NEWS RELEASE

Haskell Cohen
Director of Public Relations

770 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Telephone: (212) 826-6710

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY PM'S MARCH 21ST
SUNDAY AM'S MARCH 22ND

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE RELEASES 1976 SEASON SCHEDULE
ADOPTS "NEWMAN SCORING SYSTEM"

NEW YORK, N.Y. ---- The American Soccer League, oldest professional loop, in the United States today released its 1976 schedule. According to Commissioner Robert J. Cousy the eleven teams comprising the circuit will play a total of 110 games with each club, in addition, meeting two international eleven on their home pitches.

For the first time since the league started competition in 1933 the circuit will be composed of eleven franchises stretching from the northeast coast to the far northwest. Cousy pointed out, "we have added five new far western teams located in Tacoma, Washington; Sacramento, Oakland and Los Angeles, California in addition to granting a franchise to a Salt Lake City, Utah group. These new clubs will comprise our Western Division with the Eastern Division being composed of defending co-champions N.Y. Apollo; the Rhode Island Oceaneers, the Connecticut Yankees; the Cleveland Cobras; the Chicago Cats and a new team, the Jersey Americans, who will play their home games in Wall Stadium, Freehold, N.J. The latter club in its first week after being granted its franchise sold over 600 season tickets.

"This year the ASL reaches maturity and all members feel certain that their teams will set all time attendance records what with the ever increasing interest in the pastime" Cousy concluded.

A new point system for scoring devised by Los Angeles Skyhawks" Head Coach Ron Newman has been adopted by the ASL. Dubbed the "Newman System" the new set-up replaces the traditional system awarding two points per win and one for each tie, previously used by the ASL.

Under the "Newman System" teams will receive five points for each victory, two for each tie and one bonus point for each goal scored up to a maximum of three.

MAR 19 1976

--More--

Newman cited two reasons why he believes his system is the best up to now:

"Since I've been coaching soccer in the United States, the two complaints I have heard most frequently concern lack of scoring and too may ties," Newman explained. "I think that's true because there is so much pressure on players and coaches not to lose. The new system relieves some of that pressure because it rewards teams for winning and scoring.

"In my system reducing the number of points for winning slightly increases the value of each goal," Newman continued. "In order to reap maximum points, teams not only have to win but they must score three goals. Also, by reducing the value of a tie, it will take two and a half ties to equal one win, and therefore, reduces the value of each tie while increasing the value of each win."

Here's an example of how the "Newman System" will work. Say Sacramento defeats Tacoma 4-2. Sacramento would receive five points for the win and three bonus points for scoring three or more goals. Tacoma would receive two bonus points for scoring twice.

In addition to adopting the "Newman System" the ASL has also elected to play two 10-minute sudden death overtime periods should the game be tied after regulation play. The league discussed the possibility of penalty kicks to break a tie after sudden death, but that idea was not adopted.

"I personally don't like penalty kicks," says Cousy. "I think they take something away from a game, they're sort of anti-climatic. They also can have a bad effect on a team. It's very discouraging to lose a game on penalty kicks after playing solid soccer for 110-minutes."

--30--