

MLS WEEK 28 – LOOK AHEAD

TORONTO FC vs. FC CINCINNATI

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #354)

BMO Field, Toronto, Ont.

7 p.m. ET (TSN; WSTR – Star 64)

REFEREE: Silviu Petrescu. AR1 (bench): Jeffrey Greeson; AR2 (opposite): Claudiu Badea; 4th: Marcos de Oliveira; VAR: Geoff Gamble; AVAR: Robert Schaap

MLS Career: 179 games; FC/gm: 27.5; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 25; pens: 42

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Toronto FC 3 wins, 8 goals ... FCC 2 wins, 6 goals ... Ties 0

TORONTO HOME GAME: Toronto FC 1 win, 2 goals ... FCC 1 win, 3 goals ... Ties 0

- TFC gained a second result in a row, reaching a scoreless draw with the Colorado Rapids at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on Saturday evening. **Alex Bono** was credited with one save in recording his second shutout of the year, the first coming May 12.
- FCC saw their losing slide extended, dropping a 4-2 decision to D.C. United at Audi Field on Saturday evening. **Brandon Vazquez** came off the substitutes' bench and scored his first goal of the season, then recorded his second assist of the year on **Luciano Acosta's** fifth goal of the campaign.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season, and FC Cincinnati have won the first two, both by 2-0 scorelines. **Allan Cruz** and **Luciano Acosta** scored goals to lead FC Cincinnati to the win June 26 at Exploria Stadium in Orlando, then **Brenner** and **Haris Medunjanin** netted goals on either side of halftime as FCC won Sept. 11 in their first meeting at TQL Stadium.
- Toronto FC won the first three meetings between the teams. In FC Cincinnati's inaugural season, TFC took a 2-1 win July 27 at BMO Field, then got goals from five different players in rolling to a 5-1 victory Sept. 7 at Nippert Stadium. A season ago, **Patrick Mullins** scored the game's only goal in the 28th minute as TFC took the victory Oct. 11 at Nippert Stadium.

TFC: Toronto FC face Pacific FC in the semifinals of the Canadian Championship after dispatching York United of the Canadian Premier League in the quarterfinals at BMO Field on Sept. 22. **Jonathan Osorio, Jacob Shaffelburg, Ifunanyachi Achara** and **Noble Okello** all scored for TFC – for Okello, it was his first goal for the first team since coming up through the club's academy system.

FCC: The game will be the first in charge for **Tyrone Marshall**, who was installed as interim head coach following the dismissal of Jaap Stam. Marshall joined the club's academy coaching staff before the start of the 2021 season; Stam recorded an 8-26-12 record in parts of two seasons in charge.

ATLANTA UNITED vs. INTER MIAMI CF
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #357)
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Ga.
7 p.m. ET (Bally Sports South/SE; MyTV33 / UniMas 69)

REFEREE: Ted Unkel. AR1 (bench): Corey Rockwell; AR2 (opposite): Jeremy Kieso; 4th: Sergii Demianchuk;
VAR: Chris Penso; AVAR: Jozef Batko
MLS Career: 122 games; FC/gm: 23.5; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 39; pens: 59

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: ATLUTD 0 wins, 4 goals ... Inter Miami 2 wins, 6 goals ... Ties 3
AT ATLANTA: ATLUTD 0 wins, 1 goal ... Inter Miami 1 win, 2 goals ... Ties 1

- Atlanta United saw their three-game winning run put to an end, falling by the game's only goal to the Philadelphia Union at Subaru Park on Saturday afternoon.
- Inter Miami return to action after a weekend off, falling 5-1 to Nashville SC in their last match Sept. 22 at DRV PNK Stadium. **Gonzalo Higuaín** scored his 10th goal of the season, his second in the last four games.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Josef Martínez** gave ATLUTD an early lead, but **Lewis Morgan** scored a late equalizer, leaving the teams in a 1-1 draw May 9 at DRV PNK Stadium.
- The teams met four times in Inter Miami's inaugural season, and Inter Miami were undefeated over the series, winning twice. **Lewis Morgan** scored both goals for Inter Miami, leading the club to a 2-1 win on Sept. 9 in Fort Lauderdale, then **Juan Agudelo** and **Brek Shea** scored in the opening 11 minutes as IMCF took the 2-1 win Sept. 19 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The teams reached a 1-1 draw Oct. 14 in south Florida, and played to a goalless draw at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Sept. 2.

ATLUTD: **Brad Guzan** was credited with eight saves, one shy of his club record set June 9, 2018 at NYCFC.

IMCF: **Rodolfo Pizarro** gained his third assist of the season, his last coming Aug. 4.

CF MONTRÉAL vs. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #355)
Stade Saputo, Montréal, Qué.
7:30 p.m. ET (TVA Sports; WSBK-TV 38 / MyRITV)

REFEREE: Ismail Elfath. AR1 (bench): Eric Weisbrod; AR2 (opposite): Jason White; 4th: David Barrie; VAR: Carol Anne Chenard; AVAR: Gianni Facchini
MLS Career: 173 games; FC/gm: 25.8; Y/gm: 3.4; R: 48; pens: 54

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: CFMTL 10 wins, 35 goals ... Revolution 13 wins, 38 goals ... Ties 3
MONTREAL HOME GAME: CFMTL 6 wins, 23 goals ... Revolution 5 wins, 19 goals ... Ties 2

- CF Montréal saw their two-game winning run put to an end, falling 2-1 to the Columbus Crew at Lower.com Field on Saturday evening. **Romell Quioto** scored his sixth goal of the season, a third consecutive game with a goal and his fourth in the last five matches.
- The Revolution extended their latest undefeated run to five games with yet another one-goal win, defeating Orlando City SC 2-1 at Gillette Stadium on Saturday evening. **Adam Buksa** netted his 12th goal of the season, his second in the last three games, now sitting a tie for fifth place in the MLS Golden Boot standings.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **Gustavo Bou** scored goals in each half as the Revolution took a 2-1 win July 25 at Gillette Stadium.
- CF Montréal won the last meeting in Québec, a 2-1 win in the season opener last year at Olympic Stadium. The win extended Montréal's then-home undefeated streak in the series to three games. The Revs have won the last two games in Foxborough, over the last two seasons.

CFMTL: CF Montréal will take on Forge FC of the Canadian Premier League in the semifinals of the Canadian Championship, after defeating CPL side HFX Wanderers FC in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the quarterfinals by a 3-1 scoreline. **Matko Miljevic** scored his first goal for the club as CFMTL overcame an early deficit, and **Ballou Tabla** scored the equalizer and game-winner in the 89th minute and stoppage time – his first goals for the club this year.

REVOLUTION: **Gustavo Bou** collected his sixth assist of the season, a second consecutive game with an assist. ... Tommy McNamara gained his fourth assist of the year, his last coming Aug. 8. ... **Matt Turner** saved a second penalty kick for the season, his first on 6/19 vs. NYC (Valentin Castellanos).

NEW YORK RED BULLS vs. PHILADELPHIA UNION
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #356)
Red Bull Arena, Harrison, N.J.
7:30 p.m. ET (MSG; PHL17)

REFEREE: Alex Chilowicz. AR1 (bench): C.J. Morgante; AR2 (opposite): Brian Dunn; 4th: Guido Gonzales Jr.;
VAR: Sorin Stoica; AVAR: Thomas Supple
MLS Career: 54 games; FC/gm: 23.8; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 6; pens: 16

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Red Bulls 14 wins, 41 goals ... Union 10 wins, 36 goals ... Ties 6
AT RED BULL ARENA: Red Bulls 8 wins, 19 goals ... Union 2 wins, 12 goals ... Ties 4

- The Red Bulls won the back end of the home-and-home New York Derby, defeating NYCFC 1-0 at Yankee Stadium on Saturday evening. **Omir Fernandez** scored the game's only goal, his second of the season, extending the Red Bulls undefeated run to three games.
- The Union won their second game on the trot, defeating Atlanta United by the game's only goal at Subaru Park on Saturday afternoon. **Kacper Przybylko** netted the goal, his ninth of the season and second in as many games,
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season. **Cory Burke** netted the game's lone goal in the ninth minute and the Union held out for the win May 15 at Subaru Park; on July 8 at Red Bull Arena, **Patryk Klimala** converted a penalty kick, but **Sergio Santos** hit for a late leveler to leave the teams in a 1-1 draw. The Union had won three consecutive meetings between the teams before the draw in the last matchup.
- The Union win at Red Bull Arena last Sept. 6 ended a three-game home undefeated streak for the Red Bulls; the opening goal ended a 340-minute shutout streak there for the Union. The Union have won the last three meetings in Chester.
- The teams also met in the MLS Cup Playoffs in 2019. The Union overcame a two-game deficit in the second half before **Marco Fabian** netted the game-winner in extra time for a 4-3 win in their Round One matchup.

RED BULLS: **Carlos Coronel** was credited with four saves in recording his eighth shutout of the season and his second in the last three games; he is fifth place in MLS in clean sheets. ... **Kyle Duncan** collected his third assist of the season, his second in the last three games. ... **Sean Davis** collected his third assist of the season, his second in the last three games.

UNION: **Andre Blake** was credited with two saves in recording his ninth shutout of the season, now in a tie for third place in the MLS shutout standings. ... **José Martínez** collected his second assist of the season, his first coming Aug. 4.

D.C. UNITED vs. MINNESOTA UNITED FC

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #358)

Audi Field, Washington, D.C.

7:30 p.m. ET (NBCS-Wash / TeleXitos; Bally Sports North+)

REFEREE: Ramy Touchan. AR1 (bench): Corey Parker; AR2 (opposite): Diego Blas; 4th: Robert Sibiga; VAR: Jorge Gonzalez; AVAR: Matthew Nelson

MLS Career: 50 games; FC/gm: 25.8; Y/gm: 4.4; R: 9; pens: 6

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: D.C. United 1 win, 2 goals ... MNUFC 2 wins, 6 goals ... Ties 0

AT D.C.: D.C. United 1 win, 2 goals ... MNUFC 0 wins, 1 goal ... Ties 0

- D.C. United rolled to a third victory in the last five matches, defeating FC Cincinnati 4-0 at Audi Field on Saturday evening. **Paul Arriola** netted a pair of goals, the third two-goal game of his MLS career and his first since Sept. 29, 2018, while **Nigel Robertha** scored his third of the season and **Steve Birnbaum** netted his first of the year.
- Minnesota United won a second game on the trot, defeating Houston Dynamo FC 2-0 at Allianz Field on Saturday evening. **Robin Lod** scored inside the first minute, his seventh goal of the season and first since Aug. 7, while **Ethan Finlay** netted his third of the year, his second in as many games.
- The teams last met during the 2019 season, Minnesota United taking a win by the game's only goal April 28 at Allianz Field.
- The home team has won each of the three meetings all-time in the series. MNUFC won the first meeting in 2017, a 4-0 win at TCF Bank Stadium; D.C. United won the lone matchup at Audi Field, a 2-1 win in 2018.

UNITED: **Julian Gressel** was credited with three assists, his single-game career-high in his fifth season in the league (146 appearances). Gressel has 11 assists for the season, sitting in a tie for second place in MLS (with Djordje Mihailovic, MTL), behind Carles Gil of NE (16). ... **Steve Birnbaum** collected his first assist of the season, the first time in his MLS career he had a goal and an assist in the same game. ... **Edison Flores** gained a pair of assists, the second two-assist game of his MLS career (also: 11/1/2020 vs. NE).

MNUFC: **Franco Fragapane** recorded his sixth assist in MLS, his third over the last two games. ... **Emanuel Reynoso** gained his seventh assist of the season; he has a goal and an assist in the last two matches. ... **Tyler Miller** was credited with seven saves in recording his ninth shutout of the season, tied for third-most in MLS this season. It was his second consecutive game with a shutout, his goalless streak now at 218 minutes.

CHICAGO FIRE FC vs. NEW YORK CITY FC
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #359)
SeatGeek Stadium, Bridgeview, Ill.
7 p.m. CT (WGN-TV; YES)

REFEREE: Baldomero Toledo. AR1 (bench): Peter Balciunas; AR2 (opposite): Andrew Bigelow; 4th: Fotis Bazakos; VAR: Kevin Terry Jr.; AVAR: Peter Manikowski
MLS Career: 299 games; FC/gm: 25.3; Y/gm: 3.5; R: 105; pens: 114

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Fire 2 wins, 17 goals ... NYCFC 7 wins, 26 goals ... Ties 5
AT CHICAGO: Fire 2 wins, 12 goals ... NYCFC 2 wins, 12 goals ... Ties 3

- The Fire put an end to their losing skid, reaching a goalless draw with Nashville SC at Soldier Field on Sunday afternoon.
- NYCFC had their three-game undefeated streak put to an end in the back end of the home-and-home New York Derby series, falling by the game's only goal to the New York Red Bulls at Yankee Stadium on Saturday evening.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. They reached a goalless draw Aug. 4 at Soldier Field, NYCFC's second result in as many games there. They took a 4-3 win at Soldier Field on Decision Day (Nov. 8) last year.
- The Fire have won twice in the all-time series in 14 meetings, the last coming June 30, 2018 in Bridgeview, which ended a six-game NYCFC undefeated streak in the series. It was the Fire's first win since a 1-0 victory on April 24, 2015 in Bridgeview in the first-ever encounter between the teams.
- The Fire have never won at Yankee Stadium. NYCFC have won the past five meetings as the home team, including last year's win at Red Bull Arena, their first home wins in the series after the first two meetings ended in draws.

FIRE: Gabriel Slonina was credited with four saves in recording his second shutout in four career starts.

NYCFC: Héber made his longest appearance of the season, coming off the substitutes' bench for the final 22 minutes, his second league outing of the year (both in the last four games).

FC DALLAS vs. SPORTING KANSAS CITY

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #360)

Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas

7 p.m. CT (FCDTV Network / Estrella KMPX-29; Bally Sports KC+)

REFEREE: Jair Marrufo. AR1 (bench): Adam Garner; AR2 (opposite): Jose da Silva; 4th: Nima Saghafi; VAR: Jose Carlos Rivero; AVAR: Jonathan Johnson

MLS Career: 285 games; FC/gm: 22.8; Y/gm: 2.8; R: 45; pens: 87

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: FC Dallas 28 wins (1 shootout), 107 goals ... Sporting 26 wins (2 shootout), 97 goals ... Ties 13

AT DALLAS: FC Dallas 16 wins (0 shootout), 61 goals ... Sporting 11 wins (2 shootout), 36 goals ... Ties 5

- FC Dallas went down to a second defeat on the run, falling by the game's only goal to Vancouver Whitecaps FC at BC Place on Saturday evening.
- Sporting had their two-game winning run come to an end, falling 2-1 to Seattle Sounders FC at Children's Mercy Park on Sunday evening. **Johnny Russell** scored his seventh goal of the season, a third consecutive game with a goal and fourth in the last five matches.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season, each winning on the other's home ground. **Paxton Pomykal** and **Jesús Ferreira** scored early in each half as FCD took a 2-1 win July 31 at Children's Mercy Park, their third consecutive win in the series; **Alan Pulido** and **Daniel Sallói** each had a goal and an assist as Sporting claimed a 2-0 win Aug. 14 at Toyota Stadium.
- FC Dallas have won the last two meetings at Toyota Stadium. Sporting last won in Frisco on Oct. 21, 2018, a 3-0 win, their first in Frisco since 2011; FC Dallas had a five-game home undefeated streak in the series put to an end.
- Before the SKC win in the last matchup, FCD had come away with points from the previous five meetings in Kansas City, winning four, the club's first wins there since 2011. SKC had won five of the seven meetings in between, with two draws.

FCD: **Jimmy Maurer** started between the posts for FC Dallas, his first appearance since Aug. 21.

SPORTING: **Johnny Russell** scored his fourth goal in the last five matches, all coming at Children's Mercy Park, the fifth player in KC club history to score in at least four consecutive home games.

NASHVILLE SC vs. ORLANDO CITY SC

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #361)

Nissan Stadium, Nashville, Tenn.

7:30 p.m. CT (MyTV30; FOX35 Plus / LionNation TV)

REFEREE: Drew Fischer. AR1 (bench): Nick Uranga; AR2 (opposite): Kathryn Nesbitt; 4th: Thomas Snyder;

VAR: Daniel Radford; AVAR: Brooke Mayo

MLS Career: 149 games; FC/gm: 25.1; Y/gm: 3.2; R: 22; pens: 44

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Nashville SC 1 win, 6 goals ... Orlando City 1 win, 7 goals ... Ties 2

AT NASHVILLE: Nashville SC 0 wins, 2 goals ... Orlando City 0 wins, 2 goals ... Ties 2

- Nashville SC concluded a four-game road swing with a second consecutive result, reaching a goalless draw with Chicago Fire FC at Soldier Field on Sunday afternoon. **Joe Willis** was credited with three saves in recording his 11th shutout of the season, regaining sole possession of the lead in MLS.
- Orlando City SC had their skid extended, falling 2-1 to the New England Revolution at Gillette Stadium on Saturday evening. **Daryl Dike** scored his fourth goal of the season and second in the last four games, while **Mauricio Pereyra** collected his 10th assist of the season, now in fourth place in the MLS assist standings.
- The teams are meeting for the second time this season. **CJ Sapong** gave Nashville SC a first-half lead, but **Antonio Carlos** equalized after the break, leaving the teams in a 1-1 draw Aug. 18 at Nissan Stadium.
- The teams met three times in Nashville SC's inaugural season, evenly splitting the series. **Daryl Dike** scored a pair of goals and **Chris Mueller** added his fifth of the year as Orlando City took a 3-1 win at Exploria Stadium on Aug. 26; **Hany Mukhtar** and **Jhonder Cadiz** scored goals five minutes after the 87th minute as Nashville SC came back for a 3-2 win on Decision Day (Nov. 8) at Nissan Stadium. The teams also reached a 1-1 draw Sept. 2, also in Nashville.

NASHVILLE SC: **Alex Muyl** started in a midfield role, playing the first 73 minutes, his last appearance in the first XI coming Aug. 4.

OCSC: **Jhegson Mendez** started in the midfield and played 70 minutes, his first league appearance for Orlando City since July 17, when he was forced off after just 14 minutes.

HOUSTON DYNAMO FC vs. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #362)

BBVA Stadium, Houston, Texas

8 p.m. CT (TSN; QuestTexas 55)

REFEREE: Alan Kelly. AR1 (bench): Kyle Atkins; AR2 (opposite): Cory Richardson; 4th: Rosendo Mendoza;

VAR: Armando Villarreal; AVAR: Jennifer Garner

MLS Career: 148 games; FC/gm: 24.2; Y/gm: 3.4; R: 19; pens: 54

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Dynamo FC 6 wins, 22 goals ... Whitecaps FC 8 wins, 25 goals ... Ties 4

AT HOUSTON: Dynamo FC 6 wins, 15 goals ... Whitecaps FC 1 wins, 8 goals .. Ties 1

- Dynamo FC had their three-game undefeated run put to an end, falling 2-0 to Minnesota United FC at Allianz Field on Saturday evening.
- Whitecaps FC gained a second result in as many games, defeating FC Dallas by the game's only goal at BC Place on Saturday evening. **Brian White** scored his sixth goal of the season, his second in as many games.
- 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; they reached a goalless draw July 20 at Rio Tinto 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.

DYNAMO FC:

WHITECAPS FC: **Maxime Crèpeau** was credited with seven saves in recording his fourth shutout of the season. Crèpeau also saved a penalty kick six minutes into second-half stoppage time to preserve the victory; it was the first penalty kick he has saved in his MLS career (13 attempts against; one attempt hit the post in his second career start, 10/15/2017 for Montréal vs. Toronto FC).

COLORADO RAPIDS vs. AUSTIN FC

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 28, MLS Game #363)

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

7 p.m. MT (Altitude; KBVO [MyNetwork])

REFEREE: Jon Freemon. AR1 (bench): Chris Elliott; AR2 (opposite): Gjovalin Bori; 4th: Malik Badawi; VAR: Younes MARRAKCHI; AVAR: Craig Lowry

MLS Career: 9 games; FC/gm: 27.9; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 1; pens: 0

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Rapids 1 win, 2 goals ... ATXFC 1 win, 3 goals ... Ties 0

AT COLORADO: Rapids 0 wins, 1 goal ... ATXFC 1 win, 3 goals ... Ties 0

- The Rapids extended their undefeated streak to 11 games with a fourth consecutive draw, reaching a scoreless result with Toronto FC at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on Saturday evening. **William Yarbrough** was credited with two saves in recording his 10th shutout of the season, now in second place in the league.
- Austin FC put an end to a five-game losing skid, defeating the LA Galaxy 2-0 at Q2 Stadium on Sunday evening. **Moussa Djitté** and **McKinze Gaines** each scored their first goals for ATXFC and in MLS, Gaines the first Homegrown Player in club history to score a goal.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season and in their histories, each winning at the other's home ground. **Diego Fagundez** scored early for the club's first-ever goal and **Cecilio Dominguez** added a brace as Austin FC won for the first time in their history, a 3-1 win April 24 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park; then on July 31 at Q2 Stadium, Andre Shinyashiki scored the game's lone goal for the Rapids win.

RAPIDS: The Rapids' undefeated streak is the second-longest in the club's 26-year history (long: 15 games, April 13-July 23, 2016).

ATXFC: **Nick Lima** gained his third assist of the season, all coming in the last seven games. ... **Brad Stuver** was credited with seven saves in recording his fifth shutout of the season, his last coming June 27 vs. Columbus.

REAL SALT LAKE vs. LA GALAXY

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 27, MLS Game #364)

Rio Tinto Stadium, Sandy, Utah

7:30 p.m. MT (KMYU-12; SpecSN)

REFEREE: Tori Penso. AR1 (bench): Ian Anderson; AR2 (opposite): Ian McKay; 4th: Victor Rivas; VAR: Edvin Jurisevic; AVAR: Jeff Muschik

MLS Career: 6 games; FC/gm: 22.7; Y/gm: 3.2; R: 1; pens: 1

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Real 15 wins, 74 goals ... Galaxy 19 wins, 70 goals ... Ties 10

AT SALT LAKE: Real 8 wins, 41 goals ... Galaxy 5 wins, 30 goals ... Ties 8

- Real saw their two-game winning streak put to an end, falling 6-1 to the Portland Timbers at Providence Park on Saturday evening. **Damir Kreilach** scored his 11th goal of the season, now in a tie for ninth place in the MLS Golden Boot standings, a second consecutive game with a goal and his third in the last four games.
- The Galaxy went down to a second defeat in a row, falling 2-0 to Austin FC at Q2 Stadium on Sunday evening.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season. **Efraín Álvarez** netted the game's only goal in the 53rd minute in the Galaxy's win at Dignity Health Sports Park on Aug. 4; the teams ended in a 2-2 draw at Rio Tinto Stadium on July 21.
- The Galaxy have won the last four meetings in Carson, and are undefeated in their last five home games in the series. The teams have split the last five meetings in Sandy, each winning twice before the draw in the first meeting this year.
- 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: RSL lost by more than one goal for only the second time on the season; the six goals conceded by Real equaled the club record set three times previously.

GALAXY: **Javier Hernández** started and played the full 90 minutes, his third start in the last four matches and his second in the span with a full 90 minutes.

LOS ANGELES FOOTBALL CLUB vs. PORTLAND TIMBERS

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 27, MLS Game #365)

Banc of California Stadium, Los Angeles, Calif.

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

REFEREE: Joseph Dickerson. AR1 (bench): Jeff Hosking; AR2 (opposite): Eduardo Mariscal; 4th: Mark Allatin; VAR: Alejandro Mariscal; AVAR: Cameron Blanchard

MLS Career: 60 games; FC/gm: 27.3; Y/gm: 4.0; R: 12; pens: 16

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: LAFC 3 wins, 18 goals ... Timbers 3 wins, 15 goals ... Ties 4

AT BANC OF CALIFORNIA STADIUM: LAFC 2 wins, 9 goals ... Timbers 0 wins, 4 goals ... Ties 2

- LAFC suffered a second defeat in as many games, falling 2-0 to the San Jose Earthquakes at PayPal Park on Saturday evening.
- The Timbers extended their undefeated streak to six games with a fifth victory in that time in impressive fashion, rolling to a 6-1 win against Real Salt Lake at Providence Park on Saturday evening. Six different players scored goals for the Timbers, the first by **Felipe Mora**, his 11th of the season, now tied for ninth place in the MLS Golden Boot standings.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season, and the Timbers won each of the first two by 2-1 scorelines at Providence Park. **Felipe Mora** scored the dramatic game-winner in second-half stoppage time July 21, then on Sept. 19, **Dairon Asprilla** and **George Fochive** netted the Portland goals.
- The Timbers win in the first meeting ended a seven-game LAFC undefeated streak in the series, since the Timbers won the first meeting ever between the clubs, a 2-1 win May 19 at Providence Park. LAFC won three of the seven meetings, with four draws.

LAFC: **Daniel Crisostomo** made a third consecutive start, playing the full 90 minutes in a central midfield role for a second game in a row, his first three starts in his MLS career.

TIMBERS: **Sebastian Blanco** collected a pair of assists, now with five for the season. ... **Marvín Loria** gained his sixth assist of the season, leading the Timbers. ... **Yimmi Chará** assisted on the goal scored by his brother Diego, marking the third time the brothers have combined on a goal in their MLS careers (and first this season). It was the eighth time in MLS history brothers had both featured in a goal. ... The six goals matched the Timbers' club record in their MLS history, achieved twice previously – all three occurrences have come over the last year (first: 9/19/2020, 6-1 at SJ). The margin of victory also equaled the club record, set twice previously.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES vs. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 (Week 27, MLS Game #366)

PayPal Park, San Jose, Calif.

7:30 p.m. PT (NBCS-BA; JOEtv / Amazon Prime)

REFEREE: Allen Chapman. AR1 (bench): Frank Anderson; AR2 (opposite): Jeremy Hanson; 4th: Michael Radchuk; VAR: Timothy Ford; AVAR: Mike Kampmeiner

MLS Career: MLS Career: 190 games; FC/gm: 22.2; Y/gm: 3.7; R: 46; pens: 83

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: Earthquakes 11 wins, 32 goals ... Sounders FC 14 wins, 45 goals ... Ties 8

AT SAN JOSE: Earthquakes 5 wins, 14 goals ... Sounders FC 4 wins, 10 goals ... Ties 5

- The Quakes won a second game in a row, defeating Los Angeles Football Club 2-0 at PayPal Park on Saturday evening. **Eduardo López** scored his 11th goal of the season, his sixth goal over the last three games, and **Benji Kikanovic** scored his second career MLS goal, in his ninth appearance.
- Sounders FC regained the top spot in the Western Conference, winning for fifth time in seven games in a 2-1 win against Sporting Kansas City at Children's Mercy Park on Sunday evening. **Cristian Roldan** netted his third league goal of the season and **Will Bruin** scored his second for the game-winner.
- The teams are meeting for the third time this season, each winning by the game's only goal at the other's home ground. **Cristian Roldan** scored in the 18th minute for the Sounders FC win May 12 at PayPal Park; **Cristian Espinoza** scored for the Quakes in their July 31 victory at Lumen Field.
- The Quakes win in the last meeting end a 14-game undefeated streak for Sounders FC in the overall series, the first San Jose win since June 20, 2015 in Seattle. Sounders FC have come away with points on each of their last seven visits to San Jose (five draws and two victories).

QUAKES: **Eduardo López** collected his third assist in MLS, the first time he had a goal and an assist in the same game. ... **Marcos López** gained his first assist of the season, his fourth in three years in MLS. ... **JT Marcinkowski** was credited with three assists in recording his fourth shutout of the season, matching his single-season career-high set a year ago.

SOUNDERS FC: **Brad Smith** collected his fourth assist of the season, his last coming July 7. ... **Josh Atencio** gained his second career assist in MLS, in his 21st league appearance.

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