



HERCULEZ GOMEZ (Class of 2000)

Herculez Gomez was born in Los Angeles, CA on April 6, 1982, the eldest of five children. He moved to Las Vegas, where he still lives, with his family at the age of 10. He played on the soccer team at Las Vegas High School. He graduated from LVHS in 2000.

Gomez was one of 23 players selected for the U.S. World Cup team on May 26, 2010. He faced long odds to make the squad after his contract was not renewed last year by Kansas City in MLS. He went to Puebla of the Mexican league and tied for the scoring lead with 10 goals in 14 appearances, becoming the first American to lead a foreign league in scoring. "It's something I've dreamt of since I started playing soccer, since I learned what the World Cup was," Gomez said. "To have the honor and privilege of playing for my country is something special".

Gomez started his soccer career in 2001 with Cruz Azul of the Mexican First Division on their second-division squad, and transferred to second-division team Aguilas Blancas de Puebla later that year. The following season he returned to first-division soccer with Durango. Playing opportunities were scarce for him there, so he left, thinking he would quit soccer. Instead, in 2002 he joined the San Diego Cauchos of the USL Premier Development League, where he excelled, scoring seventeen goals in seventeen appearances. The Los Angeles Galaxy staff noticed him during a friendly match, and he joined the team that September.

Gomez broke his foot while on loan to the Seattle Sounders, and recovery took a long time. Once he was able to play again, he joined the now-defunct San Diego Sockers of the Major Indoor Soccer League. He returned to the Galaxy for the 2005 season on a developmental contract, but played well enough to make it to the first team. His big change came when Landon Donovan was called up to the national team, giving Gomez many more starts at striker, and he was able to shine as a breakout goal-scorer.

He scored the game-winning goal in the 2005 US Open Cup Final, then helped the Galaxy to a rare Cup "double" when they also won the 2005 MLS Cup. Gomez

ended the 2005 season with eighteen goals scored for the Galaxy (in all matches), and was voted by the local L. A. media as the year's Most Valuable Player.

On December 1, 2006 Gomez was traded to the Colorado Rapids. He scored the first goal in the history of Dick's Sporting Goods Park in his first game for Colorado on April 7, 2007. In September, 2008 Gomez was traded to the Kansas City Wizards. He signed with Mexican club Puebla F.C. in January, 2010. Gomez signed with Mexican club Puebla F.C. in January 2010. He scored 10 goals in the 2010 Mexican Clausura to tie for the lead for most goals, this feat marked the first time any American player led a foreign league in goals.

Gomez was named to the United States roster for the 2007 Copa America, and earned his first cap as a second-half substitute against Argentina, with his first start coming against Colombia. On May 11, 2010, Gomez was named to the U.S. national team's provisional 30-man 2010 World Cup roster. He scored a goal for the US national team with a header in the friendly against the Czech Republic on May 25, 2010. Czech Republic - USA 4-2 was the final score. On May 26, 2010 he was named to the 23 man roster that will go to South Africa for the 2010 World Cup.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact Dave@lvhsaa.com.

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