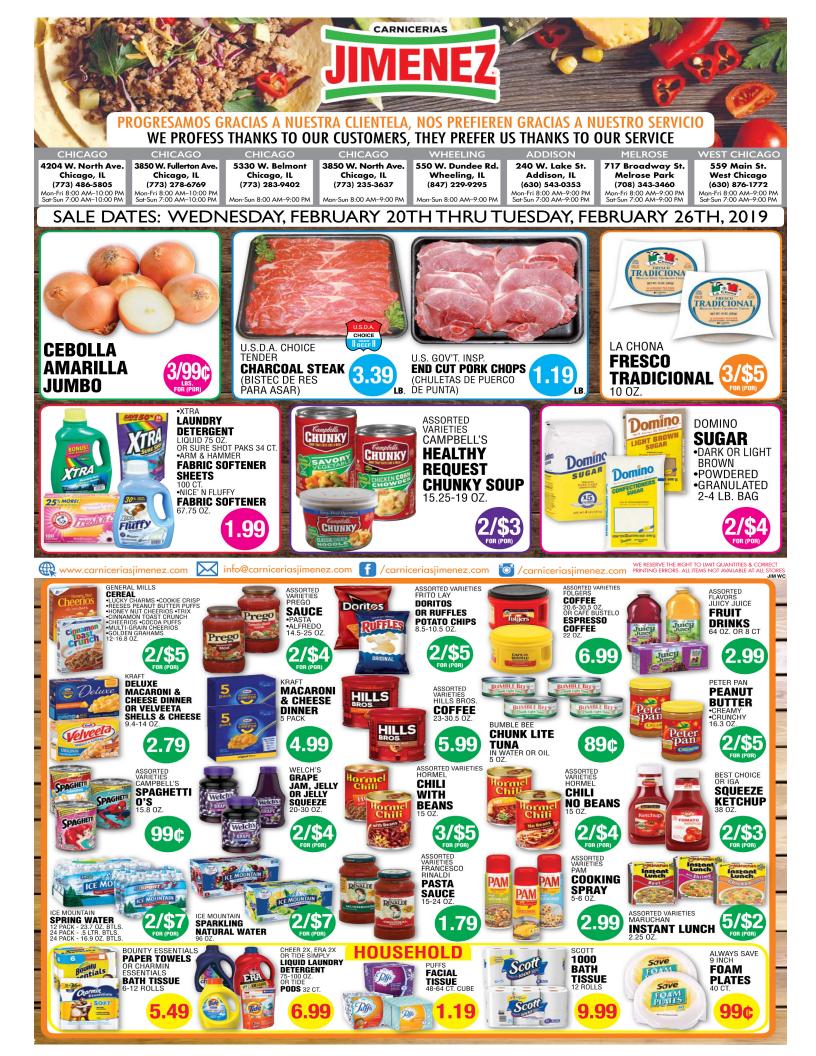
A Máquin Beportev

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DOD MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2019 WEEK 8

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Chicago Fire Draws Columbus Crew SC 1-1 in Carolina Challenge Cup

The Chicago Fire Soccer Club opened the 2019 Carolina Challenge Cup with a 1-1 draw against Columbus Crew SC at MUSC Health Stadium on Saturday evening.

The Fire opened scoring in the 16th minute of play when midfielder Aleksandar Katai turned and slipped a pass into space for midfielder Djordje Mihailovic. Quickly reacting to the pass, Mihailovic unleashed a shot from the edge of the box, beating Crew SC goalkeeper Zack Steffen to provide the Fire with a 1-0 lead.

Ten minutes later, Crew SC managed to equalize when a cross into the box from defender Waylon Francis connected with forward Gyasi Zardes, who nodded the ball into the back of the net from close range.

Next up, the Fire will resume play in the Carolina Challenge Cup with a midweek contest against MLS expansion side FC Cincinnati on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at MUSC Health Stadium. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. CT, the Fire's match against FC Cincinnati will be streamed live on www.charlestonbattery.com. The Fire's final match of the tournament will be played Saturday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. CT versus host Charleston Battery.

Match notes:

Saturday's match marked the fourth time the Fire have competed in the Carolina Challenge Cup. The Fire won the 2013 edition of the Carolina Challenge Cup. Opponents that year include Charleston Battery, Houston Dynamo and Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

With the 1-1 draw against Crew SC, the Fire's all-time record in the Carolina Challenge Cup now stands at 2-2-0 (W-D-L).

Midfielder Djordje Mihailovic recorded his first preseason goal for the Fire in 2019, scoring the game's opening goal in the 16th minute of play.

Five players made their first preseason appearance for the Fire in a match against MLS competition on Saturday. Goalkeeper David Ousted, defender Marcelo and midfielder Cristian Martinez each earned a start in the match against Crew SC. Forward Fabian Herbers entered the game at the start of the second half and forward Amando Moreno made an appearance late in the second half.

Saturday's game marked the first time the Fire has worn its 2019 adidas white secondary kits.

The Fire today announced the 2019 jersey numbers for its new signings, including David Ousted (1), Marcelo (2), Przemyslaw Frankowski (11), Cristian Martinez (18), Amando Moreno (20), Fabian Herbers (21), Jeremiah Gutjahr (33) and Andre Reynolds II (36).

Fire broadcast duo Dan Kelly (play-by-play) and Frank Klopas (color analyst) will be in the booth calling Wednesday's game versus FC Cincinnati.

Box Score:

Chicago Fire 1:1 Columbus Crew SC Feb. 16, 2019 - MUSC Health Stadium - Charleston, S.C.

Scoring Summary: CHI - Mihailovic (1) (Katai) 16' CLB - Zardes (1) (Francis) 26'

Misconduct Summary: CLB - Trapp (Ejection) 31' CHI - Campos (Caution) 73'

Chicago Fire: Ousted; Campos (Hasler 74'), Marcelo, Kappelhof, Edwards (Corrales 74'); McCarty ©, Schweinsteiger (Herbers 45'), Katai (Bronico 56'), Mihailovic, Martinez; Nikolic (Moreno 74') Subs not used: Sanchez, Cleveland, Lillard, Adams, Gutjahr

Columbus Crew SC: Steffen; Afful, Mensah, Sauro (Abubakar 77'), Francis; Trapp ©, Artur, Meram (Jimenez 65'), Higuain (Clark 70'), Santos (Madalena 81'); Zardes (Williams 84') Subs not used: Bendik, Kempin, Argudo, Sosa, Crongale, Opoku, Hansen, Keita, Maloney, Mullins, Berhalter, Morris

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Danielle Colaprico's Sydney FC win W-League Grand Final

Chicago Red Stars midfielder Danielle Colaprico will return to the Windy City a champion after helping Sydney FC claim the Westfield W-League Grand Final Championship over Perth Glory in a 4-2 victory. The matchup featured five Red Stars; with Colaprico representing the Sky Blues and Chicago teammates

Sam Kerr, Alyssa Mautz, Katie Naughton and Nikki Stanton looking to bring the maiden title to Perth Glory. After falling behind early, Kerr converted from the penalty spot after being taken down by Colaprico to bring the game level again early in the first half. In the second half, Mautz would give Perth life with a goal from a corner taken by Stanton, bringing the deficit to one goal.

However, it was Colaprico's side who ended up with the winner's medals at the end of the game. The midfielder was named to the W-League squad of the season earlier in the day. Colaprico will now shift her focus to representing the U.S. WNT in the She-



Belives Cup, with Kerr also preparing to represent her country as Australia participates in the Cup of Nations hosted by Australia. Stanton, Mautz, and Naughton will return to Chicago to prepare for the 2019 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) preseason. Kerr and Colaprico will return to Chicago after their international duties.

CREDIT: CHICAGO RED STARS SOCCER CLUB



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Bulls' roster at the All-Star break: Robin Lopez will really be missed soon

Few moments leave Bulls center Robin Lopez in disbelief.

After playing for five organizations — including the dysfunctional Knicks — since being drafted in 2008, Lopez had developed a certain numbness.

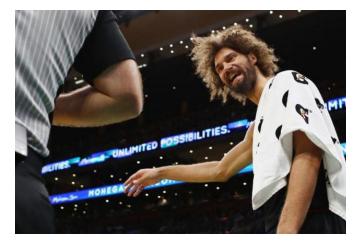
Then on Feb. 6, when Lopez and his teammates were in uniform, less than 20 minutes from taking the court to face the Pelicans, Bobby Portis and Jabari Parker were called out of the locker room separately to be informed they had just been traded.

"That was pretty crazy," Lopez said. "That was one of the stranger things I've witnessed. If I had been in that position, I don't know if I would want it to happen 10 minutes before the game. But that's the way it is.

"You just keep playing, keep your nose to the grindstone." That sums up Lopez's tenure as a Bull perfectly. Consider all the organizational land mines that have gone off since he arrived in the Derrick Rose trade to the Knicks: from a towelthrowing incident between Rajon Rondo and then-assistant coach Jim Boylen to an ongoing rebuild to an attempted player mutiny that Lopez played a big role in squashing. All the while, he mostly has been a trade rumor.

When Lopez wasn't moved at the deadline, he instantly became a buyout candidate, but vice president of basketball operations John Paxson put the kibosh on that course of action. Rather than point fingers or show any signs of frustration, Lopez has played possibly his best basketball in two years. In his last six games, the 7-footer is averaging 15 points and

1.3 blocks, and he had a stellar 25-point performance in the Bulls' 122-110 victory Wednesday against the Grizzlies.



More important, he continues to do the dirty work — including drag screens on opposing defenders when Lauri Markkanen is bringing the ball up the floor — knowing that free agency is only a few months away and his time with the Bulls likely will be over.

"I'm a basketball player," Lopez said. "I just compete every night, play some good ball and try to get better." Because of the Bulls' shortage at center, a buyout and the chance to go to a playoff team likely won't happen for Lopez, and he's not the type to make that demand.

The Bulls certainly will miss him as the rebuild moves forward next season.

Their thinking, however, is that Wendell Carter Jr. is the center of the future, and he just might be. But before undergoing season-ending surgery on his left thumb, there were some red flags.

The Bulls list Carter at 6-10, but he has come up small against bigger, more physical centers.

Rudy Gobert dominated Carter, as did Nikola Vucevic and LaMarcus Aldridge. Did Carter struggle because he's only 19 or was it because the Bulls are trying to turn a power forward into an undersized center?

Time will tell, and that basically sums up the state of the Bulls' center position.

Wendell Carter Jr.: The rookie showed a lot of promise, but the season-ending thumb injury was a huge blow to the development process.

Cristiano Felicio: It's hard to pinpoint what's worse — the contract that general manager Gar Forman gave Felicio or the big man's hands.

Robin Lopez: It will be awhile before the Bulls find another player this unselfish on and off the court.

CREDIT: Joe Cowley

https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/bulls-roster-at-the-all-star-break-robin-lopez-could-really-be-missed-soon/



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