

BUFFS IN THE LEAGUE

The National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) is an eight-team Division-I women's professional soccer league featuring players from Canada, Mexico and U.S. The founding clubs are the Boston Breakers, Chicago Red Stars, FC Kansas City, Portland Thorns FC, Seattle Reign FC, Sky Blue FC, the Washington Spirit and the Western New York Flash. Based in Chicago, the NWSL is supported by the United States Soccer Federation, Canadian Soccer Association and Federation of Mexican Football. The inaugural NWSL draft was held in January 2013. The top four teams at the conclusion of the 22-game season advanced to the playoffs, with a champion named on Aug. 31. The Flash earned the NWSL Shield after winning the regular season with a 10-4-8 record. Barczuk and Marshall met in the inaugural championship game, where Thorns FC defeated the Flash 2-0.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE



Amy Barczuk (2009-12): Defender, Western New York Flash

Selected by the Western New York Flash in the second round (the 14th overall pick) of the 2013 NWSL draft
At Colorado: 2012 team captain ... Scored 23 points off 10 goals and three assists ... One of only eight players in program history to start at least 76 of 78 games played ... One of four Buffs to have played in every one of the team's games in her four-year tenure at CU ... Her games started and played rank her ninth and 12th on CU's all-time list ... Her 124 shots attempted ranks 11th all-time ... Two-time all-conference second team selection ... Big 12 All-Newcomer Team ... Gonzaga University All-Tournament Team and CS360 Performer of the Week as a sophomore ... DU Invitational All-Tournament Team and third-team NSCAA All-Pacific Region selection as a senior ... Led the Buffs to their first ever road victory in the Pac-12 Conference

National: 2011 U.S. Women's National Team U-23 Training Camp selection ... member of the U.S. Women's National Team U-23 player pool

About the Flash: Former Buff Nikki Marshall helped lead them to the 2012 Women's Premier Soccer League Elite Championship ... Roster includes two-time Olympic gold medalists Abby Wambach and Carli Lloyd

Nikki Marshall (2006-09): Defender, Portland Thorns FC

Joined Portland for the inaugural NWSL season in 2013, signing as a free agent

At Colorado: Holds 20 program records ... The all-time leading scorer with 42 goals ... Leads the program with 93 points, 18 game-winning goals and 261 shots attempted ... Set class records as a freshman and sophomore with 17 and nine goals, respectively ... Scored the fastest regulation and overtime goals in CU history, taking less than 30 seconds to score against St. Mary's College in 2009 (8-1) and against Oklahoma in 2007 (2-1, OT) ... Ranks in the top 10 in 32 other career, season and single game categories ... Big 12 All-Newcomer Team and Big 12 Newcomer of the Year ... Soccer Buzz and Soccer America Freshman All-American and 2006 Soccer Buzz fourth-team All-American ... Four-time first-team All-Big 12

International: Appeared in numerous training camps and tournaments as a member of the U.S. Women's National Team U-23 player pool from 2009-11 ... Helped the U.S. Women's U-20 National Team to the silver medal at the 2007 Pan American games ... Helped lead the team to the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup championship in 2008, where she was named the Sierra Mist Woman of the Match in the 2-1 championship win over North Korea

Professional: Picked seventh overall in the 2010 Women's Professional Soccer Draft by the Washington Freedom ... Appeared in 25 games as a rookie ... Appeared in six matches with magicJack after the Freedom moved to Florida in 2011 ... Traded to the Boston Breakers in July 2011 ... Member of the 2012 Women's Premier Soccer League Elite Champions Western New York Flash ... MVP of 2012 championship game

About Thorns FC: Thorns players Marshall, Becky Edwards, Nikki Washington and Alex Morgan (a 2012 Olympic gold medalist) won the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup championship in 2008 ... Only NWSL team with Major League Soccer affiliation (Portland Timbers) ... Oregon women's soccer franchise dates back to 2000



Michelle Wenino (2005-08): Defender, Chicago Red Stars

Returned to the Chicago Red Stars as a third round selection in the 2013 NWSL supplemental draft

At Colorado: Ranks fourth in career minutes played at CU, with 7,192 ... Ranks fifth with 81 games started and ties sixth with 86 games played ... First-team All-Big 12 and second-team NSCAA All-Central Region in 2007 ... Started 23 games her freshman season, scoring one goal and contributing one assist ... Scored two goals in the first three games of her sophomore campaign ... Helped the Buffs to 10 shutouts and logged 2,131 minutes (good enough for sixth on the CU season list) as a junior ... Scored three more goals in her final two seasons

Professional: Began her professional career with the Chicago Red Stars in Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) League in 2009 and returned in 2012 in the Women's Premier Soccer League Elite ... Played for the Pali Blues (W-League, 2010) and Sky Blue FC (WPS, 2011) in the U.S. ... Played for SC Freiburg (Bundesliga, 2010) in Germany

About the Red Stars: Franchise was established in 2007 ... Finished the 2011 season with a 10-1 record, coming in second in the WPSL Championship match ... 2012 WPSL Championship runner-up and U.S. Adult Soccer Association's National Women's Cup winner ... Return six players from the 2012 WPSL squad