



Fusion no match for Real Salt Lake

By Joe Curley
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Hagop Chirishian grew up playing with, and looking up to, his fellow Armenian, Yura Movsisyan.

"You can tell he's a great goal scorer," said Chirishian, who followed in Movsisyan's footsteps at Pasadena City College. "He's got speed, skill and everything else you need."

Everything was on display Friday night at Buena High, where Movsisyan came off the bench at halftime to score four goals as Real Salt Lake defeated the Ventura County Fusion, 7-0, Friday night in a friendly match.

Fusion reject Tino Nunez, who was cut from the Fusion roster last March, had a goal and an assist in the first half. Robbie Findley and Kenny Cutler also scored for the Major League Soccer club, which is wrapping up a 10-day training camp at Oxnard College.

"We focused on this as an exercise," said Salt Lake coach Jason Kreis. "I thought (the Fusion) put forth a good effort. We realize it's really early in what they're trying to do."

The scoreline topped the Fusion's 5-0 friendly defeat to powerful Everton of the English Premier League in July.

Although that strong performance came with a full team on the heels of a long season. This disjointed display, almost three months before the beginning of the Premier Development League season, came with a skeleton squad that had come together for just two training sessions.

"We were ill prepared, physically, individually and as a team," said Fusion coach Graham Smith. "It's not an excuse. It's a fact. But I'm not displeased with some performances."

The brightest Fusion player was goalkeeper Logan Frank, who sparkled in making his return after missing the final seven matches of last season with a shoulder injury.

"I feel like I belong on teams like these," said Frank of the MLS opposition. "I feel like I showed I can play."

As well as Frank, Smith also lauded right back Dustin Guerrero, uncovered in last month's tryouts, and Santa Barbara City forward Mark Knight, who made an impact in the second half.

Frank made two big saves in the early going before Salt Lake took a 13th-minute lead on a nice goal from Findley.

The former Galaxy player was found in space at the top of the penalty area and drove a low shot off the

base of the far, left post and in.

Twenty minutes later, a ball over the top put Findlay alone on goal but Frank got down well to save the breakaway.

Real Salt Lake took a 2-0 lead just before halftime. Moments after Nunez's attempt from the penalty spot was foiled by a diving Frank, Nunez deflected Javier Morales' driven cross through traffic into the Fusion goal.

The Fusion started with Frank in goal; Richie Alcaraz, Dillon Barna, Alejandro Carmona and Dustin Guerrero at the back; Ben Murrel, Michael Farfan, Gabriel Gonzalez and Varden Adzemian in midfield; and Gabriel Farfan and Chirishian up front.

Real Salt Lake started with Nick Rimando in goal; Ian Joy, Ritchie Kotschau, Dave Horst and Chris Lancos at the back; Nate Sturgis, Dusan Simic, Salim Bullen and Javier Morales in midfield; and Robbie Findley and Nunez up front.

The Fusion's game program listed the team as missing 11 players from the roster that will open up Premier Development League play May 2 against the Bakersfield Bridgade.

Nine are college players who will join the team when NCAA regulations allow them on May 2 — Jason Leopoldo and Brad Rusin of UCLA, Alfonso Motagalvan and Chris Pontius of UC Santa Barbara, Dylan Riley of Cal State Northridge, Brian Jones and Anton Pertlin of Cal Poly and Jean Alexandre and Lee Porter of Lynn University (Fla.).

The other two are Englishmen Lee Stephens and Mark Draycott, who led the Fusion with 10 goals last year. Brazilian Henrique De Paula of Marshalltown (Iowa) Junior College, who was unlisted, is also expected to join the team.

Draycott, currently playing with his local club, Swindon Supermarine, wasn't expected to return. But that sentiment seems to be changing.

"There's a good chance," said Fusion general manager Ranbir Shergill.



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