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## WELCOME

SWITCHBACKS Welcome to Weidner Field! Today we begin our 2017 campaign at home; which centers around an environment that every other USL team fears to enter. Last year the Switchbacks won 10 USL matches at home on their way to a consecutive top-three finished in the Western Conference regular season. The Switchbacks also shutout USL opponents 9 times in their 10 home victories at Weidner Field. A combination of the high elevation and enthusiastic crowds makes Switchbacks Stadium a fortress for opposing teams to enter.

There is an incredible amount of excitement surging in the United Soccer League (USL) right now. The league has more than doubled from the fourteen teams in 2014 to 30 teams for the 2017 season. Right before your eyes, American soccer is evolving and Colorado Springs is an important part of it!

The Switchbacks had their inaugural season last season where they made the playoffs and fell just one point short of a regular season Western Conference title. The Switchbacks continued their success last season finishing third in the Western Conference regular season before falling to Vanvouver Whitecaps FC 2 in the first round of the playoffs. With a newer, younger squad, the Switchbacks are confident head coach Steve Trittschuh will lead the Switchbacks into another title-contending season.

With the leadership of our Head Coach, Steve Trittschuh, and Owner, Martin Ragain, we are developing strong partnerships.

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## **Match Preview**

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By Roland Vargish

The Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC host the Los Angeles Galaxy II this Friday evening at Weidner Field on Super Hero Night that includes a post-match fireworks show presented by Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Currently in 6th place in the USL's Western Conference, the Switchbacks have taken nine points from their last twelve available while scoring six goals in their most recent two matches at Weidner Field. A 2-0 loss in Sandy, Utah on Saturday evening to current Western Conference table-toppers Real Monarchs SLC prevented the Switchbacks from jumping to 4th place.

"It was unfortunate we didn't win versus the Monarchs; it means we want to bounce-back and win on Friday," said Kevaughn Frater, who leads the Switchbacks in goals with 8. "Knowing I've scored against LA before gives me confidence. I'm motivated to show my talent and most importantly to help the team get another three points. It's big for us to be home – we always put on a show in front of our fans."

A pair of headers from Frater sealed all three points for the Switchbacks against Los Dos on June 10th in Carson, California, as the Jamaican hitman scored the winner just before the start of extra-time. An 80th minute Justin Dhillon near-post strike seemed destined to end the match in a draw before Frater out-leaped Galaxy II goalkeeper Bennett Sneddon and gave the Switchbacks a priceless road victory.

"Frater has been dangerous," said Switchbacks Head Coach Steve Trittschuh. "As we saw in Salt Lake, teams are targeting him now. Shane [Malcolm], Luke [Vercollone], and Masta [Kacher] have all been playing really well...The whole team has really been doing good things. We have to keep the home momentum going on Friday and do what we've all been doing so well. It's good to be home – Friday night will be good for us."

In addition to being back in Colorado Springs, another boost for the Switchbacks will be the return of veteran striker Aaron King. King missed the Switchbacks win in Orange County on August 8th to attend the birth of his second child, although he did feature off the bench in the aforementioned loss to the Real Monarchs. "It feels like a weight's been lifted off my shoulders! I want to play well for the club and for my family," said King. "Of course I've got to give a shout out to my oldest daughter, Kameron. She's a big sister now! Kai, the youngest, is doing great and so is my wife Kelsey. It's been an emotional couple weeks, but I'm ready for Friday and to get the win! LA always try to bring their strongest team versus us all the MLS 2 teams do. They'll come out for revenge after earlier this year. I'm looking forward to seeing what we're going to bring."

The Galaxy II have endured a difficult 2017 USL season. Currently in thirteenth place, Los Dos have a mighty task on their hands if they're to clinch a fourth consecutive playoff place. Off since an August 5th loss to Phoenix Rising FC in Carson, California, the Galaxy II will have a deep roster from which to choose Friday's starting XI as their MLS parent club, the Los Angeles Galaxy, will not play until an August 23rd showdown with the Columbus Crew in Ohio. MLS' Galaxy are themselves struggling to

## MY CITY. MY TEAM.

secure a 2017 MLS Cup Playoffs berth – Sigi Schmid's team are in 9th place at the time of writing, nine points behind the San Jose Earthquakes who occupy the final playoff position.

"They're one of the teams where we have to wait to see who's coming to face us," said Trittschuh. "Their first team doesn't play this weekend so it's hard to prepare for LA – they've been switching players and even their system. On my board I've got 20-plus guys who could play for LA against us. We've been playing well the last four games so we won't worry about the other team, just ourselves - it's what we've been telling the players all season."

Rancho Santa Margarita native Justin Dhillion leads the Galaxy II in goals with 6, while tricky winger Adrian Vera has scored five times in 2017. Costa Rican striker Ariel Lassiter remains one of the most dangerous players in the Galaxy organization, although his involvement on Friday is uncertain as he's spent time this season on the MLS roster and may well be rested for the crucial trip to Columbus.

Former UC Santa Barbara Gaucho midfielder Ryo Fujii is one of the first names on Head Coach Mike Muñoz's team sheet, while impressive performances from striker Ethan Zubak have seen the nineteen year old from Corona, California called-up to the Under-19 United States national team.

"LA won't be happy that we beat them at their home so they'll be looking for redemption," said winger Shane Malcolm. "They'll have an older team this time around with more experience, so it should make for a good game. It's always amazing to play in front of our home fans at Weidner Field. The atmosphere is hard for any team to play against us. We haven't been shut-out at home, so hopefully, we score and the fans go home happy." Tuesday morning saw Switchbacks midfielder Luke Vercollone named to the USL Team of the Week seven days after he opened the scoring in the Switchbacks' rampant 4-0 victory over Orange County SC in Irvine, California. "It feels good – I'm thankful, honored, and blessed," said Vercollone. "LA are going to fight. They always play well against us. It's a good rivalry with them and I expect a tough game, but hopefully, we get a win at home."

"LA will want to prove they can play – they'll try to beat us, especially after we beat them away," said defender Diego Gutierrez. "Us having the advantage in altitude isn't that big, but it means a lot to play in front of our fans and show what we've got."

Following Friday's match, the Switchbacks will begin their longest break of 2017. September 2nd will see Steve Trittschuh's men make their way to Papa Murphy's Park to face Sacramento Republic before returning to Weidner Field a week later for the visit of Phoenix Rising FC.

"Why do it now? It makes no sense," said Trittschuh. "We needed the break earlier in the season when we were playing two games almost every week. But we'll deal with it and keep working on being at our best. We'll get some guys back into the team after the break and then we'll go on a tough trip to Sacramento looking to continue our push."

"After three games in seven days I'm looking forward to the chance to rest and come back refreshed and make a push for the playoffs – but we won't look past Friday," insisted Shane Malcolm. "Our ultimate goal is to get home-field advantage in the playoffs and I think we can make a strong playoff push; starting against LA on Friday."



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## Switchbacks FC Roster



#### Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	А	FC	YC	RC
2	Josh Phillips	2,1Ø3	Ø	2	25	5	Ø
3	Pascal Eboussi	656	Ø	Ø	15	З	1
4	Luke Vercollone	640	1	3	6	Ø	Ø
5	Josh Suggs	1,98Ø	2	3	21	6	Ø
6	Davy Armstrong	52	Ø	Ø	3	1	Ø
7	Jun Gyeong Park	111	Ø	Ø	4	Ø	Ø
8	Eddy Prugh	1,447	1	2	34	З	Ø
9	Damen Marcu	29	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
10	Masta Kacher	2,050	7	4	31	3	Ø
<u>11</u>	Kevaughn Frater	1,289	8	5	55	7	Ø
13	Diego Gutierrez	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	$\square$	Ø
14	Rony Argueta	2,16Ø	1	1	37	4	Ø
16	Jake Cawsey	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	$\square$	$\square$
17	Sean McFarlane	1,658	2	2	17	4	Ø
18	Aaron King	1,221	З	2	9	Ø	$\square$
2Ø	Richie Perez	485	1	Ø	10	1	Ø
22	Conner Bevans	525	Ø	1	10	1	Ø
23	Shane Malcolm	1,504	5	3	23	2	Ø
35	Taeseong Kim	1,284	Ø	1	36	5	Ø
44	Jordan Burt	1,850	6	Ø	16	1	Ø
77	Jack Jones	124	Ø	1	5	Ø	Ø

#### <u>Goalkeeper Stats</u>

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Moise Pouaty	1,800	69	33	1	2	$\square$
12	Dan Jackson	27Ø	1Ø	5			$\square$
29	Justin Luthy	90	Ø	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$

#### <u>Team Stats</u>

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#	Player	MIN	G	А	FC	YC	R
3	Baggio Husidic	90	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø
15	Ariel Lassiter	344	2	Ø	2	Ø	Ø
16	Nathan Smith	306	Ø	Ø	3	Ø	Ø
18	Bradley Diallo	448	Ø	Ø	12	2	Ø
19	Jaime Villarreal	266	Ø	Ø	6	Ø	1
21	Hugo Arellano	900	Ø	Ø	18	5	Ø
27	Miguel Aguilar	34	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø
29	Josh Turnley	885	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø
32	Jack McBean	90	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø
33	Jose Villarreal	360	Ø	1	8	1	Ø
38	Bradford Jamieson	429	Ø	1	10	$\square$	Ø
4Ø	Raul Mendiola	751	Ø	1	5	Ø	Ø
44	Zico Bailey	230	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø
45	Jonah Estrada	60	Ø	Ø	10	1	Ø
45	Jonathan Estrada	189	1	Ø	10	1	Ø
48	Ryo Fujioi	1,291	1	Ø	27	5	Ø
49	Adrian Vera	1,304	5	1	22	3	Ø
50	Robert Castellanos	1,329	Ø	Ø	14	2	Ø
51	Ethan Zubak	1,279	2	3	17	2	1
53	Jorge Hernandez	556	Ø	1	3	1	Ø
55	Ulysses Llanez Jr	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
57	Justin Dhillon	975	6	2	12	1	Ø
50	Alex Mendez	64	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
52	Jake Arteaga	243	Ø	Ø	3	Ø	Ø
53	Tyler Turner	1,010	1	Ø	13	2	Ø
65	lan Lonergan	472	Ø	Ø	5	1	Ø
57	Jonathan Hernandez	564	Ø	Ø	16	3	Ø
58	Andre Ulrich Zanga	949	Ø	2	26	4	Ø
59	Jeffery Payeras	90	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø
7Ø	Alejandro Covarrubias	1,200	Ø	1	17	5	1
72	Jean Engola	1,274	Ø	Ø	26	5	Ø
73	Adonis Amaya	734	2	1	8	2	Ø
	Michelle Alehandro Juarez	364	0	0	0	1	
	Jose Agredo	87	 Ø	0	5	 Ø	<u> </u>

#### Goalkeeper Stats

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
22	Jon Kempin	540	32	9	Ø	1	Ø
31	Clement Diop	27Ø	14	5	Ø	Ø	Ø
54	Bennett Sneddon	450	13	11	Ø	Ø	Ø
75	Eric Lopez	630	30	20	Ø	1	Ø

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#### Western Conference Standings

				_			_
Place	Team	GP	W	L	D	GD	Pts
1	Real Monarchs SLC	22	16	3	3	24	51
2	San Antonio FC	21	11	2	8	17	41
3	Swope Park Rangers	21	12	5	4	12	40
4	Reno 1868 FC	21	10	5	6	24	36
5	Sacramento RepubliC FC	20	10	6	4	8	34
6	Tulsa Roughnecks FC	22	10	9	3	0	33
7	Colorado Springs Swtichbacks FC	24	9	9	6	4	33
8	OKC Energy FC	22	8	9	5	-3	29
9	Orange County SC	20	7	6	7	-1	28
10	Seattle Sounders FC 2	23	8	13	2	-12	26
11	Phoenix Rising FC	19	7	7	5	-5	26
12	Rio Grande Valley FC	22	7	10	5	-8	26
13	LA Galaxy II	21	5	12	4	-24	19
14	Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	22	4	12	6	-11	18
15	Portland Timbers 2	22	2	17	3	-24	9

#### Eastern Conference Standings

Place	Team	GP	W	L	D	GD	Pts
1	Charlotte Independence	22	11	4	7	16	40
2	Louisville City FC	20	11	4	5	16	38
3	Charleston Battery	23	10	5	8	14	38
4	Tampa Bay Rowdies	23	10	6	7	12	37
5	Rochester Rhinos	21	9	4	8	5	35
6	Bethlehem Steel FC	21	10	8	3	3	33
7	FC Cincinnati	23	8	8	7	Ø	21
8	New York Red Bulls II	23	8	11	4	-9	28
9	Orlando City B	22	6	6	10	Ø	28
10	Ottawa Fury FC	20	7	7	6	3	27
11	Pittsburgh Riverhounds	23	6	8	9	-3	27
12	Saint Louis FC	21	7	9	5	-10	26
13	Harrisburg City Islanders	24	6	12	6	-14	24
14	Toronto FC II	23	4	13	6	-22	18
15	Richmond Kickers	23	3	12	8	-12	17



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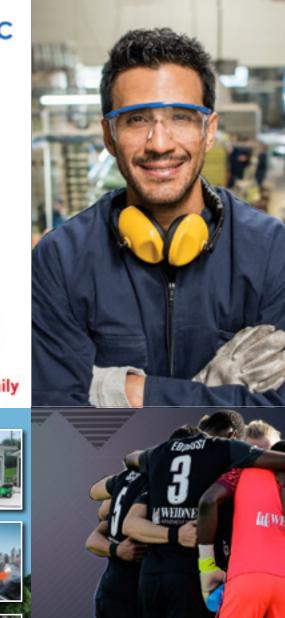
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