

**NMWSL  
KICKOFF  
2026**



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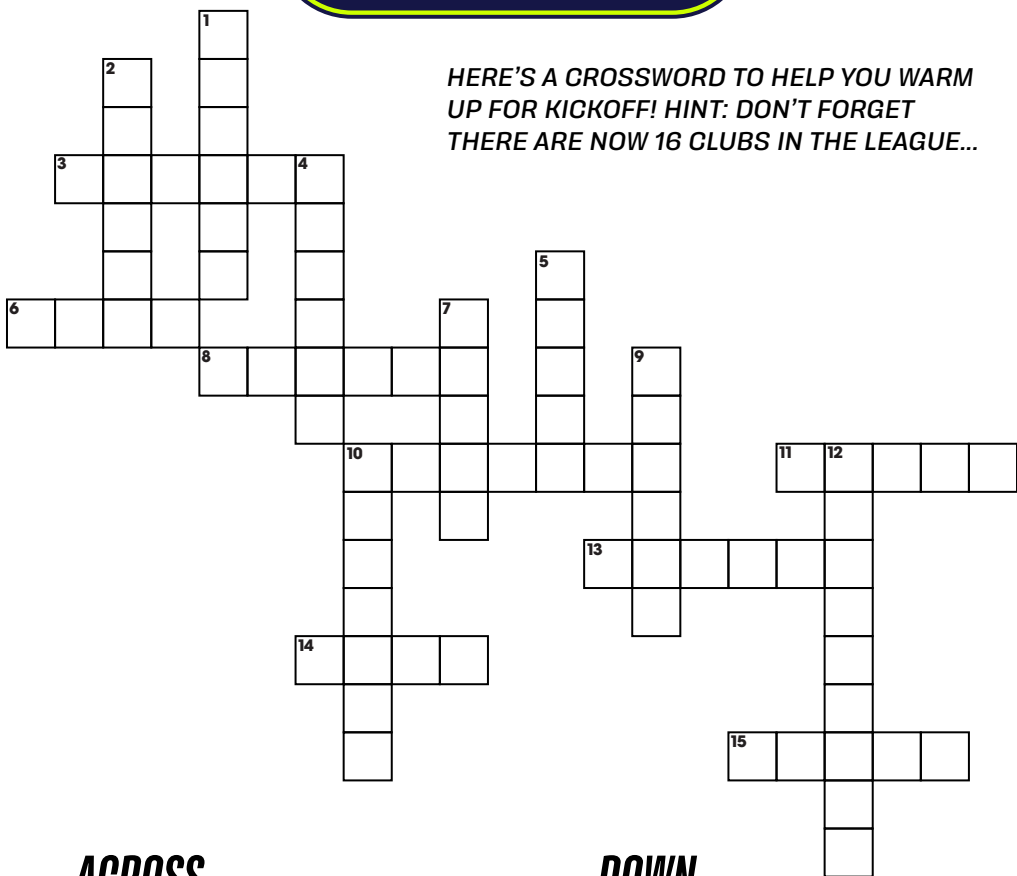


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**WHETHER YOU'RE A NEW FAN, A DIEHARD OG, A CASUAL WATCHER, A SOCCER ENTHUSIAST – THE NWSL IS FOR EVERYONE. WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE HERE. THIS ZINE IS FOR YOU.**



**HERE'S A CROSSWORD TO HELP YOU WARM UP FOR KICKOFF! HINT: DON'T FORGET THERE ARE NOW 16 CLUBS IN THE LEAGUE...**



## **ACROSS**

- 3. The Crown's second era
- 6. Always holdin' it down
- 8. Home to biggest signing in women's soccer
- 10. The MVP's team
- 11. U.S. women's pro sports attendance record holder
- 13. Made their first postseason in 2025
- 14. Won the Shield in their second season
- 15. Home to the winningest coach in NWSL history

## **DOWN**

- 1. The Breakers reborn
- 2. First club to win three league titles
- 4. They play in the shadow of 14ers
- 5. Home of La Rainha
- 7. Midwestern founding club
- 9. 2023 and 2025 belonged to them
- 10. The winningest club in NWSL history
- 12. Hollywood's team

# SHIELD WINNERS



The Kansas City Current **lifted the club's first-ever NWSL Shield, presented by CarMax, on September 20, 2025.** With a win over the Seattle Reign, the Current secured their place at the top of the table, making them untouchable in the standings for the rest of the season.

**The Current became the fastest team in NWSL history to clinch the Shield, doing so with five games left in the regular season.**

Kansas City didn't lose a game between May 11 and October 18, going 17 games unbeaten, and earned their place in the history books with the **greatest regular season in NWSL history.**

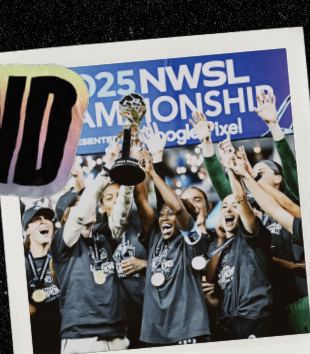
Despite the regular season dominance, the Current fell short in the playoffs with a loss to Gotham FC in the quarterfinals. Gotham's win was the biggest upset in NWSL playoff history. It's just the second time the Current have lost at CPKC Stadium and the first time since the summer of 2024.

Heading into 2026, will we see the electric Kansas City Current dominate again? Will they make it all the way this time?



Record setters

# '25 REWIND



2-PEAT

**Gotham FC made history of their own as the first No. 8 seed to win the Championship – or any playoff game for that matter.** But to outlast isn't new for Gotham. They won the 2023 NWSL Championship after finishing the regular season in sixth place.

The path to the **2025 NWSL Championship, presented by Google Pixel,** was full of obstacles. However, Gotham did the unimaginable. Against the odds, Gotham defeated the Current 2-1, thanks to an extra time game-winner from Katie Stengel.

After a blockbuster trade, Jaedyn Shaw wasted no time making an impact, assisting Stengel's quarterfinal goal and scoring the game-winner in the semifinals against Orlando Pride.

**Gotham FC were crowned 2025 NWSL Champions** in front of a sold-out crowd at PayPal Park, defeating the Washington Spirit, 1-0. Rose Lavelle scored the game-winning goal to earn her first NWSL Championship and MVP honors.

As underdogs no more, can Gotham keep the momentum rolling in 2026? Or will this tenacious group peak in the postseason all over again?

# CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS





# New Kids on the Block



**APRIL 2023**

Expansion Granted

**DECEMBER 2024**

GM Announcement



**MARCH 2025**

Team Name Announcement

**JUNE 2025**

Crest + Head Coach Announcement (Filipa Patão)



**JULY 2025**

First Signing (Annie Karich)

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

President Announcement



**NOVEMBER 2025**

Inaugural Home Opener Announcement



**FEBRUARY 2026**

Inaugural Kit Release ("First Light")

**MARCH 14, 2026**

Home Opener at Gillette Stadium



**JANUARY 2025**

Expansion Granted

**APRIL/MAY 2025**

President + GM Announcement



**JULY 2025**

Brand Identity Announcement  
(Crest, Team Name, Colors)



**AUGUST 2025**

First Signing (Ally Brazier) + Head  
Coach Announced (Nick Cushing)

**OCTOBER 2025**

Inaugural Home Opener Announcement

**NOVEMBER 2025**

Sold Out of Season Tickets

**DECEMBER 2025**

Santa Fe Stadium City  
Council Approval



**FEBRUARY 2026**

Inaugural Kit Release ("Evergreen")

**MARCH 28, 2026**

Home Opener at Empower Field



# TUNNEL FIT FORECAST

WE ASKED SOME OF OUR MOST STYLISH PLAYERS WHAT FANS CAN EXPECT TO SEE FROM THEM ON MATCH DAY

I'M A NEUTRALS GIRLIE THROUGH & THROUGH, BUT LOVE TO POP SOME COLOR HERE AND THERE!

BRECKEN MOZINGO



I LOVE THE FACT THAT THERE IS TUNNEL FIT IN THIS LEAGUE! EXPECT LAYERS, OVERSIZED FIT AND COMFORTABLE CLOTHES.

KENZA DALI



SHE MIGHT NOT KNOW IT YET, BUT I WILL BE MAKING MICHELLE ALOZIE STYLE ME. GOING FOR ELEVATED BASICS AND CHIC STYLE!

RYAN GAREIS



REALLY GOING TO BE INCORPORATING VINTAGE PIECES AND HIGHLIGHTING AFRICAN DESIGNERS!

MICHELLE ALOZIE



YOU'LL SEE LOTS OF BAGGY PIECES, COOL JACKETS, & ACCESSORIES! LOOK GOOD, PLAY GOOD.

MAYCEE BELL



# BIG PLAYERS BIGGER MOVES

## TRINITY RODMAN RE-SIGNS WITH THE SPIRIT

BECOMING THE HIGHEST PAID  
WOMEN'S SOCCER PLAYER  
IN THE WORLD





**4**  
**SOPHIA WILSON**  
CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH  
PORTLAND THORNS FC



**5**  
**MAL SWANSON**  
RETURNS TO  
CHICAGO STARS FC



**LINDSEY HEAPS**  
OL LYONNES TO DENVER  
SUMMIT FC (JUNE)

**6**



**KAILLEN SHERIDAN**  
SAN DIEGO WAVE FC TO  
NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE

**7**



**LUDMILA**  
CHICAGO STARS FC  
TO SAN DIEGO  
WAVE FC

**8**



**ALBA CAÑO**  
FC BARCELONA TO  
BOSTON LEGACY FC

**9**



**KATE FAASSE**  
2024 MAG HERMANN  
TROPHY WINNER TO  
HOUSTON DASH

**10**

\* SATISFACTION NOT  
GUARANTEED. PROCEED  
WITH CAUTION.

# 2026



# HOROSCOPES\*

## WATER



You spent last year shielded well, protecting yourself with proactive strikes. In 2026, you can build on the **solid foundation** - if you learn from your mistakes.

You've always known how to clock in and put in the work. You proved what you're capable of, but nostalgia won't win 'ships. **Stay chill, stay relentless**, and you'll flow towards success.



It's a year of rebirth for you after coming out of a trying stretch. Let it shape you - but not harden you. Sometimes to make a change, all it takes is fresh energy: new leaders, friends, and perspective shifts.

Steadfast and sure, that's been your MO. It hasn't failed you yet, but you have to be ready to shake off some of that caution to **meet the moment**.



You're ready to break free into a new, exciting chapter after leaving a period of hibernation behind. Things look different this time around; but **don't let that rattle you**.

## AIR



With a meteoric rise comes the risk of falling from grace. You worked your way to the pinnacle and fell short, but there's a reason you're called Spirit. Will the third time be a charm? **A trinity has a nice ring to it**.

You've got **a youthful glow about you**. This spark can be the vitality you need, but remember that age brings wisdom and experience.



Last year, you surprised everyone but yourself. That momentum came from within. What you've lost in the element of surprise, **you gain in grit**.

## EARTH



You're standing at the base of your mountain, **ready to start your climb**. It won't be easy, but you will forge your own path. There is freedom in that.

Nature finds a way of balancing things out. **For every loss, something else is gained** - don't let change be the thorn in your side. Instead, embrace it.



Time and time again, you've risen to the occasion. You've fought hard for everything you've gotten, and even when you fall short, you know you **gave it your all**. Take pride in that!

Deep in the mountains, you will quietly find your success. Don't let the buzz outside distract you from the **hive you're building**.



## FIRE



When you hit the bottom, the only place to go is up. Don't discount how much a new environment and some returning stars can **shake things up**.

Last year ended on a high note, but that just means expectations are even greater now. You have what it takes to rise to the occasion and **prove all your doubters wrong**.



You remember what it feels like to set the standard - that memory still hums in your bones. The foundation is still there. **When you move in sync** once again, the trophy will be within reach.

After years of rewriting the same chapter, the plot is shifting in your favor. The chronicles hint at a new narrative - **the story is just getting good**.



# Dear Admin,

Dear Admin,

I've been feeling lethargic lately. The jitters from watching my favorite team play every week was more than enough to keep me wired, but I haven't watched an NWSL game since November. I know we're almost at the end of the NWSL offseason, but I just can't handle my personal postseason slump.

Any advice for this decaffeinated diehard?

3x Espresso

Dear Decaf,

I think a little espresso might be exactly what you need...

Dear Admin,

I've recently developed a new, embarrassing fear. I'm a grown adult, and I'm afraid of the dark.

You see, last year I went to a soccer game. It was so much fun, and then at the last minute the strangest thing happened. The other team's keeper... scored a goal. On my team's keeper. From what I can tell, she's called "The Unc."

What was she doing there? Now every time I close my eyes, I worry she'll be there scoring another goal in my nightmares. I'm scared she's hiding under my bed. I know it's just NWSL Chaos and NWSL After Dark, but I'm scared this "unc" is going to haunt me for the rest of my life. Should I sage my apartment? Please help.

Scaredy Cat

After Dark

Dear Cat,

I'm so sorry to hear this. When this kind of panic strikes again, I want you to take five deep breaths and name three players, excluding the backline. This is a grounding exercise to remind you where forwards belong. There's no keeper in that front line, right?

I understand your fear, though. Legends of the "unc" have been told for years, but back in my day, she was called Naehar. I wish I could say that she won't wreak havoc on your team again this year, but I think we both know that would be a lie.

Dear Admin

Heated Rivalry

I've recently started seeing someone. Let's call them Seymour. Seymour is great, the whole package - loves to hike and most importantly, loves soccer. I've been a Thorns fan since I moved to Portland in 2013. I'm a season ticket holder, I have a Rose City Riveters tattoo. It's a very important part of my life.

Well when I invited Seymour to the Thorns home opener, they sat me down and said we need to talk. They're originally from Seattle and support the Reign. They would still come to the game, but needed me to know that they wouldn't wear any Thorns gear. In fact, they would be wearing their Reign kit, regardless of who is playing.

Editor, what do I do? I really like Seymour, but how can I introduce them to my friends at Providence Park? Do I need to end it?

Cascadingly yours,  
Every Rose Has Its Thorns

Dear Rose,

What matters is that you two have common interests and values. Seymour may never don Portland maroon, and the sight of their Reign hats and kits may make you wretch, but at the end of the day, you both love the game. That is more important than what team you support. It's like going to an Italian restaurant. You can have chicken parm; they can order a ravioli. You're at the same place, wanting different things, but everyone's happy.

Go to games together - perhaps in neutral colors! But the way I see this, it's a great element to add into a relationship. And who doesn't love flirty trash talk?



For this look, I chose to stay within the same color family as the tan of San Diego Wave's "Balboa Park" jersey. The mix of tan textures – the lace of the long sleeve and the snake print of the boots – is why this worked for me. Staying monochromatic with the outfit allowed for the orange and pink details to pop more.

Washington Spirit's "In Bloom" kit speaks for itself. I was tempted to style around the bright pink, but it would've felt overwhelming. Instead, I chose black and gray for balance. Layering is key to adding dimension to this fit, which is why I opted for the sweater dress and tights.

I love the stripes of the Chicago Stars "DNA" jersey. The first thought that popped into my mind was menswear, so I styled around that vibe with the trousers and necktie as a belt. I cropped the jersey to balance out the oversized bottoms to avoid looking like I'm being swallowed up by the outfit. If you're unfamiliar with the Rule of Thirds in styling, I encourage you to learn more!

# MEG REYES

Soccer Host + Creator

@megreyes\_



# HOW TO STYLE A KIT

SHOP NEW 2026 NWSL KITS  
AT [NWSLSHOP.COM](https://www.nwslshop.com)

Since Denver's "Summit Snow" kit is heavily colorblocked with lighter tones, I wanted to use some darker colors and textures with the cheetah and lace. I added a pop of color with a silk purple button down. The shirt around my waist wasn't something I was originally planning on, but I love taking a spontaneous approach to putting an outfit together.



The inspiration for this outfit was to counterbalance the collar on the jersey with something more flowy and feminine. Just like the Venus fly traps create a flowing pattern on the new North Carolina Courage jersey, so do the ruffles on the dress I layered with. I wanted to lean into the girlier side of street style that I think is often overlooked.

When I first saw San Diego's "Balboa Park" kit, I wanted to do bright colored sneakers and bottoms. However, the more I thought about the kit and the story, I realized neutral tones were the way to go to allow the trimming to be the focal point. I also love adding jewelry to any look. I'm a maximalist to my core!

## ALANA MERAZ

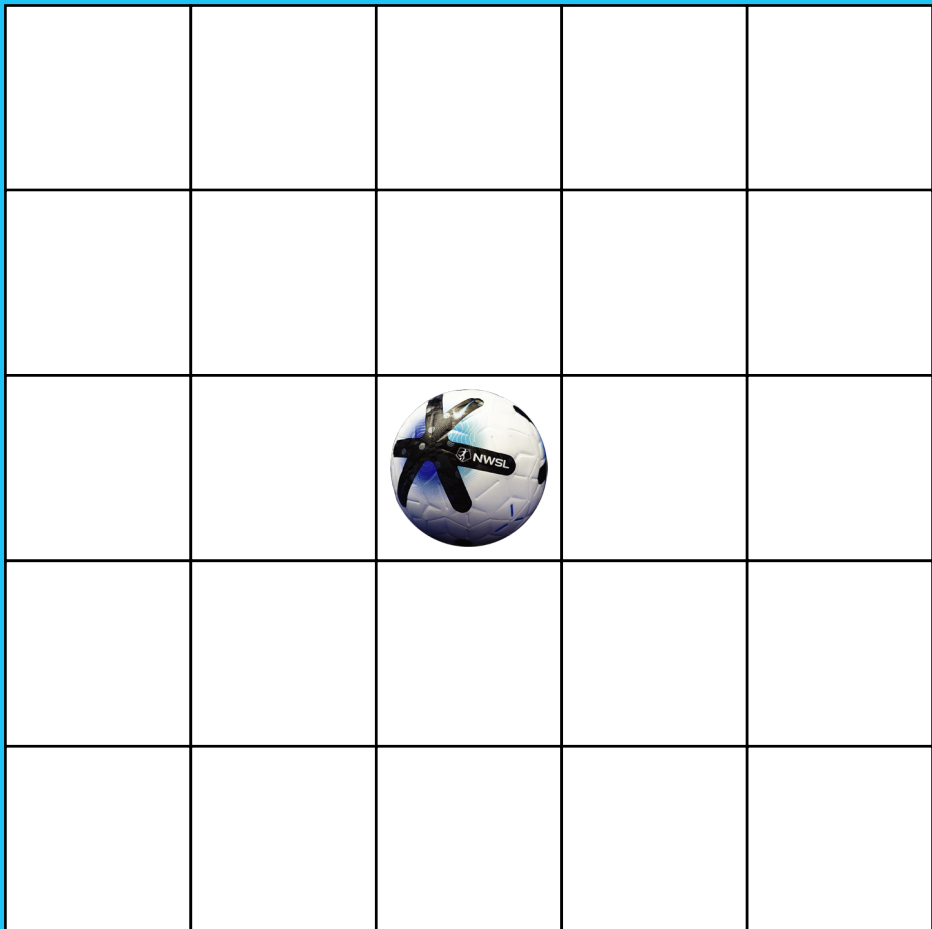
Fashion Enthusiast + Community Builder

@alana\_meraz



WATCH #NWSLKICKOFF **MARCH 13-15** AND PLAY ALONG!

# KICKOFF BINGO



**FILL THE BOARD WITH THESE TILE IDEAS OR COME UP WITH YOUR OWN!**

- Set Piece Goal
- Expansion Team Goal
- "Triple Espresso" Mentioned
- Goal Line Clearance
- 5+ Minutes Added
- Ludmila Backflip
- Ball Hits the Woodwork
- Fun Fan-Made Sign Shown
- Stadium Sell-Out
- Header Goal
- Defender Scores
- Team Celly
- Substitute Scores
- Teal Man Sighting
- Rookie Debut
- 4+ Goals in a Game
- Yellow Card
- Trin Spin
- Penalty Kick
- Offside
- TikTok Dance
- VAR Used
- Nutmeg
- Pregame Pyro



TEMWA  
CHAWINGA

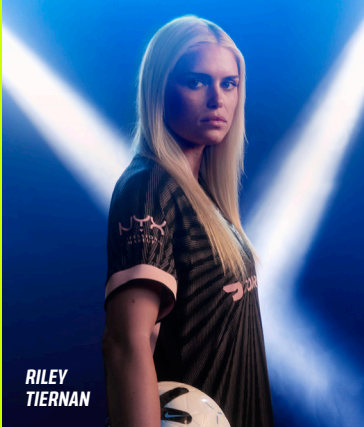
**THE GOLDEN  
BOOT RACE  
IS ON.**



TRINITY  
RODMAN



**NEW STARS  
WILL BE  
BORN.**



RILEY  
TIERNAN



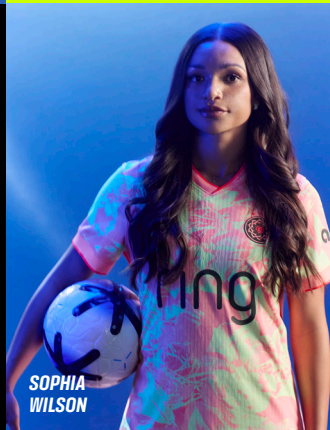
**RIVALRIES  
ARE HEATING  
UP.**



MAL  
SWANSON



**WHO WILL  
BECOME A  
CHAMPION?**



SOPHIA  
WILSON

***DON'T MISS THIS.***

**[NWSLSOCCER.COM/WATCH](https://www.nwslsoccer.com/watch)**



**NWSL**

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**NWSLSOCCER.COM**