

A digital article published by the [salamanca24horas.com](https://salamanca24horas.com) a feature submitted by the Unionistas de Salamanca FC. The [original article](#) is of course in Spanish. This is an English translation version of the article.

# Steffan Witmer, about to fulfill the 'American dream' in Unionists

The youth, born in 2006, is waiting for the transfer to debut with the National League team

SERGIO VILLARDÓN | November 17, 2023 (11:52)



STEFFAN WITMER, YOUTH PLAYER OF UNIONISTAS 4 | PHOTO ANDREA MATEOS

A Minor from the United States to Salamanca. Without being able to do what he likes the most: playing soccer. That's the story of Steffan Witmer (2006), a second-year youth who has been in the National Unionist League since July.

The coordinator of the Unionists' quarry, Juan García, explains how Steffan arrives at Unionistas: "We are evaluating options outside Salamanca and Spain to continue enhancing the Unionists' quarry in search of talent. During these months we have opened a route with the United States and it appears through a contact, who was conducting a test in Granada. He is invited to train and we decided to offer him to stay at the club."

Steffan Witmer has been in the Unionistas youth academy since July, but he was only able to play a couple of friendly matches in pre-season. The club has turned to him and has even trained with the first team. The problem for him to play is endless legislative procedures, since the boy is a minor. "You need NIE, some legal guardians in Salamanca, which we thank for the family that has welcomed the boy in Machacón. We already have the NIE, which took three months, now we have requested the transfer and other papers from the Federation of Castilla y León. We are waiting for the Federation of Salamanca to validate us. We hope that at any time the transfer will reach the mail and he can participate soon with the team," says Juan García himself.



STEFFAN WITMER AND RAMIRO MAYOR | PHOTO ANDREA MATEOS

Ramiro Mayor, a player from the first team, is also part of the coaching staff of the National League Youth. "The expectations we had, it improved them. He is a very physical striker, he measures more than ninety meters, he has quality and a lot of physical power. He has conditions and a way of understanding soccer that make him have potential. Then he is very friendly and is there for everything he needs. We can't wait for him to be able to play now. We are trying to teach him to be harder in duels and then he has to improve in decision-making because sometimes he is too much of a partner and it is difficult for him to be the protagonist," explains the center of the first team.

His coach Raúl Fuentes has been very close to the American striker in recent months. "The day-to-day life for Steffan is to be very focused on soccer and to be on a conditional and mental level for when his federal license is available. But he is also gradually learning the Spanish language and culture. It is a day-to-day of a boy of his age but his effort is remarkable to get involved in Spanish culture and also in the team," admits Raúl Fuentes.



RAÚL FUENTES, JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ AND RAMIRO MAYOR IN A TRAINING OF UNIONISTAS | PHOTO ANDREA MATEOS

The coach himself recognizes that the player's first days were complicated in terms of communication: "In the beginning we had to adapt as a coaching staff to his particularity. We did a lot of exercises with cardboard so that we all got to know each other. Little by little, soccer is a universal sport. It was not

difficult for him to interpret what we asked for and get acquainted with his colleagues. He has sent us his concerns. And he has always made it very easy."

The colleagues have also focused on Steffan's integration and are very happy with him. "They have overturned. He has been very lucky to coincide with this human group and it is true that the boy has also done his part to engage in conversation. We have always seen that they care a lot about him and those who control English the most come to tell him what to do if he doesn't understand it. Between the coaching staff and the boys, the adaptation is total. He feels very loved and sends us his affection," concludes Raúl Fuentes.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF UNIONISTS SQUAD WITH STEFFAN WITMER | PHOTO ANDREA MATEOS

The main protagonist, Steffan Witmer, was very happy during the training with the arrival of SALAMANCA24HORAS and explained his situation. "I can't wait to play my first game with Unionistas. So far, I've had an incredible experience and incredible teammates, who treat me amazingly and welcome me even though I don't even speak their language. I am grateful to you and to the coaching staff also for teaching me and helping me develop as a player. The family I'm living with also treats me very well. Training with the first team was a spectacular experience and a step towards what professional football is. It was part of a dream come true, but I'm not satisfied with that. I will continue to work harder and harder to constantly improve," admits Steffan Witmer.



STEFFAN WITMER, UNIONISTAS 2 YOUTH PLAYER | PHOTO ANDREA MATEOS