

THE BOY'S A BIT SPECIAL

Chris Loftus

Team: IF Limhamn Bunkelflo or LB07 in Malmo, Sweden

Position: Target Forward



Nickname: Lofty or Loftus

Favorite Team: Manchester United - Who else

Strengths: I think a major strength of mine as a player and even a person is my mental toughness. I think I've gotten a lot of that strength from my competitive nature and refusing to lose. I have for as long as I can remember always been a player who hates losing more than I like winning. I've seen a lot of players walk off the field after losing an important game and almost look as if it didn't even phase them. This completely baffles me and drives me crazy. Then I've seen some players lose some sort of competition or small-sided game in practice and walk off the field furious and angry/frustrated the rest of the day. The latter are the players I want on my team because I know that the next time out they are going to do everything in their power to battle for themselves and their teammates at every opportunity so that they don't have that taste of defeat in their mouth again.

Weaknesses: As a player my biggest weakness has always been my **speed**. I think each time I've gone up in level, whether it was from club to college and then college to professional, the speed and strength of players has always gone up. The speed of the game has never been a problem for me, but I think I've definitely had to work on other parts of my game to make up for my lack in speed. I've always had to make sure my feet were quick with and without the ball because of my size and speed. I also learned at Duke that weight lifting was a major issue that I had to address to get stronger and now it is apart of my weekly routine that is completely necessary for me to succeed at higher levels of play.

Heroes: I think it's hard not to have **Michael Jordan** as a hero after growing up in Illinois as a Bulls fan so I have to put him on the list. Lance Armstrong

has also been a huge inspiration to me. After reading his books and understanding his mental toughness and competitiveness he has definitely become one of my athletic heroes. My family as well. I've learned so much from my parents and my brother and sister its impossible not to consider them all heroes and people completely admire and respect.

Highlight as a Pro: Playing in Sweden for LB07

Lowlight as a Pro: Getting released from New England Revolution

Most Memorable Metro Moment: This is a pretty difficult one to answer because I have a lot of good memories. Ones that come to mind right away are our first tournament together at the Tampa Bay Sun Bowl and doing pretty well and going to the semis in this awesome event. Playing in the **U-18 State Championship** against the Sockers. Losing in the U-17 State Cup Semi's against the Magic and missing a PK to tie the game at 2-2...that's not a good one, but it is **very, very** memorable for me. Warming up before our first game at the Blue Chip Tournament and having Dale introduce us to Mike Jacobs, the Duke assistant coach who would turn out to be one of my coaches in college. I was a huge Duke fan growing up and as Dale was introducing us to him he asked, "Are any of you guys Duke Fans?" After he asked this Sean Flynn turned and pointed directly at me over and over to make sure that Mike Jacobs saw...pretty funny, Sean and I still talk about that today.

Best player played with: Shalrie Joseph on New England Revolution

Best player Played Against: This actually might be **Shalrie Joseph in practice**

Best Advice Received: The best advice I've ever received was from **my older brother Jason**. He has always told me, "The only way to work out of a bad situation is to work harder" It doesn't matter where I am or what situation it is...if I am in a tough situation his voice instantly pops into my head and I hear him saying this. He has always been one of my biggest motivators and has without a doubt had a huge influence on the player I have become today.

Biggest Practical Joker: The biggest practical joker I've ever met is a player I played with at New England. His name is Ryan Solle and I played against him in college as well when he went to Wake Forrester. He and another guy on the Revs Wells Thompson, who also went to Wake Forrester, are constantly pranking each other and other people on the team. I know that at one time Ryan lit a bunch of firecrackers and threw them in Wells' truck. Someone called the fire department because they thought it was on fire. Because of this Wells dyed Ryan's Jack Russel Terrier dog red. It took about 2 weeks for the dye to come out and the dog was pink for those 2 weeks. You don't want to prank these guys because when they "prank" someone they take it to the next level.

Car: Had a **Toyota Camry** in the States, but I'm selling that to buy a car here in Sweden. Not positive what I'm gonna get yet, but I'm deciding between a lot of the Euro cars that seem to be popular over here...Audi, Volvo, Saab, BMW...but we'll see if that works out.

Kicks: (What you like to do) Go to movies, play basketball and golf, go hunting, listen to music, read, meet new people.

5 Words to Describe you: Loyal, **Confident**, Intelligent, Witty and Tall

In 5 year's time: Hopefully I'll still be playing soccer and healthy/injury free. We'll see how the next two years go in Sweden. I'm pretty open for playing anywhere in the world. Hopefully I can keep progressing and play at higher levels. If all else fails I have my degree from Duke University and medical school is a definite possibility.

BEST OF LUCK TO CHRIS IN SWEDEN FROM THE STAFF AT METRO UNITED!