

Eye On STRIKERS

v PERTH GLORY *Round 26*

Vol 10-12, Sunday April 7, 2002 \$2.00



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 Dell Townsend, Ray Evans.

General Manager: Alan Vessey
 Tel: 07 3356 3600 Fax: 07 3356 3477

Marketing: Ms. Tammy Woolf
 Tel: 07 3356 3600 Fax: 07 3356 3477
 PO Box 336, Albion 4010

Coach: John Kosmina
 Tel: 07 3356 3600 Fax: 07 3356 3477

Team Manager: Graham Kinsela

Football Manager: Jack Baren

Team Doctor: Neville Blomeley

Physiotherapist: Steve Whitlock

Goalkeeping Coach: Martin Coe

Trainer: Graham Kinsela

Media Liason:
 Alan Vessey 07 3398 2949
 Tammy Woolf 07 3356 3600

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COVER:

Jon McKain heading toward goal in our
 recent match against Adelaide City Force.
 Strikers won the match 3-0

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Coach's Comment



The last game of the minor round but unlike seasons gone by it's not our last game.

We've made the finals and not before time. It's been a long wait let me tell you. Not only from a personal point of view but also from the club's perspective as well.

Ten months ago we were out of the league and out of business. Seven months ago we were back in the league but written off as "wooden spooners" by many of the games' experts.

So much for opinions. Stability, as I've said so often is a key ingredient of success.

This season we have had stability on and off the park and the result is there for all to see - enough said.

Just how far we can go in the finals remains to be seen. In a pure football sense we have as much going for us as any of the other five finalists.

We've beaten three of them so far this season and played well against the other two so it really is down to how you go on the day.

It also comes down to the dreams and desires of the players and what they are prepared to do to fulfil them. Only time will tell.

Enough philosophy - thank you time. Firstly and most importantly thank you to QLD soccer's great philanthropist Dr. Clem Jones.

As you all know Dr. Jones' financial support has kept the game alive in this state for a long time.

His added support of the Strikers this season has allowed us to go full-time and compete on a level playing field for the first time in many years.

Thank you to the Parmalat Company for providing us with the best import to this country in many seasons - Fernando. And for the financial support and corporate profile they have provided as major sponsor.

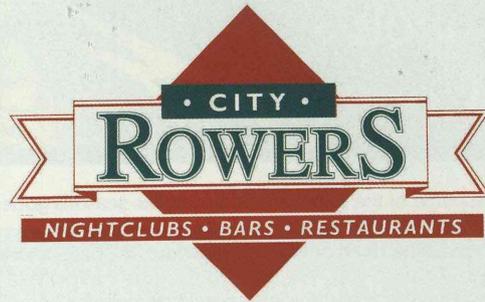
To Hank Kabel, a long time soccer supporter and principal of Keema Hyundai for providing us with vehicles.

Thanks to Mike Hayes and Buffalo Sports for our playing strip and training and travelling apparel. My gratitude also to our many minor sponsors and volunteers.

Thanks to our great legion of fans and the BSSA. You helped get us back in the league and your vocal support at home and away matches has been inspirational.

Finally, I must say thank you to a wonderful group of players. It's been a real joy to work with you this season and making the finals is no less than you deserve.

Enjoy the game, Kossie



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As we prepare for this afternoons final fixture round match with minor premiers Perth Glory we can afford just a moment to reflect and acknowledge the fact that we have achieved our initial goal of qualifying for the finals series.

But as that moment passes we should concern ourselves with two other issues. The first which is best left to be pontificated upon during the off-season is the irritating fact that although we are satisfied to be in the top six we did have numerous chances throughout the season to claim the coveted second spot.

The second issue is something, which we have been contemplating since our finals place was confirmed following last weekend's fixtures and it is simply a matter of setting our goals now that our first one has been achieved.

Obviously we believe that we have the capability to win the championship, but then again all the teams in the top six will have the same opinion of themselves.

Also, as we all know you must contest the grand final to claim the trophy, and it is a

long and winding road to get there from positions 3-6.
With all that in mind we will have our target but for now we will keep it to ourselves. Before I sign off there are just a couple of acknowledgements I would like to make. Firstly, congratulations to our opponents today, Perth Glory, for deservedly winning the Minor Premiership.
Secondly, the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers players would like to pay homage to the following people: All our fantastic supporters, Parmalat, Keema Hyundai, The Clem Jones Group, City Rowers, all our other values sponsors, the board of directors, the volunteers, the administration staff, the coaching and back room staff.
And finally (and most importantly) to our friends and families for their wonderful support.
See you in the finals!

Thanks for your support, Stuart McLaren

"Ricochet"
 a dance performance has been choreographed especially for this soccer game by Jean Tally. Live music by Steve Francis. The dancers are Staff and Students from Queensland University of Technology Creative Industries Dance Program: Elise May, Paul Zivkovich, Chang Chin Chi, Avril Huddy, Chafia Brooks, Sam Williams, Adam Tucker, Michael Reid and Richard Causer.

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Bring on the Glory

The Parmalat Brisbane Strikers have repaid the faith to their loyal band of supporters by making the finals but for coach John Kosmina there's still some unfinished business to attend to against champions Perth Glory today.

The Strikers are desperate to beat Perth to retain fourth place on the ladder, which will give it the choice of either hosting or playing away their first leg of the home-and-away "semi final".

After seven years coaching in the national league, Kosmina has finally made the play-offs, a tremendous feat considering he had to build the side from scratch after the club was initially axed from the league last year.

Kosmina spent his first three seasons with Newcastle and his past four with the Strikers which included one less than memorable year when off-field politics marred the side's performances two seasons ago.

"There's a little bit of personal joy for me to make the play-offs but for the club it is fantastic and just great for the players," said Kosmina, who was played 102 times for Australia.

"It's been great, this season in particular, as things have run smoothly and there's been no off-field politics interfering."

But Kosmina, who believes he has mellowed as a coach in recent times, wants to win against Perth for other reasons.

"We want to beat Perth so we can go into the finals with confidence," Kosmina said.

"We need to win to make sure we stay fourth which gives us the choice where we play our first semi leg.

"We've elected to play our first finals match away from home if we get the choice.

"If we don't finish fourth that decision will probably be made for us."

The Strikers won't be full strength for the Perth clash with striker Paul Foster likely to be rested again to make certain of his fitness for the play-offs.

"Paul is only a slim chance of playing against Perth and we want him fully fit for the playoffs," he said.

Although without Foster, the Strikers will go into today's match comforted by the return to form of fellow striker Kris Trajanovski, who

bagged a double in the Strikers' 3-2 loss to Marconi in Sydney last Saturday night. "It's good to see Traj back in form. He worked hard against Marconi and he showed his awareness is back and poached some good goals," Kosmina said.

"Lawrence Drake also played exceptionally well too."

Despite losing to Marconi, Kosmina wasn't overly disappointed with how the team played in Sydney.

"We were a bit hold and cold," he said.

"We looked like tearing them apart when we knocked the ball around, but then went into a slump for some reason.

"We need to beat Perth and we'll have to be more aware that what we were against Marconi."

While not making excuses for the loss, Kosmina believed a heavy pitch did not help his players.

"Sydney had a lot of rain in the days before the game and the pitch was very heavy and cut up from the youth match beforehand," he said.

Kosmina needs no reminding of the Perth's danger men, particularly strikers Damian Maori and Bobby Despotovski, and is expecting the visitors to field a full-strength side in their last match before the play-offs.

"They've been resting a few players in their last couple of games," Kosmina said.

"Despotovski was on the bench recently but whatever team they put on we know their strengths.

"We want to finish on a good note. We knew at the start of the season to make the top six we needed 36 points and it was our target to get 39 which we can get against Perth," he said.



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Scots to Barrack for England?

A Scottish politician has raised the ire of his countrymen by urging them to put aside 500 years of rivalry and support England the "auld enemy" - in the World Cup.

Andrew Wilson, an opposition minister in the Scottish Parliament, said Scotland needs to get rid of the "national chip on the shoulder" when it came to England, particularly in soccer.

"I believe that every Scot should try and support England in the World Cup this summer," Wilson said. Scotland, whose kilt-wearing fans are dubbed the "Tartan Army", failed to qualify for the World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan in May.

"We need to reform our attitudes," Wilson said. "We need to learn to be self-starting, self-reliant and responsible for the conduct of our own lives.

"And a very big part of delivering this is losing the national chip on the shoulder we have always had about our southern neighbours.

"We must not blame Scottish problems on the English when they are all of our own making. Scottish national performance in a range of things, including football, has been poor recently and we need to improve our self-confidence to fix it.

While many people agree with this, they are not prepared to support the English football team.

"England and the English should be our closest friends."

Wilson's plea was not well received. A spokesman for the Scottish Football Association was quoted in The Scotsman newspaper as describing Wilson's comments as "meaningless."

Bert Moorhouse, a Glasgow University academic who acts as an adviser to the SFA, was also sceptical.

"You cannot erase more than 500 years of history and 100 years of football rivalry," he told The Times newspaper.

The Mirror newspaper quoted 38-year-old Scottish soccer fan David Baird, who now lives in England, as being against the idea.

"Support England? You must be joking," Baird said. "Scotland's hatred of the English goes back centuries and I see no reason to change just because we haven't reached the World Cup.

"I'll follow England all right - and hope they lose."

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Rix Sacked

Graham Rix has been sacked as manager of Portsmouth after 13 months in the job. He's been replaced by Portsmouth's director of football, the former West Ham manager Harry Redknapp.

The club said in a statement the decision by chairman Maric Mandaric and the board to dismiss Rix had not been rash.

"The chairman wanted to give Graham Rix every opportunity to succeed and turn things round," it said.

"In doing this the utmost patience was shown in order to give the manager all the time he needed. Every assistance was given to him.

"Despite this time and assistance, Mr Mandaric and his directors feel that insufficient direction and progress has been made.

"Therefore, Graham Rix has been relieved of his duties immediately.

"Harry Redknapp will take charge of the team and will lead them against Preston on Saturday."

The Portsmouth board faced pressure from fans to sack Rix after heavy league defeats and an embarrassing 4-0 FA Cup third round loss to third division Leyton Orient.

But Mandaric had opted to keep faith with Rix in the hope he could revive the fortunes of the team, who have won just two of its last 11 matches and was 15th in the first division table.

Earlier this month Mandaric refused to pay the players' wages for February because he said they had not put in enough effort on the pitch.

But Mandaric later backed down following a meeting with the players' representatives.

Rix came to Portsmouth in February 2001 from Chelsea, where he was assistant coach under Gianluca Vialli.

NSL future – Asia or Bust?

Wollongong Wolves chief executive Michael Crowe has warned the future of the NSL and a host of its clubs is in doubt unless changes are made to the way the league operates.

Like every other NSL club, the Wolves are losing money and Crowe believed that unless changes were made the league faces an uncertain future.

Despite having won the last two NSL titles, Wollongong is beset by spiralling costs and dwindling income.

"For the sake of the NSL there has to be changes in the way the competition is run," Crowe said in recent newspaper article.

"A salary cap at the moment would be seen as a lifeline for many clubs."

The introduction of a ceiling on player payments would be hard to implement considering the way some club's operate. Crowe said the NSL has made no concrete decisions on next season.

"The NSL at this stage are unable to tell clubs how many teams will be in the competition, when the competition will start or what the format of the competition will be," he said.

Crowe said maintaining the same course would spell disaster.

"If you maintain a steady as you go policy here it means going straight over a cliff," he said.

The NSL's lack of answers as to how more money could be injected into the league is also of concern.

"The NSL has got itself into long contracts that are not going to support the game in anyway," he said.

The money that the NSL receive from television rights each year is believed to be just one-fortieth of what the AFL signed on for last season.

"The argument is that the NSL needs to be able to provide a more attractive game

and provide more excitement for fans," Crowe said.

"But while there is no change we are stuck in the scenario where we are going to be underfunded.

"There is no way in the world that the current structure can support the player payments."

Meanwhile Newcastle United owner Con Constantine has called on Soccer Australia to join the Asian Football Confederation in a bid to stage the Asian Cup and World Cup tournaments.

Constantine sent his proposal last week to Soccer Australia and all the Asian Football Confederation bodies.

He wants Australia to host the 2008 Asian Cup and to apply for the 2010 World Cup. Both tournaments are held every four years but two years apart.

"Australia at the moment is kept away from major soccer events," Constantine said.

"Obviously finance is the major problem. Soccer Australia doesn't even have the resources to send representatives overseas to negotiate deals over the World Cup and Asian Cup.

"Australia did a fantastic job with the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and I believe that effort could be repeated by staging the world's biggest sporting event, which is the World Cup.

"All Soccer Australia needs is the financial support to start a campaign."

Constantine believes Australia should join the Asian body to become part of the worldwide game, not just an association a long way away from the main soccer organisations.

"Stage the Asian Cup to get the points on the board and go from there," he said.

He pointed out that Australia already has the stadiums to handle major competitions and the transport infrastructure to ensure supporters were able to reach their destinations.



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Glory's Finals Path

Perth Glory is expected to break from convention by playing its major semi-final first-leg match at home now that it has won the premiership.

The club confirmed that after the Glory clinched top spot coach Mich d'Avray was likely to play the first match at Subiaco Oval on April 20.

Teams generally choose to play first-leg matches away but d'Avray has told the club of his intentions to play the first semi final leg in Perth.

In 1999, when the Glory finished third, it chose to play Adelaide City away in the first elimination final match, drew 0-0 and advanced after a dramatic 2-1 second-leg game at the WACA Ground.

The following season, after winning the minor title, the Glory played Wollongong Wolves away first, lost 1-0 but won the second leg 2-0 at Subiaco Oval and earned the right to host the grand final.

Last season, the play backfired when, after a controversial 0-0 draw away to Melbourne Knights, the Glory could only draw 2-2 at a rain-soaked Subiaco Oval and was knocked out of the competition.

Sydney United coach Branko Culina, who steered his side to the minor premiership and a grand final spot in 1997, believes playing at home first could be a good move for the Glory.

Culina said he preferred to play the home leg first because of the tendency of teams to play better when not under pressure.

"You have a look at the type of players you've got," Culina said.

"Do you have the players who can fight back and are comfortable chasing a result under pressure or are they better suited to playing when they are in front?"

"For whatever reason, I've always had confidence players who are more comfortable getting the job done at home and then playing away. I've had more success playing at home first."

Culina points to United's 1997 major semi final loss to Brisbane Strikers as evidence.

The coach wanted to play the home leg first but Parramatta Stadium was unavailable and consequently the team played away.

"We lost 1-0 in Brisbane. Then we were leading 2-0 at Parramatta and the players froze and fell away," he said.

United lost the semi-final on the away goals rule and later lost the grand final 2-0 in Brisbane.

"Perth Glory is the best overall team in the competition but, unfortunately, in two-game play-offs anything can happen," Culina warned.

Optus Television set to air NSL finals

Optus confirms that it intends to air the National Soccer League finals on Optus Television.

The coverage will commence this weekend and will be seen on Channel 42. Coverage including live feeds of some matches will continue until the season ends.

"Optus has always been keen to show the soccer and made that fact very clear to C7 throughout March 2002" said Martin Dalgleish, Acting Managing Director, Optus and Multimedia.

"We have been attempting to finalise soccer arrangements with C7 for many weeks - so obviously we are pleased with today's discussions".

Soccer Australia Chairman, Ian Knop, has actively participated in negotiations with C7 and Optus throughout the day.

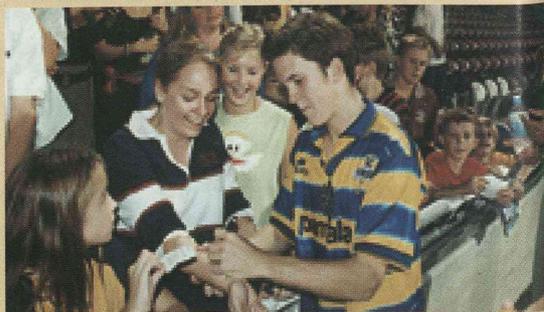
"Football of all codes including soccer, is a key driver of pay TV take up and we are delighted that Australian soccer fans are set to see this year's NSL finals on Optus Television" Mr Knop said.

Current Optus Television subscribers will receive the soccer free of charge.

For more information: Melissa Favero - Optus Public Affairs Ph:(02) 9342 5030
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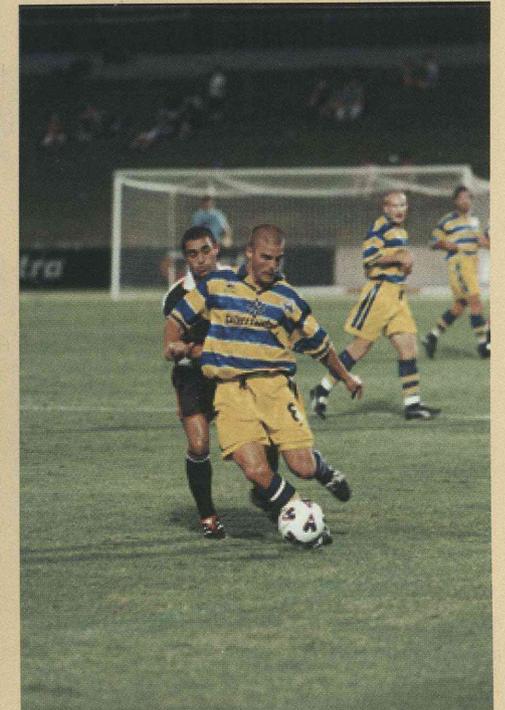
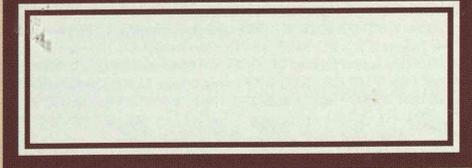
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Manchester United roll on

Soccer club Manchester United reported a 79 per cent jump in half-year profits on Tuesday, largely due to the proceeds from the sale of players like Jaap Stam and Andy Cole.

But the English premier league champion, also the world's richest club, said the end of an Umbro sponsorship deal on April 30, higher player wages and amortisation charges will have a negative impact on second-half profits.

United reported expenses had risen sharply - by nearly 30 per cent - with almost all of the rise coming from higher player wages, due to the summer acquisitions of

Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron and Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, and new contracts with several key players.

The club now expects that total player wages will be about 50 per cent of group turnover for the year as a whole, compared to 39 per cent for the previous year, which was the lowest ratio of any club in the English premier league.

The club reported pre-tax profits of STG30.9 million (\$A88.61 million) for the six months to end-January 2002, on turnover up 14 per cent to a record STG81.8 million (\$A234.59 million).

But United recorded a profit from player trading of STG7.9 million (\$A22.66 million) after net spending of STG3.3 million (\$A9.46 million) in the previous first half.

Group operating profit, stripping out player trading, rose 14 per cent to \$US23.6 million (\$A45.17 million).

Outgoing chairman Roland Smith said prospects for the rest of the financial year depend on progressing beyond the quarter-finals of the Champions League, in which United faces Spanish club Deportivo Coruna next month.

The club increased its half-year dividend to shareholders by five per cent to 0.64 pence a share from 0.61p.

United's shares were steady around 122.5 pence in early trade, valuing the company at just over STG320 million (\$A917.69 million).

Enjoy
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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.
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6. Have a nice evening.

From the BSSA...

What a rocky road Kossie has had in the Hot Bench at Brisbane!

His first year was 98-99, and his welcome to Brisbane was not that accorded to heroes arriving at speed on white chargers.

It was a season of settling in, and Kossie was rewarded for his work on the previous manager's team by 9th position in a 15-team competition.

The following season was expected to bring consolidation, and did it not start Strikingly?

They went 9 games without defeat and finished the season with a run of 6 games unbeaten, more games won than lost, more goals for than against and 9th position again in a 16-team competition.

What a season it would have been if not for Tony Petty.

Petty was greeted as the saviour, but he caused only disruption before departing.

Last season Petty interfered again, driving the Strikers away from the home of Queensland football - Perry Park, and closing the Queensland Soccer Club.

This was a very difficult environment for the coach and players to work in, and they did well to finish 12th of 14 teams who completed the season.

This season started only after the Queensland fought hard to be allowed entry to the competition.

Each off-season Kossie sees players who have grown through Queensland clubs leave the Strikers after displaying their capabilities on the national stage.

The squad was not decided until days before the season started.

But Kossie this season had what was probably close to the squad he wanted.

And so finally, at the last home game, we saw Kossie dance with delight as three of his Queensland youngsters combined to score the goal, which effectively put us in the finals.

Then Tony Petty got voted out of the board of the QSF.

So thank you Queensland for helping to fight to keep the Strikers in the NSL.

And thank you Queensland and the QSF, for the stream of fine lads who have graced the field in Strikers jerseys.

And thank you Kossie.

Thanks for fighting through the off field dramas and taking our Brisbane Strikers to the finals.

Thanks for giving us unrelenting entertaining attacking football.

John Wainwright, BSSA

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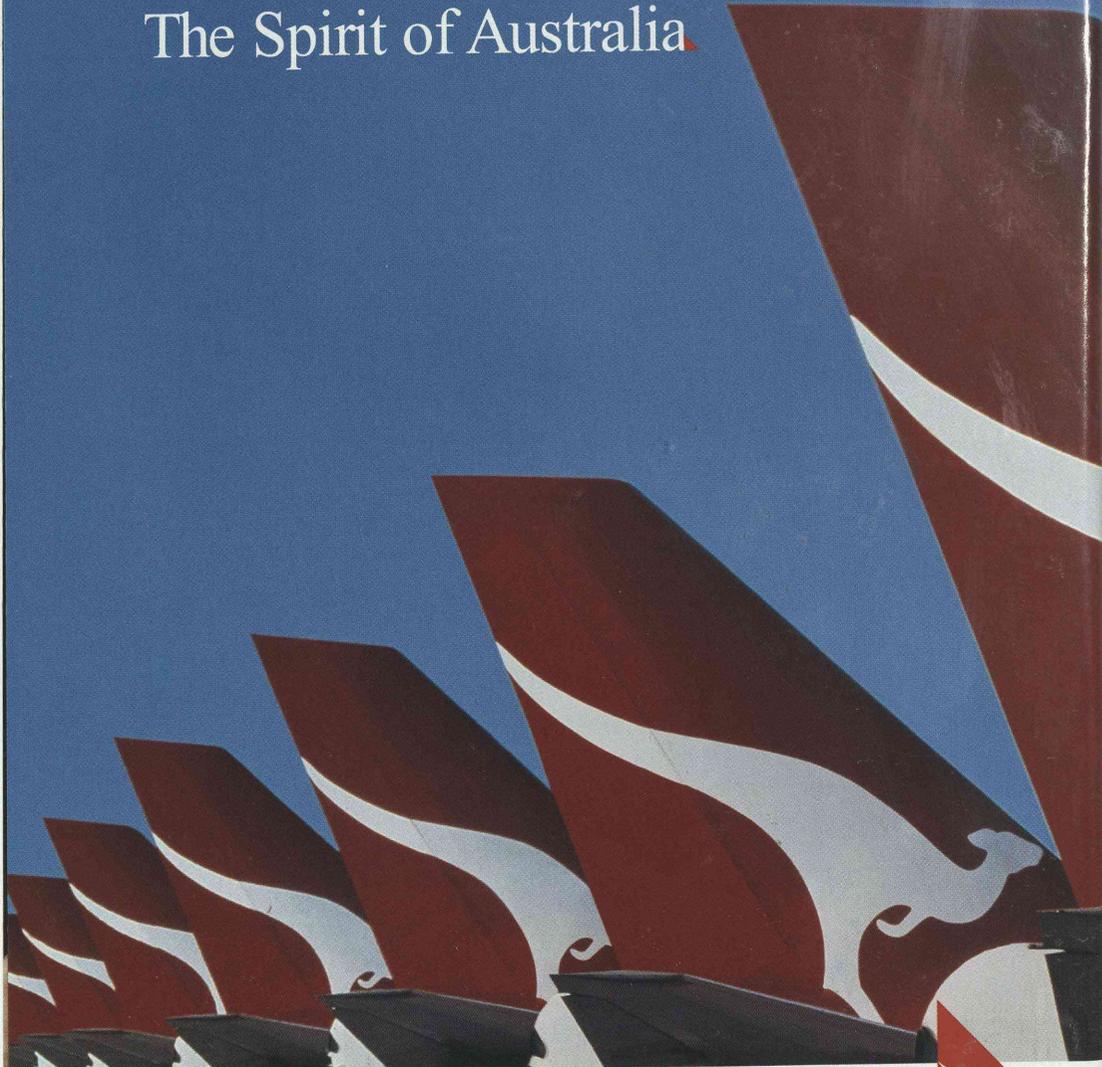
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BRISBANE NORTH u14 2002

- 1 Robert Edwards
- 2 Glen Andrews
- 3 Damien Austin
- 4 Wade Gibbs
- 5 Brodie Ireland
- 6 Robbie Kruse
- 7 Adam Sarota
- 8 Omar Hamid
- 9 Jason Lankheet
- 10 Matteo Amabile
- 11 Chris Peever
- 12 Chris Newman
- 13 Corey Slevin
- 14 Allan McCabe
- 15 Stephen Marriott
- 16 Michael Zullo

Coach - Robert Hamilton
Assistant - Allan Goldthorpe
Manager - Archie Ayre

BRISBANE SOUTH u14 2002

- 1 Georgio Batsinilas
- 2 Anthony Borgo (GK)
- 3 Kari Bradford
- 4 Rhys Brennan
- 5 Christopher Butler
- 6 Matthew Dobbin
- 7 Trent Hansen
- 8 Elliott Jones (GK)
- 9 Nicholas Lennan
- 10 Jason Marszalek
- 11 Thomas Moore
- 12 Adam O'Sullivan
- 13 Matthew Rom
- 14 Scott Sargent
- 15 Thomas Whitehouse
- 16 Benjamin Wright

Coach - Garry Johnson
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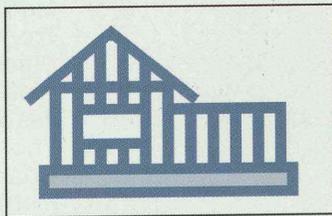
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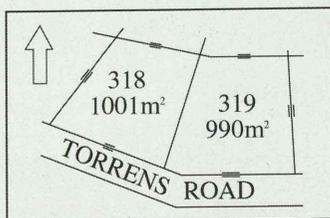
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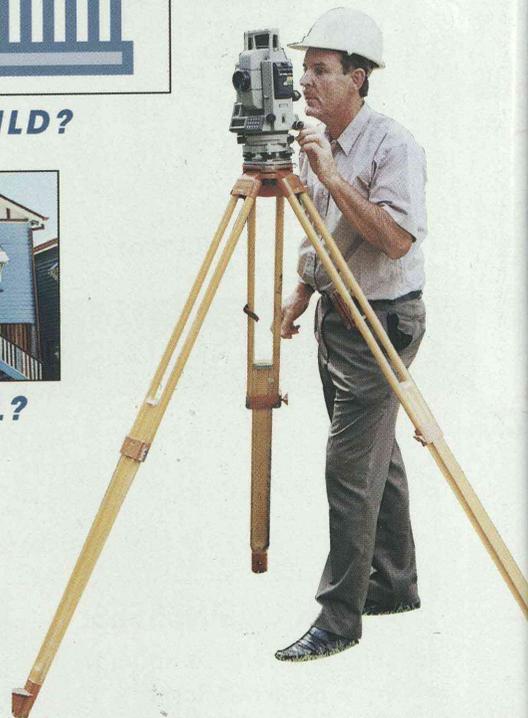
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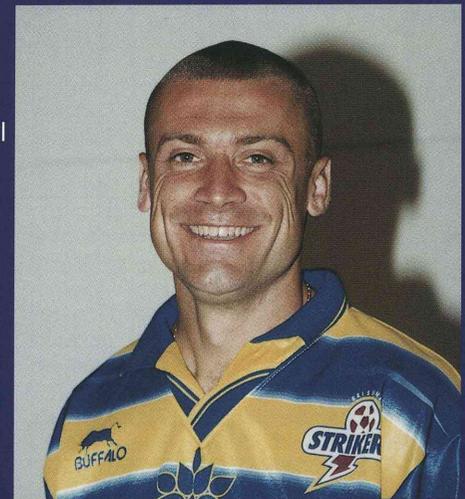
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3886 3620

SOUTHSIDE
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Camp Hill
Q 4152
3398 2969

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Fernando Rech

Date Of Birth: 13/03/74
 Birthplace: Cascias Do Sub, Brazil
 Age: 27
 Ethnic Origin: Brazilian
 Position: Striker, Midfield
 Nickname: Fernando
 Marital Status: Married
 Occupation: Professional footballer
 Did any of your family play sport at high level: No
 Left/Right footed: Right
 Eye Colour: Green
 Hair Colour: Brown
 Height: 182cm
 Weight: 87kg



Do you wear glasses/contact lenses: No
 What brand of boots: Diadora
 National Rep honours: No
 Seasons with the Strikers: Two
 Overseas experience: Fulltime Brazilian Professional
 What age first played: 12yrs
 Junior Clubs: Juventude (Brazil)
 Major injuries: Pubis injury
 Career Highlight: Winning 1999 Brazilian Cup
 Biggest achievement to date: Winning Brazilian Cup
 Ambition: Playing at least another five seasons
 Favourite food: Brazilian BBQ
 Most watched sports program: Sport Spectacular (Brazil)
 Favourite overseas player: Romario
 Favourite overseas team: Gremio Poa
 Most admired overseas-based Austrn: Mark Viduka
 Most admired home based Austrn: Paul Trimboli
 Most admired defender: Barrassi (AC Milan)
 Most admired midfielder: Maradonna
 Most admired striker: Romario
 Most admired goalkeeper: Tabarel (Brazil)
 Major influences: Father and Zicco (Brazil)
 What do you eat before a game: Pasta
 What do you eat after a game: Cadbury Chocolate
 Do you have any phobias: Hate Spiders
 Funniest teammate: Dave Pilic
 What is your most prized possession: House in Brazil

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2001/2002

Player Statistics

Opponents

F-A

Date	Opponents	F-A	1 Keaton	2 Shearman	3 Mickain	4 Mickain	5 Greison	6 Greison	7 Richi	8 Weather	9 Weather	10 Tranter	11 Tranter	12 Patic	13 Patic	14 Dreger	15 Mckay	16 Mckay	17 Drake	18 Drake	19 Base	20 Back	30 Cole
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 3-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
Sat 9/3	Rnd 22 Olympic Sharks	A 0-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
Fri 15/3	Rnd 23 Wollongong Wolves	A 1-3	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
Sun 23/3	Rnd 24 South Melbourne	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
Sat 30/3	Rnd 25 Marconi Stallions	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
Sun 7/4	Rnd 26 Perth Glory	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
Individual League Appearances			54	153	82	44	119	74	45	25	146	288	71	59	12	19	13	10	15	29	1	11	
Individual League Goals			0	4	1	1	9	13	19	0	43	73	7	9	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	

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

Ref's turn surgeons?

Football referees will turn surgeons at this year's World Cup finals, determined to cut out what some call the "cancer" of cheating by glory seeking stars.

The 72 referees and their assistants who will control the finals in South Korea and Japan in June were given strict instructions by FIFA last week to clamp down on the growing number of players who dive to secure a penalty or feign injury to get an opponent sent off, officials said.

Referees from Europe's top leagues at a World Cup seminar in Seoul all said they had noticed the rise in what the international governing body diplomatically calls "simulation" and have welcomed FIFA's warning.

FIFA have been very clear that they will support us in this effort to rid the game of this cancer," said Graham Poll, one of England's top referees after the seminar.

Football's growing riches could be behind the phenomenon, according to top officials who promised a major campaign at the 32 nations World Cup which starts in less than 10 weeks.

FIFA director of development George Cumming, coordinator of the referees seminar, said the clampdown will be "a major focus for FIFA at this World Cup as we think that simulation is a major problem in the game.

"They are not just trying to cheat the referees, they are also trying to cheat the game of football," he told a press conference.

Cumming blamed a desire to win that "becomes winning at all costs in some cases" for the increased cheating.

"There is a tremendous pressure because of the prizes in the game. There are tremendous salaries and prizes.

"But some of the players have taken it beyond fair play and we have got to be vigilant to prevent this from happening."

The referees and assistants spent a lot of time studying videos of notorious dives and play-acting from previous World Cups and other tournaments.

Every competing nation will be warned before the World Cup starts on May 31, said FIFA officials. And no nation country has been spared from the ravages of the 'simulators'.

Poll said he had seen the rise of cheats in the English Premier League, Gilles Veissiere said the same of the French championship and Pierluigi Collina, one of the world's most respected referees, said Italy was also seriously afflicted.

Some referees said privately that they thought some of the more notorious 'simulators' rehearsed their dives and other moves. Cumming would only say that players have become "more theatrical."

Tactics are being prepared for every kind of cheat. The player who feigns injury and in the past would go off for a few seconds for cursory treatment may have to wait longer before he is allowed back on the pitch, Veissiere warned.

"If there are more yellow and red cards this summer it will be because the players have not got the message. But I do not believe this will be the case," he said.

"We had a similar clampdown on tackling at the last World Cup and that was a great success."

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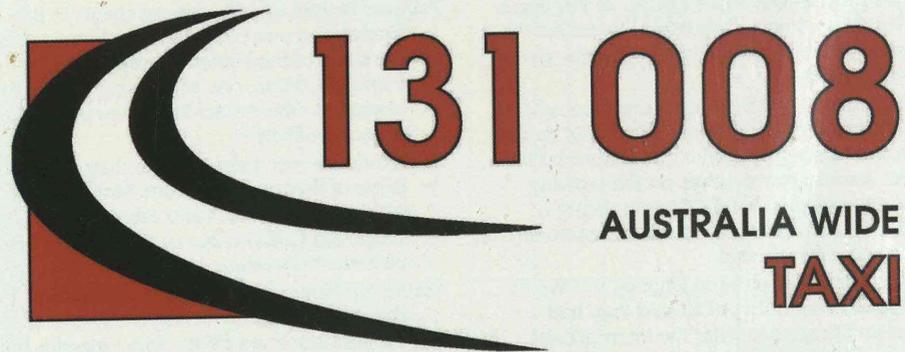
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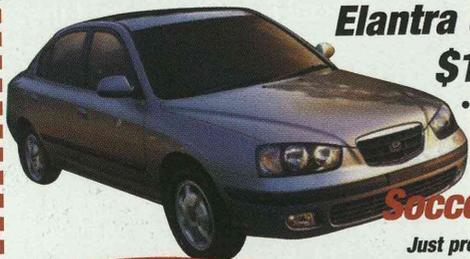
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2001/2002 NSL

Round 26 - 7/4/02

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- 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
- 19 Josh Rose
- 20 Corey Baldock
- 30 Nathan Coe
- Coach - John Kosmina

PERTH GLORY

- 1 Jason Petkovic
- 2 Matt Horsley
- 3 Jamie Harnwell
- 5 Craig Deans
- 6 Gareth Naven
- 7 Scott Miller
- 8 Brad Maloney
- 9 Alistair Edwards
- 10 Bobby Despotovski
- 11 Michael Garcia
- 12 Bradley Hassell
- 13 Anthony Danze
- 14 Dion Valle
- 15 Edgar Aldrighi
- 16 Damian Mori
- 17 Gary Faria
- 18 Shane Pryce
- 19 Shaun Kilkelly
- 20 Anthony Franken
- 22 Antonio Naglieri
- 23 David Tarka
- Coach - Mitch D'Auary



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EYE ON STRIKERS *Tables*

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	23	16	6	1	51	22	54
Newcastle United	24	10	12	2	33	21	42
Olympic Sharks	23	11	4	8	32	22	37
STRIKERS	23	10	6	7	39	32	36
Melbourne Knights	23	11	3	9	41	37	36
South Melbourne	23	9	6	8	27	21	33
Parramatta Power	23	9	4	10	31	30	31
Northern Spirit	23	8	7	8	31	37	31
Marconi Stallions	23	8	6	9	31	33	30
Wollongong Wolves	23	6	7	10	26	38	25
Sydney United	23	5	6	12	25	36	21
Adelaide City Force	23	4	8	11	26	37	20
Kingz FC	23	3	5	15	26	53	14

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	25	18	0	7	79	31	54
Wollongong Wolves Youth	25	17	2	6	69	35	53
Marconi Stallions Youth	25	15	3	7	65	32	48
QAS	25	15	3	7	53	32	48
Sydney United Youth	25	15	2	8	58	26	47
AIS	25	15	1	9	63	39	46
Newcastle United Youth	25	14	4	7	56	40	46
Olympic Sharks Youth	25	11	6	8	53	33	39
Northern Spirit Youth	24	11	5	8	57	41	38
ACTAS	25	10	4	11	48	65	34
Brisbane Toro	25	8	0	17	44	84	24
NSWIS	26	4	3	19	24	73	15
Marconi Stallions Colts	25	2	2	21	16	76	8
Sydney United Colts	25	1	3	21	15	92	6

ROUND 26 THE FINAL ROUND!

- Fri 5 Apr South Melbourne v Marconi Stallions
7.30pm Bob Jane Stadium
- Sun 7 Apr Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves
3.00pm North Sydney Oval
- Sun 7 Apr Adelaide City Force v Sydney United
2.30pm Hindmarsh Stadium
- Sun 7 Apr Parramatta Power v Melbourne Knights
Parramatta Stadium
- Sun 7 Apr Olympic Sharks v Kingz FC
Toyota Park
- Sun 7 Apr Brisbane Strikers v Perth Glory
Ballymore
- Bye - Newcastle United

NATIONAL LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Damian Mori	Perth Glory	17
Paul Foster	Brisbane Strikers	13
Pablo Cardozo	Northern Spirit	12
Royce Brownlie	Marconi Stallions	11
Antonio Da Costa	Melbourne Knights	11
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	11

Nth. youth LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Eric Anabalon	Marconi Stallions Youth	20
Anthony Danze	Aust Inst Sport	18
Matt Hilton	Qld. Acad. Sport	17
Adam Kwasnik	Parramatta Power Yth.	15
John Majurovski	Newcastle United Youth	15

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