

## MLS striker Ching on Na 'Oiwi 'Olino radio

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Fresh from winning a second consecutive Major League Soccer championship, Hawai'i's own Brian Ching joined Na 'Oliwi 'Olino on the airwaves this morning, sharing mana'o on everything from success at the highest level of soccer to returning home for the holidays to help with a youth soccer camp.

"Every year I come back to Hawaii and I do a soccer clinic with the Bulls soccer organization in Wai'ala'e Iki," said Ching, a striker for Houston Dynamo and last year's MLS Cup MVP.

Houston Dynamo striker Brian Ching, graduate of Kamehameha and Gonzaga, celebrates following a goal. - Courtesy Houston Dynamo

The ProXtreme Soccer Camp for 5- to 14-year-olds runs from 3 to 6 p.m. Dec. 26 and from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 27 to 29 at Wai'ala'e Iki Park.

Ching, 29, has traveled the world through soccer and last year became the first Hawai'i player to make the U.S. World Cup team, which he called "the highlight of my career."

"It's kind of what every soccer player lives for - representing your country in the world's biggest sporting event," he said by phone from San Jose, California, where his wife, Charisse, is studying to become a pharmacist. Ching said it wasn't always easy in the pros, and he had to work his way back from the second division after his first year.

"When I first got into the MLS I doubted myself a little bit, I was kind of shy and timid and I wasn't confident in myself and my abilities. And that really hurt me," he said. "It took me three-quarters of a year to finally learn that I could play with

these guys and to learn I was as good if not better than these guys."

Ching was joined on the radio by Chris Nied, his high school coach at Kamehameha Schools. His first coach was his mom, Stephanie Whalen.

Houston Dynamo striker Brian Ching takes flight for a header over a Kansas City Wizards player. - Courtesy Houston Dynamo

Earlier this year Ching met Hawai'i soccer star Natasha Kai of Kahuku, who played in the recent Women's World Cup in China. "She seemed like a great girl, doing great things for the sport as well," he said.

Ching will be joined at the ProXtreme Soccer Camp by other pros including Clint Mathis (New York Red Bulls), Ted Eck (Dallas Burn), Duke Hashimoto (Real Salt Lake), Kenji Treschuk (Seattle Sounders) and possibly some Women's National Team players.

To register online, visit [www.hawaiisoccercamps.com/ProXtreme.htm](http://www.hawaiisoccercamps.com/ProXtreme.htm) . Registration costs \$225 through Nov. 30 and \$250 after that. For more information, call Luke Baer at 561-4663 or email [info@HawaiiSoccerCamps.com](mailto:info@HawaiiSoccerCamps.com). Lunch, camp soccer balls, group photos and extra T-shirts are available at an additional cost.

"Liwi"Liino airs weekdays from 7 to 9 a.m. on AM 940 and can also be heard by live web streaming at [www.am940hawaii.com](http://www.am940hawaii.com).

