NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News release

DIVISION CHAMPIONS NEW YORK AND ST. LOUIS WIN PLAYOFF SEMI-FINALS, MEET IN NASL CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY IN NEW YORK; RECORD 24,742 IN DALLAS SEE TORNADO TIE RUSSIAN CHAMPION

NEW YORK, N.Y., AUGUST 21, 1972-- The New York Cosmos and St. Louis Stars, Champions of the Northern and Southern Divisions respectively, have survived the Playoff Semi-Finals and meet for the NASL Championship in New York Saturday night. The Cosmos dethroned defending Champion Dallas 1-0 while the American dominated Stars blanked Rochester 2-0.

The Championship game has all the earmarks of a classic encounter. While it marks the first time either club has reached the NASL final, both are extremely well qualified.

The League's Most Valuable Player, Rookie-of-the-Year and Coach-of-the-Year will all be on the field. NASL MVP and scoring champion Randy Horton will be testing St. Louis netminder Mike Winter, the NASL top Rookie selection. Casey Frankiewicz, the talented player-coach of the Stars and Coach-of-the-Year, will be directing the NASL's "Cinderella" team from his left wing position.

Included in the rosters are eight NASL All-Stars and four of the five former Rookie-of-the-Year selections in addition to Winter. The roll call of All-Stars includes Randy Horton, Johnny Kerr, and Siggy Stritzl of the Cosmos and John Sewell, Pat McBride, Wilf Tranter, Larry Hausman and Frankiewicz of the Stars. Former top Rookies Randy Horton (1971) and Siggy Stritzl (1969) of New York and Willie Roy (1967) and Jim Leeker (1970) of St. Louis have gone on to prove themselves in the NASL and have contributed greatly to the success of their respective clubs. In addition, seven of the St. Louis players -- Hausman, Roy, Frank, Rensing, Geimer, McBride, Winter -- and two of the Cosmos -- Roth and Stritzl -- have been selected to the U.S. World Cup team.

The final will match the two top offenses and the second and third ranking defenses in the NASL this past season. The high scoring Cosmos beat opposing goalkeepers 28 times while the Stars were successful on 20 occasions. Defensively the Stars yielded but 14 goals compared to 16 for the Cosmos. Seven of the NASL's top fifteen scorers will be present. In addition to Horton's leading 22 points, Everald Cummings added 13 points, Willie Mfum, who has capably filled the shoes of injured Jorge Siega, 11 points and Johnny Kerr 10 points for the Cosmos. Willie Roy led the Stars with 16 points while Frankiewicz and John Sewell contributed 13 and 10 points respectively.

Few of the 7,500 New York supporters in attendance on opening day will forget the incredible comeback of the Stars, after they had fallen three goals behind the Cosmos in an eighteen minute barrage early in the second half only to counter with three goals of their own in the final seventeen minutes to equalize at the final whistle. The Stars captured the season series with a hard fought 1-0 triumph in St. Louis, July 29th.

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The 3-3 draw was the only blemish on the Cosmos League record at home where they have played brilliantly, averaging three goals a game with 23 goals in eight games. The draw was also the catalyst that the Stars needed. "It gave us the added confidence we have lacked to really believe in ourselves," said Coach Casey Frankiewicz. "That comeback is one of the major reasons we will be playing in the Final Saturday."

Despite the disappointment of becoming the sixth NASL Defending Champion in as many years to fail to repeat as the League Champion the Dallas Tornado delighted a record 24,742 at Texas Stadium on Thursday night by tying 10-time Russian Champion Moscow Dynamo. The brilliant play of NASL All-Stars Ken Cooper in Goal and John Best and Dick Hall in defense kept the Russians off the scoreboard and extended the Tornados undefeated string against foreign opposition to nine games. Moscow Dynamo will next play in Atlanta against the Chiefs this Wednesday before playing the Cosmos Wednesday, August 30th in what could prove to be another battle of Champions should the Cosmos win the NASL title Saturday night.

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GAMES THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, August 23rd	Moscow Dynamo (Russia) at Atlanta	7:30 pm(Exhibition)
Saturday, August 26th	NASL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME ST. LOUIS AT NEW YORK	8:00 pm
Wednesday, August 30th	Moscow Dynamo (Russia) at New York	8:00 pm (Exhibition)

LAST WEEK'S GAMES:

Tuesday, August 15th	PLAYOFF SEMI-FINAL			
	St. Louis	- 2	Rochester	- 0
Thursday, August 17th	Dallas	- 0	Moscow Dynamo (Russia) (Exhibition)	- 0
Saturday, August 19th	PLAYOFF SEMI-FINAL			
	New York	- 1	Dallas	- 0

New York and St. Louis qualify for NASL Championship Game!

SOCCER SHORTS

Olympic Soccer on TV - ABC has decided to cover Soccer at the Olympic Games due to a large influx of mail. The U.S.-Morocco game this Sunday, August 27th will be shown. Further coverage will depend on the team's performance.

NASL REFEREE AT OLYMPICS: - NASL Referee Mike Wertz of Milwaukee, Wisconsin has been selected to referee games in the Olympic Games opening next week in Munich, Germany.

World Cup - Canada defeated the USA 3-2 yesterday in the opening game of the first elimination round in New Foundland. Willie Roy (St. Louis Stars) and Rudy Getinger (Chicago Schwaben) scored the U.S. goals. The return game is Tuesday, August 29th at the Memorial Stadium in Baltimore.

RESULTS:

Tuesday, August 15th - PLAYOFF SEMI-FINALS

ST. LOUIS - 2

Sewell (unassisted) - 47:00; Geimer (McBride) - 72:00.

ROCHESTER - 0

St. Louis: Winter; Sewell, Tranter, Frank (Kankam - 45:00), Puls, McBride, Rensing, Hausman, Geimer, Roy.

Rochester: Compos; Lonardo, Mitchell (Breton - 74:00), Barone, Gori, Durante, Dell'Omodarme, Metidieri, Seissler, Escos, Ofori(DeBrito - 60:00).

Thursday, August 17th -

DALLAS - 0

MOSCOW DYNAMO - 0

Dallas: Cooper; Best, Hall, Turner, Ferguson, Bloomfield (Benedek - 45:00), Tinney, Juracy, Renshaw (Cannon - 88:00), Poole (Newman - 88:00), Moffat.

Moscow: Gontar; Vikov, Komarov, Bolbonasov, Makhavikow, Zhukov, Kozhemiakin (Kozlov - 45:00), Gerchkovitch, Eschtrekov, Baidachni.

Saturday, August 19th - PLAYOFF SEMI-FINALS

NEW YORK - 1

Kerr (unassisted) - 60:00.

DALLAS - 0

New York: Blackmore; Kapcinski, Roth, Zajdel, Mahy, Kerr, Stritzl, Jelinek, Horton, Mfum, Young.

Dallas: Cooper; Moffat, Benedek (Cannon - 82:00), Best, Hall, Turner, Ferguson (Oreco - 75:00), Poole, Juracy, Renshaw, Tinney.

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