THE SWEETER SIDE OF LIFE



WE'RE KRUSHING OVER THE

# WORLD GUP





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June 2014



We're Krushing over this month's cover and the World Cup in general. What better way to showcase this global event than with three Krushes of the Month on the cover of Kandy.

#### Claudia Fijal

Representing the USA in her stars and stripes bikini is December 2013's Krush Claudia Fijal.

#### Melissa Riso

Honoring her Italian heritage, March 2014's Krush Melissa Riso sports a sexy red, white and green one-piece.

#### Kyndal K'yaire

New to the Kandy family, our June 2014 Krush Kyndal K'yaire pays homage to her German roots in the sexiest Germany jersey you'll ever see.





### Krush of the Month Kyndal K'yaire

She has been linked to a Heisman trophy winner who now plays for the Cleveland Browns. What is the 411 on Kandy's first WAG Krush's relationship status? Read her interview for insight.



### Kandystand Girl Brittany McDonald

One of the very first special features introduced to Kandy readers returns after a brief hiatus. Brittany reveals for us her ultimate fantasy shoot.

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June 2014

# **Entertainment & Sports**



### Video Games

The Kandy Gamer gets in the World Cup mood with a look at EA Sports 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil offering as well giving us an in-depth look at EA's newest game, UFC.



**Movies** 22 Jump Street

It might be a remake-of-a-remake. But in Hollywood, that's no crime.



### **Madden Curse**

or fiction? Our friends Proplayerinsiders.com take an indepth look at the "curse" and draw their own conclusion.

# **World Cup Special Features**



**Jozy Altidore** 

Forget the group of death. Jozy and his teammates are in Brazil to succeed and put together a strong effort that hopefully takes the USMNT deep in the tournament.



**Kyle Martino** 

What happens when you put together "the happily married broadcaster" and "the divorced bachelor"? Find out as Kandy's very own Bob Guiney sits soccer analyst Kyle Martino.



Cars of the World Cup Stars

Let's take a trip around the world and see what an overpaid sports star might drive in Germany, Italy, Japan, South down and interviews NBC's lead color Korea, England, and good old USA. Where is Robin Leach when you need him?



#### Cover Models: Claudia Fijal Melissa Riso & Kyndal K'yaire

**Photos by:** Luke Pearsall

**Kyndal's Hair & Makeup:** Amber Schoneweiss

### Letter from the **EDITOR**

Telcome to our World Cup 2014 Tribute Issue. Our cover models Claudia Fijal, Melissa Riso and Kyndal K'yaire are all Krushes of the Month. Claudia is our December 2013 Krush, Melissa is our March 2014 Krush and Kyndal is this month's Krush of the Month, June 2014. Speaking of Kyndal, she is our first ever WAG Krush of the Month. For those not familiar with the acronym 'WAG' it stands for wives and girlfriends of famous athletes. Kyndal burst onto the public scene when she was spotted at a Texas Rangers game earlier this year with Heisman Trophy winner and Cleveland Browns 1st round draft pick Johnny Manziel. As to the current status of their relationship, no one is talking so it only leads to media and fan speculation. She won't even speak his name.

As we decided to dedicate much of this issue to the World Cup our writers took different angles to tackle the subject. Our Kandy Car Guy reviews the rides of World Cup stars from various countries including the USA, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Italy and Great Britain. Sports guy cornered US Men's National Team forward Jozy Altidore for a quick interview on the sport. Kandy Gamer tackled EA Sports 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil video game and was enjoying the tackling so much that he wandered off point and gave us a bonus review of EA Sports newest video game offering, UFC. Rumor has it Bruce Lee is one of the characters in the game which makes us wonder if he is as unbeatable as Mike Tyson was in early industry boxing video games.

Our friends at ProPlayerInsiders.com jump in on the video game craze and take an in-depth look at the Madden Curse. There are some interesting perspectives shared by industry insiders. Finally, Bob Guiney wraps up our World Cup coverage with an interview of NBC's lead soccer color analyst Kyle Martino. No surprise that Kyle is picking Brazil to win it all.

Of course, this issue is only a warm up to our July issue and our Krush of the Year Jessica Hall who is joined on the pages by 59 other Sweet Krushes. But, that is a couple weeks away. In the meantime, enjoy the World Cup from a Kandy point of view.

Cheers!

Akull



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# **AUTHENTICITY BY THE NUMBERS:**

#### Teams:

203 teams sanctioned by FIFA.

#### Players:

7,362 players in the game.

#### Managers:

19 officially licensed managers.

#### Stadiums:

21 new stadiums, including all 12 authentic stadiums in Brazil.

#### Commentary:

Over 15 hours of added in-game commentary.

#### **KEY FEATURES**

World Class Control — Control the ball in possession with an all-new control system using:

Response Dribbling - Turn quicker at every angle and keep the ball under control. Using the left trigger, fans will find success beating opponents at slow speeds with the new dribbling system. Plus, use all-new new flicks, dribbles, and a new Brazilian-inspired skill move to beat defenders.

Pinpoint Passing - Key passing improvements and new animations result in crisper, more accurate, direct, and responsive passing. Ground crosses,

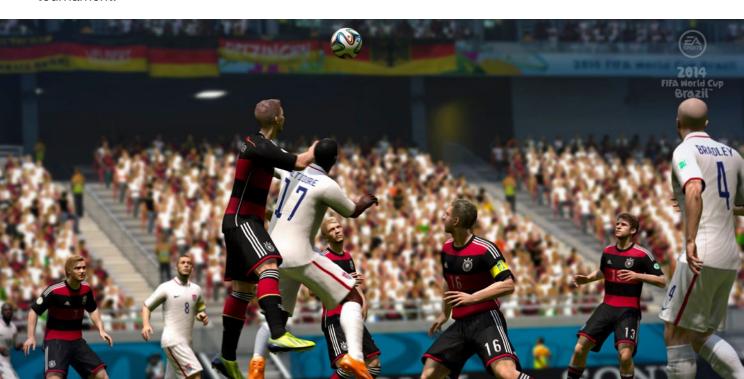




#### KANDY VIDEO GAME SPOTLIGHT

outside of the foot curling crosses, and personality given to clearances make moving the ball more satisfying and precise than ever.

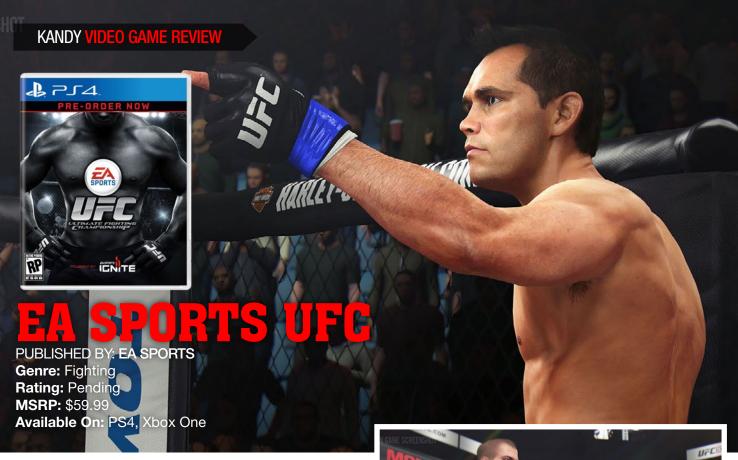
- Explosive Movement Change direction on and off the ball with purpose and get to space. Players are able to accelerate, decelerate, and change direction quickly on and off the ball, as well as make tight dribble turns and close touches on the ball while dribbling at pace.
- Set Piece Tactics New tactics will have opponents fearing set pieces from the flank or during corner kicks. Using the D-pad players tell their teammates to make runs to the near post, far post, edge of the box, or have them crowd the keeper.
- adidas® Ball Physics EA SPORTS and adidas® partner to deliver the most realistic ball physics system on Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3. Taking physics data from the adidas Innovation Lab in Herzogenaurach, Germany, EA SPORTS FIFA development team implemented it in EA SPORTS 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil to give the Brazuca and other adidas balls true-to-life flight and grass friction in the game.
- New Penalty Kicks— Feel the drama of FIFA World Cup™ penalty kicks with new save animations and a shot tuning that puts players in control of their nation's fate. Penalty Kicks in the run of play now have players on the edge of the box and ready to rush at spilled shots. Also, distract the kick-taker by using Goalkeeper Antics to throw them off using a series of animations including wobbly-knees, matador, and shoot-it-there animations.
- Over-the-Back Headers Jump over your opponent's back to win the possession battle and head the ball. In one example defenders can now jump over the back of a holding attacker to clear the ball to safety.
- adidas® micoach Training Complete adidas micoach training sessions to boost in-game attributes for individual players on your team. Choose from six different attribute boosts and 18 different drills to improve your players' performance during the tournament.





#### **KEY MODES**

- Road to the FIFA World Cup<sup>™</sup> The most immersive tournament mode in EA SPORTS history. Choose from any of the 203 National Teams sanctioned by FIFA and play with up to 32 players locally through the qualifying rounds, and proceed on to the group stages of 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil<sup>™</sup>. Along the way, get tournament updates from EA SPORTS Talk Radio.
- Captain Your Country— EA SPORTS™ 2014 FIFA World Cup™ marks the return of one of the most popular FIFA game modes of all time. Start from the bottom, work your way up the squad list and eventually lead your country through qualifying, and on to the FIFA World Cup. A brand new auto-positioning system makes the mode accessible to new players.
- Road to Rio de Janeiro<sup>™</sup> (online) Players progress across a map of Brazil's 12 host cities in licensed and authentic stadiums. Compete in Online Stages with any of the 203 National Teams to advance, remain in a city, or be relegated. Win the final of 12 stages to hoist the FIFA World Cup Trophy at Estadio do Maracana in Rio.
- Online FIFA World Cup™ Compete in the Group Stage and World Cup Finals. Win seven games in a row against online competition to hoist the coveted FIFA World Cup™ trophy.
- Story of Qualifying Play over 60 real scenarios that the world witnessed during the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ qualifying stages.
- Story of Finals (online) Activated at the beginning of the tournament and updated throughout, play challenges based on the narrative of the day's events.



here's no doubt that mixed martial arts, with the UFC as its focal point, is bigger now than ever. 2013 was a hallmark year marked by broadcasting innovations, ultrahyped fights, and one unforgettable broken leg, but 2014 certainly looks like it's going to be the most important and transformative year yet for both the UFC as an organization and MMA as a sport. And what better way is there to celebrate a new era in the UFC than by releasing a brand-new, next-gen game.

EA Sports UFC is advertised as the true next step in realistic MMA sims. The game has completely abandoned some old features of EA MMA games, introduced new mechanics and physics, and packed itself tight with one of the most impressive rosters ever seen in an MMA title. There is no doubt that a lot of love has gone into this game -- it's clear that many of the developers are huge fans of the UFC -- but the only thing that matters is whether EA Sports UFC delivers





a solid enough experience to make it a good buy for UFC fans.

Development of EA Sports UFC was left to EA Canada, the team best known for the publisher's Fight Night series, and it shows.

Striking, blocking, and even launching attacks off the cage all feel extremely fast and responsive. There's no doubt this is the best MMA game ever made when it comes to the quality of the striking game; players will find no shortage of fighting styles and special attacks with which to pummel their unsuspecting opponents. EA Sports UFC fights are relentless in their intensity and ferocity.

But fans know that the real down and dirty of MMA comes on the ground, and it is here that EA Sports UFC falters just a touch. The submission system is simple enough to learn but doesn't provide a lot of flexibility or strategy. Essentially you'll be jamming the analog stick in a given direction and trying to catch button prompts, which doesn't necessarily feel as precise as an actual submission fight would be. The great challenge

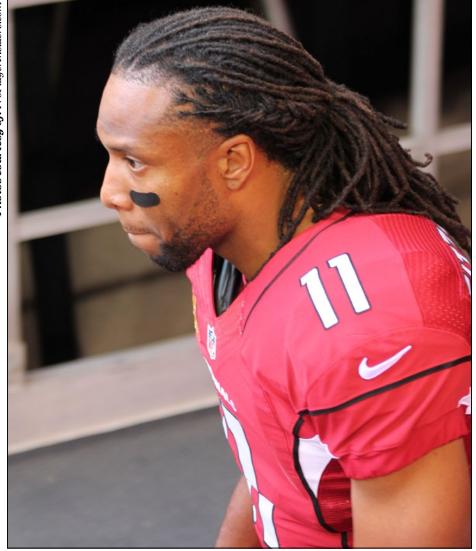
of MMA games has always been authentic recreation of grappling and ground fighting; EA Sports UFC isn't perfect in this regard, but it does a solid enough job that fans can still enjoy their play time.

As for graphics, which one has to discuss in regard to any next-gen entry, EA Sports UFC is one of the best looking fighting games ever made. The roster includes dozens of recognizable UFC fighters and their digital likenesses have been rendered in stunning detail. Action on the mat is marked by sweat, muscle, and smooth animations that are so close to real you may do a double-take if you happen to walk by a demo of the game without realizing what it is. Simply put, the matches you play in EA Sports UFC look and feel exceptionally real.

Overall, EA Sports UFC is the best UFC game in memory and a must-have for fans of the sport. The little and large changes made by EA Canada are almost universally good, and the graphic fidelity and huge roster make this game an excellent first step into the next generation of fighting games. It's not a perfect title, but it's as good as a UFC game has even been.









# **MADDEN-ING**

Written By:

Russell S. Baxter ProPlayerInsiders.com

here might be only one game that sports fans enjoying watching more than professional football and it is one that everyone can participate in. It doesn't require extraordinary abilities and certainly not much athleticism.

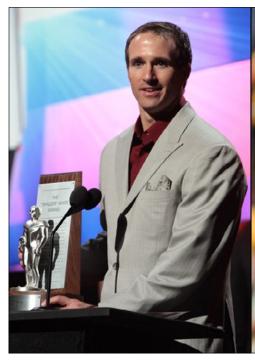
It's called the "blame game".

We have all done it. Be it a poor decision or something unforeseen occurring, it has to be somebody's fault...somebody else's fault.

So when a distinct pattern began to form over the years when NFL players featured the cover of John on Madden's video game (as documented by USA Today) began to either come up small or suffer a big-time injury, surely it had to be the fact that they were gracing the front of the extremely-popular game, right?

Apparently, the "Madden Curse" is now more potent than the "Sports Illustrated" jinx or the myriad of other non-playing factors that have some convinced that those and not the actions of the performers themselves are the real karma chameleons.

As we know, there have now been 48 Super Bowls. The number of superstitions is apparently off the charts. And sorry, there's no such thing as the "Madden Curse."





The men featured on the over the cover years, documented by Ryan Cracknell of The Cardboard Connection, make up star-studded auite the assembly.

Madden himself was the focus of the first 12 covers but it's the players who have taken center stage the last decade or so. From Tennessee Titans running back Eddie George (2000) to Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (2003) to both Pittsburgh Steelers safety Troy Polamalu and Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (2009). The latter pair, which graced the cover of Madden NFL '10, marks the only time two players shared the cover spotlight.

"This is a big year for the

game, and to be associated with it is truly an honor," said Fitzgerald in an interview as documented by Brett Molina of USA Today.

But that honor, at least in some minds, has come with a price. Was that the reason that on last year's Madden NFL 25 that Hall of Fame running back Barry Sanders was given? After all, it's not like he was going to be asked to withdraw his bust from Canton.

New Orleans Saints quarter-back Drew Brees was certainly willing to test fate. The prolific signal-caller was on the cover of Madden NFL 2011 the year after he helped lead the team to a win in Super Bowl XLIV. In an interview with Jon Robinson of ESPN Video Games back

in April of 2010, he made it known he was quite aware of what hovered over the honor.

"The Madden Curse has really taken on a life of its own," said Brees. "People just love talking about it, and it is what it is, but I look at it as a challenge. I also feel like we're still destined to do great things in New Orleans. Our work is not done, and we still have a lot to accomplish. Our time is now, and destiny is still pulling on us, so I feel like destiny is stronger than any curse."

But believe it or not, there are some of the game's performers who actually do believe in the voodoo that you would do well to dispel.

Take running back Peyton Hillis for instance. Originally drafted by the Denver Broncos in 2008, the versatile performer was dealt to the Cleveland Browns in 2010. He responded with a team-high 1,177 yards rushing and 11 scores and finished second on the club with 61 catches, two for touchdowns. He scored 13 of Cleveland's 26 offensive touchdowns that season.

He wound up getting voted onto the cover for Madden NFL '12 and he's not been the plaver same since, bouncing around the league with a number of teams and currently on the roster of the New York Giants. But three years ago, he seemed convinced that there were other forces at work. "Things didn't work in my favor this year," said Hillis to the Associated Press ESPN.com) back in 2011. "There's a few things that happened this year that made me believe in curses. Ain't no doubt about it."

Coincidence? Of course, it is.

In terms of full disclosure, we reached out to all 32 NFL teams hoping to get some reaction from their players regarding this matter and with no success. Apparently, not only is there a feeling that the jinx may be real, talking about the very matter may possibly jeopardize a player's 2014 season as well. Truth be told, it's a very busy time for all the clubs with the NFL draft around the

corner and they have more important things to concentrate on. We certainly appreciate that.

Still, we wanted to bring closure to this matter as the announcement for this year's game is just around the corner. Hence, here are some thoughts from the person who without question has been the most affected by the ramifications of this issue.

He has been there from the start and appears completely unfazed by the coincidences and other possible controversies surrounding this supposed jinx. But the facts are the facts.

"I was on the cover for several years, and I never once even pulled a hamstring, said Pro Football Hall of Fame coach John Madden himself roughly two years ago to Drew Sharp of The Detroit Free Press. "It's a violent sport. Injuries are going to happen."

And speaking of injuries, Madden and company certainly aren't hurting when it comes to the amount of income that the game itself has brought in for more than 25 years, as laid out by John Gaudiosi of CNN last September. The Super Bowl winning sideline leader was one of the game's best coaches, top analysts and frankly a great ambassador

when it comes to the NFL.

So next time you are debating the merits of your favorite player gracing the cover of this very popular video game, keep in mind that the only cursing going on here is by those who didn't have the idea for the product in the first place.

#### **About Pro Player Insiders:**

Pro Player Insiders offers a look into player's personal lives and what matters to off the and them, on football field with news, analvsis, interviews, coverage of community events and featured contributions from current and former NFL players and their families. Pro Player Insiders works with **NFLPlayers** closely Inc.as an official licensed partner, which provides exclusive access directly to the players and special events. Pro Players Insiders is the

true voice of the players.

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#### **USA SOCCER QUICK FACTS**

**FIFA World Rank:** 

14

**How They Qualified For the World Cup:** 

Winner of CONCACAF Tournament

**Most Important Player:** 

Jozy Altidore

**Team Captain:** 

**Clint Dempsey** 

**Head Coach:** 

Jurgen Klinsmann

**Group A Opponents:** 

Germany, Portugal, Ghana aka "Group of Death"

**Opening Round Toughest Opponent:** 

Germany

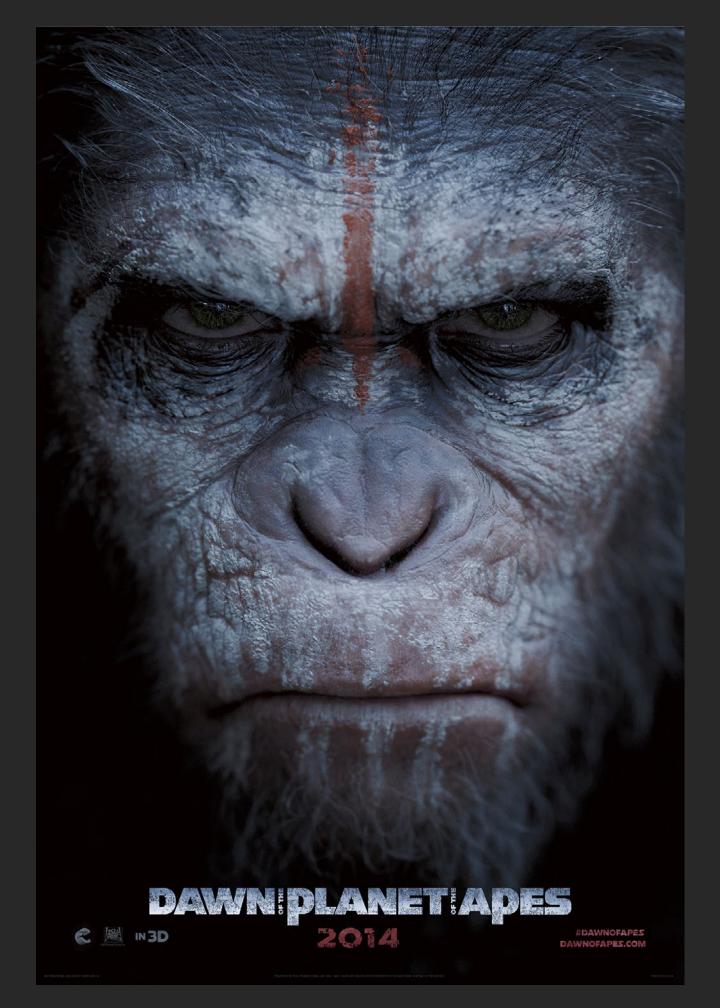
**Number of World Cup Appearances:** 

10

**Best Result:** 

3rd Place, 1930





#### Die deutsche **Fußballnationalmannschaft**

Nickname(s) Nationalmannschaft (national team), Nationalelf (national eleven) or DFB-Elf (DFB eleven); Die Adler (The Eagles)

#### **GERMANY SOCCER QUICK FACTS**

**FIFA World Rank:** 

**How They Qualified For the World Cup:** 

Winner UEFA Group C

**Most Important Player:** 

Bastian Schweinsteiger

**Team Captain:** 

Philipp Lahm

**Head coach:** 

Joachim Löw

**Group A Opponents:** 

USA, Portugal, Ghana aka "Group of Death"

**Opening Round Toughest Opponent:** 

Portugal

**Number of World Cup Appearances:** 

17

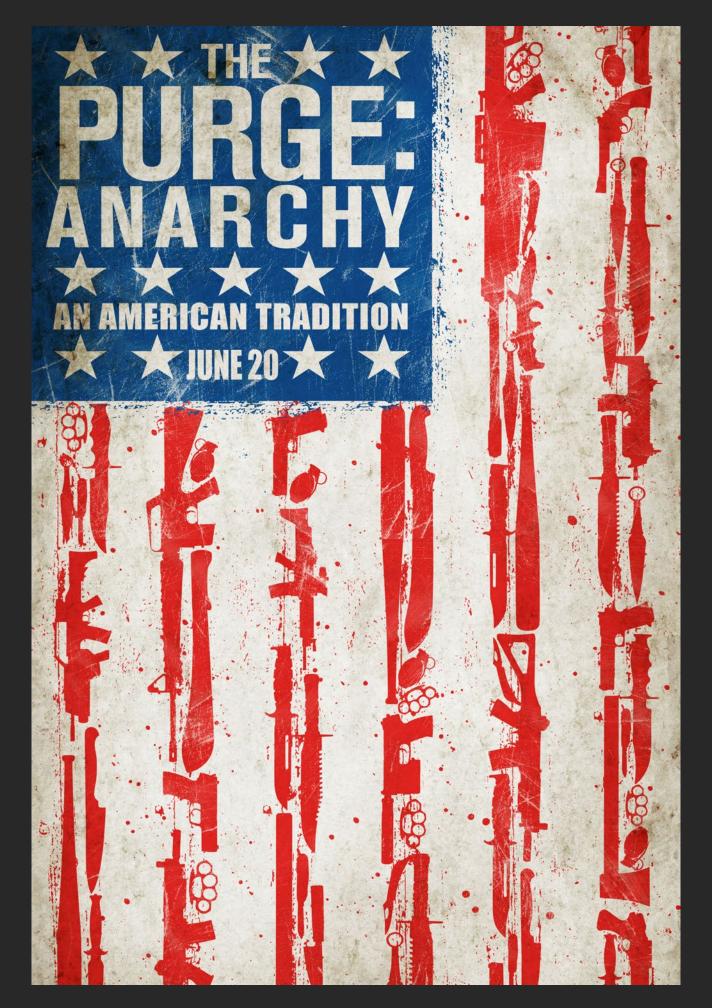
**Last World Cup Championship:** 

1990



Photo by: Luke Pearsall

HMU:



# MEUSSA RISO

Nickname Gli Azzurri (The Blues)

#### **ITALY SOCCER QUICK FACTS**

**FIFA World Rank:** 

9

**How They Qualified For the World Cup:** 

Winner UEFA Group B

**Most Important Player:** 

Mario Balotelli

**Team Captain:** 

Gianluigi Buffon

**Head Coach:** 

Cesare Prandelli

**Group D Opponents:** 

England, Costa Rica, Uruguay

**Opening Round Toughest Opponent:** 

**England** 

**Number of World Cup Appearances:** 

18

**Last World Cup Championship:** 

2006

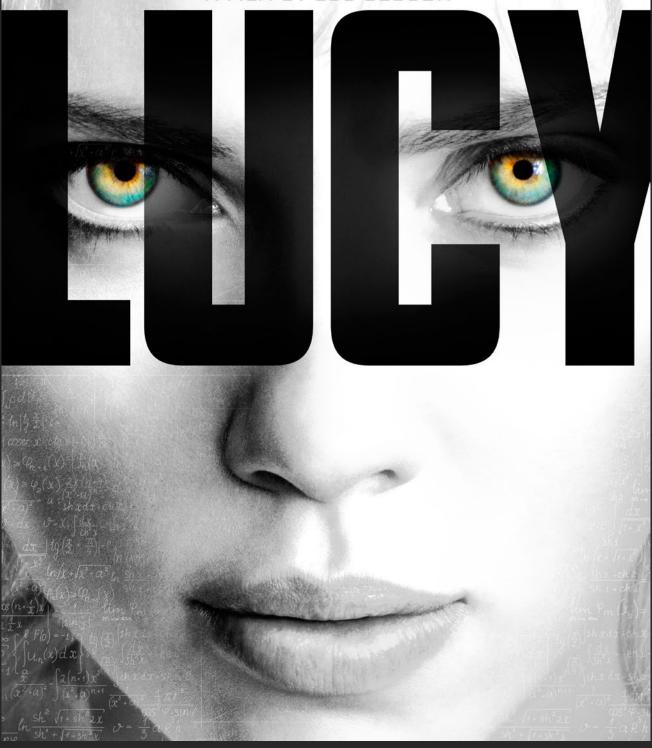


SCARLETT JOHANSSON

MORGAN FREEMAN

THE AVERAGE PERSON USES 10%
OF THEIR BRAIN CAPACITY.
IMAGINE WHAT SHE COULD DO WITH 100%.

A FILM BY LUC BESSON







# he may be the hottest WAG in all of professional sports right now and yet is the most mysterious. Living outside the limelight of the bright lights of LA, NYC, and Miami she is soaking in the beach life of San

Diego and enjoying the nightlife as a bottle server at one of San Diego's hottest clubs. If you don't know her name then you don't follow football. Meet Kyndal K'yaire,Kandy Magazine's first WAG Krush of the Month.

### Hi Kyndal, tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in Sacramento. I started modeling when I was 17 and have always done it on the side of school.

Ever been tempted to go blonde? I was blonde until my sophomore year of high school.

### What is the wildest thing you did in high school?

Snuck out, took my friend's parents car out to go to a party in the middle of the night, only to come home to them standing in the doorway waiting for us!

#### Where did you go to college?

I graduated from Sacramento State and was a double major in Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

## How about sports? Any interest growing up or now?

I ran track growing up (sprints, cross country, long jump) and was a competi-tive dancer. I love staying active! Paddle boarding, jet skiing, football on the beach, anything fun and in the sun I am always ready for. All for trying anything at least once!!

## Competitive dance, does that mean high school cheer?

Not really the cheerleading type! I traveled to different cities and states and competed in national competitions for dance. Mostly hip hop.

You mentioned football on the beach. Who is your favorite team?
Born and raised Dallas Cowboys fan!

#### **KRUSH OF THE MONTH**

Not the answer we were expecting. How does it feel to be the first WAG as our Krush of the Month?

I am thrilled to be Kandy's Krush of the Month. I love the diversity of the articles in the magazine and, of course, all of the hot babes.

Without cheating, tell us three things about Cleveland.

It is in Ohio, cold winters, the Browns.

Hmm, the Browns. Name one Cleveland Brown for us.

Lol, do I really need to say his name!

Ok, we all know his name. But, can you name three Dallas Cowboys?
Deion Sanders, Tony Romo, DeMarcus Ware.

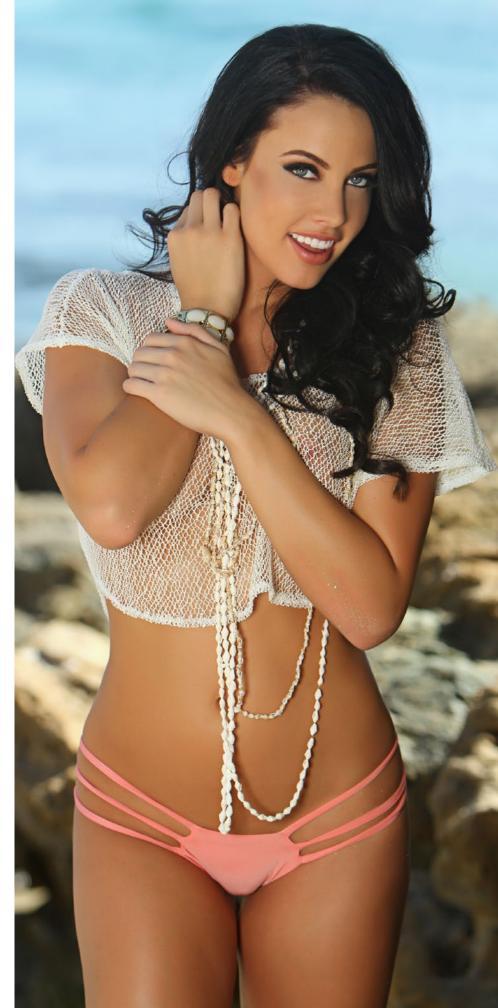
Well, we guess we should have been more specific and said name three current Cowboys. At least you named their current Quarterback Romo. If the Cleveland Browns & Dallas Cowboys are playing who are you cheering for?

Born and raise Cowboys fan so my loyalty goes to them any day!

Sorry Johnny. Where would you rather be, on the sidelines as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders or in the Dawg Pound in Cleveland?

Like I said before, not the cheer-leading type but, if I had to choose, the Dallas Cowboys are known for their beautiful and talented cheerleaders. I'd love to be a part of that any day.

What happens in Vegas... stays in Vegas or shows up all over social media? I think with my experiences it definitely shows up all over the media. But it teaches you to just be yourself and work with what is thrown your way.



















#### Off The Cuff

Go out to your car and look in the backseat, what is back there?

To be honest, I'm a little OCD when it comes to cleaning so the only thing back there is an umbrella. Always have to be prepared!

5 things every guy should carry in his wallet.

ID, business cards, gym key, cash, and credit cards.

Open your purse and list the first five things you see (no cheating).
Lip gloss, Chapstick, hair ties,

wallet, and sunglasses.

What are the first 5 things you see when you open your bedroom closet?

Dresses, Heels, My Nikes, Yoga mat, Jump rope

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

**Telekinesis** 

Know your X-Men - Mystique or Storm.

Storm

Hotter - Jennifer Lawrence or Halley Berry.

Halley Berry

If you could have a one-night stand with ANYONE who would it be?

**Channing Tatum** 

Biggest tip ever. \$3,000

What station is your car audio system tuned to right now?
Sirius XM The Heat

What was the last song you listened to on your iPhone?
Mars by Jay Sean













Kandy Krush Ingredients

Name: Kyndal K'yaire

Age: 24

Hometown: Sacramento, CA

Measurements: 34C - 25 - 37

Height: 5'9" Weight: 135 lbs

Hair: Dark Brown Eyes: Blue

Social Media: facebook.com/kyndal.kyaire

instagram @kyndalkyaire

twitter @kyndalkyaire

Three qualities you admire in men. Sense of humor, Humble, Charismatic

First thing you notice on a guy. Their smile

First thing men notice about you. Probably my eyes or my smile

Mountains or beach. Definitely the beach

Beer or wine or champagne. Champagne

Jello shots or tequila shots. Tequila shots are the only way to go!

MAC or PC girl. PC

Silk sheets or cotton. Cotton!

Hobbies. I love playing video games.

Anything else? I love animals!!! I have been volunteering at the

SPCA for years and love to help every chance I get.

#### CAMERON DIAZ JASON SEGEL



A movie about a movie they don't want you to see.

THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED. FOR FUTURE INFO GO TO FILMRATINGS.COM









#### **10 QUESTIONS WITH USMNT'S**

## JOZY ALTIDORE

**1.** Growing up, who was your soccer idol?

**JA:** Thierry Henry & Ronaldo (the legendary Brazilian striker).

2. When did you realize that you had a special talent that could lead to bigger things?

JA: That's a good question. I don't know if there was an actual moment where I was like, "Hey, something special is going on here." Maybe when I attended Boca Prep in Florida on a scholarship funded by tennis great Andy Roddick. A lot of things just happened so fast when I was young, that I didn't have a lot of time to just reflect on the situation. Without question, I am fortunate

and blessed to be in the position I am today living my dream on a daily basis.

**3.** What one piece of advice would you give to coaches who oversee the development of pre-teen and teenage players?

JA: Just to mix in some fun during all the rigorous, structured training that comes with cultivating youth players with so much potential. You have to remember ... they are just kids. So, having that balance is always good and makes for a more productive player both on and off the field of play.

4. You were only 16 when you made your debut professionally. Looking back, would you still have turned pro at such a young age or would you have waited a couple years?

JA: As they say, hindsight is 20/20, but at the end of the day, I made the right decision with the assistance and guidance of my parents. Turning professional so young was something my parents weren't overly keen on, but they realized this was my dream and fully supported the decision once it came to fruition. I look back with zero regrets and really couldn't have asked for a better path thus far in my career.



5. A lot is being said about your scoring drought lately. Is there any one thing that you can pinpoint as to why the ball is not finding the back of the net or is it just one of those things that happens to all great players?

**JA:** It is just one of those things that happens to the best of us. And when it does, you just have to find other ways to help your team.

**6.** As the USMNT made its way through World Cup qualifying, who is the one player on the team that you noticed improved the most?

JA: I really don't think you can single out one person who got particularly better during the qualifying stage. I think we improved as a unit and it showed every time we stepped on the field.

7. In your opinion, with a dozen reserves backing up starters,

which would you say is more important to have in the locker room, on the bench and on the practice field – talent and conditioning or experience and leadership?

JA: If you're going to be successful in the World Cup and make a serious run toward the title, you have to have an even balance of those things. The best teams in the world have that balance. And for us to compete against them, we have to carry those same strengths on the field.

8. Besides the crowds that go along with being the host country, what would you say is the biggest advantage Brazil has in their favor?

**JA:** First and foremost, the players. That nation is deep with talent. Just look at their entire roster. Completely loaded with talent. Another big thing that

benefits Brazil is its history on home soil. I don't think anyone has beaten Brazil in close to a dozen years across all competitions. Pretty sure I read something that said Brazil hadn't lost at home since 2002, so it has that going for it as well.

**9.** Looking at the USA's group in the World Cup, who is the one player the USMNT should be most concerned with?

JA: I don't think there is one particular person who will be focusing on in any of our groupstage matches. The players in this tournament are all world-class athletes. For us to be successful, we have to beat them as a team and not worry about them as individuals. Cristiano Ronaldo would probably be the obvious choice, but he's just one player out of 11 on the field. Focusing on outperforming the team in front of us is the most important thing on our minds.

**10.** Would the USMNT advancing out of the so-called "Group of Death" be the biggest accomplishment in US Soccer history?

JA: I don't think so. We expect to get out of the group. We expect to advance to the knockout stage of the World Cup. Anything less than advancing from the group stage would be a major disappointment. We are here in Brazil to succeed and put together a strong effort that hopefully takes us deep in the tournament.

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very four years the best soccer players from around the world, gather in some third world country to play for national pride. Outside the United States, soccer (or football as they like to call it) is the single most popular sport. Soccer players are revered for their skills, and they typically showoff their wealth by indulging in all things tacky and expensive (just like NBA players). But other countries have different interpretations of Bling. For example, where an overpaid Miami Heat player might drive an Escalade withlambo doors, a footballer in Germany would probably drive a Mercedes hot rod trimmed in carbon fiber. So let's take a trip around the world and see what an overpaid sports star might drive.

Cue Robin Leach...



# 2015 CADILLAC ESCALADE HPE550

#### by Hennessey

Nothing says "Murica!" like a big LuxUV boiling its rear tires down to the rim. To make that possible, legendary tuner Hennessey Performance takes a 2015 Cadillac Escalade and bolts an intercooled 6psi supercharger to the Caddy Big's 6.2L V8. The result is a staggering 557-hp and 542 ft-lb of torque! This big bruiser might get a yellow card for taunting AMG, but with that much power under the hood, who cares?

#### **Starting at:**

\$89,000 (est.)

#### Horsepower:

557-hp

#### **Torque:**

542 ft-lb

#### **Vulgarity Rating:**

120 South Africans blowing vuvuzelas





## BRABUS 800 WINDSTAR

German flamboyancy tends to lean toward austere functionality. So when the legendary Teutonic tuner Brabus wants to build a Blingmobile, they just start with a great car and make everything better. That's why the sinister Brabus 800 Widestar doesn't have gold leaf wheels, or Blind Me Yellow paint. Just lots of power and ... lots of carbon fiber.

Based on the weapons-grade Mercedes G65 AMG, this Brabus version turns the twin-turbo V12's power all the way up to 789-hp. And the torque has been electronically limited to a time warping 811 ft-lb! That means you can get to soccer practice on time, because 60 mph takes just 4.2 seconds to achieve! And it all comes wrapped in Mercedes' legendary G-Wagen, which could literally go anywhere...if it weren't wearing 23-inch track shoes.

**Starting at:** 

\$559,000 (est.)

**Horsepower:** 

789-hp

**Torque:** 

1,047 ft-lb - Electronically Limited to 811 ft-lb

> Vulgarity Rating: 1 Yellow Card





MANSORY ROLLS ROYCE WRATH

If you're a press savvy "footballer" living in Chelsea, then you probably own at least one Bentley Continental GT. But if you really want to stand out, you'll want to look at the new two door Rolls Royce Wrath by Mansory. This decadent coupe features a silver and Petrol Blue (see Green) paint job, lots of extra chrome, and a 6.6 liter V12 that's been tuned to produce 729 coked-out horsy-power. Stomp the custom aluminum go-pedal into the quilted leather floor (because grass stained carpets are a bitch), and you'll reach a-mile-a-minute in just 4.4 ticks. The speed limiter also been raised from 155 mph to 186 mph.

The interior of the Mansory Wraith is completely covered in leather, and it has enough stitched squares, diamonds and lines to flip your ADD into hyperdrive. Above all the color-matched stitching madness is Rolls Royce's famous Starlight headliner, which has over 1,300 fiber optic lights precisely arranged to replicate any night sky you wish. This blinged-out Roller might look like a Chelsea Chevrolet, but it's got suicide doors with built-in umbrellas. And that definitely trumps Beckham's Beverly Hills Bentley.

Starting at:

\$ Your can't afford it **Horsepower:** 

729-hp

Torque:

1,106 ft-lb **Vulgarity Rating:** 

2 Yellow Cards + a Fine + 200 African children chasing you with yuyuzelas





### MANSORY CARBONARO GT

We all know that the Italians love style and speed. Eighty percent of the world's most coveted supercars come from this boot-shaped country. So, it's going to take more than just a Ferrari or Pagani Zonda to stand out. Fortunately, the gaudy guru's at Mansory have created the perfect car for showboating Italian soccer stars. It's called the Mansory Carbonado GT, and once you've seen it, you can't un-see it.

Based on the Lamborghini Aventador, this bull-on-crack has a twin-turbo V12 that dishes out a mind-bending 1,600 ponies. The body has been reworked with all manner of carbon fiber aero bits, along with a huge roof-mounted air intake. Extra vents and slashes have been added to keep the axles and brakes cool. And that rear wing and carbon fiber diffuser have been designed to maximize downforce as you gallop to a top speed of 229 mph.

Reaching 60 mph in the Mansorghini takes just 2.1 seconds, which makes the Bugatti Veyron look like a Buick Century. And driving this red and black cartoon will make you look like a dork with a tiny dick. But no one will be questioning the size of your balls when you floor it.

Starting at:
\$ Your can't afford it

Horsepower:
1600-hp

Torque:
Electronically limited
to 885 ft-lb

**Vulgarity Rating:** Red Card + Suspension





### TOYOTA CENTURY

In Japan, honor is more important than ego. Sure, flashy cars are prevalent in the Land of the Rising Sun. But if you really wanted to flex some of your Yen, the Toyota Century would be the perfect way to do it.

Of course, you're thinking that the Century looks like a Lincoln Continental from the 1980's. But in Japan, this car is associated with royalty, wealth and power. Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and most of the royal family ride around in Toyota's V12 luxury liner. It has delightfully restrained lines, polished chrome in all the right places, enameled badges, an electronic air suspension (called Skyhook), heated massaging rear seats, and a 5.0 liter V12 that's as smooth as Barry White wrapped in velvet. If you want to show off in Japan, this is the most dignified way to do it.

**Starting at:** \$123,000

Horsepower: 276-hp

**Torque:** 339 ft-lb

**Vulgarity Rating:** Mr. Miyagi Approves





## HYUNDAI EQUUS

#### by Hermes

That annoying 'Gangham Style' song is actually referring to a glitzy neighborhood in Seoul, where all the fashionable people live and play. If you're a Premier League footballer from South Korea, then that song probably describes your neighborhood and your life. And since the Asian market is so "brand conscious" these days, Hyundai teamed up with Paris design house Hermes, to create an opulently trimmed version of their Equus personal limo (think Maybach, minus Bird Man, Little Wayne, and any sort of panache).

Introduced at last year's Seoul Motor Show, the Equus by Hermes features crocodile skin door trim, a luxurious rear compartment with massaging seats and a fridge, and the whole interior is lined with the same kind of leather that Hermes uses to make their stupidly expensive purses (your supermodel girlfriend will love that). But don't worry; you can buy a stupidly expensive pair of men's shoes that'll match the car too.

#### **Starting at:**

\$ Only 3 were made and Hyundai hasn't offered them for sale yet

**Horsepower:** 

429-hp

Torque: 376 ft-lb

Vulgarity Rating: Red Card if you can do the Gangham Style dance













## Kyle Martino

Interview by Bob Guiney

When I first met KYLE MARTINO we were introduced on the Guys Tell All Panel for the TODAY SHOW. Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb had us sitting on opposite ends of the man panel - and rightfully so. He is "the happily married broadcaster" --- and I was "the divorced bachelor"... At any rate, KYLE couldn't have been more impressive. Immediately comfortable, a really funny and caring guy; And when I found out his unbelievable credentials - I flipped!! In honor of the WORLD CUP, we sat down with KYLE and discussed his years coming up as an MLS Great - and his career now as the main man who holds it down as the color analyst for NBC's MLS coverage. Here is my interview with The Nicest Man in Futbol! **KYLE** MARTINO...



First off -- CONGRATS MY FRIEND!!! A baby girl on the way as announced by your beautiful wife Eva Amurri on Twitter recently!! This is such GREAT news!! I'm sure it's an incredibly busy time for you both -- will you still be heading to Brazil to cover the World Cup action?

I am not going to Brazil. I am off for the first Summer in I don't even know how long and going to enjoy the World Cup like every other fan. I am going to NYC to play in Steve Nash's charity soccer game and then staying in the city to watch games in pubs all around Manhattan. No better place to catch all the action (outside of Brazil) than NYC.

For our readers who may not know - You and I met working together on the **TODAY SHOW with the "Guys** Tell All" panel. Clearly, I'm your FAVORITE from the panel. But besides that - vou are the 'happily married guy' on the panel and have given areat relationship some advice to the viewers. married into some Hollywood royalty - and are Soccer royalty in your own right! Is it ever difficult managing while vour personal life maintaining hiah two profile careers in the spotlight?

It can be at times, but we do our best to keep family our top priority. There will be times where both of us pass up on an opportunity to make sure we don't spend too much time away from one another. We both love our jobs, but love one another a lot more.

A lifetime of playing soccer-Gatorade High School Player of the Year - followed by ACC Player of the Year Awards and MLS Rookie of the Year Awards -- MAN!!! That's a lot of accolades! It had to be such an incredible time as you began your pro career. How was it for you growing up in Connecticut and then splashing onto the World stage with such an impact?

I spent my entire youth pretending to be a pro soccer player in my backyard. Broke window after window while doing commentary for my own highlight reel - "Martino shoots, and scores a wonder goal!!" The fact that both aspects of that same dream - playing pro soccer and commentating - have come true makes me feel so incredibly lucky.

Soccer has grown substantially in the US over the last several years and its' popularity as an International sport has alwavs been enormous! What was it like a professional athlete in the US for the Columbus Crew and the LA Galaxy. in a sport that was really beginning to take shape domestincreasing and popularity at the time you were playing?

It was pretty incredible, not as much at the time than when I look back now. It was almost like being a part of a startup. I had a sense early that this sport would be massive in the US but that it would take time. It's the number one sport in the world and we are the most diverse country in the world so it was just one plus one equals two. Battling other sports that had a century head start in this country has made it an uphill trek, but to be involved in the moment this game really gained ground was, and continues to be, so rewarding. Can't wait until my kids see the US Soccer community we all helped build.

And speaking of that time how did playing in the US on the professional stage compare to your playing experiences internationally? Even though most of my favorite soccer memories are from my times playing in the US, nothing makes me



prouder than when I was able to represent my country on the international stage.

Since your retirement from the MLS in 2008 you've taken your talents to the desk and are now serving as the color commentator for MLS play on NBC Sports. I've seen your work and vou're awesome!! Obviously, you have great game knowledge but you also manage to get some humor in there!! You seem really comfortable. How has that transition been for you?

I stumbled into the career quite fortuitously. I was working on Wall St at the time after my playing career was done and ESPN needed someone desperately to fill in for a game and called me. I can't explain it but it just felt natural from the beginning. Probably because I'm such a glutton for the limelight

and I talk way too much.

I know as a former college football player I can't get enough of MSU games. But I'm watching ONLY as a fan. Is it ever difficult for you to stay neutral when you're covering your former MLS teams play? And do you ever feel like grabbing the cleats and jumping back into the fray?

I always feel like grabbing the cleats and jumping back in but I know better by now. I've never had trouble being neutral. Since I was little I never really had much team loyalty, I was always just rooting for the best, most entertaining game.

This is the year - FIFA World Cup - the worlds' biggest sport on the worlds' biggest stage. How do you feel the US team stacks up against the competition this year? Can they make it out of the "Group of Death."

This may be the hardest group the US has ever been in. If they get out of this group, it will be among the greatest achievements US Soccer can celebrate since the beginning.

Ultimately, you've GOT to have a favorite for winning the World Cup! Just between us, who is your pick for bringing it home?

Crazy to bet against Brazil, and I'm not crazy.

You spend a ton of time flying back and forth for work and family - and now a baby on the way. What do you do when you just want to relax and do something for yourself? Any hobbies, passions?

I love to play guitar, golf... basically anything that starts with a G.

Lastly, I know you've done a ton of interviews, on both sides of the mic - with your experience, would you say I'm the new Pele of interviews? Or has it been more like watching Charles Barkley swing a golf club?

Somewhere in between. It was kind of like Miley licking that sledgehammer.



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