



NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME

2023 Veteran Final Ballot

Each Voter will select 5 names from this list who they would like to see elected to the NSHOF Class of 2023. The individual who receives at least 50% of the vote and receives the most votes will be elected to the NSHOF Class of 2023. A second veteran will be elected if they are listed on at least 75% of the final ballots.

2023 Veteran Final Ballot List

Chris Armas
Chico Borja
Mary Harvey
Frankie Hejduk
Clint Mathis
Shep Messing
Tony Sanneh
Kate Sobrero Markgraf
Tisha Venturini-Hoch
Slavisa “Steve” Zungul

2023 Veteran 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. The statement of how he or she met the Hall of Fame eligibility criteria appears in italics after the name.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Kate Sobrero Markgraf. *Eligibility: 201 games for the U.S. Women's National Team.* A defender who was a regular in the U.S. team that won the 1999 Women's World Cup. Markgraf played 201 full internationals for the United States between 1998 and 2010. Those included 16 games in the 1999, 2003 and 2007 World Cups, five World Cup qualifiers in 2002 and 2006, and 16 games in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games. In addition to the 1999 Women's World Cup final, Markgraf played in victorious efforts in the 2004 and 2008 Olympic finals. She started five of the United States' six games at the 1999 World Cup, including playing every minute of the quarterfinal, semifinal and final victories. Markgraf played three seasons in the WUSA, all of them for Boston, and one season in WPS, for Chicago. She also played one season in the Swedish first division. During her WUSA and WPS seasons she played a total of 76 regular-season games and one playoff game.

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.

Slavisa "Steve" Zungul. *Eligibility: Six seasons in the Major Indoor Soccer League during the qualifying period (1984-92), with three all-MISL selections in that period.* A forward who was considered the outstanding indoor player of his era, and also had noteworthy outdoor achievements. In all, Zungul played 11 MISL seasons for the New York Arrows, Golden Bay Earthquakes, San Diego Sockers and Tacoma Stars. He was a first-team all-MISL selection seven times, the league most valuable player five times, the league scoring leader six times and an MISL champion five times (four with New York and one with San Diego). Zungul played two seasons in the North American Soccer League, 1983 and 1984, both for the Golden Bay Earthquakes, and was a first-team all-star selection both years. He was the NASL's most valuable player and scoring leader in 1984. Zungul's career was considerably hampered by restrictions he faced after he defected from Yugoslavia in 1978 at the age of 24, when he was a rising star of the Yugoslav national team. His former club, Dynamo Zagreb, had FIFA sanctions placed on him that barred him from playing outdoor soccer in the United States until they were overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983. His outdoor career was then cut short by the end of the NASL when he was 30.