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For Immediate Release

John Thorrington Joins MLS Players Union

Bethesda, MD – March 19, 2014 – The Major League Soccer Players Union announced today that it has hired former U.S. National Team and MLS player John Thorrington as a Special Assistant to Executive Director Bob Foose. Thorrington will be part of the Union’s executive team, with a particular focus on the Union’s upcoming collective bargaining negotiations with Major League Soccer.

Thorrington retired after a long and distinguished playing career in which he played for elite clubs in three countries over 17 years and represented the United States at the U-20, Olympic and full National Team levels. At the age of 17, he became the youngest American player to sign with an English Premier League club when he joined Manchester United, before departing for Germany two years later to sign with Bayer Leverkusen. In 2001, he returned to England to join Huddersfield Town where he played until he joined the Chicago Fire in 2005. While playing in the U.K., Thorrington earned his undergraduate degree with honors, and also served as a Delegate to the Professional Footballers’ Association, the world’s oldest professional sports union.

After returning to the U.S. in 2005, Thorrington played for three Major League Soccer clubs over nine seasons, and in his final season helped lead DC United to the 2013 U.S. Open Cup Championship. Over the course of his MLS career, he served as the Union’s player representative for all three of his teams – the Chicago Fire, Vancouver Whitecaps and DC United – and also was elected to the Union’s Executive Board. While playing in MLS, Thorrington began work on an MBA at Northwestern University, a process that he will conclude while working for the Union.

“John Thorrington is a tremendous addition for the Players Union,” said Foose. “He obviously had a fantastic career on the field. However, he also brings a wealth of off the field experience to the Union. He was a central figure in our leadership for all of his time in the league, including throughout the last CBA negotiation. He is in many ways the perfect advocate for our members at this crucial time in our history.”

“I am very excited and grateful for the opportunity to join the MLS Players Union in this role,” said Thorrington. “The outcome of our upcoming collective bargaining negotiations is critical to the continued development of the league, and I look forward to working for the players throughout this process.”

ABOUT THE MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER PLAYERS UNION

The Major League Soccer Players Union, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, is the exclusive bargaining representative for all Major League Soccer players. For more information about the Players Union, log on to its website at www.mlssplayers.org. For more information about this press release, contact Bob Foose at (301) 657-3535 or bfoose@mlssplayers.org.