

Hurricanes Concept for Success: Long-Term Integration of Top Local Talent and Coaches with Large Core of Homegrown Footballers

The Vision of Saarland Hurricanes reaches fruition in 2017. Top talents and coaching from US and abroad are staying with team long-term, plugging into program. Core of homegrown talent from youth and prospect teams continue to bolster roster at every position.



President-Tobias Bagusche, General Manager-Torsten Rief, Team Manager-Paul Motzki & Sports Director-Felix Motzki are in their fourth year of working together with Head Coach Tom Smythe and the club is functioning on all levels; presenting the Hurricanes with a great chance to make a deep playoff run in 2017.

The continual progress has been building for quite sometime in Saarland where the concept remains clear: invest in experienced coaching, build core of players and coaches, supplement roster with area talent that will stick around, and import when necessary.

The Core (80%) of the Hurricanes roster consists of local, homegrown talent from the Youth and Prospect teams. Alone this year, 7 players were called up to the first team from the prospects and youth. “40 players from the 2016 playoff appearance returned for 2017 and 30 of them were our boys that grew up in the Hurricanes program. We feel like this sets our organization apart. We are getting the results we want and it’s our boys getting it done on the field.” – Paul Motzki, Team Manager.

The Imports are also starting to become long-term staples in the Hurricanes roster like Lenny Green and Lamar Hall, who are both entering their 3rd season with the team. Of the 15 new signings this year only one was a true import: ex Green Bay Packer, Charles Clay. The rest come from the region and through work or study, and plan on being with the team for 3+ years. And by the way, the list of 15 new additions to the team consists of very heavy hitters with college, national team, and first league experience.

Americans: Brandon Kohn, Aaron Blackmon, Charles Clay

Germans: Tom Feldhäuser, Stefan Mertsching, Darius Marmol, Salif Jaiteh, Marko Vidović, Nico Schneider, Lukas Schröder, Jonas Gruschka, Peter Geimer, Nico Kneis

Frenchmen: Jordan Hornebeck and Lionel Toucet

The Coaching situation in Saarland is at the heart of the success and is a result of the focus on getting and keeping quality coaches that can educate and lead on the long-term, with continuity. The level of experience that Head Coach Tom Smythe brings to the table is unparalleled and this is wonderfully complemented by the competent coaching staff that has fell into place over the past few years. The coaching staff consists of 12 coaches; all with years of experience and the majority come from the ranks of college, high school, National Team, first league, etc.

“The offensive staff is full experience. Our defensive coordinator worked under two of my good friends for the past two years so he's learned from the best.” – Tom Smythe, Head Coach

The Expectation in 2017 is thus, clearer: The Saarland Hurricanes wish to establish themselves as a mainstay in the top ranks of the GFL South and return to the playoffs.

“So we have this core group of guys has been playing for fours years under Tom Smythe, we added some bombshells to the roster and coaching staff and the hope is to be a much better team on all sides of the ball and win games as a result.” – Torsten Rief, General Manager.

Come see the show: www.saarland-hurricanes.com/tickets