CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

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

COBRAS BATTLE ISRAELI OLYMPIC TEAM

When the Cobras take the field this Thursday night at 8:00PM against the Israeli Olympic team, they will be battling one of the finest young teams in the world.

The fans who flock to Baldwin Wallace Stadium will see one of the top 16 teams in the world that will compete later this month in the Olympics at Montreal. The average age of the Israeli player is only 25, and they are believed to be the youngest team competing in the Olympics.

In order to qualify for the summer games, they had to beat Japan, the Philippines, Burma, and Malaysia.

Yitzhak Wissoker, the Israeli's 32 year old goaltender, is the senior member of the squad and he has played with the National team since 1963 in addition to taking part in 67 international contests.

The two key cogs on the backline are both natives of Tel Aviv. Fullbacks Abe Lev and Meir Nimni are both 28 years old and they have played in 13 international games each.

The Israeli's strongest suit is their midfield where Russian-born Izhak Shum is a ballhandling wizard. Shum moved to Israel in 1959 and the 28 year old midfielder has displayed his skills in 50 international games.

Other members of the midfield are Yaron Oz and Moshe Shani. Oz played for the Israeli National team which took on the Cobras last season while Shani is the son of the Israeli coach, David Shweitzer. He has been coach

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of the National team since 1973. He led the 1974 squad to a victory in the Asian games which included all of the teams from that continent. Shweitzer is a native of Tel Aviv and spent time playing soccer in England and Germany.

Gideon Damti leads the offensive charge, and the 26 year old forward has been with the National team since 1971. He has played in 32 international games. Other key players on the frontline are Shalom Shwarts and Itzhak Peretz.

"The Israeli game is another in our continuing effort to bring the best brand of soccer possible to the Cleveland area. They are a young team with plenty of speed and desire. They should be a contender for a medal in Montreal," said Cobras general manager, Dr. John Gyekenyesi.

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