



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 1976

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It's home, hopefully sweet home, for the Los Angeles Skyhawks after a grueling ten-day trip to the East coast. The Skyhawks meet the New Jersey Americans at Birmingham Stadium on Wednesday, kickoff at 8:00 PM.

During the trip to the East, the Skyhawks came away with assorted results, one win, one tie, and one defeat. With the win, a 1-0 decision over the ASL defending champions, the New York Apollo, the Skyhawks became the first Western Division team to win in the East.

New Jersey brings a 4-6-1 record into Wednesday's game. The Americans, befitting their name, are a team predominantly of American college graduates.

Coach Rich Melvin is firmly committed to "Americanizing" soccer. He believes that the American player can compete with any player, provided he is given solid coaching and, moreover, an opportunity to play.

"Opportunity, that's the key word," Melvin emphasizes. "Given the opportunity, American players can compete with anyone in the world, but we must give our players the necessary experience and exposure."

The Americans feature two of the ASL's top scorers in John Roselein and Kevin Kiernan. Roselein, a graduate of St. Louis University, has scored five goals and added an assist so far this season.

New Jersey plays a wide open game, and has been called by many soccer experts in the East one of this country's most exciting teams.

Providing a study in contrasts, the Golden Bay Buccaneers come to Birmingham on Saturday. The Buccaneers, unlike the Americans, are heavy with foreign professionals.

Leading the Bucs will be Gerard Hylkema; and with the mention of Hylkema's name, the hair on Skyhawks' coach Ron Newman's neck bristled.

"That dirty...", Newman mutters. The Skyhawks' coach recalls that three of his players were injured by Hylkema when the two teams last met in Oakland on May 16th. Ron Yeats suffered a broken thumb, Benny Binshtock a badly sprained ankle, and Mihailovich a bruised tendon...compliments of Hylkema.

SR76-45

