



PAGE
3B

Lynx continue hot streak at home vs. Seattle Storm

Weekender SPORTS

NFL roundup2B
Big Ten notebook3B
New US soccer coach4B
Area racing points leaders.....5B

1B

INDEPENDENT-MARSHALL, MINN.
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JULY 30-31, 2011

Marshall's Megan Vogl suits up with neighbors from the North

■ Upcoming Tiger freshman took part in Schwan's USA Cup with Canadian team

By Alex Oey
aoey@marshallindependent.com

The Schwan's USA Cup is the largest youth soccer tournament in the Western Hemisphere, and this year Marshall was represented in the under-16 girls portion of the tournament.

Marshall freshman Megan Vogl had wanted to play in the Schwan's USA Cup for years, but other commitments kept her from making the trip.

This year, after joining the Dakota Alliance for the summer, everything came together perfectly and Vogl found herself heading to Blaine for the tournament, which started on July 19.

"I've been wanting to do this for a couple years, but I've never been able to sign up because of conflicts," said Vogl. "Because I played on the Sioux Falls (S.D.) team this year, I had a chance."

Vogl took advantage of the Guest Player Program at the USA Cup, where coaches who need to fill out their rosters can find play-

ers, like Vogl, that want to compete.

"You just have to go online and answer a few questions (to be considered)," Vogl said. "If a team was short players, they could look at what you said and could e-mail back (if interested)."

Vogl was one of the lucky players to be picked up when FC Northwest Explosion of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada contacted her to play outside midfielder.

"They got ahold of me two weeks before the tournament started," said Vogl. "(The coach) asked me where I was from, how many years I had been playing, my positions and other things."

Kelly Moar, one of the FC Northwest coaches, said that after finding Megan it was a few e-mails and calls before deciding to add her to the team.

"First we sent them an e-mail and told them a little about our

Vogl PAGE 2B



Photo courtesy of Todd Vogl

Marshall's Megan Vogl, left, holds off a defender for the ball during a pool play contest against Orono at the Schwan's USA Cup. Vogl was a guest player with FCNW Explosion, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, competing in the under-16 silver bracket.

FINDING A NEW HOME

Leaving Honduras for an unknown country, Eddie Turcios scraped by until the Marshall soccer community brought him in

By Matt Dahlseid
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One hundred dollars for his Playstation. That was the deal.

Eddie Turcios needed the money. Video games couldn't satisfy the teenager's appetite for activity anyway. He was craving the game he had played in his native Honduras ever since he could stand upright.

He needed soccer. "In my country, everyone plays. It's inside you," he said.

The \$100 was what Turcios had to collect to buy a soccer uniform and join the Marshall United Soccer Association youth program. Selling his Playstation was about the only option he had to get enough money. He had no one else to go to.

With cash in hand, Turcios went to register, but his plan hit another snag.

"They asked me my address and I was like, 'I don't know my address. I don't have a house,'" he said.

Turcios, now 18, struggles to piece together his timeline. It's understandable, his life has gone through a whirlwind of change in just a few short years.

He said he came to the United States in 2007, living for about a half a year in Montevideo with friends before heading to Marshall to live with an aunt. She went back to Honduras in June of 2009, leaving Turcios without a home.

Turcios PAGE 4B

Photos courtesy of Kathy Bartz/
Illustration by Aaron Schlemmer

BRINGIN' HEAT ON THE WEST COAST



AP Photo

Minnesota Twins' Francisco Liriano works against the Oakland Athletics during the first inning Friday in Oakland, Calif. The Twins led 5-2 after the top of the sixth inning as the Independent went to press. Liriano had three strikeouts and gave up one one, five hits and two earned runs in five innings.

Vikings formally announce McNabb deal

EDEN PRAIRIE (AP) — Donovan McNabb didn't agree to a trade to the Minnesota Vikings to sit on the sidelines and mentor a young rookie.

That's not why the Vikings brought him here, either.

The Vikings officially announced their trade with Washington on Friday, shortly after league rules permitted new contracts to be signed. The Vikings sent a 2012 sixth-round draft choice and a conditional 2013 sixth-rounder to the Redskins to get the veteran quarterback they needed.

With first-round draft pick Christian Ponder already in the mix and the 34-year-old McNabb coming off a down year with the Redskins, some wondered if there would be an open competition for the starting job in training camp. But McNabb and Vikings head coach Leslie Frazier put those questions to rest Friday night.

"When you trade for a guy who has been a starter for 12 years, you're not bringing him in here to be a backup," McNabb said. "You're bringing him in here to win now."

Frazier got to know McNabb well when he was an assistant in Philadelphia from 1999-2002. McNabb's first four seasons with the Eagles.

When the NFL lockout wiped out all of the minicamps and organized team activities that would have helped Ponder prepare to start right away, there was one guy Frazier targeted to bridge the gap from Brett Favre to Ponder.

"We've signed him hoping he's going to be our starting quarterback barring some unforeseen circumstances," Frazier said. "He looks great. He's everything I thought he would be in our conversations and I fully expect him to go out and lead our football team to the 2011 season."

The Vikings announced they signed New Orleans defensive tackle Remi Ayodele to a three-year deal and re-signed kicker Ryan Longwell to a four-year deal. They have also agreed to terms with

McNabb PAGE 2B

SCHEDULE

Saturday's Games Amateur Baseball

Marshall at Mankato Twins
Milroy Yankees vs. Watkins at Eden Valley

Sunday's Games Amateur Baseball

Lamberton at Essig

SCORES

Amateur Baseball
Essig 2, Lamberton 1

IN THE NEWS

Phillies acquire Pence from Astros

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies made another deadline splash Friday night, acquiring All-Star right fielder Hunter Pence from the Houston Astros.

The NL East-leading Phillies got Pence and cash from Houston for three minor leaguers and a player to be named, shoring up their lineup as they try to make it back to the World Series for the third time in four years.

The 28-year-old Pence began the day with a .309 batting average, 11 homers and 62 RBIs.

Turcios FROM PAGE 1B

Some nights were spent sleeping by a laundromat. Other nights he was able to get his friends' families to let him stay at their house. When parents involved in the Marshall youth soccer program figured out his story, they banded together to get him on the right track.

Kathy Bartz, Turcios' adopted mother, said his life's journey could be made into a book. Listening to him tell his story, it is difficult to fathom all the twists and turns, upheaval and hard luck he has gone through before even reaching adulthood.

From being bounced around from home to home in Honduras, to homeless on the streets of Marshall, to a 2011 Marshall High School graduate, it has been Turcios' determination and never-give-up attitude, along with the goodwill of others, that has helped him overcome the odds that have been continually stacked against him.

"He's got a very good sense of humor and likes to joke around a lot, but there's certainly a stubborn streak in him," Bartz said. "That's probably how he got to where he is today."

Hard times in Honduras

Turcios, born Edras Turcios, never knew his parents. They abandoned him when he was a year old and he began living with his grandmother along with a dozen other family members in Yoro, Honduras. He said his grandmother died when he was around the age of nine, so he was then sent to live with his uncles and cousins.

In neighborhoods where families set bowls outside of their homes to collect rain so they can have water to drink and clean with, life is already difficult. For a child living without his parents and without the one person he was closest to during his formative years, the hardships are compounded even further.

"I never had a toy when I grew up. I never had money or nothing," Turcios said. "My family in Honduras wasn't rich, they were kind of in the middle. They had money to buy stuff, but they kind of like didn't pay attention to kids there, so I never really had like a child's life. I went to school, played soccer and worked sometimes."

The only constant in Turcios' life was soccer. He would play it with his friends at school and on the streets with neighborhood children.

Turcios said when he was about 12 years old, recruiters came to his school to select students to join a soccer academy that groom players to enter the Honduran national team's program. He was picked as one of the players, accepted the offer and moved to San Pedro Sula, a metropolis of around 1 million people near the country's western border.

Nearly every young boy in Honduras grows up dreaming of stepping onto the grass at San Pedro Sula's Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano, where the national team plays most of its home games, wearing the country's colors of blue and white.

Turcios' cousin, Danilo Turcios, was fortunate enough to have his soccer dream become a reality. He has 85 international appearances to his name, with experiences that include playing in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia and the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The World Cup appearance was the second in the country's



Photo submitted by Kathy Bartz

Former Marshall soccer player Eddie Turcios charges upfield during a game against Southwest Minnesota Christian on October 5, 2010, in Marshall.

history and its first in 28 years.

Things were looking up for Eddie Turcios in San Pedro Sula. While living with an uncle and a cousin, he said his academy took care of his daily expenses. He went to school during the day and afterwards he would fine-tune his skills in the sport he loved.

But even at his young age, Turcios was a realist. He knew his chances of ever reaching the national team were slim to none considering the thousands of other boys in Honduras who were competing to reach the same goal, so another dream crept into his mind — he wanted to go to America.

"I decided when I was like 15," he said. "I was doing good in soccer, but I just decided to come to get a better education."

"It's not the same education here as my country. It's way better here."

A team effort

Turcios entered the United States and made his way to Montevideo. Unable to speak any English, he was entered into the school system. It was at school where Edras Turcios picked up a new first name.

Said Turcios, "The teachers couldn't pronounce my name so they said, 'Could we call you Eddie or Edgar or something?' I was like, 'Call me Eddie, it sounds better.'"

Turcios said he spent about six months in Montevideo before he moved in with his aunt in Marshall. He was enrolled in school in March of 2009. But like he has experienced throughout his life, the little stability he had found was short-lived. His aunt moved back to Honduras without explanation after he had lived with her for about five months.

Unlike in Honduras, he didn't have any other family members to take him in this time. He had to fend for himself.

Two friends, Jonathan and Jairo, who also came to America illegally, helped Turcios get food like apples and oranges to keep him from going hungry. The three hung out and played games together. Turcios said that Jonathan and Jairo became his closest

friends. The friendship did not last. They were both later sent back to their home country.

It was through soccer where Turcios found his saving grace.

Diana Cirks was the team manager of the Marshall United under-16 team when Turcios joined. She said he became friends with her children, Cody, now 19, and Tanner, 16, and she noticed he never had parents around.

"Nobody really cared for him, so I would pick him up and drop him off, whatever he needed," Cirks said.

Cirks eventually realized Turcios had been sleeping in the street and she told him he could stay at her house for a night or two. She and her husband, Mike, bought shoes and other things for Turcios and helped feed him.

For Cirks, finding out there was a homeless child who was playing soccer with her kids sparked a strong instinct to help out.

"It broke my heart. I have two boys of my own, so I know boys need their mom," she said.

Turcios also spent time at the home of Kevin and Ivonne Hart, where he hung out with their children, Liana, Ethan and Isaac. When Kevin Hart heard Turcios was homeless, he sent out an e-mail to the other parents of players in the youth program asking for assistance. Turcios quickly found out that soccer moms and soccer dads can be a very powerful force.

Some parents donated money to go towards taking care of Turcios. Some bought him clothing and other goods. Kathy Bartz, whose son, Riley, had gone through the soccer program and had already graduated, felt compelled to make an even more generous contribution. She let Turcios into her home.

Building a bond

Bartz felt she was a good candidate to take Turcios in since Riley and her daughter, Hannah, were both grown and out of the house. She said she had already been looking for something to do to help out in the community and came to realize that her next project was looking her in the eye.

Lending a helping hand was

nothing new for Bartz. In the past, she had assisted Somali children in the youth soccer program by giving them rides to practices and games, as well as showing them a good time by doing things like taking them swimming. As they approached the end of high school, she even helped them apply for colleges and for student loans since their parents still struggled with English.

This was different. Much different. This time Bartz was offering to let a teen with a troubled past into her house. She and the father of her children were divorced, so it would be her and Turcios living together. Before he moved in, she knew she had to lay down the law.

Bartz explained, "I told him, 'If we do this, there will be rules and you'll follow my rules.' And he said, 'What are your rules?' Then I said, 'Does it really matter? Where else do you have to go?' So he said, 'OK, that'll be just fine.'"

Turcios began living with Bartz in August of 2009. His English was still weak, but Bartz said she didn't have any problems communicating with him. He worked on his language skills over time by listening to instructional CDs, as well as using some not-so-traditional methods like texting with his friends on his phone and communicating through the social network website Facebook.

Along with learning English, Turcios still had to follow Bartz's rules. Bartz said the main rule was that if he showed respect to her, she would show respect to him. There was another rule that Turcios had to abide by, but struggled with early on.

"I never followed the curfew because I'd never had a curfew before, so that was kind of different for me," Turcios said.

Turcios got into trouble at times. That was to be expected for a teenager who had lived a life of instability in one of the poorest nations in Latin America and later lived on the streets of a country that was foreign to him. It was a major adjustment to transition into an ordinary Midwestern household.

When Turcios did something wrong, Bartz and her friends, like Diana Cirks, worked to get him back on the right path.

"We wanted for him not to be spoiled, but to live a normal life," Cirks said. "More than anything, we tried to teach him responsibility."

"There were a couple times where he got into trouble and we would take him to neighbors' houses to rake some lawns to show him there were consequences for his actions. We just wanted to show him what it was like to be part of a normal family."

Anger issues were also a problem for Turcios, which he readily admitted and sought help for. He said he went to anger management classes and has learned to deal with his feelings better and control his temper.

From the start, Bartz said Turcios was very open with her, but it still took him time to feel at home under her roof.

"I think it took him awhile to realize that it would be a lasting relationship because he hadn't had that since his grandmother died," Bartz said. "I think he was kind of sabotaging that at first because he didn't think it would last."

"When he realized that I wasn't going to kick him out the door and

that he was welcome to stay, that's when he made the turnaround."

A normal life

As time went on, Turcios' world began to settle in. Unlike when he was living with his aunt, he started to attend classes regularly and went on to play soccer at Marshall High School for two years. He built relationships with his soccer friends, who continued to help him with his language skills and taught him how to be an ordinary teenager. But he still had hard work to catch up with his classmates in school, so he took extra classes online.

In January of this year, Bartz legally adopted Turcios. The boy who never knew his biological parents finally got a mom. He was grateful.

"Since the first time I went to her house, she was amazing. She was so nice," Turcios said.

"Now when they ask me, I call her Mom. When people ask me 'who's your mom?' I say her name. I think of her as Mom."

Turcios got his green card in April and must wait five years to become a naturalized United States citizen. He has plenty to keep him busy between now and then. He was able to graduate with 167 of his classmates in May and will attend Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount this fall. He plans on studying graphic design and will also play for the men's soccer team, which is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

It has been an incredible turnaround since the Marshall soccer parents found out Turcios was living on the streets. Those who know Bartz and what she has done for Turcios are in awe of her generosity and selflessness.

"She a saint, an absolute saint," Cirks said. "She's got a heart bigger than a lot of people. I think right away there were some families who gave her some money to help out, but then she took the brunt of it."

"I would have been clueless to try to do what she did, but she never took 'no' for an answer. I've said I wish there was some type of award we could give her."

Bartz does not want any award. Her award is when she looks into her son's eyes and sees the person he has become.

"He's really grown into a pleasant young man," she said.

A game has tied everything together for Turcios. The game he has always loved has led him to find people who have grown to love him.

"Soccer has helped me to learn more English, get more friends. It gave me a house to live in and people who care about me," said Turcios, who said he likes to give gifts as a way to say "thank you" to those who have helped him along the way.

Turcios recently spent a week at the Schwan's USA Cup International Tournament — the largest youth soccer tournament in the Western Hemisphere — in Blaine, which highlighted his summer. He played with a team from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and helped the squad go unbeaten in pool play and advance to the semifinals.

Next week, Turcios will head to Rosemount to begin soccer practice with his new college teammates. Wherever his life takes him from there, he will always have a home to go back to.

US hires Klinsmann to coach men's national team

(AP) — Now that the U.S. Soccer federation's perennial coach-in-waiting finally has the job, Juergen Klinsmann will be expected to kick-start a stagnant men's national team.

The USSF moved quickly Friday in hiring Klinsmann a day after the firing of Bob Bradley.

The former standout player and coach for the

German national team will be a familiar name to American fans. The U.S. almost hired Klinsmann twice — first after the 2006 World Cup and again last year before giving Bradley what turned out to be a short-lived contract extension.

"I am proud and honored to be named the head coach of the U.S. men's national team," Klinsmann said. "I would like to thank the U.S. Soccer Federation for the opportunity, and I'm excited about the challenge ahead. I am looking forward to bringing the team together for our upcoming match against Mexico and starting

on the road toward qualifying for the 2014 FIFA World Cup."

Klinsmann will be introduced Monday at a news conference in New York. His first game as U.S. coach is Aug. 10 against archrival Mexico in an exhibition in Philadelphia.

Qualifying for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil begins next June.

"He is a highly accomplished player and coach with the experience and knowledge to advance the program," USSF President Sunil Gulati said. "Juergen has had success in many different areas of the game, and we look forward to

the leadership he will provide on and off the field."

Former U.S. defender Alexi Lalas, who worked alongside Klinsmann for ESPN at last year's World Cup, expects him to inject energy, but notes he's not a miracle worker.

"It's not as if all of sudden because Juergen Klinsmann is coach that we're going to have an American Lionel Messi drop into our laps," Lalas said. "The players are what they are. It's up to him to make sure he has the correct mix of players and to motivate them, to coach them up. For the experienced veterans

that are part of the national team setup, this will be a source of motivation — and maybe a kick in the pants."

Although the federation has discussed the job with Klinsmann in the past, the coach's desire for wide-ranging authority over the entire U.S. program became a point of contention.

"When you look at where we are and where we should be, Juergen is coming in with a full-blown plan," said former U.S. forward Eric Wynalda, now a commentator for Fox Soccer. "There's a lot of things he's been very adamant about, things he feels need to change. The re-

luctance from U.S. Soccer's point of view to relinquish power was the only piece of red tape in his way."

Klinsmann will have a chance to make his mark in the federation's youth teams, given current coaching vacancies at the Under-20 team, which failed to qualify for this year's World Cup, and the Under-23 team, which soon will start preparations for 2012 Olympic qualifying. The Under-17 team also could face a reassessment after its second-round elimination with a 4-0 loss to Germany at this summer's FIFA championship.

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