

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



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Four former WPSL stars drafted in the WPS Initial International Draft

Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) announced the results of its WPS Initial International Draft on Wednesday, officially assigning the WPS-playing rights of those selected, including four "internationals" from the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL). Heading the list are two former All-WPSL selections in Brazilian star Daniela (Bay State Select) and Australian dynamo Heather Garriock (Adirondack Lynx). Each WPS team was allowed to draft four International players, providing teams with the opportunity to begin a formal negotiation process with each selected player. "The international draft was created to allow an equitable opportunity for the individual WPS clubs to develop their teams" said WPS Commissioner Tonya Antonucci. "Now they can go out to the market - and after receiving permission from the player's clubs - put together the most competitive team they possibly can based on their selections.

"Today's draft showcased interesting selections and last minute trades. Clearly there is a keen interest in Brazilian players, who bring a creative and dynamic rhythm of play. And more broadly, from Asia to Australia, Europe to the Americas, it's exciting to see our teams looking to sign players from across the world to play in WPS in 2009."

Daniela, who was selected by St. Louis in the 1st Round with the fourth overall pick, was a midfield force in her two years with Bay State Select, bursting on the WPSL scene in 2005 with a 7-goal, 3-assist (17 points) performance in 10 matches played while being named All-WPSL in both the 2005-06 seasons. Garriock, selected in the 2nd Round by the Chicago Red Stars, is a starting midfielder for the Adirondack Lynx and was a huge reason for the team's success in their first two years (2006-07) in the WPSL East Conference: which included two All-WPSL selections for Garriock, a Divisional title and a berth in the 2006 Eastern Conference title. "I am excited to be coming back to the States for a run in the WPS," said Garriock, who recently earned her 100th cap with the Matildas. "My experience in the WPSL allowed me to continue playing at a high level and return to the Australian National Team rejuvenated."

Two other players selected in the WPS Initial International Draft who spent their share of time wearing the uniforms of WPSL sides are Homare Sawa of the Denver Diamonds, selected with the sixth overall pick in the 1st Round by the Washington Freedom, and Melissa Tancredi of River Cities F.C., selected in the 3rd Round by St. Louis. Sawa starred for Denver in the 1999-00 seasons while Tancredi is no stranger to the St. Louis organization, as she suited up for their developmental team in River Cities F.C. in the 2007 season.

The WPS Initial International Draft will be followed on October 6th by a general draft of domestic players and remaining international players, where you just might see more stars from the WPSL make their WPS dreams come true. The mission of Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) is to be the premier women's soccer league in the world. Play kicks off in the spring of 2009, with WPS teams based in the Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Jersey/New York, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

The WPSL is a 51-team national women's soccer league with five conferences and is considered one of the top women's soccer leagues in the world. The Millburn Magic is the Northern NJ member of the WPSL, an independent national league representing the highest level of women's soccer in the United States.

The Magic are part of The New Jersey Soccer Group, a management company representing a family of soccer based organizations offering a full range of soccer services in northern New Jersey.

More about the Millburn Magic at

www.millburnmagic.com

More about the WPSL at

www.wpsl.info

More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at

www.njsoccergroup.com