A warrior chief among warriors

Remembering U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye
A WARRIOR CHIEF AMONG WARRIORS
Memories of the crucial role of the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D. – Hawaii) in founding the National Museum of the American Indian.

POCAHONTAS’ FIRST MARRIAGE: THE POWHATAN SIDE OF THE STORY
Mother, widow, brainwashed kidnap victim. That, according to tribal tradition, was Pocahontas before her much romanticized wedding with English planter John Rolfe, the 400th anniversary of which will be celebrated this year.

RECOGNITION FOR THE PAMUNKEY
After centuries, federal acknowledgement is near for Powhatan’s people.

A NATIVE VIEW OF THE ANNIVERSARY

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

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

Wondolowski keeping possession of the ball against Vancouver Whitecaps' captain Jay DeMerit.
CHRIS WONDOLOWSKI: HEADING FOR THE WORLD CUP

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-

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

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, becoming 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 Won­
dolowski, 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 be­
tween the Earthquakes and FC Dallas, Won­
dolowski 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 ef­
fects 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 as­
pect of soccer. There are ten other guys relying
on you, and you are relying on them.” He con­
tinues, “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 Mc­
Cracken, a member of the Fort Peck Sioux
Tribe and chairman of the Nike N7 Fund,
invited him to be one of the Nike N7 am­
assadors. 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 com­
unities in North America (See “Fundraising
Prowess,” below.)

Wondolowski proudly wears Nike N7 ap­
parel, and the fund created the Nike N7 Hy­
pervenom, 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. Won­
dolowski 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.

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/Iseta/San Fe­
lipe), 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 “Wondowloswki.” 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 “Wondolowski” 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.