

2023

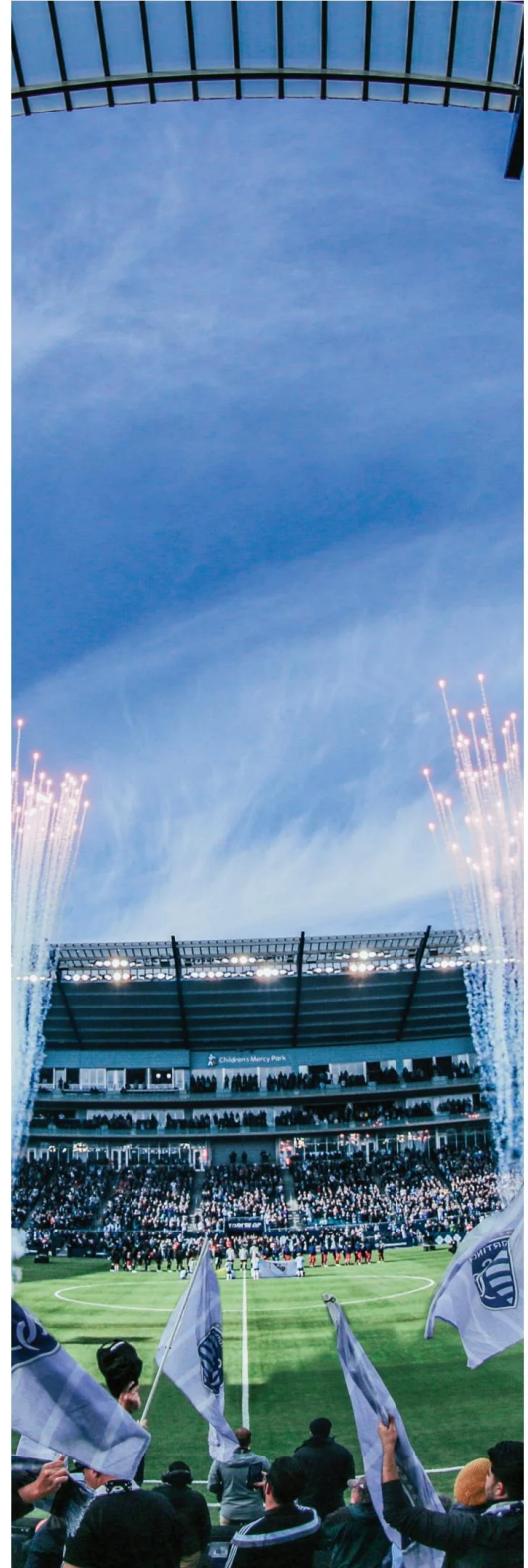
MEDIA GUIDE





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MEDIA INFORMATION

SCHEDULE/ROSTER/STANDINGS

Sporting Kansas City's 2023 schedule can be found at www.sportingkc.com/schedule.

Sporting KC sends out a weekly schedule via press release containing information on media availabilities and events every Monday. Should you like to be added to the team's media distribution list, please contact the Sporting KC Communications department at communications@sportingkc.com.

Sporting Kansas City's active roster is available at www.sportingkc.com/players.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY/TRAINING ACCESS

Each Tuesday, Sporting KC's training session will be open to media in its entirety and will be followed by media availabilities on field with players and Manager Peter Vermes. Each Thursday, Sporting KC's training session will be open to media for the final 15 minutes and will be followed by a press conference in the Media Studio with Manager Peter Vermes and a player. All media availabilities will be detailed in the club's weekly schedules and are subject to change. To be added to the club's press release distribution list, please contact communications@sportingkc.com.

POSTMATCH MEDIA AVAILABILITY

- **AT HOME:** The postmatch availability will be hybrid, with media in attendance at Children's Mercy Park to head to the interview room on the first floor, while the Zoom link below will also be available for those not in attendance.
 - sportingkc.zoom.us/j/88100716009
- **ON THE ROAD:** The Zoom link for the team's postgame availability will be communicated the morning of each match.

For one-on-one interview opportunities, please contact the Sporting KC Communications department.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Season credentials for Sporting Kansas City home matches have been confirmed with those that applied and received approval earlier in the offseason. Please email communications@sportingkc.com should you have any questions regarding season credentials.

Media can also apply for single-match credentials at www.sportingkc.com/credential up to 48 hours prior to each home match at Children's Mercy Park. Media that have been approved for a single-match credential will receive a notification approximately 48 hours prior to the match with parking and arrival information.

MATCH NOTES

Sporting Kansas City's Communications department creates Match notes for every match during the season, containing pertinent team information such as the roster, schedule, broadcast information, bios, notes/stats on the team and much more. All match notes throughout the season are available online at issuu.com/sportingkc, while a PDF version is also emailed directly to select broadcasters and media members. Should you like to receive the PDF version, please email communications@sportingkc.com.



PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Sporting Kansas City's phonetic pronunciation guide can be found on the roster page above. A collection of each player on the roster pronouncing their own name is available on soundcloud.com/sportingkansascity.

ASSETS/IMAGEN

Media assets are routinely made available via Major League Soccer's asset distribution archive, Imagen, which can be accessed at mls.imagencloud.com.

To access Imagen, media are required to create an account. Under organization/club, media should register as media/other. Once the account has been approved by MLS, you will have access to highlights, photos, soundbytes, broadcast melts and more from every MLS club.

Sporting Kansas City will also continue to utilize Box to share timely and pertinent assets.

QUOTE SHEETS

After every Sporting Kansas City match, a quote sheet will be made available on SportingKC.com with a transcription of the postmatch press conference.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please reach out to the Sporting Kansas City Communications department with any requests, questions or concerns.

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MLS SEASON PASS ON APPLE TV

2023 marks the beginning of a historic 10-year partnership between Major League Soccer and Apple which will provide fans with an unprecedented subscription service available to fans in over 100 countries and regions featuring live broadcasts and replays of every MLS regular-season, postseason and Leagues Cup match.

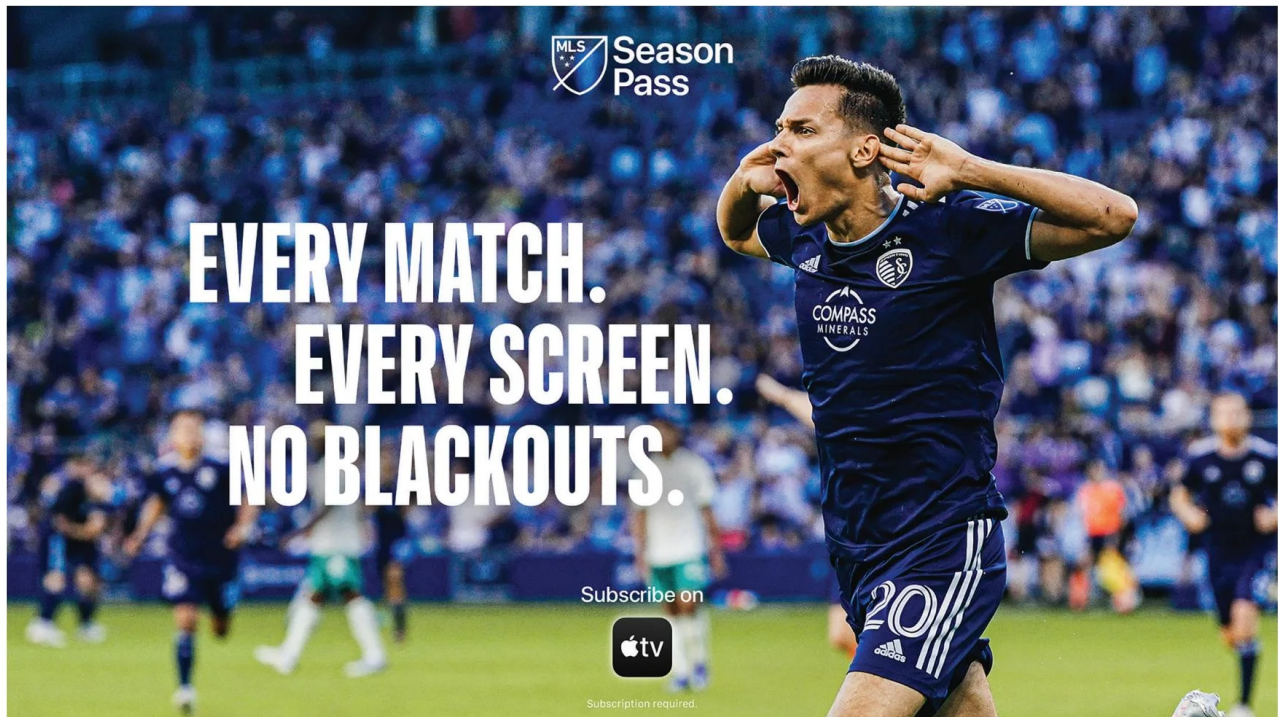
MLS Season Pass will have no blackouts, so any fan with access to the internet will have the ability to stream every match across the league, either from the Apple TV app or via tv.apple.com.

Matches will feature English and Spanish broadcast crews, and the option to listen to a club's home radio broadcast. MLS Season Pass will also contain an exclusive live match whip-around show as well as match replays, highlights, analysis, and other original programming to go along with hundreds of live MLS NEXT Pro and MLS NEXT matches.

PRICING

- If you are already an Apple TV+ subscriber: \$12.99/month or \$79/season
- If you are not an Apple TV+ subscriber: \$14.99/month or \$99/season

A selection of MLS and Leagues Cup matches, including some of the biggest playoff matchups, will also be available at no additional cost to Apple TV+ subscribers, with a limited number of matches available for free on the Apple TV app. Every Season Ticket Member account will include one complimentary subscription to MLS Season Pass.





2023 SCHEDULE

OPP.	DATE	TIME
POR	FEB. 27	9PM
COL	MAR. 4	8:30PM
LA	MAR. 11	7:30PM
DAL	MAR. 18	7:30PM
SEA	MAR. 25	7:30PM
PHI	APR. 1	6:30PM
COL	APR. 8	7:30PM
SJ	APR. 15	9:30PM
NE	APR. 22	6:30PM
MTL	APR. 29	7:30PM
SEA	MAY 7	3:30PM
MIN	MAY 13	7:30PM
LAFC	MAY 17	9:30PM
STL	MAY 20	8:30PM
POR	MAY 28	2PM
DAL	MAY 31	7:30PM
VAN	JUNE 3	9:30PM

OPP.	DATE	TIME
ATX	JUNE 10	7:30PM
LAFC	JUNE 17	7:30PM
LA	JUNE 21	9:30PM
CHI	JUNE 24	7:30PM
VAN	JULY 1	7:30PM
HOU	JULY 8	7:30PM
RSL	JULY 12	7:30PM
ATX	JULY 15	7:30PM
SJ	AUG. 26	7:30PM
STL	SEPT. 2	7:30PM
MIA	SEPT. 9	6:30PM
MIN	SEPT. 16	7:30PM
NSH	SEPT. 20	7:30PM
HOU	SEPT. 23	7:30PM
STL	SEPT. 30	7:30PM
RSL	OCT. 7	8:30PM
MIN	OCT. 21	TBD

Children's Mercy Park
 DATES & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
 ALL TIMES CENTRAL

HOME
AWAY

Season Pass
 Every match. Everywhere with .

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CLUB HISTORY

Sporting Kansas City's 2023 season will mark the club's 28th year in Major League Soccer. Kansas City was introduced as one of the 10 charter members of MLS on June 6, 1995. Four months later, the league unveiled the nicknames, logos and uniform designs for the franchises, including the Kansas City Wiz.

THE EARLY YEARS

In April 1996, the Wiz began play under Head Coach Ron Newman. Led by star midfielder Preki, who earned his first of four career MLS Best XI selections, the inaugural season ended with a elimination in the Western Conference finals. The team officially extended its name to "Wizards" following the 1996 season, ending the short, but memorable, life of the "Wiz" moniker.

In 1997, the re-christened Wizards finished 21-11 and atop the Western Conference, but surprisingly bowed out in the first round of the playoffs. Preki led MLS in scoring with 41 points and was named League MVP. He was joined on the MLS Best XI squad by Mark Chung and Richard Gough.

The Wizards ushered in a new era before the 2000 season, as the team offices moved to Arrowhead Stadium. Also, Adidas, the official outfitter of MLS, unveiled a shade of blue as the team's primary color, which sat alongside white as the organization's official colors.

The team's roster underwent an overhaul in that off-season as well, including the acquisitions of defender Peter Vermes (now manager), midfielder Kerry Zavagnin (now an assistant coach) and Miklos Molnar, a proven goalscorer from Denmark. The Wizards, under head coach Bob Gansler, went on to win both the Supporters' Shield (regular season champion) and the 2000 MLS Cup.

Tony Meola was named MLS Cup MVP, League MVP, Goalkeeper of the Year and Comeback Player of the Year. Peter Vermes won MLS Defender of the Year, and Bob Gansler was named MLS Coach of the Year. Both Vermes and Meola were named to the MLS Best XI.

The next three seasons saw the team advance to the postseason, but no silverware was added to the trophy case. 2003 will be most remembered for Preki's remarkable season at age 40 that garnered him his second league MVP award.

In 2004, the Wizards won another of U.S. Soccer's most coveted trophies, claiming the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup with an overtime win versus the Chicago Fire at Arrowhead with Mr. Hunt in attendance. The Wizards also returned to the MLS Cup final, where they fell 3-2 in dramatic fashion to D.C. United.





OWNERSHIP CHANGES HANDS

2005 was a season of change. Prior to the season, Lamar Hunt announced his intent to sell the team. Wizards fans, community leaders and corporate interests all mobilized to help keep the team in town, though rumors of relocation persisted.

On August 31, 2006, the Wizards began a new era as OnGoal, LLC purchased the club from the Hunt Sports Group. New ownership brought about a change on the soccer side as well as the business side. Former Wizards great Peter Vermes was brought in as the Technical Director, and he hired Curt Onalfo as the Head Coach.

2007 marked a return to the playoffs, while OnGoal's commitment to the Wizards and to Kansas City had its first physical manifestation in the same year when a new, world-class training center opened in Swope Park.

2008 brought not only a change in the team's uniforms, adding navy and yellow accents to a new primary shade of blue (Cobalt), but a much bigger change - a new stadium. CommunityAmerica Ballpark (now Legends Field) proved to be a successful home ground for the Wizards, with the team posting their second-best home record in club history in its inaugural season. Claudio Lopez also became the first Wizard signed under the MLS Designated Player rule; and the two-time World Cup veteran for Argentina went on to lead all MLS newcomers in scoring.

In August 2009, Technical Director Peter Vermes took over the head coaching responsibilities as Curt Onalfo was let go, with Vermes embarking on a remarkable journey of longevity that still persists today. In the draft, the Wizards went local, selecting Blue Valley West and Notre Dame defender Matt Besler in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft.

2010 began with much excitement as the club broke ground on a stadium site in Kansas City, Kansas and construction commenced on the team's state-of-the-art ground. Vermes, in his first full season in charge, used the season to re-shape the roster but for many fans, the year will be most remembered for the team's historic 2-1 upset of Manchester United in front of 52,424 at Arrowhead Stadium, an all-time attendance record for a soccer match in KC.

Following the 2010 campaign, the team was officially re-branded as Sporting Kansas City at a major announcement that featured the unveiling of the team's highest profile signing in 2010, Mexican icon Omar Bravo.

DREAMS COME TRUE IN SPORTING BLUE

2011 marked the most significant change in the club's history as Children's Mercy Park was completed, giving Sporting Kansas City their first true home for players and fans alike. A ten-match road trip to start the season put Sporting Kansas City behind the eight ball in the Eastern Conference standings, but the opening of Children's Mercy Park brought about a dramatic turnaround that saw the club climb all the way to the top of the conference by the time the regular season had concluded. Matt Besler was recognized as an MLS All-Star for the first time in his career, while forward C.J. Sapong took the League by storm, scoring five goals and contributing five assists on his way to being named 2011 MLS Rookie of the Year. As the top seed in the Eastern



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Conference for the MLS Cup Playoffs, Sporting advanced past the defending MLS Cup champion Colorado Rapids before falling 2-0 at home to the Houston Dynamo.

2012 saw Sporting Kansas City claim their first piece of silverware under their new name by claiming the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, prevailing 3-2 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw in regulation against Seattle Sounders FC. Sporting KC went on to finish the regular season atop the Eastern Conference before bowing out of the playoffs in the Eastern Conference semifinals in a 2-1 loss to the Houston Dynamo on aggregate scoring.

In 2013, Sporting Kansas City won the club's second MLS Cup championship after prevailing over Real Salt Lake in a penalty kick shootout at Children's Mercy Park. Aurelien Collin was named the MLS Cup 2013 MVP with his match-tying goal in regulation and the winning penalty kick in the shootout.

Defending its MLS Cup title in 2014, the club advanced to the MLS Playoffs for a fourth consecutive year after finishing fifth in the Eastern Conference. Vermes' side led the Supporters' Shield race through mid-August, but a late-season dip in form culminated in a Knockout Round playoff defeat to the New York Red Bulls. Forward Dom Dwyer set single-season club records with 22 MLS goals and 24 goals across all competitions, while defender Matt Besler and midfielder Graham Zusi both represented the United States at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil and signed long-term Designated Player contracts with the club.

Sporting Kansas City punctuated its 20th season by winning the 2015 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, the club's third Open Cup title and its sixth major trophy overall, with a 7-6 penalty shootout victory over the Philadelphia Union after a 1-1 draw in regulation. Newcomers Krisztian Nemeth and Tim Melia played instrumental roles in the championship match, with the former scoring an equalizer in the 65th minute and the latter saving two penalty kicks in the decisive shootout. It was the club's third major trophy in four years.

Peter Vermes led the club to another postseason berth in 2015 and became Sporting Kansas City's all-time winningest coach. Nemeth became the club's first-ever MLS Goal of the Year winner for his stunning solo run and finish against the Portland Timbers on Oct. 3, while goalkeeper Tim Melia took home MLS Comeback Player of the Year honors in his sixth season (first with Sporting KC). Benny Feilhaber was an MLS MVP finalist after recording a club-record 20 assists in all competitions.

Sporting Kansas City set a club record in 2016 with its sixth straight appearance in the MLS Cup Playoffs. Matt Besler received MLS All-Star recognition for the fourth straight year, joining teammate Graham Zusi to represent the U.S. Men's National Team at Copa America Centenario, a prestigious international tournament played across the United States.

Vermes steered the club to further success in 2017 as Sporting Kansas City became the only American MLS club to win four major championships dating back to 2012. The newest addition to the trophy cabinet was the 2017 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup title, secured on Sept. 20 when Sporting KC defeated the New York Red Bulls by a 2-1 scoreline at Children's Mercy Park. Led by standout performances from MLS Goalkeeper of the Year Tim Melia and MLS Defender of the Year Ike Opara, Sporting KC conceded just 29 goals during the 2017 regular season campaign, eight fewer than any other team. At season's end, Melia and Opara received MLS Best XI honors.





Key newcomers Ilie Sanchez and Gerso Fernandes helped pace the side to a record seventh straight appearance in the MLS Cup Playoffs.

An excellent start to the 2018 campaign was punctuated on May 7 when Vermes signed a long-term contract extension as Sporting KC's Manager and Sporting director. The club enjoyed one of its best seasons ever, amassing 62 points and a club-record 65 goals en route to an 18-8-8 record and a first-place finish in the Western Conference. With Homegrown Player Daniel Salloi bagging a team-best 16 goals and Johnny Russell becoming just the fourth player in club history to record 10 goals and 10 assists in a single regular season, Sporting defeated rivals Real Salt Lake in the Western Conference Semifinals before falling just short with a 3-2 aggregate loss to the Portland Timbers in the Western Conference Championship.

Sporting made club history in the early stages of 2019, advancing to the Concacaf Champions League Semifinals for the first time. Vermes' men thrashed Mexican side Toluca by a 5-0 aggregate scoreline in the Round of 16, marking the largest aggregate win by an MLS team over a Liga MX club. Sporting would fall to eventual champion CF Monterrey in the semifinals. What followed in MLS was an 11th-place finish in the Western Conference, drawing an end to Sporting's eight-year playoff streak—the fourth-longest such run in MLS history.

NEW ERA OF MLS

By 2020, Vermes had become the longest-tenured manager in MLS and built the longest tenure at a single club in league history. A momentous 2020 campaign featured high-profile additions such as Mexican star striker Alan Pulido and Israeli midfielder Gadi Kinda as Designated Players. In a shortened 21-match season prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Sporting finished in first place in the Western Conference with a 12-6-3 record and 1.86 points per match, the best clip in team history. This marked the fourth first-place conference finish under Vermes since 2011, with no other coach amassing more than two first-place finishes during that time. Sporting participated in two knockout tournaments, advancing to the quarterfinals of the historic MLS is Back Tournament in Walt Disney World and the Western Conference Semifinals of the Audi 2020 MLS Cup Playoffs as the top seed in the West.

In 2021, Sporting enjoyed another strong season that culminated with a third-place finish in the Western Conference and a 17-10-7 record. Led by MLS MVP finalist Daniel Salloi – who set a new record with 16 non-penalty goals in a single season – and Johnny Russell, Sporting beat the Vancouver Whitecaps in the MLS Cup Playoffs before falling to Real Salt Lake in the Conference Semifinal. In the summer of 2021, Sporting's ownership group was bolstered with the addition of NFL MVP and Kansas City Chiefs star Patrick Mahomes.

2022 saw Sporting facing an uphill battle from the get-go, as Designated Players Alan Pulido and Gadi Kinda were ruled out for the season before a ball had been kicked due to knee surgery. A tough regular season was remedied by a strong run in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, but Sporting eventually fell at the Semifinal stage to Sacramento Republic FC. Buoyed by summer signings Willy Agada and Erik Thommy, Sporting went 6-2-2 in their last 10 matches, posting the third best record in MLS during that time.



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PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SPORTING KC AND CHILDREN'S MERCY KANSAS CITY CONTINUES TO IMPACT LOCAL COMMUNITY

Nationally recognized for delivering high-quality, compassionate pediatric care, Children's Mercy Kansas City began a 10-year partnership with Sporting KC in 2016 to promote health and fitness among area children and provide specialized sports medicine to a youth athlete market that has experienced a substantial increase in sports-related injuries.

The comprehensive partnership between Sporting KC and Children's Mercy Kansas City – which includes naming rights to Sporting KC's world-class stadium, Children's Mercy Park, as well as the Sporting KC II and Sporting KC Academy complex at Swope Soccer Village – is also at the forefront of Sporting's state-of-the-art training ground at Compass Minerals National Performance Center. In a first-of-its-kind collaboration between a professional sports team, a national sports federation and a sports medicine provider, the facility opened in 2018 and features the Children's Mercy Sports Medicine Center alongside Sporting Kansas City and U.S. Soccer.

Children's Mercy Kansas City is also the official healthcare and sports medicine provider for the Sporting Kansas City Academy and Compass Minerals National Performance Center as part of a multi-faceted partnership that focuses on the following three components to impact the local community:

1. Improving access to pediatric-trained sports medicine

- The Children's Mercy Sports Medicine Center at Village West is located inside Compass Minerals National Performance Center and offers a full range of sports medicine services, resources and programming for youth athletes. More than two million high-school athletes and 3.5 million children under age 14 are injured each year in the U.S. playing sports. Only a small percentage are treated by pediatric-trained sports medicine specialists who truly understand the youth's growing body, developing brain and unique psychosocial stressors.

2. Strengthening community

- The partnership directly supports The Victory Project, Sporting's foundation to help children - including those with cancer and disabilities – through all of life's challenges.
- Sporting KC players and staff engage with, encourage and inspire Children's Mercy patients throughout the year during hospital visits and special events.
- REX, an innovative remote experience robot operated on an iPad, regularly attends Sporting KC home matches to provide an all-access interactive experience for patients at Children's Mercy. Manufactured by Double Robotics, REX allows users to enjoy two-way live audio and video captured from a 150-degree wide-angle lens while navigating the robot to control their own VIP behind-the-scenes journey.
- Launched in 2018, the RED CARD campaign addresses one of the most significant social issues impacting children nationwide by empowering youth and adults to prevent and intervene in bullying. Through school assemblies and community-wide messaging, the RED CARD initiative aims to reach children, parents, teachers and coaches who have daily opportunities to create supportive environments and stop bullying in its tracks. New in 2023, Sporting and Children's Mercy teamed up to provide 90 students at 30 local elementary and middle schools with SKC jerseys on National Random Acts of Kindness Day as part of a Kindness In The Schools (K.I.T.S.) initiative.

3. Protecting youth athletes and educating parents and coaches

- The partnership provides soccer-specific curriculum (nutrition, injury prevention, rehabilitation, advanced cardiovascular training, etc.) for the Sporting Club Network, which includes approximately 200,000 players, parents, coaches and administrators across the Midwest.
- The partnership provides sports training, rehabilitation and conditioning programs for the Sporting KC Academy's six teams at Swope Soccer Village, which hosts Sporting KC II home matches as well as year-round athletic leagues, tournaments and other marquee events.



PETER VERMES

MANAGER & SPORTING DIRECTOR

Peter Vermes is entering his 15th season as Sporting Kansas City Manager in 2023 with a new five-year extension and is the longest-tenured active head coach in MLS. He is the team's longest-serving manager and his 222 coaching victories in all competitions are the most club history. During his tenure, he has won four major trophies – the 2012, 2015 and 2017 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cups and the 2013 MLS Cup championship – and finished atop the Eastern Conference regular-season standings in 2011 and 2012, as well as the Western Conference in 2018 and 2020.

He is the first coach in club history to lead Sporting KC to eight straight postseason appearances, as well as the only person to ever win MLS Cup as both a player and a coach with the same team. His 183 regular-season wins entering 2023 top the club's all-time chart and rank fourth most in MLS history. Vermes has coached 515 total matches during his Kansas City coaching career, most in club history.

On August 4, 2018, Vermes coached his 302nd MLS regular-season match with Sporting KC, becoming the league's all-time leader in matches coached for one club. He was named the first-ever MLS Sporting Executive of the Year by his peers in 2018.

With over 14 years of service at Sporting KC, Vermes is one of the longest serving managers in world soccer. Among all 18 leagues with an average attendance of 10,000+, Vermes ranks second, only behind 2. Bundesliga side FC Heidenheim's Frank Schmidt (Sept. 17, 2007 – present). Among the top 126 leagues in the world as denoted by the CIES Football Observatory, Vermes' tenure at Sporting KC ranks as the fifth longest active run.

Vermes oversees all soccer operations for Sporting KC, including the active roster, Sporting Kansas City II (MLS NEXT Pro) and the Sporting KC Academy. Vermes entered MLS ahead of its inaugural season in 1996 and retired from the league in 2002, closing out his playing career in Kansas City after stints with the New York/New Jersey MetroStars and Colorado Rapids.

Following a standout high school career in which he was named New Jersey Player of the Year, Vermes was a star forward and All-American at Rutgers University. After college, Vermes represented the United States in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea, and was named 1988 Chevrolet U.S. Male Soccer Athlete of the Year for his efforts.

Vermes was an integral part of a young U.S. team at the 1990 World Cup, where he nearly scored against the host nation Italy. It was the first time the U.S. had qualified for the World Cup in 40 years and set the stage for the progress of the U.S. Men's National Team. In 1989 and 1990, Vermes became the first American to play in the Hungarian and Dutch First Divisions, playing for Raba ETO and FC Volendam, respectively. He later spent five years with Figueres of the Spanish Second Division.

For MLS's inaugural season in 1996, Vermes served as captain of the New York/New Jersey MetroStars. In 1997, he was traded to the Colorado Rapids for current Sporting KC Assistant Coach Kerry Zavagnin and played in Denver through the 1999 season, leading the Rapids to the 1997 MLS Cup Final.

Vermes joined Kansas City in 2000 for what would be the most successful season of his MLS career. During his first year in Kansas City, he anchored one of the best defenses in league history and won MLS Defender of the Year honors in helping lead the Wizards to the 2000 MLS Cup. He retired in 2002 after appearing in 209 MLS matches (including playoffs) and playing more than 18,000 minutes. In 2013, Vermes was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

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TECHNICAL STAFF



KERRY ZAVAGNIN
ASSISTANT COACH

In 2023, Kerry Zavagnin breaks the MLS record as he enters his 24th season with one club as a player or coach. Zavagnin first joined Kansas City in 2000 as a holding midfielder and was an integral part of the club's midfield for the next nine seasons, during which time he helped lead the Wizards to MLS Cup (2000) and U.S. Open Cup (2004) Championships. He was named to the MLS All-Star team and the Best XI in 2004. Zavagnin's primary duties as an assistant include scouting, developing Sporting Kansas City's younger players, breaking down film and assisting with training sessions.

He started his professional career with the New York/New Jersey MetroStars, where he played in 39 matches over two seasons. After spending one season with the Lehigh Valley Steam (USL-1), Zavagnin came to Kansas City in 2000. He played 237 matches (228 starts) and logged 20,516 minutes for Kansas City, setting team records in both categories before both were overtaken by Matt Besler early in 2018. He scored eight goals and added 22 assists in his nine seasons in Kansas City blue. Zavagnin was named Team Defender of the Year in 2001.

On top of his club success in Kansas City, Zavagnin also appeared 21 times for the United States Men's National Team. He recorded one assist for the U.S., who went 15-2-4 when Zavagnin featured.



ZORAN SAVIC
ASSISTANT COACH

Zoran Savic joined Sporting Kansas City late in the 2009 season after a 30-year career at all levels of the match in the United States. A native of Gornji Milanovac, Yugoslavia, Savic began his journey through American soccer with the Buffalo Stallions of the Major Indoor Soccer League in 1980. Savic would go on to star for several MISL teams, with his most prosperous period coming with the Kansas City Comets, with whom he scored 70 goals in just over 100 appearances from 1982-1984.

After retiring as a player in 1991, Savic turned his attention to coaching in the indoor match. Savic led the Kansas City Attack from 1992-1996, winning Coach of the Year honors for the 1994-1995 season while also serving as the team's General Manager. Savic later coached the Kansas City Comets from 2000-2005.

In 2007 Savic switched to the outdoor match, joining Chivas USA as an assistant to then-head coach Preki before moving into the commentary booth for Kansas City matches in 2008 and 2009.



ASH WALLACE
ASSISTANT COACH

Ash Wallace has served on Sporting Kansas City's technical staff since 2012, aiding the first team coaching staff in a variety of roles. Wallace, originally from England, helps scout and develop match plans for upcoming opponents, assists in planning and executing training sessions and provides valuable analysis for coaches and players regarding strategy. Wallace holds a U.S. Soccer A License.

Wallace's first involvement with the club came in August 2012 when he was contracted to produce a detailed scouting report on Seattle Sounders FC ahead of the U.S. Open Cup Final, helping Sporting claim their first of four major titles during a trophy-laden decade.

Prior to joining Sporting KC, Wallace was a member of the Preston North End coaching staff and also served as an opposition scout for Fleetwood Town in his native England. Earlier in his career, he worked with Preston North End's women's academy teams and Penwortham Boys academy teams while earning a Degree in Sports Coaching from the University of Central Lancashire.



ALEC DUFTY
GOALKEEPER COACH

Alec Dufty is in his eighth season with Sporting Kansas City having been introduced to the organization as the Sporting KC II goalkeeper coach in the side's inaugural season in 2016. In his first season working with the Sporting KC first team, starting goalkeeper Tim Melia enjoyed a record-breaking season where he was named the 2017 MLS Goalkeeper of the Year.

A former MLS player, Dufty began his playing career with the New York Red Bulls in 2009, making one appearance before joining the MLS reserve goalkeeper pool. In 2010, Dufty joined USSF D2 Pro League side AC St. Louis, making 30 appearances before returning to MLS with the Chicago Fire in late 2010.

He announced his retirement at the conclusion of the 2011 season. Dufty then took to coaching, first working with Florida Gulf Coast University and then the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2015, Dufty served as goalkeeper coach for Toronto FC II in their inaugural USL Championship season.



JOEY HARTY
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS PERFORMANCE & SCIENCE

Joey Harty was named Sporting Kansas City's Director of Sports Performance and Science ahead of the 2020 season, stepping up from his role as assistant fitness coach which he held from 2018-2019.

Harty manages all aspects of the club's performance department from the academy to the senior team. He oversees day-to-day training plans on and off the field, including work in the weight room, soccer session planning, on-field movement training, data analysis and more, aiming to optimize player health and performance.

Harty joined Sporting's organization in January 2016, serving as a fitness coach for the Sporting Kansas City Academy before spending the 2017 season as head fitness coach for Sporting KC II. The Colorado native then transitioned to assistant fitness coach for Sporting's first team in January 2018 before landing his current role with the club. Prior to arriving in Kansas City, Harty worked for Phoenix Rising FC and Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

Harty attended Grand Canyon from 2010-2014, played for the men's soccer team from 2010-2012 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and Exercise Science. In addition to holding several professional licenses and certifications in athletic performance, Harty is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.



2023 SPORTING KANSAS CITY ROSTER

NO.	PLAYER	PRONUNCIATION	POS.	HT.	WT.	BIRTHDATE	HOMETOWN	PREVIOUS CLUB
1	JOHN PULSKAMP		GK	6-4	205	04/19/2001	BAKERSFIELD, CA	SPORTING KC II (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
2	BEN SWEAT		DEF	6-1	175	09/04/1991	PALM HARBOR, FL	AUSTIN FC (MLS)
3	ANDREU FONTAS	ahn-DRAY-oo	DEF	6-2	200	11/14/1989	BANYOLES, SPAIN	CELTA VIGO (SPAIN)
4	ROBERT VOLODER	VOLO-derr	DEF	6-0	175	05/09/2001	FRANKFURT, GERMANY	NK MARIBOR (SLOVENIA)
6	NEMANJA RADOJA	nem-AHN-ya RAHD-oy-ah	MID	6-0	175	02/06/1993	NOVI SAD, SERBIA	LEVANTE (SPAIN)
7	JOHNNY RUSSELL		FWD	5-9	170	04/08/1990	GLASGOW, SCOTLAND	DERBY COUNTY (ENGLAND)
8	GRAHAM ZUSI	ZOO-see	MID	5-10	160	08/18/1986	ORLANDO, FL	
9	ALAN PULIDO	AH-lahn pooh-LEE-doh	FWD	5-10	180	03/08/1991	CIUDAD VICTORIA, MEXICO	CHIVAS GUADALAJARA (MEXICO)
10	GADI KINDA	GAH-dee KINN-dah	MID	5-7	155	03/23/1994	ASHDOD, ISRAEL	BEITAR JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)
11	KHIRY SHELTON	KY-ree	FWD	6-3	180	06/26/1993	AUSTIN, TX	SC PADERBORN 07 (GERMANY)
12	KORTNE FORD	COURT-knee	DEF	6-2	180	01/26/1996	OLATHE, KS	COLORADO RAPIDS (MLS)
14	TIM LEIBOLD	LIE-bold	DEF	5-9	165	11/30/1993	FRIOLZHEIM, GERMANY	HAMBURGER SV (GERMANY)
15	ROGER ESPINOZA		MID	5-10	190	10/25/1986	DENVER, CO	WIGAN ATHLETIC (ENGLAND)
17	JAKE DAVIS		MID	5-9	160	01/03/2002	ROCHESTER, MI	SPORTING KC II (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
18	LOGAN NDENBE	en-DEN-bay	DEF	5-8	180	02/09/2000	LA LOUVIERE, BELGIUM	EA GUINGAMP (FRANCE)
19	ROBERT CASTELLANOS	CASS-TEE-YAH-NOS	DEF	6-1	190	05/11/1999	PALMDALE, CA	KUPS (FINLAND)
20	DANIEL SALLOI	shallow-EE	FWD	6-1	165	07/19/1996	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY	SPORTING KC ACADEMY
21	FELIPE HERNANDEZ	feh-LEE-pay	MID	5-7	140	06/08/1998	NASHVILLE, TN	SPORTING KC II (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
22	KENDALL MCINTOSH	MACK-in-tosh	GK	5-11	180	01/24/1994	SANTA ROSA, CA	NEW YORK RED BULLS (MLS)
23	WILLY AGADA	ah-GAH-dah	FWD	5-9	180	09/17/1999	BAUCHI, NIGERIA	HAPOEL JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)
24	KAYDEN PIERRE		DEF	5-9	150	02/16/2003	BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI	SPORTING KC ACADEMY
25	OZZIE CISNEROS	sis-NAIR-oce	FWD	5-5	145	03/13/2004	OMAHA, NE	SPORTING KC ACADEMY
26	ERIK THOMMY	tommy	MID	5-8	160	08/20/1994	WETTENHAUSEN, GERMANY	VFB STUTTGART (GERMANY)
28	CAM DUKE		MID	5-6	130	02/13/2001	OVERLAND PARK, KS	
29	TIM MELIA	MEE-lia	GK	6-1	210	05/15/1986	GREAT RIVER, NY	CHIVAS USA (MLS)
31	DANNY FLORES		MID	5-9	145	04/06/2002	HALF MOON BAY, CA	OAKLAND ROOTS (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
54	REMI WALTER	vault-AIR	MID	5-8	160	04/26/1995	ESSEY-LES-NANCY, FRANCE	YENI MALATYASPOR (TURKEY)
77	MARINOS TZIONIS	ma-REE-noss JOHN-eeese	FWD	5-7	150	07/16/2001	NICOSIA, CYPRUS	OMONIA NICOSIA (CYPRUS)
82	CHRIS RINDOV	rin-DOVE	DEF	6-2	185	10/08/2001	ROCKVILLE, MD	

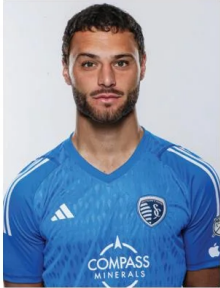
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2023 SPORTING KANSAS CITY ROSTER

NO. PLAYER	PRONUNCIATION	POS.	HT.	WT.	BIRTHDATE	HOMETOWN	PREVIOUS CLUB	
23	WILLY AGADA	ah-GAH-dah	FWD	5-9	180	09/17/1999	BAUCHI, NIGERIA	HAPOEL JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)
19	ROBERT CASTELLANOS	CASS-TEE-YAH-NOS	DEF	6-1	190	05/11/1999	PALMDALE, CA	KUPS (FINLAND)
25	OZZIE CISNEROS	sis-NAIR-oce	FWD	5-5	145	03/13/2004	OMAHA, NE	SPORTING KC ACADEMY
17	JAKE DAVIS		MID	5-9	160	01/03/2002	ROCHESTER, MI	SPORTING KC II (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
28	CAM DUKE		MID	5-6	130	02/13/2001	OVERLAND PARK, KS	
15	ROGER ESPINOZA		MID	5-10	190	10/25/1986	DENVER, CO	WIGAN ATHLETIC (ENGLAND)
31	DANNY FLORES		MID	5-9	145	04/06/2002	HALF MOON BAY, CA	OAKLAND ROOTS (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
3	ANDREU FONTAS	ahn-DRAY-oo	DEF	6-2	200	11/14/1989	BANYOLES, SPAIN	CELTA VIGO (SPAIN)
12	KORTNE FORD	COURT-knee	DEF	6-2	180	01/26/1996	OLATHE, KS	COLORADO RAPIDS (MLS)
21	FELIPE HERNANDEZ	feh-LEE-pay	MID	5-7	140	06/08/1998	NASHVILLE, TN	SPORTING KC II (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
10	GADI KINDA	GAH-dee KINN-dah	MID	5-7	155	03/23/1994	ASHDOD, ISRAEL	BEITAR JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)
14	TIM LEIBOLD	LIE-bold	DEF	5-9	165	11/30/1993	FRIOLZHEIM, GERMANY	HAMBURGER SV (GERMANY)
22	KENDALL MCINTOSH	MACK-in-tosh	GK	5-11	180	01/24/1994	SANTA ROSA, CA	NEW YORK RED BULLS (MLS)
29	TIM MELIA	MEE-lia	GK	6-1	210	05/15/1986	GREAT RIVER, NY	CHIVAS USA (MLS)
18	LOGAN NDENBE	en-DEN-bay	DEF	5-8	180	02/09/2000	LA LOUVIERE, BELGIUM	EA GUINGAMP (FRANCE)
24	KAYDEN PIERRE		DEF	5-9	150	02/16/2003	BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI	SPORTING KC ACADEMY
9	ALAN PULIDO	AH-lahn pooh-LEE-doh	FWD	5-10	180	03/08/1991	CIUDAD VICTORIA, MEXICO	CHIVAS GUADALAJARA (MEXICO)
1	JOHN PULSKAMP		GK	6-4	205	04/19/2001	BAKERSFIELD, CA	SPORTING KC II (USL CHAMPIONSHIP)
6	NEMANJA RADOJA	nem-AHN-ya RAHD-oy-ah	MID	6-0	175	02/06/1993	NOVI SAD, SERBIA	LEVANTE (SPAIN)
82	CHRIS RINDOV	rin-DOVE	DEF	6-2	185	10/08/2001	ROCKVILLE, MD	
7	JOHNNY RUSSELL		FWD	5-9	170	04/08/1990	GLASGOW, SCOTLAND	DERBY COUNTY (ENGLAND)
20	DANIEL SALLOI	shallow-EE	FWD	6-1	165	07/19/1996	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY	SPORTING KC ACADEMY
11	KHIRY SHELTON	KY-ree	FWD	6-3	180	06/26/1993	AUSTIN, TX	SC PADERBORN 07 (GERMANY)
2	BEN SWEAT		DEF	6-1	175	09/04/1991	PALM HARBOR, FL	AUSTIN FC (MLS)
26	ERIK THOMMY	tommy	MID	5-8	160	08/20/1994	WETTENHAUSEN, GERMANY	VFB STUTTGART (GERMANY)
77	MARINOS TZIONIS	ma-REE-noss JOHN-eeese	FWD	5-7	150	07/16/2001	NICOSIA, CYPRUS	OMONIA NICOSIA (CYPRUS)
4	ROBERT VOLODER	VOLO-derr	DEF	6-0	175	05/09/2001	FRANKFURT, GERMANY	NK MARIBOR (SLOVENIA)
54	REMI WALTER	vault-AIR	MID	5-8	160	04/26/1995	ESSEY-LES-NANCY, FRANCE	YENI MALATYASPOR (TURKEY)
8	GRAHAM ZUSI	ZOO-see	MID	5-10	160	08/18/1986	ORLANDO, FL	



2023 PLAYER BIOS



#1 JOHN PULSKAMP

Position: Goalkeeper
Born: April 19, 2001
Height: 6-4
Weight: 205 lbs.
Hometown: Bakersfield, California
Birthplace: Bakersfield, California

John Pulskamp joined Sporting KC as a Homegrown Player ahead of the 2020 season after acquiring his Homegrown rights from the LA Galaxy where he spent two seasons in the club's Academy. He made his MLS debut in the 2021 season opener, helping the side to a 2-1 victory at the New York Red Bulls. He became the youngest goalkeeper in Sporting KC history to record a shutout following a 2-0 win over the LA Galaxy on Oct. 27, 2021 at the age of 20 years and 191 days.

Pulskamp joined the MLS ranks on the heels of a breakout 2019 USL Championship season with SKC II. Pulskamp arrived in Kansas City in April 2019 after a two-year stint in the LA Galaxy Academy. He also spent time on trial with English Premier League outfit AFC Bournemouth in the summer of 2018. Prior to joining the Galaxy, he represented youth sides Real So Cal and Central California Aztecs.

Pulskamp was called in to a U.S. Men's National Team training camp in December 2021. At the youth international level, Pulskamp has represented the U.S. at the U-18 and U-20 levels.



#2 BEN SWEAT

Position: Defender
Born: September 4, 1991
Height: 6-1
Weight: 175 lbs.
Hometown: Palm Harbor, Florida
Birthplace: Palm Harbor, Florida

Ben Sweat signed with Sporting KC as a free agent ahead of the 2022 campaign. Prior to arriving at Sporting, Sweat eclipsed 150 total appearances during a professional career that began in 2014 and includes previous MLS stints with the Columbus Crew, New York City FC, Inter Miami CF and Austin FC. Sweat made his return from a year out through injury in 2022, making 24 appearances and tallying three assists for Sporting KC.

Sweat began his professional journey as a 2014 MLS SuperDraft first-round selection, joining the Columbus Crew and spending most of his rookie campaign on loan with the Dayton Dutch Lions. He would spend each of the next two seasons in the NASL with the Tampa Bay Rowdies. Sweat made his jump back to MLS with New York City FC in 2017, helping the team qualify for the postseason each of his three years. Sweat was selected by Inter Miami CF with the first pick in the 2019 MLS Expansion Draft and appeared in 22 matches during Miami's maiden MLS campaign in 2020. In December 2020, Sweat was traded to another MLS newcomer, Austin FC. He started the first two matches in club history last April before missing the remainder of 2021 following a torn ACL.

On the international stage, Sweat represented the U.S. at the U-20 level in 2010 and earned his first call-up to the USMNT in October 2018. He made his senior debut as a late substitute in a friendly loss to Chile on Oct. 11 and five days later went the full 90 minutes in a 1-1 friendly draw against Peru.

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#3 ANDREU FONTAS

Position: Defender
 Born: November 14, 1989
 Height: 6-2
 Weight: 200 lbs.
 Hometown: Banyoles, Spain
 Birthplace: Banyoles, Spain

Andreu Fontas, a 10-year professional with more than 200 appearances in his native Spain, joined Sporting KC midway through the 2018 season. Fontas underwent Achilles surgery in late 2019, keeping him out for the majority of the 2020 season before returning as an MLS Defender of the Year contender in 2021.

Fontas spent five seasons from 2013–2018 with Celta Vigo in Spain's top-flight La Liga, where he played alongside current Sporting midfielder Nemanja Radoja and started 100 of 105 league appearances, helping the club to the semifinals of the 2016–17 UEFA Europa League. The defender developed in FC Barcelona's famed La Masia youth academy, playing nearly 100 matches combined for FC Barcelona B and FC Barcelona from 2008–2012. Fontas advanced from Barcelona's B team to the first team in 2009 and played in 16 matches for the Spanish giants, including a sub appearance in the 2011 FIFA Club World Cup Final. Fontas spent the 2012–13 season on loan at Mallorca before signing with Celta Vigo in June 2013.

Internationally, Fontas has represented Spain at the Under-19, Under-20 and Under-21 levels and has also played for the Catalonia National Team.



#4 ROBERT VOLODER

Position: Defender
 Born: May 9, 2001
 Height: 6-0
 Weight: 175 lbs.
 Hometown: Frankfurt, Germany
 Birthplace: Frankfurt, Germany

Robert Voloder arrived in Kansas City in a transfer from NK Maribor in the Slovenian first division ahead of the 2022 MLS season. Voloder had played every minute for Slovenian powerhouse Maribor during the 2021–22 season, before making 14 appearances for Sporting KC during the 2022 campaign, tallying his first MLS goal against D.C. United on Sept. 13, 2022.

Prior to joining Maribor, Voloder began his professional career at heralded German side FC Cologne. He developed in the club's academy from 2016–2020 before being selected to Cologne's first team squad for three German Bundesliga matches at the end of the 2019–20 campaign. Voloder featured regularly for FC Cologne II in 2020–21, starting all 26 appearances.

On the youth international stage, Voloder represented Bosnia and Herzegovina at the U-17 through U-19 levels from 2017–2019 before switching his national team allegiance to Germany in September 2019, debuting for the country's U-19s in a friendly against England. He played his first of five matches for the German U-20s in the fall of 2020 and recently captained the team in an Under 20 Elite League matchup against Norway on Sept. 6, 2021.



#6 NEMANJA RADOJA

Position: Midfielder
Born: February 6, 1993
Height: 6-0
Weight: 175 lbs.
Hometown: Novi Sad, Serbia
Birthplace: Novi Sad, Serbia

Nemanja Radoja signed with Sporting KC ahead of the 2023 campaign, having spent most of the last decade in the Spanish La Liga with Celta Vigo and Levante.

Radoja began his professional career with Serbian club Vojvodina before embarking on an eight-year journey in La Liga. He logged 181 La Liga appearances from 2014-2022, playing alongside Sporting defender Andreu Fontas at Celta Vigo from 2014-2018 and spending each of the last three seasons with Levante. Radoja has played nearly 300 matches across the top divisions of Serbia and Spain and also boasts experience in the UEFA Europa League with Vojvodina and Celta Vigo.

Radoja's time in Spain was highlighted by several top-10 finishes as well as lengthy runs in the UEFA Europa League and the Copa Del Rey with Celta Vigo, before moving to Levante where he scored the final goal in a famous 3-1 upset win over European powerhouse FC Barcelona in 2019.

On the international stage, Radoja has two caps for the Serbia Men's National Team. He earned his senior debut in a friendly match at Ukraine in November 2016 and made one appearance in Serbia's successful qualifying campaign ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. As a youth, Radoja represented Serbia at the U-18 through U-21 levels.



#7 JOHNNY RUSSELL

Position: Forward
Born: April 8, 1990
Height: 5-9
Weight: 170 lbs.
Hometown: Glasgow, Scotland
Birthplace: Glasgow, Scotland

Scottish winger Johnny Russell joined Sporting KC in a transfer from English club Derby County FC in January 2018. A cult-hero at the club, Russell has tallied 53 goals and 39 assists in 164 appearances for Sporting KC since the start of 2018.

Russell previously scored 93 goals during a 12-year professional career in England and his native Scotland. Russell developed in the Dundee United Academy in Scotland before making his professional debut for the top-flight Scottish Premiership club in May 2007 at age 17. He spent most of the following three seasons out on loan and marked his first career Dundee United start with a goal in the 2009 Scottish FA Cup. In 2010-11, Russell enjoyed a breakout year at Dundee United with nine goals before adding 14 more goals during the 2011-12 campaign. Russell's final season at Dundee saw him produce a team-best 20 goals in 38 appearances.

Russell reached new heights in June 2013 when he joined Derby County. He marked his debut for the outfit with his first of nine goals in the 2013-14 English Championship as the Rams fell just short of promotion to the EPL. He totaled 18 goals over the next two seasons.

Russell has 13 career caps for Scotland and scored his first international goal during a European Championship Qualifier in San Marino on March 24, 2019. He has also represented Scotland at the U-19 and U-21 levels.



#8 GRAHAM ZUSI

Position: Defender
 Born: August 18, 1986
 Height: 5-10
 Weight: 160 lbs.
 Hometown: Longwood, Florida
 Birthplace: Orlando, Florida

Sporting's all-time appearance and minutes leader, Graham Zusi has garnered MLS All-Star (2012-15, 2017-19), MLS Best XI (2012-13) & MLS Breakout Player of the Year (2011) accolades in addition to receiving a 2012 MLS MVP nomination. He earned Sporting KC MVP honors from 2012-14 and is the only player to appear in every All-Star Match from 2011-2014.

Zusi has recorded 34 goals and 89 assists in 394 appearances for Sporting KC across all competitions since being drafted in 2009 out of Maryland, where he won two national championships. He is second in club history with 87 total assists, while his 410 chances created from 2011-2015 (including postseason) ranked third in MLS. With his assist against RSL on April 29, 2017, Zusi reached 50 regular-season assists and later moved into first in club history with 24 match-winning assists on Aug. 19, 2017 versus FC Dallas.

Zusi earned 55 caps for the U.S. Men's National Team after debuting in January 2012, recording five goals and seven assists. He played four matches at the 2014 FIFA World Cup, tallying two assists as the U.S. advanced out of the group stage. He played in his first CONCACAF Gold Cup in 2015, starting two matches, and scored in a World Cup qualifier against Guatemala on March 29, 2016. He played five matches for the U.S. at the 2016 Copa America Centenario, scoring on June 7 in a 4-0 win over Costa Rica. He made four appearances as the U.S. won the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup.



#9 ALAN PULIDO

Position: Forward
 Born: March 8, 1991
 Height: 5-10
 Weight: 180 lbs.
 Hometown: Ciudad Victoria, Mexico
 Birthplace: Ciudad Victoria, Mexico

Mexican star Alan Pulido signed with Sporting KC as a Designated Player in a club-record transfer from Chivas Guadalajara in December 2019. Pulido has scored over 100 combined goals for club and country during a decorated career highlighted by five domestic championships and the 2018 Concacaf Champions League title. In his first two seasons with the club, Pulido tallied 15 goals and eight assists in 36 appearances. Pulido is set to return in 2023 after missing the entire 2022 campaign after undergoing knee surgery.

Pulido developed in the Tigres UANL youth academy before breaking into the first team in 2009 as an 18-year-old. He helped Tigres to the 2009 SuperLiga title and two years later, Pulido scored in the second leg of the 2011 Liga MX Apertura Final as Tigres won its first league championship since 1982. Pulido enjoyed a breakout 2013-14 campaign with 25 goals in all competitions during his final season at Tigres, scoring in the 2014 Copa MX Clausura Final to finish as the tournament's top scorer. Pulido then signed for Greek outfit Levadiakos and scored on his debut before heading to Greek powerhouse Olympiacos. Pulido returned to Liga MX in August 2016, joining Chivas on a club-record transfer fee. His first full season with Chivas yielded 14 goals, helping his side to a double-winning campaign that ended with his first Liga MX Best XI selection. In 2018, he led Chivas to the Concacaf Champions League title and the club's first continental championship in 56 years.

At the international level, Pulido has bagged five goals in 20 caps for Mexico's senior team and was part of the El Tri squad at the 2011 Copa America and the 2014 FIFA World Cup.



#10 GADI KINDA

Position: Midfielder
Born: March 23, 1994
Height: 5-7
Weight: 155 lbs.
Hometown: Ashdod, Israel
Birthplace: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Gadi Kinda joined Sporting KC ahead of the 2020 season from Israeli Premier League side Beitar Jerusalem. Kinda earned Sporting KC Newcomer of the Year honors in his first MLS season and has contributed 11 goals and 12 assists in 51 appearances across all competitions for Sporting. Kinda is set to return in 2023 after missing the entire 2022 campaign after undergoing knee surgery.

Kinda joined Beitar Jerusalem in February 2019 and started 30 of 31 appearances in all competitions. Kinda spent the first seven and a half years of his professional career at hometown club FC Ashdod. He developed in Ashdod's academy prior to landing a top-flight debut in September 2011 as a 17-year-old. He became a regular starter for Ashdod during the 2013-2014 campaign and remained a key player until his departure to Beitar.

Kinda has five caps for the senior Israeli National Team, making his debut on June 5, 2021 when he scored the final goal in a 3-1 friendly win over Montenegro. He previously represented Israel at the U-18, U-19 and U-21 levels.



#11 KHIRY SHELTON

Position: Forward
Born: June 26, 1993
Height: 6-3
Weight: 180 lbs.
Hometown: Austin, Texas
Birthplace: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Khiry Shelton is in the midst of his second stint with Sporting Kansas City, having initially helped the club to a first place in the Western Conference and a record-breaking scoring season in 2018, before departing to play in Germany with SC Paderborn 07 for one season in 2019. He returned to the club ahead of the 2020 season and has tallied 14 goals and 16 assists across 108 appearances for the club.

Shelton was selected second overall in the 2015 MLS SuperDraft by expansion side New York City FC and spent three seasons with the club before initially arriving in KC via trade ahead of the 2018 season. He was NYCFC's first-ever SuperDraft pick and played a total of 54 regular-season matches for the club, notching six goals and 10 assists across just 23 starts.

In college, Shelton attended Oregon State University where he was an NSCAA All-America Second Team selection; Pac-12 Player of the Year; All-Far West Region First Team as he helped lead the Beavers to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2003 during his senior year. Shelton was a member of the U.S. U-18 National Team as a youth player.



#12 KORTNE FORD

Position: Defender
 Born: January 26, 1996
 Height: 6-2
 Weight: 180 lbs.
 Hometown: Olathe, Kansas
 Birthplace: Olathe, Kansas

Kortne Ford returned to his hometown and signed with Sporting KC as a free agent ahead of the 2022 season. Ford began his professional career in 2017 with the Colorado Rapids, where he started 33 of 35 MLS appearances as a Homegrown Player. Following a five-year stint in Colorado, Ford spent the last three months of 2021 on loan with San Antonio FC in the USL Championship. Having dealt with a host of injury issues in Colorado, Ford made his first MLS appearance since 2018 in Sporting's match at the Colorado Rapids on March 12, 2022. Ford is expected to miss the 2023 season after undergoing surgery in February to repair a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Ford enjoyed a strong rookie campaign with the Rapids, starting 19 of 20 MLS appearances in 2017. He earned his MLS debut in a road loss to Sporting on April 9 at Children's Mercy Park and opened his professional scoring account against SKC in a 1-0 home win on May 27. Born in Olathe, Kansas, Ford played youth soccer in the Kansas City area before moving with his family to Colorado at age 12.

In three standout seasons at the University of Denver, Ford was a two-time All-Summit League First Team selection. He started in all 62 college appearances and led the Pioneers to their first NCAA Men's College Cup appearance as a junior in 2016.



#14 TIM LEIBOLD

Position: Forward
 Born: June 26, 1993
 Height: 6-3
 Weight: 180 lbs.
 Hometown: Austin, Texas
 Birthplace: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Tim Leibold joined Sporting Kansas City in January 2023 having amassed more than 20 goals and 40 assists in nearly 300 professional appearances in his native Germany. Leibold becomes the third German newcomer at Sporting since the start of 2022, following center back Robert Voloder and midfielder Erik Thommy.

Leibold spent the last eight seasons across Germany's top two divisions. He starred at Nurnberg from 2015-2019 and has competed since then for Hamburg, including a one-year stint as club captain during the 2020-21 campaign.

Leibold developed in youth academies at VfB Stuttgart, TSF Ditzingen and SGV Freiberg before turning professional with Freiberg at age 18 in 2012. Leibold enjoyed a breakthrough in 2015 by joining 2. Bundesliga side Nurnberg and solidifying his place as a regular starter. The 2018-19 campaign saw Leibold lead Nurnberg with 32 Bundesliga starts while also assisting three goals. Competing in one of the world's best leagues, he led the team in key passes, tackles, recoveries and touches while placing second in minutes played.

Leibold then returned to the 2. Bundesliga with a move to Hamburg, where he had his best professional season to date in 2019-20. He played every minute of all 34 league matches and led the 2. Bundesliga with 16 assists.

At the international level, Leibold played five matches for the Germany U-20s in 2013.



#15 ROGER ESPINOZA

Position: Midfielder
Born: October 25, 1986
Height: 5-10
Weight: 190 lbs.
Hometown: Denver, Colorado
Birthplace: Puerto Cortes, Honduras

Roger Espinoza has enjoyed two spells with Sporting Kansas City, first from 2008-12 and again from 2015-present. After a two-year stint in the English Premier League and English Championship with Wigan Athletic, Espinoza returned to Sporting KC in 2015. In his two years at Wigan Athletic, he logged 57 appearances and started in the club's 2013 FA Cup Final victory over Manchester City.

Espinoza was an MLS All-Star in 2012 and helped lead the club to the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup title that season. He has made 367 appearances for the club in all competitions across the last 13 seasons. "Red Card Roger", as he's affectionately known, is both the club's all-time leader and the all-time MLS leader with 13 red cards.

Espinoza earned 51 caps for the Honduras Men's National Team after debuting in 2009. He has competed in the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cups as well as the 2012 Summer Olympics before retiring from international play in 2019.



#17 JAKE DAVIS

Position: Midfielder
Born: January 3, 2002
Height: 5-9
Weight: 160 lbs.
Hometown: Rochester, Michigan
Birthplace: Rochester, Michigan

Jake Davis signed as a Homegrown Player in August 2021 as the 19th player to emerge from the Sporting KC Academy. He made his first-team debut in the 4-0 victory over Minnesota United on Sept. 15, 2021.

A hard-nosed midfielder who can also play at right back, Davis has spent significant time developing with Sporting KC II under former Sporting greats Paulo Nagamura and Benny Feilhaber from 2019-2022. Davis moved to Kansas City in 2017 at age 15 to join the Sporting KC Academy and represented Sporting at the U-17 and U-19 levels.

Davis earned international recognition in November 2019 when he was selected to the United States U-17 National Team for the 19th annual Nike International Friendlies.



#18 LOGAN NDENBE

Position: Defender
 Born: February 9, 2000
 Height: 5-8
 Weight: 180 lbs.
 Hometown: La Louviere, Belgium
 Birthplace: La Louviere, Belgium

Logan Ndenbe joined Sporting in a transfer from French team EA Guingamp in January 2022. Ndenbe arrived in Kansas City after spending his first five professional seasons in Europe with Belgian top-flight side KV Oostende and Guingamp.

Ndenbe developed in the Royal Excel Mouscron academy before joining KV Oostende as a 17-year-old in 2017. Ndenbe left Belgium in July 2020, signing for Guingamp to mark the start of a successful stint in the French Ligue 2.

On the youth international stage, Ndenbe rose through the Belgian U-17 and U-18 teams before earning his Belgium U-21 debut in June 2021 for his first of six matches in 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying. He started in four matches during qualifying, helping the team go 3-0-1.



#19 ROBERT CASTELLANOS

Position: Defender
 Born: May 11, 1998
 Height: 6-1
 Weight: 190 lbs.
 Hometown: Palmdale, California
 Birthplace: Palmdale, California

Center back Robert Castellanos signed with Sporting Kansas City ahead of the 2023 campaign following a brief stint playing abroad with KuPS in Finland. Castellanos has made 70 club appearances since turning professional in 2017, including stints in the USL Championship, MLS and Finland.

Castellanos developed at the youth level with Nomads SC in San Diego before joining Liga MX club Atlas' academy in 2016. He launched his professional career in early 2017, signing for LA Galaxy II and started 15 of 16 appearances in his debut USL Championship season. Castellanos spent the next three years at RGVFC, where he played 37 matches and scored two goals. Castellanos jumped to MLS by signing for Nashville in February 2021. In his lone appearance for the club, Castellanos scored an equalizing goal in a 1-1 draw at Toronto FC.

Nashville loaned Castellanos to the Tampa Bay Rowdies for the 2022 season where he helped the Rowdies reach the Conference Final. Castellanos then ventured abroad by joining KuPS, where he started three matches before leaving the club.

Castellanos is a former U.S. youth international, having made two appearances for the U.S. U-20 Men's National Team in 2016.



#20 DANIEL SALLOI

Position: Forward
Born: July 19, 1996
Height: 6-1
Weight: 165 lbs.
Hometown: Budapest, Hungary
Birthplace: Siofok, Hungary

Daniel Salloi signed with Sporting KC as the fourth Homegrown Player in club history in early 2016 and made his Sporting KC debut on April 9, 2017 against the Colorado Rapids. Salloi was an MLS MVP finalist in 2021 after tallying 16 goals and 10 assists in all competitions, tying the club record for most non-penalty goals in a single MLS regular season. Salloi's 13 match-winning goals is tied for most in club history. Salloi, who signed a new four-year contract in late 2022, has recorded 48 goals and 25 assists in 171 appearances across all competitions.

Salloi scored on his first start for the club - a 4-0 win over Minnesota United in the U.S. Open Cup on June 14, 2017 - and added his first MLS goal vs. Portland on July 1, 2017. Salloi reached even greater heights by scoring the winning goal in the 2017 U.S. Open Cup Final against the New York Red Bulls. Salloi moved to the U.S. in August 2014 as an AFS exchange student and attended Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas, joining the SKC Academy U-18s for the 2014-15 season.

After a successful spell with the Sporting KC U-18s, Salloi returned to his former Academy side Ujpest FC in July 2015. He made his professional debut in the top-tier OTP Bank Liga on July 18, 2015 the day before his 19th birthday. Salloi has four caps for the senior Hungary National Team, having made his debut in a World Cup Qualifier against England on Sept. 2, 2021. He previously played for the Hungary Under-21 National Team.



#21 FELIPE HERNANDEZ

Position: Midfielder
Born: June 8, 1998
Height: 5-7
Weight: 140 lbs.
Hometown: Nashville, Tennessee
Birthplace: Ibague, Colombia

Felipe Hernandez signed with Sporting KC as a Homegrown Player in August 2019. Hernandez is the first Sporting player to progress from an Academy Affiliate club to the SKC Academy to Sporting KC II before signing with the senior team. He signed with the first team following a breakout 2019 with SKC II in the USL Championship, where he started 24 of 26 appearances, scored a team-best eight goals and recorded four assists.

Hernandez played for Sporting Nashville Heroes, a former Academy Affiliate, and moved to Kansas City in the summer of 2014 to join the Academy. At age 16, Hernandez earned a preseason training stint with Sporting KC in January 2015, before signing an Academy contract with Sporting KC II in August 2016, two months prior to earning Bob Gansler Academy Player of the Year honors that then led to a professional SKC II contract in early 2017.

On the international stage, Hernandez played for the U.S. U-19 and U-20 National Teams in 2016 and 2017.



#22 KENDALL MCINTOSH

Position: Goalkeeper
 Born: January 24, 1994
 Height: 5-11
 Weight: 180 lbs.
 Hometown: Santa Rosa, California
 Birthplace: Oakland, California

Sporting KC acquired goalkeeper Kendall McIntosh in Stage 1 of the MLS Re-Entry Process in late 2020. McIntosh spent the previous MLS campaign with the New York Red Bulls following a four-year stint in the Portland Timbers organization from 2016-2019. After seven years in MLS, McIntosh made his MLS debut in Sporting KC's 3-0 home win over D.C. United on Sept. 13, 2022.

As a rookie in 2016, McIntosh competed for Timbers 2 of the USL Championship prior to signing his first MLS contract with Portland in January 2017. He played most of the next three years on loan with Timbers 2. In his lone appearance for Portland's first team, McIntosh secured a 2-0 shutout victory over San Jose in the U.S. Open Cup Round of 32 in 2018.

Born in Oakland and raised in Santa Rosa, California, McIntosh was a member of the San Jose Earthquakes Academy as a youth before embarking on a four-year collegiate career at Santa Clara University. He was named the 2015 West Coast Conference Goalkeeper of the Year as a senior, leading Santa Clara to the WCC Championship.

On the international stage, McIntosh featured for the U.S. U-14, U-15, U-17 and U-20 National Teams, including a stint in residency with the U-17s in Bradenton, Florida.



#23 WILLY AGADA

Position: Forward
 Born: Sept. 17, 1999
 Height: 5-9
 Weight: 180 lbs.
 Hometown: Bauchi, Nigeria
 Birthplace: Bauchi, Nigeria

Willy Agada joined Sporting KC in a transfer from Israeli side Hapoel Jerusalem in June 2022. A native of Nigeria, Agada scored 37 goals across four seasons in Israel. Agada had an incredible start to his Sporting KC career, tallying eight goals and two assists in just 12 appearances to close out 2022.

Agada turned professional as an 18-year-old and bagged eight goals during his first season with Hapoel Jerusalem in 2018-2019. He doubled his goal haul the following year, scoring a team-best 15 times across 36 appearances in the Israeli second division. Agada's excellent 2019-2020 campaign paved the way for a loan to

Hapoel Haifa in the Israeli Premier League where he finished second on the team with six goals in 2020-2021.

The 2021-2022 season saw Agada return to Hapoel Jerusalem, which had gained promotion to the Premier League and led the team with eight goals.



#24 KAYDEN PIERRE

Position: Defender
Born: February 16, 2003
Height: 5-9
Weight: 150 lbs.
Hometown: Rochester Hills, Michigan
Birthplace: Rochester Hills, Michigan

Kayden Pierre signed with Sporting as a Homegrown player early in the 2021 season after impressing at preseason camp in Arizona with the Sporting KC first team. He made his debut for the club against Club Leon in the Leagues Cup on Aug. 10, 2021 before making his MLS debut at Colorado on March 12, 2022.

Pierre joined the Sporting KC Academy in 2018 from Vardar SC in his native Michigan. He represented Sporting at the U-15, U-17 and U-19 levels and helped guide the U-17s to the Academy Playoffs in 2019. Capable of playing at left back and right back, Pierre gained his first professional experience in 2020 when he signed an amateur academy contract with SKC II. Pierre enjoyed a breakout season for Sporting in 2022, making 22 appearances in all competitions.

On the international stage, Pierre has competed for the U.S. U-14, U-16 and U-20 national teams.



#25 OZZIE CISNEROS

Position: Midfielder
Born: March 13, 2004
Height: 5-5
Weight: 145 lbs.
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska
Birthplace: Omaha, Nebraska

Felipe Hernandez signed with Sporting KC as a Homegrown Player in August 2019. Hernandez is the first Ozzie Cisneros, joined the Sporting KC Academy as a 12-year-old in 2016 and advanced all the way to the first team when he inked an MLS contract at age 16 in early 2021. He scored his first professional goal for Sporting KC II against Louisville City FC on July 28, 2021 before making his debut for Sporting KC in a Leagues Cup match against Club Leon on Aug. 10, 2021.

On the international stage, Cisneros notably starred at the 2019 Concacaf U-15 Championship in Bradenton, Florida, scoring both goals in a 2-0 quarterfinal win over Costa Rica, and also found the back of the net at the 2019 Torneo delle Nazioni in Italy.



#26 ERIK THOMMY

Position: Midfielder
 Born: August 20, 1994
 Height: 5-8
 Weight: 155 lbs.
 Hometown: Wettenhausen, Germany
 Birthplace: Ulm, Germany

Erik Thommy, a German Bundesliga veteran, signed with Sporting KC in June 2022. Thommy previously recorded 42 goals and 33 assists across nine seasons in his native Germany - including nine goals, 14 assists and 96 appearances in the Bundesliga, one of the top leagues in the world. He scored his first goal for Sporting in the 4-2 victory over the LA Galaxy on Aug. 6, 2022 and finished the season with an impressive three goals and two assists in 13 appearances.

Capable of playing in an advanced midfield role or on the wing, Thommy launched his professional career with FC Augsburg in 2014 before going on loan to FC Kaiserslautern (2014-2016) and Jahn Regensburg (2016-2017). Thommy joined VfB Stuttgart in 2017, starred for Fortuna Dusseldorf during a successful loan spell in 2019-2020, and ended his time at Stuttgart in the Spring of 2022 by appearing in each of the club's last six matches of the 2021-2022 campaign.

Thommy developed in academies at SV Kleinbeuren (2000-2002), SSV Ulm (2002-2009) and TSG Thannhausen (2009-2010) before moving to FC Augsburg. He signed for FC Augsburg II in 2013 and made his Bundesliga debut with Augsburg's senior team as a 19-year-old in February 2014.



#28 CAM DUKE

Position: Midfielder
 Born: February 13, 2001
 Height: 5-6
 Weight: 130 lbs.
 Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas
 Birthplace: Overland Park, Kansas

Cam Duke signed with Sporting KC as a Homegrown Player midway through the 2019 season. Duke was in the club's Academy from 2012-2019, advancing from the Under-12 side to the Under-19s. He made his professional debut in the MLS in Back Quarterfinals against the Philadelphia Union on July 30, 2020 and scored his first goal in a 3-1 road win over Seattle on July 25, 2021.

Duke capped an impressive Academy career by helping the SKC Academy U-19s reach the quarterfinals of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy Playoffs in June 2019. Duke was the No. 1 prospect in the Heartland Region and the 20th-ranked player nationally at TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Duke is the younger brother of former Sporting midfielder and SKC II captain Christian Duke, while his father, Chris Duke, played for the Kansas City Comets and Kansas City Attack in the early 1990s. Duke has represented the United States at the U-14 and U-15, U-16 and U-18 levels.



#29 TIM MELIA

Position: Goalkeeper
Born: May 15, 1986
Height: 6-1
Weight: 210 lbs.
Hometown: Great River, New York
Birthplace: Great River, New York

Tim Melia leads Sporting KC in regular-season wins, shutouts and saves, and has also played the most matches of any Sporting goalkeeper in club history. Melia claimed the 2017 Goalkeeper of the Year crown with career-highs in wins (12), shutouts (10), saves (91), starts (31) and minutes (2,759) before surpassing each of those stats in 2018. Melia has an unbelievable knack for saving penalty kicks, having only conceded 17 of the 30 he has faced for Sporting while also guiding the team to penalty shootout victories in the 2015 U.S. Open Cup Final, the 2017 U.S. Open Cup Semifinal, the 2020 MLS is Back Round of 16 and the 2020 MLS Cup Playoffs Quarterfinal.

Melia was named the club's 2017 Most Valuable Player. Among goalkeepers with at least 15 regular-season appearances in 2017, he led MLS with a 0.78 goals against average, 78.4 save percentage and 69.2-percent passing accuracy. He also ranked second in shutouts. On April 8, 2018, Melia set a new club record and career-high with 10 saves in a 2-0 win over the LA Galaxy. During his breakout campaign in 2015, he was named MLS Comeback Player of the Year.

After a four-year college career with NCAA Division III program Lynn University (New York), Melia began his professional career in 2008 with the Rochester Rhinos of the USL First Division. After stints with Real Salt Lake and Chivas USA, he spent the latter half of 2014 as a League Pool Goalkeeper, earning emergency call-ups from Sporting KC, FC Dallas and D.C. United.



#31 DANNY FLORES

Position: Midfielder
Born: April 6, 2002
Height: 5-9
Weight: 155 lbs.
Hometown: Half Moon Bay, California
Birthplace: Burlinmatch, California

Sporting Kansas City added Danny Flores off MLS waivers in January 2023. Flores is set to begin his MLS career after a two-year college stint at Virginia Tech. Prior to his collegiate experience, Flores also boasts three seasons of play in the USL Championship, representing Philadelphia Union II from 2019-2020 and Oakland Roots SC in 2021.

Flores recorded two goals and two assists in 32 USL Championship matches across three seasons. He made his league debut in September 2019 for Union II and was an ever-present fixture for the club the following year by playing in all 16 matches. Flores returned to California in 2021 as he moved cross-country to join Oakland Roots SC for the club's inaugural USL Championship campaign. He started in 10 of 12 matches for a team that ultimately punctuated its first season with a trip to the playoffs.

Following his successful spell in Oakland, Flores began his collegiate career in Virginia Tech's midfield. He started all 19 matches during his first season and was named the No. 3 freshman in the country by Top Drawer Soccer and earned ACC All-Freshman Team accolades. Flores continued to lead the Hokies in 2022, scoring a team-best four goals and adding two assists. He ended his time at Virginia Tech with five goals, five assists and starts in 31 of 33 career appearances.

Flores represented the United States U-17 Men's National Team, where he competed alongside Sporting KC Academy products Gianluca Busio and Tyler Freeman. Flores starred for two clubs at the Academy level, first with Shattuck St. Mary's in Minnesota and later with the Philadelphia Union.

TWO STATES. ONE CITY. ONE CLUB.



#54 REMI WALTER

Position: Midfielder
 Born: April 26, 1995
 Height: 5-8
 Weight: 160 lbs.
 Hometown: Essey-les-Nancy, France
 Birthplace: Essey-les-Nancy, France

Remi Walter signed with Sporting KC in December 2020, having amassed nearly 200 professional appearances since 2012 while playing in his native France and one season in Turkey. Walter has been an integral part of the Sporting KC squad the last two seasons, tallying four goals and five assists in 69 appearances, and was the only Sporting player to start all 34 regular-season matches in 2022.

Walter developed in Nancy's youth academy before joining the first team as an 18-year-old in 2013. He became a regular starter in the early stages of the 2013-14 season and spent the next two and a half years as an integral midfield contributor for the side before being transferred to French title contender Nice in early 2016.

Walter helped the club to a fourth-place finish as well as qualification to the 2016-17 UEFA Europa League. The following season, Walter and Nice took another step forward by placing third in Ligue 1 and booking a spot in the 2017-18 UEFA Champions League. Walter split the 2017-18 campaign between Nice and Troyes on loan, before returning to Nice in the summer of 2018. Walter transferred to Turkish first division outfit Yeni Malatyaspor in January of 2020 before departing later that summer.

On the international stage, Walter was a French youth international who participated in a number of high-profile tournaments, namely the 2012 UEFA U-17 Championship in Slovenia and qualifying for the 2017 UEFA U-21 Championship in Poland.



#77 MARINOS TZIONIS

Position: Forward
 Born: July 16, 2001
 Height: 5-7
 Weight: 150 lbs.
 Hometown: Nicosia, Cyprus
 Birthplace: Nicosia, Cyprus

Marinos Tzionis signed with Sporting KC in a transfer from Omonia Nicosia in Cyprus in late January 2022. Tzionis scored 15 goals in 88 appearances for hometown club Omonia Nicosia since turning professional as a 15-year-old in 2017. In his debut season with Sporting KC, Tzionis tallied two goals in 29 appearances across all competitions.

Tzionis developed in Omonia Nicosia's academy, signed for the first team in 2017 and made his senior debut for the club in May 2018. In a breakout 2020-21 campaign, Tzionis guided Omonia to the club's first league title in 11 years by tallying seven goals in 43 matches. He landed his UEFA Champions League debut in the qualifying rounds and started all six of Omonia's matches in the UEFA Europa League group stage.

Tzionis represented Cyprus at the U-17 and U-19 youth levels, before breaking into the senior national team in September 2020. To date, Tzionis has two goals in 20 caps for the Cyprus National Team, scoring his first goal in a 2-0 win over Estonia on March 29, 2022.



#82 CHRIS RINDOV

Position: Defender
Born: October 8, 2001
Height: 6-2
Weight: 190 lbs.
Hometown: Rockville, Maryland
Birthplace: Silver Spring, Maryland

Sporting Kansas City signed center back Chris Rindov ahead of the 2023 season after selecting the defender in the Second Round (37th overall) of the 2023 MLS SuperDraft out of Maryland. Rindov becomes Sporting's first MLS SuperDraft selection to sign for the first team since 2018 and the second defender on Sporting's active roster to join as a second-round draft pick out of Maryland, alongside World Cup veteran and seven-time MLS All-Star Graham Zusi.

Rindov was a defensive mainstay for perennial powerhouse Maryland, starting in each of the program's 38 matches over his final two seasons and finishing his college career with four goals and five assists in 58 appearances. Rising from freshman walk-on to team captain as a senior, he had a banner year in 2022 as an All-Big Ten First Team honoree and an MLS College Showcase participant. Rindov played every minute in all 20 matches for the Terrapins in 2022, pushing Maryland to the Big Ten regular season title with an unbeaten 4-0-4 conference record. A two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week, Rindov guided the Terps to their 22nd consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance in the fall of 2022.

Rindov won four consecutive state championships at Rockville High School. He also played for youth club OBGC, where he competed at two national championships and won an Eastern Regional title in 2018.

SPORTING KANSAS CITY ON AND OFF-THE-FIELD ROSTER NOTES

#1 JOHN PULSKAMP • GOALKEEPER

- With a loud and commanding presence at the back, he has earned the respect of his teammates despite his young age.
- Earned his first call-up to the United States Men's National Team for a training camp in December 2021.
- Appeared on a Kansas City billboard in 2022 modeling high-end apparel from ULAH, a men's retail company based in KC.
- Appeared on MLS Idle: Hidden Talents in April 2020 to showcase his tightrope walking, which he took up as a hobby during quarantine to improve his balance and core strength as a goalkeeper.

#2 BEN SWEAT • DEFENDER

- A seasoned left back who has made well over 100 MLS appearances during stints with the Columbus Crew, New York City FC, Inter Miami CF, Austin FC and Sporting.
- Brings veteran leadership to the team as one of the club's more experienced MLS players.
- Missed most of 2021 at Austin FC due to an ACL tear sustained in the second match of the season, but bounced back in 2022 during his first year in Kansas City.
- Earned two caps for the U.S. MNT in October 2018, featuring in friendlies against Colombia and Peru.
- Teammates with Sporting forward Khiry Shelton at New York City FC in 2017.
- Avid fisher and loves the great outdoors.

#3 ANDREU FONTAS • DEFENDER

- Signed for Sporting KC on Aug. 8, 2018, after spending his first 10 pro seasons in his native Spain.
- Enjoyed a career year in 2021, playing every minute in 35 of Sporting's 36 MLS matches (including playoffs) while leading the league in passes, successful passes and touches as well as goals added, an advanced metric measuring a player's overall impact in attack and defense.
- Developed in FC Barcelona's famed La Masia youth academy alongside current Sporting KC teammate Uri Rosell, playing nearly 100 matches combined for FC Barcelona B and FC Barcelona from 2008-2012.
- Was a second-half substitute in the 2011 FIFA Club World Cup Final, replacing legendary Spanish defender Carles Puyol, as Barcelona defeated Santos 4-0 with two goals from Lionel Messi.
- Ahead of the 2021 season, Fontas explained to the Kansas City Star his struggle with Achilles injuries, having had surgery on both his left and right Achilles after being diagnosed with Haglund's Deformity.
- Opened a futsal court in his hometown of Banyoles, Spain, during the offseason in December 2018. Fontas' initiative was tied to the Johan Cruyff Foundation, which has committed to the construction and maintenance of free-use soccer fields in disadvantaged areas throughout Spain's Catalonia region.
- He and his wife, Clara, have two daughters named Andrea and Alexandra.



#4 ROBERT VOLODER • DEFENDER

- A German youth international center back who Sporting acquired in January 2021 via transfer from NK Maribor in the Slovenian first division.
- Enjoys fashion and video gaming.
- The left-footed center back played every minute for Slovenian powerhouse NK Maribor during the 2021-22 season prior to his departure for Kansas City.
- Prior to joining Maribor, Voloder began his professional career at heralded German side FC Cologne. He developed in the club's academy from 2016-2020 and captained the U-19s during the 2019-20 season, scoring five goals from central defense in 18 appearances. He was also selected to Cologne's first team squad for three German Bundesliga matches at the end of the 2019-20 campaign.
- On the youth international stage, Voloder represented Bosnia and Herzegovina at the U-17 through U-19 levels from 2017-2019.
- Switched his national team allegiance to Germany in September 2019, debuting for the country's U-19s in a friendly against England. He played his first of five matches for the German U-20s in the fall of 2020 and recently captained the team in an Under 20 Elite League matchup against Norway on Sept. 6, 2021.

#6 NEMANJA RADOJA • MIDFIELDER

- Had never been to the United States prior to arriving in Kansas City in January.
- Spanish La Liga veteran played alongside Sporting defender Andreu Fontas from 2014-2018.
- Spent eight total seasons in La Liga from 2014-2022, including a three-year stint at Levante after his time at Celta Vigo.
- Has played almost 300 matches across the top divisions of Spain and his native Serbia.
- Has earned two caps for the Serbia Men's National Team.

#7 JOHNNY RUSSELL • FORWARD

- Grew up in Glasgow and remains a passionate supporter of Celtic FC.
- Considered quitting soccer at one point in 2017 after falling out of love with the match, but his move to Sporting at the start of 2018 revived him mentally and gave him a new outlook on his career.
- Loves the United States and one of his biggest fascinations is American muscle cars. He drives a Chevrolet Camaro Hot Wheels Edition.
- Lives in the Kansas City suburbs with his wife Nadine and two young children, daughter Blake and son Julius.
- Enjoys traveling in his free time and especially likes to visit New York City and Miami.
- Learned about MLS by watching matches in the middle of the night in England when he couldn't sleep after matches.
- Always wanted to play outside of the UK. Had an opportunity to sign with Catania in Italy's Serie A earlier in his career but signed for Derby County in England instead when his club at the time, Dundee United, was unable to agree a deal with Catania.
- Sporting Legend Mo Johnston was instrumental in the deal that brought Russell to Sporting Kansas City.
- His younger brother plays for a special-needs soccer team in Scotland, which Johnny has supported financially. His brother was due to represent his country at the 2020 Special Olympics before the tournament was cancelled due to COVID-19.

#8 GRAHAM ZUSI • DEFENDER

- Has spent all 15 MLS seasons with Sporting, having joined out of the 2009 MLS SuperDraft.
- Sporting's all-time appearance leader (ranks second in club history in assists behind Preki).
- Has two younger sisters and one older brother who all played soccer.
- Loves hiking and camping in the offseason, and a big indie/alternative rock fan.
- Also enjoys other sports that he played growing up, such as lacrosse, basketball and tennis.
- His biggest soccer idol growing up was Zinedine Zidane.
- Best table tennis player in MLS – has never lost to a fellow MLS player.
- His seven MLS All-Star nods from 2012-2019 were the most in Major League Soccer during that time.
- Has conducted virtual visits to youth patients at Children's Mercy Hospital since the start of Covid.

#9 ALAN PULIDO • FORWARD

- Missed the entire 2022 season as he recovered from a successful knee surgery.
- Represented Mexico at the Concacaf Nations League Finals and Gold Cup in the summer of 2021.
- Was named a finalist for the 2020 MLS Newcomer of the Year.
- Arrived in Kansas City during a snowstorm in January 2020. He attended the Kansas City Chiefs' playoff match the following day on Jan. 12, with the Chiefs erasing a 24-point deficit to win 51-31.
- He and his wife, Ileana, got married in December 2019, just before moving to Kansas City. The couple lived in a downtown apartment for the first few months in KC before moving to a house in the suburbs in the summer of 2020.
- Despite his injury troubles since joining Sporting KC, he remains a positive and humorous part of the Sporting locker room.
- Was a leading voice for Sporting KC during the initial COVID-19 lockdown, conducting lengthy interviews with Univision, FOX Deportes, ESPN Deportes and Telemundo.

#10 GADI KINDA • MIDFIELDER

- Missed the entire 2022 season as he recovered from a successful knee surgery.
- Was one of the top MLS midfielders from 2020 to 2021, tallying 11 goals and 12 assists in 44 regular season appearances.
- Has parlayed his success at Sporting into a breakthrough with the Israel Men's National Team, where he scored a sensational goal on his senior international debut to seal a 3-1 friendly win over Montenegro last June.
- Moved to the U.S. for the first time this winter and stayed in Kansas City during the COVID-19 quarantine with his girlfriend. The two got married in 2021, including a ceremony in Israel in December 2021.
- Practices Judaism and eats a fully kosher diet.
- A popular member of the squad who always has a smile on his face and plays with joy. Ronaldinho was one of his idols growing up.



#11 KHIRY SHELTON • FORWARD

- Named the Neal and Jeanne Patterson Humanitarian of the Year in 2020 and 2022 for his philanthropic involvement in the Kansas City community and with The Victory Project, the charitable foundation launched by Sporting in 2013 that helps children and families affected by pediatric cancer.
- Born in Colorado, Shelton grew up in the small German town of Budingen, just outside Frankfurt. His father, Mike, was stationed in Germany with the U.S. military at the time.
- One of the club's leaders in the movement to eliminate racism from soccer.
- Spent 2019 playing in Germany with Paderborn, who were promoted to the Bundesliga during his time there.

#12 KORTNE FORD • DEFENDER

- Expected to miss the entire 2023 season as he recovers from a ruptured Achilles suffered during a preseason match on Feb. 8 against Real Salt Lake.
- Wears the number 12 to honor his mother, who passed away on Dec. 12, 2021 (12/12/21).
- Began his professional career in 2017 with the Colorado Rapids, where he started 33 of 35 MLS appearances as a Homegrown Player.
- Following a five-year stint in Colorado, Ford spent the last three months of 2021 on loan with San Antonio FC in the USL Championship, scoring four goals from central defense and leading the club to the Western Conference Finals.
- Born in the Kansas City suburb of Olathe, Kansas, Ford played youth soccer in the Kansas City area before moving with his family to Colorado at age 12. He joined the Colorado Rapids Academy in 2012 and represented the club at the U-16 and U-18 levels, guiding the U-16s to the U.S. Soccer Development Academy National Finals in 2013.

#14 TIM LEIBOLD • DEFENDER

- An outgoing personality who has acclimated quickly to his new team with the help of countrymen Erik Thommy and Robert Voloder.
- Has amassed more than 20 goals and 40 assists in nearly 300 professional appearances in his native Germany.
- Is playing outside of Europe for the first time in his heralded career, having spent the last eight seasons across Germany's top two divisions.
- Starred at Nurnberg from 2015-2019, helping the club gain promotion to the Bundesliga in 2018, and competed for Hamburg from 2019-2022.

#15 ROGER ESPINOZA • MIDFIELDER

- Married to Kansas City Current midfielder Lo'eau Labonta, an accomplished NWSL All-Star.
- Has helped lead Sporting to three Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cups and eight playoff appearances across two separate stints with the club.
- Rallied support for Hurricane Eta relief in his native Honduras in late 2020 by assembling a group of Honduran MLS players and raising awareness of the recent devastation in his homeland.
- Loves snowboarding, ice fishing, hiking and outdoor traveling with his bulldog.
- Owns an English bulldog named Chulo, who has gained popularity for being able to skateboard and going just about everywhere Roger goes on vacation (Golden Gate Bridge, Grand Teton National Park, Olympic National Park, Haystack Rock, etc.).
- Bridges all the different cultures on the team through his close relationships with teammates. Manager Peter Vermes says this is one of his most valuable attributes.

#17 JAKE DAVIS • MIDFIELDER

- Signed an MLS contract for Sporting on Aug. 19, 2021, becoming the 19th Homegrown Player to emerge from the Sporting KC Academy.
- Made his first team debut as a late sub in a 4-0 win over Minnesota on Sept. 15, 2021.
- Has regularly started for Sporting KC II over the previous three seasons in the USL Championship.
- Can play in all three midfield positions as well as right back.
- A native of Rochester, Michigan, Davis moved to Kansas City in 2017 at age 15 to join the Sporting KC Academy.
- Earned international recognition for the first time in November 2019 when he was selected to the United States U-17 national team roster for the Nike International in Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

#18 LOGAN NDENBE • DEFENDER

- A Belgian youth international left back acquired in January 2021 via transfer from Guingamp in the French second division.
- Arrived in Kansas City after spending his first five professional seasons in Europe with Belgian top-flight side KV Oostende and French club Guingamp.
- Has logged nearly 80 professional appearances since 2017 and represented Belgium at the U-17 through U-21 levels.
- An excellent piano player who grew up playing the instrument.
- Earned his Belgium U-21 debut in June 2021 for his first involvement in 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying.

#19 ROBERT CASTELLANOS • DEFENDER

- Has had previous USL Championship stints with LA Galaxy II (2017), Rio Grande Valley FC (2018-2020) and the Tampa Bay Rowdies (2022).
- Arrives in Kansas City after a brief spell at KuPS in Finland's top division.
- The California native developed at the youth level with Nomads SC in San Diego before joining the academy of LIGA MX club Atlas in 2016.
- Spent 2021 in MLS with Nashville SC, where he scored a goal on his debut in a 1-1 draw at Toronto on Aug. 1, 2021.

#20 DANIEL SALLOI • FORWARD

- Had a career year in 2021 as an MLS MVP finalist.
- His father, Istvan Salloi, was a longtime player for the Hungary Men's National Team.
- Best friends with Johnny Russell. Together the two form one of the most dynamic and productive winger duos in MLS.
- His favorite athletes are Cristiano Ronaldo and Rafael Nadal, and his favorite TV Shows are Friends and The Office.
- Joined the Sporting KC Academy ahead of the 2014-15 season and signed as a Homegrown Player in 2016.
- Filmed his own vlog series, featuring the hidden talents of several Sporting players during their free time in quarantine.
- Conducted virtual chats with Sporting KC Academy players during Covid, discussing the importance of hard work and being a good teammate in addition to talking about important racial issues.



#21 FELIPE HERNANDEZ • MIDFIELDER

- Was born in Colombia before moving to Tennessee around the age of 1 and joined the Sporting KC Academy in 2014 at age 15.
- The first-ever Sporting player to progress from an Academy Affiliate club (Sporting Nashville Heroes) to the Sporting KC Academy to the Swope Park Rangers/Sporting KC II before signing with the senior team.
- Manager Peter Vermes likes his relentless work ethic and motor on the field and has said that Hernandez has the DNA of the club within him.
- He is affectionately known among his teammates as “mini-Roger” due to his similar playstyle to Sporting icon Roger Espinoza.

#22 KENDALL MCINTOSH • GOALKEEPER

- Joined Sporting KC after being selected in the 2020 Re-Entry Draft, having previously been on the books of the New York Red Bulls and Portland Timbers.
- Admits that he mainly became a goalkeeper because he was a bad outfield player as a kid, and that he was a bit of a “psycho”, so coaches wanted to keep him away from the other players.
- Was a multi-sport athlete growing up, also playing baseball and basketball.
- After being a regular member of the U.S. U-17 and U-20 teams and a product of the San Jose Earthquakes Academy, McIntosh went undrafted in the 2016 MLS SuperDraft. He had to fight for his soccer career and relied on the guidance of his mother to make his own luck before earning a contract with Portland Timbers 2 to kickstart his professional career.
- One of the most athletic players on the team with a vertical jump near three feet.

#23 WILLY AGADA • FORWARD

- Acquired via transfer from Hapoel Jerusalem on June 23, 2022.
- A jovial and outgoing personality off the field who always has a smile on his face.
- Moved to Israel from his native Nigeria as an 18-year-old in 2018.
- Follows midfielder Gadi Kinda as the second Israeli Premier League star to join Sporting in the last three seasons.
- Cites intelligence and smarts as his best quality as a soccer player.
- Very close with his mother, father and two brothers, who all live back in his native Nigeria.
- His father, a center back, played amateur-level soccer in Nigeria and Willy still plays against him in pick-up matches when he's home. His younger brother also plays soccer in Nigeria.
- Was miserable when he first moved to Israel and wanted to return to Nigeria, but his family convinced him to stick it out.
- While in Israel, people called him by his last name Agada because it sounds like Agadah, which means “legend” in Hebrew.

#24 KAYDEN PIERRE • DEFENDER

- Joined Sporting as a Homegrown signing in May 2021, becoming the 18th Homegrown signing in club history and starting regularly for Sporting KC II.
- Born and raised in Michigan, Pierre moved to Kansas City to join the Sporting KC Academy in 2018 and represented the club at the U-15, U-17 and U-19 levels.
- Pierre's mother is from Jamaica and his father is from Haiti. His grandfather on his mother's side played for the Jamaican National Team, while his grandfather on his dad's side played soccer in Haiti. Pierre's father also played college soccer at Lawrence Technological University in Michigan.
- An avid chess player, Pierre used to play competitively throughout his childhood and in middle school. He finished 13th in the nation one year in the K8 age group. He credits his chess experience with how he can play soccer two steps ahead and predict what's going to happen on the field.
- Has represented the United States at the U-14, U-16 and U-20 levels over the last five years.

#25 OZZIE CISNEROS • MIDFIELDER

- A diminutive and versatile player who can be deployed in the two attacking midfield spots or any of the three forward positions in Sporting's 4-3-3 system.
- Signed a Homegrown contract with Sporting KC at the age of 16 in early 2021.
- Made his first team debut with a start in the Leagues Cup last August against Club Leon.
- Joined the Sporting KC Academy at the age of 12, relocating from his home in Omaha, Nebraska and living with a host family in Kansas City. He went on to represent the Academy up to the U-19 level.
- Was featured heavily in the Bleacher Report/Audi series "The Academy," a five-episode web series which showcased the Sporting KC Academy and the players' individual journeys toward achieving their goals.
- As the youngest member of the Sporting KC senior team, he has been taken under the wing of several veteran players, including Johnny Russell.

#26 ERIK THOMMY • MIDFIELDER

- A talented German Bundesliga veteran who signed for Sporting on June 23, 2022, after spending his first nine professional seasons in his native Germany.
- A consummate professional off the field who values fitness and optimal nutrition.
- Recorded 42 goals and 33 assists across nine seasons in Germany—including nine goals, 14 assists and 96 appearances in the Bundesliga, one of the top leagues in the world.
- Capable of playing in an advanced midfield role or on the wing.
- Launched his professional career with FC Augsburg in 2014 before going on loan to FC Kaiserslautern (2014-2016) and Jahn Regensburg (2016-2017)
- Joined VfB Stuttgart in 2017, starred for Fortuna Dusseldorf during a successful loan spell in 2019-2020, and ended his time at Stuttgart this spring by appearing in each of the club's last six matches of the 2021-2022 campaign.
- Had three assists in a single Bundesliga match in Stuttgart's 3-2 win over Koln on March 4, 2018.
- In a year-long loan to Bundesliga side Fortuna Dusseldorf in 2019-20, Thommy enjoyed the best season of his professional career to date by appearing in all 34 top-flight matches, finishing second on the team with six league goals and helping the team reach the quarterfinals of the prestigious DFB-Pokal.



#28 CAM DUKE • MIDFIELDER

- One of the most versatile players on the team.
- Played four different positions (left back, right back, left wing and right wing) in an Open Cup win over Houston on May 25, 2022.
- His father, Chris Duke, played professionally indoor for the Kansas City Comets and Kansas City Attack from 1989-1992. His older brother, Christian Duke, began his pro career with Sporting (2013-14) and captained Sporting KC II for several years prior to his retirement in late 2021.
- Conducted virtual chats with SKC Academy players during quarantine, discussing the importance of hard work and being a good teammate in addition to talking about important racial issues.

#29 TIM MELIA • GOALKEEPER

- Has 12 penalty kick saves in the regular season since 2015, six more than any other goalkeeper, and his .581 goals conceded percentage on penalties (18 of 31) is the lowest in MLS regular season history among keepers who have faced at least 10 penalties.
- Sporting's all-time goalkeeping leader in appearances, win, saves and shutouts (regular season and all competitions).
- He and his wife Kristen Melia had their first child on Aug. 5, 2017, named Rowan. Four days later, Melia made two saves in a victorious penalty shootout against San Jose in the Open Cup semis.
- Melia and his wife welcomed their newborn son Fynn in May 2019.
- Was a backup goalkeeper for the first five years of his MLS career (RSL 2010-11, Chivas 2012-14).
- Earned 2017 MLS Goalkeeper of the Year honors.
- Was one of two Sporting KC players, alongside defender Ike Opara, nominated for Best MLS Player at the 2018 ESPYS.

#31 DANNY FLORES • MIDFIELDER

- Begins his professional career after a two-year college stint at Virginia Tech.
- Was recognized as one of the country's top freshmen in 2021 and led the Hokies in goal scoring as a sophomore last fall.
- Boasts three seasons of experience in the USL Championship, representing Philadelphia Union II from 2019-2020 and Oakland Roots SC in 2021.
- Was a member of the United States U-17 Men's National Team, where he competed alongside Sporting KC Academy products Gianluca Busio and Tyler Freeman

#54 REMI WALTER • MIDFIELDER

- Signed with Sporting KC in December 2020 after seven seasons in France and Turkey.
- Amassed nearly 200 professional appearances in his native France and one season in Turkey.
- Boasts experience in several prestigious European competitions, including the UEFA Europa League, UEFA Champions League qualifying, French Ligue 1—where he has scored three goals in 74 matches—and the Turkish Super Lig.
- Represented France at the U-17 through U-21 levels, participating in the 2012 UEFA U-17 Championship in Slovenia and qualifying for the 2017 UEFA U-21 Championship in Poland.
- With the French youth national teams, he played alongside eventual 2018 FIFA World Cup winners Thomas Lemar, Benjamin Pavard and Corentin Tolisso as well as Aymeric Laporte, Benjamin Mendy and Anthony Martial.
- He and his wife Julie had their first child, a boy named Adonis, on Jan. 11, 2023.

#77 MARINOS TZIONIS • FORWARD

- A talented winger acquired in January 2021 via transfer from Omonia Nicosia in Cyprus.
- An emerging talent who was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, and has already earned 20 caps and scored two goals for the Cyprus Men's National Team.
- Scored 15 goals in 88 appearances for hometown club Omonia Nicosia from 2017-2022. The left winger has also featured in 18 matches across Europe's three most prestigious club tournaments: the UEFA Champions League, Europa League and Europa Conference League.
- Developed in Omonia Nicosia's academy, signed for the first team in 2017 and landed his senior debut for the club in May 2018.
- In a breakout 2020-21 campaign, Tzionis guided Omonia to the club's first league title in 11 years by tallying seven goals in 43 matches across all competitions. He appeared in 32 of the club's 36 league matches, landed his UEFA Champions League debut in the qualifying rounds and started all six of Omonia's matches in the UEFA Europa League group stage.

#82 CHRIS RINDOV • DEFENDER

- Chose the No. 82 for his rookie season because he was the eighth pick in the second round of MLS SuperDraft 2023 presented by adidas.
- Has dual citizenship in Bulgaria through his parents, though he was born and raised in Maryland.
- Rose from freshman walk-on to senior captain during an excellent four-year college career at the University of Maryland.
- Becomes the second Sporting defender to be taken in the second round of the SuperDraft out of Maryland, joining seven-time MLS All-Star Graham Zusi.
- A Rubik's cube wiz who occasionally partakes in the activity during his free time.



2023 MILESTONES

(ALL STATS ENTERING 2023 SEASON)

TEAM

- 40 shy of 1,500 goals in all competitions in club history.
- 18 shy of 900 home goals in all competitions in club history.
- 13 shy of 500 regular season away goals.
- Sporting's 350 regular season wins rank third all-time behind LA Galaxy (377) and New York Red Bulls (353)
 1. LA – 377 wins
 2. RBNY – 353 wins
 3. SKC – 350 wins
 4. DAL – 348 wins
 5. CLB – 345 wins
- Sporting rank second in MLS history with 1,236 points (350-318-186 record), five points ahead of third-place New York Red Bulls and 72 points behind leaders LA Galaxy.
 1. LA – 1,311 points (377-297-180)
 2. SKC – 1,236 points (350-318-186)
 3. RBNY – 1,234 points (353-327-175)
 4. DAL – 1,233 points (348-317-189)
 5. CLB – 1,222 points (345-323-187)
- SKC has 7 major trophies, 4th most in MLS behind LA (12), DC (12) and Seattle (8)

1. LA Galaxy	12	(5 MLS Cup, 4 Shield, 2 Open Cup, 1 CCL/Champions Cup)
2. DC	12	(4 MLS Cup, 4 Shield, 3 Open Cup, 1 CCL/Champions Cup)
3. Seattle	8	(2 MLS Cup, 1 Shield, 4 Open Cup, 1 CCL)
4. SKC	7	(2 MLS Cup, 1 Shield, 4 Open Cup)
5. Chicago	6	(1 MLS Cup, 1 Shield, 4 Open Cup)
6. Columbus	6	(2 MLS Cup, 3 Shield, 1 Open Cup)
- SKC has 19 playoff appearances, tied with Dallas for 3rd most in MLS (RBNY 23, LA 20.)

MANAGER PETER VERMES

- Has been involved in a league-record 670 MLS matches as a player or head coach (scheduled to eclipse 700 on 9/20 vs. Nashville).
- Has coached 516 matches for Sporting in all competitions.
 - Most in MLS history for a coach at one club.
 - Coached more than half of the club's 1,006 matches played in all competitions.
 - 608 combined matches played and coached in KC (played in 92).
- Enters the season 4th in MLS history with 183 regular season wins—3rd among active coaches behind Bruce Arena (250) and Bob Bradley (191).
- 4th in MLS history with 437 regular season matches coached, 8 shy of passing Dominic Kinnear for 3rd (scheduled to pass Kinnear on 4/15/23 at SJ and hit 450 regular season matches on 5/17 at LAFC).
- 4th in MLS history with 10 postseason appearances, one behind Bob Bradley for 3rd.

TWO STATES. ONE CITY. ONE CLUB.

- Has won three Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup titles, the most among active MLS head coaches.
- Remains the only person to win MLS Cup as player and coach with the same club in MLS history.
- Sixth longest tenured manager in global soccer according to a CIES Football Observatory analysis of almost 1,700 teams from 110 leagues in 79 countries.
 1. Jomo Sono (Jomo Cosmos) – South Africa (3rd division)
 2. Stephen Baxter (Crusaders) – Northern Ireland (1st division)
 3. Frank Schmidt (Heidenheim) – German (2nd division)
 4. Gurban Gurbanov (Qarabag) – Azerbaijan (1st division)
 5. Simon Weaver (Harrogate Town) – England (4th division)
 6. Peter Vermes (Sporting KC) – USA (1st division)

ASSISTANT COACH KERRY ZAVAGNIN

- Has been with the club every year since 2000, playing from 2000-2008 and serving as an assistant coach since 2009. In 2023, Kerry Zavagnin breaks the MLS record as he enters his 24th season with one club as a player or coach, a mark previously held by Ben Olsen's 23 seasons with D.C. United.
- Has been involved in over 82% of the club's matches in club history (830 of 1,006).

CHILDREN'S MERCY PARK

- 4 shy of 200 regular season matches at CMP and 4 shy of 250 SKC matches at CMP overall (including friendlies) – scheduled to hit milestone 4/29 vs. Montreal.
- Not including the 5 friendlies, 9 shy of 250 competitive home matches at CMP.
- 5 away from 175 full-capacity MLS sellouts at Children's Mercy Park.
- Total attendance of 236,962 away from eclipsing 4 million fans in MLS matches at Children's Mercy Park.
- 17 shy of 350 regular season goals at CMP and 19 shy of 450 goals at CMP in all competitions.

GRAHAM ZUSI

- Sporting's all-time regular season leader in appearances (341), starts (296), minutes (26,865) and match-winning assists (28).
- Sporting's all-time leader in appearances (395), starts (348) and minutes (31,761) in all competitions.
- 73 regular season assists are most among active MLS players and second most in club history.
- 28 match-winning assists in regular season are most among active MLS players and one shy of a tie for 7th most in MLS history (2 shy of tie for 5th).
- 341 career regular season matches played are most among one-club MLS players all-time.
- 341 career regular season appearances with SKC are 4th most in MLS history by a player for one club.
 - Kyle Beckerman (350 with RSL); Nick Rimando (369 with RSL); Chris Wondolowski (376 with SJ).
- 1 of 19 players in MLS history with 30 goals and 70 assists in the regular season.
- 5 shy of 400 appearances for SKC in all competitions, 2 shy of 350 starts in all competitions, and 4 shy of 300 regular season starts.
- 31 regular season goals are tied with Mo Johnston and Benny Feilhaber for 8th most in club history.



ROGER ESPINOZA

- 316 career regular season matches played are 2nd in club history and 3rd most among one-club MLS players all-time.
 - Roger Espinoza* 316, Diego Chara* 338, Graham Zusi 341.
 - *Played for other professional clubs outside MLS.
- 2nd in club history with 278 regular season starts, 7 shy of tying Matt Besler for 2nd.
- 43 regular season assists are tied with Benny Feilhaber for 4th most in team history, two shy of tying Chris Klein for 3rd.
- 2nd in club history in appearances in all competitions (368) and 3rd in starts in all competitions (321), 16 shy of tying Matt Besler for 2nd.
- 5th in club history with 11 match-winning assists in the regular season, 2 shy of tying Benny Feilhaber for 4th.
- 32 shy of 400 appearances in all competitions.

DANIEL SALLOI

- 13 career match-winning goals are tied with Dom Dwyer and Preki for the most in club regular season history.
- 48 goals in all competitions are 5th most in club history, 4 shy of Davy Arnaud in 4th and 5 behind Johnny Russell in 3rd.
- Shy of 50 goals for SKC in all competitions.
- 38 regular season goals are tied with Kei Kamara for 6th in club history, one shy of Chris Klein in 5th.
- 61 combined goals (38) and assists (23) in the regular season are 9th most in club history, 5 shy of Dom Dwyer in 8th.
- 73 goals (48) and assists (25) in all competitions are 9th most in club history, 3 shy of Josh Wolff in 8th and 4 shy of Dom Dwyer in 7th.
- Tied for 6th in club history with 10 match-winning assists in the regular season, one shy of tying Roger Espinoza in 5th.
- 28 shy of 200 appearances in all competitions.

JOHNNY RUSSELL

- 48 regular season goals and 53 goals in all competitions are both 3rd most in club history.
- 80 combined goals (48) and assists (32) in the regular season, fourth most in club history (4 shy of Benny Feilhaber in 3rd).
- 80 combined regular season goals (48) and assists (32) since arriving in 2018 are third most in MLS behind only Carlos Vela and Josef Martinez.
- One shy of 50 goals in MLS competitions (48 in regular season, one in playoffs).
- 92 combined goals (53) and assists (39) in all competitions are tied with Davy Arnaud for 5th most in club history, one shy of Benny Feilhaber in 4th and five shy of Chris Klein in 3rd.

TIM MELIA

- His .581 goals conceded percentage on penalty kicks (18 of 31) is the lowest in MLS regular season history (minimum 10 PK faced).
- 8 shy of 100 regular season wins for SKC and 6 shy of 100 MLS wins.
- 216 regular season appearances are 8th most in club history (2 shy of 7th) and 216 regular season starts are 6th most in club history (8 shy of 5th).
- 44 regular season minutes from passing Davy Arnaud for 6th most in club history.
- Boasts a perfect 6-0 record in penalty shootouts during his professional career, including a 4-0 mark at Sporting.
- 5 shy of 250 appearances in all competitions.
- 5th among active goalkeepers with 63 regular season shutouts

WILLY AGADA

- Among players with at least five goals scored, Willy Agada's 0.67 goals per match in 2022 were tied for 2nd most in a single regular season in club history.

REMI WALTER

- In 2022, became the 5th player in club history (and 3rd field player) to start all 34 matches of a regular season (Jimmy Nielsen in 2012-2013; Graham Zusi, Ilie Sanchez and Tim Melia all in 2018).
- Has started in Sporting's last 44 MLS matches (including playoffs) since Sept. 29, 2021.

KHIRY SHELTON

- 5 shy of 100 regular season appearances for Sporting.

ANDREU FONTAS

- 21 shy of 100 regular season appearances for Sporting (10 shy of 100 appearances in all competitions).

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