



# Portland Timbers Match Day

**Portland Timbers (0-0-0, 0pts) @ Vancouver Whitecaps (0-1-2, 2pts)**  
 Saturday, April 25, 2009 • Match #1 Road Match #1  
 Swangard Stadium • Burnaby, B.C.

## Schedule/Results

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
April 25	@ Vancouver	7 p.m.
April 30	CAROLINA	7 p.m.
May 2	CAROLINA	7 p.m.
May 9	@ Cleveland	4 p.m.
May 14	ROCHESTER	8 p.m.
May 22	@ Puerto Rico	5 p.m.
May 24	@ Puerto Rico	3 p.m.
May 30	VANCOUVER	7 p.m.
June 4	MONTREAL	7 p.m.
June 11	@ Carolina	4 p.m.
June 13	@ Charleston	4:30 p.m.
June 19	MINNESOTA	8 p.m.
June 28	MONTREAL	5 p.m.
July 4	@ Minnesota	5:05 p.m.
July 11	@ Austin	5:30 p.m.
July 17	@ Miami	5 p.m.
July 19	@ Miami	3 p.m.
July 23	PUERTO RICO	7 p.m.
Aug. 1	@ Minnesota	5:05 p.m.
Aug. 6	VANCOUVER	7 p.m.
Aug. 8	CHARLESTON	7 p.m.
Aug. 12	@ Montreal	4:45 p.m.
Aug. 15	@ Rochester	4:35 p.m.
Aug. 22	MIAMI	7 p.m.
Aug. 28	@ Charleston	5 p.m.
Sept. 3	ROCHESTER	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	@ Austin	4 p.m.
Sept. 11	AUSTIN	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	CLEVELAND	5 p.m.
Sept. 17	CLEVELAND	7 p.m.

All times Pacific, home games in bold

**Tonight's Match:** The Portland Timbers kick off their 2009 USL First Division season tonight against the Vancouver Whitecaps on the road. Tonight's match marks the opening of Portland's ninth season in the USL First Division.



G. Wilkinson

**Timbers set to open 2009 season Saturday:** After seven weeks of preseason training camp and a series of seven preseason matches, the Timbers are ready to embark on the 2009 USL First Division campaign. The Timbers finished preseason with a record of 2-1-4, facing three Major League Soccer teams (San Jose, New York and Seattle), the Whitecaps, two college teams and the PDL's Tacoma Tide. Led by third-year head coach **Gavin Wilkinson**, the Timbers feature 17 new players for the 2009 season. The most significant changes to the team's roster from last season come at the midfield and forward positions; the team also has a new set of goalkeepers. New additions to the roster include, midfielders **Tony McManus**, **Johan Claesson**, **Ryan Pore** and **Keith Savage**, defenders **David Hayes**, **Stephen Keel** and **Takuro Nishimura**, forwards **Mandjou Keita**, **Jason McLaughlin**, **Antou Jallow** and **George Josten** and goalkeepers **Steve Cronin** and rookie **Brian Visser**. Portland has just six returning players - defenders **Cameron Knowles**, **Scot Thompson** and **Cameron Dunn**, midfielders **Tom Polt** and **Shaun Higgins** and forward **Takayuki Suzuki**.

**Grand openings:** The Timbers have won four of their last five season-opening matches, including wins over the Puerto Rico Islanders at PGE Park to start each of the last two seasons. Tonight, the Timbers open their season on the road for just the third time since joining the league in 2001. It is also the first time under Wilkinson that the Timbers have opened a campaign away from PGE Park. Overall, Portland is 4-4-0 in its first game of the season; the team is 0-2-0 in season-opening matches on the road.

**What's next?** Following their season opener in Vancouver, the Timbers make their PGE Park debut on Thursday, April 30 when they play host to the Carolina RailHawks at 7 p.m. on FSN. Presented by PGE, the first 2,000 fans on April 30 receive a Timbers magnet schedule as well as a Tursi's fan scroll.



Tonight is the first of three games during the 2009 season between the Timbers and Whitecaps. It's also the only regular-season contest between the Northwest rivals in Vancouver.

**All-time record vs. VAN:**  
7-17-8

**All-time record vs. VAN at home:**  
6-4-6

**All-time record vs. VAN on the road:**  
1-13-2

**2009 Season Series vs. VAN:**  
April 25 - POR @ VAN  
May 30 - POR vs. VAN  
Aug. 6 - POR vs. VAN

**2008 vs. VAN:**  
0-3-0  
May 24, vs. VAN: 0-1 D in VAN  
June 7, @ VAN: 1-3 L  
Aug. 22, @ VAN: 1-2 L

**Last time POR shutout VAN:**  
Sept. 9, 2007: 0-0 D in VAN  
**Last time VAN shutout POR:**  
May 24, 2008: 1-0 W in POR

### 2009 USL FIRST DIVISION STANDINGS:

Team	Pts	GP	W	L	T
Miami	6	2	2	0	0
Carolina	6	2	2	0	0
Puerto Rico	4	2	1	0	1
Charleston	3	3	0	0	3
Austin	2	2	0	0	2
Minnesota	2	3	0	1	2
Vancouver	2	3	0	1	2
Montreal	1	2	0	1	1
Rochester	1	2	0	1	1
Cleveland	0	1	0	1	0
Portland	0	0	0	0	0

## Timbers On The Air

Tonight's match is the first of 15 games broadcast this season on 95.5 The Game with announcers **Andy McNamara** and **John Strong**. The game can also be heard on [www.portlandtimbers.com](http://www.portlandtimbers.com). A live video webcast is available online through USL Live - now a free service at [www.usllive.com](http://www.usllive.com).

# TIMBERS GAME NOTES

## Portland & Vancouver Records

### Portland Timbers

Overall Record: 0-0-0 (0pts)

Home Record: 0-0-0

Away Record: 0-0-0

### Vancouver Whitecaps

Overall Record: 0-1-2 (2pts)

Home Record: 0-0-1

Away Record: 0-1-1

### Timbers' 2008 vs. 2009 Season Comparison

**2009:** Tonight is the first game of the season.

**2008:** 7-13-10, 26GF, 33GA, 10 SO, 31pts (final)

## League & Team Honors:

n/a

## Portland Timbers Stat Leaders

Goals: n/a

Assists: n/a

Minutes: n/a

Shots: n/a

Fouls: n/a

## ABOUT PORTLAND TIMBERS

The Portland Timbers begin their 2009 season tonight with their only regular-season visit to Vancouver. The two Northwest rivals will square off two more times this season in Portland.

Tonight's season opener is just the third time in modern franchise history that the team has opened the season on the road. While the Timbers are 4-4-0 in season opening matches in the USL First Division, the team has won four of its last five season openers. The team's only season-opening loss in the past five seasons came in 2006 against the Whitecaps in Vancouver. Portland is 0-2-0 in its two previous season openers on the road, falling to the Whitecaps in 2006 and El Paso Patriots in the club's first-ever game in the USL First Division in 2001.

Since 2001, the Timbers and Whitecaps have met 32 times in regular-season contests. Last season the Whitecaps won all three games against the Timbers, including a 1-0 win at PGE Park to end Portland's 18-game unbeaten streak at home on May 24, 2008. The Timbers are 7-17-8 against the Whitecaps, including a 1-13-2 mark in Vancouver.

Earlier in the year, the Timbers and Whitecaps met in a preseason training game in Burnaby, B.C. After going down a goal, the Timbers rallied back on strike from midfielder Johan Cleasson to earn a 1-1 draw.

Earlier this week, the Timbers round out their roster with the signing of defender **Mamadou Danso** for the season. Danso joins the Timbers after a standout collegiate career at Southern Polytechnic State University and a season with the Cary Clarets of the Premier Development League. The Timbers start the season with a 23-man roster.

## TIMBERS PLAYER NOTES

\* Midfielder **Alex Nimo** is on loan from Real Salt Lake of Major League Soccer for the 2009 season. He was the 17th overall selection in last season's MLS SuperDraft.

\* Goalkeeper **Steve Cronin** joins the Timbers this season after playing the last four in MLS with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

\* Defender **David Hayes** has garnered USL First Division All-League first-team honors in each of the last two seasons and was named the league's Defender of the Year in 2007.

\* Forward **Mandjou Keita** joins the Timbers from playing in Asia, where he captured the Malaysia Super League's Golden Boot award in 2006 with 17 goals for Perak FC.

\* Forwards **Takayuki Suzuki**, the Timbers only returning forward, led the team in scoring during the preseason with a goal and an assist.

# TIMBERS GAME NOTES

## ABOUT VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

The Whitecaps enter their fourth game of the season on Saturday when they play host to the Timbers. Vancouver continues to look for its first win of the season after a loss to the Puerto Rico Islanders and draws against the Charleston Battery and Austin Aztex to start their campaign.

Tonight's match is the second game in five days for the Whitecaps, who played the expansion Austin Aztex to a 1-1 draw on Tuesday on the road.

As members of the USL First Division, the Whitecaps have had the Timbers number in games played in Vancouver, owning a 13-1-2 record against their Cascadia counterparts. Last season, the Whitecaps out-scored Portland 6-2 in their three regular-season victories over Portland.

In their second season under head coach Teitur Thordarsen, the defending champions have also added several new faces to their roster, including forward **Marlon James**, defender **Jeff Parke** and young playmakers **Wes Knight** and **Marcus Huber**. Earlier this week, the Whitecaps signed local midfielder **Gordon Chin**.

Vancouver has been hampered by several injuries throughout preseason, but are expecting the return of two key players Saturday against the Timbers – James and midfielder **Justin Moose**. The Whitecaps will be without Parke on Saturday as he serves the final game of a 10-match suspension that carried over from the 2008 MLS season.

## WHITECAPS PLAYER NOTES

\* Defender **Justin Thompson** played for the Timbers from 2007-08, and helped Portland advance to the USL-1 semifinals in 2007.

\* Defender **Marco Reda** and forward **Marcus Huber** have scored Vancouver's only two goals on the season. Huber was named to the USL First Division Team of the Week for Week 2 with his strike against Puerto Rico on April 18.

\* Forward **Charles Gbeke** leads the league with nine shots in three games to start the year.

\* Vancouver returns three 2008 USL First Division All-League selections this season in midfielder **Martin Nash** and defenders **Wesley Charles** and **Takashi Hirano**.

## This Week in the USL First Division:

Tuesday, April 21	Vancouver 1-1 Austin	
Friday, April 24	Minnesota 1-1 Charleston	
	Montreal 1-2 Miami (FSC)	
	Rochester 0-0 Puerto Rico	
Saturday, April 25	Portland at Vancouver	7 p.m.
	Cleveland at Austin	5:30 p.m. (Pacific)
Sunday, April 26	Minnesota at Carolina	11 a.m. (Pacific)
	Rochester at Miami	3 p.m. (Pacific)

# TIMBERS PLAYER NOTES



## 0 Steve Cronin GK

*Ht: 6-3 Wt: 200 DOB: 05/28/83  
Hometown: Fair Oaks, CA*  
**2008:** Played in 22 games for the Los Angeles Galaxy of MLS. Recorded the team's only two shutouts on the season.



## 2 Brian Farber M

*Ht: 5-8 Wt: 155 DOB: 04/15/82  
Hometown: Sandpoint, ID*  
**2008:** Played with the Stockton Cougars of the PASL-Pro (indoor). Guided the team to the league title and garnered league MVP honors.



## 5 David Hayes D

*Ht: 5-10 Wt: 165 DOB: 05/24/76  
Hometown: Waldorf, MD*  
**2008:** Started 29 matches for the Atlanta Silverbacks and recorded three goals and two assists. Was named to the USL-1 All-League First Team.



## 6 Cameron Knowles D

*Ht: 6-2 Wt: 195 DOB: 10/11/82  
Hometown: Auckland, New Zealand*  
**2008:** Played in 29 matches for the Timbers and ranked among league-leaders in minutes played with 2,610. Earned his second USL All-League selection.



## 7 Shaun Higgins D/M

*Ht: 5-8 Wt: 155 DOB: 10/17/78  
Hometown: Redlands, CA*  
**2008:** Set new career-highs with the Timbers playing 2,313 minutes in 28 games. Also scored two goals. Named to the league's Team of the Week in Week 2.



## 8 Tom Poltl M

*Ht: 5-6 Wt: 150 DOB: 09/21/1977  
Hometown: San Marcos, CA*  
**2008:** Made 25 appearances with the Timbers and tallied an assist. Joined modern-franchise leaders in games (94) and minutes (6,216) minutes played.



## 9 Antouman Jallow F

*Ht: 6-0 Wt: 165 DOB: 06/11/81  
Hometown: Uppsala, Sweden*  
**CAREER:** Played in 31 games during the 2007-08 season with Sirius IK of Sweden's second tier. Started his professional career in 2005 with top-flight Swedish club Gefle IF.



## 10 Mandjou Keita F

*Ht: 6-1 Wt: 170 DOB: 11/28/79  
Hometown: Nzerekore, Gambia*  
**CAREER:** Last played for club DPMM FC in Brunei. Made his mark on the Malaysia Super League with Perak FC, earning the league's Golden Boot award with 17 goals.



## 11 Johan Claesson M

*Ht: 5-10 Wt: 160 DOB: 08/21/81  
Hometown: Uppsala, Sweden*  
**CAREER:** Played a total of 97 regular-season matches over four seasons between 2005-2008 with Gefle IF of Sweden's top league called Allsvenskanliga.



## 12 Tony McManus M

*Ht: 5-9 Wt: 165 DOB: 09/22/80  
Hometown: Memphis, TN*  
**2008:** Played in 28 games for the Atlanta Silverbacks. Scored three goals and recorded a career-high 2,466 minutes on the pitch.



## 13 Josh Cameron M

*Ht: 5-9 Wt: 155 DOB: 10/17/86  
Hometown: Gresham, OR*  
**COLLEGE:** Played in 73 career games for Oregon State University and totaled four goals and 11 assists. He led the team in assists in each of his last two seasons.



## 14 Jason McLaughlin F

*Ht: 6-1 Wt: 175 DOB: 04/14/82  
Hometown: Wetumpka, AL*  
**2008:** Played in all 30 games for the Atlanta Silverbacks. Ranked among the team's leading scorers with six goals and three assists.



## 16 Stephen Keel D

*Ht: 6-0 Wt: 185 DOB: 04/11/83  
Hometown: Littleton, CO*  
**2008:** Played in a career-high six matches for the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer. Also made 10 appearances in MLS Reserve Division matches.



## 17 Scot Thompson D

*Ht: 6-0 Wt: 175 DOB: 02/11/81  
Hometown: Rancho Santa Margarita, CA*  
**2008:** Started 27 matches for the Timbers, recorded one goal and paced the team with three assists. Named to the USL-1 Team of the Week in Week 2.

# TIMBERS PLAYER NOTES



**18 Alex Nimo** **M**  
*Ht: 5-5 Wt: 150 DOB: 03/21/90*  
*Hometown: Portland, OR*  
**2008:** Selected 17th overall by Real Salt Lake in the 2008 Major League Soccer SuperDraft. Played in 10 MLS Reserve Division matches during his rookie season.



**19 George Josten** **F**  
*Ht: 6-0 Wt: 175 DOB: 05/12/86*  
*Hometown: Idaho Falls, ID*  
**2008:** Played his rookie season with the Columbus Crew of Major League Soccer. Tallied one goal and two assists in 11 MLS Reserve Division matches.



**20 Takuro Nishimura** **D**  
*Ht: 5-9 Wt: 155 DOB: 08/15/77*  
*Hometown: Tokyo, Japan*  
**CAREER:** Played in 90 matches in the J-League with the Urawa Red Diamonds (2001-04) and Omiya Ardija (2004-08).



**21 Cameron Dunn** **D**  
*Ht: 5-11 Wt: 170 DOB: 02/13/84*  
*Hometown: Alta Loma, CA*  
**2008:** Joined the Timbers in August and played in seven matches down the stretch. Recorded his first career goal with the Timbers against Miami FC at PGE Park.



**22 Keith Savage** **M**  
*Ht: 6-2 Wt: 185 DOB: 08/09/85*  
*Hometown: Gulf Breeze, FL*  
**2008:** Played in six matches during his rookie season with Chivas USA of Major League Soccer. Tallied an assist in 295 minutes.



**23 Ryan Pore** **M**  
*Ht: 5-11 Wt: 165 DOB: 09/23/83*  
*Hometown: Mansfield, OH*  
**2008:** Appeared in 14 matches for the Kansas City Wizards of Major League Soccer. Recorded an assist in 485 minutes.



**24 Brian Visser** **GK**  
*Ht: 6-3 Wt: 200 DOB: 08/13/87*  
*Hometown: Elmhurst, IL*  
**COLLEGE:** Was a two-time All-Big East selection at DePaul University. Set several goalkeeper records at DePaul, including goal games (75) and career shutouts (28).



**30 Takayuki Suzuki** **F**  
*Ht: 6-0 Wt: 165 DOB: 06/05/76*  
*Hometown: Hitachi, Japan*  
**2008:** Played in 27 matches with the Timbers and scored a goal and an assist. Named the USL Player of the Week in Week 2.



**98 Mamadou Danso** **D**  
*Ht: 6-3 Wt: 185 DOB: 04/27/83*  
*Hometown: Serekunda, Gambia*  
**2008:** Played in eight games for the Cary Clarets of the Premier Development League. Tallied two goals in 675 minutes.