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Queensland Soccer Federation  
Official Magazine

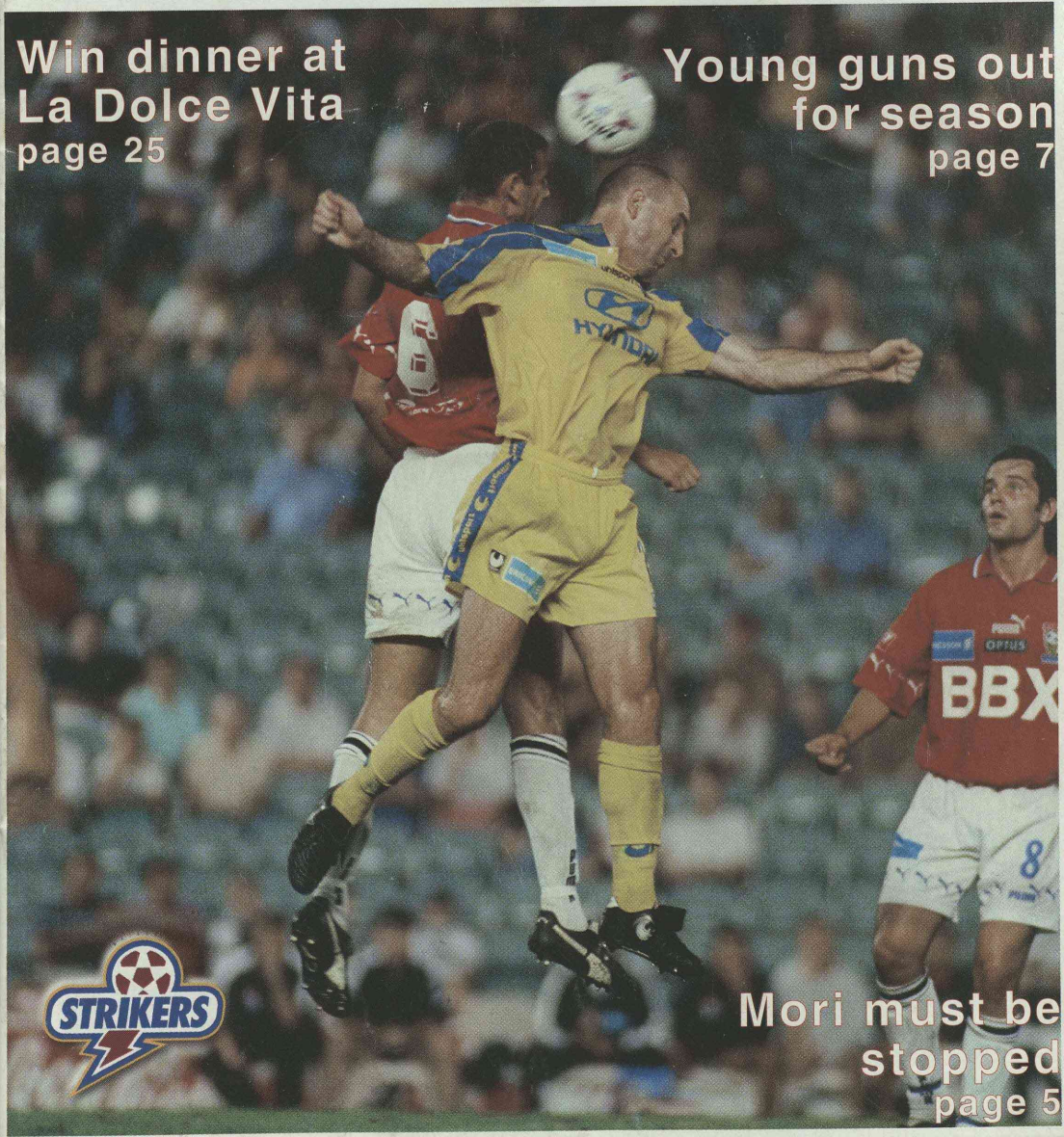
# Eye On STRIKERS

v ADELAIDE CITY *Round 20*

Vol 7-8, Saturday FEBRUARY 28, 1998 \$2.00

Win dinner at  
La Dolce Vita  
page 25

Young guns out  
for season  
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Mori must be  
stopped  
page 5





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Robert Thams - Matt Freke  
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**COVER: Andy Harper and  
Sydney United's Joe Vrkic do  
battle in the air at the Strikers  
last home game.**

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## Coach's Comment

**After a four week break, it's good to be back at Suncorp Stadium to take on one of the powerhouse teams of the national league, in Adelaide City.**

In the time since our last home game, we've been busy on and off the pitch. We've had three practice matches - against the new Ipswich Knights, the Bundaberg Waves and Rochedale Rovers; visited 36 junior clubs as part of their sign-on days; been involved in six shopping centre promotions; held our first ever Women's Lunch; and had our corporate Golf Day (and, I might add, the best team won on the day!).

I said at the beginning of the season that they, along with South Melbourne, were the two teams who would push for the championship and this has proven to be correct.

After a disrupted start due to the international team duties of three of their star players - captain Alex Tobin, Milan Ivanovic and red-hot striker, Damian Mori - Adelaide has put together a series of impressive wins.

Tonight's match will be a good test for us. It's the last of our consecutive games against all of the current top six teams in which we've recorded two wins, two losses and a draw. We meet a side in top form with Mori having scored 16 goals so far this season.

Because of the way other results have gone in recent times, we're not out of the finals race yet. The competition is quite open for the last few places in the top six and although it will be a tough assignment to make the six from this point, it's not an impossible one. While I am looking at promising young players with a view to building for the future, we are not taking our eyes off the main chance and will be putting in the hard yards out in the middle of the park.

I know all of the team is looking forward to a big night at Suncorp tonight and next week, with your support behind us all the way.

**Go the Strikers!**

E-mail: [farina@brisbanestrikers.com](mailto:farina@brisbanestrikers.com)



# Thinking of changing your boots?



...Andy did!



## Mori must be stopped

**Damian Mori is the man Strikers coach Frank Farina has targeted as tonight's main danger for Brisbane.**

The Adelaide City striker has scored more than one hundred Ericsson Cup goals and Farina knows the Socceroo must be put under plenty of pressure tonight, if Brisbane is to come away with three crucial competition points.

"Mori is firing at the moment. He is definitely one of the competition's real danger men," Farina said.

"If our defence can stop him from capitalising on any chances then I think we'll be well on the way to securing the points tonight."

And as if Mori's scoring ability wasn't enough for the Strikers defence to worry about tonight, playing alongside him in the Adelaide City front line will be another in-form marksman, Kris Trajanovski.

"He's also been playing very well of late and his selection for the Socceroos recent four-nation series came as no surprise to me," Farina said.

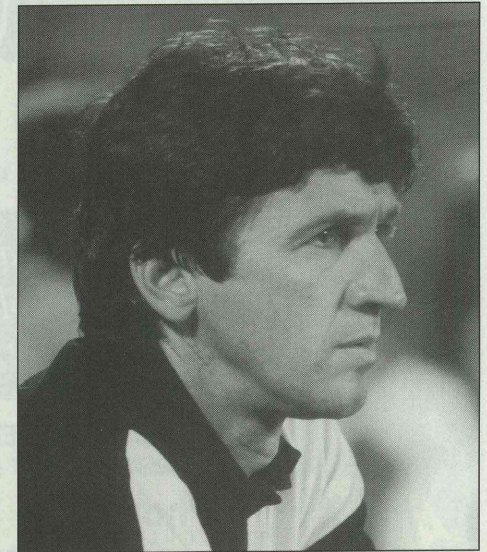
"Together they would form one of the deadliest striking partnerships in the league, so we're going to have to be right on our toes all night and look to spoil any worthwhile attacking movements."

Apart from a lethal frontline, the Zebras also have one of the best defences in the Ericsson Cup.

Headed up by Socceroo skipper Alex Tobin and the recently retired International Milan Ivanovic, Adelaide City has consistently had one of the best defensive records in the league in recent years.

Rounding off their rock solid defence is another Australian senior representative, goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

"With the team they've got, there's little doubt that we're going into tonight's match as the underdog," Farina said.



*Ad City coach John Nyskohus has brought together a squad of quality players*

"If you look at the current form of both sides, it's fair to say we're facing an uphill battle.

"But as I've maintained throughout the entire season, we have the ability to beat any side in this competition.

"It's just a matter of coming together and clicking on the night."

Farina stressed "the basics" were all that was needed for Brisbane to topple Adelaide.

"That's how we came away with a result against Carlton last week.

"We stuck to our game plan and the chances came. Mind you Nick's (Meredith) 35 metre screamer also helped a lot."

Farina is able to put on a relatively strong team for tonight's encounter.

Youngsters Kasey Wehrman and Wayne Knipe remain on the injured list, however the inclusions of former QAS products Danny Invincible and Royce Brownlie have provided the coach with a few more options.



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## Young guns out for season

With the Strikers finals chances hanging by an extremely loose thread, coach Frank Farina has been hit with more bad news. Two of his young stars are out for the remainder of the season.

Kasey Wehrman (pictured right) and Wayne Knipe will not take part in the last seven rounds of the competition after both were diagnosed with serious injuries.

"It seems to be the same old story for us," Farina said.

"Every time a player looks to be making a successful comeback, an old injury flares up or something else happens to them.

"It's been happening to us all season and unfortunately it's just one of those things that you have very little control over."

Wehrman's suffering from some after effects following surgery to a broken ankle last year.

A third examination of the injury, which he sustained after the completion of last season, revealed that all was not well with the 20 year old, with excessive scar tissue impeding the natural healing process.

For last year's Ericsson Cup Under 21 Player of the Year, this latest setback has been the hardest to handle.

"This season is pretty much a write-off for me now," he said.

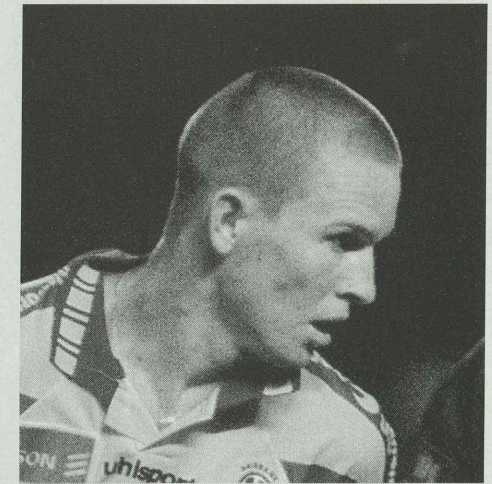
"Since I injured my ankle last year, one thing has gone wrong after another.

"If I worked the injury as hard as I could, I could probably be back in three to four weeks.

"But I'm not taking any chances with this one, as I want to ensure the injury heals properly."

Wehrman said once he regains fitness, he would like to travel overseas and try his luck in the professional leagues.

"I've been looking at going to England, but it's pretty hard to get a work visa," he said.



"The other option is Belgium and I think that's where I'll try to get a start."

The flamboyant and excitable Wayne Knipe has joined Wehrman on the injured list, after slipping a disc in his lower back whilst at work.

That injury has also put an end to Knipe's season, the young striker forced to watch from the sidelines yet again, in a career which has been marred by a host of injury problems.

Farina said while the two young players would be missed for the remainder of the season, he still had the depth to cover their positions.

"It's unfortunate that these guys have once again fallen victim to serious injuries," the Strikers coach said.

"But we're still in the hunt at this stage, despite what many people have said, and we're just going to have to dig deeper and fill the void left by their absence.

"I still believe these boys have a lot to offer the club and its supporters, but it's obvious this year wasn't meant to be theirs,

"But I'm confident with the right amount of rest, both will have successful recoveries and we'll see them firing again next season."





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**BRISBANE STRIKERS  
1997/98 FIXTURES**

Date	Opponents	F-A	1 Bolton	2 Cwypine	3 Bel	4 Zoricich	5 Williams	6 Meredith	7 Farina	8 S Cranney	9 Brown	10 Wehrman	11 T Cranney	12 Baptistin	13 Injucible	14 Kline	15 Braysshaw	16 Hews	17 Harris	18 Laiball	19 Dilton	20 Fross	21 Paeker	22 Harper	23 Blackford
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 2-1	▲	▲																					
Sun 25/1	Perth Glory	A 3-1	▲	▲																					
Sat 31/1	Sydney United	H 0-3	▲	▲																					
Sat 21/2	Carlton	A 1-1	▲	▲																					
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																							
<b>League Appearances</b>			111	141	25	60	136	179	201	109	341	29	192	74	19	28	70	54	27	34	59	21	9	249	7
<b>League Goals</b>			0	1	0	6	1	23	102	14	136	3	16	12	0	6	5	0	1	2	9	0	0	89	0



Watch Frankly Farina each Thursday evening on Seven Nightly News

Legend: ▲ = Played - S = Substitute - O = Own goal in scoreline - ◆ = Own goal in scoreline - □ = Yellow card - ■ = Red card



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# Adelaide SC - A brief history

by Andrew Howe

**The Juventus soccer club of Adelaide, later to be known as the Adelaide City Zebras, was the first major Australian soccer club to be formed after the second world war.**

enigmatic Scotsman who was the A-league's first top scorer (16 goals in 1977). By 1979 the Zebras had their first national trophy - the Phillips Cup. However their first championship was still seven years away.

In celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1996, Adelaide City is the longest established of the current Ericsson Cup clubs. Predominantly developed by post war immigrants from Italy, Juventus were very soon one of the strongest clubs in South Australia. The Zebras amassed 13 SA championships between 1953 and 1974. The real golden era was between 1953 and 1959 when the club won 107 of their 126 games in the South Australian league.

Between 1984 and 1986, the national league was split into two conferences. In 1986 Adelaide City, the southern conference champions, came up against the northern counterparts UTS Olympic in the grand final. In a two-legged season climax, the Zebras played at home first - and lost 1-0. While UTS Olympic frivolously celebrated their first championship before the opening whistle of the second leg, played at Parramatta Stadium, AdCity coach Zoran Matic quietly prepared his troops. And in the biggest comeback in any grand final, the Zebras won the second leg 3-1, taking out the tie 3-2 on aggregate.

AdCity were one of the keener clubs to advocate the formation of the national league. The Adelaide public was just as keen. In 1977, the A-league's inaugural year, the club attracted an average 7400 to their home games - the highest of any club that year.

AdCity were involved in the biggest comeback of any finals game. In the first leg 1997 semi-final, Marconi thrashed the Zebras 3-0 in Sydney. But in the second leg it was AdCity who had won 3-0, making it 3-3 on aggregate after 180 minutes of play. After five minutes of extra time, AdCity had won after scoring the first ever 'golden goal' in A-league history.

And the test of time has proven what an awesome first-up team it was. Three 1977 players (Zoran Matic, John Nyskohus and Gary Marocchi) are current-day Ericsson Cup coaches. Buggy Nyskohus was the first A-league player to make 300 A-league appearances (in 1989). Sergio Melta is the highest appearance-getter in the league, with 445 games. And yet other players of 1977 were John Perin and Dixie Deans - the

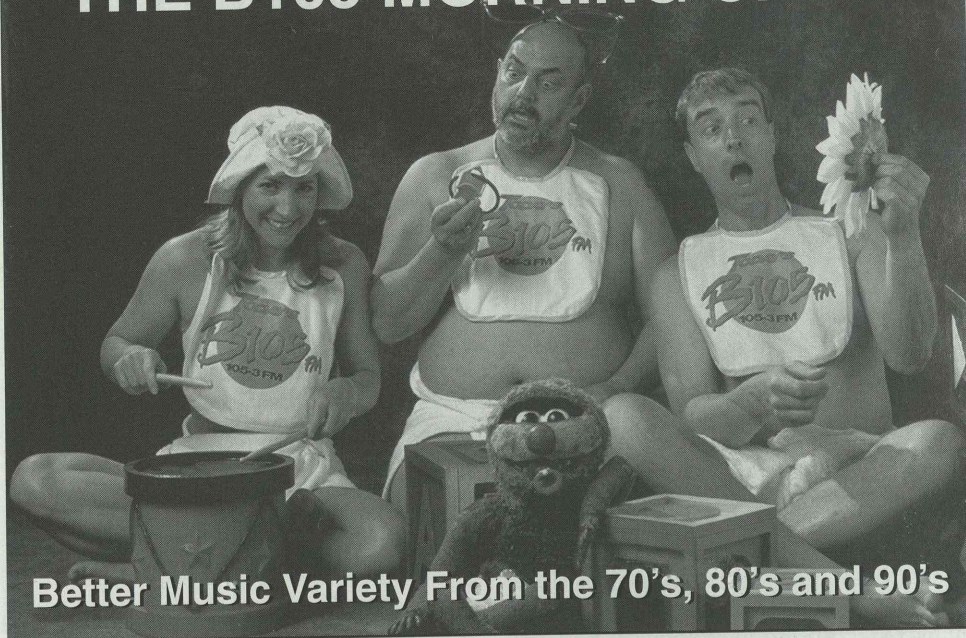
If stability and recent history is any guide, it will be a major surprise if the ever reliable Adelaide City don't feature in the climax of this year's Ericsson Cup.

### Adelaide City's statistical record against Brisbane

Season	Final Pos'n.	Adelaide.AV. Crowd	Results in Brisbane	Results in Adelaide
1991-92	4th / 14	5200	1-1	1-0 Zebras
1992-93	3rd / 14	3600	4-2 Strikers	1-0 Zebras
1993-94	5th / 14	4100	2-1 Strikers	3-0 Zebras
1994-95	2nd / 13	4100	1-1	2-0 Zebras
1995-96	5th / 12	4500	7-1 Strikers	7-0 Zebras - 0-0
1996-97	4th / 14	4700	3-1 Strikers	0-0



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## We're still in it - Farina

**Strikers coach Frank Farina has refused to concede the side's season is over following Brisbane's 1-1 draw with Carlton over the weekend.**

Nick Meredith's sensational 35 metre shot on goal in the 53rd minute of Saturday's match moved the champions to 19 league points and 12th position on the competition ladder.

With seven rounds still remaining, Brisbane is still nine points shy of a top six berth, but Farina believes the team could still be playing come April.

"Seven rounds means there's still 21 points on offer, which means we can reach a maximum of 40 points," he said.

"I said at the start of the season that 39 points would be good enough to make the six, and with the way matches have been going in the last few rounds, that mark might even be less."

The Strikers cause has been hampered by the loss of key players including "Young Guns" Kasey Wehrman and Wayne Knipe.

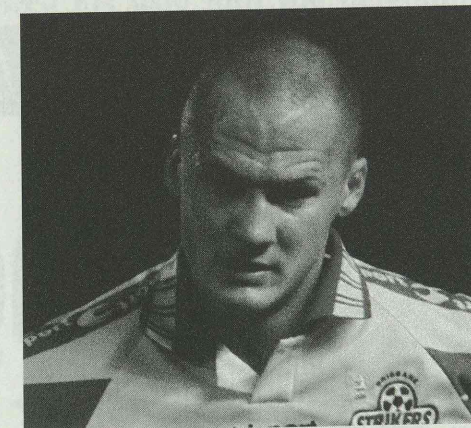
However, Farina selected a squad at the start of the season that he believed had the necessary blend of talent, youth and experience to win the championship and five months on, not much has changed in the mind of the coach.

"Any team would be affected by the loss of players the quality of Kasey and Knipey, but I have faith in the players that are in the squad and they certainly can do the job tonight," he said.

"To be honest, I don't think our ladder position exactly reflects our performances this season," he said.

"Some people say that the difference between winning and losing is the bounce of the ball and I believe there is some degree of merit in that.

"A lot of the games we have dropped this season have not been by huge margins and



*Nick Meredith's long range shot last weekend gave the Strikers a vital point*

just think what six or seven extra points would mean to us at this stage."

Farina's comments come after several media reports that ruled the Strikers out of play-offs contention.

While the Strikers coach admits the odds are stacked against him and his side, he said a "miracle" was still on the cards.

"To come away from Carlton with a draw is not easy. The boys played very well down there and there's no reason we can't get the results if we continue to play that way," he said.

"Sure, a few teams in front of us are going to have to lose to give us a chance, but if you've been in professional football as long as I have, you realise that very little is set in stone."

The Strikers will have to be on their games tonight if they are to overcome an awesome Adelaide City outfit.

Damian Mori is in lethal form, and Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic form part of one of the most successful defensive combinations the NSL has ever seen.

City are currently sitting in third place on the ladder on 35 points, just four points behind leaders South Melbourne.



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**At the start of the Ericsson Cup season, Danny Invincible had one goal - to overcome a logjam of midfielders fighting for a place at the Brisbane Strikers and force his way into the defending champions squad.**

Last week against Carlton, the teenager got his first taste of National league soccer and revelled in the occasion.

With half a game under his belt, Invincible is intent on finding a permanent home in the Strikers midfield.

"That was my goal at the start of the year," Invincible said of making the Strikers squad.

"When the New Year came around I said that's what I wanted to do. I was still surprised because I was with the Queensland Academy of Sport.

"I didn't really think I had a chance but the last two months have been really great."

After an off-season stint with high profile



*Danny* **INVINCIBLE**  
 by Brent Read

English side Wolverhampton Wanderers, Invincible returned to Australia and linked with the QAS before finishing the XXXX Premier League season with Taringa Rovers.

The teenager had an outstanding season with Taringa, winning the XXXX premier League Rookie of the Year award and drawing accolades for his ability to shine in a club with a wealth of talent.

He returned to the QAS and some outstanding performances saw him called into Farina's squad at the start of 1998.

So well has Invincible been playing, he was also called into Les Scheinflug's Young Soccerroo squad for a training camp in Sydney recently.

The Young Soccerroos are preparing for their under 20 World Cup campaign.

"It was good," Invincible said of the camp. "We trained mornings and played at night.

"I was pretty pleased but you don't know if you'll get called for the next camp in April until later in the year."

The 18-year-old had a tough introduction to Ericsson Cup football, facing finals contenders Carlton.

Carlton is one of two fully professional sides in the competition and has been one of the form teams this season.

"It was probably what I expected," Invincible said of his first game of national league soccer.

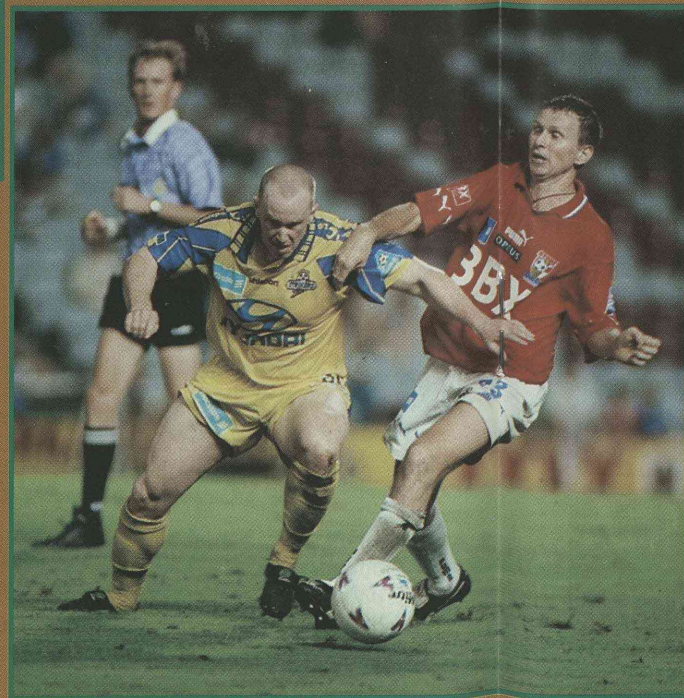
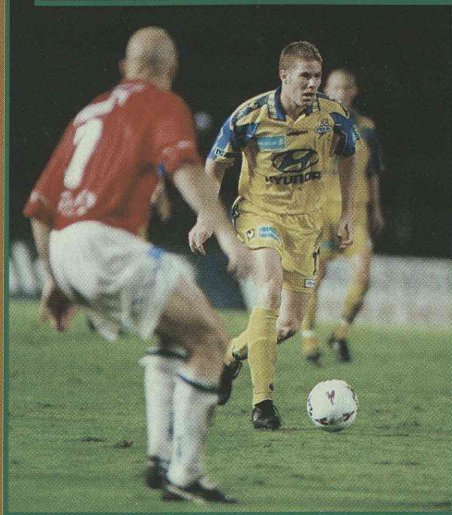
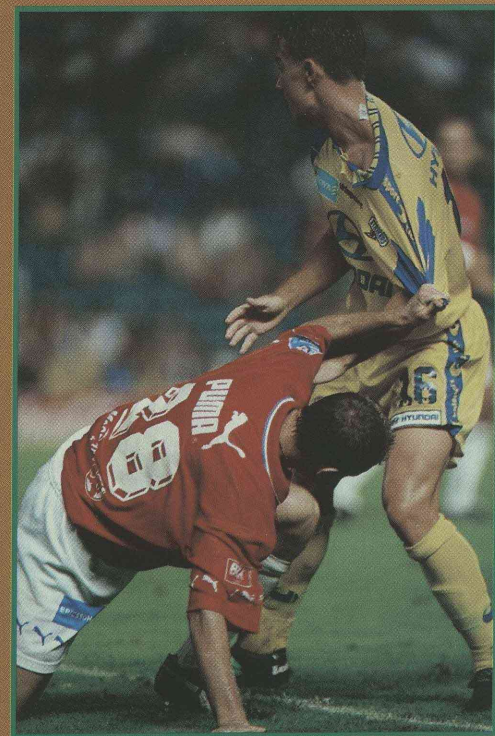
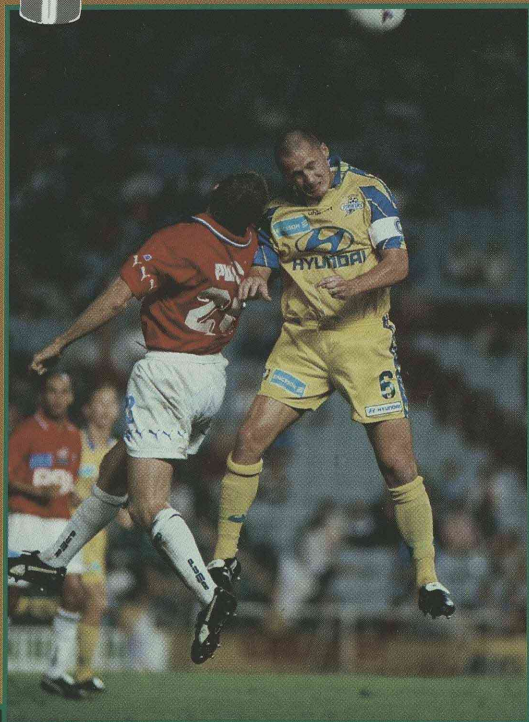
At the moment, Invincible is taking things in is stride. When his Ericsson Cup duties are over, he may return to XXXX Premier League action.

On the other hand, he could end up touring with the Young Soccerroo squad.

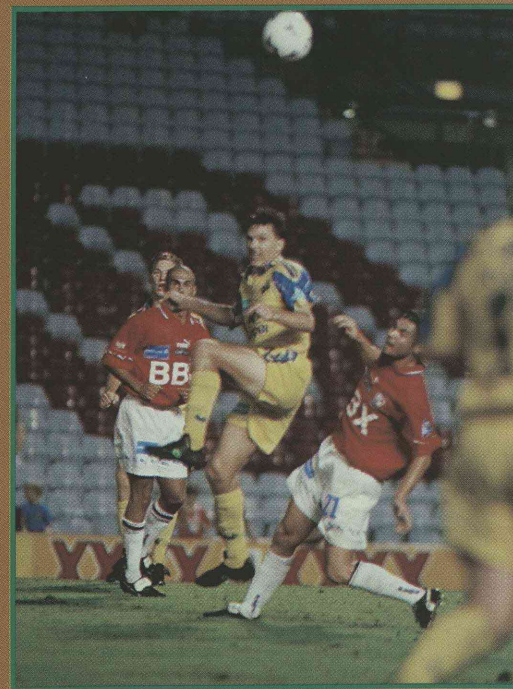
"I'm playing it by ear at the moment. But it's not going too bad."



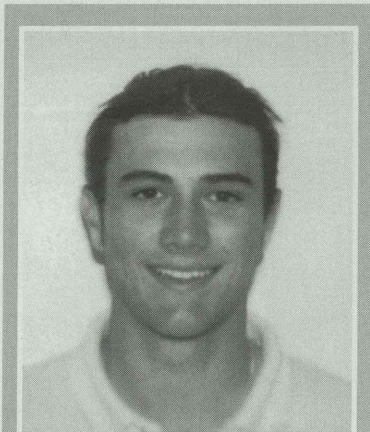
# FREEZE FRAME



In what was billed as the replay of the 1997 Grand Final, Sydney United returned to Suncorp Stadium to a crowd far less than they met on 25th May. Gone was the 40,000 strong Striker biased throng and they turned the tables on the scoreline as well. This time, Sydney United took home the three points after they demolished the home team 3-0.







## AARON THIESFIELD

### Q.A.S.

**Born:** 12/2/81  
**Where:** Redcliffe, Qld  
**Previous Club:** Hervey Bay United  
**Position:** Centre Midfield  
**Nickname:** 'T'  
**Hobbies:** Watching TV  
**If you had only \$20 how would you spend it?** Food and Video Games  
**Who would you most like to meet?** Michael Jordan  
**Favourite Clothing:** Casual  
**Bad Habits:** Not doing homework  
**On rainy days?** Watch videos  
**School:** Helensvale High  
**Most Memorable Game:** 1996 National Titles grand final against NSW, when I scored an own goal in sudden death  
**Career Ambitions:** To make the Strikers, a National squad, then go overseas  
**Favourite Car:** Ferrari  
**Favourite Babe:** My girlfriend  
**Favourite Band:** ACDC  
**Sporting Heros:** Michael Jordan / Pele

## Curtain Raiser with Gary Phillips

**Crystal Palace is the latest club Terry Venables has been linked with. This ever increasing speculation is bewildering, I'm sure, to all soccer followers.**

Soccer Australia needs to rectify the situation ASAP. We have seen Athletics Australia recently thrown into turmoil after the Dr Arbiett incident; their sport continues to struggle with no direction.

We are suffering at the moment, the recent international series was questionable. I remember when our season first moved to summer, one of the reasons was so we wouldn't have a break in our domestic competition.

This is just a nightmare for players, three weeks without a game and more importantly, to most, no income.

Chile were a class act, if we are going to play them, why not play a best of three series, this surely would be a better proposal than Chile playing a one-off game against New Zealand, and then coming to Australia to play another one-off game.

While on the International series, it's unbelievable to think that even though last year's Grand Final at Suncorp Stadium attracted 40,000 people (an all time NSL record), Brisbane still struggles to secure an international game.

And how do you explain the exclusion of leading NSL goal scorer Damian Mori? Let's hope today, Mr Mori is not too upset about missing out!

On a final note, with El tel suggesting we need more international games, why don't we have soccer at the Commonwealth Games?

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ANSETT AUSTRALIA

## QAS SQUAD NEWS

**Trying to entertain and motivate players over a three week break can be testing as our first 45mins against Marconi Colts last week suggested.**

However, I saw enough in our second half performance to convince me that today's game against the AIS will be an intriguing battle.

Down 1-0 at half time against Marconi, I was pleased with the increased tempo in the second period.

Conditions again were very hot, but fortunately we took the chances that mattered.

First to Russell Minor from the penalty spot and second to Angelo Cootes with a far-post header.

Aaron Thiesfield, returning home after a stint with today's opposition, was in sparkling form, and was well supported by Russell Minor and Allan Cameron.

Today, former QAS athletes Michael Turnbull and Gianni Culpò return to Suncorp with the AIS and we are all keen to see how they have progressed.

The AIS are sitting high and dry at the moment and today's match is a must win for us with the semi finals just around the corner.

And finally, congratulations to Daniel Invincible who last week attended a camp for the Young Socceroos.

There will be another camp prior to qualifiers when we hope Andrew Packer will force his way into contention.

Danny also made his NSL debut against Carlton last week.

I hope you get to see him in yellow tonight!

### OUR QAS FRONTLINE

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



PROUD SUPPORTERS  
 OF THE QAS  
 SOCCER TEAM

They too will FEEL THE PASSION



# Junior Social Club

**STRIKERS HOLIDAY COACHING CLINIC**

**APRIL 14 - 15, 9AM TO 3PM**

**PERRY PARK**



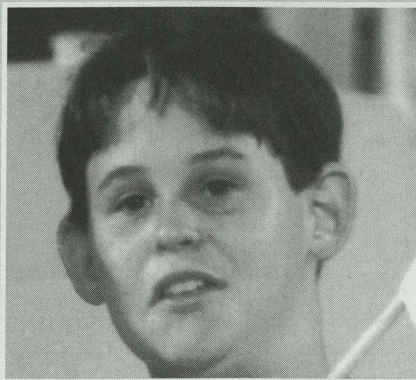
**\$95 (\$85 FOR SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS AND JUNIOR STRIKERS)**

**INCLUDES COACHING, BALL, CAP AND LUNCH**

**FOR DETAILS PHONE THE STRIKERS ON 3236 1888**

**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](http://www.brisbanestrikers.com)

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

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

[strikers@brisbanestrikers.com](mailto:strikers@brisbanestrikers.com)

[farina@brisbanestrikers.com](mailto:farina@brisbanestrikers.com)

[harper@brisbanestrikers.com](mailto:harper@brisbanestrikers.com)

**Junior Strikers!**

Over the break, Brisbane Strikers players visited 36 junior clubs for their registration days, and invited registered players to join up as a Junior Brisbane Striker for 1998! If you didn't get a Junior Brisbane Strikers form from your Club, then ask them for one! Or, call us on 3236 1888

**APOLOGIES**

Our apologies if you went to Indooroopilly Shopping Town on February 14 to meet the Strikers. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we could not go there at the last minute - BUT, the Strikers were at Loganholme, Garden City, Myer City and A-Mart, Queen Street Mall instead.

## JUMBLLED NAMES

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

- xlea binot
- nalim vvainonc
- dimnaa roim
- lacimeh krobos
- oangel onastocz
- karm tyeas

## WIN! WIN! WIN!

For a chance to win a Strikers cap, just tell us Thor's favourite singer?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_



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

Send to Strikers Marketing, PO Box 1648, Milton, 4064, by March 6. (First correct entry wins.)



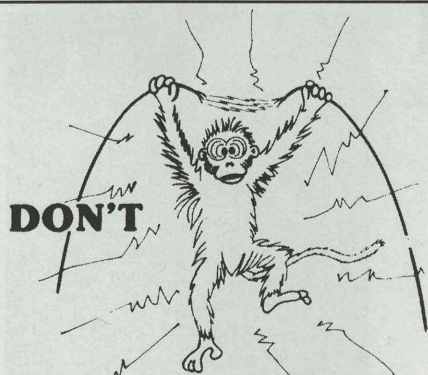
The best mix of music  
from the 60s, 70s, 80s  
and today

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Latest Hits

BRISBANE 693

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Official caterers for  
Suncorp Stadium  
and proud sponsors of the  
Brisbane Strikers

**"MAN OF THE MATCH"**

and

**"FOOTBALLER  
OF THE YEAR"**

Awards

## Glory days for old Striker

It's no secret that the Strikers front men have struggled to score this season. But while the veterans continue to plug away searching for the back of the net, one of the squad's younger players is showing the way. Unfortunately though, he is not wearing the familiar yellow and blue strip!

Reece Tollenaere got passed former Socceroo keeper Anthony Franken not once... not twice... but three times during Newcastle's 4-3 win over the Glory in Perth last weekend.

The young striker (pictured right) who went on loan to Newcastle at the beginning of the year, silenced the big Perth crowd with his three goal effort, which included the winner with just four minutes of play remaining.

That goal gave John Kosmina's Newcastle outfit its first win in seventeen matches and further shattered the Glory's once flawless home record.

Tollenaere's hat-trick received high praise from soccer commentators around the country, including his Brisbane coach Frank Farina.

"It was fantastic to see Reece get on the scoresheet like that," Farina said.

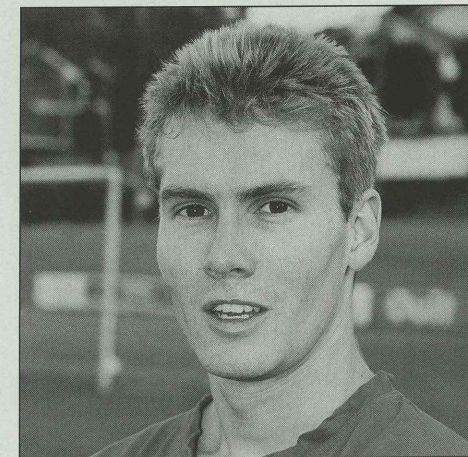
"I always thought a change in scenery would probably do him good and it's pleasing to see him take advantage of his opportunity with the Breakers.

"A game like that, against quality opposition is certain to lift Reece's confidence, and it shows exactly what he can do when the pressure's off and he puts his mind to it."

Tollenaere himself agreed with Farina's comments. The 20 year old striker is relishing his time with the Breakers and is already looking for more goals.

"It was one of those games where things just fell into place and I'm hoping to have some more matches like that in the near future," he said.

"It certainly was a great thrill to put three



away against a side like Perth at home, but I realise I can't get too carried away with the moment."

Farina is eager to see his young traveller continue his current form, but he's secretly hoping it won't happen next weekend, when Tollenaere returns to his home town to take on the Strikers.

Meanwhile back in Brisbane, longtime defender Mark Battistin will be making a return to the XXXX League ranks, following discussions with Farina.

Battistin has been hampered by an ankle injury for the majority of the season and has had very little match practice.

That lack of game time prompted the big defender to ask Farina if he could step down to the XXXX League with reigning premiers Brisbane City.

"There's nothing sinister about Batts' departure from the club," Farina said.

"He just realised he hadn't had much time on the field and needed to get a few games under his belt."

Battistin will take up a position with City next week, but will remain on call for the Strikers, should the Ericsson Cup champions require him later this season.



# STRIKE SQUAD NEWS

with  
*Thor*

## Keep the dream alive

**OPTIMIST:** One who has the inclination to take the brightest views.

If there is one word that describes most people in the Strike Squad then this is it. With only seven games left nearly everyone has written off our chances but let us all try to keep the dream alive and show, through our support, that we believe in the team.

If we cast our minds back to this time last year many thought that a grand final in Brisbane was nothing but a dream. Well, in the end we proved them all wrong.

The atmosphere and enthusiasm during that period can probably never be repeated but we must endeavour to duplicate this basic support for a team of hard working, honest, skilful and not to mention simply nice people.

The Strikers deserve our undying gratitude for putting Queensland on the soccer map and although there has been a few hurdles to overcome this season let us all be thankful for what we have received.

## Goal of the season?

Anyone who reads this section regularly may remember my prediction for goal of the season a couple of weeks ago.

At that time there was only one candidate, in my humble opinion, that being Nick Meredith's blockbuster against Perth Glory.

Well, he has gone and done it again! The equaliser against Carlton last weekend was another quality effort and as I said last time if it is to be beaten let us pray that it is by another Strikers player.

Nick has not had the easiest of seasons with injury and to see his leadership showing through on the park, not only with his never-say-die attitude, but with two of the best goals

you will ever see brings joy to the heart of this eternal optimist.

My only wish now is that we can see another scorching goal from Nick at Suncorp before the season's end. Who knows, maybe the winner in the semi-final to take us on to a record second Grand Final. (I did say I was the eternal optimist).

## Official Strike Squad story

If anyone who has been involved with the Strike Squad in the five seasons of the Strikers history has any anecdotes or true stories to tell, please see either Stewie Holmes or myself tonight or next week as I plan to write a two or three part history of the group.

Only stories deemed to be of the most interest and that can be verified by one of the longer standing members will be used and Stewie's and my decision will be final.

## WIN! WIN! WIN!

### DINNER FOR TWO AT

## *La Dolce Vita*

If you purchased your magazine with Sean 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.

# The beer for here.



**XXXXX**  
BITTER

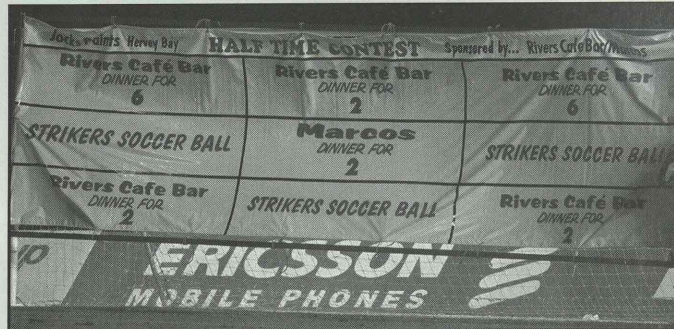


# Rivers Cafe Bar Penalty Strike

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

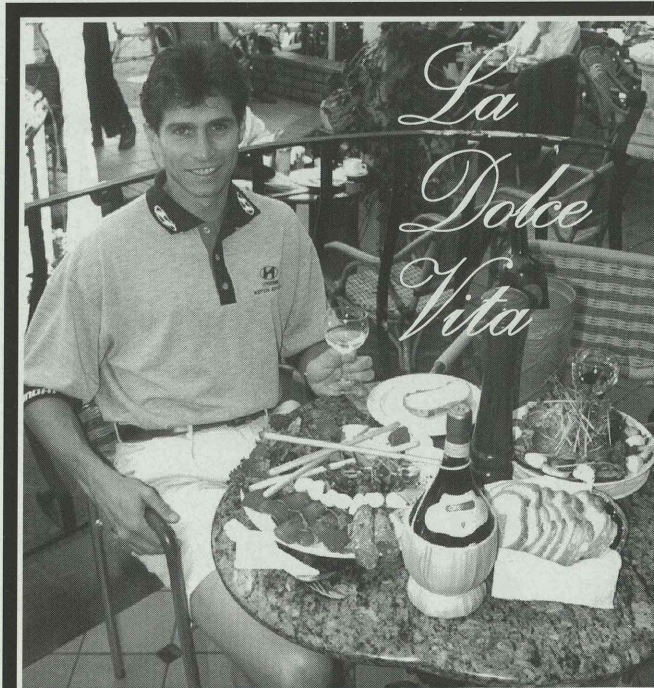
The first challenge is to spot the coupon in the Courier-Mail on match days. If you find it, fill out the Strikers' coupon which should appear for each home game, place it in the barrel at each entrance gate and four contestants will be drawn early in the first half to compete. (If the Courier-Mail does 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 Caf  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.



## Join the crowd

- \* Pre-match and post-match of every Strikers game.
- \* Discuss the opposition, analyse the results with the best Italian cuisine. Fully licensed and we do great coffee too.
- \* Open 7 days 'til late ....Meals 'til Midnight.
- \* Breakfast / Lunch or Dinner

Brisbane Strikers Supporters Club  
Members receive 10% discount on  
food and drinks

• La Dolce Vita •  
20 Park Road Milton  
Ph: 3368 1191

## 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 on 3236 1888 with your credit card booking. Or order via our web site at: <http://www.brisbanestrikers.com>

Watch for items on sale from now until the end of the season!

## 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, 1998.

## 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.

At the Brisbane Strikers, we involve the community through regular visits to schools, community organisations and junior soccer clubs (on request via the Strikers' Marketing office), and other activities at our home games.

This includes the Coca-Cola Cup, the Skills Challenge and the Uhlsport Relay Challenge.

## 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

The schools competing tonight are all girls' teams from: St Margaret's College (2), Runcorn State High School and Redlands College.

## More chances to win a HYUNDAI

The first 1000 paying adults at our next home game on March 7 also receive a Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key - which gives you a great chance to win a Hyundai Excel at the last game of the season!

## Special "IRISH CONNECTION"

Show your ticket at The IRISH CONNECTION, Caxton Street, after the game, and you'll get a FREE PINT!

## 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 winning club, at the end of the season, wins the Coca-Cola Cup!

Current standings are:

Group A		Group B	
Souths Utd A	6	Park Ridge	6
North Star	3	Brighton	3
Margate	3	Bribie Island	3
Ridge Hill	3	Souths United	3
Wynnum	0	Beenleigh	0
Capalaba	0	Centenary	0
Pine Hills	0	Brisbane City B	0
Brisbane City A	0	Brisbane Lions	0

Tonights teams are: Ridge Hill v Margate & Brisbane Lions V Brisbane City.



# THIS COULD BE YOURS!



## THE GREATER BRISBANE HYUNDAI DEALERS

Really want a Brisbane Strikers Fan to win a fantastic  
Hyundai Excel Manual Sprint in 1997 - 98

And you don't have to be a Frank Farina to win!

You will have a few great chances to win in the *Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key* Contests.

1. ALL adult members of the Social Club will receive a *Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key*.
2. ALL contestants participating in the half-time competition at home games will receive a *Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key*.
3. AND there will be other opportunities during the year also to score a *Hyundai Strikers Lucky Key*.

That easy! All Dai... every dai...

 **HYUNDAI**

Leo Muller Hyundai Albion 3243 7788	Leo Muller Hyundai Kedron 3243 7733	Keema Hyundai Mt Gravatt 3343 5888	Keema Hyundai Springwood 3209 3511	Keema Hyundai Cleveland 3821 6444	Westpoint Hyundai Taringa 3870 2800	Moorooka Hyundai Moorooka 3848 7811	Keystar Hyundai Rothwell 3203 2766	Keystar Hyundai Caboolture 5498 5800	Pavillion Motors Booval 3281 3333
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## UP FRONT

with *Andy Harper*

E-mail:  
harper@brisbanestrikers.com



Her eyes glanced ever so slightly upward as he made his way through the crowd and to his seat. She seemed impressed though she skilfully managed a plausible mask of nonchalance. He reached for the over head storage compartment and secured his hand luggage. She was petite and refined. He was robust and smooth, chiselled and clean cut.

"Would you put my bag up there too, please?" she asked with well practised helplessness. Happy to oblige, the young cove placed the damsel's baggage in safety and took his place next to her. Packed for departure, both slid around in their seats and readied themselves for the journey ahead. Initial contact made, an opportunity was now sought where either could force some sort of wedge into the newly broken ice.

Timing was critical. Imperative not to let the moment pass but also not to appear anxious and desperate. Difficult really given that these were the prominent emotions in both minds. They fidgeted awkwardly, the butterflies had become bats and their tummies were knotting.

For the hour long trip, the exchanges continued. His body language became increasingly positive. His furthest shoulder would frequently arc so that he could face her more. In her own way, she responded. She would look straight ahead and with a flirtatious giggle would reinvigorate the discussion when she sensed it dwindle. To this he would again readjust his position. He seemed frustrated that she wouldn't look his way. What secrets did her eyes keep? What skeletons were hidden in the closet of her soul?

They smiled incessantly and appeared keen to portray a fresh, breezy attitude. They swapped views on the world and told each other vaguely of their life plans. Enough to

interest but not enough to bore.

He gladly accepted the in-flight service but she declined. Perhaps she was not confident of combining eating with the giggling tactic which had so far seemed to work. Any miscalculation here could prove fatal. She erred on the side of caution. He munched away. Either his appetite cried louder than his need for relationship, or he was unaware of the potential for damage.

As things progressed the atmosphere became decidedly more relaxed. Each were given to liberal bouts of chuckling as anecdotes were exchanged. The manufactured hilarity remained subdued however, because neither party wished to commit dating-game suicide - releasing that ear piercing, blood curdling laugh which shatters the personal space of all around. Yes, these two protagonists knew their stuff. Their moves were calculated, their energies channelled. They were spinning their webs.

Upon landing, the plane taxied to its gate. There was a strange lull in the love dance. It became clear that of all the things discussed the hour past, her views on the modern woman were not among them. Does he adhere to tradition and request a date or will she take offence at his presumptuousness? She broods over the same issue. Does she wait or does she ask? The mounting tension became palpable. The air was heavy with hesitation. The flight attendants had disarmed the doors and cross checked. Queues were forming in aisles. The plunge was taken. He asked for her number, she gave it. The deal was done. Mission accomplished!

You may well be wondering what on earth this is all about. What a lot of dribble.

True enough, but nothing compared with listening to Nick Meredith after he has scored another unbelievable goal. Deja vu can be a most torturous thing, as can those recurring headaches. It was special though, wasn't it!





# ERICSSON CUP

## Round 14 - 3/1/98



### 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 Danny Invincible
- 14 Wayne Knipe
- 15 Andrew Brayshaw
- 16 Chay Hews
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Stephen Laybutt
- 19 Royce Brownlie
- 20 Graham Ross
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Andy Harper (c)
- 23 Gary Blackford
- Coach - Frank Farina

### ADELAIDE CITY

- 1 Jason Petkovic - s
- 2 Bradley Armour
- 3 Mark Yates
- 4 Milan Ivanovic - FS
- 5 Alex Tobin (c) - s
- 6 Angelo Costanzo - FYS
- 7 Damian Mori - s
- 8 Bradley Hassell - FO
- 9 Dino Mennillo - FYS
- 10 John Gibson - FO
- 11 Kris Trajanovski - s
- 12 Michael Brooks
- 13 Mark Brazzale
- 14 Kosta Salapasidis - FYS
- 15 Travis Dodd - YS
- 16 Ross Verschoor
- 17 Michael Pirone - YS
- 18 Scott Thomas
- 19 Michael Cartwright
- 20 Anthony Breden
- 21 Nick Sabljak
- 22 Leslie Pogliacomini - FYS
- Coach - John Nyskohus

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
South Melbourne	19	11	6	2	46	26	39
Sydney United	19	10	6	3	29	16	36
Adelaide City	18	11	2	5	37	20	35
Wollongong Wolves	19	10	1	8	41	24	31
Carlton SC	19	7	9	3	23	17	30
Marconi Fairfield	19	8	4	7	23	24	28
Perth Glory	19	8	4	7	26	29	28
Melbourne Knights	18	7	5	6	25	21	26
Gippsland Falcons	19	6	6	7	18	23	24
Adelaide Sharks	19	6	4	9	23	29	22
UTS Olympic	19	6	3	10	24	36	21
<b>STRIKERS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>
Canberra Cosmos	19	3	6	10	21	40	15
Newcastle Breakers	19	2	5	12	22	42	11

### NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aust Inst Sport	16	12	2	2	63	13	38
UTS Olympic	16	9	4	3	52	24	31
Wollongong City	17	8	4	5	34	33	28
Sydney United	16	7	6	3	48	29	27
Marconi Fairfield	16	8	2	6	32	31	26
<b>QAS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>
Newcastle Breakers	15	5	5	5	35	31	20
Marconi Fairfield Colts	16	6	2	8	25	38	20
ACT Academy of Sport	16	5	4	7	21	44	19
UTS Olympic Colts	17	3	3	11	26	60	12
Sydney Utd Colts	15	3	2	10	16	45	11
NSW Inst. of Sport	16	2	4	10	19	37	10

### OTHER ROUND 20 ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

FRI 27 FEB	Newcastle v Sydney United
SAT 28 FEB	Marconi v Wollongong Wolves
SAT 28 FEB	Canberra v Gippsland Falcons
SUN 1 MAR	Melb Knights v Carlton
SUN 1 MAR	Adelaide Sharks v Sth Melbourne
SUN 1 MAR	UTS Olympic v Perth Glory

### ROUND 21 ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

SAT 7 MAR	Carlton v Marconi Fairfield
<b>SAT 7 MAR</b>	<b>STRIKERS v Newcastle Breakers</b>
SUN 8 MAR	Melb Knights v Canberra Cosmos
SUN 8 MAR	Sydney United v Adelaide Sharks
SUN 8 MAR	Perth Glory v Gippsland
SUN 8 MAR	Wollongong v Sth Melbourne
SUN 8 MAR	Adelaide City v UTS Olympic

### ERICSSON CUP HOT SHOTS

Damian Mori	Adel City	16
Pablo Cardozo	Adel Sharks	13
Scott Chipperfield	Adel Sharks	12
Paul Trimboli	South Melb	10
Norman Tome	UTS Olymp	10
Tom Pondeljak	Melb Knights	9
Abbas Saad	Sydney Utd	8

## Grand Opening

# BRISBANE LIONS

## NEW CLUBHOUSE!

### TOMORROW SUNDAY MARCH 1

**PLUS! Round 1 XXXX League**

## BRISBANE LIONS V MT GRAVATT 3PM KICKOFF

Youth Match 10.45am - Reserves 12.45pm

Hot-Air Balloon Rides

FREE! Rides for Kids

Singing Sensation! KIM DURANT



# 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.



**HYUNDAI**

**WHAT DRIVES YOU DRIVES US**

**ALLDAI EVERYDAI**