

Glossary of Soccer/Football/Futbol References for Tales from Buzzard Point

By David Rusk

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Everything in these tales is true. As Sherlock Holmes reminds Dr. Watson, “What is myth to non-believers is fundamental truth to believers.” However, for readers of Tales from Buzzard Point who may be non-believers – that is, who are not who devoted fans of DC United, our local club in Major League Soccer – a glossary of soccer terms and references may be in order.

Tales from Buzzard Point I: “The Black and Red Band”

Buzzard Point in Washington DC is the site for DC United’s new, \$300 million+ soccer specific stadium that will open in mid-2018. Though located barely one mile due south from the US Capitol, Buzzard Point has been a spectacularly neglected part of the District, the site of gravel and sand depots, junkyards, and very marginal manufacturing plants plus a now-abandoned headquarters building for the US Coast Guard. It has a long history, though, the name “Turkey Buzzard Point” first having appeared on local maps in 1673.

I and many other DC United fans feel strongly that “Buzzard Point” should be the venue name (or part of the name) of the new stadium. DC United management/ownership seems to be resisting that so Tales from Buzzard Point is the first salvo of a grassroots campaign to build support for “Buzzard Point.”

Black and Red – DC United’s colors (often combined with white stripes)

Conor Doyle – a young striker and winger who played for DC United from 2013-15 – not much of a scorer but an honest player who developed a cult following

Sheik Abdullah – Sheik Kaldoon Al Mubarak leads the Abu Dhabi United Group that purchased Manchester City FC in 2008 in the English Premier League (EPL) and created New York City FC in Major League Soccer three years ago

New York Red Bulls is DC United’s fiercest rival (all others pale by comparison) and the Atlantic Cup is the trophy awarded for the winner of the annual two- or three-game series. (We won it back this year.)

Chelsea Ruffian – midfielder Frank Lampard (long career at Chelsea in EPL)

Milan Metronome – midfielder Andrea Pirlo (long career with AC Milan and later with Juventus in Serie A)

Spanish fellow at the bar – striker David Villa (long career in La Liga; all-time leading scorer for Spanish national team)

trinkenenergie rotstier – my best effort at translating “Red Bull Energy Drink,” the Austria-based owners of the New York Red Bulls.

The Prophecies of Nostradamus. Michel de Notredame (usually latinized as Nostradamus), a 16th century seer, predicted that “Just 26 years after winning the Duel of Eagles, their finest hour, Albion will last reign supreme.” 1966 was the year of England’s first (and probably last) winning of the World Cup, 26 years after winning the Battle of Britain.

The Queen Vic – a regular DC United supporters pub

Donald Wine – (used with permission) his real name and profession; president of local American Outlaws chapter and capo of Screaming Eagles

James (“Jimi”) Butler – (used with permission) real name; trip director for the Screaming Eagles, a major DC United supporters group.

Melanie Casner – (used with permission) real name and profession

Marco Tahuichi – a name that honors the Latinamerican roots of the Barra Brava, another major DC United supporters group. “Marco” honors Marco Etcheverry, a world-class Bolivian attacking midfielder who led DC United to three MLS championships in the league’s first four years. Tahuichi is the name of the famed youth soccer academy in Bolivia. Nicknamed “El Diablo” (the Devil), Marco will be a central figure in the forthcoming Tales of Buzzard Point III: “The Magic Triangle.”

Dr. Eskandarian – DC United striker Aleko Eskandarian is revered for the greatest post-goal celebration of all time. He scored against New York Red Bulls at Robert F Kennedy Stadium, DC United’s home, had a can of Red Bull Energy Drink tossed to him from sideline, ostentatiously took a swig, and then spat it out with great disgust.

“Buzzard Point. T’is haunted, cursed ground.” – is the subject of Tales from Buzzard Point III: “The Magic Triangle.”

stunning Cecil Beaton gown – Julie Andrews was absolutely breath-taking in a floor-length white sheath gown in “My Fair Lady,” which I saw in 1956 on Broadway with all the original cast, including Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins.

Zlatan Panenka – rather than “Zoltan Kaparthy” in the original “My Fair Lady;” “Zlatan,” of course, for Zlatan Ibrahimovich, a contemporary European star, and “Panenka” for East European soccer star Antonin Panenka during the 1970s and 1980s. (Panenka was actually Czech rather than Hungarian but who will know?)

Irene Adler – if you're not up on your Holmesiana, Irene Adler (in "A Scandal in Bohemia") was the only woman who ever bested Sherlock Holmes; he was forever after much taken with her memory.

Everything else in the adventure has been thoroughly researched from either the Sherlock Holmes canon or late 19th century reality.