

MLS WEEK 14 – LOOK AHEAD

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC vs. HOUSTON DYNAMO FC

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #184)

Rio Tinto Stadium, Sandy, Utah

8 p.m. MT (TSN; QuestTexas 55 / Telexitos 47.2)

REFEREE: Guido Gonzales Jr. AR1 (bench): Ian McKay; AR2 (opposite): TJ Zablocki; 4th: Michael Radchuk;

VAR: Daniel Radford; AVAR: Brian Dunn

MLS Career: 23 games; FC/gm: 26.7; Y/gm: 4.5; R: 7; pens: 7

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Whitecaps FC 8 wins, 25 goals ... Dynamo FC 6 wins, 22 goals ... Ties 3

VANCOUVER HOME GAME: Whitecaps FC 7 wins, 17 goals ... Dynamo FC 0 wins, 7 goals ... Ties 2

- Whitecaps FC snapped an eight-game winless slide, coming back for a 2-1 win against the LA Galaxy at Rio Tinto Stadium on Saturday evening. **Deiber Caicedo** scored his second goal of the season for the equalizer, then the fifth of the year from **Cristian Dajome** gave the 'Caps the victory.
- Dynamo FC return to action after two weeks off, their four-game streak of draws put to an end last time out in a 2-0 loss to Seattle Sounders FC at Lumen Field on July 7.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Memo Rodríguez** and **Maximiliano Urruti** scored first-half goals as Dynamo FC took a 2-1 win May 22 at BBVA Stadium.
- The Dynamo have now won six of the eight encounters in Houston (with one draw). Whitecaps FC have won six of the eight meetings all-time in Vancouver, with two draws, including a 2-2 result last year on May 11 in the last matchup there. The Whitecaps FC 2-1 victory in Houston last year was the first ever in the series by the visiting team.

WHITECAPS FC: **Brian White** collected his second assist of the season, his first in six appearances since coming to the 'Caps from the Red Bulls.

DYNAMO FC: Francisco Navas Cobo is the youngest player to play in a game for the Dynamo at 18 years, 151 days old. Cobos made his debut on April 17, 2010 at home against Chivas USA. If **Daniel Rios** makes his professional debut vs. Vancouver, he would be the youngest player to play for the Dynamo at 18 years, 19 days old.

FC CINCINNATI vs. ATLANTA UNITED

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #175)
TQL Stadium, Cincinnati, Ohio
7 p.m. ET (FS1 / FOX Deportes)

REFEREE: Tori Penso. AR1 (bench): Eric Boria; AR2 (opposite): Jeffrey Greeson; 4th: Baldomero Toledo; VAR: Kevin Terry Jr.; AVAR: Mike Kampmeiner

MLS Career: 5 games; FC/gm: 23.4; Y/gm: 2.8; R: 1; pens: 1

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: FCC 1 win, 3 goals ... ATLUTD 3 wins, 7 goals ... Ties 1

AT CINCINNATI: FCC 0 wins, 0 goals ... ATLUTD 1 win, 2 goals ... Ties 0

- FC Cincinnati had their four-game undefeated run put to an end, falling 5-4 to CF Montréal at Stade Saputo on Saturday evening. The four goals were the most scored by the club in its three MLS seasons.
- **Brenner** scored a pair of goals – the first player in FCC's MLS history to net a brace in a league game. He also added an assist, the first FCC player in MLS to be involved in three goals in a single game.
- ATLUTD went down to a 1-0 loss to the New England Revolution at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Saturday evening, the final game in charge for head coach Gabriel Heinze.
- The teams met three times a season ago. ATLUTD won twice – **Ezequiel Barco** and **Emerson Hyndman** each netted goals for a second consecutive game as Atlanta took a 2-1 win March 7 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, then **Adam Jahn** and **Marcelino Moreno** scored in the opening 25 minutes for a ATLUTD win Nov. 1 in Atlanta. The teams also met during the group stage of the MLS is Back Tournament on July 16, **Frankie Amaya** netting the game's only goal in the 76th minute for the FC Cincinnati win.
- The teams met twice in FCC's inaugural season. The teams reached a 1-1 draw March 10 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, then **Josef Martínez** netted both goals (his second and third in the series) in ATLUTD's 2-1 triumph Sept. 18 at Nippert Stadium.

FCC: **Luciano Acosta** collected his third assist of the season, a second consecutive game with an assist. He has two goals and two assists over his last four appearances, since June 22. ... **Haris Medunjanin** scored his first goal of the season, his second in two years with FCC. ... **Gustavo Vallecilla** scored his second goal, his first coming May 22. ... **Álvaro Barreal** also collected an assist, the first of his MLS career.

ATLUTD: **Rob Valentino** was named the club's interim head coach. A first-round selection by the New England Revolution in the 2008 SuperDraft (No. 13 overall) out of the Univ. of San Francisco, he made four U.S. Open Cup appearances and one in the Concacaf Champions League over three seasons with New England and Colorado.

NEW YORK CITY FC vs. CF MONTRÉAL
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #176)
Red Bull Arena, Harrison, N.J.
7 p.m. ET (YES; TVA Sports)

REFEREE: Ted Unkel. AR1 (bench): Adam Wienckowski; AR2 (opposite): Ryan Graves; 4th: Joshua Encarnacion; VAR: Jose Carlos Rivero; AVAR: Thomas Supple
MLS Career: 114 games; FC/gm: 23.5; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 35; pens: 56

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: NYCFC 7 wins, 23 goals ... CFMTL 2 wins, 12 goals ... Ties 4
NYCFC HOME GAME: NYCFC 3 wins, 13 goals ... CFMTL 1 win, 7 goals ... Ties 3

- NYCFC fell to a second successive defeat on the road, dropping a 2-1 decision to the Columbus Crew at Lower.com Field on July 17. **Jesús Medina** scored his sixth goal of the season, tied for eighth-most in MLS this season.
- CF Montréal won their third game on the trot in remarkable fashion, coming back from two goals over a 15-minute blitz for a wild 5-4 win against FC Cincinnati at Stade Saputo – the first game in Québec in 18 months.
- **Ahmed Hamdi** scored the first two goals for his MLS career for the equalizer (74') and game-winner (87'); it was the 18th time in MLS history nine or more goals were scored in a single game. Mason Toye also scored a pair of goals, the second two-goal game of his MLS career (also in 2019 with Minnesota).
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Mason Toye** converted a first-half penalty kick and **Romell Quioto** scored the last winner as CF Montréal came back for a 2-1 win July 7 at Exploria Stadium in Orlando.
- The CFMTL win ended a nine-game undefeated streak for NYCFC, over the last five seasons, with five wins and four draws over that time. The only other Impact victory in 12 meetings all-time between the teams had come Aug. 1, 2015, a 3-2 win at Yankee Stadium.

NYCFC: New York City FC are the only team remaining in Major League Soccer with at least one goal in every game this season (12 games played).

CFMTL: The five goals scored by CF Montréal equaled the club single-game record in its MLS history, set four times previously, last in a 5-3 win vs. Toronto FC on 9/20/2017. ... **Joaquin Torres** scored his first goal in MLS, making his first start in seven appearances on the season. ... **Lassi Lappalainen** collected his second assist of the season, a single-season career-high in his three MLS campaigns.

TORONTO FC vs. NEW YORK RED BULLS
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #177)
BMO Field, Toronto, Ont.
7:30 p.m. ET (TSN; MSG)

REFEREE: Silviu Petrescu. AR1 (bench): Matthew Nelson; AR2 (opposite): Kevin Klinger; 4th: Ramy Touchan;
VAR: Carol Anne Chenard; AVAR: Gianni Facchini

MLS Career: 173 games; FC/gm: 27.6; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 25; pens: 41

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Toronto FC 9 wins, 38 goals ... Red Bulls 18 wins, 65 goals ... Ties 8

TORONTO HOME GAME: Toronto FC 7 wins, 27 goals ... Red Bulls 4 wins, 22 goals ... Ties 6

- Toronto FC came back for a 1-1 draw with Orlando City SC at BMO Field – the first game on their home field in 18 months. **Jozy Altidore** scored in the 72nd minute for his second goal of the season in his first MLS appearance since May 22.
- The Red Bulls had their scheduled match against Inter Miami CF at Red Bull Arena on Saturday evening postponed due to weather. In their last match, they extended their undefeated streak to three games, reaching a 1-1 draw with the Philadelphia Union at Red Bull Arena on July 7. **Patryk Klimala** scored his second goal since coming to MLS; he has a goal and two assists in the last two games.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Frankie Amaya** and **Caden Clark** scored on either side of halftime as the Red Bulls took a 2-0 win May 8 at Red Bull Arena.
- The Red Bulls are 14-2-2 all-time in home matches vs. Toronto FC. When TFC took a 2-0 win on March 6, 2016, it was its first win ever at Red Bull Arena. The Red Bulls were 5-0-1 all-time in Harrison before the TFC win; the triumph also snapped an eight-game home undefeated streak for the Red Bulls vs. TFC (7-0-1), which began Oct. 25, 2009.
- TFC won the last meeting between the teams at BMO Field, a 3-1 win July 17, 2019.

TFC: **Yeferson Soteldo** recorded his second career assist in MLS, both coming in the last two games. ... **Justin Morrow** collected his first assist of the season, his first in an MLS game since June 7, 2019 vs. Sporting KC.

RED BULLS: The Red Bulls extended their home undefeated streak to five games in their last match, following four consecutive victories.

INTER MIAMI CF vs. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #177)

DRV PNK Stadium, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

7:30 p.m. ET (MyTV33 / UniMás 69; WSBK TV38 / MyRITV)

REFEREE: Robert Sibiga. AR1 (bench): Jason White; AR2 (opposite): Brooke Mayo; 4th: Kevin Broadley; VAR: Christina Unkel; AVAR: Jozef Batko

MLS Career: 128 games; FC/gm: 21.7; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 24; pens: 35

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: First meeting.

- Inter Miami had their scheduled match vs. the New York Red Bulls at Red Bull Arena on Saturday evening postponed due to weather. They fell to a 1-0 loss to CF Montréal in their last match, July 3 at DRV PNK Stadium in Fort Lauderdale in a CFMTL home game.
- The Revolution put an end to a brief three-game winless run, scoring the game's only goal in a win against Atlanta United at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Saturday evening.
- **Gustavo Bou** netted the Revolution goal, his seventh of the season, tied for third place in the MLS Golden Boot standings. Bou has scored six goals in his last seven games, dating back to May 22.
- The teams are meeting for the first time in their histories. They are also scheduled to face each other on Decision Day (Nov. 7) at Gillette Stadium.

IMCF: Inter Miami have acquired U.S. youth international **Indiana Vassilev** on loan from Aston Villa FC of the English Premier League.

REVOLUTION: **Brad Knighton** was credited with five saves in recording the shutout in his second appearance of the season, his first shutout in an MLS league game since Oct. 13, 2018 vs. Orlando City. ... **Wilfrid Kaptoum** collected an assist, the first of his MLS career in his seventh appearance. ... **Adam Buksa** recorded his first assist of the season, his last coming Oct. 14, 2020 vs. Montreal.

COLUMBUS CREW vs. NASHVILLE SC
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #178)
Lower.com Field, Columbus, Ohio
7:30 p.m. ET (Bally Sports OH; MyTV30)

REFEREE: Rosendo Mendoza. AR1 (bench): Brian Poeschel; AR2 (opposite): Jeffrey Swartzel; 4th: Lukasz Szpala; VAR: Hilario Grajeda; AVAR: Claudiu Badea
MLS Career: 21 games; FC/gm: 24.1; Y/gm: 3.1; R: 2; pens: 4

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Crew 1 win, 2 goals ... Nashville SC 0 wins, 0 goals ... Ties 0
AT COLUMBUS: Crew 1 win, 2 goals ... Nashville SC 0 wins, 0 goals ... Ties 0

- The Crew extended their undefeated run to four games, grabbing a 2-1 win against New York City FC at Lower.com Field on Saturday evening.
- **Lucas Zelarayán** scored the game-winner from a free kick. It was his fourth goal directly from a free kick this season – tied for the fourth-most in a single season in MLS history – and the third against NYCFC, the first player ever to score three against the same team in a season.
- Nashville SC extended their undefeated streak to five matches in record fashion, scoring five goals in a 5-1 defeat of Chicago Fire FC at Nissan Stadium on Saturday evening.
- **Hany Mukhtar** scored a hat trick in the opening 16 minutes of the season – the fastest triple from the start of a game in MLS history. The three goals came over a six-minute span (10', 13', 16) – the second-quickest hat trick in league history (record: 5 minutes, Harut Karapetyan, LA, 6/4/98).
- The teams met once in league play during Nashville SC's inaugural season. **Pedro Santos** scored just after the halftime break and **Gyasi Zardes** netted a late insurance tally, as Crew SC took a 2-0 win Sept. 19 in Columbus.
- The teams also met during the MLS Cup Playoffs in the Eastern Conference Semifinals. **Gyasi Zardes** and **Pedro Santos** each scored in extra time, giving the Crew the 2-0 win Nov. 29 in Columbus.

CREW: **Darlington Nagbe** scored his first goal of the season, his first in an MLS league game since Aug. 20, 2020 vs. Chicago (he scored in the MLS Cup Playoffs vs. New York Red Bulls last year). ... **Pedro Santos** collected his third assist of the season, his first since recording two May 29 vs. Toronto FC.

NASHVILLE SC: **Hany Mukhtar** scored his third goal directly from a free kick, the second of his MLS career (first: Oct. 14, 2020, the second of two goals vs. Houston). ... **Brian Anunga** scored his first career goal in MLS, in his 19th appearance over two seasons. ... **CJ Sapong** scored his third goal of the season, his second over the last two games, and added his second assist of the season, the eighth time in his MLS career he's had at least one goal and one assist in the same game. ... **Randall Leal** collected his fifth assist of the season, his third in the last four games, now one of five players tied for third in the MLS assist standings.

CHICAGO FIRE FC vs. D.C. UNITED

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #180)

Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill.

7 p.m. CT (WGN-TV; NBCS-Wash / TeleXitos)

REFEREE: Marcos de Oliveira. AR1 (bench): Jose da Silva; AR2 (opposite): Andrew Bigelow; 4th: JC Griggs;

VAR: Sorin Stoica; AVAR: Jeff Muschik

MLS Career: 49 games; FC/gm: 25.1; Y/gm: 3.6; R: 4; pens: 15

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Fire 21 wins, 91 goals ... D.C. United 24 wins, 94 goals ... Ties 18

AT FIRE: Fire 12 wins, 48 goals ... D.C. United 7 wins, 34 goals ... Ties 12

- Fire FC had their three-game undefeated run put to an end, falling 5-1 to Nashville SC at Nissan Stadium on Saturday evening. **Ignacio Aliseda** scored his third goal of the season; he has three goals and one assist for the year, all coming over the last four matches.
- D.C. United weren't able to build on their club-record victory, falling 2-1 to the Philadelphia Union at Subaru Park on Saturday evening. **Yamil Asad** scored the United goal, converting a penalty kick for his second of the year, both coming in the last two games.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Edison Flores** scored the game's only goal in the seventh minute as United took the victory May 13 at Audi Field. United have now won two of the three meetings all-time at Audi Field, with one draw.
- The teams met once a season ago. **CJ Sapong** and **Boris Sekulic** each scored first-half goals as Fire FC took a 2-1 win Oct. 11 at Soldier Field, the first matchup in the series there since the 2005 season.

FIRE FC: **Przemyslaw Frankowski** collected his third assist of the season; he has a goal or an assist now in three consecutive games, with a goal and two assists in that span.

UNITED: **Steve Birnbaum** made his first appearance of the season, starting and playing 85 minutes in central defense, his first MLS appearance since Oct. 3, 2020.

SPORTING KANSAS CITY vs. SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #181)

Children's Mercy Park, Kansas City, Kan.

7:30 p.m. CT (Bally Sports KC; NBCS-CA)

REFEREE: Joseph Dickerson. AR1 (bench): Nick Uranga; AR2 (opposite): Tyler Wyrostek; 4th: Elton Garcia;
VAR: Jorge Gonzalez; AVAR: Jonathan Johnson
MLS Career: 51 games; FC/gm: 27.4; Y/gm: 4.1; R: 9; pens: 16

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Sporting 28 wins (4 shootout), 79 goals ... Earthquakes 25 wins (3 shootout), 76 goals ... Ties 8

AT KC: Sporting 21 wins (2 shootout), 49 goals ... Earthquakes 8 wins (2 shootout), 32 goals ... Ties 1

- Sporting return to action following a two-week break after winning their third in a row last time out, defeating the LA Galaxy 2-0 at Dignity Health Sports Park on July 4. **Johnny Russell** and **Khiry Shelton** each scored their first goals of the season, over the final 15 minutes, for the win.
- The Quakes gained a second consecutive draw, reaching a 1-1 result with the Colorado Rapids at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on Saturday evening. **Eduardo López** scored his third goal of the season; **Cade Cowell** collected the assist – he has two goals and an assist over the last three games.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Daniel Salló**i scored one goal and set up another as Sporting took a 3-1 victory May 22 at PayPal Park.
- The Quakes have taken one victory in the last eight meetings in the series, a 4-1 home win in 2019. Sporting have won the last four league meetings in Kansas City; the last San Jose win at Children's Mercy Park came in 2015, a 5-0 victory, which is the largest in the all-time series.
- The teams also met last year in an epic Round One match in the MLS Cup Playoffs at Children's Mercy Park. **Chris Wondolowski** scored the equalizer in stoppage time to leave the teams in a 3-3 draw after 120 minutes, then Sporting advanced in the penalty shootout. **Tim Melia** saved all three shootout attempts by the Earthquakes, the first time in 19 penalty shootouts in the MLS Cup Playoffs a goalkeeper saved all three attempts he faced.

SPORTING: **Gianluca Busio** recorded an assist, a second consecutive game with an assist, his third of the season, all coming over the last six matches.

QUAKES: **Cade Cowell** has four goals and four assists for the season, most combined goals and assists for a U.S.-born player in MLS this season. He is one of two players with at least four goals and four assists in MLS this season (also: Damir Kreilach, RSL, 7 goals, 4 assists).

COLORADO RAPIDS vs. FC DALLAS

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #182)

Dick's Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, Colo.

7 p.m. MT (Altitude; FCDTV / Estrella KMPX-29)

REFEREE: Jon Freemon. AR1 (bench): Ian Anderson; AR2 (opposite): Cory Richardson; 4th: Alyssa Nichols;
VAR: Matt Franz; AVAR: Fabio Tovar
MLS Career: 5 games; FC/gm: 29.8; Y/gm: 4.4; R: 0; pens: 0

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Rapids 25 wins (1 shootout), 96 goals ... FC Dallas 34 wins (2 shootout), 117 goals ... Ties 18

AT COLORADO: Rapids 17 wins (0 shootout), 55 goals ... FC Dallas 11 wins (0 shootout), 46 goals ... Ties 9

- The Rapids extended their undefeated run to three games with a second draw in that time, reaching a 1-1 result with the San Jose Earthquakes at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on Saturday evening. **Cole Bassett** netted the Rapids tally, his third of the season.
- FC Dallas suffered a second consecutive reversal, falling by the game's only goal to the Portland Timbers at Providence Park on Saturday evening.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season. **Keegan Rosenberry** scored an early goal and **Michael Barrios** late, as the Rapids took a 3-0 win May 29 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park; the teams also reached a goalless draw in the season opener for both clubs, April 17 at Toyota Stadium.
- The Rapids have won the last three meetings in Commerce City, their first home wins in the series since 2013, a five-game home winless run; the teams had reached four consecutive 1-1 draws there.
- FC Dallas are undefeated in their last six home meetings in the series, a two-game winning streak vs. Colorado at Toyota Stadium ending in the first meeting this year. The Rapids' last win there came in 2016.

RAPIDS: **Nicolas Benezet** recorded his first assist of the season, his last coming Nov. 1, 2020 vs. Seattle. ... **Nicolás Mezquida** collected his first assist of the year, his last in a league game coming last Sept. 16 vs. FC Dallas.

FCD: **Franco Jara** started and played 78 minutes vs. Portland, his first MLS start since May 29.

REAL SALT LAKE vs. LA GALAXY

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #183)
Rio Tinto Stadium, Sandy, Utah
8 p.m. MT (KMYU-12; SpecSN)

REFEREE: Kevin Stott. AR1 (bench): Jeff Hosking; AR2 (opposite): Diego Blas; 4th: Michael Radchuk; VAR: Daniel Radford; AVAR: Brian Dunn

MLS Career: 368 games; FC/gm: 24.4; Y/gm: 3.1; R: 86; pens: 98

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Real 15 wins, 72 goals ... Galaxy 18 wins, 67 goals ... Ties 9

AT SALT LAKE: Real 8 wins, 39 goals ... Galaxy 5 wins, 28 goals ... Ties 7

- Real weren't able to make back-to-back wins, falling 2-1 to Los Angeles Football Club at Banc of California Stadium on Saturday evening. **Aaron Herrera** scored his first career goal in his fourth MLS season (78 career league appearances) for the RSL tally.
- The Galaxy fell to a 2-1 defeat to Vancouver Whitecaps FC at Rio Tinto Stadium on Saturday evening. **Rayan Raveloson** scored his second MLS goal, both coming in the last two games, for the Galaxy marker.
- The teams met twice a season ago, each winning at home. **Albert Rusnák** converted a penalty kick then set up a **Damir Kreilach** goal seven minutes apart midway through the second half, giving RSL a 2-0 win Sept. 23 at Rio Tinto Stadium; on Nov. 1 at Dignity Health Sports Park, **Giancarlo González** and **Cristian Pavón** each netted goals as the Galaxy took the 2-1 win.
- The Galaxy have won the last three meetings in Carson, and are undefeated in their last four home games in the series. The teams have split the last four meetings in Sandy.
- The teams also met five times in eight seasons in the MLS Cup Playoffs, last in the Knockout Round in 2016. The Galaxy have won on three occasions, RSL won via penalty shootout when the clubs met in the 2009 MLS Cup, and also in the Western Conference Semifinals in 2013.

REAL: **Damir Kreilach** recorded his fourth assist of the season, his first since May 7; he has two goals and an assist over the last two games, one of two players in MLS with at least four goals and four assists this season (also: Cade Cowell, San Jose, 4 goals, 4 assists). ... **Everton Luiz** collected his first assist of the season, his first in an MLS game since July 13, 2019.

GALAXY: **Victor Vázquez** gained his third assist of the season, his second in as many games. ... **Samuel Grandsir** garnered his third assist in MLS, a second consecutive game with an assist, all three coming over the last four games.

PORTLAND TIMBERS vs. LOS ANGELES FOOTBALL CLUB

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #185)

Providence Park, Portland, Ore.

7:30 p.m. PT (ROOT-NW; Bally Sports SoCal / Estrella TV)

REFEREE: Victor Rivas. AR1 (bench): Corey Rockwell; AR2 (opposite): Chris Elliott; 4th: Ismir Pekmic; VAR: Alejandro Mariscal; AVAR: Joshua Patlak

MLS Career: 26 games; FC/gm: 23.5; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 4; pens: 10

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Timbers 1 win, 11 goals ... LAFC 3 wins, 16 goals ... Ties 4

AT PORTLAND: Timbers 1 win, 5 goals ... LAFC 1 win, 5 goals ... Ties 1

- The Timbers put an end to a three-game winless slide, defeating FC Dallas by the game's only goal at Providence Park on Saturday evening. **Jeremy Ebobisse** scored the Timbers' goal, his second in as many games and third of the season (all coming in the last four contests).
- LAFC won their third game on the trot, getting a late goal for a 2-1 win against Real Salt Lake at Banc of California Stadium on Saturday evening. **Diego Rossi** scored early, his fifth of the season, then **Carlos Vela** scored the game-winner in the 79th minute, his second of the season – the first time both have scored in the same game this season.
- The teams met four times last season. The final two meetings ended in 1-1 draws – LAFC's **Carlos Vela** scored early, but **Jorge Villafaña** equalized late for the Timbers, on Decision Day (Nov. 8) at Banc of California Stadium. On Oct. 18 at Providence Park, LAFC's **Christian Torres** became the fifth-youngest player to score in MLS history, at 16 years, 186 days, leaving the teams in the deadlock.
- In the previous meetings, **Bradley Wright-Phillips** and **Mark-Anthony Kaye** each had a goal and an assist as LAFC took a 4-2 win Sept. 13 at Banc of California Stadium; the teams reached a 2-2 draw in the final group game on July 23 for both teams in the MLS is Back Tournament.
- LAFC have a seven-game undefeated streak alive in the series, since the Timbers won the first meeting ever between the clubs, a 2-1 win May 19 at Providence Park. LAFC have won three of the seven meetings, with four draws.

TIMBERS: **Yimmi Chará** recorded his first assist of the season, making his first appearance for the Timbers since May 30. ... **Steve Clark** was credited with two saves in recording his first shutout of the season, in his fifth appearance.

LAFC: **José Cifuentes** collected his second assist of the season, now four consecutive games with either a goal or an assist, with two goals and two assists in that span. ... **Kim Moon-Hwan** recorded his first assist in MLS, making his ninth appearance.

ORLANDO CITY SC vs. PHILADELPHIA UNION
Thursday, July 22, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #186)
Exploria Stadium, Orlando, Fla.
7:30 p.m. ET (ESPN / ESPN Deportes)

REFEREE: Alan Kelly. AR1 (bench): Jeremy Hanson; AR2 (opposite): Eric Weisbrod; 4th: Kevin Broadley; VAR: Jose Carlos Rivero; AVAR: Jozef Batko
MLS Career: 138 games; FC/gm: 24.2; Y/gm: 3.3; R: 18; pens: 51

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Orlando City 3 wins, 16 goals ... Union 4 wins, 20 goals ... Ties 5
AT ORLANDO: Orlando City 1 win, 7 goals ... Union 1 win, 8 goals ... Ties 3

- Orlando City snapped a quick two-game losing skid, gaining a 1-1 draw with Toronto FC at BMO Field on Saturday evening. **Nani** converted a penalty kick for the OCSC goal, his seventh of the season, tied for third place in the MLS Golden Boot standings.
- The Union put an end to a three-game winless slide, defeating D.C. United 2-1 at Subaru Park on Saturday evening. **Sergio Santos** netted his third goal of the season, his second in as many games, while **Kacper Przybylko** scored his fourth of the season for the game-winner.
- The teams met once a season ago, reaching a 1-1 draw during the group stage at the MLS is Back Tournament, on July 20 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.
- The last two meetings in the series have ended in draws. The Union won on their last visit to face Orlando City SC, taking a 3-1 win July 3, 2019, behind a pair of goals from **Kacper Przybylko**. OCSC has taken points on its last two visits to Chester, winning there 2-0 on April 13, 2018.

OCSC: The goal was the 25th in league play for **Nani**, now in second place in Orlando City's MLS history for most goals, passing Kaka and Dom Dwyer (24 each). The club's leader in its league history is Cyle Larin, with 43.

UNION: **Sergio Santos** also collected his first assist of the season, the fourth of his MLS career over three seasons; three of his assists have also come in games where he's scored a goal. ... **Daniel Gazdag** recorded his first career assist in MLS, in his fifth appearance. ... **Alejandro Bedoya** gained his first assist of the season, his first since Sept. 6, 2020 when he had two vs. New York Red Bulls. ... **Leon Flach** collected his second assist, his first coming April 24.

AUSTIN FC vs. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

Thursday, July 22, 2021 (Week 14, MLS Game #187)

Q2 Stadium, Austin, Texas

8:30 p.m. CT (ESPN / ESPN Deportes)

REFEREE: Alex Chilowicz. AR1 (bench): Cameron Blanchard; AR2 (opposite): Peter Balciunas; 4th: Elton Garcia;
VAR: Jorge Gonzalez; AVAR: Jonathan Johnson

MLS Career: 49 games; FC/gm: 23.8; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 6; pens: 15

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: ATXFC 0 wins, 0 goals ... Sounders FC 0 wins, 0 goals ... Ties 1

AT Q2 STADIUM: First meeting.

- Austin FC had their two-game undefeated run put to an end in their last match, falling 2-0 to Los Angeles Football Club at Banc of California Stadium on July 7.
- Sounders FC saw their MLS-record 13-game undefeated run to open the season put to an end, falling by the game's only goal to Minnesota United FC at Allianz Field on Sunday afternoon.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season and in their histories. They reached a goalless draw May 30 at Lumen Field.

ATXFC: Austin FC did play a friendly in their time away from MLS action, falling 3-1 to Tigres UANL on July 13 at Q2 Stadium. **Rodney Redes** scored the Austin FC goal in the 62nd minute, then tying the contest 1-1.

SOUNDERS FC: An Extreme Hardship callup from the USL's Tacoma Defiance, **Samuel Adeniran** made his MLS debut, coming on as a substitute in the 85th minute. ... Sounders FC saw their overall undefeated streak snapped at 15 games, their first defeat in league play since Nov. 1, 2020, at Colorado, equaling the seventh-longest undefeated run in MLS history.

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