

# SHORTPASSES



LYNN BERLING-MANUEL

## Happy New Year!

... Welcome to 2003! We're excited to be back from **SOCCER AMERICA'S** annual holiday break and are ready to roll with what is sure to be another action-packed soccer year. ...

## SA directory deadlines near

... The listing deadlines for all of **SOCCER AMERICA'S** 2003 directories are coming up shortly. For listing forms and information, contact [kristy@socceramerica.com](mailto:kristy@socceramerica.com). The listing deadlines are: Camp Directory — Jan. 20; U.S. Soccer Foundation Soccer Yellow Pages — Feb. 15; and College Choice — March 1. ...

## Fans vote for 'Best of'

... The best soccer bar is in Virginia. The best soccer store is in Indiana. Ohio has the best soccer stadium and "your couch" was the best place to watch World Cup 2002, according to the 10 inaugural awards that made up the 2002 "Best of U.S. Soccer" awards series. The awards were announced on Dec. 2 after U.S. head coaches **BRUCE ARENA** and **APRIL HEINRICHS** helped pick the finalists for each of the honors. The voting was done entirely by fans, with 46,135 votes being registered at [www.ussoccer.com](http://www.ussoccer.com) in December. Each fan was able to vote once every 24 hours for one or all of the 10 categories. The best bar was **SUMMERS** (30 percent) in Arlington, Va. The best store was **SOCCER UNLIMITED** (17 percent) in Indianapolis, and Crew Stadium (37 percent) was the best stadium in America. In other awards: the Best Fans were those that traveled to South Korea for World Cup '02 (29 percent); the Best

**American fans who traveled to South Korea for the World Cup were voted the Best Fans in 2002.**

SHAUN BEST/REUTERS



Game Promotion was the Columbus Crew's "Buck-a-Brat Night" (24 percent); the Best U.S. Crowd attended the U.S.-Uruguay game May 12 at RFK Stadium (32 percent); Best U.S. Goal was **BRIAN McBRIDE's** header in the June 5 shock victory over Portugal (32 percent); Best Individual Game Performance was **BRAD FRIEDEL's** goalkeeping display on June 10 vs. South Korea (42 percent); and the Best Team Game Performance was the U.S. win over Portugal June 5 at the World Cup (31 percent). ...

## Summers keeps its lease

... Longtime institution Summers Restaurant, which ran away with the Best Soccer Bar award, recently avoided losing its lease after an impressive groundswell of local and national support. It looks to be around as a top soccer viewing destination well into the future. Check out their Web site at [www.summers-restaurant.com](http://www.summers-restaurant.com)...

## Visit SA at the NSCAA Confab

... Come by our booth and visit with us at the NSCAA Convention Jan. 16-18 in Kansas City. I'll be joined by Senior Editor **WILL KUHN'S**, Youth Soccer Letter Editor **DAN WOOG**, Marketing Director **JOHN HOOPER**, Circulation Manager **JANET CEJA-OROZCO** and Ad Director **LOUIS KOLENDA**. *Soccer America* will not be hosting the Superstar Jersey Raffle this year. With the very full soccer calendar we faced in 2002 we weren't able

to take on the massive project the raffle had become. In years past, this has been a fundraiser for Special Olympics, so we encourage you to continue making donations to this very worthwhile organization. You can donate online, by mail or by phone. For complete information, check out their Web site at [specialolympics.com](http://specialolympics.com). We look forward to seeing many of you in Kansas City. ...

## USL.com is back

... The **UNITED SOCCER LEAGUES** are back online after a long and arduous legal battle to recover their domain name. The site is [www.uslsoccer.com](http://www.uslsoccer.com). ...

## USL D3 renamed to Pro Select

... The USL has also announced the re-naming of its D3 Pro League to Pro Select League as it enters its ninth year of play. "This league was ready for a name change," said executive director and COO **DAVE ASKINAS**. "Team owners and USL executives were in agreement that the generic sounding D3 name needed to be revamped. Pro Select is a better description of the exciting brand of professional soccer being offered in this league." The Pro Select League name, in part, dates back to the Pro and Select monikers used in 1996 when USL's Third Division was split into two tiers (Pro and Select Leagues) with the anticipation of the Select League receiving Division II status the following year. The Select League was subsequently replaced the following year by the addition of the Second Division A-League (American Professional Soccer League), which had operated independently since 1990. With the addition of the A-League in 1997, USL rebranded its other two men's leagues. The Pro League was renamed D3 Pro League to be representative of its Third Division status, and the Premier League was redubbed Premier Development Soccer League, reflecting its position as North America's top developmental soccer league. The PDSL simplified its name to Premier Development League when United Systems of Independent Soccer Leagues (USISL), as it was then known, became USL in 1999. When, I don't believe there has ever been a league with quite so many name-changes. ...