

SASH

HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Society for American Soccer History. Number 17 Winter 1998.

In several past issues of the SASH newsletter, we have reprinted newspaper articles about some famous games in American soccer history. Here is another one of those. This game on May 29, 1960 had everything, or nearly so. It was a big occasion, the U.S. Open Cup final. It featured two great teams, Philadelphia Ukrainian Nationals and Los Angeles Kickers. It was a dramatic game, with lots of scoring and overtime. And it had a big individual hero in Mike Noha.

The following article is presented exactly as it was printed, with at least two errors that I can see. First, Noha was not the first player to score five goals in a U.S. Open Cup final. Bert Patenaude scored five for Fall River Marksmen in a 6-2 win over Chicago Bricklayers in 1931, and maybe there have been others that I don't know about. Second, the man referred to as James J. Barriskill was Joe Barriskill (or am I wrong there; was his name really James, not Joseph?) .

The same two teams met in the cup final four years later, and again it was a marathon affair. The first game was tied, 2-2, after 90 minutes of regulation and 90 minutes of overtime. Los Angeles won the replay, 2-0, a month later. In all, in 1960 and '64, the Uke Nats and L.A. Kickers played 420 minutes of soccer to decide two finals.

Note that this story, which is from the Philadelphia Inquirer of May 30, 1960, never actually refers to the U.S. Open Cup by that name, although there is one mention of the National Challenge Cup. That competition, which has had a revival in the last few years, has been referred to by so many different names over the years that it is not surprising to see it referred to simply as "the United States soccer championship."

Incidentally, this article is accompanied by one of the best soccer action photos I've ever seen in an American newspaper. I'll bring it with me to Oneonta in June.

Ukrainians Trip LA for U.S. Title; Noha Scores 5

Mike Noha, a 21-year-old inside right, put on a sensational scoring demonstration as the Philadelphia Ukrainian Nationals won the United States soccer championship by defeating the Los Angeles Kickers, 5-3, in an overtime game Sunday at Edison Field, 29th and Clearfield streets.

A crowd of 5,500 saw Noha score all five of the Ukrainian goals to become the first performer in U.S. soccer history to tally that many in a national title game. The well-built youngster came to this country from Argentina less than a year ago.

TWO EXTRA PERIODS

It was the first national conquest by Philadelphia booters since the Philadelphia Americans climbed to the top in 1936. This triumph was particularly noteworthy since the Ukrainians have been in pro ranks only three years.

Led by Noha, the Ukrainians exhibited a tremendous come-from-behind performance in the two 30-minute extra periods to win.

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Los Angeles took a 1-0 lead when Albert Zerhusen headed the ball in from in front of the net after 15 minutes of play. The Ukrainians tied it five minutes later with Noha dribbling past four defenders and scoring on an eight-yarder.

NOHA TIES IT AGAIN

The Kickers made it 2-1 on Werner Staacke's penalty shot, but Noha evened the score just before the half ended when he tallied from the left side when Los Angeles goalie Vic Ottoboni fumbled the ball.

Eberhardt Herz booted one into the corner of the net from 20 yards out to give the Kickers a 3-2 margin 15 minutes after the second half opened. Noha tied it again on a penalty kick with 12 minutes left. He was awarded the free boot when Hugh Evans of Los Angeles touched the ball with his hands in the penalty area.

The Ukrainians nearly won it in regulation time, but Mike Campo's goal with 40 seconds remaining was not allowed because he was offside, and the score was 3-3 at the buzzer.

2 MORE FOR NOHA

The first extra period was scoreless, but Noha really went to work in the next overtime session. With 20 minutes to go, he took a pass from teammate Alex Falk and made good on an 18-yarder. The Ukrainian standout scored again six minutes later to make it 5-3.

The Ukrainians were presented with the National Challenge Cup, symbolic of the championship, with James J. Barriskill, secretary of the U.S. Soccer Football Association, making the award to Walter Meducha and Jimmy Mills, manager and coach of the Ukrainians, respectively.

Ukrainians		Los Angeles
Didriksen	G	Ottoboni
Varga	RFB	Staacke
Smolinsky	LFB	Evans
Krawec	RHB	Weise
Racz	CHB	Isak
Ely	LHB	Oakes
Ferris	OR	Habel
Noha	IR	Herz
Campo	CF	Carson
Dlugosz	IL	Steel
Jethon	OL	Zerhusen

UKRAINIAN SCORING: Noha 5. LOS ANGELES SCORING: Zerhusen, Staacke, Herz. UKRAINIAN SUBS: Falk, Sanchez. LOS ANGELES SUB: Baxter. REFEREE: Nels Dahlquist, Chicago. LINESMEN: James Black and William Steel, Philadelphia.

Membership Notes

The last page of this newsletter is a form that you can use to renew your SASH membership for 1998. We understand, or at least we hope, that part of the reason why SASH membership dropped so sharply in 1997 is that people knew of the problems going on at the Hall of Fame and decided to hold off on renewing their SASH membership until that question was settled. So, it has been settled now, and both the Hall and SASH are still here. We are sending this issue of the SASH newsletter both to current members and to 1996 members, in hope that some of those who didn't renew for 1997 will rejoin for 1998. Because this newsletter is late coming out, the deadline has been moved back just a bit to April 15.

The SASH membership rate for 1998 remains at \$10. Please return the membership form, along with your payment, to SASH, c/o Will Lunn, 11 Ford Ave., Oneonta, N.Y. 13820.

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Three positions will be up for election in next year's SASH election. They are vice president (currently held by Ric Fonseca), secretary (currently held by Jack Huckel) and one of the four director positions (currently held by Colin Jose). Executive director Will Lunn has agreed to serve as a one-man Nominating Committee to conduct the election, which will be held next spring. If you are interested in running for one of the three positions named above, please contact him by April 10 at the National Soccer Hall of Fame, 11 Ford Ave., Oneonta, N.Y. 13820 or (607) 432-3351 to let him know that you want to be on the ballot. The election will be held by mail.

This year's SASH membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday evening, June 1 in Oneonta. We can't yet tell you the exact place and time, but past SASH meetings have been at 7:30 p.m. at Morris Hall on the Oneonta State campus.