MEDIA RELEASE

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WILLEY TRANSFERRED TO MONTREAL

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The Minnesota Kicks announced today that Alan Willey, an original member of the Minnesota Kicks, has been transferred to the Montreal Manic for an undisclosed amount of cash.

Willey, who is the Kicks all-time leading scorer and ranked fifth overall in NASL history with 80 goals, 23 assists for 183 points, has started in four games this season and has scored one goal. Ironically, his one goal came against Montreal in the Kicks 4-3 home opener victory on May 3.

Last year, Willey, 24, failed to win the club scoring title for the first time in Kicks history. After leading the team in scoring the first four years, which included 21 goal seasons in both 1978 and 1979, he slipped to fifth place in 1980 with 7 goals, 5 assists for 19 points.

In playoff action, Willey scored 7 goals in 12 games. Five of those post-season tallies were scored in a 1978 playoff game against the New York Cosmos, a team then coached by Eddie Firmani, who currently holds the same position with Montreal.

"Alan has played a major role in the club's success over the past six years," said Kicks' coach Geoff Barnett. "But our current situation of carrying three strikers has been more of a luxury than a benefit. Alan has not started in the past four games and even though he has never complained, I know that he is unhappy with his amount of playing time and it was felt in the best interests of both the club and Alan this decision had to be made. I feel a change of clubs would be the best thing for him at this time."

Kicks' president Freddie Goodwin who was responsible for bringing Willey to Minnesota said, "Alan did an outstanding job for the Kicks. It was a pleasure to be associated with such a fine athlete and gentleman and I wish him the best in his new endeavor."

Willey, a native of Houghton LeSpring, England came to the Kicks in 1976 from Middlesbrough of the English first division. After two seasons of being a loan player, his contract was purchased outright following the 1977 season.

Willey's departure now leaves three charter players remaining on the Kicks' active roster - Ace Ntsoelengoe, Ron Futcher, and Steve Litt.