



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 30, 1980

The Detroit Express lost to the Portland Timbers last Saturday night by a 2-1 score in Portland. The Express drew first blood as Pato Margetic took a beautiful feed from Keith Furphy to score his third goal of the season. It was Sam Oates' well directed header that set up the goal scoring opportunity.

The loss, combined with the Memphis Rogues' defeat of Atlanta, last week, and the Chicago Sting's start of three straight wins puts the Express in third place in the American Conference's Central Division with 17 points. They trail the division leading Rogues by 10 points, and lead the last place Houston Hurricane by six.

The Express hope to stop their current losing streak at two games when they travel to Edmonton this weekend to take on the Drillers. Edmonton is currently in third place in the Western Division of the American Conference with a 1-1 record, good for 10 points.

The Drillers are hoping to better their 8-22 record of last year with some substantial changes. For starters, they signed Head Coach Timo Liekoski, last year's Coach of the Year. Liekoski guided the Houston Hurricane to a 22-8 record last year and the same divisional championship the Express won the previous year.

Edmonton also signed two high scoring West Germans in forwards Klaus Heinlein and Edward Kirschner to add some offensive punch. They combine with last year's team scoring leader Lorenz Hilkes, who had 29 points, to produce a strong offensive line.

Famed Finnish Goalkeeper Pertti Alaja has been signed to bolster their lineup but has yet to play due to a delayed clearance from his team last year. Canadian John Baretta has been outstanding in a fill-in role, as the wait for Alaja continues.

GAME SCHEDULE

The Drillers-Express game will be played on Sunday, May 4 at 4:30 p.m. Detroit time. It can be heard live from Commonwealth Stadium on CKLW Radio (AM 800) with Jim Forney doing play-by-play.

The team will leave from Windsor, Ontario on Saturday, May 3 at 10:45 a.m. on Air Canada flight #654 and will arrive at Edmonton at 7:50 p.m. (Edmonton time) on A.C. flight #127 after a stop in Toronto. The team will be staying at the Edmonton Plaza Hotel and can be reached by contacting Jim Forney at 403-426-3636. The club will leave Edmonton at 7:30 a.m., May 5, on Air Canada, flight #832 and will arrive in Windsor via Winnipeg at 2:15 p.m., on Air Canada flight #166.

The Express' next game will be the following Saturday, May 10, when they host the Atlanta Chiefs at the Pontiac Silverdome. Game time is 7:30p.m.



MORE

FORMER EXPRESS FORWARD SERIOUSLY INJURED

On Sunday April 27, former Express forward Bob Rohrbach, now with the ASL's Columbus Magic, was seriously injured when he collided with ex-NASL player Alex Rosul of the Cleveland Cobras.

He sustained serious head, neck, and back injuries, rendering him unconscious and in critical condition until Wednesday, when sources at St. Carmel West Hospital in Columbus described him as in poor condition, but stabilizing.

Rohrbach, played with Detroit during the 1979 season, and part of the recent indoor campaign after coming off of knee surgery in September. The Express wish Bob the best and pray for a speedy recovery.

EXPRESS LEADERS

Pato Margetic's goal in the Timbers clash gives him three for the season, and along with his one assist tallies him seven points and places him in a tie for seventh place among the leading scorers of the American Conference in the NASL.

Goalkeeper Jim Brown is still having a fine season even after allowing the two goals to Portland last Saturday. His Goals Against Average is still at a stingy 0.94, good for third place in the American Conference, and fifth in the entire 24 team North American Soccer League.