NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE

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News release

SPORTING NEWS REVEALS 1972 NASL ALL-STAR TEAM; NASL MVP RANDY HORTON OF NEW YORK AND DALLAS' JOHN BEST REPEAT AT FIRST TEAM SELECTIONS

NEW YORK, N.Y., AUGUST 22, 1972--The Sporting News today announced the results of the NASL All-Star balloting selected on the basis of a 4-3-3 formation (goalkeeper, 4 defenders, 3 linkmen, 3 strikers). The 1972 NASL Most Valuable Player, Randy Horton of the New York Cosmos and John Best, the assistant coach and captain of the Dallas Tornado, were the only 1971 NASL First Team All-Star selections to repeat. Both Horton, a striker, and Best, a defender, received the most votes of any player in their respective positions.

Ken Cooper of Dallas, who last year sat in the shadow of his teammate and the NASL's top goalkeeper Mirko Stojanovic, has successfully replaced the Yugoslavian netminder, winning the praise of his fellow players for his league leading goals against average of only 0.86 and six shutouts.

In addition to John Best, the first team defense is comprised of John Sewell of St. Louis, Peter Short of Rochester and Willie Evans of Miami. Sewell was probably the single most important factor in the amazing cinderella story of the Stars this season. He helped to blend and steady the Stars' American nucleus which has only needed direction and a taste of success to produce a winner. Short has been the Lancer's mainstay in defense which put together a string of four consecutive shutouts this season while Willie Evans continues to prove that he is still one of the best around despite the Gatos losing season.

New York's Johnny Kerr, coming off his finest NASL season, garnered the most votes of any of the midfield players. His ability to score goals coupled with his remarkable stamina and accurate passing greatly strengthened the Cosmos at midfield. Graeme Souness, of the Montreal Olympics and Pat McBride of St. Louis complete the selections to produce an extremely formidable midfield trio.

Along with Randy Horton, the strikers consisted of Montreal's Michael Dillon and Atlanta's Paul Child, the number two and three scorers in the league behind Horton. Both Dillon and Child were instrumental in their clubs' drives toward playoff berths which fell just short in the closing week of the season.

The All-Star second team is composed of Toronto's Dick Howard in goal; Dallas' Dick Hall, Montreal's Clive Charles, St. Louis' Wilf Tranter and Toronto's Brian Rowan in defense; Rochester's Francisco Escos, Miami's Dave Metchick and New York's Siggy Stritzl at midfield; and Rochester's Carlos Metidieri, Atlanta's Art Welch and New York's Jorge Siega in attack.

NASL Commissioner Phil Woosnam described the selections as being "a most impressive squad of players from which an exceptionally strong team could be selected to represent the North American Soccer League. The actual All-Star selections picked in the usual manner might not have the blend to actually perform well as a team; such a selection rarely does, but included in the list of 33 players are those whose abilities are recognized by their fellow professionals and from whom a coach could develop an excellent team, capable of taking on the best in the world, and having its fair share of victories."

The close competitivesness of the NASL team this season is readily apparent when studying the distribution of players. In the first two teams the New York Cosmos placed four players, St. Louis, Rochester, Dallas and Montreal three, and Atlanta,Miami and Toronto two. The First and Second teams and honorable mention selections are listed below:

NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE ALL-STAR SELECTIONS

1st TEAM	POSITION	2nd TEAM
Ken Cooper (Dallas)	Goalkeeper	Dick Howard (Toronto)
John Best (Dallas)	Defender	Dick Hall (Dallas)
John Sewell (St. Louis)	Defender	Clive Charles (Montreal)
Peter Short (Rochester)	Defender	Wilf Tranter (St. Louis)
Willie Evans (Miami)	Defender	Brian Rowan (Toronto)
John Kerr (New York)	Midfield	Francisco Escos (Rochester)
Graeme Souness (Montreal)	Midfield	Dave Metchick (Miami)
Pat McBride (St. Louis)	Midfield	Siggy Stritzl (New York)
Randy Horton (New York)	Striker	Carlos Metidieri (Rochester)
Paul Child (Atlanta)	Striker	Art Welch (Atlanta)
Michael Dillon (Montreal)	Striker	Jorge Siega (New York)

HONORABLE MENTION

Goalkeeper	Sam Nusum	(Montreal)
Defender	Adolfo Gori	(Rochester)
Defender	Charlie Mitchell	(Rochester)
Defender	John Cocking	(Atlanta)
Defender	Joe Puls	(St. Louis)
Midfield	Mike Hoban	(Atlanta)
Midfield	Larry Hausman	(St. Louis)
Midfield	Billy Fraser	(Miami)
Striker	Mike Renshaw	(Dallas)
Striker	Warren Archibald	(Miami)
Striker	Casey Frankiewicz	(St. Louis)