CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113 • TELEPHONE: (216) 771-KICK
CONTACT JOHN IRVINE _____
RELEASE DATE

PLAYER PROFILE: PAUL CHYMOVIC

He is the goaltender. It is just him and the opposing player who is lining up his penalty shot. It is a cold night and the goalie shakes his hands trying to feel his finger tips which are numb. A stream of sweat begins to pour down from his neck to the base of his back. He wishes that the other guy would set the ball up and kick it already.

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Everyone always says that Paul Chymovic is really good at stopping penalty shots. Perhaps the best they have ever seen is what they usually say after he has displayed his mastery.

This really should not be so to hard to believe. After all, some people are able to fix almost any kind of transmission, and others with just a pencil and paper will produce the most incredible landscape you have ever seen. So why should not Chymovic be able to cancel penalty shots. Playing goalie is what he usually does, and stopping penalty shots is what he does best.

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The shooter is pulling on the pant legs of his shorts while performing a few knee bends. He is just trying to make the goalie wait. And wait. Let him think. Think and wait.

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"I don't know why I'm able to stop penalty kicks. It's just something I can do, and I've always been able to do it. Even back in Europe," explains Chymovic.

Chymovic was a native of Czechoslovakia and later moved to Israel. He has been playing soccer ever since he can remember, and he continued in his passion when he came to America eight years ago.

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The goalie knows what the shooter is up to. He is just trying to make me wait, thinks the goaltender. He rubs his eyes trying to get the sweat out and his vision clear. The florescent lights give the field a bluish glow which hurts his eyes. I'll be ready for him. The shooter looks as though he is now ready and the goalie asks for time. Now he'll have to wait, thinks the goalie.

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Since coming to America, Chymovic has been an electrician, specializing in wiring houses.

"I'm almost as good at that as stopping penalty kicks," he explains.

Chymovic spent a year and a half with the old Cleveland Stars, before quitting due to personal reasons. He has always been an outstanding goalie in the Lake Erie League, and Cobras' general manager, Dr. John Gyekenyesi feels that he is the best in the state of Ohio.

"I have played or seen every goalkeeper in the state for the past ten years, and you can believe me when I tell you that Paul is the best, amateur or professional. If he is able to put his personal affairs in order, he should have a super season," noted Dr. Gyekenyesi.

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The 29 year old goalie now says that he is ready. His 5'11" and 160 pound frame is leaning slightly forward on the balls of his feet. The shooter approaches the ball. The goalie's entire body seems to be giving off sweat and he gives a slight shiver. The ball is kicked.

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"I'm ready to play pro soccer this year," explains Chymovic who by nature is a nervous person and words flow from his mouth with the quickness of a dam bursting.

"I'm 29 years old and I figure that I only have about three or four more years of pro soccer left. I want to make the most of that time. I've straightened everything out and I'm ready to give the Cobras my full attention," added Chymovic.

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The shot is a low liner headed for the bottom right corner of the net. The goalie leaps in that direction and bats the ball away with his left hand. It really seemed very easy.

One of the fans turns to another in the stands and says that he knew that Chymovic would stop the shot. It's just something that he is able to do. Perhaps better than anyone else.

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