

Cruz and Rodrigues dos Santos named to the AAC Preseason All-Conf. Team



Alberto Cruz



Rodrigues dos Santos

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — After a season where they led the Memphis Tiger men's soccer team in scoring, the duo of Alberto Cruz and Lineker Rodrigues dos Santos have landed themselves on the American Athletic Conference's Preseason All-Conference Team. The team was also picked to finish fifth in the AAC this season. "After the season they had last year, they deserve to get recognized for it," said head men's

goals as a true freshman last season. Cruz would go on to notch three game-winning goals, including the go-ahead goal in the team's come from behind victory over Central Arkansas.

Rodrigues dos Santos, who was an All-Conference honoree and a United Soccer Coaches All-East Region Team member last season, recorded six goals and four assists in route to helping lead the Tigers to the NCAA Tournament. Rodrigues dos Santos would net the overtime game-winning goal at Tulsa that would send the Tigers to the AAC Championship Semi-Final.

To see the full list of rankings and award winners, visit TheAmerican.org.

Memphis kicks-off the 2023 season on August 24 when they make the trip up to Wisconsin to face-off with Green Bay. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Soccer, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

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Cruz, who was named to the All-Rookie Team and was an AAC All-Conference Second Team member, led the team with eight

TN Titans host Patriots in final preseason game from sports page 1

can also watch the game on NFL Network.

During the preseason, fans in the Nashville market are able to livestream the broadcast on their mobile devices from the Titans Mobile App (iOS and Android), as well as on desktop computers and mobile web at TennesseeTitans.com. Restrictions apply.

Additionally, fans outside of Nashville can access live Titans preseason games with NFL+, which offers access to all out-of-market preseason games across all devices, live local and prime-time regular season and postseason games (phone and tablet only), live local and national audio for every game, and more. The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans games across the Mid-South with the "Voice of the Titans" Mike Keith, analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Ramon Foster

and gameday host Rhett Bryan.

LAST WEEK AT MINNESOTA
The Titans traveled to Minnesota in Week 2 of the preseason. After practicing with the Vikings for two days, the teams battled in a preseason game on Saturday night. The Titans totaled 281 rushing yards and used a pair of touchdowns by running back Julius Chestnut to earn a 24-16 victory.

Second-year quarterback Malik Willis started for the Titans and went the distance, passing for 85 yards and a touchdown and adding 91 rushing yards on 11 attempts. The other two quarterbacks on the roster, veteran Ryan Tannehill and rookie Will Levis, did not play. Willis also started the first preseason contest at Chicago, splitting time with Levis.

Chestnut accounted for a team-high 98 rushing yards against the

Vikings, including a 55-yard run and a five-yard touchdown jaunt. He also caught a one-yard touchdown pass from Willis.

Tennessee's initial touchdown of the evening occurred in the first quarter, when rookie running back Tyjae Spears crossed the goal line on a 33-yard touchdown run.

THE PATRIOTS

The Patriots began the preseason with a 20-9 home loss to the Houston Texans before traveling to Green Bay last week. Their game with the Packers was suspended in the fourth quarter, ending in a 21-17 Patriots victory. New England is in its 24th season under the direction of Bill Belichick, who is in his NFL-record 49th consecutive season coaching in the NFL. With Belichick, the Patriots have won nine conference titles and six Super Bowls. New England is looking

to return to playoff form after finishing third in the AFC East with an 8-9 record in 2022.

Quarterback Mac Jones is entering his third NFL campaign since New England chose him with the 15th overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft. In 2022, the former Alabama Crimson Tide signal caller passed for 2,997 yards with 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions in 14 games.

Titans head coach Mike Vrabel played for the Patriots from 2001 through 2008.

The Patriots won the AFC five times (2001, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011) and won the Super Bowl three times (2001, 2003, 2004) while Vrabel was playing in New England. During the 2023 offseason, Patriots Chairman/CEO Robert Kraft announced that Vrabel would be inducted into the Patriots Hall of Fame this fall.

State of HBCU features 'In the Game Sports Business Career' Conference... from sports page 1

Business Career Conference' with my Historically Black College and University colleagues in the great city of Baltimore," said CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams Parker. "I appreciate Yussuf Khan and the team's efforts in bringing us together as industry leaders in college athletics to continue to advance the business of HBCU sports and provide continued exposure collectively."

"I am so excited to participate on this panel to share my experiences and contribute to creating opportunities to feed the pipeline of diversity into the sports industry, particularly in athletic administration," said MEAC Commissioner Sonja Stills.

"I'm excited to participate in the 'Get in the Game Sports Business Career Conference' as this is a unique opportunity for students to engage leaders and industry professionals who work at the intersection of sports and business," said SIAC Commissioner Dr. Anthony Holloman.

"I am honored to be part of Get in the Game and have the opportunity to share with young professionals," said GCAC Commissioner Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes. "This conference is in direct alignment with the mission of my organization, 'So You

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Want a Career in Athletics? I encourage anyone interested in athletics to attend this conference and learn more from the best in the industry. Thank you Yussuf for the opportunity."

SBRnet co-owner Mark Sullivan was equally thrilled to have the distinguished commissioners lead the featured discussion at the first-year event.

"We didn't think we would have the incredible opportunity of having these four amazing executives together at our inaugural event, so we are truly honored that the commissioners agreed to take the time and come together for our featured session to discuss the state of HBCU

athletics," said Sullivan.

"The State of HBCU Athletics" takes place at the inaugural Get In The Game Sports Business Career Conference on Saturday, October 7th and will also be streamed live on First and Pen (firstandpen.com).

Get In The Game is a sports business career conference designed to educate HBCU students and students of color about the sports business industry and the career pathways within it. The three-day event takes place October 6th – 8th at the Sheraton Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD.

For all event information, including schedule, registration, travel, scholarship opportunities and more, please visit <https://getinthegameconference.net/>.

About First and Pen: Multimedia sports platform First And Pen (firstandpen.com) informs, inspires and connects through voices of color in sports and is part of The Khanate Group; a media, tech, and eCommerce company fully committed to supporting and investing in underserved and overlooked communities and individuals. CEO Yussuf Khan has over two decades of experience in sports and multicultural media. After beginning his career at ESPN, he invested the last 18 years of his

career in start-up ventures, building a successful track record at companies such as CSTV (now CBS Sports Network), Interactive One (now Urban One), Big Lead Sports and The Shadow League. The media veteran has a unique and diverse career path with a long history in the fields of multimedia sales, marketing, communications, journalism, and content creation. Yussuf is also an adjunct professor of sports management at Rider University (Brooklyn) and an adjunct professor of communications at Union College (NJ).

About SBRnet: SBRnet is a comprehensive online data platform of nationwide sports marketing analytics, using syndicated and custom proprietary sports fan information for the professional and college sports, consumer research, industry reports, and licensed industry articles. Since 2020, SBRnet has been owned by Neil Schwartz and Mark Sullivan. Schwartz is a 20-year veteran of sports data with stints at Nielsen and Sports-canInfo. Sullivan is an editor and publisher and one of the founders of The Running Event conference and trade show. The pair are also co-hosts of the "My First Job in Sports" web series.

Comcast RISE supports small businesses with grant packages ... from sport-Ent. 5

form featuring aggregated small business news, tips, insights, and more. Just say "Comcast RISE" into the X1 voice remote.

"During the past two and a half years, we have listened to feedback and taken the learnings from this program and have found new ways to further empower and strengthen even more small businesses and entrepreneurs,

who are the backbone of our economy and local communities," said Loren Hudson, SVP and Chief Diversity Officer for Comcast Cable. "By offering grant packages that include complimentary marketing, technology, financial grants, business consulting, entrepreneurship training, we can further our efforts to positively impact small

businesses, into 2024 and beyond, and help them to shift from pandemic recovery to long-term growth."

Comcast RISE is part of Project UP, the company's comprehensive initiative to advance digital equity and help build a future of unlimited possibilities.

More information is available at www.ComcastRISE.com.

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