



winner of a playoff between Alianza (El Salvador) and Saprissa (Costa Rica).

Quarterfinal winners advance to a final four in late April, with the two finalists qualifying for the 2003 CONCACAF Clubs Cup.

The Giants Cup and CONCACAF Champions Cup will each send two representatives in 2001 and 2002 to the 2003 Clubs Cup. The two finalists from that competition qualify for the Club World Championships, which FIFA will stage every two years instead of annually following this summer's edition in Spain.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?: Top billing this week goes to former Revs and Metros and Quakes striker **Giovanni Savarese**, who hit a hat trick for Swansea City against Luton Town in an English Second Division match Feb. 17.

Swansea lost, 5-3. Savarese has scored 13 goals in 20 league and cup appearances.

Former San Jose defender **Michael Emenalo** is training in Miami with the Fusion. He has played in Belgium and Israel since leaving MLS.

Stern John, who bagged 44 goals for the Crew in 1998-99, made his 19th appearance of the season for Nottingham Forest in a 1-0 First Division defeat at Fulham Feb. 17. He's scored only one goal.

DIABLO DEALINGS: Marco Etcheverry has begun his loan spell with Bolivian club Oriente Petrolero. He is scheduled to return two weeks

prior to the start of the MLS regular season.

D.C. United and the league want him back in plenty of time to prepare for the CONCACAF Giants Cup as well as MLS. The projected return date is March 20, which falls during MLS Spring Training in Florida.

Oriente wants to keep Etcheverry until April 4, when it plays host to Argentine champion Boca Juniors in the first round of the Libertadores Cup. That's the same date as D.C.'s Giants Cup opener.

WYNALDA SIGNS: After training and playing in a practice match for English First Division club Bolton and not being offered a contract, **Eric Wynalda** signed with MLS and joined the Revs in Costa Rica.

He will earn a reported base salary of \$65,000, although his total earnings could top \$100,000 when incentive provisions of the contract are added in. The contract runs for two years with two option years.

NEWS FROM ABROAD: The Revs beat Costa Rican Second Division team San Lorenzo, 2-0, on goals by **Wolde Harris** and **Brian Dunseth**.

Columbus lost, 3-2, to Third Division club FC Schweinfurt and, 1-0, to 1860 Munich's reserves on its German tour. **Robert Warzycha** and **Todd Yeagley** scored for the Crew.

Midfielder **Brian Maisonneuve** had to leave the Schweinfurt game in the sixth minute after suffering a head injury.

Dallas beat Guadalajara's reserve team, 1-0. **Ariel Graziani** scored the goal.

Colorado opened its tour of Portugal by beating Benfica's reserve team, 3-0. **Junior Agogo**, **Wes Hart** and **Ross Paule** scored.

Kansas City beat Portuguese Third Division team Rio Maior, 1-0, on a **Mo Johnston** goal.

NEW RULES: The league reportedly has revamped its rules regarding discovery players. There has been no official notification from MLS.

In the past, discovery players could earn no more than \$75,000 per season. Teams may now pay a discovery player any salary as long as it fits under the salary cap of \$1.7 million.

Each team also may spend up to \$75,000 to acquire its two discovery players per season. In the past, such players were supposed to be obtained for free, although payments between \$5,000 and \$20,000 occasionally occurred.

Robert Warzycha and the Columbus Crew will join D.C. United as MLS's representatives to CONCACAF's first Giants Cup.



RIDGE MAHONEY

Sitters

Former Revs and Clash midfielder **Jair** is slated to hook up with Columbus and Colorado when those clubs swing through Portugal. Jair is playing in the Portuguese reserve league. • Burn forward **Jason Kreis** is the latest MLS star to be scoped. He underwent the procedure to repair cartilage in his right knee and will be out until mid-March. • UCLA product

McKinley Tennyson, who was drafted by Columbus but has not signed with MLS, will go on trial to Norwegian club Byrne FK. • MLS and **Preki** are trying to work out a deal whereby he signs with the league and is traded by Kansas City to another league team. • The deals to bring Scotsman **John Spencer** and South African **Neathen Gibson** to Colorado have been completed, according to sources. • MLS teams will be awarded points for goals in their spring-training games. The NASL-type format is worth a point per goal to each team up to a maximum of three per game.



TONY QUINN/USOCCERPIXUSA

D.C. DEAL DONE: An operating agreement between MLS and the Anschutz Entertainment Group to run D.C. United was announced Feb. 15.

The deal gives Philip Anschutz, chairman of Qwest Communications International Inc. and vice chairman of Union Pacific Corp., control of four MLS teams. He also operates Chicago, Colorado and Los Angeles.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. MLS had taken over operations of the team two months previously after the partners of Washington Soccer L.P., the club's operator-investor, had reached an impasse over the team's future.

General Manager **Kevin Payne** and head coach **Thomas Rongen** will retain their positions.

"D.C. and the surrounding market are very interesting for AEG," said **Bill Peterson**, who will oversee soccer operations for the Anschutz group, "and we hope the D.C. United deal will establish a foothold for us to build our sports and entertainment business."

Payne and Peterson said work will begin immediately on finding a suitable site for a permanent training facility as well as a site for a soccer stadium.

Peterson also said AEG intends to purchase the team outright within a year. Under terms of the operating agreement, there is no obligation for AEG to do so.

D.C. United last fall lost its lease on Redskin Park, its previous training facility, when it was sold by the estate of the late Jack Kent Cooke. One source said D.C. United's failure to pay its rental fees for use of the facility was a factor in the sale.

GIANTS OF SOCCER: D.C. United and Columbus will represent MLS in the CONCACAF Giants Cup, a new competition that eventually will determine four of the eight regional finalists for the FIFA Club World Championship.

Entry in the Giants Cup is based not on performance, but on attendance. By an undisclosed formula of computing average attendance and season-ticket sales, MLS determined Columbus and D.C. would be the participants.

D.C. and Columbus will play home-and-away series in early April. D.C. plays the winner of the SV Transvaal (Surinam)-Arnett Gardens (Jamaica) playoff. Columbus faces the