

Podcast Worksheet 14

## The MLS

By Damon Brewster (February 2nd, 2007)

### General

- The MLS stands for Major League Soccer. This league replaced the North American Soccer League. This league started in the late 1960s but was not successful and stopped in 1984.
- The MLS started in 1993.
- Recently, David Beckham agreed to move to LA Galaxy: one of the MLS teams.

### Listening for detail

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word.

After David Beckham ..... he was moving to the MLS in America, the languagecaster team thought it was time to see take a look at the MLS in America and see what it was all about. So, I ..... to the MLS homepage and found that the main news there was that Italy had beaten France in the World Cup, so it was straight to Wikipedia.

There I ..... the basics are that the MLS, or Major League Soccer, has two conferences (or leagues), in the East and in the West. In the East there will be 7 teams from the 2007 season: they’ve ..... one team, Toronto FC from Canada. In the west there are six teams. In the east let’s have a ..... and see what teams we’ve got. We’ve got Chicago Fire, Columbus Crew, D.C. United, Kansas City Wizards – they sound cool -, New England Revolution, Red Bull New York – and I’m not sure if they are sponsored by the drink Red Bull at all – and Toronto. So, only two teams in that league have ..... -sounding names. In the west we’ve got: Chivas USA, Colorado Rapids, FC Dallas, Houston Dynamo, they are the reigning MLS cup holders. And I believe the cup holders are the kind of official ..... of the league. There’s also Real Salt Lake and LA Galaxy of course. Now, Chivas USA and LA Galaxy ..... the same stadium, the Home Depot Centre. That’s an interesting name, but it’s got to be better than playing at the Pizza Hut Park where Dallas play.

### Listening for understanding

1. Where do Deportiva Guadalajara play?
2. Who mainly supports Chivas USA?
3. What does “*Adiós soccer. ¡El fútbol está aquí!*” mean?
4. When did Chivas USA join the MLS?
5. Which club does Steve Nicol manage?
6. Does he think the level of the MLS is the same as the English Premier League?
7. Who lost to an MLS All-Star team in a pre-season tour of the USA?

## Answers

### Listening for detail

After David Beckham **announced** he was moving to the MLS in America, the languagecaster team thought it was time to see take a look at the MLS in America and see what it was all about. So, I **went** to the MLS homepage and **found** that the main news there was that Italy had beaten France in the World Cup, so it was straight to Wikipedia.

There I found the basics are that the MLS, or Major League Soccer, has two conferences (or leagues), in the East and in the West. In the East there will be 7 teams from the 2007 season: they've **added** one team, Toronto FC from Canada. In the west there are six teams. In the east let's have a **look** and see what teams we've got. We've got Chicago Fire, Columbus Crew, D.C. United, Kansas City Wizards – they sound cool -, New England Revolution, Red Bull New York – and I'm not sure if they are sponsored by the drink Red Bull at all – and Toronto. So, only two teams in that league have **traditional**-sounding names. In the west we've got: Chivas USA, Colorado Rapids, FC Dallas, Houston Dynamo, they are the reigning MLS cup holders. And I believe the cup holders are the kind of official **champions** of the league. There's also Real Salt Lake and LA Galaxy of course. Now, Chivas USA and LA Galaxy **share** the same stadium, the Home Depot Centre. That's an interesting name, but it's got to be better than playing at the Pizza Hut Park where Dallas play.

### Listening for understanding

1. Deportiva Guadalajara play in Mexico
2. Chivas USA is mainly supported by Latinos – there fan-base is mainly Latino
3. *"Adiós soccer. ¡El fútbol está aquí!"* Means Goodbye soccer, football is here.
4. Chivas USA joined the MLS in 2004
5. Steve Nicol manages New England Revolution
6. No he doesn't. He thinks the MLS is the same level as the Championship in England.
7. Chelsea lost to an MLS All-Star team.

## Transcript

### The MLS – Major League Soccer

After David Beckham announced he was moving to the MLS in America, the languagecaster team thought it was time to see take a look at the MLS in America and see what it was all about. So, I went to the MLS homepage and found that the main news there was that Italy had beaten France in the World Cup, so it was straight to Wikipedia.

There I found the basics are that the MLS, or Major League Soccer, has two conferences (or leagues), in the East and in the West. In the East there will be 7 teams from the 2007 season: they've added one team, Toronto FC from Canada. In the west there are six teams. In the east let's have a look and see what teams we've got. We've got Chicago Fire, Columbus Crew, D.C. United, Kansas City Wizards – they sound cool -, New England Revolution, Red Bull New York – and I'm not sure if they are sponsored by the drink Red Bull at all – and Toronto. So, only two teams in that league have traditional-sounding names. In the west we've got: Chivas USA, Colorado Rapids, FC Dallas, Houston Dynamo, they are the reigning MLS cup holders. And I believe the cup holders are the kind of official champions of the league. There's also Real Salt Lake and LA Galaxy of course. Now, Chivas USA and LA Galaxy share the same stadium, the Home Depot Centre. That's an interesting name, but it's got to be better than playing at the Pizza Hut Park where Dallas play.

Chivas USA are an interesting team as well. They're owned by the same owner of a more famous Mexican team, Deportiva Guadalajara, who are also known as Chivas. In fact they play in the same colours: red and white striped shirts and blue shorts and Chivas USA is mainly a Latino club, their fan-base is mainly Latino. And the club's language is officially Spanish. One of their slogans has been – I kind of like this - "Adiós soccer. ¡El futbol está aquí!" – Good bye soccer! Football is here! Yeah, I like that one. I wonder what the rivalry is like between LA Galaxy and Chivas. But I suppose they haven't had much time to build a rivalry as Chivas only joined the MLS in 2004 and the league itself didn't start until 1993. And that was part of a deal with FIFA who required a professional league before they would give the World Cup to America in 1994.

What about the quality of the football? What will David Beckham find when he arrives? Well, Steve Nicol, the ex-Liverpool and Scotland international player, who now manages New England Revolution, reckons that the MLS is on an equivalent level with the English Championship, so not quite Premier league. Although an MLS All-Star team did beat Chelsea on the Blues' pre-season tour of the States in 2006 'one to nothing' as they say in the States. And when you think that the US national team is ranked equal 10<sup>th</sup> with Italy there is got to be quality there.

I'm sure we'll be hearing a lot more about the MLS from April when the league kicks off over there. And I've already got a soft spot for Chivas USA - Adiós soccer. ¡El futbol está aquí!