Media Release

AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE
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For immediate release upon receipt

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SHOOTOUTS GALORE

Before the 1983 American Soccer League season got started, there was plenty of discussion---both pro and con---regarding shootouts. Well, shootouts are here, and by all indications after last weekend, the move appears to be a big success.

Over the weekend, the ASL featured two shootouts, with Carolina defeating Oklahoma City 2-1, and Jacksonville beating Pennsylvania, 4-3.

On Friday, May 20, the first-ever ASL shootout occurred in Charlotte, NC, as the Lightnin' outscored the Slickers 2-1 in one-on-one encounters. It was Kevin Fauser of Carolina who scored the first shootout goal, a left footed shot that beat Slicker goalie, Phil Parkes. Seconds later, Mark Kerlin whipped one by Carolina netminder, Matt Kennedy. The tie-breaker came in Carolina's last try, as Dave Powers dulled a low shot by Parkes.

On Sunday might, May 22, it was the Stoners and the Tea Men who took to the shootout. Jacksonville quickly took a 2-0 advantage on goals by Matt English and Micky Zivaljevic. Finally, Giulio Bernardi put one in for Pennsylvania, as did Solomon Hilton.

Suddenly, it was 2-2, but not for long. Tony Carbognani scored for Jacksonville, and then Steve Ralbovsky, who scored a goal eralier in the game, booted in the clincher.

There may still be some skeptics out there, but for now, the decision to use the shootout as a tie-breaker, has been welcomed by many a fan.

JACKSONVILLE: NEW BULLY ON THE BLOCK

The Jacksonville Tea Men changed neighborhoods this year and, so far, they aren't treating their new neighbors very well. In fact, the've been down-right bullies.

(more other side)

Consider these notes: up until last Sunday night, the Tea Men had yet to allow a goal. With Peter Simonini in goal and a strong defense in front of him, Jacksonville shut out Oklahoma City 1-0 in its season opener, and then defeated Dallas 3-0. In Pennsylvania on Sunday, the Stoners were held scoreless through the first half, before exploding for three goals in the second half. It wasn't enough, however, as those bullies eventually won via a shootout.

"We made hard work of it tonight," said the gang's leader, Dennis Violet, who acts as the team's coach. "But still, we're 3-0 and we're delighted."

Violet and his Tea Men may be delighted, but one old neighbor was heard to say, "With these new kids on the block, it just isn't like the old neighborhood anymore."

ASL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Steve Ralbovsky of the Jacksonville Tea Men has been named this week's ASL Player of the Week. Ralbovsky scored a goal on a penalty kick in Jacksonville's 3-0 win over Dallas, May 20. And then, in Pennsylvania Sunday night, he scored another goal on a penalty kick. More importantly, however, the defender tallied the clinching goal in the season's second shootout.

"Robo" joined the Tea Men after a stint with the NASL Tulsa Roughnecks, where he scored one goal and collected four assists last year. Ralbovsky attended Brown University, and in 1975, he garnered the Herman Trophy, which tabbed him as the top collegiate player that year. His pro career began with the LA Skyhawks, of the ASL, where he quickly made a name for himself by being named Rookie of the Year and by leading his squad to the league championship.

"Robo" was born in Yugoslavia, but is now a U.S. citizen. Ralbovsky, who speaks six different languages, has been named to a host of ALL TEAM and garnered many individual honors.

(more)

Note: In nine NASL games, "Robo" never lost to a Jacksonville squad.

THE RUSSIANS CAME, THE RUSSIANS CAME

The Russians came, but, they did not conquer--not quite, that is. In an exhibition game Tuesday, May 17th, the dynamo mink team of Russia made their way to Detroit's Silverdome. After trailing 2-0 at the end of the first half, the Russians came back with two goals in the final 10 minutes to score a 2-2 tie.

"They were good," said Express coach Brian Tinnion. "They attacked with everybody. They had us so confused, they seemed to come to us offensively with everybody."

The Russian coach indicated that his squad had great difficulty in adjusting to the Silverdome's artificial turf. Reportedly, the Dynamos' play nearly all their games on grass.

The Express scored both their goals early in the game, with Clyde Watson (from Brian Tinnion) and Mike Powers recording the tallies.

When asked which Detroit players he would like to take back to the Soviet Union, the Russian coah, through an interpreter said, "They're all equal. American soccer is beginning to develop in the early stages, and in the future, there will be plenty of good soccer here."

A crowd of 5,273 attended the inter-continental match.

HIRSBERG JOINS RADIO TEAM

Two weeks ago, the ASL Director of Public Relations attempted to strut his stuff for the Pennsylvania Stoners during a team practice. On Sunday night, May 22, the all-purpose PR man took to the airwaves of radio station WJAX.

Jay Solomon, the voice of the Tea Men, arrived in Pennsylvania with a sore throat and a bad case of larangitis. Seeking help, he turned to Hirshberg, who volunteered to assist the veteran sportscaster in reporting the Stoner-Jacksonville game.

(more)

Unlike his Stoner try-out, Hirshberg responded admirably--at least that's what Solomon said aloud (what he said under his breath is anyone's guess). So, the duo of Solomon and Hirshberg, brought their magical voices to Florida.

Already Hirshberg claims to have received hundreds of requests for future radio services. But the budding radio star insists that he'll remain with the ASL for the rest of the season!

ASL HOTLINE

The Oklahoma City Slickers scored their first goal of the 1983 season on May 19, when Kenny Killingsworth scored one at the 34:21 mark of the first half against Detroit. It was Oklahoma's third game of the year. Zoran Savic picked up the assist. It was all to no avail, however, as the Slickers lost 3-1 to the red-hot Express...On the other side of the coin, the Jacksonville Tea Men, after two victorious shutouts, gave up their first goal of the campaign to the Pennsylvania Stoners, May 22. The Stoners scored three total goals, but lost to the Tea Men, 4-3 in a shootout...Solomon Hilton of Pennsylvania has already scored four goals this year, while in all of 1982, he only tallied six. Hilton is second in the ASL top scoring leaders, one point behind Bill Boljevic (1982 MVP)... In the Pennsylvania-Jacksonville game, please note this correction: The Tea Men's second goal was scored by Roman Rosul, with an assist by Jorge Berrio. Berrio did NOT score the goal...Last year's Rookie of the Year, Franco Paonessa, scored his first goal of the season May 22 in the Stoners fourth game in 1983...If the rain keeps up, the Silverdome may have to become the official stadium of the ASL!!!

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Thursday, May 19

Detroit	3
Oklahoma City	1

Attendance: 1,508 at Oklahoma
Referee: John Posadzides
Scoring: Detroit: Boljevic 19:57; Watson (Tinnion) 53:51; Watson (Gabarra) 61
Oklahoma: Killingsworth (Savic) 34:21

	D	O
Shots	7	14
Saves	3	2
Corners	4	10
Fouls	29	16
Offiside	9	2

Cautions: Detroit: Steve Westbrook 66:24
Oklahoma: Sautter 17:17; Killingsworth 48:02; Savic 70:45

Detroit: Delorm, St. Westbrook, Franklin, Kittelberger, Christensen, Tinnion, Watson, Boljevic, Sc. Westbrook, Moffat, Gabarra, Powers, Vaughn, Chapman

Oklahoma: Parker, Sautter, Alioto, Knepzic, Ley, Gehling, Millinder, Husband, Killingsworth, Kerlin, Savic, Kraemer, Pena

Friday, May 20

Dallas	0
Jacksonville	3

Attendance: 4,750 at Jacksonville
Referee: John Sullivan
Scoring: Dallas: none
Jacksonville: Rolbousky 40:34; English (Liguos) 68:01;
English (Streclar) 89:45

	D	J
Shots	10	12
Saves	5	10
Corners	6	8
Fouls	29	14

Cautions: Dallas: Roentued 56:30; Cohen 82:20
Jacksonville: Lignus 83:30

Dallas: R.Phillips, Elder,Roentued, Cohen, McMonigle, Helkenkamp, Dolsinsky, Welsch, Miller, Bourne, Kadupski, Easterling, Sedlacek, B.Phillips

Jacksonville: Siminini, Ligous, Bapst, Berrio, Ralbousky, Zec, Carbognani, Fall, Strecker, Zivaljevic, English

Friday, May 20

Oklahoma City		1
Carolina	(Shootout)	2

Attendance: 4,573 at Carolina
Referee: Donald Wilbur
Scoring: Oklahoma: Ley 71:53
Carolina: Fauser (Reice) 32:46

	O	C
Shots	23	10
Saves	4	12
Corners	9	5
Fouls	17	27
Offisides	3	2

Cautions: None

Oklahoma City: Parkes, Knezic, Ley, Sautter, Alioto, Killingsworth, Millinder, Gehling, Kraemer, Kerlin, Savic, James, Husband

Carolina: Kennedy, Heilman, Marvin, Philpotts, Reice, Payne, Pierce, Fauser, Tobin, Lee, Lauer, Suarez

Off. MVP: Fauser
Def. MVP: Kennedy

Saturday, May 21

Carolina		1
Detroit		2

Attendance: 4,611 at Detroit
Referee: Terrance Campbell
Scoring: Carolina: Suarez 80:15
Detroit: Powers (Boljevic) 8:35; Boljevic 33:50

	C	D
Shots	17	16
Saves	16	16
Corners	3	8
Fouls	15	16
Offsides	2	3

Cautions: None

Carolina: Kennedy, Baig, Powers, Phillpott, Lee Avilla, Fauser, Tobin, Heilman, Suarez, Reice, Marvin, Pierce

Detroit: DeLorm, St. Westbrook, Franklin, Christensen, Tinnion, Watson, Boljevic, Sc. Westbrook, Moffat, Gaborra, Powers, Vaughn

Off. MVP: Boljevic
Def. MVP: Sc. Westbrook

Saturday, May 21

Pennsylvania	1
Dallas	3

Attendance: 4,400 at Dallas
Referee: Ed Bellion
Scoring: **Pennsylvania: Hilton (Paonessa) 14:31**
Dallas: Bourne (Cohen) 7:16; Welsch (Hellenkamp) 54:46; Dolinski (Bourne) 81:17

	P	D
Shots	16	22
Saves	7	2
Corners	7	9
Fouls	13	17

Cautions: Dallas: Elder 54:27; Easterling 83:35

Pennsylvania: Taratsides, Smith, Schlothauer, Partenheimer, Carr, Horvath, Nezaj, Ramsey, Yepez, Paonessa, Hilton, Bernardi

Dallas: Phillips, Elder, Cohen, Roentued, Kadupski, McMonigle, Hellenkamp, Dolinski, Welsch, Bourne, Miller, Sedlacek, Easterling

Sunday, May 22

Jacksonville	(shootout)	4
Pennsylvania		3

Attendance: 553 at Pennsylvania
Referee: Franz Gaertner
Scoring: Jacksonville: Ralbousky 58:12; Berrio 83:41; Fall 85:04
Pennsylvania: Nezaj (Carr) 60:47; Hilton 72:49; Paonessa 88:59

Shootout: Jacksonville 4, Pennsylvania 2

	J	P
Shots	20	27
Saves	4	6
Corners	6	15
Fouls	30	27

Cautions: Jacksonville: Bapst 21:36; Carbognani 96:31
Pennsylvania: Davis 29:58; Paonessa 96:31

Jacksonville: Simonini, Lignos, Bapst, Berrio, Ralbousky, Meyer, Carbognani, Fall, Strecker, Zivaljevk, English, Rosul

Pennsylvania: Taratsides, Schlothauer, Davis, Carr, Partenheimer, Yepez, Horvath, Nezaj, Hilton, Paonessa, Bernardi, Ramsey

Off. MVP Ralbousky
Def. MVP Carr

ASL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION	W	L	GF	GA	BP	TP
Jacksonville	3	0	7	3	7	22
Pennsylvania	1	3	6	7	8	13
Carolina	1	2	3	5	3	8
WESTERN DIVISION						
Detroit	4	0	8	3	8	28
Dallas	2	2	6	7	6	16
Oklahoma	0	4	2	7	4	4

(5) win, (1) bonus point for each goal up to three in game, (2) for a tie after overtime complete-listed as bonus points.

RESULTS LAST WEEK

Thursday, May 19	Detroit 3, Oklahoma City 1
Friday, May 20	Jacksonville 3, Dallas 0
Friday, May 20	Carolina 2, Oklahoma City 1 (shootout)
Saturday, May 21	Detroit 2, Carolina 1
Saturday, May 21	Dallas 3, Pennsylvania 1
Sunday, May 22	Jacksonville 4, Pennsylvania 3 (shootout)

THIS WEEK's SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 25	Detroit at Pennsylvania
Friday, May 27	Dallas at Oklahoma City
Friday, May 27	Jacksonville at Carolina
Saturday, May 28	Carolina at Jacksonville
Saturday, May 28	Oklahoma City at Dallas
Saturday, May 28	Pennsylvania at Detroit

ASL SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	TP
Boljevic, Detroit	4	1	9
Hilton, Pennsylvania	4	0	8
Watson, Detroit	2	0	4
Welsch, Dallas	2	0	4
Rausch, Dallas	2	0	4
Ralbomsky, Jacksonville	2	0	4
English, Jacksonville	2	0	4
Fauser, Carolina	2	0	4

GOALTENDING LEADERS

	G	MIN	SAVES	GA	SHO	RECORD	AVG
Delorm, Detroit	4	360	41	3	1	4-0	0.75
Simonini, Jacksonville	3	290	19	3	2	3-0	0.98
Kennedy, Carolina	2	200	28	3	0	1-1	1.35
Taratsides, Pennsylvania	4	380	23	7	1	1-3	1.65
Parkes, Oklahoma	4	380	14	7	0	0-4	1.65

ASL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Steve Ralbovsky, Jacksonville