

## Diego Martins

<p><b>PREVIOUS TEAMS:</b> (Include years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociedade Esportiva do Gama (2002-2004)</li> <li>• Goianesia Esporte Clube (1st semester of 2003)</li> <li>• Capital Esporte Clube ( 2nd semester of 2004)</li> <li>• Associação Atlético Anapolina (1st semester of 2005)</li> <li>• Clube Desportivo Guar (2nd semester of 2005)</li> <li>• Grmio Esportivo Anpolis (1st semester of 2006)</li> <li>• Desportivo das aves – Portugal (2006-2007)</li> <li>• Associao Atltica Anapolina (2nd semester of 2007)</li> <li>• Morrinhos Esporte Clube (2008)</li> <li>• Ceilndia Esporte Clube (1st semester of 2009)</li> <li>• Charlotte Eagles Soccer Club (2009-2010).</li> </ul>
<p><b>CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three -time Junior champion (Gama)</li> <li>• Two- time winner of the second division of Brasilia (Capital and Guar)</li> <li>• State Champion of Brasilia (Gama- State 1<sup>st</sup> division)</li> <li>• Vice champion of the C series of the Brazilian championship (Gama- 3<sup>rd</sup> division Brazilian championship).</li> <li>• Vice champion USL 2</li> </ul>
<p><b>AWARDS &amp; HONORS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two -time junior league's top scorer (Gama 2002- 2003) – 1<sup>st</sup> year: 12 goals / 2<sup>nd</sup> year: 18 goals.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Professional:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S.E Gama: 14 goals</li> <li>• Goianesia E.C: 9 goals</li> <li>• Capital E.C: 6 goals</li> <li>• A.C. Anapolina: 4 goals</li> <li>• C.D Guara: 5 goals</li> <li>• G.E Anapolis: 8 goals</li> <li>• Desportivo Aves (Portugal): 8 goals</li> <li>• Morrinhos E.C: 3 goals</li> <li>• Ceilandia E.C: 6 goals</li> <li>• Charlotte Eagles S.C: 6 goals and 6 assist</li> </ul>

2009

# Diego Martins Charlotte Eagles

For God all honor and glory

News Diego Martins Charlotte Eagles 2009



Diego  
Charlotte Eagles 12  
5/17/2009



## Eagles Earn Valuable Point in Richmond

Martins Late Free Kick Ties Game

**D**iego Martins scored on a free kick from 22 yards out in the 84th minute as the Eagles earned a valuable point in Richmond where they tied the Kickers 1-1 Friday night. Charlotte plays the second match of their two day roadtrip tonight in Baltimore against Crystal Palace.

The Eagles went into Friday night's game with something to prove after being dominated by Wilmington the weekend before by a score of 6-3. It was the most goals the Eagles have allowed since their return to USL-2, and it left many questions for a team that returned the majority of its players from last year's regular season championship squad.

"This week was definitely a test of character for our guys," remarked Coach Steffens. "We really had to look at this as an opportunity to see how our guys would respond. It's a long season, but we needed to turn things around and get some confidence back. I think we got a little tonight, but we have Baltimore Saturday night so we must continue to persevere."

Richmond got off to a quick start and was also hungry for a win after losing to Bermuda last week. Delicate helped the Kickers get close to that win, when he put Richmond ahead 1-0 in the 16th minute.

The game was a tale of two halves, as Richmond had Charlotte on its heels for the majority of the first half. At a place like University of Richmond Stadium, the Eagles had a mountain to climb as they had yet to get any points in Richmond since the Kickers came to USL-2.

That all changed in the second half as Charlotte pressured the Kickers for the majority of the second half. Although the Eagles continued to press, they could not find the net. That changed in the 84th minute when Jacob Coggins was taken down just four yards outside the penalty box.

Diego Martins stepped up to the ball, and with time winding down, Martins nailed a rocket in the upper corner of the goal to tie the game 1-1. Although it was only one point, the Eagles celebrated as if they had won the match. After a week long of questions, Charlotte appeared to regain some much needed confidence going into tonight's match with Baltimore.

Although the Eagles are coming straight from Richmond to play back to back games, Baltimore also played a game last night in a 1-0 win over Western Massachusetts. Charlotte will be looking for revenge tonight as Baltimore used two late goals to defeat an uninspired Eagles squad May 1st in Rock Hill, SC.



## Diego Martins #12

Midfielder/Forward

### Diego Martins #12

Midfielder

5'11 / Age: 25

**Hometown:**  
Porangatu, Goiás,  
Brazil

**2008 Club:**  
Desportivo das Aves  
(Portugal)

2009 will be the first  
season in the USL for  
Diego Martins.

Born in Porangatu,  
Goiás in Brazil,  
Martins grew up  
playing in the youth  
system for  
Sociedade Esportiva  
do Gama where he

played as an amateur for the Gama Júniors. During his time as a young amateur, Martins lead his club to 3 Brasília State Championships scoring 18 goals at the young age of 16 in his final year as an amateur.

At age 17, Martins was called up to the professional level for Gama. During his professional career with Gama, Martins lead his club to two professional Brasília State Championships and was the team MVP in 2004 as Gama won the Brazilian Serie C National Championship. That successful campaign for Martins brought attention from the higher professional divisions as the young midfielder signed with Capital F.C. in 2005.

It was Diego's year with Capital F.C. that again brought the young star attention from national media as the midfielder scored a goal known as the "goal Pelé couldn't score". It was this game that Martins took the ball at midfield off a defender, and noticed the opposing keeper cheating off his line. Martins placed a beautiful looping shot from over 50 yards out over the keeper and into the goal.

The goal brought on a media frenzy regionally and nationally as Diego continued to become noticed not just in Brazil, but also in Portugal. Portuguese 1st Division club Deportivo dos Aves observed Martins in 2006 with his club Grêmio E. Anápolis of the Brazilian 2nd Division as he was nominated Player of the Week three times and team MVP.

Aves quickly signed the Brazilian in 2007 as Martins competed against powerhouse clubs Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and FC Porto. After spending two seasons in Portugal, Martins comes to the United States as he looks to make an impact in USL play with the Charlotte Eagles.





## Richmond, Charlotte draw 1-1

Richmond Kickers News Release - [www.richmondkickers.com](http://www.richmondkickers.com)

Friday, May 15, 2009

RICHMOND, VA -- The Richmond Kickers narrowly missed the opportunity to shutout the Charlotte Eagles on Friday night after taking an early lead and then conceding a late goal to finish 1-1 against their southern rivals.

Nearly 2,000 fans saw a battle in the midfield at the University of Richmond Stadium resulting in a low nine shots to three, in favor of the home side. Kickers forward Matthew Delic te connected on an Evan Harding long ball to put Richmond up 1-0 in the 16th minute.

Holding onto the lead for the majority of the match, the Eagles buried a free kick from 25 yards in the 84th minute to bring the scoreline level.

The Kickers return to the University of Richmond Stadium to host Military Appreciation Night and Crystal Palace Baltimore on Saturday, May 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

The match opened with little activity on either side of the field. A battle in the midfield resulted in few chances for either team as the Kickers attempted two shots on the half while the Eagles were yet to find any opportunities.

The Kickers claimed an early lead on their first and only real chance of the night. In the 16th minute, Harding's long ball out of the back found Delic te with his back to the goal, just outside of the penalty box. Eluding two defenders, Delic te faked left and turned right to slot a low ball to the near post, just out of Charlotte goalkeeper, Kevin Trapp's reach.

Kickers midfielder Adrian Bumbut opened the second half with two dangerous chances. In the 60th minute, he received a long ball over the top but fired a shot over the crossbar.

Four minutes later, his attempt found the same fate as midfielder Mike Burke carried the ball down the right wing and crossed it to Bumbut at the top of the box. Creating space in the box with some tricky footwork, his next attempt sailed skyward.

Soon after, Burke received the ball at the top of the box but his low shot to the far post narrowly missed the target.

As the 77th minute mark approached, the Eagles drew a foul in a dangerous position, just a few yards outside the box. Forward Jorge Herrera lined up the free kick and lobbed the ball into the box but Kickers goalkeeper Ronnie Pascale leapt to keep the Eagles off the scoreboard.

Six minutes later, the Eagles were not to be denied a second time, earning another free kick 25 yards out. Second-half substitute **Diego Martins** bent the ball over the defensive wall and just under the bar in the upper-go, leaving Pascale without a chance to make the save.

With four minutes to spare, the Kickers retaliated when a shot by Burke was deflected wide for a corner kick. Midfielder Ben Hunter delivered an in-swing to the far post but it was cleared by an Eagles defender. Richmond rookie defender Henry Kalungi sent the rebound back into the mix, finding Kelvin Jones in the air but his header fell just wide of the target.

The Kickers narrowly missed the chance to break the draw, seconds before the final whistle. As stoppage time ticked on, Hunter collected a loose ball on the left side of the box. He played the ball back to the top of the box, as an onrushing Joey Worthen dribbled by a defender but his right-footed shot narrowly glanced wide of the left post.

## Eagles sign Martins

**Brazilian standout comes to Charlotte from Portugal**

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Friday, April 17, 2009

CHARLOTTE, NC -- The Charlotte Eagles officially announced the signing of 25 year old Brazilian Diego Martins. The signing marks the second Brazilian player the Eagles have signed in the last two weeks since signing Rio native Amaury Nunes.

Born in Porangatu, Goiás in Brazil, Martins grew up playing in the youth system for Sociedade Esportiva do Gama where he played as an amateur for the Gama Júnios. During his time as a young amateur, Martins led his club to three Brasilia State Championships scoring 18 goals at the young age of 16 in his final year as an amateur.

At age 17, Martins was called up to the professional level for Gama. During his professional career with Gama, Martins led his club to two professional Brasilia State Championships and was the team MVP in 2004 as Gama won the Brazilian Serie C National Championship. That successful campaign for Martins brought attention from the higher professional divisions as the young midfielder signed with Capital F.C. in 2005.



It was Diego's year with Capital F.C. that again brought the young star attention from national media as the midfielder scored a goal known as the "goal Pelé couldn't score." It was this game that Martins took the ball at midfield off a defender, and noticed the opposing keeper cheating off his line. Martins placed a beautiful looping shot from over 50 yards out over the keeper and into the goal.

The goal brought on a media frenzy regionally and nationally as Diego continued to become noticed not just in Brazil, but also in Portugal. Portuguese 1st Division club Deportivo dos Aves observed Martins in 2006 with his club Grêmio E. Anápolis of the Brazilian 2nd Division as he was nominated Player of the Week three times and team MVP.

Aves quickly signed the Brazilian in 2007 as Martins competed against powerhouse clubs Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and FC Porto. After spending two seasons in Portugal, Martins comes to the United States as he looks to make an impact in USL play with the Charlotte Eagles.

"Like Amaury (Nunes), Diego is an outstanding player who is extremely technical and intelligent," remarked Coach Steffens. "He has unbelievable vision and his distribution is exceptional. He has experience at the highest level and has played against some of the best clubs in the world. We think he is going to be a very good compliment to the team and our style of play."

As a member of eight championship teams in Brazil, Martins is excited to help bring another championship; this time in the United States. "The Eagles are a great organization with a lot of history as one of the oldest professional clubs in the country," stated Martins. "My wife and I are very excited to be here in this community and to help bring another USL Championship home to Charlotte."

Martins and the Eagles have one more final tune-up tomorrow night at UNC Charlotte's TransAmerica Field before opening up their 2009 USL-2 season April 25th at 2pm against Wilmington.

## Eagles, Hammerheads draw 2-2

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

CHARLOTTE, NC -- Dustin Swinehart scored two goals in the second half as the Charlotte Eagles battled the heat and the Wilmington Hammerheads to a 2-2 draw at Charlotte Christian Saturday. Jamie Watson and Aaron King added goals for Wilmington.

On a hot afternoon in Charlotte where the temperature on the turf reached just under 100 degrees, the Eagles renewed their rivalry with Wilmington. The teams did not disappoint as the game quickly became a physical match.

After failing to make the playoffs in 2008, Wilmington came into today's match a vastly improved squad from a year ago as the Hammerheads challenged Charlotte from the first whistle.

While Wilmington came out aggressive from the start, Charlotte appeared surprised by the Hammerheads' play even though the game's first scoring chance came in the 5th minute for Charlotte's Dustin Swinehart.

After clearing the ball out from the back, Charlotte quickly got the ball to Jacob Coggins who sent a pass through to Dustin Swinehart. Swinehart did take long to put a shot on goal, as the 2008 MVP fired a 20 yard shot that blasted off the crossbar.

However, after that shot, it was all Wilmington during the first half. The Hammerheads continued to pressure Charlotte's flanks who were caught off guard at times by Wilmington. The Eagles were not sharp on the ball, and a turnover by the Eagles cost them dearly in the 27th minute.

After being played a ball from Chris Lemons, midfielder Darren Toby turned the ball upfield but was met by a more physical Kenny Bundy. Although Charlotte pleaded for the call, the referee allowed play to continue as Bundy sent the ball in to an unmarked Jamie Watson who turned the ball toward goal.

Although goalkeeper Kevin Trapp made two spectacular saves, Watson finally took the third shot off Trapp's rebound and tapped the ball into the goal for a 1-0 lead. Wilmington took the lead into the half as Charlotte appeared uninspired going into halftime. That did not last for long.

From the start of the second half whistle, Charlotte looked like the defending regular season champions as the Eagles immediately settled in and finally found their rythm.

It took Charlotte just 3 minutes to quickly turn the game around. Colombian Jorge Herrera worked with Jacob Coggins and Dustin Swinehart to put heavy pressure on the Hammerheads as the Eagles came out firing.

The Eagles quickly earned a number of corner kicks as Wilmington could only clear the ball away just to have Charlotte put it right back at them. The Eagles' play quickly paid off as Herrera's corner kick in the 48th minute found the foot of Dustin Swinehart. Swinehart's one-time volley beat Wilmington keeper Sattler as the game quickly took a turn for Charlotte.

The Eagles did not let up and with the magnificent play of Diego Martins the Eagles found themselves up 2-1 12 minutes later. Ben Johnson played a quick ball to Jacob Coggins who flicked the ball into Jorge Herrera. Herrera quickly found [Diego Martins](#) in the middle.

With two men on him [Martins](#) calmly flicked the ball with his heel to a sprinting Swinehart who chipped a beautiful shot over Sattler for a 2-1 lead in the 60th minute.

Unfortunately, the lead didn't last long as a mix up in the back for the Eagles lead to a goal against the run of play for Wilmington just 4 minutes later in the 64th minute. The Eagles left two men unmarked as Murray played a quick ball across to Aaron King who placed a hard shot to the corner past Kevin Trapp to earn the 2-2 draw.

## CHA: Eagles host Palace Friday

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

CHARLOTTE, NC -- After battling Wilmington to a 2-2 draw in the unseasonable heat last Saturday, the Charlotte Eagles will face Crystal Palace Baltimore on Friday night at 7pm at Winthrop University Soccer Complex in Rock Hill, SC.

Friday night will be a rematch of the 2008 USL-2 Semifinal between Charlotte and Baltimore where the Eagles came from behind at Charlotte Christian to defeat Baltimore 2-1 and advance to their seventh USL-2 Final. Fans can expect another great match between the two as Baltimore returns much of their roster from 2008.

Crystal Palace is coming off an impressive performance against Bermuda, beating the Hogges 2-0 with goals from Val Texeira and Dan Lader. It was the second shutout for goalkeeper Brian Rowland, who also maintained a clean sheet in Baltimore's 0-0 draw with Pittsburgh two weeks ago.

"Crystal Palace has been a great addition to the league," stated Eagles Coach Mark Steffens. "They have already proven to be a great organization that is backed by a solid ownership group in England and the U.S., and they have matched that with solid teams on the field. They proved last year to be a great side with their success in the USL-2 and the Open Cup, and we expect a similar side this year to challenge for the championship."

Baltimore comes into 2009 for their 3rd season in USL-2 lead by former teammates Jim Cherneski (Sporting Director) and Pete Medd (Head Coach). The English backed side has proven it can be successful not only in USL-2, but also in U.S. Open Cup play as Baltimore defeated Red Bull New York of Major League Soccer in the Open Cup last year.

Charlotte comes into their second game Friday night after battling the Wilmington Hammerheads to a 2-2 draw in an unseasonably hot April afternoon.

Wilmington started the game pressuring Charlotte early, and forced the Eagles to turn the ball over several times which lead to a 1-0 lead going into halftime. The Eagles woke up in the second half responding with 2 goals, before Wilmington took advantage of another uncharacteristic turnover by Charlotte and tied the game 2-2.

Although the Eagles believed they had some chances to put the Hammerheads away in the game, the team did not come away with a negative outlook.

"The heat definitely played a factor in the game, but you can't take away from what Wilmington did," stated Assistant Coach Patrick Daka. "Wilmington is not the same team they were last year, and I think they dealt with the conditions a little better than we did early on. We had some very uncharacteristic turnovers that hurt us, and we had some chances to score that we should have done better with. I don't think anyone is concerned though. We'll fix those things going into Friday's game. It's going to be a long season in a vastly improved league, and getting any points will be extremely important."

So what can the Eagles take from their game last Saturday into this Friday's game? For starters, the Eagles potent offense still exists. Dustin Swinehart continued his goal scoring ways with 2 goals against Wilmington, as the Hammerheads focused much of their attention on Jacob Coggins.

Secondly, good things happen when Jorge Herrera touches the ball. Almost every time the Eagles got the ball to the Colombian on the flank, Charlotte was quickly involved in a scoring opportunity. Herrera assisted in Charlotte's first goal, and started the attack in the second goal.

Finally, the Eagles Brazilian flavor is already paying dividends. Brazilian [Diego Martins](#) showed moments of pure brilliance on the field Saturday, including his beautiful flick to Dustin Swinehart for the second goal. With Flamengo youth product Amaury Nunes fully recovered from the deep bruise that kept him out of last week's match, the Eagles now possess two skilled Brazilians that should add to their attack on Friday.



## WIL: Hammerheads visit Charlotte

Wilmington Hammerheads News Release - [www.wilmingtonhammerheads.com](http://www.wilmingtonhammerheads.com)

Thursday, May 7, 2009

WILMINGTON, NC -- The Hammerheads will return to Charlotte on Friday for the second time in two weeks. The Hammerheads and Eagles are set to square off at 8:00pm Friday night at Charlotte Catholic Stadium. The Hammerheads are coming off a home opener 3-0 win over Crystal Palace Baltimore last Saturday.

The Hammerheads and Eagles met on April 25th where the game ended with a score of 2-2. The Hammerheads are looking for this game to once again be a hard fought match.

Head Coach David Irving **commented, "I think this trip to Charlotte might be a little different, I can not remember Charlotte ever being winless going into the third game of the season. It is obviously a big game for both of us and we are looking to have a battle in our hands."**



The Hammerheads will begin a four game road swing in Charlotte, which is followed by two games in Bermuda and one at Western Mass over the following two weeks.

## RIC: Kickers host Charlotte Friday

Richmond Kickers News Release - [www.richmondkickers.com](http://www.richmondkickers.com)

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The Kickers and the Eagles meet Friday for the first of three matches this season. Long-time rivals since the two clubs were both members of the USL First Division, the Kickers look to avenge last season's 1-2-0 record against the Eagles. Despite both clubs finishing with 44 points at the top of the standings in 2008, Charlotte claimed the Regular Season title based on head-to-head matches, pushing the Kickers into a second-place finish. Perennial Championship contenders, Charlotte made their way back to the USL Second Division final in 2008. They narrowly missed taking the crown, suffering a 2-1 loss to the Cleveland City Stars.

The two teams swap home field advantage this season, playing in Richmond twice and in Charlotte once. Last season, the Kickers suffered a pair of losses at the hand of the Eagles while on the road. Richmond stole three points from the Eagles earlier in the season with a 1-0 decision to prevent them from taking the Regular Season title outright. Following Friday's match-up, the Kickers head to Charlotte on June 20th before hosting them again on July 4th at the University of Richmond Stadium.

Overall, the Kickers lead the series 14-7-5 against the Eagles, with a rivalry dating back to the club's inception in 1993. One year prior, Richmond faced Charlotte in the 2007 USL-2 Semifinals when the Kickers came away with a 2-1 overtime win, boosting Richmond to their third consecutive appearance in the finals. In 2006, the two clubs met in the Championship when the same scoreline fell to the home side, granting the Kickers their third league title in franchise history.

### Last Time Out

Both the Kickers and the Eagles suffered shocking upsets last weekend. The Kickers were edged 1-0 by the Bermuda Hogges on the road while Charlotte dropped a 6-3 home decision to the Wilmington Hammerheads. With seven starters left behind due to injury and/or visa issues, the Kickers traveled to Bermuda with four loan players and Head Coach, Leigh Cowlishaw on the roster. Despite out-shooting the Hogges 21-10, the Kickers were unable to find the back of the net to come back from a 1-0 deficit early in the match. Meanwhile, the Eagles took an early lead when **Diego Martins** registered in the first minute of play, only to be answered by four consecutive Wilmington goals. With ten minutes remaining in regulation, Eagles forward Dustin Swinehart added a goal and an assist but it was not enough to counteract a pair of late goals by the Hammerheads. The Kickers (1-1-2, 5 points) and the Eagles (0-2-1, 1 point) are in dangerous position in the USL-2 Standings, residing in sixth and eighth place respectively.

### Players to Watch

**P**layers to Watch  
Kickers: Forward Matthew "Deli" Delic  te (#7) leads the Kickers in scoring with two goals and an assist during regular season play. Most recently, he added a goal in the Kickers 2-0 defeat over the Western Mass Pioneers two weeks ago. Joining him on the scoreboard in Western Mass, David Bulow (#10) resides one point behind with two goals. Bulow also added a pair of goals over the Bermuda U-23 National Team last weekend in a friendly that ended 4-0 in favor of the Kickers. Brazilian powerhouse, Gerson dos Santos (#18) is expected to return to the roster Friday after taking last weekend off due to visa issues. The rookie out of Virginia Commonwealth University notched his first professional assist on Bulow's game-winner in Western Mass one week prior. A workhorse in the midfield, Luke Vercollone (#4) also added a goal to the final 4-0 scoreline over the Bermuda U-23's.

Eagles: The Eagles signed Brazilian star midfield **Diego Martins** (#12) just prior to the 2009 season, making an immediate impact for Charlotte, posting a goal within the first minute of last weekend's match against Wilmington. A member of eight Championship teams in Brazil, **Martins** joined the Eagles from Portuguese First Division Club Deportivo das Aves. The Eagles welcome the return of two-time USL-2 MPV, forward Jacob Coggins (#25) and defender Chris Lemons (#7). The two are reunited with Hall of Fame Coach Mark Steffens this season after spending the 2008 campaign with the Carolina RailHawks (USL-1). Both players were major contributors to the Eagles squads that went to three straight USL-2 Championship Finals in 2004, 2005 and 2006, and are welcome additions to the 2009 squad that looks to defend its 2008 Regular Season Title. Forward Dustin Swinehart (#18) made eight appearances on loan with the Kickers USL-1 Finalist squad during the 2005 season and tallied one assist for Richmond that year. The 2008 USL-2 MVP currently leads the Eagles and is ranked second in the league with three goals in as many games.

## USL Second Division Team of the Week

Pos	Name	Team	Highlights
G	Daryl Sattler	Wilmington	Two road shutouts in win and draw
D	Yomby William	Richmond	Led team in 1-1 draw against Charlotte
D	Steve Shak	Charlotte	Goal in 2-1 win at Baltimore
D	Yendry Diaz	Maryland	Goal in 3-0 win over Western Mass
D	Cody Reinberg	Harrisburg	Goal in 1-0 win at Pittsburgh
M	John DeVae	Wilmington	Goal in 1-0 win at Bermuda
M	Diego Martins	Charlotte	Goal in 1-1 draw at Richmond
M	Ty Shipalane	Harrisburg	Assist in 1-0 win at Pittsburgh
F	Gary Brooks	Maryland	Goal, assist in 3-0 win over Western Mass
F	Matthew Mbuta	Baltimore	Two goals in win and loss
F	Matthew Delicate	Richmond	Goal in 1-1 draw against Charlotte

## USL Second Division Team of the Week

Pos	Name	Team	Highlights
G	James Thorpe	Western Mass	13 saves, 1 pk allowed in pair of wins
D	Yomby William	Richmond	Led team in 5-0 win over Harrisburg
D	Ben Clark	Western Mass	Assist in 2-0 win over Real Maryland
D	Graham Tatters	Wilmington	Led team in 1-0 win over Bermuda
M	Mike Videira	Western Mass	Goal in 2-0 win over Real Maryland
M	Mike Burke	Richmond	Two assists in 5-0 win over Harrisburg
M	Kenny Bundy	Wilmington	Assist in 1-0 win over Bermuda
M	Diego Martins	Charlotte	Two goals, assist in 6-0 win over Bermuda
M	Adrian Dubois	Western Mass	Two oals in 2-1 win over Crystal Palace
F	David Bulow	Richmond	Two goals in 5-0 win over Harrisburg
F	Dustin Swinehart	Charlotte	Two goals in 6-0 win over Bermuda

## USL Second Division Team of the Week

Pos	Name	Team	Highlights
G	Ronnie Pascale	Richmond	Four saves in 3-0 win at Charlotte
D	Tenywa Bonseu	Pittsburgh	Goal in 2-1 win at Bermuda
D	Yomby William	Richmond	Two assists in 3-0 win at Charlotte
D	Michael Holody	Maryland	Led team in 1-0 win at Baltimore
M	Damon Ming	Bermuda	Goal in 1-0 win over Pittsburgh
M	Diego Martins	Charlotte	Two assists in 3-2 win at Wilmington
M	Jason Pelletier	Harrisburg	Two assists in 3-1 win over Baltimore
M	Dustin Swinehart	Charlotte	Goal, assist in 3-2 win at Wilmington
F	Cecil Lewis	Maryland	Goal in 1-0 win at Baltimore
F	Brandon Swartzendruber	Harrisburg	Two goals in 3-1 win over Baltimore
F	David Bulow	Richmond	Two goals in 3-0 win over Charlotte

## Point Leaders (Top 20)

Rank	Points	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	10	5	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
2	9	4	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	9	5	Severs, Chad	Harrisburg City Islanders		
4	7	5	Delic�te, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers		
	7	5	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles		
6	6	6	Coddington, Damico	Bermuda Hogges		
7	5	4	Shipalane, Tiyselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	5	5	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
9	4	2	Andongcho, Mathew Mbuta	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
	4	3	Jerome, Randolph	Pittsburgh Riverhounds		
	4	4	Reinberg, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	4	5	Bulow, David	Richmond Kickers		
	4	5	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles		
	4	6	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
15	3	3	King, Aaron	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	3	4	Oduor, Mo	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	3	4	Ramirez, Victor	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	3	4	Rush, Sean	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	3	5	Bundy, Kenneth	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	3	5	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		



## Charlotte, Harrisburg finish scoreless

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Friday, June 26, 2009

CHARLOTTE, NC -- Harrisburg came into Charlotte leading the table with a 7-2-2 record, and a previous 3-0 win over the Eagles. The Eagles, working hard to stay alive and find a way to get into the playoffs, were only able to pick up one point in a scoreless draw.

As play began the fans knew they were in for a whirlwind of a game. From the opening whistle, the game had a very open feel, as possession went back and forth. Chances were immediate from both the Eagles and the Islander.

Twenty minutes into the game the Eagles found their form and began to control the pace of the game through the midfield. As the intensity of play was evident through the Eagles attempt to aggressively win every ball, they struggled a bit in the accuracy of completed passes.

**Diego Martins** had the best chance for the Charlotte Eagles of the first half with a set piece 25 yards from goal that resulted in a near miss.

The second half was a continuation of the first, as both sides played aggressively but could not find answers to finish.

As both teams fought hard to the final whistle neither could break the stalemate ending in a 0-0 draw.

## Eagles win in Wilmington 3-2

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Thursday, July 2, 2009

WILMINGTON, NC -- Two nights after stunning the Chicago Fire of MLS in the US Open Cup, the Wilmington Hammerheads were handed a 3-2 loss at home by their state rival Charlotte Eagles in league play.

The Eagles were in Wilmington Thursday night searching for some kind of spark that can help get them back on track scoring goals and winning games. They found what they were looking for. This was the fourth meeting between the two teams this year, with a draw and two wins for Wilmington the Eagles had something to prove.

The Eagles settled in early as Luke Williams made a beautiful overlapping run receiving the ball from **Diego Martins** and found the back of the net in the eighth minute.

In the 21st minute **Diego Martins**, proving to be an architect in the midfield, delivered a perfect ball at Dustin Swinehart's feet as he broke through the Wilmington defense and scored a second goal for the Eagles.

It did not take long for Wilmington to regroup as Jamie Watson scored an unassisted goal, just two minutes later in the 23rd minute.

The first half of play full of continuous action as the Eagle's Jorge Herrera took a turn scoring their third goal of the night in minute 26.

Though the Eagles were up 3-1 at the half, play was divided evenly between both teams.

As play resumed, settled into the game, both Wilmington and the Eagles played a slower second half. Wilmington, doing everything in their power to take control and come from behind was not able to do it. Although, Kenny Bundy assisting Phil Hufstader in the 59th minute brought the score a little closer.

Both keepers were on their game with four saves apiece. Wilmington outshot the Eagles 6-4, but the Eagles were able to capitalize finding a much needed win, with a final score of 3-2.



## Charlotte, Monarchs finish 1-1

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Saturday, July 18, 2009

CHARLOTTE, NC -- The Charlotte Eagles hosted the Real Maryland Monarchs for the first time this year at Charlotte Christian Stadium. Though the Eagles dominated, Real Maryland was able to pull out a 1-1 draw.

Real Maryland (7-7-0) sits two points ahead of the Eagles (5-5-4) in the standings after losing to the Wilmington Hammerheads Friday night. An Eagle win would have moved the Eagles to fourth place; a disappointing finish for the Eagles after taking control early and dominating most of the game.

The Eagles opened the game with three quick near misses from **Diego Martins**. Winning balls in the midfield and using both sides of the field well, the Eagles applied heavy pressure to the Monarchs defensive line.

In the seventh minute Dustin Swinehart drew a free kick, in which **Diego Martins** made a near perfect strike, curling the ball around the wall only to hit the crossbar. This near miss would define the drama to unfold.

Real Maryland had their best opportunity in the first half in the twelfth minute. Steward Cues made a great save, one on one as he smothered the ball after it was struck hard just inside the eighteen.

The Monarchs keeper, Dave Kern, was tested fifteen times in the first half, three of which bounced off the woodwork.

Despite the Eagles dominance, the first half of play ended 0-0.

The second half began with more of an open feel. Both teams found opportunities at their opponent's end of the field and both keepers exchanged good saves.

Fifty two minutes into the game **Diego** had another free kick opportunity. Again, he struck the ball with perfect accuracy, but the framework denied him yet again.

Luke Williams, in the sixty ninth minute made a great run through the Monarch's defense making the keeper commit. At the last moment he crossed the ball back in front of the goal and found Amaury Nunes who sank it in the back of the net, giving the Eagles a 1-0 lead.

The Eagles were not able to sustain their lead long. Ryan Cordeiro, breaking through the right side found Gary Brooks on a cross, who beat the keeper with his head.

Stoppage time proved to be quite a heart stopper as Real Maryland committed a foul just outside the box. The Eagles came close on their last free kick attempt, but despite the effort the result was a 1-1 draw.

## Assist Leaders

Rank	Assists	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	7	14	Burke, Michael	Richmond Kickers		
2	6	14	Bundy, Kenneth	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	6	14	Shipalane, Tiyyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
4	5	12	Klukowski, Yan	Western Mass Pioneers		
	5	13	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
6	4	13	Pelletier, Jason	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	4	15	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	4	15	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
9	3	10	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	3	11	Cordeiro, Ryan	Real Maryland Monarchs		

## Shot Leaders

Rank	Shots	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	38	15	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
2	33	13	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
3	31	15	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
4	30	10	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
5	28	14	Shipalane, Tiyyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	28	15	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles		
7	27	16	Barbosa, Almir	Western Mass Pioneers		
8	26	15	Delicâte, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers		
9	25	14	Severs, Chad	Harrisburg City Islanders		
10	24	15	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		



## Point Leaders (Top 20)

Rank	Points	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	27	13	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
2	22	15	Delic�te, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers		
3	18	14	Bulow, David	Richmond Kickers		
	18	14	Shipalane, Tiyselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
5	17	14	Severs, Chad	Harrisburg City Islanders		
6	15	10	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	15	15	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles		
	15	16	Barbosa, Almir	Western Mass Pioneers		
9	12	7	Nunes, Amaury	Charlotte Eagles		
	12	14	Bundy, Kenneth	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	12	15	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
12	11	15	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles		
13	10	13	Pelletier, Jason	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	10	15	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	10	15	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
16	9	14	Burke, Michael	Richmond Kickers		
17	8	11	Jerome, Randolph	Pittsburgh Riverhounds		
	8	13	Noviello, Jyler	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	8	17	Coddington, Damico	Bermuda Hogges		
	8	17	Seabrook, Jordan	Crystal Palace Baltimore		

**Shot Leaders**

Rank	Shots	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	38	16	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
2	37	17	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
3	33	13	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	33	15	Shipalane, Tiyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
5	30	11	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
6	29	17	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles		
7	28	15	Severs, Chad	Harrisburg City Islanders		
8	27	16	Barbosa, Almir	Western Mass Pioneers		
	27	16	Delic�te, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers		
10	25	16	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		

**USL Second Division - Top 10 Stats Leaders****Game Leaders**

Rank	Games	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	18	18	Flores, Zackary	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
	18	18	Harada, Shintaro	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
	18	18	Rowland, Brian	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
	18	18	Seabrook, Jordan	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
5	17	17	Coddington, Damico	Bermuda Hogges		
	17	17	Cox, Darius	Bermuda Hogges		
	17	17	Healey, Patrick	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
	17	17	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles		
	17	17	Marshall, Andrew	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
	17	17	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		

Saturday, August 8, 2009

PITTSBURGH, PA -- **The Pittsburgh Riverhounds'** 2009 United Soccer Leagues Second Division playoffs hopes were dashed tonight by the Charlotte Eagles who took a 3-1 victory at Chartiers Valley Stadium.

Pittsburgh played without starting forward Randolph Jerome, who is nursing an injured ankle, then had to play two men down because of ejections early in the second half.

The match was loaded with opportunity and lightning. Just seconds after the Eagles took the opening kick and played a long ball into the Pittsburgh end, Cody Bragg sent it back out of the **Hounds' defensive third to midfield where it was misplayed by Charlotte's backs.**

Jeff Hughes, starting at forward for Jerome, noticed the confusion, stayed onside then bolted up the pitch on a breakaway. His 20-yard shot was initially deflected by Eagles goalkeeper **Steward Ceus, who came off of his line to play Hughes' attack, but the ball hopped high off of Ceus' hands, bounced behind him and skipped directly into the goal giving Pittsburgh an early 1-0 lead.**

However, the Riverhounds did not stay ahead long as the Eagles attacked sharply and **speedily down Pittsburgh's left side. The feed from Diego Martins** to Ben Page was crisp, and **Page's shot darted past the Hounds' Danny Waltman, bringing the match to a 1-1 tie in just the 6th minute of action.**

In the 13th minute, Dustin Swinehart headed in a goal off of a direct kick from **Diego Martins** from about 25-yards out. That gave Charlotte a **2-1 advantage and that's the way it would** stay for the remainder of the half.

Each team could have added goals though. At around the 20-minute mark, Waltman swatted **away a shot to the upper 90 as the Eagles swarmed Pittsburgh's left post.**

**In the 26th minute, Pittsburgh's Tony Labudovski missed on a second breakaway; this one** from the left side that went wide right.

Tommy Gray, in the 29th minute, sent a shot from the right that also just missed the net.

**In the 31st minute, Charlotte's Jorge Herrera delivered a ball into the side of the Pittsburgh webbing, and on the following attack, the Riverhounds' Hughes carried the ball up the right side into the Charlotte end but shot just wide of the Eagles' goal.**

**In minute 35, the Hounds volleyed one inside the Charlotte area, but Niko Katic's header** sailed way tall over the crossbar.

In the 44th minute, after the teams exchanged possessions, Ben Page drilled a shot from 30 yards straight away. It bent toward the left post, but Waltman was able to slap it down then pounce on it before Dustin Swinehart could get a toe on the rebound.

In stoppage time, another Pittsburgh shot sailed over the bar, as Justin Evans attempted to pivot and one-time a cross from the right. The first half ended with Charlotte leading 2-1.

A game that was heated through the first half boiled over in the early moments of the second stanza. The physical play intensified to the point that two Riverhound players, **Niko Katic, in the 51st, and Jason Kutney, one minute later, were dealt red cards. Hounds' Assistant Coach Paul Child, a member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame, was also ordered off of the bench and into the dressing room for complaining about the officials' decisions.**

## Assist Leaders

Rank	Assists	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	8	18	Bundy, Kenneth	Wilmington Hammerheads		
2	7	17	Burke, Michael	Richmond Kickers		
3	6	18	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
	6	18	Shipalane, Tiyyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
5	5	12	Klukowski, Yan	Western Mass Pioneers		
	5	14	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	5	16	Gorres, Sascha	Richmond Kickers		
	5	19	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles		
9	4	14	Cordeiro, Ryan	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	4	17	Pelletier, Jason	Harrisburg City Islanders		

## Shot Leaders

Rank	Shots	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	41	18	Shipalane, Tiyyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
2	40	18	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
3	38	17	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
4	34	19	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles		
5	33	13	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
	33	14	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
7	30	19	Delic�te, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers		
	30	19	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles		
9	29	19	Coddington, Damico	Bermuda Hogges		
10	28	18	Barbosa, Almir	Western Mass Pioneers		



## Charlotte flies past Maryland 3-1

Charlotte Eagles News Release - [www.charlotteeagles.com](http://www.charlotteeagles.com)

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

CHARLOTTE, NC -- The Charlotte Eagles soared past the Real Maryland Monarchs 3-1 in First Round game of the USL-2 playoffs, advancing to Saturday's Semifinals and another encounter with state rival Wilmington Hammerheads.

A penalty kick in the fourth minute got things started for the Eagles. Dustin Swinehart made it 2-0, a lead the Eagles would keep through most of the game. The Monarchs persevered late into the game and finally found the back of the net with six minutes to go in regular time. The Eagles feeling the pressure were able to seal the deal in extra time when Gustavo Bentos poked the ball past the keeper bringing the game to a 3-1 final.

From the first whistle this match had all the emotion of a playoff game. As both teams came out hard, it was Real Maryland who made the early mistake as a penalty was called in the box in the early minutes of the game. Jorge Herrera made it look effortless as he placed the ball in the right corner of the net, putting the Eagles up 1-0.

Maryland's counter attack was strong as Steward Ceus was tested early. The pace of the game continued to possess a feeling of electricity at both teams, evenly matched fought aggressively in the midfield, seeking quick attacks on goal.

The Eagles were able to create a couple great chances which brought pressure on Real Maryland's back four.

Winning a ball at center field, **Diego Martins** made a quick, beautiful through ball to retirement-bound Dustin Swinehart, who touched the ball past the keeper in the 16th minute.

Real Maryland responded with a quick attack of their own which would have resulted in their first goal had it not been for Joseph Conner.

Continuing to pressure, Kevin King of Real Maryland made a stellar run through the Eagles' defense and sent off a rocket, which was picked up by Steward Ceus.

Despite the intensity from both clubs the half came to a close with the Eagles leading 2-0.

The second half began as though there were no break in the action. As the Eagles began to make substitutions so their chances were increasing. **Diego Martins** had a near miss in minute 56 as he hit the woodwork. Dustin Swinehart, in the next play, placed a shot in the far corner only to miss by a hair.

## Final result

## Point Leaders (Top 20)

Rank	Points	GP	Player Name	Team		
1	30	16	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads		
2	28	20	Delicâte, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers		
3	20	12	Nunes, Amaury	Charlotte Eagles		
4	19	19	Barbosa, Almir	Western Mass Pioneers		
	19	19	Severs, Chad	Harrisburg City Islanders		
6	18	18	Shipalane, Tiyselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	18	19	Bulow, David	Richmond Kickers		
	18	19	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles		
9	17	20	Bundy, Kenneth	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	17	20	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles		
11	15	14	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs		
12	14	18	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles		
13	13	15	Jerome, Randolph	Pittsburgh Riverhounds		
	13	18	Burke, Michael	Richmond Kickers		
15	12	18	Noviello, Jyler	Wilmington Hammerheads		
16	11	20	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders		
17	10	12	Hufstader, Philip	Wilmington Hammerheads		
	10	18	Pelletier, Jason	Harrisburg City Islanders		
	10	18	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore		
20	9	14	Page, Benjamin	Charlotte Eagles		

## Assist Leaders

Rank	Assists	GP	Player Name	Team			
1	9	20	Bundy, Kenneth	Wilmington Hammerheads			
2	7	18	Burke, Michael	Richmond Kickers			
3	6	16	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads			
	6	18	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles			
	6	18	Shipalane, Tiyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders			
	6	19	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles			
7	5	12	Klukowski, Yan	Western Mass Pioneers			
	5	17	Gorres, Sascha	Richmond Kickers			
	5	20	Fisher, Stephen	Harrisburg City Islanders			
10	4	14	Cordeiro, Ryan	Real Maryland Monarchs			

## Shot Leaders

Rank	Shots	GP	Player Name	Team			
1	43	18	Teixeira, Valdemar	Crystal Palace Baltimore			
2	41	18	Shipalane, Tiyiselani (Ty)	Harrisburg City Islanders			
3	40	18	Martins, Diego	Charlotte Eagles			
4	38	16	Watson, Jamie	Wilmington Hammerheads			
5	36	14	Brooks, Gary	Real Maryland Monarchs			
	36	20	Swinehart, Dustin	Charlotte Eagles			
7	34	20	Delic�te, Matthew (Deli)	Richmond Kickers			
8	31	20	Coddington, Damico	Bermuda Hogges			
9	30	19	Herrera, Jorge	Charlotte Eagles			
10	29	19	Barbosa, Almir	Western Mass Pioneers			

## RIC: Kickers host Charlotte in Final

Old foes meet again in USL-2 Championship Saturday



Wednesday, August 26, 2009

RICHMOND, VA -- The Richmond Kickers are pleased to host the Charlotte Eagles in the USL Second Division Championship this Saturday, August 29th. Kickoff is slated for 8:00 p.m. at the University of Richmond Stadium. The match will be broadcast on Fox Soccer Channel at 11:00 p.m.

### Players to Watch

Kickers: Veteran netminder Ronnie Pascale (#22) was recently named USL-2 Goalkeeper of the Year for the third time in his career. Pascale backstopped the Kickers to a second place regular season finish and ended the campaign atop two of the three key goalkeeping categories. With a 0.900 goals against average, Pascale was just edged out of the GAA Championship by Harrisburg's Chase Harrison (0.812), but led the league in wins (11) and tied with Harrison for most shutouts with eight. The longtime Kickers veteran collects the award for the third time, honored in 2006 and 2007 while leading the team to consecutive Championship appearances.

Eagles: The 2008 USL-2 Most Valuable Player, forward Dustin Swinehart (#18) finished third on the team in scoring in what will be his final season before retiring. Contributing seven goals and three assists during the regular season, the veteran goal-scorer netted the Eagles second goal in the 3-1 First Round win against Real Maryland to secure a berth to the Semifinals. No stranger to UR Stadium, Swinehart made eight appearances on loan with the Kickers USL-1 Finalist squad during the 2005 season and tallied one assist for Richmond that year. Rookie midfielder Amaury Nunes (#13) stormed onto the scoring scene for Charlotte this season, earning USL Second Division All-League Second Team honors for his offensive efforts. Despite starting the season sidelined through injury, the young Brazilian led the Eagles with a team-high nine goals and two assists in just 12 regular season games played. Signed just prior to the 2009 season, Brazilian star midfielder, **Diego Martins** (#12), made an immediate impact for the Eagles, adding 14 points, good for fourth on the team in scoring. A member of eight Championship teams in Brazil, Martins joined the Eagles from Portuguese First Division Club Deportivo das Aves. Midfielder Jorge Herrera (#10) was the lone Eagles representative on the USL Second Division All-League First Team, garnering the honors for the second consecutive season. The midfielder helped the Eagles to the second-highest goal total in the USL-2 this season with 40 goals, putting up six goals and six assists of his own. Towering goalkeeper Steward Ceus (#0) joined the Eagles midseason on loan from Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids. **Posting 42 saves en route to an unbeaten streak to conclude the regular season, the 6'6" netminder recorded four shutouts in 10 regular season games played and finished the season ranked fourth in the league with a goals against average of 1.000.**

Charlotte returns to the Championship match for the eighth time in franchise history (1996, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009) and for the fifth time in six years. The 2005 USL Second Division Champions previous appearances include a 2004 shoot-out loss to the now-defunct Utah Blitz and a 2-1 loss to the Richmond Kickers in 2006. Narrowly missing another Championship berth after an overtime loss in the 2007 Semifinal round to the Kickers, the Eagles made their way back into the title match in 2008, where they suffered a 2-1 loss to the Cleveland City Stars.



## Kickers claim USL-2 Championship

### Richmond rallies past Charlotte for 3-1 win

USL News Release

Saturday, August 29, 2009

RICHMOND, VA – After trailing for nearly an hour, the Richmond Kickers rallied in the second half with 63rd minute equalizer and two more in the final seven minutes to down the Charlotte Eagles 3-1 in the USL Second Division Championship.

A brilliant through ball off the center line from Darren Toby found **Diego Martins** on a run down the middle of the defense. **Martins** sweetly struck the ball on the bounce at the top of the box, sending his shot inside the far post past Ronnie Pascale.

But the final outcome of the story, unfortunately, remained the same, spoiling an opportunity for the retiring Charlotte stars Dustin Swinehart and Ben Johnson to go out with another championship victory.

A back-and-forth game that saw numerous dangerous opportunities for both sides, several for Charlotte's **Diego Martins**, strongly turned in Richmond's favor midway through the second half largely through the pair of halftime inserts David Bulow and John DiRaimondo and particularly on the equalizer in the 63rd minute.

A lofted Bulow cross from the left flank found Edson Elcock charging the far post. Elcock was able to get his head on the ball and nod it down in front of Steward Ceus, bouncing it past the keeper from point-blank range and into the goal for his second tally of the season.

A DiRaimondo free kick from the left flank in the 83rd minute found its way inside the far post, slightly skipping off the head of Charlotte defender Ben Johnson at the near corner of the six, forcing Ceus to pause on the play.

Two minutes later a ball flicked on by Matthew Delicate sent Bulow down the middle, forcing Ceus to charge out to make a play, but committed a foul that led to a penalty. Bulow calmly slipped the penalty inside the left post for the two-goal margin.

"I think we came out a little bit flat," said Pascale. "All credit to Charlotte - they really took it to us and were ready play in the first half."

"Fortunately, we were only down one-nothin so we kinda regrouped in the second half. We came out and said listen guys this isn't how we want to play, this isn't how the Kickers play. Let's go out and play Kickers soccer. We were able to do it. We were able to come out and create some good chances and put them away."

#### Additional Highlights...

- ▶ In the 28th minute, Charlotte's **Diego Martins** struck a 25-yarder that flashed just wide of goal.
- ▶ A deflection off Charlotte defender Joe Conner in the 33rd minute forced a quick save from Ceus.
- ▶ A Delicate header in the 38th minute went wide of the far post.
- ▶ A low corner to the near side of the box to Swinehart was dummied to **Martins**, whose shot from the top of the penalty area narrowly flew over the crossbar on an excellent set piece.
- ▶ A minute into first half stoppage time a quick pass from Swinehart found Ben Page open in the area, but the well-paced shot was met with a reaction save from Pascale to keep the Kickers only one goal down at the break.

- ▶ Another shot from **Martins** on the right side of the area two minutes into the second half was stopped by Pascale with a kick-save.
- ▶ In the 56th minute, Elcock had an open opportunity inside the box, but Ceus made an excellent save on the shot from 14 yards.
- ▶ DiRaimondo blasted a shot from 22 yards that was directed just under the bar, but Ceus got his hands up quickly to send it over the goal in the 58th.
- ▶ A minute later a ball slotted through the area by DiRaimondo to Elcock, who drove to toward the corner of the six and fired wide of the far post.
- ▶ In the 65th minute, a ball skipping through the center of the area came to DiRaimondo, who was unable to get a clean shot off, sending it wide.
- ▶ In the 68th minute, **Martins** fired a 23 yard shot that blasted off the crossbar.
- ▶ **In the 76th minute, Charlotte's** Gustavo Bentos, who had scored in the past three games, sent a header bouncing just wide of the goal.

## Eagles Land Second Place in 2009 USL-2 Division

A hard fought, wide open game, from start to finish, worthy of a USL-2 championship game. Though the Eagles were able to score first off of a beautiful shot by **Diego Martins**, the Richmond Kickers were able to answer in the second half with three goals. Richmond is crowned 2009 USL-2 National Champions beating the Charlotte Eagles 3-1.

From the opening whistle and ending with stoppage time this game was super-charged with adrenaline. Both teams proved to be evenly matched in all aspects of the game.

Darren Toby made a beautiful 25 yard pass through the central defense finding **Diego Martins**. He unleashed a rocket in the upper ninety for the first goal of the game.

Both Richmond and Charlotte continued to pressure with near misses but by the end of the first half only Charlotte was successful in finding the back of the net.

As play resumed with the second half whistle the match began where it left off. But, continued pressure from Richmond began to wear down the Eagles' defense

In the sixty-third minute Elcock was able to beat the Charlotte defense off an assist from Bulow for the equalizer.

Richmond continued with offensive pressure drawing a free kick just outside the box on the right. John Diramando struck a beautiful ball past Steward Ceus for the go ahead goal in minute eighty-three.

Just three minutes later David Bulow successfully placed a penalty kick to the right of Charlotte keeper, after Steward Ceus drew the penalty inside the box.

After a hard fought game Richmond finished on top 3-1 claiming the USL-2 National Championship.