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LOS ANGELES -- The first-place Los Angeles Skyhawks get their first taste of international competition on May 29th when Ireland's powerful Cork Hibernians visit Birmingham stadium for a 7:30 PM kickoff.

With a 3-1-3 record, Los Angeles has a four point edge on second-place Tacoma. Off this weekend, the Skyhawks will be nursing several serious injuries to key performers.

"Captain Fantastic," Ron Yeats, broke his right thumb in last week's loss at Oakland. Ane Mihailovich has a badly bruised Achilles tendon and Benny Binshtock a severely sprained ankle, both compliments of the Buccaneers.

If injuries to those three starter weren't enough, Newman has to worry about starting defender Ken Fogarty's left knee problems (aggravated in Oakland), Steve Ralbovsky's tender hamstring, and Steve Cacciatore's infected heel.

"This open week couldn't have come at a better time," admits Newman. "We'll be in quite a battle when Cork gets here. At least we have almost two weeks off in between."

Newman gave his battered troops three days off; the team didn't resume training until Thursday.

Over the past 15 years, Cork is one of the most consistently successful teams in the Irish professional league. The "Hibs" play a series of 11 games against ASL opponents in their United States tour. All of the games will count on the league standings. Cork finished fourth in the 18 team league last season.

Led by international stars Shay Brennan and Bobby Tambling; the "Hibs" also feature some of the best young players in Ireland. Tambling, of course, was Chelsea's super goal-scorer for the past decade. He set and holds the Chelsea's all-time scoring record of 246 goals.

Brennan, like all defenders never received the notariety of Tambling, but was a key player for Manchester United for several years. The Irish



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