NEWS RELEASE

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ATLANTA CHIEFS VOLUNTARILY TERMINATE FRANCHISE

The Atlanta Chiefs Friday, August 28, announced their intention of voluntarily terminating their North American Soccer League franchise and stated that they will not join the Major Indoor Soccer League next season as has been previously rumored.

The voluntary termination date has been set as September 27, as NASL constitutional regulations prohibit a club from ceasing operation until after Soccer Bowl of that playing year. The NASL's Soccer Bowl is September 26 in Toronto.

Until the actual termination date, however, the club invites any prospective buyers to contact the team at its executive offices.

The disposition of all player contracts will be decided by the NASL's management. However, it is expected that the league will follow its precedent set last season by the Washington, Houston and Rochester franchises by permitting the club to dispose of its assets (i.e. player contracts through sales) up until a prescribed date as set by the NASL for a special dispersal draft.

"This Company gave the game of soccer a three-year commitment in Atlanta," Chiefs' Chairman of the Board Robert Wussler said. "We were all pleased with the club's ability to turn around its on-field fortunes during the 1981 indoor and outdoor seasons. However, close scrutiny of the entire financial picture for both the past and any future operations of the club deem it necessary to discontinue our involvement with the game of soccer at this time.

"The Turner Broadcasting System is an ever-expanding company that is broadening its horizons on a daily basis in the field of communications. For this reason, we feel we must expend all of our future resources, that have gone into soccer, into these new areas."

The decision to voluntarily terminate the franchise was finalized early Friday morning in a meeting involving top corporate and club officials. Similar meetings have been on-going since the club's final playoff game here Tuesday, August 25, against Jacksonville.

The franchise moved to Atlanta from Colorado in October, 1978 and won its division in three of its five indoor/outdoor seasons, including back-to-back indoor titles in 1979-80 and 1980-81 and an outdoor title in 1981.

The Chiefs are coming off their most successful outdoor season ever by winning the division, making the playoffs for the first time and compiling their best ever record at 17-15. Chiefs forward Brian Kidd, the NASL's scoring sensation this season, finished as the league's third leading scorer with 22 goals, eight assists for a club record 52 points in only 27 games. Kidd, who led the league in multiple goal games with nine two-goal performances, was the NASL's Player of the Week June 8, the first Chief ever to receive that honor, for back-to-back two-goal performances in two Atlanta wins which lifted the club into the division lead for the first time in franchise history.

Atlanta won the NASL indoor Eastern Division both seasons of its competition, compiling the league's best indoor record both years and leading the league in attendance last season.