CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

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RELEASE DATE

COBRAS PLAY DIVISION LEADERS

Coming off a 1-0 decision over the Chicago Cats last Saturday, the Cobras continue their quest for the playoffs as they take on the first place Rhode Island Oceaneers this Friday night in an 8:00PM contest at Baldwin Wallace Stadium.

The Oceaneers are residing on top of the pack in the A.S.L.'s Eastern Division as they own a 5-3 record, and this mark is especially impressive when you consider the fact that the Oceaneers dropped their first two games of the season.

Scoring is Rhode Island's forte as they boast the top two scorers in the league last season in the form of Jose Neto and Mohammed "the Baby Jet" Attiah. Neto rammed home 23 goals last season and Attiah was right behind him with 16.

The Cobras lost to Rhode Island 2-0 earlier this season, and the Cobras defense of Paul Chymovic as goal (with a 0.89 goals against average) and backs Billy Polack, Dave Leckie, and Eugene Horvat will have to be at the top of their game to stifle the rampaging Oceaneers.

Joining Neto and Attiah on the Rhode Island frontline is Carmelo D'Anzi. Only 18 years old, D'Anzi is in his second professional season. Last year, he picked up a goal and an assist. Gladstone Ofori is also expected to see some action. Ofori played for Hartford in the N.A.S.L. last year.

Three experienced players hold down the Oceaneers midfield area. Juan Cano returns from last year when he was one of the most offensive minded midfielders in the A.S.L. as he scored three goals and collected four assists. Teaming up with Cano are Itamar Alves and Frantz St. Lot. As if the Oceaneers did not have enough offensive firepower, they picked up Alves from the now defunct Boston Astros. Alves was one of the keys to Jose

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Neto's fine year with that same club last season as Alves picked up nine assists to go with one goal for eleven points. St. Lot also returns from last season's Oceaneers. He is a native of Haiti.

Along with being an explosive squad, the Oceaneers are no slouches on the backline as they are led by goaltender Tony Dicicco who had the best goals against average in the league last season with a 1.30 mark. This season Dicicco ranks third (right ahead of Cleveland's Chymovic) with a 0.86 average.

Surrounding Dicicco are backs Leo Ramos, Antonio Soares, Tony Borges, and Osmar Cardozo. Ramos played for Boston last season and picked up three goals and a pair of assists. Osmar Cardozo has been a long time nemesis of the Cobras Jimmy McMillan as twice the two have squared off in the heat of battle with punches flying.

"Rhode Island is the strongest club in the Eastern Division," noted Cobras general manager, Dr. John Gyekenyesi. "They have the highest paid team in the A.S.L. with the most imports and this is reflected in the standings. Also, their forward, Mohammed Attiah, just may be the best player in American soccer."

With their win over Chicago, the Cobras are now in fifth place, but they are only one win out of the second spot as the race for the playoffs is very close. Cleveland will have to do without the services of Tom Nowicki and Danny Budimir for Friday's game. Nowicki has numerous bruises as a result of a motorcycle accident last week, and Budimir tore many ligaments in his right knee playing in the Cobras 1-1 tie with Sacramento a week ago.

The Cobras next game is Tuesday night, June 8, against the Cork Hibernians, an Irish first division team.

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