

# Eye On Soccer

Queensland Soccer Federation  
Official Magazine

QUEENSLAND'S MOST READ SOCCER MAGAZINE

Vol 9-1  
March 2, 2000  
\$2.00

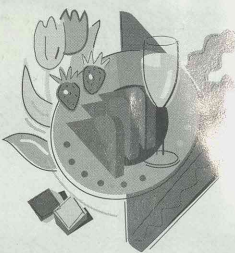
Who went  
here and  
there  
page 19

A good  
Read  
page 18

Damon  
Tunes up for  
North Star  
pages 16



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Eye On Soccer is a QSF publication  
printed by

ABC PRINTING - Milton, Qld.  
Tel: 07 33699133

*Cover: Brisbane City striker Vedran  
Becirbegovic puts his best foot forward  
against his old club Brisbane Lions at  
Spencer Park on Sunday. City won the  
derby 2-0.*

# Editorial

The 2000 Premier League season might be only two weeks old but there are already some surprising ladder developments.

While the table means nothing this early in the year, clubs cannot afford to fall too far behind the leaders this year as they don't have the comfort of a semi-final series.

With the team finishing first on the ladder this year being recognised as the League's best, and rightly so in many people's opinions, the first half of the season is likely to determine which clubs can start planning for 2001 by May.

The team that has surprised the most after two matches is Ipswich, which leads the league on goal difference thanks to two victories, and a for and against record of eight goals scored and only one conceded.

The addition of Richard Hilli and Jason Lucas to a Knights squad already containing experienced campaigners including captain Peter McKendrick and Peter Hinks will make the Frank Pimblett-coached side difficult to beat all season, particularly at Eric Evans Reserve.

Another surprise is the patchy form of glamour club Brisbane Lions. Much is expected of the cashed-up club with National League aspirations, particularly with new coach John Ogden bringing 10 players over with him from Taringa.

It's still early days and there's no doubt Lions have the talent, but Ogden may yet regret showing the door to several of last year's squad, particularly Darren Hillier, Roy Huth, Stephen Starr and Vedran Becirbegovic.

Starr and Becirbegovic are now part of a Brisbane City side that already looks to be the team to beat in 2000. City's 1999 grand final opponents Gold Coast are struggling at the bottom of table without a point after two matches, and while that may raise the eyebrows of several pundits, it was always going to be a tough season for last year's surprise packets.

Losing players such as 1999 QSF gold medallist Eddie Lees, Peter Dwyer, Peter Grierson, Shane Smeltz, Shane Stefanutto and Mark Bennett would hurt any club.

## Knights to the fore in round 2

The Ipswich Knights charged to the top of the Premier League table on goal difference with a 5-0 thumping of Mount Gravatt at Eric Evans Reserve.

The Knights are one of only two teams with maximum points after two rounds. Joining them on six points are Brisbane City, who defeated arch-rivals Brisbane Lions 2-0 at Spencer Park on Sunday.

In fact, wins were the order of the round, with Rochedale, Wynnum and Bundaberg recording maiden season victories.

At Bundamba on Saturday evening, the Knights, through goals from Trent Griffiths and Richard Hilli went 2-0 up within 15 minutes and were never headed.

Wayne Adams added a third just before half-time. The goal-scoring feast continued after the break with Hilli, on his return home after spending two seasons at Taringa, grabbing his second and Tim Reece finding the net seconds after coming on.

Knights coach Frank Pimblett was elated with the five goals, but said he was happier about his side's defence which has only conceded one goal in two games.

Brisbane City coach Danny Wright was equally as pleased after his side put two past the much-talked about Lions' combination.

Second-half goals to Pablo Aviles and Chris Slater sealed the three points for City, who could even afford the luxury of a missed penalty from former Lions player Vedran Becirbegovic.

Wright said he told his players at half-time to ensure the game was not decided by a "toss of a coin" incident in the dying minutes.

"When we play Lions it's always going to be a battle. It was also hot and ground was a bit bumpy," he said.

"I told the boys at the break to keep battling on and play to their potential.

"We put together two well-constructed moves that led to goals and we could have scored more."

Lions coach John Ogden said there was no panic in the camp, despite having only one point after two matches.

"It's always going to be hard at the start of the season. There's no easy games," he said.

At Jack Speare Park on Saturday night, visiting Rochedale thrashed Taringa 4-0, with goalscorers including Matt Olley (two penalties) and Clayton Koch.

Rochedale coach Peter Bannon said his side was more disciplined than in the previous week's 3-1 loss to Ipswich.

"It was a good performance and a good result," he said.

The Gold Coast suffered a second successive home defeat, losing 3-1 to Wynnum on Saturday night.

Owen Filewood, Stuart Popplewell and Mark Alaru each scored for the visitors, with Rochedale acquisition Steve Fitzsimmons scoring for the Coast.

Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi said the result had made him happy after the disappointment of drawing with Bundaberg the previous week.

"It's always hard to win down there (the Coast). We also should have won in Bundy," he said.

Gold Coast coach Ken Lindsay said his side conceded a couple of goals it shouldn't have.

"We have to improve," he said.

Bundaberg grabbed a valuable away win in Toowoomba on Sunday, defeating the Raiders 2-0 thanks to goals from Brett Kitching and Nick Maas.

Waves' coach Tony Warmesley said his side did not arrive home until 1am on Monday but claimed the long bus trip was worth it after the win.

"We've made a very encouraging start to the season," he said.

Raiders coach John Garside conceded his team was "pretty awful".

"We had 11 players who didn't put a foot right," he said.

## PREMIER PREVIEW - ROCHEDALE ROV v BRIS CITY

Despite his team's perfect start to the season, Brisbane City coach Danny Wright says Rochedale will start as favourites when the two clubs meet at Underwood Park on Friday night.

Wright said the facts that Rochedale had an extra day to prepare for the match and that City played Lions in stifling heat on Sunday would advantage the home side.

"We're the underdogs, but we like that," he said.

Wright was elated with City's season record of two wins from as many matches, saying the success had to do with the club being much more united than in past years.

"We have 20 or so guys in the squad who get on well with each other off and on the park. That's pretty unusual at any level.

"The players have changed their attitude from in the past and we are getting results. That makes my job easier.

"Previously the guys had been going through the motions week in and week out. They just did what they had to do to win.

"The Strikers have shown this year there's the opportunity to play at the next level and my players have the ability to step up."

Rochedale coach Peter Bannon is expecting a tough encounter against the champions.

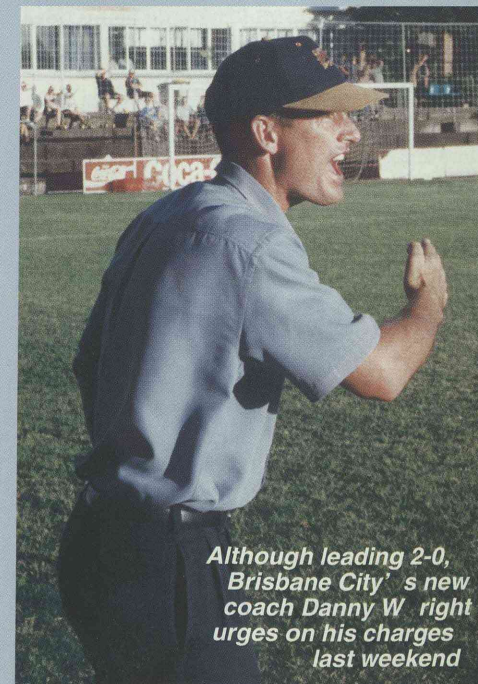
"Everyone lifts when they come to Rochedale," Bannon said.

"It's going to be a big game."

**WHO'S HOT:** City striker Chris Slater has found the net three times in two matches, while Andy Monement's form has pleased Rochedale coach Peter Bannon.

**FORM GUIDE:** For City it's been a great start to the season, scoring six goals and only conceding one. After a stumbling start, Rochedale made amends against Taringa last Saturday night.

**TIP:** City 2-0



Although leading 2-0, Brisbane City's new coach Danny Wright urges on his charges last weekend

### Rochedale Rov v Brisbane City

Underwood Park, Rochedale  
Friday March 3, 7.30pm

ROCHEDALE ROVERS	BRISBANE CITY
1 Graham Ross	1 Mark Bland
2 Paul Grugan	2 Warren Cooley
3 Ross Davidson	3 Aaron Aldridge
4 Dwayne Good	4 Clifford Tuck
5 Damian Harris	5 Wayne Strange
6 Alun Evans	6 Scott Elliott
7 Nick Seeley	7 Pablo Aviles
8 Michael Legg	8 Demetri Theochari
9 Matt Olley	9 Vedran Becirbegovic
10 Clayton Koch	10 Chris Slater
11 Roy Huth	11 Allan Cameron
12 Brett McPaul	12 Christopher Spurr
13 Danny Stowers	13 Bojan Vilic
14 Greg Anderson	14 Nathan Carlos
15 Adam Watson	15 Damien Waugh
16 Andy Monement	16 Michael Grammatico
17 Darren Bender	17 Barry Wilkinson
18 Todd Rumble	18 Stephen Starr
	19 Robbie Kidd
	20 Scott Higgins

## PREMIER PREVIEW - BUNDABERG W v Gold Coast

The Gold Coast, rooted to the bottom of the Premier League table with no points, face the daunting road trip to Bundaberg on Saturday.

Gold Coast coach Ken Lindsay, while admitting the trip and venue were tough, said his side had no other choice but to perform.

"We've been disgraceful. We have to improve," he said.

"We've got to take a good attitude into the match. We have to be positive.

"Our new players are still struggling to make their mark."

Bundaberg coach Tony Warmlesley wants to make the Thabeban Sports Complex as daunting as possible for visiting teams.

"It's a long time since we've been beaten here and we want that trend to continue," he said.

But Warmlesley warned his players not to take the Gold Coast lightly, despite the 1999 grand-final runners up's poor start to the season.

"We would be stupid to underestimate them.

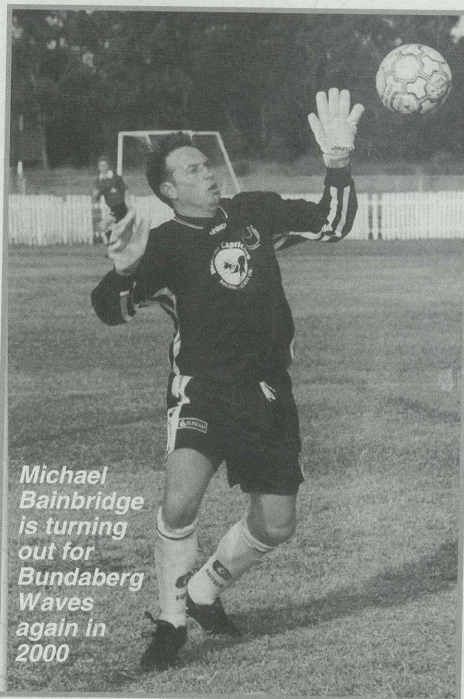
"It's a fantastic venue up here and teams look forward to coming up and playing on it."

He said he wanted Waves to grab as many points as possible from the early season matches to ensure they don't fall behind the league's front runners in the race to the premiership flag.

**WHO'S HOT:** Experienced keeper Michael Bainbridge has started the season well and will again be a key figure in the Waves' fortunes. No-one has stood out for the Gold Coast.

**FORM GUIDE:** A win and a draw has the Waves well placed after two rounds. Two losses has the Gold Coast with no further to go down the ladder.

**TIP:** Bundaberg 3-1



Michael Bainbridge is turning out for Bundaberg Waves again in 2000

### B'berg Waves v Gold Coast City

Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg  
Saturday March 4, 7.00pm

BUNDABERG WAVES	GOLD COAST CITY
1 Michael Bainbridge	1 Jamie Irwin
2 Jason Chapman	2 Adam Evans
3 Robert Thatcher	3 Robbie Boxall
4 Dale Zimmerlie	4 Michael Richardson
5 Lucas Read	5 Trevor Wood
6 Tony Roebuck	6 Neil Ferguson
7 Brett Kitching	7 Steve Fitzsimmons
8 (Not Allocated)	8 Adam Hayward
9 Troy Hews	9 Lee Vernon
10 Michael Giovannoni	10 Tony Pearcey
11 Rodney Cooper	11 Ian Kepplewaite
12 Nick Maas	12 Colin Bethall
13 (Not Allocated)	13 (Not Allocated)
14 Peter Bock	14 Nathan Thompson
15 Fraser Halley	15 Wade Cannon
16 (Not Allocated)	20 Adam Poric
17 Jacob Noe	Rgk. Glenn Moss
20 Corey Baldock	

## PREMIER PREVIEW - MT GRAVATT v TARINGA ROV

Bouncing back from a five goal pasting won't be easy for Mount Gravatt against a determined Taringa side at Dittmer Park on Sunday.

The Hawks were ordinary in losing 5-0 to Ipswich, while Taringa wasn't much better in going down 4-0 to Rochedale.

But on paper Taringa looks a better side and may be a little more desperate than Mount Gravatt to record a first win of the season.

Hawks coach Mal Bland said it was too early in the season to judge his team's form.

"The (5-0) result on Saturday night was not the best but it's hard to say where we are at the moment," he said.

"All games this season will be difficult.

"It looks like Brisbane City will be the early pacesetters."

The match will see the return of Craig Collins and Simon Pilic to Dittmer Park. The pair left the Hawks in the off-season to be part of Willie Wallace's Taringa squad.

Other new faces in the Taringa squad include former Wynnum striker Scott Rocker, Willie Carter, and ex-Brisbane City duo Francis Cosson and Gianni Culpio.

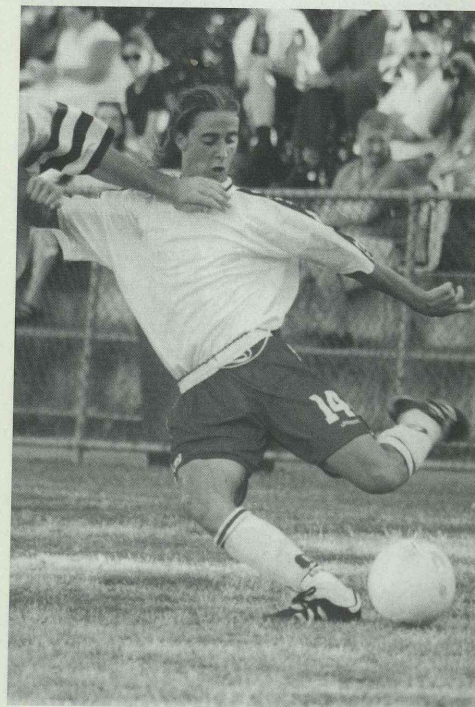
After an encouraging draw at Richlands, Taringa will be keen to make-up for the drubbing Rochedale handed out at Jack Speare Park last Saturday.

Mt Gravatt will hope for a better performance from attacking player Anthony McCullough, who squandered four great chances against the Knights last weekend.

**WHO'S HOT:** Hawks' captain Brett Jones gave his all against the Knights before being replaced, while Craig Collins will look to add to his and Taringa's only goal of the season to date.

**FORM GUIDE:** The same for both teams — one draw and one loss.

**TIP:** Taringa 3-0



### Mt Gravatt v Taringa Rovers

Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt  
Sunday March 5, 4.00pm

MT GRAVATT	TARINGA ROVERS
1 Adam Lebihan	1 Clint Dal Santo
2 Kieran Galloway	2 Shane Barnes
3 Ben Stabler	4 Simon Pilic
4 Richard Holliday	5 Craig Slaughter
5 Nathan Fairley	6 Craig Barnes
6 Brett Jones	7 Francis Cosson
7 Joel Smith	8 Craig Collins
8 Anthony McCullough	9 Scott Rocker
9 Brendan Seipel	10 Steve Dawe
10 Drew Oberle	11 Daryl Hathaway
11 Calvin Gnech	12 Cameron Williamson
12 Mike Rowland	13 Mathew Bastion
13 Max Scott	14 Niki Kuyper
14 (Not Allocated)	15 Daniel Pitkin
15 (Not Allocated)	16 Neil Reed
16 (Not Allocated)	17 Michael Oslar
17 Lincoln Greaves	18 Gianni Culpio
18 Simon Graham	19 Willie Carter
	20 Malcolm VanDeGraff

## PREMIER PREVIEW - Toowoomba v Ipswich Knights

Forget their respective placings on the ladder — this derby has the potential to be a thriller.

The Knights are flying high at the top of the ladder, while Toowoomba is struggling with only one point after two games. But that won't mean much come Sunday — just ask Ipswich coach Frank Pimblett.

Pimblett is bracing his side for its toughest match of the season.

"They (Toowoomba) play a physical, hard game," Pimblett said.

"There's always that little bit of rivalry between Toowoomba and Ipswich."

Toowoomba coach John Garside said his side needed to lift against a Knights team "on a high".

"We've got to persevere. At this stage I'm not too concerned about results," he said.

"I'm still trying to get the players out of some of their old habits. They are still learning."

They might have to learn quickly against a rampant Knights side that includes Richard Hilli, who returned to Ipswich this season after two years at Taringa.

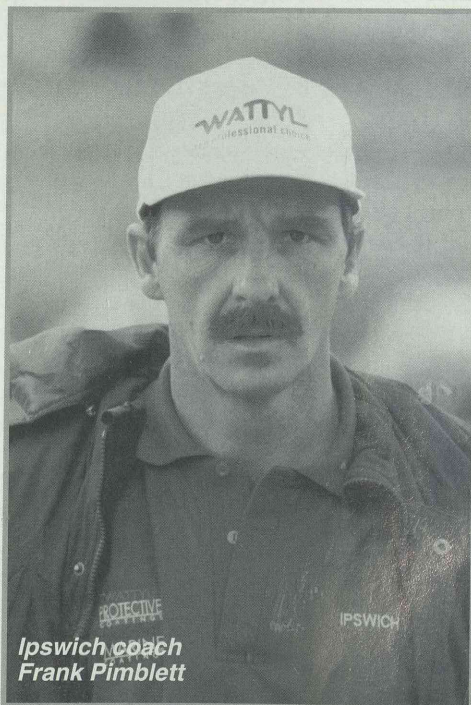
Hilli scored twice in the Knights 5-0 demolition of Mount Gravatt last Saturday night, proving in front of his home fans that he has lost none of his attacking flair.

Knights captain Peter McKendrick also impressed with a solid display at the centre of the defence.

**WHO'S HOT:** Knights goalkeeper Jason Lucas is in great form, proving to be a shrewd off-season buy. Leigh Ramia has battled hard for Toowoomba.

**FORM GUIDE:** For Ipswich, form can't be better with two wins from two matches. Toowoomba has recorded a draw and a loss.

**TIP:** Ipswich 1-0



Ipswich coach  
Frank Pimblett

### Toowoomba v Ipswich Knights

Gold Park, Toowoomba  
Sunday March 5, 4.00pm

#### TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS

- 1 Trevor Gilliland
- 2 Colin Hackwood
- 3 Martin James
- 4 Adam Nicholson
- 5 Brent Hyslop
- 6 Chris McLeod
- 7 Reza Aysen
- 8 Leigh Ramia
- 9 Cameron Williams
- 10 Jamie Miller
- 11 Steve Willmot
- 12 Jason Bosward
- 13 Ashley Fox
- 14 Steve Wilkes
- 15 Chris Wilkes
- 16 Shane Biber
- 17 Craig McConnell
- 18 (Not Allocated)
- 19 Martin Rees
- 20 Liam Hackwood

#### IPSWICH KNIGHTS

- 1 Jason Lucas
- 2 (Not Allocated)
- 3 Trent Scott
- 4 Andrew King
- 5 Clint Scott
- 6 Peter Hinks
- 7 Richard Hilli
- 8 John Clark
- 9 Trent Griffiths
- 10 Peter McKendrick
- 11 Steven Hughes
- 12 Tony Cotton
- 13 Stewart Drinkeld
- 14 Scott Stenzel
- 15 Adam Le Flay
- 16 Wayne Adams
- 17 Andrej Gacesa
- 18 Ken Caldwell
- 19 (Not Allocated)
- 20 Robbie Cleaver

## PREMIER PREVIEW - Bris Lions v Wynnum Wolves

After a disappointing start to the season, Brisbane Lions need to defeat Wynnum on Sunday at Richlands to maintain a respectable distance behind the Premier League's leading pack.

The rich club has only one point from two games, but will still go in as favourites against a Wolves side in third place with four points.

Lions coach John Ogden said the Wolves were always difficult opponents.

"They'll be determined to come here for a good result," he said.

But Ogden has faith that his players can make amends for the 2-0 defeat Lions suffered at Spencer Park last Sunday.

"We haven't hit any kind of form yet. We are a bit below what I expected but I believe the players will improve as the season goes on."

Wolves coach Peter Tokesi said Lions would be hard to beat at home.

"They've got some good players in their squad," he said.

But Tokesi was confident the Wolves could build on their 3-1 win over the Gold Coast last Saturday night.

"We wanted six points from our first two games, but at least we've picked up four."

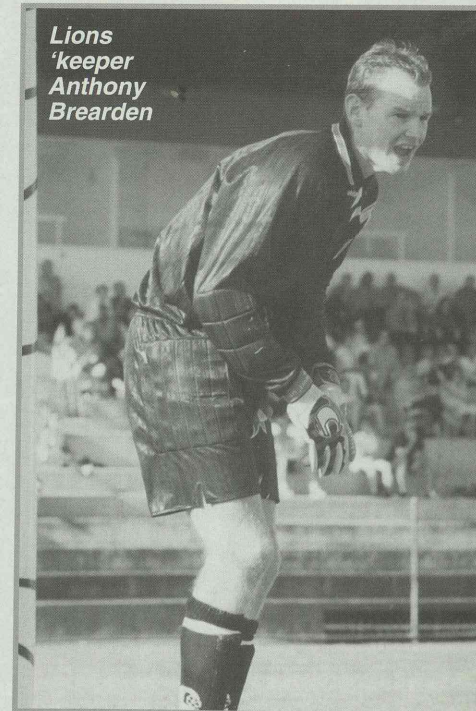
"It's a lot better than last year when we lost our first four games."

**WHO'S HOT:** Aaron Thiesfield has been impressive for Wynnum since returning from a year on the sidelines with injury. Brendan Lewandowski worked hard for Lions in the midfield against City.

**FORM GUIDE:** Lions are patchy with a draw and a loss, while a win and a draw has Wynnum two points behind the leaders.

**TIP:** Lions 2-1

Lions  
'keeper  
Anthony  
Brearden



### Bris Lions v Wynnum Wolves

Lions Stadium, Richlands  
Sunday March 5, 4.00pm

#### BRISBANE LIONS

- 1 Anthony Brearden
- 2 Jamie Lowndes
- 3 Darren Sime
- 4 Raj Kumer
- 5 Chris Day
- 6 Darren Hillier
- 7 Steve Jackson
- 8 Des Hughes
- 9 Royce Brownlie
- 10 Scott Robertson
- 11 Sasa Radulovic
- 12 B. Lewandowski
- 13 Luke Farinazzo
- 14 Warren Moon
- 15 Anthony Brown
- 16 Sean Molenda
- 17 Steve Bland
- 18 Glenn Farinazzo
- 19 Ryan Hanger
- 20 Anthony Scodellaro
- 21 Brett Dickens

#### WYNNUM DISTRICT

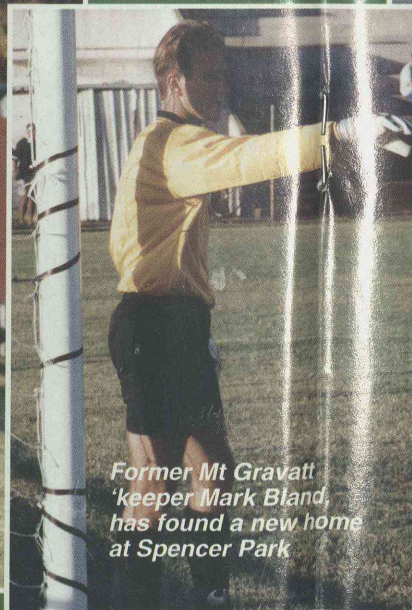
- 1 Garth McCulloch
- 2 Shane Gilroy
- 3 James Gowans
- 4 Steve Foreshaw
- 5 Duncan Easton
- 6 Paul DeVries
- 7 Danny Flaskas
- 8 Anthony Roche
- 9 Stuart Poppelwell
- 10 Damian Rogers
- 11 Adam Bell
- 12 Aaron Thiesfield
- 13 B. Travers-Jones
- 14 Serge Pinto
- 15 Nick Hadland
- 16 Luke Dodson
- 17 Mark Alaru
- 18 Craig Paulett
- 19 Geoff Hurford
- 20 Chris Gianangelo

# ACTION REPLAY

## DON GARDINER'S *Hot Shots* ONE HOUR COLOUR PHOTOS



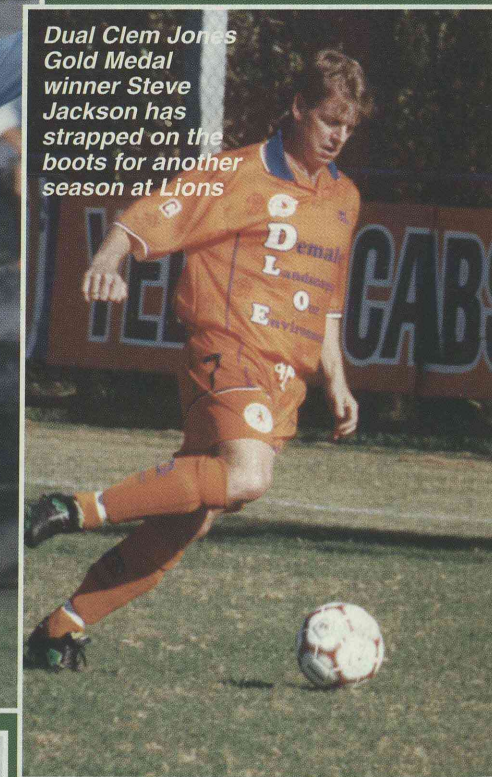
Lions' Steve Bland attempts to put an end to Damian Waugh's attack



Former Mt Gravatt 'keeper Mark Bland, has found a new home at Spencer Park



Vedran Becirbegovic making inroads for City



Dual Clem Jones Gold Medal winner Steve Jackson has strapped on the boots for another season at Lions

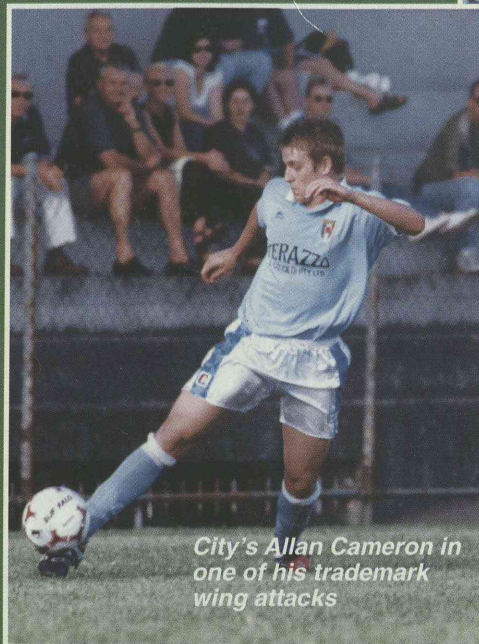
### Semi Pro Matches (Round 3)

#### Friday March 3

Grange Thistle v Newmarket  
7.30pm - Wallace J Dann Oval, Grange  
Albany Creek v Uni of Qld  
8.30pm - Wolter Park, Albany Creek  
Capalaba v Olympic Utd  
8.30pm - John Fredericks Pk, Capalaba

#### Sunday March 5

Mitchelton v North Pine  
4pm - Teralba Park, Mitchelton  
North Star v The Gap  
4pm - O'Callaghan Park, Zillmere  
Slacks Creek v Eastern Suburbs  
4pm - Usher Park, Daisy Hill  
Acacia Ridge v Souths United  
4pm - Ron Proud Field, Acacia Ridge  
Rocklea United v Beenleigh  
5pm - Sports Centre Dunn Road, Rocklea



City's Allan Cameron in one of his trademark wing attacks



Raj Kumer (Lions) moves in to head off the league's leading goalscorer Chris Slater

### Next Week's Premier League (Round 4)

#### Saturday March 11

Ipswich Knights v Bundaberg Waves  
7pm - Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba  
Wynnum Wolves v Rochedale Rovers  
7pm - Carmichael Park, Tingalpa  
Gold Coast City v Brisbane Lions  
7pm - Palm Beach SC, Palm Beach  
Taringa Rovers v T'woomba Raiders  
7.30pm - Jack Speare Pk, Indooroopilly

#### Sunday March 12

Brisbane City v Mt Gravatt  
4pm - Spencer Park, Newmarket

# How they finished in round 1

Brisbane City opened the 2000 Premier League season in style, travelling to Palm Beach to thrash the Gold Coast 4-1 in a replay of last year's grand final.

A Chris Slater double, a goal from Nathan Carlross and a Cliff Tuck penalty ensured City would take the three points back to Newmarket. A Colin Bethall goal saved some face for the home side.

Gold Coast coach Ken Lindsay said his side was "well beaten".

"We gave away a couple of silly goals," he said.

In the round's only other match that produced a victory, Ipswich surprised many pundits by defeating 1999 premiers Rochedale 3-1 at Underwood Park.

While the Knights played solidly enough to win, they could thank Rovers goalkeeper Graham Ross for a helping hand.

Ross should take part of the blame for each of the Knights goals. The first was a curling Wayne Adams free-kick from 25 yards out that he failed to get a glove on.

Steven Hughes scored the visitors second when Ross failed to come for a through ball.

Just as Rochedale appeared to be coming back into the match after Paul Grugan reduced the deficit to one goal, Ross grabbed nothing but air coming for a corner, leaving Peter Hinks with a free header.

Despite the loss, Rochedale coach Peter Bannon said his side performed "reasonably".

"We played a fair bit better than Ipswich. I counted that we had 26 to 27 chances as compared with their six," he said.

All of the round's other matches were drawn, with Brisbane Lions and Taringa finishing 1-all at Richlands, Mount Gravatt drawing 1-all with Toowoomba at Dittmer Park after Hawks' player Calvin Gnech missed a penalty, and Bundaberg sharing the spoils at home with Wynnum after a 2-all encounter.

Wynnum's Brendan Travers-Jones netted a double, with Peter Bock and Rodney Cooper replying for the Waves.

New signing Craig Collins scored for Taringa at Richlands, with Sasa Radulovic scoring for the home side.

Nimble striker Brendan Seipel grabbed Mt Gravatt's only goal, with Toowoomba's Colin Hackwood getting on the scoresheet for the visitors.

## Round 1 Results

Ipswich Knights 3 defeated  
Rochedale Rovers 1  
Brisbane City 4 defeated  
Gold Coast City 1  
Brisbane Lions 1 drew with  
Taringa Rovers 1  
Mt Gravatt drew with  
Toowoomba Raiders 1  
Bundaberg Waves 2 drew with  
Wynnum Wolves 2

## Round 2 Results

Ipswich Knights 5 defeated  
Mt Gravatt 0  
Rochedale Rovers 4 defeated  
Taringa Rovers 0  
Wynnum Wolves 3 defeated  
Gold Coast City 1  
Brisbane City 2 defeated  
Brisbane Lions 0  
Bundaberg Waves 2 defeated  
Toowoomba Raiders 0

# EYE ON SOCCER TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 NORTH RES							
IPSW KNIGHTS	2	2	0	0	8	1	6	THE GAP	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
BRISBANE CITY	2	2	0	0	6	1	6	UNI OF QLD	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
WYNNUM	2	1	1	0	5	3	4	PINE RIVERS UTD	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
B'BERG WAVES	2	1	1	0	4	2	4	NEWMARKET	2	1	0	1	6	7	3
ROCHEDALE ROV	2	1	0	1	5	3	3	MITCHELTON	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
BRISBANE LIONS	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	GRANGE THISTLE	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
TOOWOOMBA UTD	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	NORTH STAR	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
TARINGA ROVERS	2	0	1	1	1	5	1	ALBANY CREEK	2	0	1	1	6	8	1
MT GRAVATT	2	0	1	1	1	6	1	NORTH PINE	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
GOLD COAST	2	0	0	2	2	7	0								


XXXX RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 NORTH YTH							
BRISBANE LIONS	2	2	0	0	13	2	6	NORTH PINE	2	2	0	0	11	5	6
ROCHEDALE ROV	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	PENINSULA POWER	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
TOOWOOMBA UTD	2	1	1	0	6	3	4	PINE RIVERS UTD	2	1	0	1	7	3	3
GOLD COAST	1	1	0	0	5	1	3	UNI OF QLD	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
IPSW KNIGHTS	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	NORTH STAR	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
WYNNUM	2	1	0	1	6	7	3	MITCHELTON	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
MT GRAVATT	2	0	1	1	3	5	1	ALBANY CREEK	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
TARINGA ROVERS	2	0	0	2	1	6	0	THE GAP	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
B'BERG WAVES	2	0	0	2	3	9	0	NEWMARKET	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
BRISBANE CITY	1	0	0	1	2	9	0	GRANGE THISTLE	2	0	0	2	3	13	0

XXXX YOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH							
ROCHEDALE ROV	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	OLYMPIC UTD	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
BRISBANE LIONS	2	2	0	0	6	2	6	EASTERN SUBS	2	1	1	0	7	3	4
SUNSHINE COAST	2	2	0	0	5	1	6	ACACIA RIDGE	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
GOLD COAST	2	1	1	0	8	3	4	BEENLEIGH	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
TOOWOOMBA UTD	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	SOUTHS UTD	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
IPSW KNIGHTS	2	1	0	1	3	5	3	CAPALABA	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
WYNNUM	2	0	1	1	4	7	1	REDLANDS UTD	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
TARINGA ROVERS	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	ROCKLEA UTD	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
MT GRAVATT	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	SLACKS CREEK	2	0	1	1	0	6	1
BRISBANE CITY	2	0	0	2	2	9	0								

## PREMIER LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS

3 Goals	Chris Slater - Brisbane City
2 Goals	Brendan Travers-Jones - Wynnum
2 Goals	Wayne Adams - Ipswich Knights
2 Goals	Richard Hilli - Ipswich Knights
2 Goals	Matt Olley - Rochedale Rovers

SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	SEMIPRO DIVISION 1 SOUTH RES							
NORTH STAR	2	2	0	0	8	1	6	ROCKLEA UTD	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
NORTH PINE	2	2	0	0	5	2	6	SOUTHS UTD	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
NEWMARKET	2	1	1	0	4	3	4	CAPALABA	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
PINE RIVERS UTD	2	1	0	1	4	2	3	EASTERN SUBS	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
MITCHELTON	2	1	0	1	4	6	3	ACACIA RIDGE	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
ALBANY CREEK	2	0	1	1	2	5	1	OLYMPIC UTD	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
UNI OF QLD	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	REDLANDS UTD	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
GRANGE THISTLE	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	BEENLEIGH	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
THE GAP	2	0	0	2	2	7	0	SLACKS CREEK	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

**BUFFALO** *Simply a Kick in the Grass...* 

## Semi Pros & Cons - North

**North Pine has been the big surprise in the northern semi-pro competition, after the first two rounds of what is shaping to be a very exciting season.**

With two victories from its opening encounters, the newcomer to the semi-pro ranks is certainly justifying its promotion from the amateur leagues.

Last weekend's 2-1 victory over Pine Rivers proved North Pine was up to the rigours of the semi-pro competition, and Sunday afternoon's encounter with Mitchelton will present the club with another opportunity to show its premiership potential.

Mitchelton look to be a much-improved outfit under the guidance of former Soccerero and NSL stalwart Gary McDowall, despite a fairly ordinary start to the season.

Once again however, North Star looks to be the club to beat in this season's northern competition. Steve Faulkner did a fantastic job with his young team last year and is once again at the helm of the former Premier League heavyweights.

"Steve had to start from scratch last season," Football Manager Tony O'Mahony said. "He did extremely well with the side last year and I think that has shown in our start this season.

"There's no doubt the side is much more settled than it was this time last year and I must say that things are looking very positive for the club."

With two solid wins from as many games, including a resounding 4-1 victory over the tough Albany Creek outfit last weekend, North Star would have to be favoured to defeat The Gap, pointless after two matches, at home this Sunday.

However The Gap's Peter McDonald is quietly confident of a positive result, despite his side's ordinary start to the season.

"There's no doubt North Star will be very hard to beat, especially coming off the season they enjoyed last year," McDonald said.

"But we have a young and enthusiastic side and we'll be going to North Star with plenty of optimism so I don't think it would be fair to write us off just yet."

The match against North Star is the third of four very tough opening encounters for the youthful Gap side, so any points this weekend would be a real bonus for the club.

Meanwhile further north, Albany Creek will be looking for a much bigger effort on Friday night, when it hosts the University of Queensland.

Yet to post a win, the club would be hoping for a major reversal of fortune in front of its home supporters, following last weekend's 4-1 loss to North Star.

The students went down 3-2 to a very committed Newmarket side in the what was their first game of the season last weekend. It means they too are searching for their first points of the new year.

In Friday night's other match, Grange Thistle and Newmarket will do battle in a real local derby encounter that always provides plenty of niggles.

Traditionally these matches have had plenty of feeling as the neighbouring clubs attempt to prove their supremacy, and supporters can expect nothing less this week. Grange will be particularly desperate, having failed to register any points thus far.

Newmarket will be out to consolidate what has been a fairly solid start to the season, with a win and a draw to the club's name so far.

Overall round three should provide a bucket load of entertaining matches for the paying public.

## Semi Pros & Cons - South

**The newest addition to the Semi Pro South competition, Eastern Suburbs, has expressed its intention to be that league's number one side after just two rounds.**

The Tigers finished fourth last year in the northern division, after dropping several crucial matches in the latter part of the season.

However according to spokesman Lex Donsky, the club is looking forward to the fresh challenge of a new competition.

"Originally we were against the move to the southern competition, but after considering the options we saw a number of advantages," Donsky said.

"There will obviously be more local derbies and a lot less travel for our supporters, which is a very good thing for the club.

"Already we've played one match away from home and the increase in our own support was fantastic."

For the purist, Eastern Suburbs should probably always have been in the southern division, however the luck of the draw when the new competitions were formed several years ago, forced the club into the northern division.

And for Acacia Ridge and to a lesser degree Rocklea, that is probably where they wished the Tigers would have remained, following the opening two rounds of 2000.

Easts burst onto the southern scene a fortnight ago with an emphatic 4-0 win over Acacia Ridge and last week held the 1999 runners up to a 3-3 draw.

This Sunday they take on a Slacks Creek outfit, that is coming off the back of an unimpressive 6-0 thrashing from Olympic.

That would make the Tigers the overwhelming favourite to take the points and retain their early season lead of the competition.

Olympic looks to be the other form side of the competition in the early stages of the season, following that solid performance against Slacks.

The Yeronga outfit has much to prove after a lacklustre 1999 season, which saw them finish second from the bottom.

A strong off-season recruiting drive and the recovery of several players from injuries, may just be the tonic for them to make amends.

"We've picked up several quality players in the off season including the likes of Fotis Skordou, Simon Kalaba and Rob Laslo, because we want to mount a serious challenge for entry into the premier league," club President Peter Fotinas said.

No doubt pundits will get a better indication of Olympic's prospects this Friday night at Capalaba, a club which also will be looking for a major improvement on last year.

Once again, Capalaba was a side that promised much in 1999, but in the end did not quite deliver all the goods.

Friday night's match up between the Bulldogs and Olympic should be a beauty, along with the derby game between Acacia Ridge and last year's premiers Souths United.

Despite suffering a first round 4-0 loss to newcomers Easts, the Ridge bounced back superbly last weekend to inflict a 5-0 defeat on Beenleigh, in front of the Lions diehard supporters.

Souths on the other hand were fairly unimpressive in their 1-1 draw with Redlands last weekend, and the reigning premiers will have to improve markedly to better that result.

That improvement will not have to be as major as what Beenleigh will need however, if they are to upset the highly talented, yet so far winless, Rocklea United on Sunday afternoon.

The Lions first round victory over Redlands became more or less irrelevant after last weekend's humiliating loss to Acacia Ridge.

For Rocklea however, this weekend's match represents a genuine chance to take advantage of a team that is down.



## Tuned up for Semi Pro comp

**Many would think that a 24 year-old with XXXX League experience and a touch of overseas exposure, is making a serious mistake going back to the semi-pro ranks.**

But make no bones about it, that is exactly what Damon Tune has done, and quite to the contrary, he thinks it may be the best move he has made in his career to date.

"I was a bit worried about making the move into the semi-pro division at first and a lot of people said that it wasn't the right thing to do," Tune said.

"But after I went to a couple of training sessions and started mixing with all of the guys I was sure that I was doing the right thing."

Returning from a twelve month working holiday in Europe where he played a small amount of games in London's Kent League, Tune decided to take up an offer to play with North Star primarily because of coach Steve Faulkner.

"I was quite flattered when I got back from overseas with the number of coaches who rang me up wanting me to play for them," the 24 year old said.

"But my final decision was made easier by the fact that Steve was with North Star. He was my football coach at high school and I've really found him to be a players' coach, so I had no hesitation coming across to his squad."

Tune played with North Star as a youngster from the under nines to the under twelves, alongside Brendan and Damien Rogers, who also forged names for themselves with the Queensland Academy of Sport and in the XXXX Premier League.

From there he continued to play soccer in high school before moving into Brisbane's senior footballing ranks.

He reached XXXX League standard in 1998, when he was a member of Brisbane City's premiership winning outfit.

It was there where he played alongside several stalwarts of the game, including former Brisbane Strikers stars Danny Wright, now City's coach, goal-scoring whiz Chris Slater and Damien Waugh.

"It was great to be able to play alongside guys of that calibre and that season certainly taught me a lot about the game," Tune said.

The young left midfielder said he still had aspirations of returning to the XXXX Premier League and even had hopes of playing for the Strikers, thereby joining his younger brother Ben, a World Cup Wallaby winning hero, in an elite sporting competition.

"What Ben has achieved with the Reds and the Wallabies does spur you on a bit and make you want to do the best that you can do in the sport," Tune said.

"But I've never felt as though I'm living in his shadow or anything like that... instead I'm just extremely proud of what he's done."

Damon is realistic about his chances of reaching the same dizzy heights as his Queensland and Australian representative brother, however there is one area where he just may reach the top... and it isn't even with his new job as a stockbroker.

But if you get along to North Star's home games and stay for a few drinks after the match, the chances are you'll catch Damon entertaining the masses with his musical talents... and you can be the judge as to whether or not he's got what it takes to get to the top.

### STOP PRESS

Players are urgently required for Wynnum's Youth team. For details and further information contact Chris Beswick

- 32071459 -

## Patched up and ready to go

**At just 21 years of age, Dale Patch seems very young to be making a comeback. Twelve months rest following an acute ankle injury has just made the young stopper even hungrier than ever though.**

"I didn't enjoy sitting out on the sidelines for all of that time but in hindsight I guess the rest was exactly what I needed," the youngster said.

And his words could never be truer. One year after sustaining the injury, Patch has a new club and a new found passion to play the round ball game.

According to those at his new club, The Gap, he is really starting to make a name for himself in the northern competition, as a genuine hard man in defence.

"He certainly has started the season off particularly well," club President Peter McDonald said.

"We have a very young side and a lot of players are only new to the club, Dale being one of them, but he really is fitting in well."

Patch agreed, suggesting the move was probably the best thing he could have done for himself.

"I'm really happy with the way things are going here at The Gap," the young defender said.

"Even though we haven't had the best of starts, we have a good bunch of young blokes here and I really enjoy playing alongside Shane Haddow at the back.

"He's the one that we all look up to and he's the one who really keeps the side together defensively."

Patch grew up and learned his footballing skills in the northern New South Wales town of Lismore.

Growing up he played junior football with the Goonellaeah Soccer Club, a club which also bore the talents of Socceroo Craig Foster, who is now with Crystal Palace in England, and his brother Paul, who has become a leading light

for the Brisbane Strikers in their current National League campaign.

From there, Patch represented his town and New South Wales Country at three National Championships.

Tertiary studies called the youngster to Brisbane after high school, and Patch is now in his final year of study for a Civil Engineering degree.

It was during his time with New South Wales Country that Patch formed a friendship with Simon Green, who now plays for The Gap and earlier this year enticed the young stopper to come across to the club from fellow-northside team Newmarket.

"I had a great time at Newmarket but I'm really enjoying the change to playing in a team of players predominantly my age," Patch said.

"At Newmarket there was a lot of older players trying to hack you at training all of the time because competition for spots was always high.

"It's nice to be able to train properly without fear of being injured all of the time."

Patch said he would like to move up into the ranks of the XXXX League at some stage, but found it difficult to do so at the moment, with his university studies taking priority and holding him back.

"It's hard to make a bigger commitment to soccer while you're at uni four days of the week and at home studying the other three," Patch said.

"I had the same problem at Newmarket, where as the semester progressed I could only train one night a week, and that really wasn't doing myself or the team any justice."

But any XXXX League aspirations may be shelved in the immediate future at least.

Patch has sets his sights on a travelling holiday next year, which also could include some football after possibly lining-up a stint with a team in Malaysia.

# READ between the LINES



**It's that time of the year again and I've called in some trusty old friends to help with the season preview.**

My good mate and former team-mate, flatmate and drinking buddy Demetri 'The Fish' Theochari has jumped on board to offer some professional guidance to the goings on over the off-season.

So let's take a quick glimpse through each of the 10 Premier league clubs and see what we can unearth.

Rochedale, the defending premiers, have suffered an off-season turnover of talent. Midfielders Brad Ditton and David Pilic, striker Steve Fitzsimmons and defender Michael Lane won't be back and have been replaced by prodigal son Nicky Seeley and former Lions boy Roy Huth.

It's tough to see them repeating as champions without Ditton and Pilic. They were the engine room. Don't bother wasting your hard-earned on the Rovers. They've got buckleys!

The Gold Coast are another side to have suffered mass changes. Gone are Eddie Lees, Peter Dwyer, Peter Grierson, Shane Smeltz and a host of others. Let's not forget Mark Bennett as well. No Lees, no Dwyer, no Grierson, no Bennett .....no chance!!

I know it's getting a bit repetitious but Brisbane Lions is another club to undergo a face-lift. We're not sure whether to refer to them as Brisbane Lions or Taringa Lions.

The Taringa side and coaching staff has been virtually lifted up and transferred to Richlands.

John Ogden is one of the game's best young coaches but even he will have trouble lifting this side to its former glories.

As for new striker Des Hughes, the competition's self-proclaimed hard man has only taken two weeks to go soft. He's out for a holiday thanks to an ankle injury.

That should save the club a few dollars on window repair bills courtesy of Desi's wayward shooting. Probably entitled to be second favourites but I wouldn't waste my money.

Brisbane City is my favourite for the title. Coach Danny Wright is in his first year but the club has started well with two wins.

The Fish is a welcome addition alongside another former team-mate Steve 'Super' Starr.

Striker Vedran Becirbegovic is a match winner and the return of Scottish football wonderboy Barry Wilkinson adds more strength.

Wilko has returned from the rigours of Scottish football to an even tougher job - the running of Strathpine's leading Mexican restaurant 'Coco Loco'.

Bazza thought manual labour was a Spanish soccer star. His family better call in the cavalry. He couldn't run a tap!

The Ipswich Knights have had a great start to the season and return of prodigal son Richie Hilli has been a huge boost. Richie has been on the spot to pick up a couple of goals and he could blossom under coach Frank Pimblett. A dark horse for the title.

Taringa Rovers have a competitive side given the losses they have sustained over the off-season. New coach, Celtic legend Willie Wallace will have his work cut out.

One can only hope he goes better than his former team. If this team is to win the league, he may need to call in a few favours. Mark Viduka would help. Otherwise, Craig Collins and Scott Rucker are handy substitutes.

As for the others, Wynnum are likely to be the best of the rest along with Bundaberg. Both sides have a chance of being there at the end.

Mt Gravatt and Toowoomba look set for a knock-down-drag-em-out wooden spoon battle.

There you go, that's it for season 2000. Good luck to all clubs and players and we'll see you next week.

## 2000 Player Gains & Losses

### Brisbane City

**Gains:** Vedran Becirbegovic (Lions), Mark Bland (Mt Gravatt), Scott Elliott (The Gap), Scott Higgins (overseas), Chris Spurr (Albany Creek), Stephen Starr (Lions), Demetri Theochari (Taringa), Bojan Vilic (overseas), Barry Wilkinson (overseas).

**Losses:** Daniel Duke, Mark Battistin (Brisbane Strikers), Damon Voss (injured), Royce Brownlie (Lions), Mark Jenkins (study commitments), Mark Dessi (work commitments), Gianni Culp, Francis Cossan (Taringa).

### Brisbane Lions

**Gains:** Anthony Brearden (Adelaide City), Jamie Lowndes, Chris Day, Des Hughes, Scott Robertson, Brendan Lewandowski, Warren Moon, Sean Molenda, Steve Bland, Ryan Hanger, Brett Dickens (Taringa), Royce Brownlie (Brisbane City), Anthony Scodellaro (Italian Serie C).

**Losses:** Jason Lucas, Adam Le Flay (Ipswich), Stephen Starr, Vedran Becirbegovic (Brisbane City), Cameron Watson (Gold Coast local league), Roy Huth (Rochedale), Warren Allen (retired), Robert Laslo (Olympic), Wade Cannon (Gold Coast), Greg Di Losa (overseas), Bion Alkan.

### Bundaberg Waves

**Gains:** Troy Hews (not active), Dale Zimmerlie, Rodney Cooper, Rob Prendergast, Matthew Coskun (local league).

**Losses:** Gary McGinnis (Rochedale), Daniel Cummins (Sydney), Greg Thomas, Wayne Knipe (overseas), Mark Hagger (Sydney), Craig Hawkins, Paul Fagan (retired).

### Gold Coast City

**Gains:** Steve Fitzsimmons (Rochedale), Adam Poric (Sydney Olympic), Wade Cannon (Lions), Lee Vernon (Broadbeach), Ian Kepplewaite (Palm Beach), Adam Haywood (Palm Beach), Colin Bethall.

**Losses:** Mark Bennett (overseas), Eddie Lees (Sydney), Col Phelan (retired), Shane Stefanutto, Peter Grierson, Peter Dwyer, Shane Smeltz (Brisbane Strikers), Dwayne Good (Rochedale), Jade Flack (Runaway Bay), Luke Adair (local league).

### Ipswich Knights

**Gains:** Jason Lucas, Adam Le Flay (Lions), Richard Hilli (Taringa).

**Losses:** Nick Seeley (Rochedale), Peter Vogler (retired), Brenley Jefferd, Sam Ferguson.

### Mt Gravatt Hawks

**Gains:** Richard Holliday (The Gap), Nathan Fairley (Brisbane City), Lincoln Greaves (Redlands), Simon Graham (Wynnum). Ben Stabler, Anthony McCulloch.

**Losses:** Mark Bland (Brisbane City), Simon Pilic, Craig Collins (Taringa), Robin Gosney, Roy Rob, Nigel McLure, Andy Garw. Gowers, Darryl Grundy, Darren Stachowicz, Andy Brayshaw, Adam Watson, Liam Gordon.

### Rochedale Rovers

**Gains:** Darren Bender (The Gap), Danny Stowers (overseas), Roy Huth (Lions), Nick Seeley (Ipswich), Adam Watson.

**Losses:** Steve Fitzsimmons (Gold Coast), Brad Ditton, David Pilic (Brisbane Strikers), Mark Luburic (year off), Gary Brattan (work commitments), Kieran Cooper (retired), Nick Alidenes (injured).

### Taringa Rovers

**Gains:** Shane Barnes (QAS), Craig Collins, Simon Pilic (Mt Gravatt), Francis Cosson, Gianni Culp (Brisbane City), Scott Rucker (Wynnum), Daryl Hathaway (AIS), Matthew Bastion (Warringah), Willie Carter, Macolm Van De Graff.

**Losses:** Jamie Lowndes, Chris Day, Des Hughes, Scott Robertson, Brendan Lewandowski, Warren Moon, Sean Molenda, Steve Bland, Ryan Hanger, Brett Dickens (Lions), Demetri Theochari (Brisbane City), Richard Hilli (Ipswich), Andrew Packer (Carlton), Jason Poggi, Ben Wood.

### Toowoomba Raiders

**Gains:** Jamie Miller (Gold Coast), Martin Rees (UK), Liam Hackwood (local league) Shane Biber.

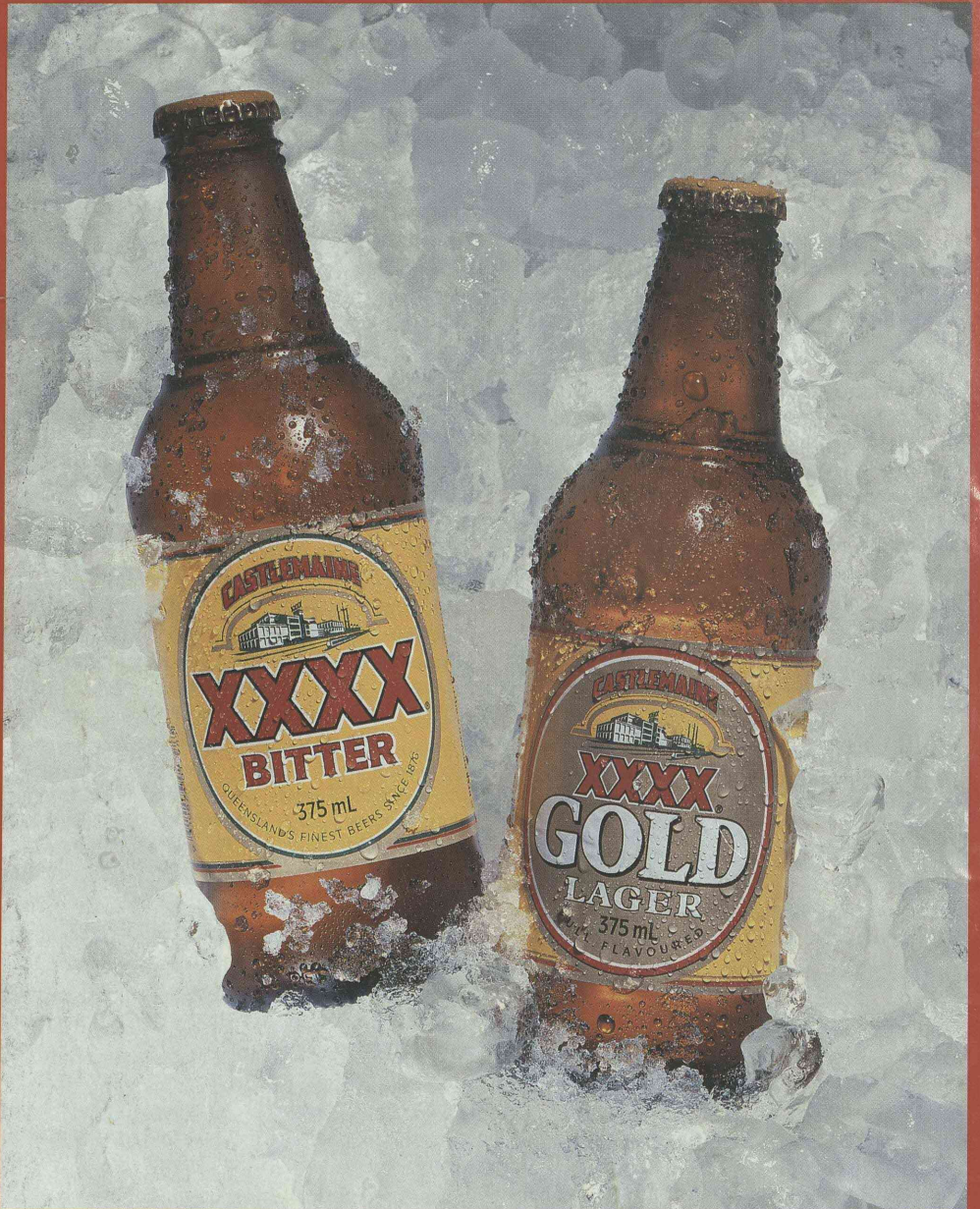
**Losses:** Andrew Tolputt, Mark Wingett (local league), Don Drury, Ken Duncan (injured), Daniel Perry (work commitments), Gavin Freier.

### Wynnum Wolves

**Gains:** Serge Pinto (Grange Thistle), Craig Paulett (Sunshine Coast), Aaron Thiesfield (returning from injury), Danny Flaskas (Mt Gravatt).

**Losses:** Scott Rucker (Taringa), Brett Walsh (Gold Coast), Owen Filewood (overseas), Adam Pilat (Mitchelton), Adam Rye (work commitments) Greg Newton (university studies).





**COLD CHANGE HITS QLD.**