



Contacts



Monty Hoppel
General Manager



Jeff VonHolle
Assistant General Manager



Matt Barnes
Head Coach

(432) 520-2255

Media Release

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SOCKERS FC ... SOCKERS UK

Latest Recruits Span From Mississippi To The United Kingdom

To borrow a phrase from "ABC's Wide World of Sports," Sockers FC head **Matt Barnes** is "spanning the globe" in recruiting players for his first Premier Development League season.

The latest group of players added to the preseason roster includes two from the United Kingdom (England and Wales), a Mexico native (now making his home in California), one player from Costa Rica and one from Clinton, Mississippi.

Coach Barnes today announced the additions of defenders **Byron Knowles-Ramirez** and **Jordan Slack**, midfielders **Jonathan Colunga** and **James Gulley**, and forward **Scott McCoubrey**.

Four of the players are also playing collegiate soccer (Gulley and Knowles-Ramirez at the University of Tulsa, Colunga at San Jose State, and Slack at Grand Canyon University). McCoubrey, the only member of the current roster not playing at the collegiate level in the U.S., has extensive experience in his native Wales and has played the last three seasons in the PDL. The current roster (14):

Player	Position(s)	Hometown	Current College or Team
Tim Beauvais	Goalkeeper	Hilton, New York	SUNY-Cortland
Tanner Brock	Midfielder	Hays, Kansas	Fort Hays (KS) State
Johnny Clifford	Defender	Glasgow, Scotland	Benedictine College (Atchison, KS)
Jonathan Colunga	Midfielder	Strathmore, California	San Jose State University
Ricardo Diegues	Forward	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	University of Texas at Brownsville
Xavier Fuerte	Forward / Defender	Kapa'a, Hawaii	University of Hawaii at Hilo
James Gulley	Midfielder	Clinton, Mississippi	University of Tulsa
Byron Knowles-Ramirez	Midfielder	San Jose, Costa Rica	University of Tulsa
Clint Long	Goalkeeper	Blue Lake, California	California State University, Stanislaus
Scott McCoubrey	Forward	Swansea, Wales (UK)	Afan Lido FC (Welsh Premier League)
Victor Parreiras	Midfielder	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	University of Texas at Brownsville
Fabio Peña	Forward	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott, AZ)
Jordan Slack	Defender	Ashfield, England	Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)
Ante Spajic	Defender	Zagreb, Croatia	Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)

The Sockers open the 2014 Premier Development League season on Saturday, May 17, against the defending PDL champion Austin Aztex at Grande Communications Stadium.

Player Capsules

Jonathan Colunga

Midfielder

Strathmore, California

Current Team Sophomore at San Jose State University ... NCAA Division I ... Mountain West Conference ... did not play for the Spartans in 2013, having transferred from California State University, Bakersfield

UCB: 2013 Played in 15 games (six starts) for CSU Bakersfield (NCAA Division I, Western Athletic Conference) ... Scored three goals and added three assists (nine points)

High School Graduated from Lindsay (CA) High School ... a two-time league MVP ... totaled 54 assists in his senior season

International Played for Leon Independiente in the Mexican League System fourth division

Personal Age 21 ... born October 24, 1992 in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico ... 5-8, 175 ... Spanish major at CSU Bakersfield

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**Coach Barnes' Comments
(on Jonathan Colunga)**

"I'm excited about Jonathan because I think he will bring a spark to the midfield. He can play on both sides of the ball and has tremendous experience playing for Cal State Bakersfield under coach Simon Tobin. Jonathan has great vision on the field, and he's very comfortable on the ball, which will make him a big asset at this level. Originally from Mexico, and majoring in Spanish, Jonathan brings some very important international experience to our squad."

James Gulley

Midfielder

Clinton, Mississippi

Current Team Junior at the University of Tulsa ... NCAA Division I ... Conference USA ... red-shirt junior ... did not play in 2013
U of Tulsa Played in 16 games (11 starts) as a freshman (2010), scoring one goal with one assist (three points) ... appeared in nine games (three starts) as sophomore (2011) and scored one goal
Other college Transferred to Western Illinois (NCAA Division I ... Summit League) in 2012 ... played in two games before being granted medical hardship ... returned to University of Tulsa
PDL Played for the Nashville Metros in 2012 ... appeared in 13 games (no points)
High School Graduated from Clinton (MS) High School ... totaled 43 goals and 43 assists (129 points) ... did not play as a senior
Personal Age 22 ... born January 31, 1992 ... 5-9, 165 ... arts and science major at the University of Tulsa

Coach Barnes' Comments

"James is a player that we will be comfortable playing in a variety of positions. Although listed as a midfielder, James can play anywhere on the field. He will be looking to make an impact at Tulsa this fall as they contend for the Conference USA championship. I think James will be very driven this summer as he looks to make his mark on the collegiate and professional level."

Byron Knowles-Ramirez

Defender

San Jose, Costa Rica

Current Team Senior at the University of Tulsa ... NCAA Division I ... Conference USA ... started all 19 games in 2013 (as a junior) for the Golden Hurricane ... recorded four assists ... named "Man of the Match" vs. Creighton (August 30, 2013)
Other college Played two seasons at Lubbock Christian University ... scored five goals with nine assists (19 points)
Club soccer Played for the Brujas FC and FC Dallas Academy ... with FC Dallas, helped his team finish second in the USSDA finals ... with the Brujas FC, won back-to-back national championships (U16 and U17) ... named U17 Defender of the Year
International Was a member of the Costa Rican National U17 team and played in three friendlies
Personal Age 22 ... born February 6, 1992 ... 5-7, 166 ... exercise and sports science major at the University of Tulsa ... named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll as a junior

Coach Barnes' Comments

"One of my first tasks as head coach was to find a left back with the attacking and defending qualities that fit our style of play. Byron was my first choice, and I was thrilled after speaking to Tulsa's head coach Tom McIntosh about Byron's availability this summer. He has extensive club, college, and international experience. His enthusiasm is contagious, and I think he will play a massive role within the squad this summer."

Scott McCoubrey

Forward

Swansea, Wales (U. K.)

Current Team Afan Lido FC ... Welsh Premier League ... as of March 14, appeared in 17 games (nine starts), scoring two goals
Afan Lido FC Previously played for Afan Lido from 2008-11 (a period during which the club was not a member of the Welsh Premier League) ... in 2008-09, scored 28 goals in 32 starts, including three hat tricks and a pair of four-goal games ... in 2009-10, totaled 10 goals and 26 assists
PDL: 2013 Played for the SWFL Adrenaline ... led the club with 11 points (four goals and three assists) in 13 games
PDL: 2012 Played for the Hamilton (Ontario) FC Rage ... scored two goals with three assists (seven points) in 15 games
PDL: 2011 Played for the Hamilton (Ontario) FC Rage ... scored nine goals with one assist (19 points) in 14 games
International Has represented Wales at every level from U14 through U21 ... competed against players from England, Germany, France and Italy ... appeared in the U17 and U19 European Championships ... in addition to Afan Lido, played for Port Talbot Town FC in 2007-08 and has played for Pontardawe FC each of the last two seasons (in addition to the PDL)
Club soccer In his native Wales, played at the club level from age 12 through U18
Personal Age 24 ... born April 20, 1988 ... 5-9, 160

Coach Barnes' Comments

"Anytime you build a squad from the ground up, you need to look for both leadership and experience, and we struck gold with Scott. Currently playing in the Welsh Premier League, Scott will bring some guidance and experience to the team this summer. Scott has captained two different PDL teams, played internationally for Wales from the ages of 14-21, and played for the first team at Cardiff City. I expect Scott to play an integral role for the Sockers this summer. We are very fortunate to have added a player of Scott's caliber, and the Midland/Odessa community will be in for a treat watching him work this summer."

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**Jordan Slack****Defender****Ashfield, England**

Current Team Freshman at Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ) ... NCAA Division I ... Western Athletic Conference ... played in 13 games (five starts) in his first collegiate season (no points)

Personal Age 18 ... born May 4, 1995 ... 6-feet

Coach Barnes' Comments "Jordan is another defender that I'm thrilled to have with us. He has both attacking and defending qualities with the size and speed to play at the next level. Jordan started as a freshman at Division I Grand Canyon University under long-time head coach Petar Draksin, and had an outstanding first year in the WAC. I'm excited about the prospect of Jordan playing in Midland for the next few summers."

**2014 PDL Schedule**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Kick-Off (CDT)</u>	<u>Home Game Special Event</u>
Saturday	May 17	Austin Aztex	7:30 p.m.	Magnet Schedules Youth Jerseys Midland Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday	May 21	at Laredo Heat	8:15 p.m.	
Saturday	May 24	at Albuquerque Sol	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday	May 29	Albuquerque Sol	7:30 p.m.	Thirsty Thursday
Saturday	May 31	at Austin Aztex	7:30 p.m.	
Saturday	June 7	Houston Dutch Lions	7:30 p.m.	Socks Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
Thursday	June 12	Mississippi Brilla	7:30 p.m.	Thirsty Thursday & Odessa Chamber of Commerce
Saturday	June 14	Mississippi Brilla	7:30 p.m.	Mini Soccer Balls
Saturday	June 21	Laredo Heat	7:30 p.m.	Youth Jerseys
Friday	June 27	at Mississippi Brilla	7:00 p.m.	
Sunday	June 29	at Houston Dutch Lions	7:30 p.m.	
Saturday	July 5	Austin Aztex	7:30 p.m.	Postgame Fireworks
Friday	July 11	at Austin Aztex	7:30 p.m.	
Sunday	July 13	at Houston Dutch Lions	7:30 p.m.	

Home Games Played at Grande Communications Stadium / Scharbauer Sports Complex

