



EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS - 2L

D.C. UNITED v NEW YORK RED BULLS

Sun., Oct. 29, RFK Memorial Stadium (6 p.m. ET; ESPN2)

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD: NY 15 wins, 64 GF; DC 24 wins, 90 GF, 5 ties

2006 HEAD-TO-HEAD: DC 2 wins, 10 GF; NY 0 wins, 6 GF; 1 ties

AT RFK STADIUM:

4/2: DC 2, NY 2 (Eskandarian 55; Erpen 65 - Djorkaeff 15; Buddle 18)

9/23: DC 4, NY 3 (own goal 10; Gomez 60; Moreno 73; Donnet 89 - Guevara 20 pen, 82; Altidore 92+)

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS: DC 5 wins, 10 GF; NY 1 win, 3 GF



While United were thrilled to come home with the first-leg advantage, perhaps the biggest positive was keeping New York scoreless. It was the first shutout for United since the goalless draw at Giants Stadium on Aug. 16, and their first win by shutout since back-to-back 1-0 wins July 4-8 (against Dallas and Columbus). "We've been punished lately with a lot of goals against us and today, we've kept a clean sheet and that was the whole deal," said United head coach Peter Nowak. "We cannot chase the game -- we've chased the game in the last five, six, eight, I don't know how many weeks -- but today, we were patient and also kept playing." ... The closest the Red Bulls came was a Jeff Parke header that hit the bar. "It feels good because we haven't had [a shutout] in a long time. More importantly, the guys in front of me all the way to Jaime, we defended as a full team today and really had the determination not to get beat," said goalkeeper Troy Perkins. ... During the middle part of their campaign, United gritted out a number of results -- getting five wins and three draws where they scored just a single goal from June 3-July 22. "It was ugly, but it's the playoffs. Teams are fighting and it's not that easy, especially on turf and a windy atmosphere, to play beautiful soccer," said Ben Olsen. "And we came together as a team again for the first time in a while. We competed for each other and we played smart and we concentrated for 90 minutes. It's hopefully the first step in getting back our form." ... Much like the Aug. 16 meeting, the Red Bulls closed down United. But the next time they met, Sept. 23 at RFK, United won a seven-goal thriller. "It was a tight game, not much space to create but we were able to play through the middle with Ben Olsen and Jaime Moreno and ... we were able to stretch them a little bit," said Christian Gomez. ... United must also lay to rest memories of last year's second-leg disaster against Chicago. "I don't think if you are married and you got divorced you are going to bring the divorce all the way back," Nowak said to The Washington Post. "You cannot live with the bad memories. We have to look forward and not look over our shoulders and see only the bad things that happened."



REFEREE: Tim Weyland.

SAR (bench): Chris Strickland; JAR (opposite): Thomas Supple; 4th: Baldomero Toledo

INJURY REPORT: D.C. UNITED – OUT: GK Nick Rimando (ankle sprain); MF Domenic Mediate (R fibula fracture); DF John Wilson (knee surgery) ... N.Y. RED BULLS – OUT: FW Edson Buddle (R hamstring strain); MF Mark Lisi (R adductor strain); MF Shawn Kuykendall (L knee surgery); QUESTIONABLE: MF Youri Djorkaeff (L Achilles strain); MF Peter Canero (L knee sprain/R ankle contusion); FW Jordan Cila (flu-like symptoms); FW Jerrod Laventure (L hamstring strain); PROBABLE: DF Todd Dunivant (R calf tightness) **SUSPENDED:** none

WARNINGS (suspended if yellow card in next game played):

DC: Christian Gomez, Bryan Namoff ... NY: Amado Guevara, Carlos Mendes

D.C. UNITED

NEW YORK RED BULLS

SUBSTITUTES FROM

SUBSTITUTES FROM

2	Stokes	DF
4	Prideaux	DF
7	Donnet	MF
8	Moose	MF
15	Dyachenko	MF
19	Simms	MF
20	Nickell	FW
21	deRoux	MF
22	McTavish	MF
23	Walker	FW
24	J. Carroll	MF
27	Metcalf	MF
30	McIntosh	GK
31	Ssejumba	FW

1	Meola	GK
3	O'Rourke	MF
5	Jolley	DF
7	Magee	FW
9	Wolyniec	FW
12	Camp	MF
14	Vide	MF
19	Henderson	MF
21	Canero	MF
22	Behonick	GK
25	Cila	FW
26	Graham	DF
27	Ikangu	MF
28	Laventure	FW
33	Arvizu	FW

Red Bulls coach Bruce Arena has identified the key to a victory on Sunday afternoon. "We didn't get much out of Guevara and Djorkaeff," Arena said to the Newark Star-Ledger. "Those guys have to be important players for the team. It wasn't their day Saturday. ... We had a couple of players, it seemed to me, a bit confused as to their responsibilities. We've got to get that straightened out." ... Arena said the relationship between and Djorkaeff needed attention. "For whatever reason, Amado was playing his own game," Arena said. "That happens with players. Maybe he thought tactically that was the way to play in the early going. ... We told him to play ahead of (midfielder Seth) Stammler. ... Sometimes he's all forward or he's all back," he said to the Star-Ledger. "He's never in between, which is the way the games have to be played, so sometimes he has a difficult time making those adjustments, and maybe he tended to play, obviously, on the conservative side in the first half. I think sometimes he's confused (and) not sure how he wants to go about doing things. But the game's about the players making decisions on the field, figuring things out." ... Arena has his attacking options limited with lingering injuries to Mike Magee and Edson Buddle. Arena said Magee "hasn't gotten over his (right knee ligament) injury on the physical side or the psychological side," while Buddle said: "It's real frustrating. ... (A hamstring) is slow to heal. The thing with a hamstring is the first three steps when you burst after a ball." ... A bright spot for the Red Bulls was left back Todd Dunivant's ability to get forward and cause United some problems. They would like to see Marvell Wynne do the same on the right. "Not only are they good players, but they're good getting forward, they're both fast and good crossers of the ball," Jeff Parke said. "It helps us and it puts them on their heels a bit. It makes them have to make some decisions and have their defenders running at their own goal, and it takes some pressure off our back line."

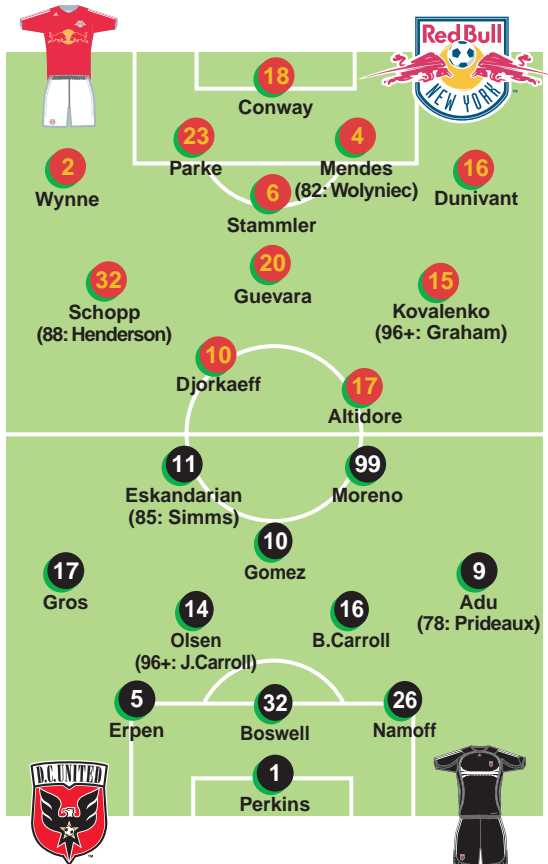




0 N.Y. RED BULLS v D.C. UNITED 1
Sat. Oct., 21, Giants Stadium (A: 8,630)



DC -- Christian Gomez 1 (Jaime Moreno 1) 77



REFEREE: Michael Kennedy.

SAR (bench): George Gansner; JAR (opposite): Fabio Tovar; 4th: Shane Moody

TOTAL SHOTS: 14 (Eskandarian 4)
SHOTS ON GOAL: 5 (Erpen, Gomez 2)
FOULS: 20 (Moreno, Namoff 4)
OFFSIDES: 8 (Adu 3)
CORNER KICKS: 4
SAVES: 3 (Perkins 3)

TOTAL SHOTS: 13 (Djorkaeff 4)
SHOTS ON GOAL: 3 (3 tied with 1)
FOULS: 19 (Guevara 6)
OFFSIDES: 0
CORNER KICKS: 2
SAVES: 4 (Conway 4)

CAUTIONS

Gomez 73 (Pushing, Holding)
Namoff 75 (Pushing, Holding)

CAUTIONS

Mendes 76 (Pushing, Holding)
Guevara 92+ (Tackle from Behind)

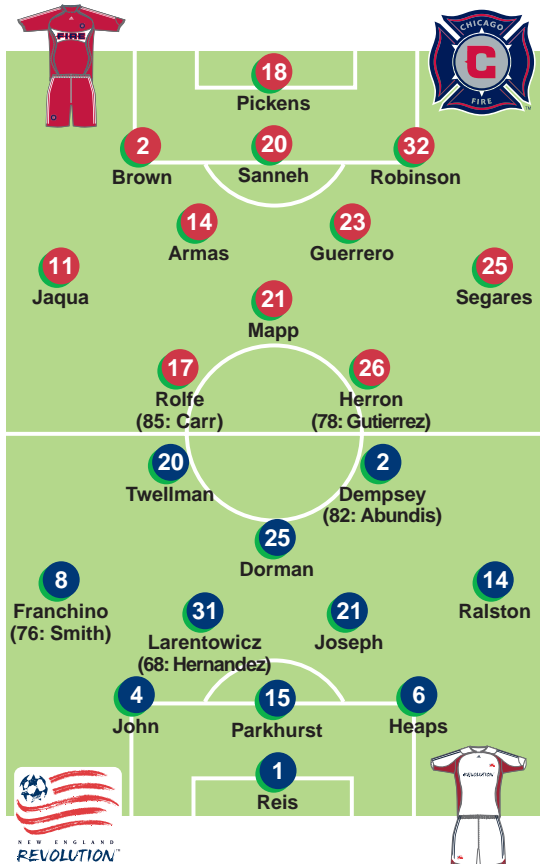
Returning to the form they exhibited over much of the season, D.C. United took a vital 1-0 away victory against the New York Red Bulls in the first leg of their Eastern Conference Semifinal Series. It was a typical tight playoff affair, and as anticipated, a moment of brilliance between the partnership of Christian Gomez and Jaime Moreno provided the game's only goal. After Ben Olsen intercepted a pass, he played it forward to Gomez, who quickly laid it off to Moreno at the top of the restraining arc. The Bolivian knocked back to the Argentinian, and he split a pair of defenders before looping a chip over the head of Red Bulls 'keeper Jon Conway from the heart of the penalty area for the 77th-minute strike. Troy Perkins wasn't threatened often in the United goal in recording the shutout - both goalkeepers were making their MLS Cup Playoffs debut - but he was beaten in the final minute. However, Jeff Parke's header from a Yuri Djorkaeff free kick bounced off the top of the crossbar and away to safety as United won a fifth consecutive postseason game against the New York club.



1 CHICAGO FIRE v N.E. REVOLUTION 0
Sun. Oct., 22, Toyota Park (A: 10,217)



CHI -- Justin Mapp 1 (unassisted) 35



REFEREE: Tim Weyland.

SAR (bench): Emiliano Monje; JAR (opposite): Paul Scott; 4th: Terry Vaughn

TOTAL SHOTS: 8 (Rolfe 3)
SHOTS ON GOAL: 3 (Rolfe 2)
FOULS: 18 (Herron, Robinson 4)
OFFSIDES: 3 (Mapp 2)
CORNER KICKS: 7
SAVES: 8 (Pickens 8)

TOTAL SHOTS: 12 (Twellman 4)
SHOTS ON GOAL: 8 (Twellman 3)
FOULS: 20 (Dempsey 7)
OFFSIDES: 5 (Dempsey 3)
CORNER KICKS: 2
SAVES: 2 (Reis 2)

CAUTIONS

Herron 16 (Reckless Foul)
Robinson 61 (Reckless Foul)

CAUTIONS

Heaps 34 (Professional Foul)
John 37 (Tackle from Behind)
Joseph 57 (Reckless Foul)

Justin Mapp's free kick in the first half found the back of the net for the game's only goal as the Chicago Fire took the advantage in their home leg of the conference semifinals against the New England Revolution. From a foul just outside the Revolution area, Mapp whipped a left-footed strike over a static Revolution wall and inside the left-hand post of New England goalkeeper Matt Reis for his first career playoff goal. Fire goalkeeper Matt Pickens, making his first-ever appearance in the MLS Cup Playoffs ahead of Zach Thornton, who had started every one of the Fire's previous 31 postseason contests, was called upon to make eight saves, including a point-blank stop on Steve Ralston in just the second minute. Midway through the second half he got over to block a Taylor Twellman jackknife header from close range to ensure the win. It was the Fire's first win ever against the Revolution at Toyota Park; over the 2006 MLS season series, the home team did not win, and Chicago won both league encounters at Gillette Stadium.