



OFFICIAL GAME NOTES

GAME 1

Sunday, March 3, 6 p.m. (Arizona time)
Pechanga Arena, San Diego, CA
Television: YouTube Channel @ www.goifl.com



AT



(0-0)

(0-1)

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result
3/3	@ San Diego	
3/10	Bismarck	
3/16	@ Arizona	
3/31	San Diego	
4/6	@ Nebraska	
4/14	Arizona	
4/20	@ Quad City	
4/27	Iowa	
5/4	San Diego	
5/9	@ San Diego	
5/18	@ Bismarck	
5/25	Arizona	
6/8	@ Arizona	
6/18	Quad City	

STANDINGS

Team	W	L	PCT
Arizona	1	0	1.00
Nebraska	1	0	1.00
Quad City	1	0	1.00
Sioux Falls	1	0	1.00
Iowa	0	0	.000
Tucson	0	0	.000
Bismarck	0	1	.000
Cedar Rapids	0	1	.000
Green Bay	0	1	.000
San Diego	0	1	.000

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Sugar Skulls Making History

When they take the field Sunday in San Diego, the Tucson Sugar Skulls will be the first professional football team from Tucson, Arizona to take a snap.

The Sugar Skulls arrive with a first-year head coach Marcus Coleman who is coming off a United Bowl championship as defensive coordinator for the Iowa Barnstormers.

The team 25-man roster is a mix of indoor football veterans and rookies but includes two quarterbacks with IFL experience.

Jake Medlock and Matt Behrendt joined the team late in training camp, and both have impressive résumés. Medlock led the IFL in passing yards (2,616), completions (265) and touchdowns (47) in 2018 playing for the Cedar Rapids Titans, now known as the River Kings. Behrendt spent the 2016 and 2017 seasons with the Green Bay Blizzard. Neither has been named the starter.

The Sugar Skulls have another veteran in the backfield in running back Shad Thornton, 6,1", 230 pounds, who rushed for seven touchdowns in six games with the Arizona Rattlers last season.

Defensively, the Sugar Skulls have two of the best players in the IFL with All-IFL defensive lineman Keith Jones Jr. and All-IFL linebacker Zach Allen, both of whom were with the Barnstormers in 2018. Jones was third in the league with 5½ sacks. Allen led the Barnstormers with 84 total tackles.

"We will be fast and we will be physical," Coleman said as the Sugar Skulls prepared for their first game. "I'm happy with the talent we're putting on the field. We're not approaching this season as a new franchise building for the future. We're trying to win a championship right now."

Notes & Numbers

- This week's game pits the two new IFL franchises against each other for the first of four meetings this season. The Sugar Skulls had a season-opening bye week while the Strike Force lost their season opener at the Quad City Steamwheelers, 67-49.
- The Sugar Skulls have four players on their roster who played their high school football in the Tucson area. Linebacker **Robert Metz** is from Canyon Del Oro High School, offensive lineman **Antonio Rosales** played at Tucson High School, defensive back **Cam Gaddis** played at Santa Rita High School and Pima Community College, and offensive lineman **Alejandro Rios** played at Sahuarita High School, just south of Tucson.
- In addition to Coach Coleman, the Sugar Skulls coaching staff has two more coaches from the defending IFL champion Barnstormers. **Hurtis Chinn** is the team's offensive coordinator and **Malcolm Nelson** coaches the defensive line and is the special teams coordinator. The fourth member of the coaching staff is **Don Wnek**, a veteran coach in the professional ranks.
- The Sugar Skulls have three players from last year's All-IFL first- and second-team defenses. Linebacker **Zach Allen** and defensive lineman **Keith Jones Jr.** were named to the first team. **Robert Metz** was named to the second team at linebacker.

Head Coach

Marcus Coleman



Marcus Coleman made his coaching debut in indoor football in 2016 as a defensive backs coach with the Tri-Cities Fever.

Recognizing his capability and coaching acumen, he was hired the next year to be the defensive coordinator by the Iowa Barnstormers. The Barnstormers had the top ranked defense in the IFL in 2018 on the way to a United Bowl Championship.

"When we launched the search for our head coach, we wanted to find a leader that could take us to where we want to go. I am confident we have found that in Marcus Coleman," said Tucson Sugar Skulls Owner and Founder **Kevin Guy**.

Coleman was an All-American defensive back at Texas Tech University and played for 11 years in the NFL from 1996 to 2016. He was a fifth-round draft pick of the New York Jets and played for the Jets until he was taken by the expansion Houston Texans in 2002. He finished his career in 2006 with the Dallas Cowboys.



25-MAN ROSTER

Alphabetical

35	Allen, Zach	LB	6'2	230	Wake Forest University
21	Anderson, Carlos	DB	6'0	190	Portland State University
16	Behrendt, Matt	QB	6'2	205	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
1	Bethel II, Nigel	DB	5'9	185	Texas Tech University
82	Brown, Jarid	WR	5'11	190	Western Illinois University
9	Curenton, Shaquan	WR	6'0	190	Scottsdale Community College
7	Gaddis, Cam	DB	6'2	195	Pima Community College
24	James, Kenneth	DB	5'10	200	Southern Illinois University
8	Jones, Mike	RB	5'10	215	Bethune-Cookman University
55	Jones Jr., Keith	DL	6'1	310	University of Tennessee at Martin
93	Kluge, Michael	DL	5'9	275	Western Oregon University
23	Maggitt Jr., Dee	DB	5'10	185	University of Hawaii
22	Marquez, Diego	K	6'1	215	University of Miami
5	Medlock, Jake	QB	6'3	225	Florida International University
15	Metz, Robert	DL	6'4	250	Dixie State University
64	Montero, Mike	OL	6'2	310	Florida International University
88	Philip, Shakore	DL	6'1	310	Widener University
84	Rasberry, Donovan	WR	5'8	170	Winston-Salem State University
70	Rios, Alex	OL	6'3	280	East Tennessee State University
67	Rosales, Antonio	OL	6'4	305	San Diego State University
6	Sampson, Brandon	WR	5'9	180	Midwestern State University

Numerical

1	DB	Nigel Bethel II
5	QB	Jake Medlock
6	WR	Brandon Sampson
7	DB	Cam Gaddis
8	RB	Mike Jones
9	WR	Shaquan Curenton
15	DL	Robert Metz
16	QB	Matt Behrendt
21	DB	Carlos Anderson
22	K	Diego Marquez
23	DB	Dee Maggitt Jr.
24	DB	Kenneth James
35	LB	Zach Allen
55	DL	Keith Jones Jr.
64	OL	Mike Montero
67	OL	Antonio Rosales
70	OL	Alex Rios
82	WR	Jarid Brown
84	WR	Donovan Rasberry
88	DL	Shakore Philip
93	DL	Michael Kluge

INACTIVE GAME 1

29	Morris, Darius	LB	6'1	230	Carson-Newman University
99	Nikocevic, Rusmin	DL	6'4	270	Texas State University
73	Saunders, Trenton	OL	6'4	305	Florida International University
10	Thornton, Shad	RB	6'1	230	North Carolina State University

10	RB	Shad Thornton
29	LB	Darius Morris
73	OL	Trenton Saunders
99	DL	Rusmin Nikocevic