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STARTING LINEUP FOR ORLANDO CITY STADIUM FOOD

Orlando City Stadium-goers will be able to feed their city pride on dishes specific to the venue.

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor, the company charged with food services for the stadium, has been working with the Orlando City Soccer Club to create the venue's menu.

"It used to be that stadium food was an afterthought but that's not the case anymore," said Thomas Anastasia, regional vice president of Spectra. "It's really about your whole experience from beginning to end."

The menu went through several tweaks.

Soccer fans typically hit concession stands before the game and during halftime. Two pitfalls - complex dishes or too many items - can slow down service, Anastasia said. The result was four to five dishes planned for each of the 12 permanent concession stands.

Spectra also tries to customize the food lineup to include the "taste" of the region.

"Florida is really a melting pot," Anastasia said. "There's really no one flavor that reflects Florida."

They settled on a mix of dishes with Latin influences as well as some twists on fan favorite stadium foods.

"We wanted to create signature items that the stadium will be known for and that fans know they can get their own stadium," Anastasia said.

Stadium-goers can find everything from a meatloaf burger to a charcuterie plate to street tacos. Papa John's pizza will also be available.

The Cuban Bowl lets diners customize their meal by adding meats like carnitas and picadillo that goes on rice and beans. It's a favorite of Rob Parker, vice president of corporate partnerships of Orlando Soccer SC.

"It really gives you a real hearty meal - different than a hotdog," Parker said.

Heineken is the main beer for the stadium. Florida brews such as Cigar City Brewing and Crooked Can Brewing Co. will be featured along with other craft brews in a special section.

Cocktail fans will also find signature drinks specific to the stadium. Anastasia's favorite, The Kingston, is a play on the Manhattan with Bulleit Rye Whiskey, vermouth, sherry and chocolate and orange bitters.

Fans will be able to taste the signature dishes and drinks at the first Major League Soccer game in the Lions' new home, which is scheduled for March 5 against New York City FC.