

## Players to watch:

### **QB Zach Bronkhorst:**

Zach Bronkhorst, hailing from Galveston, USA, is a quarterback whose journey in football has been marked by both individual accolades and team success. Beginning his football career at High Island High School, Bronkhorst showcased his athletic versatility by also excelling in basketball during his high school years, under the coaching guidance of his father, John Bronkhorst. His collegiate years saw him as a prominent figure for the ASU Rams, where he left an indelible mark on the field. Bronkhorst's standout performances earned him recognition in the Lone Star Conference, including placements in the Second-Team Offense and the All-Academic Team in 2021, followed by a First-Team Offense selection in 2022. In his final college season, Bronkhorst's statistics spoke volumes about his skill and leadership as a quarterback. Completing 236 passes out of 422 attempts for an impressive 3,168 yards and 26 touchdowns, he demonstrated his ability to command the field and lead his team to victory. Additionally, he added a rushing touchdown to his impressive resume.

### **RB Patrick Carr:**

Patrick Carr, born on September 22, 1995, is an American football player currently plying his trade for the Milano Seamen in the European League of Football. Carr's career trajectory has been characterized by versatility and adaptability, having traversed various leagues and teams. Carr began his college football journey with the Colorado Buffaloes before transferring to the University of Houston. As a freshman, he made significant contributions, earning recognition as Colorado's Freshman of the Year while playing in all 12 games. Upon transferring to Houston, Carr emerged as a starter and showcased his talent, amassing 868 yards and 5 touchdowns during his junior season. Following his college tenure, Carr ventured into the NFL as an undrafted free agent, securing a contract with the Seattle Seahawks. However, his stint with the Seahawks was marred by challenges as he struggled to solidify his place on the roster, facing multiple releases and re-signings. Ultimately, Carr succumbed to injury and was placed on the injured reserve list. Subsequently, Carr transitioned to the Canadian Football League (CFL), joining the Ottawa Redblacks. Despite his efforts, his tenure with the Redblacks was short-lived, culminating in his release in 2022.

### **WR Juan Flores-Calderon:**

Juan Flores-Calderon is a talented wide receiver currently playing for the Milano Seamen. He clinched the "Rookie of the Year" title in the European League of Football in 2023, showcasing his impressive skills on the field. At just 19 years old, he caught 43 passes for 817 yards and scored 9 touchdowns in his rookie season. Flores-Calderon began his athletic journey in Spain as a rugby player before his family relocated to Milan in 2017. Inspired by his brother, he transitioned to American football. Initially starting on the defensive side, he soon found his niche as a wide receiver on the offensive front, where he achieved significant success. Fondly known as "Blue Navy," he embodies the tradition of the Milano Seamen team. He shares a deep bond with his coaching staff and teammates and aspires to pursue his studies in Milan while continuing to play with the team he considers his second family.



**Last season's stats:** 43 rec, 817 Receiving yards, 9 TDs

**WR Tommy Wilson:**

Tommy Wilson, born on September 8, 2001, in Leeds, United Kingdom, is a wide receiver currently playing for the Milano Seamen. Wilson's journey in football saw him start with the Oxford Saints in 2022 before moving to the Dresden Monarchs in 2023 and eventually landing with the Milano Seamen in 2024. In 2023, he earned recognition as the Most Improved Offensive Player, highlighting his dedication and growth in the sport. Beyond football, Wilson has a diverse athletic background, having been involved in rugby, soccer, basketball, MMA, and karate before finding his passion in football. His father introduced him to the sport through television, sparking his initial interest. During the offseason, Wilson works on construction sites, showcasing his work ethic and determination both on and off the field.

**Last season's stats:** 74 rec, 1161 Receiving yards, 16 TDs

**DT Marco Taddia:**

Marco Taddia, born on May 21st in Italy. Taddia's career began with the Aquile Ferrara before he played for the Glendale Community College Gauchos in the USA in 2017 and 2018. During this time, he also competed for the Seamen Milano in Italy. He later continued his college career at the University of Jamestown before joining the Guelfi Firenze in 2021 and eventually returning to the Milano Seamen. His accomplishments include two Italian Bowl Championships with the Seamen Milano (2017, 2018) as well as winning the European Championship in 2021. Throughout his playing seasons, Taddia has demonstrated solid performances with impressive statistics, including tackles, tackles for loss (TFL), and sacks.

**Last season's stats:** 11 tackles, 1.5 sacks, 3.5 TFL, in 5 Games

**DE Samuele Cavallini:**

Samuele Cavallini, born on August 9th, 1998, in Italy. Cavallini's football journey began with Puma Milano from 2006 to 2009 before joining the Seamen Milano from 2010 to 2016. He then spent time with the Clearwater Academy HS Knights in 2015 and 2016, followed by a stint at Chabot Junior College Gladiators from 2017 to 2018. He continued his college career at Fort Lewis College Skyhawks in 2019 before returning to Italy to play for Daemons Cernusco in 2021 and later joining Cisalfa Seamen Milano in 2022. Since 2023, he has been with the Milano Seamen. Throughout his career, Cavallini has achieved notable success, including winning the Italian U16 Championship in 2013 and the Italian U19 Championship in 2014 and 2016. He also contributed to winning the Italian Bowl Championship in 2015. Cavallini has received recognition for his talents, such as being named to the JuCo All-Conference First Team in 2018. He comes from a football family, with his brother Alessio and stepbrother Niccolò also involved in the sport. His father, Guido, has served as a head coach for various teams.

Apart from football, Cavallini holds a degree in criminology and justice sciences. He has consistently demonstrated his skills on the field, leading in tackles and sacks for his teams in



multiple seasons. Notably, he participated in the Intercontinental Bowl in 2017 as part of the Europe Warriors team. In the 2022 season, Cavallini showcased his versatility with a 50-yard fumble return touchdown and impressive defensive statistics, including tackles, tackles for loss (TFL), and sacks, solidifying his importance to the Milano Seamen's defense.

**Last season's stats:** 18 tackles, 1 TFL, in 6 Games

### **LB Zachary Blair:**

Zachary Blair, born on May 1st, 1995, in Front Royal, USA. Blair's football journey began at Skyline High School Hawks from 2009 to 2012, where he earned numerous accolades, including High School All-Region First Team and High School Region Division Defensive Player of the Year in 2012. He continued his football career at UVA Wise Cavaliers from 2013 to 2016, where he left a significant mark, earning College All-Conference First Team honors for three consecutive years and being named Virginia's Small College Linebacker of the Year twice. After college, Blair embarked on an international football career, playing for various teams across Europe. He contributed to the Ancona Dolphins, Lowlanders Białystok, Wasa Royals, Warsaw Mets, and Stuttgart Surge, among others, before joining the Milano Seamen in 2024. Throughout his career, Blair has amassed numerous accolades and achievements, including setting the NCAA Division II record for Tackles for Loss with 80.5. He has also received recognition for his performance on the field, such as being named to the ELF All-Star First Team in 2022.

Notably, Blair was part of Team USA at the 2017 World Games in Breslau, where he contributed to winning the bronze medal. His impressive statistics in the European League of Football include 127 tackles, 25 Tackles for Loss, 1.5 sacks, and several other notable contributions during the 2022 season.

**Last season's stats:** 73 tackles, 4 sacks, 18 TFL, 2 Forced Fumbles, 1 Fumble Recovery in 10 Games

### **DB Marquise Manning:**

Marquise Manning, born on November 4th, 1997, in New Jersey, USA. Manning's football journey began at Bayonne High School Bees, where he showcased his skills on the field before continuing his career at Washburn University Ichabods from 2016 to 2021. During his time at Washburn University, Manning earned several accolades, including College All-Conference Honorable Mention in 2019 and College All-Super Region First Team in 2021. Notably, Manning contributed to the success of the Washburn University team, winning the Heart of Texas Bowl in 2017. His impressive performance on the field, including 27 tackles, 3 interceptions, 9 pass-break-ups, and 1 blocked kick in the 2021 college season, earned him recognition as part of the College All-Conference First Team in the same year. Outside of football, Manning also displayed his athletic abilities by participating in basketball during his high school years. Additionally, he showcased his speed and agility at the NFL Pro Day at Pittsburgh State, recording an impressive 40-yard dash time of 4.51 seconds and a 9'10" Broad Jump.

Despite initially signing a two-year contract with the UFL team Chicago Blue Bombers in the



fall of 2022, Manning ultimately decided to join the Milano Seamen in 2023, bringing his talent and experience to the European football scene.

**Last season's stats:** 41 tackles, 0.5 TFL, 3 INT, 13 Pass Break-ups, 1 Forced Fumble in 8 Games

## **Stadium:**

### **Velodromo Maspes-Vigorelli:**

Capacity: 9000. Opened in 1935, the stadium is primarily used as a racing bike track. The Velodromo is named after its builder Guiseppe Vigorelli and Milanese bicycle race icon Antonio Maspes. The stadium is home of three American Football teams: Rhinos Milano, Milano Seamen and Sirene Milano (Seamen women's football team). The stadium also hosted a concert of The Beatles in 1965 and a Led Zeppelin concert in 1971.

## **Coaching Staff:**

### **Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator - Jim Ward:**

Jim Ward, born in 1957 in Canyon, Texas, United States, is an American football coach. In the 2024 season, he serves as the Head Coach of the Milano Seamen in the European League of Football. Ward's own football career saw him playing as a Strong Safety and Linebacker.

Prior to his coaching role in Europe, Ward served as a high school football coach in Texas. He also held coaching positions at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor (NCAA Division III) and Carson Newman College (NCAA Division II). Since 2011, Ward has been active in Europe, starting with a role as the Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator (DC) of the Seinäjoki Crocodiles. Under his leadership, the team reached the finals of the Finnish championship, the Maple Bowl, in their first season. The following season, they made it to the semifinals. In 2013, he led the Örebro Black Knights to victory in the Swedish Superserien. From 2014 to 2016, Ward served as the Head Coach of the Prague Black Panthers, winning the Czech championship three times and participating in the Austrian Football League. He then moved to the Carinthian Lions in Klagenfurt, where he coached for two years in the AFL Division 1. In 2019, he won the Hungarian championship as the Head Coach of the Fehérvár Enthroners. Following an engagement with the Lübeck Cougars in 2022, he became the Defensive Coordinator of the New Yorker Lions in the German Football League. For the 2023 season, he became the Defensive Coordinator of the newly established Swiss franchise, the Helvetic Guards, in the European League of Football. In 2024, he was appointed as the Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator of the Milano Seamen.

### **Offensive Coordinator - Malik Hoskins**

Hoskins brings extensive coaching experience to the Seamen, having led Lincoln's football program since 2019. During his tenure, Hoskins demonstrated his ability to develop young talent, guiding the Blue Tigers to competitive performances in the MIAA conference. With a



background as both an offensive coordinator and head coach, Hoskins has a proven track record of player development and success on the field. His coaching expertise extends beyond football, as he also served as the head track & field coach during his tenure at Lane University. Originally from Philadelphia, Hoskins holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Southern Mississippi. He is dedicated to player development and has mentored numerous athletes who have gone on to play professionally.

## **Game against the Raiders - Strategy, details and more**