

2025/26 CAROLINA ASCENT



GAME NOTES

2025/26 CAROLINA ASCENT GAME NOTES



CAROLINA ASCENT FC
(0-0-0)

6th place, 0 points

Head Coach: Philip Poole

MATCH INFORMATION

DATE: August 30, 2025

TIME: 7:30 PM

STADIUM: Beyond Bancard Field at NSU

BROADCAST: Peacock



FT. LAUDERDALE UNITED FC
(0-0-1)

4th place, 1 point

Head Coach: Tyrone Mears

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Gloria Martinez Resendiz
Assistant Referee: Katarzyna Wasiak
Assistant Referee: Nicholas Seymour
Fourth Official: Jade Mallea

2025/26 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	STADIUM	TIME/RESULT
Aug. 30	Ft. Lauderdale Utd	Beyond Bancard Field at NSU	7:30 PM
Sept. 6	Tampa Bay Sun FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
Sept. 13	Sporting JAX	Hodges Stadium	7:30 PM
Sept. 24	Spokane Zephyr FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
Sept. 28	Sporting JAX	American Legion Memorial Stadium	2:00 PM
Oct. 4	DC Power FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
Oct. 10	Lexington SC	Lexington SC Stadium	6:00 PM
Oct. 18	Brooklyn FC	Maimonides Park	6:00 PM
Nov. 1	Spokane Zephyr FC	ONE Spokane Stadium	9:00 PM
Nov. 8	Ft. Lauderdale Utd	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
Nov. 21	DC Power FC	TBA	7:00 PM
Dec. 6	Brooklyn FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	2:00 PM
Dec. 13	Dallas Trinity FC	Cotton Bowl Stadium	3:30 PM
Dec. 20	DC Power FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	2:00 PM
Jan. 31	Sporting JAX	Hodges Stadium	7:30 PM
Feb. 7	Lexington SC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	2:00 PM
Feb. 14	Spokane Zephyr FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	2:00 PM
Feb. 21	Dallas Trinity FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	2:00 PM
March 13	Tampa Bay Sun FC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
March 17	DC Power FC	TBA	7:00 PM
March 22	Brooklyn FC	Maimonides Park	3:00 PM
March 28	Ft. Lauderdale Utd	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
April 5	Tampa Bay Sun FC	Riverfront Stadium	5:00 PM
April 11	Lexington SC	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
April 19	Dallas Trinity FC	Cotton Bowl Stadium	5:00 PM
April 25	Tampa Bay Sun FC	Riverfront Stadium	7:30 PM
May 9	Ft. Lauderdale Utd	Beyond Bancard Field at NSU	7:30 PM
May 19	Sporting JAX	American Legion Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM

2025/26 STANDINGS

Pos.		P	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	DC Power FC	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
2	Dallas Trinity FC	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3	Brooklyn FC	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
4	Fort Lauderdale United FC	1	0	0	1	3	3	0	1
5	Lexington SC	1	0	0	1	3	3	0	1
6	Carolina Ascent FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Spokane Zephyr FC	1	0	1	0	1	2	-1	0
8	Tampa Bay Sun FC	1	0	1	0	1	2	-1	0
9	Sporting JAX	1	0	1	0	1	3	-2	0

MATCH PREVIEW

CAR	Tale of the Tape	FTL
0-0-0	Home	0-0-1
0-0-0	Away	0-0-0
0	Goals For	3
0	Goals Against	3
0	Shots/Game	12.0
0	SOG/Game	6.0
0	Clean Sheets	0

Head-to-Head (2024/25)

Series Record: 2-2-1
Last Matchup: 6/8/25, L 1-2

Injury Report

#3 Giovanna DeMarco (leg)
#13 Addisyn Merrick (leg)

■ HOME ■ AWAY



- ABOUT CAROLINA ASCENT FC -

OUR MISSION

The Carolina Ascent Football Club is on a quest for soccer greatness. Step by step the club will take strides to grow the women's game, elevate the community and support a more sustainable future for the residents of the Carolinas.

OUR VISION

To climb, to soar, to trek upward and reach new heights for the Carolinas both on and off the pitch.

OUR VALUES

- We **STRIVE** for greatness, on and off the pitch.
- We **EMPOWER** the people of our community.
- We **ELEVATE** the women's game for players and fans.
- We **PERSEVERE** when faced with adversity.
- We **CREATE** opportunity.
- We **EMBRACE** the journey.

OUR IMPACT PILLARS

- Opportunity for Women, In Sport and Business
- Food and Hunger Insecurity
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Sustainability and Conservation
- Animal Welfare

LOGO ELEMENTS

- Rising sun to represent the Carolinas' striking sunrises
- Three dashing stripes that symbolize our mission to grow the game, empower our community, and reach new heights for women's soccer
- The Blue Ridge Mountains that stretch through the western region of North Carolina and South Carolina
- Star from the North Carolina state flag
- Crescent Moon from the South Carolina state flag
- Water to represent the Carolinas' beloved lakes, rivers, and beaches



FC



TEAM INFORMATION

Name: Carolina Ascent Football Club
 Correct: Carolina Ascent FC, Carolina Ascent, CAFC
 Incorrect: Charlotte Ascent, Ascent FC, Carolina FC
 Abbreviation: CAR
 Website: CarolinaAscent.com



@CarolinaAscentFC



@CarolinaAscent

STADIUM INFORMATION

Stadium American Legion Memorial Stadium
 Address 1218 Armory Dr.. Charlotte, NC 28204
 Capacity 10,500
 Year Opened 1936
 Reconstruction Finished 2021
 Surface Artificial Turf

2025/26 CAROLINA ASCENT GAME NOTES



— THE SEASON'S JOURNEY —

TRAILBLAZERS

Stella Spitzer became the youngest player to sign a professional contract in Gainbridge Super League history in July 2025.

B Hylton was the first player to sign a USL Academy Contract with a USL Super League team and first academy player to sign a pro contract.

Charlotte Burge is the youngest professional women's goalkeeper in the U.S. at age 18.

Carolina Ascent FC is the only women's soccer sports team in Charlotte.

INAUGURAL KITS

Returning for a second season, the "Trailblazer Kit 2.0" will serve as the club's home uniform. The bold design highlights one of North Carolina's most iconic landmarks—the Grandfather Mountain Bridge—set beneath one of the region's signature sunsets.



The "Coastal Kit 2.0" will once again feature as the club's away look. At its center is a breathtaking Carolina shoreline sunset, capturing the magic of the region's eastern coast. A tribute to Myrtle Beach also makes its mark, where over 19 million visitors go each year to enjoy the great coastal lifestyle and the outdoors.



The Horizon Kit symbolizes the beauty of Carolina sunsets and the limitless horizons ahead for women's professional soccer in the region.



FOR THE CAROLINAS, BY THE CAROLINAS

Head Coach Philip Poole was very intentional when building the club's inaugural roster. One of his goals was to bring local talent back home to the Carolinas to represent Carolina Ascent FC.

Carolina natives on pro contracts: B Hylton, Maggie Pierce, Macey Bader, Emily Morris

Local players on Academy Contracts: Isa Franco, Maria Tapia

INTERNATIONAL STAND-OUTS

Stella Spitzer was called into the United States U-15 United States Youth National Team Training Camp in July 2025.

sabella Franco was called into Colombia's U-17 training camp in June 2025.

Charlotte Burge was called into the U.S. U19 Training Camp in June 2024.

PIONEERING MOMENTS

Carolina Ascent set a new record for the highest attendance for a professional women's soccer club game in the Carolinas with 10,553 fans.

Carolina Ascent recorded the first win in USL Super League history.

Vicky Bruce scored the first goal in USL Super League history. Audrey Harding logged the first assist in league history.

Meagan McClelland recorded the first clean sheet in league history.

Carolina Ascent was the first USL Super League team to score multiple goals in a single game on 9/6.

B Hylton became the youngest goal scorer in team history on 4/12/25 (17 years old).

Carolina Ascent was the first team to win the Players' Shield in league history in 2024/25.

HONORS

Carolina Ascent took home the first ever Players' Shield in 2024/25, rewarded to the league's best team in the regular season.

The Super League rewarded Carolina Ascent as the USL Organization of the Year

following the 2024/25 campaign.

Carolina Ascent had a league-high four players on the All-League Teams after the inaugural season. Mia Corbin, Sydney Studer, and Jill Aguilera were all on the first team.

Defender Jill Aguilera took home two individual awards last season, winning the Golden Playmaker Award and the USL Super League Defender of the Year.

Head Coach Philip Poole won the inaugural USL Super League Coach of the Year award.

Captain Taylor Porter played every minute of the 2024/25 woman, earning the title of "Iron Woman".

NEW ADDITIONS

Carolina Ascent has made 10 new additions to their Players' Shield-winning team from last season.

- Maddie Mercado
- Emily Morris
- Macey Bader
- Mackenzie George
- Meaghan Nally
- Brianna Martinez
- Sydney Martinez
- Luana Grabias
- Alyssa Walker
- Maggie Pierce

LAST TIME OUT

Sun. 6/8/25 vs Fort Lauderdale United, L 1-2 (ET)

Carolina Ascent's 2024/25 season came to a close as they were defeated by Fort Lauderdale United on a last-minute winner in the USL Super League semifinal.

LEAGUE LEADERS

Sydney Studer (123) finished the 2024/25 regular season fourth in clearances in the league.

Mia Corbin finished the 2024/25 regular season with the second-most goals in the league this season (12).

Jill Aguilera led the league in assists (7) in the 2024/25 regular season.

Aguilera created 45 chances - the second-most in the league.

Meagan McClelland (6) finished fourth in the league in clean sheets.

2025/26 CAROLINA ASCENT GAME NOTES



GAINBRIDGE SUPER LEAGUE RECORD BREAKDOWN

SUMMARY

Overall	0-0-0
Home	0-0-0
Away	0-0-0
Opponent above .500 (at time of game)	0-0-0
Opponent at .500 (at time of game)	0-0-0
Opponent below .500 (at time of game)	0-0-0

DAY OF THE WEEK

on Monday	0-0-0
on Tuesday	0-0-0
on Wednesday	0-0-0
on Thursday	0-0-0
on Friday	0-0-0
on Saturday	0-0-0
on Sunday	0-0-0

MONTH

in August	0-0-0
in September	0-0-0
in October	0-0-0
in November	0-0-0
in December	0-0-0
in January	0-0-0
in February	0-0-0
in March	0-0-0
in April	0-0-0
in May	0-0-0
in June	0-0-0

SCORING

Scoring 0 goals	0-0-0
Scoring 1 goal	0-0-0
Scoring 2 goals	0-0-0
Scoring 3 goals	0-0-0
Scoring 4+ goals	0-0-0
Allowing 0 goals	0-0-0
Allowing 1 goal	0-0-0
Allowing 2 goals	0-0-0
Allowing 3 goals	0-0-0
Allowing 4+ goals	0-0-0
Games decided by 1 goal	0-0-0
Games decided by 2+ goals	0-0-0
CAFC scores first	0-0-0
Opponent scores first	0-0-0
CAFC leading at halftime	0-0-0
Opponent leading at halftime	0-0-0
Tied at halftime	0-0-0

MISCELLANEOUS

Current Unbeaten Streak	0
Home Unbeaten Streak	0
Road Unbeaten Streak	0
Consecutive Games With a Goal	0

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Goalkeepers (3)

No.	Name
1	Meagan McClelland
15	Sydney Martinez
16	Charlotte Burge

Defenders (8)

No.	Name
2	Brianna Martinez
5	Jenna Butler
7	Jill Aguilera
8	Emily Moxley
12	Sydney Studer
13	Addisyn Merrick
19	Meaghan Nally
26	Isabella Franco

Midfielders (6)

No.	Name
3	Giovanna DeMarco
4	Maddie Mercado
14	Taylor Porter
22	B Hylton
24	Emily Morris
28	Maggie Pierce

Forwards (10)

No.	Name
6	Maria Tapia
9	Mia Corbin
10	Rylee Baisden
11	Luana Grabias
17	Alyssa Walker
18	Audrey Harding
21	Macey Bader
23	Riley Parker
31	Mackenzie George
70	Stella Spitzer

BY EXPERIENCE

Type	#
Veteran	23
Rookie	2
Academy	2

BY STATE

California	6
Florida	1
Georgia	1
Missouri	1
New Jersey	1
New Mexico	1
North Carolina	5
Ohio	3
Pennsylvania	1
South Carolina	1
Texas	1
Virginia	3
Washington	1

BY COUNTRY

United States	26
Brazil	1

TEAM LEADERS

ATTACK

Goals	
Assists	
Shots	
Shots on Target	
Chances Created	

DEFENSE

Clearances	
Blocks	
Interceptions	
Tackles Won	
Duels Won	

GOALKEEPING

Saves	
Clean Sheets	

GENERAL

Minutes	
Starts	

2025/26 CAROLINA ASCENT GAME NOTES



NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Height	Hometown	Previous Club	Name Pronunciation
1	Meagan McClelland	GK	5'9	Kearny, NJ	Odense Boldklub Q	Meg-ann Mick-CLELL-and
2	Brianna Martinez	D	5'6	Albuquerque, NM	Orlando Pride	Brianna Martinez
3	Giovanna DeMarco	M	5'6	Philadelphia, PA	San Diego Wave	Gee-oh-vawn-ah Duh-Marco
4	Maddie Mercado	M	5'8	San Diego, CA	Seattle Reign	Maddie Mer-cah-doe
5	Jenna Butler	D	5'10	Gainesville, VA	Washington Spirit	Jen-uh But-ler
6	Maria Tapia	F	5'8	Huntersville, NC	Academy Contract	Maria Tap-ee-uh
7	Jill Aguilera	D	5'7	Redwood City, CA	Chicago Red Stars	Jill Ag-you-lare-uh
8	Emily Moxley	D	5'8	Cary, NC	UNC Chapel Hill	Emily Mocks-lee
9	Mia Corbin	F	5'9	Maple Valley, WA	Brisbane Roar	Me-uh CORE-bin
10	Rylee Baisden	F	5'3	Yorba Linda, CA	Perth Glory FC	Riley Bays-den
11	Luana Grabias	F	5'6	Brazil	Brooklyn FC	Luana Grah-bias
12	Sydney Studer	D	5'11	Corona, CA	Washington State University	Sydney STEW-der
13	Addisyn Merrick	D	5'5	Lee's Summit, MO	Utah Royals FC	Addison Mehr-rick
14	Taylor Porter	M	5'7	San Diego, CA	Portland Thorns	Tay-lur Pore-tur
15	Sydney Martinez	GK	6'0	Rincon, GA	Brooklyn FC	Sydney Martinez
16	Charlotte Burge	GK	5'8	Virginia Beach, VA	1.FFC Kaisterslautern	Charlotte Bur-dge
17	Alyssa Walker	F	5'10	Centerville, OH	Spokane Zephyr FC	Alyssa Walker
18	Audrey Harding	F	5'10	Akron, OH	KIF Örebro DFF	Aw-dree Hard-ing
19	Meaghan Nally	D	5'7	Fairfax, VA	Odense Boldklub Q	Megan Nal-ee
21	Macey Bader	F	5'6	Apex, NC	UNC-Charlotte	Macey Bay-dur
22	B Hylton	M	5'6	Charlotte, NC	Carolina Ascent FC	B Hill-ton
23	Riley Parker	F	5'8	Dallas, TX	Tampa Bay Sun FC	Riley Parker
24	Emily Morris	M	5'4	Fort Mill, SC	Wake Forest University	Emily Morris
26	Isabella Franco	D	5'7	Sebring, FL	Academy Contract	Ee-suh Franco
28	Maggie Pierce	M	5'4	Cary, NC	Shelbourne FC	Maggie Pierce
31	Mackenzie George	F	5'4	Lincoln, CA	Brooklyn FC	Mackenzie George
70	Stella Spitzer	F	5'4	Columbus, OH	Carolina Ascent FC	Stella Spit-zuhr

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Height	Hometown	Previous Club	Name Pronunciation
7	Jill Aguilera	D	5'7	Redwood City, CA	Chicago Red Stars	Jill Ag-you-lare-uh
21	Macey Bader	F	5'6	Apex, NC	UNC-Charlotte	Macey Bay-dur
10	Rylee Baisden	F	5'3	Yorba Linda, CA	Perth Glory FC	Riley Bays-den
16	Charlotte Burge	GK	5'8	Virginia Beach, VA	1.FFC Kaisterslautern	Charlotte Bur-dge
5	Jenna Butler	D	5'10	Gainesville, VA	Washington Spirit	Jen-uh But-ler
9	Mia Corbin	F	5'9	Maple Valley, WA	Brisbane Roar	Me-uh CORE-bin
3	Giovanna DeMarco	M	5'6	Philadelphia, PA	San Diego Wave	Gee-oh-vawn-ah Duh-Marco
26	Isabella Franco	D	5'7	Sebring, FL	Academy Contract	Ee-suh Franco
31	Mackenzie George	F	5'4	Lincoln, CA	Brooklyn FC	Mackenzie George
11	Luana Grabias	F	5'6	Brazil	Brooklyn FC	Luana Grah-bias
18	Audrey Harding	F	5'10	Akron, OH	KIF Örebro DFF	Aw-dree Hard-ing
22	B Hylton	M	5'6	Charlotte, NC	Academy Contract	B Hill-ton
2	Brianna Martinez	D	5'6	Albuquerque, NM	Orlando Pride	Brianna Martinez
15	Sydney Martinez	GK	6'0	Rincon, GA	Brooklyn FC	Sydney Martinez
1	Meagan McClelland	GK	5'9	Kearny, NJ	Odense Boldklub Q	Meg-ann Mick-CLELL-and
4	Maddie Mercado	M	5'8	San Diego, CA	Seattle Reign	Maddie Mer-cah-doe
13	Addisyn Merrick	D	5'5	Lee's Summit, MO	Utah Royals FC	Addison Mehr-rick
24	Emily Morris	M	5'4	Fort Mill, SC	Wake Forest University	Emily Morris
8	Emily Moxley	D	5'8	Cary, NC	UNC Chapel Hill	Emily Mocks-lee
19	Meaghan Nally	D	5'7	Fairfax, VA	Odense Boldklub Q	Megan Nal-ee
23	Riley Parker	F	5'8	Dallas, TX	Tampa Bay Sun FC	Riley Parker
28	Maggie Pierce	M	5'4	Cary, NC	Shelbourne FC	Maggie Pierce
14	Taylor Porter	M	5'7	San Diego, CA	Portland Thorns	Tay-lur Pore-tur
70	Stella Spitzer	F	5'4	Columbus, OH	Academy Contract	Stella Spit-zuhr
12	Sydney Studer	D	5'11	Corona, CA	Washington State University	Sydney STEW-der
6	Maria Tapia	F	5'8	Huntersville, NC	Academy Contract	Maria Tap-ee-uh
17	Alyssa Walker	F	5'10	Centerville, OH	Spokane Zephyr FC	Alyssa Walker

2025/26 CAROLINA ASCENT GAME NOTES



**#1 | Meagan
McClelland**



**#2 | Brianna
Martinez**



**#3 | Giovanna
DeMarco**



**#4 | Maddie
Mercado**



#5 | Jenna Butler



#6 | Maria Tapia



#7 | Jill Aguilera



**#8 | Emily
Moxley**



#9 | Mia Corbin



**#10 | Rylee
Baisden**



**#11 | Luana
Grabias**



**#12 | Sydney
Studer**



**#13 | Addisyn
Merrick**



**#14 | Taylor
Porter**



**#15 | Sydney
Martinez**



**#16 | Charlotte
Burge**



**#17 | Alyssa
Walker**



**#18 | Audrey
Harding**



**#19 | Meaghan
Nally**



**#21 | Macey
Bader**



#22 | B Hylton



**#23 | Riley
Parker**



**#24 | Emily
Morris**



**#26 | Isabella
Franco**



**#28 | Maggie
Pierce**



**#31 | Mackenzie
George**



**#70 | Stella
Spitzer**

2025/26 TECHNICAL STAFF



PHILIP POOLE - HEAD COACH & GENERAL MANAGER

- 2025/26 USL Super League Coach of the Year
- 5x SheBelieves Cup Champion
- 2024 CONCACAF W Gold Cup Champion
- 2x CONCACAF W Championship Winner
- 2020 Tokyo Olympics Bronze Medalist



ERIKA DUNCAN - ASSISTANT COACH

- Second season as assistant coach
- 2024 Carolina Ascent W-League Head Coach
- Coached the Charlotte Independence USL W League team for the league's first two seasons in 2022 and 2023



BECKY HYLTON - ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

- Second season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Served as an Assistant Coach with the Charlotte Lady Eagles in the former USL W League for 10 years
- Collegiate All-American at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts



JACK VUNDUM - ASSISTANT COACH

- Second season as assistant coach
- Head Coach of Wingate University in 2020



EVAN HARVEY - ASSISTANT COACH & GOALKEEPER COACH

- Second season as assistant coach
- Spent two seasons with Charlotte FC before joining Carolina Ascent FC
- Served as an assistant coach with Limestone College and East Tennessee State University

2025/26 TECHNICAL STAFF



BRENDAN SLOMKA - FIRST TEAM ANALYST

- Second season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Served as a Video Scout for FC Wil in the Swiss League
- Worked with game film and scouting reports with Syracuse University women's soccer team for three seasons
- Worked as a Player Development Intern for Syracuse FC



SUMMER JONES - HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER

- Second season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Head Athletic Trainer with NJ/NY Gotham FC in 2023
- Assistant Athletic Trainer for Washington Spirit in 2021



AUSTIN TOMAZ - PERFORMANCE COACH

- Second season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Previously worked as a performance coach with Grand Canyon University for the men's soccer and tennis teams
- Served as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach with Webber International University



EMILY SANOVA - TEAM OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

- First season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Previously served as the Director of Operations for Soccer and Lacross with the University of Oregon
- Worked as Director of Operations of North Dakota State's women's soccer team from 2021-2023



LYNN PUMAS - MENTAL HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE COACH

- Runs the practice Bridging the Gap Counseling
- Spent two seasons with Charlotte FC before joining Carolina Ascent FC
- Served as an assistant coach with Limestone College and East Tennessee State University



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#1 MEAGAN MCCLELLAND

GOALKEEPER | KEARNY, NJ | 5'9 | RUTGERS
PREVIOUS CLUB: ODENSE BOLDKlub Q

- 2024/25 USL Super League Golden Glove Winner
- Started 18 games for Carolina Ascent FC in 2025/26
- Recorded 6 clean sheets in 9 appearances in 2024 with Odense Boldklub Q in the Kvinde-DM Liga (Denmark)
- Won the 2023 NWSL Championship with NJ/NY Gotham FC
- Represented the U.S. at the 2016 U17 World Cup

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	SV	SV %	CS	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#2 BRIANNA MARTINEZ

DEFENDER | ALBUQUERQUE, NM | 5'9 | NOTRE DAME
PREVIOUS CLUB: ORLANDO PRIDE

- On loan from NWSL's Orlando Pride
- Made 27 appearances for Orlando since joining the club in 2023.
- Captain of Notre Dame in 2021 and 2022

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#3 GIOVANNA DEMARCO

MIDFIELDER | PHILADELPHIA, PA | 5'6 | WAKE FOREST
PREVIOUS CLUB: SAN DIEGO WAVE

- Competed with NC Courage in the 2024 TST
- Won the 2023 NWSL Shield with San Diego Wave
- Selected 45th overall in the 2023 NWSL Draft by San Diego Wave
- Spent five years at Wake Forest University and captained the team for her final three seasons

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#4 MADDIE MERCADO

MIDFIELDER | SAN DIEGO, CA | 5'8 | NOTRE DAME
PREVIOUS CLUB: SEATTLE REIGN

- Joined on loan in August 2025 from NWSL's Seattle Reign
- All-ACC Second Team honors while at the University of Notre Dame

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#5 JENNA BUTLER

DEFENDER | GAINESVILLE, VA | 5'10 | NC STATE
PREVIOUS CLUB: WASHINGTON SPIRIT

- Two-time Team of the Month honors for Carolina Ascent FC in 2024/25
- Joined Carolina Ascent from NWSL side Washington Spirit in winter 2024
- Played for Carolina Ascent USL W League Team
- Five-year member of NC State women's soccer team
- Ranks eighth-most in games played in NC State program history

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#6 MARIA TAPIA

FORWARD | HUNTERSVILLE, NC | 5'8
PREVIOUS CLUB: ACADEMY CONTRACT

- On a USL Academy Contract
- Named to the 2024 ECNL All-Conference First Team
- Selected for 2024 ODP South Region Team and ODP National Team
- Played club soccer with Charlotte Independence Soccer Club

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#7 JILL AGUILERA

DEFENDER | REDWOOD CITY, CA | 5'7 | ARIZONA
PREVIOUS CLUB: CHICAGO RED STARS

- 2024/25 USL Super League Golden Playmaker & Defender of the Year
- 2024/25 Stats - 2 G, 7 A, 2477 MIN
- Made 36 appearances for Chicago Red Stars
- Represents the Puerto Rico Women's National Team
- Holds Arizona program records for career goals (33) and matches played (92)

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#8 EMILY MOXLEY

DEFENDER | CARY, NC | 5'8 | NORTH CAROLINA
PREVIOUS CLUB: UNC CHAPEL HILL

- Second season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Appeared in 5 matches for Carolina Ascent FC in first professional season in 2024/25
- Played for UNC Chapel Hill 2021-2023
- Spent freshman season at UNC Wilmington

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#9 MIA CORBIN

FORWARD | MAPLE VALLEY, WA | 5'9 | CALIFORNIA
PREVIOUS CLUB: BRISBANE ROAR

- 2024/25 USL Super League All-League First Team
- 2024/25 Stats: 29 GP, 12 G, 1 A
- 2025 March USL Super League Player of the Month
- Carolina Ascent 2024/25 Player of the Year
- Recorded 8 goals and 4 assists for Brisbane Roar in 2023/24 (Australia)
- 2022 Golden Boot Winner and 2x Primera División Champion with Alajuelense W (Costa Rica)

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#10 RYLEE BAISDEN

FORWARD | YORBA LINDA, CA | 5'3 | PEPPERDINE
PREVIOUS CLUB: PERTH GLORY FC

- 2024/25 Stats: 21 GP, 1 G, 4 A
- Scored 5 goals in 7 matches with Perth Glory in 2022/23 (Australia)
- Played for NC Courage 2020-2022
- Won 2022 NWSL Challenge Cup
- Recorded 3 goals and 3 assists in 11 matches for Brisbane Roar in 2019/20 (Australia)
- 2016 All-WCC First Team and NSCAA All-Region Third Team with Pepperdine

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#11 LUANA GRABIAS

FORWARD | PARANA, BRAZIL | 5'6 | NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
PREVIOUS CLUB: BROOKLYN FC

- Appeared in 27 matches and scored five goals for Brooklyn in 2024/25
- First player in league history to transfer between clubs when she joined Brooklyn from Fort Lauderdale United FC
- Scored 59 goals in her college career across both schools
- Has represented Brazil on the U-15, U-17, and U-20 national teams.

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#12 SYDNEY STUDER

DEFENDER | CORONA, CA | 5'11 | WASHINGTON STATE
PREVIOUS CLUB: WASHINGTON STATE

- 2024/25 USL Super League All-League First Team
- 2024/25 Stats: 24 GP, 2142 MIN, 1 G
- Finished 4th in the league and led the team in clearances (127)
- Led the team in passes (1,320), blocks (14) and aerial duels won (65)
- Played over 7,900 minutes in 91 games with 89 starts across five years in college

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#13 ADDISYN MERRICK

DEFENDER | LEE'S SUMMIT, MO | 5'5" | KANSAS
PREVIOUS CLUB: UTAH ROYALS FC

- 2024/25 Stats: 19 GP, 1 G, 1 A, 1638 MIN
- Joined Carolina Ascent FC from Utah Royals FC in September 2024
- Played with KC Current in 2022 and 2023
- Played every match for the Jayhawks during her four-year collegiate career
- 2019 Big 12 Defender of the Year

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#14 TAYLOR PORTER

MIDFIELDER | SAN DIEGO, CA | 5'7" | NC STATE
PREVIOUS CLUB: PORTLAND THORNS

- 2024/25 Carolina Ascent Captain
- One of four players to play every minute of 2024/25 season
- Led the team in both interceptions (37) and tackles (52)
- 2022 NWSL Champion with Portland Thorns
- Started all 85 matches in her four seasons with NC State University

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#15 SYDNEY MARTINEZ

GOALKEEPER | RINCON, GA | 6'0" | SOUTH FLORIDA
PREVIOUS CLUB: BROOKLYN FC

- Four clean sheets for Brooklyn FC in 2024
- Final MVP in W League championship in 2022
- Capped Puerto Rico international
- AAC Goalkeeper of the Year and AAC Tournament Most Outstanding Defensive Player in 2020 with USF

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	SV	SV %	CS	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#16 CHARLOTTE BURGE

GOALKEEPER | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA | 5'8" | PEPPERDINE
PREVIOUS CLUB: 1. FFC KAISTERSLAUTERN

- Second season with Carolina Ascent FC
- Last called into the U.S. U19 Training Camp in June 2025
- Youngest women's professional goalkeeper in the U.S.
- Trained with Bay FC during 2024 NWSL preseason
- Played with 1.FFC Kaisterslautern in 2023 (Germany)

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	SV	SV %	CS	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#17 ALYSSA WALKER

FORWARD | CENTERVILLE, OH | 5'10" | RICHMOND/IOWA
PREVIOUS CLUB: SPOKANE ZEPHYR FC

- Signed for Carolina Ascent in 2025
- Last played minutes in Denmark in 2023 and 2024, tallying four goals across 16 league appearances
- Scored nine goals and logged nearly 1,500 minutes in her debut Damallsvenskan season in Sweden in 2022

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#18 AUDREY HARDING

FORWARD | AKRON, OH | 5'10" | UNC WILMINGTON
PREVIOUS CLUB: KIF OREBRO DFF

- 2024/25 Stats: 21 GP, 5 G, 5 A
- Second on Carolina Ascent in goals (5) in 2024/25
- Scored the USL Super League Goal of the Season vs. FTL (4/26/25)
- Recorded the first assist in USL Super League history (8/17/24)
- One of only three players in UNC Wilmington program history to tally 20 career goals and 20 career assists

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#19 MEAGHAN NALLY

DEFENDER | FAIRFAX, VA | 5'7 | GEORGETOWN
PREVIOUS CLUB: ODENSE BOLDKlub Q

- Signed for Carolina Ascent in 2025
- Made 23 appearances in Denmark for Odense Boldklub Q after joining in 2024
- 2021 NWSL Challenge Cup Winner and 2022 NWSL Champion with Portland Thorns

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#21 MACEY BADER

FORWARD | APEX, NC | 5'6 | UNC CHARLOTTE
PREVIOUS CLUB: UNC CHARLOTTE

- Signed first professional contract with Carolina Ascent in 2025
- Wrapped up an impressive four-year career at Charlotte in 2024.
- First Team All-Conference twice and earned AAC All-Tournament Team honors in 2023.
- Played for NC Courage's USL W League team in 2024 and 2025.
- Earned W League Finals MVP honors in 2024

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#22 B HYLTON

MIDFIELDER | CHARLOTTE, NC | 5'6
PREVIOUS CLUB: CAROLINA ASCENT FC

- First Carolina Ascent academy signing to sign a professional contract
- Became the youngest goal scorer in team history on April 12, 2025 against Brooklyn FC
- Called up to the England U-19 Women's National Team for 2025 UEFA Women's U-19 Championship Qualifiers.
- Professional Debut: August 17, 2024

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#23 RILEY PARKER

FORWARD | DALLAS, TX | 5'8 | ALABAMA
PREVIOUS CLUB: TAMPA BAY SUN FC

- 2024/25 Stats: 28 GP (total), 1 G, 2 A
- Played with Tampa Bay Sun in the fall of 2024
- Drafted 31st overall in 2023 NWSL Draft to Racing Louisville FC
- Played on loan with Tigres in Liga MX Femenil in 2023
- All-American and SEC Forward of the Year at the University of Alabama
- 2022 MAC Hermann Trophy Semifinalist

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#24 EMILY MORRIS

MIDFIELDER | FORT MILL, SC | 5'4 | WAKE FOREST
PREVIOUS CLUB: WAKE FOREST

- Signed for Carolina Ascent in 2025
- Played in 73 games across four seasons for Wake Forest, leading them to the 2024 National Championship game
- Appeared for Carolina Ascent W League team in 2024

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#26 ISABELLA FRANCO

DEFENDER | SEBRING, FL | 5'7
PREVIOUS CLUB: ACADEMY CONTRACT

- On a USL Academy contract
- Helped the Colombia U17 national team qualify for the 2024 U17 FIFA World Cup
- Trained with the Colombia U19 team in February 2024
- Competed with the Carolina Ascent USL W League team in 2024
- Played with Charlotte Independence Soccer Club 08 ECNL team
- Selected for the 2023 ECNL Girls Conference Cup

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2025/26 PLAYER INFORMATION



#28 MAGGIE PIERCE

MIDFIELDER | CARY, NC | 5'4 | NORTH CAROLINA
PREVIOUS CLUB: SHELBOURNE FC

- 55 starts across all competitions in 2023 and 2024 for Shelbourne, scoring twice and featuring in two UEFA Women's Champions League matches.
- Played for Carolina Ascent W League team in summer 2025
- Appeared for the Tar Heels 80 times in her five-year career
- Reached two NCAA College Cup finals in 2019 and 2022

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#31 MACKENZIE GEORGE

FORWARD | LINCOLN, CA | 5'4 | TENNESSEE
PREVIOUS CLUB: BROOKLYN FC

- Acquired by transfer fee prior to 2025 season
- All-League Second Team in 2024
- USL Super League Team of the Month in September and March during 2024 season
- Two-time All-SEC selection and earned First Team All-Region honors in 2021 with the University of Tennessee

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-



#70 STELLA SPITZER

FORWARD | COLUMBUS, OH | 5'4
PREVIOUS CLUB: CAROLINA ASCENT

- Became the youngest professional player in Super League history after signing multi-year contract this offseason
- Professional Debut: October 19, 2024
- Youngest Player to Compete in the USL Super League
- Called into USA U-15 YNT Camp in July 2025

2025/26 PLAYER STATS

GP	GS	G	A	MIN	YC	RC
-	-	-	-	-	-	-