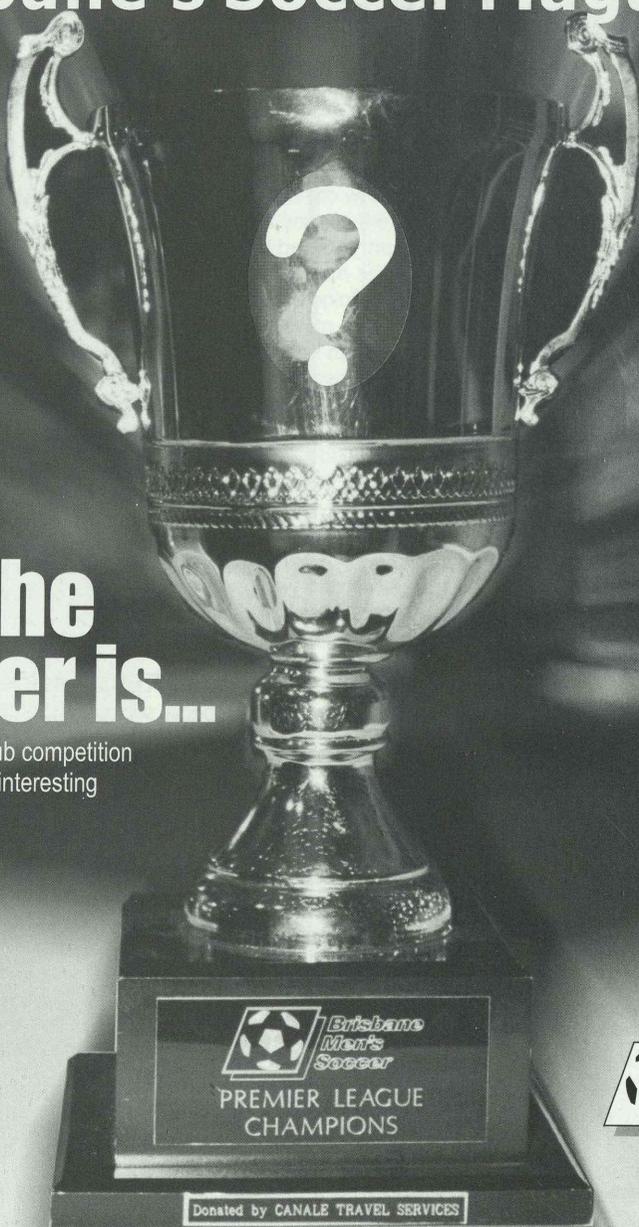


Extra Time

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

Issue 12
April 2005

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Men's
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CHAMPIONS



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ExtraTime

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

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Printed by:

Print Approach,
10 Frawley Ave, Narangba.
Ph: 3888 2891

© ExtraTime Publications 2005
ISSN 1449-1060

Published by ExtraTime Publications
ABN 27 163 200 307

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ExtraTime

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editor's Comment

You'll have to excuse me but I've got the irits.

Last month there was a motion passed at the BMS General Meeting to introduce unlimited interchange in all the Metro Divisions and the Youth Divisions, except for Premier Youth. Now whether you are a fan of this rule or not (and for the record, I despise it) is not really the point in this instance.

In the days following the meeting there was much chagrin and debate over this decision with many players, fans and club officials complaining about it. Most, in their lack of knowledge of The Constitution, have wrongly pointed the crooked finger of blame at BMS (so what's new?).

Let's get one thing absolutely straight. This rule was introduced because the clubs voted for it - simple and irrefutable.

The problem as I see it is this. How many clubs actually canvassed the opinions of their members (the players) before casting their vote on a motion that was clearly set to affect and disaffect a large number of people that play for their club? Now I don't have the benefit of that information in front of me, but I reckon I could hazard a pretty good guess.

There are claims that several delegates were unaware that the motion had been on the table for such a long time because they were new to the role of club delegate. A sound excuse you might say - sorry, but it's not.

It is the responsibility of the delegates to avail themselves of all relevant information before they attend a General Meeting so that they may adequately represent the views of their members. Democracy is for everybody and should be a wonderful thing, but sometimes it makes you wonder if we are actually making a very strong case for dictatorship, particularly when the democratic process is not passed down to the masses.

So if you're a player, supporter, or member of a club then make it your business to find out what issues are being addressed at the next General Meeting and speak to your club about your views on the matter. Have your say before a motion is passed because there is very little point in having it afterwards.

What we are trying to achieve here is improvements to the game. If you believe that introducing interchange is good for the code then fine, but let's make informed decisions that represent the majority view. If we fail to do that then we are at risk of making drastic changes that are unnecessary, possibly damaging or open to exploitation. Major rule alterations like this need to be trialled on small scale and closely monitored before broader implementation takes place.

So take an interest and have your say; be proactive rather than reactive; let's stop operating with blind faith because as someone lots smarter than I once said, "In the kingdom of the blind the one-eyed man is King."

Ok, rant over!

news desk



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MITCHELTON WINS 2005 AUSPORT AWARD FOR CLUB DEVELOPMENT

The Australian Sports Commission has announced Mitchelton Soccer Club as the winner of the 2005 Ausport Award for excellence in club development.

The 2005 Ausport Awards recognise and reward the achievements, success stories and best practice of individuals and groups within the Australian sporting system. An independent judging panel comprised of representatives from the sports industry assessed nominations in each award category against key criteria to select the finalists.

ASC General Manager of Sport Performance and Development Brent Espeland said Mitchelton Soccer Club represented a great example of an effective and well-managed sports organisation which was driven by the principle of continuous improvement.

"Mitchelton Sports Club exemplifies good management practices by effectively delivering a range of programs and initiatives to improve services to members," Mr Espeland said.

Mitchelton is one of the oldest clubs in Brisbane; a vibrant, family-based club which boasts more than 650 members, Mitchelton developed a strategic plan to improve its management practices, to be more competitive and to grow its business.

The club also introduced marketing initiatives to promote the club's activities through match programs and fixtures which helped to raise the profile of the club within the Premier League.

Others take note.

RIBOT IN AS ROAR CHAIRMAN

Queensland Roar FC have announced that former Rugby League international John Ribot will be its new Chairman.

Ribot has a proven track record with new football club franchises, having held the position of CEO with Rugby League clubs Brisbane Broncos and Melbourne Storm. After acting as a consultant to Queensland Lions in their bid to win a place in the new Hyundai A-League, Ribot accepted the role of Roar Chairman, with former Socceroo Gary Wilkins Vice-Chairman and Lawrence Oudendyk CEO.

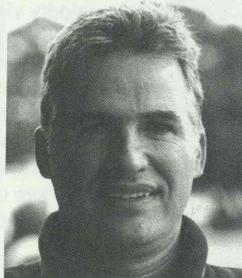
"It's an exciting challenge, taking football to the next level in this country. Now we're looking for other businessmen with an interest in football to join us for the ride," Ribot said.

"Queenslanders have proved over the years they will get behind their team. Roar's commitment is to guarantee we give them the team that everybody will be proud to be associated with," he added.

Meanwhile, the draw for the new Hyundai A-League has been made and The Roar will play New Zealand Knights in their opening match on Saturday August 27th at Suncorp Stadium. As the Football Kingz, the Kiwis were perennial cellar-dwellers in the old NSL, but the new side is expected to be much improved.

The Roar squad now contains a nucleus of 12 Queenslanders, including five members of the Australian Under 20 side that beat Brazil in 2003.

Korean Striker Min-Suk Jang has also been added to the Roar playing ranks and will add both skill and experience. Jang, 28, has played over 200 games in the K-League, Korea's highest football league. He was voted Most Valuable Player in the 2001 and 2002 K-League seasons and is sure to be an exciting player to watch.



Roar coach Miron Bleiberg (pictured) is looking forward to Jang teaming up with the similarly built striker Royce Brownlie. "I'd hate to be a central defender with strikers of their size and strength running at me," Bleiberg said.

TABLES TO 27th MARCH

BRISBANE Premier League

Premier League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palm Beach Sharks	3	3	0	0	14	0	9
Souths United	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Brisbane Strikers	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Pine Rivers United	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
Taringa Rovers	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Rochedale Rovers	3	1	0	2	7	7	3
Mitchelton	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Toowoomba Raiders	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Eastern Suburbs	3	1	0	2	4	15	3
Brisbane Wolves	3	0	0	3	2	9	0
Brisbane City	3	0	0	3	0	8	0
Uni of Qld	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

Premier League Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palm Beach Sharks	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Rochedale Rovers	3	3	0	0	8	4	9
Brisbane City	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Pine Rivers United	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
Toowoomba Raiders	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Souths United	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Brisbane Strikers	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Taringa Rovers	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
Mitchelton	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Uni of Qld	3	0	2	1	5	9	2
Brisbane Wolves	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Eastern Suburbs	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Premier Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Redlands United	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Brisbane Olympic	3	2	1	0	8	0	7
Mt Gravatt	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Capalaba	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
Peninsula Power	3	2	0	1	11	6	6
Ipswich Knights	3	1	2	0	6	0	5
Beenleigh	3	1	0	2	4	2	3
Rocklea United	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Western Spirit	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
The Gap	3	0	1	2	3	15	1
Albany Creek	3	0	0	3	1	10	0
Ipswich City	3	0	0	3	2	13	0

Division 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Olympic	3	3	0	0	13	3	9
Peninsula Power	3	2	1	0	9	5	7
Albany Creek	3	1	2	0	7	4	5
Beenleigh	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Capalaba	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Ipswich City	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Ipswich Knights	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Mt Gravatt	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
Redlands United	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Western Spirit	3	0	2	1	7	8	2
The Gap	3	0	1	2	1	10	1
Rocklea United	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Premier Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Annerley	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
North Pine	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
Southside Eagles	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Newmarket	3	2	0	1	5	8	6
Grange Thistle	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Bethania Rams	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Samford Rangers	3	1	0	2	12	7	3
Acacia Ridge	3	1	0	2	7	11	3
Moggill United	3	1	0	2	5	10	3
Slacks Creek	3	0	0	3	2	12	0
Oxley United	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

Division 2 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	3	3	0	0	21	3	9
Moggill United	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Southside Eagles	3	2	0	1	11	7	6
Newmarket	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Annerley	3	1	2	0	10	5	5
Grange Thistle	3	1	1	1	8	3	4
North Pine	3	1	1	1	9	6	4
Samford Rangers	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Bethania Rams	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Oxley United	3	0	1	2	1	9	1
Acacia Ridge	3	0	0	3	1	17	0
Slacks Creek	3	0	0	3	1	21	0

Metro 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pine Hills	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Souths United	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Acacia Ridge	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Logan City Kings	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Wilston Athletic	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Bayside United	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Uni of Qld	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Kangaroo Point Rovers	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Brisbane Toro	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Taringa Rovers	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Clairvaux	2	0	0	2	3	8	0
Park Ridge	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Metro 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Old Bridge	2	2	0	0	11	2	6
The Gap	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Newmarket	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Grange Thistle	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Regents Park	2	1	0	1	11	5	3
Brighton	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Ridge Hills	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Brisbane Wolves	2	1	0	1	8	12	3
Pine Rivers	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Eastern Suburbs	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Mooroonda	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Redcliffe PCYC	1	0	0	1	2	10	0

Metro 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Taringa Rovers	2	2	0	0	12	0	6
Pine Hills	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Logan City Kings	2	1	1	0	8	1	4
Souths United	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
Kangaroo Point Rovers	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Acacia Ridge	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Brisbane Toro	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Wilston Athletic	2	1	0	1	2	8	3
Clairvaux	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Uni of Qld	2	0	1	2	3	6	0
Bayside United	2	0	0	2	1	9	0
Park Ridge	2	0	0	2	2	13	0

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TABLES TO 27th MARCH

Metro 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Newmarket	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Peninsula Power	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Annerley	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Grange Thistle	2	1	0	1	9	5	3
North Pine	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Western Spirit	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
Brisbane Strikers	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Regents Park	2	0	1	1	1	8	1
The Gap	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
Bethania Rams	2	0	0	2	2	8	0
Eastern Suburbs	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Metro 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newmarket	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Old Bridge	2	1	1	0	7	2	4
Ipswich City	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Ridge Hills	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Woodridge	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Mt Gravatt	2	0	2	0	7	7	2
Beenleigh	2	0	2	0	6	6	2
Redlands United	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Albany Creek	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Slacks Creek	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Southside Eagles	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
Ipswich Knights	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

Metro 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rocklea United	2	2	0	0	18	0	6
Grange Thistle	2	2	0	0	13	2	6
Western Spirit	2	1	1	0	5	0	4
Albany Creek	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Mooroonda	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Slacks Creek	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Clairvaux	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Oxley United	2	1	0	1	7	6	3
Brisbane Wolves	2	0	0	2	1	9	0
Capalaba	2	0	0	2	3	13	0
Beenleigh	2	0	0	2	0	11	0
Eastern Suburbs	2	0	0	2	1	17	0

Metro 7	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moggill United	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
Kangaroo Point Rovers	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Mooroonda	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Brisbane Toro	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Regents Park	2	0	1	1	4	8	1
Ridge Hills	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Premier Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane City	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Queensland Lions	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Brisbane Wolves	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Palm Beach	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Pine Rivers	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Souths United	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Taringa Rovers	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rochedale Rovers	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Mitchelton	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Brisbane Strikers	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

Division 1 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	2	2	0	0	12	1	6
Ipswich Knights	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Toowoomba Raiders	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
Brisbane Olympic	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Uni of Qld	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Eastern Suburbs	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
Redlands United	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Albany Creek	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Mt Gravatt	2	0	0	2	3	9	0
Peninsula Power	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

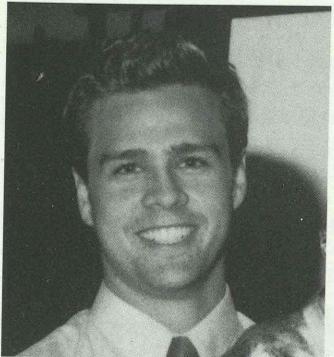
Division 2 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pine Rivers	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Ipswich City	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Beenleigh	2	1	0	1	9	1	3
Pine Hills	1	1	0	0	7	1	3
Toowoomba Raiders	2	1	0	1	7	2	3
Capalaba	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Slacks Creek	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Westside	2	1	0	1	3	6	3
North Pine	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Acacia Ridge	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Logan City Kings	1	0	0	1	1	7	0
Redcliffe PCYC	2	0	0	2	0	15	0

BRISBANE Premier League

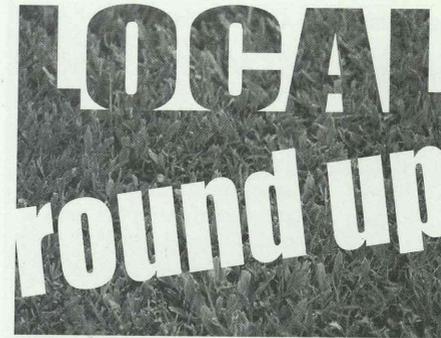
LEADING SCORERS

Craig SLAUGHTER - Souths United	5
Russell MINER - Palm Beach	5
Michael GIALLOURAKIS - Toowoomba	4
Greg DI-LOSA - Brisbane Strikers	4
Masanori UCHIMURA - Souths United	3
Daniel FUNG - Palm Beach	3
Aaron THIESFIELD - Pine Rivers	3
Ryan TRIPPETT - Palm Beach	3
Alex PANIC - Rochedale Rovers	3
Andrew BALZAT - Mitchelton	3

GOLDEN BOOT



Craig Slaughter of Souths Utd (left) tops the scoring chart with Palm Beach's Russell Miner. Slaughter, who missed last season with a broken leg, looks back to his best in 2005.



In the first season without the all conquering Queensland Lions the Premier League already has a more open look about it. The expected top performers like Pine Rivers, Rochedale, Palm Beach and the Brisbane Strikers, have been joined in the mix by an emerging Souths United.

Souths Coach Peter Tokesi was the busiest in the Premier League just prior to the big kick-off when he recruited a number of quality players from the Queensland Roar shadow squad. The likes of Craig Collins, Terry Hughes, Craig Slaughter Chris Day and Cody Lovell strengthened Souths to the point where they have to be considered serious title contenders. Some impressive results so far, not least the comprehensive 8-0 thrashing of Eastern Suburbs, have raised eyebrows on the local scene and under the wily Tokesi Souths fans will be confident of having one of the best seasons in their history.

Palm Beach, who were many people's title favourites following some excellent pre-season form, have started in explosive fashion. Karl Herdle's young side has matured considerably and there is no doubt that they are one of the teams to beat. In Russell Miner and Daniel Fung they have a prolific scoring partnership to head up a team that is brimming with quality, confidence and endeavour. The hunger of the players is there for all to see and they appear determined to put last season's disappointment of missing out on the finals behind them and push for honours this term.

As expected, Pine Rivers have begun 2005 in solid style recording wins in their opening three

games. Coach Clayton Koch has been moulding his side for a couple of years now and they appear to be getting stronger and stronger. The work ethic in the side is admirable and they simply do not know when they are beaten. Aaron Thiesfield has been in excellent form for the Predators and could prove to be one of the most influential players in the league this year.

Rochedale Rovers may have only won one of their opening three games but they are without doubt one of the most attractive sides to watch and are sure to turn their performances into victories very soon. The skilful and elusive Alex Panic has been turning heads with some top drawer displays and could be one of the leading contenders for the 2005 Gold Medal.

Bob Hamilton, who took over the reins at the Brisbane Strikers following Ken Swan's controversial sacking before the start of the season, has watched his side take maximum points in their opening three games. The irrepressible Greg DiLosa is finding the net regularly and Hamilton will be delighted with his side's form in the early stages.

Three teams are yet to register a point this season, Brisbane Wolves, Brisbane City and Premier League newcomers University of Queensland, with City and Uni also failing to find the net so far. It's fair to say that the table means little at this stage of the season but all three teams on zero points will need to get off the mark very soon or run the risk of being cast adrift from the mid-table sides.

Taringa Rovers can take heart from some spirited performances and Alan Waller's side are a much tougher nut to crack this time out. Rovers may not quite be top four material just yet, but they will certainly lie down for no one and should not be taken lightly. It was a baptism of fire for the new Easts coach Michael Brockwell as the Tigers conceded 14 goals in their opening two games, but they bounced back superbly against Toowoomba to record a crucial win and get their rebuilding season back on track. It's a similar story for both Toowoomba and Mitchelton as they too look to the future. Mitchelton have largely been the victims of their own 2004 success and lost a number of key players to overseas trials. However, Greg Brown was not named 2004 Coach of the Year for nothing and you can expect his young side to be very competitive indeed.

As usual in ExtraTime we caught up with the Premier League coaches to get their thoughts on the opening few weeks of the season.

A MONTH OF MOUTH

Eastern Suburbs - Michael Brockwell



It's been a mixture of shock and elation! I don't think any coach could have expected a worse start to their coaching career than I had with those two heavy defeats to Palm Beach and Souths. That made the victory against Toowoomba all the more important so at

least we got something positive from the first month of the season. We've got a three-year plan here and we know what we want to achieve, but this year is going to be a big test for us. If we can consolidate this year we have enough young players in the team who can improve together and we can aim higher next season.

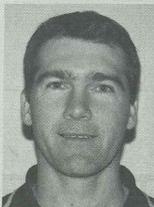
Toowoomba Raiders - Peter Broadfoot

The first three games have been like pre-season matches for me because I only took over the week before the season started and I'm still learning about the squad. Most of the team are young and inexperienced and our initial goal is just to stay in the league and build from there. We've managed to remain in the Premier League for seven years now with limited resources and very little help from anyone. We only have a small player pool to draw from up here but even so we do have some quality players. We have a proven goalscorer and plenty of speedy players, and but at the moment we are making too many defensive errors and in this league you get punished for that.

Taringa Rovers - Alan Waller

We are obviously delighted at having won two of our first three games but it's easy to get carried away and we mustn't do that. There are still plenty of areas where we have to improve. We're defending well but we have to create more opportunities to score. We'll be working hard in training on how we build our attacks and try to keep possession a little better than we have been. We are a better team than last year and we have a lot of positives to build on. The players are responding well and if we can make those improvements, particularly against the better teams, we can have a good season.

Pine Rivers Utd - Clayton Koch



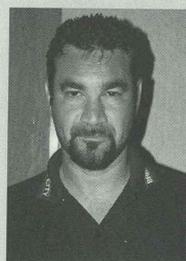
We're very pleased at taking maximum points so far in our first three games and especially pleased at the improvements we've experienced in the areas that we were a little concerned about during the pre-season. I feel that we will be hard to beat in most games and our next

three matches against The Strikers, Souths and Palm Beach will give us a good indication as to where we are in relation to the other teams. We have a number of players who have started the season very well, particularly Aaron Thiesfield who has a great appetite for the game and it's obvious that he is really enjoying his football at the moment.

Brisbane Strikers - Bob Hamilton

Things are going the way that everybody had hoped so that is very pleasing for us. The Rochedale game was very significant because it was our biggest test against a team that I fully expect to make the top four. To be honest probably a draw would have been a fair result in that game but you take wins however you can get them. It's still too early to say that we are title contenders but I think we are on the right track. To do well you need key players in certain areas and we have that. Obviously the influx of ex-Lions players has added experience to the team but we also have a number of young boys who are doing well and are in the team on merit. Michael Butters on the right side of midfield has been superb for us so far. All the players are responding to what I'm asking of them so I can't expect any more than that.

Brisbane City - Salvatore Sottile



We still have four or five players out injured unfortunately but I believe we are improving. We have a very young team who are learning all the time and I believe in two or three weeks we will be alright. We've played the Strikers and Palm Beach who will be among the best teams

in the competition so we shouldn't be too disappointed about losing those games. It's too early to say where we can finish in the table this season, but with such a young side we would be

happy with a mid table finish. If we continue to work hard then there will be no threat of relegation. I don't believe that we will have problems like that.

Mitchelton - Greg Brown



I knew that we were probably a couple of key players short of having a championship winning side and we were unable to sign the players we were after. Consequently, we went with what we had and the first couple of games was a big test for them. The team came good against Brisbane

Wolves and they are getting better all the time. Young players need a bit of confidence as well as guidance and that win will do us the world of good. Our players are pretty switched on and they need to learn as they go. They put in 100% every week and they're very committed but each game throws up something different and you can only give them experience by putting them in the team. Hopefully we can get on a bit of a run now before we meet some of the top teams which will help us prepare for the tougher games.

Palm Beach - Karl Herdle



I am obviously very happy with the way we have started the season, especially considering the fact that we have several of our top players injured. The players that have come in have done a tremendous job and everything is going the way we had hoped it

would. The big test for us will come when we play Rochedale and then we can see how we go against one of the best teams. Without being disrespectful to the teams we have played so far, we haven't been able to judge what we are capable of as yet but I'm glad we didn't slip up in our first three games. We're playing reasonably good football, scoring plenty of goals and haven't conceded one yet so I don't have a lot to complain about really! The mental attitude is a lot better than last year and even though we have some very young players they are more experienced now.

Souths Utd - Peter Tokesi

We've won our first three games and I'll never complain about winning! We struggled a bit against University and they made it hard for us, but prior to that game we did really well in our other matches. Injuries aside, if we finished outside the top four with the squad we have then I would be very disappointed. When I first took over we were probably looking around a mid-table finish, but since we've recruited some extra quality players our expectations are obviously higher. I'm an optimist and always look to do well but a few injuries or suspensions can change everything. The tempo of your team can change and the balance can change. At the moment we have a pretty well-balanced side, we're doing well and the supporters are loving every minute of it.

Rochedale Rovers - Kieran Cooper



Apart from the first game against Souths when we didn't play very well I have been happy with our performances. We had our opportunities against both Souths and the Strikers but we didn't take them and ended up with no points from those games. We've battled and played good

football so far but the results just haven't gone our way. We scored 7 goals in 3 matches which should be enough to win 3 games, but we've also conceded 7 and we seem to be getting punished for silly errors. We've had a bit of a tough start and you do want to take points from the teams that you expect to be around you on the table, but after the Palm Beach game we have a run of fixtures that might help us to get on a bit of a roll. I'm confident in the players that I've got but the fact remains that we've given the others a 6 point start.

University of Queensland - Glen Volker

It's been a steep learning curve for us but in our third game against Souths I thought we actually played quite well. We had our opportunities and didn't take them so we have to learn how to finish teams off. The disappointing thing from our perspective is that we've conceded silly goals that you simply can't afford to concede in this league, especially considering that at the moment we don't have our most potent strike force on the pitch. We've still got a couple of

players to come back in so we're hopeful that we can add some quality up front. The speed of the game is consistently faster than we were used to, and whereas in Division 1 most teams would have one or two quality players that could hurt you, in the Premier League there are seven or eight. I don't think we underestimated the step up into Premier League, it's just that it is taking us a little while to adjust.

Brisbane Wolves - Anthony Roche



It's been a bit up and down for us. I'd write off the Taringa game because that was by far our worst performance. Against Mitchelton I don't think it was a 1:4 scoreline but they took their chances and we didn't. The one problem that stands out for us so far is that we

need a recognised striker to finish off the chances we are creating. We've got a couple of things in the pipeline and I may even consider coming back to play up front myself for a little while. We are still aiming to finish comfortably in the top half of the table but we haven't had the best of starts. Some other teams may look at us and think that we will be the easy beats but I can guarantee that it won't be like that.



In **Division One** the surprise leaders after three rounds are Redlands United. The Bayside club are the only side to have taken maximum points at this stage with the stand-out result being the 1-0 home win against Beenleigh.

It remains to be seen if Redlands can maintain their lofty position when the expected big guns of the division begin their push for the top. Coach Dave Allanson is understandably delighted with his team's great start though.

"We were hoping to get nine points from our opening three games so to have achieved that is great. Our next three games are against Olympic, Ipswich Knights and Peninsula Power so we know that we face an uphill task but we can go into those games with confidence after getting those first three victories under our belt," he said.

"In the last few years we have established ourselves as a Division One side but have suffered from inconsistency at times. We seem

to have tightened up a little bit at the back this year and we haven't conceded a goal yet. Our aim is to finish in the top four and I'd be very happy if we do that this season. The club could accept Premier League football if we got there, but we certainly didn't put anything into place this year to achieve it," he added.

Brisbane Olympic, who have recruited strongly under new coach Frank Pimblett, will surely figure in the promotion race with their sights firmly set on a return to the Premier League after falling away badly at the business end of last season. Mount Gravatt, Peninsula Power and Ipswich Knights are the other teams who were favourites to push for the promotion spots. All have had inconsistent starts but by next month you can expect the table to have a slightly different look as the teams settle down and get into their stride.

Albany Creek and The Gap, who have struggled in recent seasons, already look as if they have a fight on their hands to survive this year. Newcomers Ipswich City and Western Spirit have found the step up tough to adjust to and will need to settle their nerves quickly to ensure a season of consolidation in their new surroundings.

Brisbane Force as expected have got off to a flyer in **Division Two**, banging in 13 goals in their opening three matches. John Ogden's side will take some stopping this season as they march towards Division One and beyond. Force were no doubt disappointed at missing out on promotion last year and will be determined not to miss out this time. Annerley are the other side on maximum points after an impressive round three win against North Pine, who themselves are highly fancied this term. Oxley United, Slacks Creek and Moggill United have unfortunately started this year where they left off last year. It's sure to be a season of toil for these three teams and one or two good results during the season could make all the difference in the wash up.

Just as in Division One, there are plenty of quality sides in this league who are capable of pushing for a finals place. It will be fascinating to watch the season unfold and the coverage in ExtraTime of these two divisions, and the Metro Leagues, will expand markedly as the season progresses. Make sure you get out there and watch a game or two. ☺

opinion

Coops on player payments



Once again I am going to open up a can of worms with this topic, and once again I am going to leave myself wide open to the many knockers out there. But if the truth be known, this has to be said.

Player payments. Now before you go shouting, "Coops was paid when he played," or, "Coops wasn't saying this when he picked up his wages," you are probably correct. It's only really when you cross over from playing to administration that you realise a few things.

Personally I believe we are an amateur league in disguise. We don't get big crowds, we don't get good media, sponsors are few and far between and we don't have huge prize money to play for. So from a clubs point of view, where is the incentive to invest a large amount of money. Would you do it if it was your own business?

I fail to see how clubs can justify paying players large sums of money when their facilities are not up to scratch

So what are my gripes? Well to be honest club facilities are my number one gripe. I fail to see how clubs can justify paying players large sums of money and yet their facilities are not up to scratch. Surely the clubs priority should be to make sure that their facilities are right? I believe this is where BMS should come in. Over the last few years BMS have introduced criteria that can be met by the clubs. If the clubs are not meeting their requirements then they should not be able to pay players a single cent. It's all

about priorities. I see it year in and year out. Players simply jumping from club to club for the best deal. Players dropping down divisions because they can get more money in the lower division. Surely this isn't good.

Don't get me wrong here, I don't blame the players one little bit for this. They are entitled to get the best deal they can. I blame the club administrators as they are the ones agreeing to the deals. Can you imagine a league that was totally amateur? Do you think that would help improve the standards at clubs? Do you think the money saved might very well in the long run lift the profile of the league? I'm sure we will get arguments from both sides.

When I came to Australia in 1986 it was to play National League. I came as a footballer and therefore expected to be paid as a footballer. Lions and City were the teams in the league back then and I have no idea what payments were being paid at that time to players in the local league.

When both sides were dumped from the reformed National League most of the players either dropped back to XXXX league or went to other clubs in the NSL. Maybe it was this that created the problem we have today. Maybe it was us players dropping back into the local league still expecting to be paid that had a knock on effect to other clubs. Maybe the other clubs had to do this to keep up with the Lions' and the City's.

But times have changed since then. As stated before, the standard has dropped, the crowds are down and the media is virtually non-existent. How long can we continue in this trend? Maybe we all need to take one step back in order to take two steps forward.

This problem lies with each club. I have been to meetings where clubs have stated that from now on they are not going to be paying big wages. I have been to meetings where a salary cap has been discussed and agreed that this would be the best way forward. I have also had players in my office the very next day telling me that this club has offered this, and that club has offered that. Remember, players talk and word gets around. The proof is in the signing of the player.

I am sure club administrators will agree with me in principle, but what I'm not sure about is them putting it into practice. Would they bend the budget by a few dollars just to get a player or

would they stick to their guns? My guess is the former. As long as we keep doing this we will always be behind the eight ball. Glory at what cost? Will the players you pay this year be with you next year? Will they stay when the money runs out?

Like I said earlier, this will upset a few people. Maybe someday down the track we will have a tool to sell and players will be rewarded accordingly. I just feel that at the present time the leagues in Brisbane do not warrant some of the money being spent.

Geez, I can feel those daggers already! ☘

CAHILL NAMED OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tim Cahill has been named the Oceania Football Confederation Player of the Year for 2004.

OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas said it was due reward for Cahill who left his home in Sydney at the age of 16 to pursue his dream of playing football at the highest level.

"Tim has had a wonderful season and is a deserved winner of the OFC player of the year award."

Cahill's 2004 year was full of highlights including an appearance in the English FA Cup Final for his former club Millwall against Manchester United, an international debut for Australia against South Africa and the huge honour of representing his country at the Athens Olympic Games.

His year was capped with a dream move to the English Premier League where he has enjoyed an outstanding season with Everton.



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Phil MOYE

The BMS President promotes the many virtues of promotion



RECENTLY I HAVE HEARD THAT the game is not being promoted and how difficult it is to do so. People lament the lack of press coverage, no TV exposure and no mainstream media awareness of the sport.

Let's compare apples with apples. How much press coverage does the local, club competitions of AFL, Union and League receive? When was the last time you saw a Courier Mail article on the local rugby team in your area? I would suggest that our game gets better coverage than those other codes I mentioned. After several years of hard work we now enjoy considerable exposure in regional/local area papers and that is a vast improvement.

BMS has spent considerable time and effort on the development of quality contacts in the media. With the help of this magazine and the efforts of the editor and others, we now have access to quality match reports sent directly to media contacts.

BMS launched the season with a function attended by members of the press, business partners and potential business partners. The evolution of the competitions, increased prize money and the increased number of teams all contributed to a very saleable package. The contribution from the Premier League and Division One clubs was the attendance of a player in full strip for media promotion. Guess what? Four clubs failed to turn up!!!!

So when it comes to promoting the game ask yourself this question. What has my club done to promote the game? Clubs get eleven major home games each season. Eleven chances to make a difference. I have been to two games so far and I have observed the following. Although at the first game there was a match program, the away team was not listed and there was no attempt to follow the BMS requirements for presentation at the start of the game.

The BMS Presentation standard, agreed to by all clubs, was that the teams would walk out with the officials or line up in the centre for announcement

of the players. It is a simple thing that presents the game as a quality sports event. I have heard all sorts of arguments about why it can't be done. Negativity never sold anything and selling is what it is all about. I hear players bemoaning the lack of 'real money' in the game but I don't see players doing a thing to raise the profile of the sport. Trying to get the players to line up is like trying to herd cats.

The second game I attended had a well-presented match program with both teams named. Only one problem! The away team didn't list the player numbers! At this time of the year it is so important to get the promotion right. Once again there was no announcement of the players or walking out with officials. You only get eleven goes at it and a new season is when new supporters turn up. So I ask the question again, What is your club doing to promote the game?

BMS is committed to promotion of the game, obtaining business partners and raising awareness of the sport in the media. This is being

Show our business partners that we are worthy of support

done with your money. To get a result we require all sections of the game, players, coaches, officials and administrators to make an effort to help themselves. There is assistance for just about every facet of promotion. On page 2 of *ExtraTime* there is an offer to update or redesign your club badge/logo. How great is that? Bruce and the team at BMS can help with a wide variety of marketing and advertising advice and tips.

Please don't dwell on the negatives. Get moving and promote your club and our game. It's up to you in the end. Show our business partners that we are worthy of support. Demonstrate that you can promote the game and their involvement in it. The rewards will come back to you and we will all benefit. ☘



andy PASCHALIDIS

The legendary football commentator on the recent crowd problems in Sydney

THIS WAS MEANT TO BE A POSITIVE, upbeat first column for 2005 but I write this just hours after witnessing the crowd riots in Sydney at a NSW Premier League match between old rivals Sydney United and Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

It was billed as the top of the table clash between two teams split by goal difference, but sadly within hours of the final whistle news bulletins around the country showed graphic footage of fans fighting with police, each other, and once again bringing the game into disrepute.

Within 24 hours officials from Soccer NSW and the Football Federation of Australia were in damage control. I found it hard to believe that some would even suggest that alcohol was the root of the problem and not ethnic rivalries.

Sydney United, who have produced the likes of Mark Bosnich, Tony Popovic, Zelko Kalac and a host of other Socceroos, are of Croatian background while Bonnyrigg is a Serbian-backed club. Anyone who knows football well, and indeed the history of Eastern Europe, would understand the significance of such a match.

What made events at the Sydney United Sports Centre even more frustrating is the fact that Bonnyrigg spent thousands of dollars organising a three-camera broadcast back to their social club to avert such trouble. They had advised their supporters to have a family day at their social club and not travel to Sydney United's ground.

However, a group of 30 Bonnyrigg fans arrived just 15 minutes before the kick-off. The trouble escalated from there as opposing fans taunted each other as flares and objects were thrown. I commend Bonnyrigg for having the foresight to organise a broadcast but it actually came back to haunt them. I doubt there would have been any major story if the game wasn't filmed. No television footage makes life difficult for the media to react.

I thought these ethnic confrontations were a thing of the past in this country. We are perhaps the most democratic country in the world where people of all ethnic backgrounds and religions mix freely. Sure, be proud of your ethnic background; this country is littered with classic stories of migrants arriving after the Second World War to give them a chance of a better future. I know that only too well having Greek parentage, but I

was born here and am proud to be an Australian. This is my country. My kids were born here; my wife was born here (of dinky-di Aussie background I might add!!).

2005 is the most significant year in the history of the game. A new A-League, Confederations Cup and the dreaded two-leg South American playoff is yet to come. What message were those fools at the United Sports Centre sending to the rest of the football family?

The A-League is about being a one team-one city competition attracting all those who might be involved in junior clubs who might not have shown interest in the

"I doubt there would have been any major story if the game wasn't filmed"

past in attending an NSL game. If I was a new parent to our great game and saw the television news broadcasts about that crowd trouble in Sydney, I might just question whether I would want to go and watch an A-League game.

Thankfully, I've been involved in the game all my life and I know better. The tension in Sydney was poorly timed. Football Federation Australia had made some positive steps in the structure, marketing and promotion of the game in recent months. Now it's up to the FFA and its State bodies to prove that those sad events were an aberration, a one off.

It's an easier prospect to entice a new fan to the game but once they are lost after witnessing such sad events, it's twice as hard to get them back.

The game will rebound. It always does.

Andy Paschalidis conducts local and international football tours through his company Elite Sports Travel (see advert p.27) andy@elitesportstravel.com.au - Ph: 0412 414 998.

Andy has just started a daily one-hour TALKIN' FOOTBALL show on 2SM in Sydney between 3-4pm from Monday to Friday. It can also be heard on 104.1 FM on the Gold Coast and 97AM Tweed Heads. ☺

BMS launch gets season underway

BRISBANE MENS SOCCER announced a 25% increase in prize money and unveiled a new Premier League logo at the season launch held last month. In front of sponsors, club officials and players Mr Phil Moye, President of Brisbane Mens Soccer, announced the increased prize money for the Premier League Champions and Division 1 Champions.



Players from the Premier League clubs show off the new logo

"There has been an anomaly in recent years with the team winning the League Championship receiving less than the winner of the Grand Final," he said. "However this season the winner of the Premier League will receive \$5000, equivalent to the winner of the Grand Final. The winner of the Division 1 title will win \$2,500."

"The Board have also instituted substantial amounts for teams in Division 2 and in Premier Youth Grade which when added to Grand Final winners payments represents a total of \$21,670.00 incentive packages across the divisions. This is a 25% increase on last year."

The clubs participating in the Premier League and Division 1 were all presented to the attendees who also witnessed the unveiling of a promotional 'Brisbane Premier League' logo. "In line with our continuing initiatives to promote the local game at all possible opportunities we are introducing this new image to identify and promote the Premier League. We believe it will assist us to give football the professional image and credibility it deserves," said Bruce Dinsdale, General Manager of Brisbane Mens Soccer.

Other awards to be presented this season include the Player of the Year and Golden Boot Award in all Premier Divisions and the Premier League Team of the Year to be judged by the players and coaches of the participating clubs. A new award, the Presidents Award, will also be presented for outstanding achievement during the 2005 season. All awards will be presented at the end of season Gala Awards Dinner. ☺



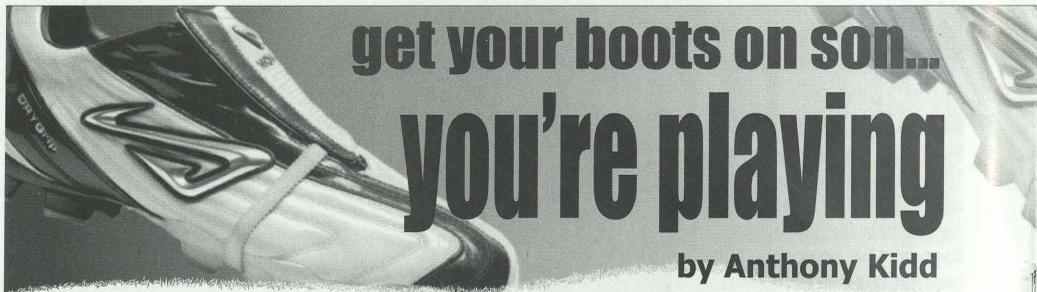
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get your boots on son... you're playing

by Anthony Kidd

RECENTLY FOOTBALL SERVED UP an unexpected setback for local identity Ken Swan. His controversial axing as Brisbane Strikers/North Star coach was a frustrating period in what has been a prolific soccer career so far.

With his player recruitment almost complete, Swan was sacked by the North Star board as the first round of Premier League football was about to begin. "I think the group of people who are running the club wanted to flex their muscles and show their authority. I have had plenty of support from players and other North Star members. They are all very supportive and management know the hours that I have put in to get North Star back on its feet," Swan said.

Swan, who played his junior soccer for The Gap, kicked off his senior football career with Grange Thistle in the original State League over 20 years ago. He was capped 7 times for Queensland, played in the National League and was one of the very few players to win two consecutive Gold Medals in 1983. "We came from the bush out near Roma and my father had always played league, however, when we moved to Brisbane our local sports club was The Gap and my Mum enrolled my brother and I in soccer."

Swan considers his first year at North Star in 2003 as his most successful. Fifteen players from the previous year's first team squad had used the exit door and Swan was left with the bare bones to work with in what was a troubled year for the Zillmere-based club. "We had new coaches, the club was deep in debt and the fields were atrocious. The new committee of the time worked so hard to get us on deck. When we look at what we did, it was a great season. We ended up 9th out of 12, drew with Lions once and also beat Brisbane City. We took points off the top four or five teams," Swan said.

"For success and achievement that was definitely my best year. We had players who had no level of experience in that competition and we did it," he added. Although they didn't win premierships and or get into the top four, it was a significant year for Swan and will always hold great memories for him.

This month **ExtraTime** asked Ken Swan to recruit again this season, this time for a side that he would rate as his best eleven players that he played alongside throughout his career.

Keeper - STUART WOODRUFFE

Stuart was from Mt Gravatt and I played with him in the Queensland senior side. Quite simply Stuart's best attributes were his amazing reflexes and shot stopping ability.

Right Back - STEVE PERRY

I played with Steve at Brisbane City in the National League. He was also an Australian International full-back. We played together for just over a year and then I got an injury. He was one of the first overlapping fullbacks in Australian football absolute quality.

Centre Back - JIM HERMISTON

Jim was Scottish footballer of the year and he came to Australia in about 1980. I played with him at Grange Thistle. He went on to become Player of the Year in the Australian national competition. Jim was the best passer of the ball I had ever seen. He was tough, uncompromising and just an unbelievable player.

Sweeper - STEVE JACKSON

I played with him as a Queensland representative player in the open senior side. He was a great bloke and was a good fellow to have in the team; he was a local boy and he too played for Australia.

Left Back - Alun Evans

Alun was a New Zealand international and played for North Star first then Brisbane United in the

National League. Alun had incredible speed and had incredible left foot passing. A top-draw player and great with set pieces.

Right Midfield- SHANE HADDOW

He was at North Star and was an aggressive overlapping midfielder who also played for Queensland with me on several occasions. He came from the Australian Institute of Sport.

Centre Midfield - FRANK PIMBLETT

I played with Frank at Brisbane City in the National League and also in the Queensland side. I think Frank is the best midfield player that I played with in Queensland; he had aggression, leadership and great passing ability. Quite simply the best import player we've ever had here.

Centre Midfield - STEVE DOLAN

Steve was at Grange Thistle at the same time as me. He was playing for the senior Queensland side when he was just 16 years of age. He was the best attacking midfielder I have seen in Queensland football and to this day there is no one better.

Left Midfield - NICK MEREDITH

I played with him for Queensland but not at club level. His speed and left foot crossing ability, as well as aggression in midfield, made him a great player to play alongside. He was never shy of controversy and used to get the crowd going. They don't make them like him any more.

Centre Forward - KIERAN COOPER

I played with Kieran in my second stint at Brisbane City. Kieran was the best opportunist striker going around in his day and he did it for many years. He would always find the back of the net and his record speaks for itself.

Centre Forward - JIM MCDONAGH

Jim was at North Star and also played with me for Queensland. He was an ex-Scottish professional and also a National League footballer for Lions. He was the best target man going around for Queensland. He and Kieran dominated the goal scoring records in Brisbane for around 15 years.

Coach - PETER BANNON

I had Peter for 2 years; I have kept in good contact with him and Pete has been like a mentor for me over the years. He coached us at North Star and was assistant coach to Bruce Stowell in the National League. Peter just loves coaching and is so enthusiastic for it - he knows the game so well.

When we were at North Star in the 80's we were the number one club in Queensland soccer for years. During this time we were invited to go into the National League but didn't have the finances to do it. North Star at that time was **the** club and we had Rochedale and Lions as our rivals. We won our fair share of trophies and had such great support base, one of the main reasons why I went back to coach there. ☺



bruce DINSDALE



The BMS General Manager on the 2005 Premier Cup

Once again this year the BMS Premier Cup will be held for all clubs participating in Premier Divisions. Last season the cup was won by Brisbane City after defeating Brisbane Wolves in the final.

The main purpose of this cup competition is to create a regular event with a random draw and knockout style competition. Like many similar cup competitions around the world, the competition relies heavily on the romantic notion of 'Giant Killing', with the opportunity to play teams outside of their regular division.

The 36 Premier Division clubs all enter the draw for Premier Cup, conducted at specific BMS fixtures. For the Qualifying Round, eight are drawn randomly to play 4 games to even the number of teams out with all remaining teams balloted through to Round 1.

Prize money is allocated to the 8 teams that make the quarter-finals dependent on their final placing. There is no play off for 3rd place, with both teams receiving an equal share of prize money.

From Round 1 onwards, a combination of mid-week night matches and weekend matches are played, where possible as double headers, with the 'home team' being allocated the main kick off time. This is in order to give fans the opportunity of seeing 4 teams play at one venue, creating local and media interest and to make the promotion efforts more cost effective.

Last season, some clubs went to great lengths to promote and publicise their home matches and attracted larger than normal crowds. This is definitely an opportunity for the club and the sport to attract additional publicity and enthusiasm.

The dates scheduled for this season's competition are:

Qualifying Round - Wed 30th March

36 teams - All the Premier Competition clubs entered and 8 were drawn randomly to play 4

games to even out the number of teams (results on opposite page). All remaining teams were balloted through to Round 1.

Round 1 - Sat 30th April/Sun 1st May/ Mon 2nd May

32 teams - This specific weekend will be designated and promoted as Cup weekend with no Premier Competition matches scheduled. Teams will be randomly drawn with these matches to be played as double-headers at selected venues (8 required) depending on available facilities. The first drawn team in each group of two matches will be the designated home team, again depending on availability of adequate facilities.

The same random draw system will be used to determine the ties and 'home' teams in all future rounds. No Premier Competition fixtures will be scheduled on any of the Premier Cup match days. The dates are as follows:

Round 2 - Sat 11th June/Sun 12th June/ Mon 13th June

16 teams - 8 games - 4 venues.

Round 3 - Wed 6th July/Wed 13th July

8 teams - 4 games - 2 venues.

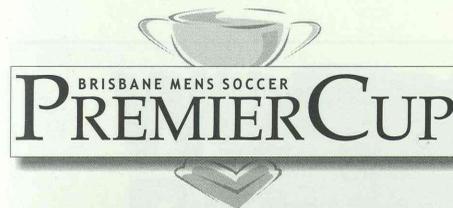
These matches will be played over the above two-week period.

Semi Finals - Sat 30th July/Sun 31st Aug

4 teams - These matches will be played as a double header at a nominated neutral venue. Again this will give supporters the opportunity of seeing four teams in action.

Final - Sunday 4th September

2 teams - The final is to be played on the specified weekend in September at a neutral venue. No other fixture matches will be played at the same time to give all supporters of soccer the opportunity to attend. The final will have a strong 'event' focus with a concentrated media and promotional effort. ☘



Qualifying Round Results

Grange Thistle	6	v	0	Oxley United
Samford Rangers	3	v	0	Slacks Creek
Peninsula Power	3	v	0	Redlands United
Eastern Suburbs	2	v	1	North Pine

ROUND 1

Sat 30 th April	4:30	Elder Oval	Annerley	V	Albany Creek
Sat 30 th April	6:30	Elder Oval	Palm Beach Sharks	V	Beenleigh
Sat 30 th April	6:00	Darra Reserve	Brisbane Force	V	Brisbane City
Sat 30 th April	4:00	Darra Reserve	Moggill United	V	Grange Thistle
Sat 30 th April	7:00	Wendy Allison Oval	Pine Rivers	V	Western Spirit
Sat 30 th April	5:00	Wendy Allison Oval	Souths United	V	Southside Eagles
Sat 30 th April	3:00	Jack Speare Park	Taringa Rovers	V	Eastern Suburbs
Sat 30 th April	1:00	Jack Speare Park	Peninsula Power	V	Brisbane Strikers
Sun 1 st May	4:00	Eric Evans Oval	Ipswich Knights	V	Rocklea United
Sun 1 st May	2:00	Eric Evans Oval	Mt Gravatt	V	Toowoomba Raiders
Sun 1 st May	5:00	Carmichael Park	Brisbane Wolves	V	Rochdale Rovers
Sun 1 st May	3:00	Carmichael Park	Uni of Qld	V	Mitchelton
Mon 2 nd May	3:00	Harold Brown Park	Samford Rangers	V	The Gap
Mon 2 nd May	1:00	Harold Brown Park	Acacia Ridge	V	Capalaba
Mon 2 nd May	5:00	Goodwin Park	Brisbane Olympic	V	Ipswich City
Mon 2 nd May	3:00	Goodwin Park	Newmarket	V	Bethania Rams

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Chifundo, Malawi, 2003



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Rd 1	28/08/05	3.00pm	vs	New Zealand Knights
Rd 4	18/09/05	3.00pm	vs	Melbourne Victory
Rd 5	23/09/05	8.00pm	vs	Sydney FC
Rd 7	07/10/05	8.00pm	vs	Central Coast Mariners
Rd 9	22/10/05	7.35pm	vs	Adelaide United
Rd 10	29/10/05	7.35pm	vs	Perth Glory
Rd 13	20/11/05	6.00pm	vs	Newcastle Jets
Rd 15	01/12/05	7.00pm	vs	New Zealand Knights
Rd 18	15/01/06	6.00pm	vs	Melbourne Victory
Rd 19	21/01/06	7.00pm	vs	Sydney FC
Rd 21	04/02/06	7.00pm	vs	Central Coast Mariners

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A

bsorbing reading the old ExtraTime isn't it? Settled down here with my chockie bickie and coffee, it's informative, entertaining and just a great football read. I wouldn't tackle the straight talking Ted if I was a player. Kieran, canny Irishman that he is, has the kids all worked out and it's heart warming to read a proud Geoff Foster on sponsorship. All good stuff except there's a glaring hole in here. Front to back, everyone involved gets a look in except for...THE FAN.

A football fan is a very special person. Mention you're a football fan to someone and instantly they think 'hooligan'. I always did think Houllier (late of Liverpool) was a bit of an unfortunate name for a Premier League manager. Often deservedly maligned in the press, where do you hear about those of us who are the real fans of the game? Quietly soaking up everything about the game, unswerving in their loyalty, there is no recognition of this. But it can be found quite simply. Ask your womenfolk.

Most of us are married to, are mothers of, or have mates who know the name of the dog that found the missing World Cup, but are blissfully unaware of anniversaries. It makes for entertaining living. Mind you, I draw the line at having a gigantic club logo painted on the bottom of the pool.

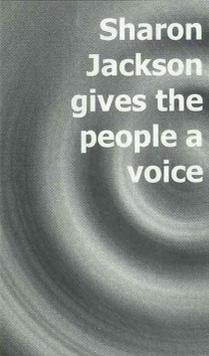
I draw the line at having a gigantic club logo painted on the bottom of the pool

Your local is place to meet and greet fans and if the football on show is boring you cannot fail to be entertained by the personalities that come together and put their own

stamp on the proceedings. There are as many characters as Barry Humphries could dream of and are as prone to nonsensical ideas. Who would follow Carlisle Utd for example?

Every Saturday lunchtime in every pub across the land, fans are arriving, coloured up ready to go to the highlight of their week. The smoky atmosphere is thronged with anticipation and trepidation. In the background, the TV experts are spurring their line giving rise to equally expert pub opinions. How the FFA have overlooked this congregation of skilled, informed judges is nothing short of incredible! It's great and you drink it in like vintage champagne. Then, like a moth to the flame, the team statistician homes in you. "Well on paper, we've got more firepower than them. Did you realize when we played them in 1983 blah, blah...?" Get me a drink quick. That's OK though as before long the team optimist turns up. "I'm quietly confident," he says, sipping his beer. You really have to admire Middlesbrough fans don't you?

Course, the opposite is also very true with the perpetual whinger being not far behind. "Can't see how they're going to get another 4-1 win this week." Funnily



Sharon Jackson gives the people a voice

thanks for your support

enough it seems to be the more successful teams that attract this and you would think that Man Utd is about to face relegation these days. Better make that a double.

At the game, it's what it's all about as the play alternately creates euphoria and despair and the fans are carried on the tide. All of the superstitions start coming out now, "No, can't win today, the ref walked out diagonally and not straight." This absurdity has as much relevance to the outcome as Little Johnny's policy of more Aussies in Iraq, but guess what, we all watch what the ref does the next game!

Never mind the après ski, it's the après match that everyone's waiting for. Depending on whether you've won or lost, the camaraderie around you makes you realize what it is to be a fan. The crushing hurt of a Grand Final defeat is nursed slowly through many a XXXX together, whereas a win at the same game means most of the XXXX is spilled from the cup in jubilation. The one fan I hate to run into at this point is the team philosopher. If worse things happen at sea, someone buy him a boat and let me enjoy my wallowing alone.

There are football fans in all walks of life. Since the hooligan element gets far too much press in the name of football, I won't sully these pages with mention of them. But I would like to recount a novel way the Columbians snuffed out over-active hormones after a particularly bad incident. At the next fixture, as the atmosphere became hostile, a previously unseen phalanx of armed soldiers arose from the area behind the goal. They swivelled as one, raising their rifles to point directly at the jeering crowd. It was like pausing a video as the shouts stopped in mid-rant and arms stayed in the air. The next few seconds were tense as mouths were closed, eyes were lowered and feet were

After having a lifelong love affair with Port Vale, it's no wonder Robbie Williams' voice is so loaded with emotion

shuffled. The soldiers then retook their seats but kept the rifles in full view, a silent and potent menace to would-be agitators.

The average fan does not have monopoly on these nonsensical ideas. Celebrities are also afflicted with this disease. You can understand Mick Hucknall's devotion to Man Utd and Mel C's love of Liverpool. But now I know why Hugh Grant always looks so hang dog. So would you if you supported Fulham. After having a lifelong love affair with Port Vale, it's no wonder Robbie Williams' voice is so loaded with emotion.

Fortunately, there are those in authority who are also fans and make their support known in a more rational way. During Euro 2004, a local publican needed his opening times to be, well, elastic to cater for his flock watching the matches prior to work. The local magistrate refused, citing it was only allowable for special occasions. At which point the publican took his cause to the Supreme Court. In legalese, obviously a fan, the judge said, "Open up my man, open up." How much more special can you get?

Football Fans, they be the salt of the earth!

P.S. the dog - it was Pickles. ☺

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SOCCER QUEENSLAND

Soccer Queensland's Geoff Foster, gives us an insight into recent developments at State level

LATEST FROM WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's football representative season for 2005 is fast approaching. The first competition kicked off on Easter Saturday in Gladstone where the association there hosted the Under 12 Cochrane Cup and the State Under 14 Championships. Seventeen teams from across the state are competing for top honours - five in the Cochrane Cup, which is purely a participation based carnival, and twelve teams of young hopefuls vying for selection into the State Under 14 team who will compete in the Kanga Cup later in the year.

The following weekend, 1st, 2nd and 3rd April, the Ketter Cup - the southern-based Under 12 participation carnival took place at Brisbane Wolves' grounds at Carmichael Park - headquarters for women's soccer in Brisbane.

REGIONS

Brisbane Women's Soccer (BWS) has had a tremendous influx of registrations for the 2005 season. 53 clubs have nominated 170 teams and the girls are into their 5th week of competition. Premier League clubs this year are - Queensland Lions, Mt Gravatt, Souths United, The Gap, Ipswich Knights, University of Queensland, Toowoomba Raiders and new comers Eastern Suburbs. With no Queensland Academy of Sport players participating in the club fixtures

this year, it will be an interesting battle for Premier League supremacy.

BWS currently have nine representative teams in training for State Championships - Two Under 12, 3 Under 14, 2 Under 16 and 2 Under 18. Later this year BWS will be conducting specialised coaching clinics for interested players.

QUEENSLANDERS FEATURE IN WOMEN'S NSL AWARD WINNERS

The WNSL Rising Star Award has been claimed by 18-year-old Queensland Sting striker Sasha McDonnell. Scorer in the Sting's 2-0 Grand Final triumph over Northern NSW last December, McDonnell is eligible for the award which is presented to the highest polling player who made their starting debut during the season. Queensland Sting duo Lana Harch and Sarah Walsh polled equal 3rd and 5th respectively in the 'Julie Dolan Medal' (WNSL player of the year award) which was won for the second time by NSW Sapphires captain Taryn Rockall. Harch and team-mate Jessica Mitchell came equal second in the top goalscorer award both notching 7 goals for the 04/05 season.

INSURANCE

The Soccer Queensland Insurance Program is only valid during sanctioned activities. Protection under the Sports Injury and Liability policies do not cover situations where activities are

conducted or facilities are utilised during events such as:

- ◆ Private / commercial coaching clinics / academies
- ◆ Non sanctioned Competitions such as some Over 35s / Commercial Leagues
- ◆ School Activities including training and games
- ◆ Playing or training at facilities other than those sanctioned by CMC
- ◆ Private Hire of Clubhouse Facilities without prior written approval being obtained from SQ **

In each of the above situations, if you choose to permit these and other non sanctioned activities at your facility, it is strongly recommended that a copy of a certificate of currency is obtained from the prospective user before activities are conducted.

** In certain circumstances, public liability cover can be arranged as an extension to the SQ Policy upon application. Please allow a minimum of 21 days for the application to be processed by SQ and its Insurance Company.

COACHING

From the Technical Manager's desk...

Welcome to the Technical Department of Soccer Queensland. This is an exciting time to be involved in football in Queensland. With the restructure and changes in the Technical Department it will take time for everything to settle down. Change and integration are always difficult for people to accept but I have no doubt the football will benefit in the future.

Football Federation Australia are making a huge effort to qualify for the next World Cup and have launched the new professional A-League. We at State level must play our part in ensuring that we increase participation numbers, develop top class young players and more accredited coaches.

Our aim is to have a unified State Development Program for both male and female players of all ages and levels which allows a player to progress at his or her level while having fun and

retaining an interest in the game. Pathways and opportunities for the most talented will always be very important but there needs to be a balance between club football, representative football, education and growing up.

Coach Education is a high priority and it is the intention to establish a new Coaches Association in the near future to bring coaches together, have update coaching nights, seminars in every region and receive a regular newsletter.

I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and getting the opportunity to meet and work with as many coaches as possible.

George Cowie

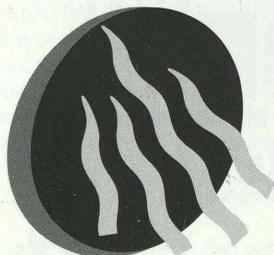
CONTROL OF STANDARDS

The Soccer Queensland Board recently identified the large number of Academies, Clinics, and Tours that currently are conducted without sanction from the State body, as being a critical area where minimum standards of safety, quality delivery, insurance protection, or the best interests of players and parents are protected.

It would be wrong to assume that all non sanctioned activities are "cowboy operations", but from complaints we have received, it is fair to say that not all deliver a program to the standards we would expect. It is incumbent on the Board to, at the very least, provide accreditation on an annual basis, to those operators delivering a quality product through accredited instructors. This will give comfort that where a 'Q Skills' endorsement is sighted, a participant will know that a thorough investigation of financial standing, coach accreditation, program content, and equipment used is suitable for the service offered. It is of paramount importance to the Board that service providers not engender inflated expectations or unrealistic opinions of a player's true potential or ability.

This is a significant responsibility that will be immediately taken up by the Board, with a discussion paper released by mid April. Just as FFA applies standards in coach licensing and accreditation, SQ will be setting standards and inviting applications from interested service providers. Of course, SQ will be delivering many more of its own clinics and programs which will guarantee value for money and quality tuition. ☺

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**A Premiership race at last!
Finally the season is underway with
some controversy prior to a ball being
kicked and certainly the odd surprise
result... or were they?**

**I was hoping to come out with my
prices in last issue of ET, but
weakened to wait for the Lions to
swallow their pride and roar into the
local arena.**

**Last year I happened to ruffle a few
feathers from the older brigade (City
'Pensioners!') so let's hope everyone
can take it with a pinch of salt and
enjoy a wee bit of banter. As per the
bookies board it looks like this:**

Palm Beach Sharks

Have been knocking on the door for a number of years and with Lions out of the way they are going to be a very tough nut to crack. Miner and Fung will play havoc with most defences and the signature of playmaker Brad Ditton could prove to be a shrewd acquisition. Really can't see any negatives. Coast are a great part of the Premier League but I just wish they could get their act together and play Saturday nights as opposed to their late Sunday times as it prevents a good night out on the Coast and a painful drive back to Brisbane...with no fruit to show for it!
Odds 9/4 favourites.

Rochedale Rovers

Coops has become the David Moyes of Brisbane football; he had to steady the ship amongst much pressure a few years ago (much of which came from within the Club, dare I say it the 'peanut gallery!') but has stood resolute, not rushed into the market and bought a team but kept faith in his troops and seen quite a few of his young guns evolve over the past couple of

seasons. Not an ideal start to say the least against Souths Lions Utd but I am sure that the brand of football Rovers play will see results come their way. **Odds 4/1.**

Pine Rivers Utd

Clayton Koch has become another 'quiet achiever' and has put together a formidable squad which will see Wendy Allison Park remain a fortress. The field looks magnificent and should encourage all teams to play a good brand of football. What may test Rivers is if players such as Rose and Smits depart for greener pastures. If Koji comes back to his best then this will be another bonus for the Rivers faithful.
Odds 9/2.

Souths Lions Utd

Glad I hung out because two weeks ago I would have offered any old price for Souths but with the acquisition of the 'Spice Boys' - Daisy, Chooky and Strawbs along with Terry Hughes and Cody Lovell, Souths have the ability to beat anyone on their day. The question mark will be depth and to this I can't comment with any authority. All that I can say is that Souths best signing is that of Peter Tokesi. There is no doubt that PT will have his troops organized and disciplined so there will be great interest over the next few weeks to see if they can build up any momentum. Question whether the ex-Lions troops may go 'fishing' for more demanding challenges as the year progresses. **Odds 8/1.**

Brisbane Strikers North Star Utd

What's all this about!?! Ken Swan unceremoniously dumped prior to kick off, two committees going different ways, players threatening to walk out prior to season opener, anyone would think that we are talking of Real Madrid, but no, it's the Strikers show!! They have picked up some very strong players but what has happened off the pitch upset team harmony? Only time will tell - no doubt that Bobby Hamilton will raise his troops but I still feel a little uncertain about their durability over the full season. **Odds 12/1.**

Mitchelton

Took the league by storm on and off the field last year and hopefully a number of Clubs will pick up on the way they promote the senior side within the Club and the local community. A number of key players have been lost to overseas pursuits and they didn't manage to pick up any of the Lions players, so this season

presents a whole new test for Greg with many young lads to get their chance to shine. Saturday nights at Mitchy will always be a good night but think that just outside top four will be their position. **Odds 16/1.**

Brisbane Wynnum Wolves

Sorry guys but still can't come to grips with the 'Brisbane' part of Wolves! Having promised so much each season they got themselves into horrid runs mid-year which has seen them plummet down the table. I would be really hard pressed to put down any of my hard earned on them getting in the top four, mid-table at best but will have ability to produce a few upsets.
Odds 25/1.

Brisbane City

How the mighty have fallen. City should be joint favourites to take out the title but the only commonality seems to have been player unrest. The off-season exodus has robbed them of experience and I'm not too sure if they ended up with what they had hoped for from the Lions camp. Maybe this has seen City a lot lighter on than they would have hoped. Not for me and obviously some major hiccups so far.
Odds 33/1.

Taringa Rovers

Alan Waller; can he become the Harry Redknapp of Brisbane football? Although via the relegation play-offs Alan did a great job in keeping this proud Club alive in 2004. Faced with a similar task this year can his young aces weather the storm? Certainly the value of big Reza Aysen will be critical and if he can stay injury free Taringa may well keep more comfortable surroundings than in 2004, but top 4 material, I don't think so.
Odds 33/1.

Toowoomba Raiders

Another coaching roundabout with old faithful Peter Broadfoot taking over the reins again at a very late stage - what's that all about? I'm sure that Peter will have the 'Tractor Boys' well wound up for all their games and Toowoomba on a mid-winter Saturday night will be a pretty miserable place, re: fog, rain and sleet. Peter will have them ready for any battle, but battle they shall and I can see them lower than recent years. **Odds 50/1.**

Eastern Suburbs

A friendlier Club you couldn't come across but unfortunately they will be friendless when it comes to being a serious contender, but I'm sure the Tigers recognize this and their aim will be survival. Personally I think they should be planning for the relegation battle with the second team in Div 1 as I can't see them making any forward progress. I will look forward to a trip to Heath Park and especially coming away with the three points. **Odds 100//1.**

University of Queensland

Great place for an education but on the playing field I think Uni will be found wanting in most areas. While they will play with plenty of spirit I believe that they will do a 'Northampton' and go down as quick as they came up. **Odds 500/1.**

I suppose we are all looking forward to a more even battle, but I fear the comp will become a two-tiered event with plenty of interest in the fight for top spot but perhaps we will see a top four that pulls away from the rest. I certainly hope I'm wrong and that the season has plenty of surprises - so good luck to all teams and I hope I end up with plenty of egg on the face. ☺



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straight RED

Top referee Ted Kearney raises the flag on offside



Offside has become such a controversial part of the modern game simply because of the difficulty officials now have in adjudicating what is and what is not offside, combined with the fact that most commentators and critics have absolutely no idea what they are talking about when dissecting certain perceived errors by officials.

Am I saying that officials don't make mistakes? No, I'm not, on the contrary. The current laws were introduced in an honest effort to ease this burden on the referees but more importantly to create **more** opportunities for teams to score **more** goals thus making the game even **more** exciting. Commendable and in some respects it has been successful, but clearly FIFA did not succeed in clarifying the new interpretations globally or ease the overall burden on officials thus causing great confusion and debate at various times when the letter of the law has been tested. Were it as easy as some would have us all believe it would probably not be such a controversial issue. The most influential man in soccer recently made public his opinions on this subject and it makes interesting reading. I might mention that this extract was from an article on the FIFA website late last year but is nevertheless pertinent today.

By FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter:

"If there is a single topic that keeps coming back to haunt the football world, one that creates

some of the most heated discussions, it is the offside rule.

Euro 2004 and the Asian Cup are only the latest major international tournaments where the issue has caused controversy. So what should be done?

Before I offer an opinion of how the offside law should be modified let me briefly reiterate what the current rule stipulates. It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position. However a player will be ruled offside if they are nearer to their opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent. They cannot, however, be offside if they are in their own half of the field; level with the second last opponent or level with the last two opponents.

And a player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved by: interfering with play; interfering with an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position.

The key to understanding the offside rule lies in the one phrase, which says that: "A player in an offside position is only penalised if ...in the opinion of the referee..."

Clearly, it is always easy to blame the referee especially if a decision has gone against your team. But it is no coincidence that the rule is most disliked by those who lose and most misunderstood by those experts who often take recourse in blaming errant refereeing. Whereas I consider any cries for the abolition of the offside rule as excessive I do accept that improvements are possible in order to make the

understanding of the law more universal.

Well-meaning pundits have often suggested that without an offside rule, the game would become faster and more attractive. They are wrong. Not only would such a move encourage lazy play with strikers goal-hanging, but more importantly it would drain away the true intelligence of the game. The challenges of the game's tactical and strategic battles presented to team managers, coaches and players would quickly disappear, only to be replaced by a terribly boring kicking of the ball back and forth, without much sense or excitement.

Rather the offside rule, as established from the very outset by the forefathers of the game, needs to be simplified in order to get more people to agree on one and the same thing. Thus, at the IFAB business meeting in October 2004 - which is composed of technical experts - the issue will be studied carefully, while taking into consideration the many different "schools of thought" on the subject. FIFA will then submit their recommendations to the IFAB in February of 2005 to discuss Law 11 with a view to

simplifying it so as to make it easier to understand for one and all.

At Euro 2004 Ruud van Nistelrooy's goal in the Netherlands 3-2 defeat to the Czech Republic provided a perfect example of the confusion over offside. Initially the Dutch striker was in a "passive" offside position, the ball was on the opposite side of the pitch from him; he retreated quickly, only to run forward again to score what, in my opinion, was a perfectly good goal.

The core point which I am advocating therefore, is this: the offside rule should only apply to the player who actually receives the ball. We should do away with phrases such as "active" and "passive" that punish scorers of magnificent goals who then have them disallowed because a team-mate was offside at the same time (even though that team-mate, never had a chance in hell of coming close to the ball).

We need to do away with misunderstandings and endless discussions. Let's rejuvenate the game by making one of its most important laws easier to understand." ☺

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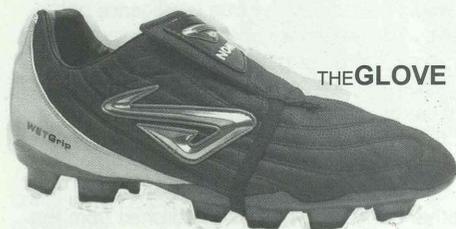
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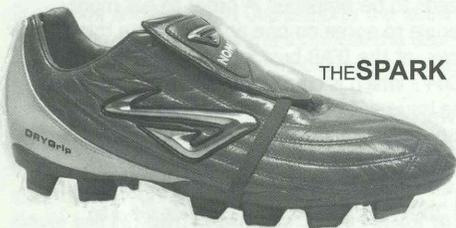
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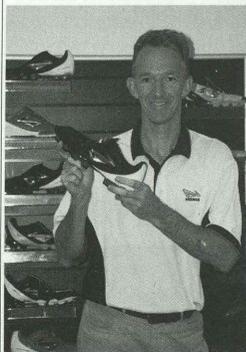
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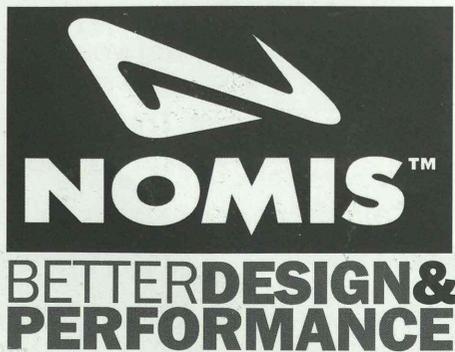
THE SPARK

- Nomis Control Technology gives up to 16 times more grip and ball control in all conditions.
- Redesigned stud patterns improves players' stability, comfort, ground grip, freedom of movement and reduces the risk of injury.
- Running shoe based design gives improved stability, cushioning, fit and performance.
- Elasticated tongue for secure fastening gives a larger kicking area and a cleaner look.
- Low water absorption (1%) results in lighter boots and dry, warm feet in wet conditions.
- All the Nomis Dry & Wet Control leather used on Nomis boots is prepared in Australia using the finest kangaroo and bovine leathers for superior strength and comfort.

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Soccer World (Lutwyche & Mt Gravatt)
Rebel Sport (Chermside)



Nomis is the creation of Simon Skirrow. Simon has been directly involved in the design and development of football boots worldwide for 20 years. As senior Vice President of Adidas, Simon co-developed the Adidas Predator with Craig Johnston. Simon is now revolutionising football boot design further with his own brand, Nomis.



national news

Telstra set to help football stars of the future

Telstra have announced a four-year support package for Football Federation Australia (FFA), including a \$150,000 a year program to help develop grassroots football in Australia. Telstra Group Managing Director of Consumer and Marketing, Mr David Moffatt, said the Telstra Assistance Fund would be run in conjunction with FFA and encouraged clubs to apply for grants that will fund much needed sports equipment.

Telstra is also working with FFA to develop additional grassroots programs with more funding commitments that would encourage children to play the sport. "The Assistance Fund is a great way to support football at a grass roots level and help children access the facilities they need to play the game. We've run similar programs for athletics, Rugby Union, Rugby League and Surf Life Saving and its success has encouraged us to extend it to football."

Already across the country, approximately 13% of Australian children participate in football, which is one of the fastest growing sports amongst school children. It is estimated that 1.2 million Australians play football, making it the nations biggest team participation sport, with the growth in player numbers among women alone increasing 75% in the 3 years to 2004+.

International F.A. Board approves goal-line technology experiments and no more 'passive' offside

FIFA will be supervising the first official tests of technical systems that could determine whether the ball has fully crossed the goal-line at the 2005 FIFA U-17 World Championship to be held in Peru this September. The decision was reached by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) at its 119th Annual General Meeting in February. The Board also clarified the current offside rule by further defining the meaning of being 'actively involved in play' and decided to impose stricter sanctions for any tackles deemed to be endangering the safety of an opponent. From now on, match officials must also show the red card to players who make dangerous tackles from the front or the side.

Move to Asia looking more than promising

The FFA, who have been in discussions with FIFA since late last year regarding a switch from OFC to AFC, are encouraged by the responses from both bodies.

FFA Chairman, Frank Lowy said, "For some time now, the FFA has had an objective to join AFC. Our current affiliation leaves Australia in an anomalous situation in a football sense. We are very heartened by the news that the Asian Football Confederation has endorsed our wishes to join them."

He added that, "It is encouraging that the three key football organisations, FIFA, AFC and OFC, have now progressed their deliberations on the subject; we are very pleased that these relevant bodies have, thus far, indicated a sympathetic view to our position. Of course, there is the need for formal procedural matters to be attended to by FIFA, AFC and OFC, over the coming months."

John O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer, went on to say, "There is no doubt that if FFA is able to achieve membership of AFC, it will go a long way towards transforming football in Australia, as we move from a domestic competitive environment into an exciting, dynamic, regional one, which will contribute to the improved competitive position of the game at all levels, particularly national team and club."

Having heard the matters pertaining to Australia's application to join the Asian football family, the AFC Executive Committee members who met in late March, endorsed Australia's move and unanimously agreed to authorise the AFC President, Mohamed bin Hammam, to work with all relevant parties to fulfil the necessary requirements to complete the formal membership of FFA.

The move will give the Australian national team a far more realistic and competitive route to World Cup qualification and also open numerous doors for corporate involvement in all sectors of the domestic game. ⚽

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