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Kathy Carter Joins Prospective Pool of Next U.S. Soccer President

As yet another candidate for the position of President of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) has appeared in the form of former NCAA goalkeeper, Kathy Carter, questions arise concerning Carter's vision for the future of U.S. Soccer.

Elections & Candidates:

Carter, who announced her presidential intentions Dec. 5, is the sole female candidate so far regarding the candidate pool for the upcoming USSF presidential elections that are set to take place at the U.S. Soccer 2018 general meeting in Orlando, FL on Feb. 10.

In the months leading up to the deadline of Dec. 12 for any prospective candidate to receive the necessary nominations to run, seven other male candidates have announced their intentions to run for the position, including Paul Caligiuri, Carlos Cordeiro, Steve Gans, Paul Lapointe, Kyle Martino, Michael Winograd and Eric Wynalda, according to MLS.com.

The sheer number of candidates this term for the presidential position is surprising, considering the smaller fields of previous USSF presidential elections, but the larger number of candidates is likely a consequence of the general want for change among U.S. soccer fans, players, and officials after the 12-year term of current USSF president, Sunil Gulati.

Gulati unexpectedly announced Monday, Dec. 4, that he would not be running for re-election for a fourth term, Gulati has been under an immense amount of pressure regarding the U.S. Men's National Team's loss in World Cup 2018 Qualifications and the U.S Women's

National Team's fight for equal pay this year. In light of this news, many reporters are interested in who Gulati will choose to support, as some have speculated that he has already chosen to back Carter, due to the similarity of their more business-minded intentions and the short timeframe of both announcements.

Carter as a Candidate:

Kathy Carter is currently the President of Soccer United Marketing, the marketing arm of Major League Soccer (MLS) and a partner of the USSF. In her open letter addressing her vision for the future of U.S. soccer, Carter repeatedly states that she hopes to make soccer the leading sport in America, but does not specifically address how she hopes to handle the more technical role of the presidential position, such as hiring coaches which is an important issue moving forward for U.S. Soccer, as well as the advancement of women's soccer in the U.S.

Many critics of the USSF, such as Sports Illustrated writer Grant Wahl, have also said there has been too much of a focus on the business side of U.S. soccer, and not enough attention to the technical role of the USSF President. This has led Wahl and others to question whether, if Carter were to win the Presidential election, it would be enough of a change necessary to kick start U.S. soccer.

Carter's candidacy allows U.S. soccer fans and players to speculate on the potential positive and negative consequences of the first female USSF President, but also raises concerns about the uncertain future of soccer and soccer culture in America.