NEWS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA AND SACRAMENTO TO MEET IN ASL TITLE MATCH

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Pennsylvania Stoners captured the National Conference playoff title with a 4-2 aggregate total over New York United, and will face the Sacramento Spirit, who won the American Conference crown over California Sunshine, 5-4, in the 1980 American Soccer League Championship Game to be held Thursday, September 18th, at ASD Stadium in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Kick-off time for the ASL title match is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. (EST).

Pennsylvania, which topped all ASL clubs during the regular season with a 19-5-4 record, moved through to the season finale by defeating United, 3-1, on Sunday night in Allentown, after the teams had drawn, 1-1, in New York City on Friday night. In the first leg of the playoff, played on Friday night at Randalls Island Stadium, United snatched a first half lead when Doval converted a penalty in the 38th minute. With New York still attacking after halftime, Pennsylvania tied up the match only eight minutes into the second stanza, Stoners forward Christian Nwokocha rammed home a pass from Ken McDonald. The draw sent both teams to ASD Stadium on Sunday, with the outcome of that match to decide the National Conference champion.

On their home turf on Sunday, the Stoners jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead on a ferocious 35 yard shot by winger John McDermott in the 9th minute of play. New York responded with a goal by Brazilian ace Clodoaldo in the 34th minute, and the game scoreline and aggregate remained even at the half. After the interval, Nwokocha once again did the damage for Pennsylvania, slipping home a feed from Clyde Watson in the 62nd minute, seventeen minutes later, Pennsylvania ended United's hopes when the Stoners striker Bill Bolevic drew New York goalie Jamil Canal out of position before crossing the ball over for Watson to push the ball into an empty net. The 3-1 victory gave Pennsylvania the win on the two leg, aggregate basis by a 4-2 margin.

In the American Conference showdown between Sacramento, the regular season conference champion and defending ASL titlist, and California, who had come from behind to clinch a playoff spot in the final match of the regular season, the two leg contest required overtime in the second leg before Sacramento gained the win. In the opening leg at the Sunshine's home ground in Santa Ana on Wednesday night, the Spirit took a 3-1 lead in the first half, and held off a determined Sunshine comeback effort to grab a 4-3 victory. Malcolm Filby tallied in the 10th and 34th minutes of the match, and California's All Star defender Ramon Moraldo put through an own goal for Sacramento just before the half to offset California's lone score by midfielder Keith Walley in the 17th minute. After the half, Cal drew level after only twelve minutes on goals by Don Tobin and Don Burke, but with only seven minutes left to

play, the Spirit's Mike Mancini popped home the winner of the exciting playoff contest.

On Sunday night in Sacramento, following a scoreless first half, the Sunshine's Walley again found the net , scoring on an unassisted effort in the 53rd minute. California held out on defense for the rest of the match, and their 1-0 win made the aggregate score 4-4, forcing two ten minute overtimes, In the second extra session, Sacramento captain Trevor Dawkins latched on to a beautiful pass from midfielder Raul Carrizo and smashed a shot past Cal goalie John Lythgoe with only five minutes remaining to send the Spirit to the ASL title match for the second year in a row. Coincidentally, it was a goal by Dawkins that put Sacramento in to the final last year, and he also assisted on the lone goal of the ASL title match, scored by Ian Filby, who will be facing the Spirit with the Pennsylvania Stoners on Thrusday. In addition to taking on his old teammates, with whom he led the ASL in scoring in 1979, the matchup will feature Ian's brother Malcolm playing for Sacramento versus his sibling in the ASL Championship.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLAYOFF FINAL (Two legs, aggregate score)

First Leg, Friday, September 12th (at New York)

NEW YORK UNITED 1 Pennsylvania Stoners 1 (1:0)

NY: Canal; Lane, Clodoaldo, Enea, Kitson (red card, 82); Mardarescu (Tyson, 60), Clavijo, Eden, D'Anzi(Cabrera, 65), Concha, Doval.

PA: Manning; Smith, Gorleku, Tipping, Watson, Ost(Brooks, 53), DaSilva, McDonald, Long (McDermott, 75), Bolevic(Reice, 46), Mancke (Nwokocha, 46)

SCORING: NY: Doval (unasst'd) 38; PA: Christian Nwokocha (Ken McDonald) 53; Goalies - Saves: Jamil Canal (NY) 8; Scott Manning (PA) 9; Shots: NY - 13, PA - 12; Offensive MVP - Christian Nwokocha, PA; Defensive MVP - Redmond Lane, NY; Referee: F. Desimini.

Second Leg, Sunday, September 14th (at Allentown)

PENNSYLVANIA STONERS 3 New York United 1 (1:1)

PA: Manning; Smith, Tipping, McDonald, Gorleku, DaSilva, Watson (Ost, 81), McDermott, Nwokocha, Urbanczuk (Long, 35), Filby (Bolevic, 45).

NY: Canal; Wilson (Barthou, 62), Lane, Tyson, Concha, Eden, Clavijo, Clodoaldo, Doval, Cabrera (red card, 52), D'Anzi (Enea, 62).

SCORING: PA: John McDermott (unasst'd) 9; Christian Nwokocha (Clyde Watson) 62; Watson (Bill Bolevic) 79; NY: Clodoaldo (Alejandro Cabrera) 34; Goalies - Saves: Scott Manning (PA) 2; Jamil Canal (NY) 6; Shots: PA -19; NY - 5; Offensive MVP - Clyde Watson, PA; Defensive MVP - Mario Concha, NY. Referee: C. Barcliff.

PENNSYLVANIA WINS ON AGGREGATE, 4-2

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AMERICAN CONFERENCE PLAYOFF FINAL (Two legs, aggregate score)

First Leg, Wednesday, September 10th (at Santa Ana)

Sacramento Spirit 4 CALIFORNIA SUNSHINE 3 (3:1)

CAL: Lythgoe; Burke, Moraldo, Nickeas, Zavaleta, Tobin, Walley, Towers, Rolland, Stierle, Harding.

SAC: Reynolds; Brown, Arber, Stanton, Dawkins, Carrizo (McKeown, 63), Filby, Munguia, Mancini, M. Avila, Denkers.

SCORING: CAL: Keith Walley (Jim Rolland) 17; Don Tobin (Walley) 52; Don Burke (Tobin) 57; SAC: Malcolm Filby (Mike Mancini) 10; Filby (unasst'd) 34; Ramon Moraldo (CAL) (own goal) 45; Mike Mancini (Dirk Denkers) 83; Goalies - Saves: John Lythgoe (CAL) 5; Tom Reynolds (SAC) 6; Shots: CAL - 15; SAC - 13; Offensive MVP - Jim Rolland, CAL; Defensive MVP - Kurt Stierle, CAL; Referee: H. Wolmerath.

Second Leg, Sunday, September 14th (at Sacramento)

SACRAMENTO SPIRIT 1 California Sunshine 1 (OT) (0:0) (0:1)

SAC: Reynolds; Brown, Arber, Stanton, Denkers, Dawkins, McKeown(Carrizo,75), Munguia, Filby, Mancini, M. Avila.

CAL: Lythgoe; Moraldo, Zavaleta, Harding, Stierle, Tobin, Nickeas, Burke, Walley, Towers (Gehling, 105), Rolland.

SCORING: SAC: Trevor Dawkins (Raul Carrizo) 105; CAL: Keith Walley (unasst'd) 53; Goalies - Saves: Tom Reynolds (SAC) 3; John Lythgoe (CAL) 5; Shots: SAC - 19; CAL - 8; Offensive MVP - Trevor Dawkins, SAC; Defensive MVP 0 Carlos Zavaleta, CAL; Referee: K. Kretschmer

SACRAMENTO WINS ON AGGREGATE, 5-4