

competing for two slots. Ariel Graziani, Hermann Trophy winner Luchi Gonzalez and Devin Barclay have replaced Ronald Cerritos and Junior Agogo.

Is that an upgrade? Only time will tell.

The last time San Jose traded its leading goalscorer was after the inaugural season. Paul Bravo's departure triggered a tailspin of postseason absences that wasn't reversed until the Quakes won it all last year.

Cerritos, 27, had scored a team-record 55 goals in five seasons upon being traded to Dallas just before the 2002 SuperDraft.

In exchange, the Quakes get Graziani, whose 30 goals in three MLS seasons matches his age. They also gain a new dimension, that of a poacher.

"He'll play higher up," said Quakes' senior director of soccer Chris Chamides of Graziani. "He's more of a center-forward type than Ronald, who is similar to some of our other players."

Last season, Coach Frank Yallop rotated Agogo, Cerritos, Landon Donovan and Dwayne DeRosario. They combined for 27 goals, of which Cerritos had 11, and 23 assists.

No. 1 draft choice Chris Carrieri played only 89 minutes. After grouching about playing time, he was shipped off to Colorado for Agogo, who has since been waived.

"Luchi is a much different player than Chris," said Chamides. "He's very quiet but has a great work ethic. He's very sharp, clean on the ball and technically very good."

Both Cerritos and Graziani have histories of disgruntlement. Cerritos asked to be traded prior to the 2001 season, and Graziani refused to sit on the Burn team bench of couple of times last year after being substituted.

"We hoping he'll thrive in a competitive situation," said Chamides of Graziani. "Our training sessions are competitive, and we need the best possible combination to play consistently."

— Ridge Mahoney

San Jose Earthquakes

CHAMPS ADD NEW INGREDIENTS

For the defending MLS champion, its forward formula has changed, but the procedure has not.

There will again be too many players