NEWS RELEASE



SEATTLE REIGN FC ANNOUNCES 2026 TEAM AWARDS

Captain Jess Fishlock earns Most Valuable Player and the Lu Barnes Award, presented by Paula's Choice Skincare, in her 14th and final season; Maddie Mercado claims the Golden Boot after becoming the club's first double-digit scorer since 2017

For Immediate Release: November 17, 2026
Contact: Ryan Perez (808-212-4018), Ellie Presnol (772-418-2325)

RENTON, WASH. – Seattle Reign FC today announced its 2026 team award winners following the conclusion of the NWSL season. The six honors include Most Valuable Player, Defender of the Year and Young Player of the Year, as voted on by Reign FC players, along with the Golden Boot, Community Champion and the Lu Barnes Award,

presented by Paula's Choice Skincare. Captain Jess Fishlock headlines this year's recipients with two awards in her 14th and final season, while forward Maddie Mercado, defender Phoebe McClernon and midfielder Ainsley McCammon earn their first team honors and goalkeeper Cassie Miller repeats as Community Champion.

REIGN FC MOST VALUABLE PLAYER – JESS FISHLOCK

In her 14th and final season with the club, captain Jess Fishlock was voted Reign FC Most Valuable Player after recording four goals and one assist in 17 regular season appearances (11 starts). The 39-year-old delivered several decisive performances, including an 85th-minute game-winning goal at Bay FC on August 1, just one minute after entering the match.

Fishlock also scored both goals in a 2-0 victory over Boston Legacy FC on September 25 at Lumen Field, with both strikes coming from outside the box. Her second goal made her Reign FC's all-time leading scorer with 52 regular season goals, surpassing Megan Rapinoe's previous record of 51 while keeping Seattle's playoff hopes alive.

The last remaining club original from the NWSL's inaugural 2013 season, Fishlock concludes her historic career as Reign FC's all-time leader in regular season goals (52) and assists (31).



REIGN FC DEFENDER OF THE YEAR – PHOEBE McCLERNON

Phoebe McClernon was voted Reign FC Defender of the Year after starting all 30 regular season matches, the only player on the roster to do so. The veteran defender led Seattle with 2,671 minutes played and anchored a backline that recorded 12 clean sheets, tied for the most in a single season in club history.

McClernon led the team in clearances (163) and blocks (20), while ranking second in interceptions (45) and third in tackles won (39). On Decision Day, she became the seventh player in club history to reach 100 regular season appearances for Seattle. In October, McClernon signed a contract extension through the 2029 NWSL season.



REIGN FC YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR – AINSLEY McCAMMON

Ainsley McCammon was voted Reign FC Young Player of the Year, an honor recognizing an emerging talent in their third professional season or fewer. The 19-year-old, who became the youngest signing in club history at 16 in 2024, established herself as a consistent presence in Seattle's midfield, setting single-season career highs in appearances (24), starts (22) and minutes played (1,865).

McCammon tied for the team lead with four assists, including two in a 2-0 victory at San Diego Wave FC on July 26, becoming the youngest player in NWSL history to record multiple assists in a single match. She also led Reign FC in interceptions (50) and ranked third among the club's field players in recoveries (130).



REIGN FC GOLDEN BOOT – MADDIE MERCADO

Maddie Mercado earned her first Reign FC Golden Boot after leading the club with a career-high 10 goals in 30 regular season appearances (27 starts). Mercado scored in nine different matches, finishing with five left-footed goals and five headers to become the first player in NWSL history to score at least 10 goals in a single season without scoring with her right foot.

Her two-goal performance in a 3-1 victory at Chicago Stars FC on October 18 made her the first Reign FC player to reach double-digit goals in a season since Megan Rapinoe in 2017.



REIGN FC COMMUNITY CHAMPION – CASSIE MILLER

Cassie Miller earned Reign FC Community Champion honors for the second consecutive season, continuing her commitment to youth heart health and community education. Having undergone open-heart surgery at just two months old, Miller has used her platform to advocate for heart screenings and CPR training for young athletes and their families through her ongoing partnership with the Nick of Time Foundation.

Now in its 20th year, the foundation has screened more than 35,000 young people ages 12 to 24. In 2026, Miller was named to the NWSL Nation of Lifesavers™ Ambassador Class with the American Heart Association and earned her second consecutive nomination as Reign FC's representative for the Lauren Holiday Impact Award, presented by Nationwide.



REIGN FC LU BARNES AWARD, PRESENTED BY PAULA'S CHOICE SKINCARE – JESS FISHLOCK

Fishlock was named the second annual recipient of the Lu Barnes Award, presented by Paula's Choice Skincare, recognizing the player who best embodies the three pillars that defined club legend Lauren Barnes' career: excellence on the pitch, leadership in the locker room and service to the community.

Selected from three finalists alongside McClernon and Miller, Fishlock earned the honor through a vote of Reign FC players, staff, Season Ticket Members and fans.

In recognition of Fishlock's selection, Reign FC and Paula's Choice Skincare donated $10,000 to Lambert House, a Seattle nonprofit supporting LGBTQ+ youth selected by Fishlock. The contribution includes an additional $5,000 from the club in honor of her No. 10 jersey.

– REIGN FC –

Ryan Perez
REIGN FC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
C: 808-212-4018 ✦ RYANP@REIGNFC.COM

REIGNFC.COM/MEDIA-RESOURCES