

ST LOUIS

WHO IS THE STARTING GOALIE?

BACKDROP

I had not been to St. Louis for a long time. Years had gone by, and I had not seen my friends. This trip gave me an opportunity to visit and catch up with my old friends. This journal is about my visit, but before I describe the experience, let me give you a quick history about St. Louis.



Downtown

According to [Encyclopedia Britannica](#):

“The area was originally inhabited by mound builders of Mississippian culture. The French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet passed by during their

exploration of the Mississippi river in 1673. In 1764 Pierre Laclède Liquest of New Orleans founded a fur-trading post on the site, which at the time was in Spanish territory. It was laid out by Auguste Chouteau and named for the canonized King Louis IX of France. St. Louis was later retroceded in 1800 to France and, following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, became part of the United States. In 1804 the Lewis and Clark Expedition departed from St. Louis on its great exploratory journey to the Pacific Northwest. The city was the seat of government for the Louisiana (1805) and Missouri (1812) territories”.

Additional information not included above:

- Gilbert Antoine de St. Maxent is also credited in founding St. Louis.
- On March 9 and 10, 1804 St. Louis went from Spanish to French and eventually American. The ceremony of lowering the Spanish flag, raising the French flag, and lowering it and raising the American Flag is called the “Three Flags Day”

St. Louis has had various nicknames over time. One early nickname was “Mound City” because of the number of Indian mounds scattered throughout the region. During the development of St. Louis, most of the mounds were demolished. One nearby place that still has mounds is the Cahokia Historical Site located east of the Mississippi river in Illinois (16 miles from St. Louis). Cahokia was the largest pre-Columbian city north of the Maya and Aztec cultures. In the book Four Lost Cities, Annalee Newitz mentions that Cahokia at its apex in 1050 was bigger than Paris. Cahokia started to become abandoned around 1350 A.D. The Cahokia Historical Site is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

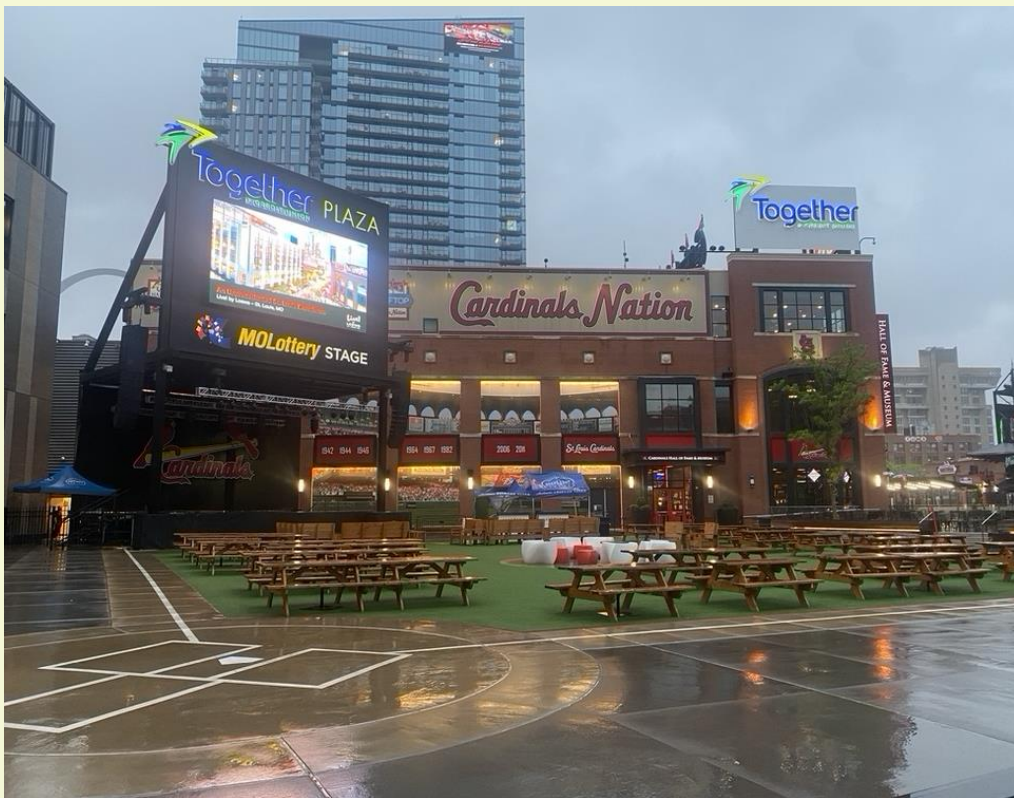
Currently, St. Louis's nickname is the Gateway City because of the Gateway Arch. The Gateway Arch is a memorial to President Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase and the historic role St. Louis played as the "Gateway to the West" as the city was the starting point of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Designed by architect Eero Saarinen, construction of the stainless-steel Arch was completed in 1965.



BALLPARK VILLAGE

After spending Friday catching up with friends, some of us went to the Ballpark Village to watch the Blues playoff game against Minnesota Wild on TV. Ballpark Village is a development next to Busch Stadium, where the baseball Cardinals play baseball. The Village has hotels, apartments, shops, restaurants, and a big watch area that is lined by bars and restaurants. Bally Sports, the broadcaster of Blues games, also have offices there. The viewing area is called [Bally Sports Live](#)!. Bally Sports Live has two stories for entertainment, TV screens and a stage.





Outside viewing Area at Ballpark Village

The stage had a crowd who was ready to cheer the Blues to victory in Game 3 of the series. It was the first home game of the series,



and the series was tied 1-1. The Blues had struggled in the playoffs and lost games at home during the playoffs since winning the Stanley Cup in 2019. As the game started, it become obvious that the Blues were going to lose the

game, as the Wild scored two goals that should have been prevented. The crowd started to ask for Jordan Bennington to

replace Ville Husso, seemed like Blues poor performance in Game 2 was being partially placed on Husso and the same perception seemed to carry into Game 3.

We left the watch party area and went to a restaurant/bar in the village to watch the rest of the game. The Blues fans who were there echoed the same sentiment from the watch party: Who should be the starting goalie for game 4?



View of St. Louis wheel from Ballpark Village

The next day, I visited with more friends. It was a great time swapping stories and in general catching up. Throughout the conversation, one question kept coming up: Who is the starting goalie? It seemed like the whole St. Louis region was into the Blues playoff run. Stores, bars, and billboard signs had signs saying, "Go Blues". It was clear that the city was in the middle of playoff hockey fever.

BLUES GAME

The next day, we went to the second Blues playoff game. While I have been to hockey games, I had never attended a playoff game. We made our way to the Enterprise Center in downtown St. Louis about 90 minutes before the game, and the arena was buzzing with excitement. During player introductions, the question of “who



is the starting goalie?” was answered and it was ... Jordan Bennington. The crowd was electric, and the Blues looked like a different team from Friday night. After each Blues goal, the crowd got louder and louder. The Blues won the game 5-2. Below are some pictures from the game.



As we waited after the game for the crowd to disperse, we decided to have a beer. As we were queuing for the beer, a couple of people got in front of us. We didn't mind since we were not in any rush. As the gentleman in front of us got to the bartender, he turned around and asked us what we were drinking. He said he was going to buy our beer since they got in front of us. We told him we were okay, but he insisted and bought our beers. That is the St. Louis spirit - never ruin a good time or moment.





FINAL THOUGHTS



Attending a playoff hockey game in person is everything I thought it was going to be. I look forward to attending Blues regular season and playoff games.

I also can't wait to go back to visit my friends in St. Louis to attend a Cardinals game, explore Cahokia Historical site and bask in the "St. Louis spirit".

RESTAURANTS

- [Bar Louie - Kirkwood](#)
- [Bemo's Bar & Grill](#)
- [Billy G's Kirkwood](#)
- [JPS Hideout Pub & Grill](#)
- [Maggie O'Brien's Irish Restaurant](#)
- [Sports and Social Club St. Louis](#)
- [The Corner Pub](#)

P.S. After the hockey season ended Ville Husso was traded to the Detroit Red Wings. I wish him the best of luck, as he is a good goalie, and I am sad to see him leave St. Louis.