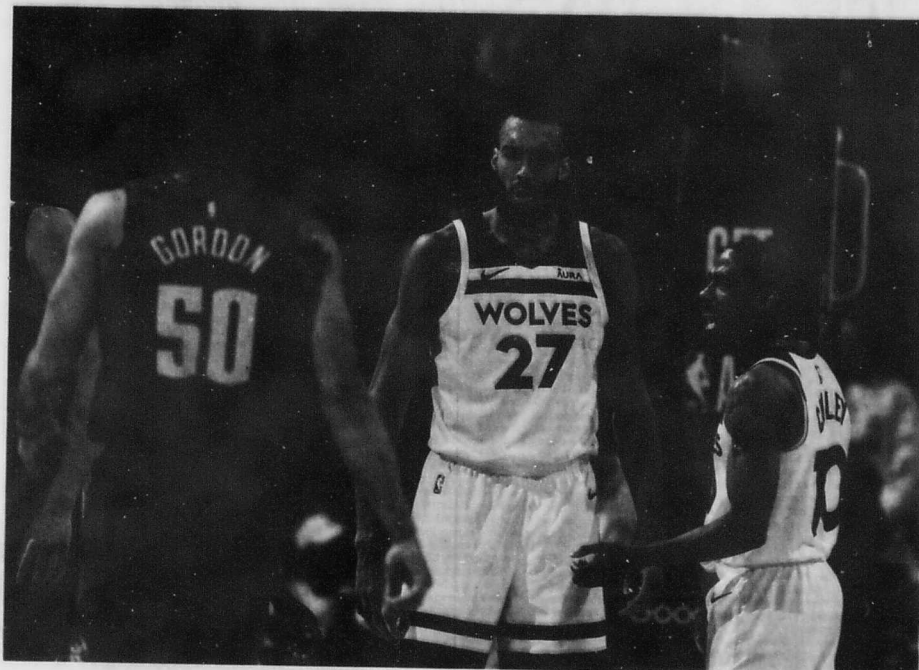


SPORTS



Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert (27) and guard Mike Conley react after a basket during Game 1 of their second-round NBA playoff series against the Denver Nuggets on May 4. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI / The Associated Press

Gone but not forgotten

Mike Conley and Rudy Gobert have advanced further than they ever did in Utah — and Jazz fans are happy for them.

Rudy Gobert was beaming on Sunday night. Mike Conley, too. The Minnesota Timberwolves stunned the defending champion Denver Nuggets, completing a comeback from a 20-point deficit to move on to the NBA's Final Four. Jazz fans had their eyes glued to their TV sets — I knew of multiple watch parties here in Utah for a game that didn't involve the local team. It makes sense. Those guys were your guys.

Now Conley and Gobert are in the Western Conference Finals.



ANDY LARSEN

deeper into the playoffs than they ever got in Utah.

It's enough for any fan to feel a range of emotions. Jealousy. Anger. Even betrayal. All would be common in the dramatic world of sports fandom.

But do you know what Jazz fans told me they're feeling most? Happiness.

I received hundreds of responses on Twitter when I asked the fan base about the Wolves' win on Sunday night, and by far, the most common sense of one of shared joy.

Shared joy with Minnesota, which has waited 20 years to return to the conference finals since the Kevin Garnett era. Shared joy with the Stifle Tower, who has taken more undeserved hate in his 10 NBA seasons than any other player. Shared joy with Mountain Mike, the two-time NBA

Teammate of the Year winner, who endeared himself with the community in Utah more quickly than any player since.

There's a word for what Jazz fans are feeling: "Freudenfreude." The opposite of schadenfreude, freudenfreude is the German word that means "the bliss we feel when someone else succeeds, even if it doesn't directly involve us." To be sure, it's schadenfreude that gets all the pub, but freudenfreude is by far the healthier alternative.

It's actually a little bit remarkable that Jazz fans are responding this way. According to

the research presented in The New York Times, schadenfreude and jealousy are most common when the aggrieved party is depressed. And believe me, some Jazz fans are down bad right now — in the fan base, there's massive disillusion about the team's 8th-worst finish in the NBA, the team slipping to 10th in the lottery, and just an overall pessimism about the rebuild with no end in sight.

One potential reason Jazz fans are staying friendly anyway: a kinship with the Wolves, a fellow title-less club making do in

Photo by LARSEN/BS

Real Salt Lake's Arango has more goals than Messi

Columbian striker is just one reason RSL is on the run that has taken Major League Soccer by storm.

By ALEX VEJAR | The Salt Lake Tribune

Real Salt Lake made a big splash when it acquired Chicho Arango from Liga MX last year.

RSL paid a club record for the Colombian striker, hoping he'd be the answer to a years-long search for the elite goal scorer the team hasn't truly had since Alvaro Saborio.

Arango has answered the call and has been one of the catalysts of RSL's meteoric rise in Major League Soccer.

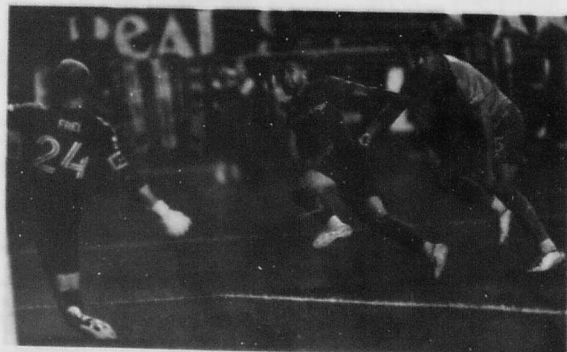
With Arango's two goals on Saturday, he became the league's top goal scorer at 13. That surpassed D.C. United's Christian Benteke

Real Salt Lake
at FC Dallas

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. MST
TV » Apple TV

(11) and Inter Miami's Luis Suárez (11). He even has more goals than Lionel Messi — yes, that Messi — who has 10.

"Very happy with everything that has been done," Arango said. "But even happier with the way the team is going, with the way that we've been winning, with the way we're building that winning mentality, that strong and



Real Salt Lake forward Chicho Arango, center, gets past Seattle Sounders defender Jackson Ragen, right, as he scores a goal past Sounders goalkeeper Stefan Frei during a Leagues Cup match on July 22, 2023, in Sandy. FRANCISCO SZOLSETH / The Salt Lake Tribune

positive mentality." Arango's answer is a microcosm of just how the Claret and Cobalt have taken the league by storm. Yes, Arango grabs the headlines.

But sometimes wins come down to goalkeeper Zac MacMath. Or Diego Luna. Or Anderson Julio. On Saturday against their biggest rival, it was Andrés Gómez

who provided the game-winning goal in an electrifying 5-3 comeback win over the Colorado Rapids.

Photo by ARANGO/BS