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City's Braveheart returns Page 18

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Queensland Soccer Federation Official Magazine





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Cover Photograph: Wynnum's Ben Wood in

attacking mode against Taringa's Laurence

Inunciaga at Carmichael Park last Sunday.



The inaugural Semi-Pro Division 1 Cup Competition kicks off this weekend with 18 teams participating in matches across Brisbane.

The draw for the competition means teams from the northern division will only meet teams from the southern division in the first round.

Many coaches have said the dual leg aspect of the Cup would make for some interesting matches.

I would agree with this as the home and away format will be mystifying to many players and coaches.

Not only is this a new style of competition at this level, but it also pits unknown quantities against each other.

Cups are notoriously fickle competitions, with less fancied teams often making a mockery of big reputations and the form guide.

But in saying that, with the Cup happening this early in the season, it might well prove an indicator for the final outcome of the League.

Be sure to check with your local club for game times and if possible, don't miss the opportunity to witness some very competitive cup football.

Meanwhile on the Premier League, Bundaberg's resounding 3 - 0 victory against Coalstars on the weekend showed just how long a week can be in this game.

The Waves were trashed by Taringa in their first round match and many of this state's foremost football "experts" (I must admit myself included) were pricing wooden spoon shaped Postpaks from Australia Post.

I could not be happier in admitting that I misjudged our out-of-town friends and it would be very pleasing to see them on the right side of the ledger many more times this season.

There is no doubt that all Premier League teams will find the going tough in Bundaberg.

Imagine the party in Bundy, the home of that marvellous elixir, should the Waves steal the silverware!

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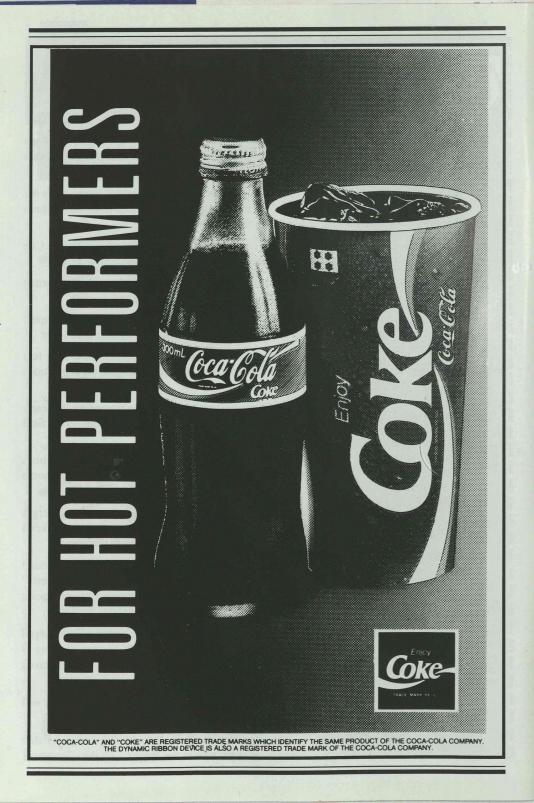
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Rovers put bite on Wolves

Taringa Rovers outlasted Wynnum in a dogged match at Carmichael Park on Sunday winning 1- 0.

The only goal of the game came via a powerful 30 metre left foot drive from Rovers central midfielder Danny Britton just before half-time.

Britton had threatened the Wynnum goal from a similar distance on three occasions earlier in the half, but it was his powerful strike in the 45th minute that proved the difference between the two teams.

In fairness, Wolves goalkeeper Peter Underhill should have saved the shot as the ball appeared to go through his hands.

With the exception of a 15 - 20 minute bright patch from Taringa prior to half-time, the game was typified by missed opportunities.

The most notable example being Wynnum Captain Tony McKinless' failure to convert a direct penalty shot in the 9th minute.

Taringa sweeper Demetri Theochari was pulled up for infringing Wynnum midfielder Brendan Rogers.

McKinless must have been sympathising with those on the sidelines that thought the penalty too harsh, as he skied his shot six feet over the crossbar.

Both teams seemed to lose their way slightly in the second half with Wynnum probably creating the better scoring opportunities.

Wolves reserve Stuart Popplewell was bought on in the 55th minute and caused a lot of problems for the Taringa defence.

He displayed good pace and skills and would not be out of place in the starting line-up this week.

Taringa coach John Ogden said his side had showed a lot of character during the match.

"I thought we played well in difficult conditions and deserved the win," he said.



50003 5

"Wynnum are a gritty side and it's always a hard match down there so it was very pleasing to come away with the points."

However, Ogden said he was disappointed with his team's inability to capitalise on a number of scoring opportunities.

"We need to improve our finishing," he said.

"We created a lot of opportunities but only managed to score one goal."

Wynnum coach George Cowie (pictured) relayed similar concerns about his team's inability to score.

"Our finishing has got to improve," he said.

"We need to have more from our front players but we also need to get the breaks.

"I felt we were extremely unlucky not to take anything out of the game on the weekend... That's football I suppose!

"At one stage I was concerned we could have folded but that wasn't the case and I was pleased with the way the boys hung in there."

Wynnum will be looking to get their first points of the season this week when they play away at Coalstars.

Taringa face reigning premiers Brisbane Lions who are also yet to make a mark on the league ladder.

City scrape home 1-0

In an uncharacteristically quiet clash between the two sides, Beenleigh were narrowly defeated 1-0 by Brisbane City in Saturday night's game at Chris Green Park.

The large crowd were treated to a close contest as both sides battled determinedly for the points.

The game started cautiously with Beenleigh content to build up constructive attacks from the back, while City countered down the flanks which tested the home side's defence.

During the first 15 minutes, City peppered the goal causing keeper Chris Roche to make several fine saves.

Beenleigh's best chance in the opening half was created by Troy Wickstein who broke down the right flank and delivered a great cross to Fotis Skordou who laid off a pass for Michael Leake to shoot just over the bar.

There were few shots on goal in the first 45

minutes but Beenleigh began to attain ascendancy near half-time.

The home side started the second half unable to maintain the rhythm they showed before the break and City capitalised with a goal after 12 minutes.

Dean Almond was ignored by the Beenleigh defence and beat Roche with his shot.

Beenleigh searched for an equaliser but were let down by ill-directed passes at crucial moments.

Wickstein and replacement Marc Lederhose, both had chances to level the account with great shots late in the match but Brisbane City's keeper Daniel Duke was outstanding in goal.

The home side's best chance to score occurred minutes before the final whistle. The ball rebounded to Brett Druery off Duke following a hard driving shot by Wickstein but Druery's shot sailed well over the crossbar.

WHAT THE EXPERTS THINK

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XXXX League - Round 3 Coalstars v Wynnum Beenleigh v Bundaberg Taringa Rov v Brisbane Lions Brisbane City v Rochedale	Coalstars Bundaberg Taringa Rochedale	Wynnum Beenleigh Taringa City	Wynnum Bundaberg Lions City	Coalstars Beenleigh Taringa City
Semi Pro Division 1 Cup Round 1 Acacia Ridge v Grange Thistle Albany Creek v Mt Gravatt Capalaba v Toowoomba Eastern Subs v Rocklea Mitchelton v Ipsw St Helens Slacks Creek v North Star Souths Utd v Pine Rivers Olympic Utd v Inala City The Gap v Redlands	Ridge Creek T'woomba Rocklea Mitchelton Draw Souths Inala Gap	Ridge Creek Capalaba Easts Mitchelton North Star Rivers Olympic Redlands	Ridge Creek Capalaba Easts Ipsw St H North Star Souths Inala Gap	Ridge Creek T'woomba Easts Mitch Creek Souths Inala Gap
LAST WEEKS & (PROGRESSIVE) TTL'S	6 (0)	6 (0)	4 (0)	3 (0)

Rochedale pull Lions down

Last year's premiers, Brisbane Lions, are still to register a point in the XXXX Premier League after a woeful defensive display saw them go down 4-3 to Rochedale at Lions Stadium on Sunday.

The dual winners of last season are struggling to regain the form which saw them go sixteen games without loss.

Lions keeper Rob Farrow set the tone of the match in the sixth minute when he cleared the ball straight to an unmarked Eddie Lees who gratefully rifled the ball back past Farrow and into the Lions net for a 1-0 lead.

Rochedale's lead was short lived however, due to a goal of the highest order from Lions new boy Greg Di Losa.

Di Losa picked the ball up twenty five yards from goal, took one touch to steady himself and then unleashed a venomous strike which Rochedale keeper Clint Dal Santo had no chance of saving.

But Lions defensive frailties again came to the fore in the 23rd minute. Striker Kieran Cooper held the ball up before turning it inside for an unmarked Andy Lees, whose miscued shot trickled in for a goal.

The score remained 2-1 until the break and the home side perhaps were fortunate to be only one goal behind.

However the gap was to widen only twenty seconds into the second half when Rochedale substitute Steve Fitzsimmons raced through another cavernous hole in the Lions defence and smashed his volley past Farrow for a 3-1 scoreline.

Rochedale might have gone further in front from the boot of Andy Lees before Lions closed the gap to one with a neatly worked move culminating in a powerful finish from midfielder Steve Jackson.



Rochedale Rovers coach Gary McDowall was pleased with his teams performance

Lions looked poised to complete their comeback when the ball fell invitingly to Cameron Watson but he shot straight at Dal Santo.

The miss was to prove costly as Rochedale regained their two goal advantage a minute later when super-sub Fitzsimmons powerfully headed his second from an Andy Munument cross to push the score out to 4-2.

The visitors were lucky not to be reduced to ten men soon after following a moment of madness from Gary Bratten. Bratten appeared to grab the arm of referee Derek Crawford when he signalled a free kick which Bratten evidently disagreed with.

Bratten did stay on the field and made several telling tackles to keep his side in the lead but it didn't stop Lions adding their third when Roy Huth was crudely chopped down in the penalty area.

Former Brisbane Strikers captain Steve Jackson stepped up to take the penalty and complete the scoring at 4-3.

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PREMIER PREVUE - Coalstars v Wynnum

Coalstars host the Wynnum Wolves this Sunday at Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba at 2.45pm.

Coalstars coach Paul Barry said his team needed to make some fundamental improvements to ensure victory against Wynnum.

"We've been defensively poor in our first two matches," Barry said.

"Pat Boyle has been a big loss to us as he adds stability to the defence.

"It's obvious the reshuffle hasn't worked and we need to find an alternative for at least a four to five week period."

Barry said all the Premier League teams would be competitive.

"From what I've heard, Wynnum have been travelling not too bad this season," he said.

"They've had a tough start to the season having to play Rochedale and then Taringa and we'll just have to be more desperate than them on Sunday."

Wynnum coach George Cowie said he was disappointed the Wolves had not picked up any points in the first two games.

"Our finishing has got to improve," Cowie said.

"We need to have more from our front players but we also need to get the breaks.

"I felt we were extremely unlucky not take anything out of the game on the weekend ... That's football I suppose!

"At one stage I was concerned we could have folded but that wasn't the case and I was pleased with the way the boys hung in there."

Cowie said both teams would be eager for a win on Sunday.



"Someone will get something out of this weekend," he said.

"I don't know a lot about Coalstars and I'll be glad when we've made it through Round 1 as I'll have more of an idea of what each team has to offer."

COALSTARS V WYNNUM DISTRICT Eric Evans Resv., Bundamba Sunday March 23, 2,45pm

CO	ALSTARS	WY	NNUM
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PREMIER PREVUE - Beenleigh v Bundaberg

Beenleigh will meet Bundaberg at Chris Green Park on Sunday, March 23 at 2.45pm.

Lions coach Peter Bannon said his team would need to capitalise on their opportunities.

"We performed creditably against City," Bannon said.

"We improved in some areas; defensively we were a little bit better.

"However, I'm a bit concerned about the quality of our finishing.

"We got ourselves into a number of goalscoring positions but failed to put the ball in the back of the net.

"We either snatched at the shot or blasted it high or wide, and you just can't afford to miss as many opportunities as we did."

Bannon said he was expecting to come up against a confident Bundaberg side.

"Bundaberg are largely unknown to us but they have got some quality players in Warren Allen, Daren Bender and Steve Starr," he said.

"There's no doubt it's going to be a tough match and we just have to take each game as it comes.

"We're still settling down and all the places in the starting line-upare up for grabs.

"Those players who have got the positions have got to keep working hard to ensure they hang onto them."

Bundaberg coach Aldo Baretta said he had not managed to see Beenleigh in action this season.

"All I know about Beenleigh is that they beat Coalstars in Round 1," Baretta said.

The win against Coalstars last week had provided some welcome relief for Baretta.



"It was a big load of my shoulders and I was particularly pleased with the way we turned it around from our last match," he said.

"We had our backs against the wall but we showed tenacity in defence and good team spirit."

Baretta said playing at home was a huge advantage to his side.

BEENLEIGH V BUNDABERG Chris Green Park, Beenleigh Sunday March 23, 2.45pm BEENLEIGH **BUNDABERG** Michael Bainbridge Chris Roche Brett Druerv 2. Nick Maas 2. Michael Roland 3. 3. Giuseppi Baraza 4 Dean Milosevic Stephen Starr **Kieran Calloway** 5 John Giovannoni 5. Anthony Roche **Tony Roebuck** 6. 6 7. Wayne Hinton Michael Legg 8. Brett Jones 8 Luke Graham 9. **Ross Smart** Anthony Brown 10. Rodney Cooper 10. Fotis Skordou 11. Troy Wickstein 11. Warren Allen 12. Michael Leake 12. Chris Wilson 13. Ross Davidson 13. Sean Hunt 14. Joe Morris 14. Shaun Aslett 15. Darren Bender 15. Lee Preston 16. Mark Lederhose 16. Paul Fagan 17. (Not allocated) 17. (Not allocated) 18. Alan Gordon 18. (Not allocated) 19. (Not allocated) 19. (Not allocated) 20. Chris Balke 20. Ross Barbera

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PREMIER PREVUE - Taringa v Bris Lions

Taringa Rovers will play Brisbane Lions at Jack Speare Park on Sunday, March 3 at 2.45pm.

Taringa followed their first round 6-2 thrashing of Bundaberg with a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Wynnum on the weekend.

Taringa coach John Ogden said his side had showed a lot of character during the match.

"I thought we played well in difficult conditions and deserved the win," Ogden said.

"Wynnum are a gritty side and it's always a hard match down there so it was very pleasing to come away with the points."

However, Ogden said he was disappointed with his team's inability to capitalise on number of scoring opportunities.

"We need to improve our finishing," he said.

"We created a lot of opportunities but only managed to score one goal."

Ogden said the match against the reigning premiers would be a "great game".

"I saw them (Lions) play in the Silver Boot competition and I think it's fair to say that they're in a rebuilding stage," he said.

"They have several players we'll have to watch and we'll have to be on top our game to make sure we obtain maximum points."

Lions coach Miron Bleiberg said his team would go into the match as underdogs.

"Taringa are a strong team right across the park," he said.

"They are full of youth and enthusiasm and we'll be giving them the full respect they deserve.

Lions remain without a win after two rounds but Bleiberg is not panicking.



"You have to put things in perspective, we've played against what I believe to be the two top teams in the competition in the first two rounds of the season," he said.

"I think you can only really gauge how the team is going after a full round of matches have been completed."

TARINGA ROV V BRISBANE LIONS Jack Speare Park, Indooroopilly

Sunday March 23, 2.45pm

TARINGA ROVERS	BRISBANE LIONS
 Anthony Hobbs John Hale Laurence Inunciaga Stein Grodum Danny Britton Shaun Sleep Brent Read Demetri Theochari Danny Stowers Darnen Hillier Ian Hutchison Stuart Collins Marc Flemington Matthew Packer Glen Kolpak Scott Robertson Des Hughes Shaun Molenda Brad Ditton Scott Higgins 	 Robbie Farrow David Lonsdale Ibro Cahut Cliff Tuck David Hunter Mark Geritz Steve Jackson Robert Pudja Greg Di Losa Kevin Meacock Martin Matula Roy Huth Craig Rogers Anthony Cotton Chase Bursnall Adam Daly (Not allocated) (Not allocated) (Not allocated) (Not allocated) Ason Lucas
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PREMIER PREVUE - Bris City v Rochedale

Brisbane City meet form side Rochedale Rovers at Spencer Park on Sunday at 2.45pm.

City coach Bob Hamilton said the match would gauge the validity of his side's premiership aspirations.

"There's no doubt they're the team to beat at the moment," Hamilton said.

"They have a potent attacking force and have a lot of experience and ability in their side.

"They've got strength all over the park and look as though they've got good balance."

Hamilton said he was satisfied with the team's performance against Beenleigh in Round 2.

"We won the match in a similar fashion to the way we beat Lions," he said.

"However, we need to improve further if we are going to be any chance of beating Rochedale."

Hamilton said his team would have create and score more goals.

"We have to improve the attacking side of our game," he said.

"We're looking solid at the back and in midfield but we're not quite as sharp as we should be up front."

Rochedale coach Gary McDowall said his side had a tough early season draw.

"We played the premiers last week and now we're up against the other grand finalists this week." McDowall said.

"They're sure to be confident after two victories; it's going to be a tough match for us."

Rochedale's revered attacking prowess has been exampled in the early part of the season.

"If you score as many goals as we have in

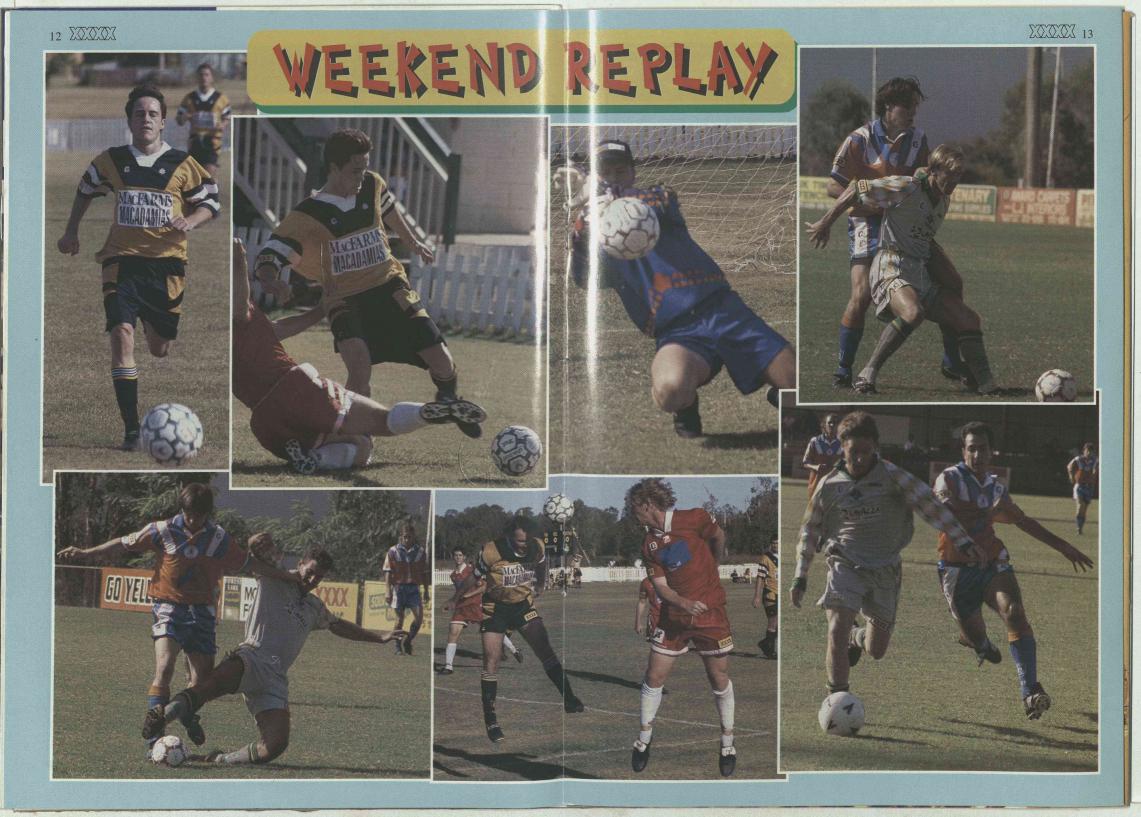


our first two matches, it's always a bonus," McDowall said.

"However, I believe it's important to win by playing some nice soccer and I think we're doing that at the moment.

"We're looking a lot tighter all round and we've got a great bunch of lads in the squad."

BRISBANE CITY v ROCHEDALE Spencer Park, Newmarket Sunday March 23, 2.45pm **ROCHEDALE ROVERS BRISBANE CITY** Clint Dal Santo Daniel Duke Andy Munument 2. Craig Paulett 3. Nick Seeley Anthony Scodellaro Michael Lane Mark Greer Damian Harris Wayne Strange 5. Eddie Lees 6. 6. Scott Elliott Craig Collins **Cameron** Pearce Andy Lees 8. Simon Eslick 8. **Kieran** Cooper 9. Warren Cooley 9 10. Clayton Koch Shane Haddow 10. 11. John Weatherby 11. Fiore Bartilomo 12. David Pilic 12. Robert Kidd 13. Paul Grugan 13. Stephen Glockner 14. Steve Dawe 14. Dean Almond 15. Steve Fitzsimmons 15. John Schiavo 16. (Not allocated) 16. Tony De Lange 17. Gary Brattan 17. Barry Wilkinson 18. Greg Anderson 18. Darryl Grundy 19. Aaron Baldwin 19. Mark Lubric 20. Cameron Duck 20. Adriano Taraborrelli



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THE XXXX REPORT

BEENLEIGH 0 v BRISBANE CITY 1 (0-0) at Chris Green Park

SCORER: Brisbane City: D.Almond (1)
BEENLEIGH: Roche, Rowland, Davidson, Galloway, Wickstein, Jones, Hinton, Druery, Leake, Preston, Skordou. (Subs: Lederhose, Smart, Morris, Balke)
BRISBANE CITY: Duke, Elliot, Greer, Strange, Wilkinson, Almond, Eslick, Cooley, Kidd, Bartilomo, Grundy. (Subs: De Lange, Paulett, Dessi, Luburic, Taraborrelli)

BUNDABERG WAVES 3 v COALSTARS 0 (1-0) at Thabedan Sports Complex SCORERS: Bundaberg: D. Bender (2), G. Barazza BUNDABERG: Bainbridge, Barazza, Starr, Giovannoni, Roebuck, Graham, Brown, Allen, Wilson, Bender, Fagan. (Subs: Maas, Aslett, Hunt, Driver) COALSTARS: Cassidy, Boyle, King, Petie, Hinks, Jefferd, Bennett, Park, McKendrick, Adams, Hilli (Subs: Guest, Hallett, Stenzel, Cuba, Daranja)

WYNNUM 0 v TARINGA 1 (0-1) at Carmichael Park SCORER: Taringa: D. Britton (1)

WYNNUM: Underhill, Adair, Wood, McKinless, Maltby, Van Basten, Davidson, Rogers B., Rogers D., Conway. (Subs: Wilkins, Popplewell, Hadland, McCullough) TARINGA: Higgins, Innunciaga, Britton, Read, Theochari, Stowers, Hillier, Hutchison, Kolpak, Hughes, Ditton. (Subs: Collins, Flemington, Packer, Robertson, Dickens)

BRISBANE LIONS 3 v ROCHEDALE 4 (1-2) at Lions Stadium SCORERS: Lions: G. Di Losa (1), S. Jackson (2)

Rochedale: E. Lees (1), A. Lees (1), S. Fitzsimmons (2) LIONS: Farrow, Jackson, Lonsdale, Cahut, Tuck, Watson, Rogers, Huth, Geritz, Poggi, Di Losa (Subs: Lucas, Matula, Pudja, Georgiou, Meacock) ROCHEDALE: Dal Santo, Bratten, Weatherby, Lane, Harris, Lees E., Cooper, Lees A., Koch, Pilic, Dawe.(Subs: Duck, Collins, Fitzsimmons, Monement)



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WOMEN'S WRAP UP

Queensland has set itself up in a commanding position in the Ansett Australia Summer Series holding top position in the Northern Conference with ten points.

In the Southern zone South Australia has 13 points and appear to be the major contender for the title.

The Series finals kick off this week in Canberra with all six teams playing in a round robin competition.

By all accounts, the inaugural national women's competition has been a fantastic success with great potential to grow into a fulltime competition.

Rep teams gear up

Brisbane North and South representative teams stepped into training this week in preparation for the State Titles in June.

Brisbane nominates six teams in the carnival, three from each zone.

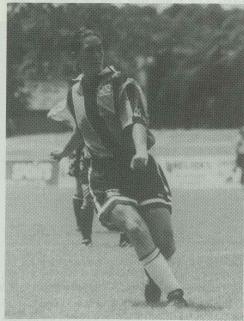
Grades for the carnival include junior, youth and open teams.

The carnival will be played for the first time at North Star's grounds, the only fields on the north side big enough to handle the growing competition with a record thirty teams expected to nominate this year.

Winners last year in the open competition were Brisbane South who also took out the youth title, and Wide Bay, who won the junior competition in their first year.

Watson Shield finalised

Nominations are all but finalised for the Watson Shield to be held on April 18 - 19 in Brisbane.



Kim Revell is part of the Queensland side sitting atop the Northern Conference ladder. The series finals round robin begins this week in the nations capital

The Carnival, in its twenty-first year, sees eight Brisbane Premier League teams and eight country teams vying for the title.

Visiting teams include Lismore (who appeared in the original cup), Bundaberg, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast with Brisbane teams making up the remainder.

The competition is seeded and after Round one, the eight losing teams peel off and play for the Consolation Cup, while the eight winning teams battle it out for the Watson Shield.

My tip for the cup is Brisbane Easts. They are the team to beat as they have won 14 of the past 20 titles. - Toni Slater

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18 20,000 **City's own Braveheart returns**

It's been a long off-season for Brisbane City. The team has had to endure the memories of their loss to Brisbane Lions in last year's grand final. Some key players have moved on and it's fair to say the club is in a rebuilding stage. City supporters are hoping the return of favourite son Bobby Hamilton from his Scottish sojourn will ensure the club goes one better in season '97.

Hamilton was born in Lanarkshire. Scotland. He played for Scottish Premier League side Motherwell from 1974-1978 before joining Brisbane City as a player in April 1980.

He played for the club in the national league before coaching Pine Rivers for five years from 1987.

Hamilton returned to Brisbane City in the role of reserves coach in 1993. That position lasted three weeks before he took over as top team coach from 1993 - 1995.

Like many players who view retirement with indifference, Hamilton said coaching had given him an opportunity to remain a part of the game.

first served... make up your team NOW!

"Everyone comes to a point where their playing days are over and from there it is the love the game which keeps you involved," he said.

"Over the years you pick up knowledge which you then want to pass on to younger players."

Barry Wilkinson and Robby Kidd are a couple of those players at the club that Hamilton believes might make an impact on the Premier League.

"Both are young players with lots of promise who have moved up from colts a couple of years ago and are now vying for first team places."

Hamilton said he was happy to get maximum points from two games but was still coming to terms with playing personnel.

"The squad has been a little slow to take shape."

"We're not quite as well prepared as I'd hoped due to some players being unavailable because of suspensions which have carried over from last year."



SERVED... OR IS THAT TEE OFF!



The new eight team XXXX Premier League was eagerly anticipated during the off-season, and it seems the clubs are already bearing fruit from its implementation.

At the two games Taringa Rovers have played this year, crowds have been up on last year, a result most club's appear to be enjoying as a result of the streamlined competition and higher standard of football.

Interestingly, after two rounds, last year's premiers and grand final winners Brisbane Lions are struggling near the foot of the table.

They started the season with arguably the league's toughest draw, facing Brisbane City and Rochedale in the first two weeks. To make matters worse, they now face top-of-the-league Taringa Rovers this week.

Lions fate clearly illustrates how competitive the league is this year. The four clubs who enjoyed early season favouritism - Lions, City, Rochedale and Taringa - play each other in three week blocks.

One of these clubs, if they can grab at least seven and possibly nine points from those three games, can steal a march on the rest of the league.

Alternatively, if one of the club's was to lose the three games, they would find themselves amongst the "also-rans".

Combine meeting those three with competitive matches against Wynnum, Bundaberg, Coalstars and Beenleigh away from home and it adds up to a potent draw.

Meanwhile, the number of Brisbane Strikers playing in the local league is set to increase with several players either off contract or being released by the Ericsson Cup club.



Brisbane Strikers' Brad Ditton is wearing the Taringa Rovers for the winter season.

With only eight teams in the XXXX Premier League, the number of players with NSL experience in the league is as high as it's been in a long time.

That can only be a positive thing for the style of soccer played. All that needs to be done now is make the conditions more feasible for quality games.

Particularly early in the season, the QSF should be looking at playing more Saturday and Friday night games. I realise the clubs want to play on Sundays, but rather than having three, and sometimes four games competing against each other in Brisbane, the games need to be spread out over the weekend.

One on Friday night, one on Saturday night and two games at the most on Sunday is the common sense approach.

Olympic to be adventurous

The Semi-Pro Division 1 Cup gets under way this weekend with Olympic United to host Inala City at Goodwin Park on Sunday.

The home side should be relatively fresh following the cancellation of their league match against The Gap last weekend due to floodlight failure during the half-time interval.

Olympic coach Paddy Higgins said his side was determined to have a big say in this season's Cup and was confident Olympic would adapt easily to the dual-tie format.

"We're looking forward to going further in the Cup than we did in the Silver Boot in the pre-season where I felt we were very unlucky," he said.

Higgins said the League was his top priority but the Cup gave him the opportunity to experiment with different players and tactics which he might then incorporate in his side's League campaign.

"We can perhaps afford to be a little more adventurous in the Cup," he said.

Inala City are currently on a high at the top of Semi-Pro Division 1 South after thrashing Rocklea United 5-0 on the weekend and coach Ian Seeley is also intending to give some of his fringe players an opportunity to show their worth this week.

"I've got 15 or 16 players in the first grade squad and I'll probably give some of my less experienced players a run in the Cup tie," he said.

"I feel all these players should be able to step into the side at any stage of the season and perform, and this is their chance to prove that to me."

The Gap unsure of Redlands

The Gap will also play host in the Semi-Pro Division 1 Cup when they meet Redlands United at Walton Bridge Reserve on Sunday.

Gap coach Geoff Nicholson admits to being a little unsure of the best approach for the Cup format saying he was a virgin to this type of competition.

"It's entering new ground for us as it's a format that many of us have not been involved in before," he said.

Nicholson says he does have an idea of what to expect from his side's opposition however, having already met Redlands in the pre-season and is looking forward to playing them again.

"They beat us 4-0 in our first pre-season match of the year but we've had plenty of time to improve and we'll certainly be giving it our best shot on the weekend," he said. Nicholson's counterpart, Redlands coach Chris Beswick, said he was also new to the Cup structure but was enthusiastic about his side's chances.

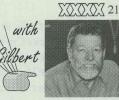
"I'm quite looking forward to it as the twolegged Cup format isn't something I've been involved in before," he said.

Beswick said he had some knowledge of his side's opposition having coached Capalaba in the same division as The Gap last year, as well as getting a preview of this year's side in their pre-season clash.

Despite the favourable scoreline in that match, Beswick was not prepared to say he expected a comfortable ride through to the next round.

"The 4-0 scoreline in the pre-season was a good result for us but I don't think you can really read too much into pre-season results," he said.

Before The Whistle Jim Gilbert



Time to have an early look at tables, and with the Cup taking precedence in the Semi Pro Divisions, I will cast an eye over the Amateur Division tables after 3 rounds of fixtures.

In Division 1 University and Latrobe are sitting pretty with a 100% record and have an excellent goal difference, whilst 4 teams will not be too unhappy with their positioning.

University's backup is looking quite substantial too, as their reserves together with their Division 3 side are also undefeated at the top, their Division 5 side is sitting mid-table, pity about Division 6!

Just have a look at how congested the table is, in Division 2, with 4 teams virtually neck and neck, at the moment only goal difference is separating them, looks to be a most interesting Division this one.

As pointed out earlier, Uni are top of Division 3 with Samford giving them a great nudge, in Division 4 the 'older stagers' of Taringa and Acacia Ridge are once again showing their strength and depth, whilst surprise packets in Division 5 are Woodridge and Mt Gravatt, the only team with an unbeaten record in Division 6 are the "veterans" from Coalstars.

Semi Professional Leagues

As pointed out else-where in this magazine, a number of officials from the Semi Professional Clubs came into Perry Park last week to make the draw, and I am indebted to the representatives from Albany Creek - Capalaba



- Easts - Inala - Mt Gravatt and Slacks Creek for giving of their time.

Put simply, we put all ten North teams in one barrel and all ten (including bye) teams from South in the other barrel, and asked the club representatives to make a draw from each of the two barrels, thereby ensuring that in the first round of the Cup Competition at least, clubs are playing against teams they do not normally meet in fixtures, the interesting part of the First Round, is the fact that it is played over two legs, home and away, thus providing a further home game for all clubs.

So tipping in the first round of the Cup will be most interesting!

Semi Professional - Cup

In the matches on Saturday, the first one to be previewed is most difficult, with both clubs Acacia Ridge and Grange sitting in unaccustomed bottom places on the table, home ground seems to favour a first-up win for the boys in blue.

Albany Creek versus Mt Gravatt is almost similar, the two sides did meet in a pre season competition, however on this occasion I would tip a home win yet again.

A real tester is the next match to be previewed between Capalaba and Toowoomba, home side yet to hit their straps in fixtures, whilst the Toowoomba side is currently top of their table, could be an interesting score draw in this one.

The match at Heath Park also looks to be interesting with Easts meeting a very inconsistent Rocklea, and on that factor alone Easts should take a good result into the second leg with them. Mitchelton, currently enjoying an excellent run in their league, host St Helens, who at this juncture have only played one

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fixture, it still looks to be a good win for the home side, Slacks Creek similarly having only played one match, and a high scoring one at that, host North Star in a much more even-looking contest, however home side should pick up a valuable 3 pointer going into their second leg.

Remaining Saturday match is between Souths and Pine Rivers, both sides yet to really show any great form, again looks to be a home win.

In the Sunday games Olympic versus Inala should (on paper at least) be a win for the visitors, with Olympic yet to show what they can really do with only one fixture under their belt, remaining match between The Gap and Redlands again pits two teams from the lower echelons of the table, and with the visitors yet to score a goal, they may well be hard pressed to do so in this one.

So in re-capping, it could well be a bonanza for all the home sides in the first leg.

Amateur Division 1

One match on Friday between Moggill and a rampant University, doesn't look like the home side will pick up their first win in this one.

Two matches on Saturday afternoon sees table propping Bayside hosting Annerley, and if current form is any guide the blues will most decidedly go home without the blues, meanwhile up at Darra, home side will look to get back on track with their match against unbeaten Latrobe, and I think they may do just that.

On Sunday Redcliffe host North Pine, and the baysiders will need to be at their best in this one, but they may just do it, Goodna, languishing (for them) in a most unaccustomed position, host Samford and they may well pick up their first win of the season, and score their first goals.

The remaining match between South Star and Eagles will be most interesting, with Eagles picking up their first win, and an excellent one at that last week, similarly South Star suffered their first loss, however home ground advantage looks to be a pointer as to where the points will go.

Amateur Division 2

As mentioned earlier, such is the tightness of this table, that tipping could be a hazardous occupation for the next few weeks!

All matches this weekend are on Saturday, Jimboomba v Mooroondu is the first one to preview, both sides yet to register their first win, however if their current form remains, they both will be a moral to be picked in the pools for a draw, however home side may sneak through with a 3 pointer in this one.

Oxley make the trip to Greenbank, and with the visitors goals against column looking as bleak as it is, I very much doubt if they will take any points home in this match.

One of the equal top teams Park Ridge, host Pine Hills and the Ridge should stay at the top of the table after this one, meanwhile Brothers, who are at the top on goal difference host Bethania, with Brothers also remaining in top spot after this one.

Remaining match is again a difficult one between Clairvaux and Margate, both sides scoring goals, both sides with a reasonable defence, and an awful lot at stake in this one, as the loser (if there is one) will drop quite a few rungs, it all points to a score draw, and on one of my rare occasions, that's where I will remain.

Amateur Division 3

In the lone match on Friday Annerley should retain all 3 points over North Pine, whilst in the Saturday games Samford with that tremendous 100% record should be too strong for Woodridge, and Kingsridge should similarly keep up their charge for the top with a win over Bayside. Only one match on Sunday between



Archerfield and Ipswich City, with the home side still looking to break through for their first win, it may be in this match, however it will be tough.

Amateur Division 4

Quite a number of matches scheduled for Friday night, so for those players at least come Saturday, they will have an opportunity to help their spouses with the shopping, cut the lawn, paint the house etc.

Two teams near the top of the table Gap vCapalaba should be a cracker, visitors better goal-scoring credentials may see them through in this one, but it certainly won't be easy.

At Proud Field, the two teams who are at the top of the table Acacia Ridge and Taringa also meet with an awful lot at stake, just look at the goal difference of the two sides, I couldn't pick a winner on paper so I shut my eyes and used a pin and it came up with a win for the blues!

Brisbane Lions make the trip down to Slacks Creek also on Friday and going by the leakability of the home side, the Lions may return with the points, remaining match is between Albany Creek and Souths, neither side setting the table on fire at present, home ground advantage may be a pointer as to where the points will go.

One game on Saturday between Newmarket and Mitchelton could see the points remain at McCook Park, whilst on Sunday the battle for the wooden spoon continues, however North Star should leave Park Ridge entrenched at the bottom of the table in this one.

Amateur Division 5

These night games are a great idea, as in this Division a further three matches are scheduled on Friday, and as mentioned above leaves all players free to go and view other matches over the same weekend.

Albany Creek have the early game against Wynnum, with the visitors yet to hit their straps, but they may well take the points in this one, at Bundamba, Redlands make the long trip, but it may well be worthwhile for them, as I am sure the 3 points will return to Cleveland, remaining match is just down the road at Richlands Stadium with Easts as the visitors, and it looks very much like the hosts will, yet again, remain pointless.

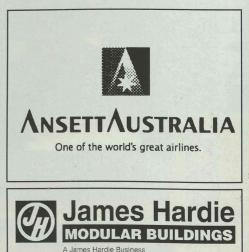
Two games on Saturday between Samford and Woodridge with the length of the table between them, will see the points return to Woodridge, similarly Mt Gravatt should enjoy their trip to Ebbw Vale and remain joint top of the table. In the one match on Sunday, University should retain all three points over Brisbane City.

Amateur Division 6

In the early match at The Gap, Capalaba will take all 3 points, at Bundamba Coalstars will ensure they remain sole leaders with all points over Taringa, Brisbane Lions will take the points home after their visit to Slacks Creek, whilst the Lions who remain at home should similarly retain all 3 points over Easts.

On Saturday Newmarket will continue their push for the top with a 3 pointer over Kingsridge, and they will be closely followed by Wynnum who will take all 3 points from University.

With thanks to the Two Ronnies: Dutch striker Budget van Rental was badly hurt after scoring a goal this afternoon. Nobody kissed him!



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