

Press Release

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Minnesota Thunder to play three games during the upcoming SCHWAN'S USA CUP, presented by PUMA

BLAINE, Minn. (July 2, 2009) – The National Sports Center (NSC) is pleased to announce the Schwan's USA CUP Soccer Challenge, a game between the Minnesota Thunder and Guatemala's C.S.D. Comunicaciones on Wednesday, July 22 as part of Schwan's USA CUP, presented by PUMA, festivities. Kickoff is set for 7:35 p.m. in the NSC Stadium.

C.S.D. Comunicaciones, nicknamed Los Cremas for the team's cream-colored home jerseys, plays in Guatemala's top division Liga Nacional and most recently claimed the 2008 Apertura season (August through December) crown and the Clausura (January through May) title, earning a berth into the Group Stage of the CONCACAF Champions League. One of the most storied clubs in Guatemala, Comunicaciones has won 23 league titles throughout its history.

The Thunder is currently 1-7-4 in USL-1 play. The Thunder was narrowly eliminated from the Lamar U.S. Open Cup by Kansas City Wizards (Major League Soccer) after double overtime and a shootout.

"Playing against Comunicaciones is a great opportunity for our players and organization to perform against a world class club," said Thunder head coach Donny Gramenz. "It's also an excellent opportunity for the youth players and soccer fans of Minnesota to be exposed to a very high level game right in their own backyard. It's going to be a fantastic night of soccer!"

"This is definitely one of the best teams in Central America and one of the best teams historically in CONCACAF," said Thunder president Manny Lagos. "We are expecting a great game in front of a large USA CUP crowd."

Tickets for the soccer challenge range from \$10-\$55, but USA CUP rostered players can purchase them for \$9.

The Thunder will also start Schwan's USA CUP Weekend with a home game on Saturday, July 18 against the Austin Aztex of USL. The Austin Aztex currently maintain a 2-6-6 record (12 pts.). This will be their second matchup with the Thunder this year. On April 18, the Thunder tied the Aztex 1-1 in the Aztex's first USL game of the season. Kickoff is set for 7:05 p.m. in the NSC Stadium. USA CUP will be selling tickets for \$5-\$11, general admission.

"The Thunder games are part of USA CUP's atmosphere," said tournament director Teri Vogt. "You can walk into USA CUP and find something you won't find anywhere else. You don't just come to play. The tournament is also about the culture of soccer, the highest level of play and the friendships."

To close Schwan's USA CUP, the Thunder will face off against Miami FC Friday, July 24. Miami FC is 7th in the USL First Division, with a 5-6-1 record. They played the Thunder May 23 at the NSC Stadium, where the teams held each other scoreless for a 0-0 tie. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m. USA CUP will be selling tickets for \$5-\$11, general admission.

Contact Nicole Jin at 763.792.7341 for Schwan's USA CUP participant ticket orders only. For all other ticket inquiries, contact the Thunder ticket office at 651.917.8326 or visit www.mnthunder.com.

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