

Hall of Fame · Rank 09 of 20

Lawrence Olum

Portland Timbers · USL First Division · Defender



Portrait: Wikipedia — Lawrence Olum

AI score	Career appearances	Career goals	Kenya caps
54/80	285	30	4

Highest transfer fee

\$50,000 / KSh 5.2m (February 2017). Transfer fee, Sporting Kansas City to Portland Timbers — \$50,000 of general allocation money plus a first-round draft pick, at KSh 103.8 to the dollar.

Profile

The American pyramid

A midfielder-turned-defender who built an entire career in North America: the Minnesota Thunder, the Portland Timbers in the USL, and Orlando City, where he won the 2011 USL Pro championship.

Sporting Kansas City

Sporting signed him and gave him 86 regular-season appearances across two spells, with the 2012 US Open Cup and the 2013 MLS Cup — a final he saw out on a fractured fibula.

Malaysia, and back to MLS

A season at Kedah brought the 2015 Malaysia Premier League title, then he returned to Portland for 52 MLS appearances and finished at Minnesota United: 285 senior appearances and 30 goals.

Kenya

He won four caps for the Harambee Stars.

Cup and continental record

The USL Pro championship with Orlando City in 2011, then the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup in 2012 and the MLS Cup in 2013 with Sporting Kansas City — a final he saw out through extra time and penalties on a fractured fibula. CONCACAF Champions League football with Sporting, and the Malaysia Premier League title with Kedah in 2015.

Managers he played under

Adrian Heath managed him at Orlando City and again at Minnesota United; Peter Vermes managed him through the US Open Cup and MLS Cup years at Sporting Kansas City, and Caleb Porter at the Portland Timbers.

Did you know

He won the MLS Cup on a broken leg

Olum fractured his fibula in Sporting Kansas City's final regular-season match of 2013 and still played 112 minutes of the MLS Cup final, through extra time, as Kansas City won it on penalties. A Kenyan defender finished the biggest match in North American club football on a broken leg, and has a winner's medal for it.

112 Minutes played in the 2013 MLS Cup final · 1 Fractured fibula, sustained weeks earlier · 2013 MLS Cup winner with Sporting Kansas City

Source: Sporting Kansas City club record —

<https://www.sportingkc.com/news/sporting-kcs-lawrence-olum-overcomes-broken-leg-win-biggest-game-his-life-mls-cu>

Did you know

Kenya Pipeline to a 7-6 penalty shootout for the MLS Cup

He grew up on the Kenya Pipeline estate in Embakasi and came through the company's team before a scholarship took him to the United States. On 7 December 2013 he came on in the seventh minute of the MLS Cup final for the injured Oriol Rosell and played 112 minutes as Sporting Kansas City beat Real Salt Lake 7-6 on penalties. He is still the only Kenyan to have won it.

112 Minutes played after a 7th-minute entrance · 7-6 The penalty shootout that decided it · Only Kenyan to win the MLS Cup

Source: Olum overcomes a broken leg to win the biggest game of his life — Sporting KC —

<https://www.sportingkc.com/news/sporting-kcs-lawrence-olum-overcomes-broken-leg-win-biggest-game-his-life-mls-cu>

Did you know

He also won a title in Malaysia, in a league nobody at home was watching

Between two spells at Sporting Kansas City he spent 2014 and 2015 at Kedah in Malaysia and won the Premier League there. Four Kenya caps came in the same period, in 2014 and 2015. Since retiring he has taken his coaching licences in Kansas City, coached at Montverde Academy and now Metro Alliance FC, and runs a sports development organisation in Kenya built to send other players down the road he found on his own.

2 Countries he won league titles in · 4 Kenya caps, 2014-2015 · B licence Taken at the Kansas City performance centre

Source: From Pipeline to MLS history — Eastleigh Voice —

<https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/football/374868/from-pipeline-to-mls-history-how-lawrence-olum-became-kenyas-quiet-football-pioneer>

Career record

Defender and midfielder across the MLS and USL with Portland Timbers, Minnesota Thunder, Austin Aztex, Orlando City, Sporting Kansas City, Kedah FA, Minnesota United and Miami FC. Four Kenya caps from his debut against Comoros in May 2014.

Career appearances and goals reconciled against Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Olum)