

Hall of Fame · Rank 14 of 20

Siad Haji

Portland Timbers · MLS · Forward

AI score	Career appearances	Career goals	Kenya caps
42/80	82	7	2

Estimated peak value

\$168,000 / KSh 17m (2019). Estimated, not a transfer fee — a €150,000 valuation around the season he went second overall in the MLS SuperDraft to San Jose, at \$1.12 to the euro and KSh 101.

Profile

From a refugee camp to New Hampshire

A winger born in a Kenyan refugee camp who arrived in the United States in 2004 and started his college football in NCAA Division III at New England College, the bottom of the American pyramid.

Virginia Commonwealth

A transfer to VCU brought five goals, ten assists and the Atlantic 10 Midfielder of the Year award in 2018.

San Jose Earthquakes

The Earthquakes took him second overall in the 2019 MLS SuperDraft as a Generation Adidas signing. He debuted professionally on loan at Reno 1868 and has 82 senior appearances and seven goals.

Cup and continental record

NCAA tournament football with Virginia Commonwealth, then US Open Cup and USL Championship play-off football with the San Jose Earthquakes and Reno 1868 after going second overall in the 2019 draft.

Managers he played under

Matías Almeyda, the Argentina and Lazio midfielder, was head coach at the San Jose Earthquakes when they took him second overall in 2019 and gave him his MLS football.

Did you know

Born in a Kenyan refugee camp, taken second overall in the MLS draft

Haji was born in a refugee camp in Kenya and arrived in the United States in 2004, settling in Manchester, New Hampshire. He began in NCAA Division III at New England College — the bottom of the American college pyramid — transferred to Virginia Commonwealth, and was named Atlantic 10 Midfielder of the Year in 2018 with five goals and ten assists. The San Jose Earthquakes then took him second overall in the 2019 MLS SuperDraft as a Generation Adidas signing. No player has come further, in either sense.

2nd Overall pick, 2019 MLS SuperDraft · 5 + 10 Goals and assists in his award-winning college season · III The NCAA division he started in
Source: ESPN and MLSsoccer.com —
https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/37505945/how-siad-haji-immigrated-kenya-fell-us-soccer-cracks-rose-no-2-mls-superdraft

Did you know

Kakuma refugee camp to the second pick in the MLS draft

He was born on 1 December 1999 in the Kakuma refugee camp in north-western Kenya, after his parents fled Somalia. The family reached the United States in 2004 and settled in Manchester, New Hampshire. He went from New England College to Virginia Commonwealth, was named Atlantic 10 midfielder of the year in 2018, signed as a Generation Adidas player, and was taken second overall by the San Jose Earthquakes in the 2019 MLS SuperDraft.

2nd Overall pick, 2019 MLS SuperDraft · 2004 The year the family reached America · Kakuma The camp in Kenya where he was born
Source: How Siad Haji rose to No. 2 in the MLS SuperDraft — ESPN —
https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/37505945/how-siad-haji-immigrated-kenya-fell-us-soccer-cracks-rose-no-2-mls-superdraft

Did you know

He played for the United States at three youth levels, then chose Somalia

He represented the USA at under-15, under-17 and under-19 level before deciding his senior international football belonged to Somalia, debuting on 23 March 2022 in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Eswatini. His club career has run from San Jose and Reno 1868 through FC Tulsa to Vermont Green — a reminder that a high draft pick guarantees a start, not a career.

3 US youth levels he played at · 2022 His senior debut for Somalia · 4 Professional clubs since the draft

Source: Siad Haji — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siad_Haji

Career record

Born in Kakuma refugee camp and drafted second overall by San Jose Earthquakes in the 2019 MLS SuperDraft, with later spells at Reno 1868, San Jose Earthquakes II, FC Tulsa and Vermont Green. Plays internationally for Somalia.

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