

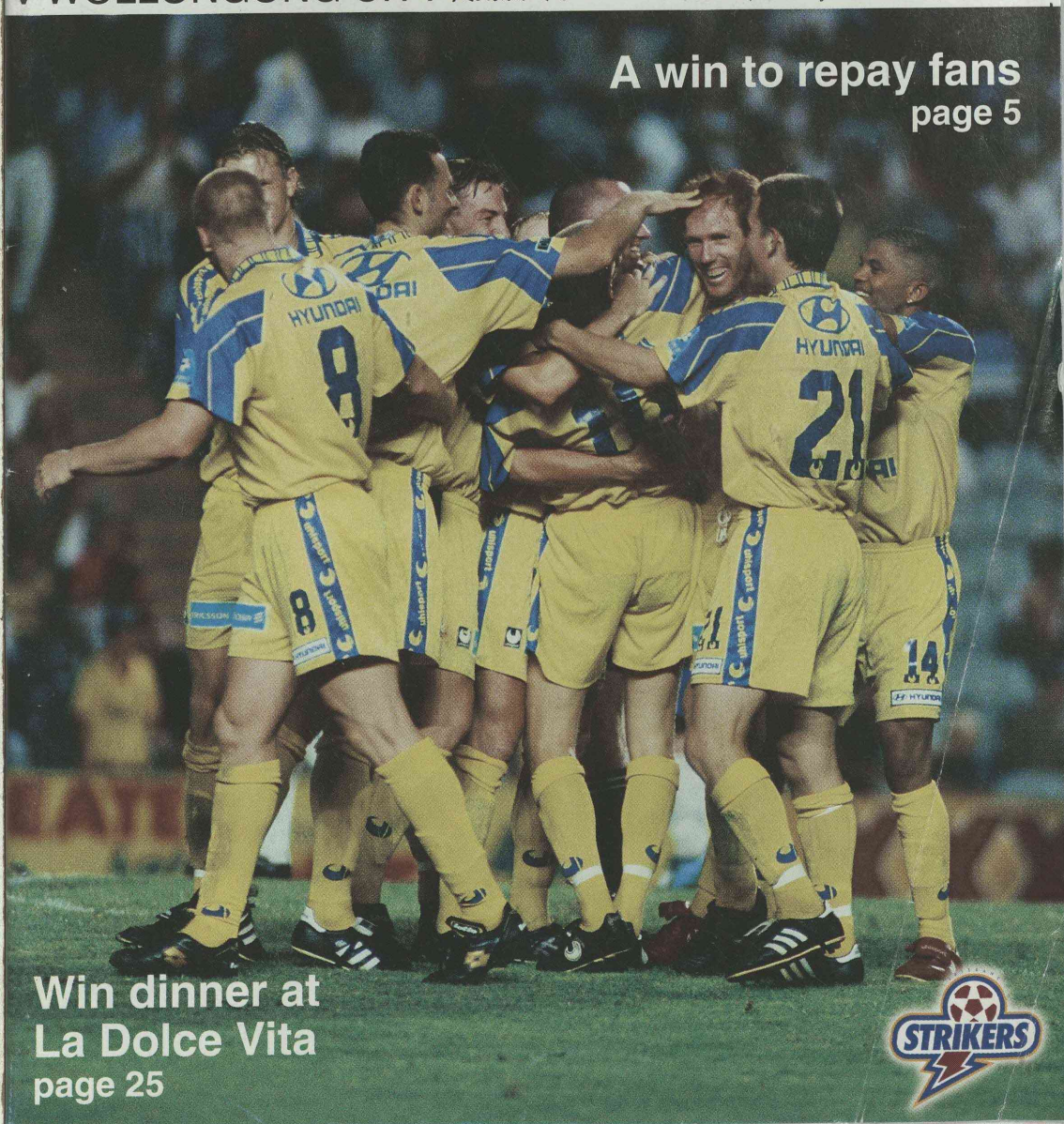
Eye On STRIKERS

Eye On Soccer is the
Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

v WOLLONGONG CITY *Round 16*

Vol 7-7, Saturday JANUARY 17, 1998 \$2.00

A win to repay fans
page 5



Win dinner at
La Dolce Vita
page 25



Coach's Comment

The season to date has been one which helps toughen a side. Although none of us think we need it and certainly we don't want it. It is nonetheless a positive we can take from our on-field fortunes to date.

It's also a testing time for supporters. There are those who will support us through thick and thin and there are those whose patience is severely tested.

That puts out a clear challenge because our supporters are very important to us, even those who very kindly provide advice!

Tonight's game won't be easy. Our opponents are the Wollongong Wolves, who are a team in top form. They'll also be keen for revenge because we defeated them in Round 2 down in Wollongong, 1-0.

Wollongong is a young, mobile and talented side who come to us after having knocked off one of the top title contenders for this season in fine style last week, defeating Adelaide City 2-1.

They are currently fifth on the Ericsson Cup ladder and they have the best for and against record of any other team. They might not have the pedigree of some other clubs, such as South Melbourne but they have a team which is working together and playing attractive football.

Their Fijian international, Esala Masi, captain Matt Horsley and young Scott Chipperfield, in particular, are in impressive form.

This is the second game of a very challenging six game series in which we meet the teams in the top half of the Ericsson Cup ladder.

Following South Melbourne last weekend and Wollongong tonight, our next four games are against Perth Glory, Sydney United, Carlton and Adelaide City.

As I said at the outset, it's a tough time ahead of us but we welcome the challenge.

Go the Strikers!

E-mail: farina@brisbanestrikers.com

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 Robert Thams - Matt Freke
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A win to repay fans loyalty

The Strikers need to secure three points from tonight's match against the Wolves from Wollongong.

Twelve points from 15 games has left the reigning champions languishing in third last on the league ladder.

While mathematically the Strikers are still a chance of making this season's finals series, most southern supporters have written the team off for this year.

However, player/coach Frank Farina believes his side can breathe life into its ailing fortunes and revive its finals aspirations with a win tonight.

"When we played them in Wollongong in Round 2 we beat them one-nil and I thought it was probably one of our best performances of the season," he said.

"It could have easily been three or four nil and we were unlucky to miss two or three great chances.

"There's no doubt they're a good side with the likes of Horsley, Chipperfield and their Fijian connection, Esala Masi in their ranks.

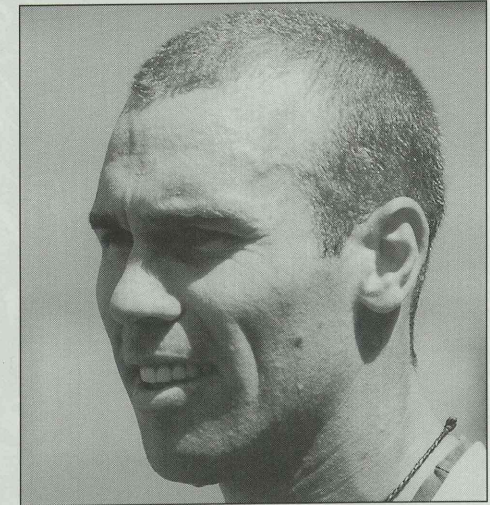
"But as we've always done, we won't go into the match with any specific plan on controlling the danger players.

"We'll try and focus on playing to our abilities and what we're good at doing and I'm confident that we will be able to get on top of them."

Farina said he was also conscious of the need to quell the masses and put on a good performance for the home crowd.

"We've got to try and give something back to the supporters who have been fantastic for us and have kept turning up week in and week out," he said.

"We owe the fans something that unfortunately, we haven't been giving them of late and it would be nice to repay their loyalty by playing to our full potential.



"We had a poor start to the season which was due to injuries to key players and some other minor problems.

"The rot set in and we've never been able to recover from those early setbacks, even though we've got guys like Kasey and Nick back in the side.

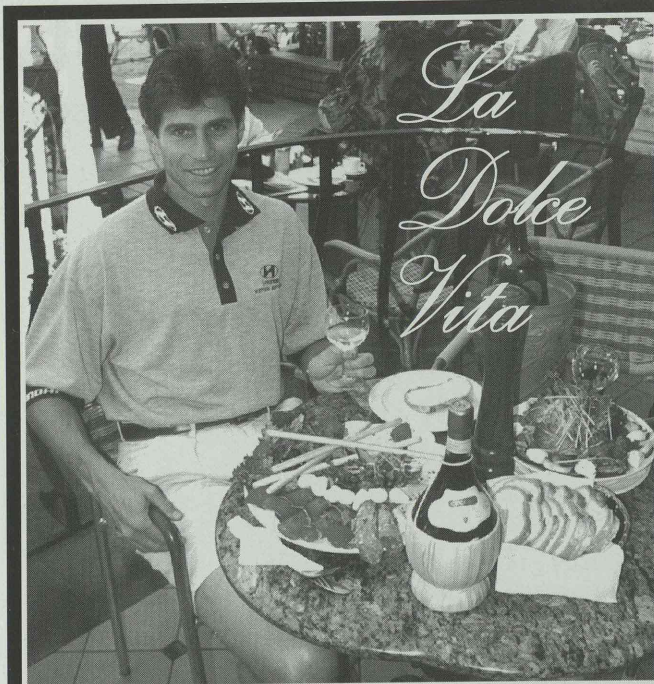
"Basically there's also been some bad form from players who in the past, we've relied on and built our team around.

"And it's not just one player fits that category, it's a lot of guys who are out of form and down on confidence which is a big factor in determining how well your doing as a team."

The Strikers are almost at full strength for this match with only Andy Brayshaw (pictured) missing from the squad as he is still recovering from arthroscopic surgery on his knee.

At the time of printing, Farina said tonight's starting line-up might have one or two changes in it from last week but added that he had not made any firm decisions.

He said last week's decision to promote Glenn Gwynne to the captaincy was due to his outstanding form over the last eight weeks and the fact that Nick Meredith had just returned to the side from injury.



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Tokesi - the quiet achiever

When the Strikers won last season's Ericsson Cup, there was only one name in town, Frank Farina.

For many die-hard and would-be soccer supporters, the boy from Mareeba in Queensland's far north, had taken a good football club and transformed it into a championship side in just eight months.

However, those who know, realise that Farina is just one half of the Strikers "brains trust".

Assistant coach Peter Tokesi is the other part of what has been a successful coaching marriage.

Tokesi or "Toska" as he is known, came to the Strikers in 1996 from the local XXXX league ranks, where he enjoyed a stint with Brisbane City.

Being part of a championship winning team in your first year in the Ericsson Cup coaching ranks is a hard act to beat, and Tokesi said he is enjoying his time with the team.

"Since I've been with the Strikers, Frank and I have built up a good rapport and we seem to be on the same wavelength," he said.

"From a personal point of view, things are going along nicely at the moment and when the time comes, I'll evaluate my situation and look towards the future."

The question remains though; who really calls the shots for the Strikers?

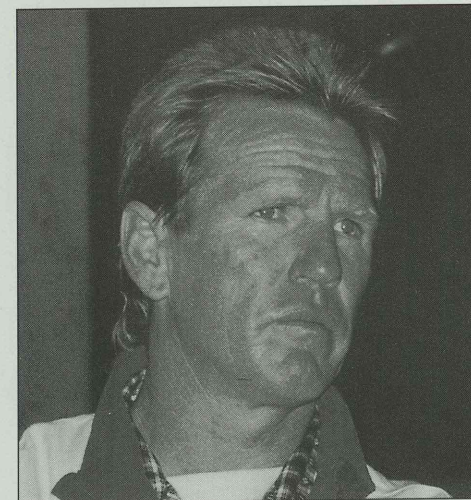
Farina said a collaborative approach to coaching the side has worked well to date.

"Peter's contribution to the team is invaluable," he said.

"He has his say and I have mine. It's a joint thing and we rarely disagree on matters.

"We share common views on critical aspects of the game and that's important because if there had been major differences, it would not have worked."

Tokesi's role is more "hands on" than many people might think.



Aside from the regular postmortems of matches, Tokesi assumes the reigns from the sideline on match night.

"Franks the boss and ultimately the decision is always his," Tokesi said.

"However, we're always discussing tactics and games plans, and when he's playing, I take some responsibility from the sideline in respect to substitutions and the like.

"The pre match talk is given by Frank and at half time, I do the talking and Frank adds his comments."

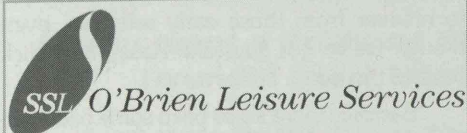
Tokesi said the highs of last season have certainly been tempered by a season that has failed to live up to expectations.

"With the exception of probably only last week where we were soundly beaten, I think we've been unlucky not to have more points.

"No-one has really outplayed us and to lose by a solitary goal each week is very frustrating.

"Also, I think the loss of Alan Hunter, Danny Wright and Gary Phillips has had an effect on the team.

"All of those guys were great talkers and I think a lot of our current problems could be resolved by simply better communication on the field."



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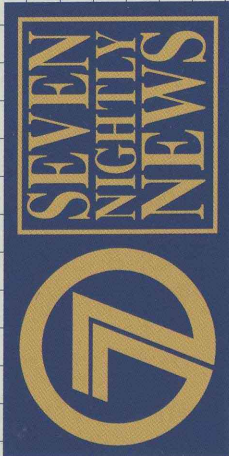


BRISBANE STRIKERS
1997/98 FIXTURES

Date Opponents F-A

Date	Opponents	F-A
Sat 4/10	South Melbourne	H 0-3
Fri 10/10	Wollongong City	A 1-0
Sat 18/10	Perth Glory	H 0-1
Fri 24/10	Sydney United	A 1-2
Sat 1/11	Carlton	H 0-1
Sun 9/11	Adelaide City	A 0-1
Sat 15/11	Canberra Cosmos	A 1-2
Sat 22/11	Melbourne Knights	H 1-2
Fri 28/11	Newcastle Breakers	A 2-1
Sat 6/12	UTS Olympic	H 1-0
Sat 13/12	Marconi Fairfield	A 0-1
Sat 20/12	West Adelaide	H 2-0
Sun 28/12	Gippsland Falcons	A 0-1
Sat 3/1	Gippsland Falcons	H 1-2
Fri 9/1	South Melbourne	A 1-5
Sat 17/1	Wollongong City	H
Sun 25/1	Perth Glory	A
Sat 31/1	Sydney United	H
Sat 21/2	Carlton	A
Sat 28/2	Adelaide City	H
Sat 7/3	Newcastle Breakers	H
Sun 15/3	Melbourne Knights	A
Sat 21/3	Canberra Cosmos	H
Sun 29/3	UTS Olympic	A
Sat 4/4	Marconi Fairfield	H
Sun 12/4	West Adelaide	A
League Appearances		
League Goals		

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1 Patton	▲	▲																					
2 Gymer	▲	▲																					
3 Bell																							
4 Zarich	▲	▲																					
5 Williams	▲	▲																					
6 Meredith	▲	▲																					
7 Farina	▲	▲																					
8 S. Gannoy	▲	▲																					
9 Brown	▲	▲																					
10 Weirman	▲	▲																					
11 C. Gannoy	▲	▲																					
12 Bettelheim	▲	▲																					
13 Tolmaren	▲	▲																					
14 Knappe	▲	▲																					
15 Breysman	▲	▲																					
16 Hewes	▲	▲																					
17 Harris	▲	▲																					
18 Cairns	▲	▲																					
19 Dixon	▲	▲																					
20 Ross	▲	▲																					
21 Parker	▲	▲																					
22 Harper	▲	▲																					
23 Greathed	▲	▲																					



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107	138	21	57	135	175	198	105	339	26	188	74	18	26	69	50	25	30	59	21	9	246	4
0	1	0	6	1	21	102	14	136	3	14	12	0	6	5	0	1	1	9	0	0	89	0

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

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Wolves - A brief history

by Andrew Howe

The Illawarra region of New South Wales, situated on the coast south of Sydney, has a rich soccer history. The region has traditionally thrived on the bustling activity of coal mines and associated heavy industry. Each coal mining area had its soccer team, and much rivalry existed between the various pits.

Three of the biggest clubs in the early to mid 1900's were Balgownie, Corimal and Woonona. In 1961 the latter two clubs came together to form South Coast United, who finished in the top four of the NSW state league each year between 1963 and 1966. Stars of this era included Max Tolson, Adrian Altson and Peter Wilson all of whom were members of the 1974 World Cup team. In 1963 South Coast United played APLA in the NSW grand final, which attracted a 30,158 crowd. This was the biggest crowd to watch a club game in Australia, a record that lasted 34 years until 40,446 turned up to witness the Strikers' 1997 A-league grand final triumph.

In 1980, the national league executive voted to increase the size of the A-league from 14 to 16 teams. The national league was also intent on expanding the geographic base of the league. A community-based team from the 300,000 person-strong Illawarra region was an obvious candidate.

Wollongong City entered the national league in 1981. Its first game, watched by 8000 at Wollongong Showgrounds, was a 3-

1 victory against a star-studded UTS Olympic. The Wolves went through their first eight games undefeated. Another good year in 1982 saw Wollongong finish third on the A-league ladder. But performances fizzled and the Wolves were relegated in 1986.

They soon returned to the national stage, after winning the 1987 NSW first division. And they arrived back with a bang. With the help of British guest players Trevor Francis, Alan Brazil and Paul Mariner, the Wolves finished the 1988 season in first position. A semifinal loss on penalties to Sydney United, destroyed any hope of appearing in the 1988 grand final.

Wollongong's biggest-ever win was a 7-0 home victory over Adelaide Sharks in March 1990. But just seven days later, at the same venue, they suffered their worst-ever loss - going down to St George 6-0! The Strikers' 4-0 win at Brandon Park in the 1996-97 season was the worst home defeat by the Wolves since then.

The Wolves have rarely been able to afford big name players, which perhaps explains poor crowds throughout the eighties and nineties. But an promotional push in the 1996-97 season saw crowds jump, highlighted by a 10,158 strong audience against Sydney United. This renewed interest by its success-starved supporters will no doubt transform the club into a successful unit - sooner rather than later.

Wollongong Wolves' statistical record against Brisbane

Season	Final Pos'n.	W'gong.Av. Crowd	Results in Brisbane	Results in Wollongong
1991-92	5th / 14	2700	2-1 Strikers	3-0 Wolves
1992-93	4th / 14	2700	3-2 Wolves	3-0 Strikers
1993-94	11th / 14	2500	2-0 Strikers	2-2
1994-95	8th / 13	3100	2-0 Strikers	2-0 Wolves
1995-96	11th / 12	2900	1-1	2-1, 1-0 both Strikers
1996-97	10th / 14	4700	2-1 Strikers	4-0 Strikers



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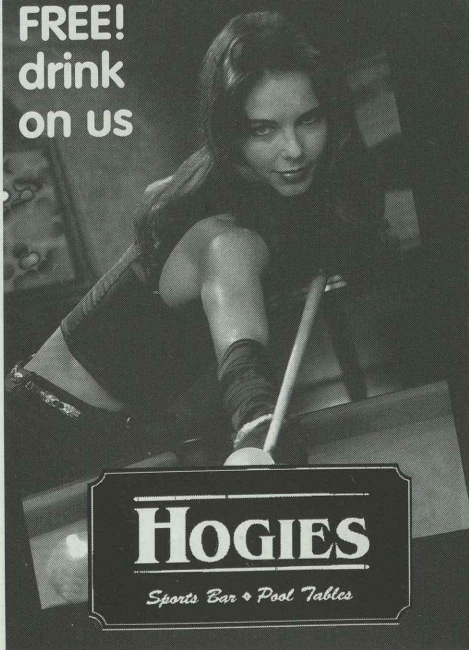
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Maybe down but not out

Strikers coach Frank Farina has refused to concede Brisbane's title defence is over, despite the side's poor first half of the season.

The Strikers have won just four games this year and their 5-1 thrashing at the hands of South Melbourne last weekend has many pundits believing their season is finished. But Farina believes the team is still in there with a fighting chance, albeit an extremely slim one.

"There's still eleven matches to go this season, and when the sums are done, we can still make the playoffs if we win nine of those games," the player/coach said.

"I realise that's a big ask and a lot of people would think that I'm crazy, but I know we have a team of players that are capable of doing the job."

Farina agreed he was still yet to find the right combination this season. He knows he's running out of time and realises the fans are getting a little impatient with the reigning champions.

"We haven't had much luck at all this season, but you really can't use that as an excuse," Farina said.

"We've struggled to put the right players on the pitch and haven't found a winning formula to date.

"But the side is stacked with talent and I believe we still have the ability to make the finals if we can just get things together and find that winning touch.

"I know the supporters are probably getting a bit fed up with seeing their team continually lose, but I'm confident things can change."

Farina said it was important some of the older, more experienced players found form and began to lead by example.

"Some of the older guys, myself included, have struggled a bit this year, but it's vital that they keep their heads up and show the younger lads the way," he said.

"With the blend of youth and experience we have in the side, we really should be doing a lot better."

As for last weekend's humiliating loss to South Melbourne, Farina remained philosophical.

"They're a very good side, and to come home with anything from down there is a big achievement," he said.

"As it turned out, they caught us early and we never really recovered.

"I think the scoreline flattered them a bit, but that's history now. We have to put that behind us and focus on the job at hand."

And that job's a tough and some would say near impossible one. Nine wins from eleven matches or 27 points from a possible 33.

But that isn't deterring the steely player/coach. He's faced big challenges before.

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In a season which has seen the Brisbane Strikers struggle to recapture their exhilarating form of last season, one thing has remained constant.

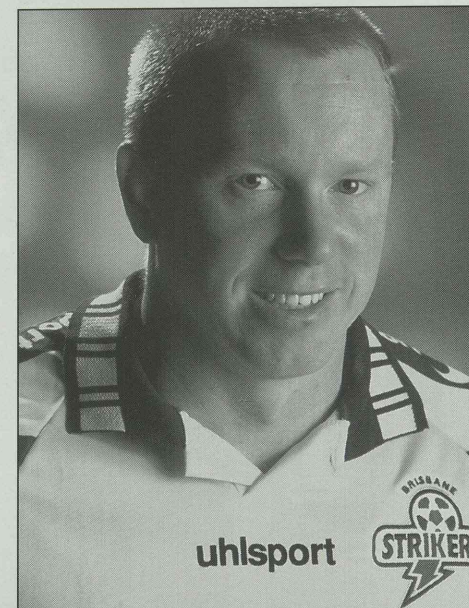
Week-in, week-out, midfielder Troy Cranney's name has appeared on the team sheet.

The 25-year-old has set new standards in resilience. Entering last weekend's game against South Melbourne, Cranney had played an incredible 78 consecutive games stretching back two-and-a-half years.

Unfortunately Cranney missed the trip to Melbourne with a calf strain and his record run ended.

But there seems little doubt the muscular Cranney should notch his 200th game within the next year.

His National Soccer league career began with Sunshine George Cross, who picked up the dynamic former Coalstars tyro after he had served a two-year stint at the Australian



Troy CRANNEY

by Brent Read

Institute of Sport.

"The AIS was good training every day, developing your fitness and getting a touch for the ball," Cranney said.

He was a member of the National Youth side against Israel and when Sunshine George Cross were demoted from the NSL, Cranney spent an off-season with Taringa before linking with Heidelberg.

Another off-season stint at Taringa was followed by his return to Brisbane and signing with brother Sean at Brisbane United.

The brothers have been a visible and vibrant part of Queensland soccer for more than five years.

With the Strikers battling to remain in finals contention, Troy has remained one of the side's most consistent players.

Last season he was the Strikers Player of the Year and Players Player of the Year.

"I was more consistent last year," Cranney said of his form this year. "But I'm improving

in certain areas."

Like coach Frank Farina, Cranney believes the Strikers have a chance of making the finals.

"We have to treat every game like a grand final from now on," he said.

"We have to start winning at home for sure. If you win most of your games at home it takes a lot of the pressure off.

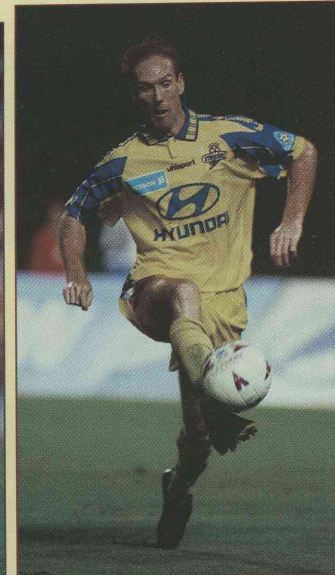
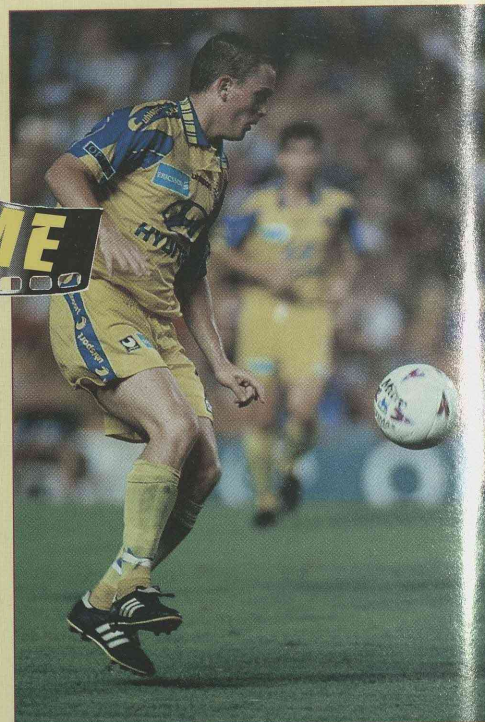
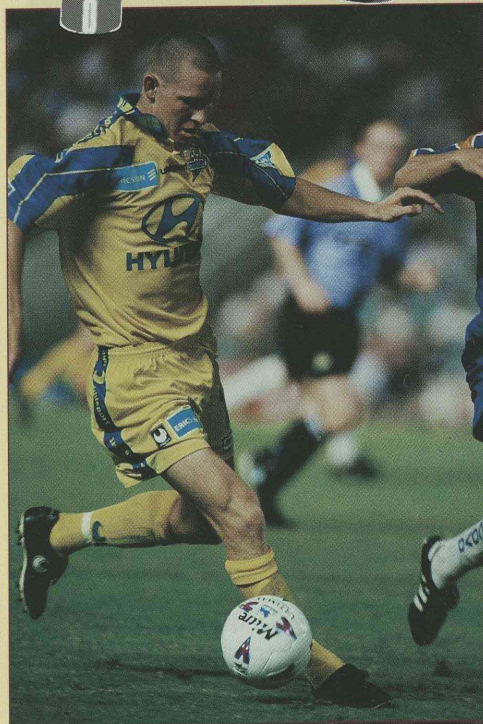
On the Strikers early season form, Cranney believes the side wasn't far short of finding a winning formula.

"I think at the beginning of the year we just didn't score enough goals," Cranney said.

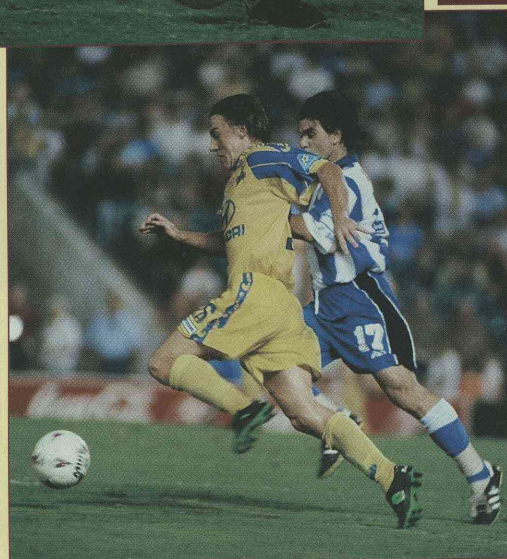
"We weren't playing too bad. The season just gets away from you. Then you're under pressure."

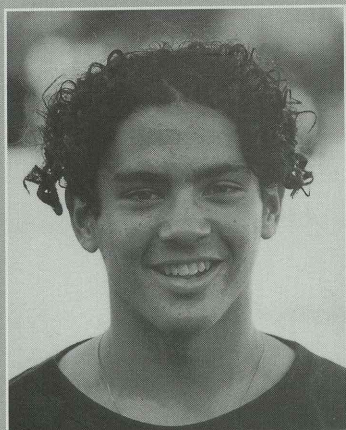
This weekend's game is a crunch match for the side. The Wolves have been one of the season's surprise sides and Cranney believes players such as Matt Horsley and Scott Chipperfield will have to be watched closely.

FREEZE FRAME



Two home matches have past since the last publication. A victory over West Adelaide and a defeat to Gippsland Falcons... Frank Arok's boys did it again. Kasey Wehrman made a return to the Suncorp turf... It had been a long time since we had seen him strut his stuff. Wayne Knipe turned out in his red Uhlsport boots and Nick Meredith chose blue ones. Steve Laybutt was dominant in the air as he always is and Brownie now has 136 goals to his credit... More please Rod! Young Andrew Packer continues to play like a veteran as does Chay Heys and Glenn Gwynne can still lay claim as to being the best sweeper in the country.





FRANCIS COSSON

Q.A.S.

Born: 4/9/81
Where: Paris, France
Previous Club: Brisbane City
Position: Midfield
Nickname: "Bruge"
Hobbies: Tennis, Swimming
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Who would you most like to meet? Michel Platini
Favourite Clothing: Smart casual
Bad Habits: Swearing
On rainy days? Sleep
School: Kelvin Grove High
Most Memorable Game: Playing the AIS (3-3)
Career Ambitions: To represent my country and play professional football overseas
Favourite Car: Porsche
Favourite Babe: Dee Inns
Favourite Band: JK & 2Pac
Sporting Heros: Paul Gascoigne, Ronaldo

Curtain Raiser

with Gary Phillips

We travelled to Sydney last weekend to play UTS Olympic colts going down 3-2.

In what could be a result which will come back to haunt us in weeks to come, nobody realised the trouble we were in until the final whistle blew.

A game where sadly, everybody just drifted along in their comfort zone enjoying a really slow uninspiring match.

Jade North scored a great far post header after some good lead up work by Morgan Cawley to put us one up.

UTS scored two after that, before Alan Cameron scored another good header to equalise, but as so often happens after a team scores is when they are most vulnerable, within 30 seconds UTS scored the winner.

Jade North and Shane Stefanitto were two of our better performers on a pretty ordinary afternoon.

This week's encounter, against very formidable opposition in Wollongong, who sit one point below us on the NYL ladder will be very tough.

In Round 1, we drew 0 - 0 down in the city of Wollongong, in a game both teams could have won convincingly.

Our opposition's competitiveness will need to be matched if we are to maintain our unbeaten record at home.

I hope you enjoy tonight's curtain raiser but remember your support for the QAS team, that is playing in it's own important competition, is very much appreciated by all the players and myself.

Go the QAS!

13 13 00

(flies you anywhere in Australia)



ANSETT AUSTRALIA

QAS SQUAD NEWS

Congratulations to our present assistant coach Tony Buesnel, who was recently appointed Director of Coaching of the ACT. Tony's work here was always of the highest quality, he will be missed here at the academy and in the Brisbane South region as well.

Tony, on behalf of all the players and support staff, I'd like to wish you the very best with your new position and if you get cold during winter think of us on the Gold Coast!

And just a quick welcome back to former assistant Rob Kaiser, who recently toured Germany with an elite U/16 Queensland team. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the minus 30 odd degrees.

A tough time coming up with injuries to key players including, Daniel Invincible (double corks!), Wade Baldwin (foot), Allan Cameron (ankle) and Chris Day (knee). Daryl Hathway has a severe bout of the flu and has been unable to train for a couple of weeks.

There is also a Joeys (U/17) camp at the end of this month which may include, James Johnson, Mark Davidson, Wayne Srhoj, Jade North, Garrett Dorey and Malcolm Van De Graff, all U/16 players. All have performed very well in their first year with the QAS and very bright futures awaits.

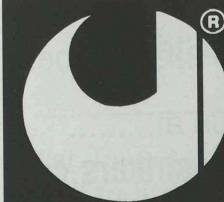
The latest news on Sterling Collier, one of our goalkeepers who was involved in a serious

car accident prior to Christmas, is that he has made a remarkable recovery.

Our resident chaplain Rob Mann, has been praying at his bed side. Rob informs me Sterling is always running around and is quite adamant that he will play soccer again soon. This is really great news!

OUR QAS FRONTLINE

- * Wade Baldwin
- * Royce Brownlie
- * Allan Cameron
- * Francis Cosson
- * Mark Davidson
- * Christopher Day
- * Grant Dickens
- * Duncan Easton
- * Daniel Invincible
- * Jade North
- * Shane Stefanitto
- * Aaron Thiesfield
- * Darryl Hathway
- * Wayne Srhoj
- * Angelo Cootes
- * Malcolm van de Graaff
- * Morgan Cawley
- * Shane Smeltz
- * Jamie Johnson



uhlSport

**PROUD SUPPORTERS
OF THE QAS
SOCCER TEAM**

They too will FEEL THE PASSION

Junior Social Club

STRIKERS' HOLIDAY COACHING CLINIC

It's not too late for the Strikers' holiday coaching clinic to be held at Perry Park. **January 19 - 21, 8.30am - 12 noon.**

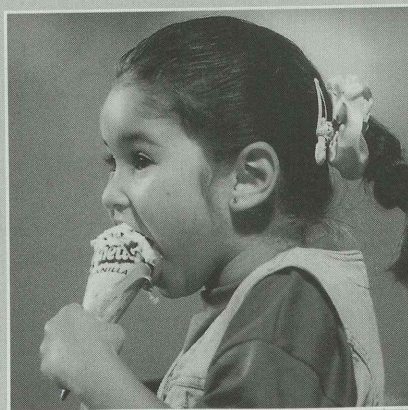
The cost is \$135, including coaching from Strikers' players, a t-shirt, ball, poster, drink, sun protection cream, family pass to the 17 or 31 January game and a discount voucher on Frank Farina

Uhs!port soccer boots. For reservations, contact **3236 1888.**

If you've missed out these holidays, then there will be a shorter clinic in the Easter school holidays. Reserve your place now!

Face Painting!
Get your face painted every home game. **STRIKERS** colours only! from 6.00pm down near the Strike squad!

IS THIS YOU?



Then you win...

...a Strikers Rule T-shirt!! Just take yourself down to the Hyundai Sonata behind the goals to be identified and the T-shirt is yours.... Congratulations!!

SURF THE WEB WITH THE STRIKERS

at: www.brisbanestrikers.com

and also buy the Strikers' Surfers' t-shirt!

You can E-mail us at.....

strikers@brisbanestrikers.com
farina@brisbanestrikers.com
harper@brisbanestrikers.com

LOOK!

It's not too late to join the Junior Social Club if you would like:

- ...a Strikers Rule! t-shirt
- ...a Strikers mouse mat
- ...to have your birthday party at Perry Park on a Strikers' training night and meet the players
- ...the chance to be Junior Thor

and discounts on Strikers' Coaching Clinics.
Only \$25 Membership.
Call Strikers Marketing on 3236 1888 for more info!

JUMBLLED NAMES

The following Wollongong players have been struck by a lighting bolt from Thor. Do you know who they are?

treb suhge
licno fluf
asael sami
totsc pederfipilch
nosny visne
tobrer nasnott

WIN! WIN! WIN!

For a chance to win a Strikers cap. How many goals has Rod Brown scored in the NSL prior to tonight's game?

Name: _____

Age: _____

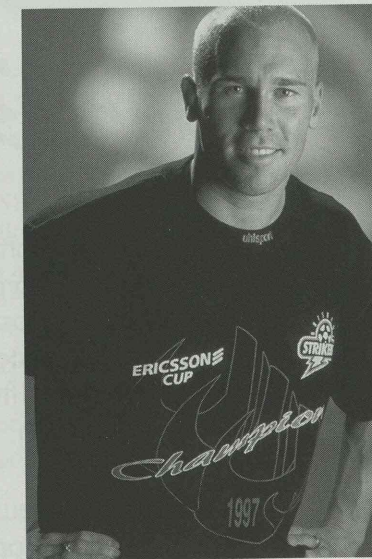
Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Rod has scored

: _____

(Hint: The answer is on Page 9)
Send to Strikers Marketing, PO Box 1648, Milton, 4064, by January 8.




ANDY BRAYSHAW WEARS A CHAMPIONS T-SHIRT AVAILABLE FOR \$24 FROM STRIKERS MARKETING

The Courier-Mail  The Sunday Mail

Everything for Queensland

Everything for Soccer

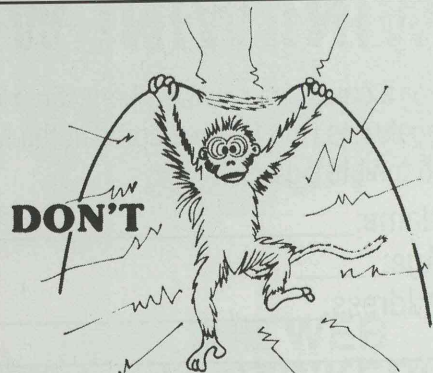


Marco's

Try resisting the aromas wafting on the river breeze from Marco's own chargrill. Tempt you taste buds with the freshest seafoods, pasta and succulent meats from Marco's Mediterranean influenced menu.

Soak up the spectacular view of the Brisbane River and Story Bridge.

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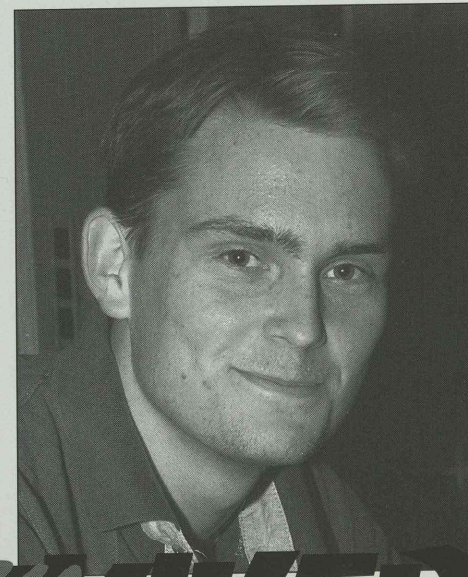
At the start of the season if someone had told you Andrew Packer would have commanded a regular place with the Brisbane Strikers, you would have been forgiven for answering "Andrew Who?"

But the 17-year-old midfielder is starting to draw attention, with his high work rate in the Strikers engine room and the enthusiasm he has brought to the side.

The teenager caught the eye of then coach Bruce Stowell during the 1995/96 season, training with the club towards the end of that year.

But he chose to chase a career in England rather than stay in Brisbane. After trials with Nottingham Forest and West Bromwich Albion, Packer had to make a choice.

He could stay in England or return to Australia. Fortunately for the Strikers he chose the latter and has been one of the club's form players over the last month.



Andrew **PACKER**
by Brent Read

"I just decided to come back and give it my best shot for a few seasons," said Packer, who like several of the Strikers squad enjoys surfing in his spare time.

"When Frank (Farina) heard about that, he'd already seen me play and he wanted to see a little bit more.

"I started training with the squad when I got back (from England)."

A former Australian under 17 representative, Packer travelled to South America with the squad but was unavailable for Youth World Cup qualifiers after undergoing a hernia operation.

He played at Chile's National Stadium and hopes to force his way back into the squad in the future.

But at present, his energies are focused on helping the Strikers regain their place among the league's elite.

With injuries decimating the club, Farina

had taken the opportunity to give some of the squad's younger players a chance.

Packer has taken his with both hands.

Like most youngsters dreaming of playing in the NSL, he had preconceptions about what the national league would be like.

He admits he has been surprised by the standard, especially after clashing with Marconi's talented midfield recently.

"I didn't think it was as hard as it was going to be," he said. "You also have to learn to play consistently."

The youngster has been readily accepted into the Strikers fold and is enjoying training with some of this country's biggest names.

He is still considering returning overseas, but not in the near future.

"I'd like to play full professional football in Australia or overseas," he said.

"That's the ultimate."

STRIKE SQUAD NEWS

with Thor



The beer for here.



XXXXX
BITTER

XX461 APB 22038-A

Congratulations

Here we are into the second half of the season and more than ever we need as much support as we can muster.

Our horror first half of the 97/98 season was only highlighted by a couple of really great moments. The first was Rod Brown's fantastic goal scoring record which was made against West Adelaide. On that momentous night it was a privilege to witness an Australian record which I believe will stand for many years.

The second lesser known achievement was the naming of three of our brave lads to the Olyroo Squad for the up-coming series against Brazil. These young players, Matt Bell, Steve Laybutt and Kasey Wehrman, have been in great form and are fully deserved of this honour. I hope that Terry Venables will take note of these players during this series and who knows, the Strikers could have their very own Soccerroos to cheer in the very near future.

Please hang in there during the remaining home games, try to support the boys as vociferously as possible and maybe we will make the finals and have a chance to cheer them on to another famous victory.

Strike Squad to Stay Put

The Strike Squad has finally found what should be their home for the rest of the season. It has taken a number of weeks to work out but should be a better vantage point for all concerned to wildly support the team.

As many of you have noticed already, the back of the stand at the northern end of the stadium has become the new home of our famous cheer squad.

It was found that the overhang of the above floor has given a carnival like atmosphere, rarely before seen or heard at Suncorp Stadium, to the matches and hopefully will rival that of the Perry Park days.

Anyone who wants to join in is welcome to come up the back and have a great time.

Thor versus the Wolf

Tonight, we all get to see the second best mascot in the Ericsson Cup (the number one being myself, of course). The Wollongong Wolf has joined us for a challenge race against none other than yours truly.

When the last mascot to visit our beloved stadium was here, namely the Sydney United Puma, between myself and the other 40,000 supporters, we vanquished him to the sidelines.

Let's all cheer me on in the race this evening and I promise I will do my utmost to defeat him and then go on to nullify any attempts at trying to incite Wolves supporters in the crowd to cheer their team on.

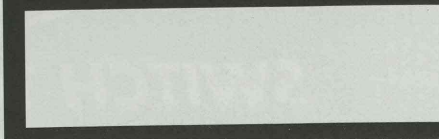
This will be another joint effort and I look forward to sending the wolf packing and taking the points tonight.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

DINNER FOR TWO AT

La Dolce Vita

If you purchased your magazine with Troy Cranney's signature below, then you have won dinner to the value of \$50 at La Dolce Vita Restaurant, Park Rd. Milton. To claim your prize, take your copy of the magazine to the Hyundai car at the scoreboard end of the field at half-time.



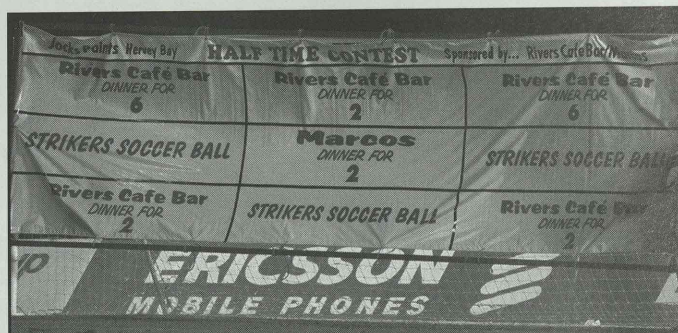
Rivers Cafe Bar Penalty Strike

Each week, four contestants will have a chance to win prizes in our Rivers Cafe Bar Penalty Strike.

The first challenge is to spot the coupon in the Courier-Mail on match days. If you find it, fill out the Strikers' coupon which should appear for

each home game, place it in the barrel at each entrance gate and four contestants will be drawn early in the first half to compete. (If the Courier-Mail does not print the coupon, entry forms will be at the gate).

Contestants, with the aid of Thor, will kick at a prize board (pictured) which includes dinner for 2 at Rivers Café Bar,



dinner for 6 at Rivers Cafe Bar, dinner for 2 at Marco's Restaurant as well as Strikers merchandise.

In addition, each contestant in the half-time competition will receive a Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key with a chance to win a Hyundai Excel Sprint, courtesy of the Hyundai Metro Dealers, at the last home game of the season on 4 April.

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from the 60s, 70s, 80s
and today

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Greatest Memories
Latest Hits
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SWITCH TO 693•AM

4 Big ways to shop with the Strikers

Visit us at Gates 1 and 2, or Level 3 of the Centreline Club on match days or... come into our office at Suite 6, 414 Upper Roma Street, any time between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Or 'phone us with your credit card booking. Or order via our web site at: www.brisbanestrikers.com

Banner Competition

Enter our new banner competition! Just place your banner on the fence at the northern end of the ground each home game. The creator of the clever/most amusing banner for the rest of the season will win a Sanyo personal CD player (only one winner per banner). If the Hyundai logo is included on the banner, you can also win a Strikers' Season Ticket (general admission for 1998-99. Entries close at 6.30pm on Saturday April 4.

Strikers - Part of the Community

We believe sporting clubs are an important part of the community and, as the 'showpiece' of any sport, national league teams have a role in helping to bring the community together. Every home game, we've got the:

Coca-Cola Cup

Is a four-a-side competition for Under 13s involving junior clubs, with four clubs taking part each home game. The Coca-Cola Cup is in recess until 31 Jan. due to school holidays.

The points table after Round 3 is:

Group A		Group B	
North Star	3	Brighton	3
Souths Utd A	3	Bribie Island	3
Ridge Hill	3	Park Ridge	3
Wynnum	0	Beenleigh	0
Capalaba	0	Centenary	0
Bris City A	0	Bris Lions	0

Strikers UhlSPORT Relay Challenge

(Prior to the main game). Schools from around Brisbane compete in a time trial in a 4 x 100 metre relay.

The winning school, at the end of the

season, will receive \$500 worth of UhlSPORT sporting equipment, and the runner-up \$250 worth of UhlSPORT sporting equipment - courtesy of UhlSPORT.

The times for girls' teams have been adjusted downwards by 6 seconds, in accordance with the rules agreed with participating schools (denoted by an * below). This competition is taking a break until school resumes in 1998.

The results so far:

Brisbane Grammar	49.3 seconds
Brisbane SHS	50.6 seconds
Redlands College	51.1 seconds
Shailer Park SHS *	51.3 seconds
St Margaret's *	52.7 seconds
Cleveland SHS	54.9 seconds
Kingston SHS*	61.9 seconds

Anglicare appeal

Tonight we are collecting for Anglicare, which provides community care and support for those in need. Please give generously to their Christmas appeal.

Tonight's Entertainment

Tonight we are pleased to have with us, 421b Fish, who are previewing their debut album, "No Play After Sunset".

Strike Squad

Ever on the look-out for the optimum site to give full voice to their wit, wisdom and barracking, the Strike Squad has moved to the back of the Suncorp Stand. If you want to stand and be counted, please join them!

Special Deals

If you're from a junior, senior or recreational soccer club and want to come in a group to a Strikers' game, then contact Strikers Marketing on 3236 1888 for special deals.

Strikers Golf Day

Wednesday February 18 at Gainsborough Greens. Cost, including green fees, electric cart and BBQ lunch is \$65 or \$60 if you're a Brisbane Strikers social club member. For further details contact the Strikers on 3236 1888.

Thinking of changing
your
boots?

...Frank
isn't!



UP FRONT

with *Andy Harper*
E-mail:
harper@brisbanestrikers.com



I once heard a Colonel of the United States Army share his Gulf War experiences with a gathering of school students.

He pointed out that over and above the danger posed by Scud Missiles and Iraqi tanks, the biggest taker of American Servicemen was "friendly fire" - American soldiers accidentally killed by their own.

His message however transcended anecdotes of blood, guts and bombs. It sought to exhort teamwork and positiveness and of not providing this "friendly fire". His adaptation of the Gulf War was that the most significant damage does not necessarily come from the enemy. If every cloud has a silver lining then perhaps it follows that the darker the cloud becomes, the brighter the lining will shine.

As the difficulties of the current campaign seem to continue, so too does the assurance that from all of this something good will come. How trying it is though, in the midst of these situations, to acknowledge such. Usually it is with the benefit of hindsight that wit and wisdom flows.

From the mire which is our present position on the league table some things are rapidly learned. People expose their allegiances. Fair weather supporters blow their own flimsy camouflage.

For we all know that within the atmosphere of winning everyone is everyone's friend but it is in losing that much is made clearer about ourselves and those around us. Recognising these fortifies us for the coming of the next storms.

Thankfully on this front the news is mostly positive. The general feeling is one of tremendous support and it is very heart warming. Similarly, the mood of the team is appropriately buoyant. The disappointment runs deep but the outlook is, as it must be, optimistic.

There is no "friendly fire" in the dressing room. The few deserters, whilst vocal, expose their own shallowness and ignorance more than anything. It is as though, in their opinion, players enjoy losing football matches.

That their training and dedication is all expressly aimed at losing. What deep psychological frailties (of the deserters) does this tendency indicate?

As we all lick our wounds and hypothesise as to what is wrong, who should be picked and who shouldn't etc., spare a thought for the guy in the middle of it all.

He, whom as both player and coach, takes double the wrap and has literally had an incredible start to his coaching career.

To date he couldn't have experienced better or worse in football. Part of the lining of his current cloud is that in surviving this, he'll survive anything ... and we with him. The U.S. Colonel would be impressed.

THE NAKED TRUTH!!
A Career Opportunity
 Soccer Australia require referees from 14 years upwards.
 Take an introductory referees **NOW** and see a whole **NEW** career opportunity.
 Instead of standing there criticising others, learn about the game and make some money at the same time.
 New course commences Friday January 23 at Perry Park, 6.30pm.
 For details call Murray Jesson on **3824 6816**
WE WANT YOU!!



BRISBANE STRIKERS

- 1 Clint Bolton - FO
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Matthew Bell
- 4 Chris Zoricich - OI
- 5 Craig Williams
- 6 Nick Meredith
- 7 Frank Farina - FS
- 8 Sean Cranney - FS
- 9 Rod Brown - FS
- 10 Kasey Wehrman - YS
- 11 Troy Cranney
- 12 Mark Battistin
- 13 Reece Tollenaere
- 14 Wayne Knipe
- 15 Andrew Brayshaw
- 16 Chay Hews
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Stephen Laybutt
- 19 Brad Ditton
- 20 Graham Ross
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Andy Harper (C)
- 23 Gary Blackford
- Coach - Frank Farina

WOLLONGONG CITY

- 1 Brett Hughes
- 2 Raymond Younis
- 3 Alvin Ceccoli
- 4 Robert Stanton - FYS
- 5 Jason Connolly
- 6 Matthew Horsley
- 7 Sonny Sevin
- 8 Anthony Surjan
- 9 Sasho Dimoski - FO
- 10 Michael Reda
- 11 Scott Chipperfield
- 12 George Souris
- 13 Noel Spencer - O
- 14 Tony Perinich
- 15 David Huxley
- 16 Michael Kariamis
- 17 Neil Harlock - OI
- 18 Colin Luff
- 19 Sebastian Sinozic - O
- 20 Adam Brodbeck - O
- 21 Esala Masi - OI
- 22 (not allocated)
- 30 Daniel Beltrame
- Coach - Nick Theodorokopolous

Legend: S - Socceroo, FS - Former Socceroo, O - Olyroo, FO - Former Olyroo, YS - Young Socceroo, FYS - Former Young Socceroo, OI - Other International

EYE ON STRIKERS Tables

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	15	9	5	1	25	11	32
South Melbourne	15	8	5	2	37	22	29
Adelaide City	12	8	0	4	26	14	24
Carlton SC	15	6	6	3	18	14	24
Wollongong Wolves	14	7	1	6	31	15	22
Melbourne Knights	14	6	4	4	20	16	22
Perth Glory	15	6	4	5	19	21	22
Adelaide Sharks	14	6	2	6	22	22	20
Marconi Fairfield	15	5	4	6	15	21	19
UTS Olympic	15	5	3	7	16	27	18
Gippsland Falcons	15	4	5	6	10	17	17
STRIKERS	15	4	0	11	11	22	12
Canberra Cosmos	15	2	6	7	19	32	12
Newcastle Breakers	15	1	5	9	15	30	8

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aust Inst Sport	13	10	2	1	58	10	32
UTS Olympic	13	7	3	3	36	21	24
QAS	13	6	4	3	32	17	22
Wollongong City	13	6	3	4	28	22	21
Marconi Fairfield	13	6	2	5	22	25	20
Marconi Fairfield Colts	12	5	2	5	18	26	17
ACT Acad Sport	13	4	4	5	16	37	16
Sydney United	12	3	6	3	30	25	15
Newcastle Breakers	12	4	3	5	24	27	15
Sydney United Colts	12	3	1	8	13	33	10
UTS Olympic Colts	13	3	1	9	18	44	10
NSW Inst Sport	13	2	3	8	17	25	9

OTHER ROUND 16 ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

FRI 16 JAN	Newcastle v Gippsland Falcons
SAT 17 JAN	Canberra Cosmos v Marconi
SUN 18 JAN	UTS Olympic v Adelaide Sharks
SUN 18 JAN	Melb Knights v South Melbourne
SUN 18 JAN	Sydney UTD v Carlton SC
SUN 18 JAN	Adelaide City v Perth Glory

NEXT WEEKS ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

FRI 23 JAN	Sydney Utd v Adelaide City
SAT 24 JAN	Carlton SC v Canberra Cosmos
SUN 25 JAN	Wollongong v Melbourne Knights
SUN 25 JAN	Perth Glory v STRIKERS
SUN 25 JAN	South Melbourne v Newcastle
SUN 25 JAN	Gippsland Falcons v UTS Olympic
SUN 25 JAN	Adelaide Sharks v Marconi Ffield

ERICSSON CUP HOT SHOTS

Pablo Cardozo	Adel Sharks	13
Damian Mori	Adel City	11
Scott Chipperfield	Adel Sharks	10
Abbas Saad	Sydney Utd	8
Peter Buljan	Canberra	7
Tom Pondeljak	Melb Knights	7
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	7
Brad Maloney	Marconi	6

LUNCH WITH THE STRIKERS FOR WOMEN ONLY

Wednesday 11 February at Il Mondo, Kangaroo Point.
 Have lunch and enjoy the company of the Strikers.
 Lunch includes a complimentary glass of Champagne... \$30 or \$25 for Social Club members.
 For further details contact the Strikers on 3236 1888



STRIKERS EXCEL WITH STYLE.



Congratulations 1997 Ericsson Cup Champions. Hyundai is really proud to be your major sponsors for the 1997/98 season. Keep up the excellent standards.



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