

Eye On Soccer is the
Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

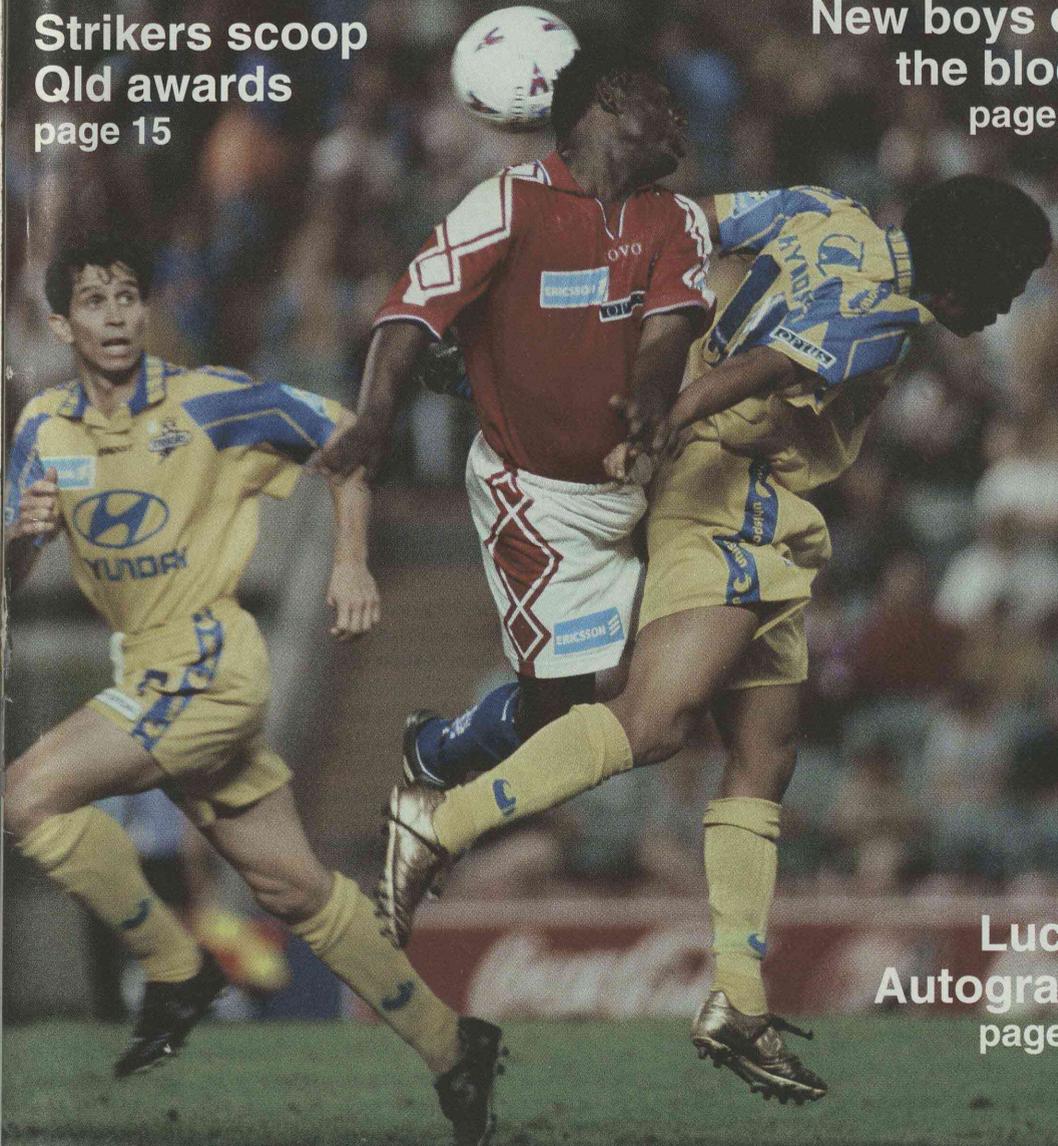
Eye On STRIKERS

v UTS OLYMPIC *Round 10*

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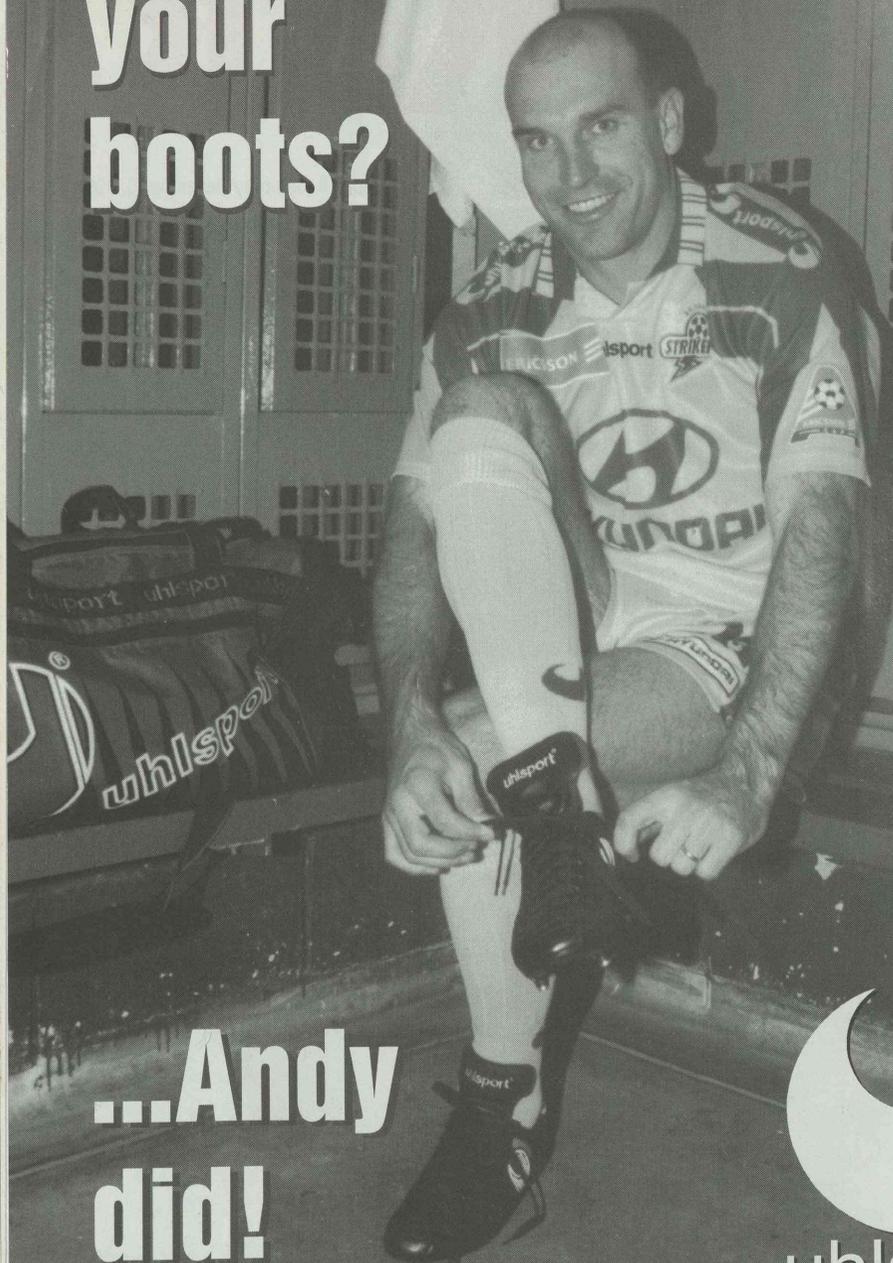
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Qld awards**
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**New boys on
the block**
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**Lucky
Autograph**
page 25

Thinking of changing your boots?



...Andy did!



Coach's Comment

Last weekend was one of contrasts. On the one hand, the Strikers had a much-needed win when we defeated Newcastle at Newcastle, 2 - 1. I am pleased to say that Rod Brown edged his way further towards John Kosmina's all-time goal-scoring record in the NSL of 133 goals, with only one goal to equal and two to set the new record.

On the other hand, Australian football dreams turned into a nightmare in the space of four minutes at the MCG last Saturday.

Now is not the time and place to have a post-mortem on the match, but it is fair to say the hopes of everyone involved in the game at all levels disappeared as that equaliser from Azizi found the back of the net.

But we move on.

The game in Australia still has many positives, not the least of which is that we are the "breeding ground" for outstanding talent such as that displayed by the Socceroos. Players such as Brisbane's own Craig Moore, Harry Kewell, Mark Bosnich, Ned Zelic, Stan Lazaridis and Mark Viduka - to name just a few - all learned their football in this country.

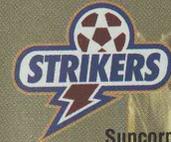
Like the Strikers, our opponents tonight, UTS Olympic, are not short of young talent either. Brett Emerton was runner-up to our own Kasey Wehrman as Under 21 Player of the Year last season, and Nick Carle burst onto the NSL scene with a great goal in the first round of the competition this season. UTS also have a nice balance of experience - with players such as Jean Paul de Marigny, Bob Catlin and Eric Hristodolou - South American flair with Andre Rodrigues and Fernando Zedra.

Last Friday's win was positive for us because we put away two good goals; we welcomed Chris Zoricich back to the side from a pre-season injury; Nick Meredith played part of the game after a round 3 injury; and we enjoyed the thrill of victory.

I can assure you it's a thrill we intend savouring again tonight!

Go the Strikers!

E-mail: farina@brisbanestrikers.com



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**COVER: Our Wayne Knipe
goes head to head with the
Knights Ransford Banini
during the last home match.**

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Strikers confidence boosted

The Strikers are confident they've turned the corner in their Ericsson Cup title defence.

Last week's 2-1 victory in Newcastle saw the side end a six match losing streak, but coach Frank Farina believes the win was important for more reasons than that.

"It really was getting to be desperate stakes for us," Farina said.

"People were and still are asking questions about our poor performances so far this season and that win has taken the heat off just a little.

"Obviously there's still more work to be done, but I feel we can draw a lot of positives from the win.

"Once again, we created plenty of chances, but this time we took a couple of them and that proved the difference between taking the valuable competition points and going home empty handed."

Farina was particularly pleased with Chris Zoricich's return.

The former New Zealand international made an instant impact for the Strikers, prompting plenty of praise from Farina.

"For mine, Chris Zoricich was the man of the match last Friday night," Farina said.

"He brought a real stabilising effect to the side and looks set to become an important part of our title defence."

Farina was also pleased to have midfielder Nick Meredith back on board.

The addition of he and Zoricich will be bring some much needed experience back to the side.

Frank will be calling on all of that experience against UTS Olympic tonight.

He knows the Strikers still face an uphill battle for Ericsson Cup survival and three points tonight will go a long way to maintaining the confidence gained from last week's victory.



Steve Laybutt has earned the coaches praise too and scored his first Ericsson Cup goal against the Melbourne Knights

"We need to build on last week's win. We won't fall into the same hole we fell into after our victory in Wollongong at the start of the season," Farina said.

"I believe we're finally beginning to develop some cohesion and we're in the best position injury wise, we've been in all season."

Farina also recognised the importance of winning at home.

"Our form at home has been extremely poor and that's beginning to reflect in ground numbers at our games," the Strikers coach said.

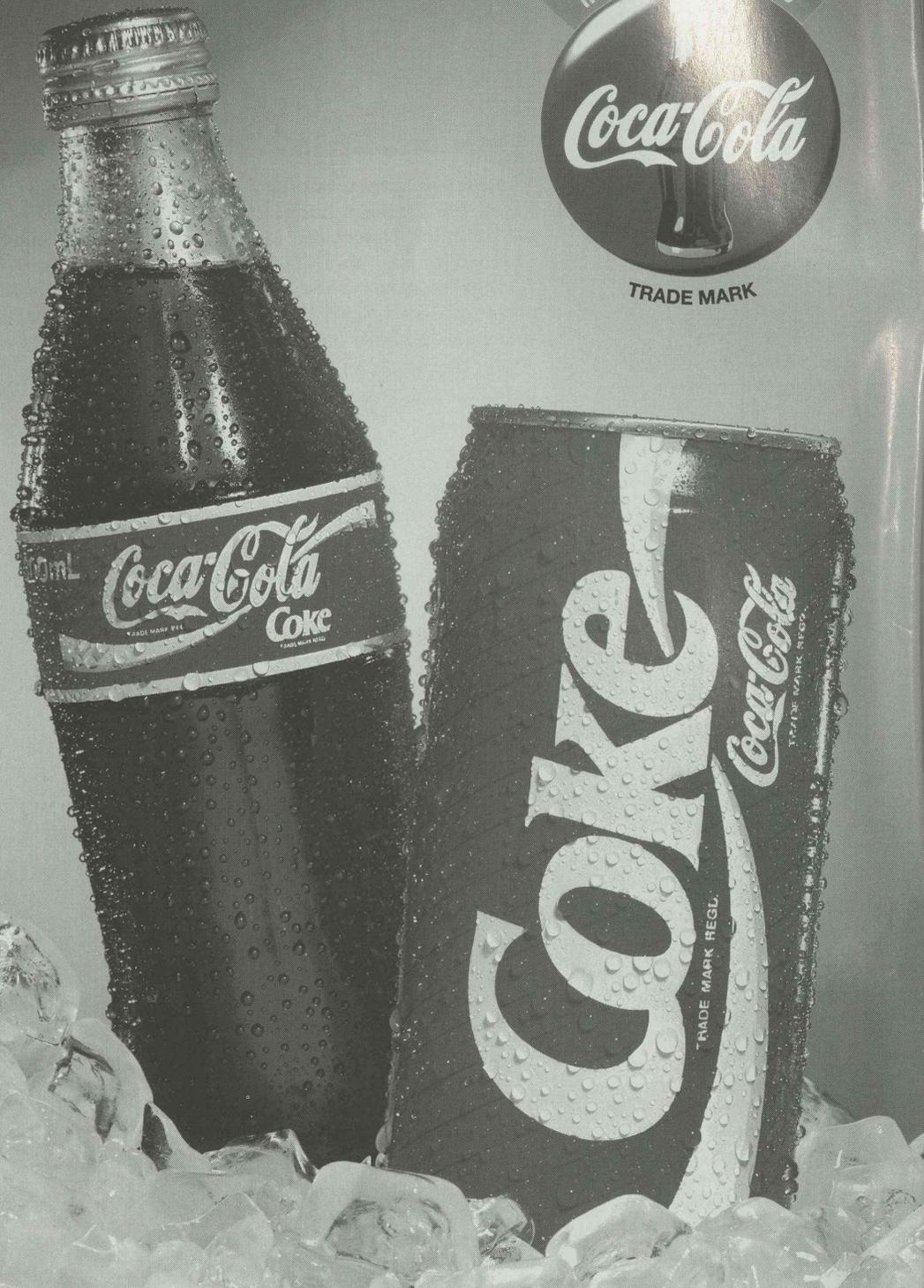
"We have an obligation to show our home supporters our full potential, so its important we start winning in front of them.

Three points tonight will keep the defending champions within striking distance of the top six.

Farina knows this also and is confident the side can turn their home form around.

"If we play the way we did last week, then I think there's no reason why we can't take the three competition points tonight," Farina said.

"And that would put us within range of a finals berth."



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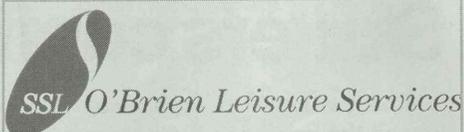


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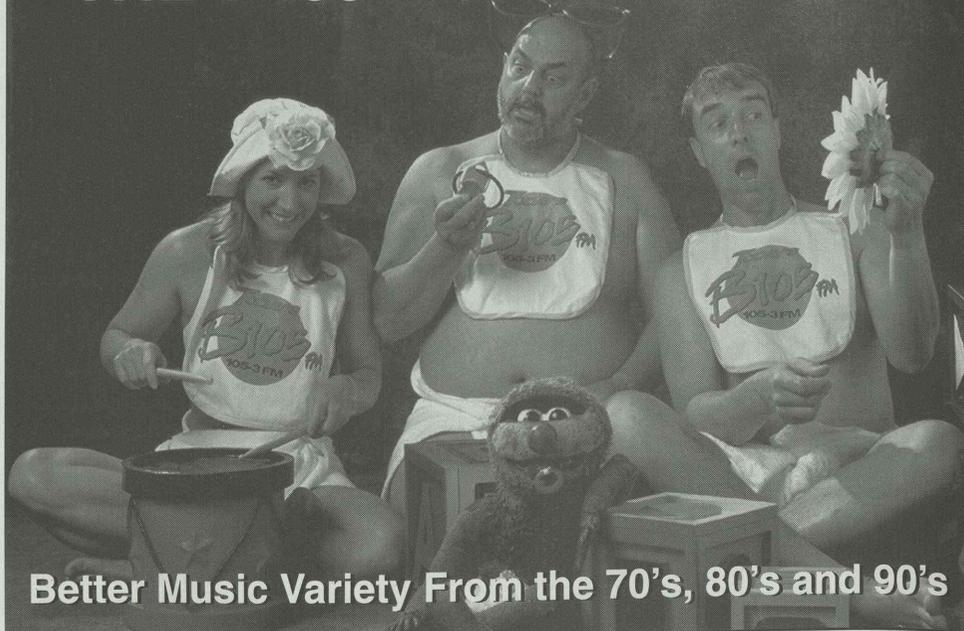
"MAN OF THE MATCH"

and

**"FOOTBALLER
OF THE YEAR"**

Awards

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Out of tragedy will come a stronger soccer nation

In the wake of their gut-wrenching World Cup qualifying loss to Iran, the Socceroos still have a lot of work to do.

That's according to the hundreds of media articles that have been written in the post-mortem of the match.

But Strikers coach and Australian soccer legend Frank Farina doesn't agree.

"It was a hard pill for Australian soccer supporters to swallow," Farina said.

"But let's be realistic. That home and away series did wonders for Australian soccer.

"Our game became Australia's national game for a short period of time. The spectacle at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last Saturday night will go down as one of the biggest football matches in the country's sporting history."

Farina, who was one of the 85,000 at the match said he still couldn't believe the outcome of the game given Australia's dominance.

"When the boys came back from Tehran with a 1-1 draw, I really felt only they themselves could ruin their chances of going to France next year," Farina said.

"But when they came out firing in the early stages of Saturday night's match, I was confident our ticket France '98 was sealed and we were on our way to the World Cup.

"The Socceroos played some fantastic football, particularly in the early stages, and to concede those two goals in a four minute period was just heartbreaking.

"The amount of people who were physically brought to tears when the final whistle went was incredible."

But Farina said there were plenty of positives to draw from the match, so long as Australian soccer could pick itself up from its depressed state.

"It's obvious that we have a team that can compete with the best in the world," Farina said.

The likes of Mark Bosnich, Ned Zelic and Paul Okon are world class players.

"And with youngsters like Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka coming through, future success is secured.

"The key thing will be how quickly the side and Australian soccer in general will be able to pick themselves up after experience such a low.

"If we can all move on from here and learn from the experience, we can only become an even stronger soccer nation."

Farina also stressed the importance of keeping Terry Venables in the country's top coaching job.

"Terry has a wealth of experience to offer the game in this country," Farina said.

"His input would be beneficial not only to our players but also to all of our national league coaches and I believe everyone must gain from spending time with the man.

"This is a guy who hasn't dropped a match with the Socceroos in fourteen games.

"That's a pretty impressive record, because some of those games have been against world class opposition.

"Even though he won't be taking Australia to next year's World Cup, he has still done a fantastic job.

"It's important that Soccer Australia does all it can to keep him interested in the top coaching job.

"Obviously we don't have the sort of money some organisations are prepared to pay, so we must give him other reasons to want to remain as Australia's coach."

We're behind Australian soccer, all the way.



**BRISBANE STRIKERS
1997/98 FIXTURES**

F-A

Date Opponents

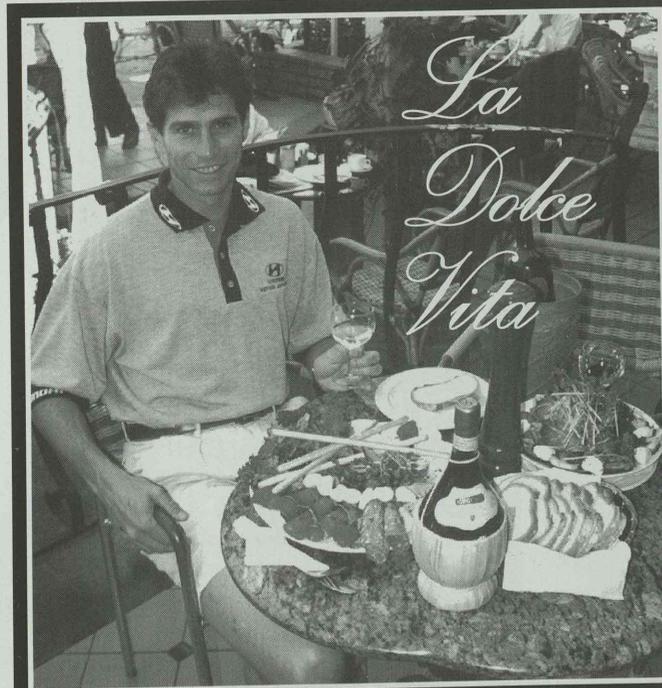
Date	Opponents	H.	A	F	A
Sat 4/10	South Melbourne	H.	0-3		
Fri 10/10	Wollongong City	A	1-0		
Sat 18/10	Perth Glory	H	0-1		
Fri 24/10	Sydney United	A	1-2		
Sat 1/11	Carlton	H	0-1		
Sun 9/11	Adelaide City	A	0-1		
Sat 15/11	Canberra Cosmos	A	1-2		
Sat 22/11	Melbourne Knights	H	1-2		
Fri 28/11	Newcastle Breakers	A	2-1		
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			
League Appearances					
102	133	20	52	135	170
League Goals					
0	1	0	6	1	21
102	133	20	52	135	170
184	70	18	23	69	45
26	59	21	4	242	2
9	0	0	88	0	0

Watch Frankly Farina each Thursday evening on Seven Nightly News



Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1 Bolton	▲	▲			▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
2 Gwynne																								
3 Bell																								
4 Zorlich																								
5 Williams																								
6 Mearns																								
7 Ferrara																								
8 S. Canney																								
9 Brown																								
10 Weinman																								
11 T. Crane																								
12 Battistin																								
13 Tollerare																								
14 Krippe																								
15 Krippe																								
16 Brayshaw																								
17 Harris																								
18 Kaybutt																								
19 Dillon																								
20 Ross																								
21 Parker																								
22 Harper																								
23 Breakford																								

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



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Olympic - A brief history

by Andrew Howe

In 1958, the Pan-Hellenic soccer club was born. The club catered mainly for the waves of Greek migrants who had chosen to make Australia their new home throughout the post world war two years. But the team provided a haven for both Greek- and non-Greek-Australian players to make a name for themselves by playing for a club which had a massive, albeit demanding, supporter base.

Coinciding with a name change to 'Sydney Olympic', the club board in October 1976 decided to become a foundation member of the then called Philips Soccer League (PSL). The new team name was a compromise that acknowledged the Greek heritage of the club, but signalled that the club now wanted to be symbolic of a wider audience.

It took a little longer than initially expected, but Olympic finally started to produce the goods in the early to mid 1980s. In 1984, the first year that the finals system was used to determine the A-league champions, Olympic finished in second position on the A-league ladder. Finals wins over Marconi (2-1), APIA (3-0) and arch rivals Sydney City (2-1) paved the way for a 1984 grand final against their cousins from south of the border, South Melbourne. Despite a 4-2 loss over two legs in the grand final, a golden era beckoned for a club that had promised to much in the past.

After a promising start, where crowds averaged 4600 in 1978, a continual slide

developed in the popularity of the national league that dipped to a mere 2200 average in 1985. In 1984 Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne attracted an average of 4550 to their home games, where the other clubs could only barely average 2000.

Olympic appeared in another two-legged grand final in 1986. Their rivals this time were Adelaide City. The first leg, in Adelaide, finished 1-0 to Olympic. Premature celebrations that started before the second leg fixture at Sydney's Parramatta Stadium soon turned to mourning when Olympic were 2-0 down at half-time, and ended up losing the tie 3-2 on aggregate. Tragedy struck again for the when the 1989 grand final against the glamorous Marconi was lost with barely one minute of regulation time remaining. Marconi won 1-0.

After finishing fifth in 1989-90, Olympic won three finals games in succession to make the 1989-90 grand final. Then Olympic's long awaited moment of glory finally arrived. Buoyed on by the majority of a packed Parramatta Stadium audience of 26,352, Olympic beat Marconi in the grand final 2-0.

The old cliché 'the sleeping giant' is an adage that truly describes UTS Olympic. The relatively bare trophy cabinet does not justify such a strong and loyal support. But what this level of support does indicate is that UTS Olympic does have a long-term future.

UTS Olympics' statistical record against Brisbane

Season	Final Pos'n.	Melb Av. Crowd	Results in Brisbane	Results in Sydney
1991-92	2nd / 14	4600	2-0 Strikers	1-1
1992-93	9th / 14	3500	2-1 UTS	2-0 UTS
1993-94	6th / 14	4800	3-2 UTS	1-0 UTS
1994-95	9th / 13	2900	3-2 Strikers	0-0
1995-96	3rd / 12	6300	3-1 Strikers	1-0, 2-1 both UTS
1996-97	9th / 14	7100	4-1 Strikers	5-3 UTS

* grand final winners (champions)

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It's common knowledge in the soccer world that every goalkeeper is a frustrated striker and Brisbane Strikers' keeper Clint Bolton is no exception.

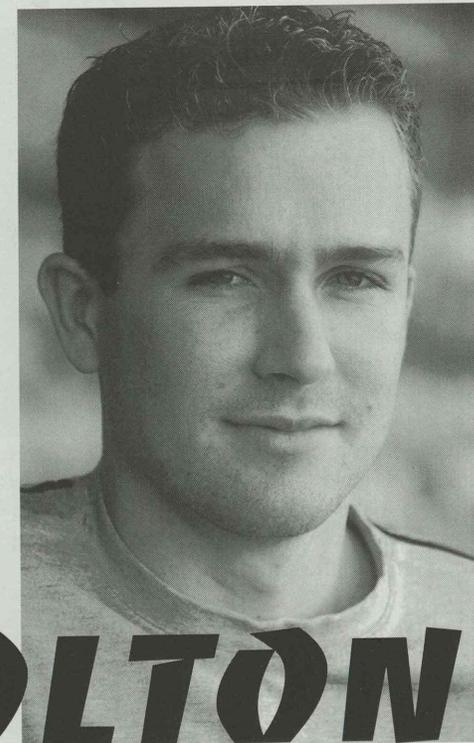
Whether it be Mark Bosnich pushing teammates aside to take a penalty or the local under six side battling to find a goalkeeper because everyone wants to score goals, goalkeepers are often pushed into playing between the sticks.

Like most keepers, the Strikers number one started his soccer life as an outfield player and didn't pull on the goalkeeping gloves until he reached his teens.

Now 22, Bolton is one of the National Soccer League's outstanding young keepers.

"I was an outfield player until I was about 13," Bolton said. "It was one of those cases where no one else wanted to go between the sticks.

"I got picked for a few representative sides and it went from there. Sometimes I wish I'd



Clint **BOLTON**
by Brent Read

stayed on the field for the pure fact that you are more involved in the game."

Bolton has endured a difficult start to this season, battling a knee injury.

"I haven't been unhappy with the way I've been playing," the Australian Institute of Sport graduate said.

"Early in the season I was playing with an injury. I did it in the first game.

"But playing with an injury you're always conscious of it. It got to the stage where I told Frank it wouldn't be in the best interests of the team and I should rest it for a while."

Bolton made his Strikers debut while still a teenager. It was a case of sink or swim and the former young Socceroo is still paddling.

"I was nervous as hell to tell you the truth but I enjoyed it," Bolton said.

"I loved the challenge. I just like throwing myself in the deep end sometimes."

A controversial omission from the Atlanta Olympic squad, Bolton hasn't given up hope of a return to international football.

But you get the feeling the affable 100 game NSL keeper doesn't pin his hopes on a return in the near future.

"I'm not really thinking about it," said Bolton, who shares a house with Strikers midfielder Jeromy Harris.

Like most of the Strikers squad, Bolton is intent on helping the side defend its NSL title.

Last week's win over Newcastle was a good start as the club tries to get its season back on track.

"We played all over them. But that's been the story all year. We've played all over teams and not scored goals."

The new boys on the block

Strikers fans and administrators have had little to cheer about this season. However, amidst the darkness two new faces are shining brightly.

Seventeen-year-old midfielder Andrew Packer and English import Gary Blackford have impressed in recent weeks.

Blackford, also a midfielder, has come off the bench against the Melbourne Knights and Newcastle Falcons, while Packer has started the last two matches and been a substitute against the Canberra Cosmos and Wollongong Wolves.

Packer displays maturity beyond his years on the park and is another example of coach Frank Farina's youth policy of giving young players a shot at the big time. However, the former QAS player is learning what is required to make it in the national league.

"It's hard work all of the time," Packer said.

"The biggest thing I have had to learn about is consistency... I've had to realise that it is great to play well on the weekend, but it means nothing unless you continue to put the effort in at training week in and week out.

"I really enjoy the intensity of being in the Strikers squad and I believe that as long as you working hard, it makes it very hard for the coach to leave you out of the team.

"There's a huge difference at this level of football.

"The game is a lot faster and you can't lose concentration for one second or the opposition are likely to punish you."

Packer said he would like to eventually try his luck as a professional footballer, preferably in the Premier League, and follow in the footsteps of one of his heroes, Manchester United's Roy Keane.

"I really admire the way Keane plays as he has an all-round brilliant game," he said.

"In Australia, I obviously have a lot of respect for Frank as he is a thorough professional."

The other new face in the Strikers line-up



Gary Blackford (pictured), said he migrated to Australia three months ago because he was looking for a change.

"I've lived most of my life in London, but it had become too busy and since I had relatives out here (Australia), we decided to come and live in Brisbane," he said.

Blackford said he had been impressed by the standard of football on display.

"I've been training with the Strikers since I came to the country but as I was still under contract with Slough City (English semi-pro side), I wasn't able to play initially."

"It's been a tough grind, I'll be honest, and it's taken me a little while to fit in but now that I've signed with the club, things are going along great.

"Individually, the Australian players are as good as anyone in England, however, they haven't quite grasped how to play as a unit yet.

"They do some marvelous things in attack, things that are pretty to watch, but I still think the players and coaches need to look at how they play the game defensively."

Strikers scoop Qld awards

It's Official - The Brisbane Strikers are Queensland's best Sports Team; Frank Farina is Queensland's number one Sports Coach; and the Ericsson Cup Grand Final was Queensland's Sport Event of 1997.

Last weekend the Hyundai Brisbane Strikers scooped the pool at the coveted 1997 Queensland Sports Awards, walking away with four honours.

Nominated for five of the seven awards, the Strikers won all but one.

It was a weekend to remember for the club, unfortunately the side wasn't present to receive their accolades. They were too busy winning on the field down in Newcastle.

For those of us lucky to be at the Convention Centre, it was a who's who of the state's sporting talent - out in force for their night of night's.

The Strikers were in esteemed company (or maybe the other way round) with the likes of world beaters Mick Doohan, Pat Rafter, Karrie Webb, Grant Hackett and The Queensland Bulls all nominated.

The Club's haul started with the second award for the night - Sports Coach of the Year.

For Farina it was his first season of coaching in any form of sport, taking a bunch of rank outsiders to a historic Grand Final win over Sydney United in the 1996-97 Ericsson Cup saw him edge out Bulls supremo, John Buchanan and Easts Rugby Coach, Grant Batty.

Strikers Chairman, Ian Brusasco, accepted the award on Farina's behalf and issued this stern warning.

"I won't rest until Frank Farina is coaching Australia," he said.

The Ericsson Cup champions were also recognised as the best Sports Team of the Year - not even another Sheffield Shield win could produce the same hype and emotion as that day in May.

Who would've thought the time would come when soccer pulled a bigger crowd in Queensland than the Broncos.



Alan Vessey receives the trophy for the Sports Event of the Year. The Ericsson Cup Grand Final

Getting 40,000 plus people to any event takes some doing - The Strikers managed it with aplomb and were duly honoured.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the countless number of volunteers," said Strikers General Manager, Alan Vessey.

"When staging a national event 90 per cent is done by the host state, 10 per cent by the national body. This was a great day for Queensland," he concluded.

But the last award is one many feel the most significant - the most honourable.

The Patrons Service to Sport Award was presented to Strikers Director, Clem Jones, for his tireless work behind the scenes.

It's said Clem Jones is 'Mr. Brisbane' - he's also 'Mr. Sport'.

Out of all the praise, tributes, and recognition that flowed during the night, not a truer word was spoken when it was said:

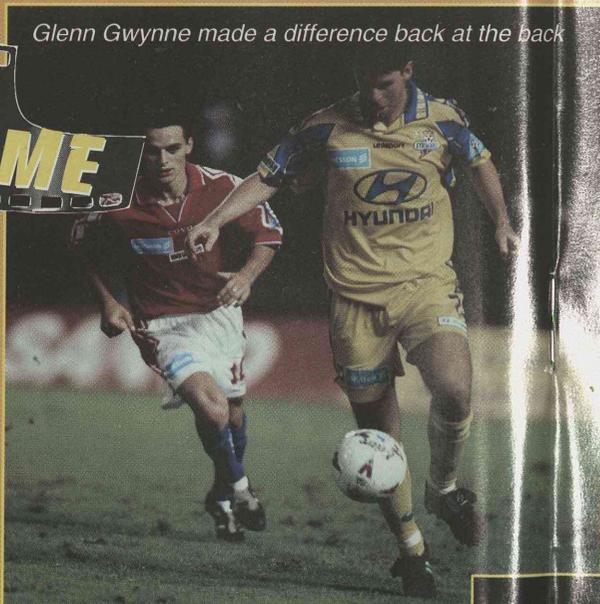
"Queensland might have both the World's Number one Golfers and the World's number two tennis player but they wouldn't be there without the Clem Jones' of this world."

In all, a sensational night for the Strikers, more so in a sporting sense as the awards were voted for by their peers.

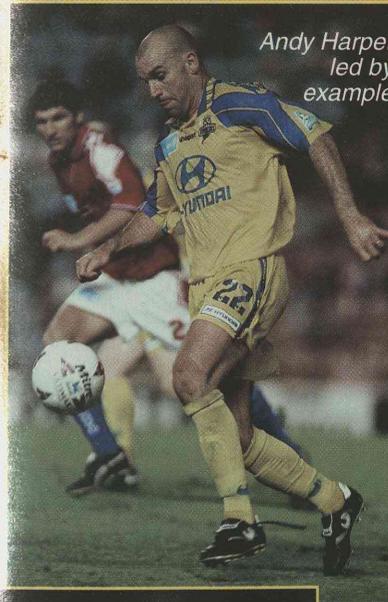
by Ben Davis - Channel 7

FREEZE FRAME

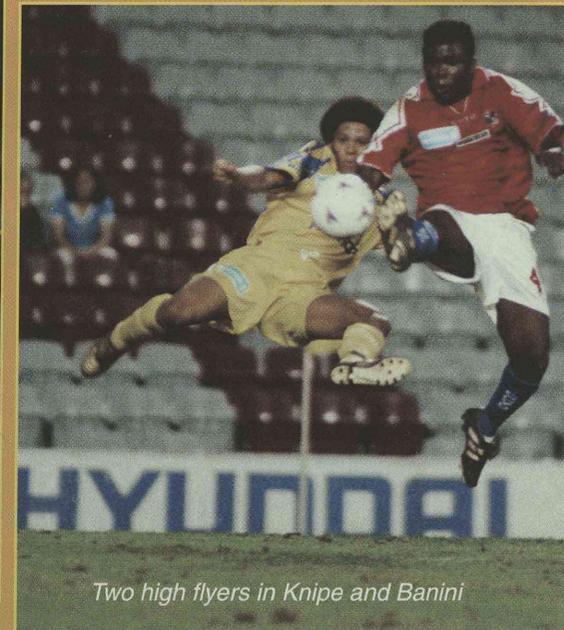
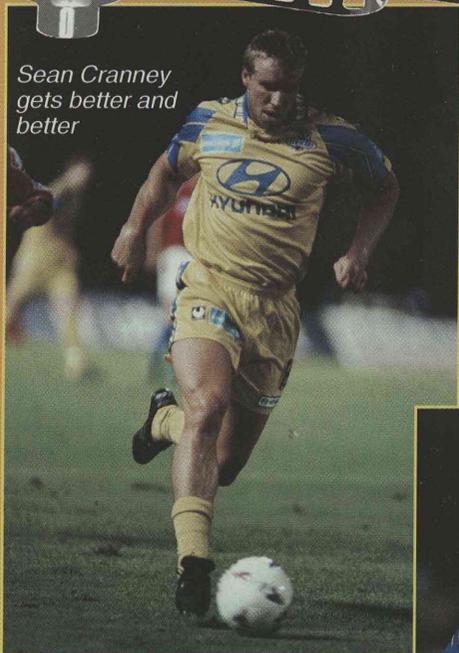
Glenn Gwynne made a difference back at the back



Andy Harper led by example

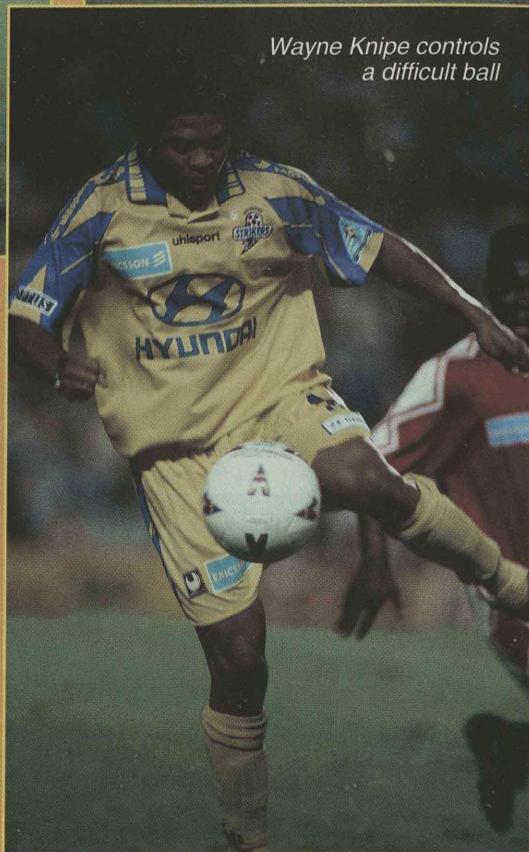


Sean Cranney gets better and better

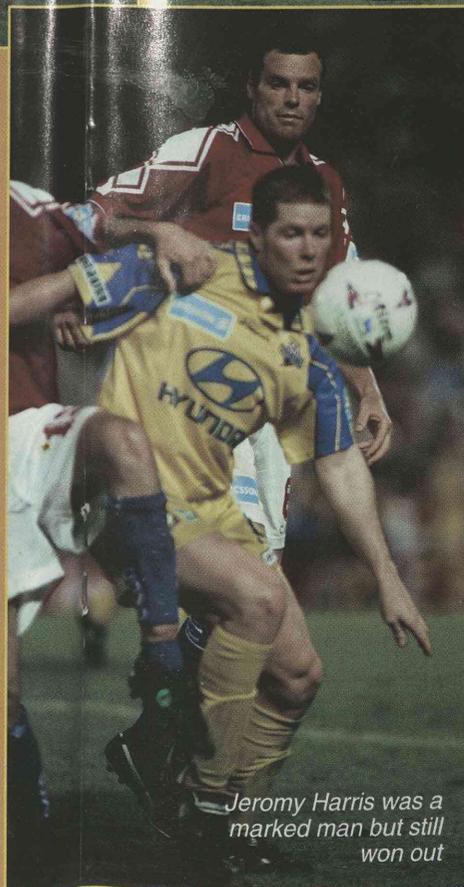


Two high flyers in Knipe and Banini

Wayne Knipe controls a difficult ball

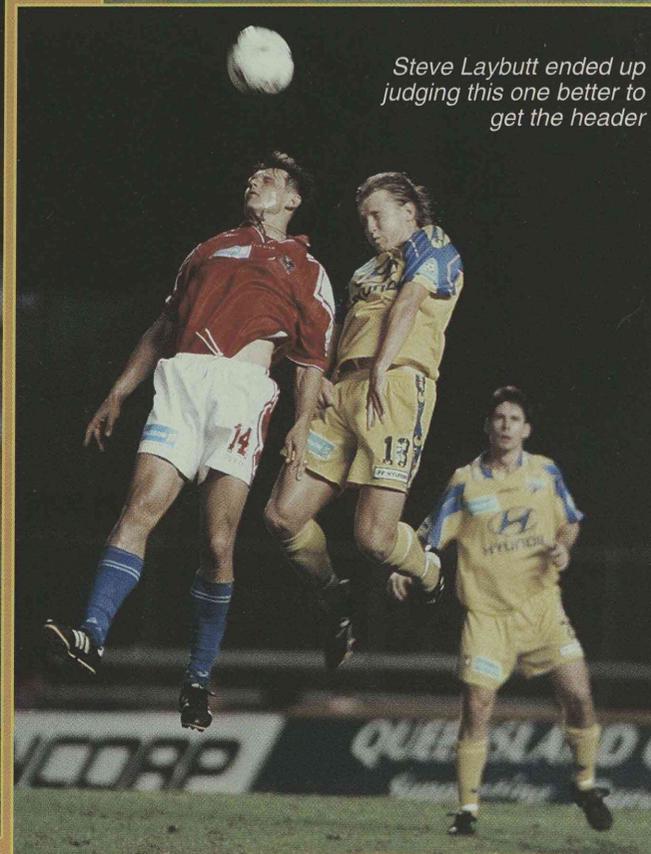


The loneliness of it all



Jeromy Harris was a marked man but still won out

Steve Laybutt ended up judging this one better to get the header





Junior Social Club



STRIKERS HOLIDAY COACHING CLINICS

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.

Book now for the Strikers' holiday coaching clinics 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 Uhlspport soccer boots. For reservations, contact 3236 1888.

Face Painting!

Get your face painted every home game. STRIKERS colours only! from 6.00pm down near the Strike squad!

SURF THE WEB WITH THE STRIKERS

at: www.brisbanestrikers.com

and also buy the Strikers' Surfers' t-shirt!

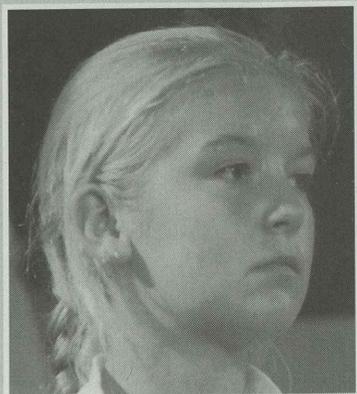
You can E-mail us at.....

strikers@brisbanestrikers.com

farina@brisbanestrikers.com

harper@brisbanestrikers.com

IS THIS YOU?



Then you win...

...a Strikers Rule T-shirt!! Just take yourself down to the Hyundai yellow coupe behind the goals to be identified and the T-shirt is yours. Congratulations!

HEY DUDES!!

It's not too late to join the Junior Social Club if you would like:

- ...a Strikers Rule! t-shirt
- ...a Strikers mouse mat
- ...to have your birthday party at Perry Park on a Strikers' training night and meet the players
- ...the chance to be Junior Thor

and discounts on Strikers' Coaching Clinics.

Only \$25.

Call Strikers Marketing on 3236 1888 for more info!

JUMBLLED NAMES

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

laup trecra
etna ujcir
lawret edroan
neaj upla ed ngrmai
trebe tronmee
obb alnict

WIN! WIN! WIN!

Who wears the number 14 strip and how many Ericsson Cup matches has played, excluding tonight.

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

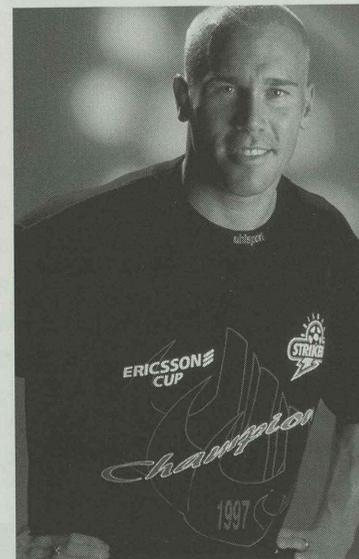
Postcode: _____

No. 14 player is _____

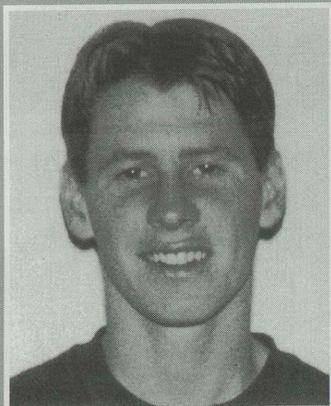
Matches played _____

(Hint: The answers are in this magazine)

Send to Strikers Marketing, PO Box 1648, Milton, 4064, by 16 December.



ANDY BRAYSHAW WEARS A CHAMPIONS T-SHIRT AVAILABLE FOR \$24 FROM STRIKERS MARKETING



DARRYL HATHWAY

Q.A.S.

Born: 14/9/81
Where: Wales U.K.
Previous Club: Townsville
Position: Midfield - Striker
Nickname: "Dazza"
Hobbies: Going out with mates
If you had only \$20 how would you spend it? Food
Who would you most like to meet? Ryan Giggs
Favourite Clothing: Jeans
Bad Habits: Teasing younger brother
On rainy days? Hiring videos
School: Kelvin Grove
Most Memorable Game: Against SWQ U16 and scoring three goals
Career Ambitions: To play for Australia
Favourite Car: Ferrari
Favourite Babe: Cindy Crawford
Favourite Band: Too many to name
Sporting Heros: Ryan Giggs & Ronaldo

Curtain Raiser with Gary Phillips

As we attempt once again to come to terms with life after a devastating World Cup campaign, time is the only answer to questions surrounding the effect this result will have on our code.

How will the corporate sector, administrators, coaches, players and most importantly spectators respond?

We have had some great opportunities to qualify, as I suggested to the players, the frightening point about the two draws against Iran is that Iran were only the fourth best Asian team.

We can argue all we want about how we destroyed them for 80 minutes and had chances in the first leg but in the end, we didn't qualify.

I wonder after watching the video whether Terry Venables would have made changes earlier.

After analysis there was probably 14 or 15 reasons as to what went wrong but in the end it was really only two.

For 14 QAS players who were fortunate enough to experience the atmosphere of a World Cup qualifier, I'm sure it will remain with them for a very long time.

It certainly was the full scale of emotions, some people would not experience that in a lifetime.

Those who watched on SBS in numbness, couldn't imagine the atmosphere generated by a crowd twice the size of Suncorp Stadium on May 25, 1997.

The emptiness which all of us felt on the moment the final whistle blew, was shattering - but it was a sign that maybe that emotion would inspire one if not all to fulfil a dream a nation had on Saturday November 29, 1997.

13 13 00

(flies you anywhere in Australia)



ANSETT AUSTRALIA

QAS SQUAD NEWS

Last weekend was a double header, first was Newcastle Friday night, we led 1-0 through Royce Brownlie after some good lead work by Daniel Invincible.

We then fell right away, gave possession away cheaply and decided to watch players making runs instead of pursuing them.

Newcastle scored three before Royce Brownlie got his second. The big man did well to score twice but could have scored four.

Daniel Invincible was devastating in the first half but we couldn't carry that on for the required 90 minutes.

We had a 6am flight that morning so most of the guys would have got up at around 4.30am, so it's not surprising tiredness probably crept in.

After Friday night's game in Newcastle we drove to Sydney, camped overnight and flew to Melbourne for Saturday's World Cup qualifier. One thing which stood out for me was the fact that our multicultural population were all wearing the Socceroo shirt, it was tremendous to see united support for once.

Sunday morning (4.30am wake-up call) we flew back to Sydney to play against the NSW ITC. We thoroughly deserved to win but failed to convert our chances.

I was very proud of the effort sustained and at times we did look very good, however,

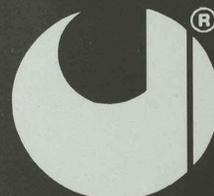
the game finished 0-0.

Mareeba recruit, Wayne Srhoj (U/15) started his first game and looked very good.

We hope today's game against UTS Olympic is entertaining, Olympic are equal on points with us but have two games in hand. Therefore three points today is crucial.

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



uhlsport

**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 now close with Strikers Marketing, PO Box 1648, Milton, 4064 on 10 January. The winner receives a Sanyo portable compact disc, courtesy of Sanyo!

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.

Group Bookings

If you're from a junior, senior or recreational soccer club and want to come in a group to a Strikers' game, then contact Strikers Marketing on 3236 18888 for special deals.

Tonight's entertainment

Our entertainment tonight is provided by Walisuma de los Andes - a Peruvian band.

Visit the Strikers Web site

www.brisbanestrikers.com

...is where you will find the Strikers very own web site.

The best mix of music
from the 60s, 70s, 80s
and today

4KO
Greatest Memories
Latest Hits
BRISBANE 693

SWITCH TO 693 • AM

Rivers Cafe Bar Penalty Strike

Each week, four contestants will have a chance to win prizes in our Rivers Café 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 Café Bar,

dinner for 6 at Rivers Café 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.



Shangri - La GARDENS RECEPTION LOUNGE

"A lovely spot in Brisbane"

Shangri-La offers a comfortable and relaxing setting for Functions, Weddings and School Formals. Specialising in Business Seminars and Trade Shows.

- Outdoors or Indoors, guests are served with an atmosphere of relaxation.
- The menu is reasonably priced and the food of the highest quality -
- This historic building and grounds will cater for all your needs -

Call **Valmae Stuckey 0419677681...** for an appointment to view and talk about your next function at Brisbane's premier garden spot.

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Wynnum. Qld. 4178
Tel: 07 3396 2575

A Member of the
Clem Jones Group



STRIKE SQUAD NEWS

with Thor



The beer for here.



XXXXX
BITTER

This is where the story begins

After another great away win last Friday night against the Newcastle Breakers it is now the real effort of making the final six starts.

It has been said that 40 points will ensure a finals spot, so with only 9 home games left and 3 points for a win then it would be possible to make at least 6th place with only home wins.

As we know this season so far, the lads have only away wins, therefore if we can really support the team at home with our old sparkle and verve then we are on track for that play off appearance in April and May next year.

Let's continue to make as much noise as possible during corners, free kicks and other scoring opportunities. The more people who join in to create this atmosphere the better chance the boys have of hearing it and responding.

Our very own goal

What a fantastic goal Steve Laybutt scored in our last home game against the Melbourne Knights. Although we eventually lost 2 - 1 the way the players fought and that amazing shot from Steve, gladdened the heart of this intrepid mascot. A great goal to savour!

It was my first opportunity to run wild and into the stand this season and what a way to start the party. This will be the first of many to come during the rest of this campaign.

With this in mind we all need to think about a chant or song to encourage Steve to repeat this effort. Any suggestions can be given to either myself or to Stewie or Tony in the Strike Squad.

Let's all bring a friend

For our last home game of the year on December 20 against the West Adelaide

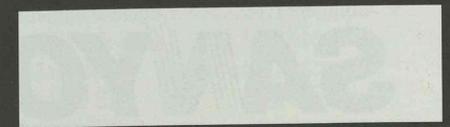
Sharks I think it would be really great to introduce a friend to the atmosphere and excitement of a night out at SunCorp Stadium to see the recipients of the Queensland Sports Award for the team of the year - our very own Brisbane Strikers.

If everyone in the Squad and all other supporters can entice a work mate, school chum, sporting friend or even a close acquaintance to join us all, then we can really start to build on this season's crowd numbers and hopefully attain the sort of spectator figures that our game and our team thoroughly deserve.

Please keep this in mind when next you are amongst friends in any walk of life and remember the Brisbane Strikers are the National Champions and all Queenslanders should be proud to say that they are a supporter of this great club.

WIN! WIN! WIN!
DINNER FOR TWO AT
La Dolce Vita

If you purchased your magazine with Nick Meredith'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.



The Courier-Mail **The Sunday Mail**

Everything for Queensland

Everything for Soccer



THAT'S LIFE WITH

SANYO

THAT'S LIFE WITH

SANYO

THAT'S LIFE WITH

SANYO

THAT'S LIFE WITH

SANYO

HEALTHWORKS

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Brisbane Strikers
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Health and
Fitness Gym.

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Ph: 3868 1992

FITNESS

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 • Polo shirts • Ties • Umbrellas
- Season Souvenir Guide • Playing shirts
- Strikers' sports shorts and socks • Strikers' balls (full size and skill balls) • Strikers' Christmas Stocking.

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 on 3236 1838 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 20 December (Adelaide Sharks) game, 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:

- * Souths Utd A v Wynnum
- * Park Ridge v Bribie Island

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
Margate	3	Souths Utd B	3
Wynnum	0	Beenleigh	0
Capalaba	0	Centenary	0
Bris City A	0	Bris Lions	0
Pine Hills	0	Brisbane City B	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 competition is taking a break until the school resumes in 1998.

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 10	Sat 06/12/97	Strikers V UTS Olympic	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 11	Sat 13/12/97	Marconi Fairfield V Strikers	Marconi Stadium	7.00pm
Rnd 12	Sat 20/12/97	Strikers V West Adelaide	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 13	Sun 28/12/97	Gippsland Falcons V Strikers	Falcons Park	6.00pm
Rnd 14	Sat 03/01/98	Strikers V Gippsland Falcons	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 15	Fri 9/01/98	South Melbourne V Strikers	Bob Jane Stadium	8.00pm
Rnd 16	Sat 17/01/98	Strikers V Wollongong City	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 17	Sun 25/01/98	Perth Glory V Strikers	Perth Oval	5.00pm
Rnd 18	Sat 31/01/98	Strikers V Sydney United	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 19	Sat 21/02/98	Carlton SC V Strikers	Optus Oval	5.00pm
Rnd 20	Sat 28/02/98	Strikers V Adelaide City	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 21	Sat 07/03/98	Strikers V Newcastle Breakers	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 22	Sun 15/03/98	Melbourne Knights V Strikers	Knights Stadium	6.00pm
Rnd 23	Sat 21/03/98	Strikers V Canberra Cosmos	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 24	Sun 29/03/98	UTS Olympic V Strikers	Sydney Football Stadium	6.30pm
Rnd 25	Sat 04/04/98	Strikers V Marconi Fairfield	SUNCORP STADIUM	7.00pm
Rnd 26	Sun 12/04/97	West Adelaide V Strikers	Hindmarsh Stadium	6.30pm

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:

**ASDA HOTLINE
1800 020506**

(Mon-Fri. 9.00am to 5.00pm EST)

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ASDA, an agency of the Commonwealth Environment, Sport and Territories Portfolio.
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Have a
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drink
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**UP FRONT**

with *Andy Harper*

E-mail:
harper@brisbanestrikers.com



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times", the beginning of Dickens' Tale of Two Cities is now also the epitaph on the headstone commemorating the events of World Cup Qualifying day in Melbourne, November 29. Australian soccer, and probably Australian sport (according to the reaction of non-soccer people) has never ridden such an emotional roller-coaster before. Scaling exhilarating heights, the ride plummeted and derailed within sight of the platform. Unadulterated euphoria replaced by a tangled heap of despair, desolation and emptiness.

Where, oh where has Kubler-Ross gone? Australian soccer lovers need you KR (author of "Living With Death and Dying") for we should make no mistake that there has most certainly been a death. A death in our football family. Our Socceroos are gone.

KR suggests that denial and disbelief comprise the initial phases of the grieving process. Whilst it is said that seeing is believing and though present at the MCG on Saturday evening I plainly can not believe what I saw. Progressing through this stage is therefore difficult. The Socceroos won everyone and everything, except the bounty for which the whole event was aimed. Disbelief still abounds.

Following denial/disbelief anger sets in. It is here I find myself. Angry that justice wasn't served. Angry that pure, beautiful, athletic, balletic, exuberant, complete football wasn't vindicated. Angry that the best team lost without even losing, how can that be? Angry over our lost opportunity. Angry with the simpleton's approach of rounding up the usual suspects for execution. Angry with all the hindsight expertise. Angry that elements of the press provide a forum for political squabbles and score-settling - what is served by such odious coverage?

Particularly, I am angry with the referee's assistant for not indicating off-side for Iran's first goal. With the ultimate prize near and with one job to do, the official got it wrong. So horribly, terribly, tragically wrong - throwing a lifeline to a team completely outclassed and appearing to be well beaten.

Time, as it does, will deal with this death, and acceptance, the completion of the process, will be attained. Pushing ahead of the National League will assist and there is no reason why this can not occur. If November 29 showed anything, it revealed the passion for football that Australians feel. The notion that Australians don't like soccer was revealed to be as fallacious as we all thought. That the whole community is saddened about a sport about which nobody is supposed to care must tell corporate Australia something. That the National Anthem, sung by a 90 thousand strong choir resounded with such nerve tingling gusto dispels the idea that Australian soccer has no mainstream appeal. That the Socceroos were a combination of athletes who have all learned their football in Australia proves that Australian soccer is a quality product. Viduka, Lazaridis, Foster, Vidmar were all doing their very exciting thing in Australia on a weekly basis before they left for the overseas dollar. Then they were anonymous, now they are heroes. The only difference on Saturday was the atmosphere. This is what Australian soccer lacks and it is what we need.

The equation is simple. Create the atmosphere, generate the dollars, keep the players at home. Most of them don't want to leave anyway.

We all saw what a wonderful thing football with atmosphere is. Australian soccer to become infected with atmosphere, we'd all like to see that! We've been inoculated too long, we must not allow Saturday to be another vaccination.



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 Tollenare
- 14 Wayne Knipe
- 15 Andrew Brayshaw
- 16 Chay Hews
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Stephen Laybutt
- 19 Brad Ditton
- 20 Graham Ross
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Andy Harper (C)
- 23 Gary Blackford
- Coach - Frank Farina

UTS OLYMPIC

- 20 Bob Catlin
- 2 Paul Carter
- 3 Adam Ciantar
- 4 Ante Juric
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Eric Hristodoulou
- 7 Norman Tome - FO
- 8 Peter Tsekenis (C) - FS
- 10 Brett Emerton - O
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Kimon Taliadoros
- 13 Jean Paul De Marigny
- 14 Walter Ardone - FS
- 15 Elias Augerinos
- 18 Steve Karavatakis
- 19 Nick Carle
- 21 Hussein Jomaa
- 22 Sam Larocca
- 23 Huseyin Bayhan
- 24 Stephen Eagleton
- 25 Angelo Petratos
- 26 Andre Rodrigues
- 26 Fernando Zedra
- Coach - Geoff Harcombe

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



EYE ON STRIKERS' Tables

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	9	6	0	3	16	5	21
Carlton SC	9	5	3	1	13	7	18
Sth Melbourne	9	4	5	0	20	11	17
Perth Glory	9	5	1	3	14	14	16
Adelaide Sharks	9	4	1	4	16	16	13
Adelaide City	6	4	0	2	9	7	12
Marconi Fairfield	9	3	2	4	10	12	11
Wollongong City	8	3	1	4	14	10	10
Melbourne Knights	8	2	4	2	9	9	10
UTS Olympic	9	3	1	5	8	13	10
Gippsland Falcons	9	2	3	4	5	10	9
Newcastle Breakers	8	1	3	4	9	13	6
STRIKERS	9	2	0	7	6	13	6
Canberra Cosmos	9	1	3	5	7	16	6

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aust Inst Sport	8	5	2	1	39	9	17
QAS	9	4	3	2	23	11	15
UTS Olympic	7	3	0	2	21	11	13
Wollongong City	7	4	2	1	18	9	14
ACT Acad Sport	8	4	2	2	11	21	14
Marconi Fairfield	7	3	2	2	16	11	11
Newcastle Breakers	7	3	1	3	14	19	10
Sydney United	8	2	3	3	17	19	9
NSW Inst Sport	8	2	2	4	13	13	8
Marconi Fairfield Colts	8	2	2	4	11	19	8
UTS Olympic Colts	8	2	0	6	10	27	6
Sydney United Colts	7	0	1	6	1	25	1

OTHER ROUND 10 ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

FRI 5 DEC	Wollongong v Canberra Cosmos
FRI 5 DEC	Melb Knights v N'castle Breakers
SAT 6 DEC	Carlton SC v Adelaide Sharks
SUN 7 DEC	Perth Glory v South Melbourne
SUN 7 DEC	Sydney UTD v Gippsland Falcons
SUN 7 DEC	Adelaide City v Marconi Fairfield

NEXT WEEKS ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

SAT 13 DEC	Marconi Fairfield v STRIKERS
SAT 13 DEC	Gippsland Falcons v Carlton SC
SAT 13 DEC	Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle
SUN 14 DEC	Perth Glory v Wollongong City
SUN 14 DEC	UTS Olympic v Melb Knights
SUN 14 DEC	Sth Melbourne v Sydney United
SUN 14 DEC	Adelaide Sharks v Adelaide City

ERICSSON CUP HOT SHOTS

Pablo Cardozo	Adel Sharks	9
Clayton Zane	Newcastle	5
Abbas Saad	Sydney Utd	5
Scott Chipperfield	Adel Sharks	5
Paul Trimboli	Sth Melb	4
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	4
David Mitchell	Sydney UTD	4
Damian Mori	Adelaide City	4

DOUBLE CHAMPIONS

Queenslands other national champions, the *XXXX Queensland Bulls*, take on New Zealand in a one-day match at the "Gabba on Saturday 13 December.

TAKE A FRIEND TO THE CRICKET!

Just present your Strikers' season ticket or your ticket stub from tonight's match against UTS Olympic, at the "Gabba on 13 December, and you can buy one ticket, and get another free.



SPECIAL OFFER



(To receive the free ticket, the ticket purchased must be of equal or greater value)

STRIKERS EXCEL WITH STYLE.



Congratulations 1997 Ericsson Cup Champions. Hyundai is really proud to be your major sponsors for the 1997/98 season. Keep up the excellent standards.



HYUNDAI

WHAT DRIVES YOU DRIVES US

ALLDAI EVERYDAI