

Dominguez brace lifts Austin FC past Real Salt Lake for home win

BY ZACH SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

When head coach Josh Wolff's system is clicking, Austin FC can be fun to watch.

Cecilio Dominguez scored twice to take the team lead in goals this season and Austin FC beat Real Salt Lake 2-1 Saturday afternoon to win back-to-back home games for the first time in franchise history.

"We have a very competitive group," Wolff said. "There aren't many games where we haven't shown up and competed. It's nice to have a proper striker where we can put Cecilio and all of our players in places where they can be most impactful."

The possession was split evenly between the two teams, but Austin had a big advantage in shots (18-9) and shots on goal (8-3) in addition to winning 12 corners.

All three DPs — Dominguez, Sebastian Driussi and Tomas Pochettino — were on the field from the get-go, while dynamic playmakers Moussa Djitté and Diego Fagundez also made up a strong starting XI.

Dominguez finished with a brace on five shots — three on target — while Fagundez had four shots and an assist, Driussi finished with three shots and an assist and Djitté had a pair of shots.

"It's great to finally produce in a game at home," Dominguez said. "We might be behind in the table, but we're going to keep going and keep trying to play the best we can."

Austin FC finishes its most recent stretch of three games in seven days with six points after beating the LA Galaxy 2-0 at Q2 Stadium last Sunday and falling to the Colorado Rapids 2-0 in Denver on Wednesday when many key players were rested.

"We wanted to be in a position to get three results," Wolff said. "The results help validate what we thought. When you look at the contributions of (the players that were rested), there was a level of freshness and quality."

Driussi had a close-range shot saved in the 17th minute, but Dominguez was right there to finish off the rebound for the opening goal.

Just before halftime, Djitté saw a header go just wide off a corner kick. Moments later, he fed Fagundez a perfect pass into the RSL box, but his shot rolled just wide.

Austin FC carried the first-half momentum into the second half. Driussi played a world-class chip to Fagundez in the 55th minute, and Fagundez crossed it to a wide-open Dominguez for an easy tap-in.

Salt Lake pulled one back less than 10 minutes later when Julio Cascante slipped, leaving Damir Krelilach unmarked to slip one past Stuver.

Austin FC was given a PK when it appeared Djitté was brought down in the box in the 78th minute. It was overturned after a VAR check, which has not been kind to the Verde & Black this season.

Real Salt Lake pushed for



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Austin FC forward Moussa Djitté (99) heads the ball toward the goal in a scoring attempt from a corner kick during a Major League Soccer match between Austin FC and Real Salt Lake on October 2, 2021 in Austin, Texas.

an equalizer over the final 10 minutes pull stoppage, but unlike in many past games, the Verde & Black didn't fold. Instead, they continued to control the match even though RSL sustained possession.

"When we have proper preparation to get everybody on the same page, I think it's really clear how good this team can be," Wolff said. "We've got six games left and we've got plenty to work on. Those are things we look forward to as a group to get started on next week."

Austin FC Man of the

Match: Cecilio Dominguez — It's been a weird season for Dominguez. He joined Austin FC as one of the highest-profile players on the roster but has been shoehorned into play as the striker. Saturday showed how much more fluid and dangerous he can be out wide. On both of his goals, he made his run from out wide, jumping on Driussi's rebound on the opener and finishing the cross from Fagundez on the second. He leads the team with seven goals this season.

Up Next: Austin FC has a much-needed two-week

break before Minnesota United comes to Q2 Stadium on Oct. 16. The Verde & Black have split their two meetings against the Loons, winning 1-0 on May 1 in Minnesota before losing 2-0 at home on June 23.

The U.S. Men's National Team takes over Q2 Stadium for a World Cup Qualifier against Jamaica on Thursday.

Including the Minnesota match, there are six games left in the MLS regular season. Austin FC travels to face the San Jose Earthquakes on Oct. 20 and hosts the Houston Dynamo on Oct. 24.

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Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Grand Lakes Municipal Utility District No. 2 (hereinafter called "District"), at a meeting of said Board held on September 20, 2021, changed its office to 1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77056, and established meeting places of said Board outside the boundaries of the District at 1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suites 2400 and 2500, Houston, Texas 77056.

All residents and taxpayers of the District and all other interested persons are invited to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors, including those at said locations.

The mailing address for correspondence directed to the District is 1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77056.

/s/ Greg Henry

Secretary

Board of Directors

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