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USA Today Sports

## New York Red Bulls re-acquire Josh Sims on loan from Southampton

January 21, 2020  
11:08AM EST

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Contributor

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### TRANSFER TRACKER STATUS: Loan

The New York Red Bulls have re-acquired winger Josh Sims on loan until June 30 from Southampton, the club announced Tuesday. The club has the option to extend the loan. He'll be added to the roster as a Young Designated Player.

Sims, 22, joined the Red Bulls on loan in August where he made seven appearances (five starts) during the regular season before scoring his first goal with the club in RBNY's 4-3 loss to the Philadelphia Union in the Audi MLS Cup Playoffs.

"We are pleased to reach an agreement to bring Josh back to New York," sporting director Denis Hamlett said in a club statement. "In his performances at the end of last season, we saw glimpses of why he was our top choice in last summer's transfer window. Josh is a player that can maximize our philosophy with his speed, aggressiveness and quality on the ball. We're excited to see how Josh can build upon his time with us last year."

Sims is a product of Southampton's famed academy and was promoted to the first team in 2016. In addition to his pro experience, Sims has featured for England at several youth international levels, most recently in the 2019 Toulon Tournament, the famed youth tournament that takes place annually in the south of France.

He made his English Premier League debut for Southampton in November 2016, picking up an assist in the first minute of the game. In total, he made 26 appearances for the Saints across all competitions, including 20 in the EPL. Sims also spent time on loan with Reading in the first half of the 2018-19 season, recording three goals and four assists in 18 appearances. He was then called back to rejoin Southampton, where he appeared in seven of their final nine matches to help the club maintain its Premier League status.

Sims is the club's fifth addition this offseason, following three players signed from the club's USL affiliate as well as Kendall McIntosh, acquired in the Re-Entry Draft. The winger will be expected to be a key player for the club in 2020, as they enter a new era without club legends Bradley Wright-Phillips and Luis Robles.

### 2020 New York Red Bulls Roster as of January 21, 2020:

HEAD COACH: Chris Armas

#### FORWARDS (3):

- Barlow, Tom
- Jorgensen, Mathias
- White, Brian

#### MIDFIELDERS (11):

- Casseres Jr., Cristian
- Davis, Sean
- Fernandez, Omir
- Kaku
- Lema, Chris
- Mines, Ben
- Muyl, Alex
- Royer, Daniel
- Rzatkowski, Marc
- Sims, Josh
- Stroud, Jared
- Valot, Florian

#### DEFENDERS (8):

- Buckmaster, Rece
- Duncan, Kyle
- Lawrence, Kemar
- Long, Aaron
- Nealis, Sean
- Parker, Tim
- Tarek, Amro
- Tolkin, John

#### GOALKEEPERS (2):

- McIntosh, Kendall
- Meara, Ryan



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A loan until June with an option to extend. This would seem to confirm my prior speculation that RB are unlikely to make a significant acquisition during the winter window. It will wait until the summer transfer window when it has a better sense of what it needs. RB is bringing back Sims on a Young Designated Player deal, so that is a positive from a budget perspective. I just do not see RB making player acquisitions requiring \$5 to \$10 million transfer fees.

RB has held on to Kaku, Long, Lawrence, and Casseres so far in this transfer window. This is a real positive for the team. Getting rid of Murillo will vastly improve the defense. The next big step is to limit Rzatkowski's playing time to less than 700 or 800 minutes for the season.

If Kaku is dialed in from match 1 and Casseres is a "written in pen" starter in midfield, I am pretty confident that Brian White will get the service he needs to bang in 15 goals during the season. The big unknown is whether one of Sims, Stroud, Omir Fernandez, Jorgensen, or Barlow will have a breakout season as an attacking player. If the answer is yes, RB will be in pretty good shape. They may not win the conference but they will fight for top 3.

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- cinderella kid** 3 days ago

Brian White could be the answer, but I was also hoping that the reports about Sam Cosgrove from the Scottish Premier League had some substance to them. He is a proven goal scorer over the past two seasons.

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- Andrew von Urtz** 1 day ago

I'm underwhelmed with the front office so far this off-season, I think it will be a bit risky to go into March with three under-motivated key players in Kaku, Kemar, and Aaron Long. With no further significant changes I would guess that they will be struggling for one of the last playoff spaces. And with the present post-season structure it's very hard to envision a 5, 6 or 7 team ever winning the trophy, likely needing to win 4 consecutive away fixtures. It's irresponsible for clubs to simply aim at sneaking into the playoffs as in the past - when salary cap space and designated player slots are open, no team has an excuse not to utilize these tools. In any case, it's an exceedingly difficult PR test for ticket sales: "here's last year's middling squad - again - shorn of perhaps its two most popular players."

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- Bulls on Parade** 3 days ago

it says something that re-signing a loan is positive news, but this is where we are with 10 days left in January. It did seem that Sims was finally fitting in just as he ended the season, so we won't have to hear about how he needs to be integrated. It's definitely a position of need for RB for a very manageable price. A striker would still be top of mind and keeping the remaining 3/4 of the back line together remain the top 2 goals of the preseason. While they all took a collective step backwards last year, I am hopeful they can get back to their 2018 form.

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- Winston Lall** 3 days ago

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