Strike Force

\$2

NSL Round 28, April 1, 2000

STRIKERS V's Newcastle Breakers

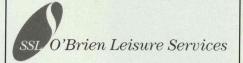
All about Stuey page 13

Team Line-ups
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HYUNDA

Brisbane's Classic hits Lassic hits 693 AM



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BRISBANE STRIKERS Soccer Club



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FRONT COVER: The Strikers Peter Grierson evades Sydney United's Nahuel Arrate during Brisbane's last home game at Suncorp Stadium.

MAJOR SPONSOR





Seven games to go and we've come a very interesting stage of the season. We are 5 points out of the six and one of probably 10 teams competing for a finals berth.

With 31 goals against we have the second best defensive record in the league despite copping 6 from Adelaide Force a couple of months back and this must be taken as being extremely positive considering the chopping and changing of the defence in the past 9 games for various reasons. We have however let ourselves in front of goal and I guess we must reflect on the good opportunities we've squandered in the tight games we have lost or drawn and on the state of play should have won!

The injury to Paul Foster that kept him out 7 weeks certainly slowed our momentum in the scoring department and though Fos is not quite back to the form he was in before breaking his foot he's working hard to get there - just ask Steve Whitlock, our club physio and part-time fitness guru who had him on his knees last Tuesday night only one crawling step away from adding a bit more "fertiliser" to Perry Park. Paul is coming good at a time when we need him most and being the sort of player that thrives on pressure he's looking forward to the challenge ahead.

As is everyone else! We have played ourselves back into reasonable form in the past 3 1/2 games (the 1/2 is the 2nd 1/2 against Perth). The confidence is coming back and the team spirit is good. It's a great credit to the players that they've managed to maintain a good work ethic, application and focus despite a topsyturvy time on and off the park.

I've mentioned team spirit and character in previous columns and it will be those attributes that will be tested in the weeks to come.

Each and every player is desparately hungry for success and it's that desparation, that willingness to push yourself beyond your limits that will get us through. Believe me!

Enjoy the game Kossie

Strikers Golf Day a huge success!

The Strikers held their annual Golf day on Tues 21st March. It turns out that ten of our best soccer players are also accomplished golf players. The players were accompanied by supporters and sponsors who made up ten teams in total.

Congratulations [we think!] to the winning team of Wade Baldwin, Mr Baldwin, Shane Stefanutto and Andrew Davidson. There were rumblings that Mr Baldwin was the only one who deserved his handicap whereas his three younger companions had secret skills they weren't letting on about.

Other Prizes included: Nearest to Pin - Shane Stefanutto, Ross Spear, Andrew Davidson; Best Approaches- Stuart Mc Laren, Speare; Long Drives - Paul Foster, Andrew Davidson.

Special thanks to Collin Quiggley of Cadbury's who bid \$200 for a team strip signed by captain Stuart Mc Laren. We just know that it will be an outstanding asset to the Cadbury collection.

A few notable events throughout the day included one broken down ABC Printing buggy, which apparently couldn't have broken down any further away from the clubhouse. A wayward ball that narrowly missed Frank Spears but connected with his buggy. An out of control player buggy that nearly ended up in the lost ball section of the Snake Gully Lake. And one traumatised cow!!!!

Special thanks to Collin Quiggley of Cadbury's who bid \$200 for a team strip signed by captain Stuart Mc Laren. We just





Strikers
Chay Hews
and Peter
Grierson
(top) and
Club
Stalwart
Frank
Speare enjoy
the club's
Golf Day at
Windaroo

know that it will be an outstanding asset to the Cadbury collection.

Thanks to all the sponsors - ABC Printing, Cadbury, QSF; companies - ACEPT Pty Ltd; Simply Soccer dads; Wind and Sea and indivduals who supported us on the day.

STRIKERS Next Home Game V's Sydney Olympic



Saturday, April 15
7pm, Suncorp Metway Stadium



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Farewell Derryn from all of us!

Our blonde bombshell from marketing and promotions, Derryn Humphries, has left us.

She didn't leave quietly and she didn't leave smiling all the way to the door.

She left in a flood of tears. Both her own and those of her co-workers.

For Derryn, it wasn't a matter of jumping ship. It was one of those heartbreaking decisions of taking up one of life's opportunities that are too good to refuse.

Derryn will be missed by many but none more so than the office crew who became the 'Strikers Family'.

Whilst this season has certainly not been all smooth sailing for the Strikers, a magical harmony always seem to exist in the office.

As a team we worked exceptionally well together. It was this special bond that kept us going throughout the hard times.

There were no clear cut roles on our team. We all helped each other and bounced ideas around as a group.

Volunteer and players played an important part in shaping ideas.

Every ones ideas were considered and respected. We faced all problems as a team and had many impromptu office brainstorming sessions.

Derryn was an integral part of this team and her effervescence around the office will be sadly missed.

Thank you Derryn for two years of hard work and dedication, of course, plenty of shared good times.

I would like you all to rest assured that the magic hasn't disappeared.

Volunteers and players have filled the office with cheerful help. We still have the same goal and the same dedication.

The Strikers is more than just a club. It is more than just a team. It is a thriving community of people who will not let the hope, or the team, die.

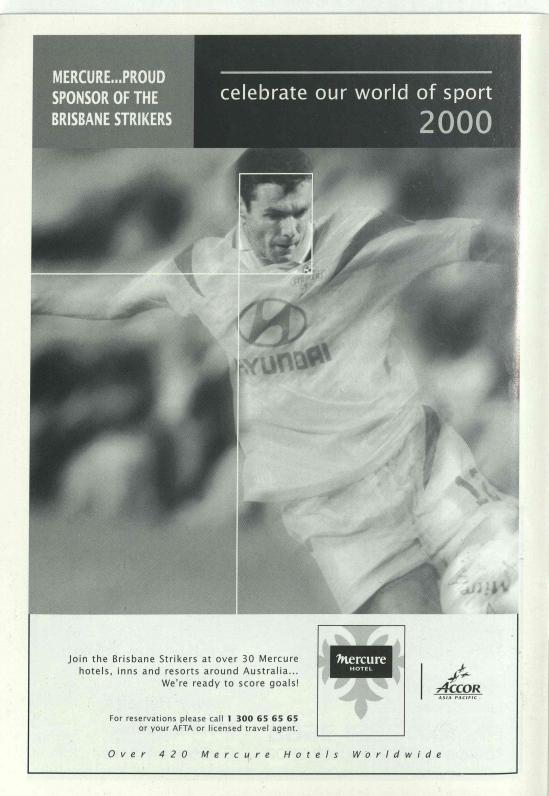
Derryn, special thanks from Poppy, Kossie, Jane and the team



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Match Preview

Tonight's match against the Newcastle Breakers is another "mustwin" game for the Brisbane Strikers.

The Breakers have been one of the form teams of the competition all season, playing a counter-attacking style of football that opposition sides have found difficult to combat.

They are currently well entrenched in the top six on 46 points in fourth place, just three points shy of league leaders Perth Glory.

The Strikers, situated in eighth place on the ladder are nine points in arrears of Newcastle and coach John Kosmina is well aware of what tonight's result will mean for his charges.

"They (Breakers) are a good side and to be honest, are a difficult side to play against," he said.

"They've got some talented players and are certainly going to prove a big test for us."

However, Kosmina said the side was full of confidence after a recent spate of strong performances.

"I've been really pleased with the way the guys have knuckled down to the task of late," he said.

"Against Sydney United, the team played exceptionally well and I'm still not quite sure how we managed not to score a heap more goals.

"We played very well in the second half against Perth and unfortunately got caught by a lucky goal against Carlton.

"And last week's draw against South Melbourne was a real bonus for us as to go down there a get a point is a great effort.



Wayne Shroj has been in good touch for the Strikers

"It was a very entertaining game with plenty of shots on goal (South Melbourne had 19 shots to the Strikers 17).

"So we're creating the opportunities, all we have to do now is ensure that we capitalse on those chances."

Kosmina said he was also very pleased that he had almost a full squad of players to choose from at the business end of the season.

"The only guy who is missing is Jezza (Jeromy Harris) and he has been in and out of the side all season with niggling injuries," he said.

"It's pleasing though that everyone else is available as consistency is a big thing in this competition.

"During our purple patch at the start of the season, we had virtually the same dozen guys to choose from.

"It is no coincidence that it becomes more difficult to get the results when key players are missing as was the case for us when we had five first team players missing from the match against Northern Spirit."

Talking Tagties

with Kossie

This is a big game for the Strikers tonight and will prove a useful yardstick as we aim for a top six finish at season's end.

The Newcastle Breakers are an extremely difficult side to play against as they play a style of football that is hard to break down.

They defend extremely well as they manage to get a lot of players in behind the ball which makes it quite difficult for opposing sides to penetrate in behind them.

John Buonavoglia has been in outstanding form the Breakers this season and is one guy we will need to keep a close eye on.

He has great pace, good touch and is a quality finisher and it was his and indeed Newcastle's ability to catch teams on the break that cost us the points last time we met.



Andy Harper is another guy who is worth a mention tonight.

"Harps" has had a good season to date and he'll probably have a point to prove when he steps out onto the Suncorp pitch!

WHO'S HOT

Shane Stefanutto might well become known as the comeback kid as his end of season resurgence continues.

"Steffy" started out the season as one of the new bright lights in the Strikers outfit, but unfortunately ran into a bad trot mid season.

A form slump and subsequent loss of confidence saw the youngster sitting on the sidelines for a number of weeks.

However, coach John Kosmina said his recent reinstatement to the side's playing ranks had been a credit to his attitude.

"He's a lot more aggressive at training

than he was and that is showing in his on-field performances," he said.

"He's fixed up his first touch and distribution and is a lot more focussed on the job.

"It is a credit to the guy that he has managed to come back and perform the way he has of late.

"It says a lot about his mental attitude which is something that every good player needs.

"It's one thing to have ability, but all the natural talent in the world counts for nothing if you're not tough upstairs."

Let's hope that Shane can continue to make a mark for himself in the NSL and importantly tonight against the Breakers.

Stuey's Say

Seven games to go. Eighth position. Five points out of the six. That's the challenge we must meet if we are able to look back on the season 99/00 with a degree of satisfaction. The challenge seems greater when you look at the make up of those final games.

There have been no easy games in the league season and with the results needed against Newcastle, Sydney Olympic, Northern Spirit and Gippsland at home and Wollongong, Gippsland (again) and the Kingz away it seems that the matches ahead of us will be the most difficult of all. But something, which we have regained over the last few weeks, will prove to be a useful tool in our attempt to take part in the final series.

That something is self belief. The self belief we displayed during the last weeks match against South Melbourne, in which we could have taken all the points from a team fighting for their chance to retain their title, was as high as it was during our nine match unbeaten start to the season.

This self belief though, will have to be joined by hard work, determination and application if we are to reach our goal.

With our marketing manager Derryn Humphries leaving us for greener pastures now I would like to take this opportunity to wish her the best of luck and to thank her for her efforts during her time with the Strikers. I would also like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by all our staff and volunteers.

The "Gump" shirt for this week was presented after this article was submitted so I can't tell you who has it, but they will be taking over from Shane Stefanutto for appearing at our old pre-match venue on his own after it had been cancelled

20 Exceptional Sportsmen

Well! It hasn't been a fairy tale season for the Strikers but it hasn't been a disaster either.

We kept a top six form for most of the season and we are still hungry to retrieve a place that puts us back in back in finals contention. And we have achieved it with mostly local players. We didn't import any big name players. In fact I'd suggest that we have helped to create a few.

So why have we remained such a strong team, in trying circumstances, when so many of last year's success stories have tumbled their way down the ladder?

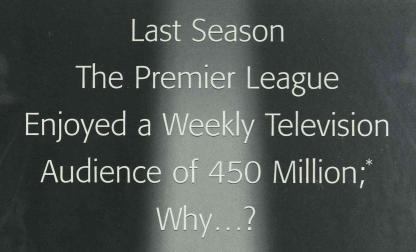
There are he dedicated, behind the scenes people - volunteers, ground staff, team staff and office staff - who have put in long hours and boundless energy.

There are the dedicated supporters who made a conscious effort to (literally) stand up and be heard. They let the team know just what lengths they would go to, to back them, by forming their own supporters association. Then there are the local families and friends who are able to act as support crew.

My money, however, is on an exceptional group of 20 sportsmen, who put their sport before their egos and their desire for success above political infighting.

Where leadership became fragmented they created their own unity. When morale could have been at it's lowest they resurrected their determination.

To all the past and present members of the 99/2000 Strikers squad, thank you for your consistent attitude to the game.





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Stuart McLaren

For Brisbane Strikers captain, Stuart McLaren, life could probably not get too much better.

Not everyone in life gets to live out their dream, but for Stuart, it's just part of his everyday existence.

"Ever since I watched the eighty-two World Cup and found out that people actually got paid to play football, I've wanted to be a professional footballer," he said.

"It is something that I love and has been part of my life since the age of five."

Stuart recently signed another three year contract with the Strikers so it seems his football career will continue for some time to come.

"I'm extremely happy to have all of the contractual stuff finalised so now I can concentrate solely on football," he said.

"I like to continue as a full-time player for a few more years which would be a great achievement, but I would also like to think that I would be able to win a premiership with the Strikers."

Stuart said that once his playing career reaches its inevitable conclusion (which is likely to be long way off yet), he would like to stay involved in the game, possibly in a coaching capacity.

"Over the next few years, I'd like to develop my coaching experience and knowledge by undertaking certain activities," he said.

"Specifically, I'll be looking to complete my intermediate certificate in the not too distant future which hopefull y will hold me in good stead as I seek out coaching oppportunities."

Stuart's playing career has taken him from the surburban pitches of Brisbane, to the country air of central Queensland, the hightech world of the AIS, Wollongong, Asia, Scotland and finally back to Brisbane.

He said gaining a scholarship to the Institute of Sport and playing against glamour club Glasgow Rangers were two of the highlights of his career.

However, he also puts being named captain of the Striker's with those honours.

"I don't think the captaincy has changed me much as I've always been one to talk a lot and get the lads fired up prior to a match."

Letter from a loyal fan.

I've laughed, I've cried and I've screamed,. From Perry Park to Suncorp Metway Stadium. I've been there for the bad seasons and that fantastic day in May 96/97.I've seen players and coaches come and go.

Although I can't get to every game this season I'm still there week in, week out ringing The Courier-Mail to find out results. If in future seasons we have to move to Carrara or elsewhere then so be it, I'll be there as often as I can because I am what I would call a true, LOYAL supporter.

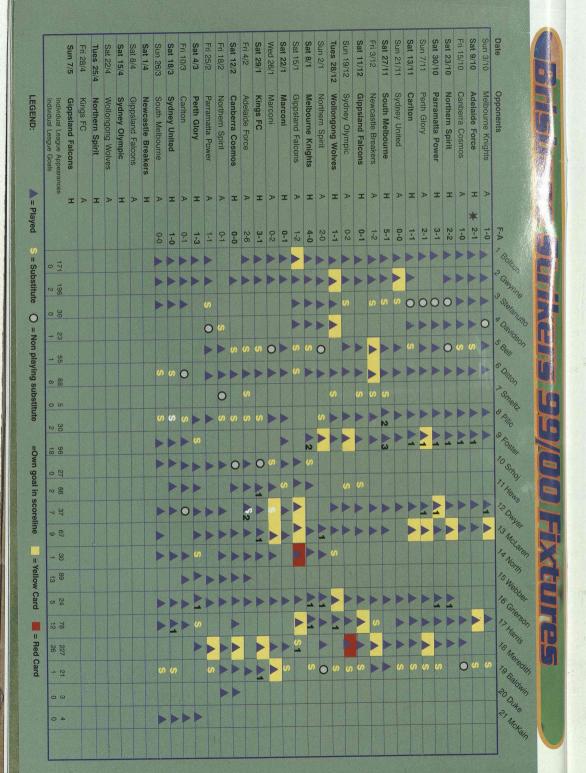
Mr Petty and the Strikers administration, tell the other 'loyal' supporters who have been criticizing that they should learn what loyal means.

Always supporting Rebecca Roberts

HYUNDAI









National Soccer League Table After Round 27

eam	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pi
erth Glory	27	14	7	6	50	36	4
Vollongong Wolves	27	13	8	6	56	38	4
dney Olympic	27	14	5	8	48	31	4
wcastle Breakers	27	13	7	7	39	33	4
arconi Stallions	27	13	6	8	39	33	4
Carlton SC	27	12	6	9	42	32	4
A lelaide City Force	26	10	7	9	37	28	37
Isbane Strikers	27	10	7	10	34	31	37
South Melbourne	26	10	6	10	40	40	3
Melbourne Knights	27	10	6	11	30	43	3
Parramatta Power	26	10	5	11	42	37	3
Football Kingz	26	10	5	- 11	43	48	3
Northern Spirit	27	10	3	14	33	45	3:
Gippsland Falcons	27	6	8	13	17	33	20
Canberra Cosmos	27	6	7	14	36	52	2
Sydney United	27	4	5	18	16	42	17
	-	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.		NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.		N. P. C.	1000

National	Youth	Le	ag	ue	99	9/0	00
Northern	Divisi	on	Ta	ble	•		
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt

Team	P	1	N	D	L	F	A	Pt
Parramatta Power		22	16	4	2	62	17	52
Northern Spirit		21	15	3	3	66	25	48
Sydney Olympic		21	13	3	5	57	30	42
Newcastle Breakers		21	13	1	6	41	25	40
AIS		21	12	2	7	65	31	38
QAS		21	12	2	7	56	34	38
Marconi Stallions		18	12	0	6	50	24	36
Wollongong Wolves		21	10	2	9	31	32	32
Sydney United		19	10	1	8	31	36	31
ACTAS		21	8	6	7	33	40	30
N'castle Breakers Colts	. :	22	8	2	12	34	43	26
Syd Olym Academy		21	8	1	12	40	67	25
NSWIS	. !	20	5	4	11	33	36	19
Mar Stallion Colts	1	22	5	4	13	34	61	19
Northern Spirit Colts	1	22	4	4	14	23	54	16
Sydney United Colts		20	3	3	14	22	49	12
W'gong Wolves Colts	1	19	0	2	17	9	83	2

Other Rd 28 Matches

Fri 31-Mar-00	Adelaide Force	V's	
Fri 31-Mar-00	Canberra Cosmos	V's	
Fri 31-Mar-00	P'matta Power	V's	
Sat 01-Apr-00	G'land Falcons	V's	
Sun O2-Apr-00	Perth Glory	V's	
Sun 02-Apr-00	Marconi Stallions	V's	
Sun O2-Apr-00	Melb. Knights	V's	

Syd. Olympic	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:00pm
Carlton	Bruce Stadium	7:30pm
Sth Melbourne	P'matta Stad.	7:30pm
Kingz FC	Falcons Stadium	7:00pm
Sydney United	Perth Oval	4:00pm
Northern Spirit	Marconi Stadium	6:00pm
W'gong Wolves	Knights Stadium	3:00pm



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Michael Curcija	Sth Melb.	16
Pablo Cardoza	Syd Olym.	16
John Buonavoglia	Newcastle	13
Con Boutsianis	Perth	12
Alex Moreira	Carlton	12
Damian Mori	Adelaide	12

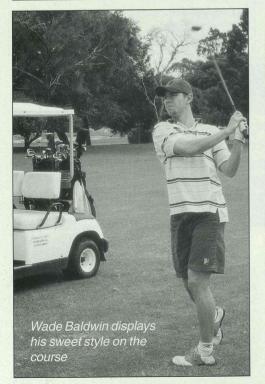
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SOCCER KICKS INTO DISASTER RELIEF FUND

On Tuesday 4th April the Strikers play the Senior Solomon Island National Team at Perry Park, kicking off at 7.00 pm

The Solomon Island team is in Australia preparing for their World Cup Qualifying competition later in the year.

The Islanders, coached by former Sunshine Director of Coaching - George Cowie, play in Group B of the Oceania Federation alonaside New Zealand.

A gold coin entrance fee will be charged with all proceeds going to the Premiers Disaster Relief Appeal Fund.

whior Strikers.

JUNIOR STRIKERS COACH AWARD

Junior Soccer season starts today, April 1st. "About time too." I can hear many of you say.

Most of you have been in training for many weeks preparing for this big day. Your coach will have already given many words of wisdom and taught you many skills.

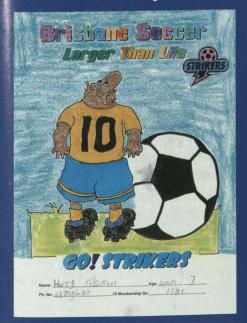
We'd like you to write in and tell us why your coach is the best in Brisbane. You can win a set of complimentary tickets for the coach and the team and 2-for-1 passes for parents and family.

Send your entry to:

"My Coach Is The Best In Brisbane Competition" Junior Strikers Perry Park Abbotsford Road Mayne Qld 4006

> Or E-mail it to: strikers@brisbanestrikers.com.au

Don't forget to tell us what club and age group you play for.



This Week's Sony Playstation winner was Harry Robinson, with the runner-up being 5-year-old Liam Detering

CONGRATULATIONS -Glenn Gwynne

150 NSL Games with the Brisbane Strikers

Glenn clocked up his 150th game against South Melbourne

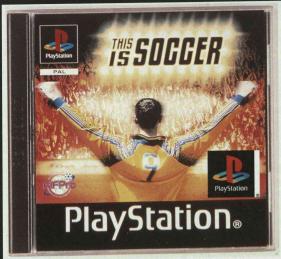
on Synday 26th March 2000.

Glenn put in an outstanding performance during the game and received much praise from television commentators.

Gwynney is only the third Striker to receive this honour.

Trov Cranney was the first. having played 152 games before he departed The second, Clint Bolton, has now amassed 170 games.

Let hope Glenn plays his 200th game with the Strikers too!



The most realistic soccer game ever for the Sony PlayStation 'This is Soccer' – is out now!

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WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

Every home game we will be running a competition – and giving you the chance to win a press kit including the game 'This is Soccer'.

Newcastle — 1 April Syd. Olympic — 15 April Northern Spirit — 25 April Gippsland Falcons — 7 May Bánnet cómbetitión Cólóntina — in cómbetitión Desian à Bágae Best Strikets 21óaán

Each game prior we will give you instructions on how to win a copy of 'This is Soccei' (TM). You must bring your entries to the game and hand them in at the Junior Striker stand at Gate 1. Entries will be judged at half time.

For the last game of the season (Gippsland Falcons) you could win not only a game of 'This is Soccer' – but also a Sony PlayStation !!! The banner must incorporate the Strikers and Sony PlayStation logos with the words:

'This Is Soccer' ... So get cracking on getting your entries in, and start planning your banner now.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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.



Date **Event**

April

Sat 1st Brisbane Strikers v Newcastle Breakers Sat 15th Brisbane Strikers v Sydney Olympic Tue 25th Brisbane Strikers v Northern Spirit

May

Sat 6th Supporters Training BBQ

Sun 7th Brisbane Strikers v Gippsland Sat 21st **FA Cup Challenge**

June

Fri 9th **Presentation Awards**

Venue Time

Suncorp Metway 7pm Suncorp Metway 7pm Suncorp Metway 7pm

Perry Park 9am

5pm

Suncorp Metway **Perry Park** TBA

TBA

Congratulations Hank and Ann Van De Baan who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary On 15th March 2000

Hank and Anne are regular, avid supporters and volunteer poster distributors. Thank you for all your help. We hope you had a wonderful day.

O'Leary's Bar & Restaurant

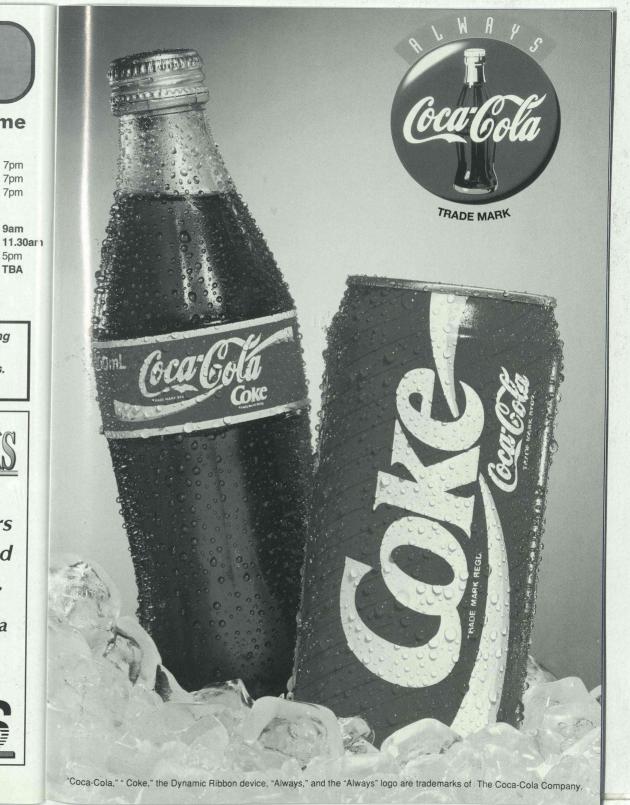
Brisbane's new home of Football

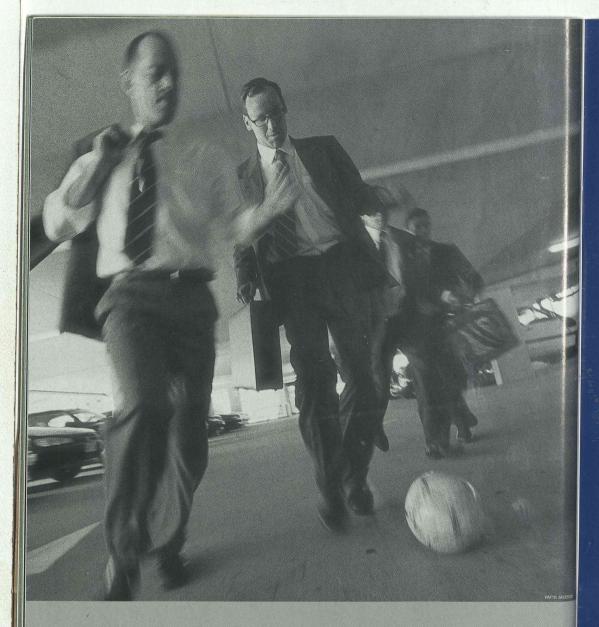
Come and meet the Strikers players after tonights game at O'Leary's.

25 Caxton Street

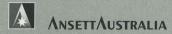
The Brisbane Strikers preferred Health and Fitness Gymnasium.

135 Pring Street, Hendra Ph: 3868 1992



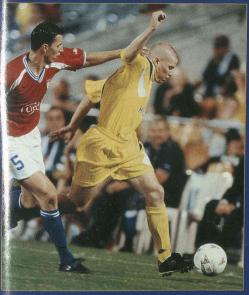


Travel light. Move fast. Enjoy the game. Go your own way.™



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 💸

Strikers Snaps.





Clockwise from left, Jeromy Harris shrugs off a Sydney United defender, Wayne Shroj has only one thing on his mind as he lets rip with a powerful drive and Kossie and crew eagerly look on from the sideline

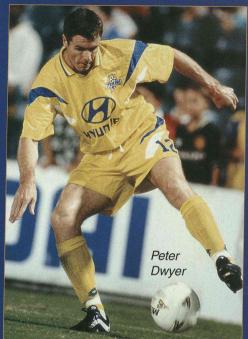


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Strikers Snaps.



WIN! WIN! WIN! DINNER FOR TWO AT

La Dolce Vita RISTORANTE

If you purchased your magazine with Stuart McLarens' 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 Carporate Entrance in Castlemaine Street after the game.





National Soccer League Rd 28=1/4/2000

STRIKERS

- 1. Clint Bolton (GK)
- 2. Glenn Gwynne
- 3. Shane Stefanutto
- 4. Andrew Davidson
- 5. Matthew Bell
- 6. Brad Ditton
- 7. Shane Smeltz
- 8. David Pilic
- 9. Paul Foster
- 10. Wayne Srhoj
- 11. Chay Hews
- 12. Peter Dwyer
- 13. Stuart McLaren
- 14. Jade North
- 15. Adam Webber
- 16. Peter Grierson
- 17. Jeromy Harris
- 18. Nick Meredith
- 19. Wade Baldwin
- 20. Daniel Duke (GK)
- 21. John McKaine

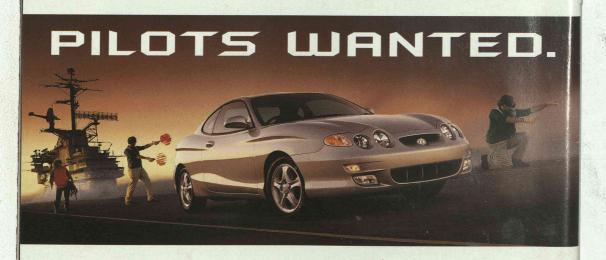
V's N'castle Breakers

- 1. Bob Catlin
- 2. Shane Pryce (cap)
- 3. Andrew Roberts
- 4. Adam Sanderson
- 5. Todd McManus
- 6. Glenn Sprod
- 7. Travis Dodd
- 8. Mark Wilson
- 9. Chris Tancheski
- 10. John Buonavoglia
- 11. Luke Tomich
- 12. Robert Angievski
- 13. Brad Wieczorek
- 14. Greg Owens
- 15. Joshua Ferguson
- 16. Vasco Trpcevski
- 17. Paul Wheeler
- 18. Andy Harper
- 19. Chad Mansley
- 20. Brad Swancott
- 21. Peter Juchniewicz
- 22. Glenn Moore
- 23. Damien Smith
- 30. Jason Kos



Take a look at the new Hyundai Coupe with its new low, one piece nose. See how the integrated 'high illumination' projection headlamps and muscular lines sweep back to a wedge tail and rear wing spoiler.

The aerodynamic body language says it all. This Coupe is built to fly. A choice of a powerful 2 litre (FX model) or 1.8 litre (SX model) twin cam, fuel injected engine confirms it. This car will put you back in your seat and keep you there. German tuned sports suspension,



high performance sports wheels and precise power steering complete the performance package perfectly. Inside the cockpit, you'll notice a booming CD player with 6 speaker AM/FM radio, power windows and central locking. The Coupe also comes with a warranty that simply blows the competition away; 5 year/130,000 kilometres. Prices start at just \$25,990* for the SX and \$29,990* for the FX (pictured above), and for a limited time include air conditioning at no extra cost. You are now cleared for take-off from your Hyundai dealer.



THE DRIVE BEHIND THE BRISBANE STRIKERS



*Does not include dealer delivery or statutory charges.

Excludes metallic/mica paint & automatic transmission, HC4055