

NEWS RELEASE



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A sensational coup by the powerful Chicago Cats not only has zoomed them to the top of the American Soccer League's rugged Eastern Division but has put them in a confident frame of mind for three important home games within a week's time starting Saturday, May 15.

On that evening the exciting Cats take on the New Jersey Americans, followed by another Eastern Division rival, the Rhode Island Oceans on Wednesday, May 19, and the Sacramento Spirits of the league's Western Division of new Far West Clubs on Saturday night, May 22.

All three of the games will be played under the lights at 7:30 P.M. on the Astroturf of Hanson Stadium, Fullerton and Central Aves. A preliminary match is scheduled each evening.

The arduous schedule confronting the Cats in such an abbreviated space of time is nothing compared to their achievements over the weekend of May 1-2.

Considerably strengthened by the signing of Stefan Szefer, a great back last year with the Chicago Sting, and Chris Swain, excellent goalie who helped the Cleveland Cobras win a division title in the American Soccer League in 1975, the Cats really shook up the league.

On Saturday, May 1, evening, they defeated the Rhode Island Oceans, 1 to 0, for only the second setback sustained by the easterners on their home grounds in some years. Shortly after the start of the second half, Midfielder Carlos Bonilla tallied the lone goal on a breakaway after taking a pass from Forward Roberto Abrussezze.

The very next afternoon--in a rare exhibition of stamina and despite the travel involved and the disadvantage of playing on foreign fields--the Cats moved into New Haven, Conn., and trounced the Connecticut Yankees, 3-1. The goals were scored by Pete Kouratos, Diogo DaSilva and John Dolinsky.

Kouratos, the team's top scorer last season and one of the league's leaders, also had just joined the Cats prior to the two games. Team owner Dr. Ernest Panos and Coach George Meyer now feel the team can more than hold its own against any league rival.

Szefer, a 6-1, 175 pound back, and Swain, who had played amateur soccer in his native England before coming to the States to play for the Cleveland entry, give the Cats a near-invincible defense.

Ernesto Hasbach, the brilliant import from Mexico, and star Zygmunt Anczok from Poland, along with flasy DaSilva, the former Brazilian, and veteran Fred Kovacs make the backline nigh unimpenetrable.

Recently signed Jorge Rizo from Mexico and Joe Mihailidis from Greece, powerful Kouratos, speedy Abrussezze and flashy draft selection John Dolinsky from Lewis University comprise a formidable corps of forwards.

The midfielders are equally as impressive, headed by Costa Rican Bonilla and lately reinforced by Ed Skotarek from Michigan State University, Tony Runac from the Rochester, N.Y., pro club and Manuel Nunez from Mexico.