



# News

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ventura County Fusion Signs Agreement to Play Exhibition Game Against World-Renowned Cruz Azul of Mexico's First Division**

***Region's First and Only Championship Soccer Franchise to Challenge One of Mexico's Most Successful, Decorated Teams at 7:00 P.M. PDT on July 1 at Ventura College***

**VENTURA, Calif. — June 14, 2010 —** The Ventura County Fusion (<http://www.vcfusion.com>), the region's first and only world-class, championship-caliber soccer franchise, and the reigning champions of the Premier Development League (PDL), today announced it has signed an agreement to play an exhibition game against world-renowned professional soccer club Cruz Azul of Mexico's First Division at 7:00 p.m. PDT on July 1, 2010, at Ventura College. The announcement, made by Fusion General Manager Ranbir Shergill, marks the first time the Fusion will square off against a professional Mexican squad, and underscores the organization's commitment to facing high-level competition offered by the world's most outstanding professional soccer leagues.



The July 1 match features the Fusion, which currently stands at 5-2-1 in the Southwest Division of the PDL's Western Conference, taking on Cruz Azul's 1a team.

"The Fusion has an excellent track record when challenging prestigious competitors from around the world, including many well-known professional clubs from throughout North America and Europe," said Shergill. "This match against Cruz Azul should be no different. Although this is the first time we've faced a pro team from Mexico's First Division, I fully expect our organization to rise to the occasion again and serve as a formidable opponent to the visiting Los Cementeros. Most importantly, our fans will be treated to one of the most exciting and entertaining matches of the year."

The Fusion has played a number of similar exhibition matches, known as "friendlies," against other professional and pre mier amateur clubs throughout its four-year history. Most recently, the Fusion battled the Mexican National Under 21 team in February to a 1-1 draw. The organization has also faced Everton F.C. and Burnley F.C. of the English Premier League; Hammarby and GAIS of the Swedish First Division; Japanese J-League Champions Oita Trinita; and the Los Angeles Galaxy, Chivas USA, Columbus Crew, Real Salt Lake, and Seattle Sounders of Major League Soccer (MLS).

### ***About Cruz Azul***

Cruz Azul (<http://www.cruz-azul.com.mx/>), the official name of which is Club Deportivo, Social, y Cultural Cruz Azul A.C., is a highly-decorated Mexican professional football club which plays in the Primera División de México (Mexican First Division) at Estadio Azul, located in the southwestern part of Mexico City. Los Cementeros, as they are affectionately called by fans, are traditionally one of the biggest and most successful teams in Mexico, with eight First Division championships, two Copa México titles, five Copa Pachuca victories, and five Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Champions' Cup/League wins.

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***Ticket Pricing and Availability***

Tickets for the Fusion-Cruz Azul match are now on sale and immediately available by contacting Fusion headquarters at (805) 277-9742, or by ordering online at <http://www.vcfusion.com/tickets>. Ticket prices are \$8 each for adults, and \$4 each for children under the age of 12, if purchased in advance through VCFusion.com. At the gate, ticket prices are \$10 each for adults, and \$5 each for youths. All Fusion season ticket holders will be admitted free. Finally, the first 25 attendees will receive a Fusion-logged stadium horn absolutely free.

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**About The Ventura County Fusion**

Based in Ventura, California, the Ventura County Fusion is a successful world-class, championship-caliber soccer franchise and participant in the Western Conference's Southwest Division of the Premier Development League (PDL), an official operation of United Soccer Leagues (USL). Now in its fourth year of operation, the team enters the 2010 season as the reigning PDL Champions. The Fusion's roster consists of members of the U.S.'s Under 20 National Team, players from well-respected NCAA Division I university programs, and highly-touted standouts from international squads throughout the world. In addition to PDL play, the Fusion competes in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, and in various exhibitions against some of the world's best professional squads, including Burnley and Everton of the English Premier League, and Chivas USA and the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer (MLS). The Fusion is one of the few PDL organizations to offer a broad range of soccer instructional programs, including camps, schools, free clinics, and a youth club academy, specifically designed for players of different experience levels. Fusion fans, sponsors, and journalists can follow the team on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VCFusion>; on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/VCFusion>; and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/VCFusion>. For more information on the Ventura County Fusion, please visit <http://www.vcfusion.com>, or e-mail [info@vcfusion.com](mailto:info@vcfusion.com).