

A Message from the Lakota United Board and Directors of Coaching

To Our Players, Parents, Coaches, and Administrators:

We are pleased to announce that Cincinnati United Premier (“CUP”), the Sycamore Soccer Club (“Sycamore Arsenal”), Lakota United Soccer Club, and the Warren County Soccer Club are deeply engaged in discussions regarding a possible merger of the four clubs into one new club.

As shared with our coaches in a club meeting on Monday night, at the present time there has been no conclusion to these discussions. However, through various committee meetings and a joint meeting of the four boards of directors of these clubs, it was determined that we share similar ideals, commitments, training philosophies, and structures.

The four clubs are generally run by soccer professionals and boards who know each other well and have developed a trust from those years of interaction in the management of CUP. Because all four clubs have so much in common, we believed it appropriate to discuss what a new club would look like drawn on a clean sheet of paper.

Our vision is simple:

- We want to become a destination club for the area
- We want to improve soccer opportunities for every player at every level of interest and ability.

We want to “raise the bar” for Cincinnati soccer in terms of:

- Player development
- Coaching education
- Facilities and resources
- Performance at regional and national levels
- Outreach to the greater soccer community in coaching education and training
- To create an integrated program from the junior levels to U23 teams.

The benefits of such a merger are numerous. They include the opportunities for players to grow within one club from the most junior ages through their collegiate playing careers; pooling our soccer professionals; creation of highly competitive teams capable of consistently competing for regional and national championships; providing resources for soccer training and development for players at the CUSL level programs, and minimize the duplication of resources.

One of the goals of the potential merger is to maintain neighborhood based sites (West, Central, and East). Most CUSL Comp 1 through Comp 6 teams will feel very little impact from the merger and would remain primarily intact. They would still be coached by parents and trained by professional trainers, as they are now. They would continue to practice and play home games in similar places. However, the merger would allow us to combine players on teams which struggle to fill a roster to assure that all of our teams have adequate numbers for training and playing. For example, we should be able to provide a better career path for the Non ‘Premier Program’ skilled players in the U15 – U18 age groups with consolidated site teams.

Our merger talks continue on a rapid pace. Our clubs’ soccer professionals are beginning to outline how the new club would be structured in terms of assuring appropriate player development. Representatives from each of the clubs is analyzing our individual and combined financial resources and will prepare sample budgets so that players, parents, and coaches will be assured that there will not be a negative impact from such a merger.

At the present time, we are working on those and other issues. The enormity of the task cannot be understated. Similarly, the enormity of the opportunity to create something special for greater Cincinnati soccer players cannot be ignored. In fact, other clubs upon hearing the rumors of our discussions have informally asked to be considered in the process as well. Additional clubs may be involved either in the early discussions or as time and the development of the proposed club progresses.

We are all very excited about the potentials of such a merger. It makes sense economically, it makes sense geographically, and most importantly it makes sense for our kids.

Our goal will be to serve all players, from the youth level through their college career, at a higher level than now possible for individual clubs in this area. Our research of other clubs throughout the nation, who have created such a merged club, convinces us that all players of whatever interest or ability level; coaches – both parent and professional; and the soccer communities will all benefit. This is an exciting opportunity and we are proud to be a part of it.

We will update you on matters as they progress and plan on having an informational meeting for the club as soon as details are sufficiently developed. By early next week you can expect a follow up document with frequently asked questions (FAQ's).

With all of this said, additional volunteers and leadership are needed - - specifically within Lakota United. Help can come in many ways. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the subcommittees, which will be formed to work on the merger and/or future club leadership, please do not hesitate to contact us at lakotaunited@roadrunner.com

Jerry Carstens – Board member
Rick Andrisek – Board member
Steve Nguyen – Board member
Tim Baker – Board member
Gary Woodworth – Board member
Lisa Hausser – Board member
Brian Page – Director of Coaching
Paul Rockwood – Director of Training
Andy Szucs – Assistant Director of Coaching