



# Football

By: Aidan Mirchandani

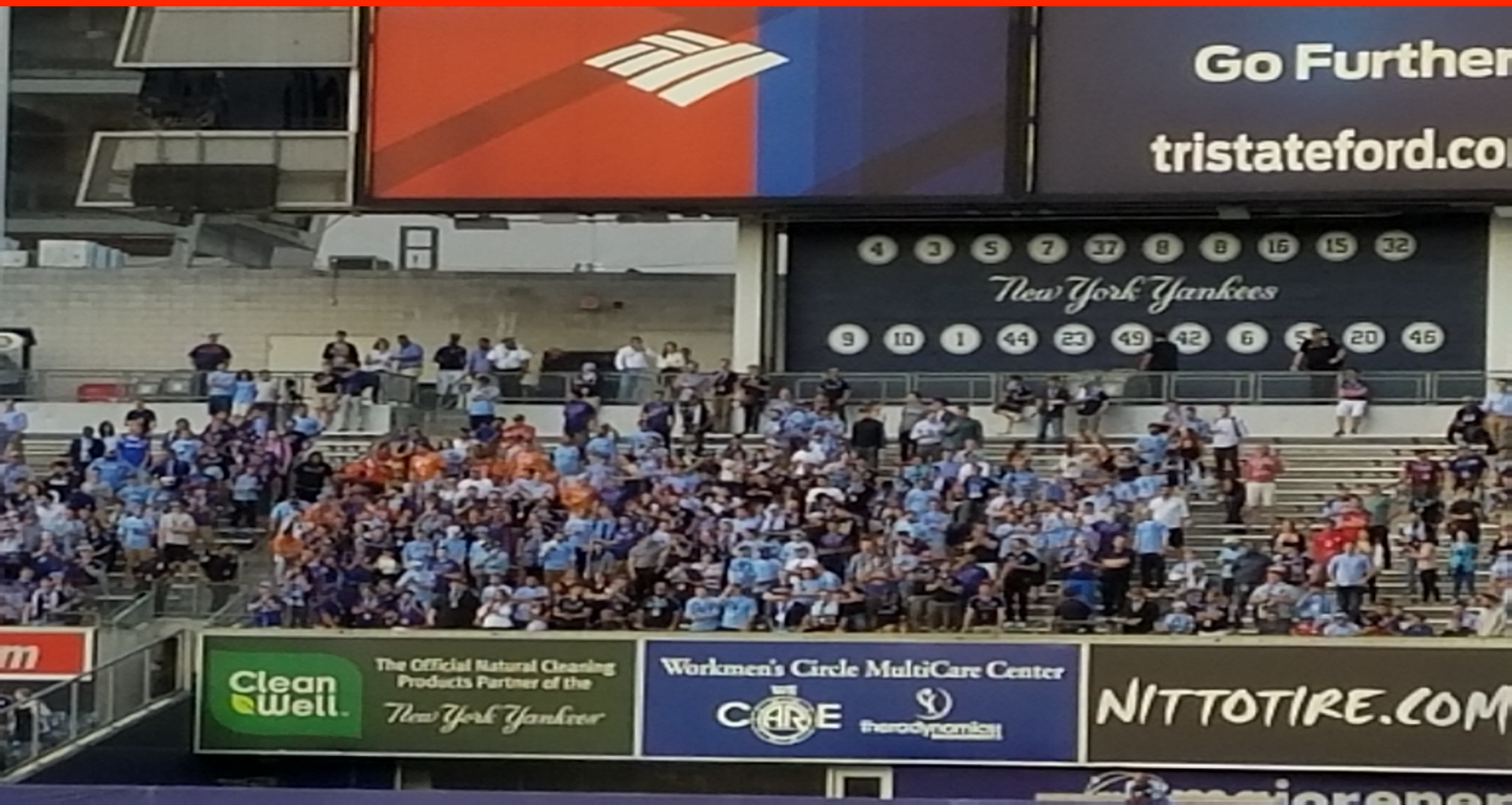




Are you a big football fan? Liverpool supporter? Or maybe you like Arsenal? Either way, you probably think that the MLS is just another lousy, wannabe, US soccer league. Believe me, I used to think the same thing. Except after I had the experience of actually going to a game, my thought on the MLS completely changed. Now I think that the MLS is one of the biggest up and coming leagues.



Firstly, I think that MLS is increasing in popularity because it is starting to catch on in other countries as well as in the US. For example, on my trip to London I saw a group of adults wearing MLS jerseys but singing Tottenham songs on the streets of London. Also, according to *bbc.com*, in England, about 36,000 people attend an average BARCLAYS Premier game, while an average MLS game is attended by about 21,000 when it used to be 12,000 people per game. That is huge difference!





Furthermore, I interviewed Arun Mirchandani, who is a big follower of the BPL and also a season ticket holder for new MLS club. When I gave him the option between playing in the champion's league or the MLS he said, "Even though the champion's league would pay me more to play for them I would play in the MLS for more popularity." This is one reason that I think that the MLS is increasing in popularity.





Also, in the BPL and MLS there are differences in the special events. Derby's for example, are when two teams from the same city play each other. One example of a derby is the NYCFC vs. NY Red Bulls. The attendance for the game was 42,000. That's double the amount of an average MLS season game!

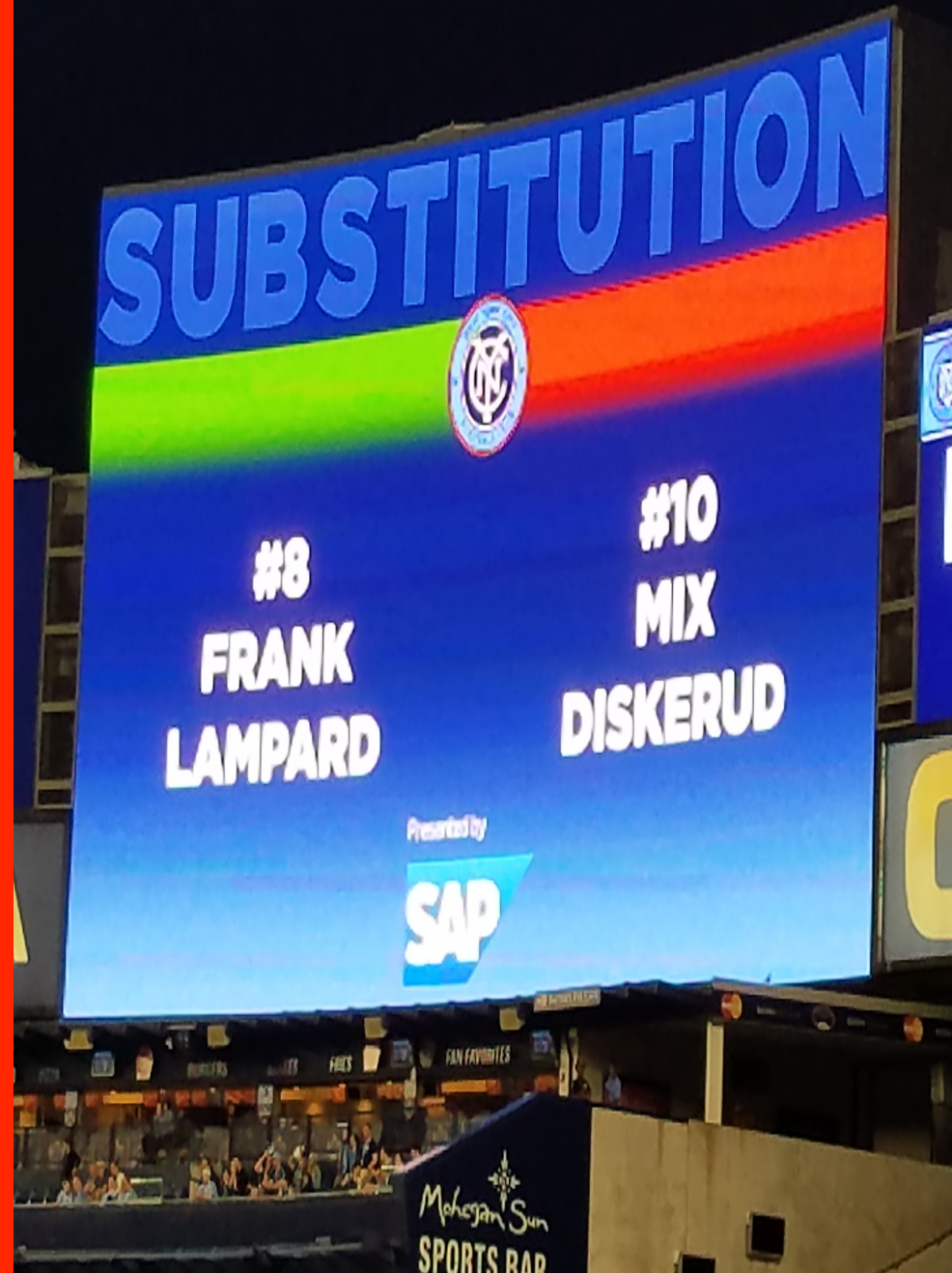
According to *bbc.com*, when the BPL comes to America the games are guaranteed to be sellouts. For example, at a Real Madrid FC against Manchester United FC, there were 109,000 tickets sold. This was the most tickets sold to any football event in America.





Lastly, new teams are always coming to the MLS and these teams are boosting popularity like crazy. For example, when I went to the first NYCFC home opener I saw all sorts of people who were clearly new to the sport of soccer and were looking for some fun. Then I saw all the serious fans from other countries and veteran fans from the United States.

Also, according to *MLS.com* every time a new team joins the MLS there are about 25,000 more supporters of MLS teams. This means that the MLS popularity is very much increasing in the US and around the world.









In conclusion, I think that the MLS is the fastest growing professional football league in the pro football world. I write about this topic because I am a huge football fan and to me it is very important that you understand this about the MLS.

