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Kevin Partida Feature (page 12)

MATCHDAY PREVIEW

RENO 1868 FC RETURNS TO WARM WEATHER, HOME CROWD AT GREATER NEVADA FIELD



RENO, Nev. – Reno 1868 FC returns to Greater Nevada Field on Saturday when the club hosts Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC in an important Western Conference showdown.

Kickoff for Saturday's match is slated for 6:45 p.m. with gates opening at 5:45 p.m.

Reno 1868 FC will be looking for its first win of the 2018 season and break an all-time series draw against Colorado this Saturday. Reno is coming off a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to Phoenix Rising FC on March 31 at Greater Nevada Field.

Reno 1868 FC players said that despite not having a win through its first three matches, they remain upbeat and focused.

"(The mindset) remains the same since the beginning, it's the fourth game," midfielder Seth Casiple said. "Guys are trying to get comfortable playing with each other, making sure we are doing the right things and fix the little mistakes. it's a long season and it's just another game."

Head coach lan Russell echoed Casiple's sentiments and said it's a huge plus for the reigning scoring champions to be back at Greater Nevada Field.

"Every team wants to play at home," Russell said. "Whether we're at home or on the road, I feel like we're in a position to win games.

"And obviously having that week off before our next match helps."

Switchbacks FC is 2-3 this season, sitting in ninth place and is coming off a 2-1 win over Rio Grande Valley FC. Jordan Burt, who was one of the highest-scoring defenders in 2017, leads the squad with two goals in 2018.

Reno and Switchbacks FC last played in the preseason with the Switchbacks taking a 1-0 win in Reno. The regular season series is tied at 1-1.

Prior to Saturday's match, Reno will hold its first ever "Halfway to Oktoberfest" upstairs at Greater Nevada Field. Fans who are 21 years or older can purchase a \$15, all-you-can-drink pass that is good from 4:45 p.m. until halftime of Saturday's match. Fans can purchase that pass (promo code: OKFEST) and tickets at Reno1868FC.com/tickets or by calling the ticket office at 775-334-7001.

STADIUM MAP



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RENO 1868 FC





RADO SPRINCS **MITCHBACKS**

ROSTER

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WESTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

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KEVIN PARTIDA: HOME AT LAST



RENO, Nev. - Life is unpredictable

Nobody knows this truth more than Reno midfielder Kevin Partida, who has experienced life's highs and lows over the past year.

Partida was signed by Reno 1868 FC in March shortly after being drafted by the San Jose Earthquakes in the third round of the 2017 MLS SuperDraft. A high point for the young, promising player who was able to return to his hometown where he made a name for himself at Sparks High School

I think since the beginning, it's been exciting knowing I'm about to be back in my hometown," Partida said. "It's been exciting to be able to play at the next level in front of friends and family."

Being drafted by the Earthquakes and coming back to his hometown, was certainly a high after a roller coaster of a year. Back in July of last year, Partida's older brother Jose passed away after a drowning accident in Lake Tahoe.

Jose was 27 years old.

While the loss of his brother deeply affected the then-senior standout, Partida took comfort in knowing his friends, family and coaches where there for emotional support.

"It's definitely been a roller coaster and there have been a ton of different emotions over the past year now," Partida said. "But I try to keep pushing through, with the support system of my family which is another big part of being back close to home.

To now be able to see my friends and family every single day, makes it a lot easier."

KEVIN PARTIDA: HOME AT LAST

Sparks and the Northern Nevada community has always been a part of Partida's life. Partida credited his coaches from an early age to Sparks High School to his Northern Nevada Soccer League family in helping him mold into the player he is today.

Partida is awaiting his debut with Reno 1868 FC, which could come at any point during the early half of the USL season. Until that point, Partida said he's happy to be close to home, with a strong support system and is eager to make the most of his opportunity whenever it is given.

I think you have to stay positive and understand that opportunity will come," Partida said. "I'm just excited to add another chapter to the journey."



#1 RUSSELL KLABOUGH (GK)



Klabough, 27, spent a majority of last season on Reno's practice squad, but started in a 6-1 win over Portland Timbers 2. He was Reno's starting goal-keeper in two U.S. Open Cup Matches. He posted a 67 percent save percentage, the second-highest on the team and was 1-0 during the regular season.

HEIGHT: 6'5" WEIGHT: 215 LBS DOB: 5/11/90

#3 CONNOR JOHNSON (D)



Defender Connor Johnson was the West Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2016 before joining the PDL's Golden State Force. Johnson Earned All-First Team West Coast Conference honors his senior year assisting in six shutouts in conference play.

HEIGHT: 6'0" WEIGHT: 180 LBS DOB: 12/20/94

#4 JORDAN MURRELL (D)



HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 185 LBS DOB: 5/2/93 Murrell, 24, a returning defender for Reno 1868 FC scored three goals in his 28 appearances. The Canadian player recorded 78 clearances, 16 blocks and 45 interceptions in the 2017 season.

#5 ZACH CARROLL (D)



HEIGHT: 6'4" WEIGHT: 185 LBS DOB: 3/16/94 Carrol, 23, the 6-foot-3 defender most recently played for Orlando City B where he recorded 86 clearances,11 blocks, and 40 interceptions this past season. He added two goals in his 20 starts. In 2016, Carrol earned Second Team All-USL honor with NY Red Bulls II, where he helped the club win the 2016 USL Cup.

#6 THOMAS JANJIGIAN



HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 190 LBS DOB: 11/10/94 Janjigian made his professional debut with Reno last season against Orange County SC. During the season, Janjigian was called up to play with Reno's Major League Soccer affiliate, the San Jose Earthquakes in their U.S. Open Cup victory over the San Francisco Deltas. Janjigian also played in the Earthquakes' friendly against Bundesliga club Fintracht Frankfurt.

#7 BOXI YOMBA (D)



HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 160 LBS DOB: 9/4/96 Yomba, 20, joined the Atlético Madrid youth program in 2014. In the same year, he made his international debut for Atlético in the EUFA (Union of European Football) Youth League against Olympiacos. Yomba and his former Spanish club would later advance to the quarterfinals of the tournament. Prior to his stints with Atlético, Yomba played for the United States U-17, U-18, and U-20 teams. Yomba was scouted while traveling with the U-18 Men's National team to the Copa del Atlantico in Spain.

#8 GUY ABEND(M)



HEIGHT: 6'0" WEIGHT: 163 LBS DOB: 11/8/90 Abend, a native of Israel, has spent the last three seasons playing central midfielder for Louisville City FC, where he helped claim the 2017 USL Cup. Abend was a regular starter during the club's championship season. He made 23 starts in his 27 appearances in the 2017 season, recording 30 clearances, 2 blocks and 39 interceptions.

#9 MARK ANTHONY GONZALEZ (F)



HEIGHT: 6'0" WEIGHT: 177 LBS DOB: 9/9/94 Gonzalez, 23, has played the past two season with Swope Park, where he scored 17 goals with 10 of those coming from outside of the box. In 2016, he was named Swope's Offensive Player of the Year, with 12 goals as a rookie. While his time at Swope, he was called up to the Canadian U-23 team for matches against Uzbekistan and Qatar.

#10 LINDO MFEKA (M)



HEIGHT: 5'5" WEIGHT: 155 LBS DOB: 3/30/94 AMfeka, 23, a returning midfielder for Reno 1868 FC helped score 75 goals this past season adding six goals through 2017. The South American native, added three assists while boasting an 86 percent pass success rate in his 22 starts. Mfeka helped Reno 1868 FC clinch a playoff spot and set a new USL record for most goals in a single season with his first career hat trick.

#12 DANNY MUSOVSKI (F)



HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 185 LBS DOB: 9/10/92 Musovski, 22, was selected by San Jose with the 30th overall pick out of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He was a four-year starter and two-time All-America selection for UNLV. During his senior season in 2017, he scored 15 goals and added six assists in 16 appearances, earning Third Team All-America and Western Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year honors.

#13 DARWIN ESPINAL (M)



HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 163 LBS

Espinal, 22, is a dynamic, pacey midfielder who most recently played for the South Florida Surf, a club in the Premier Development League (PDL). The Honduran international is not new to the USL scene as he played for the Tampa Bay Rowdies during the 2015-16 season scoring four goals. He scored two goals in 2017 for Reno.

#16 BRENT RICHARDS (D)

DOB: 1/16/95



HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 167 LBS DOB: 5/20/90 Richards, 27, a returning defender for Reno 1868 FC scored two goals with three assists in the 2017 season. He recorded 79 clearances, 13 blocks and 67 interceptions in his 26 game appearances.

TEAM TEAM

#17 SAM GLEADLE (M)



Gleadle most recently spent time with Albuquerque Sol FC after graduating from the University of New Mexico where he was teammates with 2017 USL Rookie of the Year, Chris Wehan. A four-year starter, Gleadle scored three goals and notched two assists in his senior year with the Lobos.

HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 155 LBS DOB: 3/20/96

#19 KEVIN PARTIDA (M)



A former star at Sparks High School, Partida helped lead the Railroaders to the state championship game in 2012, a year in which he earned All-Region honors. Following a fruitful career at Sparks High School, Partida took his talents to UNLV. Partida started all 19 games as a freshman for UNLV and notched a game-winning assist against Houston Baptist.

HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 165 LBS DOB: 3/10/95

#20 CHRISTIAN THIERJUNG



Thierjung, 22, was a four-year standout at Cal, scoring 27 goals before he was drafted by the San Jose Earthquakes in the third round of the MLS SuperDraft. In July, he joined the Tulsa Roughnecks where he scored four goals with eight chances created off of key passes. Thieriung posted a 79-percent pass success rate and recorded seven interceptions.

HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 165 LBS DOB: 1/5/95

#22 JERRY VAN EWIJK



HEIGHT: 5'8" **WEIGHT: 160 LBS** DOB: 3/12/92

van Ewijk, 25, a Dutch winger spent last season at Orange Country SC, where he scored eight goals. van Ewijk spent a majority of his adult career with top level Dutch clubs, playing with AGOVV, De Graafschap and Go Ahead Eagles. While playing for De Graafschap, he scored 24 goals from 2012-2015. HE also spent time with the Dutch U-17 and U-19 national teams, making a totally of 13 ap-

pearances for the orange and white.

#23 BRENTON GRIFFITHS (D)



Griffiths, 27, a returning defender for Reno 1868 FC scored two goals in his 22 start appearances. In his 2017 season, the Jamaican player, recorded 100 clearances, 12 blocks and 43 interceptions.

HEIGHT: 6'3" WEIGHT: 175 LBS DOB: 2/9/91

#20 MO THIAW (F)



versity of Louisville. He scored 61 goals over four collegiate seasons at the University of Louisville and Cincinnati State, adding 20 assists. Thiaw was a two-time All-America selection and the 2015 Junior College Player of the Year.

HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 178 LBS DOB: 1/24/95

21 20

TEAM

#29 ANTOINE HOPPENOT (F)



Hoppenot, 27, a returning midfielder/forward for Reno 1868 FC was named the team's 2017 co-MVP. He was a main component to Reno's offense that tailed a USL-record 75 goals in its inaugural season. Hopeenot scored 12 goals and notches six assists during 2017 to go along with 51 chances created.

HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 170 LBS DOB: 11/23/90

#30 CHRISTO MICHAELSON (M)



Michaelson most recently played for Portland Timbers' U-23 side in the PDL after a standout career at Gonzaga. The midfielder was an All-WCC Honorable Mention in 2016. Michaelson scored 10 goals and notched four assists in his four years with Gonzaga.

HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 165 LBS DOB: 10/6/95

#84 SETH CASIPLE (M)



Casiple, 24, a returning midfielder for Reno 1868 FC scored four goals with three assists in the 2017 season. In his 28 appearances he recorded an 83 percent pass success rate.

HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 165 LBS DOB: 8/23/93

#99 BRIAN BROWN (F)



Brown, 25, a returning forward for Reno 1868 FC scored three goals and notched five assists during his 23 appearances in the 2017 season.

HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 165 LBS DOB: 12/29/92

22

23



SCENARIOS FOR U.S. OPEN CUP



RENO, Nev. - Reno 1868 FC is set to play in the U.S. Open Cup for the second year in a row next month.

Reno will play the winner of the Portland Timbers U-23 v. Kitsap Soccer Club (May 8, 7 p.m.) match on May 16 with the possibility of playing at Greater Nevada Field at 7.30 p.m.

Portland must beat Kitsap Soccer Club in order for that home match to happen. If not, Reno will travel to travel to Bremerton. Wash

"The opportunity to play in the U.S. Open Cup is always an honor in American soccer, especially with the chance of having homefield advantage," Reno GM Andy Smith said. "The possibility of adding an extra match for our fans is always an exciting prospect."

Reno 1868 FC made it to the third round of the Open Cup last season falling 2:0 to rival Sacramento Republic FC. Renos next match is set for April 14 against Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets for that match can be purchased at Reno 1868 FC.com/tickets or by reaching the main ticket office at 775-334-7001.



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TECHNICAL STAFF



IAN RUSSELL HEAD COACH

Russell played for the University of Washington and later started his professional career with the Seattle Sounders of the USL First Division in 1998 and 1999. Russell was drafted by the San Jose Earthquakes in 2000 and continued to play seven seasons in MLS. Six of those seasons came with the Earthquakes, where Russell helped the team win two MLS Cups in 2001 and 2003. In 2008, Russell returned to the Earthquakes as an assistant coach, a position he held for eight seasons. He helped lead the club to the postseason twice, while earning the Supporters' Shield for best regular season record (19-6-9) in 2012. Russell was also instrumental in the Quakes' international and collegiate scouting efforts, and briefly helped oversee the club's youth development as the academy's technical director. He served as the Earthquakes interim head coach for the final two games of the 2014 season and holds a U.S. Soccer Federation "A" coaching license.



CHRIS MALENAB ASSISTANT COACH

Malenab joins Reno 1868 FC after spending the past four years as an assistant coach and video analyst at Sacramento Republic FC. During the 2014 inaugural season of the Sacramento Republic FC, Malenab served as a assistant coach to Predrag Radosavljević (Preki) during the club's championship campaign. From 2015 to 2017 Malenab served as video analyst for the Sacramento Republic FC under head coach Paul Buckle. Malenab started his coaching career coaching and serving as technical director at various youth clubs in the greater Sacramento area while coaching high school soccer. Along with his youth coaching experience, Malenab has served as an assis tant coach at the college level, at Cosumnes River College (NJCAA), California State University Stanislaus (NCAA D-II) and San Joaquin Delta College (NJCAA).

TECHNICAL STAFF



CASEY TATE ASSISTANT COACH

Tate joined the Reno 1868 FC staff in 2017 and served as an Assistant Coach under Head Coach Ian Russell for the inaugural season. He came to Reno 1868 from the University of Nevada where he spent 8 seasons as the Assistant Coach for the Wolf Pack Soccer program, being promoted to Head Coach Interim for the 2016 season. Tate helped lead the Pack to two postseason appearances and in 2016 posted the program's highest win total since its inaugural season in the Mountain West Conference. He has also been involved in the Reno/Tahoe youth soccer community for the past eight years and was the Director for several elite local clubs.



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attended chiropractic college at Life Chiropractic College West in Hayward, California. After graduation from LCCW in March of 2004, she moved to Reno, NV

She is the Official Chiropractor for the Reno Aces since 2009 and Reno 1868 FC







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