



COMMUNIQUÉ

Le Manic - Cosmos Resume Rivalry

Montréal, June 18, 1982 - New York Cosmos and Le Manic authored one of the most stirring chapters of the 1981 season with their four classic matches and that rivalry resumes tonight in the Big 0.

Cosmos have had the years and the successes to build their legends while Le Manic is still a relatively new kid on the block. However, 'the kid' has grown and matured and New York will be facing a Montréal team which has changed significantly since the clubs last met.

For instance, Le Manic's last lineup (vs Fort Lauderdale on Tuesday) saw only three players in action who were on the pitch the last time Montréal met Cosmos in '81. Four other familiar faces were on hand, but either injured or on the bench.

With the great chemistry of soccer, these teams created an instant rivalry and Le Manic comes into this evening's match in good form to sustain the intensity which resulted on four games decided by a goal each last year.

Montréal is on a three-game winning streak, the second in its history. An indication of the depth and poise falling into place at this stage of the campaign is the fact that two of those wins were accomplished on the road, which had been a wasteland for the team previously.

Also pumping up Le Manic is the fact they smothered the Strikers earlier this week and that marked the first time since joining the NASL that the Montréal side had been able to get a decision over the Florida team which is the overall leader in league standings.

Cosmos now remain the only team against which Le Manic hasn't won since gaining entry into the North American Soccer League. While all matches have been classics, New York was able to dig into its storehouse of experience to pull out all of them.

Eddie Firmani comes into this match against the team he once coached to two Soccer Bowls fresh off his 110th regular season coaching victory in the league. He'd dearly like to get started on the next leg on the statistical charts in this evening's match.

Last game between these teams: Montréal 1 at New York 2, August 16, 1981.
Mtl: Rigby, Sutevski, Smith (39:59 ejection), Vosmaer, Marcantonio, Martinovic, Towers, O'Brien, Usiyan, Hill, Parkinson; Nyk: Birkenmeier, Eskandarian, Iarusci, Durgan, Ritsbergen (45:00), Neeskens, Cabanas (39:59 ejection), Bogicevic, Wergerle, Chinaglia, Romero (55:08), Davis (45:00), Borja (34:52).
Scoring: MTL: (Cosmos own goal) 16:46; NYK: Neeskens 42:12, Iarusci 57:12.

Summary of series:

Three of four meetings last year went to either overtime or a shootout and the other was a one goal margin in regulation time with Cosmos winning all four. At Montréal, there were two 2-1 overtimes games. In New York it was 5-4 in a shootout and then 2-1 in 90 minutes.

Crowds:

The New York-Montréal 'series' in 1981 also was noteworthy because of the crowds it generated. A total of 78,785 (average 39,392) fans watched the two games in Olympic Stadium and 65,454 (average 32,727) took in the Meadowlands portion. Overall, that adds up to 144,239 spectators for four games, an average of 36,059.

It isn't quite a reunion for the coaches in tonight's game but their paths did cross. Prof. Julio Mazzei was the man who replaced Eddie Firmani on an interim basis when Cosmos and Eddie decided to part ways during the 1979 season. Prof. Mazzei is referred to as soccer's Bob Lemon in New York and moved back to head coaching this season.

3/...

Montréal's last lineup: vs Fort Lauderdale June 15

Mtl: Nogueira (90:00), Marcantonio, McGrane (58:17), Decaire, Knight, Mathieu, O'Brien, Quinn, Usiyan, Willey, Vujovic, Falzon (21:30), Uremovic (11:33).

Divisional:

Games against teams in the same division are considered extra important matches and this is only the third for Montréal against an Eastern Division opponent. Within the group, Le Manic has defeated Chicago 4-2 while losing to Toronto 2-1 in overtime. Cosmos are 3-1, having split 2-1 decisions with Toronto and winning twice over Chicago 6-1 counts.

Le Manic will be involved in a major blood donor clinic at Place Desjardins on July 16 between 11:30 am and 8:30 pm. More details will be announced as they are finalised.

Members of the media will have noticed an all-round security check this evening and we apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused. However, we think you realise that such checks are necessary on occasion if proper control of the press area is to be maintained. This is for your protection so that legitimate media people are not bothered by 'crashers'.

Thank's for your cooperation!

The 26 shot barrage Le Manic unleashed against Fort Lauderdale on Tuesday is the second highest shooting spree in the club's history. The tops is a 28 shots game against Washington on July 19, 1981.

The previous high for this season, and until Tuesday second in the team's history, was the 25 total against Tampa Bay in overtime on May 2.

Fran O'Brien, Carmine Marcantonio, Alan Willey and Hayden Knight are the only Montréalers to see action in all 14 games this season. John McGrane and Brian Decaire have each appeared in 13.

4/...

Le Manic is now 52 games old, including playoffs, and the games played leaders (strictly with Montréal) now are Carmine Marcantonio and Thompson Usiyan. Including playoffs, they each have played in 46 games. Fran O'Brien and Tony Towers each show 45.

The only previous three game win string recorded by Le Manic came early in its history, from April 18 to 28th, 1981. The victims, in order, were Toronto, Dallas and Chicago.

Six goals against Fort Lauderdale on Tuesday stands as a club offensive record. The previous high was the 5-0 against Toronto on May 24, 1982.

Hayden Knight's goal against the Strikers meant a lot to the hard working ex-Atlanta, ex-Edmonton player because it represented only his second score in his NASL regular season career and the first since 1980.

His only other regular season goal was against Seattle in a 3-1 win on August 22, 1980. He added two playoff goals that season so his 'last' NASL goal before Tuesday was against the same Fort Lauderdale club on September 6, 1980 in second round playoffs.

Thompson Usiyan's two-goal effort against Fort Lauderdale marked the 10th 'double' by a Manic player in a season and a half and the third this year. Alan Willey registered pairs against Chicago and Seattle earlier this season.

Usiyan also had a double last year against Dallas.

It took a few games for Alan Willey to get untracked but he has made up for it with nine goals in 11 games. He has seven in his last eight starts and has climbed to 95 regular season scores in the NASL.

For our visiting media who may be wondering about the attendance for the Fort Lauderdale game on Tuesday (15,243) - which is a rather drastic break with the previous average for Olympic Stadium - the culprit was the transit strike. Transit people here (as you may have discovered by now) are in a rotating strike situation: surface transport one day, underground the next. Tuesday happened to be an underground (Metro) day and, as you probably know, the Metro is the lifeline to the Big O. When it's out, any attraction suffers.

One interesting statistic on Le Manic in recent matches either indicates more aggressive play or less tolerant officiating. In their first 10 games, Montréal picked up 11 yellow cards. In the next four, the count leaped to 27 - which means 16 in the next four matches. Of that, 13 came during the three game swing through San José, Seattle and Edmonton. In any sport, a visiting team is usually less aggressive but the last trip seems to indicate Le Manic takes its 'heart' away, as well.

	1981	1982
<u>Overall record</u>	6-8	8-6
Home	4-2	5-1
Away	2-6	3-5
<u>Overall scoring</u>	22-21	24-18
Home	8-6	17-7
Away	14-15	7-11

Previous games:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULT</u>	<u>SCORERS</u>
April 10	Montréal 0 at Tulsa 1	
April 18	Edmonton 0 at Montréal 2	Chueden, Hill
April 24	Montréal 0 at Fort Lauderdale 1	
April 28	Chicago 2 at Montréal 4	Willey 2, Usiyan, Hill
May 2	Tampa Bay 2 at Montréal 1 (OT)	O'Brien
May 8	Montréal 1 at Portland 0	Parkinson
May 12	Montréal 1 at Vancouver 2 (SO)	Willey
May 15	Montréal 1 at Toronto 2 (OT)	Willey
May 22	San Diego 0 at Montréal 2	Usiyan, Willey
May 26	Seattle 1 at Montréal 2 (OT)	Willey (2)
June 5	Montréal 1 at San José 4	Usiyan
June 9	Montréal 2 at Seattle 1 (SO)	Willey
June 12	Montréal 1 at Edmonton 0	Usiyan
June 15	Fort Lauderdale 2 at Montréal 6	Usiyan (2), Willey, Vujovic, Quinn, Knight