# **TRADITIES COM** MAGAZINE

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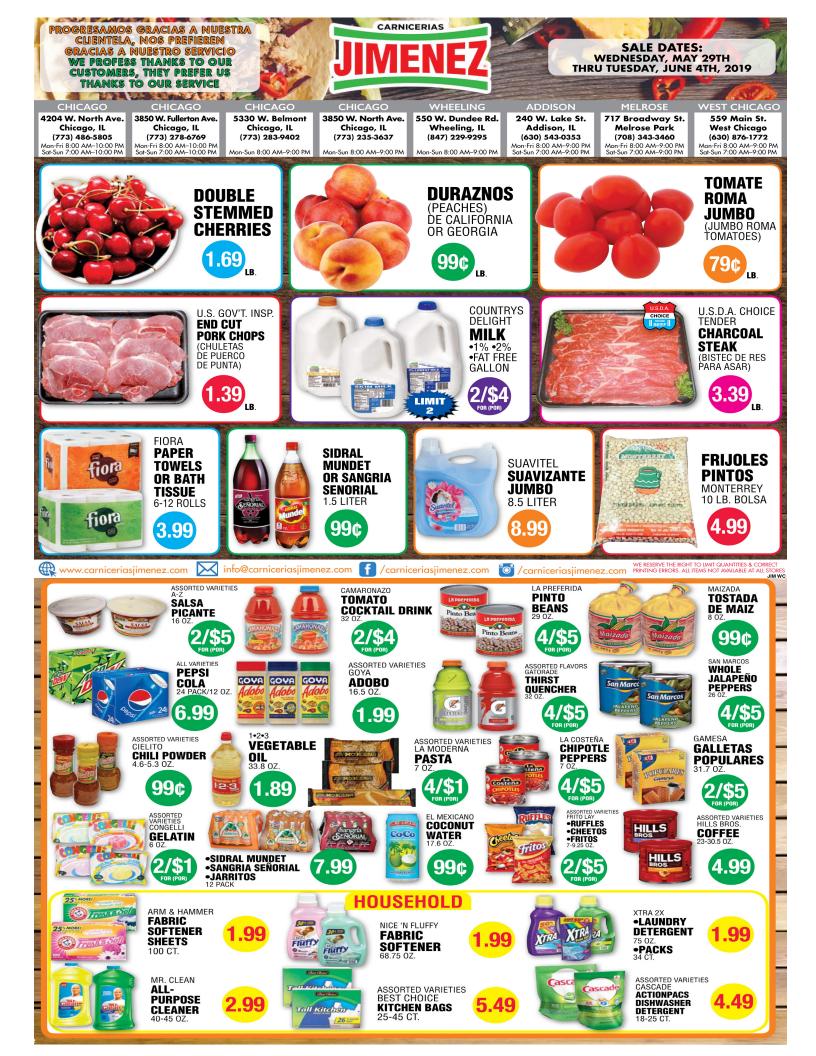
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#### Chicago Fire Soccer Club Falls 2-0 to Atlanta United FC

Playing its second away match in four days, the Chicago Fire Soccer Club (4-6-6, 18 points) fell 2-0 to Atlanta United FC (8-5-2, 26 points) at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Saturday evening.

Opening the game on the front foot, the Fire created a strong chance in the 12th minute when midfielder Aleksandar Katai capitalized on an Atlanta turnover on the edge of the 18-yard box and fired a left-footed effort that skipped just wide of the far post.

With the game featuring a high tempo from the opening whistle, Atlanta United managed to take the lead on a counterattack – also in the 12th minute – when forward Josef Martínez was slipped into space in the box and converted a close-range attempt.

Despite conceding the early goal, the Fire responded with several goal scoring opportunities in the first half. In the 21st

minute, Katai floated a cross to the back post for striker Nemanja Nikolić, whose header from close range was saved by Atlanta goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

Moments later, the Men in Red, who controlled possession in the game 53-47, threatened to score on another chance when midfielder Dax McCarty slipped the ball into the box for forward CJ Sapong. Running onto McCarty's pass, Sapong got a shot off with his right foot,



but Guzan slid off his line to make the save in the 29thminute.

With the team continuing to push for an equalizer, Katai earned a dangerous free kick on the left side of the field, just outside of the 18-yard box. On the ensuing set piece, midfielder Nicolás Gaitán whipped a curling free kick to the back post where defender Francisco Calvo's header nearly equalized in the 36th minute.

In the 42nd minute, Atlanta United midfielder Gonzalo Martínez struck a powerful left-footed effort from distance, but Fire goalkeeper Kenneth Kronholm made a confident diving save to push the effort wide.

With just two minutes remaining in the first half, Atlanta United extended its lead when Josef Martínez scored on a breakaway to notch his second goal of the game.

As the Fire pushed forward to cut into Atlanta's lead in the second half, the home side created two solid chances but Kronholm was in position to deny both efforts. Following a stop on Atlanta United midfielder Brek Shea's shot in the 67th minute, the German goalkeeper came off his line to deny midfielder Julian Gressel from close range in the 71st minute (WATCH). Kronholm finished the match with six saves.

Looking ahead, the Fire's next match will occur on Tuesday, June 11 when the team travels to face USL Championship side Saint Louis FC in the fourth round of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup at World Wide Technology Soccer Park. Scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. CT, the match against Saint Louis be broadcast live on ESPN+.

Box Score:

Chicago Fire 0:2 Atlanta United FC



### Columbus Crew SC 2, New York City FC 2

The Columbus Crew and New York City FC traded blows for 90 minutes in central Ohio on Saturday night, eventually settling for an entertaining 2-2 draw.

The Crew were the first to strike, as US international Gyasi Zardes kept his cool from the penalty spot in the 28th minute after Alexander Callens bundled over Pedro Santos in the NYCFC area.

The home side held their lead until the half, but it was NYCFC's turn in the 57th minute. Heber continued the impressive start to his NYCFC career when he capitalized on an errant — but ultimately fortuitous — touch from teammate Ismael Tajouri-Shradi that put him in on goal to coolly slot past departing Crew 'keeper Zack Steffen, playing his final game for Columbus.



The home side struck back four minutes later thanks to some strong play from both of its wingers. New arrival David Accam pulled a nifty move to get past Alex Ring in the NYCFC midfield before sliding the ball across to a wide-open Santos for the finish past Sean Johnson.

NYCFC would get the last laugh with the best goal of the bunch with 15 minutes remaining. Ring won the ball high up the field and found Valentin Castellanos about 30 yards from the the Crew goal. After taking a touch, the 20-year-old Argentine uncorked a stunning shot to beat Steffen and nestle in the side netting for his third goal of 2019, allowing NYCFC to leave MAPFRE Stadium with a share of the spoils.

Goals 28' – CLB – Gyasi Zardes 57' – NYC – Heber 61' – CLB – Pedro Santos 75' – NYC – Valentin Castellanos

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: With another devastating injury to a member of their starting XI, Crew SC can't catch a break. But they made their own breaks against one of the hottest teams in MLS in Week 14. They played NYCFC toe-to-toe as they said goodbye to star 'keeper Zack Steffen, who makes his permanent summer move to Manchester City following Gold Cup duty with the US national team. The Cityzens, meanwhile, stretch their current league-best unbeaten run to 9 matches.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: When NYCFC equalized the match at 1-1, it was a delicate moment for Crew SC, losers of 8 of their last 9 matches. But they showed character in delivering another uppercut via Pedro Santos. Even if they came away with a point in the end, it was an important show of spirit.

MAN OF THE MATCH: The match may have been a celebration of departing goalkeeper Zack Steffen, but his teammate Pedro Santos was the standout. The winger showed he's Crew SC's best candidate to take over at the No. 10 position for Pipa Higuain, who'll miss the rest of the season after suffering a knee ligament injury.



#### Houston Dynamo 1, Sporting Kansas City 1

On a hot and humid Saturday evening at BBVA Compass Stadium, the Houston Dynamo and Sporting Kansas City traded second-half goals in a 1-1 draw.

Aside from several assured stops from SKC goalkeeper Tim Melia, quality chances were lacking for much of the first hour. Shortly after, both teams made a Grade-A opportunities count.

First came SKC in the 63rd minute, as Yohan Croizet sprung onto an Ilie Sanchez cross-field switch, beating Adam Lundkvist to a 50-50 ball. The Frenchman then lofted an onrushing Joe Willis with a chip, cushioning home an inch-perfect shot into the open goal.



Houston didn't trail for long, as an Alberth Elis half-volley made it 1-1 in the 69th minute. After

right back A.J. DeLaGarza headed a Maynor Figueroa cross back into play, the Honduran winger made no mistake.

Both teams pushed for a late go-ahead strike, but that never arrived.

Goals 63' – SKC – Yohan Croizet 69' – HOU – Alberth Elis

#### Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: All things considered, this was a quality point for SKC in a game that served as their third contest in seven days. They went 1-1-1 during that stretch before playing their next three league matches on the road, with a June 12 US Open Cup match against Minnesota United making it four. Meanwhile, Houston remains undefeated at BBVA Compass Stadium, holding a 6-o-3 record at home. They're now 1-2-2 across their last five matches, so certainly cooling off some.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: Yohan Croizet's goal, if not for a quick response from the Dynamo, would have been a sensational game-winner. His chip over Dynamo goalkeeper Joe Willis got all the measurements right. He was deployed as a right winger, too, having already played this season at outside back and in midfield.

MAN OF THE MATCH: SKC goalkeeper Tim Melia gets the nod here for finishing with three saves on an evening where his teammates clearly had heavy legs. It wasn't flashy, but his stop on Boniek Garcia in second-half stoppage time proved vital in preserving a hard-earned point.





#### Montreal Impact 0, Orlando City SC 3

On a day when Nani scored his 100th goal in a pro career dating back to 2005, Orlando City SC scored three first-half goals en route to a 3-0 win over the Montreal Impact at Stade Saputo on Saturday.

The match was essentially absent of chances through the first 25 minutes, but that changed when Zakaria Diallo was called for a handball in the box, allowing Nani to step to the spot and convert the penalty for his 8th goal of the season

— and, significantly, to reach the century mark in his pro tenure. The floodgates were then open: OCSC got goals from Canadians Tesho Akindele (on a nicely builtup team goal) and Will Johnson (heading in an attempted shot punched out by Evan Bush) to make the halftime margin 3-0.

The second half saw Anthony Jackson-Hamel and Saphir Taider attempt the Impact's best chances of the day, and Akindele nearly got his second on a play where multiple Lions got touches in front of the box, but the first-half scoreline held to the final whistle.

Goals 27' – ORL – Nani (PK) 36' – ORL – Tesho Akindele 42' – ORL – Will Johnson

#### Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: For Orlando, there's good news — second win in last three matches! — though, seeing that they did lose the last three matches prior to that more successful string, it comes in the midst of a challenging season. Still, they're in 8th in the East and legitimately in the playoff mix. Montreal, meanwhile, had a particularly punchless offense without the injured Ignacio Piatti, with just one shot on target mustered throughout the match. The playoffs aren't in danger yet, but performances like this won't stave off the contenders below them in the standings who are now (look-ing at you, Atlanta) finding results along with their identities. (And with Piatti out an estimated 8-12 weeks with a new knee injury, it could get worse before it gets better again.)

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: Nani had himself a special moment with his PK conversion, and it came at a point in the match where both teams were playing with the caginess of Champions League finalists from England.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Akindele got a crucial insurance goal, nearly scored a second, and ignited the Lions for long enough to accumulate an insurmountable lead.

## DC United 1, San Jose Earthquakes 1

Chris Wondolowski built upon his MLS-record tally with his 151st career goal before halftime, and the San Jose Earthquakes held on for a 1-1 draw against D.C. United on Saturday night at Audi Field.

Wondolowski has now scored the last seven goals for San Jose in their last three matches, two wins and a draw. Under first-year coach Matias Almeyda, the Quakes have lost only once in their last seven after beginning the season with four consecutive defeats.

Luciano Acosta leveled after the break after chasing down a fortuitous rebound for his second goal in as many games and fifth of the season. But D.C. remained winless with four points over their last five games, their longest such stretch since Wayne Rooney debuted in Washington last July.

Goals 37' - SJ - Chris Wondolowski 68' - DC - Luciano Acosta

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: An 25-day break from MLS play couldn't come at



a better time for D.C., who lost midfielder Russell Canouse to an apparent injury midway through the first half and defender Steve Birnbaum in the 62nd following a nasty clash of heads with Florian Jungwirth. Meanwhile, the Quakes will be happy they don't have as long a Gold Cup break in their current form, even though they need more balance from their offense to succeed long term.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: After D.C. had leveled, a corner bounced off the ground and then struck defender Harold Cummings' arm before Cummings cleared. D.C. players and the Audi Field crowed bayed for a Video Review and potentially a go-ahead penalty attept, but referee Ramy Touchan opted not to take a second look.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Nick Lima. The outside back was a major reason D.C. were held in check for the majority of the encounter, and also provided the service for Wondolowski's opener. His stoppage-time foul on Paul Arriola may have picked up a yellow card, but it also halted a potential breakaway with the match in the balance.



### New York Red Bulls 4, Real Salt Lake 0

On a night where there was a post-match fireworks display, the New York Red Bulls provided plenty of fireworks in the second half with three goals in a six-minute span to cruise to a 4-0 win over Real Salt Lake at Red Bull Arena Saturday night.

The onslaught started with a Marcelo Silva own goal in the 58th minute when Aaron Herrera's attempted sliding clearance of a Michael Murillo service went in off Silva's chest.

A minute later, Kaku played to Daniel Royer's feet and, with his second touch, the Austrian winger slotted past Nick Rimando.

In the 64th minute, an open Murillo received a ball from Alex Muyl, cut the ball back to his left foot and fired a deflected shot in from 10 yards out to make it 3-0.

Omir Fernandez capped the party, latching onto a ball cut back by Andreas Ivan and firing home first time in the 83rd minute.

Goals

58' — RBNY — Marcelo Silva (OG) 59' — RBNY — Daniel Royer 64' — RBNY — Michael Murillo 83' — RBNY — Omir Fernandez

Three Things

THE BIG PICTURE: There was a sense of inevitability in this one and it was a matter of when, not if, the Red Bulls score. And once they did, it seemed like the final could have been 7-0. New York make it three wins in a fourmatch unbeaten streak, while RSL lost a second straight on their East Coast road trip.



MOMENT OF THE MATCH: The smoke hadn't even cleared from the opening goal, when Royer doubled the Red Bulls lead with this goal.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Kaku was a threat throughout with probing passes. Some didn't result in goals, but he was buzzing throughout, perhaps extra motivation coming from being left off Paraguay's Copa America roster.



#### FC Dallas 2, Seattle Sounders 1

The Seattle Sounders scored three goals on Saturday night, but unfortunately for them two of those goals were for the other team, as they lost 2-1 to FC Dallas in a weather-delayed match.

The game was delayed an hour and 47 minutes due to storms and lightning in the vicinity of Toyota Stadium. Dallas entered the match winless in their last six games, while Seattle were coming off their first loss in seven matches.

Dallas took the lead in the 33rd minute, as Michael Barrios' cross was headed towards goal by Ryan Hollingshead and deflected off new Sounders defender Xavier Arreaga as he attempted to clear it, resulting in an own goal in the Ecuadorian's first MLS start. Five minutes later, Dallas scored on another Sounders own goal, this time off a free kick with Seattle's Brad Smith turning the ball in his own net.

But the Sounders regrouped at halftime and Raul Ruidiaz hit a deflected strike just outside the 18-yard box to cut the visitors' deficit to one in the 65th minute. In spite of that, Dallas held firm and collected a much-needed three points.



Goals 33' – DAL – Xavier Arreaga (OG) | 38' – DAL – Brad Smith (OG) | 65' – SEA – Raul Ruidiaz |

#### **Three Things**

THE BIG PICTURE: Dallas were perhaps a bit fortunate to have two own goals make the difference in their favor, but they were the stronger side overall on the night and kept the Sounders at bay. Seattle will be disappointed to lose a second straight game, but with Arreaga finding his footing in MLS and Joevin Jones making his return, they can chalk the result up to it being an unusual game.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: The game was rather sluggish until the goals began with Arreaga's own goal, and then it picked up speed.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Michael Barrios didn't technically get on the scoresheet, but the FC Dallas winger set up both own goals and that was the difference on the night.

#### Portland Timbers 2, Los Angeles Football Club 3

Los Angeles Football Club crashed the party of the grand re-opening of renovated Providence Park with a 3-2 win over the Portland Timbers Saturday night.

Carlos Vela got things started quickly for the Supporters' Shield leaders with a gift of a goal in the sixth minute. He picked off an errant short ball played by Jeff Attinella for Jorge Villafana and easily slotted past the goalkeeper for his league-leading 16th goal of the season.

Diego Rossi doubled the lead in the 34th minute, slipping into space to latch onto a Tristan Blackmon cross from 12 yards out.

Cristhian Paredes pulled the Timbers to within a goal in the opening minute of the second half, knocking a rebound past Tyler Miller. But Latif Blessing maintained the two-goal lead in the 54th minute, getting onto the end of a Jordan Harvey cross and volleying in from the edge of the six-yard box.

Brian Fernandez provided a late lifeline with a stunning bicycle kick six minutes from full time in a match that had a nasty tone, especially in the final quarter hour and in the 12 minutes of second-half stoppage time.

Goals 6' — LAFC — Carlos Vela 34' — LAFC — Diego Rossi 46' — POR — Cristhian Paredes 54' — LAFC — Latif Blessing 84' — POR — Brian Fernandez

#### **Three Things**

THE BIG PICTURE: This game had everything we hoped — a terrific tifo, some great goals, some feistiness on the field and in the technical areas before and after the match. More of this please.

MOMENT OF THE MATCH: With Providence Park buzzing, Vela silenced all but the 1,000 or so visiting fans with this opening goal off a brutal Attinella gaffe.

MAN OF THE MATCH: It's Vela, yet again. Yes, his opening goal was gift-wrapped, but he still had to finish it and he then helped set up Rossi's goal to put LAFC in the driver's seat.





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