

NASL MEDIA RELEASE

North American Soccer League

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JOHAN CRUYFF IS PSRA "STAR OF YEAR"

NEW YORK, August 26 --- Johan Cruyff, the only three-time winner of the prestigious European Footballer of the Year award, is the first recipient of the Professional Soccer Reporters Association's "Star of the Year" award. He will be honored at the North American Soccer League's annual Awards Dinner Thursday, September 18th, in Washington, D.C.

The 33-year-old Cruyff, the Washington Diplomats' marvelous attacking midfielder, finished well in front of runnerup Luis Fernando of Los Angeles (73 points to 54) in the game-by-game balloting by PSRA members. Voting was on the basis of five points for "First Star of the Match," three points for "Second," and one for "Third."

Cruyff, a three-time "Player of the Week" honoree and "First Star" in ten of Washington's final 13 regular-season contests, scored ten goals and contributed a Diplomat-record 20 assists in leading Washington to second place in the National Conference's Eastern Division and a berth in the NASL playoffs. Hampered by injury earlier in the campaign, the 5-9, 150-pounder's return to form marked the start of the Dips' drive to the playoffs.

Cruyff was the NASL's Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year in 1979, his first season in the League.

Following are the top ten finishers in the PSRA "Star of the Year" voting process:

1. Johan Cruyff, Washington	7(T). Teofilo Cubillas, Ft. Lauderdale
2. Luis Fernando, Los Angeles	7(T). Karl-Heinz Granitza, Chicago
3. Pato Margetic, Detroit	7(T). Edi Kirschner, Edmonton
4. Leonardo Cuellar, San Diego	10(T). Jomo Sono, Toronto
5. Roger Davies, Seattle	10(T). Steve Wegerle, Tampa Bay
6. Arno Steffenhagen, Chicago	

Also, here are the club-by-club "Three Stars" points leaders:

ATLANTA: Keith Furphy	NEW YORK: Julio Romero
CALIFORNIA: Steve Moyers	PHILADELPHIA: Fran O'Brien
CHICAGO: Arno Steffenhagen	PORTLAND: John Bain
DALLAS: Zequinha	ROCHESTER: Mike Stojanovic
DETROIT: Pato Margetic	SAN DIEGO: Leonardo Cuellar
EDMONTON: Edi Kirschner	SAN JOSE: George Best
FT. LAUDERDALE: Teofilo Cubillas	SEATTLE: Roger Davies
HOUSTON: Ian Anderson	TAMPA BAY: Steve Wegerle
LOS ANGELES: Luis Fernando	TORONTO: Jomo Sono
MEMPHIS: Paul Child	TULSA: Johannes Edvaldsson
MINNESOTA: Ace Ntsoelengoe	VANCOUVER: Carl Valentine
NEW ENGLAND: Bob Newton	WASHINGTON: Johan Cruyff