NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE
NASL

NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Chip Campbell

81 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENDANCE PASSES 2,000,000...
PELE HOLDS SCORING LEAD...CLOSE DIVISION
RACES CONTINUE INTO FINAL THREE WEEKS

NEW YORK, July 26---The North American Soccer League enters the final three weeks of its season with close races in each of the four divisions and with record setting crowds continuing to pour into the stadia.

For the first time in its 10 year existence, the NASL moved over the 2,000,000 mark in attendance. With Minnesota's 30,988 leading the way, the NASL passed the milestone on Saturday with three full weeks left on the schedule.

Two teams--Minnesota and Seattle--have already passed the single-club attendance record set last year by San Jose (197,194) and four others--Tampa Bay, San Jose, Portland and New York--seem sure to follow. Seattle, Minnesota and Portland average over 20,000 per game.

DIVISION RACES

EAST

New York continues to lead the Eastern Division despite a loss to Rochester. Tampa Bay strengthed its position by winning two games in the last week. The defending champions have played two less games than New York and are two games ahead in the loss column. Washington is in third place in a strong playoff position.

The Cosmos 2-1 loss in Rochester was the sixth straight home win for the Lancers who would like to get back into the playoff picture. New York missed four starters due to injury or suspension--including league scoring leader Pele.

Tampa Bay got a hat-trick from Stewart Scullion to beat state rival Miami 4-1 after earlier defeating stubborn Philadelphia 2-1.

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
New York	14	7	129	3 (2 home, 1 away)
Tampa Bay	14	5	118	5 (1 home, 4 away)
Washington	13	7	111	4 (1 home, 3 away)

1133 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, SUITE 3500, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036 / Tel: (212) 575-0066 / Cable: PROSOCCER NEWYORK / Telex: 12-6705

NORTH

Chicago defeated Boston 3-0 for the Sting's fourth straight win--three over Northern Division rivals. John Kowalik scored twice in the Boston game which increased Chicago's lead to 15 points over Hartford. In their four game streak, Chicago has outscored opponents 17-2.

Hartford moved past Toronto into second place by defeating the Metros 5-4 in overtime. Rochester moved back into the picture with a 2-1 win over New York.

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
Chicago	12	8	106	4 (3 home, 1 away)
Hartford	10	9	91	5 (2 home, 3 away)
Toronto	11	9	89	4 (3 home, 1 away)
Rochester	9	10	80	5 (3 home, 2 away)

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

WEST

Minnesota won its fifth straight game defeating San Diego 4-0 with Alan Willey scoring three times. The Kicks have earned a near-perfect 44 of 45 points in the standings during the streak. A crowd of over 30,000 saw Willey connect for the eighth time in the five games. Geoff Barnett registered his sixth shutout.

Seattle stayed within striking distance outlasting Philadelphia 3-2 before 25,138 fans. Gordon Wallace had two goals including the winner. The Sounders lost Jimmy Robertson for the season with a broken leg.

Vancouver held third place defeating Los Angeles 2-1

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
Minnesota	11	8	105	5 (2 home, 3 away)
Seattle	11	9	98	4 (2 home, 2 away)
Vancouver	11	9	93	4 (2 home, 2 away)

SOUTH

Dallas and San Jose remained tied for first place with Los Angeles close behind. The Tornado defeated Portland 3-0 on a hat-trick by Jeff Bourne. San Jose beat Los Angeles in a head-to-head battle 1-0 in Los Angeles on a goal by Ilija Mitic with less than two minutes remaining. The Aztecs had earlier dropped another close decision to Vancouver (2-1).

San Antonio remained in contention for a wild card playoff spot splitting two games.

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
Dallas	12	8	105	4 (2 home, 2 away)
San Jose	12	8	105	4 (2 home, 2 away)
Los Angeles	11	9	96	4 (1 home, 3 away)
San Antonio	10	11	88	3 (3 home)

NORTH

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
Chicago	12	8	136	4 (2 home, 2 away)
Hartford	10	9	91	5 (2 home, 3 away)
Boston	11	9	89	4 (3 home, 1 away)
Rochester	9	10	87	5 (3 home, 2 away)

Chicago defeated Boston 3-0 for the Sting's fourth straight win--three of the Southern Division rivals. John Kowalik scored twice in the Boston game to help increased Chicago's lead to 15 points over Hartford. In their four games, Chicago has outscored opponents 17-2.

Hartford moved past Toronto into second place by defeating the Maple Leafs three times. Rochester moved back into the picture with a 2-1 win over Boston.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

WEST

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
Los Angeles	13	7	105	5 (2 home, 3 away)
San Jose	12	8	103	4 (2 home, 2 away)
Vancouver	11	9	97	4 (2 home, 2 away)

Minnesota won the fifth straight game defeating San Diego 4-0 with Alan Kelly scoring three times. The Kicks have earned a near-perfect 44 of 45 points in the standings during the streak. A crowd of over 30,000 saw Wiley Jones get the eighth time in the five games. Geoff Barnett registered his third shutout.

Vancouver stayed within striking distance overlasting Philadelphia 3-2 in overtime. Ed Kilroy Dunbrson for the season with a broken leg.

Edmonton held third place defeating Los Angeles 3-1.

SOUTH

TEAM	WON	LOST	POINTS	GAMES REMAINING
Dallas	12	8	105	5 (2 home, 3 away)
San Jose	12	8	103	4 (2 home, 2 away)
Los Angeles	11	9	97	4 (2 home, 2 away)
San Diego	10	11	89	3 (3 home)

San Jose remained tied for first place with Los Angeles close behind. The Sharks defeated Portland 3-0 on a hat-trick by Geff Brundle. San Jose and Los Angeles in a head-to-head battle 1-0 in Los Angeles on a goal by Kelly Jones with less than two minutes remaining. The Aztecs had earlier dropped Dallas close decision to Vancouver (2-1).

KEY GAMES

Several key games between division leaders and among division rivals will be played this week:

July 28: Dallas at New York, Hartford at Rochester, Washington at Chicago
July 31: Los Angeles at Seattle

INDIVIDUAL SCORING RACE

Despite missing the last game and a half with an injury, New York's Pele holds a narrow one point lead in the NASL scoring race. George Best and Alan Willey have 33 points, one less than Pele. Six players are within two points of the leader.

Mike Hewitt of San Jose holds the goalkeeping edge with a 0.91 goals-against average.Paolo Cimpiel of Toronto is second with a 0.95.

* * * * * *

MINNESOTA'S WILLEY-PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alan Willey of Minnesota scored a hat-trick to move into second place in the NASL scoring race and to lead Minnesota to their fifth straight win---4-0 over San Diego. Willey, a 20-year-old native of Houghton Lespring, England, has scored eight goals in the five straight wins which have brought the Kicks a near perfect 44 points.

Others named to the team of the week: forwards Stewart Scullion-Tampa Bay, Jeff Bourne-Dallas; midfielders Gordon Wallace-Seattle, Geoff Pike-Hartford, Alan Spavin-Washington; defenders Dick Hall-Dallas, Luis Perez-Philadelphia, Ray Martin-Portland, John Webb-Chicago,and goalkeeper Blasic Tamindic-Rochester

GAMES THIS WEEK

Wed. 7/28	Washington at Chicago	Sat. 7/30	San Diego at San Antonio
	Hartford at Rochester		Los Angeles at Seattle
	Dallas at New York	Sun. 8/1	St. Louis at Chicago
Fri. 7/30	Tampa Bay at Hartford		Washington at Rochester
	Vancouver at Philadelphia		Minnesota at Portland
	Miami at San Diego	Wed. 8/4	Chicago at Toronto
Sat. 7/31	Tampa Bay at Boston		Portland at Minnesota
	Vancouver at St. Louis		Hartford at Seattle
	Miami at San Jose		

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS (Home team is Capitalized)

Wed. 7/21	TAMPA BAY 2, Philadelphia 1 OT	Sat. 7/24	HARTFORD 5, Toronto 4 TB
			TAMPA BAY 4, Miami 1
Fri. 7/23	ROCHESTER 2, New York 1		MINNESOTA 4, San Diego 0
	WASHINGTON 5, Boston 2		San Antonio 3, ST. LOUIS 0
	VANCOUVER 2, Los Angeles 1 TB		SEATTLE 3, Philadelphia 2
			DALLAS 3, Portland 0
	Portland 1, SAN ANTONIO 0	Sun. 7/25	San Jose 1, LOS ANGELES 0
	SAN DIEGO 3, San Jose 2		Chicago 3, BOSTON 0

NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS
(as of Monday, July 26)

NORTHERN DIVISION	GAMES PLAYED	WON	LOST	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST	BONUS POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
Chicago	20	12	8	43	25	34	106
Hartford	19	10	9	33	45	31	91
Toronto	20	11	9	25	26	23	89
Rochester	19	9	10	26	26	26	80
Boston	20	7	13	27	46	25	67
EASTERN DIVISION							
New York	21	14	7	52	30	45	129
Tampa Bay	19	14	5	41	23	34	118
Washington	20	13	7	36	26	33	111
Philadelphia	21	8	13	27	40	27	75
Miami	19	4	15	16	37	16	40
WESTERN DIVISION							
Minnesota	19	11	8	42	28	39	105
Seattle	20	11	9	33	28	32	98
Vancouver	20	11	9	27	26	27	93
Portland	20	8	12	20	30	20	68
St. Louis	20	4	16	24	46	24	48
SOUTHERN DIVISION							
San Jose	20	12	8	41	24	33	105
Dallas	20	12	8	37	31	33	105
Los Angeles	20	11	9	36	34	30	96
San Antonio	21	10	11	31	27	28	88
San Diego	20	6	14	19	37	19	61

(Total points: Win-6 pts., Loss-0 pts.: Bonus Points - one point is awarded for each goal scored up to a maximum of three per team per game.)

LEADING SCORERS	Games	Goals	Assists	Points
Pele-New York	19	11	12	34
Alan Willey-Minnesota	18	14	5	33
George Best-Los Angeles	20	14	5	33
Paul Child-San Jose	20	12	8	32
Giorgio Chinaglia-New York	16	11	9	31
Derek Smethurst-Tampa Bay	19	14	3	31
Ilija Mitic-San Jose	20	11	9	31
Jeff Bourne-Dallas	18	13	3	29

LEADING GOALKEEPERS*	Minutes	Saves	Goals	Shutouts	Average
Mike Hewitt-San Jose	1282	184	13	4	0.91
Paolo Cimpiel-Toronto	1698	132	18	8	0.95
Van Taylor-Miami	1185	119	13	3	0.99
Tony Chursky-Seattle	1698	118	20	6	1.06
Mervyn Cawston-Chicago	1782	147	22	6	1.11
Bob Rigby-New York	1182	103	15	5	1.14
Arnold Mausser-Tampa Bay	1717	170	22	6	1.15
Shep Messing-New York	1458	137	20	4	1.23
Geoff Barnett-Minnesota	1624	90	23	5	1.27

(*need 900 minutes to qualify)

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS (Home Team Listed Last)

SATURDAY, JULY 24

TORONTO 4
HARTFORD 5
(TB) J. Coyne (Foggon) 0:41; J. Coyne (Pike) 7:55; Foggon (Pike, L. Coyne) 20:30; O'Neill (Pike) 78:45
Toronto: Bilecki (Cimpiel 45:00), Sutevski, Blaskovic, Cukon, Iarusci, Strenicer (Marcantonio 51:15), Ferreira, Polak, Eusebio, Grnja
Attendance - 4,122 Referee - Gino D'Ippolito

PORTLAND 0
DALLAS 3
Bourne (Ley) 3:37; Bourne 30:08; Bourne (Ryan) 42:16
Portland: Cumbes, Martin, Rioch, Smallwood, Hoban, McMahon, Hendrie, Betts, Smith (Zell 78:55), Rogers, Kelly
Dallas: Cooper, Moffat, Hall (Wright 75:01), Pecher (Cohen 88:00), Ley, Kewley, Turner (McLaughlin 69:41), Hope, Ryan, Bourne, Tynan
Attendance - 14,206 Referee - John Davies

SAN DIEGO 0
MINNESOTA 4
Willey (Futcher, Netsolengue) 34:22; Willey (Futcher) 39:35 Willey (Futcher, Brine) 63:47; Futcher (Brine,West) 85:34
San Diego: Mayer, Renery, Napier, Trevis, Stephens, Joy, McGill, Scurti (Welch 45:00), Minnock (Cole 23:57), Roboostoff, Wark
Minnesota: Barnett, Webster, Litt, Merrick, Spraggon, West, Brine, Bick, Futcher, Willey, Netsolengue
Attendance - 30,988 Referee - Henry Landauer

MIAMI 1
TAMPA BAY 4
Rosul 59:14
Scullion (Smethurst) 28:20; Scullion (Lindsay) 63:13; Marsh (Best) 72:59; Scullion 82:17
Miami: Nuttall, Hamlyn, Holton, Lawler, Mills, Evanson (Mulroy 82:17), Aguirre, Sharp, Fearnley, Rosul (Baumann 75:45), Bodonczy (Marshall 78:47)
Tampa Bay: Mausser, Quraishi, Smith, Auguste, Pringle (Bluem 78:34), Lindsay (Austin 80:35), Cantillo, Wit (Marsh 66:27), Scullion, Best, Smethurst
Attendance - 15,951 Referee - Bill Maxwell

PHILADELPHIA 2
SEATTLE 3
Lopez 7:04; Luna (Herrada) 14:04
Wallace (Hurst, Redknapp) 8:44; England (Robertson) 44:47; Wallace (Redknapp) 84:04
Philadelphia: Vizcaino, Navarro (ejected 67:52), L. Perez, J. Gomez, Galati, Medina, Herrada, Luna (ejected 66:08), Lopez, R. Gomez, V. Perez (Straub 79:05)
Seattle: Chursky, Webster, Gillett, England, McLaughlan, Wallace, Jenkins, Redknapp, Hurst, Butler, Robertson (Bennett 74:39)
Attendance - 25,138 Referee - Larry King

SUNDAY, JULY 25

SAN JOSE 1
LOS ANGELES 0
Mitic (Simoes, Child) 88:30
San Jose: Hewitt, B. Demling (M. Demling 54:00), Calloway, Rowlands, Pavlovic, Kemp, Molnar, Simoes, Moore, Child, Mitic
Los Angeles: Mishalow, Linton, Davies, D. Smith, Fagan, Cooke, Marsh, Mason, McAlinden, Sorgic, Best
Attendance - 9,204 Referee - Bill Miller

CHICAGO 3
BOSTON 0
Kowalik (Lowey) 2:10; Kowalik (Webb) 25:07; Peplow (Geimer, Webb) 67:05
Chicago: Cawston, Skotarek, Griffiths, Alon, Webb, Waldron, Robertson, Kelly, Kowalik (Rys 71:30), Lowey (Geimer 45:00), Peplow
Boston: Caraias, Walsh, Calado, Oliveira, Wooler, Jelinek, Soroa, Lo Grass (Davis 29:00 Garcia 56:57), Bowery, Eduardo, Forte (Borges 38:30)
Attendance - 531 Referee - John DiSalvatore

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS (Home Team Listed Last)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

PHILADELPHIA	1	Herrada 13:54
TAMPA BAY	2	(OT) Best (Wit) 77:06; Smethurst (Best) 100:48
Philadelphia		Vizcaino, Navarro, Perez, J. Gomez, Galati, R. Gomez (Borrozzi 97:02), Medina, O'Neill, Lopez, Herrada (Straub 63:56), Luna (Engerth 90:00)
Tampa Bay		Mausser, Auguste, Jump, Smith, Pringle, Lindsay, Cantillo, Marsh (Wit 63:56), Scullion (Fink 70:54), Smethurst, Best
		Attendance - 10,262 Referee - Gordon Hill

FRIDAY, JULY 23

NEW YORK	1	Chinaglia (Field) 73:55
ROCHESTER	2	Stojanovic (Odoi, I. Silva) 65:50; Archibald (I. Silva) 88:30
New York		Messing, Mitchell, Roth, Eddy, Aitken, Garbett, Morais, Mifflin, Tinnion, Chinaglia, Field
Rochester		Tamindic, C. Silva, Mijatovic, Fazlic, Pollihan, Pedro, Escos, Odoi, I. Silva, Stojanovic, Archibald
		Attendance - 5,928 Referee - Jim Highet

BOSTON	2	Bowery (Edwards) 74:41; Forte (Bowery) 88:18
WASHINGTON	5	McCully (Spavin) 6:04; Cannell (Macken) 29:26; Ellam (Spavin) 32:27; Spavin 66:24; Ingram (Trickovic) 72:54
Boston		Carias (Guerry 67:09), Oliveira, Wooler, Soroa, Walsh, Calado, Borges (Davis 51:17), Forte, Jelinick, Edwards
Washington		Martin, Minton, Ellam, Jefferson, McConville, McCully (Willner 70:00), Macken, Spavin (Lowenstein 72:54), Ingram, Cannell, Trickovic
		Attendance - 4,011 Referee - Paul Avis

PORTLAND	1	Smith (Kelly) 30:05
SAN ANTONIO	0	
Portland		Cumbes, Martin, Rioch, Smallwood, Hoban, McMahon, Hendrie, Betts, Smith, Rogers, Kelly
San Antonio		Clark, Moreira, Matosas, Berico, Stahl, Thomson, Moore (Callaghan 79:35), Hood, Martin, Kodelja, Semple (Carenza 61:11)
		Attendance - 5,163 Referee - Larry King

LOS ANGELES	1	Sorgic (Cooke, Fagan) 50:57
VANCOUVER	2	(TB) S. Lenarduzzi (B. Wilson) 5:08
Los Angeles		Mishalow (Horn 103:27), Lopez(Fagan 45:00), Davies, D. Smith, Linton, McAlinden, Mason, Marsh, Best, Sorgic (Garber 97:30), Cooke
Vancouver		Parkes, B. Wilson, S. Lenarduzzi, B. Lenarduzzi, Robinson, McAndrew, Koeppel, Alberts (Samson 75:38), Woof, Budd (Johnson 90:00), Silvester
		Attendance - 10,252 Referee - Mike Wuertz

SAN JOSE	2	Moore 88:46; Mitic 89:56
SAN DIEGO	3	Joy (Wark) 1:32; Carlyle (Joy, Roboostoff) 5:37; Joy (Stephens) 65:15
San Jose		Hewitt, Calloway, Rowlands, Pavlovic, B. Demling, Simoes (Kemp 45:00), Mitic, Liveric (Hernandez 27:29), Child, Moore, Molnar
San Diego		Mayer, Stephens, Napier, Trevis (Welch 10:37), Hockey, Wark (Scurti 52:15), McGill, Joy, Minnock, Carlyle (Cole 83:48), Roboostoff
		Attendance - 5,500 Referee - Ray Puricelli

SATURDAY, JULY 24

SAN ANTONIO	3	Kodelja (Hood, Counce) 40:14; Kodelja (Hood) 43:00; Counce (Kodelja) 49:25
ST. LOUIS	0	
San Antonio		Mannos,Zylker, Matos, Berico, Stahl, Carenza (Moore 14:01), Moreira, Callaghan, Counce, Hood, Kodelja
St. Louis		Jokerst, Matteson, Hudson, Rensing, Verdi (Clarke 45:00), McBride, O'Leary, Trost, Bokern, Feart, Humphreys
		Attendance - 5,415 Referee - Artie Wachter