

The Darkness

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NOTES FROM A Jackass

A whole new season. A fesh start. The spring didn't go as planned, sure, but the Loons start the fall only two points out of the lead for the combined standings. Thankfully, everyone had a crap spring.

In this case, we start where we began. The Loons opened the spring season away to the RailHawks. It was promising: remember Christian Ramirez's wonder-strike? It feels a lifetime away, because after Christian put us ahead, Carolina came roaring (screaming? What the hell sort of noise does a RailHawk make? Choo chooing?) back into the match. It ended 2-1 for the home side.

Minnesota went on to win three matches in a row, including that historic win over the Cosmos. Carolina went on to win their next three matches as well, before they collapsed. They gathered only two points from their last six matches.

What has changed between then and now? Carolina look largely the same, having added only Jacksonville's Matt Fondy to their strikeforce (see Heckler's Scouting Report). Minnesota, have signed Jack Blake and lost Bernardo Añor to long-term injury.

Carolina come into this match in desperate need of a functioning attack. The RailHawks have scored only one goal in their last four league matches.

Minnesota, on the other hand needs to do two things: sort out its defense and learn to break down tight defenses. The Loons were tied for the third most goals allowed in the spring. As Carl Craig would say, much of this can come down to "silly mistakes."

But the Loons also need to learn to cope with teams like Indy, Ottawa, Rayo, and Carolina who all play defensive, direct soccer. We've seen time and time again that the Loons can possess the ball and move it with flair without producing a goal. Then the opposition pings us on the counter or a set piece and panic ensues. Here's to hoping that Carl Craig and co. have sorted out their plan of attack.

Here's to winning the fall.

DARK CLOUDS

Hymnal

I Wanna Be NSC

I am, a Nessie Fan
I am, a Minnesotan
I know what I want and I know
how to get it
I wanna drink beer, and eat hot
nuts
Cuz I wanna be NSC

I am, an Nessie Fan
I am, a Minnesotan
I know what I want and I know
how to get it
I wanna destroy [team name]
Cuz I wanna be NSC

Lass from Overseas

In the town where I was born
came a lass from overseas
and she came to Minnesota
and her name was Nessie.

We all believe in a Scottish Lake
Monster,
a Scottish Lake Monster, a Scot-
tish Lake Monster. (2x)

Nuts of a Warrior

We've got nuts of a warrior,
YEAH! Nuts of a warrior!
We've got nuts of a warrior
and you don't!

At Crappy Old Lockhart

At crappy old Lockhart
we won the cup.
We filled it with Surly
and drank it up.
And if there's no Surly
what will we do then?
We'll get to the finals
and win it again.

The Hamm's Song

From the land of sky blue
waters,
From the land of pines, lofty
balsams,
comes a club united,
Loons: the club united!

Forged where nature works
her wonders,
Out of many clubs, now to-
gether
Loons, the club united!
Loons, the club united!

Goals

All we really want is Goals
And in the morning its Goals
And in the evening its Goals
Two at a time we want Goals
It's time to whip out our Goals

You Got What I Need

Oh Christian [or Pinho] you,
you got what I need
the goalkeeper's not your
friend
so go and score a goal
again

I Wanna Be Venegas

20 20 24 hours ago
I wanna be Venegas
Nothing to do nowhere to
go
I wanna be Venegas
So get me airport & put me
on a plain
hurry hurry hurry before I
go insane
I can't control my fingers
I can't control my brains
oh no no no oh oh

I Just Can't Get You Out of My Head

I just can't get you out of my
head,
Loons your goals are all I
think about.
I just can't get you out of my
head,
Loons your goals are all I
think about.
La-la-la la-la-la-la-la x4

If the Kids are United

If the Loons are United
they will never be divided

Score Us a Goal

Score us a goal, Christian Ramirez
Score us a goal tonight
Because we're all in the mood for
winning
And you've got us feeling alright

Glory Glory Minnesota!

Glory Glory Minnesota!
Glory Glory Minnesota!
The Loons go marching ON! ON!
ON!
Minnesota is the greatest team that
you have ever seen! (3x)
The Loons go marching ON! ON!
ON!

Are You Loony, Too?

Loony Tunes Theme

Hey, Minnesota
Hey, Minnesota
Hey, Minnesota
Are you loony too?

Away in the Manger

Away in the manger
No crib for a bed
The little lord Jesus
Stood up and he said

STAND UP if you love the loons
x4
STAND UP if you hate Milwaukee x4

Friends in Low Places

Well we beat teams from all
places
We'll be scoring goals
While your squad chases our
loons in grey
Oh we'll win today
Feel those
tears roll down your faces
When we win our games we sing
Oasis
Cause we beat teams from all
places

Wonderwall

Today is gonna be the day
That they're gonna throw it back to you
By now you should've somehow
Realized what you gotta do
I don't believe that anybody
Feels the way I do about you now

Back beat, the word is on the street
That the fire in your heart is out
I'm sure you've heard it all before
But you never really had a doubt
I don't believe that anybody feels
The way I do about you now

And all the roads we have to walk are winding
And all the lights that lead us there are blinding
There are many things that I would
Like to say to you
But I don't know how

Because maybe
You're gonna be the one that saves me
And after all
You're my wonderwall

Bird is the Word

A-well-a, everybody's heard
about the bird
Bird, bird, bird, b-bird's the
word
A-well-a, bird, bird, bird, the
bird is the word

United Born

I'm United born,
I'm United bred,
And when I die,
I'm United dead.

Rosters

Minnesota United FC			Carolina RailHawks		
No.	Pos.	Player	No.	Pos.	Player
1	GK	Aaron Perez	1	GK	Mack Robinson
2	D	Justin Davis	2	D	Paul Black
3	D	Jeb Brovsky	3	D	Kupono Low (C)
4	M	Aaron Pitchkolan	4	D	Drew Beckie
5	D	Tiago Calvano	6	M	Austin da Luz
6	D	Brent Kallman	7	M	Marvin Ceballos
7	M	Ibson	8	M	Matt Watson
8	F	Danny Cruz	9	F	Aly Hassan
9	F	Bernardo Añor	10	M	Nazmi Albadawi
10	F	Ben Speas	11	M	Ty Shipalane
11	F	Stefano Pinho	12	D	Kareem Moses
12	GK	Steward Ceus	13	D	Connor Tobin
13	M	Jamie Watson	17	F	Billy Schuler
14	M	Jack Blake	20	M	Jonathan Orlando
15	F	Ismaila Jome	21	F	Brian Shriver
17	M	Lance Laing	23	M	Nick Taitague
18	F	Daniel Mendes	24	M	Jeremy Kelly
21	F	Christian Ramirez	27	D	Simon Mensing
22	D	Kevin Venegas	31	D	Steven Miller
23	M	Greg Jordan	42	M	James Marcelin
24	GK	Kristian Nicht	50	GK	Akira Fitzgerald
29	F	J. C. Banks	92	GK	Brian Sylvestre
31	D	Damion Lowe	—	F	Matt Fondy
33	GK	Sammy Ndjock			
77	M	Juliano Vicentini			

HECKLER'S Scouting Report

What in DETHLOON's unholy name is a RailHawk? Perhaps one of the greatest mysteries of the 21st century will go unanswered today. What we can answer is: which players will earn our mockery and scorn.

Connor Tobin

First up, is former Minnesota centerback Connor Tobin. Mr. Tobin turned down a big money move to Miami FC, which he may be starting to regret since, though Miami are an absolute joke, Carolina are still really, really bad.

When Connor was with Minnesota, he scored perhaps the most memorable goal in recent Minnesota history. It was the second goal of our home leg against Tampa Bay in the 2012 final. We went on to lose the second leg, but the absolute riot that ensued when Tobin slid toward the Dark Clouds was something etched into the memory of everyone there that night. Bill McGuire was there and it was one of those moments that fulminated him buying the club.

That said, heckle the hell out of Tobin. He speaks in the third person. In 2014, after he moved to Carolina, he scored an own goal that gave Minnesota a 2-2 draw. So maybe we'll get another gift.

Matt Fondy

If you're thinking "wasn't he just in Minnesota?" Why yes, he was. You might remember him as the former USL MVP for Louisville last year. He left Louisville for Jacksonville, where he failed to score any goals, including an easy chance when he played against Minnesota in the spring. Now, he's in Carolina, where he will continue to not score goals.


Upcoming Matches

Home vs. Indy Eleven 7/9

Away vs. Indy Eleven 7/16

Home vs. Bournemouth 7/20

Home vs. FTL Strikers 7/23



The Dark Clouds are supporters of Minnesota United. You are welcome to join us. Our community is anti-homophobic, anti-sexist, and just generally anti-bigotry altogether. We stand and sing as a group and we're happy to say that our group includes all sorts of awesome people: gay, straight, punk, square accountants, nose-pickers, and everything else. We also don't welcome cursing, not because we're prudes, but because we think it's lame. Anyone can yell abusive crap at a player. Try being clever. That takes work.

The Darkness is a joint production of The Dark Clouds, Byline Press, and FiftyFive.One.

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