

UTICA CITY FC GAME NOTES



UTICA CITY FC (3-6-2) vs. EMPIRE STRYKERS (5-8-0)
Thursday, February 5th, 2026
Toyota Arena



UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday, February 7th	@ San Diego Sockers	10:00 PM
Sunday, February 15th	vs. Baltimore Blast	3:00 PM
Monday, February 16th	vs. St. Louis	3:00 PM

VS. EMPIRE

02/05/26 @ EMP 9:35 P.M.

TONIGHT:

Utica City FC hits the road for one of its longest trips of the season, traveling across the country to Southern California to take on the Empire Strykers at Toyota Arena in Ontario. The matchup presents an added challenge for UCFC, as the team must adjust to a three-hour time difference while maintaining focus and energy against a fast, physical opponent. Despite the demanding travel from Utica to California, UCFC will look to establish its high-pressure defensive identity early and use quick ball movement to disrupt the Strykers' rhythm.

The Empire Strykers are known for their aggressive, up-tempo style and willingness to commit numbers forward, often creating wide-open, high-scoring contests. For Utica, managing the pace of play will be critical, especially on the road where momentum can quickly swing. Strong goaltending, disciplined defending, and efficient special teams will all play a major role as UCFC looks to overcome the challenges of distance, time zones, and a hostile environment. With contrasting styles and the added factor of cross-country travel, this game sets up as a true test of depth, conditioning, and execution for Utica City FC.

LAST TIME OUT:

Utica City FC mounted multiple comeback efforts but ultimately fell 7-6 to the Milwaukee Wave in a thrilling, high-scoring contest that featured momentum swings throughout the night. Milwaukee opened the scoring just 42 seconds into the match when Shawn Azcueta finished a chance off an Andre Hayne assist. UCFC responded quickly, as Juan Alava found the back of the net less than three minutes later, converting a feed from Ricardo Orozco to tie the game at 1-1. The Wave regained control midway through the first quarter behind Oscar Flores, who scored twice — including a power-play goal — to give Milwaukee a 3-1 advantage heading into the break.

Utica came out strong in the second half and dominated stretches of the third quarter. Gordy Gurson cut the deficit early, and Mehrshad Ahmadi followed with a goal of his own off another assist from Geo Alves. Moments later, Alves set up Meny Silva to complete the comeback and give UCFC its first lead of the night at 4-3. Milwaukee answered immediately with goals from Alex Sanchez and Max Ferdinand to swing the momentum back in their favor, then added a shorthanded strike from Alex Steinwascher to make it 6-4 late in the third. Steinwascher struck again early in the fourth quarter to extend the lead to 7-4, but UCFC once again showed resilience, pulling within one on six-attacker goals from Geo Alves and Sergio Pinal in the final minutes. Despite the late push, the Wave held on for the 7-6 victory.

Milwaukee goaltender William Banahene played a crucial role in the win and was named the game's First Star, turning aside several key chances during UCFC's third-quarter surge and again in the closing moments when Utica pressed with the extra attacker. His timely saves helped preserve the lead in a match that saw both teams trade momentum and featured some of the most entertaining action of the season.

LEADING THE CITY IN 2025-26

#33 Sergio Pinal G:12, A:9, Pts:21
#7 Geo Alves G:6, A:8, Pts:14
#99 Barbaro Shelier G:10, A:3, Pts:13

AVAILABILITY REPORT

Logan Roberts - Out - Lower
Xavier Snaer-Williamms - Out - Eye
Gordy Gurson - Not Available
Ricardo Orozco - Not Available
Ramazani Juma - Not Available
Jorge Lozada - Not Available
Nilton De Andrade - Probable - Lower Leg

MASL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS

TEAMS	PTS	DIF
Kansas City	9-4-2	27
Milwaukee	8-3-2	24
San Diego	7-4-1	21
Tacoma	7-4-1	20
St. Louis	6-3-3	18
Baltimore	5-5-2	17
Empire	5-8-0	14
Utica	3-6-2	9



UTICA CITY FC 2025-26 ROSTER

Media Contact: Michael Lehr | michaellehr@uticacomets.com



#	Name	POS	HT	WT	DOB	Hometown	Last Team
0	Xavier Snaer-Williams	G	6'0"	215	May 28, 1999	Oceanside, CA	San Diego Sockers
2	Emmanuel Belliard	M	5' 9"	155	Oct 2, 1996	Santo Domingo, DR	Utica City FC
3	Gordy Gurson	F	5' 6"	140	May 2, 1992	Buffalo Grove, IL	Utica City FC
6	Ricardo Orozco	M	5' 6"	140	Jun 19, 2003	Round Lake, IL	Utica City FC
7	Geo Alves	D	5' 8"	155	Aug 24, 1995	Fogo, CPV	Utica City FC
8	Toy Tavares	D	6'2"	183	April 20, 1999	Boston, MA	Utica City FC
9	Kelvin Oliveira	F	6' 0"	175	Aug 15, 1995	Ipatinga, BRA	Utica City FC
10	Nilton de Andrade	M	5' 9"	170	Mar 20, 1996	Fogo, CPV	Utica City FC
11	Meny Silva	F	5'9"	165	February 22, 2002	Praia, Cape Verda	Utica City FC
14	Andrew Taylor	G	6'3	185	July 1, 2002	Baldwinsville, NY	Utica City FC
16	Thayssan Santos	D	6'0"	170	February 26, 2004	Horizontina, RS-BRA	Utica City FC
17	Cole Stephens	D	5' 11	170	February 21, 2000	Milwaukee, WI	Utica City FC
20	Kyle Gehnrich	M	5'8"	145	Jun 28, 2002	Commack, NY	Utica City FC
21	Willie Spurr	F	6'0"	165	October 3, 1993	Seattle, WA	Tacoma Stars
22	Howard Miller	F	5'11"	180	February 14, 1997	St. Charles Missouri	Empire Strykers
23	Logan Roberts	D	6' 1"	165	May 5, 1994	Syracuse, NY	Utica City FC
25	Brian Wilkin	G	5'10"	155	August 13, 1998	Rochester, NY	Utica City FC
30	Juan Alava	D	5' 10"	169	May 28, 1999	Guayaquil, EC	Utica City FC
33	Sergio Junior Pinal	F	5'10"	215	April 1, 2002	San Jose, CA	Utica City FC
49	Mehrshad Ahmadi	F	5'9"	155	Dec 26, 1999	Albuquerque, NM	Utica City FC
95	Wil Nyamsi	D	6'1"	185	September 19, 1995	Paris, France	Utica City FC
99	Barbaro Shelier	F	6'3"	158	April 12, 1997	Havana, Cuba	Utica City FC

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Hewerton Moreira
 Performance/Mindset Coach: Shea McNamara
 General Manager: Tommy Tanner
 Trainer: Saulo Davi

Pronunciation Guide

5 - Day An-drah-day
 HC - Everton More-rare-ra

2025-26 Results

Day	Date	Opponent	Time / Score
Sunday	December 7	vs. Kansas City Comets	OTL, 8-7
Sunday	December 14	vs. Kansas City Comets	L, 11-5
Sunday	December 28	vs. Milwaukee Wave	OTW, 7-6
Wednesday	December 31	vs. Baltimore Blast	L, 5-2
Sunday	January 4	@ Baltimore Blast	OTW, 7-6
Sunday	January 11	vs. San Diego Sockers	L, 4-3
Sunday	January 18	@ Baltimore Blast	L, 7-12
Monday	January 19	vs. Baltimore Blast	W, 4-2
Saturday	January 24	@ Tacoma Stars	L, 6-7
Sunday	January 25	@ Tacoma Stars	L, 6-8
Sunday	February 1	vs. Milwaukee Wave	3:00 PM
Thursday	February 5	@ Empire Strykers	9:35 PM
Saturday	February 7	@ San Diego Sockers	10:00 PM
Sunday	February 15	vs. Baltimore Blast	3:00 PM
Monday	February 16	vs. St. Louis Ambush	3:00 PM
Saturday	February 21	@ St. Louis Ambush	7:05 PM
Sunday	February 22	@ Kansas City Comets	5:05 PM
Sunday	March 1	vs. Milwaukee Wave	3:00 PM
Friday	March 6	at Baltimore Blast	7:30 PM
Sunday	March 15	vs. Tacoma Stars	3:00 PM
Friday	March 20	@ Milwaukee Wave	7:35 PM
Sunday	March 22	vs. Empire Strykers	3:00 PM
Friday	March 27	@ St. Louis Ambush	8:05 PM
Sunday	March 29	@ Milwaukee Wave	3:05 PM

UTICA CITY FC STATISTICS

#	Name	Pos	GP	G	A	Pts	PPGA	PIM	GWG	S%	SB	PPG	SHG	Sh	F	BS	BC	YC	RC
33	Sergio Pinal	F	11	12	9	21	1.9	0	0	.293	13	2	1	41	13	4	0	0	0
7	Geo Alves	D	9	6	8	14	1.6	2	1	.333	2	1	1	18	11	6	1	0	0
99	Barbaro Shelier	F	11	10	3	13	1.2	0	0	.303	6	1	0	33	14	2	0	0	0
21	Willie Spurr	F	11	4	6	10	0.9	0	0	.200	6	0	1	20	6	4	0	0	0
3	Gordy Gurson	F	7	6	3	9	1.3	4	1	.286	5	0	0	21	6	0	2	0	0
16	Thayssan Santos	D	10	2	6	8	0.8	0	0	.154	4	0	0	13	11	11	0	0	0
49	Mehrshad Ahmadi	F	9	4	3	7	0.8	0	0	.108	8	0	0	37	7	2	0	0	0
11	Meny Silva	F	11	4	3	7	0.6	0	0	.167	6	0	0	24	16	1	0	0	0
17	Cole Stephens	D	10	3	3	6	0.6	0	0	.200	8	0	0	15	8	7	0	0	0
30	Juan Alava	D	10	3	2	5	0.5	2	1	.300	2	0	0	10	22	6	1	0	0
20	Kyle Gehrnrich	M	9	2	2	4	0.4	0	0	.182	2	0	0	11	9	2	0	0	0
4	Stephan Teixeira	M	7	2	0	2	0.3	5	0	.200	1	0	0	10	10	2	0	1	0
2	Emmanuel Belliard	M	10	1	1	2	0.2	2	0	.100	5	0	0	10	9	1	1	0	0
22	Howard Miller Jr.	F	7	0	1	1	0.1	4	0	.000	2	0	0	5	5	1	2	0	0
6	Ricardo Orozco	M	8	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0
8	Jose Tavares	D	11	0	1	1	0.1	4	0	.000	3	0	0	12	22	11	2	0	0
15	Jorge Lozada	F	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kelvin Oliveira	F	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Nilton de Andrade	M	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
90	Ramazani Juma	D	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wil Nyamsi	D	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Logan Roberts	D	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2024-25 Results

Day	Date	Opponent	Time / Score
Friday	December 13	@ Empire Strykers	W, 9-6
Saturday	December 14	@ San Diego Sockers	OTL, 6-5
Saturday	December 21	@ Harrisburg Heat	W, 7-6
Sunday	December 29	vs. Harrisburg Heat	W, 12-5
Tuesday	December 31	vs. Baltimore Blast	L, 6-5
Saturday	Januray 4	@ Baltimore Blast	L, 10-4
Sunday	January 12	vs. Baltimore Blast	L, 5-4
Saturday	January 25	vs. Milwaukee Wave	W, 10-6
Sunday	January 26	vs. Milwaukee Wave	W, 6-5
Saturday	February 1	@ Texas Outlaws	W, 5-3
Monday	February 3	@ Dallas Sidekicks	W, 9-5
Friday	February 7	vs. Baltimore Blast	W, 8-3
Thursday	February 20	@ Harrisburg Heat	W, 5-2
Saturday	February 22	vs. Chihuahua Savage	L, 19-6
Sunday	February 23	vs. Chihuahua Savage	W, 10-6
Friday	February 28	@ St. Louis Ambush	L, 9-8
Saturday	March 1	@ Kansas City Comets	L, 4-3
Sunday	March 9	@ Harrisburg Heat	W, 7-5
Saturday	March 15	@ Baltimore Blast	L, 9-6
Sunday	March 16	vs. Harrisburg Heat	W, 11-7
Friday	March 21	vs. Harrisburg Heat	W, 11-6
Saturday	March 22	@ Baltimore Blast	L, 9-7
Friday	March 28	vs. Kansas City Comets	OTL, 7-6
Sunday	March 30	vs. Texas Outlaws	W, 13-3
Saturday	April 5	@ Baltimore Blast	L, 6-2

CITY PROFILES

#0 - XAVIER SNAER-WILLIAMS (G)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Joined the City on loan from San Diego Sockers
- Last Year: 7-1 record, GAA: 4.95, SV%: .714



Hometown: Oceanside, CA

Height: 6-0 Weight: 215 lbs

Birthdate: May 28, 1999

#2 - EMMANUEL BELLIARD (M)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Last Year: 19 games, 5 goals, 3 assists
- Drafted in the first round of the 2023 MASL Pro Player Combine Draft
- Played on the Dominican Republic National Futsal Team
- Played for Lancing City (futsal)



Hometown: Santo Domingo, DR

Height: 5-9 Weight: 155

Birthdate: October 2, 1996

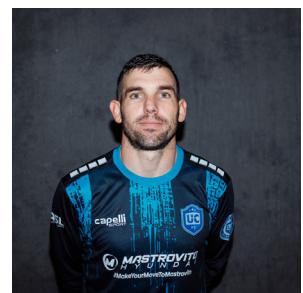
#3 - GORDY GURSON (F)

THIS YEAR:

- Scored two goals on opening night

CAREER

- 22 goals, 19 assists in 2022-23 with Utica City FC; led team in goals and assists
- 171 games played across eleven-year MASL career
- Leading goal-scorer in Orlando SeaWolves history (34)
- Leading goal-scorer in Cedar Rapids Rampage history (70)



Hometown: Buffalo Grove, IL

Height: 5-6 Weight: 140

Birthdate: May 2, 1992

CITY PROFILES

#6 - RICKY OROZCO (M)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Played for Iowa Raptors FC (MASL2)
- Played for the Chicago Mustangs (MASL2)



Hometown: Round Lake, IL

Height: 5-6 Weight: 140

Birthdate: June 19, 2003

#7 - LEANDRO GEO ALVES (M)

THIS YEAR:

- Scored a goal on opening night

CAREER

- In 23 games, scored 8 goals and had 12 assists for the city in 2023-24
- Shea High School - Rhode Island Gatorade Player of the year
- New England Revolution Academy- Top Scorer
- Played for Dean College, Broke the school record in points and goals in a season, 2x All-American



Hometown: Fogo, CPV

Height: 5-8 Weight: 155

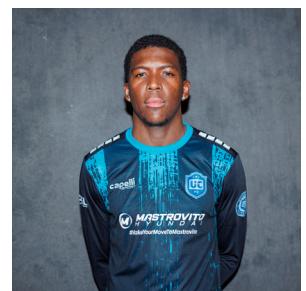
Birthdate: Aug 24, 1995

#8 - JOSE TAVARES (D)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Signed last year to Utica
- Formerly played for Bockton FC and United Africa (UPSL)



Hometown: Boston, MA

Height: 6-2 Weight: 183

Birthdate: April 20, 1999

Nickname: Toy

CITY PROFILES

#9 - KELVIN OLIVEIRA (F)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Champion, Liga Fut7 2021 and 2022 (the most important national championship in Brazil) and the Best Player of the Tournament
- Scored the \$1,000,000 goal for Newtown Pride FC and was named the MVP in the TST 7v7 tournament
- Champion, Piauiense 2021 and the Best Player of the Tournament
- Champion, Taça Brazil 2022



Hometown: Ipatinga, BRA

Height: 6-0 Weight: 175

Birthdate: August 15, 1995

#10 - NILTON DE ANDRADE (M)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- In 21 games scored 26 goals and had 15 assists in 2023-24 with Utica City FC
- 2x All American, Offensive POTY, and 2x All-Region at UMass-Boston
- Brockton FC United UPSL Patriots Division Title 2020
- Newbury College Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year, and 2x Offensive Player of the Year.



Hometown: Fogo, CPV

Height: 5-9 Weight: 170

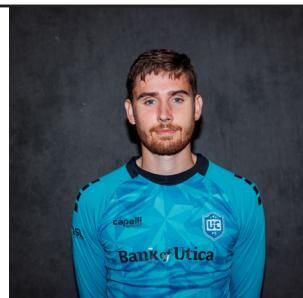
Birthdate: March 20, 1996

#14 - ANDREW TAYLOR (G)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Signed with UCFC last season
- 4 year starter at SUNY Brockport
- Honored for two All-Conference awards, as well as one All-Region



Hometown: Baldwinsville, NY

Height: 6-3 Weight: 185

Birthdate: July 1, 2002

CITY PROFILES

#16 - THAYSSAN SANTOS (D)

THIS YEAR:

- Racked up one goal and two assists on opening night

CAREER

- Multi-year futsal player in Brazil



Hometown: Horizontina, RS-BRA

Height: 6-0 Weight: 170

Birthdate: February 26, 2004

#17 - COLE STEPHENS (F)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Scored 9 goals and had 3 assists in 2023-2024
- In high school, named First Team All-Conference in 2015, 2016, and 2017
- Played for Eastern Illinois University
- Recorded hat trick vs. Harrisburg (12/16)



Hometown: Milwaukee, WI

Height: 5-11 Weight: 170

Birthdate: Februar 21st, 2000

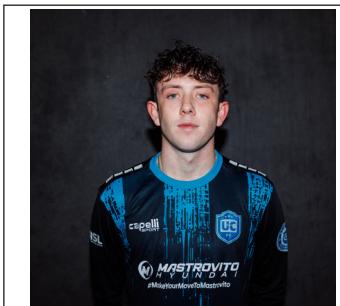
#20 - KYLE GEHNRICH (M)

THIS YEAR:

-
-

CAREER

- Sophmore season with the City
- Long Island Native, Captain at SUNY Oswego Soccer
- All-East Region Honoree 2023



Hometown: Commack, NY

Height: 5-8 Weight: 145

Birthdate: June 28, 2002

CITY PROFILES

#21 - WILLIE SPURR (F)

THIS YEAR:

- Accumulated one goal and two assists on opening night

CAREER

- Signed this off-season from Tacoma Stars
- Career MASL stats: 57 games, 19 goals, 24 assists



Hometown: Seattle, WA

Height: 6-0 Weight: 165

Birthdate: October 3, 1993

#23 - LOGAN ROBERTS (D)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Scored two goals in UCFC's home opener in 2023-2024
- Spent two years with the Syracuse Silver Knights
- Last year established himself as one of the league's top defenders
- Played his college soccer at Binghamton University



Hometown: Syracuse, NY

Height: 6-1 Weight: 165

Birthdate: May 5th, 1994

#25 - BRIAN WILKIN (G)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Playing his 3rd professional indoor season
- Played 14 games with the Rochester Lancers in 2019-20
- Collegiate soccer career at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY
- Posted a 0.86 GAA in 62 career games at Nazareth



Hometown: Rochester, NY

Height: 5-10 Weight: 155

Birthdate: August 13th, 1998

CITY PROFILES

#30 - JUAN ALAVA (M)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Scored 5 goals and 3 assists for Utica City FC in 2023-24
- Started in 16 of his 17 games at SCSU, second on the team with five points
- Playing his 4th season with Utica City FC
- Two-time All-American and All-State C2 at Nassau Community College



Hometown: Guayaquil, ECU

Height: 5-10 Weight: 169

Birthdate: May 28, 1999

#33 - SERGIO PINAL (F)

THIS YEAR:

- Scored one goal and two assists on opening night

CAREER

- Second season with UCFC
- Earned Player-of-the-Year as a freshman at Evergreen Valley College



Hometown: San Jose, CA

Height: 5-10 Weight: 215

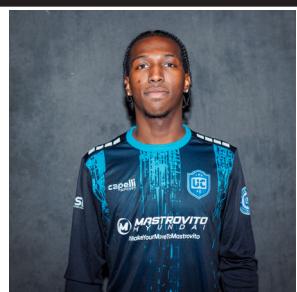
Birthdate: April 1, 2002

#36 - MENY SILVA (F)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Sophomore season with Utica City FC
- Formerly with Brockton FC United (UPSL)



Hometown: Praia, CPV

Height: 5-9 Weight: 165

Birthdate: February 22, 2002

CITY PROFILES

#49 - AHMADI MEHRSHAD (D)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Finished 5th in the MASL 2 league with 25 goal in 2023-24
- Played for the Wichita Wings
- Earned a spot on the MASL 2 Second Team All-Stars



Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Height: 5-9 Weight: 155lbs

Birthdate: December 26, 1999

#95 - WIL NYAMSI (D)

THIS YEAR:

CAREER

- Received in trade from St. Louis Ambush



Hometown: Paris, FR

Height: 5-8 Weight: 170

Birthdate: December 28, 1978

#99 - BARBARO SHELIER (D)

THIS YEAR:

- Scored on opening night

CAREER

- Played for the Cuban National Futsal Team
- Second season with the City



Hometown: Havana, Cuba

Height: 6-3 Weight: 158

Birthdate: April 12, 1997