CLEVELAND COBRAS

COBRA NEWS

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER, INC.

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

# COBRAS ATTENDANCE ON THE RISE

Although the Cobras were topped 5-0 by the Israeli Olympic team last week, the game did draw a season high crowd of 6,488. This is the largest turnout ever to see a professional soccer game at George Finnie Stadium.

This weekend the Cobras return to regular season action after playing two exhibition contests with Olympic squads from Israel and Canada.

On Friday, the Cobras travel to New Haven as they take on the Connecticut Yankees. Cleveland has topped Connecticut twice this season, 2-0 in Cleveland and 1-0 in Connecticut.

The Yankees were the highest scoring team in the A.S.L. until just recently when they went into an offensive drought as they were shutout by New York, Cleveland, and New Jersey. Not scoring in three consecutive contests has lowered Connecticut's record to 5-7-0.

The Cobras return to Finnie Stadium Saturday night as they play the first place Rhode Island Oceaneers. Cleveland nipped the Oceaneers earlier this season 2-1, and they were shutout in Rhode Island 2-0. This is a key game in Cleveland's quest for a playoff spot and a division title. The Oceaneers record is 6-6-2 and they have played two more games than Cleveland whose record stands at 5-4-3, and this could be an important factor in determining who will be involved in the playoffs.

Rhode Island is led by last season's scoring leader, Jose Neto. Neto is second in the A.S.L. scoring race this year with 7 goals and 1 assist. Connecticut's Vic Calabrese leads the pack with 8 goals and 1 assist.

The other two Oceaneer forwards are Mohammed "the Baby Jet" Attiah and Carmelo D'Anzi. Attiah was second in the A.S.L. scoring race last year, but he has not been producing quite as well this year. D'Anzi is only 18, and he is in his second professional season.

Three experienced players hold down the Oceaneers midfield area. Juan Cano has knocked in a pair of goals this year, and he is joined by former Boston Astro Itamar Alves and Frantz St. Lot.

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Goaltender Tony DiCicco has been terrific in the Rhode Island nets thus far as he has recorded 6 shutouts and boasts a goals against average of 0.90.

The Cobras attendances are up this year compared to last season's record crowds. Cleveland is averaging 3,270 fans per game this season, compared to an average of 3,056 last year. But more importantly, is the fact that the team is averaging 3,740 for its last eight dates. The first three games which Cleveland played drew crowds of less than 2,000 as they were played during the week and in less than ideal weather conditions thanks to the uncertainty of Spring.

Jimmy McMillan has recovered from his sprained knee and is expected to see some action this weekend.

The Cobras will play in a benefit match against GKS Tichy of Poland, that country's second best first division club on Saturday, July 24. The Child Guidance Center will receive a share of the proceeds.

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Cobras Scoring

| Player | Goals | Assists | Total Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roberto Oliveira | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| Vito Colonna | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| Jimmy McMillan | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Roby Stahl | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Dennis Almeida | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Danny Budimir | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Julio Servin | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Robert Smith | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Carlos Scott | 0 | 1 | 1 |