

U.S.A. soccer win elates fans in Danbury

Vinti Singh, Staff Writer Published 10:47 am, Wednesday, June 23, 2010

DANBURY -- The packed bar erupted into cheers after U.S. soccer player **Landon Donovan** scored a goal against Algeria, securing the U.S. an advance to the second round in the World Cup.

Someone got so excited he dropped a beer glass, and **Tom Naylor** and his friends were so elated they didn't realize they were stepping on shards of broken glass.

"I was at Game 6 when the **Yankees** won in the World Series, and that was nowhere as exciting as this," Naylor, 24, of Newtown, said.

Naylor was at TK's **American Cafe** in Danbury with a large crowd of USA fans Wednesday morning. The bar opened early -- at 9:30 a.m. -- so they could watch the game, and soon after it was over most of the people cleared out to go to work.

Naylor has been following the World Cup closely, but this was the first game **Frank Marciniak**, 39, of Brookfield, watched. He said he is not necessarily into soccer, but "I am into the U.S. of A."

"I was excited about the game. I'm into it now," Marciniak said. "I might get a soccer jersey. I'm going to encourage my 5-year-old to play."

This is the first time since 1930 the U.S. has advanced this far in the World Cup.

If the team continues to play well, professional soccer may gain real momentum in the next few years, said **Jon Catino**, 26, of Southbury.

Catino played the sport when he was younger.

"It gets a bad rap because it's not as aggressive as football or basketball," he said.

Lee Green, 24, of Brookfield, said **Major League Soccer** will never reach the level of professional soccer in the rest of the world.

"People look at MLS as a joke," Green said. "Players from other countries retire into the MLS."

He said he doesn't care about the MLS' reputation, since both his parents are from England. He was sporting an England jersey at TK's, but admitted cheering for the U.S. after its win.

Naylon says there's not much that will make him miss the coming U.S. games in the World Cup.

"A funeral maybe, or a wedding," Naylon said. "Depends who it is."

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