Eye On A LERS IN ERS

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V MARCONI STALLIONS Round 12

Vol 10-6. Saturday December 22, 2001 \$2.00

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BRISBANE STRIKERS Soccer Club

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Trainer: Graham Kinsela

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Ground Announcer: Travis Winks

ABC PRINTING Milton, Qld.
Tel: 07 33699133

COVER: It was full steam ahead for Striker Kris Trajanovski in the match against Wollongong Wolves in which John Carbone scored the equaliser to give a 1-1 draw at Ballymore in Round 10.

MAJOR SPONSOR





So Christmas has come around again and just like my father told when I was young, it seems to come around much quicker as you get older!

From a football perspective at the Strikers we are travelling much better than we were coming up to the break last season.

The reasons are many but in the main we have a vastly different squad, not necessarily better in terms of ability but certainly more mature.

There is great harmony in the current squad and a great sense of commitment to the team and teammates.

Strong bonds have been forged, foundations have been laid and the "I" factor doesn't come into the equation. That's I as in individual, I as in self.

The players are prepared to sacrifice and give for the benefit of the group. It's a stable platform on which to build in the New Year.

Christmas is also a time to reflect. 2001 has been a difficult year but it has been enjoyable nevertheless.

The Strikers can take pride in what has been achieved this year under difficult circumstances. We must remain mindful however that the job is only half done.

There are still 14 matches to play. Standards have been set and we, as a group now must work towards improving on what we have achieved this year in 2002.

Thank you to all the people who have supported and worked for good of the Strikers family during 2001.

In particular our loyal supporters who so steadfastly stuck by us during the dark days of June. Your numbers may not be great but your loyalty is immeasurable and only good can come of that.

Finally I'd just like everyone to spare a thought for those less privileged than us.

A kind thought or action for all those that wont be sitting down to a Christmas dinner, for all those children that wont be opening presents on Christmas morning through no fault of their own.

And be thankful that we have what we have.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and enjoy the game tonight!

.....Kossie

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Whilst Australia is now out of the World Cup which will be hosted by both Japan and Korea in 2002, all of us who love the game must take the opportunity to work cooperatively to raise the game to a higher standard than that which currently exists.

Whilst Soccer Australia is shackled by a huge debt, it is fair to say that no company can go forward without being able to effectively manage its liability and strengthen its cash flow.

Whilst many of the stakeholders throughout Australia are not responsible for the debt, it is important that we all understand that we need a strong Soccer Australia.

To allow us to go forward we must do whatever is necessary to work towards strengthening the foundations of our administration in a model which is accountable, strategic and proactive.

To achieve this, it is important that we continue to capture the strong growth in junior development programs throughout Australia and to do what is necessary to ensure that the National Soccer League is the primary flag bearer throughout the nation.

There is no doubt that, judging by the standard set by the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers in this current season on a relatively modest budget, this game can be taken to new heights with proper marketing and media exposure.

In focussing our attention on the development of the National Soccer League, Soccer Australia will be able to assemble a very strong National side which will compete favourably against many of the elite National teams in Asia.

This will provide windows of opportunity to capture new marketing initiatives and sponsorship through strong Australian and Asian companies and therefore provide the necessary

financial resources for National Soccer League clubs to professionalise at a higher level, retain locally-based players and invest substantially in junior development programs throughout the nation.

These objectives will only be achieved by all State Federations, Junior Associations and National Soccer League Clubs working in a sprit of cooperation with Soccer Australia's Commissioners and their administration staff.

The Strikers have demonstrated over the years that there are quality junior players available in our State and, through a strengthening national competition, in a short period of time we will be able to competently represent our country at the highest possible standard in all arenas in Asia.

Once having achieved this we will then be in a position to take on the rest of the world.

Ross Melville - CHAIRMAN



TARINGA ROVERS

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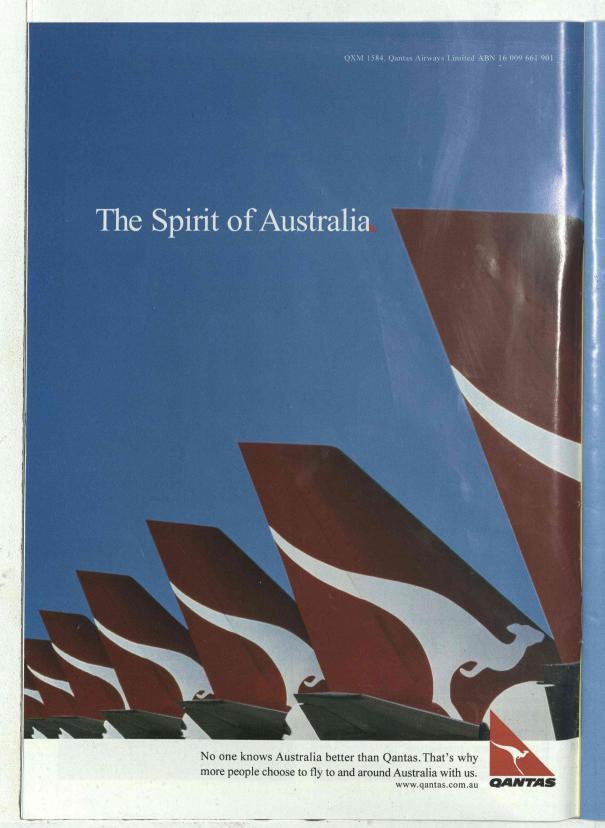
are pleased to announce our Junior D.O.C. for 2002 is

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...from the Captains desk

Tis the week before Christmas and we, the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers find ourselves well placed on the league ladder and looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead in our attempt to bring some finals football back to the Sunshine State.

The upcoming period presents possibly the toughest test we are likley to face during the entire season.

With consecutive away matches against Perth and The Kingz in the New Year and tonights encounter with a Marconi side who are charging up the table, any points we gain in this time will certainly be well earned.

Well earned also have been the points we have picked up over the last couple of weeks.

We could however, (and I don't want to sound too greedy saying this) have had more

points and even jumped into second place had we displayed a little more conviction and ruthlessness, particularly in last weeks match agains South Melbourne.

The first half performance from the lads was of the standard we have set ourselves and indeed could have seen us better off than the 1-0 halftime scoreline.

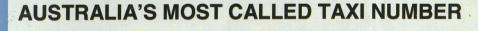
The second half was a much changed scenario with our boys not being able to regain the ascendency which South Melbourne had taken from the restart.

Obviously could of's and should of's aren't much good to any of us as its all in the past and we must deal with whats now ahead of us.

This evening we will, as I said earlier, have an extremely difficult task to take three points from a Marconi side, who will be out to close the gap on us and continue their recent good form. But I believe our boys are up to the task and will, as always, give it their best effort.

Finally in keeping with this Christmas season, the players would like to wish all of you a joyous and safe festive period.

Thanks for your support, .. Stuart Mclaren



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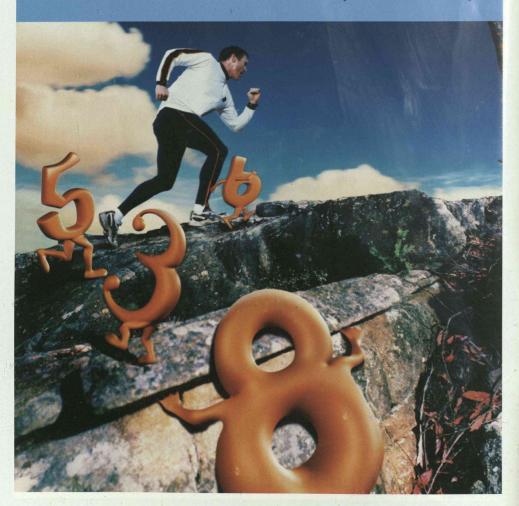
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Marconi lacks strike power

Marconi, the former high flyers and pacesetters of Australian club football, come to Ballymore tonight with coach Lee Sterrey under no illusions about the task confronting his young side.

Marconi had an ordinary start to the season but in recent weeks has started to hit its straps.

Sterrey has been at wits ends trying to find a goal scorer to revive the club's flagging national league fortunes which so far has yielded just four wins and three draws for a total of 15 points this season.

The Stallions last week took on arch rivals Olympic Sharks at home and won 1-0 through an Alex Brosque goal two minutes from fulltime.

Sterrey's desperation with his strike force has been compounded by limited funds, which has prevented him from delving into the market to buy a quality goal scorer.

His problems also have been compounded by a serious ankle injury to former Brisbane Strikers' marksman Royce Brownlie who is out until the end of January.

However, Sterrey has been buoyed by the return of talented young striker Alex Brosque who he hopes will solve the Stallions' goalscoring problems.

Brosque, 18, joined the AIS on a scholarship last January but returned to the Stallions when they drew with a nine-man Newcastle United last month.

"In his first game back with us he only played the last 15 minutes against Newcastle," Sterrey said.

"But he's in the team now and I think he's a good kid.

"He's tall and has a strong left foot and knows where to be."

Sterrey is happy with Marconi's overall form considering the massive cutbacks the club endured after a massive \$20m loss last year.

"There's one player in the Brisbane side who I would still like playing for us and that's Kris Trajanovski," he said.

"Unfortunately after the club's big financial

loss we had to let a lot of players go especially those who were off contract like Kris."

Sterrey also had hoped to see the return of utility Chad Gibson in the Marconi line-up by now following his recent stint in Norway.

Gibson plays on the right side of defence or midfield but what Sterrey likes about the youngster is his ability for scoring goals.

"Unfortunately Chad hasn't come back yet and the last I heard he had gone to England for a few trials," Sterrey said at time of writing.

Sterrey, 40, is an accomplished professional who was at the helm of Newcastle for the past three seasons before the road led him to back to his former club Marconi.

Sydney born Sterrey came through the junior ranks playing for Sydney United where he won two NSW championships as a player in 1981-82.

He knows the requirements for national league having played 107 matches for Sydney United, Marconi, Blacktown and Adelaide Sharks over a five-year period from 1984.

Although he spent the past three years at Newcastle, Sterrey originally coached the Marconi youth teams throughout the early 1990's and was assistant to Zoran Matic at Marconi in the 1997-98 seasons.

Strikers' coach John Kosmina has a huge regard for Sterrey's coaching talents and knows tonight's game will be difficult despite recent results from both sides. So too does Sterrey.

"It is going to be one tough game," Sterrey said.

"Kossie has got the Strikers playing well and they have a good forward line.

"But I'm fairly happy with the way we've been playing except for a few hiccups.

"We've played better than our opponents but we've left shaking our heads when we didn't pick up the points.

"We should have beaten Parramatta and Northern Spirit and if we still had Archie Thompson and Sean Babic there's no doubt this side would be up with the leaders."

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Mark Viduka not for sale

English giants Leeds has tried to hose down speculation about Socceroo striker Mark Viduka's future following the recent signing of Liverpool star Robbie Fowler.

For the time being he appears to be safe, according to Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale.

The Leeds boss assured fans that he had no plans to sell either Viduka or midfielder Olivier Dacourt.

"Manager David O'Leary does not have to sell any players as a result of the Robbie Fowler transfer," Ridsdale said on the club's website.

"I've no plans to sell Mark Viduka or Olivier Dacourt, but that is hypothetical because I've had no bids for either of them."

The STG11 million (\$A30.16 million) purchase of Fowler gives the Yorkshire club several options up front including internationals Alan Smith, Robbie Keane and the injured Michael Bridges.

Working in Viduka's favour in the selection bunfight is that he is more of a target man and should complement the styles of the more aggressive Fowler, Smith and Keane.

Meanwhile, Leeds has also played down reports that it was poised to sign Socceroo midfielder Brett Emerton from Dutch club Feyenoord. Emerton's Sydney-based agent Simon Konstantinidis also poured cold water on such a move in the short term.

"I have not been contacted and neither has anyone to do with Brett," Konstantinidis said.

But the agent also stressed that the 22-yearold was still keen to make the move across the channel somewhere down the track.

"If the opportunity came for him to go to a big UK club he would look at it seriously, conditional to the blessing of Feyenoord," he said.

Phil Thompson, caretaker manager of league leaders Liverpool, said Fowler decided he needed to move to guarantee a first team place at a leading club.

"It wasn't our decision to let him go," Thompson told Liverpool's website.

"Robbie wanted to go and to see a local boy moving on is a sad thing for the club.

"More than most he felt it difficult to fit in with the rotation system.

"I can understand that he found it hard.

"Robbie felt that a move at this moment in time would help his career and you have to respect that."

Fowler, who was born in Liverpool and joined the club as a trainee, started only six games this season and last season failed to make the starting line-up in the victories over Arsenal in the FA Cup final and Alaves in the UEFA Cup final.

He slipped behind fellow England strikers Michael Owen and Emile Heskey in the Anfield pecking order.

"Like every footballer, I just want to play, and I want the chance to be part of things," Fowler said.

"Leeds have a fantastic young side, and it is clear that things are happening there. The chance to be part of that is a very exciting prospect for me."

Fowler earned a reputation as one of the most deadly finishers in England, scoring 171 goals in 330 games for Liverpool since making his debut in the 1993-94 season.

He played 22 times for England, bagging five goals, and was voted Young Player of the Year in 1995 and 1996.



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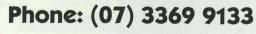
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STRIKERS SHOPPER

They said it in November

"It's only halftime, so I'm not getting too excited about it. There's 90 minutes to go and we are going into an atmosphere that's hostile if not worse. But you could say I'm extremely pleased." - touche FRANK FARINA after guiding the Socceroos to a first leg win against Uruguay



"There's no denying life would have been easier if we had qualified. But it just means things are going to be tough for the next three or four years. We have to manage and husband our finances for that period of time, look where we can boost the game and improve revenue streams. We just have to work harder and smarter." - Acting Soccer Australia CEO IAN HOLMES going back to the drawing board, yet again.



"That is something that will be discussed between myself and the board of Soccer Australia. But I think we let the dust settle on it for a while. My mind is going at 100 miles per hour at the moment. It's something I'll be thinking about. Maybe Soccer Australia will want to go in a different direction. Who knows? We'll wait and see." - A non-committal FARINA on his future after the World Cup disappointment.



"I don't know if I'm going to back up after this. It's exhausting, mentally exhausting. Yeah, I'll probably go back to concentrating on club football." - MARK VIDUKA after the Socceroos' failure to make the World Cup finals.



"The money has never worried me. I play football for the passion. I love football. I'll always say that. If you're playing sport for money, I don't think you're in it for the right reasons." -Socceroo star HARRY KEWELL, who earns \$30,000 a week.

"Football isn't after all a game of skittles. (Christophe) Dugarry is out for I understand a minimum of three months. That's something I regret bitterly. It was an act of brutality." - French coach ROGER LEMERRE on a controversial tackle by Socceroo defender Kevin Muscat which requires Dugarry to have a knee reconstruction.



"If it's not direct qualification then they should say you play the fifth-placed South American nation every time or the fourth-placed Asians (such as happened in 1997) every time. But there has to be a format put in place where there is one path and that's the way it is all the time. It would save problems with clubs, with dates and with fixture congestion." - Socceroo coach FARINA stating what seems to be obvious to everyone but FIFA.



"I've got a view that you can practise penalties until the cows come home. But when you put in a 90,000 or 95,000 crowd, and they're screaming and booing at you, all of a sudden everything changes completely. The pressure is on. You're not having a giggle or laughing at the goalkeeper." - FRANK FARINA was hoping for a decisive result in the World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay.



"I'll put that to bed. Not that Harry and I get into bed together. We've never been to bed together. There is no feud." - MARK VIDUKA revealing more than we needed to know in denying a rift with teammate Harry Kewell.











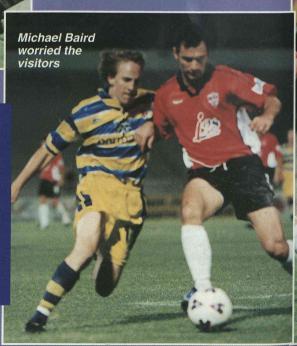
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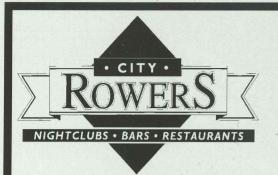


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Soccer it to me!!

by Back Heel

"Oh what a beauty" and we are not talking about Corey Baldock but the great big black "shiner" our football manager Jack Baren is sporting.

Contrary to rumours (mainly spread by Kossie) the "shiner" was not caused by wife Anne but is the aftermath of a recent eye operation.

To go to all this trouble to be a "One Eyed" supporter is really over the top.

Welcome back to our AIS graduate Mathew McKay who will be joining the Strikers squad on a permanent basis as from this week.

Great to see you back in Brisbane Matt.

Nathan Coe has decided to stay with the AIS until the end of the season. We wish Nathan all the best.

Newcomers to our training sessions in the next few weeks is "The Man from Hell" otherwise known as Archie Hell.

Archie is 19 years of age and has recently migrated with his family to Australia from Austria, where he represented at National U19 level.

Kossie is giving him a two week trial.

At this early stage he looks like one hell of a player.

Attended last Friday's volunteers Christmas party and a great time was had by all.

Volunteers are the life line of the Strikers, receive little recognition or publicity but always perform at the highest level.

On behalf of the players, support staff and

management we thank you. Have a great Christmas and a grand final New Year.

Ronnie McQuilter is settling in nicely. His "English" lessons are coming along fine and is hopeful of operating without an interpreter by the end of the season. (Only joking Ronnie)

Team Chaplain, Rob Mann, another unsung volunteer hero is again doing a great job.

The boys are presently running raffles and collections to buy him a new joke book.

The BSSA is again giving our players fantastic vocal support, which is much appreciated by Kossie and the team.

Just imagine if we had a 10,000 member BSSA choir - wouldn't that be sensational at.

I attended former team manager, Ian (Dazzel) Dalzell's surprise 50th Birthday party on Sunday.

A large gathering of friends surprised Ian at Crosbys in Albion.

Guests included Wal and Joan Dann, Ray Evans, Peter and Thelma Tokesi, Jack Baren, David Bearman and many more.

50 is a great age and with apologies to the original author we present: "The Ode to Dazzel"

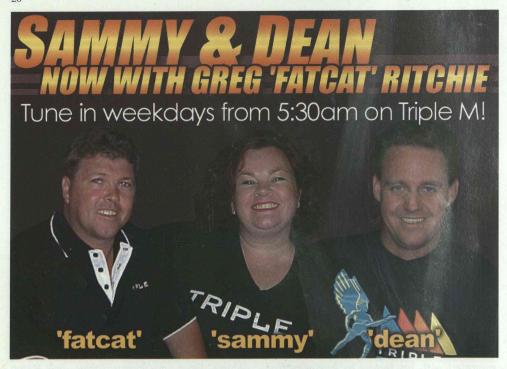
Fifty years have come at last, I cannot see, I cannot pee. My memory shrinks, my hearing stinks. No sense of smell, I look like hell. My stomach's drooping. Got trouble pooping. Fifty years have come at last. Fifty years can kiss my \$#@!\$%%. Have a great one Ian!

To all our supporters, have a great Christmas and a Grand Final New Year!

Conditions of Entry

- 1. Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted.
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From the BSSA...

THE BSSA - what good is it?

The Brisbane Strikers Supporters Association is a fancy name for a bunch of disreputable rabble rousers who sit at one end of the stand at Ballymore and make a lot of rather tasteless noise.

But they do try to keep it clean (except for opposition goal kicks), and in comparison to most football crowds they manage that. And the players really appreciate it.

You would have noticed some comments from Kossie (The Lord of the Rings?) and Cap'n Stuey in previous copies of this magazine, in which they express their appreciation of the noise from the stand.

And the whole stand joins in now, which just improves the atmosphere to the stage where Shane Stefanutto says it is the best ground atmosphere in the league except Perth. That's great.

The BSSA does some other things to increase the crowds at Strikers games.

A few of these activities are intended to improve the match day experience and involve the crowd. These include the Free Kick and the Player of the Season Voting.

The Free Kick is intended to provide the kind of reading which Strikers fans might expect if their team were treated as a major sporting team in Brisbane.

The Player of the Season voting is intended to give spectators an opportunity to express their appreciation of the performance of one Strikers player each game.

You can vote once at each game, but as many times as you like in the season. If you attend or watch on TV an away game, you can vote for a performance in that game too.

We really would like to get more people voting after each game, in order to make the

contest more significant for the players. In the second half of the season we may give progress scores in the Free Kick.

The BSSA has three members on the Strikers marketing committee, which is involved in devising themes for each of the home games, once again with a view to improving the match day experience.

You can look forward to a 'Wear your Colours' match on 19 January 2002. The idea is along the lines of 'We Are One. but We Are Many'.

In that match, immediately before Australia Day, we want to celebrate our Diversity in the World Game, and just like they did in Melbourne against Uruguay, we want the crowd to belt out the National Anthem as loud as can be.

More about BSSA activities another time. Give me a call on 0413 032918 with any feedback or questions you may have.

STAND UP FOR THE STRIKERS.

John Wainwright, President, BSSA.

JOIN THE BSSA AND STAND UP FOR THE STRIKERS

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2	Chris Burley	10	Evan Parrish
3	Michele Capannini	11	Dean Peltohaka
4	Brady Davidson	12	Shane Robinson
5	Shayne Findlay	13	Chris Scuderi
6	Ben Griffin	14	Tim Smits
7	Chris Hagel	15	Danny Wilson
8	Matt Hilton	22	Tom Willis GK



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World Cup 2002 fixture draw

Group A (Korea)

France v Senegal (Seoul, May 31, 12.30) Uruguay v Denmark (Ulsan, June 1, 10.00) France v Uruguay (Busan, June 6, 07.30) Denmark v Senegal (Daegu, June 6, 12.30) Senegal v Uruguay (Suwon, June 11, 07.30) Denmark v France (Incheon June 11, 07.30)

Group B (Korea)

Paraguay v South Africa (Busan June 2, 08.30) Spain v Slovenia (Gwangju June 2, 12.30) Spain v Paraguay (Jeonju, June 7, 10.00) South Africa v Slovenia (Daegu, June 8, 07.30) South Africa v Spain (Daejeon, June 12, 12.30) Slovenia v Paraguay (Seogwipo June 12, 12.30)

Group C (Korea)

Brazil v Turkey (Ulsan June 3, 10.00)
China v Costa Rica (Gwangju, June 3, 07.30)
Brazil v China (Seogwipo, June 8, 12.30)
Costa Rica v Turkey (Incheon, June 9, 10.00)
Costa Rica v Brazil (Suwon, June 13, 07.30)
Turkey v China (Seoul, June 13, 07.30)

Group D (Korea)

South Korea v Poland (Busan, June 4, 12.30)
USA v Portugal (Suwon, June 5, 10.00)
South Korea v USA (Daegu, June 10, 07.30)
Portugal v Poland (Jeonju, June 10, 12.30)
Poland v USA (Daejeon, June 14, 12.30)
Portugal v South Korea (Incheon, June 14, 12.30)

Group E (Japan)

Ireland v Cameroon (Niigata, June 1, 07.30) Germany v Saudi Arabia (Sapporo, June 1, 12.30) Germany v Ireland (Ibaraki, June 5, 12.30) Cameroon v Saudi Arabia (Saitama, June 6, 10.00) Saudi Arabia v Ireland (Yokohama, June 11, 12.30) Cameroon v Germany (Shizuoka, June 11, 12.30)

Group F (Japan)

England v Sweden (Saitama, June 2, 06.30) Argentina v Nigeria (Ibaraki, June 2, 10.30) Sweden v Nigeria (Kobe, June 7, 07.30) Argentina v England (Sapporo, June 7, 12.30) Sweden v Argentina (Miyagi, June 12, 07.30) Nigeria v England (Osaka, June 12, 07.30)

Group G (Japan)

Croatia v Mexico (Niigata, June 3, 07.30) Italy v Ecuador (Sapporo, June 3, 12.30) Italy v Croatia (Ibaraki, June 8, 10.00) Mexico v Ecuador (Miyagi, June 9, 07.30) Ecuador v Croatia (Yokohama, June 13, 12.30) Mexico v Italy (Oita, June 13, 12.30)

Group H (Japan)

Japan v Belgium (Saitama, June 4, 10.00) Russia v Tunisia (Kobe, June 5, 07.30) Japan v Russia (Yokohama, June 9, 12.30) Tunisia v Belgium (Oita, June 10, 10.00) Belgium v Russia (Shizuoka, June 14, 15.30) Tunisia v Japan (Osaka, June 14, 07.30)

English AIS opens it's doors

England has unveiled its version of the Australian Institute of Sport with its first National Football Centre, a stateof-the-art facility designed to produce future soccer champions.

Work has already begun on the 141 hectare site near Burton-upon-Trent in Staffordshire in central England. It is due for completion in 2004.

The new centre, expected to cost around \$A135 million and will be funded entirely by the Football Association.

Facilities include a full-size indoor pitch, plus 11 outdoor pitches, a gymnasium and indoor ball court, a sports medicine and

science centre plus accommodation and conference facilities for up to 300 people.

"Part of the strategy we formulated four years ago was a plan to produce the best coaches in the world and the best players in the world," FA technical director Howard Wilkinson said.

"For that, you need the best facilities, and this centre will be the best in the world because we have left no stone unturned.

"This is part of our wider strategy but it is crucial for the future of English football and it makes a statement of intent," he said.

"Everything about it will be quality - it will be the best in the world."

Eye On Strikers 2002 World Cup Form Guide

GROUP A

France, Senegal, Uruguay, Denmark.

World champions France should stroll through the group unless complacency creeps in.

Their side has too many world class players and too much strength in depth to be troubled unduly by any of their rivals.

But coach Roger Lemerre has warned his team that playing in the opening match is always difficult, especially as they face relative unknowns in Senegal, taking part in their first finals.

The other three should all be fighting for second place with Denmark perhaps slight favourites. Uruguay, twice World Cup winners, but in the doldrums for years and qualifying for the first time since 1990 may well fear the Danes who thrashed them 6-1 in their only World Cup meeting in 1986.

Senegal will take heart from the African example shown by Cameroon in 1990 when they shocked reigning champions Argentina 1-0 in the opening match of the finals.

Selections: 1. France 2. Denmark 3. Senegal 4. Uruguay
GROUP B

Spain, Slovenia, Paraguay, South Africa.

Seeded Spain start as favourites but they have a tradition of under-achieving at major tournaments and flopped as group favourites in France four years ago.

Paraguay held them to a goalless draw last time and all their rivals are likely to be difficult to beat but if Real Madrid's striker Raul retains his present form, Spain should do better and win the group.

The battle for second place could be tight with the key match likely to be Slovenia's meeting with Paraguay in the last game in Sogwipo on Cheju island.

Slovenia acquitted themselves well in their European Championship debut two years ago and may do the same in their first World Cup finals but Paraguay's greater experience may give them the edge.

They took eventual champions France into extra time in the second round four years ago.

South Africa failed to win a group match in the '98 finals though France were the only team to beat them.

Selections: 1. Spain 2. Paraguay 3. Slovenia 4. Sth Africa.

GROUP C

Brazil, Turkey, China, Costa Rica,

Brazil were so unimpressive in the South American qualifiers, losing six of their 18 matches in a bumbling

campaign in which they used four coaches and 59 players.

But, at the end of the day, Brazil are Brazil, the only nation to have appeared in all 16 previous World Cup finals and everyone's second favourite team because of their traditional dazzling style of play.

The dazzle may no longer be there but it would be hard to imagine them not getting through what looks like a modest group.

The big unknown will be China, playing in their first finals and with a huge mass of support both in South Korea, where some 100,000 Chinese may well travel, and back at home.

China's inexperience could be a great handicap but they are capable of pulling off a surprise or two and should not be written off even if bottom place is the most logical outcome.

Costa Rica proved a surprise package in their World Cup debut in 1990 but may find improving Turkey, back in the World Cup for the first time in almost half a century, too strong.

Selections: 1. Brazil 2. Turkey 3. Costa Rica 4. China.
GROUP D

South Korea, Poland, United States, Portugal.

Co-hosts South Korea have never won a match in the World Cup finals in five tries but that unhappy record is set to end before their home fans with a team under the guidance of distinguished Dutch coach Guus Hiddink.

The Koreans could well think in terms of reaching the second round, providing they get off to a winning start against Poland who performed surprisingly well in the European qualifiers and then maintain momentum

On paper, Portugal should win the group with Luis Figo and Rui Costa pulling all the strings.

They have one of the most exciting teams in Europe and went close to upsetting eventual winners France at Euro 2000 two years ago.

The Americans, regular finalists, are unlucky to be drawn in such a difficult group and would do well not to finish last.

Selections: 1. Portugal 2. South Korea 3. Poland 4. USA

GROUP E

Germany, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Cameroon.

Three-time world champions Germany and 1990 quarter-finalists Ireland both qualified through the playoffs after finishing second in their respective groups

but both look capable of reaching the last 16.

Germany recovered from their shock 5-1 home defeat to England in September to beat Ukraine 5-2 on aggregate in their play-off while Ireland saw off Iran 2-1, having disposed of the highly-fancied Netherlands team in their group.

But neither will under-estimate reigning Olympic and African champions Cameroon.

Cameroon have built a fine World Cup pedigree of their own over the last 20 years and could easily upset Ireland and even give Germany a run for their money if the Germans have another below-par day.

Saudi Arabia shocked Belgium 1-0 with a wonder goal by Said Owairan in the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States but struggled to make an impression in France four years ago, losing two and drawing one in their first round. A similar fate probably awaits.

Selections: 1. Germany 2. Ireland 3. Cameroon 4. Saudi Arabia.

GROUP F

Argentina, England, Nigeria, Sweden.

The toughest group of all in which every match will be like a cup final.

The 40-year World Cup rivalry of Argentina and England will overshadow all the other matches in the months ahead with Argentina's 4-3 win on penalties over England after the teams drew 2-2 in the second round of the 1998 World Cup still vivid in the memory.

The match is also likely to feature Manchester United team mates Juan Sebastian Veron (Argentina), Paul Scholes and David Beckham (England), who was memorably sent off against Argentina four years ago.

Argentina swept imperiously into the finals losing just one of their 18 South American qualifying matches and have been made 4-1 favourites to win the World Cup following the draw.

But they will not relish their three matches in this "group of death."

The opening match between Sweden and England is even spicier than usual as England are coached by Swede Sven Goran Eriksson and have not beaten Sweden in eight attempts since 1968.

Nigeria cannot be under-estimated having reached the second round in both 1994 and 1998 and took the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

Arsenal teammates Nwankwo Kanu (Nigeria), David Seaman and Sol Campbell (England) could also come into direct opposition as Nigeria bid to become the first African country to beat England.

Group F is the only group containing three countries who have reached the World Cup final:

Argentina (runners-up in 1930 and 1990, winners in 1978 and 1986), England (winners in 1966), Sweden (runners-up in 1958).

Selections: 1. Argentina 2. England 3. Nigeria 4. Sweden.

GROUP G

Italy, Ecuador, Croatia, Mexico.

Seeded Italy and Croatia, who finished third in their first World Cup in 1998, should advance from this group although Mexico's fortunes have improved since a poor run earlier this year in which they lost four successive matches.

Italy, World Cup winners in 1934, 1938 and 1982, have an experienced squad of exciting players and were on the verge of becoming European champions last year before losing 2-1 to France on a golden goal in the Euro 2000 final in Rotterdam.

Italy often start major tournaments slowly before getting into their stride, but they should start this competition with a win over World Cup debutants Ecuador in their opening match and progress steadily from there.

Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni said he would not under-estimate anyone but also said he was more than happy with the group and he knows better than anyone that Italy should win it fairly comfortably.

Selections: 1. Italy 2. Croatia 3. Mexico 4. Ecuador.

GROUP H

Japan, Belgium, Russia, Tunisia.

Whether home advantage helps or hinders Japan remains to be seen but they will need all the help they can get to progress from a group containing seasoned campaigners like Russia and Belgium.

However, other teams without a great World Cup history have thrived with home support, like Mexico in 1970 and 1986 and the United States in 1994, and Japan are likely to squeeze into one of the top two spots and secure a place in the second round.

Russia, tipped to do well so often in the past and just as often disappointing, could lose out again and be eliminated along with Tunisia.

Belgium, playing in their sixth successive finals, are not a great team but they are gritty and determined and under coach Robert Waseige have improved since their poor showing at home in Euro 2000.

Although they were pipped for the automatic qualifying place by Croatia from their European group, they performed superbly to beat the Czech Republic home and away in the play-offs and look good enough to make the last 16.

Selections: 1. Belgium 2. Japan 3. Russia 4. Tunisia







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PARMALAT BRISBANE STRIKERS

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE DRAW 2001 - 2002

Round	Date	Opposition	Time/Venue
12	Sat Dec 22	Marconi Stallions	7pm - Ballymore
13	Sat Jan 5	Perth Glory	7pm - Perth Oval
14	Fri Jan 11	Kingz FC	7.30pm - Ericsson Stadium
15	Sat Jan 19	Sydney United	7pm - Ballymore
16	Fri Jan 25	Bye	
17	Fri Feb 1	Melbourne Knights	7pm - Ballymore
18	Fri Feb 8	Northern Spirit	7.30pm - North Sydney Oval;
19	Sat Feb 16	Parramatta Power	7pm - Ballymore
20	Fri Feb 22	Newcastle United	7.30pm - Marathon Stadium
21	Fri Mar 1	Adelaide City Force	7pm - Ballymore
22	Sat Mar 9	Olympic Sharks	7.30pm - Toyota Pk Cronulla
23	Fri Mar 15	Wollongong Wolves	7.30pm - WIN Stadium
24	Sat Mar 23	South Melbourne	7pm - Ballymore
25	Sat Mar 30	Marconi Stallions	7pm - Marconi Stadium
26	Sun Apr 7	Perth Glory	3pm - Ballymore





2001/2002 NSI

Round 12 - 22/12/01

BRISBANE STRIKERS

- 1 Jason Kearton
- 2 Richie Alagich
- 3 Shane Stefanutto
- 4 Jon McKain
- 5 Stuart McLaren (c)
- 6 Peter Grierson
- 7 Fernando Rech
- 8 Adam Webber
- 9 Paul Foster
- 10 Kris Trajanovski
- 11 John Carbone
- 12 David Pilic
- 13 Wayne Heath
- 14 Daniel Dreger
- 15 Matthew McKay
- 16 Ronnie McQuilter
- 17 Michael Baird
- 18 Lawrence Drake
- 20 Corey Baldock
- 30 Nathan Coe

Coach - John Kosmina

MARCONI STALLIONS

- 1 Michael Turnbull
- 2 Michael Beauchamp
- 3 Mark Babic
- 4 Angelo Costanzo
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Christian Care
- 7 Brendan Renaud
- 8 Grant Last
- 9 Kevo Gulesserian
- 10 John Maisano
- 11 Norman Tome
- 12 Steven Bozinovski
- 13 Shane Webb
- 14 Eric Anabalon
- 15 Royce Brownlie
- 16 Raphael Bove
- 17 James Afkos
- 18 Sasa Radulovic
- 20 Daniel Schwarzer
- 22 Alex Brosque
- 30 Bob Catlin
- Coach Lee Sterrey



EYE ON STRIKERS Tables

Sydney United Youth Aust, Inst. Sport

Parramatta Power Youth Wollongong Wolves

Newcastle United Youth

Northern Spirit Youth Olympic Sharks Youth

NŚW Inst of Sport

Sydney United Colts

Brendan Santalab

Anthony Danze

Adam Kwasnik

Eric Anabalon

Alex Brosque

Brisbane Toro

ACT Academy

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	
Perth Glory	10	9	1	0	27	7	28	
Newcastle United	11	5	6	0	15	9	21	
STRIKERS	10	5	4	1	15	9	19	
Marconi Stallions	10	4	3	3	13	12	15	
Northern Spirit	10	4	3	3	14	14	15	
Parramatta Power	11	4	3	4	14	14	15	
Olympic Sharks	10	4	2	4	9	7	14	
Melbourne Knights	10	4	1	5	10	13	13	
Sydney United	10	3	1	6	9	14	10	
South Melbourne	10	2	3	5	6	9	9	
Adelaide City Force	10	1	4	5	12	16	7	
Kingz FC	10	1	4	5	17	26	7	1. 中
Wollongong Wolves	10	1	3	6	. 8	. 19	6	

OTHER ROUND 12 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCHES

Adelaide City Force v Kingz FC

Olympic Sharks v Perth Glory

Newcastle United v Sydney United

Northern Spirit v Melbourne Knights

South Melbourne v Wollongong Wolves

6 Marconi Stallions Colts

EAGUE HOTSH	OTS
Perth Glory	10
Perth Glory	8
Brisbane Strikers	6
Northern Spirit	6
Sydney United	6
Kingz FC	6
Newcastle United	5
	Perth Glory Perth Glory Brisbane Strikers Northern Spirit Sydney United Kingz FC

Nth. youth LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Aust Inst Sport

Aust Inst Sport

Aust Inst Sport

Parramatta Power Yth.

Marconi Stallions Youth

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

ROUND 13 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCHES

Fri 21 Dec

Fri 21 Dec

Fri 21 Dec

Sat 22 Dec

Sun 23 Dec

Fri 4 Jan	Wollongong Wolves v Northern Spirit
Fri 4 Jan	Kingz FC v Olympic Sharks
Sat 5 Jan	Perth Glory v STRIKERS
Sat 5 Jan	Marconi Stallions v South Melbourne
Sat 5 Jan	Melbourne Knights v Parramatta Power
Sun 6 Jan	Sydney United v Adelaide City Force
	Pyo Nowcastle United

Bye - Parramatta Power

Soccer Test Matches in Australia

Soccer Australia is trying to arrange regular international Test matches against England and France.

This could see international superstars Zinedine Zidane and David Beckham in Australia on a regular basis.

If the plan comes off the internationals will no longer be termed "friendlies" and instead will take on "test" match status adopted so successfully by rival rugby codes and cricket.

SA acting chief executive Ian Holmes said

the idea was to play France in the Anzac Challenge and England for the Commonwealth Cup.

"Both of them are keen to have a relationship and foster some strong ties bit it's a matter of sitting down properly and we would prefer if it were done before the World Cup," Holmes said.

England already is keen to use Australia as a training venue prior to next year's World Cup in Japan and Korea.

