

# LA GALAXY

Sunday, July 7, 2013

adidas



# HERBALIFE

## GAMEDAY PROGRAM

FC DALLAS



Match Presented by

SPORTSNET

DEPORTES

Presented by  **HERBALIFE**



# THE TEAMS



vs



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## MATCH STATS LA GALAXY

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		

YELLOW:

RED:

GOALSCORERS:

## MATCH STATS FC DALLAS

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		

YELLOW:

RED:

GOALSCORERS:

## MATCH RESULT

HT SCORE:

FT SCORE:

NOTES:

# 2012 MLS CUP CHAMPIONS



Presented by HERBALIFE

## LA GALAXY

Head Coach: Bruce Arena

#	Player	Pos.
1	Carlo Cudicini	GK
2	Todd Dunivant	D
4	Omar Gonzalez	D
5	Sean Franklin	D
6	Pabloe Mastroeni	M
7	Robbie Keane	F
8	Marcelo Sarvas	M
10	Landon Donovan	F
11	Colin Clark	M
12	Brian Rowe	GK
14	Robbie Rogers	M
16	Hector Jimenez	M
17	Bryan Gaul	D
19	Juninho	M
20	A.J. DeLaGarza	D
21	Tommy Meyer	D
22	Leonardo	D
24	Brian Perk	GK
25	Rafael Garcia	M
26	Michael Stephens	M
27	Charlie Rugg	F
28	Kofi Opare	D
29	Gyasi Zardes	F
30	Chandler Hoffman	F
32	Jack McBean	F
33	Jose Villarreal	F
34	Kenney Walker	M
35	Greg Cochrane	D
36	Oscar Sorto	D

## DALLAS FC

Head Coach: Schellas Hyndman

#	Player	Pos.
	Jesse Gonzalez	GK
	Moises Hernandez	D
1	Raul Fernandez	GK
3	Ugo Ihemelu	D
4	Andrew Jacobson	M
5	Jair Benitez	D
6	Jackson	M
7	Blas Perez	F
8	Peter Luccin	M
9	Ramon Nunez	M
10	David Ferreira	M
11	Fabian Castillo	M
13	Bradlee Baladez	M
14	George John	D
16	Bobby Warshaw	D
17	Zach Loyd	D
18	Chris Seitz	GK
21	London Woodberry	D
22	Stephen Keel	D
23	Kellyn Acosta	D
24	Matt Hedges	D
25	Walker Zimmerman	D
27	Je-Vaughn Watson	M
28	Victor Ulloa	M
29	Eric Hassli	F
30	Kyle Zobeck	GK
31	Michel	M
32	Jonathan Top	F
33	Kenny Cooper	F
40	Richard Sanchez	GK



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**CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
2000

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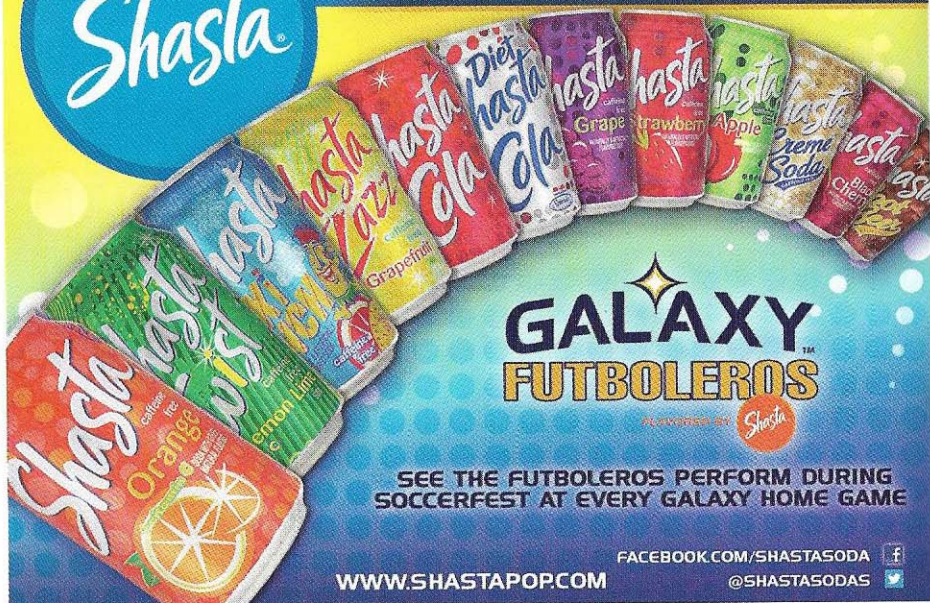
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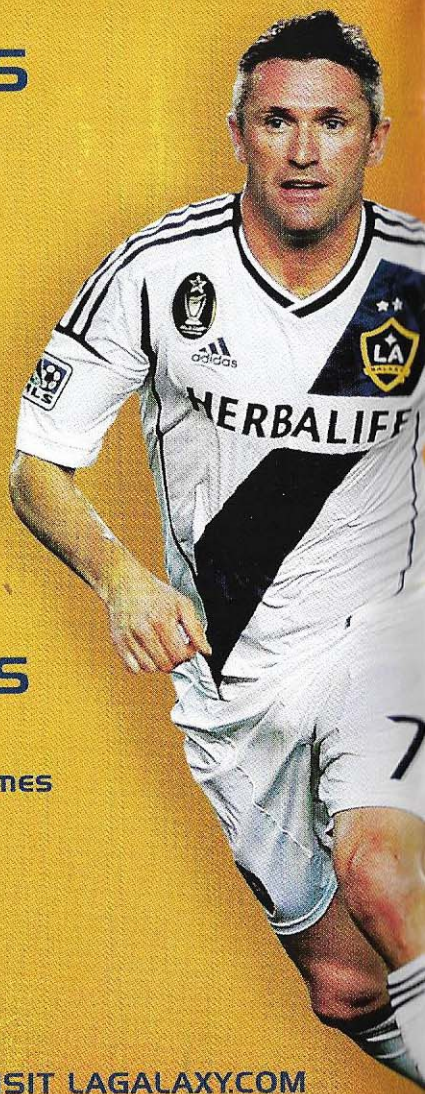
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# 2013 SCHEDULE



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## LA GALAXY 2013 SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT	TV/GOALSCORERS
SUNDAY	MARCH 3	VS. CHICAGO FIRE	4:0 W	MAGEE (3), KEANE
THURSDAY	MARCH 7	AT HEREDIANO	0-0 T	--
<b>2012-13 CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTERFINAL - FIRST LEG</b>				
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 13	VS. HEREDIANO	4-1 W	GONZALEZ, VILLARREAL, KEANE, MCBEAN
<b>2012-13 CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTERFINAL - SECOND LEG</b>				
SUNDAY	MARCH 17	VS. CHIVAS USA	1-1 T	MCBEAN
SATURDAY	MARCH 23	VS. COLORADO RAPIDS	1-0 W	MAGEE
SATURDAY	MARCH 30	AT TORONTO FC	2-2 T	MAGEE, VILLARREAL
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 3	VS. MONTERREY	2-1 L	DELAGARZA
<b>2012-13 CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMIFINALS - FIRST LEG</b>				
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 10	AT MONTERREY	0-1 L	--
<b>2012-13 CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMIFINALS - SECOND LEG</b>				
SATURDAY	APRIL 13	AT FC DALLAS	0-1 L	--
SATURDAY	APRIL 20	VS. SPORTING KANSAS CITY	2-0 W	SARVAS, DONOVAN
SATURDAY	APRIL 27	AT REAL SALT LAKE	2-0 W	MAGEE, RUGG
SUNDAY	MAY 5	VS. HOUSTON DYNAMO	0-1 L	--
SATURDAY	MAY 11	AT VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	1-3 L	ZARDES
WEDNESDAY	MAY 15	AT PHILADELPHIA UNION	4-1 W	KEANE, JIMENEZ, DONOVAN
SUNDAY	MAY 19	AT NEW YORK RED BULLS	0-1 L	--
SUNDAY	MAY 26	VS. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	4-0 W	FRANKLIN, KEANE (3)
WEDNESDAY	MAY 29	AT CAROLINA RAILHAWKS	0-2 L	--
<b>2013 LAMAR HUNT U.S. OPEN CUP THIRD ROUND</b>				
SUNDAY	JUNE 2	AT NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION	0-5 L	--
SATURDAY	JUNE 8	AT REAL SALT LAKE	1-3 L	DONOVAN
WEDNESDAY	JUNE 19	VS. PORTLAND TIMBERS	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SUNDAY	JUNE 23	AT CHIVAS USA	8 P.M.	TWCS/UNIMÁS
SATURDAY	JUNE 29	AT SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
THURSDAY	JULY 4	VS. COLUMBUS CREW	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SUNDAY	JULY 7	VS. FC DALLAS	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SATURDAY	JULY 13	AT PORTLAND TIMBERS	8 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SATURDAY	JULY 20	VS. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SATURDAY	JULY 27	AT COLORADO RAPIDS	6 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
THURSDAY	AUGUST 1	VS. REAL MADRID	7 P.M.	FOX SOCCER/FOX DEPORTES
<b>2013 GUINNESS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS CUP - UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM</b>				
SATURDAY	AUGUST 3	VS. EVERTON/JUVENTUS	7:30 P.M.	FOX SOCCER/FOX DEPORTES
<b>2013 GUINNESS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS CUP - DODGER STADIUM</b>				
TUESDAY	AUGUST 6	TBD	TBD	FOX SOCCER/FOX DEPORTES
<b>2013 GUINNESS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS CUP - SUN LIFE STADIUM</b>				
SUNDAY	AUGUST 11	AT FC DALLAS	5 P.M.	ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES
SATURDAY	AUGUST 17	VS. REAL SALT LAKE	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SATURDAY	AUGUST 24	AT VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC	6 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SATURDAY	AUGUST 31	VS. SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 7	VS. COLORADO RAPIDS	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 15	AT D.C. UNITED	2 P.M.	TWCS/UNIMÁS
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 21	VS. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	7:30 P.M.	NBC SPORTS NETWORK
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 29	AT PORTLAND TIMBERS	12:30 P.M.	NBC
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 6	VS. CHIVAS USA	2 P.M.	TWCS/UNIMÁS
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 16	VS. MONTREAL IMPACT	7:30 P.M.	TWCS/TWCD
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 20	VS. SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	6 P.M.	ESPN/ESPN DEPORTES
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 27	AT SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC	6 P.M.	ESPN/ESPN DEPORTES

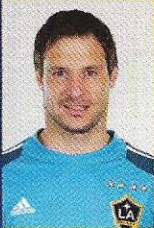
■ HOME GAME





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1 GK



Carlo **CUDICINI**

2 DEF



Todd **DUNIVANT**

4 DEF



Omar **GONZALEZ**

5 DEF



Sean **FRANKLIN**

11 MID



Colin **CLARK**

14 MID



Robbie **ROGERS**

12 GK



Brian **ROWE**

16 MID



Hector **JIMENEZ**

22 DEF



**LEONARDO**

24 GK



Brian **PERK**

25 MID



Rafael **GARCIA**

26 MID



Michael **STEPHENS**

32 FWD



Jack **MCBEAN**

33 FWD



Jose **VILLARREAL**

34 MID



Kenney **WALKER**

35 MID



Greg **COCHRANE**



# 2013 LA GALAXY ROSTER

6 MID



Pablo **MASTROENI**

7 FWD



Robbie **KEANE**

8 MID



Marcelo **SARVAS**

10 FWD



Landon **DONOVAN**

17 DEF



Bryan **GAUL**

19 MID



**JUNINHO**

20 DEF



A.J. **DELAGARZA**

21 DEF



Tommy **MEYER**

27 FWD



Charlie **RUGG**

28 DEF



Kofi **OPARE**

29 FWD



Gyasi **ZARDES**

30 FWD



Chandler **HOFFMAN**

36 DEF



Oscar **SORTO**

2012 MLS CUP  
CHAMPIONS



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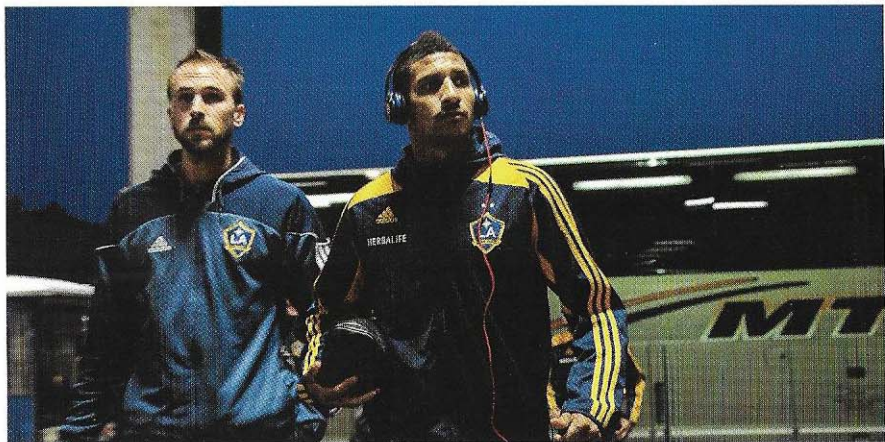
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# BEATS BY SEAN

Find out what Sean Franklin listens to when he walks into a stadium—and why

By Will Strome

**W**hen LA Galaxy players arrive on gamedays with their headphones on and iPods blaring fresh new tunes, it's clear that music is a key ingredient in the teams' regular pregame routine. Whether they're aiming to elevate their intensity level or simply trying to calm their nerves, music is essential for mental preparation. And with such a diverse mix of players on the Galaxy roster, personal music preferences vary quite a bit across the board spanning just about every genre imaginable.

One player with a wide assortment of musical interests is defender Sean Franklin. The Palmdale-native scored his first goal of the season, and the game-winner, during the Galaxy's 4-0 win over Seattle on May 26. Does music play a role in his game? It can. So what does he like to listen to when he walks into a stadium?

"My choices change from day-to-day depending on what kind of mood I'm in," he said. "But I always have some Lil Wayne, Jay-Z in there. If I want to just mellow out I'll put on some hip-hop like The Roots, Common, Mos Def...I mean I got a range of music."

Franklin's Top 10 pregame songs that he likes to listen to get ready for kickoff.

10. Tyga – Switch Lanes
9. Kanye West – H.A.M.
8. Rick Ross – So Sophisticated
7. Lil Wayne – Black is Hot
6. Jay-Z & Kanye West – Paris
5. Mos Def – Ms. Fat Booty
4. Common – Testify
3. The Roots – You Got Me
2. Jay-Z – Dead Presidents
1. Lil Wayne featuring 2 Chainz- Rich as

## Hidden Tracks...

**Favorite Artists:** Jay-Z, 2pac, Biggie, Lil Wayne, Common, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, The Roots, DJ Quik, Q-tip.

**Top artists for Pre game to pump me up:** Jay-Z, Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Tyga, Rick Ross.

**Top artists to mellow me out:** Common, the Roots, Mos Def ("Basically real hip hop.")

**Favorite song that reminds him of the old days:** Palmdale by Afroman.



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StubHub Center is a true partnership, and along with the Galaxy and AEG, StubHub firmly believes in making the live sports and entertainment experience exceptional, from the moment you pull your car in to the second you leave. It is this shared mission that has driven AEG and StubHub over the last several months in preparation to open StubHub Center.

Throughout the six-year agreement of the partnership, AEG and StubHub will work together to add things to the venue that will enhance the way fans experience StubHub Center. And, while the focus is on the little details, StubHub has also added a few new elements that you'll notice today.

This first thing you will notice is that StubHub's



beloved Ticket Oak will now have a place in the Southwest plaza of StubHub Center in Ticket Oak's Backyard, an outdoor space where we encourage you to just hang out and enjoy the venue. Included is a giant TV wall, made of nine flat screens that will display your social messages and live tweets in real time. You can also head over to the northwest corner of the stadium and take a commemorative photo to remember the special moments you have here with family and friends while attending events.

Through social media channels, StubHub and the Galaxy will be offering fans the opportunity

Foundation and StubHub Center Charitable Foundation to announce a three-year partnership for the summer Camps for Kids program that provides local youth groups with the opportunity to spend the day learning from and training with LA Galaxy coaches, while learning about living a healthy lifestyle and the importance of physical fitness. Through a grant of \$30,000, StubHub will help provide vital funding to keep this program flourishing and will help serve thousands of kids in the Carson and South Bay communities.

Thank you for joining us tonight for the



to sit in brand new StubHub field side "Dream Seats," which are plush, oversized chairs that are new to the venue. The dream seats will be offered in social media sweepstakes and will also be awarded to StubHub Rewards members. The dream seats will also be randomly given as instant upgrades to fans as they enter StubHub Center.

All things added to the venue have been created in enhancing the customer experience and bringing a more social, shareable space to life!

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inaugural season of StubHub Center. The collective goal of AEG, StubHub and StubHub Center is to continue a commitment to excellent customer service and improving the fan experience.

So put your feet up in Ticket Oak's backyard. Snap a photo out at the new commemorative photo ticket booth. And join the social conversation. We want to hear from you. More than anything, this is your venue and we want you to love it just as much as we do.

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# THE MAN THAT REPLACED BECKHAM

BY JAIME CARDENAS



**I**t was the 89th minute of MLS Cup 2012. The stadium was packed with a sold-out crowd of 30, 510. It was so loud players could hardly hear their teammates speak. The game was all but over, what with the LA Galaxy up 3-1 on the Houston Dynamo, but there was one more thing the masses wanted to see.

At that moment, David Beckham began to walk toward the sidelines. It would be the final time he would walk off the field wearing a Galaxy jersey and the moment was not lost on anyone, certainly not the man that was about to replace him on the field: Marcelo Sarvas.

"I was like everyone else, I was clapping and cheering," said Sarvas who gave Beckham a hug and congratulated him as he exited the field. "It was an emotional moment and I'm sure I won't forget it anytime soon."

The moment was very symbolic. Not only did Sarvas replace Beckham in that game but he's also replaced him in the starting lineup this year as well.

Sarvas' stellar on-field production and his

partnership with fellow countrymate Juninho in the central-midfielder has propelled the 31-year-old into first or second on the team in just about every statistical category this season. The former Corinthians, Mjallby and Alajuelense man is among the team leaders in assists, games played, minutes played, shots and first in fouls committed.

We sat down with Sarvas recently to find out what's made him feel more at ease in LA and also ask him if there is any pressure at all with having to replace Beckham.

**Q:** Is it fair to say you are more comfortable this year than you were last year?

"I think that normally the second season is a bit easier because you are more familiar with your teammates, you know how the organization works and you generally feel more at home. This year with David's departure I've had to assume his spot on the starting lineup and also assume some of his responsibilities on the field. This has

*Continued on page 21*



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made me bring out the best in me."

**Q:** What brought you to LA originally last year?

"When I signed with the Galaxy everyone wanted to play with David, this was a factor that attracted me to this team."

**Q:** Did you have any expectations of how much playing you would get last year?

"When I came here I didn't know what to expect, I knew they were a championship team and that most of its core players were returning and sometimes it's tougher to come into those situations. I played and started many games last season and it was a great experience, but this year I've had to take on more responsibility and do more in order to help this team."

**Q:** Is there any pressure having to replace an icon?

"There's no pressure. There are not many players in the world like David. He would give perfect balls, could drop passes from 40 yards with absolute perfection and there are not many players like that. I'm a player that has different qualities, helps out the team in a different way and I'm not trying to replace David. I'm just trying to work hard and do things the right way."

**Q:** So far you've received a lot of praise from fans and media alike for the way you are playing, what effect has that had on your season?

"I'm happy. I'm happy because to be recognized for doing things the right way makes me appreciate what I'm doing even more. I've said it before, and it's not a lie, players always work hard to win games, win championships and also to be acknowledged for playing hard and accomplishing big things. So this makes me happy and makes me work harder and pushes me to continue to do what I'm doing."

**Q:** What does the team need to do return to MLS Cup?

"When our team is together we are a strong team and very hard to beat, but we haven't had everyone available recently. But for the second half of the season I think everyone is going to be here and ready to play. We are in a much better place now than last year at this point of the season and I think having a positive attitude and having that support from our fans is what's going to help us get back to the championship game."

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**HOWARD**  
**DONOVAN**  
**RONALDO**

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A photograph of LA Galaxy soccer players celebrating a victory. They are holding a large silver trophy, and many players have their mouths open in a shout. The background is a blurred crowd of fans.

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JULY 7 • 7:30PM

AUGUST 31 • 7:30PM



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#4 OMAR GONZALEZ



#7 ROBBIE KEANE

## FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

JULY 4 • 7:30PM



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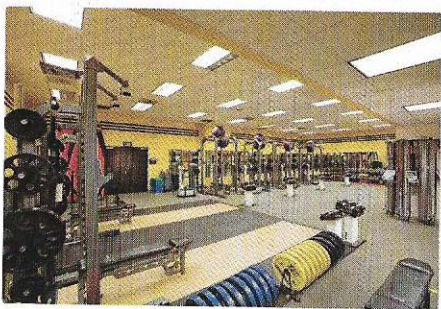
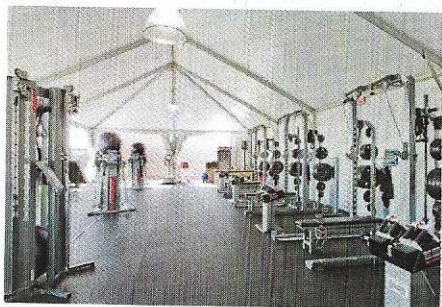
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## ACADEMY



# Peter Vagenas rejoins LA Galaxy

**P**eter Vagenas is a man who has given a lot to the Southern California soccer community. Now that his playing days are over, he's looking to continue to give back to the community that helped achieve so much.

Vagenas, who captained his high school team to a CIF Southern Section Championship his senior season and won an NCAA title with UCLA in 1997 as well guided the LA Galaxy to a pair of MLS and U.S. Open Cup titles, is the new Director of the LA Galaxy Academy.

Vagenas, a bona fide winner who also represented his country at the 2000 Summer Olympics and in World Cup Qualifiers, is looking to share with those in the Academy program what he has learned. After helping the Galaxy win MLS Cup titles in 2002 and 2005, his goal is to develop future Galaxy players.

We sat down with the Galaxy legend to get his thought on his new role with the club.

### **Q: ARE YOU HAPPY TO BE BACK WITH THE LA GALAXY?**

"I've never hid the fact about how special the LA Galaxy was to me and what a huge role the club had played not only in my development as a player but my growth as a man. I grew up within the club, established most of my relationships from within the club, so I'm both humbled and honored and just excited to give back to the club."

### **Q: WHAT ABOUT THIS PROJECT APPEALED TO YOU THE MOST?**

"For me it's an opportunity to reach into a demographic that not only I come from but hopefully I took great pride in representing. I'm a local kid. I grew up in Pasadena, I grew up within the Southern California youth club soccer system so to reach back into that and help kids progress through the ranks, hopefully use our Galaxy academy to get within our first team, is truly a dream come true because it's the exact path I took myself."

### **Q: HOW DID THIS OPPORTUNITY PRESENT ITSELF?**

"I established and maintained good relationships within the people of the LA Galaxy and I think in a way I was always headed back here in some capacity and it was just a matter of finding the right time and the right fit. So when this made itself available, I grasped it with both hands."

### **Q: WHAT'S IMPRESSED YOU ABOUT THE LA GALAXY ACADEMY SO FAR?**

"I think it's the potential of the idea of what this can become. We are recognized as probably the best academy in the country and I think we're just hitting our stride. The potential for the Galaxy academy is endless, especially with the development of our base groups, the younger kids. Starting with our U-12's we have not only fantastic soccer players but terrific kids





## ACADEMY

that have grown up watching the Galaxy which is something, quite frankly, that not even I got to experience. These kids dream with one day getting a chance to play in the stadium, if I can expedite that process in some way or make sure that happens it's something that I can't wait to get started with."

**Q: GIVEN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO PROVIDE THE PLAYERS IN THE ACADEMY WITH?**

"First off, I hope to provide a tangible example that you can make it. Sometimes becoming a professional athlete at the highest level or getting the opportunity to play for the Galaxy maybe seem farfetched, but myself and our coaches are hopefully daily tangible examples for these kids that if you put the effort forth and approach it the right way that your dreams can be achieved. So if I can give a little bit of extra hope to those kids that have the potential to make that next step, I think that would be fantastic."

**Q: DO YOU PLAN TO TEACH THE PLAYERS IN THE ACADEMY ABOUT THE "GALAXY WAY"?**

"I say this humbly and I say this as one of many former Galaxy players, current players can attest to this as well, the Galaxy have always stood for an idea, a feeling. It means something to play for this club, it means something to be part of this organization. The only way you try to tell people about it, the only way you realize it is to experience it. In everything we do we try and be the best. We're at the forefront of this league and as an organization, and as an academy as well, we embrace that and we humbly honor that. The Galaxy have always been bigger than any player, any coach, any staff and we buy into the idea of wanting to be part of something big. So in a positive way it's a sacrifice because you're constantly putting the LA Galaxy and the greater good of this club first, and that is something we will replicate at the academy level."



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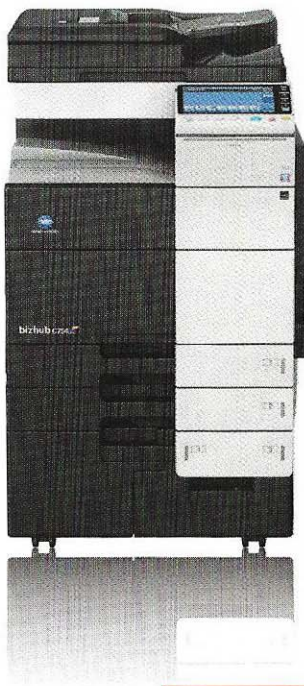
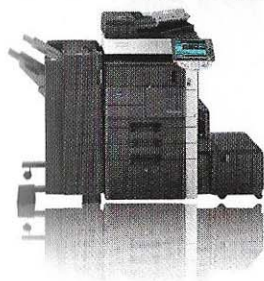




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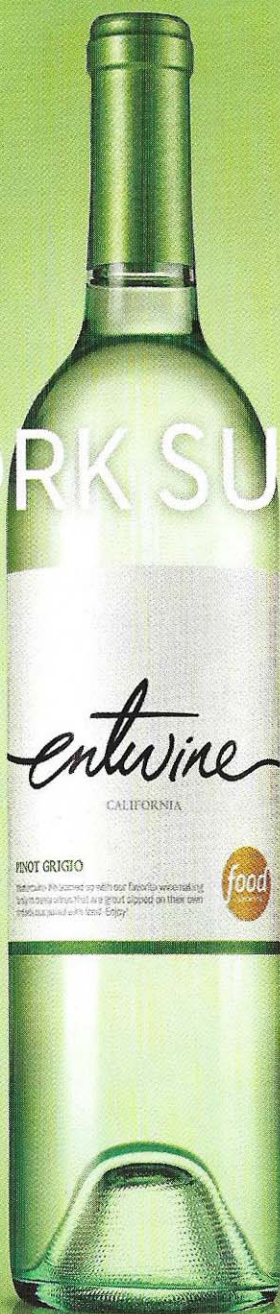
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# LA Galaxy Score a *Goal*

## with the community

By Will Strome

**M**emorial Day Weekend is a nationwide celebration synonymous with the start of summer. Here in Southern California, the weekend festivities at a local youth soccer tournament could be the very start of an aspiring athlete's soccer career.

The 12th annual COPA LA Soccer Tournament, driven by Chevrolet, was a three-day event held at the AB Brown Soccer Complex in Riverside, Calif. More than 100 boys' youth soccer teams, ages U-8 through U-19, from across the Southwest Region and Northern Mexico descended upon Southern California to compete in one of the largest unaffiliated tournaments in the Southwestern United States. The annual tournament has been gaining popularity and growing with each edition due to the quality of the staff.

Each team was guaranteed a minimum of three competitive matches prior to the elimination stages of the tournament. The largest age group was the U-16's that saw eight teams advance into a quarterfinal knockout format while other age groups advancing into a semifinal or final match format. Even though the tournament rewards success by crowning champions, the primary focus of the event is youth development.

"It gives teams the chance to play in a professionally organized soccer tournament in front of scouts from the LA Galaxy," said Camps and Clinics and San Development Manager Gordon Kljestan. "A lot of these teams that do come out are not (traditional) club teams, some were thrown together and having teams like that allow us to lower registration fees which allows

other teams to come in and compete."

But the tournament's excitement certainly wasn't limited to the action on the pitch. Galaxy defender Oscar Sorto, an academy and Homegrown product, made a special appearance on Saturday while the LA Galaxy Futboleros, Flavored by Shasta, dazzled fans with their dribbling skills and fancy footwork. Fans five-years-and-younger were also treated to a daily clinic, in partnership with First 5 California, to get kids active and have them try soccer for the first time in a cool environment.

Over in the "vendor village" spectators could find all active sponsorship partners promoting their services, including Shasta serving up free beverages and Chevrolet which provided three cars for viewing. An inflatable goal was available in the kids' zone for little ones to test their shooting ability on a blow-up version of Cosmo.

Those who competed received a COPA LA tournament t-shirt, the opportunity to purchase specially priced LA Galaxy tickets for participants and their families, individual medals and team trophies for the champions and runner-up in each of the 11 age groups.

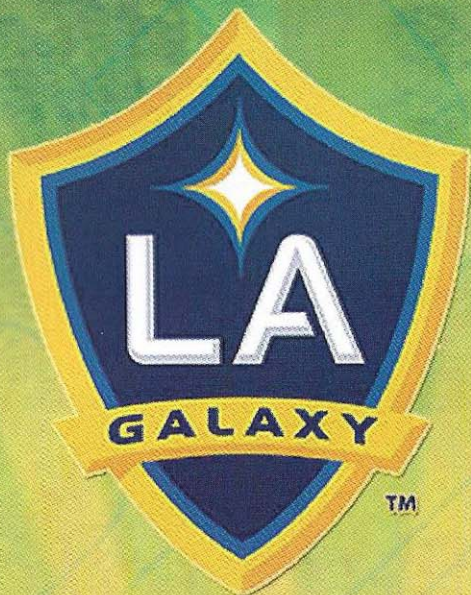
The Galaxy recognizes that all of the efforts could not have been done without the help and support of its sponsors and would like to extend a special thank you to Chevrolet, Herbalife, Adidas, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, City National Bank, First 5 California, Farmer John, Fiji Water, Heinz, Shasta and So Cal Tire Pros.

### List of the 2013 COPA LA Champions:

- U-8 Champion: EL TRI
- U-9 Champion: EL TRI
- U-10 Champion: IAGUNA FC
- U-11 Champion: OC REVOLUTION
- U-12 Champion: BLACK DOWNTOWN SC
- U-13 Champion: KIS ACADEMY SC
- U-14 Champion: DEPORTIVO HUIRA
- U-15 Champion: EAGLES 92231 FC
- U-16 Champion: GOLDEN STATE FC
- U-17 Champion: POLA FC
- U-19 Champion: ST. PATRICK







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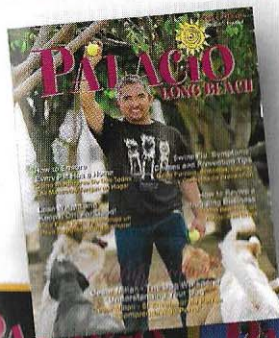


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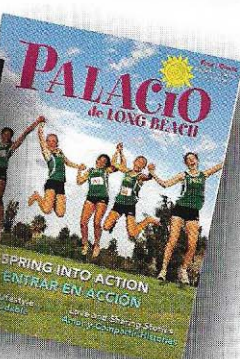
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# SoCal Native Makes History

*Rogers focus on regaining form, earning starting spot*

**R**obbie Rogers knows that he is embarking upon something historic, but the 26-year-old LA Galaxy midfielder is far more concerned about the normal.

Rogers, after all, is the first openly gay athlete to play in a major American team sport, but he's simply a man focused on regaining his form and contributing to his team. The Southern California native joined the Galaxy on May 25 after his rights were acquired from the Chicago Fire in exchange for LA fan-favorite Mike Magee.

Although he remains focused on the task of regaining his top form, he couldn't be focused on something so normal without the support of a unified Galaxy locker room.

"For 25 years, I've been afraid to share a secret with someone," Rogers said during his introductory press conference in May. "And I finally did that."

"I kept my secret because I thought I couldn't be both a soccer player and a gay athlete. I was afraid to be back in an environment that affected me in the past. After I finally got in here, everything was completely normal."

Having the spotlight shined on him is not something he is afraid of anymore.

"I think it is great to share this message with athletes and people around the world, and I hope it reaches people," said Rogers. "They need to see that I'm just like their son, that I'm an athlete that loves to play sports and I'm excited to get back to my sport."

Where Rogers will ultimately be judged, however, is not by his sexual orientation, but by his ability to perform on the field. Before retiring, the former Columbus Crew, Leeds United, and Stevenage man was a dynamic winger with ability to play on both flanks. In 2010, he almost made the U.S. roster for the 2010 World Cup but was one of the final cuts.

The one-time U.S. international had trained with the Galaxy for about a month before joining officially, and while his fitness is still a concern after his time away from the game, LA head coach Bruce Arena believes that he can provide a new dimension to the team.

"We've been searching for the last year or two for a player that has the skills to be a flank player, play wide and add a little speed to our club, take on players and [be a] good crosser of the ball with both of his feet," said Arena. "He offers



qualities that we've been looking for and we're hopeful that in time, Robbie will demonstrate the kind of qualities that he has previously in this league."

Rogers' new teammates are quick to agree with their head coach about the on the field and off the field impact.

"He's getting better and better, but Robbie needs games. Just like any player that's been away for a while, you need games," said London Donovan. "But he's very excited, so whenever he gets on the field, we'll be really excited for him."

Added Galaxy captain Robbie Keane: "No matter who you are or what you are, everyone is the same. We go to the toilet the same way; we do things the same way. There's no difference."

Ever steadily, we've begun to see the Rogers who was named to the MLS Best XI in 2008 emerge. Since making his Galaxy debut there have been flashes of the player who can make darting runs at defenders or shake his marker with a few clever step overs, but Rogers knows that he won't be back for good until he can perform at a high level consistently rather than in just brief moments.

"It feels great to have that kind of stuff," said Rogers. "I need to get 60 or 70 minutes and really push myself. It's about doing that stuff and then tracking back afterward and being able to do that again. I'm a winger and that's my job."

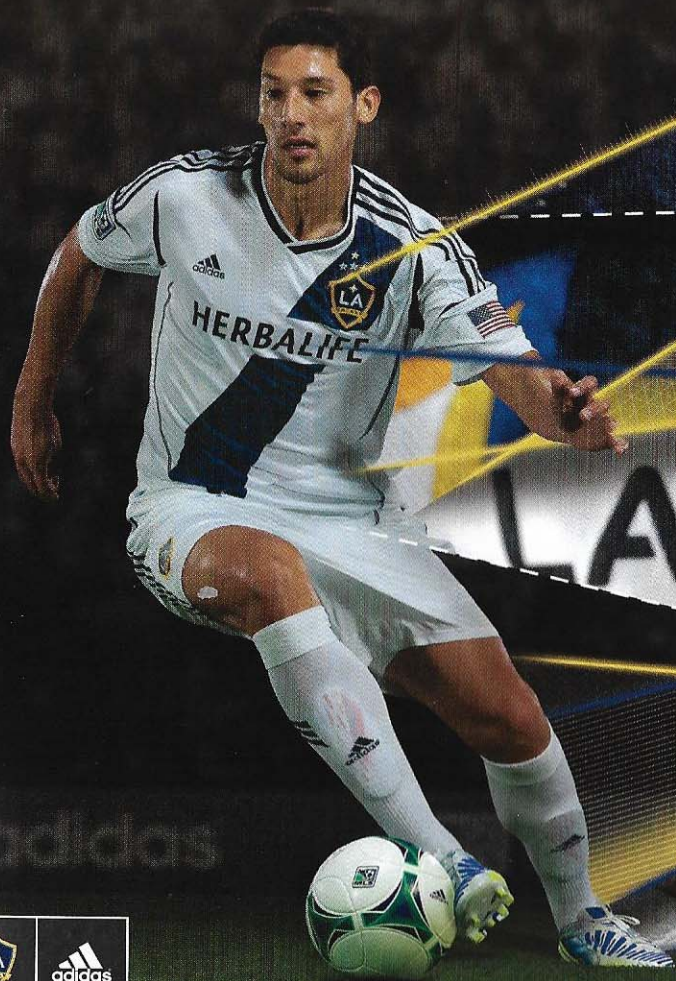
As LA continues to push for another championship, they'll need Rogers at his usual best.

Adam Serrano is the LA Galaxy Insider. Read his blog at [LAGalaxy.com/Insider](http://LAGalaxy.com/Insider) and contact him at [LAGalaxyInsider@Gmail.com](mailto:LAGalaxyInsider@Gmail.com).





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