NEWS RELEASE

Haskell Cohen
Director, Public Relations

810 Seventh Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10019
Telephone: (212) 265-7500

Contact: ~~XXXXXXXXX~~ Chip Young
Director, Media Relations
(212) 265-7500

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

September 15, 1980

Contact: Michel Sanger

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE ASL FRANCHISE SIGNS

RODNEY MARSH

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- The Carolina Professional Soccer Club has signed ex-Tampa Bay Rowdie great Rodney Marsh to coach the Charlotte-based American Soccer League franchise.

In addition, the expansion team, which will begin play next year, will be called the "Lightnin'". That name was selected from 6,923 entries in a contest sponsored by a Charlotte newspaper.

The Lightnin' gains one of the world's most famous athletes with the signing of Marsh. In his four years with Tampa Bay in the North American Soccer League Marsh became one of the most popular personalities in the Bay Area.

Marsh first gained renown in England, where he played for three clubs: Fulham; Queens Park Rangers; and Manchester City. He led Queens Park to the League Cup title, played on England's National Team and earned the nickname of "The Clown Prince of Soccer" due to his colorful and flamboyant style of play.

After signing with the Rowdies in 1976, he was named as the NASL Play-off Most Valuable Player that year and was selected to the League's All-Star first team. He continued to pile up honors over the next three years and led the Rowdies to two Soccer Bowl appearances.

In his four years with Tampa Bay, Marsh became the Rowdie's all time leading scorer, and concluded his active career with a rare tribute, a testimonial game staged in his honor following the 1979 campaign. He then joined the New York United of the ASL for a brief run as that club's Head Coach this past season, before joining the Lightnin'.

-30-