

Eye On

Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

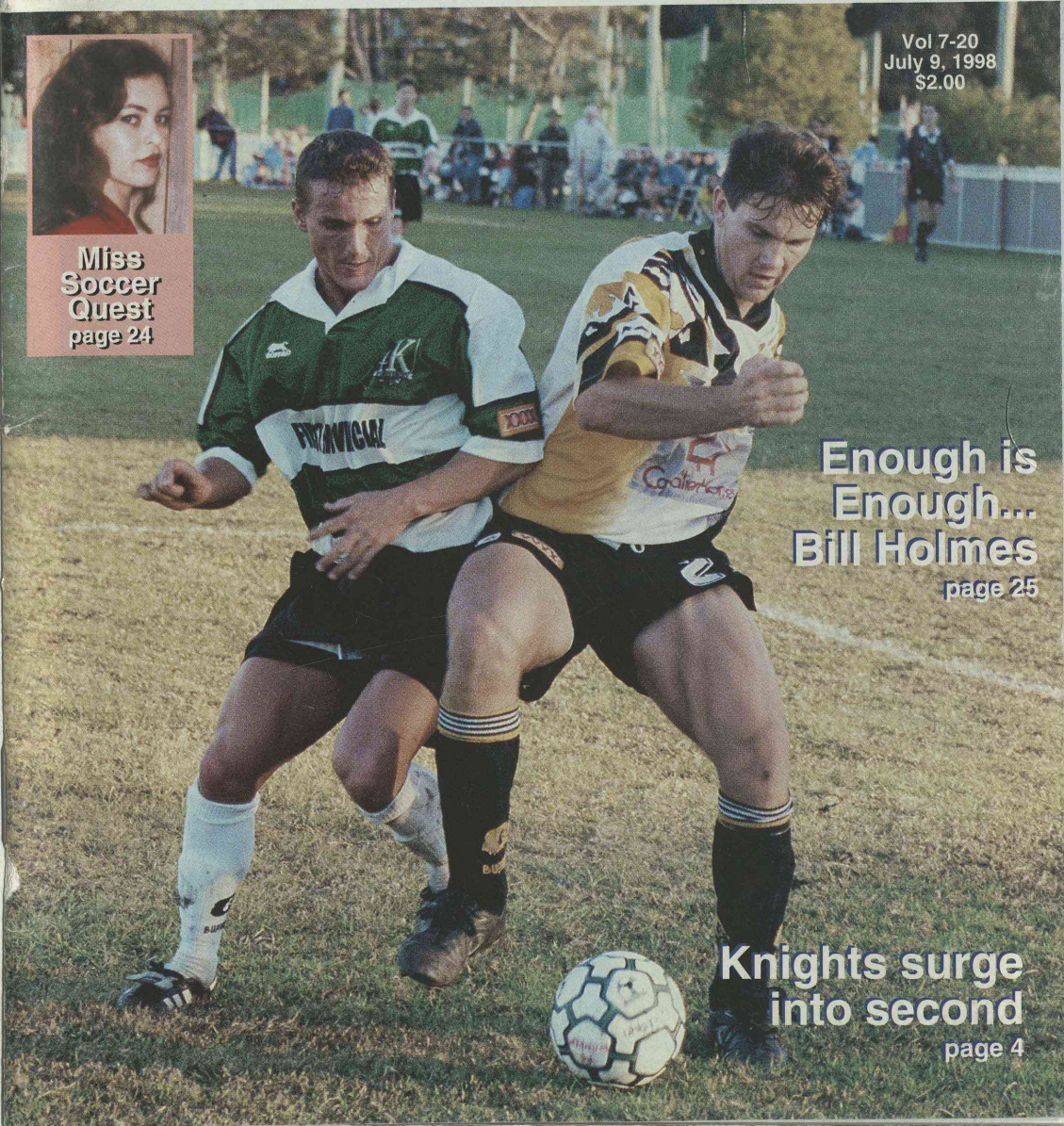
Soccer

QUEENSLAND'S MOST READ SOCCER MAGAZINE



Miss
Soccer
Quest
page 24

Vol 7-20
July 9, 1998
\$2.00



Enough is
Enough...
Bill Holmes
page 25

Knights surge
into second
page 4

Editorial

The World Cup has provided local fans of the world game with a football feast over the last month.

At the start of the campaign, the editor of this magazine tipped the Dutch to win an historic World Cup (at least that is what I am telling everyone now) and at the time of printing, that confidence had not waned.

To the Premier League and the competition is hotting up with just eight rounds of the regular season to play.

City's lead was cut to seven on the weekend with the Ipswich Knights surging into outright second after victories against Lions, Rochedale and Wynnum.

The two sides have big clashes this week against Rochedale and Taringa respectively, with the outcome of both games hard to pick.

Rochedale, despite a 1-0 loss to the Knights midweek, loom as a genuine threat for the championship and premiership, and the game against City has been deservedly nominated as the match of the round.

Taringa has not won since Round 15 but the players can redeem themselves with a victory against the Knights.

Lions are the most likely to win this weekend of all the teams vying for a top four spot.

The perennial big guns travel to Chris Green Park to battle with Beenleigh and even the most optimistic of fans would have to consider Beenleigh at long odds to even take a point from the match.

It was great to see City's Chris Slater back on the score sheet last weekend. Slater hasn't been able to find the back of the net for a few weeks and his two goals were a timely boost for City.

Slater is way out in front on the leading scorers' list and it will be interesting whether the new coaching staff at the Strikers make a play for undoubtedly the league's best striker.

Apologies to Luke Adair whose photo was to adorn page 9 of last weeks issue... Gremlins got into the works and it is one of those unexplained mysteries as to where Luke's photo disappeared to. Some unkind souls have said it is an improvement!only kidding.



EYE ON Soccer Magazine

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Cover: Knights new recruit, Craig (Chook) Collins does battle with Wynnum's Luke Adair during their clash at Tinagalpa. Ipswich were lucky to come away with a 2-1 victory when Wynnum missed a penalty towards the end.

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Knights surge into second as Taringa slide behind

The Ipswich Knights surged into outright second on the Premier League ladder after securing a hard-fought 2-1 win against the Wynnum Wolves on the weekend.

Carmichael Park is never an easy place to visit and results over recent weeks have proved that it is difficult for visiting teams to take points from matches at the ground.

With the scores locked at 1-1 at the break, a second half goal by Kevin Meacock ensured a post game smile from coach Mike Mulvey.

"It was a hard week for us as we played against Rochedale midweek and it told in the first half against Wynnum," Mulvey said.

"We were a bit sluggish and we could conceivably have been two behind at half time and on the basis of that, we were probably lucky to win the game.

"However, we had a strong second half performance and to win against Wynnum away is an excellent result."

Wolves coach Peter Tokesi said he was disappointed by the result and despite the fact that his side missed a penalty late in the match, believed there was ample opportunities to level the score.

In the other big match of the round at Jack Spare Park, Taringa Rovers held league leaders Brisbane City to a 2-2 draw.

Chris Slater found his way back on the scoresheet and put City ahead in the first half when he latched onto a pinpoint accurate cross from Danny Wright.

Des Hughes equalised for Taringa and the teams went to the break locked at 1-1.

In the second half, Slater put City back in front, but again Hughes equalised for Taringa and ensured the points were shared at the whistle.

City coach Bobby Hamilton said although he was initially a little dissatisfied not to get the three points, he was satisfied with the efforts of his players.

"It was nice to see Chris Slater get back on the scoresheet and I thought he was unlucky not to get a hat-trick," Hamilton said.

"Danny Wright was instrumental in setting up both our goals and he and Slater had great games."

To Lions Stadium; Brisbane Lions were simply too good for Mt Gravatt winning 3-1.

Veteran Frank Mengotti, Warren Allen and Brett McPaul each scored for Lions, while Strikers import Wayne Knipe netted for Mt Gravatt.

Lions coach Miron Bleiberg said he was pleased with the commitment of his players during the game, but was still concerned that nerves were hindering the performance of players and not allowing them to play freely.

"Even though we won, we wanted to record a better performance as Mt Gravatt are not a strong side," Bleiberg said.

Rochedale Rovers overpowered the Bundaberg Waves, winning 4-0 in a whitewash at Underwood Park.

Esala Masi, Michael Legg, Brad Ditton and Andy Monement each scored as Rovers moved into third place on the league ladder.

In the final match of the round, Gold Coast City defeated Beenleigh 3-0. The Coast's goals were scored by Troy Greenwood, Brett Adams and Shane Steffanuto.

PREMIER PREVIEW - BEENLEIGH v BRISBANE LIONS

Beenleigh is likely to be in for another battering when it hosts Brisbane Lions on Saturday evening.

Beenleigh is struggling at the wrong end of the league ladder and last week, the side endured a 3-0 loss to the Gold Coast.

However, coach Steve Dolan said he believed the scoreline flattered the Coast and praised the efforts of his charges.

"The match was certainly an improved performance from the Waves game and the score wasn't a true indication of the game," he said.

"We had a few chances to score but couldn't take them while they had four chances and managed to put three of them away.

"Their (Gold Coast) goals came from a penalty awarded for hand ball just before half time and two soft headers from crosses in the second half.

"The two second half goals were quite disappointing as they both stemmed from defensive lapses, but everyone battled well."

Dolan said he was confident his side could take the game to Lions on the weekend.

"We played Lions six or seven weeks ago and lost one-nil thanks to an own goal," he said.

"We showed that with a full-strength squad we can match the best, but our problem has been concentrating for the full 90 minutes.

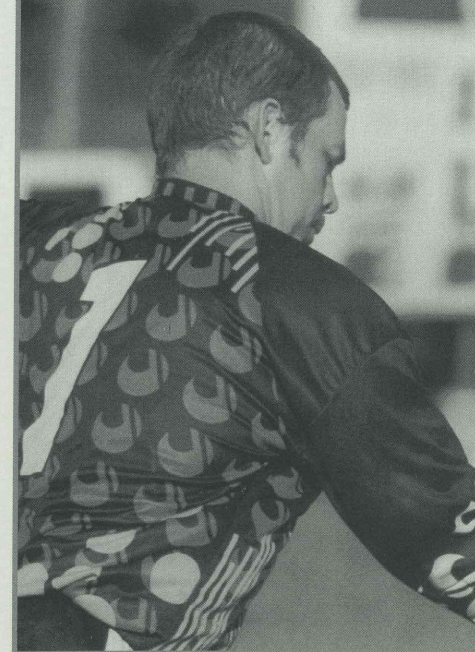
"If we put in the effort like we did against the Gold Coast, then I'll be happy."

Lions coach Miron Bleiberg said despite a 3-1 win against Mt Gravatt last week, he was still far from happy with the team's recent performances.

"We are not fulfilling the expectations that were placed on us at the start of the season and at the moment, we are far from a premiership and are really just fighting for a top four spot," Bleiberg said.

"It's very disappointing and the only thing in our favour is that there are still quite a few games to go in the season and we are in the top four."

Jason Lucas



BEENLEIGH v BRISBANE LIONS

Chris Green Park, Beenleigh
Saturday July 11, 6.00 pm

BEENLEIGH	BRISBANE LIONS
1 Chris Roche	1 Jason Lucas
2 Kieren Galloway	2 David Lonsdale (c)
3 Michael Lipscombe	3 Darren Sime
4 Brett Jones	4 Steven Starr
5 Steven Forshaw	5 Paul Worroll
6 Wayne Hinton	6 Mark Geritz
7 Fotis Skordou	7 Steve Jackson
8 Jarrod Austin	8 Frank Mengotti
9 Brett Druery	9 Anthony Brown
10 Bradley Ditton	10 Michael Brockwell
11 Alan Spiers	11 Marc Flemington
12 Jason Eacott	12 Roy Huth
13 Daniel Stowers	13 Craig Rogers
14 Michael Bettridge	14 Cameron Watson
15 Lee Preston	15 Warren Allen
16 Michael Kalic	16 (Not Allocated)
17 Paul Lederhose	17 (Not Allocated)
18 Marc Lederhose	18 Greg Di-Losa
19 Cori Fisher	20 Darren Hillier
20 David Iliff	Rgk Robert Farrow

PREMIER PREVIEW - MT GRAVATT v WYNNUM DIST.

Mt Gravatt and the Wynnum Wolves will both be desperate for points as they attempt to make up for losses last week.

Mt Gravatt were convincingly beaten 3-1 by a superior Lions outfit and must win to keep their finals hopes alive.

Mt Gravatt coach Danny Cox was bitterly disappointed with the loss, describing the game as "very ordinary".

"We didn't play well and if we are going to be competitive, the lads have got to start believing in themselves a little more," Cox said.

"Wynnum will definitely be a tough game for us this weekend as they are always a hard team to beat.

"They are well drilled, well organised and have a passion and a will to win.

"They're on a bit of a roll as their confidence is sky high and we'll have to be on our game to compete."

Wynnum's extraordinary month came to a grinding halt last weekend, losing 2-1 to an in-form Ipswich Knights.

Coach Peter Tokesi said it was a little frustrating not to take any points from the match.

"Last week we played worse soccer but still managed to grind out a draw so it was disappointing not to even get a point from the game," he said.

"However, we had ample opportunities to score goals and we didn't take them so in the end, we only have ourselves to blame."

Tokesi said he was looking forward to the match at Mt Gravatt as he expected the opposition to come out firing.

"Last time we played them, we thrashed them 6-2 and I'm sure that any team that gets beaten like that would want revenge," Tokesi said.

"They are a hot and cold side and are a little bit above us on the table and if we don't play to our potential, they will definitely roll us."

On recent form, it is hard to go past the Wynnum Wolves in this match.



Wynnum's Billy McDermott & Mt Gravatt's Robin Gosney during their last encounter

MT GRAVATT v WYNNUM DIST.

Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
Saturday July 11, 7.00 pm

MOUNT GRAVATT	WYNNUM DISTRICT
1 Mark Bland	1 Garth McCulloch
2 David Pryor	2 Luke Adair
3 Peter Georgiou	3 (Not allocated)
4 Danny Cox (c)	4 Nigel McClure
5 Arif Azam Khan	5 Ricky McKinless
6 Stu Collins	6 Tony McKinless (c)
7 Robin Gosney	7 Matt Campion
8 Anthony McCullough	8 Paul Wilkins
9 Wayne Knipe	9 Mark Wilkins
10 Anthony Roche	10 Ben Wood
11 Andy Garw. Gowers	11 Nick Hadland
12 Steve Morris	12 Darrell Grundy
13 Darren Stachowicz	13 (Not Allocated)
14 Nathan Carlos	14 Wayne Corbett
15 (Not Allocated)	15 Andrew Davidson
16 (Not Allocated)	16 Shane Gilroy
17 (Not Allocated)	17 Calvin Gnech
18 (Not Allocated)	18 Damian Rogers
19 Trevor Evans	19 Bill McDermott
Rgk Paul Petersen	20 Wade Cannon

PREMIER PREVIEW - BUNDABERG v Gold COAST

The Gold Coast make the long trip north this weekend to the Thabeban Sports Complex where they will be hosted by the Bundaberg Waves.

Bundaberg was clearly outpointed last week by a red-hot Rochedale unit, but Waves coach Alan Baretta said he believed that the score flattered Rochedale to some degree.

"I was fairly disappointed with our efforts but the score was not a true indication of the game," Baretta said.

Rochedale scored two goals in the first four minutes and to be honest, our game was probably over at that point.

"We seemed to rally in the last twenty minutes of the first half and first twenty minutes of the second half.

"We created a couple of good scoring opportunities but our finishing wasn't up to the task and their goalkeeper played exceptionally well.

"On our side, Gary Blackford played well at the back and Jason Chapman also played a strong game."

Baretta said he was looking forward to a good battle with the Coast.

"It should be a fairly even contest as the results of both teams over the last month have been pretty much the same," he said.

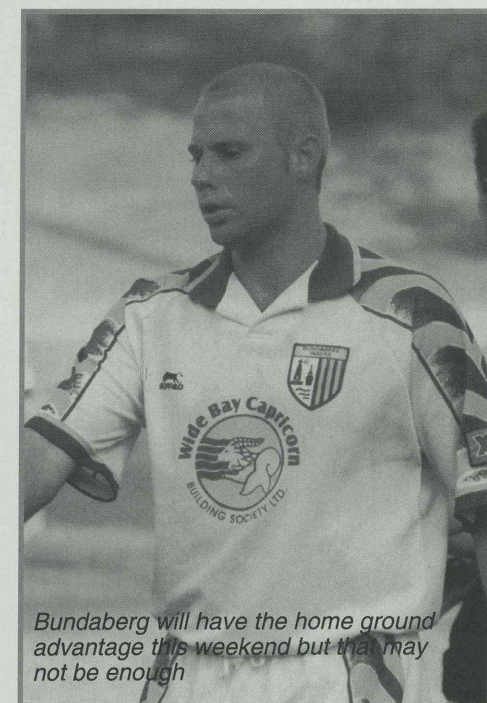
"We're at home in front of our home crowd and I think that fact will assist our performance."

The Gold Coast will be looking to emulate last weekend's match against Beenleigh, convincingly winning 3-0.

One-nil up at the break thanks to a Troy Greenwood penalty, the Coast proved too strong in the second period with Brett Adams and Shane Steffanutto putting the result beyond doubt.

The Coast is currently in equal sixth place on the league ladder and win against Waves would keep the side's finals aspirations alive.

When the two teams last met in Round 11 at Glennon Park, Nerang, the match ended in a 1-1 draw.



Bundaberg will have the home ground advantage this weekend but that may not be enough

BUNDABERG v GOLD COAST

Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
Saturday July 11, 7.00 pm

BUNDABERG	GOLD COAST CITY
1 Michael Bainbridge	1 Martin Simpson
2 Andrew Donnison	2 Tom Protuder
3 Andrew Packer	3 Adam Hayward
4 Altan Ramadan	4 Mick Richardson
5 John Giovannoni	5 Trevor Wood
6 Tony Roebuck (vc)	6 Brett Adams
7 Luke Graham	7 Col Phelan
8 Craig Hawkins	8 Jade Flack
9 Nick Maas	9 Troy Greenwood
10 Royce Brownlie	10 Peter Grierson
11 Jason Chapman	11 Aaron Bristow
12 Chris Wilson	12 Rob Boxall
13 Gary Blackford	13 Stuart Stevenson
14 Peter Bock	14 Matthew Packer
15 Tony Giovannoni	15 Trevor Elliott
16 Paul Fagan (c)	16 Martyn Carter
17 Michael Giovannoni	17 Pat Casey
18 Matthew Barritt	18 Adam Evans
19 Jimmy Cudd	19 Lee Vernon
20 Cale Driver	20 Matt Miner

PREMIER PREVIEW - BRISBANE CITY v ROCHEDALE ROV

Brisbane City and Rochedale Rovers clash in the match of the round at Spencer Park on Sunday afternoon.

City maintained its lead at the top of the league ladder with a 2-2 draw with Taringa Rovers last weekend.

It was the third draw in succession for Bobby Hamilton's team and the coach said he was contented with the point.

"After the game, my initial thought was that it was a case of another two points dropped," Hamilton said.

"However, in reality, I wasn't overly disappointed as if we perform like that for the remainder of the season, we'll win the majority of games.

"It was a great spectacle despite the field condition as there were some good goals scored by both sides, and I'm sure that anybody who was at the game would come back."

Hamilton said he was looking forward to the clash with Rochedale and would be encouraging his players to approach the match with the same attitude as they displayed against Taringa.

"I'll be emphasising during the week that we're in a position to do ourselves justice," Hamilton said.

"If we want to be premiers, we have to beat the likes of Rochedale.

"The next few weeks should be very interesting and at least we play the teams that are close to us at home."

Rochedale coach Peter Bannon said the match against City was vital for a host of reasons.

"They (City) are top of the league and there certainly not there by any accident," Bannon said.

"This game needs us to stand up and give a strong account of ourselves.

"It's going to be a case of either we're going to be there at the end or we'll lie down.

"It's down to the players this weekend and how we go will largely depend on how much they want to win."



BRISBANE CITY v ROCHEDALE

Spencer Park, Newmarket
Sunday July 12, 2.45 pm

BRISBANE CITY	ROCHEDALE ROVERS
1 Daniel Duke	1 Elvis Guzic
2 Warren Cooley	2 (Not Allocated)
3 Damon Voss	3 Ross Davidson
4 Mark Bennett	4 Michael Lane
5 Wayne Strange	5 Damian Harris
6 Scott Elliott	6 Alun Evans
7 Barry Wilkinson	7 Steve Fitzsimmons
8 Chris Slater (c)	8 Michael Legg
9 Damien Waugh	9 Wade Baldwin
10 Danny Wright	10 Clayton Koch
11 Shane Haddow	11 John Weatherby
12 (Not Allocated)	12 David Pilic
13 (Not Allocated)	13 Brad Ditton
14 Mark Battistin	14 Paul Grugan
15 (Not Allocated)	15 Glen Kolpak
16 Mark Jenkins	16 Matt Olley
17 Damon Tune	17 Gary Brattan
18 Carlos Eckiverra	18 Andy Monement
19 Paul Ciabo	19 Esala Masi
20 Adriano Taraborrelli	20 Todd Rumble

PREMIER PREVIEW - Ipswich Knights v Taringa Rovers

Giant killers Ipswich Knights host Taringa Rovers at Eric Evans Reserve on Sunday.

Ipswich has come from the clouds in recent weeks and surged into outright second on the league ladder, just seven points shy of City.

The side's impressive round 18 win (3-0) over Brisbane Lions was followed up by a tough 1-0 win midweek against another championship hopeful, Rochedale Rovers.

And then last weekend, the Knights achieved what City, Taringa, Rochedale and Lions had been unable to do in the previous four weeks, take three points from the Wolves.

It has been a dream run for Ipswich and coach Mike Mulvey puts the side's success down to the commitment of the Knights players.

"We've got a good squad of players and everyone is fighting for places in the run-on side," Mulvey said.

"That's a good thing and augurs well for the rest of the season as it is very healthy for the club when players are motivated to achieve.

"We have the opportunity to make something of our season and where we finish is up to ourselves."

Mulvey said his squad would be back to full strength for the clash against Taringa, with Nick Seeley and Clint Scott both available.

"It is an important game for us and it will be nice to have a full squad of players to choose from," Mulvey said.

Taringa coach John Ogden said he was confident of taking points off the Knights despite the absence of several key players.

"They're (Ipswich) in great form and Mick's obviously doing a great job but we're not going there to lose," Ogden said.

"They're quite solid all round the park and we'll be doing it a little tough as Theochari is out with hamstring trouble, Joel Hayle is suspended and Danny Britton is unavailable."

Although Ogden said he was pleased with his side's recent form, the fact remains that Taringa has not won since Round 15.



IPSWICH KNIGHTS v TARINGA

Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba
Sunday July 12, 2.45 pm

IPSWICH KNIGHTS	TARINGA ROVERS
1 Barney Smith	1 Scott Higgins
2 Andrew King	2 Scott Robertson
3 Nick Seeley	3 Chris Day
4 Reg Davani	4 Danny Britton
5 Pat Boyle	5 Joel Hale
6 (Not Allocated)	6 (Not Allocated)
7 Brenley Jefferd	7 Des Hughes
8 John Clark	8 Demitri Theochari
9 Damien Conquest	9 Robert Laslo
10 Peter McKendrick	10 Richard Hilli
11 Craig Collins	11 Cliff Tuck
12 David Guest	12 Steven Bland
13 Kasey Wehrman	13 (Not Allocated)
14 Kevin Meacock	14 Clinton McDermott
15 Clint Scott	15 Aaron Bakker
16 Ken Caldwell	16 Shaun Molenda
17 Wayne Adams	17 Cameron Williamson
18 Neville O'Sullivan	18 Martin Matula
19 Peter Vogler	19 Jason Poggi
20 Sam Ferguson	20 Brett Dickens

IEA Fair Play

The table is an aggregate of send-offs and cautions from the three grades in the XXXX Soccer League up to June 21 (Round 17).

Bundaberg Waves are now performing well in the disciplinary stakes and have now taken over the lead but it should be remembered that Bundaberg and the Gold Coast only field two teams whereas all other clubs field three.

Wynnum have climbed from fifth to third, Taringa and Rochedale have both climbed the table from seventh and eighth to fourth and fifth respectively. Unfortunately the bottom marker is still Beenleigh.

Cautions are tabulated at face value and six demerit points are added for each send-off. The winner at the end of the season receives \$1,500.00 prize money from Insurance Exchange of Australia

Club	Red	Yellow	Pts
Bundaberg Waves	6	52	212
Mt Gravatt	4	56	223
Wynnum	4	60	229
Taringa Rovers	5	56	231
Brisbane City	5	58	235
Rochedale Rovers	3	58	235
Gold Coast	5	63	252
Ipswich Knights	6	77	307
Brisbane Lions	11	65	312
Beenleigh	5	88	335



World Cup Final Breakfast

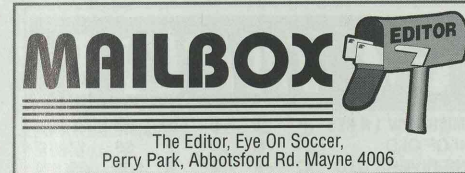
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**LIVE ON THE
BIG SCREEN**



The Editor, Eye On Soccer,
Perry Park, Abbotsford Rd. Mayne 4006

Dear Sir,

Having coached XXXX Youth teams for the past three seasons and junior teams for the previous four years I consider that I am reasonably placed to speak with first hand experience on this important competition.

Two years ago when the QSF had clubs madly working on formulating their applications for admission to the new premier competition the "buzz" word was criteria which had to be addressed. While I could speel off my thoughts on whether the critical areas of criteria have been met, I would like to raise what is close to my heart and that is the Youth competition.

It was considered appropriate that Bundaberg could enter the competition with only two sides last season, firsts and youth, this year they were allowed to change this format to firsts and reserves. The reasons behind this rationale was due to a number of factors including travel, cost, local competition, player resources, etc.

This season saw the admittance and rightly

so, of a Gold Coast team but with only two sides namely firsts and reserves.

Due to the ridiculous situation that currently stands with the Youth competition we have eight teams competing with two byes each round. As we (Taringa) play Gold Coast and Bundaberg consecutively we go three weeks between games on three occasions (in fact, once it was four weeks due to the magnificent drawcards of Auckland, but that's another story!).

On top of this guess which team won last weeks under 16 TIS in Bundaberg..... You got it in one no surprises it was South East Queensland with all players coming from the local Gold Coast competition!!!

Firstly the QSF should not have given the Gold Coast a choice and their criteria should have been to field a Youth team.

In 1999 the QSF has the opportunity to introduce a Toowoomba side, Eastern Suburbs (in place of Beenleigh) and a northern based club, say, Pine Rivers and I consider that we would have a far better structured competition.

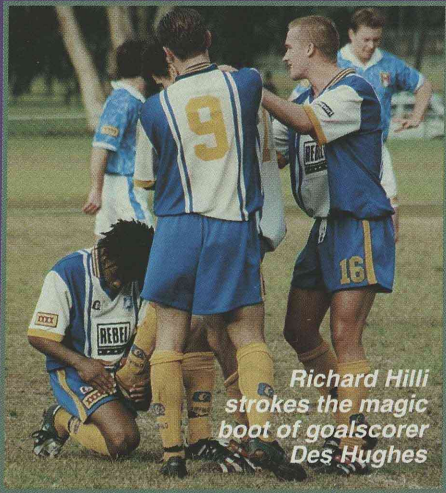
These thoughts are mine and are not anything more than my personal assessment based on a reasonable exposure to the local competition.

Paul Molenda - Coach Taringa Rovers XXXX Youth

Roses and Raspberries *by Aub Server*

- Bouquets of roses to SBS for its excellent coverage of the 'Agony and Ecstasy' of France '98.
- Roses to Andy Harper (ex? Striker who is launching a career as TV commentator) for his potent match comments. Just one of a few beauties; 'He must have lost compression and blown a head gasket during the half time break.' Speaking on the non return of Bulgaria's most prominent player after the interval) He was fuming.
- Raspberries to all those players who can't wait until the end of the game before they try to pull the shirts off their opponents.
- Big fat Raspberries to the Oh so many players who grab just about any parts of their opponents anatomy when tackling or when free kicks or corners are taken. AND ARE GETTING AWAY WITH IT!!!!!!!
- Bouquet of Roses to Sir Bobby Charlton for appealing to FIFA to eradicate this new wave of 'HANDS ON'.
- More roses to Ben Wood (Wynnum Wolves) for his sizzling equaliser against Brisbane City. The goal is right up there with the best scored in France '98.

ACTION REPLAY



Richard Hilli strokes the magic boot of goalscorer Des Hughes



Joel Hale



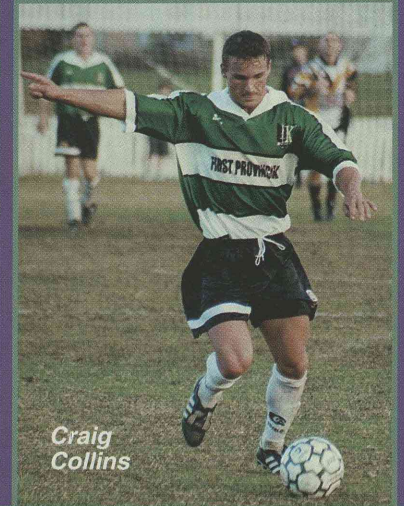
Danny Britton



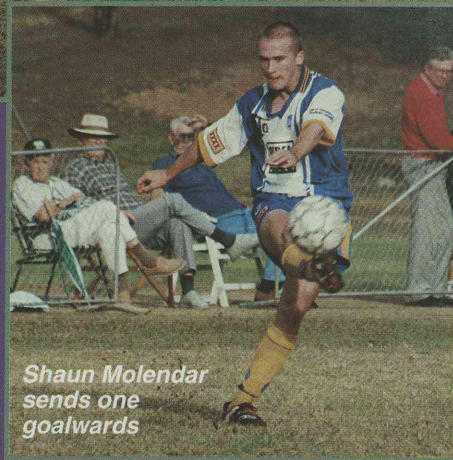
Richard Hilli



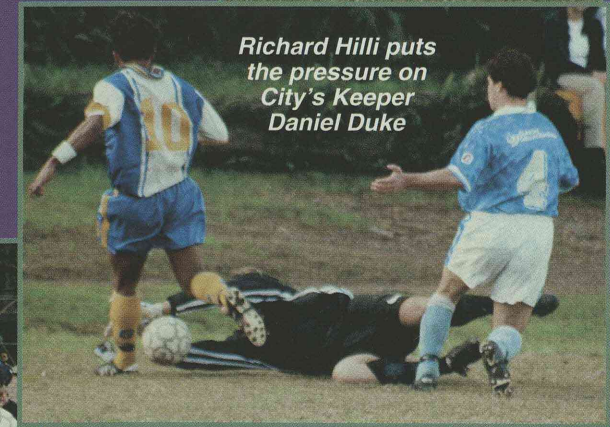
John Clark



Craig Collins



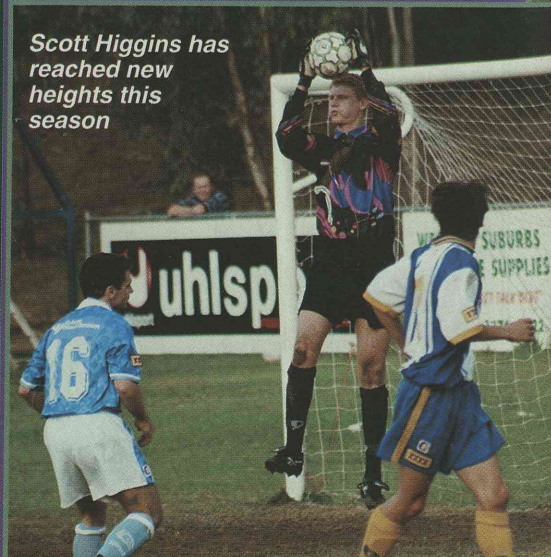
Shaun Molendar sends one goalwards



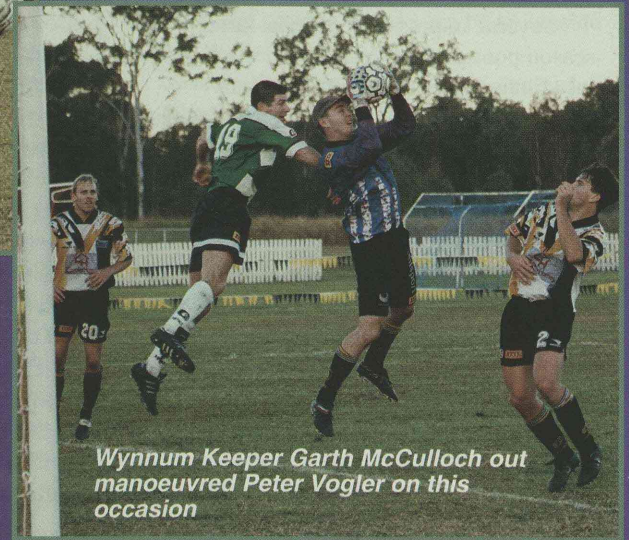
Richard Hilli puts the pressure on City's Keeper Daniel Duke



Taringa's Robert Laslo at pace



Scott Higgins has reached new heights this season



Wynnum Keeper Garth McCulloch out manoeuvred Peter Vogler on this occasion

Semi Pro Matches (Round 20)

Saturday July 11

The Gap v Grange Thistle
6.00pm - Walton Bridge Reserve

Albany Creek v Newmarket
7.00pm - Wolter Park

North Star v Mitchelton
7.00pm - O'Callaghan Park

Toowoomba Utd v Olympic Utd
7.00pm - Gold Park

Slacks Creek v Souths Utd
7.30pm - Usher Park

Rocklea Utd v Redlands Utd
7.00pm - Dunn Road

Sunday July 12

Eastern Suburbs v Pine Rivers
2.45pm - Heath Park

Acacia Ridge v Inala City
2.45pm - Ron Proud Field



NORTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Stars struggle to stop slide

North Star's slide down the table continued last weekend, with the side this time going down at Newmarket.

The 3-0 loss was the club's eleventh of the season and now leaves them in second last spot on the ladder.

Goal difference is now the only thing separating them from lowly Newmarket as the battle for the wooden spoon heats up.

And things don't appear to be getting any easier for the club, which appears to be in turmoil following the sacking of its first team coach, Michael McEvoy, last month.

The side's results prior to McEvoy's sacking were not so great either, but after last weekend's convincing loss to Newmarket, the sacking has done little to curb the poor results.

The young team must now regroup in readiness for this weekend's crucial match against an in-form Mitchelton outfit.

While Mitchelton went down 2-1 to Uni last weekend, the Iain Fagan coached side has been one of the better teams in recent weeks.

Several impressive victories after a mid-season poor patch allowed them to sneak back into finals contention, with 25 points.

They remain two points clear of fifth placed Pine Rivers and just three points shy of the University of Queensland in second spot.

A win against North Star this weekend will see Mitchy consolidate their spot in the top four and even push for the all important second spot, should several other results go their way.

For North Star, a win in front of their home fans is a must, if they are going to restore some faith amongst the club faithful. A win would also give them three valuable competition points which will keep them off the bottom of the ladder for another week at least.

Creek ready to roll Newmarket

Albany Creek coach Justin Kilshaw remains confident his side's run of good form will continue this Saturday night, when they take on fast improvers Newmarket.

After starting the season very slowly, the Creek have charged up the table to now lie in third place behind Easts and the University of Queensland and Kilshaw couldn't be happier with his players' commitment.

"The boys have really knuckled down to the task and have grinded out some good results all year," Kilshaw said.

"The turmoil at the start of the year, which saw us lose most of our first team players, I believe has bonded us closer and forged a genuine team spirit amongst the club, and I think that's been the secret to our success this season."

Kilshaw said he was pleased with last weekend's 2-0 victory at Pine Rivers, however he remained wary of a Newmarket side that is now brimming with confidence, following an emphatic 3-0 win over North Star.

"Our win last weekend was an extremely good one under the circumstances," the Albany Creek coach said.

"But Newmarket's results over the last month or so certainly show that they've improved considerably also.

"We beat them comfortably last time round, but I think we got them at a bad time. Since then they've had some very impressive wins and I believe they've sounded a warning to the other clubs that they will be nuisance value for the rest of the season."

Creek will be without two of their stars this weekend. Midfielder Carlo Borzelega and stopper Craig Geerson have both accumulated their points and will be forced to watch the match from the sideline.

NORTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Burn's Tigers continue march

Eastern Suburbs have continued their charge towards this year's premiership following a 1-0 victory over Grange Thistle.

Although the win was not as convincing as some of their other victories this season, it was nonetheless a solid win against a team that is on the improve.

Grange had been unbeaten in several rounds prior to last weekend's match against the Tigers, and with home advantage going their way, things looked primed for an upset.

However the Tigers, under new coach Frank Burn did not disappoint and the 1-0 victory has given them three more competition points and has virtually sealed the premiership for them.

Things look as though they could get a little bit tougher for the Tigers this week, when they face the only side to have beaten them this season.

Pine Rivers have definitely been a bogey side for Easts and Frank Pimblett's men have plenty riding on this weekend's match.

Following their 2-0 loss to Albany Creek last week, Rivers now find themselves two points out of the four, with seven rounds remaining.

Victory over the Tigers this weekend would almost guarantee them passage back into the top four, but more importantly it would sound a huge psychological warning for the other teams in the top half of the competition.

With Albany Creek and Mitchelton set to play Newmarket and North Star respectively, where a win for both teams would consolidate their positions in the top four, it is also important Rivers do not lose touch from the sides in the finals race.

A loss this weekend may put them out of reach, five points out of the four if they are not careful, and with time fast running out, that is a scenario Pimblett could do without.

Gators to reclaim top four spot

The Gap Gators will be out to reclaim their spot in the top four when they take on Grange Thistle at home this weekend.

The Mauro Saftich coached side has dropped down to sixth spot after an away loss to Albany Creek and a bye last weekend.

They remain on 22 points, two shy of fourth placed Mitchelton but with a game in hand over the rest of the competition.

A win against Grange this weekend could see them slip right back into the four, with a game still in hand.

And with seven rounds remaining that would place the northern conference side in a good position to claim a finals berth.

Grange have come of age in the past month though, posting several fantastic results.

Last weekend's 1-0 loss to competition leaders Eastern Suburbs was the first fixture loss for some time, and has given the rest of the league a good indication of just how far the side has come this season.

At present they are on 16 points, and the way they are playing could even be an outside chance to challenge for the finals.

At worst they will prove to be nuisance value for those teams pushing for a finals spot, with several upsets not at all out of the question.

One major concern for Grange this weekend though will be how well they back up from Tuesday night's Queensland Cup encounter with Albany Creek.

Matches between these two teams have been very fiercely contested this season, with no love lost between the clubs, following some pre-season happenings.

If Thistle can back up from Tuesday night's match without too much disruption, they will certainly give The Gap a run for their money.

SOUTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Steelers thrash league leaders

In the upset of the season, hard charging Souths Steelers humbled semi-pro south competition leaders Toowoomba Raiders to the tune of three goals to nil last weekend.

Toowoomba went down convincingly to a brilliant display of controlled football, with Souths showing the previously unbeaten Raiders no mercy, outclassing them in every department.

Only four minutes into the game, classy forward Gareth Stevens pounced on a minor error and converted into a well taken goal.

Toowoomba appeared to be unsettled and their attempts to get back into the match were met with dogged resistance from the well drilled Souths defence.

The Raiders made no real progress and paid the penalty of pushing up too far when Dean Weatherall burst down the wing. He crossed to Gareth Stevens who made a run to the line and cut the ball back cleverly for Weatherall to drive home the second goal of the match.

Down by two goals after 29 minutes, Toowoomba almost conceded another, saved only by desperate defence by Andy Fox.

Souths continued to dominate play and centre trio Ryan Bridge, Ed Berry and Rob Judge slammed the door shut on the Raiders attack.

On the occasions when Toowoomba did penetrate they were met by solid goalkeeping by Brendon Freeman.

The Raiders appeared to have no answer to the control and speed of the Souths team, and the frustration showed with classy forward Craig McConnell bottled out of the game by the Souths defence.

The third goal for Souths came in the 76th minute, when 18 year old James Stewart ran solo down the wing, cut back to the centre and chipped the ball over the keepers head.

Danny Docherty lost for words

Slacks Creek coach Danny Docherty can not explain his side's second half effort, which ultimately resulted in their 3-3 draw with Redlands last weekend.

Docherty's outfit was 3-0 up at half time and looked certain of victory after Redlands had a man sent from the field ten minutes after the resumption of play.

However a combination of complacency on Slacks Creek's part and fighting spirit on the part of Redlands, allowed the home side to come back into the match and steal a draw.

"I couldn't believe the way we threw the game away," Docherty said.

"At half time we were looking very good and I warned the players not to fall into the trap of complacency because Redlands would come out firing in the second half.

"But that half time talk must have fallen on deaf ears because our second half performance was atrocious."

The Slacks Creek coach said his side was not up to the weekly grind of the semi-pro competition, with the goal now to get off the bottom of the ladder in an attempt to be competitive for the remainder of the season.

"The boys aren't playing badly," the Slacks Creek coach said. "They're giving me all they've got but I just don't think we're up to playing at this level consistently."

Docherty remained positive about his side's chances this weekend against Souths though.

"There's been nothing in our previous two games and going on our first half performance last weekend, I would say we should be able to beat them," the Slacks Creek coach said.

"But we really have to play for the full 90 minutes, otherwise we'll see a repeat of our second half effort against Redlands."

SOUTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Ridge prepare for an early final

Acacia Ridge coach Frank Campbell is preparing his side for what he believes is their biggest game of the year.

The southside club is set to meet Inala for what many think will be the match to decide which team gets the fourth finals spot on offer.

"It is the biggest game of the season for us," Campbell said.

"At the moment there's only one point separating the two clubs, but if we lose this weekend, I don't think we'll be able to catch them by the end of the season.

"Sunday's match is really a finals match and whoever wins it will get the last finals spot."

Despite last weekend's solid 2-0 win over Olympic, Campbell said he was still disappointed with his side's poor showing against Souths the previous week.

"That was a game we should've won and really can't afford to be dropping at this stage of the season," the Ridge coach said.

"We had the chance to reel Inala in if we had won that match, but we blew it. I don't think we'll blow this one as well."

Campbell believes Darren Spence is the key to this weekend's match.

"It's no surprise that Inala started winning once Spence returned to the club," Campbell said. "He's certainly their key player and I'll make no secret about the fact that we'll be trying to mark him out of the game this weekend."

Campbell will be without Adam Wratten for this weekend's match, however the Ridge coach is confident of securing former Mount Gravatt midfielder Peter Georgiou prior to this Sunday's important clash.

"He'll sure up our midfield even more, making us strong right across the park," Campbell said.

Rocklea to sure up second spot

Rocklea United will be looking to all but sure up the vital second spot on the southern ladder when they take on Redlands this Saturday night.

The Dunn Road based club has been showing some impressive form of late, with last week's bye disrupting an otherwise superb run of form.

That form has seen them rocket into second place, a massive 15 points behind Toowoomba, and two points ahead of nearest rivals Capalaba, although Allan Hughes' team does have a game in hand on the rest of the competition.

For Redlands, this weekend's game may give them an indication of what they could have done this season if all the ingredients were there from the start.

Disruptions throughout the year have killed off any finals aspirations the bayside club may have had this year.

And even though new coach Brian Hastings appears to be doing a good job, it is quite obvious the change happened too far into the season for the side to make any serious finals challenge.

Last weekend's 3-3 draw with Slacks Creek indicated what the side can do if everything comes together for them on the day.

3-0 down at the break and with a player sent from the field just ten minutes after the resumption, Redlands still managed a 3-3 draw.

This would be well and truly in the back of Hughes' mind as his side prepares to take Hastings' outfit on, and because of that there should be no complacency from the gun outfit.

With seven rounds remaining and with Toowoomba last week showing a chink in their armour, the possibility of catching the league's front runners could also be lingering in the back of Hughes' mind.

Miss Soccer Quest looking great



Alison
Maxwell

Kerri Ann Turnbull is the Grange Thistle Soccer Club's entrant in the 1998 Miss Queensland Soccer Quest.

Kerri said she had been working part time at the Club's bar in between finishing her post-graduate degree in leisure management from Griffith University.

She said she had declined an invitation to represent the club in last year's quest because she had only been working at the club for a short period of time.

"But when Peter Carter (President) and Barry Allison (ex-President) approached me to be in the Quest this year, I felt part of the club so I decided that I would give it a go," she said.

Kerri has undertaken several fundraising activities including a progressive dinner and raffles and has a mid season presentation dinner planned in three weeks time.

Kerri plans to visit many of her relatives in England if she wins the first prize of \$5,000 in overseas travel.

Seventeen year old Alison Maxwell is Eastern Suburbs entrant in the 1998 Miss Queensland Soccer Quest.

Alison is currently finishing her senior year at Mabel Park State High School.

She said when she finished studying, she would like to travel overseas to pursue a modelling career.

"I do a lot of catwalk modelling and the opportunities are just not available in Australia so I would have to go to places like Paris if I wanted to make it a career," she said.

Alison was a late entrant in this year's Quest and subsequently has been unable to organise extensive fundraising activities.

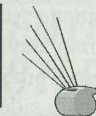
A raffle is planned and Alison said she was grateful for the support of numerous retail outlets in her local area that had kindly donated prizes at short notice.

Alison said she enjoyed most sporting activities but particularly liked netball, basketball and was hopeful of winning her school's athletics age championship this year.



Kerri Turnbull

BEFORE THE WHISTLE



With
Jim
Gilbert

In this day and age of our referees seemingly being required to be automated robots as decreed from the powers above, it is refreshing to see one or two (admittedly in the minority) who are still prepared to talk to the players and, when the whistle is blown for an infringement, are prepared to tell the players the reasons why.

On my observations in this season to date I have seen only a few who have these man-management skills and actually talk to the players, and one such referee I saw last Saturday at Lota. Well done JB!

If only the Latrobe players had paid full attention to their game and played football (which they can do in some style) and refrain from: complaining to the referee - trying to get opposition players booked - abusing all and sundry, they would be far better placed in the table than they are at present.

It reached no great heights as a game, with both sides desperate for points to reach a more satisfactory position in the table, but there were glimpses of good football from both sides, and I mean that - only glimpses.

If only more referees were allowed to talk to players!

Semi Pro Div 1 North

East's still appear to have a mortgage on the title but it is incredibly intense for semi placings.

On Saturday night The Gap host Grange with The Gap currently in the doldrums and Grange piecing together point by point, some reasonable results, I err slightly towards a home win in this, meanwhile at Albany Creek the former bottom marker Newmarket are the visitors, and this will be a lot more intense than the earlier round matches but, going by goalscoring ability, it should be a home win. Remaining Saturday night match is between

North Star and Mitchelton with the Stars well and truly in the doldrums now and equal bottom of the table, with Mitchelton having now slipped to fourth place, form still dictates an away win.

On Sunday two of the form teams of the round Easts and Pine Rivers meet at Heath Park and if Rivers can continue their recent good vein of results there could be a point in it for them.

Semi Pro Div 1 South

Another unbeaten record fell last week with Toowoomba's "shock" away loss to Souths, and whilst it probably still won't affect their title aspirations, it has now shown other sides that they can be beaten, this Saturday they are at home to Olympic where current placings on the table points to Toowoomba getting back on track. In the other Saturday night match Slacks Creek will certainly have a fight on their hands with visitors Souths fresh from their big giant killing last week, an away win is on the cards, whilst Rocklea entertain Redlands in what should be an entertaining match, however points should still stay at home.

Remaining match is the local derby between Acacia Ridge and Inala and with only one point separating the two teams it should be quite intense, points shared is a distinct possibility.

Amateur Div 1

It is still a two horse race at the top but like so many other divisions we have a number still in contention for honours through Semi Final placings!

This weekend the form team in this division Redcliffe entertain Annerley with the visitors needing to be on their best behaviour or they will drop two points, Southside Eagles now on the fringe of the four host Margate whose game last week was washed out, with the Eagles expected to get back on track in this one, Goodna entertain South Star, and with only a handful of points separating these two sides it wouldn't be

unduly surprising to see points remain with the hosts, remaining day match is Brothers (home) game at Perry Park with Bayside as their visitors, and with both sides now playing on a large flat even pitch, this will be a little bit more unpredictable from a tipping point of view. Brothers, on form, should take all three points but Bayside's big fightback of the last two weeks could see the points shared.

At night Moggill, still sitting in third place, have the erratic Darra as the visitors with points to remain at Bellbowrie meanwhile on Sunday Latrobe's woes could continue with the visit of North Pine.

Amateur Div 2

All matches in this division are on Saturday with Pine Hills v Park Ridge probably one of the most important, hosts still on the fringe of the semis with Park Ridge desperate to take their place, should be a home win, Greenbank fresh from their "big" first point of the season last week have leaders Jimboomba as their visitors, and whilst this match will be a lot harder, the euphoria carried over from last week may see them pick up another point. Two teams level pegging on the table Oxley and Bethania meet with both sides having fairly even goals for and against, points could be shared, but more likely a home win, remaining afternoon match is between Kingsridge and Clairvaux and I don't think there will be much joy for the hosts on this occasion. Last match is at night between Samford and Archerfield and despite the visitors reasonable form of late I think Samford will retain their second spot.

Amateur Div 3

On Friday night third placed Annerley make the trip down to Margate where I am sure the visitors will be successful. On Saturday North Pine should secure maximum points at Oxley similarly Moggill should enjoy the trip down to Bayside.

On Sunday it will be a close encounter between leaders Mooroondu and Woodridge, and it is entirely possible the points could be

shared, remaining match should see Samford successful in their trip to Park Ridge.

Amateur Div 4

Four matches are being played on Friday night, where it looks like we could have 50-50 in terms of points' allocations.

Ipswich Knights should be successful at North Star similarly Taringa will secure maximum points at Slacks Creek, Lions meanwhile should retain the points at home over Albany Creek but it will be a different story between Newmarket and Capalaba and despite the visitors higher placing in the table points could be shared in this one.

On Saturday Mitchelton will not be very successful with visitors Acacia Ridge whilst on Sunday Easts should secure a further three points at The Gap and continue their climb.

Amateur Div 5

Again there are four matches being played on Friday night with Souths desperate to remain in the four and likely to pick up three points at Capalaba, second placed Mt Gravatt will be eminently successful with maximum points over Pine Rivers, similarly leaders Wynnum, despite having the bustling GrangeThistle as their visitors, should still retain all three points, whilst Slacks Creek should pick up another three points in their quest for fourth place in their match at home v Samford.

In the Saturday games Brisbane City may secure a draw with the Knights whilst University will keep the pressure on top places with all three points over Albany Creek.

Amateur Div 6

There are a further four Friday night matches in this division with results being shared around, Redlands having a very hot and cold season may pick up full points over Lions, Newmarket will not be as successful with the visit of Capalaba, neither, for that matter will Beenleigh be overly joyful with the visit of Taringa, whilst the battle of bottom place looms between North Star and Annerley, should be a win for the hosts.

On Saturday is the match of the round between University and Ipswich Knights, with a pointer here being the tail end of the University vacation period, if both sides fulfill their potential it will be a gem of a match, points to be shared, but desperation looks more like a win for the visitors. In the only Sunday match, Eastern Suburbs may pick up a rare three pointer over University's second team.

Qantas Cup Results Rounds 2 & 3

Noosa 3 def Kawana 0

Buderim 7 def Taringa Div4 2

Margate Div1 3 def Ipswich City Div 2Res 0

Ipswich City Div2 3 def Annerley Div3 1

Wynnum Div5 4 def Pine Hills Div2 1

Easts Div4 4 def Capalaba Div4 3 (on pens)

Redcliffe Div1 4 def Grange Thistle Div5 1

S'side Eagles Div1 4 def Margate Div1Res 1

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Lotto AC Milan Polo Shirt were \$70 Now \$40 pr

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How They Fared... here and there

XXXX LEAGUE

BRISBANE LIONS	Vs	MT GRAVATT	3-1 Rd19
ROCHEDALE ROV	Vs	B'BERG WAVES	4-0 Rd19
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs	BRISBANE CITY	2-2 Rd19
GOLD COAST	Vs	BEENLEIGH	3-0 Rd19
WYNNUM	Vs	IPSW KNIGHTS	1-2 Rd19

XXXX RESERVES

BRISBANE LIONS	Vs	MT GRAVATT	4-0 Rd19
ROCHEDALE ROV	Vs	B'BERG WAVES	10-0 Rd19
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs	BRISBANE CITY	2-0 Rd19
GOLD COAST	Vs	BEENLEIGH	7-0 Rd19
WYNNUM	Vs	IPSW KNIGHTS	3-3 Rd19

XXXX YOUTH

BRISBANE LIONS	Vs	MT GRAVATT	2-0 Rd19
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs	BRISBANE CITY	4-1 Rd19
WYNNUM	Vs	IPSW KNIGHTS	0-0 Rd19

SEMI-PRO DIVISION 1 NORTH

NEWMARKET	Vs	NORTH STAR	3-0 Rd19
PINE RIVERS UTD	Vs	ALBANY CREEK	0-2 Rd19
GRANGE THISTLE	Vs	EASTERN SUBS	0-1 Rd19
MITCHELTON	Vs	UNI OF QLD	1-2 Rd19

SEMI-PRO DIVISION 1 NORTH RES

PINE RIVERS UTD	Vs	ALBANY CREEK	1-2 Rd19
NEWMARKET	Vs	NORTH STAR	4-0 Rd19
MITCHELTON	Vs	UNI OF QLD	1-3 Rd19
GRANGE THISTLE	Vs	EASTERN SUBS	2-0 Rd19

SEMI-PRO DIVISION 1 NORTH YTH

NEWMARKET	Vs	NORTH STAR	3-1 Rd19
MITCHELTON	Vs	UNI OF QLD	4-2 Rd19
GRANGE THISTLE	Vs	EASTERN SUBS	0-5 Rd19

SEMI-PRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH

REDLANDS UTD	Vs	SLACKS CREEK	3-3 Rd19
SOUTHS UTD	Vs	TOOWOOMBA UTD	3-0 Rd19
INALA CITY	Vs	CAPALABA	2-2 Rd19
OLYMPIC UTD	Vs	ACACIA RIDGE	0-2 Rd19

SEMI-PRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH RES

REDLANDS UTD	Vs	SLACKS CREEK	3-0 Rd19
SOUTHS UTD	Vs	TOOWOOMBA UTD	0-5 Rd19
INALA CITY	Vs	CAPALABA	1-6 Rd19
OLYMPIC UTD	Vs	ACACIA RIDGE	1-2 Rd19

SEMI-PRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH YTH

REDLANDS UTD	Vs	SLACKS CREEK	0-3 Rd19
INALA CITY	Vs	CAPALABA	0-14 Rd19
OLYMPIC UTD	Vs	ACACIA RIDGE	7-1 Rd19

AMATEUR DIVISION 1

BAYSIDE UTD	Vs	LATROBE	2-1 Rd17
ANERLEY	Vs	S'SIDE EAGLES	1-0 Rd17
DARRA UTD	Vs	REDCLIFFE	1-4 Rd17
GOODNA	Vs	MOGGILL UTD	2-2 Rd17
SOUTH STAR	Vs	NORTH PINE	1-2 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 1 RES

BAYSIDE UTD	Vs	LATROBE	12-1 Rd17
ANERLEY	Vs	S'SIDE EAGLES	0-3 Rd17
DARRA UTD	Vs	REDCLIFFE	3-1 Rd17
GOODNA	Vs	MOGGILL UTD	1-3 Rd17
SOUTH STAR	Vs	NORTH PINE	0-6 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 2

CLAIRVAUX	Vs	SAMFORD	1-2 Rd17
JIMBOOMBA	Vs	OXLEY UTD	3-2 Rd17

ARCHERFIELD	Vs	PINE HILLS	2-3 Rd17
PARK RIDGE	Vs	GREENBANK	2-2 Rd17
IPSWICH CITY	Vs	BETHANIA	4-2 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 2 RES

JIMBOOMBA	Vs	OXLEY UTD	1-4 Rd17
CLAIRVAUX	Vs	SAMFORD	4-2 Rd17
IPSWICH CITY	Vs	BETHANIA	3-1 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 3

MOGGILL UTD	Vs	MARGATE	3-0 Rd17
SAMFORD	Vs	LOGAN CITY KINGS	1-6 Rd17
WOODRIDGE	Vs	NORTH PINE	4-1 Rd17
ANERLEY	Vs	PARK RIDGE	5-1 Rd17
MOOROONDU	Vs	BAYSIDE UTD	3-1 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 4

IPSW KNIGHTS	Vs	SLACKS CREEK	1-3 Rd17
ACACIA RIDGE	Vs	EASTERN SUBS	0-0 Rd17
ALBANY CREEK	Vs	THE GAP	2-1 Rd17
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs	BRISBANE LIONS	3-1 Rd17
CAPALABA	Vs	NORTH STAR	5-0 Rd17
MITCHELTON	Vs	NEWMARKET	3-0 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 5

PINE RIVERS UTD	Vs	BRISBANE CITY	1-5 Rd17
IPSW KNIGHTS	Vs	SLACKS CREEK	0-2 Rd17
SOUTHS UTD	Vs	GRANGE THISTLE	1-7 Rd17
SAMFORD	Vs	UNI OF QLD	0-6 Rd17
CAPALABA	Vs	MT GRAVATT	1-9 Rd17
ALBANY CREEK	Vs	WYNNUM	1-3 Rd17

AMATEUR DIVISION 6

REDLANDS UTD	Vs	NEWMARKET	1-3 Rd17
BRISBANE LIONS	Vs	EASTERN SUBS	2-4 Rd17
CAPALABA	Vs	NORTH STAR	6-1 Rd17
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs	UNI OF QLD	1-1 Rd17
ANERLEY	Vs	BEENLEIGH	1-6 Rd17
IPSW KNIGHTS	Vs	QLD UNIVERSITY	4-0 Rd17

Next Week's XXXX League Matches

Saturday July 11

Mt Gravatt v Wynnum
7.00pm - Dittmer Park

Bundaberg Waves v Gold Coast City
7.00pm - Thabeban Sports Complex

Beenleigh v Brisbane Lions
6.00pm - Chris GreenPark

Sunday July 12

Brisbane City v Rochedale Rovers
2.45pm - Spencer Park

Ipswich Knights v Taringa Rovers
2.45pm - Eric Evans Reserve

Holmes - enough is enough

Mt Gravatt Soccer Club has been embroiled in plenty of controversy this year with a change of coach and a change of President. Eye on Soccer asked its roving reporter Jordan Daniel to investigate the situation.

Former Mt Gravatt chief Bill Holmes may be out of the picture on the local soccer scene but he certainly won't be forgotten.

After serving 15 years with the Hawks, Holmes bowed out gracefully last month, finally putting an end to a bitter wrangle that will leave a sour taste in the mouths of many Mt Gravatt supporters for years to come.

The old saying "while the cats away the mice will play" became a startling reality for the former President who was usurped of his authority while on holidays in England.

A boardroom tussle that had been evident to many since early last season took an interesting twist in May when coach Steve Faulkner was inexplicably dumped by the Board.

With Holmes out of the country, two new members were added to the board and Faulkner was sent packing.

This removal came as a shock to most in the soccer fraternity as Mt Gravatt had been playing some exciting soccer during the early stages of the season.

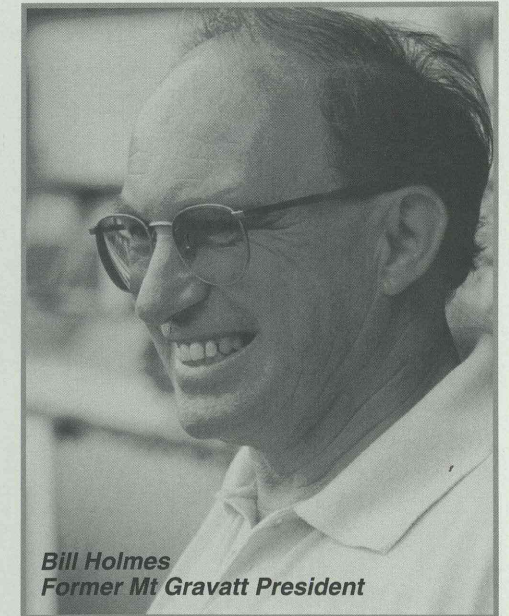
"I saw a very healthy future for the club with Steve at the helm," Holmes said.

"We had developed a good young side with some promising players and it looked like they would really shake this league up.

"But all that has changed now. There is a real air of disappointment and uncertainty around the club."

Since Faulkner was sacked, it is alleged that more than 230 club members have signed a petition to have the coach re-instated.

Amid all this, it remains unclear as to the reason why Faulkner was sacked, leaving pundits to question the real motives behind the



Bill Holmes
Former Mt Gravatt President

decision.

Faulkner coached the Hawks to two consecutive title wins in Semi-Pro Division 1 South and can justifiably stand by his record as one of the most promising developmental coaches in Queensland.

Holmes made his decision to resign under "silent protest" after being threatened with expulsion, leaving behind 15 years of wonderful memories.

"I'm very disappointed with the board. It's all been a bit sad but in the end I'm just glad to be out of it," he said.

"But I've been overwhelmed by the number of letters and phone calls I've received in the last few weeks."

Despite all the troubles, Holmes has had many good times at the club and has led it into a period of real growth.

With the new facilities on their way to being completed and the club now keeping their head above water financially, Holmes can be proud of all he has achieved - he will certainly not be forgotten.

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Brisbane City looked all but home a couple of weeks ago in the XXXX Premier League race.

But it's amazing what a couple of draws can do. City have stumbled and the Ipswich Knights are putting pressure on them to recapture some of their early season form.

The Knights are absolutely flying. The way they've turned their season around is a credit to coach Mike Mulvey and the players.

Ipswich are in the midst of a testing run of games and the loss of Kasey Wehrman means the rest of the side are going to have to pick up some slack.

Wehrman's selection in the Olyroos has opened the door for Brenley Jefferd to return to the side.

Not a bad substitute and a clear indication of the depth Mulvey has at his disposal.

But while the Knights have had no problem scoring goals, it's been their defence which has been so impressive.

The top sides face a hectic few weeks and the league should be decided within the next month.

This weekend, the Knights face a Taringa side at the crossroads. Taringa have struggled to win games of late and will be without the core of their defence when they travel to Bundamba.

Demetri Theochari, arguably the best sweeper in the state, is battling injury, Joel Hale's injury problems continue and Scott Guyatt has returned to England.

If ever the Knights are going to consolidate their position and put a nail in Taringa's coffin it's this weekend.

Despite City's stumbles and the other contenders improving form, the good money is still on City but you only have to look at last year to see how tenuous their grip on the title is.

Taringa held a nine point lead going into the



Mike Mulvey

third round last season and amazingly lost the league by several points.

Rovers picked up only four points in the third round, winning just the one game.

City were the side to benefit on that occasion and they'd do well to learn a valuable lesson from their success last season.

It's never over until it's over.

Meanwhile, Chris Slater continues to tear the league apart with his goal scoring feats.

Slater is still averaging over a goal a game and continues to give his national league claims a boost every time he hits the park.

The deadly marksman is on target to break 30 goals. It's a shame Kieran Cooper retired at the end of last season.

The battle between that duo would have been something special. Coops made goal scoring an art form but one doubts whether even he could have been competitive with Slates.





The beer for here.

