NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

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CLEVELAND AND PENNSYLVANIA TRIUMPH IN OPENERS

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Cleveland Cobras and Pennsylvania Stoners both opened their respective 1980 seasons with home wins this past weekend, as Cleveland nipped local rivals Columbus Magic, 2-1, on Friday night, while the Stoners sneaked past the Miami Americans in overtime, 1-0, on Sunday. Other ASL action during the week saw the Sacramento Gold fight back to rescue a 3-3 tie with the visiting Golden Gate Gales on Wednesday, before the Gales returned home on Sunday where they fell to California Sunshine, 2-1, at Pioneer Stadium.

Friday's Cobras-Magic clash in Cleveland marked the first leg of the four-game Ohio Challenge Cup competiton, instituted last year between the two Ohio neighbors. The match also featured the Cleveland coaching debut of Bob Ridley, and his new-look Cobras ended Magic's three game unbeaten streak on the strength of a 75th minute goal by winger Ruben Astigarraga. The teams had traded first half goals within two minutes of one another, as Jacob Shanee put the Cobras on top after 26 minutes, only to see Columbus' 1979 MVP Mike Barry level the score seventy seconds later.

Pennsylvania's tireless Stoners took 107 minutes of play to wear down Miami, before Stoner forward Roman Urbanczuk scrambled home the game-winner from six yards out with less than three minutes left in the second and final overtime. Urbanczuk is making a habit of "first" goals, as he was also responsible for tallying Pennsylvania's first-ever goal in the expansion Stoners initial match of the 1979 campaign. His overtime heroics this year spoiled the return of Ron Newman to the ASL coaching ranks, as the former L.A. Skyhawks leader took over the helm of the Americans following the shift of the franchise from New Jersey to Miami during the off season. A loyal crowd of 8,317 supporters endured nearly a game-long rain storm at ASD Stadium as they watched the Stoners secure their first win of 1980.

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Golden Gate's week started off on a bright note on Friday in Sacramento, but ended up sour back at home on Sunday versus California. The Gales jumped out to a surprise 2-0 halftime advantage over the Gold on goals by Tony Igwe and Mal Roche, and appeared on the way to their first win over the defending ASL champs. But the second half was nearly all Sacramento, as they were led back by Malcolm Filby, the older brother of fellow Gold striker Ian Filby, the ASL's 1979 scoring champ. Malcolm proved that the golden touch runs in the family, as he registered the League's first hat trick of 1980 with goals in the 54th, 81st, and 86th minutes to salvage a draw for Sacramento. Only Roche's second goal of the game after 58 minutes kept the Gales from walking away with the loss. Roche's goals moved him to the top of the list of ASL marksmen with five scores on the year.

Roche's goalscoring talents were sorely missing on Sunday, when the Gales fell to California, 2-1. Golden Gate once again started fast, taking a 1-0 lead in the 38th minute through Gerard Hylkema, but the Sunshine, who had failed to score in their previous two matches, broke the ice on a score by Frank Towers in the 53rd minute of play to equalize. Seven minutes later Cal's Paul Renkert turned in a brilliant solo move to notch what was to prove the winner for California, who were sparked by the addition of 1978 ASL MVP Jimmy Rolland, who joined the team during the week, and received Offensive MVP honors in his first match for the Sunshine.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK - MALCOLM FILBY, SACRAMENTO GOLD

Filby turned in the ASL's finest offensive display of the young season on Wednesday versus Golden Gate, as his hat trick led the Gold back to a draw with the Gales. Out through injury for all of the 1979 season, Malcolm watched his brother Ian win the ASL scoring title, but now appears ready to challenge his sibling for that honor in 1980. Filby joined the Gold from Durban City in South Africa, where he had scored 35 goals in 45 games in 1978, and the 26-year old striker is showing the form that made him one of that country's most dangerous frontrunners.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK - GEORGE GORLEKU, PENNSYLVANIA STONERS

Gorleku was the lynch pin of the Stoners defense as they shut off the Miami Americans through two overtime stanzas before Pennsylvania grabbed a late goal to capture a 1-0 victory on Sunday. A native of Ghana, the 25-year old defender played last season with the Indy Daredevils, where he was acclaimed as Indy's finest defensive player in their history. Dominant in the air, Gorleku's strong performance won him Defensive Player of the Game honors enabling Stoners' keeper Scott Manning to record his first shutout of 1980.

More

Add 2/2/2

LAST WEEK'S SCORES — HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Wednesday, April 16th	Golden Gate	3	SACRAMENTO	3	OT
Friday, April 18th	Columbus	1	CLEVELAND	2	
Sunday, April 20th	Miami	0	PENNSYLVANIA	1	OT
	California	2	GOLDEN GATE	1	

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Games	Won	Lost	Tied	Goals For	Goals Against	Bonus Points	Total Points
AMERICAN CONFERENCE								
Sacramento	4	2	1	1	7	7	7	19
Golden Gate	5	1	2	2	8	9	8	17
California	3	1	2	0	2	5	2	7
Miami	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
NATIONAL CONFERENCE								
Columbus	4	2	1	1	7	3	7	19
New York	3	1	2	0	3	4	3	8
Cleveland	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	7
Pennsylvania	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	6

*(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.)

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE SCORING LEADERS

	Games	Goals	Assists	Total Points
Mal Roche, Golden Gate	5	5	0	10
Malcolm Filby, Sacramento	4	3	1	7
Joe Fink, New York	3	3	0	6
George Dewsnip, Columbus	4	2	1	5
John Brooks, Golden Gate	4	1	2	4
Anselmo Vicioso, Sacramento	4	1	2	4

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE LEADING GOALKEEPERS
(Minimum 180 Minutes Played)

	Minutes	Shots	Saves	Goals Allowed	S.O.	Record	G.A. Ave.
Graham Tutt, Columbus	380	33	16	3	2	2-1-1	0.71
Jamil Canal, New York	270	41	10	4	1	1-2-0	1.33
John Spurgeon, Golden	400	67	30	7	0	1-1-2	1.58
Tom Reynolds, Sac	380	33	14	7	0	2-1-1	1.66
Greg Schell, California	180	20	13	4	0	0-2-0	2.00

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES

(All Starting Times Are Local Times)

Friday, April 25th	California at Sacramento	8:05
Sunday, April 27th	Golden Gate at California	4:05
	Cleveland at Columbus	6:35
	Miami At New York	2:05

More...

LAST WEEK'S MATCHES (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)

Wednesday, April 16th

SACRAMENTO GOLD 3 Golden Gate Gales 3 (OT) (0:2) (at Sacramento)

SAC: Reynolds; Brown, R. Avila(McKeown, 45), Arber, Bryant; Dawkins(Denkers, 67), Munguia, Payne; M. Filby, Vicioso, Mancini(M. Avila, 67).

GG: Spurgeon; Igwe, Dahl, Berico, Sheridan(Hauser, 91); Sproates, Lockett, Brooks; Hylkema(Talbot, 62), Roche, Anton.

SCORING: SAC: Malcolm Filby (1)(Anselmo Vicioso) 54 ; M. Filby (2)(Willie Munguia) 81 ; M. Filby (3)(Vicioso) 86 ; GG: Tony Igwe (1)(unasst'd) 8 ; Mal Roche (4)(John Brooks) 33 ; Roche (5)(Gerard Hylkema) 58 ; Goalies - Saves: Tom Reynolds (SAC) 5 ; John Spurgeon (GG) 10 ; Shots: SAC - 25 ; GG - 10 ; Offensive MVP - Malcolm Filby, SAC ; Defensive MVP - John Spurgeon, GG ; Referee: L. Mohacsy.

Friday, April 18

CLEVELAND COBRAS 2 Columbus Magic 1 (1:1) (at Cleveland)

CLE: Cano; Howarth, Rosul, Joy, Rildo; Shanee, Sinclair, Astigarraga; Ferreira, Doval(McKenzie, 84), Schlothauer.

COL: Tutt; O'Hara, Jentas, Mammana, Hickey(Schnettgoecke, 85); Piper, Barry, Graham; Wigg, Hague, Dewsnip.

SCORING: CLE: Jacob Shanee (1)(Walter Schlothauer) 27 ; Ruben Astigarraga (1)(Ivair Ferreira) 75 ; COL: Mike Barry (1)(Neil Hague) 28 ; Goalies - Saves: Marine Cano (CLE) 7; Graham Tutt (COL) 5 ; Shots: CLE - 6 ; COL - 8 ; Offensive MVP - Ruben Astigarraga, CLE ; Defensive MVP - Brian Joy, CLE ; Referee: J. Salas.

Sunday, April 20

California Sunshine 2 GOLDEN GATE GALES 1 (0:1) (at Hayward)

GG: Spurgeon; Sheridan, Dahl, Berico, Hauser; Brooks, Lockett(Moore, 45), Sproates; Hylkema, Roche, Anton(Basso, 74).

CAL: Lyttle; Gehling, Moraldo, Kelley, Johnstone;Walley, Tobin, Renkert; Rolland, Towers, Harding.

SCORING: GG: Gerard Hylkema (1)(unasst'd) 38 ; CAL: Frank Towers (1)(Jim Rolland) 53 ; Paul Renkert (1)(unasst'd) 60 ; Goalies - Saves: John Spurgeon (GG) 1 ; Tom Lytle (CAL) 4 ; Offensive MVP - Jim Rolland, CAL ; Defensive MVP - Bjorn Dahl, GG ; Referee: P. Nikol.

PENNSYLVANIA STONERS 1 Miami Americans 0 (OT) (0:0) (at Allentown)

PA: Manning; Tipping(Ost, 88), Codrea, Nigh, Gorleku; Watson(Hummert, 53), DaSilva, Long; Smith, Reice(Urbanczuk, 79), McDermott.

MIA: Parkinson; Roberts, Newman, Nickeas, Vallejos; Donlic, Baptiste, Kewley; Nena, Green, Butler.

SCORING: PA: Roman Urbanczuk (1)(Dave Hummert) 107 ; Goalies - Saves: Scott Manning (PA) 7 ; Brian Parkinson (MIA) 2 ; Shots: PA - 7 ; MIA - 13 ; Offensive MVP - Roman Urbanczuk, PA ; Defensive MVP - George Gorleku, PA ; Referee: S. Starobin.