NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

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EHRLICH NAMED COACH OF YEAR FOR SECOND TIME

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Willie Ehrlich, the head ocach of the National Conference champion Pennsylvania Stoners, has been selected as the American Soccer League Coach of the Year of 1980, it was announced today by the League office. Ehrlich's selection marks the second successive year that he has been accorded the ASL's coaching honor, having been tabbed as Coach of the Year in 1979, when he led the expansion Stoners to the finals of the Eastern Conference playoffs. This makes Ehrlich the only two-time Coach of the Year in either of the two American professional soccer League, ASL and NASL.

Ehrlich was the man in charge this year as the Stoners drove to the top record in the entire ASL, at 19-5-4, good for 146 total points, and the National Conference regular season crown. A natvie of Hungary who emigrated to the United States in 1956, Ehrlich has been highly successful in developing local American talent, as witnessed by his 1979 club, of which two-thirds of the team's playing time was contributed by U.S. players. He has also displayed a unique ability to discover and acquire new talent, notably defender George Gorleku, whom Ehrlich signed as a free agent prior to this season, and who was recently named the ASL's 1980 MVP, and Eric Smith, a first year defender from Clemson University, who was tabbed as the League's Rookie of the Year following the 1980 campaign.

With his unprecedented two-time selection and a two year coaching record of 32-15-9, Ehrlich has established himself as one of the top soccer mentors in the country, whose trademarks have been the ability to bring along young, talented players and a system that makes use of a large number of players, while still producing a high work rate and cohesive team play. His work in the Lehigh Valley community has also been a major factor in the success of the Pennsylvania club and the development of extensive soccer programs for youngsters of all ages throughout the Stoners region of Pennsylvania.

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