



# NEW JERSEY ROCKETS

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ROCKETS MAKE COACHING CHANGE

New Jersey Rockets' President and Chief Operating Officer Ed Tepper announced that the club has dismissed head coach Timo Liekoski and replaced him on an interim basis with Rockets All-Star defender Ian Anderson. A search is now being undertaken by the club's Executive Committee to find a new head coach. Jay Hoffman, Liekoski's long time assistant, has agreed to stay on as assistant to Anderson on a temporary basis.

After getting off to a decent start for an expansion team, the Rockets have fallen on hard times lately and dropped into 7th place in the Eastern Division. The club has not been able to score goals, recording only 60 in 17 games and only 22 in the last 9 games. According to Tepper, the change is being made because "the record and performance of the club under Liekoski has not met the Rockets commitment to bring an exciting and winning team to New Jersey."

Anderson, a four year MISL veteran and three time All-Star at only 27, will take on the dual responsibility of player-coach for the second time in his career. Ironically, Anderson started out under Liekoski, acting as team captain of the Houston Summit in 1978-79, when the club won the regular season title. The next year, Anderson was selected by new coach Ken Cooper to be his assistant and Ian responded with an All-Pro year in addition to leading the Summit to a 20-12 record and the Central Division crown. Anderson moved on to Cleveland for the 1980-81 season where he proceeded to top the Force in scoring. After starting the 1981-82 campaign with Cleveland and being named team captain Anderson was acquired by the Rockets to add stability to the back line.

