

QUEENSLAND'S MOST READ SOCCER MAGAZINE

Vol 8-28 September 18, 1999 \$2.00

Lees joins exclusive club

Olympic tickets

page 9

Grand Final Team Lineups pages 14, 16 & 22

page 6

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Cover: Clem Jones congratulates Gold Coast City midfielder Eddie Lees who won this year's Clem Jones Gold Medal. Full story on page 5. Lees will be in action today when his team take on Brisbane City in the Grand Final at 7pm.

Editorial

The grand final promises to be an excellent game between the experienced Brisbane City and the new boys on the block from the Gold Coast.

Save for a slow start to the year, the Coast could have won the premiership. But they did remarkably well to fight back after the threat of extinction hovered over their heads.

To finish only two points behind Rochedale was a glowing tribute to coach Ken Lindsay and his playing and support staff.

But take nothing away from Rochedale. The club has hardly been starved of success over the years but they had never won a Premier League premiership - until this year.

In the Semi-pro curtain-raisers prior to tonight's Premier League grand final, we have two grudge matches on our hands.

In Semipro north, Easts and North Star nipped at each other's heels all year.

In the Semipro south competition, Rocklea looked unbeatable early but Souths United stole the march on them late in the season.

In other soccer news the Strikers are heavily into pre-season training and have been playing plenty of trial games. Next Sunday they suit up against the premiers, with Rochedale Rovers putting on a testimonial game for one of its favourite sons, Damian Harris.

Harris has been a loyal servant to Rochedale for a decade and the big defender has his chance to share the spotlight with the Strikers next weekend.

It should be a great day for both clubs so make sure you go along and enjoy the action.

Entry to the game is free.

On a final note, I'd like to thank the immeasurable help given to me and in essence the clubs by Brent Read, Trent Reisenleiter and Jason 'Bugs' Kluver, all the staff at Hot Shots Photographics at Carindale, Rory McLeod from F-Stop and Jim Gilbert.

Good luck to the two Cities and today's winner will be City.

Brisbane Strikers 1999-2000 Season Memberships

Benefits of becoming a season member - save money - avoid the queues - an individual membership card - regular club newsletters - 2 FREE nights accommodation for two people at Club Crocodile Long Island Resort, Whitsundays, Great Barrier Reef - FREE travel on the Citytrain network for the day of the game (you must show your Strikers membership card).

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Brisbane Strikers, Perry Park, Abb	otsford Road, Mayne Qld 40	106). Handling fee of \$	3.50 per ucket is applic	able to this order.					

Lees joins an exclusive club

Gold Coast midfielder Eddie Lees joined Queensland Soccer's most exclusive club this week when crowned Clem Jones Gold Medallist at a glittering ceremony on Monday night.

Lees, a former Australian under 16 captain, finished on 25 points, three points clear of teammate Peter Dywer.

The Coast midfielder led after the third round of voting and consolidated his place at the top of the voting with a solid end to the season as the Coast made a late bid for the minor premiership.

Despite missing five games during the year, the consistent Lees confirmed his position as one of the league's premier midfielders with his aggressive tackling and skill on the ball.

The former Taringa and Rochedale playmaker formed a dangerous combination with team-mates Mark Bennett and Peter Grierson, leading the Coast's late run at the title.

A stunned Lees was ecstatic to be named among a host of Queensland Soccer's current and former stars.

Previous Gold Medal winners include Frank Pimblett, Steve Jackson, Frank Mengotti and Ken Swan.

"Its an honour to be ranked alongside players like them," Lees said. "I'd like to thank all my team-mates, Kenny (coach Ken Lindsay) and everyone involved at the Coast."

Lees was at the centre of the Gold Coast's brilliant season, turning around a slow start to push Rochedale all the way.

After knocking off the minor premiers two weeks ago, the Coast secured their place in the grand final and face Brisbane City in the season's biggest clash today.

Lindsay was unlucky to lose a tight vote to Rochedale coach Peter Bannon for the Coach of the Year award.



The fact that Bannon guided Rochedale to the first premiership in the club's history proved the decisive factor in the judge's decision.

After rescuing the Coast's season, Lindsay has guided his side into a grand final and they are still alive in the Queensland Cup, with a semi-final match-up in Maryborough on their agenda after this weekend's Premier League clash with Brisbane City.

The doyen of Queensland Soccer, Clem Jones, once again put on a sensational night at the Shangri-La Reception Centre at Wynnum.

Jones was on stage when Lees received his award from former Australian Soccer Federation chairman and former Brisbane Strikers chairman Ian Brusasco.

Other award winners on a big night for Queensland soccer were: Player of the Year Gold Coast's Peter Dwyer; Rookie of the Year Wynnum's Scott Rocker; Leading goalscorer Wynnum's Scott Rocker; Referee of the Year John Peacock; Fair Play Award Gold Coast; Club Championship Rochedale.

A True Blue marketing strategy

The Queensland Soccer Federation developed the *True Blue Marketing* marketing concept to enable broad participation from all levels of corporate Queensland.

This exciting initiative is win, win for all as it offers real marketing benefits for businesses both large and small and at the same time has the flexibility to attract every business that has a link to soccer in Queensland.

There are three levels of support available to prospective *True Blue Queenslanders* - silver, gold and platinum.

Participants are given a *True Blue Queenslander* plaque for display, a handful of stickers for cars, shop windows or anywhere and a corporate logo for their stationery.

The Queensland Soccer Federation will promote *True Blue Queenslander* by displaying

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the logo (above) on every publication we can influence and depending on the level of participation, *True Blue Queenslander* will be eligible for a variety of other great benefits.

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READ LEGINEEUR THE LINES



It took a bit of re-jigging but we managed to find a place for yours truly and Read Between the Lines.

Well, it's grand final time and the Gold Coast are set to meet Brisbane City in the final game of the year.

Hold on, there's Queensland Cup semi-finals to be played yet. There's also the Cup final as well, a game not to be missed.

Like most of Queensland soccer, I forgot about that competition.

Speaking of the Queensland Cup, it's good to see the final will be played as a curtain-raiser to the Brisbane Strikers again this year.

I believe last year's game led to the Strikers drawing their biggest crowd of the season.

Back to the Premier League grand final though. It should be a cracking game. Last year's premiers, stacked with finals experience, facing a Gold Coast side which has been playing superb football since the halfway mark of the season.

The Coast will be on a high after midfielder Eddie Lees deservedly won the Clem Jones Gold Medal at a glittering ceremony in Wynnum on Monday night.

Mr Lees celebrated long and hard into the night, with yours truly trailing him for most of the evening in the vein hope a little of that Lees magic would rub off.

Speaking of Clem Jones, the former Lord Mayor showed all his skills on Queensland Soccer's biggest night.

Clem actually spent half the night on the back of a tractor pulling a couple of bogged cars out of the mud. Good stuff Clem!!

Brisbane City coach Bobby Hamilton will be hoping a little bit of that industriousness rubs off on his team heading into tonight's game.

The Coast have plenty of weapons. Striker

Peter Dwyer has won his fare share of admirers during the year.

But the Coast's real strength and the area where they have a decided edge on City is in the midfield.

Eddie has been in superb form and shapes as a real gamebreaker. If his form is not threatening enough for City, he has a couple of dangerous partners-in-crime who wouldn't have been out of place accepting a golden handshake from Clem Jones on Monday night.

Lees, midfield maestro Mark Bennett and the deadly Peter Grierson form the league's best combination.

That trio tip the scales heavily in the Coast's favour.

The score - Gold Coast 4, Brisbane City 1.

Rochedale won the minor premiership of course but they missed out on the grand final.

That was of little concern to coach Peter Bannon, who was only worried about finishing the season on top of the table.

With their season over, Rochedale have taken time out to host a testimonial match for one of their favourite sons, defender Damian Harris.

Harris has been at the club 10 years and will feature in a Rochedale Rovers select side to play the Brisbane Strikers at Rochedale on September 26. Kick-off is at 3pm.

Every year about this time I come up with the same end of season resolution - that's it, I'm devoid of ideas, I won't be back.

Well, before you start doing cartwheels in anticipation of a *Cooper Between the Lines* or *Fish Between the Lines*, the retirement isn't official yet.

If Allan Langer can make a comeback, so can this column.

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13th & 14th November

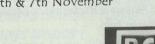






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6th & 7th November











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Another Opportunity for Olympic Football Tickets

The Oueensland soccer community has another opportunity to order tickets to the Olympic Games Football Tournament.

Event Director Alan Vessey said earlier this year registered players of the Queensland Soccer Federation, Queensland Junior Soccer Council and Women's Soccer Queensland were given an exclusive opportunity to purchase tickets before the first round public ticket ballot.

"From November this year the Queensland soccer community can buy individual tickets to select matches, such as the quarterfinals on 23 September 1999."

Mr Vessey added that those members of the general public who had not submitted an application form to SOCOG as part of the first round ticket offer, or submitted application forms after the 16 July deadline, will also have another chance to purchase tickets to the Olympic Games Football Tournament from 1 November 1999.

"By registering with SOCOG now, they will be sent the second Olympic Games Ticket Book, allowing them to order their tickets by mail.

"People who ordered tickets for the Olympic Games Football Tournament through the first round offer will be sent a letter from SOCOG in early October advising which tickets they have secured.

"They will also have until 22 October to order additional tickets that weren't sold in the first round offer. Order forms will be available through the second Olympic Games Ticket Book," he said.

To register your interest to receive the second Olympic Games Ticket Book, telephone 13 63 63 or visit the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Internet site (www.sydney.olympic.org)

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Simply a Kick in the Grass...



EYE ON SOCCER TABLES

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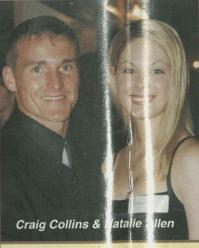






H GOLDEN NIGHT





















SEMIPRO NORTH

1999 GRAND FINAL

Match balls courtesy of Buffalo

NORTH STAR

- 1 Anthony Hall
- 2 William Nolan
- 3 Euan Fisher
- 4 Nathan Worling
- 5 (Not allocated)
- 6 Gary Thompson
- 7 Stewart Houliston
- 8 Stuart Collins
- 9 Barry Browett
- 10 Ben Dwyer
- 11 Michael Brockwell
- 12 Jonathan Richter
- 13 Shane Brown
- 15 David Gaskin
- 16 Robert English
- 17 Troy Yule
- 18 Brendan Hunter

Rgk Jonathan Walter

Coach - Steve Faulkner

EASTERN SUBURBS

- 1 Robert Harrison
- 2 Sean Clarke
- 3 Murray Stevenson
- 4 Ian Bonato
- 5 Bill Ingledew
- 6 Dave Wallis
- 7 Graeme Knowles
- 8 Shaun De Courcy
- 9 Marc Flemington
- 10 Richard Nicol (c)
- 11 Carl Pzczensky
- 12 Mitch Cattermole
- 13 Michael Eadie
- 14 Stephen Verschoyle
- 15 Roman Haritonoff
- 16 Sam Porteous
- 17 Shane Dickson

Rgk Todd Fairbrother

Coach - Frank Byrne

Referee: David Ogston

Asst. Referees: Brendan Carius - Ted Kearney







Will the Tigers roar or will the Stars shine brightly

Eastern Suburbs have found some longlost form in the finals and threaten to unhinge North Star's stellar season in the Semipro North grand final today at Perry Park.

These two sides fought out a ding-dong battle mid-season for the top of the northern table but Easts plateaued late in the season and lost their way.

The Tigers almost slipped out of the finals and it took some inspirational coaching from Frank Byrne to lift them for the finals series.

Byrne is surrounded by a team of experienced hard-heads, with the likes of Bill Ingledew, Robbie Harrison, Marc Flemington and Richard Nicol all former Premier League players.

Flemington has been a deadly target man for the side all year and will be a player to watch in today's final.

The experienced striker has a vulture's instinct in the penalty box and only needs a half-chance to frighten the back of the net.

North Star also have their share of experienced Premier League players and are coached by former Mt Gravatt coach Steve Faulkner.

Only a year after being replaced by John Stewart at Mt Gravatt, Faulkner has taken North Star to a minor premiership and grand final.

Mt Gravatt finished in the bottom two in the Premier League only beating home Toowoomba. They struggled to match the sides above them after a promising start to the season.

Faulkner has plenty of talent at his disposal, with attacking midfielder Michael Brockwell a member of North Stars 1994 Premier League grand final winning side.

Former Mt Gravatt and Taringa midfielder Stuart Collins is a non-stop worker in the heart of the midfield while goalkeeper Anthony Hall is a former Taringa custodian.

Both sides are smattered with experience and have the ability to turn a game on their own.

Easts will be intent on finishing their promising season on a high note after things came unravelled late in the year.

Byrne would consider this season a wasted opportunity after his side spent most of the year hovering around the top of the table.

They have the chance to make amends in this afternoon's encounter with the scalp of the high-flying premiers.

ACACIA RIDGE SOCCER CLUB INC

WANTED SENIOR YOUTH COACH

Senior Players wanted for Semi-Pro Division All Grades

Apply to: The Secretary PO Box 288 Acacia Ridge 4110 PH: 3277 1541

SEMIPRO SOUTH

1999 GRAND FINAL

Match balls courtesy of Buffalo

ROCKLEA UNITED

- 1 Pejo Stanic
- 2 Zvone Leko
- 3 Denis Matic
- 5 Ivan Kosic
- 6 Karlo Leko
- 7 Simon Mudnic
- 8 Nick Vukovic
- 9 Anton Cule
- 11 Josip Zemljic
- 14 Michael Babic
- 15 John Marinov
- 16 Ivan Beronic
- 17 Ivan Bors
- 18 Joe Delalic

Rgk Joe Lombardo

Coach - Micky Matisic

SOUTHS UNITED

- 1 Brendan Freeman
- 2 Robert Judge
- 3 Edward Berry
- 4 Jared Williams
- 5 Gareth Stevens
- 6 Dean Weatherall
- 7 Ryan Bridge
- 8 Rui Santos
- 9 Martin Rudge
- 10 James Figueroa
- 11 Darren Gray
- 12 David Knight
- 13 Steven Davis
- 14 Danny Davis
- 15 Ben Healan

Rgk Vaughan Hindley

Coach - Walter Oldenburg

Referee: Richard Coutts

Asst. Referees: Paul Eldridge - Adam Bedi.







A United will stand - a United will fall... but who

Rocklea United and Souths United have been fighting for Semipro South honours all season and the battle continues this afternoon.

The two sides chase for minor premiership honours went down to the wire, with Souths United eventually clinching the title in the last week of the season.

The two rivals finished the year deadlocked on 52 points, with Souths United's superior goal difference giving them the edge when the trophies were handed out after the last round.

It was a bitter blow to Rocklea who, after looking invincible earlier in the year, lost their way mid-season and never recovered.

But they have found some form in the finals and have the chance to take retribution on Saturday against the team which stole the premiership mantle from under their nose.

Souths United young outfit has moulded into a formidable combination under coach Walter Oldenburg, with the Runcorn-based side losing only four games all year.

Oldenburg has a wealth of depth at his disposal, with the club's reserves side losing only one game all year and scoring a mammoth 104 goals.

The top side fared almost as well, losing four games and scoring more than 60 goals as they surged to the top of the ladder.

What won them the minor premiership, however, was their defence. Souths defence was the only one in the league to concede less than 30 goals.

They lost only one of their last 16 games and stormed home to snatch the title from out of Rocklea's grip.

Oldenburg's outfit improved with each outing and the grand final would be a fitting end to a magnificent season for the club.

Rocklea led the league in goalscoring but tailed off as the season went on and were barely lukewarm as the season came to its crises point.

But they have found some form in the finals and will be primed to make up for the loss of the premiership.

Hopes were high for a big year down at Dunn Road and only a grand final win would appease the loyal Rocklea fans.

They get that chance today in what shapes as an exciting game between two sides who love to attack and score goals.

Eastern Suburbs Soccer Club Ltd

Applications are invited for the following coaching positions for the 2000 season.

Semi-Pro Division 1 North: **First Team Coach**Semi-Pro Division 1 North:

Reserve Team Coach

Semi-Pro Division 1 North:
Youth Team Coach
Junior Development Officer

Applications should be made in writing to:
The Secretary
Eastern Suburbs Soccer Club
PO Box 7181
East Brisbane, Qld, 4169
Closing date: September 30, 1999

Phone enquiries can be made to Football Director Neil Favager on 0407 843 544

Eye On Brisbane City

- Daniel Duke Former Brisbane Strikers goalkeeper has spent most of the season battling a back injury. When fit the best keeper in the competition. Safe under the high ball and capable of brilliance
- Warren Cooley Versatile defender/forward. The solid Cooley has had a mixed year but can create havoc when he runs at defenders. Strong and capable of scoring goals.
- 3. **Michael Grammatico** The leading goalscorer for the reserve side, the diminutive striker is a player of the future.
- Nathan Carloss Joined City in the off-season and made an instant impact. A robust, hard working midfielder with a knack for scoring goals in big games.
- Wayne Strange One of the best defenders in the competition. Rarely plays a bad game and has been consistent for City again this year.
- 6. **Robbie Kidd** Will probably come off the bench where he has made a huge impact this year. Has been scoring valuable goals off the bench. Quick with a powerful shot.
- Damien Waugh Crafty midfielder with national league experience. Has to be watched within sight of goal, where his long-distance shooting can be dangerous.
- 8. **Chris Slater** Genuine goalscorer who has been plagued by a knee problem all year. Loves the big games and is one of City's gamebreakers.
- Royce Brownlie Another of Citys group of ex-national league players. Has missed the finals with suspension but when he runs at defenders, is difficult to stop.
- Francis Cosson A skilful midfielder, Cossen spent last year in France but returned to win a place in the competitive City midfield.
- 11. **Mark Jenkins** Speedy flanker who loves nothing more than taking on the opposition. On his day, can be a dangerous proposition for opposition defences.
- 12. **Mark Dessi** A creative midfielder with good vision who can be a gamebreaker. Dessi is also a specialist free kick taker.
- Aaron Aldridge Has really played well in recent weeks as City have made their run at the finals. An aggressive defender who loves to get stuck in.
- 15. Gianni Culpo A skilful defender who has come off the bench this year.
- 16. **Chris Cosson** The best crosser of the ball in the club, Cossen has a sweet left foot and can provide the bullets for Slater and Brownlie to shoot down the Coast.
- 17. **Alan Cameron** Young attacking midfielder has missed the past few weeks but has a knack for popping up and scoring goals.
- 18. Mark Battistin Converted striker has spent most of the year at sweeper. Another former national league player, Batts can give his national league claims a big boost with a strong game.
- Clifford Tuck Has been fighting injury but when fit, has good pace and loves to run at defenders. Capable of the brilliant or the banal. Another gamebreaker.
- 20. **Darren Dunbar** Back-up goalkeeper has made a brilliant transition back to goals after playing on the field with the 5th division side earlier this year.

Eye On Gold Coast City

- Jamie Irwin Young goalkeeper has been a real surprise packet this year. Highly underrated and capable of making brilliant saves. Named player's player of the year.
- 2. Robbie Boxall Underrated stopper has had a great year at the heart of the Gold Coast's defence. Boxall will be a key in the grand final.
- 3. **Neil Ferguson** Former Taringa player, Ferguson started the year in the midfield but slotted back into sweeper and found his niche. Has a sweet left foot.
- Michael Richardson An outstanding stopper, Richardson has been earmarked for higher honours by those in the know. Has been a stand-out this year.
- 5. **Mark Bennett** Experienced midfielder was a part of Brisbane City's run last year. A playmaker with the ability to turn a match.
- Eddie Lees Another vital cog in the Coast's midfield. Winner of the Clem Jones Gold Medal last week, Lees has had a sensational year. Like Bennett, can turn a game.
- 7. **Col Phelan** Experienced midfielder has been used mainly off the bench this year. Has played in the finals before with Easts.
- Kris Dodd A skilful forward who is likely to be used off the bench. Confident and capable of scoring goals. A good prospect for the future.
- 9. **Troy Greenwood** Young striker caught the league's attention last year. Has loads of pace and a nose for goal. Has to be watched.
- 10. **Peter Grierson** Midfielder with a penchant for scoring goals. Good in the air and creative on the ball. Part of a superb Coast midfield.
- 11. **Peter Dwyer** Has been a revelation since joining the club and turned around their season. The most dangerous player on the park. A deadly marksman.
- Dwayne Good Strong and competitive, Good plays wide on the right. A quality defensive player.
- 13. **Nathan Woodbridge** Steady defender who is still young and starting to make his mark, Will be used off the bench.
- 14. **Shane Smeltz** Plays a roving role behind the strikers where he has enjoyed an excellent year. Needs to be watched.
- 15. **Adam Evans** Steady young player who plays on the right of midfield. Has a good temperament and strong defensive skills.
- 16. **Wade Russell** A versatile midfielder/forward with tricky skills and a penchant for scoring goals.
- Brett Adams Left-sided midfielder who is quick and tough. Capable of providing the spark to the Coast's attack. His service to Greenwood and Dwyer has been excellent.
- Nathan Thompson Plays wide on the left and is endowed with plenty of confidence.
 Loves to take on the opposition.
- Luke Adair Strong defender who joined the Coast before heading back to Wynum mid-season. Now back at the Coast and settled. A former state player.
- Rk. Glen Moss A calm teenager who could make his mark in the future.

Rovers first premiership

Rochedale Rovers finally threw the monkey off their back and snapped up the club's first premiership with a gutsy 1-0 win over Taringa in the last round of the league.

Coach Peter Bannon spoke all year about the club's desire to win the league and over the closing rounds, established itself as the most consistent side this season.

Bannon rates the premiership above the grand final and said in Eye On Soccer that the grand final would "pale into insignificance" compared to the premiership.

"If we win the minor premiership it will be miles ahead of anything that happens in the grand final," Bannon said at the time.

COACHES WANTED

NORTH STAR SC requires suitable experienced qualified and experienced coaches for the following positions in 2000

Rooball Head Coach and Coordinator Age U7 - U8

Rooball Head Coach & Coordinator Age U9 - U10

Head Coach and Coordinator U11, 12, 13, 14, 15, J/C

All of the above are paid positions Please send application to

The Head Coach NORTH STAR Sports Club Inc PO Box 155, Zillmere Q 4034

by October 30th, 1999.



A jubilant victorious Rochedale Rovers

Veteran striker Kieran Cooper provided the decisive moment in the season finale, coming off the bench to score a late goal and lock up the club's first premiership.

It was fitting that Cooper, who has been chasing a premiership with Rochedale for almost a decade, scored the most important goal of Rochedale's season.

The veteran striker has been at the heart of the club's success in recent years.

Premier Coach WANTED

Ipswich Knights SC is seeking applications for the following coaching positions for the 2000 soccer season.

- Womens Premier League •
- Womens Premier League Res •

All applications are to be in writing to:

The Secretary **Ipswich Knights Soccer Club** PO Box 499 **Booval Qld 4304**

Applications close October 15, 1999

Rochedale's day of celebration

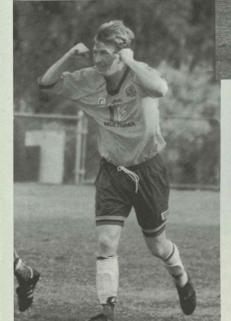


Taringa's Ben Wood stands his around in a challenge from **Brad Ditton**

Matt Olley on the attack



Taringa's Scott Robertson in an aerial dual with Rochedale's David Pilic



It Feels Good!! - Kieran Cooper after

scoring the winning goal



XXXX PREMIER LEAGUE

1999 GRAND FINAL

Match balls courtesy of Buffalo

GOLD COAST CITY

- 1 Jamie Irwin
- 2 Robbie Boxall
- 3 Neil Ferguson
- 4 Michael Richardson
- 5 Mark Bennett
- 6 Eddie Lees
- 7 Col Phelan
- 8 Kris Dodd
- 9 Troy Greenwood
- 10 Peter Grierson
- 11 Peter Dwyer
- 12 Dwayne Good
- 13 Nathan Woodbridge
- 14 Shane Smeltz
- 15 Adam Evans
- 16 Wade Russell
- 17 Brett Adam
- 19 Nathan Thompson
- 20 Luke Adair

Rgk.Glen Moss

Coach - Ken Lindsay

BRISBANE CITY

- 1 Daniel Duke
- 2 Warren Cooley
- 3 Michael Grammatico
- 4 Nathan Carloss
- 5 Wayne Strange
- 6 Robbie Kidd
- 7 Damien Waugh
- 8 Chris Slater
- 9 Royce Brownlie
- 10 Frank Cosson
- 11 Mark Jenkins
- 12 Mark Dessi
- 13 Aaron Aldridge
- 15 Gianni Culpo
- 16 Chris Cosson
- 17 Alan Cameron
- 18 Mark Battistin
- 19 Clifford Tuck
- 20 Darren Dunbar

Coach - Bobby Hamilton

Referee: David Dwight. Asst. Referees: John Peacock - Bob Eedy. Fourth Official: Doug Prentice







The battles within the battle

Coast's Peter Dwyer v City's Wayne Strange

Dwyer has been the single biggest reason behind the Gold Coast's stunning turnaround and late run at the premiership. Is deadly in front of goal and needs to be watched for the full 90 minutes. Takes his chances and makes defences pay for their lapses. Almost won the competition's goalscoring competition despite missing the first round. Scored at a stunning pace early on.

Strange has been the league's most consistent defender for several seasons. Rarely plays a bad game and is likely to be given the job of shutting down Dwyer. Needs to maintain his concentration. The blonde-haired stopper is strong on the ball and rarely gets beaten. Should be a decisive match-up in the game.

Coast's Eddie Lees and Mark Bennett v City's Francis Cossen and Nathan Carloss

Bennett and Lees have controlled the midfield in Gold Coast games this year. Both have plenty of experience and have played in grand finals before. The dynamic duo were team-mates in Taringa's 1994 grand final-losing side while Bennett, ironically, played for City last year. Have been the form combination in the Premier League this year. The vocal Bennett and aggressive Lees are masters of the mind game and are likely to try and take their opponents on psychologically as well as physically.

Cossen and Carloss are relatively new faces on the Premier League stage. Neither has played in a Premier League grand final and a lot could depend on how they handle the pressure of such a big match. Carloss has the ability to score goals and has been noted for scoring in pressure situations. Cossen is the playmaker and has made a big impact since returning to the club this year. This will be their biggest challenge of the season.

City's Chris Slater v Gold Coast's Michael Richardson

Slater has had a quiet year by his own standards after struggling with a knee injury for most of the season. One of the league's best marksman and a tireless worker, Slater thrives on the big match atmosphere of grand finals. He loves the bigger stage and will work himself to a standstill. Is dangerous in the air and possesses a rifling shot. Needs to be watched at all times.

Michael Richardson is one of the league's new discoveries. The outstanding stopper is destined for higher honours according to several sources. This is a chance for him to show his ability in a pressure situation with the likes of Slater and fellow strike Royce Brownlie running at him. Has done a solid job this season. Strong defensively and solid on the ball he will need to be at his best to contain City's striking duo.

⇒ Eye On Dwyer «

Name: Peter Dwyer Club: Gold Coast City

Position: Striker

Born: Glasgow, Scotland

Age: 34 G/friend: Jodie

Strengths: Natural Goalscorer, good

pace

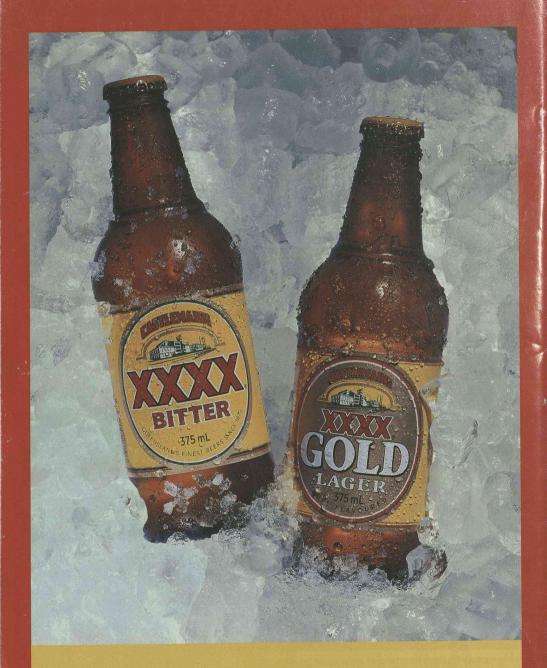
Goals: 16

Clubs: Dunipace Thistle, Tullibody

Hearts, Leicester City, Sterling Albion, Surfers Paradise, Brisbane Lions, Musgrave SC, Falkirk, East Sterlingshire, Alloa Athletic

Occup: Police Officer Likes: Tennis, snooker

Honours: 1999 EOS Player of the Year



COLD CHANGE HITS QLD.