

Eye On **STRIKERS**

V ADELAIDE CITY FORCE *Round 21*

Vol 10-10, Friday March 1, 2002 \$2.00



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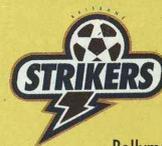
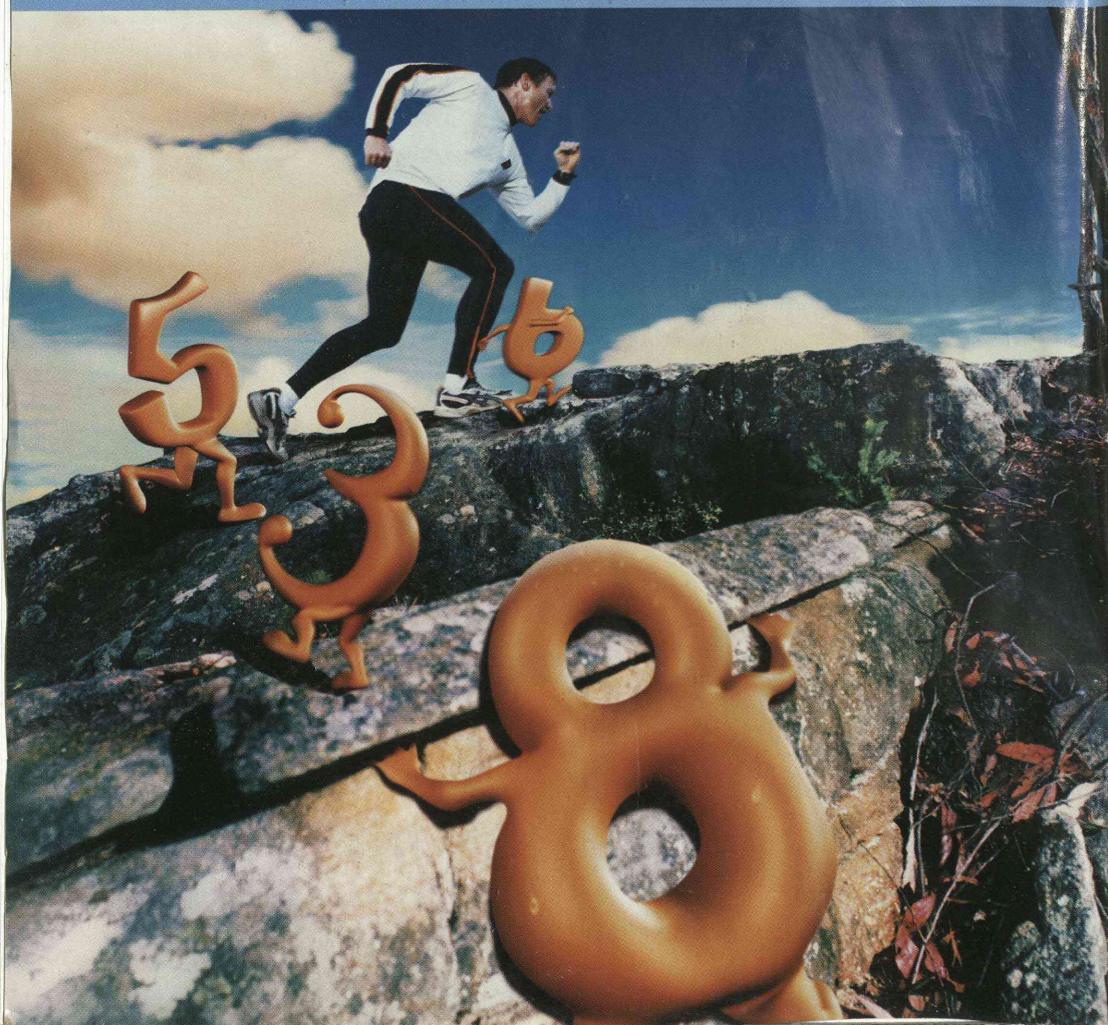
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COVER: Parmalat Strikers' goalkeeper Jason Kearton flies high to spoil another Parramatta attack on his goal during the 4-1 routing of the visitors by the Strikers. Paul Foster scored three goals while Fernando Rech added the fourth for the home side.

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Coach's Comment

Let me begin by thanking all those Strikers fans that sent in e-mails congratulating the team on fine performances against Northern Spirit and Parramatta.

It was very encouraging indeed to read positive comments after some less than complimentary remarks the week before. As I stated in my last column it is all about maintaining perspective and it was good to see that perceived criticisms were put in proper perspective after what could only be termed a "great" performance against the Power.

The boys turned in another great performance against Newcastle last Friday night. It was always going to be a tough match and despite a sluggish start the team battled every inch of the way and was unlucky not to come home with three points.

Michael Baird, who is rapidly earning the tag of "supersub", snatched the equaliser just six minutes from full-time but we were desperately unlucky not to be on level terms at that stage already.

When the opposition goalkeeper earns the "man of the match" award it certainly tells a story.

Newcastle is not only a tough game; it is a tough trip, almost rivalling the dreaded Gippsland Falcons adventures of years gone by. The fact we came away with a result is a credit to the character of this years Strikers players.

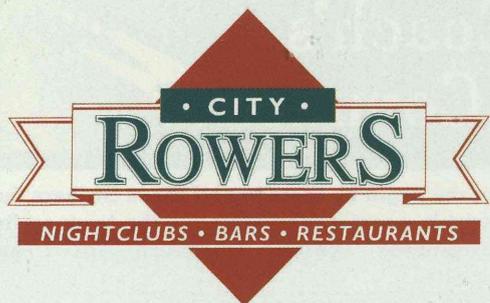
In all honesty, it's been our away form that has got us where we are to date. I've always felt it's your away results that have the most bearing on how the team fares over a season. The ability to travel, generally on the day of the game and still come home with points in the bag is a good indicator of the mental toughness of the side and results away give you the confidence to hopefully go on with it the next week at home.

Much has been written and said about Matt McKay since his return from the AIS at Christmas. Those who watched the game against Newcastle would have seen a side of Matt that contributes to him being the exciting player that he is.

The "baby-faced assassin" had no hesitation standing up for himself after being hit with a cheap shot from behind. At that stage Matty would have taken on all 10,000 spectators if he had to and that tells me something about his personality.

He has the all-consuming passion to win no matter what the circumstances, and that can only be a good thing for Matt and the club.

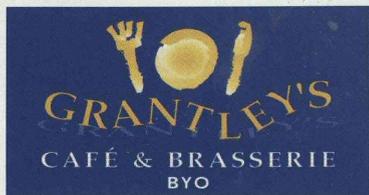
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At our last home game between the Parmalat Strikers and Parramatta Power, we had the opportunity to host the Chairman of Soccer Australia, Mr Ian Knop, and independent Commissioner Graeme Bowker.

I am certain that both Ian and Graeme thoroughly enjoyed the game and our players turned on a special treat for our distinguished visitors and our loyal enthusiastic supporters.

Both of the attendees were delighted with the facility and thought that it was the best NSL venue in Australia.

Both Commissioners expressed the view they were disappointed that such a great performance by the Parmalat Strikers should have been witnessed by such a small crowd.

The Chairman of Soccer Australia, whilst on his visit to Brisbane, congratulated the Club and its players on the performance to date and conveyed the very sincere appreciation that the Club had justified the decision of the current Board to re-include the Strikers in the competition with a license in its own right.

Whilst in Brisbane, both Ian and Graeme, met with representatives of Queensland Junior Soccer and it was also our pleasure to have a number of those officials at the Parramatta game.

Ian and Graeme also visited the Brisbane Lions Soccer Club and inspected their facilities and made no secret of the fact that Lions officials are eager to lodge an application for inclusion into the National League for the next season.

I expressed a personal view to the two Soccer Australia Commissioners that Brisbane would be best served as a one team town and that a second entry from the Lions Club was not in the best interests of our code.

Last week, our Deputy Chairman, Dr Clem Jones, received correspondence from Peter Ridsdale, the Chairman of Leeds, indicating that they had not made any decision about the

purchase of a National League Club in Australia. Mr. Ridsdale said that at some stage in the near future, he would again be visiting Australia to have further discussions with a number of clubs including the Strikers.

The Board of the Strikers are very proud of the achievement of the players and their commitment to the Club that they have provided both on and off the field.

Our position on the table is very heartening.

Additionally their contribution to the promotion and development of our game by visitations to schools, clubs, charities, community centres and other associations are at a record high level and we sincerely thank them for their outstanding efforts.

The way the Strikers present themselves at our home matches is also a credit to their allegiance to our country and the way they respond to the requests from junior enthusiasts is unparalleled in Australia based on my personal assessment from attending other NSL games.

Ross Melville - Chairman

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The Parmalat Brisbane Strikers of 2001/2002 have much to be thankful for.

A squad which is well balanced in terms of youth and experience as well as personalities, which has a great work ethic both as a unit and individually and which also has the benefit of training on a full-time basis, certainly has recognised the positive influences surrounding it this season.

But perhaps the best influence has been the lack of something, rather than by the presence of something.

The fact that to date the players have not had to deal with an outside issue has allowed us to concentrate on what we do best, play football.

For the first time since I have been part of this club the players have not had to worry about ownership battles or moves to the Gold Coast and it has certainly paid dividends.

A share of those dividends have been on show over the past fortnight.

Our last home match saw us put on one of our best performances of the season and the result was even more important as results will be from her on in.

That was definitely the case in Newcastle last week where a fighting, if not fluent Strikers performance, saw us share the spoils in a match which for the sake of a top six and possible top two finish we could not afford to lose.

The remaining six games will be exactly the same.

To ensure we achieve our primary goal of being in the top six we certainly can't afford not to fight, scrap and battle for every point and if by the end of it we have done enough to finish second then we'll see it as the cherry on the icing of the cake!

Thanks for your support, Stuart McLaren

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Adelaide may lack the force

Adelaide City Force has crashed from being a feared rival during its hey-days of the 1990s to a side with one of the worst away records of any national league club this season.

But despite its low place on the table, the black and whites still loom as a tough hurdle the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers need to overcome if they are to cement a position in the Top Six.

After again coming from behind to snatch a thrilling 1-all draw last week against Newcastle United, the Strikers will be desperate for three points to stay in the hunt for a top-two finish although the first priority is to make the finals first.

Adelaide coach Zoran Matic has been lamenting all season his side's lack of concentration in defence and poor finishing in front of goals but it's the travel bug which has been the club's biggest stumbling block to the finals over the past two seasons.

Adelaide, to many of their fans disbelief, are sitting just two points ahead of last placed Football Kingz and a possible wooden spoon for the first time in its proud national league history.

After nine matches on the road this season, the Force is winless with just three draws and six losses.

Matic's men have not won away from home since March 10 last year, when it defeated Newcastle United 1-0 when former player Louis Brain, who is now trialling overseas, scored.

Adelaide has not won away for eleven matches but the side has not yet equalled the club's notorious all-time winless away streak when it failed to win in 13 away matches during the 1999-00 season and the 2000-01 season.

Despite that record, the Force still managed to qualify for the play-offs in 2000, but bowed out at the first hurdle in the elimination final.

In contrast, the Strikers home record this season has not been up to expectations with

the prospect of turning Ballymore into a fortress for visiting sides not quite eventuating.

However, coach John Kosmina must still be happy after pre-season predictions, notably in the southern media, suggested the Strikers would struggle after being readmitted to the league at the last moment.

Pundits were writing off the Strikers, not Adelaide, as potential wooden spooners even though Kosmina assembled a side of experience mixed with a good blend of youth.

If speculation is right, Matic, arguably one of the country's most successful coaches of his time, could be preparing to end his spectacular 16-year coaching career.

Matic, 57, is in the final weeks of a three-year contract but was typically evasive when questioned by his home town media recently if he would return next season.

The three-time championship winning coach said he still had the passion and maintained he hasn't talked to anyone about coaching next season.

Matic's record speaks for itself. He coached Adelaide City from 1986 to 1995, taking the club to three championships in five grand finals and two national league clubs Cups.

He returned in 1998, taking the club to the finals in the next two seasons.

Force missed the finals for the first time in 12 seasons last year and will be all out for the remainder of the season not to take the wooden spoon for the first time in its 26-season history.



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Three teams by George!

Just when there's talk of reducing the number of teams in next year's competition, South Melbourne president George Vasilopoulos reportedly wants a third Melbourne club admitted.

"We need protection for the two spots we have and we should be looking at adding a third," Vasilopoulos told the Melbourne press.

"We've been hearing rumours that the league is going to be reformed as a 10-team competition with possibly one Melbourne team in it.

"If that happens, you may as well lock up and throw away the keys, just kiss the NSL goodbye in this town."

Vasilopoulos said derbies were the lifeblood of Melbourne clubs and without some city rivalry, South would wither.

"Last season the games against the Knights, Carlton, Perth and Olympic were our biggest home games," he said.

"And over the years we have always depended on the derbies, ranging from the Knights back to the days of Heidelberg.

"We would love to have Heidelberg back. They are a much better proposition for us than any game against Northern Spirit or Brisbane will ever be.

"If there was any way of introducing promotion from the Victorian Premier League for one team, I'm sure it would create huge interest," Vasilopoulos told a Melbourne paper.

South's call comes as figures were released that reveal the plight of Melbourne soccer.

Melbourne Knights is the only national league club whose players are all part-timers.

A number of Knights are on basic contracts of \$100 a week and even new signing, Kresimir Marusic has been forced to take up a day job as a painter to supplement his soccer income.

Striker Joel Porter and goalkeeper Martin John also work outside soccer as couriers, defender Sash Ognenovski is a carpenter and Steve Horvat runs a cafe-cum-hair salon in Geelong.

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Player wages too high

European soccer clubs have abandoned a salary cap but have warned spiralling player wages must cease.

A.C. Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani, who will lead a study into ways that clubs can cut costs, said the influential G-14 lobbying group had stopped short of recommending a U.S. style salary cap system, but made it clear that a solution must be found.

"It's clear that at the moment our costs are too high, with very high salaries. I'm sure that there will be a reversal of this trend," Galliani said.

Barcelona president and G-14 spokesman Joan Gaspart said costs were rising faster than revenues and that would have to change.

"Football can't continue on the current spiral," Gaspart said. "Our costs in terms of players have increased spectacularly.

"We haven't said that salaries must go down.

It's more that the system has to change and that may mean the basic salary becomes less important, with variables on top of that.

"It's in the players' interest that their clubs are doing well financially. When clubs aren't capable of functioning it's the players who will suffer. We have to find a solution for both the clubs and the players."

A further study, led by Manchester United's Peter Kenyon, will be launched into the exploitation of internet and other new media rights for the Champions League.

"We're looking to ensure that the Champions League continues to deliver value for money and stays a sports spectacular for our supporters," Kenyon said.

The G-14, who will hold their next meeting the day before the Champions League final in Glasgow in May, have no plans at the moment to admit new members but Gaspart said they had not ruled out future expansion.

Have boots... will travel

The merry-go-round of players looking to move to other clubs next season has started in earnest despite speculation over the make-up of next year's national league competition.

According to reports down south Newcastle United recently started contract negotiations with New Zealand striker Vaughan Coveny and Socceroos goalkeeper Michael Petkovic.

And South Melbourne coach Eddie Krncevic wants to sign Adelaide City discard Nick Sabljak but has decided to let defender Mike Valkanis go.

Newcastle general manager Jock Graham confirmed United were interested in South Melbourne's Coveny and Petkovic, who come off contract at the end of the season.

"We have informed South Melbourne of our interest in them and had initial talks with the players," Graham was quoted in southern media reports.

"It is only early days. Our priority is to resign the six players (off contract) who are already here.

"It is going to be tight budget-wise, but I'm confident we will have money left over to be in the market for a couple of big-name players."

Coveny has been capped 56 times for New Zealand and is a proven goalscorer.

The 30-year-old would also bring winning experience to Newcastle after having won two NSL championships, in 1997-98 and 1998-99, at the Lakers and was part of their 2000 World Club Championship campaign in Brazil.

He has scored 70 goals in 255 national league games and played with Celtic in Scotland and Crewe in England.

Petkovic was a member of the Socceroos squad that cruised through the Oceania World Cup qualifiers in Coff's Harbour last year.

He returned to South Melbourne this season after a stint in Norway's first division with Lillestrom.

United have also expressed interest in Melbourne Knights striker Joel Porter and two other players from rival clubs.

Newcastle was expected to continue contract talks this week with current players Esala Masi, Peter Tsekenis, Mark Wilson, Joe Schirripa, Mitchell Johnson and Michael Prentice.

Krncevic met the South board last week with his shopping list but his decisions were leaked to the players before he could tell them directly.

Valkanis was bitterly disappointed when he learned he was on the outer at Souths.

"It has nothing to do with Mike's quality. The bottom line is I've got plenty of defenders and I don't have any room for more," Krncevic said.

"By comparison, Sabljak is an attacking player and I've requested that he be signed for the remainder of the season."

Valkanis, a former South player, returned to Australia after seven years playing in Greece.

Valkanis also has offered his services to Olympic Sharks and Northern Spirit.

Sabljak has been training at South for several weeks but has been waiting for a tribunal case to resolve his dispute with Adelaide City. He has played 82 national league games in two stints in Adelaide and has scored six goals, the latest against South at Bob Jane Stadium on December 2.

Meanwhile Sydney United and former Young Socceroo defender Michael Cunico, is hoping to make his comeback against Melbourne Knights next week.

Cunico was diagnosed with testicular cancer after playing against Marconi on February 2.

The tumor was malignant but subsequent tests have not revealed any additional cancer.

Specialists have decided against putting Cunico through chemotherapy and will instead keep him on a surveillance program of scans and blood tests.



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Young squad no problem

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson isn't concerned he could have the youngest squad at the World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan in May.

"Having the youngest squad at the World Cup wouldn't bother me," Eriksson said after bleeding youngsters Darius Vassell, Wayne Bridge and Michael Ricketts in the recent friendly against Holland.

"In one way, it's very good for the future and very interesting. It may be difficult to win the World Cup with a young squad, though.

"I have seen statistics which say that most winners of the World Cup have an average age of about 28. That's good for 2006, then."

Talent, not experience, will be the most important factor governing his selection of the squad, Eriksson said.

"When you go to the World Cup and you have two players you consider equal then maybe in such a young squad, you will choose one older one to have experience.

"But if the younger one is better than the older one, then you must pick the younger one," Eriksson said.

Eriksson said he could already name about 18 of the 23 players he will take to the World Cup, but was open to others forcing their way in.

"I should pick the squad tomorrow, then I know 18 or 19 names, but hopefully I'll change my mind by mid-May," Eriksson said.

He said he was happy with the lessons learned during England's 1-1 draw with Holland last month, and with the way the team adapted to playing a 4-3-3 formation as opposed to 4-4-2.

"It was important for me to try it as I didn't want to go to the World Cup and just have 4-4-2. In some games, we will need three central midfielders and now we know we can do it."

Tottenham Hotspur's Ledley King is one young player who Eriksson may consider for the friendly against Italy this month, along with some members of the Leeds United squad.

Leeds pair Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate and Chelsea's John Terry have been criticised for their actions off the pitch but could still be considered for England duty.

After a much-publicised court case last year, Bowyer was cleared of all charges relating to the injuries inflicted on an Asian student while Woodgate is currently completing community service imposed for being found guilty of affray.

Bowyer is currently serving a six-match ban after being found guilty of violent conduct and abusive language in two separate incidents in a match at Arsenal in August.

Midfielder Bowyer and defender Woodgate were barred from England duty when both were charged with grievous bodily harm and affray following an attack on a student in Leeds city centre in January 2000.

England under-21 defender Terry is currently awaiting trial after pleading not guilty to charges of assault and affray over an alleged nightclub brawl in central London in January.

Bowyer will have completed his six-match ban and Woodgate will have finished his community service in time to be selected for the Italy friendly.

When asked about the chances of Bowyer, Woodgate and Terry representing their country at the World Cup, Eriksson did not rule it out.

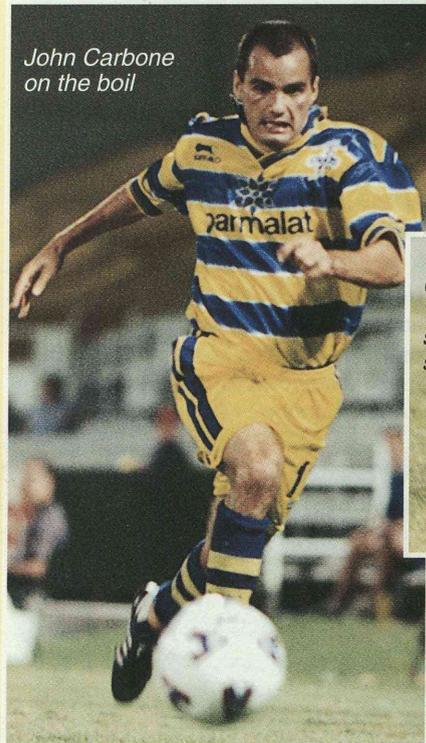
"It's a decision that the FA and I have to take before the next game on Bowyer, Woodgate and Terry," Eriksson said.

"It's very difficult to say what's right and what's wrong. We will be criticised whatever decision we take."



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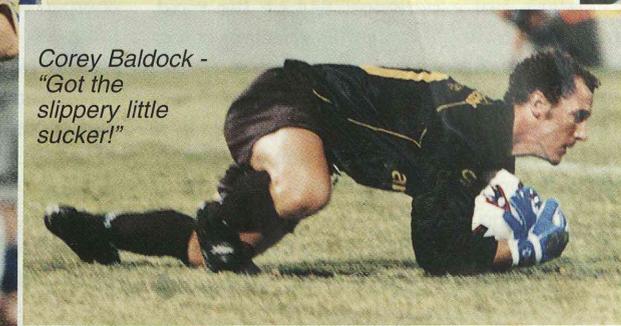
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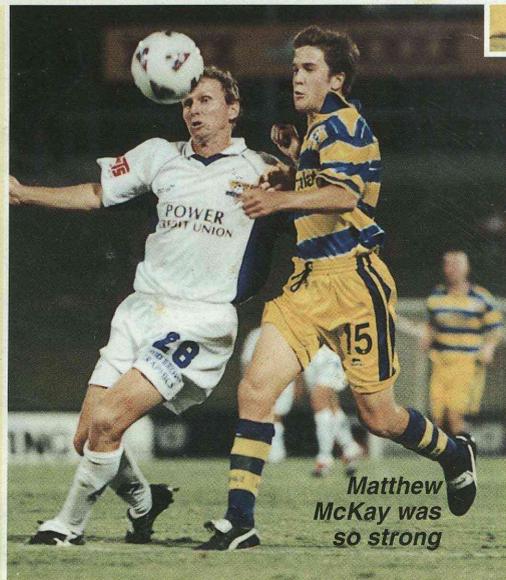
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Fernando
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Corey Baldock -
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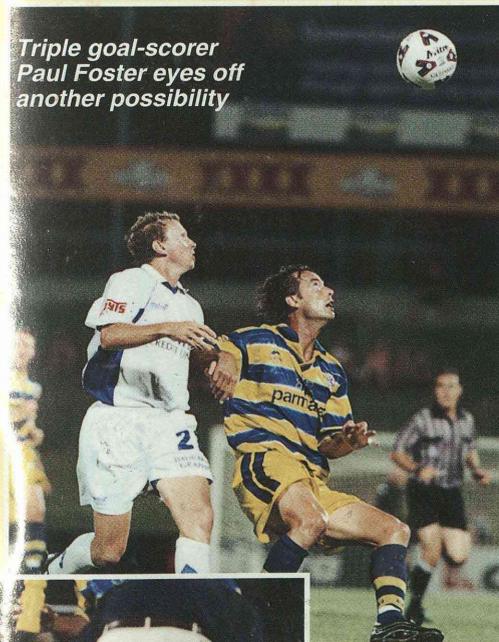
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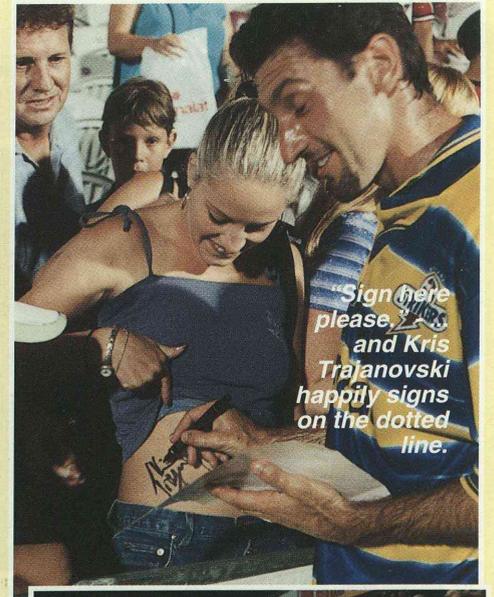
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Winterbottom - Terrific bloke

England's first football manager, the great Walter Winterbottom, died last month at Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, aged 89.

Winterbottom, who was in charge of England from 1946-62, died on February 16.

He was England's longest serving manager, in charge for four World Cup finals before handing over to Alf Ramsey, who took the team to World Cup glory in 1966.

Winterbottom was born in Oldham on January 31, 1913 and played as "half-back" for Manchester United until his playing days were ended by injury in 1939.

In 1946 at the age of 33, he was appointed national director of coaching with responsibility for the national team.

He officially became manager in May the following year after having laid the foundations for a national coaching scheme.

Winterbottom's managerial career began with a 7-2 thrashing of Northern Ireland in his first match in charge in September 1946.

But it was not all glory for Winterbottom whose reign also included the shock 1-0 defeat by the United States in the 1950 World Cup.

Even more significant reverses were the famous 6-3 Wembley thrashing by Hungary in 1953 and the Magyars' even more impressive 7-1 Budapest win in 1954.

At the time these games helped demolish traditional English notions about their inherent football superiority.

Former Blackpool and England player Jimmy Armfield described Winterbottom as a "terrific bloke" who was a "true gent".

Winterbottom handed Armfield his international debut against Brazil in 1959 - the first of 43 caps for his country.

Armfield was quick to praise Winterbottom for the way he managed such exceptional talents as Sir Stanley Matthews and Stan Mortensen.

"He was a terrific bloke," Armfield said.

"You have to remember what it was like at the FA in those early days just after the war, you can imagine them all sat together and he probably had 12 or 13 players to look at and pick 11 of them.

"He had some highs and some lows. We had the famous defeat by the USA - that was one of his lows, he always said that."

England legend Sir Tom Finney paid tribute to the spirit of English football under Winterbottom.

"The game has changed in so many ways and he had so much success during his spell as manager," he said.

"There was nowhere near the sort of pressures the present managers are under and in those days it was really for enjoyment you played or managed your country," he said.

Conditions of Entry

1. Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted.
2. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.
3. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who

remain after the stipulated time.

4. The setting alight of, or igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited, Offenders will be arrested and charged.
7. Smoking in the Grandstand is prohibited
6. Have a nice evening.

From the BSSA...

Wear your fruit on 23 March

Forget the Cheeseheads - this will be a night to wear fruit on your head.

At the next home game, the Strikers will be celebrating the beautiful football they have played all year, and the presence of Fernando Rech in Brisbane.

It will be party time from the front gate to the South Melbourne goal, with music and dancing by Fiesta Tropicale, and we want you to join in by dressing appropriately.

Come in your most colourful clothes, or get some Brazilian Mardi Gras costumes for the night. Wear some Carmen Miranda headwear.

Get out your old Pele t-shirt, or just pick out some green and gold to add to the colour.

Keith Page, the Strikers own drummer will be joined by some hot-blooded Latin drummers.

You will see some of the best ball control (jugglers) in this corner of the world.

And while we all Samba in the stands, Fernando and Fozzie and the gang will be waltzing through the South Melbourne defence.

BSSA Activities

As well as helping the Strikers organise the

match day themes, the BSSA also brings you the Free Kick each home game, and conducts the Players of the Season Votes. We want you to get a vote in each week, but please only one.

The match day mascots are arranged by the BSSA, and this activity has resulted in a few extra people attending games in matches after their teams have been represented. It was great to see the girls of Virginia last match.

More and more people are attending from the regions around Brisbane, and the BSSA contributes to this as well, through the Regional Fans initiatives.

We welcome all of you who have travelled far to be at the match tonight (including those supporting Adelaide).

All of these activities are intended to increase the crowds at Ballymore and to improve contact between fans and players.

The Strikers make every effort to do the same by coming to the fence for as long as it takes after the game to sign all the autographs.

Do you know that you are welcome to join the Strikers after the match at City Rowers (sponsors of the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers)?

Help the Strikers by responding to all these efforts. The best first step is to join the BSSA. Just write a note on the back of a Player of the Season voting slip and drop it in the ballot box.

John Wainwright, President BSSA

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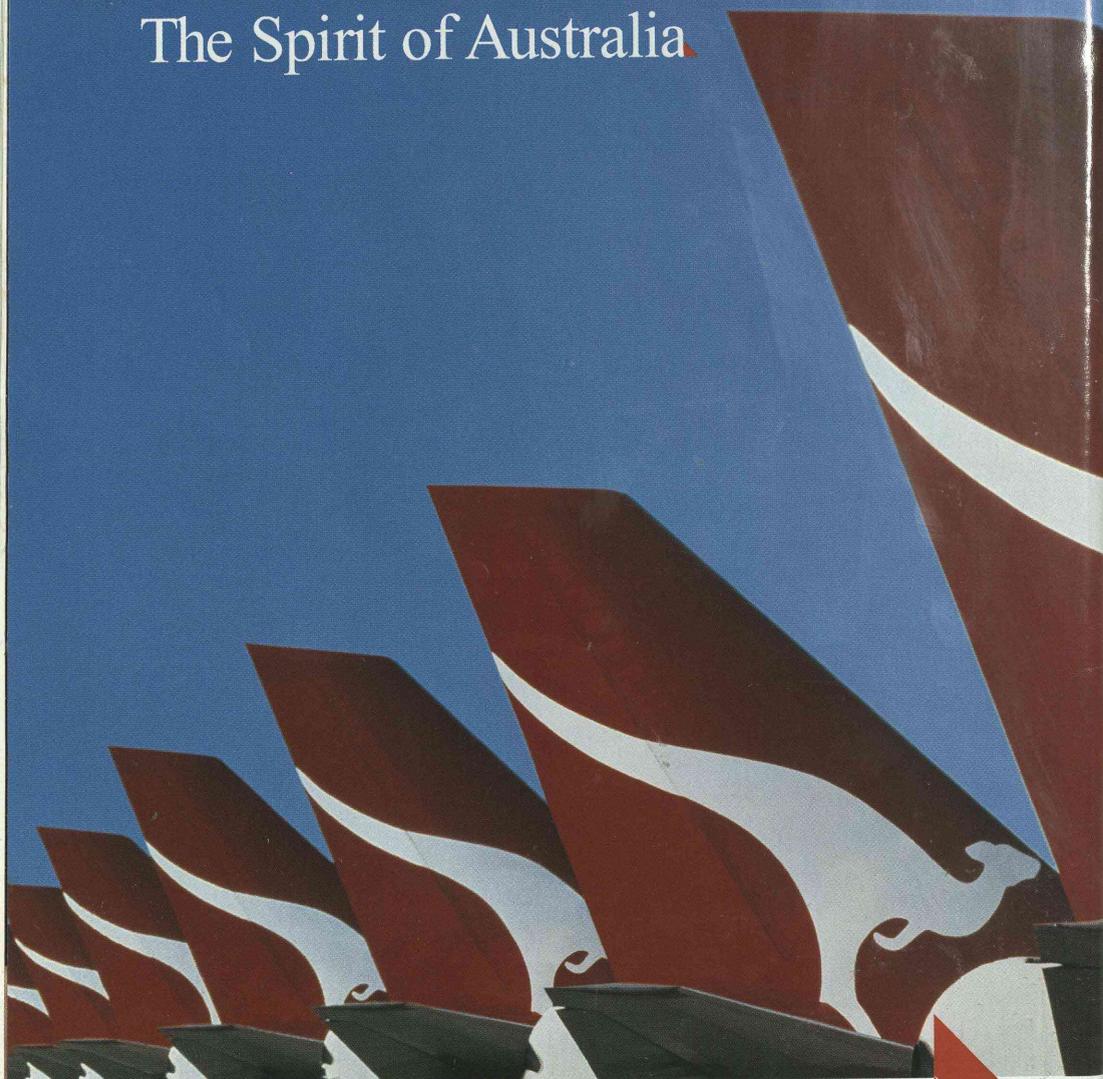
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| 6 Ben Griffin | 14 Tim Smits |
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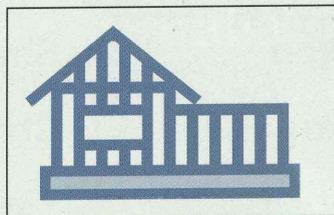
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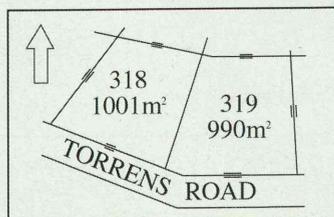
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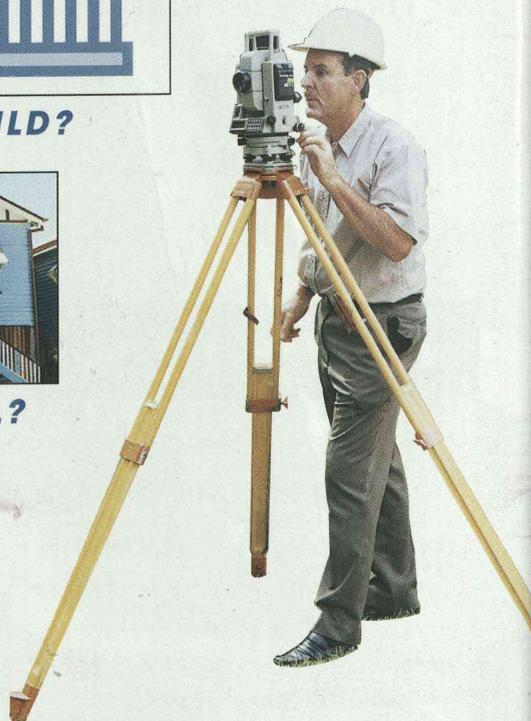
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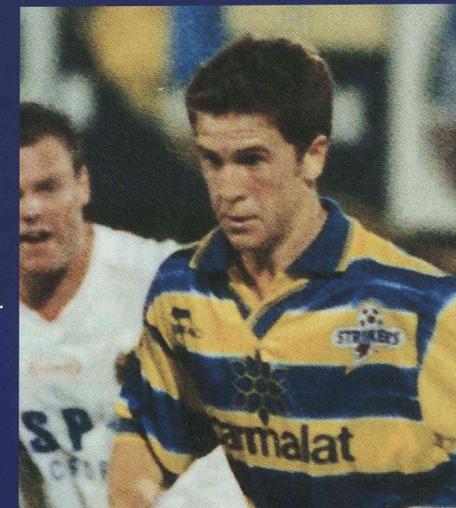
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PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE BRISBANE STRIKERS

Matthew McKay

Date Of Birth: 11/01/83
 Birthplace: Brisbane
 Age: 18
 Ethnic Origin: Australian
 Position: Midfield/Striker
 Nickname: Kevo
 Marital Status: Single
 Occupation: Professional footballer
 Did any of your family play sport at high level: No
 Left/Right footed: Left
 Eye Colour: Brown
 Hair Colour: Brown
 Height: 168cm
 Weight: 62kg



Do you wear glasses/contact lenses: No
 What brand of boots: Puma Kings
 National Rep honours: AIS
 Medals/Trophies won: NYL Northern Div. Player of Year 2000-01
 Past Clubs: AIS, QAS, Mt Gravatt
 Overseas experience: Nil
 What age first played: 5yrs (Dad took me along)
 Junior Clubs: Mt Gravatt, Sunnybank Saints
 Major injuries: ankle
 Career Highlight: AIS selection
 Biggest achievement to date: Nat Youth League Player Of The Year
 Ambition: Establish myself in Australia
 Favourite food: Hungry Jacks
 Most watched sports program: World Soccer
 Favourite overseas player: Roy Keane, Stuart Pearce
 Favourite overseas team: Nottingham Forest
 Most admired overseas-based Austrn: Harry Kewell
 Most admired home based Austrn: Steve Panopolous
 Most admired defender: Stuart Pearce
 Most admired midfielder: Roy Keane
 Most admired striker: Mark Viduka
 Most admired goalkeeper: Peter Schmuchael
 Hardest opponent (team): Marconi
 Major influences: Every Coach I've had; Mum & Dad
 What do you eat before a game: bread, pasta
 Soccer superstitions: I wear the same jocs for every game
 Funniest teammate: Lawrence Drake
 Describe yourself in three words: small, hard working and buzzing

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2001/2002

Player Statistics

Opponents

F-A

Date	Rnd	Opponent	Result	1 Keaton	2 Shearoch	3 Mckinnon	4 Mckinnon	5 Mckinnon	6 Mckinnon	7 Rich	8 Mather	9 Foster	10 Tranter	11 Carrone	12 Pitt	13 Heath	14 Dwyer	15 Mckinnon	16 Mckinnon	17 Mckinnon	18 Drake	19 Drake	20 Barlock	30 Coe
Fri 5/10	Rnd 1	Kingz FC	H 2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sun 14/10	Rnd 2	Sydney United	A 3-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sun 20/10	Rnd 3	Bye																						
Sat 27/10	Rnd 4	Melbourne Knights	A 2-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 3/11	Rnd 5	Northern Spirit	H 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 9/11	Rnd 6	Parramatta Power	A 2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 17/11	Rnd 7	Newcastle United	H 1-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Wed 21/11	Rnd 8	Adelaide City Force	A 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 1/12	Rnd 9	Olympic Sharks	H 1-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 8/12	Rnd 10	Wollongong Wolves	H 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 14/12	Rnd 11	South Melbourne	A 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 22/12	Rnd 12	Marconi Stallions	H 2-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 5/1	Rnd 13	Perth Glory	A 2-4	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 11/1	Rnd 14	Kingz FC	A 2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 19/1	Rnd 15	Sydney United	H 1-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 25/1	Rnd 16	Bye																						
Fri 1/2	Rnd 17	Melbourne Knights	H 3-5	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 8/2	Rnd 18	Northern Spirit	A 2-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 16/2	Rnd 19	Parramatta Power	H 4-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 22/2	Rnd 20	Newcastle United	A 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 1/3	Rnd 21	Adelaide City Force	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 9/3	Rnd 22	Olympic Sharks	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Fri 15/3	Rnd 23	Wollongong Wolves	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sun 23/3	Rnd 24	South Melbourne	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sat 30/3	Rnd 25	Marconi Stallions	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
Sun 7/4	Rnd 26	Perth Glory	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	
				49	149	77	39	115	69	40	20	144	283	68	59	12	19	7	9	10	24	0	11	
Individual League Appearances				0	4	1	1	9	13	19	0	42	70	7	9	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	
Individual League Goals																								

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

Inflated wages just stupidty

Wollongong Wolves coach Ron Corry has found an ally in Adelaide Force counterpart Zoran Matic who believes players talk in telephone numbers when it came to contract negotiations.

Corry, a former Socceroo, said the players' inflated wages and the willingness of some clubs to pay them was a major threat to the long-term future of the national league.

Matic agreed with Corry that the league's viability was in danger from the explosion in player wages.

Corry said simple mathematics indicated there just was not enough money to pay some of the contracts that players were looking for.

"When you work it out, you play 26 games per year, and the crowds - with the exception of Perth, maybe Newcastle and a couple of other places - you are lucky to get 5000," he said.

The Wolves have a handful of top-line players coming off contract at the end of the season. Defenders Ben Blake and George Souris, midfielders Alvin Ceccoli Dino Mennillo and keeper Dean Anastasiadis are among them.

Corry said that while experienced players of that calibre are needed by every club, whether or not they are re-signed may come down to financial restrictions at the end of the day.

"That is up to the club, but if they are talking telephone numbers then it is out of the question," he said.

Both coaches believed the league's continuing inability to attract crowds and corporate dollars that other Australian sports enjoyed should be reflected in what players earn.

"The market has gone stupid, we have to slow down the payments to the players," Matic said in a recent article.

"We have got four players in Perth at the moment, we are not going to pay them what others are willing to pay them.

"We are killing the game with that. They will say if you were rich you wouldn't complain, but it is just stupidity."

Meanwhile coach Ian Crook has signed a new two-year deal with Newcastle United.

Crook, a former England B representative, has had a brilliant start to his debut-coaching year and wants to be in Newcastle for the long haul

United general manager Jock Graham said the club was pleased to secure Crook.

"Ian has come to the city and done a wonderful job with United," Graham said.

"He has fitted in well and he understands the whole club picture and where we are heading."

"He wants to stay here and knows that the potential of the club over the next few years is enormous."

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PARMALAT BRISBANE STRIKERS

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE DRAW 2001 - 2002

Round	Date	Opposition	Time/Venue
21	Fri Mar 1	Adelaide City Force	7pm - Ballymore
22	Sun Mar 10	Olympic Sharks	7.30pm - Toyota Pk Cronulla
23	Fri Mar 15	Wollongong Wolves	7.30pm - WIN Stadium
24	Sat Mar 23	South Melbourne	7pm - Ballymore
25	Sat Mar 30	Marconi Stallions	7pm - Marconi Stadium
26	Sun Apr 7	Perth Glory	3pm - Ballymore

Glory ground to get facelift

The Western Australian Government has pledged \$6.8 million towards the redevelopment of Perth Oval into a rectangular multi-sport stadium.

National Soccer League club Perth Glory will be a major tenant but the ground - with 19,500 capacity - also will host rugby league and rugby union matches.

The Town of Vincent, which will manage the facility, will provide \$5 million to the refurbishment, expected to start in April next year.

Premier Geoff Gallop said support for soccer and rugby had grown in the past decade, reflecting the need for such a facility.

"We've come up with a solution to what's been a long-standing problem in WA that's going to serve the interests of sport and the community," he said.

Dr Gallop rejected suggestions that the \$11.8 million put aside for the project might not be enough.

"We've got a good plan, we've looked at it carefully, we've allocated the money and we are very confident we can create the result we want," he said.

The redevelopment would be in three stages over three years, starting with construction of a new eastern stand next year.

East Perth Football Club's decision to move to Leederville Oval paved the way for the redevelopment.

Perth Glory, which has played its national league games at the ground since entering the national competition in 1996, had been behind the push for a rectangular stadium.

"It finally gives us the home that we've been waiting for," chairman Nick Tana said.



2001/2002 NSL

Round 21 - 1/3/02

BRISBANE STRIKERS

- 1 Jason Kearton
 - 2 Richie Alagich
 - 3 Shane Stefanutto
 - 4 Jon McKain
 - 5 Stuart McLaren (c)
 - 6 Peter Grierson
 - 7 Fernando Rech
 - 8 Adam Webber
 - 9 Paul Foster
 - 10 Kris Trajanovski
 - 11 John Carbone
 - 12 David Pilic
 - 13 Wayne Heath
 - 14 Daniel Dreger
 - 15 Matthew McKay
 - 16 Ronnie McQuilter
 - 17 Michael Baird
 - 18 Lawrence Drake
 - 20 Corey Baldock
 - 30 Nathan Coe
- Coach - John Kosmina

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

- 2 Matthew Kemp
 - 3 Ian Fyfe
 - 4 Ante Kovacevic
 - 7 Lucas Pantelis
 - 8 Carl Veart
 - 10 Aurelio Vidmar
 - 11 Alex Moreira
 - 12 Scott Tunbridge
 - 13 Kristian Rees
 - 14 Aaron Goulding
 - 18 Ivan Karlovic
 - 20 Daniel Godley
 - 21 Adriano Pellegrino
 - 22 Mimi Saric
 - 23 Nick Budin
- Coach - Zoran Matic



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EYE ON STRIKERS Tables

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	18	13	4	1	39	16	43
Newcastle United	19	8	9	2	25	17	33
Olympic Sharks	18	9	3	6	26	14	30
STRIKERS	18	8	6	4	32	25	30
Melbourne Knights	19	8	2	9	31	31	26
Northern Spirit	19	7	5	7	26	30	26
Parramatta Power	19	7	4	8	20	22	25
South Melbourne	18	6	5	7	17	19	23
Wollongong Wolves	19	5	7	7	19	27	22
Marconi Stallions	18	5	5	8	20	25	20
Sydney United	19	5	4	10	22	30	19
Adelaide City Force	18	3	7	8	22	27	16
Kingz FC	18	3	5	10	22	38	14

OTHER ROUND 21 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCHES

Fri 1 Mar	Kingz FC v Melbourne Knights
Fri 1 Mar	W'gong Wolves v Olympic Sharks
Fri 1 Mar	Newcastle United v South Melbourne
Sat 2 Mar	Marconi Stallions v Parramatta Power
Sat 2 Mar	Perth Glory v Northern Spirit
	Bye - Sydney United

ROUND 22 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCHES

Fri 8 Mar	Northern Spirit v Kingz FC
Fri 8 Mar	Newcastle United v Marconi Stallions
Fri 8 Mar	Adelaide City Force v South Melbourne
Sat 9 Mar	Parramatta Power v Perth Glory
Sat 9 Mar	Olympic Sharks v STRIKERS
Sat 9 Mar	Melbourne Knights v Sydney United
	Bye - Wollongong Wolves

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	20	15	0	5	63	21	45
Marconi Stallions Youth	20	13	2	5	52	19	41
Wollongong Wolves Youth	20	13	2	5	52	30	41
QAS	20	12	3	5	43	24	39
Sydney United Youth	20	12	2	6	46	21	38
Newcastle United Youth	21	12	2	7	42	32	38
AIS	20	12	1	7	47	28	37
Olympic Sharks Youth	21	8	6	7	38	30	30
ACTAS	19	8	3	8	34	48	27
Northern Spirit Youth	19	6	5	8	36	38	23
Brisbane Toro	20	7	0	13	37	61	21
NSWIS	24	4	3	17	23	67	15
Marconi Stallions Colts	20	2	2	16	14	56	8
Sydney United Colts	20	1	3	16	13	65	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Damian Mori	Perth Glory	14
Paul Foster	Brisbane Strikers	12
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	10
Joel Porter	Melbourne Knights	10
Pablo Cardozo	Northern Spirit	10
Fernando Rech	Brisbane Strikers	9
Ante Milicic	Sydney United	9

Nth. youth LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Anthony Danze	Aust Inst Sport	16
Jacob Timpano	NSW Inst Sport	15
Eric Anabalon	Marconi Stallions Youth	15
Adam Kwasnik	Parramatta Power Yth.	14
Matt Hilton	Qld. Acad. Sport	14

Strikers to lop their locks for charity

Click go the shears boys click, click, click!

That's what will happen to Parmalat Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina and the entire Strikers' squad next week.

The Strikers will have their heads shaven after having confirmed their place in the Leukaemia Foundation's Shave for a Cure.

The Strikers will commit their entire squad for the cause, including "Kossie" and if they don't lop the locks they've decided to impose a \$200 fine on themselves.

All money raised will be donated to the Leukaemia Foundation.

If you want to get along to see the big shave be at the lower stage at the Queen Street Mall, on Tuesday, March 5 from 12.30pm.

Better still, if you'd like to support the Leukaemia Foundation's Shave for a Cure, sponsor your favourite Parmalat Brisbane Striker or make a donation at one of the collection points around the ground at tonight's game.



parmalat

**Helping the Strikers score
even more goals.**



As one of Europe's biggest Soccer supporters, Parmalat is very proud to be sponsoring our local Brisbane Strikers. We wish the team every success in this current season. Go Strikers!

PARMALAT IS A DAIRY COMPANY, WITH BRANDS INCLUDING PAULS, TRIM, BREAKA, ICEBREAK AND RUSH