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MAGAZINE

WEEK 36

SEPTEMBER 2019

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# FIRE DRAWS AT COLUMBUS CREW



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La Familia Jimenez y nuestros empleados humildemente y de corazón agradecemos a todos nuestros clientes por la lealtad y confianza en nosotros durante los pasados 44 años! Nos hemos esforzado por mantener el más alto compromiso de calidad y servicio a toda nuestra clientela durante estos años. Los esperamos ver regresar una y otra vez más! Damos gracias a Dios por la salud, el valor y las fuerzas con que hemos sido bendecidos para continuar un legado para nuestros herederos. Dios los bendiga siempre!



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FOR (POR)



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## Fire Earn Hard-Fought 1-1 Draw at Columbus Crew SC

A 94th minute goal from midfielder Przemysław Frankowski helped the Chicago Fire (8-12-10, 34 points) earn a hard-fought point in a 1-1 draw against Columbus Crew SC (8-15-7, 31 points) at MAPFRE Stadium on Saturday night. Following the result, the Fire currently sit within four points of a playoff position with four games remaining in the 2019 regular season.

Chicago tested Crew SC goalkeeper Eloy Room early and came close to taking the lead just 10 minutes into the game. The chance to score came when Frankowski blasted a shot from just outside the 18-yard box that forced Room to make a diving finger-tip save.

Less than 10 minutes later, Frankowski was involved in another dangerous opportunity for the Fire when he clipped a perfectly placed left-footed cross into the 18-yard box for midfielder Aleksandar Katai, who powered his header over the target.

Despite the early chances from the Fire, Columbus managed to score against the run of play in the 27th minute when midfielder Pedro Santos was able to finish a left-footed shot from distance.

Two minutes later, Chicago responded with another close opportunity to score from a cross into the box. After receiving a long diagonal pass from Katai, Frankowski played a driven cross through the six-yard box, narrowly missing forward Nemanja Nikolić for a sliding tap in.

In the final moments of the first half, Fire goalkeeper Kenneth Kronholm made an important save to deny Crew SC forward Gyasi Zardes' left-footed shot from close range. The save marked Kronholm's third of the half.

Similar to the first half, the Fire started the final 45 minutes on the front foot and created one its best chances of the game in the 51st minute. The sequence had defender Johan Kappelhof slipping a pass in behind for Katai, who cut the ball back to midfielder Nicolás Gaitán inside the 18-yard box. Pulling the ball onto his left foot, Gaitán struck a shot from close range that went high of the target.

Six minutes later, in search of an equalizer, the Fire added another shot on target. In the 58th minute, Katai played a give-and-go with Gaitán before blasting a powerful shot from the edge of the 18-yard box that forced a strong save from Room.

In the 78th minute, Katai drove a powerful cross into the six-yard box for Nikolić, who flashed his effort just wide of the near post.

Four minutes later, Katai played a cross to the back post for Frankowski, who headed it down for midfielder Micheal Azira on the edge of the six-yard box. Connecting with Frankowski's header, Azira redirected the ball on target to force a difficult close-range save from Room, who had to make five stops in Saturday's match.

As the game approached the final whistle, the Fire would eventually beat Room and find the back of the net when Frankowski scored his second goal of the 2019 campaign. The goal sequence came when midfielder Djordje Mihailović slipped the ball down the left side of the 18-yard box for Katai, who fired a cross through the penalty area. Katai's cross found its way to Frankowski, who hit a one-time left footed shot to score the equalizer. Frankowski was named the Heineken Man of the Match for his performance in the game.

The Fire will return to league play after the upcoming FIFA window when they take on FC Dallas at SeatGeek Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 14. Scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. CT, the match will be televised nationally on Univision and transmitted locally in Spanish on TUDN Radio Chicago 1200 AM.



## New England Revolution 1, Toronto FC 1

In a vital Eastern Conference clash as the playoff race heats up, Toronto FC and the New England Revolution had to settle for a point each, as the teams tied 1-1 at Gillette Stadium.

Gustavo Bou's 86th minute equalizer rescued a point for the Revs, though it's one Quentin Westberg will want back. Bou took aim from 20 yards out but his shot was right at Westberg at a comfortable speed, though it got through the keeper's grasp into the back of the net.

Nicolas Benezet's first MLS goal opened the scoring in the 74th minute, as the winger headed home from close range on a rebound after Matt Turner denied Marky Delgado.

Turner had kept his side in the game before TFC's breakthrough, making an astonishing double save in the first half. The American keeper was left 1v1 with a surging Alejandro Pozuelo, but Turner swatted a hard-hit shot with his left hand before palming away Benezet's curling shot 10 seconds later.

Toronto were without both Jozy Altidore and Justin Morrow (quad strains).

### Goals

74' – TFC – Nicolas Benezet  
87' – NE – Gustavo Bou

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** It was a huge six-pointer around the playoff line in the Eastern Conference, but both teams will have to settle with just a point, with New England remaining a point ahead of Toronto for the final two playoff places out East.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** Bou's sixth goal in eight MLS appearances rescued the Revs.

**MAN OF THE MATCH.** Despite not getting the clean sheet, Matt Turner had another great game in goal, a number of game-saving stops.

### Next Up

NE: Saturday, Sep. 7 at NYCFC (3:55 pm ET | Univision in US, MLS LIVE on DAZN in Canada)

TOR: Saturday, Sep. 7 at FC Cincinnati (7:30 pm ET | TSN in Canada, MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US)



## San Jose Earthquakes 3, Orlando City 0

Chris Wondolowski struck for a first-half brace to build upon his MLS all-time goal scoring record, and the San Jose Earthquakes kept pace in the Western Conference playoff race with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Orlando City at Avaya Stadium on Saturday night.

Wondolowski's third multi-goal game of the season puts him on 13 for the year in MLS and 157 for his career. While his career-high of 27 goals in 2012 is well out of reach, matching the 18 he scored in 2010, his second-most productive output, is still in play with six matches remaining.

Magnus Eriksson opened the scoring on three minutes for San Jose, which moved into second place in the West standings on 44 points in what continues to be an extremely tight table. They remain only four points above the Portland Timbers, who sit in eighth after their 1-0 win over Real Salt Lake and one point beneath the playoff line.

Orlando lost and were shut out for a second consecutive match after their 1-0 home defeat to Atlanta United last weekend, and now sit four points beneath the playoff line and seventh-place Toronto FC in the Eastern Conference.

Perhaps more troublingly, Lions goals and assist leader Nani exited in the 71st minute with what appeared to be a leg injury.

### Goals

3' - Magnus Eriksson  
20' - Chris Wondolowski  
33' - Chris Wondolowski



### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Orlando's loss was celebrated by both the Philadelphia Union and New York City FC, who by virtue of the result and their own victories on Saturday officially wrapped up their spots in the Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoffs.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** Much of the Avaya Stadium crowd had yet to take their positions when Eriksson punished some lethargic Orlando defending to give the hosts the lead in a moment that set the tone for the evening.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Cristian Espinoza. Lots of candidates to choose from in this one, but Espinoza terrorized Orlando on the right flank for most of the evening. His slick setup work on Wondolowski's second was just one of a handful of exceptional moments that came with the ball at his feet.

### Up Next

SJ: Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Real Salt Lake (9:30 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in the US and on DAZN in Canada)  
ORL: Saturday, Sept. 7 vs. LAFC (7:30 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in the US and on DAZN in Canada)

## Portland Timbers 1, Real Salt Lake 0

The Portland Timbers narrowed the gap on the seventh Western Conference Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoff slot, downing Real Salt Lake 1-0 on Saturday night at Providence Park.

The sole goal arrived in the 16th minute via Diego Valeri, who capitalized on a midfield turnover. With a touch and shot, Portland's maestro unleashed a knuckling rocket past RSL goalkeeper Nick Rimando.

Portland came close to doubling their lead in the 72nd minute, though Brian Fernandez's header was pawed off the goal line by Rimando. Fernandez was set up by a Valeri chip to the back post.

RSL received a late lifeline, as Portland midfielder Renzo Zambrano was shown a straight red card in the 96th minute for putting his hands on head referee Nima Saghafi. Zambrano had fouled Nedum Onuoha, setting up a free kick from 19 yards for Albert Rusnak. But Timbers' goalkeeper Steve Clark got low to deny a grass-cutter from Rusnak, preserving all three points.

RSL fell for the second time in three games, though nearly equalized in the 47th minute via Kelyn Rowe. The midfielder, traded midseason from Sporting Kansas City, unleashed a left-footed strike, only to be denied by Clark. The visitors also came close via Damir Kreilach, but were held off the scoreboard for the fourth time since July.

### Goals

16' – POR – Diego Valeri | WATCH

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Life can change quickly in this year's Western Conference playoff race, as RSL dropped to third place and Portland moved to within two points of a postseason berth. When Saturday's games wrapped up, only four points separated second and eighth place, so much is bound to change over the coming weeks. Buckle up, folks.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** No beard, no problem for Diego Valeri. He scored in the second straight game, making it eight goals and 15 assists on the year. This one was struck so cleanly that it hardly moved, too.

**MAN OF THE MATCH.** As has become customary, Diego Chara was seemingly everywhere for Portland. He was making goal-denying challenges in his own 18-yard box, and then joining the attack a handful of seconds later. He's 33 and showing few (if any) signs of slowing down.

### Next Up

POR: Saturday, Sept. 7 vs. Sporting Kansas City (10:50 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US, on DAZN in Canada)

RSL: Wednesday, Sept. 11 vs. San Jose Earthquakes (9:30 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US, on DAZN in Canada)



## Los Angeles Football Club 0, Minnesota United 2

Minnesota United handed LAFC their first home loss in the 2019 MLS regular season, as a Mason Toye first-half brace was the difference in a 2-0 win at Banc of California Stadium on Sunday night.

The victory bumped the Loons up to third place in the Western Conference standings, while the Black & Gold are still comfortably in pole position for the Supporters' Shield.

Sitting deep, the Loons first capitalized on a counterattack in the 25th minute. Toye, called up this week to the US U-23 men's national team, curled a left-footed shot into the far-side netting from a tight angle. He was played through by midfielder Jan Gregus.

Minnesota then made it 2-0 in the 29th minute, as Toye laced home a left-footed shot from 25 yards out. His long-range strike evaded a diving Pablo Sisniega and gave Minnesota a lead they would never relinquish.

LAFC played without Carlos Vela, who's working his way back to full health from a hamstring injury sustained in last weekend's El Trafico draw vs. the LA Galaxy. Minnesota, meanwhile, were without center mid Osvaldo Alonso and played with five in the back.

If it weren't for Minnesota goalkeeper Vito Mannone, LAFC would have found a breakthrough. The Italian finished with eight saves, thwarting a home side that finished with 77 percent of the possession.



### Goals

25' – MIN – Mason Toye

29' – MIN – Mason Toye

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** After losing midweek to Atlanta United in the U.S. Open Cup final, Minnesota could have sulked into Banc of California Stadium knowing an automatic Concacaf Champions League bid proved elusive. They did the exact opposite and executed their game plan to perfection. For LAFC, they're simply a different beast without Carlos Vela. Bob Bradley's team wasn't poor by any means, but also got shutout for the first time since June 28 at Colorado.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** The opener from Mason Toye shocked the home crowd and set the tone for an opportunistic, disciplined performance from the Loons. It ended up being one of two left-footed beauties from the young striker.

**MAN OF THE MATCH.** Could it really have been anyone else? Mason Toye's brace came on the heels of a call-up to the US U-23 men's national team, giving him six goals and three assists in just under 500 minutes played this season.

### Next Up

LAFC: Saturday, Sept. 7 at Orlando City SC (7 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US, on DAZN in Canada)

MIN: Wednesday, Sept. 11 vs. Houston Dynamo (8:30 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US, on DAZN in Canada)

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## Philadelphia Union 3, Atlanta United 1

In a battle for first place in the Eastern Conference, the upstarts sent a message to the defending champs.

On Saturday night in front of a charged-up, sellout crowd at Talen Energy Stadium, the Philadelphia Union (winners of zero playoff games in club history) ripped off three straight goals in the second half for a thrilling 3-1 win over Atlanta United (the 2018 MLS Cup champions who added a US Open Cup trophy to their cabinet earlier this week).

Kacper Przybylko blasted home the winner in the 86th minute on a feed from second-half sub Sergio Santos, who then iced the game with a goal of his own two minutes later.

Philly had found the equalizer in the 66th minute when 18-year-old Brenden Aaronson scored his second goal in as many games (and second goal in two contests vs. Atlanta) after Jack Elliott forced a turnover and Haris Medunjanin played a perfect over-the-top ball.

Josef Martinez scored in a record 13th straight MLS game, finding the back of the net thanks to a dazzling give-and-go with Darlington Nagbe right before halftime. Martinez nearly had another but missed an open net in the 80th minute, before going down to the ground in pain. Thankfully for Atlanta fans, the injury did not appear serious as the star striker quickly reentered the contest.

The Union also thought they had scored on a give-and-go but Przybylko's 33rd-minute goal was disallowed after video review because Marco Fabian was offside.

With the win, the Union moved all alone into first place on points — with 51, three more than Atlanta.

### Goals

45'+2' — ATL — Josef Martinez      61' — PHI — Brenden Aaronson  
86' — PHI — Kacper Przybylko      88' — PHI — Sergio Santos

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Given the first-place stakes this late in the season, the electricity in the stadium, and the way the game transpired with a second-half comeback, you can make the case this was one of the best wins in the Union's 10-year history — if not the best. And it was even more impressive that they did it without their heart and soul, captain Alejandro Bedoya, who was suspended due to yellow card accumulation. All of that being said, the loss is probably not a particularly tough one for Atlanta, who played on tired legs on the road after winning an Open Cup title four days earlier — and another trophy just two weeks before that.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** Przybylko's screaming game-winner was not only the moment of the match but maybe the moment of the season for Philly.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** While Martinez continues to rack up incredible feats for Atlanta, the Union showed they have a pretty good striker of their own, as Przybylko scored his 13th goal of the year (and had another impressive strike called back).

### Next Up

PHI: Saturday, September 14 vs. LAFC (7:30 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in the US and on DAZN in Canada)

ATL: Saturday, September 14 vs. Columbus Crew SC (7 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in the US and on DAZN in Canada)



## Montreal Impact 0, DC United 3

Ola Kamara pounced for a first-half brace and continued to prove himself one of the best signings of the MLS Secondary Transfer Window, helping D.C. United to a crucial 3-0 victory over the Montreal Impact on Saturday night at Stade Saputo.

Kamara now has three goals in three appearances since returning from the Chinese Super League to MLS at the close of the secondary window. The brace marked the 50th and 51st goals of his MLS career.

Paul Arriola also scored before halftime as D.C. halted a three-match losing streak despite missing Wayne Rooney to suspension, and moved back above the New York Red Bulls into fourth place in the Eastern Conference. Coming into the match, the Black-and-Red faced the possibility of dropping beneath the East playoff line with a defeat.

After a midweek victory over Vancouver to move into the playoff places, Montreal slipped back beneath the playoff line into eighth place in the East with Toronto FC's 1-1 draw at the New England Revolution, also on Saturday. The Impact outshot United 25-7, but only forced D.C. goalkeeper Bill Hamid into four saves.



### Goals

20' - DC - Ola Kamara  
 23' - DC - Paul Arriola  
 32' - DC - Ola Kamara

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** D.C.'s last two victories have now come without both Rooney and Luciano Acosta in manager Ben Olsen's starting XI. While the latter appears to be out of favor, it seems likely Olsen will eventually require the Argentine's talents if a deep postseason run is in the cards. Meanwhile, new Montreal boss Wilmer Cabrera is probably second-guessing his decision to make zero lineup changes between Wednesday's victory and Saturday's defeat.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** Desperate for a strong start, Kamara provided just that with his opportunistic opener following a free kick that deflected off Montreal's defensive wall. It was D.C.'s earliest goal since Rooney scored in 10th minute against Orlando City on June 26th, on a sensational effort from his own half.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Ola Kamara, with honorable mention to Russell Canouse at right back. The Norwegian international wasn't dominant necessarily, but he was clinical for a side that needed it. Even with Rooney eligible for D.C.'s next match in Portland, it feels like Olsen will have to find Kamara a spot on the field.

### Up Next

MTL: Saturday, Sept. 14 vs FC Cincinnati (7:30 pm ET | TVAS, MLS LIVE on ESPN+)  
 DC: Sunday, Sept. 15 at Portland Timbers (7:30 pm ET | FS1, MLS LIVE on DAZN)

## Seattle Sounders 4, LA Galaxy 3

The Seattle Sounders held off a spirited second-half rally from the LA Galaxy to edge their Western Conference rivals 4-3 in a wild shootout at CenturyLink Field on Sunday, riding a Cristian Roldan brace, the second of which arrived as the game-winner in the 89th minute.

Twice the hosts took the lead, and twice they were pegged back by a dogged but defensively flawed Galaxy side. Raul Ruidiaz opened the scoring just before halftime and Roldan bagged his first early in the second stanza, only for Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Uriel Antuna to carve open the Rave Green backline with relative ease to level matters.

Jordan Morris, who held Antuna outside just before LA's second, finished a breakaway to restore Seattle's lead, but Jorgen Skjelvik roamed forward to equalize with his first Galaxy goal. With the Sounders in danger of throwing away so much of their hard work, Roldan tapped home at the back post to cap a wild afternoon under the Cascadia sunshine.



### Goals

45+2' – SEA – Raul Ruidiaz  
55' – SEA – Cristian Roldan  
66' – LA – Zlatan Ibrahimovic  
75' – LA – Uriel Antuna  
77' – SEA – Jordan Morris  
81' – LA – Jorgen Skjelvik  
89' – SEA – Cristian Roldan

### Three Things

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Seattle took the three points, pushing LA's road winless skid to six games, but neither side will move forward feeling great about their defensive fragility, especially as the postseason beckons. Control of the tempo was fleeting in this end-to-end encounter and that leaves questions about both combatants.

**MOMENT OF THE MATCH:** In an affair chock-full of striking moments, Roldan's winner was the parting shot that decided things...

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Morris and Ruidiaz have decent claims to this title, but we'll give Roldan the nod for his all-around contributions.

### Next Up

SEA: Saturday, Sept. 7 at Colorado Rapids (9 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US; MLS LIVE on DAZN in Canada)  
LA: Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Colorado Rapids (9 pm ET | MLS LIVE on ESPN+ in US; TSN5 in Canada)



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