NEWS RELEASE

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AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

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GEORGE GORLEKU NAMED 1980 ASL MVP
MAL ROCHE CHOSEN TOP AMERICAN PLAYER

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Defender George Gorleku of the National Conference champion Pennsylvania Stoners has been selected the 1980 American Soccer League Most Valuable Player, announced today by the League office. Golden Gate Gales striker Mal Roche, who topped the 1980 ASL scoring charts was chosen as the ASL's top American Player.

Gorleku, a 25 year old graduate of Eastern Illinois University, joined the Stoners as a free agent in 1980. A native of Ghana, Gorleku was the key figure in the Stoners' League-leading defense from his position as a sweeper, and his determined marking and tackling, along with overwhelming dominance in the air, helped pace the Stoners to the ASL's top record in 1980. While he scored but one goal in 24 games on the year, Gorleku's steadying, and sometimes spectacular displays at the heart of Pennsylvania back four drew praise from the media and the opposition throughout the season. He was also recently selected by his Stoners' teammates as their 1980 MVP, which included consideration for his work in the local community as well as on field performance.

Roche was voted to be the recipient of the ASL's first-ever American MVP award, which was restricted to players with United States citizenship. Roche led the ASL scoring derby from the third week of the season, and proved nearly unstoppable to ASL defenses, as he totalled 17 goals and 7 assists in 27 games, a 1.5 points per game average for the expansion Gales, who finished in third place in the American Conference. The honor was Roche's second ASL accolade, as he had been chosen Rookie of the Year in 1977. He joined the Gales this year and his four year totals with ASL teams read 45 goals and 16 assists, good for 106 points in 87 games played. The big, 6'2" frontrunner entered the ASL after graduating from the University of San Francisco, where he helped lead the Dons to an NCAA title during his stay there.

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