



PIC: 253 DEFIANCE, SECTION 123

253 DEFIANCE

Supporters of Destiny



BY: DEVON HANSEN

I'll be honest; this newsletter took entirely too long to get out. On par with the craziness of this Sounders' season, a lot has happened over the last few months. Ultimately, news changed so quickly that it was near impossible to put out a newsletter without it becoming outdated within a week's time. With that said though, the last few weeks have provided a bit of break for us to catch our breath before we head into the second half of the season. So without further adieu...The 253D Newsletter:

On the Pitch -

As the Sounders head into Saturday's match against NYCFC, a lot can be said about how this season has gone up to this point. So, in an effort to end on a positive, let start at the bottom and work our way up to something kind of positive.

Currently the Sounders are sitting on 16 points and second only to the Houston Dynamo for last place in the West. Now in the past, a person could have said, "yeah, but at least they have games in hand and their Points Per Game average is one of the best in the league." While this statement has held true in seasons past, unfortunately this year the Sounders are writing a different story which includes a meager 1.14 points average per match.

To be fair though, there's a lot of blame that can be distributed for how this season has gone. From the front office and their apparent disorientation on how to navigate through this season, to Sigi and his coaching philosophies, all the way down to perhaps even us, the supporters.

Without question though, one of the biggest issues the Sounders have faced this year is with the officials (I refuse to say bad luck, when blatant bad-calls are being made nearly every match). When considering the points lost due to poor refereeing this year, there is an argument that this team is better than their record shows. Just to break down the numbers, the Sounders currently have 16 points through 14 games with a league record of 5-8-1 (A.K.A ...not very good). Nevertheless, let's just pretend that the refs actually did their job in a few of those games, then perhaps the records would be more reflective of the actual points the Sounders actually earned and we wouldn't be having this conversation today.

Sadly though, those horrific calls were made, and right now all we can do is move on... which is exactly what we're going to do.

As the Sounders prep for the second half of the season, there are some positives to be had. The biggest of which, and perhaps the most obvious, is the return of some key players. Yes, we all know Dempsey will be back in the Rave Green after the USMNT's run in Copa America, but don't forget the long awaited return of Roman Torres. Instantly, just with the addition of these two, the team instantly improves both their attack and defense.

Oh but wait, there's more. With the transfer window soon arriving, there's little to no secret that the front office is actively trying to fill the DP spot vacated by the departure of Obafemi Martins. The rumor mills have been on overload lately with the Sounders apparently sending offers to the likes of Argentinian attacking mid-fielder Sebastian Blanco while actively hunting other quality player

This leads us to an interesting theory....

As we all know, in the last match against the Red Bulls, Sigi decided to have Joevin Jones start as a forward while leaving Designated Player and attacking forward Nelson Valdez on the bench. Taking this into consideration along with the fact that Valdez has been reduced to a "Super-Sub" bench player, speculation has arose that Valdez's time in Seattle may be coming to an end. Now if this end happens to be sooner than later, then it does open up the possibility of the Sounders actually pick up TWO different DP level players. Again this is just speculation but in a time of darkness let us end this section with a hope of good things to come.

253 Defiance Leadership -

For those who weren't able to make it to the 253 Defiance sub-group meeting, you perhaps may have noticed some changes within 253 Defiance this year. At the beginning of the season, it become apparent that there was a lot of opportunity for growth, but as an organization we needed to find a way to accommodate more members who wanted to become more active. With this in mind, we want to let everyone know who makes up our leadership team, our specific roles, as well as the areas that we could use some help in. So without any more hesitation here is a quick definition of our structure as well as each Leadership person's role:

Leadership:

In a nut shell, Leadership oversees the day-to-day operations of 253 Defiance. Members of Leadership have two responsibilities. The first is to head a specific section of the group; each member of Leadership oversees every detail of one "department" of the group (i.e. Travel director handles all things travel related). The second responsibility is to advise/assist the rest of Leadership with significant action items. When important decisions need to be made, such as merchandise design or match day responsibilities, Leadership acts as a unit rather than a single individual. This makes for efficient work, and fresh perspectives.

Leads/Supervisors:

Each section of Leadership is broken down further into core, specialized tasks. These tasks are spearheaded by a volunteer from within the 253 Defiance sub-group, who is responsible for executing their respective position and serving as the liaison between other volunteers, 253 Defiance Leadership, and at times the ECS as a whole.

[Let's make note right now that there's a lot of areas that need more Leads and Supervisors...]

Members of Leadership -



Paul Rosa – President:

The President will communicate with ECS leadership and coordinate work within 253D – Ensures tasks are being taken care of and that tasks are performed on schedule and on budget. The President will work with all group components to ensure a consistent message and vision is carried throughout 253 Defiance. The mission of the President is to provide 253 Defiance with both short term growth and long term longevity so that our group may sustain the high quality of support that has become associated with 253D. This group is built upon the passions and goodwill of individuals and the President will contribute to further enable all members of 253 Defiance to continue to share in that passion.



Devon Hansen – Vice President / Social-Media, Marketing and Communications

The Vice-President shares the same duties as the President, coordinates to ensure Leadership presence and availability, and will act on the behalf of the President in their absence.

Social-Media, Marketing and Communications Lead will ensure regular consistent positive messages are communicated and conveyed about the ECS, 253 Defiance and that their goals/missions/brand.



Janine Mann – Secretary / Treasurer

The Secretary will take meeting minutes, notify members of meeting, contact various people in relation to the group business, administrate the activities of 253 Defiance and will create the order of business. The Secretary will act on behalf of the President/Vice-President as the 3rd Leadership role.

The Treasurer's role is closely tied to the Secretary. The primary duty of the Treasurer is to maximize the money received is spent mainly on Tifo and projects that will maintain the 253D presence in the stadium for future generations. Furthermore, the Treasurer will oversee revenue/spending of all departments and try to make sure things are done with a standard of quality while maintaining under

budget. The Treasurer will also manage monies from fundraisers to ensure that funds reach the intended charity partner.



Ryno – Match Day Operations Director

Primary role is organize and coordinate match day operations including Tifo display, Capos, and ensuring both are present and covered for home matches. For away matches the Match day Director will see that a capo/supporter lead is present for away viewings.



Melissa Cambra – Merchandise

Merchandise will oversee the production and delivery of new merchandise throughout the season. While the Merchandise is not necessarily responsible for designs, they will oversee that a design is selected and put into production. Furthermore, the role will also ensure that volunteers are present on select game days to assist with both 253D and ECS.



Gabriel Allen – 253 Defiance FC Manager/Director

The 253D-FC Manager is in charge of managing and organizing the 253 Defiance team(s). This includes Coed, Men's, Women's leagues made of players of all skill levels. The 253D-FC Manager will further assist with team captains to ensure that all teams are playing in a manner that best represents 253 Defiance.

What We Need:

As some of you may know, there's a lot that goes into making any supporters group successful. This includes things like making Tifo, running multi-media communications, generating merchandise designs, and so on. With this in mind, we invite any 253D members to reach out to any Leadership person if you're interested in getting more involved at any level. With that said though, there are some specific Lead/Supervisor roles that need to be filled. If any of you feel like you could provide good insight into any of the following areas, let us know:

- Social Media Leads and Newsletter writers
- Tifo/Merchandise Design/Drawers
- Merchandise Table Volunteers
- Match Day roles (Capo, 2-Poles, Flags)

253D Merchandise News

We are currently in the processing of ordering a new 253 Defiance shirt of 2016. As a teaser for the design, you can find the design in one of our previous newsletters and may have already made an appearance in the terraces. As soon as they become available (planning on mid to later July) we'll let you know via our Facebook page and Twitter.

As mentioned earlier, please keep in mind that we are always open to new design ideas so don't hesitate to send any ideas our way- scarfs/shirts etc.



253 Defiance FC -

If you haven't been paying attention, 253D FC has been doing some pretty amazing things of late. To start, the pure growth of the group has been aww-inspiring. In just a small matter of time 253D FC has grown from barely able to fill an 8v8 team to now having five teams which include a Men's team, a Women's team, and three Coed teams.

This year in particular was something special as all three Coed teams (East, North, and West) played each other which instigated a little 253D Darby competition. At the end, the North team walked away with the cup and bragging rights with a 5-5 tie against West Side ultimately ending in a "Goal-Differential" victory. Sadly, the spring season has come to an end but before the summer season starts, the North End team will be playing in this Sunday's playoffs at Foss High School to hopefully win the league.

Which brings us to the this last point, for any member of 253 Defiance who ever wanted to get more involved with 253D but didn't know how to in a low-stress manner, 253D FC is a great way to go. We actively welcome all players of any skill level and highly encourage you, your significant other, or whoever to come out and join the fun.

Upcoming Events:

-For the next few months, 253 Defiance will be partnering with ASG for away viewings at their Away-Pub: The Ale House

The Ale House

2122 Mildred St W.
Tacoma, WA. 98466

Sounders FC v. NYCFC

Saturday, June 25th, 2016 – 2:00PM
Century Link Field (HOME)
(253D Pre-Match – Temple Billiards)

U.S. OPEN CUP

Real Salt Lake v. Sounders FC
Tuesday, June 28th, 2016 – 7:00PM
Away Viewing – Ale House

Toronto FC v. Sounders FC

Saturday, July 2nd, 2016 – 4:30PM
Away Viewing – Ale House