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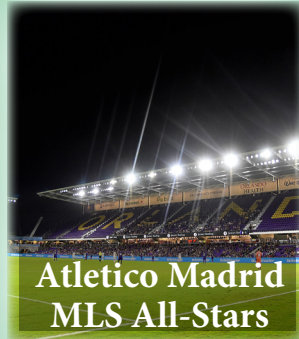
MAGAZINE

APRIL 2019

WEEK 14

# CHICAGO FIRE 1

# NY RED BULLS 0



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## Chicago Fire Soccer Club Defeats New York Red Bulls 1-0 at SeatGeek Stadium

The Chicago Fire Soccer Club defeated the New York Red Bulls 1-0 at SeatGeek Stadium on Saturday afternoon. With the victory, the Fire (1-2-1, 4 points) recorded its first win and clean sheet of the 2019 campaign.

Several Fire players made their first appearances of the season in Saturday's contest, including midfielders Nicolás Gaitán and Mo Adams and defender Jeremiah Gutjahr.

Gutjahr, a Fire Academy product, made his first professional appearance and start, while Adams tallied his first appearance and start in his second professional season. Gaitán, who joined the Fire on March 28, entered the match in the 63rd minute for midfielder Aleksandar Katai, notching his first career appearance in MLS play.

Leading the Red Bulls (1-2-1, 4 points) in shots on target 4-1, the Fire produced chances early and often throughout Saturday's contest, including a strong opportunity to take the lead in the 18th minute of play. Following a hard challenge from Adams, who regained possession for the Men in Red, Katai ran at the Red Bulls' defense before his right footed shot from just outside the box missed to the right of goal (WATCH).

Five minutes later, the Fire produced another dangerous attacking play in the final third. After combining with Katai on the edge of the area, midfielder Przemysław Frankowski slipped the ball into the 18-yard box for Nemanja Nikolić. The forward's left footed shot inside the box was saved by a sliding Luis Robles (WATCH).

Three minutes into the second half, the Fire took the lead when Nikolić's shot, that he struck while falling back, rattled off the post. Red Bulls defender Tim Parker tried to clear the ball but accidentally knocked it into his own goal, providing the Fire with a 1-0 advantage (WATCH).



Continuing to press forward late, the Fire produced another dangerous attacking play from a counter attack in the 76th minute. After winning the ball on the edge of the Fire's 18-yard box, Bastian Schweinsteiger ventured forward and clipped a deep pass for Frankowski. Running at the goal, Frankowski evaded defender Kemar Lawrence and traveled into the box, just missing the target with his final effort from a tight angle on the far right side of the box.

The Fire concluded Saturday's match limiting the Red Bulls to just one shot on target through 90 minutes of play. The result marked the Red Bulls' first away loss in the 2019 MLS campaign.

The Fire's next league match will take place on Saturday, April 6 at BMO Field against Toronto FC. Beginning at 2:00 p.m. CT, the match against Toronto FC will be broadcast live on ESPN+.

Match notes:

Midfielder Nicolás Gaitán made his first career MLS appearance in Saturday's match, entering the game in the 63rd minute of play.

Academy product Jeremiah Gutjahr made his MLS debut in Saturday's match, starting and playing 90 minutes against the Red Bulls.

## Chicago Fire Soccer Club continued...

Saturday's match marked the Fire's third consecutive home game of the 2019 MLS regular season.

Saturday's match was the 58th regular season meeting between the Fire and the Red Bulls since 1998.

With the 1-0 result, the Fire's all-time regular season record against the Red Bulls stands at 28-18-12, which is the Club's best regular season record against a single opponent in MLS.

The Fire's all-time home regular season record against the Red Bulls is 16-5-9.

Saturday's result marked the Fire's first clean sheet win in 2019.

Defender Johan Kappelhof recorded his 99th regular season appearance for the Fire, one shy of the century mark. Kappelhof has recorded the most appearances for the Men in Red since 2016.

Midfielder Mo Adams made his first start of the season and the 11th MLS start of his professional career.



### Box Score:

Chicago Fire 1:0 New York Red Bulls

Attendance: 12,013

### Scoring Summary:

CHI – Parker (Own Goal) 48'

### Misconduct Summary:

CHI – Sapong (Caution) 47'

Chicago Fire: GK Ousted, D Kappelhof, D Marcelo, D Schweinsteiger, D Gutjahr, M Adams, M McCarty ©, M Frankowski, M Katai (Gaitán 63'), M Sapong, F Nikolić (Mihailović 80')

Subs not used: Cleveland, Campos, Lillard, Bronico, Moreno

Shots: 11 Shots on goal: 4 Fouls Committed: 18 Fouls Suffered: 11 Offsides: 2 Corners: 8

New York Red Bulls: GK Robles, D Murillo, D Parker, D Long, D Lawrence (Lade 81'), M Davis, M Rzatkowski (Jorgensen 71'), M Muyl, M Romero Gamarra, M Royer (Ivan 61'), F Wright-Phillips

Subs not used: Meara, Tarek, Bezecourt, Casseres Jr

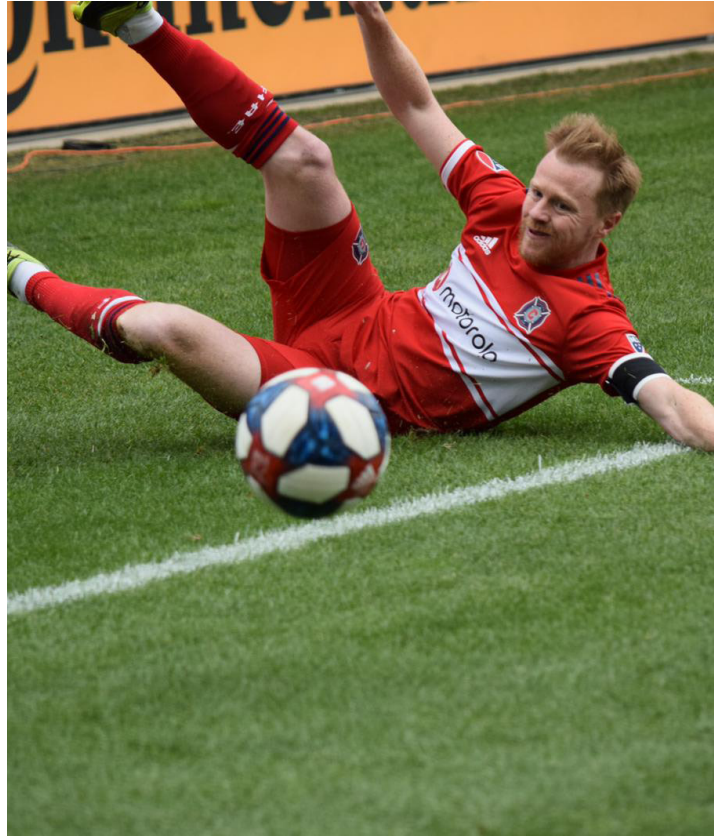
Shots: 7 Shots on goal: 1 Fouls Committed: 11 Fouls Suffered: 18 Offsides: 3 Corners: 6

Referee: Alex Chilowicz

Assistant Referees: Jeff Hosking, Brian Dunn

VAR: Fotis Bazakos

CREDIT: CHICAGO FIRE SOCCER CLUB



## LA Galaxy 2, Portland Timbers 1

Two Zlatan Ibrahimovic penalties were all the LA Galaxy needed against the Portland Timbers.

Ibrahimovic's pair of spot kicks earned the Galaxy a 2-1 win over the Timbers, as LA's No. 9 won the foul for each penalty. Ibrahimovic's goals which were converted either side a Jeremy Ebobisse tally.

A year to the day of Ibrahimovic's emphatic MLS debut, he nearly scored a goal of the season candidate with the game scoreless, only to be denied by the post. It wouldn't be long before he won his first penalty off a foul by Claude Dielna.

The Timbers responded with a beautifully worked team goal, with quick combination resulting with Ebobisse tapping in from six yards out before halftime. In the second half, though, Ibrahimovic won his second penalty, dribbling a handful of Timbers defenders before being taken down by Jeff Attinella.

Ibrahimovic took a different tactic to the second penalty, a delicate Panenka which would eventually be the game-winner. The Timbers remain winless on the season.

### Goals

33' – LA – Zlatan Ibrahimovic (PK)

44' – POR – Jeremy Ebobisse

66' – LA – Zlatan Ibrahimovic (PK)

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Two teams that expect to make the playoffs, two teams that are trending in different directions. The Galaxy had arguably their strongest lineup available for the first time this season while the Timbers are still attempting to right the ship in 2019.



**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** The penalty call was debated, but Ibrahimovic made no mistake from 12-yards out.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** In his second match of 2019, Ibrahimovic has now tallied three goals. He won both penalties and has a gravitational pull on opposing defenders.

CREDIT: Tom Bogert Contributor

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## Orlando City SC 1, DC United 2

It was the Wayne Rooney show yet again for D.C. United as the Black and Red defeated Orlando City SC 2-1, behind a goal and assist from their captain.

D.C. got on the board after just six minutes, as Rooney whipped a free kick that found Steven Birnbaum's head. Later, on the other side of the field again behind a free kick, Rooney produced a moment of magic.

Mere yards away from the corner flag, Rooney curled a tremendous free kick into the top corner past Brian Rowe. The play didn't come without controversy, as the foul leading to the free kick was contentious. Dom Dwyer lunged at Rooney, though it was unclear if he made contact. FOX Sports broadcaster Alexi Lalas vehemently agreed with the referee's decision regardless if there was contact made or not.



Orlando City made D.C. sweat for the points, as a close-range header from Dwyer in the 63rd minute cut the deficit in half but they could not complete the second half comeback despite pressure mounting late. Chris Mueller hit the post with a header in the dying minutes of the match.

It was D.C.'s first road win since May 19, 2018 when they beat the San Jose Earthquakes 3-1, which was their only road win of 2018.

### Goals

6' — DC — Steven Birnbaum  
30' — DC — Wayne Rooney  
63' — ORL — Dom Dwyer

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** D.C. United continue to look like a favorite in the Eastern Conference with another strong performance. For all the analysis of D.C.'s flowing attack, Dwyer's goal was the first the club have conceded in 2019.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** Wayne Rooney, take a bow.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Rooney's goal contributions are too important to ignore, even if both were from set pieces.

CREDIT: MLS SOCCER Tom Bogert Contributor



# San Jose Earthquakes 0, Los Angeles Football Club 5

Carlos Vela capped his first MLS hat trick with a stunning second-half curler, and LAFC outclassed the San Jose Earthquakes throughout a 5-0 victory on Saturday at Avaya Stadium.

Former Quake Steven Beitashour and Diego Rossi also scored for LAFC, who built upon their Western Conference lead while remaining unbeaten.

San Jose goalkeeper Daniel Vega gave the visitors unnecessary help early with a brutal error trying to clear the ball with his feet, leading to Vela's opener.

The Quakes are now winless in their last 12 dating back to last season and have lost their first four to open the new season under incoming coach Matias Almeyda, conceding 14 goals in the process.

## Goals

8' - LAFC - Carlos Vela  
 26' - LAFC - Steven Beitashour  
 45'+3' - LAFC - Carlos Vela  
 66' - LAFC - Carlos Vela  
 68' - LAFC - Diego Rossi



## Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Few thought Almeyda could lead an immediate turnaround for the worst team in MLS in 2018, but the Quakes' 2019 start is troubling in two ways: 1) The performances have progressively deteriorated since a season-opening 2-1 loss to Montreal, and 2) All but one of these defeats have come at home.

An almighty challenge now for Matias Almeyda with #quakes74. 3 wins in 36 @MLS games for the team in last 12 months. The Argentine wanted to make a statement in these first few games, but they've only really served to highlight just how much work/reconstruction there is to do.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** Vela has scored some special goals during his tenure with LAFC, but his third on Saturday may be the best of the bunch. It was his 20th since his arrival in MLS, and sixth this season.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Carlos Vela, who continues to be the early clubhouse leader in the race for the Landon Donovan MLS MVP award, even while failing to receive a call from new Mexico national team boss Tata Martino for the recently passed international window.

# Sporting Kansas City 7, Montreal Impact 1

Krisztian Nemeth picked up a hat trick and Johnny Russell added a brace as Sporting Kansas City rolled to a 7-1 victory over the Montreal Impact at Children's Mercy Park on Saturday afternoon.

Russell got the scoring started early in the 10th minute, swooping in after Nemeth was blocked on a shot attempt and firing into the corner from past the 18th. Gerso skilfully assisted on the next two goals, feeding Nemeth for his first goal in the 43rd and finding Felipe Gutierrez for a dagger right before the halftime whistle.

SKC didn't let up after halftime, with Russell getting his second in the 50th minute and Nemeth getting his second in the 68th. Sixteen-year-old sub Gianluca Busio scored in the 73rd minute shortly after coming on, and Nemeth added a goal for his hat trick to round out the SKC scoring. Saphir Taider, saving a bit of face for the Impact, scored his third goal of the season near the match's end to spoil the clean sheet.

## Goals

10' – SKC – Johnny Russell

43' – SKC – Krisztian Nemeth

45' + 2' – SKC – Felipe Gutierrez

50' – SKC – Johnny Russell

68' – SKC – Krisztian Nemeth

78' – SKC – Gianluca Busio

84' – SKC – Krisztian Nemeth

89' – MTL – Saphir Taider

## Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** SKC, with their second home win in as many tries in 2019, look like one of the West's most formidable squads, go to Monterrey on Thursday looking like they could keep the MLS Concacaf Champions League dream alive. Montreal, on the other hand, sorely missed Ignacio Piatti and won't get their first home match in Stade Saputo until April 13. Two wins in their first four matches, all away, gives this obviously bad loss some perspective.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** SKC's team goal right before halftime, which included expert play out of the back, a pinpoint Roger Espinoza pass that led a streaking Gerso down the right channel, and Gerso's well-weighted assist to Gutierrez, indicated that they wouldn't be content to just sit on a two-goal lead.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Though it was a true Gershow for much of the 71 minutes Gerso was on the pitch, Nemeth became the first Hungarian-born player with a hat trick in MLS history, and gets the slight nod here over the speedster with two critical assists.



CREDIT: Phil West Contributor

## Real Salt Lake 2, FC Dallas 4

The goals flowed on Saturday night, as FC Dallas won on the road, 4-2, over Real Salt Lake.

A 1st-minute strike from Dallas midfielder Carlos Guezo was perhaps a sign of things to come, as they went into half-time up 2-1 after Paxton Pomykal scored his first-ever MLS goal.



RSL, down to 10 men after Damir Kreilach received a red card in the 17th minute for head-butting Guezo, found a lifeline in the 31st minute. That's when Jefferson Savarino clawed a goal back, curling home a right-footed shot from distance.

Making full use of the man advantage, Dallas sandwiched two more goals around a Marcelo Silva header in the 66th minute. One was a Pomykal game-winner off a deflection in the 64th minute, while the other came from Jesus Ferreira. The 18-year-old forward tapped home an insurance strike in the 69th minute off a cross from Michael Barrios.

### Goals

- 1' – DAL – Carlos Guezo
- 31' – RSL – Jefferson Savarino
- 32' – DAL – Paxton Pomykal
- 64' – DAL – Paxton Pomykal
- 66' – RSL – Marcelo Silva
- 69' – DAL – Jesus Ferreira

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Some called this match the Homegrown Player derby in its buildup, and that followed through as a combined nine academy products started between Dallas and RSL. FCD's youth provided three of their four goals via Paxton Pomykal and Jesus Ferreira. Meanwhile, RSL lost for the third consecutive game.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** For the third straight match, the Claret-and-Cobalt received a red card. This go-around, Damir Kreilach head-butted Carlos Guezo in the 17th minute, reducing the home side to 10 men. After scoring two goals with a depleted group, one can't help but wonder how RSL would have fared if they didn't dig themselves yet another hole.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Paxton Pomykal figures to play a big role on the U.S. U-20 World Cup team this May and June, especially after his starring role Saturday against RSL. The 19-year-old midfielder, in his fourth professional season, scored his first-ever MLS goal in the first half. He then added the game-winner in the second stanza, giving him two goals and an assist through five games.

## New England Revolution 2, Minnesota United 1

Unlikely scorers Jalil Anibaba and Brandon Bye found the back of the net Saturday to give the New England Revolution a desperately needed 2-1 victory over Minnesota United at Gillette Stadium, their first of the season.

Bye's match-winner was the 23-year-old's second in MLS, and Anibaba's earlier header marked his first MLS goal in almost exactly four years. Anibaba was one of six lineup changes made by Brad Friedel following a 2-0 home loss to FC Cincinnati last weekend.

Darwin Quintero converted from the spot for his third goal of the season for Minnesota. But the Loons were second-best in their penultimate match of five on the road to open their campaign before debuting Allianz Field on April 13.

### Goals

10' - NE - Jalil Anibaba

26' - MIN - Darwin Quintero (PK)

62' - NE - Brandon Bye



### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Of Friedel's six changes, the most eye-catching were winger Cristian Penilla and goalkeeper Brad Knighton, who were dropped from the 18 entirely despite not being listed on the club's injury report. As for Minnesota coach Adrian Heath, if you'd offered him six points out of his first four away matches, he may have taken it, but this will still feel like an opportunity lost.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** The Revs were in the ascendancy for most of the match. But during a rare sequence on the back foot, Cody Cropper made this phenomenal denial of Francisco Calvo to prevent the visitors from taking a smash-and-grab lead. Cropper was in his first MLS start since 2017.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Carles Gil. The 26-year-old Spaniard pulled the strings all afternoon for Friedel's squad. His sublime service set up Anibaba's opener for his first MLS assist, and he was unlikely not to have another or add to his total of three goals.

CREDIT: MLS SOCCER Ian Quillen Contributor

## Atlético Madrid reportedly to play in MLS All-Star Game

The MLS All-Star Game will continue its tradition of hosting a top international club when Spanish La Liga side Atlético Madrid visits Orlando City Stadium, according to a report from SI.com's Grant Wahl.

Orlando City Stadium will host the MLS All-Star Game on July 31. Atlético Madrid (17-4-8, 59 points) sits in second place in La Liga.

Pro Soccer USA first reported on Aug. 1 Orlando would host the MLS All-Star Game.

When the league formally announced one of its top events was coming to Orlando, Orlando City SC majority owner Flávio Augusto Da Silva hinted at a possible change in the format of the game. Before the MLS Cup, Commissioner Don Garber said there would be no change in the format of this year's all-star game, though he added there was talk of a match between the all-stars of Liga MX and MLS.

July's match will be the second time in MLS history the league's all-star game is hosted in Orlando. The city previously hosted the game in 1998 at what was then known as the Citrus Bowl. That venue, now known as Camping World Stadium, wasn't considered for the 2019 all-star game.

The 2018 All-Star Game against Serie A titan Juventus at Mercedes-Benz Stadium – built for both the Atlanta Falcons of the NFL and MLS side Atlanta United – drew a record announced crowd of 72,317. Orlando City Stadium seats 25,500.



CREDIT: MLS SOCCER Jordan Culver, Pro Soccer USA



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