

SPECIAL ISSUE

DIEGO ALL GROWN UP:

► Fagundez opens up
on what inspires him,
fatherhood and more

PLUS:

- Geoff Cameron
- Dell'Apa: A new
breed of owners
- Kristine Lilly

NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL

Summer 2018

50

MOST INFLUENTIAL IN NEW ENGLAND SOCCER



EMPOWERING ALL ATHLETES
TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



EMPOWERS
PERFORMANCE

empowersperformance.com



TOM CARDWELL
GOALKEEPER

RALF FARRAHMAN
FC SCHWABE

DIEGO LÓPEZ
FC SCHWABE

ALEX MURRI
FC SCHWABE

38 70 931
REUSCH PRISMA SUPREME
C3 FUSION ORTHO-TEC™
Our German engineered and manufactured C3 FUSION FOAM is a C3 foam base randomly sprinkled with hard ground and wet traction latex foam on the surface. Additional C3 foam at the palm of the hand. Ergonomic EXTRA Palm Embossing. Pro-Flex™ technology. Free-floating two piece Ortho-Tec™ finger and thumb. AirVentSystem™ and Advanced Shockshield™. Additional technical information go to reuschUSA.com

38 70 954
REUSCH PURE CONTACT
C3 FUSION
Our German engineered and manufactured C3 FUSION FOAM is a C3 foam base randomly sprinkled with hard ground and wet traction latex foam on the surface. The Extended Lower Palm™ foam over the wristband area gives the keeper additional control of the ball when distributing. Neoprene backhand with silicone accents. Asymmetric slip-on cuff with integrated strap™. Evolution Negative Cut™ ESS with negative waves. Additional technical information go to reuschUSA.com

38 71 700
REUSCH MATCH PRIME
PADDED LONG SLEEVE
100% breathable polyester that is Reusch MMS™ Cool (Moisture Management System). This fabric helps wick away any moisture, keeping the player cooler, dryer and more comfortable when playing. Padded elbows. Accent piping detail on the front of the jersey. Includes neck tape for more comfort. Full line of apparel reuschUSA.com

38 10 701
REUSCH MATCH PRIME
UNPADDED SHORT
CONTENT: 100% breathable polyester that is Reusch MMS™ Cool. This fabric wicks away moisture keeping the player cooler and dryer. Accent piping detail on the side of the short. Full line of apparel reuschUSA.com

➤➤ REUSCH SUMMER GOALKEEPER CAMPS

Academy One Goalkeeping
College Goalkeeper Camp
And College Prep Camp
July 16, 2018 - July 21, 2018
(Sunday - Saturday)
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's, Maryland

The best and most demanding camp in the country. This is for college keepers and keepers wanting to play in college and/or the highest level possible. Please contact us through the web site about registering.
www.AcademyOneGoalkeeping.com

Top Of The Line Goalkeeping Stick Time Sports

Agawam, MA March 1, 8, 15, 22
Please check our Facebook at
<https://m.facebook.com/topofthelinegk/>
Contact us at: topofthelinegk@gmail.com

OUR STARTING LINEUP

Summer 2018

NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL

NESoccerJournal.com

@NESoccerJournal

/NESoccerJournal

Founded 2013

Volume VI, Number 4

© 2018 Seamans Media, Inc.

PUBLISHER

Eric Seamans eric@NESoccerJournal.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Beato editor@NESoccerJournal.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR / SENIOR WRITER

Kyle McCarthy kyle@NESoccerJournal.com

STAFF WRITER / SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Jonathan Sigal jsigal@NESoccerJournal.com

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTORS

Nick Williams nick@seamansmedia.com

Terrence Butt terrence@NESoccerJournal.com

CLIENT RELATIONS

Janet Norton janet@seamansmedia.com

Michelle Seamans michelle@seamansmedia.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS/WRITERS

Don Cameron • Mike Zhe

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tim Bresnahan • Frank Dell'Apa • Nicholas Frazier
Craig Forde • Kevin Henkin • Jay Kumar
Kristine Lilly • Julie Nicoletti • Brian O'Connell
Brien O'Connor • Adam Scott • Phil Shore

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dave Arnold • John Crouch • Mike Gridley

COVER PHOTO

David Silverman/New England Revolution

FREQUENCY

New England Soccer Journal is published nine times per year by Seamans Media, Inc. It is distributed free of charge to select indoor soccer training facilities and specialty soccer retailers throughout New England. Subscription rates: \$34.99 (one year), \$64.99 (two years). All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the written permission of Seamans Media, Inc.

CONTACT US

ADVERTISING 617-773-9955, ext. 223
advertising@NESoccerJournal.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS 617-773-9955

PRINT SeamansMedia.com/nestprint

DIGITAL SeamansMedia.com/nestfree

FEEDBACK — feedback@NESoccerJournal.com



SeamansMedia

SeamansMedia.com
552 Adams Street, Suite 201
Milton, MA 02186
Phone: 617-773-9955

OUR PUBLICATIONS

New England Soccer Journal NESoccerJournal.com
New England Hockey Journal hockeyjournal.com
New York Hockey Journal NYHockeyJournal.com
New England Lacrosse Journal laxjournal.com
New England Baseball Journal baseballjournal.com
New England Ski Journal skijournal.com

OUR MISSION

To inspire and inform amateur athletes and their supporters by sharing compelling stories and insightful advice to help further their development throughout their careers.

50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND SOCCER



DIEGO FAGUNDEZ

8 Now 23 and a new father, the former teen sensation reflects on his pro journey and what the future holds.

GEOFF CAMERON

12 He should be in Russia playing in his second World Cup, but New England's most accomplished player — with both his country and club falling short — could be heading home.



INFLUENCERS BY CATEGORY

PRO PLAYERS	11	TEAM OWNERS	24
COLLEGE COACHES	14	REVS BRAINTRUST	25
YOUTH COACHES	17	OPPORTUNITY PROVIDERS	26
HEAD HONCHOS	20	OPINION MAKERS	28
BUSINESS EXECS	22	LIVING LEGENDS	29

FEATURES



- DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY: BOYS 32
- DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY: GIRLS 33
- CLUB SPOTLIGHT: ECNL 34
- CLUB SPOTLIGHT: NEP 36
- 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP 38
- SOCCERTOWN DIGITAL ONLY

COLUMNISTS

- FRANK DELL'APA 24
- KRISTINE LILLY 29
- THE SOCCER DAD 30
- THE VOLUNTEER COACH 31
- THE MENTAL EDGE 39
- TRAIN LIKE A CHAMP 40
- SOCCER NUTRITION 41

DEPARTMENTS

- AROUND THE REGION 5
- BUYER'S GUIDE 36
- NEW ENGLAND PROS DIGITAL ONLY
- HANGIN' OUT WITH 42

NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL

OUR NEW WEBSITE
NESoccerJournal.com

COMING SOON

Including bonus coverage of:

- Prep and high schools
- Colleges (Division 1, 2 and 3)
- Academy and club soccer
- ... and more!

AROUND THE REGION

Shaffelburg, Suski, Tahiru lead Gatorade Players of the Year

Local prep stars **Jacob Shaffelburg** (Berkshire School), **Michael Suski** (Loomis Chaffee/Avon, Conn.) and **Michael Tahiru** (Hebron Academy) earned a place among the six New England players revealed as Gatorade state Player of the Year winners June 6.

High school products in **Patrick O'Hara** (South Burlington High/South Burlington, Vt.), **Jon Sherman** (South Kingstown High, Wakefield, R.I.) and **Taylor Silverstein** (Concord High/Concord, N.H.) joined Shaffelburg and Suski as the New England-based winners.

New England Soccer Journal Prep Offensive Player of the Year Suski claimed a place on the shortlist for Gatorade National Player of the Year honors after recording 40 goals and 12 assists for Class A champion Loomis Chaffee. He is verbally committed to Boston College in 2019.

Shaffelburg had 16 goals and 12 assists to help spur perennial prep power Berkshire to the Class A title game. He's committed to Virginia in 2019.

New England Soccer Journal Prep Player of the Year Tahiru completed his time at Hebron with a 42-goal campaign and a Class C title. He plans to start his college career at Lehigh this fall.

Bucknell commit O'Hara retained Vermont honors by leading South Burlington to the Division 1 state title with 21 goals and 20 assists.

Sherman spurred South Kingstown's run to the Div. 1 title game with 17 goals and eight assists during his senior season. He's headed to Rhode Island this fall.

Saint Anslem commit Silverstein capped his career with a Div. 1 state title. The Concord Monitor Player of the Year scored 17 goals.

Gatorade plans to unveil the girls state winners June 18.

Locals receive U.S. youth call-ups

Four local players were included for concurrent U.S. under-17 and U.S. under-16 training camps held June 2-10 in Bradenton, Fla.

FC Greater Boston Bolts goalkeeper **Marzuq Puckerin** (Cambridge, Mass.) and NYCFC duo **Andres Jasson** (Greenwich, Conn.) and **Harrison Robledo** (Greenwich, Conn.) earned berths in the under-17 camp, while New England Revolution Academy goalkeeper **Eliot Jones** (New Britain, Conn.) kept his place on the U.S. under-16 roster for the camp.

U.S. under-16 coach and former Revolution midfielder **Shaun Tsakiris** led the camp with under-17 coach **John Hack-**

worth included as an assistant on the senior national team trip through Ireland and France. ...

Lilly Reale (Hingham, Mass.) and **Allyson Sentnor** (Hanson, Mass.) featured in the U.S. under-15 side for a training camp and a pair of matches in the Netherlands June 3-13.

Connecticut Fusion thrive in UWS debut

Former Central Connecticut State standout **Tori Sousa** (Nashua, N.H.) fueled UWS expansion side Connecticut Fusion to three wins in their first four matches. Sousa was tied for the league lead with four goals as the Farmington, Conn.-based team started brightly. ...

Worcester Smiles also made their debut last month. The Worcester, Mass.-based group — coached by Becker women's soccer coach **Anthony Cosky** (Boylston, Mass.) — lost its first two games at Foley Stadium before securing their first victory with a 1-0 win over New England Mutiny. Holy Cross midfielder **Sydney Fisher** (Pomfret, Conn.) scored in the victory. ...

New England Mutiny forward **Kate Howath** once again was among the UWS top scorers with three goals through the first month of the season.

Black Rock makes strong start

PDL side Black Rock FC announced its arrival in the fourth tier with a five-match unbeaten run in Northeast Division play. Berkshire School alumnus **Ifunanyachi Achara** scored a team-best four goals during that stretch as the Lakeville, Conn.-based side illustrated the benefits of their prep school backbone in the early stages of the campaign.

UMass Lowell midfielder **Dario Jovanovski** paced the Boston Bolts with four goals, while **Emilio Ycaza's** three goals spurred GPS Portland Phoenix to eight points in the first six matches.

Mewis, Naeher prep for tournament

Samantha Mewis (Hanson, Mass.) and **Alyssa Naeher** (Seymour, Conn.) maintained their places as the U.S. women's national team welcomed China for a pair of friendlies in early June.

The matches served as the final preparations for the Tournament of Nations this summer against Japan (July 26, Kansas City, Kan.), Australia (July 29, East Hartford, Conn.) and Brazil (Aug. 2, Bridgeview, Ill.).

If you have an item for Around the Region, email it to editor@NESoccerJournal.com

CUSHING ACADEMY



ADVANCE
YOUR SOCCER
EXPERIENCE TO
THE NEXT LEVEL

With rigorous programs in academics, athletics, and the arts, Cushing Academy is an independent, coeducational boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12 and PG, and is located one hour northwest of Boston.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.CUSHING.ORG



857-552-1111
857-552-1112
857-552-1113
857-552-1114
857-552-1115
857-552-1116
857-552-1117
857-552-1118
857-552-1119
857-552-1120

857-552-1121
857-552-1122
857-552-1123
857-552-1124
857-552-1125
857-552-1126
857-552-1127
857-552-1128
857-552-1129
857-552-1130

MB SPORTS CAMPS

POWERED BY

LOCATION:

CURRY COLLEGE

15 MIN SOUTH OF BOSTON

JUNE 24 - AUGUST 3

Camp Highlights:

- ✓ 6 day/5 night camp - unlike other 3 days camps.
- ✓ Elite Coaching - All levels
- ✓ Day & Overnight options available
- ✓ FUN evening activities.

www.mbsportscamps.com

855-962-7767

info@mbsportscamps.com

Introducing New England soccer's movers and shakers

50 MOST INFLUENTIAL



David Silverman/New England Revolution (main photo)



in-flu-ence

noun | 1. the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself.

THEY ARE movers and shakers. They are head honchos and power players. They are team owners and youth coaches and World Cup performers.

They find and develop talent. They set agendas and drive discussion.

They are — in a word — influential.

The people we have chosen to highlight in these pages are the people who shape soccer in New England — the players we look up to and want to emulate, the executives who decide the fates of teams and organizations, the coaches who mold young players, the commentators who inform and analyze, the businessmen who chart the future of our sport, and even a pair of living legends.

These are the 50 most influential people in New England soccer.

Creating any list like this is purely subjective, as is ours, and is sure to generate disagreement, counter opinions and maybe even arguments.

Soccer in New England is dominated by coaches — at the youth, high school and college levels. And we had the hardest time deciding which coaches should be included here. We strived to include a diverse array of experiences — across levels and genders — and we know we left off so many deserving and influential college coaches, including Boston University's Neil Roberts, UMass Lowell's Christian Figueroa, Brown's Kia McNeill and Northeastern's Ashley Phillips — among many others. We also had a hard time singling out only one or two high school coaches, whose influence often is concentrated in their school or town.

Also, with the prominence of club soccer (and so many top-notch executives), we opted to focus on those with the widest reach and influence.

We also really tried to get at the heart and meaning of the word influence. Who has the capacity to impact our sport in our backyard the most? And we attempted to examine their influence right now, in today's game.

We solicited opinions, we researched candidates, we interviewed experts, we debated (over and over) the criteria and the people and now we unveil our list, led by a 23-year-old from Leominster, Mass., who already has been impacting the sport for nearly a decade and who has the skills, charisma and attitude to influence the next generation of New England soccer players.

— Eric Beato, Managing Editor

‘DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE’

Now 23 and a new father, the former teen sensation reflects on his pro journey and what the future holds

By Jonathan Sigal

BEFORE THE NEW ENGLAND Revolution operated any Development Academy teams, Deven Apajee found himself watching youth games at the Seacoast United complex in Epping, N.H. Knowing he worked for the region's sole Major League Soccer club, a bystander told Apajee to turn around, pointing to a wily attacking player on a nearby FC United U-12 team. Right away, Apajee was “transfixed, absolutely transfixed.”

“His intelligence was way above anything on that field, his movement and his speed of thought were two or three levels above anyone else,” Apajee recalled. “I’m laughing because he’s trying rabonas and such, and I’m like he’s not an average American kid.”

Apajee’s intuition served him well, because that player was none other than Diego Fagundez, the Leominster, Mass., native with Uruguayan roots who has been a central fixture for the Revs since signing as the club’s first-ever Homegrown Player in 2010. He’s played out wide under managers Steve Nicol and Jay Heaps, and centrally under current coach Brad Friedel, always with an “infectious smile,” as Apajee calls it.

Nearly a decade later, Revs Academy director Bryan Scales remembers the first day Fagundez joined after a brief stint with the Boston Bolts, personality and all. “We saw this little kid with a purple mohawk, and we were like OK this kid has some character,” Scales said. “Fast forward to when he’s a signed professional and we see a thousand kids at a game with a mohawk. You can see the influence of Diego across the region.”

Those purple mohawk days are long gone, especially as Fagundez has entered a new stage: fatherhood. On May 23, he and his girlfriend welcomed a baby girl, Maria Florentina, to the world. It’s an epoch that Fagundez, after helping raise two nieces, has long coveted.

“I have to work even harder and do everything I can so she can be successful in life and have a great life,” Fagundez said. “Playing-wise, it’s more fun now because I get to play for something more.”

Those remarks came on a sunny, spring day, following an intense training session at Gillette Stadium. Shortly before, Fagundez was chatting with Friedel, taking free kicks and joking around with his teammates.



Present for each step? That contagious love Apajee spotted on that fateful New Hampshire day.

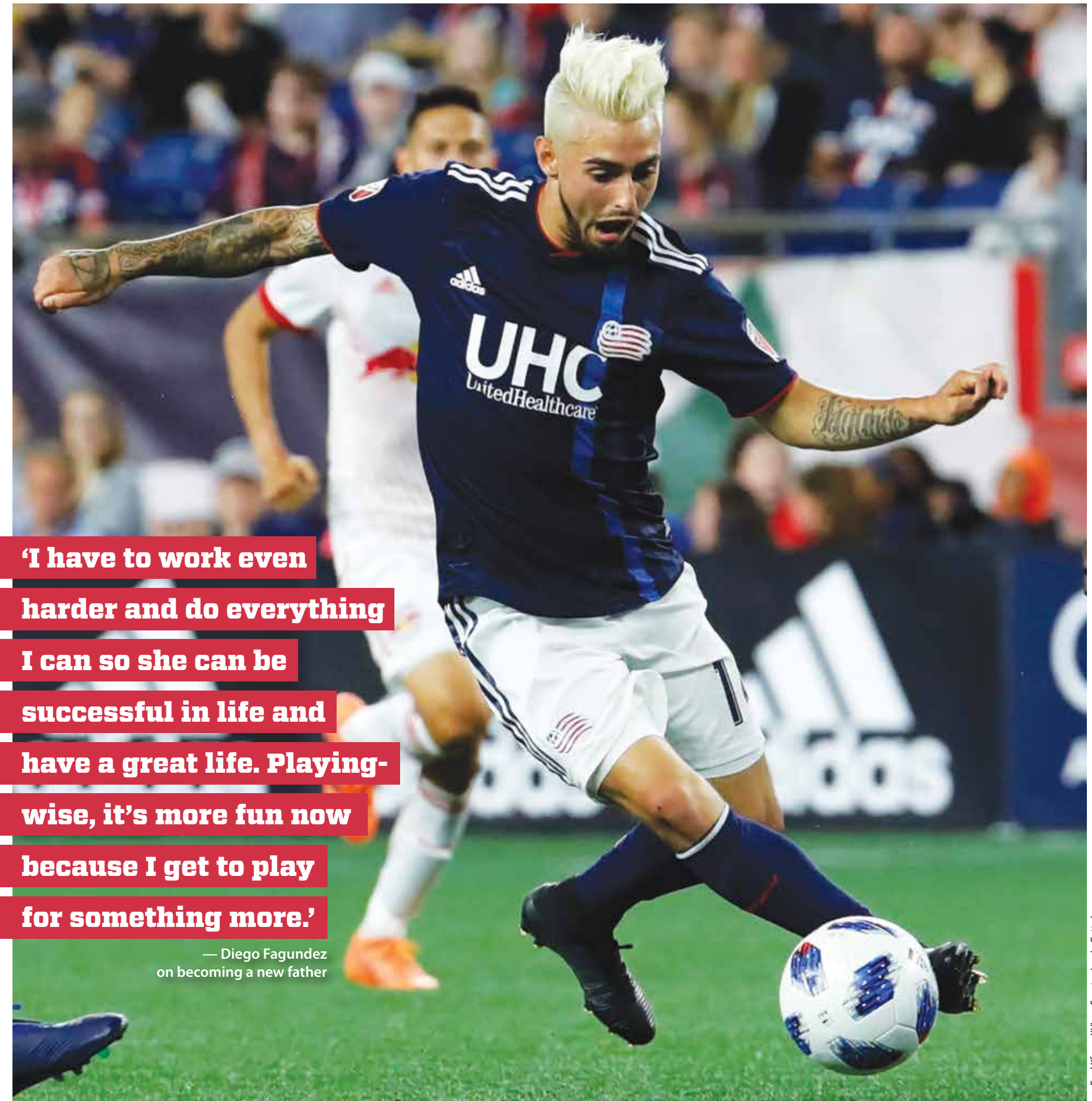
ON OFF DAYS, Fagundez likes to go deep-sea fishing with Eastmans out of Seabrook, N.H. He’s also a country boy, and enjoys off-roading in his ’97 Jeep Wrangler, with the doors down and mud flying everywhere. Once in awhile, he’ll go kayaking or

bow shooting, too.

“It all depends what I’m feeling, what I want to do and what kind of day it is,” Fagundez said.

He’ll also go to Kimball’s Farm to get ice cream, just a quarter mile past the Lancaster, Mass., fields every youth soccer family in New England knows well. At

Continued on Page 10



‘I have to work even harder and do everything I can so she can be successful in life and have a great life. Playing-wise, it’s more fun now because I get to play for something more.’

— Diego Fagundez on becoming a new father

Tim Bouwer/New England Revolution; David Silverman/New England Revolution; Fred Koury III/Icon SportsWire via Getty Images; New England Revolution; Quinn Harris/Icon SportsWire via Getty Images

Fred Koury III/Icon SportsWire via Getty Images

HAIR APPARENT

Since the New England Revolution first scouted Diego Fagundez sporting a purple mohawk, the Leominster, Mass., native has drawn attention — and influenced scores of youngsters — with his multitude of creative hairstyles during his entire professional career.



Continued from Page 8

Kimball’s, he’ll run into families who stop and ask him for a picture. Sometimes, fans notice him driving around in his lifted, big-wheeled Ford F-150 truck, tricked out with a train horn and all.

But most of the time, Fagundez isn’t stopped. Such is life when you’re on the Revs.

“I knew I wasn’t going to be anywhere near Ronaldo or Messi where you can’t even go outside, but finding out you’re going to be in a video game and doing all that, it’s pretty special,” Fagundez said. “Getting your own bobblehead after a game, it’s something that not a lot of 16-, 17-, 18-year-olds get on a regular basis.”

That reality leads to what Fagundez calls the best part of being a pro soccer player: inspiring young kids to possibly follow in his footsteps one day.

It’s why this spring Fagundez got a tattoo on his right hand — making it 32 tattoos in total. Front and center is an eye, with a soccer ball and player inset. On the the side, it reads, “Dream, Believe, Achieve.”

“At first you have to believe it, then you have to dream it, then you can achieve it,” Fagundez said. “That’s why every time I look at my hand, that’s what I did. I remember dreaming about it, then I believed it and at the end of the day I achieved it.”

From arriving in Leominster upon his mom pointing at the town on a map, to finishing high school at Goodrich Academy in Fitchburg, Mass., to becoming the first MLS Homegrown field player to reach 10,000 minutes, Fagundez has grown.

Now, at 23, Fagundez has some advice for the younger generations.

“I always tell parents and the kids, the first sacrifice is your parents bringing you to every practice and every game and every tournament,” Fagundez said. “If



‘At first you have to believe it, then you have to dream it, then you can achieve it. That’s why every time I look at my hand, that’s what I did. I remember dreaming about it, then I believed it and at the end of the day I achieved it.’

— Diego Fagundez, explaining his newest tattoo (above)

you can go play with the next level of competition and it’s only an hour away, make that drive. You’re only going to get better by playing against kids who are better and older. I still haven’t played my own age technically. I never will really until I’m 27, 28.”

Specific to the Revs Academy, Scales said youth players watch Fagundez during first-team games, knowing one day that could be them. Just like Fagundez’s tattoo, they can dream, believe and achieve if they’re committed enough.

“While you’re playing, be happy, be yourself,” Fagundez said. “If you have to meg someone, laugh at them, do whatever you can. Enjoy while you’re playing.

“People don’t understand that when

you go to try out for some team or impress someone, they think they’re someone else. That’s not what people want to see. They called you and want you to be true to yourself. ... If you like taking people on, take people on. Don’t just pass the ball because you’re scared.”

ASKED ABOUT HIS long-term future, Fagundez is understandably coy. He doesn’t divulge how long his contract runs or when his option years start.

At current rate, Fagundez seems satisfied with life.

“We all have our dreams to play for club teams and stuff like that, but for

right now, I’m happy where I am with the coaching staff, with this team,” Fagundez said. “Especially now that my daughter is coming into the world, that changes it a little bit. You need to weigh what’s best for her and what’s best for yourself. If you’re single, you can make different decisions.”

Other factors also are at play. Fagundez is locked into playing for Uruguay, as he represented their U-20 team before obtaining U.S. citizenship. In years past, there were rumors about a European move, but those have since died out as he’s gone from “prospect” territory to “what you see is what you get” territory. Plus, under Friedel, Fagundez’s role has shifted.

With Lee Nguyen traded out of conference to expansion side Los Angeles FC, Fagundez has slotted into a No. 10 role. In some ways, he holds the keys to the Revs’ attack.

“What he does have is he’s very, very good on the ball, and he can come inside,” Friedel said. “He’s one of the few players coaches get on their team that are comfortable with having the ball with people on their back in all areas.”

It’s a role Fagundez relishes, developing from a 2013 season that included 13 goals and seven assists. After producing at those levels, MLS defenders arguably began to figure him out.

“It’s a nice achievement to score a lot of goals, but at the end of the day, how much better did I get from ‘13 to now?” Fagundez said. “Maybe I’m not scoring a lot of goals, but I’m playing a lot more free and being myself.”

It’s a path that has Fagundez on the verge of a decade as a professional soccer player in New England, too. He’s in his eighth year with the club and hopes to push his game to another level as he grows in Friedel’s system.

“It’s crazy to think about how long it’s been,” Fagundez said. “It’s a lot of hard work and showing the people you want to be here. As long as you’re doing your work on the field, it’s going to be easy for the staff to want you. I just have to keep doing that and when I have my chances to get better, I’m going to seize them.”

Now as a father, as a face of the Revolution, Fagundez can say that with a great deal of comfort. He’s come of age.

@JonathanSigal
jsigal@NESoccerJournal.com

New England Revolution: Diego Fagundez (tattoo)

SCOTT CALDWELL

■ Midfielder | Revolution

Homegrown midfielder Caldwell (Braintree, Mass.) continues to move



from strength to strength. Caldwell remains an important component of the Revs’ mid-field under Brad Friedel, while his influence on the field — including his occasional spells with the captain’s armband — and in the boardroom grows. Look for Caldwell to play an important role in the upcoming MLS CBA negotiations as a member of the MLS Players Association executive board.



David Silverman/New England Revolution



Lachlan Cunningham/Getty Images

SAMANTHA MEWIS

■ Midfielder | U.S. national team

Few, if any, American players enjoyed a better year in 2017 than the Hanson, Mass., native. Mewis’ star turn in the center of the U.S. midfield entrenched her in the side and staked her claim as one of the team’s most important figures. Her role is vital, particularly as the FIFA Women’s World Cup in France next year draws closer and closer.



MICHAEL PARKHURST

■ Defender | Atlanta United

Former U.S. international Parkhurst (Cranston, R.I.) endures



as an important figure in the growth of Atlanta United. His steady work in the heart of the defense and his tempered leadership in the squad allowed Atlanta United to build one of the league’s top sides in short order. As one of the league’s most recognizable veteran voices, Parkhurst’s sway carries through social media (more than 172,000 followers on Twitter, as of late May), too.



Robbie Jay Barratt - AMA/Getty Images

ALYSSA NAEHER

■ Goalkeeper | U.S. national team

Everything in the U.S. women’s national team camp is focused on France. The objective over the next 12 months centers on the upcoming FIFA Women’s World Cup and revolves around finding a group capable of retaining the trophy won in Canada in 2015.

If everything proceeds according to plan, then Naeher (Seymour, Conn.) is a key figure in those plans.

Naeher filled the vacuum created by Hope Solo’s exit from the international scene and staked out her place as the de facto No. 1 when the opportunity presented itself. The former Boston Breakers standout excelled



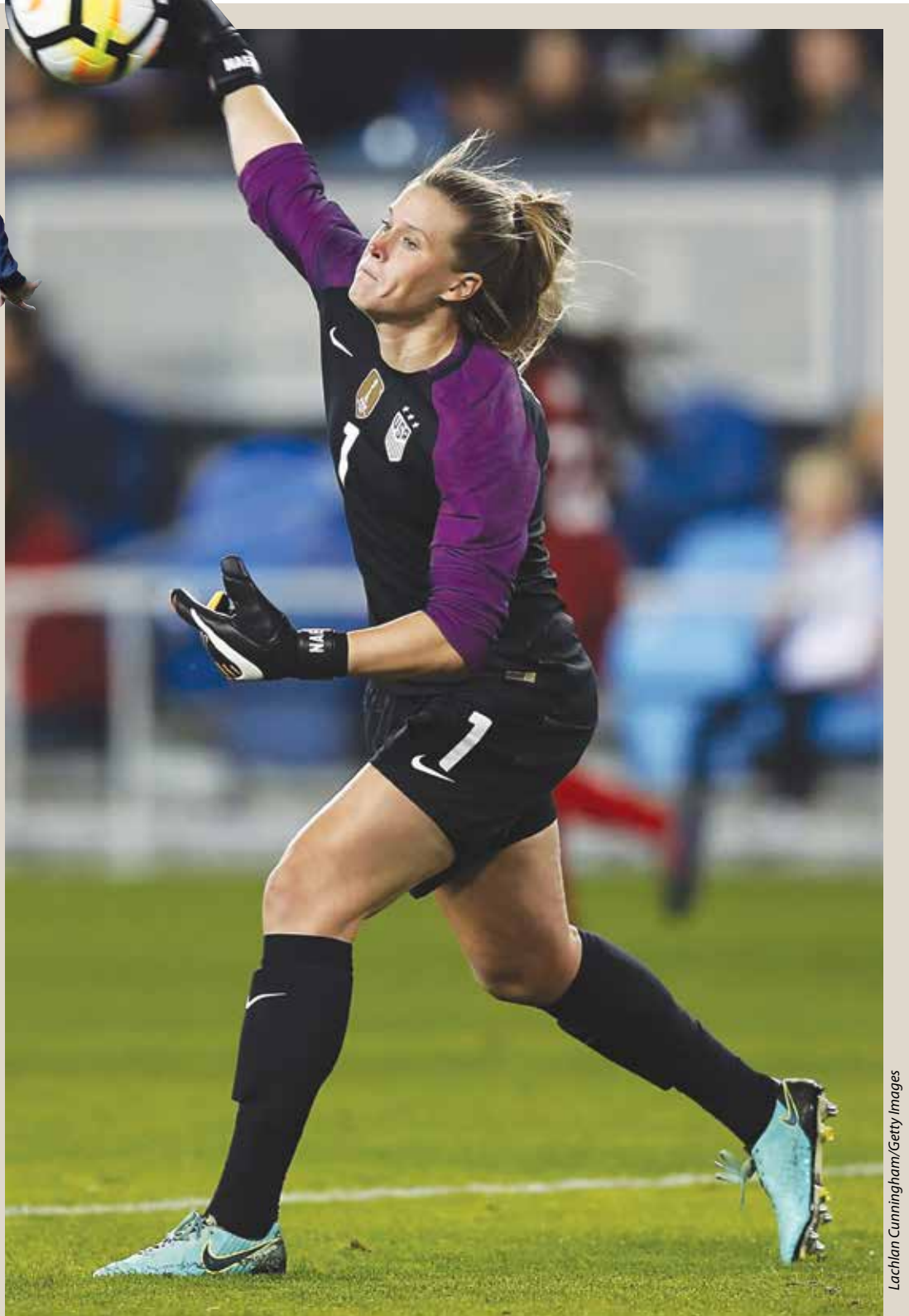
domestically — including with her current NWSL side, Chicago Red Stars — and used her experience to ward off competition to her international place.

After serving as the third goalkeeper in Canada, Naeher now is the incumbent with both hands on the job.

Her consistent performances make her the preferred choice of U.S. coach Jill Ellis during the procession of friendlies and tournaments designed to prepare this team for the challenges ahead.

The job isn’t done yet, though. There still is a year between now and the start of the next World Cup. The onus falls squarely on Naeher’s reliable shoulders to justify her continued inclusion in the team as the big event approaches.

— KYLE MCCARTHY



Lachlan Cunningham/Getty Images

COVER BOY

► With this issue of NESJ, Revs star Diego Fagundez (Leominster, Mass.) now has appeared on the cover four times — more than Geoff Cameron, Charlie Davies and anyone else.



He should be in Russia playing in his second World Cup, but New England's most accomplished player — with both his country and club falling short — could be heading home

CAMERON AT A CROSSROADS

By Kyle McCarthy

ON A QUIET spring night just a few weeks after the end of his season, Geoff Cameron stepped out to watch a game.

Cameron — back in his native Massachusetts after the Premier League season — took his perch on field level at Gillette Stadium to watch the 1-1 draw between the Revolution and Atlanta United.

The presence of the veteran U.S. defender made sense from a practical standpoint (he is from Attleboro, Mass., and his family still lives in the area) and highlighted the inevitable questions about his future.

At this juncture, Cameron stands at a crossroads in his career.

GEOFF CAMERON

■ Defender/midfielder | Stoke City

Stoke City are out of the Premier League for the first time since Cameron joined the club in 2012. There is no trip to Russia on tap with the U.S. men's national team this summer.

For the first time in a long time, there is a blank slate in front of Cameron heading into the summer.

The only question: Where does that freedom take him next?

The Championship

The easiest and perhaps most straightforward path is staying right in place with Stoke City.

Cameron signed a new contract with Stoke City last year to carry him through to 2020.

COVER BOY

► Geoff Cameron (Attleboro, Mass.) has appeared on the cover of New England Soccer Journal three times, matching Charlie Davies.



He is entrenched as a fixture in the squad there, as evidenced by his frequent place in the starting XI under former managers Tony Pulis and Mark Hughes. His contributions are valued, whether he lines up at center half, fullback or central midfield.

And yet there are changes ahead in the wake of relegation. Former Derby County manager Gary Rowett joined the club after Paul Lambert failed to steer the club away from the drop. Several key figures — including Swiss schemer Xherdan Shaqiri — are expected to leave the Potters after exiting the top flight.

Can Cameron join the exodus? Absolutely. It is more down to a question of whether he wants to swap one club for another to ensure his place at the highest levels.

The Premier League

There are plenty of suitors for a player such as Cameron at the Premier League level. His positional flexibility makes him a valuable asset in any squad, particularly with his penchant for submitting capable performances. His vast ex-

perience makes him a precious commodity in one of the world's top leagues.

Need proof? Just look at the list of clubs credited with an interest in his services during the January transfer window. Crystal Palace submitted two bids for Cameron before the deadline, accord-

ing to the Stoke Sentinel. Newcastle and West Ham United inquired about his potential availability, too.

In this era of spiraling transfer fees, clubs often prize the possibility of obtaining a reliable figure at a reasonable price. Cameron's situation — a Premier League player on a squad destined for the Championship — presents a potential opportunity. It is not out of the realm to suggest a few clubs plan to explore it, particularly after New York Times reporter Marc Stein revealed Cameron's contract has a relegation release clause tucked into it.

There are other possibilities, too. One of them includes a return to the United States and a chance to pick up where he left off more than half a decade ago.

Major League Soccer

In a compelling profile of Cameron in the New York Times earlier this year, Stein noted how Cameron planned to eventually return to MLS at some point during his career.

There is no time like the present. Stoke

isn't in the Premier League now. MLS teams crave capable defenders (or midfielders, if a coach prefers to deploy him in a role similar to the one Michael Bradley plays with Toronto FC). And there are mechanisms available to sign a player in Cameron's wage bracket.

It is no surprise to see several unnamed teams linked with a move for Cameron's services, according to a MLSsoccer.com report in May. His previous MLS experience with the Houston Dynamo (including a Best XI nod in 2009) and his Premier League bona fides make him a reasonable target.

Whether MLS teams expect to meet the projected asking price — Cameron's wages likely would make him a Designated Player, even if he considers taking a pay cut — is another story. It is easier for a MLS team to justify that sort of move in the wake of a World Cup appearance (see: the string of lucrative moves for top U.S. players before and after the trip to Brazil four years ago). It is somewhat more difficult to anticipate the market now given the realities at hand.

◆ ◆ ◆

All of those possibilities factor into the mix when considering Cameron's next step. There are a host of options at Cameron's disposal, even as he turns 33 in July. His objectives — an eventual return to the United States and a possible playing career until 40, according to the Times — are clear.

The only thing left is the decision itself. It looms ahead as the situation clarifies and the summer unfolds. Until that point, there are a few more quiet nights and a lot of introspection ahead.

Kyle McCarthy has covered MLS and the New England Revolution for more than a decade. He is the assistant editor of New England Soccer Journal.

@kylejmccarthy

kyle@NESoccerJournal.com

David Rogers/Getty Images (right); PEDRO PABLO/AP/Getty Images (below)



► Geoff Cameron is just the second New England native in the past half-century to play in a World Cup. The Attleboro, Mass., native also has made 168 appearances in the Premier League for Stoke City.

ALISON FOLEY

■ Women's head coach | Boston College

Foley's imprint is all over soccer in New England, far beyond bringing Boston College's women's team to 14 NCAA berths. She's the senior director of coaching for South Shore



Select, runs the Lady Eagles Soccer School and serves on the Region 1 ODP staff. Beyond her soccer duties, Foley recently co-authored a book called "How to Coach Girls."



Boston College Athletics

JOSH SHAPIRO

■ Men's head coach | Tufts

The Tufts men's soccer head coach opening wasn't the first or the only posting that Josh Shapiro targeted in his quest to move into the head coaching ranks. But when 2010 rolled around, the then-Georgetown assistant felt it was the perfect fit — from the Division 3 environment to the location just outside Boston to the balance of academics and athletics.



"I really sensed that Tufts was a sleeping monster in college soccer," Shapiro said.

His intuition was correct, as Shapiro has since guided the Jumbos to two national championships (2014 and 2016) and cemented the program as a perennial NESCAC powerhouse. Those achievements arrived after Tufts was stuck in .500 play for the better part of the 2000s.

Double-digit wins and deep NCAA tournament runs now are commonplace for the Jumbos. The standards are so high that this past season's loss to Brandeis in the Elite Eight weighed heavily.

"It's dangerous when guys are frustrated when you win the NESCAC and lose the Elite Eight," Sha-



But with players fully committed to the Tufts experience in Medford, Mass., the rest tends to fall into place.

"Those kids will be happier to do the work and aren't grumpy that they didn't get into Yale or Harvard," Shapiro said. "Let's make sure we enjoy every opportunity to work out, to lift weights, to play futsal, to train, to be in the classroom."

Along the way, Shapiro has enticed high-level recruits that the vast majority of Div. 3 programs can't. They often compete with Div. 1 schools for commits, and that reality leads to losing out on some battles.

However, recruiting above grade — from the Development Academy and top-level club programs — has laid a foundation for long-term success.

"There are enough soccer players with ambition and quality here that players train in an environment that mirrors a D1 one," Shapiro said. "But there's more flexibility with timing and school. We don't want to limit their experience."

On the youth side, Shapiro also works as the technical director for SFC New England, a youth club based out of Winchester, Mass.

— JONATHAN SIGAL



UMass Boston Athletics

JAKE BEVERLIN

■ Men's head coach | UMass Boston

Under Beverlin, UMass Boston has compiled five consecutive winning seasons, largely thanks to inner-city recruits and players from underprivileged backgrounds. Beverlin, who also is the boys director for Boston-area youth club Valeo FC, has made the Beacons one of the region's top Division 3 teams and a routine challenger for the Little East title.

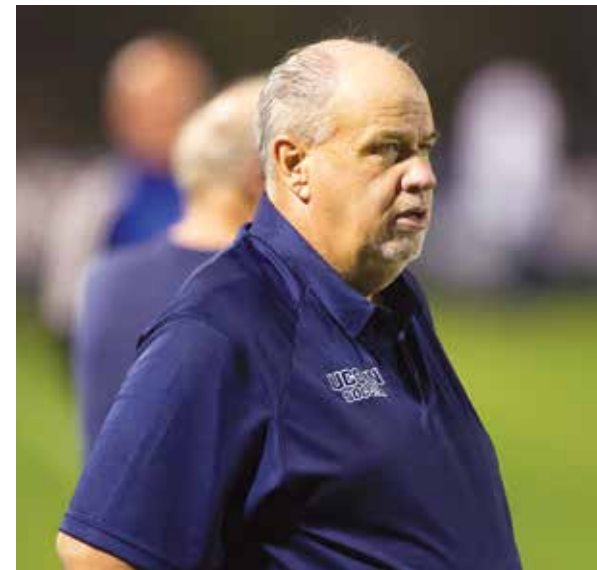


Boston University Athletics

NANCY FELDMAN

■ Women's head coach | Boston University

With 13 NCAA tournament appearances, Feldman boasts a legacy at Boston University that writes itself. The Needham, Mass., native has made the Terriers into a coveted Division 1 women's program, one that competes for the Patriot League title year in and year out. She's coming up on a quarter-century in charge of BU, which used to compete in the America East conference.



UConn Athletics

RAY REID

■ Men's head coach | UConn

Reid has 21 seasons as UConn's men's coach in the books with 287 wins and a national title (2000). The Huskies are a perennial top-25 program with MLS stalwarts goalkeeper Andre Blake (Philadelphia Union), striker Cyle Larin (formerly Orlando City SC) and defender Chris Gbandi (current Northeastern men's coach) all playing their parts along the way. Reid played and coached at Division 2 Southern Connecticut. He also runs the Ray Reid Soccer Schools during the spring and summer.



*Congratulations Head Coach Ray
Reid on being named a member of
the Top 50 Most Influential
People in New England Soccer!*

Tufts University Athletics salutes

JOSH SHAPIRO

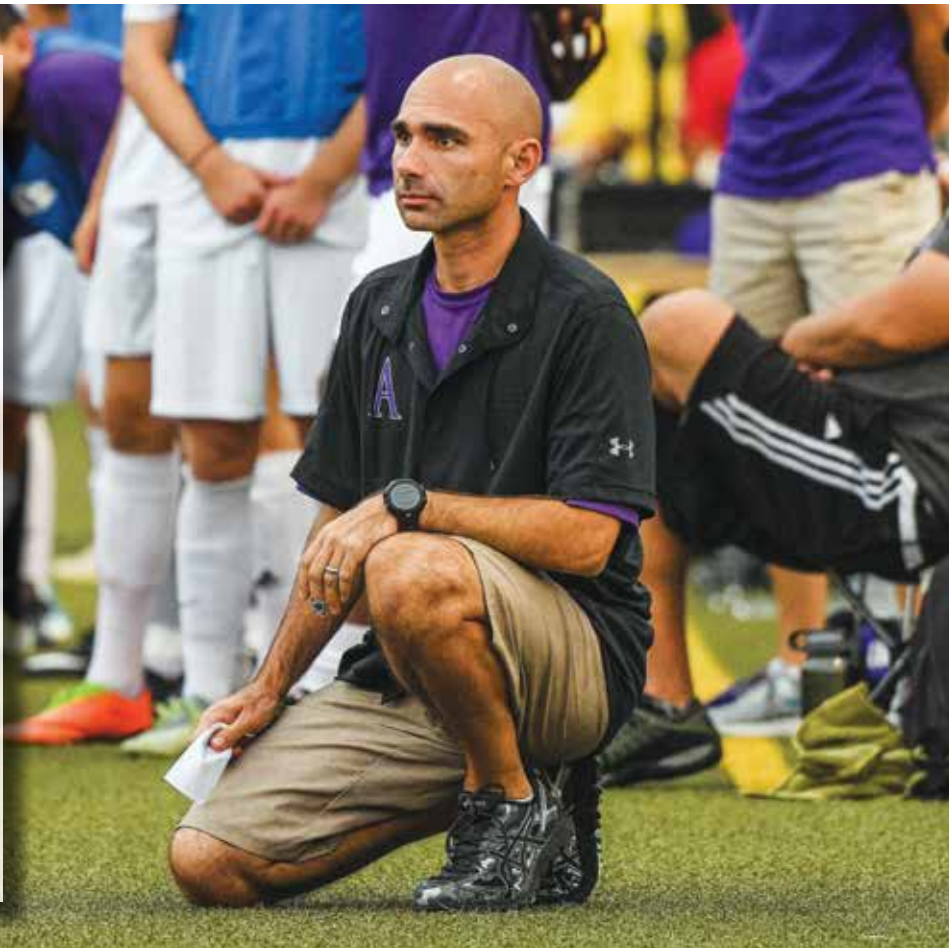
on being named one of New England Soccer
Journal's 50 Most Influential People.



JUSTIN SERPONE

■ Men's head coach | Amherst

Amherst is a small, liberal arts college in Western Mass., but those realities didn't stop Serpone from leading it to the 2015 Division 3 men's national title. His teams are among some of the stingiest in the country. They used their miserly approach to win five NESCAC titles from 2008 to 2016. Serpone's teams typically include a blend of New England natives, domestic players from throughout the country and internationals. This Winchester, Mass., native also runs the Peak Performance camps on Amherst's campus during the summer.



Clarus Studios Inc. via Amherst Athletics

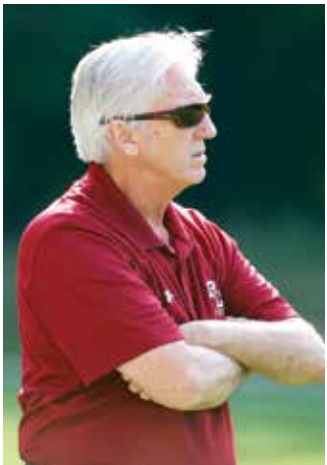
ED KELLY

■ Men's head coach | Boston College

Kelly just passed a remarkable three decades as Boston College's men's coach,



molding professionals such as Charlie Davies (Manchester, N.H.),



Boston College Athletics

Alejandro Bedoya, Zeiko Lewis and Kyle Bekker along the way. At BC, he's inching toward 300 career wins and has guided the Eagles to 13 NCAA tournament appearances, including 10 since 2000. On the youth side, Kelly also is the boys technical adviser for NEFC, one of the region's largest clubs.

MICHELYNE PINARD

■ Women's head coach | Williams

Winning has defined Pinard's tenure as Williams, a powerhouse women's program in the NESCAC, which arguably is the country's toughest Division 3 soccer conference. Under Pinard, the Ephs have won two national titles (2015 and 2017) and eight NESCAC titles. Along the way, she has produced 12 All-Americans. She played collegiately at Dartmouth and also has coached for Middlebury.



Kris Dufour/Williams College

CRAIG STEWART

■ Men's head coach | Providence

After earning his keep at Division 2 Franklin Pierce, Stewart was rewarded with the Providence College men's job in 2012. He's since led the Friars to three NCAA tournaments, reaching the Elite Eight in 2014 and 2016. That cemented PC as a premier Division 1 program in New England, one that has recently produced Mac Steeves (Needham, Mass.) of the Houston Dynamo and Atlanta United's Julian Gressel, the MLS 2017 Rookie of the Year. With those accomplishments, Providence is a premier destination for local Development Academy players, routinely recruiting out of Oakwood, the Boston Bolts and the New England Revolution.



Providence College Athletics



Buckingham Browne & Nichols School



www.bbnssummer.com



PETER AND JOSEPH BRADLEY

■ Founders | Global Premier Soccer

The Bradley brothers founded Massachusetts Premier Soccer in 2001. Since their arrival, the youth club has evolved into a conglomerate that spans the United States, Canada and Europe. Now known as Global Premier Soccer, the organization serves players from ages 3 to 23, with a mix of foreign and domestic coaches. GPS is partnered with German powerhouse Bayern Munich — hence why all teams are spotted with their jerseys — and tend to play a distinct 4-3-3 style.



► Peter Bradley



► Joseph Bradley



Courtesy Ally Bain



Courtesy Jason Dewhurst

JASON DEWHURST

■ Director of coaching | FC Stars

Nearly two decades ago, Jason Dewhurst was coaching for Massachusetts ODP when some of his players approached him, wanting to start a team. The Longridge, England, native, new to coaching girls, obliged. Little did he know at the time, that decision would set in motion a club — FC Stars of Massachusetts — that now covers six regions, fields 127 teams and includes 2,106 players. FC Stars, which fields teams in the Elite Clubs National League and New England Premiership, also boasts its own four-field facility in Lancaster, Mass. Next steps, Dewhurst said, could include adding an indoor facility or an office complex.

All of those foundational pieces add up to one of New England's leading youth soccer clubs, one that routinely places players on U.S. youth national teams.

"I've taken a lot of advice and have been challenged by smart people," said Dewhurst, FC Stars' director of coaching. "The biggest thing for me with the club is every year you need to sit down with your staff and look at the landscape and figure out how you're going to evolve. I think we've done a good job with that."



Through that growth, families sometimes drive upwards of three hours each way to training sessions; current players hail from as far away as Vermont, Maine and the capital region of New York.

It's a commitment to the club's philosophy, one where training dictates playing time at showcase events and weekend games. There's some wiggle room, though.

"The educational part is most important, so if someone says, 'I'm swamped with school work,' they can take the night off with proper communication between the player and coach," Dewhurst said. "That's perfectly OK."

Beyond FC Stars, Dewhurst serves on the board of directors for U.S. Club Soccer and the ECNL. He's also coached U.S. youth national teams, helps at idz camps, and holds a U.S. Soccer A license.

From those experiences, he's developed a larger appreciation for what club soccer offers. College placement is often the goal — and the result — for FC Stars players, but there's more to the overall experience.

"The commitment in regards to travel and time management with school work in the car or balancing friends, discipline in regards to fitness or health and wellness, they're life lessons," Dewhurst said. "You don't forget all that once soccer ends."

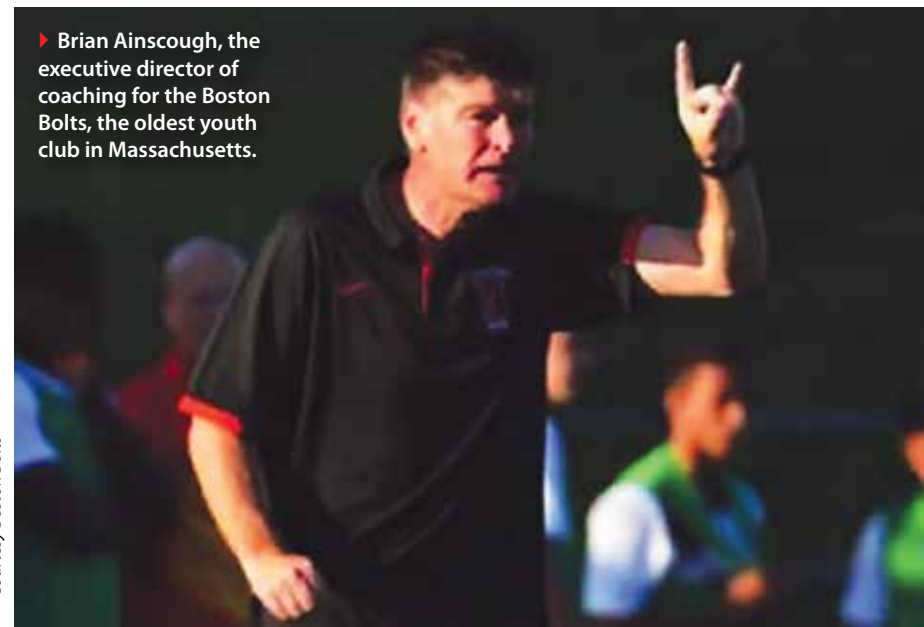
— JONATHAN SIGAL

ALISTAIR BAIN

■ DA director | Seacoast United

Bain has spurred important strides for youth soccer in the northern reaches of New England. He's currently the director of Seacoast United's Development Academy teams, and serves as the club's Premier Development League coach. Bain previously was involved with GPS's Maine outfit, coaching their PDL side GPS Portland Phoenix. The Scotland native also briefly coached at Bates, a Division 3 school in the NESCAC.





BRIAN AINSCOUGH

■ Executive director of coaching | Boston Bolts

Originally from Dublin, Ainscough has left his imprint across the New England soccer scene. He's the executive director of coaching for the Boston Bolts, which was founded in 1986 and is the oldest youth club in Massachusetts. Under Ainscough's leadership, the Bolts operate teams in the Development Academy, New England Premiership and Elite Clubs National League — the region's three top leagues. Ainscough's previous stops include coaching men's soccer at Northeastern, Bowdoin, Providence and Boston College.



► Bayside FC's John Mark Andrade also is an assistant at Providence.

David Silverman Photography via Providence Athletics

JOHN MARK ANDRADE

■ President | Bayside FC

Andrade has served as president for Bayside FC, the leading youth club in Rhode Island, for 12 years. Bayside is aligned with the New England Revolution, leading to the signing of Isaac Angking (Providence, R.I.) as the MLS club's fourth Homegrown Player. The club also is responsible for partnering with East Providence, R.I., to create a new soccer facility in 2016. In addition to his role at Bayside, Andrade is the associate head coach of Providence College's men's team.



Mike Gridley/New England Soccer Journal (right and below)

Owen Finberg coached South Kent to back-to-back NEPSAC Class B titles in 2015 (below) and 2016.

OWEN FINBERG

■ Boys coach | South Kent School

Finberg has pushed the envelope for prep school soccer as head boys coach at Class B power South Kent. With the Cardinals, Finberg won back-to-back NEPSAC titles in 2015 and 2016 and routinely sends players onto top Division 1 and 3 college programs. He also has close ties to Beachside, offering a platform for his South Kent players to receive high-level games at the Connecticut-based Development Academy club in the winter and spring.



JON MOODEY

■ Founder | Black Rock FC



Moodey rose to prominence as the head boys coach at Berkshire, notably helping to develop 2016 MLS No. 1 over-all pick Jack Harrison. Moodey has since moved on from Berkshire, but he remains heavily involved in the prep school space, founding Black Rock FC, a club tailored to prep players. The club has a PDL team, competes in elite showcase events and operates a prep school-only league. Starting this fall, Moodey will coach at the Northwood School in Lake Placid, N.Y.



Courtesy Jon Moodey

► Jon Moodey, former Berkshire coach, has since founded Black Rock FC for top prep school players.

JASON BRAGA

■ Vice president | NEFC

Braga is the vice president of NEFC, a youth club that spans Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. More than 3,000 players suit up for their teams, with offerings in the New England Premiership and Development Academy. On the boys DA side, NEFC is partnered with the New England Revolution, while its girls teams were partnered with the now-defunct Boston Breakers of the NWSL. Braga has college coaching experience at UMass Lowell, Boston College and WPI.



RICK DERELLA

■ Co-founder, director of coaching | Oakwood SC

With Development Academy teams on the boys and girls side, Oakwood has maintained as one of the premier youth clubs in region. Derella, a co-founder alongside Dave Farrell and the director of coaching, is a leading driver of Oakwood's continual growth at its Glastonbury, Conn., hub. Further, Derella is a 2003 Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame inductee, used to run the state's ODP program and holds a USSF A License.



MICKY KYDES

■ Founder, technical director | Beachside FC

This Norwalk, Conn., native is the founder and technical director for Beachside FC, a Connecticut-based club with a longstanding history of success. Under Kydes' guidance, Beachside has produced MLS players Kyle Martino (Westport, Conn.), Benny Feilhaber, Marcus Tracy and Jon Gallagher. A 2008 Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame inductee, Kydes also played for the MetroStars of MLS, plus professionally in the Major Indoor Soccer League.



BRYAN SCALES

■ Director of youth development | Revolution

Scales is the New England Revolution's director of youth development, a post he's held for eight years. In that role, the Medway, Mass., native is in charge of the region's sole MLS-affiliated and free Development Academy program. During his tenure, Scales has played a role in the development of four Homegrown Players and the forging of partnerships with three local clubs: NEFC, Valeo and Bayside. Before joining the Revs, he was the head men's coach at UMass Lowell and Cornell.



Congratulations Bayside FC! Thank you to our players and coaches whose dedication, hard work and passion for the game led to another successful year.



@BaysideFC_RI



BaysideFutebolClub



@BaysideFC_RI

www.baysidefc.com





Courtesy Mike Borislow

Mike Borislow oversees Massachusetts Youth Soccer, the largest youth state soccer association in the country.

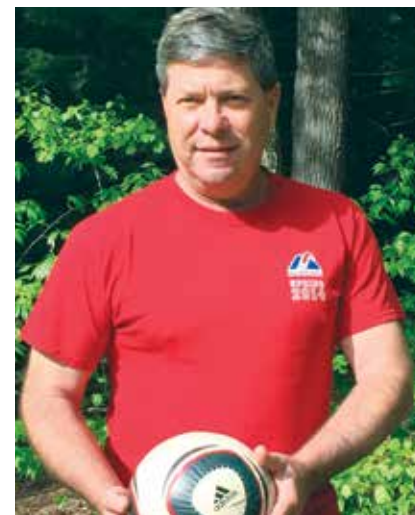
MIKE BORISLOW

Executive director | Massachusetts Youth Soccer

Few youth organizations operate with the breadth and the scope of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, the largest youth state soccer association in the United States. The expansive complex at Progin Park in Lancaster functions as the crown jewel, but MYSA runs a variety



of programs designed to cultivate players throughout the year. Borislow operates the organization on a daily basis as the executive director and leans on his capable staff — including technical director Ian Mulliner — to keep everything in order.



DOUG ANNESER

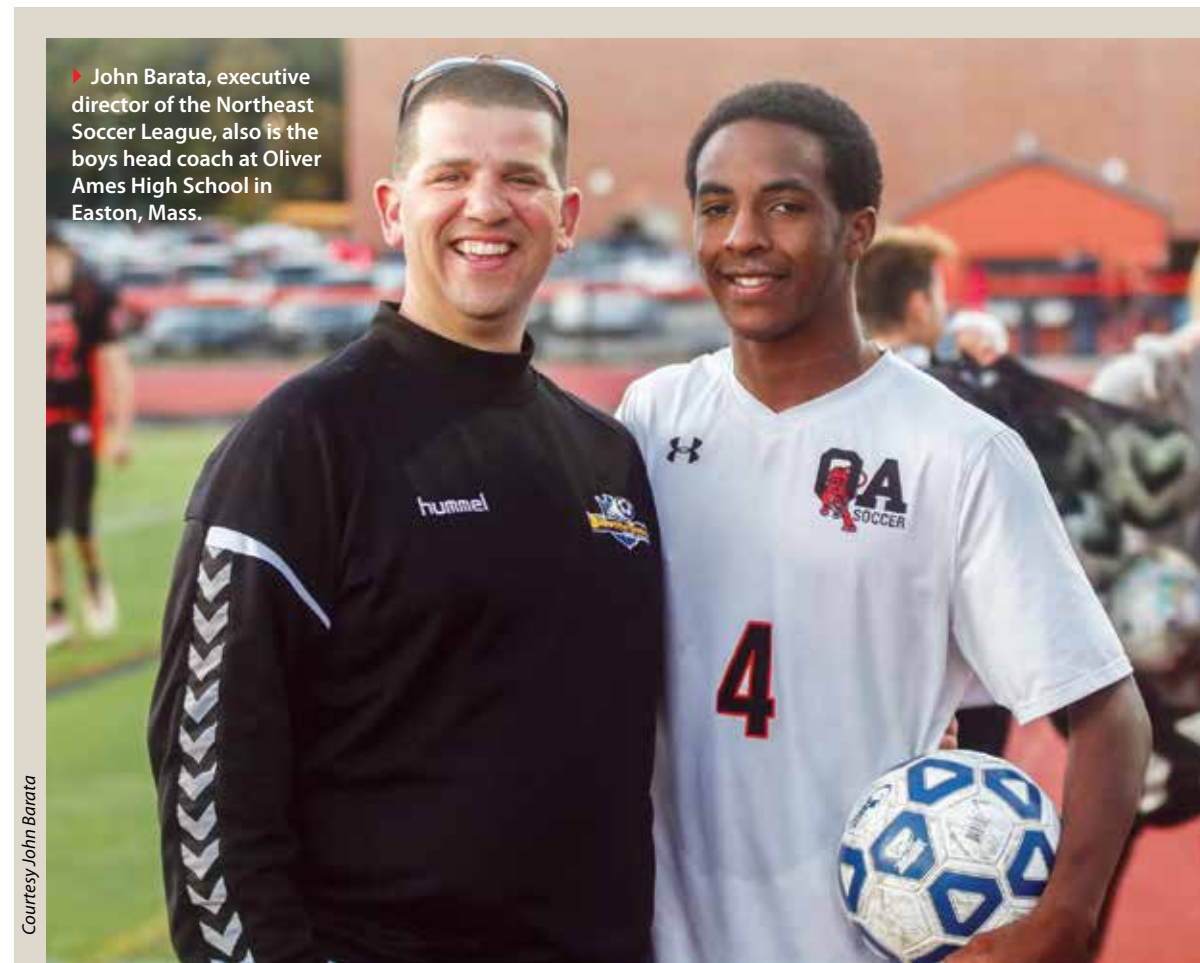
President | Over the Hill Soccer League

No adult league in New England boasts the scope of Over the Hill Soccer League. If you play in Massachusetts or a neighboring state and you are over the age of 30 (or 40 or 50 or 63), there is a good chance you participate in this Sunday morning tradition. Anneser, a New Hampshire resident, guides the league through its spring and fall seasons and shepherds thousands of players as they search for a game on Sundays.

SEAN CAREY

League director | New England Premiership

More than 1,300 teams in six states participate in the New England Premiership. The robust setup extends from under-9 all the way to under-23 and women's leagues and encompasses a variety of skill levels. The goal of the organization — led by Carey — is simple: provide high-quality competition within reasonable traveling distance to foster development and improvement. This member-centric approach ensures many of the largest clubs in the region enter teams in the NEP year after year.



Courtesy John Barata

John Barata, executive director of the Northeast Soccer League, also is the boys head coach at Oliver Ames High School in Easton, Mass.

JOHN BARATA

Executive director | Northeast Soccer League

From its earliest days as MAPLE, the Northeast Soccer League always cast a wide net to ensure clubs and players had a league to call their own. The roots are in Massachusetts, but the branches extend throughout New England.

The decision to have Barata — a seasoned coach with interests and experiences across all levels — lead those efforts constitutes a nod to that expansive approach.

The former All-New England player at Assumption College operates from his base at one of the top high school soccer programs in Massachusetts, Oliver Ames (Easton, Mass.) His successes there include a state title in 2015 and Coach of the Year honors from the Boston Globe in 2014.

In addition to his successes at OA, Barata operates his own camp — the Beautiful Game Soccer Academy — and manages one of the largest club leagues in New England.

It is not an easy task to keep everything in order with clubs situated in five New England states, but Barata and the staff at NSL manage to keep everything in line and place the clubs and players in a position to succeed. Their diligent work ensures the coaches and the players can focus on taking the field every weekend.

— KYLE MCCARTHY

Massachusetts Youth Soccer would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all Coaches, Administrators, Referees, Parents and Volunteers for their role in Youth Soccer.

Thank you for your continued support and devotion to creating a lifelong passion and love for the game!

USA Soccer logo and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

@mayouthsoccer www.mayouthsoccer.org

NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL

HAT TRICK

only **3 ISSUES**
\$5.99

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER
for home delivery of our print magazine

SeamansMedia.com/nესjprint | 617-773-9955

CONGRATULATIONS

JOHN BARATA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTHEAST SOCCER LEAGUE

ON BEING NAMED NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL'S
50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND SOCCER

NSLSOCCER.ORG
#nslcompetes #nsldevelops #nslsucceeds



New Balance Athletics

▶ Jim Davis' New Balance has become a big player in soccer, especially with its kits and cleats.

JIM DAVIS

■ Owner | New Balance

Need to gauge the impact of New Balance on the global soccer market? Just take a look at the highest profile competitions.

Liverpool played in the UEFA Champions League final, and FC Porto and Sevilla FC reached the knockout stages in New Balance kits. Costa Rica and Panama selected New Balance to make their jerseys for the FIFA World Cup this summer in Russia.

The presence of New Balance — an ascendant player in the market over the past several years — is a testament to the growth of the brand under owner Jim Davis (Newton, Mass.) since he purchased the com-

pany back in 1972.

Soccer is just the latest frontier for a manufacturer with deep ties in lacrosse and running. The company's increasing market share — always a difficult feat to achieve given the prominence of adidas, Nike and Puma in the field — justifies the continued investment at the youth and the professional levels.

Most of the focus at New Balance inevitably returns to what athletes wear on their feet. Their cleats — including the Furon — carry some of the same technology used to support runners day after day.

It is part of the reason you see some top soccer players wearing New Balance now. And it is a sign that New Balance — under Davis' control — now is an important player in the global soccer marketplace.

— KYLE MCCARTHY

BOB PHILION

■ President | Puma North America

In a vibrant headquarters tucked not too far off Interstate 495 in Westford, Mass., Puma North America runs its operations. Philion and the Puma team oversee a particularly vibrant soccer group. World Cup years illustrate the influence of the brand worldwide: four teams — including Switzerland and Uruguay — traveled to Russia with Puma kits in their bags.



DAVID PIKE

■ General manager | Union Point

Credit Pike and the group at Union Point for making a splash. The expansive new facilities on the grounds of a former naval base in South Weymouth, Mass., are a testament to the importance for investing in soccer facilities. The combination of indoor and outdoor fields means hundreds of players pour through the facility each weekend and learn the game on those immaculate fields.



TOM TEAGER

■ President | ForeKicks

Indoor facilities arrive in all shapes and sizes, but ForeKicks offers something for every soccer player. Teager and his team have incorporated a blend of traditional rinks, futsal courts and expanded indoor turf fields into their three facilities across Massachusetts. Their reach extends from Marlboro to Taunton, but the flagship facility in Norfolk offers an ideal example of how these refuges offer a variety of options in the cold winter months.





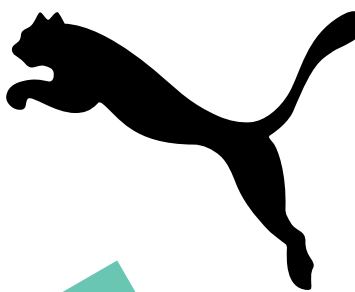
Inflatables - Golf - Camps - Birthday Parties
www.forekicks.com

The place for family fun this summer!

Three locations: Marlborough / Norfolk / Taunton

FOREVER FASTER PUMA.

NEW LEVELS



FUTURE

AVAILABLE NOW AT PUMA.COM

NEW BREED

Wave of soccer investors with local connections, such as Nestor and Crowley, approach new opportunities with fresh perspectives

Since the Revolution kicked off in 1996, the Kraft family has been regarded as pre-eminent in New England's professional soccer community. During the last decade, though, several other area investors have entered the field. Some of them have achieved extraordinary success on the world stage, while others are gaining respect at lower levels.

John Henry's Liverpool FC reached the UEFA Champions League final after defeating James Pallotta's AS Roma in the semifinals. Frank McCourt's Olympique Marseille secured a place in the UEFA Europa League final, falling to Atletico Madrid. Another dozen New Englanders have taken charge of teams in England's League Championship, France's Ligue 1, Italy's Serie A, as well as MLS, NPSL and USL.

The soccer ownership landscape began changing sometime after 2005, when Liverpool FC went seeking an injection of cash. The Reds wooed Robert Kraft, who declined because of concerns about the Premier League's lack of a salary cap and the possibility of relegation, as well as stadium limitations. Kraft again rebuffed Liverpool in 2010, before Henry and Fenway Sports Group stepped in.

Meanwhile, John Berylson (Wellesley, Mass.) started to invest money into Millwall FC starting in 2007. Springfield College grad Andrew Appleby anted up for Derby County in 2008. Pallotta purchased AS Roma in 2012. Since then, Andrew Nestor (Quincy, Mass.) bought into Bologna, Vincent Volpe (Guilford, Conn.) into Le Havre, and McCourt opted for Olympique Marseille. In the past, probably the only prominent local investor in European soccer had been Tony Frias (SL Benfica), whose S&F Concrete firm also had been involved in the construction of Gillette Stadium.

On the domestic scene, owners have

included Los Angeles FC's Peter Guber and Harvard alumnus Henry Nguyen; Harvard-educated Will Chang (D.C. United) and Tony Xia (Aston Villa); Bentley's Marcelo Claure (FC Bolivar/Miami expansion franchise); Tufts' Khaldoon Khalifa al Mubarak (Manchester City); plus minority owners Nomar Garciaparra (LAFC) and Cam Neely (AS Roma). Lower divisions have attracted Dennis Crowley (Kingston Stockade), Bill Edwards (Tampa Bay Rowdies), Zack Henry (Elm City Express) and Renato Valentim (Boston City FC), plus Peter Trevisani, with the recently-awarded Albuquerque, N.M., team in the USL.

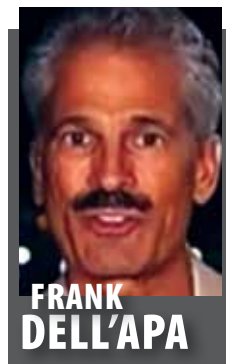
These names represent a new breed of soccer investor. Many seem comfortable with the uncertainties of soccer that scared off the Krafts and others of a previous generation. The newcomers appear to welcome the challenges presented by open leagues and the player transfer market, and relish the opportunities to compete on the global stage.

"The flat-world aspect of the game has been huge since the mid-2000s," said Steve Gans (Newton, Mass.) who recently ran for U.S. Soccer Federation president and is a principal in Professional Soccer Advisors.

"That is a huge factor in the acceptance of the game. They see the excitement of the international game, of owning something in the top of the sport, being in England, where it really matters, or Italy, Spain or Germany. (Henry) has done really well with the Red Sox, but that does not play everywhere. Here's a league (Premier League) with TV contracts with 205 countries and territories. Liverpool and Man United are dominant in Asia — there's an unlimited frontier potential."

Andy Nestor might have been ahead of the curve when he paid a \$350,000

Continued on Page 30



FRANK DELL'APA



Boston businessman James Pallotta has reinvigorated AS Roma.

Paolo Bruno/Getty Images

JAMES PALLOTTA

■ Owner | AS Roma

Italian clubs lagged well behind their contemporaries in other countries in terms of commercial might until Juventus built their own stadium a few years ago. Pallotta — the billionaire businessman who grew up in Boston's North End — engineered AS Roma's return to the upper reaches of Serie A and European football by investing the energy and the resources to close the gulf. The growth on and off the field provided Pallotta with a platform to push for a soccer-specific stadium and train his sights on a Serie A title.



Brian Bilello leads the Revolution's search for a soccer-specific stadium.

New England Revolution

BRIAN BILELLO

■ President | Revolution

For most of the past decade, Bilello and the Revolution have trained their sights on one goal in particular:

Finding a location to build a new soccer-specific stadium in the Boston core.

It is a quest not without its hurdles. Recent issues in Dorchester and Somerville highlight the difficulty of identifying a suitable parcel of land and then navigating the fraught terrain between the expression of interest and the



completed deal.

Even as the stadium search marches onward, Bilello is making sure that the Revs are not standing still.

Case in point: the decision to expand the team's footprint in Foxboro to provide more team-specific training facilities. The town of Foxboro recently approved zoning changes to allow the Revs to pursue the addition of three more training fields — including a turf field — and the arrival of team-specific facilities located in that complex.

By focusing on expanding the facilities in Foxboro, the Revs are laying the foundation for the first team and the Revolution Academy to thrive well into the future, according to Bilello.

"It'll be the nicest grass field that any MLS Academy team is playing on," Bilello told revolutionssoccer.net "It's a real step up for them in terms of access to facilities and the types of fields that they're going to be able to train on."

— KYLE MCCARTHY

ROBERT & JONATHAN KRAFT

■ Investors/operators | Revolution

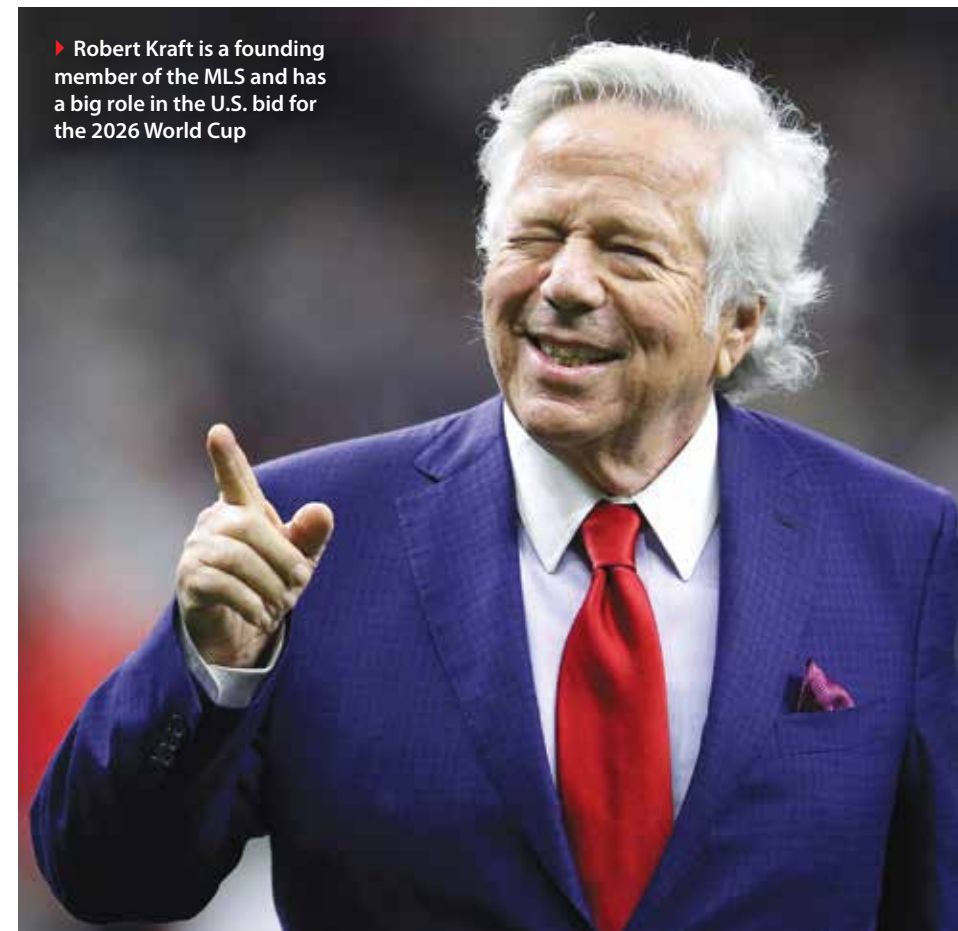
The Kraft family continues to serve as one of the most influential investors in American soccer. Their influence is perhaps most evident with the Revolution and MLS, but their sway as one of the founding members of MLS and their willingness to host marquee international matches at Gillette Stadium consolidate their place. It is a perch perhaps best illustrated by a role in the quest to secure the 2026 FIFA World Cup: Robert Kraft is the honorary chairman of the board in the bid to secure the tournament on home soil next decade.



Robert Kraft



Jonathan Kraft

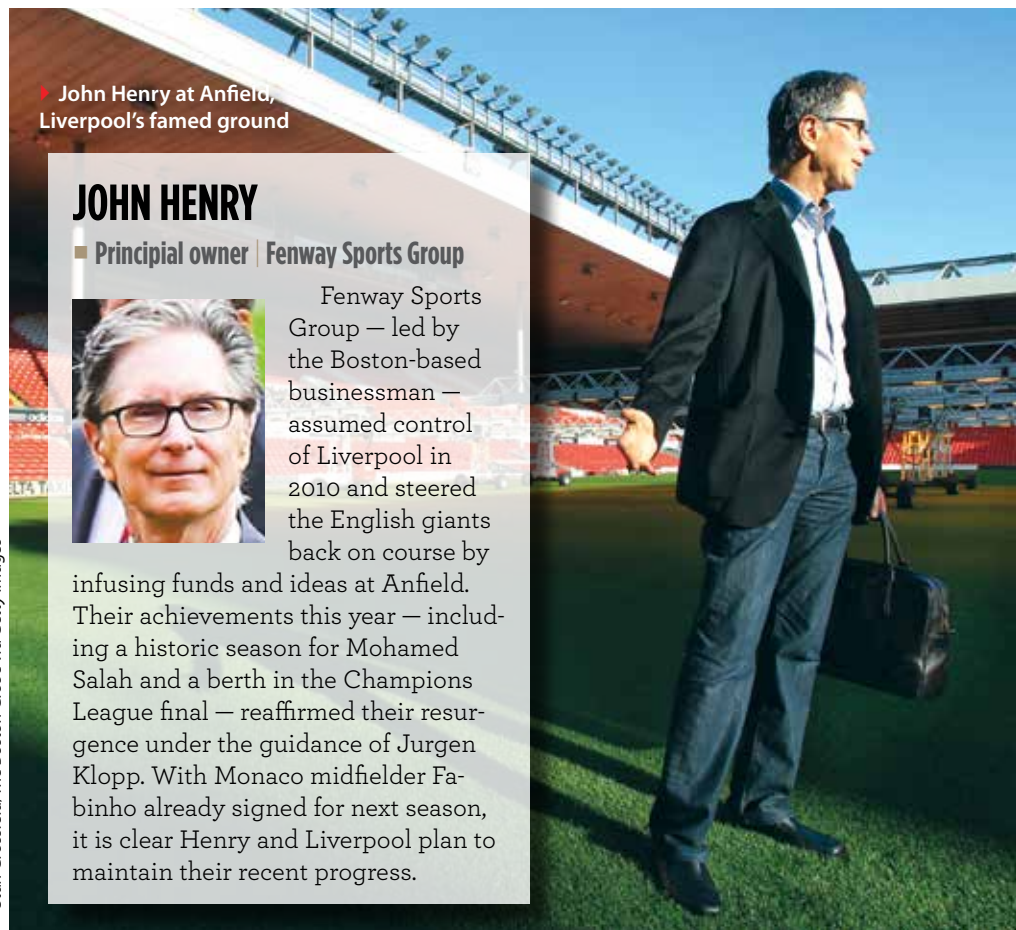


Robert Kraft is a founding member of the MLS and has a big role in the U.S. bid for the 2026 World Cup



From left: Michael Burns, Brad Friedel and Brian Bilello

Pat Greenhouse/The Boston Globe via Getty Images (left); Chris Graythen/Getty Images (above)



John Henry at Anfield, Liverpool's famed ground

JOHN HENRY

■ Principal owner | Fenway Sports Group



Fenway Sports Group — led by the Boston-based businessman — assumed control of Liverpool in 2010 and steered the English giants back on course by infusing funds and ideas at Anfield. Their achievements this year — including a historic season for Mohamed Salah and a berth in the Champions League final — reaffirmed their resurgence under the guidance of Jurgen Klopp. With Monaco midfielder Fabinho already signed for next season, it is clear Henry and Liverpool plan to maintain their recent progress.

Sian Grosfeld/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

MICHAEL BURNS

■ General manager | Revolution

Burns — now in his 13th season with the club and his sixth as general manager — is one of the longest serving technical staffers in MLS, but his influence extends well beyond the first team. The former U.S. fullback from Marlboro, Mass., oversees the Revolution Academy and steers every technical aspect of the club. His decision to pursue former U.S. teammate Brad Friedel as the new head coach is paying early dividends. The next step for the club: entering the active post-World Cup transfer market in a bid to bolster the squad.



BRAD FRIEDEL

■ Head coach | Revolution

After learning his trade on the Tottenham Hotspur academy fields and with the U.S. under-18 national team, Friedel took charge during the offseason in his first professional coaching role. He didn't waste any time stamping his mark on the side by incorporating a series of off-the-field changes and installing a high-pressure approach designed to unsettle the opposition. The early returns are positive for the one-time Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Liverpool and Spurs goalkeeper and recent U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame inductee.



JOHN POWERS

■ Chairman | Right to Dream USA

As the 2018 Major League Soccer SuperDraft in Philadelphia concluded, a New England-centric narrative surfaced: Three former prep school players were chosen in the first two rounds.



The trio — Edward Opoku, Francis Atuahene and Ema Twumasi — had more in common than shared NEPSAC roots, though. They all were graduates of Right To Dream, a program centered in Western Africa that places players on one of two paths: scholarships to U.S. schools, or professional soccer.

The American path — one that often goes prep school, college soccer, MLS draft pick — largely can be credited to John Powers, Right to Dream's U.S. chairman. Powers, who introduced the girls program in 2013, oversees the network of host families.



Powers' importance isn't lost on Ozzie Parente, the head coach of Taft's boys soccer team. The Taft roster includes Sammed Bawa, a Right to Dream student from Ghana who is committed to the University of North Carolina.

"Of course, there are a lot of people who make this happen — students and faculty members, both at Right to Dream and prep schools, admissions offices, coaches, teachers, dormitory parents, etc. — but John seems to be the guy behind the scenes pulling all the strings to put this idea into reality," Parente said in an email.

"Obviously, these young individuals are fantastic footballers, but the perspective, grace and character that they add to (a prep school) is, in my opinion, far more important than their impact on the pitch," Parente added.

Right to Dream players, as guided by Powers off the field, tend to significantly raise the level of play throughout the NEPSAC. Perhaps their most notable local product is Umar Farouk Osman, a Hotchkiss alumnus. He was named the 2017 Gatorade National Player of the Year and is a rising sophomore at Michigan.

Powers, who also is the executive vice president of Boston Properties, New York, received degrees from local schools UMass and Saint Anselm.

— JONATHAN SIGAL



Umar Farouk Osman
The Hotchkiss School



DARIUS SHIRZADI

■ Co-founder, executive director | Project GOAL

Shirzadi helped found Project GOAL in 2004 and now serves as the non-profit's executive director. The organization, centered in Rhode Island, provides free educational programming in coordination with soccer opportunities, namely to middle school-aged kids who otherwise face financial constraints, cultural hurdles, language barriers and transportation issues. Project GOAL also works closely with the New England Revolution.



TONY LEPORE

■ Director of talent identification | U.S. Soccer

Lepore is the director of talent identification for U.S. Soccer and has been heavily involved in the evolution of the Development Academy since 2010. The Farmington, Conn., native also has coached the U-14 and U-15 youth boys national teams and worked with Seacoast United, a New Hampshire-based club. He's a 2012 inductee to the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame.



Courtesy Patrick McCabe

PATRICK MCCABE

■ President | Stellar Soccer USA

Stellar Group is one of the world's leading soccer agencies, and it entrusted McCabe with leading its U.S. operations, based out of Wellesley, Mass. The opportunity came about after McCabe built up soccer agency Global Premier Management, with a tangible imprint across MLS and USL circles. One of their notable clients is Providence College alumnus and Atlanta United midfielder Julian Gressel, the 2017 MLS Rookie of the Year.



Courtesy Lyle Yorks

LYLE YORKS

■ Agent | James Grant Sports Group

A Storrs, Conn., native, Yorks is one of the top agents in American soccer and works for James Grant Sports Group. Some notable clients include Carlos Salcedo of the Mexican national team, U.S. national team striker Jozy Altidore and recently-retired striker Charlie Davies (Manchester, N.H.). During his playing days, Yorks suited up for Bruce Arena at Virginia and won the 1987 Gatorade National Player of the Year award.



GREAT STANDS OUT ON THE FIELD

Newton, MA | Est. 1851

Earn a degree in the Sport, Health, or Athletic industries

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Athletic Training
- Exercise Science
- Fitness Management
- Health Science
- Sports Communications
- Sport Management

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Health Communication
- Sport Leadership
- Rehabilitation Science
- Nutrition for Human Performance

LASELL COLLEGE

The Stellar Group salutes **PRESIDENT PATRICK MCCABE** for being named among **New England Soccer Journal's Top 50 Most Influential.**

Congratulations to our many friends and colleagues who have been honored as we collectively grow the world's greatest game.

We are proud to work with global superstars such as **Gareth Bale** as well as locally developed talent including:

- Isaac Angking
- Julian Gressel
- Wuilito Fernandes
- Zeiko Lewis
- Damion Lowe
- Aaron Maund
- Mac Steeves
- Andrew Wheeler-Omiunu
- Travis Worra
- Sheanon Williams
- Brian Wright
- Mutaya Mwape

www.stellargroup.co.uk 40 Grove St., Suite 200, Wellesley MA 02482 781.235.4848

DANIEL GILDEA

■ Founder | DG3 Soccer

On Instagram, he has nearly 450,000 followers. His Facebook page has more than 200,000 likes. Depending on the video, upwards of 3 million people might see it.

He's Daniel Gildea — otherwise known as DG3 Soccer — and he is a social media sensation.

Originally from Scarborough, England, and now settled in northern Massachusetts, Gildea makes no bones about how he feels traditional approaches develop youth players.



"I played professionally in England and I understand you need to play one or two touch, but I'm not in the business of producing two-touch robots in a tactical system, especially when they're 10, 11, 12 years old,"

Gildea said, whose business was previously known as Soccer Assassins. "If a kid stops doing the technical work and the footwork, they're not going to learn that when they get older."

The footwork part strikes the core of Gildea's work — coaching youth soccer players to improve their finishing, 1-on-1 skills and dribbling technique. Now 34, Gildea makes clear that he's not in the business of freestyle soccer. Rather, he supplements the club experience.

Youth players and their families reach out to him, often through direct message or email, and they'll do hours-long sessions. With an iPhone, he'll film a player's session, overlay a song and upload it to Instagram or Facebook. Within hours, the views start climbing.

"We do a lot on movements to create space, but



Courtesy Daniel Gildea

the actual drills people do online, it's all about the technique and ability to get out of tight spaces," Gildea said. "It's manipulating the ball in tight spaces and in different environments. It can't be the same space or routine and you expect great results. You have to change it up to get the most out of players."

A former Leeds United academy player, Gildea has turned DG3 Soccer into a full-time gig. He used to work with Global Premier Soccer, the national club soccer enterprise, but he now is on his own. Once in awhile, he also will do events with global soccer brands such as adidas and New Balance.

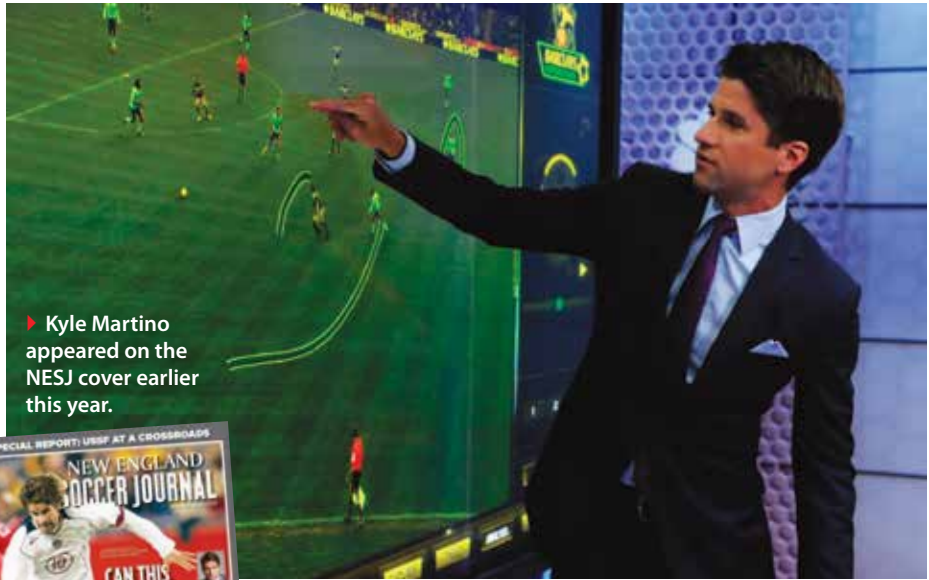
His exploits have allowed him to work with pro-

fessionals, too, including former New England Revolution captain Lee Nguyen and women's national team players Stephanie McCaffrey (Winchester, Mass.) and Kristie Mewis (Weymouth, Mass.).

Whoever he trains, Gildea hopes they return home with the technique and confidence to be multi-dimensional.

"You can get someone to play one or two touch, but if they're under pressure, do they have the tools to get out and keep possession a la Iniesta or Messi or Neymar?" Gildea posed. "That's what often makes the difference as you climb the ladder."

— JONATHAN SIGAL



NBC Sports

► Kyle Martino appeared on the NESJ cover earlier this year.



KYLE MARTINO

■ Studio analyst | NBC Sports

Soccer fans have grown accustomed to seeing Martino as a studio analyst for NBC's Premier League broadcasts, but he pursued a stark shift in 2017. That's when Martino launched a campaign to become U.S. Soccer president, with the stated aims to shift the American soccer culture and revise youth development. The Westport, Conn., native's bid fell short, and he's since returned to NBC. Martino also is the 1999 Gatorade National Player of the Year.



Joanne Rathe/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

TAYLOR TWELLMAN

■ Broadcaster | ESPN ■ Founder | ThinkTaylor

Now a broadcaster for ESPN, Twellman has the platform, insight and power to shift public opinion on Major League Soccer and the U.S. men's national team. That perspective comes from an eight-year career with the New England Revolution, where the former striker finished with 101 goals, ninth-most in MLS history. However, Twellman's career was cut short in 2010 because of lingering concussions, sparking his work with ThinkTaylor. The foundation works extensively with schools and clubs to raise concussion awareness.



COVER BOY

► Charlie Davies (Manchester, N.H.) has appeared on the cover of New England Soccer Journal cover three times, matching Geoff Cameron.

CHARLIE DAVIES

■ Inspirational figure | Manchester, N.H.

After a lengthy career at the highest levels in the United States and Europe, former Brooks and Boston College star Davies is ready for his next act in the game. It just won't take place on the field.

Davies — whose perseverance in the face of unthinkable tragedies remains an enduring inspiration to everyone — stepped away from the game after parting ways with Philadelphia during the offseason. The decision to retire



affords him the opportunity to chase new dreams off the field.

Everything starts with a return to New England. Davies makes his home on Boston's South Shore and plots for the next step in his life.

Expect to see Davies more and more on your preferred viewing screens as retirement takes hold. Davies recently filled in for Paul Mariner on a Revolution game broadcast and made the trip to Vancouver with NBC Sports Boston to provide coverage of the Revs' draw at B.C. Place. He also moonlights as an analyst for MLSsoccer.com on selected Saturdays.

In June, the Revolution named Davies as their first-ever Club Ambassador. He will assist with everything from fan and community relations to corporate partnerships and contributing digital content.

At this stage, Davies boasts plenty of latitude to explore every option. His positive attitude remains his trademark. He isn't on the field any more, but he is sure to make his presence felt nevertheless.

— KYLE MCCARTHY



Fred Koury III/Icon SportsWire via Getty Images

Hangin' Out With ... Charlie Davies: Page 42

KRISTINE LILLY

■ International record holder | Wilton, Conn.

► NESJ named Kristine Lilly the greatest player ever from New England in 2016.



The most capped player in international soccer history continues to share her love for the game in retirement. Lilly runs a pair of academy setups — KL Soccer Academy and TeamFirst Soccer Academy — to share the game with young players across the country. She also partners with Steward Health Care nationally to promote health and wellness among patients and families.



Being a role model means inspiring next generation

Ever since I started playing sports, I wanted to be like Pelé. I also wanted to play second base for the New York Yankees like Willie Randolph, or I wanted to be in the Olympics like Nadia Comaneci.

Those star athletes influenced my dreams, but it was my family that influenced my reality.

I watched my dad take the train into New York every day from Connecticut and then get home and come to my brother's game or my game or go play in his softball league. He never complained how much he hated the commute; he just did it and he did it for us. His hard work was a big example for me.

Honestly, though, I just wanted to be like my brother and do whatever he did. He was my immediate role model growing up and the one who helped me grow and be the soccer player I was.

Those were the people I looked to. Now, people look at me.

In the beginning, it was a bit strange when people wanted my autograph or to take a picture with me. But I quickly understood, and I felt proud and honored. Being a role model for someone is so amazing. When young girls or boys come up to me and say, "Hey, I wear 13, or I like the color red, too," we have a connection. And if I can connect with young people and give them some confidence and inspiration to be whatever it is they want, then I'm in!

We all need to set a good example for the young people coming up in life. We all need to help and mentor them the best way we can. Moms and dads are doing it every day for their families, and kids see it. I think what a lot of people don't realize is the influence they have on others. Someone is affected by you every day, and if you can be a positive example and a kind example, then I think our young people would be better off.

The game of soccer has given me a tremendous platform to be an advocate for the game and for young girls to pursue their dreams.

As you can see, when I was growing up, there weren't very many women to look up to for an aspiring young athlete. There were famous female athletes such as Billie Jean King, Jackie Joyner Kersee and many other women before me who broke barriers and set great examples. But you didn't often see them, read much about them or get a chance to go to a game to watch them.

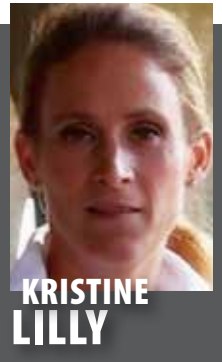
Nowadays, though, our young girls do have strong female examples they can see. From tennis to soccer to golf to gymnastics to lacrosse, there are women out there tearing it up and working hard to be the best they can be. Young girls see this and now have a vision of what they may want to be. That is so important for young girls who aspire to follow in their footsteps.

When my teammates and I were standing on the podium after we won the World Cup in 1999, we all were so very happy (and super tired). But a week or so after our victory — when young girls and other fans were asking for our autographs and to take pictures — we realized more what we truly accomplished.

We made a difference and changed society and impacted a lot of people. And we showed that girls can do it, too!

S

KRISTINE LILLY, a native of Wilton, Conn., is the most accomplished U.S. soccer player in history and a member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame. She earned an all-time record 352 international caps with the U.S. women's national team. She won two Women's World Cups (1991 and 1999) and two Olympic gold medals. She now runs the Kristine Lilly Soccer Academy with camps in Wilton, Conn., and Wellesley, Mass., and started the TeamFirst Soccer Academy with camps across the country. For more information, visit kristinelilly13.com or TeamFirstSoccerAcademy.com.



Many influences impact kids

Influences can be an interesting thing. They can be a mixture drawn from many different points of your life, with different degrees of importance and different points of impact. As I've watched my daughters develop as soccer players over the past decade, from pre-K to high school, it has been interesting to chart their progress and consider their influences along the way.

While I'd like to think I helped to influence them in some small way, especially when I coached them, my contribution (along with my wife's) probably was more in the way of encouragement and the occasional well-timed push. In the early days, there definitely were times when they didn't want to practice or play, so a little nudge was necessary. Even now, confidence can wane, so I often act as a hype man, albeit one not afraid to point out mistakes (nicely).

Certainly, there have been many coaches besides me who have worked with my daughters and helped them learn the game. My oldest, who is a high school sophomore, always has played defense and definitely has had some excellent coaches who provided her with helpful tutelage. Like her father, she's not tall. She has deceptive but not overwhelming speed, but she's been a reliable defender for every one of her teams.

In the early days, she learned from her coaches about the value of team play and knowing her job, and she's become a good leader who knows where she and everyone else should be. She's also proven to be a gritty player who isn't afraid to break up a play or get physical with the opponent, despite her lack of height. She's a good listener who takes instruction well and she's an encouraging teammate.

My youngest is in eighth grade and gravitated early to the offensive side of the game, although it took her a few years before she developed a real interest in soccer. Even when playing under-10, she showed flashes of ability, but the desire wasn't there yet. There would be days when she refused to play, and if she fell or had a collision, she would take a long time to get back up. But again, it was her coaches — as well as her instructors at the soccer camp the girls would attend in the summers — who helped her really commit to become a complete player.

By under-12, she had become a reliable scorer, but there was something missing. When she started playing club soccer for a gruff coach who had amassed a lot of success coaching a high school girls team, she started to put it together — but

again, it didn't happen right away. She learned the hard way, through reduced playing time and constant drilling. It was a tough first season and she nearly quit, but thankfully she stuck with it and applied those lessons. A few years later, she's a much different player and person; she still loves to score and set up goals, but she has a better appreciation for the tactical aspects of the game, and she never quits on a play. She credits her club coach for that transformation.

Both of my daughters have looked to players on the U.S. women's national team as influences. The women's professional leagues have struggled, and while the girls have gone to see the (now defunct) Boston Breakers over the years, they really get


excited when the FIFA Women's World Cup and the Summer Olympics roll around. While there are plenty of opportunities to see male athletes perform at the professional and amateur level, it has taken longer for female athletes to get coverage and attention, but it has been happening over the past few decades.

Certainly in the United States, our best known soccer players have been women thanks to the success of the USWNT: Players such as Mia Hamm, Brandi Chas-

tain, Abby Wambach, Carli Lloyd, Alex Morgan and more have become household names ... every few years, at least. My wife even took my youngest down to New Jersey this spring to attend a USWNT exhibition game because there were no games scheduled in New England. Social media has been a good way for the girls to follow the USWNT and their favorite players without necessarily relying on mainstream media coverage.

As scary as it is to think about (because it means I'll be getting even older), both of my daughters will be adults in the working world within a decade. Their playing days will be over (unless they join a recreational league), but hopefully they'll give back by coaching or volunteering and one day be able to serve as role models for young soccer players of the next generation. It's nice to have pro-level players to follow, but it's the one-on-one influences that have the most impact.

Jay Kumar is a writer, editor and proud father of two soccer players: Hannah, 16, and Lily, 14. Originally from the suburbs of Toronto, he played high school soccer in New Hampshire and in adult outdoor and indoor leagues north of Boston. He lives in Beverly, Mass., and works for a publisher of healthcare compliance products.

 @Koomdogg

 feedback@NESoccerJournal.com



JAY KUMAR

Dell'Apa

Continued from Page 24

franchise fee (USL franchises now are going for about \$5 million) to take over the Tampa Bay Rowdies as a 25-year-old in 2008. Nestor was a couple years out of Boston University's School of Management, and his only experience in soccer had been as a player for South Shore United and at Boston College High School.

Nestor revived the Rowdies franchise, became involved in North American Soccer League administration, then joined MP & Silva media rights distributors. He then partnered with Joey Saputo and Joe Tacopina to acquire Bologna FC.

"Europe is obviously a very different type of investment than the U.S.," Nestor said. "Bologna was interesting because

it is a club with a ton of history that had fallen on hard times. It was a gamble, but we were confident we could get the club back to Serie A. It is as stable a market as you're going to get in Italy, and this was a solid brand and fan base that we felt would support the team in a realistic manner.

"A season after relegation, a lot of contracts were still in place, so we didn't have to make out a lot of crazy checks to have a competitive Serie A squad. And the appealing thing was the fact that it was kind of untouched commercially, the club had not really taken advantage of commercial assets the way you see it done in the U.S."

Nestor attended the first MLS Cup final, in 1996 at Foxboro Stadium. But his primary interest in soccer lay elsewhere.

"My mother and whole family is Colombian, so I grew up in a house speaking Spanish, following the Colombian national team and players like (Carlos) Valderrama," Nestor said. "I always had a baseline understanding of sports and love of sport but seeing it through a different lens. We didn't have Premier League on NBC every Saturday morning, so the most I got to see was the Liga MX, South American games on Univision, Telemundo, and then Champions League."

"The Revolution started my freshman year at BC High and I never got into it, to be honest. It was a little too late for me, since I already followed European soccer, even though you couldn't follow it on TV as much as now. I paid attention to the Revolution but wasn't a die-hard fan, I wouldn't go to a lot

of games."

Nestor believes MLS could benefit from adopting the characteristics of open leagues.

"It's a long road to get to a place where you have implementation of things like promotion/relegation in the U.S. and Canada," Nestor said. "I don't know if you can get there. There are a lot of merits in having an open system and definitely smart ways of protecting owners. The argument against having promotion/relegation is the large expansion fees, but there are

plenty of ways to address that. The open system can create a unique product for soccer in the U.S. and Canada, distinguish it from other sports, and create more relevancy. It can improve relevancy out of MLS markets, and that could be a huge boost for MLS — they have to be rel-

evant outside your market.

"I'm proud that we were involved and started to turn the tide 10 years ago. Look at the landscape now — MLS, second, third division, NPSL — there are smart, dedicated ownership groups now."

Owners in MLS and other domestic leagues, struggling to generate revenue, are considering alternatives. Some are challenging the status quo, including Dennis Crowley, 41, who has co-signed (along with Miami FC's Riccardo Silva) a

complaint against the USSF regarding promotion/relegation through the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Crowley grew up in Medway, Mass., became a highly successful high-tech entrepreneur



► Crowley

Continued on facing page

My high school coach, my mentor

As part of New England Soccer Journal's "50 Most Influential" edition, I wanted to take the time in my column to recognize the most influential coach on my own career.

That person is Steve Shoff.

Coach Shoff was my head coach when I played at Weymouth (Mass.) High School (1996-99). Coach Shoff led three Weymouth High School boys soccer teams to Division 1 MIAA state championships (1991, '96, '97), and I was lucky to play for those last two titles. Coach Shoff also was named to the Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2007).

Many coaches will find their influence and support from someone they work under or assist. I never really had that opportunity to work under Coach due to my career path, so Steve's influence came directly from playing for him. The large majority of coaches are former players and their playing experience provides the foundation for their knowledge of the game.

As a firm believer in the Long Term Player Development Model of coaching, I honestly can say that Coach Shoff helped to mold me as a player and ultimately as a coach from the moment that I was pulled up to train with the Weymouth High varsity team as a freshman in the fall of 1995.

Coach Shoff tapped into every aspect — technical, tactical, social and mental — from the moment I arrived. He ultimately encouraged me to want to learn more and seek education, coaching and leadership as possible professional endeavors.

When I reflect on my experiences playing under Coach Shoff, I immediately

think of two coach talking points that I try to carry with me now as a full-time coach and director.

Motivation

Coach always could tap into his players and get the most out of them. He was tough on us, but he knew we could deliver. He pushed us out of our comfort zone, but he only pushed us into attainable areas. He didn't play favorites and treated everyone the same. As players, we wanted to work for him. We wanted to fight for our spots and for our minutes. We wanted to represent our program and have the ambition to reach our goals.

Coach used to state all the time that the best teams are the ones who have all 11 field players working together in unison. It was easy for us to achieve this type of harmony when the leader of our program was someone we were so motivated to play for and impress.

We had a genuine belief in what we were doing and what we could achieve. I find myself nowadays often talking to my players about this same believability. As a team, you need to foster it and cultivate it. You also must look to take it away from your opposition and win the mental game. I have found that this approach is especially true in the biggest and most important of games of any season.

Physical toughness

We used to play a game called "War in the Box." Ask any of my fellow Wildcats about this game. They will tell you what it means to them, and they all will have fond memories.

"War in the Box" was a crossing and finishing game that tested drive and determination. You had to outplay and dominate your opponents in the penalty area. It was a 50/50 battle, where you had to be brave in your play. Anything less wouldn't cut it and you knew that Coach would be on you if you didn't show up and perform. We would battle each other relentlessly. In a

By Jonathan Sigal

LIKE MANY YOUTH players, Nico Benalcazar grew up dreaming of becoming a professional. The hope followed him while playing youth soccer in Stamford, Conn., and then as he progressed through the ranks at Beachside SC, a top youth club in New England.

But when the New York City FC academy began in 2015, that dream became increasingly possible. The Wilton, Conn., native joined the Major League Soccer side's youth outfit as a U-14 player. He since has parlayed that decision into captaining their U-19 team, committing to Division 1 powerhouse Wake Forest, and earning a slew of U.S. youth national team call-ups.

The 16-year-old found a new home, one that's made earning a Homegrown Player contract a realistic talking point.

"If he continues to develop, we'll definitely keep an eye on him," said Matt Pilkington, Benalcazar's NYCFC coach. "Who knows how things change, but we do believe he has a lot of potential and a lot of qualities. We'll take things slowly like we do with the players since he's young."



At NYCFC, there's a fledgling but proven track record for progressing onto the first team. Fellow U.S. youth national team players James Sands and Joe Scally have signed professional deals in the past 18 months, though Pilkington said their technical staff doesn't rush these matters.

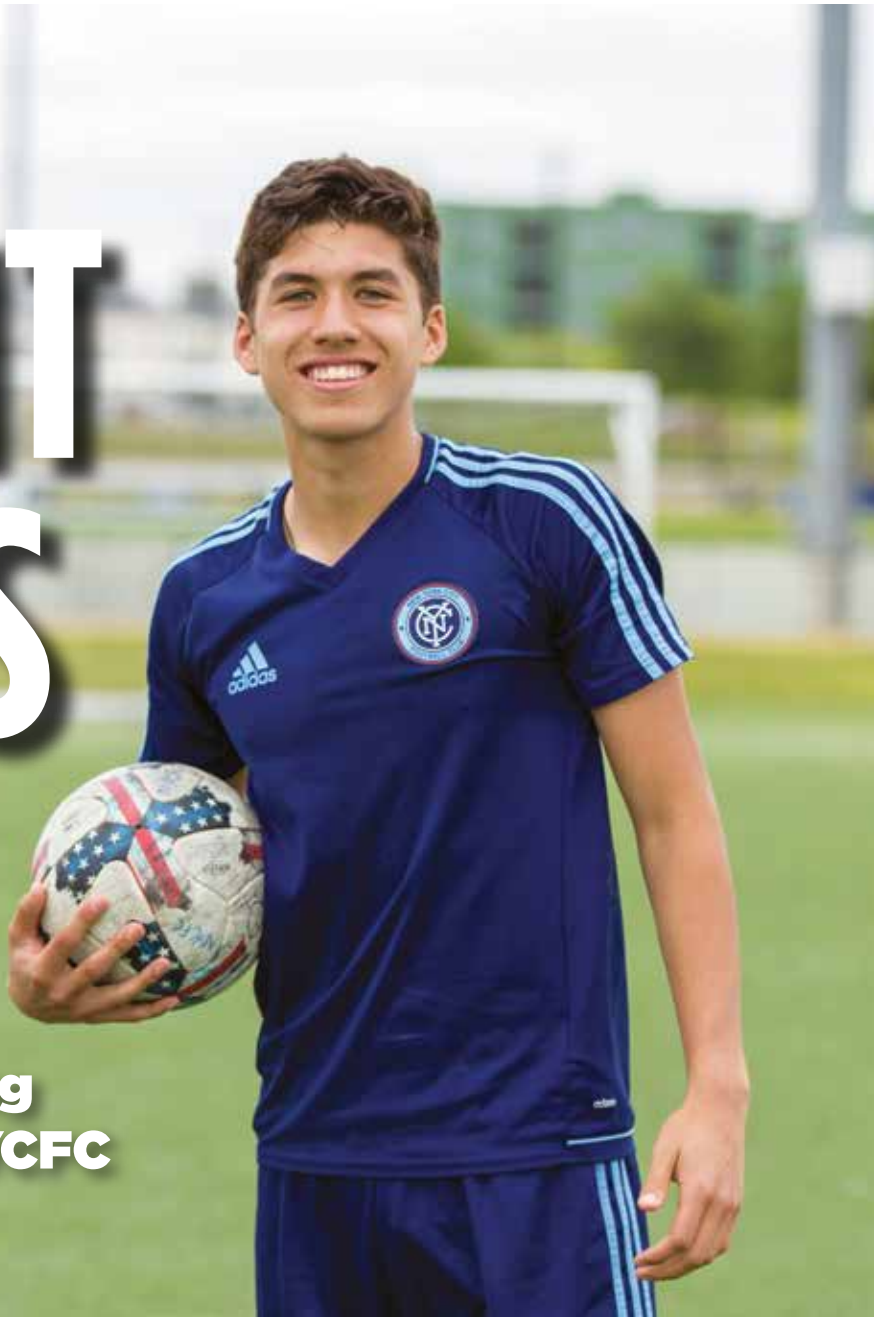
Seeing those examples has made the hour-plus drive to practice at St. John's University in Queens, N.Y., worth it for the versatile defender.

"Watching James and Scally, it motivates me and makes me want to work harder in practice," Benalcazar said. "It brings me to another level."

There are motivations in the first team, too. Former NYCFC head coach Patrick Vieira, the ex-Arsenal and France midfielder who left to take charge at French club OGC

BRIGHT LIGHTS

Nico Benalcazar (Wilton, Conn.) keeps his pro and national team dreams going strong in the big city at NYCFC



► Nico Benalcazar, 16, joined NYFC's fledgling academy as a U-14 player and since has earned the captaincy for the U-19 team (left), a commitment to Wake Forest and a host of call-ups to the U.S. youth national team.

Nice in June, routinely included academy players in first-team training sessions.

Those opportunities allow Benalcazar to witness the training habits of soccer legends, ranging from Spanish striker David Villa to Italian midfielder Andrea Pirlo. During a wintry session last season, Benalcazar stood beside Pirlo and asked him to hit the crossbar while wearing a neck warmer over his eyes. For Pirlo, no problem at all.

"I was amazed," Benalcazar said. "David Villa now, he has such great technique that it makes me want to work on shooting even though I'm a defender."

Benalcazar holds onto those moments of inspiration, especially as he represents the U.S. on the international stage. His international exploits included a tournament with the U-16s against France, Russia, and England, as well as a memorable trip to Japan.

Each time he wears the red, white, and blue, Benalcazar returns with one over-

New York City FC courtesy Nico Benalcazar

Seacoast United joins girls DA

By Jonathan Sigal

Seacoast United was one of the inaugural 64 clubs when U.S. Soccer launched the boys Development Academy in 2007. With that foundation set, the New Hampshire-based club plans to join the girls DA for the fall of 2018, a move girls director Chris Scott said provides equal opportunity.

"The girls looked at what the boys are doing with trainings and showcases and such, and they wanted the same things," Scott said. "We always wanted to give them that platform to develop."

The move, however, comes in the wake of a shake-up for the girls DA ahead of its second season.

FC Stars (Massachusetts) was one of several nationally-recognized clubs to leave the girls DA to go all-in on the Elite Clubs National League. Scott said Seacoast's entry — which restores the New England girls DA contingent to three, alongside Oakwood (Connecticut) and the Boston Breakers (Massachusetts) — has nothing to do with those shifts.

"It wasn't something when clubs left and we were



jumping on an opportunity," Scott said. "We've been planning this for awhile. Just recently U.S. Soccer came to us and offered the spot."

Seacoast will operate teams at the U-14, U-15, U-17 and U-19 levels, with Scott and director of soccer operations Iain Scott each coaching two teams. The entire program will be overseen by Alistair Bain, who became the club's boys DA director ahead of the 2017-18 season.

Trainings, just like for Seacoast's other teams, will occur at their facility in Epping, N.H. The difference now is, as part of U.S. Soccer's guidelines for the DA, Seacoast teams will train four times a week. They also will partake in the usual swing of national showcases,

with in-conference games ranging from New England to upstate New York and Long Island.

"A big part of our club is we're trying to create long-term opportunities for players, where they might come in at 6 or 7 and know that in eight years or so, they have this platform and program they can work towards,"

Chris Scott said. "The whole U.S. Soccer model and philosophy fits in. We really think it's the future."

Seacoast will continue to operate National Premier League teams, and Scott hopes their DA component changes soccer in northern New England for the better.

It'll introduce increased travel, but Scott said his players are used to lengthy hauls for matches. Add in the DA's national exposure, and Scott believes the experience will be a fruitful one.

"We want to give these players the opportunity where they're on a national showcase event and it's not just a Northeast bubble," Chris Scott said. "It was really important to us that it wasn't only just the Seacoast United kids we offered this to, but northern New England players as a whole."

S

@JonathanSigal jsigal@NESoccerJournal.com

arching goal.

"Wherever you go back to your club after camp, you have to show you deserve to get back in there," Benalcazar said. "It might never come back again. I want to come back to my team and tell them what I learned."

It's that level of maturity — coupled with tactical understanding and an ability to play out of the back — that made Benalcazar an exciting re-cruit for the Demon Deacons. Further, Pilkington said he didn't need to talk much with Wake's staff, largely because Benalcazar took his college search process by the horns.

With strong grades, Benalcazar spurned several ACC and Big East schools for the chance to play under Bobby Muuss at Wake Forest. Under Muuss, Wake has made at least the NCAA tournament quarterfinal round the past three seasons.

"The national team staff loves his competitiveness and his talent, but he's a great kid," Pilkington said. "As a coach, those players are neat because they'll put forth the ideas and learn and develop."

It all adds up to an exciting trajectory for Benalcazar. The arc includes a berth on the Development Academy's U-16 Eastern Conference Best XI last year. He received that honor alongside Gio Reyna, another exciting NYCFC prospect who's the son of national team legend Claudio Reyna.

Above all, Benalcazar doesn't want to get too far ahead of himself. Chances to train with NYCFC's first team could



come, but as captain of their U-19 team, he's focused on going far in the playoffs.

The chance to play under Muuss looms, and so will more memorable national team camps if he keeps on this path.

"We're looking to be the top team in our age group," Benalcazar said. "Then it's just keep working hard for the individual side of things."

S

@JonathanSigal jsigal@NESoccerJournal.com

NEW ENGLAND
SOCCER JOURNAL

FREE DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION

Sign up today for a FREE digital subscription to New England Soccer Journal and enjoy:



► The first to receive the digital edition of every new issue of NESJ

► NEW NESJ Weekly Insider (including updates on our new bonus content)

► Special subscriber-only offers and more!

BONUS SOCCER

Our digital edition includes weekly bonus content:

- Academy and club
- Prep & high schools
- Colleges (Div. 1-3)
- ... and more!

JOIN NOW AT
SeamansMedia.com/nescjfree

ECNL BOYS SPOTLIGHT: SANCHE MAROTO (Lexington, Mass.)



Courtesy Sancho Maroto

SPANISH INFLUENCE: Success spurs rising senior for more

By Jonathan Sigal

Growing up in Madrid, Spain, Sancho Maroto naturally found his way to soccer. As a boy, he idolized Real Madrid and the famed club's cadre of world superstars. The Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, after all, was a short drive from his home. "My dream since I was a kid to play in Real Madrid, that was my aspiration," Maroto said. "During school recess, I would play and think I was Cristiano Ronaldo."

At 13, Maroto moved stateside due to his mother's work, and a promising youth career took off. Now 16, the forward is part of the Boston Bolts' ECNL program. He also took home All-League and first-team All-State honors as a junior at Lexington (Mass.) High. As a sophomore, Maroto also was part of Lexington's Division 1 title-winning team.

A proven goalscorer, Maroto said it took some adjusting to the pace and physicality of American soccer, but his Spanish influences remain. "The most important thing with soccer is thinking about the game, reading the play, reading the defenders and their tendencies, if they're fast, if they're slow," Maroto said. "I watch the other team and see how I can adapt to play my best against them."

Keith Beaty, Maroto's coach at Lexington, said Maroto's Spanish background has "played a big part" in the player he is today. His technique stands out and he knows when to pick his moments to float, then make a run and ignite the attack. To some, it might

come off as a lazy, but that couldn't be further from the truth, according to Beaty.

"The argument with (Lionel) Messi's movement is he's scanning so when he gets the ball, he knows how to react to take and advantage," Beaty said. "It's a different scale obviously with Sancho, but he gets it. He reads the game."

Smith Utubor, Maroto's coach with the Bolts, picked up on similar tendencies, calling him a "unique player." The technical and physical aspects stand out, Utubor said, so the challenge in ECNL play was getting Maroto to rely on his teammates a bit more.

"He was so used to everyone passing him the ball and saying he goes to work," Utubor said. "These last few weeks, he really started to become a more complete player. We all knew he could score, so it's layering more on top of that."

But, like many rising seniors, the focus for Maroto now turns to finding a college soccer destination. As a 6-foot striker with a knack for scoring, Maroto won't have any problem finding a home at the next level, according to his coaches.

Maroto is steadfast in his pursuit of a Division 1 school, because of the financial aid possibilities and a desire to challenge himself even more. Plus, Maroto said he believes he hasn't achieved much yet, despite the honors that already have come his way.

"They just boost me to want even more," Maroto said. "The state championship we won two years ago, that makes me want to win another and be an All-American. The end isn't here."

ECNL GIRLS SPOTLIGHT: EMILY YIN (Westport, Conn.)

DREAM ON: Diligence keeps Yale goal on track

During preseason of her junior year at Hopkins, a private school in New Haven, Conn., Emily Yin went to shield the ball like she'd done hundreds of times.

It was, as she recalled 18 months later, a routine play. But when an opponent charged through the forward's leg, she dropped to the ground with her body tingling. She eventually got up and could walk on her own, but something didn't feel quite right. A month later, Yin (Westport, Conn.) discovered she'd torn her ACL.

"I tore it completely, so I didn't feel any pain," Yin said. "It was out of the blue and a real shock, because I was walking normally, but it was so, so torn."

The injury and the subsequent surgery set in motion a nearly year-long recovery, one that made Yin worry if her college soccer future was in jeopardy. She'd committed to Yale, her dream school, as a sophomore. She remembers calling assistant coach Todd Plourde to explain what happened.

"I broke down crying and said I was so sorry," Yin said. "He was very understanding and knew I was going to give it my all to get back to where I was. It was scary having it in the air, but he had complete faith in me."

Back at full health, Yin's commitment to Yale is intact, and she's banging in goals left and right for Connecticut FC's U-18 ECNL team. She also earned All-State honors after her senior season at Hopkins, where she was a captain and four-year varsity player.

Those successes stem from a long, steady road to recovery, according to Mike Starpoli, Yin's physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach. With Starpoli's help, Yin returned to the training ground six months post-operation, regaining strength in her legs.

"She told me she needed to be ready to play in college," Starpoli said. "Knowing that, we set a goal on day one to align our programming to achieve that. She surpassed everything."

While Yin's goal was to be fit enough for head coach Rudy Meredith's team in the Ivy League, she still left an impact in high school. That diligence also laid the groundwork for an electric ECNL campaign, according to Hopkins coach Gerard Casanova.

"She was playing better than ever before, and once again became our top scorer," Casanova said. "It wasn't just that. She could take over a game; her presence on the field was quite magnificent."

Yin said she's grown increasingly confident in her knee with each game, and the heavy nerves of re-injuring it are long gone.



Courtesy Emily Yin

It's all she can really ask, she added, ahead of joining Yale this coming fall, a program that's fresh off an 11-4-2 season. She plans to major in the math and sciences field. It is a path now cleared after she cast aside her injury and set her sights on maintaining her road to New Haven.

"It's almost like it never happened and almost was a blessing in disguise," Yin said. "It's gotten me in the gym more and I'm so much stronger than before the injury. The improvements are showing on the field."

— JONATHAN SIGAL

NEP BOYS SPOTLIGHT: SKYLAH DIAS (Swansea, Mass.)

FAMILY BONDS: Driven by siblings, bound for Brandeis



Dave Arnold/New England Soccer Journal

By Jonathan Sigal

For the past six seasons, Brandeis has made the NCAA tournament, advancing to the Final Four in 2016 and 2017. That run has cemented the Judges' program as one of the best Division 3 programs in New England and one of the ascendant teams in the country.

This legacy enticed Skylah Dias, a soon-to-be freshman midfielder at Brandeis, to pursue his college career in Waltham, Mass. For Dias, an All-League player at Case High School (Swansea, Mass.) and centerpiece for GPS Massachusetts' 1999 NPL team, it's an opportunity he can't wait to seize.

"Knowing the expectation there is to get to the Final Four, I'm going in to try and win a championship," Dias said. "I want to help raise the level with my class and make that difference. I want to be on the walls there; I want our class to be known."

The 18-year-old exudes confidence with good reason. Dias helped GPS win a national championship in 2015 and establish the club as one of Massachusetts' best teams in his age group. At Case, he was a four-year varsity starter and captain during his junior and senior season.

Dias is a difficult player to replace because he served as such a focal point in the side, according to Case coach Steve Manteiga said.

"We have to play true soccer now," Manteiga said. "When we were down by a goal, we looked to Skylah. We're going to have to work harder this time around without him."

In his quest to achieve on the field, Dias often has turned to family. His father, Neal, comes from a military background, and encouraged his son to choose one sport. As Dias progressed through the ranks, from recreational soccer to Blackwatch (now part of NEFC) to GPS, his option emerged.

"I knew it had to be soccer," Dias said. "I put my heart into it."

Similar inspiration comes from Dias' siblings. His older brother, Sarandon, was a four-year midfielder at Assumption, a Div. 2 school in Worcester, Mass. Meanwhile, his older sister, Sasha, played midfield at Sacred Heart, a Div. 1 school in Fairfield, Conn.

As Dias grew up, he saw their successes and always wanted to show that he too could make a name for himself.

"I've always been driven to be better than them," Dias said. "They've pushed me in a good way, and if you're the youngest, you want to always take it one step further than they did."

In order to achieve that feat, he'll have to earn his spot under Brandeis coach Gabe Margolis. The second-year boss took over ahead of the 2017 season for Mike Coven, who stepped down in 2016 after 44 years in charge of the Judges.

During the recruiting process, Dias was drawn to Margolis, a standout player in the early 2000s at NEW-MAC program Wheaton. He passed up looks from Div. 1 programs Holy Cross and the University of Rhode Island, as well as a full scholarship to play at Assumption.

"Gabe honestly was the only coach to ask me about family relations," Dias said. "He actually cared about what's going on in my life. You're going to be with your coach almost every day, so that gesture meant a lot."

For Dias, who's been profoundly molded by family, it was a gesture that sealed the deal. Now, as his GPS career comes to a close, Dias' Brandeis journey is set to get under way.

"This club has really given me a lot," Dias said. "They mold you into a player where it's kinda like chess, and you can outsmart the other team — the way you think, the way you play, the way you understand the game."

NEP GIRLS SPOTLIGHT: MOLLY MCFARLAND (Sandwich, Mass.)

COMMUNITY LEADER: Ithaca commit uses soccer to give back



Courtesy Molly McFarland

After a lengthy college search process, Molly McFarland committed to Ithaca in the fall of her senior year. The Division 3 school is an ideal destination for the hold-ing midfielder from Sandwich, Mass., who also is a standout for Liverpool FC of Massachusetts' 1999/2000 NEP team.

Alongside her twin sister, Sara, who committed to Mer-rimack, Molly left her mark on the Atlantic Coast League of the Massachusetts public school scene, too.

The soccer part, for the McFarland family, has long come naturally. So has the off-field portion. McFarland is a firm be-liever that sports have the power to change lives for the better.

"Ever since I was younger, I've had a passion not just for soccer, but for sports and how they lead to development not only for individuals, but also a community," McFarland said. "Growing up on Cape Cod, it's been an incredible sports com-munity. That fuels me to give back."

That outlook laid the groundwork for McFarland's deci-sion to work with patients at the Spaulding Rehabilitation

Hospital on Cape Cod and help out with adaptive sports at her high school. She also coaches at camps and clinics for younger Liverpool FC players, and is a certified instructor for Cardio Sport, a high-intensity workout program.

As a result of those pursuits, McFarland earned a Triple-Impact Competitor Scholarship from the Positive Coaching Li-cense. The scholarship rewards players who strive for personal improvement with team leadership and sportsmanship. It will now support her next step at Ithaca.

"All of my club coaches I looked up to, my high school coaches, my parents, grandparents, they've all taught me a central lesson that giving is more important than what you're given," McFarland said. "In athletics, that's harder to remember for some people."

McFarland's extensive off-field work left quite the impres-sion on Adam Scott, her Liverpool FC club coach. Scott, who also is the club's owner/director of soccer, said she's a shining example of how soccer can mold a young adult.

McFarland ability to ping crossfield balls, pass between

the lines, and get into challenges? That's all extra.

"It's rare to have people not just solely focused on school and ending club soccer before college," Scott said. "She wants to be so well-rounded because she recognizes that those types of kids are the ones who get first looks when applying to jobs. She's wise beyond her years and is an absolute leader on and off the field."

At Ithaca, McFarland plans to keep on giving back. She wants to teach Cardio Sport classes there, participate in Spe-cial Olympics programs, and coach if the time allows. Then, after college, McFarland hopes to remain working in sports, wherever that leads her.

The only part she's a little nervous for? Not playing with her twin sister.

"It'll be an adjustment," McFarland said. "We're known for having some sort of telepathy on the field, so it'll be dif-ferent not being with her. We're both very excited by it, too."

— JONATHAN SIGAL

CAPELLI SPORT

www.capellisport.com



Raven Jersey — Constructed of 100 percent moisture-wicking polyester fabric. This jersey is available with short or long sleeves in 10 different colors and features mesh panels for breathability, heat-transferred four-cube logo design, and CS embroidered logo. Machine washable. **MSRP: \$35 (adult), \$30 (youth)**



Sparrow Jersey — Constructed of 100 percent moisture-wicking polyester fabric. This jersey is available with short or long sleeves in 17 different colors and features mesh panels for breathability, embroidered four-cube logo design, and CS heat-transferred logo. Machine washable. **MSRP: \$40 (adult), \$35 (youth)**



Griffon Jersey — Constructed of 100 percent moisture-wicking polyester fabric. This jersey is available with short sleeves in 14 different colors and features contrast panels, heat-transferred four-cube logo design, and CS heat-transferred logo. Machine washable. **MSRP: \$22 (adult), \$20 (youth)**

NEW BALANCE

ATHLETICS, INC.

www.newbalanceteam.com



Pro Jersey — The Pro Jersey is available in short and long sleeves and is made of 100 percent polyester NB Dry moisture management system. It also features a sublimated, checkerboard graphic print to front panel with mesh inserts to underarm for breath-ability and comfort. Available to customize from 20 different colors. **MSRP: \$50**



Graphic Jersey — The Graphic Jersey is available in short and long sleeves and is made of 100% polyester NB Dry Moisture Management system. It also features sublimated graphic print detail with diminish effect and mesh back panel to jersey for breath-ability and comfort. Available to customize from 20 different colors. **MSRP: \$50**



Stripe jersey — The Stripe Jersey is available in short and long sleeves and is made of 100% NB Dry moisture management material. It features a sublimated vertical stripe with diminishing detail with Mesh back panel to jersey for breath-ability and comfort. Available to customize from 20 different colors. **MSRP: \$50**

UMBRO —

OUTERSTUFF LLC

cogliandro79@charter.net



Block Soccer Jersey — The Block Soccer Jersey is constructed of 100 percent polyester performance micro-mesh fabric in multiple color options. It features stylish color-blocking panels on the sleeves and neckline, and an Umbro heat transfer logo on the upper right chest. Machine washable. **MSRP: \$18 (youth), \$20 (adult)**



Field Soccer Jersey — The Field Soccer Jersey is constructed of 100 percent polyester performance micro-mesh fabric in multiple color options featuring an Umbro heat transfer logo on the upper right chest. Machine washable. **MSRP: \$15 (youth), \$18 (adult)**



Field Soccer Short — The Field Soccer Short is constructed of 100 percent polyester performance micro-mesh fabric in multiple color options featuring an Umbro heat transfer logo on the left leg and a drawcord waistband. Machine washable. **MSRP: \$18 (youth), \$20 (adult)**

capelli[®] SPORT

TEAMWEAR **SELLING DIRECT TO CLUB** CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR CLUB NEEDS

CONTACTUS@CAPELLISPORT.COM
212-684-3344
WWW.CAPELLISPORT.COM

umbro CLUB COLLECTION

Field Jersey: UUM1UAL1
Adult MSRP: \$18.00
Youth MSRP: \$15.00

Block Jersey: UUM1UALO
Adult MSRP: \$20.00
Youth MSRP: \$18.00

Field Short: UUM1UALP
Adult MSRP: \$20.00
Youth MSRP: \$18.00

Contact Dave Cogliandro. Phone: 508-864-9247
Email: cogliandro79@charter.net



There's no United States, not even Italy, at the World Cup, so ...

WHO DO I ROOT FOR?

By Kyle McCarthy

For several months, soccer fans in the United States tried to reckon with failing to qualify for the World Cup.

The disappointment in Trinidad and Tobago ran the gamut of reactions. Rage turned into disappointment. Sadness yielded to inquisitiveness. Anger and envy eventually rose to the fore.

None of those reactions — or the gamut of ways people tried to place the failure to qualify in context — really provides a varnish for the frustrating truth. The World Cup is taking place in Russia this month. And the United States isn't a part of it for the first time in three decades.

This reality leaves many soccer fans across New England without a natural team to support. This is particularly true for those poor souls who usually support Italy or the Netherlands as a first- or second-choice side.

No, you don't have to pick a team. It's more than fair to just watch the World Cup because it's the World Cup. How can you resist it?

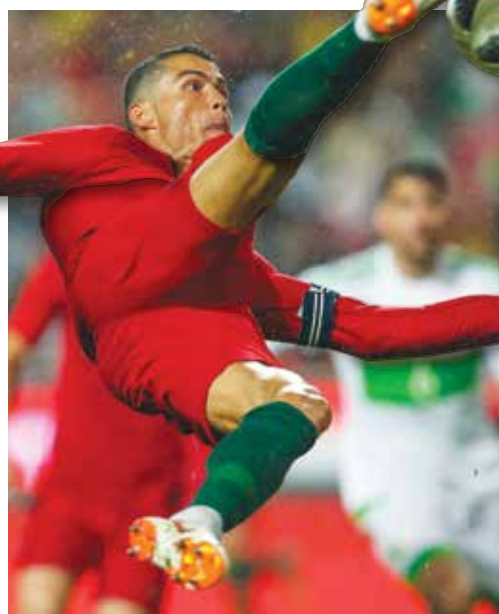
But if you are compelled to track one team or turn out for one country, then there are options. You just have to look a little further than the usual dash toward the red, white and blue.

Support the stars

The easiest and most accessible path involves the top players. Their constituencies exist already after those magical European nights and those massive occasions year after year.

Cristiano Ronaldo and **Portugal** enter this tournament on a high. Ronaldo just secured a third consecutive UEFA Champions League title with Real Madrid. Portugal won the most recent major tournament (EURO 2016). This tournament represents the last — and best — opportunity for this group (plus a few timely additions) to win the World Cup.

Similar sentiments apply to Lionel Messi and **Argentina** as they enter this tournament. Messi conjured every trick in his bag just to steer Argentina through the fraught South American qualifying process. He enters



► This likely is the last best chance for Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (above) and Argentina's Lionel Messi (below) to win the long-coveted World Cup.

this tournament in good form — Barcelona ran away from everyone in La Liga this year — and with a squad now ably led by wily manager Jorge Sampaoli.

Neymar perhaps enters this tournament with the best chance among the perennial FIFA World Player of the Year nominees to lift the trophy at the end. **Brazil** endured a national nightmare on home soil four years ago. Their recent revival under Tite addressed the lingering center forward problem (Roberto Firmino or Gabriel Jesus should start there), reinforced the structure with the side and supplied a platform for the PSG star to thrive. But is it enough to topple the other tournament favorites?

Follow favorites

Germany travels to Russia as the defending champion and the most complete group in the competition. Manuel Neuer returned from injury in time to take his usual place in goal, while the core of the side remains as steadfast as always. Germany manager Joachim Low must weave some fresh faces into the ranks — including promising Red Bull Leipzig forward Timo Werner — to reinvigorate the side.

Look for a rejuvenated **Spain** side to mount one last push to secure a second World Cup. Many of the key figures — in-

cluding the recently departed Barcelona icon Andres Iniesta — return for one last shot, but the possibility of a more direct and incisive brand of football suits this group. It's tiki-taka with a twist. But will the shift allow Spain to avoid the pitfalls encountered during a first-round exit a year ago?

Most of the questions surrounding **France** involve team selection. Didier Deschamps boasts one of the most talented squads in the competition. How can he squeeze the most out of this group? Expect Paul Pogba to receive a platform to perform well, but Antoine Griezmann looms as perhaps the most vital figure given his sharpness in front of goal.

Mine those local links

Any supporters with a keen interest in New England ties might focus primarily on the dugout. Former University of New Haven and Southern Connecticut State player Juan Carlos Osorio leads **Mexico** into the tournament. There are the inevitable pockets of dissent back in Mexico, but this group remains focused and united with an elusive place in the last eight firmly in sights.

Former University of Hartford standout and coach Dan Gaspar helped **Iran** to qualify for a second consecutive World Cup, but he ended a six-year spell with the national team in April.

Root for the upstarts

Belgium looks like the most likely nation to challenge the established favorites. This group oozes talent at the top end with Chelsea midfielder Eden Hazard serving as the potential match winner. Roberto Martinez must manage his squad carefully to ensure all of those talented players remain happy through the tournament without sacrificing some semblance of defensive stability, though.

There is no side better suited for the neutrals than **Iceland**. This group burst onto the scene by qualifying for EURO 2016 and won plaudits for reaching the knockout stages. Their improbable run continued in World Cup qualifying despite the departure of veteran manager Lars Lagerback. Their success — despite a small population and an even smaller pool of available players — makes them a particularly suitable team to follow, especially if you happen to like the Viking clap. **S**

Kyle McCarthy has covered MLS and the New England Revolution for more than a decade. He is the assistant editor of New England Soccer Journal.

@kylejmcCarthy

kyle@NESoccerJournal.com



Carlos Rodriguez/Getty Images (Ronaldo); Marcelo Endrulli/Getty Images (Messi)

Every soccer player has at least two coaches. The one on the sideline and the one inside your head. While the one on the sideline can influence your performance by what they say, so too can the one in your mind, and far too many players are unaware of what their inner coach is saying.

Of course, while there isn't quite literally a coach inside your head, we all engage in different forms of what is called "self-talk," in psychological terms. There are two main types of self-talk: intentional and automatic self-talk. Essentially, intentional self-talk is what you say to yourself and automat-

ic self-talk is what your mind says to you. What I'm referring to as your inner coach is merely a way to frame your automatic self-talk and what your mind is saying to you about your performance on the field.

Now, ask yourself a few questions. First, what does your inner coach say to you when you miss a shot on net? What does it say when you get a free kick when the game is on the line? What does it say after your team wins or loses a game?

It's likely that your mind says all types of supportive and unsupportive things to you, but your best performance can depend on how well you train yourself to recognize those thoughts and how you decide to respond. It's beneficial to learn to listen for what we'll call your inner critical coach and your inner compassionate coach.

When framed in this way, the types of things your inner critical coach might say are things that bring you down, dampen your motivation and drive, and pull you out

TRAIN YOUR INNER COACH TO IMPROVE

■ Be aware of your self-talk in order to foster positive results

of the moment. These types of thoughts say things like "You suck," "Wow, you really messed that up," "You should just give up," "You're letting everyone down," and other unhelpful thoughts when you're trying to prepare to play a game, refocus during the game, or continuing to occupy your thoughts after the game.

Your inner compassionate coach, on the other hand, is supportive, encouraging and motivating. For many of us, when we think of compassion, we think of a soft, loving and forgiving quality, but compassion also can be encouraging you to do something difficult because it's important and meaningful. Your inner compassionate coach might be more like a loving mother at times, but it also can be like a tough-loving big brother or uncle who pushes or encourages you in a fun, supportive and loving way. Your inner compassionate coach might say things like "Hey, you'll do better next time," "You've got this," "Time to get to work," "You've earned this," and other things that help you prepare, stay focused or recover after a game.

Why is it so important to listen for your inner critical and compassionate coaches? Because when you get "hooked" by your inner coach, this generally pulls you out of the moment and away from your best per-

formances. So what can you do? Research shows that a good first step is to become more aware of your automatic self-talk. Start to see what self-talk works well for you and what doesn't. Then you can identify the best strategies to address it.

What we also know from the research is that trying to ignore or argue with the inner critical coach often doesn't work. Instead, we want to "unhook" from the inner critical coach by 1.) being aware of the thoughts; 2.) recognizing them for what they are (just the story your mind is telling you, not facts); and 3.) bringing your attention back to the *moment* and the *game*.

Remember that you can also get "hooked" by positive thoughts about how great you did during that last play (as one example) and be pulled out of the *now* into the past. The point is to develop the capacity to stay in the present moment, which is the only place that you can impact what's happening in the game. To take from an old saying about a battle between two wolves: When it comes to your inner critical coach and your inner compassionate coach, the wolf that wins is the wolf you feed. You want to foster the types of self-talk that help you perform well and develop strategies to respond to the types of self-talk that hinder your performance.

Your automatic self-talk can get in the way of you getting into flow, especially if it's leading you to avoid challenge, pulling your attention away from the task at hand, and causing you to lose touch with what's happening around you. What you want is for your self-talk to be a voice helping you to dig into difficulty, focus your attention, open up your awareness and contact the present moment.

This can be accomplished both through the way we react to our automatic self-talk and the way we use our intentional self-talk. What the research ultimately shows around both types of self-talk is that what works best for each athlete is unique to the individual and circumstance. Your job as an athlete is to become a scientist studying your mental game. Observe, hypothesize, test and evaluate your self-talk. In time, you will develop a process that works best for you.

To learn more about the inner critical and compassionate coach, check out the *Mindful Performance Enhancement, Awareness & Knowledge (mPEAK)* program at www.mindfulnessbasedhealth.com/mpeak. If you're interested in the concepts of "hooking" and "unhooking," check out the YouTube video "*The Choice Point: A Map for a Meaningful Life*" and the book "*The Happiness Trap*" by Russ Harris. **S**

Landon DuMar is the Mental Performance Coach at RPM Athlete Performance in Natick, Mass. He currently is pursuing a master's degree in athletic counseling at Springfield College and has experience working with a variety of collegiate and youth athletes, coaches and trainers on the mental aspects of sport and performance that focuses on flow, mindfulness, expertise and positive psychology. His background in counseling psychology and extensive experience working in youth mental health programming informs his holistic approach to health, wellness, and well-being. Learn more at www.rpmathlete.com.

feedback@NESoccerJournal.com

SKILL OF THE MONTH by Phil Tait Soccer 1 on 1

Free Kick Practice

Watch the video from Phil Tait Soccer 1 on 1 by scanning the QR code or at youtu.be/kzoM-WVvkBK4

We've showcased free kick practice from our session with 1 on 1 trainee Connor Haskell this spring. Haskell, a Xavier University commit, has taken part in 1 on 1 sessions since 2015.

The video showcases three different free kick angles with the defensive wall in place. The aim is to get the ball up and over the defensive wall before picking out the top corners of the SKLZ Goalshot with the perfect mix of power, dip and swerve.

This is a technical exercise we would focus on primarily with college/elite club level players in 1 on 1 sessions.



How to prevent ankle injuries

You’ve done your ABCs, towel crunches, calf-raises and a gauntlet of single-leg exercises, but you keep spraining your ankle. Back to the training room for an ice bag, compression wrap and a trip to the orthopedic for more sad news: 2-4 weeks of physical therapy and maybe you’ll be back for the playoffs.

It’s all too familiar. Put the TheraBand away, we’re going to prevent these chronic ankle injuries from happening once and for all.

I’d be hard-pressed to find someone who hasn’t been affected by an ankle sprain at some point in his or her athletic career. Sprains vary in severity, typically graded based on a system that takes pain, structures involved and joint laxity into consideration. The mildest of sprains is a Grade 1 while the most severe is a Grade 3. Nearly 75 percent of the athletic population will suffer multiple ankle

sprains in their career; of those, the majority suffer from a condition called Chronic Ankle Instability (CAI).

Let’s fully understand why ankle injuries, and all injuries for that matter, occur. As in every aspect of life, there is cause and effect. In this case, the cause is defined

as the mechanism — a natural process of events and the effect is the injury. Clinically, this is described as the mechanism of injury (MOI). For an injury to exist, an MOI needs to be present. For the sake of practicality, we don’t need to trace humanity back too far to acknowledge at some point in our simplest times, our primary purpose on earth was to hunt, gather and procreate.

And thus, that is what our bodies were built to do. Our spine allows us to walk upright, equally distributing weight on two legs that are comprised of multiple joints that facilitate movement, distribution of energy and the presence of stability.

Adding sports to our perfectly aligned



► 3-Way Toe-Taps can counter ankle injuries — by elevating your heel (left) or forefoot.

skeletal structure now imposes torque, torsion and angular velocity to joints that were built to withstand linear (walking) forces, not rotational. Every joint has a set of mechanisms that will yield injury. It is your job to strengthen the joint while implementing those mechanisms if you intend to oppose the forces that will yield the injury itself.

By placing your ankle in positions of mechanical weakness, while performing closed-chain (foot-to-floor contact) single-leg exercises, you can more effectively develop your sensorimotor function and strength. This means your body and brain will become pre-programmed to recognize the stresses and overstretch mechanisms that typically would yield injury. Most importantly, by training in vulnerable positions, the central nervous system (CNS) will continuously rely on your muscle activation, tendons and reflex pathways to develop muscle-firing patterns that replicate past experiences. You do not want your body to feel an injury mechanism for the first time while you are on the field. Train through mechanisms and oppose them on the field.

The top three ankle MOIs are eccentric plantarflexed inversion, dorsiflexed inversion and plantarflexed rotation. Let me explain.

- 1. Plantarflexion with inversion** — Landing on one leg with your heel elevated (i.e. on another athlete’s shoes) and your ankle rolls to the outside.
- 2. Dorsiflexion with inversion** — Landing on one leg with your forefoot elevated, heel on the ground and your ankle rolls to the outside.
- 3. Plantarflexion with rotation** — Heel is elevated, foot is fixed and your lower leg rotates internally (i.e. cleat caught in the ground).



JOE CALIGIURI

To counter these injuries, one exercise with two variations can be effective if added to your daily warmup and activation routine. These exercises are called Single Leg Eccentric 3-Way Toe-Taps. To appropriately perform the exercise, you will need a baseball and an object 2 to 3 inches thick. A textbook, AirEx pad or half-rolled yoga mat all work perfectly. I suggest a baseball for ease of transport and moderate instability.

For MOI 1, place the baseball under one heel and load 90 percent of your body weight into that hip, knee and ankle joint. To enlist the function of all lower-extremity muscles, try to bend your knee to at least 30 and up to 45 degrees of knee flexion. With your other foot, gently extend your toe all the way out to the side, then back to center, back and out 45 degrees, then back to center, then straight back behind you, and back to center. Repeat these four times for a total of 12 taps. Then switch feet.

For MOI 2, place the baseball under your forefoot and repeat the process.

Lastly, for MOI 3, remove the ball, elevate your heel (most difficult) and perform all 12 taps on each side.

Three-way toe-tapping is a terrific way to eccentrically load your quadriceps, concentrically fire your hamstrings, and systematically transfer weight throughout various joint surfaces in your ankle.

Stop rehabilitating and start preventing.

Joe Caligiuri (MS, ATC, CSCS) is director of sports performance and medicine at Stadium Performance in Dedham, Mass., and has served as an athletic trainer with the NHL’s Los Angeles Kings, NFL’s New England Patriots and at Boston College. Check out spstrengthcoach.com.

feedback@NESoccerJournal.com

UNDERSTANDING BARS

When you stand in the aisle at the grocery store staring at the rows and rows of bars, what are you looking for?

Are you looking for an energy bar before practice, a protein bar for afterwards, a meal-replacement bar for breakfast as you run out the door, or just a snack in between classes or to go with lunch? Do you want it to be gluten-free, sugar-free, dairy-free, nut-free, non-GMO, plant-based or vegan?

Are you eating for functionality, performance or taste? Answering these questions will help narrow your search and find the right bars for your needs. My best advice as you shop is to read labels. Usually the bars with the fewest ingredients and the most that you recognize are the healthiest. Some brands of bars have consistent nutritional content regardless of the flavor while others vary significantly from flavor to flavor.



JULIE NICOLETTI

To complicate the decision-making process, some brands of bars offer multiple kinds of bars, for example, the Kind bar line includes Healthy Grain Bars, Pressed Fruit and Veggie Bars, Protein Bars, Kind Bars, Kids Bars, Mini Bars and Breakfast Bars, all with different flavors and nutritional content.

To try to make your life easier, I’ve organized and categorized a number of bars that are commonly found in grocery store bar sections.

Protein bars

12 grams of protein or more per serving.

Hint: Look for bars with more protein than sugar or at least an equal amount of each. Be careful of bars containing sugar alcohol as they may cause GI upset.

- Rx Bars
- Kind Protein
- Builders
- Oatmega
- Zone Perfect
- No Cow
- NuGo Slim
- Luna Protein
- Clif Protein
- FitJoy
- Quest
- Think Thin

Jerky-like bar

High in protein, low in sugar. Hint: A very good portable protein bar option, but looks more like jerky than a granola bar.

- Epic

Raw bars

Ingredients are real, raw and typically nutrient dense. Bars are often date-based and chewy with some seeds or nuts that make them crunchy.

Hint: Raw bars can be protein bars or snack bars or bars with a purpose, such as high fiber.

- Go Raw
- Lara
- Rx bars
- Raw Rev Glo
- Health Warrior Bar

Nut-allergy friendly bars

These brands take precautions to keep nut-allergic consumers safe and are safe for schools.

Hint: These typically are snack-sized, so you may need additional food to satisfy your nutritional requirements.

- 88 Acres
- Enjoy Life
- Don’t Go Nuts

Healthy fat bars

Calories may be higher due to the fat content.

Hint: Try to give yourself plenty of time to digest these before training or playing — usually 90 minutes.

- Health Warrior Chia Bar
- Kind (nut-based) bars
- Oatmega

I hope this is helpful. More than likely, finding the right bar for you will require some trial and error. Start with a good nutritional profile and then evaluate for taste and how you feel after eating.

Remember that the majority of your day should feature clean real food you recognize.

#FueltheChampionWithin

Julie Nicoletti is a nationally recognized sports nutritionist who specializes in coaching student and professional athletes to optimize performance and minimize the risk of injury through nutrition. As the founder of Kinetic Fuel Performance Based Nutrition, Julie combines her professional training as a registered pharmacist with her experience as a certified sports nutritionist to customize plans for athletes and teams enabling them to see transformative results. Learn more at www.kineticfuel.net.

@kineticfuel1

feedback@NESoccerJournal.com



NOW CARRYING

KETTLEBELL KITCHEN

Have your meals delivered to the KBK fridge at Stadium Performance or right to your doorstep.

Featuring Gluten, Soy, and Dairy-Free meals and meal plans tailored to your unique goals.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

\$25 OFF

EACH OF YOUR FIRST TWO ORDERS

PROMO CODE: STADIUM

Get started at www.kettlebellkitchen.com

NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL MARKETPLACE

INJURY



The premade ready-to-wear pad for your cast!

Buy It now: TheCastProtector.com

PHOTOGRAPHY



Sports Photography

- Football • Field Hockey • Soccer •
- Track & Field • Golf • Volleyball •
- Ice Hockey • Lacrosse •
- Tennis • Basketball •
- Baseball • Softball •

- High School •
- College •
- Youth Sports •

www.DaveArnoldPhotography.com

SOCCER PUBLICATIONS



NEW ENGLAND SOCCER JOURNAL

only **3 ISSUES**

\$5.99

NESoccerJournal.com/print

Hangin’ out with ... Charlie Davies

I expected to chat with you about retirement, but now you’re back in the working world. How does it feel? “Amazing. Really, I’m completely at peace. I don’t think about my playing days at all. I am really excited to come to work every day. I have an exciting new chapter in my life. It couldn’t be better.

Is this the first time you’ve had a desk job? “It is.” (Laughs.)

In Europe, club ambassadors are pretty common. We don’t really have them much in the States. What can we expect from you in this new role? “Anything and everything. I think what separates my position from European club ambassadors is that I have more of a presence in the front office. I am able to learn and grow on the business side of operations, which is what I was hoping to achieve here, as well as promote the club and have the club grow. I have always hoped it could be talked about when you talk about great New England teams, competing with the Red Sox, the Bruins, the Patriots and the Celtics, and being on the same page and the same level. That’s what I hope to achieve here. I want to be able to be a part of all of the different facets of the Revolution. Being a part of the business operations, the community relations, the charities that the Revolution are involved in. I have a special relationship with the fans. What I am really excited about is starting a culture with the former players who have played here and building the relationship and starting something special here with the Revolution alumni.”

In addition to your role with the Revs, you’re doing some media work. What intrigued you about that path? And what have you learned so far? “I have loved every second of retirement life. It’s just putting myself out there to be able to do different things and try things I never thought I’d enjoy, like writing articles for MLSsoccer.com. It’s been really interesting. You watch a game and you break it down. I watch it a little bit differently than I’m used to watching games. Being in front of the camera for NBC Sports Boston and hosting “State of the Revs” has been extremely fun. It’s something I guess I envisioned doing at some point in my life post-career, but the more you do it, the more you grow to love it. I feel really comfortable on camera. Going to MLS headquarters and working in the studios there and breaking down games there is something that I’ve enjoyed. The best part about being with the Revolution is that they allow me to do those other things. It keeps me extremely busy, but it allows me to continue to do things that I enjoy. I’m continuing to grow and progress because there are so many different things I’m involved in. Shedding light on the New England Revolution as a club has been a bit part of that.

“I’m a Homegrown, I’m a local, I’ve supported the club since 1996, the inaugural season. It meant the world to me that Jonathan Kraft and everyone on down have given me the opportunity to work here and the opportunity to help this club grow. I think that’s why I’m always so happy when I come to work here every day.”

We are featuring our NESJ 50 Most Influential list in this issue. Which players and coaches influenced you during your career? “When I was a kid, it was always Thierry Henry and Ronaldo — the Brazilian Ronaldo. Those were the players who I watched on video. I tried to emulate them. I loved their attitude. As a professional, I was very fortunate to play with guys like Landon Donovan, DaMarcus Beasley, Oguchi Onyewu and Clint Dempsey. The veterans helped you with the day-to-day training with the national team, the things that I did well, the things that I needed to work on. I was very fortunate to have players like that around me at such a young age within the national team.

“I had two coaches, in particular, that did a lot for me. My first professional coach (at Hammarby), Tony Gustavsson. He was later the assistant coach with the U.S. women’s national team. He was a great coach. He worked really hard with me. And then Bob Bradley, the (current) LAFC coach. He gave me my first chance with the national team. I think what separated him from a lot of people was the demand of being tuned in every single day, no matter what training exercise we were doing. It was about the workload as a striker. You’re not just attacking. You need to defend. You start the sequence as far as defending and how important it was as a striker to set the tone. Bob Bradley is someone I have a tremendous amount of respect for. He helped me tremendously.”

— KYLE MCCARTHY

David Silverman/New England Revolution

Basic bio

Position: Revolution club ambassador
Hometown: Manchester, N.H.
Prep school: Brooks School
College: Boston College
Birthdate: June 25, 1986

Favorites

Food: “There’s an Arrabiata pasta that my mother-in-law makes. That’s my favorite food. If I was going out, it’d be steak-frites (steak and fries in French).”
Vacation spot: Turks & Caicos. “I

haven’t gotten the chance to go there since I had twins. We haven’t gone on vacation since they were born. We probably won’t go until next Christmas. We’ll try it out and see how it goes.”
Movie: “Ace Ventura: Pet Detective.” I feel like I can quote every line from that movie.”

Book: “Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption” by Laura Hillenbrand
MLS road trip: “I think it’d be New York Red Bulls because we got to stay in the W Hotel in Hoboken (N.J.). The hotel was really nice and Hoboken’s really nice. The

whole setup is extremely nice. Plus, it’s a rivalry and I like rivalry games. That made the away match special.”
Non-soccer team: New England Patriots
Soccer team: Revolution
Revolution soccer player growing up: Welton



OUR SOCCER



UPCOMING HOME MATCHES

6/30 vs. D.C. UNITED (BOBBLE HEAD NIGHT)
7/7 vs. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC
7/14 vs. LA GALAXY

1.877.GET.REVS | REVOLUTIONSOCCER.NET | #NEREVS

