



LYNN BERLING-MANUEL

Happy New Year!

... Welcome to *Soccer America's* first 2002 issue. I'm sure most of us are relieved to see 2001 reach its end. It was a long year with a difficult economy, a horrific terrorist attack, a war in Afghanistan and, for many, more personal troubles than quite seemed fair. But it's over. 2002 shines in front of us. I'm not generally a maker of New Year's resolutions, but I'm making them this year. No. 1: To value my family, friends, colleagues and readers more than ever. No. 2: To not make mountains out of molehills. No. 3: To always remember what's really important (but maybe that's just a variation on resolutions 1 and 2!). Happy New Year. ...

Announcing new Yellow Pages partner

... We're very excited to announce the **U.S. SOCCER FOUNDATION** as the new title sponsor of the **SOCCER YELLOW PAGES**, America's only national soccer telephone book. The U.S. Soccer Foundation Soccer Yellow Pages will be bigger and better than ever. All compiling and production will be handled by *Soccer America*, as always, but the Foundation's support helps us expand the distribution of this unique directory. *Socceramerica.com* will also be going through an extensive re-design that will include an entirely revamped Soccer Yellow Pages database, putting the entire volume at your fingertips. ...

Gardner turns 750

... This issue's SoccerTalk column by **PAUL GARDNER** is his 750th for *Soccer America*. His first appeared in the May 7, 1981 issue. His columns have made me laugh, made me angry and made me scratch my head, but they've always made me think. There's no greater compliment I can offer. Paul has always been a great friend and colleague, and I can only wish for many, many more hours of reading SoccerTalk. ...

Illinois' Gonulsen retires

... Illinois soccer legend **AYDIN GONULSEN** coached his last game Oct. 20 at University of Illinois at Springfield (formerly Sangamon State). He retires after 25 years as one of the winningest coaches in the NAIA, as a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame, and as winner of NAIA titles in 1986, 1988 and 1993. Aydin, who will be succeeded by **JOE ECK**, his assistant of 22 years, came to Sangamon as head coach in 1977, shortly after I joined *Soccer America* as managing editor. We profiled him in our Dec. 13, 1977 issue and have been friends ever since. Aydin has been diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. We wish the best of luck to this incredibly positive, always delightful gentleman. ...

Congrats to Courtemanche

... Although it seemed like an abrupt decision, **DAN COURTEMANCHE'S** move from head press officer at MLS to the same role at the WUSA is largely driven by his desire to return to his hometown of Atlanta with his fiancée. Dan launched his career with the NPSL's Atlanta Attack. He's been a huge asset for pro soccer and WUSA is lucky to get him. ...

SHORTPASSES