

# James Georgeff

Professional Soccer Career — Sources & Verification

|                 |                                     |                        |                |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Born</b>     | May 23, 1983 — Newcastle, Australia | <b>Nationality</b>     | Australian     |
| <b>Position</b> | Forward (target striker)            | <b>Height / Weight</b> | 6'2" / 188 lbs |

## 1. Key Career Milestones

| Milestone                                                                                                                                                                                  | Source(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st overall pick — 2008 MISL College Draft</b><br>First player selected in the draft, by the Orlando Sharks (Major Indoor Soccer League), January 29, 2008. See Exhibit A.              | University of Tampa Athletics, Jan 31, 2008 — <i>Ricardo Cardoso Chosen by Orlando Sharks in MISL Draft</i> (includes 2008 MISL College Draft complete results)<br><a href="https://www.tampaspantans.com/sports/msoc/2007-08/releases/a772.html">https://www.tampaspantans.com/sports/msoc/2007-08/releases/a772.html</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Drafted by Houston Dynamo — 2008 MLS Supplemental Draft</b><br>Round 4, pick 56 overall, from the University of Central Florida. Houston were the two-time defending MLS Cup champions. | MLSsoccer.com — Dynamo take four in MLS Supplemental Draft<br><a href="https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/dynamo-take-four-mls-supplemental-draft">https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/dynamo-take-four-mls-supplemental-draft</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>MLSsoccer.com — 2008 MLS Supplemental Draft (official results)<br><a href="https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/2008-mls-supplemental-draft-373206">https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/2008-mls-supplemental-draft-373206</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>Houston Dynamo official release (Jan 24, 2008)<br><a href="https://www.oursportscentral.com/services/releases/dynamo-select-s-midfielders-forwards-in-mls-supplemental-draft/n-3584349">https://www.oursportscentral.com/services/releases/dynamo-select-s-midfielders-forwards-in-mls-supplemental-draft/n-3584349</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>UCF Athletics (Jan 25, 2008)<br><a href="https://ucfknight.com/news/2008/01/25/former-ucf-soccer-letterwinner-taken-in-mls-supplemental-draft">https://ucfknight.com/news/2008/01/25/former-ucf-soccer-letterwinner-taken-in-mls-supplemental-draft</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>Wikipedia — 2008 MLS supplemental draft<br><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_MLS_supplemental_draft">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_MLS_supplemental_draft</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a> |
| <b>First Australian ever drafted in MLS</b><br>Also drafted into the MISL the same year                                                                                                    | Written confirmation from Greg Lalas, Editor in Chief, MLS Digital, August 13, 2013. See Exhibit B.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>2008 Houston Dynamo roster</b><br>Squad finished 1st in the MLS Western Conference                                                                                                      | StatsCrew — 2008 Houston Dynamo Roster<br><a href="https://statscrew.com/soccer/roster/t-HOU/y-2008">https://statscrew.com/soccer/roster/t-HOU/y-2008</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>Wikipedia — 2008 Houston Dynamo season<br><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Houston_Dynamo_season">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Houston_Dynamo_season</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Milestone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Source(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UCF Knights</b><br>35 matches over two seasons. 2007: played all 18 matches, 16 starts, 4 goals (3rd on team). Team captain. Transferred from Clemson after the 2004 season.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | UCF Athletics<br><a href="https://ucfknight.com/news/2008/01/25/former-ucf-soccer-letterwinner-taken-in-mls-supplemental-draft">https://ucfknight.com/news/2008/01/25/former-ucf-soccer-letterwinner-taken-in-mls-supplemental-draft</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Goal and assist vs. MLS side Real Salt Lake</b><br>February 13, 2007 spring exhibition. Scored UCF's go-ahead goal in the 32nd minute with a long, high shot and assisted Zach Boggs' second-half goal in a 4-3 loss.                                                                                                                                                                                           | UCF Athletics — Real Salt Lake Edges UCF Men's Soccer In Spring Exhibition Match<br><a href="https://ucfknight.com/news/2007/02/12/real-salt-lake-edges-ucf-mens-soccer-in-spring-exhibition-match">https://ucfknight.com/news/2007/02/12/real-salt-lake-edges-ucf-mens-soccer-in-spring-exhibition-match</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a>                                                                                              |
| <b>Starred vs. MLS Cup champions Houston Dynamo</b><br>February 14, 2007, the next day, at Disney's Wide World of Sports, Orlando. Started up front for UCF against a Dynamo side including Brian Ching, Dwayne De Rosario and Chris Wondolowski. UCF's goal (80') was credited as an own goal by Dynamo defender Eddie Robinson, deflected in from Georgeff's shot. Houston drafted Georgeff eleven months later. | MLSsoccer.com — Houston Dynamo beat University of Central Florida in preseason debut (lineups and goal summary)<br><a href="https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/houston-dynamo-beat-university-central-florida-preseason-debut">https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/houston-dynamo-beat-university-central-florida-preseason-debut</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>Match date and venue also confirmed in the UCF Real Salt Lake report above |
| <b>Scored vs. Swedish top-flight club BK Häcken</b><br>March 22, 2007 exhibition. Scored UCF's 63rd-minute equalizer in a 1-1 draw against a club that had played in Sweden's top league, the Allsvenskan, the previous season.                                                                                                                                                                                    | UCF Athletics — Men's Soccer Ties Swedish Team BK Hacken<br><a href="https://ucfknight.com/news/2007/03/21/mens-soccer-ties-swedish-team-bk-hacken">https://ucfknight.com/news/2007/03/21/mens-soccer-ties-swedish-team-bk-hacken</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a><br>Archive: match recap ( <a href="#">original</a> ) ( <a href="#">archived</a> )                                                                                    |
| <b>Second-generation professional</b><br>Father, Stase Georgeff, played for Leyton Orient (England)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | UCF Athletics<br><a href="https://ucfknight.com/news/2008/01/25/former-ucf-soccer-letterwinner-taken-in-mls-supplemental-draft">https://ucfknight.com/news/2008/01/25/former-ucf-soccer-letterwinner-taken-in-mls-supplemental-draft</a><br>Backup: <a href="#">Archived copy (Wayback Machine)</a>                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Proving it against the pros

In February 2007, still a college junior, Georgeff faced two MLS clubs on consecutive days. He scored and assisted against Real Salt Lake, then led the line against the reigning MLS Cup champions Houston Dynamo, with UCF's only goal coming from his shot. A month later he scored the equalizer against Swedish top-flight club BK Häcken. Together, these performances showed he could compete with professionals, and they helped put him on MLS clubs' radar. Eleven months later, Houston selected him in the 2008 MLS Supplemental Draft, and he went on to earn his place on the Dynamo roster.

## Exhibit A — 2008 MISL College Draft

Screenshots captured October 13, 2026 from University of Tampa Athletics,  
<https://www.tampaspartans.com/sports/msoc/2007-08/releases/a772.html>

January 31, 2008

### RICARDO CARDOSO CHOSEN BY ORLANDO SHARKS IN MISL DRAFT

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – The Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) held its 2008 College Draft on Tuesday and former University of Tampa standout Ricardo Cardoso was chosen with the first pick of the third round by the Orlando Sharks.

Cardoso is coming off a senior season where he led the Spartans to a 13-5-1 record and their first NCAA postseason appearance since 2001. He led UT in goals (12), points (27), shots (74) and shots on goal (37). The first-team NSCAA all-South Region selection was also named second team all-Sunshine State Conference. He was also part of the NCAA South regional all-tournament team.

As a junior for Tampa, the transfer from Georgia Perimeter conference tallied a team high 14 goals, 32 points, 87 shots, 49 shots on goal and three game-winning goals. In his first game as a Spartan, Cardoso registered a school record four goals in a win over #6 Clayton State. He concluded the year as a first-team all-SSC choice and second-team all-South Region selection.

Following two years at UT, Cardoso ranks seventh in Tampa history with 36 career goals while his 86 shots on goal rank first.

The draft, which was held via teleconference, consisted of one territorial Round and four numerical Rounds. MISL Teams that participated in last year's season (BAL, CAL, CHI, DET, MIL, PHI) were ranked in reverse order of last seasons' year-end win-loss percentage. MISL expansion teams participating in their first season of play (MTY, NJ, ORL) drafted ahead of all existing teams and were ranked in reverse order of their current season standings.

[Click here for the MISL web page](#)

#### 2008 MISL College Draft - Complete Results

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#### Round 1

/>/>

| MISL Team      | Name           | Position | Previous Team                 |
|----------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Orlando Sharks | James Georgeff | F        | University of Central Florida |

The draft consisted of one territorial round and four numerical rounds. Expansion teams, including Orlando, drafted ahead of all existing teams, making the Orlando Sharks' first selection the first pick of the draft.

## Exhibit B — Confirmation from Major League Soccer

Email exchange of August 13, 2013 between James Georgeff and Greg Lalas, Editor in Chief, MLS Digital. Personal contact details redacted.

### Inquiry from James Georgeff

**James Georgeff**8/13/13

To: [REDACTED]

Good Morning Guys,

I have a quick query. An Australian new paper is writing a piece on me, about my soccer career and transition into the business I am in, and long story short, I told them I was the first Australian to ever be drafted into the MLS. Now I am 99.99% sure that is the case, because I was drafted in the 2008 supplemental draft to Houston Dynamo, and I kept very close track for years before then. I also have stored a pdf file somewhere which shows I was the only Australian to be in the MLS player list for 2008.

I just wanted to go through someone more official before I tell these guys to go ahead...

### Reply from Greg Lalas, MLS Digital

On Aug 13, 2013, at 3:54 PM, "Lalas, Greg" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi James,

So, after a little research, we found out that you are the first Australian ever drafted.

Sorry, but we don't have that international-players database on the site.

Best,  
Greg

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**Greg Lalas**, Editor in Chief, MLS Digital  
e [REDACTED]  
t [REDACTED]  
Twitter [@Gaetjens](#)

## 2. Career History

| Years     | Club / Team                                     | Level / Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1998–2000 | Adamstown FC (Australia)                        | State League first team; youngest player in club history to start for the first team (15 yrs 10 mo)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1999      | Australia U-17 national team pool               | Australian Institute of Sport invitation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2000–2002 | Newcastle Breakers / Newcastle FC (Australia)   | Signed at 16; played for the B team                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2003      | Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria)                      | Reserve team; trained with first team                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2004      | Clemson University (USA)                        | NCAA Division I; started as a first-year player                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2005–2007 | University of Central Florida (USA)             | NCAA Division I; team captain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2008      | Houston Dynamo (MLS)                            | Drafted and signed; held an international roster spot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2009      | FC Arouca (Portugal, Segunda Divisão)           | Signed in the winter transfer window. Part of the squad during the club's rise and its Portuguese Cup (Taça de Portugal) run, including a win over top-flight C.S. Marítimo. Arouca went on to win promotion to the second tier in 2010 and reached the Primeira Liga for the first time in 2013.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2009–2013 | Torgelower SV Greif and various clubs (Germany) | Represented by Karl-Heinz Granitza, former Hertha BSC Bundesliga striker, Chicago Sting NASL star and U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame inductee (2003), who scouted him at FC Arouca and brought him to Germany. With Torgelower SV Greif, played Bundesliga club Hamburger SV in the 2010 German Cup (1-1 at halftime, 5-1 final). During his time there the club won its 2010–11 league title and earned promotion up the German football pyramid; he was on the 2012–13 roster after promotion. |

FC Arouca club history (promotions 2010 and 2013): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC\\_Arouca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FC_Arouca) | [Archived copy](#)

UCF Athletics, Aug 16, 2010 — Former UCF Men's Soccer Player Georgeff Competing in Germany (Hamburger SV cup match):

<https://ucfknight.com/news/2010/08/16/former-ucf-mens-soccer-player-georgeff-competing-in-germany> | [Archived copy](#)

StatsCrew — 2012–13 Torgelower SV Greif roster: <https://www.statscrew.com/worldfootball/roster/t-TORGR250/y-2012> |

[Archived copy](#)

Karl-Heinz Granitza: U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame biography

<https://www.nationalsoccerhof.com/players/karl-heinz-granitza.html> | [Archived copy](#)

## 3. Archive Documents & Media

| USA — Professional                                | Original             | Backup                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2008 MISL College Draft listing                   | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| The Sports Network — indoor league draft coverage | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Newspaper: Georgeff drafted into MLS and MISL     | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Houston Dynamo player card #12                    | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Houston Dynamo squad poster                       | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| MLS World Player Map                              | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| MLS — Real Salt Lake match photo                  | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| With George H.W. Bush at a Houston Dynamo game    | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| SuperLiga international player list               | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Europe — Professional                             | Original             | Backup                        |
| Póvoa Semanario newspaper article (S.C. Varzim)   | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| FC Arouca vs C.S. Marítimo — Portuguese Cup       | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Match vs Abel Xavier                              | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| B.K. Häcken (Sweden) match recap                  | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| College — UCF                                     | Original             | Backup                        |
| Draft article online (1)                          | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Draft article online (2)                          | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Featured on stadium big screen                    | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Central Florida soccer poster                     | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |
| Game advertisement                                | <a href="#">View</a> | <a href="#">Archived copy</a> |

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