United States Soccer Federation
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE CHOSEN FOR USSF NATIONAL SOCCER HALL OF FAME HONOR

NEW YORK, N.Y., June 19, 1981 -- The United States Soccer Federation announced today that three long-time devotees of American soccer have been chosen for induction to the USSF National Soccer Hall of Fame for 1981. Erwin Single, a former president of the USSF, and George "Whitey" Craggs, a USSF referee since 1962, have been selected for the National Soccer Hall of Fame honor. The third inductee, Harry Saunders, a former president of the Southern New York Soccer Assn., has been selected for the Hall of Fame Meritorious Award.

The USSF Hall of Fame Committee, comprised of six former Federation presidents, made final decisions from 10 new candidates nominated for 1981 and 20 nominees from previous years. The three inductees will be honored at the USSF's 65th Annual General Meeting in Seattle, July 1-5, and presented official certificates and life-time passes at the Hall of Fame luncheon July 3.

"The three men selected by the Committee are certainly worthy of the Hall of Fame honor. They are very good choices," said Tom Sager, chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. "Single has served the game as president of the Federation and as a journalist. Saunders has been a factor in affiliated soccer in New York for over 30 years, while Craggs' record as a player, referee and administrator speaks for itself."

Single served as president of the USSF from 1969-71 and as a vice president from 1963-69. He first became active at the administrative level as vice president of the Southern New York Soccer Assn. and vice president of the New York area's German-American Football Assn. in the 1950's. A native of Stuttgart, Germany, Single, a former publisher of the German language newspaper Staats Zeitung und Herold, became president of the German-American League in 1961.

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Craggs, a native of Canada who became a U.S. citizen in 1953, was commissioner of the Washington State Soccer Football Assn. from 1957-61. A former standout player in the Washington State League, Craggs registered with the USSF as a referee in 1962. He served as treasurer and referee assigner for the Washington State Soccer Assn. for 13 years. A two-time (1968 & 1978) recipient of the Barney Kempton Memorial Award for outstanding service to soccer, Craggs is a former North American Soccer League linesman and referee and is currently an NASL referee assessor.

Saunders is the longest serving president in the history of the New York area's Cosmopolitan League (formerly German-American League). An eight-year president of the Cosmopolitan League, the English-born Saunders served as president of the Southern New York Soccer Assn. from 1967-69. He has also served in the capacity of secretary and vice president of the state association and was president of Hota SC of the German-American FA for 12 years. In addition, Saunders, as USSF development chairman for the Eastern U.S., played an important role in establishing the first coaching schools.

In addition to those elected for 1981, others nominated for the Hall of Fame by USSF affiliates were: George Barr, Joe Boyle, Saverio Foglia, Gustav Ingold, Robert Nicol, Foster Pericciuoli and Fred Stoll. All nominees not selected will be reconsidered along with candidates from previous years for election in 1982.

There are two categories for Hall of Fame membership; playing achievement and administrative achievement. Candidates are nominated for either or both categories and will be made eligible for the two Hall of Fame honors -- the Hall of Fame Meritorious Award and the National Soccer Hall of Fame. It is entirely up to the discretion of the Hall of Fame Committee for final selections.

The USSF Hall of Fame was originated by the Old Timers' Association in 1950. A total of 147 have been inducted into the Hall of Fame and there are currently 62 active members. Robert Guelker and John "Frenchy" Boulos were elected into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1980, while Dr. G.K. Guennel was selected for the Hall of Fame Meritorious Award last year.

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