

# NEWS RELEASE

## NEW YORK



## APOLLO

1295 Northern Boulevard/Suite 21/Manhasset, N.Y. 11030/(516) 365-8132

For Immediate Release

April 28, 1976

APOLLO OPENS SEASON SATURDAY

ASL CHAMPS DEFEND AT HOFSTRA

New York's only defending champions, the New York Apollo, open their 1976 American Soccer League season this Saturday night at Hofstra Stadium. The Apollo meets the Cleveland Cobras in an 8:00 P.M. kickoff.

"We're raring to go," said club G.M. Ed Capobianco of Glen Head. "Hofstra is an excellent showcase for our talent, but we have to prove ourselves to the fans. We have our own winning tradition to uphold, and we hope that we can continue the winning ways that Long Island fans expect. The Islanders and Nets have been winning all winter, and now it's our turn to carry the banner through the summer months."

New Head Coach Gene Chyzowych, a Jerseyite and former coach of the U.S. National Team, is pleased with the team's pre-season showing. "We had a very rugged training season,"



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said Chyzowych. "We were undefeated in pre-season play, and I feel we are ready to take on anybody. We've installed the European concept of 'total soccer' into our style, and our speed up front promises to pay immediate dividends."

The main Apollo scoring punch should come from forwards Mario Garcia and Mike Paparigas.

The 25-year-old Garcia, 5'7" and a muscular 155 pounds, is coming off an excellent indoor season. On loan this winter to Rochester in the "other league," Magic Mario was named MVP in the NASL's indoor tournament in Chicago.

Paparigas, 5'10" and 159 pounds, plays the left wing for New York. Apollo President Andy Shakalis of Bayside is brief in his appraisal of the 24-year-old speedster: "He's the best forward in Eastern professional soccer," claims Shakalis.

The Apollo's midfield fluidity will come from Louis



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Speranza and Pete Tavares, who are rapidly becoming acclimated to the passing lanes that "total soccer" requires.

Anchoring the defense will be the speedy George Romano on the defensive line, and Joe Janduda at sweeper back. Romano, a recent acquisition, is an excellent rushing defenseman, and if he utilizes his swiftness as expected, he will force extra openings for his forwards.

Joe Maranda will handle the bulk of the action in goal, with Norman Wingert acting as back-up.

The Apollo have arranged a preliminary game between the CUNY Junior College All-Stars vs. a combined squad of Mid-Hudson Valley and Long Island schools. The pre-lim game will start at 6:00 P.M.

Tickets for all Apollo home games are available at the Hofstra box office on the day of the game, or at the Apollo offices in Manhasset at 1295 Northern Blvd., or call 516-365--8132.

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