

CALIFORNIA VICTORY



2007 MEDIA AND FAN GUIDE

CONTENTS

<u>Ticket Information & Staff Directory</u>	4
<u>Stadium & Transport Information</u>	5
<u>2007 Regular Season Schedule</u>	6
<u>About the California Victory</u>	7
<u>Welcome from Team President Dmitry Piterman</u>	8
<u>2007 Victory Coaching Staff</u>	9
<u>2007 California Victory Roster</u>	11
<u>Q & A: Chris Schwarze</u>	21
<u>Deportivo Alavés</u>	23
<u>Pre-season Photos by Alan Wnuk</u>	24
<u>Q & A: Mike Muñoz</u>	26
<u>Soccer Tips from the Team</u>	27
<u>Our Sponsors and Community Partners</u>	28
<u>2007 California Victory Opponents</u>	29
<u>2006 USL-1 Season in Review</u>	33
<u>About the USL / The Open Cup</u>	34
<u>Watching the Victory on TV or Online</u>	35

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2007 Media and Fan Guide produced by **David Agrell**
mediainfo@californiavictorysoccer.com.
All California Victory photos were taken by **Alan Wnuk**.

TICKETS

Match tickets are available at Kezar Stadium prior to the game. However, to avoid congestion, we recommend purchasing tickets through our website at www.californiavictorysoccer.com.

Single game

\$12/adult, \$9/youth (18 and under), children 7 and under are always FREE

Multi-game packages

3 game package: \$30/adult, \$22/youth

5 game package: \$48/adult, \$36/youth

Group tickets (per game)

Minimum (10) - \$10/adult \$8/youth

Minimum (25) - \$9/adult \$7/youth

Minimum (50) - \$8/adult \$6/youth

Minimum (100+) - \$7/adult \$5/youth

Season Tickets

\$125/adult, \$95/youth

For youth clubs and leagues there are fundraising opportunities and discounted tickets available for every player. Please contact us for information.

STAFF DIRECTORY

<i>Owner</i>	Dmitry Piterman	
<i>GM</i>	Terry Fisher	tfisher@californiavictorysoccer.com
<i>Head Coach</i>	Glenn Van Straatum	glennvs@californiavictorysoccer.com
<i>Asst. Coaches</i>	Hugo Perez, Efrain Burgos	
<i>Team Manager</i>	Alan Wnuk	alanwnuk@yahoo.com
<i>Operations</i>	Mike Pizzo	ssfoccer@aol.com
<i>PR Director</i>	David Agrell	mediainfo@californiavictorysoccer.com
<i>Accounts</i>	Yuri Morales	californiavictory@gmail.com

CORPORATE OFFICE

California Victory
 425 Second Street, #605
 San Francisco, CA 94107
Telephone 415.593.1491
Fax 415.593.0151

www.californiavictorysoccer.com

KEZAR STADIUM

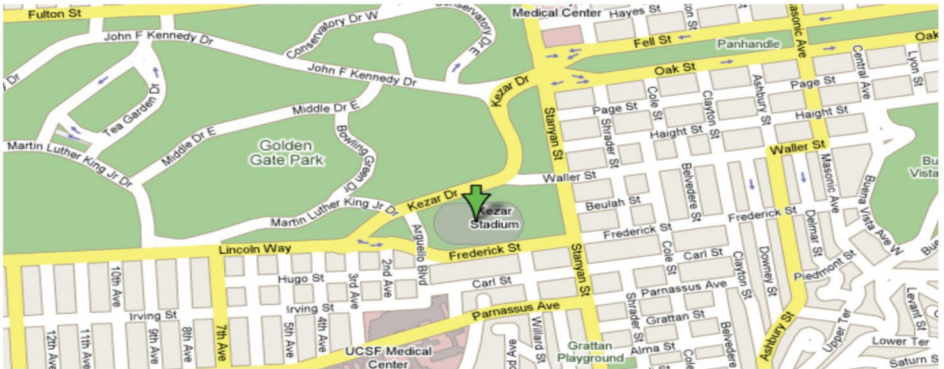
All home games will be played at Kezar Stadium, at the upper-end of Waller St. @ Stanyan St., at the corner of Golden Gate Park (Upper-Haight).

Kezar Stadium was built in 1924 and originally held over 50,000 spectators. It was once the home of both the Oakland Raiders and the San Francisco 49ers, and in 1971 scenes from the movie *Dirty Harry* were shot there. After suffering extensive damage during the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, Kezar was rebuilt to the 10,000-spectator capacity it is now.

DIRECTIONS: From 101 South/Bay Bridge, take 101 North and exit at Octavia Blvd. Follow Octavia as it bears left onto Fell St. Take Fell all the way up to Stanyan St, and make a left onto Stanyan by staying in the right lane of Fell. Kezar will be on your right about a quarter mile up Stanyan.

From 101 North/Golden Gate Bridge, exit Highway 1/ 19th Ave. Take 1 through Golden Gate Park, then turn right at Irving St., right at 20th Ave., and right onto Lincoln Way. Take Lincoln all the way up to Kezar Stadium (about a mile on your right).

PARKING: There is a parking lot off Stanyan St.



MUNI and BART

Bart users can get off at any downtown stop and take Muni up to Kezar.

From downtown/Market Street (including ferries and Bart stations), take Muni lines 7, 71 or 6. Ask the driver if you don't know where to get off.

From the Mission, Potrero Hill, Castro and Inner Richmond, take Muni line 33.

Sunset and Haight/Fillmore residents can take the N Judah.

<i>All times PST</i>	<i>home games in bold</i>	
Sat Apr 28	7:00 pm @ Vancouver Whitecaps	Swangard Stadium
Sat May 5	2:00 pm v Necaxa 1A (exhibition)	Kezar Stadium
Sat May 12	7:00 pm v Rochester Raging Rhinos	Kezar Stadium
Sat May 19	7:00 pm v Vancouver Whitecaps	Kezar Stadium
Fri May 25	7:00 pm @ Portland Timbers	PGE Park
Sat May 26	7:00 pm v Seattle Sounders	Kezar Stadium
Wed May 30	7:00 pm v Charleston Battery	Kezar Stadium
Thu Jun 7	7:00 pm v Vancouver Whitecaps	Kezar Stadium
Sat Jun 9	7:00 pm v Minnesota Thunder	Kezar Stadium
Sat Jun 16	4:55 pm @ Atlanta Silverbacks	Silverbacks Stadium
Fri Jun 22	4:35 pm @ Rochester Raging Rhinos	PAETEC Park
Sun Jun 24	3:05 pm @ Minnesota Thunder	Griffin Stadium
Thu Jun 28	7:00 pm v Portland Timbers	Kezar Stadium
Sun Jul 1	1:00 pm @ Montreal Impact	TBD
Wed Jul 4	6:00 pm v Miami FC	Kezar Stadium
Sat Jul 7	7:00 pm v Portland Timbers	Kezar Stadium
Fri Jul 13	8:00 pm @ Portland Timbers	PGE Park
Sun Jul 15	6:00 pm @ Portland Timbers	PGE Park
Tue Jul 17	7:00 pm v Atlanta Silverbacks	Kezar Stadium
Fri Jul 20	5:00 pm @ Puerto Rico Islanders	Loubriel Stadium
Sun Jul 22	3:00 pm @ Miami FC	Tropical Park
Thu Jul 26	5:05 pm @ Minnesota Thunder	Griffin Stadium
Sat Jul 28	7:00 pm v Puerto Rico Islanders	Kezar Stadium
Fri Aug 3	5:00 pm @ Carolina RailHawks	SAS Stadium
Sat Aug 11	1:30 pm @ Charleston Battery	Blackbaud Stadium
Thu Aug 16	7:00 pm v Montreal Impact	Kezar Stadium
Sat Aug 18	7:00 pm v Seattle Sounders	Kezar Stadium
Thur Sep 6	7:00 pm @ Seattle Sounders	Qwest Field
Sat Sep 8	7:00 pm v Carolina RailHawks	Kezar Stadium



ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA VICTORY 7

When Berkeley graduate Dmitry Piterman officially acquired the USL franchise in 2006, he was essentially combining his two great passions: a passion for the Bay Area – where he lives and attended college – and a passion for soccer, to which he devotes much of his life.

"The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the premier markets in the world," said Piterman last fall. "The world's best city and the world's most popular sport is a perfect match."

Piterman is also president of Spanish club Deportivo Alavés, and named the franchise "California Victory" after Alavés' home city of Vitoria-Gasteiz, in the Basque Country of Spain.

The Victory's Spanish connection makes it not only the first USL franchise owned by a professional European team, but adds an exciting dimension to the club: a handful of players will come from affiliate club Deportivo Alavés.

The agreement also puts a spotlight on some of the Victory's young players here who may be looking toward careers in Europe.

"There is definitely an opportunity for the younger players, as they'll be eager to play in Spain," said head coach Glenn Van Straatum. "That's what makes this team so unique. Our players are just a phone call away from playing in Europe."

The Victory has brought in seasoned professionals from Latin America, as well as talent from local colleges, MLS, and USL clubs. It's a team, says Van Straatum, that promises a lethal blend of disciplined, organized defense and relentless attack.

The club plays its home games at the legendary Kezar Stadium near Golden Gate Park. Kezar seats 10,000 people and was once the home of the 49ers and the Raiders.

Terry Fisher, a longtime U.S. Soccer executive and coach, is general manager, with Van Straatum, former U.S. international Hugo Perez and Efrain Burgos making up the coaching staff.

"Our home venue at historical Kezar Stadium captures the vision for our organization," said Fisher. "We look forward to bringing exciting soccer entertainment to our fans and a deep involvement in the sports community."

Welcome and thank you for supporting our first season in San Francisco!

The opportunity to extend the Deportivo Alavés family from Northern Spain to Northern California is special. The dream of creating the California Victory began several years ago with many alternative possibilities but in the end I trust that San Francisco is the best place for our new club.

This world-famous city and the historical venue, Kezar Stadium, will provide us with a fabulous backdrop to produce a winning and successful franchise.

We cannot do this without developing corporate partner-ships and a fan base to support our work. We promise to do our part to earn a place in the sports landscape of the greatest City in the world through hard work and a commitment to becoming a part of the fabric of the community over time.

Together we begin to write the history of your California Victory Pro Soccer Club. Please join us – it's a kick!

–DMITRY PITERMAN, Team President



Dmitry Piterman and USL President Francisco Marcos at Estadio Mendizorroza, Deportivo Alavés' home in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.



Glenn Van Straatum

GLENN VAN STRAATUM HEAD COACH

"Van Straatum is an accomplished player, coach and leader," said Terry Fisher, the Victory general manager. "He's a perfect fit for the enormous task of a pro-soccer startup in San Francisco. He demands professionalism for every aspect of the organization."

Van Straatum has always been associated with soccer at a high level. He comes from a Dutch-Surinamese soccer background and played for 3rd division Adult league as an 11-year-old in Suriname.

He went on to play for Transvaal S.V., a dual CONCACAF Club Champion, and captained the Suriname Youth National Team at age 16 and the Suriname Olympic/U23 Team at 18. After coming to the United States, he played for the

University of San Francisco on two NCAA championship teams (1978,1980) and is still listed as 9th on the All-Time WCC Single Season point-getter (1982 with 42 points on 16 goals and 10 assists), 10th as the WCC-Leader in Assists, and 15th on the All-Time USF single-season leading scorers list.

Van Straatum was assistant coach at USF. He has most recently served as an assistant director of coaching with the Bay Oaks youth club, and as a board member and coaching coordinator for the Jack London Youth Soccer Sports League in Oakland, California.



Hugo Perez

HUGO PEREZ ASSISTANT COACH

"Hugo Perez has a perspective that is unrivaled in the growth of US Soccer over the past 25 years," said Victory general manager Terry Fisher. "His record speaks volumes."

Perez was a creative midfielder with a legendary left foot. His play-making prowess earned him 73 caps for the US national team between 1984 and 1994, during which he scored 16 goals. He was instrumental in helping the United States qualify for the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, and in 1991 he was named US Soccer Athlete of the year.

Perez began his professional career at age 19 when he signed for the Los Angeles Aztecs of the NASL, and went on to be a member of the United States Summer Olympics squads of 1984 and 1988. His illustrious career took him all over the world including stays in France, Sweden, Saudi Arabia and

El Salvador, where he finished his playing days at C.D. FAS – the club where both his father and grandfather had played professionally.

Perez has devoted much of his life to coaching youth soccer, especially in Novato, Calif., where he coaches for the Novato Youth Soccer Association.



EFRAIN BURGOS FITNESS/GOALKEEPER COACH

"Efrain is an experienced coach who brings passion and character to the coaching staff," said head coach Glenn Van Straatum.

Born in El Salvador, Burgos played for 16 years as a professional, including many years at El Salvador giants C.D. FAS. In the 1980s he appeared for the El Salvador national team.

A dedicated coach of youth soccer, Burgos has coached the El Salvador U11 and U12 national teams, as well as numerous class I teams in the Bay Area. He holds a national A coaching license and currently coaches a Super Y league team at Bay Oaks Soccer Club in the East Bay.



1 DOMINIK JAKUBEK, GOALKEEPER

ht: 6-0 wt: 190

DOB: September 2, 1979

hometown: Lodi, Calif

college: California State University, Chico

Dominik Jakubek comes to the California Victory after playing indoor soccer with the California Cougars.

Jakubek was a 2003 first-team NCAA Division II All-American selection while helping Chico State to the National Championship match, registering 11 shutouts and a 0.99 goals-against average during the season. Jakubek also played two years at San Joaquin Delta College where he earned All-State honors, and one year at Sonoma State where he was named to the All-League and All-Far-West teams. While a Cougar, Jakubek was named the MISL Goalkeeper of the Month for March, 2006, before a stint at Columbus Crew of the MLS.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Dominik is a very athletic goalkeeper with good reflexes and who makes big saves. He's also very experienced."



2 LUIS AGUILAR, DEFENDER

ht: 5-8 wt: 160

DOB: January 29, 1984

hometown: Long Beach, Calif.

colleges: Rio Hondo College, Whittier, Calif., USF

Luis Aguilar is one of a handful of USF graduates to join the Victory for its inaugural season.

Aguilar received many honors playing collegiate soccer, including 2002 Athlete of the Year at Rio Hondo College while playing on the U23 California State Team that won back-to-back national championships. At USF he was a second-team All-West Coast Conference selection in 2004 and a first-team selection in 2005. He was then drafted to the California Cougars (MISL) as a second pick. Aguilar has also played for the San Francisco Seals and Ajax Orlando of the USL PDL.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Luis is a very diverse and skillful player who can defend and also be part of the attack."



3 KIEL MCCLUNG, DEFENDER

ht: 6-1 wt: 180
DOB: May 1, 1985
hometown: Palmdale, Calif.
college: UCLA

Kiel McClung joins the Victory after being chosen by the LA Galaxy as the 44th pick in the MLS Supplemental Draft.

McClung started 23 games for UCLA in his senior year and as co-captain helped the Bruins to the 2006 championship match. He was part of the 2003 UCLA defense that set a school record of 0.52 goals against. In 2004 he was a regular starter for the United States U-20 team. He was a three-year varsity starter at Quartz Hill High School, Calif., during which he scored 63 goals and recorded 53 assists.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Kiel is a versatile defender who can play on the right or in the middle. He combines well with fellow former-Bruin Eric Reed."



4 CAMERON DUNN, DEFENDER

ht: 5-11 wt: 170
DOB: February 13, 1984
hometown: Alta Loma, Calif.
college: University of California, Irvine

Cameron Dunn was selected by Chivas USA with its fourth-round pick (46th overall) in the 2007 MLS SuperDraft.

Dunn played 73 games for U.C. Irvine and was a team captain in both his junior and senior years. In 2006, he was named to the All-Big West Conference second team, and in 2005 was named to the All-Big West first team. During college, he also played for the Orange County Blue Stars (PDL). He was a three-year letterwinner, team captain and MVP at Alta Loma High School, while also running hurdles for the track team.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Cameron is a natural team leader and a tough-as-nails defender."



5 HUGO CASILLAS, DEFENDER

ht: 5-5 wt: 137

DOB: December 8, 1981

hometown: Guadalajara, Mexico

Hugo Noé Casillas Aldrete joins the Victory from UAG Tecos in Mexico, where he played from the age of 16.

In 1996 Casillas joined Tecos Reservas, and the following year he played in the Mexican 3rd division, where he recorded 10 goals and 10 assists in just 15 games. In 1999 he was MVP for 2nd division Tecoman, and in 2001 he made his major league debut with the Tecos first team.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Hugo is a very crafty player with a good eye on the game both offensively and defensively."



6 CHRIS SCHWARZE, DEFENDER

ht: 6-1 wt: 180

DOB: March 9, 1983

hometown: Camarillo, Calif.

college: University of San Francisco

Chris Schwarze played for Virginia Beach Mariners (USL-1) last year after being picked by FC Dallas in the 3rd round of the 2005 MLS Supplemental Draft (28th overall).

Schwarze played for the University of San Francisco from 2000–2004, and featured in the 2004 team that won its first West Coast Conference championship since 1993, earning him a first-team WCC All-Conference selection. He went on to become a regular starter in the heart of the Virginia Beach Mariner's defense.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Chris is a leader. He is someone we can build our team around and win games with."



7 CHUCK KIM, MIDFIELDER

ht: 5-8 wt: 145
 DOB: January 29, 1984
 hometown:

Chuck Kim is another young player who arrives in San Francisco with experience playing throughout Europe.

In 2002, at 18 years old, Kim left high school to play for USL (then A-league) club Pittsburgh Riverhounds. The Hawaii native then traveled to Europe to play for Lierse SK in Belgium. He later returned to the United States and has played for the Los Angeles Galaxy reserves.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Chucky has incredible speed on the wing and can be a handful for any back line as he has the ability to take players on."



8 JUAN EPITIÉ, FORWARD

ht: 5-10 wt: 165
 DOB: October 12, 1976
 hometown: Manresa, Spain
 nationality: Equatorial Guinea

Juan Ramón Epitié-Dyowe Roig joins the Victory from parent club Deportivo Alavés of Spain.

Epitié is an experienced forward who has played all over Spain, including stints at Racing Santander, CD Castellón and Recreativo de Huelva. During his time with Real Madrid B, he played alongside Barcelona ace Samuel Eto'o. He also represents the Equatorial Guinea National Team and has appeared in the African Cup of Nations.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Epi brings speed, strength and depth to the squad. He will give our attack another dimension and will only make the team better."



9 JOSH HANSEN, FORWARD

ht: 5-10 wt: 175

DOB: January 16, 1982

hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

college: University of San Francisco

Before joining the Victory, Josh Hansen was signed to a developmental contract by the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2006.

Hansen won various awards throughout college, including first-team All-West Coast Conference honors in 2002. In his senior year, he scored 21 goals and was named to the 2002 NSCAA All-Region team. As a professional, he was with the Seattle Sounders when they won the USL First Division championship in 2005. He had a successful spell at the Southern California Seahorses (PDL) in 2006, scoring eight goals in 15 appearances.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Josh is a quality forward and a quality finisher who will always score goals. I expect a lot from him this season."



10 MIKE MUÑOZ, MIDFIELDER

ht: 5-8 wt: 150

DOB: September 14, 1983

hometown: Los Alamitos, Calif.

college: University of California

Mike Muñoz was selected 3rd overall in the 2005 MLS Supplemental Draft by C.D. Chivas USA before signing for the Victory.

Muñoz started 60 out of 63 games for Cal, scoring 14 goals and recording 14 assists. In 2003 he was named Pac-10 Player of the Week (Oct. 7) and awarded first-team All-Pac-10 honors for a second straight year. He made his MLS debut against DC United and played two years with Chivas USA before ankle surgery ended his season. As a senior at Los Alamos High School he was named Sunset League Offensive MVP and Orange County Coaches Association MVP.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Mike is a key playmaker whose experience with Chivas will help establish our attack."



11 OMAR AGUAYO, MIDFIELDER

ht: 5-8 wt: 150
 DOB: April 4, 1982
 hometown: Guadalajara, Mexico

Omar Gerado Aguayo Renjeria joins the Victory having played for Chivas in Mexico.

Aguayo joined Chivas in 1998 and appeared in the Third, Second, Primera A and Primera divisions, and in 2006 he played for Querétaro FC. He represented Mexico's U17 national team in World Cup qualifiers in 1999 and again in 2001 for the U20s.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Omar is a quality left-sided player with a great strike and good pace. Expect big things from this midfielder."



12 JOSH BARTON, MIDFIELDER

ht: wt:
 DOB:
 hometown: San Diego
 college: California State, Northridge

Josh Barton joins the Victory having played three years in the USL.

As a senior Cal State Northridge, Barton earned honorable mention all-Big West honors. He then spent two years at USL First Division club Atlanta Silverbacks before joining the Cincinnati Kings (USL-2). In 2006 he was named to USL Second Division Second Team.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Josh is a strong, physical player who is versatile and can play anywhere on the field."



13 RICARDO SANCHEZ, MIDFIELDER

ht: 5-9 wt: 160

DOB: May 27, 1982

hometown: Guadalajara, Mexico

Ricardo Pascual Sanchez Moreno joins the Victory following a stint at Chivas in Mexico.

Sanchez has played all across Mexico, including for Chivas and Atlas in his hometown of Guadalajara. He also captained the Mexico U17 national team for the 1999 U17 World Cup in New Zealand.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Ricardo has incredible technique. He's getting physically stronger and is somebody we expect to grow with the team."



14 MATT FITZGERALD, DEFENDER

ht: 6-3 wt: 180

DOB: December 29, 1984

hometown: Castro Valley, Calif.

college: Saint Mary's College of California

Matt Fitzgerald was the Victory's second pick in the USL First Division College Player Draft.

As a freshman at Saint Mary's College, he was a first-team West Coast Conference selection and was named 2003 WCC Freshman of the Year. In 2004 he was a first-team All-WCC honoree. As a senior, Fitzgerald led Saint Mary's in points and was again named first-team WCC while also playing for the San Francisco Seals of the USL PDL. Fitzgerald was prepped at Castro Valley High School and was a four-year varsity player there.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Matt always endures. He's the type of player who gives everything he has in every game and every training session."



15 JOSÉ RETIZ, MIDFIELDER

ht: 6-0 wt: 170

DOB: January 22, 1979

born: Acapulco, Mexico

college: Rancho Santiago Junior College, Santa Ana, Calif.

José Retiz signed for the Victory having played for the Los Angeles Galaxy and the Columbus Crew of the MLS.

Retiz played collegiate soccer for Rancho Santiago Junior College in Santa Ana, Calif., scoring 21 goals and helping Rancho Santiago to a 47-1-3 record two seasons. He was drafted 29th overall by the Los Angeles Galaxy in the 2000 MLS SuperDraft before spending two seasons with Mexican side Santos Laguna. He returned to the MLS in 2006 with the Columbus Crew, where he played 22 games.

Coach Van Straatum says: "José is a rock in the midfield defensively and can help build attacks from the back. He's a highly regarded player."



16 YURI MORALES, FORWARD

ht: 6-0 wt: 175

DOB: September 30, 1981

hometown: Santa Cruz, Calif.

college: University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Yuri Morales is a well-traveled attacking midfielder who has playing experience across the USL and Europe.

While at Amherst, Yuri Morales held the University of Massachusetts record for most career assists (28) and was a first-team New England and first-team All-Atlantic 10 Conference selection in 2003. Morales went on to play for Viborg FF and Ølstykke FC of Denmark before stints with USL clubs Portland Timbers and Puerto Rico Islanders FC. At Harbor High School, Santa Cruz, Morales was awarded the 1998 Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League scoring title with 26 goals and was named league MVP.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Yuri is someone who has plays with heart. He works hard on and off the field and can be very dangerous in the box."



18 RAUL PALOMARES, MIDFIELDER

ht: 5-11 wt: 160

DOB: February 6, 1983

hometown: Inglewood, Calif.

Raul Palomares is a well-traveled midfielder who has played in Germany, Croatia and for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Palomares made his international debut for the United States U17 team in 1998. He has appeared for the US U20 National Team, trained with FC Kaiserslautern youth and reserve teams of the German Bundesliga, and played professionally in Croatia. He attended a year at Crossroads High School, Santa Monica, Calif., earning Rookie of the Year honors after helping his team finish the season with a 20-1-0 record.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Raul is a player with experience who has significantly improved. He's another player that can make a big impact this season."



19 DANIEL SMITH, DEFENDER

ht: 6-3 wt: 195

DOB: February 11, 1984

hometown: Phoenix, AZ

colleges: Oregon State; Yavapai College; Saint Mary's, Calif.

Daniel Smith joins the Victory following a stint at USL-1 team Charleston Battery.

While at St. Mary's, Smith missed most of the 2004 season because of an injury. At Yavapai Community College, AZ., he helped his team to a conference title and a national championship. In 2001, at Oregon State University, he played in 19 games as a freshman. He was prepped at Desert Mountain High School, Scottsdale, AZ., where his club team captured six straight state championships and three regional titles.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Daniel is a solid left-footed player who is versatile and can play in the middle or on the left."



21 RICKY HERRON, DEFENDER

ht: 6-1 wt: 185

DOB: June 16, 1986

hometown: Sunrise, Florida

college: Andrew College, Florida

Ricky Herron played with St. James in Jamaica and the Jamaica under-15 national team before moving to the United States.

In 2004 Herron attended Georgia Perimeter College, Fla., where he helped the team become National Junior College Athletic Association regional champions. The following year, Herron led Andrew College, Fla., to NJCAA regional runners-up and was named NJCAA first-team All-Region and Defensive MVP. At Piper High School, Sunrise, Fla., he was twice a first-team All-County selection and Defensive MVP.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Ricky is a strong and athletic defensive player who brings depth to the team."



22 ERIC REED, GOALKEEPER

ht: 6-0 wt: 190

DOB: December 7, 1983

hometown: Mission Viejo, Calif.

college: UCLA

Eric Reed joins the California Victory as the club's first pick in the USL First Division College Player Draft (2nd overall).

Reed was a consistent first team starter at UCLA. In 2005 he was a first-team All-Pac-10 honoree after being ranked sixth in the nation in goals against average (0.60). While at college, he played for USL PDL team Southern California Seahorses, and was the 2006 PDL Goalkeeper of the Year after leading the league with a 0.62 goals against average. He was a four-year starter at Laguna Hills High School, Calif., during which he earned a handful of United States U-18 caps.

Coach Van Straatum says: "Eric has a good, strong presence at the back, and he's excellent coming off the line. He's also a great character both on and off the field."

Chris Schwarze is a talismanic figure in the middle of the field, whether playing a defensive or more attacking role. We asked our fan club what they wanted to know about the former-USF and Virginia Beach player, and this is what they came up with ...

What do you see as the biggest difference between your role with the Victory and your role with the Mariners? – *Raymond Puzey.*

Well, while I was at Virginia, I was a rookie. My role was to contribute as much as possible and learn from the veterans. As a rookie I was just focused on making a mark on the team and trying to remain in the starting 11. With the Victory, I've assumed a leadership role. I feel as though I have to set a standard to which the other players can follow and respect. So, I guess the responsibility factor is the big difference.

From the pictures we've seen of you, it seems like you have a big family. Who are your favorite cousins, and why? – *Walt and Hillary Wolfe.*

My favorite cousins would have to be Addie and Fletcher. They are always a lot of fun and always up for some kind of fun or a competitive board game (I come from a competitive family). Although, if they make me play *Apples to Apples* one more time, they might fall down the list. ;-)

Who are you favorite players of all time and why? – *John L.*

Roy Keane is one of them. He wasn't the flashiest player but the passion he played with always inspired me to want to go out and play. Zidane is one as well.

What would you be doing if you weren't playing soccer? – *Olivia M.*

I would be working in advertising putting my degree to good use.

What other sports do you follow? What are your teams? – *Roberto.*

Basketball, golf and action sports. For teams its got to be the Lakers and Dodgers. With footie, it's Tottenham Hotspur in the English Premiership.

What do you think of the Victory so far? Will it compete in its first season? – *Terry F.*

I think we have a good group of guys who are eager to make a statement to the league. It's difficult being an expansion team with players coming together that have never played with one another. But I feel we've made great strides in pre-season and have taken the necessary steps to turn this into a competitive squad this year.

Did you play against any of your current teammates when you were in college? And if so, who owned? – *Bradley D.*

Yes, I played against a couple of the guys in college. Daniel Smith and Matt Fitzgerald played for St. Mary's. As a WCC rival to USF, we owned them. I played UCLA my sophomore year and Eric Reed was there as well as Kiel McClung. We tied. But, I never got the best of Mike Muñoz who played at rival Cal. As painful as it is to say, they owned us in college.

I saw you during a pre-season game and you were cracking up some of the other players with what you were saying. Who is your favorite comedian? – *Sally A.*

It's got to be a toss up between Eddie Murphy, Dave Chapelle, Robin Williams or Jerry Seinfeld.



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CONTROL



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Deportivo Alavés was founded in 1921 and plays its home games at the 19,200-seater Estadio Mendizorroza (*Mendizorroza Futbol-zelaia* in Basque), in the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz in the Basque Country of Northern Spain.



California Victory president Dmitry Piterman became the majority shareholder of Alavés in 2004 and the club quickly won promotion to La Liga.

However, the team last played in La Liga in the 2005/2006 season and is currently in the Spanish Segunda División.

Alavés' most thrilling moment in recent history was the incredible 2001 UEFA Cup final, when they were defeated English giants Liverpool 5-4 after extra time.

The club is known for its passionate fans and diehard attitude. We are all looking forward to a successful year of soccer in Spain this coming season!

The official Deportivo Alavés website is at www.alaves.com.



*Estadio
Mendizorroza*



(left) **Juán Eptitié** chases a loose ball v Fiji. The Victory won 3-2.

(below) **Yuri Morales** gets upended v Fiji.



(left) **Kiel McClung** goes in hard on **Cobi** while **Hugo Casillas** looks on. The LA Galaxy won the game 1-0.



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Silicon Valley Soccer Association is a coed league with divisions from Premier down to D4 (recreational). Its Premier teams host players of the highest caliber and have featured top college and professional players.



www.peninsula-soccer-league.org/
(408) 292-1820

The Peninsula Soccer League, which is in its 50th year, was founded by the late Hall-of-Famer Mr. Umberto Abronzino. This men's league has five divisions with 42 teams covering territory from South San Francisco to San Jose.

Mike Muñoz played his college soccer across the Bay at Cal before signing with Chivas USA – but now he's in San Francisco playing his brand of creative soccer in the Victory midfield. We asked Mike if he would mind the Victory fan club getting deep and personal with him, and he kindly obliged ...

What attracted you to the Victory? – *Raymond P.*

The Bay Area no doubt was a huge factor in my decision playing here. I played at Cal for four years and absolutely fell in love with the Bay. San Francisco is a world-class city and to be able to play professionally here is ideal.

What music do you listen to and what are your favorite bands? – *Raymond P.*

Music varies to my mood. When I'm mellow, which is most of the time, I love jammin' to some reggae, mostly the old stuff like Marley and Steel Pulse. My favorite band is AFI. They are unreal live. My pre-game jams would have to be some intense trance/dance music. I think Paul Oakenfold is a genius.

Who is your favorite player of all time? – *Baz.*

Zidane. He's so inspiring that even someone who never played the game could appreciate his beauty within the game.

I saw a picture of you playing video games with Josh Hansen and Kiel McClung. What were you guys playing? – *Morgan A.*

Without a doubt it was *Mario Kart*. We all hate to lose and love to win, so there have been some intense sessions within the house. I believe I am the reigning champ.

What has been the high point of your career so far? – *Alan S.*

I feel my career has not yet reached the highest point. I'm looking to always improve. But so far I would have to say training with Chivas of Guadalajara for a month in Mexico. The level of play, the lifestyle, the fans – it's something I'll never forget. Going against Omar Bravo everyday in training was special.

What would you be doing if you weren't playing soccer? – *Olivia M.*

It's hard to imagine life without soccer, but I would probably still be at school getting my masters. I love history so teaching would be exciting.

What other sports do you follow? What are your teams? – *Alejandro.*

I love the Lakers, Dodgers – I'm really an LA boy when it comes down to it. I respect American football the most. In every play those athletes have to go in hard or else they'll get crushed.

How do you like the Bay Area so far, and what do you miss most about Southern California? – *Kerry.*

I hope to reside in the Bay Area in the future. I think it would be wonderful to raise a family up here. Although SoCal has its attractions, I miss my parents as well as my girlfriend. They are the most supportive people in my life and it gets tough without them.

What do you think of US Soccer at the moment? – *Jess.*

US soccer is reaching an exciting time right now. I feel with Bob Bradley running the full national team we are in good hands. He may not have the big name, but there isn't a coach out there that works harder than him. He really knows how to get the best out of his players.

LOVE THE GAME “Most professional soccer players have an undying passion for the game. They aren't just players, but also fans. If you can find that passion within you, you will have the desire to train and put in the work day-in, day-out. And watch soccer! You can learn so much from watching the best.”
– **Mike Muñoz.**



BE TOUGH “Play hard, play strong – but above all, play fair.” – **Ricky Herron**

BE CREATIVE “Never be afraid to try new moves and tricks on the soccer field because one day you might be remembered for it.” – **Luis Aguilar**

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF “Don't *think* you can play, believe in your talents and *know* you can play.” – **Luis Aguilar**



BE VERSATILE “Try to practice using both feet when you play soccer.” – **Yuri Morales**

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE “Play as much and as often as possible. It's the best way to become a better player.” – **Chris Schwarze**



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2006 Record: 10–13–5 (Eighth in USL–1)

President: Stephen Pratten

Head Coach: Jason Smith



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101 Soccer Park Drive

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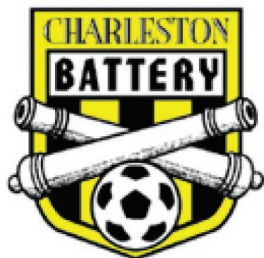
FAX: 919.859.2332

<http://www.carolinarailhawks.com/>

2006 Record: Expansion team for 2007

President: Chris Economides

Head Coach: Scott Schweitzer



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1990 Daniel Island Dr.

Charleston, SC 29492

Tel: 843.971.4625

FAX: 843.856.6958

<http://www.charlestonbattery.com/>

2006 Record: 13–7–8 (Fourth in USL–1)

President: Nigel Cooper

Head Coach: Mike Anhaeuser



MIAMI FC

7900 SW 40th Street

Miami, FL 33156

Tel: 305.377.2700

FAX: 305.377.0802

<http://www.miamifc.com/>

2006 Record: 11–11–6 (Fifth in USL–1)

President: Aaron Davidson

Head Coach: Chiquinho de Assis

**MINNESOTA THUNDER**

2124 University Ave. West, Suite 215
 St. Paul, MN 55114
 Tel: 651.917.8326
 FAX: 651.917.1088
<http://www.mnthunder.com/>

2006 Record: 7-15-6 (Last in USL-1)

President: Jim Frosolid

Head Coach: Amos Magee

**MONTREAL IMPACT**

8770 Langelier Blvd., Ste 224
 Montreal, Qc H1P 3C6
 Tel: 514.328.3668
 FAX: 514.328.1287
<http://www.montrealimpact.com/>

2006 Record: 14-5-9 (First in USL-1)

President: Joey Saputo

Head Coach: Nick De Santis

**PORTLAND TIMBERS**

1844 SW Morrison
 Portland, OR 97225
 Tel: 503.553.5400
 FAX: 503.553.5405
<http://www.portlandtimbers.com/>

2006 Record: 7-15-6 (Eleventh in USL-1)

President: Jack Cain

Head Coach: Gavin Wilkinson

**PUERTO RICO ISLANDERS**

#1565 Highway #2
 Bayamon, PR 00959
 Tel: 787.642.3730
 FAX: 787.725.1339/785-5159
<http://www.puertoricoislandersfc.com/>

2006 Record: 10-10-8 (Sixth in USL-1)

President: Andres Guillemard

Head Coach: Toribio Rojas



ROCHESTER RAGING RHINOS

460 Oak Street
Rochester, NY 14608
Tel: 585.454.5425
FAX: 585.454.7000
<http://www.rhinosoccer.com/>

2006 Record: 13-4-11 (Second in USL-1)

President: Frank DuRoss

Head Coach: Laurie Calloway



SEATTLE SOUNDERS

800 Occidental Avenue S.
Seattle, Washington 98134-1200
Tel: 206.622.3415
FAX: 425.643.3515
<http://www.seattlesounders.net/>

2006 Record: 11-13-4 (Seventh in USL-1)

GM: Bart Wiley

Head Coach: Brian Schmetzer



VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

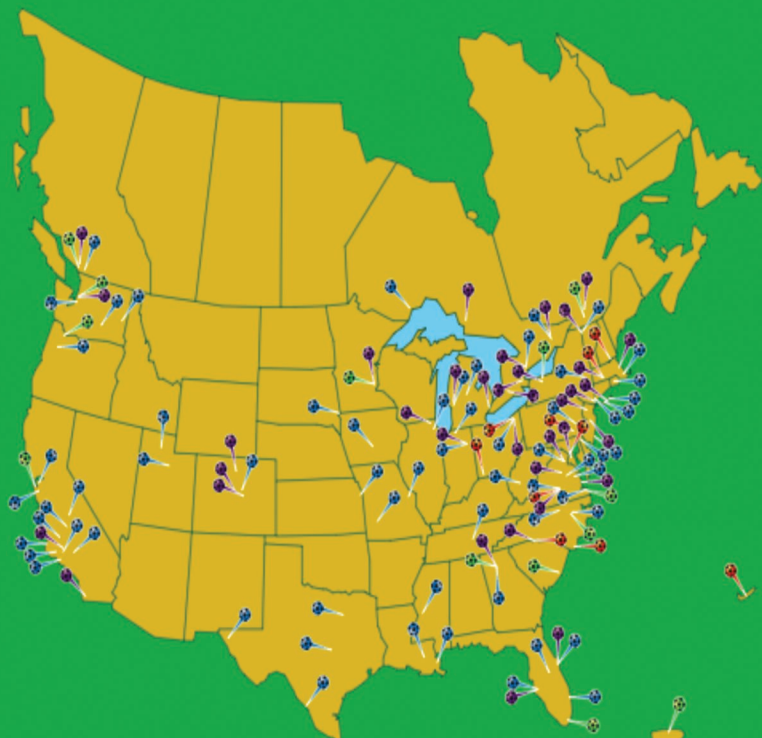
Suite 550, 375 Water Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5C6
Tel: 604.669.9283
FAX: 604.684.5173
<http://www.whitecapsfc.com/>

2006 Record: 12-6-10 (Fourth in USL-1)

GM: Bob Lenarduzzi

Head Coach: Bob Lilley

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USL First Division



USL Second Division



USL Premier Development League



USL W-League

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With all these teams, there is sure to be a team near you. Don't know which team is closest?

Log on to USLsoccer.com for a complete list of teams.

The headlines and attention at the opening of the USL's top flight this season centered around one name: Romario. The 1994 Brazilian World Cup MVP signed on for the season with USL First Division expansion side Miami FC in April. Sneaking into that spotlight early on was Vancouver striker Joey Gjertsen, who got off to a hot start, and then Seattle rookie Cam Weaver. Weaver and Romario battled throughout the season for the league lead in scoring, eventually finishing tied in points (39) and goals (18) to share the season scoring honors.

Gjertsen's all-around performance that saw him finish third in points (31), fourth in goals (12) and second in assists (7) garnered the Most Valuable Player honor. He went on to lead his Whitecaps to the USL First Division title as the fourth-seeded side in the playoffs.

They downed Miami 6-1 in a cross-continental opening round series before getting past the regular season champion Montreal Impact with a two-goal series overtime session away from home for a 2-0 aggregate victory over a club that dominated the league defensively for a fourth straight season.

The Vancouver Whitecaps captured their first USL First Division Championship in their 14th season in the league with Head Coach Bob Lilley ending his winless playoff history in Rochester (0-7-0) with a 3-0 victory Saturday night. It was the first win by the visiting team in league history in a single game final in 16 occasions.

A Gjertsen cross into the box in the 45th minute opened the scoring when it was deflected by Rhino defender Nate Craft just inside the far post for an own

goal and a 1-0 lead for the visitors seconds before the break.

Nine minutes into the second half Gjertsen set up the second goal. Charging down the right side of the field and into the box, he sent the ball into the center of the box as a defender came sliding in and found Tony Donatelli open 14 yards out. Donatelli took a touch to set up his shot, burying the ball over the shoulder of Scott Vallow from 13 yards out.

From there, the Vancouver midfield and defense clamped down on the play, limiting the Rhinos opportunities the remainder of the second half.

The final goal in the 86th minute was a stunner as Sita-Taty Matondo came off the bench to score within seconds of entering the game. A through ball up the middle from David Testo sent Matondo on a breakaway that drew Vallow out. Matondo beat Vallow outside the box and slipped

the ball home for the commanding lead to seal the championship.

Jeff Clarke was honored as the USL First Division Championship Game Most Valuable Player for his play at midfield.

Despite losing Greg Sutton, who went on to win a fourth straight Goalkeeper of the Year honor, to injury, the Impact continued its defensive form in the league, allowing a league-low 15 goals in 28 games for a third straight season.

Gabriel Gervais earned his third Defender of the Year honor in four years while leading the defensive unit that helped back-up Andrew Weber tally a goals against average just .07 behind Sutton's 0.50 as the pair finished the season with nearly identical numbers. Montreal's dominance earned the club a second consecutive regular season title, keeping the Commissioner's Cup in their possession.



UNITED SOCCER LEAGUES



As United Soccer Leagues starts its third decade of operation, soccer at all levels continues to grow in the U.S., Canada, and Caribbean. The largest organization of elite-level soccer leagues in North America, United Soccer Leagues is dedicated to growing the sport at the grassroots level in every community. The USL First Division and Second Division (North American men's professional soccer), the USL Premier Development League (U23 North American men's amateur), the USL W-League (North American women's amateur), the USL Super-20 League (U20 North American men's and women's amateur) and the USL Super

Y-League (North American boy's and girl's elite youth amateur) have provided a platform for thousands of players to reach their dreams since 1986. This vision and commitment to develop a soccer nation by fans, investors, administrators, coaches, and players has created the foundation for the growth of the sport, while presenting affordable, exciting family entertainment in over 100 cities and towns on the continent.

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USL FIRST DIVISION



Exceptional competitive soccer lives in the USL First Division, USL's highest level of professional soccer in the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. The 2007 campaign features a 13-team format playing 28 regular season matches, 14 home and 14 away. The USL First Division schedule is augmented by participation in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, and various exhibitions. The development of stadiums and world-class players from over 35 countries provides affordable family entertainment for over one million fans each year.

LAMAR HUNT U.S. OPEN CUP

The Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup is a competition open to all United States Soccer Federation (USSF) affiliated teams, from amateur adult club teams all the way up to the top professional clubs of Major League Soccer.

The competition dates back to 1914, when it was known as the National Challenge Cup. The competition was, in modern times, known just as the U.S. Open Cup, but was renamed the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup in 1999 to honor Lamar Hunt, one of American soccer's most important patrons. The winners of the Cup are currently awarded the Dewar Cup, donated by Sir Thomas Dewar for the promotion of soccer in America in 1914. The Cup was retired in 1979, but brought back into use by the USASA in 1997, and is on permanent display at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, New York.

The current holder is Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer.

FOX SOCCER CHANNEL

The California Victory will feature in three live Friday night games on Fox Soccer Channel this season. The TV schedule includes road games against Portland Timbers on July 13 and Puerto Rico Islanders on July 20, before facing fellow-expansion team Carolina RailHawks on August 3. All games will be broadcast at 5:00 p.m. PST.

United Soccer Leagues and Fox Soccer Channel announced that Fox Soccer Channel has acquired the exclusive English-language television rights to select Friday night USL First Division matches and all USL League Championship games, a projected 27-game schedule annually, through the 2009 season. The deal also includes the broadband and mobile rights for USL on FSC matches.

The 2007 USL on Fox Soccer Channel broadcast schedule kicks off on the second week of the USL season with the first of 24 weekly USL First Division matches, the largest schedule of nationally televised matches in USL First Division history. The USL-1 television schedule includes the second legs of a quarterfinal playoff series and a semifinal playoff series. It comes to a close with the USL First Division Championship Saturday, September 29. Additional shows include three episodes of USL Breakaway, a behind-the-scenes feature and highlights show that debuted in 2006. USL Breakaway will air three times during the months of June, July and September; exact telecast details will be announced at a later date.

Fox Soccer Channel offers the most comprehensive coverage of world-class soccer available in the United States, including Major League Soccer, the Barclays English Premier League, Argentine First Division and Italian Serie A; as well as global tournaments such as the UEFA Cup, UEFA Women's Championship, English FA Cup, FIFA Club World Cup, CONCACAF Champions' Cup, CONCACAF Gold Cup, and FA Community Shield. The Official Broadcast Partner of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Fox Soccer Channel also televises United Soccer Leagues and NCAA Division I college soccer matches. The channel reaches more than 29 million cable and satellite households in the U.S. and Caribbean.

USL LIVE: www.USLLive.com

The California Victory is featuring in a partnership between USL and Turner Broadcasting that provides exclusive online video streaming of the Victory and other USL First Division teams, beginning April 2007 through the 2009 season.

The matches, which cannot be found on traditional broadcast or cable television distribution, are available on the new broadband channel USL Live at www.USLLive.com.

With full-screen video delivered right to the computer, USL Live provides front row access to USL events whenever fans want-live or on-demand replay. Consumers can watch USL First Division matches live or on-demand on a per-event basis or with a monthly all-event pass or season-long pass.

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