

AUDI 2021 MLS CUP PLAYOFFS – CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

LOOK AHEAD

WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

W#1 COLORADO RAPIDS vs. W#4 PORTLAND TIMBERS

Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021, Dick's Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, Colo.
2:30 p.m. MT (FOX / FOX Deportes; TSN / TVA Sports)

REFEREE: Ted Unkel. AR1 (bench): Frank Anderson; AR2 (opposite): Oscar Mitchell-Carvalho; 4th: Alex Chilowicz; VAR: Alan Kelly; AVAR: Kyle Atkins

MLS Career: 127 games; FC/gm: 23.4; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 39; pens: 60

MLS Cup Playoffs: 5 games; FC/gm: 23.6; Y/gm: 2.8; R: 0; pens: 0

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Rapids 9 wins, 35 goals ... Timbers 10 wins, 34 goals ... Ties 6

AT COLORADO: Rapids 7 wins, 26 goals ... Timbers 2 wins, 14 goals ... Ties 4

2021 (MLS):

9/15: POR 2, COL 2 (Mora 67; Blanco 91+ -- Lewis 64; Barrios 87)

10/23: COL 2, POR 0 (Badji 47+; Rubio 63)

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS: First meeting.

- The Timbers opened their run in the 2021 MLS Cup Playoffs with a 3-1 win against Minnesota United FC at Providence Park on Sunday afternoon. **Sebastian Blanco** tied the club record with a pair of goals, coming over a 20-minute span in the second half, as Portland overcame an early deficit.
- The Rapids have reached the MLS Cup Playoffs for a second consecutive year, after last year falling 3-0 to Minnesota United FC in Round One. It was their first qualification since the 2016 season, when they reached the Western Conference Championship vs. Seattle.
- The Rapids come into the postseason off a 5-2 win against Los Angeles Football Club at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on Decision Day, their second win in a row. **Jonathan Lewis** netted a pair of goals, ending with seven on the season, while **Cole Bassett** scored his fifth of the year and added his fourth assist.
- It marked the seventh time in club history the Rapids scored five or more goals in a game, the club record set in a 6-3 win vs. Montréal in 2019. A year ago, the Rapids scored five goals in a game on two occasions.
- The teams met twice during the 2021 season, both over the final two months of the campaign. On Sept. 15 at Providence Park, **Michael Barrios** put the Rapids ahead in the 87th minute, but **Sebastian Blanco** netted the leveler in stoppage time, leaving the teams in a 2-2 draw. Then on Oct. 23 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, **Dominique Badji** and **Diego Rubio** each scored on either side of halftime, giving the Rapids the 2-0 win.
- The Rapids have won the last three meetings between the teams. The Colorado win in 2020 on Nov. 4 in the only meeting between the teams, in Portland, ended a five-game undefeated streak for the Timbers in the series, winning three consecutive matchups before draws in both meetings in 2019. The last Rapids win had come June 17, 2017, a 2-1 win in Commerce City.
- The visiting team has won just four times in the all-time series, the Timbers winning twice in Commerce City since 2015. The Rapids win last year ended a nine-game home undefeated streak for Portland in the series; the lone other win for the Rapids in Portland coming June 11, 2011.
- The teams have never before met outside of MLS regular season play.

RAPIDS: **Cole Bassett** had a goal and an assist in the Decision Day decider, the fourth time in his MLS career he's had a goal and an assist in the same game. ... **Collen Warner** scored his first goal of the season, his first since joining the Rapids, the last in an MLS league game coming March 25, 2017 with Minnesota United. ... **Dominique Badji** scored his fifth goal of the season, his fourth over the last five matches.

TIMBERS: **Larrys Mabiala** scored the first postseason goal of his MLS career; he did not have a goal in 2021 (8 career goals in five MLS seasons). ... **Yimmi Chará**, **Claudio Bravo** and **Josecarlos Van Rankin** all contributed their first assists in the MLS Cup Playoffs.

W#3 SPORTING KANSAS CITY v W#7 REAL SALT LAKE

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021, Children's Mercy Park, Kansas City, Kan.
2 p.m. CT (ABC / ESPN Deportes; TSN / TVA Sports)

REFEREE: Kevin Stott. AR1 (bench): Peter Manikowski; AR2 (opposite): Cory Richardson; 4th: Guido Gonzales Jr.; VAR: Jon Freeman; AVAR: Jeremy Hanson

MLS Career: 377 games; FC/gm: 24.4; Y/gm: 3.1; R: 86; pens: 100

MLS Cup Playoffs: 39 games; FC/gm: 28.7; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 4; pens: 5

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Sporting 11 wins, 41 goals ... Real 15 wins, 45 goals ... Ties 8

AT KC: Sporting 6 wins, 19 goals ... Real 5 wins, 16 goals ... Ties 5

2021 (MLS):

5/1: RSL 3, KC 1 (Kreilach 35; Rubin 52, 77 -- Pulido 17)

11/7: KC 0, RSL 1 (Kreilach 95+)

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS: Sporting 1 win, 6 goals ... Real 0 wins, 4 goals ... Ties 2

- Sporting Kansas City started off their 2021 MLS Cup Playoffs campaign with a 3-1 win against Vancouver Whitecaps FC at Children's Mercy Park on Nov. 20. It was SKC's first win in a postseason game since Nov. 11, 2018, a 4-2 win vs. Real Salt Lake in Kansas City; Sporting had two draws and two defeats in their four playoff games since.
- **Graham Zusi** finished off the victory with the first playoff goal of his 13-year MLS career, making his 19th appearance in a postseason game. Zusi also collected an assist, his seventh in the MLS Cup Playoffs.
- **Nicolas Isimat-Mirin** scored his first goal ever in MLS competition in his MLS Cup Playoffs debut; he made 13 appearances in 2021 in his first league campaign. **Khiry Shelton** also scored his first career goal in the MLS Cup Playoffs, in his eighth career outing.
- Real Salt Lake reached the conference semifinals by getting past Seattle Sounders FC in a penalty shootout following a goalless draw at Lumen Field on Nov. 23. It was the third victory via penalty shootout in RSL's club history – the last time coming in MLS Cup 2009, held in Seattle (vs. the LA Galaxy).
- Goalkeeper **David Ochoa** stopped the final of the six penalties he faced to secure the victory, as Real hit all six of their attempts. Through the 120 minutes, Ochoa recorded three saves for a shutout in making his MLS Cup Playoffs debut.
- The teams met twice during the regular season, and Real won both. On May 1 at Rio Tinto Stadium, **Damir Kreilach** scored the opening goal then assisted on a pair of goals from **Rubio Rubin**, leading Real to a 3-1 win. The teams then met in a dramatic Decision Day decider (Nov. 7) at Children's Mercy Park, RSL getting a stoppage-time goal from **Damir Kreilach** for a 1-0 win which propelled the team into the top seven as they needed a victory.
- One team has won all the meetings between the teams in each of the last three seasons. RSL won both matchups in 2019, then Sporting won both contests in 2020, before RSL returned the favor again this year.
- The teams have met twice previously in the MLS Cup Playoffs. The first meeting came in MLS Cup 2013, Sporting winning in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw through 120 minutes. They also faced each other in the Western Conference Semifinals in 2018, SKC winning the series 5-3 on aggregate, a 1-1 draw at Rio Tinto Stadium followed by a 4-2 victory in Kansas City.

SPORTING: **Dániel Sallói** collected a pair of assists, the first two of his career in the MLS Cup Playoffs, in his sixth match (he has three postseason goals). The two assists equal the club record for assists in a postseason game, set twice previously (Graham Zusi, 11/2/2011 v COL; Felipe Gutierrez, 11/11/2018 v RSL).

REAL: Real Salt Lake became the first team in MLS history to not record a single attempt at goal in an MLS Cup Playoffs game (the previous record was 2, CHV at HOU, 10/29/2006). In league play, twice have teams gone through an entire match without an attempt at goal (NE at ATL, 9/13/2017; DC vs NYC, 9/6/2020).

EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
E#2 PHILADELPHIA UNION vs. E#3 NASHVILLE SC

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021, Subaru Park, Chester, Pa.
5:30 p.m. ET (ESPN / ESPN Deportes; TSN / TVA Sports)

REFEREE: Allen Chapman. AR1 (bench): Ian Anderson; AR2 (opposite): Cameron Blanchard; 4th: Victor Rivas;
VAR: Jorge Gonzalez; AVAR: Chris Elliott
MLS Career: 196 games; FC/gm: 22.2; Y/gm: 3.7; R: 47; pens: 84
MLS Cup Playoffs: 11 games; FC/gm: 23.8; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 3; pens: 2

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Union 1 win, 1 goal ... Nashville SC 1 win, 1 goal ... Ties 0
AT SUBARU PARK: Union 1 win, 1 goal ... Nashville SC 0 wins, 0 goals ... Ties 0

2021 (MLS):

7/3: NSH 1, PHI 0 (Sapong 2)

10/23: PHI 1, NSH 0 (Przybylko 18)

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS: First meeting.

- The Union opened the Audi 2021 MLS Cup Playoffs with a dramatic victory, defeating the New York Red Bulls by the game's only goal in extra time at Subaru Park on Nov. 20. It marked the second postseason victory in the club's history; both have come against the Red Bulls and both in extra time (previous: 4-3, 10/20/2019 in Chester).
- **Jakob Glesnes** scored the game-winning goal three minutes deep in stoppage time in the second extra time period, the latest goal ever scored in an MLS game. There had never been a goal scored in added time during an extra-time session in league history (the previous latest goal in an MLS overtime game came by Maximiliano Urruti for the Portland Timbers vs. Sporting Kansas City, 118th minute, 10/29/2015).
- It also marked the fifth time in MLS Cup Playoffs history the only goal of a game was scored in extra time. The previous latest for the only goal of a playoff match came in MLS Cup 2002, by Carlos Ruiz of the LA Galaxy (113th minute).
- Nashville SC started their second MLS Cup Playoffs with a victory, defeating Orlando City SC 3-1 at Nissan Stadium in a Round One contest on Nov. 23. **Hany Mukhtar** netted a pair of goals as Nashville SC overcame an early deficit, the second and third goals of his career in the MLS Cup Playoffs.
- The teams met twice during the 2021 season, the first meetings in their histories, with each team winning at home with the game's only goal coming early. **CJ Sapong** netted the lone tally in the second minute as Nashville SC took the victory July 3 at Nissan Stadium, then **Kacper Przybylko** scored after just 18 minutes to lead the Union to the victory Oct. 23 at Subaru Park.

UNION: Andre Blake was credited with one save in recording the shutout in the playoff opener, his first clean sheet in the MLS Cup Playoffs, making his sixth career appearance. It was the first shutout in the Union's club history in a postseason match, their eighth contest overall.

NASHVILLE SC: Jhonder Cádiz sealed the victory with a late goal, his first in the MLS Cup Playoffs. ... **CJ Sapong** collected an assist, his second in the MLS Cup Playoffs in 14 career appearances. ... **Anibal Godoy** and **Daniel Lovitz** each recorded their first career assists in the MLS Cup Playoffs.

EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
E#1 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION vs. E#4 NEW YORK CITY FC

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Mass.

7:30 p.m. ET (FS1 / FOX Deportes; TSN / TVA Sports)

REFEREE: Drew Fischer. AR1 (bench): Corey Rockwell; AR2 (opposite): Jason White; 4th: Fotis Bazakos; VAR: Timothy Ford; AVAR: Andrew Bigelow

MLS Career: 154 games; FC/gm: 25.1; Y/gm: 3.2; R: 23; pens: 47

MLS Cup Playoffs: 4 games; FC/gm: 28.8; Y/gm: 3.8; R: 0; pens: 2

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Revolution 9 wins, 26 goals ... NYCFC 6 wins, 23 goals ... Ties 4

AT NEW ENGLAND: Revolution 5 wins, 12 goals ... NYCFC 2 wins, 8 goals ... Ties 2

2021 (MLS):

6/19: NYC 2, NE 3 (Andrade 55; Tajouri-Shradi 85 -- Bou 27; Bell 78; McNamara 88)

8/28: NYC 2, NE 0 (Castellanos 32, 55)

9/11: NE 2, NYC 1 (Boateng 21; Buchanan 65 -- Rodriguez 11)

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS: First meeting.

- The Revolution have reached the MLS Cup Playoffs for a third consecutive year, the 15th season in club history. A year ago, the Revs knocked off Montréal 2-1 in the Play-In Round, then defeating Philadelphia and Orlando City on the road in Round One and the Eastern Conference Semifinal, before falling by the game's only goal to the Columbus Crew in the Eastern Conference Final.
- NYCFC started off their 2021 MLS Cup Playoffs campaign with a 2-0 win against Atlanta United at Yankee Stadium on Sunday afternoon, the club's first postseason win since the 2018 season.
- **Valentín Castellanos**, the winner of the 2021 MLS Golden Boot, scored his first career MLS Cup Playoffs goal to set NYCFC on their way. Castellanos has scored a goal in each of his last five games in league and cup play, with seven goals in that span.
- The Revolution come into the MLS Cup Playoffs off a 1-0 loss to Inter Miami CF at Gillette Stadium on Decision Day. The result put an end to a 10-game undefeated streak for the Revolution, their first defeat in Foxborough since July 7 (a stretch of 10 home matches without a loss).
- The teams met three times during the 2021 regular season, with the Revolution winning a pair. Each team won once in NYCFC home games: **Carles Gil** set up a pair of goals as the Revolution took a 3-2 win at Red Bull Arena on June 19, then on Aug. 28, **Valentín Castellanos** scored both NYCFC goals for a 2-0 win at Yankee Stadium. On Sept. 11 at Gillette Stadium, **Tajon Buchanan** netted the game-winner in the second half for a 2-1 New England victory.
- The Revolution win in the last meeting was their first at home vs. NYCFC since 2019; NYCFC taking a 2-0 win there Sept. 2, 2020 (the teams also played to a goalless draw in Foxborough Sept. 19, 2020). The Revs have three wins from the last five NYCFC home matches.
- The teams have never before met outside of MLS regular season play.

REVOLUTION: The Revolution were held without a goal for the first time in 11 games, since Aug. 28 – the 2-0 loss to New York City FC at Yankee Stadium.

NYCFC: **Maximiliano Moralez** collected the fourth assist of his career in the MLS Cup Playoffs, making his eighth appearance. ... **Sean Johnson** was credited with four saves in recording the shutout, the second of his career in the MLS Cup Playoffs in nine appearances, the last coming Nov. 5, 2017 in a 2-0 win vs. Columbus at Yankee Stadium.

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