NASL MEDIA RELEASE

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TOP NASL PLAYERS AT EACH POSITION NAMED

NEW YORK--September 3--The New York Cosmos, who won the most games during the 1982 North American Soccer League season, today garnered three out of the four spots given to the top players at each position as voted by NASL players.

Goalkeeper Hubert Birkenmeier, Midfielder Vladislav Bogicevic and Forward Giorgio Chinaglia join Le Manic de Montreal Defender Frantz Mathieu as the top vote-getters at their respective positions in voting by all League players for the NASL All-Star Teams, which will be announced next week.

Chinaglia, the NASL's all-time leading scorer, with 429 points, and last year's MVP, again finished at the top of the League scoring charts, with 20 goals and 15 assists for 55 points, helping lead his club to the Eastern Division and goal-scoring title (73 goals) in the NASL.

Midfielder Bogicevic, called the "Midfield Maestro," became this year the only player in NASL history to register over 100 assists in his career. "Bogie" began with the Cosmos in 1978 and now has recorded 105 assists lifetime, 26 more than his nearest competitor, Chinaglia with 79. He was a First Team All-Star in '81.

Mathieu, who was the Most Valuable Player in Soccer Bowl-81 with champion Chicago, was traded to Montreal half-way through this season and solidified a team defense that allowed the fewest goals in the League in 1982, 43. He was a 1981 First Team All-Star also.

Birkenmeier, who joined the Cosmos in 1979, is one of the steadiest goalkeepers in the League. In his four years with the Cosmos, he has twice registered shutouts in Soccer Bowls (losing once in a shootout). His four shutouts on the year gave him 21 for his New York career, which leads the Cosmos all-time. Birkenmeier was a 1981 Second Team All-Star.

All four players will be honored at the NASL's Annual Awards Dinner on September 16 in San Diego, site of Soccer Bowl-82 on September 18. The Top Forward award is sponsored by American Airlines; the Top Midfielder by the General Mills Corporation; Top Defender by Desenex/Cruex; and Top Goalkeeper by the Switzerland Cheese Association.