CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

404 HOYT BUILDING • WEST 6th STREET and ST. CLAIR
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RELEASE DATE

COBRAS CHALLENGE TIDES

As coach Herbie Haller sits down to write his starting lineup for this Saturday's 8:00PM contest against the Tacoma Tides at Baldwin Wallace Stadium, he must be wondering if he'll have 11 healthy bodies to put on the field.

Last week's 5-3 exhibition loss to the Los Angeles Skyhawks was a costly one to the Cobras as reserve forward Mladen Laus suffered a sprained wrist which will keep him out of action. Vito Colonna and Roberto Oliveira, the top two Cleveland scorers are both suffering from pulled muscles and while they are expected to play, they will not be in peak condition. Midfielder Willie Carrasco suffered a sprained ankle in the 3-2 loss to the Cork Hibernians last week and he is expected to be on the sidelines this week. Also, starting goaltender, Paul Chymovic, has been hampered by back problems which explains his absence from the lineup for the last two games. He should start against Tacoma.

Good news in the injury area is that previously hurt players, Danny Budimir and Tom Nowicki played against the Skyhawks and now only need to get back in shape to be at the top of their game.

The Tides come to town with a 4-3-3 record which is good for third place in the A.S.L.'s Western Division, and they are only one win behind the first place Los Angeles Skyhawks. The two teams met earlier in Cleveland and dueled to a 0-0 deadlock as fine defensive play was the norm.

Defense has been the Tides strong point all season long as they feature last season's All-A.S.L. goaltender, Jamil Canal (who picked up that honor while playing for the New York Apollo). The two key defenders on the Tides bacline are Mickey Rooney and Bill Wilkinson. Rooney was a former All-American at Keene State College in New Hampshire, and

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Wilkinson played first division soccer in England.

David Chadwick, the Tides captain and assistant coach anchors the midfield area. The 32 year old native of India is a former member of the Dallas Tornado of the N.A.S.L. The other forward is Ben Brewster who is a former member of the Connecticut Wildcats and a graduate of Brown University. Brewster and Cleveland's Vito Colonna collided heads in the first meeting between these two teams and Colonna received a 13 stitch cut over his right eye as a souvenir.

In an attempt to bolster their somewhat lethargic offensive attack which has only produced 12 goals in as many games, the Tides traded a star defender to the Los Angeles Skyhawks for Brooks Cryder who was a high powered All-American forward at Philadelphia Textile College.

Cryder will team with Bernard "Dancing Shoes" Hartze who is known as a superb dribbler and totaled 54 goals in just 30 games while playing professional soccer in the South African Soccer League. Surrounding Hartze are Roy Sinclair and Charlie "Mongo" Meyers. Sinclair is a former member of the N.A.S.L.'s Seattle Sounders and Meyers was a star at the University of Baltimore.

"Tacoma plays a real tight defense and the addition of Cryder should help their attack. We'll have to go back to the type of defense we were playing before the Irish game if we expect to beat them," observed Herbie Haller.

The fans can expect a top-notch contest as the Cobras hope to improve on their 4-4-2 record. The Cobras next home game is next Friday, June 25, as they take on the Connecticut Wildcats in an 8:00PM confrontation at Baldwin Wallace.

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