



NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE 2023 MATCH NOTES



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2023 SCHEDULE

Date	Opp	Time/Result
Mar. 25	KC Current	W, 1-0
April 1	at San Diego Wave	L, 3-1
April 15	Washington Spirit	L, 1-2
April 19	at Orlando Pride*	D, 1-1
April 22	at NJ/NY Gotham	L, 1-0
April 28	at Houston Dash	W, 0-1
May 3	NJ/NY Gotham*	7:00 PM
May 6	Portland Thorns	7:00 PM
May 14	OL Reign	3:00 PM
May 20	Angel City FC	7:00 PM
May 27	at Racing Louisville	8:00 PM
June 3	at KC Current	8:30 PM
June 10	at Chicago Red Stars	TBD
June 14	at Washington Spirit*	7:30 PM
June 17	Orlando Pride	7:00 PM
June 24	Racing Louisville	7:00 PM
July 1	Houston Dash	7:30 PM
July 9	at Angel City FC	8:00 PM
July 22	Washington Spirit*	7:00 PM
July 29	Orlando Pride*	7:00 PM
Aug. 5	at NJ/NY Gotham*	7:30 PM
Aug. 20	at Portland Thorns	10:30 PM
Aug. 27	Chicago Red Stars	2:00 PM
Sept. 2	NJ/NY Gotham	7:00 PM
Sept. 17	at Orlando Pride	7:00 PM
Sept. 30	at OL Reign	4:30 PM
Oct. 7	San Diego Wave	7:00 PM
Oct. 15	at Washington Spirit	5:00 PM

BOLD - Home

*UKG NWSL Challenge Cup

All times Eastern

THE MATCHUP: UKG NWSL CHALLENGE CUP



GROUP STAGE - MATCH TWO of SIX

NC Courage (0-0-1, 1 points)

vs.

Gotham FC (1-0-0, 3 points)



Wednesday, May 3, 2023 | 7:07 p.m. ET

WakeMed Soccer Park | Cary, North Carolina

BROADCAST: Paramount+ (PXP: JP Dellacamera | Analyst: Lori Lindsey)

REFEREE: Joshua Encarnacion **VAR:** Armando Villarreal

KICKING OFF...

THUNDER STRUCK (AGAIN): The North Carolina Courage dealt with a weather delay for the second straight weekend, this time a three-plus hour delay in Houston on Friday night. The match was eventually abandoned with the Courage 1-0 winners on the strength of Tyler Lussi's first Courage goal in the 33'

IRISH GOODBYE: The Courage salvaged a point in their first Challenge Cup group stage match when captain Denise O'Sullivan ripped an equalizer top shelf in the 90+9' on what was likely the very last kick of the game.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: The Courage are unbeaten in their last 11 Challenge Cup matches, dating back to 2021. It is the longest undefeated streak in Challenge Cup history. The Courage won the Cup in 2022, going 5-0-3 throughout the tournament and winning the title on their home field. Sean Nahas is undefeated in nine Challenge Cup matches as Courage head coach (5W, 4D)

BATMAN RETURNS: The Courage face Gotham for the second time in two weeks, this time for Challenge Cup action. In a game that was delayed two hours due to weather, the Courage fell in Harrison, 1-0, on a Lynn Williams 80' goal two Saturdays ago. The Courage are now 11W-5L-3D against Gotham lifetime, with the loss last month the first to NJY since October 17, 2021.

CHALLENGE CUP STATS

NC	STAT	NJY
1	GOALS	1
17	SHOTS	12
0	ASSISTS	1
8	CORNER KICKS	6
1	GOALS AGAINST	0
65%	POSSESSION	51%
0	SHUTOUTS	1
85.4	PASS ACCURACY	70.2
13	FOULS CONCEDED	11
1	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0

NWSL CHALLENGE CUP STANDINGS

<u>EAST DIVISION</u>			
1.	NJ/NY Gotham FC	1 GP	1-0-0 3 points
2.	North Carolina Courage	1 GP	0-0-1 1 points
2.	Orlando Pride	1 GP	0-0-1 1 points
4.	Washington Spirit	1 GP	0-1-0 0 points
<u>CENTRAL DIVISION</u>			
1.	Kansas City Current	1 GP	1-0-0 3 points
2.	Chicago Red Stars	0 GP	0-0-0 0 points
2.	Racing Louisville	0 GP	0-0-0 0 points
4.	Houston Dash	1 GP	0-0-1 0 points
<u>WEST DIVISION</u>			
1.	San Diego Wave	1 GP	1-0-0 3 points
1.	OL Reign	1 GP	1-0-0 3 points
3.	Portland Thorns	1 GP	0-0-1 0 points
3.	Angel City FC	1 GP	0-0-1 0 points

NC COURAGE MATCH PREVIEW vs. GOTHAM FC (CHALLENGE CUP) | WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

CARY, N.C. (May 2, 2023) — The North Carolina Courage return home to open a four-game home stand as they host NJ/NY Gotham FC in UKG NWSL Challenge Cup group stage action this Wednesday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. ET. Tickets are on sale now and the game will stream live on Paramount+ with @TheNCCourage providing live updates on social media before, during and after the match. The Courage are the defending Challenge Cup champions after claiming the title in 2022.

The Courage are coming off a weather-shortened 0-1 win in Houston last Friday, snapping a three-game regular season skid and improving to 2-3-0 on the season. Tyler Lussi scored her first goal for the Courage, one-timing home a brilliant cross from Emily Fox a half-hour into the contest. The Courage also held 65% of possession, passed at 85% accuracy and had the advantage in shots and shots on goal for a game that was called after 52 minutes due to lightning.

This is the second group stage game of the 2023 Challenge Cup, with Gotham sitting atop the East Division with three points after a 1-0 win over the Washington Spirit. The Courage got the latest goal in club history when Denise O'Sullivan ripped an equalizer in the 90+9' to salvage a 1-1 draw in Orlando, despite a stat sheet dominated by North Carolina. The late-game heroics extended the Courage undefeated streak to 11 straight Challenge Cup matches, dating back to 2021, which extended the longest such streak in tournament history.

The Challenge Cup splits the 12 NWSL clubs into three divisions, aligned by location (East, Central, and West), with the groups of four playing each opponent home and away for a total of six matches. With each win worth three points and draw worth one, the team with the most points from each division, plus the team with the next-highest point total, advance to the Challenge Cup playoffs, where single-game semifinals lead to a winner-take-all championship match.

The Matchup

The Courage face Gotham for the second time in two weeks, this time in Challenge Cup action. In a game that was delayed two hours due to weather, the Courage fell in Harrison, 1-0, on a Lynn Williams 80' goal two Saturdays ago. The Courage are now 11W-5L-3D against Gotham lifetime, with the loss last month the first to Gotham since October 17, 2021.

The Courage do have a slight advantage in rest over Gotham heading into the Wednesday showdown; the Courage played last Friday, although were kept up abnormally late due to the lengthy delay and eventual abandonment, while Gotham played on Sunday in Kansas City. The extra day of rest, plus home field advantage, could prove useful during this grueling stretch of the season.

Scouting Gotham

Gotham got off to a hot start, earning three wins in their first four regular season games and was the only East Division team to start Challenge Cup play with three points. They opened the season with a come-from-behind 2-1 win at Angel City, were shut out by OL Reign, 0-2, in their only home game so far, then scored a pair of stoppage time goals to down Orlando, 2-0, on the road before the 1-0 win over the Courage. They did fall in Kansas City, 2-0, Sunday.

Gotham has added some key experience to the roster this season, including U.S. Women's National Team mainstays Kelley O'Hara and Lynn Williams. They traded the second-overall pick in the draft for Williams, but still were able to select Jenna Nighswonger with the fourth pick. Add in Midge Purce and Kristie Mewis, and this potent offense will look to attack early and often. The youthful Courage will also have to deal with a very experienced opponent. According to Opta, Gotham by far has the most veteran roster with an average age of 29.32. The next-highest average age is OL Reign at 26.7 years.

Players to Watch

NC Courage: #14 Tyler Lussi

Veteran Tyler Lussi was outstanding for the Courage in her debut back on March 25 but had been battling a bit of a knock in the weeks since, limiting her minutes in both matches and training. She returned to starting form over the last week and continued to show the pace and tenacity that makes her such a difficult matchup, culminating in No Sleeves FC's first goal for the Courage, scoring the game-winner in the 1-0 final at Houston last Friday. The Princeton grad and Maryland native had spent her entire professional career on the west coast with Portland and Angel City, but has quickly built a chemistry with her new squad, both on and off the field.

Gotham FC: #4 Abby Smith

Last week, our Gotham player to watch scored. But what are the odds of a goalkeeper scoring in an NWSL match? That's only happened, like, twice. So we think we're safe here. Smith has been outstanding in goal for Gotham after joining the club this past off-season. Her 21 saves in regular season matches lead the NWSL and she's third in save percentage (80.0). She made a double save on Brittany Ratcliffe at the goal line last Saturday to keep the Courage off the scoreboard, earning the clean sheet for her club and NWSL Save of the Week honors. A veteran in the league since 2016, Smith won a 2022 NWSL Championship with the Portland Thorns.

The Courage return to NWSL regular season action this Saturday, May 6, when they host the defending champion Portland Thorns at 7:00 p.m. ET. The match will stream live on Paramount+ and @TheNCCourage will provide live updates on social media.

2023 NC COURAGE MATCH NOTES | vs. GOTHAM FC (CHALLENGE CUP) | WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

#	Name	Pos	Ht	DOB	Hometown (Citizenship)
0	Katelyn Rowland	GK	5-11	3/16/94	Vacaville, CA (USA)
1	Casey Murphy	GK	6-1	4/25/96	Bridgewater Twp., NJ (USA)
3	Kaleigh Kurtz	D	5-8	9/9/94	Greer, SC (USA)
4	Emily Gray (SEI)	M	5-4	10/5/00	Sewell, NJ (USA)
5	Haley Hopkins	F	5-10	12/21/98	Newport Beach, CA (USA)
6	Narumi Miura	M	5-1	7/3/97	Kawasaki, Japan (JAP)
7	Malia Berkely	D	5-8	2/13/98	Liberty Twp., OH (USA)
8	Brianna Pinto	M	5-5	5/24/00	Durham, NC (USA)
9	Kerolin Nicoli	F	5-5	11/17/99	São Paulo, Brazil (BRA)
10	Denise O'Sullivan	M	5-4	2/4/94	Cork, Ireland (IRE)
11	Brittany Ratcliffe	F	5-4	2/7/94	Williamstown, NJ (USA)
12	Emily Fox	D	5-5	7/5/98	Ashburn, VA (USA)
13	Ryan Williams	D	5-8	2/23/96	Centennial, CO (USA)
14	Tyler Lussi	F	5-7	1/26/95	Gibson Island, MD (USA)
17	Rikke Madsen	F	5-8	8/9/97	Varde, Denmark (DEN)
18	Sydney Collins	D	5-7	9/8/99	Beaverton, OR (USA)
19	Frankie Tagliaferri	M	5-7	1/18/99	Colts Neck, NJ (USA)
20	Olivia Wingate	F	5-7	1/20/00	Wilmington, MA (USA)
22	Mille Gejl	F	5-7	9/23/99	Denmark (DEN)
23	KiKi Pickett	D	5-0	4/30/99	Santa Barbara, CA (USA)
24	Estelle Johnson	D	5-6	7/21/88	Maroua, Cameroon (CAM)
25	Meredith Speck	M	5-3	2/1/93	Rockville Centre, NY (USA)
26	Clara Robbins	M	5-7	9/12/98	Stafford, VA (USA)
28	Tess Boade (IR)	F	5-4	2/3/99	Highlands Ranch, CO (USA)
29	Millie Farrow	F	5-6	6/3/96	Portsmouth, England (ENG)
44	Marisa Bova	GK	6-2	8/6/00	Hartland, WI (USA)
99	Victoria Pickett	M	5-6	8/12/96	Newmark, Ontario (CAN)

TECHNICAL STAFF

Head Coach: Sean Nahas (2nd Season)

Assistant Coaches: Nathan Thackeray, Emma Thomson, Fabrice Gautrat, Victoria Boardman

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

6 – nah-ROO-me me-OR-uh

HC: NAY-HOSSAC: guh-TRAW

9 – keh-row-LEEN nih-COLE-ee

14 – Tyler LOO-see

17 – REE-KAY Madsen

19 – Frankie tah-LEE-UH-ferry

22 – MEE-luh Guy-el (rhymes with “dial”)

28 – Tess BOE-dee

SEI – Season-Ending Injury

IR – Injured Reserve

CHALLENGE CUP WHEN:

Split	W-D-L
Home	0-0-1
Away	0-1-0
Day	0-0-0
Night (After 5 p.m. local)	0-1-0
Turf	0-0-0
Grass	0-1-0
Scoring first	0-0-0
Opp. scores first	0-1-0
Leading at half	0-0-0
Tied at half	0-1-0
Trailing at half	0-0-0
Scoring 0 goals	0-0-0
Scoring 1 goal	0-1-0
Scoring 2+ goals	0-0-0
Allowing 0 goals	0-0-0
Allowing 1 goal	0-1-0
Allowing 2+ goals	0-0-0
More shots than opp.	0-1-0
Fewer shots than opp.	0-0-0
Even shots	0-0-0
More corners than opp.	0-1-0
Fewer corners than opp.	0-0-0
Even corners	0-0-0
March	0-0-0
April	0-1-0
May	0-0-0
June	0-0-0
July	0-0-0
August	0-0-0
September	0-0-0
October	0-0-0
Monday	0-0-0
Tuesday	0-0-0
Wednesday	0-1-0
Thursday	0-0-0
Friday	0-0-0
Saturday	0-0-0
Sunday	0-0-0

CHALLENGE CUP STATS (sorted by minutes)

Player	Games	Starts	Minutes	Goals	Assists	Shots	Pass%	Fouls	Yellows
O'Sullivan, Denise	1	1	90	1	0	2	86.11	1	0
Kerolin	1	1	90	0	0	5	69.23	2	0
Kurtz, Kaleigh	1	1	90	0	0	1	95.45	0	0
Barkley, Malia	1	1	90	0	0	1	94.25	1	0
Williams, Ryan	1	1	90	0	0	1	87.36	0	0
Murphy, Casey	1	1	90	0	0	0	95.24	0	0
Lusol, Tyler	1	1	73	0	0	2	47.83	2	0
Speck, Meredith	1	1	73	0	0	0	88.1	2	1
Tagliaferri, Frankie	1	1	64	0	0	1	64.29	2	0
Wingate, Olivia	1	1	64	0	0	1	63.64	1	0
Fox, Emily	1	1	45	0	0	0	88.89	0	0
Collins, Sydney	1	0	45	0	0	1	91.18	0	0
Ratcliffe, Brittany	1	0	26	0	0	2	61.54	1	0
Mura, Norumi	1	0	26	0	0	0	83.33	0	0
Madigan, Rikka	1	0	17	0	0	0	100	1	0
Robbins, Clara	1	0	17	0	0	0	66.67	0	0

Player	Games	Starts	Minutes	Saves	Goals Against	Save%	Expected GA	Yellows
Murphy, Casey	1	1	90	1	1	50	0.68	0

AVAILABILITY REPORT

Player	Designation	Reason
Tess Boade (IR)	OUT	Shoulder
Emily Gray (SEI)	OUT	Knee
Estelle Johnson	OUT	Lower Leg
Kiki Pickett	QUESTIONABLE	Concussion Protocol

STATISTICAL CHALLENGE CUP INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Courage Game Highs

Goals	O'Sullivan	1
Assists	N/A	0
Shots	Kerolin	5 (4/19 at ORL)
Fouls	Several	2
Fouls won	O'Sullivan/Ratcliffe	2 (4/19 at ORL)
Clears	Kurtz/Williams	3 (4/19 at ORL)
Interceptions	Several	1 (4/19 at ORL)
Saves	Murphy	1 (4/19 at ORL)
Goals Allowed	Murphy	1 (4/19 at ORL)

Courage Season Highs

Goals	O'Sullivan	1
Assists	N/A	0
Shots	Kerolin	5 (4/19 at ORL)
Fouls	Several	2
Fouls won	O'Sullivan/Ratcliffe	2 (4/19 at ORL)
Clears	Kurtz/Williams	3 (4/19 at ORL)
Interceptions	Several	1 (4/19 at ORL)
Saves	Murphy	1 (4/19 at ORL)
Goals Allowed	Murphy	1 (4/19 at ORL)

FULL GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS WITH GOAL SCORERS

Date	Opponent	Result	Goal Scorers
3/25	Kansas City	W, 1-0	Mille Gejl - 23' (Narumi)
4/1	at San Diego	L, 3-1	Kerolin - 77' (PK)
4/15	Washington	L, 1-2	Kerolin - 43' (PK)
4/19	at Orlando*	D, 1-1	Denise O'Sullivan - 90+9'
4/22	at Gotham	L, 1-0	-
4/28	at Houston	W, 0-1	Tyler Lussi - 33' (Fox)
5/3	Gotham FC*	7 PM	
5/6	Portland	7 PM	
5/14	OL Reign	3 PM	
5/20	Angel City	7 PM	
5/27	at Louisville	8 PM	
6/3	at Kansas City	3 PM	
6/10	at Chicago	TBA	
6/14	at Wash*	7:30 PM	
6/17	Orlando	7 PM	
6/24	Louisville	7 PM	
7/1	Houston	7:30 PM	
7/9	at Angel City	8 ET	
7/22	Washington*	7 PM	
7/29	Orlando*	7 PM	
8/5	at Gotham*	7:30 PM	
8/20	at Portland	10:30 ET	
8/27	Chicago	2 PM	
9/2	Gotham FC	7 PM	
9/17	at Orlando	7 PM	
9/30	at OL Reign	4:30 ET	
10/7	San Diego	7 PM	
10/15	at Washington	5 PM	

2023 PLAYER HONORS

Week	Honoree	Award
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HEAD COACH: SEAN NAHAS (17W-10D-15L IN ALL COMPS)



Nahas begins his second full season as head coach of the Courage in 2023, bringing nearly two decades of coaching experience to the sideline. Nahas led the Courage to the 2022 Challenge Cup championship in his first season at the helm and was a member of the coaching staff that led the team to their NWSL Championships in 2018 and 2019. He has valuable US National Team coaching experience, including assistant coaching positions with the U20 USWNT and U14 Youth National Team and serving as a US National Team Youth Scout. He has held several leadership positions with CASL (now NCFC Youth), including Director of Girls Classic Soccer, ECNL Director, and Director of CASL Player Development. As ECNL Director, he helped CASL reach its highest ranking in USYS of No.7 nationally in 2010-2011.

ASSISTANT COACH - NATHAN THACKERAY



Thackeray enters his sixth season on the Courage staff in 2023. He was a member of the 2018 and 2019 NWSL Championship coaching staff. He started his coaching career in 2011 after playing with England's Bradford City from 2003-2006 and William Woods University from 2006-2010. He worked with Young Harris College in Georgia, and then became the Head of Goalkeeping at the Houston Dynamo Academy in 2012. Thackeray is a USSF licensed coach.

ASSISTANT COACH - EMMA THOMSON



Thomson begins her second season as a full-time assistant in 2023. She spent six prior years with George Mason University, while also coaching with FC Virginia in the DA. She holds a USSF A license and is also on staff with the NC Courage Girls Academy. She grew up playing in the FA Women's Premier league and represented England at youth levels. A two-time captain for Penn State women's soccer, Thomson helped the Nittany Lions to four NCAA Tournament appearances, collecting four Big Ten Championships and one Big Ten Tournament Championship.

ASSISTANT COACH - FABRICE GAUTRAT



Gautrat begins his first season with the Courage in 2023. He spent the prior three seasons with the Chicago Red Stars, including full-time in 2022. He also worked with youth club Chicago FC United from 2018-22, taking over as academy director in 2020 to lead the program through a transition to the Girls Academy. He coached in the USYNT camp in June of 2019. The Santa Clarita, California native played for the University of San Diego from 2006-07 before playing professionally through 2015. He also spent time as an assistant in the Olympique Lyonnais academy.

ASSISTANT COACH - VICTORIA BOARDMAN



Boardman begins her first season on the Courage staff in 2023, joining the team in February. She was on the first-ever staff of the San Diego Wave, helping the team to a playoff berth in their first season of competition in 2022. Prior to joining the Wave, she was a head coach for BEACH Futbol Club in California for over four years. She earned her USSF A license in 2018 and achieved her UEFA B license in 2021. She graduated from Long Beach State in May 2020 with a degree in kinesiology and exercise science.



#0 KATELYN ROWLAND | GK | 5-11 | DOB: 3/16/94 | NWSL EXP: 9th Year

"KATE-linn ROW-lind" | **HOMETOWN:** Vacaville, CA (USA) | **COLLEGE:** UCLA

Acquired via trade with the Kansas City Current prior to 2022 season (Lynn Williams)

- Started four regular season and eight Challenge Cup matches in 2022
- Starting goalkeeper on back-to-back NWSL Shield winning Courage teams in 2017-18
- Originally drafted by FC Kansas City 17th overall in the 2015 NWSL College Draft
- Four-year starter at UCLA, set NCAA records for career shutouts (55) and single-season (19)



#1 CASEY MURPHY | GK | 6-1 | DOB: 4/25/96 | NWSL EXP: 5th Year

"KAY-see MURR-fee" | **HOMETOWN:** Bridgewater Twp., NJ (USA) | **COLLEGE:** Rutgers

Acquired via trade with OL Reign prior to the 2021 season (Crystal Dunn)

- Became all-time Clean Sheet leader in club history with her 18th last Saturday
- Recorded 11 clean sheets in 2021, matching the NWSL single-season record
- 13 appearances for the United States Women's National Team with nine clean sheets
- Played collegiately at Rutgers where she was a two-time B1G Goalkeeper of the Year

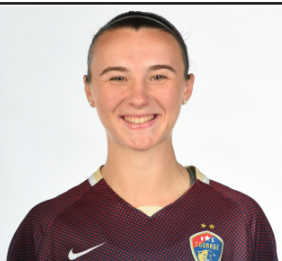


#3 KALEIGH KURTZ | DEF | 5-8 | DOB: 9/9/94 | NWSL EXP: 6th Year

"KAY-lee KURTS" | **HOMETOWN:** Greer, SC (USA) | **COLLEGE:** South Carolina

Signed with the Courage ahead of the 2018 NWSL Season

- 2022 Iron Woman, playing every minute of the regular season
- Scored first three career goals during the 2022 campaign
- Appeared in all eight Challenge Cup matches in 2022 to help Courage win title
- SEC Defender of the Year as a senior for the University of South Carolina



#4 EMILY GRAY (SEI) | MID | 5-4 | DOB: 10/5/00 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"Emily Gray" | **HOMETOWN:** Sewell, NJ (USA) | **COLLEGE:** Virginia Tech

Drafted in the first round (3rd overall) of the 2022 NWSL Draft

- Appeared in three regular season and four Challenge Cup matches as a rookie in 2022
- Has been invited to six U.S. WNT training camps throughout her youth career
- Scored nine goals with eight assists in her senior season at Virginia Tech
- Highest draft pick in Hokies' history and third overall ever drafted out of Virginia Tech



#5 HALEY HOPKINS | FWD | 5-10 | DOB: 12/21/98 | NWSL EXP: Rookie

"HAY-lee HOP-kinz" | **HOMETOWN:** Newport Beach, CA (USA) | **COLLEGE:** Virginia

Drafted in the first round (11th overall) of the 2023 NWSL Draft

- Two-time All-ACC selection and 2022 All-Region honoree at Virginia
- Led the Cavaliers with 14 goals in her senior season
- Appeared in 104 collegiate games and made 100 starts between UVA and Vanderbilt
- Scored 56 career goals and had 26 assists with 21 game-winning goals



#6 NARUMI MIURA | MID | 5-1 | DOB: 7/3/97 | NWSL EXP: 1st Year

"nah-ROO-me me-OR-uh" | **HOMETOWN:** Kawasaki, Japan (JAPAN)

Acquired via transfer from WE League's Tokyo Verde Beleza prior to 2023 season

- Provided an assist and 100% tackle rate in her debut last Saturday, playing all 90 minutes
- Won over 63% of duels and more than 50% of aerial duels against Kansas City
- Has 23 appearances for the Japanese National Team (JFA), including 2020 Olympics in Tokyo
- Has been a member of Japan's top domestic league, WE League, since 2016



#7 MALIA BERKELY | DEF | 5-8 | DOB: 2/13/98 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"mah-LEE-ah BIRK-lee" | **HOMETOWN:** Liberty Twp., OH (USA) **COLLEGE:** Florida State

Acquired via transfer from FC Girondins de Bordeaux

- Appeared in 16 regular season and seven Challenge Cup games in 2022
- Appeared in 10 games across two professional seasons for Bordeaux from 2020-22
- Two-time ACC Defensive Player of the Year (2019, 2020) for Florida State
- Three-time ACC Champion and 2018 NCAA Champion



#8 BRIANNA PINTO | MID | 5-5 | DOB: 5/24/00 | NWSL EXP: 3rd Year

"BREE-ah-nah PIN-toe" | **HOMETOWN:** Durham, NC (USA) **COLLEGE:** North Carolina

Acquired via trade with NJ/NY Gotham FC prior to the 2022 season (Allocation Money)

- Brother, Malik, made MLS debut with FC Cincinnati last week
- Originally drafted third overall in the 2021 NWSL Draft by Gotham FC out of UNC
- Member of USYNT U-23 team (2022-23); 2019 U.S. Soccer Young Female Player of the Year
- 73-career appearances for the Tar Heels; 2021 MAC Hermann finalist



#9 KEROLIN NICOLI | FWD | 5-5 | DOB: 11/17/99 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"KEH-row-leen NICK-oh-lee" | **HOMETOWN:** São Paulo, Brazil (BRAZIL)

Signed ahead of 2022 season (allocation money to buy out contract with Madrid Club de Fútbol Femenin.)

- Has converted a penalty in back-to-back games
- Played 1,117 minutes across 13 regular season NWSL games in 2022, scoring six goals
- Brazil National Team member since 2018, youth teams since 2016
- Has made 28 international starts for Brazil (Through 2023 She Believes Cup)



#10 DENISE O'SULLIVAN (C) | MID | 5-4 | DOB: 2/4/94 | NWSL EXP: 8th Year

"deh-NEECE OH-SULL-uh-vin" | **HOMETOWN:** Cork, Ireland (IRELAND)

Signed off of waiver wire on July 28, 2017 (Houston Dash)

- Named the second captain in the history of the North Carolina Courage prior to 2023 season
- Has appeared in 146 NWSL matches across all competitions with four goals and 12 assists
- Started 18 of 19 matches played in 2022, recording 1,583 minutes
- Two-time FIA (Ireland) Player of the Year, led Ireland to first-ever World Cup in 2023



#11 BRITTANY RATCLIFFE | FWD | 5-4 | DOB: 2/7/94 | NWSL EXP: 8th Year

"BRITT-nee RAT-cliff" | **HOMETOWN:** Washington Twp., NJ (USA) **COLLEGE:** Virginia

Signed as Discovery Eligible Free Agent prior to the 2021 NWSL Season (Utah Royals)

- Scored twice in 10 appearances in 2022
- 79 appearances across all NWSL competitions, six goals scored
- Drafted 17th overall in the 2016 NWSL Draft by the Boston Breakers
- Two-time All-ACC performer for Virginia with 14 goals and 12 assists in 49 career games



#12 EMILY FOX | DEF | 5-5 | DOB: 7/5/98 | NWSL EXP: 3rd Year

"EMILY FOX" | **HOMETOWN:** Ashburn, VA (USA) **COLLEGE:** North Carolina

Acquired via trade with Racing Louisville prior to 2023 season (Abby Erceg, Carson Pickett)

- Won 58% of both tackles and duels in 17 games for Louisville in 2022
- First overall selection in the 2021 NWSL Draft and Rookie of the Year finalist
- 28 appearances for the USWNT, **SCORED FIRST INT'L GOAL ON APRIL 8 V. IRELAND**
- Three-time All-ACC performer and two-time All-American at UNC-Chapel Hill



#13 RYAN WILLIAMS | DEF | 5-8 | DOB: 2/23/96 | NWSL EXP: 6th Year

"RY-in WILL-yumz" | **HOMETOWN:** Centennial, CO (USA) **COLLEGE:** Texas Christian

Drafted 40th overall in the 2018 NWSL Draft

- Appeared in 18 games, playing 988 minutes with a 75% tackle success in 2022
- Has seen increase in total games and minutes in every season as a pro (all with Courage)
- Has made 53 career appearances across all NWSL competitions
- Played in 80 matches across four-year career with Texas Christian University



#14 TYLER LUSSI | FWD | 5-7 | DOB: 1/26/95 | NWSL EXP: 7th Year

"TIE-lurr LOO-see" | **HOMETOWN:** Gibson Island, MD (USA) **COLLEGE:** Princeton

Acquired via trade with Angel City FC prior to the 2023 season (Merritt Mathias)

- Acquired by ACFC in trade with Portland in 2022. Appeared in 20 regular season games
- Appeared in 56 matches across all competitions for Portland from 2017-2021 before trade
- Princeton all-time scoring and points leader among both women's and men's players
- Two-time Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year in 2014 and 2015



#17 RIKKE MADSEN | FWD | 5-8 | DOB: 8/9/97 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"REE-kay MAD-sin" | **HOMETOWN:** Varde, Denmark (DEN)

Signed as an International Free Agent in August of 2022

- Appeared in four games in 2022, making one start and recording one shot
- Joined the Courage midseason from Madrid CFF (12 appearances and one goal)
- Has 19 appearances for the Danish National Team (Through Feb. 2023 INTL window)
- Three seasons with Vålerenga (Norwegian Toppserien League) 47 games, f5 goals, 6 assists.



#18 SYDNEY COLLINS | DEF | 5-4 | DOB: 9/8/99 | NWSL EXP: Rookie

"SID-nee COLL-inz" | **HOMETOWN:** Beaverton, OR (CAN) **COLLEGE:** California

Drafted in the first round (8th overall) in the 2023 NWSL Draft

- Played 85 games, with 84 starts, across a five-year career at California Berkley
- Two-time All-PAC 12 performer and earned all-region plaudits in her fifth-year campaign
- Led the Golden Bears in minutes played in her final season
- Trained with the Canadian National Team during the 2023 She Believes Cup



#19 FRANKIE TAGLIAFERRI | MID | 5-7 | DOB: 1/18/99 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"FRAN-kee TAH-lee-uh-FERRY" | **HOMETOWN:** Colts Neck, NJ (USA) **COLLEGE:** Rutgers

Acquired in discovery exchange with OL Reign (rights to Alyssa Malonson)

- Made five appearances in the 2022 regular season
- Five-time All-B1G performer between Penn State and Rutgers, two-time All-American
- Led the B1G in points in 2020 (29) with 10 goals and nine assists
- Led Rutgers to College Cup Semifinal appearance in lone season with Scarlet Knights



#20 OLIVIA WINGATE | FWD | 5-7 | DOB: 1/20/00 | NWSL EXP: Rookie

"OH-liv-ee-uh WIN-gate" | **HOMETOWN:** Wilmington, MA (USA) **COLLEGE:** Notre Dame

Drafted in the first round (6th overall) of the 2023 NWSL Draft

- Made 95 appearances with 74 starts for Notre Dame in five-year career
- Scored 26 goals in her career, including 14 in her final season
- Earned United Soccer Coaches All-America status in final season
- Two-time All-ACC performer: third team in 2021 and first team in 2022



#22 MILLE GEJL | FWD | 5-7 | DOB: 9/23/99 | NWSL EXP: 1st Year

"MEE-luh GUY-ul (rhymes with dial)" | **HOMETOWN:** Denmark (DEN)

Signed as an international free agent prior to the 2023 season

- Scored first goal of the Courage and NWSL 2023 season against Kansas City
- Seven goals in 23 int'l caps for Denmark, including three in 2021 World Cup Qualifiers
- Scored 43 goals in 104 club domestic league matches for her career
- Spent the past two seasons with BK Häcken in the Damallsvenskan (top division in Sweden)



#23 KIARA "KIKI" PICKETT | DEF | 5-0 | DOB: 4/30/99 | NWSL EXP: 3rd Year

"KEE-ARR-UH 'KEE-KEE' PICK-it" | **HOMETOWN:** Santa Barbara, CA (USA) **COLLEGE:** Stanford

Acquired as part of a package trade with Kansas City Current (Samewis)

- Appeared in four regular season games and five Challenge Cup games in 2022
- Drafted fourth overall in 2021 by the KC Current; made six appearances
- 2021 PAC12 Defender of the Year for Stanford; Two-time National Champion
- Has represented the USWNT at the U17, U20 and U23 levels



#24 ESTELLE JOHNSON | DEF | 5-6 | DOB: 7/21/88 | NWSL EXP: 9th Year

"ESS-tell JON-SON" | **HOMETOWN:** Fort Collins, CO (CAM) **COLLEGE:** Kansas

Signed as an NWSL Free Agent prior to the 2023 season

- Played and started 15 games in the 2022 season with 1,288 minutes for Gotham FC
- Spent 2020-2022 with Gotham FC; 2015-2018 with Washington Spirit; 2013 with WNY Flash
- Has appeared in 11 matches for Cameroon, including four at 2019 World Cup
- Played for Kansas Jayhawks from 2006-09, twice earning All-Region honors



#25 MEREDITH SPECK | MID | 5-3 | DOB: 2/1/93 | NWSL EXP: 8th Year

"MERR-ih-dith SPECK" | **HOMETOWN:** Rockville Centre, NY (USA) **COLLEGE:** Yale

Signed with the Western New York Flash during the 2016 season

- Has appeared in 99 NWSL games across all competitions, making 37 starts
- Made 19 regular season appearances and eight Challenge Cup appearances in 2022
- Has three goals and four assists in NWSL career
- First Yale Eli to play in the NWSL. Started 24 of 25 matches played over two seasons



#26 CLARA ROBBINS | MID | 5-7 | DOB: 9/12/98 | NWSL EXP: Rookie

"CLAH-RAH ROB-inz" | **HOMETOWN:** Stafford, VA (USA) **COLLEGE:** Florida State

Drafted in the first round (9th overall) in the 2023 NWSL Draft

- All-time leader in games played (110) at Florida State University
- Ranks 19th in Seminole annals in goals scored
- Two-time ACC Tournament MVP, three-time All-ACC selection
- Won two National Championships with Florida State



#28 TESS BOADE | FWD | 5-4 | DOB: 2/3/99 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"TESS BOE-dee" | **HOMETOWN:** Highlands Ranch, CO (USA) **COLLEGE:** Duke

Signed with Courage on March 17, 2021 after trialing with club during preseason

- Played five games, with four starts, in 2022 and scored twice with an assist
- Originally drafted 40th overall by Sky Blue, but chose to use final season of NCAA eligibility
- Five-year player at Duke University, starting in 67 of 93 games played
- 2021 first team All-ACC and second team All-Region performer



#29 MILLIE FARROW | FWD | 5-6 | DOB: 6/3/96 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"MILL-EE FERŌ" | **HOMETOWN:** Portsmouth, England (ENG)

Signed as an international free agent in August of 2022

- Made NWSL debut on April 15 against Washington
- Joined Courage in 2022, did not appear in a match
- Six seasons in the FA Women's Super League with Chelsea, Reading and Bristol City
- Published a book in winter of 2023, "Brave Enough Not to Quit"



#44 MARISA BOVA | GK | 6-2 | DOB: 8/6/00 | NWSL EXP: 2nd Year

"MAH-RISS-uh BOE-vah" | **HOMETOWN:** Hartland, WI (USA) **COLLEGE:** Purdue

Drafted 45th overall in 2022 NWSL Draft

- Part of Courage roster in 2022, did not make an appearance
- Captain for Purdue in 2021, making 113 saves - first Boilermaker with 100+ in a season
- 0.91 GAA and a .807 career SV%, collecting 21 shutouts through four seasons
- All-Big Ten Second Team and the Academic All-Big Ten