Jose Clemente: The Owls' missing piece

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The men's soccer team is filled with people from all over the world with different countries and backgrounds who all have one goal and common interest: soccer.

After being welcomed with open arms, Clemente fit right into place. The recent transfer and stand-out forward Jose Clemente, a senior, has been on fire with his new team.

The senior transfer from the College of Saint Rose, has been contributing in his first five games with the Owls. He has scored four goals this year, taking only five shots.

Clemente is leading the team in goals made and shots attempted. While only playing 15 games for Saint Rose, he led that team in goals with eight and points with 18, and would become a standout star on any team he would played for.

With the recent closure of Saint Rose, Clemente was in the right place at the right time. He was a great pickup from the transfer portal and seems to be the last key piece to this hard-working team.



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Forward Jose Clemente, a senior, dribbles past Ravens.

"Through the process, we knew Jose was going to be a leader within our group," Head Coach Kevin Anderson said. "We knew he was going to be somebody that this group respected."

With the addition of Clemente, the Owls locker room has been closer than it has ever been. Coach Anderson runs a tight ship and has everybody buying into the revamp of the program.

The Owls have a very rich history when it comes to soccer. They appeared in 17 NCAA final-four, winning six national championships, the most in any Division ll men's soccer program in the country and making.

This includes Anderson, who was a part of the 1992 national championship team.

"Coming here was not my idea. My other college had its own situation, and then I weighed my options," Clemente said. "The history of this program helped my decision very much."

Anderson came back to his alma mater in 2023, making an immediate impact by building up the team through recruits and the transfer portal. Along with his coaching staff, he strives for their men to not only be hard workers on the field but in every aspect of being a student athlete.

Clemente fits the description, as he is currently studying for his master's degree in business administration.

While being a key player to this team, Clemente is also a great person outside the soccer field. Off the field, Clemente and other teammates connect, study film and even figure out new strategies to win games.

Midfielder and team captain Umberto Catale, a senior, loves playing with Clemente because of his technique and skills on the field. They share a connection through their European origins, and this common background has sparked great chemistry and teamwork on the field.

"We have a great relationship, and we keep leaning on that. We are like brothers," Catale said.

The recent success of this team comes from the brotherhood in the locker room. Coach Anderson has put steps in place to bring the program back to the top, and adding Clemente could be the secret ingredient for raising the seventh banner at Jess Dow Field.

"The end goal for me is that everybody walks away feeling valued, but I'm grateful to come back to Southern, and I came back to win that seventh national championship,"

Men's soccer fall short to the defending champs

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The men's soccer team lost a hard-fought game against the defending national champions, the Franklin Pierce University Ravens. The final score was 1-0, as the Owls were held to no goals throughout the game.

In the first half, the Owls were off their game, forcing them to play with a different game plan.

The Owls had seven fouls, resulting in the Ravens taking possession of the ball more and slowing down the game's tempo.

"The first half was tough. Knowing how they play and adjusting to it was a challenge for us," forward Zico Groenveld, a junior, said.

The Ravens' offense would be too much for the Owls, as they took 16 shots and scored a goal 25 minutes into the game. The Owls only had five shots throughout the entire game.

"We had a game plan coming in. After they scored, we went down and started to lose it," forward Jalen Jean, a senior, said. "Second half, we just went for it and finally started to play our game."

The Owls showed flashes of defense in the game. Goalkeeper Devin Juan, a senior, had six saves, keeping the Owls in the game. As the Owls stayed within striking distance of the Ravens, they would come up short on multiple late-game opportunities.

The Ravens controlled the game and the stat sheet, as they beat the Owls in all major categories.

Coming into this game, Franklin Pierce had a 5-1 record, which has now improved to 6-1 with the win today, showing that they are still a dominant force in the conference and nation.

The Owls fought just like they have been this whole season. Being that they have high hopes for the rest of the season, losing by one goal to one of the best teams is a step in the right direction.

"We will come into the next games with a better mindset and more energy out the gate," forward Jayson Dumont, a freshman, said.

Throughout the season, the Owls showed they wanted to be considered the best in the conference. The leadership and depth of this team is how they can achieve that.

Head Coach Kevin Anderson put out a different 11 guys this game than usual. Two freshmen and a sophomore got the start in the game, showing the deep rotation and bench that the Owls have.

With a lineup usually consisting of seniors and juniors, the younger guys getting the start and more playing time shows that everybody on this team can do their job effectively and efficiently.



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Ravens Joaquin Lauria Calvo attempts to score with a header.

Volleyball show positive signs in loss to rival

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

On Oct. 8, the volleyball team fell 3-0 to their NE10 and Elm City rivals, the University of New Haven Chargers.

"We definitely had moments where we were executing our game plan," Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said. "Then sometimes, we get those moments where that youngness and that inexperience just kind of shows up, and it's tough."

This season, the Owls have struggled with their ability to score and attack, but they played a balanced game offensively. Against the Chargers, they had 31 attacks with four errors.

Being a young team, Barbaro believes they hit a positive note in the season with encouraging performances from multiple hitters.

Outside hitters Victoria Pascual, a sophomore, and Raegan Emery, a graduate, had seven kills on 23 attempts and 12 kills on 27 attempts respectively.

"It was a tough loss, definitely," Emery said. "We know we're right there. I mean, we had the lead at least in that second set. We got a lot of work to do. We know what our weaknesses are. We've just got to keep pounding the stone, grinding for it."

The first set was a back-and-forth match, as the Chargers ultimately pulled away, but they built a significant lead in the second.

The largest point differential was set by the Owls by taking a 13-6 lead on a service ace. However, the Chargers would score nine of the next 10 points without looking back.

"I really thought this was a really good, strong offensive performance against a very good blocking and defensive team," Barbaro said.

Though the offense was on point, the defense was scuffling, as the Chargers were not contained. The lack of communication hurt the Owls.

"Somebody's got to step in and take charge and take the ball," Barbaro said. "It's not any one person."

It is rare for everything to be perfect for any team. Even if your team is developing, it is instrumental to capitalize on your opponent's errors.

"It's really easy for opposing teams to win games when we're constantly making mistakes, making errors," Emery said. "It's really important that we do capitalize on any opportunity that we get, and we just didn't do a great job of that today."

Barbaro elaborated that they need to come out and take a point and not to wait for their opponent to have a moment of weakness. Being aggressive is key; taking advantage is important.

The youth of the team has bled this game where they have not come together as mentioned, but there is confidence and faith that it will click as they get deeper into NE10 play; the holes will be less and less.

"It's extremely frustrating. And the other team, they did a great job," Emery said. "Their defense was picking us up, blocking us, everything. So, you can do a lot of things right, the other team can just do it better."

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PHOTO | LILY RAND

Outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate, goes for the dig.