

Eye On Soccer is the
Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

Eye On

STRIKERS

v SOUTH MELBOURNE *Round 12*

Vol 8-6, Sunday December 27, 1998 \$2.00

Inform South's
tough ask
page 5



Win a Hyundai
Excel
page 27

Win Dinner at
La Dolce Vita
page 16

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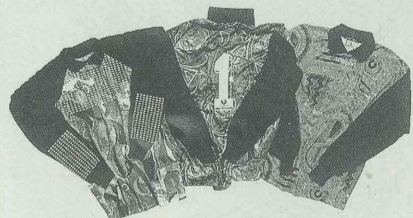
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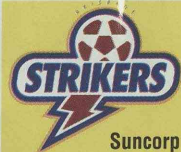


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Assistant Coach: Garry McDowall

Team Manager: Ian Dalzell

Team Physician: Dr John McNee
Physiotherapists: Michael Dalgleish
Robert Thams - Matt Freke

Goalkeeping Coach: Martin Coe

Trainers: Graham Kinsela
Stan Skubis

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*COVER: Strikers midfielder
Jeromy Harris, falls victim to
what appears to be a tackle from
behind from a United player.*

MAJOR SPONSOR



One of Australian Soccer's legendary '74 World Cup greats, Jimmy Rooney, once said to me, 'there's no such thing as old players and young players, just good players and bad players'.

Despite the fact Rooney was well into his 30's and still playing for Australia, he made a very valid point. I sometimes feel these days that all too often players are excused because of their age. In Australia, 21 is still considered young but in actual fact, it's not in comparison to our international counterparts. Sure some players develop later than others but in the main the good ones are ready for it by 18 at the latest.

At the Strikers we are lucky in that we've got some great 'kids' currently in our first grade squad and in the QAS, and from my point of view they are ready to be given the opportunity to stand up and be counted. I look at the excitement Jade North generated against Sydney United and the maturity shown by Wayne Srhoj in the same game. It's no fluke that they shared the Man of the Match award between them that night and all this from two 16 year olds. The good news is there's more to come - Andrew Davidson, Darryl Hathway, Shane Stefanutto - the list goes on. Going back to what Jimmy said, I'd safely say we've got a lot of young players and at present they are all good players. Only time will tell just how good but we'll never find out if they aren't given the chance.

Whilst we may have a few injuries and suspensions, I'm really looking forward to playing South Melbourne tonight. Sure we've got a few "inexperienced youngsters" in the squad but so what. Is there a better yardstick than the incumbent champions to test yourself with? Probably not, although some would say Perth and Marconi should be considered and rightly so. Whatever your opinion is, tonight's game will be exciting and downright entertaining. And so it should be given the quality of players in both camps (young and old). I just hope I enjoy it as much as you.....
Kossie

**ERICSSON CUP HOTLINE
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Inform South's tough ask

The Strikers must have their wits about them when they host league supremo's South Melbourne in tonight's big clash at Suncorp Stadium.

The team will be desperate to obtain maximum points from this match in a bid to maintain contact with the top six.

However, the Strikers will have to accomplish this without the services of star midfielder Kasey Wehrman.

Wehrman was ousted for one week when he was sent from the field in the 57th minute of last week's clash with the Canberra Cosmos.

The Strikers will miss Wehrman's stabilising influence against South Melbourne, who were the big movers after last week's win against Northern Spirit.

The win pushed Olympic into second position on the league ladder, just two points shy of league leaders Perth Glory.

South Melbourne have a star studded lineup led by the evergreen Paul Trimboli.

Trimboli has been one of the top guns of the Ericsson Cup for a number of seasons and Strikers Chief Executive Officer Ray Evans said he would certainly be one to watch this evening.

"He (Trimboli) has a pedigree and a wealth of experience and you don't achieve what he has without being a quality player," he said.

"But there are also a lot of other guys such as Nick Orlic, Vaughan Coveny and Michael Curija, and we will need to play well across the park to win tonight."

At the start of the season, many pundits believed the youthful Strikers outfit would be outclassed by more experienced opposition.

However, the young guns have proved the doubters wrong and Evans said the level of football displayed by the Brisbane players this season had impressed him.

"There's no doubt that they are playing

well together as a team," Evans said.

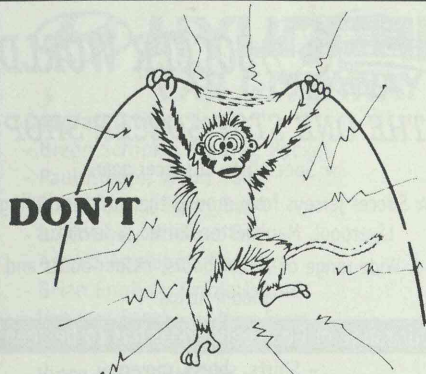
"They bonded well at the start of the season and are working for each other, which has resulted in a cohesive unit.

"The team is coming together very well so far this year and I believe that we have been a little unlucky in quite a few of our matches this season and with a little more luck, we could very well have been higher up the league ladder."

Evans also praised the efforts of new coach John Kosmina who had the task of filling the boots of Frank Farina.

"It's never easy working with a lot of new faces and I think Kossie (John Kosmina) has done a fantastic job at the helm.

"I just can't speak highly enough of him and the respect the players have for him is exemplified by their efforts at training and where it counts, in the middle on match day."




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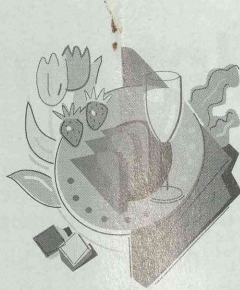
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FITNESS

Fresh Start for Strikers

The performances of the Brisbane Strikers have surprised many local pundits this season.

There were those who feared that a "Farinaless" Brisbane Strikers would struggle in the nation's premier football competition.

But armed with a mixture of youthful enthusiasm and the odd sprinkling of experience and guile, Strikers coach John "Kossie" Kosmina has managed to put some bounce back into the step of the Strikers players.

It is pretty difficult to hide from the fact that season 1997/98 was one of those years that is best archived for future analysis.

Many fans were asking how could the then reigning Ericsson Cup Champions go from the top of the pile to also-rans in a few months.

Sure, there was talk of bad luck and missed opportunities and the injury toll was at times horrific, but there is no doubt that there is something different about the Strikers this season.

While the club is travelling mid table, the "lifeless" performances of last season are a distant memory.

Players seem hungry for the ball, and are taking the play to opposing teams at every opportunity.

Strikers Chief Executive Officer Ray Evans said he was extremely pleased with the team's progress after 12 rounds.

"The fact of the matter is that they (Strikers) are a great bunch of guys and there is real bond developing between them," he said.

"From an administrator's perspective, it's great to be involved in a club where people get along like one big family.

"Quite a few of the players socialise away from soccer and I think that is indicative of their genuine respect for each other on and off the field."

While crowd figures have not been setting any records this season, there has been a steady flow of fans through the gates and Evans is content with gate takings for this season.

"At our last home game against Sydney United we had an attendance of four thousand, three hundred which is a little under our average this year of four thousand, five hundred," he said.

"I quite happy with the number of fans that have been coming along to matches and I think if we can maintain those sorts of figures throughout the year then we should consider our job done.

"However, attendance during the Christmas period is always difficult to predict and the administrative staff have been working hard on developing a host of special promotional events for patrons to participate in."

Another plus for the Strikers this season has been the return of star midfielder Kasey Wehrman.

Wehrman was absent for much of the season last year due to his well publicised broken ankle.

HYUNDAI CAR GIVEAWAY

Congratulations to:

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- L. Melsom, Holland Park
- Arnold Applehof, Kenmore
- Brian English, Bribie Island
- Vanessa Parnham, New Farm
- Bill De Vries, Bellara
- Vince Kelly, Birkdale
- Mike Donohue, Collingwood Park

who have been picked for the final draw for the Hyundai Car giveaway at the end of the 98/99 season.

You too can win - entry forms are in all match day programs. Place your coupon into the entry box at Gate 1. All entries will be drawn at half time of the main game.

**IT'S SIMPLY SMARTER.
SEE PAGE 25 FOR ENTRY DETAILS.**

The South Melbourne Story

by Andrew Howe

The year 1959 saw the amalgamation of three strong Melbourne clubs - Hellenic, Yarra Park and South Melbourne United.

Of these clubs it appears that South Melbourne United was the longest established, formed in the early 1930s.

In their first year of competition (1960) South Melbourne Hellas won the Victorian first division north championship - dropping only one competition point in the process, scoring 79 goals and conceding just 11.

By 1962 Hellas won their first of seven Victorian state league titles before the club jetted off to join the newly established national league in 1977.

High expectations were dampened after three years of competition in the new NSL, and a finish at the bottom of the table in 1979 nearly saw the club demoted back to state league.

But recovery ensued, climaxing in the eighth year of the NSL.

Souths won the 1984 championship, winning out over Sydney Olympic 2-1 in both legs of the 1984 national grandfinal.

This was the first time in the NSL that the grand final winners were declared champions. Previously the 'minor premiers' were the champion team.

A grand final victory again ensued in the 1990/91 season when 23,318 gathered to watch probably the most enthralling national league grandfinal ever.

Here Souths defeated Melbourne Knights, albeit on penalties - after two hours of intensive on-field action had resulted in a quite pulsating 2-2 draw.

As at the start of the 1998/99 season, South Melbourne were leading the all-time A-league competition table, with 291 wins and 146 draws from a total of 615 games, scoring 966 goals in the process.

A move to the impressive Bob Jane Stadium in late 1995 injected new life into the club, and the 'seven year itch' - coined after Souths won championships in 1984 and 1991 - held when they won the 1998 grand final.

In this game a dramatic albeit controversial Con Boutsianis goal in the 86th minute set South Melbourne to a memorable 2-1 victory over Carlton.

South's statistical record against Brisbane

Season	Final Pos'n.	Melb. Av. Crowd	Results in Brisbane	Results in Melbourne
1990-91	3rd / 14	5300	2-0 Strikers	4-1 Souths
1991-92	1st / 14	5700	2-0 Souths	5-1 Souths
1993-94	2nd / 14	5400	2-0 Strikers	0-0
1994-95	6th / 13	5000	3-1 Strikers	1-0 Souths
1995-96	8th / 12	6200	3-0, 2-0 both Strikers	0-0
1996-97	3rd / 14	7400	3-2 Souths	2-1 Strikers
1997-98	1st* / 14	6200	3-0 Souths	5-1 Souths

* (Champions)



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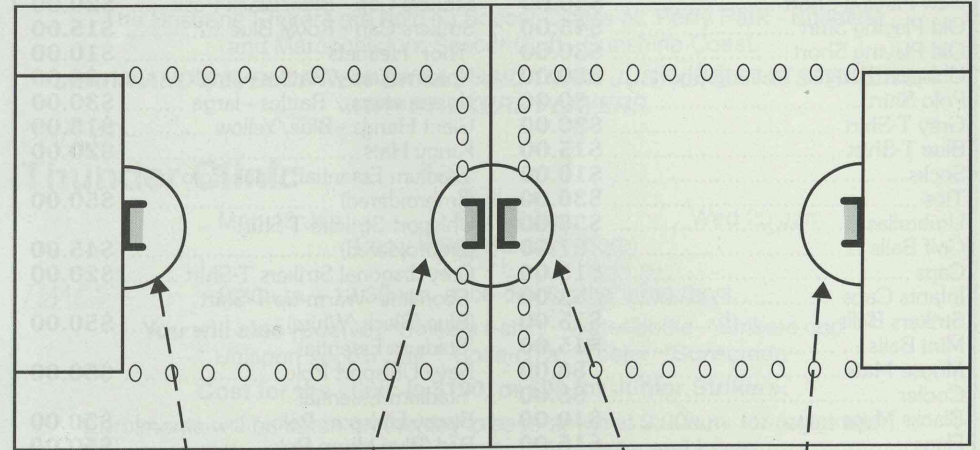
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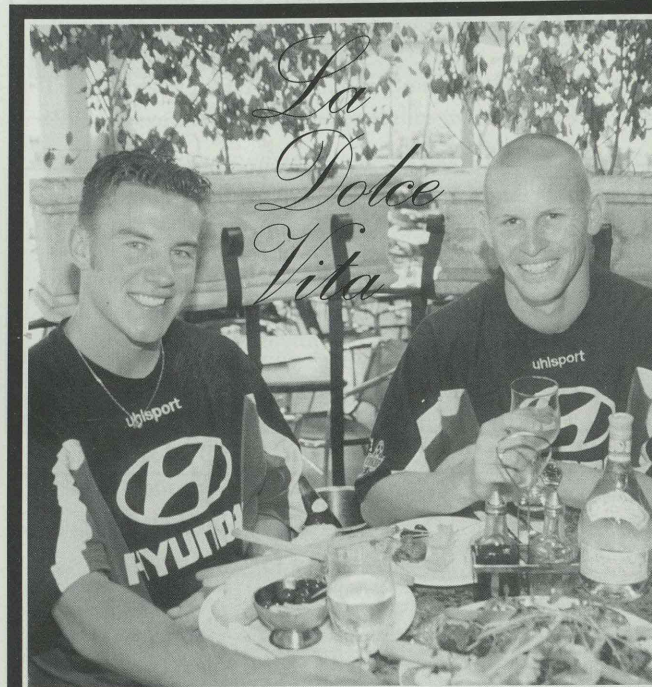
COCA-COLA CUP Under 13's

KICK OFF TIMES: Approx. 4.05pm (Fields of play as below)



Saturday 12th December
Strikers v Sydney United

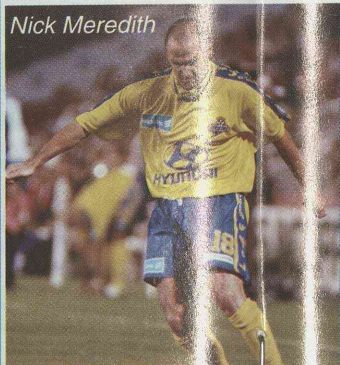
Brisbane Lines v	Margate	Samford v	Slacks Creek
Jersey: Orange with Royal	White Red/Blue trim	Blue & Black	Tangerine trim
Shorts: Blue	Blue	Black & Blue	Black
Socks: Blue	Red	Blue & Black	Black



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Nick Meredith

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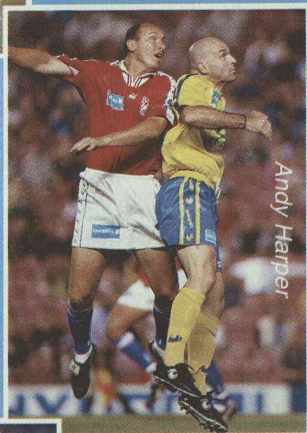
Sean Cranney



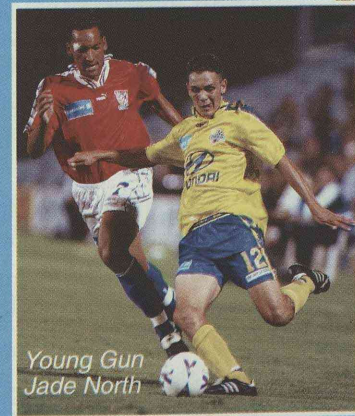
Great haircut



All together now!!

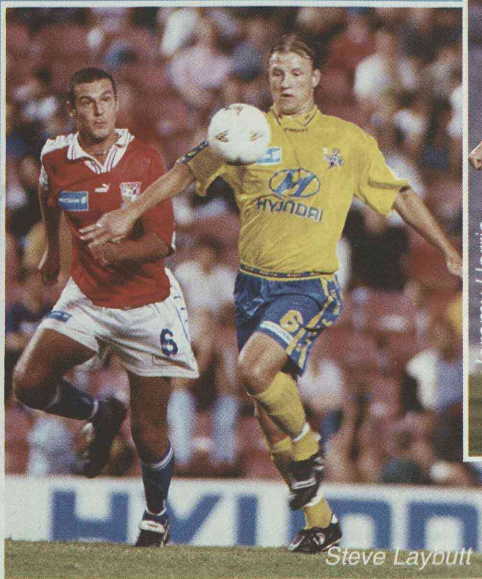


Andy Harper



Young Gun
Jade North

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



Steve Laybutt

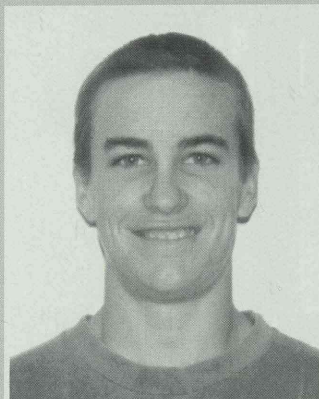


Jeremy Harris



Stuart McLaren makes his debut





SHANE BARNES

Q.A.S.

Born: 28/1/82
Place of Birth: Brisbane
Height: 170cm
Weight: 64kilos
Previous Club: Rochedale
Position: Sweeper - Midfielder
Nickname: "Kenny"
Rep honours: Brisbane South U16
Like to play for: Liverpool
Likes: Golf
Dislikes: Smokers
Favourite Sportswoman: Anna Kornikova
Favourite Sportsman: Michael Jordan
Favourite Holiday Destination: America
Favourite Music: Pearl Jam
Favourite Movie: Braveheart
If you ruled the world: I don't know!

Curtain Raiser

with Gary Phillips

Hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas, (all my athletes will be on the scales before today's game) still amazes me how quickly it comes and goes.

We have had four days off since our last game in Canberra on Monday, so after the Christmas pudding I hope we haven't forgotten how to play!

Canberra was a test of patience and persistence, we ran out winners 2-1 after scoring the winner in the last minute.

After starting strongly (the first two mins) Canberra scored in the third minute after a defensive mix up.

Despite having the majority of possession and half chances, we were unable to score.

Come on down Shane Smeltz who like Baggio for Inter Milan on Monday night (Inter won 4-1) changed the game of missed opportunities.

After several 'mazy' runs, a well taken cutter was produced, cleverly instigated by Russell Miner.

Then 'Smeltzy' brought the house down with another inspiring run, before cutting the ball back to Damian Volker to take two touches (you had to be there to see the two touches) to score the 'relieving' winner.

The opposition coaches were gracious in defeat which tells we deserved the win.

Today will be another test of our depth as injury and 'call up' have dominated proceedings lately.

Just another opportunity for a young athlete, where are you 'Brown'!

Have a happy and healthy New Year.

Gary Phillips

13 13 00

(flies you anywhere in Australia)



ANSETT AUSTRALIA

QAS SQUAD NEWS

Jade North, Wayne Srhoj, Chris Field and Jamie Johnson returned last Saturday from the U/17 Joeys camp held in Sydney for a week.

This is the final camp before the squad will be reduced to 18 players for an upcoming tour and World Cup qualifiers in Fiji next May.

Les Scheinflug was well pleased with all Queenslanders and has indicated it will be difficult to leave any out of his final cut.

By the time this goes to the publishers we should know who is the latest addition to the QAS coaching staff.

The short list for the Women's Coaching position was of such high quality, the decision had to be delayed after further discussions.

The 'coach' will be a very welcome addition and I know from all the candidates the Women's Soccer Program will be in very capable hands.

The QAS Women's squad have just had two games against Shanghai confirmed for January 10 and 12. The Chinese team have seven National team players and are currently ranked No 2 in the world behind the Americans.

This should be a very tough test for all QAS athletes and a pleasant reception for the incoming coach. Good luck!

Finally who was the QAS athlete who was

fortunate enough to stay at the Hyatt Coolum last week where the Coolum Classic was being played. Now me being a golfing nut, I thought what a great opportunity to see the likes of Stuart Appleby and Peter Senior live! No, he chose to sit in his room and watch them all on TV!

Enjoy..... Gary Phillips

QAS SQUAD MEMBERS

- * Shane Barnes
- * Mark Bradley
- * Allan Cameron
- * Morgan Cawley
- * Andrew Davidson
- * Mark Davidson
- * Duncan Easton
- * Chris Fields
- * Morgan Hartney
- * Darryl Hathaway
- * James Johnson
- * Russell Miner
- * Jonathan McKain
- * Shane Smeltz
- * Shane Stefanutto
- * Malcolm van de Graaff
- * Adam Webber
- * Damien Volker
- * Mark Conrad
- * Owen Filewood
- * Matt Keillor



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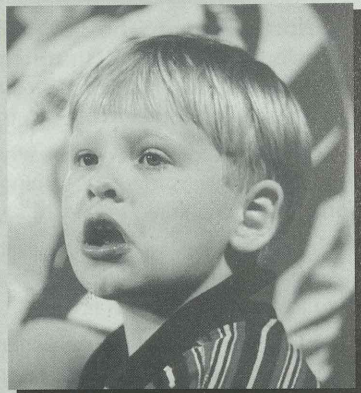
HOW TO ENTER

1. Fill in the form above and drop it into the entry box at the Junior Striker stand at Gate 1, Suncorp Stadium at a home game;
2. Winner will be announced at half time on the 9th of January at the Brisbane Strikers v Adelaide Sharks game (you must be present to win)

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JUNIOR STRIKER APPLICATION FORM

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 _____ Postcode: _____
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 E Mail Address: _____
 Soccer Club: _____
 Playing experience (number of years): _____
 Favourite Brisbane Striker: _____

FIND THE BALL

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S PHOTO



Congratulations to Nick Ogden from Bundamba, the winner of the McDonald's Sanyo CD/Radio/Cassette Player. Free entry forms are on the reverse side of complimentary Junior Passes received with every McDonalds Large McValue meal and U/14 birthday parties.

Fan-bag

To our beloved Boys..... We have just watched the game against Sydney United, to say the least it was magnificent! We have been fans for about four seasons now, and were there Grand Final time.

After today's game it has to be said the team of players we have at the moment will go a long way, keep it up and we will see you at this year's Grand Final.

Avid Strikers fans... **Wayne & Jaki Flegg.**

P.S. *Is there going to be a golf day again this year, great day out!*

To the Players, coach and all the supporting staff of the "Brisbane Strikers". We would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Keep up the fighting spirit you showed against Sydney United. you can reach the top six.

Kind regards.... **Jack & Betty Laotins - Milton**

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LIGHTNING CROSSWORD

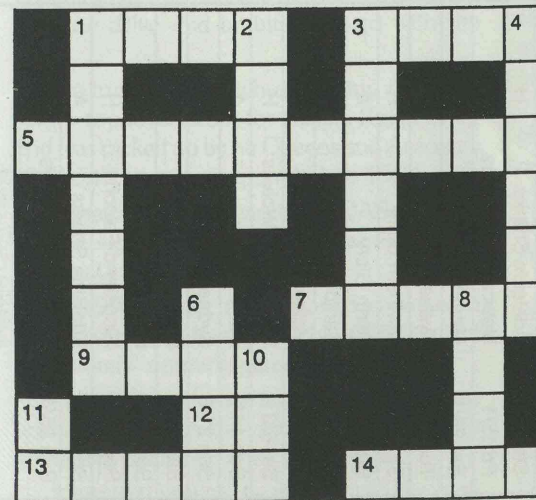
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Strikers Mascot ----.
- 3 Flying insect that stings ----.
- 5 Beautiful one day, perfect the next.
- 7 Australia plays England for these ----.
- 9 ---- makes the pitch wet to play on.
- 12 The Strikers biggest fan --.
- 13 The coach hopes his players ---- last night.
- 14 Another word for an exam ----.

Down

- 1 Thor makes this. -----.
- 3 The Wollongong -----.
- 4 There is two of these on a bike -----.
- 6 With a sore foot you walk with a ----.
- 8 You hear with these ----.
- 11 It's them or -- tonight.



**BRISBANE STRIKERS
1998/99 FIXTURES**

Date	Opponents	FA	1 Bolton	2 Gympie	3 Beal	4 Zorlich	5 Wilsham	6 Fairbank	7 Heppert	8 Craney	9 Tollerena	10 Wehrman	11 Koolpak	12 North	13 Maclean	14 Kipper	15 Strath	16 Hawks	17 Ferns	18 Merrieth	19 Brownlie	20 Duke	21 Parker	22 Harker	23 Harker	24 Harker
Sat 10/10	Marconi Fairfield	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 18/10	Sydney Olympic	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 24/10	Perth Glory	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 1/11	Carlton	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 8/11	Melbourne Knights	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 15/11	Wollongong Wolves	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 21/11	Adelaide City	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 27/11	Northern Spirit	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 12/12	Sydney United	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 21/12	Canberra Cosmos	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 27/12	South Melbourne	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 3/1	Gippsland Falcons	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 9/1	Adelaide Sharks	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 15/1	Newcastle Breakers	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 23/1	Mardon Fairfield	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Tue 26/1	Sydney Olympic	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 6/2	Northern Spirit	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 14/2	Perth Glory	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 21/2	Carlton	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 27/2	Melbourne Knights	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 6/3	Wollongong Wolves	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 14/3	Adelaide City	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 21/3	Sydney United	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 27/3	Canberra Cosmos	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 4/4	South Melbourne	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 10/4	Gippsland Falcons	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 18/4	Adelaide Sharks	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 25/4	Newcastle Breakers	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲



Please note that fixtures are subject to change as directed by Soccer Australia

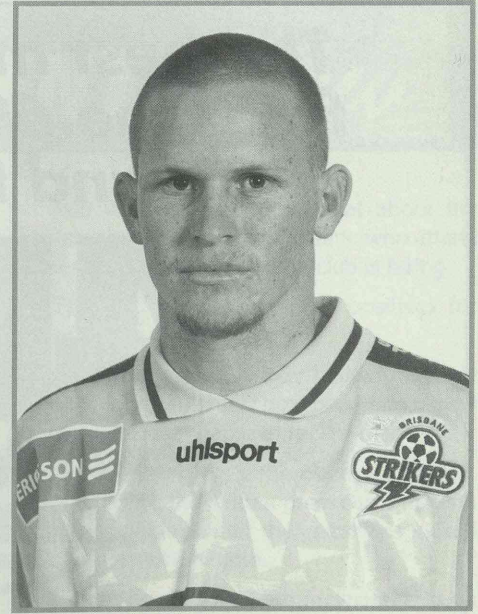
Legend: ▲ = Played - S = Substitute - O = Non playing substitute - ◆ = Own goal in scoring - □ = Yellow card - ■ = Red card

Kasey Wehrman is one of Australian soccer's hottest properties. At just 21 years of age, he has already played for the Socceroo's and is likely to be a major part of the Olyroo's assault at the 2000 Olympics.

Born in Cloncurry in western Queensland on August 16, 1977, Kasey comes from a family of eight children. His mum, Judy Wehrman, brought up Kasey and brothers Wade, Todd, Craig and Kelly and sisters Jasmin, Tifinie and Falan on her own.

The family lived in Mt Isa until Kasey was discovered at the State soccer titles in the city when he was 12 years old.

He was selected in the Queensland side and coach Mike Mulvey, now a prominent XXXX Premier League coach, suggested to Judy that her son had the talent to go all the way to the top in the game.



Kasey WEHRMAN

She was told that a move to a bigger city would give Kasey access to better coaching and improve his chances of making the most of his talents.

So she took the chance, picked up the family and moved to Brisbane, where Kasey had access to better standards of play and coaching. It soon became apparent that Kasey had the drive and ambition to go with the talent.

He impressed all who saw him, made his senior top-level debut for Acacia Ridge at 16 and was picked up by the Queensland Academy of Sport's soccer program in late 1994.

Kasey spent two years in the QAS program before signing with the Brisbane Strikers National League side.

In 1996-97, an injury to another player in pre-season gave Kasey his chance to start in the Strikers' opening game that season.

He took the chance and at age 19, had an impact on Australian soccer that very few teenagers before or since have made.

Later that season, he was named National

League Rookie of the Year and broke into the Australian Youth team for the World Cup in Malaysia.

In what should have been the pinnacle of his career to date, Wehrman's Youth Cup never started after his ankle was broken in a trial game.

And instead of having the routine three to four months out of the game, complications meant Kasey had to endure a further two operations to repair his shattered ankle.

Lesser players would have considered giving the game away, but Kasey seems to have come back stronger than ever.

And he reaped the rewards of all his hard work when he regained his place in the Australian Olympic team in July.

Not long after, he was selected to play for the Socceroo's at the Oceania Nations Cup in Brisbane in September.

There are many football experts who believe that Kasey has the ability to become Australia's next overseas soccer export, following in the footsteps of Mark Bosnich, Harry Kewell and co.

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A DIFFERENT View

By Brent Read

Okay. It's one of the worst kept secrets in Queensland soccer. It was I who wrote the articles in the back of the Eye on Strikers magazine every week.

If you guessed right, collect your prize at the gate on your way out.

If you didn't know..... well you know now.

After a seven week sabbatical in America and Europe, I returned to be told an article I did before I left had been to the detriment of the Brisbane Strikers.

The said article sung the praises of two of the Strikers stars - Kasey Wehrman and Glen Gwynne.

Those two players have gone on to represent Australia this year and continue to perform solidly for the Strikers.

Now, I'm a glass is half full kind of guy. To me, saying the Strikers are dependant on those two guys is a feather in their cap.

It merely reflects how good the two of them are. But the accusations of negativity continue.

So let's get some of this positivity flowing.

Strikers positives. Well, there's plenty of them so let's start. Firstly, the young talent in Queensland continues to compete with the best in the country.

You only have to look at how well Jade North and Wayne Srhoj performed against Sydney United to realise there's plenty of talented youngsters coming through the ranks.

Another positive. How about the performance of striker Stuart McLaren. He was outstanding against Sydney United.

McLaren seemed to get stronger as the game progressed and scored an excellent goal.

He could be the answer to the club's scoring problems.

You want more. Okay, what about the Strikers core of 4,000 supporters, who attend games regardless of how the club is faring.

That's it. We'll save some positives for future weeks.

Speaking of the Sydney United game, it featured one of the most bizarre curtain raisers seen at a Strikers game in recent memory.

The written press v the electronic media. For the record, the written press came up with a win on penalties after the game was locked at 3-3 after normal time.

Ironically, rugby league writer Steve Ricketts was the hero, brilliantly saving the electronic media's fifth penalty.

Now, it's pretty hard to find some positives from the performance of most of those who took the field in that game.

Let's just say they tried hard and leave it at that.

The most talked about moment resulted from a controversial clash between MMM's Foggy and the press' Swanny (for the sake of anonymity, we will refer to them by their nicknames).

Swanny, looming in on goal, was cruelly and viciously ripped off the ball by a pink-haired Foggy.

Despite the print media crying foul, the referee amazingly overlooked the incident and allowed play to continue.

A distraught Swanny and several members of the written press contingent continued to cry foul for the rest of the first half, the second half and several hours into the night. The incident should guarantee some spice for a return clash.

I am also told that the electronic's are already in training for next year's rematch.

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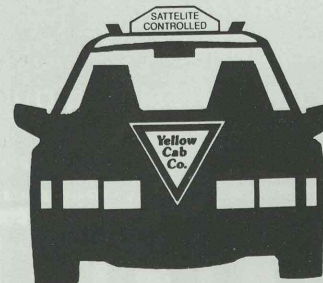


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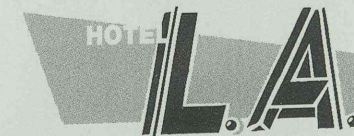
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1. ENTRY INSIDE THE PERIMETER FENCE OF THE PLAYING AREA IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES AND OFFENDERS WILL BE PROSECUTED.
2. ALL SPECTATORS ARE REQUESTED TO VACATE THE GROUND WITHIN 15 MINUTES OF THE END OF THE FINAL GAME.
3. POLICE MAY BE REQUESTED TO REMOVE ANY UNAUTHORISED PERSONS WHO REMAIN AFTER THE STIPULATED TIME.
4. THE SETTING ALIGHT OF, OR THE IGNITING OR DISCHARGING OF ANY TYPE OF OBJECT, INCLUDING FIREWORKS, SIGNAL OR SMOKE FLARES, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED.



BRISBANE STRIKERS

- 1 Clint Bolton (GK) - 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 Tollenaere
- 10 Kasey Wehrman - S
- 11 Glen Kolpak - FO
- 12 Jade North
- 13 Stuart McLaren
- 14 Wayne Knipe
- 15 Wayne Srhoj
- 16 Chay Hews
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 23 Darryl Hathway
- 24 Andrew Davidson
- Rgk Daniel Duke
- Coach - John Kosmina

SOUTH MELBOURNE

- 1 Michael Petkovic - S
- 2 Steve Iosifidis
- 3 Fausto De Amicis - S
- 4 Nick Orlic
- 5 Con Blatsis - O
- 6 David Clarkson
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny - OI
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C) - FS
- 10 Michael Curcija - O
- 11 John Anastasiadis - FYS
- 12 Tansel Baser - O
- 13 Adrian Cuzzupe - YS
- 14 Jason Polak - FS
- 15 Goran Lozanovski - S
- 16 George Goutzioulis
- 17 Jim Tsekinis - FYS
- 18 Robert Liparoti
- 19 John Tambouras
- 22 Mustafa Mustafa
- Rgk Chris Jones
- Coach - Ange Posticoglou

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



EYE ON STRIKERS' Tables

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	11	7	2	2	25	14	23
South Melbourne	11	6	3	2	23	16	21
Carlton	11	6	2	3	26	11	20
Marconi Fairfield	10	6	2	2	21	13	20
Adelaide Sharks	10	5	2	3	19	12	17
Adelaide City	10	5	2	3	13	10	17
Sydney United	10	5	2	3	16	14	17
Sydney Olympic	10	5	1	4	18	16	16
STRIKERS	10	3	4	3	14	14	13
Northern Spirit	10	5	1	5	7	12	13
Wollongong Wolves	10	3	2	5	16	21	11
Gippsland Falcons	9	3	2	5	6	16	11
Melbourne Knights	10	3	1	6	10	14	10
Newcastle Breakers	10	2	2	6	12	20	8
Canberra Cosmos	11	0	0	11	6	29	0

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	10	9	0	1	20	7	27
Aust Inst. Sport	11	7	3	1	34	10	24
Newcastle Breakers	9	7	2	0	22	6	23
Marconi Fairfield	10	6	3	1	38	9	21
Wollongong Wolves	8	7	0	1	23	4	21
Sydney Olympic	11	6	1	4	32	15	19
QAS	10	6	1	3	22	14	19
NSW Inst. Sport	7	6	0	1	22	4	18
Marconi Fairfield Colts	9	3	0	6	8	17	9
Sydney United Colts	11	3	0	8	14	25	9
Sydney United	10	2	2	6	11	19	8
Northern Spirit Colts	10	2	1	7	14	37	7
ACT Acad. Sport	11	2	0	9	18	37	6
Sydney Olympic Acad.	11	0	2	9	4	35	2
Wollong Wolves Colts	10	0	1	9	3	46	1

OTHER ROUND 12 ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

- SUN 27 DEC Melb. Knights v Marconi Fairfield
- SUN 27 DEC Sydney United v Canberra Cosmos
- SUN 27 DEC Carlton v Sydney Olympic
- SUN 27 DEC Wollongong v Newcastle Breakers
- SUN 27 DEC Adelaide City v Adelaide Sharks
- SUN 27 DEC Northern Spirit v Gippsland Falcs

ROUND 13 ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

- FRI 1 JAN Newcastle v Adelaide City
- SAT 2 JAN Marconi Fairfield v Wollongong
- SUN 3 JAN Gippsland Falcons v STRIKERS**
- SUN 3 JAN Sth Melbourne v Sydney United
- SUN 3 JAN Adelaide Sharks v Northern Spirit
- SUN 3 JAN Sydney Olympic v Melb Knights
- SUN 3 JAN Perth Glory v Carlton

ERICSSON CUP HOT SHOTS

John Markovski	Perth Glory	8
Mile Sterjovski	Syd. United	7
Pablo Cardozo	Syd. Olympic	7
Brad Maloney	Marconi	7
Vaughan Coveny	Sth Melb	6

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SEE PAGE 8 FOR FINALISTS TO DATE.



HYUNDAI

SIMPLY SMARTER



HYUNDAI

LT Andrew Davidson

Rgk Daniel Duke

Coach - John Kosmina

Legend: S - Socceroo, FS - Former Socceroo, YS - Young Socceroo, FYS - Former Young Socceroo

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