ROWDIES NEWS

Tampa Bay Rowdies
[illegible] N. Westshore Blvd. / Suite 109 / Tampa, Florida 33607 (813) 870-1122
Telex 52-619 / TPABAYSOCR TPA

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FROM: Francisco Marcos
Vice President Public Relations
and Development

PHONE: (813) 870-1122 (Tampa)
(813) 585-1119 (Pinellas)
(813) 755-3311 (Marcos - home)
Marcia Schallert
Assistant Director Public Relations
(813) 855-5847 (Marcis - home)

ONUS ON ROWDIES THIS WEDNESDAY

The pressure is now on the Rowdies.

The 3-2 loss Sunday afternoon to the Ft. Lauderdale Strikers on national television forces Tampa Bay to win the regulation game this Wednesday, August 23 at 8:00 p.m. ... and the mini game in order to stay alive in the NASL playoffs. The home advantage in Tampa Stadium and an expected 30,000 plus crowd will be to the Rowdies' favor but the task before them is not an easy one. Thus far New York has been the only team to lose the first game, then come back and win two. However, three of the four league semi-final series had to go all the way to the "mini-game" before the series winner could be decided. The Rowdies grabbed their American Conference Finalist slot via the "mini-game" against San Diego. Tampa Bay plays toughest ... when it absolutely has to.

WHAT HAPPENED IN LAUDERDALE?

It's hard to say. But in only five minutes the gutsy Strikers took a totally Rowdie dominated first half and a 1-0 trail and turned it into a scoring nightmare for the Tampa Bay defense. At 45:44 Maurice Whittle struck the first blow with a penalty kick. David Irving wasted no time in adding insult to injury by banging in the second Striker score in less than a minute. And George Best, who did little else throughout the 90 minute clash, did enough ... by slamming in the third and final Lauderdale goal at 50:41. Wes McLeod managed to sneak another one in for the Rowdies in the final minute of the match , but the game was over. A record breaking Striker Liker crowd of 16,286 went home jubilant while 1,500 of those fans who were wearing green and yellow shouted, "Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday ... ".

THE LINEUPS AND STATS OF SUNDAY'S GAME

Ian Turner

Colin Fowles	Tony Whelan	John Ridley		Maurice Whittle
Gary Jones	Ian Callaghan	Ray Hudson		(Billy Ronson)
George Nanchoff	(Curtis Leeper)	David Irving		George Best

	Shots	Saves	Corner Kicks	Fouls	Offsides
Tampa Bay	15	5	9	10	4
Ft. Lauderdale	15	5	9	22	4

THE FT. LAUDERDALE-TAMPA BAY RIVALRY

The American Conference Final pits two of the league's most bitter rivals against each other for the conference title and a spot in Soccer Bowl '78. Both teams come to the finals through the "back door", the

Rowdies having finished second in the American Eastern, the Strikers third. In fact, Ft. Lauderdale is the Cinderella team of the entire playoff series. They are the only wild card team to survive the single elimination game, much less knock out two division leaders and reach the conference finals. The division leaders were no slouches either - but the top two in the conference.

These two teams have met ten times before this series, the Rowdies holding a commanding 8-2 edge, which includes a 3-0 NASL playoff semi-final victory in 1975. The Rowdies then went on to beat Portland 2-0 for the league title in San Jose. This season the Rowdies won both regular season games. They took the first one 3-2 in Tampa Stadium, coming back from a 2-0 deficit to win on three Rodney Marsh goals (two penalty kicks). They came from behind again in Ft. Lauderdale to take it 2-1 on goals by Steve Wegerle and Wes McLeod.

ROWDIES GRABBED THEIR PLAYOFF SLOT IN WET AND WILD "MINI-GAME" AGAINST SOCKERS

The Rowdies nabbed their spot in the American Conference Finals with a sudden death victory over San Diego in a "mini-game" last Thursday in Tampa Stadium. Tampa Bay won the first match in San Diego 1-0, but lost the second one in Tampa 2-1. The series had to be decided by the NASL "mini-game" - two 15 minute sudden death overtime periods.

A crowd of 32,495 showed up Thursday to watch the Socker-Rowdie match - up. The first half produced a number of opportunities for both teams, but no score. Laszlo Harsanyi finally broke the scoring embargo about five minutes into the second half with an unassisted breakaway. Then the Sockers fell back to protect their lead. Peter Anderson managed to break through the tight defense and Alan Mayer's acrobatic goal tending to score off a double assist from Paddon and Marsh. Paddon took the corner kick, Marsh gave it a pretty little flick and Peter shoved it in. But the equalizer from the ex-Socker didn't hold long. Walker McCall, the Socker's leading scorer, added another to his scoring tally and the San Diego edge held.

The overtime turned out to be as eerie and frightening as it was tense. Just about the time the regulation game ended, the ominous skies made good their threat and literally blasted fans with biting rain and gales of swirling wind. Add plenty of crackling lightning and the scene was set. Officials delayed the game for a while but eventually decided to continue when the storm showed no sign of abating. Tampa Bay came on as strong as the storm, battering reserve goalie Gary Allison with one shot after another. Just three minutes and forty one seconds into that crazy overtime one of those shots found its place. Arsene Auguste and Rodney Marsh combined to win it ... and move the Rowdies to the conference final.

IT'S OFFICIAL- MARSH ROWDIES' '78 MVP

It will come as little surprise to anyone that Rodney Marsh has been voted the Rowdies' Most Valuable Player again in 1978. This honor, decided by a poll of team members, fans and media, is Rodney Marsh's for the second year in a row.

The players' vote is counted at 50% of the total vote, media's 25% and fans' 25%. Marsh took top billing in all three. He received most support from the media but only slightly more than from the players and fans , which was exactly the same percentage. Mike Connell, who garnered the second most votes, was named top defender. Connell received most of his support from the media and was credited for his steady and consistently credible performances throughout the season. Mick McGuire came in third and was named top midfielder. Mick's support was strongest in player votes. The value of Mick's style of play is not one that would be as obvious to the fans as would Rodney Marsh's. However, he got the vote of confidence from those who know the game best.

PLAYOFF RECORDS BROKEN

Rodney Marsh, Graham Paddon and the '78 Rowdies are breaking some playoff records this year as they make their way to the finals. Marsh has broken Clyde Best's record of scoring points and goals. It was two goals - five points. Marsh has now scored three goals and tallied seven points. Graham Paddon's three assists broke John Sissons' '75 record of two. And the Rowdies' seven goals breaks another '75 record of six goals.

BANDOV TO JOIN U.S. NATIONAL TEAM ON EUROPEAN TOUR

Boris Bandov has been invited to join the U.S. National Team on a European tour that departs on September 1. The tour will go to Iceland, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Scotland and Italy.

SCORING BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	TB	TOT
ROWDIES	27	34	2	0	63
(Playoff)	2	5	1	0	8
OPPONENTS	24	23	0	1	48
(Playoff)	0	6	0	0	6

	ROWDIES	OPPONENTS
CORNER KICKS	174	172
(Playoff)	28	30
OFFSIDES	113	40
(Playoff)	20	6
CAUTIONS	21	37
(Playoff)	1	3
EJECTIONS	1	3
(Playoff)	1	0
PENALTY KICKS	6	5
(Playoff)	1	1

HOME ATTENDANCE
271,856 / 15 Games: 18,123 / Average
59,091 / 2 Games (Playoff): 29,545 / Average

ROAD ATTENDANCE
216,976 / 15 Games : 14,465 / Average
24,390 / 2 Games (Playoff) : 12,195 / Average

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
498,832 / 30 Games : 16,629 / Average
83,481 / 4 Games (Playoff) : 20,870 / Average

PLAYOFF RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	ATTENDANCE	SCORERS
8/8/78	CHICAGO	3-1(W)	26,594	Marsh 2 (Penalty , McGuire-Connell); Wegerle
8/14/78	@ San Diego	1-0(W)	8,104	Auguste
8/17/78	SAN DIEGO	1-2(L)	32,495	Anderson (Marsh-Paddon)
8/17/78	MINI GAME	1-0(W)	32,495	Marsh (Auguste)
8/20/78	@ Ft. Lauderdale	3-2(L)	16,286	Robb (Paddon), McLeod (Paddon)

1978 SEASON 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-Marsh 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 (Marsh
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

AMERICAN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP
First Round :
FT. LAUDERDALE 3, Tampa Bay 2
Second Round :
8/23/78 Ft. Lauderdale at Tampa Bay

NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP
First Round :
New York 1, PORTLAND 0
Second Round :
8/23/78 Portland at New York

ROADIE STATISTICS

NAME	GP	GS	SUB	MP	FOULS	SHOTS	TB	G	A	PTS
ALSTON, Adrian	2	2	0	133:53	2	8	0	1	1	3
ANDERSON, Peter	15	14	1	1224:56	17	16	0	3	5	11
Anderson, Peter *	11	11	0	1049:00	23	49	3/3	6	2	14
(Playoff)	4	4	0	363:41	9	6	0	1	0	2
AUGUSTE, Arsene	24	24	0	2156:18	51	22	0	1	0	2
(Playoff)	4	4	0	363:41	7	5	0	1	1	3
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
(Playoff)	4	4	0	363:41	6	0	0	0	1	1
CRUDO, Tony	11	7	4	638:23	13	0	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
(Playoff)	3	0	3	47:25	3	4	0	0	0	0
FLEETING, Jim	28	25	3	2414:01	24	9	0	2	1	5
(Playoff)	4	4	0	351:04	3	0	0	0	0	0
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
(Playoff)	4	4	0	342:38	5	13	0	3	1	7
MCGUIRE, Mick	25	23	2	2072:41	36	32	0	2	0	4
(Playoff)	4	4	0	363:41	8	8	0	0	1	1
MCLEOD, Wes	27	24	3	2176:49	23	77	0/1	5	5	15
(Playoff)	4	3	1	257:43	2	13	0	1	0	2
MIRANDINHA	14	8	6	800:08	8	48	0	1	3	5
(Playoff)	4	0	4	71:13	0	4	0	0	0	0
PADDON, Graham	25	24	1	2127:34	23	59	0	5	3	13
(Playoff)	4	4	0	363:41	6	8	0	0	3	3
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
(Playoff)	3	3	0	228:23	2	8	0	1	0	2
ST-LOT, Frantz	22	20	2	1720:46	30	8	0	0	1	1
(Playoff)	3	2	1	202:16	4	2	0	0	0	0
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
(Playoff)	4	4	0	315:51	4	5	0	1	0	2
TOTALS	30			29982:24	461	602	1	62	56	178
(Playoff Totals)	4			3961:37	62	76	0	8	17	23
OPPONENTS TOTALS	30			29934:56	513	376	2	48	36	108
(Oppon. Playoff Totals)	4			3962:39	67	76	0	6	2	14

GOALKEEPERS:	GP	MP	SV	GA	SO	AVG
DUBOSE, Winston	15	1352:05	68	19	4	1.27
(Playoff)	4	363:41	22	6	1	1.50
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
(Playoff)	4	363:41	22	6	1	1.50
OPPONENTS	30	2723:39	182	63	4	2.10
(Playoff)	4	363:41	24	8	0	2.00

* Peter Anderson's totals with San Diego

** Traded