

BOOKABLE OFFENSE

Official Fanzine for Sam's Army. Issue #4, Vol. I. Jan/Feb 1996

No Alexi...

“We Are Not Worthy”



Photo: Alexi Lalas bows, in Wayne's World fashion, to Sam's Army at the conclusion of last years U.S. Cup at Rutgers.

Editor's Corner

If you are reading this, it means someone is playing a bad joke on you, or you have somehow managed to join Sam's Army, the unofficial fan club of the U.S. National Team. Either by e-mail, writing in, or signing a mailing list at previous matches, you are on our mailing list.

This is "Bookable Offense" the official fanzine for Sam's Army. In it, you will find soccer "news" concerning our favorite team, the U.S. It has been quite a while since our last issue, but the flavor is still the same. "BO" is a free publication but we ask everyone to help us cut our costs by sending in a business size self addressed stamped envelope (64 cents postage). We are over 2,000 members and in order to keep this as free as possible, we ask for your help (Cash donations are respectfully declined). For those who have sent multiple envelopes, we have them on file and will use them for future issues. Again, thank you for your help! If you wish to be removed from our list, please write in and let us know.

Some of the most frequently asked questions; are you going to France '98? The answer; yes, but that is too far in advance to make plans now. Is Sam's Army just for people on the internet? Answer; NO! We use the internet for expediency only. Anyone may join, it is free, by sending in a SASE (64 cents postage) to our address. How do I know where Sam's Army will be and how do I get tickets in your section at games? Answer; We will mail announcements to everyone letting you know when games are and how to get tickets. On our agenda now, U.S. v Scotland (May), U.S. Cup (June), and the Olympics. As info becomes available for the above matches, we will let you know. Are back issues available? Answer; Not yet. It's difficult enough for us to get the next current issue out let alone back issues. For those that have #1, #2, and #3, you may have a nice collectors item on your hands.

This is our biggest issue to date and, as always, some great contributions from writers around the world. Justin Bryant ponders the never ending issue on U.S. keepers and Barry Stone writes in about his favorite club, Liverpool. We have included another batch of great letters and our usual departments, so, ENJOY!!!

Editors: Mark Spacone (U.S.) & John Wright (Great Britain)

Contributors: Justin Bryant & Barry Stone

Special Thanks to: Mark Wheeler, Wade Jackson & Big Dog

****All Photos by Mark Spacone except Mark Chung & Ian Rush****

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Sam's Army™ Fan Club

To reiterate, Sam's Army is committed to providing the U.S. National Team with a true "Home Field" advantage. Too many years have passed where our boys have taken to the pitch in an American stadium and felt as though they were playing an away game. The time is now to show the U.S. Team has GREAT fan support.

What is needed to create that home field advantage? Sam's Army is an active, living group. It is the commitment of it's members to attend U.S. matches, stand together, sing, chant, make creative banners, bring flags, and help create that festive atmosphere that has been missing from our stadia for too long now. Like the Azzurri of Italy or the Green of the Irish or Gold of the Brazil fans, we want to create a "Sea of Red" in the end zones at U.S. games to show OUR unity. We are 2,000 strong nationwide and growing.

Because the U.S. National Team plays in different locations across the country, it will take a commitment by you, our membership, to hop in your car with other Sammers and drive to matches to make our presence known. Those who can fly, kudos to you! The Buffalo Brigade has logged many miles since the U.S. Cup last year in our unending push to support the U.S. It is VITAL to the survival of our organization that we ATTEND matches. It will not do Sam's Army nor the U.S. National Team any good if we decide to stay home rather than take a 3 hour car ride to see a game.

In our quest to support the U.S. and change the stale environment in our stadiums, Sam's Army will not tolerate nor promote violence or racism in any form. We want everyone to have FUN in a peaceful environment. Sam's Army is not affiliated with the U.S.S.F. or U.S. Soccer.

Honda Player of the Year Ceremony

By Mark Spacone

The Santa Monica room in one of Century Cities plush hotels (The Century Plaza) was the site of this years ceremony honoring American players Marcello Balboa, John Harkes, and Alexi Lalas. "Futbol de Primera" a small but influential group (Andres Cantor, Alejandro Gutman, Bora Milutinovic, Carlos Bilardo, and Ignacio Matus) along with Honda have been able, in only it's 5th year, to establish this award as the premier award for an American soccer player to receive.

The festivities were hosted by Andres Cantor who led us through a number of guest speakers and video presentations which culminated in the announcement of Alexi Lalas as this years winner. Alexi won himself a nice Honda Sedan Accord EX and \$5,000 was donated in his name to a charity of his choice. Marcello Balboa and John Harkes each received a pair of round trip tickets to anywhere in the world for being runner-ups.

Of the guest speakers, Sunil Gulati made quite an impact describing the type of people this years nominees are. He touched on how one Christmas day Marcello Balboa left his family to be with children in an L.A. hospital. He noted John Harkes' work in a childrens hospital in Sheffield, England. As for Lalas, Sunil stated, "He is willing to do it all." He noted Lalas' work with those in an Army base near Padova, Italy and also noted that you could give Lalas just minutes notice and he would be at any event. Each of the nominees are true ambassadors of American soccer.

Steve Sampson took to the podium to congratulate the nominees and his team for fine performances over the past year. In looking back to the U.S. victory over Argentina during the Copa America, Sampson noted that he looks forward to meeting Argentina at full strength. He also went on to say it is his commitment to show that the U.S. is not a

3.



Photo: Alexi receives Honda award.

fluke and it is his goal to play to win and to play attractive soccer. Because of Sampsons philosophy, we the fans, should be in for some delightful soccer in the next year or so.

Intermingled with the guest speakers, video presentations were given of the 3 nominees. To open each video presentation, there was a shot of Sam's Army at Rutgers from the Colombia match during the U.S. Cup. We've come a long way baby!

Finally the moment arrived and Lalas was announced as the winner. He took to the podium and stated, like Balboa and Harkes, he had not prepared a speech. He did mention it was an honor to receive the award and that any of his team mates could have received it. Humbled, it seemed Alexi was more intent on preparing for Brazil who the U.S. would face less than 24 hours from that moment.

Overall, the ceremony was a great way to show unity among the American soccer family. There was no glitz, no gimmicks, just a small room of those "in the know" celebrating and creating a lasting tradition in American soccer. The award itself will be on permanent display in the Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, N.Y.

The "Gold" Cup

By Mark Spacone

Well, the saying goes, "All that glitters is not Gold" and that was certainly indicative of the 9 country tournament which took place in Southern California January 10th through the 21st.

What do you mean you did not know about the tournament? Don't you subscribe to any of the Spanish written newspapers in California? Don't you have the Spanish speaking TV station Prime Deportiva? No? I don't understand. I thought it was common place for an American soccer fan to get information on game dates, ticket information, and TV schedules for the U.S. National Team from the above sources.

This was the first opportunity for West Coast Sammers to attend a U.S. match since the beginning of the fan club. It was at this tournament, Sam's Army began the tradition of establishing an MVP of each match and present that player with a personalized scarf for that particular match. Those in attendance, by majority vote, determined who the MVP would be.

U.S vs Trinidad & Tobago

After missing the first 35 minutes of the match fighting with security to get our American Flags and drum into the stadium (The drum never did make it), we saw a U.S. team show character and maturity in a trying 3-2 victory. Many players were not happy with the result and many felt they should have won with out any problems. Give credit to Trinidad for displaying some skill and pace.

Joe-Max Moore sealed an American victory by burying a free kick from about 20 yards out. Eric Wynalda, the MVP of the match as voted on by Sammers, scored twice to tie as the over all scoring leader for the U.S.

U.S. vs El Salvador

Yet another game in which the U.S. showed patience and character. El Salvador is a team the U.S. should walk all over but it was not until late that the U.S. built up a 2-0 lead on goals by Eric Wynalda and Marcello Balboa (Balboa was voted the MVP by Sammers).

The U.S. was frustrated but continued to push the ball from side to side and stretch out the Salvadorians until, finally, their opportunities came to put a few bulges in the old onion bag.

U.S vs Brazil (U23)

This game was a no win situation for the U.S. Had they come out ahead on the score board, the victory would have been dismissed that it was only against the Brazil U23's. With a Brazil U23 victory, the U.S. would have been ostracized for the same reason.

Keller was the difference in the first half. He stopped many crucial crosses from dropping into the 18 or dropping onto the head of an attacking Brazilian. Mike Burns was extremely strong in the back and was voted the Summer MVP (Reyna's impact was quite visible and he came a close second in the MVP voting). Despite Brazil hitting one off the wood work, the U.S. would have their chances. One opportunity came as John Harkes stole the ball from a Brazilian defender and went in one v one with the goalie. Rather than shoot, he passed the ball to a wide open Wynalda who stood in front of a wide open Brazil net. Wynalda was unable to bury the shot into the vacant net thanks to a tremendous play by a Brazilian defender to clear Wynalda's shot off the goal line.

It looked as though the match was going into extra time as both teams battled to end the stale mate. The U.S., unable to penetrate the middle of the field, kept searching for an opening down the sides. They still could not penetrate and it all came to an end late in the second half when Savio sent an errant cross in front of the U.S. net. The cross hit Balboa in the leg and deflected right passed a stunned Keller. That's all it took, a fluke goal, to end the U.S. quest for the Gold Cup.

The match ended 1-0 and an upset Eric Wynalda sat on the ground at games end in front of the net he knew he should have scored in. The other players were exchanging jersey's at mid field, but Wynalda was left alone only to dwell on what could have been.

U.S. vs Guatemala

In the pouring rain and on a soaked field, the U.S. showed it's superiority over Guatemala. The game was deadlocked for the first 34 minutes. Good thing because we could not get into the stadium until 25 minutes of the game elapsed. It seems a little rain does the same for traffic in L.A. as does snow here in Buffalo. Couple that with the fiasco of trying to get your tickets at will



Photo: Eric Wynalda (center) became the U.S. all time Leading Scorer call, because Global Sports Inc. mailed the wrong tickets out, and the great idea of letting at least 40,000 general admission fans through 3 gates and basically you have the mess that was Gold Cup'96.

The flood gates did open for the U.S. when Wynalda opened the scoring off a brilliant header to become the U.S. all time leading scorer. Agoos Then made it 2-0 in the 37th minute. What seemed only seconds after that, Reyna, we thought, scored the U.S. 3rd goal, but it was disallowed. The call; too many goals for the U.S. in such a short span of time. This was the Gold Cup you know. The tournament catered to the Hispanic community (They are the only real soccer fans in the U.S., right?) and if the U.S. continued to score like that, 10,000 Guatemala fans would have packed up and left the stadium. Imagine the traffic of that mass exodus fighting with those still trying to get into the stadium!

The U.S. continued to toy with Guatemala and missed many opportunities in the second half. Burns put one right over a wide open net and Agoos, with a great effort, almost netted his second of the game but couldn't get up over the ball enough to head down and bury a cross into the goal. The U.S. did get one in the second half when Kirovski scored in the 87th minute.

The victory was convincing but somewhat bitter. The U.S. knew it should have been playing in the final. Not much we can do about that, but rest assured, the U.S. players are tired of being respectable or convincing, they want to WIN and the Gold Cup only fueled that desire.

WITHER KELLER, FRIEDEL, SOMMER, MEOLA?

BY Justin Bryant

For the first time in it's soccer-playing history, the United States has what could be called a "goalkeeping controversy." We actually have a few good ones from which to choose! Ah, but it hasn't always been so.

During the grand old days of the NASL, when our National Team was a flat-out embarrassment, we had two or three decent keepers in Winston Dubose, Arnie Mausser, and, later, David Brcic. Dubose was the pick of the bunch in my mind, because Mausser, despite his imposing bulk, refused to leave his line to take a cross. Pretty-boy Brcic was a good shot stopper for awhile but I guess he just vanished or something. Anyone heard from him lately?

In the mid-80's, we entered an era which was to last almost ten years: the Big Fat College Keeper era. Kicking off the parade was David Vanole, a prodigious gourmand who enjoyed moderate early success before having his main weakness, being a terrible goalkeeper, exposed. However, he was a good emotional leader for a young National Team, and Reusch named a pretty neat glove just for him. Today he can be seen playing various beach soccer tournaments. He's ok on the beach!

A few promising keepers, such as UCLA's Tim Harris, fizzled out quickly, before Virginia goalkeeper Tony Meola got his chance. For some odd reason, the USSF quickly jumped on the Meola bandwagon and chose to promote the living hell out of him. By the time Italia '90 rolled around, Tony was firmly established as the U.S.'s #1, both on and off the field. In the small world of soccer, he was everywhere: posters, covers of magazines, his own (dreadful) line of goalkeeping apparel, even a small story in *Sports Illustrated*.

Tony held on to his place through the '94 World Cup despite the challenges of Brad Friedel and Kasey Keller. Friedel had nothing other than college ball on his playing resume, and Keller, while clearly the most talented and accomplished American goalkeeper in history, created a major rift with (then) coach Bora Milutinovic and was left off the World Cup roster. He continued to forge a career with Millwall in the incredibly demanding English First Division while Tony took center stage at WC'94.

Well here's my verdict: The goal against Switzerland wasn't all Meola's fault, but Keller would have saved it. Tony played great against Colombia but was clearly at fault on the Romania goal (which looked like a backlash of Machnik's coaching, by having him edging away from the near post to cut out a cross which never came). The Brazil goal? A tough call. Tony didn't get himself set as he moved across the goal, which made it impossible to react to Bebeto's rather soft shot. Would Keller have saved it? Maybe, but even if he had, Brazil would have found a way to score another goal. They weren't about to loose to us that day.

So now Bora is gone. New coach Steve Sampson was quick to invite Keller back to the National Team, while Tony embarked on all kinds of searching-for-self ventures previously documented in *Bookable Offense*. Keller looked set to take over the vacant job.

But a funny thing happened. It turned out Friedel was pretty good after all! A huge, rather stiff and inflexible man, he nevertheless demonstrated an ability to quickly scoot around his six yard box. Despite his lack of club experience, he clearly learned his trade while slaving away at the Mission Viejo training center prior to USA 94. Unlike say Tim Harris, a goalkeeper whose talent was negated by naivete and inexperience, Friedel was put in the position to learn his craft full time, working physically and mentally to master the most demanding of positions. He did it!

He and Keller shared the job through U.S. Cup '95 and Copa America. I watched every game and still feel that Keller is the best player, but now that Brad has signed with Galatasaray he will continue to improve even further.

Meanwhile, there's also this character called Juergen Sommer, yet another physical monster at 6'3". With German parentage paving the way for a work permit in Europe, Sommer strolled in to Luton Town, won himself a starting job, and recently signed on with Premier League QPR. He allowed a scandalous goal against Uruguay in the closing moments of a friendly match last spring, but turned in two credible performances at the Parmalat Cup in August. Now that he's with a Premier League club, he'll have to be given serious consideration for the job.

And what about Tony? At only 27 he should be in the prime of his career. He returned to real outdoor soccer (after a token mercenary stint with the NPSL Buffalo Blizzard) with the Long Island Rough Riders of the USISL. He had a good season and led L.I. to the league title. He will probably sign with the MLS and be the starting keeper-- and a much promoted poster boy -- of the NY/NJ franchise. He has also recently stated his desire to return to the National Team, despite the terrific job done by the three Europe-based pros (Keller, Friedel, and Sommer).

There are others on the horizon. Marcus Hahnemann of the A-League's Seattle Sounders looked good to me the first time I saw him. Unfortunately, playing the same 5 teams over and over again in the A-League is no way to develop. He's good enough to earn a contract with MLS, which might help him improve.

All the competition for the goalkeeper's job can only be good for U.S. Soccer. Just as a goalkeeper's strong performance can lift his team, so too can a poor one demoralize it, as we saw from time to time in the past. The "Euro 3" aren't perfect, but there's no doubting their commitment, sincerity and professionalism. It looks like we'll be in good hands for the next decade or so.

"Big Dog Weld's" Top 10

Why I switched loyalty from American Football to Soccer

- 10) Had to see what all the fuss was about.
- 9) At my very first match (U.S. vs Ireland at RFK), I really enjoyed taunting Bruce Murray.
- 8) Real men play soccer.
- 7) Wanted to try a nice calm, unsophisticated sport.
- 6) Got sick of the Buffalo Bills loosing Super Bowls.
- 5) The Babes on the Womens National Team.
- 4) In a dream, Elvis told me to!
- 3) I wanted to kick some balls.
- 2) I really wanted to see this guy PELE play.
- 1) Alexi Lalas Rules!!!

Edt. Note: Jim "Big Dog Weld" Welch is a member of the Buffalo Brigade and his top ten are his own opinions and not the opinions of "Bookable Offense". Besides, we love Bruce Murray...

What Ever Happened to..... Mark Chung?



Who Gives a Toss?

Editors Note: Hey Mark! You better get an agent real soon. Seems every player we have written off in, "Who Gives A Toss" ends up with a pro contract or even a call up to the National Team. First there was Bruce Murray, then John Doyle, Steve Trittschuh, and who knows, you could be next!

LIVERPOOL v MAN. CITY - My Journey

By John Wright

If you ever do go to a match here, make sure you get your tickets BEFORE you get there.

I could have used that sense of security on this Saturday. Barry Stone, a Liverpudlian and a member of the Football Supporters Association (FSA) that we've contacted through Bookable Offense, offered to get me and a friend two tickets for this match. Only thing is, you don't send \$50 worth of tickets to someone you've never met before. You have to be sure of these things. We agreed to meet at the centrally located Liverpool "Lime Street" train station and carry on to a pub from there. Only problem was that I didn't know what he looked like and vice versa.

After arriving late to the train station (half hour, damn M62 motorway), we didn't spot Barry, nor anyone else "searching" for people. After an hour, we decided to make a sign with his name on it. Still no Barry. That didn't work so we decided to ask the British Rail people to make an announcement over the loud speakers. One announcement went by and no Barry. We waited because he said he was also meeting two people from France (who were 'pool fans and hated French football) and one guy from Norway who (Gulp!) was a season ticket holder! We later found out that he only comes to about 10 matches a season and gives his mates the others. Finally, before bailing and heading to the Liverpool Supporters Club (said he'd be there if there was a mix up) we asked for one more announcement. "Mr.... Barry.... Stone.... please report to gates 1 to 6 ticket counter". Must of been the "Mr." that caught his attention. There he was and the long awaited introductions were underway.

Off to the Supporters Club in a cab for a couple pints of Tetley's Bitter to get the festivities off to a right start. The place itself looks like a typical Elks Lodge building. Simple, smoky, a couple TV's, and a bar that was doing a brisk business. A good buzz makes the chants and songs ring out much better.

The conversation revolved around Barry's journeys into Europe in the mid eighties, when aggro was common place. He was at the infamous Heysel match in Brussels, Belgium against Juventus of Turin, Italy. "We got there late because of the congestion at the train station" he explained, you could sense in his voice that it was an event he'll never forget. "When we got to the gates, we heard rumors that there was fighting inside and that there may even be DEATHS!" He continued, "We walked away, I wanted nothing to do with it".

There wasn't too much memorabilia on the walls. Shankley, Kennedy, pennants, but what stood out were the pictures of "The Kop" (the home terrace end) draped with scarves, flags, pictures, and flowers. This was in memory of the Hillsborough disaster in which 95 people died in a crushing before the 1989 FA Cup Semi-Final. "Lest We Forget" said one plaque that listed the names and the ages of all who perished. Very touching stuff when you're near the people it touched most.

Barry also let us know that not only does Liverpool hate Manchester United, but everyone in the country does too. With not enough time to get some burgers or chips, I bought "Mr Porky's Pork Scratchings". Good stuff, only your teeth would fall out if you ate more than one bag, that's how hard they are.

Interview: Mike Lapper

By John Wright

Editors Note: With John being in England and so close (geographically that is) to our European based players, he sent out a mail in interview to our U.S. internationals. This is Mike Lappers response. Enjoy!!!

BO: What do you like about England most?

Mike Lapper: The amount of games you play, along with the intensity of the game.

BO: What British foods do you like/dislike?

M.L.: I don't like beans on toast.

BO: Now that your playing 1st Division football, will Sampson give you a look in the Gold Cup? *(Edt Note: Hind sight is 20/20)*

M.L.: I hope and pray he does!

B.O.: What bands are you into?

M.L.: I like all kinds of music!

B.O.: What is your favorite British pint?

M.L.: I'm a Bud-Man!!!

B.O.: What do you make of the MLS nicknames and uniforms?

M.L.: I don't know them all but I guess it's hard to come up with a good one now a days.

B.O.: Who has the most intimidating crowd in English Football?

M.L.: Millwall.

B.O.: Were you relieved or disappointed to see Sampson brought on as coach?

M.L.: I was pleased. Steve is a good communicator, but that does not mean Bora was not good, he just did it in a different way. I think Bora was a great coach but I'm sure Steve will also do well with us!

B.O.: What soccer magazines do you read?

M.L.: Four, Four, Two/ 90Min./ Soccer America.

B.O.: Would you like to one day play in MLS?

M.L.: Yes.

B.O.: Do you watch much soccer on TV now that it's your living?

M.L.: Yes, I try to watch it (Match of the Day) as much as possible.

B.O.: Do you think we will qualify for France '98 without much difficulty?

M.L.: No. I think we will qualify, but it will be difficult. After
(See Lapper page 15.)

Sam's Army Scarves

In this section, you will see and have the opportunity to order Sam's Army scarves. Wade Jackson from the St. Louis Brigade and Mark Wheeler from the Pittsburgh Brigade gave a tremendous amount of their time to help design and finalize arrangements for the scarves.

The scarves are double sided, as illustrated below, and are 3 colors (Red, White, and Dark Blue), with white tassels on the ends. Design 1 is a generic layout and Design 2 is a personalized layout. The "personalized" design is limited to 22 letters and spaces. The following are the letters and symbols you may select from, if customizing your own scarf:

A to Z (UPPERCASE ONLY)

0 to 9

a c (for McXX/MacXX)

and the following punctuation marks and symbols:

.,?!'";:~#\$%^*&()-=+ \|[] { }

Lowercase letters (except 'a' and 'c') and @ are not available because of the font and knitting limitations...sorry!

The knitting workmanship is guaranteed by the manufacturer who says, "If the scarf is properly cared for, my experience is the yarn will retain its new look for a long time."

This is acrylic yarn so the care is as follows: Wash in cold water on knit or delicate; Dry in dryer on delicate cycle or low heat. DO NOT DRY CLEAN!

In the area below, please place an 'X' next to the design you are ordering. Payment MUST accompany this order. If you want more than one scarf, please use a separate order form for EACH scarf. Photocopy this if need be and staple your multiple forms together before mailing. All scarves will be shipped via priority mail directly to you from the manufacturer (not by Sam's Army) at a cost of \$3.00 (up to 3 scarves per package). There will be no shipping charge for any order of six scarves or more.

Design #1 (USA USA USA)

side
one



SAM'S ARMY
USA
THE YANKS ARE COMING!



COME ON U.S.!!
SAM'S ARMY
USA USA USA

side
two

Design 2 is the personalized
USA are replaced here by ST. LOUIS BRIGADE for example:

side
one



SAM'S ARMY
USA

THE YANKS ARE COMING!



COME ON U.S.!

SAM'S ARMY
ST. LOUIS BRIGADE

side
two

CHECK ONE

Design #1 \$20.00 (USA USA USA)

Design #2 \$20.00 (Personalized)

Priority mail service \$3.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

For those customizing their scarves, please use the below spaces to enter your message, slogan, etc... Please include blank spaces.

< ----- >

Send Checks or Money orders made payable to Sam's Army - to:
Sam's Army
P.O. Box 1606
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1606

Please fill out the below shipping label and address it to where the scarves should be sent to. The scarves will be sent directly to you from the manufacturer. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

(Lapper Interview Cont.)

M.L.: all, It is the World Cup!!

B.O.: What do you most miss about home?

M.L.: My real friends and my family members.

B.O.: How Much did it hurt to not start in the Copa America?

M.L.: I hate sitting the bench!

B.O.: Who are your best mates on the U.S. squad?

M.L.: Cobi, Chris Henderson, Mike Burns, Brad Friedel (I can not list the whole team). I think everyone is my best friend!

B.O.: What clubs would you like to play for in Europe?

M.L.: My dream is to play in the Premiership. I don't care for who!

B.O.: Finally do you have anything to say to Sam's Army?

M.L.: Thanks for your support! It's always great to see you guys in the crowd. It really helps us out on the field!!!

Editors Note: Mike thanks for taking the time to fill out the "interview". See you at the matches!!!

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Trivia (answers on page 22)

- 1) What team does Juergen Sommer play for?
 - 2) Name the only country to win 4 World Cup's.
 - 3) Name the countries that have one 3 World Cup's.
 - 4) What country won the 1988 European Cup?
 - 5) Who was the Manager that led England to victory in the 1966 World Cup?
 - 6) What team did Diego Maradona play for in the Serie A?
 - 7) Who won last years Champions League?
 - 8) What team did GianLuca Vialli play for before Juventus?
 - 9) Name the U.S. coach during Italia '90.
 - 10) Who is the current National Champion in college soccer?
- 15.

Sam's Army T-Shirts

Our trademark, red Sam's Army T-Shirt, is now available! They run in adult sizes XL to S. The Sam's Army logo is screened on the front, the back reads, "USA Soccer". Cost is \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping for up to 2 shirts at a time. For example, 1-2 shirts = \$3.00 shipping; 3-4 shirts = \$6.00 shipping; 5-6 shirts = \$9.00 shipping; etc...

We want to create a "Sea of Red" at U.S. home matches to show support for the team and to show our unity! To order, simply complete the form below and mail a check or money order (made payable to SAM'S ARMY) to: Sam's Army, c/o Bookable Offense, PO Box 1606, Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1606. ***Please allow 14-21 days for delivery***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Total # of shirts for this order: _____ Sizes: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PHOTO: Our "Sea of Red" Takes Shape at the Parmalat Cup as Sammers from all over the country sport Sam's Army T's.



Liverpool: A Look Back at Europe

By Barry Stone

Editors Note: Barry Stone, an avid Liverpool supporter, is a "BO" contributor from England who writes for many English and European zines and is also a member of The Football Supporters Association (FSA). If you care to write to the FSA for info, send requests to FSA, 8 Hollingworth Close, Walton, Liverpool L9 1HL, England.

With English teams gone from European Cup competitions, we thought we would include a previous article by Mr. Stone and take a look back, at what was, a promising autumn.

This is the sort of event at Anfield that we never expected to see for quite some time, European football, but thanks to an amazing turn around of fortunes, and the winning of the fizzy drink cup we qualified for the UEFA cup. The draw of the first round took us back to unknown territory as we were drawn against Spartak Vladikavkaz, who were on top of the Russian League by 7 points. Nothing much was known about our opponents but what little we soon found out didn't make very good news, especially the fact that the region is only 30 miles from war torn Chechnya, and that their team coach once played against Liverpool for Dynamo Tblisi back in '78. It was just like all the old horror stories about the Soviet Union, a poor run-down rural community, very, very basic living conditions and extreme poverty. Despite going a goal, early in the first half, two excellent goals from Mcmannaman and Redknapp gave Liverpool two valuable away goals for the return leg.

This set up an exciting prospect for the second leg at Anfield. The crowd was in very good spirits and were expecting a memorable night. The manager was very cautious and warned everyone not to take this game for granted, but we all thought we would have no problem with this one due to our recent run of good form. Sadly, the game never lived up to its expectations. Liverpool had a couple chances early, but for the most part, were content to leave Fowler up front and concentrate on defence rather than trying to increase their lead. This gave the Russians a lot of the initiative, and caused the fans a great deal of concern. Nobody seemed able to relax and enjoy the match because Liverpool were paying them too much respect!

(See: Stone, Page 26.)

Off we went on our quarter-mile hike to Anfield. There are a variety of chip shops, kebab shops, pubs, and hot dog vendors to make your mouth water. We refrained from eating due to the sheer size of the lines and carried on to the stadium. You can find quite a few souvenir sellers who today are hawking giant posters of the team photo. I mean huge. All for 2 bob. I'll pass I thought, I'm past my "Teen Beat" years.

Surrounding the stadium are row after row of block housing with the little chimneys that you see in the intro to Coronation Street. It's dirty, grungy, and poor, but it's electric and it's 10 minutes before kickoff. This is Liverpool, steeped in tradition and every Saturday is special. This team means everything to these people. I didn't feel this at Ipswich, West Ham, Cambridge Utd, or Millwall.

Entering a British stadium is no small task for an adult. To prevent sneaking in, the entrance is no wider than 2 and a half feet. If you're big in the waist, then suck it in. Anfield is no different.

My seat is right on the corner flag half way up looking directly at the goalline near the Kop and with their hundreds of scarves raised aloft, they sang, "You'll Never Walk Alone", as the team arrived on the pitch. Sadly this is no longer a standing terrace, but neat, orderly rows of seats.

The match began full throttle with Liverpool attacking from every angle. Ian Rush makes it 1-0 on a rebound. This is after no more than two minutes. One minute later a deflected free kick finds the net as Fowler makes it 2-0 and Man City just about give up. To be fair, Man City did attack and should have been rewarded with a couple of goals. A point blank shot from the top of penalty area was just tipped over the bar from David James. Uwe Rosler just missed a clean breakaway chance, with James just getting a hand on a sure goal.

Half time and its time to try some of the famous British concessions. When you hear the song "Who ate all the pies?", it is for these pies, nothing more than Pot Pies in little tins, only its put in a little bag. I scarfed it down while burning my tongue and the roof of my mouth in a span of two minutes. For a snack I had two Wagon Wheels, which are those little marshmallow pies with a chocolate outside, Superb!!! No Bovril to wash it down I'm afraid. This famous "football drink" is nothing more than a beefy thick broth served hot, Yuck! This stuff should be condemned. For some reason it lives on with footballers.

I returned to my seat and listened to the half time scores. All were met with complete apathy except one score. "Manchester United One, Middlesborough Nil". The booing was hostile and all over in three seconds in order to hear the next result. Even Evertons result (cross town rivals) was given the shoulder shrug.

The second half began and now Liverpool were attacking to my end. This could get ugly if they pour it on I thought. They poured it on and it got ugly. Neal Ruddock scored a header from a corner, Fowler turned his marker inside out and beat Immel (the German) to his right. McMannaman volleyed home and Rush rebounded for goal. 6-0 and this was with Stan "The Man" Collymore out with the flu. The football was fluid and the passing was precise. Except Ireland defender Phil Babb, who according to the guy next to me, wasn't worth the 3.6 million pounds Liverpool paid for him.

By now the floodlights were on, and I like that. It seems to add to the

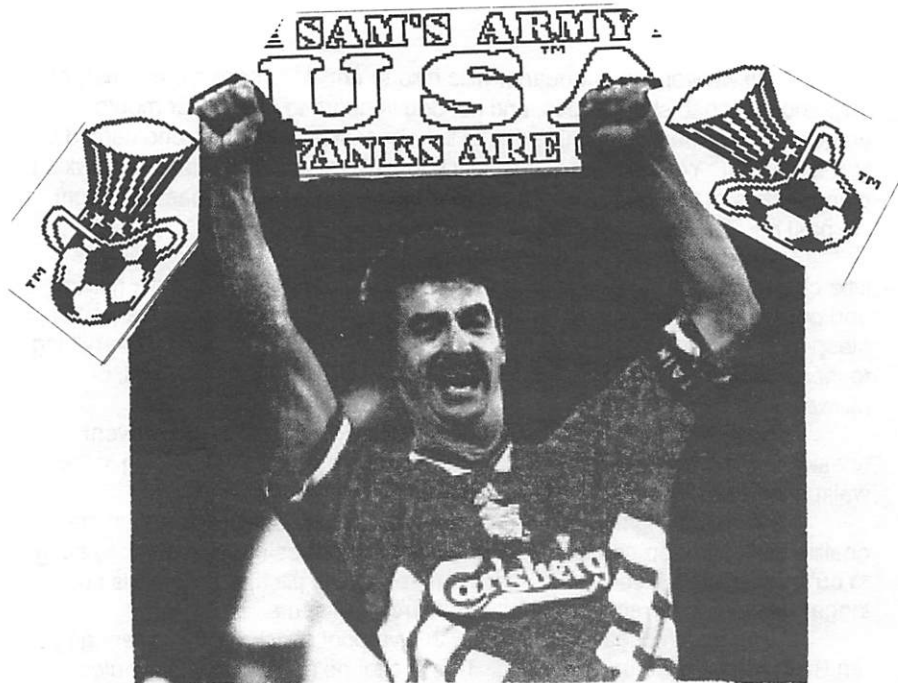


PHOTO: Liverpools Ian Rush

atmosphere, something like a spotlight on the players. Plus, no sweltering heat from the midday sun to wipe out the players and fans energy.

"You're the Pride of Manchester" the Liverpool fans chanted and this was well received from the City supporters who responded by jeering their own players by chanting "You're S- - T and you know you are, you're S- - t and you know you are....."

It got so bad for City that they even began doing "Ole's" for each pass received. The home supporters joined in and the entire crowd was doing "Ole's" with each City pass. After about 10 passes, McMannaman mercifully broke it up and was booed by his own fans. "This was the best 16 pounds I've ever spent" I told the guy next to me.

But the real crowd winner was with about five minutes left in the match, and City put together a formidable attack. As another shot went hopelessly wide, it somehow caught a Liverpool defender and earned City a corner. This touched off incredible goal-like celebrations for the three sections of now half deserted City fans. This earned a standing ovation from the appreciative Liverpool fans. 6-0 was the final scoreline and I'd rate it a seven for the football and a nine for the entertainment value.

Many people say that Wembley is "The Mecca" of football, but that is based on the fact that the only matches played there are cup matches and England Internationals. It's usually a championship situation so who isn't going to be excited about going to Wembley? But I'll take Anfield anyway. It's a nice, tight, compact, roofed, traditional British ground that just FEELS like football. I recommend Anfield to any fan regardless of fan loyalty.

Other Zines

By Mark Spacone

The following zines are two of our favorites here at "Bookable Offense". The first is "A Kick in the Ass". It is an American zine produced by "The Firm" (a supporters group for the NY Centaurs of the A-League). They add humor, fun, and plenty of footy in their publication.

Publisher Tom Miles writes, "The 'plan' is that there will be an issue every two weeks from May to mid September. This may change. Trades are requested for overseas mailings." Those interested should write to Tom Miles at PO BOX 250397, NY, NY 10025 (A SASE is requested).

Well its great to see other American footy fans putting together a zine. In England, for example, each club has at least one zine published on a regular basis. Seems this independent publishing is finally catching on here. "A Kick..." is an example of how knowledgeable lovers of the game can put together, by meager means, a zine.

This zine is focused on the A-League. There are schedules, results, rosters, you name it. This may be the most comprehensive coverage of the A-League around. They also throw in articles on world events, MLS, and the National Team. So send in an SASE and see what "The Firm" are up to.

"elfmeter" is an English zine published by Dave Wangerin and its focus is on German Fussball. It is one of our favorites because it is written in ENGLISH!!! Yes, for those who want to keep up on the happenings in Germany, this is quite a compilation of info. No more of having to interpret pictures from a German paper or magazine!

With more and more Americans playing in Germany, "elfmeter" provides a great way to keep tabs on the players and clubs. News on St. Pauli for whom Paul Caliguri plays or Joe Max-Moore and Nurnberg can be found here. A subscription is \$15.00 for five issues and the zine will arrive via air mail. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Dave Wangerin and mailed to: elfmeter, 16 mallory road, Perton, Staffordshire wv6 7xn, Great Britain.

The Pen is Mightier Than...

The following are excerpts from the press Sam's Army has received since our debut at last years U.S. Cup.

"...Sure they looked patriotic, but didn't all that singing and chanting and standing up during a soccer game seem, well, un-American? Not according to Steve Sampson...He says the members of Sam's Army are, 'The best fans in the country right now for the game of soccer'."

From Sports Illustrated, October 30, 1995. Writer: Devon Jackson.

"...More than a match was at stake, though. The drum beating, cheering, singing and flag waving fans in section 115 in the closed end zone, representing the sport's newest and most unique fan club, tried to make their presence known and win support from the rest of the crowd. For Sam's Army, exhibiting the stars and stripes is more than a chic trick-it smacks of nationalism in a time when people look at the Dallas Cowboys in a patriotic light."

From NY Newsday. June 26, 1995. Writer: Jason Molinet.

"...Alexi Lalas knows that they had a positive effect inside the stadium. 'Those guys are awesome!' he exclaimed after bowing down to the Sam's Army section during the team's trophy celebration lap. 'These guys have brought the spirit and passion of international soccer fans and added American flavor to it.'"

From U.S. Soccer Magazine. Fall 1995. Writer: Jerry Hawkins.

"...The red T-shirted fans known as Sam's Army have set up camp behind the goal at U.S. national team games to lend support to coach Steve Sampson's lads... 'They give a great lift emotionally,' Sampson said. 'The (American players) come out to play for them. We live for the day when there are 65,000 of Sam's Army in red.'"

From The Associated Press. October 21, 1995. Writer: Brian Truesdale.

"B.O." Needs

Writers, Artists, and Contributors

This is your chance to voice your thoughts and say what other soccer rags aren't saying.

Write the soccer stories and issues that you need to get off your chest and be a part of our fanzine which is also YOUR fanzine. The more writers and contributors we get, the more powerful and influential this fanzine will become.

This is only our fourth issue and we have begun to grow into something which could be big. SAM'S ARMY Fan club is here, MLS is just around the corner, so we thought it would be a great time to organize a "voice" to spread news or to just simply entertain the masses.

Let your voice be heard! It's Your Forum!

Collector Looking for Ticket Stubs

U.S. Cup '95 and Other Matches!!!

Multiples Welcome!!!

Have all sorts of Soccer Stuff To Trade

Write To: Martin B. Tatuch

5025 South 9th Street
Arlington, Va 22204

Your Letters

Editors Note: The following letters are from all across the country and are indicative of the tremendous support Sam's Army and "BO" have received.

To Whom it may concern,

Finally, yes finally we have a fan club devoted to singing in the stands. I have been a part of soccer since playing in summer leagues, to following the U.S. National Team. I so desperately want to hear from Sam's Army and I want to join your group of vocal, dedicated fans. I have a twin brother and we sing songs at Delaware Wizards games (USISL). We want to be part of the beginning of real soccer atmosphere.

Neal Capuchino
Dover, D.E.

Dear Sam's Army,

I would like to join your clan of fanatics and receive the clubs fanzine, "Bookable Offense". I read and heard about your club in "Soccer Jr." and "Sports Illustrated" and thought it was very interesting. I am 14 years old and want to know what it would be like to be a real soccer spectator.

Matt Lopez
Bedford, N.H.

Sam's Army,

WELL DONE FELLA'S!! This is just what the U.S. Soccer team and the American public has needed for a long time. I am a lifelong soccer player and fan who dragged my wife up to Boston, Giants Stadium, Washington D.C., and down to Orlando on a two week road trip during the '94 World Cup. That turned her into an overnight fanatic as well. I found myself at each of those stadiums relocating to other seats that were in the midst of foreign supporters to get into the game and feel the passion that is futbol. The Americans just don't get it!!! I was very disappointed at the fact that the biggest sporting event of the world came here and for the most part the Americans were very passive.

We went to the final game of the first round in Foxboro, Nigeria vs Greece, and weaved our way into the crowd of the

Your Letters (cont.)

"Nigerian Football Supporting Club". To be in the middle of these Nigerians, with their tribal scars on their faces, beating on animal skin drums with bones, singing and cheering their team the whole game was incredible. I thought to myself that it's a shame the Americans don't have this kind of passion for the game. But we do, and you guys have done a wonderful job in organizing the fans who would love to be going nuts during a game, but feel like the only two jerks out in left field with everyone looking at them cross-eyed. Once again well done.

Joe & Maria Lennon; Islip, N.Y.

- - -
Dear Mark & John,

Although I know little about either of you, I feel a bond through soccer I hope to develop. After receiving my holiday issue of TSI, I was compelled to write and salute your efforts at organizing a fan club for our national team.

I too am a die hard soccer fan and I am pumped about enlisting in Sam's Army. Here in the U.S., I've wanted an atmosphere and level of interest to compare with what I experienced in Europe when I lived there for several years. Through my travels, I've witnessed exceptional play and fervent followers of their local and national teams. I've been hooked on soccer, since I saw my first World Cup in 1974, and the emotions it stirred in those around me. I am anxious to duplicate that fervor for my own country at upcoming matches here.

We are a Mexican-American family from Los Angeles who moved to Spain in 1973 for my fathers job. In Spain, I developed my allegiance to my favorite team, Real Madrid, and learned to speak proper Spanish. After graduating High School at the American School of Madrid during our Bicentennial year, 1976, I returned home.

In 1982, I returned to Spain for their World Cup and I've resolved myself to see as many as I can before I die. I've even played in a 35 and over league with out a single American on the team. I love soccer so much, I play with foreign born players, but my true ambition is to promote quality soccer in my own country and I feel Sam's Army is one way of achieving that.

Michael Breton
Garden Grove, C.A.

MLS: Supporters Clubs

Are you interested in joining other Sammers at MLS matches? Groups are forming now to support their respective MLS teams. Each group has a reserved section in their respective stadiums and some are organizing bus trips to away matches. Below is information on how to contact the groups. Give them a hand in creating a fun and entertaining atmosphere at MLS matches. The season is just around the corner!

New York:

E.S.C. Supporters Club
c/o Tom
PO Box 250397
NY, NY 10025
or e-mail to:
VVXZ72A@prodigy.com

Washington, D.C.:

D.C. United Supporters Club
499 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 200145
or e-mail to:
mmathai@clark.net

Boston:

Guy Keeley
Revolution Fan Club
5 Hilltop Terrace
Woburn, MA 01801
or e-mail a message to:
majordomo@hoplite.org
with the message,
subscribe mls-newengland <your name>

San Jose:

San Jose Supporters Club
c/o Darrin Howells
1630 Merrill St. #505
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
or e-mail to:
socerguy@cats.ucsc.edu

L.A.:

Kyle Dane
10405 Irene St. #210
Los Angeles, CA 90034
or e-mail to:
ckdane@ix.netcom.com

For information on MLS cities Colorado, Columbus, Dallas, KC, and Tampa write to us at: Sam's Army
P.O. Box 1606
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1606

We will forward your request to those involved. At print time, we did not have finalized info for those groups. They will be ready for opening day.

Trivia Answers

- 1) Queens Park Rangers
- 2) Brazil
- 3) Germany & Italy
- 4) Holland
- 5) Sir Alf Ramsey
- 6) Napoli
- 7) Ajax
- 8) Sampdoria
- 9) Bob Gansler
- 10) Wisconsin

Projected Date of
next issue, April '96

Write to: Bookable
Offense, PO BOX 1606
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-
1606

or send e-mail to:
Samzarmy@aol.com

Mark Wheeler's home page address:

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~mdwheel/us-soccer/>

U.S. Qualifying Group for France '98 (So Far)

Group 1: United States, Costa Rica, Guatemala-
Nicaragua winner, Caribbean third-round
qualifier

(Stone Cont.)

What was more important though, was the fact that we had to make sure that we never conceded any more goals, and despite almost gifting them a couple of chances, Spartak never really took them. Liverpool managed to hold on to go through to the second round. So, although it was a far from classic match, we did manage to hold on to our lead and, more importantly, we beat a good team. If this match has taught us anything, it is that we can defend against good teams when we're really up against it, and that while we still shouldn't underestimate any future opponents, we shouldn't think we are now considered an easy touch any more. A fact that was driven home when all the other results concerning English teams in Europe came through, and some of the easier teams (on paper at least) delivered some shock results.