

Paladini named to USL-1's First Team

CARY, N.C. — Carolina midfielder Daniel Paladini was named to the USL First Division's First Team, the league announced Wednesday.

"It's an honor to be a part of the first team. It's my first year in the USL, and I'm proud of that," Paladini said. "But I'm more proud of being a part of this team. Without the guys around me, I never would have gotten this. So I give a lot of credit to my teammates."

But his teammates gave him lots of credit, too. They voted him their MVP of the 2009 season.

Paladini was the centerpiece of the RailHawks' attack, which scored 43 goals in USL-1 play this season, third most in the league. He appeared in 28 matches and logged 2,049 minutes. His five goals were tied for second most on the team and his four assists tied for the team lead.

Paladini scored his first goal of the season on an 83rd-minute penalty kick in a 1-0 win over Austin on May 24. Five days later, he scored another game winner. His 90th-minute 30-yard free kick found the back of the net to deliver the RailHawks a 1-0 win over Cleveland. He also scored goals against Cleveland (Aug. 8), Miami (Aug. 26) and Montreal (Sept. 12).

"He was consistently one of our best players this season," said Carolina coach Martin Rennie. "He contributed in a lot of different ways on and off the field. It's well deserved. He had good statistics for goals and assists, and I think most managers and people would recognize he was one of the top players in the league this year."

USL First Division First Team

G

Steve Cronin

Portland Timbers

D

Nelson Akwari

Charleston Battery

D

Cristian Arrieta

Puerto Rico Islanders

D

Matt Bobo

Charleston Battery

D

David Hayes

Portland Timbers

M

Daniel Paladini

Carolina RailHawks

M

Ryan Pore

Portland Timbers

M

Ricardo Sanchez

Minnesota Thunder

F

Charles Gbeke

Vancouver Whitecaps

F

Mandjou Keita

Portland Timbers

F

Johnny Menyongar

Rochester Rhinos