

Popular American soccer player makes 'Ginger' musical debut

The first single will be the album's first track, 'GoodNight Moon'

By Michael Hines
Editor in Chief

As a general rule, athletes and music don't mix.

Who remembers Deion Sanders' pathetic try? Or the Trailblazers' "Rip City Rap City" tune?

Now the red-headed American soccer star Alexi Lalas is giving his cleats the boot (for the moment) and strapping on a guitar. His first album, "Ginger," was released Sept. 15.

Unlike his athletic predecessors, Lalas actually has musical talent. The New York/New Jersey MetroStars defender has been planning a musical career since childhood, and his first foray into the biz is quite good, especially considering that he produced his own album.

Lalas, an unusual defender who often scores with his head, carves out a distinctive sound.

The album, in which Lalas sings and plays guitar, is no-frills. There are few sound effects. Lalas opts to keep his songs stripped down to guitar, drums and vocals.

The first single off the album, "GoodNight Moon," is also the first track on the album. "Good-Night Moon" establishes Lalas' sound — a medium-paced ride over the lyrics. It's like skiing down Bachelor — the ride is soft and swift, but you can feel the ups and downs.

The album's lyrics aren't amazing, but they are solid. They avoid falling into the meaningless drivel Bush or Oasis try to pass off as poetry.

Lalas never sings about soccer directly, but he does seem to allude to his fame now and then. For example, on the fourth track, "Pop School," Lalas sings, "Gotta make the grade but I'm failing image 101/teacher says I got no style and something has to be done/there's radio and video and how to look really bored/and where to go in Timbuktu when you need to score." It's hard to believe the same man who got his long, red goatee trimmed by David Letterman could have self-image problems, but Lalas' songs do have a darker edge to them.

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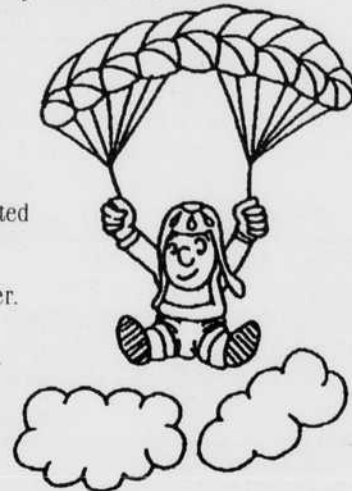
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