NEWS RELEASE

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ASL SEASON COMMENCES SUNDAY;

PHOENIX FIRE DROPS OUT

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Phoenix Fire, which was to have begun play in 1980, as an American Soccer League expansion club, has voluntarily terminated its conditional membership in the League, and will cease operation. Phoenix, whose debut match had been postponed from last Saturday night due to financial problems, was unable to produce adequate financing to enable the club to proceed through the upcoming season.

The ASL, which had been aware of the problems facing the Fire, will proceed with a revised 1980 schedule including its eight member clubs. The opening game of the 1980 campaign, utilizing the revised schedule, will feature the 1979 ASL Champions Sacramento Gold visiting 1980 expansion team Golden Gate Gales, this Sunday, March 30, with kick-off slated for 2:05 at the Gales' Pioneer Stadium.

The majority of the other American Soccer League teams will swing into action on the following weekend. Acting ASL Commissioner Otto Radich announced that the entire 1980 ASL schedule will be released Friday morning (March 28th).

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