



VANCOUVER FOOTBALL CLUB

MEDIA GUIDE

2023

2023

VANCOUVER FC SCHEDULE

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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● AWAY GAME

● HOME GAME

WATCH



ON



FOR TICKET & PREMIUM SEATING INFO PLEASE VISIT VANCOUVERFC.COM

PRESENTED BY



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VANCOUVER FOOTBALL CLUB

FRONT OFFICE



ROB FRIEND

Rob brings a wealth of experience in day to day operations, sporting infrastructure & real estate development and brings an extensive global football network gained through his 20+ years as a player and sports executive.

Rob is also Managing Partner at DRG Investment Group, a private multi-family real estate company.



DEAN SHILLINGTON

Dean is the founder and owner of Knightsbridge Capital, a financial services company based in Vancouver with more than \$1bn in funded investments in the past decade.

With one of the businesses under this umbrella being a leading financier of distressed and turnaround businesses in Canada, Dean has developed a unique skill of being a closer advisor and strategist to startups, turnarounds and high growth businesses.



JOSH SIMPSON

Josh is also Co-founder/Managing Director of Von Schwanau Invest AG, a private equity real estate fund based out of Zurich.

Josh played 12+ years professionally in multiple European leagues as well as for the Canadian National Team.



MARK ROGERS

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mark Rogers is a former Canadian football player and coach. He represented Canada in the 2002 World Cup Qualifiers and the 2002 Gold Cup. At club level, he played for Wycombe in England from 1998 to 2004. After he retired, he coached the Women's UBC football team. In 2010, he accepted the role as interim assistant coach the Canadian's Men National Team.



STEPH WOOD

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Wood began her CPL journey in 2020 with Pacific FC, her expertise in marketing playing an integral role in furthering the branding and identity of the would-be 2021 CPL champions. She was also in charge of creating and developing VFC's brand and aesthetic, which she has implemented cohesively across a variety of channels in less than a year.



JON ROGERS

VICE PRESIDENT SALES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Josh is also Co-founder/Managing Director of Von Schwanau Invest AG, a private equity real estate fund based out of Zurich.

Josh played 12+ years professionally in multiple European leagues as well as for the Canadian National Team.

COACHING STAFF



AFSHIN GHOTBI

HEAD COACH

Ghotbi's footballing CV is one of the most impressive in the CPL. The 58-year-old Iranian-American has coached at three FIFA World Cups, as an assistant with the United States (France 98) and South Korea (Korea/Japan 02 and Germany 06). He's worked in seven countries; he won MLS Cup as an assistant with LA Galaxy, and he won the Iranian league title in 2008 at the helm of Persepolis FC. As a head coach, he was in charge of the Iran team that made the quarter-finals of the 2011 Asian Cup. Before heading to Vancouver, Ghotbi was the manager of Cangzhou Mighty Lions in the Chinese Super League.



NIALL THOMPSON

ASSISTANT COACH

Thompson is a former member of the Canadian Men's National Team, with four starts and two goals in his nine caps for his country. Thompson competed in England for Crystal Palace and Colchester United; as well as for Montreal Impact, the Seattle Sounders and the Vancouver Whitecaps in the Major League Soccer. Thompson holds a United States Soccer Federation A coaching license as well as a UEFA A coaching license.



MARK VILLAGE

GOALKEEPER COACH

Village is an Abbotsford-born former professional goalkeeper. He played for MLS sides, Whitecaps and Cincinnati during his career before becoming Pacific FC's first goalie. Village transitioned to an off-field role with Pacific, becoming the club's Head Goalkeeper Coach in 2020. Village was a CPL champion with Pacific in 2021 and played a key role in furthering the development of the club's first team goalkeepers, including Vancouver's first player signing and captain, Callum Irving.



AREZ ARDALANI

ASSISTANT COACH

Ardalani comes from a successful career as the Texas United head coach of the USL League 2 team. He led the team to win the USL 2 Mid-South Division which was never achieved until Ardalani's arrival. Additionally, Texas United under Ardalani completed this milestone while going undefeated which was only achieved by one more team in the division's 20-year history. Ardalani is originally from Harlingen, TX and holds a UEFA B coaching license.

VANCOUVER FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PLAYERS

PLAYERS

PLAYER	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DOB	NATIONALITY
Ibrahim Bakare	6'2"	194 lbs	05/07/2002	UNITED KINGDOM
Gabriel Bitar	5'10"	163 lbs	08/23/1998	CANADIAN
Kadin Chung	5'8"	150 lbs	09/05/1998	CANADIAN
Tyler Crawford	5'9"	150 lbs	03/09/2004	CANADIAN
Nicky Gyimah	5'8"	157 lbs	12/02/2002	UNITED KINGDOM
Maël Henry	5'10"	148 lbs	05/26/2004	CANADIAN
Shaan Hundal	6'	175 lbs	07/14/1999	CANADIAN
Callum Irving	6'	185 lbs	03/16/1993	CANADIAN
Kahlil John-Wentworth	5'10"	155 lbs	12/25/2001	CANADIAN
Mamadou Kane	6'	168 lbs	12/10/2003	CANADIAN
Minjae Kwak	5'10"	165 lbs	08/25/2000	SOUTH KOREAN
Eugene Chris Martinez	6'1"	205 lbs	10/20/1997	BELIZE
Nima Moazeni Zadeh	5'11"	165 lbs	07/05/1997	CANADIAN
Rocco Romeo	6'5"	194 lbs	03/25/2000	CANADIAN
Nathaniel St. Louis	5'9"	165lbs	12/05/2000	CANADIAN
Gael Sandoval	5'6"	154 lbs	11/05/1995	MEXICAN
Elliot Simmons	6'	172 lbs	02/05/1998	CANADIAN
Marcus Simmons	5'11"	170 lbs	07/16/2000	CANADIAN
Emmanuel Robe	5'10	163 lbs	04/12/2002	FRENCH
Jeremy Zielinski	6'3"	205 lbs	01/01/1999	AMERICAN
Ameer Kinani	6'	174 lbs	04/20/2001	CANADIAN
Anthony White	6'2"	195 lbs	08/01/2003	CANADIAN
James Cameron	6'0	180 lbs	01/24/2006	CANADIAN
Taryck Tahid	5'10	160 lbs	04/21/2007	CANADIAN
Lennon Thompson	6'3	175 lbs	01/01/2005	CANADIAN
Kourosh Jamshidi	6'2	185 lbs	05/26/2006	CANADIAN




IBRAHIM BAKARE

4

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 05/07/2002

HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 194 LBS

HOME: LONDON, ENGLAND

 @BAKARE_5

 @BAKARE.5

PLAYER BIO

"I am really pleased to be joining Vancouver, to have the opportunity to settle here and experience playing professional soccer in Canada," said Bakare. "I want to show what I can do and share my experience and leadership with the team. I am excited to put my head down and get to work for the club."

The 20-year-old centre-back, who stands at six-foot-one, has considerable experience for his age. Bakare's stops in English professional soccer to date include with then League Two side Morecambe FC, where he signed with the club's under-18 squad in August 2018 and remained until October 2020, and with Cardiff City F.C., where he captained the Bluebird's under-23 side on numerous occasions during more than a year with the club from 2021 to 2022.

Bakare has also spent time with Cheshunt F.C. in the sixth tier of English soccer, Macclesfield FC in England's Northern Premier League Division One West and National League North side Kettering Town.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
CARDIFF	U21	WALES	2022
CARDIFF	U21	WALES	2021
MORECAMBE	U18	ENGLAND	2020
MORECAMBE	U18	ENGLAND	2019
MORECAMBE	U18	ENGLAND	2018





GABRIEL BITAR


11

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 08/23/1998

HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 163 LBS

HOME: OTTAWA, ONTARIO

 @BITARGABRIEL20

 @GABYBITAR9

PLAYER BIO

Bitar, 24, joins Vancouver after taking the Canadian soccer pathway from U SPORTS to the Canadian Premier League, as a two-time first-round pick in the annual CPL-U SPORTS Draft. The 2022 season, his first full year as a professional, saw Bitar make 22 appearances for FC Edmonton, recording five goals and an assist after signing with the club last March.

The native of Ottawa, Ont. starred for his former side even as he navigated a position change that saw him drop back into the midfield from his more traditional role as a striker. Bitar was named to the Canadian Premier League's Gatorade Team of the Week four times over the course of the 2022 season and earned the title of Player of the Week in Week 9.

"I am looking forward to building on my growth as a professional in 2022 with Vancouver this coming season," said Bitar. "I learned a lot during my first full season as a professional and believe I can contribute even more to my new team as Vancouver takes the pitch for its first season this year."

Before going pro, Bitar starred up front for the Carleton University Ravens from 2017 to 2021. The two-time U SPORTS All-Canadian was named the Ontario University Athletics East MVP and was honoured with the Lou Bilek Award as the U SPORTS men's soccer Rookie of the Year in 2017. He remains second on the school's all-time scoring list, with 40 goals.

Bitar made his Canadian Premier League debut for Cavalry FC during the 2019 season, after he was selected with the first overall pick in the 2018 CPL-U SPORTS Draft. Bitar returned to Carleton in the fall of 2019. He was once again selected by Cavalry with the sixth overall pick in the 2019 CPL-U SPORTS draft but did not join the club for The Island Games in 2020.

"Gabriel is a powerful presence with the ball at his feet," said Afshin Ghotbi, Head Coach, Vancouver FC. "He has an ability to create chances for himself through his strong dribbling and shooting skills. His movement off the ball also makes him a threat any time he is on the pitch."

Bitar earned experience abroad in 2021 when he trialed with then-reigning Lebanese Premier League and Lebanese FA Cup champion Al Ansar FC, scoring two goals in two matches for the club.

At the international level, Bitar, whose parents were both born in Beirut, Lebanon, debuted for the Lebanese men's national team in December 2022. He previously participated in the Canadian youth program when he took part in an identification camp for Canada's Men's Under-20 National Team in 2015.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
FC EDMONTON	CPL	CANADA	2022
ANSAR	LPL	LEBANON	2021
OTTAWA SOUTH UNITED	PLSQ	CANADA	2020
CAVALRY FC	CPL	CANADA	2019
OTTAWA SOUTH UNITED	PLSQ	CANADA	2018
CARLETON UNIVERSITY	OUA	CANADA	2017-2021
OTTAWA FURY ACADEMY	NA	CANADA	2015-2016






KADIN CHUNG


2

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 09/05/1998

HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 150 LBS

HOME: PORT COQUITLAM, BRITISH COLUMBIA

 @JKADINCHUNG

 @KADINCHUNG

PLAYER BIO

Chung, 24, most recently represented Toronto FC, where he signed ahead of the 2022 Major League Soccer season after a successful preseason trial. He made eight MLS appearances for the Reds, starting five matches and logging 451 minutes. Chung was also part of the Toronto squad that won the postponed 2020 Canadian Championship final last year.

Prior to joining Toronto, Chung spent three seasons at Pacific FC. He was the first player to be signed by the club in late 2018 as a 20-year-old, and he went on to become the third player to sign in MLS out of the CPL, following Toronto's Lukas MacNaughton and Joel Waterman of CF Montréal. At the time of his move to Toronto, Chung had logged more minutes than any other Pacific player in the club's short history.

Chung made 63 total appearances for the Tridents between 2019 and 2021, playing a key role in the club's run to the Canadian Championship semi-finals and its first CPL title in 2021. He consistently rated among the League's elite defenders in defensive actions and duels won, while contributing to Pacific's attack with his overlapping runs and crisp passing.

Chung will now look to bring his skills as a two-way fullback, who predominantly plays on the right but can also slot in on the left, to the other side of the League's new west coast rivalry.

"It is important to build a competitive team right from the start," said Chung. "There are a lot of young guys on the squad who are hungry, and others who have experience that will be key to immediate success. Being a new team is not an excuse. Winning the League in 2021 has only made me hungrier to do it again, and I want to bring Vancouver to the playoffs and win it all. I think we have a group that can push for that."

Internationally, Chung has represented his country at several youth levels, including at the 2017 Concacaf U-20 Championship. In 2015, he was named Canada Soccer's U-17 Male Player of the Year, an award won the following two years by Chung's then-Whitecaps teammate Alphonso Davies. Most recently, Chung was named to the provisional roster for the 2020 Concacaf Men's Olympic Qualifying Championship in February 2020 and on the revised list in February 2021, following the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
TORONTO FC	MLS	USA	2022
PACIFIC FC	CPL	CANADA	2021
PACIFIC FC	CPL	CANADA	2020
PACIFIC FC	CPL	CANADA	2019
1.FC KAISERSLAUTERN II	OL RP	GERMANY	2018
WHITECAPS 2	USLC	USA	2017
WHITECAPS 2	USLC	USA	2016
WHITECAPS 2	USLC	USA	2015
WHITECAPS RESIDENCY	MLS	USA	2011-2015






TYLER CRAWFORD

12

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 03/09/2004

HEIGHT: 5'9"
WEIGHT: 150 LBS

HOME: BURLINGTON, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @TYLERCRAWFORD.11

PLAYER BIO

Crawford, 19, joins Vancouver out of Michigan State University, where he played NCAA Division I collegiate soccer in 2022. The teenage standout represented the Spartans in 16 games, starting 12 of those matches and adding an assist. His 1,152 minutes were the most logged by any freshman in Michigan's squad that season.

Prior to committing to Michigan, Crawford played in the Columbus Crew academy. He was named Academy Player of the Year in November 2021 as a 17-year-old, earning praise from the Major League Soccer club for his play on the field with the Under-18/Under-19 Academy Team, as well as for his volunteer work with the Crew Academy's Pre-Academy Program.

His contract with Vancouver is his first as a professional player.

"I am thrilled to begin my professional career with Vancouver," said Crawford. "I look forward to building relationships with my teammates, the club staff and the community and to learn what is required to make an impact on the field in the Canadian Premier League."

Crawford was born in Burlington, Ont. but grew up in Lutz, Fla. He attended a United States Soccer Federation Youth National Team Identification Center in the spring of 2021, and more recently represented the Canadian Men's Under-20 National Team in two games against Costa Rica in April 2022.

TYLER CRAWFORD

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
MICHIGAN STATE	NCAA	USA	2022
COLUMBUS CREW ACADEMY	MLS	USA	2021






NICKY GYIMAH

14

POSITION: FORWARD
DATE OF BIRTH: 12/02/2002

HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 157 LBS

HOME: LONDON, ENGLAND

 @HANDLE

 @NICKYGYIMAH

PLAYER BIO

Gyimah, 19, will lean on his experience from the English game as he begins his first season in the CPL. The teenage native of London, England, who also played for Ghana as a youth international, previously represented storied club Sunderland A.F.C. at the under-23 level, where he scored one goal in 10 games. Gyimah has also appeared for Peterborough United and Slough Town F.C. in the English soccer system.

"I am ready to officially get underway with Vancouver FC," said Gyimah. "I am grateful for the chance Vancouver is taking on me and I am eager to get going for the team."

The opportunity with Vancouver marks Gyimah's first time playing professionally overseas, and he is expected to bring his pace, his direct, attacking style of play and his leadership to the right side of Head Coach Afshin Ghotbi's squad.

NICKY GYIMAH

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
SLOUGH TOWN	NLS	ENGLAND	22
SUNDERLAND U21	EPL 2	ENGLAND	21
PETERBORO U21	LEAGUE ONE	ENGLAND	21






MAËL HENRY

19

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 05/26/2004

HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 148 LBS

HOME: MONTREAL, QUEBEC

 @HANDLE

 @MAELHENRY_8

PLAYER BIO

Henry, 18, is an up-and-coming Canadian central midfielder who most recently represented the CF Montreal academy, scoring five goals in 15 Première ligue de soccer du Québec games in 2023. A touted young talent, Henry has previously trialed with France-based teams FC Lorient, AJ Auxerre and Stade Malherbe Caen.

The native of Montreal, who can also play as a centre-back, was 14 years old when he made his debut in the Canadian youth program in 2019, representing Canada at the 2019 Concacaf Boys' Under-15 Championship. He more recently donned the maple leaf when he was selected to the Canadian team that competed at the 2022 Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship. Henry made two appearances as a substitute during that competition, scoring against St. Kitts and Nevis with a tricky backheel.

"I look forward to the opportunity to compete for first-team action in Vancouver's first season," said Henry. "I am grateful to the club and to the League for giving me a place to continue to develop on home soil."

CLUBS

PLAYER

LEAGUE

COUNTRY

SEASON

CF MONTREAL ACADEMY

MLS

CANADA

2022






SHAAN HUNDAL

9

POSITION: FORWARD
DATE OF BIRTH: 07/14/1999

HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 175 LBS

HOME: BRAMPTON, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @SHAANHUNDAL64

PLAYER BIO

Hundal 23, joins Vancouver after mostly recently representing Inter Miami CF II in MLS Next Pro in 2022, where he scored six goals in 21 games, including 15 starts, and added another three assists.

A season earlier, Hundal starred for Inter Miami CF's now-defunct USL League One side, Fort Lauderdale CF, leading the team with 11 goals. That mark tied him for fourth in the league and helped him earn a spot on the USL League One All-League Second Team. Hundal was also a finalist for the USL League One Young Player of the Year award following that breakout season.

Hundal previously represented Valour FC during The Island Games in 2020, making six appearances for the club.

"I am looking forward to returning to the Canadian Premier League and taking full advantage of this opportunity with Vancouver FC," said Hundal. "I have grown a lot as a player over the past two seasons and I am excited to put those skills to work to make an impact for this team in this league."

The native of Brampton, Ont. signed his first professional contract with Toronto FC II in 2016, graduating to the squad after two years in the club's academy. He spent parts of four seasons with the team, earning nods on the USL's 20 under 20 list, which honoured the top 20 standouts under the age of 20 in the USL Championship and USL League One, in 2016 and 2017. A loan stint in 2019 also saw Hundal represent the Ottawa Fury in the USL Championship.

On the international stage, Hundal was named to the Canadian team at the 2017 Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship. He has made eight total appearances for Canada's men's youth teams.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
INTER MIAMI II	MLS NEXT PRO	USA	2022
FORT LAUDERDALE	USL1	USA	2021
VALOUR	CPL	CANADA	2020
TORONTO FC II	USL 1	USA	2019
OTTAWA FURY	USLC	USA	2019
TORONTO FC II	USLC	USA	2018
TORONTO FC II	USLC	USA	2017
TORONTO FC II	USLC	USA	2016





CALLUM IRVING

1

POSITION: GOALKEEPER
DATE OF BIRTH: 03/16/1993

HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 185 LBS

HOME: VANCOUVER, BC

 @CALLUMIRVING

 @CALLUMIRVING1

PLAYER BIO

Irving, 29, began playing soccer at the age of four, advancing through the local youth system with Marpole SC in South Vancouver. He represented the Vancouver Selects for two seasons and spent six years in the Vancouver Whitecaps academy before a collegiate career at the University of Kentucky.

Now a three-year veteran of the Canadian Premier League, Irving began his professional career with the Rio Grande Valley Toros in the United Soccer League. He returned to Canada to represent the Ottawa Fury in the USL in 2016, spending three seasons in the nation's capital through 2019. Irving was back on the West Coast by February 2020, when he signed with Pacific FC ahead of the CPL's second season.

The local shot stopper led all CPL goalkeepers with 249 recoveries and 856 passes in 2022. He tied with Atlético Ottawa's Nathan Ingham for the most punches by a CPL goalkeeper last season and finished second among league netminders with 68 saves. The performance earned Irving a nomination for the CPL's annual Golden Glove award, his second finalist nod in three years.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
PACIFIC	CPL	CANADA	2020-2022
OTTAWA FURY	USLC	USA	2017-2019
RGV TOROS FC	USL	USA	2016
HOUSTON DYNAMO	MLS	USA	2016
WHITECAPS RESIDENCY	MLS	USA	2011-2016






KAHLIL JOHN-WENTWORTH

23

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 12/25/2001

HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 155 LBS

HOME: TORONTO, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @KAHLILJW

PLAYER BIO

John-Wentworth, 21, most recently represented Simcoe County Rovers in League1 Ontario's Men's Premier Division, where he logged 1140 minutes over the course of the 2022 regular season and competed in the first two playoff matches in club history. John-Wentworth scored one goal for Rovers in 2022 and was named to the League1 Ontario Team of the Week in Week 14.

He possesses the versatility to play all over the field, including as a left-back, at wingback or in midfield.

Prior to his time with Simcoe County, John-Wentworth represented Vaughan Azzurri in League1 Ontario in 2021. He played collegiate soccer with Durham College in Oshawa, Ont. in 2019-2020, one of the most successful seasons in program history that culminated in the program's first Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association national championship banner.

John-Wentworth later transferred to Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where he represented the Aggies in National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 play in his sophomore season in 2021. He was named first team all-region that May, after scoring six goals and adding five assists.

KAHLIL JOHN-WENTWORTH

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
SIMCOE COUNTY	LEAGUE1 ON	CANADA	2022
VAUGHAN AZZURRI	LEAGUE1 ON	CANADA	2021






MAMADOU KANE


15

POSITION: FORWARD
DATE OF BIRTH: 12/10/2003

HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 168 LBS

HOME: MONTREAL, QUEBEC

 @HANDLE

 @HANDLE

PLAYER BIO

Kane, 19, joins Vancouver FC on a transfer from York United, after signing with the Nine Stripes last December. A highly rated young attacker, Kane will look to continue his development as a member of Vancouver FC.

The teenage attacker was born in Mbaké, Senegal but grew up in Montréal, Que. after a move overseas at the age of nine. His Canadian soccer playing days began at FS Salaberry in Montréal, and Kane later moved on to the Club de Foot Montréal academy. It was during his time in the academy that Kane represented Canada at the 2019 FIFA U-17 World Cup, where he featured in all three of the team's matches.

Last year, Kane was named to Canada's provisional roster ahead of the Concacaf Men's Under-20 championship.

Kane made 11 appearances in all competitions for York United last year as an 18-year-old, accumulating 291 league minutes and featuring in two Canadian Championship matches. He provided an assist in York's Canadian Championship defeat to Vancouver Whitecaps, setting up an exciting end to what was a closely contested do-or-die match.

A mid-year loan to FC Edmonton saw Kane spend the remainder of the 2022 Canadian Premier League season in Alberta, where he logged 77 minutes over seven appearances.

By adding Kane to the roster, Vancouver FC has now signed three players to its growing squad. Kane joins midfielder Elliot Simmons and goalkeeper Callum Irving as the first three player signings in club history.

MAMADOU KANE

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
YORK UTD.	CPL	CANADA	2022
FC EDMONTON	CPL	CANADA	2021
CF MONTREAL ACADEMY	MLS	MLS	2020






MINJAE KWAK

17

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 08/25/2000

HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 165 LBS

HOME: BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

 @HANDLE

 @MINJAE00

PLAYER BIO

Kwak, 22, becomes the second Korean-born player to play in the CPL, after midfielder Son Yong-Chan represented FC Edmonton in 2019 and 2020.

Kwak, a native of Suwon in South Korea's Gyeonggi-do province, has spent the past two years playing in the National Independent Soccer Association (NISA), the third tier of professional soccer in the United States. He scored four goals and added an assist for AC Syracuse Pulse in 2022, following a 2021 season when he scored four goals for California United Strikers FC. Kwak grew up in the California soccer academy system as a youth player, after moving from South Korea to the United States at a young age. He made a stop in Croatia as a 19-year-old with HNK Gorica, before returning to the United States and the NISA.

"I am happy and thankful to be joining Vancouver," said Kwak. "I grew up on the west coast and am looking forward to continuing my career here, if a little further north. I am committed to doing everything I can to help my new team win right away."

A left winger, Kwak was named to the 2022 NISA Best XI. He was honoured in part for his contributions to the scoresheet, but it was his ability to start scoring plays from deeper-lying positions on the field that made Kwak stand out most amongst his peers. His pace, versatility and dynamic style are just a few of the traits that contribute to Kwak's touted potential.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
SYRACUSE PULSE	NISA	USA	2022
CAL UNITED	NISA	USA	2020-2021
HNK GORICA	HNL	CROATIA	2019
IRVINE STRIKERS	MLS NEXT	USA	2015-2019
PATEADORES SC	ECNL	USA	2012-2014






EUGENE MARTINEZ

5

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 10/20/1997

HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 205 LBS

HOME: DANGRIGA, BELIZE

 @HANDLE

 @PELEMARTINEZ38

PLAYER BIO

Martinez, 25, is a right footed centre-back from Dangriga, Belize and a former member of the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos NCAA Division II men's soccer team, where he spent the 2021 and 2022 seasons on scholarship after a move from Cerritos College in Norwalk, California. Martinez, who stands at six feet tall, made 36 appearances for the Broncos over two seasons, scoring three goals and logging 2209 minutes.

He represented the Belize men's national team four times in Concacaf Nations League B play in 2022, his first appearances for his country.

"It is a dream come true to join Vancouver and continue my playing career as a professional," said Martinez. "I believe in my ability and look forward to proving myself within my new team and within the Canadian Premier League."

Martinez is also the owner and founder of Pele Soccer Foundation in Belize, which provides youth with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of soccer, collects new clothes and equipment to ensure they can play and instills the importance of education.

EUGENE MARTINEZ

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
FLASH FC	USPSL	USA	2022
CAL POLY POMONA	NCAA	USA	2021






NIMA MOAZENI ZADEH

8

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 07/05/1997

HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 165 LBS

HOME: VANCOUVER, BC

 @HANDLE

 @NIMA.MOAZENI8

PLAYER BIO

Moazeni Zadeh, 25, joins Vancouver as an alum of Capilano University in the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA). An attacking central midfielder, Moazeni Zadeh was named the CCAA's PACWEST Player of the Year in 2021, his first season in the conference, as well as a PACWEST Conference All-Star. He was also honoured as a CCAA All-Canadian. A native of Tehran, Iran, Moazeni Zadeh scored five times for Capilano in 2021, while regularly pulling defenders his way to free up his squad's other attacking players nearby.

The five-foot-seven, Iranian Canadian midfielder is already a member of the mainland soccer scene, as a coach with Metro Vancouver soccer academy and not-for-profit Field Art F.C. He also represented FC Tigers Vancouver in 2022.

"I am thrilled to continue my playing career on the west coast, a place I know to be full of true soccer fans," said Moazeni Zadeh. "I am excited to officially get started and show my coaches, teammates and opponents what I can do."

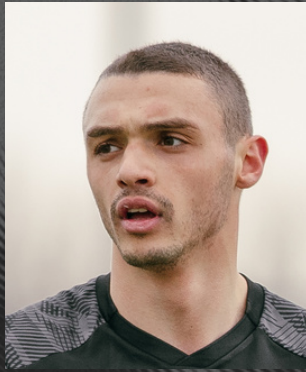
"Nima is a classic midfielder with a high football IQ, tireless work rate and box to box range," said Afshin Ghotbi, Head Coach, Vancouver FC. "He will soon be recognized by many as one of the best midfielders in Canada due to his qualities with and without the ball."

NIMA MOAZENI ZADEH

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
BB5 UNITED	VMSL	CANADA	2022
FC TIGERS	CCAA	CANADA	2021
CAPILANO BLUES	CCAA	CANADA	2020
BAADRAAN TEHRAN	FIRST TIER	IRAN	2019
BAADRAAN U 21	FIRST TIER	IRAN	2018
SAIPA FC U 21	SECOND TIER	IRAN	2017
PAYKAN FC U 19	FIRST TIER	IRAN	2016






ROCCO ROMEO

3

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 03/25/2000

HEIGHT: 6'5"
WEIGHT: 194 LBS

HOME: TORONTO, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @_ROCCOROMEO

PLAYER BIO

The native of Toronto, 22, brings a mix of youth and experience to head coach Afshin Ghotbi's squad. A product of Toronto FC's academy system, Romeo most recently represented Valour FC in the Canadian Premier League, spending part of the 2021 season with Valour on loan from Toronto before joining the CPL club on contract in 2022.

Romeo, who stands at 6'4" tall, has accumulated 3,756 minutes in league play over the past two seasons. He led Valour with 76 clearances in 2022, adding 11 blocks and winning 40 aerial duels. Romeo was among the chief distributors on the squad, making 1184 total passes over the course of the season, with a success rate of 84 per cent.

The centre back has also been known to find the back of the net from time to time, scoring two goals in each of his past two seasons. Romeo's towering aerial presence poses a threat any time he is in the opponent's box.

Romeo previously joined the Toronto FC youth system in 2014 and represented the club in League1 Ontario and United Soccer League play over nine seasons with the organization. Along with his loan stint to Valour, Romeo gained European soccer experience during a pair of loan spells with HB Køge of the Danish first division in the 2018/2019 and 2020/2021 seasons.

At the international level, Romeo has represented several Canadian youth national teams, including at the 2017 Concacaf U-17 Championship and the 2018 Concacaf U-20 Championship.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
VALOUR	CPL	CANADA	2021-2022
TORONTO FC	MLS	USA	2020-2021
HB KÖGE	2ND DIVISON	DENMARK	2019-2020
TORONTO FC	MLS	USA	2019
HB KÖGE	2ND DIVISON	DENMARK	2019
TORONTO FC II	MLS	USA	2016-2019






NATHANIEL ST. LOUIS

7

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 12/05/2000

HEIGHT: 5'9"
WEIGHT: 165 LBS

HOME: TORONTO, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @ITSNATSTLOUIS

PLAYER BIO

St. Louis, 23, most recently represented the University of Alabama at Birmingham in NCAA Division I play. The native of Toronto led the squad in nearly all attacking categories in 2022, including goals, points, shots, and shots on goal. St. Louis' numbers in 2022 were nearly identical to the stats he put up for the Blazers over the course of the 2021 season, after which he was named Second Team All-Conference USA.

St. Louis spent four seasons with the Blazers overall, after beginning his collegiate career at Syracuse University as a freshman, where he competed alongside future Canadian Men's National Team stars Tajon Buchanan and Kamal Miller. Before graduating to college-level soccer, St. Louis represented Vaughan Soccer Club and Markham Soccer Club in Ontario as a youth player.

St. Louis has previously trialed with Portugal's S.L. Benfica and England's West Ham United, but his new deal with Vancouver FC is his first as a professional.

NATHANIEL ST. LOUIS

CLUBS

PLAYER

LEAGUE

COUNTRY

SEASON

BIRMINGHAM BLAZERS

NCAA

USA

2019-2022





GAEL SANDOVAL

10

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 11/05/1995

HEIGHT: 5'6"
WEIGHT: 154 LBS

HOME: GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

 @GSANOVAL

 @GAELSANDOVAL

PLAYER BIO

In signing Sandoval to a 2023 contract, Vancouver head coach Afshin Ghotbi has landed a key playmaker for a team looking to make an impression in its first season in the League. Sandoval, who stands at five-foot-five, is a versatile attacking midfielder who can play on either the left or right side of the field.

The 27-year-old native of Guadalajara, Mexico has made 119 appearances in Mexico's top division, Liga MX, at such storied clubs as Santos Laguna, FC Juárez, Club Deportivo Guadalajara (Chivas) and Mazatlán FC.

Sandoval made his Liga MX debut as a 20-year-old in July 2016, after years in the Mexican youth system. He quickly made a name for himself with Santos Laguna, winning the best rookie award at the 2016-2017 Liga MX Balón de Oro, an annual awards ceremony presented by the Mexican Football Federation, and producing more assists than any other Mexican player in the 2017 Clausura, the closing tournament in the Liga MX season.

The rookie performance earned Sandoval a move to Chivas in November 2017, where he would go on to make 55 appearances for the club and help Chivas to its first Concacaf Champions League win in 2018.

Sandoval spent the 2021 season on loan from Chivas with Mazatlán FC, his most recent action in Liga MX play. He has seven Liga MX goals and 16 assists over seven seasons in Mexico's top division.

Prior to signing with Vancouver, Sandoval spent the 2022 season on loan from Chivas with Wellington Phoenix in the Australian A-League, his first taste of action outside of Mexican football. He made 20 appearances for the club, scoring six goals and adding five assists. He was most recently on trial with Mexican side Tepatitlán F.C. before landing in the Lower Mainland.

Sandoval has also previously represented the Mexican National Team at the under-18 level.

"I am hungry to help Vancouver get off to a strong start in the Canadian Premier League," said Sandoval. "I am looking forward to playing in Canada and will be playing to win every time I step on the field."

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
WELLINGTON PHOENIX	A-LEAGUE	AUSTRALIA	2022
MAZATLAN FC	LIGA MX	MEXICO	2021
SANTOS	LIGA MX	MEXICO	2020
JUAREZ FC	LIGA MX	MEXICO	2020
CHIVAS	LIGA MX	MEXICO	2018-2019
SANTOS	LIGA MX	MEXICO	2016-2017
JUAREZ FC	ASCENSO MX	MEXICO	2015-2016
SANTOS ACADEMY	LIGA MX	MEXICO	2012-2015
TECOS ACADEMY	ASCENSO MX	MEXICO	2011-2012






ELLIOT SIMMONS


16

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 02/05/1998

HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 172 LBS

HOME: MILTON KEYNES, ENGLAND

 @_ESIMMO

 @_ESIMMO

PLAYER BIO

Simmons, 25, becomes the second player to sign with Vancouver, joining goalkeeper Callum Irving on the team roster. Like Irving, Simmons joins the club with considerable experience in the league, having previously represented both Halifax Wanderers and Cavalry FC, and figures to be another anchoring part of head coach Afshin Ghotbi's side.

The central midfielder was born in Luton, England and emigrated to Stittsville, Ontario at the age of five. He played youth soccer with Goulbourn Soccer Club and the Ottawa Fury before returning overseas to join the Milton Keynes Dons academy in his native England, and later moving on to Málaga CF's academy in Spain.

Simmons' signed his first professional contract with Swedish side Dalkurd FF in 2017, and played professionally in Finland before returning to Canada to join the Canadian Premier League ahead of its inaugural season in 2019.

Simmons has since accumulated 82 appearances between the Wanderers, where he spent the 2019 season, and Cavalry, where he played the past three years. He has developed a reputation across the league as a consistent and reliable presence in midfield, who offers a team creativity through his passing from the middle of the park.

Simmons has scored one goal and added two assists during his time in the Canadian Premier League. The 1,858 minutes he logged in 2022 was sixth highest among Cavalry FC players. He led the team with 131 recoveries last year and ranked in the top five among Cavalry players for tackles (56), interceptions (27) and total passes (774) in 2022.

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
CAVALRY	CPL	CANADA	2020-2022
HFX WANDERERS	CPL	CANADA	2019
MIKKELIN	3RD DIV.	FINLAND	2018
DALKURF FF U19	3RD DIV.	SWEDEN	2017
MALAGA CF U19	LALIGA	SPAIN	2016






MARCUS SIMMONS

22

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 07/16/2000

HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 170 LBS

HOME: EDMONTON, ALBERTA

 @HANDLE

 @MARCUS_SIMMONS

PLAYER BIO

Simmons, 22, becomes the eighth player announced as part of Vancouver's roster ahead of the club's inaugural season in 2023.

The native of Edmonton, Alta. signed with his hometown club, FC Edmonton, in March 2022. He made 24 league appearances for the Eddies, logging one assist. Simmons, who has previously played as a striker at the university level, proved himself to be a dynamic player no matter where he lined up on the field, with a forward-thinking mentality that keeps him involved in his team's attack as well as its defence.

Simmons made the jump to the Canadian Premier League from York University, where he helped the Lions to an Ontario University Athletics silver medal in 2021. His university-level playing days began with the MacEwan University Griffins in Edmonton in 2018 and 2019.

Simmons earned his first professional contract when he impressed in the Eddies pre-season camp with his work rate, mentality, and technical skill, which he will now look to showcase for Vancouver.

MARCUS SIMMONS

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
FC EDMONTON	CPL	CANADA	2022
YORK LIONS	ONTARIO	CANADA	2021






EMMANUEL ROBE

13

POSITION: FORWARD
DATE OF BIRTH: 04/12/2002

HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 163LBS

HOME: SEVRE, FRANCE

 @HANDLE

 @EMMANUEL.ROBE

PLAYER BIO

Robe, 20, brings his nose for goal to Vancouver from South London, where he lived from the age of three after his family immigrated from his birthplace, Sèvres, France. He played his youth soccer with several well-known English clubs in and around London, including Crystal Palace F.C., Hayes and Yeading United F.C., Aveley F.C. and Romford F.C.

The striker, who can also play on the wing, has an innate instinct in front of net, the aptitude and touch for working under pressure and is touted for his speed. A former track athlete, Robe previously competed in the 100-metre dash, including at the national level in the United Kingdom.

EMMANUEL ROBE

CLUBS

PLAYER

LEAGUE

COUNTRY

SEASON

SEVRES

LIGUE DE
PARIS

FRANCE

2023






JEREMY ZIELINSKI


21

POSITION: GOALKEEPER
DATE OF BIRTH: 01/01/1999

HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 205 LBS

HOME: SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

 @HANDLE

 @JEREMY_ZIELINSKI

PLAYER BIO

Zielinski, 24, joins Callum Irving as the second goalkeeper to sign with Vancouver. The six-foot-two American Canadian netminder and most recently played for Hawai'i Pacific University, an NCAA Division II school, where he owned the role of starting goalkeeper from his freshman season.

"Jeremy possesses all the qualities to become one of the top goalkeepers in Canada," said Ghotbi. "He is a fantastic shot blocker with cat-like reflexes, dominates the penalty area with his personality and range, and he is comfortable with his feet. We are excited to help develop Jeremy to a world class goalkeeper."

A native of California, the left-footed goalkeeper owned a 83.5 per cent save percentage over four seasons with the Sharks, logging a total of 3,917 minutes.

"I am grateful to Vancouver for giving me my first professional opportunity through the combine," said Zielinski. "The club's faith in me will only make me work harder to be the best I can be for our team."

JEREMY ZIELINSKI

CLUBS

PLAYER

LEAGUE

COUNTRY

SEASON

HAWAI'I PACIFIC U

NCAA

USA

2022






AMEER KINANI

18

POSITION: FORWARD
DATE OF BIRTH: 04/20/2001

HEIGHT: 6'0"
WEIGHT: 174 LBS

HOME: TORONTO, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @AMEER.KINANI_

PLAYER BIO

Kinani, 22, signed a 2023 CPL-U SPORTS contract with Vancouver. In signing such a contract, Kinani will gain the opportunity to earn professional experience with VFC, while maintaining his eligibility to return to U SPORTS competition.

The Iraqi-Canadian striker joins the club following an impressive first season with TMU, where he scored seven goals in 13 matches. Kinani's performance helped lead the Bold to the Ontario University Athletics Final last November.

U SPORTS wasn't the only level where Kinani turned heads in 2022. He scored 17 goals for ProStars FC of League1 Ontario, the fourth-highest tally in the league and an impetus for a transfer from George Brown College to TMU.

Internationally, Kinani has represented Iraq, where he was born and lived until a move to Canada at the age of seven, at the youth level. He earned a call-up to Iraq's squad for the 2018 AFC U-19 Championship after the Iraq Football Association saw a highlight reel of Kinani posted on social media. The exposure at the youth international level led to an opportunity with FC Cartagena in Spain's Segunda División B for Kinani, where he remained for a year and a half before making his return to Canada.

"With hard work, focus, commitment, and discipline, I believe Vancouver can do real damage in the CPL," said Kinani. "I am a team-first player, and I will do everything I can to help this organization prove we deserve to be here, and to win."

AMEER KINANI

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
TMU BOLD	OUA	CANADA	2022
PROSTARS FC	LEAGUE1 ON	CANADA	2022






ANTHONY WHITE

20

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 08/01/2003

HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 195 LBS

HOME: COQUITLAM, BRITISH COLUMBIA

 @HANDLE

 @ANTHONYWHITE_14

PLAYER BIO

White, 19, joins Vancouver through the 2024 season on a standard player contract (SPC), with a club option to extend his stay through 2026. In signing an SPC rather than a CPL-U SPORTS contract, White has forfeited his U SPORTS eligibility.

The native of Port Moody, B.C., who grew up representing Coquitlam Metro Ford Soccer Club, returns to the west coast after making 11 starts for the University of Toronto in 2022, which was tied for the team lead in his sophomore season with the Varsity Blues. Outside of the U SPORTS structure, he most recently helped TSS Rovers win the 2022 League1 BC championship last summer.

White is the youngest first overall pick in the history of the CPL-U SPORTS Draft.

"I am proud of all of the hard work it took to get to this moment and grateful to Vancouver for making this investment in me," said White. "As a young player, it is a luxury to know where I will be playing for the foreseeable future, and I look forward to living up to the faith Afshin and everyone at VFC has placed in me."

The left-footed central defender, who stands at six foot one, has previously trained in top professional environments, such as with Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb and NK Sibenik, as well as FC Nurnberg in Germany. He has also trialed with the Vancouver Whitecaps. In 2019, White was one of 16 Generation Adidas players selected to train in Spain with Real Madrid and at the training centre of the Spanish national team.

White is composed and calm addition to Vancouver's defence. He can play out of the back with precision, be it through a short- or long-range pass, and his ability to make, and execute, good decisions in any situation ensured he stood out as a U SPORTS player.

ANTHONY WHITE

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO	OUA	CANADA	2022
TSS ROVERS	LEAGUE1 BC	CANADA	2022






JAMES CAMERON


25

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 01/24/2005

HEIGHT: 6'0
WEIGHT: 180 LBS

HOME: NORTH VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

 @HANDLE

 @J_CAMERON14

PLAYER BIO

Cameron, 18, grew up in North Vancouver and played for multiple youth programs including North Vancouver FC, Mountain FC in the BC Soccer Premier League (BCSPL), and Blaise Soccer Academy. Cameron recently represented Team BC at the 2022 Canadian Summer Games in Niagara, where he scored one goal and helped the team secure a fifth place finish in the tournament.

“James can run over opponents with his long relentless strides, and his competitive nature and work ethic will fuel his future success,” said Ghotbi.

JAMES CAMERON

CLUBS

PLAYER

LEAGUE

COUNTRY

SEASON

Coastal FC

VMSL

Canada

2022






TARYCK TJ TAHID

26

POSITION: FORWARD
DATE OF BIRTH: 04/21/2007

HEIGHT: 5'10
WEIGHT: 160 LBS

HOME: MAPLE RIDGE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

 @HANDLE

 @TJ.TAHID

PLAYER BIO

Taryck "TJ" Tahid was VFC's final roster signing on the 2023 team. The Maple Ridge B.C. native became the youngest player in Canadian Premier League history to sign a standard contract, at 16 years and 16 days old.

Tahid most recently played for the U-21 VanCity Pro Football Academy in the Vancouver Metro Soccer League (VMSL). During his time with VanCity Pro FA, he trialed with Spanish side Villarreal CF, an official partner academy of VanCity Pro FA. Prior to playing for VanCity Pro FA, Tahid represented the Maple Ridge youth team Albion FC.

He also trialed with the New York Red Bulls of the MLS and FC Midtjylland of the Danish Superliga.

"TJ is a football phenom with the potential to reach the highest level of the global game," said Afshin Ghotbi, Head Coach, Vancouver FC. "Incredibly talented, TJ combines power, pace, skill, and football intelligence at the young age of 16 years old."

TARYCK TJ TAHID

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
U-21 VanCity Pro FA	VMSL	Canada	2022






LENNON THOMPSON

24

POSITION: DEFENDER
DATE OF BIRTH: 01/01/2005

HEIGHT: 6'3
WEIGHT: 175 LBS

HOME: SOUTH SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

 @HANDLE

 @LENNONTHOMPSON

PLAYER BIO

Thompson, 18, represented Coastal FC before joining the Vancouver Whitecaps FC Residency program in 2019 at the U-15 level. The Surrey, B.C. native spent three years with the program before he was invited to trial with Sirens Football Club of the Maltese Premier League in 2022. Thompson returned to his roots, playing one season with TSS Rovers in 2022 before committing to Unity FC.

He is the son of Vancouver FC assistant coach Niall Thompson, a former member of the Canadian Men's National Team who competed at club level for Crystal Palace, Colchester United, Montreal Impact, Seattle Sounders and Vancouver Whitecaps, among other teams.

"Lennon is a football prodigy who combines talent, fighting spirit and football IQ," said Ghotbi. "He can play multiple positions. I believe he will follow his father's footsteps and will one day represent Canada in international football."

LENNON THOMPSON

CLUBS

PLAYER

LEAGUE

COUNTRY

SEASON

TSS ROVERS

LEAGUE 1BC

CANADA

2022






KOUROUSH JAMSHIDI

35

POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DATE OF BIRTH:

HEIGHT: 6'2
WEIGHT: 185 LBS

HOME: TORONTO, ONTARIO

 @HANDLE

 @LENNONTHOMPSON

PLAYER BIO

Jamshidi, 17, was born in Toronto, ON where he played for Wexford Soccer Club and Markham Soccer Club before joining North Toronto of the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) at the age of 15. Last season, Jamshidi played for the Richmond Hill Raiders U21 in League1 Ontario, where he made 11 appearances and scored one goal.

“Kouroush Jamshidi is a natural striker with an aptitude to score goals,” said Ghotbi. “He is as cool as a cucumber in front of the goal, and he has an instinctive nose to arrive at the right moment to where the ball will be in the danger area.”

KOUROSH JAMSHIDI

CLUBS

PLAYER	LEAGUE	COUNTRY	SEASON
RICHMOND HILL RAIDERS	LEAGUE 1 ON	CANADA	2022



VANCOUVER FOOTBALL CLUB

OPPONENTS



ATLÉTICO OTTAWA

CITY: OTTAWA
STADIUM: TD PLACE STADIUM
HEAD COACH: CARLOS GONZÁLEZ
2022 RECORD: 13-10-5
2022 TOP SCORER: OLIVER BASSETT

LEAGUE TITLES: 1
NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 0

FOUNDED: 2020

Twitter @ATLETIOTTAWA

Instagram @ATLETIOTTAWA

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

VS HFX WANDERERS
15 SATURDAY

AT VALOUR
22 SATURDAY

VS YORK
29 SATURDAY

MAY

VS PACIFIC
6 SATURDAY

AT VANCOUVER
13 SATURDAY

AT CAVALRY
21 SUNDAY

VS FORGE
27 SATURDAY

JUNE

VS HFX WANDERERS
3 SATURDAY

VS VANCOUVER
17 SATURDAY

AT PACIFIC
30 FRIDAY

AT YORK
9 FRIDAY

AT FORGE
25 SUNDAY

JULY

VS VALOUR
9 SUNDAY

VS VANCOUVER
16 SUNDAY

VS CAVALRY
29 SATURDAY

AT CAVALRY
12 WEDNESDAY

AT HFX WANDERERS
22 SATURDAY

AUGUST

VS YORK
5 SATURDAY

AT PACIFIC
13 SUNDAY

AT VALOUR
18 FRIDAY

VS FORGE
26 SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER

VS CAVALRY
2 SATURDAY

VS PACIFIC
13 WEDNESDAY

VS VALOUR
24 SUNDAY

AT VANCOUVER
9 SATURDAY

AT HFX HALIFAX
16 SATURDAY

OCTOBER

AT YORK
1 SUNDAY

AT FORGE
7 SATURDAY

ATLÉTICO OTTAWA HISTORY

After Ottawa Fury got dissolved in 2019, the Canadian capital was left without professional football. In 2020, the historic Spanish club, Atlético de Madrid, and businessman, Jeff Hunt, were awarded the CPL first expansion team, which debuted under the name of Atlético Ottawa that same year.

PR CONTACTS

Thomas Stocking
Media Relations Manager
media@atleticoottawa.club
(613) 581-8526






CAVALRY FC

CITY: CALGARY
STADIUM: ATCO FIELD
HEAD COACH: TOMMY WHEELDON JR.
2022 RECORD: 14-5-9
2022 TOP SCORER: JOSEPH MASON

LEAGUE TITLES: 2
NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 0

FOUNDED: 2018

 @CPLCAVALRYFC

 @CPLCAVALRYFC

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

AT FORGE
15 SATURDAY

AT PACIFIC
23 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
30 SUNDAY

MAY

AT VANCOUVER
7 SUNDAY

VS HFX HALIFAX
13 SATURDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
21 SUNDAY

AT YORK
28 SUNDAY

JUNE

VS FORGE
3 SATURDAY

AT VANCOUVER
11 SUNDAY

AT HFX WANDERERS
17 SATURDAY

VS YORK
24 SATURDAY

JULY

AT VALOUR
1 SATURDAY

AT PACIFIC
8 SATURDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
12 WEDNESDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
15 SATURDAY

AT VANCOUVER
22 SATURDAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
29 SATURDAY

AUGUST

AT FORGE
4 FRIDAY

AT VALOUR
11 FRIDAY

VS YORK
20 SUNDAY

VS PACIFIC
27 SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER

AT ATL. OTTAWA
2 SATURDAY

AT HFX WANDERERS
12 TUESDAY

AT YORK
22 FRIDAY

AT FORGE
9 SATURDAY

VS VANCOUVER
16 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
29 FRIDAY

OCTOBER

AT PACIFIC
7 SATURDAY

CAVALRY HISTORY

Cavalry FC was one of the founding CPL teams honouring a long soccer history dating back to the Caledonians of 1907 to 1909 who won the People's Shield each year and earned a spot in Canada's Soccer Hall of Fame. Cavalry FC has led the CPL in season points twice and has established itself as a leader in Canadian professional soccer.

PR CONTACTS

Hannah Wellon
Media Coordinator
Hannah.Wellon@cavalryfc.ca
(403) 993-7531





FORGE FC

CITY: HAMILTON, ON.
STADIUM: TIM HORTONS FIELD
HEAD COACH: BOBBY SMYRNIOTIS
2022 RECORD: 14-5-9
2022 TOP SCORER: WOOBENS PACIUS

LEAGUE TITLES: 1
NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 3

FOUNDED: 2018

@FORGEFCAMILTON @FORGEFC

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

VS CAVALRY
15 SATURDAY
VS HFX WANDERERS
22 SATURDAY
AT PACIFIC
30 SUNDAY

MAY

AT YORK
5 FRIDAY
VS VANCOUVER
19 FRIDAY
AT ATL. OTTAWA
27 SATURDAY
VS YORK
31 WEDNESDAY

JUNE

AT CAVALRY
3 SATURDAY
AT VALOUR
16 FRIDAY
VS ATL. OTTAWA
25 SUNDAY
VS PACIFIC
10 SATURDAY
AT VANCOUVER
20 TUESDAY
AT HFX WANDERERS
30 FRIDAY

JULY

AT YORK
9 SUNDAY
AT VALOUR
15 SATURDAY
AT PACIFIC
21 FRIDAY
VS VANCOUVER
28 FRIDAY

AUGUST

AT FORGE
4 FRIDAY
VS YORK
12 SATURDAY
VS HFX WANDERERS
19 SATURDAY
AT ATL. OTTAWA
26 SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER

AT VANCOUVER
3 SUNDAY
AT VALOUR
17 SUNDAY
AT HFX WANDERERS
23 SATURDAY
VS CAVALRY
9 SATURDAY
VS PACIFIC
23 SATURDAY

OCTOBER

AT ATL. OTTAWA
7 SATURDAY

FORGE HISTORY

The most successful team since the creation of the league, Forge has claimed the CPL Championship title (North Star Shield) in three out of their four seasons. Forge has played in the CONCACAF League on multiple occasions, holding their best participation in 2021 when they reached the semifinals. In 2022, they became the first Canadian team to compete in the CONCACAF Champions League, where they were defeated by the historic Mexican team, Cruz Azul.

PR CONTACTS

Nico Correa
Manager, Communications and Media Relations
ncorrea@forgefootball.club
(905) 320-3571





HFX WANDERERS FC

CITY: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
 STADIUM: WANDERERS GROUNDS
 HEAD COACH: PATRICE GHEISAR
 2022 RECORD: 8-5-15
 2022 TOP SCORER: SAMUEL SALTER

LEAGUE TITLES: 0
 NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 0

FOUNDED: 2018

Twitter @HFXWANDERERSFC

Instagram @HFXWANDERERSFC

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

AT ATL. OTTAWA
15 SATURDAY

AT FORGE
22 SATURDAY

VS VANCOUVER
29 SATURDAY

MAY

AT VALOUR
6 SATURDAY

AT CALGARY
13 SATURDAY

VS YORK
20 SATURDAY

AT PACIFIC
27 SATURDAY

JUNE

AT ATL. OTTAWA
3 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
10 SATURDAY

VS CAVALRY
17 SATURDAY

AT YORK
21 WEDNESDAY

VS FORGE
30 FRIDAY

JULY

AT VANCOUVER
7 FRIDAY

AT CALVALRY
15 SATURDAY

AT YORK
30 SUNDAY

AT PACIFIC
11 TUESDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
22 SATURDAY

AUGUST

VS PACIFIC
7 MONDAY

VS VANCOUVER
12 SATURDAY

AT FORGE
19 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
26 SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER

VS YORK
4 MONDAY

VS CAVALRY
12 TUESDAY

AT VANCOUVER
23 SATURDAY

AT PACIFIC
8 FRIDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
16 SATURDAY

VS FORGE
30 SATURDAY

OCTOBER

AT VALOUR
6 FRIDAY

WANDERERS HISTORY

Halifax Wanderers have become one of the most attended fan bases in the Canadian Premier League. The Wanderers best season performance was participating in the 2020 finals in Prince Edward Island, after a bubble tournament due to COVID.

PR CONTACTS

Ryan Brandt
 Manager, Communications
ryan.brandt@hfxwanderersfc.ca
 (902) 399-5928





PACIFIC FC

CITY: LANGFORD, B.C.
STADIUM: STARLIGHT STADIUM
HEAD COACH: JAMES MERRIMAN
2022 RECORD: 13-7-8
2022 TOP SCORER: ALEJANDRO DIAZ

LEAGUE TITLES: 0
NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 1

FOUNDED: 2018

@PACIFICCPL

@PACIFICFOOTBALLCLUB

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

VS VANCOUVER
15 SATURDAY

VS CAVALRY
23 SUNDAY

VS FORGE
30 SUNDAY

MAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
6 SATURDAY

VS YORK
14 SUNDAY

AT VALOUR
20 SATURDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
27 SATURDAY

JUNE

AT VANCOUVER
2 FRIDAY

VS YORK
18 SUNDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
30 FRIDAY

AT FORGE
10 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
21 WEDNESDAY

JULY

VS CAVALRY
8 SATURDAY

AT YORK
14 FRIDAY

AT VALOUR
29 SATURDAY

AT HFX WANDERERS
11 TUESDAY

VS FORGE
21 FRIDAY

AUGUST

AT HFX WANDERERS
7 MONDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
13 SUNDAY

AT VANCOUVER
19 SATURDAY

AT CAVALRY
27 SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER

VS VALOUR
2 SATURDAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
13 WEDNESDAY

AT FORGE
23 SATURDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
8 FRIDAY

AT YORK
17 SUNDAY

VS VANCOUVER
30 SATURDAY

OCTOBER

AT CAVALRY
7 SATURDAY

PACIFIC HISTORY

Pacific FC was the last of the original seven teams to be confirmed for the inaugural 2019 season. The Tridents are only one of two teams that have won the league and raised the North Star Shield. Pacific FC is also known for it's well attended home matches, making Starlight Stadium one of the most difficult for teams to visit.

PR CONTACTS

Trisha Lees
PR & Communications
tlees@pacificfc.ca
(250) 857-5655





VALOUR FC

CITY: WINNIPEG
STADIUM: INVESTORS GROUP FIELD
HEAD COACH: PHILIP DOS SANTOS
2022 RECORD: 10-7-11
2022 TOP SCORER: MOSES DYER

LEAGUE TITLES: 0
NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 0

FOUNDED: 2018

🐦 @VALOURFOOTBALLE

📷 @VALOURFC

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

VS VANCOUVER
15 SATURDAY

VS CAVALRY
23 SATURDAY

VS FORGE
30 SUNDAY

MAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
6 SATURDAY

VS YORK
14 SUNDAY

AT VALOUR
20 SATURDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
27 SATURDAY

JUNE

AT VANCOUVER
2 FRIDAY

VS YORK
18 SUNDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
30 FRIDAY

AT FORGE
10 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
21 WEDNESDAY

JULY

VS CAVALRY
8 SATURDAY

AT YORK
14 FRIDAY

AT VALOUR
29 SATURDAY

AT HFX WANDERERS
11 TUESDAY

VS FORGE
21 FRIDAY

AUGUST

AT HFX WANDERERS
7 MONDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
13 SUNDAY

AT VANCOUVER
19 SATURDAY

AT CAVALRY
27 SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER

VS VALOUR
2 SATURDAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
13 WEDNESDAY

AT FORGE
23 SATURDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
8 FRIDAY

AT YORK
17 SUNDAY

VS VANCOUVER
30 SATURDAY

OCTOBER

AT CAVALRY
7 SATURDAY

VALOUR HISTORY

Valour was one of the two first clubs confirmed by the Canadian Soccer Association when the Canadian Premier League project was announced. The project is backed by the same ownership as the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Valour has yet to advance into the post season and will look to do so in 2023.

PR CONTACTS

Robert Ong
Manager, Communications and Social Media
rong@bluebombers.com/rong@valourfootball.club
(647) 920-4001





YORK UNITED

CITY:
STADIUM: YORK LIONS STADIUM
HEAD COACH: MARTIN NASH
2022 RECORD: 9-7-12
2022 TOP SCORER: OSAZE DE ROSARIO

LEAGUE TITLES: 0
NORTH STAR SHIELDS: 0

FOUNDED: 2018

@HANDLE

@HANDLE

2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

VS VANCOUVER
15 SATURDAY

VS CAVALRY
23 SATURDAY

VS FORGE
30 SUNDAY

MAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
6 SATURDAY

VS YORK
14 SUNDAY

AT VALOUR
20 SATURDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
27 SATURDAY

JUNE

AT VANCOUVER
2 FRIDAY

VS YORK
18 SUNDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
30 FRIDAY

AT FORGE
10 SATURDAY

VS VALOUR
21 WEDNESDAY

JULY

VS CAVALRY
8 SATURDAY

AT YORK
14 FRIDAY

AT VALOUR
29 SATURDAY

AT HFX WANDERERS
11 TUESDAY

VS FORGE
21 FRIDAY

AUGUST

AT HFX WANDERERS
7 MONDAY

VS ATL. OTTAWA
13 SUNDAY

AT VANCOUVER
19 SATURDAY

AT CAVALRY
27 SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER

VS VALOUR
2 SATURDAY

AT ATL. OTTAWA
13 WEDNESDAY

AT FORGE
23 SATURDAY

VS HFX WANDERERS
8 FRIDAY

AT YORK
17 SUNDAY

VS VANCOUVER
30 SATURDAY

OCTOBER

AT CAVALRY
7 SATURDAY

YORK HISTORY

York United, originally named York9 FC, is one of the two teams located in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Although they have not had the success of their neighbours, Forge FC, York has constantly developed players, including Canadian National Team defender Dominic Zantor, who signed with the Polish team, Korona Kielce.

PR CONTACTS

Eoin O'Callaghan
Vice-President, Content and Communication Strategy
eoin.ocallaghan@yorkunitedfc.ca
(647) 554-3644



VANCOUVER FOOTBALL CLUB

GENERAL INFO

GENERAL INFORMATION

Media availability is arranged based on individual request. Any media who would like to speak to a member of Vancouver FC must contact Katelyn White, PR & Communications Coordinator, to schedule an interview.

Media who wish to be added to Vancouver FC's distribution list can do so by emailing media@vancouverfc.com to inform your intent of being included.

Any general inquiries can be sent to media@vancouverfc.com.

Katelyn White
PR & Communications Coordinator
katelyn.white@vancouverfc.com

HOME TRAINING

Media who wish to film Vancouver FC training sessions are asked to contact Katelyn White by email with any requests to shoot.

Media are prohibited from conducting interviews with Vancouver FC players / coaches / football staff prior to or post training without the express, written permission from a Vancouver FC staff member.

HOME MATCHDAY I PRE-MATCH

The press box will be open to media two hours prior to kick off. Media must show their credentials and proceed to their designated seating.

Wifi is available to media on the network: and the password is:

HOME MATCHDAY I POST-MATCH

Post-match press conferences will commence no later than 15-minutes after the final whistle. Vancouver FC's post-match availabilities will be hosted in Locker Room #1 in the field house at the south side of the stadium.

Head coaches and one player from each team will be made available to speak at the press conference.

CREDENTIALS

For single match credential requests, please fill out the following form:
<https://forms.gle/7RQyoSPdTARcmP9w8>

Please note that full-season credential requests have now closed. Credentials are vetted on a case-by-case basis and Vancouver FC holds the right to deny credential access.

Credentials will be available for pick up two hours prior to kick off from the front office of Vancouver FC (located near Gate 4 of the Langley Event Centre).

In addition to a credential, photographers must wear a bib which will be distributed prior to the start of the match. Photographers without a bib are not permitted to capture footage. All bibs and single- match credentials must be returned at the end of each match.

AWAY MATCHDAYS

Credential requests for away matches must be submitted to the host club's communications department.

MATCH DOCUMENTS

For Media who would like to receive match documents, please contact Katelyn White to be included on Vancouver FC's distribution list. Match documents include:

Pre-Match Availability Release
Match Notes
Match Day Information Release.

Post-match press conference Zoom links will be provided in the match documents.

USEFUL LINKS

[Single Match Credential Request](#)
[Vancouver FC Website](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

OUR STADIUM



Vancouver FC's stadium is the first of its kind in the Lower Mainland, created specifically to host soccer matches at the highest professional level. The brand new stadium can seat 6,500 fans and features a supporters' section in the South Grandstand.

"We are excited to provide a proper football experience for every fan that walks through our doors and to see this stadium come to life in the near future," said Rob Friend, President and Owner, Vancouver FC.

Vancouver FC will offer many exciting activities that will be fun for all ages. A key feature to the off-pitch entertainment is Vancouver FC's Family Zone. VFC's youngest fans will have an opportunity to have a great experience including inflatable games, face painters, and live music from local DJs.

"This stadium will become the heartbeat of the community for years to come and is a very flexible amenity that can expand as the sport of soccer continues to grow in Canada." said Dean Shillington, Owner, Vancouver FC. "We hope to create a true, authentic soccer destination for all."

OUR PURPOSE

LEAD THE WAY FOR A NEW SOCCER IN CANADA

A DAY WHEN ALL YOUNG PEOPLE CAN SEE OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER THEMSELVES THROUGH SOCCER, AND SPORT PERFORMANCE IS REDEFINED TO INCLUDE HOW WE CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

VFC is committed to being a professional team that commits more to its community than it takes out, in the pursuit of growing soccer in Canada.



OUR IDENTITY

OUR IDENTITY IS BASED AROUND 3 ESSENTIAL IDEAS: HONOURING OUR SPORTING PAST, CELEBRATING OUR REGION, AND UNITING THE SOUTH COAST.

AN ICON FOR THE SOUTH COAST

WINGS

The wings mirror the rising cables that unite the Lower Mainland, bridge by bridge. The lines also echo the fields of the Fraser Valley and the potential of what grows and thrives here at home.



THE EAGLE

From the mountains, to the sea, to Lhá:It, the largest gathering spot for bald eagles in the world, the eagle dominates the environment. Their strength, style and grace turns heads wherever they soar.

THE V

The V has adorned some of the greatest athletes to grace the arenas and sports fields of the South Coast. From Percy Williams to Tiger Williams, we are proud to carry on the legacy.

OUR MASCOT

TO BE UNVEILED...





2023

VANCOUVER FOOTBALL CLUB