



GAMEDAY



August 10, 2008 @ 5:00PM ET Coach's Story

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 9

D.C. UNITED
vs

**RED
BULLS**

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Dave van den Bergh is one player who decided to ply his trade in the United States after a long career overseas.



INTERNATIONAL VETERANS ATTEST TO MLS' GROWTH

When Red Bulls coach Juan Carlos Osorio traveled to South America to watch Jorge Rojas captain the midfield before his signing this past month, Osorio knew the type of player he was recruiting.

"I told Jorge what type of league he was coming to," Osorio said. "It's very competitive and very athletic. At Red Bull, I also told him about the new training stadium and training facility. We are moving forward."

Clearly, Rojas had a choice. Osorio is confident he could have signed in Brazil, Venezuela or Argentina, yet his decision to come to MLS was one made not to close out a career, but one to benefit it.

"Jorge came here because he thought it'd be a great move for his career," Osorio said.

Dave van den Bergh was another international standout that caught the attention of the Red Bulls' front office. After experiencing a successful career in Europe, van den Bergh noticed the progressive nature of the League.

"It's a league that's developing," van den Bergh said. "I knew that a lot of good

things were going to happen, and they did. They added two more teams since I came here. They are adding two more (in '09 and '10). They added David Beckham. They added the Designated Player rule. All of that is good. This league is going forward."

Many American European soccer fans enjoy watching their European heroes relocate to MLS in their early 30s. The critics of the League, however, cite that as its biggest weakness: One-time wonders using MLS to hang up the boots.

"That was not the objective," van den Bergh responded quickly. "You can best compare it to English soccer. It's physical. There's a lot of running. It's definitely not a league, and it's perceived as such in other parts of the world, where older players can come for a couple of years and be nice and relaxed. Ask any guy who is in their 30s and they say they will have to run and work a lot harder than they ever had."

For more about the progressive state of the League, and for Juan Pablo Angel's perspective nearly two years after entering MLS, log onto newyorkredbulls.com/gameday.