

Red Bull New York Clips: June 12-13, 2008

1. This week in MLS (Frank Giase – Star-Ledger)
<http://www.nj.com/redbulls/ledger/index.ssf?/base/sports-0/1213245360321760.xml&coll=1>
2. Red Bulls' US Open Cup date set (Brian Lewis – New York Post Blog)
http://blogs.nypost.com/sports/soccer/archives/2008/06/red_bulls_us_op.html#more
3. Red Bulls set to ink Rojas, expect Argentinean signings (Brian Lewis – New York Post Blog)
http://blogs.nypost.com/sports/soccer/archives/2008/06/red_bulls_set_t.html#more
4. Red Bulls' Reyna and Angel out for D.C. and likely New England, too (Brian Lewis – New York Post Blog)
http://blogs.nypost.com/sports/soccer/archives/2008/06/red_bulls_reyna_1.html#more
5. Jozy Altidore: It's a done deal (New York Times Blog)
<http://goal.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/12/jozy-altidore-its-a-done-deal/>
6. Jozy official unveiled (Brian Lewis – New York Post Blog)
http://blogs.nypost.com/sports/soccer/archives/2008/06/jozy_officially.html
7. Who is on your MLS All-Star Ballot? (Ives Galarcep – Soccer By Ives Blog)
http://www.soccerbyives.net/soccer_by_ives/2008/06/who-is-on-your.html
8. Here we go again (Michael Lewis – Big Apple Soccer)
http://bigapplesoccer.com/teams/redbulls2.php?article_id=14426
9. They don't blame him (Big Apple Soccer)
http://bigapplesoccer.com/teams/redbulls2.php?article_id=14427
10. Red Bulls hurting (Stefan Bondy – Herald News)
http://myheraldnews.com/view.html?type=stories&action=detail&sub_id=36853

1. This week in MLS: A Revolutionary figure in goal

By: Frank Giase
Star-Ledger
June 12, 2008

The New England Revolution have been one of the dominant teams in Major League Soccer for the better part of the decade thanks to a core group of players, and perhaps no one has been more important than goalkeeper Matt Reis.

And his arrival came in what has turned out to be one of the most lopsided trades in league history.

The Revs acquired Reis from the Galaxy on Jan. 17, 2003, in exchange for forward Alex Pineda Chacon and a 2004 conditional draft pick. Pineda Chacon had 19 goals and nine assists for the

Miami Fusion in 2001, but when the team disbanded, the Revs picked him up in the dispersal draft.

Pineda Chacon wound up a one-year wonder. He had just two goals and two assists in 20 games in 2002 and he never scored again. He split the 2003 season between the Galaxy and Crew, and by year's end he was out of the league.

Reis, meanwhile, developed into an all-star. He had won an NCAA title in his senior year at UCLA in 1997 but was a backup to Kevin Hartman for five years in L.A. With New England, Reis became the starter in 2004 and has been the backbone of a team that has reached the past three MLS Cups.

Since September 2005, Reis has played 7,990 consecutive minutes in the regular season and playoffs. That's 90 straight games. And in the past two games, he has made 20 saves and looks as good as ever.

CHA-CHING

Anyone who watched the past three U.S. national team games and came to the conclusion that Eddie Johnson is not the answer up front, take heart. Help is on the way.

The two-time defending champion Houston Dynamo have turned their season around. After starting the year at the bottom of the Western Conference, the Dynamo are 4-1-1 in the past six games and forward Brian Ching is back in form.

Ching had two goals and an assist in Sunday's 3-1 victory over Toronto FC, which earned him Player of the Week honors. It also earned him a recall to the U.S. national team for Sunday's World Cup qualifier against Barbados.

TONIGHT

REVOLUTION AT DYNAMO

ESPN2 at 9

How convenient that the subjects of our first two items would, under normal circumstances, come together tonight, although the Dynamo will have to do without Ching when they play host to Reis' Revolution.

Despite beating the Revs in the past two MLS Cups, the Dynamo have never beaten them in the regular season (0-2-3). That includes a 3-0 Revs win in the season opener this year in Foxborough, Mass.

Here's another stat clash. The Dynamo, tied with the Galaxy atop the Western Conference, are just 4-3-5 this season, but 3-0-2 at home. The Revs, who lead the Eastern Conference with the league's best record (7-3-2) are 4-1-1 on the road.

THE RANKINGS

1. Revolution: Coach Steve Nicol leads the points race to coach against West Ham in the MLS All-Star Game.
2. Dynamo: Have outscored opposition 11-7 during 4-1-1 stretch to even their goal differential at 16-16.
3. Fire: Losing to D.C. United is bad enough, but no excuse when D.C. is playing with nine men to Fire's 10.
4. Toronto FC: Jeff Cunningham has scored in two straight games to raise his career total to 99 goals.
5. Rapids: Played Galaxy game in Chivas' shorts after equipment bag was lost on flight to Los Angeles.
6. Galaxy: No Landon Donovan the past few games? No problem. Edson Buddle has five goals in 11 games.
7. Red Bulls: Averaging 1.1 goals per game. Could get healthy at D.C. United, who have allowed a league-high 23.
8. FC Dallas: Host Fire on Sunday, a team they have never lost to at Pizza Hut Park.
9. Chivas USA: Are 7-2-3 all time vs. Real Salt Lake and have won the past four meetings by a combined score of 11-3.
10. Crew: Have been shut out in four straight games and have not scored in 367 minutes.
11. Wizards: Beat the Rapids on penalty kicks in a U.S. Open Cup play-in game last week.
12. Real Salt Lake: Took 19 shots – 12 in the first half – in a scoreless tie with the Wizards but couldn't beat Kevin Hartman.
13. D.C. United: Forward Jaime Moreno has scored 22 of his league-high 117 career goals against the MetroStars/Red Bulls.
14. Earthquakes: Scored a goal in the opening 30 minutes of a game for the first time this season in Saturday's 2-0 win over Crew.

2. Red Bulls US Open Cup date set

By: Brian Lewis
New York Post
June 12, 2008

As if the injury-riddled Red Bulls didn't have enough of a fixture backlog, with seven games in a 27-day span, they just got an eighth _ a third-round U.S. Open Cup tilt on July 1 at either the Harrisburg City Islanders New York Islanders or Crystal Palace Baltimore, both USL2.

If Harrisburg City winds it's second-round game, the Red Bulls will play the Islanders at Hempfield High School in Landisville, PA at 7:05 p.m. If Crystal Palace wins, they'll trek to UMBC in Cantonsville, Md. at 7:35 p.m.

Including the odd friendly against Chivas Guadalajara in Phoenix June 25 _ that has the Austrian mother ship's fingerprints all over it, pimping the energy drink product _ the Red Bulls now play seven of their next eight games on the road between now and July 10, the first five in a 16-day span.

That's tough sledding for a club that will be missing Designated Players Claudio Reyna and Juan Pablo Angel for the next two games.

3. Red Bulls set to ink Rojas, expect Argentinean signings

By: Brian Lewis
Brian Lewis
June 12, 2008

Juan Carlos Osorio said he expects to have three new players once the summer transfer window opens next month.

The Red Bull coach's scouting trip to Argentina was a fairly fruitful one, saying two or three players he'd been targeting in case of Jozy Altidore's departure are interested in coming to MLS. He also said he's expecting an answer on his contract offer to Mexican fullback Diego Jimenez tomorrow and hopeful of a signature from Venezuelan midfielder Jorge Rojas.

"I think we're close," Osorio said with a smile. "I found a few targets and we're talking to some of them and hopefully they'll come through. I think we'll have three new players in July.

Osorio said Rojas can play central attacking midfield; but if he gets the attacking midfielder he's targeted, El Zurdo would play on the left. After watching him play in Venezuela's 2-0 win over Brazil, I'm sure he could play in either spot. Here's a highlight of his earlier work, with a highlight at 3:15....

Osorio said the priorities have stayed the same: A left-footed central defender, an attacking midfielder and now a forward, since Altidore has left for Villarreal.

"Central defender, central midfielder and a striker _ because I think we have now the left-sided midfielder. I hope," said Osorio, referring to Rojas. He clarified that he hoped to get El Zurdo signed soon and then add at least two other players, and perhaps even a third, depending on other factors.

"It all depends on how the Josmer thing develops, and other things you will be aware of later on. If all that comes through I think we will strengthen the team and we will have a very competitive team...very."

Osorio said he has targets in Argentina and Central America, adding that players in the former have gotten far more expensive of late as the economy in that country has gotten stronger.

When he went on a scouting trip for Manchester City in 2004, mid-table clubs _ not powerhouses like Boca Juniors or River Plate _ had players making \$4-5,000/month; this past trip he found those salaries had tripled to \$10-15,000.

With a family able to live comfortably on \$1,500/month, young players feeling they'd be risking their careers in MLS, and Argentina flooded with scouts from across the world, it has made that market less of a bargain than it once was.

"We still managed to get one or two that are very interested in coming here. Hopefully we can make them a decent offer," Osorio said. "We're moving as quick as we can. I don't want to have to wait until July to try and sign them. We want to have them ready to go as soon as possible. Visas take time."

One target he'd had months ago was Venezuelan Gabriel Cichero, but he'd found the defender _ who was actually in Red Bulls preseason camp last year _ would be too pricey and Italia FC has higher bids from Colombian and Brazilian teams.

4. Red Bulls' Reyna and Angel out for D.C. and likely New England, too

By: Brian Lewis

New York Post Blog

June 12, 2008

The news goes from bad just plain terrible from the Red Cross _ er, I mean Red Bull injury department. Captain Claudio Reyna was already out for this week's game at D.C. United; now star striker Juan Pablo is out as well.

And to make matters worse, it appears both Designated Players are going to miss not only the game at archrival United with herniated discs, but the midweek tilt against Eastern Conference foe New England as well. If they're lucky, maybe they get Angel for the Dallas game.

"Following medical department advice, we're not counting on Juan for this weekend," said coach Juan Carlos Osorio. "If things go well he'll resume training next week with a view to making him available for the game against Dallas. That is what is most likely to happen."

Ouch.

In today's practice they used a 4-5-1 or 4-2-3-1 formation that Osorio says can easily morph into a 4-3-3 if wingers Dane Richards and Danleigh Borman get into the attack.

Luke Sassano played in a more advanced position, with Dave van den Bergh in a holding midfield role alongside Seth Stammer.

This is how they lined up

_____John Wolyniec_____

Danleigh Borman__Luke Sassano____Dane Richards_

_____Dave van den Bergh__Seth Stammer_____

Kevin Goldthwaite_____Chris Leitch__

_____Jeff Parke____Andrew Boyens_____

_____Jon Conway_____

5. Jozy Altidore: It's a done deal

By: Jozy Altidore

New York Times Blog

June 12, 2008

I just got off the plane from Spain Thursday afternoon. My two sisters, Sadia who is 20 and Lindsey who is 25, went with me. My parents stayed home.

It was a good, no make that a great trip. It was pretty much straight business. I landed on Wednesday, went right to the hospital for a physical, had a little lunch with the president of Villarreal and then was introduced to the fans at the team's training facility.

Man, there were a lot more people than I expected. But nothing like the 30,000 who greeted Thierry Henry when he signed with Barcelona! But it was incredibly welcoming. People were screaming and going crazy. It definitely was the best moment of the trip.

I didn't really get a lot of time to look around, but Villarreal is a pretty industrial city. People there told me that most of the players live closer to the beach, which is about 15 minutes away, and that's fine with me. [Villarreal is near Spain's Mediterranean coast between Valencia to the south and Barcelona to the north.] Right now, I'm not sure what my living arrangements will be, probably a hotel to start, but they said they would take good care of me.

I didn't see any of the team's players, but I did get a phone call from [Robert] Pires who welcomed me.

It's true what you've seen in the papers today ... I signed a six-year deal, but I'm not going to tell you for how much! I can only say that it's for a lot, lot more than I was making with the Red Bulls. I just don't want to go into the details.

They're good terms. The move over there, one of the things is getting a major upgrade, but I'm not going to say by how much.

Right now, my plans are to go over there for the start of camp on July 14.

I know there's been some talk of a loan deal to another club, and honestly, it doesn't matter to me either way. I'm happy getting the experience. I'd love to stay with the team. But either way, I'm playing on a higher level and either way I'm excited. It doesn't really matter ... I'd love to stay with the team, but either way, it's going to be better for me and if I do get loaned out it would mean playing all the time, and that's a big plus.

I love Villarreal's yellow uniform. I was looking at pictures of me from the old days, with Boca Juniors in Florida, and it's kind of come full circle. Back in those days I always dreamed about this. It's something I've always wanted, something I've always seen myself doing. And I guess I'm lucky it's worked out.

I still hope to play in the Olympics in China and the people at Villarreal said they would love for me to play because they know how important it is to me and our country. They understand that it's a big competition. But it's still early to even be talking about it and wondering if I'm going to go because I haven't been picked for the team.

I have to tell everyone as well that it's tough for me to leave the Red Bulls. This is always going to be my club and I love this organization so very much. And I can promise the fans this: It won't be my last time playing for the club because I plan to return here later in my career. This is one place I will never forget.

I was fortunate to be around my family and friends, and the Red Bulls fans are much, much better than they get credit for. They have been great to me. There's nothing like them in M.L.S. and there won't be for a long time. The fans were always there for me — letting me know when I was playing good and when I was playing bad. I'm going to miss them.

I'm going to miss a lot of things, but one of them won't be playing on the turf. That's been tough. I'll miss my teammates, I've had good relationships with them and I hope to keep in touch with the guys and this special organization. I know, in time, success is going to come here in bundles.

Right now, I'm going to start working out and getting back my fitness. For a bit, I just want to relax and let it all sink in. My ankle's still a bit sore, so I have to get that sorted out.

But I guess I'm done with the Red Bulls now, I'm a Villarreal player.

And while I was over there I tried out my Spanish and I was surprised how good it was. They said they didn't even know I was an American, until about the third or fourth sentence! I was practicing over here with Juan Pablo and he thought I was awful!

But I'm certain my Spanish is going to get a lot better.

I also want to let my fans and the readers of the Goal blog know that I plan to keep posting while I'm at Villarreal. I might not be able to do some stuff for a few weeks, but don't worry, I want you all to be able to stay in touch and get a feel for what I'm going to be experiencing.

Until then, thanks for reading. You'll all be hearing from me soon.

6. Jozy official unveiled

By: Brian Lewis
New York Post Blog
June 12, 2008

Goodbye to New York, hello to Spain. Goodbye to MLS, hello to La Liga, as ex-Red Bull forward Jozy Altidore was officially introduced as Villarreal's newest signing.

The 18-year-old passed his physical and signed a six-year contract with the Yellow Submarine. He was unveiled at a presser and 200 fans came out to the proceedings. (I'm going to refrain from taking a low blow at the Red Bulls' attendance here and simply say that's some quality support.)

7. Who is on your MLS All-Star Ballot?

By: Ives Galarcep
Soccer by Ives Blog
June 13, 2008

It might not seem like it, but the MLS season is barreling toward the midway point, which means it's getting to be that time to vote for the MLS All-Star Game. Fan Balloting has been under way for quite some time but media were only given their ballots this week.

This got me wondering what lineup you, the SBI Mafia, would vote for to play against West Ham United in this summer's All-Star Game. Are you a home team ballot stuffer like the folks in Toronto? Would you go with as many big names as possible? Would you vote for 11 best players so far this season?

My ballot would include the players who have impressed the most this season. Reputations don't matter, only performance. Here is my ballot:

2008 SBI MLS All-Star Team

——Landon Donovan——Kenny Cooper——

——Cuauhtemoc Blanco——

Robbie Rogers——David Beckham

——Shalrie Joseph——

Gonzalo Segares——Marvell Wynne

——Michael Parkhurst—Bakary Soumare——

——Matt Reis——

BENCH- Jon Busch, Facundo Erpen, Chad Marshall, Seth Stampler, Sacha Kljestan, Dwayne DeRosario, Kheli Dube, Brian Ching.

So who just missed the cut? Wil Hesmer was edged out by Busch while Chad Barrett also just missed the cut. I also wanted to put Carl Robinson on the team but he lost out to Dwayne DeRosario.

I won't be turning my ballot in until the end of the month and I will be sure to post the squad I settle on.

What do you think of this group? Who did I forget? What players do you think don't belong on this list? What players would be on your 19-man roster?

Share your thoughts below.

8. Here we go again; Red Bulls to try to snap RFK hex

By: Michael Lewis

Big Apple Soccer

June 13, 2006

Montclair, N.J. – Defender Jeff Parke certainly wasn't at a loss of words to talk about the Red Bulls' losses and inability to win at RFK Stadium.

Parke and his teammates will get another opportunity to break the Red Bulls' winless streak in the nation's capital when they take on D.C. United in an MLS match at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The fifth-place Red Bulls (4-3-3, 15 points) sport a six-game winless streak (0-4-2) in Washington, D.C. and haven't won there since a 2-1 triumph as the MetroStars Oct. 8, 2005.

Lifetime, the Red Bulls/MetroStars are 6-19-4 over a dozen seasons (the record includes playoff and Lamar Hunt/U.S. Open Cup games).

"We just haven't done it," Parke said earlier this week after practice at Montclair State University. "We haven't fared well and haven't played well there."

Parke has been a member of the team since the 2004 season.

Asked whether the Red Bulls' problems have been psychological, Parke replied, "No, it's not that. It's the way we played. We haven't played good there and they're a tough team in their own place."

Midfielder-forward Mike Magee, who has seen the longest service with the team (since 2003), said that perhaps the Red Bulls' player turnover through the years has something to do the below-par performances.

"It's always a game that they've always gotten up for," he said. "They've always had the same team. The rivalry for them has been a little bit bigger. Our players might not have understood how big the game really was. Now things are starting to pick up. I think the rivalry will pick up more.

"D.C.'s obviously a hard place to play. They've got great fans. They play extremely well at home. They like to come out you and attack and if you are not ready, they'll get out with a pretty early lead."

Another veteran who has experienced more than his share of losses at RFK is forward John Wolyniec, who felt United's faithful make the stadium a difficult place for visitors.

"They're a good team," he said. "They also have great fans. When you go in there, it definitely feels like a hostile environment When you have quality players and excitable fans, those two things add together to make it a tough place to go in and get three points."

An optimistic Wolyniec said this could be the opportunity for the Red Bulls to secure a rare win because D.C. is missing a couple of key players as midfielder Marcelo Gallardo and defender Bryan Namoff are suspended. Of course, the Red Bulls are down their two designated players – forward Juan Pablo Angel and midfielder and captain Claudio Reyna, who are sidelined with back injuries.

"We're a good team and we can take advantage of the fact that they're without a couple of guys," Wolyniec said. "If we can put a good effort out there, we can come away with a win."

Parke said the Red Bulls' goal should earn at least a draw down there. "It's a matter of going in there and trying to get at least a point," he said. "That should be at least a mind frame. Obviously, we want to go down there and win because at some point you might realize that the game is not going their way or things are not going their way. Getting a point out of it would be good."

Sixth-place United (4-7-1, 13) went through a horrendous patch earlier this season, winning only twice in its first nine games. But D.C. appeared to have bounced back recently, going undefeated in its past three games (2-0-1) and stunning the Chicago Fire last Saturday, rallying from a one-goal deficit to register a 2-1 win at Toyota Park.

"Chicago is an incredible team," Magee said. "To go into Chicago and beat them 2-1 is big statement."

The Red Bulls could make a statement or two of their own if they could accomplish the same thing in D.C. Of course, that's easier said than done, given their history at RFK.

9. They don't blame him; Ex-Bulls mates say Jozy needs to grow

Big Apple Soccer
June 13, 2006

Montclair, N.J. – Jozy Altidore's former Red Bulls teammates don't begrudge the 18-year-old striker's decision to take the big money and run to play with Villarreal in the Spanish First Division.

They felt Altidore needed to take his talent to another level and La Liga looked like the right place to do that.

"I always loved to play with Jozy," Red Bulls forward Mike Magee said. "He's a great player. He's an incredible talent. I'm not going to say that the MLS is bad or holding him back. It's getting better and better. Jozy's definitely a different class player and he's got a lot of room to grow. And over there, he can be challenged a little more on a day in day out basis."

Defender Jeff Parke said he was happy for Altidore, who transferred to Villarreal for an American soccer record \$10 million.

"I think it's great," he said. "I'm happy for him that he's taking the next step in his career. You've got to look at it as a business. You've got to make money when you can."

"This is also an opportunity for him to develop as a younger kid, take in the atmosphere and see what it's like in Europe. It's a higher level of game. There's a lot of money involved, a lot our fans involved. I wish him all the best and hope to hear and read good things about him. Everything I see is good coming out of it. It's a shame that he has to leave in mid-season."

Forward John Wolyniec admitted he had mixed emotions about Altidore's departure.

"I've had the pleasure of playing with Jozy for a couple of years now," he said. "He's a good guy. I enjoyed his presence. I enjoyed watching him play. Obviously as a competitive guy, I want to win and I want Jozy on my team. But at the same time, I know he has a great opportunity ahead of him. He's going to do good things. I'll continue to watch him from afar and hopefully he does well. I know he will."

10. Red Bulls hurting

By: Stefan Bondy

Herald News

June 13, 2008

Seth Stammler squatted slightly before attempting to take the ball away from his opponent, much like he had his entire career as a professional soccer player.

This time, however, his back locked up. The pain was immediate, and Stammler hobbled off the practice field.

"I could hardly walk," he said.

Stammler can't explain what caused his herniated disc May 7, just that it "was a sudden thing on an awkward play." But after five years with the Red Bulls (4-3-3), he said the wear and tear of

playing on turf and hard surfaces might have contributed. Stammler missed three games and received a pair of epidurals before returning May 31.

He isn't the only Red Bull with injury problems. Striker Juan Pablo Angel and midfielder Claudio Reyna are expected to sit out Saturday's game against D.C. United (4-7-1) with similar back injuries, making it a combined nine missed games for the team's highest-paid players.

Coach Juan Carlos Osorio admitted the field surface is a growing concern and said changes will be made to ensure safety at practice. Too many training sessions were on turf – a common cause and aggravator of back injuries – and the practice grass field at Montclair State "is too hard," Osorio said.

The Red Bulls also play their home games on turf at Giants Stadium.

The team took steps to soften the practice surface, but the Red Bulls do not own the field below Yogi Berra Stadium, nor do they have exclusive use of it. It is especially harmful to older players like Reyna (34) and Angel (32), each with about 400 games played with professional clubs or in international competition.

"We are working in great detail to make it a surface that is not taking its toll on the players," Osorio said. "We put in a lot of effort to make the conditions as good as they possibly can."

The problem was supposed to be rectified by next season with a new training facility in Hanover. But newly-hired managing director Erik Stover said construction is delayed because of "legal concerns."

Stover said he is working with Montclair State to ensure a training site for next season. He said he had no timetable for Hanover.

"We're not sure where we're at," he said.

Seven other Red Bulls were sidelined this season because of injuries, turning the active roster into a weekly carousel. The starting lineup featured 19 different players and changed in all 10 games – filled with late-round rookies who weren't expected to contribute and career reserves projected as backups. Only two players appeared in every game (defender Kevin Goldthwaite and goalie Jon Conway).

Although Red Bulls sporting director Jeff Agoos said bad luck is involved, he admitted injuries "are a concern we need to address."

"There are a lot of factors here, and I don't think there's one answer," he said.

One possible solution is to reduce the strain on players during practice.

Osorio said the Red Bulls will start one hour earlier next week to avoid the summer heat. The first-year coach demands a lot during practice, extending his sessions well beyond those of former coach Bruce Arena.

Still, Agoos doesn't want to compromise training.

"We are always looking to get the highest quality in our training," Agoos said. "We have to make sure we are stressing fitness because injuries happen when players aren't fit."

Stammler is considered one of the more fit and durable players, having logged 58 games and 4,921 minutes over the past two seasons. Only Jeff Parke has played more.

But the 26-year-old was still a victim of the silent back injury, one that often develops over time, but can come without warning.

"It's frustrating," he said. "It was one of those that you have to give it time, and hopefully it will heal itself."