



News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Keith R. Pillow, APR, MBA
Caddy Marketing and Communications
For Ventura County Fusion
(805) 389-1815 Direct
(805) 217-4708 Mobile
keith@caddymarketingonline.com

Ventura County Fusion to Play International Exhibition Match Against Former English Premier League Team Portsmouth F.C. On Sat., July 17 at Oxnard College Stadium

***Region's First and Only Championship Soccer Franchise to Face World-Famous Club
As Part of English Team's First North American Tour in Over 50 Years***

VENTURA, Calif. — June 21, 2010 — The Ventura County Fusion (<http://www.vcfusion.com>), the region's first and only world-class, championship-caliber soccer franchise, and the reigning champions of the Premier Development League (PDL), today announced it will play an international exhibition match against two-time Football Association (FA) Challenge Cup winner and 2010 FA Cup runner-up Portsmouth Football Club (<http://www.portsmouthfc.co.uk>) at 3:00 p.m. PDT on Sat., July 17, 2010, at Oxnard College Stadium.

The announcement was jointly made by Fusion General Manager Ranbir Shergill and Fusion Director of Soccer Graham Smith, who also serves as president of First Wave Sports Marketing, the organizers of Portsmouth's North American tour. It also follows the organization's exciting June 14 news it will play an exhibition game against world-renowned professional soccer club Cruz Azul of Mexico's First Division at 7:00 p.m. PDT on July 1, 2010, at Ventura College. The Cruz Azul match marks the first time the Fusion will square off against a professional Mexican team.

The Portsmouth exhibition represents the first-ever meeting between the clubs, and the Fusion's third match against English teams during its four-year history. The Fusion challenged Everton F.C. on July 24, 2007, at Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. during its inaugural season, and then faced Burnley F.C. on July 21, 2009, on its home turf at Buena High School's Bulldog Stadium. From Thurs., July 15 through Tuesday, July 20, the Fusion will also host Portsmouth for pre-season preparation in Ventura County.

"It is a great honor for the Fusion to play against Portsmouth, a top team in English football in recent years," said Shergill. "The club has a fantastic history with many longstanding traditions, and we look forward to welcoming the club and their passionate fans to Ventura County. In addition, the match continues our organization's mission of competing against top professional clubs from around the world. For our players, this game represents a wonderful opportunity to test their talents against a top European team with many 2010 FIFA World Cup™ participants."

The game, also known as a "friendly", is one of four exciting contests the English club will play in July as part of its month-long North American promotional tour, Portsmouth's first trip to the Western Hemisphere since 1951. In addition to the Fusion, the renowned squad, affectionately known to its fans as Pompey, will also face Club America on Wed., July 14 at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Calif.; FC Edmonton on Wed., July 21 at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; and D.C. United of Major League Soccer (MLS) on Sat., July 24 at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.



About Portsmouth F.C.

Founded in 1898, Portsmouth Football Club is an English professional soccer organization based in the city of Portsmouth, Hampshire, United Kingdom, and well known for its rich history and traditions derived from the lore of the Royal Navy port. Known to its supporters as Pompey, and oftentimes called "The Blues" by its legion of fans, "The Blue Army," Portsmouth will play in the Football League Championship during the 2010-2011 season after being relegated recently from the English Premier League for financial difficulties. The club plays its home games at Fratton Park, recently named the 10th most atmospheric stadium in football by the *London Daily Mail*, and Portsmouth's home since the team's inception more than a century ago.

Portsmouth have been champions of England in 1949 and 1950, and have won the FA Cup twice, most recently in 2008 after beating Welsh side Cardiff City 1-0 in the final match at London's famed Wembley Stadium. The organization is the most successful southern club outside of London.

The current Portsmouth roster features several notable players participating in the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The club is led by captain and goalkeeper David James, the starting keeper for the English National Team with 49 international appearances to his credit. Pompey forwards John Utaka and Nwankwo Kanu, both with extensive worldwide playing experience, are members of the Nigerian team, and defensive midfielder Aaron Mokoena is captain of the South African squad.

The Fusion and Portsmouth have an interesting connection. Bob McNab, the Fusion's new assistant coach and director of player development, briefly served as Portsmouth's caretaker manager (i.e., interim coach) during the club's 1999-2000 season.

Ticket Pricing and Availability

Tickets for the Fusion-Portsmouth match are now on sale and immediately available by contacting Fusion headquarters at (805) 277-9742, or by ordering online at <http://www.vcfusion.com/tickets>. Ticket prices are \$15 each for adults, and \$8 each for children under the age of 12, if purchased in advance through VCFusion.com. At the gate, ticket prices are \$20 each for adults, and \$12 each for youths. All Fusion season ticket holders will be admitted free. The Oxnard College stadium will open at 2:15 p.m. PDT, with kickoff set for 3:00 p.m. PDT.

#

Ventura County Fusion is a registered trademark of Champion Soccer, LLC.
All other company names, product titles, publisher names, trademarks, artwork, and associated imagery are trademarks, registered trademarks, and/or copyright material of their respective owners.

About The Ventura County Fusion

Based in Ventura, California, the Ventura County Fusion is a successful world-class, championship-caliber soccer franchise and participant in the Western Conference's Southwest Division of the Premier Development League (PDL), an official operation of United Soccer Leagues (USL). Now in its fourth year of operation, the team enters the 2010 season as the reigning PDL Champions. The Fusion's roster consists of members of the U.S.'s Under 20 National Team, players from well-respected NCAA Division I university programs, and highly-touted standouts from international squads throughout the world. In addition to PDL play, the Fusion competes in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, and in various exhibitions against some of the world's best professional squads, including Burnley and Everton of the English Premier League, and Chivas USA and the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer (MLS). The Fusion is one of the few PDL organizations to offer a broad range of soccer instructional programs, including camps, schools, free clinics, and a youth club academy, specifically designed for players of different experience levels. Fusion fans, sponsors, and journalists can follow the team on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VCFusion>; on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/VCFusion>; and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/VCFusion>. For more information on the Ventura County Fusion, please visit <http://www.vcfusion.com>, or e-mail info@vcfusion.com.