



# 2022 SEASON GAME NOTES



## HOME - WESTERN CONF



**1-3-0; 3 pts.**

## AWAY - EASTERN CONF



**0-2-2; 0 pts.**

## MATCHUP INFO



**Saturday, April 9**  
H-E-B Park  
7:30 p.m. CST  
Watch: ESPN+

**Overall:** 0-0-0

**Home:** 0-0-0

**Away:** 0-0-0

## 2022 USL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	RESULT
03/12	vs. Oakland Roots SC	7:30PM CST	1-0 WIN
03/19	@ Orange County SC	9:00PM CST	1-2 LOSS
03/23	@ LA Galaxy 2	9:30PM CST	0-1 LOSS
03/27	vs. San Antonio FC	6:30PM CST	1-2 LOSS
04/09	vs. Indy Eleven	7:30PM CST	-
04/15	@ New York Redbulls 2	6:00PM CST	-
04/23	vs. Sacramento Republic FC	7:30PM CST	-
04/30	vs. Orange County SC	7:30PM CST	-
05/05	@ Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	8:00PM CST	-
05/14	@ Monterey Bay FC	9:00PM CST	-
05/21	vs. San Diego Loyal	7:30PM CST	-
05/28	vs. San Antonio FC	7:30PM CST	-
06/01	@ Atlanta United FC 2	6:30PM CST	-
06/04	vs. LA Galaxy 2	7:30PM CST	-
06/11	@ Oakland Roots SC	9:00PM CST	-
06/18	vs Pittsburgh Riverhounds	7:30PM CST	-
06/22	@ New Mexico United	8:00PM CST	-
06/29	vs. El Paso Locomotive	7:30PM CST	-
07/09	@ New Mexico United	8:00PM CST	-
07/17	vs. Las Vegas Lights FC	6:30PM CST	-
07/23	@ San Diego Loyal SC	9:00PM CST	-
07/27	vs. Hartford Athletic	7:30PM CST	-
08/06	@ Sacramento Republic FC	10:00PM CST	-
08/20	@ San Antonio FC	8:00PM CST	-
08/27	@ Las Vegas Lights	9:30PM CST	-
08/31	@ Phoenix Rising FC	9:30PM CST	-
09/07	@ El Paso Locomotive	8:00PM CST	-
09/10	vs. New Mexico United	7:30PM CST	-
09/17	vs. Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	7:30PM CST	-
09/23	@ Charleston Battery	6:00PM CST	-
10/01	vs. Louisville City FC	7:30PM CST	-
10/05	@ Memphis 901 FC	7:00PM CST	-
10/08	vs. Phoenix Rising FC	7:30PM CST	-
10/15	vs. Monterey Bay	7:30PM CST	-

## TOROS COMMUNICATIONS

**MEDIA RELATIONS:** For all media inquiries, please contact Media Relations Manager

**Juan Turrubiates**  
Cell: 956-280-6580  
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## STATUS REPORT

PLAYER NAME	POS	STATUS
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# TEAM STAFF



## HEAD COACH



### WILMER CABRERA

Cabrera enters year two at RGV FC as Head Coach and Sporting Director after a successful 2021 USL Championship season which saw Rio Grande qualify to the Western Conference Semifinals for the first time in club history.

The 2021 USL Championship season marked Wilmer Cabrera's return to the Rio Grande Valley. He was previously named the first Head Coach in the club's history in December 2015. In the inaugural year he led the club to a successful first season, earning a second-place finish in the Western Conference in the regular season and a place in the USL Championship Playoffs.

The 53-year-old brings more than a decade of experience at U.S Soccer and Major League Soccer to the Toros.

Most recently, Cabrera managed Club de Foot Montreal in MLS late in 2019 where he led the team to the Canadian Championship title, defeating Toronto FC.

Prior to Montreal, Cabrera spent two-and-a-half-years with Houston Dynamo FC (2016-19). During his tenure, Cabrera's side won the 2018 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, making him the first head coach to win both the U.S. Open Cup and Canadian Championship in consecutive years.

By earning the U.S. Open Cup, Houston qualified to the 2019 Scotiabank Concacaf Champions League, but their course ended in the quarterfinal round. In 2017, Cabrera led Houston to a berth in the 2017 MLS Cup Playoffs.



### GERSON ECHEVERRY

As **Director of Scouting and Assistant Coach** Gerson Echeverry, who holds the longest tenure by any Head Coach at the club. Echeverry has taken the lead in scouting all current and prospect players for the club. He was appointed as Head Coach in late 2017 and remained in the position for three seasons with the Toros. Prior to RGV, Echeverry served as Head Coach at Seton Hall University's Men's Soccer program for five years. He has also served as an assistant coach for the United States U-17 Youth National Team and residency program. At the residency program, Echeverry evaluated prospects and implemented training plans with an emphasis on developing attacking players.



### PAU ROVIRA CRUA

**Goalkeeper Coach** Pao Rovira Crua is a native of Tortosa, Spain. He enters his first season on the technical staff at RGV FC.



### JOAN CASANOVA

As **Strength and Fitness Coach** Casanova brings extensive experience in his second season in the United States. Previously, Casanova was part of the coaching staff at Odisha FC of the Indian Super League during the 2019 and 2020 campaign. Prior to Odisha, Casanova was the strength and conditioning coach at Kitchee SC of the Hong Kong Premier League. Throughout his three seasons with Kitchee, the club earned nine total trophies — Hong Kong Premier League Championships (2017, 2019), Hong Kong Sapling Cup (2017, 2019), Hong Kong Senior Shield (2018), Hong Kong FA Cup (2017, 2018) and Hong Kong Community Cup (2017, 2018). In addition, the squad competed in the AFC Champions League — Asia's equivalent to the UEFA and Concacaf Champions League — and AFC Cup tournaments.





# 2022 TOROS ROSTER



## #1 – TYLER DERIC

**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**Height:** 6'3"  
**D.O.B.:** 8/30/1988  
**Hometown:** Houston, TX

Deric re-joins RGVFC after starting in 28 games during the 2021 USL Championship season under the direction of Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera.

The 33-year-old veteran recorded six clean sheets and earned a 61.3% save percentage during the past season. A native of Spring, Texas, Deric has made more than 150 professional appearances overall in his career, including 90 appearances and 24 clean sheets in Major League Soccer while competing for Houston Dynamo FC.

The veteran goalkeeper was a key piece in Cabrera's locker room in 2021 as the Toros made a historic playoff push, ultimately reaching the Western Conference Semifinals of the USL Championship Playoffs as the side returned to the postseason for the first time since the 2016 campaign.

"We are excited for another one of Tyler's seasons with the Toros," said Cabrera. "He is a solid and experienced goalkeeper who is hungry for success, and he wants to compete for the [title] of best goalkeeper in the USL Championship in 2022."

## #2 – DANIEL LUIS SAEZ

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 6'5"  
**D.O.B.:** 5/11/1994  
**Hometown:** Havana, Cuba

Daniel Luis Saez has made 19 appearances for the Cuba Men's National Team, including in FIFA World Cup Qualifying and the 2019 Concacaf Gold Cup. He joins RGV FC having most recently played for USL League Two club PDX FC in Portland, Oregon following his defection from Cuba during the Gold Cup three years ago.

"Daniel is a very athletic defender with international experience; despite his size he is very technical and talented with the ball which allows him to play as a midfielder also", noted Toros Sporting Director Wilmer Cabrera.

Saez made his debut with the Cuban National Team as an 18-year-old in 2012

(age 18) as a late-stage sub against Panama in the 2014 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers while competing domestically for La Habana in the Cuban National League. After six years at La Habana, he also competed for Camaguey (2017-18) of the Cuban National League, and then Atlantico FC (2018-2019) and Delfines del Este (2019) of the Dominican Liga Dominicana de Futbol before his defection to the United States.

## #3 – WAHAB ACKWEI

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 6'0"  
**D.O.B.:** 10/19/1996  
**Hometown:** Accra, Ghana

Ackwei comes to the Toros roster with experience in both the USL Championship and League One. The Accra, Ghana native most recently competed for Championship club Loudoun United FC during the 2021 season where he recorded 23 clearances, 16 interceptions and six blocks in nine appearances. Ackwei also previously played in the Championship for the New York Red Bulls II in 2018, where he made seven appearances.

Additionally, Ackwei has seen action in League One for the Richmond Kickers, where across two seasons in 2019-20 he made 39 in all

competitions. While with the Kickers, Ackwei earned League One All-League Second Team honors in 2019 as he tied for fourth in the league with 49 interceptions while also recording 97 clearances and 22 tackles at a 75.9 percent success rate.

Earlier in his career, the now 25-year-old competed in his home country of Ghana in the Ghana Premier League for Inter Allies FC between 2014-2017, where he made 23 appearances.

## #4 – ERIK PIMENTEL

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**D.O.B.:** 5/15/1990  
**Hometown:** Coacalco de Berriozabal, MX

Pimentel returns to the RGV FC back line for the upcoming campaign having helped lead the side to the Western Conference Semifinals of the 2021 USL Championship Playoffs. The 31-year-old stood as a solid veteran for the Toros in his first season in the USL Championship, accounting for 30 tackles, 50 clearances, 11 blocked shots, and 46 interceptions. His prior experience — including time in Liga MX at Club America — made him a natural leader on the pitch, especially on the back line as he was a vocal piece, directing traffic despite language barriers.

Toros Sporting Director

and Head Coach, Wilmer Cabrera knows how impactful the defender is on the field but more importantly in the locker room. "Erik was a pillar of the team's success last season, and we are excited to have him again as one of the key players on and off the field for us."

Pimentel's career in Liga MX saw him earn four championships with Club America — two Liga MX titles (2014/2015, 2012/2013) and two Concacaf Champions League titles (2015/2016, 2014/2015), and has made appearances in the FIFA Club World Cup and the Liga MX's Campeón de Campeones during his professional career.

## #5 – JUAN DAVID CABEZAS

**Position:** Midfielder  
**Height:** 6'0"  
**D.O.B.:** 2/27/1991  
**Hometown:** Cali, Colombia

Cabezas returns for a second season at H-E-B Park after having started in 15 of 19 appearances for the Toros a season ago, including appearing in both postseason contests. Cabezas has logged 21 appearances and 1,546 minutes of action in the Championship, captaining the Toros on 11 occasions. The Cali, Colombia native showed positive distribution a season ago, recording an 84.6 passing accuracy rate last year.

"Juan David is coming back to the team with a desire and mentality to play more games and become the leader of the team on and off the field," said Cabrera.

Cabezas' experience will be crucial this season as RGV FC makes its first appearance in the historic Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, the oldest soccer tournament in North America. In 2018 while at Houston Dynamo, he played a key role in the Open Cup Final that saw Houston defeat the Philadelphia Union

3-0 for the title.

In the international ranks, Cabezas has played at the Under-20 level, representing his home country, Colombia, at the South American U-20 Championship in 2011, making six appearances of nine Colombia's matches, and at the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup, played in Colombia. Cabezas started all five of Colombia's matches at the U-20 World Cup that led to a Quarterfinal appearance. Cabezas played a key defensive midfield role in the tournament alongside of other Colombian stars such as forward James Rodríguez, defender Jelson Muriel, striker Luis Muriel and winger Fabian Castillo.

Beginning his professional career in 2010, Cabezas played on loan with Cúcuta Deportivo, La Equidad (2011-12), Once Caldas (2013-14) and Independiente Medellín (2016).

## #6 – ISIDRO MARTINEZ

**Position:** Midfielder  
**Height:** 5'8"  
**D.O.B.:** 3/15/1997  
**Hometown:** Brownsville, TX

Martínez makes his return home to the Rio Grande Valley after a lone season at USL Championship side, New Mexico United.

The young midfielder adds control and experience to the mid line of the Toros as he pairs up with veteran teammate Juan David Cabezas.

In contrast to his previous stint at RGV, the Brownsville, TX native is self-claimed as a more patient and smart central piece. His ability to hold the press and distribute balls to the wings will make for a good fit in the new RGV FC system.





# 2022 TOROS ROSTER



## #7 – NAFIU SULEMANA

**Position:** Forward  
**Height:** 5'9"  
**D.O.B.:** 10/11/99  
**Hometown:** Janga, Ghana

Sulemana (5-foot-9, Forward) arrives at RGV FC via loan from Legon Cities FC, member of the Ghana Premier League. The 22-year-old native of Ghana is a dynamic and versatile addition for the squad that can play in both midfield and attack.

Sulemana appeared in nine contests for Legion Cities during the 2021-22 season, logging 440 minutes of action. Prior to signing with Legon Cities, he competed with Inter Allies FC, also a member of the Ghana Premier League. While at Inter Allies he made 26 appearances and recorded seven goals.

## #8 – EMILIO YCAZA

**Position:** Midfielder  
**Height:** 5'6"  
**D.O.B.:** 7/10/1997  
**Hometown:** St. Petersburg, FL

Ycaza made 17 appearances for Austin Bold FC during the 2021 USL Championship season prior to his transfer to RGVFC on September 3. The 24-year-old then went one to make 13 appearances for the Toros and recorded two goals and two assists in the club's drive to the postseason.

"Emilio made a great impact last season despite arriving late," said Cabrera. "This season he is motivated to become one of the top players in this league and a leader with positive impact in the club."

Ycaza played collegiate soccer at the University of South Florida. He had

a short stint in the academy program of Swedish club IF Brommapojkarn from Sweden in 2017 before returning to the United States to join the Bulls collegiately.

## #9 – FRANK LOPEZ

**Position:** Forward  
**Height:** 5'9"  
**D.O.B.:** 2/25/1995  
**Hometown:** Cienfuegos, Cuba

Lopez rejoins the Toros lineup after a productive performance in 2021. The Cuban national was previously acquired on loan from fellow USL Championship club OKC Energy FC on September 3, 2021 and quickly made an impact on the pitch.

The 26-year-old scored his first goal with RGV on September 11 in the 80th minute of a 1-1 draw against Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC on the road, and also added a pair of assists in 10 appearances for the club as the Toros advanced to the 2021 USL Championship Playoffs.

Lopez has recorded 32 goals in 91 regular-season appearances in the Championship overall, having arrived in the league in 2018 with the LA Galaxy II. In addition, Lopez has also competed in the league for San Antonio FC and Sacramento Republic FC.

On the international level, Lopez has represented Cuba at the U-23, U-20 and U-17 levels while competing for hometown club FC Cienfuegos. While with the U-20 squad, Lopez scored twice against Canada during the 2015 Concacaf U-20 Championship in Jamaica. Later that year, he defected to the United States during 2015 Concacaf Men's Olympic Qualifying in the United States, from where he joined the Miami Soccer Academy.

## #10 – JOSE TORRES

**Position:** Midfielder  
**Height:** 5'5"  
**D.O.B.:** 10/29/1987  
**Hometown:** Longview, TX

Torres joins the Toros after competing at Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC during the 2021 USL Championship season. The former United States international recorded one goal and three assists in 26 regular season matches as he helped guide the Switchbacks to their first postseason appearance since the 2016 season.

A Texas native, Torres has made 350 professional club appearances over the course of his career that included competing for Pachuca, Tigres and Puebla in Liga MX. The opportunity to

continue his career in the Rio Grande Valley was a welcome one for the 34-year-old, who also made 26 appearances for the United States and was part of the country's squad for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Sporting Director and Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera was also excited to welcome Torres to the squad, with his experiences that saw him win four Liga MX titles, both the Concacaf Gold Cup and Concacaf Champions League, and a pair of Concacaf Champions Cup titles an invaluable asset to the club as it enters the new season.

## #11 – OLLIE WRIGHT

**Position:** Forward  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**D.O.B.:** 3/1/1999  
**Hometown:** London, England

Wright is an English forward from London who last season played for the Toros' South Texas Derby rival San Antonio FC. Last season, Wright made 14 appearances for SAFC and recorded two assists and eight chances created across 368 minutes of action.

Wright competed in the academies of multiple English clubs such as Fulham and Brentford before making his move to the United States where he found a highly successful college career at NCAA Division II St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Wright had a breakout 2019 season for the side as he claimed the 2019 Lone Star Conference Player of the Year, Lone Star Conference Midfielder of the Year, South Central Region Player of the Year and Division II CCA

and United Soccer Coaches All-America honors.

"Ollie is a very talented player with a good mentality and attitude to compete and create difficulties for the opponents," said Cabrera. "He is coming to become a solid forward in this league."

During his college career, Wright joined USL League Two side Corpus Christi FC during the 2019 season where he set a single-season assists record in the league with 15 in 14 regular season contests matches. Wright also notched seven goals for CCFC before concluding his college career at St. Mary's and joining the professional ranks.

## #12 – COLIN MILLER

**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**Height:** 6'3"  
**D.O.B.:** 10/25/1996  
**Hometown:** Bel Air, MD

Miller spent two seasons at fellow USL Championship side Loudoun United FC prior to joining RGV FC prior to the 2021 season. In 2020, Miller made seven starts, recording one shutout and 28 saves overall. He denied two penalty kicks and kept a 65.1 save percentage on his way to claiming the Championship Fans' Choice Save of the Month award for August that season.

Last year for the Toros, the Maryland native appeared in eight matches, logging 643 total minutes across the regular season and playoffs. Miller made his debut on August 4 as a substitute for Tyler Deric

following a first-half injury and helped conclude a shutout performance in a 3-0 victory.

Miller then served as a key piece in the late season push for RGV FC after Deric suffered a season-ending injury late in the campaign. Miller came through crucially in the 2021 USL Championship Playoffs as he made a pair of penalty kick saves in a shootout against Phoenix Rising FC in the Western Conference Quarterfinals, which allowed the Toros to advance 4-3 in a shootout after the sides had played to a 3-3 draw after regulation and extra time.





# 2022 TOROS ROSTER



## #13 – DUILIO HERRERA

**Position:** Forward  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**D.O.B.:** 11/12/2004  
**Hometown:** Edinburg, TX

As a USL Academy signing, Herrera will be available for selection for the Toros in both the USL Championship and Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup throughout the upcoming season while retaining his NCAA eligibility. Herrera is the first player signed by the Toros to a USL Academy contract since the restructuring of the club's partnership agreement with Major League Soccer's Houston Dynamo FC.

The 17-year-old academy product hails from Edinburg and has been competing within the RGV FC Academy ranks for five years, most recently in the U-19 division. In those five

years Herrera has accumulated more than 100 appearances across both MLS Next Academy and USL Academy competition. His performance on the field was showcased via 10 goals and 20 assists all-time as an attacking piece.

In 2021 Herrera appeared in 25 games, leading the team in assists as he was dubbed a free-kick specialist by academy director Rafael Amaya. Most recently he competed in the MLS Next Showcase in which he recorded one goal and dished out five assists in the competition. Additionally, Herrera tallied experience for the Toros in an exhibition contest against Liga MX club CF Monterrey in July.

## #14 – STEFAN MUELLER

**Position:** Defender  
**Height/Weight:** 6'1"  
**D.O.B.:** 10/13/1995  
**Hometown:** New York City, NY

Mueller closed out the 2021 USL League One season as the fourth-leading scorer for Tormenta FC, serving as an attacking defender. The 26-year-old scored four goals and spread the field with 13 created chances and a lone assist in 18 appearances in 2021. Defensively, Mueller recorded 21 clearances, made eight tackles, and logged 11 interceptions.

Mueller joined Tormenta FC in 2020 following a collegiate career at Temple University. He made 34 appearances and played 2,780 minutes over the last two seasons. The New York native saw early career experience in Europe

with TB Uphusen in Germany and Southport FC of England's National League North.

In an already solid defensive group, Mueller looks to fit the dynamic line and provide additional pressure in midfield for the Toros which will allow for a smooth transition field-wide and chance creation in the attacking third of the field.

## #15 – JESUS VAZQUEZ

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 6'1"  
**D.O.B.:** 3/22/1995  
**Hometown:** San Luis Obispo, CA

Vazquez Ocampo comes to RGV FC having spent the past two seasons in the USL Championship with the LA Galaxy II. The 26-year-old played in 42 matches overall for Los Dos, starting in all 15 of his 2021 appearances. In 3,645 minutes, he locked in an 82.4 percent passing accuracy rate while also notching 42 interceptions, 17 blocked shots and a 71.4 percent tackle success rate. Vazquez also scored twice for the Galaxy II, including a game-winner against San Diego Loyal SC.

## #16 – FRANK DAVID GAVIRIA

**Position:** Forward  
**Height/Weight:** 6'0"  
**D.O.B.:** 6/11/2001  
**Hometown:** Valledupar, Colombia

Frank David Gaviria joins the Toros after most recently competing for NK Španko in Croatia's third division. A native of Valledupar, Colombia, the 20-year-old Gaviria will join the professional ranks for the first time with the Toros this season.

"Frank David is a feisty and hardworking forward who will give us a lot of possibilities and internal competition," said Cabrera. "He is young and hungry to score goals and has a lot of talent."

## #17 – RICKY RUIZ

**Position:** Forward  
**Height/Weight:** 5'7"  
**D.O.B.:** 11/4/1996  
**Hometown:** Lake Elsinore, CA

Ruiz joins RGV FC from the Red Wolves, where a season ago he earned the League One Assists Champion award with a league-leading 10 assists in 30 appearances. Ruiz also recorded four goals and 61 chances created as he was voted to the League One All-League First Team. The honor was Ruiz's second consecutive selection, with the 25-year-old having been voted to the League One All-League Second Team in 2020.

"Ruiz is an electric and skillful player that will bring excitement and joy to the fans for sure," said Cabrera. "After his impressive season last year in League One, he will now get the chance

to prove himself at a higher level of competition in the Championship."

A native of Lake Elsinore, California, the attacking midfielder played collegiate soccer at the University of California – Riverside from 2014 to 2017. At UC-Riverside, Ruiz played in 75 matches, scoring six goals and dished out 12 assists on the pitch for the Highlanders. While in college, Ruiz saw action for USL League Two club FC Golden State Force in 2017 and 2019, adding a stint at USL League Two member Orange County SC U-23 in 2018.

## #18 – DYLAN BORCZAK

**Position:** Forward  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**D.O.B.:** 6/13/1999  
**Hometown:** Detroit, MI

Borczak joined the professional ranks with the Toros after concluding his college career at NCAA Division I program Oakland University last fall. Borczak recorded 20 goals and 15 assists in 63 appearances for the Golden Grizzlies and was voted the 2020-21 Horizon League Offensive Player of the Year as he recorded seven goals and four assists in nine contests. His play also saw him named to the All-Horizon League First Team and the United Soccer Coaches All-North Region First Team that season, while he also notched seven goals and two assists last fall to earn All-Horizon League Second Team honors.

The young Michigan product adds depth to the RGV FC roster up front.





# 2022 TOROS ROSTER



## #19 – ADOLFO HERNANDEZ

**Position:** Forward  
**Height:** 6'1"  
**D.O.B.:** 9/28/1997  
**Hometown:** Mexico City, MX

Adolfo Hernandez arrives at RGV FC from Liga MX's Pumas U.N.A.M. having previously competed in both the top flight and second division in Mexico. The 24-year-old has made seven appearances overall for PUMA while also competing in the Liga de Expansion MX for both Pumas Tabasco — the club's reserve team — and Celaya FC.

Hernandez spent the greater portion of the 2020-2021 season on loan at Celaya FC where he made 25 appearances and recorded a pair of goals across the regular season and playoffs while helping 'Los Toros' to reach the Liguilla playoffs in both the Apertura and Clausura campaigns.

## #20 – JONATHAN RICKETTS

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 6'2"  
**D.O.B.:** 11/20/1997  
**Hometown:** Chattanooga, TN

Ricketts joins the Toros having spent the past two seasons with USL League One club Chattanooga Red Wolves SC, where he recorded 44 appearances and 3,856 minutes of action over the past two regular seasons. Ricketts recorded four goals and four assists for the Red Wolves, and last season earned selection to the League One Team of the Week on five occasions.

Prior to joining the professional ranks, Ricketts competed collegiately at Bryan College, where he made 70 appearances and recorded 33 goals and 28 assists. His collegiate accolades were highlighted with a spot on the Appalachian

Athletic Conference (AAC) All-Conference First Team his junior year, repeating the same accomplishment in his senior season at Bryan College. The Tennessee native added a spot on the All-Tournament Team in 2019 and found himself on CoSIDA's Academic All-District Team before finalizing his college soccer career.

## #21 – ROBERT CORONADO

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**D.O.B.:** 8/3/1996  
**Hometown:** La Habra, CA

Coronado makes his return to RGV FC after a full season at USL Championship side, OKC Energy.

The California native is no stranger to Rio Grande having competed under the leadership of Gerson Echeverry, now assistant coach, in 2019 and 2020.

The defender is a solid addition to the back line that is already stacked with experienced pieces. His ability to hold the wing and press up will bring dynamic to the playstyle of RGV as the season progresses in 2022.

## #22 – JUAN PABLO TORRES

**Position:** Midfielder  
**Height:** 5'4"  
**D.O.B.:** 7/26/1999  
**Hometown:** Atlanta, GA

Torres previously competed in the USL Championship Austin Bold FC before becoming a free agent at the conclusion of the 2021 campaign. The 22-year-old joined Austin on a season-long loan from Major League Soccer's New York City FC and started in 25 of his 28 appearances for Bold FC, scoring two goals. The midfielder provided defensive support with 18 tackles, six clearances and 16 interceptions, providing solid play for the side at both ends of the field.

At New York City FC, Torres recorded six appearances, three of which were in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup. Most notably, Torres

recorded an assist in the 52nd minute to former teammate Keaton Parks in the Fourth Round against North Carolina FC during the 2019 tournament.

The experienced Lilburn, Georgia native has also seen minutes at the international youth level representing the United States Youth National Team at the U-15, U-16, U-18, and U-20 teams, totaling 18 caps combined through all competitions. His most recent international action saw Torres make seven appearances at the 2018 CONCACAF U-20 Championships where he netted four goals and two assists as the United States took the title, defeating Mexico 2-0 in the final.

## #23 – FRANK NODARSE

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 6'3"  
**D.O.B.:** 12/6/2000  
**Hometown:** Havana, Cuba

Nodarse (6-foot-3) is a product of Miami Soccer Academy and joins the Toros having previously played in the USL Championship for the Charleston Battery, where he made three appearances a season ago. Prior to competing at the USL Championship level, the Cuban defender played for Fort Lauderdale CF in USL League One between 2020-2021, appearing in 13 matches.

The 21-year-old has also competed for his country and scored on his debut for the Cuba U-20 Men's National Team at the 2018 Concacaf U-20 Championship in

a 7-0 victory against St. Maarten at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

## #24 – LUKA MALESEVIC

**Position:** Defender  
**Height:** 6'0"  
**D.O.B.:** 8/01/1998  
**Hometown:** Podgorica, Montenegro

Malesevic has spent a large portion of his playing career at FK Iskra Danilovgrad of the Montenegrin First Division. A dual-national with American as well as Montenegrin citizenship, Malesevic appeared in 83 total matches for the club between 2018 to 2021.

While at FK Iskra, Malesevic appeared in two UEFA Europa League Qualifying matches, including the side's 4-3 victory in a penalty shootout against FC Santa Coloma of the Andorran Primera Division. In the second, Malesevic played a full 90 minutes as FK Iskra Danilovgrad

fell 1-0 to Lokomotiv Plovdiv of Bulgaria, ending their run.

The 23-year-old has represented Montenegro internationally at the U-17 and U-21 level, and overall has played in 11 international matches, all but one being at the higher U-21 level. Malesevic most recently competed for Serbian SuperLiga club, FK Radnik Surdulica where he appeared in six total matches, including an appearance in the side's 2-0 win against Radnicki 1923 in the Serbian Cup last October.







# 2022 TOROS ROSTER



## #25 - JAVIER GARCIA

**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**Height:** 6'2"  
**D.O.B.:** 3/23/1998  
**Hometown:** Mission, TX

Garcia is a local product hailing out of nearby Mission, Texas. The young shot-stopper attended the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley but did not see minutes in the 2021 season, his final season with the group. Prior to competing for at UTRGV, Garcia played at the RGV Toros Academy ranks for three years dating back to 2017.







