



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eddie Pope Joins MLS Players Union

Bethesda, MD – January 8, 2008 – The Major League Soccer Players Union announced today that it has hired former U.S. National Team and MLS standout Eddie Pope as its Director of Player Relations. In this executive level role, Eddie will oversee all player communications and relations. Eddie joins the Union at a critical time, as the Union begins making preparations for negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement to replace the current deal, which is due to expire at the end of the 2009 season.

Eddie's accomplishments on the field are legendary. He appeared in three World Cups for the U.S. National Team (1996, 2002 and 2006) and represented the United States at the 1996 Olympics. Over his 12 season career in MLS he established himself as the most accomplished defender in league history, and was an obvious selection to the MLS All-Time Best XI selected following the league's tenth season in 2005. Eddie was named to an amazing 11 MLS All-Star teams (1997-2007), is a former U.S. Soccer Player of the Year, MLS Defender of the Year, a four-time member of the MLS Best XI squad, a five-time winner of his club's Defender of the Year honor, a Fair Play Award winner, and twice the recipient of his team's Humanitarian of the Year award. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Eddie was an All-American and started in every game of his collegiate career. His accomplishments off the field are equally impressive. Among his many charitable endeavors, Eddie started and maintained the Eddie Pope Foundation to help underprivileged children achieve academic success.

"Eddie Pope is a soccer icon," said Union Executive Board member Ben Olsen. "He is respected by every player in the league, and he will command respect in his new role with the Union. We are thrilled to have him working with us." Union Executive Director Bob Foose added, "We are very pleased to have Eddie come aboard. He will be an integral part of the Union leadership as we continue to work to improve conditions for all MLS players. I have no doubt that Eddie will be as successful in this new role as he has been throughout his career."

"I am very excited to be joining the MLS Players Union," said Pope. "The players in MLS have worked very hard and sacrificed a great deal to build the league. I look forward to working for the players to help them achieve a better life for themselves and their families."

The Major League Soccer Players Union, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, is the exclusive bargaining representative for all Major League Soccer players. The Union's website is located at www.mlsplayers.org.

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