



## Joel Waterman, Former Calgary Foothills PDL Player, Signs Professional Contract with MLS' Montreal Impact

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Calgary Foothills Soccer Club would like to congratulate former Foothills PDL standout Joel Waterman for signing a two-year contract with Major League Soccer's Montreal Impact.

The 23-year old defender makes the jump to North America's top professional league after a recent stint with Cavalry FC in the Canadian Premier League (CPL). As a second-round USports draftee, Waterman made 22 appearances while helping Cavalry to the best defensive record in the league. Prior to being drafted, Waterman was an integral member of the 2018 Foothills PDL Championship winning team which was helmed by former Foothills Technical Director and current Cavalry FC Head Coach and GM Tommy Wheeldon Jr.



Waterman remembers his time at Foothills fondly where he was both a player and youth academy coach:

“My time at Foothills was special to me for many different reasons. First, being able to play football with people who were very close to me was a special opportunity to learn and grow together. The club was professional and organized right from the get go, knowing the why behind everything they did. Obviously winning the National Championship was a huge success so far in my career personally, but more important was seeing what Foothills meant to the city of Calgary. What (Foothills) did for me in getting to that next level will be the thing I'll remember most.”

When asked how he was able to progress so quickly from PDL, CPL, and now MLS, Waterman did not hesitate to single out two individuals in particular - Wheeldon Jr. and Leon Hapgood, Calgary Foothills Technical Director/ Cavalry Assistant Coach.

“Both Leon and Tommy played a massive role in helping me get to where I am. I love Leon for his passion for football and it was infectious every time I stepped on the pitch with him. He helped me fix the little details in my game that make me the player I am today, but also he was a great role model to be around to show what it takes to get to that next level. As for Tommy, we had a really good relationship from the very start. He was always honest and upfront with me about what I needed to work on in my game but more importantly, honest about life and how I needed to handle myself as a man off the pitch. To have them both in my corner as I navigate through this next chapter is something I never take for granted.”

Wheeldon Jr. remains ever supportive of Waterman and had this to say about his departure in an interview with CanPL.ca:

“As sad as we are to see him go, we do so wish him all the success he deserves and to do us proud in the process. He now presents another young Canadian with an opportunity to fill his shoes here at the Cavalry.”

Both coach and player recognize the progress that has been made within the Canadian soccer landscape and resulting increase in professional opportunities for Calgary-based players. Waterman expressed gratitude for his involvement with the Foothills organization:

“I think now more than ever we now know that there is serious talent in Canada and so many more players who deserve the same opportunity I’ve been given. Foothills played a massive role in that, with their professionalism and culture and will to create not only winners, but good people who if they so choose will represent well at the professional level. I can’t thank the club as a whole enough for allowing me to be a part of something so special and I wish nothing but the best for them in future years to come.”

Evidently, the future of soccer in Calgary is bright from both an organizational, fan support, and player development perspective. Calgary Foothills wishes Joel all the best in Montreal!

### **About Calgary Foothills Soccer Club**

CFSC was established in 1972 and is the largest soccer club in Calgary and a Canada Soccer Youth Club Licence holder. The club currently provides soccer programming to 3000 members over 100 teams, ranging from grassroots to semi-professional levels. The club has won 8 Youth CSA National Championships and was the USL II (formerly PDL) Champion in 2018. In 2019, Foothills FC (USL II) and Foothills WFC (UWS) were winners of their respective Western Conferences, with the women’s side finishing as Finalists in the UWS National Championship.