ROWDIES NEWS

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UNIQUE GAME SEQUENCE AGAINST MINNESOTA - INDOOR TELECAST

This week the Tampa Bay Rowdies will take on the Minnesota Kicks in a unique two game indoor-outdoor sequence. The two teams will meet first in the final '78 indoor game on Friday, March 10 at the Bayfront Center and then rematch Sunday, March 12 at 3 p.m. at the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando. The indoor game is the fourth indoor game at the Bayfront to sell out. This particular match, sold out 17 days before game day, will be broadcast live on WTOG (44) to the Bay Area as a final salute to an extremely successful indoor season. Play by play will be done by Tom Keene. Game and broadcast time is 8 p.m. WFLA Radio will broadcast at 7:45 p.m. with play by play by Jack Harris. The outdoor match Sunday will be played for the benefit of Special Olympics and is co-sponsored by McDonalds, Florida Special Olympics and the Tampa Bay Rowdies. The game will mark the second of the Rowdies' outdoor pre-season schedule. It will be broadcast by WFLA radio at 2:45 p.m.

RECENT INDOOR EXPERIENCE - NOT BAD FOR FIRST TIME OUT

When the Kicks join in the rough-house action Friday night they will start as somewhat seasoned veterans. They had never played indoor soccer as a team before this season, but participated in a four team indoor tournament in Tulsa this past weekend and came out second, beating Washington 8-7, but losing to Tulsa 9-5. The leading scorer for Minnesota was Ade Coker with three goals in two games. Other "two time" scorers were Mark Moran, Tim Twellman and Alan Willey. It seems that experience is a heavy advantage in indoor soccer. The Tulsa Roughnecks took the tournament with two decisive victories; the first over Houston 12-3, the second over Minnesota. Houston lost their second game too, losing to Washington 8-5.

KICKS - A TOUGH OPPONENT

The Kicks arrived in the Bay Area today to start spring training at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. They will stay through the 26th, playing four or five pre-season games. Minnesota harbors one of the most successful teams in the league, both on and off the field. In 1977 they won the Pacific Western division title with a 16-10 win/loss record.

The Rowdies and Kicks have never met indoors and clashed only once outdoors in '77. The Kicks took that one 1-0 with a Steve Litt penalty kick.

MINNESOTA'S MEN OF MIGHT

Alan Willey, the Kicks' leading scorer in '76 and '77 will return to Minnesota this year on contract instead of loan. The 21 year old forward was the seventh leading scorer in the NASL in '77 with 14 goals and one assist for 29 points. Alan West, the Kick's midfield general will also return. A first team NASL All Star selection last year, West demonstrated play making ability with 11 assists - a team record equalling the Rowdies' record currently held by Marsh and Wegerle. Geoff Barnett, the Kicks' goalie was the fifth leading goalkeeper in the league last year with a 1.25 goals against average. He posted a total of eight shutouts - one against the Rowdies. Forward Ade Coker was hampered by a knee injury throughout last season but seems to be back in form and will surely be a scoring threat to the Rowdies.

ROWDIES LOSE FIRST OUTDOOR GAME TO INJURY

The injury-plagued Rowdies lost their first outdoor pre-season match to the Ft. Lauderdale Strikers 2-0 Saturday at Miami Dade North. Dressing and fielding only ten fit players, the Rowdies borrowed two players from the Strikers to fill out the roster requirements, Glen Goleson playing in the #10 jersey in the first half and Kevin Missey wearing it in the second. Five Tampa Bay starters were sidelined with minor injuries (Marsh, Smethurst, Auguste, McLeod and Hammond). Although the team of youthful and somewhat inexperienced players lost the game on the score board, they controlled a good portion of the 90 minutes. The deciding goals coming at 13:19 by Leeper and 75:20 by Fowles could be credited to defensive lapses that the Strikers capitalized on. The Rowdies failed to capitalize on like opportunities. However, neither Coach Jago nor the players were particularly disappointed. "As far as I'm concerned, it was a very good workout." said Jago. "I thought we played quite well. It gave us a chance to see the 35 - yard line (it was Jago's first exposure to the American principle) and it was a good opportunity to use our young American boys."

THE STATS

	TAMPA BAY	FT. LAUDERDALE
Shots	17	25
Saves	8	8
Fouls	11	10
Corner Kicks	10	8
Offsides	6	0

RED CROSS SPONSORING LAKELAND GAME

The Greater Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor the Rowdies - Detroit Express match March 18 at Bryant Stadium in Lakeland. Said Robert N. Butler, Chapter Chairman, "The Greater Lakeland Chapter, its board members, staff and volunteers greatly appreciate the opportunity that is being given us to associate with the Rowdies and Express in this match. We hope that it will be a success for all. We know that it will be fun." The match against the Toronto Metros in Dunedin is still tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 24.