

LA GALAXY™

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 MATCHDAY PROGRAM 

#10 LANDON DONOVAN



VS.



Presented by  HERBALIFE.

LA Galaxy vs. Vancouver Whitecaps FC
Saturday, April 12 at 7:30PM

match presented by



THE TEAMS



MATCH STATS LA GALAXY

	ON	OFF
SUB 1:		
SUB 2:		
SUB 3:		

YELLOW:

RED:

GOALSCORERS:

MATCH STATS WHITECAPS 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	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Omar González	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Baggio Husidic	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Robbie Keane	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Marcelo Sarvas	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Samuel	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Landon Donovan	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Gyasi Zardes	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Brian Rowe	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Robbie Rogers	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Rob Friend	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Jaime Penedo	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Juninho	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	A.J. DeLaGarza	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Tommy Meyer	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Leonardo	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Stefan Ishizaki	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Rafael Garcia	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	James Riley	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Charlie Rugg	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Kofi Opare	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Chandler Hoffman	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Kyle Venter	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Jack McBean	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Kenney Walker	M
<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Oscar Sorto	D
<input type="checkbox"/> 38	Bradford Jamieson IV	F
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Raul Mendiola	F

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC

Head Coach: Carl Robinson

#	Player	Pos.
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	David Ousted	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Jordan Harvey	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Sam Adekugbe	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Jay DeMerit	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Sebastian Fernandez	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Mehdi Ballouchy	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Kenny Miller	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Darren Mattocks	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Matias Laba	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Johnny Leveron	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Omar Salgado	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Erik Hurtado	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Nigel Reo-Coker	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Christian Dean	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Kekuta Manneh	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Carlyle Mitchell	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Andre Lewis	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Aminu Abdallah	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Ethen Sampson	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Gershon Koffie	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Nicolas Mezquida	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Russell Teibert	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Steven Beitashour	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Bryce Alderson	MF
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Andy O'Brien	DF
<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Marco Carducci	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 45	Mamadou Diouf	FW
<input type="checkbox"/> 70	Paolo Tornaghi	GK
<input type="checkbox"/> 77	Pedro Morales	MF



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2001, 2005

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CHAMPIONSHIPS**
2000

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

www.lagalaxy.com
310.630.2200

PHOTOGRAPHY
Robert Mora, German Alegria,
LA Galaxy, USA Today Sports



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Jeff Maniccia

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2014 SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PT)	TV
SATURDAY	MAR 8	REAL SALT LAKE	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
WEDNESDAY	MAR 12	CLUB TIJUANA	7:00PM	FOX SOCCER PLUS
TUESDAY	MAR 18	CLUB TIJUANA	7:00PM	FOX SPORTS 2
SATURDAY	MAR 22	REAL SALT LAKE	1:00PM	NBCSN
SUNDAY	APR 6	CHIVAS USA	12:00PM	TWCSN/UNIMAS
SATURDAY	APR 12	VANCOUVER WHITECAPS	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SATURDAY	APR 19	VANCOUVER WHITECAPS	4:00PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SATURDAY	MAY 3	COLORADO RAPIDS	6:00PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	MAY 11	PORTLAND TIMBERS	11:30AM	NBCSN
SATURDAY	MAY 17	HOUSTON DYNAMO	5:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
WEDNESDAY	MAY 21	FC DALLAS	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	MAY 25	PHILADELPHIA UNION	5:00PM	TWCSN/UDN
SUNDAY	JUN 1	CHICAGO FIRE	1:00PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	JUN 8	CHIVAS USA	5:00PM	TWCSN/UDN
SATURDAY	JUN 28	SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	7:30PM	NBCSN
FRIDAY	JUL 4	PORTLAND TIMBERS	8:00PM	NBCSN
SATURDAY	JUL 12	REAL SALT LAKE	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
WEDNESDAY	JUL 16	NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SATURDAY	JUL 19	SPORTING KANSAS CITY	3:00PM	ESPN2
SATURDAY	JUL 26	SEATTLE SOUNDERS	7:00PM	ESPN2
SATURDAY	AUG 2	PORTLAND TIMBERS	11:30AM	NBC
FRIDAY	AUG 8	SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	7:30PM	NBCSN
SATURDAY	AUG 16	COLUMBUS CREW	4:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
WEDNESDAY	AUG 20	COLORADO RAPIDS	6:00PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SATURDAY	AUG 23	VANCOUVER WHITECAPS	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
WEDNESDAY	AUG 27	D.C. UNITED	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	AUG 31	CHIVAS USA	5:00PM	TWCSN/UDN
FRIDAY	SEP 5	COLORADO RAPIDS	7:30PM	NBCSN
WEDNESDAY	SEP 10	MONTREAL IMPACT	4:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	SEP 14	SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	12:00PM	TWCSN/UNIMAS
SATURDAY	SEP 20	FC DALLAS	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	SEP 28	NEW YORK RED BULLS	5:30PM	ESPN
SATURDAY	OCT 4	TORONTO FC	7:30PM	TWCSN/TWCD
SUNDAY	OCT 12	FC DALLAS	4:00PM	ESPN2
SUNDAY	OCT 19	SEATTLE SOUNDERS	5:30PM	ESPN
SATURDAY	OCT 25	SEATTLE SOUNDERS	11:30AM	NBC

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 TWCD = Time Warner Cable Deportes
 UDN = Univision Deportes Network

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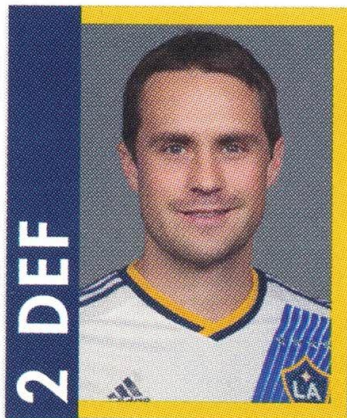




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Brian **PERK**



Todd **DUNIVANT**



Omar **GONZALEZ**



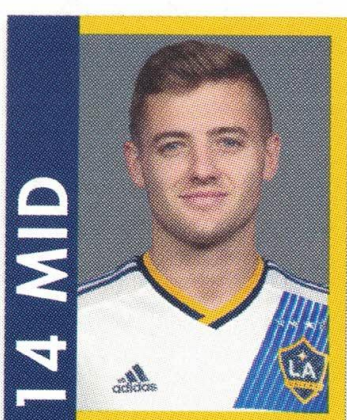
Baggio **HUSIDIC**



Gyasi **ZARDES**



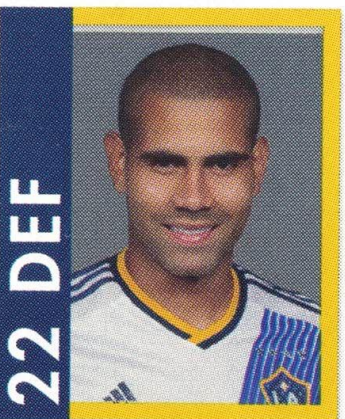
Brian **ROWE**



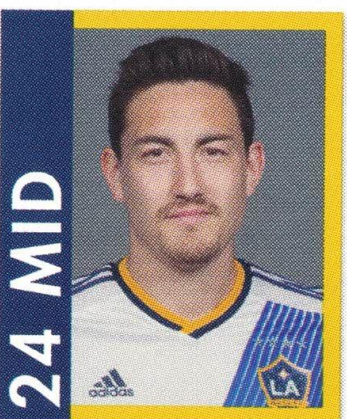
Robbie **ROGERS**



Rob **FRIEND**



LEONARDO



Stefan **Ishizaki**



Rafael **GARCIA**



James **Riley**



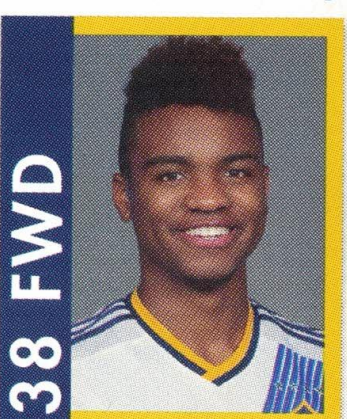
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Kenney **WALKER**

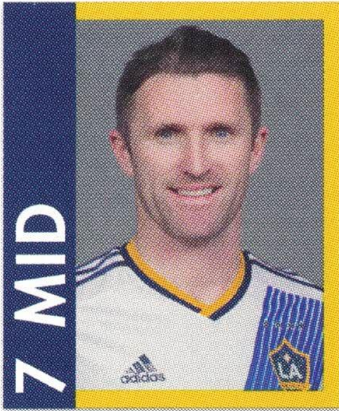


Oscar **SORTO**



Bradford **JAMIESON IV**

2014 LA GALAXY ROSTER



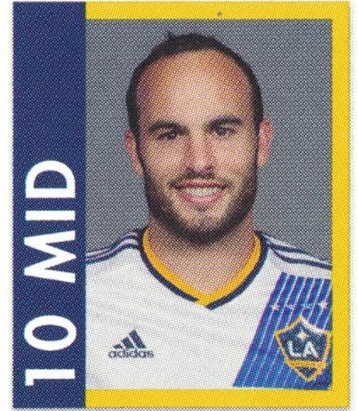
Robbie **KEANE**



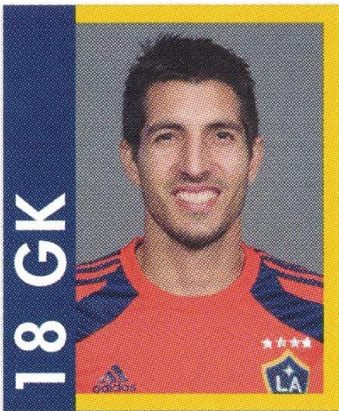
Marcelo **SARVAS**



SAMUEL



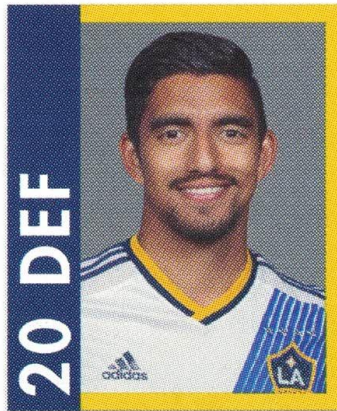
Landon **DONOVAN**



Jaime **PENEDO**



JUNINHO



A.J. **DELAGARZA**



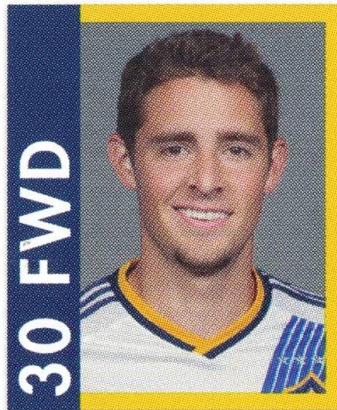
Tommy **MEYER**



Charlie **RUGG**



Kofi **OPARE**



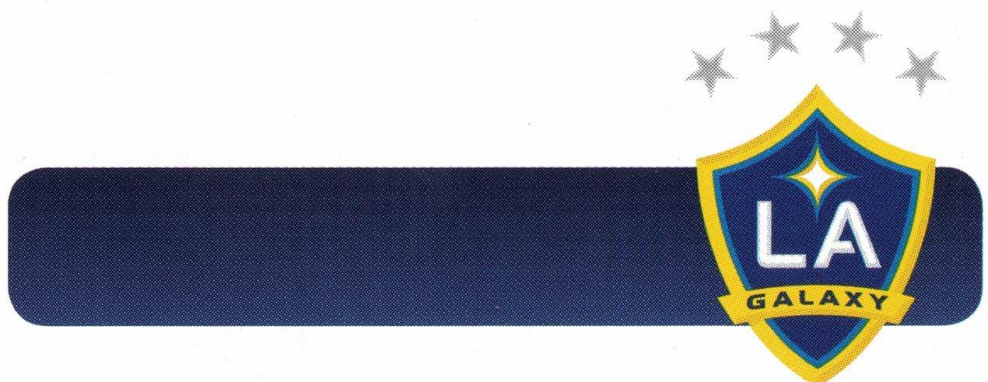
Chandler **HOFFMAN**



Kyle **VENTER**



Raul **MENDIOLA**

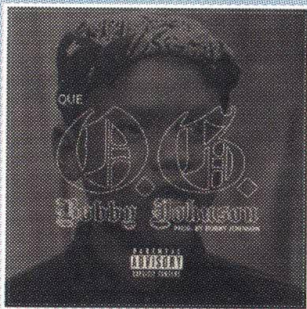


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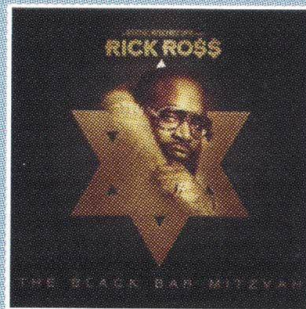


Kofi Opare's

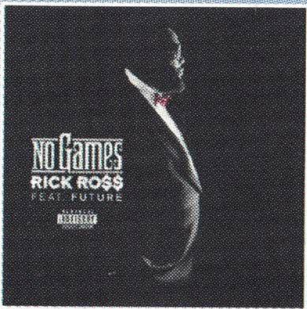
PREGAME PLAYLIST



1
Que – *OG Bobby Johnson*



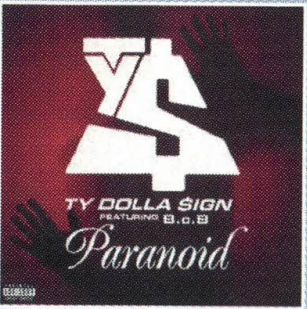
6
Drake ft. Rick Ross and Lil Reese – *Us*



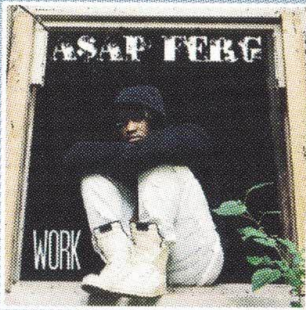
2
Rick Ross ft. Future – *No Games*



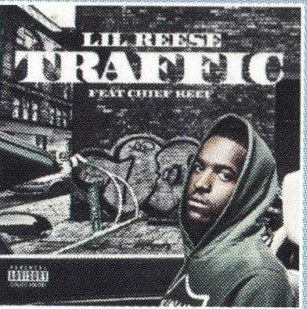
7
Meek Mill ft. Young Chris – *House Party*



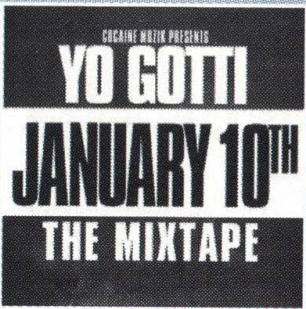
3
Ty Dolla Sign ft. B.o.B – *Paranoid*



8
ASAP Ferg – *Work*



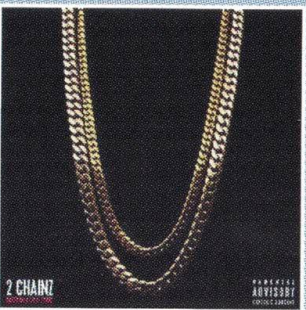
4
Lil Reese ft. Chief Keef – *Traffic*



9
Yo Gotti – *Got Dem Racks Lyrics*

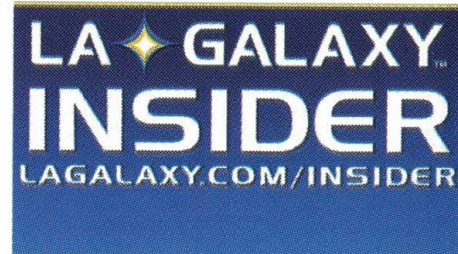


5
Future – *Same Damn Time*



10
2 Chainz – *Undastatement*

Experienced additions key to the LA Galaxy as they hope to recapture MLS Cup



Friend, Ishizaki, Husidic, Riley and Samuel bring the experience that was missing in 2013



By Adam Serrano

To return to MLS Cup in 2014, the LA Galaxy are betting heavily on experienced, battle-tested faces to restore the team's place at the summit of MLS.

Immediately after their disappointing Western Conference Semifinal defeat to Real Salt Lake, Galaxy head coach and general manager Bruce Arena wasted no time retooling his squad. Over the offseason, the Galaxy added Canadian forward Rob Friend, MLS veteran Baggio Husidic, Swedish international Stefan Ishizaki, league mainstay James Riley and talented Brazilian forward Samuel to the fold.

With the Galaxy hoping to challenge the likes of Real Salt Lake and the Portland Timbers, Arena believed that acquiring veteran leadership was vital.

"A big part of this team this year is that we're going to have good depth and experienced players that can play a lot of roles throughout the season," said head coach Bruce Arena. "We're hopeful that our team is a little bit better and a little bit more consistent because if there was a weakness last year, it's that we were inconsistent."

"We were one of the top teams in league in terms of scoring goals and one of the top teams defending. Yet, the results were inconsistent," Arena continued. "I'm hoping that we have a little bit more quality and a little bit more experience this year that will allow us to play more consistently."

During the ill-fated 2013 season, the Galaxy attack went as far as the play of Landon Donovan and Robbie Keane carried them with the duo accounting for 26 goals and 20 assists. And that was most apparent when the team fell to RSL as both failed to find the back of the net as the Galaxy missed out on qualifying for the Western

Conference Championship for the first time since 2008.

To help out the Designated Player tandem, Arena acquired a pair of accomplished target men in Friend and Samuel to supplement their output. Both bring an accomplished pedigree with Friend, 33, having spent the last 11-years in Europe while Samuel, 23, was a first team regular for Brazilian giants Fluminense.

"It gives us a lot of weapons. We haven't that kind of firepower since I've been here," said Donovan. "We have a lot of attacking players that can make real plays. The more players that you have like that on the field, the better it is."

The changes didn't stop there as the additions of Husidic and Riley provide needed depth at the defensive midfield and outside back positions, which were thin at times last season.

But perhaps more importantly, the Galaxy added yet another weapon on the flanks with the acquisition of Ishizaki. Wide play has long been a cause for concern for the Galaxy and the acquisition of Ishizaki—as well as the ever-maturing Gyasi Zardes—gives LA much needed width.

"[Ishizaki] is a very good passer. Very composed and experienced. He gives us a little something different in the midfield," said Arena. "He'll make plays that amount to something. We have a lot of players with a lot of energy with good intentions, but he's the player that will make the final pass."

Some of the faces may be different, but the end goal is the same: helping the Galaxy win an unprecedented fifth MLS Cup.

"I didn't move to L.A. to just play," said Ishizaki. "I'm here to win."

Adam Serrano is the LA Galaxy Insider. Read his blog at LAGalaxy.com/Insider and contact him at LAGalaxyInsider@gmail.com

#16 Rob Friend

Height: 6' 5"

Weight: 205 lbs.

Birth Date: 01-23-1981

Birthplace: Rosetown, Saskatchewan

Last club: 1860 Munich

Bruce Arena: "Rob is a veteran player with a scoring pedigree and we are excited to bolster our roster by bringing him to LA."



#6 Baggio Husidic

Height: 6' 1"

Weight: 172 lbs.

Birth Date: 05-19-1987

Birthplace: Velika Kladusa, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Last Club: Hammarby

Bruce Arena: "He's an experienced player that can play in different positions in the midfield. He'll offer value to our team for sure."



#24 Stefan Ishizaki

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 165 lbs.

Birth Date: 05-15-1982

Birthplace: Stockholm, Sweden

Last Club: Elfsborg

Bruce Arena: "Stefan is an excellent addition to our team. He is an experienced player, an exceptional passer and a proven winner."



#9 Samuel

Height: 6' 1"

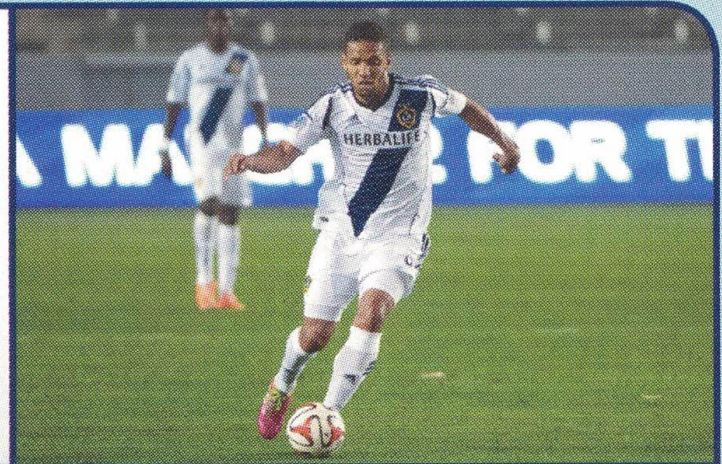
Weight: 190 lbs.

Birth Date: 02-25-1991

Birthplace: São Borja, Brazil

Last Club: Fluminense

Bruce Arena: "Samuel is a young, talented forward with both size and skill. We are confident his addition will help boost our attack in 2014."



#26 James Riley

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 150 lbs.

Birth Date: 10-27-1982

Birthplace: Colorado Springs, CO

Last Club: DC United

Bruce Arena: "James is an experienced player who adds versatility and depth to our defensive core."



OUR STARTING XI

WE ARE THE LA GALAXY. THIS IS OUR CLUB. THIS IS OUR KIT. THIS IS LA.



(TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) ANDREW ALESANA (LA RIOT SQUAD), COBI JONES (ALUMNI), ROBBIE KEANE (FIRST TEAM), MAURICIO CIENFUEGOS (ALUMNI), ETHAN RUIZ (ANGEL CITY BRIGADE)
(BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) ALY, RYAN & ELISE LANE (LA GALAXY U-14 AND FAMILY), LONDON DONOVAN (FIRST TEAM), CARLISA PERDOMO (GALAXIANS), ELIJAH MARTIN (LA GALAXY II)

Baggio Husidic hoping to find a home with the LA Galaxy after a life on the move

After being displaced by the breakup of Yugoslavia, Husidic is taking nothing for granted

By Adam Serrano

Baggio Husidic knows a bit about new beginnings. When the 26-year-old moved from Swedish club Hammarby to the LA Galaxy in the offseason, one could forgive the midfielder for being overwhelmed. After all, Husidic was moving from a club where he spent the last two years and had comfortably adapted to life in Sweden, but the switch to MLS was just another move for the tenacious midfielder.

Husidic showed how effortlessly the transition has been on the field last Saturday with a confident showing in LA's 1-1 road draw with Real Salt Lake.

However to truly understand the midfielder's versatility, you need to step away from the field.

Born Adis Husidic in the town of northwest Bosnian town of Velika Kladuša in the former Yugoslavia, Husidic grew up in a tight-knit community surrounded by members of his extended family. It was there that his father Zarif gave him the moniker "Baggio" after the Italian soccer star Roberto Baggio, which has stuck with him throughout his adult life.

But at the age of six, life took a tragic turn.

In 1992, the Yugoslavia found itself embroiled in a vicious civil war that caused the Husidic family and thousands of others to reconsider their future in their native land.

Despite Velika Kladuša's relative safety, Zarif and Mira Husidic uprooted Baggio and older brother Allen from their home to a refugee camp near the Bosnia-Croatia border. Although Baggio's parents did their best to shield their sons from the horrors of the camp, some things were just impossible to ignore.

"We spent a year in the camp and it was a crazy and horrific experience," said Husidic. "You saw so much that you shouldn't see at any age let alone as a child, but luckily, I didn't know too much about it. I wasn't allowed to wander too far from the camps, which was something that my parents made sure of and together, we survived."

A year after moving to the camp, the Husidics left their homeland for good, this time to Uetersen, Germany, a small suburb of Hamburg. With the civil war still raging, the German government offered a lifeline to those willing to leave the devastated nation. But what was designed to be an oasis for the family turned into a nightmare for the seven-year-old Baggio, as he dealt with daily bullying from those children who were resistant to the family's presence in the German town.

Each day after school, Husidic was challenged by children who were eager to terrorize the immigrants from Bosnia and fights were a common occurrence.

But he did find his silver lining in Germany.

"No one judged me on the soccer field. They only judged how you play," said Husidic who played for a small youth club in the German city. "Being that young, you want to belong to a group and playing with those teams made me feel a part of something. What I was to people off the field didn't matter.

"It was peace for 60 minutes a day."

Following three-and-a-half years in Germany, the Husidic family pounced on an opportunity to obtain American visas and soon found themselves moving half-way across the world to Chicago.

Simply put, government housing on the south side of Chicago was "paradise" for Husidic and his family. Less than a five minute drive from Lake Michigan, Husidic and his older brother would spend their time playing soccer tennis for hours.

Once the school year started, it was time for Husidic to adapt to the new country, a new language and another



new community, the Latino-community of Franklin Park. With only his brother and his family to converse with in his native Bosnian, Baggio needed to learn English which he eventually picked up by playing uno with his English teacher.

Thanks to his father's success in the construction business and the housing boom of the early 2000's, his family's rise in America was astronomical as they found themselves in the affluent Chicago suburb of Libertyville just a few years' time. It was there where he first came into contact with the family of current Galaxy associate head coach Dave Sarachan and his son Ian, who would eventually become Baggio's closest friend.

"I never liked him or his brother because they were good, but my first day at University of Illinois-Chicago, we started talking and the rest his history in that sense," Ian Sarachan told LAGalaxy.com. "It's funny how things come full circle."

Added Ian's father Dave, "He's always competed from when he was a little kid to now. He's always done whatever he can to make sure that the other team doesn't score on him or get pass him," said Galaxy Associate head coach Dave Sarachan. "I've always believed that people are products of their environment and you can go through many of the great players in the world from [Luis] Suarez to [Leo] Messi, they come from environments where they have to survive and that's a mentality that is in Baggio's nature."

That competitive rivalry soon turned into a life-long friendship for Ian and Baggio once they began to play together at UIC.

"They just competed against one another, their rivalry wasn't based on anything but soccer, but once they got to UIC, they got really know one another," said Dave Sarachan. "There's this old adage that you'd rather play with a guy than against him and once they realized they were on the same page, they quickly bonded."

With Sarachan by his side, Husidic enjoyed an impressive three-year career at UIC and eventually earned a Generation adidas contract with MLS before being drafted by his hometown Chicago Fire in the 2009 MLS SuperDraft. After a rocky rookie season, Husidic became a regular during the 2010, but saw his playing time diminish in his third and final season in Chicago. With just five goals and three assists in 22 appearances with the Fire, Husidic knew that it was time to leave yet again.

Once the Colorado Rapids acquired his MLS rights in a deal with the Fire, Husidic opted for a European switch, signing with Swedish club Hammarby.

"I realized what I needed as a player in terms of getting more games and experience. I always had a dream of experiencing Europe, said Husidic. "I started off well in Chicago, but I realized that things were changing and I made the move. I knew that I had to

sacrifice and so I went to Europe. I took in the whole experience and I really appreciated the opportunity that I had there."

Life in Sweden was ideal for Baggio who adapted well to the language and quickly traded in his car for the ease of the efficient Stockholm public transit system. On the field, Husidic made 41 appearances for former Galaxy defender and then-Hammarby head coach Gregg Berhalter, but once the American was relieved of his duties on July 23, the Bosnian saw the writing on the wall as quickly found himself out of favor with the team's new management team.

Enter the LA Galaxy.

After LA had acquired his rights in the deal that sent Pablo Mastroeni to the Galaxy last June, Galaxy head coach Bruce Arena and Sarachan offered Husidic yet another opportunity to start over that was ultimately too good for Baggio to pass up.

"There's one team that you want to go to in MLS, it's the Galaxy," said Husidic. "I'm sure the word of the Sarachans went a long way and I have to thank them for the chance, but now I know that I need to prove myself to really earn a role on this team."

The adaptation process was swift for the 26-year-old who soon traded in life in frigid Stockholm for sun-swept shores of Hermosa Beach with his girlfriend Fay, his dog Nyte and cat Nesta. During the preseason, Husidic utilized the defensive skills honed in Sweden to provide Arena with the type of defensive versatility that the club lacked during their ill-fated 2013 season.

For the first three matches of the season, Husidic found himself behind incumbent starting midfielders Marcelo Sarvas and Juninho, but against Real Salt Lake on March 22, he was offered his chance. Starting along the left side of a diamond midfield, the cagey Husidic helped the Galaxy slow down the fast-paced RSL attack as LA earned their first point of the fledgling 2014 campaign.

A starting position that Husidic hopes to hold throughout the year.

"You learn throughout your career that nothing comes for granted when you get a position on a team. If you want to keep it, you need to be willing to do whatever it takes," said Husidic. "Whether it's slide tackling or making an offensive play that's needed, you need to do it if you're going to stay in the fold."

After spending much of his life on the move, Husidic is hoping to at long last find a home with the Galaxy.

"Every experience builds your character. It helps you appreciate the smaller things in life because I know that I've gone from having nothing to having more than enough," said Husidic. "Nothing in life comes easy so I know that when you get in a position you want to keep it."

San Bernardino's son: LA Galaxy II midfielder Raul Mendiola's road to maturity

Despite a bumpy road, Mendiola steeled for a future in the pro ranks

By Adam Serrano

CARSON, Calif. — Robbie Keane sees a bit of himself in Raul Mendiola.

On the surface, the man from Talleggh, Ireland couldn't be more different than the diminutive young Mexican-American from Ciudad Juarez: Keane is an accomplished international and footballing legend while Mendiola's career is at its infancy.

But once you watch the pair on the field, you can see the similarities.

Both players shine in the striker position despite being chastised early on in their careers for their lack of size. The two attackers are able to dictate the attack and routinely create chances for themselves and for others.

"He's a player that people like to watch," Keane says of Mendiola. "He's the type of player that people like to watch because he can link up play and make things happen."

Once Keane caught a glance of the youngster from San Bernardino on the field, he saw the resemblances. The Galaxy captain even went as far as to request that Mendiola's locker be placed alongside his own so that he could speak to him on a daily basis once Mendiola joined LA back in 2012. Now that the Galaxy's newest Homegrown Player has been loaned to LA Galaxy II and his locker has been moved down the StubHub Center hallways, he'll be looking to follow in Keane's footsteps by leading his own Galaxy club.

With two starts under his belt for *Los Dos* and more on the way, the youngster sees a blueprint for success in Keane's game.

"He's an amazing guy off the field and very talented on the field. I learned a lot from him by just watching him," said Mendiola. "He's so smart on the field and when I watch him, I think that I hope that I can be as big as him one day."

And the most important lesson that Keane taught the Galaxy wunderkind?

Play smarter, not harder.

"I try to make the team better even though I'm not the biggest guy. I do have responsibility here and I try not to take it for granted," said Mendiola. "Each moment I think that I have to use my smarts to get past bigger players since I don't grow a lot of muscle."

Such mature words may seem out of place coming from a 19-year-old, but for Mendiola, that perspective was gained one step at a time.

Born in the Mexican border town of Ciudad Juarez, Mendiola's life changed at the age of eight when his mother Claudia separated from his father and opted to move the family away from the border to San Bernardino.

The Inland Empire offered a fresh start for Claudia and her three children (Michelle, Raul and Jonathan) in the wake of the separation, but also its own set of challenges.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 34.6 percent of San Bernardino's residents live below the poverty level, which is the second highest mark in the United States for a population of 200,000 or more.

Although Claudia did all that she could to shield her children from the dangers of the inner-city, at times, it was impossible.

"I remember one time there was this really bad shooting near our house that my brother, my mom and I experienced. I was still young, I didn't know what to expect," said Mendiola. "My mom just did whatever she could to take care of us, she knew it was a bad place but she knew that we had to stick through it. We didn't have the money to leave, but she did what she could and she took pride in everything that we had."

To keep her eldest son away from the temptations offered by gangs and petty crime, Claudia helped Raul find his passion in the game of soccer. A game that Mendiola fell in love with after watching matches alongside his late uncle Humberto.

The beautiful game provided an escape for Mendiola who excelled with local youth teams and eventually drew the attention of the Temecula-based club Arsenal FC.

It was there that Mendiola's game was refined as the young playmaker dominated opponents despite his small stature. At Arsenal, Mendiola would go on to make U.S. Soccer history by winning consecutive U.S. Development Academy U15/16 Player of the Year awards in 2010 and 2011.

That success turned the heads of clubs across the border as Mendiola returned to Mexico to join the youth system of Liga MX club CF Pachuca. Mexico ultimately did not

provide the right fit for Mendiola who opted to return to the United States before setting upon a whirlwind journey that took him to trials at Manchester City and Sevilla.

Although Mendiola's trips abroad drew attention from fans on both sides of the border, Raul knew where his future lied.

"I just wanted to be back in Southern California because it felt like home so I had no doubt in my mind that this is where I wanted to be," said Mendiola. "California is my home and it was where I always wanted to stay."

Ahead of the 2011-2012 USSDA season, Mendiola joined the LA Galaxy Academy and quickly rose through the ranks not only becoming a star with the club's youth teams but also earning minutes with the team's reserve side, in addition to training with the first team.

Despite success on the field, it was Mendiola's demeanor that concerned the Galaxy—one Academy coach even went as far as to claim that Mendiola refused to speak to him throughout his first campaign—and ahead of the 2013 season, Raul found himself back with the Under-18's while another young talent Paul Arriola took his place training with the first team.

With his Galaxy youth career hanging in the balance last August, Mendiola's path changed once more as he opted to move away from his beloved San Bernardino to the home of Galaxy assistant athletic trainer Kurt Andrews and his wife Kristen.

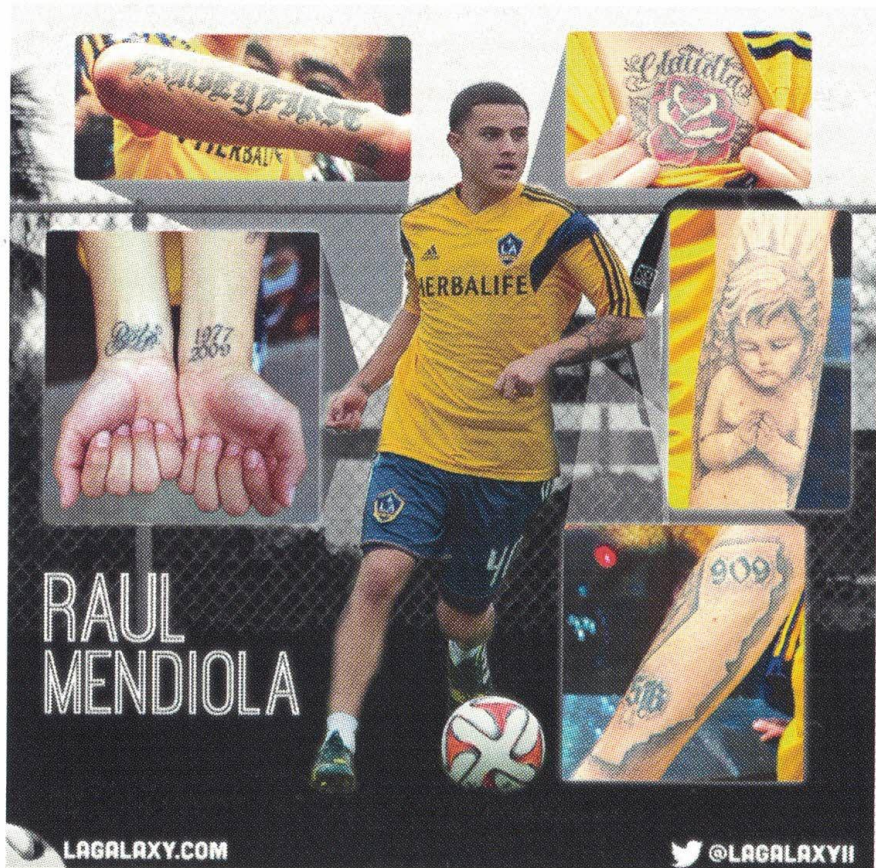
Andrews was well aware of the negative stereotypes that follow people from "the Dino," but admitted that he didn't let it cloud his thinking.

"I've been kind of a mentor for him. He hasn't been taught certain things that you learn at an age with the circumstances that he had been through," said Andrews. "It's been a learning process and going through school, teaching him about debts and simple things that we take for granted, but he hadn't been taught in life.

"No one wanted to help him out a little bit, so I figured that it was no problem with me," added Andrews. "We know that people like him that are given an opportunity can succeed. He is a good kid, and I'm glad Kristen and I did this for him, and I know that he cherishes the opportunity with the Galaxy and also with us."

That change of scenery proved all the difference for Mendiola who soon saw himself return to the first team fold during the 2013 season and ultimately, earn a Homegrown Player contract with the Galaxy in February.

Although swapping his family home in the Inland Empire for Orange County was met with some resistance from his mother, she understands that leaving home worked out for the best for her son.



"He wanted to move because he wanted to be independent and he has matured a great deal," Claudia Mendiola told LAGalaxy.com. "We're proud of his sacrifices that he's made to get where he needs to go."

And that maturation that she speaks of? It's no secret to any member of the Galaxy.

Said Galaxy stalwart Landon Donovan who is another product of the Inland Empire, "Him and I come from the same 'hood' as he would say. When he first came in, he was a just a little punk who was excited running around and very raw. He's turned into a player that understands how the game is played. It's been fun to watch him grow and develop."

Now that he has developed into a viable prospect, he'll look to grow even further under the watchful eye of LA Galaxy II head coach Curt Onalfo who expects Mendiola to blossom into one of the team's top contributors in year one of the USL PRO club.

"It's actually been a real joy to watch him grow significantly as a player and a person. He's been training with us for more than two years and in that time, he's understood what it takes to be a pro," said Onalfo. "I feel that he wants to put the team on his shoulders and be a key player for our team. He's going to have a big role and this will be his platform to grow to his career so that he can not only play with the Galaxy II, but the Galaxy as well."

Even as he looks to follow in Keane's footsteps by leading Galaxy II and, possibly, one day, the LA first team, the fearless yet humble Mendiola can't help but take a moment to just soak it all in as he steels himself for the future.

"The LA Galaxy is home to me. This is my home," he says. "I've come a long way to get this point, but I know that it is just the beginning of a long journey. I'm not going to stop working though, I'm just going to keep growing."

The LA Galaxy continue to add top local talent with the signings of Bradford Jamieson IV and Raul Mendiola

The Galaxy have now signed a total of seven Academy players in their history

By Adam Serrano

The talent well produced by the rich Southern California soccer market is continuing to be tapped by the LA Galaxy.

On February 20, the Galaxy inked two new Homegrown Players, Raul Mendiola and Bradford Jamieson IV, just hours apart from one another. With the signings, the Galaxy have now signed a total of seven Academy players in their history, which is tied for second in MLS with the Columbus Crew. FC Dallas have signed a total of 11 since the Academy's inception.

Mendiola, 19, is a three-time Development Academy Starting XI selection and two-time U.S. Developmental Academy Player of the Year, who made nine appearances with the Galaxy Reserves a year ago. The attacking midfielder has split this preseason between the LA first team and LA Galaxy II.

"It's been a long journey and I thank everyone that supported me on the way," Mendiola said. "This is just the beginning and I know that I still have to work but I'm excited to get to this point and be part of this team."

Not to be outdone, Jamieson brings his own shining resume.

A one-time NSCAA All-American selection, the 17-year-old Jamieson completed four semesters with the U.S. Under-17 team and made three appearances for the Galaxy reserve team in 2013. This season, Jamieson has made 11 appearances for the Galaxy U-18's

in U.S. Soccer Developmental Academy play, tallying three goals.

Jamieson has been a regular contributor for the Galaxy first team during the preseason with four appearances.

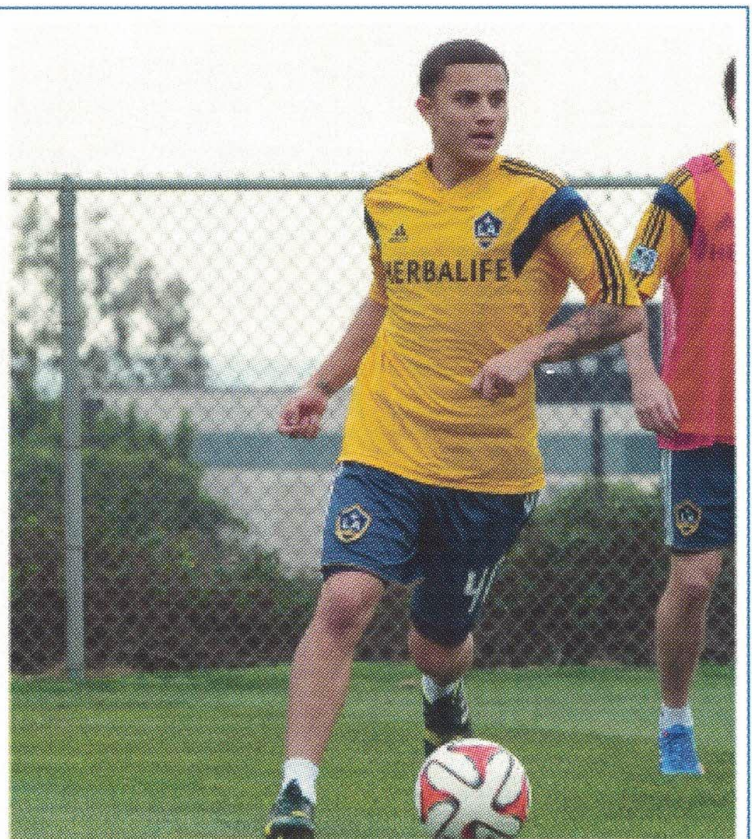
"This is just the start," he said. "I was barely scratching the surface and, yes, I broke out of the youth system, but now I'm right back to the bottom and I have to earn my way to the top again."

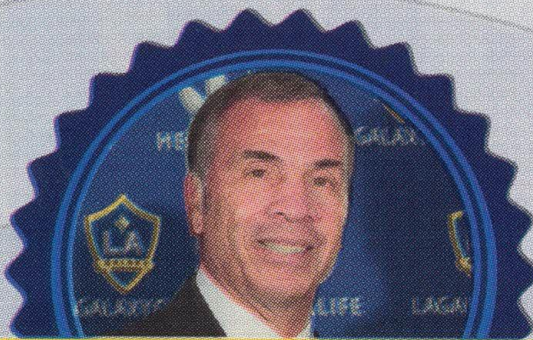
The attacking outside midfielder also holds another interesting distinction as the first Homegrown signing in club history that is younger than the team itself. The Galaxy Academy product was born on October 20, 1996, just two days before the LA played in the inaugural MLS Cup against D.C. United at RFK Stadium.

"It's a good sign for MLS that we're now signing players that are younger than the league itself. That's a great sign. We hope that it will continue," said Galaxy head coach Bruce Arena who led DCU to 3-2 victory over the Galaxy in the 1996 MLS Cup.

Where the former U.S. youth international fits in the Galaxy's system still remains to be seen, but Arena believes that he should receive minutes no matter where he's placed.

"We think that he's a fine young talent," Arena added. "We think that he has a good future and he has a great opportunity with the Galaxy and Galaxy II to develop over the next couple of years and chase his dream of playing for the Galaxy."





BRUCE ARENA

COACHING TREE



BOB BRADLEY
 Assistant for Arena for the USMNT and DC United
 Head Coach for USMNT 2000 World Cup & 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup, M.C. Cup champion, 2x US Open Cup Winner



Glenn Myernick
 Assistant to Arena for USMNT
 Head Coach for Colorado Rapids



GREGG BERHALTER
 Assistant Coach under Arena for the Galaxy
 Head Coach for Hamilton City Islanders and Columbus Crew



CURT ONALFO
 Assistant to Arena for USMNT
 Head Coach for DC United, Sporting KC, and LA Galaxy II



DAVE SARACHAN
 Assistant to Arena at LA Galaxy, DC United, and USMNT
 Head Coach for the Chicago Fire, 2x US Open Cup Winner, Supporters' Shield Winner



BEN OLSON
 Assistant to Arena for DC United



Richie Williams
 Assistant Coach under Arena for the Red Bulls
 Head Coach for US Open Cup Winner



Martin Vasquez
 Assistant to Arena for Galaxy, Head Coach for LA Galaxy II



FRED
 Assistant to Arena for Galaxy II



PETER NOWAK
 Assistant to Arena for the USMNT



JESSE MARSCH
 Assistant to Arena for the USMNT



John Mackworth
 Assistant to Arena for the USMNT



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
 1978-1995
 5 National Championships
 Notable Players: John Hareless, Jeff Agnew, Tony Brown, Clayton Kopp



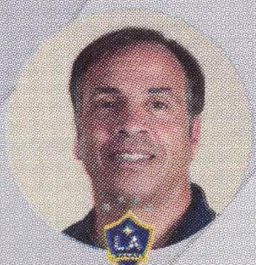
DC United
 1996-98
 2 MLS Cups
 1 Supporters' Shield
 1 US Open Cup
 1 CONCACAF Gold Cup



USMNT
 1998-2006
 2 World Cup Appearances
 2002 World Cup Quarterfinals
 2 CONCACAF Gold Cups



New York Red Bulls
 2006-07
 MLS Eastern Conference Playoffs
 (Notable players: Jorg Althoff, Juan Pablo Angel)



LA Galaxy
 2008-Present
 2 MLS Cups
 2 Supporters' Shields
 2 Western Conference Titles



5 National Championships, 4 MLS Cups, 3 Supporters' Shields, 2 CONCACAF Gold Cups, 1 US Open Cup

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