

UTICA CITY FC GAME NOTES



UTICA CITY FC (5-11-4) vs. MILWAUKEE WAVE (12-7-2)

Friday, March 20th 2026

UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena



UPCOMING GAMES

Sunday, March 22nd	vs. Empire Strykers	3:00 PM
Friday, March 27th	@ St. Louis Ambush	8:05 PM
Sunday, March 29th	@ Milwaukee	3:05 PM

VS. MILWAUKEE

12/28/25	vs. MIL	OTW, 7-6
02/1/26	vs. MIL	L, 7-6
03/1/26	vs. MIL	L, 6-5
03/20/26	@ MIL	7:35 PM
03/29/26	@ MIL	3:05 PM

TONIGHT:

Utica City FC heads to Milwaukee for another tight matchup against the Wave, with previous meetings this season decided by just one goal. UCFC will look to turn the tide after a pair of narrow losses, focusing on tightening up defensively and capitalizing on scoring chances.

Milwaukee brings veteran experience and a proven ability to close out games, making this a tough road test for Utica. With playoff positioning on the line, expect a fast-paced, physical battle in what should be another close contest.

LAST TIME OUT:

In front of an electric St. Patrick's Day crowd at the Adirondack Bank Center, Utica City FC delivered a dominant performance, defeating the Tacoma Stars 8-4 while also celebrating a special hometown moment as Utica native Jorge Lozada made his MASL debut.

Utica struck first midway through the opening quarter and it began with the hometown rookie. At 6:57, Lozada used the boards to play a clever pass forward that sprung Cole Stephens near midfield. Stephens carried the ball down the left side past the yellow line and fired a shot that found the back of the net to give Utica a 1-0 lead. Just over a minute later, the City doubled their advantage. At 8:01, Sergio Pinal launched a long pass downfield that Geo Alves controlled with his body on the left side of the goal before finishing to make it 2-0. The early offensive burst energized the packed St. Patrick's Day crowd, and Utica carried the 2-0 lead into the end of the first quarter.

Utica continued to press the attack in the second quarter and wasted little time adding to their lead. Just 59 seconds into the period, Pinal battled for possession along the right side boards, worked his way past a defender, and from above the yellow line rifled a shot into the left side of the net to extend the lead to 3-0. At 5:21, Jose Tavares carried the ball through midfield before slipping a pass to Francesco Pagano on the right side, where Pagano finished with a one-touch strike for a 4-0 advantage. Pagano struck again later in the quarter. At 11:36, after a free kick near Utica's goal, Pagano pushed the ball forward to Joey Tavernese near the top of the box. Tavernese held it briefly before laying it back to Pagano on the left side, who blasted a one-touch left-footed shot past the goalkeeper to make it 5-0. Utica City FC controlled the match through the half and led 5-0 at the end of the second quarter.

The offensive momentum continued in the third quarter. At 9:08, Tavares battled along the right boards against two Tacoma defenders before sending the ball ahead to Pagano. Pagano carried it to the top of the box, drawing the goalkeeper out before sliding a pass across to Gordy Gurson on the right side, who calmly finished to extend the lead to 6-0. Tacoma finally got on the board at 11:54 when Micheal Ramos finished a play assisted by Chase Hanson to cut the deficit to 6-1. Utica responded quickly. At 14:08, Tavares won possession in the defensive zone and launched a long ball downfield. Juan Alava sprinted in a race with Tacoma's goalkeeper and reached it first, poking it past the keeper and into the net to restore the six-goal cushion at 7-1. Utica entered the fourth quarter firmly in control with a 7-1 lead.

Tacoma made a late push in the final quarter. At 1:16, Franck Tayou scored off a pass from Tyler John to make it 7-2. Tayou struck again at 11:30, finishing a chance assisted by Nani Mendoza to cut the lead to 7-3. But Utica answered just under a minute later. At 12:28, Sergio Pinal carried the ball from the yellow line past midfield, beat the Tacoma goalkeeper with a move, and slipped a pass to Meny Silva. With a defender closing in, Silva pulled the ball back, faked multiple shots, and lifted a composed finish into the net to push the lead to 8-3. Tacoma added one more at 13:50 when Tyler John found the net, but the comeback effort came too late as Utica City FC secured an emphatic 8-4 victory to cap a festive night in Utica.

The win featured multi-point performances across the lineup, including a four-point night for Sergio Pinal and a three-point effort from Francesco Pagano, while hometown debutant Jorge Lozada recorded an assist in his first MASL appearance in front of the Utica crowd.

LEADING THE CITY IN 2025-26

- #33 Sergio Pinal G:19, A:19, Pts:38
- #7 Geo Alves G:9, A:10, Pts:19
- #21 Willie Spurr G:7, A:11, Pts:18

AVAILABILITY REPORT

- Stephan Teixeira - Out - Lower
- Howard Miller - Not Available
- Kyle Gehrich - Out - Upper
- Xavier Snaer-Williams - Not Available
- Babucarr Ceesay - Not Available

MASL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS

TEAMS		PTS	DIF
Baltimore	13-6-2	39	22
San Diego	13-6-2	38	25
Milwaukee	12-7-2	35	16
Kansas City	11-6-4	35	9
St. Louis	11-5-4	34	13
Empire	9-11-1	28	3
Tacoma	9-12-1	26	-48
Utica	5-11-4	17	-40



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	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	20	19	19	38	1.9	0	0	.279	23	1	1	68	23	4	0	0	0
7	Geo Alves	D	15	9	10	19	1.3	2	1	.290	4	1	1	31	15	16	1	0	0
21	Willie Spurr	F	20	7	11	18	0.9	0	0	.219	12	0	1	33	9	5	0	0	0
3	Gordy Gurson	F	13	11	4	15	1.2	4	1	.297	9	1	0	37	11	1	4	0	0
30	Juan Alava	D	19	5	6	11	0.6	8	1	.313	3	0	0	16	39	13	4	0	0
16	Thayssan Santos	D	19	2	8	10	0.5	0	0	.118	5	0	0	17	23	25	0	0	0
19	Juan Salazar	F	8	6	2	8	1.0	0	0	.240	9	0	0	25	5	1	0	0	0
11	Meny Silva	F	18	5	3	8	0.4	0	0	.143	12	0	0	35	27	3	0	0	0
17	Cole Stephens	D	17	4	4	8	0.5	4	0	.222	10	0	0	18	8	8	2	0	0
20	Kyle Gehrich	M	17	4	4	8	0.5	6	0	.222	3	0	0	18	14	6	3	0	0
8	Jose Tavares	D	20	2	4	6	0.3	4	0	.077	7	0	1	26	50	21	2	0	0
9	Kelvin Oliveira	F	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	0	.444	1	1	0	9	1	0	0	0	0
67	Francesco Pagano	F	7	3	1	4	0.6	0	1	.333	2	0	0	9	8	0	0	0	0
4	Stephan Teixeira	M	8	2	0	2	0.3	5	0	.200	1	0	0	10	10	2	0	1	0
27	Joey Tavernese	F	6	1	1	2	0.3	0	0	.333	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
23	Logan Roberts	D	7	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	.500	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
15	Jorge Lozada	F	1	0	1	1	1.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
6	Ricardo Orozco	M	8	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0
22	Howard Miller Jr.	F	9	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

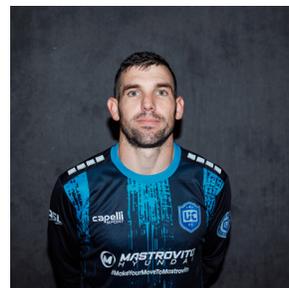
#3 - GORDY GURSON (F)

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

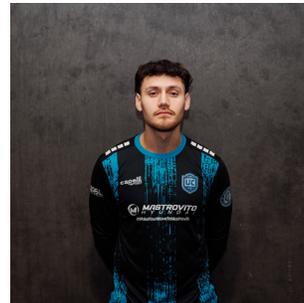
Birthdate: July 1, 2002

#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:

-
-



Hometown: Commack, NY

Height: 5-8 Weight: 145

Birthdate: June 28, 2002

CAREER

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

#21 - WILLIE SPURR (F)

THIS YEAR:

- Accumulated one goal and two assists on opening night



Hometown: Seattle, WA

Height: 6-0 Weight: 165

Birthdate: October 3, 1993

CAREER

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

#22 - HOWARD MILLER JR. (F)

THIS YEAR:



Hometown: St. Charles, MO

Height: 5'11 Weight: 180lbs

Birthdate: February 14, 1997

CAREER

-

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

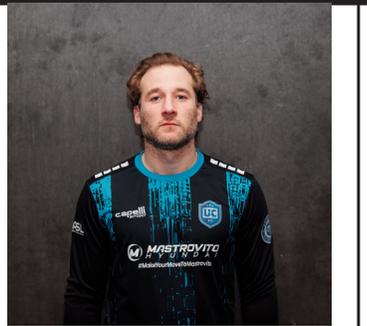
#27 - JOEY TAVERNESE (F)

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

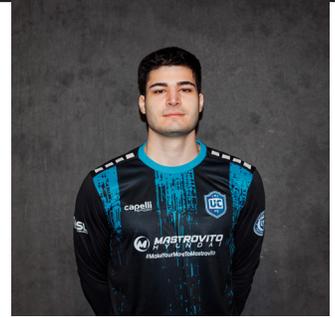
#67 - FRANCESCO PAGANO (D)

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