MEDIA RELEASE

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KICKS SIGN ARGENTINE INTERNATIONAL... JANUARY 20, 1981

Ruben Oscar Pagnanini (Pag-na-NEE-nee), a member of Argentina's 1978 World Cup championship team, has been acquired by the Minnesota Kicks to a multi-year contract. The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

The 30 year-old defender/midfielder becomes the first player from the 1978 Argentina World Cup team to sign with a North American Soccer League club.

"The acquisition of Ruben is a major step forward," said Kicks' president Freddie Goodwin. "His stature as an international player and his overall experience against the world's elite will be a valuable asset in our quest to become a championship team."

The Kicks are hopeful that Pagnanini's visa will be granted in time for him to play in the remaining games of the indoor season. The Kicks next indoor match is this Friday evening at Met Center against the Ft. Lauderdale Strikers.

Known as il Gato (the cat) in his native Argentina, Pagnanini played this past season for the first division Argentina Juniors club and was a midfield teammate of Diego Maradona, who is known throughout the soccer world as the next Pele.

Pagnanini started to become a household name in Argentina in 1974 when he was selected to the National team. He played four seasons on the National squad before being picked to the World Cup team by Argentina's renown head coach Luis Cesar Menotti, a former player of Goodwin's with the New York Generals in 1967.

Throughout his career, Pagnanini has been known as "Mr. Versatility" for his unique abilities of playing either the sweeper, defender, or midfield positions.

QUICK FACTS: Ruben Oscar Pagnanini

Ht: 5-10 Wt: 172
Birth: January 31, 1949 - San Nicolas, Buenos Aires
Marital Status: Single
Favorite Musicians: Elton John, Neil Diamond, Olivia Newton John
Favorite Movie: Gone With The Wind
Favorite TV Series: Dallas
Interests: Fishing and Hunting

TEAMS PLAYED FOR:

1965 - 1977	Estudiantes de la Plata	(First Division)
1977 - 1979	Independiente	(First Division)
1980 - 1981	Argentinos Juniors	(First Division)
1974 - 1978	Argentina National Teams	