NEWS RELEASE

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UNITED SIGN RODNEY MARSH, MARDARESCU AS COACHES

NEW YORK, N.Y. - New York United today announced that veteran East European coach Vintila Mardarescu has been named head coach and technical director of their team, and that international soccer figure Rodney Marsh has been appointed coach of the team.

The appointments of Marsh and Mardarescu followed close on the heels of United's move to Shea Stadium in New York for the 1980 season, which was announced at a press conference with Mayor Edward I. Koch early last week.

Mardarescu's career as a top level coach has spanned nearly thirty years. He has served as head coach for both the Rumanian and Moroccan national teams, and was voted the most outstanding coach in Rumania in 1971. Mardarescu, 58, was with the Rumanian team at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, and was at the helm of the Moroccan National team when they captured the African Nations Cup in 1976.

The author of a number of instructional and tactical manuals on soccer, Mardarescu has been decorated by both the Rumanian and Moroccan governments for his outstanding contributions to their national soccer programs.

Rodney Marsh is one of the best known figures in American soccer today. A flamboyant showman during his playing career, he was still thought of highly enough to have been chosen to play on the English National team. Nicknamed the "Clown Prince of Soccer" by the British press, Marsh came to America in 1976, following a career in England in which he played for Manchester City, Queen's Park Rangers, and Fulham. A popular soccer idol in Britain, his transfer from Queen's Park to Manchester City for $400,000 had caused headlines throughout England.

Marsh's American career started with the Tampa Bay Rowdies,

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where he established himself as a perennial NASL All-Star, while being named "Most Popular Rowdie" every year that he played for Tampa Bay. After leading the Rowdies to two consecutive NASL finals, he ended his playing career following the 1979 season. A post-season testimonial match, the first of its kind in America, raised $75,000 for Marsh, in a gesture of appreciation for his services to the club.

His upcoming coaching stint with United will represent his first venture into the professional coaching ranks, which has long been his ambition.

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