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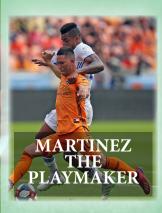
MAGAZINE

WEEK 16









CHICAGO FIRE

VANCOUVER



Chicago Fire Soccer Club Draws Vancouver Whitecaps FC 1-1, Extends Unbeaten Run to Three Games

The Chicago Fire Soccer Club scored a late game-tying goal to draw Vancouver Whitecaps FC 1-1 at SeatGeek Stadium on Friday night. With the result, the Fire are unbeaten in its last three matches in league play. Forward Nemanja Nikolić scored the team's lone goal in the 84th minute of play, finding the back of the net for a second straight match.

Friday's match against Whitecaps FC featured a plethora of chances for the Fire, which dominated the Canadian side in total shots (23-9), shots on target (6-2) and possession (60-40).

Attacking Vancouver early in the match, the Men in Red created a chance through midfielder Aleksandar Katai who

struck a strong effort from distance, forcing goalkeeper Maxime Crépeau, to make a difficult diving save at the near post in the sixth minute.

Six minutes later, after a solid spell of possession, the Fire created another threatening opportunity from distance. With the Fire pinning Whitecaps FC deep inside their own half, defender Bastian Schweinsteiger ventured forward from the center back position and struck driven long range effort, causing Crépeau to bobble his initial save. Nikolić, who was lurking in the penalty area, reacted to the loose ball but Crépeau recovered quickly and forced the striker's shot wide of the target.

Approaching halftime, Katai created a moment of brilliance and nearly gave the Fire a 1-0 lead after taking the team's seventh shot in the first half. Receiving a deep pass from midfielder Mo Adams



on the far right side of the field, Katai ran at defender Ali Adnan and pushed the ball through his legs to cut inside, before pulling the ball back onto his right foot and causing Adnan to lose his footing and fall inside the 18-yard box. To complete the play, Katai turned and clipped a left-footed effort from a difficult angle, creating another nervous moment for Crépeau who had to make a difficult save in the 31st minute (WATCH).

Despite outshooting Vancouver 10-1 in the opening 45, the Fire fell behind eight minutes into the second half when a giveaway from goalkeeper David Ousted allowed forward Yordy Reyna to sneak the ball inside the near post from a tight angle (WATCH).

Following several scoring chances, the Fire would eventually find the equalizer after referee Jair Marrufo utilized Video Review to determine that the ball struck defender Doneil Henry's arm inside the box, awarding a penalty kick. Nikolić confidently stepped up and blasted the ball into the top left corner, sending Crépeau the wrong way (WATCH). The goal marked Nikolić's second of the season.

The Fire's next match will take place at home on Saturday, April 20 against the Colorado Rapids at SeatGeek Stadium. Beginning at 12:00 p.m. CT, the match against the Rapids will be broadcast live on ESPN+ and transmitted locally on Univision Radio WRTO AM 1200.

Match notes:

Nikolić scored for a second straight game, scoring the game-tying goal with a penalty kick in the 84th minute.

Chicago Fire Soccer Club continued...

Nikolić has scored the most goals (four) in Club history against Whitecaps FC.

Midfielder Nicolás Gaitán made his first MLS start as a member of the Chicago Fire.

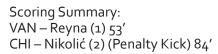
Captain Dax McCarty made his 60th appearance (60th start) for the Fire. Since beginning his professional career in 2006, McCarty has made 335 MLS appearances (305 starts).

McCarty led the team in touches (120), total passes (102) and chances created (four).

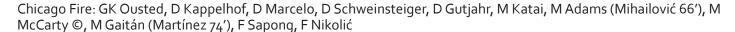
Midfielder Cristian Martínez made his first home appearance of the 2019 season.

The Fire are on a three game unbeaten streak. Friday's match marked the 10th meeting between the Fire and Whitecaps FC since the 2011 season. With the 1-1 result, the Fire are unbeaten in its last two home games (1-0-1) against Whitecaps FC dating back to July 1, 2017. Box Score:

Chicago Fire 1:1 Vancouver Whitecaps FC



Misconduct Summary: CHI – Adams (Caution) 40' VAN – Crépeau (Caution) 79'



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

Shots: 23 Shots on goal: 6 Fouls Committed: 7 Fouls Suffered: 10 Offsides: 2 Corners: 6

Vancouver Whitecaps FC: GK Crépeau, D Sutter, D Godoy, D Henry, D Adnan, M Erice, M Martins, M Teibert, F Hwang, F Montero (Ardaiz 72'), F Reyna (Venuto 66')

Subs not used: MacMath, Cornelius, Bangoura, Nerwinski, Giro

Shots: 9 Shots on goal: 2 Fouls Committed: 10 Fouls Suffered: 7 Offsides: 1 Corners: 2

Referee: Jair Marrufo

Assistant Referees: Corey Rockwell, Jose Da Silva

Fourth Official: Ismir Pekmic

VAR: Daniel Radford Attendance: 10,439

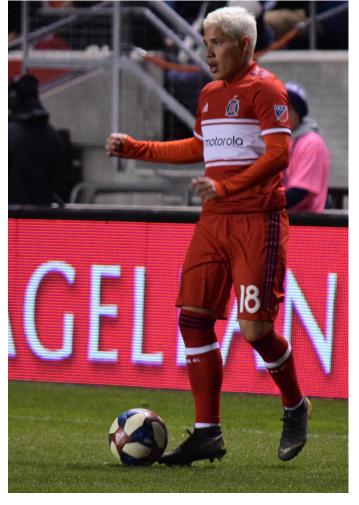


















LA Galaxy 2, Philadelphia Union 0

Zlatan Ibrahimovic struck for a first-half brace to lift the LA Galaxy to a 2-0 win over the Philadelphia Union Saturday night at Dignity Health Sports Park.

Ibrahimovic, who trails Carlos Vela in the Golden Boot presented by Audi race by two goals, opened his account in the 27th minute when he leapt over the back of Auston Trusty to meet Jorgen Skjelvik's lobbed cross and headed past Andre Blake.

Ibrahimovic then latched onto a lofted Jonathan dos Santos service, but crashed inside the 18-yard box following contact from Kai Wagner. Referee David Gantar pointed to the penalty spot, a call that was upheld following a lengthy Video Review.

Ibrahimovic finished clinically into the side netting with Blake diving the other way. Any chance of a Union comeback was thwarted in the 76th minute when Trusty was sent off for his second bookable offense.

While Philadelphia's winning streak was snapped at three games, the larger concern is the health of midfielder Marco Fabian, who limped off with an apparent ankle injury, after 23 minutes.



Goals

27' — LA — Zlatan Ibrahimovic 36' — LA — Zlatan Ibrahimovic (PK)

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: In a matchup of streaking teams, this was one-way traffic. The Galaxy won their fourth in a row and fifth in their first six games and secured a second straight clean sheet, while the Union had a three-match winning streak, and four-match unbeaten streak, snapped in Carson.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: Ibrahimovic placed his stamp, and asserted his dominance on this game early. But should he have been called for a foul for going over Trusty's back?

MAN OF THE MATCH: Ibrahimovic tacked on two more goals to dominate the young Union defense again and is currently outpacing Golden Boot-record holder Josef Martinez through six games of the season. If he remains healthy, who knows how many goals he'll end up with?



Tu estacion orgullosamente latina !!!

Houston Dynamo 2, San Jose Earthquakes 1

Tomas Martinez struck on a gorgeous curler to give his side the lead for good, Alberth Elis scored his third goal earlier in the second half, and the Houston Dynamo survived bad luck and a weather delay to defeat the San Jose Earthquakes 2-1 at BBVA Compass Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The Dynamo also struck the woodwork three times — including once on Mauro Manotas' penalty — during a contest that saw the secondhalf restart delayed by 1 hour and 11 minutes due to lightning in the stadium vicinity. They remain unbeaten after entering Week 7 as one of only three MLS teams without a defeat.

Jackson Yueill leveled the match from distance four minutes after Elis' opener for his first career MLS goal in his 39th appearance since 2017. But despite hanging in the match, the Quakes were clearly second best, struggling to cope with the Dynamo's



rapid counterattacking style for much of afternoon.

San Jose's Marcos Lopez was sent off late for his studs-up challenge on Houston's Boniek Garcia.

Goals

52' - HOU - Alberth Elis 56' - SJ - Jackson Yueill 60' - HOU - Tomas Martinez

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: If you merely looked at the final score and didn't watch, you'd think the Dynamo played down to the level of their opponent. That was hardly the case. Instead, it was an uncharacteristically tough day for Manotas, combined with some unkind woodwork and potentially a second penalty kick that wasn't awarded moments before Yueill's equalizer. And still the Dynamo persevered, making the case they might be a side with the mettle for a deep run this fall.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: Martinez's is a playmaker, but he took his 6oth-minute goal with a poacher's efficiency, striking the loose ball on his first touch. While the goal frame denied Houston thrice on Saturday, on this occasion it was kind for the Argentine.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Tomas Martinez. The Argentine Young Designated Player has not quite made the impact that was expected since his arrival in the summer of 2017, but his obvious class showed through here. He earned a first-half penalty and then took matters into his own hands in the second. A breakout season from Martinez could be the difference between a good Dynamo side and a contending one.

CREDIT: MLS SOCCER Ian Quillen Contributor



Los Angeles Football Club 2, FC Cincinnati 0

Carlos Vela continued to show why he's an early favorite in the MLS MVP race, as Los Angeles Football Club again found three points in downing expansion side FC Cincinnati, 2-0, on Saturday evening.

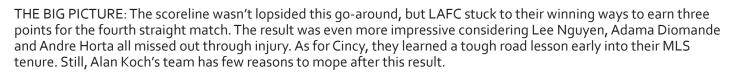
The Western Conference and Supporters' Shield leaders found their breakthrough in the 32nd minute, as Mark-Anthony Kaye flicked home a corner kick from Vela. The Mexican international then added some insurance late in second-half stoppage time, sealing the result with a right-footed finish.

The scoreline could have been far worse if not for some first-half heroics from FC Cincinnati – twice to deny Diego Rossi. The first came from goalkeeper Spencer Richey, who robbed the Uruguayan in the 2nd minute. Then center back Nick Hagglund cleared a deflected rush by the forward off the line in the 5th minute.

Quality chances were few and far between for Cincy, but this was no onslaught from LAFC either. The Black and Gold had outscored their last two opponents by a combined 9-0 scoreline.



Three Things



MOMENT OF THE MATCH: There's perhaps no worse time to allow a goal than the final minutes of a half, and LAFC nearly did exactly that. However, Tyler Miller went full stretch to deny a curler from Darren Mattocks. If the shot went in, it would have been 1-1 at halftime and a vastly different complexion coming out of the dressing room.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Would there really have been someone else? Carlos Vela had a goal and an assist, giving him five goals and three assists across LAFC's last three games. Simply put, the Designated Player is on fire right now. What a signing he's been for the Western Conference side.



CREDIT: Jonathan Sigal Contributor

Real Salt Lake 2, Orlando City 1

Designated Player forward Sam Johnson, in his second start, powered home his first MLS goal to open the scoring, recovering from a penalty-area stumble to split two defenders and rifle a shot at the near post. Damir Kreilach – back from a red-card suspension – struck early in the second half to provide some breathing room.

Orlando rested Nani and Dom Dwyer to start, then brought on both in the second half, with Nani bending in a late free kick to make it a one-goal game, but the Lions did not seriously threaten in the final minutes.

RSL center back Justen Glad started for the first time since October after he missed the first six games of the season with a toe injury, and he made a critical sliding tackle in the 47th minute to prevent Orlando wingback Ruan from shooting when it was still a 1-0 game.

Real Salt Lake (2W-4L-1D) moved ahead of the Western Conference's bottom four with their second win of the season. Orlando (2W-3L-2D), who started Will Johnson after he missed three games due to a concussion, remain in the playoff places at seventh in the East.

Goals

17' – RSL – Sam Johnson (unassisted)

55' - RSL - Damir Kreilach (Jefferson Savarino, Aaron Herrera)

81' - ORL - Nani (unassisted)

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: Real Salt Lake got Sam Johnson, Damir Kreilach and Justen Glad all on the field at the same time – a first – and the starters did not disappoint, helping RSL take care of business at home. That bodes well for their ability to recover from a 1-4-1 start, although they did lose Everton Luiz to a first-half injury. Orlando can score, at least with Nani on the field, but they have allowed the most goals in the Eastern Conference (13) and were going uphill from the start in this one

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: With Real Salt Lake threatening and Orlando prepared to respond by bringing on Nani and Dom Dwyer,



RSL made the duo's task exponentially harder by striking for their second goal before the substitution could happen, with an Aaron Herrera long ball springing Jefferson Savarino down the right, and Damir Kreilach arriving on time to fire home a left-footer and all but seal the result.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Even before his goal, Damir Kreilach had been the most dangerous attacker on the field, including the skill to earn a free kick and the awareness to take it quickly before Johnson's opener. The attacker earned a measure of redemption after his March 30 red card cost RSL in consecutive losses to FC Dallas and Seattle.

CREDIT: MLSsoccer staff



Seattle Sounders FC 3, Toronto FC 2

They were two of the last four undefeated teams in MLS entering Week 7, and the matchup between the Seattle Sounders and Toronto FC played out like a heavyweight battle, finishing 3-2 for the home side.

The two clubs, which met in consecutive MLS Cup finals in 2016 and 2017, exchanged first-half goals with their respective target strikers -- Jozy Altidore and Will Bruin -- converting on headers in the span of 13 minutes.



Midway through the second half, Bruin came through with another goal and Cristian Roldan followed up with a third on a nifty strike just two minutes later.

Then Altidore again connected with playmaker Alejandro Pozuelo on a second goal to set up a thrilling finale. First Pozuelo forced Seattle's Stefan Frei into a world-class, stoppage-time save and then Laurent Ciman blasted a shot off the left post as Seattle held on for the three points.

Gnals

11' – TOR – Jozy Altidore (Alejandro Pozuelo)

24'-SEA-Will Bruin

66' - SEA - Will Bruin (Brad Smith, Nicolas Lodeiro)

68' - SEA - Cristian Roldan (Kelvin Leerdam, Gustav Svensson)

70' – TOR – Jozy Altidore (Alejandro Pozuelo, Laurent Ciman)

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: This was a well-played match on both sides of the ball between two teams that have the early look of contenders. There was little between these two teams and the Sounders simply made one more play.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: Several of the goals scored on the day were high quality, but this save by goalkeeper Stefan Frei on a potential stoppage-time equalizer for Toronto was an obvious turning point:

MAN OF THE MATCH: Sounders forward Will Bruin, taking the place of starter Raul Ruidiaz, continues to produce every time he's called into action, matching Altidore on the day with two strikes. Fans will be eager for word on the injury that forced him to limp off the field and sub out in the 79th minute.

CREDIT: MLS SOCCER Simon Borg



Colorado Rapids 2, DC United 3

D.C. United overcame an early Colorado Rapids goal by scoring three in an eight minute span just before the half and then held on for a 3-2 road win Saturday night at Dick's Sporting Goods Park.

Benny Feilhaber put the home side up after 11 minutes when he finished at the far post off a corner kick. The lead lasted 25 minutes, and then the wheels fell off.

Luciano Acosta roofed United's first goal and homegrown midfielder Chris Durkin - making his first start of the year - put United ahead minutes later when he ripped a shot past Tim Howard for his first career goal. Lucas Rodriguez then slalomed through Colorado's defense to put United up 3-1 at the break.

The Rapids made a game of it in the second when Kei Kamara got one back, but in the end D.C. held on for the road win, leaving Colorado winless through the first seven games of the season.

Goals

11' – COL – Benny Feilhaber (Paul Arriola)

35' - DC - Luciano Acosta

38' – DC – Chris Durkin

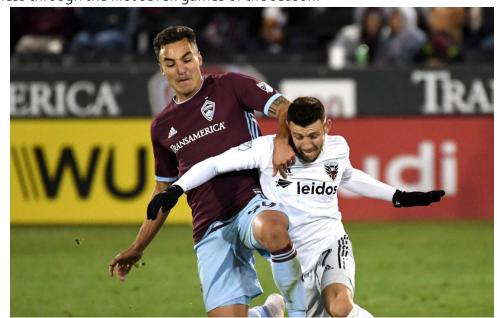
43' – DC – Lucas Rodriguez

66' – COL – Kei Kamara

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: On paper D.C. were expected to win, and they did, now 2-0-1 on the road and knowing they'll be atop the East through the weekend. Colorado are winless through seven for the first time ever, and this was the third straight game - and fourth of the young season - in which

they've surrendered three or more goals.



MOMENT OF THE MATCH: Acosta's goal got DC on the board, but Chris Durkin's turned out to be the hit that did Colorado in:

MAN OF THE MATCH: Save for that eight minute span, Colorado played a solid game. Still, hard to give the nod to the losing team, so the nod goes to Lucas Rodriguez for setting up Durkin and then his own fantastic finish.

CREDIT: MLS SOCCER Ian Quillen Contributor



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