



MEDIA RELEASE

GAME NOTES

NEW ENGLAND STEAMROLLERS (1-6) AT NEW YORK KNIGHTS (1-6)

Madison Square Garden June 18, 1988

MEDIA ADVISORY

* The kickoff of tonight's game, originally scheduled for 8:00 pm *
* (EDT), has been changed to 8:30 pm so that the game can be broadcast *
* live and in its entirety to a national television audience on ESPN. *
* The Knights and Madison Square Garden apologize for any inconvenience *
* that this may cause. *

THE PLAYOFF PICTURE

The 38-14 loss by the Los Angeles Cobras to the Detroit Drive on Thursday, June 16 significantly brightens the playoff chances for the Knights or the Steamrollers depending upon the outcome of tonight's contest.

A Knights' victory would move them to within a game of the fourth place Cobras in the race for the final playoff berth with four games remaining for both teams, including a head-to-head clash in Los Angeles on July 2. That game will be the third meeting between the clubs, who split their first two (New York 60 @ Los Angeles 52 on April 30 and Los Angeles 36 @ New York 22 on June 6). A New York victory in Los Angeles would give the Knights a 2-1 edge in the season series which is the first tie-breaker for a playoff berth should the clubs finish with identical records at the conclusion of the regular season. An added plus for the Knights is the Cobras schedule which concludes the season with home and home games against the still undefeated (7-0) Chicago Bruisers.

New England's playoff chances are similar to the Knights'. A Steamrollers win this evening will move them within a game of Los Angeles with four to play, including a matchup between the clubs next week on June 25 at New England. The Cobras won their first meeting, 27-20, on May 26. Should the Steamrollers defeat the Cobras in their next meeting by more than seven points and finish the season with the same record, New England would have the advantage in the second tie breaker -- head-to-head point differential.

Following are the remaining schedules for New York, Los Angeles and New England:

<u>NEW YORK</u>	<u>LOS ANGELES</u>	<u>NEW ENGLAND</u>
6/18 New England	---	6/18 @ New York
6/23 Detroit	6/25 @ New England	6/25 Los Angeles
7/2 @ Los Angeles	7/2 New York	7/1 @ Chicago
7/11 Pittsburgh	7/9 @ Chicago	7/9 @ Detroit
7/15 @ Detroit	7/14 Chicago	7/16 @ Pittsburgh

Following are the tie breakers for the playoffs:

- 1) Won/loss record
- 2) If two or more teams still tied: head-to-head win percentage
- 3) If two or more teams still tied: head-to-head point differential
- 4) If two or more teams still tied: season-point differential
- 5) If two or more teams still tied: coin toss or draw lots

TO-KNIGHTS GAME: Tonight marks the second and final meeting between the Knights and the Steamrollers this season. In their first meeting at the Providence Civic Center on May 21, New England earned their only win of the season by a score of 24-13. The game was a defensive struggle in which the teams tied the Arena Football League record for the fewest points in a game by both teams (37) while combining for only 216 total yards between them (New England - 131; New York - 85).

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS

# 15 Verle Sorgen - referee	# 72 Roger McMinin - linesman
# 11 Bob Mantootch - side judge	# 34 Tom Myers - field judge

ARENA FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Chicago Bruisers	7	0	1.000	301	192
Pittsburgh Gladiators	5	2	.714	348	291
Detroit Drive	5	3	.625	301	265
Los Angeles Cobras	3	5	.375	299	318
NEW YORK KNIGHTS	1	6	.143	220	306
New England Steamrollers	1	6	.144	189	286

Results

6/16	Detroit Drive	38	at	Los Angeles Cobras	14
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Schedule

6/20	Pittsburgh Gladiators	at	Chicago Bruisers	8:30 pm
6/23	Detroit Drive	at	NEW YORK KNIGHTS	7:30 pm
6/24	Chicago Bruisers	at	Pittsburgh Gladiators	8:00 pm
6/25	Los Angeles Cobras	at	New England Steamrollers	8:30 pm

(All times EDT)

NEW YORK KNIGHTS UPDATE: As in the first game between these two teams, in which the Knights played without starters WR/DB Greg Best, WR/DB Stan Hunter and OL/DL A.J. Sebastianelli, injuries could be a factor tonight. New York again will be missing three starters who were injured on Monday against Chicago. WR/DB Greg Best separated his right shoulder, DB/defensive specialist Mark Streeter suffered a strained hip flexor and OL/DL Pete Walters sprained a ligament in his left knee. Returning to the lineup after missing four games is OL/DL A.J. Sebastianelli (#80), who suffered a sprained right ankle in Chicago on May 14. DB Elbert Gray may return after missing one game with a strained right hamstring. OL/DL John Reed (#55), a Long Beach City College alumnus will make his NY Knights debut tonight.

In their last game, a 64-34 loss to the first place Chicago Bruisers, the Knights jumped out to a 26-10 lead early in the second quarter. However, the Bruisers rallied to extend their league record winning streak to seven games by outscoring New York 54-8 during the remainder of the game on the strength of last week's Arena Football MVP QB Ben Bennett's 22 of 35 passing for 209 yards and five TD's.

NEW ENGLAND STEAMROLLERS UPDATE: New England also has their share of physical problems tonight. They will be without the services of OL/DL Steve O'Malley who is sidelined with a sprained right knee. In addition, starting QB will be wearing a flak jacket to protect a cracked rib. Should Smith be forced to the sidelines, backup QB Paul Williams will play while battling a case of the flu. Second string WR/DB Jim Rafferty will play despite a sore neck and badly bruised right hand. OL/DL Kim Johnson (#63) from Oklahoma State is appearing in his first game with the Steamrollers.

New England is coming off of a tough loss to the Pittsburgh Gladiators (45-39) in one of the league's most exciting games ever. The Steamrollers had the ball in field goal range on Pittsburgh's nine-yard line with 27 seconds left in the fourth quarter trailing 38-36. QB Harold Smith's attempted pass for the game winning TD to the league's second leading receiver James Hockaday sailed high into the net and was intercepted by Gladiator Mike Powell who returned it for a 50-yard touchdown sealing Pittsburgh's win.

New England has lost four of their last five games by a total of 26 points and none by more than nine (Pittsburgh 45-39; Chicago 30-21; LA 27-20 and Detroit 29-24).

NEW YORK KNIGHTS INJURIES:

Greg Best (WR/DB) - OUT - Separated right shoulder; out 3-5 weeks
Pat Ragusa (K) - OUT - Strained right groin; out indefinitely
Pete Raeford (WR/DB) - OUT - Fractured left shoulder; probably out for season
Mark Streeter (DB) - OUT - Strained hip flexor; possible return next week
Pete Walters (OL/DL) - OUT - Sprained left knee ligaments; possible return next week
Elbert Gray (DB) - QUESTIONABLE - Strained right hamstring; might play

NEW ENGLAND STEAMROLLERS INJURIES:

Steve O'Malley (OL/DL) - OUT - On injured reserve with sprained left knee

NEW YORK KNIGHTS TRANSACTIONS:

Following is a list of transactions made by the Knights since May 15:

May 16	Signed free agent Mark Grandy (OL/DL)
May 16	Named Dave Hochtritt assistant coach/linemen
May 20	Signed free agent Pat Morrison (WR/DB)
May 20	Waived Jim Mauro (WR/DB)
May 24	Signed free agent Lewis Bennett (WR/DB)
June 2	Signed free agent Mark Casale (QB)
June 2	Signed free agent Eric Arrington (OL/DL)
June 2	Waived Stan Yagiello (QB)
June 2	Waived Ken Sanders (WR/DB)
June 3	Signed free agent Mark Streeter (WR/DB; RB/LB)
June 3	Waived Mark Grandy (OL/DL)
June 17	Signed free agent John Reed (OL/DL)
June 17	Waived Eric Arrington (OL/DL)

NEW ENGLAND STEAMROLLERS TRANSACTION:

Signed free agent OL/DL Kim Johnson (6' 2", 269, Oklahoma State) this week

TV/RADIO:

NY KNIGHTS AND MADISON SQUARE GARDEN WELCOME ESPN AND LaROSE/FORTE PRODUCTIONS

Tonight's game marks the first time ever that an Arena Football game is being broadcast on national television from Madison Square Garden. Roger Twibell calls the play-by-play while Steve Raible handles color analysis for ESPN. Chet Forte of LaRose/Forte Productions will direct the live telecast.

WEVD (98 FM) RADIO

The game can be heard live on the radio in New York on WEVD-FM. Joe Masi does the play-by-play with Bryan Burwell providing the analysis.

WICE (550 AM) RADIO

In the New England area, the game can be heard over WICE Radio. Chuck Wilson calls the action with former New England Patriots (NFL) All-Pro DB Tim Fox giving the expert analysis.

SCORING:

SCORING BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL		1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
NY	62	67	33	58	0	220	NE	48	51	27	63	0	189
Opp.	57	110	73	66	0	306	Opp.	68	81	65	72	0	286
	119	177	106	124	0	526		116	132	92	135	0	475

AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME

	GP	Pts	Avg.		GP	Pts	Avg.
New York	7	220	31.4	New England	7	189	27.0
Opponent	7	306	43.7	Opponent	7	286	40.9
Total	7	526	75.1	Total	7	475	67.9

In the 22 games played during the 1988 Arena Football season, there have been 1,658 points scored for an average of 75.4 points per game.

In those 22 games the winning team averaged 45.2 points per game (995 total) while the losing team scored 30.1 points per game (663 total.)

KNIGHTS INDIVIDUAL SCORING

<u>Name</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>3FG</u>	<u>4FG</u>	<u>1XP</u>	<u>2XP</u>	<u>SFTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Lovelady	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
Kratochvil	0	5	0	9	0	0	24
Shepherd	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
Washington	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
Courville	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
Hunter	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
Best	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
Crocicchia	2	0	0	0	1	0	14
Hughes	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
Bennett	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Gibson	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Jones	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
TOTALS	31	5	0	9	3	2	220

HOME VS. AWAY: New York Knights are 0-3 at Madison Square Garden this season having lost 54-48 to the Detroit Drive on May 9; 36-22 to the Los Angeles Cobras on June 6 and 64-34 to the Chicago Bruisers on June 13. The Knights have been outscored 154 (51.3 per game) to 104 (34.7 per game) in those three contests.

The New England Steamrollers are 0-2 on the road during the season having lost in Pittsburgh, 82-26, on May 7 and in Los Angeles, 27-20, on May 25. The Steamrollers have been outscored by their opponents 109 (54.5 per game) to 46 (23.0 per game) away from home.

Home teams have won 11 of the 22 games played (50.0%) this year while the visitors also have captured 11 (50.0%). In those contests the home team has averaged 38.9 points per game (856 total) and the visitors 36.5 (802 total).

NEW YORK KNIGHTS INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

MOST POINTS, GAME
 18, Edwin Lovelady, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 MOST TOUCHDOWNS, GAME
 3, Edwin Lovelady, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 MOST FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTED, GAME
 6, Jack Kratochvil, v. New England, 5/21/88 and v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88
 MOST FIELD GOALS, GAME
 3, Jack Kratochvil, v. Los Angeles, 6/6/88
 MOST FIELD GOALS, ONE QUARTER
 1, Numerous times by Jack Kratochvil
 LONGEST FIELD GOAL
 50, Jack Kratochvil, v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88
 MOST POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN ATTEMPTED, GAME
 4, Jack Kratochvil, v. Chicago, 6/13 and v. Pitt., 5/27/88
 MOST POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN, GAME
 4, Jack Kratochvil, v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88
 MOST RUSHING ATTEMPTS, GAME
 5, Derek Hughes, v. New England, 5/21/88
 MOST YARDS GAINED RUSHING, GAME
 41, Johnny Shepherd, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 LONGEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE
 23, Johnny Shepherd, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 MOST RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS, GAME
 1, Many players
 MOST PASSES ATTEMPTED, GAME
 40, Stan Yagiello, v. Chicago, 5/14/88
 MOST PASSES COMPLETED, GAME
 19, Jim Crocicchia, v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88
 HIGHEST COMPLETION PERCENTAGE, OF 10 OR MORE PASSES, GAME
 65%, Jim Crocicchia, v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88
 MOST PASSING YARDS GAINED, GAME
 331, Jim Crocicchia, v. Los Angeles, 4/30/88
 LONGEST PASS COMPLETION
 47, Jim Crocicchia, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES, GAME
 8, Jim Crocicchia, v. Los Angeles, 4/30/88
 MOST PASSES INTERCEPTED, GAME
 2, Jim Crocicchia, v. Los Angeles, 6/6/88
 MOST PASS RECEPTIONS, GAME
 6, Al Washington, v. Detroit, 5/9/88 and v. Chicago, 5/14/88
 MOST YARDS GAINED RECEIVING, GAME
 127, Edwin Lovelady, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 LONGEST PASS RECEPTION
 47, Edwin Lovelady, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 MOST TOUCHDOWNS RECEIVING, GAME
 3, Edwin Lovelady, v. Detroit, 5/9/88
 MOST MISSED FIELD GOAL RETURNS, GAME
 1, Many players

 MOST MISSED FIELD GOAL RETURN YARDAGE, GAME
 47, Vince Courville, v. New England, 5/21/88
 LONGEST MISSED FIELD GOAL RETURN
 47, Vince Courville, v. New England, 5/21/88
 MOST KICKOFF RETURNS, GAME
 4, Vince Courville, v. Chicago, 6/13/88 and v. Det., 5/9/88
 MOST YARDS GAINED, KICKOFF RETURNS, GAME
 121, Vince Courville, v. Chicago, 6/13/88
 LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN
 58, Vince Courville, v. Chicago, 6/13/88
 MOST INTERCEPTIONS, GAME
 1, Al Washington, v. Detroit, 5/9/88 and v. Chicago, 5/14/88
 and Mark Streeter, v. Chicago, 6/13/88
 MOST YARDS GAINED BY INTERCEPTION, GAME
 11, Mark Streeter, v. Chicago, 6/13/88
 LONGEST RETURN OF INTERCEPTION
 11, Mark Streeter, v. Chicago, 6/13/88
 MOST TACKLES, GAME
 9, Lewis Bennett, v. Chicago, 6/13/88
 MOST ASSISTS, GAME
 5, Edwin Lovelady, v. New England, 5/21/88
 MOST SACKS, GAME
 2, Quinton Knight, v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88
 MOST FUMBLES RECOVERED, GAME
 1, Many players
 MOST BLOCKED KICKS, GAME
 2, Alec Gibson, v. Pittsburgh, 5/27/88