NASL MEDIA RELEASE

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SEATTLE'S PETER WARD NAMED NASL'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

NEW YORK--Sept. 12--Seattle Sounder Peter Ward, who led his team to the North American Soccer League's Western Division title while finishing tied for second in League point-scoring, today garnered his third post-season award, as he was named by his fellow players as the League's "Most Valuable Player" in voting conducted by The Sporting News.

Last week Ward was named the loop's "Three Star Player of the Year" by the Professional Soccer Reporters Association (PSRA) and was also selected as a First-Team NASL All-Star by the League players.

Ward, in his first year in the League, finished his debut season with 18 goals and 13 assists for 49 points, six behind last year's MVP, Giorgio Chinaglia of the Cosmos. Ward's point-total tied him with Karl-Heinz Granitza of Chicago for second place in the League tables.

The 27-year old forward did most of his work in the last two-thirds of the season, when he had an incredible streak of 16 goals and 12 assists in the final 22 Seattle games. This performance enabled his team to go from a last-place standing to the Division championship on the last day of the season.

His heroics were saluted by the League during the season too, as the 5-7, 145-pound Englishman twice was voted NASL Player of the Week and twice Player of the Month (in June and July). His MVP Award this year marks the second time in three years that a Sounder has won the trophy, Seattle's Roger Davies winning the accolade in 1980.

Ward's scoring success comes as no surprise when his background is looked at. He led the English League in scoring when he was with Brighton Hove & Albion during the 1976-77 season with 36 goals. He has played on the English National Team, in 1980, and also has Under-21 international caps for England.

Ward, who entertains his Sounder teammates by playing a variety of musical instruments, including the tuba, was purchased by Seattle this year from Nottingham Forest.

The MVP Award is sponsored by Canon, U.S.A., Inc. and will be presented to Ward at the Annual Awards Dinner in San Diego on September 16, site of Soccer Bowl-82 on September 18.