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'94 U.S. World Cup Soccer Team to be Honored at May 8 Legacy Gala

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San Jose, CA — April 14, 2026. America SCORES Bay Area will host the Soccer Legacy Gala Friday, May 8, at the The Hilton by Signia in San Jose, reuniting the pioneers of the 1994 U.S. World Cup Team and bringing together the Bay Area soccer community for an unforgettable evening celebrating the sport's past, present and future. From the legacy of the 1994 FIFA World Cup to the promise of the 2026 World Cup, the Gala will highlight how soccer continues to drive meaningful community impact across Northern California. Featured speakers include: Alexa Lalas, Alan Rothenberg and performances from award-winning Poet-Athletes from SCORES.

One Night. One Goal. One Legacy.

America SCORES was born in '94 in the wake of momentum after the team's success and the tournament's impact. Proceeds from the Gala will raise funds for America SCORES free afterschool soccer and poetry programs and the "asphalt-to-turf" Field of Dreams initiative. The evening will honor the pioneers of the '94 tournament and build momentum toward a lasting 2026 World Cup legacy for youth all across the Bay Area.

"The 1994 World Cup changed soccer in America forever," said **Alexi Lalas, 1994 U.S. Men's National Team and national television personality**. "What's exciting now is seeing how the game continues to grow at the grassroots level—through organizations like America SCORES that are using soccer to inspire and empower the next generation."

"We are using this event to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and the impact we have made in the Bay Area," said **Colin Schmidt, Executive Director, America SCORES Bay Area**. "Soccer stirs passions, and it is called the 'beautiful game' for a reason. The goal of the Soccer Legacy Gala is to celebrate our pioneers, raise funds, and thus remove barriers so that more kids can be on a team and experience joyful, skill-building, being-on-a-team experiences." SCORES is running programs for nearly 7,000 students at 180 low-income public schools around the Bay Area.

Event Highlights

Lalas will be joined by 13 other teammates from the 22-player '94 roster: Marcelo Balboa, John Harkes, Cobi Jones, Eric Wynalda, Paul Caligiuri, Thomas Dooley, Hugo Perez, Mike Burns, Joe Max-Moore, Frank Klopas, Cle Kooiman, Jurgen Sommer. Featured guests include former U.S. Soccer President Alan Rothenberg and legendary head coach Bora Milutinovic. Other leaders from '94 attending include: Randy Bernstein, Marla Messing, Leah Tuffenilli, and Sunil Gulati. Even Striker, the 1994 Mascot, may make a rare appearance for this once-in-a-generation event.

The event will also include:

- A tribute and reunion of the 1994 U.S. Men's National Team
- A lively reception with players, coaches, and special guests
- Inspiring performances from award-winning SCORES Poet-Athletes
- A seated dinner, live program, and auction
- Goodie bags with commemorative gifts and collectibles and a copy of Rothenberg's book: The Big Bounce: The Surge that Shaped the Future of U.S. Soccer
- An after-party celebrating the night
- Sizzle reel from the yet-to-be released "Summer of 1994" Documentary

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The event is produced by **America SCORES Bay Area** in partnership with the **Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee** and **E2K events**.

About America SCORES Bay Area

Since 2001 in the Bay Area, the non-profit organization has been inspiring youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world. SCORES offers after-school programs that support whole child development through the teamwork of soccer, the creativity of poetry, and the compassion of service-learning.

Get Involved and Join Us

For tickets or sponsorships or more info about the Gala, please visit www.americascorusbayarea.org/gala.

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