NASL MEDIA RELEASE

North American Soccer League
1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036
Tel: (212) 575-0066 / Cable: PROSOCCER NEWYORK / Telex: 12-6705

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Mailed Tuesday, August 26, 1980

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
2. Luis Fernando, Los Angeles
3. Pato Margetic, Detroit
4. Leonardo Cuellar, San Diego
5. Roger Davies, Seattle
6. Arno Steffenhagen, Chicago

7(T). Teofilo Cubillas, Ft. Lauderdale
7(T). Karl-Heiniz Granitza, Chicago
7(T). Edi Kirschner, Edmonton
10(T). Jomo Sono, Toronto
10(T). Steve Wegerle, Tampa Bay

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

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