

VIVA HOUSTON

THE MAGAZINE



DOMINGO GARCIA
LAW OFFICE



THE MAGAZINE
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DYNAMO
ROCKETS
ASTROS
TEXANS
ROUGHNECK
SPACE COWBOYS
SABERCATS
BOXING
CONCERTS

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| TEXANS BACKFIELD BATTLE

Training camp opens July 20, and Houston's running back room is already the talk of the league. Dameon Pierce arrives leaner, eager to prove his rookie flash was no fluke, while versatile veteran Dare Ogunbowale wants to cement his spot as the ultimate change-of-pace option. Coaches will mix power and outside-zone looks, so both skill sets matter. Early walkthroughs show Pierce exploding through tight seams; Ogunbowale is lining up wide to showcase soft hands. Special-teams snaps could be the tiebreaker, but insiders insist the staff may ride a hot-hand rotation. Either way, iron sharpens iron, and the real winner is a Texans offense built on relentless ground pressure.



NICK CHUBB AND A NEW OFFENSIVE IDENTITY

Houston didn't just sign Nick Chubb—they redefined their attitude. The four-time Pro Bowler arrived at OTAs quietly, then bulldozed through sled drills like a man on a mission. His surgically repaired knee looks strong; trainers report he hit 20 mph on the GPS sprint test. Younger backs hover around him in film sessions, soaking up wisdom about vision and leverage. Coaches say the play-action game will thrive because Chubb commands eight-man fronts. Expect more two-tight-end sets, heavier motion, and the kind of bruising December football Houston fans crave. If Chubb is even 90 percent of his peak, the Texans jump from frisky to formidable overnight.



KEVIN DURANT LANDS IN H-TOWN

You read that right: Kevin Durant is a Houston Rocket, and Toyota Center hasn't stopped buzzing. His introductory presser felt like a celebration and a challenge rolled into one. Durant praised the franchise's vision, called the city "basketball-smart," and grinned when asked about chasing another ring. Early scrimmages with Alperen Şengün drew gasps—Durant's mid-post footwork next to Sengün's no-look dimes looks unfair. Ticket demand spiked 300 percent in 48 hours, local streetwear shops launched KD-in-Space-City T-shirts, and kids on outdoor courts are already perfecting pull-up threes. Houston isn't rebuilding anymore; it's reloading with star power.



VANVLEET'S LEADERSHIP & ROSTER CHEMISTRY

Extending Fred VanVleet for two more seasons was less about numbers and more about heartbeat. Coaches call him “the metronome” because he sets the pace in drills and keeps the locker room on tempo. VanVleet’s film sessions spotlight little things—screen angles, weak-side tagging—that transform young players into pros. With Durant on board, Fred pivots into pure orchestrator mode: drive-and-kick reads, late-clock calm, defensive quarterbacking. He’s also mentoring second-round pick Tyson Alexander on pre-practice prep, proving culture is contagious. Championship talk is lofty, but Houston’s core believes that their point guard never blinks.



ASTROS: YORDAN ÁLVAREZ SET TO RETURN

The Houston Astros are preparing for a key boost in July with the anticipated return of slugger Yordan Álvarez. After missing 47 games due to injury, the All-Star designated hitter is slowly being worked back into form. Manager Joe Espada has expressed cautious optimism, saying the team wants him at full strength for the late-season push. With his power bat back in the mix, the Astros' lineup becomes one of the most dangerous in baseball again.

Álvarez's absence has been felt, but the team has stayed competitive thanks to solid pitching and timely hitting. July features critical matchups against division rivals, and Álvarez's timing could be perfect. Fans are hopeful his comeback can spark a hot streak leading into August. His presence alone changes how pitchers approach every hitter in the order.



ASTROS JULY OUTLOOK: HEATING UP FOR A PLAYOFF RUN

The Astros enter July with playoff intentions and momentum after strong wins against the Phillies and Cubs. Mauricio Dubón impresses defensively, while Framber Valdez and Hunter Brown anchor a reliable rotation. José Altuve remains a steady force at the plate, recently delivering key hits to clinch series victories. The team's resilience has kept them near the top of the AL West standings.

This month, the Astros will be tested in road trips and home series that could decide their postseason fate. Houston Chronicle writers note that despite a few hiccups, the team is trending upward. With Yordan's return and bullpen improvements underway, expect a tighter, more focused Astros squad through July. Each series is now a must-win.



DYNAMO VS. ST. LOUIS CITY SC: FRIDAY NIGHT REDEMPTION

On Friday, June 28, the Houston Dynamo return to Shell Energy Stadium to host St. Louis City SC in a must-win match. The Dynamo are coming off a rough stretch of performances, and fans are demanding a strong response. The match preview from [MLSSoccer.com](#) warns that St. Louis is an aggressive, high-press team — a dangerous matchup for a Houston side trying to find rhythm. Head coach Ben Olsen is expected to make tactical changes to reenergize the attack.

Houston's midfield will need to be sharp and defensively alert, especially in transition. After back-to-back losses, this game carries weight not just in the standings but for morale. The Dynamo knows the fans are watching and expecting urgency. Friday night under the lights in H-Town — it's time to respond.



SHELL ENERGY STADIUM ADDS ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE BLIND

This summer, the Houston Dynamo are leading the way in MLS with the installation of the RightHear audio navigation system at Shell Energy Stadium. The technology provides real-time voice guidance to help blind and visually impaired fans navigate concourses, restrooms, seating areas, and food zones independently. With this update, Houston becomes the first MLS team to implement this type of tool stadium-wide.

The initiative reflects the club's ongoing effort to make soccer inclusive for every fan in the city. Supporters with vision loss can now experience matchday with dignity, safety, and confidence. It's a move that's being celebrated nationally — and one more reason Houston remains a leader on and off the field.



RAYADAS DE MONTERREY VS. HOUSTON DASH: JULY 8 AT SHELL ENERGY

The Houston Dash will host Liga MX Femenil powerhouse Rayadas de Monterrey on Monday, July 8, at Shell Energy Stadium. This international exhibition promises to be one of the most exciting women's soccer events of the summer in Houston. Rayadas arrive with star power and a history of strong performances in continental competitions. For the Dash, this is an opportunity to test themselves against elite competition and showcase the growing strength of the NWSL.

This match also strengthens cross-border soccer connections between Houston and Monterrey, two cities deeply rooted in football culture. Fans can expect a festive, competitive, and high-energy environment. Don't miss this celebration of women's soccer in the heart of H-Town.



HOUSTON CELEBRATES 713 DAY: SOCCER, MUSIC & CULTURE

On Saturday, July 13, the Houston Dynamo are bringing the city together for a massive “H-Town Night” celebration as part of 713 Day festivities. The event includes pregame activations, cultural performances, and a night match that will honor the diverse neighborhoods that make Houston what it is. From East End to Acres Homes, fans are invited to wear their favorite local gear and represent their area.

This isn’t just a game — it’s a citywide block party. The club will roll out exclusive merchandise, food vendors, and special guests during the match experience. 713 Day is Houston’s way of saying, “This city is ours.” And Shell Energy Stadium is where the party begins.



DASH DROP TO 10 PLAYERS IN ROAD LOSS TO NORTH CAROLINA

In late June, the Dash suffered a 1-0 defeat on the road to North Carolina Courage after being reduced to 10 players. The red card shifted momentum, forcing Houston into a defensive shell for much of the second half. Despite several key saves and a gutsy effort, the Courage broke through in the final minutes.

While disappointing, the Dash showed grit and cohesion under pressure — something to build on heading into their next home fixtures. The coaching staff will look to regroup, particularly on discipline and possession. The team remains focused on bouncing back before their big July 8 clash against Rayadas.



BaHOUSTON SABERCATS

SABERCATS GEAR UP FOR MLR CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWDOWN

The Houston SaberCats are just one win away from their first Major League Rugby title. They'll face the New England Free Jacks in the MLR Championship on Saturday, July 5, in a battle of contrasting styles. The Free Jacks bring fast-paced play, but Houston has size, structure, and one of the league's most complete rosters. For Houston, this isn't just another match — it's a statement game years in the making.

Head coach Pote Human emphasized that the team's game plan is built on control, physicality, and well-timed kicks. The SaberCats have been peaking at the right time, with standout performances from hooker Seth Smith, who's only 20 years old but plays with the poise of a seasoned pro. The team is also expected to stick with its winning lineup from the semifinal, showing trust in the chemistry that got them this far. Houston fans have waited for this. And now, it's here.



WE DIDN'T COME THIS FAR TO COME THIS FAR": SABERCATS LOCKED IN

There's a new attitude in the Sabercats camp: hungry, focused, and unapologetically confident. The players know this championship is about more than a trophy — it's about putting Houston rugby on the map. In a team meeting earlier this week, the message was clear: "We didn't travel this far to come this far." The squad has dealt with injuries, long road trips, and doubters. None of it matters now.

The organization has made huge strides, building not only a team but a fanbase that believes. This championship run has electrified Houston's rugby scene, drawing media attention and new fans to every match. If the SaberCats seal the deal on July 5, it won't just be a title — it'll be a turning point for the sport in Houston.

LIVE IN HOUSTON: JULY CONCERT CALENDAR

July in H-Town means the stage stays hot and the venues stay packed. From rap and rock to brass bands and burlesque, the city's music scene is locked in across 713 Music Hall, House of Blues, and more.

713 MUSIC HALL

DOWNTOWN HOUSTON

- **Fri, July 18 – Mo Amer: El Oso Palestino Tour**

Houston's own Emmy-nominated comedian returns home for a night of raw, smart, and fearless storytelling.

- **Sat, July 19 – Alicia Villarreal: Donde Todo Comenzó 2.0**

Mexican pop royalty takes the stage for a night of pure nostalgia and powerhouse vocals.

- **Tues, July 22 – WWE NXT Live on the CW**

It's not a concert, but it's loud. Live pro wrestling takes over the 713.

- **Tues, July 29 – VOLBEAT with Halestorm**

Heavy riffs, hard rock energy — this is where the walls shake and the fans roar.

HOUSE OF BLUES

GREENSTREET, DOWNTOWN

- **Sat, July 5 – Bop To The Top**

A dance party built for the throwback crowd. Expect big beats and bigger sing-alongs.

- **Thurs, July 10 – Chained Saint**

Live metal in an intimate setting. Loud. Raw. Unfiltered.

- **Fri, July 11 – Rebirth Brass Band**

Straight from New Orleans, bringing the horns and soul that light up a room.

- **Sat, July 12 – Carousel Club Burlesque**

A vibrant mix of classic glamour and live performance art.

- **Sat, July 12 – The Psychedelic Furs**

Post-punk legends return with timeless sounds and deep cuts.

- **Sun, July 20 – Trae Tha Truth**

H-Town legend. Don't miss this hometown takeover.

- **Sun, July 27 – Ab-Soul: Soul Burger Tour**

Top Dawg lyricism meets experimental soul in a night of pure flow.

- **Tues, July 29 – Chris Isaak**

The iconic crooner brings heart, hits, and Hollywood charm.



JULY FIGHT NIGHTS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM ESPN'S BOXING SCHEDULE

ESPN's July boxing calendar is stacked, giving Houston fight fans plenty to stream between local sports runs. Early in the month, the lightweight clash of William Zepeda vs. Isaac Cruz headlines a fireworks-weekend show that promises nonstop volume punching. Mid-July moves to super-welterweight action as Erickson Lubin faces Tim Tszyu in a crossroads bout; the winner edges closer to undisputed status, and the loser resets. Closing the month, light-heavyweight prospect Joshua Buatsi gets his stiffest test yet against veteran Callum Smith, a matchup built on power vs. precision.

Though none of these fights land in Houston, the timing is perfect: fans can catch the Dynamo or Astros by day, then settle in at night for prime-time slugfests. Keep an eye on the undercards—ESPN's summer shows are known for surprise upsets and breakout performances. If you're hungry for local boxing news, circle August: promoters are teasing a late-summer club show at Bayou City Event Center, details TBA.



TEXANS DEPTH CHART DEBATE: PIERCE VS. OGUNBOWALE

Battle Red Blog's June fan poll has Houston buzzing over who should lock down the RB3 slot. Dameon Pierce draws support for raw burst and upside—voters remember his rookie-season flashes where arm tackles bounced off. Dare Ogunbowale, meanwhile, earns points for reliability: he protects the quarterback, catches passes, and rarely coughs up the ball.

Coaches will let camp decide, but early July walkthroughs hint Pierce is first in line for inside-zone reps, while Ogunbowale works with the two-minute unit. Both backs know Chubb and presumed RB2 Devin Singletary soak up the spotlight; RB3 is about special-teams hustle, blitz pickup, and seizing every preseason carry. Whichever runner proves indispensable on fourth-quarter drives will claim the jersey on opening day.



THE 'DARING SWAP' THAT COULD RESHAPE THE TEXANS

Sports Illustrated reports the Texans are being “pressed” to execute a bold trade before pads go on. Front-office chatter centers on flipping a defensive starter plus picks for a proven edge rusher, fortifying DeMeco Ryans’ pass-rush plan. The logic: Houston’s secondary looks solid, but pressure wins playoff games, and adding a double-digit-sack threat would tilt the AFC South race.

Cap-wise, Houston kept room by structuring Nick Chubb’s deal at just \$2.5 million in base salary with incentives that elevate to \$5 million only if he tops 1,300 scrimmage yards. That flexibility now fuels trade whispers. If GM Nick Caserio pulls the trigger, expect movement by mid-July so the newcomer has all of camp to integrate. Texans brass maintains they’ll act only if the value matches long-term vision—no panic moves, just calculated aggression.



DRAFT DOMINOES: HOW THE DURANT DEAL SHUFFLED HOUSTON'S PICKS

When the Suns sent Kevin Durant to Houston, a ripple hit the second round of the 2025 NBA Draft. As SI's draft-coverage breakdown explains, the Rockets used the acquired No. 59 pick on versatile forward Jahmai Mashack—a defensive stopper who fits coach Ime Udoka's switch-heavy scheme. Phoenix, benefiting from Houston's No. 10, grabbed 7-foot prospect Khaman Maluach, showing how one blockbuster reshapes two war rooms in minutes.

The takeaway for Rockets fans: even after swinging big for Durant, GM Rafael Stone kept an eye on developmental depth. Mashack isn't expected to crack the main rotation in October, but look for him in Summer League locking up ball-handlers end-to-end. Late-round gems have fueled competitive benches for years; Houston hopes this is another.



WHAT THE DURANT TRADE REALLY MEANS FOR HOUSTON

DreamShake analysts frame the Durant move as Houston's "move-from-rebuild to contention" moment. With a two-time Finals MVP on board, expectations leap from play-in hopes to Western Conference dark-horse. Yet the blog stresses culture counts: Durant's arrival works only if veterans and youngsters buy into shared roles.

Early July workouts show Alperen Şengün and Durant already drilling high-post hand-offs—an offensive wrinkle that could unlock mismatches nightly. Add Fred VanVleet's extension, and the locker room now features championship DNA at all three levels of the court. The conclusion: titles aren't promised, but Houston finally owns a roster built to chase one.



VS



HOUSTON DASH: READY FOR MONTERREY

The Dash have their sights set on an international clash this July as they host Rayadas de Monterrey at Shell Energy Stadium. Scheduled for Monday, July 8, this friendly match brings Liga MX Femenil energy to the Bayou City. Rayadas, one of the top clubs in Mexico, are expected to field a strong squad, making this a perfect midseason challenge for Houston.

Dash fans are hoping for a bounce back after a tough June. With international competition providing a chance to sharpen tactics and try new formations, this matchup is more than just for show — it's about momentum. Gates open early, with activations planned around H-Town pride and women's soccer growth in the region. Expect a packed house and a taste of cross-border rivalry.



VS



DYNAMO VS. ST. LOUIS CITY: MUST-WIN IN THE WEST

Houston Dynamo return to Shell Energy Stadium for a critical Western Conference test against St. Louis City SC. The match, set for Friday, June 28 at 7:30 PM, wraps up a two-game week that has fans and players alike calling for urgency. The Dynamo are searching for consistency after recent struggles on both ends of the pitch.

St. Louis, despite a rocky season, remain dangerous — especially in transition. For Houston, midfield control and defensive shape will be key. The team will lean on leaders like Héctor Herrera to spark the attack and keep the tempo. With playoff positioning on the line, three points at home are non-negotiable. Supporters' groups plan a full-stadium display, so bring the energy.

ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES: DYNAMO LEAD THE LEAGUE IN INCLUSION

Shell Energy Stadium just became one of the most inclusive venues in MLS. The Houston Dynamo have rolled out new accessibility features for fans who are blind or visually impaired. These upgrades include real-time match audio descriptions via mobile devices and dedicated ADA seating with optimal sightlines and support.

It's more than a tech update — it's a statement that Houston sports belong to everyone. The organization worked closely with community advocates to design solutions that enhance the matchday experience without adding barriers. As MLS teams nationwide explore accessibility, the Dynamo are setting the standard. For fans who haven't felt fully seen or supported at games before, July's home fixtures are a chance to experience soccer like never before.

16
JUNSPACE CITY
BIRRIA
TACOS AND MOREHOUSTON, TX
TOYOTA CENTER

SHAKIRA

LAS MUJERES YA NO LLORAN WORLD TOUR



SHAKIRA HEATS UP HOUSTON

Colombian superstar Shakira arrived in the city this June for her Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran World Tour at Toyota Center — and she lit the house on fire. With chart-toppers like “Te Felicito”, “BZRP Music Sessions, Vol. 53” and “TQG” live, fans got a night filled with energy, emotion, and unforgettable moments. She hit every beat, mixing EDM, reggaeton, bachata, and rock across a setlist spanning her entire career. It wasn’t just a concert — it was a showcase of her global sound and unbroken connection to Latin roots.

From the minute she stepped on the stage, the atmosphere shifted — chants, cheers, and emotions echoed throughout the venue. Multiple costume changes, fan interactions, and moments of reflection between hits created a true concert experience. After such a remarkable show, Houston’s fans are already calling for a return in 2026. Shakira reminded everyone: this city loves her, and she loves it back.

YANDEL

SINFÓNICO

USA TOUR 2025

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TICKET GIVEAWAY

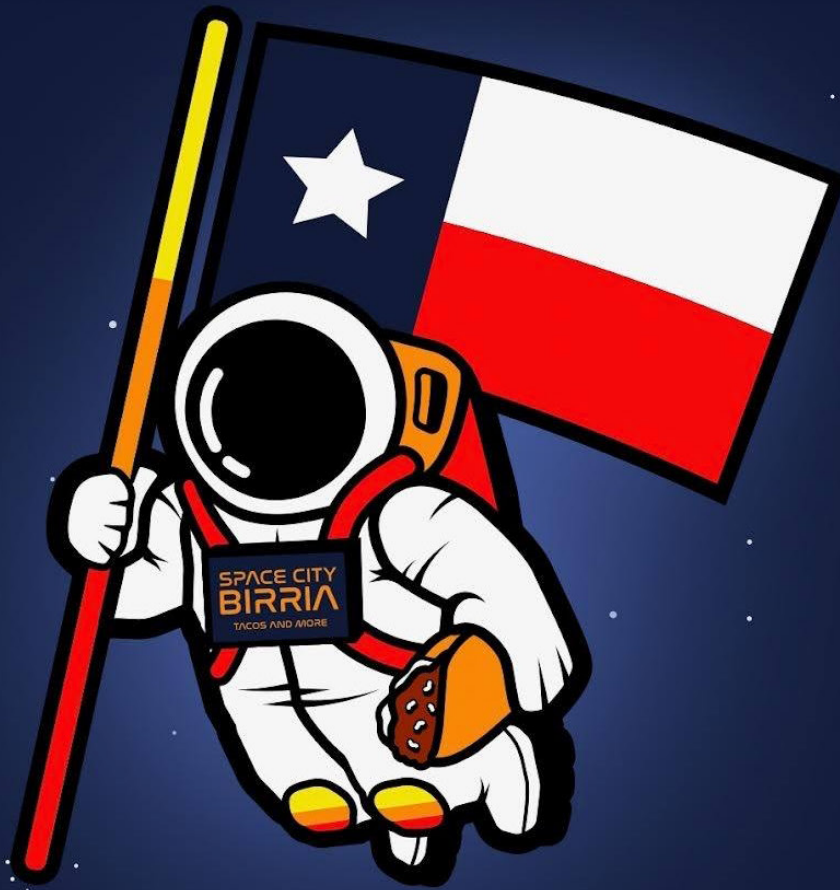
THE PREMIER VIP EXPERIENCE

SAT JUNE 21
20:00 H

713 MUSIC HALL
HOUSTON, TX

Streetwear legend and reggaeton icon Yandel took Houston by storm on June 21 at 713 Music Hall with his Sinfonico USA Tour, backed by a live orchestra and a full 5-piece ensemble. Thanks to Domingo Garcia, one lucky Viva Houston reader scored an all-access VIP Experience — complete with Fast Lane entry, premium parking, and a special meet-and-greet before the show. Yandel welcomed the winner on stage during the VIP pulse-check, snapped photos in the green room, and gave shout-outs throughout a night of hits like “Encantadora,” “Hasta Abajo,” and “Te Deseo.”

This isn't just a ticket—it's a full VIP moment curated by Viva Houston and Domingo Garcia, blending music, luxury, and cultural pride. Want this kind of experience next time? Keep an eye on our Instagram for your chance to score unforgettable nights and unforgettable memories.



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