

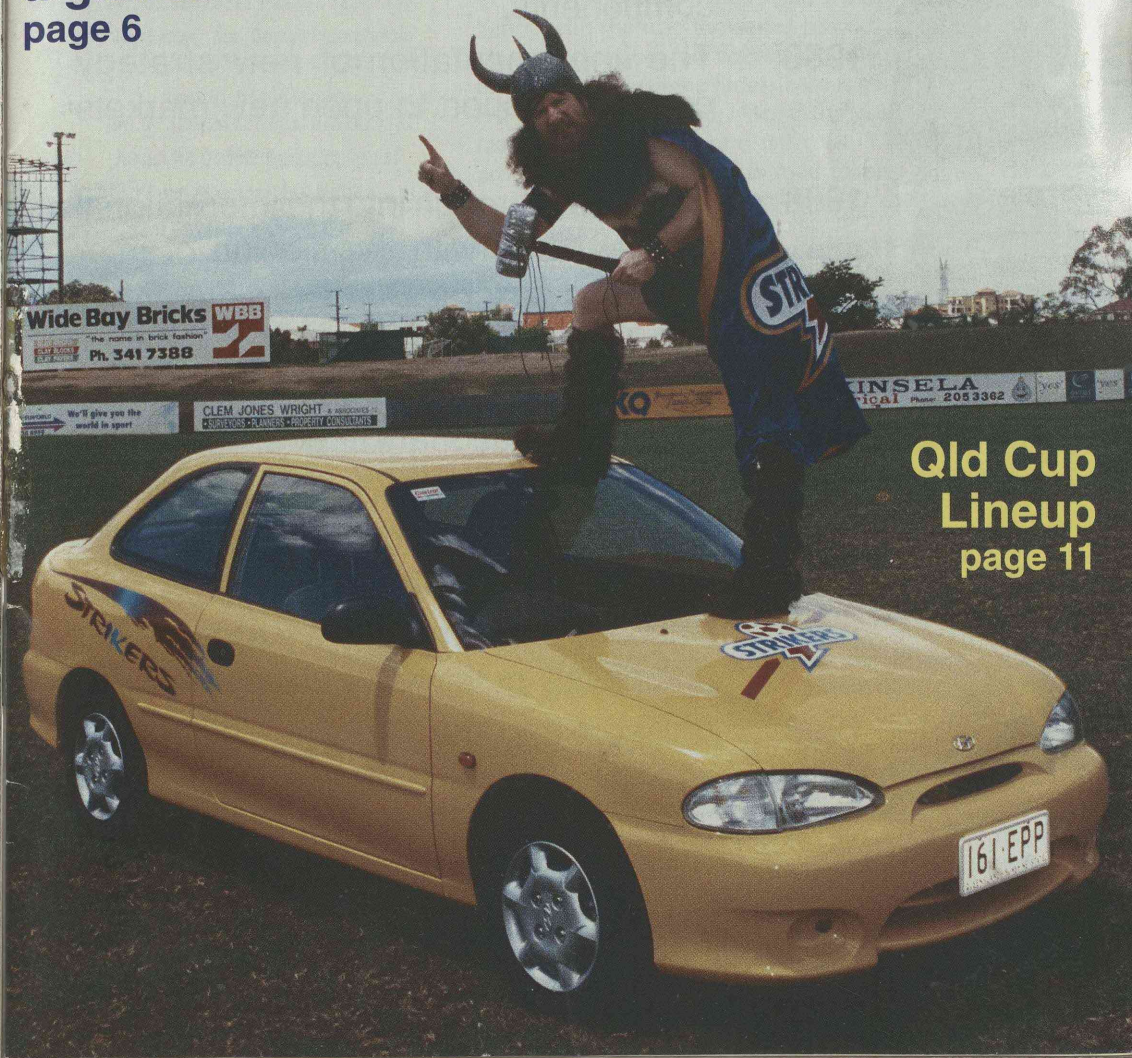
Eye On Soccer is the
Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

Eye On STRIKERS

v MARCONI FAIRFIELD *Round 1*

Vol 8-1, Saturday October 10, 1998 \$2.00

**The Strikers at
a glance**
page 6



**Qld Cup
Lineup**
page 11



50 YEARS OF UHLSPORT



1948 uhlSport was founded in Ballingen, Germany, The Company's first product line were leather studs for football boots.



1953 Mr Karl Uhl bought the Company to be the world's largest supplier of sport shoe components.



1980 The implementation of new strategy enables uhlSport to open new markets worldwide.



1988 The break through into the international market came with the signing of Inter Milan, A J Auxerre, Bordeaux, Fiorentina and Kaiserslautern.



1994 uhlSport sign the Brisbane Strikers in the Australian National League.



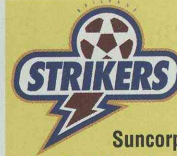
1995 uhlSport enter the market with football boots thereby rounding out their profile as a football specialist.

1997 Brisbane Strikers win the Ericsson Cup completely outfitted by uhlSport

1998 uhlSport and the Strikers - still going strong.



1948-98 Innovation by uhlSport



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**COVER: Team mascot Thor
stands guard over the club's
new StrikeMobile!**

MAJOR SPONSOR



Welcome to the Ericsson Cup 98/99 season! Before I say anything about football, let me first thank everyone for making me feel so welcome at the Strikers. It's never easy moving to a new city and the people you meet have everything to do with determining how successful the move will be. Thankfully I've managed to settle in quickly and easily and I look forward to a long and fruitful association with the club.

Now to football matters and I must say I am very happy with the way the squad has developed over the pre-season period. We've had a few niggly injuries along the way but overall the fitness base is good and the boys are keen to get started. Being the only Ericsson Cup team in Queensland and with the XXXX league in progress we had to hit the road to play games and I thank everyone in the country areas for their hospitality.

Closer to home and one of the more interesting training sessions was in the Samford Valley where the boys were put through some fairly rigorous routines by Tom Law and Jack Stephens (both ex-amy) from Break-out Adventures. Starting with a physical circuit at a time of the morning when most players are getting home rather than getting up, the scene was set for a busy day. The morning was taken up with a variety of "team building" exercises where the boys actually had to think for a change culminating in an obstacle course where one player had to guide his partner up hill and down blindfolded using verbal communication only. It was interesting to listen to and even funnier to watch just one more step to the left OOPS, sorry about that.

The highlight of the day though was undoubtedly the abseil tower, which really got the adrenaline pumping. I will never forget the sight of the famous Scottish mountaineer Ian Dalzell, harness bursting at the seams and the rope stretched to the limit bouncing the 20 metres to earth with all the elegance and poise he could muster. One thing's for sure, Everest is safe from a Scottish assault if Dazzle's is any indication. All in all it was a great exercise for team spirit and that's an important ingredient in any good side. You'll see plenty of it on the park this season.

KOSSIE

Here we go again

The Brisbane Strikers open their Ericsson Cup campaign tonight against Sydney glamour side Marconi Fairfield.

Under new coach John Kosmina, the Strikers will be looking to dramatically improve on last season's poor showing.

The mid season loss of Troy Cranney to the Northern Spirit and Frank Farina to ironically tonight's opponents Marconi were big blows for the side, but the acquisition of a coach of Kosmina's stature was a boost for the club.

Add to this a couple of young new faces in the side and the return of Reece Tollenaree from a stint with the Newcastle Breakers, and the squad seems to possess good balance on paper.

Perennial defender Glenn Gwynne will lead the side tonight for the first time as the team's nominated season captain.

It is a well-deserved honour for Gwynne who has been one of the consistent performers for the Strikers in recent years.

Gwynne was also named along with fellow Strikers player Kasey Wehrman in the Socceroos squad that took part in the Nations Cup tournament in Brisbane recently.

Wehrman has come back remarkably well from a broken ankle sustained 16 months ago.

Although he still has a pronounced limp when he walks, Kasey has shown enough in trial games and representative matches to indicate that it will not be long before he is back to his best and full fitness.

As mentioned earlier, Suncorp welcomes back former favourite son Frank Farina tonight as he embarks on a new chapter in his coaching career with Marconi Fairfield.

Farina was a star player for the Sydney glamour club back in the 1980's before he made his move to European football.

And while confident of a strong showing against his former club, Farina said he had not been looking forward to the road trip north.

"With the exception of last season, Marconi has not had a good success rate in Brisbane," Farina said.

"It's something that we are aware of and will be looking to improve on.

"To be honest though, I know that most teams do not like coming to Brisbane and find the going fairly tough."

Marconi have a number of players that the Strikers will need to pay attention to in order to gain maximum points from the game.

Francis Awaritefe and Kris Trananovski are two of the game's most devastating sharp shooters, while Dominc Longo and Mark Babic are well credentialled in defence.

The international connection of Sand-Chul Yoon and Pan-Keun Kim are likely to cause problems for the Strikers and former team mate Danny Invincible is also one to look out for this evening.

Marco's


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ERICSSON 

A speech by Mrs Del Townsend

The following is the speech made by the Chairman of the Clem Jones Group, Mrs Del Townsend, at the 1998 Clem Jones Gold Medal dinner.

"Mr President and Mrs Dann, Mr & Mrs Cawley, Mr & Mrs Brusasco, distinguished guests all.

First let me join our President in welcoming you all on behalf of the Clem Jones Group of Companies.

This evening marks the presentation of another Clem Jones Gold Medal to another outstanding Soccer Player and once again I want to talk about the importance of Soccer in the Community.

However, before I do, I want to touch briefly on the vexatious problem of sponsorship and the relationship between sporting bodies and their sponsors.

As Chairman of the Clem Jones Group which sponsors a number of sporting and community activities, I have become very conscious of the fact that while sporting bodies talk about how hard it is to get the sponsorship dollar, in many instances they make it hard for themselves.

As sport becomes more and more important in the community, it seems that many sporting body's are becoming more and more arrogant and taking the view that sponsorship is a 'privilege' which THEY extend.

True it is that sponsorship is an industry.

Sponsors gain enormously from the publicity which comes from their support of sport, and the benefits are growing, but as they do, sponsorship becomes more and more a business exercise and less and less by sentiment and love of the game.

The Federation provides great competition and the Gold Medal symbolises the service Soccer Administration gives to its players and the presentation of this Medal, as I said last year, is a tribute to the Federation and to people like Wallace Dann, Alan Vessey and Ian Brusasco.

It is also a tribute to the players. Without them there would be no sport and we would not be here tonight.

The importance of sport, therefore of Soccer, in our community, cannot be overemphasised.

Social problems are ever increasing.

Clem Jones has said so often..... the most

important thing we have to do in our society is find things for young people to do in their leisure time.

If we want them to conform to our social standards, we must provide a way of life that will make those standards worth accepting and idleness is the first step to non-acceptance.

Tonight we are all here to enjoy ourselves, but the seriousness of these problems cannot be hidden under the carpet and tonight therefore I would like to say on behalf of the Clem Jones Group, thank you to all of you who have played a part in providing the facilities and the conduct, for the playing of the great game of Soccer.

And thank you for providing the benefits which flow from it.

Congratulations to all the teams and players who have succeeded in the competition this year, but most of all, congratulations to all of you for your participation.

There is even more need today for sporting body's to recognise that if they want to get the sponsorship they 'deserve', they must give the return for the sponsorship, that the sponsor deserves.

Soccer has always had a hard sponsorship road to hoe and it not going to get any easier because Soccer is very much a parochial game.

There seems to be a great deal of insularity in the clubs and so here tonight I want to say as a sponsor, indeed I think representing Queensland's biggest Soccer sponsor, (not including of course, the contribution the Queensland Government).... thank you Ms Pensko - Dunn.

I want to say that if the sport wants to get the support it deserves as the number one sport in the world.... to get the support it deserves in Queensland.... the clubs and Federation and the Strikers must become imbued with a single combined desire to get out there in the market place.... offer something worthwhile in return for the sponsorship and the publicity which is out there in this country — the same as it is in the rest of the world.

It is up to all of you people here to do something about getting together.

Now quickly back to Soccer and this relates to what I have just said....

Soccer has an enormous number of young players in the field.

It is a major player in our society."



The beer for here.



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Qld Cup pits arch-rivals

The Queensland Soccer Federation couldn't have asked for a more mouth-watering end to the season.

The Queensland Cup final pits the two former national league arch-rivals, Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City, at Suncorp Stadium in a curtain-raiser to the Brisbane Strikers clash with Marconi.

It's a game which promises so much. City, the minor premiers, and Lions, the grand final winners.

The two sides met less than a month ago in the finals, with Lions coming out on top in a physical game.

Lions are having a red-hot end to the season after finishing the XXXX Premier League in third place.

They raced through the finals, beating Rockdale in the grand final.

Then they came out and gave Rockhampton a hiding in their Queensland Cup semi-final at the weekend.

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John Kosmina

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Speedy striker Greg Di Losa was the star, notching a hat-trick. Di Losa will have to be watched by City, with his pace creating havoc among XXXX League defences.

His partnership with aggressive striker Warren Allen has been a late season plus for Lions.

Allen starred in the premier league grand final after playing most of the finals off the bench.

The volatile striker with the powerful left foot is a big match player in a game overloaded with players who thrive on the big occasion.

Both sides have a number of ex-national league players and the individual clashes should be worth the price of admission alone.

City are likely to be strengthened by the return of sweeper Mark Bennett from a knee injury.

Bennett missed the XXXX League finals and the Queensland Cup semi-final but should be fit for tonight's game.

He and his defensive team-mates Daniel Duke, Wayne Strange and Scott Elliott will have their hands full taking care of a Lions side in a rampant scoring mood.

In the midfield, City's Shane Haddow and Damien Waugh are two of the most experienced players in Queensland soccer.

The duo pull the City strings and are the driving force behind creating chances for dangerous front man Chris Slater.

By his own standards, Slater has been quiet towards the end of the season. But the former Brisbane Strikers star has the potential to explode in the final.

City qualified for the final with a solid 4-2 win over North Queensland at the weekend.

After cruising through most of the season, City have struggled since the first week of the finals.

But write them off at your own peril. With so much class all over the park, the minor premiers could come out and destroy Lions tonight.

QUEENSLAND CUP

1998 FINAL

BRISBANE CITY

- 1 Daniel Duke
 - 2 Warren Cooley
 - 3 Damon Voss
 - 4 Mark Bennett
 - 5 Wayne Strange
 - 6 Scott Elliott
 - 7 Mark Dessi
 - 8 Chris Slater
 - 9 Damien Waugh
 - 10 Danny Wright
 - 11 Shane Haddow
 - 12 Angelo Cootes
 - 13 Carlos Echeverria
 - 14 Mark Battistin
 - 15 Nathan Fairley
 - 16 Mark Jenkins
 - 17 Damon Tune
 - 20 Adriano Taraborrelli
- Coach - Peter Bannon

BRISBANE LIONS

- 1 Jason Lucas
 - 2 David Lonsdale
 - 3 Darren Slme
 - 4 Steven Starr
 - 5 Paul Worroll
 - 6 Mark Geritz
 - 7 Steve Jackson
 - 8 Frank Mengotti
 - 9 Glen Farinazzo
 - 10 Michael Brockwell
 - 12 Roy Huth
 - 13 Craig Rogers
 - 14 Cameron Watson
 - 15 Warren Allen
 - 16 Jeff Lombardo
 - 17 Craig Barnes
 - 18 Greg Di-Losa
 - 19 Luke Farrinazzo
 - 20 Darren Hillier
 - 21 Robert Farrow
- Coach - Miron Blieberg

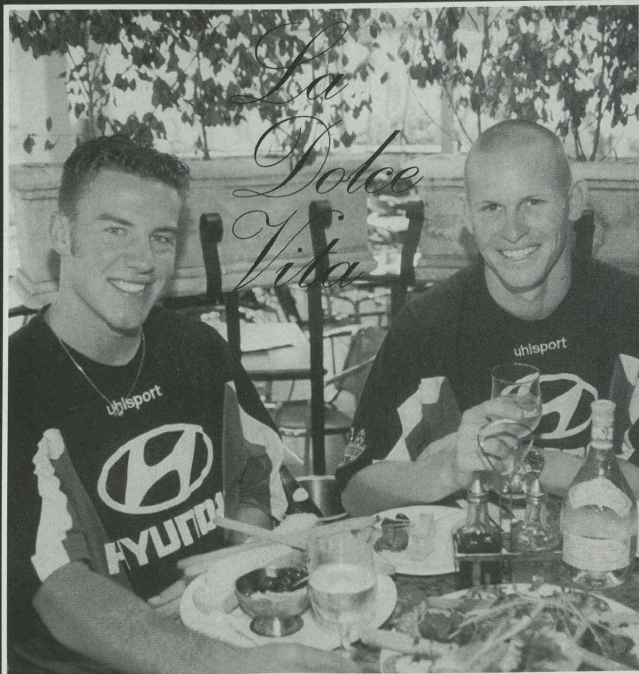


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BRISBANE STRIKERS

- 1 Clint Bolton - FO
- 2 Glenn Gwynne (C) - S
- 3 Matthew Bell
- 4 Chris Zoricich - OI
- 5 Craig Williams
- 6 Stephen Laybutt - FO
- 7 Andy Harper
- 8 Sean Cranney - FS
- 9 Reece Tollenare
- 10 Kasey Wehrman - S
- 11 Glen Kolpak - FO
- 12 Jade North
- 13 Wayne Knipe
- 14 Wayne Srhoj
- 16 Chay Hews
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 19 Royce Brownlie
- 20
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Aaron Thiesfield
- Coach - John Kosmina

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

- 1 Ante Covic
- 2 Chad Gibson
- 3 Mark Babic
- 4 Marcus Phillips
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Pan-Keun Kim - OI
- 7 Christian Care
- 8 Darren McDonald
- 9 Zelko Babic
- 10 Brad Maloney - S
- 11 Mike Smith
- 12 Joseph Bruni
- 13 Danny Invincible
- 14 Buddy Farah
- 16 Mauro van Cuylenberg
- 17 Francis Awaritefe
- 19 Brendan Renaud
- 20 David Aceski
- 21 Luke Tomich
- 23 Vlado Zoric
- Coach - Frank Farina

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



Has the horse bolted?

You know, I was driving along the other day and it occurred to me that Australian soccer is a lot like a racehorse which promises so much and delivers so little.

You know the type. Every start it comes out with a chance to win. So you go to the TAB, slap a couple of bucks on it and watch on a frustrated figure as it comes in fourth in a high quality field.

Blazing Steel is the perfect example. Now don't get me wrong. Blazing Steel has won plenty of money.

But it just seems the grand campaigner can't break through for a win against the big boys. Eventually, frustrated punters like myself will stop backing it.

That's Australian soccer. For so long we've been saying soccer is the sleeping giant of Australian sport. For a while it was overshadowed by rugby league and Australian

rules. So what do we do. We move to a summer competition where it's only competitor is cricket.

At the time it looked a brilliant idea, with the Brisbane Strikers getting a huge crowd to their grand final win two seasons ago. But the crowds have stagnated, particularly in Brisbane where numbers are down.

The support at the recent Oceania qualifying series for the Confederations Cup was pitiful. Now the spectre of basketball looms over soccer. Fortunately, basketball has peaked and looks to be going backwards at an alarming rate.

Like basketball did a few years ago, soccer has had plenty of opportunities to burst out of the shadows and clinch that group one win.

Remember the World Cup qualifier against Iran. But just like poor old Blazing Steel, we failed when the breakthrough looked within reach. That World Cup could have been the big one. The Melbourne Cup and Cox Plate all rolled into one.

Then the national side turns around and loses to New Zealand at the weekend. So Australian soccer goes on waiting for that big group one win.

This year the national league welcomes a new team. Another club boasting a professional set-up, the Northern Spirit are led by former Socceroo Graham Arnold and have Robbie Slater in their ranks.

Clubs like the Spirit are intended to be a forerunner to a fully professional competition. Time will tell whether it gets off the ground.

This is a big year for Australian soccer. It seems we say it every year. But there's signs the breakthrough is imminent.

So frustrated punters like me will keep on backing it. Let's just hope the public is as optimistic as some of us punters and continue to give it the support it deserves.

And I'll probably throw a couple of bucks on Blazing Steel again this weekend as well.

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