

SPORTS

Beckham brings British skills and sex appeal to U.S. soccer

By Jessica Carlson
staff writer

On Jan. 11, Major League Soccer (MLS) had to make like David Beckham and bend their salary cap. Beckham signed a five-year contract to the Los Angeles Galaxy after declining a two-year contract to Spanish team Real Madrid.

Beckham is currently the highest paid soccer player in history. He claims it is not the money that lured him to continue his career in the U.S., but rather the lack of the sport's popularity in America. Beckham sees an opportunity to bring the European fútbol craze to the United States.

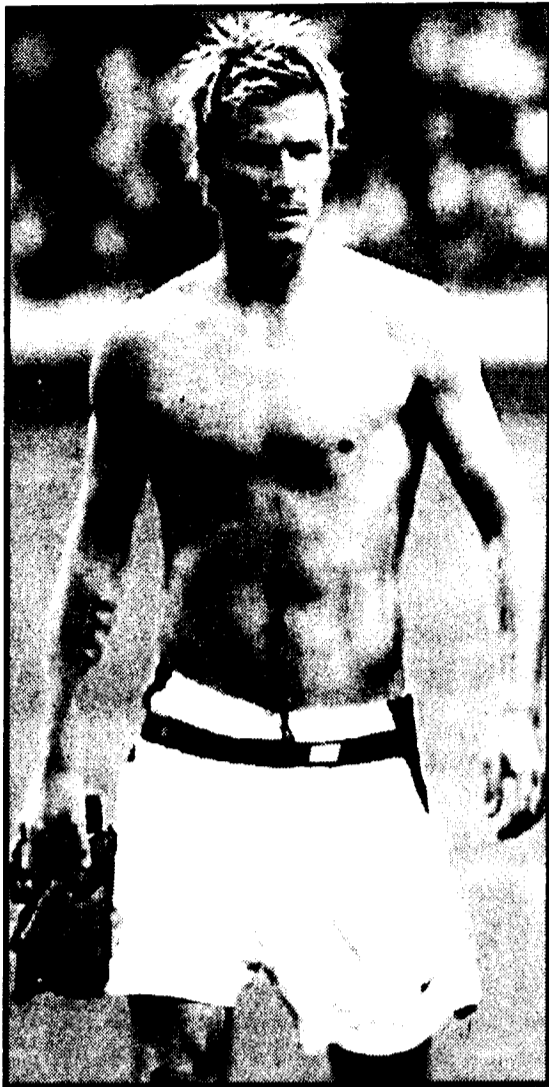
The attempt to increase soccer's popularity in the United States is nothing new to many Americans. Upon hearing the news of Beckham's decision to play soccer in the U.S., many soccer fans were taken back to 1975, when soccer legend Pele came to the states to play for the New York Cosmos.

Although Pelé and Beckham's stories are quite similar, there is a very big difference between the two talented players. Pelé was not only the best-known player of his time, but was actually known as the best player. Beckham, however, may simply be the best known, (and quite possibly best looking), but perhaps not the best player of his time.

Those involved in the business end of American soccer are optimistic about bringing "Becks" to the states and what it will do for the program.

"David Beckham will have a greater impact on soccer in America than any athlete has ever had on a sport globally," said Timothy Leiweke, president & CEO of Anschutz Entertainment Group, which owns the Galaxy. "David is truly the only individual that can build the bridge between soccer in America and the rest of the world."

Beckham's fancy footwork and stylish skills are not all he will be bringing with him to America. He also has developed an image of fame by becoming an icon and sex symbol for companies such as Adidas, Pepsi, Motorola and Gillette. It is also very likely that women will be coming to more games this year to gawk at the handsome athlete strutting the field. The



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Beckham is the highest paid soccer player in history

Galaxy's season ticket sales have already jumped over 1,000 times more than previous years. Millions of Americans will be itching to get their hands on his jersey as well.

However, one question still remains at large. Will good looks, charm and a well developed marketing scheme, along with a beautiful wife, Victoria, a.k.a. Posh Spice, be enough to spark a bigger and better interest to the sport of soccer? For now we will have to wait and see. Beckham's soccer career in the United States will kick-off in July.

The secret of his success

Crosby's popularity keeps Pittsburgh fans in seats

By Andrew McLachlan
staff writer

Once in a while, you come across rare talents in the sports industry that bring in crowds from all over. For the Pittsburgh Penguins, they have had their share of talents, from "Super Mario" Lemieux to Jaromir Jagr. In 2005, the Penguins won the draft lottery that may have not only led them to the best player in the draft, but a player that could save a franchise from moving.

Nineteen year old Sidney Crosby has accomplished more in his short career than almost everybody that has come through the NHL. In 124 career games, Crosby has scored 63 goals and 111 assists. He is currently leading the NHL scoring race with 72 points in 43 games. Those numbers are comparable to great players such as Wayne Gretzky and Lemieux. Even though professional hockey is not as popular as other professional sports in America, Crosby's play has taken the city of Pittsburgh by storm.

With the Penguin franchise considering relocation to a different city, the Penguins' fans are circling their wagons around Crosby and his youthful squad by selling out the last 11 home games. With his youthful energy and highlight reel goals, Crosby has fans from all over the Western PA region who are standing in ticket lines for hours to get a glimpse of him and the Penguins.

Brysten Jones, a business major at Behrend and assistant captain and vice president of the Behrend ice hockey team, stated how he felt about Crosby and what he is doing for the city of Pittsburgh. "With the way Crosby and the Pens have been playing, it seems that the Penguins are back on the right track towards the Stanley Cup," Jones said. Jones went on to say that if the city and state officials let the Penguin organization leave, it will be a huge economic mistake.

With the city of Pittsburgh already \$880 million in debt, it will be tough for the city and state to find money to help pay for the arena, but by



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crosby continues his success with the Penguins

losing the Penguin organization, the city will take a bigger hit by losing not only one of the hottest franchises in the sports industry, but a huge part of the Pittsburgh economy.

In their second year with Crosby in the lineup, the Penguins are already becoming a contender in the NHL with a record currently four games over .500. They are also tied for eighth in the Eastern Conference.

The Penguins face some tougher challenges in their last 36 games on the schedule. However, with the winning column increasing and fan support rising, they are creating more pressure for the city and state officials to make a deal for the organization to stay.

Penn State Behrend hockey team freezes opponents

By Tommy Phillips
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend hockey team was on fire this past weekend, Jan. 20 and 21, winning two road games over big-name opponents. The Lions traveled to play Pitt and West Virginia and came away with two straight victories with identical scores of 6-3. The two victories improved the Lions' record to 13-6.

In their first game on Saturday, Jan. 20 against Pitt in Harmarville, Behrend was led in points by forward DJ Craven, who scored three assists. Forwards Dan Thiessen and Chris Simanic led the team in goals by scoring two goals each. Forwards Brian Hammel and Brad Alayon added one goal each as well. Goalie Eric Thiessen made 25 saves to help preserve the victory.

Behrend followed the win over Pitt with an equally impressive victory over West Virginia at Morgantown on Jan. 21. Leading the team in points again was Craven with five assists. Simanic led the team in goals once again, this time scoring four goals in an excellent performance. Thiessen and Alayon scored one goal each for the Lions. Forward Andrew McLachlan and defenseman Shane Miller added one assist each for Behrend.

Behrend plays their first home game of the semester this weekend, Jan. 27 and 28, after a long streak of away games. The Lions will first face off against Pitt-Johnstown at Mercyhurst on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. They follow up that game with a match against Bucknell on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. They hope to build on the momentum from their two big wins.

Former Penn State football player charged in stabbing death of fellow student

by Lenny Smith
assistant news editor

A former Penn State football player was arrested on Jan. 16 and is being charged with the murder of his former roommate.

Police said that Levon Chisley, 23, attempted to rob his roommate, Langston Carraway, 26, last June to pay off Chisley's debts. According to police reports, Chisley stabbed Carraway 93 times during the attempted robbery.

Police said that DNA belonging to Chisley was found inside of a blood covered, rubber glove that was left at the scene. A boot print found at the scene was also a match to Chisley.

Chisley and a friend, Kerry Onaka, traveled to Baltimore, Maryland shortly after the murder occurred. When police questioned Onaka, she said, "he packed more than just for a weekend stay."

This is not the first time Chisley has been in trouble with the law. In 2004, Chisley was arrested for



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Ex-Penn State player, Chisley, is escorted into a police car

sexual harassment, which prompted a suspension from the Penn State football program. He has also been charged with possession of drugs in Centre County, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Chisley is currently being held in the Centre County Jail until his next court hearing which is scheduled for early next week.

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