VANCOUVER ROYALS SOCCER CLUB

AREA CODE 604
688-2568

SUITE 307
1450 WEST GEORGIA ST.
VANCOUVER 5, B.C.

7th March 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VANCOUVER--The Columbia Broadcasting System will televise 17 North American Soccer League matches on its national network this season, western commissioner Ken Macker announced here Thursday.

Macker said final details of the television package are currently being worked out at a meeting in New York.

Although west coast teams may be involved in the television schedule, no matches will be screened from west coast cities.

"This is because of the difference in time zones," said Macker.

"We feel it would be unfair to ask west coast teams to start a match at 12:30 p. m.--the time at which the national telecasts will start," the commissioner said.

North American pro soccer received an exceptionally high rating on television last season.

Macker was in Vancouver as part of a tour of Western Conference cities.

He said attendance figures from pre-season matches in NASL cities have been encouraging and that Vancouver, in particular, is looked on as one of the league's strongest franchises.

"We were well satisfied with the attendance at the Racing Club match here (10,300)", said Macker.

"The early attendance figures proves the sport has made headway and we feel we can look forward to larger crowds."

Macker described 33,000-seat Empire Stadium, home of the Vancouver Royals, as one of the finest facilities in the league.

The commissioner attended the Vancouver training session Thursday with Royals' chairman George Fleharty and also met other club officials.

Macker, who now works out of New York but will open a Western Conference office at San Francisco next month, was impressed with the Royals' performance during an inter-squad match.

"This club would have held its own with any team in our league last year", added Macker, "and it appears our conference's Pacific Division will have a tight race."