

Game Program Saturday, September 9th, 2017

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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.

"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



The Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC return to Weidner Field this Saturday evening for a critical playoff-position battle with Phoenix Rising FC on Poster Giveaway Night. The first 500 fans in attendance will receive the 5th and final section of the Poster Giveaway series, courtesy of Accelerated Wealth.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the Switchbacks stand in 7th place in the USL's Western Conference – a lone point above Phoenix Rising, who occupy the 8th and final playoff position.

Winners of their last two matches, Phoenix Rising welcome Orange County SC on Wednesday evening at the Phoenix Rising Soccer Complex in Tempe, Arizona. A win for Wednesday's hosts would see Head Coach Patrice Carteron's team leap over the Switchbacks in the Western Conference table ahead of Saturday's showdown at Weidner Field.

A stoppage-time equalizer from defender Pascal Eboussi – deployed as an emergency center forward by Switchbacks Head Coach Steve Trittschuh – saw the Switchbacks secure a draw at Papa Murphy's Park in Sacramento, California against Sacramento Republic FC on Saturday night. The point for each club saw Sacramento maintain their position above the Switchbacks. The Switchbacks have six matches remaining in the 2017 USL regular season, while Phoenix Rising will play ten.

Eboussi's heroics secured a starting position for the Cameroonian on the USL's Team of the Week where he joined teammate Masta Kacher who was named to the bench. Phoenix Rising goalkeeper Josh Cohen is the starting goalkeeper on the Team of the Week after a clean sheet in Phoenix Rising's 2-0 win over the Seattle Sounders FC 2. Phoenix Rising defender Amadou Dia also made the bench.

"We're in survival mode," said Trittschuh. "Our backs are against the wall. We need to show up and play. The players showed great character the other night in Sacramento to get back even. They dug-deep. The conditions were very hot and Sacramento played well. I told Moise [Pouaty] to step up and make a big stop to save us after his mistake and he certainly did that. The guys know what we have to do this weekend and that's come out and play our game. Hopefully, we learned from last time in Arizona. We went down there and played well but they're a much different team now and so are we."

July 15th saw the Switchbacks fall 2-1 in Arizona after an early goal from Kevaughn Frater was canceled out by a brace from his countryman Jason Johnson. Johnson was again on the scoresheet for Phoenix Rising as they defeated the Seattle Sounders FC 2 by two goals to nil on Saturday evening in the Valley of the Sun. Johnson has helped pick up the scoring slack left by Ivorian superstar Didier Drogba who hasn't played for Phoenix Rising since a 2-0 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy II on August 5th in Carson, California. Drogba has not been named to a Phoenix Rising team sheet since the former Chelsea center forward was an unused substitute at H-E-B Park in Edinburg, Texas on August 12th when Phoenix Rising tied RGV FC 1-1.

MY CITY. MY TEAM.

"In the last few games without Drogba Arizona have actually been better," said Trittschuh. "Jason Johnson is a really good player and he's shown that against us. Chris Cortez up top is more mobile than Drogba. [Shaun] Wright-Phillips is a player we have to watch. He moves around a lot in the middle and gets into good positions to support their attack – he's a very dangerous player for them."

Wright-Phillips became a household name to American soccer fans during two spells at Manchester City that bracketed three seasons with Chelsea. Wright-Phillips made his way stateside in 2015 to join the New York Red Bulls before settling with Phoenix Rising this season. Former Switchbacks defender J.J. Greer, who appeared in 49 matches for the Switchbacks across two seasons in Colorado Springs, has so far started 4 games for Phoenix Rising in his first season in Arizona.

"Arizona are a good team – they have a lot of talent so I expect a tough opponent on Saturday. It won't be an easy game," said Josh Suggs. "It will be good to see Arizona play on Wednesday and see who they are starting with and what they look like tactically."

"Arizona will be coming in confident. They've won games recently and we know it will be a good game," said Switchbacks captain Rony Argueta. "We're going to continue what we've been doing and make sure on Saturday that we're better and that we continue to focus on locking up that playoff spot. Seeing Arizona three days before they play against us will determine how they'll be for the trip here, so that can help us."

The Switchbacks had an intense practice on Monday afternoon at the Pride Soccer Complex, despite Colorado Springs being blanketed in thick smoke as wildfires rage across the western United States from Los Angeles to Billings. Temperatures on Wednesday evening at the start of Phoenix Rising's match with Orange County SC in Tempe will be hovering around the low triple-digits, although the smoke currently choking parts of Colorado is not supposed to greatly impact the Phoenix metropolitan area.

"We've played three games in one week this season and that's no easy task so we know Arizona will have to deal with that," said Conner Bevans. "Coming to Colorado Springs isn't easy on any team – especially when they've not got a lot of time in between games. Being able to watch them on Wednesday and prepare for them will be good for us."

"We expect them to come in fighting," said Josh Phillips. "This is the time of the year where everyone is fighting for points. Both teams are in the hunt for a place in the playoffs so we know it will be a tight game. We'll get to watch them on Wednesday so we'll get another good look at them. They've been playing well lately so we know that we will have to bring it. As for some of their players? For me, I don't care. I aspire to be a big-name player and that starts by beating guys who are so-called big-named players in this league."

Following Saturday's match the Switchbacks will travel to the Great Pacific Northwest for a Saturday, September 16th fixture with the Seattle Sounders FC 2 at the Starfire Sports Complex in Tukwila, Washington. Three consecutive matches at Weidner Field will follow for the Switchbacks before they finish the 2017 regular season on October 14th at ONEOK Field in Tulsa, Oklahoma against the Roughnecks FC.

"The guys know what we have to do and that's come out on Saturday and play our game," said Trittschuh. "We'll be ready this weekend and we all know what this game means."



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Switchbacks FC Roster



LA Galaxy II Roster

Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	А	FC	YC	RC
2	Josh Phillips	2,283	Ø	2	25	5	\square
3	Pascal Eboussi	659	1	Ø	15	3	1
4	Luke Vercollone	820	2	3	9	1	Ø
5	Josh Suggs	2,16Ø	2	3	24	7	\square
6	Davy Armstrong	52	Ø	Ø	3	1	\square
7	Jun Gyeong Park	111	Ø	Ø	4	Ø	Ø
8	Eddy Prugh	1,520	1	2	36	3	Ø
9	Damen Marcu	36	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	\square
10	Masta Kacher	2,2Ø7	7	6	30	3	\square
<u>11</u>	Kevaughn Frater	1,469	8	6	57	7	\square
<u>13</u>	Diego Gutierrez	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	\square
<u>14</u>	Rony Argueta	2,34Ø	1	1	39	4	\square
<u>16</u>	Jake Cawsey	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	\square
<u>17</u>	Sean McFarlane	1,838	2	2	18	5	\square
<u>18</u>	Aaron King	1,257	4	2	9	Ø	\square
20	Richie Perez	485	1	Ø	10	1	\square
22	Conner Bevans	7Ø2	Ø	1	10	1	\square
23	Shane Malcolm	1,651	5	3	25	2	\square
24	Tobenna Uzo	26	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	\square
35	Taeseong Kim	1,355	Ø	1	36	5	\square
44	Jordan Burt	1,850	6	Ø	16	1	Ø
77	Jack Jones	147	Ø	1	6	Ø	\square

<u>Goalkeeper Stats</u>

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Moise Pouaty	1,980	79	37	1	2	Ø
12	Dan Jackson	27Ø	10	5	Ø	Ø	Ø
29	Justin Luthy	90	Ø		Ø		Ø

Team Stats

#	Player	MIN	G	А	FC	YC	R
2	Uchenna Uzo	90	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
2	Doueugui Mala	15	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	1
3	Kody Wakasa	1,537	Ø	3	12	4	1
4	Blair Gavin	911	Ø	1	14	1	Ø
5	Peter Ramage	1,834	2	Ø	11	1	Ø
6	Miguel Timm	743	Ø	Ø	14	3	Ø
7	Chris Cortez	1,133	3	3	20	2	Ø
8	Matt Watson	1,807	\square	1	37	5	Ø
9	Omar Bravo	1,009	1	2	14	4	Ø
10	Luke Rooney	317	3	1	3	Ø	Ø
11	Didier Drogba	809	5	2	17	4	Ø
12	Mike Seth	196	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø
13	Eder Arreola	109	1	Ø	1	Ø	Ø
14	Jason Johnson	1,257	7	1	17	3	Ø
15	Jordan Gibbons	314	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø
16	Brock Granger	\square	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	\square
16	Sam Hamilton	33	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø
17	Alessandro Riggi	802	2	Ø	11	1	Ø
19	Amadou Dia	920	1	1	9	Ø	1
20	Romilio Hernandez	113	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
23	Matt Hurlow-Paonessa	134	Ø	1	4	Ø	Ø
24	AJ Gray	692	Ø	Ø	15	2	1
25	Victor Vasquez	1,548	Ø	Ø	12	Ø	Ø
27	Kevon Lambert	291	Ø	Ø	5	Ø	Ø
28	Gladson Awako	29	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
29	Shaun Wright-Phillips	1,645	2	2	18	5	Ø
30	Eric Avila	532	1	Ø	3	Ø	Ø
33	Jordan Stewart	1,419	Ø	Ø	15	Ø	Ø
34	JJ Greer	438	1	Ø	4	4	Ø

Goalkeeper Stats

#	Player	MIN	SV	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Carl Woszczynski	450	15	6	1	Ø	Ø
18	Josh Cohen	1,620	49	24	3	1	Ø
55	Nolan Wirth	Ø	Ø	Ø		Ø	Ø

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Western Conference Standings

Place	Team	GP	W	L	D	GD	Pts
1	Real Monarchs SLC	25	17	4	4	24	55
2	Reno 1868 FC	25	14	5	6	29	48
3	San Antonio FC	24	13	2	9	19	48
4	Swope Park Rangers	25	13	6	6	13	45
5	Tulsa Roughnecks FC	26	12	10	4	2	40
6	Sacramento RepubliC FC	24	10	8	6	5	36
7	Colorado Springs Swtichbacks FC	26	9	10	7	3	34
8	Phoenix Rising FC	23	9	7	7	-1	34
9	OKC Energy FC	25	9	10	6	-4	33
10	Orange County SC	24	7	8	9	-4	30
11	Seattle Sounders FC 2	26	9	15	2	-14	29
12	Rio Grande Valley FC	26	7	12	7	-10	28
13	LA Galaxy II	25	7	14	4	-24	25
14	Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	26	5	14	7	-13	22
15	Portland Timbers 2	25	2	18	5	-25	11

Eastern Conference Standings

Place	Team	GP	W	L	D	GD	Pts
1	Louisville City FC	24	14	5	5	21	47
2	Charlotte Independence	26	13	5	8	19	47
3	Charleston Battery	26	11	7	8	12	41
4	Tampa Bay Rowdies	24	11	7	8	11	41
5	Rochester Rhinos	26	11	5	8	6	41
6	Orlando City B	26	8	6	12	6	36
7	New York Red Bulls II	26	10	11	5	-3	35
8	FC Cincinnati	26	9	9	8	-2	35
9	Bethlehem Steel FC	25	10	11	4	-1	34
10	Pittsburgh Riverhounds	26	8	8	10	-1	34
11	Saint Louis FC	26	8	11	77	-11	31
12	Ottawa Fury FC	25	7	9	9	-2	30
13	Harrisburg City Islanders	26	6	14	6	-20	24
14	Richmond Kickers	26	5	13	8	-12	23
15	Toronto FC II	27	5	15	7	-23	22



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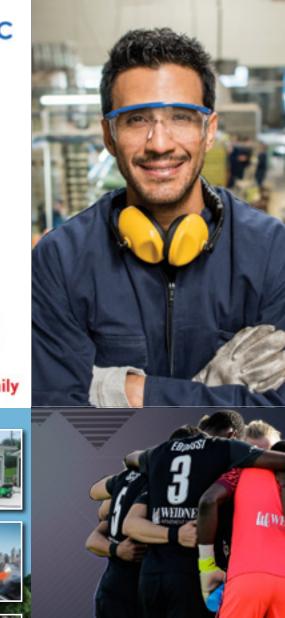
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