



# HARTFORD ATHLETIC GAME NOTES

## MEDIA INFORMATION

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AT



## GAME INFORMATION

**HARTFORD ATHLETIC 0-0-0 @ EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC 0-0-0**  
**ON THE TABLE: ON THE TABLE:**

Saturday, March 9th, 2024 - 9:00 PM ET  
Southwest University Park, El Paso, TX  
Local TV: MyTV9  
Streaming: ESPN+ or WTNH.com  
Online Updates: @HFDAthletic on Twitter  
Live Stats: USL MatchCenter

## INJURY REPORT:

**OUT: RENAN RIBEIRO, (QUAD INJURY), PELE OUSMANOU (QUAD INJURY), JORDAN SCARLETT (QUAD INJURY), MARLON HAIRSTON (CALF INJURY)**

## 2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (ET)	RESULT
March 9	@EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC	9:00 PM	
March 23	BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC	2:00 PM	
March 29	@NORTH CAROLINA FC	7:00 PM	
April 06	MIAMI FC	2:00 PM	
April 20	SAN ANTONIO FC	5:00 PM	
April 27	@LOUISVILLE CITY FC	7:30 PM	
May 04	@CHARLESTON BATTERY	6:30 PM	
May 11	COLORADO SPRINGS	7:00 PM	
May 18	@INDY ELEVEN	7:00 PM	
May 24	MONTEREY BAY FC	7:30 PM	
June 01	RHODE ISLAND FC	7:00 PM	
June 08	@NEW MEXICO UNITED	9:00 PM	
June 15	PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS	7:00 PM	
June 21	TAMPA BAY ROWDIES	7:30 PM	
June 29	@SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC	11:00 PM	
July 03	@LOUDOUN UNITED FC	7:30 PM	
July 12	CHARLESTON BATTERY	7:30 PM	
July 20	@PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS	7:00 PM	
July 26	PHOENIX RISING FC	7:30 PM	
July 31	DETROIT CITY FC	7:30 PM	
August 03	@BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC	7:30 PM	
August 10	@RHODE ISLAND FC	7:30 PM	
August 17	LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC	7:00 PM	
August 24	LOUISVILLE CITY FC	7:00 PM	
August 31	@DETROIT CITY FC	7:00 PM	
September 07	INDY ELEVEN	7:00 PM	
September 11	@MEMPHIS 901 FC	8:00 PM	
September 14	@MIAMI FC	7:00 PM	
September 21	OAKLAND ROOTS SC	7:00 PM	
September 28	@TAMPA BAY ROWDIES	7:30 PM	
October 05	LOUDOUN UNITED	7:00 PM	
October 12	NORTH CAROLINA FC	7:30 PM	
October 19	@FC TULSA	6:00 PM	
October 26	ORANGE COUNTY SC	10:00 PM	

## BRAND GUIDELINES

2024 is the club's sixth season. On first reference, use "Hartford Athletic." On following references, "Hartford," "Athletic," or "The Green and Blue" are acceptable. "The Hartford Athletic," or "The Athletic," are incorrect and must be avoided.



## HEAD COACH, GENERAL MANAGER **BRENDAN BURKE**

On December 12th, 2023, Brendan Burke was named the Head Coach and General Manager of Hartford Athletic. Born in Massachusetts, Burke spent two seasons as Head Coach of the Colorado Springs Switchbacks, and added the role of General Manager for the 2022 campaign before being signed as Assistant Coach of MLS' Houston Dynamo. In his time in Colorado Springs, Burke took over a two-win club in 2020 leading a resurgence that saw his club earn two trips to the USL Championship playoffs, a first ever trip to the Western Conference Finals, and a 30-23-13 overall record. Burke also earned USL Championship Coach of the Month honors in April of 2022 and was nominated as a finalist for the league's Coach of the Year award in 2021. Burke is the sixth Head Coach in Club history, and brings the most proven success with a 146-99-72 record as a professional.



## ASSISTANT COACH **AARON WHEELER**

Aaron Wheeler, 35, comes to Hartford for his first coaching job in the USL Championship after retiring from an extensive 11-year playing career at the professional level in November of 2023. He made his debut in 2010 with FC Tampa Bay (NASL), and went on to make 25 appearances in MLS with Philadelphia Union across the 2013 and 2014 seasons. He originally retired in 2017, but made his return as a player for Brendan Burke and the Switchbacks in 2022 and was a part of their run to the Western Conference Finals that season. The striker scored two goals off the bench in their 3-0 win over RGV in the Quarterfinals. Wheeler is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and he is joined in Hartford by his wife Ashli and daughter.



## GOALKEEPER COACH **DAN GASPAR**

On September 29, 2022, Dan Gaspar was announced as Hartford Athletic's Goalkeeper Coach and Assistant Coach. Gaspar, a Glastonbury, Connecticut native, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the club. Over the last 30 years, he has coached eight different national teams, three collegiate teams, and six other professional clubs. He made a seven-year run as Assistant Coach of the Iranian National Team from 2011-2018 where he worked with Hartford Assistant Coach Omid Namazi. The two of them assisted former Real Madrid Head Coach Carlos Queiroz. Over Gaspar's seven year stretch, he helped the team reach two FIFA World Cups, including a first place finish in their qualification group and third place finish in the group stage in 2018 behind Portugal and Spain. Before joining the Iranian National Team Staff, Gaspar was on the technical staff of the Portuguese National Team during their World Cup run to the round of 16 in 2010.

## THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

Hartford Athletic named Brendan Burke their Head Coach and General Manager this offseason in December. As the sixth Head Coach for a young club searching for consistency, Burke stands out from the other five coaches in Club history. He has the most proven success at the professional level and most importantly, in the USL Championship. He's coached five seasons in the league, and led Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC to a 30-23-13 record over two seasons in his most recent Championship stint. His run with the Switchbacks included a Western Conference Finals appearance in 2022. The only other coach to win a USL Championship playoff game prior to taking the reins in Hartford was Jimmy Nielsen (hired in 2019). The New England native (Hopedale, Massachusetts) has returned close to home to work with former colleague and CEO of Hartford Athletic, Nick Sakiewicz. The pair worked together in the beginning of Burke's coaching career when he was Head Coach of Philadelphia Union II (formerly Bethlehem Steel FC), and Sakiewicz was CEO of the Union in the early 2010s.

## REVAMPED ROSTER - DEFENSE

Burke and his staff have had a busy offseason, revamping Hartford's roster with 24 new signings (just four returners). Joe Farrell and Jordan Scarlett have both been to USL Championship Final matches as starters, and Thomas Vancaeyezeele (2nd Team All-League 2019, 1st Team All-League 2020) is primed to make a successful return to the USL Championship after a brief stint overseas. Rece Buckmaster has been consistently reliable in the back through his five year career so far (over 100 appearances in Championship), and Joey Akpunonu adds a physical presence to Hartford's back line options.

## BETWEEN THE POSTS

Hartford Athletic's goalkeeping unit is headlined by former Liga Portugal keeper Renan Ribeiro, but the 29 year old is nursing a quad injury and is out for Saturday's match. The Club signed Paul Walters on loan from FC Cincinnati this week, adding their fifth goalkeeper to the roster. Brooks Thompson (2023 League One Champion with North Carolina), Greg Monroe, and academy signing Justin DiCarlo follow.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Hartford Athletic have opened all five of their season-opening matches on the road, posting a 2-3 record. They have not won an opening match since 2021.

## PRESEASON RECAP

Hartford Athletic played a healthy preseason slate of five matches, two of which were against MLS opponents: They lost 1-0 to the New York Red Bulls at Red Bull Arena, tied the Colorado Rapids 2-2 in Florida, beat the UNC in two abbreviated scrimmages at Chapel Hill (both 2-1 victories), beat the New York Red Bulls II 6-2 at home, and tied Philadelphia Union II 3-3 at home. The team has been training in the brand new Day Hill Dome (95,000 square-feet), which opened in December across the street from the Club's front office building in Windsor, CT. "The shape is going to have to evolve over the first three to five games," said Coach Burke earlier this week. "... Real games are always played at a different pace and intensity. We have a lot of attacking talent and we have a good group in terms of chemistry. The communication level could come up a little bit, but the understanding, these guys have never played together, there is some positional understanding that only comes with three to five games."

## MATCHUP HISTORY

Hartford and El Paso have matched up just twice before. They played to a 1-1 tie at Southwest University Park in June of 2022, and El Paso bested Hartford 2-0 at Trinity Health Stadium last August. The three total goals across both games were scored by members of Locomotive FC who remain on the team today: Diego Abarca, Aaron Gómez, and Petar Petrovic.

## REVAMPED ROSTER - ATTACK/MIDFIELD

On the attacking side, Hartford brought in Michee Ngalina (2022 USL Championship Young Player of the Year), Romario Williams (15 goals last year), Enoch Mushagalusa, and Marcus Epps, who have scored a combined 150 professional goals. Senegalese striker Mamadou Dieng (19 years old) made an impression this offseason by scoring against MLS side Colorado Rapids in a preseason match as well. MLS-experienced Jay Chapman and Marlon Hairston were added to the midfield, along with Anderson Asiedu. Academy signing Ian Shaul joins the team after impressive years with Portland Timbers 2, and Emmanuel Samadia (Sierra Leone) will make his American soccer debut with his first appearance this year.

## IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR...

Hartford finished last in the Championship in 2023 with a 4-24-6 record. They gave up the most goals in the league (79), and were outscored by opponents 78-39.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## 2024 HARTFORD ATHLETIC STATS

NO	NAME	POS	GP	GS	MIN	G	A	SH	Y	R
3	Joey Akpunonu	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Jordan Scarlett	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Triston Hodge	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Beverly Makangila	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Marcus Epps	FW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jay Chapman	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Romario Williams	FW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Danny Barrera	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Michee Ngalina	FW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Anderson Asiedu	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Joe Farrell	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Kyle Edwards	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Joe Schmidt	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Rece Buckmaster	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Thomas Vancaeyezeele	FW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Pele Ousmanou	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Emmanuel Samadia	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Deshane Beckford	FW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Mamadou Dieng	FW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Ian Shaul	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
77	Enoch Mushagalusa	DF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
94	Marlon Hairston	MF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

  

NO	NAME	POS	GP	GS	MIN	GA	GAA	SOG	SV	CS
1	Greg Monroe	GK	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
22	Brooks Thompson	GK	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
25	Paul Walters	GK	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
40	Renan Ribeiro	GK	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
44	Justin DiCarlo	GK	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0

## 2024 REGULAR SEASON STATS

### GOALS

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### SHOTS

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### ASSISTS

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### SOG

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### FOULS CONCEDED

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### OFFSIDES

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### CAUTIONS

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

### EJECTIONS

	1	2	TOTAL
Hartford Athletic	0	0	0
Opponent	0	0	0

# THE LAST TIME HARTFORD ATHLETIC...

**Clean Sheet For** July 22, 2023 2-0 @ LV  
**Clean Sheet Against** August 26th, 2023, 2-0 vs. ELP  
**Brace For** Prince Saydee, October 4th, 2023 vs RGV  
**Brace Against** Albert Dikwa, PIT, Aug 23, 2023  
**Hat Trick For** Andre Lewis, Oct 1, 2022 vs CHS  
**Hat Trick Against** Joaquín Rivas, MIA, Aug 19, 2023  
**Penalty Kick For** Oct 4, 2023, vs RGV (Made - Saydee)  
**Penalty Kick Against** 9/16/23 MEM (Made - Lapa)  
**Reduced to 10 Men** August 5, 2023, vs NM (2-1 W)  
**Opponent Reduced to 10 Men** June 10, 2023 @ IND (1-1 T)  
**Own Goal For** Beverly Makangila, vs TB, Sept 27, 2023

**Own Goal Against** Rashid Tetteh, TUL, July 15, 2023  
**Won by 2 Goals** July 22, 2023, 2-0 @ LV  
**Won by 3 Goals** October 1, 2022, 6-3 vs CHS  
**Won by 4+ Goals** June 5, 2021, 7-0 vs NYRBII  
**Lost by 2 Goals** September 30th, 2023, 2-0 @ MIA  
**Lost by 3 Goals** October 13, 2023, 5-2 vs TUL  
**Lost by 4 Goals** Sept. 28, 2019, 4-0 at CLT  
**Lost by 5 Goals** Sept. 12, 2020, 5-0 at PIT  
**Earliest Goal For** Harry Swartz, 15 seconds, June 1, 2019  
**Earliest Goal Against** J. Castellano :18, @NYRBII, 8/31/22  
**Largest Margin of Victory** 7-0, June 5, 2021 vs NYRBII

# 2024 HARTFORD ATHLETIC

## 2024 RECORD WHEN

At Home	0-0-0
On the Road	0-0-0
On Grass	0-0-0
On Artificial Turf	0-0-0
Wearing Green	0-0-0
Wearing Teal	0-0-0
Scoring First	0-0-0
Conceding First	0-0-0
Leading at Halftime	0-0-0
Tied at Halftime	0-0-0
Trailing at Halftime	0-0-0

## W-L-D

## ALL-TIME LEADERS

### Goals

1. Danny Barrera (16)
2. Juan Carlos Obregón Jr. (15)
3. Prince Saydee (13)

### Assists

1. Danny Barrera (30)
2. Prince Saydee (11)
3. P. Etaka, G. Torres, R. Dally (5)

### Saves

1. Jeff Caldwell (108)
2. Frederick Due (74)
3. Yannik Oetl (69)

# USL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

AS OF 03/07/24

# HARTFORD ATHLETIC ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	HOMETOWN	NATIONALITY	DOB	LAST CLUB
1	Greg Monroe	GK	6'4"	190	Clifton, NY	USA	01/03/00	Austin FC II
3	Joey Akpunonu •	DF	6'3"	185	Toledo, Ohio	USA	12/21/01	FC Cincinnati
4	Jordan Scarlett	DF	6'0"	195	Bronx, New York	Jamaica	07/08/95	Louisville City FC
5	Triston Hodge*	DF	6'1"	161	Curepe, TT	Trinidad & Tobago	04/09/97	Colorado Springs
6	Beverly Makangila*	MF	5'11"	165	Kinshasha, DR Congo	DR Congo	04/11/00	Colorado Springs
7	Marcus Epps	FW	6'0"	165	Jackson, Mississippi	USA	01/16/95	FC Tulsa
8	Jay Chapman	MF	6'0"	157	Brampton, Canada	Canada	01/01/94	Colorado Springs
9	Romario Williams	FW	5'11"	170	Portmore, Jamaica	Jamaica	08/15/94	Colorado Springs
10	Danny Barrera	MF	5'7"	170	Thousand Oaks, CA	USA	01/08/90	Cal FC (USPSL)
11	Michee Ngalina*	FW	5'10"	150	Kinshasha, DR Congo	DR Congo	04/06/00	FK Haugesund
12	Anderson Asiedu	MF	5'6"	150	Dormaa Ahenkro, Ghana	Ghana	06/12/96	Birmingham Legion FC
15	Joe Farrell	DF	6'2"	190	Blue Bell, PA	USA	02/13/94	Pittsburgh Riverhounds
17	Kyle Edwards	FW	6'1"	185	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	St. Vincent	01/14/97	Memphis 901 FC
18	Joe Schmidt	MF	5'9"	170	Bainbridge Township, OH	USA	11/02/98	Charleston Battery
19	Rece Buckmaster	DF	5'8"	150	Auburn, Indiana	USA	07/07/96	Memphis 901 FC
22	Brooks Thompson	GK	6'4"	185	Jefferson, Indiana	USA	05/28/02	North Carolina FC
25	Paul Walters •	GK	6'3"	192	West Chester, Ohio	USA	04/11/04	FC Cincinnati
23	Thomas Vancaeyezeele*	DF	5'11"	170	Caen, France	French Guiana	07/07/94	Tampa Bay Rowdies
27	Pele Ousmanou*	DF	6'1"	160	Cameroon	Cameroon	01/15/05	Elite Falcons FC
29	Emmanuel Samadia*	MF	5'6"	150	Freetown, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	04/19/01	Hapoel Rishon leZion
31	Deshane Beckford*	FW	5'9"	141	Montego Bay, Jamaica	Jamaica	04/14/98	Colorado Springs
33	Mamadou Dieng*	FW	6'2"	170	Senegal	Senegal	02/04/04	Elite Falcons FC
40	Renan Ribeiro*	GK	6'4"	190	São Paulo, Brazil	Brazil	03/23/90	Sporting CP
43	Ian Shaul^	MF	5'8"	145	Saint Paul, Minnesota	USA	01/02/06	Portland Timbers II
44	Justin DiCarlo^	GK	6'2"	190	Canton, Connecticut	USA	06/28/04	University of Dayton
77	Enoch Mushagalusa	FW	5'11"	174	Kinshasha, DR Congo	DR Congo	11/13/99	Louisville City FC
94	Marlon Hairston	MF	6'0"	160	Jackson, Mississippi	USA	03/23/94	Columbus Crew

\* = international roster slot      ^ = academy contract signing      • = currently on loan to Hartford Athletic

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Athletic Trainer: Mike Dias  
 Team Administrator: Nate Cahoon  
 Team Physicians: Jay Kimmel, Jeff Brown

Joey Akpunonu      APP-ah-no-nu  
 Beverly Makangila      mak-ang-GEE-la  
 Romario Williams      row-MAR-ee-oh  
 Michee Ngalina      N-gah-LEEN-ah  
 Anderson Asiedu      Ah-SEE-eh-doo  
 Thomas Vancaeyezeele      TOME-ahs van-KAY-zeel  
 Pele Ousmanou      PAY-lay OOS-mahn-oo  
 Mamadou Dieng      MAH-muh-doo JANG  
 Renan Ribeiro      HEN-ah hih-BARE-oh  
 Enoch Mushagalusa      E-knock MOO-shah-gah-LOOSE-uh



## GK | GREG MONROE

#1

**LAST SEASON:** - 0 GP / 0 GS - min GA | SF | SV | YC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | GA | SOG | SV | YC

Monroe signs with Hartford after training with the Club for the majority of the 2023 season, then signing an amateur contract with MLS Next side Austin FC II in September. He began training with Hartford after a standout career at Siena College from 2018 to 2022. He left the Saints as one of their most decorated players, winning the 2022 MAAC Golden Glove award for the top goalkeeper and becoming Siena's all-time leader in wins, shutouts, goalkeeper minutes, and matches played.



## DF | JOEY AKPUNONU

#3

**LAST SEASON:** - 23 GP / 23 GS - 1,873 min | 0 G | 0 A | 7 SH | 5 YC | 1 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Akpunonu spent the majority of 2023 with FC Cincinnati 2 of MLS Next Pro, making 23 appearances for the MLS affiliate side. He made his MLS debut with Cincinnati on June 24th, 2023, and appeared in two Open Cup matches with the first team. Akpunonu played collegiately at Bowling Green State University, where he started 42 of the 48 matches he played in, scored eight career goals, and was named to the all-Mid-American Conference (MAC) team in back to back seasons. He was one of just 44 players (and one of only 18 underclassmen) invited to participate in the Adidas MLS College Showcase, and was named to the MLS Generation Adidas 2023 class on Dec. 19, 2022. Two days later, Akpunonu was drafted by FC Cincinnati as the 22nd overall pick, making him the only Bowling Green Falcon to ever be selected in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft.



## DF | JORDAN SCARLETT

#4

**LAST SEASON:** - 3 GP / 0 GS - 164 min | 0 G | 0 A | 0 SH | 0 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Scarlett is in his eighth season in the USL Championship, totaling 157 appearances and over 12,000 minutes played. He signed with Louisville City ahead of the 2023 season, but his campaign was cut short after three games due a knee injury that required surgery. The 28 year old spent three excellent seasons with Tampa Bay Rowdies from 2020 to 2022, serving as one of the club's defensive leaders. Over 79 appearances (73 starts), he totaled 207 clearances, 121 interceptions, and 88 tackles won. The Rowdies made it to the Eastern Conference Final in all three years of Scarlett's tenure, and gave up a league-low 27 goals in 2021. Born in Jamaica, Scarlett grew up in the Bronx and played collegiately at nearby Iona University before Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls selected him in the 2017 SuperDraft. Internationally, Scarlett made his debut in June of 2022 when Jamaica faced off against Mexico in the CONCACAF Nations League.



## DF | TRISTON HODGE

#5

**LAST SEASON:** - 24 GP / 21 GS - 1,881 min | 0 G | 0 A | 5 SH | 9 YC | 1 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Hodge returns to Hartford after a quality 2023 season with the Green and Blue. He was one of the team's most reliable defenders across 24 appearances, winning 28 tackles, 121 duels, and swiping 26 interceptions. The 29 year old played for Head Coach and General Manager Brendan Burke in 2020 and 2021 with Colorado Springs, making 19 appearances and helping the Switchbacks to a playoff berth. The 29 year old Trinidadian has nine caps for the Trinidad & Tobago National Team, most recently competing in the 2023 CONCACAF Gold Cup for his country. In 2017, Hodge played in the Soca Warriors' 2-1 win over the United States in the World Cup qualifiers.





## MF | BEVERLY MAKANGILA

#6

**LAST SEASON:** - 15 GP / 8 GS - 874 min | 1 G | 0 A | 4 SH | 4 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Makangila returns to Hartford for a second year after a promising 2023 season in Green and Blue. The Congolese midfielder was set back by an ankle injury that saw him miss 11 games from April to June, but he responded with a quality second half of the season. Makangila became a frequent starter through Hartford's final 17 games, and added an exclamation point to his return by scoring one of the team's best goals of the season against New Mexico United.

Prior to signing with Hartford ahead of the 2023 season, Makangila spent 2021 and 2022 with Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC. He made 52 appearances and helped lead the Switchbacks to back-to-back playoff appearances under current Hartford Athletic Head Coach Brendan Burke.



## FW | MARCUS EPPS

#7

**LAST SEASON:** - 33 GP / 30 GS - 2,581 min | 9 G | 7 A | 67 SH | 4 YC | 1 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Epps comes to Hartford following the best and most productive season of his career. Across 33 appearances, he tallied nine goals and seven assists with FC Tulsa in his second year with the club. His best performance of the 2023 campaign came against Hartford Athletic in the last game of the season, when he recorded a goal and two assists in a 5-2 victory.

Epps has put together a standout career in the USL Championship with eight different teams since parting ways with Philadelphia Union. In 2021 with San Antonio, he appeared in every match and scored six goals. Epps has totaled 31 goals and 23 assists across his career in the Championship.



## MF | JAY CHAPMAN

#8

**LAST SEASON:** - 28 GP / 20 GS - 1,572 min | 1 G | 1 A | 12 SH | 5 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

The 29 year old Canadian brings a wealth of experience to Hartford, having played more than 4,000 minutes over 112 appearances in Major League Soccer from 2015 to 2021. A product of the Toronto FC Academy, Chapman spent five seasons with his home town club and helped them towards their historic MLS Cup victory in 2017, the first time a Canadian team won the Cup. Last year, he made his biggest impact in Colorado Springs gaining possession and creating scoring chances off turnovers for the Switchbacks, logging 25 interceptions, 19 chances created, and 26 tackles won, the second most on the team.



## FW | ROMARIO WILLIAMS

#9

**LAST SEASON:** - 30 GP / 23 GS - 1,897 min | 15 G | 3 A | 45 SH | 6 YC | 1 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Williams has nine years of experience as a professional across MLS, USL Championship, and abroad. A prolific goal scorer, the 29 year old posted a career year with Colorado Springs in 2023. Williams tied his career high in goals (15) and assists (three) in a season, matching his best season with the Charleston Battery in 2017. The 15 tallies led Colorado Springs and were seventh most in the Championship.

After being taken by the Montreal Impact (now CF Montréal) third overall in the 2015 MLS SuperDraft, Williams made appearances with Atlanta United and the Columbus Crew. His best MLS season came in 2018 with Atlanta, when he appeared in 17 matches and scored a goal to help the club towards their first MLS Cup victory.





## MF | DANNY BARRERA

#10

**LAST SEASON:** - 29 GP / 19 GS - 1,715 min | 1 G | 1 A | 28 SH | 7 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Barrera is the longest tenured player in Hartford history, returning for his sixth season in Green and Blue. He is the Club's all-time leader in nearly every statistical category including goals (16), assists (30), appearances (131), and minutes played (9,894). He is the only player in Club history to receive USL All-League First Team honors which he earned in 2021 after recording a league-leading 12 assists along with eight goals. The 33 year old is one of the league's all-time great distributors across a nine-year career, currently ranking third in league history in total assists (50).



## FW | MICHEE NGALINA

#11

**LAST SEASON:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Ngalina comes to Hartford with 35 goals and 21 assists to his name at just 23 years old. He makes his return to American soccer after spending 2023 with Turkish second division club Göztepe Spor Kulübü, and Norwegian top flight club FK Haugesund. The playmaking winger earned the USL Championship's Young Player of the Year award in 2022, capping off an inspiring season in which he played all 37 games while leading Colorado Springs to their first ever Western Conference Final.



## DF | ANDERSON ASIEDU

#12

**LAST SEASON:** - 21 GP / 20 GS - 1,829 min | 0 G | 2 A | 29 SH | 8 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Asiedu comes to Hartford after five outstanding seasons with Birmingham Legion FC. A stalwart of the club, Asiedu was one of the few remaining players from Birmingham's original 2019 roster to still be on the team in 2023. Across five seasons, he totaled 112 appearances over 9,000 minutes of standout play as a box to box midfielder, using his everlasting motor to contribute in several areas. Asiedu created 107 chances, won 160 tackles and 632 duels, swiped 136 interceptions, and added three goals and nine assists.



## DF | JOE FARRELL

#15

**LAST SEASON:** -27 GP / 18 GS - 1,586 min | 3 G | 0 A | 18 SH | 6 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Farrell makes his way to Hartford after an impressive 2023 stint with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds. He appeared in 27 games and made 18 starts, a defensive mainstay for the club. He was second on the team with 75 clearances and 71 air duels won, while tying for first on the team with 14 blocks. He helped bring the Riverhounds to the best record in the USL Championship and the first seed in the Eastern Conference.

Entering his ninth season in the USL, Farrell has seen great success. He has played in 199 matches with 170 starts in the league, totaling over 15,000 minutes. In 2016, he began his career with the Rochester Rhinos, a former USL club. In his rookie season, he earned All-League Second Team honors. After two seasons with the club, he signed with Phoenix Rising FC, spending five seasons with the team. In these seasons he started 96 matches, totalled eight goals and five assists. In these seasons he started 96 matches, totalled eight goals and five assists. His play helped lead Phoenix to the Western Conference Championship in 2018 and 2020.



## FW | KYLE EDWARDS

#17

**LAST SEASON:** - 26 GP / 10 GS - 1,234 min | 7 G | 3 A | 36 SH | 6 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Edwards returns to Hartford for the 2024 season after the best campaign of his professional career in 2023, second on the team in USL Championship goals (seven) and adding three assists. Edwards spent the 2020 and 2021 seasons with Rio Grande Valley FC, where he recorded six goals and three assists in 23 appearances with the club.



## MF | JOE SCHMIDT

#18

**LAST SEASON:** 9 GP / 0 GS - 75 min | 0 G | 0 A | 3 SH | 0 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Schmidt made nine appearances with Charleston Battery, part of a midfield unit that competed in the USL Championship Final. He spent two years playing soccer professionally, with both being for Charleston. During his rookie campaign in 2022, he appeared in 29 matches. In those matches, he won 71 duels, 20 tackles won, 17 clearances and 16 interceptions.



## DF | RECE BUCKMASTER

#19

**LAST SEASON:** - 20 GP / 20 GS - 1,774 min | 1 G | 1 A | 3 SH | 4 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Buckmaster spent his 2023 season with Memphis 901 FC as one of their top defenders. During this season, he was top three in both blocks and interceptions, with 11 and 35 respectively. He appeared in 20 matches and started in each of them, totalling over 17,000 minutes played. He helped lead his team to the fourth-best record in the East, good for a playoff berth.

His USL career began in 2019, spending time with the New York Red Bulls II. He made 18 appearances, mixed with time spent with their top flight affiliate. In 2020, he signed with Memphis 901 FC, starting every game for them. During this season, he would rank third for Memphis in clearances, duels won, and blocks, and led the club in interceptions. Following this season, he would sign with Indy Eleven in 2021.



## GK | BROOKS THOMPSON

#22

**LAST SEASON:** - 22 GP / 22 GS - 2,010 min | 34 GA | 83 SF | 54 SV | 0 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Thompson spent the 2023 season with North Carolina FC of USL League One on loan from Philadelphia Union II. He would help his team win the USL1 Cup Championship, the first time since the club's inception. He would make 17 starts, notching 54 saves, four clean sheets, and 10 wins. He would post a league forth 1.27 GAA, and would clinch the Final with a save in penalties.



## DF | THOMAS VANCAEYEZEELE

#23

**LAST SEASON:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Vancaeyezeele has 125 appearances in the USL Championship between 4 different clubs. His best two seasons in 2019 and 2020 saw him earn All-League honors. In 2020 with Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC, he led the league with 1,440 minutes played and a plus/minus of 29. During these seasons, he boasted 32 interceptions, good for league fourth. His most previous stint in the USL Championship came with the Tampa Bay Rowdies in 2022, where he contributed to an Eastern Conference Final appearance.



## DF | PAUL WALTERS

#25

**LAST SEASON:** - 19 GP / 19 GS - 1,710 min | 46 GA | 126 SF | 78 SV | 0 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Walters signed with Hartford Athletic on March 8th, 2024. He most recently played for Cincinnati FC 2 of MLS Next Pro. He joined the FC Cincinnati Academy in 2019 as part of the program's inaugural class. He played for the U17 and U19 teams before committing to Northwestern, where he played for a season before returning to FC Cincinnati to sign a Homegrown contract in January of 2023.



## DF | PELE OUSMANOU

#27

**LAST SEASON:** - 13 GP / GS - 1,130 min | 0 G | 0 A | 0 SH | 0 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

The teenage defender spent his 2023 season with Elite Falcons FC, a club affiliated with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Football Association. Coach Burke had this to say about the signing: "It is vitally important that USL continue to identify, develop and promote top teenaged talents that will go on to play at the highest levels of soccer worldwide. We feel like we are contributing to that push with this promising young player."



## DF | EMMANUEL SAMADIA

#29

**LAST SEASON:** - 33 GP / GS - min | G | 0 A | SH | YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Samadia spent the 2022-23 season with the Hapoel Rishon leZion of Liga Leumit of Liga Leumit, the Israeli Football League's second division. He made 33 appearances with almost 2,000 minutes played, totaling three assists. During this season, he helped his club win the Liga Leumit Toto Cup. In 2023, he made seven appearances for the Sierra Leone National Team. Five of his appearances were during the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, where he recorded assists in consecutive games versus Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau. The last of his national appearances were during World Cup Qualifiers, where he played two complete games.





## FW | DESHANE BECKFORD

#31

**LAST SEASON:** - 32 GP / 22 GS - 1,999 min | 2 G | 4 A | 78 SH | 8 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Beckford's USL Championship career began in 2019 when he joined Rio Grande Valley on loan. He played in nine matches and score a goal. Beckford played for RGV again in 2020 before signing with Colorado Springs in 2021, where he would double his appearances from the previous season. In 28 matches played, he totaled five goals and seven assists. In 2022, he signed with San Antonio FC just two games into their season. He earned time in 13 of their games and added a goal to his career numbers.



## DF | MAMADOU DIENG

#33

**LAST SEASON:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Dieng signed a long-term deal with Hartford after spending years in youth development in Senegal with Sahel Academy. Coach Burke stated, "Mamadou is a big and very energetic forward who is willing to defend from the front, stretch the last line and compete in the air. He has great potential and we can't wait to integrate him with Romario [Williams], which we think will accelerate his development."



## GK | RENAN RIBEIRO

#40

**LAST SEASON:** - GP / GS - min | GA | SF | SV | YC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Ribeiro began his professional career at the top of the Brazilian football league system with Atletico Mineiro of Série A in 2010, making 42 appearances with the club before signing with Sao Paulo FC in 2013 on a five year contract. He totaled 80 appearances in Série A and recorded 23 clean sheets. Internationally, Ribeiro made nine appearances with Brazil's under 20 national team before beginning his professional career.

He spent four seasons in Liga Portugal with Club Estoril and Sporting CP before moving to Al-Ahli of the Saudi Pro League in 2022. He turned in two excellent seasons with Sporting CP, helping lead the team to a Taça de Portugal victory in 2019. He made 38 appearances, made 91 saves, recorded six clean sheets and posted a 24-6-7 record. Ribeiro also made eight appearances with Sporting CP in Europa League play.



## MF | IAN SHAUL

#43

**LAST SEASON:** - 33 GP / 24 GS - 2,301 min | 6 G | 3 A | 28 SH | 5 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Shaul began playing for Minnesota United's Academy in 2018 before joining the Portland Timbers Academy in 2020 at just 14 years old. He made his MLS Next debut with Timbers 2 in 2022, and was named a starter for the MLS Next All Star West team. That same year, Shaul was called up to the U17 U.S. National Team Camp in Chula Vista, California.

He is committed to play collegiately at the University of Notre Dame next year. USL Academy contracts allow young players like Ian to play professionally while retaining their NCAA eligibility.



## GK | JUSTIN DICARLO

#44

**LAST SEASON:** - GP / GS - min | GA | SF | SV | YC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

DiCarlo started his youth soccer career for the U12 and U14 Oakwood SC teams before entering The Hotchkiss School in 2018. Through his high school career he was a mainstay in the net, earning a varsity letter in each of his four seasons. His senior year he was a team captain and was named All-League First Team and an All-Region Honorable Mention. In 2021 he competed for The AC Connecticut U17 team and their USL Academy U19 team. In 2022 after graduating from Hotchkiss, he competed for Oakwood SC's MLS Next U19 club.



## FW | ENOCH MUSHAGALUSA

#77

**LAST SEASON:** - 33 GP / 24 GS - 2,301 min | 6 G | 3 A | 28 SH | 5 YC | 0 RC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

Mushagalusa played the last two seasons with Louisville City and San Diego Loyal, serving a loan spell with the west coast club in the second half of 2023. A creative goalscorer and playmaker, Mushagalusa racked up 12 goals and four assists over the last two years, including a career high 10 goals scored in 2022. He made 15 appearances with Louisville in 2023 before being loaned to San Diego, where he appeared four times before suffering an injury that saw him miss the final eight matches. Prior to his time with Louisville, Mushagalusa began his professional career with Sporting Kansas City II in 2020 and totaled nine goals and five assists across two seasons.

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mushagalusa grew up in Denver, Colorado and progressed through the Colorado Rapids' academy as one of the brightest young players in their program from the U15 level up until U19. He scored 53 goals across 85 U.S. Soccer Development Academy appearances, earning him a trial with the Rapids' first team. He spent the preseason with the Rapids, but was released from the club's camp in February and signed with Sporting KC II ahead of the 2020 season. In total, Mushagalusa has poured in 21 goals and dished out nine assists in the USL Championship.



## MF | MARLON HAIRSTON

#94

**LAST SEASON:** - GP / GS - min | GA | SOG | SV | YC

**LAST MATCH:** - GP / GS - min | G | A | SH | YC | RC

A seasoned midfielder, Hairston brings eight years of MLS experience to Hartford and holds 140 appearances and over 9,000 minutes played in America's top flight. Over his well-traveled career with four different teams, he established himself as a midfielder with versatile ability to play in the back, making him a valuable roster addition for any club. He had an excellent five-year run with the Colorado Rapids from 2014 to 2018, making 95 appearances for the club and contributing seven goals and 13 assists. He helped lead Colorado to the Western Conference Final in 2016, and was the only Rapid to play in every league game in 2017. At the end of that season, he was called up to his first senior US National Team camp. Hairston played collegiately at the University of Louisville for two years before being drafted by the Rapids 12th overall in the 2014 MLS SuperDraft.