

Maasranga TV  
& STAR Cricket  
ICC Champions Trophy  
Second Semifinal  
India v Sri Lanka  
Live from 3:30pm

Maasranga TV  
& STAR Sports  
FIFA Confederations Cup  
Spain v Tahiti  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)  
Nigeria v Uruguay  
Live from 4:00am (Friday)

## Too hot for Moyes

### MU'S FIRST 5



17 Aug Swansea City (A)  
24 Aug Chelsea (H)  
31 Aug Liverpool (A)  
14 Sep Crystal Palace (H)  
21 Sep Manchester City (A)

AFP, London

Champions Manchester United will travel to Swansea City for their first Premier League match under new manager David Moyes, while Manuel Pellegrini's Manchester City are at home to Newcastle United on Aug. 17.

United, kicking off their league campaign without Alex Ferguson in charge for the first time since 1986, were handed a tricky opening five matches in fixture lists published on Wednesday.

They host Chelsea, with Jose Mourinho back in charge for the second time, on Aug. 24 before Moyes makes a return to Merseyside with a game at Anfield against old foes Liverpool on Aug. 31.

The champions then take on promoted Crystal Palace before making the short journey to the Etihad Stadium for the first Manchester derby against last year's runners-up with their new Chilean manager on Sept. 22.

The return Manchester derby at Old Trafford is scheduled for March 21.

"Lively start to the season! Let us at

them," declared United defender Rio Ferdinand on Twitter.

Chelsea, third last season behind the Manchester clubs, start at Stamford Bridge against newly promoted Hull City with Frank Lampard hoping to make a record 18th appearance in an opening fixture of a Premier League season.

The west Londoners then host Aston Villa after their trip north to United.

Everton, with Roberto Martinez stepping into Moyes's shoes, start out at Norwich City before hosting Chelsea as their fourth match of the season. They visit Manchester United on Dec. 3.

Liverpool start the season at home to Stoke City, now under the leadership of Mark Hughes, while Arsene Wenger's Arsenal are at home to Aston Villa at the Emirates.

Promoted Cardiff City travel to West Ham United while Crystal Palace mark their return to the top flight with a home match against Tottenham Hotspur.

The first Welsh Premier league derby between Cardiff and Swansea is due on Nov. 2 at the Cardiff City Stadium with the return fixture on Feb. 8.

The season ends on May 11, when Manchester United are at Southampton, Chelsea travel to Cardiff, Arsenal visit Norwich, and Manchester City host West Ham.

The FA Cup final has been moved back to after the end of the league season with the match scheduled for May 17.

### Spurs appoint Baldini as director

REUTERS, London

Tottenham Hotspur have appointed former England assistant manager Franco Baldini as technical director, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

"Franco is extremely well respected in the industry, possessing an extensive knowledge of players around the world," chairman Daniel Levy told the Spurs website ([www.tottenhamhotspur.com](http://www.tottenhamhotspur.com))

"He will strengthen our football management team, particularly in the field of recruitment, working closely with (manager) Andre Villas-Boas and (technical coordinator) Tim Sherwood across all levels on the playing side."

Baldini, who left his post as AS Roma's general director earlier this month, played for Bologna, Bari and Pescara and was Fabio Capello's assistant when the Italian was England manager.

The 52-year-old was also sporting director at Real Madrid.

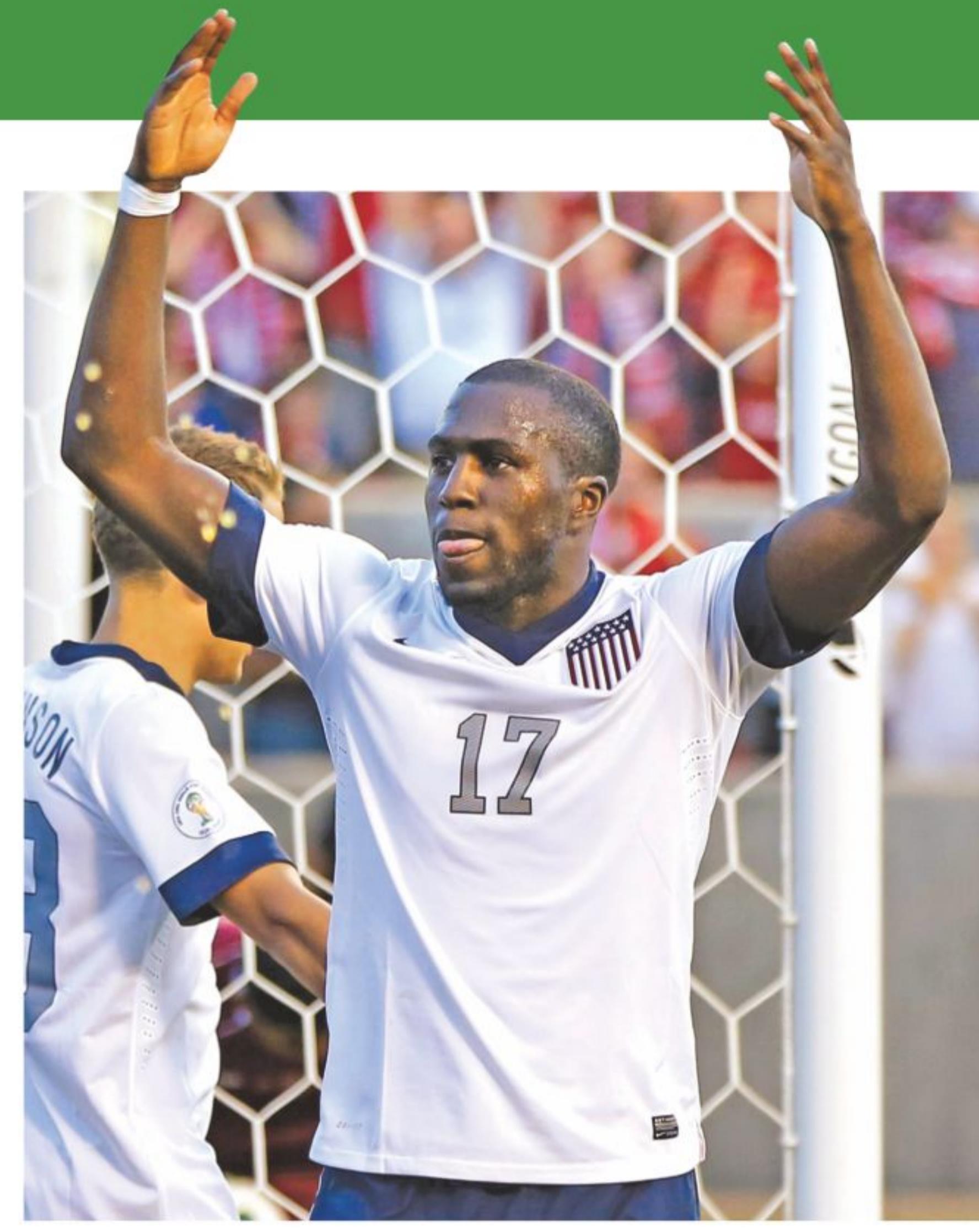


PHOTO: REUTERS

USA striker Jozy Altidore celebrates scoring against Honduras in their World Cup 2014 qualifier at the Salt Lake City in Utah on Tuesday.

## USA, Costa Rica win

AFP, Washington

 Jozy Altidore matched an American record with a goal for the fourth match in a row as the United States beat Honduras 1-0 Tuesday to stay atop the table in North American World Cup 2014 qualifying.

The Americans kept their two-point lead over Costa Rica in the six-nation ladder with 13 points off four wins and a draw in five matches since dropping their CONCACAF final-round qualifying opener 2-1 at Honduras last February.

Costa Rica stayed on the heels of the US with a 2-0 home victory over Panama, giving the Ticos three wins and two drawn in six matches and setting up a showdown for first when the US team visits Costa Rica when qualifying resumes on September 6.

The region's top three teams advance to next year's World Cup finals in Brazil while the fourth-place team meets New Zealand to decide another berth.

Altidore, who plays for Dutch side AK Alkmaar, found the net in the 73rd minute off a centering pass from Fabian Johnson.

That gave Altidore, who last year had struggled to score for the US side at times, four consecutive matches with goals, including a 4-3 friendly win over Germany and qualifying triumphs over Jamaica and Panama.

Altidore drew level for the longest US

scoring streak, established by William Looby in 1954-1955 and matched by Eric Wynalda, Brian McBride, Eddie Johnson and twice by all-time US goal leader Landon Donovan.

US fans began chanting "We are going to Brazil" even before the final whistle. No team with 13 final-round points has ever failed to advance to the World Cup from North and Central American and Caribbean qualifying.

At rainy San Jose, Costa Rica struck twice in the second half to keep Panama in fifth place.

The Ticos took the lead off a left-footed free kick by Bryan Ruiz in the 49th minute. He fired around a wall of defenders and between others to slide the ball into the far corner of the goal.

Costa Rica struck again in the 52nd minutes when Celso Borges took a pass from Ruiz in space four strides beyond the penalty area and fired a right-footed strike into the top right corner of the net.

The results left Mexico third in the group, with eight points earned from a win and five draws but still vulnerable, as Honduras is only one point back and Panama just two adrift for the last guaranteed Brazil spot. Winless Jamaica trails with two points.

Qualifying resumes September 6 with the seventh of 10 matches for each team, as Honduras will visit Mexico, Jamaica will travel to Panama, and the Ticos play host to the US squad.

### Gattuso takes Palermo reigns

REUTERS, Rome

Former Italy and AC Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso has been appointed Palermo manager with the task of steering the relegated team straight back to Serie A, the club said on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old, who won a host of honours including two Champions Leagues and the 2006 World Cup as a player, has signed a one-year contract with an option for a two-year extension.

"Palermo... has entrusted Gennaro Gattuso with the charge of leading the Rosanero's first team," Palermo said on their official website ([www.palermocalcio.it](http://www.palermocalcio.it)).

Gattuso, who had an unhappy time as Sion player-coach last season, replaces Giuseppe Sannino who left after failing to prevent Palermo being relegated to Serie B.

### West Ham snap up Carroll

REUTERS, London

England international striker Andy Carroll has completed a permanent switch from Liverpool to West Ham on a six-year deal and for a club record fee, the Premier League side announced on Wednesday.

No financial details were given but media reports have suggested the deal, which includes an option for a further two years in the club's favour, is worth a reported 15.5 million pounds (\$24.19 million) plus extras.

Carroll, the club's top scorer in 2012-13, underwent a stringent medical at the East London club after injuries limited him to 24 games last season.

"The marquee signing represents a significant step for the Club as they prepare to move to the 54,000-seater Olympic Stadium in 2016, with Carroll set to play a central role having committed his long-term future to the Hammers," West Ham said on their website ([www.whufc.com](http://www.whufc.com)).

## Man keeps goal with bullet in skull

INTERNET, Sarajevo

Goalkeepers are used to having shots fired at them during games, but not usually from firearms.

Amateur keeper Dusko Kralica was playing in a tournament in the Sarajevo suburb of Boljakov Potok recently when he complained of a headache. The shot stopper assumed it was the result of striking his noggin on a post so ignored the pain and carried on playing.

According to Sarajevo newspaper Dnevni Avaz, the 51-year-old completed the match, but soon complained of a stiff arm and had difficulty speaking. He was driven to a local hospital, where doctors were shocked to see that a 9mm bullet was clearly lodged in his skull.

Kralica was immediately transferred to the department of neurosurgery and the bullet was removed. A hospital spokesman said the operation was a success and he is now in a stable condition.

This bizarre story raises so many questions. How could someone not notice a bullet entering their skull? How could that person feel well enough to play 90 minutes of football? And who would shoot a 51-year-old man in an amateur tournament?

Local police combed the area to discover that there were three weddings in Boljakov Potok that day. During at least one of those weddings, someone thought it would be a good idea to celebrate by firing off their handgun, and one of the stray bullets managed to find its way from the ether into the unfortunate keeper's cranium.

For the record, Kralica only conceded one goal while playing.

## Barca face fight for Thiago

REUTERS, Madrid

 Barcelona face a delicate balancing act to convince sought-after Spain Under-21 playmaker Thiago Alcantara that his long-term future lies with the club and he can play a leading role with the La Liga champions next season.

The 22-year-old Barca academy graduate, whose contract runs until June 2015, is being groomed as the successor to Xavi in central midfield but is said to be frustrated at a lack of playing time and has attracted the attention of some of Europe's wealthiest clubs.

Valued at 22 million euros (\$29.5 million) on website transfermarkt.com, his brilliant captain's performance in Tuesday's Euro Under-21 championships final, when he netted a hat-trick in Spain's 4-2 win over Italy, will only have served to boost his profile.

Their performance in Israel, and Thiago's in particular, drew widespread praise.

A clause in Thiago's Barca contract based on the number of appearances he makes per season means he could leave for 18 million euros this summer.

Club team mate Gerard Pique, who is with the Spain squad at the Confederations Cup in Brazil, said it was up to Barcelona to convince the player that he was already at the ideal place for his development.

"The most important thing is to make him see that there is no better place than Barcelona football club," he added.

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