



## GAME NOTES for EMPIRE STRYKERS vs. TACOMA STARS Thursday, March 12, 2026



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

#### **Match Facts**

Thursday, March 12, 2026 - 6:35 p.m. PT - Toyota Arena (Ontario, Calif.)

#### **Broadcast Information**

The English-language live broadcast will reach U.S. and international audiences via MASL+, the MASL's YouTube channel, Victory+, Unbeaten Network, Sportworld, APEX Sports, National Soccer Network, and local PBS station KVCR, with several of the platforms making the action available on demand as well. The game will also be carried live in English by FOX Sports 1270AM. The Spanish-language live video broadcast will air exclusively in Mexico via the FOX Sports lineup of channels and outside of Mexico via the MASL's YouTube channel.

#### **Team Records**

**Empire:** 9-10-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses; 6th in MASL standings; Points: 25; +3 goal differential)

**Tacoma:** 8-10-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses; 7th in MASL standings; Points: 23; -41 goal differential)

#### **Points Leaders**

**Empire:** Justin Stinson (25), Mounir Alami (22)

**Tacoma:** Jamael Cox (21), Tyler John, Alex Caceres (15 each)

#### **Leading Goalscorers**

**Empire:** Mounir Alami (14), Justin Stinson (13)

**Tacoma:** Jamael Cox (13), Mike Ramos (10)

#### **Assists Leaders**

**Empire:** Justin Stinson, Robert Palmer (12 each; tied for 10th in MASL)

**Tacoma:** Alex Caceres (11), Jamael Cox (8)

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

**Empire:** Justin Stinson (1.25 in 20 games), Mounir Alami (1.22 in 18 games)

**Tacoma:** Raphael Cox (2.00 in 1 game; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since two few games played), Franck Tayou (1.67 in 3 games; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since two few games played), Jamael Cox (1.31 in 16 games), Tyler John (1.27 in 13 games)



### **Leading Power Play Goalscorers**

**Empire:** Ant Powell (2; tied for 4th in MASL), Robert Palmer, Marco Fabián, Barbaro Shelier, Zakhar Shkidchenko (1 each)

**Tacoma:** Eddie Na (2; tied for 3rd in MASL), Alex Caceres, Missael Lopez, Mike Ramos, Franck Tayou (1 each)

### **Most Short-Handed Goals**

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

**Tacoma:** Tyler John, Kyle Rivers (1 each)

### **Blocks Leaders**

**Empire:** Robert Palmer (41; 2nd in MASL), Filipe Dutra (21)

**Tacoma:** Logan Jones (23; tied for 6th in MASL), Nestor Hernandez, Chase Hanson (14 each)

### **Goalkeepers**

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

**Empire:** Brandon Gomez (5.00 in 10 games/276 mins; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since too few mins played), Brian Orozco (5.20 in 17 games/773 mins; 3rd in MASL)

**Tacoma:** Claysson De Lima (3.93 in 8 games/199 mins with Empire & Tacoma; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since too few mins played), Luis Birrueta (6.44 in 17 games/858 mins), Danny Waltman (8.46 in 11 games/220 mins)

#### **Save Percentage**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (70.0% in 17 games/773 mins), Brandon Gomez (64.6% in 10 games/276 mins)

**Tacoma:** Claysson De Lima (73.5% in 8 games/199 mins with Empire & Tacoma; not eligible for MASL leaderboard since too few mins played), Danny Waltman (66.7% in 11 games/220 mins), Luis Birrueta (65.0% in 17 games/858 mins)

#### **Total Saves**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (147), Brandon Gomez (42)

**Tacoma:** Luis Birrueta (167), Danny Waltman (60), Claysson De Lima (36 with Empire & Tacoma)

#### **Goals & Assists**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (3 goals & 5 assists in 17 games/773 mins), Brandon Gomez (1 goal & 1 assist in 10 games/276 mins)

**Tacoma:** N/A

#### **Points per Game**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (0.47 in 17 games), Brandon Gomez (0.2 in 10 games)

**Tacoma:** N/A

#### **Minutes per Point**

**Empire:** Brian Orozco (~97), Brandon Gomez (~138)

**Tacoma:** N/A

### **Series History**

With the Strykers and the Stars having faced each other for the first time as MASL founding members during the 2014-15 campaign, the Southern Californians lead the all-time head to head 23-22, which includes a 2-3 record in overtime/shootout decisions. The two sides have never met in the playoffs. Last season, Empire took the series 4-1. After years of fierce battles over which team would make the elimination stages at the expense of the other, the four



defeats went a long way toward Tacoma missing out in 2024-25. The Strykers lead the current campaign's count 3-1. After losing 3-2 away on December 20, they bagged three straight victories over the Stars, comprehensively beating Head Coach Adam Becker's team at home in early January (10-3) and on February 22 (10-2), with a mid-January road win (7-6) sandwiched in between.

### **Where We Stand**

With all but four games of their 2025-26 regular season in the books, the Empire Strykers prepare for another pair of potentially campaign-defining contests this week. Having bounced back from a disappointing home result against rivals San Diego Sockers with a dramatic away victory over the St. Louis Ambush, Empire next faces the visiting Tacoma Stars in a must-win clash in Ontario, followed by a road meeting with the mighty Milwaukee Wave.

Having climbed back into the MASL playoff picture not long ago, the sixth-place Strykers are in desperate need of more points if they want to retain an outside shot at catching at least one of fourth-place St. Louis and fifth-place Kansas City. While the Ambush is even with Empire in games played and boasts a nine-point advantage, the Comets are ahead by six points while holding a game in hand. Even more importantly, the Strykers need to keep seventh-place Tacoma at bay, as the side from Washington State sits just below the line, trailing by a mere two points and also having played one fewer match.

Under the guidance of then-rookie MASL Head Coach Onua Obasi, Empire last season returned to the knockout rounds, ending a three-year drought.

Tacoma has been sliding in the standings and will be desperate to bounce back from an 11-4 away drubbing at the hands of the Milwaukee Wave. Ever since their recent acquisition of legendary attacker and ex-Strykers ace Franck Tayou, the Stars have continued their familiar pattern of being tough to beat at home and suffering lopsided losses on the road. Prior to the heavy defeat at Milwaukee, Tayou and company were thumped 11-5 at San Diego in the 35-year-old's maiden game with Tacoma, followed by a dramatic 9-7 victory over visiting Kansas City. Forward Tayou has been joined in the Pacific Northwest by two more former Strykers in his brother Uzi Tayou and 2021 MASL Goalkeeper of the Year Claysson De Lima. Brazilian De Lima recently joined his new club after nearly eight full seasons with Empire.

Of the Stars' eight total wins, two have come in shootouts, three by one-goal margins, and another three by two-goal margins. Meanwhile, six of Tacoma's 11 losses have been blowouts, giving the Washingtonians the second-worst goal differential in the league (-41).

### **Strykers Availability Report**

**Out:** Cyro Oliveira (concussion protocol)

**Doubtful:** None

**Questionable:** None

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

**Suspensions:** None

### **Match Preview**

(from March 11, 2026)

#### **Suddeth, Strykers Face "Crunch Time" Clashes with Stars, Wave**

*Emerging defender gives insight into team's MASL playoff hunt*

**Ontario, Calif.** — With all but four games of their 2025-26 Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) regular season in the books, the Empire Strykers prepare for another pair of potentially campaign-defining contests this week. Having bounced back from a disappointing home result against rivals San Diego Sockers with a dramatic away victory over the St. Louis Ambush, Empire next faces the visiting Tacoma Stars in a must-win clash in Ontario, followed by a road meeting with the mighty Milwaukee Wave.

After the 9-10-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses) Strykers take on Tacoma at Toyota Arena this coming Thursday, February 12, at 6:35 p.m. PT, they will battle host Milwaukee on Sunday, February 15, at 12:05 p.m. PT.



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The English-language live broadcasts of both matches will reach U.S. and international audiences via MASL+, the MASL's YouTube channel, Victory+, Unbeaten Network, Sportworld, APEX Sports and National Soccer Network, with several of the platforms making the action available on demand as well. The meeting with the Stars will also be carried live in English by local PBS station KVCR and on the radio by FOX Sports 1270AM.

While the Spanish-language live video broadcasts of both fixtures will air exclusively in Mexico via the FOX Sports lineup of channels, Spanish-speaking fans outside of Mexico may enjoy the meeting with Tacoma via the MASL's YouTube channel.

Against visiting San Diego, Empire's efforts to boost their playoff odds fell flat, as the sixth-place side struggled on attack and ultimately fell 4-0 to its longtime foe, failing to score in a game for only the second time in franchise history and for the first time at home. While the league-leading Sockers put on a defensive clinic throughout the four quarters, former Strykers backstop Chris Toth also enjoyed an extraordinary showing for San Diego. The 36-year-old made several key plays en route to recording a total of 14 saves and a rare 100% save percentage.

Alongside Empire defenders Ben Suddeth and Filipe Dutra, who produced four and three blocks, respectively, the pair's teammate Brian Orozco put in a strong performance as well. Netminder Orozco finished with 12 saves and an excellent 85.7% save percentage. Two of the four goals he conceded came off the foot of Sockers midfielder Sebastian Mendez.

Notably, Chris Toth was also between the sticks for San Diego when the storied club shut out the Strykers for the first time in November 2017. The MASL goalkeeping giant would join the Ontario Fury (today's Empire Strykers) after the conclusion of that season and go on to spend four of the next five campaigns donning the crest of the rival side.

For first-year Empire man Ben Suddeth, the result against the Sockers did not provide an accurate reflection of the action on the turf.

"It was a tough loss, but for me the score didn't really do us justice," said the 23-year-old. "It was one-zero at halftime, and it felt like it could have been one-one or two-one. At the end of the game; when we saw the score, it hurt more because it didn't feel like it was that bad. Indoor is a game of chances, and we just didn't capitalize that day."

For Suddeth, the clash with San Diego marked a breakout performance of sorts, as his gritty, physical play factored heavily into the opposition only finding the net on four occasions. The MASL rookie has been on a significant upward trajectory since joining the Strykers, as he only played in four of the team's first 14 games but has featured in half of its most recent six.

"As the season has gone on, I've definitely grown into my role and gotten a better understanding of what [Head] Coach [Onua] Obasi wants me to do," said Suddeth. "It's been all about figuring out what I bring to the table and how I can help the team win games and achieve its goals."

Just two days after the letdown against the Sockers, Empire earned its third 5-4 overtime victory of 2025-26, defeating St. Louis on the road. Polo Hernandez had a brace in the match, and fellow midfielder Justin Stinson made history by scoring the decisive tally for the Strykers, who collected a potentially crucial pair of points in their hunt for a playoff berth. Stinson's netter saw the Empire legend reach another milestone two weeks after tying Franck Tayou's all-time franchise regular season points record. The St. Louis native now holds the lead by himself, boasting a total of 186 points.

Both Strykers goalkeepers contributed on offense. While Brandon Gomez bagged a goal, Brian Orozco provided an assist.

Having not played in the contest, defender Ben Suddeth was able to truly analyze his team's performance.

"Even if you're not on the squad, you know it's a tough one after playing two nights before," offered the Korea-born Illinois native. "There are few things to deal with, like the time change, the travel in between, and heavy legs. But I think everyone was on the same page and knew we needed to pick up points right after losing at home. Everybody knew what their job was going into it."

He continued, "The game could have gone either way. St. Louis had their chances and we had ours. Although we would have liked all three points, we're pretty happy we gutted that one out. It's not always as pretty as you would want, but I felt we deserved the win because the guys worked really hard for it."

Having climbed back into the MASL playoff picture not long ago, the sixth-place Strykers are in desperate need of more points if they want to retain an outside shot at catching at least one of fourth-place St. Louis and fifth-place Kansas City. While the Ambush is even with Empire in games played and boasts a nine-point advantage, the Comets are ahead by six points while holding a game in hand. Even more importantly, the Strykers need to keep seventh-place Tacoma at bay, as the side from Washington State sits just below the line, trailing by a mere two points and also having played one fewer match.

Under the guidance of then-rookie MASL Head Coach Onua Obasi, Empire last season returned to the knockout rounds, ending a three-year drought.



For Obasi's team, backline anchor Robert Palmer has once again been a key contributor on both defense and offense. The Jamaican not only ranks second MASL-wide in blocks (41) but also tied for tenth league-wide in helpers (12). Second place in blocks on Empire is held by first-year MASL defender Filipe Dutra (21).

Like Palmer, netminders Brian Orozco and Brandon Gomez have been key figures beyond their core responsibilities.

In addition to sitting third in the league in goals-against average (5.20 in 17 games/773 mins), the 24-year-old Orozco has earned three netters and five assists for a remarkable 0.47 points per game. On average, he has recorded one point for roughly every 97 minutes spent on the field. Gomez's strong goals-against average (5.00 in 10 games/276 mins) does not qualify him for the MASL leaderboard because he has not logged enough minutes. The 30-year-old has bagged a goal and an assist for 0.20 points per game and one point for about every 138 minutes played.

After going on an attacking tear in his last eleven outings — collecting an impressive 11 goals and nine helpers for a total of 20 points — Strykers star Justin Stinson now finds himself tied for tenth league-wide in assists along with teammate Palmer (12 each), while also leading his side in points (25) and points per game (1.25 in 20 games), in addition to ranking second in netters (13) behind Mounir Alami (14). Moroccan Alami, also holds runner-up on the Strykers in points (22) and points per game (1.22 in 18 games).

Alan Perez sits tied for the MASL lead in short-handed goals (2), and his teammate Ant Powell is tied for fourth in power play goals (2).

In Thursday's clash with Tacoma, Empire faces a squad that has been sliding in the standings and will be desperate to bounce back from an 11-4 away drubbing at the hands of the Milwaukee Wave. Ever since their recent acquisition of legendary forward and ex-Strykers ace Franck Tayou, the Stars have continued their familiar pattern of being tough to beat at home and suffering lopsided losses on the road. Prior to the heavy defeat at Milwaukee, Tayou and company were thumped 11-5 at San Diego in the 35-year-old's maiden game with Tacoma, followed by a dramatic 9-7 victory over visiting Kansas City.

Franck Tayou has been joined in the Pacific Northwest by two more former Strykers in his brother Uzi Tayou and one-time MASL Goalkeeper of the Year Claysson De Lima. Brazilian De Lima recently joined his new club after nearly eight full seasons with Empire.

Of the Stars' eight total wins, two have come in shootouts, three by one-goal margins, and another three by two-goal margins. Meanwhile, six of Tacoma's 11 losses have been blowouts, giving the Washingtonians the second-worst goal differential in the league (-41).

With the Strykers and the Stars having faced each other for the first time as MASL founding members during the 2014-15 campaign, the Southern Californians lead the all-time head to head 23-22, which includes a 2-3 record in overtime/shootout decisions. The two sides have never met in the playoffs.

Last season, Empire took the series 4-1. After years of fierce battles over which team would make the elimination stages at the expense of the other, the four defeats went a long way toward Tacoma missing out in 2024-25. The Strykers lead the current campaign's count 3-1. After losing 3-2 away on December 20, they bagged three straight victories over the Stars, comprehensively beating Head Coach Adam Becker's team at home in early January (10-3) and on February 22 (10-2), with a mid-January road win (7-6) sandwiched in between.

Defender Ben Suddeth played a key role in his side's successful trip up north two months ago, as he helped Empire hang on by the slimmest of margins.

"We've played them already a few times," said the former Chicago State and Northern Illinois University standout. "Tacoma knows us, and we know them. Obviously, they've added a few players, but we're not too focused on that. We're mostly looking at ourselves and at how we can put on a good performance. It's about getting our bodies healthy and our minds ready. This is crunch time for us. We need the three points."

The Stars have received an emotional boost from the addition of iconic attacker Franck Tayou. Three games into his tenure with the club, the MASL's all-time leading goalscorer already ranks second on the roster in points per game (1.67 in 3 games), trailing only Raphael Cox, who has been part of the organization on and off for the past 12 years but made his 2025-26 season debut for Tacoma in the narrow March 6 home win over Kansas City. Cox had two helpers in the clash, which has remained his only appearance thus far.

Of the players who have logged notable minutes for the Stars this season, Raphael's brother Jamael Cox and forward Tyler John have recorded the most points per game (1.31 in 16 games & 1.27 in 13 games, respectively). Midfielder Jamael Cox also sits first on the team in points (21) and goals (13) as well as second in assists (8), with John holding joint runners-up in points along with Alex Caceres (15 each), who leads Tacoma in helpers (11). Mike Ramos is second in netters (10), and Eddie Na ranks tied for third league-wide in power play goals (2).



Defensively, the Stars lean heavily on the work of backline anchor Logan Jones. The veteran sits sixth in the MASL in blocks (23), with his teammates Nestor Hernandez and Chase Hanson (14 each) trailing significantly behind.

Meanwhile, recent arrival Claysson De Lima has appeared in back-to-back games between the sticks, splitting the time with previous hands-down starter Luis Buirretta. Because he has not logged enough minutes this season, De Lima's excellent combined stats from his time with Empire and Tacoma (3.93 goals-against average & 73.5% save percentage in 8 games/199 mins) do not qualify him for the MASL leaderboard.

In Sunday's road meeting with the Milwaukee Wave, the Empire Strykers will take on a side which last month relinquished first place in the standings thanks to three straight losses, beginning with an 8-7 defeat at Empire. Since the trio of setbacks, Head Coach Marcio Leite's squad has bounced back with a 6-5 overtime win at Utica and Sunday's 11-4 dismantling of visiting Tacoma. 20 games into their campaign, the Wisconsinites have all but assured they will continue their proud tradition of never missing the playoffs in the MASL's 12-year history. Milwaukee lifted the championship trophy at the conclusion of the 2018-19 season.

The Wave's matchup with the Strykers marks only the sixth ever meeting between the two teams. Empire leads the all-time series 3-2, with none of the contests thus far having been decided in overtime or a shootout.

Milwaukee defeated the Ontario Fury in 2014-15, both MASL founding members' second campaign in the league, followed by a Fury victory in 2019-20. Having again defeated the visiting Wave in 2024-25, that time by a 10-7 final score, the Strykers then fell 3-1 away in this season's series opener on December 31, followed by an 8-7 home win in mid-February. The Californians and the Wisconsinites have never met in the playoffs.

Empire rookie Ben Suddeth featured in the narrow road defeat at Milwaukee on New Year's Eve, contributing to a strong defensive effort by his side.

"They're a great team that's tough to play against — especially at their venue, with the travel and the strong fan base they have there. It was a slower-paced game and obviously not as high scoring as you'd expect from the Wave. We now know we can slow them down, and clearly they know how to make it tough for us as well. Being clinical with our chances will be key."

Suddeth continued, "It's also good to put things into perspective. That was way earlier in the season, and I think teams grow over time and catch form. We feel good about where we're at. We need to take care of Tacoma and then carry that good energy into the weekend, go out there, and execute."

Milwaukee has had by far the greatest attacking output in 2025-26 but has also given up the third-most goals of all eight MASL clubs.

Alex Sanchez and Mario Alvarez have been involved in the majority of the Wave's 139 netters, with Oscar Flores serving as an elite sidekick to the explosive duo. While Sanchez leads the league in both points (42) and goals (27), in addition to ranking second in points per game (2.10 in 20 games) and fifth in assists (15), Alvarez sits third in the MASL in both points (37) and points per game (1.95 in 19 games) as well as tied for first in helpers (18), for sixth in goals (19), and for fourth in power play goals along with his teammates Flores and Andre Hayne (2 each). Forward Flores is also tied for fourth in goals (20) and for ninth in points (28).

Milwaukee has received additional offensive contributions from Max Ferdinand and Alex Steinwascher, who rank tied for sixth and ninth league-wide in assists, respectively (Ferdinand: 14; Steinwascher: 13). Michigan native Steinwascher has been a major asset on both sides of the ball, as his blocks total has him tied for sixth in the MASL along with fellow Wave midfielder Shawn Azcueta (23 each).

Even the goalkeeper position has factored into the attack for Milwaukee. Up-and-comer Gerardo Perez has bagged no fewer than seven goals on the season, along with one helper, making for a staggering points-per-game average of 0.80 (in 10 games/295 mins). The 21-year-old boasts a point for roughly every 37 minutes spent on the turf.



## **Most Recent Game**

(from March 7, 2026)

### **Stinson, Empire Bag Historic 5-4 OT Win Over Ambush**

*St. Louis native becomes Strykers' all-time leader in regular season points*

**St. Charles, Mo.** — The Empire Strykers earned their third 5-4 overtime victory of the 2025-26 Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) season on Saturday night, defeating the St. Louis Ambush on the road. Polo Hernandez had a brace in the match, and fellow midfielder Justin Stinson made history by scoring the decisive tally for Empire, which improves to 9-10-1 on its campaign and collects a potentially crucial pair of points in the hunt for a playoff berth.

Stinson's netter saw the Strykers legend reach another milestone 13 days after tying Franck Tayou's all-time franchise regular season points record. The St. Louis native now holds the lead by himself, boasting a total of 186 points.

Both Empire goalkeepers contributed on offense. While Brandon Gomez had himself a goal, Brian Orozco provided an assist.

The Strykers opened the scoring early, backstop Gomez receiving the ball from Robert Palmer and driving into the opposing half before blasting a shot inside the far post from just beyond the yellow line. Still within the opening third of the first quarter, Hernandez then doubled the away side's advantage, as he touched the ball home from the doorstep on a helper by Ant Powell. Stinson nearly grabbed Empire's third when he juggled the ball to himself and sent a thunderous volley on frame that was tipped over by airborne netminder Paulo Nascimento.

The Ambush's Jeff Michaud had an even better look inside the second period. On a clever ball off the boards by James Togbah, Michaud put too much mustard on his wide-open attempt from close range, smashing it off the underside of the crossbar. However, the veteran defender aimed perfectly on a shootout not long thereafter. After Strykers' keeper Orozco was sent to the sin bin for handling the ball outside the box, Brandon Gomez took the spot between the pipes but had no chance on Michaud's confident finish for 2-1.

The visitors conceded the equalizer in the most gut-wrenching of ways shortly after the break, as Mehrshad Ahmadi's shot was well off target but was deflected on goal by Empire's Qudus Lawal, leaving Gomez without a chance. Things would go from bad to worse for the visitors inside the final third of the third quarter, Randy Martinez picking out Togbah on a breakaway and the 30-year-old passing into the open goal with netminder Gomez pushed up off his line.

To the Strykers' credit, they bounced right back, making it 3-3 a mere 13 seconds into the fourth period. Once again joining the attack, Los Angeles native Gomez hit a shot off the end boards on the right, the ball somehow falling to Hernandez for a simple tap-in from the doorstep. Visibly energized by the netter, the Southern Californians took control of the contest and kept knocking on the door. Ali Somow finally broke through well into the period, as he rifled an absolute bullet inside the right post for a 4-3 lead. Lucas Ramalho collected the assist on the play.

Drama ensued when St. Louis leveled the match with just over two minutes left on the clock, Empire 'keeper Orozco struggling to make the save on a hard near-post shot by John Gates and Ahmadi touching home the loose ball for the easiest of finishes. It was the finally tally of regulation time, as the two teams headed into the additional ten minutes looking to bag the golden goal and two points.

After the hosts came close to ending the game on several occasions, Strykers midfielder Stinson fired home the game winner just over five minutes from full time. The ex-Ambush man received the ball from Somow on the left and sank his former club by cutting inside and blasting a screened shot inside the right post for 5-4.



## **Previous Game**

(from March 5, 2026)

### **Toth Dominates as Strykers Fall 4-0 to Sockers**

*Empire attack struggles against resolute San Diego defense*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers' efforts to boost their Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) playoff odds fell flat on Thursday evening, as the sixth-place side struggled on attack and ultimately fell 4-0 to visiting rivals San Diego Sockers, failing to score in a game for only the second time in franchise history and for the first time at home. While first-place San Diego put on a defensive clinic throughout the contest, former Empire backstop Chris Toth also enjoyed an extraordinary showing for the Sockers. The 36-year-old made several key plays en route to recording a total of 14 saves and a rare 100% save percentage.

Alongside Strykers defenders Ben Suddeth and Filipe Dutra, who produced four and three blocks, respectively, the pair's teammate Brian Orozco put in a strong performance as well. Netminder Orozco finished with 12 saves and an excellent 85.7% save percentage. Two of the four goals he conceded came off the foot of San Diego midfielder Sebastian Mendez.

Notably, Chris Toth was also between the sticks for the Sockers when they shut out the Strykers for the first time in November 2017. The MASL goalkeeping giant would join the Ontario Fury (today's Empire Strykers) after the conclusion of that season and go on to spend four of the next five campaigns battling for points at Toyota Arena.

Thursday's setback sees Empire drop to 8-10-1 (wins-losses-overtime/shootout losses) on its 2025-26 campaign.

After a fiercely contested but uneventful first quarter, San Diego took the lead just over a minute into the second, Drew Ruggles finding Luiz Morales, who cut inside from the right and sent a low drive inside the far post. Still early in the period, the away side then had a golden chance to double its advantage.

Pushing up off his line, backstop Brian Orozco uncharacteristically lost the ball to Momo Gueye on a dribble and had no choice but to pull down the former Stryker. Because of the denial of a clear goalscoring opportunity, Orozco was sent to the sin bin, and Brandon Gomez entered the turf to face off with legendary Sockers forward Kraig Chiles on the subsequent shootout. Gomez clearly was not intimidated by the big name, as he produced back-to-back kick saves to keep his team's deficit at one.

However, San Diego did make it 2-0 mere moments after the second half kicked off. Backline anchor Mitchell Cardenas hit a clever ball off the boards to the right of the goal, and Nick Perera's deft heel touch inside the box set up Mendez for a simple finish from close range.

After the early netter, the Sockers scored again late in the quarter, and again they used the boards to their advantage. Chiles found himself on the end of a long ball and smartly opted to smash it off the fiberglass by the right post, thereby centering perfectly to Mendez, whose hard first-time hit kissed the inside of the left post and nestled in the back of the net for 3-0.

San Diego added its fourth less than three minutes into the final period, courtesy of some nice interplay that forced Empire netminder Orozco off his line and ultimately allowed Chiles to pass the ball into the empty goal. It would be the final tally of the match, as the away side continued its dominant defensive performance and managed to hold on for the shutout.

## **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).



Tickets to the doubleheader at Toyota Arena are available at [www.TheEmpireStrykers.com](http://www.TheEmpireStrykers.com). The women's game will kick off at 1 p.m. PT and the men's game at 4 p.m. PT.

The first leg of the women's 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 professional competition.

Anyone interested in registering may do so at [www.TheEmpireStrykers.com/womens-tryouts-2026](http://www.TheEmpireStrykers.com/womens-tryouts-2026).

Josh Hodges, one of the most highly regarded figures in Southern California soccer, will play a key role in putting together the Empire squad. Hodges is the CEO of elite youth academy Legends FC and a top executive with Bumpy Pitch FC. Both the Bumpy Pitch men's and women's sides reached the respective finals of the 2025 edition of The Soccer Tournament (TST), the world's most prestigious small-sided outdoor competition, with the men capturing the championship and the \$1 million prize pot.

"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."

## **Recent Club News**

(from February 27, 2026)

### **Strykers Trade Claysson De Lima to Tacoma**

*Goalkeeper joins Stars after nearly eight full seasons with Empire*

**Ontario, Calif.** — The Empire Strykers of the Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) today announced they have traded goalkeeper Claysson De Lima to the Tacoma Stars in exchange for financial considerations. A native of Brazil who settled in Southern California after moving stateside, the 27-year-old spent nearly eight full seasons with the Strykers, serving mostly as a high-level backup but also proving instrumental over the course of the deepest playoff run in club history.

Lima joined Empire as a 19-year-old in 2017 and would go on to appear in 54 regular season games and eight playoff games between then and now. He was the hands-down starter during the MASL's "COVID season" in 2021, playing in every match as the Ontario Fury (today's Empire Strykers) made its way to the league final, where then-Head Coach Jimmy Nordberg's men fell 2-1 to rival San Diego in the decisive mini game after each side had bagged one victory. De Lima earned MASL Goalkeeper of the Year honors for his strong performances that season.

The Brazilian has assembled a combined regular season goals-against average of 6.06 during his time with Empire, to go with a 64.8% save percentage.

Empire's Managing Partner, Jeff Burum, said, "We'd like to thank Claysson De Lima for his contributions to our organization over the years. He was integral during our most successful stretch as a member of the MASL and has been well liked in the community. For the past three seasons, we've been blessed to have a trio of very strong goalkeepers at our disposal, which has made playing time hard to come by at times for a player of Claysson's caliber. We hope he sees the field a lot with Tacoma and wish him nothing but the best going forward."



## MASL Standings

Rk	Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	RW	GF	GA	Diff	Home	Away	Streak
1	San Diego Sockers	19	12	5	2	36	10	116	90	+26	5 - 2 - 2	7 - 3 - 0	L 1
2	Baltimore Blast	20	12	6	2	36	10	126	110	+16	6 - 3 - 1	6 - 3 - 1	W 7
3	Milwaukee Wave	20	12	6	2	35	9	139	120	+19	6 - 2 - 0	6 - 4 - 2	W 2
4	St. Louis Ambush	20	11	5	4	34	8	112	99	+13	6 - 3 - 2	5 - 2 - 2	OTL 1
5	Kansas City Comets	19	10	6	3	31	8	125	117	+8	5 - 2 - 2	5 - 4 - 1	L 1
6	Empire Strykers	20	9	10	1	25	6	102	99	+3	5 - 4 - 1	4 - 6 - 0	W 1
7	Tacoma Stars	19	8	10	1	23	6	91	132	-41	8 - 3 - 0	0 - 7 - 1	L 1
8	Utica City FC	19	4	11	4	14	2	100	144	-44	2 - 5 - 3	2 - 6 - 1	L 1

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

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

Onua Obasi	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

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Justin Stinson	Midfielder	10	May 29, 1997	5'10"	U.S.
Ben Suddeth	Defender	16	February 18, 2002	5'8"	U.S.

## Positional

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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 SUD-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 %  
**1W**    **5.1**    **+3**    **23%**    **83%**

## 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	20	13	12	25	1.3	2	2	.149	36	0	0	87	27	7	1	0	0
5	Mounir Alami	F	18	14	8	22	1.2	0	2	.292	6	0	0	48	26	8	3	0	0
11	Barbaro Shelier	F	18	11	7	18	1.0	0	0	.275	7	1	0	40	24	5	0	0	0
20	Alan Perez	M/D	17	9	7	16	0.9	0	1	.333	9	0	2	27	6	16	0	0	0
51	Robert Palmer	D	18	3	12	15	0.8	4	0	.200	6	1	0	15	26	41	2	0	0
18	Walter Díaz González	F	13	8	4	12	0.9	2	1	.186	15	0	0	43	17	2	2	0	0
99	Ali Somow	M	17	6	6	12	0.7	4	0	.214	14	0	0	28	20	1	3	0	0
31	Steven Chavez	M	18	6	6	12	0.7	2	1	.353	3	0	0	17	15	4	1	1	0
28	Abdul Mansaray	F	12	7	3	10	0.8	0	1	.233	3	0	0	30	13	6	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	19	4	6	10	0.5	9	0	.444	0	0	0	9	11	14	2	1	0
33	Marco Fabián	M	12	8	1	9	0.8	2	0	.136	20	1	0	59	11	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
24	Issak Somow	F	13	2	2	4	0.3	4	0	.167	5	0	0	12	20	4	2	0	1
14	Dayerson Graterol	M	13	2	1	3	0.2	0	0	.143	5	0	0	14	12	2	1	0	0
30	Zakhar Shkidchenko	M	3	2	0	2	0.7	0	0	.500	1	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0



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7	Jorge DeLeon	M	8	2	0	2	0.3	0	0	.154	5	0	0	13	2	3	0	0	0
3	Qudus Lawal	F/M	7	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	.200	1	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	0
44	Filipe Dutra	D	12	1	0	1	0.1	7	0	.500	0	0	0	2	13	21	1	1	0
21	Andy Reyes	D	8	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	11	0	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	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	8	8	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	10	4	2	2	0	65	23	5.00	42	.646	0	276:14	0	1	1	0	0
1	Brian Orozco	17	12	6	7	1	210	67	5.20	147	.700	0	773:10	4	3	5	2	0

**Tacoma Stats**

STREAK    GOALS FOR AVERAGE    GOAL DIFFERENTIAL    POWER PLAY %    PENALTY KILL %  
**1L    4.8    -41    23%    62%**

**PLAYER STATS - REGULAR SEASON**

#	Name	Pos	GP	G	A	Pts	PPGA	PIM	GWG	S%	SB	PPG	SHG	Sh	F	BS	BC	YC	RC
11	Jamael Cox	M	16	13	8	21	1.3	0	2	.265	13	0	0	50	13	1	0	0	0
14	Tyler John	F	13	9	6	15	1.2	7	1	.321	7	0	1	28	19	3	1	1	0
7	Alex Caceres	D	15	4	11	15	1.0	7	0	.167	4	1	0	25	13	4	1	1	0
25	Micheal Ramos	F	19	10	2	12	0.6	0	1	.213	9	1	0	47	21	6	0	0	0
22	Nani Mendoza	M	16	7	5	12	0.8	0	0	.219	6	0	0	32	6	5	0	0	0
80	Yahir Romero	M	17	6	5	11	0.6	0	0	.143	17	0	0	42	10	3	0	0	0
33	Adrian Correa	M	19	4	7	11	0.6	2	1	.286	1	0	0	14	12	13	1	0	0
4	Logan Jones	D	14	6	4	10	0.7	0	1	.600	3	0	0	10	9	23	0	0	0
24	Khali Brisco	D	19	6	3	9	0.5	16	0	.333	4	0	0	18	28	9	3	2	0
30	Douglas Lima	M	10	5	3	8	0.8	0	0	.152	14	0	0	33	13	2	0	0	0
2	Chase Hanson	D	18	2	6	8	0.4	6	0	.286	1	0	0	7	16	14	3	0	0



15	Franck Tayou	F	3	5	0	5	1.7	2	0	.278	8	1	0	18	0	1	1	0	0
9	Eddie Na	F	11	4	1	5	0.5	2	0	.222	6	2	0	18	9	0	2	0	0
89	Alessandro Canale	M	5	3	1	4	0.8	0	0	.273	0	0	0	11	9	1	1	0	0
5	Kyle Rivers	M	17	2	2	4	0.2	4	1	.250	2	0	1	8	27	3	4	0	0
93	Missael Lopez	D	10	1	3	4	0.4	2	0	.143	3	1	0	7	5	3	1	0	0
12	Nestor Hernandez	D	18	1	2	3	0.2	2	0	.077	3	0	0	13	6	14	1	0	0
90	Cristian Fernandes	M	6	2	0	2	0.3	0	0	.333	1	0	0	6	3	1	0	0	0
23	Raphael Cox	M	1	0	2	2	2.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
70	Uzi Tayou	F	1	0	1	1	1.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
21	Ashkanov Apollon	M	4	0	1	1	0.3	0	0	.000	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
34	Manny Nicasio	D	8	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	.000	1	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	0
17	Cale Spence	M	4	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	.000	0	0	0	2	3	1	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
3	Cory Keitz	D	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Román Torres	D	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Ismael Deluna	M	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Matt Braem	D	2	0	0	0	0.0	9	0	.000	1	0	0	2	3	0	2	1	0

#### GOALKEEPER STATS - REGULAR SEASON

#	Name	GP	GS	W	L	OTL	SA	GA	GAA	Sv	Sv%	SO	MP	PIM	G	A	BC	YC
98	Claysson De Lima	8	4	2	1	0	49	13	3.93	36	.735	0	198:44	2	0	0	1	0
00	Luis Birrueta	17	16	6	7	1	257	92	6.44	167	.650	0	857:42	10	0	0	5	0
1	Danny Waltman	11	3	1	3	0	90	31	8.46	60	.667	0	220:00	2	0	0	1	0

#### INACTIVE GOALKEEPER STATS - REGULAR SEASON

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



## MASL Leaders

### Points



**42** POINTS

**Alex Sanchez**

#80 MIDFIELDER

Milwaukee Wave

#26	Rian Marques		39
#10	Mario Alvarez		37
#33	Sergio Pinal		35
#8	Zach Reget		34
#19	Daniel Torrealba		30
#22	Juan Pereira		30
#77	Nick Perera		30
#23	Jonatas Melo		28
#16	Oscar Flores		28

### Goals



**27** GOALS

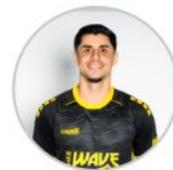
**Alex Sanchez**

#80 MIDFIELDER

Milwaukee Wave

#26	Rian Marques		23
#8	Zach Reget		22
#19	Daniel Torrealba		20
#16	Oscar Flores		20
#22	Juan Pereira		19
#10	Mario Alvarez		19
#33	Sergio Pinal		18
#23	Jonatas Melo		16
#77	Nick Perera		16

### Assists



**18** ASSISTS

**Mario Alvarez**

#10 DEFENDER

Milwaukee Wave

#2	Oumar Sylla		18
#33	Sergio Pinal		17
#26	Rian Marques		16
#80	Alex Sanchez		15
#11	Leonardo De Oliveira		14
#24	Max Ferdinand		14
#77	Nick Perera		14
#44	Alex Steinwascher		13
#23	Jonatas Melo		12

### Points per game



**2.4** PPGA

**Rian Marques**

#26 FORWARD

Kansas City Comets

#80	Alex Sanchez		2.1
#10	Mario Alvarez		1.9
#33	Sergio Pinal		1.8
#21	Charlie Gonzalez		1.8
#8	Zach Reget		1.8
#11	Leonardo De Oliveira		1.7
#77	Nick Perera		1.7
#19	Daniel Torrealba		1.5
#22	Juan Pereira		1.5

### Power Play Goals



**4** PPG

**Ignacio Flores**

#23 DEFENDER

Kansas City Comets

#23	Jonatas Melo		4
#8	Zach Reget		3
#99	Andre Hayne		2
#9	Anthony Powell		2
#4	Chad Poarch		2
#9	Eddie Na		2
#10	Mario Alvarez		2
#16	Oscar Flores		2
#91	Randy Martinez		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 Anderaos		3
#37	Kraig Chiles		3
#80	Alex Sanchez		2
#44	Alex Steinwascher		2
#19	Daniel Torrealba		2
#19	Jairo Guevara		2
#11	Jamael Cox		2
#10	Justin Stinson		2
#80	Luiz Morales		2

**Penalty Minutes**



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

#6	Guerrero Pino		22
#21	Charlie Gonzalez		16
#24	Khai Brisco		16
#13	Sebastian Mendez		15
#29	Cesar Cerda		14
#26	Rian Marques		13
#23	Jonatas Melo		11
#20	Tony Walls		11
#19	Jairo Guevara		10

**Blocked Shots**



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

#51	Robert Palmer		41
#5	Robert Williamson		39
#11	Lesia Thetsane		29
#22	Juan Pereira		25
#44	Alex Steinwascher		23
#4	Logan Jones		23
#11	Marco Nascimento		23
#31	Mitchell Cardenas		23
#6	Shawn Azcueta		23

**Fouls**



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

#31	Kevagh Frater		38
#30	Juan Alava		36
#15	Cesar Correa		32
#24	Khai Brisco		28
#77	Wellington Bramusse		28
#10	Justin Stinson		27
#5	Kyle Rivers		27
#26	Colin O'Keefe		26
#19	Daniel Torrealba		26



## GOALKEEPER

### Goals Against Average



**4.55** GAA  
**Paulo Nascimento**  
#17 GOALKEEPER  
St. Louis Ambush

#27	Boris Pardo		5.05
#1	Brian Orozco		5.20
#28	Julian Rodriguez		5.24
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		6.12
#33	William Banahene		6.18
#25	Brian Wilkin		6.27
#00	Luis Birrueta		6.44

### Save Percentage



**.732** SAVE %  
**Boris Pardo**  
#27 GOALKEEPER  
San Diego Sockers

#17	Paulo Nascimento		.729
#28	Julian Rodriguez		.708
#1	Brian Orozco		.700
#33	William Banahene		.664
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		.659
#25	Brian Wilkin		.657
#00	Luis Birrueta		.650

### Wins



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

#33	William Banahene		10
#27	Boris Pardo		9
#17	Paulo Nascimento		9
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		9
#1	Brian Orozco		6
#00	Luis Birrueta		6
#25	Brian Wilkin		4

### Saves



**223** SAVES  
**Paulo Nascimento**  
#17 GOALKEEPER  
St. Louis Ambush

#28	Julian Rodriguez		221
#99	Phillip Ejimadu		184
#33	William Banahene		182
#25	Brian Wilkin		176
#27	Boris Pardo		169
#00	Luis Birrueta		167
#1	Brian Orozco		147

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		9:35PM EDT
83	Sun Mar 15	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Milwaukee Wave		3:05PM EDT
88	Sun Mar 22	MASL	 Empire Strykers	vs	 Utica City FC		3:00PM EDT
96	Sun Mar 29	MASL	 St. Louis Ambush	vs	 Empire Strykers		7:05PM EDT