NASL MEDIA RELEASE

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SEATTLE'S PETERSON NAMED NORTH AMERICAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR

NEW YORK--Sept. 9--Tacoma native Mark Peterson of the Seattle Sounders, who set a new North American Soccer League scoring mark for a native-born player during the 1982 season, today was named the North American Player of the Year in the NASL by the Professional Soccer Reporters Association (PSRA).

The award, originated in 1978, is voted upon by all members of the PSRA.

Peterson, a Sounder since 1980, had his best season ever in the pros, as he finished the year for the Western Division Champions as the NASL's eighth-leading scorer with 17 goals and five assists for 39 points, to break by two points the record for scoring by a native-born player set by Canadian Bob Lenarduzzi of the Vancouver Whitecaps in 1978.

Peterson, a 22-year old forward, began the year slowly, with two goals in his first 12 games, but then came on in the Sounders stretch run for the Division title, as he registered 15 goals in the next 19 Sounders games, putting the game-winner in the nets at the 85th minute of the Sounders final regular-season game on August 22, a 1-0 win over Portland that clinched the title for the club.

The 6-0, 165-pounder finished the season as Seattle's second-leading scorer, 10 points behind the 1982 PSRA Three-Star Player of the Year, Peter Ward. Peterson had one less goal than Ward, 17 to 18. He tied for second on the team for most games played, 31.

Peterson will receive his award at the Annual NASL Awards Dinner in San Diego on September 16, site of Soccer Bowl-82 on September 18. The North American Player of the Year is sponsored by Taylor California Cellars Wines and Champagnes.

The PSRA also selects an annual North American All-Star Team, with the Player of the Year being the one who receives the most votes from the Association membership.

1982 NORTH AMERICAN ALL-STAR TEAM

FIRST TEAM

G Tino Lettieri, Vancouver
D Bob Lenarduzzi, Vancouver
D Bruce Wilson, Toronto
D Jeff Durgan, New York
D Rudy Glenn, Chicago
M Gerry Gray, Vancouver
M Wes McLeod, Tampa Bay
M Julie Veee, San Diego
F Steve Moyers, New York
F Mark Peterson, Seattle
F Branko Segota, Ft. Lauderdale

SECOND TEAM

G Paul Hammond, Seattle
D Dan Canter, Ft. Lauderdale
D Carmine Marcantonio, Montreal
D Glenn Myernick, Portland
D John McGrane, Montreal
M Gary Etherington, San Jose
M Jimmy Nicholl, Toronto
M Vidal Fernandez, San Diego
F Giorgio Chinaglia, New York
F Ade Coker, San Diego
F Chico Borja, New York