

## Yahoo! Sports Free Fantasy Soccer Puts Users At The Helm

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**SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- May 19, 1999 --** Yahoo! Sports (<a href="http://sports.yahoo.com">http://sports.yahoo.com</a>), a comprehensive sports news and information resource, today introduced Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Soccer (<a href="http://fantasysoccer.yahoo.com/mls">http://fantasysoccer.yahoo.com/mls</a>), a weekly online fantasy game that allows Yahoo! users to manage their own soccer team using real-life statistical results and fantasy salaries of today's Major League Soccer (MLS) stars.

Using the Fantasy Soccer \$60 million salary cap as a guide, team owners select their 11-player squad and can follow their team's weekly progress. The better their players perform on the real-life playing field, the more fantasy points they earn for their team. Unlike many competitive fantasy sports sites, which charge users a fee to join a league, make lineup changes, and access fantasy statistics and scoring, Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Soccer is free to users.

An official sponsor of MLS, Yahoo! Sports complements the Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Soccer game with up-to-the-minute MLS coverage, including schedules, standings, scoring updates, final results, game recaps, statistics, additional analysis from Yahoo! Sports' lineup of content providers, and direct links to the official MLS Web site, mlsnet.com, and player biography pages.

Whether fantasy game players are casual sports fans or soccer fanatics, Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Soccer delivers a general manager experience both entertaining and realistic; one that enables users to easily connect with one another through a lineup of community tools," said Tonya Antonucci, senior producer, Yahoo! Sports. 'Team managers have the freedom to choose their strategy, make quick personnel changes from a central lineup page, renegotiate salaries to free up salary cap money, and use the comprehensive offering of Yahoo! Sports to help them make informed player decisions."

## **Fantasy Soccer Stats Reach Fever Pitch**

From goals to red cards, Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Soccer uses an extensive array of data that rewards players for virtually every contribution and penalizes them for mistakes they make on the pitch. STATS, Inc., a leading statistical-information provider, tracks points for three different field positionsforwards/midfielders, defenders, and goalkeepers. Each player's game stats are automatically converted to fantasy points along with a corresponding fantasy salary (minimum \$1 million per player) that helps managers determine which players to keep, add, or cut from their team to adhere to the salary cap. Determined initially by a stat scoring system which tracks player performance from MLS games played this season and last season, fantasy salaries are based purely on player statistics and do not reflect actual MLS player salaries.

Fantasy team owners can join public or private leagues with others from around the corner or around the globe. The creator of a private league becomes the 'commissioner" and can invite friends and colleagues to play. Managers, who can have a maximum of one team in Yahoo! Sports Fantasy Soccer, can place their team in as many as six private and public groups.

The overall public leaderboard and all group standings are updated nightly and made available the following morning. Standings on the overall leaderboard display the Top 10 fantasy teams with a link to the Top 50 performing teams worldwide. Standings in public group pages display the Top 25 performing teams, as well as the member manager's own team rank, while private group standings display points for all managers in the group.

### Kickin' It Soccer Style

Throughout the 1999 MLS regular season (which ends Oct. 10, 1999) and beyond, fantasy team managers can connect with other owners and the online soccer community using Yahoo!'s community and communication services such as Yahoo! Chat, Yahoo! Clubs, Yahoo! Message Boards, and Yahoo! Pager. Using these interactive tools, owners can kick around issues, discuss individual players, and obtain fantasy soccer tips.

Yahoo! Sports is part of the comprehensive Yahoo! global, branded network of properties. By working with leading providers of sports content and services, Yahoo! Sports connects fans with news, information and coverage of sports leagues such as MLS, MLB, NFL, NBA, NCAA, NASCAR, and WNBA. Yahoo! Sports also provides coverage of world soccer, golf, tennis, and international sporting events such as the World Cup.

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