

\$1

A Kick In The Ass

THE VOICE OF NEW YORK
CITY SOCCER SUPPORTERS

“That's Metro to You Pal”

Every Thing We Know, You Can Know Too!

News From The Swamp/

Where's Ramos? Here's Rincon? Who's Meola?/

Gold Cup Traumafest: Our reporter at the wrong end of a

knife/Singin' With the Vain: Footy Songs Part 1

/Obscure Objects of Desire//TV//Footy Film Reviews/

Football Related Garp We Though Was Funny At The Time

*"I want to build a team that's invincible, so they'll have to send
a team from Mars to beat us"*

BILL SHANKLY, 1971

A KICK IN THE ASS is in no way connected

with the MetroStars Soccer Club, Centaurs Soccer club, the A-League, Major League Soccer, The United States Soccer Federation, the Empire Supporters Club, or any body else. And they're all probably pretty happy about this.

Anything which is not otherwise noted was written by Tom.

Price is \$1. A Self Addressed and Double Stamped Envelope will get you a first trial issue. The 'plan' is that there will be an issue every month from May to October. After October we go to every other month. Trades are requested for overseas mailings. Subscriptions are, basically, send me \$1 for every issue you want. Subscriptions are refundable cause, let's face it, it's kind of a leap of faith, huh?

Submissions and letters are encouraged. Please. Mac/ Microsoft Word disks would help for submissions.

Write me at: PO Box 250397, NYC, NY, 10025.

or t1m16@columbia.edu

Cheers to: The Empire Supporters Club, The New York City Firm, Sam's Army, First Touch, The New York City Celtic Supporters Club, the New York Liverpool Supporters Club, Kinsale Tavern, Sophie's, NYC SHARP. Special thanks to AKITA's first staff writer: Kevin McAllister.



Welcome to A Kick In The Ass.

New Season, new Club.

Last summer, Professional soccer came back to New York City after a long long absence. The Team was the New York Centaurs, the league was the now second division A-League. As its most hard bitten (and only) fans, we thought we would start a fanzine. You know, help'em along a have a bit of a laugh. Lose tremendous amounts of money. Well, the Centaurs are no more (passing speedily over our collective trauma), and quickly, we at AKITA began to get involved in the nacent Major League Soccer. We'd always covered both, sorta hedging our bets, and through contacts in the National Squad's supporters club, Sam's Army, we've had plenty to write about and even some people to read our little rag.

I was tempted to call this issue Five and a Half. We'll try and catch everyone up to speed, and get in a few jibes at the powers that be before you even know it.

AKITA and the Empire Supporters Club, while quite seperate, share the goals of giving a voice to soccer fans. Together, we may be able to prevent all the money and TV rights, the falsly stadiums and Mondo Cool names from going to the heads of the MLS and the USSF. Maybe we can remind them that without the passion that soccer inspires in supporters around the world, this sport may as well be another World League Gridiron Football: sound and fury signifying nothing.

Its our game. We want to work to reclaim it.

Tom

The Numbers Game

MLS Fixtures: Weeks 3/4

Check Univision, ESPN & ESPN2 for televised matches

Saturday, April 20th Schedule

Columbus V Tampa Bay 7:30
 Metro V New England 7:30
 Washington DC V Los Angeles 7:30

Sunday, April 21st Schedule

Colorado V Dallas 4:00
 San Jose V Kansas City 4:00

Saturday, April 27th Schedule

New England V Washington Dc 7:30
 Metro V Columbus 7:30

Sunday, April 28th Schedule

Tampa Bay V Dallas 4:00
 Los Angeles V San Jose 7:30

Standings through Apr 17

Eastern division

Team	w	sow	l	sol	pts	gf	ga	east	west
Columbus	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	1-0	0-0
Tampa	1	0	0	0	3	3	2	1-0	0-0
Boston	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	0-1	0-0
Metro	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0-0	0-1
DC United	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0-1	0-1

Western division

Team	w	sow	l	sol	pts	gf	ga	east	west
Dallas	2	1	0	0	4	4	0	0-0	2-0
LA	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	1-0	0-0
KC	1	0	1	0	3	3	3	0-0	1-1
San jose	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	0-0	1-1
Colorado	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0-0	0-1

Shootout wins are worth one point. Regulation wins are worth three points.

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“That's Metro to You Pal”

Every Thing We Know, You Can Know Too!

First, the name. I could be worse: we could be the Wiz. You may notice that we prefer Metro or Metro S.C. Stars is just a bit to giddy for me, I'm afraid. Try thinking of it like Inter Milan. Nobody actually calls them that. Its just Internazionale or Inter. To the point, dignified. You can shout it in a stadium without people laughing at you ("come on you new york/new jersey metro stars!"). So Metro.

As you've probably noticed, Metro's uniforms are all black at home, all white away. 'Rumors' are that next year the main colors will be black/red with a little white. Basically AC Milan's kit [vertical red and black stripes] with white piping.

Black is great, except on sunny summer afternoons. And most anywhere we go, though, it'll look like someone else. Remember Columbus is Black/Gold with some white. DC. is Black with red and White stripes. We could do black and white checkerboards? (ska ska ska)?



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•Parmalat was considering sponsoring Metro but it is Fuji that will appear on the back of the team's jersey below the number on opening day.

•If you ever need shirts made to order, don't ask Nike. Metro jerseys are optimistically slated for availability in May. The club didn't even have them for the Meet The Team day on March 31st.

Preseason friendlies

Metro played three training matches at a week long preseason camp in Florida. here's how they stacked up.

Sunday, March 17

MetroStars 2, New England 1.

Goals: Savarrese (Barber) 35, Vermes (Kydes) 86; Lalas (Welton) 78

Metro -- Meola, Hesse, Caricola, Restrepo, Harty, Barber, Vermes, da Silva, Savarrese, Kydes, Tulio. Subs: Acosta, Olson.

New England -- St. Andre, Lalas, Weiszmann, Ibsen, DeBrito, Aunger, Allhutt, Welton, Woodring, Ukrop, Naveda. Subs: Sawatsky, White, Keegan.

Tuesday, March 19

MetroStars 1 Columbus 2. Goals: Savarrese (Kydes) 73; Miller (Catano, McBride) 15, Paz (Batelle) 67.

Caricolla was red carded in the 81st minute

Metro -- Meola, Hesse, Restrepo, Caricola, Harty, Barber, Vermes, DaSilva, Stockton, Savarrese, Rodriguez. Subs: Acosta, Tulio, Soto, Olson, Kydes.

Columbus -- Oshoniyi, Watson, Ward, Miller, Clark, Cozier, Greenwood, Batelle, Catano, Paz, McBride. Subs: Marino, Robles, Young, Haskins, Pitturo, Michallik.

Thursday, March 23

Kansas City 1 MetroStars 0

Goal: Eichmann (68).

Eichmann beat Tony Meola on a 22 yard free kick. Only 13 metro players dressed, due to injuries

As you can see, most of the 'starters' at training have since been dropped, as the Olympic and injured players have since become available. Columbus in particular was plagued with almost its complete squad, and New England and KC at least had their 'Stars'. The squad will change again, for the better, as Ramos, Donadoni, and Rincon come to the club. Think of it this way: it can only get better.

"How can they throw me off the team after just having presented me to the press as a member of the MetroStars. They told me that there are too many midfielders but that is purely bull. This is a joke. One knows when he is playing well...I, will all due respect to my team mates, was doing it better than alot of them". I don't know if it is a question of racism but I am the second latin that they threw out. The first was Carlos Bustamante who dribbles better than anyone on the MetroStars. I just don't understand it"[thanks to Miguel for the translation]. Acosta, more realisticly, is getting on in years, and with the re-introduction of four u-23 national squad players after the training camp, he looked more and more superfluous. With two Italian and three or four starting players latino, allegations of racism seem unfair. Acosta will now return to the NY Fever USISL outfit.

After the LA match, Defender Ken Hesse was dropped in lieu of Zaun and Matt Knowles. Finally, reserve reserve keeper, Matt Olsen of the USISL Everett Big Foot has been dropped.

Metro Roster 4/20
(limited to 18)

No.	Name	Pos	Age	Ht	Wt
13	Dan Barber	MID	24	5-8	160
5	Nicola Caricola	DEF	33	6-0	160
16	Chris da Silva	DEF	25	5-11	175
7	Robert Donadoni	MID	32	5-8	160
15	Rhett Harty	MID	25	6-1	178
19	Miles Joseph	FOR	21	5-9	163
3	Matt Knowles	DEF	25	6-1	190
14	Mickey Kydes	MID	31	6-0	180
1	Tony Meola	GK	26	6-1	195
10	Tab Ramos	MID	29	5-7	145
20	Andrew Restrepo	DEF	25	6-2	175
11	Ed Rodriguez	MID	25	6-4	205
17	Giovanni Savarrese	F	24	6-0	180
6	Damian Silvera	MID	21	5-8	150
18	Zach Thornton	GK	22	6-3	210
9	Peter Vermes	FOR	30	6-1	175
22	A.J. Wood	FOR	22	6-2	190
2	Jeff Zaun	DEF	24	6-0	165

Injured

21	Nidal Baba	MID	23	5-11	190
12	Ted Gillen	MID	27	5-10	160

Not in Squad for 4/20

29	Scott Lamphear	DEF	21	6-0	165
27	Hamisi Amani-Dove	FOR	21	5-11	140
8	Mystery Colombia	FOR			his wt. in Gold



A.J. Wood

1996 MetroStars International Schedule

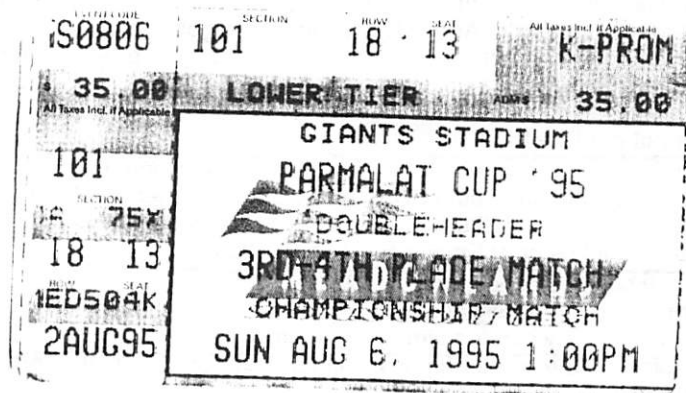
May 24 - **Metro v. Fiorentina**; inc. in 5 game plan and Season Tickets
June 5 - **Metro v. Sporting Lisbon**; inc. in 10 game plan and Season Tickets

June 12 - **US Cup'96 - Ireland v. Mexico**; inc. in 10 game plan and Season Tickets

June 15 - **US Cup'96 - Ireland v. Bolivia**; inc. in Season Ticket Plan

The US Cup'96 Matches will not maintain the current MetroStars prices. They will be higher - in the \$50 - \$20 range.

Any questions contact Metro sales lines directly 1-800-330-4666



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Sam's Army at US vs Scotland

The U.S. Mens National Soccer Team will be playing a friendly against Scotland on May 26, 1996 at Willow Brook Park, CT. Sam's Army will be in attendance and we expect the largest gathering of Sammers to be at this game since our inception. Now is the time to show how far Sam's Army has come and that the U.S. does have passionate followers. Get your singing voices and your red shirt ready and see you at the match!!! Tickets can be purchased by calling, call 1-203-826-4406 or 1-860-4406, visa or mastercard will be accepted. SPECIFY THE TICKETS ARE FOR SAM'S ARMY!!!! Make sure you let them know the tickets are for SAM'S ARMY, the USA's supporters group and not the Tartan Army (The Scottish are going to have a large supporters group as well). The seats are located behind one goal and are general admission tickets. Prices are \$18.00 for adults, \$10.00 for youth under the age of 19. There is a \$3.00 service charge PER ORDER not per ticket.

The Empire Supporters is organizing a bus up to Conn. for the match. We plan to have both Scots and U.S. supporters on board, with a projected cost of \$25. Contact the ESC at our table in Lot 15 before the matches or at: Empire Supporters Club

P.O. Box 022902, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

e-mail to vvxz72a@prodigy.com

<http://pages.prodigy.com/empiresc/home.html>

Finally, this coded transmission was intercepted from the Tartan Army HQ itself:

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"San Jose Costa Rica Mental Tartan Army has started some e-contact with Sams Army (named after Sam Hammer, the manager - apparently) by E-Mail. They appear to have a bunch of loud and proud fans similar to ourselves. I hope to organise to join with thier 'tailgate' (which translates to beers from car boots outside the match) for the USA game. I nicked the following from thier Web Pages : 'The goal of SAM'S ARMY is to make soccer games a more enjoyable experience for everyone. We will not tolerate hooligan, racist, or violent behavior.' Not much different from us eh ? But perhaps they don't necessarily hate the English !! Apparently they have a piper too ! " That piper is the NYC Firm's very own "Highland" Brett. Watch out for strangers bearing hags, Brett..."



The **Liverpool v Juventus** match is still scheduled for August 4th in Boston in spite of the recent rumors that the match has been moved to Monaco. Promoter Noel Lemon of Mundial sports has stated that the match would not be sanctioned to be played anywhere in Europe. UEFA, though, is reportedly concered that they find a 'neutral' location for the match. Boston, it is assumed, will be overwhelmingly pro-Liverpool. Nothing appears to have yet been decided.

This match will be the first time the two teams have met since the Heysel Stadium tragedy in 1985.

•Before you hear it anyplace else: Rumors are now abounding of an end to the English league structure as we know it. It is reported that several big clubs (Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Everton, Newcastle, Spurs, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest, possibly Blackburn, Glasgow Celtic but NOT Glasgow Rangers) have signed letters of intent to form a Super League for the 97/98 season. If this is true, it will most likely spell an end to seperate FA's and national squads for Scotland and England. Obviously the English and Scottish authorities are not going to like this very much. Such a league will also condemn minor clubs to be permanent outsiders and create a structure of monied giants and impoverished struglers. Take American sports as a warning, Britain. If the sport is ruled by money, it will end up like Gridiron Football: a passionless corporate monster, rich but irrellivent.

NEWS FROM THE
SWAMP

**KEV of the Empire Supporters Club
Bares His Soul...**

The swamp is our affectionate name for section 135: the supporter's section dedicated to all the head cases who sand and sing and yell things at opposing players. Here you'll find our Independent Supporters Club: The Empire Supporters Club. Big Kev McAllister heads it, and below are our current projects. Contact the ESC for more info.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE EMPIRE SUPPORTERS CLUB

(1) UPCOMING HOME MATCHES

20 April 1996 Metro-New England at Giants Stadium, 7:30pm
27 April 1996 Metro-Columbus at Giants Stadium, 7:30pm
4 May 1996 Metro-Tampa Bay at Giants Stadium, 7:30pm
16 May 1996 Metro-Colorado at Giants Stadium, 7:30pm

Please note that the supporters club will meet for tailgate parties before every home match. Look for us in Lot 15 beginning three hours before kickoff.

(2) ROAD TRIPS

The supporters club will be sponsoring road trips to all awaymatches in Washington and Foxboro. Tickets are be \$35.00 pertrip (bus + match ticket) and are available from KevinMcAllister, Nathan Hillyer and Tom Miles of the supporters club. Look for us at the tailgate parties to buy your tickets.

12 May 1996 at Washington - bus leaves Giants Stadium at 9:30am(SHARP!) and returns 1 hour after the match ends.

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Bus/matchtickets must be purchased by the 27 April 1996 Metro match.

19 May 1996 at New England - bus leaves Giants Stadium at 9:30am(SHARP!) and returns 1 hour after the match ends.

Bus/matchtickets must be purchased by the 4 May 1996 Metro match.

Let us know if you want to do a trip to new Britain, CT for the 26 May 1996 USA-Scotland match...

Empire Supporters Club

P.O. Box 022902, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

e-mail to vvxz72a@prodigy.com

<http://pages.prodigy.com/empiresc/home.html>



Where's Ramos? Here's Rincon?
Who's Meola?

The big headline for the Metro squad is who is not yet playing. Metro is one of five clubs which has not yet signed a final marquee player.

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Firmani has been working hard to bring in Colombian international and Real Madrid forward/midfielder **Freddy Rincon**. Firmani is quoted in the new York Times saying "He's a tremendous scorer and he will add so much to our team." Every week the club says the papers are almost signed, and every week nothing happens. The downside of Rincon, a world famous and prolific scorer, is his notorious indiscipline at the club level. Like the Brazilian genius Romario, he carries perhaps more baggage than a young club like Metro could afford. Firmani has also been looking at **Ruben Dario Hernandez** a veteran of the Columbia 1990 World Cup team, as well as strikers **Jose Adolfo Valencia** and **Ivan Valenciano**.

As important are the two star signings that will create the core of the Metro midfield **Tab Ramos** and **Roberto Donadoni**. Tab's mexican club, **Tigres**, has reached the quarterfinals of the national championships. After losing the first leg at home, the second leg is played today, April 20. Sorry Tab, gotta hope you lose.

Donadoni, a skilled veteran of the Serie A and **AC Milan**, is crucial to that club's title battles. With Juventus still barely in striking distance, it will be at least a week until Milan clinches the league. Despite a formal request for Milan to turn him over this week, he is not starting against New England.

•One final Missing player is **Hamisi Amani Dove**, former Rutgers goalscoring ace, and currently finishing out the European season with the Dutch FC Volendam reserve side. its possibel that Metro will lose him, as Dutch first division scouts have been circling him like buzzards of late. Don't let this happen, Eddie

•Central defender **Matt Knowles**, a first round Metro draft pick, almost never mad it here. It seems he and his NPSL indoor club had signed him over to an A-League option that was resting in the sweaty hands of the **Rochester Raging Rhinos** (God, I still hate that name. See AKITA #5 for a big long lambast at the tripple R's. Sounds like a Midwestern steak house chain). Knowles had since signed a contract with Metro, and lawyers from all sides are trying to resolve this amicably. Meanwhile, Knowles has decided Metro is where he wants to start the season

Eddie Firmani

as you might know, is our coach. He's a former coach of the old NY Cosmos, so he should be right at home in Giants stadium. Born in South Africa, he played for London's **Charlton Athletic**, then moved to Italy, playing for **Sampdoria**. An Italian citizen, Firmani gained three national tem caps. Later he played for Inter Milan, Genoa, and then back to England with **Chalton** and **Southend**. He became coach of **Charlton**, then moved to the United States, coaching for five different

NASL clubs. With the Cosmos he won the Soccer Bowl (yes, that's really what they called it) in 1977 and 1978.

- On Saturday, March 31st, Metro held its first Meet the Team day at Giants stadium. Players signed autographs, and fans, almost 2000 of them, got to check out the facilities.

- On April 18th the MetroStars, Firmani and the players hosted a charity \$45 a plate luncheon to benefit the Tomorrow's Children fund at the Ballroom of the Hilton Meadowlands.

- No final word yet on MLS participation in the US Open Cup, the annual pro/am cup that dates back to the beginning of this century. After A-league clubs were humiliated by lower division USISL squads last year, it seems unlikely that the MLS will participate. We can only hope that in the coming years the MLS will return this competition to its proper place as the highest award in US soccer: especially since the winner goes on to play foreign sides in the CONCACAF Cup Winners Cup.



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• The first yellow card in the MLS was shown to D.C. striker Raul Diaz Arce after only four minutes when he brought down San Jose's Nigerian defender Michael Emenalo. Alrady I hate tose DC guys...

• First red card, on the other hand, was shown to Boston, and former NYC Centaurs keeper, **Jimmy St.Andre**. Jim handled the ball outside the box in the 89th minute of their away opener against Tampa Bay and was promptly sent off. As a member of the most carded squad in the A-League last year, we're glad to see Jimmy is the same tough guy we know and love. Unfortunately, this leaves him out of today's match, and we miss the change to welcome Jimmy home (and the shout "Traitor" at him like did to Centaurs favorite **Dan Calichman** throughout the LA match). Ah, memories

Remember our friend from the **NYC Centaurs, Bo Oshiniyi**? well Bo is now starting for the Columbus Crew, and so far has yet to concede a goal. This from a Columbus supporter:

"Granted, he wasn't really challenged but he is one hell of an athlete. Plus he knows how to entertain the crowd. My favorite Bo highlight was near the end of the game when the DC player sent a high ugly cross into the area, but no one was there but Bo. He received the ball with his chest, brought it to his thigh, then his feet and started juggling the ball. The crowd yelled "OLE"! and then as a DC player charged in he picked up the ball. Classic."

Also from the Centaurs is **Jaunuz Michallik**, also starting for Columbus, as a midfielder.





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STANDING UP FOR THE LITTLE GUYS ALREADY:

Tab Ramos Fights For Truth Justice And The American Way

Tab Ramos has already spoken out about the unfair way in which the severe MLS pay caps are swept aside for big name stars. He claimed that US national team players, most making under \$100,000 a year, are bearing the brunt of this, with the MLS taking advantage of their desire to play at home. Meanwhile Donadoni and Rincon will make piles of cash. El Nuevo Hudson quotes Tab saying "I have made a financial sacrifice to come and play for MLS because I believe that it is important that I come back to support professional soccer in the US. But I think that it is unjust to make an economic sacrifice while various foreign players sign lucrative contracts".

Preach on brother Tab!

After that, Ramos slams the crappy quality of US referees, saying "In the US there are no more than two good referees." You're going a bit easy on them, methinks.


More importantly, Ramos joins our crusade to stamp out the stupid rule changes, blasting the MLS shootouts that prevent tied matches. We love you Tab. Time for the editorial staff at AKITA to start throwing underwear.





You just sit there and think about what you've done...

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Gringo Go Home The Sad Tale of the CONCACAF GOLD CUP

by Kevin McAllister

The message from the organizers of the 1996 CONCACAF Gold Cup was clearly Yankee (and Canadian) go home. The unfortunate part of the whole thing was that the United States was in fact hosting the poorly run biannual championship for North American, Central American and Caribbean soccer nations. The events of 10-21 January 1996 would be hard for me to believe if I had not witnessed each and every one of them for myself during the tourney.

The troubles began with the draw in September. The tournament usually features eight teams and CONCACAF hoped to increase the field to twelve sides by inviting four South American teams to compete. Unfortunately CONCACAF was turned down by three South American invitees and Brazil agreed only to send its U-23 side, thus leaving the tourney with a field of nine sides. The nine sides were split into three groups of three. In what barely qualifies as group play, each team was to play two group matches with the group winners and the best second place finisher advancing to the semifinals. To make matters worse, Mexico was placed in a group with minnows St. Vincent and Guatemala with

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the winner of their was drawn to play the best second place finisher for a spot in the final. Our worst fears were realized when Mexico reached the final by beating only St. Vincent and Guatemala (twice). It's really hard to take such a championship seriously.

...Tournament organizers were still painting the advertising signboards at match time...

Troubles at the tournament resulted from poor organization, callous policing, and a complete disregard for the English-speaking supporters in Southern California. The rights to stage every part of the tourney were sold like some commodity to Inter-Forever Sports, a Miami company that had never staged a soccer tournament. As part of the package greedily handed over by CONCACAF, Inter-Forever controlled all of the television broadcasts within the United States, none of which were available on free or cable television. In fact, the situation was so ridiculous that the matches could not only be purchased at exorbitant prices on a pay-per-view basis if the buyer had an RCA Direct TV satellite dish. Venues for Brazil matches were embarrassingly empty due to the fact that the tournament[dis]organizers were beholden to the interests of Brazilian television. This meant that one match was staged at the Los Angeles Coliseum at 5:00pm on a Friday afternoon. Anyone who has been on the roads of Los Angeles knows that it is motoring and sporting suicide to schedule a match at that time on a week day in the City of Angels. At that match (Brazil-Canada), tournament organizers were still painting the advertising sideboards at match time and there were no programs or tournament merchandise for sale at the stadium. Policing also turned out to be a problem. I had my flag confiscated by an Officer Smith of the LAPD who told me that it appeared to make gang references and that if he allowed me to hang my flag at the stadium, then "every kid with a rap group would want to hang up his flag also". Officer Smith returned my flag, but not before removing my letters and warning me that I would be ejected from the stadium if he saw it again. My wife and I met some members of the LAPD a few nights later when we were have burritos and a beer at our car in the stadium lot before the Brazil-Honduras match. Apparently, the LAPD has never heard of a tailgate party and we were given a fine to prove it. At every match I attended (seven total) there were problems with the private security people staffing the stadiums. We were constantly hassled about flags and we were never permitted to bring our drums into the stadiums during USA matches. This occurred

despite the fact that tournament organizers cut some sort of a deal with the Brazilian supporters which allowed them to bring entire samba bands into the stadiums through the press gate. Trinidad suffered a defeat at the hands of the USA and then discovered that the team bus had not shown up because it had been commandeered by the tournament organizers to transport some big wigs. Fortunately, 40-50 Trinidad supporters had gathered at the players exit and were willing to drive their heroes back to the team hotel (which, by the way, was burglarized during the match and the players lost approximately \$10,000 from the hotel safe). The problem with this arrangement seemed to be that the Anaheim police grew alarmed at seeing the predominantly black crowd waiting outside of Anaheim Stadium and decided to violently disperse them using a helicopter equipped with a menacing spotlight.

Since the police and security personnel were so nasty, it seemed that at least they would be on top of things if anyone really needed the assistance of the thick boys with guns and big boots. Bad guess. At the USA-El Salvador match, the USA supporters were barraged with missiles throughout the match courtesy of the El Salvador supporters/thugs sitting above them. The debris included hot dogs, mustard, full beers, and plastic waterbottles. Although this incident received very little publicity, I really wish that someone had taken a photograph of the USA supporters huddling for safety under a huge American flag late in the second half of the match. Security personnel and uniformed members of the Anaheim Police turned a blind eye to this activity throughout the match and disappeared at the end of the match. What resulted was an ugly confrontation outside of the stadium which was clearly started by El Salvador thugs who attacked the American supporters with bottles, umbrellas and a knife. A few US supporters received minor injuries, but we dispersed upon seeing the knife. [Quick thinking there, Kev--ed.] We were very lucky and this incident could have ended very tragically. Later, the same thugs again tried to attack us as we waited for the US team to exit the stadium. Throughout the evening our pleas for help were ignored by the security people. I cannot imagine another country in the world where the home support are treated like this when attacked by visiting supporters. A pox on Orange County.

...The USSF, which slickly washed its hands of the whole tournament, must share the blame...

English speaking supporters were clearly not welcome at this tournament. There was almost no promotion in the English media.

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The one advertisement I did see in a major Los Angeles newspaper listed the venue for USA-Trinidad as the Los Angeles Coliseum. In fact, the match took place 40 miles away in Anaheim. CONCACAF and the USSF must be blamed for this failure. After all, why should we allow our sporting infrastructure to be used to stage events in which our national team and its supporters are relegated to second class status. The USSF, which slickly washed its hands of the whole tournament, must share the blame. I do not buy for one second their argument that we must look only to CONCACAF for blame. If the regional tournament was staged in the US, then, like it or not, the USSF must have been the host. As such, they did absolutely nothing to insure that we were able to see the US team on television or to insure that the tournament was something that we could be proud of. At this tournament, I found little to be proud of except for the play of our national side. What I did find, however, were a laundry list of reasons why the USSF should seek to join CONMEBOL and why it should shun Southern California for future friendlies and World Cup qualifying matches.



STOCKPORT COUNTY F.C.

EDGELEY PARK, STOCKPORT SK3 9DD

TELEPHONE: 0161 480 8888

ENGLISLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
 STOCKPORT COUNTY v ROTHERHAM
 DATE 31/12/77 KICK OFF 07:30 P.M.

AREA	ROW	SEAT	PRICE
UT1	MM	005	7.00

CHEADLE STAND UPPER 1
 ENTER VIA TURNSTIL

TO BE RETAINED

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NATHAN'S SOCCER FILM REVIEWS

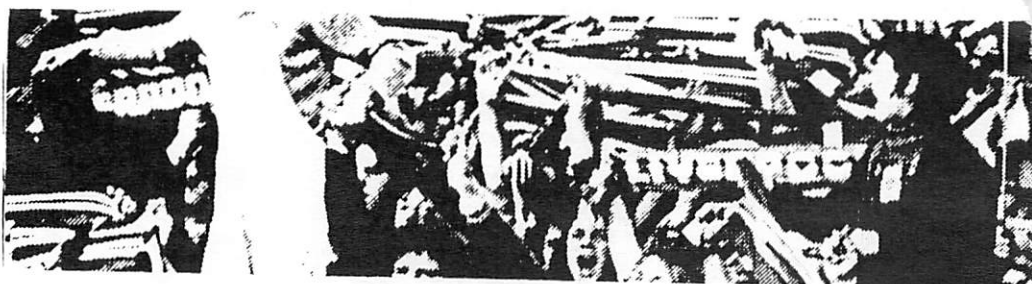
Although I never imagined that I would ever actually get the chance to review a movie, I suppose this will be a good start as I review some footballing films and put a degree in film at NYU to some use. On the other hand, if anyone sees me eating as much as Roger Ebert or losing hair like Gene Siskel, please stop me for my own good.

Gregory's Girl

This is a very funny movie made in Scotland in the early eighties about a young strange lad's interest in a girl who plays on the school football team. It is not a movie which is so much about football although it is a good part of the script throughout. It is a VERY funny movie about growing up in Scotland and finding the right date. I must have seen this one first when I was 12 or something, and I have never gotten sick of watching it. I own a copy of it myself, but it can be found in some video stores.

Victory

This is definitely a football movie. It is set in a Nazi prison camp where footballers turned soldiers have found themselves captive together, Germans as well as English. The confrontation of one great German player who is a commandant of the camp (Max Von Sydow) and his footballing English enemy, a great West Ham player (Michael Caine), produces a plan for the allied footballers of war (FOWs so to speak) to play a match against the German national team.



CHILDHOOD SECRETS



"And remember, soccer is for people who wear dresses," said Mr Striker, before pointing out the interesting nature of baseball statistics. But it was too late. His son had just seen Mike Summerbee's performance in Escape to Victory.

From When Saturday Comes

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There are plenty of complications when an American prisoner (Sylvester Stallone) becomes entangled in the team as it interferes with his escape plans. Untalented as a footballer, Stallone eventually finds himself in the goal keeper's jersey in order to help himself and the whole team escape in occupied France. [So that's why Tony Meola is in goal for Metro: Escape from New Jersey, Hmmm-Ed.] Even with the star studded cast which I have mentioned there is also the most important star of the film, none other than PELE himself. His part in the film is only really peripheral, but Pele choreographed all the footballing plays in the film. Football fans watching this film will understand why his performance outweighs everyone else's in nobility.

ID

This one Tom and I rented in Glasgow, so don't count on finding it at Blockbuster. It is about a cop who goes undercover with his partners of the football squad in an attempt to infiltrate the most violent football fans of Shadwell FC during the 80s. If I remember correctly, the Shadwell emblem in the film was a poor design of a vicious dog, and their end in the ground was called the Kennel. I should first point out that there is no such club as Shadwell, but I will address that more at the end. So anyway, this cop gets himself woven into the fabric of the hooligan element slowly in order to break the real case of the suspected organized crime behind the raging football fans. He acts up as a real moron and hard boy playing along with the role, but as one can predict, he does it a little too well in a Faustian slide, crossing the bridge into evil. His polite language turns to constant swear words, his wife seems a trifle too homely for his rising appetite for rough passion, his camaraderie with the other hooligans gets too close, and his dedication to the team becomes too real. His partner in doesn't fall into temptation although we end up sympathizing with both characters, good and bad. Described that way the movie doesn't seem so bad, but I guess it was the predictability and the overdone performances which make me give this one a less than mediocre review. Having said that, I would rate it as a movie worth seeing once all the same just for the fun of it. When we rented it in Glasgow, Tom didn't even see it all the way to the end because he hated it so much, but that's sort of a pity because it's the kind of novelty you want to share with a friend even if it sucks-kind of like living through a bad experience with someone. I won't give away the ending, though you sort of know the basic parameters of what has to happen just because it is predictable, but there is one final twist at the very end which made me want to roll my eyes and say, "Oh that really figures doesn't it?" Shadwell is in South East London. It is also spitting distance from a real

football club, our beloved Millwall. I know this because Tom and I went to the new Den and went through Shadwell to get there. Does it make you wonder? Hmmm. The closest ground to Shadwell is Millwall. The dogs in the kennel and the lions in the den.* The most violent football supporters. There seem to be a few similarities there. I must say that any self-respecting Millwall hooligan would definitely laugh his head off at this movie though.

** (Every team has its nickname for their end or ground like the Shed, The Kop-out, oops, sorry Tom, the Dell. I think that you'll agree that lions fit in a den like dogs fit in a kennel better than any analogy another team could offer. Chelsea's lions don't fit in a shed; only power tools and a wheel barrow would fit in a shed.)*

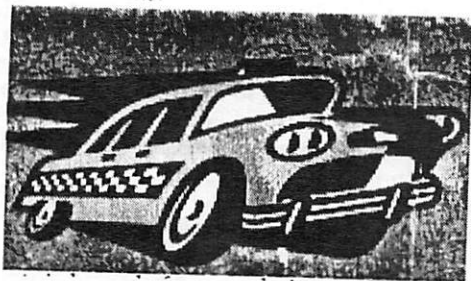
The Firm

I had high hopes for this one to be at least a good ride of violence and tension. It starred Gary Oldman as Bex, the middle class suburban man whose dark side is that he leads a crew of football hooligans. His rival is played by Phil Davis (recognizable to some of you as "Chalky" from Quadrophenia) as Yeti who leads another crew of hooligans. These are not the rough dressed hard boys of ID but the kind who wear suits and have wives and children but "need the buzz" as Bex often says in the film. I don't know what to say about this one, whether it was any better than ID. I will say that it was disappointing. I had hoped for a little more of an engaging story. It seems to be trying to do too many things at once in the space of only 78 minutes. The Firm was originally only a television movie, not a theater movie, and stands along with other films by Alan Clarke who was responsible for the horribly stereotyped Made In Britain which was about a racist skinhead. My feeling about Clarke is that he wants to do subculture pieces like some film sociologist that shows the dark underbelly of British culture. The trouble is that more like a journalist he only skims the surface of the subject and gets it wrong in a lot of ways, showing a stereotype rather than an actual human account from the inside. It's not so bad in The Firm I guess. One thinks that at least the story might be possible but that the overall story just isn't interesting. Bex's goal is to unite the warring high-brow football firms for a brief time in order to have a strong force that will travel to Europe and fight the Dutch fans. The crux is that no one can agree on who the leader will be, which I suppose is what the fighting ends up being about, although I didn't get the impression that the winner would necessarily be accepted as the leader in the fight against the Dutch. It doesn't get that far anyway. What is distracting is that

we have a few things going on at once. [Know how you feel--Ed.] We have Bex trying to hold the Firm together as a tough gang that will go the distance, but the way the others start backing out makes you wonder how he ever had a firm in the first place that was willing to face violence. We also have the fighting between the firms which just sort of happens a couple of times in the film. Then we have the obligatory collapse of his home life as his own child injures herself with one of Bex's hooligan weapons. His wife is justifiably pissed off, but again we wonder how it is that she put up with it in the first place. All of this in only 78 minutes provides for a very quickly superficial set up of situations, lacking depth to the story. One feels like Bex's life exists only in the shallow confines of this TV drama because we can't see how he got where he is as a firm leader if he's having so many problems all of a sudden. All of this I might have enjoyed just a little bit more if I hadn't seen it on a video recorder badly in need of head cleaning at my friend's flat in Manchester. I have given both football hooligan films somewhat bad reviews, but this isn't really because I think they make football supporters look bad. I think they do a bad job of making football hooligans look bad. One final thing to mention is that some may recognize Phil from East Enders at the end of the film dressed up as a skinhead which is quite funny.

☆

As a note for those that want to see a decent film about football violence, there is a documentary called Trouble on the Terraces which I understand is quite good. I saw bits of it being played once at the Kinsale Tavern but couldn't hear a thing. Good or bad, a documentary will tell stories that let you draw your own conclusions. Another new film to see is When Saturday Comes. This stars Sean Bean as a Sheffield United fan who finds his dream come true occurring when he gets to play for the Blades. Bean, who actually is a United supporter, was probably living a dream come true himself. I have not seen this one, and like ID and The Firm, it will prove to be a challenge to see in America.



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Football Songs: Basics for Americans

Songs!!!!

The time seems right to begin what I hope will be a long partnership: the sharing (and learning & adapting) of football songs. I assume those of you who follow foreign clubs, or God forbid are actually of foreign birth yourselves, know football songs. You people can probably skip this next bit, or else your takes on the nature of football songs are welcome (needed, desired). Sadly, lots of people aren't really educated in this little bit of necessary culture. So let's all chip in and give ourselves a head start.

Rarely, from what I can tell, does a club's fans WRITE a football song. Football songs are adaptation of popular or traditional tunes which often have a special relevance to the area (ex: Liverpool, "My Liverpool Home"), that have some relevance to the club (Man City: "Blue Moon), can express a crowd reaction pretty much unchanged ("Que Sera Sera"), or can be changed completely to something more convenient ("Go West" becomes "You're S***, and you know you are!").

Then there are a mass of short traditional chants based upon unknown or pretty non-existent tunes. The basis of these are clapping patterns (mostly).

So let's begin at that most basic level. Everyone should know the ClapClap ClapClapClap ClapClapClapClap ClapClap thing. From there, one can add all sorts of antisocial things like:

"You're going to have a nasty accident"

"You're going home in a (Jersey) ambulance"

"You're so **** it's unbelievable"

Ok, while that's much too violent, and not suggested, it's a well known example.

There are masses built on nursery rhyme tunes: things we all know, and can't even begin to say what the titles are.

"Can you here the Boston sing? No-o, no-o

Can you here the Boston sing? No-o, no-o

Can you here the Boston sing?

I cna't hear a ****ing thing

No-o, oh, oh, oh, oh"

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OR

"If you hate Boston clap your hands (clap Clap)
If you hate Boston clap your hands (clap Clap)
If you hate Boston, you hate Boston,
If you hate Boston clap your hands (appluse)"
Wave your hands, shake your legs, or anything else can be
sustituted here.

OR

for the pessimists among you, a Man City favorite of mine
"Oh we lose at home and we lose away
we lost last week and we lost today
But we don't give a hump cause we're all pissed up
Metro, SC!"

OR

"We'll (You'll) win again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But we know we'll win again some sunny day"
-----WWII era tune, pretty much unchanged.

As my fingers are getting tired, I'll leave you with a list, taken from the
book "Dicks Out", of popular tunes changed into football songs (highly
edited).

A Little Respect/Erasure	Banana Boat Song/Harry belafonte
Beat on the Brat/The Ramones	Blue Moon
Bright Side of Life/Monty Python	Caravan of Love/The housemartins
Chatanooga Choo Choo/Glen Miller	
Da do ron ron/Phil Spectre	Do they know its christmas/Live
Aid	
Glad all over/Dave clark five	
Hersham Boys/Sham 69	I'm Too Sexy/Right said fred
It's my party/Some girl in the 50s	
Jolene/Dolly Parton	Mighty Quinn/Manfred Mann
Monkees Theme/Monkees	My Ding-a-ling/Chuck Berry
My Way/Sinatra	Fools rush in/Elvis
Please Release Me	Sailing/Rod Stewart
Seasons in the Sun/Terry Jacks	Summer Nights/Grease
Time Warp/Rocky Horror	What's new Pussycat/Tom Jones
Yellow Rose of Texas	Red River valley
Yellow Submarine	Young, Gifted and Black (WE
MUST You've lost that lovin' feelin'	USE
THIS)	

AD NAUSEUM!

The deal is, take a catchy chorus (usually only that) which everyone
knows, and change a few words as possible, to make it express an
appropriate emotion.

Such an emotion might be:

Oh We hate Boston and we hate Boston
We hate Boston and we hate Boston
We hate Boston and we hate Boston

We are the Boston
...Haters!

Longer songs and original songs are harder. First, we have to be able to sing the damn things. This requires two things: a tune we all know and words we can all remember. After looking over some Boston supporters song list, this first rule left to mind. It sort of leaves out their magnam opus to the tune of some damn song from Les Miserables, doesn't it.



Speaking for myself, I know pop songs and some traditional tunes. Conveniently, many of these have already been adapted by British supporters (who, reportedly, speak the same language we do), so we can dig around, change a name or two, and there we are. Believe it or not, this makes Boston's planned use of a 'merrily we roll along' thing a good idea.

Except, of course, it violates rule number three: you can't look like an idiot when you break out into song. Nursery rhymes tend to make me feel pretty silly when male bonding. Not exactly 'we come to bathe in the blood of your children' soul stirring stuff. Once and for all THIS LEAVES OUT STAR WARS REFERENCES. I liked star wars when I was eight. If I were playing against the Metro I would not feel intimidated by a crowd full of angry eight year olds.

Now before you point this out, I'm not saying we should be threatening the lives of opposing players/fans. But a loud, united crowd can add an extra man to the field. We may need this, and we should be coming up with chants and songs that can produce an element of 'we're going to stuff that ball up your keeper and mount him on our mantle.' We do this by demonstrating unity, confidence, commitment, resolve, with the occasional belittlement of the opposition thrown in for good measure. Something I always find soul stirring is an appeal to tradition and shared belief. Problem #1 for all

the MLS clubs is we have no tradition. And if we go about blatantly making one up we may violate rule #3, sounding silly. Thus "Its a Grand Old Team to play for, Its a grand old team to see, and if you know its history" has to be postponed for a bit. "New York, New York" is also out I'm afraid, since as many of you continually point out, you're not from New York.

So send songs to address in the front of the zine. The people who were at O'Learys for the opening match party can attest we have a few already.

Here some things to work on, just off the top of my head:

Back in Black by AC-DC

The Streets of New York by the Pogues (1st and second Chorus only)

can someone do something with Wonderwall, or any Oasis song, changing as few words as possible?

Time Bomb by Rancid (chorus originally goes "black clothes(?), Black shoes, black hat, Cadillac, the boys a time Bomb")

Something to 'the Irish Rover', an old favorite in British stadiums ('...and they call him the...')

and finally, a little ditty sung at Anfield, to the tune of "If the Kids Are United" by Sham 69, for all those DC United matches

"If the kids/support United/they will never/be delighted"

So let's hear your ideas, experiences , so we'll be in full voice by the end of April

Tom

P.S.: Recent song contribution from Kev, to the tune of 'the Old Grey Mare' goes out to Lalas: "The old redhead he ain't what he used to be..."

I've also heard Eddie's Army bandied around (which could be used in the old Ally's Army song):

...We're all part of Eddie's Army

We're all off to win the league

And we'll really shake 'em up

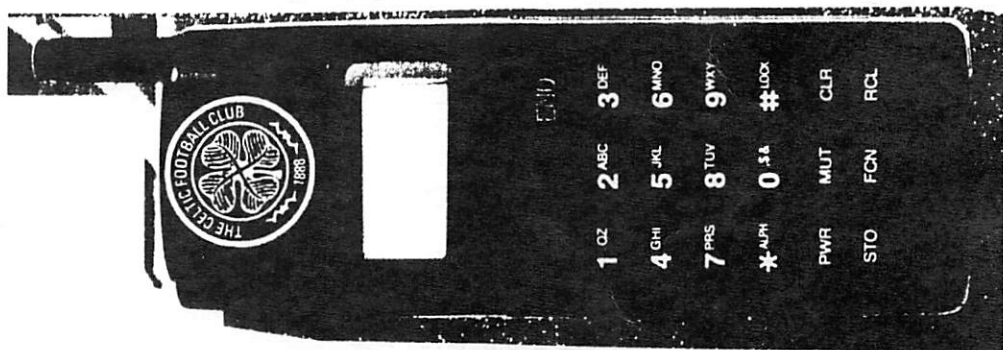
When we win the US Cup

Cause Metro has the greatest football team...



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Obscure Object of Desire



PART II

This month's **MUST HAVE** column stars a little object I spied in a recent Celtic View: The Celtic Celular Phone. In a stunning shade of green, the Celt-Phone is a must. Available for any team, really. Think about it. Every self-respecting soccer hooligan needs a team celluar. Whether you're ordering the taking of the home end, or just ordering a pizza, you'll always look extra flash with your team logo for all the world to see. Fellow supporters will gravitate to you. Enemy fans will target you.

For best results, don't waste money getting it hooked up. You probably work on a building site and can't afford the fees anyway. Just speak commandingly into it in public: gain instant respect and fear. Lines to try:

"I'll expect the shipment in a plain black sachell, Dieter. Northwest corner of James and Buchannan streets: midnight. I'll leave the payment there in a brown paper wrapper."

"Will someone not rid me of this meddling copper?!"

and my favorite, best if shouted repeatedly:

"BUY LOW! SELL HIGH!"

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This Month's Footy Quote from the World of Popular Music comes from the Clash (the band, not the team). After all these years I still don't know what it means...

"Luther King and Mahatma Ghandi,
went to the park to check on the game.

They was murdered by the other team:
went on to win, fifteen-nil."

Joe Strummer: The Magnificent Seven



"Extra cheese on that!"
Demands the Kraft Foods Poster Boy

MEDIA VIEWS



T e l e v i s i o n N o t e s

•Television A Done Deal

MSG will televise 18 of the Metro's matches this season: all those not shown by ESPN, ESPN2 and Univision. 14 of the matches will be live and 4 on tape-delay.

• Capital Cities-ABC, Inc. has acquired the exclusive English-language US television rights to World Cup France 1998. ABC Sports will air 14 matches, while ESPN and ESPN2 will combine to air the remaining 50 matches.

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- Major League Soccer (MLS) telecast schedules for ABC Sports, ESPN, ESPN2, and Univision have been announced. The 4 networks will combine to air over 60 matches in 1996.
- **Euro '96**: ESPN will officially announce the schedule of telecasts on ESPN and ESPN2 prior to the start of the competition.
- Prime Sports Network will not show the **FA Cup final** live, as they did last year, this May 11th. It may appear on tape delay.
- Look for ESPN/ESPN2 to show the finals of the **European Cup** (Ajax v Jutentus in Rome: May) and The **UEFA Cup** (Paris St. Germain v Rapid Vienna: Brussels May 8).
- Metro takes the **best MLS commercial** hands down. Recently radio adds featuring sports legend, go it alone banker, and late infomercial cult figure Phil Rizzutto. the best part is that he just rambles nonsensically about soccer and the Metro players until the announcer has to cut him off. "I had a cousin named Meola: made a great pizza..."
- Finally, kudos to **Univision** for the best coverage of the MLS so far. Most any time of the day or night I can turn on channel 41 and see MLS interviews and highlights. Now if only I could understand Spanish...
- **Radio Radio** Metro has failed so far to find an English-language radio station to broadcast matches. 1280 AM will broadcast matches in Spanish..
- **Joe Tolleason**, the play by play announcer for MSG's Metro coverage appears to be off to a good start, despite being a soccer novice. He's working along side about the best person to do English language soccer commentary in the United States: **Tommy Smyth**. We cornered Joe at the supporters club bar the night of the San Jose opener, and he seemed a sincere and nice guy.
- That's more than can be said for the **pricks at WFAN**, where Joe has his day job. These thick necked morons, like the Sportscenter announcers on **ESPN** have decided soccer is not a game they'll ever like. The only coverage these jerks give US soccer is when the management forces them, and then they denigrate it. Little worried there? When was the last time baseball drew 69 thousand with almost no advertizing and hostile press coverage? When the soccer revolution comes, you'll be the first up against the wall...

Welcome

Boston

Now Go Away, Ya Bother Me

I was gonna nut on the Boston side anyway, but I don't even have to make any thing up

*New England -- St. Andre, Lalas, Weiszmann, Ibsen,
DeBrito, Auger,
Allnut, Welton, Woodring, Ukrop, Naveda. Subs:
Sawatsky, White, Keegan.*

Just look at some of their names! Har!
Allnut!!!!

Woodring!!! Bevis and Butthead would have a fieldday with these.

"huh huhhuhhuh huh huh... he said nut!"

"that gives me a special feeling in my woodring!"

Not to mention Naveda! That's a state with legal gambling, not a person.

Wasn't Ukrop the sidekick of Thundar the barbarian in that cartoon?

Ibsen was a rather depressive nineteenth century playwright, and I thought Chaim Weiszmann was the first president of Israel. Honorable men, perhaps, but not not figures to inspire fear or awe on a football pitch.

".. and Sibelius takes the corner... Innesco's up but he can't quite get a head to it...and it's cleared by Theodore Herzl!"

Swatsky. No more need be said about that one.

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Finally: a young Brazilian named Welton? Hey, at least our young Brazilians with one name had cool, romantic-sounding one word names, [Tulio and Juninho] even if they did steal them from other footballers. But Welton. That's the sort of nom-de-guerre you'd pick if you were a bespeckled white kid from suburban Lincoln Nebraska whose parents were accountants!

Given all this, I don't want to step on a football pitch and find myself playing against anyone named Keegan.

The other thing that needs to be said about Boston: Cheese. Turns out that while metro is owned by the huge potentially malevolent Octopus of METROMEDIA INC (biggest commercial banner makers in the United States! Howdy!), the owners of the New England Revolution are Cheese moguls: the Kraft family. I can hear the cheese jokes welling up already. Wait, something stinks around the Boston dressing rooms. Is it the cheese or the beans?



GIOVANNI SAVARESE



A.J. Wood



Scott Lamphear



Damian Silvera

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NEXT ISSUE:

Out on May 19

- **Ramos and Donadoni: the Big Boys Arrive**
- **All the Latest News from Giants**
- **Ticket info for this Summer's Friendlies**
- **US Cup News**
- **European Vacation, Part One (finally):**
If it's Wednesday it Must Be Partick Thistle...
- **Reviews of International Fanzines, Soccer Books, Films and video games**
- **More Stuff we've made up**
- **The latest from the ESC**
- **Your letters and contributions**
- **More Songs, Songs, Songs!**

FIXTURE LIST

M e t r o S t a r s

1996 Fixtures

(home matches in caps and all NYC times)

Sat	13April	at Los Angeles	10:00PM
Sat	20April	NEW ENGLAND	7:30PM
Sat	27April	COLUMBUS	7:30PM
Sat	4May	TAMPA BAY	7:30PM
Sun	12May	at Washington	4:00PM
Thu	16May	Colorado	7:30PM
Sun	19May	at New England	4:00PM
Wed	22May	at Kansas City	8:30PM
Thu	30May	Washington	7:30PM
Sun	2June	at Dallas	4:00PM
Sun	9June	LOS ANGELES	2:00PM
Sun	16June	SAN JOSE	2:00PM
Wed	19June	DALLAS	7:30PM
Tue	25June	KANSAS CITY	7:30PM
Sun	30June	at Columbus	2:00PM
Thu	4July	at Colorado	9:00PM
Wed	10July	DALLAS	7:30PM
Sun	21July	at Los Angeles	7:30PM
Wed	24July	at San Jose	10:30PM
Sun	28July	SAN JOSE	2:00PM
Sat	3Aug	at New England	1:00PM
Sun	11Aug.	at Colorado	4:00PM
Wed	14Aug	NEW ENGLAND	7:30PM
Sat	17Aug	at Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Wed	21Aug	WASHINGTON	7:30PM
Sat	31Aug	at Kansas City	8:30PM
Wed	4Sept.	TAMPA BAY	7:30PM
Sat	7Sept.	at Washington	7:30PM
Tue	10Sept.	LOS ANGELES	7:30PM
Sun	15Sept.	at Columbus	4:00PM
Wed	18Sept.	COLUMBUS	7:30PM
Sat	21Sept.	at Tampa Bay	7:30PM

The NYC Firm  *wide boys*