ROWDIES NEWS

Tampa Bay Rowdies
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FIRST PLAYOFF GAME- TAMPA BAY HOSTS CHICAGO

This Tuesday's match against the Chicago Sting at 8:00 p.m. in Tampa Stadium is the only single elimination game in the playoffs. After tonight all games are played in home-away series.

But against Chicago it's do-or-die.

The winner goes on to play the winner of other American Conference single elimination games. The loser packs it in for the '78 season.

It's the fourth time that the Rowdies have reached the playoffs. The first year - in '75 - they went to the top. In the second year the Rowdies made it to the semi-finals to be eliminated 2-0 by the Toronto Metros (who went on to win the big one). Last year Tampa Bay had to play the single-elimination game in Giants Stadium ... and they were eliminated. Again, the team that knocked out the Rowdies went on to take Soccer Bowl, and New York did it in style, sweeping through the playoffs with headlines and record breaking crowds such as soccer had never seen before.

ROWDIE-TEA MEN TIE NEW ENGLAND TAKES TITLE ON WINS

This year the Rowdies obtained the playoff berth by finishing best second place team in the conference. And a heartbreaking second at that.

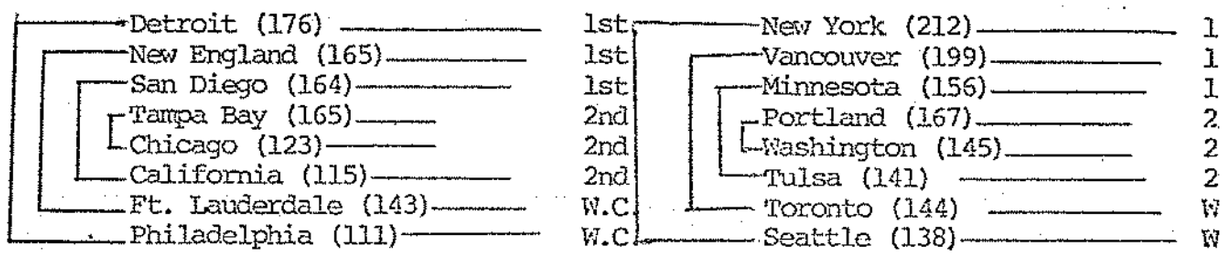
The final standings see first place New England at 165 points and second place Tampa Bay at 165 points. New England took the division title on most out and out wins - 19 to the Rowdies' 18.

New England clinched first place in the American-Eastern with their 3-2 victory over the Rogues Friday night in Memphis. The Tea Men needed a three goal victory to tie the Rowdies in total points - then take the title on outright wins. At the half, Memphis lead 1-0 but New England scored two to lead the Rogues up until five minutes from the end. Then David Stride scored the equalizer that meant overtime and a possible third goal for the Tea Men. Abrahams nabbed the winner in the twelfth minute.

S PLAYOFF FORMAT - D HOW IT WORKS

The playoff format was decided finally Sunday evening when Washington-Toronto and San Diego - Vancouver played their games. The first round pairings for both the American and National Conference is as follows. In the conference semi-finals, home and home series will be played with a) the survivor with the most hosting the survivor with the least points b) the survivor with the 2nd most hosting the survivor with the third most points. The first and second survivors get home advantage in the second game of the series. The conference championship is also determined by the total points of the surviving teams . (The team with the most points will again get home advantage in the final game.)

HE PLAYOFF FORMAT



PLAYOFF TIDBITS

In the topsy-turvy American Conference the series is 1-1 between every pairing. Even the second wildcard Philadelphia beat Detroit on Friday night 3-2. In fact, every home team in the American Conference except Detroit has been beaten at home by the team they host this week. The Eastern-American has every single team in that division represented in the playoffs.

The elimination game between Seattle and New York is a rematch of last year's Soccer Bowl game.

THOSE WINNING S!

The Rowdies wound up the regular 1978 season in grand style with a 5-1 decisive win over the Toronto Metros in Tampa Stadium and a 3-2 squeaker over the Hurricane in Houston. Both wins meant maximum points for the Rowdies when they needed it the most. The Rowdies came back from their second scoreless west coast trip and finished the season with a flourish at 13-4, tieing the team record for most wins at 18.

ROWDIES HAMMER HOUSTON IN LAST GAME

The Rowdies showed character and determination Friday night in battling back from a 2-0 trail at the half to finally take it 3-2 just minutes before the final whistle. Mick McGuire broke the Rowdies' scoring drought at 64:55 when he gunned in his second goal in as many games from 20 yards out. Immediately after that Coach Jago removed the defensive midfielder to plug in a more offensive player - Joe Fink. A good move ... Joe scored in less than ten minutes off a Wegerle assist to tie it up. It was up to Dave Robb to break the tie at 85:36 on an unassisted goal. He ran uncontested down the right side of the field and peppered a shot into the top of the net. Nothin' to it, right Dave?

AKED FANS GET NEY'S WORTH EN TAMPA BAY ROMPS TORONTO

There were 18,434 soaking wet fannies on hand to watch the Rowdies romp all over the Toronto Metros last Wednesday. And those loyal fannies who sat through torrents of rain got what they came for ... a thrilling victory lap by an appreciative Rowdie team. No one could have stopped the Rowdies Wednesday night. And the Metros never looked like they could even hinder the progress. Paddon and Marsh combined to score the first Rowdie goal. Robb followed with three and Mick McGuire grabbed his first as a Rowdie. It was an outstanding performance but the most amazing element of the night had to be 18,434 fans sitting through pouring rain to cheer for their Rowdies. In the post game words of Gordon Jago, "You .... all of you .. are just superb!"

AVE ROBB THE ONDIEST ROWDIE

Could there be any doubt?

The Rowdies had already clinched second place and nabbed a home field advantage in the playoffs. Sure, they had two games left and a remote chance of nailing first ... but it really wasn't necessary to knock your brains out over it. Play well ... sure, but don't kill yourself.

Tell that to David Robb. Because he did knock his brains out and the results were spectacular - probably his best of the entire season. In the game Wednesday, Dave did no less than score a hat trick and register an assist. It was only the second hat trick of the season for the Rowdies and David's first as a Rowdie. His five points in one half tied the Rowdies' record for most points in one half game. Then in the Houston game David scored the thrilling game winner with only minutes left in regulation time. He played hard hitting inspired soccer in both games. A most deserving Exchange Bank Player of the

ROWDIES NAME ALL-STAR OPPOSITION

Who do the Rowdies think are the toughest 11 players in the league?

Here's the Rowdies 1978 All-Opponent team as voted by the players:

Goalkeeper: Kevin Keelan of New England shared the honors with San Diego's Alan Mayer

Defenders: Ray Evans of the California Surf is the choice at right back, with Chicago's Bruce Wilson on the left. Center backs are the Cosmos pair of Carlos Alberto and Werner Roth.

Midfielders: As expected, the Cosmos' Franz Beckenbauer led the vote getting here, followed by teammate Vladislav Bogicevic and Philadelphia player-coach Alan Ball. Beckenbauer is the only repeater from last year.

Strikers: The overwhelming choices here are New England's Mike Flanagan (30 goals), New York's Giorgio Chinaglia (34 goals) and Detroit's Trevor Francis (22 goals). Surely three to strike fear into any back line's hearts.

ALBERTO IS MVP

The Cosmos super defender Carlos Alberto is the overwhelming choice as the leagues MVP, outdistancing last year's runaway choice Beckenbauer.

ETHERINGTON IS TOP ROOKIE

The Cosmos' precocious winger Gary Etherington ran away with balloting in the Rookie of the Year category, making the favorite for the ultimate award for the league's Dr. Pepper Award.

WAITERS IS BEST COACH

Vancouver's Tony Waiters who led the Whitecaps to an outstanding 24-6 record - tied with New York as best mark ever - was the overwhelming choice as Coach of the Year.

Waiters, in his second year in Vancouver, has seen his team win an incredible 13 straight games going into the playoffs.

A ROWDIE LOOK AT THE NASL STANDINGS

The Rowdies were well represented in league scoring and goalkeeping races this year. Rodney Marsh finished third in the American conferenc (tied for fourth in the league) with 52 points (18 goals and 16 assists). David Robb finished seventh in the American Conference with 32 points (13 goals and 6 assists). And Winston DuBose in a last ditch flurry of minutes that qualified him for the race, finished third in the American Conference with a 1.26 goals against average. In fact, the Florida cracker ended the season ranked as the top North American goalie in the league!

RECORDS BROKEN IN 1978

INDIVIDUAL

Most Scoring Points, Season
52 (18 goals, 16 assists) R. Marsh 1978

Most Scoring Points, Half
5 - tied
John Sissons vs Baltimore 6/28/75
Rodney Marsh vs San Jose 4/22/78
David Robb vs Toronto 8/2/78

Fastest Goal
2:39 Steve Wegerle vs Toronto 6/28/78

Latest Goal - Overtime
103:08 Rodney Marsh vs Rochester 7/4/78

Most Goals On Penalty Kicks, Season
6 - Rodney Marsh 1978

Most Goals On Penalty Kicks, Game
2 - Rodney Marsh vs Ft. Lauderdale 6/17/78

Most Game Winning Goals, Season
9 - Rodney Marsh 1978

Most Assists, Season
16 - Rodney Marsh 1978

INDIVIDUAL cont'd

Most Assists, Game
3 - tied
Lenny Glover vs New York 6/6/78
Steve Wegerle vs San Diego 5/17/78
Rodney Marsh vs Chicago 6/14/78

Most Assists, Half
2 - held by many player, tied in 1978 by Wegerle, Marsh and Anderson

Most Games Played, Season
28 - Jim Fleeting 1978

Most Minutes Played, Season
2458:39 - Mike Connell 1978

Most Games Started, Season
27 - Mike Connell 1978

GOALKEEPERS

Most Consecutive Shutouts - Season
2 - tied
W. DuBose,'78, P. Hammond '77, A.Mausser, '

Fewest Saves , Game
0 - Nicky Johns vs Houston 6/10/78

FINAL 1975 NASL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	TOTAL							HOME					AWAY				
EASTERN DIVISION	GP	W	L	GF	GA	BP	TP	W	L	GF	GA	BP	W	L	GF	GA	BP
New England	30	19	11	67	39	51	165	10	5	31	15	25	9	6	31	14	26
ROWDIES	30	18	12	63	48	57	165	11	4	37	18	33	7	8	26	29	28
Ft. Lauderdale	30	16	14	50	59	47	143	12	3	34	18	31	4	11	16	41	16
Philadelphia	30	12	18	40	58	39	111	7	8	21	26	20	5	10	19	32	19
CENTRAL DIVISION																	
Detroit	30	20	10	68	36	56	176	10	5	43	15	31	10	5	25	21	25
Chicago	30	12	18	57	64	51	123	7	8	32	29	28	5	10	25	35	23
Memphis	30	10	20	43	58	41	101	8	7	29	27	27	2	13	14	31	14
Houston	30	10	20	37	61	36	96	5	10	20	26	19	5	10	17	35	17
WESTERN DIVISION																	
San Diego	30	18	12	63	56	56	164	11	4	35	23	29	7	8	28	33	27
California	30	13	17	43	49	37	115	9	6	27	19	23	4	10	16	32	14
Oakland	30	12	18	34	59	31	103	7	8	18	27	18	5	10	16	32	13
San Jose	30	8	22	36	81	35	83	4	11	19	32	19	4	11	19	49	16
NATIONAL CONFERENCE																	
EASTERN DIVISION																	
New York	30	24	6	88	39	68	212	14	1	48	15	39	10	5	40	24	29
Washington	30	16	14	55	47	49	145	10	5	31	19	27	6	8	24	28	22
Toronto	30	16	14	58	47	48	144	9	6	33	20	28	7	8	25	27	20
Rochester	30	13	17	47	52	47	125	9	6	27	19	27	4	10	19	31	19
CENTRAL DIVISION																	
Minnesota	30	17	13	58	43	54	156	11	4	35	23	33	5	9	19	20	18
Tulsa	30	16	14	49	46	45	141	11	4	33	15	30	5	10	16	31	15
Dallas	30	14	16	51	53	47	131	10	5	36	21	32	4	11	15	32	15
Colorado	30	8	22	34	66	35	81	4	10	20	29	19	4	12	14	37	14
WESTERN DIVISION																	
Vancouver	30	24	6	68	29	55	199	13	2	40	12	30	11	4	28	17	25
Portland	30	20	10	50	36	47	167	13	2	27	13	25	7	8	23	23	23
Seattle	30	15	15	50	45	48	138	11	4	32	14	30	4	11	18	31	18
Los Angeles	30	9	21	36	69	34	88	3	12	16	35	16	6	9	20	34	18

LEGEND: GP - Games Played; W - Won; L - Lost; GF - Goals For; GA - Goals Against; BP - Bonus Points; TP - Total Points

LEADING SCORERS - AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Player - Team	GP	G	A	PTS
Mike Flanagan, NE	26	30	8	68
Trevor Francis, Det	20	22	10	54
RODNEY MARSH, TPA	26	18	16	52
Karl-Heintz Granitza, Chi	22	19	9	47
David Irving, Ft. Laud	26	16	5	37
Keith Furphy	30	11	12	34
DAVID ROBB, TPA	27	13	6	32

LEADING SCORERS - NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Player - Team	GP	G	A	PTS
Giorgio Chinaglia, NY	30	34	11	79
Kevin Hector, Van	26	21	10	52
Jeff Bourne, Dal	30	21	8	50
Alan Willey, Minn	30	21	3	45
Ivan Lukacevic, Tor	17	16	5	37
Bob Lenarduzzi, Van	29	10	17	37
Vladislav Bogicevic, NY	30	10	17	37

LEADING GOALKEEPERS - AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Player - Team	GP	MP	SV	GA	SO	AVG
S. Hardwick, Det	30	2734	179	36	9	1.19
K. Keelan, NE	29	2609	158	36	7	1.24
W.DUBOSE, TPA	15	1352	68	19	4	1.26
D. Jokerst, Cal	17	1574	79	24	6	1.37
K. Van Eron, Hou	19	1737	114	31	6	1.60
A. Mayer, SD	30	2796	217	55	6	1.77

LEADING GOALKEEPERS - NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Player - Team	GP	MP	SV	GA	SO	AVG
P. Parkes, Van	29	2650	133	28	10	0.95
E. Yasin, NY	22	1916	129	24	6	1.13
M. Poole, Ptl	30	2763	173	30	9	1.16
Z. Bilecki, Tor	17	1550	122	23	6	1.34
C. Boulton, Tul	29	2531	160	39	10	1.39
T. Chursky, Sea	26	2617	175	41	9	1.41

GAME RESULTS

8/3 Vancouver 6, San Jose 0
San Diego 2, Dallas 0
8/4 TAMPA BAY 3, Houston 2
Ft. Lauderdale 2, Rochester 1 (SO)
8/5 Los Angeles 2, Tulsa 1
Seattle 5, California 2
San Jose 2, Oakland 1
Dallas 5, New York 3
Minnesota 2, Colorado 0
Philadelphia 3, Detroit 2
New England 3, Memphis 2 (OT)
8/6 Vancouver 2 , San Diego 1
Toronto 2, Washington 0

PLAY-OFF GAMES

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

8/8 CHICAGO AT TAMPA BAY
Philadelphia at Detroit
California at San Diego
8/9 Ft. Lauderdale at New England

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

8/9 Seattle at New York
Toronto at Vancouver
Washington at Portland
8/10 Tulsa at Minnesota

[illegible]	2	2	0	133:53	2	8	0	1	1	3
ANDERSON, Peter	15	14	1	1224:56	17	16	0	3	5	11
AUGUSTE, Arsene	24	24	0	2156:18	51	22	0	1	0	2
BANDOV, Boris	3	1	2	168:57	3	2	0/1	0	0	0
CHANDLER, Peter	4	2	2	203:35	8	3	0	0	0	0
CONNELL, Mike	27	27	0	2458:39	56	18	0	0	0	0
CRUDO, Tony	11	7	4	638:23	13	4	0	0	0	0
EAGAN, Kevin	7	3	4	300:34	10	4	0	0	0	0
FINK, Joe	9	4	5	469:04	10	22	1/1	4	1	9
FLEETING, Jim	28	25	3	2414:01	24	9	0	2	1	5
IVANCHUKOV, Sandje	2	0	2	35:41	2	0	0	0	0	0
MARSH, Rodney	26	26	0	2325:17	40	103	0/1	18	16	52
MCGUIRE, Mick	25	23	2	2072:41	36	32	0	2	0	4
MCLEOD, Wes	27	24	3	2176:49	23	77	0/1	5	5	15
MIRANDINHA	14	8	6	800:08	8	48	0	1	3	5
PADDON, Graham	25	24	1	2127:34	23	59	0	5	3	13
PAPANDREA, Luis	15	13	2	1190:44	24	3	0	0	1	1
ROBB, David	27	25	2	2130:11	68	84	0/1	13	6	32
ST-LOT, Frantz	22	20	2	1720:46	30	8	0	0	1	1
SMETHURST, Derek *	4	2	2	173:44	2	11	0	0	1	1
VAN DER BECK, Perry	2	0	2	24:20	0	1	0	0	0	0
WEGERLE, Steve	26	25	1	2120:42	11	68	0	7	12	26
TOTAL				29982:24	461	602	1	62	56	178
OPPONENTS TOTAL				29934:56	513	376	2	48	36	108
ANDERSON, Peter **	11	11	0	1049:00	23	49	3/3	6	2	14

GOALKEEPERS:	GP	MP	SV	GA	SO	AVG
DUBOSE, Winston	15	1352:05	68	19	4	1.27
JOHNS, Nicky	8	731:34	39	15	2	1.85
HAMMOND, Paul *	7	645:00	38	13	0	1.81
TOTAL	30	2723:39	145	48	6	1.60
OPPONENTS TOTAL	30	2723:39	182	63	4	2.10

SCORING BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	TB	TOT
ROWDIES	27	34	2	0	63
OPPONENTS	24	23	0	1	48

	ROWDIES	OPPONENTS
CORNER KICKS	174	172
OFFSIDES	113	40
CAUTIONS	21	37
EJECTIONS	1	3
PENALTY KICKS	6	5

HOME ATTENDANCE	ROAD ATTENDANCE	TOTAL ATTENDANCE
271,856 / 15 Games	216,976 / 15 Games	498,832 / 30 Games
18,123 / Average	14,465 / Average	16,629 / Average

RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	ATTN	SCORERS
4/1/78	MEMPHIS	2-1 (W)	26,233	Alston; Marsh (Alston)
4/9/78	@ New England	2-1 (W)	11,360	Fleeting (Marsh); Robb (Wegerle)
4/16/78	@ Detroit	2-1 (W)	28,528	Own Goal; Fleeting (Wegerle)
4/22/78	SAN JOSE	3-4 (L-TB)	17,860	Marsh 2 (Smethurst,McLeod); Robb (Marsh)
4/30/78	NEW YORK	2-5 (L)	41,888	Marsh (Penalty); McLeod
5/7/78	@ San Jose	0-1 (L)	13,593	-
5/9/78	@ California	0-3 (L)	9,591	-
5/13/78	PHILADELPHIA	4-0 (W)	11,250	Marsh 2 (Penalty, Wegerle); Robb (McLeod); Wegerle
5/17/78	SAN DIEGO	4-1 (W)	9,603	Marsh 2 (Wegerle 2); Paddon (Marsh); Robb (Wegerle
5/20/78	@ Washington	1-2 (L)	15,325	Robb (St-Lot)
5/24/78	MINNESOTA	2-3 (L)	10,591	Robb 2 (Marsh, Mirandinha)
5/28/78	MANCHESTER U.	2-1 (W)	15,235	Connell (Mirandinha); Robb
6/1/78	@ Vancouver	0-1 (L)	14,051	-
6/4/78	@ San Diego	0-1 (L)	5,289	-
6/7/78	OAKLAND	1-0 (W)	9,446	Wegerle (Paddon)
6/10/78	HOUSTON	2-0 (W)	12,770	Marsh (Wegerle); Wegerle (Marsh)
6/14/78	@ Chicago	5-4 (W)	2,130	Paddon 2 (Marsh-Robb, Marsh); Anderson (Robb-Mars Wegerle (Anderson); Marsh (Wegerle)
6/17/78	FT LAUDERDALE	3-2 (W-OT)	22,506	Marsh 3 (Penalty-2; Fink)
6/21/78	PORTAND	2-0 (W)	13,777	McLeod; Robb (Marsh)
6/25/78	@ Rochester	1-2 (L)	6,282	Marsh (McLeod)
6/28/78	@ Toronto	2-1 (W)	5,399	Wegerle (Paddon); Fink (Wegerle-Anderson)
7/1/78	WASHINGTON	3-2 (W)	20,645	Marsh 2 (Penalty, Mirandinha-Robb); Anderson (Mars
7/4/78	ROCHESTER	1-0 (W-OT)	17,951	Marsh (Penalty)
7/8/78	@ Tulsa	3-0 (W)	17,721	McLeod 2 (Robb); Fink (Robb)
7/11/78	@ Philadelphia	2-3 (L)	5,874	Robb (Marsh); Fink (McLeod)
7/19/78	CHICAGO	2-3 (L)	14,830	Auguste (Marsh-Anderson); Paddon (Anderson)
7/22/78	NEW ENGLAND	3-1 (W)	24,069	Wegerle (Marsh); Marsh (Mirandinha); Mirandinha
7/26/78	@ Ft Lauderdale	2-1 (W)	15,094	Wegerle (Anderson); McLeod
7/30/78	@ New York	1-2 (L)	60,032	Anderson (McLeod-Marsh)
8/2/78	TORONTO	5-1 (W)	18,434	Paddon (Marsh); Robb 3 (Paddon, Marsh-Wegerle , Papandrea-Wegerle), McGuire (Robb)
8/4/78	@ Houston	3-2 (W)	6,707	McGuire (Fleeting), Fink (Wegerle); Robb

Rowdies Miffed At 'Laydown'

By JIM HENDERSON
Tribune Sports Writer

Did the New England Tea Men give away a goal in order to try and win the North American Soccer League's American Conference Eastern Division title in the same manner the Florida football Gators gave up a touchdown to Miami a few years ago in order to allow Tampan John Reaves a chance at the national passing record?

Is this sort of thing right?

That was the swirling controversy being discussed in Tampa, Memphis, Boston and other places today in the wake of New England winning the East title Saturday night with a 3-2 overtime victory at Memphis that some feel was accomplished by a "laydown" goal similar to the "laydown" touchdown the Gators gave Miami. The Tea Men's victory relegated the Tampa Bay Rowdies to second and the accompanying first-round home game with the Chicago Sting at Tampa Stadium tomorrow night that goes with it and cost the team approximately $4,500, or $250 a player.

New England needed nine points to tie the Rowdies in points and thus win the East title on the basis of having one more regular season victory. A Lawrie Abrahams goal at 102:11, his second of the night, got it for them.

> "I don't think this thing is as bad as some people say it is. New England obviously needed points and our scoring system (six points for a win and one point for every goal up to three a game) has created the points."
>
> —NASL Spokesman Ted Howard

But Abrahams would not have been able to score his game-winner had not David Stride of Memphis tied the game at 2 with a goal at 85:34.

This is where the controversy comes in and there are apparently two sides to it.

A wire service story out of Memphis said that Tea Men goalie Kevin Keelan stopped five Memphis shots before Stride's equalizer, indicating New England did not give away the goal. Memphis President Bill Marcum, a former Tampan, even backed the report up.

"He (Keelan) was all over the place," said Marcum Sunday. "We outshot 'em 2-1. It looked like a good goal to me. I can't conceive of that."

But a story in Sunday morning's Quincy, Mass. Patriot-Ledger stated that the Tea Men did allow the goal in order to give them a chance at nine points and even quoted New England Coach Noel Cantwell somewhat to that effect. If the game had ended 2-1, the Tea Men would have gotten only eight points and finished second.

The Rowdies, angry when hearing about the newspaper article Saturday night, called the league office Sunday to complain, but got no sympathy.

"I heard something like that might have happened," said NASL Director of Operations Ted Howard, "but there is nothing in the rules against it."

When asked if the Rowdies' protest would fall upon deaf ears, Howard replied, "I would say that is a pretty good statement.

"I don't think this thing is as bad as some people say it is," Howard continued. "New England obviously needed points and our scoring system (six points for a win and one point for every goal up to three a game) has created the points.

"New England took a chance by doing that, if, in fact, it did," Howard added. "If New England had lost the game, they would have run the risk of

See ROWDIES, Page 5C

Rowdies

◦ From Page 1C

finishing second to San Diego in the final rankings. It's true they needed a goal, but finishing second behind San Diego might hurt them."

As it was, the Tea Men did finish second when San Diego lost 2-1 to Vancouver Sunday and that means Fort Lauderdale visits the Tea Men Wednesday night in an American Conference playoff game. San Diego gets California Tuesday, the same night as the Rowdies' confrontation with Chicago and one other American Conference first-rounder, that sending Philly to Detroit. National Conference first-round games have Seattle at New York, Toronto at Vancouver and Washington at Portland Wednesday and Tulsa at Minnesota Thursday.

Philadelphia qualified for the eighth spot in the American Conference Saturday by beating Detroit 3-2 in Philadelphia, but Philly might not have made it had Memphis won its game, which it had a chance to do with Stride's goal. There was a report Oakland, which needed nine points to tie the Fury, was also ready to give up a goal Saturday night at San Jose, but the Earthquakes spoiled the Stompers' plans with a 2-1 win. Houston Coach Timo Leokoski was quoted in a Houston newspaper Saturday as saying he, too, would have given up a goal in Tampa Bay's 3-2 Friday night win at the Astrodome if the Rowdies hadn't scored the second one themselves to tie the game.

"I think the league office had better take a look at its rules of competition vey quickly," said unhappy Rowdies Coach Gordon Jago. "It's a discredit to the league. If these irregularities can be contrived, there is something wrong.

"If this kind of thing had happened in England," Jago continued, "the team would be in very serious trouble. You cannot field a weakened team for any reason over there because every game means something. If a team has to leave out top-notch players, it has to produce written medical reasons why."

Had this been required, both Rodney Marsh and Arsene Auguste would have been required to play against Houston. The two men opted to sit the game out to allow minor injuries to heal and there was some talk Marsh did not want to play and try to win, thus avoiding a possible confrontation with Fort Lauderdale.

The Sting, which beat the Rowdies 3-2 in Tampa July 19 and finished 12-18 after an 0-10 start, arrive in Tampa today. Tickets for the game will be on sale at all normal Rowdies outlets. The Bootique will stay open until 7. Season ticket hold-