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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United blast Baltimore 4-0 to extend division lead *Reading's offense erupts for four goals in crucial late season showdown*

READING, PA (July 2, 2016) – Reading United didn't make the hometown crowd wait long for a fireworks show on Independence Day Weekend. United's offense provided all the pyrotechnics in a comprehensive 4-0 victory over the visiting Baltimore Bohemians. United struck for three goals in the game's first 25 minutes then played solid defense to see off Baltimore. The victory extended Reading United's lead at the top of the Premier Development League's Mid-Atlantic Division with three games remaining in the 2016 campaign.

United got on the board just 62 seconds into the game when Paul Marie found the back of the net after breaking through the Bohemians defense. William Picoux set up Marie, who now leads the team with seven goals this season.

The young Frenchman picked up a knock minutes later and had to leave the match.

Baltimore nearly answered Marie's early goal in the sixth minute. Cormac Noel beat Reading's defense and fired a shot on goal that Steffen Kraus did well to save.

Reading doubled their advantage in the 21st minute. Rayane Boukemia took a pass from midfielder Brad Fountain and danced past two Baltimore defenders before unleashing a shot at the top of the penalty area and past Bohs' goalkeeper Billy Heavner. The goal was Boukemia's second of the season.

Reading added another score to extend their lead just four minutes later. Picoux intercepted a pass near midfield and played a ball out wide to Boukemia. The midfielder spotted Frantzdy Pierrot making a late run into the box and hit a low cross. Pierrot took a touch to create separation and then fired to the back post to make it 3-0 to the home team.

After halftime, the Bohemians looked to rally and immediately tested Kraus. Josh Fawole beat Reading defender Kaique Fernandes to a ball in Reading's penalty area and fired a shot on target that Kraus could only parry. The rebound fell to Noel who saw his effort punched clear.

United poured on the attack searching for yet another goal to end Baltimore's hopes of getting anything from the match. Reading recorded eleven shots in the second half forcing Heavner to make several acrobatic saves to keep the game from getting out of hand.

Reading's pressure paid off in the 66th minute. Referee John Barr pointed to the penalty spot as Bohs' defender Marques Fernandes cut down Jelani Pieters as he raided the Baltimore penalty area.

Bradley Fountain stepped up and buried the spot kick to seal a 4-0 victory for Reading.

Kraus and Ben Beaury combined to make seven saves as United kept their fourth clean sheet of the season.

Head Coach Stephen Hogan was pleased with United's play throughout the match, saying, "Very solid performance all the way around. A great start where we scored straightaway off Paul Marie's fantastic finish and we just continued on." Hogan praised his squad's mentality saying, "We're starting to become very professional. Before we came out today, there was a lot of focus. Less chatting and laughing, they knew they had to get a response because we lost to Red Bull the other night. We did it, we came out strong and it was a fantastic win."

Reading will host the Evergreen Hammers in their next home match to be played on Wednesday, July 6th at 7:00pm. The match will be part of Reading's Kick Hunger campaign benefiting the Greater Berks Food Bank. Tickets for the game against Evergreen are available at www.readingunitedac.com or on game day at the Don Thomas Stadium ticket office. Reading United offer 2016 Game Day Youth Packages, Group Discount Packages, Birthday Parties and Fundraising Ticket Packages. Contact our ticket sales team at sales@readingunitedac.com for all your group needs.



Official Premier Development League affiliate of the Philadelphia Union





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ABOUT READING UNITED AC

Reading United A.C. is the Greater Reading area's premier minor league soccer team. Led by the ownership group of Berks Professional Sports, Inc. the club was founded in 1995 as the Reading Rage. As the club entered its 15th season a name, logo, and color change was made to better feature the ties to the local and state community as well as the soccer goals of the team and its partners. Now in its twenty-first season, Reading United's commitment to professional player development has produced over fifty players currently on the rosters of professional clubs throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America. Reading United is the official Premier Development League affiliate of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union. For more information about Reading United AC, visit www.readingunitedac.com.



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