North American Soccer League
Suite 205, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 725-5370
Cable: PROSOCCER NEWYORK
Telex: 12-6705

news release

Contact: Ted Howard

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ABC-TV WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS TO AIR NASL ALL-STARS VS. MOSCOW RED ARMY TEAM INDOOR OPENER IN TORONTO

TORONTO, ONTARIO, JANUARY 17, 1974--Commissioner Phil Woosnam announced today from a Press Conference at Maple Leaf Gardens that the North American Soccer League has reached an agreement with ABC-TV Wide World of Sports to air the NASL All-Stars vs. Moscow Red Army Team Indoor Game to be played in Toronto on Thursday, February 7th. The game which is the first of a three game tour for the Russian team, will be shown on Wide World of Sports on a date to be determined in early Spring. The Russians will also play in Philadelphia against the champion Atoms on Monday, February 11th and in St. Louis against the Stars on Wednesday, February 13th.

"During the 1973 season two exhibition games of indoor 6-a-side soccer between NASL teams were conducted at the OMNI arena in Atlanta," stated Commissioner Woosnam. "These games were thoroughly enjoyed by both the players and the spectators and the purpose of the three games against the Russians is to further evaluate the potential of indoor soccer as a part of our future regular League format. Representatives of ABC viewed a tape of the first game in Atlanta, and were present at the second to experience the emotion of the fans and the excitement. We are delighted that they are taking this opportunity to expose the skills of the game to the North American public. Indoor 6-a-side soccer under the rules adopted by this League has all the ingredients to produce an extremely emotional atmosphere at the arena and an exciting spectacle on television.

It is of great significance to the NASL that these factors have already been recognized by ABC."

NASL Indoor Soccer is very similar to ice hockey with the ball being played off the boards, free substitution, time penalties for infractions, and an abundance of goalmouth action as well as soccer's unique display of both individual skill and teamwork.