

Americans in England

KELLER IS BACK, GOALS FOR MOORE AND REYNA

Kasey Keller returned to the English Premier League after waiting five months on the Tottenham bench.

Claudio Reyna was sidelined after only five games in the Premier League.

Joe-Max Moore ended an 20-month scoring drought, striking in consecutive matches.

The busy English holiday schedule was topped by the New Year's Day showdown between Keller and Brad Friedel, marking the first time that the rivals for the starting job in the U.S. goal faced off in the Premier League.

Tottenham's 1-0 win was Keller's second start in goal and moved Spurs into seventh place.

Keller was unlucky not to get a shut-out win three days earlier at Aston Villa. An 89th-minute penalty earned Villa a 1-1 tie.

"I thought it was going to be a good one until the last 30 seconds," Keller said. "But I was busy. Sometimes it's nicer when you break into a team that you're not just standing there all day."

Keller had been stuck behind Neil Sullivan until the Scottish international's recent poor form convinced Manager Glenn Hoddle to give Keller a chance.

Reyna had been outstanding in an attacking role for Sunderland. He had the winning goal in his second game, a 1-0 win over Everton.

Reyna suffered a bone bruise on his left ankle in Sunderland's 1-1 tie with Aston Villa on New Year's Day. It was first feared he would be out six weeks, but he may be back for the Black Cats' game with Fulham Jan. 19.

Moore ended his 32-game drought at Everton, scoring in back-to-back games against Derby and Leeds. His appearance against Derby marked his return after almost three months on the Toffees' bench.

"It's definitely been the hardest time of my career," the former UCLA star said. "Not only have I not been scoring, but I have not been playing either."

— Paul Kennedy