NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

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CALIFORNIA CAPTURES PLAYOFF SPOT

NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA CLASH FRIDAY, SUNDAY

NEW YORK, N.Y. - In two dramatic overtime matches which concluded the 1980 ASL regular season, the California Sunshine fought back to clinch the final berth in the ASL playoffs by overtaking the Golden Gate Gales by two points, for second place in the American Conference. Facing the prospect of two back-to-back matches with the two playoff contenders in the National Conference, the Sunshine upset New York United, 2-1, on Wednesday at Shea Stadium, and secured their spot in postseason play by scoring two goals versus the Pennsylvania Stoners before falling, 3-2, in extra time on Thursday in Allentown. The combined points awarded for goals scored and Cal's victory over United pushed the Sunshine ahead of Golden Gate with 99 points to Golden Gate's 97, with the Gales having led the Sunshine by seven points heading in to the week's action. Sacramento Spirit finished on top of the American Conference with 103 points.

In Wednesday's game in New York, Cal's playoff prospects looked bleak after Carmelo D'Anzi rifled in a 20 yard shot for United in the 25th minute, and carried their advantage in to the second half. But the Sunshine's Don Burke, who had come on as a substitute only three minutes earlier, tied the game up on a solo effort in the 72nd minute to force the match into overtime. With only five minutes remaining in the second and final extra session, Carlos Zavaleta pushed in a ball from the midst of a goal mouth scramble to give California the crucial victory. The win drew the Sunshine even with Golden Gate and they needed only to score one goal versus Pennsylvania to capture the American Conference playoff position.

The Sunshine wasted no time in making sure of their second place spot on Thursday, as Cal's All Star midfielder Don Tobin slotted home a pass from Jay Johnstone in the eighth minute to put Cal over the top and in to the playoffs. Pennsylvania, which finished with the ASL's best record at 19-5-4, stormed back with a goal by Adrian Brooks just before halftime to equalize, and four minutes after the interval, Christian Nwokocha gave the Stoners a 2-1 lead on an assist from Ken McDonald. D.J. Harding responded for Cal thirteen minutes later to force a deadlock, but with only five minutes remaining in overtime, Pennsylvania's Ian Filby cracked home a tremendous 40 yard volley to provide a fitting climax to the match, with the Stoners a 3-2 winner.

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PLAYOFF PREVIEWS - New York will host Pennsylvania in the first leg of the National Conference playoffs on Friday, September 12th, when they host the Stoners at Randalls Island Stadium in New York City. The playing site was changed from Shea Stadium due to a conflict in the playing dates with the New York Mets. The second leg of the home-and-home, aggregate-goal affair will be played on Sunday, September 12th at ASD Stadium in Allentown, the home of the Stoners. During the regular season, Pennsylvania had a 3-3-0 record versus New York, with 8 goals for, and 9 against. In the last meeting between the two clubs, New York defeated Pennsylvania, 2-0, in New York.

In the American Conference, Sacramento Spirit, the first place finisher, and California will meet in Santa Ana for the first leg on Wednesday, September 10th with the return match set for Sunday, September 14th at Hughes Stadium in Sacramento. Sacramento finished with a 4-2-0 record versus California during the season, with 14 goals for, and 10 goals against. In their last meeting Sacramento defeated California by a score of 1-0 in Sacramento.

PLAYERS TO WATCH IN THE PLAYOFFS:

PENNSYLVANIA: The Stoners fashioned the top record in the entire ASL this past season, due primarily to the strong defense led by goalkeeper Scott Manning and sweeper George Gorleku. Manning topped all keepers with a 0.97 average, while Gorleku established himself as the League's top defender with his rugged tackling and dominance in the air. Adrian Brooks and Clyde Watson are the orchestrators in midfield, with Christian Nwokocha and Ian Filby the danger men in attack.

NEW YORK: United feature a high scoring attack, led by their Argentine striker Doval. Goalie Gerard Joseph came on to register three shutouts in United's last four games, and his back four marshalled by Redmond Lane, with All Stars Mario Concha and Feranado Clavijo providing valuable strength in defense and midfield, respectively. Late additions Wilson and Brazilian International Clodoaldo should provide a steadying effect on United during the post season competition.

SACRAMENTO: All Star striker Malcolm Filby leads the Spirit, with another All Star, Willie Munguia, the driving force in midfield. In defense, Sacramento has three experienced tough defenders in Bobby Arber, Mickey Brown, and Andy Stanton. Keeper Tom Reynolds was the ASL 2nd team All Star goalie this year, and has been to the playoffs before, so he should be prepared for the pressure.

CALIFORNIA: Cal's All Star midfielder Don Tobin could possibly be the top player in the ASL, and is the chief schemer for the Sunshine. Keith Walley complements Tobin well in midfield. In defense, Ramon Morlado, the sweeper, is as cool as they come, and has been an ASL All Star for three consecutive years. Jim Rolland, if healthy, is back on form and leads the Cal attack with big Frank Towers spearheading the offense.

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LAST WEEK'S SCORES — HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Wednesday, September 3rd	California 2	NEW YORK 1	(OT)
Thursday, September 4th	PENNSYLVANIA 3	California 2	(OT)

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS

	Games	Won	Lost	Tied	Goals For	Goals Against	Bonus Points	Total* Points
AMERICAN CONFERENCE								
Sacramento	28	12	13	3	41	40	37	103
California	28	12	15	1	40	53	37	99
Golden Gate	28	8	14	6	49	54	45	97
Miami	28	10	15	3	39	60	37	93
NATIONAL CONFERENCE								
Pennsylvania	28	19	5	4	50	29	43	146
New York	28	17	11	0	48	34	43	128
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.)

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE SCORING LEADERS

	Games	Goals	Assists	Points
Mal Roche, Golden Gate Gales	27	17	7	41
Andy Chapman, Cleveland Cobras	19	12	4	28
Narciso Doval, New York United	18	12	3	27
Jim Rolland, California Sunshine	18	8	11	27
Joe Fink, Cleveland Cobras	22	12	2	26
Ruben Astigarraga, Cleveland Cobras	23	10	6	26
Malcolm Filby, Sacramento Spirit	16	11	3	25
Walter Schlothauer, Cleveland Cobras	22	7	9	23
Ian Filby, Pennsylvania Stoners	23	9	3	21

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE LEADING GOALKEEPERS
(Minimum 1780 Minutes Played)

	Minutes	Shots	Saves	Goals Allowed	S.O.	Record	G.A. Ave.
Scott Manning, PA	2328	330	149	25	10	16-5-4	0.97
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

PLAY-OFF SCHEDULES

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Game #1; Wednesday, September 10th; Sacramento at California - Santa Ana 7:30

Game #2, Sunday, September 14th; California at Sacramento - Hughes Stadium 7:00

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Game #1, Friday, September 12th; Pennsylvania at New York - Randalls Island 8:05

Game #2, Sunday, September 14th; New York at Pennsylvania - ASD Stadium 6:35

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LAST WEEK'S MATCHES (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)

Wednesday, September 3rd

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

NY: Bobby Joseph; Tyson, Lane, Clodoaldo, Mardarescu (Kitson, 45), Clavijo, Eden, D'Anzi (Collins, 78), Concha, Filio (Barthou, 45, redcard, 99) Doval.

CA: John Lythgoe; Gehling, Morlado, Johnstone, Stierle (Burke, 69), Tobin, Harding, Nickeas, Towers, Walley, Zavaleta.

SCORING: NY: Carmelo D;Anzi (3) (Doval) 25; CAL: Don Burke (3) (unasst'd) 72, Carlos Zavaleta (1) (Walley) 105; Goalies - Saves: Joseph (NY) 15; Lythgoe (CAL) 12; Shots: NY-21; CAL-26; Offensive MVP - Keith Walley, CAL; Defensive MVP - Ramon Moraldo, CAL; Referee: C. Guadagni.

Thursday, September 4th

PENNSYLVANIA STONERS 3 California Sunshine 2 (OT) (1:1) (2:2) (at Allentown)

PA: Manning; Smith, Gorleku, Tipping, McDonald, DaSilba (Ehrlich, 59), Ost, Brooks (Urbanczuk, 85), Bolevic (Nwokocha, 35), Reice (Filby, 47), McDermott.

CAL: Lythgoe; Gehling, Moraldo, Johnstone, Nickeas, Tobin, Stierle(Burke, 54), Walley, Towers (Teanian, 89), Zavaleta, Harding.

SCORING: PA: Adrian Brooks (6) (unasst'd) 45; Christian Nwokocha (5) (Ken McDonald) 49; Ian Filby (9) (unasst'd) 105; CAL: Don Tobin (1) (Jay Johnstone) 8; D.J. Harding (1) (Frank Towers) 62; Goalies - Saves: Manning (PA) 2; Lythgoe (CAL) 3; Shots: PA - 19; CAL - 3; Offensive MVP - Ian Filby, PA; Defensive MVP - Ramon Moraldo, CAL; Referee: J. McCabe.