

Burlington Vermont



VERMONT GREEN FC
AC CONNECTICUT

JUNE 21 2025
VIRTUE FIELD

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PLAYER SPOTLIGHT 11



VERMONT GREEN FC REMAINS UNBEATEN

In front of a raucous, sold-out crowd of 2,500 at Virtue Field, Vermont Green FC earned a hard-fought 2-0 win over the Western Mass Pioneers on Tuesday night, extending their unbeaten run to seven matches and solidifying their spot atop the USL League Two Northeast Division.

Joseph Picotto opened the scoring in the 44th minute, volleying home a cross from Stephane Njike after a composed build-up on the left wing. Picotto's celebration—lifting a nearby ball boy into the air—matched the energy in the stands as the Green took a 1-0 lead into the break.

The second half saw Vermont maintain their grip on the match with disciplined defending and confident possession. Moussa Ndiaye and Brandon Marshall anchored the back line, while goalkeeper Niklas Herceg commanded the box to keep the Pioneers off the scoresheet. Ndiaye's appearance was a milestone—his 38th for the club—tying him for the most all-time.

With the result still in the balance in the dying minutes, Vermont turned defense into attack. Local favorite Ryan Zellefrow found Ask Ekeland, who threaded a pass wide to Amoni Thomas. His low cross caused chaos in the box, and after a heavy collision between striker Tyler Trimnal and the Pioneer keeper, the ball popped free for Njike to smash into the roof of the net in the 90th minute, sending Virtue Field into celebration.

Now 6-1-0 with 19 points from a possible 21, Vermont Green FC continues to lead the division with confidence and momentum.



TODAY'S MATCHUP

Vermont Green FC vs. AC Connecticut

Saturday, June 21, 2025

6:00pm Kickoff

Coming off a big mid-week win over Western Mass Pioneers, Vermont Green FC will now shift focus to a weekend clash with AC Connecticut. The visitors are a young squad with a winning mentality, and they'll be coming to Virtue Field looking to disrupt the league leaders.

Chris Taylor has been adamant in his messaging around taking the season "one match at a time," but it's worth noting that Saturday's match will be followed by a trip to Connecticut on Tuesday, creating a quick home-and-home series with AC CT. The Green will need to navigate 180 minutes against a dangerous opponent if they want to maintain their spot at the top of the division.

HISTORY

Vermont Green FC and AC Connecticut matches have always been one to circle on the calendar, in part because of a penchant for high-scoring encounters. In 2022, Vermont Green's first encounter with the Connecticuturs ended 6-4 in Hartford, and in 2024 the Green scored seven goals against the visitors. In the return leg last season, Vermont secured a professional 2-1 victory in Connecticut.

AC CONNECTICUT IN FOCUS

AC Connecticut will come to Burlington on Saturday with 4-4 record, showing their mettle in big games, including opening the season with a 1-0 win away at defending champions Seacoast United. Connecticut currently sit in fifth place in the table.

Vermont Green FC will have more than a few eyes on AC Connecticut's talisman striker Sam McCann—who played for the Green in 2022 and 2023—most famously scoring the game-winning goal to upset Lionsbridge in the 2022 playoffs. McCann has been on a tear in league play over the last two seasons, and despite having a well-documented and mutual love for his former club, he will not be looking to make friends during the 90 minutes. It will be critical that the Green backline find a way to prevent McCann from using his speed to break through.

ZERO GRAVITY

VERMONT GREEN IPA

Zero Gravity proudly presents Vermont Green IPA, the official beer of the Vermont Green Football Club's 2025 season. A small but mighty beer with big aromas of mango, pineapple, and passion fruit. Joyfully easy to drink, there's no better beverage to help support the home side. Go Green!



AVAILABILITY

16oz 4-PACKS
KEGS



HOPS

Citra Incognito
586
Motueka

MALT

Canada Maltage
Superior Pilsner
Rahr White Wheat
Weyermann Carafoam
Oats

YEAST

House Ale

ABV

5.0%

STYLE

India Pale Ale

OG

13.3°P

Zero Gravity
THE OFFICIAL BEER OF THE VERMONT GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB.

UP THE GREEN!



FOOD VENDORS

SABAH HOUSE



SOUTH END SLIDERS



MAHARAJA SPICE



MERCH SPOTLIGHT

The Black Recycled Cotton Tote

This Recycled Cotton Tote is made from 100% post industrial reclaimed cotton fiber and features a button enclosure and an adjustable shoulder strap. This item is manufactured in a GOTS certified factory.

\$30



SAT. JUNE 21. 2025
6:00 PM

VERMONT GREEN FC
vs AC CONNECTICUT



AJAGBE



NJIKE



EKELAND



DOVLO



PICOTTO



GJERDE



COSTABILE



MARSHALL



M.NDIAYE



THOMAS



MICHEL



31. MANSKE, 6. LE BOURDOULOUS, 8. LABOVITZ, 12. O'MALLEY
16. RIVED, 19. ZENGUE, 24. HALL, 34. MO.IBRA, 44. FERNANDEZ



LEMON ELATION

YERBA



MATE
ORGANIC



BY
GUAYAKI

15.5 fl oz
(458 ml)

ROSTER

Player Name	#	Position	Hometown	College
Niklas Herceg	1	GK	Alsdorf, Germany	University of Vermont
Brandon Marshall	2	D	Wake Forest, NC	Providence College
Luca Costabile	3	D	Copenhagen, Denmark	University of Maryland
Amoni Thomas	4	D	Edmonton, Canada	Wake Forest
Moussa Ndiaye	5	D, M	Dakar, Senegal	Virginia Commonwealth
Julien Le Bourdoulous	6	M	Quemperven, France	UNC Greensboro
Brandon Parrish	7	M	Nashville, TN	Clemson University
Jacob Labovitz	8	F	Fairfax, VA	Virginia Tech
Tyler Trimnal	9	F	Lancaster, SC	University of South Carolina
Ask Ekeland	10	M, F	Stavanger, Norway	Boston College
David Ajagbe	11	F	British Columbia, Canada	Ohio State University
Owen O'Malley	12	D, M, F	Cary, NC	Creighton University
Rui Aoki	13	D	Hyogo, Japan	University of Vermont
Enzo Dovlo	14	F	Strasbourg, France	UNC Greensboro
Eskil Gjerde	15	M	Bjoo, Norway	Drake University
Diego Rived	16	M	Zaragoza, Spain	Boston University
Ioannis Vassiliou	17	D	Frankfurt, Germany	University of Vermont
Marcell Papp	18	F	Budapest, Hungary	University of Vermont
Zachary Zengue	19	M, F	North Oaks, MN	Georgetown
Joseph Umberto Picotto	21	M	Turin, Italy	University of Maryland
Judewellin Michel	22	GK	Montreal, Quebec	Indiana University
Alexander Hall	24	M, F	Renton, WA	University of Washington
Rommee Jaridly	25	F	Chino Hills, CA	San Diego State
Arnaud Tattevin	26	F	Rennes, France	UNC Greensboro
Ryan Zellefrow	27	M	Berwyn, PA	University of Vermont
Ayoub Lajhar	28	D, M	Dernah, Libya	University of Connecticut
Tenzing Manske	31	GK	Santa Fe, NM	Georgetown
Leon Brody	33	GK	Candiac, Quebec	Middlebury
Mohammed Ibrahim	34	M, F	Cape Coast, Ghana	Virginia Commonwealth
Will Sawin	35	F	Stonington, CT	Middlebury
Victor Akoum	43	D	Edmonton, Canada	Indiana University
Gabriel Fernandez	44	D, M	Port Orchard, WA	University of Washington
Stephane Njike	77	F	Strasbourg, France	Marshall

COACHES & STAFF



ADAM PFEIFER
Sporting Director



CHRIS TAYLOR
Head Coach



LEE WILLIAMSON
Assistant Coach



JED SASS
Assistant Coach



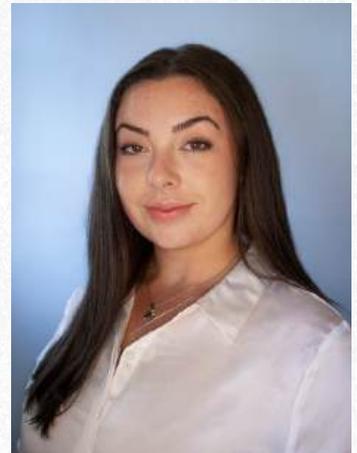
ROBERT EMMETT
Goalkeeper Coach



HANNAH TREMEL
Athletic Trainer



MAHDER TEFERRA
Intern



ALLISON OUELLETTE
Intern



CARTER FRANCISKOVICH
Intern



AINSLEY HUBBARD
Intern



JAKE LUCARELLI
Intern



LEON BRODY
Intern



#15 MIDFIELDER

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ESKIL GJERDE

Eskil Gjerde is a rising senior at Drake University, where he has established himself as a standout midfielder in NCAA Division I play. Originally from Egersund, Norway, Gjerde attended Karakterutskrift High School before making the move to the United States for college.

In 2024, he was named Missouri Valley Conference Co-Midfielder of the Year and earned a spot on the All-MVC First Team, sharing the top midfield honor with Missouri State's Tyler Caton. He was also recognized on the United Soccer Coaches All-West Region Second Team. Gjerde started all 14 matches for Drake during his junior campaign, finishing the season with two goals and one assist on 17 total shots, nine of which were on target.

Born in May 2003, Gjerde is one of 10 players to have found the back of the net so far for Vermont Green FC during the 2025 USL League Two season.



SCHEDULE & RESULTS

11-00-01

MAY



HOME



AWAY

MAY 18
AT BOSTON CITY FC

2-0

MAY 21
AT BOSTON BOLTS

2-0

MAY 24
VS FC LAVAL

4-2

MAY 27
VS PROVIDENCE CITY

9-0

MAY 31
VS SEACOAST

4-0

JUNE

JUNE 2
VS JUBA STAR

1-0

JUNE 4
AT ALBANY RUSH

4-1

JUNE 7
VS BOSTON BOLTS

1-1

JUNE 10
AT BLACK ROCK

2-0

JUNE 11
VS FLOWER CITY 1872

4-0

JUNE 14
VS AS BLAINVILLE

2-1

JUNE 17
VS WESTERN MASS

2-0

JUNE 21
VS AC CONNECTICUT

6 PM

JUNE 24
AT AC CONNECTICUT

7 PM

JUNE 28
VS NEW ENGLAND FC

6 PM

TODAY'S MATCH

JULY

JULY 2
AT SEACOAST UNITED

6 PM

JULY 5
VS BLACK ROCK FC

7 PM

JULY 8
VS ALBANY RUSH

7 PM

JULY 11
AT WESTERN MASS

7:30 PM

POST-SEASON
DATES TO FOLLOW



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Wasted*

In 2019, the founders of Wasted* came together around a mission to catalyze the global transition to circular sanitation and change the way people think about waste. *The sanitation industry needed a revolution.*

The founders came together through a series of mountaineering expeditions in the backcountry of the Arctic, Patagonia, Nepal, and in their backyard of Lake Tahoe. On these adventures, we were exposed to the human waste crisis happening in our pristine natural ecosystems – where untreated waste was leaking from pits into the surrounding environment.

Inspired to leave these awe-inspiring places better than they found them, they hatched a plan to tackle the can. A two-year search for sustainable sanitation ensued. Surveying, installing, servicing, disassembling, and reassembling toilets, they strove to understand the problem and recognize a viable solution.

The problem is far greater than they had ever imagined: in portable sanitation infrastructure, 32 billion gallons of water is being wasted, and over 6 billion gallons of human waste is being unsustainably treated.

They also learned that our waste carries the nutrients needed to grow food – nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium – and that if we can keep pee and poo separate, we can transform our waste into fertilizer.

Out of those core insights, Wasted* was born.

OUR PARTNERS



Yerba Madre (formerly Guayaki Yerba Mate) started in 1996 with the goal of making the energy of yerba mate more accessible to people through a business model that could also benefit the planet and people. Now, decades later, Guayaki is a certified B Corp that uses business as a force for good by supporting the environment, people and communities.



Founded in a renovated gas station in Burlington, Vermont, in 1978, Ben & Jerry's believes that ice cream can be a force for positive change, one scoop at a time. Through values-led ingredient sourcing and inclusive movement-building, we're working toward a future where everyone can thrive.



Our products work hard in your home and are made with your safety in mind. Join us on our mission to transform the world into a healthy, sustainable, and equitable place for the next seven generations.

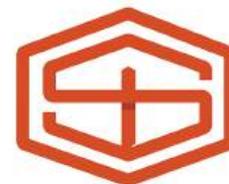


ZERO GRAVITY
BURLINGTON · VERMONT

Zero Gravity Beer has been brewing beautiful and balanced beers since 2004. Based in Burlington, Vermont, we are committed to bringing people together under one common thread: beer.



Green Mountain Solar is a residential and commercial solar and battery installation company based in South Burlington. Our educational, zero-pressure approach to energy solutions has gained us the trust of thousands of Vermonters. Go to www.greenmtnsolar.com today to set up your free consultation with one of our Solar Advisors!



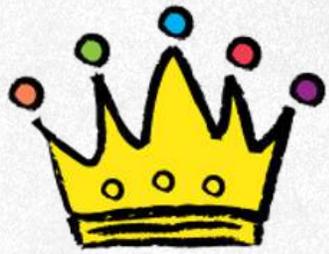
TWIN STATE
BASEMENT SERVICES

Twin State Basement Services specialize in basement waterproofing, crawl space encapsulation, and expert foundation repair to protect your home from moisture, mold, and structural issues. Our team uses advanced solutions to ensure long-lasting protection and peace of mind. Trust us to keep your foundation strong and your space dry.

OUR PARTNERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**KING
STREET
CENTER**

KING STREET CENTER

Vermont Green FC is partnering with King Street Center to make matches more accessible and inviting to historically marginalized communities. The program is focused on building community ties between VGFC players and King Street Center youth and families. Players will join King Street Center youth regularly to engage in soccer activities and discuss their path toward playing soccer at the highest levels. Vermont Green will donate free tickets through its "Spread the Love" initiative so they can attend home games throughout the season.

JUBA STAR FC

Vermont Green is partnered with Juba Star Football Club to expand access to soccer and work towards equitable play in the state. Juba Star FC is a Somali Bantu-led organization that has operated in the state since 2006. The organization was established to provide a safe space for the growth and development of former refugee and immigrant youth in Vermont. The organization runs free soccer clubs for youth and adults, ages 14 and older, and provides assistance with transportation to games and practices, and mentorship for youth.



ANTI-RACIST SOCCER CLUB

**ANTI RACIST
SOCCER CLUB**

Anti-Racist Soccer Club is a coalition of players, clubs, and experts fighting racism in American soccer. The ARSC membership is open to teams and leagues at the professional and youth levels, supporter groups, and any other soccer-affiliated organization. ARSC works with interested parties to develop a ten-point plan anti-racism framework that is unique to that community. ARSC monitors and evaluates member plans to ensure accountability.

ABOUT VERMONT GREEN

Vermont Green Football Club is a Burlington-based soccer team competing in USL League Two, the fourth tier of the American soccer system. Since its debut season in 2022, the club has quickly made a name for itself by combining competitive play with a bold, values-driven mission. Home matches are held at Virtue Field on the University of Vermont campus, where supporters gather to cheer on the team in an energetic and inclusive atmosphere.

What sets Vermont Green FC apart is its deep commitment to environmental justice. The club's mission is to build a soccer organization that addresses the climate crisis and promotes sustainability at every level—from using kits made with 100% recycled materials to donating 1% of its annual revenue to environmental causes as part of One Percent for the Planet. Vermont Green FC believes soccer can be a powerful force for social and ecological change.

Off the pitch, the club is equally committed to community. Through soccer programming, volunteer coaching, and regular community engagement, Vermont Green FC helps create opportunities for local youth communities to connect through sport. The club is more than just a team—it's a platform for impact.

Vermont Green FC continues to grow both in stature and influence, inspiring fans with a model of how soccer can be played with purpose and integrity. As they compete and engage, the team remains focused on uniting sport, sustainability, and justice to create lasting change.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MISSION

The Club is prioritizing five goals in pursuit of our environmental justice mission. More details on these goals can be found on our website, www.vermontgreenfc.com/mission.

Net Zero

We will become a net zero club following Science Based Targets (SBTi) initiative standard. Net zero targets will follow climate science-based requirements and environmental justice principles.

Fight Systemic Racism

We will stand up to systemic racism in soccer and beyond. We are working with the Anti Racist Soccer Club on a 10 point plan to advance anti-racist actions and behaviors at the club and in the community.

Giving

As 1% for the Planet members, we have committed to donating 1% of our annual net sales to non-profits working on behalf of the environment.

Purpose-driven Merchandise

We source merchandise that satisfies the highest standards of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. We are also building a program that will allow our supporters to participate in the circular economy.

Educate and Advocate

It all starts here. We are using our platform to raise awareness of and advocate for ways we can collectively transform our society through the lens of environmental justice.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

Be part of the mission on matchday—travel sustainably, bring a reusable water bottle, and sort your waste into the proper bins. Choose merch made with purpose and donate old clothes or gear at designated drop-offs. Even small actions at Virtue Field can make a big impact.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vermont Green FC acknowledges that our playing ground sits on land that is a site of meeting and exchange for Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.

Ongoing generations of Indigenous peoples, namely the Western Abenaki [A-ben-A-kee], have stewarded this land.

The Western Abenaki are the caretakers of this land which they call Ndakinna [in-DAH-kee-NAH], or "homeland."

We recognize the trauma that violence and forced displacement by the hands of colonizing peoples has caused these communities.

We are guests on this land and will respect and uplift Indigenous histories, cultures and peoples.

We give thanks for the opportunity to share the joys of this beautiful land and in turn are committed to protecting it.



TICKET POLICY

The Vermont Green FC ticket is a revocable license, and the holder of this ticket voluntarily assumes all risks and dangers incidental to attendance at this event, whether occurring before, during or after the game. This ticket may be taken, and admission refused upon refunding the purchase price appearing thereon. This ticket will not be replaced if stolen or destroyed. It is understood that the license granted by this ticket for the purpose of viewing the game only as an eyewitness.

Vermont Green FC further reserves the right to eject and prosecute any person whose conduct is deemed unbecoming (e.g., throwing objects, abusive or vulgar language). The consumption and/or possession of intoxicating beverages at this contest, outside designated areas is prohibited. Violators will be ejected without refund. All carried items will be searched upon entry, and entrants themselves are subject to search.

Ticket holder expressly grants Vermont Green FC permission to use holder's image in connection with any live or recorded transmission, reproduction, or publication of this event.

Tickets obtained from sources other than Vermont Green FC may be lost, stolen or counterfeit ticket and in such cases will not be honored. Any person buying tickets from other sources does so at his/her own risk. Individuals ages 5 and older must have a ticket. Children ages 4 and under are admitted free of charge.

Unless specifically authorized in advance by Vermont Green FC, this ticket may not be offered as a prize in a sweepstakes or contest.

Date and time are subject to change. No refunds or exchanges.



VOLUNTEER WITH VERMONT GREEN

We believe that soccer can be a powerful catalyst for a more environmentally sustainable and socially just world, and we're immensely grateful for the volunteers who show up to help build the club alongside us. We're looking for volunteers who are able to support specific matchday roles such as: stadium set up, ticketing, merchandise, ushering, and clean up. Volunteers are provided a staff t-shirt, post-match pizza, and custom merchandise discounts.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any additional questions [click here!](#)



Local Motion is our bike valet partner that has made biking to the matches more accessible. Check out their [website](#) for more resources. Rent a bike, learn more about community action, check out the bike ferry!

The Bike To The Match initiative incentivizes sustainable transportation that will address one of the club's environmental missions. Two raffle winners who have biked to our match will be entered to a win a prize that will be announced at during the match. Today's prize...A Bivo water bottle!



BIKE TO THE MATCH



Vermont's Finest
BEN & JERRY'S
Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
Vanilla Ice Cream with Gobs of Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

Vermont's Finest
BEN & JERRY'S
Half Baked
Chocolate & Vanilla Ice Creams with Gobs of Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough & Fudge Brownies

ABOUT USL2

USL League Two is the leader in pre-professional soccer in North America. The League holds a vital role as it continues to provide the elite platform for those pursuing professional careers domestically and internationally.

The USL League Two regular season takes place during the summer from early May to mid-July. Each team plays at least 12 regular season games within their division, splitting the number of home and away matches. Each division winner qualifies for the playoffs, as well as the second-place team of select divisions. The playoffs are split into conferences and occur in late July, culminating in the League Two Final in early August.

WHY USL2?

Vermont Green FC competes in USL League Two, the proven developmental leader in North American soccer's evolving tiered structure.

USL League Two (formerly the PDL) features clubs throughout the United States and Canada.

USL League Two is an important stepping-stone for top professionals now playing throughout the world, with more than 70 percent of all selections in the MLS SuperDraft since 2010 having League Two experience.

By joining USL League Two, Vermont Green FC fills a gap in the Vermont soccer system, giving the state's top players the opportunity to train and compete at the highest level while maintaining their collegiate eligibility.

NORTHEAST DIVISION

The USL League Two Northeast Division is a dynamic and competitive region that showcases the depth of soccer talent across New England and upstate New York. With clubs based in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York, the division blends long-standing organizations with ambitious newcomers.

Competing teams, AC Connecticut, Albany Rush, Black Rock FC, Boston Bolts, Boston City FC, New England Futbol Club, Seacoast United Phantoms, Vermont Green FC, and Western Mass Pioneers, bring a range of histories, playing styles, and community-driven missions to the field.

The Northeast Division is known for offering both a high level of play and a special ability to grow one of the country's most passionate soccer regions.





FOLLOW ALONG

