

Eye On Soccer is the
Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

Eye On **STRIKERS**

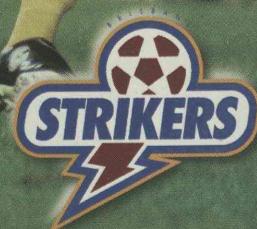
v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS *Round 8*

Vol 7-4, Saturday November 22, 1997 \$2.00

Socceroos
in danger
zone
page 15



WIN! dinner at
La Dolce Vita restaurant
page 25



The beer for here.

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COVER: It was push and
shove between Carlton's
David Cervinski and Frank
Farina.

MAJOR SPONSOR



Coach's Comment

We welcome you to Suncorp tonight with a scenario that is foreign to us. We're well and truly the "cellar dwellers" of the Ericsson Cup competition, and we are the underdogs tonight.

The Melbourne Knights always pose a threat. They have such a good history and pedigree in the national league, that it's dangerous to underestimate them..

In my view, the players to watch include captain, Andrew Marth, someone I believe is good enough to be in Terry Venables' World Cup squad; my former Socceroo team mate, Alan Davidson and the runner-up to our own Kasey Wehrman as Under 21 player of the year last season, Tom Pondeljak.

Of course, from our viewpoint, getting points tonight is vital. Many people are speculating on the difference between the Strikers of last season and this season. I think there are two simple factors.

One; we've had more than our fair share of injuries. Losing key players such as Kasey Wehrman, Chris Zoricich and Nick Meredith all at once for the season so far and Glenn Gwynne for a few games, is not what I had in mind. However, it's given other players an opportunity to gain playing experience.

The other factor is that we're not putting as many shots into the back of the net. If we had converted even 25% of our shots, we'd have won all but one of our games. The finger pointing in this regard is at the strikers and that's fair enough. Experienced players like myself and Rod Brown are not content to see our goal:match ratio decline and I can assure you that all of the out-and-out strikers are putting in the hard yards at training.

However, in modern football, it's not just the strikers who score; and goals scored from midfielders or defenders are a welcome part of our game plan.

We're confident we can reverse the results of the past few weeks tonight. To help us turn the corner, we need you to keep the faith and we need to hear a loud Suncorp roar from all of you.

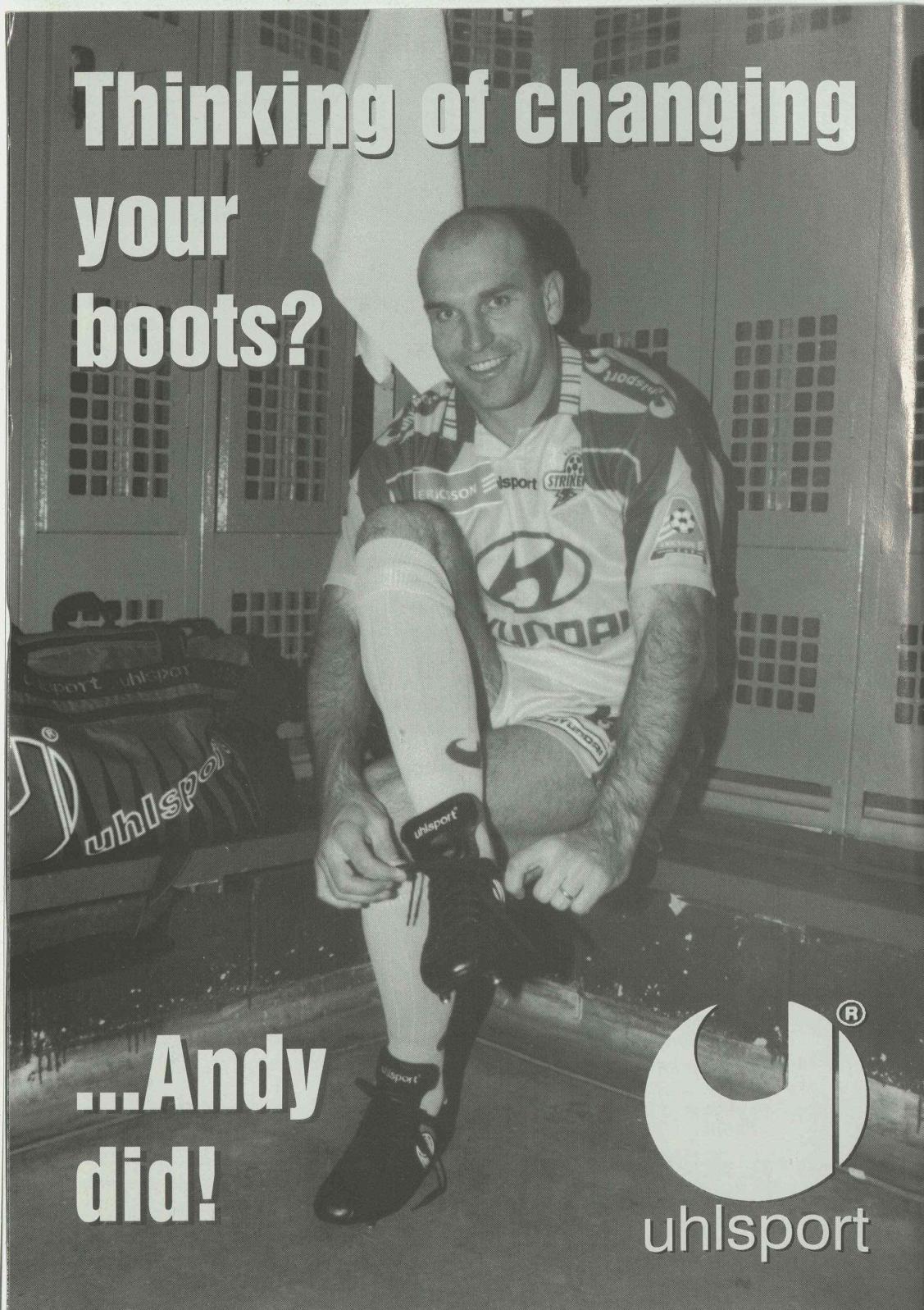
By the way, thanks to all of you who send in e-mails and faxes with your good wishes. We do read them, and appreciate them.

GO THE STRIKERS!

E-mail: farina@brisbanestrikers.com

Thinking of changing your boots?

**...Andy
did!**



uhlsport

Strikers need three points

The Brisbane Strikers will be desperate to get their season back on track with a win in tonight's match against the Melbourne Knights.

Brisbane were outpointed in last week's clash of the cellar-dwellers, with the Canberra Cosmos moving ahead of the Strikers on the league ladder, after securing a 2-1 win.

But Strikers player/coach Frank Farina said he believed the side was a little unlucky not to get any points from the game.

"We dominated play in the first half, kept possession of the ball and had a number of opportunities to score," he said.

"I was very pleased with the team's performance in the first half but we were just unable to capitalise on possession by putting the ball in the back of the net."

"We went one goal down early in the second half but the players fought back remarkably well and we deservedly got the equaliser."

"But unfortunately for us, they scored the winner with one minute to go."

"I don't want to sound like a broken record, but that's the way things go when you're out of luck."

The loss means the Strikers have now recorded just one win from seven games and are languishing on three points at the bottom of the table.

Farina admits that it is far from an ideal situation but was optimistic about the side's chances of making the finals.

"I think a top six finish is still very realistic for us," Farina said.

"We're currently seven points off sixth spot, but there is still a lot of football to be played and more than enough opportunities to secure the thirty-nine points that I think we will need to make the finals."

"At the start of the season I, along with

the club, were very happy with the squad that we had assembled and felt that we would be competitive this season.

"And then just before the season opener we lost five key players."

"Since then, we have not been able to sustain a regular starting eleven as we have been forced to continually chop and change the side."

"It would be very disappointing if we were playing really poorly which I don't think we are."

"We're playing quite well in patches in games and well enough to win games, but the little things aren't going our way."

The Strikers will need the little things to go right tonight with still a number of key players sidelined with injuries including Kasey Wehrman, Chris Zorich, Nick Meredith and Clint Bolton.

Farina said despite the Strikers run of outs, he was confident of snatching the three points from the Knights.

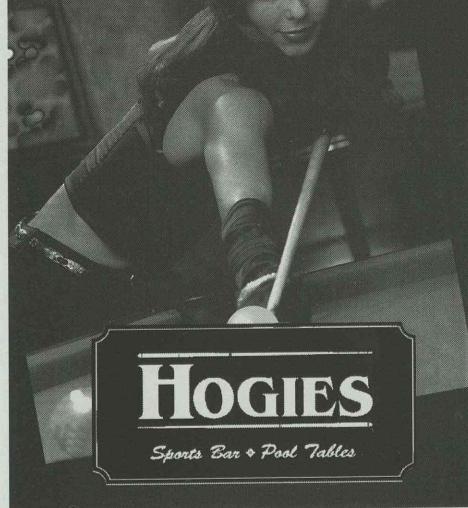
"We'll be putting the best eleven available on the park and if we believe in ourselves and take our opportunities, I think we can turn things around."

SBS NEWS FLASH

Tonight's Socceroo clash
with Iran can be seen
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Charismatic, extroverted and endearing Brisbane Strikers' forward Wayne Knipe oozes excitement.

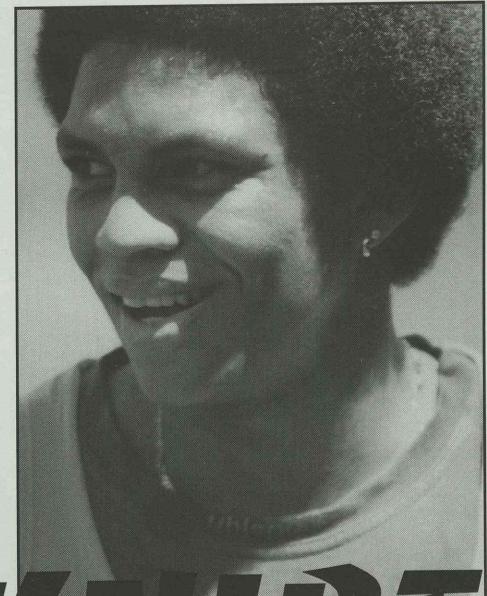
Last Ericsson Cup season, the 20-year-old forward died his hair an assortment of exciting colours, scored exciting goals and produced exciting goal scoring celebrations that regularly whipped the crowd into a frenzy.

He even talks with a tangible excitement in his voice. That's why it is easy to understand how devastated the youngster was to miss the Brisbane Strikers Ericsson Cup win in May.

Knipe, more than any player, craves the big match exposure produced by grand finals. He loves the spotlight and feeds on the passion and intensity of the crowd.

"It was one of the biggest games of my life and to miss it was pretty devastating," Knipe said.

"Even so, to be part of it was still special."



Wayne KNIPE

by Brent Read

It is also easy to understand why Knipe has been something of a caged lion this season. A pre-season knee injury and a subsequent arthroscopy to that knee, has limited his preparation and he only recently returned to the park.

"To miss out on the start of the season was very frustrating," Knipe said.

"Hopefully I can get back into it and things can start going my way and the team's way."

Not only did Knipe miss the Strikers grand final success over Sydney United, but his dream of Australian selection was shattered when he missed the Young Socceroos squad for the Youth World Cup in Malaysia.

But as always, the optimistic youngster hasn't given up hope of gaining selection in Australian squad for the Sydney Olympics.

"If I can do the right thing and score a few goals hopefully the selectors will notice me," Knipe said.

"That (Sydney 2000) would be unbelievable."

Sydney 2000 is major motivational tool for the excitable goalscorer.

"That's my biggest incentive," Knipe said.

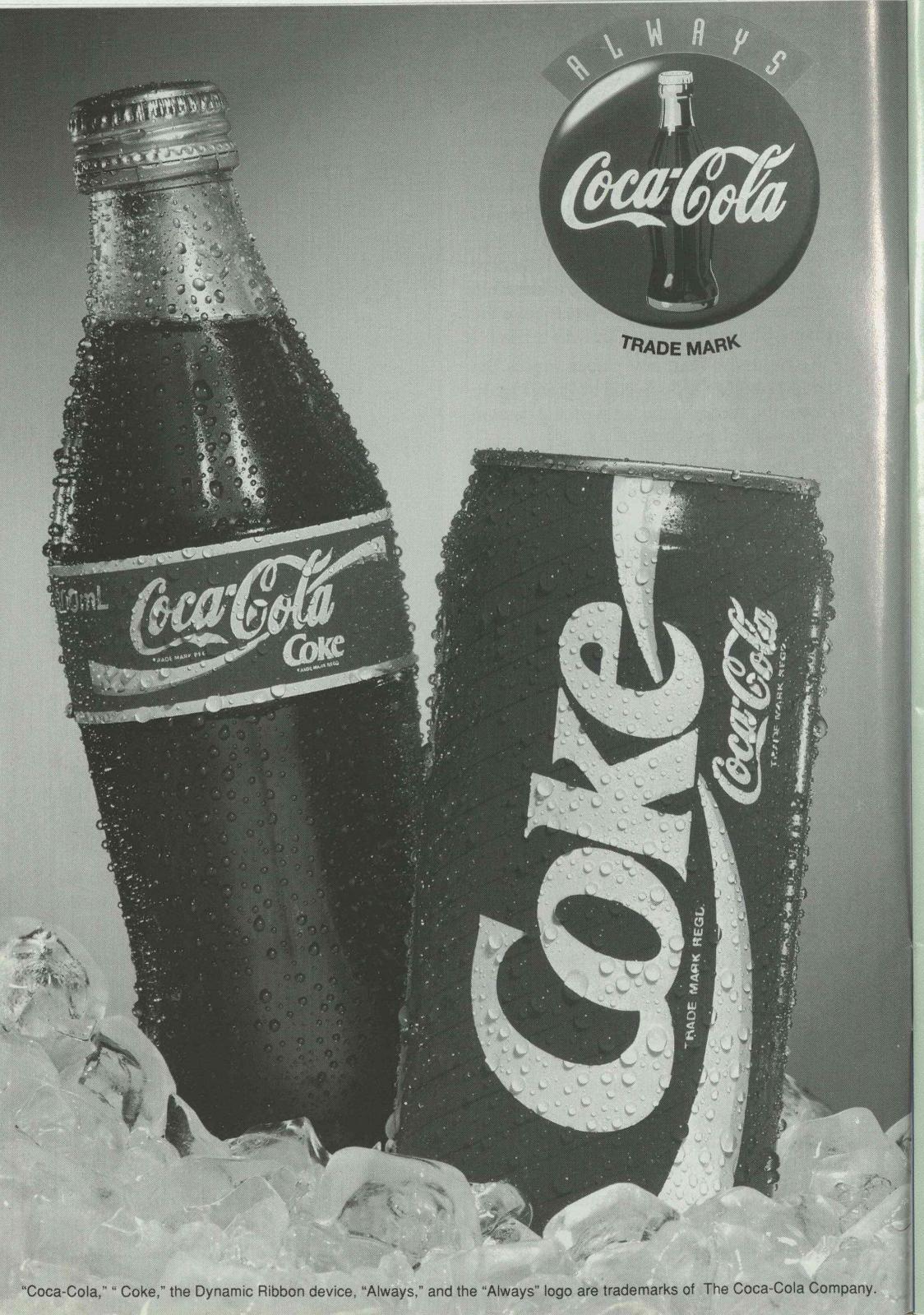
And although he draws attention with his extroverted nature, Knipe still prefers to do his talking on the field.

"Hopefully my feet can do the talking," Knipe said. "There's a lot of experience with the guys up front and they're always talking to me."

"If I go out there and play my natural game hopefully things will work out for themselves."

And just maybe things are starting to go his way. Knipe made the most of his chances last weekend against Canberra Cosmos.

He found himself in the starting line-up and scored the Strikers only goal of the match. It was the team's third goal of the season.



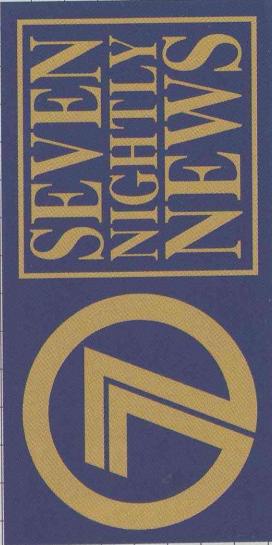
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BRISBANE STRIKERS 1997/98 FIXTURES		F-A	
Date	Opponents		
Sat 4/10	South Melbourne	H	0-3
Fri 10/10	Wollongong City	A	1-0
Sat 18/10	Perth Glory	H	0-1
Fri 24/10	Sydney United	A	1-2
Sat 1/11	Carlton	H	0-1
Sun 9/11	Adelaide City	A	0-1
Sat 15/11	Canberra Cosmos	A	1-2
Sat 22/11	Melbourne Knights	H	
Fri 28/11	Newcastle Breakers	A	
Sat 6/12	UTS Olympic	H	
Sat 13/12	Marconi Fairfield	A	
Sat 20/12	West Adelaide	H	
Sun 28/12	Gippsland Falcons	A	
Sat 3/1	Gippsland Falcons	H	
Fri 9/1	South Melbourne	A	
Sat 17/1	Wollongong City	H	
Sun 25/1	Perth Glory	A	
Sat 31/1	Sydney United	H	
Sat 21/2	Carlton	A	
Sat 28/2	Adelaide City	H	
Sat 7/3	Newcastle Breakers	H	
Sun 15/3	Melbourne Knights	A	
Sat 21/3	Canberra Cosmos	H	
Sun 29/3	UTS Olympic	A	
Sat 4/4	Marconi Fairfield	H	
Sun 12/4	West Adelaide	A	

Legend: ▲ = Played - S = Substitute - ○ = Non playing substitute - ♦ = Own goal in scoreline - ■ = Red card

Yellow card - ■ = Red card

Watch Frankly Farina each Thursday evening on Seven Nightly News



1997/98 SEVEN NIGHTLY NEWS LEAGUE APPEARANCES		
Sat 4/10	101	131
Fri 10/10	19	51
Sat 18/10	135	169
Fri 24/10	192	98
Sat 1/11	332	22
Sun 9/11	18	21
Sat 15/11	182	69
Sun 25/1	18	21
Sat 31/1	69	44
Sat 7/3	24	24
Sun 15/3	59	20
Sat 21/3	20	2
Sun 29/3	240	240
Sat 4/4	0	88
Sun 12/4	1	88
League Appearances	0	1
League Goals	1	0

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Carlton SC - A brief history

by Andrew Howe

In 1995-96 the Melbourne Knights took out the A-league title as well as the cup final. These two trophies, both won for the first time in 1994-95, were a long time coming for a club which has existed in one form or another for over 40.

Essendon Croatia, who changed their name to Melbourne Croatia in 1984, and then the Knights in 1993, were formed in 1975. Until then a series of merges and takeovers transformed the club into what we know it today.

The Knights were final series' contenders in 1989 and 1989-90, but their first grand final appearance came at the climax of the 1990-91 season. In probably the most enthralling A-league final ever played, the Knights outplayed South Melbourne only to lose in a penalty shoot-out, after the game had ended 1-1. The same scenario occurred in 1992, the Knights losing on penalties to Adelaide City. Yet another grand final appearance in 1994 saw another loss, again to Adelaide City (0-1).

The Knights were the first team to defeat Brisbane United in the national league. The 3-1 loss came in round 4, 1991-92. It is interesting to note the scorers for the Knights that day: Francis Awaritefe, the league's top-scorer in 92-93, Damian Mori, 95-96 top scorer, and Ivan Kelic, who finished second highest scorer in 90-91 and 93-94.

The 1994-95 minor premiership was the

fourth time since in five years that the Knights had finished first on the ladder. But after being humbled by second-placed Adelaide City 3-1 in the major semi final, the long-suffering Melbourne faithful had just about run out of patience. However, a Mark Viduka hat-trick led the Knights to a preliminary final victory over arch-rivals South Melbourne 3-2 in a truly epic match battled out in an Olympic Park mud-bath. The Knights then had to travel to Adelaide for the grand final. And in the most one sided of A-league grand finals ever played, Melbourne killed off the apparently ever-reliable style of Adelaide City to record a long-awaited 2-0 grand final victory.

No team had ever dominated a season like the Knights did in 1994-95. The team were champions, minor premiers and cup-winners - the first time ever that one club has ever taken out the 'treble'. Teenager Mark Viduka was the player of the year, under 21 player of the year and the league's top scorer. Mirko Bazic was voted coach of the year.

Despite the loss of Viduka and fellow Socceroo Steve Horvat, the club won the league again in 1995-96. Even more quality players disappeared in the 1996 off-season, including Olyroos Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri. However, the Knights made the semis. Despite the senior team not getting further than the first elimination semi finals, the Knights youth team took out the 1996-97 national youth league championship.

Melbourne Knights' statistical record against Brisbane

Season	Final Pos'n.	Melb Av. Crowd	Results in Brisbane	Results in Melbourne
1991-92	1st / 14	3900	2-1 Knights	3-1 Knights
1992-93	10th / 14	2800	3-0 Strikers	3-1 Knights
1993-94	1st / 14	3100	3-0 Knights	2-0 Strikers
1994-95	1st* / 13	4800	1-0 Knights	1-0 Knights
1995-96	2nd* / 12	4400	0-0	2-0, 2-0 both Knights
1996-97	6th / 14	4900	2-1 Strikers	1-0 Knights

^ A-league split into 2 conferences * grand final winners (champions)



We're behind Australian soccer, all the way.

ERICSSON

Less than 12 months ago, Chris Zoricich was training on the lush fields of England with Italian legends Gianluca Vialli and Gianfranco Zola.

The versatile midfielder/defender was trialing at Chelsea, coached by Dutch legend Ruud Gullitt. Despite playing a number of games with Chelsea's reserve side, Zoricich wasn't offered a contract for the following Premier League season and decided to pack his bags and rejoin the Strikers, where he had spent two years under former coach Bruce Stowell.

Zoricich, 28, had kept in regular contact with Strikers coach Frank Farina while trialing in England and when the offer arose to return to Brisbane, Zoricich jumped at the chance.

"It was really good," Zoricich said of his time in the English premier league.

"Obviously it is a different world playing with those type of players. We were mixed together and I was training with the likes of Zola.

Chris ZORICICH

by Brent Read

"I just wasn't offered a contract. Time was ticking away and I had to sort something out."

Having spent three-and-a-half seasons with Leyton Orient in the English second division, Zoricich craved the professionalism of English soccer.

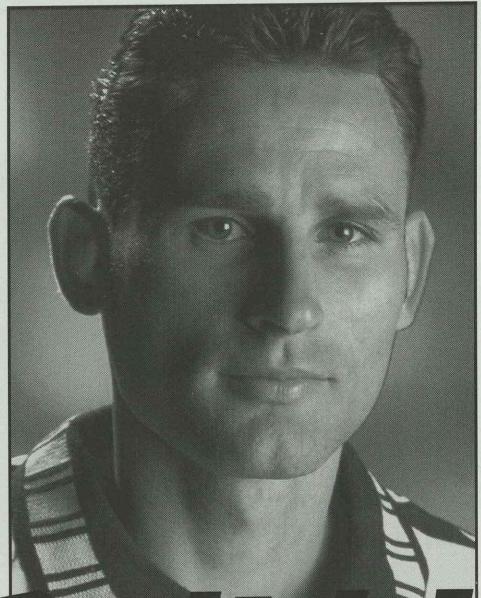
It was during his time at Orient that Zoricich met his wife, Joanna.

"It is a different game," Zoricich said of the English second division.

"It is a lot more physical over there and the pace of the game is a lot quicker. Skill-wise I'd say it is on a par with over here."

"There's a lot more passion in the game. That's the main difference, the passion of the game and the intensity."

A New Zealand international, Zoricich has played 35 full internationals for the kiwis. Despite suffering an injury-plagued start to the season, the 28-year-old is hopeful of returning



to the park in the next few weeks and eventually adding to his international reputation.

"It has definitely taken a step backwards," Zoricich said of soccer in his native New Zealand.

"There's a lack of money and a lack of players. But I'd like to get back into the international team."

A pre-season knee injury has restricted Zoricich's start to the season and he has only just returned to full training with the team.

With the Strikers struggling to stay in contention for a finals spot and a chance at defending their crown, "Zorro" is aching to return to the paddock.

"I'm itching to get back," Zoricich said.

"I think the main thing is the team has been unsettled. Frank hasn't had the same team on the park two weeks in a row."

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Socceroos in danger zone

The Socceroos are just one week away from making Australian sporting history.

This time next week, a sellout crowd of 95,000 is expected to pack the Melbourne Cricket Ground, to hopefully witness the team progress to only their second World Cup Finals.

Their opponent next Saturday night, is a little-known Iran outfit, which went down to Japan 3-2 in Malaysia a week ago.

But before the Socceroos meet the Iranians in front of that parochial MCG crowd, they must first take the middle eastern nation on in front of what's expected to be an even more parochial and some would say fanatical Teheran crowd.

And that's a scenario which is sure to test the mettle of the 26 strong Australian side, especially the 11 players that take the field.

On paper and on current form, the Socceroos would have to go into the home and away series with Iran as slight favourites.

Under Terry Venables (pictured), the Socceroos are yet to lose a match.

Twelve games for 12 wins, including a 3-0 victory against the highly ranked Tunisia, in Tunisia.

Incredibly, Venables' team has scored 42 goals in those 12 matches for an average of three and a half goals per game.

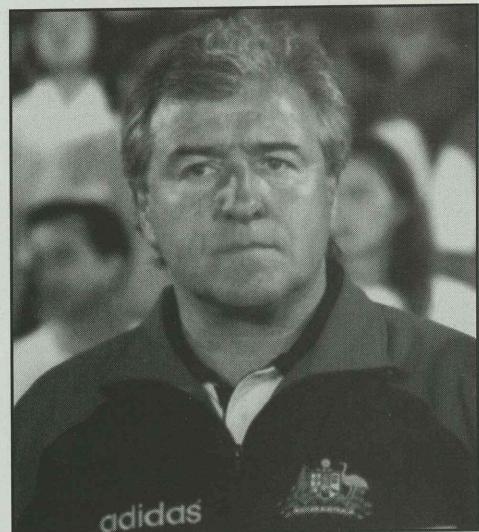
That total is just thirteen goals shy of the total number of goals scored under Eddie Thomson's 53 match regime.

An indication the Venables style of coaching is more attacking than that of Thomson.

However, that aside, there are plenty of things going against the Socceroos prior to tonight's first match in Teheran.

The most obvious is the crisis in the Gulf, which has forced Soccer Australia officials to maintain daily contact with the Department of Foreign Affairs, to monitor the latest developments in the danger zone.

Just getting the Australian squad to their



base camp in Dubai has also caused some headaches.

The quick turnaround in games provides little recovery time for the Socceroos.

But still the team and Soccer Australia officials remain confident of a good result later tonight, which will put Australia in the box seat come next weekend.

If the Socceroos do come away with a favourable result in the first leg, that sellout MCG crowd is almost assured.

People no doubt wanting to be a part of history as the Socceroos become the first Australian team since 1974 to make it to a World Cup Finals.

When the Strikers won last season's grand final in front of 40,000 plus fans at Suncorp Stadium, Terry Venables was there.

After that victory he made the following observation:

"The Socceroos have all of the ingredients the Strikers displayed in that grand final. Guts, determination, skill and character."

These are the very qualities the side will have to display tonight and next week if they are to become the last side to qualify for next year's World Cup in France.

FREEZE FRAME

Matt Bell played all the angles



Andy Harper led by example



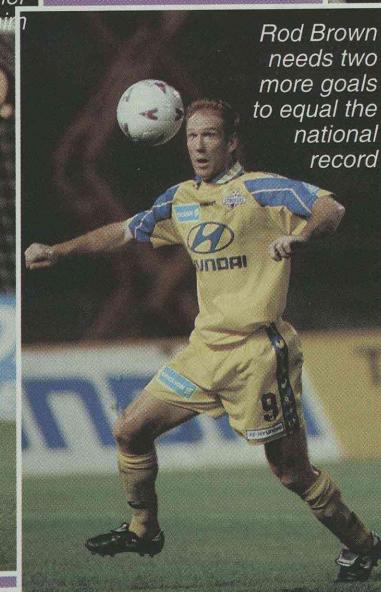
Troy Cranney gave his usual 110%



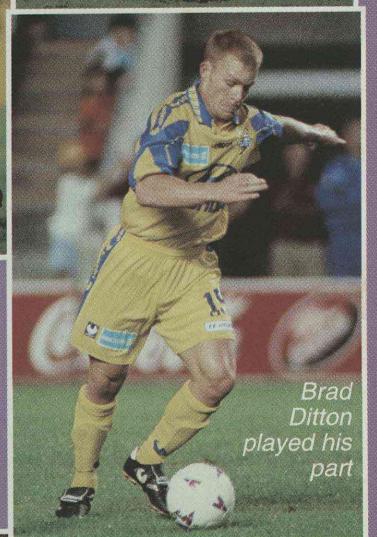
Steve Laybutt didn't let a few of stitches in the forehead bother him



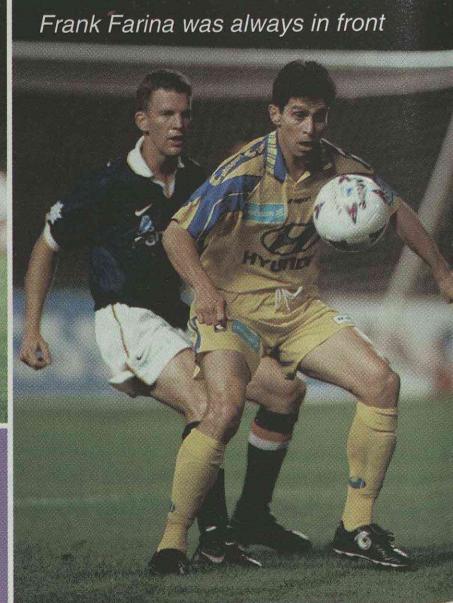
Rod Brown needs two more goals to equal the national record



Chay Hews ran all night long



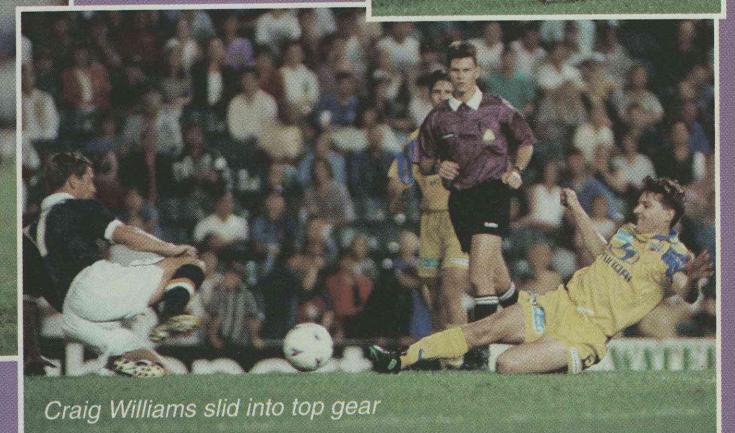
Brad Dittin played his part



Frank Farina was always in front



Glenn Gwynne returned to the park



Craig Williams slid into top gear



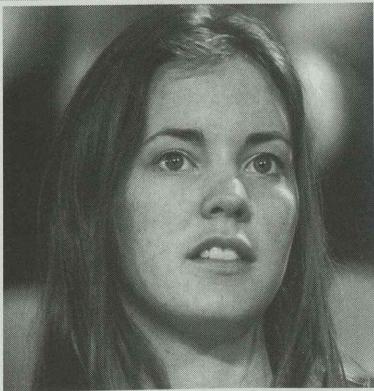
Junior Social Club



Christmas Sausage Sizzle

Join Thor and all the players at a Christmas Sizzle on Tuesday 16 December from 4.00pm to 5.30pm at Perry Park. The cost is only \$3 - but you have to be a Social Club member to be able to come along. You're most welcome to stay and watch the players train afterwards.

IS THIS YOU?



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STRIKERS HOLIDAY COACHING CLINICS

Book now for the Strikers' holiday coaching clinic in January, to be held at Perry Park. There are two dates: January 12 - 14, 8.30am - 12 noon and January 19 - 21, 8.30am - 12 noon.

The cost is \$135, including coaching from Strikers' players, a t-shirt, ball, poster, drink, sun protection cream, family pass to the 17 or 31 January game and a discount voucher on Frank Farina Uhlsport soccer boots. For reservations, contact 3236 1888.

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JUMBLED NAMES

The following Knights players have been struck by a lighting bolt from Thor. Do you know who they are?

wrenad tarmh
navi lecik
etna vicecvoka
naet kead
drofsran ininab
lana vinadsod

WIN! WIN! WIN!

Tell us Thor's favourite player (besides the Strikers), for a chance to win a Strikers Rule T-shirt.

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

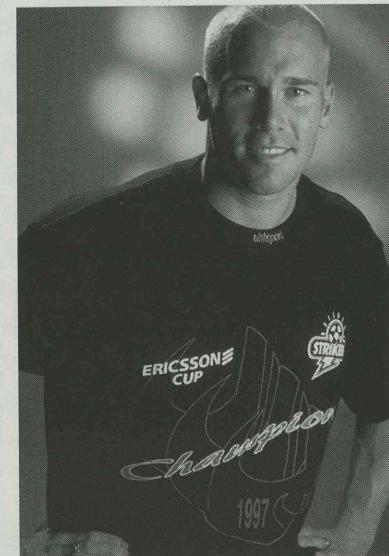
Postcode: _____

Thor's favourite player is _____

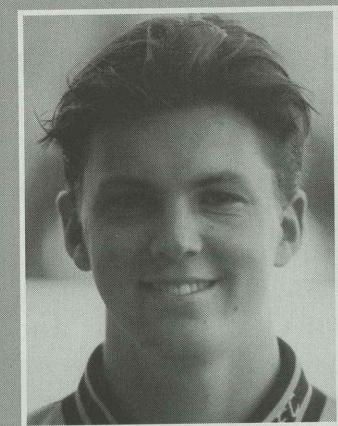
(Hint: The answer is in the Souvenir guide)

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Milton, 4064, by 26 November.



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CHRIS DAY

Q.A.S.

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Where: Papua New Guinea
Previous Club: Taringa Rovers
Position: Fullback
Nickname: "Daisy"
Hobbies: Stalling the car reversing
If you had only \$20 how would you spend it? Fill Tammy up with petrol
Who would you most like to meet? Inventor of Slurpies
Favourite Clothing: Lucky red cap
Bad Habits: Knee reconstructions
On rainy days? Slide tackles
School: Brisbane Grammar
Most Memorable Game: Snakes & Ladders
Career Ambitions: To play professionally and score a left footer from a free kick
Favourite Car: Black Porsche
Favourite Babe: Alicia Silverstone
Favourite Band: Eagles
Sporting Heros: Michael Jordan

13 13 00

(flies you anywhere in Australia)



Curtain Raiser with Gary Phillips

It goes without saying that any successful organisation has a sound structure and exceptional employees.

I'm fortunate to have the likes of Phil Moreland and Nathan Wade monitoring our strength and conditioning program, Jason Palmer our physiotherapist rehabilitating players, our training (Corporal) Stephen Heath does all our strapping at training and home games, Rob Mann is our resident chaplain, and Bruce Leggatt has done a great job as manager, Martin Coe is also a vital part of the program as Goalkeeper Coach.

Throughout the year QAS players will have the opportunity to work with coaches at the top of the Queensland Soccer Federation's list, our State and Regional Directors of Coaching.

Robert Kaiser who this week leaves for Germany for three weeks with a Queensland Select U/16's squad has been my assistant over the last eight weeks. I would like to thank Brisbane North Junior Soccer Association for allowing Rob the time to assist with the program.

Tony Buesnel, Brisbane South Director of Coaching and Soccer Australia Staff Coach has joined the Academy. I know his knowledge and enthusiasm will greatly enhance the program.

And while we are on the subject of appointments Townsville has recently appointed Bruce Stowell as Director of Coaching. All going well we will have a North Queensland Academy based in Townsville and I look forward to again working with Bruce.

A special congratulations to two QAS players who have been offered Australia Institute of Sport Scholarships after their recent outstanding performances, Goalkeeper Michael Turnbull originally from Rochedale Rovers and Midfielder Gianni Culpo ex Brisbane City. Both will be missed but a tremendous opportunity lies ahead. We wish them well.

QAS SQUAD NEWS

A very disappointing result last weekend losing 3-2 to the ACT Academy, which now see us slip from 1st to 3rd on the National Youth League ladder.

We now have conceded 6 goals in 2 games, which is not very pleasing.

We certainly need to tighten things up at the back if we are to improve. It certainly puts a lot more pressure on our strikers if we have to score 4 goals a game to win.

Cheap 'turnovers' were very costly last week and guarantee today's emphasis will be to 'simply' value the ball.

A week earlier we travelled to Canberra (yes 2 weeks in a row) to play the AIS in what was a very high quality game in a very entertaining game which finished 3-3.

All 6 goals were of the highest calibre with Daniel Invincible's 25 metre drive the pick, especially after he beat 2 defenders to enable him the opportunity to shoot.

We were down 3-1 midway through the 2nd half when we had 2 players deservedly sent off, but an unbelievable turnaround minutes later after some good work by Royce Brownlee which led to a penalty, and then an indiscretion by their goalkeeper led to an indirect free kick. Andrew Packer casually finished both.

We then hung on for dear life - a very proud performance.

Today's encounter with old enemies Sydney United will again be a tough test.

United arguably have the best youth players in the country.

While we welcome the visitors, we hope they enjoy themselves in the sunshine state - but not too much!

OUR QAS FRONTLINE

- * Wade Baldwin
- * Craig Barnes
- * Stephen Bland
- * Royce Brownlie
- * Allan Cameron
- * Francis Cosson
- * Andrew Davidson
- * Christopher Day
- * Grant Dickens
- * Duncan Easton
- * Christopher Field
- * Daniel Invincible
- * Russell Miner
- * Jade North
- * Andrew Packer
- * Shane Stefanutto
- * Aaron Thiesfield
- * Gianni Culpo



**PROUD SUPPORTERS
OF THE QAS
SOCCER TEAM**

They too will FEEL THE PASSION

STRIKERS SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Keep those entries rolling in!

We're on the look-out for a song for the Brisbane Strikers. We need a tune that is easy to sing so perhaps an existing tune might be best and words that are easy to remember; as well as something which captures the spirit of the Strikers. Entries close with Strikers Marketing, PO Box 1648, Milton, 4064 on 10 December. The winner receives a Sanyo portable compact disc, courtesy of Sanyo!

Strikers' weekend away

Join us for the Newcastle V. Strikers match at Topper Stadium, Newcastle, on Friday 28 November and the SOCCEROOS v IRAN on 29 November in Melbourne. Prices include air fares (Brisbane- Newcastle-Melbourne- Brisbane), accommodation for two nights,

ground transfers and entry tickets to both games, including a Gold Pass to the Socceroo match and a special briefing from Frank Farina.

You can purchase just the Melbourne component, if you do not have the time to go to Newcastle as well. SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS who book a place also have the chance to watch the Socceroos game with Frank in a corporate box at the MCG! For further details, contact the 3236 1888.

Christmas with the Strikers

All Social Club members should, by now, have received their invitation to Christmas drinks with the Strikers on Wednesday 10 December from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Suncorp Stadium. The cost is \$10, and is for Social Club members only. RSVP on 3236 1888.

Introducing . . .

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We have a range of Christmas cards available that can be personalised with your company details.

INFORMATION

For further information please contact our office. Our friendly and helpful staff will be only too happy to help.



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PO BOX 1007 MILTON 4064
FAX: (07) 3369 8095

Rivers CafÈ Bar Penalty Strike

Each week, four contestants will have a chance to win prizes in our Rivers CafÈ Bar Penalty Strike.

The first challenge is to spot the coupon in the Courier-Mail on match days. If you find it, fill out the Strikers' coupon which should appear for each home game, place it in the barrel at each entrance gate and four contestants will be drawn early in the first half to compete. (If the Courier-Mail does not print the coupon, entry forms will be at the gate).

Contestants, with the aid of Thor, will kick at a prize board (pictured) which includes dinner for 2 at Rivers CafÈ Bar,



dinner for 6 at Rivers CafÈ Bar, dinner for 2 at Marco's Restaurant as well as Strikers merchandise.

In addition, each contestant in the half-time competition will receive a Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key with a chance to win a Hyundai Excel Sprint, courtesy of the Hyundai Metro Dealers, at the last home game of the season on 4 April.

**The best mix of music
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and today**

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Latest Hits*
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eyes on the prize

the Socceroos look to France 98



Soccer Australia magazine is a proud supporter
of the 1996/97 Champions - Brisbane Strikers

Issue 30 November 1997 AUD \$6.95 China Yuan 42 HK \$38.95 India Rupee 14,000 Japan Yen 600 Malaysia 514 NZ \$7.95 Singapore 57.00 Sth Korea Won 1,400

HYUNDAI

25

STRIKE SQUAD NEWS

with Thor

Plenty of Atmosphere

It has been really fantastic to hear the crowd getting behind the team over the last couple of home games. Even though the boys have not scored at home, everyone in the Squad, both in the northern outer and in our old position near the players' race, have been in great voice. It is up to us to really bring them home against the Melbourne Knights.

I have also noticed that it has been very colourful throughout the stand with many people starting to join in both the face painting and the wearing of Strikers' shirts. Also there are more and more supporters with funny hats or wigs, so it makes me feel good that what I write about in this column has effect.

Keep up the great effort and we know that the Strikers will soon reward us with plenty of goals, action and wins.

Trip Away

It is unfortunate that not many people committed to the Breakers and Socceroo tour later this month. However, don't stop saving your dollars as some other tremendous weekend jaunts are planned for the near future.

At time of printing, I did not have the final details, but rest assured that I will let you all know as soon as they are to hand.

With the boys away from a bit of a slump, we obviously need some vocal support at the opposition grounds. Remember, any away trip organised by the Strikers marketing office is always an opportunity to be involved with a great bunch of people and I personally guarantee to look after everyone who travels to the best of my ability.

During the last four seasons many supporters have decided to come away with us and I am sure no-one has ever been disappointed.

If you have half an inkling to go to a Strikers away game and join in the atmosphere, then let me know and we will get the necessary details to you when they are finalised.

Thanks to our Flag Bearers

At every home game you may have noticed two young people carrying Australian flags onto the pitch for the national anthem. My thanks must go to Christian Armansin, who is our permanent flag bearer and all the other young boys and girls who are picked at random every week from the Strike Squad members.

To have a chance of carrying our national flag on to the pitch and be involved, we prefer you to have on a Strikers strip, or at least a shirt and be in the Strike Squad area well before kick-off each week.

This is a volunteer job and myself and other Strikers staff have the final decision on who is chosen. See you in the Strike Squad!

WIN! WIN! WIN!
DINNER FOR TWO AT

La Dolce Vita

If you purchased your magazine with Wayne Knipe's signature below, then you have won dinner to the value of \$50 at La Dolce Vita Restaurant, Park Rd. Milton. To claim your prize, take your copy of the magazine to the Hyundai car at the scoreboard end of the field at half-time.



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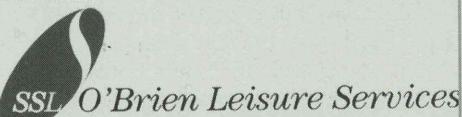
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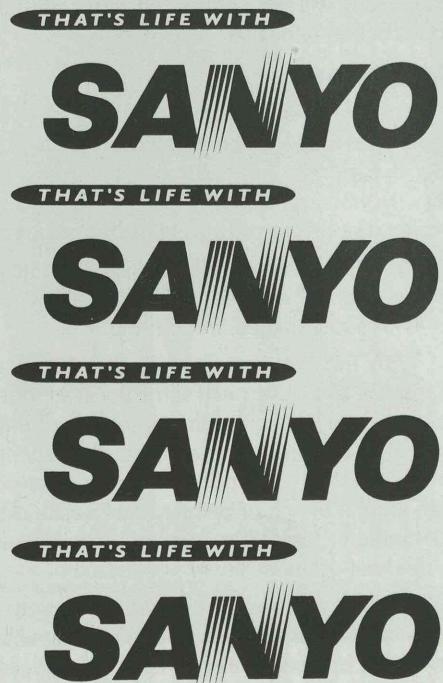
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"MAN OF THE MATCH"

and

**"FOOTBALLER
OF THE YEAR"**

Awards



Christmas gift ideas!

Looking for that special Christmas gift for the Striker-phile in your life? We have gifts to suit everyone at Strikers' Shops, eg.

- T-shirts (new one out on 6 December)
- Polo shirts
- Ties
- Umbrellas (from 6 December)
- Season Souvenir Guide
- Playing shirts
- Strikers' sports shorts and socks
- Strikers' balls (full size and skill balls)
- Strikers' Christmas Stocking (from 6 Dec)

Visit us at Gates 1 and 2, or Level 3 of the Centreline Club on match days or come into our office at Suite 6, 414 Upper Roma Street, any time between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. Or 'phone us with your credit card booking. Or order via our web site at www.brisbanestrikers.com

Christmas Party ideas!

Sick and tired of the usual Christmas parties where you all sit in a row at a long table over a pretty dull 3-course meal, say a few speeches, pull a bon-bon, and then try to convince yourself you had a good time with one too many drinks? **We've got an alternative!** Bring your work, soccer or other group to a Strikers' match for your Christmas 'do'. We've got different options for groups of 10 or more up to 80 people - and in price ranges to suit all budgets.

You might like to enjoy the Corner Kick Suite at either the southern or northern ends where you can eat inside in comfort, but miss nothing of the noise and atmosphere of the game with external seating in your own suite.

You not only get a party with a difference, but you also see our Strikers in action during and after the game. Bookings now open for 6 December (UTS Olympic) and 20 December (Adelaide Sharks) games, or, if you prefer to celebrate Orthodox Christmas, there's also 3 January (Gippsland Falcons). Call 3236 1888.

Strikers - Part of the Community

We believe sporting clubs are an important part of the community and, as the 'showpiece' of any sport, national league teams have a role in helping to bring the community together. Every home game, we've got the:

Coca-Cola Cup

Is a four-a-side competition for Under 13s involving junior clubs, with four clubs taking part each home game. This week's clubs:

- * Margate (red, white and blue)
- * Pine Hills (yellow and black)
- * Brisbane City B (blue and white)
- * Souths United B (green and white)

The points table after Round 3 is:

Group A	Group B
North Star 3	Brighton 3
Souths Utd A 3	Bribie Island 3
Ridge Hill 3	Park Ridge 3
Wynnum 0	Beenleigh 0
Capalaba 0	Centenary 0
Bris City A 0	Bris Lions 0

Strikers Uhlsport Skills Challenge

(half-time in the curtain-raiser game), where five players from one club show us their stuff with football skills each home game. The players must be in the Under 15 age group or below. At the end of the season, the most skilled individual wins some Uhlsport soccer boots and a free place at a Strikers coaching clinic. This week's club is Brisbane Lions.

Strikers Uhlsport Relay Challenge

(prior to the main game), with schools from around Brisbane competing in a time trial in a 4 x 100 metre relay. The winning school, at the end of the season, will receive \$500 worth of Uhlsport sporting equipment, and the runner-up \$250 worth of Uhlsport sporting equipment - courtesy of Uhlsport. The times for girls' teams have been adjusted downwards by 6 seconds, in accordance with the rules agreed with participating schools (denoted by an * below).

This week's schools are Sheldon College, Ferny Grove SHS and Cleveland SHS.

The results so far:

Brisbane Grammar	49.3 seconds
Brisbane SHS	50.6 seconds
Redlands College	51.1 seconds
Shailer Park SHS *	51.3 seconds
St Margaret's *	52.7 seconds
Cleveland SHS	54.9 seconds
Kingston SHS*	61.9 seconds

HYUNDAI BRISBANE STRIKERS 1997/1998 Ericsson Cup Draw

Rnd 9	Fri 28/11/97	Newcastle Breakers V Strikers
Rnd 10	Sat 06/12/97	Strikers V UTS Olympic
Rnd 11	Sat 13/12/97	Marconi Fairfield V Strikers
Rnd 12	Sat 20/12/97	Strikers V West Adelaide
Rnd 13	Sun 28/12/97	Gippsland Falcons V Strikers
Rnd 14	Sat 03/01/98	Strikers V Gippsland Falcons
Rnd 15	Fri 9/01/98	South Melbourne V Strikers
Rnd 16	Sat 17/01/98	Strikers V Wollongong City
Rnd 17	Sun 25/01/98	Perth Glory V Strikers
Rnd 18	Sat 31/01/98	Strikers V Sydney United
Rnd 19	Sat 21/02/98	Carlton SC V Strikers
Rnd 20	Sat 28/02/98	Strikers V Adelaide City
Rnd 21	Sat 07/03/98	Strikers V Newcastle Breakers
Rnd 22	Sun 15/03/98	Melbourne Knights V Strikers
Rnd 23	Sat 21/03/98	Strikers V Canberra Cosmos
Rnd 24	Sun 29/03/98	UTS Olympic V Strikers
Rnd 25	Sat 04/04/98	Strikers V Marconi Fairfield
Rnd 26	Sun 12/04/97	West Adelaide V Strikers

Topper Stadium	7.30pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Marconi Stadium	7.00pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Falcons Park	6.00pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Bob Jane Stadium	8.00pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Perth Oval	5.00pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Optus Oval	5.00pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Knights Stadium	6.00pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Sydney Football Stadium	6.30pm
SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Hindmarsh Stadium	6.30pm

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FITNESS

Drug testing may be carried out during this sporting event.

Drug testing aims to deter athletes from using banned drugs, making competition fairer for all athletes.

To find out which drugs are permitted call:

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Caring for the Future

UP FRONT

with Andy Harper

E-mail:
harper@brisbanestrikers.com



Jewish history records the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and subsequent forty year wanderings in the desert.

Ever wonder what that was like? Leaving a place of familiarity and entering something completely unknown. No familiar reference points and no sign posts offering direction and deliverance from the confusion.

All the while living on the margins and existing on the desert's meagre offerings. The harshness and the daily grind. The parched throat, the empty belly, the heat, the flies, the sand.

The atmosphere saturated with people grumbling and bickering (perhaps understandably) adding psychological torture to the physical stress ... for forty years?!

As an experience, the desert is not in huge demand. As an address, the desert is not terribly sought after. Nevertheless, the metaphorical desert is something which in time we all experience.

The Brisbane Strikers is a football club which is familiar with regular goals and wins. If a 1 win and 6 loss record and 14th position represents anything, then a desert be that thing.

Importantly, our desert experience digresses from the aforementioned Jewish account in two key ways. Firstly, unlike the post-Egypt Jews, we have direction and shared goals.

Secondly, where Moses had his hands full with a troublesome, discordant and strife-torn people, Frank has no such problem.

Observers expect distress and despair within the team. "Morale must be low" they say, "hopes and dreams shattered."

Not so, possibly because it is a heartfelt belief within the team that our performances to date are not 14 competition points worse

than Sydney United, Carlton or Perth.

Disappointment certainly abounds but this is not a debilitating emotion, as despair and hopelessness are. We can use this to spur each other on.

This crop of players is possessed with the quintessentially Australian spirit - worthy of our National folk lore - where in the face of imponderable misfortune and negative results, no one has given up - never once!

A more plucky group I have not encountered. No individual looks to shift blame or avoid personal responsibility (despite the errant suggestions of some outsiders). This is a team of great character.

Make no mistake, from one who is relatively new on the scene, this is a team of footballers, people, of whom all supporters should be proud. We have been punished for our lack of goals and we are hurting accordingly.

We look neither for excuses for this nor to be excused. We seek only to turn things around and assume a place in the pecking order commensurate with our ability, whilst along the way giving you something about which to cheer.

We appreciate that you are as perplexed and disappointed as us. Your support has been fantastic and unconditional and for this we thank you.

You can help us by continuing to shower our dry garden with your vocal support. With such anointing the ground can only stay barren for so long before new shoots sprout.

The Jewish account of their history goes on to reveal that the desert wandering was the precursor to their conquering of the promised land. Enough of the desert already, bring on the "Promise".

Bring on the Melbourne Knights!



ERICSSON CUP 1997 - 1998



BRISBANE STRIKERS

1 Clint Bolton - FO
2 Glenn Gwynne
3 Matthew Bell
4 Chris Zoricich - OI
5 Craig Williams
6 Nick Meredith
7 Frank Farina - FS
8 Sean Cranney - FS
9 Rod Brown - FS
10 Kasey Wehrman - ys
11 Troy Cranney
12 Mark Battistin
13 Reece Tollenaire
14 Wayne Knipe
15 Andrew Brayshaw
16 Chay Hews
17 Jeremy Harris
18 Stephen Laybutt
19 Brad Ditton
20 Graham Ross
21 Andrew Packer
22 Andy Harper (c)
23 Gary Blackford
Coach - Frank Farina

Legend: S - Socceroo, FS - Former Socceroo, O - Olyroo, FO - Former Olyroo,
YS - Young Socceroo, FYS - Former Young Socceroo, OI - Other International

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1 Vilson Knezevic
2 Ante Kovacevic
3 Ivan Jolic
4 Ransford Banini - OI
5 Zoran Markovski
6 Andrew Marth - FS
7 Ross Greer
8 Damon Collina
9 Adrian Cervinski - O
10 Tom Pondeljak
11 Alan Davidson - FS
12 Ice Kutlesovski
13 Damian Vojtek
14 Ivan Kelic
15 Dragi Nastevski
17 Zeljko Susa
18 John Didulicia
19 Ante Deak
20 Joe Didulica
21 Joey Rahja
24 Mijo Trupkovic
Coach - Ken Worden



HYUNDAI

EYE ON STRIKERS Tables

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	7	5	2	0	13	3	17
Carlton SC	7	4	3	0	11	5	15
Perth Glory	7	5	0	2	11	10	15
South Melbourne	7	3	4	0	16	8	13
Adelaide Sharks	7	4	0	3	13	12	12
Marconi Fairfield	7	3	1	3	10	9	10
Adelaide City	5	3	0	2	8	7	9
Wollongong Wolves	6	2	1	3	10	7	7
UTS Olympic	7	2	1	4	7	12	7
Melbourne Knights	6	1	3	2	6	7	6
Newcastle Breakers	7	1	3	3	8	11	6
Gippsland Falcons	7	1	3	3	3	7	6
Canberra Cosmos	7	1	1	5	5	14	4
STRIKERS	7	1	0	6	3	10	3

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UTS Olympic	5	1	0	1	19	10	12
Aust Inst Sport	6	3	2	1	32	9	11
QAS	6	3	2	1	19	8	11
Marconi Fairfield	5	3	1	1	14	6	10
Wollongong City	5	3	1	1	13	7	10
ACT Acad Sport	6	2	2	2	8	20	2
Newcastle Breakers	5	2	1	2	11	11	7
Marconi Fairfield Colts	6	2	1	3	9	15	7
NSW Inst Sport	6	2	0	4	12	12	6
Sydney United	7	1	3	3	14	19	6
UTS Olympic Colts	6	2	0	4	8	21	6
Sydney United Colts	5	0	1	4	1	22	1

ERICSSON CUP HOT SHOTS

Pablo Cardozo	Adel Sharks	7
Clayton Zane	Newcastle	4
Abbas Saad	Sydney Utd	4
Paul Trimboli	Sth Melb	4
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	3
David Mitchell	Sydney UTD	3
Derek Poimer	UTS Olympic	2
Daniel Allsopp	Carlton	2
Lubo Lapsansky	Carlton	2

STRIKERS' WEEKEND AWAY

Join us for the Newcastle V. Strikers match at Topper Stadium, Newcastle, on Friday 28 November and then watch the SOCCEROOS V our Asian opponent on 29 November in Melbourne.

Prices include air fare (Brisbane - Newcastle - Melbourne - Brisbane), accommodation for two nights, ground transfers and entry tickets to both games, including a Gold Pass to the Socceroo match and a special briefing from Frank Farina. You can purchase just the Melbourne component, if you do not have the time to go to Newcastle as well.

SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS who book a place also have the chance to watch the Socceroos game with Frank in a corporate box at the MCG!

For further details, contact Strikers Marketing on 3236 1888.

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