



EDMONTON DRILLERS SOCCER CLUB

MEMBER: NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE

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NEWS RELEASE

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F.I.F.A. GRANTS ALAJA PERMISSION

EDMONTON/ZURICH - The Edmonton Drillers recieved some welcomed news this afternoon, when FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, granted temporary permission for goalkeeper Pertti Alaja to play in the North American Soccer League.

The temporary playing permit is valid until such time as FIFA completes its investigation into the problem surrounding his former club, IKAST in Denmark, and makes a final ruling on the problem.

Whatever the final decision, the Edmonton Drillers soccer club will abide by it. In the meantime, Alaja is clear to play in the NASL. The FIFA decision has been cleared through the offices of the North American Soccer League, and the Canadian Soccer Association this afternoon, and Alaja will dress for tonights game against the Tampa Bay Rowdies. However, it is not expected that he will get the start tonight, as Edmonton native John Baretta is slated to start.

The dispute regarding Alaja concerns his final release from his former club in Denmark, A change in transfer regulations in Denmark this year has resulted in the club, IKAST, holding up his release, even though the signing of Alaja took place in 1979. The Drillers appealed the delay to FIFA, who today took interm action, pending a final decision.

The has been no indication when that final decision will be made by FIFA, but Driller officials expressed relief that some action had been taken, and that Alaja will be able to see action at the discretion of the coaching staff.