



Especially for kids and their families

The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM

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Help Mom and Dad Learn the Game

A Parent's Soccer Quiz



Mini Page photo by Bill Petros

Soccer is a very popular sport for boys and girls.

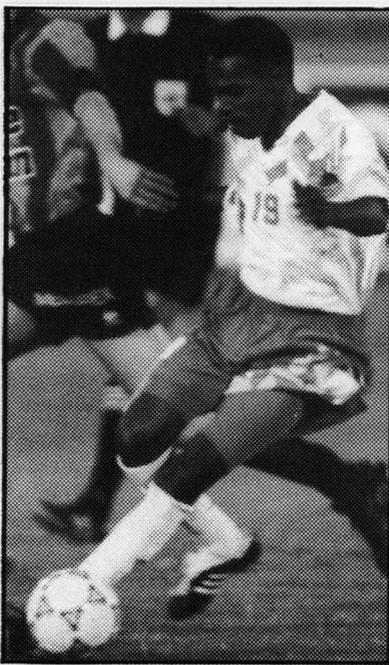
Throughout the country, millions of kids play soccer. But many of their parents did not grow up playing or watching the sport. Their kids can help them understand the game.

During the World Cup, families have a chance to watch big-time pro soccer on TV.

The World Cup is a tournament among teams representing 24 countries from around the world.

Like all pro sports, the rules are tougher, but the game kids play is the same in many ways.

Kids might want to begin by finding out what their parents already know about the game.



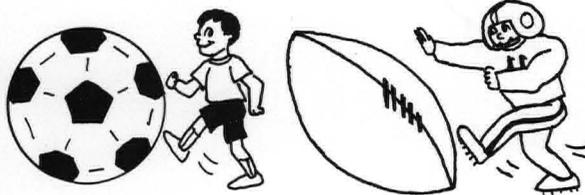
A Saudi Arabian soccer player in action. Saudi Arabia will be playing in the World Cup for the first time ever.

Ask your parents questions. Their answers don't have to be exact, but judge for yourself if they are close enough.



What is the object of the game?

To play skillfully as a team member in a sportsmanlike manner while trying to kick a ball into the opponent's goal.



Can you name some ways soccer is different from American football?

Soccer ...

- does not have time-outs. It is almost nonstop.
- has few set plays. Coaches don't send in plays.
- does not have a special defensive and offensive team. Players keep their positions whether their team controls the ball or not. (In U.S. college, high school and club games, substitutes can be used. In World Cup play, only two substitutes are allowed. Goalkeepers can be substituted.)

The goalkeeper is the only player who can handle the ball and only in the penalty area.

Soccer is a game of kicking, dribbling and passing while controlling the ball with your feet or body.



What are the basic skills? (Maybe our young players could show their parents how these are done.)

Heading: using the head to hit the ball. The ball should hit in the center of the forehead, just below the hairline.

Dribbling: controlling the ball while running.

Passing: moving the ball from one player to another.

Receiving: using many parts of the body (except hands) to gain control of the ball.

Tackling: using the feet to get the ball away from an opponent without tripping him.

Kicking: using the feet for passing short or long distances or shooting at the goal.



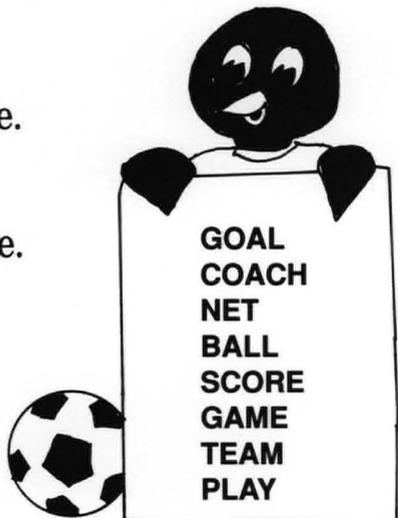
Look through your paper for news of the World Cup.

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PETER PENGUIN'S PUZZLE LE-DO

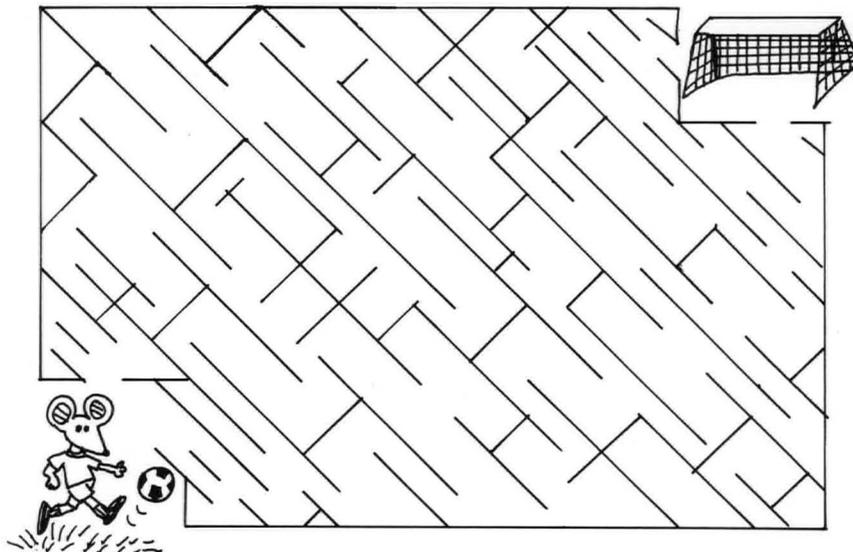
Soccer words are hidden in the sentences below.
 We have found the first one for you.

1. Let's go, Albert.
2. Carolyn has gone to the store.
3. Charles ate a melon.
4. Bob, Al, Laura and I are here.
5. Give Coco a check.
6. Gus cored the apples.
7. The map lay on the table.
8. Give Greg a meal.



MAZE

Help Alpha Mouse find the goal. He needs to score!



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Nutty Banana Bread

You'll need:

- 1 3/4 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/3 cup oil
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups ripe bananas, mashed

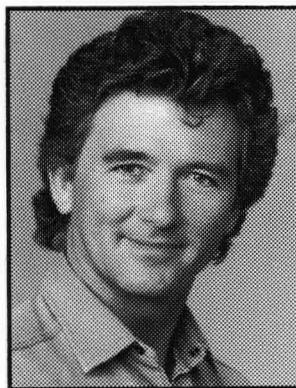


What to do:

1. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and pecans in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. In a medium bowl, combine oil and eggs. Mix well.
3. Add bananas to egg mixture. Mix well.
4. Add banana mixture to dry mixture. Mix only until smooth.
5. Pour in a greased loaf pan.
6. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 45 minutes.
7. Remove from pan when cool.

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Meet Patrick Duffy



Patrick Duffy plays Frank Lambert on the show "Step by Step." He has had many acting jobs, including in the theater and movies.

He was born on St. Patrick's Day in Townsend, Mont. When he was 12, his family moved to the Seattle area.

He went to the University of Washington to study architecture.

He decided on drama instead after he was chosen to take part in a special theater program.

After college he lived for a while in New York City. He later moved back to Seattle to teach acting.

Patrick now lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and two sons.

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Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy and her friends are playing soccer.
 See if you can find:



- heart
- number 3
- two number 7's
- safety pin
- peanut
- sailboat
- lipstick
- bird
- ladder
- horse's head
- cardinal
- word MINI

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BASSET BROWN THE NEWS HOUND'S TRY 'N FIND SOCCER

Words about soccer are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: SOCCER, BALL, TEAM, GOALIE, KICK, MIDFIELD, RUN, FORWARD, PENALTY, SWEEPER, SCORE, FIELD, FEET, STRIKER, DEFENSE, GOAL, ASSIST, NET, PLAY.

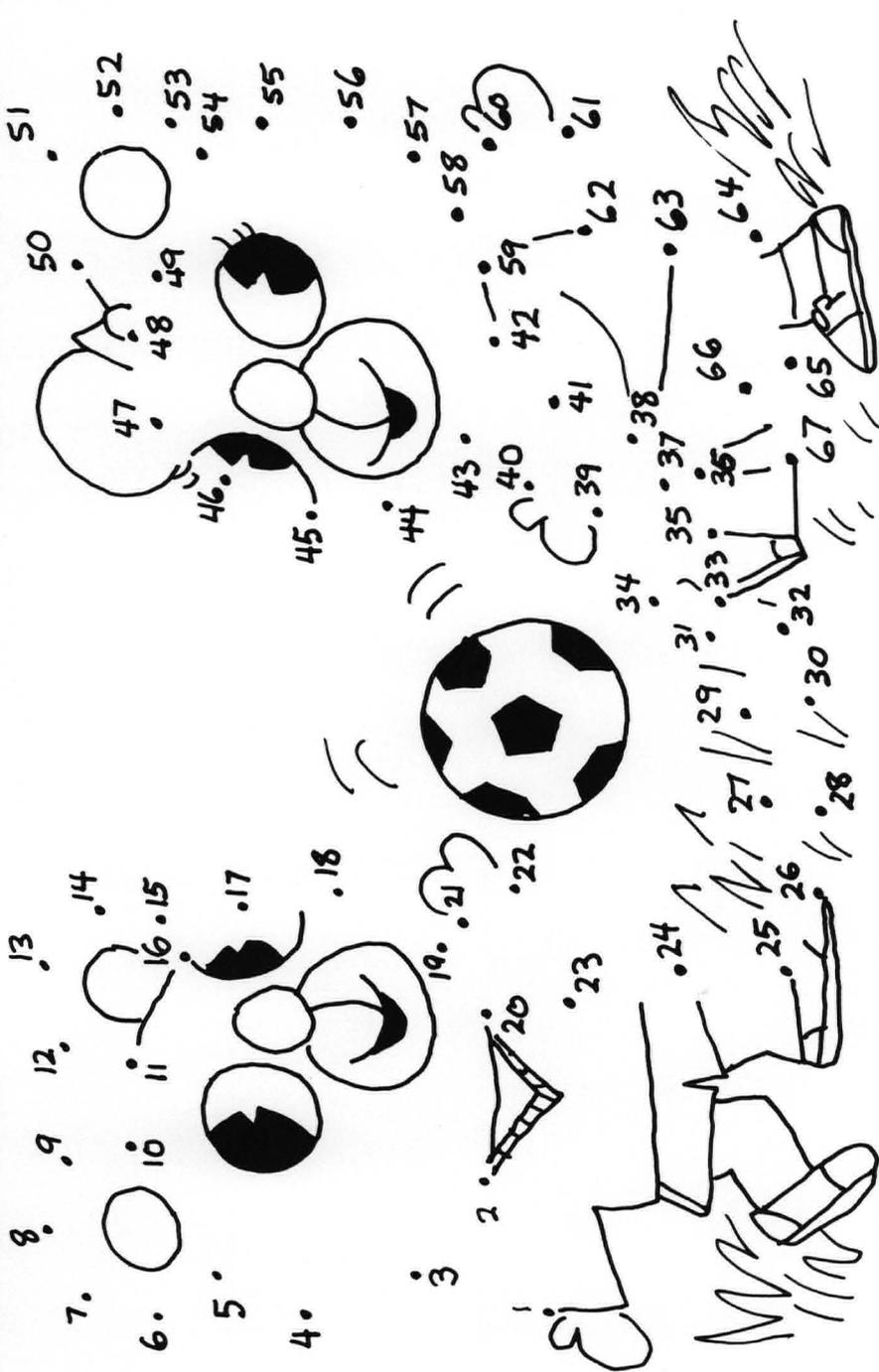


A F S M I D F I E L D T A K S
 B S I W E S N E F E D E P S T
 B C S E E Q Y D G R L A L C R
 D A S I L E Z E H U N M A O I
 E U L A S D P F J N P R Y R K
 F V B L G T K E F E E T Q E E
 P E N A L T Y G R W L A O G R
 K I C K T E N H D R A W R O F
 I X C S O C C E R G O A L I E

The Mini Page Book of States is packed with helpful information on every state: capitals, birds, flowers, trees, industry and crops, geographical and historical facts, and more. To order, send check or money order for \$4.95 plus \$1 postage and handling per copy, payable to Andrews and McMeel, P.O. Box 419242, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.

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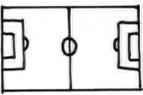
Go dot to dot and color.



How to watch a soccer game

Soccer is usually a low-scoring game. Fans learn to appreciate the great skill a player needs to control the ball with his feet under a great deal of pressure.

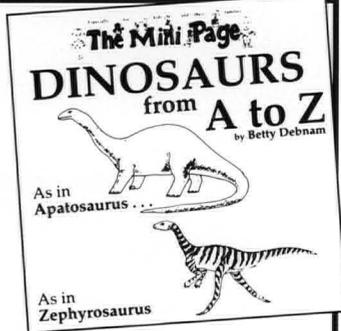
Watch for:

- how each player uses the basic skills. 
- the tactics each team uses. What decisions does each player make? Some teams play a high-pressure game. They closely follow the ball all over the field. Other teams play a low-pressure game. They fall back, regroup, and wait for the opposition to come to them. Some teams use a combination. 
- what the players who don't have the ball are doing. How well do they "read" the game and know what to do next? 
- fitness and speed. How quickly and where do the players move — with or without the ball? Can they run for 90 minutes? 
- attitude. Do the players seem to think they can win? It's very hard for an underrated team to come up against the top teams in the world. 
- what part of the field most of the activity takes place. 
- what the coach told the team at halftime. Remember, he cannot send in plays. What adjustments did he make? 

The Mini Page thanks Len Oliver, coach of the D.C. Stoddert Soccer League, for these tips.

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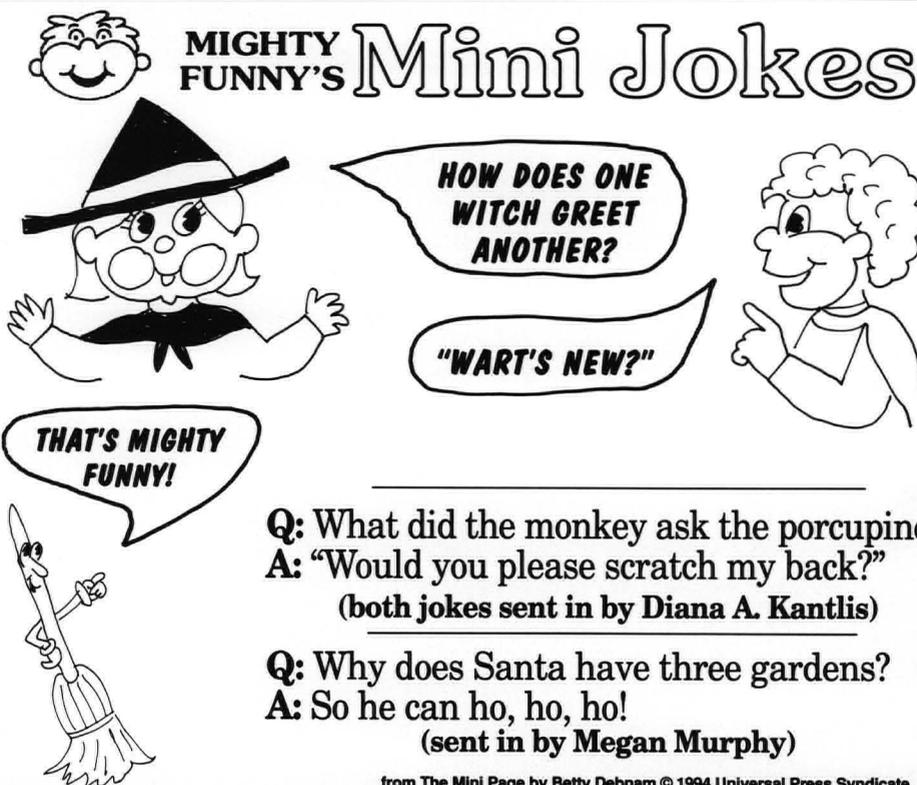
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MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes



Q: What did the monkey ask the porcupine?
A: "Would you please scratch my back?"
 (both jokes sent in by Diana A. Kantlis)

Q: Why does Santa have three gardens?
A: So he can ho, ho, ho!
 (sent in by Megan Murphy)

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A Kid's Soccer Quiz for Parents

Equipment



What equipment do soccer players need?



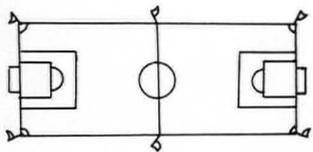
- shorts
- socks
- shin guards
- shoes
- balls



• goals to shoot for



• corner flags to mark boundaries



The field is a flat rectangle. The pros play on a field 100 to 130 feet long and 50 to 100 feet wide.

Players



How many people are on a soccer team?

11



Can you name the four main positions?

- goalkeeper
- defender
- midfielder
- forward



What does a goalkeeper do?

The goalkeeper is the only member of each team who can use his or her hands on the field. Goalkeepers wear a different jersey from all other players. **(G)**



What do defenders do?

They defend the goal and try to take the ball away from the opposing team. They often start the plays from the wings (or sides) and "mark," or guard, the other team's wingers. **(D)**

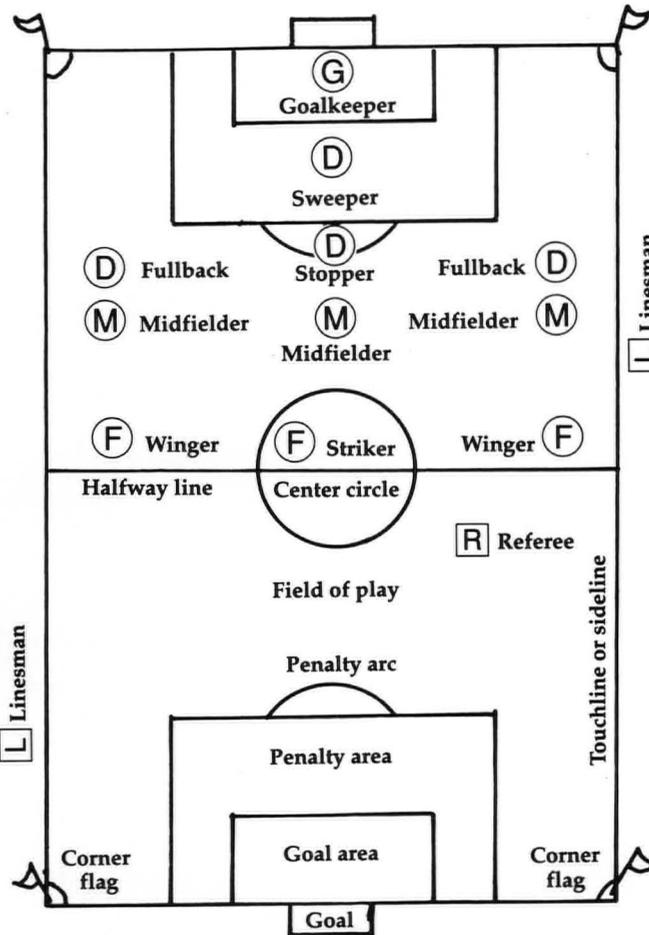


Can you name the three types of defenders?

Fullbacks guard and help create attacks up the wings.

Sweepers "sweep," or run to either side to help out teammates in defending the goal. They usually do not mark any special player.

Stoppers guard the middle and mark the opposing strikers.



This is one way a coach might line up his players on the field. In soccer terms, this is called the 4-3-3 lineup. When using number symbols, it is the custom not to list the goalie.

- 4 defenders
- 3 midfielders
- 3 forwards



What do midfielders do?

They are usually the busiest players on the team. They are an important link between the defenders and the forwards. **(M)**



What do forwards do?

They score most of the goals and try to delay the offensive team's drive up the field. **(F)**



Can you name two types of forwards?

Wingers create offensive plays on the flanks, or sides.

Strikers play in the middle and usually finish the scoring plays.

Terms



What do these soccer words mean?

- **throw in**

The way the ball is put back into play after it goes over the sideline.

- **kick off**

A pass used to start a play at the beginning of a game, at halftime, or after a goal has been scored.

- **penalty kick**

A direct free kick that is awarded after a serious foul in the penalty area.

- **free kick**

One given after a foul has been committed outside the penalty area.

Officials



Name the officials.

The linesmen and the referee. (Soccer is known as a simple game, with only 17 laws, or rules.)



What do the linesmen do?

One linesman stands on each sideline. One job is to decide who gets control of the ball when it goes out of bounds. **(L)**



What does the referee do?

The referee is the only official

who goes onto the playing field. He **(R)**

enforces the laws, keeps time and awards free kicks. He blows a whistle and flashes cards to control the play and the players. A yellow card is a caution. A red card signals that the player is ejected and cannot be replaced.



The Mini Page thanks Len Oliver of the D.C. Stoddert Soccer League; Adam Jones, EUROSPORT; Gordon Bradley, men's soccer coach, George Mason University.

Next week: Oh, say can you say some famous American sayings?

Learn the game of soccer



in

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by Betty Debnam

Appearing in your newspaper on _____.

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(Note to Editor: Above is camera-ready, one column-by-4 1/4-inch ad promoting Issue 25.)

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Teacher's Guide

For use by teachers and parents at home and at school.
For use with issue: A Parent's Soccer Quiz

Main idea: This issue is about the game of soccer. The following is a list of activities to be used with this issue. They are listed in order of difficulty. Ask the children to do the following:

1. Design a trophy that could be given to the best soccer player at the World Cup.
2. Discuss the following: Do you like playing soccer? Have you ever seen a professional game? Why is the World Cup so important? Which team would you like to see win? Which position on a soccer team would you like to play most and why?
3. Create a chart to keep track of the results of the World Cup.
4. Look through the classified ads of your newspaper for people selling sports equipment.
5. Find the following words: equipment, tournament, penalty, defensive, lineup, offensive, halftime, opponent, boundaries. Define and make up a new sentence for each one.
6. Write a newspaper article describing a soccer game.
7. Look through your newspaper for articles on the World Cup.

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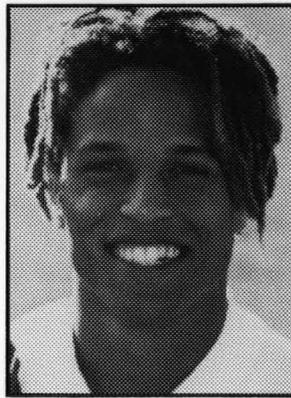
(Note to Editor: Above is the Teacher's Guide for Issue 25.)

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 **Gus Goodsport's Report**

Supersport: Cobi Jones



Height: 5-7 Birthdate: 6-16-70
Weight: 145 College: UCLA

With his dreadlocks and big smile, Cobi Jones is easy to spot on the soccer field. He is a midfielder on the U.S. soccer team. He joined the team in 1992.

In only his third game on the team, he scored a goal and assisted in two others in a win at the International Championship.

He was a member of the 1992 Olympic team. He also played in the 1989 and 1990 Olympic festivals.

In 1991 he played on the gold-medal winning team at the Pan-American Games. He scored one goal and assisted in another.

Cobi was born in Detroit and grew up in Westlake Village, Calif. He ran track in high school and studied economics in college.

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 25, to be used in place of ad if desired.)