

COUNCIL BLUFFS CAPTAINS FC

PRESS KIT

From Here. For Here.

Founded 2024 • UPSL Premier Division • Council Bluffs, Iowa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Why This Club Matters Now

American soccer is about to hit a tipping point.

With the **2026 FIFA World Cup** fast approaching, the game in the United States isn't just growing—it's accelerating. New fans, new investment, and new attention are pushing the sport into the mainstream.

But the most important shift isn't happening at the top. It's happening underneath it.

Leagues like the **United Premier Soccer League** are no longer just local competitions. They're becoming part of a real player pathway—producing talent that moves into professional environments, including opportunities connected to clubs in La Liga and other international leagues.

That changes what “semi-pro” means. The UPSL is not a stopping point. It's a starting line.

And it's happening in places most people aren't looking yet.

Places like Council Bluffs.

Enter **Council Bluffs Captains FC** at a moment when the American soccer pyramid is being built in real time. Across the country, clubs are launching quickly, chasing visibility in an increasingly crowded landscape.

This one isn't.

The Captains are building deliberately—locally recruited players, long-term planning, and a clear connection to a place. Not scale for the sake of scale, but something durable.

Because the question facing American soccer right now isn't just how big it can get.

It's how rooted it can be.

In Iowa, that question is already taking shape. Capital City Roots FC have set a standard in Des Moines, proving there is real demand for high-level soccer in the state.

The Captains represent the other side of that equation:

Not bigger...

Not louder...

Closer.

A club where the distance between the stands and the pitch—and between the players and the community—is measured in feet, not marketing campaigns.

As the spotlight of 2026 approaches, the most important story in American soccer may not be what happens on the biggest stages.

It may be what's being built in places like Council Bluffs—where the future of grassroots soccer is taking shape now. In real time.

From Here. For Here.

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Club Overview

Council Bluffs Captains FC is a community-rooted football club based in Council Bluffs, Iowa, competing in the United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) Premier Division. Founded in 2024, the club exists at the intersection of sport, identity, and place—built to reflect the character of the Missouri River region: resilient, understated, and quietly ambitious. The Captains are not a franchise. We are a civic institution in formation—one that measures success not only in results, but in the depth of its roots.

Club Identity

Full Name:	Council Bluffs Captains FC
Colors:	Deep Sea Blue #00315d 100,52,0,63 Captains Blue #0072af 100,33,0,18 Sky Blue #a7bbd6 26,12,0,10 Deep Sky Red #d5085c 0,100,37,11 Pink #eac6c8 0,20,8,7
Founded:	2024
League:	UPSL Premier Division
Location:	Council Bluffs, Iowa
Nickname:	The Captains
Tagline:	From Here. For Here.
Logo:	



Philosophy: Football as a civic language—connecting players, supporters, and the city through shared experience.

Founding Story

The Captains were established in 2024 with a simple premise: that high-level football should feel local, intentional, and accessible. Rather than scale quickly, the club chose to build deliberately—prioritizing culture, player development, and community presence over short-term visibility.

The name “Captains” reflects both leadership and navigation—an acknowledgment of Council Bluffs’ geographic and cultural identity on the banks of the Missouri River. To be a Captain is to take responsibility: for the pitch, the community, and the long game.

Sporting Vision

Style of Play

Disciplined, possession-oriented football built on structure and adaptability. The Captains prioritize collective movement over individual flair—a system that rewards intelligence, work rate, and positional discipline.

Development Model

- Local-first recruitment, then regional collegiate and post-collegiate talent
- Clear pathways for player progression within the American soccer pyramid
- Long-term roster continuity over short-term transactional signings

Competitive Objective

To establish a durable, competitive presence in the UPSL Premier Division while developing players capable of advancing to higher levels of professional and semi-professional football in the United States and beyond.

Our Vision

To build a competitive, community driven soccer club that develops talent, fosters Council Bluffs pride, and inspires the next generation of athletes.

“*Council Bluffs doesn’t need another thing that shows up and leaves. We needed something that actually stays. That’s why we built it the way we did, with the people we did, in the place we did.*”

~Taylor Stanton, Club President

Our Mission

The Council Bluffs Captains Football Club is committed to providing a platform for athletes to grow, compete, and connect. We strive to:

- Promote excellence in soccer through high-quality coaching and competitive play.
- Cultivate a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere that celebrates diversity and sportsmanship.
- Engage with our community through outreach, youth development, and memorable events.
- Elevate the profile of soccer in the Midwest by embracing innovation, creativity, and local pride.

Community & Culture

The Captains are designed as a cultural institution as much as a sporting one. Council Bluffs is a city with a strong working-class identity, a deep connection to the river, and a sports community that has historically gone underserved at the local level. The club intends to fill that gap with intention.

Core Commitments

- Youth engagement programs and open clinics
- Active partnerships with local schools, businesses, and civic organizations
- Matchdays designed as community gatherings—not transactional events
- Accessible ticketing and inclusive matchday experience

Matchday Atmosphere

Minimalist, intentional, and intimate. The goal is connection over spectacle—an environment where the football is the event, and every supporter feels proximate to it.

Leadership

Ownership: Taylor Stanton

Creative Director: Jeff Coffman

Marketing Director: Galen Root

Head Coach: Cesar Duran

Club Contact: Taylor Stanton

Social Media Manager: . . Belbeth Orozco

Club leadership reflects a blend of local investment and football expertise, united by a commitment to long-term stewardship over short-term results.

Players

#	Name	Pos.	Age	Pronunciation	Instagram
1	Gared Burgos	GK	19	GAH-red BOOR-gohs	garedalarcon17
2	Juan Martinez	Def	Unk.	HWAHN mar-TEE-nez	—
3	Aldahir Hernández	Def	30	al-dah-EER er-NAHN-dez	—
4	Sam Gonzalez	Def	24	Sam gohn-SAH-les	Sam_gon22
5	Keaton Plummer	Def	22	KEE-ton PLUM-er	Keaton.plum98
6	Hamza Wadi	Mid	25	HAHM-zah WAH-dee	Hamza__wadi
7	Carlos Rivera	Mid	22	CAR-los ree-VEH-rah	—
8	Gay Klo	Mid	22	GAY KLOH	—
9	Wawa Kpru	Fwd	22	WAH-wah KROO	—
10	Christian Amaya	Fwd	—	KREES-tee-ahn ah-MAH-yah	—
11	Victorien Holmes	Fwd	19	ik-TOR-ee-en HOHLMZ	yvngblasian_
12	Mario Santos	GK	28	MAR-ee-oh SAN-toze	supamarz23
13	Nay Blu Htoo	Mid	—	NAY BLOO TOO	—
14	Kamran Saadati	Mid	18	kahm-RAHN sah-DAH-tee	kamsaadati
15	Jayke Ayden McKern	Fwd	20	JAYK muh-KERN	—
16	Brady Thomas	Def	20	BRAY-dee TAHM-us	bigboi_brady
17	Zabdi Omar Cuenca Lopez	Def	31	ZAHB-dee KWEN-kah LOH-pez	Wxxgzxx0
18	Bor Yor	Def	23	BOR YOR	borcharyor
19	Deshawn Evans	Fwd	—	deh-SHAWN EV-enz	—
20	Ali Alsaadi	Mid	29	AH-lee al-SAH-dee	awww_lee
21	Angelo Sanchez Hector	Mid	—	AHN-heh-loh SAHN-chez EK-tor	—
22	Kri Moo Taw	Fwd	21	KREE MOO taw	Kri_22
23	Ah Lin	Fwd	20	AH LIN	—
24	Keegan Happe-Stogdill	Def	—	KEE-gan HAP-ee STOG-dill	—
25	Edder Hernández	Mid	—	EH-der er-NAHN-dez	—
28	Alan Najarro	Mid	23	AH-lahn nah-HAH-roh	Alan_Najarro
29	Izahk Reyes	Fwd	20	IZ-hawk RAY-ez	flacoswrld13
30	Carlos A. Balmaceda Valle	Mid	27	CAR-los bal-mah-SAY-dah VAH-yeh	—
31	Taban Jock	Fwd	26	TAH-bahn JAWK	Iamtaban100
32	Gustavo Ramos	Fwd	23	goos-TAH-voh RAH-mohs	—
33	Tahakdu Moon	Def	22	tah-HAWK-doo MOON	—
36	Jorge Lizárraga	Def	26	HOR-heh lee-SAH-rah-gah	JorgeLizárraga.7
37	Jhovanny Rodriguez	Fwd	—	zhoh-VAH-nee roh-DREE-gez	—
38	Mohamed Adan	Fwd	—	moh-HAH-med AH-DAHN	—
39	Adam Kamaledine	Mid	—	AH-dahm kah-mahl-eh-DEEN	—
41	Don de dieu Bolingo	Def	18	DOHN deh DYUH boh-LEEN-goh	—
42	Gred Siate	Def	19	GREHD see-AH-teh	not_gred22
43	Mudi Sangale	Def	21	MOO-dee sahn-GAH-leh	—
44	Say Doh	Mid	19	SAY DOH	—
45	Brian Isaiah Aparicio	GK	—	BREE-ahn ah-pah-REE-see-oh	—

Announcer's note: For Wawa Kpru and Kri Moo Taw, both carry Karen ethnic heritage from the Thai-Burma border region — the cluster consonant in KPRU collapses to a single fluid “KROO.” For Bor Yor and Taban Jock, lean into the short, percussive delivery native to South Sudanese Dinka naming convention. For Don de dieu Bolingo, the preferred call name “Dondi” (DOHN-dee) is your safe harbor mid-match. Tahakdu Moon carries a Southeast Asian rhythm — resist the urge to Anglicize it; let the syllables breathe.

Stadium & Facilities

Home Ground: Gale Wickersham Athletic Complex

Capacity: 4,000

Location: 715 N 21st St, Council Bluffs, IA 51501

The Captains' home ground prioritizes atmosphere over scale. Close-to-the-pitch sightlines, accessible layout, and an intimate footprint ensure that every match feels present and immediate—a feature, not a limitation.

Brand & Visual Language

Design Principles

- Bold colors anchored by local and river-inspired maritime motifs
- Restrained contrast—nothing decorative that isn't structural
- Clean, editorial typography consistent across all touchpoints

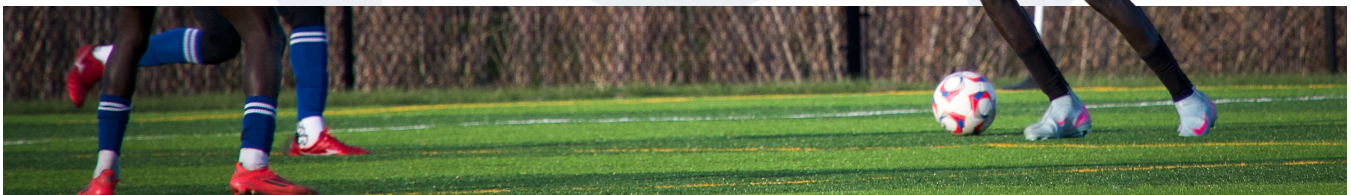
Photography Style

Natural light, documentary framing, and candid moments over staged imagery. The visual identity should feel earned, not manufactured.

Media Assets

The following assets are available upon request from the club's media contact:

- Club logo — vector (SVG/EPS) and PNG formats
- Player and staff headshots — high resolution
- Matchday photography — editorial and action
- B-roll video footage — training and matchday
- Full brand guidelines document



Press Contacts

Media Inquiries

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General Information

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The Strip

In football, a team's "strip" is the full matchday uniform—shirt, shorts, and socks—worn as a unified standard on the pitch. For the Captains, the strip is more than kit; it's our colors at full sail, carrying the club's identity into every match. Rooted in tradition yet charted with a modern hand, each design reflects the heritage of the club while setting a confident course forward. Whether in the primary home strip, the away strip, or the third strip, the Captains take the field in a look that signals intent, unity, and a readiness to command the game.



The Iowa Corn Clásico

Two clubs. One state. Different approaches. Ninety minutes to measure both.

To the east, a club setting an early standard. To the west, one built slowly and locally. Same league — the United Premier Soccer League. Everything else is contested.

This derby wasn't inherited. It's being built in real time.

Every challenge, every goal, every decision adds something permanent. What happens here sets the tone — edge, identity, expectation — for everything that follows. The first meeting doesn't just matter. It defines.

Expect intensity, not spectacle. Possession earned. Space limited. Moments that feel heavier than they should this early.

Voices close to the pitch. Traveling support from Council Bluffs. A strong Des Moines crowd. No distance between the match and the people watching it.

Every rivalry has a first moment — a first goal, a first result, a first side that claims it.

May 20 is it.

FOR EDITORS

If you cover one match that defines where Iowa soccer is headed this season... this is it. Because next time, it won't need a name.

Everyone will already know it.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Kick-Off</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>
12 Apr	Sunday	3:30pm	v. Atletico Omaha	Blackburn HS
18 Apr	Saturday	5pm	@ Garwo United	University of Sioux Falls
26 Apr	Sunday	4pm	v. Omaha Street FC	Gale Wickersham AC
01 May	Friday	7pm	@ Worthington Comm.	Trojan Field
10 May	Sunday	4:30pm	@ Bana Mboka FC	Norris Middle School
17 May	Sunday	4pm	v. Super Stars FC	Gale Wickersham AC
The Iowa Corn Clásico:				
20 May	Wednesday	7pm	at Capital City Roots FC	West Des Moines Valley HS
24 May	Sunday	5pm	v. Reapers FC	Gale Wickersham AC
30 May	Saturday	5pm	@ Sioux Falls Thunder	University of Sioux Falls
7 June	Sunday	4pm	v. Heartland United	Gale Wickersham AC

About the Captains

Council Bluffs Captains FC are a semi-professional football club competing in the UPSL Premier Division. Founded in 2024 and based in Council Bluffs, IA, the club is dedicated to developing players, engaging

the local community, and contributing to the growth of soccer in the Midwest. The Captains operate as a long-term civic institution—building through culture, continuity, and connection to place.

Notes for Editors

First Season:2025 UPSL Premier League

League Structure:Tiered national amateur system (UPSL)

Geographic Rivals:Atletico Omaha
Bana Mboka FC
Omaha Street FC
Super Stars FC
Capital City Roots FC

Media Credential Requests: Direct to club media contact on page 9.





Photo credits: HG Photography

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