

# MARCELO BALBOA



# MARCELO BALBOA TRIBUTE



Today, Cerritos College is proud to honor Marcelo Balboa by retiring his #3 Falcon jersey. In all the years of community college athletics, there has never been another men's soccer player who has risen from these ranks to achieve what Marcelo Balboa has accomplished. Marcelo joined the Cerritos College men's soccer team, where he was a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-South Coast Conference selection in 1985 and also found time to serve as a place-kicker on the Falcon football team, booting 28 extra points and nine field goals. After his two years with Cerritos, he moved onto San Diego State University, where he was a two-time All-American selection and led them to the NCAA tournament both years. During his days with the Aztecs, he

was already making a name for himself nationally and soon, internationally. By early 1988, he earned his first cap playing for the US National Team and went on to earn a record 128 caps over his career. Marcelo was the most consistent defender for the men's U.S. National Team throughout the 1990's earning 128 caps (the first American to earn over 100 caps) and as a result of his durability and reliability on defense, was dubbed by the American press in 1994 as the "Iron Man". Marcelo also showed his offensive ability, scoring an amazing 13 goals. He was also one of the first three players in the history of the U.S. Men's National Team to appear in three World Cups (1990, 1994, 1998) and is recognized for almost scoring what would have been

the most recognized goal in US soccer history on a bicycle kick attempt in the 1994 FIFA World Cup against Columbia. He eventually went on to play for Leon in Mexico's first division and was one of the pioneer players to lead the way for the start of Major League soccer in the United States. As a child, Balboa was a product of the American Youth Soccer Organization program, where he played for his father, Luis. During his youth, he captained his club Fram-Culver, winning the 1986 under-19 national championship. After a long and glorious career, Balboa is now a color commentator for HDNet's MLS and U.S. National Team broadcasts, and was hired as a Community Ambassador for the Colorado Rapids.

## 1988

Earned his first cap for the U.S. Men's National Team against Guatemala on January 10.

## 1990

Played in all three games for the U.S. Men's National Team in the 1990 World Cup. Scored his first full international goal against Liechtenstein on May 30.

## 1991

Scored two goals in the 1991 CONCACAF Gold Cup, including a spectacular bicycle kick against Trinidad & Tobago for the U.S. Men's National Team.

## 1992

Named U.S. Soccer's Athlete of the Year. Won the American Professional Soccer League championship with the Colorado Foxes.

## 1994

Played every minute of every game for the U.S. in the 1994 FIFA World Cup for the Men's National Team. Earned U.S. Soccer's Male Athlete of the Year Award for the second time.

## 1995

Captained the U.S. Men's National Team to a semifinal appearance in the 1995 Copa America. Became the first U.S. Men's National Team player to acquire 100 caps on June 11, scoring a goal in a 3-2 win over Nigeria. Signed with Leon and helped them stave off relegation.

## 1996

Joined Major League Soccer with the Colorado Rapids as their founding player and scored seven goals in just 18 games.

## 1997

Led the Rapids to the 1997 MLS Cup. Led Mexican First Division side Leon to the Mexican league playoffs.

## 1998

Became one of three players to play in three consecutive World Cups (1990, 1994, 1998).

## 1999

Anchored the U.S. Men's National Team central defense on their way to bronze medal in the 1999 FIFA Confederations Cup.

## 2000

Was selected to the MLS All-Star Game for the fifth season in a row. Scored the Goal of the Year in MLS from a bicycle kick against Columbus.

## 2001

Became the first defender in MLS history to notch 20 goals and 20 assists (24 goals, 23 assists) in a career.

## 2002

Traded to New York/New Jersey in January for a third round draft pick.

## 2003

Honored with star at the U.S. Soccer Star Plaza at Home Depot Center.



## U.S. National Team Statistics

Year	GP/GS	Minutes	Goals	Assists	Points	W-L-T
1988	8/7	675	0	0	0	1-5-2
1989	4/4	360	0	0	0	1-2-1
1990	15/10	1,040	1	0	2	4-7-4
1991	15/15	1,350	2	1	5	5-4-6
1992	21/21	1,879	3	1	7	6-11-4
1993	10/9	707	0	0	0	2-2-6
1994	24/22	1,833	4	0	8	6-9-9
1995	6/6	466	1	0	2	6-11-4
1996	8/8	720	1	1	3	5-2-1
1997	10/10	900	0	1	1	3-1-6
1998	4/3	257	1	0	2	1-2-1
1999	2/2	180	0	0	0	2-0-0
2000	1/1	90	0	0	0	0-0-1
<b>13-Year Totals</b>	<b>128/118</b>	<b>10,457</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40-46-42</b>



## Major League Soccer Statistics

Year	Team	Games	Minutes	Goals	Assists	Points
1996	Colorado	18	1,525	7	2	16
1997	Colorado	28	2,520	2	3	7
1998	Colorado	26	2,290	5	5	15
1999	Colorado	27	2,430	1	2	4
2000	Colorado	28	2,495	4	5	13
2001	Colorado	24	2,119	5	6	16
2002	MetroStars	1	5	0	0	0
<b>7-Year Totals</b>		<b>152</b>	<b>13,384</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>71</b>