

"You have left us quite a legacy and your boots will be hard to fill. Best wishes!" -**Tom Mack**

"You are an inspiration to me and every soccer player I know. Thank you."
-**Jesse Stewart**

"Thank you for being an inspiration to many. You will be missed."
-**Hanzel Guzman**

"Thanks for helping put American soccer on the world stage. You've inspired a whole new generation of players to carry the torch for America."
-**Brian Sturkie**

"I named my 5 year old son after Landon! Enough said!"
-**Brenda Morro**

"I'm proud to have your poster hanging on my wall."
-**Alexander Waldherr**

"Your way of playing looks like art to me."
-**Veronica Lopez**

#THANKSLD

MATCHDAY PROGRAM

LA Galaxy vs. Seattle Sounders
Sunday, October 19th at 5:30PM

match presented by

SAN MANUEL
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

THE TEAMS



vs



Presented by HERBALIFE.

MATCH STATS LA GALAXY

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		

YELLOW:

RED:

GOALSCORERS:

MATCH STATS SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		

YELLOW:

RED:

GOALSCORERS:

MATCH RESULT

HT SCORE:

FT SCORE:

NOTES:

LA GALAXY

Head Coach: Bruce Arena

#	Player	Pos.
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Brian Perk	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Todd Dunivant	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Omar Gonzalez	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Baggio Husidic	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Robbie Keane	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Marcelo Sarvas	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Alan Gordon	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Landon Donovan	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Gyasi Zardes	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Brian Rowe	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Robbie Rogers	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Rob Friend	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Jaime Penedo	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Juninho	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	A.J. DeLaGarza	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Tommy Meyer	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Leonardo	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Stefan Ishizaki	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Rafael Garcia	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	James Riley	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Charlie Rugg	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Chandler Hoffman	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Kyle Venter	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Jack McBean	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Dan Gargan	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Kenney Walker	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Oscar Sorto	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 38	Bradford Jamieson	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Raul Mendiola	FW

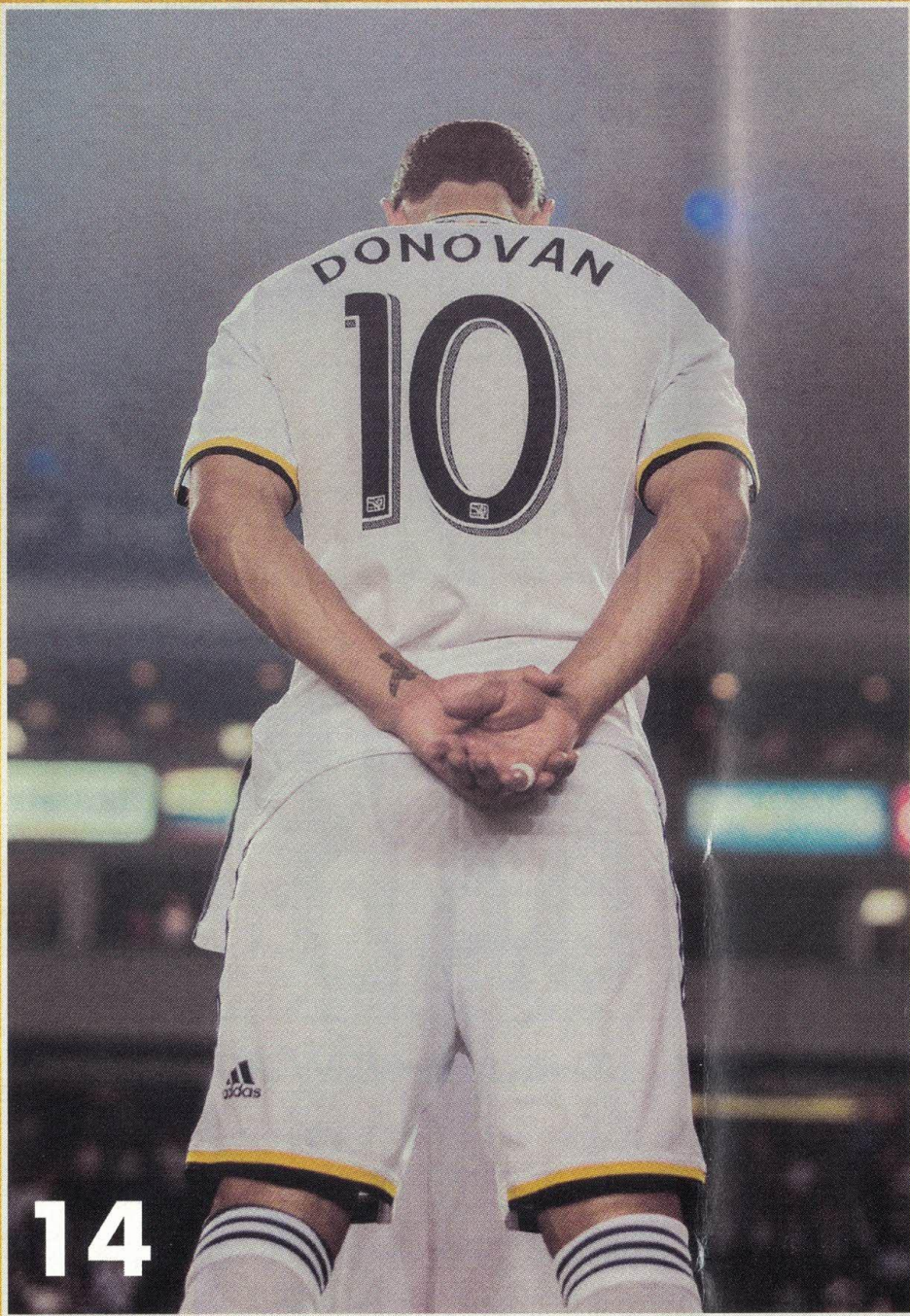
SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

Head Coach: Sigi Schmid

#	Player	Pos.
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Marcus Hahnemann	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Clint Dempsey	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Brad Evans	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Jalil Anibaba	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Andy Rose	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Oswaldo Alonso	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Tristan Bowen	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Gonzalo Pineda	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Obafemi Martins	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Marco Pappa	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Aaron Kovar	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Leonardo Gonzalez	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Sean Okoli	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Chad Marshall	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Dylan Remick	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	DeAndre Yedlin	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Djimi Traore	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Chad Barrett	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Zach Scott	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Eriq Zavaleta	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Cam Weaver	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Stefan Frei	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Aaron Long	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Onyekachi Apam	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Lamar Neagle	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Josh Ford	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Damion Lowe	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Kenny Cooper	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 42	Micheal Azira	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 77	Kevin Parsemain	F



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MLS CUP CHAMPIONS
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U.S. OPEN CUP CHAMPIONS
2001, 2005

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS
2000

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Open Letter From Landon Donovan

After careful deliberation and after many conversations with those closest to me, I have decided that this will be my last season as a professional soccer player.

I don't write these words lightly and this day carries mixed emotions for me. I am sad to leave a profession that has brought me so much joy. I will miss all of the teammates who helped me create so many incredible memories on-the-field, and who I have shared many wonderful experiences with off-the-field. I will miss my coaches, at both the club and national team levels, who have helped me develop throughout my career and helped make me the player I am today. However, after spending half my life as a professional soccer player, I also am excited to begin a new chapter and pursue other opportunities that will challenge me and allow me to grow as a person.

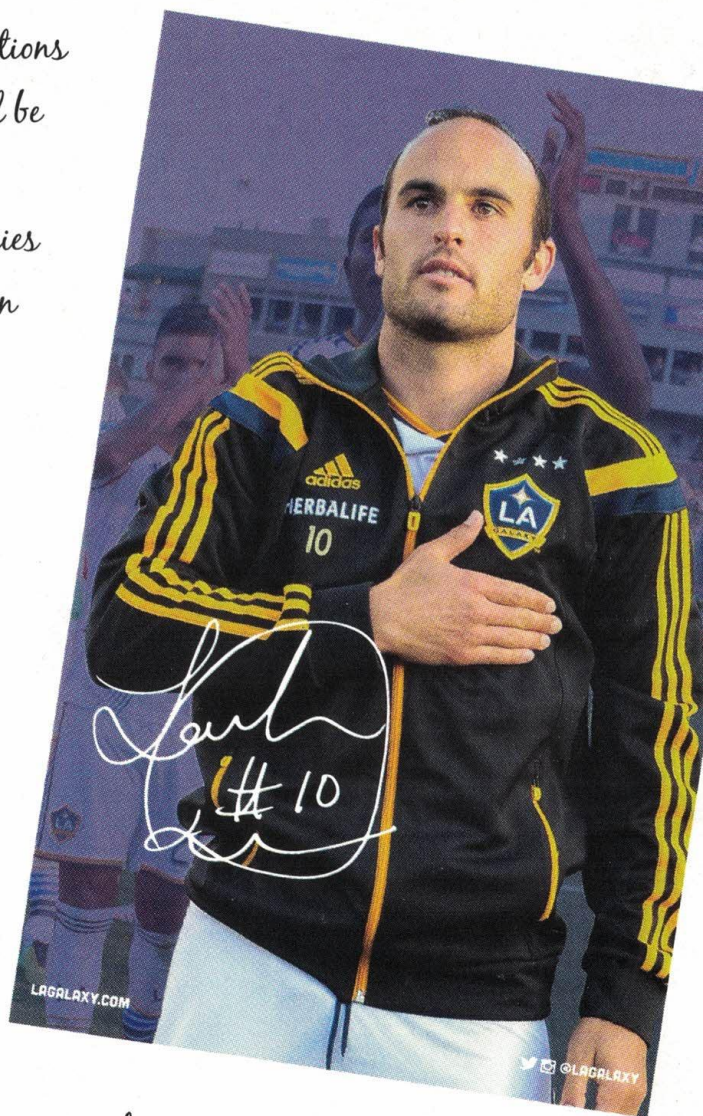
There are so many people I want to thank who have inspired me, guided me and helped me on this incredible journey. I simply could not have accomplished what I did during my playing career without an overwhelming amount of support from my family, my friends and many others. I plan to express my gratitude to everyone in a more detailed manner at a later date; however, for now, I want to single out the fans. You are the lifeblood of this sport and, without you, none of us would be fortunate to call ourselves professional soccer players in MLS.

I feel incredibly blessed and lucky to have played a role in the remarkable growth of MLS and US Soccer during my playing career. And while my career as a player will soon be over, rest assured I will stay connected on many levels to the beautiful game.

As we enter a transformative time for the sport, I will do everything I can to help the continued growth of soccer in the United States. I look forward to making a difference, pursuing my passions and meeting all of you along the way in this next phase of my life.

With gratitude,

Landon



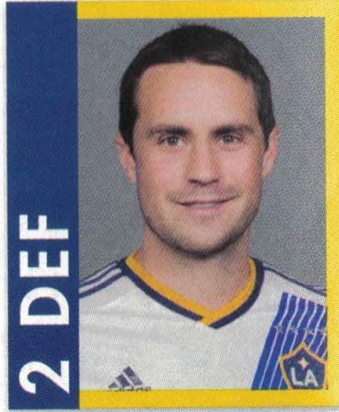


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1 GK

Brian **PERK**



2 DEF

Todd **DUNIVANT**



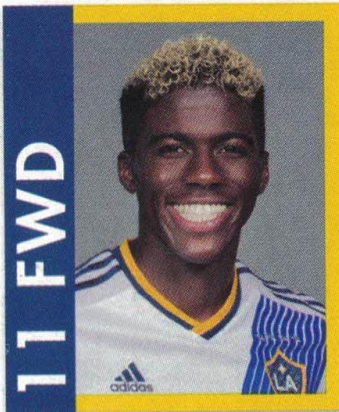
4 DEF

Omar **GONZALEZ**



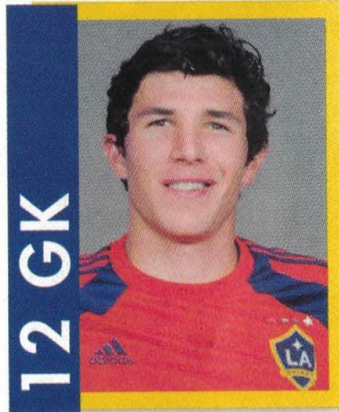
6 DEF

Baggio **HUSIDIC**



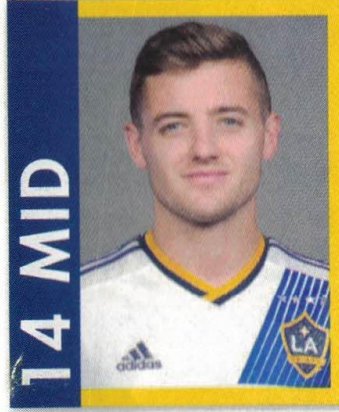
11 FWD

Gyasi **ZARDES**



12 GK

Brian **ROWE**



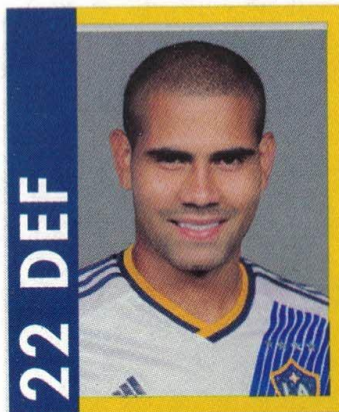
14 MID

Robbie **ROGERS**



16 FWD

Rob **FRIEND**



22 DEF

LEONARDO



24 MID

Stefan **Ishizaki**



25 MID

Rafael **GARCIA**



26 DEF

James **Riley**



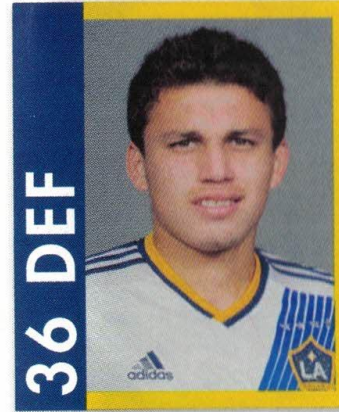
33 DEF

Dan **Gargan**



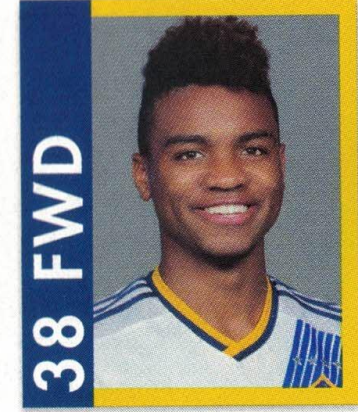
34 MID

Kenney **WALKER**



36 DEF

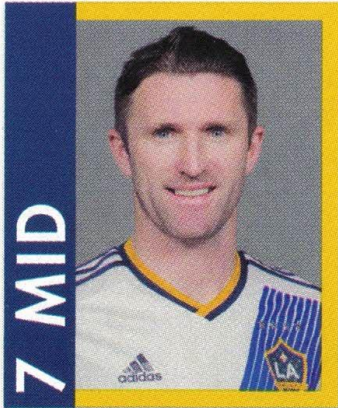
Oscar **SORTO**



38 FWD

Bradford **JAMIESON IV**

2014 LA GALAXY ROSTER



Robbie **KEANE**



Marcelo **SARVAS**



Alan **Gordon**



Landon **DONOVAN**



Jaime **PENEDO**



JUNINHO



A.J. **DELAGARZA**



Tommy **MEYER**



Charlie **RUGG**



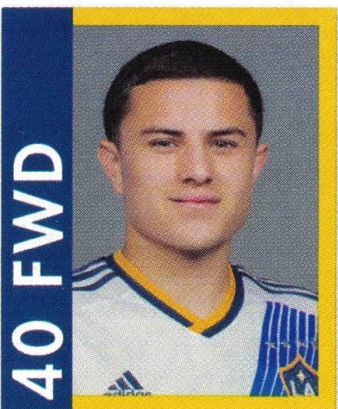
Chandler **HOFFMAN**



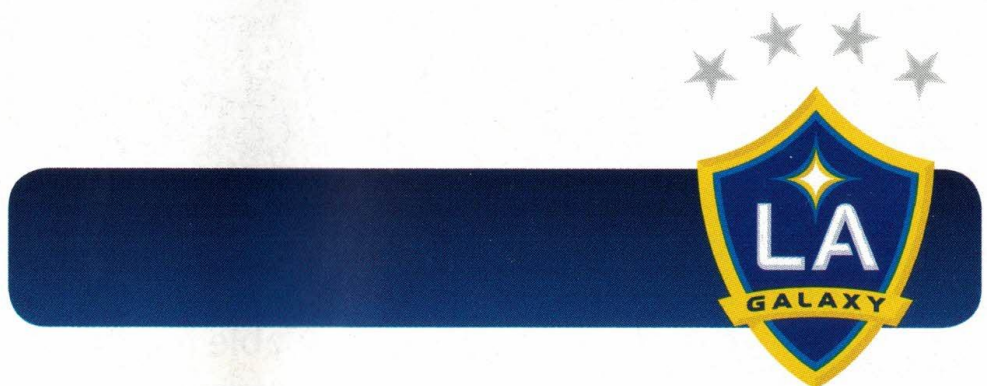
Kyle **VENTER**



Jack **MCBEAN**



Raul **MENDIOLA**



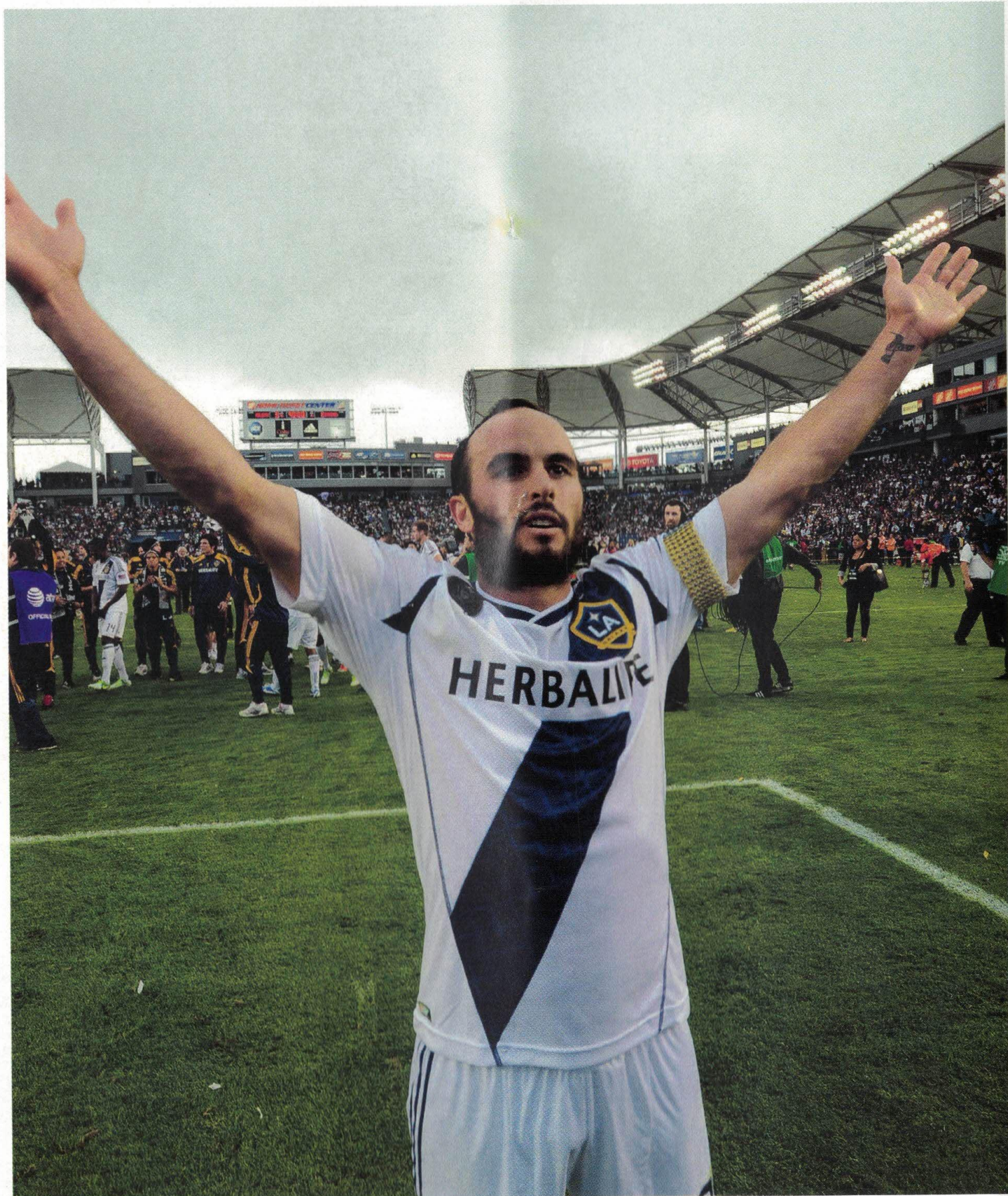
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An Ode to Landon

By Adam Serrano

Ever since the 2002 World Cup, we have been awed by his exploits and celebrated (most of) his triumphs, but the 2014 campaign will be Landon Donovan's last. His retirement signals the end of an amazing era for soccer in this country. Donovan led the Galaxy to three MLS Cups and appeared in three FIFA

World Cups. He has more goals and assists than any other American man to ever play the game. This season, he became Major League Soccer's all-time leading scorer, and months later added the all-time MLS assist mark to his sterling resume. He is, simply, the most dominant player in the history of American soccer.



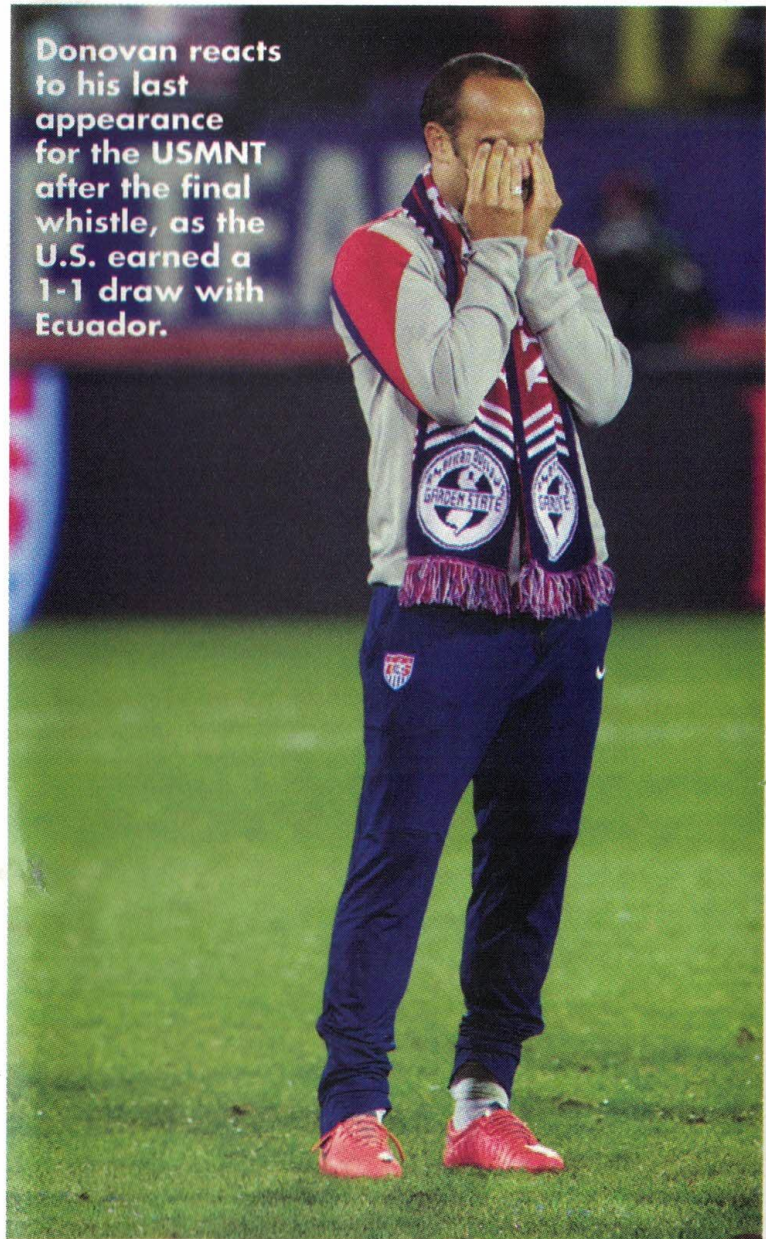
Landon Donovan's last USMNT match

Donovan wears captain's armband in friendly against Ecuador

Landon Donovan played in his final match for the U.S. Men's National Team on Friday, Aug. 10 in a friendly match against Ecuador at Rentschler Field in West Hartford, Connecticut. Donovan finishes his international career with 157 appearances and a U.S.-leading 57 goals and 58 assists. In his final moment on the field for his country, Donovan was substituted off to a standing ovation in the 41st minute.

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BUTLER II/USA TODAY SPORTS

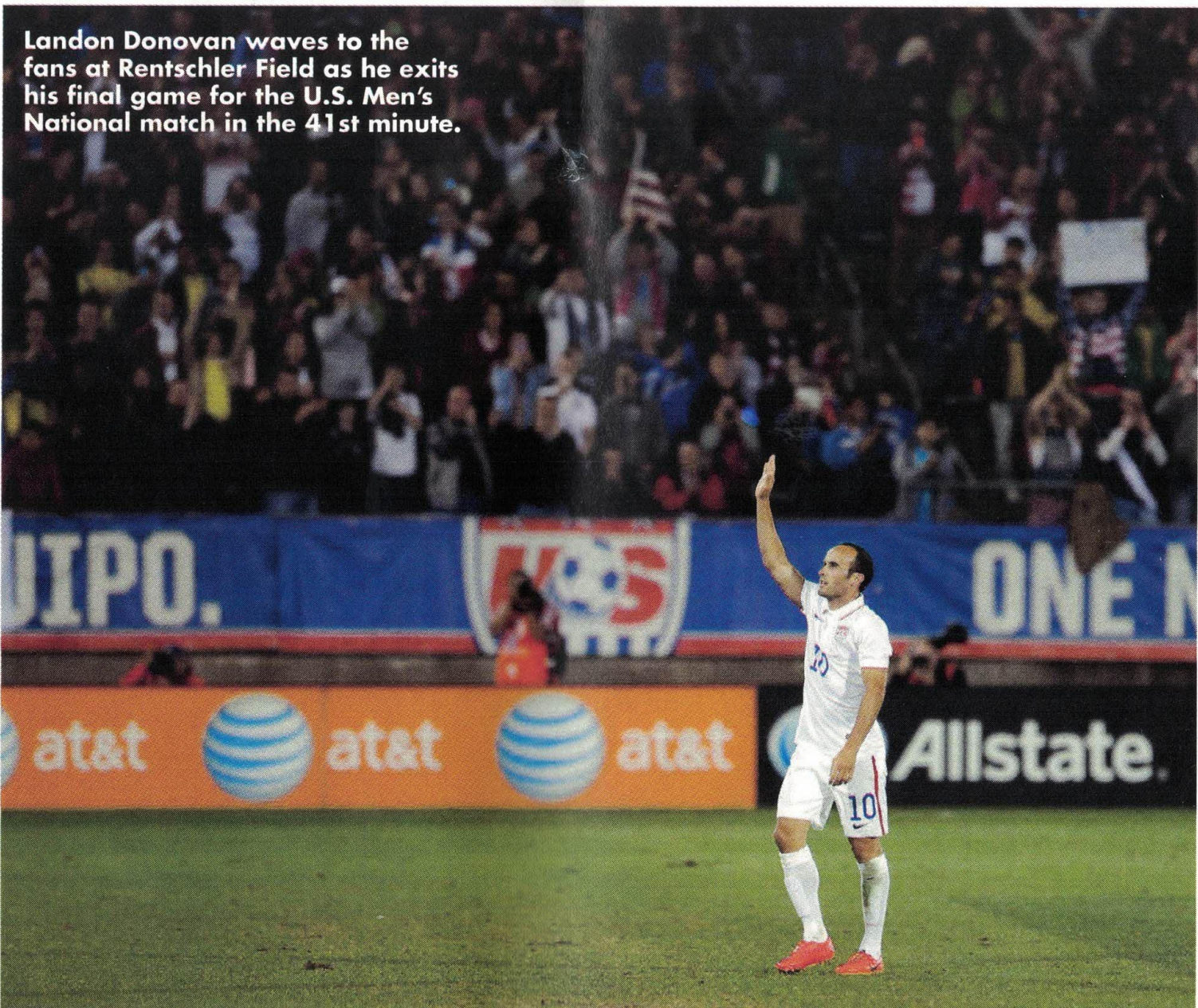
Donovan reacts to his last appearance for the USMNT after the final whistle, as the U.S. earned a 1-1 draw with Ecuador.



Donovan takes a corner kick in front of over 31,000 fans who attended the match in West Hartford, Conn. to see the final game for the U.S.' all-time leader in goals and assists.



U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati presents Donovan with a gift prior to kickoff. The framed item contains a piece of every USMNT jersey that Donovan had worn throughout his career.



Landon Donovan waves to the fans at Rentschler Field as he exits his final game for the U.S. Men's National match in the 41st minute.

Landon Donovan sets new all-time MLS assist record

By Adam Serrano

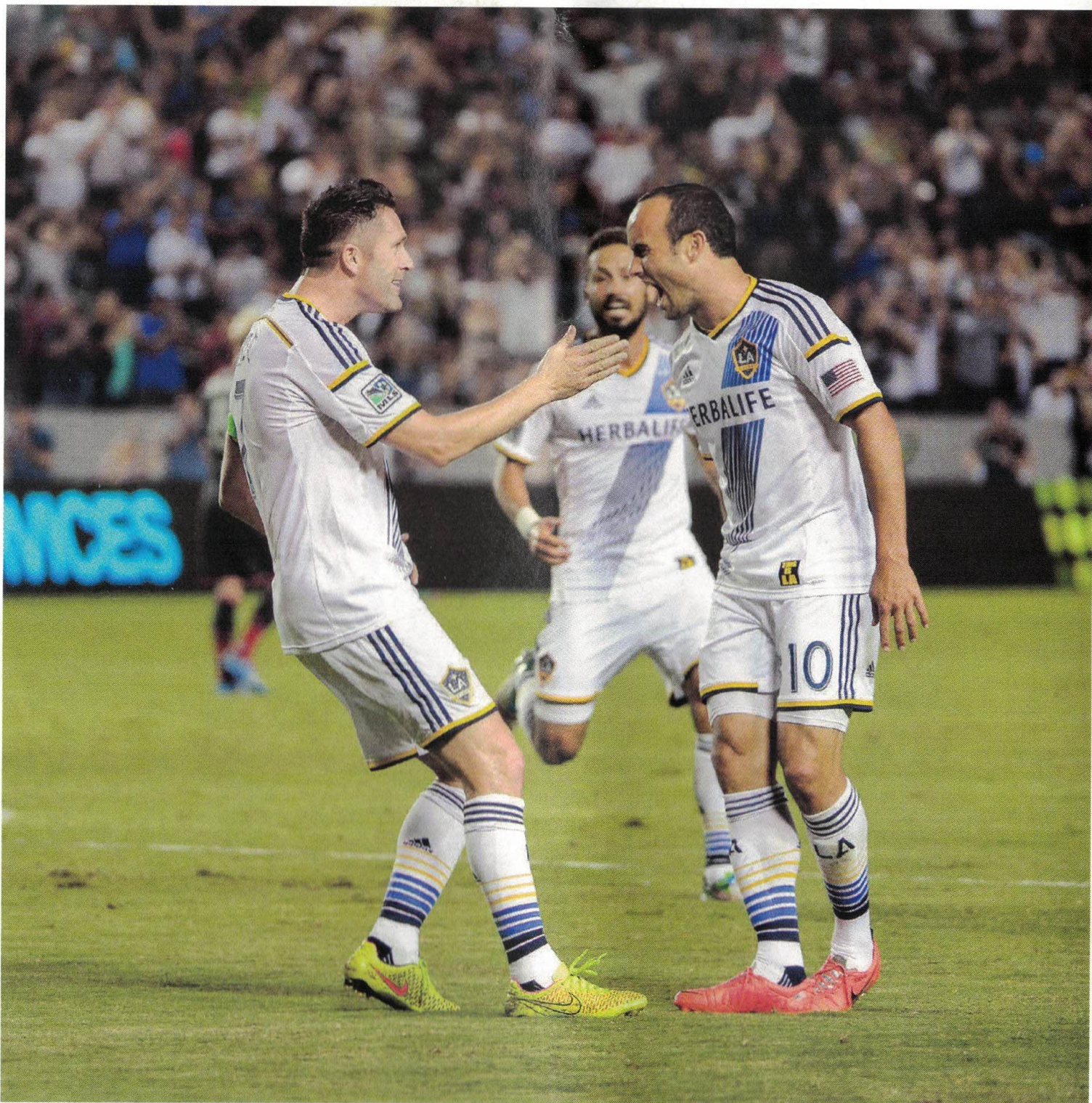
Landon Donovan became the new all-time MLS assist king by notching his 136th assist in the LA Galaxy's 3-0 victory over Toronto FC on October 4th.

Donovan took sole possession of the record from New England great Steve Ralston with his helper in the 25th minute on Robbie Keane's second goal of the evening. The assist came as Donovan fed a ball to A.J. DelaGarza out on the right flank before the defender launched a cross that Keane smashed on a volley past Joe Bendik into the back

the Toronto net.

In addition to setting a new all-time assist record, Donovan now has a career-high 19 assists which ties him with four other players for the second-best single season assist tally. Donovan is seven assists behind Carlos Valderrama's single season record of 26 assists from the 2000 MLS season.

Notching the all-time assist record helped Donovan solidify his place as the league's all-time scoring king after he set a new MLS goal scoring record earlier this year.



LANDON DONOVAN

BACK 'DAT ASSIST UP



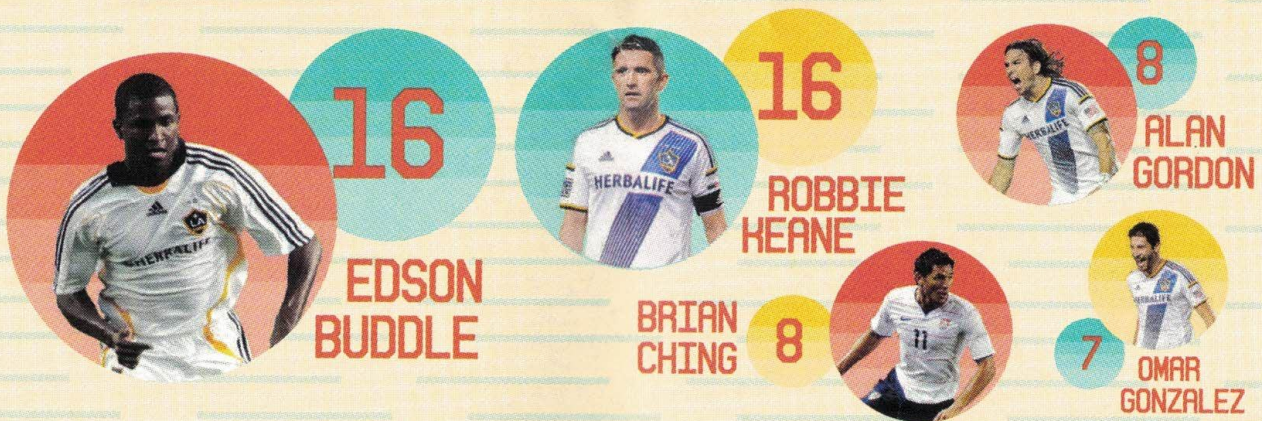
ALL TIME MLS ASSISTS



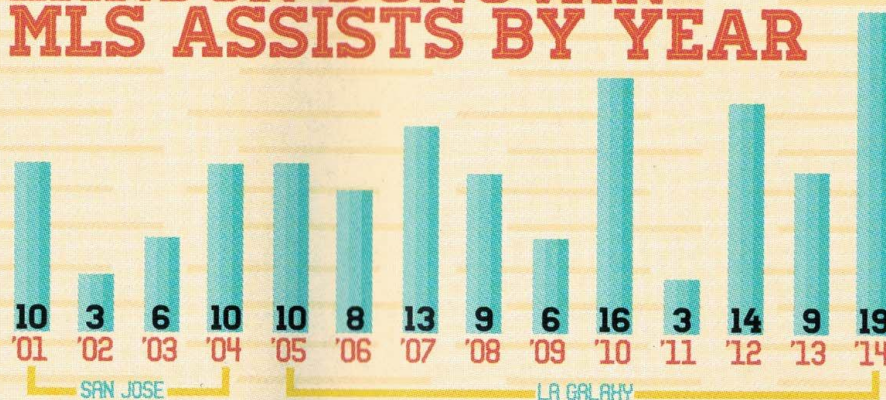
ASSISTS BY THE NUMBERS



ASSISTS BY GOAL SCORER



LANDON DONOVAN MLS ASSISTS BY YEAR





LA Galaxy Foundation create LA Galaxy Field at Algin Sutton Recreation Center

Galaxy Foundation partner with Brotherhood Crusade to complete synthetic-field project in South Los Angeles

The LA Galaxy Foundation partnered with Brotherhood Crusade to complete LA Galaxy Field, a synthetic-field project in South Los Angeles, at Algin Sutton Recreation Center, which opened on Wednesday, Oct. 1st 2014 with a LA Galaxy soccer clinic.

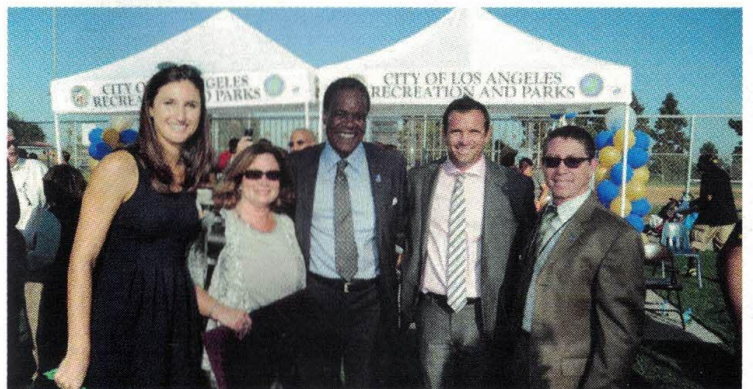
Each week from Monday-Friday, the Brotherhood Crusade will provide U.S. Soccer Foundation's Soccer For Success programs at LA Galaxy Field. The Soccer For Success program uses soccer to affect positive social change through four principles: obesity prevention, nutrition, character development and family and community engagement. Children in the community from ages 7-17 will be able to receive 60 minutes of exercise, a healthy snack and soccer training three times each week.

The grand-opening of LA Galaxy Field at Algin Sutton Recreation Center was attended by LA Galaxy President Chris Klein, coaches Matt Reis and Kenny Arena along with players A.J. DeLaGarza, Juninho, Gyasi Zardes and Baggio Husidic. Additionally, the LA Galaxy Star Squad,

team mascot Cozmo and clinic staff and coaches were on hand at the opening. Also at the event was Los Angeles City Councilman Bernard Parks and Charisse Bremond Weaver, the President and CEO of the Brotherhood Crusade.

After Klein, Weaver and Parks all made opening remarks, the Galaxy held a soccer clinic on the field with hundreds of local children, as LA players DeLaGarza, Zardes, Juninho and Baggio Husidic all helped the children during the skills clinic while coaches Matt Reis and Kenny Arena offered their expertise.

The LA Galaxy Foundation donated \$200,000 to help complete the field, which was supported by the U.S. Soccer Foundation, California Endowment, Cal South Soccer Foundation, The Lowenstein Foundation, Inc. and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Algin Sutton Recreation Center is also home to a Dodgers Dream Field and newly-refurbished basketball courts from the LA Clippers Foundation.



The Top 10 moments in Landon Donovan's career

LA Galaxy Insider Adam Serrano breaks down his favorite moments from Donovan's historic career

By Adam Serrano



JUNE 17, 2002: THE BIRTH OF DOS A CERO

While forged in America, Landon Donovan's soccer legend took flight in South Korea during the United States' magical run to quarterfinals of the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

Donning the No. 21 kit, Donovan opened his World Cup account with a tally in the United States' 3-1 defeat to Poland that helped the Americans reach the round of 16. But his most famous strike came against archrival Mexico when Donovan scored a header to lift the USMNT over El Tri 2-0. Donovan would later be named the Young Player of the tournament for his role in the U.S. campaign.

Since that day in Jeonju, the dos a cero score line has become a rallying cry for U.S. fans and a major point of contention for Mexican fans, helping turn Donovan into a pantomime villain of sorts South of the Border.

NOVEMBER 23, 2003: LAST TITLE WITH THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

Landon Donovan began his professional career in Germany, but it was with the San Jose Earthquakes that he truly made his name in club soccer.

Joining the Earthquakes on loan from Bayern Leverkusen, the precocious youngster was the backbone to championship teams in 2001 and 2003. Known as much for his bleach blonde hair as he was for his goal scoring ability, Donovan notched 32 goals and 29 assists for San Jose in regular season play while also tallying 10 goals and six assists in the postseason. His finest performance in a Quakes uniform arguably came in the 2003 final when he scored two goals in the new StubHub Center to help San Jose defeat the Chicago Fire 4-2 and win his final title for the Northern California club.



2005

NOV 13, 2005: WINNING HIS FIRST MLS CUP IN AN LA GALAXY UNIFORM

Shockwaves were sent across MLS when Landon Donovan joined the LA Galaxy after a frustrating stint in Germany and the U.S. international made an immediate impact in a Galaxy kit.

Despite a sub-par regular season for the club, Donovan starred in the playoffs as the LA Galaxy pulled off the double of winning the U.S. Open Cup and the 2005 MLS Cup. During the run to the MLS Cup, Donovan tallied four goals and one assist in the postseason before the team's dramatic extra time victory over the New England Revolution.

The title was Donovan's first in a Galaxy uniform, but it would not be his last.

JAN 19, 2008: DONOVAN BECOMES U.S. SOCCER'S ALL-TIME LEADING GOAL SCORER

Landon Donovan became U.S. Soccer's all-time leading goal scorer at his home ground in 2008 when he surpassed Eric Wynalda's mark of 34 goals.

Donovan's record-breaking goal came from the penalty spot against Sweden when he confidently placed his shot past the Swedish goalkeeper to set the new U.S. record at 35 goals. The mark was the start of a banner year internationally for Donovan, who later made his 100th appearance for the national team at the tender age of 26.

In total, Donovan is the U.S. National Team leader in goals (57) and assists (58).

NOV. 11, 2009: DONOVAN WINS MLS MVP AWARD

At the start of the 2009 MLS campaign, Landon Donovan was fresh off a disappointing loan to Bayern Munich, but he started the season determined to impress for the Galaxy.

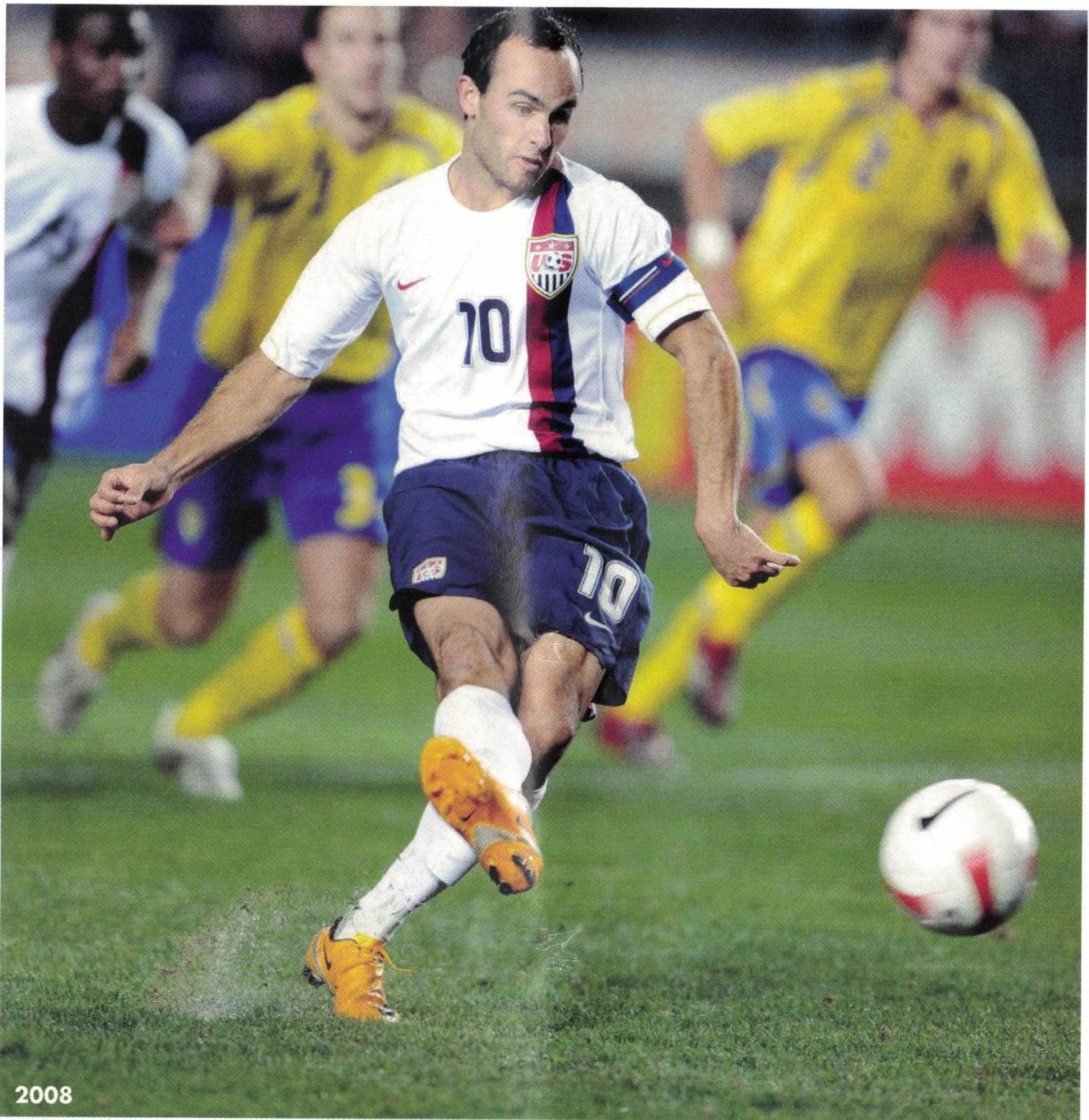
Upon returning to MLS, Donovan showcased his skills as he scored 12 goals and six assists as he helped the Galaxy finish with the top record in the Western Conference. Donovan completed his stellar season despite missing a month while leading the U.S. National Team to the Confederations Cup final. For a player that had long been described as the best player in U.S. Soccer history, Donovan called the honor "rewarding."

For all his success, Donovan failed to lift the Galaxy to the 2009 MLS Cup as the club fell on penalties to Real Salt Lake.

JAN 27, 2010: DOVOVAN SCORES FIRST PREMIER LEAGUE GOAL WITH EVERTON

Donovan has occasionally been hounded by many as a failure for his inability to succeed abroad, but during his stint with Everton in 2010, he showcased his mettle.

After two assists in the early going with Everton, Donovan scored his first career goal in a foreign league against Sunderland as part of a 2-0 win for the Toffees. The finish was vintage Donovan as he chested a Tim Cahill pass into space and then launched a left-footed shot into the bottom corner for the goal. Donovan netted again in



March and added an assist in his final home match at Goodison Park to end his spell with Everton with two goals and three assists

Donovan returned to Everton a year later in what would be the final time that he would don the shirt of a foreign club. Although other teams had reportedly come calling for Donovan in subsequent years, he nixed any interest out of respect for his time with the Toffees.

JUNE 23, 2010: THAT LEGENDARY GOAL AGAINST ALGERIA

Landon Donovan is without question the most influential player in U.S. Soccer history and it was fitting that he'd be part of the federation's most iconic World Cup moment—his dramatic stoppage time goal against Algeria at the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Donovan's legendary finish came in the 91st minute. With the U.S. in a scoreless deadlock he made a darting

run down the field to create attempts at goal by both Jozy Altidore and Clint Dempsey before scooping up the rebound and scoring to send the U.S. to the round of 16. The goal resonated nationally as well as around the rest of the world and is largely considered to be a major watershed moment in soccer's bid to be accepted into American sports consciousness.

Donovan scored again in the team's Round of 16 defeat to Ghana days later in what would be his final World Cup match. In total, Donovan appeared in three World Cups while scoring five goals, which is the most scored by an American at the world's largest stage.

DEC. 6, 2012: LEADING THE LA GALAXY TO TWO CONSECUTIVE MLS CUPS

Landon Donovan's career has been filled with championships, but in the winters of 2011 and 2012, he delivered two special ones to LA.

Forming a lethal strike partnership with Irish striker Robbie Keane, Donovan scored in each of the Galaxy's MLS Cup victories as he helped the club win back-to-back titles over the Houston Dynamo. Although Donovan scored the only goal in 2011, a year later he rebounded from an early miss to put LA ahead for good by notching his 22nd career playoff goal on a penalty kick.

Whether or not Donovan, Keane and the rest of the Galaxy can combine to win a title in 2014 to give him a total of six MLS Cup titles remains to be seen, but it will surely be a major talking point throughout the season.

JULY 28, 2013: WINNING THE GOLDEN BALL AND THE GOLDEN BOOT IN 2013 CONCACAF GOLD CUP

Fresh off his sabbatical away from the game, there was speculation as to whether or not Donovan would ever make his return to the U.S. National Team, but in the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup, he did so with great aplomb.

Donovan scored five goals and seven assists in the tournament to help the U.S. win the tournament in convincing fashion. For his success, he was awarded the tournament's Golden Ball as the Most Valuable Player as well as a share of the Golden Boot for top scorer. For

all the glory of winning the title and loads of personal awards, Donovan's most iconic moment in the tournament came in the team's quarterfinal 5-0 rout of El Salvador when he dropped to his knees with a rain-drenched Shawshank Redemption-esque celebration.

After his tournament, he solidified his place with the U.S. squad throughout World Cup qualifying by scoring in the team's win against Mexico later in the year.

MAY 25, 2014: BREAKING THE MLS ALL-TIME REGULAR SEASON GOAL SCORING RECORD

Landon Donovan's name is listed throughout the MLS record books, but in May, he cemented his place as the league's all-time regular season goal king with two tallies against the Philadelphia Union.

The match was filled with emotion for Donovan who had just been cut from the U.S. World Cup squad days earlier. Add in the fact that the Galaxy striker had been tied with former record-holder Jeff Cunningham since the previous October, and it was clear that there was significant pressure on the midfielder. That pressure was lifted after just 112 seconds when Donovan beat Union goalkeeper Zac MacMath to seal his place in the record books.



Universal Dominion | An excerpt from The Angeleno's Guide to the Galaxy

Can the LA Galaxy call itself a dynasty?

By George Vescey

The following is an excerpt from *The Angeleno's Guide to the Galaxy*, the Galaxy's collaboration with *Howler Magazine*.

Is there room for dynasties in Major League Soccer? Or is that exactly what the league is trying to avoid?

As MLS concludes its 19th season, there have been two dominant teams: D.C. United in the early years and recently the Los Angeles Galaxy, both winning four championships to date.

As it happens, both teams have been coached at times by the very same person: Bruce Arena, who won two titles with D.C. in 1996 and 1997, and has won two more with

the Galaxy in 2011 and 2012.

Like most coaches, Arena would not mind presiding over a dynasty. Some sports fans actually enjoy über-teams that win championships on almost an annual basis. Hordes of Japanese baseball fans worship the Tokyo Giants; many Italians seem to accept Juventus and the mysterious 89th-minute calls that referees have produced in its favor over the decades; there are the Lakers, the Bulls, the Cowboys, the 49ers; and bless their masochistic hearts, many baseball fans have flocked to stadiums to watch the Yankees brutalize the home team. Go figure.

Major League Soccer began with a collectivist single-



entity ownership, which has continued under Commissioner Don Garber. The fear of free spending is associated with the Curse of the Cosmos, still one of the great soccer brands in the world, dating back to Pelé and other international stars, most past their prime, who dominated the North American Soccer League in the late 1970s only to go belly up in 1985. MLS would just as soon avoid that.

"I certainly subscribe more to the NFL's approach to parity than I do perhaps to the structure of the English Premier League, where for the most part only a handful of clubs really have a chance of winning each year," Garber, who once worked for the NFL, said in 2010.

Still, two different MLS teams have managed to win four titles, each within a decade. Does that qualify D.C. United and the current Galaxy as dynasties?

"I think that's a bit of a reach," said Arena, when I reached him on the phone.

In the name of journalistic integrity, I must note that I get a kick out of Bruce Arena, having covered his two older brothers, Paul and Mike, when they were quarterbacks at Carey High in Franklin Square, Long Island, back in the day. Their kid brother became a soccer keeper in the autumn, a star lacrosse player in the spring. I can interpret Arena's Italo-Brooklyn-Lawn Guyland accent for my soccer-writer pals, and I totally get his sarcastic approach to the media. When Arena begins to answer a question with the dagger-word "Obviously..." I laugh out loud. Sounds like home to me.

Was it good for MLS to have D.C. United (with predominately Latino stars) dominate the first wave of MLS, and is it good for the Galaxy (with predominantly Anglophone stars like Beckham, Donovan, and Keane) to win multiple titles recently?

"I think he is the defining figure in American soccer in the last quarter of a century, if you include his great success at UVA," Doug Logan, the first commissioner of MLS, wrote in an e-mail, referring to Arena's previous stint at the University of Virginia.

Logan admires Arena even if he sometimes needed to discipline or muzzle him. They could laugh about it later. The first commissioner said Arena "intimidates theatrically." With LA, he has presided over the most scrutinized locker room in league history, and he "has shown his dominance over all the slick imports with fancy résumés."

Arena downplays the concept of dynasties partially because he chafes at the ever-shifting payroll rules of MLS. Still trying to avoid a Cosmos-like reliance on high-paid stars, MLS has come around to a somewhat more competitive model of ownership.

Having struggled in my career to explain the infield fly rule in baseball, pass interference in football, or salary caps in various leagues, I will not even attempt to parse the rules about signing players in MLS. I will note that the league allowed David Beckham to perform his missionary work in Southern California, purely out of his love of the game,

and is now allowing American stars like Clint Dempsey and Michael Bradley to come back from Europe for gigantic salaries based on arcane exemptions.

When I spoke to Arena, his comments sizzled on this topic. Later, when I read Steven Goff's report that Arena had been trying to sign Sacha Kljestan from Anderlecht, only to have the deal fall through somewhere in the league hierarchy, it made sense. Arena sizzled some more when he saw Chicago try to sign Jermaine Jones only to have the German-American player allocated to New England in something called a blind draw. Arena said he had never heard of that process.

The Galaxy's ownership, AEG, has spent considerable money on star players, Arena said, but he added that when he and Kevin Payne were running D.C. United in the early days of the league, "It was a lot easier to put together a roster, a lot easier to get players." The message: dynasties are tough to build.

"The league is confused about the direction it's going," Arena said. "It's a vicious cycle." The league's desire for parity, he suggested, came at the expense of clubs that know how to spend their money wisely. "Look at D.C. United," he says of his first team. "Last year it had one of the worst records in the history of the league, and this year it's doing well. We're so focused on competitive balance."

And if you manage to engineer a team that might be capable of becoming a dynasty, there are other forces ready to pull it apart, particularly the financial appeal of the rich European leagues, combined with the insistence by national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann that emerging American internationals fight their way onto Champions League teams. The next young star to transfer will be DeAndre Yedlin of Seattle, who made an impression in the recent World Cup and has been signed for autumn delivery by Tottenham Hotspur.

Arena thinks it's a good move for the player, but he does not agree with Klinsmann's dictate that players go overseas. "We'd be stronger if we built a base out of domestic players," he said, adding, "Also, I don't agree with foreign players becoming citizens. We need to develop them here." This seems to be a criticism of Klinsmann for using five German-born players with an American parent in the World Cup.

For all the measures designed to check spending and keep any club from dynastic dominance, teams have begun to follow the Designated Player model pioneered by LA. In addition to Seattle and Toronto, New York has signed a number of high-profile players, including Thierry Henry, Orlando will begin next season with Kaka in the midfield, and even New England, long one of the league's most frugal teams, recently wrote a big check for Jermaine Jones. New York City FC has already acquired David Villa and Frank Lampard.

Speaking of NYFC, what does Arena think of a team

owned by Manchester City and the Yankees joining MLS in 2015? "I think it will create more chaos," he said, predicting that the use of Yankee Stadium will be, in his words, a disaster: "You're talking about one of the most famous sports stadiums in the world. The Yankees just lost most of their pitching staff to injuries. Can you imagine what it will be like if they have to rebuild the pitching mound once a week?"

Soccer in the United States has always had to find space within a larger sports landscape. The Galaxy plays in its own stadium, the more modest StubHub Center in Carson, but that too comes with challenges. "You have the Lakers and now they are the weak sister," said Arena. "You've got the Dodgers with Yasiel Puig and the best pitching staff in baseball. Down the road you have the Angels, another powerful team. You've got USC and UCLA. The Kings are Stanley Cup winners. This is a city of champions."

Going into September, the Galaxy was drawing an average of 20,721 fans per home game, down 6 per cent from 2013, and down from the franchise high of 26,009 in 2008, during the Beckham years. That era ended gloriously with two straight MLS Cups in 2011 and 2012. Beckham worked hard in the last final before Arena paid him the tribute of an 89th minute exit in front of the home fans. Beckham drew fans everywhere, appeared at clinics, chatted up the media, and his talented right foot and his glamor were good for the league. Robbie Keane followed, and the Galaxy will have another DP spot available once Landon Donovan retires at the end of 2014.

But Arena also wants to build the Galaxy from the bottom up, by accumulating young players barely out of high

school. He counts four homegrown players on the 30-player roster, including Gyasi Zardes from nearby Hawthorne, California, who has been a starter for most of 2014, before turning 23. Arena is also high on Bradford Jamieson IV, a willowy forward from Los Angeles—not yet 18—who plays mostly for the Galaxy II squad but has already assisted on a goal for the senior team. "He is going to be a good one," Arena said.

MLS has survived two seasons longer than the old NASL did. Jamieson was born two days before the Galaxy lost to D.C. in the first MLS Cup. The league's average attendance now ranks in the top ten professional soccer divisions worldwide, reaching a peak average of 18,807 fans per game in 2012, Beckham's last year. Going into September, the league was averaging 18,948, partially because of the 40,000-plus crowds in Seattle, the great downtown success story, which took a play from LA's book by signing Dempsey and set a high bar of its own in the form of record attendance figures.

The league was good enough for Beckham to strut his brand, good enough to keep Landon Donovan home, good enough to keep Bruce Arena busy agitating. Now American soccer tries to capitalize on the booster rocket that was the highly popular World Cup in Brazil.

Asked again if the Galaxy were a dynasty, Arena said, "We want to be one of the elite teams." Obviously.

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Bruce Arena (left) and Landon Donovan hoist the 2011 Western Conference trophy. The Galaxy has played in a record eight MLS Cups, three more than D.C. United. The clubs are tied with a league-leading four Supporters' Shields apiece.

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