The Darkness

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NOTES FROM

A Jackass

What a week. An absolute whirlwind. We went from a routine 2-0 win over Indy Eleven to a midweek international friendly and no we're back for another home match against Fort Lauderdale.

Oh, and there was THAT goal. The own goal heard round the world. As I sat in a bar on Thursday, I watched Sammy Ndjock's howler replayed on two different channels. Britain, Turkey, Australia: it was a gaffe on an epic level.

My first thought was: there is no way that Ndjock plays on Saturday. Steward Ceus will get the nod and we may not see Sammy much at all.

But after the United PR team put out their hilarious self-deprecating #BlameTheJelly video I started to notice things changing-at least from a fan perspective. There was a real sense of rallying around Ndjock that we haven't really seen before. It was a friendly after all and just the week before he had put on a goalkeeping clinic.

I don't know if he'll be starting tonight or if Carl Craig will be feeling the way I initially felt after watching the goal. But I personally felt a bit chastened, imagining the demise of a player from one terrible moment. What's the point of being a supporter if you don't rally behind your players when they're down?

Today isn't just about Sammy, though, as the Loons turn their attentions back to the league. The last time the Strikers came to town, a 21st minute red card from former Loon Geison Moura gave United a man-advantage for most of the match. The Loons handily beat the Strikers 3-0.

This time around may not be such an easy walk in the park. The Strikers have rebounded from a poor run (that coincided with their last visit) and even made a brave run in the Open Cup.

For Minnesota, it's a matter of picking up where the team left off with Indy Eleven. Can they continue to string together their attack? And how will they fare without Kevin Venegas, who is sidelined with a meniscus injury?

Wes, @MnNiceFC

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 Scottish 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 together
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

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!

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

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!

I Just Can't Get You Out of My Head

I can't control my brains

oh no no oh oh

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 x4

Are You Loony, Too?

Loony Tunes Theme

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

If the Kids are United

If the Loons are United they will never be divided

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 todayFeel those
tears roll down your faces
When we win our games we sing
Oasis
Cause we beat teams from all
places

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.

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

Rosters

Minnesota United FC Indy Eleven

No.	Pos.	Player	No.	Pos.	Player
1	GK	Aaron Perez	1	GK	Bruno Cardoso
2	D	Justin Davis	2	D	Dalton
3	D	Jeb Brovsky	3	М	Neil Hlavaty
4	М	Aaron Pitchkolan	5	D	Nana Attakora
5	D	Tiago Calvano	6	М	PC
6	D	Brent Kallman	7	F	Geison Moura
7	М	lbson	8	М	Kléberson
8	F	Danny Cruz	9	М	Ramón Núñez
9	F	Bernardo Añor	11	F	Paulo Jr.
10	F	Ben Speas	12	GK	Diego Restrepo
11	F	Stefano Pinho	13	D	Jorge Luis Corrales
12	GK	Steward Ceus	14	D	Julius James
13	М	Jamie Watson	16		uis Felipe Fernandes
14	М	Jack Blake	17	M	Bryan Arguez
15	F	Ismaila Jome	18		lean-Marc Alexandre
17	М	Lance Laing	19	F	José Angulo
18	F	Daniel Mendes	20	M	Christian Blandon
21	F	Christian Ramirez	21	D	Luis Zapata
22	D	Kevin Venegas	23	М	Manny Gonzalez
23	М	Greg Jordan	24	D	Aurelio Saco Vértiz
24	GK	Kristian Nicht	27	M	Victor Pineda
29	F	J. C. Banks	29	F	Maicon Santos
31	D	Damion Lowe	44	D G	ale Agbossoumonde
33	GK	Sammy Ndjock	77	D	Gabriel
77	M	Juliano Vicentini	98	GK	Matias Reynares

HECKLER'SScouting Report

A certain news website, FiftyFive.One, recently reported on the Fort Lauderdale Strikers failing to pay their players on time. As in, they are asking players to wait a week before cashing their checks as if they are a college student waiting for mom to refill the checking account so they can pay rent. An opposition fan said recently that they were heckling Strikers keeper Diego Restrepo and he said, "well we're not getting paid." Yowza.

In light of this, I would suggest the following ditty:

"Have you cashed your checks this week? Checks this week, checks this week? Have you cashed your checks this week, poor old Strikers?"

Diego Restrepo

Speaking of Diego, the fact that he has been, at times, supplanted by Bruno Cardoso, who is literally the worst goalkeeper in the league, makes this one easy. Just remind him that he is behind an absolutely terrible keeper in the pecking order.

Julius James

Not only is James a walking red card, I have it on good authority that he loves Ninja Turtles. Or, that people call him a ninja turtle? I don't know, but I do know that ninja turtles are involved and I'm supposed to mock him with that knowledge.

Geison Moura

During the Manny Lagos era, Geison would be signed 3 months into every season. And 3 1/2 months into every season, we would ask, "why the hell did we resign him?" Moura did, however, gift us the last match by getting a red card early into our match. I guess he missed the showers at NSC.



Away v Rayo OKC 7/30
Home v Puerto Rico FC 8/3
Home v Miami FC 8/6
Away v Edmonton 8/14
Home v Tampa Bay 8/17
Away v Jacksonville 8/20
Away v Miami FC 8/27
Away v Fort Lauderdale 8/31

The Dark Clouds are supporters of Minnesota United. You are welcome to join us. Our community is anti-homophobic, antisexist, 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.

Editor: Wes Burdine @MNNiceFC

Photography: Jeremy Olson www.digitalgopher.com.

Read www.fiftyfive.one daily.