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## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Reading United stars score big on draft day** *Former Reading players Adams, Marie, Pierrot and Barlow selected at MLS SuperDraft*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (January 19, 2018)** – The 2018 Major League Soccer SuperDraft again demonstrated that the path to professional soccer runs through Reading, Pennsylvania for many aspiring soccer prospects. Four former Reading United A.C. standouts heard their names called at the annual draft, which was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The twenty-three clubs in the nation's top professional soccer division selected the stars of tomorrow from a pool of the nation's best collegiate players. Midfielders Mo Adams and Paul Marie were selected in the first round, while forwards Frantzy Pierrot and Tom Barlow came off the board in round two.

Adams, a holding midfielder who played at Syracuse University, was the first United alum to go off the board when he was selected by the Chicago Fire with the 10th overall pick in the SuperDraft. The Fire engineered a trade with Real Salt Lake to put themselves in position to grab the former Reading United standout. Adams will now partner in the Chicago midfield with German World Cup champion Bastian Schweinsteiger and United States Men's National Team star Dax McCarty.

Asked how his time with United factored into achieving his dream of playing professionally, Adams said, "Reading United played a big part. Going to a team that was an MLS affiliate was always going to help. I was looking for the pro experience and exposure. I think it set me up to be in the best possible position to be here."

Two picks later, Paul Marie was selected by the San Jose Earthquakes with the 12th overall selection. Marie, who spent three seasons with Reading and is third on the club's all-time goals scored list with 15 tallies, rocketed up the draft board after a superb performance at the MLS Player Combine in Orlando. The French midfielder, who played collegiately at Florida International University, will team up with fellow Reading alums Fatai Alashe and Jimmy Ockford in San Jose.

Frantzy Pierrot was the next Reading standout to go off the board when the Colorado Rapids took the imposing forward with the 27th pick in the draft. Much of Reading's offense ran through Pierrot in his two seasons with the club. Pierrot tallied 13 goals in 24 matches with Reading. The Coastal Carolina University standout, who was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year, had 13 goals in his 24 matches with Reading.

The New York Red Bulls selected former Reading United forward Tom Barlow with the 39th overall pick in the draft. Barlow turned heads with his play at the University of Wisconsin, where he scored a Big Ten Conference leading ten goals in his senior season. The Wisconsin star last played for Reading in 2015 and featured in 13 matches and bagged five goals for United.

More Reading United stars could get the call to play professionally as the SuperDraft wraps up on Sunday, January 21st when the league conducts the third and fourth rounds via teleconference.

#### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Now in its twenty-second season, Reading United's commitment to professional player development has produced over fifty players currently on the rosters of professional clubs throughout the United States, Europe, South America and China. Reading United is the official Premier Development League affiliate of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union. For more information about Reading United AC, visit [www.readingunitedac.com](http://www.readingunitedac.com).



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