



## 2018 Game Notes

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### 2018 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

3-1 Overall

1-1 Home | 2-0 Away

#### APRIL

22	vs. Florida	2pm
28	vs. Boston	7:30pm

#### MAY

6	@ New York	5pm
12	@ Boston	6pm
19	@ Dallas	8pm

#### JUNE

2	vs. New York	7pm
9	vs. Charlotte	7pm
16	@ Chesapeake	7pm
23	vs. Dallas	7pm
30	@ Charlotte	7:30pm

#### JULY

21	@ Ohio	6pm
26	vs. Chesapeake	7:30pm
28	@Florida	7pm

#### AUGUST

4	vs. Denver	7pm
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### SETTING THE SCENE: ATLANTA BLAZE AT DALLAS RATTLERS



#### GAME INFORMATION

**DATE:** Sunday, May 19, 2018

**LOCATION:** Dallas, TX

**STADIUM:** Capelli Sport Stadium

**FACEOFF:** 8 p.m. (EST)

**BROADCAST:** Lax Sports Network

**All-Time Series:** 1-2

**2018 Series:** X-X

#### THE MATCHUP

The Atlanta Blaze (3-1) takes its franchise-first three-game win streak to Capelli Sport Stadium in Frisco, Texas, to face the Dallas Rattlers (3-2) Saturday night. The game will be the Rattlers second-ever home game in Texas since its off-season relocation from Rochester, N.Y. After dropping its season opener to Florida, Atlanta has beaten Boston twice and the New York Lizards once, and currently reside in second-place in the league standings, a half-game ahead of both Dallas and Ohio. Atlanta's win streak is the result of strong play in all aspects of the game, including excellent goalie play by Chris Madalon, who is 3-0 with a .573 save percentage in his first three MLL starts), defender Liam Byrnes' ranking as second in the MLL in caused turnovers (1.75 per game), fine transition play, and a supremely unselfish offensive squad. ffensive balance, attributable to unselfish play by offensive middies and the attack, has proven effective for Atlanta. Middle Deemer Class leads the team with 12 goals while Rice, the MLL Warrior Offensive Player of the Week for Week 4, leads the team with 13 assists. The Dallas roster features four Team USA players, goalie John Galloway, long-stick middle Joel White, and attackmen Ned Crotty and Jordan Wolf, who leads the Rattlers with 24. Former Blaze attackmen Chris Bocklet and Randy Staats are also likely to see action Saturday night for Dallas.

#### BROADCAST INFORMATION:

Stream: Lax Sports Network

PxP: Scott Sudikoff

Analyst: Brendan McDaniels

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

Atlanta Blaze vs New York Lizards

When: Saturday, June 2nd

Time: 7p.m. (EST)

## Coaching Staff

Head coach Liam Banks moved to the Atlanta area about 10 years ago from Pennsylvania. He was a two-time lacrosse All-American for Syracuse and appeared in the Final Four each year during his college career. In 2000 as a sophomore, Banks and his teammates won the national title and he was named most outstanding player after scoring six goals in the final game against Princeton. Banks was a two-time honorable mention All-American in 2000 and 2001 and went on to play five MLL seasons for the New Jersey Pride, San Francisco Dragons and Chicago Machine from 2005-09. He scored a career-high 21 goals in 2007 for the Dragons. He was raised in the Setaukets on Long Island and played high school lacrosse at Stony Brook Academy and Ward Melville H.S.

Spencer Ford, assistant coach, and general manager was a standout player at Towson University. He had 53 assists in 13 games during the 1999 season for the Tigers, including 10 in one game against Gannon. Ford also had a 13-point game that season against Vermont, tallying five times while assisting on eight others. Ford still holds the MLL record for assists in a single season with 47. He established the record in just 12 games while playing for the Los Angeles Riptide in 2007. He was named the MLL's most improved player that season. Ford played two more MLL seasons before becoming G.M. for the Chesapeake Bayhawks in 2010. The Bayhawks won the Steinfeld Cup that season.

Jamie Hanford is an assistant coach specializing in defense for the Blaze. A three-time All-American defender at Loyola, Hanford was two-time National Lacrosse League (NLL) champion and MLL champion with the Bayhawks in 2002. He played 139 games in the NLL for five different teams, and 74 MLL games for four different teams. He also is the current head coach at Green Farms Academy in Westport, Conn.

### MILESTONES

**Kevin Rice** faced the Boston Cannons and put away four goals, one two-point goal, and four assists for a total of ten points. He was named Coca Cola Player of the Game and Warrior Offensive Player of the Week. He leads the Blaze in points (23) and assists (13)

**Chris Madalon** is still undefeated in the cage after three games and has a .573 save percentage

**Deemer Class** had a MLL record-tying three 2-point goals against the New York Lizards. He also scored 3 single goals for a total of 9 goals which is a Blaze record. He was named Coca Cola Player of the Game and Warrior Offensive Player of the Week. He leads the Blaze in goals with 12

## 2017 GAME BY GAME RESULTS

GAME	DATE	OPP.	STRK.	RESULT	TOTAL PTS	HIGH (G)	HIGH (A)	ATTEND.
1	22-Apr	FLA	0	10-13	17	3	2	1,043
2	28-Apr	BOS	1	19-12	28	4	5	1,967
3	6-May	at NY	2	16-14	28	9	4	3,219
4	12-May	at BOS	3	17-14	26	6	4	4,210
5	19-May	at DAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	2-Jun	NY	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	9-Jun	CLT	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	16-Jun	at CHE	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	23-Jun	DAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	30-Jun	at CLT	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	21-Jul	at OH	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	26-Jul	CHE	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	28-Jul	at FLA	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	4-Aug	DEN	-	-	-	-	-	-

## POINT LEADERS

#	PLAYERS	POS	GP	G	2ptG	A	PTS	PIM	PPG	PPA	SHG	SHA	GWG	GB	DC	TO	CTO	S	SPC
22	Rice, Kevin	A	4	9	1	13	23	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	12	0	21	.429
5	Class, Deemer	M	4	12	5	1	18	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	39	.308
66	Gibson, Matt	A	4	11	0	3	14	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	0	4	0	23	.478
39	Mackrides, Matt	M	4	4	0	6	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	15	.267
84	Palasek, Tommy	A	4	6	0	3	9	0	1	1	0	0	1	5	0	10	0	17	.353
63	Begley, Michael		4	2	0	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	11	.182
3	Eipp, Daniel	A	3	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	.286
2	Ratliff, Scott	D	4	2	1	1	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	19	0	7	3	8	.250
	X Donahue, Dyan	A	3	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	.250
55	Byrnes, Liam	M	4	1	0	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	2	7	1	1.000
13	Uppgren, John	A	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	.400
21	Reynolds, Jeff	M	3	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	3	.333
42	Sims, Austin	M	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
10	Robinson, Callum		4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	3	1	.000
14	Pennington, Justin	M	4	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	.000
24	Ianzito, Stephen	M	4	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000
30	Hiken, Brent	F	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	3	1	2	.000
80	Fahey, James		4	0	0	0	0	.5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	1	.000
41	Glazener, Edwin	D	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	.000
88	Bruckner, Jack		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	.000
8	Ghitelman, Adam	G	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	.000
43	Evans, Erik	D	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	.000
	X Young, Tyler	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
35	Noble, Jeremy	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
45	Noble, Jason	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
	Linares, Sam		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

## ATLANTA BLAZE PLAYERS

### Alphabetical Roster:

ACTIVE ROSTER							
NO.	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BIRTHDATE	COLLEGE	YEARS PRO
63	Begley, Michael	M	5' 11"	185	5/22/1993	Marist	2
55	Byrnes, Liam	D	6' 3"	195	4/19/1993	Marquette	2
5	Class, Deemer	M	5' 11"	200	6/24/1993	Duke	2
3	Eipp, Daniel	A	5' 11"	180	9/18/1992	Harvard	1
43	Evans, Erik	D	6' 4"	203	-	Ohio State	0
80	Fahey, James	LSM	6' 2"	200	8/24/1991	UMass	2
8	Ghitelman, Adam	G	5' 9"	185	4/25/1989	UVA	7
66	Gibson, Matt	A	5' 10"	170	1/19/1990	Yale	6
41	Glazener, Eddy	D	6' 4"	215	9/1/1993	Notre Dame	1
31	Hiken, Brent	FO	5' 10"	205	2/5/1992	Stevenson	4
24	Ianzito, Stephen	Tran M	6' 0"	215	9/8/1990	Syracuse	5
	Lewnes, Nate	A	5' 9"	180	5/2/1994	UMBC	1
15	Llinares, Sam	A	5' 9"	155	12/13/1993	Hofstra	1
39	Mackrides, Matt	M	5' 10"	185	2/24/1990	Penn State	7
11	Madalon, Chris	G	6' 3"	210	4/12/1988	UNC	2
45	Noble, Jason	D	5' 10"	165	9/5/1991	Cornell	4
35	Noble, Jeremy	M	5' 9"	170	9/5/1991	Denver	4
84	Palasek, Tom	A	5' 11"	185	1/23/1990	Syracuse	6
14	Pennington, Justin	Tran M	5' 11"	210	7/13/1988	Rutgers	8
2	Ratliff, Scott	LSM	5' 11"	190	7/26/1991	Loyola	5
21	Reynolds, Jeff	Tran M	6' 1"	190	2/10/1986	Maryland	9
22	Rice, Kevin	A	5' 9"	190	10/26/1992	Syracuse	3
10	Robinson, Callum	D	6' 4"	245	5/1/1991	Stevenson	3
42	Sims, Austin	M	6' 1"	185	12/29/1996	Princeton	0
13	Uppgren, John	A	5' 11"	190	2/23/1994	Tufts	2
PRACTICE SQUAD							
88	Bruckner, Jack	A	6' 1"	205	2/12/1995	Duke	1
19	Garziano, Matt	M	6' 2"	180	8/18/1993	UAlbany	0
34	Kelly, Frankie	FO	5' 10"	170	10/31/1991	UNC	0
28	Kemp, TJ	M	6' 4"	220	8/17/1991	UNC	3
99	Massa, Colin	D	6' 4"	220	12/1/1984	Mercer	1
1	Young, Tyler	M	5' 9"	190	5/25/1995	Towson	0
NLL Inactive							
18	Hossack, Graeme	D	6' 2"	225	7/22/1992	Lindenwood	2
81	Withers, Jake	FO	5' 11"	192	2/12/1994	Ohio State	1
College Inactive							
	Feiner, Griffin	A	6' 2"		200	Hartford	
	Forbes, Hunter	FO	5' 6"		170	Jacksonville	
	Kelly, Connor	M	6' 0"		185	Maryland	
	Korzelius, Jack	M	6' 3"		215	Dartmouth	
	McBride, Will	D	6' 1"		190	1/2/96 UNC	
	McClancy, Kyle	M	6' 1"		185	Albany	

## Numerical Roster

2	Scott Ratliff
3	Daniel Eipp
5	Deemer Class
8	Adam Ghitelman
10	Callum Robinson
11	Chris Madalon
13	John Uppgren
14	Justin Pennington
15	Sam Llinares
21	Jeff Reynolds
22	Kevin Rice
24	Stephen lanzito
30	Brent Hiken
35	Jeremy Noble
39	Matt Mackrides
41	Eddy Glazener
42	Austin Sims
43	Erik Evans
45	Jason Noble
55	Liam Byrnes
63	Mike Begley
66	Matt Gibson
80	James Fahey
84	Tom Palasek
	Nate Lewnes

Scott Ratliff, from Boston 2016  
 Adam Ghitelman, from Boston 2016  
 Justin Pennington, from Denver 2016  
 Jeremy Noble, from Denver 2016

### Supplemental Draft:

Callum Robinson, 1<sup>st</sup> round, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, 2017  
 Michael Begley, from Boston 2018  
 Jeff Reynolds, from Florida 2017  
 Jason Noble, from Chesapeake 2018  
 Jack Bruckner, from Boston 2018  
 Chris Madalon, from New York, 2018  
 Stephen lanzito, from Charlotte, 2018  
 Sam Llinares, from Denver, 2018

### 2018 College Draft:

Austin Sims, 3rd round, from Princeton  
 Erik Evans, 6th round, from Ohio State

Deemer Class  
 Daniel Eipp  
 Jason Weber

### Player Movement:

Matt Gibson, from New York 2018  
 Tom Palasek, from New York 2018

### Trade:

Liam Byrnes, from Boston 2018  
 James Fahey, from Boston 2017  
 John Uppgren, from Boston 2017  
 Eddy Glazener, from Denver 2018  
 Brent Hiken, from Denver 2017  
 Tyler Young, from Chesapeake 2018

## Atlanta Wins Third in a Row to Move Into Second Place

For the first time in four games this season, the Atlanta Blaze (3-1) scored first and never trailed for the full 60 minutes in its 17-14 victory over Boston in slippery conditions on a rainy evening at Harvard Stadium. It was the Blaze's second victory in three weeks over the struggling Cannons (1-4). The win established a number of firsts for Atlanta's Major League Lacrosse (MLL) franchise, including the team's first three-game win streak, four consecutive wins versus an opponent, two road wins in successive weeks and at the completion of the fourth week of the season, Atlanta is in second place in the MLL standings.

The victory also marked Kevin Rice's first nine-point game in the MLL. The attackman scored four goals, including a two-point goal to close out the scoring, and added four assists. Attackers Matt Gibson, Tommy Palasek and John Uppgren scored two goals each, goalie Chris Madalon authored his third consecutive win in his third MLL start and middle Deemer Class scored his fourth two-point goal in two weeks, giving him a league-leading five on the season.

Long-stick middle Scott Ratliff and short-stick defensive middle Jeff Reynolds dominated the transition game for Atlanta. Ratliff scooped up eight ground balls and assisted on Rice's third goal of the game, while Reynolds gathered in five ground balls and scored his first goal of the season off of transition. Rookie [Austin Sims](#) scored his first MLL goal in his first MLL game after a four-year career at Princeton University and former Harvard star Dan Eipp scored his second goal of the season.

Atlanta scored the game's first three goals, raced to a 9-4 lead early in the third quarter and then withstood a late fourth-quarter rally. Rice applauded Atlanta's midfielders for keying the offense.

"Our offensive middies were too much for Boston's short-stick defensive middies," Rice said after the victory. "They were running by those guys and creating slides, and when that happened it created odd-number situations for us at the attack. That's what we like and we did a pretty good job of taking advantage of those."

Rice, who leads the team with 13 assists and 23 points through four games, will graduate from Wake Forest University's School of Law next week. He made a case for confidence and familiarity among the team's veteran core as a key contributor for Atlanta's early-season success.

"Our first two seasons, I think we were closer [to being good] than our record indicated. This game tonight is one that we might have let get away from us [last year or the season before]," Rice admitted. "Our core group has matured now. Ratliff, Ghitelman, Robinson, Pennington, Mackrides, Reynolds and I all have been together now for three years. We're just comfortable with another and are finding ways to make a play at the end of games."

First-year head coach Liam Banks said Class' six goals against the New York Lizards contributed to his offense's effectiveness six days later.

"Deemer's performance last week set us up this week. Boston pushed out on him, spread their defense and allowed for Kevin to find some inside looks. Right now we have people who are unselfish and as long as that mentality continues along, we have an opportunity to be successful if we put all of the pieces together," Banks said. "I know Kevin racked up nine points, but our defense was strong and our goalie play was superb again."

In his three starts, Madalon has turned away 56-of-94 shots on goal, good for a league-leading .596 save percentage. His play through the team's first four games might be its biggest surprise.

"That wasn't the original plan going in but when you get a guy who is hot like Chris is, and with the team playing like we are, he's a leader right now," Banks said. "Luckily, we have another starting goalie, Adam Ghitelman, who also is a leader and is doing an incredible job of supporting Madalon. Adam is also doing a great job from the sidelines identifying things that he sees."

"Mads has been great and Adam is always ready. We have a nice situation there with two very capable goalies," Rice added.

As the Blaze heads to Texas for its first appearance against the Dallas Rattlers (formerly Rochester) in their new digs, the hill gets a bit steeper to climb. The trip marks Atlanta's third consecutive game on the road and they'll face an opponent that has proven to be much stingier on the defensive side of the field than either Boston or New York has thus far. However, through its first four games, the Blaze has encountered unique situations in each instance and so far has proven to be resilient. Those experiences can help bring the best out in a team and with a win over the Rattlers, the Blaze would return home to Kennesaw June 2 for a second meeting against the Lizards with a 4-1 record.

### **One for the Books**

- A week after Deemer Class became the second player in Blaze history to record nine points in a game, Kevin Rice turned the trick at Boston with four goals, including a two-pointer, and four assists. Randy Staats was the first to accomplish the feat. Staats had six goals and three assists against Denver in his first-ever appearance for the team, May 14, 2016

### **Second Time is also a Charm**

- Attackman John Uppgren has played in two games for the Blaze, both times against his former team, and both times he scored two goals. Both times the Blaze was victorious.

### **Three-and-Oh**

- Madalon's third win ties him for the league lead in wins with Charlotte's Charlie Cipriano.

### **Four Scores and Seven Years**

- Seven-year veteran Matt Gibson has scored a goal in all four games this season for the Blaze. Only Gibson and Class have scored in each game this season.



## Atlanta Blaze Welcomes New Owner

Major League Lacrosse (MLL) and the Atlanta Blaze announced today an agreement to sell ownership of the Blaze franchise to Andre Gudger, Founder and CEO of the technology investment company, Eccalon.

“We are thrilled to have an entrepreneur as accomplished as Andre as a new owner in MLL,” said Alexander Brown, MLL Commissioner. “He combines an extremely successful technology background with a passion for our sport and a genuine commitment to the Atlanta community that will only help to advance our league and the game of lacrosse.”

Prior to founding Eccalon, Gudger served under President Barack Obama from 2011 to 2017 as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy and the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs.

Gudger was also Founder and CEO of Solvern Innovations, a cybersecurity firm that provided communication and technology services to the Department of Defense. He also previously worked with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Union Bank of Switzerland and AT&T.

Gudger credited his eldest daughter for providing the impetus to becoming an active participant in the world of lacrosse.

“My motivation is simply based on the love that my daughter showed for the game. I wanted to get more involved so that I can help bring this sport to the world,” said Gudger, a graduate of the University of Maryland – Baltimore County and Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina.

“Based on the conversations I have had with front office personnel and the coaching staff during the past few months, I am certain that the Blaze have all of the right guys in those key positions,” Gudger said. “They have put together one heck of a roster and we will continue to build on that. I have been proud of what I have witnessed at training camp and look forward to the 2018 season.”

The Blaze have played two seasons in MLL since Atlanta was granted an expansion team in August 2015. They have called Fifth Third Bank Stadium, on the campus of Kennesaw State University, their home stadium since the franchise’s inception. Atlanta went 4-10 in its inaugural season and followed that with a 6-8 record in 2017.

“This represents a defining moment in the history of the Atlanta Blaze. Passionate ownership is integral for a franchise to be successful and Andre is committed to making the Blaze an elite MLL team,” said Team President Jim Pfeifer. “We have discussed working in concert with the entire Atlanta community to provide opportunities to grow the game across a wider demographic sphere, and I could not be more excited.”

## **Liam Banks Tapped as New Head Coach**

Atlanta resident and Syracuse lacrosse legend, Liam Banks has signed on as Head Coach of the Atlanta Blaze, effective immediately. As one of Atlanta's most prominent lacrosse ambassadors, Coach Banks currently serves as a Thunder LB3 Partner and President of Lacrosse Operations. Liam was the original promoter of the first professional lacrosse game in Georgia in 2013 and was active in bringing the Major League Lacrosse Championships to Atlanta in 2014 and 2015.

"This is an incredible opportunity for me to challenge myself professionally at the highest level of coaching with many of the best players in the world. We hope to field a team for the Atlanta Blaze that embodies the same principles we strive to cultivate each day at Thunder LB3 with the goal of bringing home a Major League Lacrosse Championship in 2018. I love the city of Atlanta and I am humbled with the opportunity to be the Head Coach of the Atlanta Blaze," said Liam Banks.

Atlanta Blaze Team President, Jim Pfeifer stated, "Our top two objectives for the 2018 MLL season are to compete for the Steinfeld Trophy and to build the Blaze fan base throughout Georgia, and Liam's extensive lacrosse knowledge and experience, familiarity of the Atlanta market and boundless energy and drive make him the perfect head coach to lead the Blaze."

As a collegiate player, Banks was a two-time All-American at Syracuse and helped lead the Orange to four consecutive Final Four appearances including three Finals appearances, and a National Championship and MVP in 2000. In international competition, Banks played for the Under 19 USA World Team in 1999 and was named to the All-World Team and led Team USA to the gold medal. Banks continued his lacrosse in the Major League Lacrosse for five seasons. During his five years in the league he was a five-time Bud Light Game MVP and ranked in the Top 10 in scoring four of five years. Recently Coach Banks was inducted into the Long Island Hall of Fame for the Class of 2018.

"I have known Liam as a friend and a contributor to the sport for a long time," said General Manager Spencer Ford. "His knowledge of the sport is unlike others in that he's working in lacrosse 24/7. He has a great love for the game, and his ability to develop players at a young age and preparing them to play at a high level is fascinating. I'm excited to see how his IQ translates and how he can take that amazing knowledge and put it to use with our current Atlanta Blaze players. Liam lives and works in Atlanta, and the excitement around bringing a local person into the organization will help us grow in an amazing way. He knows everybody in lacrosse, has familiarity with the surrounding areas, and we have a great feeling that he's going to be an extremely important part of bringing in the community to watch the sport, something that is needed in MLL."