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D.C. United Introduces New Argentinean Star at the National Press Club
Midfielder Marcelo Gallardo to be 'Designated Player'

National Press Club - Tuesday, January 29, 2008, D.C. United introduced Argentinean midfielder, Marcelo "Muñeco" Gallardo and announced his signing as the club's first Designated Player.

"Throughout his career, Gallardo has been a dynamic attacking midfielder known for remarkable technique, impressive speed and quickness and an uncanny knack for providing service to his teammates," stated D.C. United President and CEO, Kevin Payne. "He has led teams to major championships in Argentina and France, and has been a star at every level for the national Team of Argentina, including playing in the 1998 and 2002 FIFA World Cups. We are thrilled to have a player of his caliber joining D.C. United."

Gallardo, who launched his career in 1992 with River Plate in Argentina, moved to France in 1999 to play with Monaco where he was named French League Footballer of the Year and was instrumental in his team's capture of the Trophée des Champions (Champions Trophy) and the French League Cup. After five victorious years in France, Gallardo returned to River Plate, helping the team to win the Clausura title in 2004. Prior to signing with D.C. United, Gallardo played with Paris-Saint Germain, a Paris-based club.

Gallardo is looking forward to playing with D.C. United as he stated his desire to be "a part of D.C. United's shared passion." This week, Gallardo will join the team for pre-season training in Bradenton, FL and will be available for official selection upon receipt of his P-1 work visa.

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