

JUNE 18, 2021

THE AUSTIN

VOL. 40 • NO. 42

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THE AUSTIN FC
Issue

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The Austin Chronicle (ISSN: 1074-0740) is published by The Austin Chronicle Corporation weekly 52 times per year at 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751. 512/454-5766 ©2013 Austin Chronicle Corp. All rights reserved.

Subscriptions: One year: \$150 2nd class. Six months: \$75 2nd class. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Austin Chronicle, 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751.

Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.

AUSTIN



When Austin FC debuted its logo in 2018, it came freighted with meaning: the intertwined live oaks representing the bond between club and city; the 11 leaves as the players on the pitch; the four roots symbolizing the four corners of Austin. Up until now, those roots have only been metaphorical. But with Saturday's historic first home match, Austin FC sets down true roots at Q2 Stadium.

In this special issue, we go inside Q2 and explore the culture around the club. Want to go deeper? Sign up for our Austin FC newsletter to get the latest news, including Eric Goodman's weekly "The Verde Report," delivered directly to your inbox.

Listos!

— Editor-in-Chief Kimberley Jones

listos

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COVER DESIGN BY ZEKE BARBARO / PHOTO BY JANA BIRCHUM

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6.19.21 THE LEGEND COMES HOME

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VS





DAVID BRENDAN HALL

KEEPING IT GREEN

How Gensler architecture built a home for the Verde in line with Austin's love of the outdoors **BY ROBERT FAIRES**

Designing the home stadium for Austin FC was not, shall we say, Jonathan Emmett's first rodeo. Prior to serving as lead architect for Q2 Stadium and St. David's Performance Center (Austin FC's training facility), the principal and design director for Gensler's Austin office designed the Banc of California Stadium for Los Angeles FC. That project was more than a little similar to the one here — new MLS team, urban site, open-air facility, 20,000-plus seats — so Emmett had some strong ideas about how to approach the Austin stadium.

But any architect will tell you that every project is its own beast, even if it closely resembles another. So while it's true that Emmett had designed an MLS stadium before, he hadn't designed one in Austin. Banc of California Stadium was built on the site of the old Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena in the city's culturally rich Exposition Park. Q2 Stadium, on the other hand, would be built on the graveyard of a 1950s chemical plant that was abandoned after an explosion in 1985 — quite a different proposition.

Then there's the ATX heat. Angelenos rarely see the mercury creep above 90 come summer, while Austinites consider it balmy if the summer temp stays below the century mark. That's worth taking into account when working out how to make a stadium appealing to a potential fan base for whom "football" means the brown thing with the stitches on top.

And just what does football — okay, soccer — mean to Austin? How does a professional soccer club embody the city? Can you build Austin an MLS stadium without knowing that?

That's all to say Emmett was confronted with some distinct differences in designing a stadium for the Texas capital. But don't think he didn't love doing it.

The journey to the stadium making its home at McKalla Place is a saga all its own, one that involves a series of proposed sites around town, including a

highly unpopular one on Butler Shores by Barton Creek. Suffice to say that once ownership group Precourt Sports Ventures settled on McKalla as its site of choice and the city, which had acquired the vacant property in 1995, declared it viable, Emmett and his Gensler team had to figure out the best way to rehabilitate a brownfield site with a sports venue.

When you approach the completed Q2 Stadium from Burnet Road or Braker Lane, you can see that the architects took their cue from Austin FC's sense of hometown identity: There's green space — much more than you'd expect around a major league stadium.

Emmett says, "One of the criteria we were given early on as a design team [was that] we really needed to leverage that 24-acre site beyond being a vessel for playing and watching soccer." That led to devoting fully one-



CONTINUED ON P. 6

**“REAL ALE is my
REAL DAD.**

**Real Ale is your
real dad too.”**

- Eric Puga, from the Top 20 Best Breweries
feature in the Nov. 11, 2020 Austin Chronicle

**HAPPY
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Inside the Austin FC team changing room

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Q2 ARCHITECTURE CONTINUED FROM P.4

third of the site to green spaces – open areas, trails, an amphitheatre – that can be accessed before the game, after the game, when there is no game – anytime. “It’s not fenced off, it’s not closed off, it’s not just a big parking lot surrounding a venue that nobody wants to go to,” Emmett says. “Some people have questioned whether we have enough parking on-site. We have very limited parking on-site because we wanted to create these green spaces rather than just pack as many parking spaces onto the site as possible.”

Keeping it green is how this soccer club ultimately chose to represent itself as an Austin soccer club.

“I think from day one, the ownership team understood that this is a city that really relates to its outdoor spaces – I mean the beauty of the outdoor spaces here but also the way [Austinites] live their lives,” says Emmett. “There’s a desire to be out there – the hike and bike trails, the parks – that’s almost synonymous with Austin culture.”

You see that in the team’s badge and colors – the “Bright Verde” Pantone 354-on-black image of two intertwining live oaks with roots spreading in four directions – and now you see it in every area of the stadium: the exterior signage, interior signage,

lighting in the team locker room, and all 20,500 seats. “We wanted to make it feel like when you’re in the venue, when you’re in your seat, you’re still a part of that indoor-outdoor experience,” Emmett says. “Working with the multiple greens, we’ve been able to blur those lines a little bit. The green of the seat, it almost feels as though the field just works its way up into the seating bowl. It’s been a joy to work with that brand, with that color palette. There’s just such a clear reason for that brand, such a strong reason for that color palette. Being able to integrate that into the architecture and the design makes my job easy.”

Getting you to feel like you’re still a part of that indoor-outdoor experience in your seat isn’t just a matter of decor, though, when your stadium is open-air. At Q2, those Central Texas elements will be with you from kickoff to final whistle – only they may not be as hot as you’d expect. “One of the first things that we heard, loud and clear, both from the ownership team of the club but also directly from MLS all the way up to Don Garber, the commissioner, was that we’ve got to get this building right in terms of the climate,” says Emmett. “This is the absolute most important thing. It’s a big decision, in terms of bringing a club to Austin. If we don’t get that right, we’ve failed.”

Consequently, the architectural team studied the location, modeled weather patterns, and applied proven design techniques to mitigate the ATX elements at their worst. The orientation of the venue on the site, supersizing the canopy roof, opening the corners, raising the building out of the ground, adding 6,000 cooling mesh fabric seats – “All of those were very conscious decisions to address climate,” says Emmett.

This reporter had an opportunity to test their work on a late-May afternoon doing its best impression of a dog day in early August: cloudless sky, scorching sun, and little to no air circulating. Outside the stadium, it was 90 going on 100, but inside, it couldn’t have been more pleasant. The combination of shade over almost every seat and cross-breezes from the open corners lowered the temperature in the seating bowl by a good 15 degrees – a report that came as a relief to Emmett.

“You never know until you get out there if you’re as successful as you think [you will be when you’re] looking at the computer programs, running the scenarios, and everything. Glad to hear they’re working the way they were intentionally designed to.”

In Austin, a cooler fan is likely a happier fan, but Emmett wanted to do more than provide climate control to enhance local fans’ experience. A lifelong fan of the game, raised on it in the UK, where the smaller venues generate both intimacy and energy among the fans, he’s intent on helping Austinites feel they’re part of the action when they’re at a match. “To me,” he says, “sports is about bringing people together: bringing people together on the field, that teamwork and that chemistry, and bringing the fan base together in a venue, the energy and excitement that creates.” In applying that to the Austin FC stadium, “It was about creating that tight footprint, the cantilevered seating bowls, the

Fully one-third of the site is devoted to green spaces – open areas, trails, an amphitheatre – that can be accessed before the game, after the game, when there is no game – anytime.

Q2 BY THE NUMBERS

McKalla Place site: **24 acres**
 Stadium area: **465,000 sq. ft.**
 Cost: **\$260 million**
 Seating: **20,500**
 On-site parking spaces: **850**
 Breathable mesh seats: **6,000**
 Supporters section: **3,500 (standing only)**
 Suites: **27**
 Clubs: **3 (Q2 Field Club, 380 capacity; Lexus Club, 11,000 sq. ft.; Captain Morgan Club, 700 capacity)**
 Beer Hall: **339 capacity**
 The Verde Store: **5,000 sq. ft.**
 Pitch: **115-by-75 yds. (105-by-68.5m) seashore paspalum natural grass**
 Amount of steel in the stadium: **5,011 tons**
 Amount of steel in the canopy roof: **2,700 tons**
 Roof support, super columns: **4 (90-110 ft. tall; 30,000 cu. yds. of concrete)**
 Roof support, cables: **60 tons**

them sitting lower than in the rest of stadium, so the noise they make - which will already be louder than what's made by the rest of the crowd - will be amplified by the metal and reverberate across the pitch. (Take that, visiting club!)

And because sports doesn't just bring people together in the stands, Emmett and his team have equipped the stadium with a number of spots where they can be brought together around drink and food: the exquisitely appointed field club, assorted bars and lounges, and a beer hall that can hold more than 330 fans. (The plethora of food and drink options play to the idea that fans aren't just satisfied with a quick brewski and boiled hot dog during match play, then it's back out the gates. The stadium caters - literally, caters - to the philosophy of the stadium as a culinary destination on game day.) And there's the two-story, 5,000-square-foot Verde Store, selling the merchandise by which fans can show their solidarity with Austin's new Major League Soccer team.

Neither Austin FC nor Emmett and the Gensler team ignored the fact that Austin is a live music town. "If we're not acknowledging that and embracing that and bringing that into the venue, that's a missed opportunity," Emmett says. That supporters section? Its seats were designed to be demountable, with a concert stage in place underneath it. Above it is a massive rigging grid, and behind it are multiple loading docks, all to streamline production load-ins and load-outs. "It was a very important criteria for us to design a venue that allowed for the most seamless transition from soccer to concert," Emmett insists. "Music is a very important aspect of this project."

Still, the architect will tell you, first and foremost, this is a stadium built for soccer. After having spent some time in it, I can vouch for that. I'd suggest, though, that this is actually a stadium built for making people fall in love with soccer. And since Jonathan Emmett is very good at his job and this is not his first rodeo, get ready to lose your hearts, Austin. ■

roof canopies that really create that intimate environment. That was something we put into place in Los Angeles at Banc of California, and that really resonated with the ownership group here. Banc of California was a game changer of what an MLS venue can be. We took a lot of the lessons we learned there and brought them to Austin."

Indeed, inside Q2, the steepness of the seating and the upper seats being cantilevered over the lower ones work to give even fans in the back row a sense of being on top of the pitch. (Ditto for fans in the 27 private suites along the stadium's west side.) In the south section, 3,300 standing-only spaces are reserved for ATXFC supporters, with the roof over



DAVID BRENDAN HALL



Eddie Campos aka DJ Chorizo Funk

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Stadium Sounds: DJ Chorizo Funk

Job No. 1? Spinning 20,000 Austin FC fans into a frenzy.

"There's a buzz in the city - people are ready for it," Eddie Campos aka DJ Chorizo Funk says of the collective community enthusiasm coalescing around Austin FC's historic first run of home matches.

A deeply rooted Austin sound selector whose turntable work has earned him three *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" honors in addition to a "Best DJ" statuette at the 2020 Austin Music Awards, Chorizo Funk looks to amplify that excitement while manning the decks as Austin FC's stadium DJ.

"I'm beyond elated to be involved in it and help set the tone, in terms of the environment, as people are coming into the stadium, cheering on the team, and celebrating," he adds. "It's going to be one hell of a party."

The turntablist, known for livening crowds as one-third of the uplifting Body Rock dance gathering (alongside Riders Against the Storm duo Chaka & Qi Dada and modern funk tastemakers Austin Boogie Crew), will spin Verde

vibes while 20,000 fans pour into Q2 Stadium on Saturday and for the 16 ensuing home games. Attendees will also hear his sets during halftime and at the end of the match.

"It's not going to be just *Jock Jams*," Chorizo says of the range of styles he plans to represent. "Musically, there's so much that I'll encompass. I do so many genres for different communities here in Austin, it's just about putting all that together and trying to exemplify all that. I'm confident that I can mix in diverse sounds and create a unique experience."

Aside from his namesake f-u-n-k, Campos regularly stacks mixes with hip-hop, pan-Latin styles, Afrobeat, and soul. Such a worldly scope clicks with an Austin FC roster that sources talent from a dozen nations over four continents.

"I'm gonna get some insight into what the players' favorite songs are for warming up and craft some things based off that," he says. "I love to play music from all over the world, so that'll be great."

- Kevin Curtin





Concessions at Q2 run the gamut from grab-and-go kiosks to a sit-down dining experience in partnership with Austin's Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Q2 Stadium's Food and Bev Offerings Big and Local

From brisket tacos to bao, craft beer to Crown Royal, Verde fans have options **BY JESSI CAPE**

Fueling the soccer fandom is no small feat, but Q2 stadium - home to the Verde - promises more than just beige concessions. There's a uniquely local spin on what's billed as "Austin's biggest backyard," and the food and beverage experience is a strategic mash-up of hometown favorites and big-name familiarity, resulting in a pretty impressive roster of choices for just about everyone.

Austin FC, in collaboration with Levy Restaurants, launched **512 Food Co.** as the official hospitality team of Q2 Stadium. In the late 1970s, Chicago-born Levy started with family recipes at a

revamp of a local deli, and in 1982 expanded into sports catering with a fine dining mindset at Comiskey Park (then-home of the Chicago White Sox), eventually graduating to Disney World and global consulting. The partnership promises to offer variety in addition to community initiatives and efficient service for the 20,500 fans at each game through a combination of brand partnerships and local small biz. While we were all hunkered down pandemic-style, Austin FC and Levy worked with the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Austin LGBT Chamber, the Greater Austin

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce to devise a plan to engage all kinds of food trucks and restaurants and get them set up for opening day. And you know we're here for that.

The "**Austin Table**" anchors one part of the dining experience as a rotating restaurant in partnership with **Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts**. They'll focus on minority-owned local businesses while incubating new concepts and providing on-the-job training for Escoffier students.

There is Chinese fast-casual at **Bao'd Up** (section 118), Tex-Mex at **Casa Chapala** (section 121), and kolaches from **Slovacek's**, the famous West, Texas, shop (sections 118 and 123). Austin-based franchise **DoubleDave's Pizzaworks** (near sections 105 and 123), known for their pizza rolls, and local bakeshop powerhouse **Easy Tiger** (near sections 108 and 127), with their beer cheese and bread galore, both have big square footage. Austin's ubiquitous **Pluckers Wing Bar** (near section 135) brings those game day favorites along with **T-Loc's Sonoran Hot Dogs** (near section 119). And because tacos are as Austin as it gets, they've secured **One Taco** (near section 107), **Taco Flats** and their killer quesadillas (Premium Terrace), and **Tacodeli**, slingers of Austinites' favorite green sauce, Salsa Doña (near section 122).

One of the most noteworthy stadium gems is the forever legendary - with too many awards to even count - **Valentina's Tex Mex BBQ** (near section 137). A few weeks ago when we toured, they already had those famous smokers fired up, and henceforth

CONTINUED ON P.10



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DELUXE**
WITH BLUSHING

SAT SEP 11
JACKOPIERCE

SEP 22
LEE DEWYZE
GHOST STORIES TOUR WITH D'ARCY

SEP 23
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KAWEHI**
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STADIUM FOOD CONTINUED FROM P.8

we've all called that section of the stadium "Valentina's Corner." The posted menu boasts a chopped brisket sandwich plate, a smoked pulled pork sandwich plate, a sliced brisket taco, and the "El Rey" with smoked pulled pork butt and sausage with habanero mustard, their signature sauce and slaw, and spiced chips. Sure, you can visit their locations around town (and not pay the stadium premium), but there's something pretty special about helping launch a local favorite into MLS history.

512 Food Co. will also host several stadium-only dining concepts led by Executive Chef Sam Boisjoly and his team. The list features their takes on stadium classics, with portable convenience in mind. **ATX Doghouse** (Premium Terrace) offers "local twists on traditional hot dogs and sausages," while the **ATX MRKT** and **Austin City Goods** (near sections 104 and 127) are grab-and-go markets with vegan/vegetarian options, fresh fruit, ice cream, snacks, and Valentina's BBQ sandwiches - a

good option if Valentina's Corner looks like an antihill of people, which it surely will. **Eastside Eats** (near section 128) and **Munchies** (near 103) will have more traditional game day fare, with nachos, chili dogs, warm Bavarian pretzels, and Slovacsek sausages; **El Mercado** (near section 102) is a Latin-themed grab-and-go market with vegan and vegetarian options, snacks, hot Mmmpanadas (don't skip the peach cobbler) and fresh organic tamales from farmers' market staple **Tamale Addiction**. (Our favorites are the chicken mole and the poblan muenster.) If it's smash burgers and fries you're craving, **Grilllove & Oak Hill Grill** (near sections 101 and 129) is an option. And it wouldn't be Austin without an entire food cart dedicated to our unofficial ooey-goey city food, so the Queso Fountain ensures no one leaves without a taste of heaven.

Of course, there is beer, beer, everywhere, because for a vast majority of fútbol fans, match day means gallons of beverages available all over the premises, and Q2 delivers - in the Beer Hall, bars, kiosks, and vendors slinging drinks in the

stands. The **Q2 Stadium Beer Hall** (on the 200 level of the North Building) is marked with an oddly tiny sign (maybe they're preemptively preventing a melee?) and features a 16-tap draft list of local craft beers. Anyone with a ticket can hang in the hall and watch the game from any of the kazillion screens, but get there early if you want any shot at the single shuffleboard and foosball tables. The brightly lit bar has around 100 keg lights overhead, and the long bar tables feature the natural oak seen throughout the stadium. (See Eric Puga's "create your own beer adventure" piece on p.20 for more about drinking in and around Q2.)

If the big distro players are more your style, there are two Michelob Ultra Bars and multiple portable spots, a **Bulleit Bar** (on the Porch), several locations for Heineken, Dos Equis (hello, \$15 cans), and Bud products, among others you can probably guess. Captain Morgan has a

fancy limited-access lounge, and both Crown Royal and Don Julio make a big presence throughout the stadium, as do those liquid gold (brown) syrups, Dr Pepper and Coca-Cola. More interesting, coconut water-based Bodyarmor stands in for the usual Gatorade, and even better, Austin Eastciders and Waterloo Sparkling Water are squeezed into the mix.

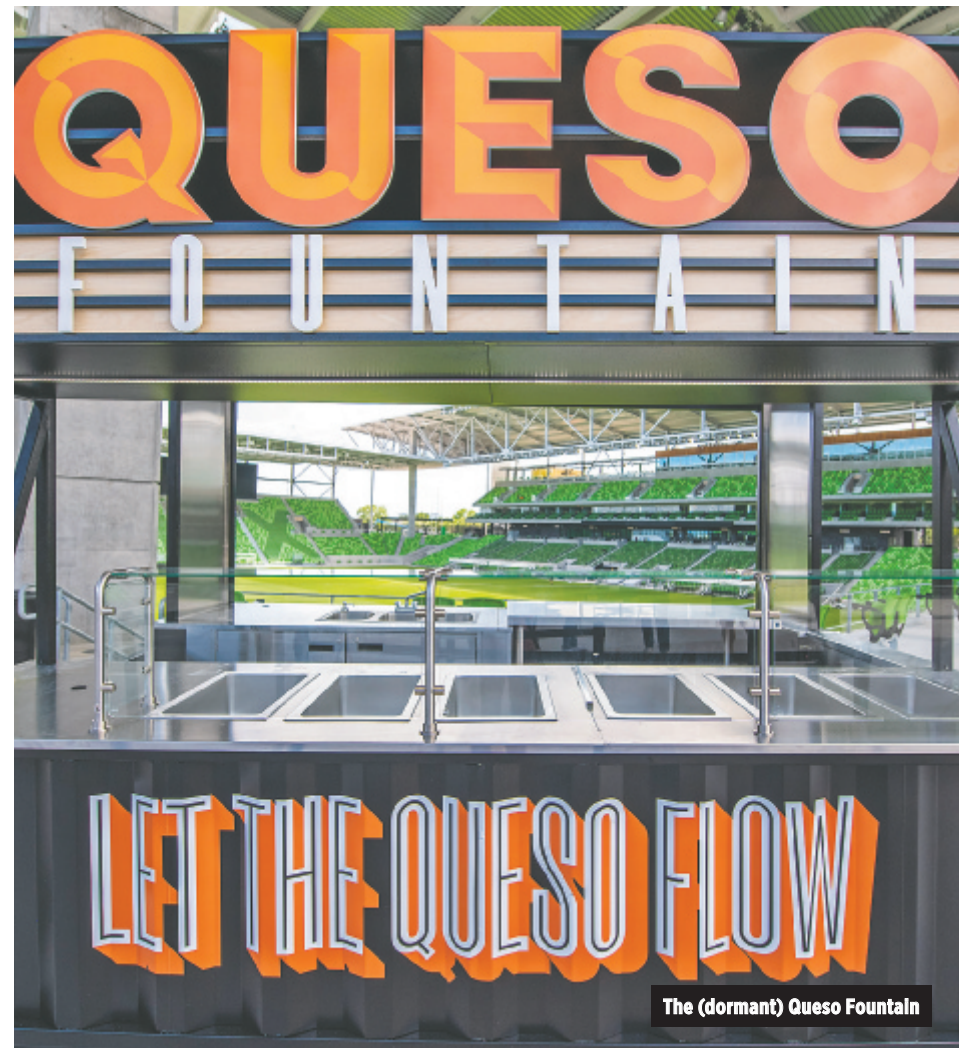
Operating in an almost post-pandemic era, throughout the stadium will be cashless ordering and check-out, plus those grab-and-go markets on the concourse. You'll also be able to order concessions through the Austin FC app, which means no matter where you are in Q2, you'll be well fed and watered.

About halfway through our tour of the massive property, I was surprised to feel at home in such a concrete jungle, and that's largely due to the feeling that Austin hospitality is at the heart of this new adventure. ■



The Q2 Stadium Beer Hall features a 16-tap draft list of local craft beers and a hundred keg lights hanging overhead

PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL



The (dormant) Queso Fountain

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Chris Rogers' *Whispers of the Heart* outside Q2 Stadium

"Listos/Let's Go" by Tara Johnston

PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

AUSTIN'S NEXT ART GALLERY?

ATXFC Artist Initiative puts Austin artists' work front and center **BY ROBERT FAIRES**

Sure, its attention is fully focused on what's happening on the pitch, but that doesn't mean Austin FC isn't thinking about the rest of the city it calls home. Case in point: the pro soccer club's program to support local creatives, the ATXFC Artist Initiative.

Spinning out of the Austin FC's social responsibility pillars, one of which is "Confidence Through Creativity," the program will dedicate the next decade to partnering with Austin artists on works that can be showcased both inside the club's facilities and on merchandise such as T-shirts and posters. "Austin is way more than what might just happen on the pitch," says James Ruth, senior vice president of marketing for Austin FC. So as a club wanting to be representative of the city, "we knew we had to do things that [represent] what makes Austin special. Creativity is the engine for Austin - it's that zig where others zag," which led the club to ask how it could engage the creative community in a way that "uniquely brought them into the identity of this club."

The ATXFC Artist Initiative is the answer, a program that incorporates local art into the club's visual identity and increases awareness of those artists who enliven Austin's landscape without widespread recognition. "Austin has murals everywhere," notes Ruth, "but maybe you don't know the people behind them. You might drive past Chris Rogers' mural on Chicon or one of Zuzu [Perkal]'s or Will Hatch Crosby's mural on Cesar Chavez and not know who made them." The Artist Initiative will ensure you know their names.

Some of the initiative's efforts are already underway, such as a piece by Will Hatch Crosby at the St. David's Performance Center, the club's training facility; a "Listos/Let's Go" mural by Tara Johnston outside the Zebra gate, the stadium's northeast entry point; and a piece by Emily Eisenhart inside the Verde Store that's painted entirely on Yeti cooler lids. But the centerpiece of the recently launched program is a rotating series of murals on a large space just outside the Zebra gate. The club has commissioned three Austin artists to each create an original work to be displayed on this huge wall during its home matches. (How huge? 39-foot-2-inches by 15-foot-7-inches. Fortunately, the artists will have the wonderful Show Goat Mural Works to help manage

the business of getting the art on it.) That promises 20,000 pairs of eyeballs on each artist's work, which is some pretty worthwhile exposure in this city.

In addition to that, Austin FC plans to collaborate with the artists to transfer their designs to merch like the aforementioned Ts and posters announcing club matches. And the artists tapped to create murals won't be the only ones tapped to make poster designs; other local artists are being commissioned to design their takes on each home match from the season. And to further boost awareness of these artworks and their creators, they'll receive feature coverage on Austin FC's social media channels, and, oh yes, no small thing, the artists will also be compensated.

Fourteen artists have been selected as the first participants in the Artist Initiative, and they can certainly be considered a roster of all-stars. They include the aforementioned Rogers, Perkal, Crosby, Johnston, and Eisenhart, plus Matthew Rodriguez aka Dear Ninja, Nathan Nordstrom aka Sloke One, Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone, Peelander Yellow, Beth Consetta Rubel, Good Snake, Erik Ross, Ryan Runcie, and Will Bryant.

A list like that lends credence to the idea that Austin FC has a real sense of what this city is all about and that the club really means it when it says it believes in "the passion that Austin's art community brings to the city" and that it wants to share that with its fans and the community at large.

The three artists who get to take a shot at the big wall this season will be Rogers, then Rodriguez, then Bryant. Rogers started on his, titled *Whispers of the Heart*, in late May, and Ruth reports that he's put in 17-hour days to have it ready well in advance of the June 19 match against the San Jose Earthquakes. Not surprisingly, rich green hues fill the background of the piece, but everything else about it speaks more to "Austin" than "FC": Musicians, dancers, and artists flank a young Black girl sitting among flowers, her dreamy sidelong glance suggesting that she may imagine herself joining their ranks someday. Over the weeks, as each figure has become more defined, more vivid, the idea of ATXFC supporting artists has also taken on a greater sense of reality. The proof is there for all to see. ■





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Can I Park at Q2?

And other questions answered about how to get to the stadium by car, bus, rail, bicycle, and rideshare

While “pregaming” typically has fun, boozy connotations, when it comes to game day at Q2, we’re talking about doing the necessary prep work to plan your arrival – plotting your bus or rail route, downloading rideshare apps, pre-booking a parking space, or just knowing where to lock your bike.

First, the math: There are roughly 850 parking spaces at Q2 Stadium, and 20,500 seats in the stadium. Even if you’ve got one of those clown cars you can jam a dozen friends into, there is never, ever going to be enough on-site parking at the stadium to accommodate everyone and their gas guzzler. Luckily, Austin FC, the city of Austin, and CapMetro have had eons to prepare for this day, and we’re certain (certain!) the multimodal mobility plan they’ve put together is going to make arriving at Q2 a breeze. Let’s get started.

– Kimberley Jones

Find more info, including digital maps, at Austin FC’s mobility page: austinfc.com/stadium.

By Car

If you’re one of the lucky few to have pre-purchased parking at home matches, then you and other permit holders will be parking on-site in the Southwest, East, and North Lots.

Austin FC has also secured parking spaces in area lots and garages within a mile of the stadium to meet the estimated game day demand. Attendees will be able to pre-plan and pre-purchase these parking spaces via the Pavemint app. Once more with feeling: Austin FC strongly urges attendees to secure that parking *in advance*.

Additional on-street parking will be available via the city’s Park ATX app but not available in nearby neighborhoods.

Wondering how to get to the stadium? Austin FC has directions for preferred routes via Loop 1, U.S. 183, Loop 360, and I-35 on their mobility page at austinfc.com/stadium/q2stadiummobility.

By Bus

Capital Metro is increasing their transit frequency on game days. For people who don’t live near a route to Q2 Stadium, CapMetro is offering Park & Ride facilities at North Lamar Transit Center (est. 11 minutes travel time to stadium), Pavilion Park & Ride (est. 22 minutes), Tech Ridge Transit Center (est. 35 minutes), and Westgate Transit Center (est. 65 minutes). Plan your trip ahead of time at CapMetro’s website.

- MetroRapid 803 will operate at least every eight minutes with drop-offs in front of the stadium. 803 Southbound service will be available on the west side of the stadium post-match. Extra MetroRapid vehicles will line up along Bright Verde Way when the match ends.

- Route 3 will operate on its normal schedule and drop off in front of the stadium.

- Route 383 will operate on increased frequency of 15 minutes and will drop off in front of Q2 Stadium. Route 383 serves two nearby Park & Rides: North Lamar Transit Center and Pavilion Park & Ride.

- Route 392 will operate on an increased frequency of 20 minutes between Q2 Stadium and Tech Ridge Transit Center.

By Rail

Capital Metro will operate Special Event Service to Q2 Stadium on match days. Take the MetroRail Red Line to the end of the line at Kramer Station; from there, wayfinding signs will direct fans along the estimated 15-minute walk to the stadium.

By Rideshare

Rideshare users should use the designated drop-off zone on West Road on the west side of Q2 Stadium. Pick-up zones will be located north of the stadium at Brockton Drive and south of the stadium on Rutland Drive. No rideshare pickup will be available on West Road at the end of the match.

By Bicycle

Bicycle lanes will lead to the stadium’s bike valet service on the east side of the building.

Once You’re There: Bag and Cash Policies

As with most major sporting venues these days, Q2 Stadium has a pretty restrictive policy on bags. Q2 Stadium prohibits all bags, backpacks, and other carriers being brought in the stadium, with a few exceptions: Medical and childcare/diaper bags are allowed (the latter requires an accompanying child). Any other bags must be clutch-sized (equal to or smaller than your hand). Also, Q2 is a cashless venue, so bring your swipecards and/or download the Austin FC & Q2 Stadium App for mobile ticketing, concession orders, and merchandise shopping. ■



PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

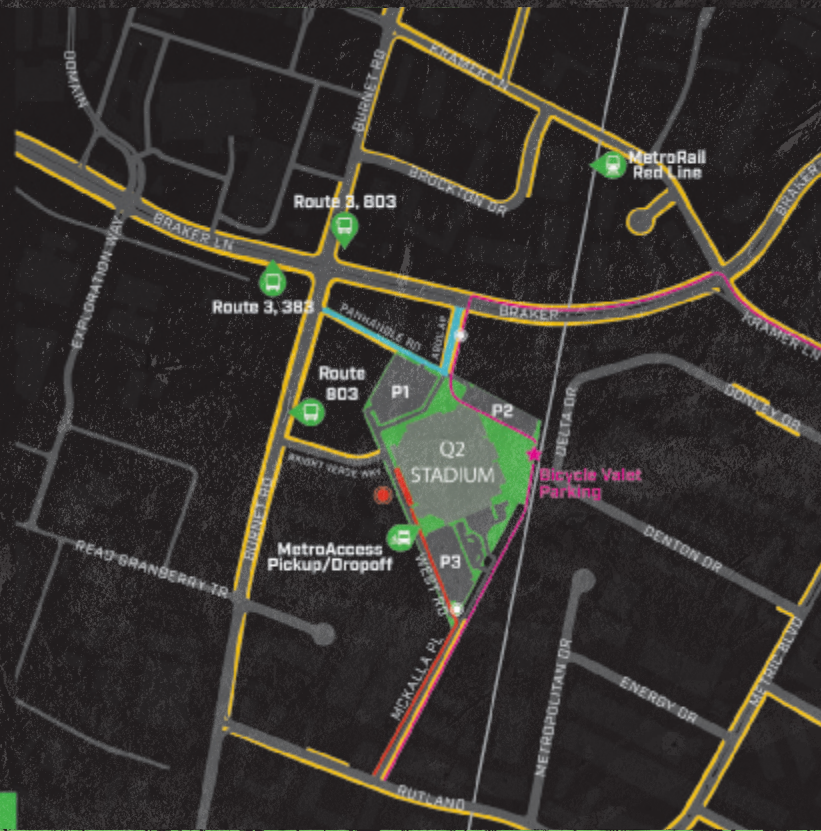
MOBILITY OPTIONS

GETTING TO Q2 STADIUM

- CapMetro Transit Service
- Walking Routes
- Bicycle and Micromobility Route
- Bicycle and Micromobility Parking
- Private Shuttle Drop Off Area
- Rideshare, Taxi, Limousine, and Dropoff Zone [No End of Event Pick Up]
- Micro Mobility Drop
- P1 North Lot
- P2 East Lot
- P3 Southwest Lot



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Anthony Precourt's Moment Has Come

Austin FC's founder reflects on the road to the major league

BY ERIC GOODMAN

The roadway from Central Ohio to Central Texas is smooth and mostly direct, if you stick to the interstates. You can bang the drive out in a pair of nine-hour shifts split by an overnight in Memphis, or back-load the mileage on day two if you prefer Nashville's Broadway to Beale Street.

Anthony Precourt did not stick to the interstates. The private equity CEO and son of an oil executive took, as he puts it, "the long, dusty road" to Austin from Columbus, where from 2013 to 2018 he was the principal owner and executive of Major League Soccer's oldest franchise, Columbus Crew SC.

The journey down that road began, at least publicly, in 2017 when Precourt announced his intentions to relocate the Crew to Austin. Ultimately, that did not happen. The Crew remains in Columbus under new ownership, but Precourt, by way of MLS's desire for expansion, brought the league to Austin anyway. Some bad blood remains in the Buckeye State, to put it mildly, but it's mostly dried by now.

Down south, however, the good vibes are reaching fever pitch. Precourt's vision of hosting major league sports in Austin will fully take shape for the first time ever this Saturday, June 19. Austin FC, a club that is Precourt's own in so many ways that the Crew could never be, plays its inaugural home match against the San Jose Earthquakes at brand-new Q2 Stadium. A 100% capacity crowd of over 20,000 Central Texans will watch it happen, and each will feel like a small part of history doing so.

"It's going to be incredible. I am so fired up," Precourt told the *Chronicle* in the days leading up to the match. "We obviously feel it from the city. There's so much anticipation from everybody and resounding support from everybody."

It might not go as far as a "Thank you, Anthony!" chant from the crowd Saturday, even though the occasion would not be taking place if not for him. Perhaps that's appropriate. Precourt is, after all, to use the league's preferred term, an investor-operator. He's here to run a business. Austinites are his customers, and from them he hopes to profit, as all sports team owners do. But Austin FC, and Austin itself, are plenty personal for Precourt. His courtship of the Texas capital – or rather, its courtship of *him* – began like it has for so many: as a twenty-something in search of a good time.

"I took my first job out of college in Houston but I was spending a lot of my time in Austin, as it turned out. Really fell in love with Austin in the early Nineties," Precourt said. Evidently that love never faded, even when Ohio entered the picture.

A Denver native who played soccer growing up through high school, Precourt got serious about investing in an MLS franchise nine years ago when he was in his early 40s. Columbus came available, and Precourt's investment firm pounced. He purchased 100% of the 17-year-old club

for a then-MLS record \$68 million. Included in the terms of the sale was a clause stating that Precourt would not – indeed, could not – move the Crew to any other city ... except Austin. That last part did not become public knowledge until 2017.

"Obviously we've had our eyes on Austin as the most attractive untapped market in the United States, and we worked really hard to position ourselves to bring a team to Austin," Precourt said. "Never any hesitation. Bullish from day one."

Personal affections aside, the data, Precourt said, was off the charts. Austin was the nation's largest city without a major league sports franchise and offered the youthful, ethnically diverse market that makes those in the business of soccer salivate. He assembled a team of partners with ties to Austin, starting with Mexico-born international investor Eddie Margain, to help see the project through. You may have heard of one of the other five members of Austin FC's ownership group, the actor Matthew McConaughey, though in these parts he's maybe more famous these days as Austin's "Minister of Culture."

While the road to January 2019 – when Austin FC was officially unveiled as MLS's 27th franchise – was slow and tense, the journey from then to the club's first season and first home game has been a furious sprint. "Sunup to sundown is easily how to describe it," Precourt said of the last two years of



Anthony Precourt

COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

effort, made ever more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic. "You know, this club, Austin FC, is my principal priority, and I'm spending all my energy on it being successful."

So far, from a business standpoint, it has been. Over 35,000 people have already either purchased season tickets or made deposits in hopes of obtaining them in the future. Austin-based corporations Yeti and Q2, among others, are locked into multiyear sponsorship deals. Precourt, importantly, believes the Austin FC project is sustainable for many years to come. That is significant, because he had public doubts about the long-term viability of the Columbus franchise during his stewardship there.

On the field, Austin FC has offered reason for optimism, earning 8 points (two wins and two draws) through eight games, all on the road. For now, the club is operating with the second-lowest payroll in the league, but Precourt says he intends for that to change as Austin FC grows into itself in year one.

"We have high ambitions for the club. We intend to be a top professional soccer club in North America, and we're going to make the investment in our roster [to do that]," Precourt said. "We're just working on signing the right players and seeing how the pieces all come together and being patient. But if we don't have success on the soccer pitch, you know, what are we doing?"

Precourt witnessed Austin FC's first-ever victory in person in his hometown of Denver. Not much can top that, but one thing that certainly could? A win in Austin on Saturday. The one thing that's made the last several years of effort worth it? "June 19th and seeing kids playing in the Austin FC kits," Precourt said. "We're just getting started." ■

"We've had our eyes on Austin as the most attractive untapped market in the United States, and we worked really hard to position ourselves to bring a team to Austin."

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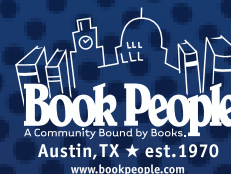
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The Verde Report

How Austin FC survived the road trip from hell

BY ERIC GOODMAN

Austin FC's inaugural home match at Q2 Stadium Saturday will feel like a celebration – a landmark moment for soccer, sport, and culture in Austin.

The significance of the occasion is not lost on Austin FC head coach **Josh Wolff** or any of his players. "These guys are fired up," Wolff said following the final leg of a season-opening road trip last weekend. "They busted their ass for eight games and they're very much looking forward to [the home opener], probably more than the fans. But I know our fans are fired up as well."

As well they should be. Their club comes home with an encouraging haul of 8 points (two wins and two draws) through eight road games to start its debut season. Austin FC finds itself in 10th place in the **MLS Western Conference** standings, but just one point outside of **playoff** positions. Given not only the duration of the road trip but also the strength of opposition on it, that qualifies as success.

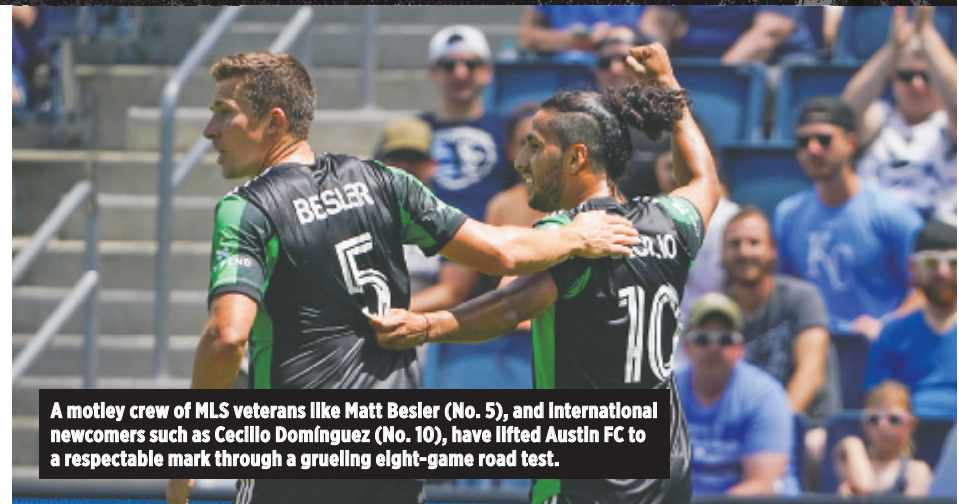
But if you're the out-of-sight, out-of-mind type, you might have missed some of the action on Verde's travels. Let's review how we got here.



Austin FC kicked its first ball April 17 against **LAFC** in Southern California. A national TV audience of nearly half a million watched the debutantes hang tight for 45 minutes against **Carlos Vela** and Co., establishing an identity of tight passing and possession. But in the second half, the Angelenos' talent proved overpowering and Austin FC fell 2 goals to nil.

Then came the weekend forever immortalized as "DenVerde." A battalion of Verde-clad Texans laid siege to Dick's Sporting Goods Park, sang without pause even while their club carried a 1-goal deficit into the halftime break against the **Colorado Rapids**, then witnessed 12 minutes of soccer euphoria. **Diego Fagundez** hammered home the first goal in Austin FC history and **Cecilio Domínguez** followed with Nos. 2 and 3 shortly after. The expansion team earned its first-ever victory, 3-1.

The wait for win No. 2 was short and sweet. The following week in St. Paul, ATXFC ground out a 1-0 victory against **Minnesota United**. Fagundez was the attacking hero once again, but goalkeeper



A motley crew of MLS veterans like Matt Besler (No. 5), and international newcomers such as Cecilio Domínguez (No. 10), have lifted Austin FC to a respectable mark through a grueling eight-game road test.

COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

Brad Stuver and Austin's defense shined for the club's first shutout.

Then the road got a bit bumpy. Against **Sporting Kansas City**, Austin FC saw a 1-goal lead become a 2-1 defeat as **Alex Ring's** red card, a first for both the club and his career, left the Oaks chasing shadows. Two more defeats followed at the hands of the **LA Galaxy** and **Nashville SC**. What had been a staggering 6 points through three games became a sobering 6 points through six.

But Wolff's pack got things sorted in the final two games of the road trip, earning a pair of draws – 0-0 against **Seattle Sounders** and 1-1 in a rematch versus **Sporting KC** – against the West's top two teams to head home with momentum on their side. The **San Jose Earthquakes**, losers of four

straight, await in the homecoming game.

Austin FC showed character and resiliency on the road, battling through a string of injuries to key players. They've been run through the MLS ringer. It's a team that, as its own coach and sporting director and owner all agree, is incomplete, with plans in place to add talent later in the summer. They lack true finishing ability in front of goal.

In spite of all that, the club has made it to the milestone occasion on schedule. For that, they've earned the thunderous applause their home fans have waited so long to give them.

Watch Austin FC vs. San Jose Earthquakes Saturday, June 19, 8pm, on the CW Austin and on Twitter @TUDNUSA (English language) and Univision/UniMás/TUDN (Spanish). ■

GET TO KNOW THE GUY BEHIND "THE VERDE REPORT"

Meet the *Chronicle's* soccer columnist, Eric Goodman

BY KIMBERLEY JONES



Eric Goodman

COURTESY OF ERIC GOODMAN

Eric Goodman wasn't necessarily looking to move back to Austin. The University of Texas graduate ('19, journalism and RTF double major) had already relocated up north when he saw a posting from the *Chronicle* seeking soccer writers to cover Austin's brand-new MLS expansion team. It didn't take long for Eric to become the *Chron's* go-to soccer guy, albeit from long distance, and his weekly Austin FC column "The Verde Report" launched on April 1. ATXFC diehards may have already met him on the road – Eric was there at the squad's historic first win at Denver – but he officially closed the distance and moved back to Austin in late spring – just in time to claim his seat in the press box at Q2 Stadium.

His day job's pretty interesting, too.

When he's not covering Austin FC games, Eric's working for NBCOlympics.com as a digital editorial producer. For the upcoming games in Tokyo, he's covering 10 beats, including soccer, weight lifting, aquatic sports (diving, artistic swimming, swimming, water polo), rugby, baseball, softball, and sport climbing.

The Force is strong with this one. "In middle school I was a competitive fencer – ironically not one of the Olympic sports I cover," Eric says. His mom convinced the young *Star Wars* fan to give it a try. "She sold it to me as, 'Do you want to learn how to fight with lightsabers like the Jedi?'"

His other loves. Eric, who grew up in Connecticut and Florida, spreads the love around when it comes to sports. "I'm a New York fan for pretty much everything – New York Giants, Knicks, the Nets, the Rangers – and Texas for college [sports]." When it comes to world soccer, his team is Valencia – "where my family hails from," he says.

The moment it clicked. Eric previously covered the 2018 Men's World Cup and the 2019 Women's World Cup for Fox Sports, but he wasn't always soccer's No. 1 fan. "The 2010 World Cup, when Spain ended up winning it – there was a semifinal against Germany that Spain won on a late-winning goal, and I scared everyone in my house by how much I screamed when that happened. That was the first moment when I realized, oh my goodness, I've been sleeping on this sport," he says. (That goal is still memorialized as his phone background.)

The great outdoors. While he was away, Eric missed how outdoors-oriented Austin is: "It's my favorite thing about the city." Getting outside is also a great way to expand his friend base. "I'm a very casual player of soccer, but the first thing I try to do in a new place is try to find a pick-up soccer game and build a friend network through that." (Hit him up on Twitter: @Goodman.) ■

Read Eric Goodman's weekly column, "The Verde Report," every Thursday in *The Austin Chronicle*, and find his match recaps online at austinchronicle.com/austin-fc.

Want to get all things Austin FC delivered straight to your inbox? Subscribe at austinchronicle.com/newsletters.

PLAYER STATISTICS

	GP	GS	Min	G	A	Sh	SOG	YC	RC
Cecilio Domínguez	8	8	637	3	0	17	9	0	0
Diego Fagundez	8	6	466	2	0	5	2	0	0
Jon Gallagher	7	3	325	1	1	8	4	0	0
Žan Kolmanič	8	6	607	0	2	2	0	0	0
Jared Stroud	8	6	485	0	2	12	5	1	0
Danny Hoesen	5	5	311	0	1	6	0	0	0
Rodney Redes	8	2	255	0	1	5	2	0	0
Nick Lima	8	7	682	0	0	8	1	2	0
Brad Stuver	8	8	720	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tomás Pochettino	7	7	562	0	0	14	3	0	0
Matt Besler	7	7	630	0	0	0	0	1	0
Alex Ring	7	7	607	0	0	8	0	1	1
Jhohan Romaña	7	6	495	0	0	0	0	2	0
Daniel Pereira	6	4	406	0	0	5	2	3	0
Sebastian Berhalter	6	0	100	0	0	1	0	1	0
Julio Cascante	5	3	345	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kekuta Manneh	5	0	68	0	0	5	0	0	0
Hector Jimenez	3	1	51	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Sweat	2	2	93	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manny Perez	2	0	32	0	0	1	0	0	0
Aedan Stanley	1	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andrew Tarbell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frederik Kleeman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
William Pulisic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulises Segura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aaron Schoenfeld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

KEY: Games Played, Games Started, Goals, Assists, Minutes Played, Shots, Shots on Goal, Yellow Cards, Red Cards

THE SEASON SO FAR

APRIL 17: LAFC (2) - Austin FC (0)

LA: Corey Baird, 61'

LA: José Cifuentes, 90+1'

Lineup: Stuver; Besler, Romaña, Sweat (Kolmanič 70'), Lima; Pereira, Ring, Pochettino (Fagundez 70'); Hoesen (Gallagher 60') Domínguez (Manneh 87'), Redes (Stroud 59')

APRIL 24: Colorado Rapids (1) - Austin FC (3)

COL: Andre Shinyashiki, 36'
(assisted by Jack Price)

AUS: Diego Fagundez, 59'

AUS: Cecilio Domínguez, 67'
(assisted by Jon Gallagher)

AUS: Cecilio Domínguez, 71'
(assisted by Rodney Redes)

Lineup: Stuver; Cascante, Sweat (Kolmanič 23'), Romaña, Lima; Pereira, Fagundez (Berhalter 84'), Ring; Hoesen (Gallagher 66'), Stroud (Redes 67'), Domínguez (Manneh 85')

WIN = ● / DRAW = ● / LOSS = ●

MAY 1: Minnesota United FC (0) - Austin FC (1)

AUS: Diego Fagundez, 17' (assisted by Stroud, Hoesen)

Lineup: Stuver; Romaña, Lima, Kolmanič, Besler; Fagundez (Pereira 64'), Pochettino (Berhalter 78'), Ring; Stroud (Jimenez 82'), Domínguez (Redes 64'), Hoesen (Gallagher 63')

MAY 9: Sporting Kansas City (2) - Austin FC (1)

AUS: Jon Gallagher, 7' (assisted by Jared Stroud)

AUS: Alex Ring (ejection) 67'

SKC: Ilie Sánchez, 82' (assisted by Johnny Russell)

SKC: Gadi Kinda, 90' (assisted by Khiry Shelton)

Lineup: Stuver; Kolmanič, Lima, Romaña, Besler; Fagundez (Pereira 61'), Pochettino (Jimenez 85'), Ring; Domínguez (Cascante 71'), Stroud (Redes 61'), Gallagher (Berhalter 71')

MAY 15: LA Galaxy (2) - Austin FC (0)

LA: Sebastian Lletget, 35'

LA: Javier Hernandez, 77'

Lineup: Stuver; Besler, Romaña, Kolmanič (Stanley 70'), Jimenez (Lima 38'); Pereira, Fagundez (Berhalter 59'), Pochettino; Hoesen (Manneh 59'), Domínguez, Stroud (Redes 58')

MAY 23: Nashville SC (1) - Austin FC (0)

NSC: Randall Leal, 35' (assisted by Jhonder Cádiz)

Lineup: Stuver; Romaña (Cascante 34'), Besler, Kolmanič, Lima; Pochettino, Pereira (Fagundez 81'), Ring; Hoesen (Gallagher 62'), Domínguez (Manneh 81'), Rodney Redes (Stroud 62')

MAY 30: Seattle (0) - Austin FC (0)

Lineup: Stuver; Besler, Cascante, Kolmanic, Lima; Ring, Fagundez, Pochettino, Domínguez (Perez 90'+2); Gallagher (Redes 87') Stroud (Berhalter 90'+5)

JUNE 12: Sporting Kansas City (1) - Austin FC (1)

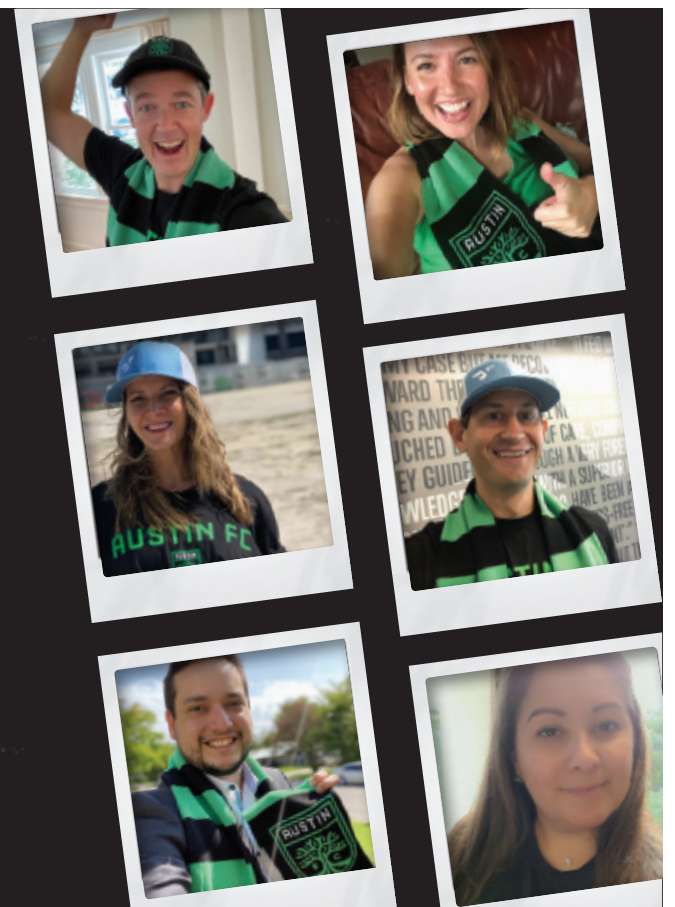
AUS: Cecilio Domínguez, 26'
(assisted by Žan Kolmanič)

SKC: Dániel Sallói, 81'

Lineup: Stuver; Lima, Cascante, Kolmanič, Besler; Fagundez (Romaña 79'), Pochettino (Berhalter 59'), Ring; Stroud (Redes 70'), Domínguez (Manneh 70'), Gallagher (Perez 59')



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GETTING A LITTLE MATCHY-MATCHY

Choose your own Austin FC home match beer adventure **BY ERIC PUGA**

Sure, you can get hyped about seeing your hometown represented on the small screen in distant luxury dumpster Los Angeles, or in the junior-barbecue whistle-stop of Kansas City, but when the city's first top-tier sports club finally debuts in North Austin mid-June, supporters will demand a prematch spot that will heed the gravity of Austin FC's first clash on home soil. And while the club itself is still finding its legs athletically, Austin's own Brewery Row is tasked with tracking back to cover the club's superbly energized fan base with a bit of the ol' liquid courage.

Fortunately for us, there will be plenty of beery opportunities to keep the 20,500 Verde-clad scoundrels hydrated well into the evening kickoff, along with the anticipated hordes of ticketless stragglers who will still want to converge into the district just to soak up the football vibes adjacent to Q2 Stadium itself. Yes, perhaps the passion will be a bit more muted than inside the arena, but only just! The scene all over Brewery Row is expected to be exciting and festive, and who else but the *Austin Chronicle* footy and beer knowers to guide you through it?



JOHN ANDERSON

GETTING THERE

The mobility plan released by Austin FC in coordination with the city of Austin, CapMetro, and other maneuverability hotshots around town recently informed the public what we long knew: Parking. Will. Be. Scarce. Unless you scoffed at the stimmy money last year, probably consider taking public transportation. The good news is that, in this typically antiquated mass transit city, there are a surprising number of ways to access the area by bus, bike, rideshare, and (gasp!) TRAIN! So, instead of circling the surface streets for a miracle then tailgating behind your Kia Soul ALL ALONE, hop the Red Line (running "10am to two hours post-match") from your own access point right into the Kramer stop (McKalla station coming soon!). Heck, if you're coming from Downtown, there are three more breweries along the way into Brewery Row - Zilker, the Brewtorium, and Black Star Co-op - in which to meet the goal of getting shitfaced and yelling at soccer people rolling on the pitch in despair. The MetroRapid 803 plans on letting off at Q2's north (Zebra) gate every eight minutes, and there will be a free bicycle valet system on the east side of the stadium. (See more in the *Chronicle's* Q2 transportation guide on p.14.)

Brewery Row offers plenty of beery opportunities for Austin FC fans - ticketholders and the ticketless alike - to pre-game, post-game, and during-game get boozy and festive.

PREGAME: BREWERY ROW

Brewery Row, you say? We at the *Chronicle* summer on Brewery Row. Maybe you've heard of our "Five-8 Brew Tour," a seven-brewery-and-one-city rager set in the Before Times. Well, in this post-dystopian city, Austin FC

is gonna throw this jam practically every weekend! Those are the benefits of plopping a top-shelf professional football team right in the heart of an old, abandoned toxic waste dump in the middle of the least expensive desert-warehouse-looking real estate in town. Go us!





Austin Beerworks

JANA BIRCHUM

STADIUM MARCH

The traditional “march to the match” is exactly how it sounds: a smoldering mass of fanatical - often tipsy - enthusiasts chanting about the mothers of opposing players as the herd makes its gleeful way to the stadium. Like a rattlesnake, the head of the beast tends to be more raucous in spirit, while the tail end is simply a warning call better suited for small children. Nonetheless, the practice of an impromptu supporters’ parade into the arena is a great way to batten down the nerves with some call-and-response cheers between sips of your “walkie” beer.

Worth noting: The area around Q2 Stadium does not fall into any of the six non-public consumption zones held within Austin.

Each brewery in Brewery Row will sell canned fermented beverages to go, including canned cider from Fairweather. But some breweries will make it more convenient to grab and go, like Circle and Hopsquad, who plan to have dedicated to-go tents and are also the sites where the official supporters’ groups of Austin FC, Austin Anthem and Los Verdes, will meet to march as one. Based on the spectacles of the first half-dozen games, we expect that walk to be a bit of a spectacle: loud, boisterous, fun Mardi Gras with more verde. Nonmembers are free to jump into the march from these north end breweries.



The east end breweries present a bit more of a challenge for directly accessing Q2. The most obvious route is down Denton Drive, directly west of 4th Tap and Fairweather and around the block from Oskar Blues. But segregation from the breweries and Q2 might not come until the McKalla Red Line stop is eventually built. Until then, one of the breweries reports, “You can walk down Denton and then cut through a field where it ends to get onto Braker, which leads straight to the stadium. Not a bad walk at all.” Nothing like following a mass of people into a random field, an undead tradition like no other. Another brewery notes, “I don’t believe they have created a ped zone to access [Q2] from Denton but I do believe that is in their mobility plan.”

The south end breweries have our favorite access to Q2 up McKalla Place, making pregaming at Celis and Adelbert’s very convenient for the casual fan. Each brewery mentions that they will have take-away beer for the half-mile walk.

Austin Beerworks presents the longest march to the match - “about 20 minutes,” they estimate. When asked about to-go beers: “We do sell single cans to go, but we’re not gonna tell anyone what they should do with them.” Sounds like a code, and when ABW speaks in code we know they’ll do something bombastic. We’re thinking of early batches of “walkie” Sputnik, but don’t quote us.

CONTINUED ON P.22

AUSTIN'S FINEST CHRONIC

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BREWERY ROW CONTINUED FROM P.21

Stadium North

The north end breweries appear to be the closest to the stadium based on this guy's quick beer math (looking at the stadium from the taprooms and seeing that big bastard). They're also conveniently located between the Kramer Station and Q2, which makes for maximum imbibing with minimum effort, a ratio we're always striving for. Both Circle and Hopsquad host the two largest supporters' groups for Austin FC - Austin Anthem and Los Verdes, respectively. So plan to get rowdy.

CIRCLE BREWING

circlebrewing.com

Circle has been dutifully awaiting June 19 for nearly three years since a deal was struck to house the city's new MLS team at an unlikely spot, McKalla Place, a corner kick away from where the brewery currently stands. Circle had all but packed up their shit, ready to abscond to the megalopolis of Elgin to reinvent itself as a farmhouse brewery, but this one weird trick kept them in place: the idea of being in the footpath of thousands upon thousands of consistent revelers waiting to get heavily buzzed up. And while the countryside brewery is still in planning, the current version of Circle remains a nifty little brewery pumping out starlets like Blur Texas Hefe, Fanny Pack Kolsch, and personal spark plug, Austin Anthem Ale, a blonde ale made in collaboration with, um, Austin Anthem that hits at the perfect 4.8% ABV.

Circle has remodeled the taproom into an L-shaped bar, which makes watching their indoor flatscreen way more convenient and open to viewership from the indoor picnic tables. The brewery has every intention of throwing a bash for each of ATXFC's match days, committing to a festival vibe pregame, post-game, and during the live games. Circle notes that they will have an "outdoor screen on opening day for sure," with a hope of having it for all home matches as well. Audio is a given. On June 19, Circle will feature up to four food trucks, including barbecue VIPs LeRoy & Lewis, as well as prematch bands and local Lonestar Soccer Club doing mini-clinics for the lil' Lavelles and Mbappés in attendance.

Austin Chronicle's Pregame Recommendation:
Austin Anthem American Blonde Ale (4.8% ABV)



Circle Brewing

JOHN ANDERSON

HOPSQUAD

hopsquad.com

Whoa! Hopsquad got hot over quarantine! Like, all their lagers smack and they went and got a supporters' group to call their own and made all this cool can art ... *and! and!*

The Romário to Circle's Bebeto, Hopsquad is a true contributor to the Austin beer scene, and to Brewery Row specifically. The brewery demonstrates a real focus on the beautiful game, projecting important English Premier and Champions League matches on weekend mornings and MLS contests after those, lending to a truly organic football vibe that eventually leads to Los Verdes happily losing their shit on match days as the brass and percussion band La Murga de Austin gooses the crowd into a wild cacophony of cheers and chants. And that's just pregame!

Like Circle, Hopsquad intends to throw a game day fiesta each week with strategically placed viewing screens (with sound) and their own collaborative beer with their supporters' group, Zapatista Mexican Lager. On match days, Hopsquad mentions that they will have extra food trucks and live music.

AC Pregame Rec: Architetto Ruffini Italian Pilsner (4.9%)

Stadium East

The district's east end drinkeries include a fabled industry giant, a relatively unseen non-beer treasure, and an underrated heavyweight challenger. Quite a motley crew of boozing hot spots, but also the way a proper Brewery Row should look: varietal.

4TH TAP

4thtap.coop

4th Tap's point is well made: Be the style outlier to Everybrewery Beer Co.'s mainstay lineup. They succeeded at it not only by successfully creating uncommon recipes but by making those little brewing oddities taste very, very good. But by the same rationale, 4th Tap risks becoming a second-choice destination for Brewery Rowers because of their unfamiliar beer styles. Integrating with Austin FC supporters on match day should bring the brewery a much-deserved fresh batch of risk-takers who can appreciate 4th Tap's imagination; after all, these are fans of the most creatively played game on the planet.

Like fellow northsiders, 4th Tap intends to fully celebrate opening game day with screens indoors and out, tents for that leering sun, and full sound to boot. The brewery notes that they "will be releasing a new beer each day starting Wednesday (6/16) of that week and [have] live music Friday & Saturday night after the game." The brewery's customary food truck, SXSE Food Co., will open early and stay open late to accommodate postgamers. How early and how late? On June 19, 4th Tap says they will be opening at 10am and be one of the few spots staying open past midnight. By gawd! That's MetroRail's music! Plan your Uber accordingly.

AC Pregame Rec: Sound Check Crispy Boy Light Ale (4.5%)



An Austin FC watch party at Hopsquad

JANA BIRCHUM

FAIRWEATHER CIDER CO.

fairweathercider.com

If you're feeling cheeky pregame, get on with some cider from the best apple-smashers in town, in this old bloke's opinion. Hidden away in a single-story warehouse endcap that utilizes only three dedicated parking spaces is Fairweather, a place that just isn't fuckin' around with that cloying-ass sweet cider, but instead throwing massive creative weight into tasty, dry baddies like Cydersport (with grapefruit and electrolytes!) and Day Drink English-style cider.

Fairweather intends to show Austin FC matches on their indoor projector with audio for revelers who choose to park it in their inexplicably airy taproom. There is a plan to "run specials on Cydersport," according to the cidery, as well as have "special frozen drink options." As a bonus, the cidery reports that they will "make a wide variety of sport-themed beverages such as 'POWERFADE' which is an ongoing series of sports-beverage-themed frozen cocktails." Fairweather also mentions goin' Verde with one of their slushies.

The cidery rooms with coffee roaster powerhouse Spokesman, which hosts a small counter in the taproom but doesn't plan to feature during late games "unless the demand is overwhelming." Boozing combined with sports and the possibility of a coffee nightcap? That's just the type of lineup we're into.

AC Pregame Rec: Cydersport x 6 (4.5%)

OSKAR BLUES

oskarblues.com

There was a time when we were living in a 750ml pastry stout economy, but thankfully those days are long gone and we can get back to enjoying a ploughman's Pilsner in a crushable aluminum can the way Oskar Blues intended at least two centuries ago or whatever. Here in 2021, Oskar Blues is ready to dazzle their patrons with old-skool core beers and big-screen action for the upcoming Austin FC home season. As a bonus, the brewery explains that they will be debuting a rotational Verde SMaSH IPA series, which of course in the beer world stands for "single malt and single hop," and in the soccer world is exactly how San Jose can expect to walk out of our town. On non-FC match days (read: U.S. national teams) Oskar Blues is home to the American Outlaws, a USA supporters' group, so there is a bit of soccer history already thriving there.

OB notes that Austin FC match days will feature live music, DJs, food trucks, and, of course, the live match in their 200-plus-seater taproom along with audio on their indoor big screen and two smaller screens. They also are confident in mentioning the size of their parking lot ("We have one of the largest parking lots in the area, no need to worry about finding parking") as well as boasting about their chilly HVAC. If you've ever spent more than 11 seconds in any brewery taproom, you'll understand. Wink.

AC Pregame Rec: Oskar's Lager Pale Lager (4.2%)

Stadium South

Brewery Row's south end presents a cool stadium hack: the low-key easiest entrance into Q2, right up McKalla and into the southwest gate behind the supporters' stands. To our very trained eyes, combined with extensive drinking-while-walking expertise, we estimate the stroll to be about a one-beer march to the entrance as you're tossing an empty into the recycling bin. Anyway, before that, you should look at extending your pregame by visiting these breweries.

CELIS celisbeers.com

Given the best beer makers on Earth are also masters of world-class football, a brewery steeped in Belgian culture is bound to respect the beautiful game and all of its enduring traditions. Celis steps up to the mark with its triumphant witbier, Celis White - nothing if not a beer bathed in accolades and deep-rooted tradition. But stepping away from its showpiece is Celis' slate of newer bangers like Dubbel Coffee Porter and Lime Berliner Weisse.

Celis plans to host an outdoor screen with game sound and will be "mostly closing [their] main parking lot for viewing." Local drumline Austin Drumline Collective will perform throughout. The brewery will post an additional outdoor mobile bar for easier boozing access (and verde beer) while Salty Cargo, one of Celis' food trucks, will be staging a "pre-match Luau with Caja China style pig roast." Backdraft will still be slanging pizzas, and altogether the Celis scene will be a "block party atmosphere." Oh, and the realest ATXFC fans will be taking part in Celis' "verde" beer special, which is Spanish for green beer.

AC Pregame Rec: Celis White (4.9%)

ADELBERT'S adelbertsbeer.com

Adelbert's is not only the brewery geographically closest to the grounds of Q2, but also the one that allows for the most leisurely walk up sleepy side street McKalla Place, the address where all this fuss began three years ago. Adelbert's has been a consistent presence in the Austin beer scene and has demonstrated staying power amongst perhaps flashier breweries. But Adelbert's is still making consistent and delicious beers, which is why you should consider all that they have to offer the pregame Austin FC scene, too: family-friendly, chill vibes, according to the brewery.

"We are moving away from large scale, loud, and lavish events," notes the brewery, "[and] focusing more on a relaxing [atmosphere]." Per Adelbert's the brewery will "be more focused on enjoying time with friends and family before and during the game." The brewery intends to play the game with audio in their taproom as per their typical setup of multiple wall-mounted TVs and

large projector screen. A new game-watching setup will see their large packing area converted into a theatre for additional viewing space, and tents with tables will be set up outside for those who prefer to just listen to the match like a 109-year-old Italian man. Like everyone else in the area, they intend to broadcast the match on a large-format screen outdoors, but whoever owns all the giant LCD screens in Austin probably is either fresh out of giant LCD screens or fucks while they count all their Austin FC match day cash like a skinny-mustache cartoon villain. Anyway, one of the cooler plans of Adelbert's is to broadcast each game in Spanish (when available) to give another language option to those coming to the area: "Not just for the June 19th game, but for all future games."

Adelbert's is setting up additional bars around the brewery and will feature a special on its Mexican lager iDale!, and is releasing a special taproom-only collaboration beer. The brewery says, "Ultimately, we are not looking to compete for the best party on the block. In fact quite the opposite, we plan to offer a relaxing and family friendly environment. Whether a local just looking for a nice Saturday out or an FC fan waiting for the stadium to open, we want people to have an option of enjoying a chill venue with a nice beer, mead, seltzer, or wine."

AC Pregame Rec: iDale! Mexican Lager (4.4%)

Stadium West

We'll call this the west side for the purposes of spherical symmetry, but also because its lone brewery, Austin Beerworks, often stands alone with its innovative grandeur. But that's not to say that we're unready for Rock Rose's first bro-style brewery. Imagine the innuendo with beer names!

AUSTIN BEERWORKS austinbeerworks.com

Sure, Austin Beerworks is the farthest brewery from your chair back, but they are determined to make it worth your time. Recently, the 10-year-old brewery paired with Austin Anthem and their beer label besties, Helm Workshop, to release 17 uniquely designed cans commemorating each of Austin FC's inaugural home matches. As the brewery put it, "Finally having a home team to support was super infectious and we went a little overboard." Oh, you don't say. Austin Beerworks *almost never* goes overboard on a passion project.

But ABW doesn't stop there with their blossoming admiration for footy: "We're working on converting the OG side [former 10-year-old taproom] into a match day party space," says the formerly screen-free beer palace. "We'll have several TVs on that side, indoors and outdoors, where we'll show all the games." They've dubbed the new section - what else? - the Verde Room.

AC Pregame Rec: Tropical Einhorn Tart Wheat Beer (3.5%)

Q2: HOME OF AUSTIN FC

You haven't stopped singing for hours and you're totally ready to make your way to your seat to lose your shit in a delirious chorus in what will likely be the most electric place to bin in all of the United States that day.

But first, a beer!

Q2 is not only home to your hometown FC, but to a north end beer hall that sits a few stories above the pitch and overlooks the stadium's exterior parks. All ticket holders can access this 20-tap bar, which is debuting with a slew of the usual AB-Inbev beverages, but also a smattering of local brewing heroes like Thirsty Planet, Pinhouse Brewing, Circle, and 4th Tap. Austin Eastciders is the official cider brand of Austin FC and is featured prominently throughout Q2.

For those slightly offended by the lack of local draft options (we were!), the news gets much better via the concourses, the concessions, and the premier areas. Q2 will be selling Austin-based firecrackers like Austin Beerworks' Pearl-Snap Pilsner, Zilker Brewing's Parks & Rec Pale Ale, and Adelbert's iDale! Mexican Lager, to name a few, in cans.

And if all of that can't get you excited about going to the match and helping our club bring home three points, well, maybe sailing is your sport.

POSTGAME

The only ever-lovin' Wienerschnitzel in town. Right. Over. There!

Don't sleep on those post-victory chili cheese dogs. Or your train home.



The taps in Q2 Stadium's beer hall

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

A FELLOWSHIP OF FANS

PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM

Supporters' groups are an essential part of the soccer experience, and Austinites have wasted no time forming their own distinct fandoms, including (but definitely not limited to) the OG Austin Anthem, bilingual Los Verdes, UT-proud Burnt Orange Brigade, the Fighting Leslies Drinking Club (who take the late Austin icon Leslie Cochran as their mascot), geographically united Oak Army New Braunfels, and supporters' band La Murga de Austin.

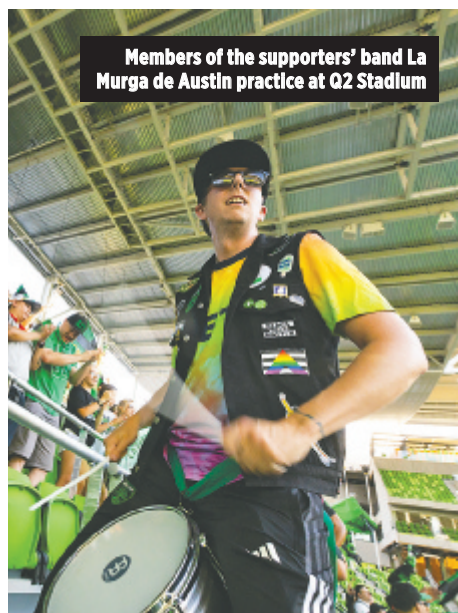
Find more photos of supporters' groups online at austinchronicle.com/photos, and email calendar@austinchronicle.com to let us know about your next supporters' group gathering.



(l-r) Amber Corral, Arianna Swazer, Victoria Oxner, baby Mia Corral, Jamila Shaw, and Rosa Munoz attend an Austin FC watch party at Hopsquad Brewing Co., organized by Los Verdes



Members of Los Verdes hold a chant practice at Q2 Stadium



Members of the supporters' band La Murga de Austin practice at Q2 Stadium

IT'S TIME TO DECIDE AUSTIN FC'S NICKNAME

BY ERIC GOODMAN



COLOR:

The Verde

If you've followed Austin FC for any length of time, you'd know by now that "gr**n" is a word you just don't say. ATX is Verde, so let's keep things simple.

Verde & Black

Or, we could keep things slightly less simple, adding a bit of the king's English to the mix. This is technically Austin FC's "official" nickname, as well as its main color scheme.

Los Verdinegros

If you think things just sound better in Spanish (and let's be honest, they usually do), this one's for you. It translates to "The Verde and Black," says El Capitán Obvio.

The Fighting Verde

You can thank the minister of culture for this Spanglish beauty.

CREST:

The Oaks

Fun fact: The big tree in Austin FC's crest is actually, according to the club, two intertwined oaks "working together as one" and representing "the bond between club and country." Oaks are generally pretty solid, and the Oaks is a pretty solid nickname.

El Tree

An homage to El Tri, the affectionate nickname of the Mexican national team. Yes, this is 100% a pun. Yes, it's a damn good one.

The Roots

Roots are good. They keep things grounded. Many people try to get back to them. Also, choosing this nickname might be the only way to convince the club's front office to sign Questlove for center back depth.

Los Árboles

Once again, things just sound better in Spanish. It's not a cognate, so I'm obligated to say it translates to "The Trees." But if you needed that help, you probably failed high school Spanish.

What's in a (nick)name? Superfluous marketing tool or unifying motif? Here in the States, brand-defining monikers, usually wild-life or occupation themed, are often baked into the official names of professional sports teams at birth.

That's not the case in the "world's game." Now, you might have noticed the titles of some of the globe's biggest soccer clubs - Real Madrid, Manchester United, Juventus, Guadalajara - and assumed that soccer just doesn't *do* nicknames. But any supporter of those clubs will tell you that Los Merengues, the Red Devils, the Old Lady, and Chivas are each fundamental to those teams' identities. The difference? Those epithets were not created in a boardroom, but in the stands.

When the league and Anthony Precourt's ownership group unveiled Austin's MLS club as simply Austin FC in 2019, they handed ATX fans a tailor-made opportunity to crowd-source and rally behind a nickname of their choosing. Since then, several candidates have emerged, but none has risen above the rest.

Let's change that.

Below are the eight Austin FC nicknames the *Chronicle* has heard most frequently, separated into two categories: Color and Crest. (Note: Three potential candidates were not considered due to their close association with Austin FC supporters' groups: Los Verdes, The Grackles [Los Zanates], and Oak Army.) This week, fans can vote at austinchronicle.com/austin-fc to select their favorite option from each category, or write in a different option all together. In next week's "Verde Report" column, the two category winners will match up in a final head-to-head vote, where the more popular name will be officially declared (by us) Austin FC's unofficial nickname.

Austin, time to have your say!

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CELIS

BREWERY



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INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS' KITCHENS

Learning to love Austin FC's roster through their native cuisines **BY ADAM WOOD**

Prayers have been answered. Chants have been written, rewritten, and belted out in preparation for their official debut. At long last, after years of half-hearted jeers and jealous sneers toward Dallas and Houston's shiny array of professional sports, Austin has a soccer team. The crown jewel in our city's already-crowded diadem, Austin FC is something truly our own, and soon we will stand side by side in *un mar de verde*, bellowing out "Bella Ciao" with 20,000-odd (and odd) fanatics ready to show our players and our city exactly what they mean to us.

With excitement for the Austin FC's inaugural home game approaching fever pitch, it's not too late to spark a romance with the club or get that edge up over your friends as to who really knows the most about the team - and one of the most efficient ways to get to know someone is through food. Both the profound cultural heritage passed through food and the physical practice of sharing a meal are powerfully human acts. To live is to eat. To eat is to live. Food is a conduit for a sort of intimacy that is rare in the modern world (even before the cloistering effects of the past year took hold). Though we can't offer that sort of direct line to the players, we can perhaps gain some insight into our new neighbors by exploring and celebrating the cuisines of their home countries.

COSTA RICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Defender **Julio Cascante** (Puerto Limón) and midfielder **Ulises Segura** (San José Province) hail from Costa Rica, roughly 2,300 miles from Austin. Though their country's cuisine shares features with several other Central and South American countries with the basic staples of rice, beans, and proteins, Costa Rica is lacking a coherent presence in Austin's restaurant scene. Thankfully, many traditional flavors are easily accessible from the kitchen. Their national dish *gallo pinto* is a concoction of rice and black beans made remarkable by the dearly beloved *salsa lizano*, a warm, tangy concoction that rings with Worcestershire-like umami. *Salsa lizano* can be ordered online and found presumably in any of the excellent hot sauce shops in town. The dish itself is ubiquitous and a point of pride, to the point of inciting a competition between Costa Rica and Nicaragua (which also claims *gallo pinto* as their innovation and birthright) for the largest serving of *gallo pinto* ever prepared. Costa Rica is the reigning champion, having whipped up thousands of pounds of the dish in 2009 to serve some 50,000 hungry mouths.

Cascante's birthplace of Puerto Limón invites us to delve into another type of cuisine, due to its role as the primary port city allowing access to trade



The Doughminican

JANA BIRCHUM

with the Caribbeans. This saw the identity of the Limón Province develop separately and independently from the rest of Costa Rica, and their food profoundly reflects those influences. Those Caribbean flavors can be found throughout Austin: **The Doughminican** (2505 Webberville Rd., thedoughminican.com) in East Austin is a food trailer offering scratch-made empanadas and other Dominican specialties on-site and as a catering service. North Austin's **Kreyòl Korner** (805 Stark St., fb.com/caribbeancuisineatx) is the first Haitian food truck in Texas, boasting a diverse menu and specialties in stewed chicken, *mayi moulin* (a salty-savory Haitian grits), and stuffed plantain cups. Just down the road you can find Puerto Rican flavors at **Chago's** (chagosatx.com, 7301 N. Lamar), including their award-winning *mofongos* (fried mashed green plantains), *pernil asado* (slow-cooked pork shoulder), and a refreshing aguacate melon salad. **Bikkle Jamaican** (3023 Guadalupe, eatbikkle.com) offers a tantalizing menu with traditional dishes like ackee and saltfish (Jamaica's national dish) and oxtail alongside curried combination plates and jerk chicken eggrolls. It also sits a block down from **Island Thyme** (2915 Guadalupe St., islandthymegrill.com), where bright pastels and a vibrant Lucas Aoki mural invite hungry students to try Island Signature bowls and wraps, their fast-casual take on Caribbean flavors. East Austin's **Mix'T Caribbean Blends** (1122 Airport Blvd., mixtbytatiana.com) serves island fusion tacos, sammies, and rasta pastas, infusing Southern comfort foods with Caribbean vigor. Weekly specials tend to dive more boldly into the traditional cuisine of chef Tatiana French-

Deejan's Haitian, Black, and Costa Rican heritage. Farther afield, **Winston's Kitchen** (6218 Brodie Ln., winstons-kitchen-restaurant.business.site) and **Iwayne's Caribbean Kitchen** in Manor (203 W. Parsons Rd., iwaynescaribbeankitchen.com) also offer Caribbean fare, while those up north benefit from the Jamaican treasure trove of **Kings & Queens**, **Island Fork**, and **Tony's Jamaican** all near downtown Pflugerville.

SOUTH AMERICA

Defender **Johan Romafía**, born and raised 2,062 miles away in Apatardó, Colombia, should be pleased by the quality and quantity of Colombian food in his new city. His home country's national dish of *bandeja paisa* (a medley of everything wonderful in the world: meat, beans, rice, egg, plantains, and avocado) is a specialty at **Casa Colombia** (2409 E. Seventh, casa-colombia.com), along with a *cazuelas de mariscos* seafood stew. Both pair perfectly with any of the tropical juices made on-site, with or without spirits added; if you're feeling spirited, we recommend the **Coco Loco** (served out of a freshly cracked coconut) and the mule made with *aguardiente* (literally "fire-water," an anise-tinged tropical liqueur). **Sabor Colombia** (1318 Round Rock Ave., saborcolombia512.com) serves similarly traditional dishes in Round Rock, alongside fast(er) food options and a drive-through to boot. Also embracing the fast-casual model is **Ninja Chicken** (6901 Ranch Rd. 620 N., ninjachickenfood.com), which just opened its doors to serve Colombian rotisserie chicken and pork belly in Steiner Ranch. **Mi Bambuco** (5808 Burleson



Plaza Colombia Coffee Bar

COURTESY OF PLAZA COLOMBIA

CONTINUED ON P. 28

AUSTIN FC'S FOREIGN-BORN CONTINGENT

Fully half of the players on Austin FC's 26-man roster were born overseas. Here's the rundown, in the order in which their cuisines come up in the story.

Julio Cascante
PUERTO LIMÓN, COSTA RICA

Ulises Segura
GUADALUPE, COSTA RICA

Jhohan Romaña
APATARDÓ, COLOMBIA

Daniel Pereira
CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Cecilio Domínguez
ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY

Rodney Redes
LA COLMENA, PARAGUAY

Tomás Pochettino
RAFAELA, ARGENTINA

Diego Fagundez
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Jon Gallagher
DUNDALK, IRELAND

Danny Hoesen
HEERLEN, NETHERLANDS

Alex Ring
HELSINKI, FINLAND

Žan Kolmanič
MURSKA SOBOTA, SLOVENIA

Kekuta Manneh
BAKAU, THE GAMBIA



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(Inside Kirchen United MIX)

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4620 E Cesar Chavez B1

3121 South Lamar

8023 Burnet Rd.

austindailypress.com

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INTERNATIONAL FOOD CONTINUED FROM P.26

Rd., mibambucrestaurant.com) has a drastically divergent approach, established and designed as a place of community and home away from home. Named after a niche 1920s genre of Colombian music whose accompanying waltzlike dance tells “the process of peasant romance expressed through movement,” the restaurant/sports bar highlights dishes from the Andean region in Tolima. Those include tamal tolimense, wrapped in plantain leaves, and lechona tolimense, a delectable dish of crispy stuffed pork. The delightfully mellow **Plaza Colombia Coffee Bar** (3842 S. Congress, plazacolombiancoffee.com) bursts with color and bustles with conversation no matter the time of day. Regular live music from bolero to bachata elevates an already exceptional experience, and mouth-watering *pataconzotes* (fried smashed green plantains) are just hearty enough to let you keep pounding your caffeine or cocktail of choice.

Neighboring Venezuela and its capital Caracas, birthplace of midfielder **Daniel Pereira**, has a similarly strong street presence in Austin, with a squadron of food trucks - **Budare's** (fb.com/budaresatx) in North Burnet, **Four Brothers ATX** (fourbrothersatx.com) in Barton Square Mall/Rainey Street/Lago Vista, **Pepitos 512** (pepitos512.com) on East Sixth, **Arepas Grill** (fb.com/arepasgrillaustin) on North Lamar, **Reina Pepiada** (fb.com/reinapepiadaatx) on South First, and **Aurora Venezuelan** (auroravenezuelanfood.com) in the Domain - offering convenient excellence (or excellent convenience) in the form of arepas, cachapas (a thick fried maize pancake usually struggling to contain the delicacies within), tequeños (doughy fried fingers of cheese), and fresh-squeezed tropical juices. **VSPOT ATX** in the South Austin Trailer Park and Eatery (1311 S. First, vspotatx.com) bolsters similar

choices with sweet *pastelitos* (puff pastries usually stuffed with guava and a creamy cheese), *pabellón criollo* (a pulled-beef bowl formally declared the national dish of Venezuela), and a pork belly/gouda arepa that plays a fundamental role in our plans for the summer ahead. **McBurger58**, a surreally located food truck in the parking lot of The Car Wash on Metric (12435 Metric Blvd., fb.com/mcburger58-118498462880126), serves Venezuelan street food with a splurge of excess. Their claim to fame is the eponymous McBurger, a powerful and potentially terrifying tower that supplements a healthy patty with chicken, pork, chorizo, bacon, and potato sticks. **Arepa Dealers ATX** (310 Colorado, arepadealers.com) also intrigues with their nontraditional spin on Venezuelan soul food, served via meal kits, catering service, and an exciting partnership with Cuatro Gato Cafe. Those further from Austin's central mass can check out high-end fusion at Pflugerville's **Fogonero** (800 W. Pecan St., fogonerorestaurant.com), Venezuelan BBQ joint **Madera & Grill** near the Oasis (6811 Ranch Rd. 620, maderandgrill.com), or the brand-new **Arepitas** restaurant in Round Rock (3200 Greenlawn Blvd., arepitasusa.com).

A trip toward the vortex of South America finds us in Paraguay, homeland of forwards **Cecilio Domínguez** (Asunción) and **Rodney Redes** (La Colmena). Their history and heritage flows through East Riverside's **Cafe Nena'i** (1700 Montopolis Dr., cafenena.com), a delightful cafe and restaurant founded in 2017 by UT graduate Gladys Benitez and her Paraguay-born mother Elena Sanguinetti. The cafe is christened with Elena's childhood nickname *nená'i*, an affectionate Guaraní term for “little girl.” In the dynamic duo's own words, “Nena'i is the soul of our cafe. It represents the dreams in every little girl's heart. The love of our world and the vast possibilities of anyone from anywhere and in any walks



Arepa Dealers ATX offers Venezuelan soul food

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

of life.” That message and motivation radiates throughout the restaurant and the food it serves, from *sopa paraguaya* (a deceptively named, protein-rich spongy cornbread) and *chipa* (baked buns of cheese) to *bollos* (fluffy donuts bursting with your preference of guava and dulce de leche) and alfajores (powder-soft dulce de leche confections bathed in coconut). The restaurant itself is cozy and unpretentiously cute. Exposed brick and antique chandeliers glow warmly in ample natural light, and the hand-drawn (by the mother/daughter powerhouse, no less!) decorations complement rather than overpower a beguilingly minimalist aesthetic.

Cafe Nena'i also derives some of its influences from set-piece specialist **Tomás Pochettino's** home country of Argentina, the second-highest per-capita beef consuming country in the world and a noble competitor to Texas' title as the barbecue capital of the world. Upscale-funky **Buenos Aires Cafe** (1201 E. Sixth, buenosairescafe.com/east-side) is a beautiful, vibrant destination for asado (beef grilled on open-fire parrillas), parrillada (a glorious mixed grill platter with five types of traditional meats), empanadas, and the legendary *lomito*, a steak sandwich and chimichurri vessel that reigns supreme in Argentina's street food scene. The *lomito* also bears a striking similarity to the national dish in all-action midfielder **Diego Fagúndez's** birthplace in Uruguay, where chivitos haphazardly heap ham, bacon, mozzarella, and a fried egg atop succulent slices of churrasco meat.

A meticulously curated selection of Malbecs live up to Argentina's reputation as elite winemakers and wine drinkers. If your evening's intentions revolve more heavily around spirits than sustenance (no judgment here), you can find a more relaxed and romantic vibe downstairs in **The Milonga Room**, a reservation-only art deco speak-

easy with spectacular signature cocktails and the finest collection of amaro (herbal liqueur with versatile flavor profiles and cultural uses) in the state. A second location in The Galleria dilutes Buenos Aires Cafe's traditional ethos into a casually upscale joint that promises the same divine food, if not the charming aesthetic and atmosphere, as its popular older sibling. Buenos Aires-born chef and baker Dan Barreto's South Austin-based catering service **Argentinian Taste** (argentiniantaste.com) offers savory creations, sweet temptations, and cooking lessons. Owned by a couple who fell in love with and over Argentina's Mendoza wine country, **El Gaucho Winery** (21301 Kathy Ln., elgauchowinerytx.hibuwebsites.com) delivers a serene slice of arid Argentina countryside to the Spicewood hills. With sublime wines vinified in the Uco Valley, El Gaucho is devoted to providing an intimate experience as authentically Argentinian as their grapes.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN EUROPE & AFRICA

A long haul through almost the entire vertical expanse of the Atlantic Ocean drops us to the coast of Dundalk, Ireland, from which winger **Jon Gallagher** hails. Selections for Irish cuisine have expanded dramatically recently; no longer is the locally owned, futbol-crazy **BD Riley's** in Mueller (1905 Aldrich St., bdrileys.com) the only authentic Irish pub in town. BD Riley's top-dog status is unlikely to change anytime soon, due to the fiercely territorial loyalty shared by fans of Liverpool FC, Notre Dame football, and the Patriots - supporters' groups of all three teams headquarter at this gregarious hotspot with outstanding Irish nachos and a sturdy Irish brunch, complete with bangers and rashers. Pro tip: Establish credibility and make



Venezuelan street food at Budare's food truck

JOHN ANDERSON



Cork & Barrel captures the craic of an Irish pub

PHOTO BY MELISSA VINSIK PHOTOGRAPHY

friends by ordering a Guinness at the bar as soon as you arrive. **Foxy's Proper Pub** (201 Brazos St., foxyproperpub.com) has stepped up admirably to fill the absence of BD Riley's former second location Downtown, loudly and proudly proclaiming their identity with a gigantic chandelier of Jameson bottles and a super-sized Guinness harp. The meticulously designed concept is free to breathe in the open-air, two-story space, allowing patrons to choose between intimate conversation in quaint lounges and blaring banter in more public spaces. Further north, **Cork & Barrel Craft**

Kitchen + Microbrewery (4000 E. Palm Valley Blvd., corkandbarrelpub.com) near Dell Diamond in Round Rock captures the craic of an Irish pub and refines it with a shot of Austin chic. Founded by Sam Darlington, a Belfast native turned Texan over the course of 30 years, Cork & Barrel gleams with professional excellence.

Choose between cozy private "snugs," a huge outdoor beer garden, or two live music stages to match your mood for the night, and delve into a wide-ranging menu boasting chorizo muskels, fish and chips, and Irish stew served "Texas style," in addition to signature cocktails and four house microbrews. Lakeway's **LT Corner Pub** (1310 Ranch Rd. 620 S., ltcornerpub.com) shakes away the frills with a fun and sociable approach to that trademark Irish atmosphere. Prepare yourself for sharp banter if you dare challenge any regulars in pool, darts, or shuffleboard.



Though Dutch delicacies are difficult to find in Austin, we can welcome striker **Danny Hoesen** with some scrumptious stroopwafel, courtesy of the Austin-based sweets superheroes at **Stroop Club** (stroopclub.com). Appalled by the absence of their homeland's timeless treat in their new city, owners Tako Vermeulen and Chantal Piét set up shop in 2015 with one mission in mind: to ensure no one would ever suffer from insufficient access to stroopwafel again. Their devotion to the treat would sound silly if stroopwafel weren't so damn addictive. Two brittle waferlike waffles are glued together by a generous layer of velvet-smooth stroop, their almost-chemical fusion into gooey glory catalyzed by the steam from your favorite hot drink. For those craving constant stroop, Stroop Club's subscription-based service offers a stroopwafel coffee and cocktail syrup (very recently made available at all Central Markets) that promises an instant infusion of Dutch warmth whenever desired.

Ovenbird (6501 S. Congress, ovenbirdatx.com) makes their own stroopwafel fresh and accessible in their attractive neighborhood cafe located way south on Congress. Their motto of "simple food, simply done" is accomplished with satisfying clarity by a menu of brunch fare and baked goods inspired by the cuisines of Baltic European countries. Dark chocolate babka French toast and homemade hand pies complement a menu of caffeinated classics and concoctions, including the intriguing Nova, an



Tastes of West Africa at Wasota Vegan Paradise

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

orange juice elixir supercharged with a shot of espresso. Though Ovenbird doesn't serve Finland's poronkärstys (sautéed reindeer) or Slovenian buckwheat dumplings - or any other fare from captain **Alex Ring** or left-back **Žan Kolmanič**'s respective homelands - they provide a good starting place for your own culinary explorations into Eastern European cuisine. **Borderless European Market** (2121 W. Parmer, bemaustin.com) will be a vital resource in that mission as a one-stop shop providing Austin's growing Eastern European community with traditional and specialty groceries, wine, and beer.

Gambian winger **Kekuta Manneh** is the final international player on Austin FC's inaugural roster. West Africa is distressingly underrepresented in Austin eaters' dining choices, a sharp contrast to a wide and wonderful lineup of Ethiopian restaurants. North Loop's **Wasota Vegan Paradise** (701 E. 53rd St., wasotaveganparadise.com) is working to rectify that imbalance with loving renditions of

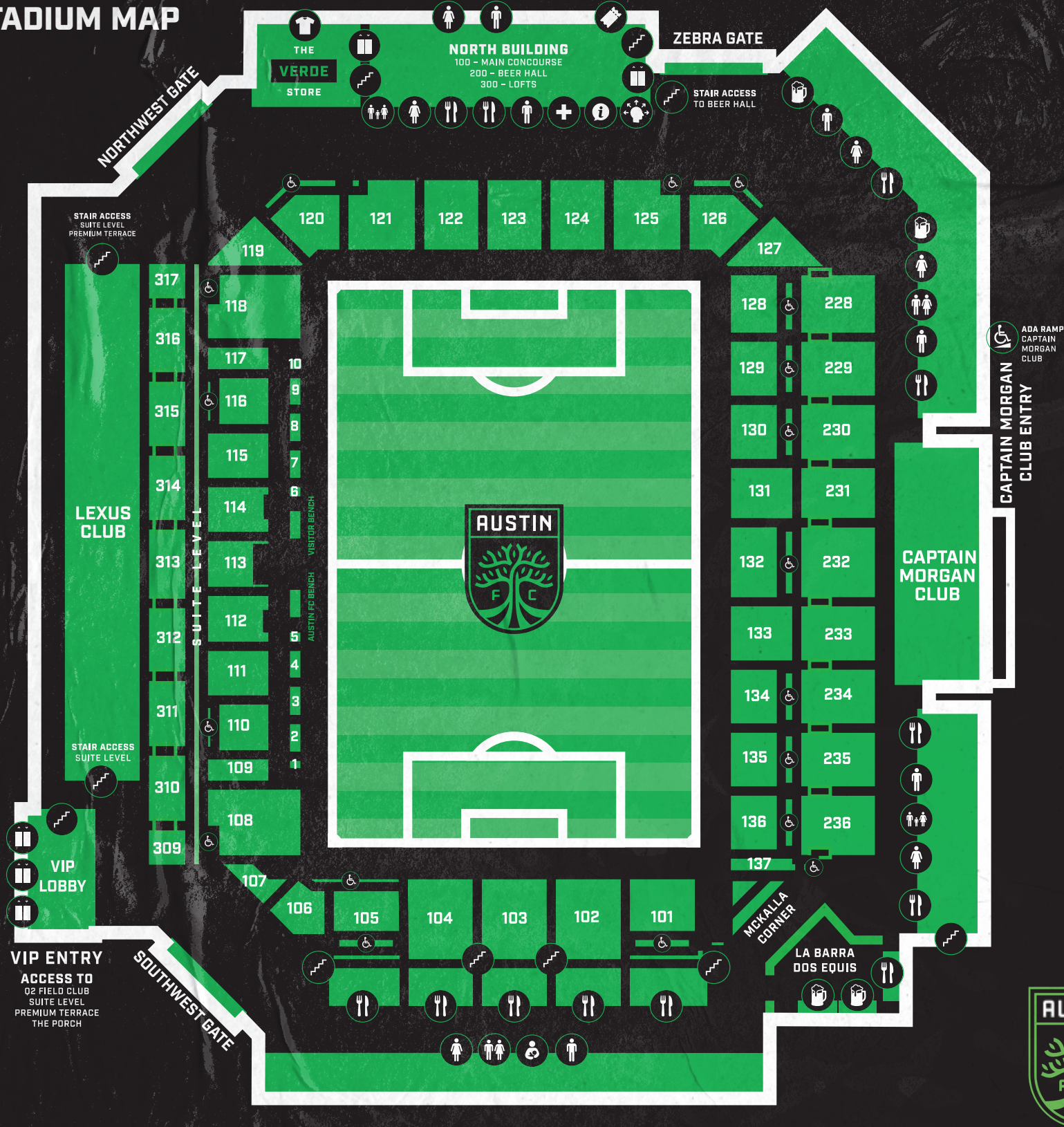
nourishing Nigerian dishes - try the Wasota Platter, a magnificent offering of jollof rice, stewed black-eyed peas, sautéed spinach, fried plantains, and black-eyed pea fritters. The aptly named **African Market/Nigerian Market** (10805 N. Lamar, african-market-nigerian-restaurant.business.site) and **Lady T Kitchen** in Pflugerville (15608 Spring Hill Ln., ladytkitchen.com) bring spicy meat dishes to life alongside pounded yams and traditional soups like ogbono, a robust and viscous dish made from ground African mango seeds and served with fufu. For *domoda*, the national dish of Manneh's motherland, one can stop (almost perplexingly) into **Austin Java's** sole remaining location (5404 Menchaca Rd., austinjava.com) for a cup of the spicy African peanut soup. Even better, check out the episode of "Kekuta in the Kitchen" from the winger's time with FC Cincinnati to whip up your own authentic batch of the profoundly satisfying groundnut stew. ■

AUSTIN FC INFORMATION GUIDE

MLS 2021 REGULAR SEASON



Q2 STADIUM MAP



2021 AUSTIN FC MLS REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

#	DAY	DATE	OPP.	TIME (CDT)		NET.	ENG. TV	ENG. RADIO	SPA. TV	SPA. RADIO
1	Saturday	Apr 17	LAFC	0-2 L	Away	FOX	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM	FOX Deportes	
2	Saturday	Apr 24	Colorado Rapids	3-1 W	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
3	Saturday	May 1	Minnesota United	1-0 W	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
4	Sunday	May 9	Sporting Kansas City	1-2 L	Away	FS1	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
5	Saturday	May 15	LA Galaxy	0-2 L	Away	Univision	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
6	Sunday	May 23	Nashville SC	0-1 L	Away	FS1	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM	FOX Deportes	TUDN Radio Austin
7	Sunday	May 30	Seattle Sounders	8:30pm	Away	FS1	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM	FOX Deportes	TUDN Radio Austin
8	Saturday	June 12	Sporting Kansas City	7:30pm	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
9	Saturday	Jun 19	San Jose Earthquakes	8:00pm	Home	UniMás	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás	TUDN Radio Austin
10	Wednesday	Jun 23	Minnesota United	7:00pm	Away	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
11	Sunday	Jun 27	Columbus Crew	7:00pm	Home	FS1	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
12	Saturday	Jul 3	Portland Timbers	8:00pm	Home	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
13	Wednesday	Jul 7	LAFC	8:00pm	Home	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
14	Thursday	Jul 22	Seattle Sounders	8:30pm	Home	ESPN	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
15	Wednesday	Jul 28	Vancouver Whitecaps	9:00pm	Away	KBVO	[MyNetwork]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
16	Saturday	Jul 31	Colorado Rapids	8:00pm	Home	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
17	Wednesday	Aug 4	Houston Dynamo FC	8:00pm	Home	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
18	Saturday	Aug 7	FC Dallas	7:30pm	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
19	Saturday	Aug 14	Real Salt Lake	9:00pm	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
20	Wednesday	Aug 18	Vancouver Whitecaps	8:00pm	Home	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
21	Saturday	Aug 21	Portland Timbers	8:00pm	Home	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
22	Sunday	Aug 29	FC Dallas	7:00pm	Home	FS1	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
23	Saturday	Sep 11	Houston Dynamo FC	7:30pm	Away	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
24	Wednesday	Sep 15	LAFC	8:00pm	Home	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
25	Saturday	Sep 18	San Jose Earthquakes	8:00pm	Home	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
26	Sunday	Sep 26	LA Galaxy	5:00pm	Home	ESPN	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
27	Wednesday	Sep 29	Colorado Rapids	8:00pm	Away	KBVO	[MyNetworkTV]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
28	Saturday	Oct 2	Real Salt Lake	2:30pm	Home	UniMás	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás	TUDN Radio Austin
29	Saturday	Oct 16	Minnesota United	8:00pm	Home	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
30	Wednesday	Oct 20	San Jose Earthquakes	9:30pm	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
31	Sunday	Oct 24	Houston Dynamo FC	3:00pm	Home	ESPN	[National]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
32	Saturday	Oct 30	FC Dallas	7:00pm	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin
33	Wednesday	Nov 3	Sporting Kansas City	8:00pm	Home	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM		TUDN Radio Austin
34	Sunday	Nov 7	Portland Timbers	5:00pm	Away	KNVA	[CW Austin]	ALT 97.5 FM	UniMás Austin	TUDN Radio Austin

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MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER 2021 SEASON STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	Pts	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	Home	Away
New England Revolution	17	8	5	1	2	11	7	4	4-0-0	1-1-2
Philadelphia Union	14	8	4	2	2	9	5	4	2-2-1	2-0-1
Orlando City SC	12	7	3	1	3	8	4	4	2-0-2	1-1-1
New York City FC	11	7	3	2	2	13	7	6	1-1-1	2-1-1
CF Montréal	11	8	3	3	2	10	9	1	1-1-1	2-2-1
Columbus Crew	11	7	3	2	2	7	6	1	2-0-1	1-2-1
Nashville SC	11	7	2	0	5	9	6	3	2-0-3	0-0-2
Atlanta United	10	7	2	1	4	9	7	2	2-0-1	0-1-3
New York Red Bulls	9	7	3	4	0	10	10	0	3-1-0	0-3-0
D.C. United	9	8	3	5	0	8	11	-3	2-2-0	1-3-0
Inter Miami	8	8	2	4	2	8	13	-5	0-3-1	2-1-1
Toronto FC	5	7	1	4	2	8	12	-4	1-0-1	0-4-1
Chicago Fire FC	4	7	1	5	1	4	11	-7	1-2-1	0-3-0
FC Cincinnati	4	6	1	4	1	6	15	-9	0-2-0	1-2-1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	Pts	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	Home	Away
Seattle Sounders FC	18	8	5	0	3	14	3	11	3-0-2	2-0-1
Sporting Kansas City	17	9	5	2	2	16	11	5	3-0-2	2-2-0
LA Galaxy	15	7	5	2	0	11	11	0	4-0-0	1-2-0
Colorado Rapids	13	7	4	2	1	12	8	4	3-1-0	1-1-1
Houston Dynamo FC	11	8	3	3	2	11	12	-1	3-0-1	0-3-1
San Jose Earthquakes	9	8	3	5	0	11	12	-1	2-3-0	1-2-0
Portland Timbers	9	7	3	4	0	9	11	-2	2-1-0	1-3-0
Real Salt Lake	9	6	2	1	3	9	7	2	1-1-2	1-0-1
Los Angeles Football Club	8	7	2	3	2	8	9	-1	2-1-1	0-2-1
Austin FC	8	8	2	4	2	6	9	-3	0-0-0	2-4-2
Vancouver Whitecaps FC	7	7	2	4	1	6	9	-3	2-1-0	0-3-1
Minnesota United	7	7	2	4	1	6	11	-5	2-2-0	0-2-1
FC Dallas	6	7	1	3	3	8	11	-3	1-0-3	0-3-0

Top two places qualify for Conference semifinals, and CONCACAF Champions League

Places 3-5 qualify for the Playoffs first round, and the 2022 Leagues Cup

Places 6-7 qualify for the playoffs first round



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SMB-JUN21-TX

2021 AUSTIN FC ROSTER

NUMERICAL

#	PLAYER	POS.	HT.	WT.	DOB	AGE	BIRTHPLACE
2	Manny Perez	M	6'0	161	2/19/99	22	Garner, North Carolina
3	Jhohan Romaña	D	6'1	224	9/13/98	22	Apartadó, Colombia
4	Aedan Stanley	D	5'11	172	12/19/99	21	Columbia, Illinois
5	Matt Besler	D	6'0	180	2/11/87	34	Overland Park, Kansas
6	Sebastian Berhalter	M	5'9	155	5/10/01	19	London, England
7	Tomás Pochettino	M	5'10	157	2/1/96	25	Rafaela, Argentina
8	Alex Ring	M	5'9	161	4/9/91	29	Helsinki, Finland
9	Danny Hoesen	F	6'1	150	1/15/91	30	Heerlen, Netherlands
10	Cecilio Domínguez	F	5'10	177	8/11/94	26	Asunción, Paraguay
11	Rodney Redes	F	5'8	159	2/22/00	21	La Colmena, Paraguay
12	Ulises Segura	M	6'0	187	6/23/93	27	Guadalupe, Costa Rica
13	Aaron Schoenfeld	F	6'4	190	4/17/90	30	Knoxville, Tennessee
14	Diego Fagundez	M	5'8	159	2/14/95	26	Leominster, Massachusetts
15	Daniel Pereira	M	5'9	150	7/14/00	20	Caracas, Venezuela
16	Hector Jimenez	D	5'9	138	11/3/88	32	Huntington Park, California
17	Jon Gallagher	F	5'9	155	2/23/96	25	Dundalk, Ireland
18	Julio Cascante	D	6'2	185	10/3/93	27	Puerto Limón, Costa Rica
19	Freddy Kleemann	D	6'4	195	3/19/99	22	Newbury Park, California
20	Jared Stroud	M	5'10	155	7/10/96	24	Chester, New Jersey
21	Žan Kolmanič	D	5'10	152	3/3/00	21	Murska Sobota, Slovenia
22	Ben Sweat	D	6'2	173	9/4/91	29	Palm Harbor, Florida
23	Kekuta Manneh	F	5'9	153	12/30/94	26	Bakau, Bakau
24	Nick Lima	D	5'8	173	11/17/94	26	Castro Valley, California
31	Andrew Tarbell	GK	6'3	195	10/7/93	27	Mandeville, Louisiana
34	William Pulisic	GK	5'11	170	4/16/98	23	Mechanicsville, Virginia
41	Brad Stuver	GK	6'3	183	4/16/91	29	Cleveland, Ohio

ALPHABETICAL

#	PLAYER	PRONUNCIATION	NATIONALITY	PREVIOUS CLUB
6	Sebastian Berhalter	BURR-hall-ter	United States	Columbus Crew SC
5	Matt Besler	BEEZ-ler	United States	Sporting Kansas City
18	Julio Cascante	kas-CAHN-tay	Costa Rica	Portland Timbers
10	Cecilio Domínguez	seh-see-lee-oh doh-meen-geh-z	Paraguay	Club Atlético Independiente
14	Diego Fagundez	dee-A-go fuh-GOON-des	United States	New England Revolution
17	Jon Gallagher	Gal-uh-her	Ireland	Atlanta United FC
9	Danny Hoesen	Ho-son	Netherlands	San Jose Earthquakes
16	Hector Jimenez	hee-MEH-nes	United States	Columbus Crew SC
19	Freddy Kleemann	Klee-mun	United States	University of Washington
21	Žan Kolmanič	Jhan CALL-ma-nitch	Slovenia	NK Maribor
24	Nick Lima	lee-mah	United States	San Jose Earthquakes
23	Kekuta Manneh	keh-KOO-tuh MAH-NAY	Gambia	New England Revolution
15	Daniel Pereira	Puh-Rare-Ah	Venezuela	Virginia Tech
2	Manny Perez	PEH-rehz	United States	North Carolina FC
7	Tomás Pochettino	Toh-MAS Pot-je-TEEN-oh	Argentina	Club Atlético Talleres
34	William Pulisic	POOL-uh-sick	United States	Duke University
11	Rodney Redes	Rrod-nee Rreh-dess	Paraguay	Club Guaraní
8	Alex Ring	Al-lex Ring	Finland	New York City FC
3	Jhohan Romaña	Row-ma-nhya	Colombia	Club Guaraní
13	Aaron Schoenfeld	sho-EHN-fehld	United States	Minnesota United FC
12	Ulises Segura	U-lee-sehs Se-GU-rha	Costa Rica	D.C. United
4	Aedan Stanley	Stan-lee	United States	Portland Timbers II
20	Jared Stroud	stro-wd	United States	New York Red Bulls
41	Brad Stuver	STEW-vur	United States	New York City FC
22	Ben Sweat	swett	United States	Inter Miami CF
31	Andrew Tarbell	TAR-bell	United States	Columbus Crew SC



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2

**MANNY
PEREZ**

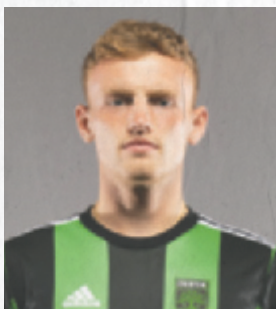
POSITION:.....Midfielder
 HEIGHT:.....6'0
 WEIGHT:.....161
 DOB:.....02/19/1999
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:..Garner, North Carolina
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....0/0
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....0/0
 PREVIOUS CLUB:..North Carolina, FC
 PRONUNCIATION:.....PEH-rehz



3

**JHOHAN
ROMAÑA**

POSITION:.....Defender
 HEIGHT:.....6'1
 WEIGHT:.....224
 DOB:.....09/13/1998
 NATIONALITY:.....Colombia
 BIRTHPLACE:..Apartadó, Colombia
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....6/6
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/6
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Club Guaraní
 PRONUNCIATION:.....Row-ma-nhya



4

**AEDAN
STANLEY**

POSITION:.....Defender
 HEIGHT:.....5'11
 WEIGHT:.....174
 DOB:.....12/13/1999
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:.....Columbia, Illinois
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....1/0
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....1/0
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Portland Timbers II
 PRONUNCIATION:.....Stan-lee



5

**MATT
BESLER**

POSITION:.....Defender
 HEIGHT:.....6'0
 WEIGHT:.....180
 DOB:.....02/11/1987
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:..Overland Park, Kansas
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....299/290
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....5/5
 PREVIOUS CLUB:..Sporting Kansas City
 PRONUNCIATION:.....BEEZ-ler

MANNY PEREZ was previously with Scottish Premiership side Glasgow Celtic F.C. and was sent on loan to the USL Championship's North Carolina FC for the 2019 and 2020 seasons, where he made a total of 37 appearances (25 starts), scoring one goal and contributing five assists.

The North Carolina State University and North Carolina FC Youth Academy product spent two collegiate seasons with the NC State Wolfpack (2017-18); he was named ACC Freshman of the Year in 2017 and earned All-ACC honors twice.

Internationally, Perez has played 12 matches with the U.S. Youth National Team at the U-18, U-20, and U-23 level, scoring three goals. He was part of the 2018 U-20 Concacaf Championship team, which secured qualification to the 2019 U-20 World Cup in Poland.

JHOHAN ROMAÑA joins Austin FC after making 19 appearances (19 starts) with Paraguay Primera División side Club Guaraní (2019-20). Romaña played 12 matches (11 starts) in the 2020 CONMEBOL Copa Libertadores, scoring one goal in group stage play during a 3-1 away win against Club Atlético Tigre from Argentina in October 2020. Prior to joining Guaraní, the Apartadó, Colombia, native spent the 2016-18 seasons with six-time Colombian Champions Independiente Medellín, making two appearances (two starts) across all competitions and helping Independiente Medellín win the 2016 Torneo Apertura.

AEDAN STANLEY joins Austin from the Portland Timbers II where he started all 16 games of the 2020 USL season and recorded three assists. A Duke University product, Stanley spent two seasons with the Blue Devils (2018-19) making 37 appearances (37 starts), before signing with Portland Timbers II of the USL Championship ahead of the 2020 season. In his professional career, Stanley has recorded a total of 34 USL Championship appearances (2016-20) and two Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup (2018) appearances.

He played for the Saint Louis FC Academy (2015-2016) and Saint Louis FC (2016-18). Internationally, Stanley has represented the U.S. at the youth level in a number of training camps and tournaments with the U.S. U-18 and U-20 Men's National Team.

MATT BESLER joins Austin FC after playing 12 consecutive seasons with Sporting Kansas City (2009-20), where he led the club to one MLS Cup championship (2013) and three Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup titles (2012, 2015, 2017). The five-time MLS All-Star (2011, 2013-16) was appointed Captain of Sporting KC in 2014 and made a record 348 appearances (337 starts) across all competitions, while leading the club in regular-season appearances (294) and starts (285), while making 18 appearances in the MLS postseason, 20 in USOC play, and 16 across CONCACAF Champions League and SuperLiga competitions.

The native of Overland Park, Kansas, earned MLS Best XI honors twice (2012-13), and was named MLS Defender of the Year and MLS Breakout Player of the Year in 2012 after being selected in the 1st Round (#8) of the 2009 MLS SuperDraft from Notre Dame, where he received All-American and Academic All-American honors as a senior.

Internationally, Besler has represented the U.S. Men's National Team 47 times (44 starts); he was part of the U.S. squad that won the 2013 and 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup titles, and started in all four U.S. matches at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, helping the U.S. advance to the Round of 16. He also represented the U.S. in the 2017 CONCACAF Confederations Cup and the 2016 CONMEBOL Copa América Centenario.



6 SEBASTIAN BERHALTER

POSITION:.....Defender
HEIGHT:.....5'9
WEIGHT:.....155
DOB:.....05/10/2001
NATIONALITY:.....United States
BIRTHPLACE:.....London, England
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....13/4
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....4/0
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Columbus Crew SC
PRONUNCIATION:.....BURR-hall-ter

SEBASTIAN BERHALTER, a former University of North Carolina midfielder, arrives from Columbus Crew SC, where he was signed as a Homegrown Player in 2020. With Crew SC, Berhalter made nine appearances (four starts) in 2020 as a member of the team that won MLS Cup. Berhalter made 103 appearances (97 starts) for Crew SC's Academy (2014-19), scoring 11 goals and helping the team to a third-place finish in the USSDA U-19 Tournament. At the collegiate level, Berhalter made 17 appearances (nine starts) in 2019 for the Tar Heels. Internationally, Berhalter has featured in three U.S. U-16 Men's National Team matches (one start).



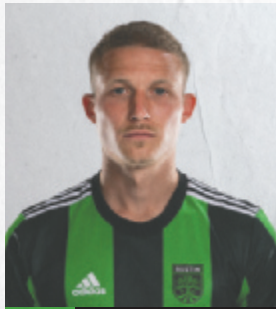
7 TOMÁS POCHETTINO

POSITION:.....Midfielder
HEIGHT:.....6'1
WEIGHT:.....224
DOB:.....09/13/1998
NATIONALITY:.....Argentina
BIRTHPLACE:.....Rafaela, Argentina
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....5/5
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....5/5
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Club Atlético Talleres
PRONUNCIATION:.....Toh-MAS Pot-je-TEEN-oh

TOMÁS POCHETTINO was born in Rafaela, Argentina, in 1996. His career began at Boca Juniors on the Boca Juniors U-20 team, transitioning to Boca Juniors II in 2014, and then joining the prestigious Boca Juniors first team for its Argentine Primera División winning season in 2015. Pochettino was loaned by Boca Juniors to fellow Argentina Primera División side, Defensa y Justicia, making 51 appearances in league and cup competitions, scoring four goals and providing five assists.

In 2018, Boca Juniors loaned Pochettino to Club Atlético Talleres, a deal that lasted until 2019 when he was formally transferred to the Córdoba-based Club. In his tenure with Talleres, Pochettino appeared in 62 matches, scoring seven goals and recording 10 assists, including one goal and two assists in the 2019 CONMEBOL Copa Libertadores and three goals and four assists in the 2020-21 Copa Diego Maradona.

*Designated Player



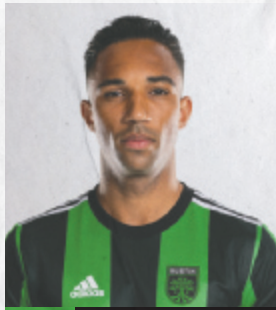
8 ALEX RING

POSITION:.....Midfielder
HEIGHT:.....5'9
WEIGHT:.....161
DOB:.....04/09/1991
NATIONALITY:.....Finland
BIRTHPLACE:.....Helsinki, Finland
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....118/117
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....5/5
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....New York City FC
PRONUNCIATION:.....AI-lex

ALEX RING has made 120 career appearances (119 starts) in over four seasons in Major League Soccer, scoring 10 goals and tallying 13 assists in regular season play. Ring has also made three starts in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, while leading NYCFC in regular season minutes played in 2020 and co-leading the same category in 2019. In 2018, Ring was selected as a starter for the 2018 MLS All-Star Game. Prior to joining MLS, Ring spent the 2014-17 seasons with German side 1. FC Kaiserslautern where he registered 83 appearances (73 starts). He spent the two seasons prior (2011-13) with five-time Bundesliga Champion Borussia Mönchengladbach, playing in 21 matches and scoring one goal across competitions, which included UEFA Champions and Europa League.

A native of Helsinki, Finland, Ring played for two seasons with Helsinki HJK (2010-11), contributing six goals across all competitions. He propelled HJK to the Club's most successful season in 2011, winning the Suomen Cup and the Finnish Veikkausliiga. In the international arena, Ring has represented Finland at the senior level in 43 matches (39 starts), scoring two goals while competing in the Baltic Cup, European and World Cup Qualifiers.

*Club Captain



9 DANNY HOESEN

POSITION:.....Forward
HEIGHT:.....6'1
WEIGHT:.....180
DOB:.....01/15/1991
NATIONALITY:.....Netherlands
BIRTHPLACE: Heerlen, Netherlands
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....109/69
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....5/5
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....San Jose Earthquakes
PRONUNCIATION:.....Ho-son

DANNY HOESEN joins Austin FC from the San Jose Earthquakes, where he spent the last three seasons, making 110 appearances (68 starts), while adding 26 goals and 12 assists across competitions. The Dutch-Moroccan player has extensive experience in Europe, beginning his career in the Dutch Second Division before joining English side Fulham FC in 2008 at the age of 17. While playing for Fulham's U-23's, he spent time on loan with HJK Helsinki of the Finnish first division in 2010, helping the club win the league title. The native of Heerlen, Netherlands spent the 2012-14 seasons with Ajax and Ajax II in his home country, where he made 44 appearances across all competitions with the senior team, scoring 13 goals and adding six assists. Hoesen won the 2012-13 league title and the 2013 Johan Cruyff Shield with Ajax, while also making UEFA Champions League appearances against powerhouses Real Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, FC Barcelona and AC Milan, scoring goals against Dortmund and Barcelona. Hoesen spent the 2014 season in Greece playing for First Division side PAOK, before joining Dutch side FC Groningen in the 2014-15 season, where made 73 appearances (43 starts) and logged 14 goals. Internationally, Hoesen made two appearances with the Netherlands team that participated in the U-21 UEFA Championship in 2013 in Israel.





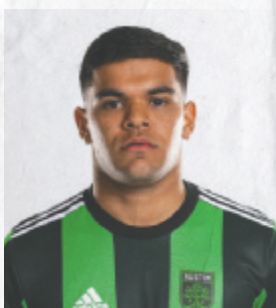
10 **CECILIO DOMÍNGUEZ**

POSITION:.....Forward
 HEIGHT:.....5'10
 WEIGHT:.....177
 DOB:.....08/11/1994
 NATIONALITY:.....Paraguay
 BIRTHPLACE:..Asunción, Paraguay
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....6/6
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/6
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Club Atlético Independiente
 PRONUNCIATION: Seh-see-lee-oh
 Doh-meen-gehz

*Designated Player

CECILIO DOMÍNGUEZ was announced as Austin FC's first Designated Player on August 24, 2020. Born in Asunción, Paraguay, Domínguez was a graduate of the Sol de América youth program. At age 17, he made his Paraguayan Primera División first team debut with Sol de América in 2012. In 2014, Domínguez transferred to Cerro Porteño where he scored 33 league and cup goals in 81 appearances after a short loan with Nacional where he played in the semifinal and final of the 2014 Copa Libertadores. With Cerro Porteño, Domínguez was the joint-top scorer in both the 2016 Copa Sudamericana and the Torneo Clausura 2016. Domínguez then transferred to Club América in Liga MX, where he accumulated 74 league and cup appearances and 21 goals, being crowned Liga MX Apertura Champion in 2018, and competing in four CONCACAF Champions League matches, scoring three goals. In 2019, Domínguez was signed by Argentina's Club Atlético Independiente, becoming the club's record signing. To date in his professional career, he has scored 73 goals and registered 288 Club appearances in league and cup competitions.

Domínguez's international career began with Paraguay's Under-17 team in 2010. He progressed to the Under-20 team, made his Paraguayan senior team debut in 2014, and has been capped at senior international level 17 times to date.



11 **RODNEY REDES**

POSITION:.....Forward
 HEIGHT:.....5'8
 WEIGHT:.....159
 DOB:.....02/22/2000
 NATIONALITY:.....Paraguay
 BIRTHPLACE:..La Colmena, Paraguay
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....6/2
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/2
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Club Guaraní
 PRONUNCIATION:..Rod-nee Rreh-dess

RODNEY REDES was Austin FC's first-ever signing, announced on July 6, 2020.

Redes was born in La Colmena, Paraguay on February 22nd, 2000. He joined Club Guaraní in 2018 after signing his first professional contract at the age of 18. In 2020, he played for Club Guaraní in 19 Primera División matches, scoring two goals, and he has played eight Copa Libertadores matches for Club Guaraní, scoring three goals.



12 **ULISES SEGURA**

POSITION:.....Midfielder
 HEIGHT:.....6'0
 WEIGHT:.....187
 DOB:.....06/23/1993
 NATIONALITY:.....Costa Rica
 BIRTHPLACE:Guadalupe, Costa Rica
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....66/40
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....0/0
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....D.C. United
 PRONUNCIATION:.....U-lee-sehs
 Se-GU-rha

ULISES SEGURA spent the last three seasons (2018-20) with D.C. United, making 70 appearances across all competitions and contributing five goals and five assists. Prior to joining D.C. United, Segura, 27, helped Costa Rican side Deportivo Saprissa win two consecutive Torneo de Invierno Championships (2015-16, 2016-17) and spent one season with Club Sport Uruguay de Coronado (2014-15).

The Guadalupe, Costa Rica, native rose through the Deportivo Saprissa youth system, making his professional debut with "Los Morados" in 2014 and winning one Torneo de Verano title (2013-14). At the international level, Segura has made 10 appearances for the Costa Rica National Team, including two Concacaf Nation Leagues appearances and one Concacaf Gold Cup cap. Additionally, he made four appearances (two starts) for the Costa Rica U-22 squad in the 2015 World Youth Festival in Toulon, France, and two appearances in the 2015 Concacaf Olympic Qualifying Tournament.



13 **AARON SCHOENFELD**

POSITION:.....Forward
 HEIGHT:.....6'4
 WEIGHT:.....190
 DOB:.....04/17/1990
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE: Knoxville, Tennessee
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....65/17
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....0/0
 PREVIOUS CLUB:..Minnesota United FC
 PRONUNCIATION:.. sho-EHN-fehld

AARON SCHOENFELD spent the 2020 season with Minnesota United FC (MLS), where he made 15 appearances (four starts) and scored one goal, helping Minnesota reach the Western Conference Final. Prior to joining Minnesota, Schoenfeld spent five seasons in the Israeli Premier League (2016-19), making 109 appearances (63 starts) across all competitions and tallying 23 goals. Schoenfeld's tenure also included 17 matches (12 starts), two goals and three assists in the UEFA Europa League. While in Israel, Schoenfeld won three trophies with Maccabi Tel Aviv F.C. in four seasons, including two Ligat ha'Al (2018-19, 2019-20) and one Israel Super Cup (2019-20).

Prior to moving to Israel, the native of Knoxville, Tenn., played for four seasons with Columbus Crew SC (2012-15), competing in 56 matches (17 starts) and tallying six goals and three assists. In 2014, Schoenfeld was loaned to Dayton Dutch Lions, where he scored 12 goals. Schoenfeld was drafted by Club de Foot Montréal in the 2012 MLS Supplemental Draft and acquired by Columbus in 2013.



14 **DIEGO FAGUNDEZ**

POSITION:.....Midfielder
HEIGHT:.....5'8
WEIGHT:.....159
DOB:.....02/14/1995
NATIONALITY:.....United States
BIRTHPLACE:.....Leominster, Massachusetts
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....267/190
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/4
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....New England Revolution
PRONUNCIATION:.....dee-A-go fuh-GOON-des

DIEGO FAGUNDEZ, who grew up in Leominster, MA, joins Austin FC after spending the entirety of his career with the New England Revolution (2011-20), where he played 265 league games (189 starts), tying a Revolution record for appearances while scoring 53 goals (second highest in Revolution history) and tallying 45 assists. He became the youngest player to reach 100 appearances in MLS history, and the youngest player to score 25 goals in the League. He has also registered 15 appearances (12 starts) in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

The experienced midfielder signed as a Homegrown Player with New England at the age of 15 in 2010 and debuted professionally in MLS as a 16-year-old the following year. Fagundez, who was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, made four appearances (two starts) with the U-20 Uruguay National Team during the 2015 Campeonato Sudamericano Sub-20, helping the country qualify for its 12th U-20 FIFA World Cup.



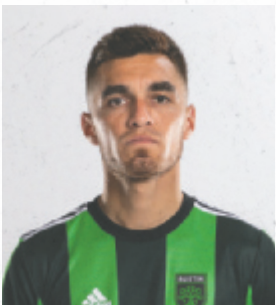
15 **DANIEL PEREIRA**

POSITION:.....Midfielder
HEIGHT:.....5'9
WEIGHT:.....150
DOB:.....07/14/2000
NATIONALITY:.....Venezuela
BIRTHPLACE:.....Caracas, Venezuela
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....6/4
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/4
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Virginia Tech
PRONUNCIATION:.....Puh-Rare-Ah

*Generation Adidas

DANIEL PEREIRA spent two seasons with Virginia Tech (2019-20), making 26 appearances (26 starts) for the Hokies, where he scored six goals and added six assists. The midfielder tallied five goals and five assists during his freshman season in 2019 (19 starts in 19 matches played), earning All-ACC Freshman honors in 2019. As a sophomore in 2020, Pereira started in all seven of the team's Fall matches, scoring one goal and contributing one assist.

Prior to joining Virginia Tech, the native of Caracas, Venezuela, played soccer for Northside High School in Roanoke, VA. He was named Timesland player of the year as a senior, scoring 44 goals and leading the team to the Class 3 state final. Pereira and his family emigrated to the United States when Pereira was a teenager.



16 **HECTOR JIMENEZ**

POSITION:.....Defender
HEIGHT:.....5'9
WEIGHT:.....138
DOB:.....11/03/1988
NATIONALITY:.....United States
BIRTHPLACE:.....Huntington Park, California
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....179/119
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....3/1
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Columbus Crew SC
PRONUNCIATION:.....hee-MEH-nes

HECTOR JIMENEZ became Austin FC's first-ever free agent signing in December, shortly after he was crowned 2020 MLS Cup Champion with the Columbus Crew. He joined Crew SC in 2014 and logged 95 starts in 141 matches in League play while recording six goals and 25 assists during seven seasons. Jimenez also made nine appearances (nine starts) with Crew SC in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup. Prior to joining Columbus, Jiménez spent the 2011-13 seasons with the LA Galaxy, where he earned his first two MLS Cup titles (2011, 2012) and the 2011 Supporters' Shield with 56 matches played (36 starts), four goals, and four assists across League play, USOC and Concacaf Champions League.

The Huntington Park, Calif., native played at the University of California Berkeley from 2006-2010, where he was three-time First Team All-Pac-10 and ranked second on Cal's all-time assist list. He was drafted by the Galaxy in the second round (34th overall) in the 2011 MLS SuperDraft.



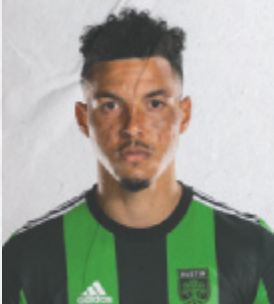
17 **JON GALLAGHER**

POSITION:.....Forward
HEIGHT:.....5'9
WEIGHT:.....155
DOB:.....02/23/1996
NATIONALITY:.....Ireland
BIRTHPLACE:.....Dundalk, Ireland
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....21/12
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....5/1
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Atlanta United FC
PRONUNCIATION:.....Gal-uh-her

JON GALLAGHER was part of the 2018 MLS Cup winning roster during his tenure in Atlanta from 2018-20, making 16 regular season appearances (11 starts) and scoring four goals. In 2019, Gallagher started eight matches and added one goal and one assist for Atlanta United 2 (USL) before being loaned to Scottish Premiership side Aberdeen FC, where he earned 31 caps and contributed one goal and three assists across all competitions in 2019-20. Gallagher played and started all six Europa League Qualifying matches for Aberdeen FC in 2019, where he produced three assists.

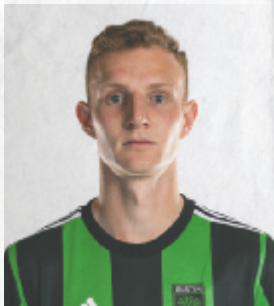
Atlanta United's No. 14 pick in the 2018 MLS SuperDraft, Gallagher played 29 matches for Atlanta United 2 (26 starts), leading the team in goals scored with six and adding five assists during the 2018 USL season. The Dundalk, Ireland native was drafted from Notre Dame after a decorated collegiate career, tallying 39 goals and 15 assists in 84 matches played, earning two All-ACC selections and a mention in the College Soccer News All-America Second Team and NSCAA All-South Region Second Team (2016).





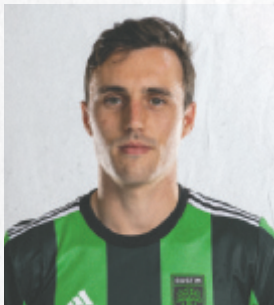
18 JULIO CASCANTE

POSITION:.....Defender
 HEIGHT:.....6'2
 WEIGHT:.....185
 DOB:.....10/02/1993
 NATIONALITY:.....Costa Rica
 BIRTHPLACE:..... Puerto Limón, Costa Rica
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....51/39
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....3/1
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Portland Timbers
 PRONUNCIATION:.....kas-CAHN-tay



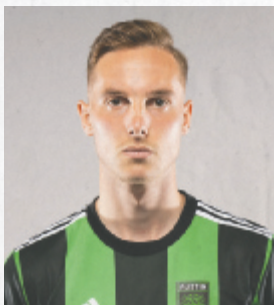
19 FREDDY KLEEMANN

POSITION:.....Defender
 HEIGHT:.....6'4
 WEIGHT:.....195
 DOB:.....03/19/1999
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:.....Newbury Park, California
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....0/0
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....0/0
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....University of Washington
 PRONUNCIATION:.....Klee-mun



20 JARED STROUD

POSITION:.....Midfielder
 HEIGHT:.....5'10
 WEIGHT:.....155
 DOB:.....07/10/1996
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:.....Chester, New Jersey
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....26/15
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/4
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....New York Red Bulls
 PRONUNCIATION:.....stro-wd



21 ŽAN KOLMANIČ

POSITION:.....Defender
 HEIGHT:.....5'10
 WEIGHT:.....152
 DOB:.....03/03/2000
 NATIONALITY:.....Slovenia
 BIRTHPLACE:.....Murska Sobota, Slovenia
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....6/4
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/4
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....NK Maribor
 PRONUNCIATION:.....Jhan
 CALL-ma-nitch

JULIO CASCANTE spent the last three seasons with the Portland Timbers (2018-20), scoring two goals and adding two assists in 51 matches (41 starts) across all competitions, and was crowned Champion of the MLS is Back Tournament in 2020. Before joining MLS, Cascante played for Costa Rican side Deportivo Saprissa during the 2017-18 seasons and made 59 appearances (49 starts), including five appearances (three starts) in the CONCACAF Champions League, while ranking among the team leaders in goals scored (9). Alongside Costa Rican and Austin FC teammate Ulises Segura, the central defender helped Saprissa capture its 33rd Primera Division title, after winning the 2016/17 Torneo de Invierno.

Earlier, Cascante spent 2013-16 with Costa Rican first-division Club C.F. Universidad de Costa Rica, making 42 appearances (37 starts). He made his professional debut in 2011 with Primera Division side Orión FC. At the international level, he has earned one cap for the Costa Rica National Team. Cascante was also teammates with Segura in the Costa Rica U-22 squad at the 2015 World Youth Festival where he made three appearances (three starts). He also made three appearances (three starts) with the Costa Rica U-23 team in the 2015 Concacaf Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

FREDDY KLEEMANN joins Austin FC after being the Club's second draft pick (and 11th overall) in the 2021 MLS SuperDraft presented by adidas.

A senior at the University of Washington, Kleemann, spent two seasons with the Huskies (2018-19). Kleemann made nine appearances in 2018 and 18 starts in 19 matches in 2019. Kleemann anchored Washington's defense in 2019 as the Huskies posted 12 shutouts during his junior year. The native of Newbury Park, Calif., scored one goal and added one assist during his collegiate tenure.

JARED STROUD was signed to an MLS contract with the New York Red Bulls in January of 2020 and went on to make 20 regular season appearances (11 starts) while contributing two assists. The Chester, New Jersey, native spent the 2019 season with the New York Red Bulls II, where he was named to the 2019 USL Championship All-League First Team after helping NYRB II make its fifth consecutive playoff berth with a team-leading 15 goals and nine assists in 34 matches.

In 2018, Stroud played in 32 matches (22 starts) with NYRB II, scoring seven goals and adding 11 assists to help Red Bulls II to make the playoffs. A Colgate men's soccer standout, Stroud was a three time All-Patriot League pick and two-time All-Region selection.

ŽAN KOLMANIČ joins ATXFC after spending the 2017-21 seasons with 15-time Slovenian PrvaLiga Champion NK Maribor, where he made 45 appearances (43 starts) and contributed six assists across all competitions, helping NK Maribor capture the 2018-19 PrvaLiga Championship. Kolmanič also made seven appearances (seven starts) in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 UEFA Youth League with the NK Maribor U-19 side. At the international level, the native of Murska Sobota, Slovenia, has made 39 combined appearances with the U-21, U-19, U-18, U-17 and U-16 Slovenian National Teams.



22 BEN SWEAT

POSITION:.....Defender
HEIGHT:.....6'2
WEIGHT:.....173
DOB:.....09/04/1992
NATIONALITY:.....United States
BIRTHPLACE:.....Palm Harbor, Florida
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....96/84
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....2/2
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Inter Miami CF
PRONUNCIATION:.....swett



23 KEKUTA MANNEH

POSITION:.....Forward
HEIGHT:.....5'9
WEIGHT:.....153
DOB:.....12/30/1994
NATIONALITY:.....Gambia
BIRTHPLACE:.....Bakau, Bakau
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....159/89
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....4/0
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....New England Revolution
PRONUNCIATION:.....keh-KOO-tuh MAH-NAY



24 NICK LIMA

POSITION:.....Defender
HEIGHT:.....5'8
WEIGHT:.....173
DOB:.....11/17/1995
NATIONALITY:.....United States
BIRTHPLACE:.....Castro Valley, California
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....106/99
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/5
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....San Jose Earthquakes
PRONUNCIATION:.....lee-mah



31 ANDREW TARBELL

POSITION:.....Goalkeeper
HEIGHT:.....6'3
WEIGHT:.....195
DOB:.....10/07/1993
NATIONALITY:.....United States
BIRTHPLACE:.....Mandeville, Louisiana
MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....48/46
AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....0/0
PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Columbus Crew SC
PRONUNCIATION:.....TAR-bell

BEN SWEAT played in 23 matches (20 starts) and added two assists during the 2020 season with the MLS expansion side. Before joining Miami as the first overall pick in the 2019 MLS Expansion Draft, Sweat spent three seasons anchoring New York City FC's backline (2017-19), featuring in 81 matches (71 starts) across all competitions and scoring one goal while tallying nine assists.

Prior to New York City FC, the Palm Harbor, Fla. native spent the 2015-16 seasons playing for the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the NASL, registering 34 caps (34 starts) across all competitions. In 2014, Sweat made seven starts for 3-USL Pro side and Columbus Crew SC affiliate Dayton Dutch Lions. He was drafted by Columbus in the 2014 MLS SuperDraft. Sweat has earned two U.S. Men's National Team caps.

KEKUTA MANNEH has played 163 combined regular and postseason MLS matches (91 starts) since 2013, scoring 31 goals and added 19 assists for the New England Revolution, FC Cincinnati, Columbus Crew SC, and Vancouver Whitecaps FC. With Vancouver, he won the 2015 Amway Canadian Championship. Between 2017-19, Manneh played six matches (one start) with FC St. Gallen (Switzerland) and C.F. Pachuca (Mexico). Prior to joining MLS, the native of Bakau, Gambia, spent time playing with USL PDL side Austin Aztex in 2012.

Internationally, Manneh was called up to the Gambian U-20 National Team in 2011 and 2014. After he was granted U.S. citizenship in 2017, Manneh was called into a U.S. Men's National Team camp.

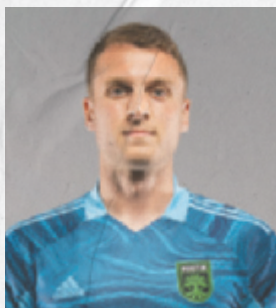
NICK LIMA featured in 105 appearances with the San Jose Earthquakes across all competitions, registering seven goals and seven assists between the 2017-20 seasons.

Internationally, the Castro Valley, Calif., native has earned nine caps (six starts) and contributed three assists with the U.S. Men's National Team, including appearances in CONCACAF Gold Cup and CONCACAF Nations League. A product of the Quakes Academy, Lima played four years of college soccer at the University of California, Berkeley.

ANDREW TARBELL arrives in Austin having played for five consecutive seasons in Major League Soccer (2016-19 with the San Jose Earthquakes and 2020 with Columbus Crew SC). Tarbell was recently crowned 2020 MLS Cup Champion with Columbus, after making seven regular season appearances (six starts), registering a 0.97 GAA, and making two post season starts in as many matches, earning two shutouts.

Prior to Tarbell's championship season with Crew SC, the 27-year-old played for the Earthquakes between 2016-19, making 41 starts in 42 matches and registering 128 saves in MLS regular-season action while also recording seven starts in U.S. Open Cup play. While on loan in 2017, Tarbell made four appearances (four starts) with USL side Reno 1868 FC. Drafted as a 2016 Generation adidas player, the Mandeville, Louisiana native was part of the U.S. Under-23 Men's National Team pool. At the collegiate level, Tarbell played for Clemson University from 2012-15, making 56 appearances (55 starts), helping the Tigers reach the final of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Tournament in 2015.

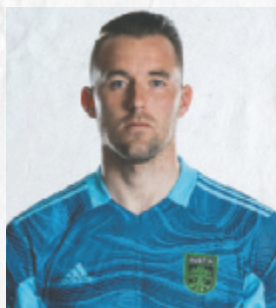




34

WILLIAM
PULISIC

POSITION:.....Goalkeeper
 HEIGHT:.....5'11
 WEIGHT:.....170
 DOB:.....04/16/1998
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:.....Mechanicsville,
 Virginia
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....0/0
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....0/0
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....Duke University
 PRONUNCIATION:.....POOL-uh-sick



41

BRAD
STUVER

POSITION:.....Goalkeeper
 HEIGHT:.....6'3
 WEIGHT:.....183
 DOB:.....04/16/1991
 NATIONALITY:.....United States
 BIRTHPLACE:.....Cleveland, Ohio
 MLS CAREER GP/GS:.....15/15
 AUSTIN FC GP/GS:.....6/6
 PREVIOUS CLUB:.....New York City FC
 PRONUNCIATION:.....STEW-vur

WILLIAM PULISIC made eight appearances and recorded four shutouts for Borussia Dortmund's U-19 team (2016-17), ending the season as U-19 Bundesliga Champion. Pulisic also logged three appearances and 450 minutes of play in the 2016-17 UEFA Youth League.

Another Duke University product, Pulisic played for four seasons with the Blue Devils (2017- 20) making 66 appearances, starting 65 games and logging 19 shutouts. Pulisic finished his collegiate career at Duke earning All-ACC selection honors twice. Pulisic was a teammate of Stanley during the 2018-2019 season.

Internationally, Pulisic has been called up for 28 caps with the U.S. Youth National Team and has made 24 appearances with the U-17 team and four appearances for the U-19 team. Pulisic was the starting goalkeeper for the United States in the 2015 U-17 World Cup in Chile.

BRAD STUVER joins Austin FC after spending the 2018-20 seasons with New York City FC, where he made 11 starts in 11 appearances across competitions. The 29-year-old made 18 appearances between 2014-17 with Columbus Crew SC, Dayton Dutch Lions and the Wilmington Hammerheads. The native of Twinsburg, OH, was originally selected No. 32 overall in the 2013 MLS SuperDraft by the Montreal Impact.

At the collegiate level, Stuver played in 67 games in four seasons at Cleveland State University, including 20 starts in 20 matches during his senior year, when he posted a 11-6-3 record with a 0.86 goals against average.

AUSTIN FC COACHING STAFF



CLAUDIO REYNA
SPORTING
DIRECTOR



JOSH WOLFF
HEAD COACH



DAVY ARNAUD
ASSISTANT
COACH



MANUEL JUNCO
CHIEF SCOUT



**NOLAN
SHELDON**
ASSISTANT
COACH



RODRIGO RIOS
ASSISTANT
COACH



**PRESTON
BURPO**
GOALKEEPER
COACH





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