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1. New York Red Bull finally names managing director

By: Brian Lewis
New York Post Blog
May 28, 2008

Stover had been hired by Red Bull New York in March as VP of operations and GM of Red Bull Park. He'd been the GM of San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium since 2005, and had spent nine years at the NJSEA before that, rising to Assistant VP of Stadium Operations for Giants Stadium.

I'm going on a limb and saying he's a stadium ops guy. The Penn State grad's background is in constructing and running stadiums. Nothing wrong with that; but from what I understand, his knowledge of soccer is nil. That's OK, as long as he understands while Juan Carlos Osorio and Jeff Agoos reporting TO him that doesn't mean they should be micromanaged BY him.

I'm not going to crucify the guy or the decision yet, especially since I've never even laid eyes on the cat. But I'll admit Austria may not be sending all that positive a message to the supporters stateside. Then again, I've long been of the mind that they're willing to hibernate until Red Bull Park opens. If this helps facilitate that all-important event, I guess it's all good.

2. Red Bulls' Seth Stammer back in, Claudio Reyna back out?

By: Brian Lewis
New York Post Blog
May 28, 2008

Someday the Red Bulls will probably have both of their central midfielders together on the field again; it just probably won't be Saturday in Houston. Seth Stammer trained for a second straight day, but hamstrung captain Claudio Reyna sat out today's practice and appears unlikely to play.

Stammer missed three straight games, including Sunday's humiliating 5-1 rout at the hands of budding rival Chicago.

“It was good to see Seth back we all know what he brings and hopefully he’ll be available for Saturday. I’m hoping Seth is available, and from yesterday and today I think he will be available,” said coach Juan Carlos Osorio, who wasn’t as hopeful for Reyna, who has a strained right hammy.

“He has a problem on his hamstring so I can’t see him in contention for Saturday. No, I cannot (see him playing).”

Forward Oscar Echeverry trained and should be available.

Rookie midfielder David Roth looked good in practice.

3. Red Bulls name Erik Stover managing director

Associated Press

May 28, 2007

SECAUCUS — Erik Stover was promoted to managing director of the New York Red Bulls on Wednesday.

Hired by the MLS team in March as vice president of operations and general manager of Red Bull Park, Stover replaces Marc de Grandpre, who resigned on April 9.

Stover will oversee all of the team's business and commercial aspects. Coach Juan Carlos Osorio and Sporting Director Jeff Agoos will report to him.

Stover had served as the general manager of Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego since 2005. Prior to that he had spent nine years with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, rising to the position of assistant vice president of stadium operations of Giants Stadium.

4. Red Bulls name Erik Stover managing director

By: Ives Galarcep

Soccer By Ives Blog

May 28, 2008

The New York Red Bulls have named Erik Stover as the team's new managing director.

Who is Stover? He was named the team's Vice President of Operations and General Manager of Red Bull Park in March. Before that he spent three years running Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. Before that, Stover was vice president of operations of Giants Stadium.

In short, Red Bull has just hired a man whose entire resume consists of operating stadiums to run their soccer team.

The reaction to the hire by the first source I contacted about it? "He knows absolutely nothing about soccer."

Apparently that is a pre-requisite for the Red Bulls managing director position. Who knew?

The word emerging from Red Bulls sources is that the corporate HQ felt Stover was the best in-house candidate for the job. He will definitely get a chance to learn on the job. If the Red Bulls are lucky, perhaps Stover can develop into a good executive. That still doesn't excuse the fact that Red Bull hired someone with no experience running a pro sports team.

The only word that comes to mind is brainless. Red Bull has just made it clear that A) it has no clue how to run the Red Bulls and B) it is focused solely on the opening of Red Bull Park in 2009.

That was my initial reaction. We will see if Stover can learn on the job and be an effective conduit between the team side and the suits in Salzburg. It is hard to defend a pro sports team hiring someone with no team management experience to run a pro team, but Red Bull has done it two times with Red Bull New York now.

5. Red Bulls offer contract to Jimenez

By: Brian Lewis
New York Post
May 28, 2008

The Post has learned that the Red Bulls have offered a contract to Diego Jimenez, a young Mexican defender who has starting experience both internationally and playing in the Mexican Primera.

Now it remains to be seen if the left-footed defender accepts it.

"We've made him an offer. Now he has the one who has to decide if he wants to take it or not," Red Bulls coach Juan Carlos Osorio said. "I think he has shown enough for us to move forward. I like him as a player. We made him an offer and now he's going to decide."

The 6-foot, 160-pounder turned 22 last month, and was a starter on Mexico's Under-21 National Team, including playing in the Touloun Youth Tournament in France two years ago.

He's married to an American, so he could qualify for a green card if he wishes.

He also played for Tecos, breaking into the big club in the 2005 Apertura and making 11 appearances, seven of them starts. He played seven more in the 2006 Clausura and five in the 2006 Apertura before seeing his playing time wane.

"He can play in the back three as a stopper, or as a marker. I don't see him as a sweeper, but he will help us if he decides to sign," said Osorio, who said Jimenez can play left fullback in a four-man back line (with Kevin Goldthwaite moving inside next to Jeff Parke) or even on the left of a three-man backline, despite his stature.

6. Meet the new boss; Stover named Red Bulls' managing director

By: Michael Lewis and Dylan Butler
Big Apple Soccer
May 28, 2008

The Red Bulls have a new front office boss.

The MLS club announced Wednesday that Erik Stover was promoted to the role of managing director, effective immediately.

Stover replaced Marc de Grandpre, who resigned April 9.

It had been speculated that de Grandpre's successor would come from inside the Red Bull organization in Austria and possibly not be an American.

Stover joined Red Bull New York March 1 as vice president, operations and general manager of Red Bull Park.

He had served as the general manager of Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego since 2005.

Stover spent nine years with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, where he served in a number of positions rising to the position of assistant vice president of stadium operations of Giants Stadium.

His background includes facility and event management for sports and entertainment properties. Stover also had been involved in facility construction and renovation projects at Qualcomm and Giants Stadiums.

Stover, a graduate of Penn State University, will oversee the business and commercial aspects of the team. Coach Juan Carlos Osorio and sporting director Jeff Agoos will report to Stover.