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Press Release: Canadian International Joins Calgary Foothills FC

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Calgary, AB - Calgary Foothills FC is pleased to announce that veteran Canadian International Nik Ledgerwood has agreed to join the club as captain of its Professional Development League (PDL) franchise for the upcoming 2018 season. Ledgerwood will also spend time as a trainer in the Foothills Academy sharing his professional experience and knowledge with Foothills youth players.

Originally from Lethbridge, the move to Calgary brings Ledgerwood even closer to home after making 50 appearances over the past 2 seasons playing for FC Edmonton in the NASL. Prior to his return to Canada in 2016, Ledgerwood spent 13 seasons playing professionally in Germany for clubs such as 1860 Munich, FSV Frankfurt, and Wehen Wiesbaden.

Since 2007, Ledgerwood has been a key part of the Canadian National Men's side, recently participating in his 50th international match. As a youth Nik also was a regular on the Canadian National Youth Teams making a combined 15 appearances for the U17, U20, and U23 teams.



(photo courtesy of Canada Soccer)

Ledgerwood decided to join Calgary Foothills FC following the folding of FC Edmonton and as news of the Canadian Premier League launch enticed him to remain in Canada with the hopes of being part of the inaugural CPL season in 2019.

"I am very excited about the CPL, it's something Canadian kids have not had growing up. To have a professional league across Canada will give the sport exposure and will create an environment for young footballers to further their careers. To be part of that right from the start is why I'm here" Ledgerwood

Ledgerwood's objective this season is not only to contribute on the field, but also to have an impact as a leader and mentor for the younger players on the Foothills FC squad with their sights set on a return to the PDL Championship.

"Joining Foothills felt right because I knew I was coming into a well organized and successful environment that valued the things I can bring to a team and an organization. I still have many years left as a player but I also want to use my experience to help the next generation of athletes coming through" Ledgerwood

To support that goal, in addition to playing with the Foothills FC PDL side, Nik will also be sharing his knowledge with youth soccer players in Calgary as a member of the Calgary Foothills Soccer Club. He will be working as an Academy Coach where he hopes to inspire the next generation of budding Canadian Internationals.

"Being able to work with youth players in Calgary is very motivating to me. It is where I grew up and where I developed as a youth player and now I am in a position to be able to give back to the community. I am very thankful for this opportunity" Ledgerwood

This signing is a homecoming of sorts for Ledgerwood, Calgary is where his professional soccer journey started. In 2002 Nik played for the Calgary Storm (USL), alongside current Foothills Technical Director and PDL Head Coach Tommy Wheeldon Jr. before heading overseas to Germany where he made 249 professional appearances. The Foothills FC Coach and Club Technical Director is very excited to have his former teammate on the FC squad and as part of the Youth Club.

"Nik epitomizes the term 'professional' in the manner he has conducted his playing career, and I'm probably under selling him when I say that he is an outstanding professional soccer player and an even better person. Having been fortunate to be there at the start of his career with the Calgary Storm, it is of no surprise to see the successes he's had as a pro and the number of times he's represented Canada internationally. Nik is by no means here to wind down his playing career, he is here to stay sharp and inspire the next generation of Canadian players, whether it's playing with our PDL team or through the Academy players that he will help train. With the announcement of the Canadian Premier League scheduled to launch in 2019, Nik wants to be in a position to affect the formation of it in his home country and we are delighted to have him on board." Tommy Wheeldon Jr

Ledgerwood will be suiting up for Calgary Foothills FC when it kicks off its 2018 PDL season on May 11 at home vs the Victoria Highlanders FC.

ABOUT FOOTHILLS FC

Foothills FC has a mandate to bring professional soccer to Calgary for both Men's Soccer (PDL) and Women's Soccer (UWS League). Foothills FC is supported by Calgary Foothills youth soccer Club which has over 2,500 members and has achieved success at Provincial National and International levels to provide a solid foundation for the franchise. Foothills FC believes that Calgary is a world class city and that the youth of Calgary deserve to have professional opportunities for advancement.

ABOUT PDL

The proven developmental leader in North American soccer's evolving tiered structure, the PDL features 72 teams within four conferences throughout the United States and Canada in 2018, including 19 teams affiliated with USL PRO or Major League Soccer clubs. The PDL has proven to be an important stepping-stone for top professionals now playing throughout the world, with 70 percent of all MLS draftees having PDL experience.

ABOUT FOOTHILLS SOCCER CLUB

Foothills Soccer, established in 1972, provides youth soccer programs for kids from 3 to 18 years old. Foothills has programs for all ages and abilities and has members from all over Calgary and surrounding areas. Foothills has a history of excellence and has been successful in winning 5 National Championships and 11 National Medals since 2006, as well as sending multiple players directly to professional organizations including Chelsea, West Ham, and Vancouver Whitecaps. Foothills provides a culture that promotes excellence in soccer but also the development of outstanding people, while enjoying a positive sporting experience.

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