



## Elimination round begins

It's not only borderline MLS players that are facing elimination from U.S. national team consideration this month.

Veterans Eddie Lewis and Frankie Hejduk were among the 28 players summoned by Coach Bruce Arena for the Gold Cup (see *preview and schedule on page 16*).

Lewis and Hejduk played a combined 160 minutes for the national team in 2001 and have dropped far out of sight for their clubs, Fulham of the English Premier League and Bayer Leverkusen of the German Bundesliga, respectively.

Arena has five months to trim his squad to 23 from a pool — domestic and European candidates combined — of more than 40 players.

"I think across the next two or three months, the bubble players will really tell us where they belong," said Arena.

No other European-based players were called up. Kasey Keller had been on a preliminary list, but his attaining the starting job at Tottenham took priority.

Eleven of those called to camp have three or fewer caps. Four players who earned their first caps Dec. 9 against South Korea — Jeff Cunningham, Richard Mulrooney, Carlos Bocanegra and Manny Lagos — are in Southern California.

Clint Mathis, who hasn't played a competitive match since suffering a knee injury in early June, is in camp for training, yet the coaching staff may hold him out of the tournament so his recovery isn't disrupted.

"The games in the Gold Cup will tell us a lot," said Arena. "And the two very difficult games in February [Italy] and March [Germany] in Europe will really narrow down our roster and place players in favorable or unfavorable positions."

Also likely to be added are games against Honduras March 2 in Seattle and against Ecuador March 10 at a site to be announced.

— Ridge Mahoney

## U.S. Roster

### GOALKEEPERS

PLAYER	GP
Tim Howard	0
Tony Meola	97
Nick Rimando	0
Zach Thornton	8

### MIDFIELDERS

Chris Armas	35
DaMarcus Beasley	3
Bobby Convey	2
Cobi Jones	145
Manny Lagos	1
Eddie Lewis	29
Brian Maisonneuve	10
Richard Mulrooney	1
Brian West	2
Richie Williams	17

### DEFENDERS

PLAYER	GP
Jeff Agoos	117
Carlos Bocanegra	1
Dan Califf	0
Frankie Hejduk	30
Carlos Llamasa	25
Pablo Mastroeni	2
Eddie Pope	44
Greg Vanney	15

### FORWARDS

Jeff Cunningham	1
Landon Donovan	9
Clint Mathis	11
Brian McBride	50
Ante Razov	19
Josh Wolff	10