NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

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SACRAMENTO SECURES PLAYOFF BERTH

NEW YORK, NY - A week of dramatic matches with American Conference playoff berths on the line was highlighted by the top individual and team goal outputs of the year as the 1980 ASL regular season wound nearly to the end. With only two matches left on the schedule, the California Sunshine have their fate in their own hands, as they need only eight points from their games versus New York, on Wednesday, and Pennsylvania, Thursday, to capture the lone remaining playoff spot in the American Conference.

The Sacramento Spirit nailed down one of the two American Conference playoff spots this past week, as they defeated the Golden Gate Gales, 4-3, on Friday night in Sacramento, and then travelled back to the Gales' home stadium on Sunday, where the teams fought to a 3-3 tie. In Friday's match, Spirit striker Mike Mancini was the man of the hour as he started off the scoring with an unassisted goal in the 13th minute, and produced the eventual game winner in the 68th minute on another solo effort. Willie Munguia and Malcolm Filby added the Spirit's other two tallies, while Golden Gate received goals from Joe Berico, Alex Basso and Carlos Volpini.

On Sunday in Fremont, Golden Gate jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead in the first 32 minutes on goals by Basso, John Rowlands, and Volpini, and survived a furious second half comeback by the Spirit to salvage a 3-3 tie. Munguia, Filby, and Mancini all found the range for Sacramento, with Mancini's equalizer coming with only five minutes left in the match. The five points Golden Gate earned for the result eliminated the Miami Americans from playoff contention in the American Conference. As things stand at the moment, Sacramento is on top with 103 points, having completed their season, as have Golden Gate, who are in second place with 97 points. Miami, with schedule completed, are in third place with 93 points, and California, who are involved in the season's final two matches are in fourth place with 90 points, but are still capable of winning the American Conference race.

It was a rough week for Miami all around, for as they were being eliminated from postseason competition, they were also on the wrong end of the year's top goal production by one team and one player, as the Americans were routed at home on Friday by the Cleveland Cobras, 9-2. Ruben Astigarraga, the Cobras' lightning-quick winger pumped in four goals for Cleveland, as Joe Fink added a pair and one assist, and Andy Chapman one goal and two assists during the onslaught. The total of nine goals is a high for the 1980 campaign, as is Astigarraga's four goal performance. Ricardo Mena was the only bright light for Miami, scoring both of the Americans' goals.

More...

Add 1/1/1

New York United had a successful week, winning two home matches by identical 2-0 margins, over California on Sunday, and over the Pennsylvania Stoners Friday night, in what New York hopes is a preview of their upcoming National Conference playoff battle with the Stoners. In the Pennsylvania match Doval gave United a quick lead with a goal in the 11th minute, and Paul Kitson added an insurance tally twenty minutes into the second half to defeat the Stoners, who will finish the season with the ASL's top record no matter what the outcome of their last match with California.

Doval struck even quicker for New York on Sunday at Shea Stadium, as he slipped in a pass from Alejandro Cabrera in the second minute of play and then added another score ten minutes after the interval to give United their second victory of the weekend. Gerard Joseph registered both shutouts for New York, and the surprising newcomer has not allowed a goal in three straight matches for United, his first three appearances of the season. After New York faces California on Wednesday, they will brace for the first leg of the National Conference playoff title versus Pennsylvnaia in a two leg, aggregate goal duel, which will open up at New York on Sunday September 7th. The second leg of the competition is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th at ASD Stadium in Allentown, the home of the Stoners. In the American Conference the playoff schedule will be determined by the outcome of this week's matches involving California, but will follow the same format as the National's, with the first place team travelling to the home of the second place team for the first leg, and #2 at #1 for the second leg, with the result to be determined on aggregate goal count from both legs. Should the aggregate total be tied after both legs, the ASL overtime rule shall apply for the second leg only, and if it remains tied after overtime, the FIFA penalty kick tie breaker procedure shall be used to obtain a result.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK - RUBEN ASTIGARRAGA, CLEVELAND COBRAS

Astigarraga receives this week's honors for his ASL season high output of four goals in Cleveland's 9-2 rout of Miami on Friday night. The highly skilled Argentinian winger started off the goal explosion with a tally in the 10th minute, and added three second half goals to push the Cobras to the League's top single game goal total of the year. Astigarraga is regarded as perhaps the top pure winger in the League, and on his night, has proved unstoppable to ASL defenses.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK - GERARD JOSEPH, NEW YORK UNITED

Joseph has been tabbed as this week's defensive standout for his back-to-back shutouts over Pennsylvania and California at Shea Stadium this past weekend. They were also his second and third blankings of the year, as he has yet to concede a goal since stepping in as the first team keeper three matches ago. A 30 year old native of Haiti, Joseph was obtained by United on July 7th and has since fashioned his sterling 0.00 average. His presence in the nets in the upcoming playoffs versus Pennsylvania could be a crucial factor in New York's bid to upset the Stoners, who finish the season with the top record in the entire ASL.

More...

Add 2/2/2

LAST WEEK'S SCORES — HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Friday, August 29th	NEW YORK	2	Pennsylvania	0	
	SACRAMENTO	4	Golden Gate	3	
	Cleveland	9	MIAMI	2	
Sunday, August 31st	NEW YORK	2	California	0	
	GOLDEN GATE	3	Sacramento	3	(OT)

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Games**	Won	Lost	Tied	Goals For	Goals Against	Bonus Points	Total* Points
AMERICAN CONFERENCE								
Sacramento	28	12	13	3	41	40	37	103
Golden Gate	28	8	14	6	49	54	45	97
Miami	28	10	15	3	39	60	37	93
California	26	11	14	1	36	49	33	90
NATIONAL CONFERENCE								
x- Pennsylvania	27	18	5	4	47	27	40	138
New York	27	17	10	0	47	32	42	127
Cleveland	28	12	14	2	47	47	38	102
Columbus	28	11	14	3	34	31	32	93

(*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.)

(**Includes games forfeited by Columbus)

x- Clinched National Conference Title.

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE SCORING LEADERS

	Games	Goals	Assists	Points
Mal Roche, Golden Gate Gales	27	17	7	41
Andy Chapman, Cleveland	19	12	4	28
Jim Rolland, California	18	8	11	27
Narciso Doval, New York United	17	12	2	26
Joe Fink, Cleveland	22	12	2	26
Ruben Astigarraga, Cleveland	23	10	6	26
Malcolm Filby, Sacramento	16	11	3	25
Walter Schlothauer, Cleveland	22	7	9	23

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE LEADING GOALKEEPERS
(Minimum 1690 Minutes Played)

	Minutes	Shots	Saves	Goals Allowed	S.O.	Record	G.A. Ave.
Scott Manning, PA	2233	330	147	25	10	15-5-4	1.01
Tom Reynolds, Sac.	2085	281	93	28	8	12-8-3	1.21
Jamil Canal, New York	2093	396	162	32	5	13-10-0	1.38
Marine Cano, Cleveland	2350	421	171	45	3	10-13-2	1.72
Brian Parkinson, CA	1850	250	105	38	2	6-10-4	1.85

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

Wednesday, September 3rd	California at New York	8:05
Thursday, September 4th	California at Pennsylvania	6:35

Add 3/3/3

LAST WEEK'S MATCHES (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)

Friday, August 29th

NEW YORK UNITED 2 Pennsylvania Stoners 0 (1:0) (at New York)

NY: Joseph; Eden, Concha, McCrudden (Enea, 69), Lane, Clavijo, Clodoaldo, Mardarescu (Kitson, 45), Barthou (Filio, 83), Doval, D'Anzi.

PA: Manning; Smith, Gorleku, Tipping, McDonald, DaSilva (Ehrlich, 60), Ost, Watson (Filby, 44), Long, Nwokocha (McDermott, 69), Brooks (Urbanczuk,45).

SCORING: NY: Doval (10) (unasst'd) 11; Kitson (5) (Eden) 65. Goalies - Saves: Joseph (NY) 6; Manning (PA) 6; Shots: NY - 17; PA - 11; Offensive MVP - Narciso Doval, NYU; Defensive MVP - Mario Concha, NYU. Referee: J. Varas.

Cleveland Cobras 9 MIAMI AMERICANS 2 (4:0) (at Miami)

MIA: Mordas (Cordeba, 45); Roberts, Delgado, Demers, Vallejos (Gaston, 45), Cogan (Tienne, 60), Tavares, Rodriguez, Mena, Mescia, Njie (Pavlisko, 45)

CLE: Cano; Sendobry; Mammana, Rosul, Barry, Astigarraga, Schlothauer (Savic, 64), Fereira, Fink, Chapman, Kelley.

SCORING: MIA: Mena (4) (Mescia) 57, Mena (5) (unasst'd) 64; CC: Astigarraga (7) (unasst'd) 10, Fink (10) (Chapman) 25, Mammana (6) (Schlothauer) 40, Fink (11) (Chapman) 45, Astigarraga (8) (Fink) 52, Chapman (12) (Savic) 75, Astigarraga (9) (unasst'd) 78, Astigarraga (10) (unasst'd) 81, Barry (2) (Fereira) 82.Goalies - Saves - Mordas (MIA) 3; Cano (CLE) 6; Shots - MIA - 24; CLE - 22; Offensive MVP - Astigarraga, CLE; Defensive MVP - Mammana, CLE. Referee: J. Kovach.

SACRAMENTO SPIRIT 4 Golden Gate Gales 3 (2:1) (at Sacramento)

SAC: Reynolds; Brown, R. Avila, Stanton, Bryant, Denkers, Dawkins, Munguia, M. Avila, Mancini, Filby.

GGG: Spurgeon; Steinberg, Berico, Rowlands, Hauser (Basso, 42), Cornwell, Volpini, Trelles, Brooks, Hijlkema (Gray, 46), Roche.

SCORING: SAC: Mancini (4) (unasst'd) 13, Munguia (5) (Filby) 24, Filby (10) (M. Avila) 50, Mancini (5) (unasst'd) 68; GGG: Berico (1) (unasst'd) 28, Basso (4) (Brooks) 59, Volpini (9) (Trelles) 71. Goalies - Saves - Reynolds (SAC) 0; Spurgeon (GGG) 9; Shots - SAC - 21; GGG - 4; Offensive MVP - Mancini, SAC; Defensive MVP - Cornwell, GGG Referee: L. Mohacsy.

Sunday, August 31st

NEW YORK UNITED 2 California Sunshine 0 (1:0) (at New York)

NY: Joseph; Tyson (Enea, 45), Lane, Clodoaldo, Cabrera (Kitson, 45), Clavijo, Barthou (Mardarescu, 70), Eden, D'Anzi (Papoulias, 80), Concha, Doval.

CA: Lythgoe, Gehling (Burke, 65), Moraldo, Zavaleta, Johnstone, Tobin, Harding, Stierle, Towers, Walley, Nickeas.

SCORING: NY: Doval (11) (Cabrera) 2, Doval (12) (Lane) 55. Goalies: Saves - Joseph (NY) 14; Lythgoe (CA) 11; Shots - NY - 21; CA - 17. Offensive MVP - Doval, NYU; Defensive MVP - Lane, NYU. Referee: H. Krollfeifer.

GOLDEN GATE GALES 3 Sacramento Spirit 3 OT (3:0) (at Freemont)

GG: Spurgeon, Steinberg, Atack, Berico, Cornwell, Rowlands, Brooks, Volpini, Basso, Roche, Trelles (Hijlkema, 64).

SAC: Reynolds; Brown (Vicioso, 59), R. Avila (Carrizo, 36), Arber, Stanton, Dawkins (Salcedo, 97), Filby, Munguia, Mancini, Denkers (Bryant, 46), M. Avila.

SCORING: GGG: Basso (5) (unasst'd) 8, Rowland (2) (Trelles) 27, Volpini (10) (unasst'd) 32; SAC: Munguia (6) (unasst'd) 67, Filby (11) (Mancini) 75, Mancini (6) (M. Avila) 85; Goalies: Saves - Spurgeon (GGG) 11; Reynolds (SAC) 6; Shots - GGG - 19· SAC - 32; Offensive MVP - Volpini, GGG; Defensive MVP - Atack, GGG. Referee: Nikol.

Add 4/4/4

ASL NOTES - Clyde Watson and Eric Smith of the Pennsylvania Stoners have just been named as selections for the National Team of Guyana, their native country. Watson, a midfielder, and Smith, a defender, will join the Guyana National Team selection for upcoming qualifying matches for the 1982 World Cup. Watson, a three year ASL veteran and 1979 ASL All Star, has made over twenty international appearances for Guyana, and most recently has served as captain of his National Team. He is currently enjoying his most productive season offensively, with 4 goals and 4 assists, and is regarded as one of the League's premier midfield performers. Smith, one of the most outstanding rookies in the ASL this season, has been a major factor in the Stoners' compilation of the top record in the ASL this season and in the League leading Pennsylvania defense. Both players are graduates of Clemson University, and they will be returning to Guyana upon completion of the ASL playoffs.