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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reading United fall to Richmond in Open Cup play *Kickers defeat Reading 4-3 in PKs following tense second round showdown*

READING, PA (May 15, 2018) – The U.S. Open Cup can break your heart. After once again overcoming a first half deficit at home with a valiant second half rally, Reading United A.C. fell to the Richmond Kickers, 4-3 in a penalty kick shootout after finishing 1-1 following extra time on a rain soaked evening at Alvernia University Stadium.

United found themselves in a hole just eight minutes into the match. Reading goalkeeper Bennett Strutz did well to get down and block a low shot by the Kickers' Heviel Cordoves but the rebound fell at the feet of Koby Osei-Wasu who tapped the ball home to stake the visitors to an early 1-0 lead.

Reading rallied after conceding the opener, pinning their professional opposition deep in their half. With Richmond bunkered in, United couldn't make the most of their five shots in the opening 45 minutes.

The hosts would press the Kickers and would finally make all their chances payoff off in the 70th minute. Substitute midfielder Austin Maloney made a darting run from the right flank and picked out Khori Bennett inside the penalty area. The Reading United veteran, who had a match high seven shots, flicked a low ball under Richmond goalkeeper Trevor Spangenburg to tie the match at 1-1.

Though Reading held a massive 15-5 advantage in shots, the game was knotted at 1-1 sending the match to extra time.

In extra time, United laid siege to the Richmond backline, putting the pro side under immense pressure. The tension climaxed as a scuffle flared up following a 50/50 challenge near midfield. Richmond's Oscar Umar punched United captain Aaron Molloy in the face as words were exchanged. The referee issued Umar his marching orders after consulting with his linesman.

Reading nearly capitalized moments later when Alex Lipinsky beat his defender and smashed a shot off the right post, denying the home side a dramatic winner.

The lottery of the penalty shootout beckoned for the second straight Open Cup match. United looked to have the advantage as Strutz saved Mekeil Williams spot kick. The advantage was erased when Spangenburg blocked Alex Lipinski's effort on the very next shot. Bennett was Reading's final shooter and looking to keep his side alive, took a long run up but saw his stinging effort was well saved by Spangenburg ending the match and sending the Kickers to an Open Cup Third Round match against Penn FC.

Reading United will return to action this weekend when they travel to Leesburg, Virginia to face the Virginia Hammers. United make their 2018 debut at Wilson's High School's Gurski Stadium for the Premier Development League home opener against F.A. Euro on Saturday, May 26th. Kickoff for the home opener is scheduled for 7:00pm and tickets are available at www.readingunitedac.com/tickets.

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. Now in its twenty-third 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 and Latin America. 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.



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