

USL



Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC
Game Program
Saturday, April 1st, 2017

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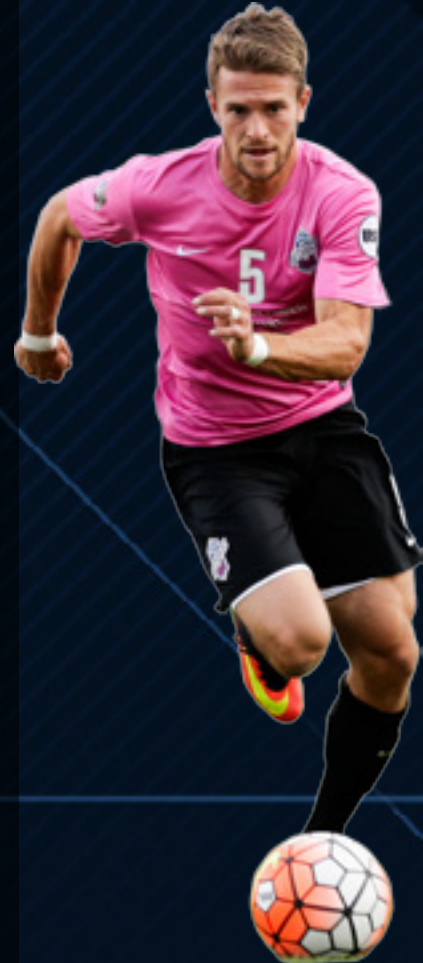
Welcome to Weidner Field! Today we begin our 2017 campaign at home; which centers around an environment that every other USL team fears to enter. Last year the Switchbacks won 10 USL matches at home on their way to a consecutive top-three finish in the Western Conference regular season. The Switchbacks 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 Vancouver 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.

"Join the Climb" and purchase your season tickets as the Switchbacks FC compete for a championship in the 2017 USL season!



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Match Preview

MY CITY. MY TEAM.



By: Roland Vargish

Saturday evening will see the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC begin their 2017 home USL campaign at Weidner Field against the Oklahoma City Energy FC.

Both clubs enter the new season after making the playoffs in 2016 and having fallen in the knockout-stages to the Vancouver Whitecaps 2. The Switchbacks swept the 2016 regular season meetings between Saturday's opponents, with a 2-0 victory at Weidner Field coming almost five months after the Switchbacks began their season with a 2-1 win at Taft Stadium in Oklahoma City.

OKC Energy FC defender Coady Andrews staked his club to a 1-0 lead in their first match of the current season against the Swope Park Rangers on Saturday night at Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, Missouri before Swope Park stormed back to seal all three points with a 3-1 win. Spanish midfielder José Barril saw red after picking up two yellow cards in stoppage time and will be suspended for Saturday's match at Weidner Field.

"OKC [Energy FC] are coming off

a loss so they'll be looking to get back on track, but we are going to use playing in front of our home fans and the weather and really come out ready to play," said Switchbacks Head Coach Steve Trittschuh. Winter-like conditions are predicted for Saturday's match in the Rocky Mountains, although glorious spring sunshine bathed the Switchbacks' Thursday morning practice at the United States Air Force Academy.

"We've been training all spring up here and we're used to playing in it and living in it," said Trittschuh. "Nothing that happens with the weather will be anything new for our players and they all know that."

"Part of me wants it to snow – and snow a lot!" exclaimed central defender Josh Phillips when asked about the potential for Saturday's weather to be less than optimal. "We want the conditions to be brutal and we want to be that team nobody wants to play...I really hope it snows on Saturday because that will give us even more of an edge."

Switchbacks captain, central midfielder Rony Argueta, echoed the statements of both his head coach and teammates: "Honestly I hope the weather is brutal at game time. We've trained in it and we're ready for it and we know the fans will be there no matter what. I'm really excited to be back home and to step out on our field again."

OKC Energy FC Head Coach Jimmy Nielsen will bring with him a veteran,

experienced and physical team to Colorado Springs. Nielsen furthered the connection between Oklahoma City and the Head Coach's native Denmark as the Energy brought in forward Philip Rasmussen ahead of the 2017 season.

Fellow Dane Danni König brings athleticism and height to the Energy's forward line, while Polish striker Wojciech Wojcik stands 6' 4" and was a key outlet early in the Energy's loss to the Swope Park Rangers.

"We've got a lot of physicality too and all our guys compete," said Rony Argueta when asked about the threat of OKC's size. "We need to match their intensity and bring our own level of pressure. If we do that we can handle the physical battle on Saturday."

A familiar face to all those at Weidner Field this weekend will be that of former Switchbacks winger Miguel Gonzalez. Gonzalez left Colorado Springs after two highly successful seasons with the Switchbacks to join the Oklahoma City Energy FC and his brother, midfielder Daniel Gonzalez.

Los Angeles-born midfielder Alejandro Covarrubias bosses the Energy FC play from his free-roaming central midfield position and will be key to the success of the Energy's attack on Saturday. Luis Martinez may well be tapped with replacing the suspended José Barril, while Coy Craft will no doubt be hoping for additional minutes after a 20-minute substitute appearance against Swope Park.

For the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, Saturday is about beginning the 2017 season on a positive note at Weidner Field – no matter the weekend weather.

"It's always good to get back to our home field and get the big first game out of the way for us," said Head Coach Steve Trittschuh. "I hope the players can take advantage of what was a really good and intense week of practice for us."

"The whole team is excited for Saturday," stressed left back Josh Suggs. "Oklahoma City have brought in a lot of talent – a number of good players – and it's always a good rivalry and test to play against them."

"We're all ready for the first game here," said Josh Phillips. "My family is flying in for the game on Saturday so I'm personally even more excited because of that. But we know how difficult this weekend will be. OKC are a good, deep team and we know we'll have to be on our game."

The Switchbacks' preparation for Saturday's home opener also included a scrimmage against a selection of players from the Colorado Rapids on Tuesday morning in Denver. "I've loved the intensity of training this week," said midfielder Jacob Cawsey. "We competed versus the Rapids and looked organized and I hope we take that into Saturday. The game against the Rapids was a big positive for all of us to take confidence into this weekend."



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Switchbacks FC Roster

Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	A	FC	YC	RC
2	Josh Phillips	90	0	0	0	0	0
3	Pascal Eboussi	73	0	0	2	0	0
4	Luke Vercollone	34	0	0	0	0	0
5	Josh Suggs	90	0	0	1	0	0
6	Davy Armstrong	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Jun Gyeong Park	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Eddy Prugh	56	0	0	0	0	0
10	Masta Kacher	65	0	0	0	0	0
11	Kevaghna Frater	90	0	1	3	1	0
13	Diego Gutierrez	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Rony Argueta	90	0	0	2	0	0
16	Jake Cawsey	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Sean McFarlane	17	0	0	1	1	0
18	Aaron King	25	0	0	1	0	0
22	Conner Beavans	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Shane Malcolm	90	1	0	4	0	0
26	Chris James	90	0	0	2	1	0
35	Taeseong Kim	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Jordan Burt	90	0	0	0	0	0
77	Jack Jones	0	0	0	0	0	0

Goalkeeper Stats

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Moises Pouaty	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Dan Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Justin Luthy	90	6	4	0	0	0



Energy FC Roster

Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	A	FC	YC	RC
2	Richard Dixon	90	0	0	1	0	0
3	Kyle Hyland	90	0	0	0	0	0
4	Sam Fink	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Mickey Daly	90	0	0	1	0	0
6	Alejandro Covarrubias	74	0	0	1	0	0
7	Phillip Rasmussen	90	0	0	1	1	0
8	Juan Pablo Guzman	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Danni Konig	20	0	0	1	0	0
10	Miguel Gonzalez	70	0	0	1	0	0
11	Alex Dixon	90	0	0	1	0	0
12	Daniel Gonzalez	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jose Barril	89	0	1	4	0	1
19	Michael Harris	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Daniel Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Coy Craft	20	0	0	0	0	0
22	Anthony Wallace	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Luis Martinez	16	0	0	2	0	0
26	Coady Andrews	90	1	0	3	0	0
28	Wojciech Wojcik	70	0	0	1	0	0

Goalkeeper Stats

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Cody Laurendi	90	1	3	1	1	0
18	CJ Cochran	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jacob Lissek	0	0	0	0	0	0

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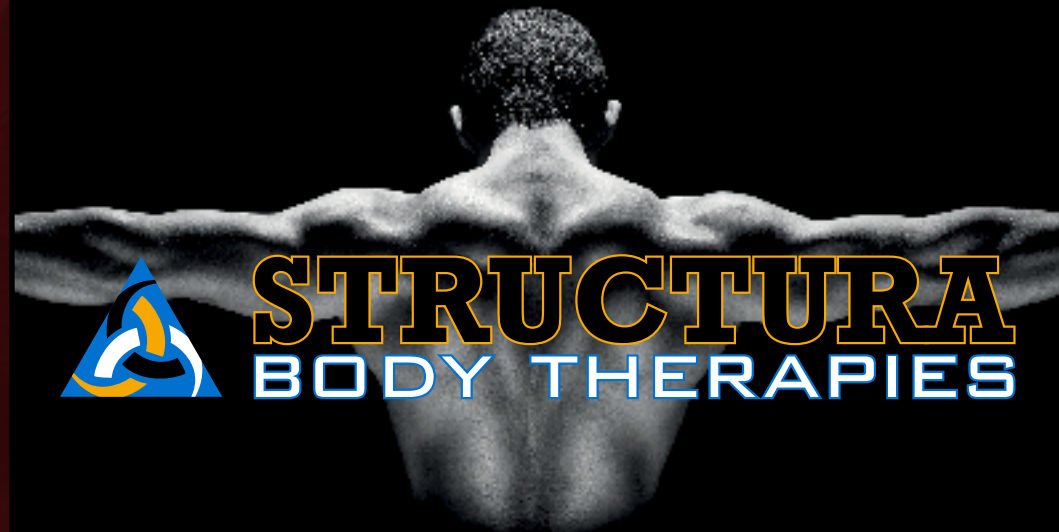
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■ = HOME

SAT
MAR 25 @ TUL 

SAT
APR 1 OKC 

FRI
APR 7 @ SAN 

WED
APR 12 @ RGV 

SAT
APR 15 SLC 

SAT
APR 22 @ RENO 

SAT
4/29 SEA 

FRI
MAY 5 TUL 

WED
MAY 10 @ PORT 

SUN
MAY 14 @ VAN 

SAT
MAY 20 @ SLC 

SAT
MAY 27 RENO 

SAT
JUN 3 OKC 

SAT
JUN 10 @ LA 

WED
JUN 21 @ KC 

SAT
JUN 24 SAN 

SAT
JUL 1 RGV 

SAT
JUL 8 VAN 

SAT
JUL 15 @ PHX 

SAT
JUL 22 @ OKC 


SAT
JUL 29 SEA 

SAT
AUG 5 PORT 


TUE
AUG 8 @ OC 

SAT
AUG 12 @ SLC 

FRI
AUG 18 LA 

SAT
SEP 2 @ SAC 

SAT
SEP 9 PHX 

SAT
SEP 16 @ SEA 

SAT
SEP 23 KC 

SAT
SEP 30 OC 

SAT
OCT 7 SAC 

SAT
OCT 14 @ TUL 

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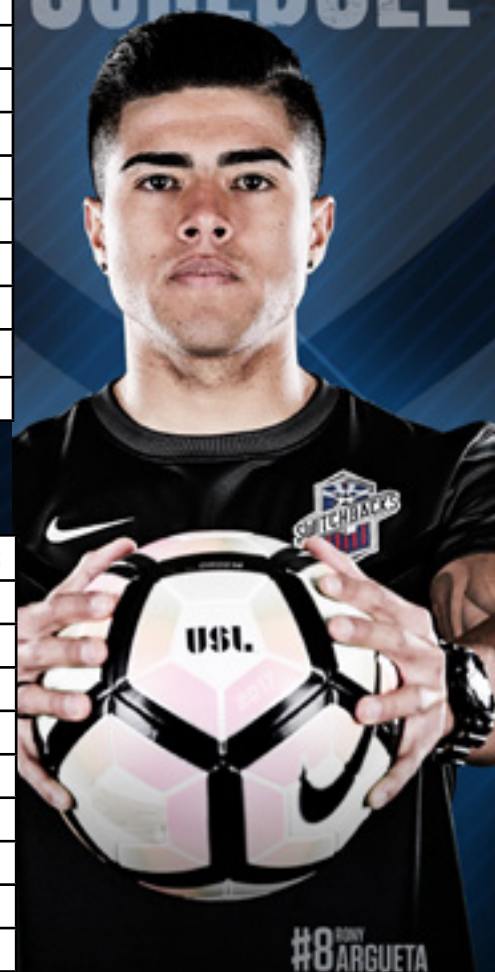
Western Conference Standings

Team	GP	W	D	L	GD	PT
Swope Park Rangers	2	2	0	0	3	6
Tulsa Roughnecks FC	1	1	0	0	3	3
Orange County SC	1	1	0	0	2	3
LA Galaxy II	1	1	0	0	2	3
Real Monarchs SLC	1	1	0	0	1	3
Sacramento Republic FC	1	1	0	0	1	3
San Antonio FC	1	1	0	0	1	3
Sattle Sounders FC 2	1	0	0	1	-1	0
Rio Grande Valley FC Toros	1	0	0	1	-1	0
Phoenix Rising FC	1	0	0	1	-1	0
Portland Timbers 2	2	0	0	2	-2	0
Oklahoma City Energy FC	1	0	0	1	-2	0
Reno 1868 FC	1	0	0	1	-2	0
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	1	0	0	1	-2	0
Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	1	0	0	1	-3	0

Eastern Conference Standings

Team	GP	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Charleston Battery	1	1	0	0	1	3
Tampa Bay Rowdies	1	1	0	0	1	3
Toronto FC II	1	1	0	0	1	3
Richmond Kickers	1	1	0	0	1	3
New York Red Bulls II	1	0	1	0	0	1
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	1	0	1	0	0	1
Louisville City FC	1	0	1	0	0	1
Saint Louis FC	1	0	1	0	0	1
Bethlehem Steel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlotte Independence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ottawa Fury FC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochester Rhinos	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Cincinnati	0	0	0	1	-1	0
Harrisburg City Islanders	0	0	0	1	-1	0
Orland City B	0	0	0	1	-1	0

2017 HOME SCHEDULE



*Gates open 1 hour before kickoff.

SAT APR 1	6:00		
SAT APR 15	6:00		
SAT APR 29	6:00		
FRI MAY 5	7:00		
SAT MAY 27	6:00		
SAT JUN 3	6:00		
SAT JUN 24	7:00		
SAT JUL 1	7:00		
SAT JUL 8	6:00		
SAT JUL 29	6:00		
SAT AUG 5	6:00		
FRI AUG 18	7:00		
SAT SEP 9	6:00		
SAT SEP 23	6:00		
SAT SEP 30	6:00		
SAT OCT 7	6:00		

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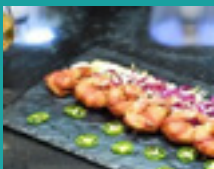
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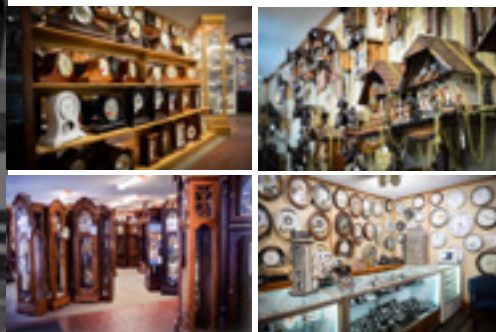
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