

Game Program Saturday, June 3rd, 2017

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Weidner is proud to partner with the Switchbacks on their 2017 run for the Cup

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.

"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



By Roland Vargish

"Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try." - Yoda, Star Wars

On Galactic Night at Weidner Field the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC will look for immediate retribution against an Oklahoma City Energy FC side that knocked the Switchbacks out of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup on Wednesday evening.

All fans on Saturday at Weidner Field are invited by the Switchbacks FC to dress-up as their favorite character from across the galaxy in support of Galactic Night. The first 500 fans through the turnstiles will receive a light-up saber, courtesy of Penrose St. Francis Pediatric E.R. and their sponsorship of Galactic Night.

A dour first half in Wednesday's match continued into the early minutes of the second '45, before the Energy were able to make a 72nd minute breakthrough from the wicked right foot of the impressive José Barril. The Madrid native spent more than a decade at Real Madrid's eminent youth academy before making his way stateside, where in 2016 he was named to the USL All 2nd Team.

A quick-fire second goal from imposing Polish striker Wojciech Wojcik seemed to have assured the Energy's place in the Fourth Round before a stoppage time penalty kick from Jordan Burt gave the Switchbacks a lifeline when Kevaughn Frater was unceremoniously hauled down in the box. Burt converted the spot-kick past C.J. Cochran, who was filling in at goalkeeper for OKC's usual starter, Cody Laurendi.

In addition to seeing Laurendi start in net, Oklahoma City could make a small selection of other changes for Saturday's USL match. Daniel Gonzalez – younger brother of former Switchbacks winger Miguel Gonzalez - was dynamic after appearing as a second half substitute on Wednesday and will be hoping for a place in the starting XI. Fellow substitute Alex Dixon, who scored against the Switchbacks in USL play on April 1st at Weidner Field, could be another change that Head Coach Jimmy Nielsen makes for this weekend's match.

"I think Saturday will be a really big day for us," said Jacob Cawsey who started and impressed in the heart of the Switchbacks midfield on Wednesday evening. "We now know firsthand just what OKC are about. I don't expect them to make a lot of changes to their team, but we might. Because of going out of the Cup we look forward now to Saturday even more."

Lineup alterations for the Switchbacks could begin with winger Masta Kacher. Kacher is tied for the Switchbacks lead in goal scoring with right back Jordan Burt after Burt's two-goal performance against Reno 1868 FC on May 27th. Kacher could be key in jumpstarting an offense that seemed disjointed at times on Wednesday evening. "We have to watch our mistakes," said Kacher. "We must do better and make sure we see and attack their weaknesses. But also, we must learn from what we did wrong. Our motivation will be even higher now. If we win we know then we can move to third place in the league so Saturday is a huge game for us!"

"We are going to look for guys in these next two days

MY CITY. MY TEAM.

who want to step-up and play," said Head Coach Steve Trittschuh immediately following Wednesday's loss when asked about how his team will line up on Saturday evening at Weidner Field. "What we had from coming back against Reno wasn't there for us tonight. I gave guys chances to step-up and they didn't. Guys didn't show the quality or desire to win. We're out of the Open Cup now so we'll concentrate on the league."

The good news for the Switchbacks ahead of Saturday is their depth of squad. Midfielder's Eddy Prugh and Luke Vercollone were both rested for the Open Cup tilt against the Energy FC, as was defender Diego Gutierrez and goalkeeper Moise Pouaty.

"We've just got to work hard Thursday and Friday to prepare," said Switchbacks captain Rony Argueta. "We've got to come out with more energy and intensity on Saturday because at times during the game that was not there. OKC are going to have several different players for Saturday's game – and we might too. Their style won't change. We'll come prepared for Saturday and with even more fight."

Initially rested from the starting XI, defender Sean McFarlane was called upon as a replacement for Pascal Eboussi in the heart of the Switchbacks' defense on Wednesday. Slotting seamlessly next to stalwart Josh Phillips, McFarlane showed his defensive prowess and ability to start the Switchbacks' attack from his center back position during his time against the Energy. "It was a rough game coming off a great tie against Reno," said McFarlane after walking off the Weidner Field surface on Wednesday. "Our main focus is Saturday. Tonight was an unfortunate result and now we have to bounce back this weekend. I don't want to take anything away from the game tonight – we wanted to win and played to go to the next round. But the league matters most to us."

The Switchbacks will travel to Taft Stadium in Oklahoma's capital city on July 22nd to round out the 2017 USL regular season three-game series between the burgeoning Western Conference rivals.

Without any further U.S. Open Cup action to

occupy their thoughts and squad, attention for the Switchbacks in the remainder of the 2017 season lies squarely on Western Conference USL play and making sure Steve Trittschuh's team secures their third-consecutive playoff berth. "Putting the Open Cup out the way now is disappointing because we made the next round against the Rapids the last two seasons but we'll put all our focus on the league," said Trittschuh. "We've got four league games in June – two of them are at home. There are no excuses now to not add points and win our home games. That starts Saturday."

Masta Kacher made certain after his post-match interview on Wednesday night that his prediction for this weekend's match be included in this article: "Remember I said this: on Saturday, we will win!"



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Wells Fargo is proud to salute the Colorado Springs Switchbacks.

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SWITCHEACKS Switchbacks FC Roster



Energy FC Roster

Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	А	FC	YC	RC
<u>#</u>	Josh Phillips	1,080	0	1	16	3	
2	Pascal Eboussi	<u>1,000</u> 541	<u>Ø</u>	<u>_</u>	12	3	 1
4	Luke Vercollone	206	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	
5	Josh Suggs	990	1	2	13	4	Ø
6	Davy Armstrong	Ø	Ø	Ø	\square	Ø	Ø
7	Jun Gyeong Park	110	Ø	Ø	4	Ø	Ø
8	Eddy Prugh	72Ø	Ø	1	15	2	Ø
10	Masta Kacher	1,033	4	1	12	2	Ø
11	Kevaughn Frater	388	1	2	19	2	Ø
13	Diego Gutierrez	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
14	Rony Argueta	1,080	Ø	1	17	2	Ø
16	Jake Cawsey	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
17	Sean McFarlane	578	1	1	6	2	Ø
18	Aaron King	758	З	2	6	Ø	Ø
20	Richie Perez	403	1	Ø	8	Ø	Ø
22	Conner Bevans	121	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø
23	Shane Malcolm	912	2	2	1Ø	1	Ø
26	Chris James	360	1	Ø	3	1	Ø
35	Taeseong Kim	377	Ø	1	1Ø	1	Ø
44	Jordan Burt	1,068	4	Ø	8	1	Ø
77	Jack Jones	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	А	FC	YC	RC
2	Richard Dixon	259	Ø	Ø	6	1	1
3	Kyle Hyland	6Ø7	1	Ø	4	Ø	\square
4	Sam Fink	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	\square
5	Mickey Daly	72Ø	1	Ø	4	Ø	\square
6	Chad Bond	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7	Phillip Rassmussen	516	Ø	Ø	7	1	\square
8	Juan Pablo Guzman	27Ø	Ø	Ø	5	Ø	\square
10	Miguel Gonzalez	691	1	2	22	Ø	\square
<u>11</u>	Hugh Alexander Dixon	595	2	Ø	4	Ø	\square
12	Daniel González	48Ø	1	Ø	10	Ø	\square
<u>14</u>	José Barril	416	Ø	1	6	2	2
19	Michael Harris	450	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	\square
20	Daniel Jackson	55	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	\square
21	Coy Craft	2Ø8	Ø	Ø	4	Ø	\square
22	Anthony Wallace	450	Ø	Ø	7	Ø	\square
23	Luis Martínez	16	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	\square
26	Coady Andrews	508	1	Ø	9	Ø	\square
28	Wojciech Wojcik	501	Ø	Ø	1Ø	Ø	\square
99	Andy Craven	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

<u>Goalkeeper Stats</u>

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Cody Laurendi	72Ø	17	11	1	1	Ø
16	Jacob Lissek	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

<u>Goalkeeper Stats</u>

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Moise Pouaty	72Ø	26	17	Ø	Ø	Ø
12	Dan Jackson	27Ø	10	5	Ø	Ø	Ø
29	Justin Luthy	90	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

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Western Conference Standings (As of 5-3-17)

Team	GP	W	D	L	GD	PTS	
San Antonio FC	11	9	2	Ø	17	29	
Real Monarch SLC	10	9	Ø	1	16	27	
Tulsa Roughnecks FC	10	5	Ø	5	-2	15	
Sacramento Republic FC	11	4	2	5	0	14	
Seattle Sounders FC 2	11	4	2	5	-8	14	
Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	12	3	5	4	-1	14	
Rio Grande Valley FC	8	4	1	3	4	13	
Swope Park Rangers	8	4	Ø	4	2	12	
Phoenix Rising FC	8	4	0	4	-4	12	
Reno 1868 FC	9	4	3	3	6	11	
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	10	3	2	5	-1	11	
Orange County SC	7	3	1	3	-2	10	
OKC Energy FC	8	3	1	4	-4	10	
LA Galaxy II	10	2	2	6	-10	8	
Portland Timbers 2	11	1	1	9	-12	4	

Eastern Conference Standings (As of 5-3-17)

Team	GP	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Charleston Battery	11	7	2	2	10	23
Tampa Bay Rowdies	12	6	3	3	8	21
Louisville City FC	8	4	3	1	3	15
FC Cincinnati	11	4	3	4	1	15
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	11	4	3	4	Ø	15
New York Red Bulls II	11	4	2	5	-2	14
Bethlehem Steel FC	10	4	Ø	6	-1	12
Ottawa Fury FC	9	3	3	3	1	12
Rochester Rhinos	7	3	3	1	1	12
Orlando City B	10	3	3	4	-1	12
Saint Louis FC	9	3	3	3	-3	12
Charlotte Independence	7	З	2	2	1	11
Harrisburgh City Islanders	10	2	4	4	-4	10
Richmond Kickers	10	2	4	5	-4	10
Toronto FC II	11	1	4	6	-1Ø	7



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