



Reading United A.C.
3103 Paper Mill Rd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610
www.readingunitedac.com

Press Release

Contact: Sean Doyle, Director of Social Media
sean@readingunitedac.com
484-269-0319

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reading United score 3-1 win over Lehigh Valley United *Goals from Bennett, Pierrot and Molloy help Reading claim victory over in-state rivals*

READING, PA (May 13, 2017) – Perhaps it was the cool, rainy evening or maybe it was early season jitters, but Reading United shook off a slow start to take a 3-1 victory over in-state rivals Lehigh Valley United at Exeter High School's Don Thomas Stadium in the Premier Development League season opener. Reading got a first half goal from forward Khori Bennett and added two more in the second half from Frantzy Pierrot and Aaron Molloy to take home the three points and kick off their defense of the Mid-Atlantic Division title.

Off the back of a 1-0 victory over the Clarkstown Eagles in U.S. Open Cup play, Reading United entered the match full of confidence. The hosts controlled possession and pinged the ball around the pitch through the early minutes of play, but they weren't able to unlock a resolute Lehigh Valley defense led by veteran goalkeeper Logan Keys.

It was a mistake in possession that led to Reading's first goal. Frantzy Pierrot intercepted a pass as Lehigh Valley United tried to build from the back. The big Haitian international laid the ball off to midfielder Hugo Delhommelle who coolly slid the ball to the right to pick out Khori Bennett. Bennett, who netted Reading's first goal of 2016 season in a match against Lehigh Valley, repeated the feat as he rifled a shot past Key's for United's first goal in PDL play this term.

Reading continued to rack up chances, out shooting Lehigh Valley 6-0, but the teams went into halftime with Reading United clinging to a 1-0 advantage.

Coming out of the break, Lehigh Valley pegged Reading back in the 47th minute. Shaquille Stephenson put a cross into the box that found the feet of Chad Poarch, whose shot squirted past Reading goalkeeper Ben Beaurty to level the match.

The teams would stay deadlocked for nine minutes before Reading United would take the lead for good. Delhommelle broke through the Lehigh Valley defense and had Keys at his mercy, but the Frenchman squared the ball for Pierrot who coolly finished into a wide open net to push Reading to a 2-1 lead.

The highlight of the match came in the 69th minute when midfielder Aaron Molloy had time and space to unleash a long range blast from nearly 40 yards that beat Keys and dipped under the crossbar to push Reading's advantage to 3-1.

With confidence growing, Reading United continued to press on for more goals. Molloy tested Keys again from distance in the 70th minute, but this time the Lehigh Valley goalkeeper made a fingertip save to deny the Irish midfielder. Reading would outshoot Lehigh Valley 12-4 in the second half. United closed out the 3-1 victory over their nearest rivals with a combination of good possession and timely defensive intervention.

Reading United Assistant Coach Alan McCann, filling in for Head Coach Stephen Hogan who was away with Bethlehem Steel FC in Toronto, was pleased with his team's response after a sluggish first half, saying, "The first half we got a little sloppy, especially the last ten minutes. We spoke about it at halftime and in the second half they went out and did it. We added a few bodies in there that injected a bit of pace and creativity." He continued by praising the work of the Reading back line, saying, "Huge in defense, they were solid. Their transition, their cover of each other, just overall play in terms of us playing out of the back looked a lot more comfortable, so we're happy."

Next up, Reading United will continue their 2017 U.S. Open Cup run with a second round match against the visiting North American Soccer League champions, the New York Cosmos, at Albright College's Shirk Stadium on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00pm. All United home matches throughout the 2017 PDL season will be played at Exeter Township Senior High School. Tickets for the all regular season matches are available at www.readingunitedac.com. Contact our ticket sales team at sales@readingunitedac.com for all your group needs.

ABOUT READING UNITED AC

Reading United A.C. is the Greater Reading area's premier minor league soccer team. Led by the ownership group of Berks Professional Sports, Inc. the club was founded in 1995 as the Reading Rage. As the club entered its 15th season a name, logo, and color change was made to better feature the



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ties to the local and state community as well as the soccer goals of the team and its partners. Now in its twenty-second season, Reading United's commitment to professional player development has produced over fifty players currently on the rosters of professional clubs throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America. Reading United is the official Premier Development League affiliate of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union. For more information about Reading United AC, visit www.readingunitedac.com.



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