



NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE 2023 MATCH NOTES



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2023 SCHEDULE

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

BOLD - Home

*UKG NWSL Challenge Cup

All times Eastern

THE MATCHUP



MATCH DAY 7 - HOME MATCH 4
NC Courage (2-3-1, 7 points, 7th)

vs.

OL Reign (4-1-1, 13 points, 1st)



Sunday, May 14, 2023 | 3:07 p.m. ET

WakeMed Soccer Park | Cary, North Carolina

BROADCAST INFO

National: Paramount+
Play-by-play: Josh Eastern
Analyst: Jill Loyden
Local: None
Play-by-play: N/A
Analyst/Reporter: N/A

OFFICIALS

Referee: Alex Billeter
AR1: Tom Felice
AR2: Art Arustamyan
4th: John Rush
VAR: Jorge Gonzalez
AVAR: Kaili Terry

KICKING OFF...

THICKEST OF THORNS: The North Carolina Courage and Portland Thorns played to a 3-3 draw last Saturday at WakeMed Soccer Park, with the home side taking three leads throughout the night. The game was played in front of 7,070 fans, the fifth-largest regular season home attendance in Courage history and largest since August of 2018.

TESTED EARLY: Entering this weekend, including Sunday's match, the Courage have faced the entire top five in NWSL regular season table (as it stands entering this weekend) through seven matches played. They face Angel City (6th) next week as well.

MOTHER, MAY I: North Carolina is undefeated thus far in May, securing a pair of draws. The Courage have secured at least a point in four of their last five overall competitions

COURAGE CORONATION: The Courage have won nine of the 14 all-time meetings with OL Reign (2D, 3L). The tide has turned lately, with the Courage beating OL just twice in six meetings since 2019 (3L, 1D). The Reign swept the season series in 2022, winning 2-0 at Lumen Field and 2-1 in September at WakeMed Soccer Park.

STAT COMPARISON

NCC	STAT	RGN
7	GOALS	12
39	SHOTS	54
4	ASSISTS	8
24	CORNER KICKS	16
9	GOALS AGAINST	5
58%	POSSESSION	51%
2	CLEAN SHEETS	3
78.2	PASS ACCURACY	76.4
63	FOULS CONCEDED	62
6	YELLOW CARDS	5
0	RED CARDS	0

NWSL REGULAR SEASON TABLE (as of May 11)

Rk	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	PTS	GD	LAST 5
1	OL Reign	6	4	1	1	13	+7	WDWWW
2	Portland Thorns	6	3	3	0	12	+9	DDWDW
3	Washington Spirit	6	3	3	0	12	+4	WDDWD
4	NJ/NY Gotham FC	6	4	0	2	12	+1	WLWWL
5	San Diego Wave	6	3	0	3	9	0	LLWLW
6	Angel City FC	6	2	2	2	8	-1	WDLDW
7	North Carolina Courage	6	2	1	3	7	-2	DWLLL
8	Houston Dash	6	1	3	2	6	-2	LLDDW
9	Kansas City Current	6	2	0	4	6	-3	LWWLL
10	Orlando Pride	6	2	0	4	6	-6	WWLLL
11	Racing Louisville	6	0	4	2	4	-3	LDLDD
12	Chicago Red Stars	6	1	1	4	4	-4	LDLWL

NC COURAGE MATCH PREVIEW vs OL REIGN | SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

CARY, N.C. (May 12, 2023) — The North Carolina Courage look to build momentum as they host the NWSL table leader, OL Reign, on Sunday, May 14, at 3:00 p.m. ET. The Mother's Day matinee marks the second straight home match against the team currently leading the league. The match will stream on Paramount+.

The Courage have lost just once in their last five overall competitions (1W, 3D), including a thrilling 3-3 draw with Portland last Saturday in front of 7,070 fans at WakeMed Soccer Park. The offense came alive to score multiple goals for the first time this season, including the fastest goal in club history just :33 in. The crowd was also historic, marking the fifth largest regular season home crowd in club history and biggest since August of 2018.

The Courage currently sit in seventh place in the league but have plenty of reason for optimism. It's fair to say they have played one of, if not the, toughest schedule in the league. Including Sunday's matchup, the Courage will have faced each of the top five teams in the standings through seven games. The team in sixth, Angel City FC, comes to town next week.

The Courage lead the league in passing accuracy (78.2%), successful passes (2,139) and possession (57.6%) but their 39 shots are the fewest in the league. Converting that possession and ball control into dangerous opportunities is the next step for this young team. And they have shown improvement in recent weeks. The young squad has shown stretches of high-quality soccer and head coach Sean Nahas has preached the importance of learning how to win. There is no replicator for experience in that regard, which this young team is gaining by the minute.

The Matchup

The Courage have won nine of the 14 all-time meetings with OL Reign (2D, 3L). The tide has turned lately, with the Courage beating OL just twice in six meetings since 2019 (3L, 1D). The Reign swept the season series in 2022, including a 1-2 win at WakeMed Soccer Park last September.

Eight of the nine wins have come in NWSL regular season play, which is one shy of the Courage highest against an individual opponent, having beat three teams nine times in regular season action.

Scouting OL Reign

The Reign are second in league play in goals (12) and assists (8) through six games. They are extremely efficient in their attack, scoring the dozen goals on just 54 shots. Six different players have scored, led by Bethany Balcer and Jess Fishlock with three apiece.

They're a tenacious group that wreaks havoc all over the field, winning more than half of both their tackles and duels this season. Balcer and Fishlock both win over 60% of duels. Fishlock also has 63% tackle success. Nine players on the Reign win at least 60% of their duels and five hit the same threshold in tackling. This experienced and aggressive roster will look to pounce on mistakes and are very opportunistic. Limiting mistakes will be a key to the Courage success on Sunday.

Players to Watch

NC Courage: #20 Olivia Wingate

The sixth overall pick in the 2023 NWSL Draft is starting to get herself acclimated to the professional game. With tremendous pace and skill both on and off the ball, Wingate can impact a game either in a starting role or a burst of energy off the bench. She recorded her first two professional points last week, notching assists in both the midweek Challenge Cup match with Gotham and a highlight-reel dime for the 70' go-ahead goal against Portland. The Notre Dame product continues to develop and provide depth on the right wing. She's shown the ability, now looks for consistency as the Courage continue to search for the right attacking combinations among a plethora of talented forwards.

OL Reign: #10 Jess Fishlock

Fishlock is a tone-setter and full embodiment of the Reign as a true two-way midfielder with a work rate second to none. She's scored three goals this season and ranks ninth all-time in NWSL history with 41 for her career. She's played the fifth-most NWSL regular season games (169) and third-most minutes (14,541). Her tackle success is off the charts at 73% since 2016, when Opta began tracking the stat. This season, her 64.4% duel success is on pace to be her best yet, although she's been above 50% in every season except 2019 (49%). That season, she posted an eye-popping 83% duel success rate.

Next Up

The Courage wrap up the home stand as they host Angel City FC on Saturday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. ET. The game will stream live on Paramount+ and Tickets for the last chance to see the Courage on their home field for nearly a month can be purchased here.

2023 NC COURAGE MATCH NOTES | vs. OL REIGN | SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

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

TECHNICAL STAFF

Head Coach: Sean Nahas (2nd Season)

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

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

6 – nah-ROO-me me-OR-uh

HC: NAY-HOSSAC: guh-TRAW

9 – keh-row-LEEN nih-COLE-ee

14 – Tyler LOO-see

17 – REE-KAY Madsen

19 – Frankie tah-LEE-UH-ferry

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

28 – Tess BOE-dee

SEI – Season-Ending Injury

IR – Injured Reserve

RECORD WHEN...

Split.....	W-D-L
Home.....	1-1-1
Away.....	1-0-2
Day.....	1-0-0
Night (After 5 p.m. local).....	1-1-3
Turf.....	0-0-0
Grass.....	2-1-3
Scoring first.....	2-1-0
Opp. scores first.....	0-0-3
Leading at half.....	2-1-0
Tied at half.....	0-0-2
Trailing at half.....	0-0-1
Scoring 0 goals.....	0-0-1
Scoring 1 goal.....	2-0-2
Scoring 2+ goals.....	0-1-0
Allowing 0 goals.....	2-0-0
Allowing 1 goal.....	0-0-1
Allowing 2+ goals.....	0-1-2
More shots than opp.....	1-0-1
Fewer shots than opp.....	0-1-2
Even shots.....	1-0-0
More corners than opp.....	0-1-3
Fewer corners than opp.....	1-0-0
Even corners.....	1-0-0
March.....	1-0-0
April.....	1-0-3
May.....	0-1-0
June.....	0-0-0
July.....	0-0-0
August.....	0-0-0
September.....	0-0-0
October.....	0-0-0
Monday.....	0-0-0
Tuesday.....	0-0-0
Wednesday.....	0-0-0
Thursday.....	0-0-0
Friday.....	1-0-0
Saturday.....	1-1-3
Sunday.....	0-0-0

REGULAR SEASON STATS (sorted by minutes)

Player	Games	Starts	Minutes	Goals	Assists	Pass %	Yellows
Kerolin	6	6	502	3	0	73.12	0
Williams, Ryan	6	6	502	0	1	84.88	0
Fox, Emily	6	6	502	0	1	79.87	0
O'Sullivan, Denise	6	6	502	0	0	81.45	0
Kurtz, Kaleigh	6	6	502	0	0	78.89	1
Murphy, Casey	6	6	502	0	0	66.84	0
Miura, Narumi	6	6	491	0	1	80.29	0
Pickett, Kiki	4	4	351	0	0	77.58	2
Lussi, Tyler	5	3	265	1	0	65.43	1
Speck, Meredith	4	4	261	0	0	77.4	0
Madsen, Rikke	6	3	240	0	0	74.07	0
Gejl Jensen, Mille	4	3	189	1	0	70	1
Berkely, Malia	2	2	142	0	0	94.74	0
Hopkins, Haley	3	1	121	0	0	72.41	0
Wingate, Olivia	3	1	119	0	1	65	0
Pinto, Brianna	3	1	119	0	0	82.69	1
Robbins, Clara	1	1	88	0	0	69.44	0
Ratcliffe, Brittany	2	1	73	0	0	83.33	0
Pickett, Victoria	1	0	31	1	0	66.67	0
Tagliaferri, Frankie	2	0	9	0	0	55.56	0
Collins, Sydney	1	0	8	0	0	83.33	0
Farrow, Millie	1	0	3	0	0	0	0

Player	Games	Starts	Minutes	Saves	Goals Conceded	Save %	Yellows
Murphy, Casey	6	6	502	20	9	68.97	0

AVAILABILITY REPORT

Player	Designation	Reason
Emily Gray (SEI)	OUT	Knee
Estelle Johnson	OUT	Lower Leg

STATISTICAL REGULAR SEASON INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Courage Game Highs

Goals.....	Gejl/Kerolin.....	1
Assists.....	Several.....	1
Shots.....	Kerolin.....	4 (3/25 v. KC)
Fouls.....	Several.....	3
Fouls won.....	Ratcliffe.....	6 (4/22 @ NJY)
Clears.....	Kurtz.....	12 (3/25 vs. KCC)
Interceptions.....	Fox/Narumi.....	5
Saves.....	Murphy.....	7 (5/6 vs. POR)
Goals Allowed.....	Murphy.....	3 (2x)

Courage Season Highs

Goals.....	Kerolin.....	3
Assists.....	Several.....	1
Shots.....	Kerolin.....	11
Fouls Given.....	O'Sullivan.....	8
Fouls won.....	Kerolin.....	10
Clears.....	Kurtz.....	26
Interceptions.....	Fox.....	11
Saves.....	Murphy.....	20
Goals Allowed.....	Murphy.....	9

FULL GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS WITH GOAL SCORERS

Date	Opponent	Result	Goal Scorers
3/25	Kansas City	W, 1-0	Mille Gejl - 23' (Narumi)
4/1	at San Diego	L, 3-1	Kerolin - 77' (PK)
4/15	Washington	L, 1-2	Kerolin Nicoli - 43' (PK)
4/19	at Orlando*	D, 1-1	Denise O'Sullivan - 90+9'
4/22	at Gotham	L, 1-0	--
4/28	at Houston	W, 0-1	Tyler Lussi - 33' (Fox)
5/3	Gotham FC*	D, 1-1	Mille Gejl - 3' (Wingate)
5/6	Portland	D, 3-3	Emily Menges (OG) - 1'; Kerolin Nicoli - 26' (Williams); Victoria Pickett - 70' (Wingate)
5/14	OL Reign	3 PM	
5/20	Angel City	7 PM	
5/27	at Louisville	8 PM	
6/3	at Kansas City	3 PM	
6/10	at Chicago	TBA	
6/14	at Wash*	7:30 PM	
6/17	Orlando	7 PM	
6/24	Louisville	7 PM	
7/1	Houston	7:30 PM	
7/9	at Angel City	8 ET	
7/22	Washington*	7 PM	
7/29	Orlando*	7 PM	
8/5	at Gotham*	7:30 PM	
8/20	at Portland	10:30 ET	
8/27	Chicago	2 PM	
9/2	Gotham FC	7 PM	
9/17	at Orlando	7 PM	
9/30	at OL Reign	4:30 ET	
10/7	San Diego	7 PM	
10/15	at Washington	5 PM	

2023 HONORS AND AWARDS

Honoree	Award
Emily Fox	NWSL Best XI of the Month - March/April

2023 IN-SEASON TRANSACTION TRACKER

Date	Transaction
March 23	Midfielder Emily Gray placed on Season-Ending Injury (SEI) list - knee
April 2	Defender Sarah Clark signed to National Team Replacement 10-day contract
April 2	Midfielder Nikia Smith signed to National Team Replacement 10-day contract
April 28	Midfielder Victoria Pickett acquired from Gotham FC via trade (\$200,000 allocation money)
May 10	Forward Tess Boade reinstated from 45-day Injured Reserve

HEAD COACH: SEAN NAHAS (17W-12D-15L ALL COMPS)



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

ASSISTANT COACH - NATHAN THACKERAY



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

ASSISTANT COACH - EMMA THOMSON



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

ASSISTANT COACH - FABRICE GAUTRAT



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

ASSISTANT COACH - VICTORIA BOARDMAN



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Signed with the Courage ahead of the 2018 NWSL Season

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Acquired via transfer from FC Girondins de Bordeaux

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

- Played 1,117 minutes across 13 regular season NWSL games in 2022, scoring six goals
- Scored once in five Challenge Cup appearances in 2022
- Brazil National Team member since 2018, youth teams since 2016
- Has made 28 international starts for Brazil (Through 2023 She Believes Cup)



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Drafted 40th overall in the 2018 NWSL Draft

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Signed as an International Free Agent in August of 2022

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Signed as an international free agent prior to the 2023 season

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Signed as an NWSL Free Agent prior to the 2023 season

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



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

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

Signed with the Western New York Flash during the 2016 season

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



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

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

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

- Made NWSL Debut on 4/19 in Challenge Cup match at Orlando
- All-time leader in games played (110) at Florida State University
- Ranks 19th in Seminole annals in goals scored
- Two-time ACC Tournament MVP, three-time All-ACC selection, National Champion



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

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

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

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



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

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

Signed as an international free agent in August of 2022

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



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

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

Drafted 45th overall in 2022 NWSL Draft

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



#99 VICTORIA PICKETT | MID | 5-6 | DOB: 8/12/96 | NWSL EXP: 3rd Year

"vic-TOR-EE-uh PICK-it" | **HOMETOWN:** Newmark, Ontario **COLLEGE:** Wisconsin

Acquired via trade with Gotham FC on April 28, 2023 (allocation money)

- Scored first goal with NC on May 6 against Portland
- Drafted 15th overall by Kansas City in 2021, Rookie of the Year finalist
- Scored game-winner in KC Current first-ever win (1-0 over OL Reign) in 2021
- Two-time first team All-Big Ten in 2017 and 2018