



NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE 2023 MATCH NOTES

Media Contact: Jake Levy II (856) 304-7008 || jlevy@northcarolinafc.com



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	W, 1-0
May 20	Angel City FC	D, 0-0
May 27	at Racing Louisville	W, 1-2
June 3	at KC Current	L, 1-0
June 10	at Chicago Red Stars	W, 0-5
June 14	at Washington Spirit*	W, 1-2
June 17	Orlando Pride	W, 3-0
June 24	Racing Louisville	W, 1-0
July 1	Houston Dash	W, 1-0
July 9	at Angel City FC	L, 2-1
July 22	Washington Spirit*	W, 6-0
July 29	Orlando Pride*	W, 5-0
Aug. 5	at NJ/NY Gotham*	L, 2-0
Aug. 20	at Portland Thorns	L, 2-1
Aug. 27	Chicago Red Stars	D, 1-1
Sept. 2	NJ/NY Gotham	7:30 PM
Sept. 6	at Kansas City^	8:00 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

^Challenge Cup semifinal (Kansas City, MO)

All times Eastern

THE MATCHUP (NWSL REGULAR SEASON)



NWSL LEAGUE MATCH #18 - HOME #10

NC Courage (8-6-3, 27 points, 2nd)

vs

NJ/NY Gotham FC (7-5-5, 26 points, 4th)

Saturday, September 2, 2023 | 7:30 p.m. ET

WakeMed Soccer Park | Cary, North Carolina



BROADCAST INFO

Regional: Bally Sports South/Bally App

Play-by-play: Dean Linke

Analysts: Kendall White / Andrew Tait

NWSL: Paramount+

Play-by-play: Maura Sheridan

Analyst: Renee Washington

OFFICIALS

REF: Abdou Ndiaye

AR1: Jeremy Smith

AR2: Katarzyna Wasiak

4TH: Bryson Condrey

VAR: Karen Coulson

AVAR: Benjamin Wooten

KICKING OFF...

LAST TIME OUT: The Courage took an early lead over the Chicago Red Stars, but had a red card just minutes later in what would end a 1-1 draw last Sunday. The Courage had several big opportunities, including a PK chance and a shot off woodwork, but split the points to go 1-0-1 with the Red Stars this season. The goal allowed, which came in the 63', was the first allowed by the Courage at home since May 6 (all competitions).

CAROLINA STRONG: The Courage will hold a pregame moment of silence and Tar Heel blue tape will be worn by players Saturday as a show of solidarity with the UNC Chapel Hill community after an on-campus fatal shooting of a faculty member earlier this week.

PASSING GRADE: The Courage lead the NWSL in passing accuracy (81.81), successful passes (7,048), and possession (59.04). Gotham ranks second in possession (54.4)

BATTER UP: The Courage, the second-youngest roster in the NWSL, are seeking their first win against the most veteran lineup in the league in Gotham Saturday. The Courage fell in both trips to Harrison this season and earned a 1-1 draw at home back in early May. The Courage are 9W-4L-2D in lifetime regular season meetings with Gotham.

STAT COMPARISON

NCC	STAT	NJY
22	GOALS	18
130	SHOTS	171
17	ASSISTS	9
74	CORNER KICKS	100
16	GOALS AGAINST	16
8	CLEAN SHEETS	5
59.1	POSSESSION	54.4
81.8	PASS ACCURACY	74.6
160	FOULS CONCEDED	183
16	YELLOW CARDS	29
1	RED CARDS	0

NWSL REGULAR SEASON TABLE (as of Sept. 1)

Rk	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	PTS	GD	LAST 5
1	Portland Thorns	17	8	5	4	29	+14	DWLLW
2	North Carolina Courage	17	8	3	6	27	+7	DLLWW
3	San Diego Wave	17	8	3	6	27	+5	WWDLL
4	NJ/NY Gotham	17	7	5	5	26	+2	DLWDW
5	Washington Spirit	17	6	8	3	26	+1	DDDLL
6	OL Reign	17	7	3	7	24	+3	LLLDW
7	Orlando Pride	17	7	1	9	22	-2	LWWWL
8	Racing Louisville	17	4	9	4	21	+3	DDWDL
9	Angel City FC	17	5	6	6	21	-4	WDWDD
10	Houston Dash	17	4	8	5	20	-2	DDLLD
11	Kansas City Current	17	6	1	10	19	-8	DWLWW
12	Chicago Red Stars	17	5	2	10	17	-19	DLWWL

2023 NC COURAGE MATCH NOTES vs GOTHAM FC | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023 - 7:30 p.m. ET

CARY, N.C. (Sept. 1, 2023) – The North Carolina Courage host Gotham FC in a critical NWSL showdown at WakeMed Soccer Park on Saturday, September 2, with kickoff slated for 7:30 p.m. ET. The holiday weekend showdown features two of the top four teams in the league table with five matches left regular season.

The Courage looked to return to form early last Sunday, quickly integrating players new to the roster and returning from the World Cup. They struck for an early goal and had dominant possession and passing stats, but a straight red card was shown 20 minutes in, forcing the Courage had to battle down a player for over an hour. A set piece goal for Chicago and some near misses for North Carolina saw the match end in a 1-1 draw.

There were still plenty of positives to take away for this young Courage group. The squad showed resilience, grit, and unwavering effort in the intense heat. Regardless of results, this team's heart has been unquestionable all season long. Manaka Matsukubo was as advertised in her NWSL debut while Kerolin Nicoli was dangerous as ever in her return to club action.

For all the ups and downs, the Courage – predicted to finish near the bottom of the table at the start of the year – enter the final quarter of the regular season in second place and are very real contenders for not just playoffs, but the NWSL Shield, and they will play in a UGG Challenge Cup semifinal next week. Regardless of how the rest of the season plays out, this is a team that has massively outperformed external expectations and has made the club and its supporters proud to be a part of Courage Country.

The Matchup

The Courage, the second-youngest roster in the NWSL, are seeking their first win against the most veteran lineup in the league Saturday. This will be the fourth, and final, meeting between the clubs in 2023 between regular season and Challenge Cup group play. North Carolina fell in both trips to Harrison this season and earned a 1-1 draw at home back in early May. The Courage are 9W-4L-2D in lifetime regular season meetings with Gotham.

Scouting Gotham

This weekend is the penultimate road trip for Gotham this season, with three of their last four matches at Red Bull Arena. A veteran roster brimming with proven professional talent, Gotham's stark turnaround from a lackluster 2022 to contending 2023 is no surprise. They're even with the Courage for second-fewest goals conceded this season, lead the NWSL in tackle success and rank second in tackles won. Familiar face Lynn Williams has been the focal point of the Gotham attack, netting seven goals on 49 shots this season.

Wrapping Up

A Courage win guarantees first or second in the standings after the weekend while a draw keeps them in the top three. While North Carolina can't drop from playoff positioning regardless of result, the compact standings make every point critical down the stretch. With just two home fixtures left, Courage Country's support for the home field advantage Saturday will be key.

NOTABLES CONTINUED

SUNNY AND 75: The Courage next regular season win will be the 75th in club history. Only three other clubs have hit this milestone.

CLEANING UP: The Courage lead the NWSL with eight clean sheets this season. Casey Murphy became the youngest player in league history, and fourth overall, to reach the 30 milestone (regular season only) earlier this season.

MINUTES STREAK: The Courage went 460 regular season minutes without conceding between the 8' on June 3 in Kansas City and the 18' on July 10 in Los Angeles. The streak is longest in the NWSL this season and ranks fifth all-time in league history.

LUSSI ENDS: Tyler Lussi has five goals this season, four of which have been game-winners in 1-0 Courage victories. Lussi now has 12 goals for her career with her teams 11-1 when she scores after the loss last Sunday.

IRON WOMAN 2: Kaleigh Kurtz is the lone Courage player remaining on the Iron Woman list for the 2023 regular season. She was an iron woman for the Courage in 2022 as well and is one of four 2022 Iron Women to still be in the running in 2023.

KERO COOKS AT HOME: Kerolin's assist on Sunday was her fifth in her NWSL career with all five coming at home. Only Meleana Shim (8) has more career NWSL assists with all of them coming at home.

2023 NC COURAGE MATCH NOTES vs GOTHAM FC | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023 - 7:30 p.m. ET

#	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)
16	Riley Jackson	M	5-6	12/2/05	Roswell, GA (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 (SEI)	M	5-3	2/1/93	Rockville Centre, NY (USA)
26	Clara Robbins (SEI)	M	5-7	9/12/98	Stafford, VA (USA)
27	Rikako Kobayashi	M	5-3	7/21/97	Kobe, Hyogo, Japan (JAP)
28	Tess Boade	F	5-4	2/3/99	Highlands Ranch, CO (USA)
34	Manaka Matsukubo	M	5-1	7/28/04	Sendai, Japan (JAP)
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

Operations Staff: Kathryn Page, Matt Holmes, Jessica Segalla, Lexi Stewart

Athletic Training: Brian Maddox, Katie Rosenthal

Strength & Performance: Mike Young

SEI – Season-Ending Injury

RECORD WHEN...

Split	W-D-L
Home	5-3-1
Away	3-0-5
Day	2-1-0
Night (After 5 p.m. local)	6-2-6
Turf	0-0-1
Grass	8-2-5
Scoring first	8-2-2
Opp. scores first	0-0-4
Leading at half	5-2-0
Tied at half	3-1-4
Trailing at half	0-0-2
Scoring 0 goals	0-1-2
Scoring 1 goal	5-1-4
Scoring 2+ goals	3-1-0
Allowing 0 goals	7-1-0
Allowing 1 goal	1-1-2
Allowing 2+ goals	0-1-4
More shots than opp.	5-1-1
Fewer shots than opp.	2-2-5
Even shots	1-0-0
More corners than opp.	3-2-5
Fewer corners than opp.	4-1-1
Even corners	1-0-0
March	1-0-0
April	1-0-3
May	2-2-0
June	3-0-1
July	1-0-1
August	0-1-1
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	6-2-4
Sunday	1-1-2

REGULAR SEASON STATS (sorted by minutes)

Player	Games	Starts	Min	Goals	Assists	Shots	Pass %	TKL Won	TKL %	Fouls	Yellows	Reds
Kurtz, Kaleigh	17	17	1492	0	1	3	82.93	10	58.82	8	1	0
Williams, Ryan	17	17	1475	0	1	1	81.9	21	58.33	14	2	0
Miura, Narumi	17	17	1463	0	3	11	85.97	33	60	16	0	0
O'Sullivan, Denise	15	15	1305	1	1	4	85.84	30	52.63	23	3	0
Kerolin	14	14	1196	8	1	30	78.98	9	81.82	14	2	0
Fox, Emily	14	14	1153	0	1	4	85.22	10	62.5	10	0	1
Berkely, Malia	13	13	1125	0	0	3	90.15	7	50	5	0	0
Lussi, Tyler	15	11	928	5	0	23	68.25	6	42.86	12	1	0
Pickett, Kiki	9	7	698	0	1	1	80.92	9	60	5	2	0
Speck, Meredith	10	9	633	1	0	3	81.07	11	64.71	9	1	0
Madsen, Rikke	13	7	594	1	1	4	71.83	6	60	11	0	0
Gejl, Mille	11	6	435	2	1	8	73.14	5	55.56	7	2	0
Wingate, Olivia	14	1	409	0	3	8	67.57	2	66.67	1	0	0
Boade, Tess	7	6	370	1	2	8	81.31	6	100	2	0	0
Pinto, Brianna	8	3	354	1	0	6	78.67	5	83.33	9	2	0
Ratcliffe, Brittany	7	4	342	0	0	5	86.21	4	66.67	2	0	0
Tagliaferri, Frankie	7	3	250	0	1	0	77.78	2	100	1	0	0
Pickett, Victoria	9	2	246	1	0	3	84.52	6	66.67	4	0	0
Hopkins, Haley	8	1	155	0	0	1	69.23	0		5	0	0
Robbins, Clara	2	1	91	0	0	2	69.44	1	25	1	0	0
Matsukubo, Manaka	1	1	75	0	0	2	74.07	0	0	0	0	0
Farrow, Millie	2	1	48	0	0	0	57.14	1	100	0	0	0
Collins, Sydney	2	0	14	0	0	0	80	5	100	1	0	0
Player	Games	Starts	Minutes	SOT Faced	Saves	Goals	Save %	Clean Sheets	Yellows			
Murphy, Casey	15	15	1312	52	38	14	73.08	7	0			
Rowland, Katelyn	2	2	180	9	7	2	77.78	1	0			

AVAILABILITY REPORT

Player	Designation	Reason
Emily Gray (SEI)	OUT	Knee
Estelle Johnson	QUESTIONABLE	Lower Leg
Clara Robbins (SEI)	OUT	Lower Leg
Meredith Speck (SEI)	OUT	Right Knee
Rikako Kobayashi	OUT	Left Knee
Rikke Madsen	OUT	Left Knee
Emily Fox	OUT	Suspension (red card)

STATISTICAL REGULAR SEASON INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Courage Game Highs

Goals	Kerolin.....	3 (6/10 at CHI)
Assists	Several	1
Shots (ex. blocks)	Kerolin.....	6 (6/10 at CHI)
Fouls	O'Sullivan	5 (6/24 vs. LOU)
Fouls won	O'Sullivan	7 (6/3 at KC)
Clears	Kurtz	12 (3/25 vs. KCC)
Interceptions	O'Sullivan	7 (6/24 vs. LOU)
Tackles	O'Sullivan	5 (4/23 at NJY)
Saves	Murphy	7 (5/6 vs. POR)
Goals Allowed	Murphy	3 (2x)

Courage Season Highs

Goals	Kerolin.....	8
Assists	Narumi/Wingate	3
Shots	Kerolin.....	30
Fouls Given	O'Sullivan	23
Fouls won	O'Sullivan	24
Clears	Kurtz	63
Interceptions	Williams	26
Tackles	Narumi	33
Saves	Murphy	38
Goals Allowed	Murphy	14

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	W, 1-0	Tyler Lussi - 34' (Madsen)
5/20	Angel City	D, 0-0	--
5/27	at Louisville	W, 1-2	Rikke Madsen - 57' (Williams); Kerolin Nicoli - 61' (Narumi)
6/3	at Kansas City	L, 1-0	--
6/10	at Chicago	W, 0-5	Kerolin - 11' (Gejl), 34' (Kurtz), 60' (Boade); Gejl - 31' (O'Sullivan); O'Sullivan - 52' (Narumi)
6/14	at Wash*	W, 1-2	Brittany Ratcliffe - 62' (Tagliaferri); Olivia Wingate - 90+2' (Hopkins)
6/17	Orlando	W, 3-0	Kerolin - 32' (Boade); 77' - Meredith Speck (Wingate); Haley McCutcheon (OG)
6/24	Louisville	W, 1-0	Tyler Lussi - 73'
7/1	Houston	W, 1-0	Tyler Lussi - 59' (K. Pickett)
7/9	at Angel City	L, 2-1	Brianna Pinto - 16' (Tagliaferri)
7/22	Washington*	W, 6-0	Brittany Ratcliffe - 61' (Lussi); Frankie Tagliaferri - 65'; Olivia Wingate - 70' (Boade); Tess Boade - 72' (Lussi); Brianna Pinto - 80' (Hopkins); Narumi - 83'
7/29	Orlando*	W, 5-0	Brittany Ratcliffe - 17' (K. Pickett); Malia Berkely - 38' (P); Frankie Tagliaferri - 48'; Haley Hopkins - 78' (Wingate), 89' (S. Clark)
8/5	at Gotham*	L, 2-0	--
8/20	at Portland	L, 2-1	Tyler Lussi - 19'
8/27	Chicago	D, 1-1	Tess Boade - 14' (Kerolin)
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(s)	Award
Emily Fox	NWSL Best XI of March/April
Kerolin Nicoli	NWSL Player of Week 11
Kaleigh Kurtz, Kerolin, Casey Murphy	NWSL Best XI of June
Malia Berkely, Narumi	NWSL Best XI of July

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
June 26	Goalkeeper Hensley Hancuff signed to National Team Replacement contract
June 26	Defender Sarah Clark signed to National Team Replacement contract
June 26	Defender Nikia Smith signed to National Team Replacement contract
June 30	Midfielder Haleigh Stackpole signed to National Team Replacement contract
July 14	Midfielder Clara Robbins placed on Season-Ending Injury list (retroactive to May 30)
July 17	Midfielder Rikako Kobayashi signed as an International Free Agent
July 21	Defender Malia Berkely signed to three-year extension through 2026 season
July 21	Midfielder Meredith Speck placed on Season-Ending Injury list (retroactive to June 25)
July 26	Forward Millie Farrow contract bought out; Farrow becomes discovery-eligible
July 27	Midfielder Manaka Matsukubo acquired via transfer from Mynavi Sendai (Japan, WE League)
July 28	Midfielder Riley Jackson signed to three-year contract through NWSL U18 entry mechanism
August 15	Goalkeeper Hensley Hancuff extended through 2025
August 15	Goalkeeper Hensley Hancuff loaned to Växjö DFF (Swedish Damalsvenskan)
August 23	Defender Sarah Clark released (NTRP)
August 23	Midfielder Nikia Smith released (NTRP)
August 23	Midfielder Haleigh Stackpole released (NTRP)

HEAD COACH: SEAN NAHAS (25W-14D-18L 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 lead 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. 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)

- All-time Clean Sheet and keeper games played leader in club history
- 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

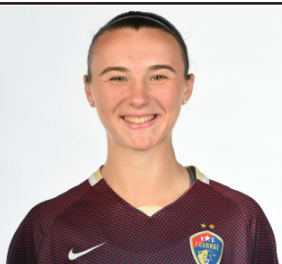


#3 KALEIGH KURTZ | DEF | 5-8 | DOB: 9/9/94 | NWSL EXP: 6th Year

"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-uh 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

- Scored first pro goal on June 14, 2023 with winner in UKG Challenge Cup match at Spirit
- Made 95 appearances with 74 starts for Notre Dame in five-year career (26 goals)
- 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

Acquired 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



#27 RIKAKO KOBAYASHI | MID | 5-3 | DOB: 7/21/97 | NWSL EXP: 1st Year

"ree-KAH-ko ko-BUY-AH-she" | **HOMETOWN:** Tokyo, Japan (JAP)

Signed as an international free agent on July 17, 2023

- Scored six goals with two assists in 18 matches with Tokyo Verdy Beleza in 2022-23
- Has 16 caps with the Japanese Senior National Team with four international goals
- Had an assist against Canada in the 2023 She Believes Cup
- Sister of fellow footballer Seigo Kobayashi



#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



#34 MANAKA MATSUKUBO | MID | 5-1 | DOB: 7/28/04 | NWSL EXP: 1st Year

"mah-nah-kuh MATT-soo-koo-bow" | **HOMETOWN:** Sendai, Japan (JAP)

Acquired via loan from Mynavi Sendai on July 27, 2023

- Scored four goals and dished five assists in first WE League season in 2022-23
- Appeared in 12 matches for Mynavi Sendai and played 1,075 minutes
- Has extensive experience in the JFA youth system, as high as the U-20 level
- On loan with Courage through June 2024, team option to purchase contract outright



#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... Played 50th career match on June 3
- 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