

BUFFS IN THE LEAGUE

The National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) is the top level professional women's soccer league in the United States. It began play in spring 2013 with eight teams: 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. The Houston Dash joined the league in 2014. Based in Chicago, the NWSL is supported by the United States Soccer Federation, Canadian Soccer Association and Federation of Mexican Football. Each of the league's nine clubs will play a total of 24 games during a 19-week span, with the schedule beginning the weekend of April 12-13 and concluding the weekend of Aug. 16-17. The top four teams will qualify for the NWSL playoffs and compete in the semifinals on Aug. 23-24. The NWSL will crown its inaugural champion after the final on Sunday, Aug. 31.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE



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

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

National: Member of the U.S. Women's National Team U-23 player pool from 2009-11, receiving three camp call-ups ... Received first call-up to the USWNT in May 2014

International: Helped the U.S. U-20 Women's 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 ... Helped the team qualify for the 2008 U-20 World Cup ... Recorded a goal and an assist in the 2008 Four Nations Tournament final, where the U.S. beat host team Chile 5-1 ... Played three matches as the U-23 USWNT earned the title at the 2011 Four Nations Tournament

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, playing in seven matches ... Helped the Western New York Flash to the 2012 WPSL Elite championship ... MVP of 2012 championship match against the Chicago Red Stars ... Signed with Portland on January 31, 2013 ... Started all 22 regular season matches for Portland in the inaugural NWSL season ... Recorded one assist during the 2013 regular season ... Assisted the game-tying goal in the 2013 NWSL semifinals ... Helped the Thorns to the 2013 NWSL Championship ... Has started 44 consecutive regular season matches dating back to 2013, making her the only player on Thorns FC to have started every game in the NWSL

About Thorns FC: Oregon women's soccer franchise dates back to 2000 ... One of two NWSL teams with Major League Soccer affiliation (Portland Timbers) ... Marshall and Thorns teammate Alex Morgan (a 2012 Olympic gold medalist) won the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup championship in 2008 ... Finished third during the 2013 regular season and defeated the Western New York Flash 2-0 in the inaugural championship game ... Defeated the Houston Dash 1-0 on August 3 in front of an NWSL record crowd of 19,123 fans at Portland's Providence Park

HISTORY

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

At Colorado: 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 10th and 13th on CU's all-time list ... Her 124 shots attempted ranks 12th 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 ... All-Pac-12 honorable mention as a junior ... DU Invitational All-Tournament Team and third-team NSCAA All-Pacific Region selection as a senior ... 2012 team captain

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

Professional: Selected by the Western New York Flash in the second round (the 14th overall pick) of the 2013 NWSL draft ... Started four of her nine appearances as a rookie, including two playoff games ... Started and played 55 minutes in the inaugural NWSL championship game ... Has started eight of 17 games played in 2014, with two regular season games remaining

International: Spent the 2013-14 offseason with WFK Zorky in Russia ... Played in every minute of her four starts during the tournament phase of the UEFA Women's Champions League

About the Flash: Won three consecutive league titles (in the W-League in 2010, the WPS in 2011 and the WPSL Elite in 2012) ... Claimed the 2013 regular season championship ... Fell 2-0 to Portland in the 2013 championship game ... Roster includes two-time Olympic gold medalists Abby Wambach and Carli Lloyd

HISTORY

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

At Colorado: Recorded 16 points off seven goals (including three game-winners) and two assists ... Ranks fourth in career minutes played at CU, with 7,197 ... Ranks fifth with 81 games started and sixth with 85 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 three goals and contributed an assist 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 the WPS in 2009, returned in 2012 in the WPSL Elite and was selected by the Red Stars' in the third round of the 2013 NWSL supplemental draft ... Also 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 ... Has made 30 appearances with the Red Stars since they joined the NWSL in 2013 ... Has started 14 of 17 games played in 2014, logging 1,290 minutes and scoring two goals (one game-winner) and contributing an assist

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 ... Finished sixth in the 2013 NWSL regular season standings ... Roster includes USWNT player Christen Press and Canadian National Team veterans Karina Le Blanc and Melissa Tancredi

