CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

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COBRAS SIGN BRAZILIAN STAR

As any soccer fan is well aware, Brazil is famous for producing excellent soccer players (with Pele being their most famous alumnus), and once again this country has turned out another star.

Just yesterday, 20 year old Roberto Oliveria signed with Cleveland Cobras after arriving straight from Rio de Janeiro last Tuesday. At 17, he played on the Brazilian National Team under the watchful eyes of the much heralded Coach DiDi (the same that helped develop Pele).

Over a span of eight years of amateur soccer, Oliveria has rolled up an impressive total of 400 goals (including eight in one game which was a record in Brazil until just a few months ago).

"I'm really pleased to have Roberto with us," beamed Cobras' general manager, Dr. John Gyekenyesi. "I expect him to have a big year. He comes in with very high credentials and he has looked very good in practice. He's an exciting player who can put the ball in the net. He'll take some of the scoring load off the shoulders of Vito Colonna and Jimmy McMillan."

Oliveria was recruited for the Cobras by Cleveland State soccer coach, Klaus DeBoer, when the Viking soccer squad toured Brazil last summer. DeBoer had originally hoped tc garner Olivera for his C.S.U. team, but college entrance English exams put an end to those plans.

"Although he has only worked out with us three times, I can tell that he is a good player," noted Cobras' coach, Herbie Haller.

"He has a powerful left foot shot and he'll play forward on that side. His speed

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has surprised me, and thus far he hasn't shown any real weaknesses. He'll definitely be a starter, and the only real adjustment he'll have to make is to the physical style of pro ball. Once he learns to handle that, there will be no way to stop him," continued Haller.

Although he has spent almost all of his life in Rio de Janeiro, Oliveria was born to an American mother in New York City, but he moved to Brazil when he was two months old.

"I'm really looking forward to playing pro soccer in America," said Oliveria while pushing his long blond hair behind his ears. "It will be a new challenge for me, and I believe that I will be able to do very well." The Cobras are counting on just that.

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