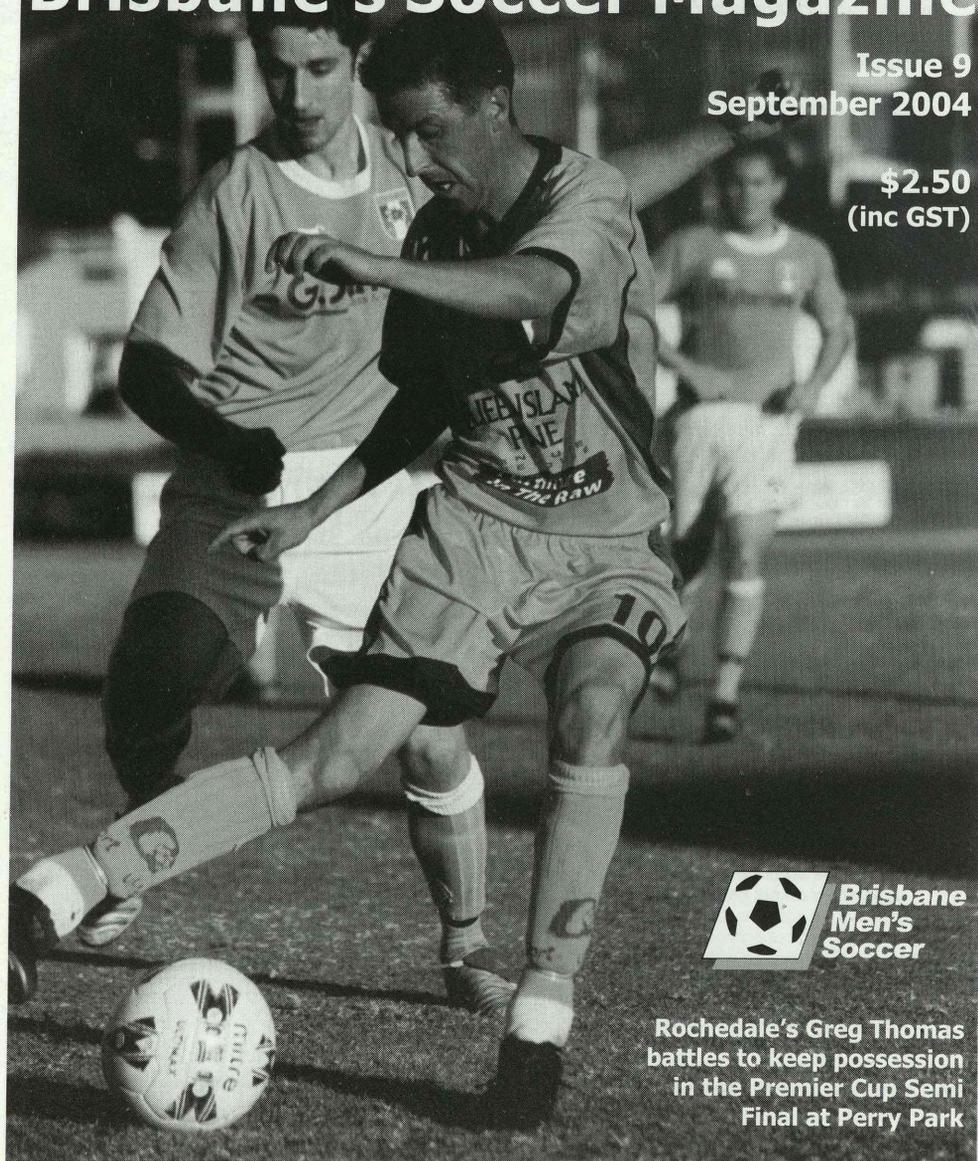


Extra Time

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

Issue 9
September 2004

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**Brisbane
Men's
Soccer**

Rochedale's Greg Thomas
battles to keep possession
in the Premier Cup Semi
Final at Perry Park

ExtraTime

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

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ExtraTime

Issue 09 Sept 2004

contents

- 4 Local Round Up**
- 5 BMS Tables**
- 11 Opinion**
Coops on the rep system
- 13 Phil Moye**
The BMS chief looks ahead to 2005
- 14 4 Times a Weekend is Never Enough**
Sydney-based pundit Micky Brock
- 16 SisterHood**
Sharon Jackson on female follies
- 18 The Full Monty**
Monty reviews 2004
- 20 A Word From the Wise Guy**
Eric Sinclair
- 22 BMS**
General Manager Bruce Dinsdale
- 23 Andy Paschalidis**
Football Fever all year round
- 25 In Off the Post**
The Goss

editor's Comment

This being the final ExtraTime of the season please indulge me while I thank a few people for their efforts through the year. If I listed everyone who had contributed to ExtraTime then I wouldn't have any space left in this column. Suffice to say that my sincerest thanks goes to all who have been involved, and in particular the writers. It is they who have had to put up with me pestering them for deadlines etc, and their willingness to provide articles won my admiration and respect every month. So whether you wrote for the magazine, provided info for it, advertised in it, or bought it, you have my thanks and I hope we can convince you to do it all over again next season.

When we come back in 2005 things should be a little different on the local and national soccer scene. The APL will be close to starting and we will finally know who the Brisbane entrant will be. The ongoing conjecture about the new league in recent months has done little to help our game, so let's hope that the wait we've all been subjected to will be worth it. Of particular interest is the format of the APL. I can understand all the reasoning of only having 8 teams in the league but I remain unconvinced that this will provide the broad and unifying appeal that the ASA are suggesting. The fragmented opinions of Brisbanites are surely a good example of what fans must be feeling in other states? Soccer folk are parochial and passionate with allegiances and rivalries that are forged over many years, sometimes generations. No amount of marketing and repackaging is going to change the psyche of an entire section of society overnight and I wonder if these radical changes will meet with initial resistance. Such resistance is an inevitable bi-product of culture change but there are issues with soccer fans that are specific to our code and one hopes that the strong Rugby influence at the ASA is mindful of that. The ASA needs to tread very carefully and get this right from the beginning otherwise they will be spending vast amounts of time extinguishing bush fires all over the place. Personally I would love to see local derbies, an imaginative cup competition as a distraction from normal fixtures and at least a couple more teams involved. The mooted 21 rounds instantly disadvantages those who have to play crucial fixtures away from home twice. It's not as if there's going to be plane-loads of travelling supporters to even up the atmosphere is it?

Perhaps my perceived reservations at this stage are simply coming to the fore because of the current uncertainty surrounding the whole situation. The sooner the whole thing is set in stone the better, and at least then we will have something to look forward to.

On the local front, congratulations to Queensland Lions on yet another title and despite their apparent dominance of the Premier League it's been good to see the emergence of some strong challengers who are not as far behind Lions as the table might suggest. ■

LOCAL news

Queensland Lions finally clinched the Premier League championship after thumping Taringa 7 - 0 at Lions Stadium last month.

Greg Di Losa struck a hat-trick as Lions returned to form after a jittery few weeks where they lost their unbeaten record at Easts and were knocked out of the Premier Cup by Rochedale on penalties.

It's still been a tremendous season for the Lions where they have again set standards that the rest of the Premier League is yet to match. Lions coach Miron Bleiberg said it was satisfying to return to form. "We struggled over the last few weeks but now we're back to normal; it was another day at the office," he said. "That's our third straight championship and it's a great feeling."

Most of the interest this season has been on who would get closest to the Richlands side and it was Clayton Koch's Pine Rivers who secured the Runners-Up berth. Rivers have been in scintillating form this year and are sure to be ruing a relatively slow start to the season that if avoided, could have got them even closer to Lions.

Rochedale Rovers have plenty to be happy about following a solid 2004 and will now face Rivers in the Semi-Finals. Rovers have been pleasing to the eye all season and will be keen to have something to show for their efforts after losing narrowly to Brisbane City in the semi-final of the Premier Cup.

The surprise package of the year is undoubtedly Mitchelton. In their first season in the Premier League they have stepped up to the plate both on and off the field. Greg Brown's blend of skill and work rate has seen the northside club put pressure on the leaders all season and they have done more than enough to suggest that they will now be a permanent fixture in the top

division. This was confirmed by the final-day defeat of Premiers Lions and they will offer stiff resistance to the reigning champions in the Finals series.

At the bottom, Souths were finally condemned by the side they replaced in the Premier League a couple of years ago as Easts put the final nail in a horrible season for Peter Bannon's side. Time to re-group for Souths and if the form other relegated sides in recent years is anything to go by, they will have plenty of time to do it.

ExtraTime again caught up with the Premier League coaches for our final monthly wrap.

A MONTH OF MOUTH

Eastern Suburbs: Col Bennett

Against Wolves we played the way we did against Lions which was pleasing. It was good to end the relegation threat with that win as we didn't want it going down to the last game. We haven't been consistent enough this year and that's been frustrating. With the squad we had at the start of the season we should have done a lot better than we have.

One Word Season Summary: **Disappointing**

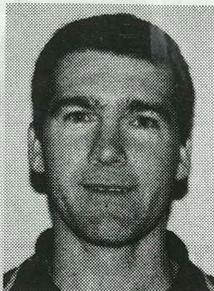
Pine Rivers: Clayton Koch

It's been a good season for us and we've played consistently well all year. It's a shame that we had a slow start to the year but we didn't really have much choice as we always knew that our squad wouldn't be completed until about a month into the season. We also had some key players injured early in the year and that didn't help us either. Having said that the players have done really well and it's been a great effort from them. It's the most points the club has ever accumulated in the Premier League and we're very pleased with that. We're looking forward to the semis now, they should be tight games.

One Word Season Summary: **Enjoyable**

Rochedale Rovers: Kieran Cooper

I'm really pleased with the season overall. We wanted to finish in the top 4 so we ended up where we wanted to be. The Semis will be tight as there isn't much between us and Rivers, but Finals games are supposed to be tough and there the games you want to be involved in. If we do get past Rivers and into the Final we would have nothing to fear. We've made great progress this year and everything is going well



Brisbane Men's Soccer

Final Tables

Premier League	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	22	18	2	2	78	11	56
PINE RIVERS UTD	22	14	5	3	59	38	45
ROCHEDALE ROV	22	13	6	3	52	33	42
MITCHELTON	22	12	5	5	40	26	41
PALM BEACH	22	10	6	6	44	33	36
BRISBANE CITY	22	8	10	4	30	40	28
BRISBANE WOLVES	22	8	12	2	36	44	26
NORTH STAR	22	6	10	6	30	41	24
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	7	13	2	27	43	23
TOOWOOMBA	22	5	12	5	19	48	20
TARINGA ROVERS	22	5	14	3	32	56	18
SOUTHS UNITED	22	3	14	5	24	58	14

Premier Reserves	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	22	19	2	1	68	15	58
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	22	15	5	2	69	26	47
BRISBANE CITY	22	14	4	4	53	27	46
PALM BEACH	22	13	4	5	42	28	44
BRISBANE WOLVES	22	12	9	1	45	42	37
MITCHELTON	22	8	9	5	47	41	29
SOUTHS UNITED	22	8	13	1	39	51	25
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	7	12	3	40	50	24
TOOWOOMBA	22	7	13	2	35	52	23
NORTH STAR	22	5	12	5	37	53	20
PINE RIVERS	22	4	14	4	31	72	16
TARINGA ROVERS	22	3	18	1	18	67	10

Premier Youth	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	22	21	1	0	94	17	63
PALM BEACH	22	17	5	0	83	27	51
MITCHELTON	22	15	5	2	66	22	47
NORTH STAR	22	13	6	3	61	35	42
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	22	12	7	3	57	29	39
BRISBANE CITY	22	12	8	2	47	27	38
SOUTHS UTD	22	9	9	4	43	38	31
BRISBANE WOLVES	22	6	12	4	33	50	22
TOOWOOMBA	22	6	15	1	22	56	19
TARINGA ROVERS	22	4	15	3	22	79	15
PINE RIVERS	22	3	18	1	21	97	10
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	2	19	1	19	91	7

Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
UNI OF QLD	22	14	1	7	54	25	49
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	22	14	3	5	39	18	47
PENINSULA POWER	22	13	3	6	44	23	45
MT GRAVATT	22	11	6	5	42	28	38
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	22	10	9	3	37	27	33
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	22	8	9	5	29	31	29
REDLANDS UNITED	22	7	9	6	42	40	27
BEENLEIGH	22	8	11	3	37	38	27
ROCKLEA	22	4	12	6	16	45	18
THE GAP	22	2	10	10	29	45	16
ALBANY CREEK	22	4	14	4	28	47	16
CAPALABA	22	2	10	10	23	53	16

Div 1 Reserves	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
UNI OF QLD	22	19	1	2	86	17	59
MT GRAVATT	22	15	5	2	73	14	47
PENINSULA POWER	22	14	3	5	46	18	47
REDLANDS UNITED	22	14	4	4	49	24	46
THE GAP	22	12	7	3	41	32	39
ALBANY CREEK	22	11	7	4	40	28	37
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	22	9	11	2	38	38	29
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	22	7	12	3	29	44	24
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	22	6	14	2	29	44	20
ROCKLEA UTD	22	4	15	3	18	57	15
BEENLEIGH	22	2	17	3	22	95	9
CAPALABA	22	1	18	3	16	76	6

Div 1 Youth	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
PENINSULA POWER	22	16	1	5	78	21	53
ALBANY CREEK	22	15	3	4	84	26	49
UNI OF QLD	22	15	3	4	76	22	49
REDLANDS UTD	22	11	6	5	63	27	38
MT GRAVATT	22	12	8	2	74	47	38
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	22	9	8	5	60	49	32
BEENLEIGH	22	8	7	7	53	47	31
THE GAP	22	8	11	3	46	43	27
CAPALABA	22	6	13	3	47	65	21
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	22	7	15	0	37	58	21
ROCKLEA UTD	22	4	18	0	29	111	12
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	22	2	20	0	11	142	6

Division 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
GOODNA	22	15	2	5	54	17	50
IPSWICH CITY	22	16	4	2	41	21	50
BETHANIA	22	15	3	4	69	23	49
BRISBANE FORCE	22	14	4	4	54	18	46
NEWMARKET	22	10	6	6	52	36	36
GRANGE THISTLE	22	8	10	4	31	33	28
SAMFORD	22	9	12	1	30	32	28
ANERLEY	22	6	10	6	37	42	24
NORTH PINE	22	5	13	4	44	63	19
SLACKS CREEK	22	5	13	4	24	47	19
MOGGILL UNITED	22	5	15	2	23	66	17
OXLEY UNITED	22	2	18	2	23	84	8

Div 2 Reserves	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE FORCE	22	18	1	3	63	14	57
IPSWICH CITY	22	14	5	3	49	22	45
GRANGE THISTLE	22	14	6	2	45	22	44
NORTH PINE	22	13	8	1	68	37	40
GOODNA	22	12	6	4	63	33	40
NEWMARKET	22	10	6	6	40	21	36
BETHANIA	22	10	7	5	57	31	35
ANNERLEY	22	8	8	6	37	44	30
SLACKS CREEK	22	6	13	3	27	44	21
SAMFORD	22	3	16	3	19	73	12
OXLEY UNITED	22	3	17	2	14	71	11
MOGGILL UTD	22	1	19	2	19	89	5

Metro Div 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
DARRA LIONS	22	20	1	1	85	24	61
SOUTHS UNITED	22	12	6	4	49	34	40
ACACIA RIDGE	22	12	7	3	67	46	39
TARINGA ROVERS	22	11	5	6	36	28	39
WILSTON ATHLETIC	22	9	7	6	56	49	33
CLAIRVAUX	22	9	10	3	48	41	30
BRISBANE WOLVES	22	8	9	5	41	42	29
PINEAPPLE ROVERS	22	7	8	7	39	46	28
PARK RIDGE	22	6	11	5	32	45	23
BAYSIDE UNITED	22	6	13	3	32	51	21
UNI OF QLD	22	4	12	6	34	54	18
MITCHELTON	22	3	18	1	22	81	10

Metro Div 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
LOGAN CITY KINGS	18	15	3	0	73	29	45
BRISBANE TORO	18	13	1	4	66	31	43
PINE RIVERS	18	10	6	2	64	38	32
PINE HILLS	18	9	5	4	46	38	31
NEWMARKET	18	6	8	4	37	51	22
THE GAP	18	5	8	5	36	41	20
RIDGE HILLS	18	4	9	5	27	36	17
REDCLIFFE PCYC	18	4	11	3	17	43	15
MOOROONDU	18	2	9	7	25	54	13
BRIGHTON	18	3	11	4	23	53	13

Metro Div 3	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
CLAIRVAUX	22	19	0	3	85	20	60
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	17	4	1	83	33	52
UNI OF QLD	22	14	4	4	52	17	46
DARRA LIONS	22	12	8	2	60	45	38
NEWMARKET	22	10	7	5	54	42	35
PINEAPPLE ROVERS	22	10	8	4	35	36	34
ACACIA RIDGE	22	9	11	2	42	56	29
GRANGE THISTLE	22	8	11	3	43	51	27
BAYSIDE	22	7	11	4	39	63	25
PINE HILLS	22	5	15	2	37	68	17
NORTH PINE	22	3	18	1	24	84	10
SOUTHS UNITED	22	2	19	1	26	65	7

Metro Div 4	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLD BRIDGE	22	19	1	2	103	16	59
REGENTS PARK	22	17	5	0	108	36	51
TARINGA ROVERS	22	16	3	3	57	29	51
NEWMARKET	22	13	7	2	69	45	41
BRISBANE CITY	22	13	7	2	65	47	41
BRISBANE FORCE	22	12	7	3	82	50	39
ACACIA RIDGE	22	9	11	2	54	61	29
SLACKS CREEK	22	6	15	1	40	80	19
MT GRAVATT	22	5	15	2	37	74	17
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	22	4	15	3	28	66	15
THE GAP	22	4	17	1	24	76	13
BEENLEIGH	22	2	17	3	57	144	9

Metro Div 5	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
NORTH STAR	22	20	1	1	114	13	61
SLACKS CREEK	22	19	1	2	80	16	59
NEWMARKET	22	13	5	4	60	36	43
ANNERLEY	22	13	9	0	59	48	39
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	22	11	10	1	64	64	34
BRIGHTON	22	11	10	1	60	64	34
RIDGE HILLS	22	8	11	3	38	50	27
REDLANDS UNITED	22	7	12	3	30	61	24
IPSWICH CITY	22	5	13	4	29	54	19
EASTERN SUBURBS	22	4	11	7	35	78	19
ALBANY CREEK	22	4	16	2	30	65	14
CLAIRVAUX	22	1	17	4	32	82	7

Metro Div 6	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
ALBANY CREEK	21	16	3	2	67	16	50
PARK RIDGE	21	15	3	3	59	27	48
CAMIRA	21	12	4	5	52	29	41
MOOROONDU	21	8	11	2	53	48	26
REGENTS PARK	21	7	9	5	44	61	26
GOODNA	21	7	13	1	40	63	22
BRISBANE WOLVES	21	3	14	4	31	64	13
MT GRAVATT	21	2	13	6	28	66	12

Open Youth Div	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	18	17	1	0	98	13	51
BETHANIA RAMS	18	13	3	2	66	36	41
BRISBANE FORCE	18	10	5	3	53	26	33
SOUTHS UNITED	18	9	6	3	67	33	30
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	18	9	9	0	69	48	27
TOOOWOOMBA	18	6	11	1	41	51	19
SLACKS CREEK	18	1	15	2	10	122	5
NORTH PINE	18	1	16	1	24	99	4

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at the club right through all the grades.
 One Word Season Summary: **Enjoyable**

Toowoomba Raiders: Gordon McBain

The lads that we had did very well to avoid the perilous positions in the league. We started the season with a pool of 15 players and that was soon reduced to 12. We had several experienced players retire at the end of last season and we lost the 2 Hilli boys this year. All in all I think we did well. I'd be optimistic for next season if we can get 1 or 2 extra players because the young lads we've thrown in will do well for us if they have a good pre-season.
 One Word Season Summary: **Satisfactory**



Mitchelton: Greg Brown

We knew it was going to be a long season and that anything could happen because we don't carry a large squad. We lost the 2 Vanuatu boys to international duty for a while and had some injuries as well and that contributed to our bad spell mid-season. We

got back on track though and the players have done well to play such good football. It's been a great year for the club and we've got some good young players here; it's all going well for Mitchy and everyone is very pleased. We'll be looking to do even better next year. It's been nice to hear that other people have been saying that we've made a good contribution to the league.
 One Word Season Summary: **Achievement**

North Star: Ken Swan

We've done pretty well in the second half of the season but we've had too many draws. With such a young squad I feel we've had a great year. With young players you always get a little inconsistency creeping in but we've learned to live with that. Overall we've made great strides this season both on and off the field. Our coaching programs are in place and working and we've made improvements in all 3 grades. We're rebuilding the club slowly and we have to be patient with our young players. I'm hopeful and ambitious for next year.
 One Word Season Summary: **Exciting**

Brisbane Wolves: Kevin Meacock

We played well in the semi-final of the cup but then we go and lose to Souths. It's been like that all season for us. You have to be able to lift

yourself and do the little things well when things don't go your way so that you can get back into a game, and perhaps we haven't done enough of that. The tight games haven't gone for us at all and we have to look at how we can change from being a team that plays well, into a team that wins even if we aren't playing well.
 One Word Season Summary: **Inconsistent**

Brisbane City: Frank Pimblett

It's been a very disappointing season with few positives. The players looked as if they didn't want to be there and have just gone through the motions. It's been the worst year I've ever had coaching both in terms of results and as an experience. There's a terrible malaise and a terrible attitude down there; it's as if they don't care. A lot of the players haven't been up to it at this level and they need to have a serious look at themselves. When it got tough they didn't roll their sleeves up and fight for the cause which is so disappointing.
 One Word Season Summary: **Disillusioning**

Taringa Rovers: Alan Waller

The last few weeks have been hard as we've had some heavy losses. From the players point of view it came down to the realisation of the situation we were in. Confidence and belief was lacking even though the commitment was there. It's a cliché but winning is a habit and so is losing, and habits can be hard to break. We've just lacked that little bit of extra quality in certain areas. In the Premier League every game is about pressure and if you make a mistake you will pay for it.
 One Word Season Summary: **Frustrating**

Palm Beach: Karl Herdle

The team has been absolutely excellent this year. We've scored a lot of goals and haven't let many in but we haven't been quite consistent enough. We've got the youngest team in the league and it's always hard to get consistency from youngsters. I'm delighted with how the year has gone for us though. The team have matured as players and as people and they have learned a lot. We've rebuilt the team and I'm looking forward to working with them again.
 One Word Season Summary: **Satisfying**

Queensland Lions: Miron Bleiberg

We all like to win so obviously I am very happy.



We took the league with a big margin, won a lot of games, scored a lot of goals and haven't conceded many, which is very good. We've also done it with local players, no imports. It's due to the hard work, professionalism and dedication of the club. Hopefully we can go on to the Grand Final from here and then obviously to the APL after that.

One Word Season Summary: **Almost Perfect** (er, that's 2 words)

Souths United: Peter Bannon

It's been up and down once again. We've had some decent results and some maulings. I've been much more pleased with the effort and the application of late so I can't fault the players for having a go. This is a tough league and you can't afford to make individual mistakes because you will pay for them and that's what has really cost us this year.

One Word Season Summary: **Trying**

The **Division One** title was wrapped up by University of Queensland with 1 game to spare as the students overcame Beenleigh 2-1. Uni reeled in what appeared to be an unsurmountable lead held by Olympic and will take their place in the Premier League next season. Just deserts for the St Lucia side as they have been consistent high flyers in Division 1 and have been denied entry to the top league in the past based on factors other than their performance on the field. Despite their 'unique' structure the playing depth at Uni suggests that they will add a new dimension to the Premier League and are sure to be competitive right from the word go.

Much has been made in the past of the so-called poor facility at St Lucia but Coach Tibor Hagymas believes it to be no worse than many

other grounds, including some of the current PL clubs and certainly some of the past ones.

"There are plenty of other clubs who have worse dressing rooms and fields than us. There's never any trouble at our ground, you always get a warm shower and the dressing rooms are bigger than many others so I don't know what all the talk is about. I'm sure UQ Sport will give us something extra now that we're in the higher division anyway. The crucial thing is that our players are level headed. They don't play for the money; they play for the right reason, which is playing sport for the enjoyment of it. If every club had that ethic some of them wouldn't be in the trouble they're currently in."

"We've got plenty of depth here and that's despite us being an amateur club. We operate with amateur ideals and have no intention of changing. Our players play with intensity and give 100% every week at training and during the games. That's why we're successful."

Peninsula Power did all they could to secure a play-off place by winning their last fixture at home to Beenleigh. Olympic, who had the benefit of playing the following day and therefore knowing exactly what they had to do, eased past Southside Eagles with a 3-0 victory and consequently into the play-off position. It was tough on John Daye's Peninsula outfit, but they will certainly be thereabouts next season and surely Premier League football will beckon for them in the future.

For Olympic it was a breathless finish to a season they threatened to take by storm. An alarming form slide saw them slip from the summit and almost out of the race altogether. They made it to the play-off spot by the skin of their teeth but do they have the momentum to trouble Taringa Rovers over 2 legs? By the time you read this we'll all know.

At the bottom it was tight all season and again it went down to the wire. None of the bottom 4 won on the last weekend but Albany Creek were able to secure the single point they needed to save themselves. Creek's draw against champs Uni relegated Capalaba to Division 2 and gave themselves at least a fighting chance of staying in the 1st Division by virtue of the play-off with Div 2 bridesmaids Ipswich City. In the Finals watch out for the improving but unpredictable Mt Gravatt.

Steve Faulkner's Division 2 Round Up

It was a fitting climax for a division which has given us new clubs with grandiose plans and perfect playing surfaces, clubs with less than perfect playing surfaces, big black bulls with glowing red eyes, streakers, different styles of football, come back Kidds looking to set scoring records, guest assistant referees plucked from the crowd for their moment of running the line fame, Joe Fenech's passionate and informative reports on The Sporting Pulse pages, mullets, after match fisticuffs, large and vocal crowds in some instances peeing in the bushes at Goodna and refereeing decisions of dubious quality at times.

Leaders going into the final round were Goodna, who travelled to Newmarket in search of the 3 points which would hand them the title given their vastly superior goal difference over Ipswich City. With Goodna having everything to play for, they duly came from behind to take the match 3-2 and the Premiership was theirs. Ipswich City did all they could in the last round by disposing of Annerley, but it all came down to goal difference in the end and City were forced into the play-off to decide which division they will be playing their football in next season.

The slick Bethania held off Brisbane Force for 3rd place and it looks as though the Finals Series in this division will be the tightest of all. There's little to choose between the teams so drama and controversy is sure to unfold.

At the wrong end of the table it's been a rotten year for Oxley Utd. With only 2 victories and a whopping -61 goal difference, they would have accepted their fate quite some time ago. Moggill will be thanking their lucky stars that they managed to avoid the dreaded play-off with Darra Lions as they too have had a season to forget.

And so to the Division Two survivors all thinking of next year. Many people think that 2005 will be a far more straight forward year with fewer clubs coming into the division able to match the ambition and drive of Goodna, Force, Bethania and Ipswich. Don't believe it! It could be that next year will prove to be just as exciting as this

and for some, just as disappointing.

Metro Div 1: Frank Byrne's Darra Lions confirmed their status as early season favourites with an emphatic Premiership victory, scoring a whopping 85 goals on the way and virtually walking away with the title by a massive 21 points. Byrne's charges were rarely threatened in what was a very one-sided division and surely the club will use this season as a stepping stone to greater things. Darra also took out the Metro Cup and will be confident of securing the treble with a Grand Final victory.

Metro Div 2: Brisbane Toro will be kicking themselves for allowing Pine Hills to take a point from them in the final round and deny them a realistic crack at the Premiership. The result left Logan City, who already had a superior goal difference, with the baton and a victory against Mooroodu the following day gave the title to the Meakin Park side. It was tough on Toro but Logan City have looked the goods all season and will be favourites to complete the double by winning the Grand Final as well.

Metro Div 3: Unbeaten Clairvaux proved to be too strong for everyone else in Metro 3 and recorded 19 victories in a memorable season.

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The win comes on the back of a Premiership and Grand Final haul in 2003 and confirms their status as heavyweights in this division. Easts' dogged resistance was to no avail in the end but the Tigers will certainly fancy their chances come Finals time. The strength in depth of both University and Darra proved decisive for the other 2 Finals places and it is sure to be a tight and entertaining series between these 4 goal-hungry sides.

Metro Div 4: BMS newcomers Old Bridge lived up to their pre-season prediction of a Premiership win by doing just that. They were also one of two sides who managed to break the 100 goal barrier this season with Regents Park the other goal-mad side. Taringa Rovers kept up the pressure on the leaders along with Park Ridge but were unable to close the gap. One suspects this impressive Old Bridge outfit will be plying their trade in a higher division in 2005.

Metro Div 5: The race for the Premiership went down to the wire between free-scoring North Star and Slacks Creek. The 2 sides went blow for blow most of the season and weren't finally separated until the last game of the term. Slacks Creek smashed the hapless Albany Creek 5-2, but it was all to no avail as North Star rattled in 13 against Easts to secure the victory they needed to take the Premiership to O'Callaghan Park.

Metro Div 6: Park Ridge will be rueing the 1-1 draw with Brisbane Wolves in their second-last match as they allowed Albany Creek back into the title race at the eleventh hour. Creek duly grabbed the opportunity with both hands and won their last 2 games, thus securing the league title in the process.

METRO CUP FINAL

Park Ridge 0

Darra Lions 3 (McCulloch, Blom 2)

Darra Lions proved their league position at the top of **Metro 1** Division is well deserved with a convincing win in the Final of the BMS Metro Cup against Park Ridge at Perry Park in front of a large and vocal crowd.

Darra were certainly the favourites heading into the match but the Park Ridge supporters turned out in force to cheer on their side in one of their biggest ever games.

Darra Lions showed their composure immediately with a goal inside the first 2 minutes when Anthony McCulloch struck home with his first shot on goal.

In the 2nd half David Blom deflected a free kick

past Ridge keeper Videla and gave his side a 2 goal cushion. Darra sealed the win in the 75th minute when Blom added a third goal with a far post header that Videla couldn't quite keep out. Darra always looked the stronger coming forward and threatened to add to their 3 goal lead but Ridge refused to give up until the final whistle.

Still To Come....

Metro Semi Finals 1st Leg

Sat 4 Sept / Sun 5 Sept

Metro Semi Finals 2nd Leg

Sat 11 Sept / Sun 12 Sept

Metro Grand Finals

Sat 18 Sept / Sun 19 Sept

Premier Semi Finals 1st Leg

Sat 11 Sept / Sun 12 Sept

Premier Semi Finals 2nd Leg

Sat 18 Sept / Sun 19 Sept

Premier Grand Finals

Sat 25 Sept / Sun 26 Sept ■



Darra Lions coach
Frank Byrne

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Pre-season training starts on 1st
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Opinion

Kieran Cooper on the Rep System

A

another one of my pet hates here in Queensland is junior Rep Football. Once again maybe it's my upbringing, but to me we have far too much. I hate to say this but I think money has once again reared its ugly head and taken over.

I'll explain; Let's start at Under 12's. The Junior Association invites a certain number of players to trial for Reps. This is usually in excess of 120 kids. All of these kids pay a fee to participate in these trials which I believe usually go for about 8 weeks. On top of these children selected we also have others who were missed in the original invitation. All it takes is a letter of support from the club and that child is also in. So let's say we have 150 kids all paying money to trial for 8 weeks.

The coaches are then expected to reduce the number of players into squads. If it was one squad I could understand but to the best of my knowledge it's 3 squads. These 3 squads are then placed with coaches and managers and are given a name. I think one is rep and two are development. Again to the best of my

How many of these kids will go on to National League, go overseas or play International Football? Not many

knowledge they go and play in the same tournament. Now to play in this tournament the kids or parents need to reach into the wallets once again and fork out another substantial amount of money. So we have now reduced the numbers in the age group from 150 to say 48. Are these squads split into teams from the best down or are they made pretty even? Methinks it's the latter!

Now, on top of all this money already forked out sometimes we have camps and clinics. These

are not forced on the players but the parents think "Geez, if we don't do this camp or clinic then little Johnny or Mary might miss out". More money. This goes on year after year after year. Eventually little Johnny or Mary have reached Under 16 and have been part of the Rep program for all these years. Their parents have paid out thousands of dollars for this and where does it leave them? How many of these kids will go on to National League, go overseas or play International Football? Not many.

If we are honest here what we are left with are a bunch of players who have come through the rep system, have paid lots of money, have not made it to a higher level, have not been educated on their next step should they not make it to the next level, and think that they should simply walk into some clubs senior team because they are reps.

I know people will argue that without the rep system then no players will be identified and therefore it's a good thing. But for me, if a player is good enough he will make it anyway. Surely there is an alternative?

What if the powers that be selected a list of players and invited them along for trials (Not 150)? What if the players were well educated from day one about selections and how many players were going to be finally chosen? What if each zone could only select one squad, say 20 players? What if this was the best 20 players from the age group regardless of what club they played for? What if this squad was the squad that represented the zone in the State Championships? What if all the expenses for these 20 players was paid and it cost nothing to the parents? What if the Junior Federation had a group of people whose responsibility was to go and watch these kids play rather than trying to either select them from 150 players or select them from a one-off field day? What if the selectors had a better relationships with the club coaches and could ring them up from time to



time to see how their players are going?

Again this is going to stir the pot. But to be honest at the moment we have all sorts of problems. First of all let's go back to the current situation. It is very hard for an eleven year old to

Surely if we are going to spend all this time and effort developing these kids and if the parents have forked out all this money we should make every effort to help these kids onto a career path in football

be part of the 150 players trialling and then be told (or not told) they haven't made it. It is also very hard when there is little feedback as to what a child may need to improve on. I understand that this is very difficult when we have such large numbers trialling which is exactly my point. I face this problem at club level

a lot. Children trialling honestly believe that they are in the Rep program and therefore should be playing at club level in a top division. It is very hard to explain that just because they are trialling does not mean they have been selected. I honestly believe that if the selection process was changed, and the money side of it was fixed we would have fewer problems. Can you imagine this system in Brazil where there is no money? So how to we fix the money problem? Add an extra dollar or two on to every registration in the state. I'm sure that would fix it.

My last point of concern brings me back to Under 16 and the end of the rep system. How much education is given to these kids regarding rejection? How much time is spent trying to place these kids with top quality clubs either here in Australia or overseas? Do we have people in our system who can take these kids overseas for trials? Do we have people in our system who have the contacts overseas? Or do we just say, "Thanks boys, that's the end of our reps, thanks for all the money and good luck in the future". Surely if we are going to spend all this time and effort in developing these kids, and surely if the parents have forked out all this money we should make every effort to help these kids on a career path in football.

Geez, we don't even have a rep program after 16's for them to try for. Am I wrong? ■

2004 GALA AWARDS NIGHT

Monday, 20th September, 2004

Mercure Hotel, North Quay

- ◆ 7pm - Pre-Dinner Drinks and Canapés
- ◆ Dress - Semi Formal (Tie and Jacket, no Jeans)
- ◆ \$65 Per Person - Dinner & Drinks Included
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Phil MOYE

on youth football in 2005



As the soccer winter season draws to a close it is useful to take a look back at the events of the season and to look forward with anticipation. It certainly has been an eventful year with the formation of the new APL dominating interests and still we wait for the announcement of the successful bid.

In the local competitions at almost every level close contests rage for promotion whilst relegation waits for some. The Premier and Metro Cups produced exciting games and the trial of the 'double header' format was a success.

Looking forward to the end of this winter season we now eagerly await the Summer Youth Cup. The format for this successful competition will be altered to accommodate an influx of new teams. With up to 18 sides now slated to contest the Cup, the format will include a seeded draw and a group system to ensure all teams play a set number of meaningful games without prolonging the tournament so that it interferes with clubs' pre-season preparations.

BMS has been working hard to ensure that the competitions we run are successful and to make them attractive for players representing a wide range of clubs. By ensuring that the players are involved in competitive matches, the interest of the players and coaches is maintained. Sponsorship can help to some degree but the basic format must be right to ensure strong participation.

BMS management is poised to modify one of the basic ingredients of our regular winter season. For some time now we have been researching the case for separation of the Youth (U19) competition from the Premier Competition.

Many factors conflict with the young, developing players. School teams, representative training and carnivals, club commitments and 'Academy' squads, all tug at the player causing them to make difficult choices. The workload of some players is a serious concern. We started our research by putting the young players first and then moulding a youth league around their requirements to avoid conflict with their other

soccer interests. At the same time we were conscious of providing a competition for all skill levels, open to all clubs, including those not traditionally part of the BMS scene. We are hopeful that a separate Youth League, incorporating the QAS team, the current participating clubs and others clubs that may not have been able to participate before, will be approved for the 2005 season. The Youth League will be well sponsored, competitive (with promotion and relegation), open to all soccer groups in SE Qld, vibrant, innovative and in tune with the needs of the young developing player.

The format proposed is:

- Friday night games (or Sunday mornings if the need arises).
- No restriction on players participation in other leagues.
- Strictly under 19.
- Squads of 18 players.
- Limitation on teams to prevent accumulation of players at any one club.
- Unlimited interchange (subject to approval of the referees controlling body).

Any other suggestions? I would love to hear from you if you have a genuine, positive comment or suggestion. I don't visit chat rooms so there is no use posting anonymous comments.

BMS is committed to the development of the game, participation of players of all skill levels and providing a clear path for the elite player to progress to the highest level. As the peak soccer provider in SE Queensland we are charged not only with servicing the needs of our affiliated clubs but also with the greater responsibility of the development of soccer participation for all players.

It should not be a case of what is best for a club, not what is best for BMS management, but what is best for the game. If the interests of players are not recognised then eventually the clubs will be weakened and the whole of the soccer community will be less effective.

I remain positive that the outlook for soccer has never been brighter but that also means we must be innovative, progressive and intuitive enough to seize the moment. ■

four times a weekend is **NEVER ENOUGH**

Sydney-based soccer pundit Micky Brock forages through the finances of the new APL



One can assume that in certain circumstances the title of this piece would be true, takeaway Pizza shop owner or a bordello keeper for example. But for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Santa Claus would be happy to nip down chimneys just four times at Christmas and say it's all done.....and so would the Australia Soccer Association.

Eight teams in the new APL seems laughable enough at first sight but closer inspection would seem to allay these thoughts only to replace with others that would, on the surface, appear to have far wider ramifications long term. Too many teams and the standard drops due to a lack of 'playing talent', so too few, in many eyes, may just be the way to go at first...crawl before you walk, walk before you run and so on.

Four matches per weekend, albeit under the supposed doctrine that most matches will be shown 'live' by one station or another, should be enough for most avid Australian soccer fans, especially with the 'one city one team' policy but still we have to dig deeper to fully appreciate what this actually means.

For Brisbane, Perth and Auckland it has always been a case of 'stand alone' as it is widely believed there is not enough latent support available to render a second side financially viable, as money trouble speculation emanating from Western Australia through the last NSL season would apparently attest to. Auckland, I feel, will always struggle for numbers as soccer comes behind Union, Cricket and the Sheep Dog Trials (of which only four were found guilty by all accounts). For Brisbane it should be a Godsend although a true 'derby game' wouldn't go amiss but that will be broached later in here.

Sydney and Melbourne, the two largest cities in Australia, certainly have a case for the inclusion of a 'second' team and rightly so. Without the

derby games I cannot see any way in which the whole of Sydney would embrace the code nor get behind a single team. For those out in the western suburbs the NSW Soccer Federation bid would be most suitable. Playing out of Parramatta Stadium would be ideal and should the Nick Politis bid succeed also, the former Sydney Football Stadium would be the likely venue. This would set up a tremendous derby atmosphere for the two clubs and demographically would be the perfect scenario; west versus east with north and south taking their pick. Is someone from the eastern or western suburbs going to travel right across the sprawling metropolis on a regular basis to follow a single club? Past experience would say 'no way'.

Brisbane, on the other hand, has probably the best deal, after Perth, to fit into a 'stand alone' policy. IF (big word for two letters eh!) the successful bidder has the ability to market the club properly insofar as the available support is

If the support base dwindles, so too does the chance of any team in the APL surviving

to be attracted, it is quite possible to command a very healthy core group. I won't go into what should, could or would be done here as that is something the club needs to decide upon, but given the parochial attitude of Queenslanders in general, and Brisbanites in particular, the home ground 'fortress mentality' could be a potential, if hypothetical, goal head start for the team.

Whosoever underestimates the standing, desires and thoughts of the fans has absolutely no idea

of what the game is all about. An 'us and them, no-one likes us we don't care' attitude, for mine, can be easily fostered and used to great effect if the administrators, players and fans work together for the greater good of the club and code. However, mentioning the players brings us



John O'Neill -
Wants world's
smallest
Premier
league

to another slightly worrying aspect of the ASA formula which could well dispel any good that comes soccer's way.

If read correctly, a minimum \$5m needs to be a proven asset by the bidders in all cases. Of this, \$500,000 goes to the ASA with the remaining \$4.5m to be used directly over the following three years to finance the playing staff. Here's where the numbers game starts to get tricky and, some would say, murkier. Of the \$1.5m staff operating costs (per annum), \$300,000 is to go to the players annual leave, bonuses, super, sick pay etc. which effectively cuts the gross amount to just \$1.2m pa for player salaries.

As has been mooted, it is expected that each club will have a maximum of 20-players on the roster. All things being equal, that would give each of them \$50,000 pa, but we live in the real world and know this isn't so. The ASA were, early in the piece, saying how important it was that 'big name players from overseas' were needed to give the APL the necessary media hype to help it over the initial hurdles and create the interest in the fledgling league after such a long lay-off.

Bring in a 'big name' per team for, say, \$300,000 pa (conservatively speaking) and the remaining money left behind to be split between 19-players is just \$900,000. Of these, several will be 'senior' players who obviously command a greater wage

and the finances are starting to dwindle alarmingly. A sprinkling of youth players eases this somewhat but as 'future' stars they will not have the pulling power to attract ever greater numbers of supporters and, therefore, the knock-on additional expenditure they bring with them. This in turn brings us back to the stark reality that if the support base dwindles, so too does the chance of ANY team in the APL surviving.

The ASA are playing their cards close to their chests, rightly so, at present and so it remains in the realm of speculation as to the number of games that each team will actually play per season. Will it be just home and away or home, home and away (or vice versa) or, as many would like, two full rounds of home and away. Fourteen games per season, seven home and away matches, logically isn't enough, even with a finals system in place, to rival the other codes, twenty-one doesn't make any sense at all. These are the problems facing the game, as most see it now, but the advantages greatly outnumber the negatives.

Frank Lowy, a gentleman I spoke with a lot when at Northern Spirit, is a football man and is passionate about our great game. He is a very successful businessman and possesses the necessary clout to make this work, inclusive of holding the ear of 'corporate Australia' into the bargain. Above all, he is a fighter, hates to lose and is certainly no quitter. He has brought on board some highly successful individuals who, albeit with another code, have shown they can not only envisage the bigger picture but are able to make it work.

If I have a worry about anything at all with this whole process it is for the supporter. If the ASA, as I fully expect they will, make this work to the satisfaction of the money men, will they become a victim of their own success and forget what it is that makes this the greatest single sport the world over - the paying customer, the supporters. To date the governing body, in its many past guises, has made a complete and utter balls-up of dealing with the fans and at this juncture there has been no real advice sought by ASA on those who count, as far as I am aware. Time will tell but I expect the APL to be a resounding success and crowd numbers to steadily increase given the right approach. That said, as I enter my dotage years I wonder whether four times a week will be enough for me....and I know in my heart the answer is a simple but resounding NO!

As ever, be lucky and follow your team with pride. ■

Fantastic! Bewdy! Cool! Exhausted!
A few comments from our senior women's team after having taken out their league in spectacular fashion. Recording an incredible 21 wins out of 22, they only dropped 2 points, the other match being a draw. The coach says he might have a word in the keeper's shell-like! Not only is this something Arsenal would be proud of, it's all the more amazing when you consider that none of these girls had ever kicked a soccer ball 2 seasons ago.

Despite it being the sport of choice for men, women and juniors across the land, the average sports fan in Australia is sublimely ignorant of the world game. So was it a big ask for the coach to turn this giggling, gossipy bunch of women who came from Touch Footy, Rugby League and 'never played anything before,' into a responsive team? "It's like herding cats," he said. And it was. There was also the language barrier. A wry Scot, his command of the English language is masterful and the women have now a full range of rare curses to go alongside their new soccer skills.

The girls and he have dug in and brought about a great success story to be added to the club legends. It was not without its moments: "When I say drop, I dinnae mean the ball," was a concept that was difficult to get over

She smiles sweetly up at him and the ref just about swallows the peep in his whistle

with his feminine side when... "It's natural for boys to use their heads whereas the girls dinnae know what to do with it at all." Grrrr!

There are very subtle and not so subtle differences in watching a women's game unfold. On the surface, the game has taken on a very polite 'gentlemanly' aspect. The girls are respectful of each other and mindful of not hurting each other-too much. But oh, the mind games. Not having the physical strength of the men, the mental agility is as swift as the footwork. "Oh, poor little Daddy's girl," overheard in one game engineered the neat reply, "Yep, that's what it's like when you have a parent!" Obviously been reading the sledging manual for cricketers.

All the refs deserve a medal I reckon. I wouldn't like to face down our striker, she's near six feet in her bare feet and it is a comical sight to see a diminutive ref wagging his finger at her. Like a mouse getting uppity with an angry cat, she's just itching to pounce. Having said that our pocket rocket has all the refs round her tiny little finger. She smiles sweetly up at him and the ref just about swallows the peep in his whistle.

Everything you wanted to know about women soccer players, but were afraid to ask

by Sharon

Football Sisters

and he realized he had to change his style. "You must have a really different approach when coaching girls as opposed to the boys," he says. "For one, the girls listen but don't understand whereas the boys know what to do but don't listen". I'm thinking he's a really new age coach at this point, totally in touch

A ref showing something of a sense of humour tackled the touchy subject of jewellery at the start of one game. "Please remove anything you have penetrating yourself before beginning play," says he. Thinking he could have said that better, I realized he was on the girl's wavelength when one replied, "Aw ref, we already did that before we left for the game!"

Isn't this just so typical of life thinks I? Men & women are so alike and so different. Like the men, our girls have become a little superstitious in the light of their success.

Many are attributing this to some of their intimate apparel. Sound familiar? "I knew I wouldn't be on form today coz I forgot my lucky knickers!" said one. "Lucky for what?" said a hopeful suitor. Some have been worn so often, they are full of holes but keep making an appearance, as does the backside beneath. Some are so old they barely stay up, and we'll

leave that one well alone! Speaking of which though, I'll never complain about the state of the men's dressing shed again after seeing the girls getting ready for a big night. Not sure if they went out wearing anything at all since it seemed to me to be all on the floor. But then I couldn't really tell since the fumes from shower gel, perfume and hair spray were so strong I couldn't see.

To a woman, the girls have attributed their success to the dedication (and patience) of the coaching staff. I say to them though that Life is Team Game and without the enthusiasm and grit of the players, the coaches would be dedicating their lives to XXXX and armchair soccer. All who belong to a club are interdependent on the people who play, coach, administer and support so when a success such as this comes along, revel in it because it's rare, precious and to be enjoyed by all. ■

CLASSIFIEDS . . CLASSIFIEDS . .

Brisbane City Soccer Club invites applications for the following 2005 coaching positions: Premier League, Premier Reserves, Youth, Youth Director of Coaching, Junior Director of Coaching, Under 11 to Under 17 (incl.) teams Applications must be in writing stating preference of team, experience and references. Applications to : *The Secretary, Brisbane City Soccer Club, 42 Newbery Street, Newmarket, Qld 4051* Closing date 30th September 2004

North Pine Soccer Club invites applications for senior coaching positions for 2005. Division 2, Division 2 Reserves and Youth. Please reply to: *PO Box 64, Petrie, Qld 4502* Enquiries phone: 5497 9582 Applications close 24th September

Peninsula Power/Redcliffe Leagues Soccer would to invite written applications for the position of 2005 Senior Coach. All applications will be kept confidential and are to include experience and qualifications for the position. Interviews with applicants will take place after the closing date. Nominations Close Monday 4th October 2004 All enquires to the Club President Craig Feuerriegel Tel: 0417 609 311

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(Brisbane references available)

the full MONTY

Monty takes looks back and a look forward all in one go

Each year come Silver Boot time we all have tremendous expectations for another season and despite weather more suitable for a BBQ and a cool lemonade, we ignore these conditions and flock out to Richlands to whet our appetites.

What has occurred since January that has made this season different and more exciting than 2003? Lions won the competition convincingly with only two blemishes at Easts and Mitchelton on the last day of fixtures, so not a lot has changed other than their squad is looking even more formidable as they position themselves for entry into the new APL.

So what else has happened in the PL that made this a more defining season than previous years? To my mind the most refreshing aspect to season 2004 has been the inclusion of Mitchelton. The Board and Greg Brown should be congratulated for their work which obviously commenced from September 2003. Sure they have ended up with a virtual new side, but I am also sure that this has been achieved by guaranteeing quality coaching and a club spirit which is plainly obvious to all visitors at Teralba Park. The atmosphere at Mitchy has been second to none and if this could only be repeated by a number of other clubs then surely we would see an immediate rise in crowds.

Another positive has been the inclusion of Pacific talent on display at Mitchy and Wolves. If clubs can continue to attract talented overseas players this can only be a good for the local scene as long as it is controlled and doesn't compromise the exposure of local talent.

The Premier Cup is becoming a more credible competition and this season the format (apart from the first round debacle i.e. Mitchy v Lions as a qualifying game!) of dedicated weekends and double headers has been a success. We know that we can't please everyone but the foundation is strong, we just need a solid sponsor and hopefully some more upsets!

Areas of concern include the decline of City and I'm not talking just of the on-field performances but the state of the facilities. A strong Brisbane City is critical for the local competition and this includes walking into a stadium that is 'clean' with a splattering of paint and absence of graffiti. The decline of Taringa is also sad to see and one can only hope that they can re-position themselves and recreate a spirit similar to that at Mitchy, which for so many years was exclusive to the band of merry supporters at JSP.

I hope BMS starts flexing some muscle in 2005 to ensure that the PL clubs recognise their responsibility to keep improving facilities so that we can entice more spectators, especially families. For the latter to occur we need to see an improvement in player and staff behaviour so we can get through a season with no ugly incidents. Once again this season has seen more events that have no place in our game and certainly do nothing to encourage increased patronage, especially families.

What then for 2005? A little early to start whetting our lips but maybe a quick gaze into the crystal ball will see 2005 make greater steps forward than we have seen in 2004:

- Qld Lions are accepted into the APL and we can all look forward to a great night out at Suncorp with minimum gates of 10,000 to set an atmosphere that will ignite the players.
- With Lions in the APL, the local league becomes a more balanced competition with the lead changing hands several times throughout the season, including a 5 team final series.
- If the move is too big to reduce the PL to ten Clubs then at least the possibility of only two grades, which will compact the talent and make the PL visitations a more marketable and tighter package.
- The reintroduction of a State program at Senior and U/21 level with games against the best from NSW, Victoria and South Australia.
- The leading premiership side is involved in a home and away series against the leading side from NSW

I hope that some of the above takes place to reignite more interest in the local competition and obviously that the APL has a major bearing on the local scene. ■



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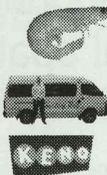
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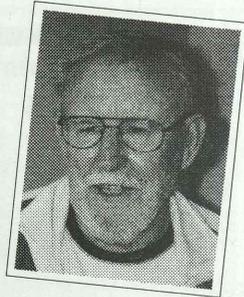


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A WORD from the wise guy

Long-time soccer sage Eric Sinclair on issues various from the year.



Firstly allow me to comment on the title bestowed upon me by the editor - 'The Wise Guy'. This has nothing to do with my accumulation of knowledge, but, is his polite way of calling me a smart a**e. Thanks Neil.

Let's look at some of the items mentioned in ET throughout the last year...

The National League

The decision on the make up of the League should be made around 9/19. It is to be hoped that it does not turn out to be as big a disaster as 9/11 as the Yanks call it. Everyone is having a go at tipping the successful Brisbane applicant so, here's my utterly useless guess. Both to be included, with the only doubt being the main source of revenue of the Lions bid. It would seem that they have a heavy reliance on 'pokie' income from their several club interests. Should a decision as that recently made by the NSW Govt. ever occur in Qld those heavily reliant on such income could well be in serious difficulty. Whereas the Strikers source of revenue seems to be on Dr. Clems seemingly endless petty cash account. Good luck to both applicants because on the performance of previous National Leagues you're going to need it!

Queensland State League

The news on this front has been, to say the least, sparse. The only info one can glean seems to be that Soccer Queensland is trying to set it up for the price of a postage stamp, and let me tell you from bitter personal experience that just ain't gonna work.

Referees

On this front it seems that the Irish and English agree for one of the few times in history. As Coops pointed out in ET issue 8, they are a necessary part of our game and we must do all we can to make their lot an easier one. Sure, we've all been on the receiving end of dodgy decisions, but over the long haul those decisions are evened out by those questionable decisions in our favour. What goes around comes around.

The liaison between referees and the present administration is probably better than it has ever been. Any discontent with a particular referee should be referred either directly to S.A.R.B. or BMS, but not by airing complaints at disciplinary hearings, nor by players assaulting match officials. All this can result in is a long holiday for the offender and the risk of losing another official from our game.

Disciplinary Policy

As mentioned last month by Bruce Dinsdale there have been a number of complaints regarding the new disciplinary policy adopted by BMS at the last AGM. However, let me say this, the policy was picked over pretty thoroughly at the AGM before being adopted BY THE CLUBS. Two later forums were convened, one by BMS, another by the referees, to explain how the new policies would work. The clubs responded to these with the usual apathy by staying away in droves. One of the meetings attracted an amazing 9 out of 53 clubs. Every club was also issued with a copy of the Rules of Competition, a copy of the Disciplinary Policy, and a copy of the Disciplinary Code, but it would seem that these were simply filed away without many people reading them or taking note of their contents. This is obvious when the clubs complain about procedures that are clearly set out in one or

clubs responded with the usual apathy by staying away in droves

more of the aforementioned documents. The administration does not make up these documents and bind them in pretty folders just so they can look good in the filing cabinet in a club office, or do they?

Volunteers

Good on yer Sharon (Jackson), you gave a good account of the value of volunteers within our

clubs. Without volleys clubs would struggle even more than they do at present. If clubs were to pay volunteers what they are worth in wages they would all shrivel on the vine. Without those oldies able to get to the park during the normal working hours to give of their time doing the various necessary chores, very little would be achieved. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to overwork the willing horse. If someone is willing to put up the hand occasionally they then become the target whenever something needs doing until they soon seem to be doing everything. What's more the clubs then begin to expect it of them, and as always the willing horse gets overburdened and either falls down dead or runs away. Let's make sure we try to share the load amongst a larger number rather than dumping it on the willing few. Congratulations to all those hardy souls out there Keep up the good work because without you we are lost.

Condition of grounds

Our Rite 'onourable Pres seems to forget one most important thing in his article on the standard of grounds; and that is water. No matter how one tries, or what one does, grounds cannot be properly maintained without it and the cost of it these days makes it impossible for clubs to afford in the quantities necessary, particularly in times of drought, and for those who haven't noticed we seem to have a few of those in this country. The past 4 months, which make up almost all of the

current season, have been the driest on record. Without water grass won't grow and without grass you can't have good football pitches. Recent water rates at the club I have some association with have been as high as \$10,000. No club can afford this type of expense on a regular basis and the BCC do little to lighten the load. Also the club I refer to is surrounded on three sides by a saltwater creek and during extended periods of dry weather the grounds suck water from that creek. Very few types of grass are tolerant to salt and those that are e.g. salt water couch, are too soft to stand up to the rigors necessary for football fields. Please Mr President, make some funds suddenly appear so that we can buy a desalination plant and draw unlimited amounts of water from our saltwater creek to maintain our fields to those standards which you seem to suggest are required. Referring to the possibility of litigation if injuries occur, a recent legal decision was that football clubs could not be expected to maintain fields in perfect condition due to constant use and those using them should do so with a reasonable expectation that they might suffer some injury.

Well folks that's all. This being the last issue for this year let me wish you and yours the very best for the off season, including that very important part of the year, the festive season. May your biggest problems be hangovers with pleasant memories of that which caused them. ■

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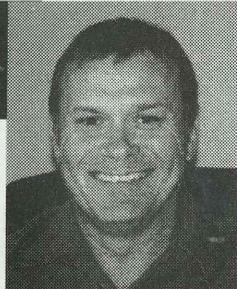
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BMS General Manager
Bruce Dinsdale looks towards
the awards



At this time of year, attention turns to the annual Gala Awards night and the presentation of the various awards for players and teams. This year, there are a number of new awards which will be presented and I thought it might be opportune to let you know what is being planned.

The Night

The Gala Awards night will be held on Monday 20 September, prior to the weekend of the Premier Division Grand Finals. Full details are available from your club and we encourage everyone to get involved and come along and make the night a memorable one for all.

League Champions

The Champions in every division from Premier League to Metro 6 will be presented with the division trophy plus medals to the players in that side.

Club Champions

In each of the three Premier Divisions, one club will be awarded the Club Championship. This is determined by adding all the points collected by the teams (firsts, reserves and youth).

Golden Boot

In each of the Premier Divisions, an award will be made to the leading goalscorer during the fixtures.

Player of the Year

In each of the Premier Divisions, there is a Player of the Year award. In Premier League and Division 1, the winner is determined from the referees voting on a 3-2-1 basis for every game, while in Division 2 the award has been voted on by the coaches of the division voting on a 3-2-1 basis. Players who have been sent off in any match during the season are ineligible for the awards.

Brisbane Select

In the Premier League, a Team of the Year and a Coach of the Year will be selected. This will be done by the collecting of three votes from each Premier League club for the players they believe

to be the best in their position during 2004. They cannot vote for players from their own clubs. The players (and coach) with the most votes in each position will be the Brisbane Select side for 2004.

The Gala Awards night is designed to be the culmination of a year of hard work for all clubs, teams, players and officials. It will rely on the support of all those involved in the game here in Brisbane to make it the prestigious and memorable night it deserves to be. See you there!!!

Grand Finals

The final series are now underway and within the next few weeks we will know who is going to play off in each of the Division's Grand Finals. The venues and kick off times for the Metropolitan divisions can not be finalised until the final two teams are known and then the final details will be announced.

Premier League

Perry Park 7pm Saturday 25 September

Premier League Reserves

Perry Park 4.45pm Saturday 25 September

Metro 1

Perry Park 2.30 pm Saturday 25 September

Premier Division 1

Perry Park 3.30 pm Sunday 26 September

Premier Division 1 Reserves

Perry Park 1.15pm Sunday 26 September

Premier Division 1 Youth

Perry Park 11am Sunday 26 September

Premier Division 2

Lions Stadium 3.30pm Sunday 26 September

Premier Division 2 Reserves

Lions Stadium 1.15pm Sunday 26 September

Premier Youth, Open Youth and all other Metropolitan grades will have finals on the weekend of 17/18/19 September. ■

andy PASCHALIDIS



FOOTBALL FEVER 24/7

It seems the football season never ends, particularly in Europe. Just weeks after the unexpected Greek triumph at Euro 2004 (or should that be YEEROS 2004) the English Premier League is back in action.

But should it still be called the English Premier League? Perhaps the 'World League' would be more appropriate when you consider how many foreigners have moved to England in recent years.

Liverpool is the latest classic example. Spaniard Rafa Benitez is the new coach and he has brought four Spaniards across the channel with him - Josemi, Antonio Nunez, Luis Garcia and Xabi Alonso. You sense the Reds might be replicating Arsenal, who are top heavy with French players and coaches.

Australia is providing a wealthy source of football talent as well. This should never be underestimated. Gone are the days when we were considered a third-world footballing nation. Who would have thought there would be so many Aussies in the Premier League? Perhaps our recently 'naked' National League competition deserves more credit. There is no argument about what sort of nursery it has been, particularly for European clubs. This season we have enough Aussies in the Premier League to set-up a new club.

Australia is providing a wealthy source of football talent

Mark Viduka has joined Mark Schwarzer and Brad Jones at Middlesbrough. Much is expected of Harry Kewell at Liverpool while Lucas Neill and Brett Emerton are sure to play key roles at Blackburn.

Stan Lazaridis has been one of the most consistent Aussie performers in England and is sure to have another strong season at

Birmingham. Tim Cahill and Eddy Bosnar are teammates at Everton although one suspects Cahill will have more opportunities at Goodison Park.

Tony Popovic has been a solid performer at Crystal Palace and he will relish the challenge of battling against the likes of Henry, Shearer and Viduka. Hayden Foxe will work hard to establish himself at Portsmouth while Olyroo Spase Dilevski joined Tottenham just before the Olympic Games.

And what a shame Danny Tiatto was forced to leave Manchester City, he is an under-rated player.

As you can see, there's an abundance of Australian talent in the world's most watched competition and there is sure to be many more players making the big jump in the future.

What does one expect when the new-look National League is at least a year away from starting up? Plenty of players from the NSL have already moved to Europe and Asia. The classic example is ex-Northern Spirit goalkeeper Paul Henderson. A consistent performer from the time the Spirit made their much heralded entry into the NSL, "Hendo" was left with no other option but to try his luck overseas. It has certainly paid off! The 28-year-old turned up in England, sick of waiting around to see what was happening with our National Competition, and was promptly snapped up by Bradford City.

You might recall that was the club Mark Schwarzer joined after a somewhat difficult stint in Germany and we all know what sort of impact Schwarzer has had in the UK, establishing himself as one of the top three keepers in the Premier League for several years.

It would be foolish to think a new competition will prevent the talent drain to Europe. Why would you stay in Australia and earn \$150,000 a season when you could secure a contract worth three or four times that amount overseas?? ■



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In off the POST

Bits and pieces from around the traps

AUSTRALIA TO PLAY IN SYDNEY FOR RIGHT TO CONTEST CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Aussie Stadium in Sydney will play host to the Socceroos home match against the Solomon Islands in the final of the Oceania Football Confederation Nations Cup at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th October.

The home-and-away series will decide which nation will represent Oceania at the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup to be held in Germany in June next year. All of the other 7 positions at the tournament have been filled with Germany (hosts), Brazil (world champions), Tunisia (African champions), Greece (European champions), Mexico (winners of the CONCACAF Gold Cup), Japan (winners of the Asian Cup) and Argentina (runners up to Brazil in the Copa America) waiting for the Oceania champion. Australia and Solomon Islands reached the final of the OFC Nations Cup by finishing first and second after Stage 2 of the competition held in Adelaide during June. In a 'thrilling' final game the 2 nations finished their match in a 2-all draw. Solomon Islands will host the first leg of the series in Honiara on Saturday 9th October before the return match in Sydney 3 days later. ASA Chief Executive John O'Neill said that this series is a must-win as part of Australia's preparations to qualify for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

"It's vital that we win this series and qualify for the Confederations Cup as it will give us a chance to play quality matches against nations such as Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Japan and Greece," said O'Neill.

"This is a crucial part of the journey to Germany and the FIFA World Cup. It's the last chance to see the Australian national team in action on home soil this year. With the first leg away in Honiara we will need the support of Australia's sports fans to get us home in the second leg in Sydney."

Qantas Socceroos coach Frank Farina said the Solomon Islands will prove to be a challenging opponent.

"The Solomons had a fantastic tournament in Adelaide and have improved a lot," said Farina. "Over in Honiara they receive fanatical support so we need to get the Australian fans to Aussie Stadium to support us. It's a fantastic venue to watch football and it will no doubt be an entertaining match. There is a lot at stake."

That's true, there is a lot at stake and one suspects that heads will roll if there is anything other than a convincing win for Australia. Is it a little alarming that the ASA thinks it will need the support of thousands of fans to 'get us home', or is it me? Don't laugh, it's rude!

ASA AND FOX SPORTS AGREE TO HISTORIC TELEVISION DEAL

The Australian Soccer Association and Fox Sports have agreed to an historic television deal which will see the New National Competition gain a major presence on Australian television. The exclusive 3-season deal, commencing from the competition's inaugural season in 2005/06, will see Fox Sports show up to all 4 matches live each round, along with live coverage of all Finals.

Fox Sports will also screen a weekly highlights program, along with pre-game and post-game coverage.

With the competition set to kick off in just under a year, ASA Chief Executive John O'Neill said the deal was another indicator of the positive

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goodwill towards the competition from corporate Australia.

"This is a huge vote of confidence from Fox Sports and its owners News Limited and PBL," he said. "Fox Sports is the premium broadcaster of sport in Australia, and it has shown huge faith in the new administration at ASA with this deal. We thank the Board of Fox Sports, its CEO David Malone, and his team for putting their faith in this new competition. We won't let them down. As we saw with Euro 2004, Fox Sports is fast becoming the home of televised football in Australia, and we are excited by the prospect of the New National Competition joining the Fox Sports football stable alongside the world's most popular domestic football competition, the English Premier League."

"The guarantee of live matches around Australia is going to be a huge boost to the competition, the sport of football in Australia and the financial success of the New National Competition."

"There has never been a bigger commitment to the domestic league from a broadcaster, and we believe that Fox Sports will help us with our aim of providing an entertaining national football competition."

As part of the deal Fox Sports will also have the rights to show matches involving the Qantas Socceroos on a delayed basis, with the ASA confident of securing a free-to-air partner for exclusive live broadcasts of the national team in the near future.

QANTAS YOUNG SOCCEROOS WITHDRAW FROM TOUR OF INDONESIA

Following advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ASA has decided to withdraw the Qantas Young Socceroos from their 8-day tour of Indonesia which was due to take place last month. The team were to compete in the 2004 Governor Cup in Sumatra as they continue their preparation for the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship Qualifying campaign.

National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou will now conduct a camp in Melbourne from September 8-28 featuring the same 20-man squad initially selected for the Governor Cup. The Young Socceroos will play several friendly matches during the 20-day camp with match details yet to be confirmed.

The squad is:

Goalkeepers: Tom Arcaba (*Wollongong*), Nick

Crossley (*AIS*)

Defenders: Adrian Leijer (*VIS*), Mark Milligan (*Blacktown City*), Jacob Timpano (*uncontracted*), Brett Studman (*AIS*), Ben Griffin (*Queensland Lions*), Matt Danskin (*Fremantle City*), Keegan Wolfenden (*South Cardiff*), Jonathan Higgins (*ECU Joondalup*)
Midfielders: Kristian Sarkies (*VIS*), Chris Tadrosse (*uncontracted*), Vince Lia (*uncontracted*), Stuart Musialik (*Weston Bears*), Billy Celeski (*Bulleen Zebras*)
Forwards: Nick Ward (*Sterling Lions*), Matthew Gordon (*Balgownie Rangers*), Matthew Deegan (*AIS*), Tim Smits (*Pine Rivers*), Mark Bridge (*Cringila Lions*)

The squad comprises 7 players who featured in last year's FIFA U-17 World Championship in Finland.

The 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship will be held in The Netherlands from 10 June - 2 July with the Oceania qualifying tournament likely to be held in January.

STATE CUP TO KICK OFF IN OCTOBER

Soccer Queensland have confirmed that they will run a state-wide competition beginning on October 16th. The teams for the State Cup will be divided into 2 groups of 5 and are as follows:
Group 1: Far North Qld, North Qld, Mt Isa, Sunshine Coast & Pine Rivers.

Group 2: Mackay, Central Qld, Wide Bay, Gold Coast & Qld Lions.

The State Cup will conclude with the Grand Final on December 4th.

Soccer Qld President Geoff Foster said they hoped to select a State team from the competition to represent Qld in a yet-to-be-confirmed series against a visiting team from Cameroon. Despite the considerable cost of staging the competition, exacerbated by the inclusion of the geographically isolated Mt Isa, Foster believes it is money well spent. "It's providing the next tier of development for the elite players. There just hasn't been a competition for the better players in the regions to participate in. It's slightly different in Brisbane because players have the Premier League to aspire to but that isn't the case in the regions," he said. "It's still very much a trial, albeit a costly one. We'll be sitting down in January/February next year to conduct a de-brief and decide whether it has a future or not," he added.

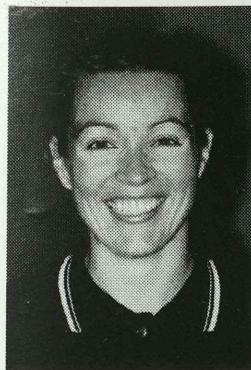
Despite overtures from the Brisbane Strikers, who wanted to submit teams out of Perry Park

and Meakin Park, BMS management elected to use the 2 available Brisbane Zone places in the competition for club sides Pine Rivers and Qld Lions. BMS President Phil Moye outlined the reasons behind the decision. "After taking into account many considerations, it was decided by the Board that we would select the 2 teams who were at the top of the Premier League, who also represent both the north and southsides of Brisbane. BMS is capable of running its own teams and selection process with our current infrastructure without assistance from unaffiliated soccer bodies," he said.

Strikers' spokesman Robert Gibson said the decision of BMS was "fair enough." Gibson reiterated that the Strikers had "no intention of competing in the local competition," and would not be making any application to BMS for inclusion in 2005. He added that recent reports of the Strikers fielding Youth Teams was way off the mark and that there had clearly been a misunderstanding in that respect.

No significant changes to the format of the State Cup are planned for 2005, however, subject to a feasibility study and the results of the Soccer Qld critical review, the competition make up may be expanded or altered for 2006.

AUSTRALIAN MATCH OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO OLYMPIC SEMI FINAL



Australian match officials were appointed to the semi final between Germany and the USA at the Women's Olympic football tournament. Brisbane Referee Krystyna Szokolai (*left*), plus assistant referee's Airlie Keen of Adelaide and Jacqueline Leleu of Rockhampton

officialled at the prestigious match between the two top ranked teams in the world. The match, played at Heraklio in Crete, featured two of the heavyweights of women's football - current world champions Germany and 2000 Olympic silver medallists USA.

It was the second appointment for the Australian trio at the tournament following the first round match between Germany and Mexico. The USA edged the match 2-1 with a winner in extra time and it was a busy night for Szokolai

who handed out 5 cautions.

32-year-old Krystyna, a Women's National Soccer League and Brisbane Men's Premier League referee for many years, also has extensive international experience including representing Oceania at the 2002 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship in Canada. Australian match officials have figured prominently at FIFA tournaments in recent times. Referee Tammy Ogston, along with Leleu and Keen officiated at last year's 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup in the USA. World Cup referee Mark Shield and assistant referee Jim Ouliaris presided over several matches at the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup in France, while referee Matthew Breeze and assistant referees Nathan Gibson and Matthew Cream all officiated at the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

GREEK TRAGEDY FOR BOTH SEXES

The Matildas bowed out of the Olympic Games, going down 2-1 in their quarter final against world number 4 nation Sweden.

Coach Adrian Santrac says his team wasn't able to match the experience of Sweden. "The team didn't play as forcefully as in previous games. The Swedish team is very experienced and that's one of the reasons we lost. It was a really tough game for us."

The men suffered a similar fate losing to war-weary Iraq in the quarter finals with a spectacular overhead kick by Emad Mohammed giving his team a 1-0 win over Australia. The loss has sparked new debate about Frank Farina's role as coach of the national team with many believing speculation regarding his future may soon come to a head. Farina is reported to be frustrated at the constant innuendo linking other more high profile coaches with the top job, in particular former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier, and may jump before he is pushed. Farina has also sent a letter to FIFA complaining of the standard of refereeing at the Olympic tournament after several of his players received cautions that resulted in suspension for the vital quarter final.

In other Olympic news, Olyroos fitness trainer Anthony Crea has been banned and fined for making an offensive gesture during the Australia's Olympic soccer match against Serbia and Montenegro. Crea was fined \$A13,900 and suspended for five matches. FIFA said it viewed the incident as a "complete contradiction of the spirit and aim of fair play. Such conduct, especially on the part of an official, who should serve as an example, cannot be tolerated." ■

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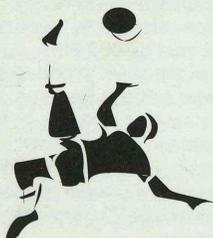
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