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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# CEDAR RAPIDS NATIVE BECOMES FIRST IOWA WOMAN TO PLAY IN FULL INTERNATIONAL SOCCER COMPETITION

Kousheh debuts for Jordan's National Team in Asian Cup  
Qualification Tournament

**April 5, 2017** – Cedar Rapids native Hannah Kousheh made her first appearance for the Jordanian Women's National Team today in their game against the United Arab Emirates. Substituting on as a forward in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute, Kousheh became the first Iowan to ever play an international soccer game for a senior women's national team (the highest level of international competition).

Kousheh had an assist in her debut to help Jordan defeat the UAE 6-0. Jordan is competing in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup Qualification Tournament in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The tournament is the first stage of competition used to determine which Asian countries will qualify for the 2019 Women's World Cup in France. Jordan's next game is Friday against Iraq.

Kousheh grew up in Cedar Rapids and started playing soccer at local soccer club PSC Iowa when she was six years old. She played her entire youth career at PSC Iowa and attended Prairie High School where she was a four-year varsity player. Kousheh also participated in the Iowa Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program (ODP). Currently, Kousheh attends the University of Iowa and coaches U12-U15 girls at PSC Iowa.

PSC Iowa Technical Director Steve Robertson, who coached Kousheh for 4 years, said, "I can't express how happy I am for Hannah. I am so proud to see a former player, and now fellow coach, play on this stage." Robertson added, "Not only being the first Iowan, but also the first player to have grown up and developed solely in Iowa, to play at this level is truly groundbreaking."

Hannah's father, Abe, is a Jordanian native who immigrated to the United States in 1984. The Jordanian national team coaching staff became interested in Kousheh when they saw

her playing as a Freshman for the University of Iowa's women's team. Since then, Kousheh has traveled to Jordan multiple times to partake in national team training camps. Most recently, she went back to Jordan this March and was selected to their 23-player roster for the Asian Cup Qualification Tournament.

Jordan's remaining games are: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, vs. Iraq; Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, vs. Tajikistan; and Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, vs. Philippines. All games are being live streamed at <https://mycujoo.tv/ch/273>.

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