NEWS RELEASE

Haskell Cohen
Director, Public Relations

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

Contact: [illegible]
Director, Media Relations
(212) 265-7500

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AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Sanger
(212) 265-7500

NATIONAL CONFERENCE RACE TIGHTENS
MIAMI GAINS ON SACRAMENTO IN AMERICAN

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The fight for position in the ASL's National Conference continued to heat up last week when the leaders, Columbus Magic, were upset at home by California Sunshine . With National rivals Cleveland Cobras and Pennsylvania Stoners both posting victories, and the Stoners adding a tie, only 18 points now separate the four clubs in the Conference. Only New York United, which had its' win streak snapped by Cleveland, failed to gain ground on Magic.

In the American Conference, the Miami Americans continued to gain on the frontrunning Sacramento Gold, and both California Sunshine and the Golden Gate Gales also picked up points in their pursuit of the defending ASL champions, who fell to Pennsylvania Stoners, 2-1. Miami is now only 14 points back of Sacramento, but the Americans hold 4 games in hand on the Gold, who have won only one of their last five matches.

The Sacramento-Pennsylvania game kicked off the week's action on Thursday night, with the visiting Stoners knocking off their hosts in Sacramento. Pennsylvania received goals from Ken McDonald, three minutes before halftime, and George Gorleku, at the 56th minute mark, to offset a late penalty conversion by Ian Filby to grab the win. The victory moved Pennsylvania into second place in the National Conference, just ahead of New York United.

United failed to regain second on Friday night, as they fell in the road at Cleveland, 1-0, despite New York's addition of midfielder Clodoaldo, a member of Brazil's 1970 World Cup Champions, and former teammate of Pele on Santos. Instead, ironically, the lone goal of the match was scored by the Cobras' Joe Fink, who had been released by United two weeks earlier. Fink's goal, his sixth of the season and first for his new club, came with only seven minutes remaining, and pushed the Cobras to within six points in the struggle for third place in the National Conference.

Also on Friday night, Miami continued to make California's road trip in the East one they would care to forget, as they defeated the Sunshine, 2-1, at Tropical Park. Miami struck quickly in nailing down the win, as Ricardo Mena slipped home a pass from Ernie Buriano in the 17th minute, and nine minutes later, No-No Baptiste converted a penalty kick after the Americans top striker Manu Sanon had been pulled down in the area, Don Burke supplied California's goal with eight minutes left in the match. The Sunshine finally appeared on Sunday, however, as they gained their first win of their extended road trip in their last chance, toppling Columbus, 2-1. Winger Jim Rolland supplied the offensive edge for California, who fell behind early when Ray Schnettgoecke headed home a cross from George Dewsnip in the 8th minute. But Rolland equalized with a brilliant solo effort in the 20th minute, and four minutes before halftime, Rolland centered for Ramon Moraldo to head in the eventual winner for Sunshine, and end their four-game losing streak.

More....

In the last match of the week, Pennsylvania continued on their Western swing, and played to a 2-2 draw with the Golden Gate Gales on Sunday night. Pennsylvania came back from a 1-0 deficit after the Gales' Mal Roche scored in the 32nd, as the Stoners picked up goals from Clyde Watson in the 39th minute, and Rich Reice in the 49th, but Roche, the ASL's leading marksman, tallied on a penalty kick in the 68th minute to earn a tie for the Gales. Roche now has 12 goals and one assist for the season for 25 points, 8 points ahead of second place George Dewsnip of Columbus in the ASL scoring derby. Pennsylvania, meanwhile, moved to only six points behind the Magic, with the Stoners holding a game in hand.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK - JIM ROLLAND, CALIFORNIA SUNSHINE

Rolland, the ASL's 1978 MVP while with the L.A. Skyhawks, has been selected for his two assist, one goal performance of the past week, in which California snapped their four game losing streak. During the Sunshine's two week Eastern swing, the little winger tallied three goals and added three assists, including a goal and assist in Cal's 2-1 upset of National Conference leaders Columbus Magic on Sunday. The speedy Scot has now registered five goals and five assists on the year, and is fourth among ASL scorers with 15 points for the season. Rolland is also the leading active scorer in the ASL, and topped the scoring charts in 1978 with 17 goals and 10 assists during his MVP season.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK - BJORN DAHL, GOLDEN GATE GALES

Dahl has been selected for his performance versus the Pennsylvania Stoners, in which the Gales were able to hold the Stoners to a 2-2 tie on the West Coast through two overtimes, with Dahl being named Defensive Player of the Game for the fifth time this year. The classy sweeper was an All-American at USF and the NCAA Finals top defensive player in 1978, and he has since come to add his presence to the expansion Gales roster where he has been the mainstay of their young defense. The former captain of his nations' team from Norway, Dahl has established himself as one of the most highly regarded sweepers in the ASL this season.

LAST WEEK'S MATCHES (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)

Thursday, July 3rd

Pennsylvania Stoners 2 SACRAMENTO GOLD 1 (1:0) (at Sacramento)

SAC: Reynodls; Arber, Stanton, Bryant, Denkers (Vicioso, 62); McKeown, Carrizo (M. Avila, 46), Munguia; I. Filby, M. Filby, Mancini.

PA: Manning; Smith, Tipping, McDonald, Gorleku; Watson, DaSilva (Gottbrecht, 62) Brooks; McDermott, Reice, Ost (Mancke, 62).

SCORING: SAC: Ian Filby (5)(penalty kick) 69; PA: Ken McDonald (4)(Rich Reice) 42; Goerge Gorleku (1)(Paolo DaSilva)56; Goalies - Saves: Tom Reynolds (SAC) 3; Scott Manning (PA) 5; Shots: SAC - 13; PA - 12; Offensive MVP - Adrian Brooks, PA; Defensive MVP - George Gorleku, PA; Referee; C. DeGroot.

Friday, July 4th

CLEVELAND COBRAS 1 New York United 0 (0:0) (at Cleveland)

CLE: Cano; Howarth, Renery, Kelley, Rildo; Joy, Sandobry (Shanee, 77), Schlothauer (Ferreira,57), Chapman, Astigarraga, Fink.

NY: Canal; Tyson, Lane, McCrudden, Concha; Clodoaldo(Collins,80), Clavijo, Eden; Kitson, Doval(Mardarescu,77), Cabrera.

SCORING: CLE: Joe Fink (6)(Brian Joy) 83; Goalies - Saves: Marine Cano (CLE) 5; Jamil Canal (NY) 5 ; Shots: CLE - 14; NY - 12; Offensive MVP - Joe Fink, CLE; Defensive MVP - Brian Joy, CLE; Referee; F. Fuksmann.

More....

Add 2/2/2

MIAMI AMERICANS 2 California Sunshine 1 (2:0) (at Miami)

MIA; Ramsbottom; Blum, Newman, Delgado, Vallejos; Baptiste, Vigliotti, Buriano; Mena; Greene (red card, 78), Sanon.

CAL: Parkinson; Gehling, Nickeas, Moraldo, Zavaleta; Walley, Stierle (Richter, 46; Burke 73), O'Kane; Harding (red card,78), Romero, Rolland.

SCORING: MIA: Ricardo Mena (3) (Ernie Buriano) 17; No No Baptiste (5) (penalty kick) 26; CAL: Don Burke (1) (Jim Rolland) 82; Goalies - Saves: Neil Ramsbottom (MIA) 6; Brian Parkinson (CAL) 3; Shots; MIA - 10; CAL - 14; Offensive MVP - Ricardo Mena, MIA; Defensive MVP - Neil Ramsbottom, MIA: Referee: F. Usher.

Sunday, July 6th

California Sunshine 2 COLUMBUS MAGIC 1 (2:1) (at Columbus)

COL: V. Taylor; O'Hara, Jentas, Schnettgoecke, Mammana (Barry, 66); Tesan (Wigg, 85); Piper, Hague, Harman, Dewsnip, Bolevic.

CAL: Parkinson; Gehling, Nickeas, Moraldo, Harding; Walley, Zavaleta, O'Kane; Burke, Richter (Stierle, 81), Rolland (Romero, 86).

SCORING: COL: Ray Schnettgoecke (1) (George Dewsnip) 8; CAL: Jim Rolland (5) (unasst'd) 20; Ramon Moraldo (3)(Rolland) 41; Goalies - Saves: Van Taylor (COL) 2; Brian Parkinson (CAL) 13; Shots: COL-27; CAL - 7; Offensive MVP - Jim Rolland, CAL; Defensive MVP - Brian Parkinson, CAL; Referee: B. Sosa.

GOLDEN GATE GALES 2 Pennsylvania Stoners 2 (OT) (1:1) (2:2) (at Fremont)

GG: Afshin; Steinberg, Dahl, Berico, Hauser (Hulewsky, 46); Cornwell, Brooks, Gray (Hylkema, 46); Basso , Roche, Volpini.

PA: Manning; Smith, Tipping, McDonald, Gorleku; Watson, DaSilva (Ehrlich, 61), Brooks; McDermott, Ost(Long, 32), Reice.

SCORING: GG: Mal Roche (11) (John Brooks) 32; Roche (12) (penalty kick) 68; PA: Clyde Watson (5) (John McDermott) 39; Rich Reice (2) (Adrian Brooks) 49; Goalies - Saves: Afshin (GG) 18; Scott Manning (PA) 11; Shots: GG - 13; PA - 20; Offensive MVP - John McDermott, PA ; Defensive MVP - Bjorn Dahl, GG; Referee: L. Mohacsy.

More...

Add 3/3/3

LAST WEEK'S SCORES — HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Thursday, July 3	Pennsylvania	2	SACRAMENTO	1	
Friday, July 4	MIAMI	2	California	1	
	CLEVELAND	1	New York	0	
Sunday, July 6	California	2	COLUMBUS	1	
	GOLDEN GATE	2	Pennsylvania	2	(OT)

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Games	Won	Lost	Tied	Goals For	Goals Against	Bonus Points	Total* Points
AMERICAN CONFERENCE								
Sacramento	17	8	7	2	25	24	23	67
Miami	13	5	5	3	24	22	22	53
California	15	5	9	1	20	31	19	46
Golden Gate	17	2	10	5	20	34	20	40
NATIONAL CONFERENCE								
Columbus	16	9	5	2	26	16	25	74
Pennsylvania	15	8	3	4	22	17	20	68
New York	15	8	7	0	25	18	22	62
Cleveland	14	7	6	1	20	20	19	56

(*The ASL scoring system awards 5 points for a win, 2 points for a tie, and 1 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	17	12	1	25
George Dewsnip, Columbus	16	5	7	17
Andy Chapman, Cleveland	14	7	2	16
Jim Rolland, California	12	5	5	15
Anselmo Vicioso, Sacramento	17	5	4	14
Joe Fink, Cleveland	13	6	1	13
Norman Piper, Columbus	16	6	1	13
Manu Sanon, Miami	12	6	1	13
Ian Filby, Sacramento	13	5	3	13
No-No Baptiste, Miami	11	5	2	12

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE LEADING GOALKEEPERS
(Minimum 720 Minutes Played)

	Minutes	Shots	Saves	Goals Allowed	S.O.	Record	G.A. Ave.
Graham Tutt, Columbus	1382	154	70	14	5	9-4-2	0.91
Scott Manning, PA	1450	225	106	17	6	8-3-4	1.06
Tom Reynolds, Sac.	1500	208	70	20	5	8-6-2	1.20
Marine Cano, Cleveland	1220	165	76	18	3	7-5-1	1.33
Jamil Canal, New York	1370	255	104	18	4	8-7-0	1.38
Afshin, Golden Gate	751	109	56	14	0	1-5-2	1.68
Brian Parkinson, Cal.	1310	177	70	25	0	3-7-4	1.72
John Spurgeon, GGG	878	168	65	20	0	1-5-3	2.05

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

Wednesday, July 9th	Miami at Cleveland	8:05
Saturday, July 12th	Pennsylvania at California	7:35
	Sacramento at Miami	8:05
Sunday, July 13th	Cleveland at Columbus	6:35
Wednesday, July 16th	Sacramento at New York	8:05