



Media Release

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GLOBAL BARNES-STORMING

Sockers Announce First Four Players, Schedule & Sewell Partnership

Sockers FC today announced the first four members of the club's 2014 roster: (forward) **Ricardo Diegues**, (goalkeeper) **Clint Long**, (midfielder) **Victor Parreiras** and (defender) **Ante Spajic**.

Geographically, head coach **Matt Barnes'** first set of recruits covers a lot of the planet - - - Long is from California, Spajic is from Croatia, and both Diegues and Parreiras are from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. If they were making the journey to West Texas from their respective home towns, the four one-way trips would total nearly twenty-thousand miles (19,084 according to Google!)

Fortunately, the commutes (and Coach Barnes' recruiting trips) were far shorter, as all four players are attending American universities and playing collegiate soccer here.

Long, who is from Arcata, California, has been the starting 'keeper for the University of California, Stanislaus, (NCAA Division II) for the past two seasons ... Spajic has been a two-year starter at Grand Canyon University (NCAA Division I) in Phoenix ... and the duo from Rio de Janeiro are teammates at the University of Texas at Brownsville. Parreiras has played three seasons at UTB, and Diegues has played two years for the Ocelots.

(Please see page two for player bios.)

The Sockers today also announced a new corporate partnership, with Sewell Volkswagen becoming the team's presenting sponsor. Sewell will be part of every Sockers FC event, on and off the field, as well as all team media, publications, web site and social media.

"The partnership will not only enable us to offer first-class family entertainment at home games this season, but will also help us expand our community outreach program as we focus on our primary goal of helping kids," said Sockers general manager Monty Hoppel. "Whether it be through our school programs, our camps, clinics or our youth soccer initiatives, we want to make a difference through the sport of soccer."

- Sockers FC also announced that **Donovan Dowling** has joined the club as assistant coach.

The Olathe, Kansas, native is the head coach at Northeast Texas Community College, where he guided both the men's and women's teams to outstanding, turnaround seasons. The Eagle men went 14-7, earning votes for the NJCAA Division I Top 20 for the first time in school history, while the Lady Eagles posted a 7-10 mark after going winless (0-17) in 2012.

- The Premier Development League (PDL) and the Sockers have also announced the official schedule for the 2014 season.

The club will open its sixth season as members of the PDL on Saturday, May 17, hosting the defending league champion Austin Aztex at Grande Communications Stadium. In addition to the Sockers and Aztex, the PDL Mid-South Division includes the Laredo Heat, the Houston Dutch Lions and the Mississippi Brilla. The Sockers will also face the Albuquerque Sol in a home-and-home series.

(A complete 2014 schedule and more information on assistant coach Donovan Dowling may be found on page three of this release.)

"Sewell Volkswagen is proud to partner with the Sockers Football Club. Soccer is a great sport for the youth of West Texas, and now the avid players in our community can cheer on their own team. The Sockers provide a great atmosphere for family entertainment as well as demonstrating the value of hard work, dedication and fitness. Sewell Volkswagen is privileged to be a part of their 2014 season."

- - - Colin Sewell
President
Sewell Family
of Companies

"We are really excited to partner with Sewell Volkswagen as the title sponsor of the Sockers. Colin Sewell and his team are such great leaders in our community, and we look forward to working with them as we promote the game of soccer in the Permian Basin."

- - - Monty Hoppel
General Manager
Sockers FC

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