

**FACTS
ABOUT
FOOTBALL
IN
FINLAND**

American football association of Finland

was founded in the fall of 1979 after the first serious games had been played the summer before. The first Championship League was played in 1980 by six teams from the Helsinki area. After that the expansion has been fast. In -81 the number of playing teams was 8, in -82 the number increased to 13, and this summer 15 teams from 10 cities (see back page) play in the Championship League and in the second division.

A rather unique factor about football in Finland is the virtually complete absence of American players and coaches. Football was first brought to Finland by exchange students who got acquainted with the game in the USA. Therefore, the association and the teams are run by young people, mainly university students.

The national team 1983

The national team consists of 39 players from six different teams. Prior to the the tournament in Castel Giorgio, the team has not played any real games, but it has been practicing as a team since April.

The ages of the players vary from 19 to 34. Approximately half of the players are students.

The head coach of the team is Don Jones, and the assistant coaches are Juha Liedes and Olli Aho.

For additional information, please write to:

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