

SPORTS

SOCCKER PLAY OFF

With a playoff berth safely secured, the Washington Diplomats resume their battle for a home playoff game this week with two key contests. The Dips host American Conference East leader New England Wednesday night, July 26, then travel to Rochester for a return meeting with the Lancers Saturday, July 29. Both games begin at 8 p.m. EDT and can be heard live on WTOP-Radio with Mike Lange calling the play-by-play. Don Earle and Terry Hanson will provide the commentary for WTTG-Channel 5 from Rochester on a delayed basis beginning at 12:30 a.m.

Although the New York Cosmos clinched the National Conference East title with a 2-1 victory over Settle on Sunday, the Diplomats are still in a position to assure themselves of a home game in the first round of the playoffs if they finish with the best second-place record in the conference. Currently, the Dips trail Portland, the second-place team in the Western Division, by five points, but Washington has played one game less than the Timbers.

SECOND PLACE A GLANCE (National Conference):

The following clubs are still involved in the race for the best record among second place teams in the National Conference which will result in a home first round playoff game for the team that captures that spot.

Portland	148 points (3 games left)
Portland	148 points (3 games left)
Washington	143 points (4 games left)
Minnesota	129 points (4 games left)
Toronto	126 points (4 games left)

ABOUT THE TEA MEN . . . Currently leading the American Conference East with a 16-10 record and 140 points, New England is involved in a hot divisional race with Tampa Bay (15-11, 138 points) and Ft. Lauderdale (15-12, 132 points). Since snapping the Cosmos' 23-game home winning streak two weeks ago, the Tea Men have lost three straight (@ Rochester 2-3, Ft. Lauderdale 0-2, @ Tampa Bay 1-3).

Striker Mike Flanagan has carried the New England attack all season, having a hand in 36 of the club's 55 goals. Flanagan, with 65 points, is second in the NASL scoring derby to Giorgio Chinaglia of New York (29 goals, 11 assists, 69 points).

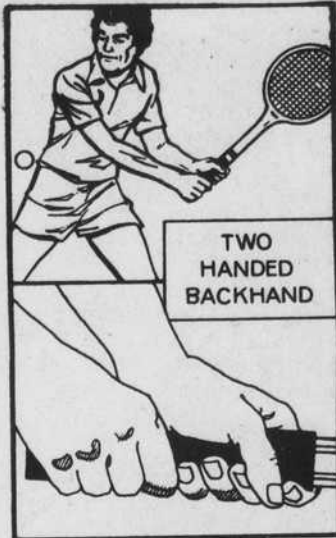
Defensively, Kevin "Cat" Keelan heads the NASL's fifth-leading defense. One of the League's top goalkeepers all season, Keelan is currently third in the American Conference with a 1.24 goals against average.

The Tea Men have been hurt by recent injuries to key starters. Midfielder Gerry Daly suffered a fractured jaw in an auto accident last week and will miss Wednesday's game. Defender David D'Errico (sprained knee) and midfielder Keith Weller (hamstring) are both questionable.

AND THE LANCERS . . . Saturday's 3-4 loss to the Diplomats hindered Rochester's playoff hopes, but the Lancers still have a legitimate wildcard shot. Occupying the basement in the National Conference East, Rochester has a 12-15 record with 155 points.

In order to qualify for the playoffs, the Lancers need to win their remaining three games to stave off Dallas and Seattle. Should Rochester qualify, it is likely that all four teams in the Eastern Division will appear in the playoffs.

LAST MEETINGS . . . The Diplomats will be facing both New England and Rochester for the second time this season. Washington claimed one-goal victories against both teams, claimed one-goal victories against both teams, claimed one-goal victories against both teams, downing New England 2-1 at Foxboro, June



TWO HANDED BACKHAND

TENNIS

The two-handed backhand is a boon to those who have difficulty with this shot. The left hand holds the racket as close to the right hand as possible and grips the racket as in hitting a left handed forehand. The secret is you are not really hitting a backhand; you are hitting a left-handed forehand, with the right hand going along for the ride. For between game breaks you'll find the Wimbledon Whistle is the most popular drink on the courts this summer. The ingredients are Seagram's Gin, Schweppes Bitter Lemon and a slice of orange.

Remember that the two-handed backhand requires that the ball be stroked much closer to the body than in a regular backhand. An extra step must be taken to get the ball, except, of course, when the ball is hit very close to you.



Professional golfer Lee Elder takes a break in action at the Michelob-Lee Elder golfer Clinic and Exhibition at St. Louis' Forest Park Municipal Golf Course. The clinic and exhibition, sponsored by Michelob, Anheuser Busch, Inc., and Lohr Distributing Co, Inc., followed Elder's sudden-death playoff victory over Trevino in the \$30,000 Greater Milwaukee Open. Pictured from left are: Curtis L. Lohr, chairman of the board of Lohr Distributing; Steven E. Lohr, vice president; Elder, and Ronald K. Lohr, president and general manager.

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