



NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

2024 Veteran Semifinal Ballot List

Each Screener will select up to 10 names from this list who they would like to see appear on the Veteran Final Ballot.

2024 Veteran Semifinal Ballot

Chris Armas	Frankie Hejduk	John O'Brien
David Beckham	Lori Henry	Emily Pickering
Chico Borja	Eddie Lewis	Tony Sanneh
Sean Bowers	Carlos Llamosa	Lee Tschantret
Jeff Cunningham	Clint Mathis	Tisha Venturini-Hoch
Lorrie Fair	Shep Messing	Aly Wagner
Mary Harvey	Heather Mitts	Josh Wolff

2024 Veteran Semifinal 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. The statement of how he or she met the Hall of Fame eligibility criteria appears in italics after the name.

This list has been broken into two sections. The purpose of doing this is to assist voters and not to indicate different levels of eligibility. All candidates in both sections are equally eligible.

- 1. Candidates who are appearing on the Veterans Eligibility List for the first time.*
- 2. Candidates who have been reinstated to the Veteran's Eligibility List*
- 3. Candidates who have been on the Veterans Eligibility List in previous years.*

1) NEW TO THE VETERAN ELIGIBILITY LIST

David Beckham

Eligibility: Six seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection. A midfielder who brought great publicity, along with some controversy, to American soccer during his time in MLS. Beckham played six seasons in MLS, all of them for the Los Angeles Galaxy, and helped his team to MLS championships in the last two of those seasons, 2011 and 2012. He earlier had been a member of the Los Angeles team that lost in the MLS title game in 2009. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2011. Beckham, a star of the English national team, was one of the most famous players in the world when he signed with the Galaxy in 2007. His arrival in the league, and the publicity that came with it, was a factor in increasing MLS crowds. Prior to joining the Galaxy, he had won league championships with Manchester United in England and Real Madrid in Spain. In the one season he played after leaving the Galaxy, he won a league title with Paris St.-Germain in France. He played 98 MLS regular-season games and 17 MLS playoff games.

included two World Cup qualifiers in 2006 and all six of the United States' games at the 2007 Women's World Cup. She played three seasons in WPS between 2009 and 2011 for Gold Pride and Boston, and one season in the NWSL, 2013, for Chicago. In addition, she played one season in the W-League and two seasons in the WPSL.

2) REINSTATED TO THE VETERAN ELIGIBILITY LIST

NA

3) VETERANS ELIGIBILITY LIST

Chris Armas

Eligibility: 12 seasons in Major League Soccer, with five Best XI selections, and 66 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A midfielder who was a longtime star of both MLS and the U.S. national team. Armas played the first 12 MLS seasons, initially for the Los Angeles Galaxy and later for the Chicago Fire. During those seasons, he played 264 MLS regular-season games and 37 playoff games. He was named to the MLS postseason Best XI five times, in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. He played in the MLS championship game four times, in 1998 (when he was on the winning side), 2000 and 2003 with Chicago and 1996 with Los Angeles. He also won three U.S. Open Cup titles with Chicago, in 1988, 2000 and 2003. In addition to his MLS seasons, he also played two seasons in the USISL. Armas played 66 full internationals for the United States between 1998 and 2005. Those included 19 World Cup qualifiers, in 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2005. He never played in the World Cup, although he had been expected to be a starter in the 2002 World Cup before being injured a few weeks before the tournament. He was a member of the United States teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup finals in 2002 and 2005, played in the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2003 and was chosen as the USSF men's athlete of the year in 2000.

Chico Borja

Eligibility: Eight seasons in the Major Indoor Soccer League during the qualifying period (1984-92), with one all-MISL selection in that period, and 11 games for the U.S. Men's National Team (prior to 1990). A midfielder who starred in both the North American Soccer League and the Major Indoor Soccer League. Borja, who was born in Ecuador, played four seasons in the NASL between 1981 and 1984, for New York and Team America. He was named to the NASL's North American all-star team in 1984 and won an NASL title in 1982 with the New York Cosmos. He played eight seasons in the MISL during the period when there was no first-division outdoor league in the United States, for Las Vegas, Wichita and Los Angeles. He was a first-team all-MISL selection in 1989, when he was with the Wichita Wings. Borja's 11 full internationals for the United States included five World Cup qualifiers in 1984, 1985 and 1988. He also was a member of the United States team at the 1984 Olympic Games.

Sean Bowers

Eligibility: 35 games for the U.S. Futsal National Team. A defender who captained the United States team in two Futsal World Cups. Bowers holds the record for caps in the U.S. futsal team, with his 35 surpassing the record of 30 long held by Jim Gabarra. In the course of earning those

caps, he was captain of the United States teams at the 1996 Futsal World Cup in Spain and the 2004 Futsal World Cup in Taiwan. Bowers played professional indoor soccer from 1991 to 2010 with five different teams in various leagues. He also played four seasons of first-division outdoor soccer with the Kansas City Wizards of Major League Soccer. He played 116 games in his MLS career.

Jeff Cunningham

Eligibility: 14 seasons in Major League Soccer, with three Best XI selections. A forward who was among the all-time leading goal scorers in Major League Soccer. Cunningham played 14 MLS seasons between 1998 and 2011 for the Columbus Crew, Real Salt Lake, Toronto FC and FC Dallas. When he retired, he held the MLS career record for regular-season goals, with 134. He also scored five playoff goals. He was chosen to the MLS postseason Best XI in 2002, 2006 and 2009, and was the league's leading scorer in the last two of those seasons. He won a U.S. Open Cup championship in 2002 with Columbus and was MLS runner-up in 2010 with Dallas. The Jamaican-born forward played 12 full internationals for the United States between 2001 and 2010, including two World Cup qualifiers in 2005, and was a member of the United States team at the 2003 Confederations Cup. After retiring from MLS, he played one season in the Guatemalan first division and one season in the NASL II.

Lorrie Fair

Eligibility: 120 games for the U.S. Women's National Team. A midfielder who was a member of the United States team that won the 1999 Women's World Cup. Fair played 120 full internationals for the United States, the first against Norway in February 1996 and the last against Iceland in July 2005. Those 120 games included four World Cup qualifiers in 2002, four in the 1999 World Cup and five in the 2000 Olympic Games. Fair played all three WUSA seasons for Philadelphia, plus the WUSA festivals in 2004. After the end of WUSA, she played two seasons in the WPSL, two in the French first division and one in the English first division.

Mary Harvey

Eligibility: 27 games for the U.S. Women's National Team. The goalkeeper on the U.S. team that won the first Women's World Cup in 1991. Harvey played every minute of all six United States games in the 1991 Women's World Cup, conceding only five goals and scoring three shutouts, after having been one of the last players added to the U.S. roster, because she was playing in Germany at the time. In addition to her World Cup title, she also won an Olympic silver medal with the United States team at the 1996 Olympic Games, the first in which women's soccer was included. Her first full international for the United States was against Poland in 1989 and the last against Australia in 1996. Harvey, who was one of the first American women to play professionally overseas, played three seasons in the German women's first division and two seasons in the Swedish women's first division.

Frankie Hejduk

Eligibility: 85 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A defender who was a key man in the United States' run at the 2002 World Cup and also had a long career in MLS. Hejduk played 85 full internationals for the United States, the first against El Salvador in 1996 and the last against Denmark in 2009. He started four of the United States' five games at the 2002 World Cup, missing one game because of a suspension. He also played in three games at the 1998 World Cup

and 26 World Cup qualifiers in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009. In addition to those two World Cups, he was a member of the United States teams at the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games and the 1999 and 2003 Confederations Cups. He was a regular in the United States teams that won the 2002 and 2005 CONCACAF Gold Cups, playing in both finals. Hejduk played 12 seasons in MLS between 1996 and 2011, for Tampa Bay, Columbus and Los Angeles, playing a total of 203 MLS regular-season games and 17 MLS playoff games. He was the captain of the Columbus team that won the MLS championship in 2008, and also was a runner up in the U.S. Open Cup with Columbus in 2010. In between his two stretches in MLS, he played four seasons in the German first division and one season in the Swiss first division.

Lori Henry

Eligibility: 39 games for the U.S. Women's National Team. A defender who played in two landmark teams in American women's soccer history. In 1985, Henry was a member of the first women's national team organized by the U.S. Soccer Federation, for a tournament in Jesolo, Italy, and started all four games in that tournament. In 1991, she played in the first Women's World Cup in China, and was the only player from that 1985 first USWNT game to do so. Henry played two games in that 1991 Women's World Cup, which the United States won. In between those two tournaments, she played another 33 games for the United States, scoring three goals in those games, and served as captain of the team for three years. In all, she started each of the first 28 games ever played by the U.S. Women's National Team.

Eddie Lewis

Eligibility: Seven seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection, and 82 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A midfielder who starred in MLS, the U.S. national team and English leagues. Lewis played 82 full internationals for the United States, the first against Peru in October 1996 and the last against Trinidad in September 2008. More than a quarter of those 82 games came in World Cup play, five in the 2002 and 2006 World Cups and 21 in World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2008. Perhaps Lewis' most famous moment in a U.S. uniform came in 2002, when his perfect cross from the left wing was headed into the net by Landon Donovan for the second goal of the United States' World Cup upset over Mexico. In addition to his World Cup play, Lewis was a member of the United States teams at the 1999 and 2003 Confederations Cups and the U.S. team that won the 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup. Lewis played seven seasons in MLS between 1996 and 2010 for San Jose and Los Angeles, and was chosen to the MLS post-season Best XI in 1999. He played 163 MLS regular-season games and nine MLS playoff games. Between 2000 and 2008, Lewis played nine seasons in English professional leagues, becoming a regular at several different clubs.

Carlos Llamosa

Eligibility: Nine seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection, and 29 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A defender who was part of the United States run to the quarterfinals of the 2002 World Cup. Llamosa played in two of the United States five games in that World Cup, the victories over Portugal and Mexico. His 29 full internationals for the United States also included nine World Cup qualifiers in 2000 and 2001 and one at the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup. He played in MLS from 1997 to 2006, for D.C. United, the Miami Fusion, the New England Revolution and Chivas USA. He was an MLS Best XI selection in 2001 and won MLS championships in 1997 and 1999 with D.C. Llamosa, who was born and

raised in Colombia, played six seasons in Colombian professional leagues, and then two seasons in the A-League after emigrating to the United States.

Clint Mathis

Eligibility: 12 seasons in Major League Soccer, with one Best XI selection, and 46 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A midfielder who played 12 seasons in MLS and played in the 2002 World Cup. Mathis played in MLS from 1998 to 2010, for Los Angeles, New York, Salt Lake and Colorado. He was chosen to the MLS Best XI in 2000, won an MLS title in 2009 with Salt Lake and played in 258 MLS regular-season games and 29 MLS playoff games. He holds the MLS record for goals in a single game with five, for the MetroStars against Dallas in 2000. Mathis played 46 full internationals for the United States between 1998 and 2005, including seven World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001 and 2004 and three World Cup games in 2002. The 12 goals that he scored in those 46 games included a crucial one against South Korea in the 2002 World Cup, when the United States reached the quarterfinals. He also played for the United States at the 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup and the 2003 Confederations Cup. In addition to his MLS years, Mathis also played two seasons in the German first division and one season in the Greek first division.

Shep Messing

Eligibility: Seven seasons in the North American Soccer League, with one NASL championship. A goalkeeper who starred in both the NASL and the Major Indoor Soccer League. Messing played seven seasons in the NASL, for the New York Cosmos, Boston Minutemen, Oakland Stompers and Rochester Lancers. He won an NASL title in 1977, making a crucial save near the end of the final that preserved the Cosmos' win over Seattle. During his NASL career, he played 119 regular-season games and nine playoff games. He played eight seasons in the MISL, for the New York Arrows, New York Cosmos, New York Express and Pittsburgh Spirit, winning four MISL championships with the Arrows, in 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982. He was named to the all-MISL first team in 1979, 1980 and 1981, and played 182 MISL regular-season games and 20 MISL playoff games. Messing, who never appeared in the U.S. Men's National Team, did play for the United States in the 1972 Olympic Games in Germany. He was a colorful player who succeeded in attracting considerable attention to soccer with off-the-field activities, and wrote an autobiographical book, *The Education of an American Soccer Player*, that told much of life as a pro soccer player.

Heather Mitts

Eligibility: 137 games for the U.S. Women's National Team. A defender who won three Olympic gold medals with the U.S. national team. Mitts played 137 full internationals for the United States, the first against Finland in 1999 and the last against China in 2012. Those included seven World Cup qualifiers in 2006 and 2010 and nine games at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. Injuries kept her out of the World Cup early in her career, but she was a member of the United States squad at the 2011 Women's World Cup. She played three seasons in the Women's United Soccer Association between 2001 and 2003, all for the Philadelphia Charge, and three seasons in Women's Professional Soccer between 2009 and 2011, for the Boston Breakers, Philadelphia Independence and Atlanta Beat. During her WUSA/WPS career, she played 94 regular-season games and five playoff games.

John O'Brien

Eligibility: 32 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A midfielder who was one of the stars of the United States team at the 2002 World Cup. O'Brien played 32 full internationals for the United States, the first against Austria in April 1998 and the last against Czech Republic in June 2006. Those included all five United States games at the 2002 World Cup, where he scored the opening goal of the American upset over Portugal, and one game at the 2006 World Cup. He also was a member of the United States team that won the 2005 CONCACAF Gold Cup and played for the United States in the 2000 Olympic Games. O'Brien spent nearly all of his professional club career in Holland, where he played eight seasons in the first division. He also played one season, 2006, in Major League Soccer, for Chivas.

Emily Pickering

Eligibility: 15 games for the U.S. Women's National Team, of which 13 were before 1990. The captain of the first U.S. Women's National Team. Pickering was captain of the United States women's team at the August 1985 tournament in Jesolo, Italy, at which that team made its debut. She played in two of the U.S. team's four games in that tournament, scoring a goal against Denmark. Pickering continued to play for the United States on an occasional basis through 1992, including the Jesolo tournament again in 1986.

Tony Sanneh

Eligibility: 43 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A defender who starred in the national team and MLS, reaching his peak during the United States' successful run at the 2002 World Cup. Sanneh played 43 full internationals for the United States, the first against China in 1997 and the last against Costa Rica in 2005. Those 43 caps included all five of the United States games at the 2002 World Cup. Sanneh was one of only three U.S. players to play every minute of each of those games, and it was his cross that Brian McBride headed home for the third goal of the United States' victory over Portugal. He also played 15 World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001 and 2004. Sanneh played eight seasons in MLS between 1996 and 2009 for D.C., Columbus, Chicago, Colorado and Los Angeles, and was a member of the D.C. United teams that won the first two MLS titles in 1996 and 1997. He also won the U.S. Open Cup twice, in 1996 with D.C. and 2006 with Chicago, and played six seasons in German professional leagues, two seasons in the APSL and USL, two seasons in the USISL and one season in the NPSL. During his MLS career he played 130 regular-season games and 20 playoff games.

Lee Tschantret

Eligibility: 32 games for the U.S. Futsal National Team. A defender who played for the U.S. futsal team from 1998 to 2007. Tschantret scored seven goals in his 32 games for the United States, including one in a victory over Paraguay at the 2004 Futsal World Cup in Taiwan. He also scored four goals in the CONCACAF qualifying tournament that preceded the 2000 Futsal World Cup, and played for the United States at the 2007 Pan-American Games in Brazil. From 1991 to 2009, Tschantret played in various professional indoor and outdoor soccer leagues, playing for six indoor and six outdoor teams in that span. The largest part of his career was with the Baltimore Blast of the Major Indoor Soccer League, for whom he played from 2000 to 2007.

Tisha Venturini-Hoch

Eligibility: 132 games for the U.S. Women's National Team. A midfielder who played in two World Cups for the United States. Venturini, although not a starter, was one of the most visible stars of the team that won the Women's World Cup in 1999, playing in two of the six games (including the final) and scoring two goals. She also had been a member of the United States team at the 1995 Women's World Cup, where she played all six United States games, and the 1996 Olympic Games, where she played all five United States games. She played 132 full internationals for the United States between 1992 and her retirement from the national team in 2000. Venturini played three seasons in the Women's United Soccer Association, all for the San Jose Cyberrays, and won a WUSA championship in 2001. She also played one season in the W-League and one season in the Women's Premier Soccer League. She played 60 WUSA regular-season games and two WUSA playoff games.

Aly Wagner

Eligibility: 131 games for the U.S. Women's National Team. A midfielder who played in two Women's World Cups and two Olympic Games for the United States. Wagner played 131 full internationals for the United States, the first against Ukraine in 1998 and the last against South Korea in 2008. In between, she played seven World Cup qualifiers in 2002 and 2006, five World Cup games in 2003 and 2007, and five Olympic games in 2004 and 2008, winning Olympic gold medals in 2004 and 2008. She played one season in the Women's United Soccer Association, with the San Diego Spirit, and one season in Women's Professional Soccer, 2009, with the Los Angeles Sol, plus one season in the French first division and two seasons in the WPSL. She was a WUSA second-team all-star in 2003 and a runner-up for the WPS title in 2009.

Josh Wolff

Eligibility: 52 games for the U.S. Men's National Team. A forward who played in two World Cups and for 14 seasons in MLS. Wolff played 52 full internationals for the United States between 1999 and 2008, including 10 World Cup qualifiers in 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2005, and three World Cup games in 2002 and 2006. He also was a member of the U.S. teams that won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2002 and 2005 and reached the semifinals of the 2000 Olympic Games. Perhaps his two most famous moments in U.S. teams both came against Mexico, a breakaway goal in a 2001 World Cup qualifier and the cross that produced a goal by Brian McBride at the 2002 World Cup. He played in MLS from 1998 to 2012, for the Chicago Fire, Kansas City Wizards and D.C. United, winning an MLS championship in 1998 with Chicago and U.S. Open Cups in 1998 and 2000 with Chicago and 2004 with Kansas City. He also played two seasons in the German second division. He played 267 MLS regular-season games and 14 MLS playoff games.