

253 DEFIANCE NEWS -



PIC: 253 DEFIANCE, ASG, BHM & SECTION 123

Greetings 253 Defiance! Without question, going into the 2016 season one thing is certain.... Things are changing. This inevitability stretches well past just the Seattle Sounders, but also to the ECS, and more inclusively, 253 Defiance.

First thing's first though, the Sounders: With less than a week to go before the team's 1st practice and just about 30 days before the team takes on Club America in CCL competition, many questions still remain. Perhaps the biggest glaring question being: what formation/look will the team have?

To answer this question, one would have to try to analyze the talent currently on hand. An uneasy task considering the gaps left after losing many established Sounders, specifically in the mid-field [Pinada, Pappa, Neagle, Rose] and Defense [Gonzalez and Scott]. While the Sounders did address some of these needs in the MLS Super Draft, in addition to a trade with Chicago Fire to acquire Trinidad and Tobago international left back Joevin Jones, the

fact remains.... the team has some defensive uncertainties going into 2016.

On the other hand, one problem that the Sounders don't have is striking power. Remember, the Sounders currently possess the attacking prowess of Clint Dempsey, annual MVP candidate Obafemi Martins, and last season's mid-year acquisition Nelson Valdez. Unfortunately, this in itself creates its own issue: how to get all these players on the field? Further complicating matters, is the potential signing of Home-Grown and International newcomer Jordin Morris, and creative players like Andreas Ivanschitz and Erik Friberg.

So what formation does the team go with to accommodate their strengths while limiting defensive needs?

... At this time, it'd be surprising if even Sigi knows the answer to that question. But, hey... that's what the preseason is for, right?

253 DEFIANCE

Supporters of Destiny



BY: DEVON HANSEN

And as the Sounders enter their 8th MLS season, perhaps that's why this preseason feels as important as it does. There's sure to be some trial and error over the next few weeks in an effort to solidify a starting XI, which coincidentally and unfortunately could result in pointless pre-season losses. But remember the end result is not winning pre-season games, but to have a competent and functioning 1st team that can beat Mexico's top-flight team, Club America, come February 23rd.

Upcoming Events:

Sounders FC 1st Practice
January 23rd, 10am
Starfire Sports Complex
Renton, WA.
(ECS Workgroup Planning after-event)

South Sound Membership Drive
February 20th
McNamara's Pub
DuPont, WA.

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So what's new with 253 Defiance... Well, for those who're unaware, this off-season has already seen a major ECS shift of focus onto member participation. Similarly, 253 Defiance will have the same focus as we prepare to enter this MLS season.

To support these efforts though, changes had to be made; specifically, change that would support both structure and growth.

With structure in mind, 253 Defiance will begin focusing on growing individual specialized group. These specialized groups include merchandise (merch), tifo team, designs, writing/communications, social media, and game-day ops.

So what does that mean for South Sound ECS members?

Well, quite honestly, we need more people to step up and get involved. There's no argument that two people can do more than one, ten more than two, and 100 more than ten. With that, we'd like to invite all our members out to a couple of up-coming events that will allow our members to get more information on these different avenues of involvement:

Sounders FC 1st Practice

January 23rd, 10am
Starfire Sports Complex
Renton, WA.
(ECS Workgroup Planning after-event)

South Sound Membership Drive

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McNamara's Pub
DuPont, WA.

Please note that these events are both all-ages and extremely casual with one focus in mind... Supporting the Sounders!

Below please find some additional information pertaining to some initiatives for 2016, and as always, please do not hesitate to contact any 253 Defiance Leadership at any of the above mentioned events or any future matches or functions.

-Where are ya?

A huge initiative of both 253 Defiance and ECS this year will be to get more members involved in the different areas of which make us the strongest Supporters Group in all the country. Following the mantra that two heads are better than one, we'd like to invite

any 253D member who'd looked to become more involved to step up and contact one of 253D leadership. So, if you'd like to get involved with tifo, merchandise, communications, social media (just to name a few), let us know or come out to Sounders 1st Practice.

This year 253D will be participating alongside ECS as the Sounders take the field on January 23rd for the 1st practice of 2016 at 10am at StarFire in Renton, Washington. Following the team's practice, there will be an Off-Season Workgroup Planning Session designed to allow members to meet others and get more involved with merch, travel, gameday, etc. In short, if you wanted to get more involved or had any questions, this is the time to step-up and come out.

-South Sound Membership Drive



Yes! It's that time of year again. For those unfamiliar with this annual event, the South Sound Membership Drive is put on by the ECS' three South Sound Sub-groups; Black Hills Militia (BHM), Armed Services Group (ASG), and 253 Defiance (253D). It's a great way to renew your annual ECS memberships while being able to meet up with the South Sound sub-groups.

Are you interested in:

Learning more about what we do in the Brougham End?

Meeting your fellow ECS?

Meeting leadership from your local South Sound subgroup?

Getting more involved with ECS?

JOIN US!

-Away Viewing News!

As 253D grows we understand that we need to be more accommodating to the array of individuals who make up our sub-group. For this reason, we have begun exploring a few family friendly supporter locations. At this time, we have two different locations that would not only be accommodating to our supporter's culture (i.e. drinking, singing, and chanting), but also would have an area for all ages. More info is to follow in the near future, but this should be extremely exciting for all considering the positive returns our partner sub-group La Bara has had with their Supporters' Pub.

-Growing soccer in the south end

-For those familiar with 253 Defiance, over the years we have had a continued focus on growing the beautiful game in the South Sound area. This support stretches across all levels of competition and includes teams like the Tacoma Stars (Tacoma Soccer Center & now Kent's ShoWare Center), U-23 Sounders (Sunset Stadium, Sumner), and even local youth soccer. The simple train of thought being; the South Sound is better when more soccer is being played.

-253 Defiance FC

In addition to supporting the teams that represent the South Sound, 253D has had phenomenal growth of our own 253 Defiance FC teams. 253D-FC generally fields five different teams at a time, ranging in all levels of competitive play. These teams include men's, women's, and co-ed indoor teams as well as 11v11 outdoor co-ed teams.

...Hard to believe this all started just a few years ago with a bunch of friends barely able to field an 8 person co-ed team.

That being said we are always looking for new players of all skill levels. If you are interested please reach out to Gabriel Allen who oversees our 253D-FC Operations.