



2018 Game Notes

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SETTING THE SCENE: ATLANTA BLAZE AT DENVER OUTLAWS



GAME INFORMATION

DATE: Saturday, August 4th 2018

LOCATION: Kennesaw, GA

STADIUM: Fifth Third Bank Stadium

FACEOFF: 7 p.m. (EST)

BROADCAST: Lax Sports Network

All-Time Series: 1-2

2018 Series: X-X

MILESTONES

Joe Nardella earned Coca-Cola Player of the Game honors following 26-32 play on the X against the Florida Launch

Scott Ratliff secured the Coca-Cola Player of the game for a spectacular defensive performance against the Chesapeake Bayhawks

Kevin Rice won the Coca-Cola Player of the Game for a game-high three goals and one assist against Ohio

Kevin Rice has 58 points this season, giving him 163 points in a Blaze uniform

Deemer Class is tied for the league lead in two-point goals with five, three of which were in a single game

Adam Ghitelman has the second-lowest goals-against-average with 11.75 and **Chris Madalon** has the second-highest save percentage with .559

2018 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

7-6 Overall

2-4 Home | 5-2 Away

APRIL

22 vs. Florida 10-13 L

28 vs. Boston 19-12 W

MAY

6 @ New York 16-14 W

12 @ Boston 17-14 W

19 @ Dallas 14-15 OTL

JUNE

2 vs. New York 17-20 L

9 vs. Charlotte 13-19 L

16 @ Chesapeake 6-9 L

23 vs. Dallas 14-16 L

30 @ Charlotte 16-10 W

JULY

21 @ Ohio 13-10 W

26 vs. Chesapeake 12-11 W

28 @Florida 16-13 W

AUGUST

4 vs. Denver 7 pm

BROADCAST INFORMATION:

Stream: Lax Sports Network

PxP: Scott Sudikoff

Commentary: Malcom Chase

LOOKING AHEAD:

Following a win tonight, the Blaze

go to playoffs for the first time

time in franchise history

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.

2018 GAME BY GAME RESULTS

GAME	DATE	OPP.	STRK.	RESULT	TOTAL PTS	HIGH (G)	HIGH (A)	ATTEND.
1	22-Apr	FLA	-1	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	-1	14-15	21	4	3	4,732
6	2-Jun	NY	-2	17-20	24	3	3	2,326
7	9-Jun	CLT	-3	13-19	21	4	4	1,291
8	16-Jun	at CHE	-4	6-9	10	3	2	-
9	23-Jun	DAL	-5	14-16	20	4	1	1,233
10	30-Jun	at CLT	1	16-10	20	4	1	1,145
11	21-Jul	at OH	2	13-10	17	3	2	3,288
12	26-Jul	CHE	3	12-11	16	3	3	1,406
13	28-Jul	at FLA	4	16-13	23	4	3	-
14	4-Aug	DEN	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Matchup

For the first time in its three-year history, the Atlanta Blaze (7-6) enters the final game of the regular season with a chance to advance to the Major League Lacrosse (MLL) playoffs. With a win, the Blaze will face Dallas or Chesapeake, on the road, Saturday, Aug. 11. The Blaze enters the game with a four-game winning streak in tow, having resurrected their season on June 30 with a win over Charlotte, and following a three-week break for the World Lacrosse Championships, returned with three more wins at Ohio, at home against Chesapeake and at Florida. Denver (7-6) has lost its last two games in a row after it had won six straight games. The two losses, maybe not so coincidentally, came when rookie attackman Chris Cloutier was injured in the third quarter against Dallas on July 22. Cloutier burst onto the MLL scene with 26 goals and 14 assists in his first six games, which included nine points in man-up situations.

The Blaze has allowed just 11 goals per game during the win streak while averaging 14.25 per game. Goalie Adam Ghitelman inherited the starting job from Chris Madalon after the first quarter against Dallas on June 23 and has been solid in all appearances since. Scott Ratliff, the ground ball machine, continues to be a force on both ends of the field but merits consideration for MLL Defensive Player of the Year. Other than faceoff specialists, Ratliff leads his next closest competitor by 24 ground balls. The combination of d-middies Jeff Reynolds, Justin Pennington, Kyle McClancy, combined with close defenders Graeme Hossack, Liam Byrnes, Callum Robinson and Eddy Glazener, with Ratliff at long-stick middle have done a good job limiting quality shots. In fact, during the last four wins, opponents are getting seven shots on goal per game fewer against the Blaze than in the first nine games of the season.

Blaze FOGO, Joe Nardella, has improved Atlanta's possession rate significantly since being inserted into the lineup June 2. During the eight-game span, Nardella has won 59 percent, a 17 percent improvement at the X for Atlanta. He also has scored four goals, assisted on three others, and his first ground ball against Denver will be his 100th of the season. Interestingly, Nardella will faceoff against Max Adler, who played well for Israel in the World Championships but also is a business associate of Nardella. Rookies Christian Cuccinello and Connor Kelly have combined for 18 goals and eight assists during Atlanta's four-game win streak. Combined with Kevin Rice's 11 goals and one assist, the Blaze attack has become more varied and more dangerous. The midfield position also has an air of versatile, with Dan Eipp, Sergio Salcido, Deemer Class, Jack Korzelius and Tommy Palasek combining for 17 goals and eight assists since June 30.

The Outlaws are led offensively by attacker Eric Law (35 goals-18 assists), Matt Kavanagh (32-17), Mikie Schlosser (23-3), Drew Snider (18-4), Romar Dennis (14-4) and Zach Currier (20-8). Wes Berg and Kylor Bellistri also are dangerous. Denver's No. 1 goaltender, Jack Kelly, is out for the season, but Dillon Ward is a highly capable replacement.

Playoff Glances

The Denver Outlaws have five two-time Steinfeld Cup winners on its roster (Eric Law, Drew Snider, Michael Simon, Matt Kavanagh and Matt Bocklet) and two one-time champions Wes Berg and Zach Currier. Atlanta's Justin Pennington played for Denver's 2014 championship squad. Tommy Palasek won in 2015 with New York and Jeff Reynolds leads all competitors in this contests with three Steinfeld Cups and has a 6-1 career postseason record.

POINT LEADERS

#	PLAYERS	POS	GP	G	2ptG	A	PTS	PIM	PPG	PPA	SHG	SHA	GWG	GB	DC	TO	CTO	S
22	Rice, Kevin	A	13	31	1	26	58	0	3	4	1	0	2	13	0	30	0	85
5	Class, Deemer	M	12	24	5	1	30	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	0	9	2	87
33	Cuccinello, Christian	M	8	14	0	11	25	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	8	2	41
66	Gibson, Matt	A	10	20	0	3	23	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	0	7	0	46
84	Palasek, Tommy	A	12	14	0	9	23	1.5	1	1	0	0	1	11	0	18	1	50
48	Salcido, Sergio	M	6	6	0	6	12	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	4	3	40
	X (TOTALS)		12	15	0	6	21	0	1	1	1	0	1	8	0	9	4	65
1	Kelly, Connor	M	8	14	2	3	19	.5	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	16	0	57
3	Eipp, Daniel	A	11	13	0	3	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	7	1	34
2	Ratliff, Scott	D	13	7	1	4	12	4	0	0	1	1	0	72	0	15	12	21
39	Mackrides, Matt	M	10	4	0	8	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	9	0	27
91	Nardella, Joe	M	8	4	0	4	8	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	6	1	11
	X (TOTALS)		12	5	0	4	9	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	99	0	12	5	15
88	Young, Pat	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	X (TOTALS)		7	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	16
21	Reynolds, Jeff	M	10	4	0	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	1	1	10
	X Begley, Michael	M	6	2	0	3	5	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	5	0	11
	X Uppgren, John	A	3	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
55	Byrnes, Liam	D	13	1	0	3	4	5.5	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	9	17	2
42	Sims, Austin	M	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	12
77	Korzellius, Jack	M	4	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	15
	X Donahue, Dylan	A	3	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8
40	McClancy, Kyle	M	8	2	0	0	2	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	2	2	11
14	Pennington, Justin	M	13	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	5	6
18	Hossack, Graeme	D	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	1

ATLANTA BLAZE PLAYERS

Alphabetical Roster:

ACTIVE ROSTER							
NO.	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BIRTHDATE	COLLEGE	YEARS PRO
55	Byrnes, Liam	D	6' 3"	195	4/19/93	Marquette	2
5	Class, Deemer	M	5' 11"	200	6/24/93	Duke	2
33	Cuccinello, Christian	A	6' 0"	210	5/26/96	Villanova	0
3	Eipp, Dan	A	5' 11"	180	9/18/92	Harvard	1
43	Evans, Erik	D	6'4"	203	-	Ohio State	0
8	Ghitelman, Adam	G	5' 9"	185	4/25/89	UVA	7
66	Gibson, Matt	A	5' 10"	170	1/19/90	Yale	6
41	Glazener, Eddy	D	6' 4"	215	9/1/93	Notre Dame	1
18	Hossack, Graeme	D	6'2"	225	7/22/92	Lindenwood	2
15	Kelly, Johnny	M	6'0"	196	-	Ohio State	0
1	Kelly, Connor	M	6'0"	190	-	Maryland	0
77	Korzelius, Jack	M	6'3"	215	-	Dartmouth	0
39	Mackrides, Matt	M	5' 10"	185	2/24/90	Penn State	7
11	Madalon, Chris	G	6' 3"	210	4/12/88	North Carolina	2
40	McClancy, Kyle	Trans M	6' 1"	185	-	UAlbany	0
91	Nardella, Joe	FO	5' 10"	205	5/11/93	Rutgers	4
84	Palasek, Tom	A	5' 11"	185	1/23/90	Syracuse	6
14	Pennington, Justin	Trans M	5' 11"	210	7/13/88	Rutgers	8
2	Ratliff, Scott	LSM	5' 11"	190	7/26/91	Loyola	5
21	Reynolds, Jeff	Trans M	5' 11"	190	2/10/86	Maryland	
22	Rice, Kevin	A	5' 9"	190	10/26/92	Syracuse	3
10	Robinson, Callum	D	6'4"	245	5/1/91	Stevenson	3
48	Salcido, Sergio	M	5'7"	166	4/25/94	Syracuse	2
42	Sims, Austin	M	6'1"	185	12/29/96	Princeton	0
44	Young, Pat	M	6'1"	205	4/5/93	Maryland	3
PRACTICE SQUAD							
	Corrigan, Ben	M	6'3"	205	-	Lenoir Rhyne	0
34	Kelly, Frankie	FO	5' 10"	170	10/31/91	North Carolina	0
	Kemp, TJ	M	6' 4"	220	8/17/91	North Carolina	3
28	Koshansky, Will	D	6'2"	195	8/6/90	Pennsylvania	7
50	Leary, James	D	5'10"	185	-	Vermont	0
COLLEGE INACTIVE							
	Feiner, Griffin	A	6'2"	200	-	Hartford	0
	Forbes, Hunter	FO	5'6"	170	-	Jacksonville	0
PUP/IR							
45	Noble, Jason	D	5' 10"	165	9/5/91	Cornell	4
35	Noble, Jeremy	M	5'10"	165	9/5/91	Denver	5

Numerical Roster

1	Concnor Kelly
2	Scott Ratliff
3	Dan Eipp
5	Deemer Class
8	Adam Ghitelman
10	Callum Robinson
11	Chris Madalon
14	Justin Pennington
15	Johnny Kelly
18	Graeme Hossack
21	Jeff Reynolds
22	Kevin Rice
33	Christian Cuccinello
39	Matt Mackrides
40	Kyle McClancy
41	Eddy Glazener
42	Austin Sims
43	Erik Evans
44	Pat Young
48	Sergio Salcido
55	Liam Byrnes
66	Matt Gibson
77	Jack Korzelius
84	Tom Palasek
91	Joe Nardella

Expansion Draft:

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

Supplemental Draft:

Callum Robinson, 1st round, 2nd overall, 2017
 Michael Begley, from Boston 2018
 Jeff Reynolds, from Florida 2017
 Jason Noble, from Chesapeake 2018
 Chris Madalon, from New York, 2018

2018 College Draft:

Connor Kelly, 1st round, Maryland
 Kyle McClancy, 2nd round, UAlbany
 Austin Sims, 3rd round, Princeton
 Christian Cuccinello, 4th round, Villanova
 Erik Evans, 6th round, Ohio State
 Jack Korzelius, 9th round, Dartmouth

Player Pool:

Deemer Class
 Daniel Eipp
 Johnny Kelly

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
 Joe Nardella, from Boston 2018
 Sergio Salcido, from Florida 2018