

---

MARCH 20, 2009, 3:34 PM

## Portland Latest to Join M.L.S.

By [JEFFREY MARCUS](#)

Major League Soccer officials paid Merritt Paulson a visit in Portland on Friday to announce the city as the next team to join M.L.S. in 2011. That will make three teams in the Pacific Northwest, after Seattle, which [opened M.L.S. play last night with a victory over the Red Bulls](#), and Vancouver, which was [awarded a team earlier this week](#).

As the Associated Press reported, Portland approved financing last week that would renovate PGE Park to make it suitable for soccer, and construct a new ballpark for the Class AAA Portland Beavers baseball team.

In December, The New York Times's [Richard Sandomir wrote an article about Paulson](#), son of the former Treasury Secretary, Henry M. Paulson Jr., and his efforts to bring another team to the Pacific Northwest and the stadium issue.

---

Copyright 2009 The New York Times Company | [Privacy Policy](#) | [NYTimes.com](#) 620 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10018