ROWDIES NEWS

Tampa Bay Rowdies
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SEASON OPENS THIS SATURDAY - NOW IT'S FOR REAL

This Saturday, April 1, marks the season opener for the Tampa Bay Rowdies when they host the Memphis Rogues at 8:00 p.m. in Tampa Stadium. The Rogues are an expansion franchise in the American Conference with roots in Tampa. Owned by familiar Tampa sports figures Bill Marcum and Harry Mangurian, Jr., they were also advised by former Rowdies General Manager Beau Rogers.

THE ROGUES - FIRST ON THE SLATE

The Rogues will have to overcome not only the usual obstacles of an expansion team but also a late change in coaching from Malcolm Allison to former Chelsea great Eddie McCreadie. They will go into Saturday's match with a 0-2 pre-season record, losing to Dallas and Colorado 2-0. However, it is anticipated that they will field a competitive side...see scouting report.

MCDONALD'S DOES IT FOR YOU

For the third year in a row, the Tampa Bay Area McDonald 's Restaurants and the Rowdies will kick off the pro-soccer season with a major promotion. McDonald's in the Bay Area will have special dollar off coupons available to their customers for the opening game. Coupons may be redeemed at Maas Brothers, selected Exchange Banks, the Rowdies Bootique and at Tampa Stadium (three days prior to the game). McDonald's will also be involved in pre-game and half-time festivities the night of the game.

PETER CHANDLER SIGNED

The Rowdies have signed defender Peter Chandler until January, 1980. The 25 year old teacher and coach will stay in Tampa through the opening game then return to Kettering, Ohio to finish the school year. He will start playing full time with Tampa Bay in early June. Chandler played with the now relocated Connecticut Bicentennials for three years. He signed with the Bi's after walking into tryout camp unannounced. He has developed into one of the most promising Americans in the league. He was one of only five Americans to be selected for "Team America" in 1976 and had an outstanding game against Italy in the Bicentennial Cup Tournament in spring of '76. He is a graduate of Springfield College and former member of the National Team.

LUIS PAPANDREA TO SIGN BY WEDNESDAY

Luis Papandrea, the 25 year old Argentenian defender who played Friday night against Toronto is expected to sign with the Rowdies by Wednesday. Papandrea (POP-UN-DRAY-U) is a free agent who played with Buenos Aires first division Racing. He will stay with Tampa Bay until the end of the playing season when the Rowdies will have the option of further action. Both his and Chandler's performance

Friday evening prompted quick action and their addition to the active roster.

PRE-SEASON OVER - A 3-1 RECORD

Tampa Bay finished the pre-season outdoor schedule Friday night with a 2-1 victory over the Toronto Metros. It was a hard fought contest eventually won by a sudden death shootout goal by Boris Bandov. The victory upped the Rowdies' pre-season record to 3-1. Two of those games were won by the NASL shootout...the Rowdies have yet to lose a shootout.

Friday's match, played before 5,000 fans in Dunedin High School, a match of skill and tenacity. The Metros' hard hitting, scrapping style of play gave the Rowdies some initial trouble but they managed to overcome and control action throughout most of the game. The Rowdies gook the lead at 63:43 with a penalty kick taken first by Marsh (and called back because of hesitation) then by Smethurst. The second goal stuck and the Rowdies held the lead for about ten minutes before Toronto's Josko Gluic evened it up. As against Detroit, both teams opted for shootout practice, by-passing overtime. Shootout pro Paul Hammond and '77 league leading shutout leader Zeljko Bilecki held the tally down to one goal per team. Canadians Wes McLeod and Peter Roe both connected. In the sudden death shoot-out Boris Bandov curved a beautiful ball past Bilecki to give the Rowdies the edge. Then Hammond clinched the game by stopping Ivan Kocijancic's last ditch attempt. The game was won, but for a price.

QURAISHI-OUT FOR AT LEAST SIX WEEKS

Farrukh Quraishi's tenacious marking of Ivair Ferreira nullified that scoring threat Friday night and helped the Rowdies win their third pre-season game. But, his services will be lost for six to eight weeks as a result of the hard fought match. Shortly after the Toronto goal, Farrukh went for a 50-50 ball. He went down at 75:21 and didn't get back up. He was carried off the field on a stretcher, his leg placed in an inflatable cast, and then taken to Suncoast Hospital. Farrukh's left tibia and fibula are fractured, resulting in a full leg cast. An excellent pre-season performance from Farrukh makes the injury seem especially disappointing. However, Quraishi's exceptional level of fitness and determination will undoubtedly be a plus for a speedy recovery.

"ROWDIES HOUR" TO AIR ON MONDAYS

The first "Rowdies Hour" of the '78 season aired on WFLA 97 at 8:00 p.m. Monday, March 27. Tentative scheduling of this program is set for Mondays from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Should the schedule remain for Mondays, Center Circle meetings will be moved to 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00. The show, hosted by Rowdies play by play man Jack Harris, will feature Coach Gordon Jago and various players throughout the season.

NO INJURIES

Rowdies trainer Ken Schields reports that other than minor bruises and scrapes, the team in in good health for Saturday's season opener. Coach Jago will have a fit squad to choose from. Obviously, defender Farrukh Quraishi's services will be missed.

MR. PiBB/ROWDIES ROOTERS CLUB APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT GAMES

Youngsters 18 or under interested in signing up for the Mr. PiBB/ Rowdies Rooters Club will have the opportunity at the first few games of the season. Booths will be on both the east and west side of the stadium, open before, throughout and after the game. For a $3.00 membership, youngsters receive dollar discounts for all home games, a club T-shirt, a Coca-Cola soccer tips guide and a Rowdies' '78 Media Guide. It all comes to a $23.00 value package.

TICKET INFO

Tickets for this Saturday's game are available at the stadium starting today. Regularly tickets will only be available three days before the game, but an exception will be made for opening and Cosmos games. Group rates are available for groups of 25 or more. Interested parties should contact Vickie Peterson or Don Schulte at 870-1122 or 585-1119.

SCOUTING REPORT - MEMPHIS ROGUES

The Rogues and new Coach Eddie McCreadie face an awesome task in their first game in the North American Soccer League; take on the powerful Tampa Bay Rowdies in front of a home crowd that is expected to exceed 30,000. If the Rogues had enjoyed the benefit of a normal pre-season training period the task would not be so monumental but because of a late switch in coaches from controversial Malcolm Allison to McCreadie the team had to scramble for players with only five weeks before the April 1 game in Tampa.

In addition, the team was hurt because it was unable to put together an extended training and could squeeze in only two exhibition games. But at least McCreadie, the former great left back of Chelsea , will have a roster to work with. It may undergo change as the season moves along but right now the Rogues will be represented by a mix of seasoned English players, and young Americans and Canadians.

THE GOAL'S SET

In the goal there is no doubt that Tony Burns, the 6-1 starting keeper from Crystal Palace, will be a fixture. Rookie John Houska had a sensational game against Dallas in a 2-0 loss, but he needs experience and is considered by McCreadie to have excellent potential. Burns will have a defensive wall in front of him that will be very experienced at keeping the ball out of the net.

DEFENDERS

Young David Stride, captain of the Chelsea reserve team, is expected to man the left back post. McCreadie considers Stride to be "the most promising young player in England at bis position." Next to Stride at centerhalf will be John Faulkner, the rugged 6-0 back from Luton Town. The other center half will probably be Phil Beal who played for Los Angeles last year but also enjoyed a long career of 14 years with Tottenham. He may be flanked by veteran Bobby Thomson at right back, an eight time capped player from England who played with Connecticut the last two years, or Hank McCully, another three year vet from Connecticut.

MIDFIELD

The midfield may consist of Alan Birchenall from Notts County at center flanked by speedster Neil Smillie from Crystal Palace on the right and American Hugh O'Neill on the left. Its O'Neill's third year in the league after seasons with Connecticut and Dallas. It will be an agressive, hard working midfield.

FORWARDS

Up front the two sure starters are Jimmy Husband, a high scoring striker from Everton and Luton Town, and Tony Field, the Cosmos MVP in 1977, on the right side. Husband has a proven scoring record and notched 44 goals in 158 games for Everton and 37 in 115 matches for Luton. With hardworking Field doing the playmaking and providing additional scoring punch, they will be a difficult duo to defend against. Left wing is question mark at this point but still to come from Chelsea is 19-year-old Gary Johnson who is expected to be on the first team next season.

DEPTH

Depth is provided by forward Saban Ramanovic, a former Yugoslavian player who also performed two seasons for Vera Cruz, and Canadians Lou Perfetti, a forward, and Paul D'Agostino, a defender. D'Agostino played on the championship team at Toronto two seasons ago. Other players could include Cleveland Williams, a first round draft choice of the Cosmos before Memphis traded for him, midfielder Fran Lemons, a draftee from the University of South Florida, and Chris Bennett, a former Seattle Sounder.

McCreadie has his work cut out for him and the Rogues immediate problem will be to work themselves into a cohesive unit and make a decent showing against the Rowdies who will be gunning for nine points when the day is over.

"It may take awhile to get our act together but I've always been a winner and my team will be also," says McCreadie. He backs up his words with results and the only team he ever coached, Chelsea, was promoted from second to first division in his first year in charge.

A ROWDIE IN A MUTT DERBY?

The 11th Annual Mutt Derby will be held Sunday, April 2nd, at Derby Lane. This year's celebrity race will have a Rowdie participant... Sir Walter Rowdie, the Rowdies mascot. He will be entered by Kim Jago, Gordon Jago's daughter, and Keith Shively, president of the Fannies club. Starting time is 12:15. Tickets are $1.00 for adults and $.50 for children.

ROWDIES ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POSITION	HT	WT	CITIZENSHIP
1	* Paul Hammond	Goalkeeper	6-1	190	British
2	Farrukh Quraishi	Defender	5-9	145	British
3	Guy Newman	Defender	5-8	145	British
4	* Arsene Auguste	Defender	6-2	185	Haitian
5	* Dave Robb	Forward	5-11	175	British
6	* Michael Connell	Defender	6-0	150	South African
7	* Steve Wegerle	Forward	5-10	155	South African
8	* Wes McLeod	Midfielder	5-8	149	Canadian
9	* Adrian Alston	Forward	6-0	170	Australian
10	* Rodney Marsh	Forward	6-1	180	British
11	Peter Mohrman	Midfielder	6-0	165	American
12	* Derek Smethurst	Forward	6-1	175	South African
14	* Joe Fink	Midfield	6-0	160	American
15	* Luis Papandrea	Defender	6-0	160	Argentenian
17	* Kevin Eagan	Defender	6-3	175	American
18	* Winston DuBose	Goalkeeper	6-2	180	American
19	* Frantz St-Lot	Defender	5-8	155	American
20	* Boris Bandov	Forward	5-10	175	American
21	George Perry	Defender	6-1	180	American
23	* Tony Crudo	Defender	6-0	160	American
24	* Peter Chandler	Defender	6-0	165	American

* - Active Roster : Others still under consideration

MEMPHIS ROSTER

NAME	POSITION
Tony Burns	Goalkeeper
David Stride	Defender
Eddie Kelly	Midfielder
Alan Birchenall	Midfielder
Neil Smillie	Midfielder
Paul D'Agostino	Defender
Henry McCully	Defender
Hugh O'Neill	Midfielder
Cleveland Lewis	Forward
Fran Lemons	Midfielder
John Houska	Goalkeeper
Saban Ramanovic	Forward
Bobby Thomson	Defender
Phil Beal	Defender
John Faulkner	Defender
Tony Field	Forward
Jimmy Husband	Forward