MINNESOTA Kicks

MEDIA RELEASE

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MERRICK RETURNS TO KICKS..... June 25, 1981

Alan Merrick, a cornerstone of the Minnesota Kicks franchise from 1976-79, has been acquired from the San Jose Earthquakes for an undisclosed amount of cash and second round draft choices in both 1982 and 1983.

According to head coach Geoff Barnett, Merrick, who turned 31 last Saturday (June 20), will start in Saturday's game at the Met against the Dallas Tornado. Merrick's last game in a Kicks' uniform took place at Vancouver, August 1, 1979.

The 5-10, 170 lb. defender/midfielder, captained the Kicks the first three seasons. Following the 1979 season he was given his free agent status.

After leaving the Kicks, he played for Pittsburgh in the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) during the 1979-80 winter season. He was later acquired for the 1980 outdoor season by the Los Angeles Aztecs. With Los Angeles, he played in 22 regular season games and 8 playoff games. Los Angeles ended the 1980 campaign with a 20-12 record and reached the National Conference finals before being ousted by the eventual Soccer Bowl champion, New York Cosmos.

Following the 1980 season, Merrick was signed by the San Jose Earthquakes and started in 12 games with them before being traded to Minnesota.

Merrick came to the Kicks in 1976 after playing 10 seasons of English first division soccer for West Bromwich Albion. During his four-year stay in Minnesota, he developed a reputation as a team leader and a player of great tenacity. He was named third team all-star in 1977 and second team in 1978.

In total, he played in 103 regular season games and 9 playoff games with the Kicks. He currently ranks fifth in the Kicks all-time category for games played (112) and he holds the club's individual regular season record for most consecutive games played (62).

In 1977 he was the recipient of the club's sportsmanship award symbolic of a player who best displayed the qualities of hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for his profession both on and off the field.

"Alan's leadership ability and aggressive play will be a great assest to this club," said Barnett. "I played behind him for three seasons and nobody knows better than me the kinds of contributions he makes to a team."

"I'm over the moon," commented Merrick after hearing that he would be returning to Minnesota. "There was never any question what team I always wanted to play for. My wife Lindsay and children Adam and Jemma are equally excited. We have kept our residence in Burnsville, hoping that this day would come. I am grateful to all parties concerned and I am anxiously awaiting Saturday night's game at the Met."

PERSONAL

Height: 5-10 Weight: 170
Birth: June 20, 1950 Birmingham, England
Citizenship Status: English -- planning to become U.S. citizen in 1982

TEAMS PLAYED FOR:

1966-76 West Bromwich Albion, English First Division
1976-79 Minnesota Kicks
1979-80 Pittsburgh (MISL)
1980 Los Angeles
1981 San Jose Earthquakes

NASL PLAYING RECORD		Regular Season				Playoffs			
YR	Team	GP	G	A	TP	GP	G	A	TP
76	Minnesota	24	1	1	3	3	0	1	1
77	Minnesota	26	0	5	5	2	0	0	0
78	Minnesota	26	0	4	4	4	0	0	0
79	Minnesota	27	3	7	13	0	0	0	0
80	Los Angeles	22	2	3	7	8	0	3	3
81	San Jose	12	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
	TOTALS	137	6	20	32	17	0	4	4