

Eye On

Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

Soccer

QUEENSLAND'S MOST READ SOCCER MAGAZINE

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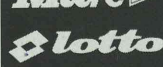
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EYE ON Soccer Magazine

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Cover: Taringa's Craig Slaughter makes it difficult for Darren Hillier during the encounter at Jack Speare Park last weekend. Lions took the points thought winning 1-0 and moved into second spot on the ladder.

Editorial

First of all this week, congratulations to the XXXX League's premiers Brisbane City on their amazing win last weekend.

The "Sky Blues" made short work of the visiting Gold Coast last week, winning 9-1.

City's performance is an ominous sign for opposing clubs, particularly the exploits of seasoned veterans Chris Slater and Danny Wright.

The two former Strikers team mates have been forming a good combination in recent weeks and look set to cause opposing defences a lot of trouble during the finals.

With just two fixtures remaining, there are still five teams that can make the Premier League finals series, with City the only team assured of some final four action.

Lions look like they will probably make it through which means Rochedale, Taringa and the Knights will be fighting it out for the last two spots.

A special mention this week to the Lions Soccer Club as they are having a Gala day this Saturday to coincide with the match of the round between City and Lions, which kicks off at 7.30pm., at Lions Stadium

There are free give-aways, rides for the kids, a fireworks display, pre match entertainment and a \$1,000 cash give-away.

It should be an action packed family fun day so make the journey to Richlands and have a great day out with the kids. Free if you ring and ask for tickets!

And finally to the national scene and the Young Socceroo's overcame a torrid battle and a threat to abandon the game to beat Fiji 2-0 in the final of the Oceania youth qualifying series in Apia, Samoa earlier in the week.

Team captain Simon Colosimo scored both goals to put the Australians into the World Under 20 Finals in Nigeria next April.

The Fijians had a player sent off just before half time and play became so heated in the second half that the referee stopped the match, called both teams together and said he would abandon play if the rough tactics continued!

City decimate Gold Coast

Brisbane City decimated the Gold Coast City last weekend in the most comprehensive thrashing of season '98.

City scored an incredible nine goals to one in what can only be described as an embarrassment for the Premier League's southern most team.

Captain Chris Slater was the top scorer for City, netting four goals and stretching his lead as the competition's leading goal scorer to 15.

City coach Bobby Hamilton said he was happy with the performance of his players and with the combination of Slater and fellow veteran Danny Wright.

"Besides the fact that everyone right across the park performed very well, the pleasing thing to come out of the game was that Chris Slater and Danny Wright seem to be developing a very good understanding up front," he said.

In the other big win of the week, Rochedale easily beat the Wynnum Wolves 4-0.

Wolves coach Peter Tokesi said that Rochedale had been the only side that had completely outplayed them in both fixtures.

"I think Rochedale along with City are the two best teams in the competition on the strength of our experience," he said.

Beenleigh scored only their 4th win of the season when they accounted for Mt Gravatt 3-0 at Dittmer Park.

In boggy conditions, Beenleigh got a march on the home side just before the break scoring two goals in quick succession and were never headed in the second period.

At Jack Speare Park, Taringa went from 2nd to 4th on the league ladder following the side's 1-0 loss to Lions.

While at Eric Evans Reserve, Ipswich ran away from Bundaberg, winning 4-0.

Ipswich coach Mike Mulvey said it was very pleasing to record a win of that magnitude, especially at the "business end of the season".

MacSports Pty Ltd

Now is an appropriate time for quiet reflection as the business end of the season is upon us!

To the PLAYERS... this is what all the training, pain and heartache is about. Enjoy the emotion and give it your all as you never know when you may experience finals again.

To the ADMINISTRATORS... this is the answer to that question you have asked a hundred times throughout the year. "Why am I here? / What am I doing this for?"

To the COACHES... what's it matter; you are still on a hiding to nothing so give it your usual best shot!

We at MacSports would like to congratulate all teams who have reached the finals and to wish them all the best in their endeavours.

We are pleased to be associated with the QSF as distributors of the various endorsed balls, socks and clothing. We remind you that the **ATTACK ONE IN SIX DEAL** will be commencing soon and that next year we believe the endorsed sock will be available from more than the one existing supplier. We are able to fulfil all your soccer requirements and look forward to your enquiry. Naturally we have every faith in the products we sell and offer a full replacement guarantee on any genuine fault.

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PREMIER PREVIEW - BEENLEIGH v ROCHEDALE ROV

Bottom of the table Beenleigh will host Rochedale Rovers at Chris Green Park on Saturday evening.

Beenleigh recorded their first win in a long time last week when they defeated Mt Gravatt 3-0.

It was an impressive win for a side that has struggled all season and the performance was not lost on coach Steve Dolan.

"The pitch was a bit boggy on account of the weather but the boys did well under the circumstances and in the end, deserved the win," he said.

"Mount Gravatt put the pressure on early but we managed to weather the storm.

"To be honest, we've been playing quite well in recent weeks against the top sides, but just haven't been able to get across the line.

"Based on those performances, I thought it was only a matter of time before we got a win."

Dolan said the side had spoken about putting more emphasis on attack during training and was pleased that had been put into practice on the field.

"Throughout the year, we've spent a lot of time concentrating on not conceding goals and not much time on scoring goals," he said.

"I was very pleased to see people getting forward into scoring positions and three different players make it onto the scoresheet on the day."

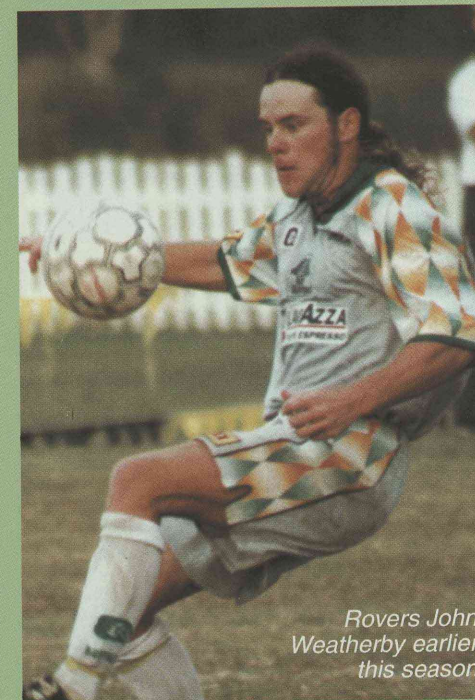
Dolan said he was hoping for a repeat performance against Rochedale this week but was realistic about his side's chances.

"Rochedale are a quality side and are very tough to beat even though they've lost a couple of key players," he said.

"Peter Bannon always seems to get a good mix of players on the field and I think they have the squad to figure in the top two or three teams.

"If we are to beat them, we'll have to do the simple things well.

"We've got to be focussed and compete for the full ninety minutes."



Rovers John Weatherby earlier this season

BEENLEIGH v ROCHEDALE ROV

Chris Green Park, Beenleigh
Saturday August 29, 6.00 pm

BEENLEIGH

- 1 Chris Balke
- 2 Kieren Galloway
- 3 (Not Allocated)
- 4 Brett Jones
- 5 Steven Forshaw
- 6 Wayne Hinton
- 7 Michael Rooney
- 8 Jarrod Austin
- 9 Brett Druery
- 10 Grant Druery
- 11 Alan Spiers
- 12 Brad Kischowski
- 13 Daniel Stowers
- 14 Joel Smith
- 15 Lee Preston
- 16 Michael Kalic
- 17 Paul Lederhose
- 18 Marc Lederhose
- 19 Cori Fisher
- 20 Ryan Clark

ROCHEDALE ROVERS

- 1 Elvis Guzic
- 2 Dwayne Good
- 3 Ross Davidson
- 4 Michael Lane
- 5 Damian Harris
- 6 Alun Evans
- 7 Steve Fitzsimmons
- 8 Michael Legg
- 9 (Not Allocated)
- 10 Clayton Koch
- 11 Joe Morris
- 12 David Pilic
- 13 Brad Ditton
- 14 Paul Grugan
- 15 Gary Phillips
- 16 Matt Olley
- 17 Gary Brattan
- 18 Andy Monement
- 19 Graham Ross
- 20 RGK Todd Rumble

PREMIER PREVIEW - WYNNUM v TARINGA ROVERS

The Wynnum Wolves host Taringa Rovers in what should prove a vital game for the visitors.

Taringa lost 1-0 last weekend to Brisbane Lions and now find them in fourth place on the league ladder, just one point clear of fifth placed Ipswich.

The loss would have been a huge psychological blow for John Ogden and his players with the finals just around the corner.

A loss against the Wolves this weekend could prove disastrous for Taringa and might even spell a season's end for the team.

And Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi said he believed his side was more than capable of putting a dent in Taringa's finals campaign.

"I think we are capable of beating any side in the Premier League on our day and it's just a matter of scoring goals as defensively we're sound," Tokesi said.

"Missing chances has been a big problem for us since I took over at the club and I intend to spend a lot of time in the off season sharpening up our forwards."

Despite Tokesi's belief in his charges, the fact is that the Wolves were hammered 4-0 last week by a superior Rochedale Rovers outfit.

After experiencing a purple patch earlier in the year, Wynnum is finding the going a little tough at the business end of the season and Tokesi admits that his side will have to turn things around against Taringa.

"It was disappointing to lose by that amount but the bottom line is that Rochedale were too quick and too good on the night and completely outplayed us," he said.

"However, you can be assured that we're not going to play defensively this weekend and at the end of the day, that might be our undoing."

On the two occasions that the sides have met this season, Taringa proved to strong in the first encounter winning 2-0, while the teams played out a 0-0 draw in round 2.



Taringa's Demetri Theochari

WYNNUM v TARINGA ROVERS

Carmichael Park, Tingalpa
Sunday August 30, 2.45 pm

WYNNUM DISTRICT	TARINGA ROVERS
1 Garth McCulloch	1 Brett Dickens
2 Luke Adair	2 Scott Robertson
3 (Not allocated)	3 Chris Day
4 Nigel McClure	4 Cliff Tuck
5 Ricky McKinless	5 Joel Hale
6 Tony McKinless (c)	6 Steve Dawe
7 Matt Campion	7 Des Hughes
8 Paul Wilkins	8 Demetri Theochari
9 Mark Wilkins	9 Robert Laslo
10 Ben Wood	10 Richard Hilli
11 Nick Hadland	11 Darryl Hathaway
12 Darrell Grundy	12 Steven Bland
13 (Not Allocated)	13 Craig Slaughter
14 Wayne Corbett	14 Jamie Lownds
15 Andrew Davidson	15 Aaron Bakker
16 Shane Gilroy	16 Shaun Molenda
17 Calvin Gnech	17 Cameron Williamson
18 Damian Rogers	18 Martin Matula
19 Bill McDermott	19 Danny Britton
20 Wade Cannon	20 Malcolm Vandergraff

PREMIER PREVIEW - Gold Coast v Ipsw Knights

The Gold Coast hosts the Ipswich Knights at Glennon Park, Nerang on Sunday afternoon.

The Coast will be looking for a much-improved performance this week after suffering the Premier League's biggest defeat in season '98 last week.

The 9-1 thumping was an embarrassment for Paul Cockbain and his charges and a good performance against the Knights this week will go a long way to healing some of the wounds.

Knights coach Mike Mulvey said he was confident of taking the three points.

"We've played the Coast four times this season, during the pre-season, in the Qantas Cup and twice in the league and beaten them on each occasion," Mulvey said.

"But on the weekend, past form will count for nothing and last week will mean nothing.

"The team that wants it the most on the day will win and even though I'm confident of winning, I respect the quality of players they've got at the club.

"They're (Coast) at home and will be still smarting from last week's result so we'll have to be on our game."

The Knights are currently in 5th place on the league ladder on 46 points, just one point behind Taringa and Rochedale.

With just two fixtures remaining Mulvey is well aware that every point is as precious as gold.

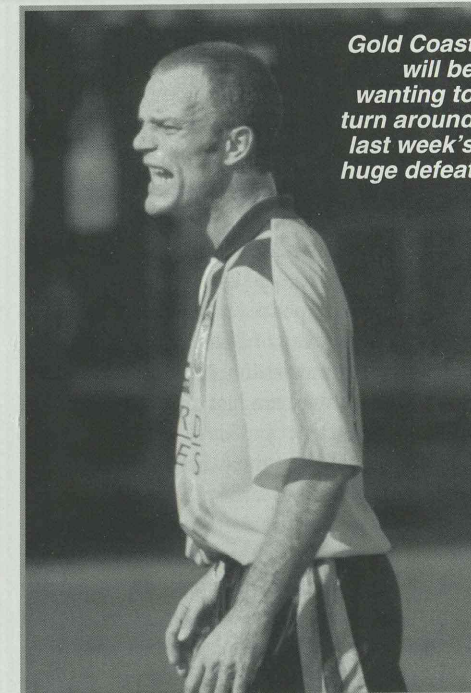
"We realise that our destiny is in our own hands and if we keep winning, we will be in the finals," he said.

"At the business end of the season, winning form is good form to have.

"But I believe we can still improve as a unit and I believe one of the ways we'll achieve that is by improving the quality and weighting of our passes as they are not up to scratch."

Mulvey said a few of the Knights players were close to being suspended.

But added that he believed the depth in the club would adequately cover any player loss.



Gold Coast will be wanting to turn around last week's huge defeat

GOLD COAST v IPSWICH KNIGHTS

Glennon Park, Nerang
Sunday August 30, 2.45 pm

GOLD COAST CITY	IPSWICH KNIGHTS
1 Martin Simpson	1 Barney Smith
2 Damian Volker	2 Andrew King
3 Adam Hayward	3 Nick Seeley
4 Mick Richardson	4 Reg Davani
5 Trevor Wood	5 Pat Boyle
6 Brett Adams	6 Troy Mundy
7 Col Phelan	7 Brenley Jefferd
8 Andy Brayshaw	8 John Clark
9 Troy Greenwood	9 Damien Conquest
10 Peter Grierson	10 Peter McKendrick
11 Aaron Bristow	11 Craig Collins
12 Rob Boxall	12 David Guest
13 Stuart Stevenson	13 (Not Allocated)
14 Brett Patterson	14 Kevin Meacock
15 Lee Vernon	15 Clint Scott
16 Neil Bertoldo	16 Ken Caldwell
17 Shane Steffanutto	17 Wayne Adams
18 (Not Allocated)	18 Neville O'Sullivan
19 Adam Evans	19 Peter Vogler
20 Matt Minor	20 Sam Ferguson

SOUTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Inala in a must win affair

With the last finals spot still up for grabs, Inala are now in a must win situation against Olympic this weekend.

The side that looked certain to claim the all important fourth spot several weeks ago is now under seige, courtesy of a late charge by Souths.

And while Inala still hold down fourth spot at the moment, they are just one point ahead of Souths on the table and have just three more competition points at their disposal.

Souths on the other hand have the opportunity to score a further six competition points, and four would put them into the finals.

That is the reason, Inala must win against Olympic this weekend. With the destiny of Souths still in their own hands, Inala must keep the pressure on the young side by making it as difficult for them as possible.

Inala know how much of a threat Souths are, after the young side held them to a scoreless draw last weekend.

That result was neither here nor there for either side as far as the table is concerned, however it did signal a clear warning to the top four teams, that Souths are not to be discounted.

In theory, this weekend's match against Olympic should be a fairly easy one for Inala. Olympic have not played well all year, and have made little if any impact on the competition.

Destined to finish at the bottom end of the table, the club has very little to play for and like some of the other sides in the competition, probably can't wait to see the end of the season.

For Inala three points is a must if they are to hold down the last finals spot, although it won't guarantee them safe passage to the finals.

Regardless of the outcome of this weekend's matches, Inala looks set for a tense wait next week.

R'lands chance for top six

Redlands have a chance to leapfrog off their lowly position on the table and into a respectable sixth place, when they take on Acacia Ridge this weekend.

Currently Redlands are second last on the ladder, just two points ahead of cellar-dwellers Slacks Creek, and a mere two points adrift of Acacia Ridge, who currently hold down sixth spot on the table.

Victory this weekend, against Ridge, would see the side jump two more places on the ladder and give them a reasonable chance to make a respectable finish to the year.

Redlands have rallied strongly in recent weeks to post some very good results, although last weekend's 4-2 derby loss to Capalaba was not one of them.

Coach Brian Hastings will be looking for a more committed effort from his troops, if they are to take home the three points.

Acacia Ridge on the other hand appear to be a team who have well and truly conceded their season is over.

For a side that looked a finals chance a little more than a month ago, Ridge are playing terribly at the moment, with their results indicating a real lack of commitment and desire in the concluding stages of the regular season.

Last weekend's 3-0 loss to Rocklea United was another indication of how poorly Ridge are playing at the moment. And with Redlands playing with plenty of enthusiasm, victory over Ridge certainly isn't out of the question for Hastings squad.

With a top four finish now well and truly out of the question for Ridge, the side appears to be going through the motions and you get the feeling the players in the club can't wait for next weekend's final whistle.

SOUTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Rocklea - last shot at leaders

Rocklea United will have their final chance to knock over league leaders Toowoomba, at Dunn Road this Saturday.

Although lying in second spot on the ladder, Rocklea are yet to take any points from Toowoomba this season.

With both sides set for a top two finish and therefore certain to play each other come finals time, a win for Rocklea is very important.

Not only would it give the side a confidence boost, it would also give them a needed psychological edge for the finals series.

And although Toowoomba would have to go into the match as undisputed favourites, the reality is that circumstances are probably favouring Rocklea a little more.

The Allan Hughes coached side has had some of its more experienced players return from overseas vacations at the right time.

These players now have a few weeks of match fitness under their belts and are relatively fresh coming into the finals. And for this reason, along with home ground advantage, it appears Rocklea have their best chance this season to knock the league leaders off their perch.

Both teams have been outstanding this season, with Toowoomba slightly more impressive at the start of the year, when they jumped to the top of the table and stayed there.

However apart from all of that, both sides are in great form, with the players realising the finals are just a fortnight away.

Toowoomba are coming off a massive 4-0 victory over the Slacks Creek outfit, while Rocklea had a very comfortable 3-0 win at Acacia Ridge.

With the attacking prowess of both sides undeniable, this match, the preview to the major semi-final, looks set to be decided by defence.

Souths keep finals hopes alive

Souths United have kept their finals hopes well and truly alive following their scoreless draw with third placed Inala last weekend.

That result has kept the side just one point behind fourth placed Inala, although Souths have one more game in hand.

With just two regular rounds of competition remaining, the stage is set for an exciting finish to the southern division, with both Souths and Inala battling to claim the last finals spot

And it's a very interesting scenario, with Inala final fixture game being played at Olympic this weekend, giving them the opportunity to grab three more competition points, compared to Souths possible six.

For Souths the equation is more or less this... a win and a draw in the last two rounds will see them take fourth spot on goal differences at worst.

But the equation is not a simple one, when you consider the side must take on competition heavy weights Capalaba this weekend.

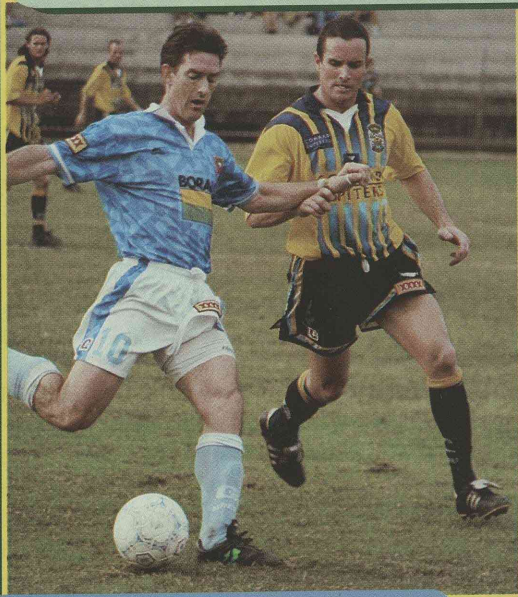
And although Souths record against Capalaba this year has been fair, the Bulldogs have hit some good form in the last couple of weeks and posted a couple of big victories.

Last weekend's 4-2 win over Redlands in the big derby match was no exception. The last time the two bayside teams met, Redlands were able to hold the Bulldogs to a draw.

Victory for Capalaba this weekend will hold little significance for the Bulldogs as far as the final standings are concerned.

They have secured third spot on the table and cannot force their way into the top two at this late stage. A victory to the Bulldogs could however signal an end to Souths finals charge, should Inala come away with the points at Olympic.

ACTION REPLAY



Semi Pro Matches (Round 26)



Saturday August 29

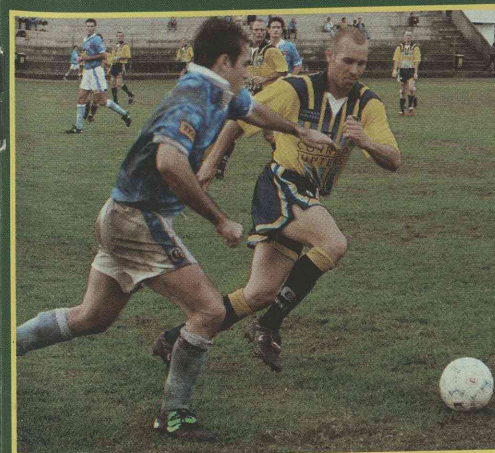
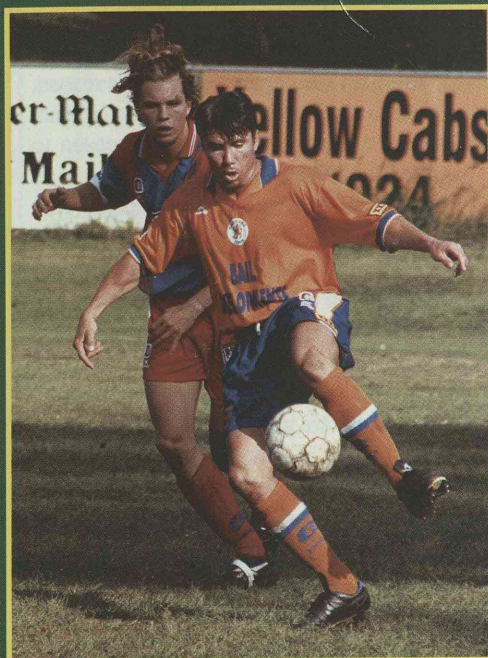
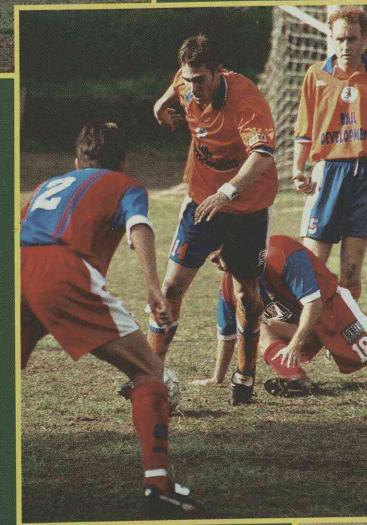
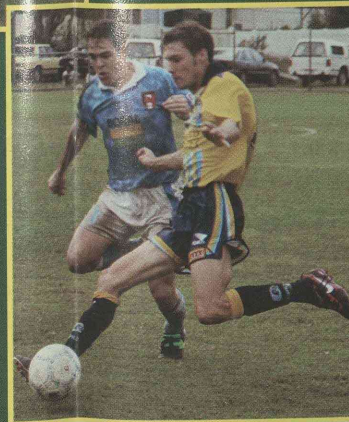
- Pine Rivers v Uni of Qld
7.00pm - Wendy Allison Park
- The Gap v Albany Creek
6.00pm - Walton Bridge Reserve
- Newmarket v Mitchelton
7.00pm - McCook Park
- Rocklea Utd v Toowoomba Utd
7.00pm - Dunn Road
- Redlands Utd v Acacia Ridge
6.00pm - Show Ground Complex
- Souths Utd v Capalaba
7.00pm - Wakerley Park

Sunday August 30

- Grange Thistle v North Star
2.45pm - Wallace J Dann Oval
- Olympic Utd v Inala City
2.45pm - Goodwin Park

QUEENSLAND CUP - Brisbane Semi Finals -

Wednesday September 2
Ipsw. Knights v Brisbane City 7.30pm



SIX-A-SIDE SOCCER

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Taringa Rovers SC
 Fariley Street, Indooroopilly
 Ph: Amanda 3378 2742

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(Closing date 9th October 1998.)

Applications to....
 The President
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 Darra Q. 4076



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BEENLEIGH Soccer Club

- 1999 -
Coaching Positions
 Applications are invited for Junior Coaching Positions for Under 7's to Junior Colts

Apply in writing to:
 The Club Secretary,
 PO Box 456, Beenleigh Q 4207
 • Closing date September 11, 1998 •

EYE ON SOCCER TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE CITY	25	18	6	1	66	17	60
BRISBANE LIONS	25	15	4	6	45	31	49
ROCHEDALE ROV	25	15	2	8	46	27	47
TARINGA ROVERS	25	14	5	6	40	22	47
IPSW KNIGHTS	25	15	1	9	42	34	46
WYNNUM	25	8	4	13	31	43	28
MT GRAVATT	25	6	7	12	37	45	25
B'BERG WAVES	25	7	1	17	30	53	22
GOLD COAST	25	5	6	14	29	52	21
BEENLEIGH	25	4	0	21	25	67	12

XXXX RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE LIONS	25	18	4	3	81	32	58
GOLD COAST	25	15	4	6	78	43	49
TARINGA ROVERS	25	14	5	6	70	33	47
ROCHEDALE ROV	25	14	2	9	67	38	44
IPSW KNIGHTS	25	13	4	8	83	40	43
BRISBANE CITY	25	10	4	11	48	59	34
MT GRAVATT	25	10	2	13	53	58	32
BEENLEIGH	25	8	0	17	39	88	24
WYNNUM	25	4	6	15	36	48	18
B'BERG WAVES	25	3	1	21	25	141	10

XXXX YOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE LIONS	19	13	2	4	47	26	41
MT GRAVATT	21	11	4	6	63	38	37
TARINGA ROVERS	19	8	6	5	42	32	30
ROCHEDALE ROV	18	8	5	5	37	35	29
BRISBANE CITY	19	8	1	10	46	44	25
WYNNUM	18	6	5	7	26	30	23
IPSW KNIGHTS	20	6	4	10	33	53	22
BEENLEIGH	20	2	3	15	18	54	9

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Lions	69	498	12	8	194	75	159
Taringa Rovers	69	36	16	17	152	87	124
Rochedale Rov	68	37	9	22	150	100	120
Brisbane City	69	36	11	22	160	120	119
Ipswich Knights	70	34	9	27	158	127	111
Mt Gravatt	71	27	13	31	153	141	94
Gold Coast City	50	20	10	20	107	95	70
Wynnum District	68	18	15	35	93	121	69
Beenleigh	70	14	3	53	87	209	45
Bundaberg Waves	50	10	2	38	55	194	32

SEMI PRO DIVISION 1 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EASTERN SUBS	23	16	5	2	40	16	53
ALBANY CREEK	22	11	6	5	40	20	39
UNI OF QLD	22	11	5	6	35	26	38
PINE RIVERS UTD	22	9	8	5	28	19	35
MITCHELTON	23	9	5	9	35	38	32
THE GAP	22	8	4	10	41	43	28
NEWMARKET	22	5	6	11	25	43	21
GRANGE THISTLE	22	4	4	14	20	39	16
NORTH STAR	22	4	3	15	24	44	15

SEMI PRO DIV 1 N RES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UNI OF QLD	22	14	5	3	43	20	47
PINE RIVERS UTD	22	12	6	4	47	33	42
GRANGE THISTLE	22	10	4	8	44	36	34
EASTERN SUBS	23	8	8	7	35	27	32
MITCHELTON	23	9	5	9	26	25	32
NEWMARKET	22	8	3	11	36	44	27
THE GAP	22	5	8	9	31	36	23
NORTH STAR	22	6	4	12	38	47	22
ALBANY CREEK	22	4	5	13	26	58	17

SEMI PRO DIVISION 1 NORTH YTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MITCHELTON	23	17	2	4	77	34	53
THE GAP	22	15	2	5	74	29	47
PINE RIVERS UTD	22	11	4	7	62	38	37
UNI OF QLD	22	11	4	7	62	40	37
NORTH STAR	22	9	4	9	54	46	31
NEWMARKET	22	5	9	8	45	62	24
ALBANY CREEK	22	6	4	12	42	50	22
EASTERN SUBS	23	5	5	13	39	63	20
GRANGE THISTLE	22	3	2	17	17	110	11

SEMI PRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TOOWOOMBA UTD	22	19	1	2	62	16	58
ROCKLEA UTD	22	14	2	6	55	31	44
CAPALABA	22	10	6	6	46	29	36
INALA CITY	23	9	4	10	43	51	31
SOUTHS UTD	22	7	9	6	32	29	30
ACACIA RIDGE	22	7	2	13	36	48	23
OLYMPIC UTD	22	6	3	13	31	44	21
REDLANDS UTD	22	6	3	13	40	66	21
SLACKS CREEK	23	5	4	14	29	60	19

SEMI PRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH RES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TOOWOOMBA UTD	22	15	3	4	73	20	48
CAPALABA	22	13	5	4	53	28	44
OLYMPIC UTD	22	13	4	5	60	31	43
SOUTHS UTD	22	13	3	6	65	30	42
REDLANDS UTD	22	9	5	8	51	34	32
ROCKLEA UTD	22	10	2	10	47	43	32
ACACIA RIDGE	22	9	3	10	32	54	30
SLACKS CREEK	23	4	2	17	31	68	14
INALA CITY	23	0	1	22	14	118	1

SEMI PRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH YTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TOOWOOMBA UTD	21	20	1	0	112	14	61
CAPALABA	22	18	0	4	136	24	54
SOUTHS UTD	21	16	0	5	117	27	48
ROCKLEA UTD	22	11	2	9	75	44	35
REDLANDS UTD	22	10	3	9	60	40	33
OLYMPIC UTD	22	8	3	11	57	63	27
SLACKS CREEK	23	3	3	17	31	123	12
INALA CITY	23	3	1	19	17	135	10
ACACIA RIDGE	22	2	3	17	28	163	9



Simply a Kick in the Grass...



NORTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Crumbling Gap to restore pride

With their 1998 campaign now in tatters, The Gap will have little more than pride to play for this weekend, when they take on finals contenders Albany Creek.

It's been a very disappointing year for The Gap. Boasting a wealth of young talent, as well as several experienced and highly skilled former XXXX League players, The Gap has delivered very little all year.

Although displaying glimpses of brilliance throughout the season, they have not been able to play quality football on a consistent basis.

Their final round in particular has been extremely disappointing, considering the side had a real chance of making the playoffs up until just a few weeks ago.

Last weekend they showed they are capable of winning matches, when they outscored North Star by three goals to one.

However the competition will be a little tougher this weekend, when the side takes on Albany Creek, a team that's out to consolidate their spot in the top two, and has been in scintillating form over the past couple of months.

A quality 2-0 win over league leaders Eastern Suburbs last weekend was a good indication of Albany Creek's current run of form.

That victory not only kept the side in second spot on the ladder, it also gave Easts a timely wake-up call prior to the playoffs, and has put question marks over the Tigers ability to take the premiership and grand final double.

On the surface, things look to be against The Gap this weekend. However there is no doubt that the side has the coach and the players to pull off a major upset and in the process do teams like the University of Queensland and Pine Rivers a big favour.

North Star can avoid the spoon

North Star will get their best chance to avoid this season's dreaded wooden spoon, when they travel to Grange Thistle.

With both teams at the foot of the table, and just a point separating Thistle from last placed North Star, this weekend's game looks set to decide the winner of the 1998 wooden spoon.

Both sides have got extremely tough matches next weekend, with Thistle travelling to Albany Creek and North Star playing host to the in-form Pine Rivers outfit, so this weekend's game could be the last genuine opportunity for either side to come away with any points.

For North Star, it has been a somewhat disappointing year. The young side promised much in the opening round and was even a regular in the top four during the first few weeks of the competition.

However a poor run and a series of negative events since then, have relegated the side to last place on the ladder.

And although they have had plenty of close results in recent weeks, they are yet to post a victory under their new coaching staff.

Like North Star, who went down 3-1 to The Gap last weekend, Grange Thistle are also coming off a loss.

They were beaten 2-0 by the strong University of Queensland side, and have not won a match for quite some time.

But they will be well aware that this weekend's game is one they can and probably should win. It remains to be seen though, whether or not they will be able to turn around the recent run of poor form and post a rare victory.

Likewise it's been a long time between drinks for North Star, a side that has not won a match for several months now.

NORTHERN SEMIPROS AND CONS

Top four position for Rivers

Pine Rivers have consolidated their position in the top four following a strong 3-0 victory over Mitchelton last weekend.

The victory could not have been timed better for Frank Pimblett's boys, who were on the same number of competition points as Mitchelton, going into last weekend's game.

The victory has now put Rivers three points clear of Mitchy on the table, and with an extra game in hand, so at this stage things look fairly secure in terms of a top four finish for the club.

What made last weekend's victory even more impressive for Rivers, was the fact that they took the points away from home, and that has them looking very healthy for this weekend's game against fellow finals contenders the University of Queensland.

Uni are currently in third spot on the table, a further three points clear of Rivers and just one point behind second placed Albany Creek.

A top two finish, which would give the side a chance to progress directly to the grand final, is still well within the students' reach, and that will be at the forefront of their minds this weekend.

Victory this weekend will certainly assist their top two aspirations and keep the pressure right on Albany Creek.

A loss for Uni this weekend would almost certainly spell curtains for their top two aspirations, although it would allow Rivers the chance to move into equal third and mount a challenge for the top two themselves.

Rivers have the home ground advantage this weekend and that could be the telling factor come kick off on Saturday night.

With good form behind them as well as a parochial home crowd they will be very hard to beat at Wendy Allison Park.

Mitchelton left high and dry

Mitchelton have bowed out of finals contention after suffering a humiliating 3-0 loss to Pine Rivers.

Rivers did the job in front of Mitchelton's home supporters, which added insult to injury.

The side is now three points adrift of Rivers on the table, and because they have just one match remaining, the best they can do is finish equal with Rivers, but they would still be behind on goal difference.

The loss was the final nail in the coffin for a side which failed to live up to its full potential.

The best Mitchelton can hope for now is to go out on a high, by taking the points against close neighbours Newmarket this weekend.

And while their positions on the table would indicate that Mitchelton should have the edge this weekend, the reality is that Newmarket will not be easybeats.

Since feting some of their more experienced players back from injury, Newmarket have shocked several sides in the competition, particularly in the final round.

Their defence has been the big difference in the final round of the competition, with their two most experienced defenders returning to the side several weeks ago.

Their presence in the side has steeled up the back line and has made things very difficult for opposing attackers.

Things won't be any different this weekend either, with Mitchelton certain to have a tough time against the rugged Newmarket defence, which will also enjoy a distinct height advantage.

The key for Mitchelton this weekend, will be how well they can recover from last week's comprehensive loss to Pine Rivers, which ended their finals hopes.

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How They Fared... here and there

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TARINGA ROVERS	Vs BRISBANE LIONS	0- 1 Rd25
BRISBANE CITY	Vs GOLD COAST	9- 1 Rd25
IPSW KNIGHTS	Vs B'BERG WAVES	4- 0 Rd25

XXXX RESERVES

MT GRAVATT	Vs BEENLEIGH	2- 3 Rd25
ROCHEDALE ROV	Vs WYNNUM	0- 0 Rd25
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs BRISBANE LIONS	1- 4 Rd25
BRISBANE CITY	Vs GOLD COAST	1- 1 Rd25
IPSW KNIGHTS	Vs B'BERG WAVES	9- 0 Rd25

XXXX YOUTH

MT GRAVATT	Vs BEENLEIGH	2- 0 Rd25
TARINGA ROVERS	Vs BRISBANE LIONS	1- 1 Rd25

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 NORTH

ALBANY CREEK	Vs EASTERN SUBS	2- 0 Rd25
NORTH STAR	Vs THE GAP	1- 3 Rd25
UNI OF QLD	Vs GRANGE THISTLE	2- 0 Rd25
MITCHELTON	Vs PINE RIVERS UTD	0- 3 Rd25

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 NORTH RES

NORTH STAR	Vs THE GAP	4- 4 Rd25
ALBANY CREEK	Vs EASTERN SUBS	1- 4 Rd25
MITCHELTON	Vs PINE RIVERS UTD	1- 2 Rd25
UNI OF QLD	Vs GRANGE THISTLE	0- 0 Rd25

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 NORTH YTH

NORTH STAR	Vs THE GAP	0- 4 Rd25
ALBANY CREEK	Vs EASTERN SUBS	3- 0 Rd25
MITCHELTON	Vs PINE RIVERS UTD	1- 0 Rd25
UNI OF QLD	Vs GRANGE THISTLE	7- 0 Rd25

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH

CAPALABA	Vs REDLANDS UTD	4- 2 Rd25
TOOWOOMBA UTD	Vs SLACKS CREEK	4- 0 Rd25
INALA CITY	Vs SOUTHS UTD	0- 0 Rd25
ACACIA RIDGE	Vs ROCKLEA UTD	0- 3 Rd25

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH RES

CAPALABA	Vs REDLANDS UTD	0- 1 Rd25
TOOWOOMBA UTD	Vs SLACKS CREEK	1- 1 Rd25
INALA CITY	Vs SOUTHS UTD	1- 9 Rd25
ACACIA RIDGE	Vs ROCKLEA UTD	2- 1 Rd25

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH YTH

CAPALABA	Vs REDLANDS UTD	3- 1 Rd25
TOOWOOMBA UTD	Vs SLACKS CREEK	4- 1 Rd25
INALA CITY	Vs SOUTHS UTD	0-13 Rd25
ACACIA RIDGE	Vs ROCKLEA UTD	1- 2 Rd25



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BEFORE THE WHISTLE



With
Jim
Gilbert

Two of the cups are now down to finals stages, by the time this is read the Qantas Cup final will have been decided.

The big surprise being that only one First division side got through to the final four, with Southside Eagles matched up against Wynnum's Division 5 in the Final, and Buderim playing Eastern Suburbs Div 4 for third/fourth prizemoney.

In the Ansett Cup, (specifically for the Semi Pro Leagues), the semi finals were played two weeks' ago at Perry Park with University defeating Grange with a late second half goal, but in the late game between Toowoomba and Newmarket it was a veritable goal feast and went to extra time before Toowoomba were successful getting through to the Final with a 3 - 2 lead.

Semi Pro Div 1 North

The top four is still not fully clarified, given last week's interesting results, so it will still go at least one more week before we know who will be playing who in the finals.

Three matches scheduled for Saturday with the Pine Rivers v Uni match probably the most important as a slip up by the home side could allow Mitchelton back in, whilst University are striving to keep the pressure on Albany Creek to take out second position, in view of last week's results, I err towards a home win. Another match which is equally as important is the Gap's hosting of Albany Creek, and with The Gap now out of contention for a semi place could now play a more relaxed brand of football, whether this will be enough against the goalscoring attributes of their visitors remains to be seen, there has to be at least one point in it for the visitors. Another match that has vital significance on the top four make-up takes place at Newmarket with their close rivals Mitchelton as the guests, there has been little love lost

between the two sides in the past, and judging by Newmarket's brand of football that I saw last week in the Ansett Cup, they'd be a match for anybody, they can't go anywhere in the League but they can certainly play a part in who makes up the top four, I think the points will remain at McCook Park.

On Sunday Grange play North Star for the dubious honour of who will prop up the table and take out the wooden spoon for the 1998 season, both sides will need to put this season behind them, as it would have to be one that they would like to forget, on current standard of play and form, points to remain at Lanham Park.

Semi Pro Div 1 South

The top two positions are now set in concrete with Toowoomba as Premiers and Rocklea cemented in second place, it's highly likely Capalaba will take out third but it's still a battle royal between Inala and Souths for fourth, therefore the match between Souths and Capalaba on Saturday evening takes on vital importance, Capalaba can't lose their semi final position, the fact they are up against a very desperate Souths most anxious to get in the four, could mean this would be the match of the weekend, I still think Capalaba's allround capabilities will see them through. Toowoomba United make the trip to Rocklea, a team they will be playing again in two weeks' time in the Major Semi, so this may be a precursor of things to come, Rocklea's form at home is very good, having said that look how many goals Toowoomba have scored, could well be a draw. Remaining match has pride at stake with Acacia Ridge's visit to Redlands and if the home side can pick up maximum points they will lift themselves away from the dreaded wooden spoon, Redlands' home form is excellent, and that's where I think the points will remain.

Only one match on Sunday at Olympic but

has vital importance for Inala City as this could be their last match of the entire season, they have a tenuous hold on fourth place as they have the bye next week, it's essential they pick up all three points, hoping of course that Souths lose, for that reason I think desperation points to an away win.

Amateur Divisions - Preliminary Finals

Like all finals series there are some most interesting results last weekend with a number of the premiers going straight through to the Grand Final after wins in their Major Semis.

Amateur Div 1

The Final between North Pine and Brothers this week could well be a classic, North Pine have the wood on Brothers defeating them 3 - 0 at home and 4 - 3 at Kangaroo Point, the Perry Park wide open spaces will be more appreciated by North Pine than Brothers even allowing for the fact that Brothers played there last week, I expect to see North Pine matched up against Annerley in the Grand Final, yet again.

Amateur Div 2

Samford fought a valiant battle against premiers Ipswich City in the Major Semi but came off second best which now pits them up against the inconsistent Pine Hills, and because of that very word, I would tip Samford to go through and meet Ipswich City, yet again. Spare a thought for Jimboomba as they led the table for a large proportion of the season, through one or two results going the wrong way plus the vagaries of the draw meaning they had the bye in the last round, they finished fourth, and are now out of contention for a finals medal!

Amateur Div 3

Annerley's recent good form in the last week of the premiers season carried them through when they defeated Logan City Kings 2 - 0, this now makes for a most interesting Prelim Final between Logan City and Mooroondu with Logan City definitely marked as favourites taking into account they have scored four goals a game, on average, during the entire premiers season.

Amateur Div 4

Second plays third with Capalaba meeting Ipswich Knights in this division, and this will be a very close match judging by the respective teams' form over the season both against each other and in their finals' standings, I think there is a slight edge towards Capalaba to continue through to the Grand Final.

Amateur Div 5

It would appear if the highscoring Wynnum are now putting all their eggs into one basket (translated: this means Qantas Cup Final) as they dropped inexplicable points to finish runners up, and having lost quite convincingly in the Major Semi, they will now have to come up against an in-form University to have a second crack. By the time this is read we will know whether Wynnum have been successful in their Qantas Cup Final, and depending on their success (or otherwise) would depend on how they perform on the weekend, somehow I think University may come through.

Amateur Div 6

Capalaba certainly have something to prove in their Preliminary Final, having gone through 22 matches in the premiers season unbeaten, and to lose the Major Semi Final would have been a blow to their morale, somehow, I think they will take it out on the Knights and meet up with University yet again.

Amateur Divisions - Preliminary Finals

- Div 1 Nth Pine Utd v Brothers Utd
Sunday 2.30pm at Perry Park
- Div 1 Res Margate v Annerley
Sunday 12.30pm at Perry Park
- Div 2 Samford v Pine Hills
Sunday 2.30pm at Mitchelton
- Div 2 Res Samford v Park Ridge
Sunday 12.30pm at Mitchelton
- Div 3 Logan City Kings v Mooroondu
Sunday 2.30pm at Easts
- Div 5 Wynnum Dist v Uni of Qld
Sunday 12.30pm at Easts
- Div 4 Capalaba v Ipswich Knights
Saturday 6.00pm at Logan City Kings
- Div 6 Capalaba v Ipswich Knights
Saturday 4.00pm at Logan City Kings

READ' between the LINES

With
Brent
Read

I was interested to read a reply to a recent column concerning the need for Toowoomba to be added to the Premier League and a team to be dropped from the existing competition.

In that article I suggested Beenleigh should be the team to go. That suggestion prompted quite a deal of controversy, with Beenleigh supporters obviously keen to see their side retained in any future competition.

While the club's facilities are on par with most in the league, the fact is their playing talent is less than competitive.

It's like owning Flemington racecourse and running draughthorse's on the weekends.

The fact is unless you can afford to purchase a couple of *Danewin* or *St Jude* products, you're going to struggle to win any races.

Until you can find the money to compete with the big boys, you're always going to be

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running a few yards off the pace.

The fact is Beenleigh don't have the finances or profile to compete with the Brisbane City's, Brisbane Lions and Rochedale Rovers of this league. Bundaberg are in the same boat.

So what do we do, continue to flog a dead horse or go looking for fresh blood? The answer is obvious. A trainer doesn't keep running his horse in group one fields if it is yet to break its maiden.

He or she goes and finds a maiden race at Ipswich, wins a couple of races and brings the horse along slowly.

Speaking of facilities, while Beenleigh's may be among the best in the league, several others are well below standard.

The XXXX Premier League criteria dictated each club's facilities be of a certain standard.

The majority of the grounds are not conducive to playing a good brand of football.

Brisbane Lions, Brisbane City and Taringa - three of the league's best sides - can be included in that group.

Taringa had an underground watering system put in at their ground in the off-season yet the ground is in no better shape to what it was last year. Unless you keep people from training on the grounds they will continue to be of a less than satisfactory standard.

Returning to the horse racing analogy, running class footballing sides such as Lions, City and Taringa on average grounds is like running *Might and Power* at Birdsville.

Sure people are still going to watch but it won't be a enjoyable and they'll switch off.

From all reports the Taringa-Lions game on Sunday, which was the match of the round and should have produced a feast of entertaining football, turned into a dreary match which produced only one goal.

Another Steve Starr classic was the difference as Lions moved into second place, leaving Taringa's finals chances in jeopardy.

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