CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

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PLAYER PROFILE: BILLY POLACK

Billy "the Pulverizer" Polack was the Cleveland Cobras' first round draft choice from Akron University. At Akron, the 21 year old back was named to the All-Ohio team in his last two collegiate seasons.

"Billy is the type of player we need to shore up our defense, and the defense was our weakest point last season," commented general manager, Dr. John Gyekenyesi after signing Polack.

Polack has been known for his aggressive playing style, and he has left his mark on more than one collegiate striker who tried to dribble past him. Because of his attraction to rugged play, Billy was tabbed "the Pulverizer" by his teammates.

"I guess you could say that I'm a rough player," commented "the Pulverizer" in a soft voice which is the antithesis of his playing style.

He is a native of Akron, and attended Akron Garfield High where his soccer skills earned him All-City honors and a scholarship to Akron University. While playing for Akron, he shut off Cleveland State's star forward, Roman Rosul, without a goal in the club's two contests this past season.

Polack earned a B.A. in physical education and plans to enter the teaching field this fall.

"I always liked working with kids," added "the Pulverizer," "and I believe that physical education is a very important part of a student's school experience. Often, we spend all day training a kid's mind, but we fail to condition his body. This is why people drop dead from a heart attack at 35. It's not that these people got out of

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shape, rather, these people were never in shape in the first place, because somewhere along the line the school didn't help them stay in good shape."

Playing professional soccer is the culmination of ten years of rigorous training for Polack.

"I've always wanted to play pro soccer, and I've worked hard for a long time with this goal in mind. Signing with the Cobras was an added benefit because I'm able to stay near home and play before my friends and family," said Polack.

Polack believes that there is a salient feature to professional soccer which is not found in the college game.

"In the pro's, the players are more experienced and quicker. Also, the pro's play a much tougher physical game. There is a lot more dirty play found in the A.S.L., and I'll have to be prepared for that."

Coach Herbie Haller was overjoyed at the signing of the Akron ace.

"I really believe that "the Pulverizer" will be able to team with Dave Lecke and give us the strong defense which was lacking last year."

Polack fits in with the Cobras' policy of Americanizing soccer. "Billy is an American kid. He and others like him who started playing the game in this country are where the future of American soccer lies. His future is unlimited," summed up Cobras' president, Howard Collier.

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