



1996 Playoff Qualifiers
1997 D3Pro Mid Atlantic Division Champions
2008 PDL Mid-Atlantic Division Champions
2008 PDL Eastern Conference Regular Season Champions
2008 PDL National Semifinalists
2009 PDL Regular Season National Champions
2010 PDL Eastern Conference Champions

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Islanders
harrisburg, pa
Reading vs Harrisburg
May 24th
7:00 PM Kickoff

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER RETURNS TO READING!

PHILADELPHIA UNION
Reading vs Philadelphia
May 31st
7:30 PM Kickoff

Professional Soccer Returns to Reading

Philadelphia Union & Harrisburg City Islanders each to face Reading United in late May exhibition games

READING, Pa. (May 6, 2011) – Reading United A.C. is proud to announce a series of “friendlies” against their professional partners, the Harrisburg City Islanders and Philadelphia Union! The City Islanders, who play a step above Reading United in the U.S. Soccer Pyramid at the USL PRO level, will come to Reading on May 24th, while the second-year Philadelphia Union of the MLS will visit just a week later on May 31st. Both games will be held at Exeter High School’s Don Thomas Stadium and kick off at 7:00pm and 7:30PM respectively.

This will be the second meeting between Reading and Philadelphia, as the Union earned a 2-0 victory over the United on June 23rd, 2010. An own goal by Reading’s Eric Schoenle off a deflection in the 34th minute and a Nick Zimmerman strike in the 59th minute were the only tallies in a tightly contested match. The match-up between Reading and Harrisburg will be the first since the City Islanders disposed of the former Reading Rage by a 4-1 tally in the first round of the 2009 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup. Harrisburg struck first a mere 43 seconds in the game, and never looked back in a physical, fast, and slippery competition on June 9, 2009.

In late 2009, Reading and Philadelphia inked a player development agreement that makes Reading the exclusive PDL Player Development Partner of the Philadelphia Union. The City Islanders signed a similar arrangement with Philadelphia, adding a professional team to the “Path to PPL Park”. “The Philadelphia Union have provided a clearly defined path for the progression of soccer players in our region. Starting with YSC youth training, USSF Academy teams for top level U14-U18 youth talent, the Reading United Super 20’s and PDL squads, the professional level in Harrisburg (USL PRO), and finally to the MLS with Philadelphia, the Union have set the bar in the United States for a truly



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Official Player Development Partner of the Philadelphia Union





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groundbreaking soccer hierarchy for our fans and players. These exhibition games will provide the fans, and our players, a small taste of what top level professional soccer is about!" stated Reading United President Art Auchenbach.

Reading United enjoyed immediate success from the partnership, having three players from last year's team drafted into the MLS (C.J. Sapong, Corey Hertzog, Levi Houapeu) and another signed as a homegrown player by the Houston Dynamo (Alex Dixon). Another two players from the 2010 roster have continued their playing careers in the professional ranks, both in the States (Luke Mulholland with the USL PRO's Wilmington Hammerheads) and abroad (Jeremy Vuolo with AC Oulu in Finland). Union CEO and Operating Partner, Nick Sakiewicz indicated, "The Philadelphia Union are deeply committed to our player development partnership with Reading United and Harrisburg City Islanders. These games give us an opportunity to get together in each respective market, bring some exciting soccer to town and see how the stars of the future match up against Major League Soccer professionals. We are honored to have such great partners."

The Union has also benefitted, using the relationship to gather an inside scouting report on their 2011 3rd round draft choice, and Reading United alumni, forward Levi Houapeu. The guidance of United Head Coach Brendan Burke at the PDL level impressed the Union, and named him as the inaugural Head Coach of the Union Reserves team. The City Islanders also contributed to the Union cause, as defender Sheanon Williams played the entire 2010 season in Harrisburg, before signing a professional contract with Philadelphia in late August. Harrisburg Head Coach Bill Becher elaborated, "Sheanon is a great example of the value of this partnership. He did very well here in Harrisburg, and has moved on to play with the Philadelphia Union. The partnerships we have with Reading and Philadelphia are very important to the Islanders, and we have seen the benefits for all three organizations. We look forward to these relationships growing even stronger in the future."

Tickets for the games will be available online at www.readingunitedac.com/store/tickets.html or gamedays at Don Thomas Stadium. Ticket costs are \$10 each and are ALL general admission tickets. Fans can purchase a two game pack (tickets for both games) for \$15. Reading United kickoff their 2011 PDL campaign with a May 7 visit to the Brooklyn Knights and return for their home opener on Sunday May 15 for the "Kickoff to Summer" against the NJ Rangers.

ABOUT READING UNITED AC

Reading United A.C. is the Greater Reading area's premier minor league soccer team. Led by the ownership group of Berks Professional Sports, Inc. the club was founded in 1995 as the Reading Rage. As the club entered its 15th season a name, logo, and color change was made to better feature the ties to the local and state community as well as the soccer goals of the team and its partners. Reading United is a Player Development Partner of the Philadelphia Union MLS team. For more information about Reading United AC, visit www.readingunitedac.com.

ABOUT KEYSTONE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LLC

Keystone Sports and Entertainment, LLC, is the ownership group of Philadelphia Union and is comprised of Chairman/Owner Jay Sugarman, CEO and Operating Partner Nick Sakiewicz, Christopher Buccini, Robert Buccini and David Pollin, founding partners of The Buccini/Pollin Group. The group launched the Philadelphia Union's inaugural season on March 25, 2010 and opened PPL Park, the brand new \$122 million soccer specific stadium on the Chester Waterfront, on June 27, 2010. PPL Park, the home of Philadelphia Union, holds approximately 18,500 seats and will host various events throughout the year. For more information about Philadelphia Union, visit www.philadelphiaunion.com.



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