

# UTICA CITY FC GAME NOTES



UTICA CITY FC (5-13-4) vs. ST. LOUIS AMBUSH (12-5-5)  
Friday, March 26th 2026  
St. Charles Family Arena



## UPCOMING GAMES

Sunday, March 29th @ Milwaukee 3:05 PM

### VS. ST. LOUIS

02/16/26 vs. STL L, 6-4  
02/21/26 @ STL L, 13-0  
03/27/26 @ STL 8:05 PM

### TONIGHT:

Utica City FC hits the road tomorrow for a matchup with the St. Louis Ambush, a game that may not impact the standings but still carries importance for the group. With playoff contention out of reach, UCFC will look to use this opportunity to play freely, build chemistry, and continue evaluating pieces as they close out the season.

On the road, expect Utica to lean into its attacking style while embracing the challenge of a hostile environment. These final games are about pride, consistency, and setting a standard—finishing the season the right way while laying a foundation for what's ahead.

### LAST TIME OUT:

Utica City FC wrapped up its home schedule on Fan Appreciation Night with a hard-fought 5-3 loss to the Empire Strykers, as a late push in the fourth quarter wasn't enough to overcome an early deficit. With the result, Utica now turns its attention to the final two road games of the regular season.

The opening quarter remained scoreless for much of the frame as both sides settled in, but Empire broke through late. At 14:03 of the first, Mounir Alami found the back of the net to give the Strykers a 1-0 lead. That would be the lone goal of the quarter, with Utica trailing 1-0 after one.

Utica responded early in the second quarter to even things up. Just 2:31 into the frame, Stephan Teixeira battled through multiple defenders along the left side and slipped a pass to Francesco Pagano at the top left of the box. Pagano settled it with two touches before firing a shot into the top middle of the net to tie the game 1-1. The momentum, however, swung back to Empire later in the quarter. At 10:22, Alan Perez finished off a setup from Robert Palmer to restore the Strykers' lead at 2-1. That score held through halftime, with Utica trailing 2-1 after two quarters.

Empire extended its advantage early in the third quarter. At 3:11, Dayerson Graterol found the net to make it 3-1 Strykers. Utica pushed to respond but was unable to break through before the end of the frame, heading into the final quarter down two goals at 3-1.

The fourth quarter saw a flurry of scoring on both sides. Empire added to its lead at 7:04 when Marco Fabián scored off an assist from Alami, making it 4-1. Just over two minutes later at 9:09, Issak Somow capitalized on a pass from Graterol to push the advantage to 5-1. Utica refused to go away, pulling the goalkeeper for a sixth attacker and generating late offense. At 12:25, Sergio Pinal helped spark the comeback, battling in possession before finding Gordy Gurson, who one-timed a shot into the open left side of the net to cut the deficit to 5-2. The pressure continued, and at 14:52, Pinal again played a key role—winning a battle along the boards and feeding Jose Tavares, who finished with a one-touch into an open net to make it 5-3. Despite the late surge, time ran out on Utica's comeback attempt, as the Strykers held on for the win.

### LEADING THE CITY IN 2025-26

#33 Sergio Pinal G:19, A:21, Pts:40  
#7 Geo Alves G:9, A:10, Pts:19  
#21 Willie Spurr G:7, A:12, Pts:19

### AVAILABILITY REPORT

Stephan Teixeira - Out - Lower  
Howard Miller - Not Available  
Logan Roberts - Questionable  
Ricardo Orozco - Not Available

### MASL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS

TEAMS		PTS	DIF
Baltimore	13-7-3	40	18
Milwaukee	14-7-2	40	26
San Diego	14-6-2	40	32
Kansas City	12-6-4	38	12
St. Louis	12-5-5	38	15
Empire	11-11-1	31	5
Tacoma	9-13-1	26	-51
Utica	5-13-4	17	-57



# UTICA CITY FC 2025-26 ROSTER

Media Contact: Michael Lehr | michaellehr@uticacomets.com



#	Name	POS	HT	WT	DOB	Hometown	Last Team
0	Rainer Hauss	G	6'0"	185	November 12, 1988	Belo Horizonte, BR	Iowa Demon Hawk
3	Gordy Gurson	F	5' 6"	140	May 2, 1992	Buffalo Grove, IL	Utica City FC
4	Stephan Teixeira	M	5'10"	165	September 14, 1994	Brockton, MA	UMASS Dartmouth
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
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
15	Jorge Lozada	F	6'0	170		Utica, NY	UE Krajisnik F.C
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
19	Juan Salazar	F	6'1"	185	June 5, 1999	Medelin, CO	San Diego Sockers
20	Kyle Gehrich	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
27	Joey Tavernese	F	5'9"	155	July 19, 1989	Garden City, NJ	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
42	Babucarr Ceesay	G	6'3"	210	September 5, 1998	Banjul, GAM	Utica City FC
67	Francesco Pagano	F	6'1"	200	March 3, 2003	Manlius, NY	Coastal Carolina
95	Wil Nyamsi	D	6'1"	185	September 19, 1995	Paris, France	Utica City FC

## Coaching Staff

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

## Pronunciation Guide

## 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	Januray 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	L, 7-6
Thursday	February 5	@ Empire Strykers	W, 10-9
Saturday	February 7	@ San Diego Sockers	L, 4-11
Sunday	February 15	vs. Baltimore Blast	SOL, 8-7
Monday	February 16	vs. St. Louis Ambush	L, 6-4
Saturday	February 21	@ St. Louis Ambush	L, 13-0
Sunday	February 22	@ Kansas City Comets	L, 6-5
Sunday	March 1	vs. Milwaukee Wave	L, 6-5
Friday	March 6	at Baltimore Blast	L, 9-5
Sunday	March 15	vs. Tacoma Stars	W, 8-4
Friday	March 20	@ Milwaukee Wave	L, 17-2
Sunday	March 22	vs. Empire Strykers	L, 5-3
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	22	19	21	40	1.8	0	0	.271	24	1	1	70	25	4	0	0	0
7	Geo Alves	D	17	9	10	19	1.1	2	1	.273	6	1	1	33	15	21	1	0	0
21	Willie Spurr	F	22	7	12	19	0.9	0	0	.200	14	0	1	36	11	6	0	0	0
3	Gordy Gurson	F	15	13	4	17	1.1	4	1	.310	10	1	0	42	12	1	5	0	0
30	Juan Alava	D	21	5	6	11	0.5	10	1	.294	3	0	0	17	41	13	5	0	0
16	Thayssan Santos	D	20	2	8	10	0.5	0	0	.100	6	0	0	20	24	26	0	0	0
19	Juan Salazar	F	9	6	2	8	0.9	0	0	.222	10	0	0	27	5	1	0	0	0
11	Meny Silva	F	20	5	3	8	0.4	0	0	.143	12	0	0	35	29	3	0	0	0
17	Cole Stephens	D	18	4	4	8	0.4	4	0	.222	10	0	0	18	8	8	2	0	0
20	Kyle Gehrich	M	18	4	4	8	0.4	6	0	.222	3	0	0	18	15	6	3	0	0
8	Jose Tavares	D	22	4	4	8	0.4	4	0	.138	8	1	1	29	53	25	2	0	0
67	Francesco Pagano	F	9	4	1	5	0.6	0	1	.333	2	0	0	12	10	0	0	0	0
9	Kelvin Oliveira	F	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	0	.444	1	1	0	9	1	0	0	0	0
4	Stephan Teixeira	M	9	2	1	3	0.3	5	0	.182	2	0	0	11	11	3	0	1	0
27	Joey Tavernese	F	8	1	2	3	0.4	0	0	.250	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0
23	Logan Roberts	D	9	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	.333	2	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0
15	Jorge Lozada	F	2	0	1	1	0.5	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
6	Ricardo Orozco	M	9	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	5	4	0	0	0
22	Howard Miller Jr.	F	10	0	1	1	0.1	4	0	.000	2	0	0	6	7	1	2	0	0
95	Wil Nyamsi	D	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	2	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

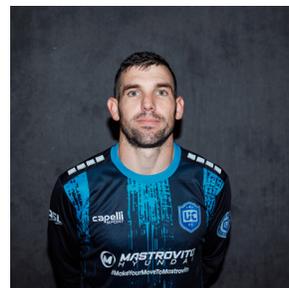
## #3 - GORDY GURSON (F)

### 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

## #4 - STEPHAN TEIXEIRA (M)

### THIS YEAR:

### CAREER

- Accumulated 37 points in 33 game at UMASS Dartmouth
- In his rookie season
- Scored his first MASL goal on January 4th against Baltimore



Hometown: Brockton, MA

Height: 5-8      Weight: 165lbs

Birthdate: September 14, 1994

# 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:

- Second in points through 14 games
- Scored an overtime golden goal earlier in season

### 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

## #11 - 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

## #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

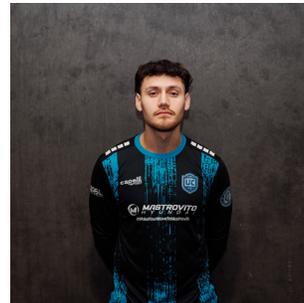
Birthdate: July 1, 2002

## #15 - JORGE LOZADA (F)

### THIS YEAR:

### CAREER

- 



Hometown:

Height:

Weight:

Birthdate:

## #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

# CITY PROFILES

## #20 - KYLE GEHRICH (M)

### THIS YEAR:

- 
- 

### CAREER

- Sophomore 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

## #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

## #22 - HOWARD MILLER JR. (F)

### THIS YEAR:

### CAREER

- 



Hometown: St. Charles, MO

Height: 5'11      Weight: 180lbs

Birthdate: February 14, 1997

# CITY PROFILES

## #23 - LOGAN ROBERTS (D)

### THIS YEAR:

- Achieved the captain arm band

### 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

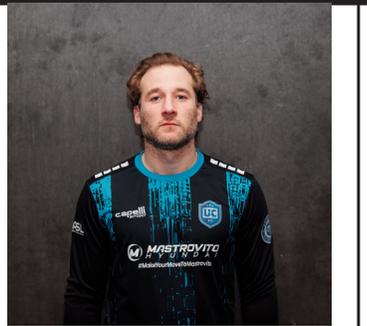
## #27 - JOEY TAVERNESE (F)

### THIS YEAR:

- Debuted on February 15th against Baltimore

### CAREER

- 11th Season in the MASL
- Played 111 games with UCFC between 2015 and 2023
- Returned to Utica City after 3 seasons away from the club



Hometown: Garden City, NJ

Height: 5'9      Weight: 155lbs

Birthdate: July 17, 1989

# 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
- Leads the City with 29 points through 14 games

### 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

## #42 - BABUCARR CEESAY (G)

### THIS YEAR:

### CAREER

- Signed with UCFC last season



Hometown: Banjul, Gambia

Height: 6-3      Weight: 210

Birthdate: September 5th, 1998

# CITY PROFILES

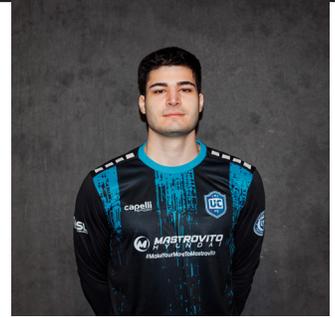
## #67 - FRANCESCO PAGANO (D)

### THIS YEAR:

- Scored first career MASL goal on February 22nd in Kansas City

### CAREER

- First year with UCFC



Hometown: Manlius, NY

Height: 6-1

Weight: 200

Birthdate: March 3rd, 2003

## #95 - WIL NYAMSI (D)

### THIS YEAR:

### CAREER

- Received in trade from St. Louis Ambush



Hometown: Paris, FR

Height: 5-8

Weight: 170lbs

Birthdate: December 28, 1978