



2026 Player Final Ballot

Each Voter will submit a vote for up to 10 names who they feel are most deserving to be elected to the NSHOF Class of 2026.

2026 Player Final Ballot List

Michael Archer

Kyle Beckerman

Matt Besler

Geoff Cameron *

Stephanie Lopez Cox

Dwayne DeRosario

Maurice Edu

Tobin Heath *

Keith Johnson

Jermaine Jones

Robbie Keane

Mike Lawson *

Chad Marshall

Samantha Mewis *

Oguchi Onyewu

Heather O'Reilly *

Amy Rodriguez

Carlos Ruiz

Diego Valeri *

Chris Wondolowski

*First Year of Eligibility

2026 Player Final Ballot Biographies

These capsule biographies include both information about the achievements that enabled these candidates to meet the eligibility criteria and other information about their careers compiled by Hall of Fame historians. The statement of how each player met the Hall of Fame eligibility criteria appears in *italics* below their name.

Player biographies are grouped by the year that they “last played” which serves as the retirement year for the purpose of Hall of Fame record keeping. “Last year of eligibility” refers only to eligibility for the Player Ballot. After a candidate’s eligibility via the Players Eligibility List expires, they will be moved to the Veterans Eligibility List.

Players who last played in 2016 (last year of eligibility via this list is 2026)

Keith Johnson

Eligibility: 101 games for the U.S. Men’s Cerebral Palsy National Team.

A goalkeeper for the United States at the 2004 and 2012 Paralympics. Born with cerebral palsy, Johnson joined the U.S. team in 2003 and earned 101 caps during his 14-year career. Famous among experienced players for his hard-nosed play in practice and competition, he was a member of the bronze-medal-winning team at the 2012 World Cup in Manchester, England.

Mike Lawson

Eligibility: 33 caps for the U.S. Men’s Deaf National Team

A central midfielder who is one of the most-capped and longest-tenured players in the history of the U.S. Men’s Deaf National Team. Lawson earned 33 caps from 2001 to 2016 and appeared in five major tournaments, including the 2001, 2005 and 2009 Deaflympics and the 2008 and 2016 Deaf World Championships. Lawson was part of the squad that came within a shootout of playing for the 2008 World Cup title and eventually claimed a team-best fourth place finish in Patras, Greece. He rounded out his career by helping the team to a sixth-place finish at the 2016 World Championship in Salerno, Italy.

Carlos Ruiz

Eligibility: 10 seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection.

A forward who was a goalscoring star in MLS. Ruiz, who was from Guatemala, played 10 seasons in MLS between 2002 and 2016, for Los Angeles, Dallas, Toronto, Philadelphia and D.C. The best of those seasons was 2002, when he was named the MLS most valuable player, scored the winning goal in overtime for Los Angeles in the MLS final and led MLS in scoring with 24 goals in the regular season (plus eight more in the playoffs). During his MLS years, he played 183 regular-season games and 19 playoff games, and scored 105 goals. Ruiz played for Guatemala from 2000 to 2016 and scored numerous key goals for it, including several against the United States.

Players who last played in 2017 (last year of eligibility via this list is 2027)

Maurice Edu

Eligibility: 46 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A midfielder who played for the United States in the World Cup and won three Scottish first-division championships. Edu played 46 full internationals for the United States between 2007 and 2014. Those included three games at the 2010 World Cup and 11 World Cup qualifiers in 2008, 2009, 2013 and 2014. He also played for the United States in the 2011 CONCACAF Gold Cup. His only national-team goal came against Czech Republic in 2010, but he also had what could have been the game-winning goal against Slovenia in the 2010 World Cup called back (perhaps incorrectly) for a foul by another player. Edu played four seasons in MLS, four in the Scottish first division, one in the English Premier League, one in the Turkish first division and two in the USL. He won Scottish Premier League titles with Rangers in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and was a runner-up for the U.S. Open Cup in 2014 and 2015 with Philadelphia. In his MLS seasons, with Toronto and Philadelphia, he played 89 games.

Oguchi Onyewu

Eligibility: 69 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A defender who starred in the U.S. national team and for European club teams for more than a decade. Onyewu played 69 full internationals for the United States between 2004 and 2014. During that time, he played 21 World Cup qualifiers in five different years, appearing in the qualifying rounds of three different World Cups. He was a member of the United States teams at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups, and played in all three U.S. games in 2006. In 2010, an injury limited him to one game. Perhaps his greatest days in a U.S. uniform took place outside the World Cup. He was one of the stars of the teams that won the 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup and reached the final of the 2009 Confederations Cup, the United States' only appearance in the final of a FIFA tournament. He was chosen as the USSF men's athlete of the year in 2006. Onyewu played in various leagues in Europe between 2002 and 2015. That period included five seasons in the Belgian first division, three seasons in English professional leagues, and one season each in the French first division, the Dutch first division, the Portuguese first division and the Spanish first division. He returned to the field in 2017 and played one season in MLS before retiring.

Players who last played in 2018 (last year of eligibility via this list is 2028)

Robbie Keane

Eligibility: Six seasons in Major League Soccer, with four Best XI selections.

A forward who won three MLS titles and was named to MLS' postseason Best XI four years in a row. Keane, an Irish star who had played for top-rated teams in several European leagues, joined the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2011 and played for them through 2016. He won MLS titles with the Galaxy in 2011, 2012 and 2014, and was an MLS Best XI selection in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2014, he reached his highest MLS single-season goal total, 21, and was named the MLS most valuable player. He played 125 MLS regular-season games and 21 MLS playoff games, and scored 92 goals in those games. Through his first four MLS seasons, he usually was paired with Landon Donovan in the Galaxy attack. Keane was captain of the Irish national team through most of his MLS career.

Players who last played in 2019 (last year of eligibility via this list is 2029)

Michael Archer

Eligibility: 25 games for the U.S. Power Soccer National Team

A center who was a member of the U.S. teams at the 2007, 2011 and 2017 Fédération Internationale de Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA) Powerchair Football World Cups. Diagnosed with Arthrogryposis, Archer appeared in 25 matches for the U.S. Power Soccer National Team between 2007 and 2019, helping the team to World Cup titles in 2007 and 2011, and a runner-up finish in 2017. A groundbreaking player in international Powerchair Football, Archer is the USA's all-time leader with 36 goals and 39 assists, and helped the team claim the American Powerchair Football Confederation (APFC) title in 2019, his last year of international competition.

Dwayne DeRosario

Eligibility: 14 seasons in Major League Soccer, with six Best XI selections.

A midfielder who won four MLS championships and was chosen to the MLS Best XI six times. DeRosario, considered one of Canada's greatest players ever, played 14 seasons in MLS, between 2001 and 2014, for San Jose, Houston, Toronto, New York and D.C. He won MLS titles in 2001 and 2003 with San Jose, and in 2006 and 2007 with Houston. In two of those four years, he scored the winning goal in the final. He also won a U.S. Open Cup title in 2013 with D.C. United. DeRosario was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011. In one of those seasons, 2011, he also was the MLS most valuable player and the MLS scoring leader. During his MLS career, he played 343 regular-season games and 24 playoff games, scoring 109 goals in those games. DeRosario played for the Canadian national team from 1998 to 2015, including games in the qualifying rounds of four different World Cups.

Jermaine Jones

Eligibility: 69 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A midfielder who was one of the stars of the United States team at the 2014 World Cup. Jones, who was born and raised in Germany, began playing for the U.S. national team in 2010, when he was 28. He eventually played 69 full internationals, including all four of the United States' games at the 2014 World Cup, and 15 World Cup qualifiers in 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2017. He scored a key goal for the United States against Portugal at the 2014 World Cup, and made the pass that produced a game-winning goal by Clint Dempsey for the United States against Ecuador in the quarterfinals of the 2016 Copa America. Jones had played 10 seasons in the German first division, and played partial seasons in the English Premier League and the Turkish first division, before moving to MLS in 2014. He played four seasons in MLS with New England, Colorado and the Los Angeles Galaxy, and was an MLS runner-up in 2014 with New England. He played 57 MLS regular-season games and 10 MLS playoff games.

Chad Marshall

Eligibility: 16 seasons in Major League Soccer, with four Best XI selections.

A defender who won MLS championships with two different teams and was chosen to the MLS Best XI four times. Marshall played 16 seasons in MLS between 2004 and 2019 for Columbus and Seattle. He won MLS titles in 2008, when Columbus beat New York in the final, and 2016, when Seattle beat Toronto in the final. He also was a runner-up for the MLS title in 2017 with Seattle and runner-up for the U.S. Open Cup title in 2010 with Columbus. He was named the MLS defender of the year three times, in 2008, 2009 and 2014. Marshall, who was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2008, 2009, 2014 and 2018, played 439 games in his MLS career, 409 in the regular season and 30 in the playoffs. At the time of his retirement, only three other players had played more games in first-division American soccer than Marshall. He played 12 full internationals for the United States between 2005 and 2017, including three World Cup qualifiers in 2005 and 2009.

Players who last played in 2020 (last year of eligibility via this list is 2030)

Kyle Beckerman

Eligibility: 58 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A midfielder who had a remarkably long career in Major League Soccer and played for the United States in the World Cup. Beckerman played 21 seasons in MLS between 2000 and 2020, for the Miami Fusion, the Colorado Rapids and Real Salt Lake. He won an MLS championship with RSL in 2009, and was an MLS runner-up in 2013 with RSL. During his MLS career, he played 498 regular-season games and 37 playoff games, with his total of 535 games second in MLS annals only to his RSL teammate Nick Rimando. Beckerman played 58 internationals for the United States between 2007 and 2006, including eight World Cup qualifiers in 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2016, and three games at the 2014 World Cup in

Brazil. In addition to his World Cup efforts, he was a member of the United States teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2013 and finished second in 2009, and played in the 2007 and 2016 Copa America tournaments.

Players who last played in 2021 (last year of eligibility via this list is 2031)

Matt Besler

Eligibility: 13 seasons in Major League Soccer, with two Best XI selections, and 47 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A defender who starred in both Major League Soccer and the U.S. Men's National Team. Besler played 13 seasons in MLS between 2009 and 2021, 12 of those for Sporting Kansas City and one for Austin. He won an MLS title with Kansas City in 2013 and was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2012 and 2013. He won the U.S. Open Cup with Kansas City in 2012, 2015 and 2017, and was named as the MLS defender of the year in 2012. Besler played 47 full internationals for the United States between 2013 and 2017, including 14 World Cup qualifiers during those years and all four of the United States' games at the 2014 World Cup (he started all four games and played the full 90 minutes in three of them, plus overtime in one). Besides his World Cup efforts, he played in the United States teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2013 and 2017 and reached the semifinals of the Copa America in 2016.

Stephanie Lopez Cox

Eligibility: 89 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A defender who played in two World Cups for the United States and won an Olympic gold medal. Cox was a regular for the United States at both the 2007 and 2011 Women's World Cups, playing a total of eight games in those two tournaments. She also played five games at the 2008 Olympic Games, when the United States won the title. In the course of her 10-year career in the U.S. national team, she played a total of 89 full internationals. She took a runner-up medal at the 2011 Women's World Cup. Cox played nine seasons in United States first-division leagues, three in WPS and six in the NWSL. She was a league runner-up three times in those six seasons, finishing second in WPS in 2009 with Los Angeles and in the NWSL in 2014 and 2015 with Seattle. During those nine seasons, she played a total of 111 regular-season games and eight playoff games. She was chosen as a second-team NWSL all-star in 2014 and 2015, and also played five seasons in the WPSL and one season in the W-League.

Amy Rodriguez

Eligibility: Three seasons in Women's Professional Soccer, with one all-WPS selection; six seasons in the National Women's Soccer League, with one Best XI selection, and 132 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A forward who played for the United States in two Women's World Cups and two Olympic Games. Rodriguez played in the U.S. national team from 2004 through 2018, and scored 30 goals in her 132 full internationals. Those games included five of the United States six games at the 2011 Women's World Cup, two games at the 2015 Women's World Cup, six games at the 2008 Olympic Games and four games at the 2012 Olympic Games. She took home a lot of medals from those tournaments, with the United States team winning both of those Olympics and the 2015 World Cup. She also played eight World Cup qualifiers in 2010 and 2014. Rodriguez played from 2009 through 2010 in WPS, for the Boston Breakers and Philadelphia Independence, and was named to the all-WPS team in 2010. She played from the 2014 season through the 2021 season in the NWSL, for FC Kansas City, the Utah Royals and the North Carolina Courage, and was named to the NWSL Best XI in 2014. During her WPS/NWSL seasons, she played 130 regular-season games and 11 playoff games, scoring 54 goals in those game.

Chris Wondolowski

Eligibility: 17 seasons in Major League Soccer, with three Best XI selections, and 35 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A forward who, at the time he retired, was the leading career goalscorer in Major League Soccer history. Wondolowski played 17 seasons in MLS between 2005 and 2021, for San Jose and Houston. During those 17 seasons, he scored a total of 171 regular-season goals (he also had two playoff goals), surpassing Landon Donovan's regular-season total of 145 goals. Wondolowski was named to the MLS Best XI three times, in 2010, 2011, 2012. His best goalscoring season was 2012, when he had 27 goals, and was part of a streak of 10 consecutive seasons in which he scored at least 10 goals. He led MLS in goalscoring twice, in 2010 and 2012. During his MLS career, Wondolowski played 413 regular-season games and seven playoff games. Wondolowski played 35 full internationals for the United States between 2011 and 2016, including two games at the 2014 World Cup. He also was a member of the United States team at the 2016 Copa America.

***Players who last played in 2022 (first year of eligibility is 2026, last is 2032)**

Geoff Cameron

Eligibility: Seven seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection, and 55 games for the U.S. Men's National Team.

A defender who played for the United States in the World Cup and Copa America. Cameron's 55 full internationals for the United States between 2010 and 2017 included three of the U.S. team's four games at the 2014 World Cup and every minute of its six games at the 2016 Copa America. He also played 24 World Cup qualifiers for the United States in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Cameron played seven seasons in MLS, divided into two sections. He played five seasons for the Houston Dynamo between 2008 and 2012, starring in the Houston team that reached the MLS final in 2011, and two seasons for FC Cincinnati, in 2021 and 2022. In between, he played nine seasons in English professional leagues, for Stoke City and Queens Park Rangers. Six of those seasons were in the English Premier League, all for Stoke.

Tobin Heath

Eligibility: Two seasons in Women's Professional Soccer and eight seasons in the National Women's Soccer League, with three Best XI selections, and 181 matches for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A mercurial attacker presence, Tobin Heath contributed mightily to one of the most successful eras of the U.S. Women's National Team. A player who graced the pitch 181 times for her country, Heath took part in three Women's World Cups, lifting the trophy in 2015 and 2019, as well as four Olympic Games, winning gold in both 2008 and 2012 and bronze in 2021. Heath finished her international career with 42 assists and 36 goals, one of which came as the capping goal in the 5-2 win against Japan in the 2015 World Cup Final. Additionally, she helped the USA claim the 2014 and 2018 Concacaf Women's Championship, as well as the 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020 Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament titles. Winner of U.S. Soccer's Women's Player of the Year in 2016, Heath appeared in 16 World Cup matches, eight World Cup qualifiers and 18 matches at the Olympics. A player that appeared for Atlanta Beat and Sky Blue FC across two seasons in Women's Professional Soccer (WPS), Heath went on to play eight seasons in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), seven of which came with the Portland Thorns between 2013 and 2019, and one for OL Reign in 2022. A three-time NWSL Best XI selection in 2016, 2018 and 2019, Heath scored the game-winning free kick to lead the Thorns past the New York Flash in the 2013 NWSL championship match and was selected as the game's Most Valuable Player. She also helped the club win the 2017 NWSL championship, as well as the 2016 NWSL Shield. Heath also played four seasons abroad, featuring for Paris Saint-Germain in France from 2012-14, and English sides Manchester United (2020-21) and Arsenal (2021-22).

Samantha Mewis

Eligibility: Seven seasons in the National Women's Soccer League, with one Best XI selection, and 83 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A midfielder who was a key player in the United States victory at the 2019 Women's World Cup. Mewis, whose sister Kristie also was a U.S. national-team player, played 83 full internationals for the United States, and scored 24 goals in those games. Those 83 games included six of the United States' seven games at the 2019 Women's World Cup, all six United States games at the 2021 Olympic Games, and two World Cup qualifiers in 2018. At the 2019 Women's World Cup, the games she played included the final against the Netherlands, and she assisted on Rose Lavelle's goal in that 2-0 victory. She also scored two goals in a first-round game. She was named the U.S. Soccer Federation women's athlete of the year in 2020. Mewis, whose career was shortened by a knee injury suffered when she was 29 years old, won three National Women's Soccer League championships during her seven-season NWSL career. Those came in 2016 with Western New York, 2018 with North Carolina and 2019 with North Carolina. She was named to the NWSL Best XI in 2017. Mewis played one season in the English first-division, for Manchester City, winning an English Women's FA Cup title in 2020.

Heather O'Reilly

Eligibility: 231 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.

A forward and winger who starred in the U.S. national team for more than a decade, winning three Olympic gold medals and a World Cup title. O'Reilly played 231 full internationals for the United States between 2002 and 2016. Those games included 12 World Cup games in 2007, 2011 and 2015, 13 World Cup qualifiers in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014, and 14 Olympic games in 2004, 2008 and 2012. She played in the teams that won Olympic titles in 2004, 2008 and 2012, and the team that won the Women's World Cup in 2015. She played in the Women's World Cup final in 2011 and two Olympic finals. Over the course of her 231 national-team games, she scored 47 goals. O'Reilly played a total of nine seasons in first-division American women's soccer, three in Women's Professional Soccer between 2009 and 2011, all with Sky

Blue, and six in the National Women's Soccer League between 2013 and 2019, with Boston, Kansas City and North Carolina, winning first-division titles with three different teams. She won a WPS title in 2009 with Sky Blue, and NWSL titles in 2015 with Kansas City and 2019 with North Carolina. Over the course of those WPS and NWSL seasons, she played 138 regular-season games and nine playoff games, and scored 23 goals. In 2009, she scored the only goal of Sky Blue's victory over Los Angeles in the WPS final. O'Reilly, who had earlier played two seasons in the W-League and one in the WPSL, also played two first-division seasons in England with Arsenal, winning an English League Cup title in 2018, and one first-division season in Ireland.

Diego Valeri

Eligibility: Nine seasons in Major League Soccer, with three Best XI selections.

A midfielder who was the playmaking star of the Portland Timbers for years. Valeri played in MLS from the 2013 season through the 2021 season, all for the Portland Timbers. He was one of the greatest of the many Argentinian playmaking midfielders in MLS over the years (a group that includes Guillermo Barros Schellotto, Mauro Diaz, Christian Gomez, Leo Messi, Maxi Moralez and Ignacio Piatti). He was named to the MLS Best XI in 2013, 2014 and 2017, and topped that with a selection as MLS most valuable player in 2017. He reached the MLS championship game three times, winning an MLS championship in 2015 and finishing as runner-up in 2018 and 2021. In 2015, he scored the first goal of the MLS title game as Portland upset the Columbus Crew for the title. In his MLS career, Valeri played 262 regular-season games and 22 playoff games, and scored 92 goals.