

= Sydney Leroux =

Sydney Rae Leroux Dwyer (born May 7 , 1990) is a Canadian American professional soccer player and Olympic gold medalist . As a forward , she is currently signed by FC Kansas City in the National Women 's Soccer League (NWSL) . After representing Canada at various youth levels , she chose to play for the United States women 's national under @-@ 20 soccer team starting in 2008 and later began playing for the U.S. senior national team in 2012 . Leroux has earned over 50 caps with the senior national team and was part of the Americans ' winning squads at the 2012 London Olympics and 2015 Women 's World Cup .

Leroux played collegiate soccer for the UCLA Bruins and at the semi @-@ professional level for the Vancouver Whitecaps . She made her debut for the Whitecaps at the age of fifteen , becoming the youngest player ever to play for the team . Leroux was the number one pick by the Atlanta Beat during the 2012 WPS Draft on January 13 , 2012 . Following the suspension of the league in early 2012 , she played for the Seattle Sounders Women during the summer of the same year . In 2013 , she made her professional debut for the Boston Breakers in the NWSL during the league 's inaugural season . She was later traded to Seattle Reign FC in 2014 , Western New York Flash for the 2015 season and FC Kansas City prior to the 2016 season .

= = Early life = =

Leroux was born in Surrey , British Columbia to a Canadian mother , Sandi Leroux , and an American father , Ray Chadwick . Her mother played third base for the Canadian national softball team . Her father was a professional baseball player who pitched briefly for the California Angels in 1986 . Coming from a family of baseball players , Sydney played baseball for Whalley Little League from 1994 ? 2004 . Leroux was raised primarily by her mother after her parents split when her mother was three months pregnant with Sydney .

During her freshman and sophomore year of high school , Leroux attended Johnston Heights Secondary School in Surrey where she was the leading scorer on the soccer team . Also a track and field athlete , she won Provincials in the 4 × 100 metres relay with her team . Leroux played three seasons of club soccer with Coquitlam City Wild , helping the team to Provincial Cup Championships in 2003 , 2004 and 2005 . Leroux 's prolific goalscoring helped the team win the under @-@ 14 national championship in 2003 . She secured a bronze medal in helping the team finish third at the under @-@ 16 national tournament in 2005 . Leroux became the youngest player to play for the Vancouver Whitecaps of the W @-@ League at the age of 15 . She also won a championship as part of a British Columbia select team at the Canada Games in 2005 .

Leroux stated that at a very early age , she knew she wanted to play for the United States women 's national soccer team . To pursue her goal , she moved to Scottsdale , Arizona at the age of 15 and attended Horizon High School during her junior and senior years while living with multiple host families . Despite having a challenging time adjusting to life without her family and friends , she helped lead Sereno Soccer Club to state titles in 2007 and 2008 . Of her move to the United States , she said , " It was not easy . It was probably one of the most difficult things I ever had to do , move away from everything that I knew and was comfortable with to something that I had no idea about . Not having any family around . Doing it on my own . As a 15 @-@ year @-@ old , that 's kind of hard . I had to grow up really fast [...] But I guess it 's all worth it . Now I have a chance to prove myself , and that 's what I enjoy , and that 's why I did what I did . "

= = College career = =

Leroux played collegiate soccer for UCLA from 2008 to 2011 , under head coaches Jill Ellis (2008 ? 10) and B. J. Snow (2011) . During her freshman season , she started 18 of the 19 games in which she played . She was the sixth @-@ highest scorer on the team with five goals and six assists for a total of 16 points on the season , and was named to the All @-@ Freshman Team in the Pacific @-@ 10 Conference (Pac @-@ 10) . During her second year , she led UCLA in scoring

with 48 points (23 goals , two assists) and was a semi @-@ finalist for the Hermann Trophy . Her 23 goals ranked second in the Pac @-@ 10 and tied with teammate Lauren Cheney for a new single @-@ season record at UCLA . Leroux earned Soccer America MVP second team , Second @-@ team All @-@ Pac @-@ 10 , and 2009 NCAA All @-@ Tournament Team honors the same year . During the first round of the NCAA Division I Women 's Soccer Tournament , she tied the school 's record for most goals scored in a single match after scoring four during the team 's 7 ? 1 defeat of Boise State .

As a junior , Leroux ranked fifth in UCLA history for career points (91) as well as fourth in goals (41) and game @-@ winning goals (15) . She ranked third in the Pac @-@ 10 for goals (13) and second in game @-@ winning goals (6) earning her First @-@ team Soccer America MVP , Third @-@ team NSCAA All @-@ American , First @-@ team NSCAA All @-@ Pacific Region , and First @-@ team All @-@ Pac @-@ 10 honors the same year . During the Bruins ' first game of her junior season in 2010 , she scored four goals against Cal Poly Pomona helping her team win 7 ? 0 . She was subsequently named Pac @-@ 10 Player of the Week . Leroux scored the game @-@ winning goal during the second round of the 2010 NCAA Tournament helping the Bruins defeat the UCF Knights 2 ? 1 and advance to the third round where they lost to Stanford .

During her final year with the Bruins in 2011 , she led the team in scoring for the third straight season with 16 goals and three assists for a total of 35 points . She was named First @-@ team NSCAA All @-@ American , Soccer America 's MVP First Team , and was a semi @-@ finalist for the Hermann Trophy . She scored eight game @-@ winning goals , more than any other player in the newly renamed Pac @-@ 12 Conference . She scored her first hat trick of the season (the third of her collegiate career) in 21 minutes during a 6 ? 1 win over Arizona State in October 2011 . At the Bruins ' next game against Colorado , Leroux scored another hat trick helping her team win 8 ? 0 . She finished her collegiate career ranked fourth in UCLA 's record books for points (126) , goals (57) , and game @-@ winning goals (23) .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Club = = =

= = = = Vancouver Whitecaps , 2005 and 2011 = = = =

Leroux played for the Vancouver Whitecaps during the 2005 W @-@ League season , becoming the youngest player to ever play for the team aged 15 years and seven days . She returned to the Whitecaps for the 2011 season . She ranked second in the league for goals scored with 11 finishing the regular season with 24 points in 11 appearances . After helping the Whitecaps advance to the W @-@ League Championship Final Four with a goal during the team 's 4 ? 3 defeat of Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the Western Conference Final , Leroux was named to the All @-@ Western Conference team . Post @-@ season , she was named 2011 W @-@ League Rookie of the Year .

= = = = WPS Draft and Seattle Sounders Women , 2012 = = = =

Leroux was the number one pick by the Atlanta Beat in the 2012 WPS Draft , though the league folded before she could play for the team . During the summer of 2012 , Leroux joined fellow U.S. national team players , Hope Solo , Alex Morgan , Stephanie Cox , and Megan Rapinoe on the Seattle Sounders Women in the W @-@ League . Sounders Women head coach , Michelle French , said of the signing , " Sydney is the consummate goal scorer with an incredible attacking attitude . She not only shows tireless effort on the offensive side of the ball , but she is very unique in that she prides herself on her defensive recovery and ability to win the ball back . She makes an impact no matter where she plays on the field . " Due to her national team commitments and preparation for the 2012 Summer Olympics , Leroux made only two regular season appearances for the club . She

scored two goals and served one assist in her 168 minutes on the pitch . With the national teammates ' presence on the team , the Sounders sold out nine of their ten home matches at the 4 @, @ 500 capacity Starfire Stadium . Average attendance during the 2012 season for the Sounders Women was four times higher than the next closest team .

===== Boston Breakers , 2013 =====

In January 2013 , Heather O 'Reilly , Heather Mitts and Leroux were the three United States national team players allocated to the Boston Breakers for the inaugural season of the National Women 's Soccer League (NWSL) . She scored her first goal of the season in the 91st minute of the Breakers ' season opener against the Washington Spirit , tying the game 1 ? 1 in stoppage time . Leroux scored the league 's first ever hat trick during the Breakers ' 4 ? 1 win against the Chicago Red Stars on May 4 and was subsequently named NWSL Player of the Week . On July 3 , she scored another equalizer against the Seattle Reign FC , resulting in a 1 ? 1 draw . A few days later on July 6 , she scored two goals against the Portland Thorns FC resulting in a 2 ? 0 win for the Breakers in front of 12 @, @ 436 fans at Jeld @-@ Wen Field .

Leroux 's 11 goals scored during the season tied for second with national teammate Abby Wambach of the Western New York Flash . Lauren Holiday of FC Kansas City was in first place with 12 . The Breakers finished the 2013 season fifth in the league with an 8 ? 6 ? 8 record .

===== Seattle Reign FC , 2014 =====

On November 18 , 2013 , it was announced that Leroux had been traded to the Seattle Reign FC for the 2014 NWSL season in exchange for Kristie Mewis , Michelle Betos and the Reign 's first two picks in the 2015 draft . Ebullient Reign FC head coach Laura Harvey hailed the signing of Leroux : " One of the world 's best forwards . She is a young , extraordinary talent with unlimited upside . Sydney will be the consistent goal @-@ scoring threat that we struggled to find last season . "

During the 2014 season , the Reign set a league record unbeaten streak of 16 games during the first part of the season . During the 16 game stretch , the Reign compiled a 13 ? 0 ? 3 record . The Reign finished first in the regular season clinching the NWSL Shield for the first time . After defeating the Washington Spirit 2 ? 1 in the playoff semi @-@ finals , the Reign were defeated 2 ? 1 by FC Kansas City during the championship final . Leroux finished the 2014 season with five goals in 22 games played . In March 2015 , it was announced that she was traded to Western New York Flash .

===== FC Kansas City =====

On January 13 , 2016 , Leroux was traded to FC Kansas City . Leroux announced later that month that she is pregnant , and she is expected to miss the 2016 NWSL season .

===== Club summary =====

===== International =====

===== Youth national teams =====

By virtue of her parents ' nationalities , Leroux was eligible to represent either Canada or the United States . Playing for Canada at the age of 14 , she was the youngest individual to participate in the 2004 FIFA U @-@ 19 Women 's World Cup , held in Thailand . She served as captain of Canada 's under @-@ 15 team that traveled to Germany in 2005 .

Leroux received clearance from FIFA to change her allegiance to the United States in 2008 and went on to help the under @-@ 20 national team win the 2008 FIFA U @-@ 20 Women 's World

Cup in Santiago , Chile . She scored in the first half of the final against North Korea . She represented the United States at the 2010 FIFA U @-@ 20 Women 's World Cup and ended her under @-@ 20 career as the country 's all @-@ time leading scorer in Under @-@ 20 Women 's World Cup play with 10 goals . At the under @-@ 20 level , she is among the country 's most capped players with 36 games and is the all @-@ time leading scorer for the U.S. with 30 goals . In 2012 , she was named the 2011 U.S. Soccer Young Female Athlete of the Year , playing for both the senior and under @-@ 23 national teams .

= = = = U.S. senior national team = = = =

Leroux played at the 2012 CONCACAF Women 's Olympic Qualifying Tournament as a member of the United States senior national team . In her second cap for the senior side , Leroux scored five goals in a CONCACAF Olympic qualifying match between the U.S. and Guatemala ; the final score of the match was 13 ? 0 . Leroux 's performance tied the record for goals scored in a single match by one player in a CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying Tournament . She also tied the single @-@ game record for the national team , equaling previous performances by her teammates Amy Rodriguez and Abby Wambach in 2012 and 2004 respectively .

In 2012 , Leroux set a new team scoring record as a reserve on the team with 12 goals scored off the bench in one year . The previous record of nine goals was set by Debbie Keller in 1998 .

= = = = = From Algarve to the London Olympics , 2012 = = = = =

During the 2012 Algarve Cup in Portugal , Leroux scored the team 's fifth goal in the 93rd minute of the U.S. ' first group stage match against Denmark , in which the U.S. won 5 ? 0 . During the team 's second group stage match , she scored the game @-@ winning goal against Norway in the 81st minute . After losing to Japan in the third group stage match , the team defeated Sweden 4 ? 0 to clinch third place at the tournament .

Leroux was the youngest player and a goal @-@ scoring member of the Olympic gold medal @-@ winning team at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London . She scored the second goal against New Zealand during the quarter final match of the tournament helping the U.S. win 2 ? 0 .

= = = = = Algarve Cup , Controversy in Toronto , 2013 = = = = =

During the team 's second group stage match at the 2013 Algarve Cup , Leroux opened the scoring for the U.S. when she netted a goal in the 13th minute . Her goal was followed by four others from her teammates resulting in a 5 ? 0 win over China . The U.S. went on to win the tournament after defeating Germany 2 ? 0 in the final .

While playing in a sold @-@ out friendly match against Canada at BMO Field in Toronto , Ontario in June 2013 , Leroux was booed by Canadian fans throughout the match . After scoring during stoppage time to bring the score to 3 ? 0 in favor of the U.S. , Leroux celebrated her goal by hushing the crowd and pointing to the U.S. emblem on her jersey which further inflamed many fans in the crowd . After the game , she stated via Twitter , " When you chant racial slurs , taunt me and talk about my family don 't be mad when I shush you and show pride in what I represent . # america . " The U.S. Soccer Federation announced that Leroux had " endured abuse both verbally and in social media " since switching to the U.S. national soccer team in 2008 ; however , Leroux later clarified that no such incidents took place at BMO Field . " My tweet from this morning wasn 't in response to anything from yesterday 's match at BMO Field . In fact , the atmosphere at the stadium was a positive step forward for women 's soccer . Unfortunately , the type of abuse I have received in the past and via social media for my decision to play for the United States is a step backwards . That is what prompted my response in the heat of the moment . "

During a friendly against Mexico in September 2013 , Leroux scored a hat trick in nine minutes , helping the U.S. win 7 ? 0 .

===== 2015 FIFA Women 's World Cup =====

Leroux was on the roster of the United States team for the 2015 FIFA Women 's World Cup . She saw action in four of the seven games , recording an assist to a Christen Press goal in the opening game against Australia . She did not play in the Final against Japan

===== International goals =====

== Honors ==

NWSL Player of the Week : 2013

== Personal life ==

Leroux holds dual citizenship in Canada and the United States . Her nickname is " Syd the Kid " . Her chihuahua , " Boss Leroux " , has thousands of Twitter followers and is often featured in the media along with Sydney . Leroux has been in a relationship with English @-@ born MLS player Dom Dwyer since 2014 . On February 14 , 2015 (Valentine 's Day , or 2 / 14 ; her USWNT jersey number is 2 and Dwyer 's is 14) , it was announced that she and Dwyer had wed in January 2015 in a private ceremony . On January 25 , 2016 , Sydney announced on social media that she 's expecting the couple 's first child in September 2016 . On March 13 , 2016 , Sydney and Dom announce on social media that they are having a son .

== Endorsements ==

Leroux has appeared in several advertisements and promotional pieces for Nike . In December 2013 , she and national teammate Alex Morgan were featured in Nike 's " Winning in a Winter Wonderland " commercial along with other professional athletes including Robinson Cano , Justin Tuck , and Julia Mancuso . In June 2014 , she signed an endorsement deal with Nestle Nesquik . The same month , she made a cameo appearance in a commercial for Beats by Dre in preparation for the 2014 FIFA World Cup . In June 2014 , she became the first female endorser for the sports drink company BODYARMOR , joining fellow professional athletes Richard Sherman , Kevin Love , and James Harden .

== In popular culture ==

=== Television and video ===

Leroux was the focus of an ESPN feature entitled Living Her Dream , which profiled her evolution as an international soccer player . She was a guest on Canada 's Breakfast Television in August 2012 following the 2012 Olympics . In October 2013 , she was interviewed by Grete Eliassen for an ESPNW short feature , Q & A With Sydney Leroux . The same month , she was profiled in Fox Soccer Exclusive : Sydney Leroux for Fox Soccer Channel . In December 2013 , Leroux was featured in episode 9 of AOL 's online series , My Ink .

=== Magazines ===

Leroux was one of 21 professional athletes featured in ESPN 's The Body Issue in 2013 . She appeared semi @-@ nude on one of eight covers for the magazine . Of the experience she said , I think a lot of females struggle with the way they look , and I wanted to show that everyone 's body is different . I think it 's a big deal to be an athlete and feel confident in your body and show it off . I

'm not going to say I 've never struggled with how I look , but I 've reached a point in my life where I 'm happy with who I am .

In May 2015 , Leroux was featured on the cover of ESPN Magazine with teammates Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan .

= = = Video Games = = =

Leroux was featured along with her national teammates in the EA Sports ' FIFA video game series in FIFA 16 , the first time women players were included in the game .

= = = Ticker Tape Parade and White House Honor = = =

Following the United States ' win at the 2015 FIFA Women 's World Cup , Leroux and her teammates became the first women 's sports team to be honored with a Ticker tape parade in New York City . Each player received a key to the city from Mayor Bill de Blasio . In October of the same year , the team was honored by President Barack Obama at the White House .