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MLS CUP

2002

THE
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CHAPTER
OF
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SOCCER
HISTORY...



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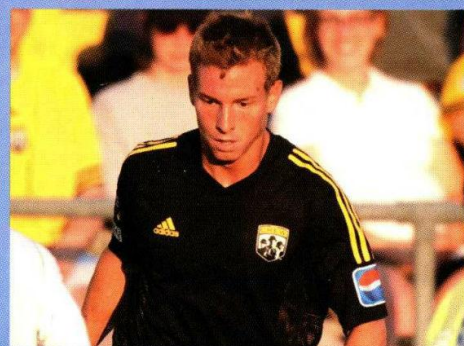
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WELCOME TO MLS CUP

2002



Let me be the first to welcome you to New England and MLS Cup 2002. We arrive in Providence, Foxboro and Boston on the heels of the most exciting playoff race in League history, concluding today with our seventh title game. Historically, Revolution fans have been among the most supportive soccer enthusiasts in the country and MLS is excited to return to Foxboro for the third time in MLS Cup history.

There couldn't be a more appropriate venue for Major League Soccer's premier event than Gillette Stadium, the site of this year's final. As the latest of many state-of-the-art stadiums in the United States, Gillette Stadium was designed with fans in mind, perhaps more so than any facility on the American sports landscape.

Our League has made many strides in seven seasons, but perhaps none is more important than the increased quality of the on-field competition. All 10 of our teams were fighting for playoff berths into the final contest of the season. Carlos Ruiz of the Los Angeles Galaxy and Taylor Twellman of the New England Revolution treated us all to a scintillating Budweiser Scoring Race, which went down to the wire. On the final weekend of the season, Ruiz scored twice to capture the MLS "Golden Boot," while Twellman tallied a goal and an assist to win the Bud Scoring Championship.

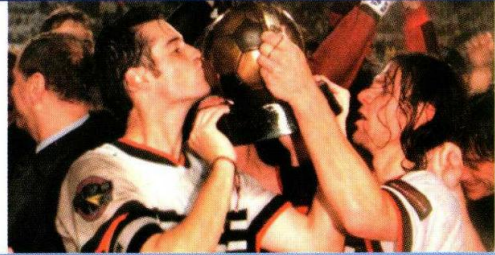
I want to congratulate both teams competing in today's MLS Cup, along with all the players, coaches, referees, sponsors, administrators and staff members who have made this season a great success. I'd also like to thank all our dedicated fans for their unwavering and passionate support, which has enabled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

Enjoy today's match.

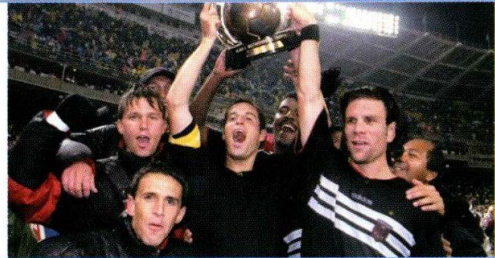
Sincerely,

Don Garber
Commissioner

1996



1997



1998



1999



2000



2001





By Marisabel Munoz

ON COMMON

GROUND

TONY QUINN/MLS



Carlos Ruiz and Taylor Twellman started side by side at the MLS All-Star Game against the U.S. National Team.

Taylor Twellman and Carlos Ruiz have coincidentally followed similar paths to stardom.

Carlos Ruiz, donning his white Los Angeles Galaxy No. 20 jersey, walked back to the edge of the 18-yard box. He accelerated to a sprint, stopping short of the penalty spot and gently digging his right foot underneath the ball. Chipping it ever so slightly, he lofted the ball softly in the air over a committed goalkeeper who had thrown himself helplessly on the ground.

Executing a penalty kick this way, in stoppage time of a scoreless match to clinch the Western Conference title on the road against the San Jose Earthquakes can be considered, by some, to be irresponsible. Others may call it a bold stroke of genius.

Dressed in his No. 20 New England Revolution uniform, Taylor Twellman walked back to the far line of the penalty box. He took a few steps forward and authoritatively struck the ball into the right corner of the goal. Although the MetroStars goalkeeper guessed the right direction, Twellman's shot was quick, accurate and out of reach. It was a clinical penalty kick - a goal that would help his team to victory and its first Eastern Conference crown.

Brave, ingenious and clinical. Such are the characteristics of lethal strikers. And in those two regular season games played on the last weekend of the season on opposite coasts, it may seem Ruiz was the artful one while Twellman was more conservative. But between bicycle kicks, dribbling, breakaways and deftly executed one-on-ones, Twellman and Ruiz, MLS' top scorers in 2002, have combined to light up the stadiums in which they've played with equal brilliance.

Born five months and many miles apart, Ruiz broke onto the MLS scene with six goals in L.A.'s first four games while Twellman fashioned a six-game scoring streak of his own in his first half-dozen MLS starts. Both players have brought brashness, flair and plenty of points to their teams in 2002: Ruiz proving to be the difference time and again as the Galaxy fashioned MLS' best record and Twellman pumping life into a struggling Revolution team that endured a midseason personnel upheaval.

The fact that each their seasons bear striking similarities, including the selection of both to the starting XI of the Pepsi MLS All-Star Game, is not just restricted to 2002.

TWELLMAN: THE BEGINNINGS

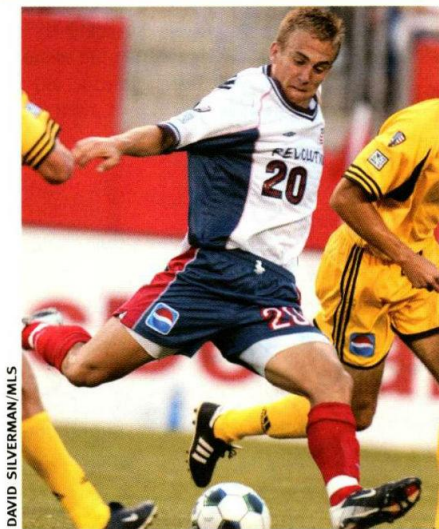
At age three Twellman recalls spending evenings in the family living room. In the suburb of Chesterfield, Mo. just east of St. Louis, the small boy kicked his first soccer ball at the couch. His mother Mochie, pregnant with her second son James, would sit and play goalkeeper.

This was the Twellmans' routine come Saturday night, when his father Tim would be on television, playing defense for the NASL's Minnesota Kicks. Soccer was part of the family, but Tim would never be Taylor's coach.

"It was awesome because he wasn't my coach. There wasn't a lot of pressure," Taylor said. "I wanted to be a pro. My dream now is to help this sport grow in America."

Like the other athletes in his family who excelled in their respective sports (uncle Jay Delsing plays on the PGA Tour and grandfather Jim Delsing was a major league outfielder), Taylor is part of the new breed of American soccer. He played his way through the U.S. Youth National Team system, accepting a scholarship to the University of Maryland in 1998.

Two years and 73 points later, Twellman made a trip to Nigeria in 1999 for the FIFA World Youth Championship. He scored two goals against Cameroon and Spain, earning him the bronze ball as the third leading scorer of the tournament.



DAVID SILVERMAN/MLS

Taylor Twellman broke into the starting lineup on April 20 in Columbus and never looked back.





While 1999 was the year that brought Twellman to the attention of the soccer world - particularly the coaching staff of Germany's TSV 1860 Munich - Ruiz would rather forget his summer that year.

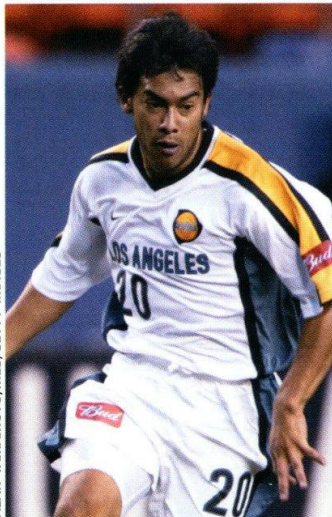
RUIZ: STOKING THE PASSIONS

Raised alongside three sisters by his mother Maria Gutierrez, who worked 14-hour days at a toothpaste factory, Ruiz lived in Zona 21, a poor but popular barrio south of Guatemala City. The boy, however, did well for himself on the soccer field where he was a member of the youth national team pool in Guatemala.

Ruiz would leave his home at the age of 12 to live at the youth academy of local club Municipal. One of the coaches, Argentine-born Luis Grill Prieto, who would become like a second father to Ruiz, saw sparks fly at the tryouts and made sure the 12-year-old joined the team. At 16, Ruiz made his major league debut for Municipal, one of the two most successful clubs in Guatemala.

"For Christmas, my mother gave me my first ball," Ruiz said nostalgically. "I remember it clearly because I broke her favorite flower vase that same day. Futbol is very popular in Guatemala; everyone plays. It's hard to think that you would not grow up liking it."

Ruiz more than liked it. By the time he was 19, he was named captain of the Guatemalan Olympic Team, which traveled to Winnipeg, Canada for the 1999 Pan



ALAN YAMAMOTO/MLS/GETTY IMAGES

Known as "El Pescadito" (Little Fish), Carlos Ruiz broke the Galaxy's season record for goals in a season by scoring 24.

American games. It was there that the kid from the barrio would come close to losing everything he had worked for.

The date was July 28, 1999. Guatemala had drawn Canada in the first round of the Games. Within the first 20 minutes of the game, referee Rich Grady pulled out three red cards on the Central American team. After one particularly hard foul, Ruiz and his teammates reacted, rushing toward the referee. A melee ensued.

After a CONCACAF investigation of the game, Ruiz was cited in the confederation's report as making contact with the referee and was barred from playing soccer at any level anywhere in the world for six months.

"It's the one thing I have regretted in my life," he says today. "It was a mistake on my part. It happened many years ago. I had to sacrifice a lot. I practiced for those six months knowing I couldn't play and I was about to give up on soccer. But people were going to say I was a loser so I decided to take revenge on myself."

A different Ruiz emerged. The Olympic Team he captained in 2000 came one game short of qualifying for the Sydney Games. Ruiz scored eight goals during the CONCACAF semifinal round of qualifying for the 2002 World Cup although Guatemala would be eliminated in a heartbreaking semifinal tiebreaker against Costa Rica. On a personal level, he also became a father when his wife Laura gave birth to his daughter Andrea Michelle.

The maturation process for "El Pescadito" (The Little Fish) continued with a move overseas to Greece.

At nearly the same time, Twellman, springing from college after two years, also made the jump to professional soccer abroad.

FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES

Ruiz's move to Greece and Twellman's trip to Germany came at the wrong time for both. They each had to deal with heightened expectations because they were natives of countries with less-renowned soccer tradition.

Twellman attributes some of his development to his time at TSV 1860 Munich, where he saw action in 40 games with the reserve team. In the southern Bavarian capital known for its hardened people, Twellman led the team in goals while perfecting his right-footed shot. But the weather was dreary, the telephone calls back home racked up, and suddenly soccer in the German Bundesliga was not so appealing. Twellman also missed watching his younger brother's games.

"I didn't get to see them grow up," Twellman said of James, a sophomore on the Stanford soccer team, and younger sister Alex, who is currently a high school senior with Division I soccer aspirations. "I missed playing two-on-two with them. It was always James and I against my sister and my dad. They usually won since dad gets ticked off and starts kicking everyone."

Ruiz, meanwhile, was missing out on his own daughter's infancy. But he had paid his dues in the Guatemalan system, reaching the highest levels and winning back-to-back league championships with Municipal. His insatiable appetite for competition took him to PAS Ioannina, a western provincial town in Greece and a center of Hellenic culture. Six months later, Ruiz was ready to leave.

"I had gone to Europe seeking the best level, but the team was having economic problems," Ruiz said. "It was an experience and I tried to make the best of it."

And so the 21-year-olds both returned home in the fall of 2001. Ruiz reunited with his young daughter while leading Municipal to a Clausura championship. Twellman rejoined his family for the memorable two-on-two pick-up games, with the hope of being part of his country's professional league: MLS.

SIMULTANEOUS EMERGENCE

A year ago, a hurricane unearthed temple ruins in Guatemala, leading archeologists to one of the richest Mayan hieroglyphic texts ever found. Just recently, researchers were able to put together the history of the ancient town. A year ago, Galaxy Head Coach Sigi Schmid made a discovery of his own in Ruiz, who proved to be just as phenomenal.

"What really caught my eye was that I thought [Ruiz] was a very good athlete, with speed and jumping abilities," Schmid said. "He's a goal poacher, always trying to get in there, willing to take the extra hit where others might give up."

"Fish," as he is called by his Galaxy teammates in a rough translation of his Spanish nickname "El Pescadito," never stopped trying, scoring a League-leading and team-record breaking 24 goals in 26 games in 2002. Nine of his goals were game-winners. Besides his sheer opportunism, Ruiz's success can also be traced to the supportive role of the Galaxy midfield, particularly the play of Cobi Jones, who, despite previously leading the team in goals, has settled into a role of distributor.

Twellman, who was the second overall pick in the 2002 SuperDraft, faced a daunting challenge to earn his starting spot, beating out the last two MLS scoring champions for the job: Alex Pineda Chacon and Mamadou Diallo, the latter of which was eventually shipped away in a major midseason overhaul. When the dust settled, midfielder Steve Ralston, the League leader in assists, became Twellman's best ally on the field, helping him clinch the Budweiser scoring championship with 52 points, just three ahead of Ruiz's 49.

It was a two-horse scoring race between the goal poachers into the final month of the season and things heated up even more down the stretch run as the Galaxy and Revolution finished as No. 1 and No. 2 seeds by virtue of their conference championships. In the end, both players broke their team's single season goal mark (Ruiz tallying 24, Twellman notching 23).

The competition between the two players will be back in full swing once again next year, perhaps extending to the international scene, where both are expected to feature prominently on their country's national teams. The 2002 season could, in the end, just prove to be the launching pad for an intense long-term rivalry between two of the best strikers in the Western Hemisphere.





By Simon Borg

THE CROWN

JEWEL

The history of the Alan I. Rothenberg trophy, the most prized possession in American professional soccer.

It is the prize at the end of the finish line. It is the reward for the last men standing.

In the seven-year history of MLS, the top professional soccer players in America have all been competing for one trophy: the Alan I. Rothenberg Trophy. It makes one appearance a year at MLS Cup, when the champion is crowned and the captain hoists it high in triumph.

As with any other sport, the Alan I. Rothenberg Trophy has a history of its own, beginning in 1996, the League's Inaugural Season. Bill Perkinson, the co-founder of Innovations In Art, located in St. Louis, was commissioned to create, design and produce the first-ever trophy presented to the first MLS Cup champions in 1996.

The company creates honor, recognition awards and exhibits, including a series of bronze statues of St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame baseball players. However, the Alan I. Rothenberg Trophy was the first major sports trophy that Innovations produced.

"At the time, MLS definitely wanted the piece to say 'trophy' but the League was open to something that would be a little out of the ordinary," Perkinson said.

THE FIRST TROPHY TAKES SHAPE

In those early years, the Eastern Conference and Western Conference champions battled it out in the MLS Cup title game. With that in mind, Perkinson and his staff went to work to create a representation of what the championship match was all about. After a few days, Perkinson had a winner.

"I felt the soccer ball, especially in the Inaugural Year, had to be the focal point," Perkinson said. "There were also two abstract soccer players racing to the top of the bronze ball - they looked like handles on the trophy. Then we made a deliberate break through the center of the ball to represent the break between the eastern and western conferences."

The fact that the ball was a hollow, bronze, regulation-size soccer ball, gilded in 23-karat gold and featuring a break down the middle, allowed Perkinson and his company to introduce a feature that is rarely seen in professional sports trophies around the world: lighting.

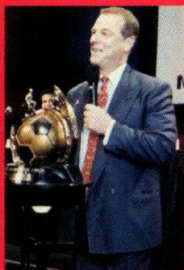
The trophy was accompanied by a pedestal, designed for display, that contained a quartz halogen light which projected through a three-inch hole in the base of the piece. The light made its way through the middle of the hollow soccer ball, illuminating the break in the soccer ball's panels and making for a magical glow.

The design immediately won over MLS executives, who gave the go-ahead for Perkinson to produce the trophy, a process which in the end took five weeks from concept generation to the completion of the final product.



The first Alan I. Rothenberg trophy came with a pedestal which illuminated the ball from the base, giving it a magical glow.

THE MAN BEHIND THE TROPHY'S NAME



Alan I. Rothenberg is the founder of Major League Soccer and is the man credited with spearheading soccer's rise in the United States. The 63-year-old Rothenberg has more than 25 years of involvement in soccer. He served two terms as the President of the U.S. Soccer Federation (1990-'98) and oversaw the most successful event in FIFA history, World Cup USA '94, in the position of Chairman and CEO. He served at the 1984 Olympic Games as the Commissioner of Soccer and was responsible for drawing the largest crowds of any sport at the '84 games. Among other soccer achievements are his ownership of the Los Angeles Aztecs of the North American Soccer League from 1977-1980 and his position as General Manager and Counselor of the Los Angeles Wolves of the United Soccer Association. Rothenberg, a senior litigation partner in the Los Angeles-headquartered international law firm Latham and Watkins, remains involved as an investor in MLS and as a member of the League's Board of Governors.





"We were looking for a distinctive, unique feel and we achieved it with that first trophy," said Richard S. Levy, MLS' Creative Director since 1998.

THE CLASSIC BRONZE FEEL

Although there were discussions at the time about the possibility of opting for crystal, MLS officials settled on cast marble for the base and bronze for every other element of the trophy. One of the reasons: with the extensive photography that would surround the trophy, bronze would avoid the reflection and refraction that would come with crystal.

"The classic bronze process requires a lot of labor and a lot of crafting," Perkinson said. "In terms of value in the art world, bronze is the top of the line."

Perkinson and his crew did everything but pour the molten metal. The original sculpting involved making ceramic molds into which the molten bronze was poured. In the case of the ball, the artisans inflated an official regulation size MLS ball and it served as the model on which that mold was based. Not only was the bronze ball made with the exact diameter, but the stitching could also be seen.

The first Alan I. Rothenberg trophy was produced in six pieces which were later assembled: (a) the ball consisting of two pieces, (b) the base, (c) the two arches (players), and (d) the MLS logo, which was attached to the ball.

"The logo had to be attached as a separate piece," Perkinson said. "We had to give it a form so it would conform to the compound curves of the soccer ball. Then we etched out an area to embed it in."

A total of 15 people were involved in the designing and building of the first trophy, which was housed at MLS headquarters. In three seasons, Innovations In Art would also produce another three identical trophies for each of the first three championship games. The only difference was the fact that the subsequent reproductions did not have the three-inch hole in the base for the lighting effect that was singular to the "perpetual" trophy at MLS headquarters.

One of the final touches on the trophy was not applied by Innovations: the attachment of the nameplates on which the name of the MLS Cup championship team was engraved. In a process reminiscent of the on-site engravings that occur at the conclusion of the F.A. Cup finals in England, MLS made sure the nameplates of both finalists were on site for the title game and the League had the winner's nameplate attached after the final whistle. Days later, the nameplate of the winning team was also added to the "perpetual" trophy at the MLS offices.

HEADING IN ANOTHER DIRECTION

Despite the fact that the bronze ball was hollow, there was always a concern for the weight of the Alan I. Rothenberg trophy in those early years. It was not an easy task to raise a 50-60 pound piece and it was evident in post-game photographs. After the second season, Innovations lightened the cast marble base, making it hollow rather than solid casting, a difference of 12 pounds.

Weight issues aside, the MLS Board of Governors chose to go in another direction before the 1999 season. The first Alan I. Rothenberg trophy was retired to the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, NY. In the meantime MLS had the challenge of creating a new trophy.

"We started looking at trophies around the world," said Levy, who headed up the process for MLS. "On the American landscape, sports trophies were true jewels for which teams endeavored, and they also had a real presence. Our first trophy may have not necessarily been perceived that way since it was on the small and heavy side."

Tiffany & Co., makers of the NFL, NBA, MLB and U.S. Open trophies was commissioned to aid in the design and to produce the new trophy. Scott Shibley, Vice President of Business Sales for Tiffany, managed the project for his company which produced its first trophy in 1860 - the Woodlawn Vase for horse racing in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Ultimately, MLS wanted something that represented the action of the game and that also represented the players and teams involved," Shibley said. "What we ended up with was the action of the swooping motion of the flutes (grooves). The 11 flutes on the front and on the back represent the 11 players on each team."

"There were three designs, very radical one to another, but it was easy to tell which one was the right choice as soon as you set your eyes on the

designs," Levy said. "There is an energy that's drawn up to the soccer ball through those the 22 flutes (grooves)."

As in the first trophy, this one was also designed in stages, beginning with (a) the oval base which is formed around wood, providing the trophy with weight and a place for the League logo to be etched in the base, (b) the body made up of 11 flutes (grooves) on each side that were created by forming sterling silver over a resin which was eventually removed, and (c) the ball which proved the most challenging part as it was uniquely built in regulation size panel by panel and soldered together.

"We thought of trying to engrave the grooves in the ball between the panels," Shibley said. "But the more we looked at it, we felt that to assemble something real and authentic we needed to assemble it piece by piece."

The assembly process was centered on two long brass rods that run from the top of the ball through the body and down to the base. Each individual piece is screwed on tightly for extra stability. After a polish, which includes various buffs and compounds for different parts of the trophy that provide a high-gloss finish, the MLS logo was sandblasted into one of the center hexagonal panels of the ball.

As in the case of the first trophy, a "perpetual" version resides at MLS headquarters with replicas created for the champion of each season, which the winning club gets to keep. Again, the lone difference between the two are in the engravings, which are all done by hand at the Tiffany hollow ware shop in Parsippany, New Jersey, where all trophies and sterling silver products are made.

While the team trophies eventually have the names of all players and technical staff of that particular champion engraved in the weeks following the title game, the "perpetual" Commissioner's trophy has every name (player and staff) of every championship team since 1996. Names of teams, not individual players, were engraved on the first Alan I. Rothenberg trophy.

In another two years, when two more teams get their names engraved along the bottom tier of the "perpetual", there will be no more space for engravings and an important decision will need to be made. There are two options MLS is considering, either of which will affect the history of the trophy's look for years to come.

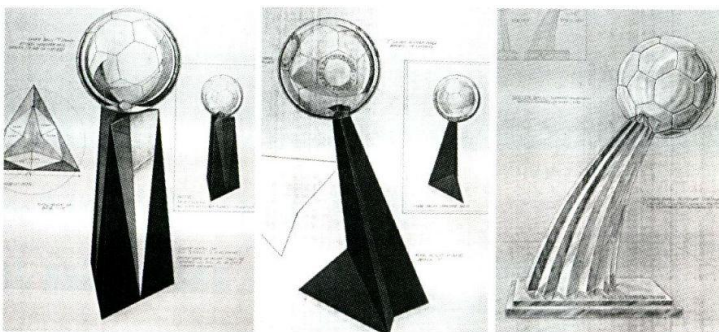
"One way to get around the problem is to add another lip to the bottom tier which will likely make the trophy heavier," Levy said. "The alternative would be to retire the 'perpetual' trophy which resides in the Commissioner's office and start fresh with a new 'perpetual' trophy."

The life of a trophy is rife with changes. The new MLS logo, which underwent evolutionary changes in 2000, made its debut on the trophy's ball in 2001 for the first time. This year, the 25-pound trophy will weigh approximately five pounds less than its predecessor with a slight change in the type of wood that constitutes the base.

A replica of the Alan I. Rothenberg trophy is delivered every year in time for MLS Cup, nestled in its own Tiffany-manufactured lock-and-secure case under tight security supervised by companies like Brink's. Levy was one of the first persons to lay his eyes on the finished product in 1999:

"After all the conceptual designs and the Styrofoam replicas, you finally see two men present you with a box containing the biggest piece of jewelry most people will ever see," said Levy, who is not only responsible for overseeing the trophy at MLS Cup but has also been responsible with turning it into an icon for the sport in America.

"When we were creating this trophy, the goal was to create a symbol that you can see as the primary focus in all MLS Cup logos since then," he said. "We want it to be perceived as an icon and we enforce it year after year."



MLS decided on a new Alan I. Rothenberg trophy in 1999 based on the final three Tiffany designs shown above.



By Simon Borg



MLS OR

BUST

The success stories of three players who earned an MLS senior roster spot the hard way.

All they wanted was a shot-a chance to prove they could hang with the best of them. After grueling preseason training camps, Chris Leitch (Columbus Crew), Chris Brunt (K.C. Wizards) and Alejandro Moreno (L.A. Galaxy) failed to make the cut for their team's senior roster. But with a new "developmental squad" set-up introduced by MLS in 2002, the three SuperDraft selections still found a way to stick around for a little while longer.

Beginning this season, and for the first time in MLS history, each MLS club had the opportunity of supplementing its senior roster with four additional roster slots that made up a developmental squad. Consisting of Nike Project-40 players and/or Developmental Players (23-years-old or younger), the four-man developmental squad is the first step toward the future establishment of full reserve teams.

"Coach told me that I was close to making the senior roster but that the developmental contract was in my best interest," Leitch, a 23-year-old Crew defender said. "My goal since the day I was drafted was to make the roster, whether it was as a developmental or senior player. I didn't care."

Brunt, the 37th overall SuperDraft selection by Kansas City, remembers hearing about the developmental squad in an MLS information session conducted at the player combine in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. before the SuperDraft. When the Wizards offered him a developmental contract after their preseason camp in Argentina, Brunt was still digesting the concept.

"Right then I was feeling: 'Ok I'm on the team but I'm not on the 18-man roster,'" the 22-year-old Brunt said. "Am I going to play? Am I going to see games? There were mixed feelings. But soccer was something I wanted to do and I was willing to start at the bottom and work my way up."

"The way I looked at it is that it was a way to stay in the League," Moreno, a forward said. "I thought that it was my best shot to train with the team and I knew if I did well I would be able to play."

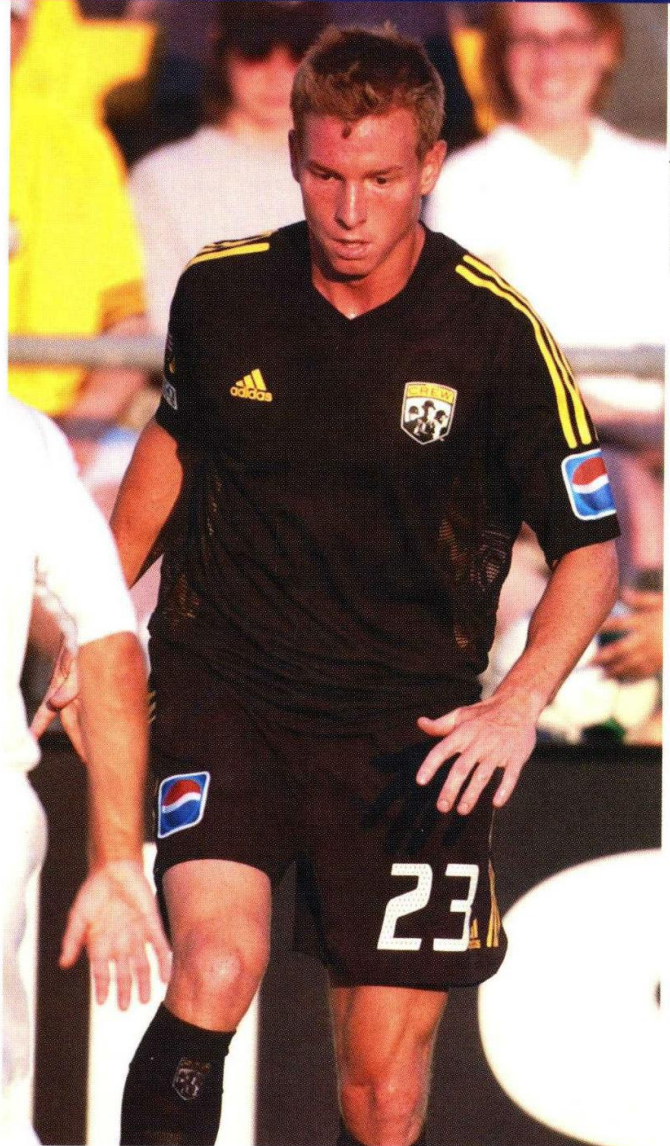
SCRAPPING FOR 'PT'

Earning playing time was not going to be an easy feat for any one of the trio of developmental players.

"That's the young player's biggest fear-not getting an opportunity," Leitch said. "You wonder whether anyone is going to know if you can make the jump from college to the professional ranks."

Moreno saw time early on in exhibitions for the Galaxy, including against international competition. He also made an early debut in MLS play, coming on as a substitute in a total of three games between April and May.

"From the first minute I was here I wasn't really intimidated by challenges and guys like Cobi Jones, Alexi Lalas and some of the other veterans on the team," Moreno said. "I was just trying to make the team. I had to do the things I needed to impress the coaches."



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Crew defender Chris Leitch was born in Columbus and grew up watching the team since its first season in 1996.

THE PIZZA PLACE AROUND THE CORNER

Columbus defender Chris Leitch figures his rise in the team's ranks has led to a few more season tickets sold to old high school friends and family at Crew Stadium. Two people who are not among that group are Leitch's parents, Tom and Anita, who have been Crew season ticket holders since 1996. His father owns a restaurant, *Little Sicily's*, which has become popular with Leitch's teammates. Known for its pizzas and subs, the establishment is located on the East side of Columbus off I-70 on Brice Road. "It was a requirement that everyone in the Leitch family pitch in," recalled Chris, who worked there for several years. "My father has worked tremendously hard for the past 24 years to make it happen." Among the other perks he receives as a native of Columbus, there are the discount golf outings with his teammates. His friends at the courses help with that.





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Leitch and Brunt, however, didn't see the field until much later in their rookie seasons. After making an appearance in an international exhibition against Nuremberg in May, Leitch, who also played a few games with the A-League's Indiana Blast, finally broke through with the Crew as a substitute on June 12. Brunt's wait was longer—a start on July 6 against Dallas, a 1-1 tie.

Brunt, who played at Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, Mo., would have tried to gain some A-League experience, but the Wizards' affiliates weren't close by (Pittsburgh, Seattle) and the defender was forced to settle for practice.

"You practice, practice, and practice and in your mind you're thinking 'For what?'" Brunt said. "I'm getting no time and no games. I'm practicing for no reason. Yes, you get frustrated with it but it's an obstacle you overcome."

Even though there might have been times when practice might have taken its toll on Brunt's psyche, those two-a-days were valuable to his coaches, who watched their developmental players make strides in learning the professional game.

"The developmental and reserve team concept is important," Los Angeles Galaxy Head Coach Sigi Schmid said. "Players develop at different rates and sometimes you have to see someone for a while before he grows on you."

"When we have those players training with us on a daily basis you can see them getting better and getting more comfortable realizing that it's not one mistake and you're out-it's not a tryout," Crew Head Coach Greg Andrulis said. "They feel they are part of this team and can work on their game."

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

As can be expected, the economic terms of a developmental contract are not quite on the level of players on the senior roster. And the financial sacrifice can be considerable if you happen to be far away from home, as was the Galaxy's Moreno, whose hometown was Caracas, Venezuela.

Moreno came to the United States on his own at the age of 14 without any knowledge of English. He had impressed members of the Dallas Texans youth soccer club while playing in the renowned Dallas Cup with a visiting Venezuelan team. That opened the door for his trip to the States, a visit that became permanent.

The resourceful Moreno graduated from high school, earned a scholarship and then graduated cum laude from UNC-Greensboro with a 3.6 GPA in just three and a half years. If there was any player who could overcome the obstacles it was Moreno.

"In Los Angeles, every paycheck disappears quickly," said Moreno, who immediately found a roommate in teammate Gavin Ginton. "So I found a local youth team to coach to have some additional income."

The Galaxy forward, who is set to get married in November, would end up coaching an Under-13 team for Santa Clara United in the Coast Soccer League. The job tip came from a car salesman who Moreno met while shopping for a vehicle at a local dealership. Financial support also came from Moreno's parents back in Venezuela. His father is a bank lawyer and his mother was a human resources executive.

"It's easier when you're a local player but Alejandro found a way," Schmid said. "He's the kind of individual you don't have to worry about."

PLAYING AT HOME

But even when a developmental player is fortunate to live in his hometown, as in the case of Leitch in Columbus, there are different challenges that need to be handled. Leitch, who was born in Columbus and grew up in nearby Baltimore, Ohio, fulfilled a teenage dream when the Crew made him the No. 47 overall pick in the 2002 SuperDraft.

"Some may say that they drafted me because I was local—a draft choice of convenience who is never going to play," said Leitch, a former Ohio Player of the Year (1997). "But Greg (Andrulis) told me from the start that he didn't draft me for publicity or to attract fans."

"The fact that he was local was not the primary motivation," Andrulis said. "We just felt, at the time, that Chris was the best mix for what we needed. It definitely worked to his benefit that he was able to stay with his family and he took advantage of it."

After four years of college at the University of North Carolina, where he captained the team to the 2001 NCAA Championship (played at Columbus Crew Stadium), Leitch came back home for good. He slept in his old bed and ate home-cooked meals. It was only toward the end of the regular season that the 23-year-old joined two other roommates and signed a lease for a new place and a little independence.



"I've grown up watching the Crew," Leitch said. "I remember sitting in the stands at the inaugural game and thinking how cool it was that my city had a pro soccer team, not even dreaming about playing on it one day."

THE PROMOTION

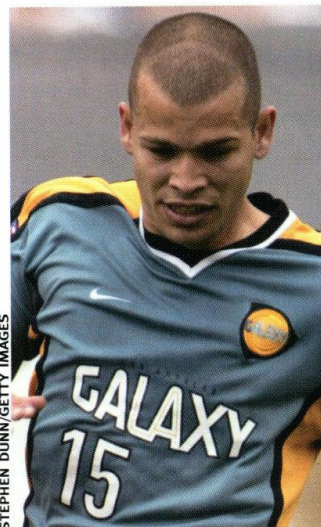
The hard work eventually paid off for Brunt, Leitch and Moreno alike. All three were the success stories of the 2002 developmental class as each of them joined the senior roster. The first one to make the move was the player who had not yet made an appearance: Brunt. He got the call on July 3, the same day the team waived Josue Mayard to make room for its new defender.

"It was definitely a promotion," Wizards Head Coach Bob Gansler said. "There were other players we looked at that we felt were no better than Chris. Also, Chris was familiar with us. It was a reward for his hard work and the progress that he showed."

Leitch had already played in 13 games (10 starts including the U.S. Open Cup) before getting promoted to a standard MLS player contract on August 16. Moreno was bumped up a week later after 13 games (nine starts including the U.S. Open Cup). Both had taken full advantage of injuries in the starting lineup to entrench themselves in the starting 11 for a series of games.

The three head coaches did not have to promote these players. In fact, they could have easily signed an outsider to the senior roster spots, adding an extra player to the roster. The Crew were weighing that option.

"Like other teams we were trying to improve our squad through other discovery options and they didn't work," Andrulis said. "By that time Chris had solidified himself as a starter and there was no question he should be on that roster. He earned everything he got. He paid his dues and kept at it. Nothing was given to him."



STEPHEN DUINN/GETTY IMAGES

Alejandro Moreno is a native of Caracas, Venezuela, a country which is more renowned for its love of the sport of baseball than of soccer.

WILL TO SUCCEED

To go through weeks without playing time while making an attempt to make ends meet takes a strong will. The coaches of these three players each made particular mention of the desire that fueled each individual's run to a senior roster spot.

"Sometimes you draft some pretty talented people but you find out that they have some salesman or engineer job waiting and they're just putting their big toes in the water to try it out a bit," Gansler said. "Our developmental players, including Chris, were fire and flame for this career and they were willing to make the sacrifices."

Brunt, Leitch and Moreno all started out the 2002 MLS Cup Playoffs as reserves for their teams, but knowing their history, they'll find a way to get on the field. They may not be among the biggest names in the League yet, but with or without MLS Cup they are still among the most successful ones in 2002.

"It's just great for the young players and great for our League to say to future college players that this process works," Andrulis said.

"I'm living proof that you can believe in what you can do," Moreno said. "It's always said, but it's true: just follow what your heart tells you and what your dreams are."



By Doug Farrell

THE U.S. IS BACK IN

ACTION

Led by a large MLS contingent, the U.S. Under-20 National Team kicks off CONCACAF qualifying in Charleston on Nov. 13.

When the Under-20 U.S. National Team takes the field in CONCACAF qualifying for the 2003 World Youth Championship this November in Charleston, S.C., the squad will have all the eyes of American soccer on it.

Ever since 1999, the year an Under-17 U.S. National Team led by Landon Donovan and DaMarcus Beasley advanced to the semifinals of the world championships in New Zealand, competitions that involve American youth soccer teams have been closely scrutinized.

When Donovan and Beasley joined the Under-20 National Team a few years later for the 2001 World Youth Championship, a repeat performance was expected. But the team fell short of the expectations, losing to Egypt in the second round. That was followed up by the Under-17 National Team's elimination in the first round of its world championship tournament.

"I was disappointed because we didn't go as far as we knew we could," said 19-year-old D.C. United midfielder Bobby Convey, who has played with the Under-20s since 2000. "I had a hernia throughout the tournament and playing through it was probably one of the dumbest things I have ever tried to do.

"But it was a good experience because we learned that it doesn't matter who you are, but it just matters how you play as a team," he said. "You can't have any individuals on the team. I know this time around the U-20 team won't be anything like that."

This year's U-20 U.S. National Team may not have Beasley and Donovan in its ranks, but it is arguably better equipped than ever to qualify and make a run at the World Cup for Under-20 players which is set to be staged in the United Arab Emirates between March 25 and April 16, 2003.

The U-20s are stacked with a strong professional contingent, its ties to MLS beginning with Head Coach Thomas Rongen and the five projected starters from MLS rosters. Rongen has been at the helm of the U-20s since January 1, after having commandeered MLS clubs on a daily basis since 1996.

The day-to-day player interaction has made way for more focused periods of teaching with American youth alongside assistant coaches Dave Dir (former Dallas Burn head coach) and Cle Kooiman (ex-MLS and U.S. National Team player).

The coaching staff will announce an 18-man qualifying roster in mid-October that will feature skill and depth, drawing from both the college and professional ranks. MLS fans will be familiar with many of the names: Devin Barclay (San Jose Earthquakes), Jordan Stone (Dallas Burn) and E.J. - Eddie Johnson (Dallas Burn), all part of an MLS-based attacking unit at the midfield and striker positions.

Two other MLS players, both from D.C. United, will also be a part of the team barring injuries: forward Santino Quaranta and Convey, who will be making a second run at the Under-20 World Youth Championship. However, while Barclay, Stone and E.J. each have at

BRIAN BAHR/GETTY IMAGES



San Jose Earthquakes midfielder Devin Barclay often wore the captain's armband for the Under-20s in Bobby Convey's absence.

TONY QUINN/MLS/GETTY IMAGES



Due to club commitments, D.C. United's Bobby Convey was only available to make two appearances for the Under-20s in 2002.

UNDER-20 QUALIFYING

Group B -
Blackbaud Stadium
Charleston, South Carolina
(top two teams qualify)

Wednesday, Nov. 13:
5:00 p.m. ET -
Canada vs. El Salvador
7:30 p.m. ET -
U.S. vs. Haiti

Friday, Nov. 15:
5:00 p.m. ET -
Haiti vs. Canada
7:30 p.m. ET -
U.S. vs. El Salvador

Sunday, Nov. 17:
12:00 p.m. ET -
El Salvador vs. Haiti
2:30 p.m. ET -
U.S. vs. Canada

TICKETS

Tickets for the qualifying tournament are now available at all Ticketmaster outlets throughout the Carolinas (including Publix and Cat's Music Stores), by phone at 843-554-6060, online at www.usoccer.com, and at the Blackbaud Stadium (office open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm). Series and group tickets are available through the Charleston Battery at 843-971-4625 or U.S. Soccer at 312-528-1249.

TICKET PRICES

Series Ticket	Individual Sessions
West Midfield Club Seats - \$40 (save \$20 over individual sessions)	West Midfield Clubs Seats - \$20
East Midfield Club Seats - \$30 (save \$15)	East Midfield Club Seats - \$15
Sideline Bleachers - \$20 (save \$10)	Sideline Bleachers - \$10





U.S. IS BACK IN ACTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

least 13 appearances for Rongen this year, Convey has played in only two games and Quaranta is yet to make his 2002 debut.

"I don't think it's going to affect the chemistry that much," said Barclay to E.J., it is a stark contrast to the Under-17 team he was a member of in 2001.

"The team chemistry is better on this team than on the last U-17s," said Johnson who cited the fact that Rongen has made sure players have different roommates on every road trip. "That's also because we have a lot of mature players. Off the field we work together real well. On the Under-17 team, little groups formed. Here, everyone does everything together. This Under-20 team knows how to win and will do anything to get a result. The Under-17s didn't have that killer mentality."

The return of Quaranta, who only played in 11 games for D.C. United in 2002 due to injury, will re-unite him with E.J., his good friend and strike partner. The two star players made a name for themselves with their prolific scoring rates for the Under-17s.

"I love that guy like he's my brother," Johnson said. "Ever since the Under-14 National Team, we know what to expect when we play alongside each other. We have a good relationship. The team will be looking for me and him to score goals in the qualifying tournament and we need to do our job."

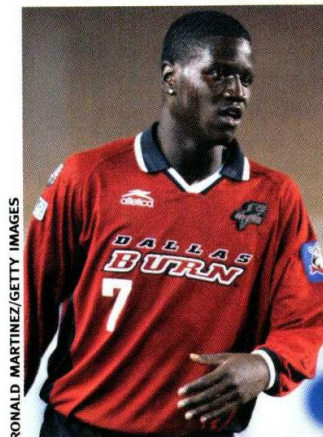
When Convey makes his return to the team for qualifying, he will be given the captain's armband. Although the Philadelphia native has only been in attendance for one camp all year due to club commitments, he has been in close contact with the team's players and Coach Rongen, who as D.C. United's head coach, selected Convey in the first round of the 2000 MLS SuperDraft.

"Bobby has already gone through qualifying and the 2001 World Youth Championship with the Under-20s," Rongen said. "His experience alone will help us. Bobby is the natural captain and when I introduced him as captain at the camp in Houston in July the team accepted that."

Convey will occupy the central creative midfielder role. In his three seasons in MLS, he has often been employed on the left flank, making the most of his golden left foot. However, since United made the transition to a 3-5-2 formation at the end of the 2002 season, Convey moved to central midfield alongside long-time mentor Marco Etcheverry. The 19-year-old hopes he can assume the role for the U-20s that Etcheverry has with United.

"I always played attacking midfield before I joined D.C.," Convey said. "When I play in the middle I like to be the one who makes it or breaks it. I want to take the pressure off everybody else and put it on my shoulders rather than have other people think all the pressure is on them. Just like Marco makes it easier for me because he takes a lot of the pressure off me, I need to do that with the U-20s"

While Convey and the rest of the MLS crew will be in their offseason in November, the sacrifice made by the college players on the team will be greater. For them, not only must they leave their college teams during conference championship tournaments but they must also give up attending classes for nearly a two-week period.



RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Dallas forward Eddie Johnson is looking forward to reuniting with D.C. United's Santino Quaranta - a tandem which was successful at the Under-17 level.

"All the college coaches have been unbelievably supportive," Rongen said. "From Jerry Yeagley at Indiana to Cameron Rast at Santa Clara and Doug Allison at Furman, they've all been greatly supportive. They're losing players during tournament time, which is not easy, and yet they've been supportive."

Beginning November 13, the U.S. U-20s will be looking to clinch a berth to the FIFA World Youth Championship for the fourth consecutive time. The Americans will be hosting Canada, El Salvador and Haiti as CONCACAF Under-20 qualification comes to U.S. shores for the first time since 1980.

The top two teams from the four-team group competition will book flights to the United Arab Emirates in 2003. But with Canada having defeated the U.S. 2-1 on August 2 in an exhibition at the U.S. Amateur Soccer Festival in Houston, Texas, the Americans must avoid being overconfident in Charleston in November.

"We feel we're a good team-not a great team," Rongen said. "We don't have the previous name players from the past Under-20 program but as a unit we might be a little stronger. The result of the Under-17s and Under-20s in the last World Cup just shows that we must compete in every game to get a result and we can't take anything for granted. Our region (CONCACAF) has become tougher and tougher in the last year and the FIFA World Cup in Korea/Japan proved it."

Rongen and the U-20s recently participated in the prestigious, eight-team C.O.T.I.F. XIX Torneig Internacional in L'Alcuna, Spain in late August. It was the team's last competition before CONCACAF qualifying in November. The U.S. concluded the tournament in Spain as runners-up, losing to an older Brazilian team. However, in the process, the Americans knocked off powers of the caliber of Italy, Uruguay and Ukraine.

"We know we can qualify in November but we need to start on the right foot," Barclay said. "When we lost to Canada it was on two errors-it was not a factor of the way we played. It was two mental lapses. I'm looking forward to qualifying. We're going to do fine."

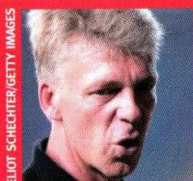
Especially following the quarterfinal run by the U.S. team at the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Korea/Japan, the U-20s will again be facing high expectations. But the team should be able to handle the pressure with a roster that will be laden with international experience, potentially carrying over as many as eleven players who played for the U.S. U-17 in 2001.

"We have a big responsibility to show that our youth teams can take over for the guys on the World Cup team," Convey said. "We need to show on the world stage just what we did at the World Cup-that we can play with any country in the world."

PROBABLE STARTING XI

GK Steve Cronin - Santa Clara
 D Chefik Simo - Furman
 D Ryan Cochrane - Santa Clara
 D Chad Marshall - Stanford
 D C.J. Kallas - Univ. of Washington
 M Justin Mapp - D.C. United

M Bobby Convey - D.C. United
 M Ricardo Clark - Furman
 M Devin Barclay - S.J. Earthquakes
 F Santino Quaranta - D.C. United
 F Edward Johnson - Dallas Burn



Former MLS coach Thomas Rongen took the reigns of the Under-20s on January 1, 2002.

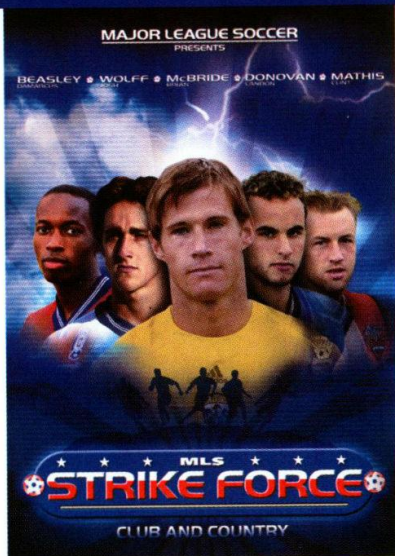




2002 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW

MARCH

STRIKE FORCE OPENS WITH BANG



Major League Soccer's seventh season kicked off on Saturday, March 23 with a 10-team schedule for the first time since 1997. The MLS *Strike Force*, featuring Brian McBride (Columbus Crew), Landon Donovan (San Jose Earthquakes), Clint Mathis (MetroStars), DaMarcus Beasley (Chicago Fire) and Josh Wolff (Chicago Fire) launched their 2002 mission for club and country by scoring three goals among them in the opening weekend. Throughout the season, all five would continue to feature prominently for the U.S. National Team and on domestic soil.

The equal playing field that would characterize the 2002 season would be evident from the first week of play. The Chicago Fire, MetroStars and defending champion San Jose Earthquakes all won their first outings of the season only to drop their second matches of the campaign via shutouts. The Earthquakes' first loss came in the first professional match played at Invesco Field at Mile High, a 1-0 Rapids win on March 30 behind a Mark Chung goal.

The opening weekend also featured the debut of several players with their new clubs. The Los Angeles Galaxy's Carlos Ruiz broke into MLS with a two-goal effort against D.C. United in a come-from-behind 2-1 win at the Rose Bowl. Honduran Milton Reyes figured prominently on the defensive end for United in that game and would earn an assist in his second game with the Black-and-Red. Two of the best midfielders in the League, Alex Pineda Chacon (New England Revolution) and Chris Henderson (Colorado Rapids), also scored in their debuts with their new clubs in 2002.

U.S. CONTINUES WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS

The U.S. National Team continued building momentum toward the 2002 World Cup with three key internationals. On March 2 in Seattle, Clint Mathis and Landon Donovan each scored two goals in a 4-0 win over Honduras, continuing their battle for the forward spot alongside Brian McBride.

On March 10, the U.S. defeated Ecuador 1-0 in Birmingham. The game-winning assist was provided by Mathis, who carried his hot streak into Germany on March 27. The two goals by the MetroStars forward were the bright spot in a 4-2 setback to the three-time world champions.

ED ZURIGA/MLS



MLS CLUBS OPEN CHAMPIONS CUP PLAY

For the first time ever, four MLS clubs participated in the Round of 16 of the Football Confederation (CONCACAF) Champions Cup. In the two-leg aggregate goal tournament, the Chicago Fire, Kansas City Wizards and San Jose Earthquakes all advanced with relative ease. D.C. United was the only club to miss out after a 2-1 win against CSD Comunicaciones could not make up for a 4-0 road setback. In subsequent rounds, Pachuca got the better of San Jose in the quarters, while Monarcas Morelia eliminated Chicago in the quarters and the Wizards in the semis.

SD	TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1.	*Colorado Rapids	2	1	0	1	4	2	1	+1
2.	*MetroStars	2	1	1	0	3	3	2	+1
3.	Los Angeles Galaxy	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	+1
4.	D.C. United	2	1	1	0	3	3	2	+1
5.	San Jose Earthquakes	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	+1
6.	Chicago Fire	2	1	1	0	3	2	2	=
7.	Columbus Crew	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	-1
8.	Kansas City Wizards	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	=
9.	N.E. Revolution	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	-2
10.	Dallas Burn	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	-2

* = conference leaders

MLS UNVEILS SOCCER UNITED MARKETING



On March 5, MLS Commissioner Don Garber announced the formation of a subsidiary company set up to manage sales, service and broadcast production for MLS and English-language World Cup properties in the United States: Soccer United Marketing® (SUM®). As conveyed by the company's slogan, 'One Sport. One Company,' Soccer United Marketing's ultimate focus is to unify soccer in America by delivering a comprehensive inventory of premier soccer programming: Men's and Women's World Cup, Major League Soccer, as well as grass roots and international opportunities. The goal is to ultimately deliver one-stop shopping for the sport's diverse community. Earlier in 2002, MLS announced details of Soccer United Marketing's innovative five-year broadcast arrangement with the ABC and ESPN networks that includes the television rights of MLS and the FIFA World Cup Tournaments for the next five years (including the Men's tournament in 2002 and 2006 and the Women's World Cup from China in 2003).





2002 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW

APRIL

LITTLE FISH MAKES BIG SPLASH

BRIAN BAHR/GETTY IMAGES



Carlos Ruiz

The month of April marked the coming-out party for Los Angeles Galaxy forward Carlos Ruiz, who had the best start ever by a first-year forward in MLS. The Guatemalan international, nicknamed "El Pescadito" (Little Fish), burst onto the American soccer scene by scoring in the Galaxy's first four matches and totaling six goals. Ruiz, who worked just as hard on the defensive end, was voted the MLS Player of the Month for April having garnered Player of the Week honors twice in the League's opening stages.

It was Ruiz who accounted for all of the Galaxy's scoring in those first four matches and he would end the regular season as MLS' leading goal scorer. Of the 44 goals scored by Los Angeles in 2002, Ruiz tallied 24. He proved to be a true poacher around the net, capitalizing on the least of defensive errors and striking at opportune moments. By September, every MLS team had felt the brunt of the 23-year-old's merciless scoring appetite.

Ruiz's blazing start caught even his teammates by surprise. Defender Alexi Lalas placed a friendly wager early on, promising to reward "El Pescadito" with a luxury watch if he reached the 15-goal mark by year's end. Ruiz not only blew by that total, but, most importantly, he brought a swagger and confidence to the Galaxy's forward department, which many felt was lacking in their past bids for MLS Cup.

SD TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1. *San Jose Earthquakes	6	3	2	1	10	7	5	+2
2. *MetroStars	6	3	2	1	10	8	7	+1
3. Colorado Rapids	6	3	2	1	10	6	5	+1
4. Los Angeles Galaxy	5	2	1	2	8	6	5	+1
5. Chicago Fire	5	2	2	1	7	7	6	+1
6. Dallas Burn	5	1	1	3	6	5	6	-1
7. D.C. United	6	2	4	0	6	6	8	-2
8. Columbus Crew	5	2	3	0	6	3	6	-3
9. Kansas City Wizards	4	1	1	2	5	5	4	+1
10. N.E. Revolution	4	1	2	1	4	6	7	-1

* conference leaders

SECOND NEW FACILITY OPENS DOORS

During the month of April, MLS play kicked off in the second of three new facilities that hosted MLS clubs for the first time in 2002. After the Colorado Rapids hosted the first-ever professional soccer match played at Invesco Field on March 30, it was the Chicago Fire's turn to inaugurate their two-year stay at Cardinal Stadium on the campus of North Central College in Naperville, Illinois while Soldier Field undergoes renovations. On April 27 the Fire battled the New England Revolution to a 2-2 tie in cold temperatures and heavy showers.

JONATHAN DANIEL/MLS/GETTY IMAGES



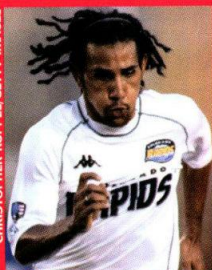
FIRE DOUSED BY INJURIES

The coaching abilities and personnel management skills of the Chicago Fire's Bob Bradley were put to the test in the first full month of MLS action as his club was decimated by several key injuries.

Rookies Kelly Gray and Billy Sleeth saw significant playing time as regulars C.J. Brown (left hamstring strain), Carlos Bocanegra (fractured toe), Evan Whitfield (torn left ACL), Hristo Stoitchkov (hernia), Jim Curtin (left ankle sprain), Aleksey Korol (left knee bursitis) and Peter Nowak (right ankle sprain) were all forced to sit out several matches.

ARENA ANNOUNCES WORLD CUP ROSTER

CHRISTOPHER RUPPEL/GETTY IMAGES



Pablo Mastroeni

After two World Cup tuneup matches played in April, U.S. National Team Head Coach Bruce Arena selected his final roster for the trip to Korea/Japan on April 22, choosing 12 MLS players on his 23-man roster. Two selections who made a late push for a spot were 25-year-old Colorado Rapids midfielder Pablo Mastroeni and 19-year-old Chicago Fire midfielder DaMarcus Beasley. Mastroeni started and played all 90 minutes in front of his home crowd at Invesco Field in a 1-0 shutout of CONCACAF rivals Mexico on April 3. MetroStars forward Clint Mathis, one of 16 MLS players in uniform for that match, provided the heroics with a 66th minute game-winner - his seventh consecutive international start with a point. That game was followed up by a trip to Lansdowne Road in the Republic of Ireland on April 17 where an experimental U.S. side finished on the short end of a 2-1 result.





2002 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW

MAY

A TAYLOR-MADE PERFORMANCE

DAVID SILVERMAN/MLS



Taylor Twellman

Newcomer Taylor Twellman burst onto the MLS scene with a spectacular month of May for the New England Revolution. By scoring five goals in four matches for the Revs, the former 1860 Munich player planted himself near the top of the scoring charts for the rest of the season. After finally breaking through in April with a goal in his first start, the 22-year-old left his mark and did not miss another start.

The St. Louis native started the month with a bang, netting a pair of goals in a 2-0 victory against the Dallas Burn in the Revolution's home opener at Gillette Stadium. His goal-scoring prowess no longer a secret, Twellman was back on the attack against Chicago the following weekend, scoring arguably the best goal in a doubleheader that also featured the U.S. and Holland.

Twellman continued his string of impressive performances in Colorado, scoring his fourth goal of the month in a 5-2 loss to the Rapids. The defeat signaled the end of Head Coach Fernando Clavijo's stint with the Revolution and prompted a trade in which Mamadou Diallo was sent to the MetroStars, allowing Twellman to establish himself as the team's undisputed first-choice forward. In the Revolution's last match of the month against the Galaxy, Twellman again jump-started the team's offense by extending his goal-scoring streak to a League-high six games, putting him one game shy of the MLS record.

SD TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1. *San Jose Earthquakes	10	5	3	2	17	13	11	+2
2. *Chicago Fire	9	4	3	2	14	14	9	+5
3. Colorado Rapids	9	5	3	1	16	14	10	+4
4. Los Angeles Galaxy	9	4	3	2	14	12	11	+1
5. Dallas Burn	9	3	2	4	13	11	11	=
6. Columbus Crew	9	3	4	2	11	9	11	-2
7. MetroStars	10	3	5	2	11	13	6	-3
8. N.E. Revolution	8	3	4	1	10	14	17	-3
9. D.C. United	9	3	5	1	10	11	14	-3
10. Kansas City Wizards	8	2	3	3	9	9	10	-1

* = conference leaders

U.S. WORLD CUP TEAM TAKES SHAPE

The U.S. Men's National Team, boasting the strength of 11 current MLS players (after the injury to Chris Armas), warmed up for the 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup on the "Nike Road to Korea" with matches along the East Coast. Former D.C. United and current U.S. Men's National Team Head Coach Bruce Arena continued to evaluate his roster against top teams. The U.S. beat Uruguay 2-1 at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., throttled Jamaica 5-0 in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. and lost to Holland 2-0 at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass.

EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES



U.S. BEGINS WORLD CUP ADVENTURE

Cary, North Carolina was the site of a near month-long training camp for the U.S. Men's National Team as they prepared for the World Cup. Twelve MLS stars were brought into camp by Head Coach Bruce Arena as he readied the troops for the trip to Korea.

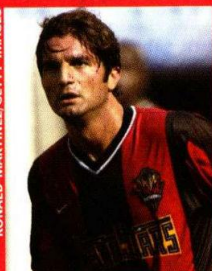
Nine of the ten MLS clubs gave up players to the U.S. efforts, as training began on May 1. The MLS *Strike Force*, consisting of forwards Landon Donovan, Clint Mathis, Brian McBride, Josh Wolff and midfielder DaMarcus Beasley would go on to showcase their talents to the world.

REVS & METROS IN BLOCKBUSTER DEAL

On May 24, the MetroStars and the New England Revolution engaged in the largest trade in MLS history, exchanging six players in a deal that saw the MetroStars swap forward Diego Serna, defender Brian Kamler and midfielder Daniel Hernandez for Revolution forward Mamadou Diallo, midfielder Andy Williams and defender Ted Chronopoulos.

New England, a team many picked to challenge for MLS Cup 2002 after selecting the last two Budweiser MLS Scoring Champions (Diallo and Alex Pineda Chacon) in the offseason Dispersal Draft, found themselves in the basement of the Eastern Conference with D.C. United. Meanwhile, the MetroStars felt pressure to reconfigure a lineup that went 0-4-1 in the five games preceding the transaction. Both teams saw immediate results as Serna scored the game-winning goal for the Revolution in a 3-2 win over Los Angeles and Diallo tallied the equalizer for the Metros in a 1-1 overtime draw with Kansas City.

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES



Ted Chronopoulos



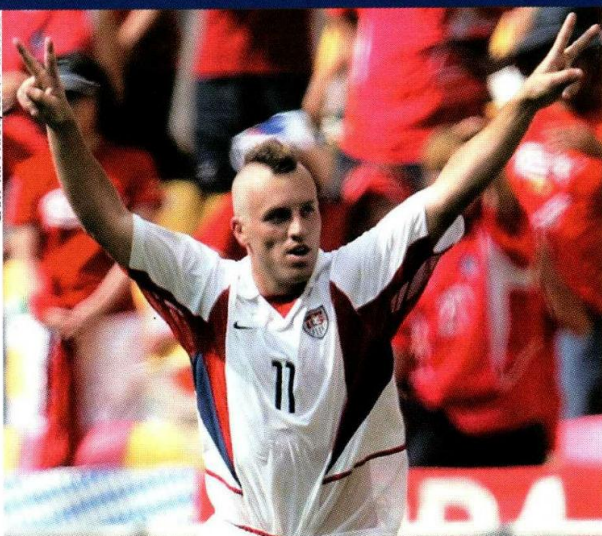


2002 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW

JUNE

U.S. MAKES HISTORY IN KOREA

GARY M. PRIOR/GETTY IMAGES



Clint Mathis

Led by the MLS *Strike Force*, the United States crashed the world's biggest sporting event with a quarterfinal appearance by Bruce Arena's men. Stunning the world with a 3-2 victory over Portugal in the opening match in Group D, the U.S. flew out of the gates taking a commanding 3-0 lead in the first 36 minutes. Landon Donovan forced an own goal and Brian McBride headed home the game-winner in the Americans' biggest win in 52 years.

A Clint Mathis goal in a 1-1 draw with co-host South Korea put Arena's squad in a strong position entering the last game of the first round. Despite another Donovan goal, the U.S. lost 3-1 to Poland. But the U.S. received some help from South Korea, who beat Portugal to push the Americans through to the knockout phase.

In a battle between CONCACAF rivals, the U.S. beat Mexico 2-0 for the country's first-ever victory in the knockout stage. McBride scored his second goal of the tournament and Donovan added an insurance goal to outdistance Mexico. Germany put an end to the team's quarterfinal run in the Americans' best game. German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and midfielder Michael Ballack proved too much for the U.S. in a 1-0 loss. By outplaying a German squad that would go on to take second place in the World Cup, the Americans announced their arrival on the world's largest stage.

RECORD RATINGS FOR U.S. WORLD CUP RUN

MLS and ESPN experienced record ratings figures with the U.S. National Team's run to the World Cup quarterfinals. ESPN's morning telecast of the U.S. vs. Germany quarterfinal match on June 21, seen in an average of 3.77 million television homes based on a 4.36 rating, was the network's most-watched and highest-rated soccer telecast ever.

The 1-0 U.S. loss was ESPN's highest-rated program of the year among men ages 18-34, and was cable's most-viewed morning program (7am - 1pm) ever among men 18-34. Previously, the highest-rated soccer telecast on ESPN was a 4.26 for the first-round match of the 1994 World Cup between U.S. and Colombia.

COURTESY SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



SOCCER GRACES SI COVER, AGAIN

With a victory over regional rival Mexico and a surprising appearance in the quarterfinal stage, San Jose Earthquakes forward and U.S. National Team member Landon Donovan landed on the cover of the June 24 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, making it the second appearance by an MLS player in a month. Also gaining cover recognition, Clint Mathis appeared as the coverboy on the May 27 issue in a preview of the World Cup. Donovan's cover marks the 11th time that soccer has been featured on *SI's* cover. *Sports Illustrated* is distributed nationally to nearly 21 million people weekly.

SD TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1. *San Jose Earthquakes	15	9	4	2	29	25	14	+11
2. *MetroStars	14	6	6	2	20	21	17	+4
3. Dallas Burn	14	6	3	5	23	21	18	+3
4. Colorado Rapids	15	7	7	1	22	20	24	-4
5. Los Angeles Galaxy	14	6	6	2	20	18	20	-2
6. D.C. United	13	6	6	1	19	17	18	-1
7. Columbus Crew	14	5	6	3	18	18	20	-2
8. Chicago Fire	13	5	6	2	17	20	18	+2
9. Kansas City Wizards	14	4	5	5	17	18	20	-2
10. N.E. Revolution	14	4	9	1	13	21	30	-9

* = conference leaders

JOHN TODD/MLS/GETTY IMAGES



Ariel Graziani

GRAZIANI STILL AMONG THE BEST

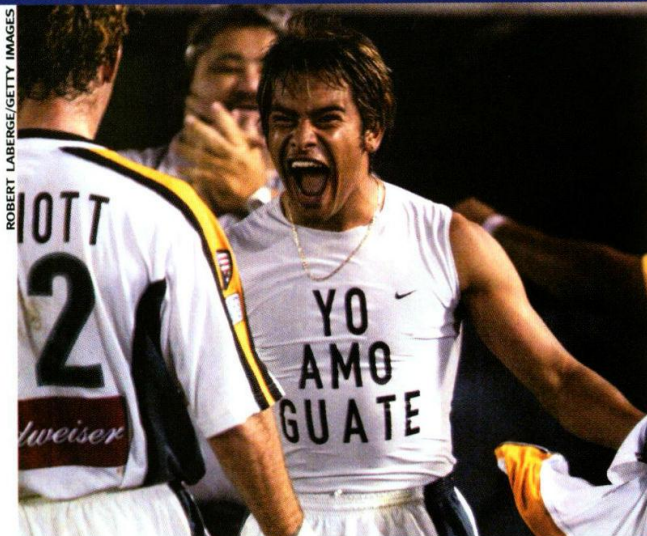
Ariel Graziani took June by storm leading the Earthquakes to a 4-1-0 record as they extended their Western Conference lead to six points over Dallas, their nearest competitor. The former Burn star scored six goals and added one assist in five matches, solidifying the 'Quakes as a contender to become only the second team to repeat as MLS Cup Champions.

Graziani began the month in style by scoring two goals in a pair of games when San Jose beat New England 1-0 on June 1 and Kansas City 3-0 on June 8. Continuing his onslaught, the former Monarcas Morelia star scored his ninth goal of the season and fifth in three home games in a 4-0 whitewash of the Colorado Rapids. In San Jose's final match in June, Graziani led San Jose on a torrid comeback to beat the Wizards for the second time in the month, scoring his tenth goal of the season.





RUIZ CONTINUES SIZZLING SUMMER



Carlos Ruiz

Ruiz captured his second Player of the Month award following a five-goal tear in just five MLS regular season games. In winning the honor, Ruiz, who also captured the award for his work in April, became just the second player in League history to win multiple Player of the Month distinctions in the same season (Clint Mathis - 2000).

In front of 55,234 fans at the Rose Bowl on July 4, Ruiz scored both Galaxy goals, including the late game-winner, as Los Angeles came back from a 1-0 deficit to defeat the defending MLS Cup champion San Jose Earthquakes 2-1.

"El Pescadito" then launched a three-game scoring streak with a 71st minute strike on a header in a 3-1 win against the Colorado Rapids on July 13. One week later, Ruiz knocked home the rebound of his own penalty kick to help the Galaxy earn a 2-2 draw with Kansas City. The Guatemalan international also netted both goals in a 2-1 win against Columbus on July 27. Those two tallies took him to 16 on the year, well within reach of Eduardo Hurtado's club record of 21 goals set in 1996. During the month of July, in which he would be voted an MLS All-Star starter, Ruiz also contributed a goal and an assist in a 4-0 U.S. Open Cup third round victory over the Minnesota Thunder.

SD TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1. *San Jose Earthquakes	21	12	7	2	38	34	20	+14
2. *MetroStars	21	9	10	2	29	35	34	+ 1
3. Kansas City Wizards	21	8	6	7	31	31	30	+ 1
4. Dallas Burn	20	8	5	7	31	28	27	+ 1
5. Colorado Rapids	21	9	9	3	30	31	36	- 5
6. Los Angeles Galaxy	19	9	7	3	30	27	26	+ 1
7. Chicago Fire	20	8	8	4	28	30	25	+ 5
8. Columbus Crew	21	8	9	4	28	30	33	- 3
9. N.E. Revolution	20	7	12	1	22	35	42	- 7
10. D.C. United	20	6	11	3	21	19	27	- 8

* = conference leaders

RETURN OF WORLD CUP PLAYERS

After an impressive display with the U.S. National Team at the 2002 World Cup in Korea/Japan, Major League Soccer's best American players returned home to a hectic national media tour. Appearances on the Tonight Show, Late Night with David Letterman, Regis and Kelly, MTV's TRL and The Daily Show highlighted the U.S. media blitz.

One of the most memorable moments of the tour came on Late Night. At the prompting of Letterman, mohawked MetroStars striker Clint Mathis launched a ball across Broadway from a rooftop perch at CBS Studios in midtown Manhattan.



DIFFERENT CONTINENT, SAME RESULT

A starter in all five matches for the U.S. at the 2002 World Cup, Brian McBride turned in a stand-out two-goal performance that included the game-winning strikes against Portugal and Mexico during the Americans' run to the quarterfinals. The results were very much the same for the seven-time All-Star when he returned stateside, as he promptly banged home four goals in three games to spark the Crew. McBride also found the net in U.S. Open Cup play, contributing the game-winning penalty kick in a 3-0 win against the Richmond Kickers.

HOME DEPOT NTC BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE



National Training Center

On Tuesday, July 9, the Anschutz Entertainment Group and The Home Depot announced a 10-year partnership surrounding the multi-sport National Training Center (NTC) being constructed on the campus of California State University - Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). In addition to becoming the facility's title sponsor, the world's largest home improvement retailer will also support the construction of the 85-acre sports campus that includes a 27,000-seat soccer stadium that will serve as the home of the Los Angeles Galaxy beginning next season.

The multi-million dollar sponsorship agreement, which is the largest-ever for both a multi-facility training center and a sports venue not dedicated to a singular professional team, further bolsters a facility that will host both the MLS Cup and MLS All-Star Game in 2003. Included within the \$130 million development will be facilities and office space which will serve as the new permanent training home of the U.S. Soccer Federation.



2002 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW

AUGUST

WET AND WILD AT RFK

EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES



Marco Etcheverry

In the 2002 Pepsi MLS All-Star Game at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., the MLS All-Stars weathered a drenching thunderstorm that halted play for nearly an hour and beat the United States Men's National Team 3-2 in a historic event for American soccer. The game was a tight, hard-fought encounter, and the competitiveness was reflected in the score line which matched 1996 in totaling the fewest goals scored.

D.C. United midfielder Marco Etcheverry, playing in front of his home crowd, was named Honda All-Star MVP following his brilliant display of skill that resulted in one of the better goals in MLS All-Star history. "El Diablo" received a pass from Dallas' Joselito Vaca, Etcheverry's heir to the No. 10 jersey for Bolivia, measured charging goalkeeper Juergen Sommer, and carefully and deftly chipped a left-footed shot into the net. Etcheverry's momentum-changing goal in the 72nd minute gave the MLS All-Stars a 2-1 lead and set the stage for a fast-paced finish that featured two goals in the final 14 minutes.

Despite the torrential downpour, more than 31,000 turned out to see the match designed to celebrate the accomplishments of American soccer. In fact, the U.S. National Team not only featured 2002 World Cup players who captured the imagination of a country, but Bruce Arena also fielded former U.S. World Cup players in Alexi Lalas, Mike Burns and Preki.

SD TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1. X*San Jose Earthquakes	25	13	9	3	42	41	30	+11
2. *Columbus Crew	25	10	10	5	35	38	37	+1
3. X Los Angeles Galaxy	25	13	9	3	42	40	32	+8
4. X Dallas Burn	24	11	6	7	40	36	32	+4
5. Colorado Rapids	25	11	11	3	36	37	44	-7
6. Kansas City Wizards	26	9	9	8	35	35	42	-7
7. Chicago Fire	25	10	11	4	34	40	33	+7
8. MetroStars	24	10	12	2	32	37	40	-3
9. N.E. Revolution	25	9	14	2	29	41	48	-7
10. D.C. United	24	7	12	5	26	25	32	-7

* = conference leaders
X = clinched playoff berth

STREAK SNAPPER IN SAN JOSE

During the August 17 match between the San Jose Earthquakes and D.C. United, which ended in a 2-2 tie, two notable streaks were snapped in a single day.

Ending that day was the Quakes' 12-game regular season home winning streak at Spartan Stadium (dating back to August 25, 2001). Also D.C. United's 536-minute scoreless stretch came to a close, a record of futility in a single season which was halted by a fifth minute goal from 19-year-old Salvadoran sensation Eliseo Quintanilla, his first MLS tally.

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES



BUDDLE BLITZ

Columbus Crew forward Edson Buddle received Player of the Month honors in August. The 2004 Olympic Team hopeful registered 10 points during the month, scoring four goals and adding two assists to help Columbus surge to the top of the Eastern Conference. The 21-year-old assumed the starting spot of U.S. World Cup Team forward Brian McBride, who suffered a sprained ankle during a U.S. Open Cup victory on August 7. Buddle made the most of his opportunity, fashioning a three-game point streak to help the Crew earn wins against Los Angeles and Kansas City.

CHRISTOPHER RUPPEL/GETTY IMAGES



Cobi Jones

KEEPING UP WITH JONES

Carrying over his brand of U.S. World Cup Team flair, the Los Angeles Galaxy forward Cobi Jones displayed his own post World Cup heroics as he helped lead his club team to four victories in August. Jones started the month on the right foot, netting two goals in a win against New England on August 10. The perennial MLS All-Star followed that up with a three-assist performance in a road victory against Colorado a week later. Jones capped his month with a two-assist performance against the MetroStars in a 3-0 win on August 31. That victory allowed the Galaxy to clinch a playoff berth for the seventh straight season, a mark only equaled by the Dallas Burn. Jones would end the regular season campaign with a team-high 13 assists which, along with his three goals, placed him second behind Carlos Ruiz in club scoring at 19 points.





2002 MLS SEASON IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER

DASH TO THE PLAYOFFS



Taylor Twellman (r) and Mark Lisi

It was an unprecedented stretch run in the MLS regular season, as, for the first time in League history, there were three spots up for grabs, and every team was still in the running for a postseason spot in the final weekend of the regular season.

D.C. United, which made an improbable late run at the playoffs, tripped up at the final hurdle in a dramatic 4-3 loss against Dallas. One day later, the Kansas City Wizards became the fifth and final Western Conference team to qualify for the postseason after a 1-1 tie against Colorado. On Sept. 21, the L.A. Galaxy clinched the Western Conference championship and No. 1 playoff seed with a 1-0 victory over the San Jose Earthquakes. Also on that Saturday, the New England Revolution capped off a dramatic 5-0-1 end-of-season run with a 3-0 whitewashing of the MetroStars, who lost seven of their last nine games. Following the Chicago Fire's 2-1 win against Columbus on Sunday, Sept. 22, the Revolution were crowned Eastern Conference champions, while the MetroStars were eliminated.

The Budweiser Scoring race also had a dramatic finish as the Revolution's Taylor Twellman (23g, 6a) won the crown by three points. Twellman's eight goals and two assists in his last six matches kept him ahead of the Galaxy's Carlos Ruiz (24g, 1a), who also lit it up with eight goals in his last six games.

SD TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	G+/-
1. xy Los Angeles Galaxy	28	16	9	3	51	44	33	+11
2. xy N.E. Revolution	28	12	14	2	38	49	49	=
3. x San Jose Earthquakes	28	14	11	3	45	45	35	+10
4. x Dallas Burn	28	12	9	7	43	44	43	+1
5. x Colorado Rapids	28	13	11	4	43	43	48	-5
6. x Columbus Crew	28	11	12	5	38	44	43	+1
7. x Chicago Fire	28	11	13	4	37	43	38	+5
8. x Kansas City Wizards	28	9	10	9	36	37	45	-8
9. z MetroStars	28	11	15	2	35	41	47	-6
10. z D.C. United	28	9	14	5	32	31	40	-9

x = Clinched playoff berth z = Eliminated from playoff contention
y = Conference Champion

U.S. RANKED NO. 8 IN THE WORLD

The U.S. National Team moved into the No. 8 spot in the FIFA World Rankings, the highest ranking ever registered by the United States. Bruce Arena's national team placed better than traditional powers England (No. 9) and Italy (No. 10).

The U.S. began the year ranked 24th and moved to 11th in July after reaching the World Cup quarterfinals, where it lost to Germany, 1-0. The U.S. then broke into the top 10 for the first time in August when it was tied with Italy for ninth.

CHRISTOPHER RUPPEL/GETTY IMAGES



CREW, GALAXY IN OPEN CUP FINAL

For the third consecutive season, the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Semifinals were an all-MLS affair. The first semifinal was played on Sept. 3 at Titan Stadium in Fullerton, Calif. where the Los Angeles Galaxy dominated the visiting Dallas Burn 4-1. The Galaxy will defend their 2001 title against the Columbus Crew, who defeated the Kansas City Wizards in dramatic fashion coming back from 2-0 and capturing a 3-2 overtime victory. The two teams will meet at Columbus Crew Stadium on Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m. ET.

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES



Tab Ramos

RAMOS PLAYS LAST GAME

Legendary MetroStars midfielder Tab Ramos played in the final MLS game of his career on Sept. 21, as he celebrated his 36th birthday. In his seventh and final season with the MetroStars, Ramos came off the field in tears after a 3-0 blanking at the hands of the New England Revolution at Gillette Stadium. The Kearny, New Jersey native announced his retirement at a May 14 press conference at his high school alma mater St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, NJ. He appeared in three World Cups for the U.S. National Team and earned 81 caps during an international career which kicked off in 1988. Ramos, who also played in Mexico and Spain before the start of MLS, was the first player signed by the League in 1995. He will go down in history as the first true No. 10 playmaker in U.S. history.





By John Sands

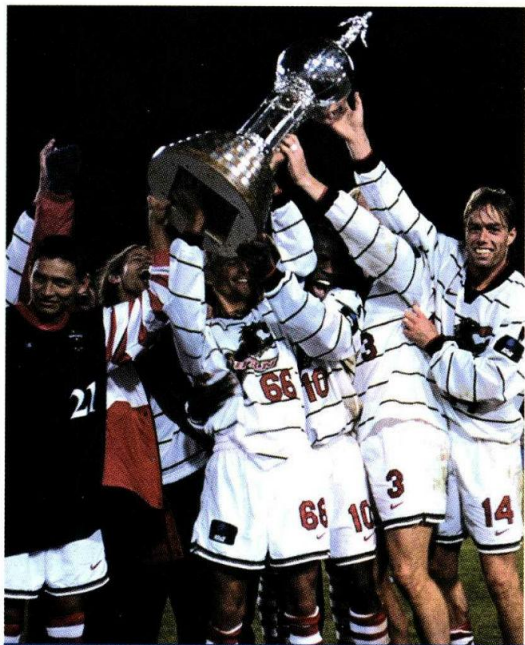
BUILDING A NEW

TRADITION

The 89th edition of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup will be played just four days after MLS Cup.



1996 - D.C. United



1997 - Dallas Burn

In recent years the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup has marked the official end of the professional soccer season in America. This year will be no different. Just a few days after the seventh MLS Cup champion is decided at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro on October 20, an 89-year-old tournament will crown its champion at Columbus Crew Stadium on October 24. Two MLS clubs will also face off for that cup.

On that day, the defending Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup titleholders, the Los Angeles Galaxy, will meet the Columbus Crew for the title, at 7:30 p.m. ET in a match which will be broadcast live on FOX Sports World. The Crew will be looking to win the trophy that bears the name of its owner, Lamar Hunt. It would mark the first championship in team history.

With a history dating back to 1914, the prestige of the U.S. Open Cup tournament is easily evident. With MLS clubs participating since the League's inception in 1996, the competition has gained even more exposure and importance in the eyes of coaches and players around America's only Division I professional league.

"One of the things I have tried to instill in the Galaxy is that winning the U.S. Open Cup is important as well," said Sigi Schmid, head coach of the Galaxy, a team which will be trying to win its first game at Columbus Crew Stadium on Oct. 24 (0-3-2 in MLS play including a loss in MLS Cup 2001).

The Galaxy, which have seen the MLS Cup elude them despite three trips to the final, had the opportunity of winning both the MLS Cup and U.S. Open Cup in 2001. However, the first piece of hardware was lost after Dwayne DeRosario's golden goal on October 21 clinched the MLS Cup final for the San Jose Earthquakes. However, the following weekend, Schmid's team redeemed itself with a thrilling victory in the U.S. Open Cup final against the New England Revolution.

"As a kid, I grew up watching the ethnic league teams playing in the competition (Open Cup) and my parents were involved with the Los Angeles Kickers," Schmid said. "My dad wasn't a playing member of the team, but a member of the club, and my mom cooked for the team. The Kickers won it twice (1958, 1964). So I was around the Open Cup and I knew what it meant when I started playing in the ethnic leagues."

PUTTING IT ALL ON THE LINE

Along with a domestic league championship, national cup competitions are a staple in most every soccer country around the world. In most cases the national cup tournaments are played under a single-game elimination (knockout) format with the participation of clubs from lower divisions. That combination has ensured that the U.S. Open Cup has built a history of dramatic and memorable match-ups.

This year, fans have experienced more of the heart-stopping action. There were eight MLS teams that entered the competition in the Round of 16 in July and that stage saw six one-goal games, four of which ended on golden goals in overtime. The Kansas City Wizards, San Jose Earthquakes, Dallas Burn and Colorado Rapids all needed a dramatic extra session to set aside A-League competition.

"Teams in America don't have enough of those games, putting it all on the line in a single game," Galaxy defender Danny Califf said. "It's good that we have a chance to play in those types of matches. I wish we had more of an opportunity."

"These knockout games have a life of their own-it's like a season unto itself," Schmid said. "There is no tomorrow. Everything happens that day and there's going to be a conclusion that day. It feels like the game is in a constant golden-goal situation."

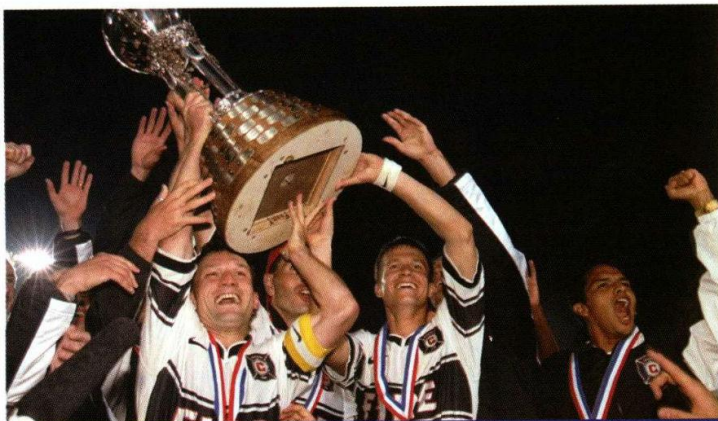
Schmid's opponent on Oct. 24, the Columbus Crew, were involved in perhaps the most memorable finish of the 2002 edition of the Open Cup. Down 2-0 at home to the Kansas City Wizards with only 15 minutes remaining in regulation, the Crew fashioned a come-from-behind win which included a stoppage time equalizer and a 108th minute overtime game-winner, both scored by second-half substitute John Wilmar Perez.





BUILDING A NEW TRADITION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32



1998 - Chicago Fire

"It was an exciting and special game in our team's history," said Crew Head Coach Greg Andrulis, who was an assistant when the Crew lost the 1998 Open Cup final to Chicago, 2-1 in overtime. "Sometimes you see where your team is as far as character and determination. I was proud of them. That game gave us confidence moving forward."

Like Schmid, Wizards Head Coach Bob Gansler also grew up with the tradition of the Open Cup. He participated as a player/coach with the Milwaukee Bavarians during the 1960s and 1970s, years in which the North American Soccer League (NASL) declined to participate.

"The ultimate goal, for sure, is to win the League championship and get the MLS Cup," Gansler said. "But the Open Cup should not be very far behind in terms of importance."

Since MLS joined the fold, the Open Cup has grown into a national phenomenon for the American soccer public, with interest reaching unprecedented levels. These days, the event is televised and the Open Cup Wednesdays have become a tradition among the fans that follow the action on the live scoreboard of MLSnet.com.

DAVID VS. GOLIATH



2001 - Los Angeles Galaxy

One reason behind the fascination surrounding the Open Cup is the fact that it is open to every level of organized soccer in the United States: MLS, A-League, D3 Pro League, Premier Development League (PDL) and the U.S. Adult Soccer Association (USASA). A total of 147 teams participated in this season's competition.

"Yeah it was like David and Goliath going up against MLS teams," said Crew goalkeeper Jon Busch, who played in an average of two Open Cup games a year during

his five seasons in the A-League. "There is nothing for an A-League team to lose in those situations. There is no pressure."

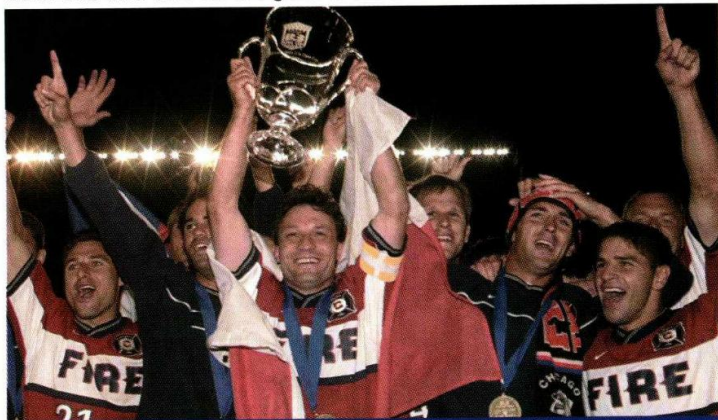
The closest Busch came to upsetting an MLS club came in 1998. In the Round of 16, the Hampton Roads Mariners dropped a 1-0 overtime decision to the MetroStars.

This year, Busch has been the starting goalkeeper for the Crew in the U.S. Open Cup as colleague Tom Presthus had a firm hold of the starting role during MLS regular season matches. Busch made his name with his performances in non-League matches, including the Open Cup, and they finally led him to an opportunity to start in MLS, a position he has yet to give up. What kept Busch in the limelight were performances like the 3-0 third-round shutout of the Richmond Kickers, a team he had faced on numerous occasions during his five years in the A-League.

"A-League teams have proven they can knock these MLS teams off," Busch said. "You can't take it for granted any more. It's a one-off match and you have to be on top of your game that night or you're going to be eliminated."

While lower division teams upset four MLS clubs in 2001, the only squad to suffer an upset this season was the Chicago Fire, who were eliminated 1-0 by the Milwaukee Rampage on July 17 at the Rampage Sports Complex in Franklin, Wisconsin. The overflow crowd of 5,323 had the rare opportunity to see U.S. World Cup stars Josh Wolff and DaMarcus Beasley in action and also witness their team come out on top. The Rampage would go on to become 2002 A-League champions.

"When you go on the road and play against lower division clubs it takes you back to your roots," Galaxy midfielder Peter Vagenas said. "Playing in MLS you take it for granted that you play in front of 15,000 people every night. In lower division stadiums there are 4,000 people in the stands sometimes and their love for the game is the same as MLS fans' for their team."



2000 - Chicago Fire

"When an A-League team takes on an MLS club it's like David vs. Goliath and that's really the scenario that makes the Open Cup so intriguing and so enchanting because David can beat Goliath," Schmid said. "MLS teams have to enter at an earlier stage of the competition to give that even more viability. That is something that has to be looked at."

With Open Cup matchdays coming in midweek, most likely sandwiched in between MLS League matches on the weekend, some head coaches may opt to insert new faces and fresh legs into the lineup for those single-elimination games. That was the case with Busch getting the starts in goal in the earlier rounds of the Open Cup when he was a back-up in League play. But that was in no way an indication that the team was taking the competition lightly.

"The Open Cup is a great tournament," Crew rookie midfielder Kyle Martino said. "Although it doesn't count for the regular season, we consider the Open Cup just like we would any other regular season game. We don't go into games thinking we can save players for the Open Cup. We've been playing the same players and with the same strategy and playing as hard as we would in the regular season games."

"As a club we've managed to do very well in the Open Cup," the Galaxy's Vagenas said. "It stems from the fact that we take it as seriously as the MLS Cup because the games are do-or-die from the start. Our team thrives on the must-win situation. It's a very prestigious competition and hard to win. It's not as easy as people think. Any team can beat another team on a given day. One bad game and you're out."



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By Damon Bouwkamp and Alan Plum

A LESSON IN TEAM

CHEMISTRY

The Burn's Colin Clarke, Steve Morrow and Ronnie O'Brien Learned First-Hand the Value of Team Chemistry

For three members of the Dallas Burn, the concept of team chemistry has a much more significant meaning. Having grown up in a land sharply divided by religious and political conflict, they've witnessed first-hand the painful lessons taught by intolerance and hatred.

Far from the tense situations that have dominated and sometimes destroyed life in their homeland, the Burn's Irish trio of Assistant Coach Colin Clarke, defender Steve Morrow and midfielder Ronnie O'Brien all attempt to keep things in the proper perspective. Each hails from a different part of Ireland, an island that has endured decades of debate and horrific conflict among the dominant religious sects of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. All three have also represented their home country on the soccer field, yet another place where passion runs deep.

Seen as predominantly Protestant, Northern Ireland remains divided from the predominantly Catholic population of the Republic. The separation saw its defining moment more than 80 years ago, when six northern counties remained in union with England following the Home Rule Act of 1920 that gave the 26 other southern counties of Ireland independence from British rule. In 1949, the southern counties officially became the independent Republic of Ireland, while the remaining six northern territories remained part of the United Kingdom.

The staunch desire of the Protestant majority to remain part of the UK had created animosity from Ireland's Catholic population, much of which preferred a single, united Ireland. Centuries of religious hostility soon gave way to a gruesome cycle of protest and violence, none more horrific than the events of Friday, July 21, 1972. On that day, more than twenty bombs were detonated in downtown Belfast by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in just over 60 minutes time, killing nine and injuring more than 130 people. From 1966-1999, over 3,600 people were killed as a result of the conflict that has spread beyond Ireland's shores to the British mainland.

Attempts at creating peaceful coexistence between the two separate countries



ALAN YAMAMOTO/MLS/GETTY IMAGES



SIMILAR STRUGGLES IN SCOTLAND

Religion may be the center of one of the fiercest rivalries in the world when it comes to matches involving Scottish soccer giants Glasgow Rangers and Glasgow Celtic. Colorado Rapids forward John Spencer and former Kansas City Wizards forward Mo Johnston found themselves in the middle of the struggles between the "Old Firm" rivals early in their careers.

Glasgow Rangers, a club historically supported by Protestants, was Johnston's team from 1989-1991. His transfer to the team was a controversial one because he had previously

spent two seasons with Glasgow Celtic, a club predominantly supported by Catholics. Johnston wore Celtic's colors well, tallying 52 goals in 99 games from 1985 to 1986. He had equal success with Rangers, scoring 31 goals in three years and leading the team to a pair of Scottish Cup medals and League championships in 1990 and 1991. However, the fact that Johnston was the first Catholic to play for Rangers sparked more controversy than a blown scoring chance or poor run of form could ever produce.

"If I was faced with that choice again, I would not have done it," Johnston said to the *Kansas City Star* of playing for Rangers. "I was selfish. All I cared about was me. I knew I could do it. But I didn't think about my family. I

didn't think about my friends. I only thought about myself. It's so crazy over there. If I saw another player in a bar, but he was Protestant, I couldn't go over and say hello to him. I could wave, maybe, but there was no way I could say hello. There's just so much hatred."

While Johnston was the first Catholic that Rangers paid, Spencer, who has spent the past two seasons in Colorado with the Rapids, was the first Catholic signed by Rangers. He was brought up in the club's youth system after joining the team as a teenager. The fiery striker spent five seasons with the team from 1987-1992, scoring five goals in seven appearances.

"Mo Johnston was the first Catholic that Rangers paid money for," Spencer said. "But I was the first Catholic they signed. I had to endure some tough times but Glasgow Rangers protected me well. I came through the youth ranks and the fans knew I had the decision to play for Rangers or Celtic and I chose Rangers because I wanted to be there."

The religious tension in the United Kingdom still exists, however. This past August, Neil Lennon, a Northern Irish Catholic who plays for Glasgow Celtic received death threats before pulling himself out of consideration for an exhibition between the National Teams of Northern Ireland and Cyprus. Celtic has a loyal following among Northern Ireland's sparse Catholic population, while the country's Protestants root for Celtic's crosstown rivals Glasgow Rangers.

It's no coincidence that violence in Belfast often involves groups wearing shirts or scarves of Rangers (blue and white) or Celtic (green and white).





A LESSON IN TEAM CHEMISTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

have often been met with tragic violence, as misguided passion and fanaticism boiled over to create a situation that, to this day, politicians have yet to stem completely. The Good Friday Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998 has provided some respite from the ceasefire, but tension remains.

Clarke, a Protestant, grew up in a rural area near the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic, where he attended a mixed-religion school. Morrow, a Catholic, grew up in a Catholic area of Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital, a city which unfortunately, has seen more than its share of hostility. O'Brien, who joined the Burn in midseason, is also Catholic and was reared south of Dublin, the Republic's capital.

Their soccer careers have coincidentally connected in Texas, but not before all three gained the honor and experience of playing for national pride. Clarke made 38 appearances for Northern Ireland and scored against Mexico in the 1986 World Cup, Morrow has served as captain of Northern Ireland, while the 23-year-old O'Brien has been a member of the Republic of Ireland's National Teams at the Under-18, Under-19 and Under-21 levels.

COUNTRIES IN COMPETITION

"The National Team was pretty much split between Catholics and Protestants," Clarke said. "There were never any problems with where people were from or what religion a player belonged to. We went out and played as a team and that is the one good thing that sport does, it brings everyone together."

All three Irishmen have experienced play in games between Northern Ireland and the Republic. For nearly 10 years however (1979-1988) the passionate rivalry was put on hold due to the fear that clashes between the supporters of each country might turn violent. It was finally renewed on a grand scale when Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic were placed in the same qualifying group for the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

"I was in the first Northern Ireland vs. Ireland match after the long layoff," Clarke said. "In 1988, during qualifying for the 1990 World Cup, we drew 0-0 in Belfast and lost 3-0 in Dublin. I have played in a number of derby games (meetings between teams from the same area), where the crowd is segregated, but this atmosphere was unlike any other derby. In the North there were no supporters for the Republic and in Dublin there were no supporters for the North. It was very hostile down there and I'm sure it was hostile for them up in Belfast."

"I did play in those matches on three or four occasions," Morrow said. "It's a strange affair really. People who are not real soccer fans use the games just to show their feelings toward the opposite religion. None of it has anything to do with soccer."

Morrow, it should be pointed out, is hardly inexperienced when it comes heated rivalries. "I've played Tottenham Hotspur vs. Arsenal games as well and the feeling between the two sets of fans is purely down to soccer," he said. "The games between Ireland and Northern Ireland went a lot deeper than that."

"It (the trouble) is more of a problem between the supporters," O'Brien said. "If you get the wrong bunch of fans together, fans who are looking for trouble, things get quite riled up. Most of the players know each other through club soccer. It is a game between rivals, but it isn't like you go out to kick a player because he is from Northern Ireland. The players want to win and do the best for their country. But the fans obviously blow it out of proportion sometimes."

CONFLICT HITS HOME

Morrow has also seen the darkest side of the conflict away from the playing field.

"Without getting too personal, I did have a family member badly injured," he recalled. "It was a case of mistaken identity, which made things even worse. I've had close friends who have lost family members too."

O'Brien, from the small predominantly Catholic town of Bray (population of 40,000), grew up much further from the conflict than Clarke or Morrow. That hasn't reduced his understanding of the differences between the two sides or his acceptance of other people's beliefs.

"I take people as they are and not because of what religion they are or what country they are from," he said. It's that attitude that has made it easy for him and Morrow to become roommates when the Burn hits the road.

All three men think it's unfortunate that the conflict has tar-



ALAN YAMAMOTO/MLS

Steve Morrow saw a family member suffer serious injury in violence between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

nished the perception of Ireland.

"A lot of people assume that it is the whole country going up in bombs and things like that," O'Brien said. "It is not a problem everywhere. Ireland is a beautiful country. I have never heard anyone say otherwise once they've been there."

"It just so happens that this violence has been going on in a very small country, a supposedly civilized country, for a long, long time," Clarke said. "My dream would be for everyone to live in peace, where people could go and visit the country and have some fun. It is a great country and beautiful place to visit, both the north and the south."

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Morrow knows the deep-rooted nature of all the problems creates a large challenge though. "This (conflict) goes back hundreds of years which makes it something difficult to solve," he said. "The divide between people is such that it's going to take a lot of work (to bring the sides together). I think the only way to move forward is doing it through young people. It will take young kids growing up together, going to the same school and realizing that Protestants and Catholics can coexist peacefully."

"If you talk to younger generations, I would say 95 percent want peace. Unfortunately it's not in their hands. It's with the politicians and older people who hold all the bitterness really."

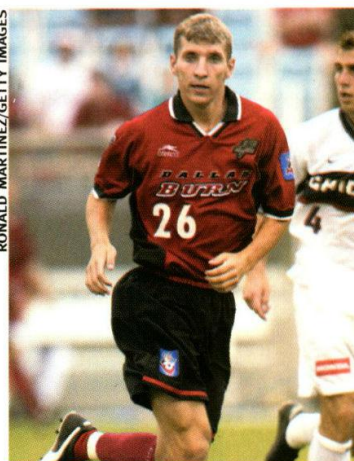
In all of his soccer experiences, Morrow has seen first-hand how sport could be mechanism to bridge the gap between those of different faiths and backgrounds.

"My dad organized teams of mixed religion for the sole purpose of integrating the two religions together," Morrow said. "As a Catholic, I grew up playing with Protestants and I never saw it as anything other than a team. We didn't pay attention to what religion players were or what part of Belfast someone was from. Even when I first played with Colin on the National Team I didn't even know he was Protestant. That says it all really."

"It's very difficult because it's rooted in a lot of losses for people on both sides," O'Brien said, while noting that soccer actually helps demonstrate that lasting peace is obtainable. "Fans should look at the players to see that everyone, regardless of their religion, can get on well."

Morrow is confident he knows where the only lasting solution will come from.

"Really, it all comes down to the people, if they can just put their past troubles and quarrels behind them to help the young people realize they're not that different from each other."



RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Dallas' Ronnie O'Brien says that despite the occasional violent outbreaks, Ireland is a beautiful country.





By Simon Borg

SOUNDING

OFF

ALAN YAMAMOTO/MLS



Rapids forward Chris Carrieri clears up the misconceptions surrounding his persona and explains why he can be one of America's best scorers.

When he's not going all out in practice or in an MLS match, you're likely to find Colorado Rapids forward Chris Carrieri in the company of his acoustic guitar.

A serious band member in high school, Carrieri has taken to writing his own music these days, and among five of his own original compositions—some of which treat the sport of soccer—there is one song entitled 'They Say, I Say.' Ironically, those words can be used to sum up his first seasons in MLS.

Since his first days in the League, many experts, players and media have taken to judging Carrieri by his looks and by his quotes. Many have been quick in drawing conclusions about the 22-year-old without ever really getting to know him. But with the lifestyle changes he has undergone in the past year, those people who think they know him are in for a surprise.

THE QUOTE THAT STUCK

"I'm coming to score some goals. We're going to turn this thing around and we're heading to the playoffs, I guarantee it."

That was Chris Carrieri's message to fans of the San Jose Earthquakes on February 5, 2001—his first day in MLS. He had just been selected as the No. 1 pick of the SuperDraft and had moved over to the interview area to express his emotions after his first few minutes as a professional.

Carrieri has come a long way from that exuberant guy who drove a bright-orange corvette in San Jose and made a splash in his introduction to MLS. However, it would take a while before he was able to shake the stigma of that daring quote from the mouth of a rookie.

"I may have been a little overzealous but I think if I had the chance to prove myself I would have shut everybody up," Carrieri said more than 18 months removed from draft day. "I'm a guy who wouldn't say those things if I couldn't back them up. I ended up playing 89 minutes in just five games for San Jose so I really never got the shot to prove those words. I don't regret anything I said or did. I knew what players San Jose had coming in and I knew what other teams had. So I knew what I was talking about. But that's done and in the past."

"Those first comments were not well received by his first club," Colorado Rapids Head Coach Tim Hankinson said. "But guys learn from their first experience after getting their feet wet."

Chris Carrieri has scored 16 goals in 29 starts since joining Colorado during the 2001 season.

ELIOT SCHECHTER/GETTY IMAGES



Despite a long-term knee injury, the Dallas Burn did not hesitate to make Chris Gbandi the No. 1 pick in the 2002 SuperDraft.

THE NO. 1 PICK FANS HAVE YET TO SEE

Leaving the University of North Carolina in his junior season as the NCAA's top scorer in 2000 was a difficult choice for Chris Carrieri. In the end he feels entering the 2001 SuperDraft and being selected No. 1 was the best decision, although there were times he regretted leaving college.

"I thought that I might as well go when I could go because you never know with injuries," Carrieri said. "I took the chance of leaving college early."

One player who went the other direction was the Dallas Burn's Chris Gbandi, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2002 SuperDraft. He played out his college eligibility, although many outsiders were expecting him to leave after his junior season when he won the Hermann Trophy as his University of Connecticut Huskies won the national championship.

In a dramatic turn of events, on senior day in 2001, in his final collegiate home game of his career, Gbandi tore the ACL in his right knee a second time (he tore it

as a freshman in high school). The Burn selected the Texas native despite the injury and Gbandi returned the confidence by working hard in rehabilitation. Maybe it was too hard, as his projected timetable of returning in July-August was extended.

He finally hit the practice fields in late August and at that juncture in the season, Burn Head Coach Mike Jeffries did not want to run risks. He asked Gbandi to focus on being at full strength for the start of 2003.

"When you're drafted as high as I was and you don't play it's disappointing," Gbandi said. "But the coach knows what I can do on the field. It's still in the back of my mind that next year I have to come back and do twice as much. I'm looking forward to next year."

A defender of undisputed talent with speed, playmaking skills and a magical left foot, Gbandi is a surefire candidate for future national team exposure after finally getting his U.S. passport in September.

"Being No. 1 is all great and dandy," Gbandi said. "I did go back and look at the history of some of MLS' No. 1 picks. I want to be counted among the guys who've done well like Chris Carrieri and Brian McBride. Regardless, I feel I know how to play the game and if I was drafted No. 1 or No. 200 I'm confident I can go out and perform."





A SENSE OF REJECTION

Acceptance by the Earthquakes veterans proved hard to come by in Carrieri's transition to San Jose.

"To earn the respect of guys like Jeff Agoos and Troy Dayak was very hard, especially because of the fact I was not getting much playing time," said the former UNC Tarheel player. "I believe if I had the chance to play I would have succeeded. Of course if I shut my mouth it would have been much easier because no one would have expected anything of me."

To make matters more difficult, with forwards Ronald Cerritos and Dwayne DeRosario already on the roster, the Earthquakes also acquired Landon Donovan in late March. Carrieri soon found himself on the low end of the depth chart. Four strikers was definitely a crowd.

So the 21-year-old rookie took the situation into his own hands. He met with Head Coach Frank Yallop, with whom he had built an honest relationship, and Carrieri requested a trade. On June 13, 2001 he was on his way to the Rocky Mountains and the Colorado Rapids.

"I took Tim's word," Carrieri said about Hankinson. "He said that he didn't want to trade for someone to sit him on the bench."

The ride would not always be smooth in the first few weeks in Denver. Four months after the SuperDraft, Carrieri was still haunted by those comments back in February.

"The players (on the Rapids), when they first heard he was on his way, all they remembered about him were those quotes and that was the perception of him from afar," Hankinson said. "But all of our players did an outstanding job of embracing him when he came in. He's a fun character to be around at training and he kept things lively during a rough 2001 season."

"Today, when I see players train with us who are too cocky too soon, they ruin it for themselves," Carrieri said. "I learned that the hard way. But once the guys take you in they'll play you any ball. You can't be a better player if no one wants to work with you on the field."

GAINING A NEWFOUND FOCUS

One of the persons who took Carrieri under his wing in Colorado was veteran Scottish forward John Spencer, who was also in his first year in the Mile High City.

"We heard stories about him before he came in," the 32-year-old Spencer said. "But as far as I'm concerned I'll always give people a chance. Everyone who comes on this team I just try to make them comfortable."

The two developed a strike partnership in the 2001 season, a year in which Spencer netted a club record 14 goals in 23 appearances, while Carrieri hit for five of his own in 14 games. The 5-7 Spencer and 5-8 Carrieri are still forward partners today and play with equal fire on the field. But that energy is something that Spencer has tried to teach Carrieri to keep in check and use to his advantage.

"He has always had a lot of passion in his game," said Spencer of the man he has nicknamed Scary-ieri. "But you have to make sure that passion does not spill over and start affecting your game. He's learned to channel the emotions."

"If all the players ran around like I did it would be total mayhem," Carrieri said. "But up front you need to have that attitude. It's about believing you can get to the ball before everyone."

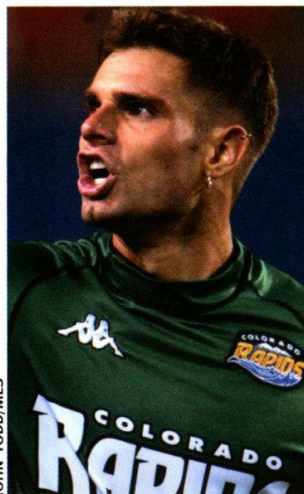
He attributes the never-say-die, intimidating fire to his mother, Susan, a professional hairdresser since she was 19. His father, Joe, a 20-year computer engineering veteran for the Air Force, is the opposite, the person "who counts to ten before he talks."

"I wear my emotions on my sleeve. It's hard for me not to," Carrieri said. "But on the field I don't do much trash-talking. I basically have the attitude that I give what I get. I'll help a defender up but if he starts running his mouth and kicking me or being stupid, that's when I start taking it personally."

SETTLING DOWN

Carrieri's fiery emotion and exuberance is something he saves for the games on Saturdays. Off the field he carries himself in a different manner than he did in the past and it all starts with his image. Fans will be hard pressed to find him with the colored cleats or flashy hair design that was his staple in his first season.

"I've grown out of that stage-I'm done with bleaching the hair and I have my socks pulled up to my knee," said Carrieri. "I'm in the League to be successful, not to make a fashion statement. What I want little kids to see is a young guy in the League being successful but working hard and practicing everyday. Lots of kids look up to me and I don't want them to say 'oh he's



JOHN TODD/MLS

The NCAA's leading scorer in 2000 played in just five games for the Earthquakes in his rookie season before being traded away to the Rapids on June 13, 2001.

got the tattoos and the earrings.' People, in a way, didn't accept the Chris Carrieri of last year. I was misread more often than not."

One of the events that has permanently left its mark on the Rapids' sniper is his recent Aug. 13 engagement to girlfriend Heather Pawell, who left her coursework at the University of Wilmington to be with Chris in Colorado. They have even set a wedding date for the 2003 All-Star break.

"If it works out and I'm an All-Star I'll deal with it," said the NCAA's top scorer in 2000. "I'm not going to count myself in as an All-Star now and plan my wedding around it. But right now that's the only time I have off."

With plans for a family on the horizon, Carrieri has set new priorities for himself, trading in the flashy corvette he waxed everyday for an SUV and joining goalkeeper Scott Garlick and his family for barbecues. His free time is spent playing the guitar and taking his two dogs, Cayden (Boston Terrier) and Hudson (Black Labrador he adopted from an animal shelter) to the park.

"I don't do the whole going out and dancing-those were my college years and those things are for single guys - I don't do that any more," the 22-year-old said. "I've grown up since last year and I've become domesticated. And it's not because I want to have a certain image. I'm not a fake."

"Off the field Chris has experienced a great deal of growth in the last year," Hankinson said. "He has a relationship going on in his life. The effervescence is still the strength of his game but compared to the past he's focusing that energy into this game. Before, all that energy went in unpredictable directions."

A FUTURE AMONG THE STARS

Although he is not actively campaigning for it, Carrieri hopes consistent scoring performances in the next few years will catapult him into the group of elite young forwards currently thought to be in the running for the 2006 U.S. World Cup team: Landon Donovan, Taylor Twellman, Devin Barclay, Eddie Johnson and Santino Quaranta.

"Recognition will come in time with consistent performances," Hankinson said of the former Under-20 U.S. National Team player. "I would almost rather see Carrieri's notoriety and recognition grow over time with consistency than see him have one high year and be inconsistent thereafter."

Consistency may already have become a staple of his game. In fact, Carrieri has more goals per start over the last two MLS seasons than any of the players featured with the MLS Strike Force: Mathis, McBride, Donovan, Wolff and Beasley.

"I wasn't brought in this League as a highly marketed player," Carrieri said. "But I think I can be because there's nothing I want to do more than play for MLS my whole career. I want to make this League better and I want young players to come out of college to look at me and say: 'I want to play here, too. I don't want to play overseas.'"

A goal scorer with explosiveness, verve and attitude on the field. A fierce competitor with drive, personality and confidence who is committed to MLS and American soccer. It's a combination that should make Carrieri a staple in American soccer for years to come.

"I've matured on and off the field," Carrieri said. "Sometimes I may be misinterpreted but I don't care what people think. I'm not going to change for anybody. My mom raised me perfectly and that's who I'm going to be. Based on that attitude I've been successful and I won't quit."





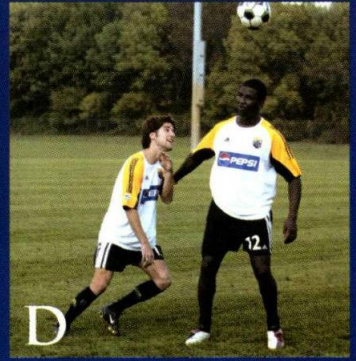
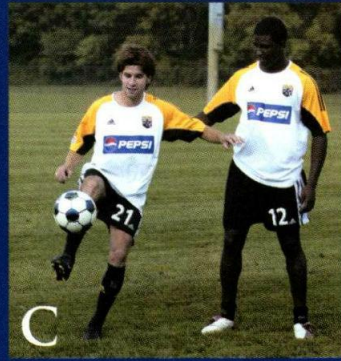
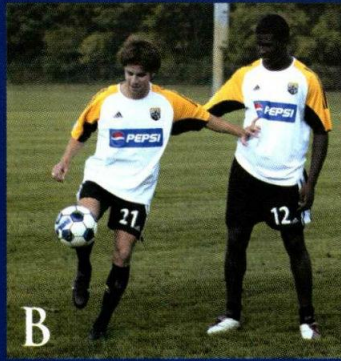
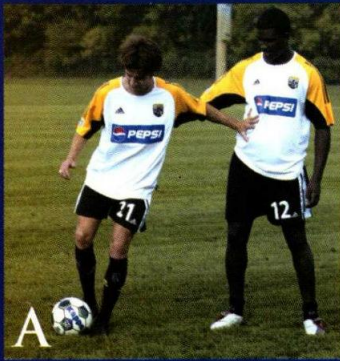
LEARNING

THE COLUMBUS CREW'S KYLE MARTINO (NO. 21) AND EDSON BUDDLE (NO.12) DEMONSTRATE FOUR SOCCER MOVES THAT NO PLAYER CAN DO WITHOUT.

THE "SOMBRERO"

01

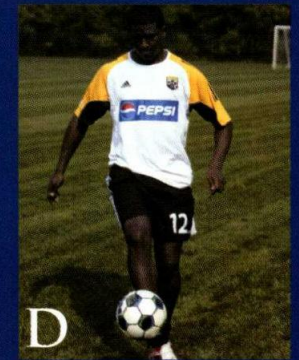
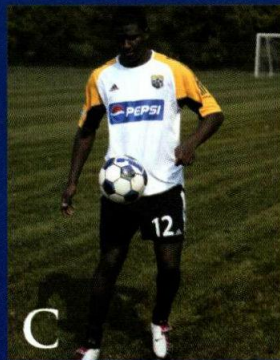
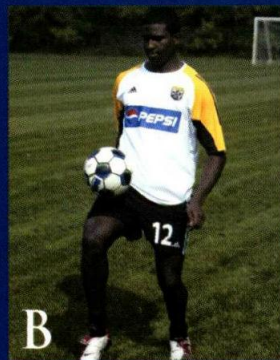
A defender has stood up Martino but he defends the ball with his body. He proceeds to lift the ball with the foot farthest from the defender, digging it under the ball (a) and lifting it to knee's height in the air (b). Then with his right leg still raised from the ground he has another go at the ball (c), sending the ball high over the unsuspecting defender, turning and racing to it before the defender knows what happened (d).



THE THIGH TRAP

02

As the ball travels in the air, the player needs to be able to judge the ball well enough to be in position (a) to meet it, taking the ball on the upper thigh (b), far from the knee where the ball may carom out of reach on impact. Collecting the ball on his thigh, Buddle applies a "cushion effect," and the ball's momentum is reduced. It falls close by (c), dropping in front of him as he controls it with the outside of his foot (d). The thigh is ideal for stunning the ball as it absorbs the ball's speed like a cushion.



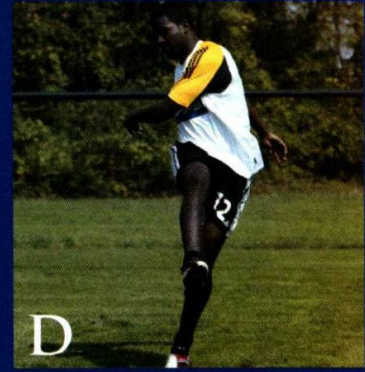
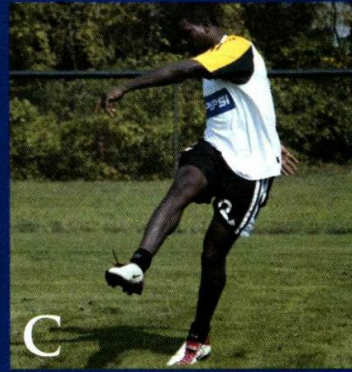
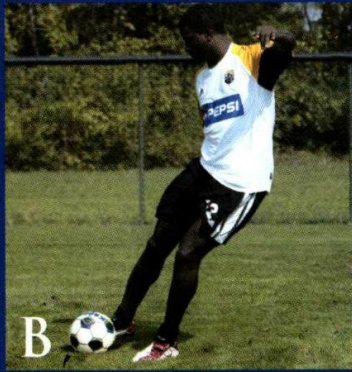
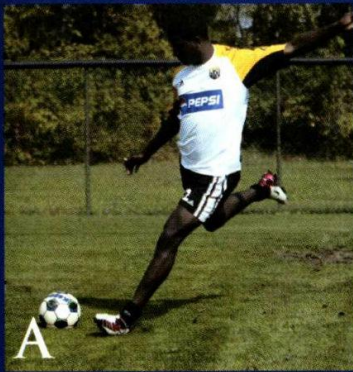
FROM THE PROS

PHOTOS BY GREG BARTRAM

THE FIRST-TIME SHOT

03

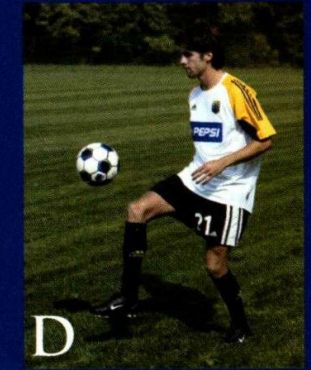
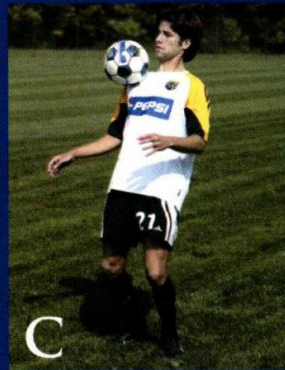
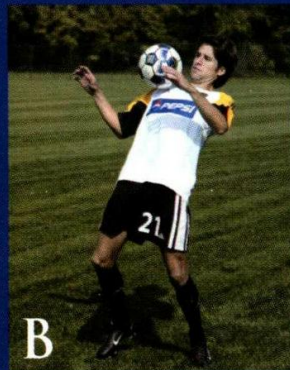
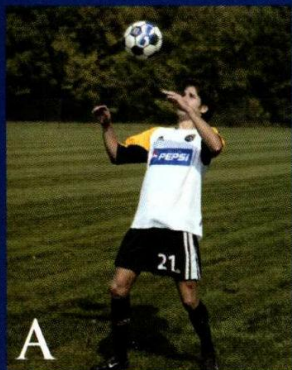
The ball has been served to Buddle from the side. He angles his body and (a) pulls his leg back in order to bring the full force of the shot. With his non-kicking leg alongside the ball (key for balance), all of Buddle's weight is driven (b) into the shooting leg (here he uses the instep of his right foot). In the follow-through (c), the shooting leg moves in the direction the ball was delivered (through the ball). Buddle concludes his balanced form by bringing his shooting leg across his body (d).

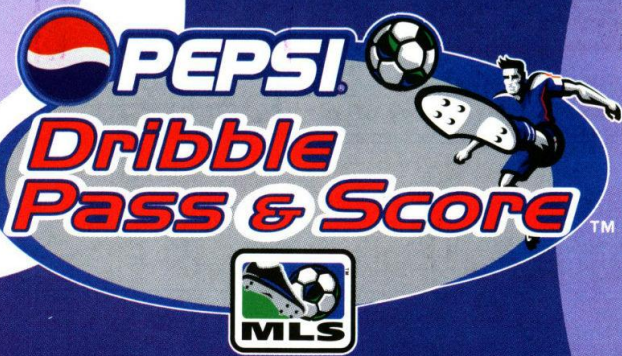


THE CHEST TRAP

04

Martino stands in perfect anticipation of the flight of the ball so that it falls chest high (a). He makes sure his elbows are slightly sticking out for good balance. At the moment of impact on the top of his chest (b), he drops his chest backward and downward to let the ball "rest" momentarily. As in the case of the thigh, the ball has been stunned enough to bounce just a foot off of Martino's chest (c), falling to his feet for easy control (d).





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2002 PEPSI MLS DRIBBLE, PASS & SCORE NATIONAL FINALISTS

BOYS AGES 8/9

Mike Agombar	Glenview, IL
Shane Bowlen	Lee's Summit, MO
Ryan Ertmann	Allendale, NJ
Brian Runyon Jr.	Leesburg, VA

BOYS AGES 10/11

Bradlee Baladez	Dallas, TX
Kyle Critchfield	Broomfield, CO
Matthew Howard	Temecula, CA
Marcus Svensson	Plant City, FL

BOYS AGES 12/14

Kyle Duncan	Columbus, OH
Chad Nahodewa	McKinney, TX
Jobani Santana	Bishop, CA
Matt Wilson	Morris, IL

GIRLS AGES 8/9

Brittney Blanchette	Hope, RI
Judith Navarro	Kansas City, MO
Hannah Roberts	Milford, OH
Bally Wysocki	Plainfield, IL

GIRLS AGES 10/11

Lindsay Dickerson	Los Gatos, CA
Christina Lee	Sterling, VA
Jessica Morrow	Andover, MA
Libery Tilman	Culver City, CA

GIRLS AGES 12/14

Lauren Archibeque	Greeley, CO
Lindsey Hemingway	Kingwood, TX
Lily Meyer	Peninsula, OH
Carrie Seller	Arcadia, CA

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MARTINEZ, EL ORGULLO DE YAHUALICA

Antonio "Chivas" Martínez eleva su juego y se convierte en protagonista con el Dallas Burn

Rodeado por el legado de la ruta de la plata, monumentos pintorescos y una moderna ciudad industrial al sur del estado mexicano de Jalisco, pasa casi desapercibido el pueblo de Yahualica. En medio de los bellos manantiales de aguas termales y la herencia del tequila y el mariachi, típicos de la región de Guadalajara, se esconde este pequeño pueblo de la Sierra Madre Occidental de México.

En este lugar desconocido por muchos, la gente vive intensamente su cultura, especialmente la de su fútbol. En Yahualica, se inculca a los niños la pasión por este deporte, como se puede ver cada fin de semana cuando corren hacia los campos de fútbol. Hace algunos años, un niño observaba orgullosamente a su padre meter goles. Ese niño, Antonio Martínez Jr., conocía a todos los jugadores del equipo, y todos ellos le conocían a él como el hijo de Antonio Martínez.

Esos hombres en México todavía conocen a Martínez como el niño que siguió atentamente los consejos futbolísticos de su padre. Sólo que ahora ese niño es un hombre y además es titular de la media cancha del Dallas Burn. Tras pasar dos años entrenando bajo la dirección del técnico Mike Jeffries, Martínez forma parte de un equipo que, aunque siempre se ha clasificado para los Playoffs, nunca ha llegado a una final.

"Esta temporada hemos jugado con mucha confianza," dijo Jeffries. "Tratamos de incluir a Antonio el año pasado, pero era difícil para él subir, bajar y defender todo a la vez. Fue mucho pedir."

"Ahora es titular y sabe que si hace un error el mundo no se acaba."

Pero Martínez, de 25 años de edad, debe su forma de jugar a esos días en Yahualica.

"Yo estaba muy orgulloso de mi padre. Conocía a todos los jugadores. No me acuerdo de la primera vez que jugué al fútbol," dijo Martínez. "Pero sí que me acuerdo de mi primer gol. Fue un penalti. Solo tenía nueve años y jugaba con el Ascoli."

El equipo del Ascoli jugaba en el único estadio del pueblo, que contaba con un aforo de 2,000 personas. Ahí Martínez dio sus primeros pasos futbolísticos. Pero el destino se llevaría



RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Antonio Martínez ganó su primer nombramiento como jugador de la semana en agosto esta temporada.

EL IDIOMA UNIVERSAL DEL FÚTBOL

Dicen que el fútbol es un idioma universal. Este fenómeno también se manifiesta en la Major League Soccer, donde la mayoría de los equipos tienen jugadores extranjeros quienes hablan diferentes lenguajes. La barrera del idioma es un desafío el cual, felizmente, se puede superar dentro de la cancha cuando la pelota rueda y todos concuerdan practicando el simple pero siempre cautivador juego del balonpie.

Dada la mezcla y evolución de este país, la nueva generación de jugadores incluye estadounidenses hijos de latinos. Muchos de ellos son bilingües y practican el balompié jugando recochas (picados, chamuscas) en los parques. Landon Donovan es bilingüe tras jugar muchos partidos en el sur de California, donde existe una gran comunidad latina.

El técnico del Kansas City Wizards, Bob Gansler, usa sus manos para asegurar que sus delanteros Darío Fabbro, de Argentina, e Igor Simutenkov, de Rusia, entiendan la práctica. El mediocampista Diego Gutiérrez, nacido en Colombia, podría trabajar en la Naciones Unidas como traductor de primer nivel ya que hace de intermediario entre sus compañeros, técnicos y los dos delanteros antes mencionados. (Simutenkov habla español porque jugó en España por varios años.)

En Dallas, cuando Antonio Martínez se mudó a California de México, no hablaba una palabra de inglés. Fue después de jugar fútbol en el colegio que Martínez, o "Chivas" como le dicen sus compañeros, se acomodó al nuevo idioma. Diez años después, Martínez ahora está de interprete en el equipo.

En el draft del 2000, el entrenador del Burn, Mike Jeffries, escogió al medio campista boliviano de la academia Tahuichi, Joselito Vaca, quien aún le cuesta entender muchas palabras en inglés.

"Como son las cosas. Ahora Antonio es el que está ayudando a Joselito," dijo Jeffries.

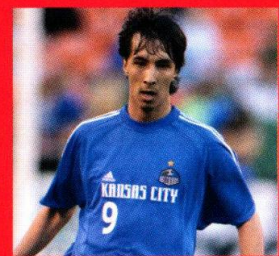
A veces, la media cancha del Dallas compuesta por Martínez, Vaca y el experimentado Oscar Pareja de origen colombiano, puede comunicarse mejor en español.

Mientras algunos del grupo original de extranjeros de la liga aprendieron el idioma, como el caso del boliviano Jaime Moreno del D.C. United, no fue hasta hace poco que su compatriota y compañero de equipo Marco Etcheverry se atrevió a dar su primera entrevista en inglés preocupado que lo fueran a mal interpretar. El colombiano Carlos "Pibe" Valderrama es conocido como una persona parca al hablar español, y es igual en inglés.

El guatemalteco Carlos "Pescadito" Ruiz, recién llegado a la liga, no ha tenido mucho tiempo para clases de inglés ya que está demasiado ocupado anotando goles. Se convirtió en el máximo goleador de la liga esta temporada con 24 goles en 28 partidos. En los playoffs, siguió su racha.

Todos los aficionados de la MLS y bien conocedores de este bello deporte, hablen inglés, español, ruso o francés, reconocen un "taquito", un "sombrero", una "chilena" (o "bicicleta"), un "túnel", un pase de gol y por supuesto un golazo. Así mismo conocen al "Pescadito," a "Chivas", a "Pelusa", a la "Rata" y al "Pibe," entre otros.

Dicen que el fútbol es una forma de comunicación universal. Pregúntenle a los muchachos de la MLS y no le quedará ninguna duda.



ED ZURICA/MLS/GETTY IMAGES

Darío Fabbro (arriba) es asistido por su compañero de equipo Diego Gutiérrez para superar la barrera del inglés.





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

a Martínez de Yahualica. En 1992, Martínez padre, maestro de profesión, se mudó a Carson, Calif., con su esposa Elvia, su hijo menor Iván y Martínez Jr.

Con 15 años de edad, Martínez estudiaba en la Carson High School sin saber una palabra de inglés. Como la escuela tenía muchos estudiantes latinos, Martínez tardó en aprender el idioma. Pero el fútbol es igual en todas las partes del mundo. Lo que había aprendido en Yahualica le ayudó en su transición a un nuevo país.

"Conocí a un muchacho en el colegio. Él jugaba en el equipo. Como no podía hablar con nadie, pasé seis meses sin jugar. Pero éste me presentó al técnico," dijo Martínez. "Estuve con el equipo durante dos años."

Elvia Martínez no deseaba ver a su hijo jugar, ya que no quería verle lesionado. Todavía hoy se preocupa cuando lo ve caerse al suelo durante los partidos del Dallas. Elvia no podía con el amor que tenían su esposo y su hijo por el fútbol, menos aún cuando Antonio tuvo su primer encuentro con el equipo del Chivas de Guadalajara. Un fanático de corazón, Martínez vestía el uniforme rojo y blanco por todas partes, hasta en los entrenamientos de Carson. Por esto, se ganó el apodo de "Chivas." El fútbol se convirtió en su vida.

Carson se convirtió en su nuevo hogar. Recostado entre las montañas de San Rafael al sur de la Sierra Nevada, Carson se parece a Yahualica por su

notables. Martínez aprovechó y fue desarrollando su propio estilo. Mientras en México aprendía a marcar en zona, Martínez conoció el hombre a hombre. Junto a Duncan Oughton, compañero en Cal State en 1998 y 1999 que ahora milita con el Columbus Crew, Martínez participó en la aparición de los Titanes en el torneo NCAA, sufriendo una pérdida en la primera ronda tras una temporada de 14-5. Martínez aparece en los anales futbolísticos del colegio, empatado en puntos con otros jugadores en octavo lugar durante su carrera en Cal State.

"De pronto estaba recibiendo llamadas de técnicos de la MLS. Me estaban invitando a pruebas," dijo Martínez.

Dallas, Texas, se convertiría en su próximo destino. Rodeado de mercados mexicanos, Martínez felizmente se mudó a Dallas en la primavera de 2000.

"Trabajé con Bob Bradley dirigiendo al equipo donde vi a Antonio en el invitacional antes del selectivo universitario de ese año," dijo Jeffries. "Me acuerdo que nos causó mucha atención su creatividad."

A pesar de ser novato, Martínez tuvo la oportunidad de jugar. Entre la temporada de 2000 y 2001, Martínez jugó 22 partidos. Gradualmente, Jeffries fue descubriendo el talento del zurdo que había seleccionado. Poco a poco, Martínez adquirió más confianza en el campo, desarrollando todo lo que había aprendido en sus dos escuelas de fútbol.

Las dos escuelas se enfrentarían a nivel mundial. En lo que ahora es conocido como una de las rivalidades más grandes de la CONCACAF, Martínez le apostó a sus compañeros del Burn que el equipo mexicano, de una tradición futbolística superior a la americana, ganaría a los Estados Unidos en la segunda fase del Mundial. Martínez se quedó asombrado cuando el árbitro pitó el final del partido. Estados Unidos había ganado 2-0.

"Me decepcionaron aunque quería que los dos equipos jugaran bien," dijo Martínez. "Le aposté todo el equipo y perdí. No fue mucho el dinero que perdí. Solamente mi orgullo."

Su orgullo nació en Yahualica. Pero ahora son otros quienes están orgullosos, especialmente durante el pasado mes de agosto, cuando el Yahualicano alcanzó el título de Jugador de la Semana de la liga. Especialmente en el último partido regular contra el DC United. Martínez empató el partido con un disparo que pasó sobre el portero Nick Rimando. Dallas ganaría el duelo 4-3.

El trabajo al lado del veterano mediocampista Oscar Pareja ha simplificado el juego y le ha enseñado mucho a Martínez. Creándole oportunidades a uno de los goleadores de la liga, Jason Kreis, el trabajo de Martínez resulta todo un éxito. Pero Martínez achaca este éxito a su juego con su compañero de habitación, el mediocampista boliviano, Joselito Vaca.

"Nos entendemos muy bien. Hablamos constantemente, e incluso a veces podemos adivinar la posición del otro en el campo," dijo Martínez. "De pronto éste no es el mejor equipo, pero tiene una buena combinación. Estamos en una buena racha."

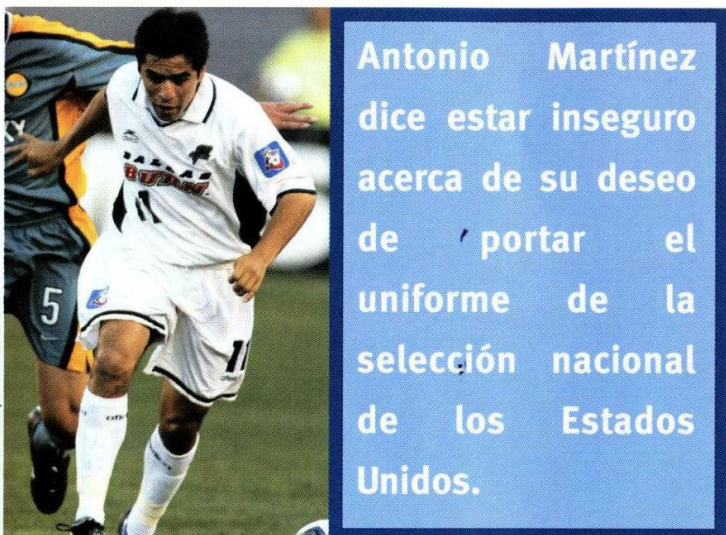
Quien sabe, quizás su éxito estaba predestinado desde un principio. Durante la pretemporada, Dallas jugó un amistoso contra el Chivas. Después del partido, Martínez intercambió su camiseta con su héroe, Benjamin Galindo, un veterano delantero que militó la mayoría de su carrera profesional con el Chivas. Galindo se retiró esta temporada.

Martínez apenas está comenzando su carrera. Después de las finales de la liga, regresará a Yahualica para visitar a sus mejores amigos. Espera jugar con el Chivas, donde normalmente entrena fuera de temporada. Afinará su toque corto y su creatividad, combinándolo con el trabajo físico y la rapidez de juego que practicó en Dallas.

Martínez jugó brillantemente en el primer partido de Cuartos de Final frente a Colorado esta temporada a pesar de tener dolor en su corazón por la muerte de su abuelo.

"Es triste para mí y mi familia, yo hubiera querido estar en México pero mi responsabilidad era estar con el equipo y estoy contento de haber contribuido a este triunfo con un granito de arena," dijo el talentoso y humilde volante del Burn, después del cotejo el pasado 25 de septiembre, ganado por el Burn, 4-2, con un gol de Martínez.

Su abuelo fue una de varias influencias mexicanas que siempre serán parte de su vida. Martínez hable inglés con fluidez, es una estrella en una liga estadounidense y un posible miembro de la selección de EE.UU., pero a pesar del tiempo, Martínez no ha perdido sus raíces. Los años que jugó con el Ascoli están siempre presentes: se puede oír en su apodo y se puede ver en su estilo de juego dentro de la cancha.



Antonio Martínez dice estar inseguro acerca de su deseo de portar el uniforme de la selección nacional de los Estados Unidos.

localización entre montañas a la orilla de ciudades grandes. Hace más de 200 años que la ciudad de Carson fue civilizada por una familia mexicana. Pero las semejanzas son pocas. Por un lado, Yahualica se conoce por su herencia colonial, situado unas millas al sur de Baja, donde se encuentra la reserva más abundante de minerales del país. Por otro lado, Carson todavía se encuentra resolviendo problemas de una joven ciudad invadida por exigencias del metrópolis.

"Son dos mundos completamente distintos. También deje muchos amigos [en Yahualica]," dijo Martínez.

Desde el día que partió de Yahualica, Martínez ha vivido en dos ciudades y ha ido a la universidad en otras dos ciudades más, pero nunca muy lejos de su familia. Regresa frecuentemente a Yahualica siempre que tiene tiempo libre, para reencontrarse con viejos amigos. Pero él ya había comenzado otra vida en los Estados Unidos. Martínez estudió dos años en El Camino Junior College en Torrance, Calif., donde perfeccionó su inglés y jugó al fútbol. Su trabajo fue reconocido con una beca para Cal State Fullerton. En esta época, tuvo su primera experiencia en la media cancha, donde ahora milita para el Burn. Criado y entrenado por un padre de mentalidad de atacante, Martínez había jugado de delantero la mayoría de su juventud. Cuando Cal State necesitó de un mediocampista zurdo, Martínez se convirtió en un elemento indispensable.

"Poco a poco me he acostumbrado a la posición. Todavía tengo que trabajar por el lado y en los centros," dijo Martínez. "La posición no me gusta mucho porque hay que correr llegando desde atrás."

"Cuando te adelantas, sabes que estás atacando para marcar un gol. Corriendo desde atrás es muy diferente."

Las diferencias futbolísticas entre los estilos mexicanos y americano eran





OFF THE WALL WITH

DAMARCUS BEASLEY

"The Beas" goes back in time and also talks about his biggest pet peeve and his love for diamonds.

Q: Your nickname is "The Beas." When did that start and when did "Jitterbug" fall out of favor?

Beas: I've been Beas ever since I was little. People called my dad that first and then all my friends called me that. Not a lot of people call me by my first name. I guess with Jitterbug, I kind of outgrew that name. Every now and then I'll hear it from a fan or whatever. It brings back a lot of memories hearing that name.

Q: What did 14-year-old DaMarcus get in trouble for most at home?

Beas: I got into trouble for fighting with my brother (Jamar), breaking stuff in the house, and sneaking and talking on the phone past my bed time. But I would say, for the most part, it was breaking stuff in the house. My Mom didn't like that very much.

Q: Diamonds are a man's best friend, but your buddies say you take it a step further. True?

Beas: People who know me know that I like diamonds. That's no big secret. I have them in my ears and around my neck, and there is a strong possibility that there will be more. I guess you're going to have to wait and see.

Q: What music artist is playing in your car and playing in your headphones pregame?

Beas: Everone who knows me knows I only listen to Rap and R&B. I like Jay-Z, Nas and Fabolous. For pregame it's a variety of music. We have a CD player for the entire team and I'm the DJ, but it's mostly hip-hop.

Q: What's the most important piece of advice you give to young soccer players?

Beas: The advice I give all kids is that you should not let anybody tell you that you can't do this or that. If you set your mind to something, don't let anyone stand in your way. I had to go through that when I was younger so that's what I tell them. And it doesn't have to be in sports - I'm talking about life in general.

Q: Biggest pet peeve?

Beas: One of my biggest pet peeves is when another person is driving and it's just sprinkling outside. Instead of clearing the little raindrops on the windshield with the wipers, they just leave them there so you can barely see through the window. I can't stand that.

Q: You've had several hairstyles in MLS - cornrows, baby 'fro - what's next?

Beas: I'm going to keep my hairstyles pretty simple from now on. Maybe another little baby 'fro, but that's as far as I'm going to go.

Q: Most embarrassing soccer moment on and off the field?

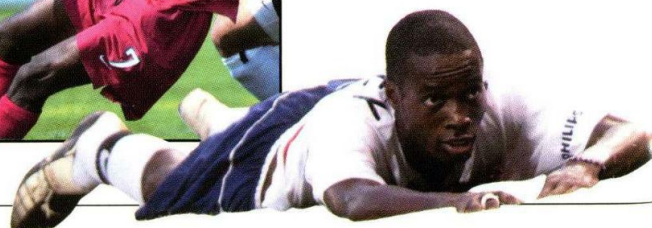
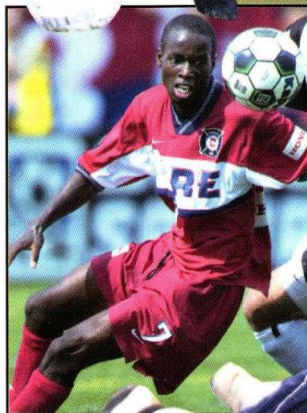
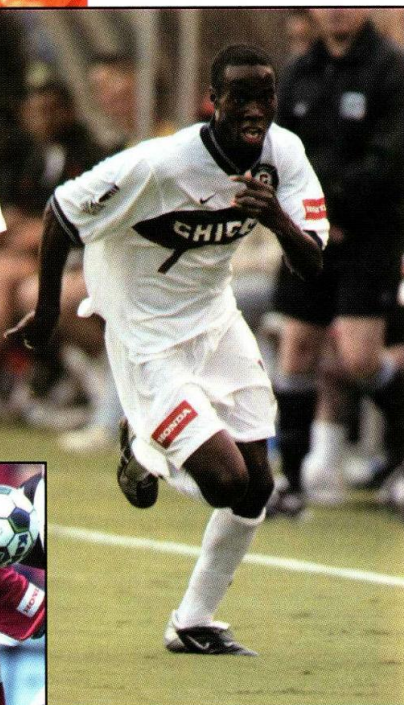
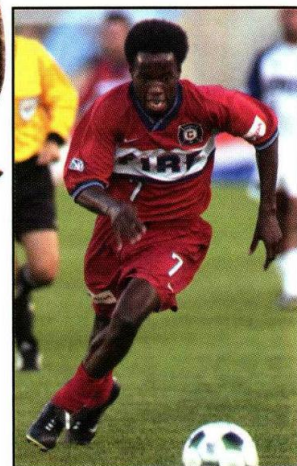
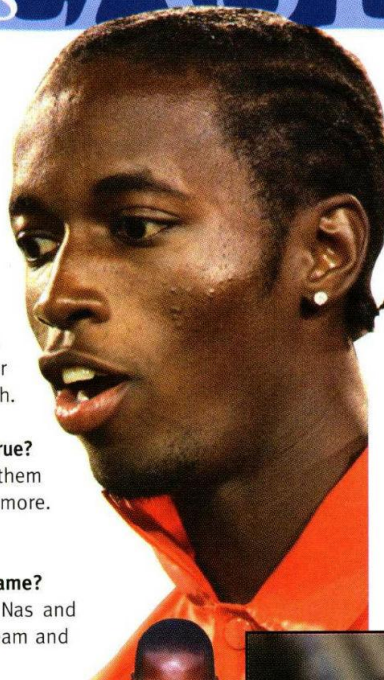
Beas: Most embarrassing moment is when I was playing with the full National Team against Jamaica. I scored a goal and took off my jersey and I couldn't get it back on. Luckily it was at the end of the game.

Q: Favorite school subject and why?

Beas: Spanish was my favorite subject, because I always wanted to learn another language.

Q: What would people be surprised to learn about DaMarcus Beasley?

Beas: That I'm a pretty down to earth person. I think that most athletes get the stereotype that they are stuck up and self-absorbed, but for the most part we aren't. Granted there are some exceptions.

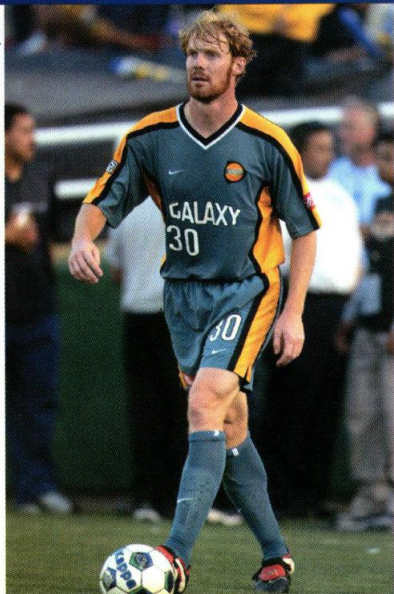




TEAM OVERVIEW

L.A. GALAXY

ESSY GHAVAMEDDINI/MLS



A year after coming out of retirement, defender Alexi Lalas was the anchor of the L.A. Galaxy's back line-MLS' best during the regular season.

If the Los Angeles Galaxy, perennial MLS Cup favorites, had one shortcoming in their run to the championship game in 2001, it was the lack of a surefire forward who could win a game on his own. That vacancy was promptly filled in 2002 with the arrival of "El Pescadito," Guatemalan striker Carlos Ruiz, who scored six goals in his first four games and never looked back, as he went on to lead the League in goal scoring.

Apart from Ruiz, Head Coach Sigi Schmid used his players interchangeably, with every man on the roster contributing to the effort. Led by captain Cobi Jones, rejuvenated by the U.S. World Cup run, the Galaxy hovered around the upper half of the playoff table before quietly moving into a battle for the No.

1 seed with the San Jose Earthquakes. Two dramatic goals by Ruiz decided the final two matches of the season, both 1-0 Galaxy victories over the Quakes, as L.A. captured its first Supporters Shield (for the best record in MLS) since 1998.

GOALKEEPERS

Schmid's use of his entire roster extended to the goalkeeping position, where he platooned Matt Reis and Kevin Hartman early in the season before deciding on Hartman for the final months. In a show of the team's focus on winning its first MLS Cup, the competition for a lineup spot between the two never escalated into a threat to the club's chemistry, despite the fact that both players showed they can be legitimate MLS starters.

DEFENDERS

When Alexi Lalas came out of retirement and returned to MLS in 2001, few believed that he would be more than a bit player who contributed on occasion. However, Lalas became a fixture in the Galaxy's back line in 2002 and his experience, timing and sense of positioning made him a Defender of the Year candidate. Danny Califf, at 22, continued his development as one of MLS' most dominant man markers while Ezra "E-Z" Hendrickson played his typical game all year, doing double duty as right back and right winger. On the other flank, newcomer Tyrone Marshall made a seamless transition as the fourth member of one of the most physically imposing back lines in MLS, which allowed a League-low 33 goals.

MIDFIELDERS

Versatility and a high work rate are the marks of the Galaxy midfield. Simon Elliott, Sasha Victorine and Peter Vagenas have

proven to be equally productive in most every midfield position and offer the ideal support for the playmaking skills of Mauricio Cienfuegos. However, in the absence of Cienfuegos, they have also demonstrated they are more than capable of assuming the playmaking duties with equal efficiency. Hendrickson's ability to patrol the entire length of the right flank practically makes him the team's fifth midfielder.

FORWARDS

Major League Soccer's 2002 Honda Most Valuable Player, Carlos "El Pescadito" Ruiz, netted an MLS-record nine game-winning goals in 2002 and a club record of 24 total goals. His opportune and lethal strikes on goal proved to be the difference on a number of occasions for the Galaxy. In combination with Cobi Jones, the Galaxy may have the best one-two punch in the League. Following the U.S. National Team's run to the 2002 World Cup quarterfinals, Jones was re-energized upon his return and registered three goals and 12 assists. Former developmental player Alejandro Moreno (seven starts) and second-year player Brian Mullan (10 starts) each took turns lining up as the third forward.

RESERVES

With nearly every member of the Galaxy getting his fair share of starts on the season - an example of the superb management skills of Sigi Schmid - no one player can necessarily be called a reserve. However, forwards Brian Mullan, Alejandro Moreno and Chris Albright, midfielders Alex Bengard and Jesus Ochoa and defenders Craig Waibel and Adam Frye all bring a dedicated, hard-working mentality to the game, ensuring that the team is guaranteed to receive a lift when they are called upon.

HEAD COACH

On the heels of a devastating overtime loss in MLS Cup 2001 last October, Sigi Schmid succeeded in injecting a new sense of purpose into a team which quietly crept up behind the San Jose Earthquakes, and in the end, surpassed the defending champions for the No. 1 seed with the best record in MLS. From the acquisition of Carlos Ruiz, to the handling of the goalkeeping situation, to the development of youth like Alejandro Moreno and Gavin Ginton (lost to season-ending ankle injury), to coping without Cobi Jones, Schmid showed why his teams have been MLS Cup contenders since his arrival in 1999. Not to mention that he led the Galaxy to their second consecutive U.S. Open Cup final, where L.A. defends its crown against the Columbus Crew on October 24.

TEAM LEADERS

Game-Winning Goals: Ruiz 9	Most Fouls Committed: Ruiz 71
Game-Winning Assists: Elliott 5	Most Fouls Suffered: Ruiz 71
PK Goals/Attempts: Ruiz 3-4, Cienfuegos 0-1	Offsides: Ruiz 38
Blocks: Lalas 2	Corner Kicks: Elliott 82
Most Shots: Ruiz 100	Cautions: Ruiz 9
Most Shots On Goal: Ruiz 56	Ejections: Five players tied with one





REGULAR SEASON STATS

No.	Player	GP	GS	Sub	Min	G	A	Pts	Age	Ht	Wt	Acquired
20	Carlos Ruiz	26	26	6	2376	24	1	49	23	5-9	170	2002 - Feb. 5 Discovery signing
13	Cobi Jones	19	18	4	1638	3	13	19	32	5-7	145	1996 - March 6 allocation
12	Simon Elliott	26	26	1	2347	1	10	12	28	5-11	175	1999 - May 22 Discovery signing
10	Mauricio Cienfuegos	23	22	10	1879	2	8	12	34	5-6	143	1996 - Assigned to Galaxy
30	Alexi Lalas	26	26	1	2364	4	4	12	32	6-3	210	2001 - Jan. 16 Discovery signing
17	Ezra Hendrickson	23	23	2	2048	2	8	12	30	6-3	185	1997 - Off waivers Aug. 6
11	Sasha Victorine	25	22	8	1985	2	5	9	24	6-2	170	2000 - SuperDraft (No. 11)
9	Brian Mullan	21	10	6	1019	3	2	8	24	5-8	150	2001 - SuperDraft (No. 9)
2	Gavin Ginton	22	6	5	790	1	4	6	23	5-10	150	2002 - SuperDraft (No. 25)
14	Tyrone Marshall	24	19	1	1838	0	5	5	27	6-2	190	2002 - Allocation Draft (No. 9)
8	Peter Vagenas	17	16	3	1390	0	3	3	24	5-8	160	2000 - SuperDraft (No. 23)
23	Danny Califf	25	23	1	2118	1	0	2	22	6-0	180	2000 - SuperDraft (No. 6)
15	Alejandro Moreno	12	7	7	561	0	2	2	23	5-9	170	2002 - SuperDraft (No. 27)
25	Winston Griffiths*	6	4	4	310	1	0	2	24	5-10	160	2002 - Waived July 25
5	Chris Albricht	15	9	7	814	0	1	1	23	6-1	185	2002 - Jan. 11 trade with DC
6	Craig Waibel	12	9	1	860	0	1	1	27	6-1	195	2001 - May 4 Discovery signing
18	Jesus Ochoa	9	4	4	352	0	1	1	21	5-11	170	2002 - March 22 Develop. signing
4	Adam Frye	20	10	5	956	0	0	0	28	5-8	159	2000 - March 16 waiver draft
16	Alex Bengard	4	0	0	26	0	0	0	23	6-0	165	2001 - SuperDraft (No. 57)
21	McKinley Tennyson	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	23	6-2	194	2002 - Aug. 14 Develop. signing

* = Griffiths is no longer a member of the Galaxy

REGULAR SEASON GOALKEEPING

Goalkeeper	GP	Min	Shots	Saves	GA	GAA	PG	PA	SO	Record (OT)	Acquired
Kevin Hartman	18	1648	108	83	20	1.09	2	3	5	11-6-1 (0-3-1)	1997 - College Draft (No. 29)
Matt Reis	11	929	47	33	13	1.26	1	1	2	5-3-2 (3-0-2)	1998 - College Draft (No. 26)

2002 GAME-BY-GAME

Date	OPP.	W/L/T	Notes
3-23	DC	W (2-1/OT)	Ruiz nets two in Galaxy debut, including game-winning PK goal in OT
4-6	CHI	W (2-1/OT)	Ruiz again scores twice, including golden goal to keep Galaxy unbeaten
4-13	DAL	T (1-1/OT)	Galaxy remain unbeaten as Ruiz scores again in 85th minute comeback
4-20	at DAL	T (1-1/OT)	Ruiz keeps streak going with 6th goal of season; LA remains unbeaten
4-27	COL	L (0-1/OT)	LA loses and Ruiz fails to score for first time as Spencer nets golden goal
5-4	at KC	W (2-1/OT)	Ginton scores "golden goal" in LA's 10th straight OT game
5-11	at CHI	W (1-0)	Ruiz gets back on track with early PK, Reis saves six for clean sheet
5-18	at KC	L (1-2)	Mullan scores but Wizards avenge loss suffered two weeks before
5-25	at NE	L (2-3)	Griffiths and Ruiz goals are not enough as Serna scores game-winner
6-1	at COL	L (2-3)	Ruiz scores twice to up League lead, but not enough to outdo Chung
6-8	CHI	W (1-0)	Lalas header wins it for Galaxy; Reis records second shutout of season
6-15	at MET	L (0-5)	Diallo scores four goals vs. Galaxy for second straight year in shutout
6-22	DAL	W (3-0)	Lalas, Victorine, Mullan score and Hartman keeps clean sheet
6-29	at DC	L (0-1/OT)	Galaxy gets the better chances, but Convey converts OT-winner
7-4	SJ	W (2-1)	Ruiz scores twice to defeat Quakes in first meeting in heated rivalry
7-7	at SJ	L (0-1)	After criticizing Galaxy early in the week, Donovan backs it up with goal
7-13	at COL	W (3-1)	Califf, Hendrickson, Ruiz score; Galaxy try to keep pace with Western leaders
7-20	KC	T (2-2/OT)	Ruiz and Hendrickson score but shorthanded Wizards take a road point
7-27	CLB	W (2-1)	Ruiz hurdles Twellman with two goals and beats Columbus to keep pace
8-10	NE	W (2-1)	Two goals from Jones and Ruiz's first assist lift Galaxy over Revs late
8-14	at CLB	L (2-3)	Jones and Elliott score, but Crew get late game-winner to beat Galaxy
8-17	COL	W (4-0)	Cienfuegos gets a pair, Lalas and Victorine score in crushing of Rapids
8-21	KC	W (2-1)	Galaxy move ahead of Burn in standings behind Ruiz and Lalas goals
8-24	at DAL	L (0-1/OT)	Rhine scores golden goal and puts L.A. back to third place in West
8-31	MET	W (3-0)	Ruiz hat trick leads Galaxy into playoffs and tie with 'Quakes atop table
9-7	at CHI	W (2-1)	Two more Ruiz goals set team record and first-place showdown with Quakes
9-14	SJ	W (1-0)	Late Ruiz goal puts Galaxy ahead in race for top seed in playoffs
9-2	at SJ	W (1-0)	Stoppage time PK by Ruiz snaps S.J. home dominance, clinches No. 1 seed

STATS KEY

GP = Games played; GS = Games started; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; Pts = Points; Sub = Substituted out; Ht = Height; Wt = Weight; GA = Goals against; GAA = Goals-against-average; PG = Penalty kick goals; PA = Penalty kick attempts; SO = Shutouts.



The Los Angeles Galaxy's starting lineup from the July 4 match against the San Jose Earthquakes (left to right): Top Row - Kevin Hartman, Alexi Lalas, Sasha Victorine, Tyrone Marshall, Ezra Hendrickson, Simon Elliott; Bottom Row - Peter Vagenas, Carlos Ruiz, Adam Frye, Gavin Ginton, Cobi Jones.





PROBABLE STARTING XI L.A. GALAXY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54



Sigi Schmid
Head Coach

RALPH PEREZ-ASSISTANT
ZAK ABDEL-ASSISTANT

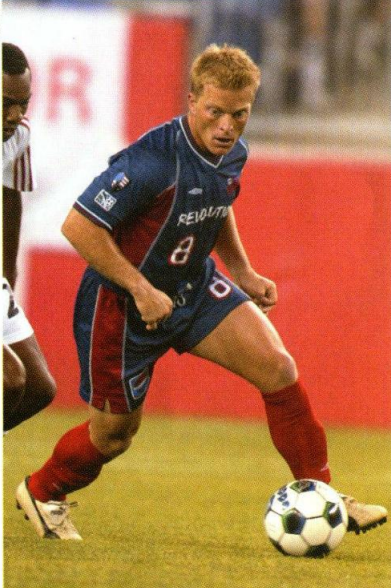




NEW ENGLAND
REVOLUTION™
TEAM OVERVIEW

REVOLUTION

DAVID SILVERMAN/MLS



After taking over at the helm of the Revolution, one of Steve Nicol's first moves was to make gritty left back Joey Franchino (above) the team captain.

Hopes were high in New England going into 2002 as the team came into the season with a new stadium (Gillette Stadium) and a handful of big-name acquisitions that included the last two Budweiser Scoring Champions. However, after a 2-4-1 record to kick off the season, management wasted no time in righting the ship, beginning a shakeup on May 23 which involved the head coach and three starters.

Although results were slow in coming, the moves gradually paid dividends as the Revolution completed one of the most dramatic in-season turnarounds in League history-capping their season with a 3-0 win against the MetroStars, which would earn them the Eastern Conference title.

Thanks to markedly improved play from their defense, the Revolution allowed just one goal in their final four regular season games, a stretch that completed their remarkable reversal of fortune from bubble team to No. 2 seed.

GOALKEEPERS

After coming into the season as a backup to Juergen Sommer, 24-year-old Adin Brown took advantage of an injury to the starter and showed the promising talents which were trumpeted upon his arrival on the MLS scene in 2000. Brown's rise as a decisive shot-stopping force coincided with the Revolution's back line coming together late in the campaign.

DEFENDERS

For the first months of the season, this department was short-handed and injury-riddled, making it difficult to gain stability. It was only when Carlos Llamasa returned from the World Cup and recovered from a nagging groin injury to team up with late acquisition Daouda Kante in central defense, that the back line became stingy. With consistent contributions from right back Jay Heaps and left back and captain Joe Franchino, the defense conceded just three goals in the six-game unbeaten streak at the end of the season which allowed the Revs to win the Eastern Conference.

MIDFIELDERS

Midfield was one area of the field addressed by the personnel changes made at the end of May. Central midfielder Daniel Hernandez and left flank player Brian Kamler came over from the MetroStars and were eventually incorporated into the starting lineup. Meanwhile, interim Head Coach Steve Nicol made the

decision of moving defender Leo Cullen into central midfield in place of veteran Jim Rooney. Steve Ralston's contributions from the right flank were always a given, as he notched another 27 starts while leading the League in assists (19) in 2002.

FORWARDS

With the last two Budweiser Scoring Champions, Alex Pineda Chacon and Mamadou Diallo, starting ahead of him at the beginning of the season, 22-year-old Taylor Twellman had a ways to go in order to earn playing time. But when given his opportunity in the third match of the year in Columbus, Twellman scored and never gave up his spot, while Diallo was shipped off to the MetroStars. With mid-season acquisition Diego Serna going down to a season-ending knee injury, Nicol paired Ian Fuller and Wolde Harris with Twellman, with Harris eventually winning the spot.

RESERVES

It is not every team that has the luxury of bringing a Budweiser Scoring champion off the bench. The Revolution have Honduran legend Alex Pineda Chacon, who has had to accept a diminished role during Nicol's tenure. Along with Pineda Chacon, the first men off the bench have usually been midfielder Braeden Cloutier and defender Nick Downing. Defender Rusty Pierce, who has started 13 games in an injury-plagued season, would be another potential defensive substitute if the Revs continue with the central pairing of Llamasa-Kante. If the team ever needs a jolt on the attacking end, the skillful and speedy Winston Griffiths can energize the offense with his unpredictable play.

HEAD COACH

Steve Nicol took over the position of interim head coach on May 23, replacing Fernando Clavijo, who had brought Nicol on as an assistant coach in 2002. The Scotsman had the task of incorporating three new starters into the lineup following the trade which brought in Hernandez, Kamler and Serna from the MetroStars on May 24. After experimenting with several new lineups, Nicol finally found the group that would go undefeated in the last six games and capture the Eastern Conference. The ex-Liverpool player, who wore the same stoic expression on the Revs bench during both the good and the bad times, molded the team after his own personality, as New England discovered a fighting spirit which it carried into the postseason.

TEAM LEADERS

Game-Winning Goals: Twellman 5	Most Fouls Committed: Twellman 55
Game-Winning Assists: Ralston 5	Most Fouls Suffered: Twellman 87
PK Goals/Attempts: Twellman 3-3, Harris 0-1	Offsides: Diallo 20
Blocks: Cullen, Llamasa 4	Corner Kicks: Ralston 69
Most Shots: Twellman 92	Cautions: Franchino 9
Most Shots On Goal: Twellman 58	Ejections: Three players tied with one



REGULAR SEASON STATS

No.	Player	GP	GS	Sub	Min	G	A	Pts	Age	Ht	Wt	Acquired
20	Taylor Twellman	28	26	4	2418	23	6	52	22	5-11	179	2002 - SuperDraft (No. 2)
14	Steve Ralston	27	27	0	2460	5	19	29	28	5-9	160	2002 - Allocation Draft (No. 6)
6	Jay Heaps	27	26	1	2389	2	6	10	26	5-9	155	2001 - June 20 trade with MIA
5	Brian Kamler	16	13	6	1099	2	5	9	30	6-1	180	2002 - May 24 trade with MET
13	Wolde Harris	22	11	8	1117	4	0	8	28	5-10	190	2000 - Feb 6 trade with COL
7	Daniel Hernandez	19	16	1	1492	3	1	7	26	6-0	180	2002 - May 24 trade with MET
8	Joe Franchino	23	23	1	2015	1	5	7	26	5-7	140	2000 - May 17 Dispersal Draft
10	Alex P. Chacon	20	9	4	1014	2	2	6	32	5-8	150	2002 - Dispersal Draft (2nd Round)
2	Leo Cullen	28	27	2	2444	2	2	6	26	5-8	165	2001 - Aug. 15 trade with MIA
16	Jim Rooney	20	20	4	1715	1	2	4	34	6-0	165	2002 - Dispersal Draft (1st Round)
15	Mamadou Diallo*	7	7	4	488	1	1	3	31	6-4	210	2002 - Traded to MET May 24
9	Diego Serna	5	2	1	248	1	1	3	29	5-10	175	2002 - May 24 trade with MET
4	Ian Fuller	11	5	5	446	0	3	3	23	6-1	165	2002 - SuperDraft (No. 21)
7	Andy Williams*	5	2	0	275	0	2	2	25	5-8	155	2002 - Traded to MET May 24
25	Winston Griffiths	8	6	5	428	0	2	2	24	5-10	160	2002 - July 30 off waivers
2	Ted Chronopoulos*	5	5	2	415	0	2	2	30	6-0	168	2002 - Traded to MET May 24
12	Daouda Kante	8	8	1	729	1	0	2	24	6-2	180	2002 - Signed July 19
-	John Wilson*	1	0	0	16	1	0	2	24	5-10	175	2002 - A-League call-up
17	Braeden Cloutier	11	7	4	608	0	1	1	28	5-11	165	2001 - May 12 off waivers
18	Carlos Llamasa	14	13	3	1056	0	1	1	33	5-11	166	2002 - Allocation Draft (No. 5)
21	Carlos Semedo*	9	8	3	631	0	1	1	22	5-11	170	2002 - Waived July 18
3	Rusty Pierce	14	13	4	1161	0	0	0	23	5-10	165	2000 - SuperDraft (No. 14)
15	Shaker Asad	6	1	1	140	0	0	0	23	5-9	160	2002 - Dispersal Draft (3rd Round)
19	Nick Downing	12	5	1	667	0	0	0	22	5-9	155	2001 - SuperDraft (No. 21)

* = Diallo, Williams, Chronopoulos, Wilson and Semedo no longer with Revolution

REGULAR SEASON GOALKEEPING

Goalkeeper	GP	Min	Shots	Saves	GA	GAA	PG	PA	SO	Record (OT)	Acquired
Aidin Brown	16	1460	102	72	20	1.23	2	3	5	9-6-1 (0-1 1)	2002 - Jan. 15 signing
Juergen Sommer	12	1090	87	53	29	2.39	1	1	2	3-8-1 (0-0-1)	2000 - March 13 trade with CLB

2002 GAME-BY-GAME

Date	OPP.	W/L/T	Notes
3-23	at MET	L (1-3)	Pineda Chacon picks up where he left off in '01; Revs drop season opener
4-6	at SJ	L (1-2)	Diallo hits the back of the net, but N.E. still can't find winning ways
4-20	at CLB	W (2-0)	Twellman tallies his first MLS goal, Rooney scores in Revs' first victory
4-27	at CHI	T (2-2/OT)	Franchino goal and assist, Twellman goal lead to tie in Fire's home opener
5-11	DAL	W (2-0)	Twellman scores twice to lead Revs to home opening win at CMGI Field
5-19	CHI	L (1-3)	Twellman scores in his fourth straight; Razov tallies hat trick in Fire win
5-22	at COL	L (2-5)	Fifth straight game with a goal from Twellman not enough as Rapids roll
5-25	LA	W (3-2)	Twellman scores again and Serna nets game-winner in Revs debut
6-1	SJ	L (0-2)	Graziani beats Revs with two goals; Twellman's streak comes to an end
6-8	at DC	L (2-3)	Twellman scores twice; Nelsen (2) and Quaranta (1) lead United back
6-12	CLB	L (1-2/OT)	Ralston scores but Revs done in by Buddle's OT stoppage time winner
6-15	at COL	W (2-1)	Twellman scores goal and tallies assist on Kamler goal in rare road win
6-22	at KC	L (2-3)	Heaps and Twellman goals not enough as Revs lose four of last five
6-29	MET	L (0-2)	Revs can't find the net at home even after Metros' Diallo is sent off
7-4	CLB	W (4-1)	Ralston's two goals, Twellman's League-leading 12th beat Columbus
7-6	DC	W (2-0)	Kamler and Twellman score to defeat D.C. and get back into playoff hunt
7-13	KC	L (2-4)	Cullen, Pineda Chacon score but Revs are the first to lose ten games
7-20	at MET	L (3-4)	Ralston, Hernandez, Twellman score; not enough as Diallo sinks Revs
7-24	COL	L (2-3)	Twellman, Wilson score but Rapids trio stop NE from leaving basement
7-27	at DC	W (1-0)	Heaps scores game-winner and Revs absorb D.C. barrage to win on road
8-10	at LA	L (1-2)	Hernandez goal not enough as Jones overpowers Revs on road
8-18	CHI	L (0-2)	Razov beats Revs with goal, as Twellman held scoreless for third straight
8-24	at CHI	W (2-1)	Harris and Kante score to help Revs' playoff chances as NE takes road points
8-28	COL	W (3-1)	Twellman's brace and Hernandez free kick lead Revs in late season push
8-31	at CLB	T (0-0/OT)	Draw with Fire puts Revs three points behind Metros in playoff chase
9-7	DC	W (3-0)	Twellman hat trick keeps Revs in chase and sets new team goals record
9-14	at DAL	W (2-1)	Revs continue quest to get into playoffs as Twellman scores twice
9-21	MET	W (3-0)	Early Twellman PK and two goals from Harris complete Revs turnaround

STATS KEY

GP = Games played; GS = Games started; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; Pts = Points; Sub = Substituted out; Ht = Height; Wt = Weight; GA = Goals against; GAA = Goals-against-average; PG = Penalty kick goals; PA = Penalty kick attempts; SO = Shutouts.



The New England Revolution starting lineup which battled the Chicago Fire in Game Three of their MLS Cup Playoff Quarterfinal series (left to right): Top Row - Jay Heaps, Leo Cullen, Aidin Brown, Brian Kamler, Taylor Twellman, Wolde Harris; Bottom Row - Daouda Kante, Steve Ralston, Daniel Hernandez, Rusty Pierce, Joey Franchino.





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