ROWDIES NEWS

Tampa Bay Rowdies
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IT'S THE SAN DIEGO SOCKERS NEXT

It's San Diego next as the Rowdies move into the conference semi-finals of the NASL playoff system. The Tampa Bay Rowdies will travel to San Diego this weekend to play the Sockers at San Diego Stadium on Monday, August 14, at 8:00 p.m. PDT (11:00 p.m. EDT). Then the Rowdies will return to host San Diego in Tampa Stadium on Thursday, August 17 at 8:00 p.m.

FIRST GAME ON RADIO AND TV

The game in San Diego Monday will be telecast on WTOG Channel 44 at 11:00 p.m. EDT and broadcast on WFLA Radio 97 at 10:45 EDT. Tom Keene will do the play by play for WTOG with Francisco Marcos supplying color.

PLAYOFFS CONTINUE-WHY SAN DIEGO?

With the defeat of New England by Ft. Lauderdale Wednesday night, the Rowdies moved up to second place in total points in the American Conference playoff format and gained home advantange in the upcoming home and home series. Their decisive defeat of the Chicago Sting Tuesday in Tampa Stadium guaranteed the Rowdies a place in the conference semi-finals but the opponent, location and time of the series couldn't be determined 'til after the New England-Ft. Lauderdale game Wednesday. The American Conference playoff format is as follows at this stage:

Detroit (176 points) - advanced by 1-0 defeat of Philadelphia
Tampa Bay (165 points) - advanced by 3-1 defeat of Chicago
San Diego (164 points) - advanced by 2-1 defeat of California
Ft. Lauderdale (143 points) - advanced by 3-1 defeat of New England

The top two teams receive home advantage in the home and home series. Home advantage is considered to be the first game - away and second game at home. This is because the series is decided on outright wins. Should the series be split 1-1 at the end of the second game, the two teams enter a sudden death over time (two 15 minutes) then a shootout. Obviously, the home field and crowd would be of considerable advantage in such a pressure situation.

Should Tampa Bay win the semi-final series, they will play the winner of the Ft. Lauderdale-Detroit series for the conference final. The winner goes to Soccer Bowl!

TICKET INFORMATION FOR HOME GAME ON THURSDAY

Tickets for the home game against the Sockers are on sale now at all Rowdies ticket outlets at regular season prices. The deadline for season ticket holders to purchase their same seat is Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m. Season ticket holders can purchase those seats only at the Rowdies Bootique on Westshore. The business hours at the Boot are 9-5 except on Tuesday and Wednesday when they will be open 'til 7:00 p.m. This Saturday they will stay open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to accommodate extra playoff ticket traffic.

SAN DIEGO SCOUTING REPORT

The Sockers finished first in the American-Western with 18 wins - 12 losses at 164 points. Tampa Bay and San Diego have met twice in the regular season -splitting results. The Rowdies tromped San Diego on their first meeting in Tampa Stadium 4-1 while the Sockers squeezed a 1-0 victory out of the Rowdies in San Diego. Tampa Bay standouts in the first game were Steve Wegerle with three assists and Rodney Marsh with two goals. Graham Paddon and Dave Robb split on the other two Tampa goals. It was shortly after that game that Tampa Bay traded Derek Smethurst to the Sockers for Peter Anderson. Anderson played against the Sockers in San Diego in June. Walker McCall, the Sockers' leading scorer, scored the only goal of that game at 85:50.

In seven games, the Rowdies held a 6-1 lead in the series with San Diego through their moves and changes as follows:

1975	Baltimore Comets	2-1 (W)
	Baltimore Comets	6-1 (W)
	Baltimore Comets	4-0 (W)
1976	San Diego Jaws	2-0 (W)
1977	Las Vegas Quicksilvers	4-1 (W)
1978	San Diego Sockers	4-1 (W)
	San Diego Sockers	0-1 (L)

FAMILIAR FACES

At least two Sockers should be easily recognizable to Tampa Stadium regulars. Former Rowdie Derek Smethurst was traded earlier this season for Peter Anderson. Anderson played only 11 games for the club, but still set a new Socker record with 3 goals against Portland April 29. Keeper Alan Mayer is the other Rowdie "favorite". He's the one who wears the helmet to protect his concussion-prone head.

FIRST ROUND LINE-UP WAS A WINNER

The Sockers' line-up will be essentially the same as the combination that beat California 2-1 last Wednesday. The exception is the addition of Igor Bachner in place of Julie Veee. Veee broke a bone in his foot and is out for about 15 days. San Diego head coach Hubert Vogelsinger will probably field the following side:

Alan Mayer
Jan Van Der Veen — Laszlo Harsanyi — Bob Dogancic — Heinz Stickel
Peter Lecherman — Pete Nover — Jean Willrich
Igor Bachner — Walker McCall — Derek Smethurst

IN GOAL

Alan Mayer is the starter. He suffered yet another concussion (that's 11 now) against the Surf despite his unusual head gear. His 1.83 goals against average places him fifth on the leading goalkeepers slate in the American Conference. In a recent Rowdie player poll, Mayer tied with New England keeper Kevin Keelan as the top goalie faced this year.

THE DEFENSE

San Diego's back line has changed a bit from the set-up that allowed the Rowdies four goals in Tampa. It's more like the combination that held the Rowdies scoreless in San Diego. Yugoslavian Bob Dogancic is now the sweeper, pushing Dutchman Jan Van Der Veen to right back. Van Der Veen came over from RFC Antwerp along with Peter Anderson. Newcomer Heinz Stickel, a former German Olympian, prowls on the left. Hungarian former National teamer Laszlo Harsanyi is set as stopper.

MIDFIELD

Experience is the key to the San Diego middle. Peter Nover, maybe the leagues tallest player at 6-5, is stationed in the center. Jean Willrich, a Dutchman, plays an attacking role on the left side while fellow Dutchman Peter Lecherman mans the right slot and maintains a defensive position.

UP FRONT

Scottish center forward Walker McCall is the Sockers' big gun, scoring both goals in their win over California. Bachner will fill in on the right, and Smethurst will see action on the left. Derek has scored only two goals for San Diego but both have been game winners. He has notched five assists overall, including two against the Surf.

ROBB TO SIT OUT FIRST GAME AGAINST SAN DIEGO

Because of his ejection Tuesday night against Chicago, David Robb will sit out the first game against San Diego. The ejection came upon Robb's act of retaliation to Chicago's Karl-Heinz Granitza just a minute before the end of the game. This is the second game that Robb has been forced to miss because of penalty point accumulation.

ROWDIES STING CHICAGO IN SINGLE ELIMINATION PLAYOFF MATCH

The Rowdies took their first playoff match in a decisive 3-1 victory over the talented Chicago Sting Tuesday, August 8. Rodney Marsh set the tone of the match with the first goal on a penalty kick at 26:48 then followed up with a classic from Mike Connell and Mick McGuire at 52:17. Steve Wegerle scored the last Rowdie goal unassisted at 74:08. Karl-Heinz Granitza spoiled a possible shutout with a goal off Gene Strenicer just four minutes later. The high scoring game was marred by excessive fouls ... 24 for the Rowdies , 17 for Chicago, three cautions for Chicago and one caution and one ejection for Tampa Bay. In departure from the regular lineup, Peter Anderson played right back to mark the Sting's German front line (Anderson played against many of Chicago's scorers during his time with Antwerp). Gordon Jago has already announced, though, that Anderson will not play in the back against San Diego.

MARSH MOST POPULAR AGAIN

The ballotting for the Most Popular Rowdie of 1978 is finished and Rodney Marsh came out on top for the second year in a row. The popular Marsh received 30% of total votes and 50% of first place votes. Rodney popular for both his highly skilled play and his charismatic personality, is the captain and the team's leading scorer. He moved from his midfield position of last year to play forward and has had an exceptionally successful season on the field . Mirandinha, the Brazilian striker obtained from Sao Paulo in late May, came up second, garnering 13% of total votes. Florida cracker Winston DuBose grabbed third place with 11.7% of total votes.

PLAYOFF MOST VALUABLE PLAYER BALLOTTING

The Most Valuable Player of the Playoffs will be selected by the media this year by a vote after each game. Rodney Marsh is currently leading the scoring for his two goal performance against Chicago. Mick McGuire and Peter Anderson hold second and third respectively. At the end of the playoffs the votes will be tallied for the entire playoff MVP.

FINAL 1978 NASL STANDINGS

MERICAN CONFERENCE	TOTAL							HOME					AWAY				
ASTERN 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
ENTRAL 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
ESTERN 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
ATIONAL CONFERENCE																	
ASTERN 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
ENTRAL 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
ESTERN 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

NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POSITION	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	CITIZEN.
3	Jim Fleeting	Defender	24	6-1	159	British
4	Arsene Auguste	Defender	27	6-2	185	Haitian
5	David Robb	Forward	29	5-11	172	British
6	Mike Connell	Defender	21	6-0	150	S. Afric
7	Steve Wegerle	Forward	24	5-10	145	S. Afric
8	Wes McLeod	Midfielder	20	5-8	149	Canadian
10	Rodney Marsh	Forward	33	6-1	180	British
11	Graham Paddon	Midfielder	28	5-9	161	British
12	Peter Anderson	Forward	28	5-10	155	British
13	Mick McGuire	Midfielder	25	5-8	140	British
14	Joe Fink	Midfielder	26	6-0	160	American
15	Luis Papandrea	Defender	25	5-8	160	Argentin
16	Guy Newman	Defender	21	5-11	158	American
17	Kevin Eagan	Defender	23	6-3	175	American
18	Winston DuBose	Goalkeeper	22	6-2	180	American
19	Frantz St-Lot	Defender	26	5-8	155	American
20	Boris Bandov	Mid-Fwd	24	5-10	175	American
21	Perry Van Der Beck	Midfielder	18	5-10	150	American
22	Sandje Ivanchukov	Defender	18	5-10	170	American
23	Tony Crudo	Defender	19	6-0	160	American
24	Peter Chandler	Defender	25	6-0	165	American
26	Mirandinha	Forward	26	5-10	160	Brazilia
27	Nicky Johns	Goalkeeper	21	6-3	166	British

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POSITION	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	CITIZEN.
12	Anderson, Peter	Forward	28	5-10	155	British
4	Auguste, Arsene	Defender	27	6-2	185	Haitian
20	Bandov, Boris	Mid-Fwd	24	5-10	175	American
24	Chandler, Peter	Defender	25	6-0	165	American
6	Connell, Mike	Defender	21	6-0	150	S. Afric
23	Crudo, Tony	Defender	19	6-0	160	American
18	DuBose, Winston	Goalkeeper	22	6-2	180	American
17	Eagan, Kevin	Defender	23	6-3	175	American
14	Fink, Joe	Midfielder	26	6-0	160	American
3	Fleeting, Jim	Defender	24	6-1	159	British
22	Ivanchukov, Sandje	Defender	18	5-10	170	American
27	Johns, Nicky	Goalkeeper	21	6-3	166	British
10	Marsh, Rodney	Forward	33	6-1	180	British
13	McGuire, Mick	Midfielder	25	5-8	140	British
8	McLeod, Wes	Midfielder	20	5-8	149	Canadian
26	Mirandinha	Forward	26	5-10	160	Brazilia
11	Paddon, Graham	Midfielder	28	5-9	161	British
15	Papandrea, Luis	Defender	25	5-8	160	Argentin
5	Robb, David	Forward	29	5-11	172	British
19	St-Lot, Frantz	Defender	26	5-8	155	American
21	Van Der Beck, Perry	Midfielder	18	5-10	150	American
7	Wegerle, Steve	Forward	24	5-10	145	S. Afric