



## GAME NOTES for EMPIRE STRYKERS vs. ST. LOUIS AMBUSH Sunday, March 29, 2026



### Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) Regular Season

\* Game notes prepared before the weekend's other MASL games (Baltimore vs. Tacoma, Milwaukee vs. Utica, San Diego vs. Kansas City)

#### **Match Facts**

Sunday, March 29, 2026 - 4:05 p.m. PT - Toyota Arena (Ontario, Calif.)

#### **Broadcast Information**

The English-language live video broadcast will reach U.S. and international audiences via MASL+, the MASL's YouTube channel, Creator Sports Network (CSN), Victory+, Unbeaten Network, National Soccer Network and SLVR, with several of the platforms making the action available on demand as well. Sunday's match will also be carried in English by FOX Sports Radio 1270AM. While the Spanish-language live video broadcast will air exclusively in Mexico via the FOX Sports lineup of channels, Spanish-speaking fans outside of Mexico may find it on the MASL's YouTube channel.

#### **Team Records**

**Empire:** 11-11-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses; 6th in MASL standings; 31 points; +5 goals)

**St. Louis:** 13-5-5 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses; 2nd in MASL standings; 41 points; +18 goals)

#### **Points Leaders**

**Empire:** Justin Stinson (26), Mounir Alami (25)

**St. Louis:** Daniel Torrealba (32), Mario Falsone (23)

#### **Leading Goalscorers**

**Empire:** Mounir Alami (15), Justin Stinson (14)

**St. Louis:** Daniel Torrealba (23; 6th in MASL), Mario Falsone (16)

#### **Assists Leaders**

**Empire:** Robert Palmer (14), Justin Stinson (12)

**St. Louis:** Daniel Torrealba (12), Christian Briggs (10)

#### **Points-per-Game Leaders**

**Empire:** Mounir Alami (1.19 in 21 games), Justin Stinson (1.13 in 23 games)

**St. Louis:** Daniel Torrealba (1.52 in 23 games), Robert Kristo (1.29 in 7 games; listed as inactive), Mehrshad Ahmadi (1.10 in 20 games for Utica & St. Louis)



### **Leading Power Play Goalscorers**

**Empire:** Ant Powell (2; tied for 8th in MASL), Robert Palmer, Marco Fabián, Barbaro Shelier, Zakhar Shkidchenko (1 each)

**St. Louis:** Randy Martinez (2; tied for 8th in MASL), Mario Falsone, William Eskay, Christian Briggs, Mehrshad Ahmadi (1 each), Robert Kristo, Duduca Carvalho (1 each; both listed as inactive)

### **Leading Short-Handed Goalscorers**

**Empire:** Alan Perez (2; tied for 1st in MASL)

**St. Louis:** Jeff Michaud (1; tied for 3rd in MASL)

### **Blocks Leaders**

**Empire:** Robert Palmer (43; 3rd in MASL), Filipe Dutra (21)

**St. Louis:** Robert Williamson (45; 2nd in MASL), Christian Briggs (22)

### **Goalkeepers**

#### **Goals-Against-Average**

**Empire:** Brandon Gomez (4.71 in 13 games/~421 mins; 3rd in MASL), Brian Orozco (5.06 in 18 games/~806 mins; 2nd in MASL)

**St. Louis:** Paulo Nascimento (4.51 in 21 games/~1,238 mins; 2nd in MASL), Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (4.76 in 4 games/~177 mins; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since too few mins played)

#### **Save Percentage**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (69.8% in 18 games/~806 mins), Brandon Gomez (64.5% in 13 games/~421 mins)

**St. Louis:** Paulo Nascimento (72.4% in 21 games/~1,238 mins; 2nd in MASL), Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (71.4% in 4 games/~177 mins; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since too few mins played)

#### **Total Saves**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (148), Brandon Gomez (60)

**St. Louis:** Paulo Nascimento (241; 2nd in MASL), Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (35)

#### **Goals & Assists**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (3 goals & 5 assists in 18 games/~806 mins), Brandon Gomez (1 goal & 2 assists in 13 games/~421 mins)

**St. Louis:** Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (2 assists in 4 games/~177 mins), Paulo Nascimento (1 assist in 21 games/~1,238 mins)

#### **Points per Game**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (0.44 in 18 games), Brandon Gomez (0.23 in 13 games)

**St. Louis:** Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (0.50 in 4 games), Paulo Nascimento (0.05 in 21 games)

#### **Minutes per Point**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (~101), Brandon Gomez (~140)

**St. Louis:** Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (~89), Paulo Nascimento (~1,238)



## **Series History**

The Strykers hold a 10-2 all-time record against St. Louis, which includes a 2-0 overtime/shootout record. Even though both teams were founded in 2013, they did not play each other until the 2019-20 MASL campaign. Last season, Empire went 2-0 against the Missouriians, defeating them 8-6 at home and 7-5 on the road. Both wins came in mid-January 2025. The Strykers trail 2-1 in the 2025-26 series. Having fallen 5-4 to the Ambush at home on December 19, the Californians suffered a 4-2 away loss in mid-January, followed by a 5-4 overtime win at St. Louis in early March.

## **Where We Stand**

Having punched their MASL playoff ticket with a road victory at Utica, the Strykers took to ride their momentum to a third straight win under new Interim Head Coach and team captain Robert Palmer. The clash with the Ambush holds special meaning for Empire, given it will be part of a doubleheader that may well carry historic implications in a couple of different ways. The men's match will take place after the 1 p.m PT second-leg clash between a Strykers women's team and a San Diego Sockers women's team, both of which may soon compete in MASLW. In leg one of the "MASL SoCal Women's Arena Cup," San Diego last weekend defeated Empire 5-1 in Oceanside.

Looking to assess the viability of adding a second professional squad to the organization, Empire's front office is aiming high with Sunday's pair of matches at Toyota Arena, having set as its goal a crowd of over 8,000 and thus a new all-time franchise attendance record as well as a league-wide record for the season. The Strykers men, who are assured sixth place heading into the knockout rounds, will play as the "Empire Fury," paying homage to their history. Prior to a 2022 name change, the club was known as the Ontario Fury.

After barely squeezing into the playoffs in 2024-25, second-place St. Louis has not only qualified comfortably this time around but retains a realistic shot at finishing atop the table. To have any hope of doing so, Head Coach Jeff Locker's squad needs to continue its bounce back from a recent trend of narrow defeats and make it back-to-back wins to close out the season. Prior to Friday's 7-4 win over visiting Utica, the Ambush fell 5-4 in overtime at San Diego, suffering its fourth loss by that scoreline in five games. Of those four losses, two came via golden goal.

## **Strykers Availability Report**

**Out:** Lucas Ramalho (upper leg)

**Doubtful:** None

**Questionable:** Mounir Alami (upper leg)

**Probable:** Walter Díaz González (upper leg)

**Suspensions:** None

## **Match Preview**

(from March 27, 2026)

### **Gomez, Empire "Psyched" for Momentous Doubleheader**

*Strykers 'keeper shares thoughts ahead of event with historic implications*

**Ontario, Calif.** — Coming off the emotional high of having punched their Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) playoff ticket with a road victory at Utica City FC, the Empire Strykers host the St. Louis Ambush this weekend, looking to ride their momentum to a third straight win under new Interim Head Coach and team captain Robert "Berto" Palmer. The clash with the Ambush holds special meaning for the Strykers, given it will be part of a doubleheader that may well carry historic implications in a couple of different ways.

11-11-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses) Empire faces 12-5-5 St. Louis on Sunday, March 29, at 4:05 p.m. PT, with the match taking place after the 1 p.m PT second-leg clash between a Strykers women's team and a San Diego Sockers women's team, both of which may soon compete as professional sides in MASLW. In leg one of the "MASL SoCal Women's Arena Cup," San Diego this past weekend defeated Empire 5-1 in Oceanside.

Looking to assess the viability of adding a second professional squad to the organization, Empire's front office is aiming high with the pair of upcoming matches at Toyota Arena, having set as its goal a crowd of over 8,000 and thus a new all-time franchise attendance record as well as a league-wide record for the season.



The English-language live video broadcast of the men's game will reach U.S. and international audiences via MASL+, the MASL's YouTube channel, Creator Sports Network (CSN), Victory+, Unbeaten Network, National Soccer Network and SLVR, with several of the platforms making the action available on demand as well. Empire's meeting with the Ambush will also be carried in English by FOX Sports Radio 1270AM. While the Spanish-language live video broadcast will air exclusively in Mexico via the FOX Sports lineup of channels, Spanish-speaking fans outside of Mexico may find it on the MASL's YouTube channel.

The English-language live video broadcast of the women's game will be made available on MASL+, the MASL's YouTube channel, Creator Sports Network (CSN) and Unbeaten Network. Fans may also watch the match on demand via several of the same platforms as well via APEX Sports. The Spanish-language video broadcast will air on the MASL's YouTube Channel.

In their postseason-clinching match at Utica, which followed a 6-3 upset win at Milwaukee, the Strykers men downed last-place UCFC 5-3 thanks to a dominant collective display that saw them finish with a 20-7 advantage in shots on target. Forward Mounir Alami earned a goal and two assists in a contest which his team led 5-1 until the opposition fielded six attackers in the closing stages.

Under former Head Coach Onua Obasi, 30-year-old Brandon Gomez logged fewer minutes in net than the significantly younger Brian Orozco. However, since Robert Palmer was handed the reigns two weeks ago, Gomez has gone the distance in back-to-back matches, allowing a total of five goals and registering a strong combined save percentage of 73.9%. Against UCFC, the Southern California native bagged an assist deep inside the final period, throwing the ball into the path of a streaking Issak Somow, who buried it for Empire's fifth.

"I was happy with it," said Gomez of his own performance in the game. "I only had a few saves in that one, which speaks for the team. On their last goal, I got a little too casual and gave up the ball. Obviously, we've looked at that moment and talked about how we can fix it. Other than that, I felt pretty good. As a group, we were hungry and started off well. Their 'keeper had several big saves in the first quarter. We could have been up by four or five instead of by one."

The Strykers netminder added, "We could have had a lot of goals. When they weren't falling for us, we started forcing things a bit, and it got a little messy. We weren't quite as clinical as we would have liked. I still felt we played well overall, but we also know what we could have done better. It gave us some things to work on."

For Empire, backline anchor — and now Interim Head Coach — Robert Palmer has once again been a key contributor on both defense and offense. The Jamaican not only ranks third league-wide in blocks (43) but also tops his side in assists (14). Second place in blocks on the Strykers is held by MASL rookie Filipe Dutra (21).

Like Palmer, backstop Brian Orozco has been a key figure beyond his core responsibilities. In addition to sitting third in the league in goals-against average (5.06 in 18 games/~806 mins), the 24-year-old Orozco has earned three netters and five assists for a remarkable 0.44 points per game. On average, he has recorded one point for roughly every 101 minutes spent on the field. Meanwhile, fellow 'keeper Brandon Gomez boasts an even better goals-against average than Orozco (4.71 in 13 games/~421 mins), making him runner-up in the MASL.

Moroccan forward Mounir Alami not only leads the Empire roster in goals (26) and points per game (1.19 in 21 games) but also ranks second in points (25). First place in points is held by midfield engine Justin Stinson (26), who is also second in goals (14), helpers (12) and points per game (1.13 in 23 games). Alan Perez is tied for the league lead in short-handed goals (2), and his teammate Ant Powell is tied for eighth in power play goals (2).

In their upcoming home match, the Strykers will play as the "Empire Fury," paying homage to their history. Prior to a 2022 name change, the club was known as the Ontario Fury. Against Sunday's opponent, the St. Louis Ambush, Interim Head Coach Palmer's men hold a 10-2 all-time record, which includes a 2-0 overtime/shootout record. Even though both teams were founded in 2013, they did not play each other until the 2019-20 MASL campaign.

Last season, Empire went 2-0 against the Missourians, defeating them 8-6 at home and 7-5 on the road. Both wins came in mid-January 2025. The Strykers trail 2-1 in the 2025-26 series. Having fallen 5-4 to the Ambush at home on December 19, the Californians suffered a 4-2 away loss in mid-January, followed by a 5-4 overtime win at St. Louis in early March.

Two former members of the Empire roster now lace up for St. Louis in Riley Urie and Randy Martinez. Both have been key contributors.

"That team has always had a few strong performers, but now they have more," offered Strykers 'keeper Gomez. "For example, Riley's having a really good year, and so is Randy. I also really respect Colin O'Keefe, who came over from the [Dallas] Sidekicks. He defends like a dog and goes on the counter right away. Once he takes off, it's hard to catch him. A couple of the guys they brought in are very dangerous in transition."



Gomez continued, "They're a very athletic team with a system they're all bought into. Every player has a specific role they all know and understand really well. Because they do such a good job of fulfilling their roles, they're very dangerous. They like to sit back, bait teams, and then kill them on the counter."

At 40 years old, one-club man Paulo Nascimento is playing arguably his finest season yet for St. Louis. The Brazil native, who joined the Ambush in 2017 and has since guarded the net on 157 occasions, tops the league in goals-against average (4.53 in 20 games/~1.178 mins) and save percentage (73.4%) while sitting second in total saves (231). High-caliber backup Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes (4.76 goals-against average & 71.4% save percentage in 4 games/~177 mins) does not qualify for the MASL leaderboard because he has logged too few minutes.

The stingy Ambush backline is anchored by Robert Williamson, who ranks second in the league in blocks (44), with Christian Briggs (22) holding runner-up on his team.

The St. Louis attack is spearheaded by midfielder Daniel Torrealba. In addition to sitting tied for sixth league-wide in goals (21), the Venezuelan also leads the Ambush in points (32), assists (11) and points per game (1.45 in 22 games). Since joining from Utica, Mehrshad Ahmadi has served as Torrealba's most important sidekick. When combining his stats from his time with UCFC and St. Louis this season, the second-year MASL forward holds runner-up on his new team in points (22) and netters (15), in addition to being third in points per game (1.16 in 19 games) behind Robert Kristo (1.29 in 7 games), who is listed as inactive.

Christian Briggs is second on St. Louis in helpers (9), and Randy Martinez ranks tied for eighth among all MASL players in power play goals (2).

After barely squeezing into the playoffs in 2024-25, the fifth-place Ambush has not only qualified comfortably this time around but retains a realistic shot at finishing atop the table. To do so, Head Coach Jeff Locker's squad would need to stop a recent trend of narrow defeats, starting with Friday's encounter with visiting Utica. St. Louis has won just once in its last five games and has dropped each of the other four by a 5-4 final score. Of the quartet of losses, two have come in overtime, including this past Sunday's at San Diego. The nailbiter against the Sockers was preceded by a 7-4 away victory over Tacoma that helped open the door to Empire clinching its playoff berth.

Despite the Strykers being assured sixth place in the standings, they will give it their all in their season finale against the Ambush, according to Brandon Gomez.

"Training this week has been just as intense as it was the two weeks before that," said the Empire goalkeeper. "With Berto [Palmer] coming in, he's still working on implementing some of his ideas, so there's room for growth. Against St. Louis, we want to continue the win streak, but we also need to keep building chemistry and a team that can go deep in the playoffs."

Gomez continued, "If Berto wants to look at guys who haven't been in the rotation, I could see him making a couple of changes. But will we go with a — quote, unquote — less experienced or weaker team? I don't think so. He's treating it as if we still need a win, and so are all of us. We want to even out the season series. With the women's game and hopefully a big crowd, this is a huge occasion. We're all psyched for it."

## **Previous Game**

(from March 22, 2026)

### **Strykers Clinch Playoff Berth with 5-3 Win at Utica**

*Empire headed to second straight MASL knockout rounds*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers punched their 2025-26 Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) playoff ticket on Sunday afternoon, bagging their second straight away win under new Interim Head Coach Robert Palmer, who is also the team's captain and backline anchor. The Strykers improved to 11-11-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses) by defeating last-place Utica City FC 5-3 thanks to a dominant collective display that saw the Southern Californians finish with a 20-7 advantage in shots on target. Forward Mounir Alami earned a goal and two assists on the day.

After a long-distance strike into the net by Empire's Alan Perez was called back for an offensive foul, the visitors did take the lead late in the opening quarter, Alami pouncing on a defensive mistake by Utica's Geo Alves and smashing home from close range. Despite the Strykers having largely controlled the game up to that point, Utica drew level early in the second period. Stephan Teixeira put his technical skills on full display as he deftly poked the ball inside the near post from the left side of the area, Francesco Pagano recording the assist.

Just under five minutes from halftime, the Strykers reclaimed the lead through a memorable tally by Perez. Defender Palmer chipped the ball toward the back post from inside his own half, and Perez buried it by way of a



spectacular first-time side volley that left netminder Brian Wilkin without a chance. Venezuelan Graterol then extended Empire's edge to 3-1 in the early stages of the third quarter. The MASL rookie picked up a pass by Alamo and cut inside from the left before sending a thunderbolt into the upper right corner from behind the yellow line.

The away side bagged its fourth just under halfway through the closing period, taking advantage of UCFC pushing goalkeeper Wilkin up into the attack. After the Rochester native was bumped off the ball near the Empire box, Alami cleverly used the boards to find Marco Fabián, who finished into the unguarded net from behind the midfield stripe. Former Utica attacker Issak Somow made it 5-1 moments later, as he ran on to a heads-up throw by Strykers backstop Brandon Gomez on the right, followed by a perfectly placed first-time hit that caught Wilkin by surprise and nestled inside the far post.

The hosts pulled two goals back late in the game, each time benefiting from fielding an additional attacker. First, Sergio Pinal's excellent pass picked out a wide-open Gordy Gurson for the easiest of finishes. Then, Jose Tavares punished an error by netminder Gomez, sending the ball into the open net to round out the final score at 5-3. In the end, the pair of tallies did little to dampen the visiting team's celebrations, as Empire is headed to its second consecutive knockout stages.

## **Previous Game**

(from March 15, 2026)

### **Empire Climbs Back Above Playoff Line with 6-3 Win Over Wave**

*Fabián, Perez, Gomez shine in huge upset of Milwaukee*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers made a statement in the Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) playoff race on Sunday afternoon, defeating the mighty Milwaukee Wave 6-3 away from home. With Head Coach Onua Obasi being replaced on the day by player-coach Robert Palmer, the unconventional strategy paid off for the visitors, as they looked inspired from the opening whistle and collected a massive three points that sees them improve to 10-11-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses) on their campaign and reclaim the sixth and final postseason spot from the Tacoma Stars.

While iconic Strykers attacker Marco Fabián enjoyed his best performance of 2025-26 thus far, boasting a goal and three assists, his teammates Alan Perez and Brandon Gomez put up standout displays of their own. Defender-midfielder Perez had a hat trick, and backstop Gomez frustrated the opposition time and time again, finishing with 15 saves and an 83.3% save percentage.

Empire took the lead in the opening quarter. When Mexican star Fabián sent a through ball into the path of a streaking Qudus Lawal, the Nigerian American did well to control and poke it past onrushing netminder William Banahene for his second tally of the campaign. Fabián then doubled his assists total in the match, smashing a shot off the end boards that fell to Issak Somow, who rifled a first-time hit into the far-side upper ninety from the left.

It would be a be a hat trick of first-half points for two-time FIFA World Cup veteran Fabián, as he collected his only goal of the contest inside the opening third of the second quarter, firing home on a Jorge DeLeon free kick from the right. Perez then extended the Strykers lead to 4-0 after collecting a pass from Fabián, as he cut inside from the left and blasted an unstoppable shot off the inside of the left post and into the back of the net.

The home side finally pulled one back not long before intermission. Max Ferdinand laid the ball off to the right side of the penalty area, from where it was sent inside the right post via a clever turning shot by Ricardo Carvalho. The Wave forward completed his brace just under five minutes into the third period, Alex Steinwascher being credited with the assist on the play.

Empire subsequently reestablished its previous three-goal cushion on a gorgeous netter by Perez. Palmer lobbed a pinpoint ball toward the left corner from inside his own half, and Southern California native Perez made it 5-2 by picking out the far-side netting with a spectacular volley from a tight angle.

Following the memorable moment, two teams each missed a sitter. First, Milwaukee's Max Ludwig failed to finish into the open net from the doorstep, hitting the inside of the left post. Then, a one on one saw the Strykers' Perez come within inches of bagging his third tally, as he used the end boards to deftly touch the ball around backstop Banahene, only to send his attempted finish wide left of the unguarded frame.

Milwaukee's Shawn Azcueta aimed perfectly deep into the final quarter. The midfielder received the ball from Steinwascher and fired home from just outside the area, cutting his side's deficit down to two.



Trailing 5-3, the hosts continued to send attack-minded 'keeper Gerardo Perez forward for the remainder of the game, and the Strykers took advantage in the closing stages. After several quality saves by Empire netminder Gomez, his teammate Perez finally completed his hat trick after a defensive block that allowed the 26-year-old to take possession and pick out the empty net with an excellent long hit from inside his own half. The insurance goal rounded out the final score at 6-3.

## **Recent Club News**

(from March 20, 2026)

### **Empire's Fabián Named MASL Offensive Player of the Week**

*Mexican star bagged four points in huge win at Milwaukee*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) recently recognized Empire Strykers midfielder Marco Fabián for his standout play during week 16 of the 2025-26 regular season, naming the Mexican star MASL Offensive Player of the Week. Fabián's attacking heroics powered the Strykers' crucial 6-3 road win over the Milwaukee Wave on March 15.

San Diego's Chris Toth was named MASL Goalkeeper of the Week, and Baltimore's Marco Nascimento received MASL Defensive Player of the Week honors.

In Empire's match at Milwaukee, Fabián led the charge inside the opposition half, contributing four points as his side bagged a massive three points in the hunt for the final playoff berth.

The Strykers took the lead in the opening quarter. Mexican star Fabián sent a through ball into the path of a streaking Qudus Lawal, and the Nigerian American did well to control and poke it past onrushing netminder William Banahene for his second tally of the campaign. Fabián then doubled his assists total in the match, smashing a shot off the end boards that fell to Issak Somow, who rifled a first-time hit into the far-side upper ninety from the left.

Empire's two-time FIFA World Cup veteran collected his only goal of the contest inside the opening third of the second quarter, firing home on a Jorge DeLeon free kick from the right. Not long thereafter, Alan Perez extended the Empire lead to 4-0 after collecting a pass from Fabián, who earned his third first-half helper and fourth point on the play. Southern California native Perez cut inside from the left and blasted an unstoppable shot off the inside of the left post and into the back of the net.

## **Recent Club News**

(from March 19, 2026)

### **Empire Makes Strategic Changes to Continue Recent Momentum**

*Robert Palmer named Interim Head Coach while talks with Onua Obasi ongoing*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers announced today that team captain Robert Palmer has been named Interim Head Coach for the remainder of the 2025-26 Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) season. The move comes on the heels of the team showing a strong reaction and winning 6-3 at Milwaukee with Palmer serving as player-coach. The Strykers are also actively engaged in productive conversations with former Head Coach Onua Obasi about transitioning him into a new, high-level position within the organization.

Managing Partner Jeff Burum emphasized his deep respect for Obasi and optimism about the prospect of keeping the Englishman involved in a key role.

"We have nothing but the utmost appreciation for Onua, his expertise, and the incredibly hard work he has put into this club," said Burum. "He has been a tremendous leader for us, and we believe shifting his responsibilities will help take the Strykers to the next level. We've had very positive, forward-looking talks, and we're hopeful that we can continue working together in a way that allows us to benefit from everything Onua brings to the table."

Burum added that the decision to formally appoint Palmer reflects the team's performance against the Wave and a belief the MASL veteran was able to ignite among his teammates.

"In professional sports, sometimes a change — even a difficult and unconventional one — can shift the psychology of a group," he said. "It's not about one approach being better than another, but about creating a different



energy that has come at the right time for us. We saw a positive, collective response at Milwaukee, and with a playoff berth on the line, we feel it's important to keep drawing on that momentum."

Onua Obasi expressed his fondness for the organization and his enthusiasm about remaining involved.

"It's been my honor coaching the Strykers, and I believe in the team I've helped put together," he said. "I understand that certain situations may call for unconventional measures, and I respect the decision. I'm grateful for the way the club has handled everything and for the open-minded exchange about how I can keep contributing in a meaningful way. The prospect of helping shape our future growth is very exciting."

## **Recent Club News**

(from March 15, 2026)

### **Strykers Turn to Creative Approach for Sunday at Milwaukee**

*Club opts for unconventional move in late playoff push*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers announced today that team captain Robert Palmer will serve in a player-coach role for Sunday's Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) matchup with the Milwaukee Wave — an unconventional move aimed at giving the team a different dynamic as it fights to keep its playoff hopes alive. Onua Obasi will not be on the bench for the road contest but remains the Strykers Head Coach and will continue supporting the team as it prepares for the crucial final stretch of its campaign.

With just three games remaining in 2025-26, Empire finds itself in a tight battle for the sixth and final postseason berth. A 6-3 home loss to the Tacoma Stars last weekend dropped the Southern Californians to just below the playoff line, leaving little margin for error.

Managing Partner Jeff Burum explained that the decision reflects a willingness to think outside the box at a critical time.

"Onua Obasi is a class act, an extremely talented coach, and a true professional," said Burum. "He has handled this situation with the same integrity and commitment he has shown since the day he joined this organization. We have tremendous respect for him and for the work he has done here. We simply felt this was a moment when trying something different might help unlock another dimension within the team. Sometimes, a different voice or dynamic on the bench can change the psychology of a group."

Burum emphasized that the decision was not made lightly.

"There were certainly arguments against making a change," he added. "Onua is a strong leader with an elite understanding of the indoor game. Ultimately, with the season entering its decisive stage, we felt it was worth giving a chance to an outside-the-box idea. We hope putting a player in charge will increase accountability and challenge each member of the group to find that extra spark within themselves."

Obasi, who earned 2024-25 MASL Coach of the Year honors for his innovative tactics and for returning Empire to the postseason after three straight absences, expressed his continued support for the team as it readies for Sunday's away contest against the top attacking side in the league.

"My focus continues to be on helping this team succeed," said the Englishman. "I support the players and the organization, and I'm determined to keep doing everything I can to help the Strykers finish the season strong and hopefully reach consecutive knockout rounds."

Sunday's meeting with the Milwaukee Wave marks only the sixth encounter between the two sides. Empire leads the all-time series 3-2, with none of the previous meetings having been decided in overtime or a shootout. The Strykers defeated Milwaukee in Ontario last season and have split the first two meetings of the current campaign.

The Empire Strykers have everything left to play for in their back-to-back away fixtures at Milwaukee and then at Utica next Sunday, March 22. The Southern Californians return home to Ontario for their regular season finale and a huge doubleheader on March 29. After a Strykers women's team takes on a San Diego Sockers women's team in a high-profile exhibition match, the men will battle the St. Louis Ambush with their postseason fates potentially still in doubt.



## Recent Club News

(from March 2, 2026)

### Strykers to Host Tryouts, MASL SoCal Women's Arena Cup

*Elite exhibition is part of two-game series with San Diego Sockers*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers of the Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) today announced they will host the MASL SoCal Women's Arena Cup in Ontario's on Sunday, March 29, as part of a doubleheader with the men's regular season finale against the St. Louis Ambush. The women's match marks the second leg of a marquee home-and-away exhibition series against a San Diego Sockers women's team. It is expected to boast top talent from Southern California and will help the Strykers organization assess the viability of launching a professional team within Major Arena Soccer League Women (MASLW). The first leg of the series will be hosted by the Sockers on March 22 at Frontwave Arena in Oceanside.

To assemble the Empire roster, two open tryouts will be held at the Scheu Family YMCA in Upland — both free of charge. The first is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, and the second for Sunday, March 15, with sessions running from 2 to 4 p.m. each day. The tryouts are designed to identify elite-level players interested in partaking in both exhibitions against San Diego and potentially representing the Strykers in future competition.

"Southern California has one of the richest traditions in women's soccer anywhere in the world," said Empire Strykers Managing Partner Jeff Burum. "This region has produced a number of World Cup champions and Olympic medalists, and the level of talent here remains extraordinary. Given the rise of the professional women's game, it only makes sense that women be part of the rapid growth of indoor soccer here in SoCal. This showcase gives us an opportunity to highlight exceptional players and to explore exciting next steps as an organization."

## MASL Standings

Rk	Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	RW	GF	GA	Diff	Home	Away	Streak
1	x -  San Diego Sockers	23	15	6	2	42	10	144	117	+27	6 - 3 - 2	9 - 3 - 0	W 2
2	x -  St. Louis Ambush	23	13	5	5	41	10	130	112	+18	7 - 3 - 2	6 - 2 - 3	W 1
3	x -  Baltimore Blast	23	13	7	3	40	11	150	132	+18	7 - 3 - 1	6 - 4 - 2	OTL 1
4	x -  Milwaukee Wave	23	14	7	2	40	10	169	137	+32	8 - 3 - 0	6 - 4 - 2	W 2
5	x -  Kansas City Comets	23	12	6	5	39	10	156	145	+11	6 - 2 - 4	6 - 4 - 1	OTL 1
6	x -  Empire Strykers	23	11	11	1	31	8	116	111	+5	5 - 5 - 1	6 - 6 - 0	W 2
7	o -  Tacoma Stars	23	9	13	1	26	7	109	160	-51	8 - 4 - 0	1 - 9 - 1	L 3
8	o -  Utica City FC	23	5	14	4	17	3	117	177	-60	3 - 6 - 3	2 - 8 - 1	L 3

POINTS > REGULATION WINS > WINS > HEAD TO HEAD (OLD) > GOAL DIFFERENTIAL > GOALS FOR > GOALS AGAINST

x - Clinched playoff spot

o - Eliminated from playoffs

Teams get 3 points for a Regulation Win, 2 points for an overtime/shootout Win, 1 point for an overtime/shootout loss.



## 2025-26 Empire Strykers Roster

### Numerical

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Date of birth</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Brandon Gomez	Goalkeeper	0	February 13, 1996	5'10"	U.S.
Brian Orozco	Goalkeeper	1	October 15, 2001	5'10"	U.S. & Guatemala
Qudus Lawal	Forward	3	September 4, 1995	5'10"	Nigeria & U.S.
Mounir Alami	Forward	5	July 16, 1999	5'11"	Morocco
Cyro Oliveira	Midfielder-Defender	6	August 10, 1998	5'11"	Brazil
Jorge DeLeon	Midfielder	7	December 3, 1992	5'10"	U.S.
Leopoldo "Polo" Hernandez	Midfielder-Defender	8	June 16, 1999	6'0"	Mexico
Ant Powell	Forward	9	July 15, 1996	6'0"	U.S.
Justin Stinson	Midfielder	10	May 29, 1997	5'10"	U.S.
Barbaro Shelier	Forward	11	December 4, 1997	6'4"	Cuba
Dayerson Graterol	Midfielder	14	May 3, 2003	5'11"	Venezuela
Ben Suddeth	Defender	16	February 18, 2002	5'8"	U.S.
Walter Díaz González	Forward-Defender	18	March 18, 1996	6'2"	Cuba
Alan Perez	Defender-Midfielder	20	March 31, 1999	5'11"	U.S.
Andy Reyes	Midfielder-Defender	21	June 25, 1992	5'4"	U.S. & Mexico
Issak Somow	Midfielder-Defender	24	November 23, 1997	6'1"	Kenya & U.S.
Abdul Mansaray	Forward	28	November 20, 1996	6'0"	U.S. & England
Zahkar Shkidchenko	Forward	30	November 25, 2000	5'10"	Ukraine
Steven Chávez	Midfielder	31	October 2, 1996	5'7"	U.S.
Marco Fabián	Midfielder	33	July 21, 1989	5'7"	Mexico
Filipe Dutra	Defender	44	September 30, 1998	6'4"	Brazil
Antonio De La Torre	Midfielder-Defender	47	November 21, 1998	6'4"	U.S.
Robert "Berto" Palmer	Defender	51	January 15, 1989	5'10"	Jamaica
Lucas Ramalho	Midfielder	70	June 20, 2001	5'11"	Brazil & U.S.
Ali Somow	Midfielder	99	June 23, 2002	5'10"	U.S.

### Technical Staff

Robert "Berto" Palmer	Interim Head Coach
Jesus "Chuy" Molina	Assistant & Goalkeeper Coach
Quenton Swift	Performance Coach
Daissy Zapiain	Head Athletic Trainer
Myo Set	Operations Support Manager
Jason Smith	Head Physical Therapist
Dr. Asghar Husain	Team Doctor
Dr. Kevin Parkes	Team Physician

### Alphabetical

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Date of birth</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Mounir Alami	Forward	5	July 16, 1999	5'11"	Morocco
Steven Chávez	Midfielder	31	October 2, 1996	5'7"	U.S.
Antonio De La Torre	Midfielder-Defender	47	November 21, 1998	6'4"	U.S.
Jorge DeLeon	Midfielder	7	December 3, 1992	5'10"	U.S.



**MASL**  
MAJOR ARENA SOCCER LEAGUE

Walter Díaz González	Forward-Defender	18	March 18, 1996	6'2"	Cuba
Filipe Dutra	Defender	44	September 30, 1998	6'4"	Brazil
Dayerson Graterol	Midfielder	14	May 3, 2003	5'11"	Venezuela
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Issak Somow	Midfielder-Defender	24	November 23, 1997	6'1"	Kenya & U.S.
Justin Stinson	Midfielder	10	May 29, 1997	5'10"	U.S.
Ben Suddeth	Defender	16	February 18, 2002	5'8"	U.S.

## Positional

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Date of birth</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Brandon Gomez	Goalkeeper	0	February 13, 1996	5'10"	U.S.
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Lucas Ramalho	Midfielder	70	June 20, 2001	5'11"	Brazil & U.S.
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Mounir Alami	Forward	5	July 16, 1999	5'11"	Morocco
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Zahkar Shkidchenko	Forward	30	November 25, 2000	5'10"	Ukraine
Abdul Mansaray	Forward	28	November 20, 1996	6'0"	U.S. & England
Walter Díaz González	Forward-Defender	18	March 18, 1996	6'2"	Cuba



### Pronunciation Guide

Mounir Alami Moo-NEER ah-LAH-mee	Steven Chávez STEE-vin CHAH-vez	Antonio De La Torre an-TOH-nee-oh deh lah TOH-reh
Jorge DeLeon JORJ deh-lay-OWN	Filipe Dutra fee-LEE-pay DOO-tra	Walter Díaz Gonzalez WAHL-ter DEE-ahs gon-ZAH-les
Dayerson Graterol DYE-er-suhn gra-te-ROHL	Marco Fabián MAHR-koh fah-bee-AHN	Brandon Gomez BRAN-dun GOH-mez
Leopoldo "Polo" Hernandez leh-oh-POHL-do POH-lo her-NAN-dez	Qudus Lawal KOO-doos lah-WAHL (second vowel in <i>Qudus</i> like <i>book</i> , not <i>goose</i> )	Abdul Mansaray ab-DOOL man-sa-RAY
Cyro Oliveira SEE-roh oh-lee-VEH-rah	Brian Orozco BRY-uhn oh-ROHZ-koh	Robert "Berto" Palmer ROH-bert BER-to PAHL-mer
Alan Perez AL-uhn peh-REZ	Ant Powell ANT POW-uhl	Lucas Ramalho LOO-cas ra-MAH-lo
Andy Reyes AN-dee RAY-es	Barbaro Shelier BAR-bah-roh sheh-lee-EHR	Zahkar Shkidchenko ZAH-kar shkid-CHEN-koh
Ali Somow AH-lee SOH-moh	Issak Somow EE-sahk SOH-moh	Justin Stinson JUH-stin STIN-suhn
Ben Suddeth BEN SUDD-eth		



## Team Stats

### Field player abbreviations

Pos = Position; GP = Games Played; G = Goals; A = Assists; Pts = Points; PPGA = Points-per-Game Average; PIM = Penalty Minutes; GWG = Game-Winning Goals; S% = Scoring %; ShBl = Shots Blocked; PPG = Power Play Goals; SHG = Short-Handed Goals; Sh = Shots; F = Fouls; Blk = Blocked Opposition Shots; BC = Blue Cards; YC = Yellow Cards; RC = Red Cards

### Goalkeeper abbreviations

GP = Games Played; GS = Games Started; W = Wins; L = Losses; OTL = Overtime Losses; SA = Shots Against; GA = Goals Against; GAA = Goals-Against Average; Sv = Saves; Sv% = Save %; SO = Shutouts; MP = Minutes Played; PIM = Penalty Minutes; G = Goals; A = Assists; BC = Blue Cards; YC = Yellow Cards

## Empire Stats

STREAK    GOALS FOR AVERAGE    GOAL DIFFERENTIAL    POWER PLAY %    PENALTY KILL %  
**2W**    **5.0**    **+5**    **22%**    **81%**

## PLAYER STATS - REGULAR SEASON

#	Name	Pos	GP	G	A	Pts	PPGA	PIM	GWG	S%	SB	PPG	SHG	Sh	F	BS	BC	YC	RC
10	Justin Stinson	M	23	14	12	26	1.1	2	2	.130	46	0	0	108	32	8	1	0	0
5	Mounir Alami	F	21	15	10	25	1.2	0	2	.283	7	0	0	53	30	8	3	0	0
20	Alan Perez	M/D	20	13	7	20	1.0	0	2	.351	15	0	2	37	6	16	0	0	0
11	Barbaro Shelier	F	21	11	7	18	0.9	0	0	.244	10	1	0	45	28	6	0	0	0
51	Robert Palmer	D	21	3	14	17	0.8	4	0	.167	7	1	0	18	27	43	2	0	0
33	Marco Fabián	M	14	10	4	14	1.0	2	1	.143	23	1	0	70	11	2	1	0	0
18	Walter Díaz González	F	14	8	5	13	0.9	2	1	.178	15	0	0	45	17	2	2	0	0
31	Steven Chavez	M	20	7	6	13	0.7	2	1	.333	5	0	0	21	17	5	1	1	0
99	Ali Somow	M	18	6	7	13	0.7	4	0	.194	14	0	0	31	23	1	3	0	0
28	Abdul Mansaray	F	13	7	4	11	0.8	0	1	.206	4	0	0	34	15	7	0	0	0
9	Anthony Powell	F	15	6	4	10	0.7	0	0	.273	8	2	0	22	7	1	2	0	0
8	Leopoldo "Polo" Hernandez	M	22	4	6	10	0.5	11	0	.333	0	0	0	12	13	16	3	1	0
24	Issak Somow	F	15	4	3	7	0.5	6	0	.267	5	0	0	15	23	5	3	0	1
14	Dayerson Graterol	M	15	3	1	4	0.3	0	0	.188	6	0	0	16	14	2	1	0	0
47	Antonio De La Torre	M	9	2	2	4	0.4	6	0	.222	5	0	0	9	12	3	3	0	0
70	Lucas Ramalho	F/M	10	2	2	4	0.4	2	1	.200	2	0	0	10	7	2	1	0	0
30	Zakhar Shkidchenko	M	4	3	0	3	0.8	0	0	.429	2	1	0	7	2	0	0	0	0



7	Jorge DeLeon	M	10	2	0	2	0.2	0	0	.133	7	0	0	15	3	4	0	0	0
3	Qudus Lawal	F/M	10	2	0	2	0.2	0	0	.250	1	0	0	8	15	3	0	0	0
44	Filipe Dutra	D	14	1	0	1	0.1	7	0	.500	0	0	0	2	15	21	1	1	0
21	Andy Reyes	D	11	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	15	1	0	0	0
6	Cyro Oliveira	M	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0
16	Ben Suddeth	D	9	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	2	12	11	0	0	0

**GOALKEEPER STATS - REGULAR SEASON**

#	Name	GP	GS	W	L	OTL	SA	GA	GAA	Sv	Sv%	SO	MP	PIM	G	A	BC	YC
0	Brandon Gomez	13	7	4	3	0	93	33	4.71	60	.645	0	420:44	0	1	2	0	0
1	Brian Orozco	18	12	6	7	1	212	68	5.06	148	.698	0	806:29	4	3	5	2	0

**St. Louis Stats**

STREAK    GOALS FOR AVERAGE    GOAL DIFFERENTIAL    POWER PLAY %    PENALTY KILL %  
**1w**    **5.7**    **+18**    **27%**    **65%**

**PLAYER STATS - REGULAR SEASON**

#	Name	Pos	GP	G	A	Pts	PPGA	PIM	GWG	S%	SB	PPG	SHG	Sh	F	BS	BC	YC	RC
19	Daniel Torrealba	M	23	23	12	35	1.5	2	3	.153	56	0	0	150	29	9	3	0	0
12	Mario Falsone	F	22	16	7	23	1.0	0	1	.276	14	1	0	58	27	4	1	0	0
49	Mehrshad Ahmadi	F	20	15	7	22	1.1	4	1	.153	26	1	0	98	18	5	2	0	0
14	William Eskay	M	21	13	5	18	0.9	4	0	.210	29	1	0	62	14	13	2	0	0
93	Jeff Michaud	D	15	7	8	15	1.0	0	1	.412	3	0	1	18	12	12	0	0	0
91	Randy Martinez	M	20	7	8	15	0.8	2	1	.389	5	2	0	18	13	21	1	0	0
6	Riley Urie	M	19	8	6	14	0.7	7	0	.296	7	0	0	27	13	9	1	1	0
3	Christian Briggs	D	23	4	10	14	0.6	0	1	.083	22	1	0	48	27	22	0	0	0
23	John Gates	D	18	7	6	13	0.7	2	0	.350	3	0	0	20	26	9	1	0	0
70	Ozzy Santana	F	10	7	2	9	0.9	2	1	.241	8	0	0	29	14	5	1	0	0
26	Colin O'Keefe	M	23	6	3	9	0.4	2	0	.194	10	0	0	31	28	10	1	0	0



5	Robert Williamson	D	22	4	4	8	0.4	6	1	.222	7	0	0	18	24	45	3	0	0
10	Lucas Almeida	M	6	1	5	6	1.0	0	0	.143	3	0	0	7	8	3	0	0	0
33	Andres Chalbaud	D	11	2	2	4	0.4	2	0	.286	2	0	0	7	8	5	1	0	0
53	Axel Chakounte	F	8	1	3	4	0.5	2	1	.111	5	0	0	9	5	1	1	0	0
20	James Thomas	D	5	2	1	3	0.6	0	0	.154	3	0	0	13	6	1	0	0	0
66	James Togbah	D	13	2	1	3	0.2	2	0	.250	2	0	0	8	20	8	1	0	0
2	Triston Austin	F	8	2	0	2	0.3	0	0	.100	11	0	0	20	7	4	0	0	0
96	Julio Varela	M	7	1	1	2	0.3	0	0	.250	2	0	0	4	7	2	0	0	0
8	Larsen Rogers	M	9	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	5	0	0	9	7	4	0	0	0
27	Ryan Khedoo	M	9	0	1	1	0.1	2	0	.000	3	0	0	7	8	0	1	0	0
9	Bryce Watson	M	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
77	Zachary Druhe	D	4	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	.000	3	0	0	4	6	3	1	0	0

#### INACTIVE PLAYER STATS - REGULAR SEASON

#	Name	Pos	GP	G	A	Pts	PPGA	PIM	GWG	S%	SB	PPG	SHG	Sh	F	BS	BC	YC	RC
11	Robert Kristo	F	7	7	2	9	1.3	0	1	.333	6	1	0	21	10	3	0	0	0
88	Duduca Carvalho	F	5	3	2	5	1.0	2	0	.150	10	1	0	20	8	2	1	0	0
77	Zachary Druhe	D	4	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	.000	3	0	0	4	6	3	1	0	0

#### GOALKEEPER STATS - REGULAR SEASON

#	Name	GP	GS	W	L	OTL	SA	GA	GAA	Sv	Sv%	SO	MP	PIM	G	A	BC	YC
0	Eduardo "Pollo" Cortes	4	3	2	0	0	49	14	4.76	35	.714	0	176:31	5	0	2	0	1
17	Paulo Nascimento	21	20	11	5	5	333	93	4.51	241	.724	1	1238:19	11	0	1	3	1
99	Jose Ogaz	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	19.05	0	.000	0	06:18	0	0	0	0	0

#### INACTIVE GOALKEEPER STATS - REGULAR SEASON

#	Name	GP	GS	W	L	OTL	SA	GA	GAA	Sv	Sv%	SO	MP	PIM	G	A	BC	YC
37	Dominic Haggard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	.000	0	00:00	0	0	0	0	0



## MASL Leaders

### Points



**49** POINTS

**Rian Marques**

#26 FORWARD

Kansas City Comets

#80	Alex Sanchez		47
#10	Mario Alvarez		42
#33	Sergio Pinal		42
#8	Zach Reget		42
#22	Juan Pereira		41
#23	Jonatas Melo		36
#16	Oscar Flores		36
#19	Daniel Torrealba		35
#77	Nick Perera		35

### Goals



**30** GOALS

**Alex Sanchez**

#80 MIDFIELDER

Milwaukee Wave

#26	Rian Marques		28
#22	Juan Pereira		26
#16	Oscar Flores		26
#8	Zach Reget		26
#19	Daniel Torrealba		23
#10	Mario Alvarez		21
#33	Sergio Pinal		20
#4	Chad Poarch		19
#7	Dominic Francis		19

### Assists



**22** ASSISTS

**Oumar Sylla**

#2 DEFENDER

Baltimore Blast

#33	Sergio Pinal		22
#10	Mario Alvarez		21
#26	Rian Marques		21
#80	Alex Sanchez		17
#23	Jonatas Melo		17
#77	Nick Perera		17
#44	Alex Steinwascher		16
#24	Max Ferdinand		16
#8	Zach Reget		16

### Points per game



**2.5** PPGA

**Rian Marques**

#26 FORWARD

Kansas City Comets

#80	Alex Sanchez		2.0
#10	Mario Alvarez		1.9
#33	Sergio Pinal		1.8
#8	Zach Reget		1.8
#21	Charlie Gonzalez		1.8
#22	Juan Pereira		1.8
#11	Leonardo De Oliveira		1.7
#23	Jonatas Melo		1.6
#16	Oscar Flores		1.6

### Power Play Goals



**6** PPG

**Ignacio Flores**

#23 DEFENDER

Kansas City Comets

#23	Jonatas Melo		5
#99	Andre Hayne		3
#4	Chad Poarch		3
#9	Eddie Na		3
#7	Ricardo Carvalho		3
#8	Zach Reget		3
#9	Anthony Powell		2
#22	Juan Pereira		2
#10	Mario Alvarez		2

### Short Handed Goals



**2** SHG

**Alan Perez**

#20 MIDFIELDER/DEFENDER

Empire Strykers

#26	Rian Marques		2
#44	Alex Steinwascher		1
#7	Geo Alves		1
#17	Jamie Thomas		1
#93	Jeff Michaud		1
#8	Jose Tavares		1
#5	Kyle Rivers		1
#13	Sebastian Mendez		1
#33	Sergio Pinal		1



**Game Winning Goals**



**3** GWG  
**Chad Poarch**  
#4 DEFENDER  
Baltimore Blast

#31	Christian Andraos		3
#19	Daniel Torrealba		3
#37	Kraig Chiles		3
#20	Alan Perez		2
#80	Alex Sanchez		2
#44	Alex Steinwascher		2
#23	Ignacio Flores		2
#19	Jairo Guevara		2
#11	Jamael Cox		2

**Penalty Minutes**



**24** PENALTY MINUTES  
**Drew Ruggles**  
#8 DEFENDER  
San Diego Sockers

#6	Guerrero Pino		22
#29	Cesar Cerda		20
#26	Rian Marques		18
#13	Sebastian Mendez		17
#21	Charlie Gonzalez		16
#24	Khai Brisco		16
#23	Jonatas Melo		11
#8	Leopoldo "Polo" Hernandez		11
#20	Tony Walls		11

**Blocked Shots**



**63** BLOCKED SHOTS  
**Chad Vandegriffe**  
#4 DEFENDER  
Kansas City Comets

#5	Robert Williamson		45
#51	Robert Palmer		43
#11	Lesia Thetsane		30
#22	Juan Pereira		29
#6	Shawn Azcueta		29
#6	Guerrero Pino		28
#91	DeBray Hollimon		27
#11	Marco Nascimento		27
#16	Thayssan Santos		27

**Fouls**



**54** FOULS  
**Jose Tavares**  
#8 DEFENDER  
Utica City FC

#31	Kevaghn Frater		46
#30	Juan Alava		43
#15	Cesar Correa		35
#29	Michael Lenis		34
#10	Justin Stinson		32
#19	Jairo Guevara		31
#11	Meny Silva		31
#6	Guerrero Pino		30
#23	Ignacio Flores		30



## GOALKEEPER

### Goals Against Average



**3.66** GAA  
**Chris Toth**  
#1 GOALKEEPER  
San Diego Sockers

#17	Paulo Nascimento		4.51
#0	Brandon Gomez		4.71
#1	Brian Orozco		5.06
#28	Julian Rodriguez		5.45
#27	Boris Pardo		5.62
#25	Brian Wilkin		6.09
#33	William Banahene		6.18
#00	Luis Birrueta		6.22
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		6.30

### Save Percentage



**.778** SAVE %  
**Chris Toth**  
#1 GOALKEEPER  
San Diego Sockers

#17	Paulo Nascimento		.724
#27	Boris Pardo		.707
#28	Julian Rodriguez		.702
#1	Brian Orozco		.698
#33	William Banahene		.672
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		.663
#00	Luis Birrueta		.662
#25	Brian Wilkin		.660
#0	Brandon Gomez		.645

### Wins



**12** WINS  
**Julian Rodriguez**  
#28 GOALKEEPER  
Baltimore Blast

#33	William Banahene		12
#17	Paulo Nascimento		11
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		11
#27	Boris Pardo		9
#00	Luis Birrueta		7
#1	Brian Orozco		6
#1	Chris Toth		6
#25	Brian Wilkin		5
#0	Brandon Gomez		4

### Saves



**261** SAVES  
**Julian Rodriguez**  
#28 GOALKEEPER  
Baltimore Blast

#17	Paulo Nascimento		241
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		230
#33	William Banahene		213
#25	Brian Wilkin		196
#00	Luis Birrueta		192
#27	Boris Pardo		186
#1	Brian Orozco		148
#1	Chris Toth		91
#0	Brandon Gomez		60

Goalkeepers must play at least 30% of team's minutes to be eligible.



## 2025-26 Empire Strykers Schedule

#	Date	Division	Away	vs	Home	Score	Time
2	Fri Nov 28	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 San Diego Sockers	5 - 4 Final OT	10:30PM EST
8	Fri Dec 12	MASL	 San Diego Sockers	vs	 Empire Strykers	6 - 3	10:20PM EST
14	Fri Dec 19	MASL	 St. Louis Ambush	vs	 Empire Strykers	5 - 4	10:05PM EST
15	Sat Dec 20	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Tacoma Stars	2 - 3	9:05PM EST
22	Wed Dec 31	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Milwaukee Wave	1 - 3	4:05PM EST
24	Sat Jan 3	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 San Diego Sockers	3 - 4	10:00PM EST
28	Thu Jan 8	MASL	 Tacoma Stars	vs	 Empire Strykers	3 - 10	9:35PM EST
33	Fri Jan 16	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 St. Louis Ambush	2 - 4	8:05PM EST
38	Sun Jan 18	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Tacoma Stars	7 - 6	8:05PM EST
40	Thu Jan 22	MASL	 San Diego Sockers	vs	 Empire Strykers	5 - 9	9:35PM EST
45	Sun Jan 25	MASL	 Kansas City Comets	vs	 Empire Strykers	6 - 10	7:05PM EST



**MASL**  
MAJOR ARENA SOCCER LEAGUE

47	Fri Jan 30	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Kansas City Comets	3 - 6	8:05PM EST
49	Sun Feb 1	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Baltimore Blast	2 - 8	3:00PM EST
51	Thu Feb 5	MASL	 Utica City FC	vs	 Empire Strykers	10 - 9	9:35PM EST
58	Sun Feb 15	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 San Diego Sockers	5 - 4 Final OT	7:00PM EST
61	Mon Feb 16	MASL	 Milwaukee Wave	vs	 Empire Strykers	7 - 8	9:35PM EST
62	Thu Feb 19	MASL	 Baltimore Blast	vs	 Empire Strykers	5 - 4 Final OT	9:35PM EST
68	Sun Feb 22	MASL	 Tacoma Stars	vs	 Empire Strykers	2 - 10	7:05PM EST
73	Thu Mar 5	MASL	 San Diego Sockers	vs	 Empire Strykers	4 - 0	9:35PM EST
76	Sat Mar 7	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 St. Louis Ambush	5 - 4 Final OT	7:05PM EST
79	Thu Mar 12	MASL	 Tacoma Stars	vs	 Empire Strykers	6 - 3	9:35PM EDT
83	Sun Mar 15	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Milwaukee Wave	6 - 3	3:05PM EDT
88	Sun Mar 22	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Utica City FC	5 - 3	3:00PM EDT
96	Sun Mar 29	MASL	 St. Louis Ambush	vs	 Empire Strykers		7:05PM EDT