

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Joel Waterman

Joel Waterman is currently playing for the Montreal Impact, the first player in history to be drafted by an MLS team from the newly formed Canadian Premier League. We caught up with Joel before the MLS season began to hear how his Surrey United Soccer club days provided a foundation to his soccer career.



How has Surrey United contributed to your overall success? When I first came to SUSC I played one year of metro when I was 15 and the BC SPL came a year after when I was 16. At that time SUSC was the top club not only in the province but all of Canada winning 2 national champions in my U16 and U18 years so obviously our success as an organization helped me get noticed and receive a scholarship to Trinity Western University to continue my career. I still keep in touch with some of the players from my years there and also Jeff Clarke who played a massive role in allowing me to express myself as a player while also sharing memories of his own professional days which I eventually aspired to have in my own career as well.

What do you miss about Surrey United? To be honest I miss winning with the club. Obviously, I've had success in other areas and with other teams in my career but SUSC was so dominant and special, winning two national championships in just three years which was rare. It also goes without saying I miss the relationships and the people that were a part of the organization because to get to the level I'm at now it's impossible to do it alone.

What advice do you have for younger players aspiring to follow in your footsteps? I think when you look at my journey it was a very slow incline to become the player I am today. Obviously, I was blessed to have the lanes open with the BC SPL and then a brand new Canadian premier league to showcase Canadian talent, but at the same time I had to be extremely patient and develop my game over many years. My advice would be to be patient and to never doubt yourself as a player. It's inevitable you're going to fail at some point especially in this profession, but it only takes one yes to get you in the door and whenever you have an opportunity take full advantage of it because it might not come again.



Where did the nickname "Watermania" come from? The nickname to be honest I can't even remember where it came from, but it could've been Jeff Clarke. I know it used to be one of my parents' email addresses so I'm sure a lot of people saw it unfortunately. Not one of my favourites but I guess it would be worse!

