



THE HALL OF FAME

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Seventeen Glorious Years *The NASL Saga*

The song has ended but the melody lingers on." The words of that old standard aptly describe the nostalgia so many soccer fans feel for the days of the North American Soccer League (NASL). The NASL officially died a premature death 18 years ago on March 28, 1985, but in actuality the last NASL game was played almost six months before that, on October 3, 1984. The league had lasted for seventeen years and during several of those seasons, its top crowds were in excess of 70,000 and it included dozens of the world's most famous players.

Yet for many soccer fans the memories of those halcyon days linger on. Unlike so many past attempts to form professional soccer leagues in North America, the NASL lasted longer and had a much higher profile. What caused it to fold has been a subject of endless debate. Was it the lack of first-class US players, limited finances, a misreading of the market, an anti-soccer attitude in the media, excessive spending? Well, probably all of the above, and more. Here's the story.

The dream of bringing top-class professional soccer to the US and Canada was born in the minds of not one, not two, but three separate groups of investors in the spring and summer of 1966. Many of the investors were attracted by the large crowds attending games in other parts of the world and reasoned that what was successful in Europe and South America had to appeal to North Americans.

The beginning was not auspicious. Faced with heavy financial terms demanded by the governing bodies of US and Canadian soccer, two of the groups merged, forming the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) headed by Bob Hermann, and decided to operate outside

of organized soccer. This meant that its teams and players were banned from having any contact with clubs belonging to FIFA, the governing body of international soccer. The third group, called the United Soccer Association (USA) agreed to the financial terms. Thus the spring of 1967 produced two coast-to-coast professional leagues, one sanctioned and one operating in "outlaw" status. They took different approaches. The USA imported entire foreign club teams, which were in their offseason, to represent some twelve cities. England's Wolverhampton

attendance was well below what the owners had hoped for. So, in December of 1967, the two leagues agreed to merge, forming the North American Soccer League (NASL) with a total of 17 teams to play in 1968. Those 17 clubs which comprised what was really the start of the NASL were the Atlanta Chiefs, Washington Whips, New York Generals, Baltimore Bays, Boston Beacons, Cleveland Stokers, Chicago Mustangs, Toronto Falcons, Detroit Cougars, Kansas City Spurs, Houston Stars, St. Louis Stars, Dallas Tornado, San Diego Toros, Oakland Clippers, Los Angeles

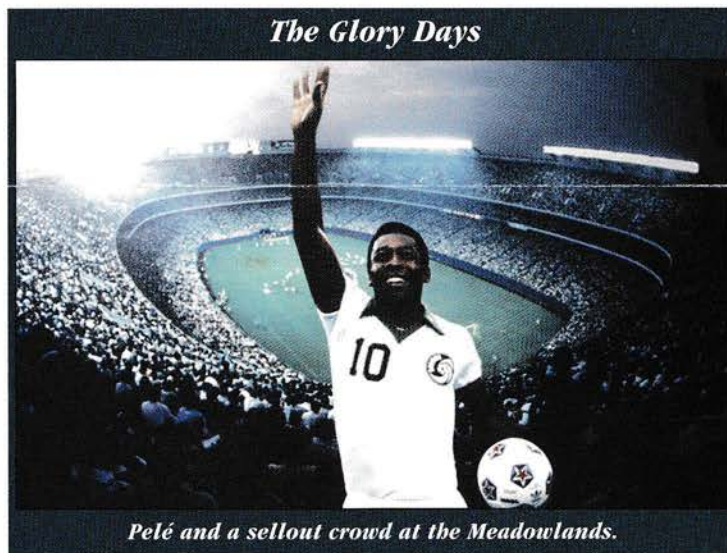
Wolves and Vancouver Royals. But the inaugural season was a financial flop and one by one clubs folded up. Between the 1968 and 1969 seasons, 12 of the league's 17 teams folded. It appeared to be a disaster.

However the teams that were left, Atlanta, Dallas, St. Louis, Baltimore and Kansas City, turned out to be a solid nucleus and they contributed two important leaders - Phil Woosnam, coach of the Atlanta Chiefs, who was to be the Commissioner of the NASL for nearly its entire existence, and Lamar Hunt, owner of the Dallas Tornado. Hunt was to remain an important investor in professional soccer for decades and was among the key people behind the establishment of Major

League Soccer in the 1990's.

The 1969 season was an abbreviated one, with the teams playing a total of only 40 league games. It is estimated that crowd sizes averaged 2,930 versus 4,761 in 1968. The league grew to 6 teams in 1970 with the Baltimore Bays folding and the Washington Darts and Rochester Lancers of the American Soccer League entering. The average attendance inched up to 3,253 in 1970 and then 3,850 in 1971. A major step was taken in 1971 when the Cosmos was formed thus

Continued on the next page...



Pelé and a sellout crowd at the Meadowlands.

Wanderers for example became the Los Angeles Wolves. By contrast the NPSL recruited players from all over the world to staff its ten clubs and it had the advantage of a national television contract with CBS. But television was a mixed blessing as a result of the color commentator, Danny Blanchflower's, frank and often caustic, observations about the standard of play. In addition they hadn't figured out how to blend in commercial time-outs without disrupting play on the field.

During the first season early attendance figures were promising but at the end of the season



DEDICATED TO THE SPORT OF SOCCER IN AMERICA...

opening up the enormous potential of the New York market. By 1973 the league had expanded to 9 teams and the average attendance had grown to 6,588. The league expanded to 15 teams in 1974 and 20 teams in 1975, with an average attendance in 1975 of 8,042.

And then, in June of 1975, Pelé exploded on the scene. He came out of retirement to sign a three-year contract with the NY Cosmos for \$4.5 million and brought the NASL unimagined publicity in the American news media. The impact on attendance was immediate, with Cosmos attendance jumping from an average of 7,000 to 16,000 per game. Capitalizing on this, in 1976 the Cosmos GM Clive Towe and the team's owners Warner Communications started to add foreign stars such as Giorgio Chinaglia, the striker from Italy.

1977 was the league's breakthrough season. The Cosmos moved to Giant Stadium in the Meadowlands and began to shatter attendance records, having a string of 58 consecutive crowds of 30,000 or more. The crowds were growing elsewhere too, with teams in Minnesota, Seattle and Tampa having game crowds of over 40,000. The league average jumped to 14,640. And in 1977 the superstars started arriving by the plane-load to join the Cosmos and other NASL teams. They were household names like Beckenbauer, Carlos Alberto, Hunt, Banks, Best, England and Marsh. And over the next few seasons the list would

grow to include for example Cruyff, Cubillas, Müller, Bogicevic, Rijsbergen and Neeskens, all world-renowned superstars. One of the problems that existed in the early years was the lack of native-born North American players in the line-up. The foreign-born coaches tended to shun these players in preference for the foreign players. The NASL mandated all clubs to have at least one North American on the field at all times, and eventually increased this to three.



One of the NASL Exhibits

Some of those who gained prominence in the league were Rick Davis, Mausser, Trost, Roth, Kyle Rote Jr., McBride, Smith, Rigby, and Van der Beek to name just a few. In 1978 the league expanded to 24 teams. But even with attendance rising across the league and with the benefit of a national television contract with ABC, it all cost money, big money. There were dark clouds forming on the horizon as the main-

stream sports media continued to pursue a policy of benign (some would say malign) neglect towards soccer, and other problems started to arise.

For example the NASL had adopted, with FIFA permission, an experimental change to the off-side rule designed to create more offensive soccer. Whether it did or not is open to question but in 1981 FIFA forced the league to discontinue its experiment although it did continue to use a "shootout" to break ties. However, despite the dispute with FIFA, in 1981 attendance was still strong but it was beginning to slide. It was

a heavy blow to the league when, in 1982, ABC did not renew its television contract. And just as bad, symbolically at least, was the fact that Lamar Hunt's Dallas Tornado, the last remaining survivor from the league's original 17 teams in 1968, folded before the 1982 season. League attendance continued to drop and the last two seasons of the NASL were ones of increasing desperation.

In an attempt to both attract American spectators and reduce payrolls, the league changed its rules a bit to require more American players on the field than it had before. It also created a league club called Team America, which played in Washington in the 1983 season, and consisted entirely of US National team players. In 1984 a similar experiment was considered for Canada but it never got off the ground. Team America had dismal results and failed to gain fan support. By the 1984 season the NASL was down to nine teams. Only four clubs were interested in playing in 1985, New York, Tampa Bay, Toronto, and Minnesota. Tampa Bay then dropped out and the Cosmos were suspended for failing to pay the performance bond. It was the end, and the league officially folded on March 28, 1985.

The Cosmos may have been the best known of all the teams with its four NASL championships and a host of superstars but it should be noted that NASL championships were won by twelve different franchises during the league's existence. And to this day there are still NASL supporters clubs in various parts of the country. The NASL may be gone, but the memories linger on.

Note: This article was drawn from "The Encyclopedia of American Soccer History" by Roger Allaway, Colin Jose and David Litterer, published by The Scarecrow Press, Inc., and "NASL, A Complete Record of the North American Soccer League" by Colin Jose.

A Jam-Packed NASL Induction Weekend

Put it on your calendar now - Friday, October 10th thru Monday, October 13th - and get plenty of rest beforehand. You'll need it.

The plan right now calls for the Grand Opening of the NASL Photo Gallery and Exhibit, to be followed by a welcome reception at the Hall early Friday evening. There's also talk of a golf tournament during the day. Friday night will be Pub Night at the Hall featuring nonstop, vintage NASL games on the giant-screen in the museum.

Saturday, October 11th will feature the NASL Reunion Festival Tournament, which will showcase NASL alumni playing small-sided matches, and competing for the NASL Championship trophy. Then, right afterwards, players, alumni and fans will move on to a BBQ inside the big pavilion tent at the center of campus. On Saturday night, as a test of stamina, there will be a repeat of Pub Night at



the Hall, with more NASL games being featured on the giant screen.

But, clearly, Sunday, October 12th will be the big day, starting out in the morning with the Annual Memorial Service in recognition of those from the soccer world who have passed on. The afternoon will feature the semi-finals and final of the tournament, and immediately thereafter The Liars' Retreat for new inductees and returning Hall of Famers. For those who are still standing after all of that, the Hall of Fame Banquet Induction

Dinner will be held at the Oneonta Alumni Field House in the evening. A continental breakfast reception will be held in the morning of get-away day, Monday, October 13th. All of these events are in the process of being finalized so a final schedule, with times and places, will be published shortly.

A 50 Year Reunion for Harmarville

by Roger Allaway

Half a century after winning the 1952 U.S. Open Cup the Harmarville Hurricanes reunited to celebrate. "Fifty years is a long, long time, so I thought it was about time we got together," said Hurricanes' captain Ray Bernabei. And get together they did, on August 16, 2002 at Futele's Harmar House in Harmar, Pa. "People called us the coal miners, and we took it as a compliment even though we only had one guy who worked around the mines," Bernabei said. "But many of us came from parents who were miners and we were very proud of that." Over 125 people showed up to celebrate the team's historic accomplishments.

It may seem only a distant memory today, but it is not really all that long ago that western Pennsylvania was one of the hotspots of American soccer.

For much of the 20th century, semipro soccer flourished in the industrial regions in many parts of the US. The Pittsburgh area, particularly its coal mining towns, was typical of that, producing a number of outstanding amateur and semipro teams from the 1920's to the 1960's. One section with an especially strong reputation was southwest of Pittsburgh with excellent teams in towns like Morgan, Castle Shannon, Heidleberg, Curry and Beadling. Harmarville, north of the city, was the last of those Pittsburgh-area teams to reach its peak, but it may have been the best of them all. The Harmarville team, nicknamed the Hurricanes, was one of the best in American soccer in the 1950's, and twice captured the ultimate honor in those days, by winning the U.S. Open Cup in 1952 and 1956.



In white shirts, Captains Ray Bernabei (L) and Walter Bahr (R) flank referee Ralph Rosner before 1952 US Open Cup final game

Chicago's most prominent player that Harmarville produced was its longtime captain, Ray Bernabei, who was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 1978. A number of Harmarville players appeared in the U.S. national team. These included Steve Grivnow, Bob Craddock, Nick DiOrio, Sonny Yacopec and Don Malinowski. Harmarville won the Keystone League championship in 1951. A year later, the Hurricanes won its first U.S. Open Cup title upsetting the ASL's Philadelphia Nationals in the final. The Philadelphia team took the first leg in Harmarville, by a score of 4-3. A week later, on June 8, Harmarville swept to a 4-1 victory in Philadelphia to take the title on total goals. In those two games, Grivnow scored three goals for Harmarville, while Yacopec, DiOrio and Merle Utchel each had one. That team that Harmarville beat included three future Hall of Famers, Walter Bahr, Nick Kropfelder and Benny McLaughlin.



U.S. Open Cup trophy

Harmarville won another Keystone League championship in 1953, but its third didn't come until 1957. In between however it captured another U.S. Open Cup title beating Chicago Schwaben in the 1956 final.

Besides the teams that it defeated in those two finals, Harmarville beat several more of the nation's best in U.S. Open Cup play during the 1950s and '60s. These included St. Louis Simpkins, New York German Hungarians, Cleveland Slavia, Philadelphia Uhrick Truckers and New York Hakoah. During that period the Hurricanes also dominated the West Penn Cup, the championship of the Western Pennsylvania state association.

In his keynote speech, at the reunion, Jack Huckel, Director of Museum Services at the National Soccer Hall of Fame said,

"This area is an important bed of soccer. We're here to relive the history, and it's a great treasure to be here among champions." Huckel pointed out that in a strange footnote to history the Hurricanes never actually took possession of the three-foot high, silver, U.S. Open Cup trophy, which bears Harmarville's name. It is now on display in its home in the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, N.Y.

Passings



Eugene A. Bettiol Jr.
1955 - 2003

The National Soccer Hall of Fame lost a valued friend and supporter when Gene Bettiol Jr. passed away on January 10, 2003. Many of you reading this will not even know who he was since he chose not to

be in the limelight, as is typical of the entire Bettiol family. Gene Jr. served on the Board of Directors from 1997 until 2002 when he stepped down due to his ongoing battle with cancer. Although significant, his contributions to the Hall went far beyond merely the financial. He provided a level of business acumen, insight and vision that was invaluable during the stressful period of the Hall's reorganization and growth in the late 90's. Gene carried himself with a special grace and he leaves behind not only a loving wife and family, but also his extended soccer family, which shall forever be in his debt.

According to Hall of Fame President, Will Lunn, "In the early, tough-going days of our reorganization I often sought his counsel. His support was remarkable... Gene was a dynamo, a driving force in the capital campaign's success... his love for Oneonta and passion to make it a better place to live will forever be remembered and enshrined within the walls of the National Soccer Hall of Fame."



Geoffrey Coombes
1919 - 2002
Hall of Fame - 1976

Geoffrey Coombes who passed away on December 5, 2002 was a member of the famous U.S. squad that participated in the 1950 World

Cup in Brazil. He was a member of the Chicago Vikings team that won the US Open Cup in 1946, and later played for the Detroit Wolverines in the North American Professional Soccer League. He also served as president of the Detroit Soccer League from 1959-1963.



Bertil A. Larson
1912 - 2003
Hall of Fame - 1988

On January 9, 2003 we lost Bert Larson, "the grand old man" of Connecticut soccer. At age 90, Bert was one of the oldest living Hall of Famers. Although inducted as a

Builder for his organizing contributions with teams, leagues and state association programs, he was also a goalkeeper for many years. He not only covered soccer for The Hartford Courant from 1951 thru the mid-70's, but was also friend and mentor of Jerry Trecker, one of soccer's leading journalists. It was due to the efforts of individuals like Bert Larson that the game survived until it became what it is today, one of the mainstream sports in America.

The NASL 2003 Hall of Fame Finalists

The Players

In order for a player to be eligible he must have played at least 5 seasons in the NASL and achieved one of the following: won a League Championship; selected to the All-Star Team; played in at least 10 full US National Team matches (at least one of which was World Cup or World Cup Qualifying); or made at least 200 NASL appearances. A total of 142 players were eligible, of which 27 made the final ballot after the first round of voting. The Selection Committee consists of Hall of Famers from the NASL plus NASL-era media. Brief bios of the finalists are shown below:

George Best - 1976-'81... Forward/Midfielder... Los Angeles Aztecs, Fort Lauderdale Strikers and San Jose Earthquakes... 2-time League All-Star... 139 regular-season games... 11 playoff games

John Best - 1968-'73... Defender... Cleveland Stokers and Dallas Tornado... 1 League Championship... 5-time League All-Star... 1 National Team appearance... 114 regular-season games... 11 playoff games

Hubert Birkenmeier - 1979-'84... Goalkeeper... New York Cosmos... 2 League Championships... 2-time League All-Star... 145 regular-season games... 23 playoff games

Carlos Alberto - 1977-'82... Defender... New York Cosmos and California Surf... 3 League Championships... 3-time League All-Star... 119 regular-season games... 26 playoff games

Roberto Cabanas - 1980-'84... Forward... New York Cosmos... 2 League Championships... 1-time League All-Star... 1-time Leading Goalscorer... 1-time MVP... 86 regular-season games... 13 playoff games

Paul Child - 1972-'81... Forward... Atlanta Chiefs/Apollos, San Jose Earthquakes and Memphis Rogues... 2-time League All-Star... 2 National Team appearances... 1-time Leading Goalscorer... 5th All-time Goalscorer... 239 regular-season games... 6 playoff games

Mike Connell - 1975-'84... Defender... Tampa Bay Rowdies... 1 League Championship... 2-time League All-Star... 252 regular-season games... 25 playoff games

Ken Cooper - 1970-'79... Goalkeeper... Dallas Tornado... 2-time League All-Star... 170 regular-season games... 11 playoff games

Teofilo Cubillas - 1979-'83... Midfielder... Ft. Lauderdale Strikers... 2-time League All-Star... 120 regular-season games... 21 playoff games

Steve David - 1974-'81... Forward... Miami Toros, Los Angeles Aztecs, Detroit Express, California Surf, San Diego Sockers and San Jose Earthquake... 2-time League All-Star... 1-time League MVP... 2-time Leading Goalscorer... 6th All-time Goalscorer... 175 regular-season games... 7 playoff games

Andranik Eskandarian - 1979-'84... Defender... New York Cosmos... 2 League Championships... 3-time League All-Star... 142 regular-season games... 22 playoff games

Ron Futcher - 1976-'84... Forward... Minnesota Kicks, Portland Timbers and Tulsa Roughnecks... 1 League Championship... 201 regular-season games... 22 playoff games



Karl-Heinz Granitz - 1978-'84... Forward... Chicago Sting... 2 League Championships... 1-time League All-Star... 3rd All-time Goalscorer... 199 regular-season games... 26 playoff games



Ray Hudson - 1977-'84... Midfielder... Fort Lauderdale Strikers and Minnesota Kicks... 1-time League All-Star... 197 regular-season games... 28 playoff games



Robert Iarusci - 1976-'84... Defender... Toronto Metros-Croatia, New York Cosmos, Washington Diplomats and San Diego Sockers... 2 League Championships... 4-time North American All-Star... 217 regular-season games... 22 playoff games



Bob Lenarduzzi - 1974-'84... Defender/Midfielder... Vancouver Whitecaps... 1 League Championship... 5-time North American All-Star... 288 regular-season games... 24 playoff games



Arnie Mausser - 1975-'84... Goalkeeper... Hartford Bicentennials, Tampa Bay Rowdies, Colorado Caribous, Vancouver Whitecaps, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, New England Tea Men, Jacksonville Tea Men and Team America... 1-time League All-Star... 1-time North American All-Star... 35 National Team appearances... 224 regular-season games... 8 playoff games



Carlos Metidieri - 1968-'74... Forward... Los Angeles Wolves, Rochester Lancers and Boston Minutemen... 1 League Championship... 2-time League All-Star... 2 National Team appearances... 2-time MVP... 129 regular-season games... 8 playoff games



Ilija Mitic - 1968-'78... Forward... Oakland Clippers, Dallas Tornado and San Jose Earthquakes... 4-time League All-Star... 1 National Team appearance... 166 regular-season games... 9 playoff games



Johan Neeskens - 1979-'84... Midfielder... New York Cosmos... 2-time League All-Star... 94 regular-season games... 13 playoff games



Ace Ntsoelengoe - 1973-'84... Midfielder/Forward... Miami Toros, Denver Dynamo, Minnesota Kicks and Toronto Blizzard... 2-time League All-Star... 7th All-time Goalscorer... 244 regular-season games... 27 playoff games



Bob Rigby - 1973-'84... Goalkeeper... Philadelphia Atoms, Philadelphia Fury, New York Cosmos, Los Angeles Aztecs, Montreal Manic and Golden Bay Earthquake... 1 League Championship... 6 National Team appearances... 217 regular-season games... 20 playoff games



Kyle Rote, Jr. - 1973-'79... Forward... Dallas Tornado and Houston Hurricane... 1-time North American All-Star... 1-time Leading Goalscorer... 5 National Team appearances... 142 regular-season games... 8 playoff games



Bobby Smith - 1973-'81... Defender... Philadelphia Atoms, New York Cosmos, San Diego Sockers and Montreal Manic... 1 League Championship... 1-time League All-Star... 18 National Team appearances... 167 regular-season games... 10 playoff games

Al Trost - 1973-'79... Midfielder... St. Louis Stars, California Surf and Seattle Sounders... 1-time North American All-Star... 14 National Team appearances... 147 regular-season games... 2 playoff games

Alan Willey - 1976-'84... Forward... Minnesota Kicks/Strikers and Montreal Manic... 2nd All-time Goalscorer... 238 regular-season games... 26 playoff games

Bruce Wilson - 1974-'84... Defender... Vancouver Whitecaps, Chicago Sting, New York Cosmos and Toronto Blizzard... 3-time League All-Star... 4-time North American All-Star... 276 regular-season games... 23 playoff games

The NASL 2003 Hall of Fame Finalists

The Builders



In order to be eligible in the Builders Category he or she must have made a major, sustained and positive impact on US soccer thru the NASL. A total of 20 candidates were under consideration, of which 7 made the final ballot after the first round of voting. The Selection Committee consists of Hall of Fame Builders from the NASL. Brief bios of the finalists are shown below:

Ahmet Ertegun/Neshui Ertegun/Steve Ross - Founders of the New York Cosmos. Ahmet was V.P. from 1971- '77 and President from 1978- '83. Neshui was President from 1971- '75 and Chairman from 1976- '83. Ross was Chairman of the Board and CEO of Warner Communications, the corporation that owned the Cosmos.

Eddie Firmani - Coach who won 3 NASL titles and coached four different NASL teams - Tampa Bay Rowdies, New York Cosmos, Philadelphia Fury and the Montreal Manic. He won championships with the Tampa Bay Rowdies

in 1975 and the New York Cosmos in 1977 and 1978.

Ted Howard - A leading employee of the NASL from 1971 to '84. Howard, at various times held the positions of Director of Administration, Director of Operations and Executive Director.

Elizabeth and Joe Robbie - Owners of the Miami Toros, Fort Lauderdale and Minnesota Strikers from 1975 thru 1984. Fort Lauderdale played in the NASL Championship game in 1980, losing to the New York Cosmos.

Lee Stern - Founder of the Chicago Sting and owner throughout its history. Stern served as either President or Chairman of the Board, or both, from 1974 - '84. He also served as Chairman of the NASL Executive Committee in 1981 and 1982.

George Strawbridge - Founder of the Tampa Bay Rowdies. Owner and president of the team from 1975-'83, he also served as Chairman of the NASL Marketing Board of Directors.

Clive Toye - Held a number of executive positions in the NASL. From 1968 to 1984 he served at various times as General Manager of the Baltimore Bays and NY Cosmos, and President of the Cosmos, Chicago Sting and Toronto Blizzard. For a period of two years he also served as NASL's Director of Administration and Information.

Snapshots... and other news from around the Hall

"**BOGIE**" **HF '002**... anyone need a coach?... he's back in the States after coaching stint with Saudi Arabian club team... shouldn't be long finding another coaching job with his credentials... **LEN OLIVER HF '96**... attended Walt Chyzowych Memorial service at the NSCAA Convention in Chicago... met up with old teammate on San Francisco Mercury, Steve Negroesco, NSCAA's most recent Hall of Fame inductee... Len emceed the Virginia-DC Hall of Fame inductions... **BOB HERMANN HOF '001**... former owner of St. Louis Stars... he and wife Mary Lee hosted a Hall of Fame/NASL luncheon at their Florida home with twenty-plus in attendance... guests included former owners: the Sterns - Chicago Sting; the McNutts - Dallas Tornado; Bob Bartholomay - Atlanta Chiefs, and Roger Faulkner - Detroit Express... Also joining the fun were the Bergs - San Jose; the Firmanis - Cosmos; Noel Lemmon - Tulsa Roughnecks; Francisco Marcos and Chas Serendesky - Tampa Bay; the Woosnams (former Commissioner) - Atlanta Chiefs, and the Wrights - Hall of Fame founding Director... **ANSON DORRANCE MH '001**... took his North Carolina team to the semi-finals of the NCAA's... spoke at the NCAA Women's Golf (yes, golf) Convention in Orlando... subject "Coaching as Leadership"... went to Ethiopia in January to work with its Women's National Team... It's a small world... he met his wife-to-be in Ethiopia while in second grade... her father, air attaché to the Ethiopian government... his in the oil business... **NSHOF Director Hank Steinbrecher**... busy developing his new business "Touchline Consulting"... one client, FieldTurf, has had explosive growth... Hank retained by Australian government to assist in reshaping its Soccer Federation... always in motion, he trucked off to Moscow late January... **GEORGE BROWN HF '95**... attended Conn. Hall of Fame inductions in January along with '**CHICO**' **CHACURIAN HF '92**, (now Head Coach of the Connecticut Pythons of the New England Arena Soccer League)... inductees included Brian Bliss former NASL, Bundesliga, and National team player, now Asst. Coach of the Kansas City Wizards... **NICK KROPFELDER HF '96**... suffered two tragic losses with the passing of his wife Anne on January 19th, followed shortly thereafter by the death of his son David... both after long illnesses... **DEBBIE BELKIN-RADEMACHER MH '001**... took Univ. of Michigan to the NCAA quarterfinals in 2002... highest finish ever... **JERRY YEAGLEY HF '89**... retiring at end of 2003 from Indiana University after

40 years of coaching... went to the 3rd round of the NCAA's in 2002... **AL MILLER HF '95**... wrote chapter on Player Management for "The Soccer Coaches Bible" to be published next fall... won the Ohio and Regional Championship, and placed 3rd in the Nationals in competitive racquetball... **RICK DAVIS HF '001**... 3rd year as Technical Director of the 28-team JUSA Select (part of Junior United Soccer Assoc. in N. Orange County, California)... going into his 6th season as Color Analyst for MLS and LA Galaxy... wife Tina handles 7 kids, Manager for Kaiser Permanente and has her real estate brokers license... and Rick says that he works for a living... gimme a break... both coming to NASL Induction Weekend in October... **PAUL DANILO HF '97**... recuperating from second heart bypass... but can't keep us old wingers down... sending the Hall some 1940's team photos and press clippings... **'CLARKIE' SOUZA HF '76**... planning to attend the 2003 Inductions... first time to visit the Hall... haven't seen my NY German Hungarians' teammate in 46 years... moved to Middletown, Conn. to be closer to his family... **CARIN GABARRA HF '000**... her Naval Academy team went 16-0-4 last season... one of two undefeated teams in the nation... **APRIL HEINRICHS HF '98**... led the Women's National Team to victories in the Four Nations Tournament and the Algarve Cup... **TRACEY BATES-LEONE MH '001**... expecting first child, a girl, on June 28th... took her US U-19 team to Mexico in February for two friendlies... says her diet there was guacamole and pickles... **MEGAN MCCARTHY MH '001**... recently inducted into Virginia-DC Soccer Hall



of Fame... **LAMAR HUNT HF '82**... just took over the Dallas Burn... **MICHELLE AKERS MH '001**... to be married in August to attorney Steve Eichenblatt... loaned a treasure trove of memorabilia to the Hall... shown here are two very special items... the backdrop is her 1999 World Cup shirt, autographed by the first woman shuttle commander, Lt. Col. Eileen Collins, who took it into space with her on Columbia's STS-93 mission of July 23, 1999... displayed in front are the Order of Merit awards Michelle received from FIFA in 1998... great additions to our collections.

MH = Medal of Honor/Yr awarded
HF = Hall of Famer/Yr inducted

National Soccer Hall of Fame

18 Stadium Circle
Oneonta, NY 13820
607-432-3351
Will Lunn, President/CEO
www.soccerhall.org

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PROFILE: LAMAR HUNT

Lamar Hunt is "A man for all seasons," or more appropriately "A man for all sports." Consider this: Not only has he been inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame, and been awarded its prestigious Medal of Honor, he has also been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the Pro



Lamar with Commissioner Phil Woosnam - 1975

Football Hall of Fame. He has won so many awards that they are impossible to list here but among his most prized possessions are 11 championship rings from four different professional sports leagues - the AFL/NFL, NBA, the North American Soccer League (NASL) and Major League Soccer (MLS) - Included are a Super Bowl IV ring from the '69 Chiefs; AFL title rings from the '62 Dallas Texans and '66 Chiefs; NASL championship ring from the '71 Dallas Tornado; a 2000 MLS Championship from the Kansas City Wizards;

and finally a 2002 US Open Cup ring from the Columbus Crew. (Whew, I'm tired just typing all that). And he has the unique distinction of having major trophies named after him in two different sports: the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup in soccer and the Lamar Hunt Trophy for the winner of football's AFL Conference.

A year-round sports fan, Lamar is currently involved in several athletic ventures. He is the owner of the Kansas City Chiefs, one of the founding investors in the six-time World Champion Chicago Bulls of the NBA, and he operates the Kansas City Wizards, Columbus Crew, and Dallas Burn of Major League Soccer.

Lamar is no "Johnny-come-lately" to soccer. Over thirty-five years ago he was one of the leading initial investors in professional soccer, first in the United Soccer Association in 1967, and then in the NASL in 1968. As the owner of the Dallas Tornado, one of the sports' key franchises for 14 years he saw the league grow from five clubs in 1969 to 24 ten years later. The NASL folded in 1985 but when MLS was formed in 1996 he once again became a leader in the drive to have the United States take its place on soccer's world stage. His Kansas City Wizards won the MLS championship in the 2000 season while his



Lamar celebrates winning the 2002 US Open Cup.

Columbus Crew won the US Open Cup in 2002. In addition he led the way in building the Columbus Crew Stadium, the first soccer-specific stadium in the U.S. in the modern era.

"The great thing about Lamar," said Will Lunn, President of the Hall, "is that he is a genuine soccer fan, not just an investor. I sat beside him during the final of the 2002 US Open Cup and when his Columbus Crew scored the winning goal he jumped to his feet in excitement."

According to Brian McBride, "Seeing him up there as excited as we were made it even more special." But nobody should be surprised by his exuberance when you consider that he was nicknamed "Games" during his childhood. Sports in general and soccer in particular are fortunate to have him as a supporter.

Lamar Hunt was born on August 2, 1932 in El Dorado, Arkansas and graduated from SMU with a BS in Geology in 1956. He and his wife Norma have four children: Lamar, Jr., Sharron Munson, Clark and Daniel, as well as 10 grandchildren. He was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame as a Builder in 1982, awarded the Medal of Honor in 1999, and elected to the Hall's Board of Directors in 2001.