



GAME NOTES

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

ALEX CAULFIELD

Sr. Director of Communications
O: 206.512.1225 | C: 216.978.7212
AlexC@SoundersFC.com

MATT WINTER

Team Communications Manager
O: 206.512.1215 | C: 206.639.4610
MattW@SoundersFC.com

KELLY SCHUTZ

Communications Manager
O: 206.512.1207 | C: 206.859.8223
KellyS@SoundersFC.com

MATCH INFORMATION



SOUNDERS FC 2
VS.
PORTLAND TIMBERS 2



Kickoff: Friday, March 16, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. PT
Location: Cheney Stadium | Tacoma, Wash.

Referee: Victor Rivas

Assistants: Chris Wattam, Seth Martin

Fourth Official: Chipalo Street

BROADCAST INFORMATION

Live Stream: [USL YouTube Channel](#)

Talent: Andrew Harvey, James Riley and Dave Clark

MATCH PREVIEW

Sounders FC 2 kicks off its first campaign in Tacoma on Friday evening with a Cascadia clash against Portland Timbers 2 at 7:00 p.m. PT. Under the direction of new Head Coach John Hutchinson, S2's 34-match regular season begins under the lights of Cheney Stadium, in a new chapter for the Rave Green's USL side.

In November of 2017, Seattle Sounders FC and the Tacoma Rainiers announced that beginning in 2018, Sounders FC 2's previously-announced transition to Tacoma is accelerating, allowing S2 to play its home matches at Cheney Stadium while progress continues toward a new soccer-specific facility. The two clubs previously reached a historic agreement to build a 5,000-seat facility in Central Tacoma on the footprint of Cheney Stadium. While that process moves forward, South Sound soccer fans are now able to see their USL side play in Tacoma several seasons ahead of schedule.

2018 S2 SCHEDULE

USL REGULAR SEASON RECORD: 0-0-0
(HOME: 0-0-0; AWAY: 0-0-0)

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PT) / RESULT
Fri.	3/16	Portland Timbers 2	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	3/24	at S.P. Rangers	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	3/28	Fresno FC	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	4/7	at Sac. Republic FC	7:30 p.m.
Wed.	4/11	Real Monarchs SLC	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	4/14	Toros FC	5:00 p.m.
Sat.	4/21	at Switchbacks FC	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	5/6	Sac. Republic FC	1:30 p.m.
Sat.	5/12	Portland Timbers 2	5:00 p.m.
Sat.	5/19	at Reno 1868 FC	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	6/2	at Fresno FC	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	6/10	OKC Energy FC	1:30 p.m.
Sat.	6/16	at Las Vegas Lights	8:00 p.m.
Fri.	6/29	at LA Galaxy II	5:30 p.m.
Thurs.	7/5	S.P. Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	7/8	Reno 1868 FC	1:30 p.m.
Sat.	7/14	at Real Monarchs FC	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	7/20	at Phoenix Rising FC	7:00 p.m.
Thurs.	7/26	Las Vegas Lights	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	8/4	at St. Louis FC	5:30 p.m.
Sat.	8/11	San Antonio FC	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	8/19	at Portland Timbers 2	2:00 p.m.
Sat.	8/25	at OKC Energy FC	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	8/29	Saint Louis FC	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	9/2	Orange County FC	1:30 p.m.
Wed.	9/5	Tulsa Roughnecks FC	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	9/8	at Sac. Republic FC	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	9/15	Phoenix Rising FC	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	9/22	at Toros FC	5:30 p.m.
Sat.	9/29	at San Antonio FC	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	10/3	LA Galaxy II	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	10/6	at Orange County FC	7:00 p.m.
Wed.	10/10	Switchbacks FC	7:00 p.m.

S2 MOVES TO TACOMA

Seattle Sounders FC and the Tacoma Rainiers announced on November 1, 2017 that beginning in 2018, Sounders FC 2's previously-announced transition to Tacoma is accelerating, allowing S2 to play its home matches at Cheney Stadium, while progress continues toward a new soccer-specific facility. Earlier in 2017, the two clubs reached a historic agreement to build a 5,000-seat facility in Central Tacoma on the footprint of Cheney Stadium. While that process moves forward, South Sound soccer fans are now able to see their USL side play in Tacoma several seasons ahead of schedule.

"Our organization was already thrilled to be moving ahead with the Rainiers and the City of Tacoma on the new stadium project, but when we learned of the opportunity to begin playing USL games as soon as 2018 in a facility like Cheney Stadium, we embraced the chance," said Sounders FC Owner Adrian Hanauer. "From Rainiers leadership to the many civic officials in Tacoma that are working hard to deliver professional soccer to their city, we're humbled to have such willing partners in this effort. As soon as next season, fans can enjoy a first-class experience at Cheney, allowing the club to make a tangible connection to the City of Tacoma earlier than expected."

"We are so proud to bring another professional sports franchise to Tacoma," Rainiers President Aaron Artman said. "To partner with the top soccer organization in the country, the Sounders, adds a layer of passion and prestige to the project, fueled by a vibrant South Sound base of supporters. We are excited to deliver a fantastic USL experience with S2 at Cheney in 2018 and 2019, while keeping our focus on delivering a world class soccer specific stadium by 2020."

Originally announced in May of 2017, the partnership brings together two of the Northwest's premier professional sports organizations to reach a first-of-its-kind relationship in USL within the same regional market. The Tacoma Rainiers are an award-winning franchise that has been a staple of the South Sound community for over 50 years, operating as the top affiliate of Major League Baseball's Seattle Mariners. They will operate the business side of the new era of the USL club, taking advantage of the decades of experience operating a professional organization in the Tacoma market, while Sounders FC is set to maintain leadership over soccer operations and sporting infrastructure. With key details coming together - including a name for the organization that is representative of its new home - it was announced today that much like the naming of the Sounders FC First Team, Tacoma fans will have influence over the identity of their new club. Details for that process are forthcoming, with the team to play under the S2 brand in the near-term during this transition.

"From kids to adults of all ages, Tacoma is a city that loves sports," said Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland. "Our baseball and soccer fans now have an opportunity to see professional soccer and baseball right here at home in facilities that the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks have developed with a true community partnership. Tacoma is the best kept secret on the West Coast and I am thrilled for the City we all love - Tacoma."

"Make no mistake about it, today's announcement is a big win for Tacoma," Council Ryan Member Mello said. "We will now have another significant regional attraction to draw people to Tacoma. That is good for the economy and it will add local jobs and commerce. However, it also improves our overall quality of life by adding another affordable attraction for our community's youth and families."

As previously announced, Sounders FC's soccer operations are set to remain at Starfire Sports, the club's Tukwila-based training ground. The First Team, S2 and Sounders FC Academy will all continue to train at Starfire under watchful eye of the club's technical staff led by General Manager & President of Soccer Garth Lagerwey. Both Cheney Stadium and the eventual new facility provide a first-class matchday experience for the rebranded S2 side, and gives the organization an opportunity to call-up players from Tacoma, mirroring the Mariners' relationship with the Rainiers. Additionally, Sounders FC is currently engaged with the Sounders Community Trust (SCT) - a charitable, fan and supporter-managed, non-profit organization that maintains a 20-percent interest of Sounders FC 2 - about next steps in Tacoma.

The City of Tacoma has a rooted soccer history and tradition. Current Sounders FC Head Coach Brian Schmetzer and club legend Alan Hinton were involved with the Tacoma Stars in the 1980s, an organization that the Rainiers recently helped relaunch, with Stars owner and Tacoma native Lane Smith, at the ShoWare Center in Kent. Tacoma's grassroots soccer ties run deep, from the formation of Washington Youth Soccer in the City of Destiny in 1966, to the professional ranks with sides like Tacoma Wanderers.

S2 OFFSEASON NOTES

ESTRADA RETURNS

Sounders FC 2 on Wednesday announced that it has signed veteran forward David Estrada. The 30-year-old returns to the club after spending over four seasons with Sounders FC from 2010-2014, where he tallied 41 appearances and five goals in MLS play. As part of his deal with the club, Estrada will serve a dual role as a player for S2 as well as an Assistant Coach for Sounders FC Academy.

“David is an experienced pro that we think can bring great value to our young players from both a playing and coaching aspect, which is why we brought him on in this dual role,” said Sounders FC Director of Player Development Marc Nicholls. “We are looking forward to seeing what expertise he can bring to S2 as well as our development pipeline as a whole.”

Estrada was selected by Sounders FC in the First Round (11th overall) of the 2010 MLS SuperDraft out of UCLA, where he went from walk-on to multiple All-Pac-12 performer. He spent a little over four seasons with the club, including a career-best year in 2012 where he started 12 of 17 appearances and finished third in the club with five goals. The speedy attacker became the third player in club history to record a hat trick when he scored three goals against Toronto FC in the 2012 season opener at CenturyLink Field.

“Ever since David began training with us, he’s had a lot to offer to the younger players on our squad playing around him,” said S2 Head Coach John Hutchinson. “It will be great to have a guy like him around to not only help our team on the field, but also provide another experienced voice to assist Wade Webber and me working with our players.”

Estrada played the 2014 season with D.C. United, where he recorded two assists in nine appearances before spending the next three seasons in USL for Sacramento Republic FC, the Orange County Blues and Charlotte Independence. The Salinas, California native most recently spent the 2016 and 2017 campaigns with Charlotte, where he scored 11 goals in 61 USL appearances.

S2 ADDS SERRANO AND USMAN

Seattle Sounders FC 2 announced in February that it has signed midfielder Ray Serrano and defender Ibrahim Usman. Serrano becomes the latest Sounders FC Academy player to sign directly with S2, joining Sam Rogers, Azriel Gonzalez and Shandon Hopeau. Usman, an 18-year-old left back and Nigerian U-20 National Team pool player, joins Sounders FC’s USL side pending receipt of his International Transfer Certificate (ITC).

Serrano, 15, has been one of the standout performers for the the U-17 squad that currently sits atop the USSDA Northwest Division, including a hat trick against Barca Academy AZ and a pair of assists against Portland.

“Ray has been with the Academy for a couple of years and now he is a signing for the long-term,” said Sounders FC Director of Player Development Marc Nicholls. “He is a creative, dynamic player with a fierce desire to work and compete. Our Academy staff rates him very highly, and a big part of that is his first-rate character and appetite to learn and improve. Credit must also be shared with our club partner, Spokane Sounders, for his development and identification.”

Usman, 18, comes to Seattle from Nigerian club Eco FC. The speedy, attacking-minded left back is also part of the Nigerian U-20 National Team pool currently preparing for the U-20 African Cup of Nations in 2019.

“Ibrahim comes with a strong reputation and fits the positional profile and organizational need of a left fullback,” said Nicholls. “We look forward to him settling in as we launch our preseason.”

2018 SOUNDERS FC 2 ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Birthdate	Hometown	Previous Club
31	Nick Hinds	D	5-8	137	10/15/97	Plantation, FL	Akron (NCAA)
33	Sam Rogers	D	6-3	182	5/7/99	Seattle, WA	Sounders FC Academy
34	Ibrahim Usman	D	6-0	165	7/23/99	Lagos, Nigeria	Eco FC (Nigeria)
36	Denso Ulysse	M	5-8	133	11/20/98	Gonaives, Haiti	Real Hope FA (Haiti)
37	Shandon Hopeau	M	5-10	158	12/1/98	Kapolei, HI	Sounders FC Academy
38	Azriel Gonzalez	M	5-9	145	5/24/01	Las Vegas, NV	Sounders FC Academy
71	David Olsen	F	6-0	180	2/5/96	Seattle, WA	Seattle University (NCAA)
74	David Estrada	F	5-8	160	2/4/88	Salinas, CA	Charlotte Independence (USL)
77	Francisco Narbon	M	5-9	150	2/11/95	Panama City, Panama	FC Cincinnati (USL)
80	Ray Serrano	M	5-7	125	5/9/02	Merced, CA	Sounders FC Academy
88	Ray Saari	M	5-6	148	4/18/95	Kansas City, MO	Tulsa (NCAA)
92	Rodrigue Ele	D	6-0	160	3/2/98	Yaounde, Cameroon	Rainbow Bamenda FC (Cameroon)
99	Felix Chenkam	F	5-6	165	12/28/98	Douala, Cameroon	Rainbow Bamenda FC (Cameroon)

2018 SOUNDERS FC 2 TECHNICAL STAFF

TECHNICAL STAFF

General Manager & President of Soccer	Garth Lagerwey
Vice President of Soccer & Sporting Director	Chris Henderson
Director of Player Personnel	Marc Nicholls
S2 Head Coach	John Hutchinson
S2 Assistant Coach	Wade Webber
Academy Goalkeeper Coach	Josh Ford
S2 Athletic Trainer	Joe Montgomery
S2 Fitness Coach	Brandon Moran
Team Administration Director	Grant Clark
Team Services Director	Vince Johnson
S2 Administrator	Corey Sinser

SOUNDERS FC 2 HEAD COACH JOHN HUTCHINSON



John Hutchinson enters his second season with Sounders FC, and his first as S2 Head Coach. An Australian native who played professionally from 1996-2015, Hutchinson brings an impressive pedigree to Ezra Hendrickson's staff.

Born in Morwell, Victoria, Australia, Hutchinson made his senior debut for the Gippsland Falcons in 1997, where he made 89 appearances. From 2001-2004, Hutchinson played for the Northern Spirit, a Sydney-based club, then joined Manly United in 2004 as the club's captain. The final 10 years of his career were spent with the A-League's Central Coast Mariners, where he set a club record with 268 total appearances and scored 18 goals. A three-year captain for the Mariners, Hutchinson was part of the 2013 Grand Final champion squad. He also went on loan with the Chendu Blades in the China Super League.

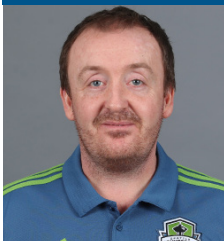
Eligible due to his grandmother's Maltese decent, Hutchinson earned 11 caps for Malta. He made his first appearance in a 2010 FIFA World Cup Qualifier against Sweden. During the 2015 season, Hutchinson, who has a Coaching A license, made a seamless transition to the technical side for the Mariners, where he served as a coach through the 2016 campaign before joining S2.

SOUNDERS FC 2 ASSISTANT COACH WADE WEBBER



Sounders FC Academy coach Wade Webber joined Hutchinson's staff as S2 Assistant Coach prior to the 2018 season. The former Sounder brings a decade of professional playing experience, including 53 MLS appearances for Dallas and Miami from 1997-1999. Since retiring from playing in 1999, Webber has coached youth soccer extensively throughout Western Washington, including the last two seasons with the Sounders FC Academy and the previous seven as Director of Coaching for Washington Premier FC. Webber has a USSF A License and a Master's Degree in Teaching from Seattle University. He has also served as a radio analyst for Sounders FC broadcasts since 2012.

SOUNDERS FC DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT MARC NICHOLLS



Marc Nicholls was named Academy Technical Director in July 2014 before being promoted to Director of Player Development prior to the 2018 season. The two-time U.S. Academy coach of the year (2010 and 2012) joined the Sounders FC staff after three years (2011-13) as the Head Coach of the Carolina Dynamo of the USL PDL, where he led the team to the division title in all three seasons, including a PDL National Final appearance in 2012 and U.S. Soccer National Championship in 2013. He also served as Technical Director for NC Fusion, leading the club to three appearances in U.S. Academy Nationals, including a third-place finish for the U-18 squad in 2012. Before arriving in Seattle, he also combined his PDL coaching position with a scouting role for Montreal Impact. Nicholls holds his USSF National "A" License, the FIFA Futuro III program, as well as the prestigious French Formation License. He is currently a national staff member for U.S. Soccer. He is married to his wife Claire and has two daughters named Cally and Leah.