North American Soccer League

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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA ATOMS ARE 1973 NASL CHAMPIONS

RECORD PLAYOFF CROWD OF 18,824 IN DALLAS SEE ATOMS CLIMAX CINDERELLA FIRST SEASON, STRAUB SCORES IN DEBUT; TORONTO STUNS TORPEDO.

NEW YORK, N.Y., MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 1973--The incredible Philadelphia Atoms are the 1973 North American Soccer League Champions by virtue of their brilliant 2-0 victory over the Dallas Tornado in Texas Stadium Saturday night. With only grim determination and past league history in their favor, the Atoms overcame the loss of their potent scoring duo and the home team encouragement of a record NASL Playoff crowd of 18,824 to climax a cinderella season for Tom McCloskey's expansion franchise.

With the victory the Atoms became the seventh NASL Champion in as many years and Philadelphia's first Professional Sports Champion since 1960. In celebration, over 1000 people greeted the Atoms' return to Philadelphia Sunday night. Some waited for as many as seven hours for the delayed flight.

Faced with the loss of their two principal scorers Jim Fryatt and Andy Provan, Atoms' coach Al Miller was forced to play American rookies Bill Straub and Charlie Duccilli in their places. Straub was an All-American at the University of Pennsylvania and hadn't played for the Atoms since he was acquired from Montreal six hours before the trading deadline on Friday, August 13th. He responded by scoring the insurance goal on a superb header with less than five minutes remaining. It was only his second goal of the season, both of which came against Dallas.

With six Americans in their starting line-up the Atoms dominated throughout. Their first goal came as a direct result of the pressure. Twenty minutes into the second half Roy Evans' free kick was accidentally deflected into his own goal by Dallas defender John Best. Dallas nearly equalized in the 77 minute when a fifteen yard blast from Ilija Mitic slammed against the left post and rebounded to Mohammed Attaih. Attaih's shot was deflected by goalkeeper Bob Rigby and cleared by defender Chris Dunleavy.

For the most part, however, with Derek Trevis directing the defense and the midfield domination by Barry Barto, George O'Neill and Stan Startzell, the Atoms were able to cut off the Tornado attack and create quick counter attacks.

MOSCOW TORPEDO TOUR

Before 10,594 in Toronto Wednesday night, the Toronto Metros stunned defending Russian Cup holders, Moscow Torpedo, with a 3-1 victory. The Metros' Helmut Schaeffer opened the

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scoring at fourteen minutes lashing a valley into the upper left hand corner. Ten minutes later the Metros were up by 2-0 as Terry Harkin got the first of two. The Russian's Yariy Smirnov reduced the margin to 2-1 at thirty-six minutes. Harkin finished the scoring just three minutes before half time. It was the Metros finest performance of the year and fitting ending to their most successful season.

The Russians came back with an impressive 3-1 triumph over NASL All-Star team in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium Friday night. National team players Anatoliy Fetisou and Vadim Nikonov combined for all of the scoring as the Russians dominated the All-Stars. Atlanta's Paul Child had tied the game for the All-Stars just fourty-five seconds into the second half before the Russians regained control. The Russians finished their tour in Dallas against the Tornado Tuesday night.

NASL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Saturday, August 25th — Dallas - 0 — Philadelphia - 2

MOSCOW TORPEDO TOUR

Wednesday, August 22nd — Toronto - 3 — Torpedo - 1
Friday, August 24th — NASL ALL-STARS - 1 — Torpedo - 3 (In Kansas City)

PLAYOFF STATISTICS

LEADING SCORERS:

PLAYER (TEAM)	GAMES	GOALS	ASSISTS	POINTS
Andy Provan (Philadelphia)	1	1	1	3
Bill Straub (Philadelphia)	1	1	0	2
Jim Fryatt (Philadelphia)	1	1	0	2
Kyle Rote, Jr. (Dallas)	2	1	0	2
Karl Minor (Philadelphia)	2	1	0	2
Roy Evans (Philadelphia)	2	0	1	1
Bobby Smith (Philadelphia)	2	0	1	1
Mohammed Attaih (Dallas)	2	0	1	1
Mike Renshaw (Dallas)	2	0	1	1

GOALKEEPERS:

GOALKEEPER (TEAM)	MINUTES	SAVES	GOALS	SHUTOUTS	AVERAGE
Bob Rigby (Philadelphia)	180	13	0	2	0.00
Ken Cooper (Dallas)	180	18	2	1	1.00
Jerry Sularz (New York)	90	17	1	0	1.00
Dick Howard (Toronto)	90	7	3	0	3.00

NASL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Saturday, August 25th

DALLAS - 0
PHILADELPHIA - 2

Best (own goal) - 65:00; Straub (Evans) - 85:00.

Dallas: Cooper; Benedek (Ridley - 45:00), Best, Hall, Moffat, Turner, (Juracy - 81:00), Mitic, Bloomfield, Attaih, Rote, Renshaw.

Philadelphia: Rigby; Smith, Trevis, Evans, Dunleavy, Barto, O'Neill, Duccilli (Schellscheidt - 66:00), Straub, Startzell.

ATTENDANCE: 18,824 (record) REFEREE: Gallacher (Toronto)
Linesmen: Wertz, (Milwaukee)
Neels, (St. Louis)

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MOSCOW TORPEDO TOUR

Wednesday, August 22nd

TORONTO	- 3	Schaeffer (unassisted) - 14:00; Harkin (Rowan, Strenicer) - 24:00; Harkin (Burns, Strenicer) - 42:00.
TORPEDO	- 1	Smirnov (unassisted) - 36:00.

Toronto: Braun; Lecce, Rowan, Averell, Schaeffer, Pinto (Semedo - 70:00), McPhee, Burns, Strenicer, Harkin, Pilas (Roe - 63:00).

Torpedo: Bannikov; Janets, Pahamov, Baturlakin, Gurim, Krasnov, Fetisov, Nikonov, Solojev, Schalimov (Degterev - 45:00), Smirnov.

ATTENDANCE: 10,594 REFEREE: Amarica (Montreal)

Friday, August 24th (In Kansas City)

NASL ALL-STARS	- 1	Child (Archibald) - 46:00
TORPEDO	- 3	Fetisov (Degterev) - 11:00; Fetisov (Smirnov) - 60:00; Nikonov (Degterev) - 64:00.

All-Stars: Nusum (Montoya - 45:00); Mitchell, Roth, Frank (Kapcinski - 66:00) Rowan, Pinto, McPhee, Aguirre (Trost - 20:00, Fink - 77:00), Child, Horton (Geimer - 45:00), Archibald.

Torpedo: Rakitski, Krasnov, Zabiniak, Schustikov, Tukmanov, Smirnov, Nikonov, Fetisov, Degterev, Solojev, Gurim.

ATTENDANCE: 6,832 REFEREE: King (St. Louis)