseason berth. Additionally, Saunders has kept a clean sheet in eight of the club's 16 games since June 17, tying

a career-high for shutouts that he set last season.

Ahead of tonight's match against Toronto FC, we caught up with Saunders to talk about the team's form, the return of the defensive strength, and the push towards the playoffs. Here's what he had to say...

WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THE CLUB'S RECENT FORM, ESPECIALLY DEFENSIVELY?

JS: You know, we said it all along, we were so close to being at the point we wanted to be. We're still not there yet but you can tell that we're getting there and we feel confident with each other. Our spacing is really good and our belief and our ability to defend is amazing."

ESPECIALLY AFTER THE TEAM'S STRUGGLES EARLIER THIS SEASON, HOW GRATIFYING IS IT TO BE PLAYING THE WAY THAT YOU GUYS ARE RIGHT NOW?

JS: It feels great, but at the same time we can't rest on the things that we're currently doing. We always have to do better because other teams are trying to do better as well. So we're continually tweaking things and looking at ways to get better. **IS THERE A SPECIFIC MOMENT THAT YOU CAN POINT TO IN THIS RECENT RUN OF FORM AND SAY THAT WAS THE POINT WHEN IT ALL CAME TOGETHER?**

JS: Not really, because I think we're getting better continually, you would like to say 'if we win MLS Cup', that's the point right there. But at the same time, like I've said, we're getting better every game, so we don't have to pick that one point, we just continue to get shutouts and win games."

TORONTO FC COMES IN THIS WEEKEND AND THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN ELIMINATED FROM PLAYOFF CONTENTION, HOW IMPORTANT NOT TO OVERLOOK A TEAM LIKE THAT AT THIS POINT OF THE SEASON?

JS: Extremely, because those are points to gain toward home field advantage, the Supporters' Shield, things like that. So, you can't look past any team in this league. Anyone can beat anyone; we saw that in Champions League this year. So we can't look past them."

YOU MENTION THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LOSS FROM MARCH, DOES THAT RESULT STILL STICK WITH YOU?

JS: Absolutely it does. I mean obviously we had aspirations to go forward and try to get to the Championship and play in the Club World Cup, so yeah, it does sting a little bit so we won't be taking this game lightly."



ONE-ON-ONE WITH U-15 GOALKEEPER ABRAHAM ROMERO

ACADEMY



At 15, Abraham Romero found himself a long way from home last month—almost 2,000 miles away from his home to be exact. The teenager from Pasadena was in Mexico City at Mexico's "Centro de Alto Rendimiento," the official training ground of the Mexican Football Federation, training with the county's U-15 National Team.

While in the Mexican capital, the LA Galaxy U-16 goalkeeper got an opportunity to meet with many of the current members of El Tri, including goalkeepers Jesus Ochoa and Guillermo Ochoa, as they were preparing to travel to Costa Rica for a World Cup Qualifier, a game that they went on to win 1-0.

His experience with Mexico's youth national team time was his first in that system, which has been very successful recently, but it wasn't his first experience with a national team. Romero has been a part of a couple of camps with the U.S. U-15 National Team as well. He even represented the U.S. at the Copa Mexico de Naciones tournament, which included games against national teams from Colombia, Costa Rica and Spain, earlier this year.

We caught up with Romero recently to get his thoughts on training with Mexico's U-15 National Team, playing in the LA Galaxy Academy system and hob-knobbing with Corona and Ochoa.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE TRAINING WITH MEXICO'S U-15 NATIONAL TEAM?

AR: It was really good. There's a lot of talent over there, very good coaching staff. We got to spend time with the first team and they're very good. We were able to talk to them, we were able to ask them questions, it was good. They gave us advice, as in 'stay in school' and 'try your best,' that kind of stuff.

YOU SPENT SOME TIME WITH MEXICO'S GOALKEEPERS, WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

AR: I talked to (Jesus) Corona for a little bit, and (Guillermo) Ochoa, they told me to stay focused and that all the hard work, not being able to go out with your friends at times, not being able to go to that one party, it pays off in the end.

AT WHAT AGE DID YOU START PLAYING SOCCER?

AR: I started playing when I was three or four. I grew up in Pasadena. I've been playing ever since then and I haven't stopped.

DID YOU EVER DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE PLAYED FOR TWO YOUTH NATIONAL TEAMS BY THE AGE OF 15?

AR: I honestly never saw myself playing where I am today. But it feels good to know that I've grown a lot, soccer wise.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO REPRESENT THE U.S. IN THE COPA MEXICO DE NACIONES?

AR: It was a really good experience. There was a lot of competition. I saw a lot of talent from other parts of the world, different styles of play. I felt like I learned a lot from that trip. There were a lot of little details I saw that I could work on as a team player and just on my own. I bettered myself after that tournament.

YOU'RE IN YOUR FIRST YEAR WITH THE U-16 ACADEMY TEAM, WHAT HAS THAT EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE SO FAR?

AR: It's been good. I like the team; they're fun to play with. I've played with most of them since last year and they're all really good players. I feel like we'll do well this season.

YOUR GOAL IS TO ONE DAY BECOME A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER. WHAT KIND OF ENCOURAGEMENT DOES BEING IN A SYSTEM THAT HAS PRODUCED PROS LIKE JACK MCBEAN AND JOSE VILLARREAL PROVIDE?

AR: It gives me a lot of hope that I could get to that level someday. It gives me more energy to train, it helps me strive for better. They are players that I have trained with for about a year, I've seen them going into the first team, and I feel it's not that far for me.



DID YOU KNOW

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- **WITH HIS GOAL** against Colorado last week, Christian Wilhelmsson became the first Galaxy player to score on his debut for the club this season. In 2011, both Robbie Keane and Jack McBean scored in their Galaxy debuts. The only other current Galaxy players to have scored on their debut for the club are Edson Buddle and Landon Donovan.
- **WITH HIS GOAL** against the Rapids, Robbie Keane now has a goal or an assist in nine of his last 10 games with the Galaxy. Keane is tied for sixth in MLS with 12 regular season goals while he has a team-best 13 in all competitions.
- **MARCELO SARVAS** assisted on each of LA's goals against the Rapids last week. Those were the first two assists of his MLS career. That was the fourth multi-assist game for a Galaxy player this season: Sean Franklin had two assists against Portland on July 14, David Beckham had two against Chivas USA on July 21 and Landon Donovan had four against Chivas USA on August 12.



- **LA'S FIVE-GAME UNBEATEN STREAK** (4-0-1 dating back to the August 5 loss at Seattle) in MLS play is currently the second longest in MLS and equals the club's longest unbeaten streak of the season. LA also went 4-0-1 from July 8-July 28, meaning that the club is 8-1-2 in their last 11 league games.
- **TONIGHT'S GAME IS LA'S FINAL** game of the year against an Eastern Conference opponent. In their first nine games against the East, LA are just 2-5-2, including 1-3-0 at home with the only win coming against D.C. United on March 18.

NUTRITION OF CHAMPIONS



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