

USL 2018

Media Guide

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USL ALIGNMENT

The USL is the world’s largest Division II professional soccer league, with 33 markets in 20 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces for the 2018 season. In total, the USL reaches a population of more than 75 million people, fueling the growth of professional soccer across North America. The USL has more than doubled in size since 2014, with Fresno FC, Indy Eleven, Las Vegas Lights FC, Nashville SC, North Carolina FC, set to join the league for 2018, and new clubs in Austin, Texas, Birmingham, Alabama, El Paso, Texas and Memphis, Tennessee set to join then league in 2019. Headquartered in Tampa, Fla., the USL provides unparalleled club support with a growing team of more than 50 professionals across 17 departments, ranging from operations to marketing, communications and sponsorship.

For the full 2018 USL schedule, visit www.uslsoccer.com.

2018 USL CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	EASTERN CONFERENCE
Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	ATL UTD 2
Fresno FC	Bethlehem Steel FC
LA Galaxy II	Charleston Battery
Las Vegas Lights FC	Charlotte Independence
OKC Energy FC	FC Cincinnati
Orange County SC	Indy Eleven
Phoenix Rising FC	Louisville City FC
Portland Timbers 2	Nashville SC
Real Monarchs SLC	New York Red Bulls II
Reno 1868 FC	North Carolina FC
Rio Grande Valley FC	Ottawa Fury FC
Sacramento Republic FC	Penn FC
Saint Louis FC	Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC
San Antonio FC	Richmond Kickers
Seattle Sounders FC 2	Tampa Bay Rowdies
Swope Park Rangers	Toronto FC II
Tulsa Roughnecks FC	

Teams/Schedule

The USL’s 2018 regular-season schedule features a 561-game slate kicking off on March 16, with 14 matches set for the opening weekend. The biggest regular season in the USL’s history will last 31 weeks. The USL’s 33 teams are divided into two conferences - Eastern and Western - with each team playing 34 regular-season games. Teams will play two games (one home, one away) against each conference rival, and the remaining matches will be played against regional foes. Teams will not face each other more than three times during the regular season.

USL Cup Playoffs

The top eight teams from the Eastern Conference and the top eight teams from the Western Conference will advance to the 2018 USL Cup Playoffs, with four weeks of postseason action set to crown the league’s next champion. The fixed-seed format concludes with the USL Cup, which is held at the venue of the conference champion with the best regular-season record. The postseason stages include the conference quarterfinals (Oct. 19-21), conference semifinals (Oct. 26-28), conference finals (Nov. 2-4) and the 2018 USL Cup (Nov. 8-12).

Stadium experience

In 2016, more than \$100 million were invested league-wide into stadium infrastructure to create venues that deliver an unforgettable fan and competitor experience. That investment paid off handsomely in 2017, which saw numerous new facilities open across the league, led by H-E-B Park in Edinburg, Texas, home of Rio Grande Valley FC. The Phoenix Rising Soccer Complex was also unveiled to impressive reviews, as fans welcomed a new era for Rising FC and the arrival of Didier Drogba to the club in great numbers, while Orange County SC moved into its new permanent home of Champions Soccer Stadium and the Charlotte Independence into the Sportsplex at Matthews as the league’s commitment to providing top-quality fan experience continued apace.

Record attendance

The 2017 USL season continued to rewrite the attendance record books as more than 2.1 million spectators enjoyed the USL regular season and USL Cup Playoffs, the first time in North American history a Division II league had surpassed the two-million mark. FC Cincinnati continued to lead the way, averaging a historic 21,198 fans at Nippert Stadium while raising the bar on its own USL single-game attendance as it welcomed 30,417 fans to its home finale with the New York Red Bulls II. Nine clubs overall average more than 5,000 fans per game as Sacramento Republic FC maintained its strong attendance numbers with consistent sellout crowds throughout the season, Louisville City FC and San Antonio FC’s numbers continued to rise, and newcomers the Tampa Bay Rowdies, Reno 1868 FC and Ottawa Fury FC all put up impressive numbers in their first seasons in the league.

USL-MLS Partnership

In early 2013, the USL and Major League Soccer formed a groundbreaking, multi-year partnership to enhance the professional game in North America. Today, a full integration between the two leagues includes MLS clubs either partnering with current USL clubs or entering their own side. In 2014, the LA Galaxy became the first MLS organization to form a USL team with the introduction of the LA Galaxy II - a team that has advanced to the USL Cup Playoffs every season and reached the 2015 USL Cup Final. The New York Red Bulls II became the first MLS-owned-and-operated USL team to win the league, capturing the 2016 USL Cup Final. Overall, there are 21 USL teams that either have an MLS affiliation or are owned and operated by an MLS organization in 2017.

USL EXECUTIVE STAFF

Alec Papadakis

USL Chief Executive Officer

Papadakis has served as the USL’s top executive since 2009, and he is the CEO and Managing Partner of NuRock Soccer Holdings. Papadakis is a franchise attorney with four decades’ worth of domestic and international experience.

A former player for the Atlanta Chiefs and Boston Minutemen, Papadakis had a long, successful career in the U.S. at both the professional and collegiate level. He helped Atlanta to a 1971 regular-season championship and Boston to a 1974 regular-season crown. Papadakis was a three-time, First Team All-American at Hartwick College (New York) and he also attended Ibero-American University in Mexico City before receiving his law degree at the University of Akron in 1976.

Papadakis’ legal focus has been U.S. and European franchise transactions. He also has practiced in the area of commercial real estate, acquisitions, development, financing and leasing. He was the founder and first president of the Hellenic Franchise Association and holds affiliations with the Board of Advisors of International Quarterly, the International Franchise Association, the State Bar of Georgia, the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors for the Hellenic American Institute in Washington, D.C.

Jake Edwards

USL President

Edwards has served as USL President since March 2, 2015, when he succeeded Tim Holt in this position. Edwards has played an integral role toward the league’s long-term strategic plan, Destination 2020, which focuses on the USL’s expansion, the launch of media and commercial properties, partnership with Major League Soccer and the important step for all USL teams to be situated in soccer-specific stadiums. Edwards oversees the 40-plus staff at the league’s headquarters in Tampa, Fla., and the daily servicing of its 30-plus clubs.

Executives

Rob Hoskins - Chairman
Alec Papadakis - Chief Executive Officer
Jake Edwards - President
Justin Papadakis - Chief Operating Officer
Garrison Mason - Vice President, General Counsel

Communications, Social, Digital & Video

Lizzie Seedhouse - Vice President, Digital
(813) 269-1352 | lizzie.seedhouse@uslsoccer.com

Brad Baker | Vice President, Broadcasting
(703) 203-0801 | brad.baker@uslsoccer.com

Nicholas Murray - Associate Director, Communications
(813) 269-1350 | nicholas.murray@uslsoccer.com

Chris Hockman | Staff Writer
(813) 849-0581 | chris.hockman@uslsoccer.com

Edwards joined the USL as the league’s Vice President in 2013. The Manchester native is a former professional soccer player whose career spanned 11 years, mostly for England-based clubs as well as with the Charleston Battery, signing with the USL side in July of 2002.

Edwards played collegiately for James Madison in Virginia. After completing his MBA from Warwick Business School in 2009, while also serving as commercial manager for Solihull Moors Football Club, Edwards was hired by Octagon, the global sports sponsorship agency. Based in Octagon’s London office, Edwards served as a business strategy consultant in the company’s rights holder side of the business.

Justin Papadakis

USL Chief Operating Officer

Papadakis was named the USL President of Commercial Ventures in December of 2014 and in May of 2016 began his role as the league’s Chief Operating Officer.

A former goalkeeper, Papadakis represented Duke from 2004-07, with one of his biggest highlights being a two-save effort during a penalty shootout to lift the Blue Devils past North Carolina to win the 2005 ACC Championship. The Roswell, Ga., native also had a strong youth career in the greater Atlanta region as well as abroad with Benfica FC in Portugal during his high school years.

Papadakis earned his juris doctorate in real state after attending the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law from 2011-15.

Aaron Cranford - Communications & Social Media Manager (USL DIII)
(813) 514-1747 | aaron.cranford@uslsoccer.com

Colton Coreschi - Communications & Social Media Coordinator (PDL & SYL)
(813) 514-1752 - colton.coreschi@uslsoccer.com

Adam Satz - Digital Network Manager
(813) 514-1746 | adam.satz@uslsoccer.com

Vincent Wiskowski - Social Media Director
(813) 269-1357 | vincent.wiskowski@uslsoccer.com

AJ Coleman - Social Media Manager
(813) 269-1349 | aj.coleman@uslsoccer.com

Kelsi Steele - Social Media Coordinator
(813) 514-1750 | kelsi.steele@uslsoccer.com

Matt Calvo - Director, Video Production
(813) 269-1345 | ian.thatcher@uslsoccer.com

2018 IMPORTANT DATES

USL Regular Season Begins	March 16
U.S. Open Cup Second Round.....	May 16
U.S. Open Cup Third Round	May 23
U.S. Open Cup Fourth Round	June 6
U.S. Open Cup Round of 16.....	June 20-24
U.S. Open Cup Quarterfinals	July 18
USL Regular Season Ends	October 12-14
USL Conference Quarterfinals	October 19-21
USL Conference Semifinals	October 26-28
USL Conference Finals.....	November 2-4
USL Cup	November 8-12



ATLANTA UNITED 2

1 AMB, N. Island Drive NW,
Atlanta, GA 30313
www.atlutd.com/2
P: (470) 341-1500


TEAM OUTLOOK

After the resounding success of Atlanta United in its inaugural season in Major League Soccer, ATL UTD 2 arrives as an expansion club that will have many of the club’s ardent fans paying close attention to the young crop of talent that is already emerging from its Academy system. At the forefront are members of the U.S. U17 Men’s National Team that competed at last year’s FIFA U17 World Cup, with two of those in Andrew Carleton and Chris Goslin having previously played on loan in the USL with the Charleston Battery.

Carleton and Goslin will be joined by some veteran faces from the USL, including former Saint Louis FC defender AJ Cochran and Guam international Shawn Nicklaw, both of whom figure to feature prominently in providing a base for the club’s talented youngsters to work around.

The biggest question for Head Coach Scott Donnelly is whether he’ll be able to create a cohesive unit in the mold of the New York Red Bulls II or Swope Park Rangers, or whether the club’s inexperience will ultimately leave it off the pace for a playoff place. It’s certainly going to be an interesting introduction to the league for all.

HEAD COACH



Scott Donnelly

CONTACTS

Owner
Arthur Blank

VP Soccer Operations
Paul McDonough

Communications
Chris Raimondi
craimondi@atlutd.com
678-491-6321

President
Darren Eales

Head Coach
Scott Donnelly

Operations
Case Garner
cgarner@atlutd.com
860-918-5710

Social Media Manager
Katie Gillen
katie.gillen@atlutd.com
404-769-8624

KEY PLAYERS

A.J. Cochran



Defender

Cochran’s experience both in Major League Soccer and with Saint Louis FC in the USL will be crucial for ATL UTD 2 at the center of the club’s defense. The 25-year-old will be counted on for leadership and his ability to take on some of the top attackers in the Eastern Conference to allow the side to compete strongly but he will also be hoping to impress enough to earn a chance at returning to MLS in the future.

Andrew Carleton



Forward

The 17-year-old has been looked at as the jewel of the ATL UTD Academy since it began, with the Powder Springs, Ga. native having been a major piece of the U.S. U17 Men’s National Team over its last cycle. After recording only one appearance in Atlanta’s inaugural MLS season, though, the chance for him to blossom could come with ATL UTD 2. Following Tyler Adams’ path after Adams’ FIFA U17 World Cup experience in 2015, which saw him feature for the USL Cup-winning New York Red Bulls II in 2016 before establishing himself as an MLS fixture, could be on the cards this season for Carleton.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME	AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/24	ATL	V NY	7:00 p.m.
3/31	CLT	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
4/8	ATL	V PEN	4:00 p.m.
4/21	ATL	V LOU	7:00 p.m.
4/24	ATL	V CHS	7:00 p.m.
4/28	PGH	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
5/5	CIN	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
5/12	OTT	V ATL	2:00 p.m.
5/16	ATL	V TOR	7:00 p.m.
5/19	LOU	V ATL	7:30 p.m.
5/25	NC	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
6/2	TBR	V ATL	7:30 p.m.
6/9	IND	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
6/13	ATL	V CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/16	ATL	V OTT	7:00 p.m.
6/30	NSH	V ATL	8:30 p.m.
7/6	NY	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
7/11	ATL	V BST	7:00 p.m.
7/21	RIC	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
7/25	NSH	V ATL	8:30 p.m.
7/29	BST	V ATL	5:00 p.m.
8/11	CHS	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
8/22	ATL	V CIN	7:00 p.m.
8/25	ATL	V IND	7:00 p.m.
8/31	TOR	V ATL	8:00 p.m.
9/8	PEN	V ATL	7:00 p.m.
9/15	TBR	V ATL	7:30 p.m.
9/21	ATL	V NC	7:00 p.m.
9/26	ATL	V NSH	7:00 p.m.
9/29	ATL	V LOU	7:00 p.m.
10/3	ATL	V TBR	7:00 p.m.
10/7	ATL	V CHS	4:00 p.m.
10/10	ATL	V PGH	7:00 p.m.
10/13	ATL	V RIC	7:00 p.m.

f /ATLUTD2

t @ATLUTD2

ig @ATLUTD2



BETHLEHEM STEEL FC

44 E. Broad St., Suite 135
Bethlehem, PA 18108
www.bethlehemsteelfc.com
P: (844) 783-3532

TEAM OUTLOOK

After narrowly missing out on the postseason in its inaugural season, Bethlehem Steel FC took the next step in reaching the USL Cup Playoffs in Year 2 as the club's attack bloomed behind the efforts of Cory Burke and Seku Conneh. An Eastern Conference Quarterfinal departure at the hands of eventual champion Louisville City FC didn't dampen too much what was a successful season all-around for the club.

Burke's performance has seen him make the move to the Philadelphia Union's squad this season, where he has been joined this offseason by Homegrown signings Anthony Fontana and Mark McKenzie, both former Steel FC players. There are some quality holdovers in Bethlehem's squad for the new year, though, with midfielder James Chambers back for his third season at the club, and 2017 USL Rookie of the Year Finalist Santi Moar aiming to add to his six goals and six assists last year.

Head Coach Brendan Burke returns to the sidelines, too, providing continuity for Steel FC's young standouts as he continues to burnish his reputation as one of the bright young coaches in American soccer circles. The challenge to continue the club's upward movement will be tough in what looks like an improved Eastern Conference, but the additions of 2016 USL Rookie of the Year Brandon Allen and Jamaican international Omar Holness should help Steel FC keep pace.

HEAD COACH



Brendan Burke



CONTACTS

Owner
Jay Sugarman

Sporting Director
Earnie Stewart

Managing Director
Scott Evans
sevans@bethlehemsteelfc.com
484-403-0501

Head Coach
Brendan Burke
bburke@bethlehemsteelfc.com

Communications
Thomas M. Via II
tvia@bethlehemsteelfc.com
270-970-5099

Team Coordinator
Jason Israel
jisrael@bethlehemsteelfc.com
732-261-6929

Marketing & Special Events Manager
Emily Edwards
eedwards@bethlehemsteelfc.com
484-403-0508

KEY PLAYERS



Allen once again excelled for the New York Red Bulls II early in 2017, giving him 30 goals in the USL over his first two professional seasons, but was unable to break through during a loan spell to MLS club Minnesota United FC. Bethlehem will welcome a double-digit goal-scorer, and Allen will welcome the chance to stake a claim for another shot at MLS.



The former PDL standout from Spain turned heads in his first season with Bethlehem, showing an excellent scoring touch in addition to creativity on the wing. Having scored six goals and six assists in his first season, while notching 36 key passes, more will be expected from Moar in his second pro season.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/18	BST	v	RIC	2:00 p.m.
3/24	TBR	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
3/31	BST	v	NSH	2:00 p.m.
4/8	BST	v	CHS	3:00 p.m.
4/15	BST	v	CIN	3:00 p.m.
4/28	LOU	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
5/6	BST	v	RIC	5:00 p.m.
5/12	CHS	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
5/16	BST	v	NY	5:00 p.m.
5/19	IND	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
5/25	OTT	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
6/2	NC	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
6/9	BST	v	LOU	5:00 p.m.
6/13	CIN	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
6/20	BST	v	NY	5:00 p.m.
6/30	BST	v	CLT	5:00 p.m.
7/6	PEN	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
7/11	ATL	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
7/14	BST	v	NC	5:00 p.m.
7/18	NY	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
7/26	BST	v	IND	11:30 a.m.
7/29	BST	v	ATL	5:00 p.m.
8/4	RIC	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
8/8	CLT	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
8/12	BST	v	PGH	5:00 p.m.
8/16	TOR	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
8/22	BST	v	OTT	5:00 p.m.
8/25	NSH	v	BST	8:30 p.m.
9/2	BST	v	PEN	3:00 p.m.
9/8	PGH	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
9/22	BST	v	TOR	3:00 p.m.
9/30	OTT	v	BST	1:00 p.m.
10/6	IND	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
10/14	BST	v	TBR	3:00 p.m.

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CHARLESTON BATTERY

1990 Daniel Island Drive
Charleston, SC 29492
www.charlestonbattery.com
P: (843) 971-4625

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Charleston Battery's 25th anniversary season saw the club stand alone in the USL's modern era in reaching the USL Cup Playoffs in every season, but after a stellar regular season that saw Charleston sit in second place in the Eastern Conference standings the club fell in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals to defending champion the New York Red Bulls II to end hopes of a postseason run.

The offseason also brought an end to a notable era for the club, with the offseason departures of Justin Portillo and Maikel Chang to Real Monarchs SLC, Forrest Lasso to FC Cincinnati and Heviel Cordoves to the Richmond Kickers. The Battery will have some familiar faces back at MUSC Health Stadium this season - led by stalwart defender Taylor Mueller - but it will likely feel like a fresh start when the season kicks off.

The constant, however, will be Head Coach Mike Anhaeuser, who enters his 14th season at the helm of the club aiming to maintain the standard that has been expected over the Battery's history. With the Battery aiming to continue their traditions of success on the field, Anhaeuser will dig in over the coming season to get the best out of his new recruits.

HEAD COACH



Mike Anhaeuser



CONTACTS

Owner
Eric Bowman

President
Andrew Bell
andrew.bell@charlestonbattery.com
(843) 670-2408

Head Coach & General Manager
Mike Anhaeuser
michael.anhaeuser@charlestonbattery.com
(843) 670-2420

Director of Communications
Sarah Cardamone
sarah.cardamone@charlestonbattery.com
(484) 639-2911

Chief Operating Officer
Mike Kelleher
mike.kelleher@charlestonbattery.com
(865) 235-4850

KEY PLAYERS



One of the major offseason arrivals for the Battery, Svantesson will aim to build on a successful season with Tulsa Roughnecks FC that saw the 6-foot-6 forward notch 11 goals in 31 games. The 24-year-old Florida native will provide a focal point for the Battery's attack after the return to Atlanta United of Romario Williams after his season on loan and the departure of Heviel Cordoves to Richmond.



Mueller enters his seventh season with the Battery sitting fourth among the club's all-time appearances list, and coming off a year in which he played every minute of the season. With the club having undergone numerous departures this offseason, the veteran's experience will be crucial to the Battery's newcomers.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	CHS	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
3/24	CHS	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
4/28	CHS	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
5/5	CHS	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
5/12	CHS	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
5/19	CHS	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
5/26	CHS	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
5/30	IND	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
6/9	RIC	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
6/16	CLT	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
6/23	CHS	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
7/1	TOR	v	CHS	8:00 p.m.
7/7	NC	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
7/11	CHS	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
7/14	CHS	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
7/21	PGH	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
7/28	CHS	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
8/4	NC	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
8/8	TBR	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
8/11	CHS	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
8/18	CIN	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
8/25	CHS	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
8/31	LOU	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
9/8	CHS	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
9/15	CHS	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
9/22	NSH	v	CHS	8:30 p.m.
9/26	CHS	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
9/29	CHS	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
10/7	ATL	v	CHS	4:00 p.m.
10/13	OTT	v	CHS	2:00 p.m.

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🐦 @Chas_Battery

📷 @charlestonbattery



CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE

PO Box 30728
Charlotte, NC, 28230-0728
www.charlotteindependence.com
P: (704) 206-1515

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Independence pushed on to new heights for the opening two-thirds of the 2017 season, challenging at the top of the Eastern Conference for a spell, but the club's late slide down the standings left it with the same result as in 2016 when the USL Cup Playoffs arrived in a road defeat in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals.

The season did show what the club could be capable of now that it has moved into its new home at the Sportsplex at Matthews, however, although the Independence will have to try and match those high points without the services of two-time All-League First Team and Most Valuable Player finalist Enzo Martinez after his offseason move to MLS partner the Colorado Rapids.

There remains a strong core of players, though, and in Head Coach Mike Jeffries there is an experienced hand to lead the way. The level of competition looks set to continue its rise in the Eastern Conference with the arrival of new in-state rival North Carolina FC, however, which will mean Charlotte will have to raise its game to match.

HEAD COACH



Mike Jeffries



CONTACTS

President & Managing Partner
im McPhilliamy
jmcphilliamy@charlotteindependence.com
(917) 822-3600

Head Coach
Mike Jeffries
mjeffries@charlotteindependence.com
(708) 227-1741

Game Operations Manager
Rich Posipanko
rposipanko@charlotteindependence.com
(803) 524- 2501

General Manager
Tom Engstrom
tengstrom@charlotteindependence.com
(704) 293-0835

Executive VP, Corporate Development & Strategy
Chris Mathew
cmathew@charlotteindependence.com
(704) 401-6594

Director, Ticketing, Analytics & Merchandising
Alysha Strother
astrother@charlotteindependence.com
(803) 767-0132

Creative Services Manager
James Thomas
jthomas@charlotteindependence.com
(980) 622-2919

KEY PLAYERS



Duckett has been the anchor for the Independence's defense throughout its brief history, and has both the leadership and technical ability to be a difference-maker at the center of defense again this season. After the disappointing way in which the side faltered down the stretch in 2017, there will also be plenty of motivation to get things started on the right foot this year.



A Charlotte native, Brandon Miller had somewhat of a bounce-back year with Penn FC a season ago, but will be aiming to continue his upswing into the new season as he joins the Independence. After sporting an 81.8 save percentage when claiming the 2015 USL Goalkeeper of the Year award, the past two seasons have seen Miller drop down below 70 percent. Getting back above that line could be key to the Independence's defensive success.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	CLT	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
3/24	CLT	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
3/31	CLT	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
4/14	CLT	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
4/28	CLT	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
5/5	CHS	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
5/12	CLT	v	CIN	7:30 p.m.
5/19	TOR	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
5/26	RIC	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/2	OTT	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/9	NY	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/13	ATL	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/16	CLT	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
6/23	RIC	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/27	CLT	v	TBR	7:30 p.m.
6/30	BST	v	CLT	5:00 p.m.
7/7	IND	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
7/11	CLT	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
7/18	CIN	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
7/21	LOU	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
7/28	CLT	v	PEN	7:30 p.m.
8/8	CLT	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
8/18	PGH	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
8/22	CLT	v	LOU	7:30 p.m.
8/25	NC	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
9/1	CLT	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
9/8	CLT	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
9/15	CHS	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
9/22	CLT	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
9/29	CLT	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
10/3	PEN	v	CLT	6:30 p.m.
10/6	TBR	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
10/13	CLT	v	NC	7:00 p.m.

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📷 @cltindependence



COL. SPRINGS SWITCHBACKS FC

234 N. Tejon St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
www.switchbacksfc.com
P: (719) 368-8480

TEAM OUTLOOK

Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC suffered an inconsistent third season that saw the club miss out on the postseason for the first time in its history, falling two points out of the playoff positions due to a defense that struggled to keep opponents out of the net consistently throughout the regular season.

The Switchbacks have been busy over the offseason aiming to return to the USL Cup Playoffs this year, but will again rely on some familiar faces to lead them forward. At the forefront is new captain Josh Suggs, who led the club a season ago with eight assists, while fellow stalwarts in defender Jordan Burt and midfielder Luke Vercollone are also back with the squad.

Colorado Springs will also have a familiar face back with the side in the form of Northern Irish forward Marty Maybin, who will be called upon to fill the goal-scoring space left by the departure of Masta Kacher to Real Monarchs SLC. Other newcomers including Canadian international Jordan Schweitzer, Haiti goalkeeper Steward Ceus and former Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC defender Jamal Jack should strengthen the club's spine as Head Coach Steve Trittschuh's side looks to rebound into the top eight.

HEAD COACH



Steve Trittschuh



CONTACTS

Owner
Ed Ragain

Executive VP
James Ragain
james.r@switchbacksfc.com
(719) 368-8480 x108

Communications Manager
Joel Huber
joel.h@switchbacksfc.com
(719) 368-8480 x104

President
Nick Ragain
nick.r@switchbacksfc.com
(719) 368-8480 x101

Director of Soccer & Team Operations
John Wells
john.w@switchbacksfc.com
(719) 440-2438

Head Coach
Steve Trittschuh

KEY PLAYERS



Suggs' ascent to the captaincy shouldn't come as a surprise, with the 2016 All-League Second Team selection taking a big step forward in his second season with the Switchbacks. Suggs has become one of the best set-piece takers in the USL, and that supply should provide plenty of opportunities for the club's powerful forward line to take advantage of this season.



Schweitzer got plenty of attention for his work as a box-to-box midfielder for Orlando City B last season, so much so that he earned his first call-up to the Canadian Men's National Team as a result. A former University of Denver standout, Schweitzer's work-rate should make life difficult for opponents, especially at the altitude of Weidner Field.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	COS	v	LA	8:00 p.m.
3/24	COS	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
4/7	COS	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
4/21	COS	v	SEA	8:00 p.m.
5/5	COS	v	RNO	8:00 p.m.
5/11	COS	v	LV	9:00 p.m.
5/19	OKC	v	COS	8:00 p.m.
5/26	COS	v	STL	8:00 p.m.
6/2	LV	v	COS	11:00 p.m.
6/9	COS	v	SPR	8:00 p.m.
6/17	POR	v	COS	5:00 p.m.
6/23	COS	v	FRS	9:00 p.m.
6/30	COS	v	SA	8:00 p.m.
7/3	COS	v	OC	9:00 p.m.
7/7	OKC	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
7/14	COS	v	SAC	8:00 p.m.
7/21	COS	v	TUL	8:00 p.m.
7/25	SA	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
7/28	RGV	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
8/4	COS	v	OKC	8:00 p.m.
8/11	TUL	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
8/25	PHX	v	COS	9:30 p.m.
8/29	COS	v	SLC	9:00 p.m.
9/1	LA	v	COS	10:30 p.m.
9/15	COS	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
9/22	COS	v	PHX	8:00 p.m.
9/29	SLC	v	COS	9:00 p.m.
10/5	FRS	v	COS	10:00 p.m.
10/10	SEA	v	COS	10:00 p.m.

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FC CINCINNATI

14 East 4th Street, Third Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45202
www.fccincinnati.com
P: (513) 977-5425

TEAM OUTLOOK

FC Cincinnati produced more memorable moments in its second season, highlighted by becoming the first lower-division club to reach the Semifinals of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup since the Richmond Kickers in 2011 on a run that captured the national imagination, but once again fell in the opening round of the USL Cup Playoffs as inconsistency saw the side unable to contend for a high finish in the league.

The club will have a different look this year, Alan Koch's second in charge, with the departure of a number of familiar names from the past two seasons. Goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt signed with Atlanta United, while two-time All-League First Team defender Harrison Delbridge returned to Australia to join the A-League's Melbourne City FC.

On the plus-side is the return of key midfielder Kenney Walker and both Corben Bone and Jimmy McLaughlin to provide creativity, but the club will be looking to numerous newcomers including goalkeeper Evan Newton, 2017 USL All-League First Team defender Forrest Lasso and former North Carolina FC attacking midfielder Nazmi Albadawi to make a big impact, and get FCC back into contention at the top of the Eastern Conference.

HEAD COACH



Alan Koch



CONTACTS

Owner & CEO
Carl H. Lindner III

President & General Manager
Jeff Berding
jeff@fccincinnati.com
513-977-5420

Head Coach
Alan Koch
koch@fccincinnati.com

Chief Branding Officer \
Kevin Butler
butler@fccincinnati.com
312-543-1027

Director of Operations
Dan McNally
mcnally@fccincinnati.com
(406) 672-7187

Sr. Director, Communications & Public Relations
Fumi Kimura
fumi@fccincinnati.com
513-977-5408

KEY PLAYERS



Lasso had a breakout season for the Charleston Battery in 2017, leading the side to a second-place finish in the Eastern Conference thanks to both his solid defensive work and the threat he posed opposition from set pieces, from which he scored six goals, second-most by a defender in the league last season. The 6-foot-5 center back will be expected to fill the gap left by Harrison Delbridge in the heart of the FCC defense.



Walker provided the fulcrum for Cincinnati's midfield in the 2017 season, leading the team with seven assists and 50 key passes as he logged more than 2,300 minutes in central midfield. Walker's ability to control the tempo of a game, either in winning possession or making the right decision to get FCC moving forward, will be key again this season as a new lineup coalesces around him.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
4/7	CIN	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
4/21	CIN	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
5/2	IND	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
5/5	CIN	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
5/12	CLT	v	CIN	7:30 p.m.
5/19	CIN	v	NC	7:30 p.m.
5/26	CIN	v	LOU	7:30 p.m.
6/2	NY	v	CIN	1:00 p.m.
6/9	NC	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
6/13	CIN	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
6/16	CIN	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
6/27	TOR	v	CIN	8:00 p.m.
6/30	CIN	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
7/7	NSH	v	CIN	8:30 p.m.
7/14	CIN	v	TBR	7:30 p.m.
7/18	CIN	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
7/21	CIN	v	NY	7:30 p.m.
8/4	CIN	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
8/12	CIN	v	PEN	6:00 p.m.
8/18	CIN	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
8/22	ATL	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
8/25	TBR	v	CIN	7:30 p.m.
9/1	CIN	v	PGH	7:30 p.m.
9/8	LOU	v	CIN	7:30 p.m.
9/16	CIN	v	TOR	4:30 p.m.
9/22	PEN	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
9/26	RIC	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
9/29	CIN	v	IND	7:30 p.m.
10/6	PGH	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
10/13	NSH	v	CIN	2:00 p.m.

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FRESNO FC

1800 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721
www.fresnofc.com
P: (559) 320-2525

TEAM OUTLOOK

Fresno FC is one of two expansion clubs in the Western Conference, but the Foxes have gone about their preparations diligently in putting together an experienced squad for their inaugural season at Chukchansi Park. Led by General Manager Frank Yallop, and holding a partnership with Vancouver Whitecaps FC, the club appointed former Sacramento Republic FC top assistant Adam Smith as its first Head Coach after helping marshal the progress of Fresno's now-Northern California rival over its first four seasons.

Smith has dipped into his time in Sacramento to help build the Foxes, with defender Mickey Daly, midfielders Danny Barrera and Agustin Cazarez and forward Christian Chaney all having suited up for Republic FC previously. Add in the attacking possibilities brought by 2017 All-League Second Team selection Juan Pablo Caffa - formerly of Tulsa Roughnecks FC - and a midfield contingent that includes the experience of Rony Argueta and Alejandro Covarrubias, and there's a strong group to build around.

The other element to watch will be the local products the Foxes have brought into the USL from their PDL predecessors, Fresno Fuego FC, with the likes of Renato Bustamante and 2012 USL Rookie of the Year Jose Cuevas adding a Fresno flavor to the squad. Given soccer's deep roots in the city's community, Fresno will be one to watch as it enters its first season.

HEAD COACH



Adam Smith



CONTACTS

Owner & President
Ray Beshoff
rbeshoff@fresnofc.com

Chief Operating Officer
Erin Blecha-Ward

Director of Operations & Assistant GM
Jeremy Schultz
jschultz@fresnofc.com
(559) 623-1916

General Manager
Frank Yallop
fyallop@fresnofc.com
(559) 320-2525

Head Coach
Adam Smith
asmith@fresnofc.com

Director of Marketing & Communications
Jordan Wiebe
jwiebe@fresnofc.com
(559) 288-7254

Manager, Digital Media & PR
Angel Moreno
amoren@fresnofc.com
(559-284-7028)

KEY PLAYERS



"El Violinista del Viaducto" made a massive impression in his first season in the USL, leading Tulsa Roughnecks FC to its first visit to the USL Cup Playoffs. Now the 33-year-old Argentinian playmaker will look to do the same with the Foxes. Caffa's feel for the game saw him record nine goals and eight assists a season ago, with the potential for a goal ever-present if he's offered a chance to shoot from a set piece from 30 yards or in.



The diminutive midfield maestro saw his 2017 season derailed by a stress fracture in his foot and will hope to rebound to the form that saw him named to the 2016 USL All-League Team as he contended for the assists champion title two years ago. There's no doubt what Barrera can bring to an attack when healthy, though, with his eye for a pass and great set-piece delivery.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	FRS	v	LV	10:00 p.m.
3/24	FRS	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
3/31	FRS	v	OKC	10:00 p.m.
4/18	FRS	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
4/22	FRS	v	SA	9:00 p.m.
4/28	PHX	v	FRS	6:00 p.m.
5/5	SA	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
5/9	FRS	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
5/12	SLC	v	FRS	1:00 p.m.
5/26	OC	v	FRS	7:00 p.m.
6/2	FRS	v	SEA	10:00 p.m.
6/9	RNO	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
6/13	FRS	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
6/17	FRS	v	SPR	9:00 p.m.
6/23	COS	v	FRS	7:00 p.m.
6/26	SLC	v	FRS	7:00 p.m.
6/30	FRS	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
7/8	POR	v	FRS	2:00 p.m.
7/14	FRS	v	PHX	10:00 p.m.
7/25	OKC	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
7/28	TUL	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
8/4	SAC	v	FRS	8:00 p.m.
8/9	LA	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
8/18	FRS	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
8/25	LV	v	FRS	8:00 p.m.
9/1	FRS	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
9/9	SPR	v	FRS	4:00 p.m.
9/16	FRS	v	OC	9:00 p.m.
9/22	FRS	v	POR	10:00 p.m.
9/29	RGV	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
10/5	FRS	v	COS	10:00 p.m.
10/13	FRS	v	SLC	10:00 p.m.

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INDY ELEVEN

47 S. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 611
Indianapolis, IN 46204
www.indyeleven.com
P: (317) 685-1100

TEAM OUTLOOK

Indy Eleven enters its first season in the USL with a new Head Coach in Martin Rennie, whose aim will be to return the club to the title contender status it held two seasons ago after a middling 2017 season. With extensive experience in the lower divisions and Major League Soccer, Rennie returns to the coaching ranks after most recently working in South Korea.

The club's personnel has also undergone an overhaul, with only three members of last year's squad returning for the new season. Those include forward Justin Braun, who helped Sacramento Republic FC claim the USL Cup in 2014 season, and the veteran forward will be joined in attack by some other notable names. Former Philadelphia Union Homegrown player Jack McNerney, who most recently played for the LA Galaxy, was one of Indy's high-profile offseason additions alongside former Sporting Kansas City forward Soony Saad.

Improving the side defensively is likely going to be the key to success this season, however, with the club having conceded 56 goals in 32 games last year. The experience of Reiner Ferreira, Kevin Venegas and Ayoye Garcia Perez should provide a solid boost in that department, and the side will have plenty of options in midfield to build around with the Canadian duo of Tyler Pasher - a two-time USL Western Conference champion with the Swope Park Rangers - and Karl Ouimette among a solid veteran group.

HEAD COACH



Martin Rennie



CONTACTS

Owner
Ersal Ozdemir

President
Jeff Belskus
jeff@indyeleven.com

Head Coach - Martin Rennie

Director of Operations
Andy Piggush
andy@indyeleven.com
Phone: 317-685-1100 ext. 167

Director of Marketing & Communications
Steven Krusie
steven@indyeleven.com
(317) 685-1100 ext. 168

Content Communications Manager
Trey Higdon, trey@indyeleven.com
(317) 685-1100 ext. 204

KEY PLAYERS



A former USL Cup champion with Sacramento Republic FC in 2014, Braun scored seven goals in 17 appearances for Indy a season ago and has made a positive impact throughout his two seasons at the club going in 2018. A prototypical target forward in size, Braun's ability to peel off and provide an outlet across the attacking third adds another dimension to his game that will prove useful to Indy's other attacking pieces.



The former Sporting Kansas City midfielder brings a strong attacking edge to Indy, and his creativity will be key for the side to have success in the new season. A Lebanese international, Saad made 70 appearances across two spells with SKC, while also playing in Thailand for two seasons, but at only 25 years old he is now entering his prime with the chance to be a major focal point in Rennie's side.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/31	IND	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
4/14	IND	v	NSH	12:00 p.m.
5/2	IND	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
5/5	IND	v	LOU	12:00 p.m.
5/11	PGH	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
5/19	IND	v	BST	7:00 P.M.
5/27	NY	v	IND	1:00 p.m.
5/30	IND	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
6/9	IND	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
6/16	TOR	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
6/26	NSH	v	IND	8:30 p.m.
6/30	IND	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
7/4	IND	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
7/7	IND	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
7/11	CHS	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
7/21	TBR	v	IND	7:30 p.m.
7/26	BST	v	IND	11:30 a.m.
8/5	LOU	v	IND	5:00 p.m.
8/15	IND	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
8/18	OTT	v	IND	2:00 p.m.
8/22	IND	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
8/25	ATL	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
8/29	IND	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
9/1	IND	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
9/5	IND	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
9/12	PEN	v	IND	2:00 p.m.
9/22	PGH	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
9/26	IND	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
9/29	CIN	v	IND	7:30 p.m.
10/6	IND	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
10/13	LOU	v	IND	7:30 p.m.

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TEAM OUTLOOK

The LA Galaxy II missed the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time in their history in 2017 as a number of young players were thrust into the lineup in Mike Muñoz’s first season in charge due to injuries both within Los Dos’ squad, and also at the Major League Soccer level.

The hope for the Galaxy II is that experience will have helped raise the level of those returning to the squad this season, with players like goalkeeper Eric Lopez bringing proven Youth International experience to the lineup. Finding the right mix of experience to sprinkle into the group is going to be key to Los Dos’ returning to its prior level, which saw the side win the Western Conference in 2015.

Bringing in the experience of returning midfielder Miguel Aguilar, who missed much of the 2017 season through injury, and former D.C. United player Julian Büscher should help add to the side’s experience this season. As the level of play in the Western Conference continues to rise, however, the likes of forwards Ethan Zubak and Adonis Amaya, midfielder Efrain Alvarez and defender Jeffrey Payeras will need to continue to raise their games to ensure the Galaxy II can get into playoff contention.

HEAD COACH



Mike Munoz



President

Chris Klein

Vice President of Soccer Operation

Pete Vagenas

Head Coach

Mike Muñoz

VP of Marketing, Communications & Digital

Brendan Hannan
bhannan@lagalaxy.com
(310) 630-2245

Manager of Game Presentation & Events

Chad Leeds
cleeds@lagalaxy.com
(310) 630-4624

Director of Digital and Marketing

Chris Thomas
chthomas@lagalaxy.com
(310) 630-2243

Digital and Communications Specialist

Chris Hybl
chylbl@lagalaxy.com
(316) 558-2459

KEY PLAYERS



Eric Lopez

Goalkeeper

The U.S. U20 international made 12 starts for Los Dos in 2017, his first starts since signing professionally with the team as a 15-year-old in 2015, and while his numbers didn’t immediately jump off the page there was enough visually that impressed about Lopez that highlighted his potential. Stepping into the No. 1 role full time should be the goal in 2018, and with it improving on a 65.9 save percentage.



Miguel Aguilar

Midfielder

Aguilar was supposed to be one of the key veterans for the Galaxy II in 2017, but injury limited him to only two appearances after heading west from D.C. United for his first season with the club. If Aguilar remains healthy he will provide good service for the Galaxy II’s attacking group, and the leadership the side will need as it faces more experienced opposition.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/31	LA	v	SA	3:30 p.m.
4/11	LA	v	PHX	7:30 p.m.
4/22	LA	v	NY	5:30 p.m.
5/4	PHX	v	LA	9:30 p.m.
5/9	LA	v	STL	7:30 p.m.
5/18	POR	v	LA	2:00 p.m.
5/23	RGV	v	LA	8:00 p.m.
5/26	LA	v	LV	7:30 p.m.
6/2	LA	v	TUL	7:30 p.m.
6/10	LA	v	OC	5:30 p.m.
6/23	OKC	v	LA	8:30 p.m.
6/27	TUL	v	LA	8:30 p.m.
7/1	LA	v	SEA	5:30 p.m.
7/7	OC	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
7/11	LA	v	RNO	7:30 p.m.
7/28	LA	v	POR	7:30 p.m.
8/1	LA	v	SPR	7:30 p.m.
8/4	SA	v	LA	8:30 p.m.
8/9	LA	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
8/18	SAC	v	LA	11:00 p.m.
8/22	LA	v	RGV	7:30 p.m.
8/25	SLC	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
9/1	LA	v	COS	7:30 p.m.
9/8	LV	v	LA	11:00 p.m.
9/12	LA	v	OKC	7:30 p.m.
9/15	RNO	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
9/22	LA	v	SLC	7:30 p.m.
10/3	SEA	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
10/6	LA	v	SAC	7:30 p.m.
10/14	SPR	v	LA	5:00 p.m.



LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC

231 S. 3rd Street, Suite 110
Las Vegas, NV, 89101
www.lasvegaslightsfc.com
P: (702) 728-4625

TEAM OUTLOOK

It's arguable no team has drawn as much attention this offseason as Las Vegas Lights FC, which has established itself as one of the wild cards in the league both in terms of promotion and in terms of on-field play. Led by Technical Director Jose Luis Sanchez Sola - better known as El Chélis - the club has played an emphasis on showmanship in the buildup to its inaugural season, but there are some pieces here that could make Lights FC more than just a surface-depth attraction.

With the side aiming to play attacking, entertaining soccer from the off, players like attacking midfielder Carlos Alvarez and veteran USL forward Sammy Ochoa could come to the fore quickly for the new side, with Ochoa bringing a record of 35 goals in the league over the past four seasons to his new destination. Veteran Japanese midfielder Daigo Kobayashi is also aboard after having played almost 100 games for the New England Revolution over the past four seasons.

While there is some solid experience here, additionally including Mexican veteran Joel Huiqui, what may be the most interesting storyline to follow throughout the first season for the club is that of the local standouts who are getting their chance at the pro ranks. From the likes of midfielder Julian Portugal - who briefly played for Tulsa Roughnecks FC two seasons ago - to young goalkeeper Angel Alvarez, Las Vegas will be one of the teams to follow throughout the season regardless of where the team finishes.

HEAD COACH



Isidro Sanchez



CONTACTS

Owner & CEO
Brett Lashbrook
brett.lashbrook@lasvegaslightsfc.com

Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Teresa Tatlonghari
teresa.tatlonghari@lasvegaslightsfc.com

Director of Operations
Justin Roper
justin.roper@lasvegaslightsfc.com

Vice President, Corporate Partnerships
Steve Pastorino
steve.pastorino@lasvegaslightsfc.com

Director of Communications
Ryan Greene
ryan.greene@lasvegaslightsfc.com
(702) 985-4302

KEY PLAYERS



A former Mexico international, Huiqui's experience at the center of Lights FC's defense is going to be essential as the club makes its debut in the USL. With the club aiming to play an up-tempo, attacking game offensively, Huiqui will likely be called upon to put out fires defensively at the other end of the field.



Alvarez is reunited with Juan Luis Sanchez Sola in Las Vegas, with whom he previously thrived when the duo worked together at Chivas USA five years ago. The attacking midfielder has everything a player needs to succeed at this level, and will have plenty of attacking weapons to work with alongside him.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	FRS	v	LV	10:00 p.m.
3/24	LV	v	RNO	11:00 p.m.
3/31	LV	v	SPR	11:00 p.m.
4/14	LV	v	SAC	11:00 p.m.
4/27	LV	v	SA	11:00 p.m.
4/30	SLC	v	LV	9:00 p.m.
5/5	LV	v	TUL	11:00 p.m.
5/11	COS	v	LV	9:00 p.m.
5/19	LV	v	SLC	11:00 p.m.
5/26	LA	v	LV	10:30 p.m.
6/2	LV	v	COS	11:00 p.m.
6/13	PHX	v	LV	9:30 p.m.
6/16	LV	v	SEA	11:00 p.m.
6/24	SPR	v	LV	5:00 p.m.
6/30	TUL	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
7/7	LV	v	STL	11:00 p.m.
7/11	OKC	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
7/14	RGV	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
7/22	POR	v	LV	5:00 p.m.
7/26	SEA	v	LV	10:00 p.m.
8/4	LV	v	RGV	11:00 p.m.
8/11	STL	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
8/15	OC	v	LV	3:30 p.m.
8/18	LV	v	PHX	11:00 p.m.
8/25	LV	v	FRS	11:00 p.m.
8/28	RNO	v	LV	10:30 p.m.
9/8	LV	v	LA	11:00 p.m.
9/16	LV	v	POR	11:00 p.m.
9/22	RNO	v	LV	10:00 p.m.
9/26	LV	v	OC	11:00 p.m.
9/29	LV	v	OKC	11:00 p.m.
10/6	SA	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
10/10	LV	v	PHX	11:00 p.m.
10/13	SAC	v	LV	10:30 p.m.

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LOUISVILLE CITY FC

110 W. Main St, Second Floor
Louisville, KY, 40202
www.louisvillecityfc.com
P: (502) 384-8799

TEAM OUTLOOK

For its first two seasons, Louisville City FC had set a high standard, but in the club's third it took the final step to earn the 2017 USL Cup in front of almost 15,000 fans at Slugger Field. The victory over the Swope Park Rangers marked the conclusion to a season that had seen the team's depth come to the fore, as every outfield player recorded at least one goal during the regular season.

Head Coach James O'Connor will have plenty of familiar faces to call upon in the defense of the club's championship, with mainstays like captain Paolo DelPiccolo, goal-keeper Greg Ranjitsingh, defender Kyle Smith and forward George Davis IV among 15 returning players to the club. Also back is Magnus Rasmussen, who rejoined the team after returning to play in Scandinavia a year ago.

The club has continued to progress off the field, too, with a 10,000-seat stadium proposed for the Butchertown neighborhood in Louisville close to coming to fruition. The goal is for the new venue to open for the 2020 season, by which time the club and O'Connor will expect to have added more silverware to the team's trophy cabinet in this season and next.

HEAD COACH



James O'Connor



CONTACTS

Chairman
John Neace

Executive Vice President
Brad Estes

Head Coach
James O'Connor

Operations Manager
Brandon Morris
bmorris@louisvillecityfc.com
(502) 384-8799

Director of Media Relations
Scott Stewart
sstewart@louisvillecityfc.com
(502) 384-8799 ext. 121

KEY PLAYERS



Midfielder

Ownby had a stellar regular season, but provided three goals in the USL Cup Playoffs to help propel Louisville to the championship. The winger's energy didn't always show up on the score sheet in his first season with LCFC, but in recording the second-most key passes on the club with 47 and second-most shots on goal with 28, opponents always had to know where Ownby was on the field when Louisville moved into attack.



Defender

Craig took a major step forward in his second professional season to earn USL All-League Second Team honors after leading Louisville in both interceptions (71) and clearances (116) as the club sported one of the best defensive records in the league. Maintaining that upward trajectory will be the goal this year for the 25-year-old.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	LOU	v	NSH	3:00 p.m.
3/24	LOU	v	NC	3:00 p.m.
3/31	LOU	v	TBR	7:30 p.m.
4/7	CIN	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
4/14	LOU	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
4/21	ATL	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
4/28	LOU	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
5/5	IND	v	LOU	12:00 p.m.
5/13	NSH	v	LOU	6:00 p.m.
5/19	LOU	v	ATL	7:30 p.m.
5/26	CIN	v	LOU	7:30 p.m.
6/9	BST	v	LOU	5:00 p.m.
6/16	LOU	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
6/23	NC	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
6/27	LOU	v	PGH	3:00 p.m.
6/30	LOU	v	NY	7:30 p.m.
7/7	TBR	v	LOU	7:30 p.m.
7/14	CHS	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
7/18	LOU	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
7/21	LOU	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
7/28	OTT	v	LOU	2:00 p.m.
8/5	LOU	v	IND	5:00 p.m.
8/10	NY	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
8/18	LOU	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
8/22	CLT	v	LOU	7:30 p.m.
8/25	RIC	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
8/31	LOU	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
9/8	LOU	v	CIN	7:30 p.m.
9/15	PGH	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
9/19	PEN	v	LOU	6:30 p.m.
9/22	LOU	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
9/29	ATL	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
10/5	TOR	v	LOU	8:00 p.m.
10/13	LOU	v	IND	7:30 p.m.

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NASHVILLE SC

650 Rundle Ave
Nashville, TN 37210
www.nashvillefc.com
P: (615) 457-8200

TEAM OUTLOOK

Entering its first professional season, Nashville SC has been built in the same vein as others that immediately catapulted themselves into playoff contention from the off, with a good mix of veterans and youngsters that appear to have come together well under Head Coach Gary Smith. As such, Nashville could quickly put itself in the same category as last year’s major expansion success, Reno 1868 FC.

The foundation defensively has experience, with goal-keeper Matt Pickens and defenders Justin Davis, London Woodberry and Kosuke Kimura bringing experience from both Major League Soccer and the lower divisions to the table, but there are also some other useful pieces here including Taylor Washington, who recorded 96 interceptions and 91 clearances as well as 13 key passes for Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC a season ago.

There are also some exciting attacking options that have already shone in the USL previously, led by former Riverhounds SC and Swope Park Rangers forward Lebo Moloto. The speed of Ropapa Mensah - who performed well on loan with Penn FC a season ago - and former Orlando City B forward Michael Cox will also be useful for Smith, and the preseason performance of former PDL Top Prospect Alan Winn could have the former Tobacco Road FC standout in contention for immediate minutes ahead of the veterans around him.

HEAD COACH



Gary Smith



CONTACTS

- Owner**
John Ingram

Head Coach/GM
Gary Smith
gsmith@nashvillefc.com
(615) 649-6468

Director of Operations & Supporter Relations
Ron Deal
rdeal@nashvillefc.com
(615) 649-6466
- President**
Court Jeske
cjeske@nashvillefc.com
(615) 649-6459

Director of Communications
Austin Gwin
agwin@nashvillefc.com
(325) 370-3304

Director of Social Media
Andrew Fair
afair@nashvillefc.com
(847) 400-7371

KEY PLAYERS



Matt Pickens

Goalkeeper

Pickens was the first signing in club history when Nashville announced his addition from the Tampa Bay Rowdies this offseason, and the veteran goalkeeper will provide a solid backstop for the expansion side as it kicks off its inaugural professional season. Pickens’ history with Head Coach Gary Smith brought him to Nashville, with the duo having won MLS Cup together in 2010 with the Colorado Rapids.



Lebo Moloto

Midfielder

Nashville acquired Moloto this offseason from the Swope Park Rangers to provide a focal point for the club’s attack, with the South African’s versatility a big plus going into the new season. Moloto can not only create in the final third, at times being used as a false nine by the Rangers, but is also adept at finishing himself when chances arrives.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	LOU	v	NSH	3:00 p.m.
3/24	NSH	v	PGH	6:00 p.m.
3/31	BST	v	NSH	2:00 p.m.
4/7	NSH	v	CLT	8:30 p.m.
4/14	IND	v	NSH	12:00 p.m.
4/24	PEN	v	NSH	6:30 p.m.
5/6	NY	v	NSH	1:00 p.m.
5/13	NSH	v	LOU	6:00 p.m.
5/26	CHS	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
5/30	PGH	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
6/2	NSH	v	PEN	8:30 p.m.
6/9	TBR	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
6/16	NSH	v	NC	8:30 p.m.
6/26	NSH	v	IND	8:30 p.m.
6/30	NSH	v	ATL	8:30 p.m.
7/7	NSH	v	CIN	8:30 p.m.
7/11	CLT	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
7/21	OTT	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
7/25	NSH	v	ATL	8:30 p.m.
7/28	TOR	v	NSH	6:00 p.m.
8/4	CIN	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
8/10	NSH	v	OTT	8:30 p.m.
8/18	LOU	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
8/25	NSH	v	BST	8:30 p.m.
8/28	NSH	v	RIC	8:30 p.m.
9/1	CLT	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
9/8	NC	v	NSH	5:00 p.m.
9/18	NSH	v	TBR	8:30 p.m.
9/22	NSH	v	CHS	8:30 p.m.
9/26	ATL	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
9/29	NSH	v	NY	8:30 p.m.
10/6	RIC	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
10/9	NSH	v	TOR	8:30 p.m.
10/13	NSH	v	CIN	2:00 p.m.

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@nashvillefc



NEW YORK RED BULLS II

600 Cape May St.
Harrison, NJ, 07029
www.newyorkredbulls.com/2
P: (973) 268-8420

TEAM OUTLOOK

The New York Red Bulls II made a gallant defense of their 2016 USL Cup, falling in a penalty shootout to eventual champion Louisville City FC, after a season that hit some of the high notes of their championship season, and saw new names emerge as key players in the club's future.

Head Coach John Wolyniec's side will have a number of key players to replace this season, though, with Junior Flemmings moving on to the Tampa Bay Rowdies, midfielder Dan Metzger joining Penn FC, and veteran goalkeeper Rafael Diaz heading to Sacramento Republic FC. As usual, the side will rely on the emerging talent that has either graduated from or currently features in the club's Academy to form the nucleus of the side this season, with MLS SuperDraft selections Brian White, Jared Stroud and Jose Aguinaga all having previously played for the club's PDL squad while in college.

There will be some familiar faces too, with midfielders Andrew Tinari and Ben Mines and goalkeeper Evan Louro all coming off solid seasons in 2017. Potential additions from the club's MLS squad will also include last season's leading scorer Stefano Bonomo, who moved to the Red Bulls' roster after a standout year. Wolyniec's plate will be full as the side looks for a fourth consecutive playoff berth, but given their past it wouldn't be wise to underestimate the Red Bulls II.

HEAD COACH



John Wolyniec



CONTACTS

President
Marc de Grandpre

General Manager
Shaun Oliver
shaun.oliver@newyorkredbulls.com

Head Coach
John Wolyniec
john.wolyniec@newyorkredbulls.com

Director of Communications & Social Media
Willy Whitelaw
willy.whitelaw@newyorkredbulls.com

Director of Operations
D.J. McCaffery
dj.mccaffery@newyorkredbulls.com

KEY PLAYERS



Midfielder

Tinari emerged throughout his rookie season for the Red Bulls II as a player to watch, as the former Colgate University midfielder made 26 appearances and showed strong improvement as the season went on. Tinari finished third in the side with 48 key passes and logged a pass completion rate of 80.3 percent, and with the departure of Dan Metzger will take on more leadership responsibility.



Forward

White was named the Premier Development League's Most Valuable Player for the New York Red Bulls U-23 last summer, and the former Duke University forward will likely play a leading role in his first professional season with the Red Bulls II. White followed up his 17 goals for the Red Bulls U23 with 10 in 20 appearances for the Blue Devils last season, giving New York another top-level marksman to center its attack around.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	NY	v	TOR	1:00 p.m.
3/24	ATL	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
3/31	NY	v	CHS	1:00 p.m.
4/7	RIC	v	NY	5:00 p.m.
4/14	NY	v	TBR	4:00 p.m.
4/22	LA	v	NY	8:30 p.m.
4/28	TOR	v	NY	6:30 p.m.
5/2	OTT	v	NY	10:30 a.m.
5/6	NY	v	NSH	1:00 p.m.
5/16	BST	v	NY	5:00 p.m.
5/27	NY	v	IND	1:00 p.m.
6/2	NY	v	CIN	1:00 p.m.
6/9	NY	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/16	PGH	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
6/20	BST	v	NY	5:00 p.m.
6/24	NY	v	OTT	5:00 p.m.
6/30	LOU	v	NY	7:30 p.m.
7/6	NY	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
7/13	NY	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
7/18	NY	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
7/21	CIN	v	NY	7:30 p.m.
7/28	TBR	v	NY	7:30 p.m.
8/3	NY	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
8/10	NY	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
8/21	NY	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
8/25	CHS	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
8/31	NY	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
9/5	IND	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
9/12	NY	v	TOR	6:30 p.m.
9/22	CLT	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
9/29	NSH	v	NY	8:30 p.m.
10/6	NC	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
10/9	PEN	v	NY	6:30 p.m.
10/14	NY	v	PGH	5:00 p.m.

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📷 @nyrb2



NORTH CAROLINA FC

5501 Dillard Drive
Cary, NC 27518
www.northcarolinafc.com
P: (919) 459-8144

TEAM OUTLOOK

North Carolina FC enters its first season in the USL with a familiar face at the helm in Head Coach Colin Clarke and a solid core of returning players, but also a good contingent of new faces that will aim to keep the side's high standards intact as NCFC looks to build on its first postseason berth in four seasons last year.

Leading the way once again will be midfielder Austin da Luz, who has become a figurehead for the club over his two stints in Cary, N.C., that surrounded his one year with Orlando City SC in 2014. With more than 100 appearances under his belt for NCFC, da Luz brings a solid presence to the center of midfield, where he's joined by fellow returnee Steven Miller and veteran defender Connor Tobin.

The new additions will be called upon to add attacking bite to the squad, with maybe the most intriguing addition that of Chivas de Guadalajara youngster Daniel Rios. A former Mexico youth international, Rios has had successful spells in Ascenso MX from one of the biggest clubs in Mexico and will be one to keep an eye on as he joins NCFC. Another battle to watch will be that for starting goalkeeper, with former Charleston Battery loanee Alex Tambakis set to square off with Austin Guerrero, who also brings experience from Ascenso MX, for the No. 1 spot.

HEAD COACH



Colin Clarke



CONTACTS

Chairman & Owner
Steve Malik

President & General Manager
Curt Johnson
curt@northcarolinafc.com
(919) 459-8144

Head Coach
Colin Clarke
colin@northcarolinafc.com
(919) 459-8144

Director of Operations
Nic Platter
nic@northcarolinafc.com
(919) 459-0722

Director of Communications
Marco Rosa
marco@northcarolinafc.com
(919) 349-0491

Senior Manager of Communications
Kelly Glendenning
Kelly@northcarolinafc.com
(919) 439-0333

Manager of Communications
Daniel Neal
danieln@northcarolinafc.com
(252) 373-5144

KEY PLAYERS



Austin Da Luz

Midfielder

Da Luz has been an integral figure for North Carolina FC since his arrival after competing for Orlando City SC in the USL in 2014. His experience at the heart of NCFC's midfield will be key to allowing North Carolina to dictate play for what has been a strong top lower-division side over its history.



Michael Harrington

Defender

Harrington returns to his native North Carolina after a successful career in Major League Soccer that saw him most recently suit up for the Chicago Fire. The experience Harrington will bring to the side should help North Carolina form a cohesive unit at the back as Head Coach Colin Clarke's squad looks to maintain its high standards.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	NC	v	TBR	3:30 p.m.
3/24	LOU	v	NC	3:00 p.m.
3/31	RIC	v	NC	5:00 p.m.
4/7	NC	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
4/14	CLT	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
4/18	TOR	v	NC	8:00 p.m.
4/21	OTT	v	NC	2:00 p.m.
4/28	NC	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
5/19	CIN	v	NC	7:30 p.m.
5/25	NC	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
6/2	NC	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
6/9	NC	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
6/13	NC	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
6/16	NSH	v	NC	8:30 p.m.
6/23	NC	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
6/30	RIC	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
7/4	PGH	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
7/7	NC	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
7/14	BST	v	NC	5:00 p.m.
7/21	NC	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
7/28	NC	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
8/4	NC	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
8/11	TBR	v	NC	7:30 p.m.
8/15	IND	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
8/21	NY	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
8/25	NC	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
9/1	NC	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
9/8	NC	v	NSH	5:00 p.m.
9/16	PEN	v	NC	6:00 p.m.
9/21	ATL	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
9/26	CHS	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
9/29	NC	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
10/6	NC	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
10/13	CLT	v	NC	7:00 p.m.

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ig @NorthCarolinaFC



OKC ENERGY FC

615 N Hudson Ave., Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
www.energyfc.com
P: (405) 235-5425

TEAM OUTLOOK

OKC Energy FC reached the Western Conference Final of the USL Cup Playoffs for the second time in three seasons last fall, but a remarkable run from the No. 6-seed ended at the hands of the Swope Park Rangers in an epic 11-round penalty shootout. The club will be hoping its late-season upswing can carry forward into the new year, though, as Energy FC played some of its best soccer down the stretch.

If that happens, it will do so under new leadership. Long-time Colorado Rapids assistant coach Steve Cooke was appointed as the replacement for Jimmy Nielsen this off-season, taking the reins of a squad that returns a number of key players. Among them is leading scorer Jose Angulo, who matched his single-season best output of 15 goals, while Jose Barril, Miguel Gonzalez and Alex Dixon will provide strong attacking support.

A major new face at the club is that of goalkeeper Matt van Oekel, who arrives from Real Salt Lake with extensive lower-division experience. Other new faces include local standout Shawn McLaws and Christian Ibeagha, both of whom will add to a backline that returns Coady Andrews and Kyle Hyland. With the experience the side possesses, and the confidence it can take from a positive postseason, a move into top-four contention is certainly the goal.

HEAD COACH



Steve Cooke



CONTACTS

Owner
Bob Funk Jr.
bob@ops-crew.com

Owner
Tim McLaughlin
tmclaughlin@squareddealcapital.com

General Manager
Jason Hawkins
jason.hawkins@prodigal.com
(405) 235-5425, ext. 1401

Head Coach
Steve Cooke
steve.cooke@energyfc.com

VP of Operations
Jeff Kretchmar
jeff.kretchmar@prodigal.com
(405) 235-5425, ext. 1133

VP of Communications
Josh Evans
josh.evans@prodigal.com
(405) 235-5425, ext. 1132

KEY PLAYERS



Angulo arrived midseason from Saint Louis FC, and while there was a period of adaptation to his new squad, once the 2013 USL Most Valuable Player found his footing it helped propel Energy FC to a place in the playoffs. Angulo's 15 goals matched his regular-season total from that MVP season, and with the chemistry with his surrounding cast now established he could be aiming higher this year.



There's a good argument to be made that Jose Barril was among the unluckier players in the USL in 2017. The Spanish playmaker finished in the top 20 in the league with 51 key passes, but ended up with only three assists to show for it. The 25-year-old brought consistent quality to Energy FC's lineup, and was a consistent presence with 32 appearances and almost 2,400 minutes of action. More of the same could see Barril in contention for the assists lead this year.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (CT)
3/17	OKC	v	TUL	7:00 p.m.
3/24	PHX	v	OKC	8:00 p.m.
3/28	OKC	v	OC	7:00 p.m.
3/31	FRS	v	OKC	9:00 p.m.
4/7	OKC	v	POR	7:00 p.m.
4/14	SPR	v	OKC	7:30 p.m.
4/21	OKC	v	STL	7:00 p.m.
4/28	RNO	v	OKC	9:00 p.m.
5/5	OKC	v	SPR	7:00 p.m.
5/9	OKC	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
5/19	OKC	v	COS	7:00 p.m.
5/26	TUL	v	OKC	7:00 p.m.
6/2	OKC	v	RNO	7:30 p.m.
6/10	SEA	v	OKC	3:30 p.m.
6/13	POR	v	OKC	9:00 p.m.
6/16	OKC	v	RGV	7:30 p.m.
6/23	OKC	v	LA	7:30 p.m.
7/4	SA	v	OKC	7:30 p.m.
7/7	OKC	v	COS	7:30 p.m.
7/11	OKC	v	LV	7:30 p.m.
7/21	SAC	v	OKC	10:00 p.m.
7/25	OKC	v	FRS	7:30 p.m.
7/28	OKC	v	SA	7:30 p.m.
8/4	COS	v	OKC	7:00 p.m.
8/8	TUL	v	OKC	7:30 p.m.
8/11	OKC	v	SLC	7:30 p.m.
8/18	RGV	v	OKC	7:30 p.m.
8/25	OKC	v	SEA	7:30 p.m.
9/8	OC	v	OKC	9:00 p.m.
9/12	LA	v	OKC	9:30 p.m.
9/23	OKC	v	SAC	6:00 p.m.
9/29	LV	v	OKC	10:00 p.m.
10/3	SLC	v	OKC	8:00 p.m.
10/13	STL	v	OKC	7:30 p.m.

f /EnergyFC
@energyfc
@energyfc



ORANGE COUNTY SC

20 Fairbanks, Suite 181
Irvine, CA 92618
www.orangecountysoccer.com
P: (949) 647-4625

TEAM OUTLOOK

Orange County had an up-and-down season that fell just short of enough ups to earn a third consecutive trip to the postseason, with the side finishing three points out of the eighth and final playoff place in the Western Conference. At the heart of the finish was a lack of consistency, which saw the club only earn back-to-back victories once over the course of the season.

The year was still a positive one, however, with the club's opening of Champions Soccer Stadium - a 5,000-seat soccer-specific venue in Orange County Great Park - giving OCSC a permanent home for the first time. The outstanding facility, completed in August, should offer the club the chance to thrive well into the future.

The man charged with leading that resurgence on the field is former assistant and USL player Braeden Cloutier, who was appointed as Head Coach following the departure of Logan Pause this offseason. Cloutier will have some interesting new pieces to work with, too, with the arrival of former Danish international Thomas Enevoldsen and USL veterans Christian Duke and Aodhan Quinn bringing a high level of quality to the squad. A third trip to the USL Cup Playoffs in four years is squarely in the club's sights for 2018.

HEAD COACH



Braeden Cloutier



CONTACTS

Owner & Team President
James Keston

General Manager & Executive Vice President
Oliver Wyss
oliver@orangecountysoccer.com
(949) 647-4625

Assistant GM & Senior VP Player Recruitment
Soccer Operations
Peter Nugent
peter@orangecountysoccer.com
(949) 647-4625

Head Coach
Braeden Cloutier
b.cloutier@orangecountysoccer.com
(949) 647-4625

Senior VP, Corporate Partnerships and PR
Kelly Salmieri
kelly@orangecountysoccer.com
(805) 844-0856

Chief Operations Officer
Mark Entner
mark@orangecountysoccer.com
(949) 514-9659

Senior VP, Sales & Marketing
Robert Alvarado
robert@orangecountysoccer.com
(949) 433-2947

KEY PLAYERS



The former Swope Park Rangers captain brings extensive experience to his new role with Orange County, having led the Rangers to back-to-back Western Conference Championships while starting in every game for the past two seasons. Duke's arrival was a signal of intent for Orange County, and his ability to win possession and link play will be important for the side at the heart of midfield.



Enevoldsen's arrival should help boost an Orange County attack that ran hot-and-cold in 2017, averaging less than 1.5 goals per game in the regular season. With 11 appearances for Denmark's national team, and top-flight experience both in his home country and overseas, the 30-year-old will be aiming to have a major impact leading the line.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (PT)
3/17	OC	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
3/24	OC	v	SAC	7:00 p.m.
3/28	OKC	v	OC	5:00 p.m.
3/31	TUL	v	OC	1:00 p.m.
4/7	OC	v	LA	7:00 p.m.
4/14	SA	v	OC	5:30 p.m.
4/25	RGV	v	OC	5:00 p.m.
4/28	OC	v	COS	7:00 p.m.
5/4	SLC	v	OC	6:00 p.m.
5/12	OC	v	STL	7:00 p.m.
5/26	OC	v	FRS	7:00 p.m.
6/2	SAC	v	OC	8:00 p.m.
6/10	LA	v	OC	5:30 p.m.
6/16	OC	v	RNO	6:00 p.m.
6/23	OC	v	TUL	7:00 p.m.
6/29	PHX	v	OC	6:30 p.m.
7/3	COS	v	OC	6:00 p.m.
7/7	OC	v	LA	7:00 p.m.
7/14	OC	v	SA	7:00 p.m.
7/18	SPR	v	OC	5:30 p.m.
7/21	STL	v	OC	5:30 p.m.
8/1	OC	v	POR	12:30 p.m.
8/4	OC	v	SPR	7:00 p.m.
8/11	PHX	v	OC	6:30 p.m.
8/15	OC	v	LV	12:30 p.m.
8/22	POR	v	OC	7:00 p.m.
8/25	OC	v	RGV	7:00 p.m.
9/2	SEA	v	OC	1:30 p.m.
9/8	OC	v	OKC	7:00 p.m.
9/16	FRS	v	OC	6:00 p.m.
9/19	OC	v	SLC	7:00 p.m.
9/26	LV	v	OC	8:00 p.m.
10/6	OC	v	SEA	7:00 p.m.
10/13	RNO	v	OC	6:00 p.m.

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OTTAWA FURY FC

1015 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 3W7
www.ottawafuryfc.com
P: (613) 232-6767

TEAM OUTLOOK

Ottawa Fury FC's first season in the USL wasn't without its highlights, but the side lacked the consistency needed to seriously contend for a place in the USL Cup Playoffs as it finished six points off the pace while winning only one of its last 12 games in the regular season.

The midseason departure of Head Coach Paul Dalglish necessitated a change this offseason, and one of the first moves made by promoted General Manager Julian de Guzman was to hire former Swope Park Rangers Head Coach Nikola Popovic to lead Fury FC in 2018. After leading the Rangers to a second successive Western Conference Championship, Popovic will be looking to jump Ottawa into the playoff conversation with an attacking style that saw SPR record 55 goals in the regular season - tied for third-most in the Western Conference a year ago.

The pieces are in place for that kind of productivity, with leading scorer Steevan Dos Santos looking to build on a third consecutive productive years in the league that saw him record 10 goals. Ottawa has made some big additions at either end of the field, too, with goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau arriving on loan from the Montreal Impact, defender Colin Falvey returning to the club for a second stint, and playmaker Kevin Oliveira joining Popovic in making the move from Swope Park. Those types of moves, which have also seen Canadian internationals Nana Attakora and Maxim Tissot join the club, have greatly raised expectations for the new season.

HEAD COACH



CONTACTS

President
John Pugh
jpugh@ottawafuryfc.com
(613) 232-6767

Head Coach
Nikola Popovic
npopovic@ottawafuryfc.com
(613) 232-6767

Communications & Content Specialist
Michele Dion
mdion@oseg.ca
(613) 857-0827

General Manager
Julian de Guzman
jdeguzman@ottawafuryfc.com
(613) 232-6767

Assistant General Manager
Carrie McKay
cmckay@ottawafuryfc.com
(613) 818-8156

Director of Communications
Graeme Ivory
givory@oseg.ca
(613) 878-3321

Director of Social Media
Matt Jackowetz
mjackowetz@oseg.ca
(613) 232-6767 ext. 8295



Nikola Popovic

KEY PLAYERS



Returning for his second stint with Fury FC, the 2013 USL Defender of the Year will be one of the new additions to the back line that will aim to provide more stability in front of either Callum Irving or Maxime Crepeau in goal. A fan-favorite from his prior time at the club, Falvey has helped bring success in previous stops in his career, and has a 2012 USL Cup on his resume.



Dos Santos lived up to his billing in his first season with Fury FC, recording 10 goals - almost one-quarter of Ottawa's offensive output in the regular season - as he led the club's attacking line. With added support from the likes of Kevin Oliveira and the returning Gerardo Bruna and Sito Seoane, the Cape Verde striker will also try to push his assists total back to prior levels, having recorded five assists in the 2016 season.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	CLT	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
3/31	TOR	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
4/7	TBR	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
4/14	PGH	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
4/21	OTT	v	NC	2:00 p.m.
4/28	OTT	v	CIN	2:00 p.m.
5/2	OTT	v	NY	10:30 a.m.
5/7	PEN	v	OTT	6:30 p.m.
5/12	OTT	v	ATL	2:00 p.m.
5/19	CHS	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
5/25	OTT	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
5/30	OTT	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
6/2	OTT	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/13	NC	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
6/16	ATL	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
6/24	NY	v	OTT	5:00 p.m.
6/30	CIN	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
7/4	IND	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
7/8	OTT	v	PGH	1:00 p.m.
7/14	OTT	v	PEN	2:00 p.m.
7/21	OTT	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
7/28	OTT	v	LOU	2:00 p.m.
8/3	OTT	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
8/10	NSH	v	OTT	8:30 p.m.
8/15	OTT	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
8/18	OTT	v	IND	2:00 p.m.
8/22	BST	v	OTT	5:00 p.m.
8/25	OTT	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
8/31	NY	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
9/6	TOR	v	OTT	8:00 p.m.
9/15	RIC	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
9/22	LOU	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
9/30	OTT	v	BST	1:00 p.m.
10/13	OTT	v	CHS	2:00 p.m.

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📷 @FuryFC

TEAM OUTLOOK

Over the course of one offseason everything changed for the newly-named Penn FC, which will enter the new season with a new name and crest, a new partnership with internationally-renowned soccer development organization Rush Soccer, and the second Head Coach in the club's 15-season history.

Former Tampa Bay Rowdies assistant Raoul Voss was tapped to step in as the club's Head Coach as Bill Becher moved to become the leader of the club's Technical Staff during the massive overhaul of the front office in Harrisburg. Rush Soccer's Tim Schulz is the club's new General Manager, with he and Voss charged with returning the club to the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time since it reached the USL Cup in 2014.

On the field, Penn has returned some important pieces from a season ago that include goalkeeper Sean Lewis and defender Tiago Calvano, but arguably the most important player for the club this season will be midfielder Dan Metzger, who arrives after three successful seasons with the New York Red Bulls II. His influence, and that of other newcomers including Calvin Rezende and Jorge Rivera, will be key to a turnaround on the field.

HEAD COACH



Raoul Voss



CONTACTS

Owners

George Altirs and Eric Pettis

General Manager

Tim Schulz
tschulz@rushsoccer.com
(303) 638-5672

Head Coach

Raoul Voss
rvoss1@pennfc.com

Brandon Moree

Marketing Manager
bmoree@pennfc.com

President

George Altirs

Asst. GM, Director of Operations

John Recordon
jrecordon@pennfc.com
(717) 903-1525

Director of Marketing

Paige Guyan
pguyan@pennfc.com
(720) 646-0442

Digital Media Manager

Kris Brown
kbrown@pennfc.com
(443) 615-1320

KEY PLAYERS



Dan Metzger

Midfielder

Metzger brings a championship pedigree to Penn's midfield, having won the USL Cup with the New York Red Bulls II in 2016 while leading the side to the postseason each of the past three years. The 24-year-old has great ball-winning skills, and will be a crucial pivot in the center of midfield to help turn defense into attack for Voss' squad.



Tiago Calvano

Defender

Calvano recorded the most minutes of any Penn returning player this season in 2017, and the Brazilian's experience showed as he finished second on the club with 65 interceptions and led the team with 102 clearances a season ago. With a new-look squad arriving, the 36-year-old will be key to providing a stronger structure along the back line this year for a defense that gave up 47 goals a season ago.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/24	CHS	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
3/31	PGH	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
4/8	ATL	v	PEN	4:00 p.m.
4/21	PEN	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
4/24	PEN	v	NSH	6:30 p.m.
4/28	NC	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
5/4	PEN	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
5/7	PEN	v	OTT	6:30 p.m.
5/9	TOR	v	PEN	11:00 a.m.
5/26	PGH	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
6/2	NSH	v	PEN	8:30 p.m.
6/9	PEN	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
6/12	PEN	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
6/16	LOU	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
6/22	TBR	v	PEN	7:30 p.m.
6/30	IND	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
7/6	PEN	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
7/9	PEN	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
7/14	OTT	v	PEN	2:00 p.m.
7/28	CLT	v	PEN	7:30 p.m.
8/3	NY	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
8/12	CIN	v	PEN	6:00 p.m.
8/18	RIC	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
8/25	OTT	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
9/2	BST	v	PEN	3:00 p.m.
9/8	PEN	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
9/12	PEN	v	IND	2:00 p.m.
9/16	PEN	v	NC	6:00 p.m.
9/19	PEN	v	LOU	6:30 p.m.
9/22	PEN	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
9/26	PEN	v	PGH	6:30 p.m.
10/3	PEN	v	CLT	6:30 p.m.
10/9	PEN	v	NY	6:30 p.m.
10/13	PEN	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.



PHOENIX RISING FC

7135 E Camelback Rd., Suite 360
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
www.phxrisingfc.com
P: (623) 594-9606

TEAM OUTLOOK

Phoenix Rising FC entered its new era with high-profile signings, and ended it with a first trip to the USL Cup Playoffs in 2017 before being eliminated in a penalty shootout by eventual Western Conference champion the Swope Park Rangers. The upward trajectory of the side has continued this offseason, however, with some major additions joining Didier Drogba and a solid returning cast for the new season.

Maybe the most important returnee, however, is Head Coach Patrice Carteron, who built Rising FC into a serious force over the second half of the season that saw the side just miss out on a top-four position in the Western Conference. Leading scorer Jason Johnson is also back alongside veterans Chris Cortez and Alessandro Riggi, but the addition of players like 2017 All-League selection Billy Forbes and New Zealand international James Musa have upped the anticipation level for the club going into the new season.

Then, of course, there is the presence of Drogba, who averaged a goal every 119.6 minutes over his 14 appearances for Phoenix in 2017 after his early-season arrival. As the former Ivory Coast international approaches 500 appearances in domestic competition after turning 40 years old days before the season begins, following what could be Drogba's potential swan song will be a fascinating storyline, and there's nothing more he'd like to do than end by lifting a trophy.

HEAD COACH



Patrice Carteron



CONTACTS

Owner
Berke Bakay
berke@phxrisingfc.com
(623) 594-9606

VP of Marketing & Sales
Sam Doerr
samdoerr@phxrisingfc.com
(712) 490-8110

Head Coach
Patrice Carteron
pc3@phxrisingfc.com
(623) 594-9606

Chief Operating Officer
Bobby Dulle
bobby@phxrisingfc.com
(480) 266-9144

VP of Operations
Mike Jenkins
mikejenkins@phxrisingfc.com
(602) 770-5398

Digital Media and Broadcast Relations Manager
H. Jose Bosch
jose@phxrisingfc.com
(540) 435-6097

Sales Manager
Joey Castor
joey@phxrisingfc.com
(602) 900-0083

KEY PLAYERS



Forbes arrives with Phoenix after a stellar season with San Antonio FC that saw him first earn USL Player of the Month honors for March/April and then a place on the 2017 USL All-League Second Team. The Turks & Caicos international's speed and willingness to take on defenders adds another dangerous weapon to Head Coach Patrice Carteron's squad.



Johnson was looking for a bounce-back season after a disappointing 2016 and found it with Rising FC as the Jamaican led the side in scoring and produced when it needed most in the second half of the season to help drive the club's playoff run. Johnson's versatility, which can see him split out wide in addition to leading the line, will also give the side flexibility as it moves through the season.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (PT)
3/17	OC	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
3/24	PHX	v	OKC	6:00 p.m.
3/31	RNO	v	PHX	4:00 p.m.
4/7	PHX	v	SLC	6:00 p.m.
4/11	LA	v	PHX	7:30 p.m.
4/21	PHX	v	SPR	6:00 p.m.
4/28	PHX	v	FRS	6:00 p.m.
5/4	PHX	v	LA	6:30 p.m.
5/9	OKC	v	PHX	5:00 p.m.
5/12	TUL	v	PHX	5:00 p.m.
5/19	PHX	v	SAC	6:30 p.m.
5/26	SPR	v	PHX	5:30 p.m.
5/30	STL	v	PHX	5:30 p.m.
6/9	SAC	v	PHX	8:00 p.m.
6/13	PHX	v	LV	6:30 p.m.
6/16	PHX	v	TUL	6:30 p.m.
6/23	RGV	v	PHX	5:30 p.m.
6/29	PHX	v	OC	6:30 p.m.
7/14	FRS	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
7/20	PHX	v	SEA	7:00 p.m.
7/28	SLC	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
8/5	POR	v	PHX	2:00 p.m.
8/11	PHX	v	OC	6:30 p.m.
8/18	LV	v	PHX	8:00 p.m.
8/22	PHX	v	SA	6:00 p.m.
8/25	PHX	v	COS	6:30 p.m.
9/5	PHX	v	RGV	6:00 p.m.
9/8	SA	v	PHX	5:30 p.m.
9/15	SEA	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
9/22	COS	v	PHX	5:00 p.m.
9/29	PHX	v	STL	6:00 p.m.
10/6	PHX	v	RNO	6:00 p.m.
10/10	LV	v	PHX	8:00 p.m.
10/13	PHX	v	POR	6:00 p.m.

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PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS SC

510 W Station Square Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
www.riverhounds.com
P: (412) 224-4900

TEAM OUTLOOK

Riverhounds SC both got a new look this offseason and introduced Bob Lilley as the club's Head Coach, with the second of those moves having heightened expectations at Highmark Stadium after the club missed the USL Cup Playoffs each of the past two seasons.

The 2015 USL Coach of the Year after leading the Rochester Rhinos to the USL Regular Season Championship and USL Cup double, Lilley is aiming to bring his blue-collar style of soccer that incorporates a strong defensive base with the ability to strike quickly to Pittsburgh. And while Kevin Kerr is the lone player returning from Riverhounds SC's last trip to the playoffs in 2015, there is plenty of playoff experience that can help turn things in the right direction for the club this season.

Among the new arrivals is Joe Greenspan, who joins the club on a permanent basis after a successful loan stint from Minnesota United FC last season, and he could be joined in the center of defense by 2016 USL All-League selection Hugh Roberts. At the attacking end, 2012 USL Golden Boot-winner Dennis Chin returned to the United States to sign with the Hounds, and his efforts will be supplemented by those of returning forward Romeo Parkes and former Portland Timbers player Neco Brett, who has had a successful preseason building into the new season.

HEAD COACH



Bob Lilley



CONTACTS

Owner & President
Tuffy Shallenberger

General Manager
Kevin Johnston
kevinj@highmarkstadium.com
412-325-7240

Head Coach
Bob Lilley
blilley@riverhounds.com

Director of Communications
Anthony Meier
ameier@riverhounds.com
412-325-7229

Director of Operations
John Rotz
jrotz@riverhounds.com
412-325-7239

KEY PLAYERS



The longest-tenured member at Riverhounds SC, Kerr has brought leadership and the type of work-ethic that should see him thrive under new Head Coach Bob Lilley. Kerr's ability to deliver well from the flanks, in addition to having strong instincts when he gets into the penalty area, could see Kerr produce impressive numbers in both goals and assists, as he did in the 2015 season.



Greenspan was a massive hit for Riverhounds SC when he joined the club on loan from Minnesota United FC during the 2017 season, and more of the same will be expected as the former Naval Academy standout joins the club on a permanent basis. Greenspan's size allows him to handle aerial threats from opponents, but his technical ability also allows him to help a side build from the back after the ball has been won.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/24	NSH	v	PGH	6:00 p.m.
3/31	PGH	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
4/7	TOR	v	PGH	2:00 p.m.
4/14	PGH	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
4/21	CIN	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
4/28	PGH	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
5/5	TOR	v	PGH	6:00 p.m.
5/11	PGH	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
5/19	TBR	v	PGH	7:30 p.m.
5/26	PGH	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
5/30	PGH	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
6/2	RIC	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
6/16	PGH	v	NY	7:00 p.m.
6/23	CHS	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
6/27	LOU	v	PGH	3:00 p.m.
7/4	PGH	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
7/8	OTT	v	PGH	1:00 p.m.
7/21	PGH	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
7/28	NC	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
8/1	PGH	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
8/4	PGH	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
8/12	BST	v	PGH	5:00 p.m.
8/18	PGH	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
8/22	PGH	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
8/29	IND	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
9/1	CIN	v	PGH	7:30 p.m.
9/8	PGH	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
9/15	PGH	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
9/22	PGH	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
9/26	PEN	v	PGH	6:30 p.m.
9/29	CLT	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
10/6	PGH	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
10/10	ATL	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
10/14	NY	v	PGH	5:00 p.m.

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PORTLAND TIMBERS 2

1844 Southwest Morrison St.
Portland, OR 97205
www.timbers.com/t2
P: (503) 553-5400

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Timbers 2 didn’t look over their shoulders long at a 2017 season that saw the side struggle mightily due to its inability to find the back of the net, scoring only 27 goals in the regular season to finish with the fewest points in the league.

If Portland is to get back into playoff contention this year, as it was two years ago, turning that productivity level in front of goal back up is going to be essential. The Timbers finished 17th in the league in shots last year, but their conversion rate sat at just 10 percent, meaning much more will be expected this year from returning forward Augustine Williams and newcomers Darixon Vuelto (Honduras) and Marvin Loria (Costa Rica), both of whom bring solid youth international experience to the Rose City.

Portland has some good returning pieces like midfielder Andre Lewis and Renzo Zambrano, who noched 14 key passes in seven games after a late-season arrival. It also looked to add experience to its defense, including the signing of former Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC center back Josh Phillips, former LA Galaxy fullback Nathan Smith and goalkeeper Alex Mangels. The question, however, will be whether T2 can find enough consistency in its performances and its finishing.

HEAD COACH



Cameron Knowles



CONTACTS

- Owner**
Merritt Paulson

General Manager & President of Soccer
Gavin Wilkinson
gwillkinson@timbers.com
(503) 553-5440

Assistant General Manager
Nick Mansueto
nmansueto@timbers.com

Director of Communications
Chris Metz
cmetz@timbers.com
(503) 553-5433
- Head Coach**
Cameron Knowles

President of Business
Mike Golub
mgolub@timbers.com
(503) 553-5411

Manager, Team Operations
Satoshi Tatsumi
statsumi@timbers.com
503-553-5514

Director of Social Media
Marc Kostic
mkostic@timbers.com
(503) 553-5415

KEY PLAYERS



Harold Hanson

Defender

A newcomer to T2 from the Timbers Academy in 2017, Hanson consistently caught the eye with his strong two-way game down the flank, and the 18-year-old will be aiming to take another big step forward in his career this year. Hanson recorded 36 interceptions in 23 games, and if he can find more consistency in his passing and accuracy in the attacking third, he’ll gain even more attention.



Darixon Vuelto

Forward

Vuelto’s arrival on loan from C.D. Victoria in his native Honduras is one of those deals that might not seem a big one at the time, but is loaded with potential for the future. For those that saw him feature at the 2017 CONCACAF U20 Championship last season, there’s a spark here that could grow into something bigger, something T2 is counting on as it looks to make a big improvement offensively.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/16	SEA	v	POR	10:00 p.m.
3/24	COS	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
3/31	SLC	v	POR	3:00 p.m.
4/4	TUL	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
4/7	OKC	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
4/18	POR	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
4/21	POR	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
5/2	POR	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
5/5	STL	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
5/12	SEA	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
5/18	POR	v	LA	2:00 p.m.
5/26	POR	v	SLC	5:00 p.m.
6/2	SA	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
6/9	RGV	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
6/13	POR	v	OKC	10:00 p.m.
6/17	POR	v	COS	5:00 p.m.
6/30	RNO	v	POR	10:30 p.m.
7/8	POR	v	FRS	5:00 p.m.
7/14	POR	v	SPR	10:00 p.m.
7/22	POR	v	LV	5:00 p.m.
7/28	LA	v	POR	10:30 p.m.
8/1	OC	v	POR	3:30 p.m.
8/5	POR	v	PHX	5:00 p.m.
8/11	SPR	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
8/15	POR	v	SA	10:30 p.m.
8/19	POR	v	SEA	5:00 p.m.
8/22	POR	v	OC	10:00 p.m.
9/1	POR	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
9/9	POR	v	TUL	5:00 p.m.
9/16	LV	v	POR	11:00 p.m.
9/22	FRS	v	POR	10:00 p.m.
9/29	SAC	v	POR	10:30 p.m.
10/3	POR	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
10/13	PHX	v	POR	9:00 p.m.



/PortlandTimbers2



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@timbersfc2



REAL MONARCHS SLC

14788 South Academy Parkway (3718 West)
Herriman, UT 84065
www.rsl.com/monarchs
P: (385) 434-3085

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Monarchs engaged in one of most impressive turn-arounds in the USL last season, with the injection of experience into the club’s lineup resulting in not only the first USL Cup Playoffs berth in its history, but also the first silverware in the 2017 USL Regular Season Championship. While the season ended in disappointment in the playoffs thanks to a penalty shootout defeat to Sacramento Republic FC, the Monarchs were a far different proposition for opponents in their third season.

At the forefront were All-League selections Chandler Hoffman and Sebastian Velasquez, both of whom return to lead the team this season, but Head Coach Mark Briggs - who also picked up silverware for his role in the club’s success - also has a strong contingent of returning players like Andrew Brody, Charlie Adams and Michael Gallagher back in the fold. There’s also a solid group of new talent to work with as the club opens its new home venue, Zions Bank Stadium.

Among those new arrivals are the experienced Charleston Battery duo of Justin Portillo and Maikel Chang, and former Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC standout Masta Kacher, all of whom could help add to the Monarchs’ attack this season. Defensively, 2016 USL Cup-winner Konrad Plewa arrives to man the center of defense, all of which should help the Monarchs make a sterling effort at replicating their successful 2017.

HEAD COACH



Mark Briggs



CONTACTS

Owner
Dell Loy Hansen

General Manager
Dan Egner
degner@rsl.com
(707) 344-5762

Head Coach
Mark Briggs
mbriggs@rsl.com

Vice President, Broadcast & PR
Trey Fitz-Gerald
tfitz@rsl.com
(801) 856-8877

Director of Communications
Taran Meyer
tmeyer@rsl.com
(801) 657-2161

Director of Operations
Justin Nelson
jnelson@rsl.com
(385) 434-3095

Director of Social Media
Lauren Parkinson
lparkinson@rsl.com

KEY PLAYERS



Already one of the league’s all-time leaders in goals, Hoffman had a career season in leading the Monarchs to the 2017 USL Regular Season Championship with 16 goals and seven assists, and earned All-League First Team honors for a second time in the process. Hoffman needs only three goals to become the third player to reach 50 regular-season tallies in the league’s modern history, and will be expecting another big year.



Velasquez’s return to Salt Lake City after previously playing for Real Salt Lake was one of the more intriguing storylines last season, and the attacking midfielder ensured it had a tremendous arc as he played a key role in the club’s success throughout the regular season. Named to the USL All-League Second Team, Velasquez will aim to build on his success having become one of the Monarchs’ key figures.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (MT)
3/24	TUL	v	SLC	6:00 p.m.
3/31	SLC	v	POR	1:00 p.m.
4/7	PHX	v	SLC	7:00 p.m.
4/11	SEA	v	SLC	8:00 p.m.
4/21	TBR	v	SLC	5:30 p.m.
4/30	SLC	v	LV	7:00 p.m.
5/4	SLC	v	OC	7:00 p.m.
5/9	SLC	v	SPR	7:00 p.m.
5/12	SLC	v	FRS	1:00 p.m.
5/19	LV	v	SLC	9:00 p.m.
5/26	POR	v	SLC	3:00 p.m.
5/29	SLC	v	SAC	7:00 p.m.
6/4	SLC	v	RGV	7:00 p.m.
6/13	SPR	v	SLC	6:30 p.m.
6/16	STL	v	SLC	6:30 p.m.
6/26	SLC	v	FRS	7:00 p.m.
7/3	RNO	v	SLC	8:30 p.m.
7/7	SAC	v	SLC	9:00 p.m.
7/14	SLC	v	SEA	8:00 p.m.
7/21	SA	v	SLC	6:30 p.m.
7/28	SLC	v	PHX	8:00 p.m.
8/8	SLC	v	RNO	8:00 p.m.
8/11	OKC	v	SLC	6:30 p.m.
8/18	SLC	v	TUL	8:00 p.m.
8/25	SLC	v	LA	8:00 p.m.
8/29	COS	v	SLC	7:00 p.m.
9/3	SLC	v	SA	7:00 p.m.
9/8	RGV	v	SLC	6:30 p.m.
9/12	SLC	v	STL	5:00 p.m.
9/19	OC	v	SLC	8:00 p.m.
9/22	LA	v	SLC	8:30 p.m.
9/29	SLC	v	COS	7:00 p.m.
10/3	SLC	v	OKC	7:00 p.m.
10/13	FRS	v	SLC	8:00 p.m.

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RENO 1868 FC

250 Evans Ave.
Reno, NV 89501
www.reno1868fc.com
P: (775) 334-7001

TEAM OUTLOOK

No-one knew quite what to expect from Reno 1868 FC's first season, but after a top-three finish in the Western Conference that saw the side set a single-season record with 75 goals in the regular season, the expectations are high going into Year 2 for Head Coach Ian Russell and his squad.

The side will have to deal with some absences from its successful inaugural year, though, most notably with Dane Kelly having moved on after parlaying the USL Golden Boot and Most Valuable Player into a chance at top-flight soccer with D.C. United. Coming in as potential replacements are former Swope Park Rangers striker Mark Anthony Gonzalez, and both attacking midfielders Christian Thierjung (Tulsa Roughnecks FC) and Jerry van Ewijk (Orange County SC).

The good news for Russell, however, is some of the key players from his inaugural squad will be back, led by attacking midfielder Antoine Hoppenot and defensive stalwarts Jordan Murrell and Brent Richards. 1868 FC has also added former loanee Lindo Mfeka on a permanent deal after his time with the club a season ago, and added 2017 USL Cup champion Guy Abend from Louisville to the center of midfield, all of which should help Reno remain in solid contention for a place in the postseason.

HEAD COACH



Ian Russell



CONTACTS

Owner
Herb Simon

President
Eric Edelstein
ee@renoaces.com

General Manager
Andy Smith
asmith@reno1868fc.com

Head Coach
Ian Russell

Director of Communications & Social Media
Aldo Amato
aldo@reno1868fc.com
(256) 503-2291

Director of Operations
Brett Karleen
bkarleen@reno1868fc.com

KEY PLAYERS



Hoppenot was arguably the key link in an attack that set a USL record with 75 goals in the regular season a year ago, with 12 goals and six assists that earned the side a third-place finish in the Western Conference. Hoppenot will have some new pieces around him this year after the departure of Dane Kelly, but this preseason he appears to have already developed good chemistry with the club's newcomers, which bodes well for another good season.



Carroll was a key figure in the New York Red Bulls II's 2016 USL Cup run, and earned All-League Second Team honors as a result. His move last season to Orlando didn't quite pay off, however, as he made 20 starts for the side and didn't quite seem to click with his new teammates. Carroll will be looking to get things back on track in Reno, and could be a ready-made replacement for the departed Jimmy Ockford in the center of defense.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	RNO	v	SPR	7:00 p.m.
3/24	LV	v	RNO	11:00 p.m.
3/28	RGV	v	RNO	11:00 a.m.
3/31	RNO	v	PHX	7:00 p.m.
4/14	RNO	v	COS	10:00 p.m.
4/21	POR	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
4/28	RNO	v	OKC	10:00 p.m.
5/5	COS	v	RNO	8:00 p.m.
5/9	TUL	v	RNO	8:00 p.m.
5/12	SAC	v	RNO	10:30 p.m.
5/19	RNO	v	SEA	10:30 p.m.
5/26	RNO	v	SA	10:30 p.m.
6/2	OKC	v	RNO	8:30 p.m.
6/9	RNO	v	FRS	10:30 p.m.
6/16	OC	v	RNO	9:00 p.m.
6/23	SA	v	RNO	8:30 p.m.
6/30	RNO	v	POR	10:30 p.m.
7/3	RNO	v	SLC	10:30 p.m.
7/8	SEA	v	RNO	4:30 p.m.
7/11	LA	v	RNO	10:30 p.m.
7/28	RNO	v	STL	10:30 p.m.
8/8	SLC	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
8/19	SPR	v	RNO	5:00 p.m.
8/25	RNO	v	SAC	10:30 p.m.
8/28	RNO	v	LV	10:30 p.m.
9/1	FRS	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
9/8	STL	v	RNO	8:30 p.m.
9/15	RNO	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
9/22	RNO	v	LV	10:00 p.m.
9/26	RNO	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
9/29	RNO	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
10/3	POR	v	RNO	10:00 p.m.
10/6	PHX	v	RNO	9:00 p.m.
10/13	RNO	v	OC	9:00 p.m.

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t @reno1868fc

ig @reno1868fc



RICHMOND KICKERS

2001 Maywill St., Suite 203
Richmond, VA 23230
www.richmondkickers.com
P: (804) 644-5425

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Kickers' run of reaching the postseason in every season of the USL's modern era came to an end in 2017, with the side's attacking woes putting paid to its chances at a seventh straight berth in the USL Cup Playoffs even as the side remained defensively reliable for most of the year.

With that in mind Richmond has brought in what it hopes will be the sort of firepower that will lead to a return up the standings this season. Among the club's offseason additions are former Charleston Battery forward Heviel Cordoves and former Jacksonville Armada FC striker Brian Shriver, both of whom should provide a jolt to an attack that converted only 10 percent of its chances a season ago as the club finished with a league-fewest 24 goals in 32 regular season games.

There are some very familiar faces back with the side again defensively, though, with William Yomby, Braeden Troyer and Alex Lee back to continue their sterling careers at the club. Maybe the biggest key to a resurgence, however, will be increased productivity from the side's midfield. If Yudai Imura can recapture his form from 2016, and players like Raul Gonzalez and Luiz Fernando can make progress in the attacking third, the Kickers could be a very different proposition from a season ago.

HEAD COACH



Leigh Cowlshaw



CONTACTS

President, Richmond Kickers Youth Soccer Club
Board of Directors
Rob Ukrop

General Manager
Shelley Sowers
ssowers@richmondkickers.com
(804) 644-5425, ext. 305

Director of Communications and Digital
Patrick Wood
pwood@richmondkickers.com
(804) 644-5425, ext. 316

Director of Soccer & Head Coach
Leigh Cowlshaw
lcowlshaw@richmondkickers.com
(804) 644-5425, ext. 303

Director, Business Development
Santiago Lucio
santiago@richmondkickers.com
(804) 644-5425, ext. 309

Team Operations Manager
Ray Smetanick
ray@richmondkickers.com

KEY PLAYERS



Troyer has become a mainstay at the back for the Kickers since his rookie season at the club in 2015, making 85 appearances over the past three years, including 28 a season ago. Set to turn 25 early in the season, Troyer's versatility allows him to act as a key piece for Head Coach Leigh Cowlshaw in both defense and midfield, and provides important continuity for a side that remained good defensively in a down year last season.



The Kickers looked to address their attacking issues last season with a stream of interesting additions, with the signing of Heviel Cordoves from longtime rival the Charleston Battery a signal of intent for the 2018 season. Cordoves' nine goals a season ago was a career-best for the Cuban striker, whose strength and touch in the final third should help Richmond's attacking edge.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/18	BST	v	RIC	2:00 p.m.
3/24	RIC	v	IND	5:00 p.m.
3/31	RIC	v	NC	5:00 p.m.
4/7	RIC	v	NY	5:00 p.m.
4/14	LOU	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
4/25	RIC	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
5/6	BST	v	RIC	5:00 p.m.
5/12	RIC	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
5/26	RIC	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/2	RIC	v	PGH	7:00 p.m.
6/9	RIC	v	CHS	7:00 p.m.
6/12	PEN	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
6/16	CIN	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
6/23	RIC	v	CLT	7:00 p.m.
6/30	RIC	v	NC	7:00 p.m.
7/9	PEN	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
7/13	NY	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
7/21	RIC	v	ATL	7:00 p.m.
7/28	CHS	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
8/1	PGH	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
8/4	RIC	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
8/12	TOR	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
8/15	OTT	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
8/18	RIC	v	PEN	7:00 p.m.
8/25	RIC	v	LOU	7:00 p.m.
8/28	NSH	v	RIC	8:30 p.m.
9/1	IND	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
9/8	CLT	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
9/15	RIC	v	OTT	7:00 p.m.
9/22	TBR	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
9/26	RIC	v	CIN	7:00 p.m.
9/29	NC	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.
10/6	RIC	v	NSH	7:00 p.m.
10/13	ATL	v	RIC	7:00 p.m.

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RIO GRANDE VALLEY FC

4500 N. 10th St., Suite 315
McAllen, TX 78504
www.rgvfc.com
P: (956) 972-1144

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Toros weren't able to replicate the success they had in the club's inaugural season, and as a result took a fall down the standings to miss out on the postseason in their first season at H-E-B Park. The new 10,000-seat venue proved more hospitable to visitors in 2017, with the Toros only able to claim five wins out of 16 games on its home turf.

Tasked with returning the club to playoff contention this year is Head Coach Gerson Echeverry, who arrived after the departure of Junior Gonzalez to join the LA Galaxy's coaching staff this offseason. The former Head Coach at Seton Hall University, Echeverry has close ties with former Toros and current Houston Dynamo Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera, and will be hoping to emulate the rising tide the Dynamo rode last year.

Echeverry will have some good pieces to work with returning to the squad, with defender Kai Greene and mid-fielder Todd Wharton both experienced veterans that performed well last year. Goalkeeper Nico Corti arrives with a solid pedigree from Stanford University, but maybe the biggest key for the Toros this season will be getting the club's attack back on track. After scoring only 20 goals at home a season ago, making H-E-B Park a far tougher place to play will need to be the priority this season.

HEAD COACH



Gerson Echeverry



CONTACTS

Owner
Alonzo Cantu

President
Bert Garcia
bgarcia@rgvipers.com

General Manager
Nick Kowba
nkowba@houstondynamo.com

Head Coach
Gerson Echeverry
gecheverry@houstondynamo.com

Director of Communications and Social Media
Anwar Chagollan
anwar@rgvfc.com
(956) 240-7633

KEY PLAYERS



Greene went under the radar in 2017, but put up some very impressive numbers for a Toros defense that had its struggles in the club's second season. Greene maintaining his level will be crucial to the side rebounding back into playoff contention this season, but the 24-year-old should be one to watch over the course of the season regardless as he's reunited with former Seton Hall University Head Coach Gerson Echeverry.



A former U.S. U20 international, Donovan hasn't had an ideal start to his professional career, but at just 22 years old has a big opportunity to get things back to the place many thought he could be after signing a Generation adidas contract with MLS ahead of the 2015 MLS SuperDraft. After making 20 appearances for Orlando City B a season ago, this could be the opportunity Donovan needs, and a strong season would be a major boost for the Toros as well.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/16	RGV	v	CST	8:30 p.m.
3/28	RGV	v	RNO	11:00 a.m.
3/31	RGV	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
4/7	COS	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
4/14	SEA	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
4/18	POR	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
4/25	RGV	v	OC	8:00 p.m.
5/9	FRS	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
5/12	RGV	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
5/19	RGV	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
5/23	RGV	v	LA	8:00 p.m.
6/4	SLC	v	RGV	9:00 p.m.
6/9	RGV	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
6/16	OKC	v	RGV	8:30 p.m.
6/23	RGV	v	PHX	8:30 p.m.
6/30	STL	v	RGV	8:30 p.m.
7/7	RGV	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
7/14	RGV	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
7/22	SPR	v	RGV	5:00 p.m.
7/28	RGV	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
8/4	LV	v	RGV	11:00 p.m.
8/11	SAC	v	RGV	11:00 p.m.
8/18	RGV	v	OKC	8:30 p.m.
8/22	LA	v	RGV	10:30 p.m.
8/25	OC	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
8/29	RGV	v	SA	8:00 p.m.
9/5	PHX	v	RGV	9:00 p.m.
9/8	RGV	v	SLC	8:30 p.m.
9/15	COS	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
9/22	RGV	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
9/26	RNO	v	RGV	10:00 p.m.
9/29	RGV	v	FRS	8:30 p.m.
10/6	TUL	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
10/13	SA	v	RGV	8:30 p.m.

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SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC

2421 17th St., Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95818
www.sacrepublicfc.com
P: (916) 307-6100

TEAM OUTLOOK

Sacramento had a down regular-season compared to its previously high standards in 2017, and aside from a notable upset of regular-season champion Real Monarchs SLC in the Western Conference Quarterfinals to earn the club's first road postseason win, and first playoff win at all since lifting the 2014 USL Cup, the side never quite seemed to find the consistency it needed on a game-in and game-out basis to contend.

Enter new Head Coach Simon Elliott, with the former New Zealand international earning promotion from within the club to replace the departing Paul Buckle. Elliott will have some good returning pieces to work with like midfielder and captain Jeremy Hall and winger Wilson Kneeshaw, but for the most-part Sacramento will have a very different look than the club that ended last season when it kicks off 2018.

One of the new faces is a familiar one, though, with Cameron Iwasa returning to the club to join newcomers Christian Eisselle in attack. Playmayer Villyan Bijev will look to provide service to both after joining Republic FC on a permanent deal after his loan stint from Portland a season ago, while goalkeeper Josh Cohen is set to be the man between the sticks in front of incoming defenders Mitchell Taintor (Toronto FC) and Cole Seiler (Vancouver Whitecaps FC). With expectations remaining high, the pressure to deliver will be on from the off for Elliott and his new crew.

HEAD COACH



Simon Elliott



CONTACTS

Chairman & CEO
Kevin Nagle

Executive Vice President
Joe Wagoner
jwagoner@sacrepublicfc.com

Chief Operating Officer
Ben Gumpert
bgumpert@sacrepublicfc.com

Head Coach
Simon Elliott

President
Warren Smith
wsmith@sacrepublicfc.com

General Manager
Todd Dunivant
tdunivant@sacrepublicfc.com

Vice President of Operations
Brian May
bmay@sacrepublicfc.com
(916) 416-1125

Communications Manager
Omar Gonzalez
ogonzalez@sacrepublicfc.com
(530) 601-6287

KEY PLAYERS



Iwasa returns to Sacramento after a season with Sporting Kansas City eager to return to the form that earned him USL All-League Second Team honors in 2016, when the local standout recorded 12 goals in 31 appearances to help Sacramento finish top of the Western Conference. Iwasa's experience, and ability to play wide as well as through the middle, should help Sacramento get back toward the top of the standings this season.



Sacramento needed a new face in goal this season after Evan Newton's departure to Cincinnati, and in Cohen picked up one of the league's top goalkeepers over the past two seasons. Republic FC fans know Cohen from his standout display two seasons ago that helped Orange County eliminate Sacramento in the postseason, but last season he reached new heights, claiming the USL Player of the Month award in September for Phoenix Rising FC.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	SAC	v	SA	10:30 p.m.
3/24	OC	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
3/31	RGV	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
4/7	SAC	v	SEA	10:30 p.m.
4/14	LV	v	SAC	11:00 p.m.
4/18	SAC	v	COS	10:30 p.m.
4/28	SAC	v	TUL	10:30 p.m.
5/2	POR	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
5/6	SEA	v	SAC	4:30 p.m.
5/12	SAC	v	RNO	10:30 p.m.
5/19	PHX	v	SAC	9:30 p.m.
5/29	SLC	v	SAC	9:00 p.m.
6/2	SAC	v	OC	11:00 p.m.
6/9	SAC	v	PHX	11:00 p.m.
6/13	FRS	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
6/16	SA	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
6/23	SAC	v	STL	11:00 p.m.
6/30	FRS	v	SAC	10:00 p.m.
7/7	SAC	v	SLC	11:00 p.m.
7/14	COS	v	SAC	8:00 p.m.
7/21	SAC	v	OKC	11:00 p.m.
7/27	SPR	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
8/4	SAC	v	FRS	11:00 p.m.
8/11	SAC	v	RGV	11:00 p.m.
8/15	STL	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
8/18	SAC	v	LA	11:00 p.m.
8/25	RNO	v	SAC	10:30 p.m.
9/8	SAC	v	SEA	10:30 p.m.
9/19	TUL	v	SAC	8:00 p.m.
9/23	OKC	v	SAC	7:00 p.m.
9/29	SAC	v	POR	10:30 p.m.
10/3	SAC	v	SPR	10:30 p.m.
10/6	LA	v	SAC	10:30 p.m.
10/13	SAC	v	LV	10:30 p.m.

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SAINT LOUIS FC

1 Soccer Park Road
Fenton, MO 63026
www.saintlouisfc.com
P: (636) 680-0999

TEAM OUTLOOK

After three consecutive seasons without a trip to the USL Cup Playoffs, Saint Louis FC had one of the biggest offseasons in the league as new Head Coach Anthony Pulis and returning General Manager Jeremy Alumbaugh looked to put together a side that will be a major contender in the Western Conference.

On paper, they certainly appear to have done a fine job of it, with the likes of forward Corey Hertzog, who earned back-to-back All-League selections for Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC the past two years, and former USL Cup champions Wal Fall and Sean Reynolds among the newcomers to the side. Hertzog and returning forward Christian Volesky will be joined by Pulis' former charge at Orlando City B Albert Dikwa in attack, with Kadeem Dacres and Kyle Greig also arriving to help provide additional firepower.

The side has also made some notable additions to join Tony Walls in midfield, with former Chicago Fire Homegrown signing Joey Calistri arriving after helping Tulsa Roughnecks FC make the postseason for the first time a season ago. Two-time USL Golden Glove goalkeeper Tomas Gomez also returned home from Rochester, although a preseason injury will delay his first appearance to mid-season, but despite that the expectations remain very high at Toyota Stadium - Saint Louis as the new season arrives.

HEAD COACH



Anthony Pulis



CONTACTS

- Owner
Jim Kavanaugh

General Manager
Jeremy Alumbaugh
jalumbaugh@saintlouisfc.com
(636) 680-0997

Communications Manager
Tyler Tetzlaff
ttetzlaff@saintlouisfc.com
(574) 344-0366
- President
Patrick Barry
pbarry@saintlouisfc.com
(636) 680-0997

Head Coach
Anthony Pulis
apulis@saintlouisfc.com
(636) 680-0997

Marketing & Graphic Design
Nick Dawes
ndawes@saintlouisfc.com
(317) 345-3632

Videography & Media Relations
John Venneman
jvenneman@saintlouisfc.com
(314) 440-4836

KEY PLAYERS



Corey Hertzog

Forward

With back-to-back USL All-League Second Team honors, Hertzog has become one of the most consistent strikers in the league, and Saint Louis is hoping his arrival will help propel an attack that can carry the side to the postseason for the first time. Hertzog has scored 40 regular-season goals in the USL over four seasons, including a standout year in 2012 when he led Wilmington Hammerheads FC to a USL Cup appearance, a goal that STLFC has clearly in its sights this year.



Wal Fall

Midfielder

Fall's arrival in Saint Louis was one of the other notable additions in the club's offseason shakeup of its roster, with the 2015 USL Cup-winner bringing a strong-willed mentality and outstanding workrate that's paired with some tremendous technical ability in the middle of the field. Fall makes life difficult for opponents, but can also create for himself and others in the attacking third, with nine goals and 31 key passes a season ago in Rochester.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/16	RGV	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
3/24	SA	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
3/31	STL	v	COS	5:00 p.m.
4/7	STL	v	FRS	8:30 p.m.
4/14	STL	v	LA	8:30 p.m.
4/21	OKC	v	STL	8:00 p.m.
4/28	SPR	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
5/5	STL	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
5/9	LA	v	STL	10:30 p.m.
5/12	OC	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
5/26	COS	v	STL	8:00 p.m.
5/30	STL	v	PHX	8:30 p.m.
6/2	STL	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
6/9	TUL	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
6/16	STL	v	SLC	8:30 p.m.
6/23	SAC	v	STL	11:00 p.m.
6/30	STL	v	RGV	8:30 p.m.
7/7	LV	v	STL	11:00 p.m.
7/14	STL	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
7/21	STL	v	OC	8:30 p.m.
7/28	RNO	v	STL	10:30 p.m.
8/4	STL	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
8/11	STL	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
8/15	STL	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
8/18	FRS	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
8/25	STL	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
8/29	SEA	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
9/1	POR	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
9/8	STL	v	RNO	8:30 p.m.
9/12	SLC	v	STL	7:00 p.m.
9/15	SPR	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
9/22	STL	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
9/29	PHX	v	STL	9:00 p.m.
10/13	STL	v	OKC	8:30 p.m.

 /STLFC1

 @saintlouisfc

 @saintlouisfc



SAN ANTONIO FC

5106 David Edwards Drive
San Antonio, TX 78233
www.sanantoniofc.com
P: (210) 444-5657

TEAM OUTLOOK

San Antonio FC took on much more strongly the form Head Coach Darren Powell was looking for in its second season in the league, and as a result the club emerged with both the best defensive record in the USL and a second-place finish in the Western Conference as Toyota Field became one of the toughest places to visit throughout the regular season.

The club has a strong core of players returning to build on that success, too, with reigning USL Goalkeeper of the Year Diego Restrepo among 16 players set to be back with the club this season. The absences are notable, though, with USL Defender of the Year Sebastien Ibeagha heading to New York City FC in Major League Soccer, and influential midfielders Michael Reed (Nashville SC) and Billy Forbes (Phoenix Rising FC) landing elsewhere in the USL.

SAFC appears to have found replacements for those gaps, however, with Ryan Felix arriving from the Rochester Rhinos to add to a center back group that sees both Cyprian Hedrick and Stephen McCarthy return, while the addition of Texas native Mikey Lopez into the club’s midfield adds another MLS veteran to the SAFC’s squad. The return to Texas of Sonny Guadarrama from his long career in Mexico will provide another player to watch as SAFC takes aim at picking up its first silverware.

HEAD COACH



Darren Powell



CONTACTS

Chairman & CEO
Julianna Hawn Holt

Head Coach
Darren Powell

Communications Coordinator
Luis Leyva
lleyva@attcenter.com
(830) 370-4369

Managing Director
Tim Holt
tholt@attcenter.com
(210) 552-7808

Communications Manager
Preston Petri
ppetri@attcenter.com
(210) 444-5738

Operations Manager
Jose Lizardo
jlizardo@attcenter.com
(210) 444-5195

KEY PLAYERS



Restrepo claimed USL Goalkeeper of the Year honors as he stepped into the spotlight after an early-season injury to Matt Cardone and shone the rest of the year. The veteran goalkeeper is now firmly established as SAFC’s No. 1, not only bringing strong shot-stopping abilities but also alert distribution that allowed San Antonio to use its speed effectively on numerous occasions last season.



Tyrpak’s return to Texas saw the attacking midfielder put together another sterling season in his debut for San Antonio FC in 2017, with six goals and three assists in 27 appearances for the club. With 25 goals over the past three seasons, the former Premier Development League MVP will play an important role as SAFC looks to remain at the top of the Western Conference this season.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	SAC	v	SA	10:30 p.m.
3/24	SA	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
3/31	LA	v	SA	6:30 p.m.
4/7	SA	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
4/14	SA	v	OC	8:30 p.m.
4/22	FRS	v	SA	9:00 p.m.
4/27	LV	v	SA	11:00 p.m.
5/5	SA	v	FRS	8:30 p.m.
5/12	RGV	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
5/19	SA	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
5/26	RNO	v	SA	10:30 p.m.
6/2	SA	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
6/16	SA	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
6/23	SA	v	RNO	8:30 p.m.
6/30	COS	v	SA	8:00 p.m.
7/4	SA	v	OKC	8:30 p.m.
7/14	OC	v	SA	10:00 p.m.
7/21	SA	v	SLC	8:30 p.m.
7/25	SA	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
7/28	OKC	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
8/4	SA	v	LA	8:30 p.m.
8/11	SEA	v	SA	10:00 p.m.
8/15	POR	v	SA	10:30 p.m.
8/22	PHX	v	SA	9:00 p.m.
8/25	SA	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
8/29	RGV	v	SA	8:00 p.m.
9/3	SLC	v	SA	9:00 p.m.
9/8	SA	v	PHX	8:30 p.m.
9/15	TUL	v	SA	8:00 p.m.
9/19	SPR	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
9/22	STL	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
9/29	SA	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
10/6	SA	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
10/13	SA	v	RGV	8:30 p.m.

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📷 @sanantoniofc



SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC 2

159 S. Jackson St., Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104
www.soundersfc.com/s2
P: (206) 512-1200

TEAM OUTLOOK

Seattle went through another middling performance in 2017, with the club's defense putting paid to hopes of a postseason berth as it conceded more than 60 goals to overshadow what was at times an entertaining attacking group within the club. The play of Zach Mathers a season ago was a major bright spot for the side, but wasn't enough to put S2 in serious playoff contention for a second consecutive season.

The new season brings a new home, however, with the club heading to Tacoma, Washington's historic Cheney Stadium in a move that should add to the club's support. John Hutchinson has been appointed Head Coach, succeeding Ezra Hendrickson, and will be hoping some of the club's impressive young talent can step to the fore and help the side get back into playoff contention. The Sounders organization has clear belief in players like defender Sam Rogers and midfielder Azriel Gonzalez, and both should play a major role at either end of the field.

There are some experienced heads back with the side again, too, with midfielders Francisco Narnon and Ray Saari both having logged more than 1,900 minutes a season ago, but it will be the play of the club's talented youngsters that will determine how far Hutchinson can lead S2 in an important season for the club overall.

HEAD COACH



John Hutchinson

CONTACTS

General Manager & President of Soccer
Garth Lagerwey

VP of Soccer & Sporting Director
Chris Henderson

Head Coach
John Hutchinson

Team Administration Director
Grant Clark
grantc@soundersfc.com
(206) 267-7803

Team Services Director
Vince Johnson
vincej@soundersfc.com
(206) 428-8500

Manager, Player Relations
Corey Sinsler
coreys@soundersfc.com

Senior Director of Communications
Alex Caulfield
alexc@soundersfc.com
(206) 512-1225

KEY PLAYERS



A former Academy standout, Rogers turned professional midway through the 2017 season with S2 after becoming one of the brighter players for the club over the first half of the season. The No. 5 selection in the 2017 USL 20 Under 20, the expectations are now high for a strong second season as the club makes the move to Tacoma, Wash., with one eye on putting himself in position to be part of the U.S. U20 National Team in 2019.



A former member of the Sounders Academy, Hinds elected to join S2 this offseason after two standout years at the University of Akron to begin his professional career. A former member of the U.S. U20 National Team, the 20-year-old recorded 11 goals and eight assists over two seasons and 44 appearances for the Zips, and will be a threat going forward for S2 this season.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/16	SEA	v	POR	10:00 p.m.
3/24	SPR	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
3/28	SEA	v	FRS	10:00 p.m.
4/7	SAC	v	SEA	10:30 p.m.
4/11	SEA	v	SLC	10:00 p.m.
4/14	SEA	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
4/21	COS	v	SEA	8:00 p.m.
5/6	SEA	v	SAC	4:30 p.m.
5/12	SEA	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
5/19	RNO	v	SEA	10:30 p.m.
6/2	FRS	v	SEA	10:00 p.m.
6/10	SEA	v	OKC	4:30 p.m.
6/16	LV	v	SEA	11:00 p.m.
7/1	LA	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
7/5	SEA	v	SPR	10:00 p.m.
7/8	SEA	v	RNO	4:30 p.m.
7/14	SLC	v	SEA	10:00 p.m.
7/20	PHX	v	SEA	10:00 p.m.
7/26	SEA	v	LV	10:00 p.m.
8/4	STL	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
8/11	SEA	v	SA	10:00 p.m.
8/19	POR	v	SEA	5:00 p.m.
8/25	OKC	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
8/29	SEA	v	STL	10:00 p.m.
9/2	SEA	v	OC	4:30 p.m.
9/5	SEA	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
9/8	SAC	v	SEA	10:30 p.m.
9/15	SEA	v	PHX	10:00 p.m.
9/22	RGV	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
9/29	SA	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
10/3	SEA	v	LA	10:00 p.m.
10/6	OC	v	SEA	10:00 p.m.
10/10	SEA	v	COS	10:00 p.m.
10/13	TUL	v	SEA	8:00 p.m.

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SWOPE PARK RANGERS

2020 Baltimore Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64108
www.sportingkc.com/rangers
P: (913) 387-3400

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Swope Park Rangers accomplished something no other side has in the USL's modern era in 2017, becoming the first club to record back-to-back appearances in the USL Cup. As had happened the year before, however, the Rangers fell short in the final thanks to Louisville City FC's late winner, and now face a year that will see the need for some major rebuilding from within.

Those offseason changes began on the sideline, with former Sporting Kansas City player Paulo Nagamura assuming the reins as Head Coach after serving as an assistant a season ago to now-Ottawa Fury FC Head Coach Nikola Popovic. Other offseason departures included Christian Duke, who had appeared in every game of the Rangers' first two seasons, and Nansel Selbol to Orange County SC, and Lebo Moloto to Nashville SC. After the progression of players like Felipe Hernandez a season ago, more SKC Academy graduates are likely to get their chance this season.

The side has done well to replace some of its departures, though, with Hadji Barry (Orlando City SC) and Tyler Blackwood (Sacramento Republic FC) coming aboard to provide additional attacking firepower and the young talent of former Columbus Crew SC midfielder Rodrigo Saravia adding to the potential the side possesses. The standards have been set high for the Rangers, and it will be interesting to see if they can live up to them for a third successive season.

HEAD COACH



Paulo Nagamura



CONTACTS

President
Jake Reid
jreid@sportingkc.com

Manager
Peter Vermes

Head Coach
Paulo Nagamura
pnagamura@sportingkc.com

Chief Communications Officer
Rob Thomson
rthomson@sportingkc.com
(913) 387-3405

Director of Operations
Dan Lolli
dlolli@sportingkc.com
(913) 912-7502

Communications & Digital Lead
Patrik Bergabo
pbergabo@sportingkc.com
(203) 300-9927

KEY PLAYERS



Defender

Maher had a stellar first season with the Rangers, making 29 appearances as the club earned its second consecutive Western Conference championship while winning a remarkable 60 of 71 tackles and more than 63 percent of both regular and aerial duels defensively. The 24-year-old's experience will be important again for a perennially young Rangers squad, but Maher should pass the 100-appearance mark this season after 81 matches in the past three years.



Forward

Barry's arrival from Orlando City SC after his stellar season on loan with OCB in 2017 could be one of the shrewder pickups of the offseason for the Rangers, with the 25-year-old having shown his ability to score consistently a season ago with 10 goals in 18 games in Orlando at the USL level. Swope Park will be hoping he's an adequate replacement for Nansel Selbol, who departed for Orange County, but given the team's approach there could be plenty of ammunition for Barry to thrive off this year.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	RNO	v	SPR	7:00 p.m.
3/24	SPR	v	SEA	8:30 p.m.
3/31	LV	v	SPR	11:00 p.m.
4/4	SPR	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
4/7	SA	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
4/14	SPR	v	OKC	8:30 p.m.
4/21	PHX	v	SPR	9:00 p.m.
4/28	SPR	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
5/5	OKC	v	SPR	8:00 p.m.
5/9	SLC	v	SPR	9:00 p.m.
5/19	RGV	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
5/26	SPR	v	PHX	8:30 p.m.
6/2	STL	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
6/9	COS	v	SPR	8:00 p.m.
6/13	SPR	v	SLC	8:30 p.m.
6/17	FRS	v	SPR	9:00 p.m.
6/24	SPR	v	LV	5:00 p.m.
7/5	SEA	v	SPR	10:00 p.m.
7/14	POR	v	SPR	10:00 p.m.
7/18	SPR	v	OC	8:30 p.m.
7/22	SPR	v	RGV	5:00 p.m.
7/27	SPR	v	SAC	8:30 p.m.
8/1	LA	v	SPR	10:30 p.m.
8/4	OC	v	SPR	10:00 p.m.
8/11	SPR	v	POR	8:30 p.m.
8/19	SPR	v	RNO	5:00 p.m.
8/25	SA	v	SPR	8:30 p.m.
8/29	SPR	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
9/9	SPR	v	FRS	5:00 p.m.
9/15	SPR	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
9/19	SPR	v	SA	8:30 p.m.
9/22	TUL	v	SPR	8:00 p.m.
10/3	SAC	v	SPR	10:30 p.m.
10/14	SPR	v	LA	5:00 p.m.

f /SwopeParkRangers

🐦 @swoperangers

📷 @swopeparkrangers

KEY PLAYERS

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Rowdies core group has been added to by a number of impressive additions, with forward Jochen Graf and winger Junior Flemmings both coming off impressive 2017 seasons for the Rochester Rhinos and New York Red Bulls II respectively. Goalkeeper Cody Mizell also returned for his second stint with the club and will battle Akira Fitzgerald to replace the departed Matt Pickens (Nashville SC), adding to the quality that makes the Rowdies one of the front-runners going into the new season.

HEAD COACH



CONTACTS

Marcel Schafer

Midfielder

Junior Flemmings

Midfielder

Flemmings was among the high-profile signings the Rowdies made this offseason, with the Jamaican winger having come off a tremendous year for the New York Red Bulls II after recovering from a torn ACL at the end of the 2016 season. Flemmings adds speed and a solid eye for goal to the Rowdies' attack, with the 22-year-old having notched 10 goals a season ago as he looks to get into the picture for the Jamaican National Team.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	NC	v	TBR	3:30 p.m.
3/24	TBR	v	BST	7:30 p.m.
3/31	LOU	v	TBR	7:30 p.m.
4/7	TBR	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
4/14	NY	v	TBR	4:00 p.m.
4/21	TBR	v	SLC	7:30 p.m.
4/28	CHS	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
5/4	PEN	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
5/12	RIC	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
5/19	TBR	v	PGH	7:30 p.m.
5/26	TOR	v	TBR	2:00 p.m.
6/2	TBR	v	ATL	7:30 p.m.
6/9	TBR	v	NSH	7:30 p.m.
6/22	TBR	v	PEN	7:30 p.m.
6/27	CLT	v	TBR	7:30 p.m.
7/4	TBR	v	TOR	6:00 p.m.
7/7	TBR	v	LOU	7:30 p.m.
7/14	CIN	v	TBR	7:30 p.m.
7/21	TBR	v	IND	7:30 p.m.
7/28	TBR	v	NY	7:30 p.m.
8/3	OTT	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
8/8	TBR	v	CHS	7:30 p.m.
8/11	TBR	v	NC	7:30 p.m.
8/22	PGH	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
8/25	TBR	v	CIN	7:30 p.m.
9/1	NC	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
9/8	CHS	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
9/15	TBR	v	ATL	7:30 p.m.
9/18	NSH	v	TBR	8:30 p.m.
9/22	TBR	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
9/26	IND	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
10/3	ATL	v	TBR	7:00 p.m.
10/6	TBR	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
10/14	BST	v	TBR	3:00 p.m.



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TORONTO FC II

85 Carl Hall Road
Toronto, ON M3K 2B9
www.torontofc.ca/tfcii
P: (416) 815-5400

TEAM OUTLOOK

Toronto FC II had another tough season that saw the side end bottom of the Eastern Conference standings, with an early-season winless streak that followed its season-opening victory quickly dropping the side out of contention for the postseason despite some positive performances here and there. In particular, earning a 1-1-1 split from Ontario rival Ottawa Fury FC was a bright spot, as were home victories against Louisville City FC and Charleston Battery, the sides that finished 1-2 in the Eastern Conference standings.

With a handful of current and now-former Canadian U20 internationals in the squad, the potential has always seemed to be present for TFC II, and it will now be up to Head Coach Laurent Guyot to try and get the best from his squad after the offseason move that sent former Head Coach Jason Bent into Greg Vanney's MLS coaching staff.

Among those who'll try to build on positive displays a season ago will be goalkeeper Angelo Cavalluzzo, while midfielder Luca Uccello and forward Shaan Hundal will remain focal points going forward for the side. Hundal in particular could be primed for a step forward after notching seven goals a season ago, but he'll need greater support from the likes of Ryan Telfer and greater consistency from Malik Johnson if Toronto is to put itself into the playoff race.

HEAD COACH



Laurent Guyot



CONTACTS

President
Bill Manning

General Manager
Tim Bezbatchenko
tbezbatchenko@torontofc.ca

Director of Team Operations
Corey Wray
cwrap@torontofc.ca
(416) 815-2422

Team Administrator
Jordan Custoreri
jcustoreri@torontofc.ca
(416) 509-4689

Community Manager
Adam Krueger
AKrueger@TorontoFC.ca
(416) 662-2295

Coordinator, Media Relations
Anthony Cozzetto
acozzetto@torontofc.ca
(416) 371-9398

KEY PLAYERS



The former Canadian U20 international continued his progression with TFC II a season ago, but now the pressure will be on to produce more and help the side succeed as Uccello looks to find new heights with his individual game. Goals like his exquisite chip against Ottawa Fury FC last July showed the ability Uccello has, but his passing and ball-winning ability will be key areas to focus on this season to reach the next level.



Hundaal came on strong in the second half of the season to notch a career-high seven goals in 22 appearances in 2017, and now the 18-year-old will likely be eyeing double-digit goals for the first time. Hundaal had a strong 27 percent conversion rate last season, and was named No. 4 in the 2017 USL 20 Under 20, which will add to the expectations for the young Canadian moving into his third season with the club.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	NY	v	TOR	1:00 p.m.
3/24	CLT	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
3/31	TOR	v	OTT	7:30 p.m.
4/7	TOR	v	PGH	2:00 p.m.
4/18	TOR	v	NC	8:00 p.m.
4/25	RIC	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
4/28	TOR	v	NY	6:30 p.m.
5/5	TOR	v	PGH	6:00 p.m.
5/9	TOR	v	PEN	11:00 a.m.
5/16	ATL	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
5/19	TOR	v	CLT	7:30 p.m.
5/26	TOR	v	TBR	2:00 p.m.
5/30	OTT	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
6/9	PEN	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
6/16	TOR	v	IND	7:00 p.m.
6/27	TOR	v	CIN	8:00 p.m.
7/1	TOR	v	CHS	8:00 p.m.
7/4	TBR	v	TOR	6:00 p.m.
7/18	LOU	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
7/21	NC	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
7/28	TOR	v	NSH	6:00 p.m.
8/4	PGH	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
8/12	TOR	v	RIC	7:30 p.m.
8/16	TOR	v	BST	7:00 p.m.
8/22	IND	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
8/31	TOR	v	ATL	8:00 p.m.
9/6	TOR	v	OTT	8:00 p.m.
9/12	NY	v	TOR	6:30 p.m.
9/16	CIN	v	TOR	4:30 p.m.
9/22	BST	v	TOR	3:00 p.m.
9/29	CHS	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.
10/5	TOR	v	LOU	8:00 p.m.
10/9	NSH	v	TOR	8:30 p.m.
10/13	PEN	v	TOR	7:00 p.m.

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TULSA ROUGHNECKS FC

201 N. Elgin Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74120
www.roughnecksfc.com
(918) 744-5998

TEAM OUTLOOK

Tulsa Roughnecks FC engineered a massive turnaround season in 2017, going from the worst record in the Western Conference to the USL Cup Playoffs for the first time as new Head Coach David Vaudreuil's new recruits and new approach paid major dividends for the side. Now as Vaudreuil enters his second year there will be more work needed to sustain that success after some key departures this offseason.

At the top of the list for the Roughnecks to find replacements for were playmaker Juan Pablo Caffa, who departed for expansion side Fresno FC after earning USL All-League Second Team honors in his first year in the league, and target forward Ian Svantesson, now with the Charleston Battery. To do this, Vaudreuil has dipped back into South America, picking up Uruguayan forward Jhon Pirez - a former signing with Chelsea FC - and 22-year-old Fernando Arce.

Of the key players set to return, goalkeeper Fabian Cerda is at the top of the list, with the shot-stopper having signed a new deal this offseason. Tulsa has also added some veteran USL experience, acquiring former Sacramento and Saint Louis midfielder Ivan Mirkovic, and another former Republic FC player in Enrique Montano. The trick will be pulling all the pieces together again, but after last season there will be few taking the Roughnecks lightly.

HEAD COACH



David Vaudreuil



CONTACTS

Owners
Dale Hubbard
Jeff Hubbard

General Manager
Brian Carroll
brian@tulsaroughnecksfc.com
(918) 574-8304

Director of Communications
Mark Versace
markv@tulsaroughnecksfc.com
(918) 574-8350

President, Business Operations
Mike Melega
mike@tulsaroughnecksfc.com
(918) 574-8301

Head Coach
David Vaudreuil
davidv@tulsaroughnecksfc.com
(918) 574-8390

Director of Operations
Kara Biden
kara@tulsaroughnecksfc.com
(918) 574-8313

Director of Social Media
Kyle Spinner
kyle@tulsaroughnecksfc.com
(918) 574-8386

KEY PLAYERS



The veteran Chilean goalkeeper brought stability to the Roughnecks' backline in his first season with the club, and in the offseason signed a two-year contract extension that will help provide continuity in an offseason that has seen numerous changes in front of him. Cerda tied for fourth in the USL with 90 saves a season ago, and seventh with nine shutouts, and will be crucial again if Tulsa is to make it back-to-back appearances in the USL Cup Playoffs.



Binns makes his return to the USL from the Red Stripe Premier League in Jamaica after a year that saw him thrive for the Reggae Boyz on the international stage. Binns made five appearances for Jamaica as it reached the final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup for a second consecutive time last summer, and should bring a solid presence to the center of midfield for the Roughnecks this season.

2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME		AWAY	TIME (ET)
3/17	OKC	v	TUL	8:00 p.m.
3/24	TUL	v	SLC	8:00 p.m.
3/31	TUL	v	OC	4:00 p.m.
4/4	TUL	v	POR	8:00 p.m.
4/18	FRS	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
4/28	SAC	v	TUL	10:30 p.m.
5/5	LV	v	TUL	11:00 p.m.
5/9	TUL	v	RNO	8:00 p.m.
5/12	TUL	v	PHX	8:00 p.m.
5/19	SA	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
5/26	TUL	v	OKC	8:00 p.m.
6/2	LA	v	TUL	10:30 p.m.
6/9	TUL	v	STL	8:30 p.m.
6/16	PHX	v	TUL	9:30 p.m.
6/23	OC	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
6/27	TUL	v	LA	8:30 p.m.
6/30	TUL	v	LV	8:30 p.m.
7/7	RGV	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
7/14	STL	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
7/21	COS	v	TUL	8:00 p.m.
7/28	TUL	v	FRS	8:30 p.m.
8/8	TUL	v	OKC	8:30 p.m.
8/11	TUL	v	COS	8:30 p.m.
8/18	SLC	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
8/25	STL	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
8/29	SPR	v	TUL	8:30 p.m.
9/5	SEA	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
9/9	POR	v	TUL	5:00 p.m.
9/15	TUL	v	SA	8:00 p.m.
9/19	TUL	v	SAC	8:00 p.m.
9/22	TUL	v	SPR	8:00 p.m.
9/29	RNO	v	TUL	10:00 p.m.
10/6	TUL	v	RGV	8:00 p.m.
10/13	TUL	v	SEA	8:00 p.m.

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2018 begins a new chapter for SELECT as the Official Ball Supplier of the USL. A league that is growing the game and developing some of the nation’s most exciting professional players.



“The Official Ball Supplier of the USL”
www.select-sport.com/us

2017 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

Scoring, attendance continued to surge in action-packed campaign

The 2017 USL season saw the league reach new heights on and off the field, with a remarkable season of action that saw Louisville City FC crowned champions also see the league continue to break records in the stands on its way to becoming one of the most respected professional leagues in North America.

As the USL enters its eighth season it has never been stronger, with six new additions set to join the action this season, its second under Division II professional sanctioning from the U.S. Soccer Federation. With four additional teams already announced for the 2019 season, the league’s growth continues apace as it brings professional soccer to new markets hungry for the game.

With the new season just around the corner, however, let’s take one final look back at what was a historic season for the league in 2017, which provided some memories that will last a lifetime for players, coaches, fans and staff in the USL family.

1. WELCOME TO THE FAMILY: The USL’s expansion continued throughout 2017, with Fresno FC and Las Vegas Lights FC set to join the previously-announced Nashville SC in the league for the 2018 season, and new arrivals in Birmingham, Alabama, Memphis, Tennessee, El Paso, Texas and the return of Austin, Texas currently scheduled for 2019.

2. RISING INFRASTRUCTURE Four new soccer-specific stadiums in Rio Grande Valley, Charlotte, Orange County and Phoenix continued the league’s commitment to developing infrastructure. More than half the teams in the USL now play in soccer-specific stadiums, with the next wave - including a new venue in Louisville - just around the corner.

3. TWO MILLION STRONG: The USL became the first second division in North American soccer history to surpassed two million in total attendance, a 33 percent rise from 2016. Led by FC Cincinnati, the USL had nine teams average more than 5,000 fans per game in 2017, more than double the number a season ago.

4. OPEN CUP MAGIC: FC Cincinnati’s run to the Semifinals of the 2017 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup was one of the biggest stories of the season as home victories against Columbus Crew SC and the Chicago Fire saw the club capture the nation’s imagination before its defeat to the New York Red Bulls II the final four.

5. MAKING THEIR MARK: The USL’s expansion class of 2017 made a major mark on the league’s landscape, with both Reno 1868 FC and the Tampa Bay Rowdies ending the regular season as contenders for USL Cup, and 1868 FC boasting USL Golden Boot winner Dane Kelly among those who set a single-season record with 75 goals.

6. INTERNATIONAL STANDOUTS: The arrival of the Rowdies also brought the arrival of former England international Joe Cole, who alongside former German international Marcel Schafer and the Phoenix Rising FC duo of Didier Drogba and Shaun Wright-Phillips brought a serious increase in star-power to the league.

7. REPRESENT THE FLAG: The USL featured its largest contingent of full internationals in 2017, including four members of the Jamaica side that reached the final of the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup, highlighting the rising level of talent across the league.

8. NEXT GENERATION: The USL also featured top young domestic talent from the U.S. and Canada, with nine players on the U.S. U20 National Team that reached the Quarterfinals of the 2017 FIFA U20 World Cup and six players in the U.S. squad for the 2017 FIFA U17 World Cup having earned their first professional minutes in the league.

9. HITTING THE MARK: With more than 1,300 goals scored in the regular season, players like Tampa Bay’s Marcel Schafer, Cincinnati’s Andrew Wiedeman and OKC’s Miguel Gonzalez found the national spotlight regularly thanks to world-class finishes that brought fans to their feet in the stands and through social media throughout the season.

10. LIFT THE CUP: In front of the second-highest attendance in USL Cup history of 14,456 fans at Slugger Field, Cameron Lancaster earned Louisville City FC its first championship in just its third season of action in a 1-0 victory against the Swope Park Rangers at Slugger Field. Lancaster’s 88th-minute winner gave the contest - aired nationally on ESPNU - a rousing finish, and capped another outstanding season for Head Coach James O’Connor’s squad.

2017 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2017 STANDINGS

Eastern Conference	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Louisville City FC	32	18	6	8	58	31	62
Charleston Battery	32	15	8	9	53	33	54
Tampa Bay Rowdies	32	14	7	11	50	35	53
Rochester Rhinos	32	14	7	11	36	28	53
Charlotte Independence	32	13	10	9	52	40	48
FC Cincinnati	32	12	10	10	46	48	46
New York Red Bulls II	32	13	14	5	57	60	44
Bethlehem Steel FC	32	12	12	8	46	45	44
Orlando City B	32	10	10	12	37	36	42
Ottawa Fury FC	32	8	10	14	42	41	38
Harrisburg City Islanders	32	10	15	7	28	47	37
Saint Louis FC	32	9	14	9	35	48	36
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	32	8	12	12	33	42	36
Richmond Kickers	32	8	16	8	24	36	32
Toronto FC II	32	6	19	7	27	54	25

Western Conference	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Real Monarchs SLC	32	20	5	7	59	31	67
San Antonio FC	32	17	4	11	45	24	62
Reno 1868 FC	32	17	7	8	75	39	59
Swope Park Rangers	32	17	8	7	55	37	58
Phoenix Rising FC	32	17	7	8	50	37	58
OKC Energy FC	32	14	11	7	46	41	49
Tulsa Roughnecks FC	32	14	14	4	46	49	46
Sacramento Republic FC	32	13	12	7	45	43	46
Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	32	12	12	8	55	51	44
Orange County SC	32	11	11	10	43	47	43
Rio Grande Valley FC	32	9	15	8	37	50	35
Seattle Sounders FC 2	32	9	19	4	42	61	31
LA Galaxy II	32	8	19	5	32	64	29
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	32	5	18	9	32	52	24
Portland Timbers 2	32	3	23	6	27	63	15

PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conference Quarterfinals Louisville City FC 4, Bethlehem Steel FC 0 Rochester Rhinos 2, Charlotte Independence 1, AET New York Red Bulls II 4, Charleston Battery 0 Tampa Bay Rowdies 3, FC Cincinnati 0	Western Conference Quarterfinals Sacramento Republic FC 1, Real Monarchs SLC 1 <i>(Sacramento wins 3-1 in a penalty shootout)</i> OKC Energy FC 1, Reno 1868 FC 0 San Antonio FC 2, Tulsa Roughnecks FC 1 Swope Park Rangers 1, Phoenix Rising FC 1 <i>(Swope Park wins 4-2 in a penalty shootout)</i>
Eastern Conference Semifinals Louisville City FC 1, Rochester Rhinos 0 New York Red Bulls II 2, Tampa Bay Rowdies 1, AET	Western Conference Semifinals Swope Park Rangers 1, Sacramento Republic FC 0 OKC Energy FC 1, San Antonio FC 1 <i>(OKC wins 4-1 in a penalty shootout)</i>
Eastern Conference Final Louisville City FC 1, New York Red Bulls II 1 <i>(Louisville wins 4-3 in a penalty shootout)</i>	Western Conference Final Swope Park Rangers 0, OKC Energy FC 0 <i>(Swope Park wins 7-6 in a penalty shootout)</i>

USL Cup
Louisville City FC 1, Swope Park Rangers 0

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - Diego Restrepo, San Antonio FC
D - Paco Craig, Louisville City FC
D - Harrison Delbridge, FC Cincinnati
D - Sebastien Ibeagha, San Antonio FC
D - Forrest Lasso, Charleston Battery
M - Marcel Schafer, Tampa Bay Rowdies
M - Sebastian Velasquez, Real Monarchs SLC
M - Chris Wehan, Reno 1868 FC
F - Chandler Hoffman, Real Monarchs SLC
F - Dane Kelly, Reno 1868 FC
F - Enzo Martinez, Charlotte Independence

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Earl Edwards Jr., Orlando City B
D - Ryan Felix, Rochester Rhinos
D - James Kiffe, Sacramento Republic FC
D - Taylor Mueller, Charleston Battery
D - Jimmy Ockford, Reno 1868 FC
M - Vincent Bezecourt, New York Red Bulls II
M - Billy Forbes, San Antonio FC
M - Justin Portillo, Charleston Battery
F - Juan Pablo Caffa, Tulsa Roughnecks FC
F - Corey Hertzog, Pittsburgh Riverhounds
F - Romario Williams, Charleston Battery

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Dane Kelly, Reno 1868 FC
Golden Boot: Dane Kelly, Reno 1868 FC
Assists Champion: Chris Wehan, Reno 1868 FC
Golden Glove: Tomas Gomez, Rochester Rhinos
Rookie of the Year: Chris Wehan, Reno 1868 FC
Goalkeeper of the Year: Diego Restrepo, San Antonio FC
Defender of the Year: Sebastien Ibeagha, San Antonio FC
Coach of the Year: Mark Briggs, Real Monarchs SLC

2016 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2016 STANDINGS

Eastern Conference	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
New York Red Bulls II	30	21	3	6	69	61	21
Louisville City FC	30	17	4	9	60	52	27
FC Cincinnati	30	16	6	8	56	41	27
Rochester Rhinos	30	13	5	12	51	38	25
Charlotte Independence	30	14	8	8	50	48	29
Charleston Battery	30	13	8	9	48	38	33
Richmond Kickers	30	12	9	9	45	33	26
Orlando City B	30	9	13	8	35	35	49
Wilmington Hammerheads FC	30	8	12	10	34	37	47
Harrisburg City Islanders	30	8	15	7	31	37	54
Bethlehem Steel FC	30	6	14	10	28	32	43
Toronto FC II	30	7	18	5	26	36	58
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	30	6	17	7	25	31	50
FC Montreal	30	7	21	2	23	35	57

Western Conference	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Sacramento Republic FC	30	14	6	10	52	43	27
Rio Grande Valley FC	30	14	7	9	51	47	24
Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	30	14	9	7	49	37	27
Swope Park Rangers	30	14	10	6	48	45	36
LA Galaxy II	30	12	7	11	47	52	42
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	30	12	9	9	45	44	44
OKC Energy FC	30	10	7	13	43	32	30
Orange County SC	30	12	14	4	40	39	41
Portland Timbers 2	30	12	14	4	40	38	42
San Antonio FC	30	10	12	8	38	36	36
Real Monarchs SLC	30	10	14	6	36	31	41
Seattle Sounders FC 2	30	9	13	8	35	35	50
Arizona United SC	30	9	14	7	34	40	46
Saint Louis FC	30	8	12	10	34	42	44
Tulsa Roughnecks FC	30	5	21	4	19	25	64

PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conference Quarterfinals
Rochester Rhinos 3, Charlotte Independence 1
New York Red Bulls II 4, Orlando City B 0
Charleston Battery 2, FC Cincinnati 1
Louisville City FC 2, Richmond Kickers 0 (OT)

Eastern Conference Semifinals
New York Red Bulls II 3, Rochester Rhinos 3
(New York wins 5-4 in a penalty shootout)
Louisville City FC 1, Charleston Battery 0

Eastern Conference Final
New York Red Bulls II 1, Louisville City FC 1
(New York wins 4-3 in a penalty shootout)

Western Conference Quarterfinals
Swope Park Rangers 3, LA Galaxy II 0
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2 2, Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC 1
OKC Energy FC 3, Rio Grande Valley FC 2
Orange County Blues FC 0, Sacramento Republic FC 0
(Orange County wins 5-4 in a penalty shootout)

Western Conference Semifinals
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2 3, OKC Energy FC 2
Swope Park Rangers 2, Orange County Blues FC 1 (OT)

Western Conference Final
Swope Park Rangers 3, No. 6 Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2 0

USL Cup Final, Presented by Nike
New York Red Bulls II 5, Swope Park Rangers 1

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - Mitch Hildebrandt, FC Cincinnati
D - Harrison Delbridge, FC Cincinnati
D - Amer Didic, Swope Park Rangers
D - Aaron Long, New York Red Bulls II
D - Hugh Roberts, Richmond Kickers
M - Danny Barrera, Sacramento Republic FC
M - Villyan Bijev, Portland Timbers 2
M - Enzo Martinez, Charlotte Independence
F - Brandon Allen, New York Red Bulls II
F - Jack McBean, LA Galaxy II
F - Sean Okoli, FC Cincinnati

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Devala Gorrick, Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC
D - Zach Carroll, New York Red Bulls II
D - Joe Farrell, Rochester Rhinos
D - Bruno Perone, Wilmington Hammerheads FC
D - Josh Suggs, Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC
M - Jose Barril, Harrisburg City Islanders
M - Kenardo Forbes, Rochester Rhinos
M - Yudai Imura, Richmond Kickers
F - Irvin Herrera, Saint Louis FC
F - Corey Hertzog, Pittsburgh Riverhounds
F - Cameron Iwasa, Sacramento Republic FC

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Sean Okoli, FC Cincinnati
Scoring Champion: Sean Okoli, FC Cincinnati
Golden Boot: Sean Okoli, FC Cincinnati
Assists Champion: Villyan Bijev, Portland Timbers 2
Goals-Against Average Champion: Callum Irving, Rio Grande Valley FC
Rookie of the Year: Brandon Allen, New York Red Bulls II
Goalkeeper of the Year: Mitch Hildebrandt, FC Cincinnati
Defender of the Year: Aaron Long, New York Red Bulls II
Coach of the Year: John Wolyniec, New York Red Bulls II

2015 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2015 STANDINGS

Eastern Conference	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Rochester Rhinos	28	17	1	10	40	15	61
Louisville City FC	28	14	8	6	55	34	48
Charleston Battery	28	12	6	10	43	28	46
New York Red Bulls II	28	12	10	6	46	45	42
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	28	11	9	8	53	42	41
Richmond Kickers	28	10	7	11	41	35	41
Charlotte Independence	28	10	8	10	38	35	40
Harrisburg City Islanders	28	11	11	6	49	53	39
Saint Louis FC	28	8	11	9	30	40	33
FC Montreal	28	8	16	4	32	46	28
Toronto FC II	28	6	17	5	26	52	23
Wilmington Hammerheads FC	28	2	15	10	22	42	19

Western Conference	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Orange County Blues FC	28	14	9	5	38	34	47
OKC Energy FC	28	13	7	8	44	36	47
Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	28	14	10	4	53	35	46
Sacramento Republic FC	28	13	8	7	43	31	46
LA Galaxy II	28	14	11	3	39	31	45
Seattle Sounders FC 2	28	13	12	3	45	42	42
Tulsa Roughnecks FC	28	11	11	6	49	46	39
Portland Timbers 2	28	11	15	2	38	45	35
Austin Aztex	28	10	15	3	32	41	33
Arizona United SC	28	10	16	2	31	55	32
Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2	28	8	14	6	39	53	30
Real Monarchs SLC	28	7	8	13	32	42	29
Arizona United SC	30	9	14	7	34	40	46

PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conference Quarterfinals New York 4, Pittsburgh 2 (OT) Charleston 2, Richmond 1 (OT)	Western Conference Quarterfinals Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 0 Colorado Springs 2, Seattle 0
Eastern Conference Semifinals Rochester 2, New York 0 Louisville 2, Charleston 0 (OT)	Western Conference Semifinals Los Angeles 2, Orange County 0 Oklahoma City 2, Colorado Springs 2 (OT) <i>(Oklahoma City wins 4-3 in a penalty shootout)</i>
Eastern Conference Final Rochester 1, Louisville 0	Western Conference Final Los Angeles 2, Oklahoma City 1

USL Championship
Rochester 2, Los Angeles 1 (OT)

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - Brandon Miller, Rochester
D - Bryan Burke, Louisville
D - Shawn Ferguson, Charleston
D - Daniel Steres, Los Angeles
D - Grant Van De Casteele, Rochester
M - Luke Vercollone, Colorado Springs
M - Rob Vincent, Pittsburgh
M - Tony Walls, Rochester
F - Matt Fondy, Louisville
F - Danny König, Oklahoma City
F - Long Tan, Arizona

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Odisnel Cooper, Charleston
D - Mickey Daly, Sacramento
D - Brenton Griffiths, Orange County
D - Mechack Jerome, Charlotte
D - Nemanja Vukovic, Sacramento
M - Gareth Evans, Oklahoma City
M - Kevin Kerr, Pittsburgh
M - Rodrigo Lopez, Sacramento
F - Kharlton Belmar, Portland
F - Dane Kelly, Charleston
F - Jason Yeisley, Richmond

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Matt Fondy, Louisville
Scoring Champion: Matt Fondy, Louisville
Golden Boot: Matt Fondy, Louisville
Assists Champion: Bryan Burke, Louisville
Goals-Against Average Champion: Brandon Miller, Rochester
Rookie of the Year: Kharlton Belmar, Portland Timbers 2
Goalkeeper of the Year: Brandon Miller, Rochester
Defender of the Year: Bryan Burke, Louisville
Coach of the Year: Bob Lilley, Rochester

2014 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2014 STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Orlando City SC	28	19	4	5	56	24	62
Sacramento Republic FC	28	17	7	4	49	28	55
LA Galaxy II	28	15	7	6	54	38	51
Richmond Kickers	28	13	3	12	53	28	51
Charleston Battery	28	11	9	8	36	31	41
Rochester Rhinos	28	10	10	8	29	25	38
Wilmington Hammerheads FC	28	9	8	11	35	33	38
Harrisburg City Islanders	28	10	7	11	45	46	37
Arizona United SC*	28	10	13	5	32	47	33
OKC Energy FC	28	9	14	5	32	37	32
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	28	9	14	5	35	49	32
Charlotte Eagles	28	9	15	4	33	40	31
Orange County Blues FC	28	9	18	1	31	54	28
Dayton Dutch Lions FC	28	6	18	4	28	63	22

* - Arizona was deducted two points for use of an ineligible player

PLAYOFFS

Quarterfinals

Harrisburg 1, Orlando 0
Richmond 2, Charleston 1 (OT)
Sacramento 4, Wilmington 1
Los Angeles 2, Rochester 1

Semifinals

Harrisburg 3, Richmond 2
Sacramento 3, Los Angeles 2

Final

Sacramento 2, Harrisburg 0

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - John McCarthy, Rochester
D - Luke Boden, Orlando
D - Ashani Fairclough, Wilmington
D - Nemanja Vukovic, Sacramento
D - William Yomby, Richmond
M - George Davis IV, Richmond
M - Rodrigo Lopez, Sacramento
M - Kevin Molino, Orlando
F - Matthew Delicate, Richmond
F - Chandler Hoffman, Los Angeles
F - Dane Kelly, Charleston

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Kevin Molino, Orlando
Scoring Champion: Kevin Molino, Orlando
Golden Boot: Kevin Molino, Orlando
Assists Champion: Kevin Molino, Orlando
Goals-Against Average Champion: John McCarthy, Rochester
Rookie of the Year: John McCarthy, Rochester
Goalkeeper of the Year: John McCarthy, Rochester
Defender of the Year: Nemanja Vukovic, Sacramento
Coach of the Year: Preki, Sacramento

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Joe Willis, Richmond
D - Matt Bahner, Harrisburg
D - Gareth Evans, Oklahoma City
D - Brad Rusin, Orlando
D - Daniel Steres, Los Angeles
M - Andre Auras, Los Angeles
M - Jorge Herrera, Charlotte
M - Allan Russell, Orange County
F - JC Banks, Rochester
F - Aaron Schoenfeld, Dayton
F - Long Tan, Arizona

2013 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2013 STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Richmond Kickers	26	15	1	10	51	24	55
Orlando City SC	26	16	4	6	54	26	54
Charleston Battery	26	13	7	6	48	29	45
Harrisburg City Islanders	26	14	10	2	55	39	44
Charlotte Eagles	26	10	5	11	44	39	41
Los Angeles Blues	26	11	8	7	52	37	40
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	26	10	8	8	36	33	38
Dayton Dutch Lions FC	26	10	7	9	43	46	37
Wilmington Hammerheads FC*	26	11	11	4	35	39	36
VSI Tampa Bay FC	26	9	12	5	41	39	32
Rochester Rhinos	26	6	10	10	25	39	28
Phoenix FC	26	5	14	7	28	41	22
Antigua Barracuda FC	26	0	26	0	11	91	0

* - Wilmington was deducted one point for use of an ineligible player

PLAYOFFS

Quarterfinals

Richmond 1, Dayton 0
Charlotte 3, Harrisburg 1
Orlando 5, Pittsburgh 0
Charleston 2, Los Angeles 1

Semifinals

Charlotte 2, Richmond 1
Orlando 3, Charleston 2

Final

Orlando 7, Charlotte 4

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - Andrew Dykstra, Richmond
D - Colin Falvey, Charleston
D - Henry Kalungi, Richmond
D - Rob Valentino, Orlando
D - William Yomby, Richmond
M - Matt Dallman, Pittsburgh
M - Joseph Ngwenya, Richmond
M - Jamie Watson, Orlando
F - Jose Angulo, Pittsburgh
F - Dom Dwyer, Orlando
F - Sainey Touray, Harrisburg

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Jose Angulo, Pittsburgh
Scoring Champion: Jose Angulo, Pittsburgh
Golden Boot: Dom Dwyer, Orlando
Jose Angulo, Pittsburgh
Assists Champion: Matt Dallman, Pittsburgh
Goals-Against Average Champion: Andrew Dykstra, Richmond
Rookie of the Year: Nate Robinson, Richmond
Goalkeeper of the Year: Andrew Dkystra, Richmond
Defender of the Year: Colin Falvey, Charleston
Coach of the Year: Leigh Cowlishaw

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Nick Noble, Harrisburg
D - Danny Earls, Rochester
D - Josh Rife, Tampa Bay
D - Andrew Marshall, Pittsburgh
D - Daniel Steres, Wilmington
M - Micheal Azira, Charleston
M - George Davis IV, Los Angeles
M - Jorge Herrera, Charlotte
F - Gibson Bardsley, Dayton
F - Matt Fondy, Los Angeles
F - Lucky Mkosana, Harrisburg

2012 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2012 STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Orlando City SC	24	17	1	6	50	18	57
Rochester Rhinos	24	12	7	5	27	23	41
Charleston Battery	24	12	10	2	36	26	38
Richmond Kickers	24	11	8	5	31	27	38
Wilmington Hammerheads FC	24	10	7	7	34	32	37
Harrisburg City Islanders	24	10	7	7	34	29	37
Charlotte Eagles	24	11	10	3	34	26	36
Los Angeles Blues	24	9	12	3	26	29	30
Dayton Dutch Lions FC	24	4	10	10	20	29	22
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	24	4	15	5	20	39	17
Antigua Barracuda FC	24	5	18	1	15	50	16

PLAYOFFS

Quarterfinals

Charleston 2, Harrisburg 1
Wilmington 3, Richmond 2

Semifinals

Rochester 1, Charleston 1
(Charleston wins 4-3 in a penalty shootout)
Wilmington 4, Orlando 3

Final

Charleston 1, Wilmington 0

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Kevin Molino, Orlando
Scoring Champion: Dennis Chin, Orlando
Golden Boot: Dennis Chin, Orlando
Assists Champion: JC Banks, Rochester
Goals-Against Average Champion: Miguel Gallardo, Orlando
Rookie of the Year: Jose Cuevas, Charleston
Goalkeeper of the Year: Kristian Nicht, Rochester
Defender of the Year: Troy Roberts, Rochester
Coach of the Year: Adrian Heath, Orlando

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - Kristian Nicht, Rochester
D - Josh Rife, Charlotte
D - Troy Roberts, Rochester
D - Rob Valentino, Orlando
D - William Yomby, Richmond
M - JC Banks, Rochester
M - Kevin Molino, Orlando
M - Nicki Paterson, Charleston
F - Dennis Chin, Orlando
F - Jose Cuevas, Charleston
F - Corey Hertzog, Wilmington

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Miguel Gallardo, Orlando
D - Keiron Bernard, Orlando
D - Erlys Garcia, Los Angeles
D - Quinton Griffith, Antigua
D - Mechack Jerome, Orlando
M - Joel DeLass, Dayton
M - Matt Kassell, Pittsburgh
M - Bryce Taylor, Wilmington
F - Bright Dike, Los Angeles
F - Matt Luzunaris, Orlando
F - Lucky Mkosana, Harrisburg

2011 USL SEASON IN REVIEW

2011 STANDINGS

American Division	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Orlando City SC	24	15	3	6	36	16	51
Wilmington Hammerheads FC	24	14	7	3	42	30	45
Richmond Kickers	24	12	7	5	35	21	41
Charleston Battery	24	10	9	5	24	25	35
Charlotte Eagles	24	9	9	6	32	29	33
Antigua Barracuda FC	24	9	13	2	32	32	29
National Division	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Rochester Rhinos	24	12	8	4	31	23	40
Harrisburg City Islanders	24	10	7	7	37	30	37
Los Angeles Blues	24	8	7	9	34	29	33
Pittsburgh Riverhounds	24	7	11	6	23	32	27
F.C. New York	24	6	11	7	27	37	25
Dayton Dutch Lions FC	24	2	16	6	21	54	12

PLAYOFFS

American Division Semifinals

Orlando 3, Charleston 1
Wilmington 0, Richmond 0
(Richmond wins 5-4 in a penalty shootout)

National Division Semifinals

Rochester 4, Pittsburgh 0
Harrisburg 3, Los Angeles 2

National Division Final

Harrisburg 2, Rochester 1

American Division Final

Orlando 3, Richmond 0

USL Championship

Orlando 2, Harrisburg 2
(Orlando wins 3-2 in a penalty shootout)

USL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Yordany Alvarez, Orlando
Scoring Champion: Jhonny Arteaga, New York
Golden Boot: Jhonny Arteaga, New York
Assists Champion: Tadeu Terra, New York
Goals-Against Average Champion: Miguel Gallardo, Orlando
Rookie of the Year: Luke Mulholland, Wilmington
Goalkeeper of the Year: Miguel Gallardo, Orlando
Defender of the Year: Rob Valentino, Orlando
Coach of the Year: Adrian Heath, Orlando

USL ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM

GK - Miguel Gallardo, Orlando
D - Nelson Akwari, Los Angeles
D - Gareth Evans, Wilmington
D - Rob Valentino, Orlando
D - William Yomby, Richmond
M - Yordany Alvarez, Orlando
M - Jorge Herrera, Charlotte
M - Luke Mulholland, Wilmington
F - Jhonny Arteaga, New York
F - Matt Delicate, Richmond
F - Max Griffin, Orlando

USL ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM

GK - Neal Kitson, Rochester
D - George Dublin, Antigua
D - Colin Falvey, Charleston
D - Kyle Hoffer, New York
D - Troy Roberts, Rochester
M - Lewis Neal, Orlando
M - Lawson Robinson, Antigua
M - Jamie Watson, Orlando
F - Jose Angulo, Harrisburg
F - George Davis IV, Dayton
F - Jason Yeisley, Pittsburgh

About the U.S. Soccer Federation

As the governing body of soccer in all its forms in the United States, U.S. Soccer has played an integral part in charting the course for the sport in the USA for 100 years. In that time, the Federation’s mission statement has been clear and simple: to make soccer, in all its forms, a preeminent sport in the United States and to continue the development of soccer at all recreational and competitive levels.

From a viewership standpoint, nearly 20 million Americans watched the Round of 16 match at the 2010 FIFA World Cup on television. Soccer-specific stadiums have opened their doors to resounding success. The National Training Center in Carson, Calif., has been a valuable facility for all levels, including the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, which kicked off at the state-of-the-art complex with much fanfare in 2007.

In 1989, the U.S. Men’s National Team had not played in a World Cup in 40 years and the U.S. Women’s program was in its early stages. U.S. Soccer was playing games in small stadiums that did not reach capacity, few matches were televised, soccer-specific stadiums were yet to be created and there were no high-level professional outdoor leagues.

Since that time, the state of U.S. Soccer has evolved significantly. The U.S. MNT has played in seven consecutive FIFA World Cups and advanced to the quarterfinals at the 2002 event. U.S. Soccer is a world leader in women’s soccer at every level, and the U.S. WNT has won three FIFA Women’s World Cups and four Olympic Gold Medals - an accomplishment that no other country on the men’s and women’s side has reached in Olympic competition. The United States has also hosted three World Cups with the support of its members and strong organizational abilities.

From a coaching standpoint in the United States, more classes are continually being offered around the country, and the number of licensed, well-educated trainers and managers is larger than ever. The education level among coaches has been tailored to match the expanding pool of talent in the U.S.

U.S. Soccer continues to set positive trends for referees in CONCACAF, with reinvigorated focus on education and training, including the realm of professional referees. In 2012, U.S. Soccer and MLS created the Professional Referee Organization (PRO) to manage the referee program in professional soccer leagues in the U.S. and Canada. The creation of PRO has been designed to increase the quality of officiating in U.S. and Canadian professional leagues, develop more professional quality officials at a younger age and develop officials who will represent the United States and Canada in FIFA competitions.

Participation in soccer continues at high levels among both youth and adults, with more than 4.3 million registered players among the 24 million participants in the sport, according to the FIFA Big Count.

For more information on all U.S. Soccer programs, visit the official organization website at www.ussoccer.com.

FEDERATION DIRECTORIES

FEDERATION DIRECTORIES
U.S. Soccer Federation
1801 S. Prairie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616
www.ussoccer.com
P: (312) 808-1300 | F: (312) 808-1301

Administration
President - Carlos Cordeiro
Executive Vice President - TBD
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary General - Dan Flynn

Communications
Director of Communications - Neil Bueth
Men’s National Team Press Officer - Michael Kammarman
Women’s National Team Press Officer - Aaron Heifetz
Communications Coordinator - Elizabeth Sanchez

Canadian Soccer Association
237 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa, ON K2P 1R2
www.canadasoccer.com
P: (613) 237-7678 | F: (613) 237-1516

Administration
General Secretary - Peter Montopoli
Deputy General Secretary - Joe Guest

Communications
Director of Communications - Richard Scott
Public Relations Manager - Carrie Croft
Digital & Corporate Communications Manager - Brad Fougere

2017 LAMAR HUNT U.S. OPEN CUP REVIEW

Cincinnati Makes Historic Run to Tournament Semifinals

There have been historic runs by USL clubs in the history of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, but it hadn’t been since 2011 that one of the league’s clubs had advanced as far as the tournament’s semifinals until FC Cincinnati caught the imagination of the country on a run that further lifted the club in the national consciousness over the past summer.

In fact, behind the goal-scoring feats of Djiby Fall and the goalkeeping of Mitch Hildebrandt, say nothing of the contributions that came in all areas of the field over a remarkable five-game run, Cincinnati brought a major spotlight to the historic tournament that saw national television all the way to its conclusion.

And yet, the tournament started slowly for the club. A 1-0 extra time victory thanks to Fall’s 117th minute goal got FCC on its way against amateur side AFC Cleveland in its first, but not last, game against in-state opposition.

A more familiar foe awaited in the Third Round with Louisville City FC the visitor to Nippert Stadium, and once again Fall proved the difference-maker for the hosts. The Senegalese striker’s 49th minute finish, knocking home the rebound after Harrison Delbridge’s header had been denied, gave FCC victory over its River Cities Cup rival, and set up the must-see game of the Fourth Round. Columbus Crew SC came to Nippert Stadium on June 14, and were welcomed by a crowd of 30,160 for the first competitive meeting between the two Ohio clubs. With the game scoreless at the halftime break, Fall’s second-effort header in the 64th minute that looped past Crew SC goalkeeper Zack Steffen into the right corner brought the stadium to its feet. Hildebrandt then kept the fans there, as his five-save shutout earned a historic win in front of a historic crowd.

FCC’s victory against Columbus was one thing, but two weeks later the national spotlight arrived as the visit of the Chicago Fire brought ESPN’s cameras to arguably the most dramatic game of the tournament. With 32,287 fans, Cincinnati went toe-to-toe with a Fire side that would finish third in the MLS Eastern Conference at the end of the season, and while Hildebrandt ended the night with 10 saves in regulation and overtime, Cincinnati could have taken victory itself if not for a seven-save display by the Fire’s Matt Lampson.

With the game scoreless after 120 minutes, however, the game was settled from the penalty spots, and Hildebrandt bested his opposite number. After Aodhan Quinn missed for FCC to open the shootout, Hildebrandt made back-to-back saves to deny MLS Golden Boot-winner Nemanja Nikolic and Arturo Alvarez, giving Cincinnati a 1-0 lead behind Josu’s goal to open the second round. Delbridge and Jimmy McLaughlin then kept their cool from the spot to make it 3-1 in the fourth round before Hildebrandt’s third save of the shootout, this time on Juninho, kicked off a celebration that went well into the night.

There was drama of a different kind awaiting FCC in the Quarterfinals as it visited Miami FC, when torrential rain and lightning on the night of July 12 saw the game abandoned before a ball was kicked. Knowing victory would result in a home tie against the New York Red Bulls when the teams re-convened on August 2, Cincinnati’s stellar defensive play continued as it recorded a fifth consecutive shutout in the tournament to allow Fall’s fourth goal of the tournament, a near-post finish in the 68th minute, to carry the day.

Having equaled the Richmond Kickers’ 2011 feat in reaching the Semifinals, FCC had its sights set on becoming the first lower-division club since the USL’s Charleston Battery in 2008 to reach the Final. The second-highest attendance in Open Cup history was there to cheer them on, with a sellout crowd of 33,250 on hand, and despite Fall’s absence due to suspension, when Corben Bone gave the hosts the lead with a spectacular finish in the 31st minute the belief ran through the stands.

Those thoughts were only amplified in the 62nd minute as Cincinnati native Austin Berry gave FCC a two-goal lead with a powerful header from Kenney Walker’s corner, but then, in an instant, the magic ran out. Two goals in four minutes by Gonzalo Veron and Bradley Wright-Phillips pulled New York level in dramatic fashion, and while FCC held on to force extra time, Wright-Phillips’ second goal of the night in the 101st minute proved the winner in a 3-2 thriller.

While the defeat stung for the hosts - who had been 15 minutes from another famous victory - the impression FCC left on those they faced, and the fans they won nationwide, was unforgettable.

“A second-division team in the semifinal of the Open Cup - that’s awesome,” said Red Bulls captain Sacha Kljestan. “This is so huge for soccer in our country, big for the club and big for the fans too. This is what the Open Cup is all about.”

RULES & REGULATIONS

NEW RULES STARTING IN 2018

USL regular-season games will now be considered official only upon reaching the 70th minute of the contest, with the rule having previously allowed games to be declared official after the completion of the first half. All games in the USL Cup Playoffs will continue to be played to conclusion.

Contests in the USL Cup Playoffs will now allow a fourth substitute to be used in extra time. The fourth substitution must occur prior to the final whistle in extra time and will not be permitted in the break between the end of the contest and a penalty shootout.

Teams will be permitted to trade or sell international roster spots within the league for the duration of a season. Following the conclusion of the season, all rosters will reset to seven international roster spots per team.

The league has introduced an Injured Reserve position to its rosters, allowing clubs to retain a player who has suffered a medically-verified season-ending injury without using a roster position. Each club will have one available IR spot for the season.

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Disciplinary Powers

The USL shall have the authority to suspend, fine or disqualify players, team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the USL. The USL hands down any final decision on a breach of rules.

The USL Disciplinary Committee

The USL Disciplinary Committee is charged with the responsibility to enforce the playing rules and allow for a competitive, but fair, environment for all teams to compete against each other. A panel of at least three USL staff members, consisting of the League Director, Operations Director and Referee Services Coordinator, shall conduct the review of critical disciplinary issues. An alternate League Director may be utilized in the event any of the three members above are unable to participate.

Disciplinary Process

USL disciplinary issues (including all send-offs) reported by the Referee shall be reviewed by the USL Disciplinary Committee via match videos, official reports, individual accounts and other pertinent information. Depending on the timeliness of the reports and match videos, the Committee will make every effort to rule on all cases from the preceding week and issue these rulings by Monday of each week.

Every disciplinary incident shall be reviewed to ensure that players are not over-penalized, either by the number of matches served or fines. The USL has the authority and reserves the right to levy additional suspensions or fines (above the minimum for that type of infraction), if a review of the incident warrants such action.

The USL Disciplinary Committee may act in contravention of a referee’s ruling on the field when a play, or the consequences of a play, are of an egregious or exceptional nature. The USL Disciplinary Committee is the body that deems whether or not an incident undergoes a formal review by the Independent Disciplinary Panel.

Independent Disciplinary Panel

The Independent Disciplinary Panel is comprised of three outside members, consisting of a former professional coach, a former professional referee and a former professional player. This panel is charged with the responsibility of reviewing any disciplinary matters deemed worthy of increased disciplinary measures (i.e. escalating a yellow card to a red card). Any disciplinary decisions rendered by the Independent Disciplinary Panel will be final and cannot be appealed. A unanimous decision must be reached in order for any discipline to be escalated by the panel.

Disparaging Comments

Players, coaches and team officials may not disparage referees, referee decisions, league disciplinary decisions or the league in team press releases, press conferences or in quotes provided to the media which includes social media platforms. Fines will be levied accordingly based on the nature, severity and context of the comments made. Suspensions could also be levied for very serious comments.

Serving Suspensions During the Regular Season

Any player and/or coach sent off/dismissed during a regular-season game will be fined (min. \$100 for player and min. \$500 for coaches) and will be suspended from the next league regular-season game. A person who serves as both player and coach may not return as a player or a coach until the suspension has been served. The USL Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to assess further or limited penalties depending on the severity of the incident.

The penalties set forth shall apply to all cards awarded to a player in any USL match. For the purposes of determining accumulations and game suspensions, any games that count as part of a team’s official league schedule shall be utilized.

Exhibition Game Send-off

Any player and/or coach sent off/dismissed in an exhibition game shall serve a suspension during the team’s next exhibition game.

Final Regular Season Game Send-off

Any player sent off in a final regular season match must serve the suspension in the first playoff match, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served in the team’s first league game the following season.

Coach/Staff Cautions and Ejections

Referees, at their discretion, may warn or dismiss coaches and team staff for unprofessional behavior. Any coach or other team staff member not acting in a professional manner in the opinion of the League, whether or not the incident is reported in the Referee Game Report, shall be subject to a minimum \$500 fine and/or suspension. Referees are instructed not to physically show a red card to non-players, although they may require the removal of coaches and team staff in accordance with Rule 647 for unprofessional behavior at their own discretion.

Suspension Parameters & Restrictions

Any manager, coach, assistant coach, athletic trainer, player or other official bench personnel is prohibited from assuming any official duty at or near the team bench while serving a suspension. Any athletic trainer sent off during a match should remain in the locker room area through the end of the match and may only return to the pitch at the request of the Referee in the event of an emergency. Any infringement of this rule or the restrictions below may result in the forfeiture of the game and include a fine for each infraction. The following restrictions apply:

Pre-Game

Suspended personnel are allowed to communicate pre-game information to the team in the locker room prior to the match. However, they are not allowed on the field during warm-ups and may not stand or in any way be in close proximity to the field of play.

In-Game, Including Halftime

Field Access: At no time during the game are suspended personnel allowed on or around the field of play.
Communication: There is to be no direct or indirect communication whether written, verbal, cellular or electronic to any other coach, player or staff member on the team bench.
Stadium Seating: The suspended personnel must sit in the press box or in some location other than in the stands. The suspended person is not permitted to sit in the stands as a “spectator.” If it is not possible to sit in the press box, then they are prohibited from attending the match.
Locker Room Access: The coach/staff member is not allowed to be in the locker room at any time during halftime.

Post-Game

The coach/staff member may join their team in the locker room, but not on the field of play or its surrounding areas.

Extending a Suspension

In any case, the USL reserves the right to impose suspensions beyond any of these parameters for offenses deemed to be particularly violent and against the spirit of the game. This can be imposed regardless of whether a send-off occurred.

League Disciplinary Point System

The USL has the authority to discipline players, coaches, and/or team personnel based upon the USL disciplinary regulations in accordance with FIFA and the respective National Federation.

Penalty Points

All cautions/yellow cards will account for one point and send-offs/red cards will account for two points. Any player receiving two cautions in one match, which results in a send-off, will receive one point for the first caution and one point for the resulting send-off for a total of two points. Any player receiving one caution and one red card in a match, which results in a send-off, will receive one point for the caution and two points for the send-off for a total of three points. Send-offs/red card suspensions must be served the following game in which the team participates.

Player Caution Accumulation

Players exceeding the caution accumulation penalty point plateau(s) will begin serving their suspension in their next match. If a player receives two cautions in one match, these cautions will not count toward a player’s caution accumulation total. The USL also reserves the right to reevaluate player accumulation plateaus for player eligibility rulings, including playoffs, with the reserved power to postpone suspensions to the following season.

Players accumulating the following number of caution/yellow cards throughout the season will be sanctioned as follows:

Five cautions: one-game suspension and \$200 fine
Eight total cautions: one-game suspension and \$300 fine
11 total cautions: two-game suspension and \$400 fine
14 total cautions: three-game suspension and \$500 fine

Caution accumulation suspensions can only affect regular-season games. For those players who reach a caution accumulation suspension at the end of the season that suspension will not be implemented in any potential playoff games that season. Accumulations will be wiped clean at the end of the season. If a player exceeds 14 cautions in a season, the league reserves the right to fine and suspend the player at its discretion.

Good Behavior Incentive

A player will automatically reduce his yellow card accumulation total by one yellow card each time he appears in five consecutive league games without a card or supplemental discipline. For clarity, a player cannot have a negative yellow card accumulation total; the Good Behavior Incentive reset can only reset to a zero-card total. This incentive will be automatically applied a maximum of three times through the course of the USL season.

For example, a player on his third caution of the season appearing in five consecutive league matches without receiving a card or supplemental discipline removes one (1) caution from his cumulative total, leaving the player with a total of two. This player now has two remaining Good Behavior Incentive opportunities for the 2018 Season. If that player completes five more consecutive league matches without receiving a card or supplemental discipline, one more caution is removed from his cumulative total leaving the player a total of one caution and one more Good Behavior Incentive opportunity.

Staff Send-off Accumulation

Any coach accumulating the following number of ejections, will be suspended and fined as the following:
First Send-off: coach will serve a one game suspension and will be fined minimum of \$500
Second Send-off: coach will serve a one game suspension and will be fined minimum of \$1,000
Third Send-off: coach will serve a two game suspension and will be fined minimum of \$1,500
*Note that the accumulation is an aggregation of all dismissals of the club’s staff (i.e. the first individual dismissed is punished under the “First Dismissal” guideline, the second individual dismissed is punished under the “Second Dismissal” guideline, etc., even if the first party dismissed and second party dismissed are different individuals)

Suspension During USL Cup Playoffs

Any player and/or coach who is sent off during the USL Cup Playoffs will be suspended from the next playoff game, unless the season is over, in which case the suspension will be served in the team’s first league game the following season.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Major Game Misconduct

In addition to the penalties set forth above, major fines or suspensions, at the sole and absolute discretion of the USL Disciplinary Committee, shall be levied against players (whether or not they were awarded a card by the referee), coaches or other team staff for conduct including, but not limited to: fighting, provoking a fight, criticizing game officials with words or gestures, entering the game officials’ locker room, physical contact with game officials separate from referee assault, using excessive force, deliberate attempts to injure, spitting, provoking crowd disorders, profane language that can be heard by the crowd or broadcast audience, obscene gestures, racist, homophobic, or derogatory comments, improper conduct during the national anthem, taunting, abuse of spectators and others, failure to leave the field when instructed by the Referee to do so, improper conduct following the award of a card, excessive delay tactics, excessive and obvious feigning of injuries, or other unsportsmanlike conduct detrimental to the USL and the sport of soccer in general. The league may levy fines and/or suspensions for such behavior whether or not it is reported in the Referee Game Report.

Game Official Assault or Abuse

In addition to enforcing the mandatory sanctions from USSF Policy 531-9, the USL may impose additional fines and/or suspensions.

USSF Fine for Serious Incidents

The U.S. Soccer Federation has the power to impose fines for any incident bringing the game into disrepute within the league.

Red Card and Second Yellow Card Appeal

Within 24 hours after the completion of a match a team may request a review of a red card or the second yellow card if a player receives two yellow cards in a match to rectify a case where a serious and obvious error has occurred. An independent panel of three people made up of one representative from the USSF, the CSA, and PRO will oversee the appeal. The panel must unanimously agree to overturn a red card or second yellow card for the appeal to be successful.

Suspension and Fine Appeal

Within 24 hours after the USL distributes its Weekly Discipline Report, a team may appeal a suspension and/or fine that is greater than one game or \$100, unless the established minimum fine and suspension exceeds those amounts. The USL must receive the appeal in writing via email. The appeal must be state why the team feels the punishment is not appropriate, and it must provide supporting evidence to support its position.

Within 48 hours of receiving the appeal the USL shall hold a call to determine the appeal. The USL shall convene the Independent Disciplinary Panel to decide the appeal. The panel will review the video of the incident prior to the appeal. \$500 is due to the USL in order to conduct an appeal, but if the appeal is successful, then the \$500 will not be invoiced.

Cross League and Competition Suspensions

Players joining the USL (on loan or through transfer) may be subject to any suspension that has been levied by other competitions. The USL shall determine if it will permit a player who receives a red card or other supplemental discipline in another competition for an egregious act to play in USL matches. As per USSF policy, supplemental discipline issued for referee assault/abuse shall preclude the suspended individual from participating in any soccer competition until the suspension has expired.

Players who are suspended in any cup competition such as the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, Canadian Championship or CONCACAF Champions League are not automatically suspended in the USL. The USL will independently review the action and suspension and have the right to implement supplemental discipline in the USL Disciplinary Committee, if it determines the player’s behavior was deemed to be egregious.

Master Roster

23-Man Game Day Player Pool - All players must be rostered (i.e., registered with the League and Federation) prior to their inclusion in a Team’s 23-Man Game Day Player Pool. Suspended players cannot be included in the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool. Should a player be successfully rostered (provided all registration paperwork and ITC cleared before the applicable match registration deadline) and fall within the 48-24 hour window, they may be added to the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool; however, the change will be subject to the opposing team’s approval in accordance with Master Roster Guidelines.

The Master Roster consists of up to 30 Active Players and is the official player roster of the team as set by the USL. Inactive Players do not count toward a team’s Master Roster. A maximum of seven players on the Master Roster may be International Players, pending the trade or sale of international roster spots. A professional team must carry 12 or more professional players on its Master Roster. Players loaned from leagues other than MLS with no right to recall count toward this minimum.

Active Players consist of properly registered players on USL contracts and players in on loan and Academy Players whose the team has indicated are to be active. Players who are signed to a USL Standard Professional Player Contract and are not in on loan can only be active on the roster.

Teams are required to submit their 23-Man Game Day Player Pool of players that are available and active for a match 48 hours prior to each match. Between 48 and 24 hours prior to the match, any change to that Game Day Player Pool must be approved by the opposing team and the league. There will be no changes allowed to 23-Man Game Day Player Pool less than 24 hours prior to a match. Failure to submit the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool 48 hours prior to the match will result in a minimum fine of \$500. If a player not included on the 23-Man Game Day Player Pool appears on the Game Day Lineup, it will result in a minimum fine of \$1,000. All appropriate parties must be included on the correspondence for the standard to be met. All aforementioned times are subject to change in accordance with the best interests of the game and in the spirit of the intent of this rule in the League’s absolute discretion. The League reserves the right to override approvals or denials of the opposing team.

No player may be simultaneously active on the Master Roster of two separate teams in two different leagues. The only exception to this rule occurs if a player has been listed as active on a USL team’s 23-Man Game Day Player Pool, which is submitted to the League no later than 48 hours prior to the match. In such an instance, a player may remain active in both systems. Any player that does not meet this exception must be listed as inactive in the USL registration system to participate on a separate team in a different league. No player may be listed on the active roster for two separate teams in two different leagues on the same day. Failure to meet this standard will result in a minimum fine of \$500.

Inactive Players can only consist of players out on loan, in on-loan, or Academy Players who the team has indicated are to be inactive. Inactive Players do not count against a team’s International Player limit.

Academy Players

In addition to the 30 Active Players allowed on the Master Roster, a team may have up to five active Academy Players which do not count against the 30 players on the Master Roster and are allowed to participate in all competitions. After the first five Academy Players rostered, Academy Players will count against the Master Roster. To be considered an Academy Player, all of the following must be in place:

Player is under the age of 21 as of the official start date of the current season,

Player cannot compete (or have ever previously have competed) in any NCAA or NAIA university or college soccer program, and

Player has never been signed or registered as a professional soccer player as recognized by FIFA.

The Academy Player must play for a club that conducts its activities (home games and/or training) within the team’s franchise territory or play for a club which has a documented affiliation with the team. In the latter scenario, the affiliated club outside the territory of the team must not be in the territory of another USL team and the team must register all documented affiliate clubs with the League Office prior to the season or upon completion of the affiliation agreement. Additionally, teams with MLS affiliations can use the Academy Players of their MLS affiliate. Academy Players do count against a team’s maximum of seven foreign players. Academy Players must be registered as an amateur with the USL team or its formally-recognized MLS affiliate. Teams may make Academy Players active or inactive on the Master Roster. Inactive Academy Players do not count towards the roster maximum or the international player maximum. A player cannot sign more than 1 USL Academy Player contract per season. There cannot be more than five Academy Players listed in the Game Day Lineup.

Master Roster Changes

Whenever a team makes a change to its master roster, notification must be sent via email to the USL. Changes are not approved until the USL confirms via email.

Master Roster Freeze

No team will be allowed to sign, receive a player on loan, change a player’s active/inactive status, and/or replace players after the Roster Freeze date. All trades, transfers and/or loans between teams must be finalized and approved by the USL prior to this time. The USL will not allow “deals in progress” or “extensions” to go beyond the deadline for any reason.

The date of the Roster Freeze is Sept. 14, 2018, at 5 p.m. ET.

Any MLS player legitimately on the final Master Roster of a USL team at the time of the Roster Freeze date will be permitted to compete for the USL team for the rest of the season, regardless of whether or not that player is subsequently traded or transferred to another MLS team. In this instance, it is possible that a newly executed loan agreement would be required by the USL. However, if a player is sold or released from his contract with MLS, this will terminate the player’s loan with the USL team.

Any outfield player on loan from another league must play a minimum of five games during the regular season to be eligible to play in the USL Cup Playoffs. One of these games must occur prior to the roster freeze date. This standard does not apply to goalkeepers.

Any player who is sold to an MLS team after the Roster Freeze deadline may rejoin the USL team on loan for the remainder of the season, as long as he assumes the spot on the roster he vacated when he was sold by the USL club. As long as the player played in a minimum of five games during the season, either prior or after being sold, he is eligible to play in the USL Cup Playoffs.

SPECIAL EXEMPTION (GOALKEEPERS): In the unlikely event that a team is reduced to a single “available and healthy” goalkeeper due to National Team call-up or medical-ly-verifiable injury, the team may petition the USL in writing to be permitted to add a backup goalkeeper to their Master Roster. This may only be done in the event that at least two eligible and healthy goalkeepers are under contract with the club, participating in regular team activities, not on loan with another team, and listed on the final Master Roster submitted at the time of the Roster Freeze date. This backup goalkeeper will be permitted to remain on the team’s roster until such time that one or more of the originally rostered goalkeepers becomes available and is able to compete. The USL will have the power to reject the addition of a goalkeeper in this situation if it feels its primary intent is to create a competitive advantage.