



UMKC ATHLETICS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roos Set to Host Vaqueros, Cardinals to Open WAC Play

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The UMKC men’s soccer team (2-3-3) will open Western Athletic Conference competition at home this weekend, hosting UT Rio Grande Valley (3-2-1) on Friday evening and Incarnate Word (2-4-1) on Sunday afternoon.

The pair of games will highlight the Roos alumni weekend, where a special recognition will be given at halftime of Friday’s contest to commemorate former long-time assistant coach **Fred Schlichting**.

Follow

[Live stats](#) will be available for fans to follow during both contests, while in-game updates will also be provided for fans through the team’s [Twitter](#) account. Fans can stream live video of the game for free through the [WAC Digital Network](#).

About the Roos

The 2017 season marks the 20th under the direction of **Rick Benben**. UMKC boasts a 34-26-6 (.561) record at its home facility and will play the most home matches in a single season at Durwood Soccer Stadium, hosting 11 opponents this season.

As a team, UMKC currently ranks in the top five in the WAC in several categories, including shots (98), points (30), goals (11) and shutouts (3). The Roos are first in saves (41), as starting goalkeeper **Filippo Errico** (Verona, Italy) has the third-best save percentage (.809) in the league, allowing just nine goals so far this season.

The Roos battled to a 2-2 double overtime draw at Milwaukee (Sept. 12) to notch their third draw in three games. UMKC’s three draws so far this year is just one shy of tying the most in a single season by the program.

Errico earned WAC Defensive Player of the Week honors on Sept. 4 after making a season-high seven saves en route to his third consecutive shutout against Rutgers (Sept. 3), which currently ranks in a tie for the sixth-most in a single season by a Roo in UMKC program history.

Senior **Eric McWoods** (St. Louis, Mo.) was named the WAC Offensive Player of the Week on Aug. 28 after finishing the two game series against Central Arkansas and

Northwestern with eight shots, two goals, two assists and a conference-leading six points.

The Roos 2-0 victory over Northwestern (Aug. 27) marked the first time that the program has captured a win over a Big Ten opponent in school history.

About the Vaqueros

After starting the season 0-1-1, UT Rio Grande Valley has won three of its last four matches entering Friday's contest. The Vaqueros have secured wins over Loyola (1-0), Northern Illinois (2-0) and Our Lady of the Lake (4-1). UT Rio Grande Valley is led by fourth-year head coach Paul Leese. The Roos will have to keep an eye on Jaako Hietikko and Dimitris Strantzalis, who have been key components to the Vaqueros scoring pattern this season.

About the Cardinals

Incarnate Word has dropped its last three matches to Bradley (3-0), Houston Baptist (1-0) and San Diego State (1-0), but will look to start conference play on a high note when it opens WAC competition at Air Force on Friday night before traveling to Kansas City. The Cardinals are led on the pitch by senior forward Ryan Osborne, who currently has one goal, one assist and 20 shots to lead the team.

Up Next

UMKC will hit the road for its longest road stretch of the season on Oct. 5 when it heads down south to Houston Baptist for a 7 p.m. CT matchup with the Huskies.

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