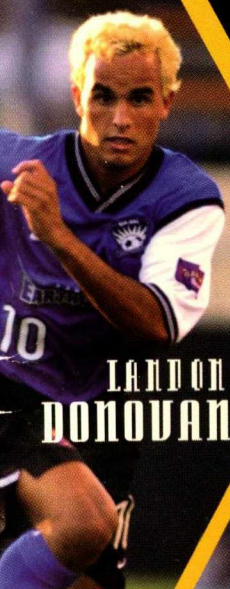


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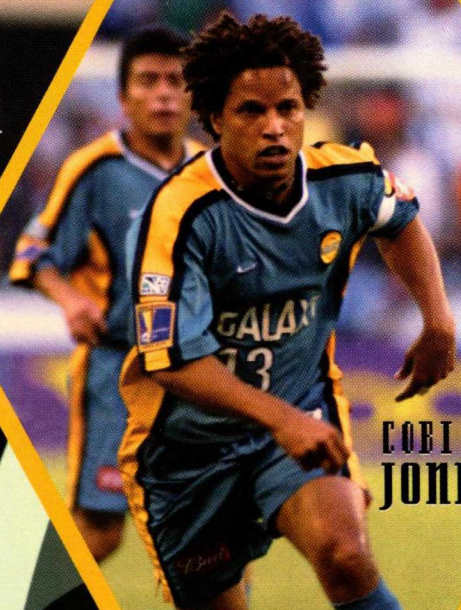
2001 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

OCTOBER 21

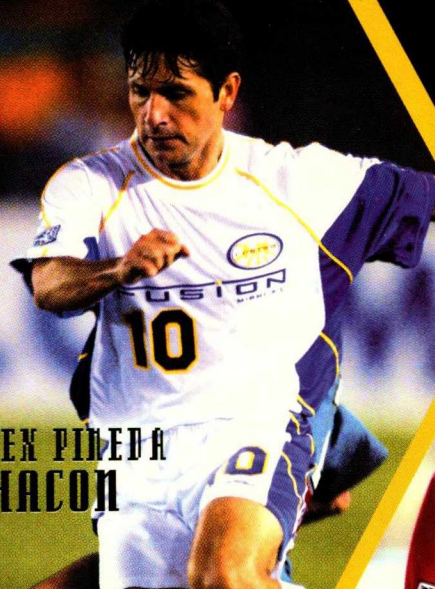
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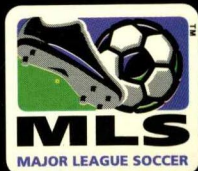


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Executive V.P.-Sales & Marketing Kevin Hahn
Senior V.P.-Finance Jim Wicks
Senior V.P.-Team Relations Peggy Kearney
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V.P.-Manufacturing/Editorial Ruth Sod Yung
Executive Editor Kieran P. O'Dwyer
Senior Editor Christian Evans Gartley
Editor Jim Hill
Copy Editor Jason Brown
Art Director Joseph Caputo
Designer Lynda O'Keefe
Director, Manufacturing Robin Daikeler
Production Manager Sarah Schneider
Traffic Advertising Mary Powell, Manager
Local Sales

Systems John Lello, Dir.; Steve Kanellopoulos, Mgr.
National Accounts Manager Jay Sharin
Group Circulation Director John Cross
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MLS CUP 2001 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

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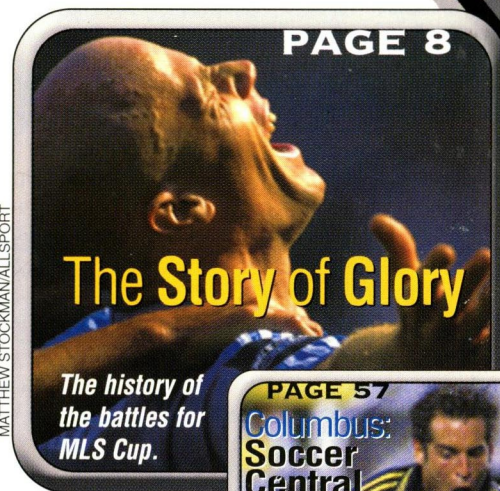
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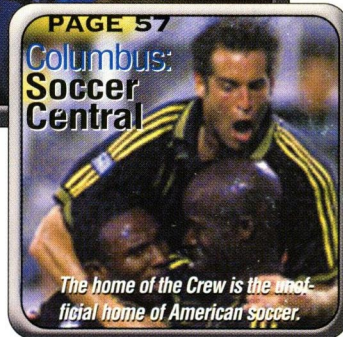
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MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER 2001

WELCOME TO

MLS CUP



Let me be the first to welcome you to Columbus and MLS Cup 2001. We arrive in Central Ohio on the heels of perhaps the most competitive season in league history, concluding today with our sixth championship final. Historically, Columbus has been among the most supportive soccer communities in the country and we are excited to return for another marquee event following the city's tremendous support for the 2001 MLS All-Star Weekend.

There couldn't be a more appropriate venue for Major League Soccer's premier event than Columbus Crew Stadium, the site of this year's final. As the first of many soccer-specific stadiums in the United States, Crew Stadium has become the ultimate landmark of soccer's arrival on the American sports landscape.

Our league has made many strides in six seasons but perhaps none is more important than the increasing quality of the on-field competition. Young American stars like DaMarcus Beasley, Bobby Convey, Landon Donovan and Santino Quaranta have become the hallmark of our progress while world-class talents like Clint Mathis, Chris Armas and Josh Wolff have assumed key roles on our rapidly improving U.S. National Team.

Amidst the many spectacular moments of our regular season, I would be remiss not to mention the tragedy of September 11,

which brought such sadness and grief to our entire nation. While the unspeakable acts of that day will never be forgotten, we at MLS join those all around the country in the healing process that has strengthened our great nation. Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are extended to the countless individuals whose lives were forever changed.

I want to congratulate both teams competing in today's MLS Cup, along with all the players, coaches, referees, sponsors, administrators and staff members who have made this season a great success. I'd also like to thank all our dedicated fans for their unwavering and passionate support. We look forward to sharing many more memorable days with you in the years to come.

Enjoy today's match.

Sincerely,

Don Garber
Commissioner

BIENVENIDO A LA FINAL DE LA COPA MLS

Déjeme ser el primero en darle la más cálida bienvenida a la final de la Copa MLS 2001. Llegamos a esta gran final en Ohio en los talones de quizás la temporada más abierta y pareja en la historia de la liga, la cual concluirá hoy con nuestra sexta final. Históricamente, Columbus ha estado entre las comunidades más apoyo ha brindado al fútbol del país y nos alegra poder volver acá para escenificar otro acontecimiento trascendental después del fenomenal éxito del Juego de las Estrellas del 2000.

No podría haber un lugar más apropiado para este acontecimiento que el estadio Columbus Crew. Como el primero de muchos estadios construidos para el fútbol en los Estados Unidos que se planean en el futuro, Crew Stadium se ha convertido en el símbolo de la llegada del fútbol al firmamento deportivo de este país. Esto será reflejado dramáticamente en la atmósfera que se vivirá hoy, la cual es comparable a la de cualquier acontecimiento deportivo de gran envergadura que se lleva a cabo alrededor del mundo.

Nuestra liga ha cosechado muchos logros en sus seis años de existencia pero quizás ninguno es más importante que el mejor calibre de la competencia dentro de la cancha. Jóvenes estrellas estadounidenses como DaMarcus Beasley, Bobby Convey, Landon Donovan y Santino Quaranta se han convertido en el sello de calidad reflejando nuestro progreso mientras que estrellas en el ámbito mundial como Clint Mathis, Josh Wolff y Chris Armas han asumido papeles protagónicos en la selección nacional de los EE.UU. Les aseguramos que continuaremos tomando los pasos necesarios para consolidar nuestro papel como líderes en el desarrollo del tal-

ento futbolístico nacional.

Entre todos los grandes momentos vividos en nuestra liga durante la temporada regular, sería incorrecto de mi parte el no mencionar la horrible tragedia del 11 de septiembre que trajo tal tristeza y pena a toda nuestra nación. Mientras que los viles actos de ese día nunca serán olvidados, en MLS nos unimos al mundo entero en el proceso de recuperación que ha fortalecido a nuestra gran nación. Nuestras oraciones y condolencias son extendidas a los incontables individuos cuyas vidas fueron cambiadas para siempre.

Ofrezco mis sinceras felicitaciones a ambos equipos compitiendo en el partido de hoy, a los jugadores, entrenadores, árbitros, patrocinadores, administradores y a todos los que de una manera u otra han ayudado a que esta temporada haya sido todo un éxito. Sin embargo, más que cualquier cosa, quiero agradecer profundamente a todos nuestros aficionados por su tremendo apoyo y dedicación. Esperamos ansiosamente compartir con ustedes muchas temporadas mas trayéndoles mas cotejos futbolísticos memorables.

¡Disfruten de este gran partido!

Sinceramente,

Don Garber
Comisionado

2001 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

SCHEDULE/RESULTS

APRIL

Saturday, April 7th

Visitor	Score	Home Team	Attendance
San Jose	3-2	Los Angeles	17,386
New England	1-2	MetroStars	30,753
Kansas City	2-3	D.C. United	22,216
Colorado	1-2	Miami	10,411
Chicago	1-1	Columbus	17,947
Tampa Bay	4-2	Dallas	15,124

Saturday, April 14th

Dallas	1-0	San Jose	13,919
Columbus	2-1	Tampa Bay	16,823
Miami	1-1	New England	15,576
Los Angeles	1-2	Kansas City	13,042
MetroStars	1-1	Colorado	18,495
D.C. United	0-2	Chicago	19,241

Wednesday, April 18th

Miami	1-2	Kansas City	4,420
-------	-----	-------------	-------

Saturday, April 21st

Colorado	0-1	Los Angeles	12,749
Tampa Bay	3-1	MetroStars	17,253
Chicago	2-3	Dallas	9,785
San Jose	1-2	Miami	8,096
Kansas City	3-0	Columbus	14,488
New England	1-2	D.C. United	15,656

Saturday, April 28th

Los Angeles	3-2	Colorado	8,309
Chicago	1-0	Tampa Bay	10,602
Dallas	2-3	MetroStars	17,543
New England	0-1	Miami	14,381
San Jose	0-0	Kansas City	14,521

MAY

Wednesday, May 2nd

Kansas City	1-4	MetroStars	9,321
-------------	-----	------------	-------

Saturday, May 5th

Kansas City	1-2	Los Angeles	13,471
Miami	0-0	Columbus	13,975
D.C. United	2-3	MetroStars	20,877
Tampa Bay	0-2	Chicago	13,123
Colorado	1-0	Dallas	14,504
New England	2-3	San Jose	8,137

Wednesday, May 9th

Los Angeles	4-4	Tampa Bay	6,056
New England	0-5	D.C. United	10,638

Saturday, May 12th

Chicago	1-2	New England	15,159
San Jose	3-2	D.C. United	36,528
Los Angeles	0-2	MetroStars	21,561
Columbus	0-4	Dallas	14,087
Tampa Bay	1-2	Colorado	13,052

Wednesday, May 16th

Columbus	1-2	New England	7,864
Colorado	0-1	MetroStars	10,081

Saturday, May 19th

Dallas	0-0	Los Angeles	15,881
MetroStars	0-2	San Jose	6,879
Tampa Bay	1-3	Miami	12,412
D.C. United	1-2	Columbus	18,491
New England	1-0	Colorado	20,005
Kansas City	0-2	Chicago	20,302

Wednesday, May 23rd

San Jose	2-0	Dallas	7,505
Miami	1-0	Colorado	6,295

Thursday, May 24th

MetroStars	0-1	Kansas City	7,873
------------	-----	-------------	-------

Saturday, May 26th

New England	0-2	Los Angeles	12,249
San Jose	1-1	Chicago	8,322
Miami	4-0	Tampa Bay	12,988
Colorado	3-3	Columbus	12,630

Wednesday, May 30th

D.C. United	1-2	Miami	6,524
Los Angeles	4-3	Chicago	9,498
Colorado	3-1	San Jose	15,217

JUNE

Saturday, June 2nd

Chicago	2-1	D.C. United	14,473
Los Angeles	1-1	Columbus	15,174
Kansas City	2-1	Tampa Bay	9,834
Miami	6-2	Dallas	10,049
San Jose	2-1	Colorado	10,095

Sunday, June 3rd

MetroStars	1-1	New England	28,623
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Wednesday, June 6th

Dallas	1-0	Tampa Bay	5,834
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Saturday, June 9th

Los Angeles	1-3	San Jose	13,361
D.C. United	0-3	Dallas	11,114
Kansas City	1-5	Miami	9,154
Tampa Bay	0-3	New England	15,468
Columbus	0-1	Chicago	15,233

Wednesday, June 13th

Kansas City	0-4	Los Angeles	4,827
MetroStars	1-2	D.C. United	11,581

Saturday, June 16th

D.C. United	3-0	Kansas City	11,083
San Jose	0-0	MetroStars	23,561
Tampa Bay	1-6	Columbus	19,128
Los Angeles	3-3	Miami	11,846
Dallas	6-3	Colorado	12,652

Wednesday, June 20th

Colorado	3-3	New England	31,211
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Saturday, June 23rd

Kansas City	0-2	San Jose	8,917
MetroStars	0-2	Los Angeles	13,844
D.C. United	2-3	Tampa Bay	9,232
Columbus	2-1	Dallas	10,940
New England	1-1	Chicago	20,531

Saturday, June 30th

Los Angeles	0-0	Dallas	16,104
Colorado	1-1	D.C. United	30,271
Columbus	3-4	Miami	14,856
MetroStars	1-3	Chicago	15,274
Tampa Bay	0-3	Kansas City	10,529

JULY**Wednesday, July 4th**

Columbus	2-0	Los Angeles	52,634
Miami	1-1	San Jose	9,847
MetroStars	2-1	Tampa Bay	20,730
Chicago	7-0	Kansas City	19,552
New England	1-1	Dallas	21,343
D.C. United	1-3	Colorado	60,500

Saturday, July 7th

Dallas	2-2	Columbus	18,937
Chicago	3-2	Tampa Bay	8,583
MetroStars	3-0	Miami	22,370
Kansas City	2-1	New England	13,141
Los Angeles	3-0	D.C. United	23,704
San Jose	1-3	Colorado	18,047

Saturday, July 14th

Miami	0-3	Los Angeles	16,207
Tampa Bay	1-2	San Jose	7,065
D.C. United	3-1	New England	14,691
Colorado	0-1	Chicago	14,544
Dallas	2-3	Kansas City	8,031

Tuesday, July 17th

Los Angeles	2-3	New England	12,391
-------------	-----	-------------	--------

Wednesday, July 18th

Chicago	1-2	Miami	6,092
MetroStars	1-2	Columbus	15,855
Tampa Bay	0-3	Dallas	7,119
Kansas City	0-0	Colorado	10,206
D.C. United	0-4	San Jose	8,673

Saturday, July 21st

D.C. United	1-2	MetroStars	32,723
Colorado	2-1	Tampa Bay	9,425
New England	1-1	Miami	6,123
San Jose	1-2	Columbus	20,273
Dallas	1-2	Chicago	20,357

Saturday, July 28th

MLS All-Star Game, San Jose, Calif.			
East All-Stars	6-6	West All-Stars	23,512

Sunday, July 29th

New England	0-2	Kansas City	6,071
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AUGUST**Wednesday, August 1st**

Chicago	0-3	Columbus	17,705
Miami	2-2	D.C. United	13,391

Saturday, August 4th

Chicago	1-1	Colorado	10,122
San Jose	0-2	Tampa Bay	11,064
Dallas	1-5	New England	10,326
Miami	1-2	MetroStars	41,794
Columbus	3-1	Kansas City	9,292

Wednesday, August 8th

San Jose	5-1	New England	11,822
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Saturday, August 11th

Columbus	2-2	San Jose	8,119
D.C. United	0-1	Los Angeles	13,805
Miami	4-1	New England	12,003
Tampa Bay	1-3	Chicago	20,677
MetroStars	0-3	Dallas	11,877

Sunday, August 12th

Kansas City	2-2	Colorado	9,342
-------------	-----	----------	-------

Wednesday, August 15th

MetroStars	2-1	D.C. United	11,618
Dallas	0-3	Columbus	19,008
Miami	2-1	Chicago	14,737
Los Angeles	2-1	Kansas City	7,893

Saturday, August 18th

Chicago	1-0	San Jose	10,877
Tampa Bay	1-5	Los Angeles	12,115
D.C. United	1-2	New England	15,226
Dallas	2-4	Miami	9,750

Sunday, August 19th

Columbus	1-0	MetroStars	16,229
Colorado	2-3	Kansas City	9,361

Saturday, August 25th

Colorado	2-5	San Jose	7,312
Columbus	1-2	D.C. United	13,855
Chicago	3-1	Los Angeles	23,488
MetroStars	3-2	Miami	18,247
Kansas City	0-3	Dallas	13,914

Sunday, August 26th

New England	0-0	Tampa Bay	11,345
-------------	-----	-----------	--------

Wednesday, August 29th

Dallas	3-2	Tampa Bay	4,286
Columbus	1-2	Chicago	12,733

SEPTEMBER**Saturday, September 1st**

Colorado	2-3	Los Angeles	17,379
Kansas City	0-3	San Jose	6,927
Tampa Bay	1-5	D.C. United	54,282
Chicago	1-0	MetroStars	15,102
New England	1-4	Columbus	24,033

Friday, September 7th

New England	1-3	MetroStars	13,679
-------------	-----	------------	--------

Saturday, September 8th

D.C. United	1-3	Miami	6,219
Dallas	2-2	Chicago	24,866
San Jose	0-1	Kansas City	20,734
Los Angeles	2-0	Colorado	17,129

Sunday, September 9th

Columbus	2-1	Tampa Bay	9,932
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Wednesday, September 12th

Columbus		Colorado	Canceled
Dallas		D.C. United	Canceled
Miami		MetroStars	Canceled
San Jose		Los Angeles	Canceled

Saturday, September 15th

MetroStars		New England	Canceled
Miami		D.C. United	Canceled
Tampa Bay		Columbus	Canceled
Chicago		Dallas	Canceled

Sunday, September 16th

Colorado		Kansas City	Canceled
Los Angeles		San Jose	Canceled

Thursday, September 20th

MLS Cup Playoffs begin

Sunday, October 21st

MLS Cup - Columbus Crew Stadium at 1:30 p.m.ET
LIVE COVERAGE ON ABC SPORTS



ESPN ESPN 2 MLSnets.com

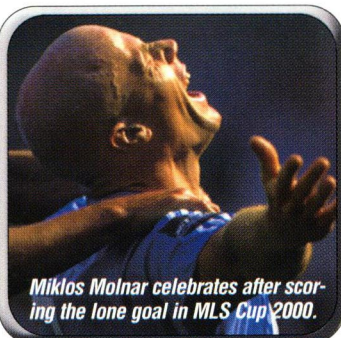


MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER 2001

THE STORY OF GLORY

A look back at the history of MLS Cup

MATTHEW STOKMAN/ALLSPORT



Miklos Molnar celebrates after scoring the lone goal in MLS Cup 2000.

At MLS Cup, there are no consolation prizes. When years of dreaming and months of hard work are reduced to only 90 minutes, that drama, emotion and tension are not easily replicated in any part of our daily lives. Especially when the road to MLS Cup is as long, unpredictable and difficult as it is, the players are forced to give all their energies and spirits in that final match because

there may never be a second time. That understandably makes the reactions that spill over from athletes and fans in MLS' championship game unique, spontaneous and indelibly fixed into our memories. From tears and desperate heartache to shouts and uncontrollable celebrations: MLS has seen five of these 90-minute dramas unfold with a sixth one—the first to take place on the stage of Columbus Crew Stadium on Oct. 21—that promises to be just as captivating.



OCTOBER 15 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Scoring Summary:
KC - Molnar (Klein) 11'

WIZARDS CAP DREAM SEASON WITH TITLE

RFK Stadium – Oct. 15, 2000: Wizards goalkeeper Tony Meola, voted MLS Cup MVP, capped off a remarkable season by making 10 saves as Kansas City downed Chicago 1-0 at MLS Cup 2000. The 2000 Aquafina Goalkeeper of the Year made three spectacular stops in the game's late stages to maintain his team's 1-0 lead. The game-winning goal came in the 11th minute, when forward Miklos Molnar converted a Chris Klein cross from the right (Molnar would surprisingly announce his retirement from professional soccer after the game). Then the league's best defense made it stand up from there as the Wizards withstood various dangerous offensives from the regular season's best attacking team.

CHICAGO FIRE—Zach Thornton, C.J. Brown, Carlos Bocanegra, Tenywa Bonseu, Peter Nowak (Lubos Kubik 83), Diego Gutierrez (DaMarcus Beasley 70), Chris Armas, Jesse Marsch (Josh Wolff 59), Dema Kovalenko, Hristo Stoichkov, Ante Razov

KANSAS CITY WIZARDS—Tony Meola, Chris Klein (Francisco Gomez 89), Nick Garcia, Peter Vermes, Brandon Prideaux, Preki (Uche Okafor 74), Matt McKeon, Kerry Zavagnin, Chris Henderson, Mo Johnston, Miklos Molnar

Referee: Paul Tamberino; Assistant Referees: Craig Lowry, George Vergara
Attendance: 39,159; Weather: Sunny, 77 degrees



Scoring Summary:
DC - Moreno (Lassiter) 19'
DC - Olsen (unassisted) 45'

UNITED RECLAIMS THE THRONE

Foxboro Stadium – Nov. 21, 1999: D.C. United resumed its Major League Soccer

dynasty with a 2-0 win in MLS Cup '99, in the matchup between the best defensive unit in MLS (Galaxy) and the highest-scoring team (D.C. United). Jaime Moreno and MLS Cup '99 MVP Ben Olsen scored a goal apiece, while goalkeeper Tom Presthus recorded the shutout as United captured its third MLS crown in the four-year existence of the league. In a rematch of MLS Cup '96 at the same Foxboro Stadium venue, United scored twice in the first half: 10 minutes after Galaxy captain Robin Fraser left the game through injury and then just moments before the halftime whistle, when an errant clearance by goalkeeper Kevin Hartman was converted by Ben Olsen.

D.C. UNITED—Tom Presthus, Carey Talley, Eddie Pope, Carlos Llamasa (Diego Sonora 74), Jeff Agoos, Richie Williams, Ben Olsen, John Maessner, Marco Etcheverry, Jaime Moreno, Roy Lassiter (Geoff Aunger 87)

LOS ANGELES GALAXY—Kevin Hartman, Ezra Hendrickson, Paul Caligiuri, Robin Fraser (Steve Jolley 9, Zak Ibsen 80), Greg Vanney, Danny Pena (Simon Elliott 73), Clint Mathis, Mauricio Cienfuegos, Roy Myers, Cobi Jones, Carlos Hermosillo

Referee: Tim Weyland; Assistant Referees: Nathan Clement, Craig Lowry
Attendance: 44,910; Weather: Sunny, clear, 65 degrees



Scoring Summary:
CHI - Podbrozny (Nowak, Razov) 29'
CHI - Gutierrez (Nowak) 45'

CHICAGO ENDS UNITED'S REIGN

Rose Bowl – Oct. 25, 1998: The expansion

continued on page 10

continued from page 8

Chicago Fire put an end to D.C. United's reign over MLS Cup, using the creative playmaking of Peter Nowak and the steady goalkeeping of Zach Thornton to claim a 2-0 victory in MLS Cup '98 in its first season in the league. Nowak assisted on first-half goals by Jerzy Podbrozny and Diego Gutierrez to earn MVP honors. The Fire defense disrupted the two-time defending champions' attack, which was often MLS' most efficient and fluid offense, by unleashing Chris Armas on United's ace playmaker Marco Etcheverry, the league's 1998 Honda MVP.

D.C. UNITED—Tom Presthus, Eddie Pope, Jeff Agoos, Carlos Llamasa (Mike Slivinski 81), Tony Sanneh (A.J. Wood 70), Marco Etcheverry, John Harkes, Richie Williams, Ben Olsen, Roy Lassiter, Jaime Moreno
CHICAGO FIRE—Zach Thornton, C.J. Brown, Lubos Kubik, Francis Okaroh, Diego Gutierrez, Chris Armas, Jesse Marsch, Jerzy Podbrozny, Peter Nowak (Josh Wolff 79), Roman Kosecki (Frank Klopas 56), Ante Razov (Tom Soehn 74)

Referee: Kevin Terry; Referee's Assistants: Chip Reed, Laszlo Nagy
 Attendance: 51,350; Weather: Partly cloudy, 74 degrees



Scoring Summary:

DC - Moreno (Sanneh, Vaudreuil) 37'
 DC - Sanneh (Harkes, Williams) 68'
 COL - Paz (Patino, Kmosko) 75'

RFK SEES UNITED HOIST CUP

RFK Stadium – Oct. 26, 1997: D.C. United became Major League Soccer's first back-to-back champion with a 2-1 win against the Colorado Rapids in front of 57,431 rain-drenched fans at RFK Stadium in the nation's capital. Goals by forward Jaime Moreno (36th minute) and midfielder Tony Sanneh (68th minute) led the defending champions to glory in front of the home crowd, which at the time was RFK's second-largest ever for a soccer match. A late 75th-minute goal by Adrian Paz pulled the Rapids to within one, but United's stellar defense held tight against the frenzied Rapids pressure. Moreno, who created problems for the Colorado defense all afternoon, garnered match MVP honors.

COLORADO RAPIDS—Marcus Hahnmann, Chris Martinez (Adrian Paz 59), Steve Trittschuh, Peter Vermes, Matt Kmosko, Marcelo Balboa, Sean Henderson (Ross Paule 81), Chris Henderson, Paul Bravo (Wolde Harris 27), David Patino, Steve Rammel

D.C. UNITED—Scott Garlick, David Vaudreuil, Eddie Pope, Carlos Llamasa, Jeff Agoos, Richie Williams, Tony Sanneh, John Harkes, Marco Etcheverry, Jaime Moreno, Raul Diaz Arce

Referee: Brian Hall; Referee's Assistants: Steve Olson, Greg Barkey
 Attendance: 57,431; Weather: Rain, 46 degrees



STEPHEN DUNN/ALSTON

D.C. United's Jaime Moreno eludes the Galaxy's Mark Semioli during MLS Cup '96.



Scoring Summary:

LA - Hurtado (Cienfuegos) 5'
 LA - Armas (unassisted) 56'
 DC - Sanneh (Etcheverry) 73'
 DC - Medved (unassisted) 81'
 DC - Pope (Etcheverry) 94'

POPE'S GOLDEN HEADER WINS MLS CUP '96

Foxboro Stadium – Oct. 20, 1996: D.C. United overcame improbable odds to claim victory and the Alan I. Rothenberg Trophy before nearly 35,000 fans at soggy Foxboro Stadium in the inaugural MLS Cup championship game. Trailing the Los Angeles Galaxy 2-0 with 17 minutes to play, United's furious comeback and eventual sudden-death overtime victory in the middle of a driving rainstorm and 30-50 mile-per-hour winds made MLS Cup '96 a game to remember. United's then 22-year-old defender Eddie Pope became the improbable hero when four minutes into overtime, he nodded home the winning goal off a corner kick from Marco Etcheverry, who was later named the game's MVP.

D.C. UNITED—Mark Simpson, Clint Peay, Eddie Pope, Jeff Agoos, Mario Gori (Shawn Medved 70), Richie Williams, John Maessner (Tony Sanneh 59), John Harkes, Marco Etcheverry, Jaime Moreno, Raul Diaz Arce

LOS ANGELES GALAXY—Jorge Campos, Mark Semioli, Robin Fraser, Greg Vanney, Arash Noamouz, Jorge Salcedo (Curt Onalfo 77), Chris Armas, Mauricio Cienfuegos, Cobi Jones, Harut Karapetyan (Ante Razov 76), Eduardo Hurtado

Referee: Esse Baharmast; Referee's Assistants: Paul Tamberino, Steve Olson
 Attendance: 34,643; Weather: Rain, 44 degrees, Winds: 30-50 mph

THE ODD COUPLE

Alex Pineda Chacon and Diego Serna are different in character but equally dangerous near the goal.

The one—Honduran icon Alex Pineda Chacon—is feathery and refined, a player so cultured that Miami Fusion Head Coach Ray Hudson says, “He could walk on snow and not leave footprints.” The other—Colombian import Diego Serna—is bullish and sinewy, a muscular man-child who thrills and frustrates his coach and teammates with his relentless and impetuous play.

Together, they are a glossary of adjectives and characteristics that, despite the yin-yang split of their personalities, have accomplished this season what’s never been done in five previous MLS seasons: become the first players from the same team to finish one-two in the league scoring chart.

“They’re as different as chalk and cheese,” Hudson says. “One’s a family man [Chacon] and the other one’s a South Beach playboy. And they play with as much contrast in their game on the field as they do in their lives off the field. But, they’re connected at the hip by a South American verve and style and a wonderful spontaneity and creativity.”

Contrasting lives and interlocking hips indeed. Pineda Chacon and Serna are the Felix Unger and Oscar Madison of MLS, a footballing odd couple that is equally productive and harmonious, despite their divergent origins and contradictory lifestyles.

Pineda Chacon went to a university to become an attorney before committing to soccer full time. Serna quit school as a teenager and worked construction jobs for his uncle between practices in Medellín, Colombia, where his mother still lives.

Pineda Chacon is a married father of three who drives a modest, mid-sized vehicle and could pass for an office worker as easily as an athlete. Serna is buffed, moussed and available, and he drives an expensive SUV that’s as imposing on a highway as he is carving out territory in the 18-yard box.

“They’re such polar opposites,” says Fusion captain Jim Rooney. “It’s almost like Alex is the lawyer and Diego is the defendant. You’d never think these two would get along, but they’ve been tremendous. They have a great partnership and friendship that carries them through.”

Bound by a shared language and similar roots in Latin American football, Pineda Chacon and Serna became friendly almost immediately when the Honduran arrived to play in Fort Lauderdale in March. Pineda Chacon, a stranger in a strange land at the time, leaned on Serna as he tried to settle himself and his family, even borrowing a car in a pinch.

“It’s like when you’re 8 years old and someone asks to play,” Serna says. “It’s just the love of the sport that makes you reach out and want to help.”



The Fusion's dynamic duo, Alex Pineda Chacon (left) and Diego Serna celebrate after yet another goal.

ELIOT SCHACTER/ALLSPORT

Says Pineda Chacon of Serna's welcoming gesture, “He’s someone who’s very warm and open. He helped me when I got here and I value that very much. When Diego saw what kind of player I was he helped me to feel more comfortable on the field. The results speak for themselves.”

No kidding. An offseason acquisition from Honduran power CD Olimpia, where he won five Central American championships, Pineda Chacon led MLS in goals (19) and points (47). He was also MLS Player of the Week four times. Serna, the Fusion’s all-time leading scorer with 52 goals, joined Dallas’ Jason Kreis as the only MLS player to have 15 goals and 15 assists in a season.

It would be misleading to suggest that both the Fusion’s league-best regular season record (16-5-5) and MLS-high goal-scoring total (57) came down to the two forwards. Both Serna and Pineda Chacon readily concede that they benefited mightily from Hudson’s pulsating, go-forward style of play, as did the players around them, especially fellow attackers Preki, Rooney, Ian Bishop and Chris Henderson.

Still, no team could do what the Fusion did this season without having at least one consistent goal scorer. That the Fusion had two merely amplified their success.

“They play well off each other in tandem and they’re a wonderful foil for each other,” Hudson says. “I’ve been surprised as it’s developed. It became stronger. It wasn’t that way earlier.”

In fact, the extrasensory understanding that was evident between the two later in the season didn’t start to show until the fifth game, when

continued on page 14

continued from page 12

Pineda Chacon volleyed a neatly played Serna cross in a 1-0 win over New England. Two weeks later, Serna headed a Pineda Chacon pass for a goal against Tampa Bay to break out of a scoring slump. In all, the two players have assisted seven times on the other's goals.

Prior to this season, the Fusion knew what it had in Serna, one of just three players remaining from the club's inaugural roster. Hudson, who scouted Pineda Chacon at Olimpia last December, knew he had quality in the Honduran international, but he just wasn't sure whether he would fit in better as a playmaker or a withdrawn forward.

Though Pineda Chacon drops back comfortably into the midfield, he's evolved into an outright finisher with a delicate first touch and a knack for finding clear chances around the six-yard box. Many of Pineda Chacon's 19 goals have looked easy, with him often providing the final volley past a helpless goalkeeper.

"I always used to help other players score," Pineda Chacon says. "It's a different situation here. I've been given the opportunity to play a more open game and move up and score goals. I've never scored this many goals before."

As for Serna, his attacks on goal often exact a physical hardship, on both himself and opponents, as he uses his upper-body strength and Mach I first step to bull past defenders. Serna was the most-fouled player in MLS in 2001, and he was also one of the league's most volatile, picking up eight yellow cards and two ejections. Pineda Chacon, by contrast, received no yellow cards.

What doesn't show up on Serna's stat sheet are the beet-red rants he invoked in Hudson, who during the aforementioned Tampa game berated the Colombian for his casual mishandling of the ball. To

Pineda Chacon, a 10-year veteran of the Honduran National Team, may seriously consider a possible World Cup call-up after a previous falling-out with the Honduran head coach.



ELIOT SCHECTER/ALLSPORT

Serna's credit, he's tightened up his possession skills and won back Hudson's faith.

"Diego has been a great team player and a tremendous antagonistic force," Hudson says. "I couldn't ask any more from Diego, but there are greater things to come and the only one to inhibit him is himself. He inhibits his success in certain ways. Even at this point, as good as he is and as great as the setting is around him, he's still capable of producing more."

Serna's better days may yet be ahead of him, but like Pineda Chacon, he didn't come to MLS as a pure striker. He was a midfielder at his Colombian club Independiente Medellín and began his Fusion career in a deep-midfield role playing behind Carlos Valderrama. And, like Pineda Chacon, Serna often drifts instinctively into the midfield rather than posting himself around the penalty area.

The fact that neither Serna nor Pineda Chacon comes by their position naturally actually allows the Fusion to be more fluid and unpredictable with midfielders Preki, Rooney and Henderson often interchanging with the two forwards. In turn, the unorthodox geometry of the Fusion attack has served up a glut of scoring chances, leaving the symbiotic Felix-and-Oscar coupling up top to make league history by finishing them off.

"The key is to want to play good soccer," Serna says. "What we learn in my country is that there's no such thing as race or origin on the field. It's a matter of being able to find a teammate and being able to play well together."

Well said and well done.

GOAL BREAKDOWN

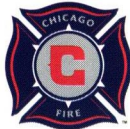
	Games Played	Goals Scored
Miami Fusion	26	57
Alex Pineda Chacon	25	19
Diego Serna	22	15

- Pineda Chacon and Serna scored 60 percent of the team's goals;
- One or the other has scored goals in 17 of the 26 games;
- The Fusion were 13-2-2 when either scored a goal and 3-3-3 when either did not;
- They have each scored goals in the same game six times.

Serna was a midfielder with Colombian powerhouse Independiente Medellín before joining the Fusion in 1998 and moving to forward from where he has netted double-digit goal totals in each of the last four years.

ELIOT SCHECTER/ALLSPORT

CHICAGO FIRE



After an MLS Cup 2000 loss that left them with a sour taste in their mouths, the Chicago Fire came back in 2001 as a team on a mission. They steam-rolled through the season with the key again proving to be the team's depth and solid defense.

With Josh Wolff, Carlos Bocanegra and Peter Nowak each bowing out for long stretches due to injury, Chicago found a way to replace them. The forward line was bolstered with the early-season acquisitions of Jamar Beasley and Eric Wynalda from the New England Revolution, as Wynalda led the Fire in scoring. Ante Razov also rejoined the team for the stretch run and despite suffering through an injury-plagued season, Bulgarian forward Hristo Stoitchkov made a difference nearly every time he stepped on the field.

With the usual cast of dependable midfielders in Chris Armas, Jesse Marsch and Dema Kovalenko, the Fire discovered rookie Jim "The Iron" Curtin, who became a fixture in central defense for most of the season. Curtin joined All-Stars C.J. Brown and goalkeeper Zach Thornton in contributing to the best defensive unit in the league (1.11 goals per game).

Chicago has already appeared in two MLS Cups in just three seasons of play, winning MLS Cup '98 during the team's inaugural season. One of the most consistent squads in league history, the Fire are accustomed to the rarefied air at the top.



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

Chicago Fire captain Peter Nowak, 37, played and started 18 matches in 2001 and led the team with 10 assists. When he was unavailable, Nowak's presence as midfield general was sorely missed.

CHICAGO FIRE

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
2	C.J. Brown	D	26	Eugene, Ore.
3	Evan Whitfield	D	24	Phoenix, Ariz.
4	Carlos Bocanegra	D	22	Upland, Calif.
5	Jim Curtin	D	22	Oreland, Penn.
6	Sergi Daniv	M	26	Lviv, Ukraine
7	DaMarcus Beasley	M	19	Ft. Wayne, Ind.
8	Hristo Stoitchkov	F	35	Plovdiv, Bulgaria
9	Ante Razov	F	27	Los Angeles, Calif.
10	Peter Nowak	M	37	Pabianice, Poland
11	Diego Gutierrez	M	28	Bogota, Colombia
13	Henry Ring	GK	24	Franklin, Tenn.
14	Chris Armas	M	29	Bronx, N.Y.
15	Jesse Marsch	M	27	Racine, Wisc.
16	Josh Wolff	F	24	Stone Mountain, Ga.
17	Andrew Lewis	D	26	New Providence, N.J.
18	Zach Thornton	GK	27	Baltimore, Md.
19	David Vaudreuil	M	34	Honolulu, Hawaii
20	Jamar Beasley	F	21	Ft. Wayne, Ind.
21	Dema Kovalenko	M	24	Kiev, Ukraine
22	Eric Wynalda	F	32	Fullerton, Calif.

Head Coach: Bob Bradley; **Assistant Coaches:** Denis Hamlett, Daryl Shore & Tom Soehn; **GM:** Peter Wilt; **Stadium:** Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill.

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	at Columbus	1-1 T (OT)	July 7	at Tampa Bay	3-2 W
April 14	D.C. United	2-0 W	July 14	Colorado	1-0 W
April 21	at Dallas	2-3 L	July 18	at Fusion F.C.	1-2 L
April 28	at Tampa Bay	1-0 W	July 21	Dallas	2-1 W (OT)
May 5	Tampa Bay	2-0 W	Aug. 1	at Columbus	0-3 L
May 12	at New England	1-2 L (OT)	Aug. 4	at Colorado	1-1 T
May 19	Kansas City	2-0 W	Aug. 11	Tampa Bay	3-1 W
May 26	San Jose	1-1 T	Aug. 15	Fusion F.C.	1-2 L
May 30	Los Angeles	3-4 L	Aug. 18	at San Jose	1-0 W
June 2	at D.C. United	2-1 W	Aug. 25	at Los Angeles	3-1 W
June 9	Columbus	1-0 W	Aug. 29	Columbus	2-1 W
June 23	New England	1-1 T	Sept. 1	at MetroStars	1-0 W
June 30	MetroStars	3-1 W	Sept. 8	Dallas	2-2 T (OT)
July 4	at Kansas City	7-0 W	Sept. 15	at Dallas	CCD

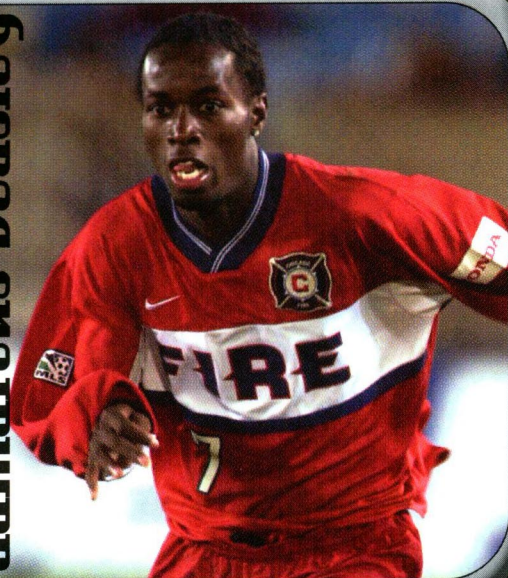


2001 regular season

coach: Bob Bradley
record: 16-6-5
points: 53
place: 1st, Central

Leading Scorer:
 Eric Wynalda
 10 goals, 5 assists,
 25 points

damarcus beasley



MICHAEL STAHLSCHEIDT/ALLSPORT

Goalkeeper

Possibly the most intimidating goalkeeper in MLS, Zach Thornton continues to be one of the top performers at his position year in and year out. The four-time All-Star played every minute of every Chicago Fire game in 2001 and led MLS with a 1.08 goals-against average, the lowest of his career. Nine shutouts also proved to be a career high for a 'keeper who receives regular time in U.S. National Team camp.

Defenders

The Fire's three-man defense is most regularly composed of the trio of Diego Gutierrez (left back), Carlos Bocanegra (central) and C.J. Brown (right back), who as a group offer a physical presence, respectable speed and dependable skills on the ball. With Lubos Kubik moving from the Fire to the rival Dallas Burn, it was left to Bocanegra to move into the vacated central defender slot.

When Bocanegra went down with a severe ankle injury, however, it was rookie Jim Curtin (12 starts) who surprised many and earned early consideration as a Kellogg's Rookie of the Year candidate. The player that earned the most minutes

as a starter between defense and midfield was the versatile Evan Whitfield (21 starts), who could be a regular starter on any other team. Additional defensive support was offered by David Vaudreuil (four starts) and Andrew Lewis (five starts).

Midfielders

The engine of the team is 37-year-old Peter Nowak, who sets the tone for the Fire, a club that is admittedly different without him running the show. The former Polish National Team captain is joined by the best defensive midfielder in America, Chris Armas. A U.S. National Team star, Armas regularly shuts down the opposing creative midfielder but his important offensive contribution is often overshadowed by the attacking forces of DaMarcus Beasley and Dema Kovalenko.

The 19-year-old Beasley earned his first All-Star appearance as a starter in 2001 and notched his first international appearance with the U.S. National Team, while Kovalenko continues to gain prominence as an important cog in the Fire's system. An often overlooked element of the Chicago midfield—but the player who supplies the balance on the field—is the selfless Jesse Marsch, who takes up the appropriate passing lanes and occupies spaces, making sure the team keeps possession and never lets up its guard.

Forwards

Head Coach Bob Bradley's eye for personnel was never more evident than in the handling of the forward situation this season. With U.S. National Team standout Josh Wolff suffering an early season-ending foot injury and Hristo Stoichkov battling with nagging ailments, Bradley acquired New England Revolution strikers Eric Wynalda and Jamar Beasley, the latter of whom was reunited with his brother DaMarcus on the squad. Wynalda would go on to lead the team in scoring with 10 goals and five assists. By the end of the season, the Fire were also able to replace Wolff on the roster with Ante Razov, who rejoined the team after a stint in Spain.

DID YOU KNOW??

Although Chicago finished fourth in MLS in team scoring with an average of 1.85 goals per game (50 goals), Eric Wynalda was the only Fire player to finish among the top 10 MLS scorers (10g, 5a) ... Head Coach Bob Bradley and midfielder Jesse Marsch have participated in four of the five MLS Cup finals. Bradley and Marsch were members of D.C. United's MLS Cup '96 and MLS Cup '97 winners before coming to Chicago in 1998 ... Chicago's 9-2-3 home record was the second best in MLS during 2001 ... The Fire suffered an MLS-high 488 fouls in 2001.

PLAYOFF HISTORY

An expansion team in 1998, Chicago shocked the American soccer scene by defeating two-time MLS Cup champions D.C. United at MLS Cup '98 at the Rose Bowl. The Fire captured the title with a 2-0 win as Peter Nowak earned MLS Cup MVP honors. After suffering elimination in the semis in 1999, Chicago stormed back to MLS Cup in 2000, losing a tough 1-0 battle against the Kansas City Wizards at RFK Stadium.

FUSION F.C.



In his first full season as Fusion F.C.'s head coach, former broadcaster Ray Hudson beat the odds and revived a team and region, bringing back the fever pitch of his North American Soccer League days to South Florida in a magical 2001 season—the Fusion's most successful.

The Fusion arguably play the most attractive style of attacking soccer ever seen in MLS (2.19 goals per game led MLS). It comes from a team largely assembled during the off-season through shrewd personnel moves. Preki (6th in MLS scoring), Alex Pineda Chacon (Budweiser Scoring Champion), Carlos Llamosa (U.S. National Team), Chris Henderson (U.S. National Team) and Ian Bishop (veteran of England's Premiership) all brought skill and experience to the Fusion starting lineup, transforming Fusion F.C. into the best in MLS from start to finish in 2001.

Surrounded by the new complement of players, Colombian forward Diego Serna enjoyed his best season in four years of MLS play with 15 goals and 15 assists for 45 points, finishing second in MLS scoring behind Pineda Chacon. Defender Pablo Mastroeni and second-year goalkeeper Nick Rimando (1.29 GAA—3rd in MLS) also joined the national team camp in midseason.

The Fusion players are loyal to their coach and they display it when they take the field, playing in Hudson's personality—combining grit, spirit and flair in one 90-minute soccer celebration.



SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

Nick Rimando, the shortest goalkeeper in MLS at 5-11, set a new club record by registering five shutouts during the regular season.

FUSION F.C.

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
1	Jeff Cassar	GK	27	Livonia, Mich.
2	Ian Woan	M	33	Heswall, England
3	Carlos Llamosa	D	32	Palmira, Colombia
4	Shaker Asad	M	22	Gaza Strip, Palestine
5	Kyle Beckerman	M	19	Crofton, Md.
6	Ian Bishop	M	36	Liverpool, England
7	Brian Dunseth	D	24	Upland, Calif.
8	Ivan McKinley	D/M	32	Johannesburg, South Africa
9	Lazo Alavanja	M	24	East Chicago, Ind.
10	Alex Pineda Chacon	M	31	Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras
11	Preki	M	38	Belgrade, Yugoslavia
12	Pete Marino	F	28	Holbrook, N.Y.
14	Jim Rooney	M	33	Bronx, N.Y.
15	Tyrone Marshall	D/M	26	Kingston, Jamaica
16	Greg Simmonds	F	25	Kingston, Jamaica
17	Diego Serna	F	27	Medellin, Colombia
18	Nick Rimando	GK	22	Montclair, Calif.
19	Chris Henderson	M	30	Edmonds, Wash.
20	Ali Ngon	F	20	Yaounde, Cameroon
22	Johnny Torres	F	25	Medellin, Colombia
23	Jeff Bilyk	M	24	West Islip, N.Y.
25	Pablo Mastroeni	D/M	25	Mendoza, Argentina

Head Coach: Ray Hudson; **Assistant Coaches:** John Trask, Eric Eichmann;
GM: Doug Hamilton; **Stadium:** Lockhart Stadium, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	Colorado	2-1 W	July 4	San Jose	1-1 T (OT)
April 14	New England	1-0 W	July 7	MetroStars	0-3 L
April 18	Kansas City	1-2 L	July 14	Los Angeles	0-3 L
April 21	San Jose	2-1 W	July 18	Chicago	2-1 W
April 28	New England	1-0 W	July 21	New England	1-1 T (OT)
May 5	Columbus	0-0 T (OT)	Aug. 1	D.C. United	2-2 T (OT)
May 19	Tampa Bay	3-1 W	Aug. 4	MetroStars	1-2 L
May 23	Colorado	1-0 W	Aug. 11	New England	4-1 W
May 26	Tampa Bay	4-0 W	Aug. 15	Chicago	2-1 W
May 30	D.C. United	2-1 W	Aug. 18	Dallas	4-2 W
June 2	Dallas	6-2 W	Aug. 25	MetroStars	2-3 L
June 9	Kansas City	5-1 W	Sept. 8	D.C. United	3-1 W
June 16	Los Angeles	3-3 T (OT)	Sept. 12	MetroStars	CCD
June 30	Columbus	4-3 W	Sept. 15	D.C. United	CCD



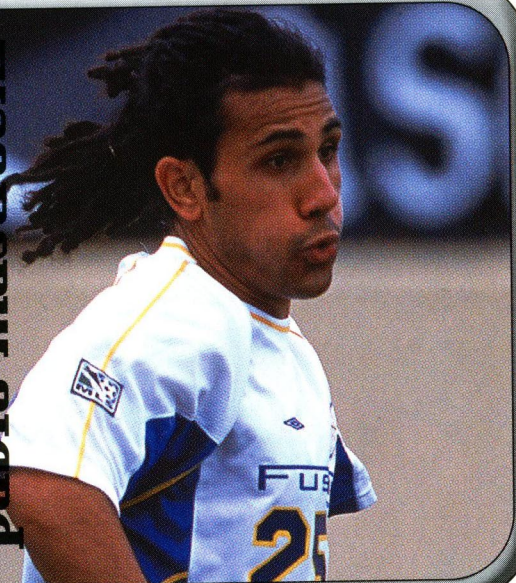
2001 regular season

coach: Ray Hudson
record: 16-5-5
points: 53
place: 1st, Eastern

leading scorer:
Alex Pineda Chacon
19 goals, 9 assists,
47 points

EZRA SHAW/ALLSPORT

pablo mastroeni



Goalkeeper

When Head Coach Ray Hudson joined the Fusion in May of 2000, he made rookie Nick Rimando the starter. Now in his second year, the Montclair, Calif., native has rewarded the confidence displayed in him by his coach with jaw-dropping acrobatic saves to win games for his team. With his attention-grabbing performances, the 22-year-old Rimando was called up to the U.S. National Team, making the trip to Azteca Stadium for a World Cup Qualifier against Mexico.

Defenders

The Fusion already had one of MLS' most recognized defenders in their ranks in Pablo Mastroeni, a player known for his timely tackling style, unrelenting pressure and physical intimidation. When Carlos Llamosa, a smooth and composed central defender for the U.S. National Team, made the move from D.C. United to South Florida during the offseason, the Fusion had arguably assembled the most imposing central duo in the league. The club recorded the fourth-best goals-against average in the league during 2001 (1.38 per game).

Mastroeni and Llamosa often combined with Ivan McKinley in a three-man back system in which the South African McKinley occupied the left flank. Doted with one of the most accurate left-

footed strikes among MLS defenders, McKinley is able to play the ball out of the back with the long pass, while applying himself with tenacity on the defensive end. Former 2000 Olympic Team captain Brian Dunseth proved to be a valuable addition when he was acquired from the New England Revolution in midseason, expertly filling in for Llamosa and Mastroeni, who were often called up for national team duty.

Midfielders

During the offseason, Hudson made it a point to acquire "pure" soccer players, those who knew how to play the ball with vision and finesse above everything else. To that end he brought in English Premier League veteran Ian Bishop and Preki, who captured MLS Cup 2000 with the Kansas City Wizards. Along with captain Jim Rooney, both of those players would provide the ball movement, bite and expertise in the middle of the field that would transform the Fusion into one of the best attacking teams MLS has ever seen.

On the flanks, Hudson made the move for possibly the best left-sided midfielder in MLS—Chris Henderson, the leading scorer for the 2000 Wizards. An honest defensive player, Henderson's dynamic play and sheer skill transformed him in many situations into an extra forward for the team. For the right side of midfield, Jamaican Tyrone Marshall, early-season acquisition Lazo Alavanja and Ian Woan, a late pickup from Columbus, all shared time at the spot, each contributing a hard-nosed work rate with attacking tendencies.

Forwards

The fact that the Fusion F.C. were the highest-scoring team in MLS and that its players finished first and second among the scoring leaders in the regular season tells the story about Hudson's forwards. MLS Honda MVP Alex Pineda Chacon, in his first season in MLS, was asked to play at forward for the first time in his career and the move paid dividends with his 19 goals and nine assists.

The Honduran beat out the Fusion's all-time leading scorer, Diego Serna, for the Budweiser Scoring championship. With the best complement of players around him in his four years in South Florida, Serna flourished and registered double-digit goals for the fourth consecutive season. One of the most complete players in MLS, Serna became only the second player in MLS history to net at least 15 goals and 15 assists in a season.

DID YOU KNOW??

The Fusion F.C.'s 2.19 goals scored per game tied for the second-highest per-game average in MLS history. Los Angeles' 2.66 scoring average in 1998 is the all-time high ... Alex Pineda Chacon (47 pts) and Diego Serna (45 pts) combined to score 92 points in 2001, the second-highest point total by teammates in one MLS season behind Los Angeles' 1998 pair of Cobi Jones (51 pts) and Welton (45 pts), who combined for 96 points.

PLAYOFF HISTORY

The Fusion enjoyed their best season in their short four-year history and their 2001 playoff run as a No. 1 seed is a far cry from their previous two appearances. In 1998 and 1999, the team backed into the playoffs and battled a higher seed. The Fusion bowed out in the first round to D.C. United on each occasion without winning a game and scoring just one goal in four matches.

LOS ANGELES GALAXY



cobi jones



CHRISTOPHER RUPPEL/ALLSPORT

U.S. National Team veteran Cobi Jones led the Los Angeles Galaxy in scoring for the fourth straight season (six goals, 10 assists) and became only the third player in MLS history to join the 50-50 club (50 goals and 50 assists).

The Los Angeles Galaxy wrapped up a record sixth consecutive postseason trip with a Western Division championship in a year that will be remembered for the first trophy in team history—the CONCACAF Champions Cup captured in January—and the pursuit of the first treble in MLS history (L.A. also reached the U.S. Open Cup final, which will be played on Oct. 27).

Under Head Coach Sigi Schmid, Los Angeles was more formidable than ever this year with its depth and special cohesiveness. The disappointment of the postponement of the FIFA Club World Championship and the fact that defender Paul Caligiuri was playing his final season only furthered to strengthen the spirit and focus in the locker room.

An example of the side's depth was the battle at goalkeeper, where Kevin Hartman and Matt Reis split the starts until Hartman won the job permanently. And while losing a defender like Robin Fraser in a trade, the Galaxy back line did not miss a beat with Danny Califf and Greg Vanney forming the new central pair.

Also, the star power of Mexican forward Luis Hernández came through in 2001 in a more spectacular second MLS season. He led the Galaxy with eight goals and alongside Galaxy captain Cobi Jones (6g) and Sasha Victorine (7g), offense was rarely a problem for a team that has aimed for MLS Cup in every year of its existence.

LOS ANGELES GALAXY

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
1	Matt Reis	GK	26	Atlanta, Ga.
3	Greg Vanney	D	27	Chandler, Ariz.
6	Craig Waibel	D	26	Portland, Ore.
7	Isaias Bardales Jr	F	22	San Jose, Calif.
8	Peter Vagenas	M	23	Pasadena, Calif.
9	Brian Ching	F	23	Haleiwa, Hawaii
10	Mauricio Cienfuegos	M	33	San Salvador, El Salvador
11	Sasha Victorine	M	23	Corona, Calif.
12	Simon Elliott	M	27	Wellington, New Zealand
13	Cobi Jones	M/F	31	Detroit, Mich.
15	Luis Hernández	F	32	Poza Rica, Veracruz
16	Alex Bengard	M	22	Chino Hills, Calif.
17	Ezra Hendrickson	D	29	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
18	Adam Frye	D	27	Alamogordo, N.M.
19	Brian Mullan	F	23	Minneapolis, N.Y.
20	Paul Caligiuri	D	37	Westminster, Calif.
22	Kevin Hartman	GK	27	Athens, Ohio
23	Danny Califf	D	21	Orange, Calif.
25	Marvin Quijano	F	21	San Salvador, El Salvador
30	Alexi Lalas	D	31	Birmingham, Mich.

Head Coach: Sigi Schmid; **Assistant Coaches:** Ralph Perez, Zak Abdel; **GM:** Tim Luce; **Stadium:** Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	San Jose	2-3 L	June 23	MetroStars	2-0 W
April 14	at Kansas City	1-2 L	June 30	at Dallas	0-0 T (OT)
April 21	Colorado	1-0 W	July 4	Columbus	0-2 L
April 28	at Colorado	3-2 W	July 7	at D.C. United	3-0 W
May 5	Kansas City	2-1 W (OT)	July 14	Fusion F.C.	3-0 W
May 9	at Tampa Bay	4-4 T (OT)	July 17	at New England	2-3 L
May 12	at MetroStars	0-2 L	Aug. 11	D.C. United	1-0 W
May 19	Dallas	0-0 T (OT)	Aug. 15	at Kansas City	2-1 W (OT)
May 26	New England	2-0 W	Aug. 18	Tampa Bay	5-1 W
May 30	at Chicago	4-3 W	Aug. 25	Chicago	1-3 L
June 2	at Columbus	1-1 T (OT)	Sept. 1	Colorado	3-2 W (OT)
June 9	at San Jose	1-3 L	Sept. 8	at Colorado	2-0 W
June 13	Kansas City	4-0 W	Sept. 12	San Jose	CCD
June 16	at Fusion F.C.	3-3 T (OT)	Sept. 16	at San Jose	CCD



2001 regular season

coach: Sigi Schmid
record: 14-7-5
points: 47
place: 1st, Western

leading scorer:
 Cobi Jones
 6 goals, 10 assists,
 22 points

LOS ANGELES GALAXY

(continued)

Goalkeeper

Kevin Hartman and Matt Reis, two former UCLA players, engaged in a fierce and sometimes controversial battle for the Galaxy's starting goalkeeper spot. Hartman was replaced by Reis after two games of the regular season after giving up five goals. Reis would take over, losing only three games in 15 starts, the most of his four-year MLS career. However, with the playoffs looming, Hartman was handed another chance and would redeem himself and not let up the position through the postseason.

Defenders

Except for one change, the Galaxy defensive starting corps was made up of many of the long-time serving veterans like Greg Vanney (central), Ezra Hendrickson (right back) and Paul Caligiuri (left back), who played in his final MLS season and will enter the college coaching ranks next year. Second-year player and 2000 Olympian Danny Califf joined the group in central defense, often handling the most physical opposing forwards and showing an increased composure in playing the ball under pressure.

While Vanney was often called up to U.S. National Team camp, Los Angeles had the fortune of increased depth in 2001. Alexi Lalas and Craig Waibel filled in admirably when called upon with Lalas netting key goals along the way.

Midfielders

The Galaxy are widely recognized as having one of the best midfields in MLS with the tireless Peter Vagenas and Simon Elliott doing most of the two-way defensive and attacking work in support of the creative Mauricio Cienfuegos. The trio shares the playmaking duties with Cienfuegos more involved in an offensive role with the duty of launching effective transitions. Vagenas and Elliott, a New Zealand international, are successful at maintaining possession for the team, and they are also known for their knack for long-range shots on goal. The load may seem great on these three players but they also depend on the support of the forwards and flank defenders, who offer them cover and passing options.



HARRY HOW/ALLSPORT

Forwards

Los Angeles captain Cobi Jones was the leader of the three-pronged Galaxy attack, where he often teamed up with second-year player Sasha Victorine and Mexican superstar Luis Hernández. Jones was again the dependable performer for the Galaxy that he has been since 1996, leading the club in scoring with six goals and 10 assists. Victorine was second on the team in goals scored (seven) in a season which saw him assume an established forward role and become a vital component of the team. After returning from a loan spell with Club America in Mexico, Hernández, the Galaxy's leading goal-scorer (eight), showed the results of the chemistry and familiarity he had built with his teammates in his first MLS season last year.

The Galaxy's depth was evident at striker with the versatile Adam Frye offering blazing speed and a work ethic that often made him the first choice off the bench. Before ankle surgery sidelined him, rookie Brian Mullan showed glimpses of the talent that made him a college star at Creighton University. Although at times inconsistent, Marvin Quijano was a player who was able to change the tempo of a match with his pace and dribbling flair.

DID YOU KNOW??

Los Angeles scored a league-high 17 goals during the final 15-minute interval of its regular season matches ... The Galaxy have the best all-time playoff road winning percentage (.450) of any team going into the 2001 MLS Cup Playoffs ... Mauricio Cienfuegos (4g, 5a = 22 pts) is the third all-time leading scorer in MLS postseason history going into 2001 ... Los Angeles did not lose a game during the regular season when it scored first (11-0-2).

PLAYOFF HISTORY

The Galaxy are one of two MLS teams (Dallas being the other) to advance to the MLS Cup Playoffs in each of their first five campaigns. In 1996 and 1999, Los Angeles reached MLS Cup, but fell in both championship games to D.C. United in two hard-fought matches. Last year, Los Angeles battled Kansas City to three games in the semifinals before bowing to the Wizards.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES



Landon Donovan



JOHN TODD/MLS/SPORT

In his first season in MLS, 19-year-old Landon Donovan showed a lethal combination of finishing skills (seven goals) and creativity (team-high 10 assists) on his way to earning a starting spot on the U.S. National Team that qualified for the 2002 World Cup.

Hired just three days before the MLS SuperDraft, Head Coach Frank Yallop completed the difficult task of overhauling MLS' worst team in 2000 and leading it to its first postseason appearance since 1996.

The organization kept its core of top players (goalkeeper Joe Cannon, defender Wade Barrett and midfielders Richard Mulrooney and Ian Russell, among others) and made key big-name additions in every sector. U.S. National Team veteran Jeff Agoos (formerly of D.C. United) made an immediate impact in the league's second-best defense. Midfielder Manny Lagos, an acquisition from Tampa Bay, continued his spectacular rise, earning an All-Star Game appearance and U.S. National Team call-up. The return of defender Troy Dayak and forward Ronald Cerritos (the team's leading scorer—11g, 6a) to full-time action after long lay-offs due to injury were also key components in the resurgence.

But the player who arguably put the team over the top was forward Landon Donovan. In his return to the U.S. from a professional stint in Germany, the 19-year-old displayed exceptional creativity and skill, including a stunning four-goal All-Star Game MVP performance at the midsummer showcase in San Jose.

Amidst the personnel moves, Yallop's implementing of a possession-based, attack-oriented playing style—which hinges on speed of execution—not only won respect from teams around the league, but it made for some of the most entertaining soccer in the country.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
0	Jon Conway	GK	24	Media, Pa.
1	Joe Cannon	GK	26	Sun Valley, Id.
2	Eddie Robinson	D/M	23	Orlando, Fla.
5	Ramiro Corrales	D	24	Santa Clara, Calif.
6	Ronnie Ekelund	M	29	Glostrup, Denmark
7	Ian Russell	M/F	26	Seattle, Wash.
8	Richard Mulrooney	M	24	Memphis, Tenn.
9	Scott Bower	M/F	23	Port Angeles, Wash.
10	Landon Donovan	F	19	Ontario, Calif.
11	Manny Lagos	M	30	St. Paul, Minn.
12	Jeff Agoos	D	33	Geneva, Switzerland
14	Dwayne DeRosario	F	23	Scarborough, Canada
15	Junior Agogo	F	22	Accra, Ghana
17	Jimmy Conrad	D	24	Arcadia, Calif.
19	Troy Dayak	D	30	Walnut Creek, Calif.
20	Ronald Cerritos	F	26	San Salvador, El Salvador
22	Zak Ibsen	D/M	29	Santa Clara, Calif.
24	Wade Barrett	M	25	Virginia Beach, Va.
27	Dario Brose	M	31	Brooklyn, N.Y.

Head Coach: Frank Yallop; **Assistant Coach:** Dominic Kinnear; **Goalkeeper Coach:** Tim Hanley; **Stadium:** Spartan Stadium, San Jose, Calif.

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	at Los Angeles	3-2 W	July 4	Fusion F.C.	1-1 T (OT)
April 14	Dallas	0-1 L	July 7	at Colorado	1-3 L
April 21	at Fusion F.C.	1-2 L	July 14	Tampa Bay	2-1 W
April 28	at Kansas City	0-0 T (OT)	July 18	D.C. United	4-0 W
May 5	New England	3-2 W	July 21	at Columbus	1-2 L
May 12	at D.C. United	3-2 W	Aug. 4	at Tampa Bay	0-2 L
May 19	MetroStars	2-0 W	Aug. 8	at New England	5-1 W
May 23	at Dallas	2-0 W	Aug. 11	Columbus	2-2 T (OT)
May 26	at Chicago	1-1 T	Aug. 18	Chicago	0-1 L
May 30	Colorado	1-1 T (OT)	Aug. 25	Colorado	5-2 W
June 2	at Colorado	2-1 W	Sept. 1	Kansas City	3-0 W
June 9	Los Angeles	3-1 W	Sept. 8	at Kansas City	0-1 L
June 16	at MetroStars	0-0 T (OT)	Sept. 12	at Los Angeles	CCD
June 23	Kansas City	2-0 W	Sept. 16	Los Angeles	CCD
June 30	at New England	ppd.			



2001 regular season

coach: Frank Yallop
record: 13-7-6
points: 45
place: 2nd, Western

leading scorer:
Ronald Cerritos
11 goals, 6 assists,
28 points

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

(continued)

jeff agoos



JOHN TODD/MLS/ALLSPORT

Goalkeeper

Bay Area native Joe Cannon has long been recognized as one of the top young 'keepers in MLS, with a rare combination of size and cat-like reflexes. He further enhanced his status with a stellar 2001 campaign in which he was selected to start the MLS All-Star Game. Behind one of the best back lines in MLS, Cannon and the Earthquakes played mistake-free defensive soccer on their way to conceding the fewest goals during the regular season (29). The 26-year-old netminder, nicknamed "The Wall," finished second among goalkeepers with a 1.09 goals-against-average and seven shutouts.

Defenders

Among the significant additions made to the Earthquakes during the offseason were the moves to bring in veterans Troy Dayak and Jeff Agoos, who have combined to form arguably the toughest central-defender pair in MLS. Dayak battled his way from serious neck and knee injuries after having last appeared in MLS with San Jose in 1997. He teamed up with Agoos, the U.S. National Team defender who was acquired in a SuperDraft-day trade from D.C. United. 'Goose' starred at central defense and captured Defender

of the Year honors after playing many seasons at left back in D.C.

The Earthquakes' left-back position is manned by the hard-working Wade Barrett, a member of San Jose since 1998 who roams on both ends of the left flank.

Veteran Zak Ibsen, who is playing with his fifth club in his fifth year in MLS, owned the starting right-back spot for most of the 2001 season with his versatility making him an efficient two-way player. Jimmy Conrad often filled in for Ibsen and his other teammates in the back and challenged for a starting spot late in the season.

Midfielders

As in every other sector of the field for the Earthquakes, the midfield received a boost when skilful newcomers joined the holdovers from an all-time club-worst 2000 campaign. Left-sided midfielder and former Tampa Bay Mutiny player Manny Lagos would continue his rise in the attack-oriented San Jose formation, earning a call-up to U.S. National Team camp during the MLS Cup Playoffs. The other new face was central midfielder Ronnie Ekelund, a veteran of the English Premier League and Spain's La Liga with Barcelona. Ekelund, an ex-Danish National Team player, provided the link between attack and defense with his keen sense of positioning and distribution.

Ekelund complemented Richard Mulrooney in a stable midfield, where passing accuracy and speed of execution was a key to the Quakes' spectacular play. The person who embodied the speed and work ethic of San Jose was right winger Ian Russell, who enjoyed a breakout season under Head Coach Frank Yallop. The versatile Ramiro Corrales, a member of the original 1996 team, proved to be a dependable reserve in coming off the bench and producing in a variety of midfield roles.

Forwards

Head Coach Frank Yallop went into the 2001 season with a wealth of options at the forward position. Canadian international Dwayne DeRosario often teamed up with the Quakes' all-time leading scorer, Ronald Cerritos, in the first half of the campaign. However, U.S. National Team forward Landon Donovan soon won a starting spot, leaving DeRosario and Cerritos to compete for the second forward slot. The arrival of Junior Agogo from the Colorado Rapids later in the season offered the Quakes a fourth battle-tested attacker, as Agogo led the Rapids in scoring in 2000.

DID YOU KNOW??

The Earthquakes' defense allowed fewer shots (302) than any team in MLS ... Frank Yallop's squad scored first in 15 of their 26 regular season games, going unbeaten (13-0-2) in the process ... San Jose made its first postseason appearance since 1996 ... Ronald Cerritos is the only San Jose player to finish among the league's top-10 scorers since 1998 ... Earthquakes goalkeeper Joe Cannon posted the second-lowest goals-against average (1.09) in MLS during the 2001 season.

PLAYOFF HISTORY

Before 2001, the Earthquakes had made it through to the postseason on just one other occasion. In MLS' inaugural season of 1996, San Jose (then known as the Clash) won the first game of a quarterfinal series against the Los Angeles Galaxy but then suffered elimination after dropping two consecutive matches in Los Angeles, both by 2-0 scores. While just five members of the 2001 playoff team have postseason experience, Head Coach Frank Yallop played in four career playoff games (with the Tampa Bay Mutiny in 1996 and 1997).

COLUMBUS CREW



jeff cunningham



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

Jeff Cunningham, the Crew's leading scorer, netted a career-high 33 points (10 goals, 13 assists) in 2001. In the process, he became the first Columbus player to net double digits in both goals and assists in the same season.

Last season, the Columbus Crew missed out on the MLS Cup Playoffs for the first time in five years and they were not counting on a poor start to 2001, especially with the MLS Cup championship being hosted by Crew Stadium. On May 17, in an attempt to halt the slide, assistant Greg Andrulis took over for long-time Crew Head Coach Tom Fitzgerald and the move bore immediate results.

In the 20-game Andrulis era, the Crew compiled the best record in the league (tied Chicago going 12-4-4, 40 pts) and finished with the longest home unbeaten streak in MLS (7-0-4).

Andrulis made the minor adjustments that resulted in a more attack-oriented side. Jeff Cunningham would blossom at forward and Colombian playmaker John Wilmar Perez was freed to orchestrate the offense.

World Cup 1998 veteran Brian Maisonneuve, after missing all of 2000 due to injury, returned to team up effectively in midfield with veteran John Harkes, an early-season trade acquisition. Another newcomer, former D.C. United goalkeeper Tom Presthus, was a key contributor and was even called up to national team camp.

Since the beginning of the season, Columbus was on a mission with the words "Destination Oct. 21" printed on its practice gear. Whether or not it reached MLS Cup, however, the team made sure it would be remembered as one of the best ever in Crew history.

COLUMBUS CREW

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
1	Mark Dougherty	GK	33	Santa Clara, Calif.
2	Mike Lapper	D	31	Redondo Beach, Calif.
3	Mike Clark	D	28	Indianapolis, Ind.
4	Daniel Torres	D	23	Moravia, Costa Rica
6	Todd Yeagley	D/M	28	Bloomington, Ind.
7	John Harkes	M	34	Kearny, N.J.
8	Duncan Oughton	M/F	24	Wellington, New Zealand
9	Dante Washington	F	30	Baltimore, Md.
10	Brian Maisonneuve	M	28	Warren, Mich.
11	Jeff Cunningham	F	25	Kingston, Jamaica
12	Edson Buddle	F	20	Port Chester, N.Y.
13	Ansil Elcock	M/D	32	Port of Spain, Trinidad
14	John Wilmar Perez	M	31	Medellin, Colombia
15	Mike Duhaney	D	27	New Haven, Conn.
17	Brian West	M/F	23	LaGrange, Ga.
19	Robert Warzycha	M	38	Welun, Poland
20	Brian McBride	F	29	Arlington Heights, Ill.
21	Mario Longo	M	20	Apex, N.C.
22	Tom Presthus	GK	26	Edina, Minn.
29	Kevin Adams	D	21	Hope Village, Tobago
30	Tenywa Bonseu	D	24	Kampala, Uganda

Head Coach: Greg Andrulis; Assistant Coach: Oscar Pisano;
GM: Jim Smith; Stadium: Columbus Crew Stadium

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	Chicago	1-1 T (OT)	July 7	Dallas	2-2 T (OT)
April 14	at Tampa Bay	2-1 W	July 18	MetroStars	2-1 W
April 21	Kansas City	0-3 L	July 21	San Jose	2-1 W
May 5	Miami	0-0 T (OT)	Aug. 1	Chicago	3-0 W
May 12	at Dallas	0-4 L	Aug. 4	at Kansas City	3-1 W
May 16	at New England	1-2 L	Aug. 11	at San Jose	2-2 T (OT)
May 19	D.C. United	2-1 W (OT)	Aug. 15	Dallas	3-0 W
May 26	Colorado	3-3 T (OT)	Aug. 19	at MetroStars	1-0 W
June 2	Los Angeles	1-1 T (OT)	Aug. 25	at DC United	2-1 L
June 9	at Chicago	0-1 L	Aug. 29	at Chicago	2-1 L
June 16	Tampa Bay	6-1 W	Sept. 1	New England	4-1 W
June 23	at Dallas	2-1 W	Sept. 9	at Tampa Bay	2-1 W
June 30	at Miami	3-4 L	Sept. 12	at Colorado	CCD
July 4	at Los Angeles	2-0 W	Sept. 15	Tampa Bay	CCD



2001 regular season

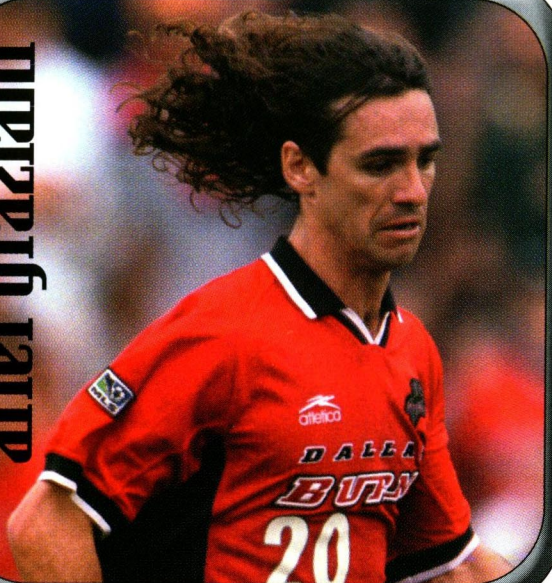
coach: Greg Andrulis
record: 13-7-6
points: 45
place: 2nd, Central

leading scorer:
Jeff Cunningham
10 goals, 13 assists,
33 points

DALLAS BURN



ariel graziani



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

All-Star forward Ariel Graziani registered his second consecutive double-digit-goal season and with 11 goals and eight assists, he led the 2001 Burn in scoring.

On paper, the Dallas Burn possessed one of the more enviable rosters in MLS going into 2001. At the helm of these high-caliber players was a new head coach, Mike Jeffries, who arrived from the successful Chicago Fire organization, where he was an assistant for three years.

However, between the coaching change, a new playing formula and injuries (including veteran defender Lubos Kubik), it took time for the Burn to come together. Still, at times they had the ability to beat any team in the league. In fact, goalkeeper Matt Jordan tied for the league lead in shutouts (nine) as the team captured the No. 7 seed in the postseason.

While Jeffries gradually incorporated his two first-round SuperDraft selections, Bolivian youth phenom Joselito Vaca in the midfield and rookie Ryan Suarez on defense, he also gave more opportunities to the likes of the youthful Bobby Rhine and Antonio Martinez, who both made significant contributions. However, starting forwards Ariel Graziani (sixth in MLS scoring) and Jason Kreis (11th) continued to provide much needed offense in 2001.

Under their new coach, the Burn did experiment with various formations and player combinations in order to find the right group. That tinkering may have been a factor in the fluctuating results, but with the mix of youth and experience and the resulting depth available, Dallas is a serious force in the making.

DALLAS BURN

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
1	Matt Jordan	GK	25	Aurora, Colo.
2	Eric Dade	D	31	Buffalo, N.Y.
3	Ryan Suarez	D	24	Sacramento, Calif.
4	Paul Broome	M	25	Dallas, Texas
5	Lubos Kubik	D	37	Prague, Czech Republic
7	Edward Johnson	F	17	Daytona Beach, Fla.
8	Oscar Pareja	M	33	Medellin, Colombia
9	Jason Kreis	F	28	Omaha, Neb.
10	Joselito Vaca	M	19	Santa Cruz, Bolivia
11	Antonio Martinez	M	24	Yahulica, Mexico
12	Miles Joseph	M	27	West Springfield, Mass.
13	Miguel Saavedra	M	18	Milwaukee, Wisc.
15	Chad Deering	M	31	Piano, Texas
16	Aleksey Korol	F	23	Kiev, Ukraine
17	Jorge Rodriguez	D	30	La Union, El Salvador
18	Richard Farrer	D	30	Johannesburg, South Africa
19	Bobby Rhine	F	25	St. Louis, Mo.
20	Ariel Graziani	F	30	Empalme, Argentina
21	Hamisi Amani-Dove	F	27	Columbia, Md.
22	Chris Snitko	GK	28	Anaheim Hills, Calif.
24	Justin Evans	M	24	Venetia, Pa.
25	Josue Mayard	D	21	Montreal, Canada

Head Coach: Mike Jeffries; **Assistant Coaches:** Colin Clarke and Brian Haynes; **GM:** Andy Swift; **Stadium:** Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	Tampa Bay	2-4 L	July 4	New England	1-1 T (OT)
April 14	at San Jose	1-0 W	July 7	at Columbus	2-2 T (OT)
April 21	Chicago	3-2 W (OT)	July 14	at Kansas City	2-3 L
April 28	at MetroStars	2-3 L	July 18	Tampa Bay	3-0 W
May 5	Colorado	0-1 L	July 21	at Chicago	1-2 L (OT)
May 12	Columbus	4-0 W	Aug. 4	at New England	1-5 L
May 19	at Los Angeles	0-0 T (OT)	Aug. 11	MetroStars	3-0 W
May 23	San Jose	0-2 L	Aug. 15	at Columbus	0-3 L
June 2	Fusion F.C.	2-6 L	Aug. 18	at Fusion F.C.	2-4 L
June 6	at Tampa Bay	1-0 W	Aug. 25	Kansas City	3-0 W
June 9	D.C. United	3-0 W	Aug. 29	at Tampa Bay	3-2 W (OT)
June 16	at Colorado	6-3 W	Sept. 8	at Chicago	2-2 T (OT)
June 23	Columbus	1-2 L	Sept. 12	at D.C. United	CCD
June 30	Los Angeles	0-0 T (OT)	Sept. 15	Chicago	CCD



2001 regular season

coach: Mike Jeffries
record: 10-11-5
points: 35
place: 3rd, Central

leading scorer:
Ariel Graziani
11 goals, 8 assists,
30 points

KANSAS CITY WIZARDS



In 2001, the defending MLS Cup champions made an unexpected number of personnel changes to their title-winning team. As a consequence, the Kansas City Wizards were also forced to endure a transition period as they sought the right chemistry on the field.

Key long-term injuries to 2000 Defender of the Year Peter Vermes and 2000 MLS Honda MVP Tony Meola also affected the team's defensive stability early on. It proved to be an even more arduous task in August to juggle participation in the Merconorte Cup, which saw the Wizards become one of the first two MLS teams to take part in an intercontinental tournament.

Head Coach Bob Gansler reconfigured the Wizards this year. The new point persons at forward were MLS' all-time leading scorer Roy Lassiter and Jamaican National Team captain Onandi Lowe, whose physical presence and powerful left foot made him a prime target for defenders. Also, the four-back defensive system was often implemented in place of the three-man back line that had proven so effective in 2000.

In due time, however, the coming together of the new faces, combined with the consistent play of the Kerry Zavagnin-Matt McKeon duo in central midfield, allowed the Wizards to reach their peak late in the season and solidify a playoff spot for a chance to defend the trophy they claimed last October.



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

When the Wizards acquired forward Onandi Lowe, the 26-year-old captain of the Jamaican National Team, they also signed the most powerful left-footed shot in the region.

KANSAS CITY WIZARDS

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
1	Tony Meola	GK	32	Belleville, N.J.
2	Matt McKeon	D/M	26	St. Louis, Mo.
3	Nick Garcia	D	22	Plano, Texas
4	Brandon Prideaux	D	25	Seattle, Wash.
5	Brian Johnson	M	27	Carmichael, Calif.
6	Peter Vermes	D	34	Willingboro, N.J.
7	Mark Santel	M	33	St. Louis, Mo.
8	Chris Brown	M/F	24	Portland, Ore.
9	Kerry Zavagnin	M	27	Plymouth, Mich.
10	Mo Johnston	F	38	Glasgow, Scotland
13	Andrew Gregor	M	25	Syracuse, N.Y.
14	Michael Green	D	23	Columbia, Md.
15	Roy Lassiter	F	32	Washington, D.C.
17	Chris Klein	M	25	St. Louis, Mo.
18	Tahj Jakins	D	25	Salt Lake City, Utah
20	Jose Burciaga Jr	D	19	Duncanville, Texas
21	Francisco Gomez	M	22	Watsonville, Calif.
22	Gary Glasgow	F	25	Arima, Trinidad
25	Bo Oshoniyi	GK	29	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
28	Mike Burns	D	31	Marlboro, Mass.
32	Onandi Lowe	F	26	Kingston, Jamaica

Head Coach: Bob Gansler; Assistant Coaches: Brian Bliss, Tim Mulqueen
GM: Curt Johnson; Stadium: Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Mo.

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	at D.C. United	2-3 L	June 30	Tampa Bay	3-0 W
April 14	Los Angeles	2-1 W	July 4	Chicago	0-7 L
April 18	Fusion F.C.	2-1 W	July 7	at New England	2-1 W
April 21	at Columbus	3-0 W	July 14	Dallas	3-2 W
April 28	San Jose	0-0 T (OT)	July 18	at Colorado	0-0 T (OT)
May 2	at MetroStars	1-4 L	July 29	New England	2-0 W
May 5	at Los Angeles	1-2 L (OT)	Aug. 4	Columbus	1-3 L
May 19	at Chicago	0-2 L	Aug. 12	at Colorado	2-2 T (OT)
May 24	MetroStars	1-0 W	Aug. 15	Los Angeles	1-2 L (OT)
June 2	at Tampa Bay	2-1 W	Aug. 19	Colorado	3-2 W
June 9	at Fusion F.C.	1-5 L	Aug. 25	at Dallas	0-3 L
June 13	at Los Angeles	0-4 L	Sept. 1	at San Jose	0-3 L
June 16	D.C. United	0-3 L	Sept. 8	San Jose	1-0 W
June 23	at San Jose	0-2 L	Sept. 16	Colorado	CCD



2001 regular season

coach: Bob Gansler
record: 11-13-3
points: 36
place: 3rd, Western

leading scorer:
Roy Lassiter
7 goals, 1 assist,
15 points

METROSTARS

METROSTARS

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT



The MetroStars' 25-year-old captain Daniel Hernandez had three career assists going into 2001. The free-kick specialist would lead his team with seven this season.

When Clint Mathis went down with a season-ending ACL tear at U.S. National Team training camp on June 5, the MetroStars had to find a way to move on without MLS' leading scorer at the time and the best American player in the world, considering his international achievements.

The MetroStars became a practical team while maintaining the attacking traits characteristic of Head Coach Octavio Zambrano's squads. They relied on rookie Rodrigo Faria, who led all MLS rookies in scoring (8g, 2a=18pts), to pick up the goal-scoring slack, while captains Tab Ramos and Daniel Hernandez assumed more of the creative playmaking that Mathis had taken upon himself.

The MetroStars' standout players during the regular season came on the defensive end. In his first season as a starter, goalkeeper Tim Howard, who led MLS with 146 saves, was rewarded with an All-Star Game selection, joining defenders Steve Jolley and Mike Petke at the midsummer classic in San Jose.

The MetroStars made a statement by following up last year's Eastern Division championship-winning season with a solid 2001 campaign. The club also gained the luster to become one of two MLS teams invited to participate for the first time in an intercontinental club tournament: the Merconorte Cup. With two consecutive seasons near the top of the league and division tables, the team has turned the corner and joined the group of elite clubs.

METROSTARS

no.	player	pos.	age	place of birth
1	D.J. Countess	GK	19	Sacramento, Calif.
2	Orlando Perez	M	24	Pomona, Calif.
3	Mark Semioli	D	33	Brooklyn, N.Y.
5	Steve Jolley	D	25	Virginia Beach, Va.
6	Ross Paule	M	25	Cordova, Tenn.
7	Mark Chung	M	31	Toronto, Canada
8	Billy Walsh	M	25	Chatham, N.J.
9	Gilmar	M/F	31	Sao Paulo, Brazil
10	Tab Ramos	M	34	Montevideo, Uruguay
11	Petter Villegas	M	25	Esmeraldas, Ecuador
12	Mike Petke	D	25	Bohemia, N.Y.
13	Clint Mathis	M	24	Conyers, Ga.
14	Adolfo Valencia	F	33	Buenaventura, Colombia
15	Martin Klinger	F	21	Cuenta, Ecuador
16	Richie Williams	M	31	New York, N.Y.
17	Pedro Alvarez	M	31	Itaguí, Colombia
18	Tim Howard	GK	22	North Brunswick, N.J.
21	Daniel Hernandez	D/M	25	Tyler, Texas
22	Rodrigo Faria	F	24	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
25	Roy Myers	M/F	32	Limon, Costa Rica
30	Paul Grafer	GK	27	Port Washington, N.Y.

Head Coach: Octavio Zambrano; Assistant Coaches: Richard Williams, Merlin Villagomez; Goalkeeper Coach: Des McAleenan; GM: Nick Sackiewicz; Stadium: Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.

SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
April 7	New England	2-1 W	June 30	at Chicago	1-3 L
April 14	at Colorado	1-1 T (OT)	July 4	at Tampa Bay	2-1 W
April 21	Tampa Bay	1-3 L	July 7	at Fusion F.C.	3-0 W
April 28	Dallas	3-2 W	July 18	at Columbus	1-2 L
May 2	Kansas City	4-1 W	July 21	D.C. United	2-1 W
May 5	D.C. United	3-2 W	Aug. 4	Fusion F.C.	2-1 W
May 12	Los Angeles	2-0 W	Aug. 11	at Dallas	0-3 L
May 16	Colorado	1-0 W	Aug. 15	at D.C. United	2-1 W
May 19	at San Jose	0-2 L	Aug. 19	Columbus	0-1 L
May 24	at Kansas City	0-1 L	Aug. 25	at Fusion F.C.	3-2 W
June 3	at New England	1-1 T (OT)	Sept. 1	Chicago	0-1 L
June 13	at D.C. United	1-2 L	Sept. 7	New England	3-1 W
June 16	San Jose	0-0 T (OT)	Sept. 12	Fusion F.C.	CCD
June 23	at Los Angeles	0-2 L	Sept. 15	at New England	CCD



2001 regular season

coach: Octavio Zambrano

record: 13-10-3

points: 42

place: 2nd, Eastern

leading scorer:

Clint Mathis

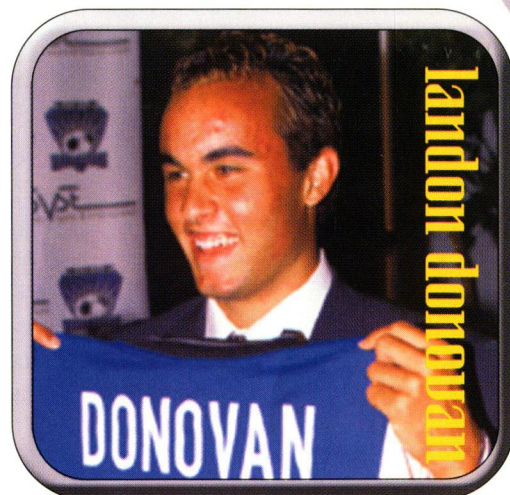
7 goals, 5 assists,

19 points

APRIL

MLS OPENS SIXTH SEASON WITH FULL SLATE OF GAMES

Major League Soccer's sixth season kicked off on Saturday, April 7, with a six-game schedule that marked the first time in history that all the league's teams began a new season on the same day. Among the things to have the league buzzing was the new "I believe" advertising campaign and the return to the States of American teen soccer prodigy Landon Donovan, who debuted with the San Jose Earthquakes on opening day after beginning his professional career with German club Bayer Leverkusen as a 16-year-old in 1999.



ROCKY WIDNER/EARTHQUAKES

Happy to Have a Honduran

The Fusion's Alex Pineda Chacon wasted little time in making his presence felt around the league as he jump-started Miami's blazing 4-1-0 start with five goals in his first four games. Included in Pineda Chacon's totals, which earned him April's Player of the Month honors, were three game-winning assists. All that came in just 236 minutes for the Honduran legend, who started in only two of his first four appearances and tallied twice in his MLS debut, a 2-1 win against Colorado.



JEFF GROSS/ALLSPORT

MLSErs SUPPORT STARS AND STRIPES IN MISSOURI

Four MLS players posted a number of clutch performances to help the U.S. National Team at both the senior and under-17 levels. In World Cup Qualifying, Chicago's Josh Wolff and the MetroStars' Clint Mathis combined for the only goal at Arrowhead Stadium as the Americans upped their record in the final round of qualifying to 3-0 with a 1-0 win against Costa Rica. Meanwhile in St. Louis, the Dallas Burn's Eddie Johnson and D.C.

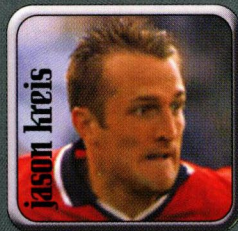
United's Santino Quaranta led the U.S. under-17s to a perfect 3-0 record in group play as Coach John Ellinger's squad qualified for the 2001 FIFA Under-17 World Championship held in Trinidad and Tobago in September.



TOM PIDGEN/ALLSPORT

DID YOU KNOW?

The Burn's Jason Kreis became only the second player in league history to record more than 50 career goals and 50 career assists when he notched his 50th career assist in a 3-2 Dallas loss to the MetroStars on April 28. Kreis joined Miami Fusion midfielder Preki in the exclusive 50-50 club.



RONALD MARTINEZ/ALLSPORT

OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES

A very busy offseason saw several of the league's top stars switch teams in the offseason. Among the most notable were Jeff Agoos, who went from D.C. to San Jose courtesy of a massive D.C. United overhaul, and his former United teammate Carlos Llamosa, who made his debut with the Miami Fusion. Also making their South Florida debuts were former Wizards Chris Henderson and Preki, who departed Kansas City in order to make room for MLS' all-time leading scorer Roy Lassiter. Veterans Richie Williams and Mike Ammann also made debuts for the MetroStars and D.C. United, respectively, after an off-season trade saw them swap teams. American soccer icon Alexi Lalas returned to MLS as a member of the Los Angeles Galaxy following his retirement at the close of the 1999 season.

MLS STANDINGS Monday, April 30, 2001

EASTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Miami Fusion	5	4	1	0	12	7	4
MetroStars	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
D.C. United	3	2	1	0	6	5	5
N.E. Revolution	4	0	4	0	0	2	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

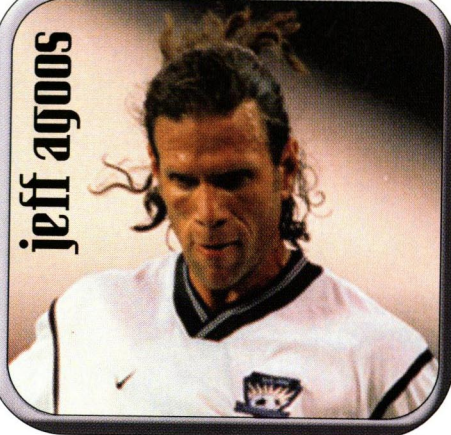
TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Chicago Fire	4	2	1	1	7	6	4
Tampa Bay Mutiny	4	2	2	0	6	8	6
Dallas Burn	4	2	2	0	6	8	9
Columbus Crew	3	1	1	1	4	3	5

WESTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Kansas City Wizards	5	3	1	1	10	9	5
Los Angeles Galaxy	4	2	2	0	6	7	7
San Jose Earthquakes	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Colorado Rapids	4	0	3	1	1	4	7

SAN JOSE AND MIAMI TAKE COMMAND

jeff agoos



GREG FIUME/ALLSPORT

Mathis Mania Hits America

MetroStars forward Clint Mathis stated his case for the title of 'best American player' with an impressive May, in which he garnered the Player of the Month award. After proving decisive in three U.S. World Cup Qualifying victories, the Conyers, Ga., native continued with his dominating play in MLS: After netting five goals and two assists in May, he stood atop MLS' scoring charts (7g, 4a) before falling to a knee injury (ACL tear) on June 5 that would sideline him for the rest of the season. Mathis also struck for the game-winner in a 2-0 shutout victory over European Champions Bayern Munich in an international exhibition at Giants Stadium in late May.

The Miami Fusion and San Jose Earthquakes went undefeated during the month and finished as two of the top three teams in the league (first and third overall). The two clubs underwent radical changes in the offseason and few experts predicted the Fusion and Earthquakes to be contenders, let alone lead their respective divisions (San Jose took sole possession of first place on May 22 for only the third time in team history). Both teams achieved success with the same ingredients: spectacular attacking soccer and a rock-solid defense. While Miami found offense from the best one-two punch in league history (Alex Pineda Chacon and Diego Serna), the Earthquakes had consistent contributions from four top forwards. The back lines were also impenetrable, led by national teamers Carlos Llamosa (Miami) and Jeff Agoos (San Jose).

Big Names, Big Moves

During the month of May, some teams made key personnel changes that would leave a mark on their seasons. The Chicago Fire were the first to make a move and on May 3 acquired the U.S. National Team's all-time leading scorer, forward Eric Wynalda, from the New England Revolution. 'Waldo' would go on to become the leading scorer for the Central Division champions. The Columbus Crew were next to cut a deal with the Revolution on May 11, trading for U.S. World Cup veteran John Harkes, who would significantly bolster their midfield in a run to the MLS Cup Playoffs. Jamaican National Team captain Onandi Lowe made a move stateside when he joined the MLS Cup champion Kansas City Wizards as an allocation on May 23. Mexican National Team forward Luis Hernández re-joined the Los Angeles Galaxy on May 19 after playing for Club America in the Mexican league.

eric wynalda



MICHAEL STAHL/SCHMIDT/ALLSPORT

MLS STANDINGS Thursday, May 31, 2001

EASTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Miami Fusion	10	8	1	1	25	17	6
MetroStars	10	6	3	1	19	17	13
D.C. United	8	3	5	0	9	16	15
N.E. Revolution	10	3	7	0	9	9	18

CENTRAL DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Chicago Fire	9	4	3	2	14	15	11
Dallas Burn	8	3	4	1	10	12	12
Columbus Crew	8	2	3	3	9	9	15
Tampa Bay Mutiny	9	2	6	1	7	14	21

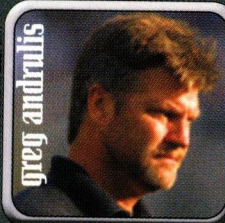
WESTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
S.J. Earthquakes	10	5	2	3	18	16	11
L.A. Galaxy	10	5	3	2	17	19	17
K.C. Wizards	9	4	4	1	13	12	13
Colorado Rapids	11	2	6	3	9	11	15

a r o u n d t h e l e a g u e

The Chicago Fire tied the San Jose Earthquakes' home undefeated streak of 15 games ... Earthquakes forward Landon Donovan scored his first MLS goal on May 19 against the MetroStars ... D.C. United's Santino Quaranta became the youngest player ever to score a goal in MLS on May 19 ... In exhibition matches against foreign clubs, the Los Angeles Galaxy captured a 2-1 road win at Chivas (May 1), the MetroStars defeated European champions Bayern Munich (May 26) 2-0 and the Columbus Crew downed Bayer Leverkusen 4-3 (May 29).

NEW FACE AT HEAD OF CREW



greg andrulis

With the Columbus Crew mustering only a 1-3-2 record in their first six matches, then-Head Coach Tom Fitzgerald made way for the hiring of long-time Crew assistant Greg Andrulis as his replacement on May 17. The move ended the longest active tenure of any coach with one team (70-67-7 overall record). Andrulis gave the team a more offensive look and would unexpectedly lead Columbus to one of the best records in MLS in his 20 matches in charge (12-4-4). The team would later clinch a fourth seed in the playoffs while going undefeated at home ever since.

INJURIES CLAIM THE STARS

clint mathis



On Tuesday, June 5, in one of the final drills of the day at national team training camp in Columbus, Ohio, MetroStars superstar forward Clint Mathis suffered a season-ending ACL tear to his right knee. Mathis, who suffered the same injury to his left knee as a sophomore at the University of South Carolina, was MLS' leading goal scorer at the time (7g, 5a) and had made his mark on the World Cup Qualifying stage with key goals and assists in three consecutive wins against Mexico, Honduras and Costa Rica. Mathis' incident was one of a series that claimed MLS stars. Goalkeeper and 2000 Honda MVP Tony Meola of Kansas City was also forced to sit out when surgery was required for an abdomen injury suffered on a diving save on June 9 against the Fusion. In addition, following the FIFA Youth World Championship, D.C. United midfielder Bobby Convey would have to undergo hernia surgery after picking up an injury during the group stages of the tournament.

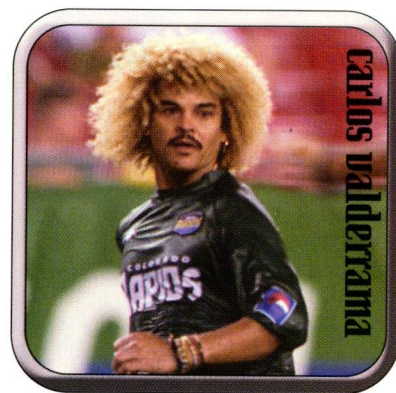
mls goes international

MLS teams participated in an intercontinental club competition: the Merconorte Cup. On June 26 at the Eden Rock Hotel in Miami, Fla., the draw was held for the 2001 edition of the invitation-only tournament that includes a total of 16 teams from Mexico and the northernmost countries of South America (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Colombia). The defending MLS Cup champion Kansas City Wizards and the Eastern Division champion MetroStars were selected as the representatives from the United States and were drawn in Groups C and B, respectively.



Trades That Raised Eyebrows

A number of high-profile trades occurred during the month of June, but none bigger than the June 28 blockbuster that saw Carlos Valderrama, Scott Garlick and Ritchie Kotschau move from the Tampa Bay Mutiny to the Colorado Rapids in a three-way deal in which Scott Vermillion went to D.C. United and Eric Denton and Adin Brown headed to Florida. The Rapids had already been active on the trade market: On June 13, the San Jose Earthquakes traded the No. 1 pick of the 2001 SuperDraft, Chris Carrieri, to Colorado for forward Junior Agogo, the Rapids' leading scorer in 2000. On the same day, Colorado also acquired well-traveled forward Raul Diaz Arce from D.C. United as the Black-and-Red opened up a senior-international spot for left midfielder Stephen Armstrong.



carlos valderrama

MLS STANDINGS Saturday, June 30, 2001

EASTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Miami Fusion	14	11	1	2	35	35	15
MetroStars	15	6	6	3	21	20	21
D.C. United	14	5	8	1	16	25	25
N.E. Revolution	14	4	7	3	15	17	23

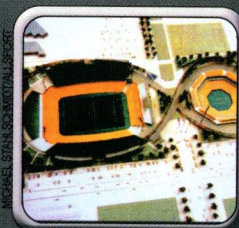
CENTRAL DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Chicago Fire	13	7	3	3	24	22	14
Dallas Burn	14	6	6	2	20	25	23
Columbus Crew	13	4	5	4	16	21	23
Tampa Bay Mutiny	15	3	11	1	10	19	38

WESTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
S.J. Earthquakes	14	8	2	4	28	23	13
L.A. Galaxy	16	7	4	5	26	30	24
K.C. Wizards	15	6	8	1	19	18	28
Colorado Rapids	15	2	8	5	11	19	27

GALAXY GET A NEW HOME



On June 4, the California State University Board of Trustees gave the approval for a \$112 million sports complex to be built on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills in Carson, Calif. The complex will include a 20,000-seat soccer stadium that will serve as home to the Galaxy, as well as six soccer fields, an 8,000-seat tennis stadium, 18 tennis courts, a track-and-field venue, a baseball field and space for offices.

A Most Memorable ALL-STAR GAME



BRIAN BAHRI/ALLSPORT

past-all-stars

A record-setting performance by Earthquakes forward Landon Donovan provided the perfect punctuation for Major League Soccer's 2001 MLS All-Star Weekend in San Jose. Donovan's four-goal outburst for the West contributed to an action-packed 6-6 draw at Spartan Stadium on July 28.

Donovan's spectacular scoring display netted him single-game MLS All-Star Game records for goals (four) and points (eight), and the game's MVP Trophy, overshadowing an amazing four-goal comeback by the East, which trailed 4-0 after the Dallas Burn's Ariel Graziani scored for the West in the 26th minute.

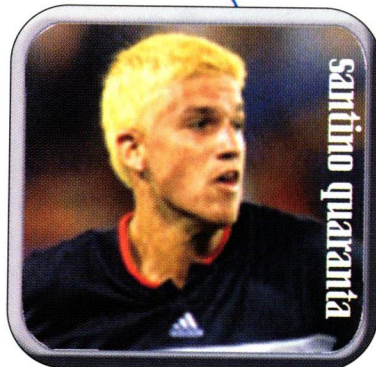
Miami's Jim Rooney, one of eight Fusion players to appear in the match, tied the score at 5-5 in the 84th minute with a 20-yard blast that he followed with a familiar celebration for the Bay Area's soccer fans. Rooney honored Bay Area soccer icon Brandi Chastain by whipping off his jersey to reveal a sports bra he had hidden beneath in a scene reminiscent of the U.S.'s victory over China in the 1999 Women's World Cup Final.

Did You Know?

The Miami Fusion's 12-game unbeaten streak came to an end on July 7. The streak, which was the longest of the 2001 season, began on May 19 ... The Columbus Crew announced on July 11 that Crew Stadium will host the 2003 men's College Cup. Columbus also will host this year's College Cup, scheduled for December 14 and 16.

16-Year-Old Quaranta Shines

History was made when 16-year old D.C. United midfielder Santino Quaranta became the youngest player ever to appear in an MLS All-Star Game when he started the midseason classic; Quaranta had two assists in the 6-6 tie. Earlier in the month, Quaranta scored a pair of goals (for the second time in 2001) in a 3-1 win over New England on July 14. For his performance, Quaranta was named MLS Player of the Week.



santino quaranta

TONY QUINN/MLS

MLS STANDINGS July 30, 2001

EASTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Miami Fusion	19	12	3	4	40	39	24
MetroStars	19	9	7	3	30	28	25
N.E. Revolution	20	5	10	5	20	24	34
D.C. United	19	6	12	1	19	30	38

CENTRAL DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Chicago Fire	18	11	4	3	36	36	19
Columbus Crew	17	7	5	5	26	29	27
Dallas Burn	19	7	8	4	25	34	31
Tampa Bay Mutiny	20	3	16	1	10	24	50

WESTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
San Jose Earthquakes	19	10	4	5	35	32	20
Los Angeles Galaxy	20	9	6	5	32	38	29
Kansas City Wizards	20	9	9	2	29	25	38
Colorado Rapids	20	5	9	6	21	27	31

around the league

Columbus announced on July 6 that interim Head Coach Greg Andrulis would manage the team through the remainder of the season ... Andrulis replaced Tom Fitzgerald on May 17 ... On July 13, Perry Van Der Beck, an assistant for the last three seasons for the Tampa Bay Mutiny, was named the fifth head coach in team history, replacing Alfonso Mondelo ... Van Der Beck, 41, led the Mutiny through the remainder of the team's 2001 season ... He is a candidate to manage the squad next year ... Four MLS teams—Chicago, New England, D.C. and Los Angeles—advanced to the U.S. Open Cup semifinals with victories on July 25.

STOITCHKOV IS THE PLAYER OF THE MONTH



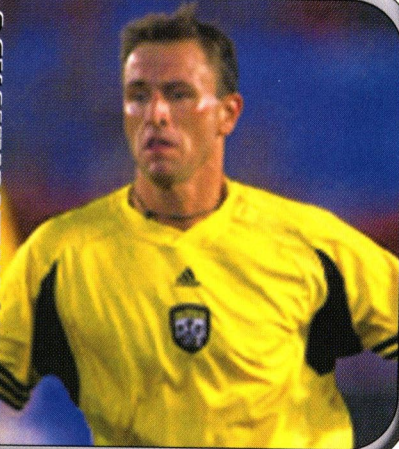
stoichkov

Chicago Fire forward Hristo Stoichkov netted five goals and two assists for 12 points through five games during July to pick up the MLS Player of the Month award. The Bulgarian superstar averaged 5.37 points per 90 minutes played over the stretch, as he came off the bench in four of the five matches while recovering from a hamstring strain.

MAISONNEUVE BACK ON TOP

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

brian maisonneuve



Following two seasons of agonizing ankle surgeries and grueling rehab, Columbus Crew midfielder Brian Maisonneuve reconfirmed his comeback by being named Major League Soccer's Player of the Month for August. A member of the 1998 U.S. World Cup Team, and Hermann Trophy winner at Indiana University, Maisonneuve struck for four goals and two assists during the month, leading a Crew charge that had many thinking the Black and Gold could challenge for MLS Cup. Maisonneuve capped the month off by earning his first call to join the national team since 1998.

TRADE DEADLINE PROMPTS MODEST MOVES

A handful of players changed teams prior to the August 15 trade deadline. New England's Johnny Torres and Shaker Asad went to Miami in exchange for Leo Cullen. The Fusion also acquired Englishman Ian Woan from Columbus. Tampa Bay lured Argentine defender Diego Soñora back to MLS. The MetroStars bolstered their offense by snaring midfielder Ross Paule from Colorado in exchange for utility-man Steve Shak and a 2002 second-round draft pick.

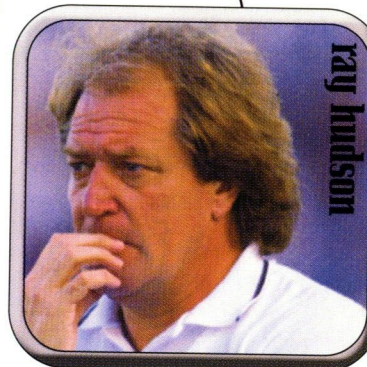
MetroStars, Wizards go international

After months of negotiations and some schedule shifting, the MetroStars and Kansas City Wizards began play in Copa Merconorte, a 16-team tournament featuring clubs from the U.S., Mexico and the northern countries of South America. It was the first time ever that MLS clubs became involved in the prestigious tournament that concludes in December. The MetroStars finished their first month of the competition at 1-1 with a 2-1 win over Deportivo Italcachao and a 2-1 loss to host Millonarios of Colombia. Kansas City, meanwhile, rebounded from two earlier losses to earn a 3-2 road win against Barcelona in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Blurry Playoff Picture Comes Into Focus

When the dust cleared after the league's sixth annual All-Star Game in late July, eight playoff berths still remained. Ray Hudson's Miami Fusion were the first to lock up their postseason destiny, doing so courtesy of a 4-1 win at New England on Saturday, August 11. Los Angeles, Columbus, San Jose and the MetroStars would follow suit by month's end, leaving Kansas City, Dallas and D.C. United to duel for the two remaining spots.

JEFF GROSS/ALLSPORT



MLS STANDINGS Friday, August 31, 2001

EASTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
X-Miami Fusion	25	15	5	5	50	54	35
X-MetroStars	24	12	9	3	39	35	33
N.E. Revolution	25	7	12	6	27	33	45
D.C. United	24	7	15	2	23	36	46

CENTRAL DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
X-Chicago Fire	25	15	6	4	49	47	28
X-Columbus Crew	24	11	7	6	39	43	34
Dallas Burn	25	10	11	4	34	46	45
#T.B. Mutiny	25	4	19	2	14	30	61

WESTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
X-S.J. Earthquakes	24	12	6	6	42	44	28
X-L.A. Galaxy	24	12	7	5	41	47	34
K.C. Wizards	25	10	12	3	33	32	50
Colorado Rapids	24	5	11	8	23	34	42

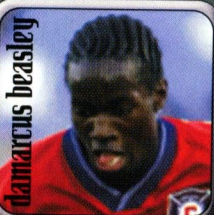
Y = Clinched division; X = Clinched playoff berth;
= Eliminated from playoffs

a r o u n d t h e l e a g u e

Miami Fusion Head Coach Ray Hudson is released from the Hospital on August 27 after suffering from chest pains and dizziness during the second half of the Fusion's 4-1 win at New England ... The Los Angeles Galaxy and New England Revolution booked spots in October's Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Final with wins against Chicago and D.C. United, respectively, on August 22 ... On August 16, the Columbus Crew announced that All-Star forward Brian McBride was lost for the season after a blood clot reappeared in the striker's upper right arm.

YOUNGSTERS STRUT THEIR STUFF

MICHAEL STANLEY/ALLSPORT



Not only did they hold their own with the big boys, MLS youngsters Landon Donovan of San Jose and DaMarcus Beasley of Chicago outdid their older counterparts, as each claimed his first career MLS Player of the Week award. Donovan, 19, blitzed New England for two goals and two assists in a 5-1 win on August 8, while the 19-year-old Beasley slipped two goals and one assist past the Galaxy in a 3-1 Fire win at the Rose Bowl on August 25.

2001 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW SEPTEMBER

TRAGEDY IN AMERICA

On Tuesday, September 11, the United States was the target of the most devastating terrorist attack in the nation's history when thousands of persons were killed, New York City's World Trade Center was destroyed, the Pentagon suffered extensive damage and four planes were hijacked and perished in the process. MLS Commissioner Don Garber immediately postponed four matches scheduled for Sept. 12 and two days later decided to cancel the six remaining matches of the regular season in honor of the victims and rescue efforts. With the eight playoff teams already decided, the league standings and playoff seedings were finalized on a points-per-game basis with the Los Angeles Galaxy claiming the Western Division title. During the MLS Cup Playoffs, players wore a Statue of Liberty patch on their jerseys to remember those who suffered the terrorist attacks.



A Legend Plays His FINAL MLS Match

American soccer legend Paul Caligiuri played in his final MLS regular season match on Sept. 8 in a 2-0 Los Angeles Galaxy win against the Colorado Rapids in Denver. The weekend before, the five-year Galaxy defender was honored at the Rose Bowl as he called an end to his playing days in 2001 and moves on to a college coaching career at Cal Poly Pomona after the postseason. The two-time World Cup veteran and 1988 Olympian is recognized as being partly responsible for bringing soccer to its current heights in America. The 37-year-old Caligiuri, who helped open the doors for American soccer players abroad, will always be remembered for "the shot heard round the world": his game-winning goal on November 19, 1989, in a 1-0 win over Trinidad & Tobago. It clinched a spot in the 1990 World Cup for the U.S. after a 40-year absence from the tournament.



New Twist In Road To World Cup

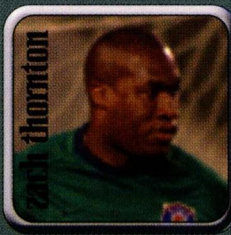
Two consecutive CONCACAF World Cup Qualifying losses in the span of four days saw the U.S. Men's National Team go from second place to the fourth spot and on the outside looking in to the 2002 World Cup (the top three advance). It all began with a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Honduras at RFK Stadium on Sept. 1, and that was followed by a 2-0 blanking in Costa Rica on Sept. 5. Qualifying thus took a dramatic turn, meaning that a berth to Korea/Japan will come down to the final match of the campaign at Trinidad & Tobago on Nov. 11. Ten MLS-based Americans played in the two matches with the San Jose Earthquakes' Landon Donovan earning his first World Cup Qualifying start vs. Honduras.

around the league

Six players netted two goals between Sept. 1 and Sept. 8, including the Miami Fusion's Alex Pineda Chacon, who overtook teammate Diego Serna to claim the Budweiser Scoring Championship ... Chacon went on to win the year's final Player of the Week award, his fourth in his debut season ... The day after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, the Kansas City Wizards played a Merconorte Cup match against Sporting Cristal in Peru, losing 2-1 ... The U.S. Under-17 Men's National Team, led by the Dallas Burn's Eddie Johnson and D.C. United's Santino Quaranta, beat Brazil (1-0) and tied Australia (0-0) ahead of their world championship campaign in Trinidad & Tobago.

RECORD SETTERS

By the end of the 2001 regular season, new significant records were established. D.C. United Head Coach Thomas Rongen became MLS' all-time winningest coach with United's victory on Sept. 1, his 82nd. Also on Sept. 1, Chicago Fire goalkeeper Zach Thornton was the first netminder in MLS history to reach 66 career victories, passing the Columbus Crew's Mark Dougherty. In what turned out to be the last weekend of the season, the Miami Fusion's Diego Serna notched the assist that made him only the second 15-15 man in MLS history (15 goals and 15 assists in one season). Burn forward Jason Kreis achieved the feat in his Honda MVP-winning 1999 season (18 goals, 15 assists).



MLS STANDINGS Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001

EASTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Y-Miami Fusion	26	16	5	5	53	57	36
X-MetroStars	26	13	10	3	42	38	35
#-N.E. Revolution	27	7	14	6	27	35	52
#-D.C. United	26	8	16	2	26	42	50

CENTRAL DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Y-Chicago Fire	27	16	6	5	53	50	30
X-Columbus Crew	26	13	7	6	45	49	36
X-Dallas Burn	26	10	11	5	35	48	47
#-Tampa Bay Mutiny	27	4	21	2	14	32	68

WESTERN DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Y-Los Angeles Galaxy	26	14	7	5	47	52	36
X-San Jose Earthquakes	26	13	7	6	45	47	29
X-Kansas City Wizards	27	11	13	3	36	33	53
#-Colorado Rapids	26	5	13	8	23	36	47

Y = Division Champion; X = Clinched playoff berth.
= Eliminated from playoff contention.



THE COMEBACK KIDS

By Michael Lewis

Every time Dayak felt like giving up, however, he remembered what one doctor told him: "You'll never play again."

"You know what?" he says, "I proved him wrong."

The same never-say-die attitude went for Maisonneuve.

"It was the love of the sport," Maisonneuve says. "I couldn't give up soccer. I can't imagine myself giving up soccer. Not playing any more never crept into my mind."

Maisonneuve Returns for Career Year

A two-time MLS All-Star, Maisonneuve, now 28 years old, appeared 10 times for the U.S. National Team, including in all three matches of the 1998 World Cup. His problems, however, started at the beginning of that season.

"I had a couple of ankle injuries," he says. "I didn't have time to rest it. Through a series of twists and turns, eventually my tendons [in his right ankle] went away."

He only discovered this had happened at the end of the 1999 season. So, in January of 2000, Maisonneuve underwent reconstructive surgery, realizing he would miss as many as five months. Then two months after the procedure, a staph infection ate away the tendon that had been sewn together.

After numerous visits to several doctors, Maisonneuve then had a cadaver's tendon placed in his right ankle in July 2000. All the while he tried not to think about the possibility of never setting foot on a soccer field again.

"The doctors warned me that I wasn't going to get full strength back," he says.

In essence, Maisonneuve was forced to learn how to run again, which took time and strength and plenty of balance and endurance exercises. He didn't know when he would return.

"The type of injury I had does not have a time table like an ACL tear," he says. "I was playing it by ear."

Maisonneuve rejoined Crew training last February for short bursts of playing time, gradually increasing his endurance. By opening day on April 7 at Columbus Crew Stadium, he was ready.

"It was great to hear the crowd welcome me back," he says. "I ran around with chills. I felt great. It's one of those feelings I'll never forget."

But it turned out to be a roller-coaster season. He would struggle for five games, and then feel fine for the next five. Maisonneuve admits that it wasn't until midseason that he was totally comfortable.

"I still don't feel [I'm] at 100 percent," he says. "Every now and then, if I strike a ball and hit it wrong, I feel a twinge of pain."

Brian Maisonneuve returned from a severe ankle injury to help the Crew to the 2001 postseason.

Imagine being told that you can't pursue something that you love. San Jose Earthquakes defender Troy Dayak and Columbus Crew midfielder Brian Maisonneuve faced that same devastating news: They would never be able to play soccer again.

But they refused to accept those career-ending diagnoses, persevered and came back with rousing Major League Soccer seasons in 2001.

Dayak overcame several major injuries—a broken neck and two serious knee ailments—while Maisonneuve battled a severe ankle injury and five surgeries. With setbacks like those it was no surprise that they both emerged as leading candidates for the league's ACE Comeback Player of the Year.

"I wanted to be a professional soccer player and play in front of my friends and family," Dayak says. "Then to see it crumble, it was devastating, to say the least."

He went on to record a memorable season in which he scored a career-high eight goals. Not only would he play in 25 of the Crew's 26 regular season matches, but he was also recalled to U.S. National Team training camp.

"I'm ecstatic," Maisonneuve says. "I've torn my ACL before, but I've gotten a whole new sense of those players who are injured and make a comeback."

Dayak Helps Earthquakes Resurgence

By the time he joined the San Jose Clash in 1996, defender Troy Dayak had already forged an impressive soccer resumé.

He had appeared 11 times with the senior national team and played in the Under-16 and Under-20 World Championships and the 1992 Olympics. At the age of 17 in 1988, Dayak was the youngest player to sign an A-League contract.

However, his career was thrown into disarray during his second season in MLS, 1997, when he discovered he had two herniated discs. A collision in which a goalkeeper drove his knee into Dayak's neck nearly paralyzed the 30-year-old Tracy, Calif., native.

A teammate drove him home that night. "I couldn't move," he says. "I had tingling up and down my back. I was moaning and groaning all night. I knew I had to have surgery. I couldn't go around all my life like that."

Dayak could have let the injury heal on its own, but opted for surgery that entailed taking a bone from his hip and fusing it into his neck. He made his decision only after meeting with several specialists and talking to the Dallas Cowboys' Daryl "Moose" Johnston, who had the same procedure.

That step started a long and arduous road to recovery that was laden with unwanted surprises. After wearing a neck brace for two months, Dayak's atrophied neck was as thin as a pencil. With several unusual neck exercises, though, he got his strength back.

"Teammates looked at me as though I was the Elephant Man," he says.

The bone, however, did not fuse completely and Dayak was forced to sit out the 1998 season. Doctors warned him that if it didn't heal within 8-12 months, it would never fuse. But by 1999, he was playing with the A-League's San Francisco Bay Seals.

However, another setback was right around the corner: Three games into the A-League season, he tore his PCL and MCL in his right knee, a rare combination for an injury. Even worse news would surface three days after the knee operation when an

infection was discovered and he was rushed to the hospital emergency room.

"I was told that if I [hadn't gotten] there as quickly, I probably would have lost my leg," Dayak says.

After his career had been at risk and he almost lost his leg, Dayak would not lie down and instead reappeared with the A-League's Bay Area Seals in 2000 and this year in MLS. In a dream season that saw the Earthquakes advance to the playoffs for the first time since 1996, Dayak proved a durable starter (playing in 25 of 26 matches), partnering with Jeff Agoos in central defense as the team registered the fewest goals allowed in the league.

Dayak was the one to get the Earthquakes started on the roll they maintained for five months, as he scored the team's first goal of 2001 in Los Angeles (April 7) just nine minutes into the season.

"I felt like I jumped out of my skin completely when I scored," Dayak says. "It meant so much to me. I wanted it more than any of the 22 players out there. It shows you that when you work

hard at things and you strive for something, good things happen."

The goal was the highlight of his season, with his All-Star Team selection being a close second (he was West captain for the second half). The only thing that could top it would be a championship.

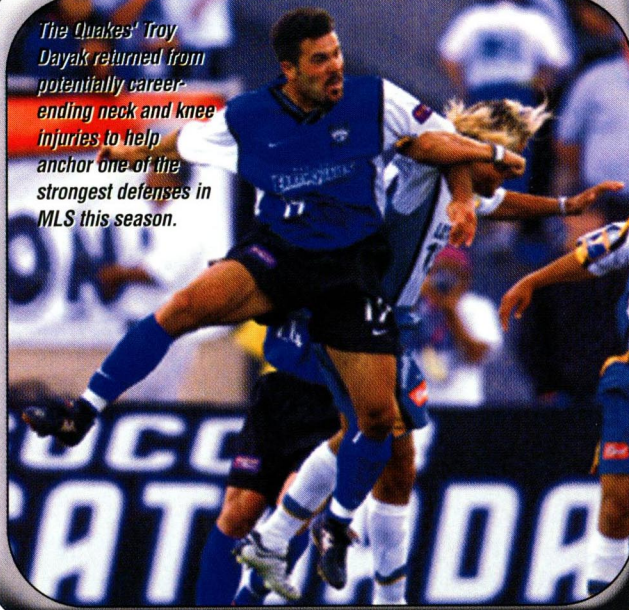
Maisonneuve agrees.

"That would be such a great feeling," he says. "Watching it [MLS Cup] the last few years and wondering if I would play again—that would be a storybook ending."

Dayak and Maisonneuve refused to accept their career-ending diagnoses and came back with career seasons in 2001.

Michael Lewis covers soccer for the New York Daily News.

The Quakes' Troy Dayak returned from potentially career-ending neck and knee injuries to help anchor one of the strongest defenses in MLS this season.



TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT

COLUMBUS: SOCCER CENTRAL

In six short seasons, the home of the Crew has emerged to become the unofficial home of American soccer.

By Bob Shanahan

There were plenty of skeptics and snickers on June 15, 1994, when Columbus was introduced as one of 10 charter members of Major League Soccer. People knew the city's more well-known Ohio brethren—Cincinnati and Cleveland—but Columbus?

What many didn't realize was that Columbus and Central Ohio had business and community support equal to none. They didn't know that Columbus was the 15th-largest city in the United States and home to numerous and fervent soccer organizations.

"Columbus has always had a reputation for soccer in the Midwest but it's been overlooked compared to cities like St. Louis and Detroit," says Crew defender Mike Clark. "But it's always been up there. That's one of the reasons they put a team here."

It didn't hurt that Columbus submitted deposits for 11,500 season tickets in order to persuade U.S. Soccer to place the first major league team in the Buckeye State's capital city.

Seven years after Columbus was marked with only a dot on the national soccer map, the city is now often referred to by many as the mecca for U.S. soccer. And with good reason.

The city is home to the premier soccer venue in the country: Crew Stadium. The Crew have their own training facility in suburban Obetz and the club has become a beacon in the community, with the players making numerous public appearances and guest spots on radio and television shows.

Dave King, coach of the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets, attended

his first Crew game in September and came away with a

favorable impression. "They do an outstanding job marketing the team," he says. "All the kids around

me had on yellow jerseys. I'm really impressed with what they've done in this city."

In turn, the fans have responded: Columbus was third in attendance this season with an average of 17,511, despite having no international doubleheaders or a Fourth of July home date that has proven to be a great draw throughout the league.

The Crew also rank fifth all-time in attendance, drawing an average of 16,110 per game.

"The support has been there since Year One," Clark says. "The Crew [have] really gotten the players out there and we all try to be accessible. We also have a huge core of fans that really connect with the players. We're seeing the benefits now."

So are others. The U.S. Men's and Women's National Teams now make Columbus a regular stop because the stadium is immaculate, the training facility perfect for their needs and—most importantly—the crowds are big, loud and, yes, pro-American.

Ohio considers itself the "Heart of it all," which makes Columbus the epicenter. Its famous college football team wears scarlet and gray but the city bleeds red, white and blue. That's why Crew Stadium was chosen to host a men's World Cup qualifier this year against Mexico, even though the match was held on February 28, when temperatures in Central Ohio are more suitable for snowflakes than soccer.

"We're playing at home in a stadium that's pro-American. You'd think 95 percent are rooting for America. That's rare," U.S. midfielder Chris Armas says.

"It's a great advantage here."

The well-layered crowd of 24,624 was crazed and loud. More importantly, it helped carry the U.S. to a 2-0 victory.

"I've never experienced that against Mexico," U.S. midfielder Earnie Stewart says. "The fans were fantastic."



The Crew feed off the energy of their fans, who have supported the team in large numbers since the 1996 inaugural season.



Columbus fans, some of the most loyal of any team's in MLS, cheering their beloved Crew on.

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"I think the fans were one of the biggest factors in the game," ex-

Crew goal-

keeper Brad

Friedel said after-

ward. "I think we should

have as many qualifiers here as possible."

U.S. National Team Coach Bruce Arena agrees: "Columbus Crew Stadium is a great facility and we will utilize it to help us win."

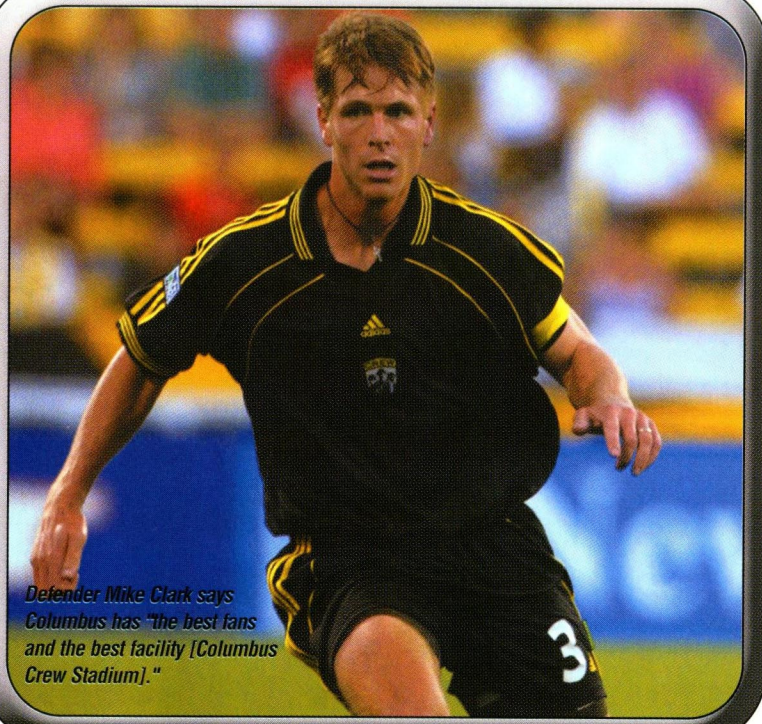
The "House that Lamar [Hunt] Built" opened to rave reviews on May 15, 1999, before an overflow crowd of 24,741. Columbus forward Jeff Cunningham scored the first goal in the Crew's 2-0 victory against New England.

It also has hosted two U.S. Women's National Team games, the 2000 MLS All-Star Game, the 1999 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup final, a men's World Cup qualifier last year against Costa Rica and an exhibition match against Ecuador in June. There have also been a handful of Crew international friendlies as well as college and high school soccer matches.

"No other place in the country can claim to have a venue like we do," Clark says. "We've definitely got the city behind us."

Crew goalkeeper Tom Presthus, who came over from D.C. United in a February trade, considers Columbus a hidden gem in the soccer world. "As an outsider, I didn't view it

as a professional sports town. But everyone here takes an interest in the team. You really feel like a part of the community," he says. "Coming to Columbus energized my career. Everyone in U.S. soccer has a sense of pride in what they were able to do in Columbus."



Defender Mike Clark says Columbus has "the best fans and the best facility [Columbus Crew Stadium]."

TOM PIGEON/ALLSPORT

Spectacularly Simple

Crew Stadium has given American soccer what it always needed—a true home. Simplistic in design but significant in stature, Columbus Crew Stadium has earned the right (unofficially, anyway) to be called America's national soccer stadium.

One needs to look no further than the events in the three-year-old stadium this year: a World Cup qualifier against Mexico on Feb. 28; MLS Cup 2001 on Oct. 21 and the NCAA Men's College Cup from December 14-16.

"We have the year's three premier soccer events in this country in our stadium," Crew General Manager Jim Smith says. "It's a tribute to Lamar Hunt's vision and to all the great fans in Columbus and the surrounding areas that support these and other events."

Hunt, of course, is the chief investor-operator of the Crew and the Kansas City Wizards. It was his vision and money that guided Columbus to building the 22,555-seat stadium on the Ohio State Fairgrounds, just north of downtown.

In future years, there will be bigger and better stadiums built for MLS. But only one can claim to be the first. That's something that will never change. When Crew Stadium opened in 1999, it rightfully took its spot as the premier soccer facility in the United States.

With its intimate setting and innovative concourse design that allows fans to view the action while at concession stands (because soccer

has no stoppages like other sports, spectators don't want to miss a single minute of action), the stadium developed a personality of its own.

"There's always a great atmosphere there," San Jose goalkeeper Joe Cannon says. "Players like performing in front of big, vocal crowds. Who wouldn't?"

"My first thought when I saw the stadium was that this is really, really special for the United States," goalkeeper Tom Presthus says.

"There was a feeling of pride for our league that we could put together a stadium like this."

Presthus was a member of rival D.C. United for three years before making the move to Columbus in the offseason. From his first-hand experience of the haranguing from Columbus partisans, he appreciates how the fans are what give the stadium its reputation.

"They're what makes the stadium great," he says. "Every time we step on the field we appreciate what they do for us. We're eternally grateful to the fans."

Defender Mike Clark, who has been with the Crew since the beginning—when it played in cavernous Ohio Stadium—said the players don't take what they have for granted. "The stadium is awesome," Clark says. "You can't help but get excited every time you come to it. There's no competition—we have the best fans and the best facility." — Bob Shanahan



TONY QUINN/MLS

FUEL TO THE



FIRE

By Kent McMill

In its first three years of existence, the Chicago Fire played for four Cups. In this, the club's fourth season, the Fire are in position to play for yet another title: the 2001 MLS Cup.

Since their first game in the spring of 1998, the Fire have claimed a spot atop the Major League Soccer hierarchy—not only for their success on the field, but also for their vision off the field.

The Fire won MLS Cup in their first season, 1998, and matched that with the U.S. Open Cup the same season. Chicago lost to the Kansas City Wizards in MLS Cup 2000, then claimed its second U.S. Open Cup title a week later.

In the 2001 MLS season, the Fire could very well capture a trophy yet again. Despite losing Peter Nowak, Hristo Stoitchkov and Josh Wolff for long stretches of the season, the Fire found a way to win their second straight Central Division title.

In searching for an explanation as to why the Fire have burned so brightly year after year, through all the adversity, it becomes clear that there might not be exactly one reason for Chicago's success.

"You have to credit the coaching staff, and it starts with Bob Bradley," says veteran midfielder Chris Armas. "Bob has the eye for players and he knows how to make it all come together."

Fire General Manager Peter Wilt, an experienced professional soccer executive in the U.S., plucked Bradley from D.C. United, where he served as an assistant coach on two of D.C. United's three MLS Championship teams.

Bradley played a key role in helping Wilt put together the first Fire roster, which included Polish National Team captain Peter Nowak and Czech defender Lubos Kubik. They also traded for Armas and the dependable Jesse Marsch, before drafting Zach Thornton, Diego Gutierrez, C.J. Brown and Ante Razov. Finally, the Fire were assigned Nike Project-40 prodigy Josh Wolff shortly before the team's inaugural season.

Clearly, the Fire started with an astonishing core group of players. But it was Bradley who brought that group together, and then molded it year after year into a cohesive unit. Eight of Chicago's American players have gone on to see time in U.S. National Team camp.

"Bob Bradley has made it always about winning," says forward Eric Wynalda, whose career was revived by joining Bradley and the Fire this season. "He drew a line in the sand in 1998 when he said, 'I don't want Jorge Campos as my goalkeeper, I want Zach Thornton.' He has the backing of Peter Wilt, who says, 'This is my coach, this is what he wants,' and then you tie that in

with Bob's ability to prepare a team and his eye for talent. It is really that simple."

Bradley himself says the answer is fairly simple, but he deflects the praise given to him by others.

"I think the strength comes from the group and I am part of the group," Bradley says. "I'm proud to be a part of a group that cares about each other and is very competitive and works hard. There are things you can't always control, but you can control what you are about every time you step on the field."

Although he has been with the Fire since their inception, and last year earned U.S. Soccer Player of the Year honors, Armas says the Fire's success on the field can be attributed to Nowak, Armas' midfield partner.

"You drop Peter Nowak's name around the league and I think a lot of people would say he is the best player in the league," Armas says. "You build a team around him and good things are going to happen."

"With Peter in there, it is really a different type of soccer," Wynalda says. "He is a guy who finds forwards in spots where they are going to be able to do what they do."

Peter Nowak (left) and Jesse Marsch lead the celebration after the Fire won MLS Cup '98 in their first season in MLS.



DOUG PENNINGER/SPORT

Most people credit Head Coach Bob Bradley with the Fire's continued success.



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

Bradley added more names along the way, including the versatile Dema Kovalenko in a trade with Dallas, Stoitchkov as a foreign allocation, DaMarcus Beasley in a trade with Los Angeles and 2000 Kellogg's Rookie of the Year Carlos Bocanegra and 2001 Rookie of the Year candidate Jim Curtin via the MLS SuperDraft.

However, it isn't just the Fire's stars that carry the team. Chicago has survived a glut of national team departures and injuries for two years because Bradley never relied solely on his best players to win games.

"You have to credit the coaching staff, and it starts with Bob Bradley. Bob has the eye for players and he knows how to make it all come together."

— Midfielder Chris Armas

"Coach Bradley always has a lot of good players on his teams," defender Evan Whitfield says. "Each year the lineup seems to rotate and everyone gets a chance to play."

"It makes our training sessions better every day," Bradley says by way of explanation. "This has clearly benefited us when we have missed players through injury or national team duty."

Wynalda, who has had his share of coaches in MLS, said the Fire's success goes beyond a good roster coached by a good on-the-field leader. "The Chicago Fire communicate really well," Wynalda says. "Everybody knows where they stand. There is nothing left to speculation. You don't go home thinking, 'What's Bob thinking? What's my role?'"

Above Bradley is Wilt, whose love of soccer has helped him create model franchises in the NPSL, the A-League and now MLS. One of his strengths as an administrator has been to create an atmosphere in which Bradley is free to use his skills in a solid soccer environment.

But Bradley, it seems, is the one who ties the knot. He refuses to take any credit despite what his players say.

"I think as long as Bob is here, you are going to see good things," says Armas. "Over the course of the years, I think this team is going to be one of the most-respected teams around."

A Resurrection

ERIC WYNALDA EXPERIENCES A REJUVENATION WITH CHICAGO.

In a very short period of time, Wynalda's soccer career has truly gone full circle. In 2001, Wynalda has been labeled "washed up," he teetered on the verge of retirement, discovered a renewed vigor for soccer and led his team in scoring—all in the same calendar year.

But because most of the personal tornado took place in Chicago, it's been a pleasant experience. Wynalda joined the Fire in a trade from New England on May 3 after Fire Head Coach Bob Bradley asked him whether he thought he could play for Chicago. When Wynalda said "Yes," Bradley said, "Good. I just traded for you."

"Now I just wish I had been here from the start, when I was faster and younger and stronger," Wynalda says. "It's been a good thing for me personally to be on a team that was already doing fine on its own."

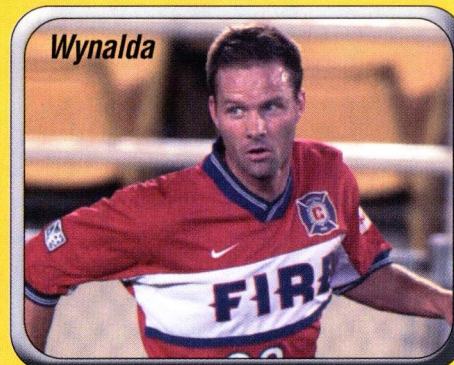
Wynalda scored the first-ever MLS goal in 1996 with the San Jose Clash. He finished that season with his career-high 10 goals. Five years, several injuries, a couple of trades and loads of criticism later, Wynalda scored 25 points (10g, 5a) to lead the Fire in 2001.

Wynalda admits he started the season considering retirement as he prepared to play for the struggling New England Revolution.

"I just wasn't enjoying it," Wynalda says. "I'm glad Bob [Bradley] took a chance on me. After that, the soccer stuff took care of itself."

Through his years with San Jose, Miami and New England, the 32-year-old Wynalda claims he was never surrounded by the kind of talent that greeted him in Chicago and he appreciates it.

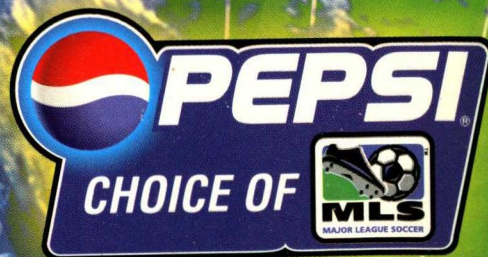
"In the past I think I've always had a little too much responsibility and pressure on me to do too many things," Wynalda says. "Being here has allowed me to be a soccer player, and when that part is over I can enjoy my family." — Kent McDill



Wynalda

MICHAEL STAHL/SCHMIDT/MALLSPORT

**GREAT
TASTE**
with a
KICK



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