NEWS RELEASE

Haskell Cohen
Director, Public Relations

810 Seventh Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10019
Telephone: (212) 265-7500

Contact: Chip Young
Director, Media Relations

(212) 265-7500

(212) 243-4706

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

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SACRAMENTO TOPS GOLDEN GATE IN ASL SEASON OPENER

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Sparked by the Filby brothers, the Sacramento Gold began its defense of its 1979 ASL title on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over the Golden Gate Gales at the Gales' Pioneer Stadium. The lone weekend contest was the opening game of the 1980 campaign, and was the ASL debut of the Golden Gate club, an expansion team beginning play this season.

The match between the California rivals started slowly, with neither team able to score by halftime. Ten minutes after the interval, Sacramento's Ian Filby, last year's leading ASL scorer who also tallied the only goal of the championship game, picked up where he left off in 1979, as he drove home a shot from 12 yards to put the Gold in front. Fourteen minutes later, Filby's cross from the right wing found his brother, Malcolm, free in the penalty area, and the elder half of the Filby duo slipped a pass to Anselmo Vicioso, who rammed home the Gold's second goal from close range.

Golden Gate's Mal Roche, the ASL's Rookie of the Year in 1977 while with Sacramento, notched the Gales' first-ever goal when he converted a penalty kick in the final minute, but it was too late to overcome the early Sacramento lead. Ian Filby of the Gold was chosen Offensive Player of the Game, while Golden Gate's goalkeeper Afshin picked up Defensive Player of the Game honors, despite being beaten twice by the powerful Sacramento attack.

Sacramento now finds itself atop the American Conference, with more teams set to get underway this weekend in a series of three games on the West Coast, including 1979 Eastern champs Columbus Magic, and New York United, who will be lead by Rodney Marsh, making his professional coaching debut.

More...

Add 1/1/1

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Games	Won	Lost	Tied	Goals For	Goals Against	Bonus Points	Total* Points
AMERICAN CONFERENCE								
Sacramento Gold	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	7
Golden Gate Gales	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	1
California Sunshine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miami Americans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATIONAL CONFERENCE								
Cleveland Cobras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbus Magic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New York United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania Stoners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*(The ASL scoring system awards 5 points for a win, 2 points for a tie, and one bonus point for each goal scored up to a maximum of 3 per team, per game)

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES
(All Starting Times are Local Times)

Friday, April 4th	New York at Sacramento	8:05
	Columbus at California	7:35
Sunday, April 6th	Columbus at Golden Gate	2:05

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING MATCHES

Friday April 4th

New York at Sacramento...Sacramento off to flying start in defense of ASL crown with opening victory over Golden Gate...Striking partnership of Filby brothers, Ian and Malcolm, will test United's defense in first match of 1980 for New York club...American midfielder Danny Payne of Gold has yet to miss a minute of play since his debut in first game of '79 season...Anselmo Vicioso has averaged over a point per game for Gold since joining team midway thru last season.

United will play first game since transition from N.Y. Apollo in off-season ...Technical Director Gil Mardarescu and Head Coach Rodney Marsh will be at helm of New York club for opener...Returnees for United include 2nd Team All Star defender Chris Tyson, midfielder Dave Power, and goalkeeper Jamil Canal, ASL's longest serving active player, who also recorded second best average among keepers in '79 at 1.03...United expected to be bolstered by return of Redmond Lane, who was with 1978 champion Apollo side, and spent last year with Manchester United.

Columbus at California... Clash of last year's regular season divisional champs...Cal Sunshine had top record in ASL at 22-3-3, and feature one of top midfields in Don Tobin, Keith Walley, and Gary Evans...Derek Lawther, ASL 1978 Coach of the Year, returns to guide Sunshine after year layoff in 1979...1979 ASL MVP Poli Garcia leads Cal attack, and will be joined by Tony Douglas, 1978 All Star striker who missed last year thru injury.

Columbus Magic field strong team once again, with ASL all Star defender Dan Mammana returning, along with Magic '79 MVP Mike Barry in midfield... Striker Ron Wigg is back, after leading team in scoring last season with 13 goals, 2 assists.

More

(Upcoming Matches, cont'd)

Sunday, April 6th

Columbus at Golden Gate...Golden Gate received strong effort in goal Sacramento from Afshin, Defensive Player of Game...Mal Roche leads Gales' attack, grabbed team's first goal in ASL play on last minute penalty...Columbus faces test coming off Friday match vs Gold, but have been in training for months under Coach Paul Taylor...Gales hope to emulate Magic, who took division title as expansion team in 1979.

LAST WEEK'S MATCH (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)

Sunday, March 30th

Sacramento Gold 2 GOLDEN GATE GALES 1 (0:0) (at Hayward)

GG: Afshin; Igwe, Dahl, Berico, Hulewsky; Hylkema(Lockett, 45), Sproates, Volpini; Roche, Talbot, Tshimanga(Cornwell, 45)

SAC: Reynolds; Brown, Stanton, Arber, Bryant; Carrizo, Dawkins, Payne; I. Filby, Vicioso, M. Filby(Munguia, 75)

SCORING: GG: Mal Roche(1)(penalty kick) 89 ; SAC: Ian Filby(1)(unasst'd) 55 ; Anselmo Vicioso(1)(Malcolm Filby) 69 ; Goalies: Saves - Afshin(GG) 7; Tom Reynolds (SAC) 3; Shots: GG - 3; SAC - 10; Offensive MVP - Ian Filby, SAC; Defensive MVP - Afshin, GG; Referee: L. Mohacsy.