

AUGUST 6, 1977.

WASHINGTON DIPLOMATS vs. COSMOS

TONIGHT'S GAME

By virtue of last night's 1-0 win of the St. Louis Stars over the Tampa Bay Rowdies at St. Louis, the Cosmos have clinched the second spot in the Atlantic Eastern Division and have attained the all important home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Although it is just academic now, had the Rowdies been able to get the full 9 points against St. Louis last night, the Cosmos would be in a do-or-die situation tonight needing at least one point to clinch second place.

Tonight's match marks the end of an era as the incomparable Pele' makes his final Washington appearance and plays his last regular season game in the North American Soccer League. On the other hand, it is the first Washington appearance for Franz Beckenbauer, the West German superstar who many consider to be the best player in the world today.

This will be the 7th meeting between the two clubs in the Diplomats four year history in the nation's capital. During that time the Diplomats have managed to win two of the six contests. The latest loss coming in the Cosmos home at Giants Stadium in New Jersey on July 27th when the New York club punished the Diplomats 8-2.

Tonight brings down the curtain on the Diplomats season for 1977. Their record stands at a disappointing 9-16. They have dropped 5 consecutive decisions that has witnessed their ever-reliable defense, for most of the season, experience its problems. The Cosmos are sporting a 15-10 record and are on their way to the playoffs once again to square off in a series against Cosmos Coach Eddie Firmani's old mates, the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

THE INJURY SITUATION

Not making the trip for the Cosmos due to injured ribs is midfielder Vito Dimitrijevic. For the Diplomats, both Mark Liveric (knee) and Bobby Stokes (strained hamstring) are listed as doubtful. In uniform for tonight's match will be the "Secretary of Defense" Jim Steele. He was forced to sit out the Cosmos game in New Jersey because of too many penalty point infractions.

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS

Referee --- # 5 Peter T. Johnson (Toronto)
Linesmen -- #29 Walter Durkan (Washington, DC)
 #31 Guy Fraiture (Washington, DC)

VISITING WITH US

In the Press Box with us this evening are Jim Trecker, Cosmos PR Director who will be on hand to answer any questions you might have in regard to his club. Trecker will either be roaming around the Press Box or will be sitting in seat #53.

Visiting members of the New York media in attendance are: Alex Yannis, NEW YORK TIMES; Lawrie Mifflin, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS; Phil Mushnick, NEW YORK POST; Ike Kuhns, NEWARK STAR LEDGER; Hank Gola, PASSAIC HERALD NEWS; Doug Lessels, WOODBRIDGE NEWS TRIBUNE; Bob Kurland, BERGAN RECORD; Steve Wildern, PATTERSON NEWS; Eric Mortenson, MORRISTOWN RECORD; Karl Scheibock, STAATS HEROLD.

Washington's own Jim Karvellas will be doing the TV Play-by-play which is being beamed back to New York on WPIX-TV Channel 11. Assisting Karvellas with color commentary will be Howard David.

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

The Offensive and Defensive Players of the NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE selected jointly by Donald Huff of the WASHINGTON POST and John Schulz of the WASHINGTON STAR, the Diplomats regular beat writers.



LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

Tampa Bay 0 at St. Louis 1
 Minnesota 2 at Fort Lauderdale 4

TONIGHT'S MATCHES

Dallas at San Jose 11:00 PM EDT

HOW THEY STAND

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

	W	L	GF	GA	BP	TP
EAST						
Fort Lauderdale	19	7	49	29	46	161
COSMOS	15	10	59	37	49	139
Tampa Bay	14	12	55	45	47	131
WASHINGTON	9	16	30	48	30	84
NORTH						
Toronto	12	13	40	38	35	107
St. Louis	12	14	33	35	32	104
Rochester	11	14	34	39	33	99
Chicago	9	16	29	42	26	80
Connecticut	7	18	33	63	29	71

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

WEST						
Minnesota	16	10	44	36	41	137
Vancouver	13	12	41	46	38	116
Seattle	13	12	39	32	36	114
Portland	10	15	39	40	38	98
SOUTH						
Dallas	18	7	53	33	50	158
Los Angeles	15	10	63	50	55	145
San Jose	13	12	33	41	32	110
Hawaii	11	15	45	59	40	106
Las Vegas	11	15	38	44	37	103

LEADING SCORERS

	GP	G	A	PTS.	(as of 8/5)
Steve David - Los Angeles	24	26	6	58	
Derek Smethurst - Tampa	21	19	4	42	
George Best - Los Angeles	19	10	18	38	
Giorgio Chinaglia - Cosmos	24	15	8	38	
Mike Stojanovic - Rochester	23	14	5	33	
Kyle Rote Jr. - Dallas	24	11	6	28	
Alan Willey - Minnesota	19	13	1	27	
Mickey Cave - Seattle	21	11	5	27	
Rodney Marsh - Tampa	23	8	11	27	
Pele' - Cosmos	24	12	3	27	

LEADING GOALKEEPERS

	MINS.	SAVES	GA	SO	AVERAGE (as of 8/5)
Ken Cooper - Dallas	2100	120	21	8	0.90
Gordon Banks - Fort Lauderdale	2239	143	27	9	1.09
Geoff Barnett - Minnesota	2075	114	26	8	1.13
Tony Chursky - Seattle	2110	139	29	7	1.24
John Jackson - St. Louis	1436	94	20	6	1.25
Zeljko Bilecki - Toronto	2149	181	30	9	1.26
Mike Hewitt - San Jose	2135	130	32	8	1.35
Mick Poole - Portland	1842	126	28	3	1.37



CURRENT DIPLOMATS STATISTICS
through 25 games
(9-16)

NO.	PLAYER	GP	MINS.	FOULS	SHOTS	PK	TB	G	A	PTS.
2	Alex Pringle	15	1356:36	24	4	0	0	0	0	0
3	Mike Lester	23	2064:51	48	23	0	0	1	3	5
4	Don McAllister	24	2173:36	34	22	0	0	0	1	1
6	Alan Spavin	11	899:46	13	8	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jim Steele	13	1209:51	44	7	0	0	0	2	2
9	Alan Green	15	1375:46	27	58	0	1-1	9	4	22
10	Gary Darrell	19	1374:34	24	41	0	0	3	0	6
11	Peter Silvester	12	962:22	22	32	1-1	0	3	0	6
12	Mark Liveric	15	906:45	18	25	0	1-1	2	1	5
13	Art Welch	13	499:24	4	11	0	0	1	0	2
14	Ken Hill	24	2134:23	50	17	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jim Redfern	20	1854:03	25	39	0	0	2	3	7
16	Roy Willner	19	1523:57	24	7	0	0	0	0	0
17	Sonny Askew	11	337:33	5	7	0	0	0	1	1
19	Gene Mishalow	4	226:37	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Randy Garber	7	270:40	7	4	0	0	0	2	2
25	Bobby Stokes	19	1718:32	31	47	0	1-1	6	4	16
	Others			36	51	0-1	0-1	1	1	3
DIPLOMATS TOTALS		25	23250:03	432	413	1-2	3-4	*29	22	78
OPPONENTS TOTALS		25	23250:03	448	473	5-5	1-3	#47	39	131

*Includes Own Goal vs. Connecticut 4/17

#Includes Own Goal vs. Las Vegas 6/27

NO.	GOALKEEPER	GP	MINS.	SAVES	GOALS	SO	AVERAGE
1	Eric Martin	23	2101:59	126	40	4	1.71
1	Bob Stetler	3	201:33	21	8	0	3.58
DIPLOMATS TOTALS		25	2303:32	147	48	+5	1.88
OPPONENTS TOTALS		25	2303:32	135	29	9	1.13

+Includes combined shutout by Martin and Stetler vs. San Jose on 7/16.

OPPONENT	SITE	DATE	SCORE	SCORERS	ATT'N.
Toronto	H	April 10	0-2	None	7,964
Connecticut	H	April 17	3-0	Silvester (2), Own Goal	6,508
Tampa Bay	H	April 24	0-1	None	9,099
Fort Lauderdale	A	May 1	0-1	None	6,753
Chicago	A	May 7	2-1	Stokes, Lester	2,015
Seattle	H	May 15	3-2 (OT)	Stokes (2), Welch	18,736
St. Louis	A	May 21	2-0	Green (2)	7,723
San Jose	A	May 23	1-0 (TB)	None	17,143
Rochester	A	May 29	1-2	Silvester	4,942
Fort Lauderdale	H	June 4	0-1	None	19,216
St. Louis	H	June 11	2-1 (OT)	Stokes, Green	12,015
Dallas	A	June 18	0-3	None	15,336
Chicago	H	June 22	0-1 (OT)	None	8,835
Minnesota	A	June 25	1-2	Redfern	32,328
Las Vegas	H	June 27	0-2	None	9,653
Toronto	A	June 30	1-2	Darrell	4,328
Rochester	H	July 4	1-0	Green	3,962
Tampa Bay	A	July 6	2-1	Green (2)	8,398
Los Angeles	H	July 9	2-4	Darrell, Macken	11,168
San Jose	H	July 16	3-0	Green (2), Liveric	14,093
Hawaii	A	July 19	2-4	Stokes, Green	3,279
Portland	A	July 22	1-3	Redfern	11,592
Cosmos	A	July 27	2-8	Liveric, Stokes	34,189
Vancouver	H	July 30	0-3	None	17,225
Connecticut	A	August 3	1-4	Green	1,100
Cosmos	H	August 6			

Home Attendance	138,474	for	12	Dates.....Average	11,540
Away Attendance	149,126	for	13	Dates.....Average	11,472
Total Attendance	287,600	for	25	Dates.....Average	11,504