

Extra Time

Brisbane's Football Magazine

Issue 17
Sept 2005
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2005 Tables
Local News
Features
..and much more!



ExtraTime

Brisbane's Football Magazine

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Cover Pic: Metro Cup winners Acacia Ridge receive their cheque from BMS President Phil Moye

editor's Comment

WITH THIS being the last edition for the 2005 season, please indulge me for a moment whilst I thank a few people for their unwavering efforts and help in producing our humble rag.

Every month the ExtraTime writers, both regular and intermittent, earn my utmost respect and gratitude. They put up with my ever-increasing requests for early deadlines without so much as a grumble and they deliver every single time, without exception.

To all those who have made written contributions I offer my sincerest thanks, but especially, Sharon Jackson, Coops, Monty, Anthony Kidd and Phil Moye, who have been regulars all season. They have been the backbone of the magazine since we started last year and I hope I can convince them to come on board again next year when we resume.

Phil Moye of course will have relinquished his position as President of BMS but I hope to encourage him to pen the odd article on Zone issues. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Phil for all his help with ExtraTime (and many other things) and also to wish him well for his future endeavours.

Phil was the inaugural President of BMS, oversaw its inception and evolution in much darker times and without doubt he deserves the gratitude of the local football community. When BMS was formed we needed a strong leader with business acumen and passion for the game. Phil Moye delivered on all fronts and has brought the association a long way in a short time. Just think back to how it was in the latter years of the QSF administration and you can see just how far Phil's leadership has taken us. Good luck for the future mate and thanks for all you have done.

Thanks also to Bruce, Priscilla and Janelle in the BMS HQ. Harder workers you will not find and every time I go into the office I'm greeted with a smile. Priceless! Janelle of course has now sought pastures new, so if you're reading this Janelle, the best of luck to you.

So now we depart until next year and I hope that you, the readers, have enjoyed the fruits of our efforts. 2006 will no doubt bring new challenges, but with the promised increase in content to be supplied from the local clubs I am confident that we can continually improve ExtraTime.

Last, but by no means least, a large dose of gratitude goes to our sponsors and advertisers. Their continued support has under-pinned ExtraTime and I would like to urge you all to use the products and services of those who have helped to make this magazine viable and ensured its survival.

Thanks again and see you next year. ☺

JULY SELLS WINNER

The winner of the SELLS pack in August's competition was Jake Challen

news desk



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METRO SHAKE-UP PROPOSED

Sixteen Metro Competition clubs met at Wilston Athletic last month to discuss their vision for the future of the Metro Leagues.

On the agenda were proposed adjustments to the format of the Metro Comp with their ideas being forwarded to BMS for consideration.

The core issue to come out of the meeting was a view that there should be a separate Metro Division exclusive to stand-alone clubs, with no inclusions from clubs who have sides in the Premier Competition. In effect, a Premier Division 3.

Wilston Athletic spokesman, Carlos Ferreira, said: "Over that last few years we have been very disappointed with the inclusion of teams from the Premier Leagues in our Divisions. There has been a lot of talk but this year I decided to sit down with the other clubs to see if we could come up with a solution that suited everybody."

The proposal suggests that the current Metro Division 1 be freed of Premier League clubs, but also have a promotion and relegation component introduced.

"What we have put forward to BMS is a combination of ideas from all of the clubs who were at the meeting. We need to be able to develop our clubs and attract players in our own right. It's very hard to do that when there are Premier League clubs and teams competing against us," Ferreira said.

On the issue of meeting the facilities criteria for promotion to higher divisions, Ferreira claimed that this would not be a problem for the stand-

alone Metro clubs if BMS were to take into account that refurbishments take time.

"If a club gets promoted and does not currently meet the facilities criteria then we suggest that the club in question be given one or two years to bring their home ground up to the required standard. I believe that most clubs will be financial enough to carry out the refurbishments they need."

"The issue of facility standards are not restricted to the Metro Divisions so surely we should be treated fairly when it comes to being assessed," Ferreira added.

The proposal will be tabled at this year's AGM.

BMS LOOKING AT SUMMER YOUTH LEAGUE

Brisbane Mens Soccer are currently in the planning stages of the annual Summer Youth League. It is an age restricted (Under 21) competition that has proved popular with clubs over the last three years.

The concept was first arranged by Soccer Queensland in 2002 before passing on the administration to BMS. In that time the competition has grown in numbers participating and has resulted in the identification of many talented players.

General Manager of BMS, Bruce Dinsdale spoke about the competition. "The competition has always set out with the objective of developing youth players by providing the best possible competition. Clubs have generally used the competition to create a competitive atmosphere to assess the development of young players."

"Many players who were first noticed in this competition have gone on to become regular first team players and advanced their careers.

John Costello and Neil Monro are two that immediately spring to mind from Palm Beach as well as others like Darren Gray (Rochedale), Sam Murdoch (Lismore / Bris Wolves), Steven Cleary (Peninsula) and Trent Clulow (Toowoomba).

This year's competition is likely to run from 22 October to 10 December 2005 and include teams from the local Brisbane area, North Coast Suns from Lismore and last years winners Sunshine Coast Hawks. ☼

BRISBANE Premier League

Premier League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palm Beach Sharks	22	15	4	3	60	15	49
Rochedale Rovers	22	15	2	5	63	26	47
Pine Rivers United	22	13	5	4	56	28	44
Brisbane Strikers	22	13	5	4	39	15	44
Souths United	22	13	2	7	54	39	41
Taringa Rovers	22	11	3	8	31	25	36
Brisbane Wolves	22	7	3	12	38	53	24
Mitchelton	22	7	2	13	27	47	23
Brisbane City	22	6	4	12	29	45	22
Eastern Suburbs	22	5	2	15	25	67	17
Toowoomba Raiders	22	4	4	14	24	59	16
Uni of Qld	22	5	0	17	27	54	15

Premier League Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palm Beach Sharks	22	20	0	2	78	30	60
Rochedale Rovers	22	19	1	2	67	19	58
Souths United	22	14	3	5	62	28	45
Pine Rivers United	22	12	4	6	63	34	40
Uni of Qld	22	8	6	8	35	31	30
Brisbane City	22	7	5	10	43	54	26
Taringa Rovers	22	8	1	13	34	61	25
Mitchelton	22	7	3	12	36	51	24
Brisbane Strikers	22	6	3	13	30	43	21
Eastern Suburbs	22	6	2	14	31	64	20
Brisbane Wolves	22	5	3	14	20	43	18
Toowoomba Raiders	22	3	3	16	32	73	12

Premier Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mt Gravatt	22	16	5	1	48	9	53
Beenleigh	22	17	1	4	58	17	52
Peninsula Power	22	16	2	4	59	27	50
Ipswich Knights	22	13	8	1	45	15	47
Brisbane Olympic	22	9	6	7	47	31	33
Redlands United	22	9	5	8	34	36	32
Western Spirit	22	7	5	10	32	43	26
Capalaba	22	8	1	13	40	50	25
Rocklea United	22	6	3	13	31	45	21
Albany Creek	22	4	2	16	25	57	14
The Gap	22	3	3	16	26	63	12
Ipswich City	22	3	1	18	18	70	10

Division 1 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich Knights	22	16	4	2	43	17	52
Mt Gravatt	22	15	4	3	60	26	49
Brisbane Olympic	22	14	2	6	65	30	44
Peninsula Power	22	14	1	7	51	31	43
Albany Creek	22	10	4	8	39	36	34
Beenleigh	22	8	7	7	43	34	31
Western Spirit	22	8	5	9	39	40	29
Redlands United	22	6	7	9	34	37	25
Capalaba	22	7	4	11	33	41	25
Ipswich City	22	5	1	16	22	51	16
Rocklea United	21	5	1	15	27	59	16
The Gap	21	1	4	16	12	66	7

2005 FINAL TABLES

Premier Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	22	19	1	2	69	17	58
Bethania Rams	22	16	3	3	66	32	51
Newmarket	22	15	1	6	45	36	46
Southside Eagles	22	12	2	8	36	27	38
Grange Thistle	22	12	1	9	48	39	37
Annerley	22	12	1	9	43	36	37
North Pine	22	11	1	10	57	42	34
Acacia Ridge	22	8	2	12	44	52	26
Moggill United	22	8	1	13	48	49	25
Samford Rangers	22	5	4	13	38	42	19
Slacks Creek	22	4	2	16	27	63	14
Oxley United	22	0	1	21	16	102	1

Division 2 Reserves	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	22	20	2	0	120	13	62
Grange Thistle	22	15	4	3	61	20	49
Bethania Rams	22	15	2	5	63	25	47
Moggill United	22	13	3	6	58	36	42
Annerley	22	10	4	8	56	31	34
Newmarket	22	10	4	8	43	29	34
North Pine	22	9	6	7	59	35	33
Southside Eagles	22	10	3	9	44	27	33
Samford Rangers	22	6	3	13	45	74	21
Slacks Creek	22	3	2	17	29	77	11
Oxley United	22	2	1	19	14	105	7
Acacia Ridge	22	2	0	20	12	132	6

Metro 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pine Hills	22	17	2	3	58	21	53
Souths United	22	13	6	3	57	21	45
Brisbane Toro	22	13	4	5	38	27	43
Bayside United	22	11	6	5	50	21	39
Acacia Ridge	22	11	4	7	49	34	37
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	10	7	5	37	23	37
Clairvaux	22	8	5	9	56	48	29
Uni of Qld	22	8	4	10	27	31	28
Wilston Athletic	22	7	6	9	32	41	27
Logan City Kings	22	4	4	14	30	48	16
Taringa Rovers	22	1	5	16	15	54	8
Park Ridge	22	2	1	19	18	98	7

Metro 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Old Bridge	22	20	2	0	90	18	62
Regents Park	22	19	1	2	110	25	58
The Gap	22	15	2	5	55	29	47
Pine Rivers United	22	13	1	8	62	31	40
Brisbane Wolves	22	11	4	7	52	47	37
Ridge Hills	22	12	1	9	42	43	37
Grange Thistle	22	9	1	12	47	47	28
Redcliffe PCYC	22	9	1	12	44	57	28
Newmarket	22	4	4	14	26	64	16
Brighton District	22	5	0	17	26	77	15
Eastern Suburbs	22	4	1	17	28	93	13
Mooroonda	22	2	0	20	22	73	6

Metro 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Souths United	22	15	5	2	71	27	50
Taringa Rovers	22	16	1	5	72	31	49
Brisbane Toro	22	14	3	5	66	42	45
Uni of Qld	22	13	3	6	63	40	42
Clairvaux	22	11	4	7	44	36	37
Acacia Ridge	22	11	2	9	51	39	35
Wilston Athletic	22	9	5	8	42	54	32
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	8	4	10	49	34	28
Pine Hills	22	6	3	13	37	65	21
Bayside United	22	5	3	14	42	57	18
Logan City Kings	22	5	2	15	46	76	17
Park Ridge	22	1	1	20	17	99	4

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2005 FINAL TABLES

Metro 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	22	20	1	1	104	22	61
Newmarket	22	18	1	3	85	18	55
The Gap	22	18	1	3	60	32	55
Brisbane Strikers	22	12	3	7	50	33	39
Peninsula Power	22	13	0	9	56	44	39
Bethania Rams	22	11	2	9	58	48	35
Grange Thistle	22	8	1	13	70	70	25
Annerley	22	6	4	12	32	39	22
Western Spirit	22	6	1	15	34	78	19
Regents Park	22	5	2	15	37	103	17
North Pine	22	4	0	18	23	73	12
Eastern Suburbs	22	2	2	18	23	72	8

Metro 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slacks Creek	22	16	4	2	79	28	52
Woodridge	22	15	3	4	90	29	48
Old Bridge	22	13	5	4	67	35	44
Newmarket	22	13	5	4	58	29	44
Albany Creek	22	12	5	5	50	31	41
Ridge Hills	22	9	5	8	46	35	32
Ipswich City	22	8	3	11	49	51	27
Beenleigh	22	8	3	11	53	78	27
Redlands United	22	6	5	11	37	52	23
Mt Gravatt	22	4	6	12	32	50	18
Southside Eagles	22	3	1	18	19	70	10
Ipswich Knights	22	2	1	19	31	123	7

Metro 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rocklea United	22	20	0	2	120	12	60
Beenleigh	22	16	3	3	66	29	51
Grange Thistle	22	15	2	5	84	33	47
Clairvaux	22	14	3	5	62	30	45
Albany Creek	22	9	5	8	69	48	32
Slacks Creek	22	9	2	11	42	63	29
Western Spirit	22	8	2	12	38	53	26
Mooroonda	22	6	6	10	48	49	24
Capalaba	22	7	1	14	27	66	22
Oxley United	21	5	2	14	36	61	17
Brisbane Wolves	22	4	3	15	24	71	15
Eastern Suburbs	21	3	1	17	28	129	10

Metro 7	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moggill United	22	15	4	3	83	38	49
Mooroonda	22	15	3	4	67	28	48
Ridge Hills	22	12	1	9	66	34	37
Kangaroo Pt Rovers	22	11	3	8	57	33	36
Regents Park	22	3	2	17	25	91	11
Brisbane Toro	22	2	3	17	20	94	9

Premier Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qld Lions	18	13	2	3	60	13	41
Brisbane City	18	13	2	3	51	23	41
Palm Beach	18	11	1	6	56	31	34
Rochedale Rovers	18	9	4	5	40	29	31
Pine Rivers United	18	9	1	8	47	35	28
Mitchelton	18	8	2	8	38	35	26
Souths United	18	7	5	6	32	29	26
Brisbane Wolves	18	8	2	8	45	45	26
Taringa Rovers	18	1	2	15	16	63	5
Brisbane Strikers	18	0	1	17	13	95	1

Division 1 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Force	18	15	3	0	53	13	48
Uni of Qld	18	11	2	5	34	20	35
Ipswich Knights	18	9	5	4	36	26	32
Toowoomba Raiders	18	9	4	5	30	27	31
Redlands United	18	7	3	8	29	29	24
Brisbane Olympic	18	7	2	9	42	34	23
Peninsula Power	18	7	1	10	26	45	22
Eastern Suburbs	18	6	2	10	22	48	20
Albany Creek	18	4	4	10	32	37	16
Mt Gravatt	18	1	2	15	18	43	5

Division 2 Youth	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pine Rivers United	18	16	0	2	62	14	48
Beenleigh	18	15	0	3	86	15	45
Capalaba	18	13	1	4	61	21	40
Pine Hills	18	13	1	4	62	26	40
Toowoomba Raiders	18	10	3	5	53	30	33
Ipswich City	18	10	1	7	48	44	31
North Pine	18	6	4	8	46	42	22
Westside Sports	18	6	4	8	38	47	22
Slacks Creek	18	5	1	12	32	56	16
Acacia Ridge	18	3	0	15	23	78	9
Logan City Kings	18	1	2	15	25	99	5
Redcliffe PCYC	18	1	1	16	12	76	4

BRISBANE
PremierLeague

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PREMIERS

Premier League: Palm Beach

Premier Reserves: Palm Beach

Division 1: Mt Gravatt

Division 1: Reserves: Ipswich Knights

Division 2: Brisbane Force

Division 2 Reserves: Brisbane Force

Premier Youth: Qld Lions

Division 1 Youth: Brisbane Force

Division 2 Youth: Pine Rivers

Metro 1: Pine Hills

Metro 2: Old Bridge

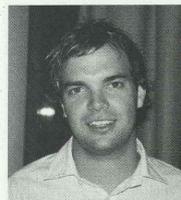
Metro 3: Souths United

Metro 4: Brisbane Force

Metro 5: Slacks Creek

Metro 6: Rocklea United

Metro 7: Moggill United



anthonykidd's

BRISBANE
PremierLeague

roundup

HERDLE'S SHARKS WIN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

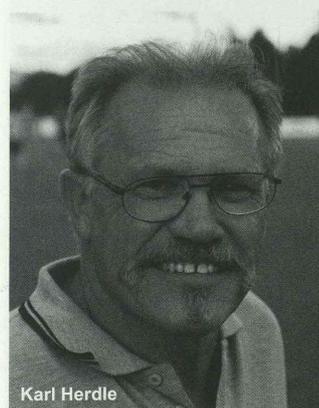
Palm Beach Sharks are this year's Premier League Champions for 2005 following their win over Taringa at Jack Speare Park on Saturday.

The Sharks have been unstoppable in attack with Russell Miner and Daniel Fung netting over 30 goals between them this season, while Brad Ditton and David Dodd have been instrumental in midfield recently with the ability to slow down or speed up a game at any stage.

Karl Herdle's Sharks are followed closely by the Brisbane Strikers as the best defence in the League led by Bobby Bruce and Matt Smith in the backline. "We have scored plenty of goals through the season and have conceded the least so we are doing plenty right at the moment. My boy's have been playing for each other all season and they turn up each week with the right attitude. It's been all about the player's lately."

"We have great depth in our reserves who also lead their competition and the players we pulled in from the reserves like Ryan Tippett and David Dodd have stood up and been counted this season. I think we are the luckiest club in the league as we are the only club that have four

choice strikers available in Miner, Tippett, Fung and Hilton. All the players are a close, tight unit and as a coach you are delighted to see that."



Karl Herdle

Russell Miner has missed seven games and has still scored plenty of goals and Neil Munro has only played 12 games so as a coach I am delighted with the whole squad. Then we have a late addition of Matt Hilton who has also scored some good goals for us so I'm delighted with our attacking options."

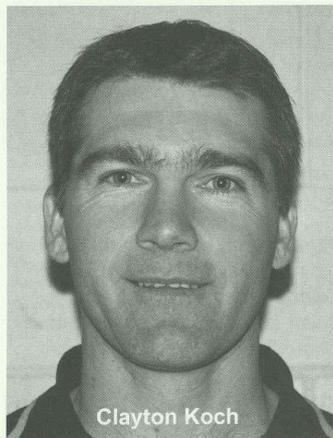
"Brad Ditton is a revelation; he had a form slump through the middle of the season and after that his experience prevailed. The other player's look at him to control the match and they have a hell of a lot of respect for him on and off the field," Herdle said.

"Rochedale never gave up, they chased us all the way, and they are a team that you have to turn up to play football against or you will get done. In the beginning, the first time we played Pine Rivers they were mobile; they play good football and they play to their strengths but unfortunately they lost Tim Smits and Josh Rose. When you lose two strikers of that calibre then you are going to struggle but they have done well and will be tough to beat."

"I think the consistency has got us through this season as well as the ability to defend as a strong unit. The top four teams, including Souths, are very equal and I have the utmost respect for all teams in the League this year. Teams like Brisbane City got out of trouble in the end after a poor start to the season, I think the league was absolutely brilliant," Herdle said.

Rochedale Rovers are runners up this season and will take pride in pushing Palm Beach until the last week of the season to decide the eventual winner. Kieran Cooper's men came alive in the second half of the season as they continue to blood new young talent like Cole Stojakovic throughout the season. Experienced players like Greg Thomas, Ian Hutchison and Kieren Galloway have been the key players to Rochedale's success this year and will be looked upon to carry the Rovers into the finals series.

Pine Rivers' season took a minor setback with the loss of both Tim Smits and Josh Rose this season, however, to Rivers credit they have filled the void with the likes of Koji Kanagawa and Seb Tatchell. Captain Joel Hale and Aaron Thiesfield have maintained the Rivers stability in a team that has a lot of consistent players.

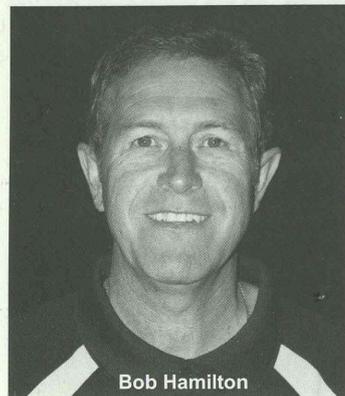


Clayton Koch

Rivers Coach Clayton Koch is confident his side can beat any of the top four on their day, "Even the games that we have lost we have only lost in the last ten minutes, so we have always been competitive. The Hagell

brothers, Corey and Chris, have been determined to do well and I think overall it rubs off on the team from week to week."

The Brisbane Strikers coach Bobby Hamilton has also mastered the art of moulding youth with experience this season. "The make up of our side is a mixture of young players and some experience. Obviously some of the experienced players like Stu McClaren, Jamie Lowndes, Damian Waugh and Matt Bell are the ones that have heaps of finals experience and when we get into these situations those experienced players carry a lot of weight. Adam Webber is a



Bob Hamilton

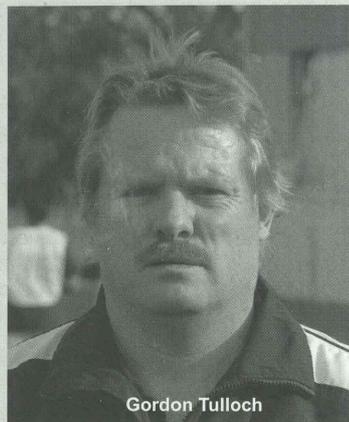
player who I consider one of the best players in the league; he has immense talent and has been consistent all season. Michael Zullo, Eli

Gilfedder and Michael Butters are also valuable to us, so that is the sort of balance we have at the moment."

"It's going to be interesting. We have beaten Rochedale twice and also beaten Palm Beach, our biggest enemy this year has been injuries. We have lost Nathan Carlross through a knee injury and it's been a constant battle getting players back on the field. But we are pleased to have made the finals and it's going to be an exciting finish," Hamilton said.

The relegation battle was closely fought again this season with University, Toowoomba, Easts and Brisbane City all fighting hard until the final weeks to decide who would survive this season.

Brisbane City were first to avoid relegation taking three points as they easily accounted for Wolves in round 21. Coach Gordon Tulloch is proud of his side's fighting spirit. "The boys showed that Brisbane City spirit in the last few games of the season and I am proud of the way we have turned our season around to avoid relegation. We started it off by defending well then we focussed more so on our attack in the last few games," Tulloch said.



Gordon Tulloch

Easts narrowly avoided relegation in the last week of the season as Toowoomba came unstuck in the final weeks and will now face the task of overcoming a spirited Beenleigh side in the promotion/relegation match.

Uni of Qld paid dearly for their bad start to the year with the students taking too long to adapt to life in the Premier League. University achieved some great results throughout the season, however, they were too inconsistent and will return to Division 1 next year making way for Mt Gravatt Hawks. ☼

division 1

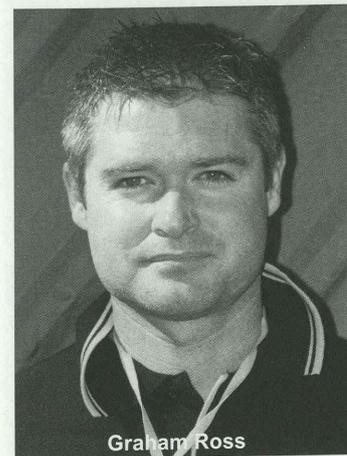
by Anthony Kidd

HAWKS FLY INTO PREMIER LEAGUE

Mt Gravatt Hawks have been promoted into the Premier League for next season after winning the Division 1 Premiership. The Hawks coach Graham Ross showed that depth and consistency can often be the difference over the course of a season.

"Our goalkeeper Ryan Pearse is only 18 years of age, he was picked in the Brisbane Men's Select team to play the Queensland Roar, along with the defence who only let in 9 goals this season, which is the best goal average in any league in Brisbane this year. Our club captain Steven Bland has been a stand out at the back along with Cameron Hunt up front who has scored almost twenty goals this season. I knew I would need a big capable squad as you can't win the first division having 15 players. You really need 25 to 30 players who are capable to step up at any stage. Our reserves also performed well in their division and that is a credit to our depth as we are nine points clear in the club championship in Division 1.

"I really started from the back this season, I wanted a strong defence and we have shown we have a good foundation to build on. I looked for mobility in the middle of the park and tried to find some guys who can put the ball in the net, which can be hard to find at times but we

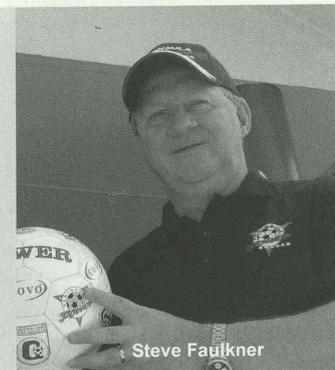


Graham Ross

have rotated four or five players and they have done the job for us. We will need some strengthening for the Premier League though.

"When I took over

we were in trouble of being relegated and now we are promoted so I'm glad to get the club back up to where we belong again, we want to be competitive right from the start this season," Ross said.



Steve Faulkner

Beenleigh, Peninsula Power and Ipswich Knights have also secured their finals positions and any of these sides can win the competition on their day. Beenleigh coach Steve Dolan is more focussed on the play-off position at the moment.

"We've had some consistent players all year, our back three of Grant Martin, Roy Huth who brings a lot of experience, and Chris Burley has been improving all year, as well as Mark Cruise up front who scored the most goals in Division 1. We lost two games out of our first three then we didn't loose until three weeks ago to Peninsula and Ipswich Knights and they turned out to be our crunch matches. Every side in the finals can beat anyone on their day and we have beaten each side once so far, so it's going to be an interesting finals series. But I'm more concerned with the promotion play-off at the moment to be honest," Dolan said.

Ipswich City have been relegated after a tough 2005 campaign in which they conceded 70 goals. Failure to convert defeats into at least draws has cost City and the side clearly needs a little more attacking tooth to compete in Div 1.

They won't be sleeping too comfortably at The Gap either with a very tricky play-off game against a talented Bethania side set to decide their fate. The Rams know where the net is and the Gap's backline will have to perform well to keep themselves alive. ☼

division 2

by Anthony Kidd

Brisbane Force cruise into Division 1 next season having won the Division 2 title under the guidance of Coach John Ogden. The Force's goal of promotion has been achieved yet Coach John Ogden understands the importance of keeping a high standard in club facilities.

"We want to increase our facilities like grounds and stands before we progress. The game needs to have a good hard look at itself, we can't ask our players to play on some of the surfaces around Brisbane and we need to make a bigger stand on facilities and criteria. Our main aim this season was to win promotion and we have achieved that so the rest will be a bonus. We will keep the squad we have and maybe look to strengthen our side in a few areas next year."

Ogden agreeing that consistency and depth are important factors in a side. "Quite a number of our players have been consistent this year, even the younger guys the likes of Jason Gillott and Daniel Connor as well as Ben Cavonaugh. The experienced guys like Andre Gacasa and of course David Blom up front has also played well. We haven't had too many easy games this year everyone wants to beat us."



Force Coach John Ogden

"I have always tried to encourage the teams I coach to play good attractive soccer, I want to progress this game and attract people who want to watch the game, and who are more interested in the bigger picture instead of themselves.

I have been in the game around 30 years and I find it hard to watch games sometimes and I never thought I would say that. Hopefully the A-League will restore some confidence in people and they will go back to playing good entertaining football like the A-League will provide," Ogden said.

Force will be joined by Bethania Rams, Newmarket and Southside Eagles in the finals, but Ogden's men are sure to be hot favourites to take out the Premiership/Grand Final double.

The Metro divisions were tightly contested this season with several of the finals positions unable to be determined until the final week of matches.

Pine Hills held off South's United to take the Premiership in Metro 1, South's will be joined by Brisbane Toro and Bayside United as they take on Pine Hills in the finals series.

The two sided race for the Metro 2 title was eventually won by Old Bridge who fought off a gallant Regents Park at the right end of the season, while in Metro 3 South's United edged out Taringa Rovers by a point to take bragging rights for the season.

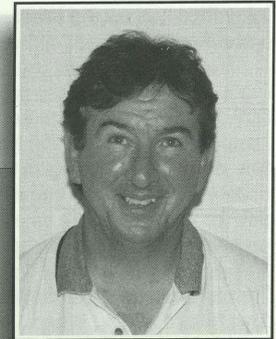
Brisbane Force dominated the Metro 4 league and was too strong for their rivals Newmarket and The Gap who finished nearest the Force.

Slack's Creek took out the Metro 5 competition and will be joined by Woodridge, Newmarket and Old Bridge who were hot on the heels of Slack's Creek in the final weeks and this will prove an interesting final for Metro 5.

Rocklea were too classy for their opponents as they comfortably won the Metro 6 competition with Beenleigh, Grange Thistle and Clairvaux all through to the finals while Moggill United conquered the Metro 7 competition followed closely by Mooroondu, Ridge Hills and Kangaroo Point Rovers. ☺

opinion

Coops rolls back the years again with part 2



SINCE I put pen to paper for my last article regarding my time growing up in Ireland and what football was for me, I have had many comments from people asking me to continue with the story.

It amazes me how I can write opinions on Schools, Junior Football, the local game etc etc, and yet the most positive feedback has been from my last article. Well, I suppose I better give you what you want. I hope it doesn't bore you to tears and I hope you can all get something out of it. I just wish that players of today had the same passion for the game as players of yesteryear like myself and many, many others.

To kick part 2 of the story off, I must first tell you all, that as a young lad in Ireland I also supported a team in the League of Ireland. Bohemians were the team. They wore the colours of AC Milan. I had the shirt, the scarves, the badges and I wore them each weekend with pride around my neck, around my wrists.

The atmosphere created by us small few made you think you were supporting a big club in England. We were true supporters; maybe something like this is required in our new A-League

We went to all home games and most away games (when we could afford it). There were probably 20 or 30 of us. We were the Bohemians Ultras. We were tough. We sang all the songs. We incited fights with the opposition supporters, "You're gonna get your "F*#*in heads kicked in!"

Well this is what we had seen and heard on the TV at the English games. We were real tough

back then. I remember a European Cup Qualifying game in Dublin's Dalymount Park. Bohemians v Spurs.

A full house. We were in our usual shed end. I remember eight (yes eight) Spurs supporters came in amongst the hundreds of us and started trouble. Like I said, we were tough back then. We were never going to take a backward step. So what did we do? We turned and ran for our lives. No trouble at all. All that was left in our beloved Shed End were the eight Spurs supporters.

The message in this is quiet simple. The passion we had as supporters was never a doubt. The atmosphere created by us small few made you think you were supporting a big club in England. We were true supporters; maybe something like this is required in our new A-League.

Anyway, back to the football. At the end on the Under 18 season, and despite being the leading goalscorer in the country for my age, I never really got an offer to go play League of Ireland. I think of the 11 players in the starting line-up for the Irish Youth Cup Final, 10 were offered contracts at a big League of Ireland Club.

Guess who missed out? I think 4 went to Bohemians, 4 to Dundalk and maybe a couple to Shamrock Rovers. No place for Coops.

Another friend of mine at the time was playing in the League of Ireland for University College Dublin (UCD) and he asked me to come along. As I wasn't a student, the highest I could play was in the B Team.

I did this without complaint and scored goals. Have you noticed that at no time in my disappointment have I ever mentioned my Mother getting involved? At this time I was unemployed. I remember one day going to the

dole office and seeing the poster; "Join the Navy & see the World."

That was it. I went to the recruitment office and signed up. My football career was over or so I thought. 18 Months in the Navy was the worst time of my life. I managed to play football for a local club when I was home and I managed to play for the Navy team when I was away. Nothing special but it did have its perks.

I remember that towards the end of my Navy days I went AWOL. When I went back I was due to face a Court Martial. During the lead up to the Court Martial a big game was coming up against the Army and I was asked to play.

To cut a long story short, we won 3-2 and I scored a hat trick. Well, the next day I was facing my Court Martial. During the interrogation the CO's phone rang. He knew that I wanted out of the Navy but I was still facing some serious time in the Brig for going AWOL. Anyway, when the CO hung up, he looked at me and said; "I hear you had a great game yesterday." He reached over, thanked me and shook my hand. The case was dropped and I was free to go home (see, football can open all kinds of doors).

I returned to Dublin and played locally for Drimnagh Dynamos. Probably the same as about Division 1 over here. I was scoring lots of goals. We won everything that year. I started the next year with the same team and I had 60 goals in 11 games. One day a man came into the shop where I was working. His name was Pat Devlin. He had heard about me and asked me to sign for his club. This was a step up the



I waited and waited outside that pub for over an hour but he never showed. It turned out that he was actually inside the pub

ladder. Probably like moving to Premier League here, one step away from League of Ireland.

It was a big decision to leave my mates and leave my local club. Instead of a 5 minute walk to training, it was a one and a half hour, two-bus journey. No getting dropped off and picked up (we had no car anyway). Again things went very well for me. We won the league and I think I scored about 50-odd goals. I remember one game we won 6-2 and I scored 5 times. The major newspaper did a huge story on me. All the big clubs were taking notice. My next game I had all the scouts out watching this new superstar. I had a shocker, some superstar!

During this time my coach called me in one day and said, "Preston North End want you on trial." I couldn't believe it. I was soon on my way to Preston for a week's trial. I played two games for Preston Reserves against Sunderland and Oldham. I scored, did well and returned home waiting for the big call. This was around November.

Nothing was happening. Preston were struggling and the coach, Alan Kelly, was sacked. End of dream. At the same time, I got a call from the coach of Bohemians, my boyhood heroes, asking me to sign with his club. The dream was alive once again. I was to meet him at a pub in the centre of Dublin. I waited and waited outside that pub for over an hour but he never showed. It turned out that he was actually inside the pub!

My next big break came when my coach Pat Devlin was appointed coach of a new club in League of Ireland Div 1, Bray Wanderers. He put together a group of no-names and moulded us into a team. I remember we lost the first game of the season at home and it was all doom and gloom but we never lost another game all season.

We won the league and won promotion. We were in the big time. Then, out of the blue, one day a letter arrived from Australia. It was sent by Jim Hermiston, coach of Brisbane City. He sold the idea of Australia to me. He sold the club to me. He sold the National League to me. I had no idea what I was coming to but I packed up and came.

Just before I left I got a call from Everton who asked me to come on trial. What should I do? Brisbane City in Australia or Everton in England. Well history shows I chose Brisbane City. Do I regret it? Sometimes I wonder of how things might have been, but when I look out the window and see the sun shining, and see the time I have spent in Australia, and how lucky I am to be involved in football, I have to say, NO REGRETS.

In closing, I know most of you will be wondering what this column has to do with 'opinions'. Is this just Coops trying to big note himself? Well people who know me would know that that is the last thing I ever do. What I have tried to get across to the readers is what it was like. Maybe some kid reading this can have hope when he is

dropped from a Rep team. Maybe somebody can relate to disappointments. Maybe kids nowadays have things far too easy. Maybe its time we allowed them to grow up on their own like we had to do in the old days. This is not to say that our parents didn't care. On the contrary, I have the best family in the world. But they simply let me get on with it and deal with things myself.

One day I may sit down and write a book about the whole thing. I don't know if anybody else would read it, but it would certainly be interesting to me.

I would also like to stress, that even at this stage of my life, age 42, I still get my kit ready the same as I used to when I was a boy. I still clean my boots; I still have all the other bits and pieces in my bag. I still arrive on time and I still have the same passion and desire. The Premier League season kicks off this Saturday, guess who will be watching every game?

This is my last column for the year. For the readers who have read this and other columns here's a hint. If you don't like what I have written, turn the page. That's Irish for you....! ☘



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Phil MOYE

Does the BMS chief have end of season blues? No way!



THE END of the regular season is upon us and for most players the summer is a chance to recharge the batteries, have a rest and put off thinking about next season to the last minute.

Win, lose or draw I hope that you have experienced a good season, free of injury and full of personal success and achievement.

We sports administrators continue to toil in the background to ensure that next season is as good or better than this one. As we labour away, it is very easy to forget the main purpose of our efforts - provision of an enjoyable game of football for all participants.

The challenges of administering a large business can lead to a fairly large dose of the 'football blues' - a time when you have just had enough. It is easy to become cynical and mistrustful of peoples motives, to bunker down in a mind set that just wishes they would 'do it your way' and stop complaining. This leads to frustration and the onset of the seasonal 'football blues'.

Usually something comes to the rescue; a random act of sanity by an individual or a club; a problem that is solved by a strange outbreak of reasonableness, or a unexpected resolution to a complex problem by someone stating the blindingly obvious, that makes it all seem worth going on.

This year, for me, the rescue came in the form of an invitation to attend the Annual Awards Presentation Night for the Stanthorpe Football Association. President Steve McEvoy and the management team have had a torrid time over the past several seasons.

I have been able to help (I hope) in some small way to resolve the problems that made their job difficult and unpleasant. To their credit the clubs, members and administrators made it work and

the result showed in a great night at the Civic Centre.

It was refreshing to see the enjoyment of the players in the local competitions. Only six clubs, but a history of intense competition, all in good spirit and tinged with country humour and civility. The passion for the game and the high regard placed on consensus, teamwork and cooperation is as refreshing as a cold breeze (there is plenty of cold breeze in Stanthorpe).

We like to think that the pinnacle of the game is in our Premier League and that Brisbane (and our club) is the best there is. It just may be that the pinnacle is just something sticking up our backside. Maybe we should remember that it is all about the game and the players and not just about our wishes and our club and our way of doing it. For sheer enjoyment, friendship and club spirit a country competition has a lot going for it.

So now onto the final series, promotion and relegation sorted out and the Hyundai A-League in full swing. The Youth Summer League will once again provide good competition through to Christmas. Although I will no longer function as the President of Brisbane Mens, I will continue to make a contribution as the President of Football Brisbane Inc., the zone management group.

It is good to know that football is in great hands at the local level and it is reassuring to know that sanity is a two and a half hour drive away and comes with good wine and pleasant company. ☺

The passion for the game and the high regard placed on consensus, teamwork and cooperation is as refreshing as a cold breeze



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MICKY BROCK



When enough isn't really quite enough

I NTERESTED IN the Hyundai A-League Pre-Season Cup I took the opportunity to attend the inaugural 'home' match of Sydney FC at Aussie Stadium (formerly Sydney Football Stadium), and was surprised at much of what happened.

Although Sydney FC has 'booked' the stadium for their home matches for this up-coming season, they do not have the right to the car park. Indeed, they only receive something in the region of 15-20 spots for the entire club, management, players, owners, sponsors and/or media.

As you will imagine, this is nowhere near enough and doesn't even take into account the visiting team and coaching staff.

However, Moore Park is laid open to parking at the reasonable rate of \$10 per car with three or more passengers and \$15 per vehicle with fewer. With the going rate in Sydney, to be able to park so close to the venue at what has to be considered a fair price would seem generous enough, except that Sydney FC do not have the control of parking or any of the revenue raised from such.

A guesstimate of vehicles present would number it in the many hundreds so a goodly sum of cash is either going to the Stadium Trust (one suspects) or the local council. Perhaps someone at the club could have, if they didn't in the beginning, they should have negotiated a percentage for the club?

Once inside the ground the facilities are first class, as you would expect from the former national stadium. But again, with little more than 8,700 people in attendance you shouldn't have to queue for anything for a significant time. With that in mind, perhaps a reserved judgment on this would be appropriate, remembering what it was like in the past when the ground was full.

Chatting with Mike Cockerill (Sydney Morning Herald) who was there to cover the game, he expressed a deep sadness at the 'still entering' crowd and how sparse it seemed.

He said: "I've played park football for over 20-years and it's always the same. Everyone says they are coming to the games but no-one turns up." I expressed fake shock at his comment but as our conversation continued far more was revealed which led him to his somber tone.

Although I replied that it was early days yet, pre-season and all that, added to any regularly trotted out excuses and clichés at this time of year, he explained that the Herald had run a competition, of sorts, whereby they had to access (here I got slightly confused by the ground announcer) either the SMH or Sydney FC website and physically apply for a free 'Double Pass' to the game.

On the first day they offered 1,000 Double Passes and these were snapped up in 32-minutes. Day two was a similar story with the tickets going in under 45-minutes and the last day saw them snaffled up in less than an hour. I countered that this alone should allay his fears as there was obviously a latent support out there for the club and that given time the crowds would improve as the fortunes of the club did.

However, I was none too sure at the time as to whether I was trying to convince either him or myself as the realization that some 6,000 free tickets had been given out in a competition to what I saw in front of me at the time was, to say the least, disappointing.

Our chat continued throughout the evening on and off but the figures kept nagging away at me. If 6,000 tickets had been given away openly via the print media, taking into account the tickets for sponsors, player's etc. the actual figure for the 'paying public' would have surely been no more than 2,200 at best.

Insofar as one can speculate, without the 6,000 free tickets given away, would the crowd have reached the 8,700 mark? Would the 6,000 punters have paid to see the game?

The other teams in the first round of Pre-Season Cup matches didn't see a sharp rise in their attendances either and, it has to be said, it appears New Zealand Knights could only muster around 3,400 souls for their match against Queensland Roar in their first real 'home' match also.

Another point brought up by my media colleagues was the fact that this is surely the last chance for the code in Australia.

So many false dawns have been eclipsed by the baggage and nonsense of past incumbents that many feared even with Frank Lowy at the helm it would take many, many months, perhaps years, to convince the 'general public' that this code of football was indeed the best, was not 'wog ball' and would sooner rather than later take a grip over the country like never before.

Whilst my sentiments agree with part of the above, I remain the eternal optimist and find that I simply must believe it will happen this time, as I did last time and even the time before that.

I trust there are many out there who share this belief with me for if we all lose that faith, the game we love, work for and, dare I say worship, will be doomed. That is something I find totally unacceptable and unpalatable to the extreme.

I won't go into the match itself, as no doubt you will all have read about it long before now, only to touch upon the fact that Sydney FC, whether you like it or not, WILL be the team to beat.

They are fast becoming a cohesive, mobile unit and with the experience of Dwight Yorke, will fire on all cylinders as his infectious character and love of the game will certainly rub off on all around him, not just his team-mates.

I did manage to speak with a Sydney FC official the day after the game and it was intimated they were very pleased with the crowd as they were expecting only about 4,000 to attend. When I mentioned the 6,000 free tickets handed out by the SMH I also added that: "You shouldn't try to kid a kidder mate."

Although the tone did not change immensely, it appeared the person I spoke to was unaware of this ticket distribution which, to be honest, I can fully believe as the rumors coming out of the club are that the playing side of things are excellent but many things are left to be desired with the internal machinations of the organization, on which I will not expand.

Coming so close on the heels of the World Club Championship mini-tournament and notwithstanding the fact that the A-League has not even had its first season as yet, it comes as no truly great surprise to me that attendances are a little light on.

It would take a fool to announce the crowds would be any higher than they actually turned out to be, albeit I believe something can be done about them but that is another story and it is not worth going over old ground. It will take some very serious convincing by the powers that be, FFA and/or clubs, to win over those on the outside looking in.

Interest, at spectator levels, has been a major talking point throughout the history of the national soccer competitions, now will be no different at first.

However, I hope that eventually the talking point will be that grounds are too small to accommodate the masses in attendance as opposed to finding it hard to spot them in the cavernous stadia around the country.

Time will tell and although head says one thing, heart will forever be with the notion of Australian football clubs reminding me of my youth in England. The colours, atmosphere, singing, general hubbub, excitement, thrills, noise and happy banter as friends, lovers, families and singles come together under the banner of a sporting code.

Get behind your team, you know it makes sense.

Be lucky,

Micky 'Brockie' Brock - Mere Mortal 99

Crowds for the Hyundai A-League - will they turn up?



amyharris

The Courier Mail's football writer

THERE was a time, back in the nineties, when I would only watch soccer (simmer down, it was called 'soccer' then) if I stumbled across it by accident on TV - usually on a Monday night while searching for 'COPS'.

And there were only a few things that would keep me watching. Penalties, shootouts and fights. Those are all still very-much my favourite parts of a game. Especially if there are a few guys with mullets involved - or Ryan Giggs, for obvious reasons.

And I'm still quite partial to the idea that a shootout should determine every match, regardless of the full-time score. (Come on! It's worth the gate price just thinking about it. There have been less logical decisions made in the course of history - Hotdogs getting his own TV show for a start).

Anyway, times change. 'COPS' is, inexplicably, long-gone. And I now watch football on a regular basis and get paid for it. I know what you're thinking. 'Hey, why don't you shut up and go kill yourself'. And that's understandable. It sounds like the perfect job but covering soccer isn't so simple when **a)** I'm relatively new to the game, and **b)** I'm a girl.

Now this isn't a 'I'm a girl' excuse like the one we used to get out of changing tyres and paying for meals and drinks. And it's not really an excuse as much as a way to explain how it differs in several ways.

For a start, I'll bet when male journalists call Karl Herdle up on a Friday for a Palm Beach match preview, he doesn't call them 'sweetie'. Not that I'm offended - Karl is one of my favourite BMS people. He always answers his phone and feeds me gem quotes like 'this match will decide the competition'. But in, like, round three? Gold.

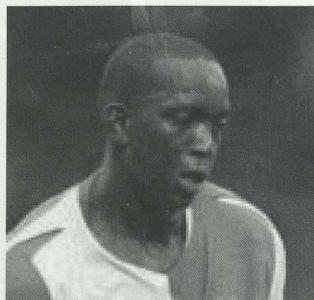
And there are those awkward few seconds after introducing myself to a coach or player as a reporter, and they have a look on their face like they think I

must be there to interview them for the 'Cleo' Most Eligible Bachelor list. It still takes them a few minutes to get rid of the look that says 'Is this a joke? Why is she asking me football questions? Did she just say 'mid-field?'

So I guess we have a disadvantage straight up, as in, not being taken 100 per-cent serious right off the bat. But it's the same in every sport. And it can actually come in handy sometimes.

For example, if a male reporter walks up to Dwight Yorke and says, 'Man you stunk out there today. How much are they paying you again?', then Dwight would probably start swinging. But if I asked Dwight the same question, he would probably just laugh and ask me out for mojitos.

Dwight:
Out for
Mojitos?



See my point here? Swings and roundabouts. The other major difference is the whole locker room thing. Not so much an issue yet as the A-League season hasn't even started. But I will be interested to see how that one pans out in comparison to rugby league where female reporters have this idea that getting into the men's locker room is the journalism equivalent of Roe v Wade.

Like they're taking a huge step forward for women's rights and blazing a trail for female sport's reporters for the next 1000 years.

There are those awkward few seconds after introducing myself to a coach or player as a reporter, and they have a look on their face like they think I must be there to interview them for the 'Cleo' Most Eligible Bachelor list

But usually these football diehards are the same people who follow the overseas leagues religiously, but write-off the Australian competition and then whinge about not getting enough coverage in the local press.

If you love football, support it in any form. And then maybe it might work

Maybe they are. But to me, it's like walking in on your dad after he gets out of the shower. Totally, wrong. And you don't know where to look. And you can't concentrate on anything you're writing at all. Billy Slater could be giving you the scoop of the century about how he's quitting rugby league to fulfil a lifelong dream of dancing on the chorus line at the Moulin Rouge, and all you can think is 'I just saw Tonie Carroll naked. Ohmigod ohmigod ohmigod...'

I don't know how the A-League will be handled, but suffice to say the players can relax, safe in the knowledge I will not be bursting through the locker-room door during shower time. As long as they are polite enough to throw on a towel and come out in the hallway for an interview before deadline, of course.

The other thing about soccer (football, whatever. When the FFA change the name of the Socceroos to the 'Footballroos' I will take this more seriously) is how crazy people are about it.

Like, for these people, 'borderline obsessive' is a term of endearment. The statistics these people pull out of their brains about every team, every match they ever saw, every player that ever scored a goal. The name of their favourite players' cousin's, lawyer's, neighbour's cat. It's insane.

How this game never hit its straps here is astounding. But usually these football diehards are the same people who follow the overseas leagues religiously, but write-off the Australian competition and then whinge about not getting enough coverage in the local press. What's going on there? If you love football, support it in any form. And then maybe it might work.

But what would I know, I'm just a girl. ☺

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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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T

HE FINALS are almost here, I can feel it!

My football radar is going off like a smoke alarm in a kebab shop, picking up the tension in the tangy autumn air mingling with scents of hot coffee and Dencorub. Well, more honestly, I can hear the coach bollocking the 1sts.

He's very smooth, I have to say. With that innate ability known only to coaches, he manages to chastise, reassure and show his exasperation with a treasurer-like economy of words. "Well, do I have to say it?" heads are hung all around the dressing room. "Right, ALL of you, 6 o'clock sharp, Tuesday."

It's touch and go for a finals berth and the coach is walking a fine line between encouragement and disillusion. Or is it that the club committee has just announced his imminent demise with the perennial, "We can assure you he has the full confidence of the board!"

If you're looking for inspiration, you need look no further than Mike Bailey's uplifting article last month and I felt sure that the other coaches were going to have equally impressive insights to motivate their players. Your firsts are your flagship and after the dressing down in the dressing room, I wondered just how they were feeling about their season and their prospects for promotion. It's a lot of pressure for the young guns. Are they up to it? Is the coach stressed for a reason?

It's touch and go for a finals berth and the coach is walking a fine line between encouragement and disillusion

Asking a long standing team member he says, "It's OK, the team spirit is certainly there, if only at the cards night at Davo's."

Oh really. I'm thinking does the coach know about this flouting of the rules?

Asking a newcomer to the side; "It's commitment," he says.

The coach overhearing gives him a look and says,

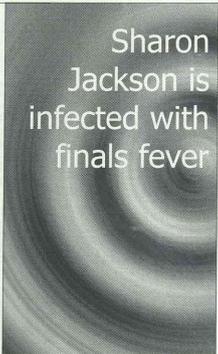
"That's rich coming from you" I turn to the player with a questioning look. "He's just jealous," he says. "I'm the coach of a girl's volleyball side and we're in the finals." Ah, thinks I, but now I'm wondering if the coach is jealous of finals status or being able to coach young women in tight shorts?

Coming to our very last signing he says, "To be sure, we'll-knock' em dead in the last few games." Well, there's confidence for you, provided he can get his head in the dressing room door.

What **do** you say to your players at the end of a long season, so close and yet so far? Certainly I would sack the coach that said, "I've told the players we need to win so I can raise the cash to buy new players." But I loved this attitude from, naturally, an Irishman. It was Noel O' Mahony, the Cork City Coach, before a game in Munich. "We'll still be happy if we lose. It's on at the same time as the Beer Festival."

There's only one way to find out and so in true ET style I tracked down the coaches of the most likely top four of the Metro competition this year. Their responses clearly show the excited, tense atmosphere building in each camp.

Souths' Chris Dawling was upbeat about his team's chances and well he might be.



Sharon Jackson is infected with finals fever

the finals countdown

The team has gone through a generational change this year meaning that veterans of the higher leagues who have been put out to pasture at 27 now all play together in the metro competition. "We're playing for the Grand Final of course as you know, we can't get promotion," he says dryly. As Souths have Premier sides, the Metro One side cannot be promoted under current rules. "But that's fine, it has been great to coach them and they have come together well as a team. We just need to keep them together and hope we have no more suspensions, injuries or, heaven forbid, weddings!"

The Eagles are soaring at Acacia Ridge. With an incredible Vodafone 5-a-side international win and a runaway Metro Cup win tucked under their belt, surely Coach Murkovic is looking for a treble?

He is, in a word, buzzing. "The atmosphere is electric, apart from going to Hong Kong, not a single player has missed a training session. We're going for it with everyone at the club behind us. With 5 games to go, and Souths match amongst them, we're on fire."

Rob Scacheri's Brisbane Toro have been the surprise package this beginning at the start of the season with only 8 players for the first five matches. After five losses, they were 11 points adrift and things were a bit grim. A hasty recruitment drive followed but things did not seem to be looking up and the coach really started to worry. "Nobody had explained to these great players that football was a team game," he says grinning, "It was a comedy of errors watching them to begin with."

Looking at the table this week, it's plain to see that they've been listening to him and have staged a brilliant come back.

"They've really dug in and played for each other and got there. We've moved up to second and with the Pine Hills game to come, we're in there chasing the top spot."

Well done, say I, but what if Pine Hills want it just as

We just need to keep them together and hope we have no more suspensions, injuries or, heaven forbid, weddings

much as you do? "Ah well," he says coming out with the quote of the year, "That's football." Then he adds, "In that case, we'll have the Grand Final."

Pine Hills, the team knocking on Premier 2 Division's door, at the time of writing need only two more points for promotion and Coach Ashley Hempsted is a nervous man. "This competition was new territory for me and we're so close. I'm so proud of them. It's a good hard league and I've thoroughly enjoyed it."

Having only dropped eight points all season could be a good reason why but there's more to it he says. "This league is setting the standard and you can't take anything for granted. We drew against Taringa (cellar dwellers) and in the Metro Cup against a Metro 3 side; we could have played all night and never scored. How can you not enjoy this? Wonderful stuff! I even enjoyed the refereeing," (I think he might have sneaked a bit of Mike's bottle of red here).

All four are exceptional club success stories and all are telling examples of the spirit of the football being played at this level in our communities. "Wouldn't you just love to be an air freshener on the walls of these dressing sheds," I ask my coach. "Ask them if they fancy a cards night," he says!

Congratulations to all on your season and the best of luck for your finals series.

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FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND

Football Queensland's President, Dennis O'Brien, wraps the season up

AS THE SEASON draws to a close there is much to look back on with pride. In Brisbane, the Brisbane Zone Council has been very active under the expert guidance of Phil Moye and the Standing Committees are working well.

As our local season grows to an end, we can look forward to the start of the Hyundai A-League Season. This new competition is a great opportunity for the game and I urge all Queenslanders to get fully behind Queensland Roar.

At the same time the English Premier League has just commenced with the likes of Thierry Henry and Frank Lampard weaving their magic. It is a disappointment that as President of Football Queensland I can quote many more names from the English Premier League than I can from the A-League and I have committed myself this year to addressing that.

I trust that young footballers (and old stagers alike) will soon be singing the praises of Matt McKay and Chad Gibson and that newcomers such as Remo Buess will become household names. I intend to attend as many Roar games as I possibly can and will be supporting them into the future. I expect 2005 to be a tough season for this new team but am very encouraged by the fitness, youth and skill level of the team.

I know that one of the issues that Zones will be considering in 2006 is the retention of players and particularly adult players. This has been the focus of comment in Extra Time in the past. I hope that the continuing growth of the State Cup and the



Queensland Government
Getting more people active through sport and recreation

emergence of masters' competitions will play their part in this retention. The Board is committed to the further development of the State Cup Competition following its successful launch in 2004. We believe that this should become a long-standing competition within Queensland.

Football Queensland has recently moved into new premises at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre (previously QEII). The new premises offer a much better opportunity for our staff to provide a service to the game while giving staff much improved working conditions.

There are a number of key activities facing FQ at the moment. We are engaging in a thorough review of State Policies and procedures to ensure that these are consistent with recently released FFA policies and that they serve the changing requirements of the State.

While I don't expect any radical changes, we wish to ensure that any changes are thoroughly canvassed and agreed before the new season. We are currently working with Standing Committees to develop a 2006 Budget for Football Queensland.

The Board has already committed to maintaining the strong financial restraint that has characterised the company in the last few years that will guarantee a strong financial position. Fortunately, the last few years have addressed previous debt and we expect that in 2005 we will be able to provide better service to the game through a small staffing increase.

At the same time, we are losing one of our long term staff members in Fay Dower. Fay has been a sensational supporter of women's football for many years both as a volunteer and more recently as Executive Officer for Women's Soccer Queensland and her knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment will be sorely missed. ☺

CITY SLICKERS



What do you call a bunch of Australian children playing for a traditionally Italian club under Coach George Hernando?

The answer is Inverness Blue, the 2005 Under 8 side from Brisbane City coached by George Hernando and managed by Jenny Bopp.

Once again this year there has been success for this junior side with the players developing skills, finesse and teamwork.

The talented line up is: Emiliano Allemand-Bopp, David Cullen, Keano De Marco, Dimetri De Marco, Tate Forster, John D. Hernando, Harrison James, Mathew Olsen, Jordan Pizzica.

RIDGE TOO STRONG IN FINAL

METRO CUP FINAL - Sunday 31st July 2005

Acacia Ridge 2
Old Bridge 0

HT: 2-0

Goalscorers: Jovanovic Medeljko 15, Mrso Neldin 45(pen)

Acacia Ridge added to their growing reputation by taking out the Metro Cup Final against rivals Old Bridge at Perry Park.

Ridge had the game wrapped up by half time and copped for a \$1000 cheque from BMS President Phil Moye as well as the silverware.



World Vision

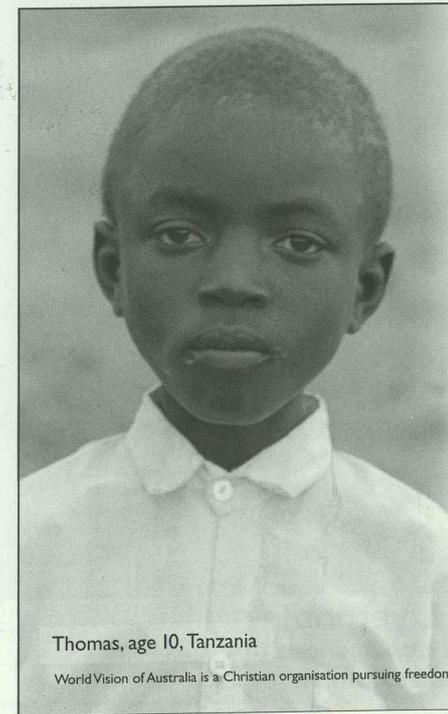
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Thomas, age 10, Tanzania

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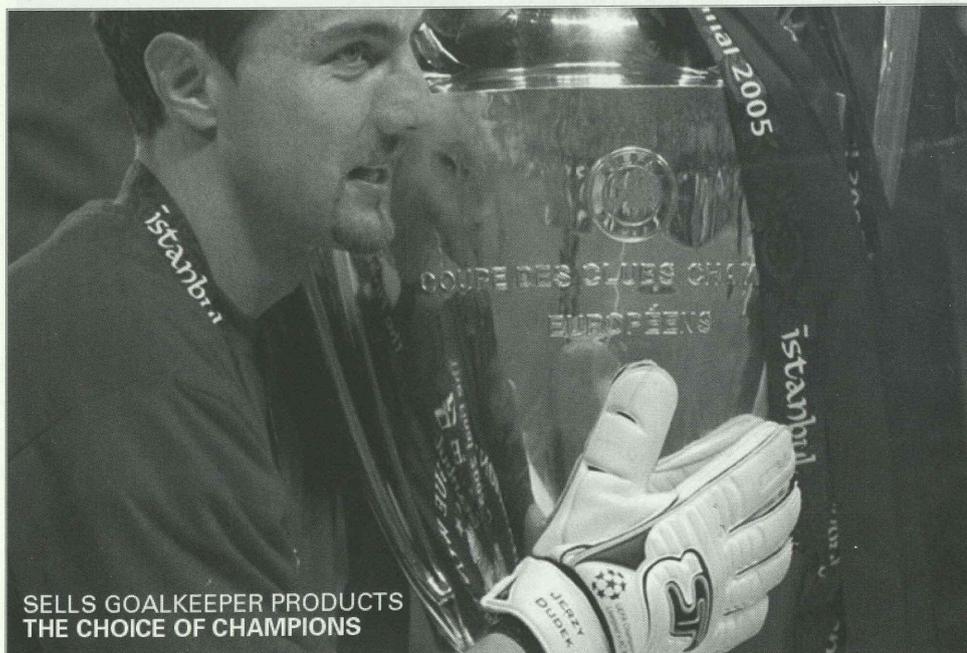
SMITS OFFERED OPPORTUNITY

Tim Smits of Pine Rivers continues to do well in his trial in Holland.

After heading overseas with his father Peter and brother Ben, he has settled in to life in Holland and impressed the coaching staff at Helmond Sport during his initial three week trial.

Last month he was offered the opportunity to stay at the club and play the season which starts on August 30 and runs through to April. Helmond Sport currently play in the Dutch 2nd Division.

Tim has been nicknamed "Skippy" by his new teammates and is about to undergo a crash course in speaking Dutch. He is expected back in Brisbane for Christmas when the Dutch competitions close down for a one month break.



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bruce DINSDALE



The BMS General Manager on the 2005 Gala Awards

At this time of year the season has almost concluded and it's time to turn our attention from the field to the Gala Awards night. This year it will be held at Royal on the Park on Monday 19 September and again it promises to be a great evening.

There is plenty of work going in to the preparations for the night and all we need now is for the clubs and players to support the night and book the place out. Those who attended last year would probably vouch for the standard of the night and it again shows that our sport can match it with any other if we all contribute.

There will be plenty of awards presented on the night and we will once again have Chris Bombolas to keep it all together up on stage.

League Champions

The Champions in every division from Premier League to Metro 7 will be presented with their respective division trophy / shield and players medals.

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 first and reserves team.

Golden Boot

In each of the three 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, the winner determined from the referees voting on a 3-2-1 basis for very game.

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 the season. 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 2005 and receive a commemorative jersey and plaque.

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!!!

IT'S FOOTBALL BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT



the full MONTY

HAVING HIT THE STRAIGHT, the finish line is in sight for this year's local football season. For those of us that are totally emerged one way or the other, the first couple of 'free' weekends will be a welcome break (having said that the 'better half' is already compiling that dreaded 'list'!).

But this 'feeling' will be a temporary fixation as we start to pine for that involvement which keeps us going from weekend to the next. That burning flame that carries us through our working week to the glory, or otherwise, of Match Day.

But there is salvation in the coming off-season; the kick off of the inaugural A-League, the Socceroos (Footyros?) perennial hurdle of qualification for the World Cup and of course the EPL, Serie A, La Liga and the Icelandic G League!

But what of the local competition? Has it been the shining light for local football purists? Has the bar been raised? Have we taken giant steps forward or even small steps in the right direction? What can be done to improve the local product, apart from further debate (which we are all experts at). Well here we have what you have been waiting for with bated breath ...Monty's Brisbane Football Balance Sheet - Season 2005.

Positive Side:

- ♦ One of the closest fought PL competitions in a looonng time (our thanks for Lions admittance to the A-League for that!).
- ♦ Tremendous quality of young players coming through the ranks David Williams, Michael Zullo, Darren Bender, to mention a few.
- ♦ Exceptional interest in Div 1 & 2 which will be further enhanced in coming weeks with the various relegation/promotion play-offs.
- ♦ The Premier Cup, I think this year we didn't have any forfeits in the early rounds so this must be a positive!

- ♦ Extra Time Mag - what a great read!!

On the Negative Side:

- ♦ PL Structure (SORRY I can't let go!!). Let's get real and have a two tier structure - First Grade and Under 19.
- ♦ Youth League - as above. PL does not have numbers to support three grades. Too many clubs are doubling up players to prop up their Youth teams. Not long ago, City (likely Premiers) made a request to Lions (running second) if they could postpone their Sunday clash as the First and Reserve grade were playing on the same day against Rivers!!

Come on guys let's get it sorted. If we do not have the certain part of the anatomy to make the restructure can we at least see that we do not have this grade hopping every week and nominate a senior squad of say 30 players, none of which can play down at Youth.

- ♦ Wage ceiling - too much unrealistic money being paid out by clubs (in Div 1.) No player should be on more than \$80 per game. Divert these funds (Junior registration cash) into improving facilities because we still have plenty of improving to do.

- ♦ PL club's to present a realistic 3-year plan on ground improvements as part of being in the PL.

- ♦ Match Day Presentation - what happened folks? This one fell right off the planet. The bar was set 3 or 4 years ago and has subsequently been treated with contempt.

- ♦ State Senior and Under 19 program - what's happened here? This has been non-existent for the last couple of years.

- ♦ Top PL sides in Sydney playing home & away series with PL Premiers for the 'Eastern Seaboard Championship'.

OK, OK I will stop now, but you may get my drift. We still have a long way to go before we can truly balance the books.

Football Federation Australia had to make some very hard decisions that are looking like bearing plenty of fruit. So how about it BMS, surely it is time for a change?

This is the last issue for the year so take care, be kind to each other and see you in '06

Monty

2005 Buffalo Man of the Match Winners



Gianni Culplo
(Mt Gravatt)



Michael Zullo
(Strikers)



Josh Evans
(Taringa)



Matt Smith
(Palm Beach)



Kieren Galloway
(Rochedale)



David Blom (Brisbane Force)



Adam Webber (Strikers)

**Congratulations
to you all**



Joel Hale (Pine Rivers)



Grant Marshall (Beenleigh)



Daniel Corbett (Brisbane City)



Greg Thomas (Rochedale)



Eli Gilfedder (Strikers)

BRISBANE
Premier League

footballfusion 101 FM

**Brisbane
Mens
Soccer**

BRISBANE WOMEN'S SOCCER

BWSA President Tony Buckley wants a response on responsibility



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Where does the buck stop? There is always a lot of chest beating and finger pointing when things don't go quite as planned. So who is ultimately responsible?

In this day and age we are all too eager to blame a club, coach or association if things don't go our way. Why is it never the parents or the players fault? The answer I believe lies in the focus of today's society to defer responsibility for their actions or decisions.

An example of this can be found in the decision by the State Government to either prohibit or limit the sale of foods at school tuckshops. While they should be applauded for being aware of the growing problems in child obesity, I think that they are missing the real cause. As parents we are empowered to teach our children about choices. We as adults can guide what decisions our children make whilst in the home and under our care.

What we are saying with the tuckshop issue is we will not give you a choice. If we are going to do this, then we should look at the supermarket shelves and clear them of the so called dietary nasties so that they won't be in the homes and children can't be tempted to partake of the occasional pack of chips or a soft drink.

This is censorship gone mad. We have an obligation to our children to teach them self control in everything they do. It is not the sole responsibility of a school or club to teach these values. When children see their parents eating improperly and drinking to excess they are conditioned that this is acceptable behaviour. When children see their parents yelling and screaming at officials they think that this is acceptable.

When they see parents blaming others for their mistakes then they think it is acceptable

not to take responsibility for their actions. When they see adults lose self control that erupts into verbal or violent abuse, then they think this is acceptable.

It is sad but true that this is the society we are becoming, that we think we do not have to take responsibility for our own or our children's actions.

This was a minority of people a few years ago but the trend is growing. Now is the time as parents and adults that we take responsibility for our actions and reinforce these values in the children of today. We need to show that people do make mistakes and that we should be tolerant of this as we would hope that they were of our mistakes.

To finish with I would like you to think about umpires at hockey. In junior hockey, if the crowd is being verbally abusive to the umpires then the captain is told to tell the supporters to stop, if it continues then the captain is sent off for 10 minutes.

Whilst it is a shame to punish children for the sins of the parents we are fast approaching the time when this will have to be a consideration. I have not been to many junior girls' hockey games where abuse at umpires is a problem to the same extent as football.

Maybe it's something we should consider now?

When children see their parents yelling and screaming at officials they think that this is acceptable

BRISBANE WOMEN'S SOCCER

2005 FINAL TABLES

Premier	P	W	D	L	Pts
East	21	17	2	2	53
Mt Gravatt	21	16	2	3	50
The Gap	21	12	3	6	39
Qld Lions	21	11	3	7	36
Uni of Qld	21	7	3	11	24
Souths	21	7	1	13	22
Toowoomba	21	3	4	14	13
Ips Knights	21	1	2	18	5

Reserves	P	W	D	L	Pts
Mt Gravatt	21	17	1	3	52
Qld Lions	21	14	2	5	44
Souths	21	12	2	7	38
Uni of Qld	21	12	2	7	38
The Gap	21	10	3	8	33
East	21	8	4	9	28
Ips Knights	21	3	2	16	11
Toowoomba	21	0	0	21	0

Prem Youth	P	W	D	L	Pts
The Gap	21	15	3	3	48
Souths	21	15	2	4	47
Mt Gravatt	21	14	2	5	44
Peninsula	21	11	4	6	37
Toowoomba	21	11	2	8	35
Ips Knights	21	8	1	12	25
Qld Lions	21	2	0	19	6
East	21	1	0	20	3

Div 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Peninsula	21	20	1	0	61
Westside	21	12	2	7	38
Newmarket	21	10	4	7	34
Pine Rivers	21	8	5	8	29
Taringa	21	8	4	9	28
Samford	21	7	4	10	25
Narangba	21	3	4	14	13
Park Ridge	21	3	2	16	11

Div 1 Res	P	W	D	L	Pts
Peninsula	21	19	2	0	59
Newmarket	21	17	2	2	53
Westside	21	11	3	7	36
Samford	21	7	7	7	28
Narangba	21	7	4	10	25
Park Ridge	21	4	4	13	16
Pine Rivers	21	3	4	14	13
Taringa	21	3	0	18	9

Div 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bardon	14	12	2	0	38
Bayside	14	7	4	3	25
Mt Gravatt	14	6	4	4	22
Uni of Qld	14	6	3	5	21
Bne Force	14	6	2	6	20
Souths	14	4	4	6	16
Newmarket	14	3	0	11	9
Slacks Creek	14	2	1	11	7

Div 3	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bardon	12	10	2	0	32
Mitchelton	12	10	1	1	31
Ips City	12	5	0	7	15
East	12	4	1	7	13
St James	12	4	0	8	12
Oxley	12	3	1	8	10
Ridge Hills	12	3	1	8	10

Div 4	P	W	D	L	Pts
Virginia	12	10	1	1	31
Annerley	12	8	2	2	23
Park Ridge	12	6	2	4	20
Redlands	12	5	2	5	17
Kangaroo Pt	12	4	2	6	14
Newmarket	12	3	0	9	9
Bne Wolves	12	1	1	10	4

Div 5	P	W	D	L	Pts
Brighton	14	14	0	0	42
Redlands	14	10	2	2	32
Souths	14	6	5	3	23
Bethania	14	5	3	6	18
Ips City	14	4	4	6	16
Slacks Creek	14	4	1	9	13
Western Spirit	14	2	2	10	8
Bne Olympic	14	2	1	11	7

Div 6	P	W	D	L	Pts
John Paul	14	11	1	2	34
Uni of Qld	14	9	1	4	28
Park Ridge	14	7	2	5	23
Pine Hills	14	6	3	5	21
Clairvaux	14	6	3	5	21
Peninsula	14	5	1	8	16
Logan City	14	4	3	7	15
The Gap	14	0	2	12	1

Div 7	P	W	D	L	Pts
Mooroonda	14	12	2	0	38
Uni of Qld	14	10	2	2	32
Narangba	14	7	2	5	23
East	14	6	2	6	20
Newmarket	14	5	4	5	19
North Pine	14	4	1	9	13
North Star	14	2	2	10	8
Westside	14	2	1	11	7

Div 8	P	W	D	L	Pts
Colleges	14	11	1	2	34
Toowong	14	9	4	1	31
Mitchelton	14	7	3	4	24
Annerley	14	7	3	4	24
Virginia	14	4	5	5	17
Logan Village	14	3	2	9	11
Kangaroo Pt	14	2	4	8	9
Park Ridge	14	1	2	11	5

U12 Red	P	W	D	L	Pts
New Farm	18	16	1	1	49
East	18	13	2	3	41
Narangba	18	11	4	3	37
Peninsula	18	11	2	5	35
Brighton	18	9	4	5	31
Pine Hills	18	6	2	10	20
Redlands	18	6	2	10	20
Annerley	18	4	3	11	15
Samford	18	3	0	15	9
Newmarket	18	1	0	17	3

U12 Blue	P	W	D	L	Pts
Annerley	16	16	0	0	48
Qld Lions	16	12	2	2	38
Park Ridge	16	11	2	3	35
Mooroonda	16	8	2	6	26
Samford	16	7	3	6	24
Redlands	16	6	2	8	20
Kenmore	16	3	2	11	11
Sheldon	16	1	1	14	4
East	16	0	2	14	2

U13 White	P	W	D	L	Pts
Annerley	16	13	2	1	41
Peninsula	16	11	2	3	35
Pine Hills	16	11	1	4	34
Narangba	16	9	0	7	27
Mt Gravatt	16	7	5	4	26
Redlands	16	7	4	5	25
Samford	16	3	1	12	10
The Gap	16	1	2	13	5
Ips City	16	1	1	14	4

U14 Div 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Mt Gravatt	14	14	0	0	42
Park Ridge	14	8	3	3	27
The Gap	14	7	2	5	23
Redlands	14	6	1	7	19
Qld Lions	14	5	4	5	19
Pine Rivers	14	3	4	7	13
Peninsula	14	3	3	8	12
Bne Wolves	14	1	1	12	1

U14 Div 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Virginia	14	10	1	3	31
Mt Gravatt	14	9	2	3	29
Oxley	14	9	2	3	29
Ips City	14	8	1	5	25
Ips Knights	14	5	2	7	17
Pine Hills	14	5	1	8	16
Souths	14	4	0	10	12
Newmarket	14	1	1	12	4

U14 Div 3	P	W	D	L	Pts
Albany Creek	14	11	3	0	36
Samford	14	10	1	3	31
North Pine	14	7	4	3	25
Westside	14	6	4	4	22
Bayside	14	6	1	7	19
East	14	5	4	5	19
Sheldon	14	2	1	11	7
Pine Rivers	14	0	0	14	0

U16 Div 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Narangba	12	8	1	3	25
Souths	12	8	1	3	25
Redlands	12	8	0	4	24
Park Ridge	12	7	0	5	21
Newmarket	12	3	4	5	13
Mt Gravatt	12	2	4	6	10
Bne Wolves	12	0	2	10	2

U16 Div 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ips City	15	12	1	2	37
Brighton	15	8	4	3	28
Bardon	15	8	3	4	27
Grange	15	7	4	4	25
Pine Hills	15	2	1	12	7
St James	15	1	1	13	4

U16 Div 3	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Pine	10	9	1	0	28
Samford	10	7	2	1	23
Westside	10	4	0	6	12
Deception Bay	10	3	1	6	10
Logan Village	10	2	1	7	7
John Paul	10	2	1	7	7
Western Spirit	0	0	0	0	0

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