

Page Six

**FOUL CALL FOR HERO**

218 words

25 December 2006

[New York Post](#)

13

English

(c) 2006 N.Y.P. Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved.

NEARLY 30 years ago, Italian soccer hero Giorgio Chinaglia wowed Big Apple crowds when he scampered around Giants Stadium playing for the New York Cosmos along with fellow legends Pele and Franz Beckenbauer. Now Chinaglia, 59, is getting tackled by Rome police, who have are seeking to extradite him from New York, where he hosts a Sirius Satellite show, and question him about alleged stock manipulation of shares in his former team, Lazio. Prosecutors also allege that Chinaglia's fans tried to force the club's owner into selling to a Chinaglia-affiliated group and have locked up some of them in an effort to make the fans talk. "I didn't do anything," Chinaglia griped to The Post's Dan Mangan. "They're going to keep me in jail for six months to ask me questions? It is ridiculous, believe me." But Chinaglia has hired high-powered, sartorially striking lawyer Joseph Tacopina to boot the extradition bid out of bounds.

"Giorgio Chinaglia is one of the greatest players to ever grace the sport," Tacopina said. "Soccer is a religion in Italy. It is akin to indicting Michael Jordan in the United States. He was not involved in any crime, but putting his name into the mix gives a trophy-seeking prosecutor headlines."

Document NYPO000020061225e2cp00027

© 2007 Factiva, Inc. All rights reserved.