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IN THIS ISSUE

GAME PREVIEW 04

LouCity gets playoff-ready; 'that's just what we do here'

TEAM ROSTERS 05

A look at team rosters for Louisville City FC and Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC

LYNN FAMILY STADIUM 06

Key details about LouCity's new home

EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS 07

Where LouCity currently stands in the Eastern Conference

JOHN HACKWORTH 08

Meet Louisville City FC's head coach

LOUCITY STAFF 10-11

Louisville City's Coaches, Front Office, Technical Staff, & Medical Staff

MEET THE TEAM 13-17

Player profiles for every athlete

PLAYOFF BRACKET 20

USL Championship 2020 playoffs bracket

COMMUNITY AND CHAMBER PARTNERS 28

A listing of Louisville City's business and civic partners



LOUCITY GETS PLAYOFF-READY; 'THAT'S JUST WHAT WE DO HERE'

By Maggie Wesley

The postseason brings a different sort of energy to many teams. That, however, isn't the case for Louisville City FC.

Coach John Hackworth discovered it shortly after his arrival, when the boys in purple were en route to winning their second straight USL title.

"I remember in 2018 walking into the locker room with Niall (McCabe) early one morning, and I said, 'Are you ready for the playoffs?" Hackwork remembers. "And he said, 'That's just what we do here. We are always ready for the playoffs.'

"Clearly since I've been here, that expectation is not just reaching the playoffs but winning the whole thing."

LouCity will set out in earnest toward putting a third star above its crest at 7:30 p.m. Saturday when hosting Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC in the USL Championship Playoffs.

The club, in its sixth season, has reached at least the Eastern Conference Final each year. It won a first USL Cup in 2017 and made history the following year in becoming the first team to win back-to-back titles.

So for the veterans on this team, the feeling is familiar — seeing leaves change colors and their season continue. As for 17-year-old Jonathan Gomez, he's taking notes.

"They've been in that situation a lot of times before, so just take whatever they're telling me and try and apply it," said Gomez, a rookie left back aligning himself to LouCity's culture. "Even in training their leadership shows a lot. I just try and take whatever I can and apply it to the game.

"...Since they've been through it so many times, they know exactly how to deal with it and what to expect. I'm new so I'm learning everyday what that's like."

Midfielder Paolo DelPiccolo, the team captain, has been with LouCity through all but one of those playoff runs.

"I think this time of year is just naturally going to be more exciting," DelPiccolo said. "Our whole culture and brand is treating every game like the playoffs and trying to keep the same level and consistency from day one as far as we can go.

"For us, it's trying to do the same stuff over and over. You say that, but obviously the playoffs have a special feeling and special meaning."

"All of us are a little spoiled in that regard which makes this particular game against Pittsburgh in the first round that much more important and meaningful," added Hackworth, whose side completed an abbreviated USL season 11-3-2, earning the points necessary to win its regionalized group and open the postseason at Lynn Family Stadium.

"Especially, since the fact that we won the Eastern Conference and secured home field advantage as long as we advance. It is an expectation and it is something that not one of us would think was any different."

TEAM ROSTERS

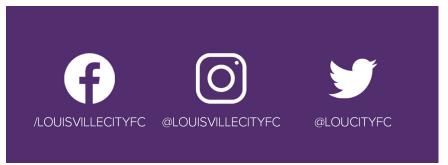




	TM				
1	CHRIS HUBBARD	GK	1	DANNY VITIELLO	GK
3	ALEXIS SOUAHY	D	2	MARK LINDSTROM	D
4	SEAN TOTSCH	D	3	ROPAPA MENSAH	F
5	JIMMY OCKFORD	D	4	DANI ROVIRA	MF
6	WES CHARPIE	D	5	JORDAN DOVER	D
8	AKIL WATTS	D	6	XHELIL ASANI	D
9	LUKE SPENCER	F	7	RYAN JAMES	D
10	BRIAN OWNBY	F	8	DAKOTA BARNATHAN	MF
11	NIALL MCCABE	MF	9	ALBERT DIKWA	F
13	CORBEN BONE	MF	10	STEEVAN DOS SANTOS	F
14	ABDOU THIAM	F	11	KENARDO FORBES	MF
15	PAT MCMAHON	D	12	DANNY GRIFFIN	MF
17	CAMERON LANCASTER	F	14	ROBBIE MERTZ	MF
19	OSCAR JIMENEZ	D	15	ANTHONY VELARDE	MF
22	GEORGE DAVIS IV	F	16	MARK FORREST	F
27	NAPO MATSOSO	MF	17	THOMAS VANCAEYEZEELE	D
29	ANTOINE HOPPENOT	MF	18	TOMAS GOMEZ	GK
36	PAOLO DELPICCOLO	MF	20	TONY WALLS	D
38	ARDA BULUT	F	21	PATRICK BUNK-ANDERSEN	D
39	BEN LUNDT	GK	22	HUNTER ASHWORTH	D
42	JONATHAN GOMEZ	D	23	RAY LEE	D
45	DAMIR BEGANOVIC	MF	24	ANTHONY MWEMBIA	GK
61	ELIJAH WYNDER	MF	33	LUKAS FERNANDES	F
77	JASON JOHNSON	F	34	SKYLAR THOMAS	D
80	DEVON "SPEEDY" WILLIAMS	MF			

HEAD COACH | JOHN HACKWORTH HEAD COACH | BOB LILLEY

91 MUAMER UGARAK



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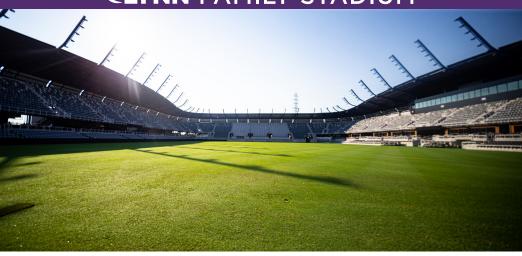


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WELCOME TO CLYNN FAMILY STADIUM



The \$65 million stadium sits on a 10-acre parcel in the Butchertown neighborhood east of downtown. Normal capacity is 15,304, and the venue could range up to 25,000 for concerts. Unique to Lynn is a 72-foot Modelo bar in the open end, believed to be the longest of its kind in Kentucky. The jumbotron ranks second in size behind only Churchill Downs' Big Board.

The natural surface is made up of Tahoma 31 Bermuda overseeded with rye, and it can remain green year round thanks to a sub-air system that removes excessive moisture, but can also blow hot or cold air to keep grass at an ideal temperature. The lines measure 120 feet by 80, a major upgrade from the 105 by 75 pitch at LouCity's former home, Louisville Slugger Field.





LouCity has ensured its late founder's legacy lives on within the club's new home. Architect and philanthropist Wayne Estopinal, who brought pro soccer to town, is the namesake behind the closed end of Lynn Family Stadium, the standing supporter zone. Estopinal, whose firm also designed the University of Louisville's similarly named Lynn Stadium, died in a November 2018 plane crash at age 63.

EASTERN CONFERENCE GROUP STANDINGS

GROUP E	GP	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Y - LOUISVILLE CITY FC	16	11	3	2	26	11	16	35
X - SAINT LOUIS FC	16	7	5	4	20	17	1	25
E - INDY ELEVEN	16	7	7	2	20	20	2	23
E - SPORTING KANSAS CITY II	16	5	10	1	20	28	-9	16

GROUP F	GP	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Y - HARTFORD ATHLETIC	16	11	3	2	29	24	7	35
X- PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS SC	16	11	4	1	37	9	29	34
E - NEW YORK RED BULLS II	16	5	11	0	30	35	-7	15
E - PHILADELPHIA UNION II	16	2	11	3	19	43	-25	9
E - LOUDOUN UNITED	13	1	9	3	10	28	-18	6

GROUP G	GP	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Y - CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE	16	8	4	4	28	16	2	28
X - BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC	16	7	5	4	23	22	10	25
E - NORTH CAROLINA FC	15	6	8	1	17	20	-4	19
E - MEMHPIS 901 FC	15	4	7	4	21	30	-7	16

GROUP H	GP	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Y - TAMPA BAY ROWDIES	16	10	3	3	24	9	14	33
X - CHARLESTON BATTERY	15	9	3	3	24	14	11	30
E - THE MIAMI FC	16	4	8	4	17	33	-14	16
E - ATLANTA UNITED 2	16	3	10	3	22	30	-10	12

- x Clinched playoff berth
- y Group Winner
- e Eliminated from playoff contention

JOHN **HACKWORTH**

Louisville City Football Club coach John Hackworth was hired in the middle of the 2018 season and promptly led the Club to its second USL Cup championship, completing the first back-to-back USL Cup titles in modern USL history.

Hackworth was hired on Aug. 2, 2018, taking over for previous coach James O'Connor who was hired with Orlando City of the MLS. After O'Connor left, Louisville City continued its season as a player-led team until Hackworth took over mid-August. Under Hackworth's direction, LouCity closed out the regular season well and then rolled through the 2018 USL playoffs with four impressive wins – outscoring the four playoff teams in their path 12-2.

"Hack came in with an impressive amount of experience and success throughout his career developing the abilities of some of our country's most exciting prospects," Louisville City FC President Brad Estes said. "In addition, his sharp eye for talent and ability to develop elite players, we were impressed with his ability to successfully lead our Club with a remarkable humility and focus down the stretch of the 2018 season. He was able to quickly establish himself as the lead of the group that was already assembled and then add new players who complimented the team's tremendous talent."

By the start of the 2018 Playoffs, Hackworth had molded the squad into a dominant force. Louisville City beat Indy Eleven 4-1, rolled over the Bethlehem Steel 2-0 and then crushed the New York Red Bulls 5-1 to make the USL Cup Final. Hackworth and Louisville City captured the club's second star with a 1-0 win over West Champion Phoenix Rising.

After the club conducted an international search for its next leader, Hackworth is Louisville City's second-ever head coach. The 48-year-old native of Dunedin, Fla., signed a contract spanning through the 2022 season.



"Those that know him have applauded his coaching acumen, but his character is what we are most excited about as we take Louisville City FC forward," Estes said of Hackworth.

Prior to Louisville City, Hackworth had been in charge of the U.S. U-17 Men's National Team since 2015 and has served as an assistant to the U.S. Men's National Team since the beginning of this year. An experienced coach at the national level, Hackworth began with U.S. Soccer in 2002 when he first served as an assistant to then-U.S. U-17 Men's National Team head coach John Ellinger. Hackworth would go on to succeed Ellinger and lead the U-17's to finishes in the quarterfinals of the 2005 FIFA U-17 World Cup and Round of 16 in the 2007 FIFA U-17 World Cup. Following his time in charge of the U-17's, Hackworth also served as the inaugural Technical Director of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy.

Outside of his time with U.S. Soccer, Hackworth's experience extends to both the collegiate and professional levels of the game. He began as an assistant coach for the Wake Forest University women's and men's teams in 1993 and 1994. Hackworth was then named the head coach at the University of South Florida in 1998, where he led the Bulls to two NCAA Tournament Appearances.

In Major League Soccer, Hackworth spent five years with the Philadelphia Union, serving as the club's Youth Development Coordinator from 2009-12, and head coach from 2012-14 before returning to take charge of the U.S. U-17 Men's National Team.





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DANNY CRUZ

ASSISTANT COACH | PETERSBURG, VA

10-year professional veteran Danny Cruz was John Hackworth's first coaching hire at Louisville City. Cruz has known Hackworth since Cruz was 16, playing for Hackworth as part of elite youth development teams. Cruz, a native of Petersburg, Va., was a successful pro, playing 137 career games at the MLS level. The former UNLV star was a third round draft pick in the 2009 MLS SuperDraft before playing with Houston Dynamo, D.C. United and Philadelphia Union. A fiery competitor, Cruz brings intensity, experience and tactical knowledge to bolster Hackworth's technical staff.



SCOTT BUDNICK

GOALKEEPER COACH | LOUISVILLE. KY

After John Hackworth brought in Budnick as interim goalkeeper coach in August 2018, the move went so well that he was offered the permanent position on Jan. 7, 2019. A wealth of goalkeeping knowledge, Budnick's tactical mind and steady demeanor imbues the goalkeepers union with confidence and courage. Budnick gained his knowledge through decades of experience at William and Mary, with the Richmond Kickers and Hampton Roads Hurricanes in the USISL and playing stints in English and German as well as time with three clubs in the MLS (Tampa Bay Mutiny, Miami Fusion and New England Revolution). Prior to LouCity, Budnick had a successful law career while coaching locally.

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MEDICAL STAFF

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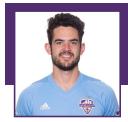
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GK **CHRIS HUBBARD**

2019 SEASON: 24 GP | 24 GS - 2,220 MIN | 78 SV | 29 GA | 5 CS **LAST MATCH:** vs STL | 90 MIN | 1 GA | 1 SV



D ALEXIS SOUAHY

2019 SEASON: 24 GP | 19 GS - 1,614 MIN | 1 G | 2 A | 2 YC | 1 RC

LAST MATCH: vs SKC | 90 MIN | 96.1% PA



D SEAN TOTSCH

2019 SEASON: 33 GP | 26 GS - 2,365 MIN | 1 G | 1 A | 88 CL | 2 YC

LAST MATCH: vs SKC | 90 MIN | 90.9% PA | 2 SH



D JIMMY OCKFORD

2019 SEASON: 16 GP | 16 GS - 1,422 MIN | 2 G | 66 CL | 4 YC

LAST MATCH: vs. MEM | 1 MIN (SUB)



D WES CHARPIE

2019 SEASON: 28 GP | 28 GS - 2,392 MIN | 1 A | 63 CL | 8 YC **LAST MATCH:** @ STL | 45 MIN (SUB) | 84.6% PA | 1 CL

YC

#5

#1

#3

#4

#6



D **AKIL WATTS**

2019 SEASON: 4 GP | 3 GS - 236 | 8 CL

LAST MATCH: vs SKC | 75 MIN | 78.3% PA | 2 KP

#8

#9

#10

#11

#13



LUKE SPENCER

2019 SEASON: 35 GP | 20 GS - 2,004 MIN | 10 G | 4 A | 2 YC LAST MATCH: vs SKC | 3 MIN (SUB) | 100% PA | 1 YC



MF/F BRIAN OWNBY

2019 SEASON: 24 GP | 20 GS - 1,849 MIN | 2 G | 5 A | 4 YC | 1 RC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 90 MIN | 70.2% PA | 5 SH | 1 KP



MF NIALL McCABE

2019 SEASON: 33 GP | 32 GS - 2,924 MIN | 3 G | 6 A | 2 YC | 1 RC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 90 MIN | 81.8% PA | 1 SH | 3 KP



MF CORBEN BONE

2019 SEASON: GP 6 | GS 2 - 186 MIN **LAST MATCH:** @ STL | 79 MIN | 90.5% PA | 3 KP



F **ABDOU THIAM**

#14

2019 SEASON: 26 GP | 12 GS - 1,236 MIN | 3 G | 4 A | 4 YC **LAST MATCH:** @ STL | 34 MIN (SUB) | 100% PA | 1 SH



PAT McMAHON

#15

2019 SEASON: 17 GP | 10 GS - 1,141 MIN | 1 G | 2 A | 30 CL | 4 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 75 MIN | 89.7% PA



CAMERON LANCASTER

#17

2019 SEASON: 18 GP | 7 GS - 730 MIN | 5 G | 1 A **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 87 MIN | 68.4% PA | 5 SH | 1 G | 1 KP



D OSCAR JIMENEZ

#19

2019 SEASON: 37 GP | 37 GS - 3,341 MIN | 1 G | 7 A | 59 CL | 4 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 90 MIN | 90% PA | 1 SH | 3 KP



MF **GEORGE DAVIS IV**

#22

2019 SEASON: 32 GP | 12 GS - 1,215 MIN | 3 G | 2 A | 1 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 24 MIN (SUB) | 75% PA | 1 CL | 2 KP

16 15



MF NAPO MATSOSO

#27

2019 SEASON: 23 GP | 20 GS - 1,701 MIN | 5 G | 1 A | 4 YC | 1 RC **LAST MATCH:** @ IND | 89 MIN | 69% PA



MF/F **ANTOINE HOPPENOT**

#29

2019 SEASON: 30 GP | 20 GS - 1,978 MIN | 5 G | 2 A | 4 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 87 MIN | 78.4% PA | 1 SH | 3 KP | 1 A



MF **KENNEY WALKER**

#32

2019 SEASON: 31 GP | 24 GS - 2,123 MIN | 1 G | 5 A | 1 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 15 MIN (SUB) | 100% PA



MF PAOLO DelPICCOLO

#36

2019 SEASON: 17 GP | 10 GP - 915 MIN | 2 G | 3 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 90 MIN | 75% PA | 4 SH | 1 G | 2 KP



F **ARDA BULUT**

#38

2019 SEASON: N/A LAST MATCH: N/A



GK **BEN LUNDT**

#39

2019 SEASON: 12 GP | 12 GS - 1,080 MIN | 27 SV | 11 GA | 4 CS **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 90 MIN | 2 SV | 1 GA



JONATHAN GOMEZ

2019 SEASON: N/A

LAST MATCH: vs. MEM | 67 MIN | 73.3% PA | 1 SH

#42

#45

#61

#77

#91



MF **DAMIR BEGANOVIC**

2019 SEASON: N/A LAST MATCH: N/A



MF **ELIJAH WYNDER**

2019 SEASON: N/A

LAST MATCH: vs LDN | 23 MIN (SUB) | 100% PA | 1 SH



JASON JOHNSON

2019 SEASON: 15 GP | 5 GS - 458 MIN | 3 G | 1 A | 7 KP

LAST MATCH: vs SKC | 3 MIN (SUB) | 33.3% PA



MF #80 **DEVON "SPEEDY" WILLIAMS**

2019 SEASON: 30 GP | 30 GS - 2,760 MIN | 1 G | 1 A | 7 YC **LAST MATCH:** vs SKC | 90 MIN | 87.7% PA | 2 SH | 3 KP



GK **MUAMER UGARAK**

2019 SEASON: N/A LAST MATCH: N/A



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