

HERSHEY'S PRESENTS **PARENTS & KIDS**

# HIS BIGGEST LEANS

MLS midfielder *Chris Armas* loves soccer – and the parents who raised him



**W**hen Chris Armas of the Chicago Fire was growing up, his mom, Crysel, stayed home to take care of him and his two brothers – and to keep them all out of trouble! The boys often played with their friends, but she made sure they spent lots of time with just the family. Chris' dad, Phil, played soccer with them in the backyard for hours in his free time.

**Hard work pays off!**

Chris's mom and dad taught him and his brothers how important it is to work hard. They raised good athletes, serious competitors, and a very close family. So close, that when Chris was drafted by the Los Angeles Galaxy, part of him didn't want to go! He was 23 and had lived in New York his entire life. He didn't want to move so far from home. But his dad told him, "If you don't go, it will probably bother you for the rest of your life."

Chris overcame his fears, and the distance hasn't been a problem, after all. He and his parents talk almost every day and go to every game they can. They are, and always have been, Chris's biggest fans.

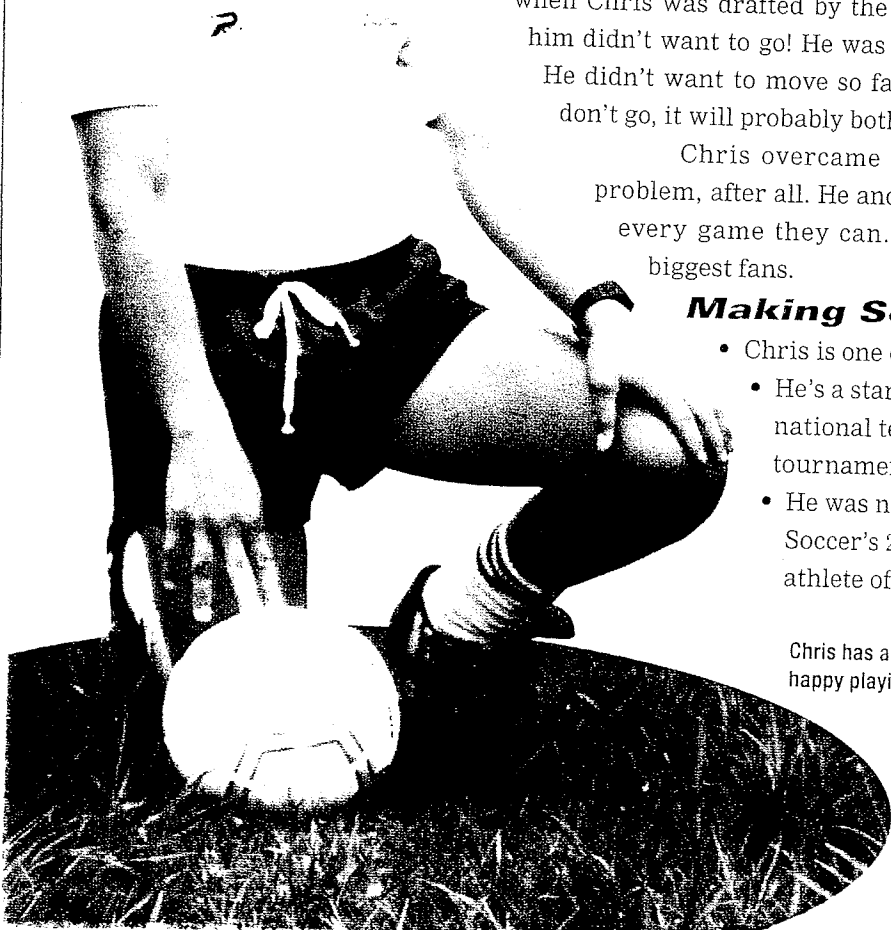
**Making Soccer History**

- Chris is one of the country's best players.
- He's a starter for the Chicago Fire and the men's national team, which will play in the World Cup tournament in June.
- He was named U.S. Soccer's 2000 male athlete of the year.

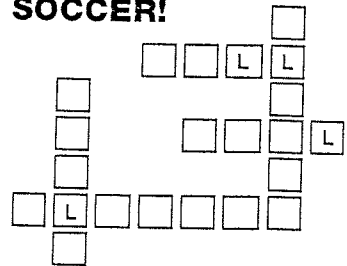
Chris has always been happy playing ball.



Phil and Crysel Armas believe a close family is key to success in life.



Fill in the missing letters to spell out these five things: cleats, ball, field, goal and players needed to play **SOCCER!**



# Happy Landon!

**Landon Donovan of the San Jose Earthquakes loves playing back in the U.S.A.**

Last January, Landon Donovan was miserable. The 19-year-old soccer forward was living 9,000 miles from home, and his dream of playing for one of the world's top soccer teams had become a nightmare.

He had moved to Leverkusen, Germany, in 1999, to play for Bayer Leverkusen, a team in Germany's premier league. Team officials had watched Landon play for the U.S. under-17 national team and signed him to a four-year, \$400,000 contract. He joined the German team after his junior year at Redlands (California) High School.

Leverkusen sent Landon to play for its reserve team. Landon was talented: He was named the best player at the 1999 under-17 world championships. But he needed to become a more physical player to compete with the stronger pros. After two years, Landon hadn't moved up to the big club, and he was lonely and homesick.

"I told myself that if I wasn't playing there, I needed to come home," he says.

Landon got his wish in March 2001. Leverkusen let him go home to play with the San Jose Earthquakes.

As of July 19, Landon's speed and agility had led San Jose to the best record in the MLS West, 10-3-5. He was tied for second on the team in points (11), with four goals and four assists, and was named a starter for the West All-Star team.

"Landon is a bright star of the future," says San Jose Coach Frank Yallop.

More important, Donovan is happy again. "There's nothing better for me than coming to San Jose," he says. "Life is so good!" — by Nick Friedman



### Happy Landon/His biggest Fans

1. What year did Landon play with San Jose Earthquakes?
2. In 1999 Landon moved to?
3. Name Landon's highschool?
4. How many years did he play in Germany?
5. Who was Landon's coach at San Jose?
6. What two teams did Chris play for?
7. Chris's mon and dad always taught them it was important to do what?
8. Chris was 2000 male Athlete of the year. True or False
9. How old was Chris when he was drafted?
10. What does Phil and Crysel Armas believe is the key to success in life?