

## **Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity July 9, 2005 MetroStars vs LA Galaxy**

On July 9, 2005, in a match between the MetroStars and the LA Galaxy (see attached clip), a foul was committed by Galaxy #15 Ugo Ihemelu against MetroStars #99 Ante Razov. While on a dead run, Razov had received a pass from his teammate Amado Guevara (#20) and had proceeded directly toward the goal. From the side, Ihemelu reached out, wrapped his left arm around Razov's waist, and turned him away from the ball while they were inside the penalty area.

The clip clearly demonstrates all four essential elements of interfering with an obvious goal scoring opportunity (the "4 Ds"):

- The attacker was moving directly toward the goal,
- Only one defender (the goalkeeper) was between the site of the foul and the goal,
- The foul was committed close to the goal, and
- The ball was within playing distance of the attacker who, but for the foul, would have been able to continue in possession.

Each one of these elements was clearly present. Referees must understand that they have no discretion in sending off a defender and showing the red card under these circumstances.

Attach:

[To view the Windows Media Player clip click here](#)

(as taken from cnra.net Case Studies page; official letter not yet recovered)