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PETERSON JOINS TEAM AMERICA

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 8 -- Team America President Robert K. Lifton announced today that his club has acquired American scoring sensation Mark Peterson from the Seattle Sounders for the remainder of the 1983 North American Soccer League season.

Peterson, the NASL's North American Player of the Year in 1982, will join Team America in time for Wednesday's NASL match against the defending league champion New York Cosmos at RFK Stadium.

The 24-year-old Peterson, who is currently tied for eighth in the NASL in scoring with 30 points (13 goals, four assists), is coming to Team America as part of an evaluation process for building the team in preparation for the qualifying rounds of the 1986 World Cup. Those qualifying rounds will be held at the end of the 1984 NASL season. Team America is the United States National Team in training and is playing in the NASL in 1983 and beyond in preparation for the '86 World Cup.

"We recognize that the addition of one player - however great he is and however much success he has had - cannot change the entire fortune of the team," said Lifton, whose club has scored only 25 goals in 23 games this season.

"However, we hope this will be the start of the process of adding important American players who can make significant contributions to the team as it moves towards the 1984 World Cup qualifying rounds.

"We're excited that Mark has seen fit to leave his club and join us in our quest for the World Cup and we are optimistic that other American players will at the appropriate time - if not this year, then next year - join us so we can field the dream team, both offensively and defensively, in our bid to both qualify for and win the 1986 World Cup."

Peterson, a native of Tacoma, Wa., played youth soccer with Team America captain Jeff Durgan and came up through Seattle's reserve program, first signing as an amateur in 1978.

The 6-foot, 165 pound Peterson cracked the Sounders' first team in 1980 and set the NASL on fire, scoring 14 goals and two assists (30 points) in a like number of games. He finished second to Durgan in Rookie of the Year voting.

Injuries slowed Peterson in 1981, but he came back with a vengeance last year, scoring 17 goals and five assists for 39 points in 31 games. In addition to being named North American of the Year, he also won a place on the North American All-Star team.

Peterson suffered a leg stress fracture which kept him out for two months prior to the start of the '83 campaign, but he has shown no ill effects from the injury since returning.

The addition of Peterson gives Team America 21 players on its roster. Peterson will wear No. 15.

PETERSON'S NASL STATS

<u>Season</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Shots</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Points</u>
1980	Seattle	30	69	14	2	30
1981	Seattle	19	29	4	3	11
1982	Seattle	31	64	17	5	39
1983	Seattle	21	48	13	4	30
	TOTALS	101	210	48	14	110

PLAYOFFS

<u>Season</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Shots</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Points</u>
1980	Seattle	5	9	4	1	9
1981	Seattle	3	9	1	0	2
1982	Seattle	7	11	2	1	5
	TOTALS	15	29	7	2	16