

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES

Tampa Bay Rowdies



NASL Fall Record (W-T-L)

3-2-6, 11 points

T-9th place

NASL Combined Record

7-6-8, 27 points

T-5th place

Series History

Tampa Bay is 1-5-1(W-T-L) against Indy all-time, meaning matches between the sides are always tightly-contested. The Rowdies and Indy have met once this season, way back on the opening day of the season, a 0-0 draw that saw each team open its Spring Season campaign with a point.

The Rowdies' lone win against Indy came on July 9, 2014 in Indianapolis, a 2-1 win with Georgi Hristov scoring the winner in the 89th minute.

Scouting Tampa Bay

The Rowdies arrive in the Circle City playing some of their best soccer of the year, though the form guide wouldn't suggest it. Tampa Bay was unlucky not to beat FC Edmonton on August 20, conceding only a penalty kick and taking nine shots on goal, helping Eddies goalkeeper Matt Van Oekel be named Player of the Week.

Last week against Rayo OKC, the Rowdies took another eight shots on goal, with Joe Cole scoring a pair of goals to lead the team to a 2-0 win. Cole leads the Rowdies in goals (7) and assists (4) this season. Cole entered the match tied for the team lead in goals with Georgi Hristov, but now holds that title alone.

Rowdies goalkeeper Matt Pickens kept his sixth clean sheet of the year, and first since May 28, in the match.

Tampa Bay's training schedule was disrupted by Tropical Storm Hermine, which forced the Rowdies into an unplanned off day Thursday as it approached the Tampa Bay area.

Connecting the Squads

Rowdies midfielder Walter Ramirez was a member of Indy's inaugural squad in 2014, making seven total appearances for the Eleven before departing midseason.

Indy has no former Rowdies on its roster.

Up Next

The Rowdies play one more match on the road, against Puerto Rico FC on September 10, before returning home to host the Carolina RailHawks on September 17.

Tampa Bay Rowdies at Indy Eleven

Saturday, September 3, 2016
7:30 p.m. ET

Michael A. Carroll,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Stream: ESPN3

Follow us for live updates on Twitter at
[@RowdiesGameday](#).

Indy Eleven



NASL Fall Record (W-T-L)

6-2-4, 20 points

3rd place

NASL Combined Record

10-8-4, 38 points

3rd place

2016 Schedule

NASL SPRING SEASON

| Date | Opponent | Time/Result |
|------|--------------------|-------------|
| 4.2 | INDY | 0-0 D |
| 4.9 | at Miami | 1-1 D |
| 4.16 | EDMONTON | 1-0 W |
| 4.23 | CAROLINA | 3-1 L |
| 4.30 | at Fort Lauderdale | 1-0 W |
| 5.14 | RAYO OKC | 1-1 D |
| 5.22 | at New York | 2-1 L |
| 5.28 | at Minnesota | 2-0 W |
| 6.4 | OTTAWA | 2-1 W |
| 6.11 | at Jacksonville | 1-1 D |

NASL FALL SEASON

| Date | Opponent | Time/Result |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|
| 7.2 | JACKSONVILLE | 1-1 D |
| 7.9 | at Carolina | 4-1 L |
| 7.16 | PUERTO RICO | 3-0 W |
| 7.23 | NEW YORK | 2-2 D |
| 7.27 | at Rayo OKC | 1-0 L |
| 7.30 | at Ottawa | 2-0 L |
| 8.6 | FORT LAUDERDALE | 2-1 W |
| 8.13 | at New York | 3-2 L |
| 8.17 | at Minnesota | 2-0 L |
| 8.20 | EDMONTON | 1-0 L |
| 8.27 | RAYO OKC | 2-0 W |
| 9.3 | at Indy | 7:30 p.m. |
| 9.10 | at Puerto Rico | 7:30 p.m. |
| 9.17 | CAROLINA | 7:30 p.m. |
| 9.24 | at Fort Lauderdale | 7:00 p.m. |
| 10.1 | MIAMI | 7:30 p.m. |
| 10.5 | MINNESOTA | 7:30 p.m. |
| 10.9 | at Edmonton | 4:00 p.m. |
| 10.15 | at Miami FC | 8:00 p.m. |
| 10.19 | INDY | 7:30 p.m. |
| 10.22 | OTTAWA | 7:30 p.m. |
| 10.30 | at Jacksonville | 4:00 p.m. |

All times Eastern

Home games played at Al Lang Stadium



TAMPA BAY ROWDIES MATCH NOTES



| No. | Position | Name | DOB | Birthplace | Height | Weight | Pronunciation |
|-----|----------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | D | Darnell King | Sept. 23, 1990 | Tampa, Florida | 5-9 | 175 | |
| 3 | D | Neill Collins | Sept. 2, 1983 | Troon, Scotland | 6-3 | 174 | neal |
| 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 | D | Frankie Sanfilippo | Sept. 8, 1981 | San Diego, California | 5-8 | 165 | san-fill-ip-oh |
| 8 | F | Tommy Heinemann | Apr. 23, 1987 | St. Louis, Missouri | 6-4 | 190 | high-nih-min |
| 9 | M | Freddy Adu | Jun. 2, 1989 | Tema, Ghana | 5-7 | 150 | |
| 10 | F | Georgi Hristov | Jan. 10, 1985 | Plovdiv, Bulgaria | 6-0 | 182 | joe-jee wrist-off |
| 11 | M | Kalif Alhassan | Oct. 15, 1990 | Accra, Ghana | 5-10 | 161 | kuh-leef al-huh-sahn |
| 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 | M | Darwin Espinal | Jan. 16, 1995 | San Pedro Sula, Honduras | 5-11 | 163 | espy-nahl |
| 21 | M | Walter Ramirez | Nov. 7, 1983 | La Ceiba, Honduras | 5-9 | 150 | |
| 22 | M | Keith Savage | Aug. 9, 1985 | Gulf Breeze, Florida | 6-2 | 175 | |
| 23 | M | Michael Nanchoff | Sept. 24, 1988 | North Royalton, Ohio | 5-8 | 149 | |
| 24 | GK | Chris Glodack | Jun. 19, 1993 | Mount Holly, New Jersey | 6-1 | 200 | glow-dack |
| 25 | D | Jeremy Hall | Sept. 11, 1988 | Tampa, Florida | 5-11 | 170 | |
| 26 | M | Joe Cole | Nov. 8, 1981 | London, England | 5-9 | 160 | |
| 29 | F | Carlos Preciado | Mar. 30, 1985 | Cali, Colombia | 5-7 | 146 | pray-see-ah-dough |
| 30 | M | Eric Avila | Nov. 24, 1987 | San Diego, California | 5-8 | 150 | av-ih-luh |
| 32 | M | Martin Vingard | Mar. 20, 1985 | Odense, Denmark | 5-11 | 154 | vin-gard |
| 33 | M | Junior Burgos | Aug. 14, 1988 | Santa Ana, El Salvador | 5-11 | 172 | bur-gose |
| 55 | F | Danny Mwanga | Jul. 17, 1991 | Kinshasa, DR Congo | 6-1 | 174 | muh-wahn-guh |
| 94 | M | PC | Mar. 10, 1994 | São Paulo, Brazil | 5-8 | 155 | |

Technical Staff

CEO, Chairman & Governor: Bill Edwards

Head Coach: Stuart Campbell

Assistant Coach: Stuart Dobson

Assistant Coach: Raoul Voss



Last Time Out:

SATURDAY
AUGUST 27 AT 7:30PM
WE STAND FOR SOCCER

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES -VS- RAYO OKC

ROWDIES HEAD COACH: STUART CAMPBELL

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES LINEUP

#10 - HRISTOV - F
#04 - PC - M
#24 - COLE - M
#30 - AVILA - M
#32 - VINGARD - M
#13 - CHAVEZ - M
#21 - RAMIREZ - D
#5 - ANTONIJEVIC - D
#17 - MKANDAWIRE - D
#2 - KING - D
#18 - PICKENS - GK

AL LANG STADIUM - ST. PETERSBURG, FL

2016 NASL Fall Standings

| Team | GP | W | T | L | Pts. |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| New York | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 26 |
| Edmonton | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 23 |
| Indy* | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 20 |
| Minnesota | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 17 |
| Miami | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 16 |
| Rayo OKC | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 13 |
| Fort Lauderdale | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| Carolina | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| Ottawa | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 |
| Tampa Bay | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 |
| Jacksonville | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 10 |
| Puerto Rico | 11 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 8 |

2016 NASL Combined Standings

| Team | GP | W | T | L | Pts. |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|------|
| New York | 22 | 14 | 2 | 6 | 44 |
| Edmonton | 20 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 40 |
| Indy* | 22 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 38 |
| Minnesota | 22 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 33 |
| Tampa Bay | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 27 |
| Fort Lauderdale | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 27 |
| Carolina | 20 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 26 |
| Rayo OKC | 21 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 25 |
| Miami | 20 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 23 |
| Ottawa | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 20 |
| Jacksonville | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 17 |
| Puerto Rico | 11 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 8 |

*clinched berth in The Championship

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES MATCH NOTES



Starters By Match

| | GK | RB | RCB | LCB | LB | CDM | CDM | RM | CM | LM | F |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| IND 4.2 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Portillos | Nanchoff | Chavez | Avila | Burgos | Alhassan | Heinemann |
| MIA 4.9 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Sweat | Nanchoff | Guerra | Avila | Burgos | Alhassan | Heinemann |
| FCE 4.16 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Sweat | Nanchoff | Guerra | Avila | Hristov | Alhassan | Heinemann |
| CAR 4.23 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Sweat | Nanchoff | Guerra | Avila | Hristov | Alhassan | Heinemann |
| FTL 4.30 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Portillos | Chavez | Guerra | Avila | Nanchoff | Alhassan | Heinemann |
| OKC 5.14 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Portillos | Cole | Guerra | Avila | Nanchoff | Alhassan | Mwanga |
| NYC 5.22 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Portillos | Cole | Guerra | Avila | Alhassan | Nanchoff | Heinemann |
| MNU 5.28 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Portillos | Cole | Guerra | Avila | Alhassan | Nanchoff | Hristov |
| FCC 6.1 | <i>Pickens</i> | <i>King</i> | <i>Mkandawire</i> | <i>Collins</i> | <i>Sweat</i> | <i>Guerra (DM)</i> | <i>Cole (CM)</i> | <i>Burgos (CM)</i> | <i>Avila (RF)</i> | <i>Ramirez (LF)</i> | <i>Hristov (CF)</i> |
| OTT 6.4 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Sweat | Cole (DM) | Guerra (DM) | Nanchoff (CM) | Avila (RF) | Alhassan (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| JAX 6.11 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Sweat | Guerra (DM) | Cole (CM) | Alhassan (CM) | Avila (RF) | Ramirez (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| CLB 6.15 | <i>Pickens</i> | <i>King</i> | <i>Sanfilippo</i> | <i>Collins</i> | <i>Sweat</i> | <i>Guerra (DM)</i> | <i>Cole (CM)</i> | <i>Burgos (CM)</i> | <i>Avila (RF)</i> | <i>Hristov (LF)</i> | <i>Heinemann (CF)</i> |
| JAX 7.2 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Ramirez | Guerra (DM) | Nanchoff (CM) | Burgos (CM) | Avila (RF) | Alhassan (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| CAR 7.9 | Pickens | King | Sanfilippo | Antonijeivic | Ramirez | Guerra (DM) | Cole (CM) | Burgos (CM) | Avila (RF) | Alhassan (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| PRFC 7.16 | Pickens | King | Chavez | Antonijeivic | Ramirez | Guerra (DM) | Cole (CM) | Savage (CM) | Avila (RF) | Nanchoff (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| NYC 7.23 | Pickens | King | Chavez | Mkandawire | Ramirez | Savage (DM) | Vingaard (DM) | Cole (CM) | Avila (RF) | Nanchoff (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| OKC 7.27 | Pickens | King | Chavez | Mkandawire | Ramirez | Savage (DM) | Guerra (DM) | Vingaard (CM) | Avila (RF) | Hristov (LF) | Heinemann (CF) |
| OTT 7.30 | Pickens | King | Chavez | Mkandawire | Ramirez | Vingaard (DM) | Nanchoff (DM) | Cole (CM) | Avila (RF) | Alhassan (LF) | Hristov (CF) |
| FTL 8.6 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Ramirez | Vingaard (DM) | Savage (DM) | Cole (CM) | Avila (RF) | Hristov (LF) | Preciado (CF) |
| NYC 8.13 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Ramirez | Vingaard (DM) | Guerra (DM) | Cole (CM) | Avila (RF) | PC (LF) | Preciado (CF) |
| MNU 8.17 | Pickens | Chavez | Collins | Antonijeivic | Ramirez | Guerra (DM) | Savage (CM) | Vingaard (CM) | Hristov (RF) | PC (LF) | Preciado (CF) |
| FCE 8.20 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Collins | Ramirez | Vingaard | Chavez | Avila | Cole | PC | Preciado |
| OKC 8.27 | Pickens | King | Mkandawire | Antonijeivic | Ramirez | Vingaard | Chavez | Avila | Cole | PC | Hristov |

**italics denote U.S. Open Cup match*



2016 NASL Game Recaps

Spring Season

April 2 — vs Indy Eleven, 0-0 D

The Rowdies opened their 2016 campaign with a scoreless draw against the Indy Eleven in front of 5,740 fans at Al Lang Stadium. Tommy Heinemann had the best of the scoring chances, but was thwarted by Indy goalkeeper Jon Busch. Tampa Bay goalkeeper Matt Pickens needed to make just one save on the night.

April 9 — at Miami FC, 1-1 D

The Rowdies conceded a sloppy goal to Dario Cvitanich in the 17th minute after failing to properly clear a corner kick. Goalkeeper Matt Pickens made an initial save, but Cvitanich scored on the rebound. Tampa Bay trailed until the 85th minute, when Eric Avila drew a penalty kick, which was converted by Georgi Hristov.

April 16 — vs FC Edmonton, 1-0 W

Tommy Heinemann put the Rowdies ahead with a thundering header in the 73rd minute after a cross from Eric Avila. The Rowdies led deep into extra time until Neill Collins was whistled for a handball in the box and the Eddies were awarded a penalty kick. Tomi Ameobi's attempt was saved by Matt Pickens on the last kick of the game as Tampa Bay won in dramatic fashion.

April 23 — vs Carolina RailHawks, 3-1 L

Tampa Bay fell behind due to goals in the last minute of the first half and first minute of the second half scored by Alex Perez and James Marcelin, respectively. Tamika Mkandawire's 65th minute goal appeared to spark a comeback, but Brian Shriver's 87th minute penalty put the game out of reach.

April 30 — at Fort Lauderdale Strikers, 1-0 W

In a match that appeared headed for a 0-0 deadlock, Rowdies defender Neill Collins provided the game-winning goal, heading home an Eric Avila cross over Fort Lauderdale goalkeeper Bruno in the 78th minute. Matt Pickens made three saves to keep his third clean sheet of 2016.

May 14 — vs Rayo OKC, 1-1 D

A defensive mistake when Matt Pickens and Neill Collins got in each other's way with a loose ball in the box gifted OKC's Michel an unassisted goal in the 54th minute. Tampa Bay fought back to level the match when Tommy Heinemann's 74th minute shot beat goalkeeper Daniel Fernandes and was redirected into the net by Juanan. Joe Cole made his Rowdies debut and played the entire match.

May 22 — at New York Cosmos, 2-1 L

Tommy Heinemann gave the Rowdies a lead in the 17th minute, but goals from Yasmani Duk and Ruben Bover saw the Cosmos take a 2-1 halftime lead. Tampa Bay appeared to have equalized the match via Danny Mwangi's headed goal in the 83rd minute, but the goal was incorrectly disallowed due to offside.

May 28 — at Minnesota United FC, 2-0 W

Joe Cole starred as the Rowdies dealt Minnesota United FC its first home loss of the season in dominant fashion. Cole headed home a cross from Kalif Alhassan in the 43rd minute and then assisted Eric Avila in the 47th minute for the only goals in the match. Cole was named Player of the Week.

June 4 — vs Ottawa Fury FC, 2-1 W

Tampa Bay rolled to its third win in eight days with two goals from Georgi Hristov. Carl Haworth scored Ottawa's lone goal, but the Rowdies picked up the win. Kalif Alhassan and Joe Cole recorded the assists. Hristov earned Player of the Week honors.

June 11 — at Jacksonville Armada FC, 1-1 D

Second-half goals from Jacksonville's Junior Sandoval and Tampa Bay's Junior Burgos canceled each other out as the teams drew 1-1 in their Spring Season finales. Armada defender Shawn Nicklaw was ejected from the match in the 46th minute with a straight red card after a tackle on Joe Cole.

Fall Season

July 2 — vs Jacksonville Armada FC, 1-1 D

Zach Steinberger and Georgi Hristov scored in the 12th and 13th minutes, respectively. Tampa Bay forced Jacksonville goalkeeper Sean Lewis into 10 saves, for which he earned Team of the Week honors.

July 9 — at Carolina RailHawks, 4-1 L

Georgi Hristov canceled Matt Fondy's early goal with a 20th minute penalty kick, but the spot would bite back hard in the second half. Brian Shriver and Nazmi Albadawi converted penalties in the 55th and 59th minutes, plus Albadawi's goal in the 71st to dominate the Rowdies.

July 16 — vs Puerto Rico FC, 3-0 W

Highlight-reel goals from Joe Cole (bicycle kick) and Eric Avila put the Rowdies up 2-0 inside half an hour. Tommy Heinemann made it 3-0 in second half stoppage time.

July 23 — vs New York Cosmos, 2-2 D

Goals from Juan Arango and Yasmani Duk in the 53rd and 67th minutes, respectively, put New York ahead. Tampa Bay fought back when Keith Savage forced an own goal in the 84th and Joe Cole buried a penalty deep in stoppage time. Martin Vinvaard and Carlos Preciado made their club debuts, while Stuart Campbell and Raoul Voss were ejected.

July 27 — at Rayo OKC, 1-0 L

Goalkeeper Matt Pickens misjudged a bounce off the turf, allowing Billy Forbes to take advantage and score the only goal of the match in the 43rd minute.

July 30 — at Ottawa Fury FC, 2-0 L

A second minute goal scored by Mallan Roberts and a 36th minute own goal by Tamika Mkandawire doomed the Rowdies to a defeat in Ottawa.

August 6 — vs Fort Lauderdale Strikers, 2-1 W

After a scoreless first half, Keith Savage and Joe Cole scored in the 50th and 58th minutes, respectively, to put Tampa Bay ahead. Jose Angulo pulled one back for the Strikers in the 71st minute but Matt Pickens saved Adrianinho's 75th minute penalty to help the Rowdies to a win.

August 13 — at New York Cosmos, 3-2 L

Joe Cole and PC scored in the 11th and 14th minutes, respectively, to put the Rowdies ahead 2-0 in New York before the Cosmos were awarded a pair of penalty kicks. Adam Moffat converted in the 39th and 64th minutes before David Diosa's winner in the third minute of stoppage time.

August 17 — at Minnesota United FC, 2-0 L

Defensive errors by Walter Ramirez and Stefan Antonijevic helped the Loons to both goals and the Rowdies were unable to answer back despite leading the shots on goal count 5-2.

August 20 — vs FC Edmonton, 1-0 L

Tampa Bay's attack was potent, forcing Eddies goalkeeper Matt Van Oekel to make nine saves en route to being named NASL Player of the Week, but didn't finish. Edmonton won 1-0 on Daryl Fordyce's 74th minute penalty kick.

August 27 — vs Rayo OKC, 2-0 W

Joe Cole had a penalty kick saved in the 10th minute, but scored in the 61st and 70th to lead the Rowdies to a win.

Rowdies Stats (NASL Only)

| No. | Position | Name | GP | GS | Minutes | Goals | Assists | YC (Fall) | RC |
|-----|----------|--------------------|----|----|---------|-------|---------|-----------|----|
| 2 | D | Darnell King | 20 | 20 | 1,777 | -- | 1 | 6 (3) | 1 |
| 3 | D | Neill Collins | 15 | 15 | 1,261 | 1 | 1 | 4 (1) | -- |
| 4 | D | Ben Sweat | 5 | 5 | 413 | -- | -- | 2 (0) | -- |
| 5 | D | Stefan Antonijevic | 6 | 4 | 476 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 7 | D | Frankie Sanfilippo | 1 | 1 | 90 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 8 | F | Tommy Heinemann | 18 | 7 | 802 | 3 | -- | 1 (0) | -- |
| 9 | M | Freddy Adu | 3 | -- | 37 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 10 | F | Georgi Hristov | 21 | 14 | 1,343 | 5 | 3 | 5 (2) | -- |
| 11 | M | Kalif Alhassan | 14 | 13 | 1,045 | -- | 3 | 1 (0) | -- |
| 13 | M | Justin Chavez | 14 | 9 | 830 | -- | -- | 2 (2) | -- |
| 14 | M | Jeff Michaud | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 15 | D | Zac Portillos | 5 | 5 | 446 | -- | -- | 1 (0) | -- |
| 16 | M | Juan Guerra | 17 | 15 | 1,198 | -- | 1 | 8 (4) | -- |
| 17 | D | Tamika Mkandawire | 18 | 18 | 1,564 | 1 | -- | 3 (2) | -- |
| 18 | GK | Matt Pickens | 21 | 21 | 1,890 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 19 | M | Veneri Välimaa | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 20 | M | Darwin Espinal | 3 | -- | 59 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 21 | M | Walter Ramirez | 16 | 12 | 1,074 | -- | -- | 2 (2) | -- |
| 22 | M | Keith Savage | 6 | 5 | 410 | 1 | -- | 1 (1) | -- |
| 23 | M | Michael Nanchoff | 16 | 13 | 1,166 | -- | -- | 4 (2) | -- |
| 24 | GK | Chris Glodack | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 25 | D | Jeremy Hall | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 26 | M | Joe Cole | 14 | 13 | 1,172 | 7 | 4 | 2 (2) | -- |
| 29 | F | Carlos Preciado | 7 | 4 | 393 | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| 30 | M | Eric Avila | 21 | 20 | 1,673 | 2 | 2 | 1 (0) | -- |
| 32 | M | Martin Vingaard | 8 | 8 | 675 | -- | -- | 1 (1) | -- |
| 33 | M | Junior Burgos | 8 | 4 | 393 | 1 | -- | 2 (0) | -- |
| 55 | F | Danny Mwanga | 8 | 1 | 207 | -- | -- | 1 | -- |
| 94 | M | PC | 5 | 4 | 372 | 1 | 1 | 2 (2) | -- |

Tampa Bay Rowdies Bios (Stats are NASL only)

Freddy Adu: Three appearances (no starts) in 2016, playing 37 minutes ... Made season debut as a substitute at CAR on 7.9 ... Eight appearances (six starts) in 2015, playing 560 minutes with three assists ... Debuted vs FTL on 7.25.15 and provided an assist ... Signed by the club July 14, 2015 ... Played for the United States U-20 Men's National Team, including at two U-20 World Cups ... Has 17 caps for the senior United States Men's National Team, including two goals ... No. 1 pick in MLS SuperDraft in 2004, with D.C. United, where he played 2004-2006 ... Has also played for Real Salt Lake (2007) and Philadelphia Union (2011-2013) in MLS.

Kalif Alhassan: Fourteen appearances (13 starts) in 2016, playing 1,045 minutes ... Three assists ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on Dec. 17, 2015 ... Played for Minnesota United FC in 2015, making 28 appearances (23 starts) and playing 1,869 minutes for the Loons in his first season in the NASL ... Four goals and six assists for Minnesota last year ... Played five season for the Portland Timbers from 2010-2014, joining the team when it was in the USSF D-II Pro League and moving to Major League Soccer with the club in 2011 ... Six total goals for Portland.

Stefan Antonijevic: Six appearances (four starts) in 2016, playing 476 minutes ... Made season debut 7.2 vs JAX, replacing injured Tamika Mkandawire ... Twenty-one appearances (21 starts) in 2015, playing 1,823 minutes with one goal, scored at SAS on 4.4 and one assist, for Darwin Espinal at OTT on 8.29 ... 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.

Eric Avila: Twenty-one appearances (20 starts) in 2016, playing 1,673 minutes ... Two goals, two assists ... Scored at MNU on 5.28 & vs PRFC on 7.16 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 26 after spending 2015 with Orlando City SC (MLS) on loan from Santos Laguna (Liga MX) ... Broke into MLS in 2008 with FC Dallas and has played more than 10,000 minutes in that league for Dallas, Toronto FC, Chivas USA and Orlando ... Member of U.S. Under-17 residency program in Bradenton in 2004-2005 ... Made 20 appearances for U.S. U-17 national team and 10 for U-20 team between 2003 & 2007.

Junior Burgos: Eight appearances (four starts) in 2016, playing 393 minutes ... One goal, scored at JAX on 6.11 ... Joined the Rowdies on loan for the entire 2016 season from Major League Soccer's Atlanta United FC on February 2, 2016 ... Played the second half of the 2015 NASL season with the Atlanta Silverbacks, making 17 appearances (16 starts) and playing 1,280 minutes ... Scored four goals and tallied six assists for the Silverbacks in 2015 ... Won the fan-voted NASL Goal of the Year Award for a stunning free kick goal against the San Antonio Scorpions in August ... Began 2015 with USL's Orange County Blues after playing 2014 season for the Silverbacks ... Has MLS experience with Toronto FC in 2012.

Justin Chavez: Fourteen appearances (nine starts) in 2016, playing 830 minutes ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Fifteen appearances (seven starts) in 2015, playing 659 minutes ... Made Rowdies debut off the bench as SAS on 4.4.15 ... Made first start vs MNU on 4.11.15 ... 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.

Joe Cole: Fourteen appearances (13 starts) in 2016, playing 1,172 minutes ... Seven goals, four assists ... Bicycle kick vs PRFC on 7.16 earned No. 1 spot on SportsCenter's Top 10 ... Named NASL Player of the Week once ... Named to NASL Team of the Week five times ... Made Rowdies debut as a starter against OKC on 5.14 ... Signed with the Rowdies on May 4, 2016 ... Played for West Ham United, Chelsea FC, Liverpool FC and Aston Villa in a notable career in the English Premier League, as well as a spell with LOSC Lille in Ligue 1 ... Most recently played with Coventry City in League One before joining the Rowdies ... Three-time Premier League and FA Cup Champion with Chelsea ... Also won two Community Shields and League cups with the Blues, as well as finishing as runner-up in the UEFA Champions League ... 157 total appearances for West Ham and 182 appearances for Chelsea ... 56 appearances for England national team, including playing in the 2002, 2006 and 2010 FIFA World Cups.

Neill Collins: Fifteen appearances (15 starts) in 2016, playing 1,261 minutes ... One goal, at FTL on 4.30 ... One assist ... Named to NASL Team of the Week twice ... Signed with the Rowdies on March 11, 2016 while Tampa Bay was on tour in England after terminating contract with Sheffield United (England) ... Played for Sheffield United since 2011, making 177 appearances for the Blades and scoring 12 goals ... Began career with Queens Park (Scotland) in 2001 and also played for Dumbarton in his native country before beginning career in England ... Played for Sunderland, Hartlepool United, Wolves, Preston North End, Leeds United, Port Vale and Sheffield United in England before joining the Rowdies.

Darwin Espinal: Three appearances (no starts) in 2016, playing 59 minutes ... Twenty-two appearances (15 starts) in 2015, playing 1,381 minutes with four goals, scored at SAS on 4.4, vs FCE on 6.6, at OTT on 8.29 and vs NYC on 9.5 and one assist ... Made Rowdies and professional debut as SAS on 4.4.15 ... Regular for Honduras U-23 team, which he helped qualify for 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio ... 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.

Chris Glodack: Yet to appear in 2016 ... Did not appear in 2015 ... Signed with the Rowdies on February 23, 2015 on first professional contract ... Most recently played for Clemson University in the NCAA ... Played high school soccer at IMG Academy in Bradenton.



Juan Guerra: Seventeen appearances (15 starts) in 2016, playing 1,198 minutes ... One assist ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Twenty-three appearances (19 starts) in 2015, playing 1,783 minutes with two goals, scored vs MNU on 8.22 and vs SAS on 9.19 ... Made Rowdies debut off the bench at SAS on 4.4.15 ... Made first start at NYC on 4.18.15 ... 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.

Jeremy Hall: Currently on loan to Sacramento Republic FC (USL) ... Yet to appear in 2016 ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on February 8, 2016 ... Has played for five MLS clubs in his seven years of MLS experience, most recently with the New England Revolution in 2015 ... Drafted No. 11 overall by the New York Red Bulls in 2009 MLS SuperDraft ... Also played for Portland Timbers, FC Dallas and Toronto FC in MLS ... Tampa native that participated in the United States Under-17 National Team Residency Program in Bradenton ... Three caps for Puerto Rico National Team.

Tommy Heinemann: Eighteen appearances (seven starts) in 2016, playing 802 minutes ... Three goals ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on December 14, 2015 after playing the previous two NASL seasons for Ottawa Fury FC ... All-time leading scorer for Ottawa with 18 goals ... 12 goals in 2015 to lead the Fury to a Fall Season Championship and an appearance in the NASL Championship Final ... Had four goals in two playoff matches last year ... Has MLS experience with the Columbus Crew in 2011-2012 and Vancouver Whitecaps in 2013.

Georgi Hristov: Twenty-one appearances (14 starts) in 2016, playing 1,343 minutes ... Five goals, three assists ... Made 100th official appearance for the Rowdies at MNU on 8.17 ... Named NASL Player of the Week once ... Named to NASL Team of the Week twice ... Fourth Rowdies player to reach 100 appearances in the modern era, joining Takuya Yamada, Frankie Sanfilippo and Keith Savage ... Twenty-eight appearances (22 starts) in 2015, playing 2,034 minutes with two goals, scored vs ATL on 6.13 & at CAR on 8.1 and nine assists, most in the NASL ... 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: Twenty appearances (20 starts) in 2016, playing 1,777 minutes ... One assist, to Georgi Hristov vs JAX on 7.2 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week twice, Spring Week Nine & Fall Week One ... Twenty-seven appearances (25 starts) in 2015, playing 2,251 minutes with one goal and two assists ... Scored vs ATL on 7.4 ... Made Rowdies debut at SAS on 4.4.15 ... 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.

Jeff Michaud: Currently on loan to Wilmington Hammerheads (USL) ... Four appearances (no starts) in 2015, playing 32 minutes ... Made professional debut vs ATL on 6.13.15 ... 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.

Tamika Mkandawire: Club captain ... Eighteen appearances (18 starts), playing 1,564 minutes ... One goal, vs CAR on 4.23 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Thirty appearances (30 starts) in 2015, playing all 2,700 minutes of the seasons with one goal, scored at OTT on 8.29.15 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week, Spring Week 10 & Fall Weeks 9 & 10 ... 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.

Danny Mwanga: Currently on loan to Ottawa Fury FC (NASL) ... Eight appearances (one start) in 2016, playing 207 minutes ... Made Rowdies debut off the bench at MIA on 4.9 ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on December 28, 2015 ... Drafted No. 1 overall by the Portland Timbers in the 2010 MLS SuperDraft ... Played for the Timbers until 2012, making 61 appearances and scoring 12 goals ... Played for Colorado Rapids 2013-2014 and Orlando City SC in 2015.

Michael Nanchoff: Sixteen appearances (13 starts) in 2016, playing 1,166 minutes ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on January 8, 2016 ... Played three previous seasons for MLS Cup Champion Portland Timbers ... Drafted No. 8 overall by the Vancouver Whitecaps in 2011 MLS SuperDraft.

PC: Five appearances (four starts) in 2016, playing 372 minutes ... One goal, one assist, both at NYC on 8.13 ... Made Rowdies debut August 6 vs FTL ... Acquired via transfer from Fort Lauderdale on August 5 ... Thirteen appearances (13 starts) in 2016 for the Strikers, playing 1,157 minutes ... Initially joined Strikers on loan from Corinthians (Brazil) at the start of 2015 season, but soon earned a permanent move to Fort Lauderdale ... Forty NASL appearances for the Strikers, plus an additional five in U.S. Open Cup play ... Full name is Victor Pagliari Giro ... PC nickname was earned as a youth player for Corinthians.



Matt Pickens: Twenty-one appearances (21 starts) in 2016, playing 1,890 minutes ... Six clean sheets ... Opposing penalty takers are 5-for-11 against him in NASL play ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Twenty-three appearances (22 starts) in 2015, playing 1,980 minutes ... Six clean sheets in 2015 ... Made season debut in stoppage time vs JAX on 4.25, finishing the match ... Made first start at CAR on 5.2.15 ... 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 season with ruptured left Achilles sustained 5.28 at MNU ... Five appearances (five starts) in 2016, playing 446 minutes ... Two appearances (two starts) in 2015, playing 180 minutes ... Made Rowdies and professional debut at SAS on 4.4.15 ... Ruptured right Achilles on 4.15.15, ending his season ... 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.

Carlos Preciado: Seven appearances (four starts) in 2016, playing 393 minutes ... One assist ... Made first start 8.6 vs FTL ... Made club debut as a sub 7.23 vs NYC ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on July 19, 2016 ... Played for Alianza Lima (Peru), Millonarios (Colombia) and America de Cali (Colombia) among other smaller clubs in South America ... Spent early part of 2016 with Al Sailiya (Qatar.)

Walter Ramirez: Sixteen appearances (12 starts) in 2016, playing 1,074 minutes ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on December 24, 2015 ... Played for the Fort Lauderdale Strikers in 2014 and 2015 seasons ... Made 27 appearances (23 starts) in 2015, playing 1,921 minutes for the Strikers, scoring five goals ... Previous NASL experience with San Antonio Scorpions, Indy Eleven and Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

Frankie Sanfilippo: One appearance (one start) in 2016, playing 90 minutes ... Made season debut 7.9 at CAR ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on December 21, 2015 after playing last season with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers ... Made 31 appearances (all starts) in 2015, playing 2,785 minutes ... Played for the Rowdies 2011-2014, departing as club captain ... 101 league appearances for Tampa Bay in total ... Played for Rochester Rhinos and Charleston Battery prior to 2011.

Keith Savage: Six appearances (five starts) in 2016, playing 410 minutes ... One goal, scored vs. FTL on 8.6 ... Suffered season-ending ACL tear thirty minutes into 2015 season opener ... Made 100th Rowdies appearance at OKC on 7.27 ... Named to NASL Team of the Week once ... Third Rowdies player to play 100 league matches in modern era, joining Takuya Yamada and Frankie Sanfilippo ... 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.

Ben Sweat: Five appearances (five starts) in 2016, playing 413 minutes ... Twenty-six appearances (26 starts) in 2015, playing 2,278 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.

Veneri Valimaa: Currently on loan to Orange County Blues FC (USL) ... Four appearances (one start) in 2015, playing 122 minutes ... Made professional debut vs MNU on 4.11.15 ... Made first start at NYC on 4.18.15 ... 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 ... Represented Finland at the U-20 level.

Martin Vingaard: Eight appearances (eight starts) in 2016, playing 675 minutes ... Made Rowdies debut 7.23 as a starter vs NYC ... Signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies on July 18, 2016 ... Played for Boldklubben 1913, FC Copenhagen and FC Nordsjælland in his native Denmark ... Helped FC Copenhagen to four SuperLiga titles and two Danish Cups ... Nine senior caps for Danish National Team.

2016 NASL Honors

NASL Player of the Week

M Joe Cole (Spring, Week 9)

F Georgi Hristov (Spring, Week 10)

NASL Team of the Week

GK Matt Pickens (Spring, Week 3)

D Tamika Mkandawire (Spring, Week 3)

D Neill Collins (Spring, Weeks 2 & 5)

D Darnell King (Spring, Week 9 & Fall, Week 1)

M Michael Nanchoff (Spring, Week 1)

M Eric Avila (Spring, Week 5)

M Juan Guerra (Spring, Week 7)

M Joe Cole (Spring, Weeks 9 & 11; Fall Weeks 3, 6 & 9)

M Kalif Alhassan (Spring, Week 10)

M Justin Chavez (Fall, Week 3)

M Keith Savage (Fall, Week 4)

F Tommy Heinemann (Spring, Week 3)

F Georgi Hristov (Spring, Week 10; Fall, Week 9)

Italics denote selection in most recent week



Stuart Campbell – Head Coach

Stuart Campbell was appointed to the position of Tampa Bay Rowdies head coach on August 26, 2015. He had previously led the team against Minnesota United FC on August 22.

Campbell, 38, has been with the Rowdies since December 27, 2011, originally joining as a player for the 2012 season before transitioning to roles as an assistant coach and now head coach. In his first season with the Rowdies, Campbell played 31 matches as a defensive stalwart, guiding the Rowdies to the NASL Championship.

He served a player and assistant coach in 2013, before becoming a full-time assistant coach last season and resuming that in 2015. In August of last year, he was appointed head coach.

Campbell spent most of his playing career with Bristol Rovers, making 288 appearances for the Gas between 2004 and 2011. He was appointed captain in 2006 and led the club to the quarterfinals of the 2007-2008 FA Cup, the best result in Rovers’ history. In 2011, Campbell was named interim manager with twelve games remaining in the season.

Campbell also played for Leicester City, Birmingham City and Grimsby Town in his playing career before joining the Rowdies. He also earned 14 caps for the Scottish National Team at the Under-21 level.

2016 Rowdies (NASL Only)

| <u>2016 Record When:</u> | <u>W-T-L</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Scoring First | 7-0-2 |
| Opponent Scores First | 0-5-6 |
| Outshooting Opponent | 4-6-4 |
| Being Outshot | 3-0-3 |
| Same Number of Shots | 0-0-1 |
| Home Matches: | 5-4-2 |
| Away Matches: | 2-2-6 |
| Wearing Hoops: | 4-4-4 |
| Wearing Green: | 3-2-4 |
| On Grass: | 7-4-4 |
| On Turf: | 0-1-4 |

2016 Goals Breakdown:

| <u>Tampa Bay Rowdies</u> | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Scoring 0-15 Minute | 4 |
| Scoring 15-30 Minute | 4 |
| Scoring 31-45 Minute | 1 |
| Scoring in 1st Half Injury Time | 0 |
| Scoring 46-60 Minute | 4 |
| Scoring 61-75 Minute | 5 |
| Scoring 76-90 Minute | 4 |
| Scoring in 2nd Half Injury Time | 2 |

Opponents

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Scoring 0-15 Minute | 3 |
| Scoring 15-30 Minute | 2 |
| Scoring 31-45 Minute | 6 |
| Scoring in 1st Half Injury Time | 0 |
| Scoring 46-60 Minute | 7 |
| Scoring 61-75 Minute | 6 |
| Scoring 76-90 Minute | 1 |
| Scoring in 2nd Half Injury Time | 1 |

2016 Season - Rowdies Leaders (NASL Only)

Goals

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Joe Cole | 7 |
| 2. Georgi Hristov | 5 |
| 3. Tommy Heinemann | 3 |
| 4. Eric Avila | 2 |
| 5. Tamika Mkandawire | 1 |
| 5. Neill Collins | 1 |
| 5. Junior Burgos | 1 |
| 5. Keith Savage | 1 |
| 5. PC | 1 |

Assists

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Joe Cole | 4 |
| 2. Kalif Alhassan | 3 |
| 2. Georgi Hristov | 3 |
| 4. Eric Avila | 2 |
| 5. Neill Collins | 1 |
| 5. Darnell King | 1 |
| 5. Juan Guerra | 1 |
| 5. PC | 1 |
| 5. Carlos Preciado | 1 |

Points

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Joe Cole | 18 |
| 1. Georgi Hristov | 13 |
| 3. Tommy Heinemann | 6 |
| 3. Eric Avila | 6 |
| 5. Neill Collins | 3 |
| 5. Kalif Alhassan | 3 |
| 5. PC | 1 |

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, Fla. 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 have continued to boast strong local fan support. The Rowdies announced the creation of Rowdies 2, their National Premier Soccer League team, on December 23, 2015. Rowdies 2 had a successful inaugural season in 2016.

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 2016 format continues the split season format and The Championship, a four-team postseason tournament. The winners of the Spring and Fall Seasons will earn berths in The Championship and be joined by the next two best teams in the Combined table.

The NASL member teams are: Carolina RailHawks, FC Edmonton, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Indy Eleven, Jacksonville Armada FC, Miami FC, Minnesota United FC, New York Cosmos, Ottawa Fury FC, Puerto Rico FC, Rayo OKC and the Tampa Bay Rowdies. The San Francisco Deltas will begin play in 2017. 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 in 2015 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
Snapchat: tbrowdies

Media Requests

All interview and credential requests should be made to Nico Castillo at ncastillo@rowdiessoccer.com