

2022 USL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULAR SEASON – IXI GAME #8

Indy Eleven (3W-2L-2D, 11 pts, 6th in Eastern Conf.)
vs.

Hartford Athletic (0W-5L-1D, 1 pt., 14th in Eastern Conf.)

Saturday, April 30, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. ET IUPUI Michael A. Carroll Stadium – Indianapolis, IN

NATIONAL TV: ESPN+ LOCAL TV: MyINDY-TV 23 STREAMING VIDEO: <u>ESPN+</u>
RADIO: Exitos 94.3 FM STREAMING AUDIO: <u>exitos943.com</u>

INDYOELEVEN PROJECTED LINE-UP





Sports Medicine

INJURY UPDATE: 04/28/22

OUT: MF San Brown (concussion), DF Mechack Jerome (R ankle sprain)

QUESTIONABLE: MF Nicky Law (hamstring strain)

DISCIPLINE REPORT: None

INDY ELEVEN COMPLETES HOMESTAND AGAINST HARTFORD ATHLETIC: Indy Eleven will play the third and final match of a three-game homestand this Saturday when Indiana's Team welcomes Hartford Athletic to Carroll Stadium. Indy enters the match riding a five-game undefeated streak that includes three consecutive wins. Meanwhile, Hartford is still looking to claim their first win of the season, having dropped four straight matches and five of their first contests.

IXI SERIES VS. HARTFORD:

Indy Eleven and Hartford Athletic have played each other three times before, with Indy Eleven leading the series 2W-1L-0D. Indy Eleven and Hartford Athletic began their series history in 2019 by defending their respective home turfs. Indy got the upper hand in front of a record crowd of 20,251 during its 2019 home opener at Lucas Oil Stadium, using Nikolaj Lyngo's own goal to post a 1-0 victory. Hartford returned the favor in Connecticut later that July with a 2-1 win that saw ex-Eleven striker Wojciech Wojcik score the eventual game-winner. Indy Eleven claimed a win in the clubs' last outing on July 29, 2020, using goals by Nick Moon (4'), Tyler Pasher (51'), Drew Conner (81') and Matt Watson (87') to best Hartford 4-1, again at Lucas Oil Stadium.

FAMILIAR FACE(S): Indy Eleven will be welcoming a familiar face back to Carroll Stadium in Peter-Lee Vassell on Saturday. The Jamaican midfielder spent the 2021 campaign with Indiana's Team, appearing in 20 matches while scoring three goals.

LAST TIME OUT: Indy Eleven used three straight goals in the second half to storm past Orange County SC in a 3-1 victory that marked the third consecutive win for Indiana's Team. Noah Powder and Stefano Pinho scored ten minutes apart to put the Eleven up by midway through the second stanza, while Aris Briggs put the nail in the coffin two minutes deep into stoppage time.

Despite the final score, it would be Orange County who would strike first. OC midfielder Ugo Okoli's header at midfield freed Mikko Kuningas behind the backline, and the Finnish forward was able to finish low past stranded Eleven netminder Elliot Panicco to give the visitors the early advantage.

Orange County began the second half with some missed chances they quickly regretted, as in the 53rd minute Indy substitute midfielder Noah Powder evened the score just a minute after hitting the pitch. Pinho's muscle work on the endline gave him space to pick out Powder's run to the top of the six, from where he thundered in a first-time blast to bring the match even at 1-1.

Indy took the lead In the 64th minute when another substitute, forward Manuel Arteaga, hooked the ball over a charging Pat Rakovsky and into the six, where Pinho crashed to beat a defender to the ball and headed into the vacated goal. From there, Indiana's Team was able to put its thumb on the scale, controlling play and relinquishing no true threats on its frame. Briggs wound up ending the scoring in the 92nd minute for a second straight match courtesy of a nice build up through Pinho and Arteaga and a couple fortunate deflections in the area. The finish allowed Indy a vital insurance goal, clinched its first multigoal win of the campaign and pushed the squad's unbeaten streak to game matches.

BRIGGS LEAGUE'S BEST OFF THE BENCH: After starting in two of the Eleven's first four matches, forward Aris Briggs has proven to be the USL Championship's most productive "super sub" threat across the squad's last three matches:

on April 9, Briggs' through ball to Stefano Pinho provided the game-winning assist in Indy's 2-1 win, its first of 2022
 on April 16, Briggs' dramatic 92nd minute tally proved to be the game-winner in another 2-1 victory over ATL UTD 2
 last Sunday, Briggs' tallied in the 92nd minute again, this time closing out a 3-1 triumph over Orange County SC

Briggs' three scoresheet contributions are the most off the bench for any player in the Championship through Week 7. Three players have produced two-goal performances as substitutes this season – Tyler Freeman (LDN), Sean Okoli (OC) and former Boy in Blue Dane Kelly (PIT) – while Romeo Parkes has scored in both his substitute appearances for Miami. Two additional players – Leo Fernandes (TBR) and Abdoul Zanne (LDN) – have notched a goal and an assist as substitutes.

PINHO NAMED TO TEAM OF THE WEEK: Eleven forward Stefano Pinho was named to the USL Championship's Week 7 Team of the Week for his efforts in the club's win last Sunday against Orange County. The Brazilian striker recorded a goal, an assist, and won plenty of duels for the Boys in Blue. He is the third Indy Eleven player to be named to a team of the week this season, joining GK Elliot Panicco in Week 3 and MF Nicky Law in Week 6.

WE'RE GOING STREAKING: Last weekend's 3-1 win over Orange County SC pushed Indy Eleven's undefeated streak to five games – including three wins on the trot. The most recent run of such length was part of a seven-game regular season stretch spanning the final three games of 2019 and the first four games of 2020:

10/05/19 ... 3-0 W vs. Memphis 10/12/19 ... 1-1 D at Tampa Bay 10/16/19 ... 2-1 W vs. Sporting KC II 03/07/20 ... 4-2 W at Memphis 07/11/20 ... 2-0 W vs. St. Louis 07/18/20 ... 2-1 W vs. Sporting KC II 07/22/20 ... 1-0 W at Pittsburgh

The five-game winning streak which capped that undefeated stretch marked the last time until the current three-game winning run that Indy Eleven had put together more than two consecutive wins.

THRICE AS NICE: Indy's three-goal output last weekend versus Orange County was its first such performance in 29 outings, dating back to a wild, back-and-forth 3-3 draw at Lou City last June 26. It was the team's 16th output of 3+ goals in 123 USLC regular season games – but only its fourth since the start of 2020 (55 games).

COMEBACK AROUND: Last Sunday's victory a callback to Indy Eleven's other road game in Louisville last season, as it marked the first come-from-behind win since the Eleven's 2-1 triumph last May 29 at Lynn Family Stadium, which saw a pair of Jordan Hamilton goals (63', 89' PK) counter Corben Bone's opener (45').

Of Indy Eleven's 51 victories in USLC regular season play since the start of the 2018 campaign, last Sunday's win was the seventh accomplished in comeback fashion, and the third such won by multiple goals.

(SCORING) FIRST AND FOREMOST: On the opposite side of the coin, scoring first has been a more than favorable sign for Indiana's Team. Nicky Law's free kick that started the scoring against Atlanta United 2 on April 16 helped the Boys in Blue to another victory after scoring first, extending its unbeaten streak on such occasions to 21 matches. That run dates back to July 11, 2020, when Tyler Pasher scored the opener in a 2-0 win over St. Louis FC at Lucas Oil Stadium.

The last time Indy suffered a setback when scoring first was in the 2019 Eastern Conference Final, a painful 3-1 setback to Louisville City FC in added extra time on Nov. 9, 2019. You have to go all the way back to April 28, 2019, to find the last occasion in regular season play, when Dane Kelly's 13th minute tally was negated by New York Red Bulls II goals in the 60' & 69' in a 1-2 road defeat.

AYOZE & ARTEAGA RAMPING UP RETURNS: Two of the Eleven's most pivotal pieces – forward Manuel Arteaga and midfielder Ayoze – have been ramping up their minutes in the last three outings as they return from injuries suffered during the preseason.

In Indy's win at RGV on April 9. Ayoze entered in the 86th minute to get his first minutes after recovering from a low leg injury, while Arteaga made his return for literally the last kick of the match in the 94th minute.

The pair entered the April 16th match against Atlanta together in the 78th minute, and seemed to be on the ball perpetually down the stretch. Ayoze created all eight of his passes down the stretch, including a pair of crosses that resulted in chances created. Meanwhile, last year's leading scorer Arteaga (10 goals in 2021) picked up where he left off, putting two of his four shots on target and creating another two. His "hockey assist" on a 1-2 with Nicky Law set up Aris Briggs' eventual game-winner in the 92nd minute.

Last Sunday saw the duo swap 45-minute stints, with Ayoze earning his first start of the campaign, while Arteaga replaced *El Capitan* at the halftime break to put in 45 minutes of his own. The Venezuelan buzzsaw picked up his first assist of the season, his looping cross to Stefano Pinho in the 64th minute proving to be the game-winning assist in the 3-1 victory.

OH CAPTAINS, OUR CAPTAINS: While a lot of new faces – including numerous veterans – have joined Indy Eleven for the 2022 campaign, a pair of Eleven stalwarts in Spanish midfielder Ayoze and Trinidad & Tobago international Neveal Hackshaw were named captains by Head Coach Mark Lowry as the season approached. Ayoze served in a similar role for the first time in Indy last season, while Hackshaw has sporadically donned the armband on the field throughout his four years with Indiana's Team. With both Ayoze and Hackshaw out for varying spans of the early season, it has been veteran center back A.J. Cochran receiving the honor of wearing the captain's armband for each of the squad's last four contests.

DESPITE SHUFFLE, DEFENSE STAYS SOLID: The fourman backline of center backs Mechack Jerome and AJ Cochran and wide backs Bryam Rebellon and Jared Timmer as well as deep-lying midfielder Sam Brown started the first four games of the squad's current fivegame undefeated streak, but that trend was disrupted last Sunday vs. Orange County SC. A concussion to Brown saw Justin Ingram move into the deep lying midfield, and Alex McQueen entered in place of an injured Rebellon ... and then a 25th minute exit for Jerome due to injury thrust two-time USL Championship performer Neveal Hackshaw back into the mix on the left, pushing Timmer into a central role alongside Cochran. Indy adapted quickly, as Mikko Kuningas' 13th minute goal marked OCSC's only shot on target for the entire match, allowing Indy to concede just a solitary goal for the fifth straight outing.

ELEVEN ON THE CHARTS: Some Boys in Blue are continuing to climb towards the top of the USLC categorial charts during its recent undefeated streak:

- Stefano Pinho's latest tally last weekend landed the striker on 4 goals for the season, placing him in a tie for 4th place on the league's Golden Boot chart. His 16 shots also rank the Brazilian tied for 8th across the league.
- GK Elliot Panicco wasn't asked to do much in the save department last Sunday, but his 18 saves still kept him in the league's top 5 in the category in fourth place.
- Midfielder Nicky Law's creativity has him in the top 20 across the Championship with 2 assists (T-12th) and 13 chances created (T-17th)
- A.J. Cochran's 27 clearances are T-9th

Team wise, despite being one of only six clubs without a clean sheet, Indy's 9 goals allowed are tied for the 9th fewest in the 27-team league ...

Goals Scored: 9 (T-12th) Goals Conceded: 9 (T-9th)

Shots: 69 (21st)

Conversion Rate: 16% (T-10th) Passing Accuracy: 72% (T-23rd) Fouls Conceded: 104 (T-10th)

Cautions: 16 (T-15th)

INDY ELEVEN ADDS TWO-TIME MVP SOLOMON ASANTE: Indy Eleven made waves throughout the USL Championship on April 11, when it announced the signing Ghanaian forward Solomon Asante. The diminutive striker (5'2") with a huge influence joins Indiana's Team following four dominant seasons in the attack of Phoenix Rising FC, where he won a pair of USLC MVP awards in 2019 & 2020, was named to the USLC All-League First Team thrice (2018-20), and twice led Phoenix to Western Conference Championship titles (2018 & 2020).

Asante's 54 goals and 42 assists in 113 regular season and postseason contests led to a ridiculous 0.87 goals + assists per 90 minutes figure that led the league across the four-year span. The former Ghanaian Player of the Year currently ranks fourth in USL Championship history with his 42 assists, helping to his place and the only player in league annals to score 40 goals and 40 assists in regular season action. Asante is responsible for arguably the best single-season performance in league history for an attacking player in 2019, when he broke the league record with 17 assists while scoring 22 goals (3rd highest in league history), figures that helped PHX to a record-setting 89 goals and 78 standings points.

Asante is currently in his native Ghana while undergoing the immigration process, but the club expects him to join the squad for training during its upcoming two-week hiatus following Saturday's match.

(Click here for the full press release on Asante)

ELEVEN ENTER SEASON 9: The 2022 campaign marks Indy Eleven's ninth season of play in franchise history – and its fifth in the USL Championship since it joined the league ahead of the 2018 season. The Boys in Blue have compiled a 51W-44L-28D record in its 122 regular season contests (52.9 win %). The Eleven have also recorded two wins and two losses in the USL Championship Playoffs during its appearances in 2018 (1 loss) and 2019 (2 wins, 1 loss). Its USL Championship seasons at a glance ...

2022 season: 3W-2L-2D, 11 pts., +1 GD 2021 season: 9W-15L-8D, 35 pts, -15 GD (6th/8 in Central) 2020 season: 7W-7L-2D, 23 pts., +2 GD (3rd/4 in Group E) 2019 season: 19W-9L-6D, 63 pts., +19 GD (3rd /18 in East) - Lost in Eastern Conf. Final (1-3 L in aet vs. LOU) 2018 record: 13W-11L-10D, 49 pts., +3 GD (7th/16 in East) - Lost in East. Quarters (4-1 @ LOU)

USL home record (reg. season): 33W-14L-15D (65.3 win %)
USL away record (reg. season): 18W-30L-13D (40.2 win %)

STEPPING UP TO "THE MIKE": Indy Eleven will continue to enjoy some home cooking in the coming weeks, as Sunday's match ends a three-game homestand while sitting in the middle of a span of four-in-five home games through the end of May. The team's 3-1 win last weekend over Orange County SC brought the club's record to 41W-24L-22D all time in now six seasons of play at the venerable venue, which includes USLC and NASL regular season and playoff contests in addition to Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup action.

After three seasons at Lucas Oil Stadium from 2018-20 to start its tenure in the USL Championship, the Eleven returned to its original home for the 2021 season. Last year's 4W-8L-4D home ledger factored into an overall disappointing season, but a three-game undefeated streak to end the year (1 win, 2 draws) as well as a draw and two wins to start 2022 has the squad on a six-game home unbeaten run in league play heading into Saturday.

All competitions record at Carroll: 41W-25L-22D (59.1%)

- NASL regular season (2014-17): 26W-18-17
- NASL postseason (2016): 1W-0L-0D
- U.S. Open Cup (2014-22): 2W-2L-0D
- USLC regular season (2021-22): 5W-8L-5D
- USLC postseason (2019): 2W-1L-0D

USL regular season home record (2018-22): 33W-14L-15D (65.3 win %)

Indy Eleven posted the second-longest home undefeated streak in USL Championship history during its Lucas Oil Stadium tenure, going 28 games (21 wins, 7 draws) without defeat from July 2018-July 2020. It also collected a lengthy undefeated streak at "The Mike", going 21 matches without a loss from Oct. 2015-May 2017.

SEEING RED: Indy Eleven started its 2022 campaign with two players seeing red cards in as many outings. The damage was limited on March 12 at Loudoun, when Alex McQueen picked up a red card in the 90th minute of the 0-1 defeat. After Indy Eleven went all 32 games in 2021 without seeing a single player ejected, McQueen's red card was the first issued to a Boy in Blue in 39 games dating back to Aug. 15, 2020, when Ayoze was dismissed in the 50th minute of a 1-0 win over Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC at Lucas Oil Stadium. That was followed by Raul Aguilera's second yellow-turned-red card in the 59th minute of Indy's 0-2 loss at Tampa Bay at March 19.

Thankfully, the rash of red cards has dried up since then, with Indy going the last four games without a seeing off.

INTERNATIONAL WINDOW CLOSES FOR INDY TRIO:

Three players that missed Indy Eleven – midfielder Neveal Hackshaw and defenders Noah Powder and Alex McQueen – have wrapped up duty for their respective national teams after a pair of matches across the recently closed FIFA international window in late March.

McQueen started his European adventure with Grenada on March 23 by playing the full 90 minutes in a 0-0 draw at Gibraltar (yes indeed, in the shadows of the famed Rock of the same name). The England-born McQueen rounded out the Spice Boys' pair of friendlies by playing 60 minutes in Grenada's 0-1 loss to Andorra on March 28.

Meanwhile, Hackshaw (24 caps since 2016) and Powder (9 caps since Jan. 2021) both represented Trinidad and

Tobago against Barbados on March 25 and Guyana on March 29. Powder started both contests, playing 84 minutes in both T&T's dominant 9-0 against Barbados and their 1-1 draw against Guyana. Hackshaw was subbed in for the final 16 against Barbados and started against Guyana, logging 63 minutes.

While McQueen and Powder returned stateside and contributed minutes in each of Indy's last three league games, Hackshaw returned to the squad in mid-April after remaining Trinidad & Tobago to tend to personal matters and made his return to the field last Sunday vs. OCSC in the 25th minute in place of an injured Mechack Jerome.

"CENTURY CLUB" ACHIEVEMENTS UNLOCKED: After becoming the third member of Indy Eleven's "Century Club" – players who've made 100 appearances across all competitions – last September, defender Karl Ouimette became the first to hit another milestone on March 19 at Tampa Bay, when the Quebec native became the first Indy Eleven player ever to start in 100 matches (93 reg. season, 4 playoffs & 3 US Open Cup).

Meanwhile, Noah Powder hit the league's Century club by making his 100th appearance in his USL Championship career with his starting nod last Saturday at Rio Grande Valley. The New Jersey native turned Trinidad & Tobago international has suited up for the Eleven in four of its five regular season outings in 2022 after previous stops with Real Monarchs SLC (47 games) and NY Red Bulls II (49). Ayoze is about to join him on that list, as last Sunday's appearance in the starting XI against OCSC was his 98th in USLC regular season action.

Here's Indy Eleven's "Century Club" list in all official competitions (regular season, postseason & US Open Cup):

Brad Ring (2014-2018): 115 capsKarl Ouimette (2018-current): 107

Ayoze (2018-current): 104Don Smart: (2014-17): 101

on the roster side, it also balanced out the other half of its motto – "The World's Game" – by stocking its roster with talent from across the globe. The current roster features 13 players who are either full or dual internationals representing 13 different countries outside the U.S.:

FW Manuel Arteaga – Venezuela

INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN: While the Indy Eleven

brass did plenty to back up its claim as "Indiana's Team"

MF Ayoze – Spain
MF Jonas Fjeldberg – Norway
MF Neveal Hackshaw – Trinidad & Tobago
DF Mechack Jerome – Haiti
MF Nicky Law – England
DF Alex McQueen – England / Grenada
FW Rodney Michael – Sierra Leone
DF Karl Ouimette – Canada
FW Stefano Pinho – Brazil
DF Noah Powder – Trinidad & Tobago / USA

MF **Bryam Rebellon** – Colombia FW **Solomon Asante** – Ghana

Of the group, Hackshaw (22 caps since 2015) and Powder (7 caps since Feb. 2021) are regular representatives of Trinidad & Tobago's National Team, while McQueen is a stalwart for Grenada (11 caps since 2017). Jerome is also no stranger to international duty, having represented Haiti on more than 70 occasions through 2019, while Asante suited up for the Black Stars of Ghana 21 times during his international career.

LOWRY LEADS OFFSEASON OVERHAUL: After a subpar 2021 campaign, the Indy Eleven brass got to work immediately to remake the squad in the offseason – starting at the top with the appointment of Mark Lowry (click here for full bio) as the fourth full-time head coach in club history.

Lowry lands in the Circle City after a three-season stint with El Paso Locomotive FC, which he guided to a 42W-19L-29D record in USL Championship regular season, USL Championship Playoffs, and Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup action from 2019-21. The native of Birmingham, England, improved Locomotive FC's record across each of their first three seasons of play, the first two of which culminated in back-to-back appearances in the Western Conference Final. Lowry's 40 regular season victories over those three years rank as the fourth most amongst USL Championship coaches across that span.

During El Paso's 2021 campaign, Lowry led Locomotive FC to an impressive 18W-4L-10D (64 points) ledger that easily clinched the Championship's Mountain Division title and marked the third highest point total across the 31-team league. Lowry earned the July 2021 USL Championship Coach of the Month honor, which coincided with the club's 23-game home undefeated run that stretched over a calendar year and was, at one point, the longest such streak in North American professional soccer.

Prior to El Paso, Lowry's first stop as a head coach came with the NASL & NPSL's Jacksonville Armada from 2016-18, which was preceded by four seasons at MLS side Orlando City SC with their Academy squads and U-23 team in the then USL PDL (now USL League 2). Lowry is joined on the sideline by a pair of familiar lieutenants in Assistant Coach Matt Williams and Director, Sport Performance & Assistant Coach Gabe Zapponi, both of whom worked with Lowry in both El Paso and Jacksonville. Andy Swift is the lone holdover on the Coaching Staff, returning for his fifth season as Goalkeeper Coach.

NEW CREW OF BOYS IN BLUE: The Indy Eleven roster also received a makeover in the offseason — which continued April 11 with the addition of Samuel Asante. Now 18 of the current 30 players are spending their first seasons as Boys in Blue in 2022 (new players listed in bold

<u>Goalkeeper:</u> **Elliot Panicco**, **Tor Saunders**, ^Alex Svetanoff, **Tim Trilk**

<u>Defender:</u> A.J. Cochran, *Mechack Jérôme*, *Alex McQueen*, Karl Ouimette, *Noah Powder*, ^Ecris Revolorio, Jared Timmer, *^Bryce Warhaft*

<u>Midfielder:</u> *Raul Aguilera*, Ayoze, ^Aiden Benitez, *Sam Brown*, *Jonas Fjeldberg*, Neveal Hackshaw, *Justin Ingram*, Nicky Law, *Bryam Rebellón*, ^Diego Sanchez, Alann Torres

<u>Forward:</u> Manuel Arteaga, Solomon Asante, **^Palmer** *Ault*, *Aris Briggs*, **^Luca laccino**, *Rodney Michael*, *Stefano Pinho*

^ denotes USL Academy Contract player

Two of those newcomers – DF Mechack Jerome and MF Bryam Rebellon – bring plenty of familiarity with Lowry after playing for the sideline boss in both Jacksonville and El Paso. In addition, MF Raul Aguilera was a player in Orlando City SC's Academy set-up under Lowry, bridging a seven-year gap between stints under the new Eleven coach.

Of the 12 returning players for Indiana's Team, five received no or minimal minutes as USL Academy Contract players in 2021 (more on that later), leaving just seven regular contributors from last year's side to carryover – marking the second straight season of similar overhauling. That crew of seven "senior" returnees – defenders A.J. Cochran, Karl Ouimette, and Jared Timmer; midfielders Ayoze, Neveal Hackshaw, and Nicky Law; and forward Manuel Arteaga – represented pretty much half of the squad's returning production, including:

- 49% of minutes played last season (all seven played at least 1,500 minutes)
- 48% of assists created (10 of 21, including a team-high 5 by Avoze)
- 48% of goals scored (15 of 31, including a team-high 10 by Manuel Arteaga)

Of the returning players, Ouimette and Ayoze are back for their club-record-tying fifth season (equaling Brad Ring's mark from 2014-18) and Hackshaw for his fourth, while Arteaga, Cochran, Law and Timmer return for year #2.

EVERYONE, IN ORDER: Here's the way Indiana's Team was built since last October, in chronological order:

Nov. 16, 2021: Eleven announces hiring of Head Coach Mark Lowry

Nov. 17, 2021: Club confirms returns of FW Manuel Arteaga, MF Neveal Hackshaw, MF Nicky Law, DF Karl Ouimette, and DF Jared Timmer

Nov. 19, 2021: Club confirms return of MF Ayoze

Dec. 3, 2021: Club signs DF Mechack Jerome and MF Bryam Rebellon

Dec. 10, 2021: Club announces return of DF A.J. Cochran, signing of FW Aris Briggs and FW Alex McQueen

Dec. 21, 2021: Club signs MF Sam Brown

Jan. 13, 2022: Club signs MF Raul Aguilera

Jan. 14, 2022: Club signs DF Noah Powder

Jan. 21, 2022: Club signs former Academy player Alann Torres to professional contract

Jan. 28, 2022: Club signs FW Palmer Ault and re-signs MF Aiden Benitez, DF Ecris Revolorio, MF Diego Sanchez, and GK Alex Svetanoff to USL Academy Contracts

Jan. 31, 2022: Club signs Stefano Pinho

Feb. 11, 2022: Club signs MF Jonas Fjeldberg

Feb. 15, 2022: Club signs MF Justin Ingram

Feb. 16, 2022: Club signs GK Tim Trilk

March 3, 2022: Club acquires GK Elliot Panicco on Ioan from MLS' Nashville SC; club signs GK Tor Saunders and sends on Ioan to USL League 1 side Chattanooga Red Wolves SC

March 10, 2022: Club signs FW Luca laccino and DF Bryce Warhaft to USL Academy Contracts

March 22, 2022: Club acquires FW Rodney Michael via transfer from USL1's South Georgia Tormenta FC; Ioan MF Alann Torres to USL1's Forward Madison FC

April 11, 2022: Eleven sign FW Samuel Asante

THIRTEEN DEBUT SO FAR IN '22: Of those 18 newcomers to the roster, 13 have already debuted with the club, with all but one doing so in the season opener at Loudoun United FC on March 12. Starters from that match included Elliot Panicco, Mechack Jerome, Alex McQueen, Noah Powder, Justin Ingram, Bryam Rebellon, Aris Briggs and Stefano Pinho ...

An additional four players – Raul Aguilera, Palmer Ault, Sam Brown, and Jonas Fjeldberg – made their debuts off the bench in the second half. For the Indianapolis native Ingram and Noblesville native Ault (a recent USL Academy Contract signing), their time at Segra Field marked their pro soccer debuts.

After going with known quantities in game two at Tampa Bay, forward Rodney Michael made it 13 new Boys in Blue on the season with his 17-minute stint on March 26 at LouCity.

INGRAM HIGHLIGHTS HOOSIER CONTINGENT: Eight players on this year's squad either hail from or attended college in the Hoosier State, including rookie midfielder and Indianapolis native Justin Ingram, a Pike H.S. grad starting his pro career after standing out for Loyola

University Maryland, and DF Jared Timmer, a graduate of Butler University. In addition, five of the team's seven players on USL Academy Contracts are "homegrown Hoosiers" – as is "Academy graduate" Alann Torres ...

FW **Palmer Ault**: Brownsburg native, played with Indiana Fire Academy

MF **Aiden Benitez**: Westfield native, played with Indiana Fire Academy

MF **Justin Ingram:** Indianapolis native (Pike H.S.), also played with Indiana Fire Academy

DF **Ecris Revolorio**: Evansville native, played with Indiana Fire Academy

MF **Diego Sanchez**: Indianapolis native, played with Indiana Fire Academy

GK **Alex Svetanoff**: Crown Point native, played with Indiana Fire Academy

DF **Jared Timmer**: played at Butler University (Indianapolis)

MF **Alann Torres**: Elkhart native, played with Indiana Fire Academy

YOUTH SERVED THROUGH SEVEN ACADEMY SIGNINGS: Nearly a full quarter of the Eleven's current 29-man roster is made up of USL Academy Contract signings, signaling Head Coach Mark Lowry's belief in including youth in his roster building philosophy. Goalkeeper Alex Svetanoff is in his third partial season with Indy as an Academy player, while DF Ecris Revolorio, MF Aiden Benitez, and MF Diego Sanchez return for their second season after initial signing developmental contracts last August. New Academy Contracts signings for 2022 include Palmer Ault DF Bryce Warhaft, and FW Luca laccino, the latter two having officially inked with the squad days prior to the open of the season on March 10.

ELEVEN U19s CAPTURE SECOND TROPHY AT USL ACADEMY CUP: Indy Eleven entered four teams in last weekend's USL Academy Cup down in Tampa from March 31-April 3 – and all four returned with "podium finishes" in the top 3, including the Boys U19 squad that won its Elite Group, following in the footsteps of their 2021 USL Academy League triumph last December. USL Academy Contract signings FW Palmer Ault, FW Luca laccino, and GK Alex Svetanoff all contributed to the U19 squad's latest hardware run, with Svetanoff coming up big in a 5-4 penalty kick triumph that followed Indy's 2-2 regulation draw against Tampa Bay United.

Meanwhile, the youngest first-team signing in club history, Academy Contract midfielder Aidan Benitez, represented the Boys U15 side that placed as the runner-up in the age group's Elite bracket, the Silver Medal finish coming after a 2-3 result to Weston United.

Also making the final in Elite play was the Girls U19 squad helmed by the Eleven's W League Head Coach Paul Dolinsky, which dropped a narrow result of its own via a 0-1 scoreline to NC Fusion. Finally, the Boys U13 squad garnered a third place finish in Elite play, closing solidly with a 3-0 rout of Ironbound SC in the third place game.

In all, the four teams combined to go 9W-3L-4D (+13 GD) in the USL Academy's showcase tournament, helping to further establish Indy Eleven as the premier club in the United Soccer League umbrella in regards to its commitment to its youth development model.

2022 PLAYER BIOS: Please visit IndyEleven.com/roster for the most up to date information on each member of the Boys in Blue.