



Peter Wilt Joins CLUB 9 SPORTS

Veteran Soccer Leader Will Lead Effort to Return Pro Soccer to City of Chicago

Chicago (Monday, January 11, 2016) - Chicago Fire Founding General Manager and longtime President Peter Wilt has joined CLUB 9 SPORTS to lead efforts to return a professional soccer team to the city of Chicago with a North American Soccer League club, the sports consulting firm announced today. Wilt steps down as President of the NASL Indy Eleven which he launched three years ago and will continue his General Managerial duties for the team on an advisory basis through the Spring NASL season.

"I am excited to return to Chicago and take on this tremendous challenge. CLUB 9 SPORTS provides a fantastic platform to develop a great, inclusive team that everyone can take pride in and embrace as their own," Wilt said. "CLUB 9 SPORTS has been working diligently to assemble a quality investor group on behalf of Jack Cummins and me. In order to make this a reality, we now need to secure a proper venue and importantly, we need to work with the soccer community to add a public supporters component to the investor group. We look forward to working with the soccer, civic and business communities to make the connections that will truly make this Chicago's team."

Wilt will be working at CLUB 9 SPORTS with Jack Cummins, one of his partners in the launch of the Chicago Red Stars professional women's soccer team. Cummins joined CLUB 9 SPORTS a year ago and Wilt will begin his efforts immediately. At CLUB 9 SPORTS Wilt and Cummins will also work with other CLUB 9 SPORTS soccer clients.

"We are excited to add Peter to the team and assist in bringing a professional soccer team to the city of Chicago," said CLUB 9 SPORTS Managing Partner John Prutch. "We have made significant progress to date and with Peter's knowledge, commitment to the sport of soccer and connections within the community, we are confident in our ability to assist Peter, Jack and their team in finalizing the opportunity."

CLUB 9 SPORTS 415 North LaSalle, Suite 401 Chicago, Illinois 60654, 312-464-9840



Wilt has earned six championship rings and record business growth for professional soccer teams in four different American soccer leagues. He has launched five professional soccer teams and managed two others during his career. Most recently Wilt led Indy Eleven as they became the first professional soccer team in the United States to sell out every home game in its inaugural season. Indy Eleven became entrenched in the local sports landscape and led the NASL with more than 10,000 fans per game across its first two seasons.

Wilt is most well known as the founding General Manager and long time President of Major League Soccer's Chicago Fire, where his teams set attendance and corporate sponsorship records while earning an MLS Cup; a Supporters Shield; Eastern, Central and Western Conference crowns and four U.S. Open Cup Championships under his leadership. He has worked for more than 35 years in professional sports, a career that includes four years in professional hockey and the last 28 years in professional soccer.

Wilt is a member of the Illinois Soccer Hall of Fame, the Marian Central Athletic Hall of Fame, the Farnese Hall of Fame and the Chicago Fire's Ring of Fire. In 1998, Wilt was named MLS's Executive of the Year and Northwest Herald Sportsman of the Year. He was named the Naperville Person of the Year by the Daily Herald in 2002. Wilt and his wife Ann are graduates of Marquette University.

About CLUB 9 SPORTS

CLUB 9 SPORTS advises, operates, and consults in the sports industry. Specifically, the firm focuses on sports teams, media, venues and transaction facilitation on a global basis. The professionals at CLUB 9 SPORTS have deep experience in sports management, sports advising, sports operations, turnaround management, investment banking and private equity. Team members and senior advisors include: a former Citi Private Bank Sports Group executive, a former MLS manager, a former director of an international sports federation and a former finance director of several Fortune 500 companies.

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