



CHICAGO FIRE FC DEFEATS CF MONTRÉAL 3-0 AT SOLDIER FIELD

Chicago Fire FC (7-7-8, 29 points) defeated CF Montréal (8-12-2, 26 points) with an exciting 3-0 win at Soldier Field. The win moved Chicago into ninth place, passing Montréal (10th place) and the New York Red Bulls (11th place), putting the Fire in playoff position.

A late lineup change after warmups saw midfielder Gastón Giménez replace defender Carlos Terán, with Mauricio Pineda reprising his role as a defender to kick off the match. Homegrown forward Missael Rodríguez made his MLS debut in the 76th minute, coming on for Georgios Koutsias who had two assists on the night.

Gutiérrez scored his first goal of the season in the ninth minute when Chicago recovered a ball and went on a counterattack. The play started from the back when goalkeeper Chris Brady stepped off his line to clear the ball from danger from the Montréal attack. Gutiérrez won the header and Greek forward Georgios Koutsias carried the ball up the left flank. He held off two defenders before slipping the ball to Gutiérrez in the six-yard box. The Chicago native took a controlling touch before sending his shot into the back of the net.

Two minutes later, Koutsias once again did well to hold onto the ball on the left side, cutting a pass to the top of the box for Xherdan Shaqiri who got enough of a touch to settle the pass perfectly onto the path of Maren Haile-Selassie. The Swiss winger didn't think twice about sending the ball into the goal for the fourth time this season.

In the 34th minute, it was Shaqiri's turn to score with a work of art. The Fire earned a free kick on the right side about 25 yards out. Gutiérrez ran over the ball and Shaqiri passed it to Haile-Selassie at the top of the 18-yard box. Haile-Selassie laid it back off onto Shaqiri's path, and the Swiss maestro curled a long-range effort into the upper right corner. It was Shaqiri's third goal of the season for the Fire, and his assist on Haile-Selassie's goal puts him at second-most on the team with four assists.

It seemed that Montréal would pull one back in the 36th minute when a penalty was called against Chicago, but Ariel Lassiter's shot hit the bottom of the left post and bounced out. Defender Arnaud Souquet then cleared the ball from danger.

Goalkeeper Chris Brady recorded his fifth shutout of the season, and back-to-back shutouts for the first time in his MLS career.

NEXT MATCH: The Fire will continue their homestand with the final of three consecutive home matches, facing off against Toronto FC at 7:30 p.m. CT on Saturday, July 15 at Soldier Field. During Saturday's match, fans will go back in time to an era of big hair, bright colors, and bold fashion when the Fire host 80's Night. The match will be broadcast on Apple TV+, transmitted locally in English on 890 WLS-AM and in Spanish on TUDN 1200 AM.



HULE HERBERS

the pros

MERIC

1

30

Ŷ

6

10

IMAGES BY: Kenneth Fernandez Lad Media Group































IMAGES BY: KENNETH FERNANDEZ LMD MEDIA GROUP







CHICAGO FIRE FC

vs TORONTO FC SAT // JULY 15 // 7:30 PM

NGHT



CHICAGO FIRE FC SUMMER CAMPS

MORNING, AFTERNOON, & FULL-DAY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE LOCATIONS ACROSS CHICAGO & SURROUNDING SUBURBS

REGISTER TODAY AT CHICAGOFIREFC.COM/CAMPS



0000 $((\mathbf{N}))$

SERVICE YOU DESERVE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND PASSION

GET IN TOUCH WITH US TODAY! CONTACT INFORMATION: (773) 875- 9899 / TICO@LMDMEDIAGROUP.COM