

Top MLS Homegrown Prospect for Each Team



by Travis Clark

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The new MLS season kicks off this weekend, as the 2023 edition of the league begins.

Young prospects are continuing to make an impact and emerge as options for clubs from abroad.

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That begs the question – who are the next Homegrown signings from each franchise? Below is an educated guess. Players in college and MLS NEXT PRO sides are considered as well.



Atlanta United: [Jonantan Villal](#)

The central midfielder signed a contract with [Atlanta United 2](#), and seems like an obvious candidate to make the move up.

Others to Watch: [Alan Carleton](#), Garrison Tubbs, [Malachi Grant](#), [Luke Brennan](#)

Austin FC: [Micah Burton](#)

A linchpin with the U.S. U17 MNT, Burton's a wide attacker that's had some good moments at the Concacaf Championship. There may not be a rush as he remains eligible for the O6 squad through the current MLS NEXT season.

Others to Watch: [Ervin Torres](#)

Charlotte FC: [Christopher Thaggard](#)

Currently with [Northwestern](#), Thaggard made 16 appearances in the Big Ten last fall. His signing is unlikely to be imminent, but with [Nimfasha Berchimis](#) signed, Thaggard has the strongest case.

Others to Watch: [James Nyandjo](#), [Anthony Pena](#)

Chicago Fire: [Dylan Borso](#)

Borso is a prospect on the rise in the Fire Academy and recently committed to play at [Wake Forest](#) in 2024. He's likely to see decent minutes with [Chicago Fire II](#) this season, which will take him one step closer to a Homegrown offer.

Others to Watch: [Christopher Cupps](#)

FC Cincinnati: [Ben Manfroy](#)

A center back on the Under-17 squad, Manfroy seems like a strong candidate, though some of the players from the U19 side could emerge in 2023.

Others to Watch: [Matthew Schenfeld](#)

Colorado Rapids: [Vladimir Walent](#)

It's a signing unlikely to happen at this point, as Walent is back on campus at [Wake Forest](#). He had a strong freshman season, and if he can take a step forward at the ACC power this year, a pro opportunity may not be too far away.

Others to Watch: Robinson Aguirre, [Maddox Brown](#), [Griffin Moore](#), [Keith Chavarria](#)

Columbus Crew SC: [Taha Habroune](#)

An offensive-minded central midfielder, Habroune's fit in MLS could be brought into question. Can he defend well enough to be a true box-to-box option? His rise over the last year has been substantial and he's trained with the first team over the past year.

Others to Watch: [Cole Mrowka](#), [Owen Presthus](#), [Austin Su](#), Sam Sarver, [Caleb Borneo](#)

FC Dallas: [Julian Eyestone](#)

The [Duke](#) commit is slated to enter school this fall after reclassifying. He's a huge goalkeeper with U.S. youth national team experience as well.

Others to Watch: [Santiago Ferreira](#), [Nayrobi Vargas](#), Anthony Ramirez

An ankle injury suffered at youth national team camp in January has knocked Turner out of the game for an unspecified amount of time. He's arguably the top prospect in the team's academy at this point despite the setback, so once he returns to the field and shows he is fit, the teenager could become an option.

Others to Watch: [Jace Clark](#), [Garry Zhang](#), [Sydney Aggrey](#), [Isaiah Chisholm](#)

Houston Dynamo: [Brian Alanis](#)

Another top 2006, Alanis wasn't part of the U.S. U17 MNT Concacaf squad but has been in several camps. He didn't make any MLS NEXT PRO appearances in 2022, so that could be the next step for him as the Dynamo consider making an offer.

Others to Watch: [Diego Rosas](#), [Mateo Pinilla](#), [Luis Moreno](#), [Ezekiel Soto](#)

Sporting Kansas City: [Jacob Molinaro](#)

Goalkeepers signing at a young age isn't unusual, and Molinaro is in the frame for an offer. He spent preseason training with the first team and should be with Sporting KC II this season.

Others to Watch: [Ramiz Hamouda](#), [Edgar Bazan](#), [Carlito Saylon](#), [Nati Clarke](#), [Ryan Reid](#), [Jacob Bartlett](#)

LA Galaxy: [Brandon Tellez](#)

It's not clear if the Mexican youth national team veteran has signed with [LA Galaxy](#) II yet, though it seems like only a matter of time. There's a chance he could look to start his career in Liga MX, so it would behoove the organization to make an offer.

Others to Watch: [Ruben Ramos Jr.](#), [Paulo Rudisill](#), [Victor Valdez](#), [Riley Delgado](#), [Alex Alcalá](#)

LAFC: [Tyler Bindon](#)

For all the plaudits earned by LAFC and the accomplishments of the academy, the team has yet to develop a first-team contributor from the academy. Bindon is one of a handful of intriguing players from the U19 team that could be considered. He has the physical ability to dominate his peers and should get minutes in MLS NEXT PRO this season.

Others to Watch: [Kyrome Lumsden](#), [Javen Romero](#), [Christian Diaz](#), [Alixson Soukup](#)

Inter Miami CF: [Tyler Hall](#)

The captain of the U.S. U17 MNT, Hall could be next in line for a Homegrown offer. He's still slightly undersized for a pro center back, but probably has a few more inches to grow.

Others to Watch: [Santiago Morales](#), [Bryan Destin](#), [Israel Boatwright](#)

Minnesota United FC: [Carlos Leatherman](#)

One of the top recruits from the class of 2023, Leatherman is an extremely talented right back that has excelled at Minnesota. He's slated to play at [Saint Louis](#) later in the fall, but wouldn't be the first SLU signee to instead turn pro.

Others to Watch: [Julian Banks](#)

CF Montreal: [Antoine N'Diaye](#)

Knowledge of the CF Montreal setup is limited, but N'Diaye has impressed for Canada at the Concacaf qualifiers. He has two goals in two knockout games, helping the Canadian side to the World Cup. Able to play in central midfield or as a wide attacker, he has five goals for the CF Montreal side in MLS NEXT action.

Others to Know: [Maël Henry](#), [Thomas Bouffal](#)

Nashville SC: [Adem Sipic](#)

Nashville has yet to sign a player from the academy to the first team. Could Sipic be the prime candidate? College coaches view him as one of the best 2024 forwards, and if he continues to develop, turning pro could become an option.

Others to Watch: [Lucas Wolthers](#)

New England Revolution: [Santiago Suarez](#)

This one is cheating a bit – Suarez is on a [New England Revolution](#) II deal that will kick up to a Homegrown contract in 2024.

Others to Watch: [Carlos Cristiano](#), [Olger Escobar](#), [Peyton Miller](#)

New York Red Bulls: [Nathan Worth](#)

The Red Bull pipeline could be on the brink of a revival with the players about to come through. Worth is a smart, talented central midfielder. He's one of a handful of players to keep an eye on in 2023.

Others to Know: [Roald Mitchell](#), [Aidan Stokes](#), [Davi Alexandre](#)

New York City FC: [Cooper Flax](#)

Another current [Wake Forest](#) standout, Flax had a very good freshman year last fall. Expect to see him play for the ACC program once again in 2023, but a Homegrown deal can't be too far off.

Others to Know: [Kamran Acito](#), [Klevis Haxhari](#)

Orlando City SC: [Alejandro Granados-Torres](#)

The talented central midfielder was an MLS NEXT All Star in 2022 and can earn a contract if he continues to develop and make strides as the season continues. Expect to see him get a chance with [Orlando City B](#).

Others to Know: [Tahir Reid-Brown](#), [Luca Maxim](#), [Dominic Bell](#), [Zackory Campagnolo](#)

Philadelphia Union: [David Vazquez](#)

Vazquez fits the mold of a Union player: a talented presser that is relentless with his work rate. He's not bad on the ball, with a silky left foot that can do damage with possession.

Others to Watch: [Cavan Sullivan](#), [Andrew Craig](#), [Anesse Saidi](#)

Portland Timbers: [Sawyer Jura](#)

A hard-working left back, Jura's another U.S. U17 MNT player that is likely to earn consideration.

Others to Watch: [Michael Dunne](#)

Real Salt Lake: [Luca Moisa](#)

There's a long list of players on deals with the Real Monarchs that could be in line for a bump up to MLS. Moisa is arguably the top prospect despite his age (born in 2008) and is probably a year or two from a Homegrown deal.

Others to Watch: [Zavier Gozo](#), [Owen Anderson](#), [Fernando Delgado](#)

San Jose Earthquakes: [Oscar Verhoeven](#)

An outstanding outside back prospect, Verhoeven can play either side of the back line and has one of the highest-ceiling players from the 2006 age group.

One of the best 2006 players in the country, Hawkins is already signed to a Tacoma Defiance deal. He should get bumped up to a full pro deal at some point soon, even if he's a year or two away from getting a long look in MLS.

Others to Watch: [Wyatt Nelson](#), Christopher Aquino

St. Louis City SC: [Fritz Volmar](#)

Signed to play at [Northwestern](#) in the fall, Volmar is an excellent defender that makes it look easy in MLS NEXT PRO. Is he an outside back or center back? He'll need to add a few inches and heading off to school in the fall make sense. Heard is likely the best prospect, though it's unclear if he is going to consider a Homegrown deal with [St. Louis City SC](#) or head to Germany as it has been reported.

Others to Watch: [Josh Maher](#), [Aaron Heard](#)

Toronto FC: Adam Pearlman

The center back is one of the top Canadian prospects in his age group (2005) and traveled with the first team to California for preseason.

Others to Watch: Adisa De Rosario, Kobe Franklin, [Lazar Stefanovic](#), Richard Chukwu

Vancouver Whitecaps: Mihail Gherasimencov

The left back was called up to preseason with the first team, spending a big chunk getting pro level experience. He has the qualities of a modern outside back, capable on both sides of the ball.

Others to Watch: Jay Herdman, Kyler Vojvodic

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