

NATIONAL MUSEUM of the AMERICAN

INDIAN

SPRING 2014

A WARRIOR CHIEF AMONG WARRIORS

REMEMBERING
U.S. SENATOR
DANIEL K. INOUE



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PHOTO BY WALTER LARRIMORE

ON THE COVER: The late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D. – Hawaii), September 21, 2004, addressing the assembled Nations at the grand opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

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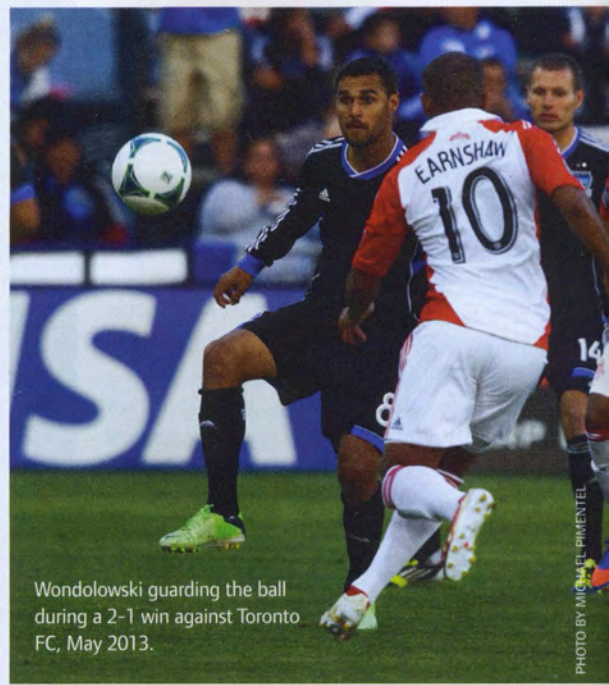


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San Jose Earthquakes' forward Chris Wondolowski during a May 2013 match against the Colorado Rapids.

PHOTO BY KELLEY L. COX/USA TODAY SPORTS



Wondolowski guarding the ball during a 2-1 win against Toronto FC, May 2013.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL PIMENTEL



Wondolowski keeping possession of the ball against Vancouver Whitecaps' captain Jay DeMerit.

PHOTO BY MIKE BURNS

CHRIS WONDOLOWSKI:

HEADING FOR THE WORLD CUP

BY ANYA MONTIEL

How the U.S. national soccer team will do in the World Cup tournament this spring is an open question, but it has already made history. Its roster could possibly include forward Chris Wondolowski (Kiowa), the only American Indian playing professional major league soccer, and possibly the first one poised to compete in the world's most popular team sport competition.

Wondolowski has already traveled to Brazil, site of this June's World Cup tournament, as part of a 26-man training contingent. The national team will be pared to 23 players in May.

Regardless of his World Cup fortunes, Wondo, as he is known to his fans, has already made his mark in Major League Soccer (MLS). Super-lean, at six feet and 150 pounds, he has become a formidable striker and proven goal scorer for the San Jose Earthquakes, equaling the MLS record for most goals scored in a single season in 2012 and winning that year's Golden Boot (awarded each season to the player who scores the most goals). In the last three seasons, he has scored 56 goals for the club.

A member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, he is also a significant role model for Indian Country. In spite of his many professional titles and awards, he stays out of the limelight and focuses on improving and sharpening his play. Famed soccer defender Jimmy Conrad aptly called him the "most polite, well-mannered and humble player in the league."

Wondolowski is a direct descendant of Kiowa Chief Dohasan, and his Kiowa name, Bau Daigh, translates in English as "warrior coming over the hill." He credits his mother, Janice Hoyt, and her parents, Bill and Joycetta Bear Elliott, for keeping him connected to his Kiowa roots. Since childhood, Wondolowski and his siblings have attended powwows and visited relatives in Oklahoma. While most of his Kiowa relatives live in Oklahoma, they make the trek to Texas whenever the Earthquakes play against FC Dallas.

Born in 1983, Wondolowski is from Danville, Cal., a town 30 miles east of San Francisco. In high school, he participated in three sports; baseball, track and soccer. But his first love was soccer, a second-generation sport for him. His father (and first coach), John Wondolowski, played soccer for the University of California at Berkeley, and later became an assistant soccer coach at San Ramon Valley High School. His younger brother, Stephen, played for another MLS team, the Houston Dynamo, and is currently an assistant coach for the San Jose Earthquakes' Youth Academy.

Colleges and universities recruited Wondolowski for track, but he felt passionately about soccer and chose the offer from California State University, Chico. He played soccer all four seasons at Chico, and was named to the First Team All-California College Athletic Association every year. He completed his college career with 39 goals and 23 assists for 101 points over 84 games. While in col-



Wondolowski after scoring a 22-yard goal against the Seattle Sounders, March 2013.

IN SPITE OF HIS MANY PROFESSIONAL TITLES AND AWARDS, HE STAYS OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT AND FOCUSES ON IMPROVING AND SHARPENING HIS PLAY. FAMED SOCCER DEFENDER JIMMY CONRAD APTLY CALLED HIM THE "MOST POLITE, WELL-MANNERED AND HUMBLE PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE."



CHRIS WONDOLOWSKI



PHOTO BY ANVA MONTIEL

After the 2013 season, Wondolowski autographed his trademark long-sleeved Earthquakes soccer jersey, which has been accessioned into the collection of the National Museum of the American Indian.

lege, he also met his future wife, Lindsey, a Chico State volleyball player.

In 2005, Wondolowski was drafted by the San Jose Earthquakes, and made his professional debut against Chivas USA. When the failure to secure a soccer stadium put the Earthquakes on hiatus during the 2006 and 2007 seasons, Wondolowski and the team played for the Houston Dynamo. There he scored his first MLS goal, against the Chicago Fire.

Wondolowski returned to San Jose in 2009. His career picked up speed in 2010 when he led the MLS in scoring with 18 goals in 26 matches, pushing the Earthquakes into the playoffs. That year, Wondolowski received his first MLS

Golden Boot, and was included in the MLS Best XI, recognizing the top MLS player that season in each of soccer's eleven positions. Then he was named to the United States roster for the 2011 CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football) Gold Cup competition.

Wondolowski continued to push himself, and his career exploded in 2012, making him a recognized force internationally. During that season, he scored 27 goals for the San Jose Earthquakes. This feat tied him with American soccer striker Roy Lassiter for the most goals scored in a season. He was the MLS Most Valuable Player in 2012, becom-

ing the first Earthquake to receive the award. He was included in the MLS Best XI in 2011 and 2012 as well.

His agility and ball control continued to shine during the 2012 MLS All-Star Game against Chelsea F.C., the holders of the English Football Association Challenge Cup (FA Cup) and winner of the European Champions League. More than 19,000 fans packed PPL Park in Philadelphia for the match, the largest attendance in the stadium's history.

John Terry, the Chelsea captain who is considered one of the best defenders in the world, shadowed Wondolowski. At the 21-minute mark, Wondolowski scored the first goal, giv-

ing the MLS a 1-0 lead against Chelsea. Terry then tied the game with a goal. At the half, cameras caught Terry walking over to Wondolowski, shaking his hand and telling him that, “your movement is incredible. It’s like a nightmare for me.” When asked about that moment, Wondolowski’s face brightened. He responded, “it was such a cool moment. I love to watch Terry play, and he said that to me.” The match ended with a 3-2 victory for the MLS All Stars.

During the 2013 season finale match between the Earthquakes and FC Dallas, Wondolowski seized the ball and fired a left-footed shot into the net, helping his team finish with a 2-1 win. That goal marked Wondolowski’s 11th of the season and earned him the season title of team goal leader.

In describing Wondolowski’s abilities, All-Star teammate midfielder Kyle Beckerman said, “he’s got an instinct in him... he has it. And it seems to put him in the right position at the right time.”

Dan Kennedy, 2012 All-Star goalkeeper agreed: “He just has a knack for scoring goals. He always seems to be in the right spot [and] scores a majority of his goals inside the 18-yard box. You can’t really put a price on that.” Wondolowski reflects on his recent successes, “I am the same player, but I continue to learn more about the sport. Confidence has helped my game. A great thing about soccer is that you can get better.”

Wondolowski sees the growth of soccer in the United States as an opportunity to inspire more youth, especially Native youth, to take up the sport. As he sees it, soccer strengthens one’s body and mind, producing lasting effects into adulthood. Soccer is physically and mentally challenging, and it builds balance, agility and mental acuity. Likewise the sport requires teamwork.

Wondolowski says, “I love the team aspect of soccer. There are ten other guys relying on you, and you are relying on them.” He continues, “you don’t need pads or clubs to play, just a soccer ball and players.”

Wondolowski received an opportunity to work with Native youth when Sam McCracken, a member of the Fort Peck Sioux Tribe and chairman of the Nike N7 Fund, invited him to be one of the Nike N7 ambassadors. McCracken, who spent 20 years as a high school basketball coach, began working at Nike in 1997 and created the Fund as a

way to support athletics in indigenous communities in North America (See “Fundraising Prowess,” below.)

Wondolowski proudly wears Nike N7 apparel, and the fund created the Nike N7 Hypervenom, a special soccer cleat for the line. Through the Fund, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to speak with senators about health issues affecting Native communities. Wondolowski has seen the increase in obesity and

diabetes in Indian Country, and his goal is to run a soccer camp for Native youth. Through the camp, he wants to share his love of soccer and show Native youth that the sport builds self-confidence and group cooperation, skills which transfer off the field. *

For more information, follow Chris Wondolowski on Twitter @ChrisWondo.

Anya Montiel (Tohono O’odham/Mexican), a frequent contributor to American Indian, is a doctoral student at Yale University.



Nike N7 recently unveiled its Hypervenom cleat in silver and black, with blue detailing, inspired by Wondolowski.

FUNDRAISING PROWESS

Chris Wondolowski is an ambassador for the Nike N7 fund that, since 2009, has provided more than \$2 million for Native youth sports programs.

The “N7” part of the name draws on the concept of the Seven Generations, how the decisions and actions of today’s generation will impact the seven generations to come. The fund posits that, “a physically active lifestyle promotes more than exercise. Involvement in sports and physical activity leads to greater self-confidence, enabling youth to be a force for positive change in their communities.”

The other ambassadors include golfer Notah Begay III (Navajo/Isleta/San Felipe), football quarterback Sam Bradford (Cherokee), long-distance runner Alvina Begay (Navajo) and snowboarder Spencer O’Brien (Haida).

Wondolowski supports the Nike N7 Fund along with his other charity, Street Soccer USA, a non-profit national organization which seeks to end homelessness through sports. During the opening group match of the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup, he inadvertently showed his prowess as a fundraiser.

In the match against Belize, Wondolowski’s jersey was misspelled with an extra “w” or “Wondowlowski.” He wore the jersey despite the mistake and scored a first-half hat trick to give the USA national team a 3-1 lead. (A hat trick is the term for when one player scores three goals in a game.) During the second half, he was given a replacement jersey with his name spelled correctly...and he did not score. Team USA did win the match (6-1), but Wondolowski later joked that he should wear a jersey with “Wondowlowski” on it all the time. Comedian Drew Carey, a U.S. soccer fan, then purchased the misspelled jersey for \$5,000, donating the money to Nike N7 and Street Soccer USA.