



M2 WEEK 10 PREVIEW

**Games of February 4-5
Major Arena Soccer League 2**



m2
MASL 2

The logo for Major Arena Soccer League 2 (MASL 2) is displayed within a white circular graphic with an orange border. The logo consists of the lowercase letters 'm2' in a bold, stylized font, with 'MASL 2' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.



Rochester Lancers (2-0) at
Iowa Raptors (4-1-1)
Saturday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m CST
Alliant Energy Power House, Cedar Rapids



GAME NOTES: Time will tell if this is an indicator of how the North Division race will shape up, since the first-place Raptors (4-1-1) host the last undefeated team in M2, the Rochester Lancers 2. However, the Lancers 2 have only played twice so far with their back-loaded schedule, so it's a little hard to get a read on them at this point. Their two wins came on the road back in early January in Muskegon, so in many ways, Coach Jake Schindler is starting over this weekend. Vadim Cojocov, a MASL veteran, had a goal and three assists in those wins, while Joey Tavernese, a regular with the MASL Utica City FC, had three goals. Schindler himself added two scores in two games. Iowa is led by Jonah Dancer with 12 goals and two assists in six starts. Patrick Kelly has chipped in with six goals and four assists. This will be the first of four meetings between the two, with games coming up back in Cedar Rapids on March 18, and the two teams finishing the regular season with games in Rochester the following weekend. Jesus Ortiz has been strong in goal for Iowa, with a solid 6.24 goals against average. Jakeb Mitchell was in goal for Rochester's first two wins, and has a GAA of 5.00.

UP NEXT: Iowa Raptors at Muskegon Risers on Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m. EST at Trinity Health Arena in Muskegon, Michigan / Rochester Lancers at Iowa Demon Hawks at 2 p.m. CST at Alliant Energy Powerhouse, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Colorado Inferno (0-4) at
Amarillo Bombers (4-1-1)
Saturday, February 4 at 7:05 p.m CST
Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo, Texas



GAME NOTES: Amarillo comes in after scoring a league high 21 goals last weekend in a big win over the previously undefeated New Mexico Runners. Their high flying offense is led by Miguel Reyes with 10 goals and 10 assists in five games played. David Trevizo is the leading goal scorer with 13 goals and six assists for 19 points. Jorge Gonzales has 11 goals in just four games. Goaltender Fredo Chavez leads M2 goaltenders with four wins, and has a goals against average of 7.99. The Inferno will be looking for some offense, having scored just 20 goals in its four losses. Francisco Rivas leads the Inferno with six goals so far this year. This is the second meeting of the season, with the Bombers taking a 13-5 decision on Dec. 17 in Colorado Springs. The Inferno trailed just 3-2 after the first quarter, but gave up six goals in the second which sealed their fate. Amarillo outshot the Inferno 50-45. Reyes and Gonzalez each had three goals and two assists to pace the Amarillo attack. Ventura Dominguez had a pair for the Inferno.

UP NEXT: Amarillo Bombers at Wichita Wings on Friday, February 10 at 7 p.m. CST at Hartman Arena, Park City, Kansas / Colorado Inferno vs. New Mexico Runners on Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m. MST at Soccerhaus, Colorado Springs, Colorado.



New Mexico Runners (3-1) at
Wichita Wings (3-2)
Saturday, February 4 at 7:05 p.m. CST
Hartman Arena, Park City, Kansas



GAME NOTES: Another anticipated matchup with potentially large playoff implications – at least at the midway mark of the season – sees two good teams who are currently chasing the Amarillo Bombers for the Midwest Division title. On paper, the teams are close, with the Wings 40 goals and give up just 33 for a +7 goals differential while New Mexico has scored 46 goals and given up 37 for a +9. It also marks the first of four meetings between the two, games that will have a big impact on the Midwest division. Jared Robbins with 16 points in five games, including 10 goals, paces the Wichita offense. Stopping Mershad Ahmadi is always key when facing the runners. He is the league leader in goals with 18, and he's done that in just four games. Vince Aragon has also been a big offensive contributor with seven goals and six assists in four starts as well. Mauricio Vargas comes in with a 7.25 goals against average in the Wichita goal.

UP NEXT: Wichita Wings vs. Amarillo Bombers on Friday, Feb. 10 at 7:05 p.m. CST at Hartman Arena in Park City, Kansas / New Mexico Runners vs. Kansas Bandits on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 5:05 CST at Rio Rancho Events Center, Rio Rancho, New Mexico



Rochester Lancers (2-0) at
Iowa Demon Hawks (4-1-1)
Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2:05 p.m. CST
Alliant Energy Power House, Cedar Rapids



GAME NOTES: The new look Demon Hawks will look to tame the Lancers 2, but will have to do it without their leading players Ricardo Diegues, Bruno Henrique and Thiago Freitas, all of whom are now playing with the Major Arena Soccer League Florida Tropics after having their visa issues cleared up. Leading the Demon Hawks is Diego Pantuza with 12 points in six games along with Maycon Franca with eight points in five games. Demon Hawks goaltender Rainer Hauss is also now with the Florida Tropics. Lancers 2 notes, see above. This will be the first of three straight matchups for the Lancers against the Hawks. The teams will play a doubleheader Feb. 24 and 25 back in Rochester when the Lancers 2 become the last M2 team to open the home portion of their schedule.

UP NEXT: Iowa Demon Hawks at Muskegon Risers on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7:05 p.m. EST at Trinity Health Arena in Muskegon, Michigan / Rochester Lancers 2 vs. Friday, February 24 at 7 p.m. EST at TSE, East Rochester



The Standings

(As of Feb. 3 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	RW	GF	GA	DIF
>>North Division									
Iowa Raptors	6	4	1	1	13	4	47	42	+5
Iowa Demon Hawks	6	4	1	1	12	3	57	41	+16
Rochester Lancers2	2	2	0	0	6	2	16	10	+6
Muskegon Risers	8	1	7	0	2	0	48	75	-27
>>Midwest Division									
Amarillo Bombers	6	5	1	0	15	5	74	48	+26
New Mexico Runners	4	3	1	0	9	3	46	37	+9
Wichita Wings	5	3	2	0	9	3	40	33	+7
Kansas Bandits	5	1	4	0	3	1	24	37	-13
Colorado Inferno	4	0	4	0	0	0	20	49	-29
>>West Division									
Chihuahua Savage II	7	6	1	0	18	6	70	37	+33
Club Deportivo de Baja	5	4	1	0	12	4	47	25	+22
Empire Jets	7	3	4	0	9	3	38	53	-14
RGV Barracudas	5	3	2	0	8	2	35	34	+1
San Diego Sockers 2	5	1	3	1	4	1	26	26	0
Turlock Cal Express	5	0	5	0	0	0	25	66	-41

Teams receive three points for a regulation time win (RW), two points for a win in overtime, one point for an overtime loss (OTL), and no points for a loss in regulation time.

Standings and playoff tiebreakers: Points > Head to Head > Goal Differential > Goals For > Goals Against > Wins > Regulation Wins

Four teams will qualify for M2 Championship Weekend at a site to be determined. The division winners will qualify, as will the best second place team in any of the three divisions.



Up Next

Friday, February 10	Amarillo Bombers at Wichita Wings, 7 p.m. CST
Friday, February 10	RGV Barracudas at Turlock Cal Express, 7 p.m. PST
Saturday, February 11	Iowa Demon Hawks at Muskegon Risers, 7 p.m. EST
Saturday, February 11	Kansas Bandits at New Mexico Runners, 5 p.m. MST
Saturday, February 11	RGV Barracudas at Empire Jets, 7 p.m. PST
Friday, February 17	Deportivo de Baja at RGV Barracudas, 7:30 p.m. CST
Friday, February 17	Empire Jets at Turlock Cal Express, 7 p.m. PST
Saturday, February 18	Deportivo de Baja at RGV Barracudas, 7:30 p.m. CST
Sunday, February 19	Turlock Cal Express at Empire Jets, 11:05 a.m PST
Sunday, February 19	New Mexico Runners at Colorado Inferno, 2 p.m. MST
Sunday, February 19	Kansas Bandits at Amarillo Bombers, 5 p.m. CST

**>> Every MASL 2 game is broadcast live on line.
Check out your favorite team's social media sites
for the latest link to each broadcast. <<**



Scoring Leaders

MASL 2 GOAL LEADERS

Player	Team	Goals	GP
Mershad Amadhi	New Mexico Runners	18	4
Ricardo Diegues	Iowa Demon Hawks	13	6
Renee Loya Hernández	Chihuahua Savage II	13	6
David Trevizo	Amarillo Bombers	13	6
Jonah Dancer	Iowa Raptors	12	6
Jorge Gonzalez	Amarillo Bombers	11	4

MASL 2 ASSISTS LEADERS

Player	Team	Assists	GP
Thiago Freitas	Iowa Demon Hawks	13	6
Ricardo Diegues	Iowa Demon Hawks	10	6

Miguel Reyes	Amarillo Bombers	10	5
Bruno Henrique	Iowa Demon Hawks	8	5
Miguel Angel Diaz	Chihuahua Savage II	7	5
Jared Robbins	Wichita Wings	6	5
Kevin Ten Eyck	Wichita Wings	6	5
David Trevizo	Amarillo Bombers	6	6
Vince Aragon	New Mexico Runners	6	4

MASL 2 TOTAL POINTS LEADERS

Player	Team	Points	GP
Ricardo Diegues	Iowa Demon Hawks	23	6
Mershad Ahmadi	New Mexico Runners	20	4
Miguel Reyes	Amarillo Bombers	20	5
David Trevizo	Amarillo Bombers	19	6
Thiago Freitas	Iowa Demon Hawks	19	6
Bruno Henrique	Iowa Demon Hawks	18	5
Jared Robbins	Wichita Wings	16	5
Renee Loya Hernández	Chihuahua Savage II	16	6
Jorge Gonzalez	Amarillo Bombers	16	4



MASL 2 GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE LEADERS

Xavier Snaer-Williams	San Diego Sockers2	4.81
Jakeb Mitchell	Rochester Lancers2	5.00
Rainer Hauss	Iowa Demon Hawks	5.60
Chris Favela	Kansas Bandits	5.67
Jesus Ortiz	Iowa Raptors	6.24

MASL 2 GOALKEEP WINS LEADERS

Fredo Chavez	Amarillo Bombers	5
Rainer Hauss	Iowa Demon Hawks	3
Diego Arriaga	RGV Barracudas	3
Jesus Ortiz	Iowa Raptors	3
Three GK tied with two wins each		

MASL 2 GOALKEEP SAVES PERCENTAGE LEADERS

Rainer Hauss	Iowa Demon Hawks	.810
Xavier Snaer-Williams	San Diego Sockers 2	.700
Fredo Chavez	Amarillo Bombers	.693
Chris Favela	Kansas Bandits	.691
Jakeb Mitchell	Rochester Lancers2	.677
Justin Dzuba	Colorado Inferno	.677
Nate Yaeger	New Mexico Runners	.677

** Goaltenders must play at least 50 percent of their team's minutes to qualify for leaders.*



League News

M2 Referee Drew Klemp makes MASL debut, but not in the way he imagined

TAMPA, Florida – Drew Klemp has dreamed for a while now of stepping on the floor as a Major Arena Soccer League referee.

But when he got his chance to do so Sunday, it wasn't in the way he visualized it happening and he sure didn't expect to be in the most highly anticipated matchup of the entire MASL season so far this year.



But less than two hours before the start of the Sockers v. Savage showdown, Klemp got the call from the league's head of officials, Ryan Cigich, that he would be on the floor shortly with senior referee Brian Miller to officiate that night's game.

Even though just 22, he is a "veteran" Major Arena Soccer League 2 floor official, often assigned games in Wichita, Omaha, Dodge City and Cedar Rapids, proving grounds for not just players but referees alike. A resident of the Kansas City area, he regularly is assigned as an off-the-floor official for Comets games, starting in 2019.

He was in Southern California having worked the floor for an M2 game in Ontario Saturday night, and having worked two M2 games at Pechanga Arena (one on the floor and one in the box) earlier in the day Sunday. He was scheduled to be the assistant referee for the Sockers game until the second assigned referee, Samantha Martinez, became unavailable for floor duty prior to kickoff.

"Ryan called and he said 'you're going on the floor.' I've been someone whose been on the bubble for a year and a half now, so I've been just kind of waiting my turn, waiting for the stars to all align. I had no idea it would be then," he recalled. "The last thing he told me was 'prepare yourself, get in the right mindset. Just do your job, ref the game. You're ready.'"

M2's Head of Officials, Graeme Florance -- now in his eight season as a MASL referee as well -- also was confident that Klemp was ready for the assignment.

"As well as being a really strong referee. Drew is a great person. He has an outstanding work ethic," Florance noted. "He puts in lots of preparation and study to be as prepared as possible for every assignment. He is hungry for knowledge and wants every little piece of advice or criticism that will make improve his skills. He has been a joy to work with and will continue to go on to big things in refereeing and in life."

Kiemp started officiating as a teenager, in large part because he would regularly be frustrated by those that worked his games.

"The very short story of that is I played soccer, and I thought the referees weren't too good and that I could do better," he said. "You've got to put your money where your mouth is and honestly, I was one of the worst players at yelling at the referees."

His progression has been organic -- working just the way the MASL pyramid structure is designed to work -- starting with floor assignments for M3 games when Kansas City had a M3 team, Sunflower State. He has also been invited to and attended the MASL referee's pre-season camps.

His work, despite his relative inexperience, almost immediately caught the attention of many, several of whom took them under their collective officiating wings.

"I've had really great mentorship throughout the journey. I'm young, and really like to learn. So our two referees in Kansas City, Ron Cory and Brian Martin, have been awesome. They

are fantastic people and excellent referees. They've helped me out a lot, but my main mentor is Brian Miller."

The Cleveland-based Miller, now in his 10th season in the MASL, is in regular contact with Klemm on his climb to the top level of indoor soccer.

"He and I will watch game film from other games, watch game film of my games, and go over them. Weekly we talk about things that happened in games, what could be done better, what would you do in that situation, what was done well," Klemm said. "So from an education standpoint, a lot of the things that happen out there I've already seen it and already talked about it. So I felt prepared."

Miller is no stranger to helping young officials. Just weeks ago, Miller teamed with Danielle Chesky for her first ever MASL floor assignment in Florida. It was also in Florida where Miller was paired with Sergio Cabrera Acosta who was working his first floor game a couple of seasons ago.

"That's no coincidence that he's put in those situations because he's an excellent official and an excellent teacher," Klemm believes. Ironically, Miller was a floor official when Klemm worked his first-ever MASL game in the box at Cable Dahmer Arena.

It was a coincidence, however, that Miller had been assigned as the senior referee for Sunday's game, making it a serendipitous confluence of events that provided a bit of a security blanket for Klemm, who didn't have much time to envision what his first MASL game would be like.

"It was a great thing actually, thank God," Klemm noted. "If I had lots of time to just sit and think about the fact I have two undefeated teams.... I was aware. But it really didn't fully cross my mind until after the game, I didn't have time to get nervous which I probably would have had I had more time. The first five minutes were a little surreal, but then you're like 'I've got a job to do. I've been through these situations and motions before.' So it became a lot easier then."

And it was also easier because Klemm said he felt he was not alone on the Pechanga Arena field.

"I would have to say that literally half the floor referees in the league all sent me text message or calls to offer a little advice and wish me good luck," he continued. "Just to have everyone's encouragement, from the senior referees – the Commissioner Keith Tozer even sent a message – I felt like I had an army of support. And I also felt because of all my mentorships and relationships, all my M2 and M3 games on the floor, from watching all these senior guys for years, I was as ready as I could be despite the massive challenge at hand."

That camaraderie proved crucial – as did the fact Martinez was able to still serve as the assistant referee in the box -- since he was making his first-ever trip to San Diego or Pechanga Arena.

"If had gotten my first game in Kansas City or St. Louis, there would have been a lot of comfort zone factors. I know the arena, I know the coaches, I know a lot of the players, all the stuff that you don't stress about," he recalled. "But on Sunday, everything was different. I was as far out of my comfort zone as I could have possibly been, but what was really grounding for me was the support I had of the MASL community and having my mentor be the senior referee on the game. What a very happy accident it turned out to be."