

Table of Contents

1) Armchair Midfielder	[The '94 World Cup: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly]
2) In 3's	[w/ YNT forward Kerri Hanks]
3) Gear Galore	[Nike USA T90 Chrome Ball]
4) Queries & Anecdotes	[w/ WNT midfielder Shannon Boxx]
5) Mark That Calendar	[MNT vs. Grenada – June 20]
6) Where Were You...?	[w/ MNT midfielder Earnie Stewart and Friends]
7) FAN Point/Counterpoint	[U.S. MNT Starting XI on June 13?]
8) You Don't Know Jack (Marshall)	[1994 World Cup Trivia]

###

1) ARMCHAIR MIDFIELDER [The '94 World Cup: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly]

A monthly column about the State of U.S. Soccer that takes a hard look at everything from the performance of the U.S. National Teams to pro soccer in the good 'ole U-S-of-A . If you're looking for a viewpoint that you won't see in a generic, nuts-and-bolts U.S. Soccer press release, you've come to the right place.

As part of our semi-commemorative issue recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the 1994 FIFA World Cup, the Armchair Midfielder looks back at the Good, the Bad and the Ugly from what is still considered the most successful World Cup competition of all time. This issue also marks the two-year anniversary of our 2-nil spanking of Mexico at the World Cup, but we have years and years to talk about that game. Back to '94...

THE GOOD

Packed Houses / Perfect Venues: When more than 3.5 million people came through the turnstiles to pack stadiums throughout the tournament, the entire world was forced to wake up to the fact that America is a great soccer nation after all, with plenty of futbol-crazed fans, from second-generation immigrants of all nationalities in our big cities to the legions of youth soccer kids from our suburbs. With the '94 edition being the most highly attended World Cup ever, even FIFA had to be surprised by the Organizing Committee's ability to average just under 69,000 fans per match and achieve sell-out crowds of more than 93,000 for two of the USA's opening round matches.

USA 2, Colombia 1: With every host of the competition having successfully navigated its way to the Round of 16, the pressure was on the U.S. to show they belonged by making it out of Group A, and they did just that. A tie with Switzerland in their first match gave them the confidence needed to step it up and challenge pre-tournament heavyweight Colombia. We all know what happened on that day: an own goal by Andreas Escobar [*Editor's Note: See THE UGLY below for more on that*] gave the U.S. a surprising 1-0 lead in 35th minute and then Earnie Stewart finished a brilliant through ball from Tab Ramos to further stun the crowd in the 52nd minute. With a whopper of a 2-0 decision on the horizon, the U.S. continued to stymie Colombia until the end of regulation when Adolfo Valencia struck in the 90th minute to pull one back. But it was too late; the U.S. had earned four points in its first two matches. Although the U.S. fell to surprising group winner Romania 1-0 in its third match, the four points and

even goal differential was just enough to advance as the third place team out of Group A (Switzerland also had four points, but a superior goal differential) and the last of the 16 teams headed to the next round.

Bulgaria's Cinderella Story: After going winless in its previous 17 World Cup matches, Bulgaria finally got its first points in impressive fashion, crushing Greece 4-0 in its second opening round match and then shocking Argentina 2-0 advance to the Round of 16 as the second place team in Group D. They proved to be a legitimate contender, advancing past Jorge Campos and Mexico on penalty kicks and then defeating defending champion Germany 2-1 in the quarterfinals before falling to Italy 2-1 in the semi's and getting spanked 4-0 by Sweden in the Third Place Match. The Eastern European team's unlikely run made a star out of forward Hristo Stoichkov, who bagged six goals and finished the tournament tied for the scoring lead.

Striker, the Mascot: "When criminals in this world appear / And break the laws that they should fear / And frighten all who see or hear / The cry goes up both far and near / For Underdog! Underdog!! Underdog!!! Underdog!!!!" So the official mascot bared a slight resemblance to the cartoon superhero, sans cape and unitard. But who cares? Everybody likes dogs that play soccer. Just ask the 18 people who saw "Air Bud: World Pup" in the theaters. And besides, creating fictional characters based on other fictional characters is a long-standing tradition in sports mascot history. I know I wasn't the only one to notice the resemblance between Footix, the 1998 World Cup cockerel mascot, and the University of Kansas Jayhawk. Alas, both tournament mascots were far better than Kaz, Ato and Nik, the trio of digitally-created anime creatures that haunted Korea/Japan 2002, or the creepy laughing faces in the Germany 2006 logo.

Three is the Magic Number: FIFA's decision to increase the points for a victory from two to three was an important and overdue move that encouraged teams to play for a win and increased the amount of attacking soccer throughout the opening round. Its effect on the modern game remains, from the most recent World Cup to just about every professional league around the world.

Far Out, Man: The Peter Max painting that served as the official 1994 World Cup poster is easily one of the best, and probably the most famous, of its kind in the 72-year history of the tournament. While known for his trademark hippie-trippy Cosmic 60's style, the renowned painter of countless Super Bowl and Grammy posters kept it simple for the commissioned USA '94 poster. The watercolor work, which features a player kicking the ball while seemingly suspended in space above a flag covering the continental United States, is awash in vibrant rainbow strokes and could be seen as symbolizing the colorful makeup of U.S. citizens. It was also a departure from the boring, rigid designs of past posters. It remains one of his most popular event posters of his vast portfolio.

THE BAD

The Snoozer Final: One hundred and twenty minutes of dull, scoreless soccer made the final match a bit hard to watch, especially for those braving the blazing heat at the Rose Bowl that day. It also gave countless ignorant radio talk show hosts more ammunition for their tired "soccer is a boring and low-scoring" rants. While it was a missed opportunity to capture the interest of more Joe Sportsfans that day in Pasadena and around the country on the ABC broadcast, thankfully it didn't affect the bottom line at all. The tournament as a whole CLEARLY won over the American fans and media. As for Baggio, who played so well in getting Italy to the final, you had to feel bad for him when he sent his do-or-die penalty kick effort high over the bar. Not because his team lost, but because that picture of him and his fashion disaster mullet-tail looking at the sky in exasperation is forever frozen in time in photos and World Cup videos.

Europa!Europa!: Even though Europe accounted for exactly half of the 24-team field, it was still a surprise that the continent produced seven of the eight quarterfinal teams. But what was great for Europe was a bummer for the rest of the world, with exciting teams like Argentina, Mexico and Nigeria sent packing and Brazil left alone to wrestle the title away from UEFA.

Forever in Blue Jeans: Being different is not always good—a lesson that Adidas learned with the infamous denim-looking jersey with stars swirling around the body. Who was the marketing genius behind that one? Did they really think that people loved their American blue jeans so much that they might want to wear a blue-jean shirt? The second kit, with the red and white vertical stripes (Get it? One uni has stars, the other has stripes), was hardly an improvement. Note to Adidas: National Team jerseys shouldn't be gimmicky. They should be class. The Stars & Stripes uniforms presented a classic case of an idea that probably sounded good in a brainstorming session, but ended up an embarrassment. Thankfully for countries around the world, Adidas has since stopped experimenting and gone back to the more classic look of yesteryear.

THE UGLY

Ouch!: Leonardo's reckless elbowing of U.S. midfielder Tab Ramos in the 43rd minute of what was at the time an even affair was one of the ugliest and most blatant fouls in tournament history. The fact that it very likely affected the outcome of the match, with the scrappy Ramos finishing the rest of the first half laying limp just beyond the far touch line and needing to be subbed at halftime, makes it all the more unnerving. With Harkes missing the match due to yellow cards in two of the team's three opening round matches, the U.S. was forced to finish the second half missing the heart of its midfield and of course gave up the winning goal to Beбето in the 72nd minute for another in a long line of narrow one-goal losses to the world's best team.

The Hand of God Meets the Drug Test of FIFA: Fans in Argentina and around the world were shocked to learn that THE Diego Maradona had tested positive for drugs prior to the tournament and was expelled from the tournament. Looking back, it marked the beginning of the end for perhaps the best pound-for-pound (circa 1986, not his current girth in 2004) player to ever play the game. Sadly, Maradona's legacy continues to be tarnished with admittance of heavy cocaine use and countless failed rehabilitation efforts that have left Argentina's favorite son a shadow of his former larger-than-life personality.

17 Shots: Forget the bad foul on Tab and Maradona's drug problem. The most disturbing and disappointing single event surrounding the tournament, and unfortunately the one memory that most everyone – soccer fan or not – can recall, was the brutal murder of Colombian defender Andreas Escobar, who contributed the own goal in the team's 2-1 loss to the USA that sealed their fate in the tournament. The unbelievable tragedy was a sad display of the intense passion for futbol and its inseparable link to pride in one's country boiling over into a ridiculous and regrettable fit of rage that robbed an innocent man of his life.

###

“BEHIND CLOSED DOORS”

A section that will let you get to know the real personalities of your favorite Men's, Women's and Youth National Team players through various funny and unique first-person accounts. In this issue, you'll find:

2) IN 3's (w/ WNT forward Kerri Hanks)

What's it going to be? Door number one, door number two, or door number THREE?!? Okay, so this section has less to do with "Let's Make A Deal" and more to do with the Multiple Choice section of an SAT test. "In 3's" peeks inside the head of a select National Team player as they pick one of three choices for 25 questions about personal tastes and pop culture.

U.S. Under-19 Women's National Team forward Kerri Hanks is fast developing into a star for the USA. Coming off her nine-goal performance at the CONCACAF Qualifying Tournament in Canada, Hanks figures to be a key player in the USA's run for the world title in Thailand next November. The Notre Dame-bound Hanks took a few moments to answer a few questions about the great state of Texas, her penchant for hip-hop and how ketchup just goes great with everything.

Personal:

Favorite town/city in Texas: Allen, Dallas or Houston?

"Although Allen is my hometown, I can't say it's too exciting there, so I have to pick Dallas. Houston is so humid and Allen is, to tell you the truth, pretty boring. So that only leaves Dallas. There's more of a social scene and more energy there."

Best Texas rallying cry: "Remember the Alamo," "Don't Mess with Texas" or "Hook 'Em Horns"?
"Everyone knows 'Hook 'Em Horns.' Texas lives and dies for football. It is hardcore there. Maybe that's one of the reasons I chose Notre Dame. I guess you can take the girl out of Texas, but not the football out of the girl."

Best date activity: Dinner and a movie, sporting event or comedy club?

"Dinner and a movie because it's so relaxing and you can get dressed up. I love dressing up. There are no movie theatres in Allen, so we have to drive 20 minutes to Plano. The big thing in Allen is that we have a Target."

Favorite leisure activity while on the road with the U-19 National Team: grab a movie, hit the mall or lay out?

"Lay out on the beach, if there is one nearby. We don't have any nice beaches in Texas so I have to get out there when we have some down time. I guess I like to do anything that lets me relax."

Soccer & Sports:

Best finisher of the U-19 "Triple-Edged Sword" back in 2002: Heather O'Reilly, Lindsay Tarpley or Kelly Wilson?

"I think I would say Tarp. I put her as my favorite player in my U.S. Soccer bio. She just knows where to place the ball, how much power to put on her shot and where the 'keeper is at all times."

Person shorter than former U-19 WNT head coach Tracey Leone, who stands at 4'11": Carla from "Cheers" (actress Rhea Perlman), pop star Prince or the actor that played R2D2 in the "Star Wars" films?

"I have never seen any of them, so I really can't comment, but Tracey is pretty short."

Best U.S. WNT player that starred at Notre Dame: LaKeysia Beene, Shannon Boxx or Kate Markgraf?

"They are all awesome, but recently I've really enjoyed watching Shannon Boxx. She was one of the newer girls that came in and did really well, which was impressive."

Best U.S. National Team player with ties to the State of Texas: Jeff Agoos, Mia Hamm or Kyle Rote,

Jr.?

"Who is Kyle Rote, Jr.? By the way, anytime you put Mia Hamm in a question the answer will be Mia Hamm."

[Editor's Note: Considering Hanks was born in 1985, we'll cut her some slack for not knowing her 70s' soccer stars. Kerri, if you're reading this, here's some background info: The son of deceased former star SMU and New York Giants football player Kyle Rote, the Texas native was the NASL Scoring Leader and NASL Rookie of the Year for the Dallas Tornado in 1973 and made five appearances with the U.S. Men's National Team from 1973 to 1975. Rote, Jr., who is now a sports agent, gained additional fame after winning ABC's "Super Star" competitions in 1974, 1976 and 1977.]

Favorite athlete that hails from Texas: Lance Armstrong (Plano), Roger Clemens (Katy), or Shaquille O'Neal (San Antonio)?

"Lance Armstrong, because he's just amazing. He just keeps winning the Tour de France. The guy is not human."

Best name of a Texas team: Cowboys, Longhorns or Horned Frogs (TCU)?

"I gotta go with Cowboys. I have become a bigger fan recently because of Bill Parcells. With coach Parcells, it's his way or you are out of there."

TV:

Favorite female "Friends" character: Rachel, Phoebe or Monica?

"Phoebe, no contest. Once I started watching 'Friends,' I met Megan Kakadelas who was on the 2002 U-19 team, and we started calling her Phoebe, because it really just fit. That's when Phoebe became my favorite."

Favorite home improvement show: "Trading Spaces," "While You Were Out" or "Clean Sweep"?

"I don't really watch any of them, but I wouldn't mind someone coming in and decking out my dorm room at Notre Dame next year."

Most annoying reality show: "The Simple Life", "Fear Factor" or "The Swan"?

"I have to go with 'The Simple Life.' Those girls are so goofy. I mean, who doesn't know what Wal-Mart is?"

Movies:

Favorite movie genre: action, comedy or drama?

"I like the comedies. I went to see 'Mean Girls' recently and Ashlyn (Harris) and I thought it was hilarious. There were more than a few girls like that at Allen High School."

Hottest movie sequel of the summer: "Spiderman 2," "Shrek 2," or "The Bourne Supremacy" (w/ Matt Damon)?

"The only one I have seen is 'Shrek 2,' and I fell asleep during it. We were in Canada (for qualifying) and I was just tired. I guess I was resting up for the games."

Most promising young actress: Lindsay Lohan, Hilary Duff or the Olsen twins?

"I am not sure, so I am going to vote for (U.S. goalkeeper) Ashlyn Harris. If she ever decides to be an actress or pop star, she would do well. She's a pretty dramatic girl."

Hottest young Hollywood hunk: Ashton Kutcher, Tobey Maguire or Orlando Bloom?

"I am not really into any of those guys, but Omar Epps ("Love and Basketball") is really hot. He just

had a great body in that movie. I also think Richard Gere is hot, but he's really old."

Music:

Favorite kind of music: Pop, hip hop or rock?

"I like to listen to the hip hop. I like Usher, 50 Cent and 112. I also like country, too, though. I listen to Pat Green and I am going to his concert in Dallas when I get home."

Favorite tough girl singer: Avril Lavigne, Gwen Stefani or Kelly Osbourne?

"Avril Lavigne, even though she's Canadian. She just looks tough. We need to get that girl on our team."

Country music: classic, corny or crap?

"Hey! Easy on the ripping on country. I love country! I'm a Texas girl after all."

Food:

Favorite type of non-American food: Mexican, Italian or Chinese/Asian?

"It's gotta be Tex-Mex. You can even get good Tex-Mex in Allen."

[Editor's Note: Er... Texas being in America, and this food being associated with the Southwestern United States, this answer doesn't really fly, but we'll let her be.]

Favorite kind of steak: filet, t-bone or strip?

"I just had a filet at Outback Steakhouse when I has home after qualifying. My brother works there."

Best late-night food/snack: burrito, slice or gyro?

"A burrito from Taco Bell without a doubt. We do have a Taco Bell in Allen. That's like the big hangout on Friday and Saturday nights."

Best dessert: Cake, ice cream or pie?

"I can always eat mint chocolate chip, or if I can't have that, then vanilla ice cream with a brownie."

Best American-invented condiment: ketchup, ranch dressing or spray imitation butter?

"I eat ketchup on everything. When I was little I used to eat it on bananas and ice cream. My parents would get so mad at me. It sounds kind of gross now, but it was good back then."

###

3) GEAR GALORE (Nike USA T90 Chrome Ball)

In a new piece for 2004, we engage in some shameless self-promotion by spotlighting a different U.S. Soccer product each month, from the newest, state-of-the-art Nike apparel to all kinds of other exclusive U.S. Men's & Women's merch.

Okay, so you've basically missed the boat on Father's Day. Let's hope you had a chance to get him a nice terrycloth tie from T.J. Maxx. Or perhaps an \$18 pair of fashionable argyle dress socks from Eddie Bauer. But enough about Dad...

Now that school's out for the summer and you have a chance to play every day, you're going to need a good ball that's both super-durable and cool-lookin'.

The new U.S. Soccer Nike T90 Ball, with its orange and red billiard-style rings, is the hottest ball out there, if for no other reason than it has the ability to hypnotize opposing goalkeepers when you swerve toward goal. *[Editor's Note: Not really, but it does look like wicked cool with the rotating stripes*

once in motion.]

And not only that, this special version is the official ball of the U.S. National Teams, with the U.S. Soccer crest smack in the middle of the smallest ring in order to show your support for the U.S. Women at the Olympics in Athens in August and for the U.S. Men as they continue on the Road to Germany 2006 into the Fall.

To buy the new U.S. Soccer Nike T90 Aerow Ball, click below:

<http://www.ussoccerstore.com/balls.html>

###

4) "QUERIES & ANECDOTES" (w/ WNT midfielder Shannon Boxx)

Off-the-wall Questions and Answers, Queries and Anecdotes from U.S. Women's National Team midfielder Shannon Boxx.

Boxx gave new meaning to the words "burst onto the international scene" last year, making the 2003 Women's World Cup Team without ever appearing for the USA at the senior level. She then scored in her first three matches, made the FIFA Women's World Cup All-Star Team and recently captained the FIFA World Stars to a 3-2 victory over Germany in Paris during FIFA's Centennial Celebrations. She took time out from her busy schedule to speak with ussoccer.com about her whirlwind 2003 and college life back at the Golden Dome.

Center Circle: Describe your Women's World Cup experience in three words.

Shannon Boxx: "Surprise. Emotional. Excitement."

CC: What was it like playing for the FIFA World Stars in Paris just prior to the Brazil-France rematch from the 2002 World Cup?

SB: "It was a great honor to play with those players in such a big event. To be the captain of the team was a big surprise, and I have to admit it was fun to beat Germany. Just hanging out in the hotel with your teammates was a lot of fun too, even though everyone was speaking different languages. FIFA treated us great and I got to spend a few days in Paris with my fiance, so it was just a wonderful event overall."

CC: What do you think about comments from fellow teammates or those in the media who compare your toughness and ball-winning abilities to that of the legendary Michelle Akers?

SB: "I was shocked when I first heard that and very honored, but I don't see myself on the level of someone so great as Michelle Akers. But to have someone say that, especially from your teammates, is a great honor and I have to thank my teammates for making me look good."

CC: You scored goals in your first three international matches last year and even had a hat trick back in February, which is very rare for a defensive midfielder. Is that a byproduct of you being in the right place at the right time, or do you work hard to be a part of the attack when the opportunity presents itself?

SB: "Those are kind of two unusual happenings for sure, but one of my roles in the middle of the field is to get in to scoring positions on free kicks and corner kicks, so that helps me get some goals. I like to go forward, I like to shoot, and I like to get into the attack when I can, but I know my major role is to be defensive."

CC: Do you have a favorite of the nine goals you've scored in your brief National Team career?

SB: "It would have to be the volley I scored against Costa Rica in qualifying. It was off a throw-in from

the right sideline and Shannon MacMillan flicked it on and I hit it first-time into the side-netting. I've never done that before."

CC: What has been the toughest part so far of Olympic Residency Camp in Carson?

SB: "Just staying mentally and physically focused. It's a long process and you know you can't have too many bad days, so everyday you have to come ready to play."

CC: Knowing your sister has a gold medal for Softball from '96, I'm sure there's some extra motivation to bring home a medal from Athens in August. Aside from Germany, who do you think will be the team that could stop you from getting the gold?

"Definitely Sweden, Brazil and China have a great chance to win the gold. And Japan played really well against us earlier this month (a 1-1 draw on June 6 in Louisville), so we know it's going to be a hard road no matter who we have to play."

CC: Who is the most difficult playmaker you've had to shut down, either on the international level or in the WUSA?

SB: "Homare Sawa from Japan and the Atlanta Beat is one of them. Maren Meinert from Germany is also one of the best players I've ever played against. Their movement off the ball is so good that they are hard to track and follow. They always seem to be in the right spot at the right time to receive the ball."

CC: Will the WUSA be back in '05, and if so, how long can it sustain itself in the sports hierarchy?

SB: "For the sake of the kids, and the future of the national team, I hope it comes back and stays. We had such a great product that it's just sad it's not around anymore. I owe the WUSA a lot of helping me get to the National Team, so I don't want other players to miss out on that chance."

CC: What's your biggest soccer goal looking ahead to the future, looking past the Olympics for a second?

SB: "To continue to play and contribute to the national team. I want to play until I can't play anymore. I want to win a World Cup and an Olympics and I want to be the one that says I'm done at the end of my career."

CC: What's your biggest goal in your personal life?

SB: "Just to be happy and have a family. I am getting married in April of '05, so I'm well on my way to those goals."

CC: You have a degree in Psychology and were accepted to the Master's program at Pepperdine University before all of the Women's World Cup festivities kinda changed your plans. What made you become interested in psychology?

SB: "I took a class in high school and loved it. The mom of a good friend of mine is a clinical psychologist and I spoke a lot with her and that got me interested in working with children in the psychology field."

CC: If soccer fans wanted to stalk you somewhere in your hometown of Redondo Beach, where would they find you?

SB: "I like The Village area a lot. It's the main little town in Redondo. It has shops and coffee places and restaurants. You can walk to the beach and stuff. I used to meet friends there a lot."

CC: Quite a change from a big city like South Bend, Ind. Just how boring was it?

SB: "South Bend itself is very boring, but as athletes, we lived on campus for three years, and it was a lot of fun. We went to all the athletic events and the town itself revolves around the campus, so it was fun to be at center of that. Pretty much, we found things to do on campus and I had (former Notre Dame and U.S. National Teammates) LaKeysia Beene and Kelly Lindsey to have fun with."

CC: What was the best way to pass the time? Study?

SB: "I did lots of things. I would go play out in the snow, play football, or hang out in the dining hall and talk to people all day long. It really wasn't that bad at all. I could have had fun at UCLA or something, but it never bothered me at all. The school and people were so fun."

CC: With the hotel, the golf course and the grotto, is there anything the Notre Dame campus does NOT have?

SB: "It had a movie theatre too. But what Notre Dame really needed was a Starbucks."

CC: How soon do you think it will be before the Irish football team is back competing for a national championship?

SB: "Good question. We'll leave it at that."

###

5) "MARK THAT CALENDAR"

MNT vs. Grenada – June 20, 4 p.m. ET

[LIVE on ESPN2, Telemundo and ussoccer.com's MatchTracker]

A stern reminder about an upcoming U.S. Soccer-related event, whether you plan to check it out live and in person, on the "telly" or that wacky world wide web.

Admit it. You thought the Men's National Team would roll over Grenada in the home leg of the two-game preliminary round qualifying series. We'd score early and often and cruise to a six or seven-goal win. Shoot, even THEIR supporters and reporters were expecting a lopsided line score like that out of the first match.

All just wishful thinking. When the match was still scoreless just minutes before halftime, the pre-game "No problem, mon!" vibe of the Columbus faithful had quickly morphed into "Houston, we have a problem" anxiety.

So we ended up pulling out a well-deserved 3-0 win, but it wasn't easy. And it ain't over yet. We still have to travel down near the equator for a match in front of some 15,000 frenzied fans on a bumpy field and protect what I think we all hoped would be a much bigger lead in order to take the series on aggregate goals.

Continue feeding your U.S. World Cup Qualifying fever at 4 p.m. ET live on ESPN2 and Telemundo or at ussoccer.com's MatchTracker, presented by Philips Electronics.

###

6) WHERE WERE YOU...? (w/ MNT midfielder Earnie Stewart)

This special first-time feature asks people in soccer where they were for a historic event in the annals of American Soccer History. For this issue we asked players on the current U.S. Men's National Team:

...When Earnie Stewart Scored the Game-Winning Goal to Beat Colombia 2-1 at the 1994 World Cup?

While 14-year U.S. veteran Earnie Stewart has had numerous memorable moments throughout 99 international appearances for the United States, none reaches the height of his game-winning goal against Colombia in the USA's second group match of the 1994 World Cup. On June 22, 1994, before 93,194 fans at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Stewart's strike helped propel the U.S. to a 2-1 victory and into the second round of the tournament, where they would fall 1-0 to eventual champion Brazil.

The USA's performance in 1994 would help re-ignite a passion and commitment to the sport in this country, helping to launch Major League Soccer in 1996 and serving as the backbone of the future success of the national team.

Now approaching the 10-year anniversary of the United States hosting the world's largest sporting event, ussoccer.com takes a look back at Stewart's special moment through the eyes of players and coaches who witnessed it.

[Editor's Note: Stewart could become the eighth player in U.S. Men's National Team history to reach the 100-cap mark if he appears in the June 20 match versus Grenada.]

Earnie Stewart: "I remember running across the box about 25 yards out. Tab Ramos gave a fantastic ball with the inside of his right foot that came straight into my path. I don't want to say it was an easy goal, but it was such a nice pass that it deserved a nice finish. I don't remember much about the experience. It was such a dream for me to play in the '94 World Cup. When you're young, you don't enjoy it, but you live it at the moment."

Claudio Reyna: "It was a very, very hot day, and I was on the bench injured. I remember Tab played Earnie through, and it seemed like the ball took forever to cross the goal line. Up until that moment we were playing well, and I thought we deserved a goal. After that, the whole team kicked up a level of confidence. Colombia was a pre-tournament favorite, so to get our only win of the tournament against them was huge."

Kasey Keller: "I happened to be at the game. I was visiting friends in L.A. at the time, and I remember it was hot as hell. I remember the goal, and Colombia's own goal as well, but what struck me the most after the game was that the crowd didn't seem to fully realize what the U.S. team had just accomplished."

Eddie Pope: "I was at my house in High Point, N.C., watching with my parents. I watched a ton of games during that World Cup, and the tournament in 1990 as well. I can picture Earnie scoring that goal, and I remember thinking what a great moment it was for the U.S. team."

Jonny Walker: "I was in Florida. My family and I went to most of the games in Orlando, and watched the U.S. on t.v. I remember Earnie had a good near-post finish past Oscar Cordoba. When you're young, people drill into your head that you shouldn't get beat there, but it's completely different when Earnie Stewart is bearing down on you. The victory was huge."

Landon Donovan: "I was 12 at the time. My family and I were at home in Redlands. I didn't watch soccer a lot at the age, but I watched all of the U.S. games. I vividly remember Earnie's goal, and the ball just slipping in the near post. It was definitely an inspirational experience."

###

7) "POINT/COUNTERPOINT" (Who will be the U.S. MNT Starting XI on June 13?)

In this playful piece, we pose a question or make a statement about something in soccer that will be opined about, agreed and disagreed on, by YOU, the reader. No more so-called experts giving safe,

politically correct answers. Those days are over. Instead, we've opened the floor to everyone out there in Cyberland to throw in their two cents.

In May, we asked you this: Who will be the U.S. starting eleven for the Men's National Team as they open CONCACAF World Cup Qualifying versus Grenada on June 13 in Columbus?

Always a subject of heated debate among fans across the country, this starting lineup selection process was no different, inciting the heaviest e-mail bag of responses that we've received. But surprisingly, of the hundreds of responses, less than five (Big Ups to Chris Ferris and Walter Burenin) nailed it on the head by picking the correct starters out of the final 19-player roster. Most everyone had the midfield and forwards right, but the back line picks were all over the map. Does that mean we might have some personnel problems down the road in qualifying with so many question marks in our starting defense? Nah. It means we're loaded at those and every other position now more than ever before and you can slot any of those players in there and feel comfortable. Below are the best of the best Bruce-For-A-Day breakdowns:

“Goal : Keller will start. I think Walker is a great keeper, but Bruce will go with experience. Defense: Chrerundolo - Pope - Bocanegra - Vanney in the back. These were the hardest positions to fill, because Carlos can play on the left, while Sanneh could slide into the middle or right back slots. But Pope and Bocanegra have played together in the middle a lot, so I think that's what we'll see. I almost went with Convey out wide, but I imagine we'll see a more experienced defender there in Vanney. Midfield: Reyna and Armas as defensive/holding midfielders. These guys are both locks when healthy. Donovan and Beasley will line up in front of them in the box formation we've seen a lot of lately. Again, when healthy those two are a given. Forward: McBride up top is a no-brainer. I think Casey will pair-up with him, although I wouldn't be surprised to Kirovski instead.”

--Chris Ferris / 35 / Bellaire, Texas

“Okay so here it is. Assuming the U.S. goes with the 4-4-2, you have to first start with Kasey Keller in the net. Jonny Walker has shown good form, but he's not really tested to the point where I am comfortable with him in goal. Keller has been here before and this match should be a walk in the park for him. Though he should not be tested, he will be very solid against any challenge. At defense you have to go with Carlos Bocanegra, Eddie Pope, Tony Sanneh, and Steve Cherundolo. Cherundolo was very impressive during the last match with his fitness and ability to join the attack, especially utilizing the long ball. The other three backs have experience, not to mention size and physicality. In the midfield, Reyna has to be in the line-up. His ability to control the game is a must no matter the other 10. Along with Reyna, Chris Armas, DaMarcus Beasley, and Landon Donovan make the midfield very exciting. With Donovan and Beasley on the wings, the U.S. can really speed up the pace and work in some dangerous crosses, which leads me to the forwards. Conor Casey and Brian McBride showed to be a deadly combination against Honduras. Both have skill and size, which neither is afraid to use. Since returning from England, McBride has improved his shot dramatically and has made him an even more potent offensive weapon. There you have it, my starting 11. No matter who is on the pitch for the match, the U.S. should come out with a good result.

--Evan Himes / 23 / Vienna, Ohio

“I think Bruce is going to field a very attack-minded lineup. The U.S. needs to come out strong and build an early lead in the home leg of the series. For that reason, Convey gets the start at left back over Vanney, and will start most of the attacks out of the back. It is also the reason Reyna will replace the more defensive Armas as the holding midfielder. Reyna has experience playing that position for some of his clubs sides and he will help provide a quick transition out of the back. Hejduk gets the start at right

back due to his work rate and the injury to Sanneh. He will also be playing on his home field. Since Stewart will be doing double duty for club and country, Cherundolo gets the nod on the right wing where his pace and accurate crosses make him dangerous. Bocanegra gets the start at left center back where his ability in the air and offensive production give him the edge over Gibbs, who is coming back from injury. Casey gets the start up top over Kirovski, because of his recent form and budding chemistry with McBride. The speedy trifecta of Beasley, Donovan, and Cherundolo will fuel the attack, with the wing backs pushing up often. The duel playmakers in the midfield will add an extra creative spark with Convey and Cherundolo providing dangerous crosses. Reyna will orchestrate the attack and Donovan will be the head of the spear, exploding out of the midfield. The U.S. will have four big targets on set pieces in McBride, Casey, Bocanegra, and Pope. The defense will be anchored by the skill and qualifying experience of Pope and Keller. If the goals don't come, look to see Stewart and Lewis as early subs. Go Yanks! See you at the game!"

--*Lindsay McLennan / 31 / Ann Arbor, Mich.*

"Keller has to be in Goal, although I respect a name like Johnnie (sic) Walker. Sanneh and Hejduk on the right and left respectively pressing the attack with crosses from the sides (man, they're good at that). Pope and Bocanegra marking the guys in the middle, they can probably switch off and take naps during the game. Armas is the best defensive midfielder born in the United States, ever. Reyna holding and Beasley and Donovan combining with him in the middle is as beautiful as any midfield in the world. McBride takes a beating in the air like no other and Kirovski can team up and clean up the trash very effectively. Bruce, are you getting this?"

--*Alex Fordney / 21 / Rome, Ga.*

"The U.S. National Team starting eleven will be: Kasey Keller: He brings world-class talent and decades of national-team experience in a position that Americans dominate. Eddie Pope: He's simply the U.S.'s best central defender. Tony Sanneh: He'll partner with Pope in central defense. His size, experience and skill will make him an ideal partner to clog the middle and restart the attack. His recent performances for the national team have been strong --especially coming back from a long back injury. A lack of match fitness could keep him out. Steve Cherundolo -- His time has come. He has played exceedingly well in recent friendlies both as an attacking right back and a superb defender and man marker. Carlos Bocanegra -- His strong play for Fulham at left back and his consistently strong performance on the U.S. Nat's makes him a shoe-in on the left side. Chris Armas: His hustle and ball-winning skills and other intangibles such as immense desire to win make him an obvious candidate for defensive mid-- especially since Pablo Mastroeni was not called up. DaMarcus Beasley -- There's nobody faster or tougher on the left wing than Beasley. Landon Donovan -- Speed. Skill. Vision. Talent. He's got it all. Donovan will play on the right but will pinch inside, giving him the ability to take on defenders with his quickness and touch. That will open Cherundolo to make overlapping runs down the right sideline to stretch the defense and drop crosses into the middle. Claudia Reyna -- Capt. America is simply America's best soccer player and one of the world's most talented and underrated midfielders. He is the engine that drives the Nat's forward, and like Keller in goal, Reyna is calm under pressure and clinical in his play. Brian McBride -- If there were any doubts about his fitness, then he dispelled them against Honduras. His two-goal effort proves the move to Fulham paid off and shows that America's preeminent target man still has the firepower. Conor Casey -- Let the experiment continue. Casey proved against Honduras that two big men up front complement rather than cancel each other. Individually, Casey's play has been outstanding for club and country. He's ready to rock."

--*Stanley Holmes / Seattle, Wash.*

"Goalkeeper: You almost want to start Johnny Walker just to give him some WCQ experience against a weak opponent, but to keep players sharp you have to make every starting position a

competition. Only the best player available starts in a qualifier, and unless he's been slacking off in camp, that's Keller. Defense: Bocanegra on pedigree, Pope on experience, Sanneh on attacking ability, and Hejduk (yes, surfer dude) to contain the only weapon Grenada may have, speedy forwards. They don't have the technical passing to warrant Cherundolo. Convey can sub to help pile on the goals in the second half. Midfield: 1st three are easy: Donovan, Reyna, and Armas. The fourth spot is more difficult but I think you continue with Beasley who'll disrupt any Grenadan flow with his hustle. It'll also give him a chance to link up with Donovan offensively. Forwards: Honduras speaks for itself, Casey and McBride. They look like a good combo and should only get better.”

--Michael Costa

Stay tuned for the July question in the coming weeks and then e-mail your BRIEF, but well-crafted rant to centercircle@ussoccer.org. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, AGE AND CITY OF RESIDENCE. Feel free to submit responses for as many months as you wish, but in the interest of sharing the spotlight, we will be giving space to different respondents from month to month.

###

8) “YOU DON’T KNOW JACK (MARSHALL)” (1994 World Cup Trivia)

Think you know your soccer trivia? We’ll be the judge of that. Pop quiz: who the heck is Jack Marshall? Even the trivia buffs in the U.S. Soccer Communications Department would be hard-pressed to tell you that one Jack Marshall received his one and only cap way back in 1926. Okay, that was pretty much impossible. They get easier. We give you four questions at varying difficulty levels, from 1 (easiest) to 4 (hardest).

The set of questions below is less a test of your 1994 FIFA World Cup knowledge than it is a test of your fading memory from that summer 10 years ago.

Questions:

Q1: Who led Brazil to its fourth world title with five goals and three assists?

Q2: Who won the Golden Boot as the tournament’s leading scorer?

Q3: Who became the oldest player to score in a World Cup when he provided the lone goal in a 6-1 loss to Russia?

Q4: Which five players were on the field for all 360 minutes of the USA’s tournament run?

Answers:

A1: Romario.

A2: Bulgaria’s Hristo Stoitchkov and Russia’s Oleg Salenko tied for the top scoring honor, with each player racking up six goals and one assist in the tournament.

A3: Cameroon’s Roger Milla, who was 42 years 1 month and 8 days old.

A4: Marcelo Balboa, Paul Caligiuri, Thomas Dooley, Alexi Lalas and Tony Meola.

###