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## **Press Release: Foothills FC Player is drafted to Sweden**

**For immediate release – March, 13 2017**

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**Calgary, AB** -Foothills FC Defender, Tyrin Hutchings was selected by FC Gute, a Swedish Division 2 professional team. The club was formed in 1904 as Visby IF Gute, and in November 2007 changed name to the present name FC Gute.

Calgary Foothills FC had its inaugural season in the Premier Development League (PDL) for the 2015 season and continues its mandate to bring further opportunities to Calgary's soccer community. Last year, Calgary Foothills won the Northwest Division with an 8-3-3 record, and in the playoffs, Foothills defeated Seattle Sounders U-23, FC Golden State Force, and FC Tuscon to win the Western Conference. Calgary Foothills would later defeat Ocean City Nor'easters in the PDL semifinals to advance to the 2016 PDL Final against Michigan Bucks. Calgary lost a heartbreaking 3-2 result on a controversial penalty decision in the 86th minutes.

Tyrin will be joining a strong club in Sweden, FC Gute. FC Gute is known for its affiliation with Gotlands Fotbollförbund, a district organization of the Swedish Football Association for minor soccer. Currently, FC Gute sits at the top of the league of 14 teams, leaving it in prime position to be promoted to Division 1 next season as per league rules.

Tommy Wheeldon Jr, Head Coach of the Calgary Foothills FC team commented that "Hutch is a great example of hard work and perseverance. He is relentless in his pursuit of furthering his game through his drive and it shows in his training. He makes all opposing strikers lives a nightmare through his strong, physical and brave defending. We thank him for all he's brought to our club both at youth and PDL team level and sincerely wish him much success in his professional journey."

Hutchings spoke about playing for Calgary Foothills FC, stating that "I am delighted to have recently signed with FC Gute in Sweden. Sweden is a beautiful country and I am excited for the opportunity to continue to grow as a footballer, and person. I have Foothills soccer club to thank for many of my opportunities. I grew up in the academy and most recently with the PDL team. I have grown to be the player I am and the person I am through the Foothills way."

Hutchings, a 1992 born centre back is a strong presence on the back line, and has been since he joined Foothills from Calgary Blizzards in U15. With the Foothills 92's, Hutchings won the U18 Canadian National Championship in 2009. After that, he signed to the Whitecaps Residency program in 2010, and later went on to join the Thunder Bay Chill (PDL) in 2011. After a successful season, he came back to Alberta and played for the University of Alberta Golden Bears for one season before transferring to Mount Royal University and playing for the Mount Royal Cougars. Hutchings played four seasons with MRU during the school year, and joined the Foothills FC U23 for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

### **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). Foothills FC is supported by Calgary Foothills Soccer Club which 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. The teams thank the following sponsors for their support, we couldn't do it without you: Telus, Rogers Insurance, PetroTanz, and Strikers

## ABOUT PDL

The proven developmental leader in North American soccer's evolving tiered structure, the PDL features 65 teams within four conferences throughout the United States and Canada in 2015, including 10 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. The PDL season consists of 14 regular season matches for each team, seven home and seven away, and provides elite collegiate players the opportunity to taste a higher level of competition while maintaining their eligibility. In addition to league play, PDL teams compete in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup as well as various exhibitions.

The PDL allows soccer players to compete in a professional setting while still maintaining their NCAA and MLS SuperDraft eligibility. As a result the PDL can showcase the best of college, foreign and fledgling superstars in one league to allow pro-scouts to accurately determine who is ready for the next level. 41% of ESL and 35% of MLS players in 2015 were PDL alumni, the #Path2Pro.

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