

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES

Tampa Bay Rowdies



2015 NASL Spring Record (W-T-L)

3-3-1, 12 points
T-2nd place

Tampa Bay Rowdies at Indy Eleven

Saturday, May 30, 2015
7:30 p.m. ET

Michael A. Carroll Stadium,
Indianapolis, Indiana

The match can be seen live online
at ESPN3.com.

Follow us for live updates on Twitter at
@RowdiesGameday.

Indy Eleven



2015 NASL Spring Record (W-T-L)

1-3-3, 6 points
11th place

Series History

The Rowdies and Eleven met three times last season, Indy's inaugural year in the NASL. Tampa Bay went 1-2-0 (W-T-L) against Indy last year, drawing 1-1 on April 19 and winning 2-1 on July 19 in two visits to Michael A. Carroll Stadium in 2014. The teams also drew 2-2 at Al Lang Stadium in the last game of the season on Nov. 1.

Scouting Tampa Bay

The Rowdies, like Indy, are coming off a midweek loss in the U.S. Open Cup on Wednesday night. Tampa Bay seemed to be heading to extra time in Pittsburgh against the Riverhounds, with the score knotted at 0-0 before Robert Vincent scored a stoppage time winner for Pittsburgh.

Goalkeeper Matt Pickens has kept back-to-back clean sheets in Tampa Bay's last two NASL matches and has only allowed one goal in league play this season. He debuted in stoppage time against the Jacksonville Armada FC on April 25 and has played 270 NASL minutes this season, allowing just one goal, scored by Carolina on May 2. As a team, the Rowdies have not allowed a goal in 264 NASL minutes.

Maicon Santos and Martin Nuñez are tied as Tampa Bay's leading scorer, with two goals each this season.

Connecting the Squads

No player on either side has ever played for the other.

Up Next

The Rowdies return home to wrap up the NASL Spring Season with back-to-back home matches against FC Edmonton on June 6 and Atlanta on June 13.

2015 Schedule



SPRING SEASON

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
4.4	at San Antonio	3-1 W
4.11	MINNESOTA	0-0 D
4.18	at New York	2-0 L
4.25	JACKSONVILLE	3-2 W
5.2	at Carolina	1-1 D
5.9	at Ottawa	0-0 D
5.16	FORT LAUDERDALE	1-0 W
5.27	at Pittsburgh*	1-0 L
5.30	at Indy	7:30 p.m.
6.6	EDMONTON	7:30 p.m.
6.13	ATLANTA	7:30 p.m.

FALL SEASON

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
7.4	ATLANTA	7:30 p.m.
7.11	at San Antonio	8:30 p.m.
7.18	EDMONTON	7:30 p.m.
7.25	FORT LAUDERDALE	7:30 p.m.
8.1	at Carolina	7:30 p.m.
8.8	JACKSONVILLE	7:30 p.m.
8.15	at Fort Lauderdale	7:30 p.m.
8.19	at Indy	7:30 p.m.
8.22	MINNESOTA	7:30 p.m.
8.29	at Ottawa	3:00 p.m.
9.5	NEW YORK	7:30 p.m.
9.13	at Edmonton	4:00 p.m.
9.19	SAN ANTONIO	7:30 p.m.
9.26	at Jacksonville	7:30 p.m.
9.30	INDY	7:30 p.m.
10.3	at Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
10.10	OTTAWA	7:30 p.m.
10.17	at Atlanta	7:30 p.m.
10.24	CAROLINA	7:30 p.m.
10.31	at New York	7:00 p.m.

All times Eastern

Home games played at Al Lang Stadium in downtown St. Petersburg

* denotes U.S. Open Cup match

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES MATCH NOTES



No.	Position	Name	DOB	Birthplace	Height	Weight	Pronunciation
1	GK	Kamil Čontofalský	Jul. 3, 1978	Kosice, Slovakia	6-3	205	kuh-meel shon-tuh-fal-ski
2	D	Darnell King	Sept. 23, 1990	Tampa, Florida	5-9	175	
3	M	Richard Menjivar	Oct. 31, 1990	Los Angeles, California	5-8	159	men-jih-var
4	D	Ben Sweat	Sept. 4, 1991	Palm Harbor, Florida	6-1	178	swet (rhymes with debt)
5	D	Stefan Antonijevic	Jan. 14, 1989	Buffalo Grove, Illinois	6-6	195	stef-on an-TOE-nee-yay-vic
7	M	Martin Nuñez	Feb. 2, 1987	Montevideo, Uruguay	5-6	140	mar-TEEN noon-yez
8	M	Marcelo Saragosa	Jan. 22, 1982	Campo Grande, Brazil	6-0	176	
10	M	Georgi Hristov	Jan. 10, 1985	Plovdiv, Bulgaria	6-0	182	jor-jee wrist-off
11	F	Corey Hertzog	Aug. 1, 1990	Reading, Pennsylvania	6-0	174	hurt-zog
13	M	Justin Chavez	Mar. 23, 1990	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	5-11	175	
14	M	Jeff Michaud	Sept. 30, 1993	West Palm Beach, Florida	5-11	165	mish-odd
15	D	Zac Portillos	Jan. 19, 1992	Aurora, Colorado	5-9	153	pore-tee-yo-ss
16	M	Juan Guerra	Feb. 16, 1987	Caracas, Venezuela	5-9	162	gare-uh
17	D	Tamika Mkandawire	May 28, 1983	Mzuzu, Malawi	6-2	194	tuh-ME-kuh muh-CAN-duh-wee-ree
18	GK	Matt Pickens	Apr. 5, 1982	Washington, Missouri	6-3	200	
19	M	Verner Välimaa	Jan. 19, 1993	Coral Springs, Florida	5-7	160	ver-nare-ee vahl-ee-mah
20	F	Darwin Espinal	Jan. 16, 1995	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	5-11	163	espy-nahl
21	F	Brian Shriver	Aug. 5, 1987	Clearwater, Florida	5-10	150	shh-RYE-ver
22	M	Keith Savage	Aug. 9, 1985	Gulf Breeze, Florida	6-2	175	
23	M	Marquez Fernandez	Sept. 7, 1992	Baltimore, Maryland	5-8	160	mar-kez
24	GK	Chris Glodack	Jun. 19, 1993	Mount Holly, New Jersey	6-1	200	glow-dack
25	D	Rich Balchan	Jan. 18, 1989	Ann Arbor, Michigan	6-0	175	ball-shin
26	F	Robert Hernandez	Sept. 14, 1993	Caracas, Venezuela	5-5	145	
29	F	Maicon Santos	Apr. 18, 1984	Paracambi, Brazil	6-2	200	my-cone san-toe-ss
33	F	Zak Boggs	Dec. 25, 1986	Marietta, Ohio	6-0	185	
44	D	Gale Agbossoumonde	Nov. 17, 1991	Lome, Togo	6-2	200	gah-lay ag-boss-oooh-mon-day

Technical Staff

CEO, Chairman & Governor: Bill Edwards
 President/General Manager: Farrukh Quraishi
 Assistant General Manager: Perry Van Der Beck

Head Coach: Thomas Rongen
 Assistant Coach: Stuart Campbell
 Assistant Coach: Eric Arzubow
 Goalkeeper Coach: Stuart Dobson



Last Time Out:

The Rowdies used the same Starting XI against Pittsburgh in the Open Cup on Wednesday night that had beaten Fort Lauderdale in their last match on May 16. Darwin Espinal and Corey Hertzog appeared off the bench, replacing Marcelo Saragosa and Corey Hertzog, respectively.

2015 NASL Spring Standings

Team	GP	W	T	L	Pts.
New York	8	5	3	0	18
Minnesota	7	3	3	1	12
Tampa Bay	7	3	3	1	12
Jacksonville	7	3	1	3	10
Carolina	8	2	4	2	10
Edmonton	7	2	2	3	8
Atlanta	8	1	5	2	8
Ottawa	7	2	2	3	8
Fort Lauderdale	7	2	1	4	7
San Antonio	7	2	1	4	7
Indy	7	1	3	3	6

2015 NASL Combined Standings

Team	GP	W	T	L	Pts.
New York	8	5	3	0	18
Minnesota	7	3	3	1	12
Tampa Bay	7	3	3	1	12
Jacksonville	7	3	1	3	10
Carolina	8	2	4	2	10
Edmonton	7	2	2	3	8
Atlanta	8	1	5	2	8
Ottawa	7	2	2	3	8
Fort Lauderdale	7	2	1	4	7
San Antonio	7	2	1	4	7
Indy	7	1	3	3	6



TAMPA BAY ROWDIES MATCH NOTES



Starters By Match

	GK	RB	RCB	LCB	LB	CM	CM	CM	RF	CF	LF
SAS 4.4	Čontofalský	King	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Portillos	Saragosa	Savage	Hristov	Hernandez	Espinal	Hertzog
MNU 4.11	Čontofalský	King	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Portillos	Saragosa	Chavez	Hristov	Hernandez	Espinal	Hertzog
NYC 4.18	Čontofalský	King	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Sweat	Guerra	Valimaa	Hristov	Hernandez	Santos	Hertzog
JAX 4.25	Čontofalský	Balchan	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Sweat	Saragosa	Nuñez	Hristov	Boggs	Santos	Espinal
CAR 5.2	Pickens	King	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Sweat	Saragosa	Nuñez (LM)	Hristov	Boggs (RM)	Santos	Hertzog (CF)
OTT 5.9	Pickens	King	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Sweat	Saragosa	Menjivar	Nuñez	Boggs	Espinal	Hertzog
FTL 5.16	Pickens	King	Mkandawire	Antonijevic	Sweat	Saragosa	Menjivar	Hristov	Hernandez	Santos	Nuñez
PIT 5.17	<i>Pickens</i>	<i>King</i>	<i>Mkandawire</i>	<i>Antonijevic</i>	<i>Sweat</i>	<i>Saragosa</i>	<i>Menjivar</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Hernandez</i>	<i>Santos</i>	<i>Nuñez</i>

Italics denote U.S. Open Cup match



2015 NASL Game Recaps

Spring Season

April 4 — at San Antonio Scorpions, 3-1 W

The Rowdies scored the first three goals of the night, taking full control of the match and spoiling the Scorpions' championship celebration.

Head Coach Thomas Rongen gave starts to two first-time professionals in the season opener, left back Zac Portillos and forward Darwin Espinal. Defender Stefan Antonijevic (10th minute), Espinal (45+ minute) and Corey Hertzog (61st minute) all scored for the Rowdies before Omar Cummings' consolation goal for San Antonio. Antonijevic, Espinal and Georgi Hristov all earned a spot in the NASL Team of the Week and Antonijevic was named Player of the Week.

April 11 — vs Minnesota United FC, 0-0 D

In front of a sold-out crowd of 7,010, the Rowdies and Minnesota United FC played an exciting scoreless draw. The Loons opened on the front foot, but after a shot on goal that forced Kamil Contofalsky to make a save in the fifth minute, couldn't muster any scoring chances. The Rowdies piled the pressure on in the second half, but couldn't find a game-winning goal.

April 18 — at New York Cosmos, 2-0 L

An early penalty kick scored by Marcos Senna in the 11th minute threw a wrench into the Rowdies' gameplan as Tampa Bay fell behind for the first time this season. New York scored again on a counterattack just three minutes after the halftime break, putting the Rowdies in a 2-0 hole that they were unable to climb out of despite a handful of late scoring chances.

April 25 — vs Jacksonville Armada FC, 3-2 W

The Rowdies won their Coastal Cup opener in dramatic fashion, overturning a 2-1 halftime deficit and surviving stoppage time on the heroics of goalkeeper Matt Pickens, who entered the match in stoppage time and made a handful of saves. Maicon Santos scored two goals (including the 78th minute match winner), bookending a blast by Martin Nunez. Marcos Flores and Jemal Johnson scored for Jacksonville.

May 2 — at Carolina RailHawks, 1-1 D

Carolina's Nacho Novo opened the scoring just six minutes in, but Martin Nunez would equalize for the Rowdies in the 19th minute with his second goal in as many weeks. Georgi Hristov provided the assist on Nunez's goal, his third of the season, but exited the match in the 76th minute after receiving a straight red card for a foul on RailHawks midfielder Wells Thompson. Neither side was able to score a winner.

May 9 — at Ottawa Fury FC, 0-0 D

The Rowdies kept a clean sheet and picked up a point on the road in Ottawa. It was goalkeeper Matt Pickens' first clean sheet of the season.

May 16 — vs Fort Lauderdale Strikers, 1-0 W

The Rowdies took early control of the Coastal Cup race with a 1-0 win over the Strikers, courtesy of Robert Hernandez's goal in the 55th minute. 6,851 fans sat through a rainstorm at Al Lang Stadium as the Rowdies beat the Strikers to pick up their second Coastal Cup win of the season.

Tampa Bay Rowdies Bios (Stats are NASL only)

Gale Agbossoumonde: Yet to appear in 2015 ... Signed with the Rowdies on Dec. 22, 2014 ... Previously played under coach Thomas Rongen as a member of the United States Under-20 Men's National Team from 2008-2011 ... Has one senior cap with the USMNT, a friendly against South Africa on Nov. 17, 2010, his 19th birthday ... Started 2014 with Toronto FC before being traded to the Colorado Rapids ... Made 13 appearances for TFC in a little over a year ... Made professional debut with Miami FC in 2009 ... Signed with Estoril Praia (Portugal) in 2011 and had loan stints with Braga (Portugal), Djurgardens IF (Sweden), Eintracht Frankfurt II (Germany) and the Carolina RailHawks ... Spent 2007 at the IMG Academy in Bradenton.

Stefan Antonijevic: Seven appearances (seven starts) in 2015, playing 630 minutes ... One goal, scored at SAS on 4.4 ... Named NASL Player of the Week, Spring Week One ... Thrice named to NASL Team of the Week in 2015 (Spring, Weeks 1, 2 & 6) ... Made Rowdies debut at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on January 6, 2015 ... Played 2013-2014 with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, where he made 39 appearances, 38 starts, and played 3,385 minutes in two seasons. Began college career at Marquette University in 2007, before playing three seasons at Valparaiso University ... Drafted by Sporting Kansas City in 2012 MLS Supplemental Draft but did not sign ... Has two caps for the Serbian Under-19 National Team, both earned in 2008.

Rich Balchan: Two appearances (one start) in 2015, playing 97 minutes ... Made Rowdies debut as a starter vs JAX on 4.25 ... Signed with the Rowdies on March 17, 2015 ... Spent last two seasons with Real Salt Lake in Major League Soccer, and two seasons before that with the Columbus Crew, also in MLS ... Played college soccer at Indiana before being drafted 12th overall by the Crew in the 2011 MLS SuperDraft ... Played for Coach Rongen on the United States U-20 team in 2008.

Zak Boggs: Five appearances (three starts) in 2015, playing 274 minutes ... Made first start vs JAX on 4.25 ... Made Rowdies debut off the bench at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 24, 2015 ... Returned to professional soccer in 2014 with the Charlotte Eagles in the USL ... Was drafted 31st overall by the New England Revolution in the 2010 MLS SuperDraft ... Scored three goals for New England in 29 appearances (20 starts) ... Departed the Revs in the middle of his third season to accept a Fulbright Scholarship to study medical sciences at Leicester University in the UK ... 2011 MLS Humanitarian of the Year ... Finished college career at the University of South Florida after previously playing for West Virginia University and the University of Central Florida ... Played high school soccer at IMG Academy in Bradenton.

Justin Chavez: Three appearances (one start) in 2015, playing 100 minutes ... Made Rowdies debut off the bench as SAS on 4.4 ... Made first start vs MNU on 4.11 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 5, 2015 ... Spent last two seasons, his first two as a professional, with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers ... Made 27 appearances (15 starts) for Fort Lauderdale, playing 1,477 minutes in two seasons ... Played college soccer at the University of Tulsa in his home state of Oklahoma.

Kamil Čontofalský: Four appearances (four starts) in 2015, playing 360 minutes ... One clean sheet, vs MNU on 4.11 ... Made Rowdies debut at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 25, 2015 ... Spent the 2014 Fall Season, his first in North America, with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers ... Made 18 appearances for the Strikers, keeping five clean sheets ... Guided the Strikers to the NASL Championship Final ... Made professional debut for Trenčín (Slovakia) in 1995 ... Played for Kosice (Slovakia), Bohemians 1905 (Czech Republic), Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia), AEL Limassol (Cyprus), AE Larissa (Greece) and Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) before signing for Fort Lauderdale ... Honors include winning the 2007/2008 UEFA Cup (now Europa League) and UEFA Super Cup with Zenit St. Petersburg ... Made 34 appearances for Slovakian National Team from 2002-2009.

Darwin Espinal: Six appearances (four starts) in 2015, playing 365 minutes ... One goal, scored at SAS on 4.4 ... Made Rowdies and professional debut as SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on December 23, 2014 ... Signed to his first professional contract after two seasons at Darton State College in Georgia ... Scored 52 goals and notched 29 assists in 35 games at Darton ... Twice named a First-Team All-American by the National Junior College Athletic Association ... Played high school soccer at Taravella High in Coral Springs, where he was named the 2012-2013 Class 5A-4A High School Player of the Year.

Marquez Fernandez: Yet to appear in 2015 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 23, 2015 on first professional contract ... One of four players to sign after earning a trial from the Rowdies' invite-only combine ... Began college career at the University of Maryland before transferring to Maryland Baltimore-County ... Led UMBC to the College Cup semifinals as a senior, anchoring the backline ... Played for the Baltimore Bohemians in the PDL while in college.

Chris Glodack: Yet to appear in 2015 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 23, 2015 on first professional contract ... One of four players to sign after earning a trial from the Rowdies' invite-only combine ... Most recently played for Clemson University in the NCAA ... Played high school soccer at IMG Academy in Bradenton.

Juan Guerra: Four appearances (one starts) in 2015, playing 138 minutes ... Made Rowdies debut off the bench at SAS on 4.4 ... Made first start at NYC on 4.18 ... Signed with the Rowdies on December 19, 2014 ... Four caps for the Venezuelan National Team ... Spent the second half of 2014 with Deportivo Lara in the Venezuelan First Division, where he made 10 appearances, including nine starts ... Played for Carabobo in 2013 after two seasons with Caracas FC ... Spent 2011-2012 with Las Palmas in the Spanish Segunda Liga ... Played for Monagas in 2009-2010 and Caracas FC 2010-2011 in the Venezuelan First Division ... Played for Florida International University 2005-2007.

Robert Hernandez: Five appearances (four starts) in 2015, playing 329 minutes ... One goal, scored vs FTL on 5.16 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week, Spring Week Seven ... Made Rowdies debut at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on December 30, 2014 ... Joined Rowdies after four seasons Deportivo Anzoategui in the Venezuelan First Division ... Scored seven goals, made 87 appearances and played 6,445 minutes for Deportivo Anzoategui ... Four caps for the Venezuelan Under-20 National Team.

Corey Hertzog: Seven appearances (five starts) in 2015, playing 454 minutes ... One goal, scored at SAS on 4.4 ... Joined Rowdies late in 2014 season and made six appearances, including four starts ... Also played for Orlando City SC in 2014, scoring four goals in 22 appearances ... Played in MLS for New York Red Bulls and Vancouver Whitecaps FC ... Drafted 13th overall in 2011 MLS SuperDraft ... Played collegiate soccer for Penn State ... Signed with the Rowdies on September 24, 2014.

Georgi Hristov: Six appearances (six starts) in 2015, playing 526 minutes ... No goals, three assists ... Played last two seasons with the Rowdies ... 47 appearances, 46 starts ... 21 goals, 13 assists in Rowdies career ... Awarded the 2013 NASL Golden Ball as league MVP ... Also named in the 2013 NASL Best XI ... 9 goals and 4 assists in 2014 season ... 12 goals and 7 assists in 2013 season ... Led team in points in 2013 (31) and 2014 (22) ... Joined Rowdies after stints with Bulgaria's first division Lokomotiv Sofia and Slavia Sofia ... Played for first division teams in Bulgaria, Poland and Israel ... Leading goal scorer & league footballer of the year in the Bulgarian First Division with Botev Plovdiv ... Won the Bulgarian first division championship with Levski Sofia and competed in the UEFA Europa League in 2008 ... Signed with the Rowdies on March 8, 2013.

Darnell King: Seven appearances (six starts) in 2015, playing 558 minutes ... No goals, one assist ... Named to NASL Team of the Week, Spring Week Seven ... Made Rowdies debut at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on December 22, 2014 ... Named to NASL Best XI as a defender in 2014 ... Spent last three seasons with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, where he made 75 appearances, including 61 starts ... Played college soccer at Florida Atlantic University from 2008-2011, where he scored 17 goals and tallied 10 assists ... Played high school soccer at Gaither High School in Tampa, where he was named an All-County selection in 2008.

Richard Menjivar: Two appearances (two starts) in 2015, playing 180 minutes for Tampa Bay ... Made Rowdies debut at OTT on 5.9 ... Acquired by the Rowdies in a trade on April 29, 2015 ... Played 14 minutes for San Antonio Scorpions before trade ... Made 19 appearances and won Championship with San Antonio in 2014, playing 1,703 minutes ... Spent 2013 with Atlanta Silverbacks, playing 1,924 minutes in 22 matches and reached NASL Final ... Member of amateur Cal FC team that reached the fifth round of the 2012 U.S. Open Cup team, upsetting the Portland Timbers on the way ... Twenty caps for the El Salvador national team.

Jeff Michaud: Yet to appear in 2015 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 23, 2015 on first professional contract ... One of four players to sign after earning a trial from the Rowdies' invite-only combine ... Began college career at the University of Central Florida before moving to Eastern Florida State College ... Played high school soccer at Dwyer High School in West Palm Beach, Florida under current Rowdies assistant Eric Arbusow ... Under Arbusow, Michaud led the district in scoring as a sophomore, tallying 22 goals and 11 assists in nine games.

Tamika Mkandawire: Seven appearances (seven starts) in 2015, playing 630 minutes ... Spent the 2014 NASL Fall Season with the Rowdies ... served as vice captain and made 15 appearances, including 14 starts and scored three goals ... Captained Shrewsbury Town in English League One in 2013-2014 ... Previously played for Hereford United, Leyton Orient, Millwall and Southend United in England ... Signed for the Rowdies on July 4, 2014.

Martin Nuñez: Six appearances (four starts) in 2015, playing 363 minutes ... Two goals ... NASL Team of the Week twice in a row, Spring Weeks 4 & 5 ... Scored vs JAX on 4.25 in first start ... Scored at CAR on 5.2 ... Made Rowdies debut vs MNU on 4.11 ... Signed with the Rowdies on December 23, 2014 ... Spent four of last five seasons with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, where he made 78 appearances and scored 17 goals ... Previously played for Minnesota United FC, Puerto Rico Islanders and Carolina RailHawks.

Matt Pickens: Four appearances (three starts) in 2015, playing 270 minutes ... Two clean sheets, at OTT on 5.9 and vs FTL on 5.16 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week, Spring Week Seven ... Made season debut in stoppage time vs JAX on 4.25, finishing the match ... Made first start at CAR on 5.2 ... Played last season with the Rowdies, playing 2,094 minutes in 24 appearances ... Played 10 seasons in Major League Soccer before signing for the Rowdies ... Spent 2005-2007 with the Chicago Fire ... Spent second half of 2008 with England's Queen Park Rangers, but did not play ... Returned to MLS with Colorado Rapids in 2009 and was a member of Colorado's MLS Cup-winning team in 2010 ... Holds Rapids franchise records in games in goal (116), shutouts (29) and wins (41).

Zac Portillos: Out for six months following rupture of right Achilles tendon on 4.15 ... Two appearances (two starts) in 2015, playing 180 minutes ... Made Rowdies and professional debut at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 23, 2015 on first professional contract ... One of four players to sign after earning a trial from the Rowdies' invite-only combine ... Most recently played from Akron University in the NCAA, where Tampa Bay goalkeeper coach Stuart Dobson coached.

Maicon Santos: Four appearances (four starts) in 2015, playing 329 minutes ... Two goals, both scored vs JAX on 4.25 ... Made debut as a starter at NYC on 4.18 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 4, 2015 ... Arrived with six years of high-level experience in Major League Soccer and Mexico's LigaMX ... Moved to North America in 2009 to join Chivas USA ... Played for Toronto FC from 2010-2011 and was first non-Canadian to ever captain the team ... Also played for FC Dallas, D.C. United and Chicago Fire in MLS ... Was a teammate of fellow Brazilian Marcelo Saragosa at both Chivas USA and D.C. United ... Most recently played for Puebla in LigaMX.

Marcelo Saragosa: Club captain ... Six appearances (six starts) in 2015, playing 513 minutes ... No goals, one assist ... Made Rowdies debut at SAS on 4.4 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 3, 2015 ... Arrives with nine years of Major League Soccer experience under his belt ... Played for Los Angeles Galaxy (2004-2006), FC Dallas (2006-2009), Chivas USA (2009-2010) and D.C. United (2012-2013) in MLS ... Played in Azerbaijani Premier League for FC Absheron (2010-2011) and Ravan Baku (2011-2012) ... Played youth soccer in the vaunted Sao Paulo Academy in his native Brazil ... Best friend of Orlando City midfielder Kaka.



Keith Savage: Out for remainder of 2015 NASL season with torn right ACL suffered at SAS on 4.4 ... Re-signed with the Rowdies on January 29, 2015 after spending last four seasons with the club ... Current appearances leader for the Rowdies with 96 appearances (87 starts) in four years, racking up 7,542 minutes ... Has scored 12 goals for the Rowdies ... Drafted in 2008 MLS SuperDraft by Chivas USA as their only pick ... Went on to play for the Portland Timbers, now in Major League Soccer ... Played college soccer at the University of West Florida ... Son of Bruce Savage, who made 16 appearances for the United States national team and was a teammate of Coach Thomas Rongen at the Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

Brian Shriver: Two appearances (no starts) in 2015, playing 40 minutes ... Made season debut vs MNU on 4.11 ... Spent 2014 with the Rowdies, making 22 appearances (15 starts) and playing 1,312 minutes ... Scored two goals and had one assist ... Signed with the Rowdies on December 24, 2013 ... Spent the two prior seasons with the Carolina RailHawks ... Won NASL Golden Boot in 2013 as league's top goalscorer ... Scored 15 goals in 22 appearances with Carolina in 2013 ... Played for the Fort Lauderdale Strikers 2009- 2011.

Ben Sweat: Five appearances (five starts) in 2015, playing 450 minutes ... Made debut as a starter at NYC on 4.18 ... Signed with the Rowdies on March 2, 2015 ... Spent 2014 with Columbus Crew SC in Major League Soccer ... Drafted 14th overall by Columbus in the 2014 MLS SuperDraft ... Played high school soccer for Palm Harbor University High School, club soccer for Clearwater Chargers SC and starred at the University of South Florida before turning pro ... All-time leader in appearances (78) for USF.

Verner Valimaa: Two appearances (one start) in 2015, playing 103 minutes ... Made professional debut vs MNU on 4.11 ... Made first start at NYC on 4.18 ... Signed with the Rowdies on March 30, 2015 on first professional contract ... A graduate of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill ... Originally from Finland, but raised in South Florida ... Has represented Finland at the U-20 level.

2015 NASL Honors

NASL Player of the Week

D Stefan Antonijevic (Spring, Week 1)
F Maicon Santos (Spring, Week 4)

NASL Team of the Week

GK Matt Pickens (Spring, Week 7)
D Darnell King (Spring, Week 7)
D Stefan Antonijevic (Spring, Weeks 1, 2 & 6)
M Georgi Hristov (Spring, Week 1)
M Martin Nuñez (Spring, Weeks 4 & 5)
F Darwin Espinal (Spring, Week 1)
F Maicon Santos (Spring, Week 4)
F Robert Hernandez (Spring, Week 7)

Italics denote selection in most recent week



Thomas Rongen - Head Coach

The Tampa Bay Rowdies announced the hiring of Thomas Rongen as head coach on December 3, 2014. Rongen became the third head coach in modern Rowdies history, bringing nearly 30 years of experience, an MLS championship and player development expertise.

Born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Rongen played for Ajax Amsterdam before moving to the US to play in the NASL where he won Rookie of the Year, Defender of the Year and other honors. Rongen was the original head coach of the Tampa Bay Mutiny, leading it to earn the Supporter's Shield in the league's inaugural 1996 season (awarded to the Major League Soccer team with the best regular season record). He was awarded the MLS Coach of the Year Award that season and was appointed coach of the Eastern Conference All-Star Team, which included six of his own Mutiny players. Rowdies President and General Manager Farrukh Quraishi served as President and GM of the Mutiny at that time.

Rongen's other MLS experience includes stints as head coach for D.C. United, where he won the 1999 MLS Cup, the New England Revolution and as the first head coach and sporting director for Chivas USA in Los Angeles, California.

Additionally, Rongen has extensive experience developing young players, serving as head coach of the United States Under-20 Men's National Team for nine years. He was recently the head coach for the long suffering Men's National Team in American Samoa, which lost 30 consecutive games in their 17 year existence prior to Rongen's appointment. Most recently the subject of an award winning documentary "Next Goal Wins," the feature-length film highlights his remarkable turnaround of the team in what Esquire magazine calls "the most rewarding, gutsy and rather magnificent sporting story in recent cinematic memory."

In addition to his coaching experience, Rongen also served as the Netherlands' team liaison at the 1994 World Cup in Orlando and most recently spent the last three seasons as Academy Director at Toronto FC. He has provided color commentary for Comcast, Fox Soccer and Sportsnet.

2015 Rowdies (NASL Only)

<u>2015 Record When:</u>	<u>W-T-L</u>
Scoring First	3-0-0
Opponent Scores First	0-1-1
Outshooting Opponent	1-2-0
Being Outshot	2-1-1
Same Number of Shots	0-0-0
Home Matches:	2-1-0
Away Matches:	1-2-1
Wearing Hoops:	1-2-0
Wearing Yellow:	2-1-1
On Grass:	3-2-0
On Turf:	0-1-1

2015 Goals Breakdown:

Tampa Bay Rowdies

Scoring 0-15 Minute	2
Scoring 15-30 Minute	1
Scoring 31-45 Minute	0
Scoring in 1st Half Injury Time	1
Scoring 46-60 Minute	2
Scoring 61-75 Minute	1
Scoring 76-90 Minute	1
Scoring in 2nd Half Injury Time	0

Opponents

Scoring 0-15 Minute	3
Scoring 15-30 Minute	0
Scoring 31-45 Minute	1
Scoring in 1st Half Injury Time	0
Scoring 46-60 Minute	1
Scoring 61-75 Minute	0
Scoring 76-90 Minute	0
Scoring in 2nd Half Injury Time	1

2015 Season - Rowdies Leaders (NASL Only)

Goals

1. Maicon Santos	2
1. Martin Nuñez	2
2. Stefan Antonijevic	1
2. Darwin Espinal	1
2. Corey Hertzog	1
2. Robert Hernandez	1

Assists

1. Georgi Hristov	3
2. Darnell King	1
2. Marcelo Saragosa	1

Points

1. Maicon Santos	4
1. Martin Nuñez	4
2. Georgi Hristov	3
3. Stefan Antonijevic	2
3. Darwin Espinal	2
3. Corey Hertzog	2
3. Robert Hernandez	2

About the Rowdies

The Tampa Bay Rowdies are a professional soccer club and a member of the North American Soccer League (NASL). The Rowdies home stadium is Al Lang Stadium in downtown St. Petersburg, Fl. The Rowdies were reborn in 2010 and quickly reestablished themselves as a premier club in the United States, winning the NASL Soccer Bowl Championship in 2012.

The Rowdies attracted a sellout crowd to their first home game in May 2010, and has continued to boast strong local fan support. The team is led by former United States Under-20 Men's National Team Coach Thomas Rongen, who was hired as the third head coach in modern Rowdies history on December 3, 2014. Rongen's career highlights also include an MLS Cup and MLS Supporter's Shield.

The original Tampa Bay Rowdies were born in 1975 as an expansion team in the North American Soccer League (NASL). From 1975-1984, the Rowdies were one of the most successful teams in the NASL, winning the Soccer Bowl Championship in 1975 and reaching the finals in 1978 and 1979. The Rowdies featured iconic players such as Rodney Marsh, Derek Smethurst, and Steve Wegerle while winning over the hearts of the people of Tampa Bay and creating an internationally recognized brand.

North American Soccer League (NASL)

The new North American Soccer League (NASL) was officially founded in November 2009 when a group of second-division men's professional soccer team owners banded together to form North American Soccer League, LLC for the purpose of creating a team-owned and operated professional soccer league in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

In February 2011, the NASL received provisional recognition from the United States Soccer Federation as the exclusive second division men's professional league (D-2) and the inaugural season kicked off on the evening of April 9, 2011. The team that emerges on top of the standings after 42 games played between April 6 and July 4 will earn the right to host the 2013 Soccer Bowl in November, to be joined by the Fall campaign champion as the NASL adopts a new split season format for the first time since returning to the American soccer scene in 2011.

The NASL member teams are: Atlanta Silverbacks, Carolina RailHawks, FC Edmonton, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Indy Eleven, Jacksonville Armada FC, Minnesota United FC, New York Cosmos, San Antonio Scorpions FC, Ottawa Fury FC and Tampa Bay Rowdies. For more information about the NASL, visit www.NASL.com. Follow the NASL on Twitter @NASLOfficial and Facebook at <http://www.Facebook.com/NASL.fans>.

Al Lang Stadium

Fully renovated this year and situated on the downtown St. Petersburg waterfront next to the Salvador Dali Museum and Mahaffey Theater, the iconic stadium used to be home to the Tampa Bay Rays for their spring training. Over the years, several other Major League Baseball teams, including the Baltimore Orioles, New York Mets, New York Yankees, St. Louis Cardinals, have used the stadium as their headquarters for spring training.

The St. Petersburg Athletic Park at the current site of Al Lang Stadium was the spring home for the Boston Braves and New York Yankees from 1923 until after World War II, hosting such greats such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Stan Musial. The first incarnation of the current field was built for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1947.

Team Information

Website: www.RowdiesSoccer.com
Twitter: @TampaBayRowdies
Match Twitter: @RowdiesGameday
Facebook: Tampa Bay Rowdies
Instagram: @TampaBayRowdies

Media Requests

All interview and credential requests should be made to Nico Castillo at ncastillo@rowdiessoccer.com or 813-527-1376.