



**GAME NOTES: [USL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULAR-SEASON
MATCH 4]**

Las Vegas Lights FC (1-2-0, 3 pts)

at Oakland Roots SC (1-1-1, 4 pts)


7 p.m. PT

National: ESPN+





Local: SSSEN (Las Vegas)

Local TV Programming Note: Silver State Sports & Entertainment Network (SSSEN) is a dedicated sports channel launched by FOX5 KVVU that is available across Southern Nevada on broadcast channel 5.2, cable channel 125 and YoutubeTV.

LIGHTS FC MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Miller - Interim Head of Communications -
Tim@NameandNumber.com, 614-454-1808



LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC
👤 Dennis Sanchez
🏟️ Cashman Field, Las Vegas, Nevada
🌐 Team Website



TICKETS

RECORD	HOME	AWAY	STREAK	LAST 5
1-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	W1	1-2-0

LIGHTS FC AVAILABILITY REPORT FOR UPCOMING MATCH

QUESTIONABLE:

Joe Gyau – Left Ankle Injury

Charlie Adams – Left Hamstring Injury

Gennaro Nigro – Left Hamstring Injury

OUT:

Christian Pinzon – Right Foot Injury

Joseph Hafferty – Left Foot Injury

Giovanni Aguilar – Right Knee Injury



First Win, Clean Sheet Of The Year

Las Vegas Lights FC defeated El Paso Locomotive FC 1-0 on Saturday night at Cashman Field in Las Vegas, Nev., behind an own goal from goalkeeper Javier Garcia.

Vegas had its first opportunity in the 23rd minute when JC Ngando slipped the ball into Khorri Bennett, but El Paso's Garcia sprang off his line and grabbed it off Bennett's foot.

Lights FC went ahead in the 33rd minute when a recycled cross from Ngando off a free kick found Fabien Garcia, whose header ricocheted off the far post and deflected into the net off the leg of El Paso's Garcia.

Ngando's cross for goal leads to Team of the Week honors

JC Ngando's efforts in Saturday's 1-0 win against El Paso earned the midfielder a place on the USL Team of the Week. (https://www.uslchampionship.com/news_article/show/1305198)

The 24-year-old central midfielder was the 13th pick in the 2023 MLS SuperDraft and was instrumental on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball on Saturday, creating three chances and notching five interceptions on the evening.

First clean sheet

Vegas earned its first shutout of the early season on Saturday, keeping El Paso off the score sheet and devoid of any clear-cut opportunities. Locomotive FC finished with just two shots on goal.

Consistency

Said JC Ngando:

[Previously] we were just lacking of chemistry, because like for me, I've been with the team for like two weeks. Fabien, like one week, but two weeks, it was hard to really, like, understand the way we were ...obviously, the coach has really good ideas, but for us all been the same mind and the same spot and play the same game was really hard. So, today was probably our best performance because we got the win. But the first two games weren't terrible.

Gue earns Academy contract Saturday, makes debut in second half stoppage time

Ahead of last Saturday, Ali Gue (pronounced GHEE) signed an Academy contract with the Lights and quickly earned his USL debut. The midfielder entered the match in second half stoppage time as the club looked to hold on to the 1-0 victory at home.

Garcia makes debut - sends header on frame as Lights complete 1-0 win at home










Said Fabien Garcia

I was focused on the ball, just to make sure if something happened on the second ball, I was ready to try to read the play. I knew JC [Ngando] was going to start with the right foot ... try to find the space ...try to be active to find the back of the net. That's amazing. For my first game, I'm just happy.



In the Western Conference, Lights FC enter this weekend in the top five in the important distribution category of passing accuracy. The Lights are tied for fifth in this category, just four percentage points shy of tops in the West

DISTRIBUTION

Passes	Passing accuracy	
	Phoenix Rising FC	82%
	Sacramento Republic FC	82%
	New Mexico United	80%
	Orange County SC	79%
	Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	78%
	El Paso Locomotive FC	78%
	Las Vegas Lights FC	78%
	San Antonio FC	78%
	Monterey Bay	77%
	Oakland Roots	74%
	Memphis 901 FC	73%
	FC Tulsa	58%

TWO LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC PLAYERS EARN NATIONAL TEAM CALL-UPS

Two Lights players were recently on international duty following call-ups from the Dominican Republic National Team and are set to join their respective rosters for friendlies: forward Riki Alba (Senior Roster) and midfielder Edison Azcona (Under-23 Team).

Alba and the Dominican Republic senior roster faced Aruba (March 23 - win, 2-0), with Alba earning the start. Later, the side traveled to face Peru (March 26 - loss, 4-1).

Meanwhile, Azcona started and captained the Dominican Republic Under-23 team for its first friendly against Paraguay's U-23s on March 23 (loss, 2-0) and made a substitute appearance in the second friendly against Paraguay March 26 (win, 2-1).



WESTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Pos.		P	W	L	T	GD	PTS	Form	
1	Orange County SC	3	1	0	2	2	5	D W D	▼
2	Sacramento Republic FC	3	1	0	2	1	5	D W D	▼
3	San Antonio FC	3	1	0	2	2	5	D D W	▼
4	Monterey Bay F.C.	3	1	0	2	1	5	D W D	▼
5	Oakland Roots SC	3	1	1	1	0	4	W D L	▼
6	New Mexico United	3	1	1	1	-3	4	W D L	▼
7	FC Tulsa	1	1	0	0	2	3	W	▼
8	Memphis 901 FC	2	1	1	0	0	3	W L	▼
9	Phoenix Rising FC	3	1	2	0	-1	3	L L W	▼
10	Las Vegas Lights FC	3	1	2	0	-2	3	L L W	▼
11	El Paso Locomotive FC	4	0	3	1	-3	1	L D L L	▼
12	Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC	3	0	3	0	-5	0	L L L	▼

WHEN AND WHERE: Kickoff is at 7 p.m. PT at Cal State University, East Bay's Pioneer Stadium in Hayward, Calif.

WHERE TO WATCH: The match is available to watch on SSSEN locally and streamed nationally on [ESPN+](#) (subscription required). *Local TV Programming Note: Silver State Sports & Entertainment Network (SSSEN) is a dedicated sports channel launched by FOX5 KVVU that is available across Southern Nevada on broadcast channel 5.2, cable channel 125 and YoutubeTV.*

2024 RECORDS AND STANDINGS: Lights FC: 1-2-0 (3 points, 10th West), Roots SC: 1-1-1 (4 points, 5th West)

PREVIOUS MEETING: The Lights defeated the Roots 3-1 on Sept. 9, 2023, in Las Vegas. Johnny Rodriguez opened the scoring for the visitors from the penalty spot in the 12th minute, but a goal from Azriel Gonzalez and a brace from Tyler Bagley in the second half secured all three points for Vegas.



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

Las Vegas Lights FC Head Coach Dennis Sanchez

On the win over El Paso:

"The message to the group has been simple. We know we're going to score goals, so we need to ensure that we're giving ourselves the best chance of being successful, which means limiting opportunities for the opposition."

On what's he looking for out of his team in Oakland:

"A consistent theme that we've seen with our group is that they're competitive and they never give up. When we get leads, it's important that we find a second, we find a third, that we put teams away when we have momentum."

Las Vegas Lights FC midfielder Valentin Noël

On the team's chemistry in attack to start the season:

"It's a matter of creating connections and understanding each other. 'How can I put my teammate in the best position for him to be able to perform?'"



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT - 20 DAYS OF MISC TEAM NOTES - ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

In addition to the acquisitions and announcements on the preceding pages, a rundown of the announcements and signings the Club made in under three weeks under new leadership which began with new ownership (January 27) and new Sporting Director (Feb 2) + Head Coach (Jan. 29) and culminated with the season kick-off on March 9.

Las Vegas Lights FC selected for national television spotlight

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/27/las-vegas-lights-fc-selected-for-national-television-spotlight/>

February 27, 2024

Las Vegas Lights and Global Apparel Brand hummel Sign Multi-Year Apparel Partnership

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/29/las-vegas-lights-and-global-apparel-brand-hummel-sign-multi-year-apparel-partnership/>

February 29, 2024

Las Vegas Lights FC signs College Cup champion Shawn Smart

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/26/las-vegas-lights-fc-signs-college-cup-champion-shawn-smart/>

February 26, 2024

USL Championship legend Solomon Asante leads trio of new Las Vegas Lights FC signings

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/23/usl-championship-legend-solomon-asante-leads-trio-of-new-las-vegas-lights-fc-signings/>

February 23, 2024

Las Vegas Lights FC acquires Nicholas Ammeter from Swiss club FC Wil

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/22/las-vegas-lights-fc-acquires-nicholas-ammeter-from-swiss-club-fc-wil/>

February 22, 2024

Las Vegas Lights FC acquires Dominican Republic international Edison Azcona from Inter Miami CF

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/19/las-vegas-lights-fc-acquires-dominican-republic-international-edison-azcona-from-inter-miami-cf/>

February 19, 2024

Las Vegas Lights FC welcomes three new signings for 2024 season

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/16/las-vegas-lights-fc-welcomes-three-new-signings-for-2024-season/>

February 16, 2024

Las Vegas Lights FC adds quartet of new players

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/13/las-vegas-lights-fc-adds-quartet-of-new-players/>

February 13, 2024

Las Vegas Lights FC acquire midfielder Charlie Adams via transfer from FC Tulsa

<https://www.lasvegaslightsfc.com/news/2024/02/07/las-vegas-lights-fc-acquire-midfielder-charlie-adams-via-transfer-from-fc-tulsa/>

February 7, 2024



2024 USL Championship Regular-Season Schedule

Saturday, March 9
1:00 PM
@ Memphis 901 FC
AutoZone Park

L, 2-1
Record: 0-1-0, 0 pts
LVL scoring: Noel (Berumen) 22'

Saturday, March 16
5:00 PM
Vs FC Tulsa
Cashman Field

L, 3-1
Record: 0-2-0, 0 pts
LVL scoring: Alba (Azcona) 60'

Saturday, March 23
5:00 PM
Vs El Paso Locomotive FC
Cashman Field

W, 1-0
Record: 1-2-1, 3 pts
LVL scoring: El Paso Own Goal (J. Garcia) 33'

Saturday, March 30
7:00 PM
@ Oakland Roots
Pioneer Stadium

Saturday, April 6
7:30 PM
Vs San Antonio FC
Cashman Field

Saturday, April 13
7:00 PM
@ Monterey Bay
Cardinale Stadium

Saturday, April 20
5:00 PM
Vs Rhode Island FC
Cashman Field

Saturday, April 27
1:00 PM
@ Charleston Battery
Patriots Point

Saturday, May 4
7:30 PM
Vs New Mexico United
Cashman Field

Saturday, May 11
5:30 PM
@ San Antonio FC
Toyota Field

Saturday, May 18
7:30 PM
Vs Las Vegas Lights FC
Louisville City FC

Saturday, May 25
4:30 PM
@ Tampa Bay Rowdies
Al Lang Stadium

Saturday, June 1
7:30 PM
vs Phoenix Rising FC
Cashman Field

Saturday, June 8
7:30 PM
Vs Miami
Cashman Field

Friday, June 14
4:00 PM
@ Loudoun United FC
Segra Field

Tuesday, June 18
7:30 PM
Las Vegas Lights FC
vs Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC
Cashman Field

Saturday, June 22
4:00 PM
vs Memphis 901 FC
Cashman Field



<p>Saturday, June 29 7:30 PM Vs Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC</p> <p>Wednesday, July 3 7:30 PM @ Sacramento Republic FC Heart Health Park</p> <p>Friday, July 12 6:00 PM @ El Paso Locomotive FC Southwest University Park</p> <p>Friday, July 26 6:00 PM @ Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC Weidner Field</p> <p>Wednesday, July 31 6:00 PM @ New Mexico United Isotopes Park</p> <p>Saturday, August 10 7:30 PM Vs Detroit City FC Cashman Field</p> <p>Saturday, August 17 4:00 PM @ Hartford Athletic Trinity Health Stadium</p> <p>Saturday, August 24 7:30 PM Vs Indy Eleven Cashman Field</p>	<p>Saturday, August 31 7:00 PM @ Orange County SC Championship Soccer Stadium</p> <p>Wednesday, September 11 5:30 PM @ FC Tulsa ONEOK Field</p> <p>Saturday, September 14 7:30 PM Vs Monterey Bay Cashman Field</p> <p>Saturday, September 21 7:30 PM Vs Sacramento Republic FC Cashman Field</p> <p>Saturday, September 28 7:30 PM @ Phoenix Rising FC Phoenix Rising Stadium at 38th St/Washington</p> <p>Saturday, October 5 7:30 PM Vs Orange County SC Cashman Field</p> <p>Sunday, October 13 2:00 PM @ Birmingham Legion FC Protective Stadium</p> <p>Saturday, October 19 7:30 PM Vs Oakland Roots Cashman Field</p> <p>Saturday, October 26 4:00 PM @ North Carolina FC WakeMed Soccer Park</p>
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OWNERSHIP



José Bautista

Over a 15-year career in Major League Baseball, Bautista was one of the most feared sluggers of his era, with 344 career home runs. He played for eight clubs, most notably the Toronto Blue Jays, who recently awarded him the “Level of Excellence” to recognize his outstanding achievements over his ten seasons in Toronto. He was named an MLB All-Star six years in a row from 2010-15 and twice led the majors in home runs, in 2010 and 2011, the same years he won the Hank Aaron Award.

Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Bautista represented his home country at the 2020 Summer Olympics (delayed until 2021 due to COVID-19) in Tokyo, Japan. His leadership helped the D.R. earn a bronze medal, punctuated by a walk-off hit and his signature bat flip that sealed the win over Israel to secure the team’s place in the semifinals.

Since his retirement from professional baseball, Bautista has established himself as an active and thoughtful investor, board member, philanthropist and entrepreneur. His on-field prowess and reputation as an ethical businessman has led to partnerships with significant brands, including Audi, Hublot, Coca-Cola, TD Bank, Fanatics, General Mills, The Players Tribune, Silver Jeans, Booster Juice (Canada), Pizza Pizza (Canada) and New Balance.

Bautista was an early equity partner, lead investor, and board member for Marucci Sports, a baseball equipment startup that was sold to Compass Diversified Holdings in 2020. Additional business interests include stakes in Canada Goose, which went public in 2017, and Endy Sleep, which was acquired by Sleep Country in 2018, and currently serves as a Partner and Senior Advisor to Aquilance, a leading household financial management firm that assists successful individuals, entrepreneurs and families to make better-informed financial decisions and save time on administrative tasks.

Bautista is passionate about supporting the community and has committed himself as a resource to athletes around the world. He founded the Bautista Family Education Fund in 2011, which provides support and assistance to student-athletes aspiring to attend university programs in the United States and Canada.



(Feb 2, 2024)

LAS VEGAS – Las Vegas Lights FC announced the appointment of Gianleonardo Neglia as the club's new Sporting Director.

"I am delighted to have Gianleonardo join the Las Vegas Lights as our new Sporting Director," said Lights owner José Bautista. "His experience over the past several years in European soccer at one of Italy's most forward-thinking clubs and his knowledge of the North American sporting landscape will be a tremendous asset as he works alongside Head Coach Dennis Sanchez in building our club on the field."

Neglia joins the Lights' front office having most recently served as the Assistant Sporting Director at Venezia FC of Italy's Serie B. Venezia FC currently sits in third place in Serie B and is in contention for automatic promotion to Serie A at the end of the current campaign.

"I am beyond excited to be joining Las Vegas Lights FC, and humbled to be the club's new Sporting Director," said Sporting Director Gianleonardo Neglia. "I'd like to thank our owner, José Bautista, for this incredible opportunity. There is plenty of work to be done, but we can't wait to get started. There is no city in the world like Las Vegas and I am confident that we can deliver a team that this city and community can be proud of."



(Jan 29, 2024)

LAS VEGAS – Las Vegas Lights FC announced the appointment of Dennis Sanchez as the club's new Head Coach ahead of the 2024 USL Championship season. The appointment is the first addition to the club's staff since the acquisition of the club by new owner and six-time MLB All-Star José Bautista.

Sanchez joins the Lights having served as an assistant coach for Austin FC II in the 2023 season. Working alongside Head Coach Brett Uttley, Sanchez helped guide a squad that included current U.S. youth internationals Damian Las and Micah Burton to the MLS NEXT Pro title this past campaign.

"We are excited to bring Dennis Sanchez on board as the new Head Coach of the Lights," said Las Vegas owner José Bautista. "Throughout the interview process, we found Dennis to be someone who aligned with the values we want to establish for this club. His communication skills and ethos as a coach made him the best candidate to lead the club forward on the field as we create a new culture and identity for professional soccer in Las Vegas."

Sanchez brings prior experience working in the USL Championship to his new position from his time at Sacramento Republic FC and the Charleston Battery. Sanchez became Republic FC's Academy Director in January, 2020, taking the reins from current Sacramento Head Coach Mark Briggs. During his tenure, the club signed academy products Mario Penagos, Rafael Jauregui and Hayden Sargis to their first professional contracts, with Sargis earning nomination for the Championship's Young Player of the Year award in 2020.

In 2022 he joined the Charleston Battery as an assistant coach to Conor Casey and led the side in its final game of the campaign. During his tenure with the Battery, Sanchez played a key role in the recruitment of young star Fidel Barajas to the club, who this past year went on to win the Championship's Young Player of the Year award before his transfer this month to Real Salt Lake for a club-record fee.

Prior to his appointment at Republic FC, Sanchez had spent four seasons as the Academy General Manager for the Columbus Crew of Major League Soccer. With the Crew, he oversaw all aspects of the Academy including creating a player first culture, scouting and recruitment, and the implementation of an integrated methodology.

"I want to thank José for the opportunity to join Las Vegas Lights FC," said Sanchez. "José's vision for the success of this club is clear and has resonated strongly with me. I have full belief that under his leadership, we will attract the best players, foster a winning culture and consistently compete for championships. I would be remiss to not thank those people closest to me as I wouldn't be here without them. I look forward to getting to work and making our community proud."



Las Vegas Lights FC Roster - Numeric By Position & Pronunciation Guide

As of March 22, 2024

<i>2024 LVLFC</i>	<i>JERSEY #s</i>	<i>PRONUNCIATION</i>
GOALKEEPERS:		
Nicholas Ammeter	1	AH-mah-tear
Austin Wormell	31	war-MEL
Raiko Arozarena	56	RYE-ko a-ROSE-uh-ree-nuh
DEFENDERS:		
Eddy Berumen	2	
Hayden Sargis	3	
Fabien Garcia	4	FAY-be-en
Shawn Smart	20	
Joe Hafferty	22	
Emrah Klimenta	23	
Maliek Howell	24	muh-LEEK
Gennaro Nigro	33	Jen-NAR-o NYE-grow
Sawyer Cristostomo	60	CREE-STOE-stoe-mo
Gaoussou Samaké	72	GOW-so sam-ah-KAY
MIDFIELDERS:		
Charlie Adams	6	
Edison Azcona	10	az-CONE-ah
Giovanni Aguilar	13	
Solomon Asante	14	
JC Ngando	26	en-GON-do
Valentin Noel	27	val-en-TEEN
Zander Romero	77	
Ali Gue	79	GHEE
FORWARDS:		
Joe Gyau	7	JOW
Coleman Gannon	8	
Riki Alba	9	Ricky
Christian Pinzon	11	PEEN-zone
Khori Bennett	90	Corey



LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC 2024 ROSTER

GOALKEEPERS



NICHOLAS
AMMETER 1



AUSTIN
WORMELL 31

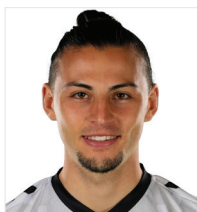


RAIKO
AROZARENA 56

DEFENDERS



EDDY
BERUMEN 2



HAYDEN
SARGIS 3



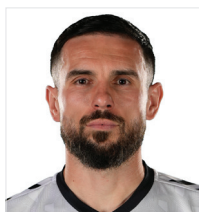
FABIEN
GARCIA 4



SHAWN
SMART 20



JOE
HAFFERTY 22



IMRAH
KLIMENTA 23



MALEK
HOWELL 24



GENNARO
NIGRO 33

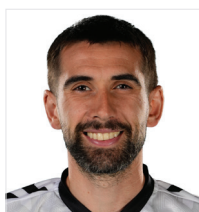


SAWYER
CRISOSTOMO 60

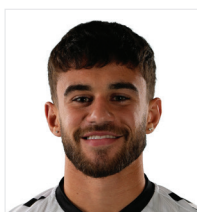


GAOISSOU
SAMAKÉ 72

MIDFIELDERS



CHARLIE
ADAMS 6



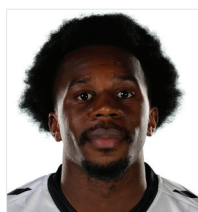
EDISON
AZCONA 10



GIOVANNI
AGUILAR 13



SOLOMON
ASANTE 14



J.C.
NGANDO 26



VALENTIN
NOËL 27



ZANDER
ROMERO 77

FORWARDS



JOE
GYAU 7



COLEMAN
GANNON 8



RIKI
ALBA 9



CHRISTIAN
PINZÓN 11



KHORI
BENNETT 90



LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC 2024 TECHNICAL STAFF



JOSÉ
BAUTISTA CHAIRMAN & CEO



GIANLEONARDO
NEGLIA SPORTING DIRECTOR



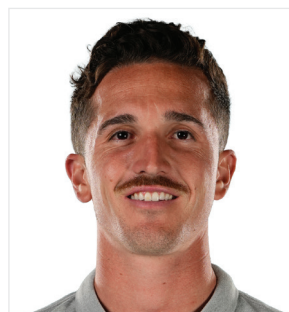
DENNIS
SANCHEZ HEAD COACH



GERSON
ECHEVERRY ASSISTANT COACH



IVAN
MIRKOVIC ASSISTANT COACH



ARMANDO
QUEZADA GOALKEEPER COACH



ESTEFANI
DE SANTIAGO ATHLETIC TRAINER



JOSH
HARDIN EQUIPMENT MANAGER