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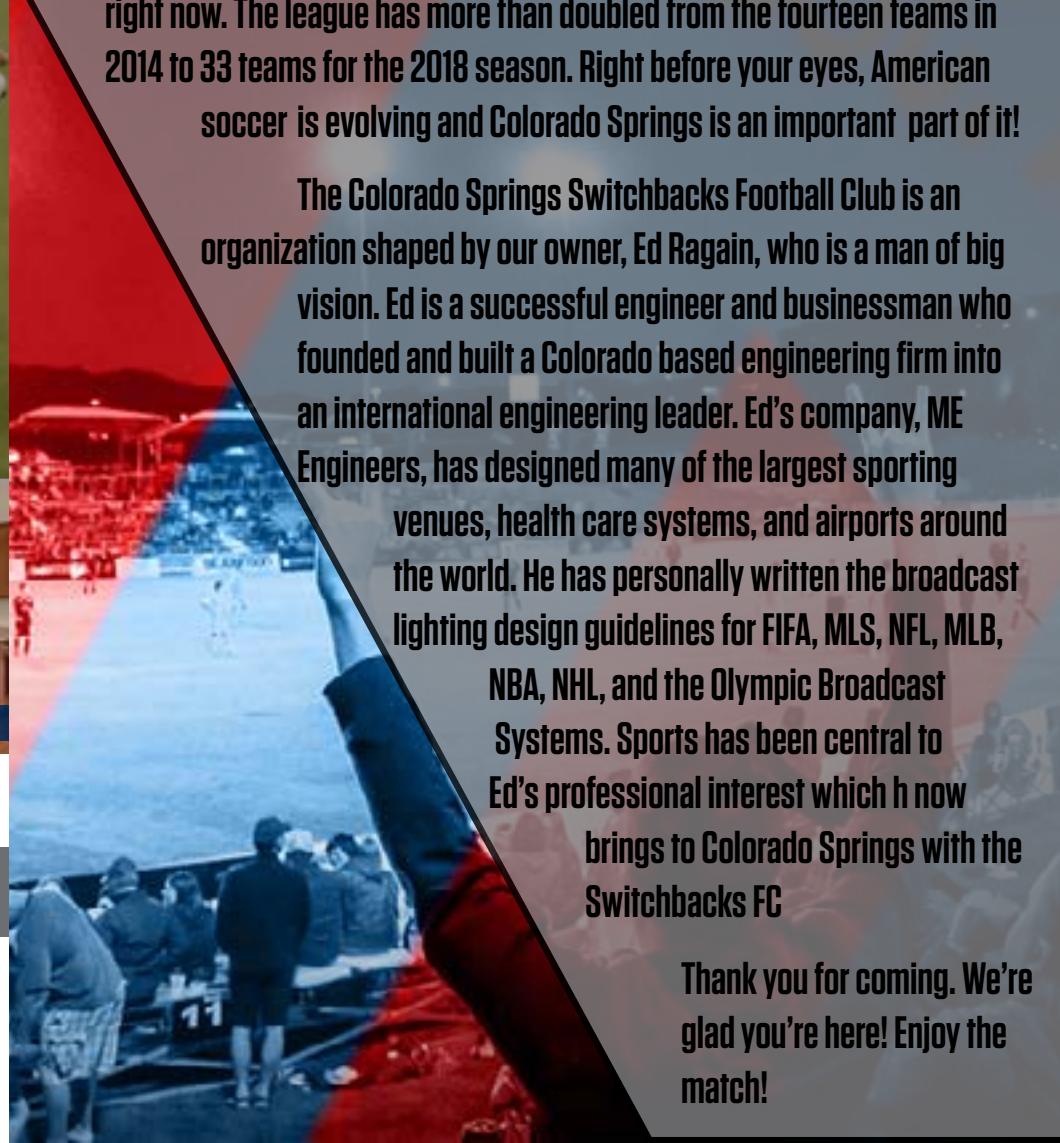


Welcome to Weidner Field, home of the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC. The Switchbacks are entering their fourth season of competition in the United Soccer League, the largest Division II soccer league in the world.

There is an incredible amount of excitement surging in the USL right now. The league has more than doubled from the fourteen teams in 2014 to 33 teams for the 2018 season. Right before your eyes, American soccer is evolving and Colorado Springs is an important part of it!

The Colorado Springs Switchbacks Football Club is an organization shaped by our owner, Ed Ragain, who is a man of big vision. Ed is a successful engineer and businessman who founded and built a Colorado based engineering firm into an international engineering leader. Ed's company, ME Engineers, has designed many of the largest sporting venues, health care systems, and airports around the world. He has personally written the broadcast lighting design guidelines for FIFA, MLS, NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, and the Olympic Broadcast Systems. Sports has been central to Ed's professional interest which now brings to Colorado Springs with the Switchbacks FC

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2018 SCHEDULE

■ = HOME

SAT MAR 17	■ LA		SAT JUN 30	SAN	
SAT MAR 24	POR		TUE JUL 3	DC	
SAT MAR 31	■ STL		SAT JUL 7	■ OKC	
WED APR 4	■ KC		SAT JUL 14	SAC	
SAT APR 7	■ RGV		SAT JUL 21	TUL	
SAT APR 14	■ RENO		WED JUL 25	■ RGV	
WED APR 18	SAC		SAT JUL 28	■ RGV	
SAT APR 21	SEA		SAT AUG 4	OKC	
SAT APR 28	■ OC		SAT AUG 11	■ TUL	
SAT MAY 5	RENO		SAT AUG 25	■ PHX	
FRI MAY 11	LV		WED AUG 29	SLC	
SAT MAY 19	■ OKC		SAT SEP 1	■ LA	
SAT MAY 26	STL		SAT SEP 15	■ RGV	
SAT JUN 2	■ LV		SAT SEP 22	PHX	
SAT JUN 9	KC		SAT SEP 29	■ SLC	
SUN JUN 17	■ POR		FRI OCT 5	■ FSN	
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Match Preview - Roland Vargish



Rio Grande Valley FC visit Weidner Field to face the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC this Saturday on 2000's Theme Night. The first 500 fans in attendance will receive the first part of the 2018 Poster Giveaway Series, courtesy of Kreaders Bakery & Café.

The Switchbacks return home after dropping back-to-back away games by 1-0. A loss at Toyota Stadium last Saturday against Saint Louis FC was followed on Wednesday with a defeat at Children's Mercy Park against a talented Swope Park Rangers team.

"It was a long trip but we played well at times," said Switchbacks Head Coach Steve Trittschuh. "We played well enough and created enough chances to have won these last couple of games. The guys understand what we're trying to do. It was a bad goal to give away in Saint Louis – those are the things we need to clean up. All of the players need to step up. Saeed [Robinson] and AJ [Ajeakwa] are getting in good positions – same with Shane [Malcolm]. We don't have a lot of options in some places now, but the guys are playing well and we need to find someone who has the hunger and desire to score. We're defending really well and we have to start getting some breaks going forward."

Rio Grande Valley FC have only played twice in the 2018 USL regular season. Their match against Reno 1868 FC was postponed after weather affected travel through Dallas. It will be made up in the morning of Wednesday, May 2nd at H-E-B Park. RGV have tied both of their home games this season.

Rio Grande Valley FC captain Todd Wharton was named a starter on the USL's Team of the Week after scoring in RGV's 2-2 draw against Sacramento Republic FC last Saturday evening at H-E-B Park in Edinburg, Texas. Wharton, who had hit the woodwork earlier in the match, converted a 51st minute penalty kick to give RGV the lead against the Republic FC. On March 16th RGV tied Saint Louis FC 1-1 at H-E-B Park in RGV's home opener. Pablo Aguilar scored late for RGV before Saint Louis FC fought back to tie the match in the 82nd minute through a goal from Tony Walls.

"RGV are a newer team – they only have a few guys left from last season," said Trittschuh. "They've had good moments this year. It's only their third game with the postponement, so they'll be fresh. We need to take more advantage from being at home. If we can use the altitude and bumpy surface to our advantage it will really help us. It's great to be home and we need that energy against RGV."

"They're a young and talented team," said AJ Ajeakwa when asked about Saturday's visitors. "They can score goals and we have to play well. We're really happy to be back home and we will figure this out. We just need to clean up a few little mistakes. When we fix those, we'll be much happier. We're really tough to beat we just need to find the goals and once it clicks for us I think we'll be dangerous going forward."

In addition to Wharton and Aguilar, RGV have attacking talent in the form of Jamaican Jorginho James. James scored RGV's second goal against Sacramento Republic, and was a dangerous outlet for the Toros. Aldo Quintanilla has led RGV's forward line well in 2018, and John Montano has an assist in the Toros' young season.

"RGV are a good side," said Marty Maybin. "But at this point it's more about fixing things ourselves and in our game. It's important to bounce back and get a positive result. We're at home so we really need to come out flying and play our best early. It's important we start scoring goals and being at home should help. It's really good to be back and hopefully it gives us a good mindset. We really wanted a couple of points from the away games but that's behind us now and we move forward as a team starting with tomorrow."

Switchbacks goalkeeper Moise Pouyat made his first start of the season on Wednesday in the narrow loss to the Swope Park Rangers. Pouyat made six saves against SPR and had key stops in the second half to keep the Switchbacks just a goal down.

After Saturday's match the Switchbacks will head west for matches against Reno 1868 FC next Saturday, and Sacramento Republic FC on Wednesday, April 18th. "The month of April is crazy for us this season," said Trittschuh. "We need to pick up three points soon because we've got another tough away stretch coming up. It's great that we're back for tomorrow – we'll need playing here to help us against RGV. It's a very important game for us."

The Switchbacks will return to Weidner Field on April 21st when they face the Seattle Sounders FC 2 on 90's Night with The Gazette newspaper sponsoring the second part of the 2018 Poster Giveaway Series.

WESTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Place	Team	GP	W	L	D	GD	Pts
1	Swope Park Rangers	4	3	1	0	3	9
2	Orange County SC	4	2	1	1	5	7
3	Pheonix Rising FC	3	2	0	1	4	7
4	Las Vegas Lights FC	3	2	0	1	2	7
5	Sacramento Republic FC	3	2	0	1	2	7
6	Fresno FC	4	2	1	1	1	7
7	Real Monarchs SLC	2	2	0	0	3	6
8	Saint Louis FC	3	1	1	1	0	4
9	San Antonio FC	3	1	1	1	0	4
10	Portland Timbers 2	4	1	2	1	-2	4
11	Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	4	1	3	0	-1	3
12	Seattle Sounders FC 2	3	1	2	0	-2	3
13	OKC Energy FC	4	1	3	0	-4	3
14	Rio Grande Valley FC	2	0	0	2	0	2
15	LA Galaxy II	3	0	1	2	-2	2
16	Reno 1868 FC	3	0	2	1	-2	1
17	Tulsa Roughnecks FC	4	0	3	1	-7	1

EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Place	Team	GP	W	L	D	GD	Pts
1	Charlotte Independence	3	2	0	1	5	7
2	Tampa Bay Rowdies	3	2	1	0	3	6
3	Louisville City FC	2	2	0	0	3	6
4	New York Red Bulls II	3	2	1	0	2	6
5	FC Cincinnati	2	2	0	0	2	6
6	Atlanta United 2	2	1	0	1	2	4
7	Nashville SC	3	1	1	1	-1	4
8	Bethlehem Steel FC	3	1	2	0	0	3
9	Indy Eleven	2	1	1	0	0	3
10	Richmond Kickers	3	1	2	0	-3	3
11	Charleston Battery	3	1	2	0	-3	3
12	Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC	2	0	0	2	0	2
13	Penn FC	2	0	1	1	-1	1
14	North Carolina FC	2	0	2	0	-3	0
15	Ottawa Fury FC	1	0	1	0	-3	0
16	Toronto FC II	2	0	2	0	-3	0





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Switchbacks FC Roster



Rio Grande Valley Roster



#	Player	MIN	G	A	FC	YC	RC
3	Pascal Eboussi	4	0	0	0	0	0
4	Luke Vercollone	285	0	0	1	0	0
5	Josh Suggs	360	0	0	1	0	0
6	Taylor Hunter	360	0	0	2	0	0
7	Verner Valimaa	18	0	0	0	1	0
8	Jamal Jack	360	0	0	2	0	0
9	Martin Maybin	11	0	0	1	0	0
11	Saeed Robinson	269	0	0	2	0	0
14	Aj Ajeakwa	319	1	0	6	1	0
15	Ayukokata Tambe	186	0	0	3	0	0
19	Uriel Macias	6	0	0	0	0	0
22	Jordan Schweitzer	354	0	0	5	1	0
23	Shane Malcolm	270	0	1	7	1	0
24	Tobenna Uzo	115	0	0	3	0	0
35	Taeseong Kim	327	0	0	5	3	0
44	Jordan Burt	356	1	0	2	0	0

#	Player	MIN	Saves	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Moise Pouaty	90	6	1	0	0	0
12	Steward Ceus	270	5	2	0	0	0

#	Player	MIN	G	A	FC	YC	RC
2	Kai Greene	180	0	0	1	0	0
4	Robert Castellanos	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Manny Padilla	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Jorginho James	90	1	0	2	1	0
7	Matias Zaldivar	175	0	0	3	0	0
8	Nicolas Perea	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Guillermo Delgado	45	0	0	0	0	0
10	Pablo Aguilar	95	1	0	3	1	0
11	Jesus Enriquez	83	0	0	2	0	0
12	John Montano	90	0	1	1	0	0
14	Todd Wharton	180	1	0	3	0	0
16	Richard Donkor	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Victor Garza	97	0	0	1	0	0
18	Zach Wright	90	0	0	2	0	0
20	Conor Donovan	180	0	0	3	1	0
22	Jordan Jones	47	0	0	2	0	0
23	Aldo Quintanilla	88	0	1	1	0	0
24	Derek Luke	180	0	0	1	0	0
30	Omar Ontiveros	90	0	0	1	1	0
32	Kyle Adams	90	0	0	1	0	0
-	Sheldon Sullivan	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	George Malki	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	David Carbrera	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	Charlie Ward	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	Eric Bird	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	Mac Steeves	0	0	0	0	0	0

#	Player	MIN	Saves	GA	FC	YC	RC
1	Matthew Sanchez	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	Michael Nelson	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	Nicolas Corti	180	3	3	0	0	0



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