



The Fusion played a 2-2 tie with Tampa Bay in its first preseason game Feb. 10.

Welton, whose name is being circulated around the league in trade talks, and defender **Tim Sahaydak** scored Miami's goals. **Amos Magee** and **Steve Ralston** tallied for Tampa Bay.

MOVES: None of the seven players waived recently were claimed in a waiver draft Feb. 9.

Waived players were **Kalin Bankov** (Tampa Bay), **Dan Calichman** (San Jose), **Mario Gori** (Columbus), **Vicente Figueroa** and **John Wilson** (Kansas City), **Roy Myers** and **Francis Okaroh** (MetroStars).

As of the waiver draft, only one team had more than three senior internationals. By drafting **Brent Rahim** of Connecticut, the Galaxy went over the limit, as **Sebastian Vorbe**, **Simon Elliott** and **Luis Hernandez** are classified as such. **Mauricio Cienfuegos** will be counted as a green-card holder this season.

Rahim, however, has not signed an MLS contract.

"If he signs with the league, then the Galaxy would have to make a move," said league deputy commissioner **Ivan Gazidis**.

The Galaxy has suggested the league grant a special exemption for Hernandez, who could miss half the season to fulfill his commitments to Club America and the Mexican national team.

Teams can list 21 senior players on their rosters until March 26, when they must cut down to the regular-season limit of 18 players. That will make for some spirited competition at spring training in Florida, which concludes March 24.

LONG LOAN?: The Fusion may not have the services of **Andy Williams** this season.

English First Division club Birmingham City proposed a one-year loan for the Jamaican international. The club made the offer after Williams had trained a week at Birmingham.

He'd also been scheduled for a trial with Nottingham Forest, but agent **Dan Segal** said Birmingham has already made the loan offer.

Segal would not discuss financial terms of the loan but confirmed Birmingham would pay a loan fee in excess of \$100,000.

ACROSS THE POND:

Four MLS teams are spending the rest of February in Europe.

The MetroStars, Wizards and Rapids are setting up camp in Portugal, and the Crew is training in southern Germany.

"We've only had a few days outside," said Kansas City head coach **Bob Gansler**. "We've had some good sessions indoors, and the facility we use is 80 [yards] by 60, but we're looking forward to Portugal."

The Wizards plan matches against Belenenses (Feb. 27) and Benfica (March 1).

Defender **Peter Vermes** underwent an emergency appendectomy Feb. 13 and will miss the trip to Portugal.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER:

San Jose and Dallas will spend much of February in Guadalajara, Mexico and New England opened its seven-game tour of Costa Rica by beating Santa Teresita FC, 2-0, Feb. 10 in Heredia. **Wolde Harris** and training-camp invitee **Dario Sierra** scored for the Revs.

Miami's Diego Serna sought a better contract, but he'll need another solid season to get it.

SERNA FUROR: After holding out nearly two weeks, Miami striker **Diego Serna** reported to training camp Feb. 12.

MLS had threatened his agent, **Eric Manasse**, with a \$10,000 fine for faxing a copy of Serna's contract to the *Miami Herald* in breach of the league's confidentiality rules.

Serna was fined an undisclosed amount — believed to be approximately \$7,500 — for not reporting and missing functions and practice sessions.

Manasse said Serna wants more money and teammates more in tune with South Florida's soccer fans: Haitian, Jamaican, Costa Rican, etc.

"He doesn't understand why the coach is looking at English players," said Manasse. "There are Haitians, Costa Ricans, Jamaicans who have green cards and can play in this league. Maybe that's why the attendance is so low."

Serna is under contract for 2001 and enters an option year in 2002. Once he did show up for training, he impressed head coach **Ray Hudson**.

"He's really a good kid, but I don't know what the hell he wants, and I don't know if he knows what the hell he wants," said Hudson.

"We had a heart-to-heart talk, as much as a Geordie and a Colombian can have a heart-to-heart talk. (Hudson uses the services of a translator when necessary.)

"I wonder how much of this is Diego talking and how much of it is his agent talking."

Serna has logged 37 goals and 21 assists in 78 games since joining the Fusion in 1998. His 16 goals and 10 assists for 42 points tied him with **Ante Razov** for third place in league scoring last season.

"He's been great in training," said Hudson. "He looks fit and sharp and menacing. He was just a little bit deluded into thinking he could work a new contract.

"He had never come to us in the offseason to discuss this. It was like a bomb going off in our faces. But now Diego knows this is an important year for him and he'll be rewarded for another productive season."



ED PURCELL



RIDGE MAHONEY

Sitters

MLS has reached an agreement with Tampa Bay defender **Chad McCarty**, who will sign a four-year contract. • **Eric Wynalda** has returned from a brief trial with English First Division club Bolton, which decided not to sign him. • Add **Miles Joseph** to the list of names being tossed around. Joseph is out of contract, and Dallas has made inquiries. • Miami keeper **Jeff Cassar** was thought to be on his way elsewhere, but some teams are waiting to see if he's healthy. He's had several knee surgeries. So far, he's shone in preseason. • U.S. defender **Gregg Berhalter** has discussed a deal with MLS, although he is expected to make a final stab at finding an English club. D.C. has filed an allocation request. • Miami has given up pursuit of **Lubomir Moravcik**, who has decided to stay with Glasgow Celtic, but talks with **Ian Bishop** of Manchester City are continuing.