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LALAS: The MetroStars defender could make it in music business

Continued from Page 13D

But Lalas doesn't let himself get bogged down in the I-hate-myself-and-want-to-die mentality that Nirvana made so popular. Instead, he sings songs like "What I've Done" that leave room for hope: "And I'm pretty sure when she cools down/that she'll still want me around/if I could only figure out what I've done wrong."

It's easy to be cynical and say that CMC International Records only signed him because of his soccer fame. However, Lalas shows genuine passion and talent in his music. This isn't some tone-deaf jock or ego-stroking celebrity putting out an LP filled with garbage.

Some of Lalas' songs are boring. "Sonic Lullaby" and "This Should Be," as the fifth and sixth tracks, respectively, just seem tacked on.

The guitar-driven songs "Pretty Mess," "Vacancy" and "Gemini" stick to his recipe of gliding vocals without sounding repetitive. On the album, all drums and percussion are done by Lex Lianos. Martin Crotty did additional guitar on three songs.

So, as Lalas grows out of soccer, he certainly has a career waiting for him. "Ginger" will fit many people, but there is bound to be better waiting inside of Lalas ready to delight music fans in his future records.

Alexi Lalas

Defender, New York/New Jersey MetroStars

■ **HEIGHT:** 6 feet, 3 inches

■ **WEIGHT:** 195 lbs.

■ **BIRTHDATE:** June 1, 1970

■ **HOMETOWN:** Detroit, Michigan

■ **PREVIOUS TEAMS:** New England Revolution, Padova (Italy Series A)

■ **COLLEGE:** English major at Rutgers; named to All-American Team three times; helped Rutgers reach NCAA Championship game in 1990.

■ **CAREER WITH NATIONAL TEAM:** 91 games, 9 goals; U.S. Soccer Male Athlete of the Year in 1995; played in every minute of every game in the 1994 World Cup.

SOURCE: MetroStars Online

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