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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fast start helps Reading United earn win in season opener *Khori Bennett's first minute strike helps United past Lehigh Valley*

READING, PA. (May 14, 2016) – Reading United opened the Premier Development League season with a bang. Khori Bennett found the back of the net inside the first minute as Reading United AC defeated their local rivals Lehigh Valley United 1-0 at Lehigh University's Goodman Stadium.

From the opening kick, Reading went on the attack putting the hosts under pressure. Bennett's goal came off a corner kick after former Reading goalkeeper Kyle Morton tipped Frantzdy Pierrot's thumping header onto the crossbar. On the ensuing corner, the ball fell to Bennett's feet and the Jamaican midfielder touched the ball home to give Reading the lead.

"Basically, it's reaction and anticipation," said Bennett after the match. "The ball came in, I was aware and I was able to get a good touch and finished it."

The goal was Bennett's second of the 2016 campaign. The midfielder also scored the game winning goal in Wednesday night's U.S. Open Cup First Round match against the Atlanta Silverbacks.

"I'm just glad to come through with a goal again, and I hope to keep it up," stated Bennett.

The Reading defense recorded it's second clean sheet of the season as backline of Will Campbell, Billy McConnell, Nestor Aguilar and Charlie Reymann limited Lehigh Valley United's chances.

Despite taking victory, Reading Head Coach Stephen Hogan emphasized the team has room to improve.

Hogan said, "Good start, great start. I thought we were going to push on from there. We created a few more chances, but again I thought we were going to push on and put the ball in the net a few more times." He continued, "I don't think we showed what level we can get to. I think the level of our players is a lot higher than what it was."

The team's next PDL regular season matchup is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st against Evergreen FC in Leesburg, Virginia. Reading United A.C. also have a match this Wednesday in the second round of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup in Chattanooga, Tennessee starting at 7:30 p.m. A watch party is scheduled for fans at P.J. Whelihans of Reading beginning at 7 p.m.

United's first home league match will take place on Saturday, May 28th at 7:00pm at Exeter's Don Thomas Stadium. United will welcome the reigning PDL Eastern Conference Champions, the New York Red Bulls U23s, in a crucial early season match-up that will set the tone in the Mid-Atlantic Divisional title race. Tickets for the home opener 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.

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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