

Eye On STRIKERS

v PARRAMATTA POWER *Round 19*

Vol 10-9, Friday February 16, 2002 \$2.00

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Beckham
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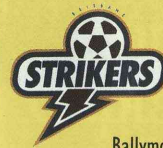
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COVER: Young Matthew McKay powers his way up the midfield during the clash against Melbourne Knights. In only his fourth NSL appearance with the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers, McKay put in a sterling performance.

MAJOR SPONSOR



I read with interest, as I always do, a number of letters and e-mails regarding our last home performance against the Melbourne Knights.

I'll be honest, I don't reply to the proliferation of correspondence we receive each week because it is simply too time consuming.

However, in one instance last week the team was unfairly criticised in my view and I feel compelled to respond on their behalf.

The author accused the players of lacking "fighting spirit", confidence and of giving up on "repaying the faith".

A question to our critics. Do you really think players go out to play badly and under-perform?

The answer is an emphatic no! A player's performance will be up and down during the course of a season, as will the teams.

Players can be affected by a countless number of issues that affect performance from one week to the next.

Sometimes those issues have a positive bearing, other times negative.

Question. When a player doesn't play as well as he might feel he can, or the team loses, do you think they don't care?

Of course they care! Their confidence takes a knock and they question themselves.

This all has a bearing on the next game.

Invariably when this happens an individual or a team will go through a spell of bad luck or bad results where no matter how hard you try or how much you care it just doesn't seem to happen.

Statement. No-one in the Strikers has forgotten how much support the Club received during the off-season and the boys have busted their backsides every week to repay that support and get where we are!

Let's get some perspective here. Our goal at the start of the season was to make the top six - to make the finals.

To date we have been in the top six all season.

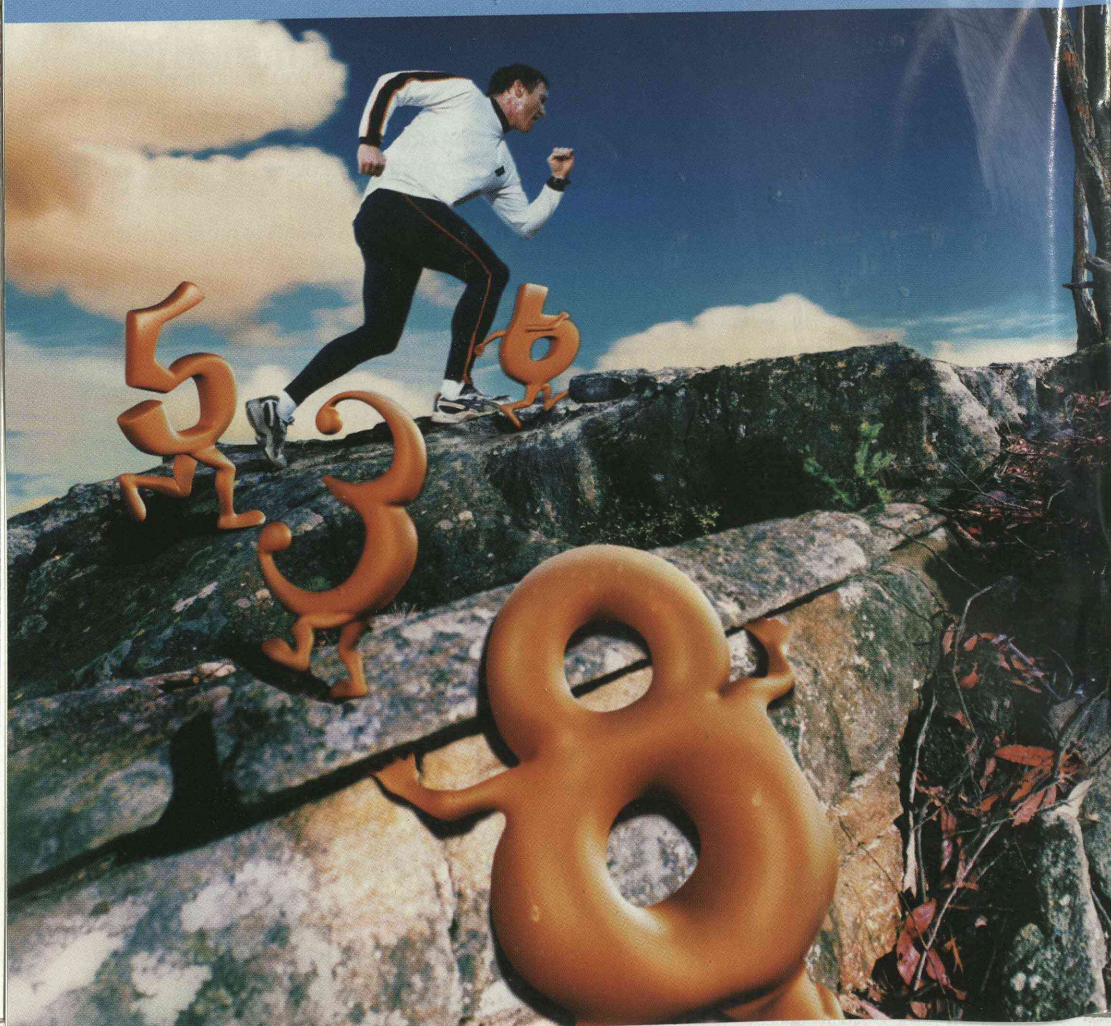
We still are and desperately want to stay there. That was and is our goal, purely and simply.

Enjoy the game.... Kossie

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...from the
Captains desk

The big games just keep coming and I'm sure you guys are as excited as the players are at this, the most important time of the season.

Tonight we face yet another of our fellow top six contenders in the Parramatta Power and the players are certainly keen to make amends for the disappointing results of our two previous home matches.

The fact that we have not always been able to provide you, our loyal fans, with the results you like in our games here at Ballymore has been of slight annoyance to us so far this season.

I say slight only because in the grand scheme of things it has not been too harmful to our chances of achieving our top six goal. But there is no doubt that we will have to raise our form

at home (in terms of results) to the level of our away form to ensure that we give ourselves the best possible chance of playing more than 24 games this season.

While we are on the subject of home and away form it was great to see and hear the Strikers supporters are as good vocally outside of Brisbane as they are in it.

On behalf of the players I would just like to thank the contingent of Gold & Blue devotees who were at the North Sydney Oval last Friday night for their efforts in getting behind the lads.

We trust you enjoyed the game and will concur that with just a touch of good luck that we could have had all three points.

In Gump news this week I can reveal that the man who is always asked if he can hear the drums heard plenty of laughter as he collected an award he won't be keen to boast about when his career is over.

Our Brazilian took over from John 'Benny' Carbone and questions are being asked about which one of the pair is responsible for damaging the priceless garment. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks for your Support.. Stuart McLaren

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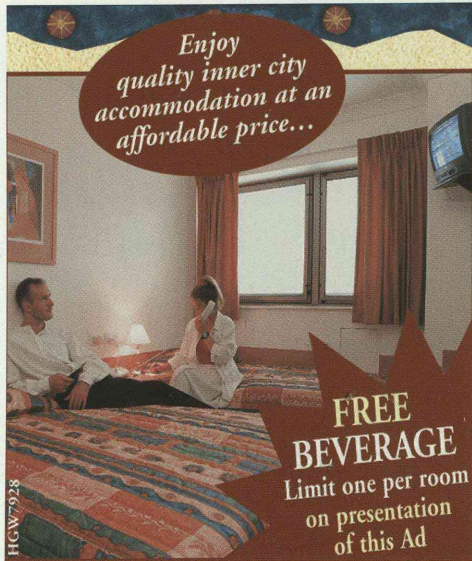
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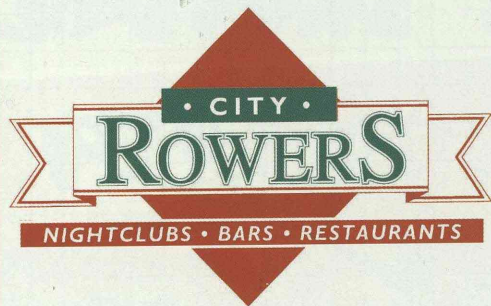
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Player	Date	Opponents	F-A	1 Keaton	2 March	3 Shearman	4 Mackinnon	5 Giffen	6 Reel	7 Reel	8 Weather	9 Foster	10 Tarnowski	11 Carrone	12 Pincus	13 Heath	14 Metherell	15 Miley	16 Metherell	17 Baird	18 Drake	19 Bradock	20 Bradock	30 Coe
	Fri 5/10	Rnd 1 Kingz FC	H 2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sun 14/10	Rnd 2 Sydney United	A 3-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sun 20/10	Rnd 3 Bye																						
	Sat 27/10	Rnd 4 Melbourne Knights	A 2-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 3/11	Rnd 5 Northern Spirit	H 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 9/11	Rnd 6 Parramatta Power	A 2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 17/11	Rnd 7 Newcastle United	H 1-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wed 21/11	Rnd 8 Adelaide City Force	A 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 1/12	Rnd 9 Olympic Sharks	H 1-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 8/12	Rnd 10 Wollongong Wolves	H 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 14/12	Rnd 11 South Melbourne	A 1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 22/12	Rnd 12 Marconi Stallions	H 2-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 5/1	Rnd 13 Perth Glory	A 2-4	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 11/1	Rnd 14 Kingz FC	A 2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 19/1	Rnd 15 Sydney United	H 1-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 25/1	Rnd 16 Bye																						
	Fri 1/2	Rnd 17 Melbourne Knights	H 3-5	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 8/2	Rnd 18 Northern Spirit	A 2-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 16/2	Rnd 19 Parramatta Power	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 22/2	Rnd 20 Newcastle United	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 1/3	Rnd 21 Adelaide City Force	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 9/3	Rnd 22 Olympic Sharks	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Fri 15/3	Rnd 23 Wollongong Wolves	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sun 23/3	Rnd 24 South Melbourne	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sat 30/3	Rnd 25 Marconi Stallions	A	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Sun 7/4	Rnd 26 Perth Glory	H	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Individual League Appearances			47	147	75	37	113	67	38	19	141	282	66	59	12	19	5	9	8	22	0	11	
	Individual League Goals			0	4	1	1	9	13	18	0	39	70	7	9	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	

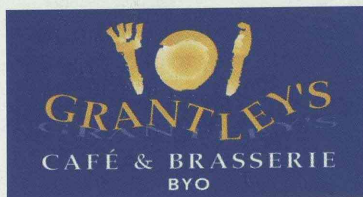
Legend: ▲ = Played - \$ = Substitute - ◆ = Non playing substitute - ♦ = Own goal in scoreline - ■ = Yellow card - ■ = Red card



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Coach wary of the Power

Parramatta Power has been the national league under achievers since its admission to the national league two seasons ago but Parmalat Strikers' coach John Kosmina is wary.

As the battle for the Top Six reaches fever pitch, Kosmina knows Parramatta is a serious contender for the play-offs.

The Power has 25 points on the ladder and is breathing down the necks of third and fourth placed Olympic and the Strikers who are equal on 26 points.

Nothing would be sweeter for Power coach David Mitchell than to make the finals after he learned late last year that he would not be reappointed as Power coach next season.

Mitchell, who has been at the club since they joined the league in the 1999-2000 season, is finally seeing the fruits of his labour although former Wollongong Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos will replace him at the end of the season.

Despite an almost limitless budget, probably the biggest in the NSL, there is little doubt the Power were under-achievers in their first two seasons.

Large player turnovers, injuries and a lack of consistency and belief have hampered the club on the field.

Off the field fans failed to embrace the new entity which in the long term could threaten the club's national league existence.

However, despite the negatives, Mitchell has gone about his business in a professional manner refusing to criticise and has let his team do his talking after the Power board decided to look for his replacement.

"There's no use complaining," Mitchell said in a recent Sydney article.

"What's done is done. There is no use jumping up and down about it. Parramatta made a decision and I respect that. You simply have to move on.

"I'm just happy to fulfill my obligations to the club for the rest of the season and do the job that is required.

"It will be great to get into the top six. Once we do that, then we want to finish as high as possible to give us the best shot at the championship," he said.

In a marked turnaround in the club's fortunes in recent weeks Mitchell's championship dream could well be fulfilled.

The Power is well placed in the run-up to the finals after finishing a disappointing 11th in their debut season and ninth in 2000/01.

Parramatta showed they had plenty to play for under the final months of Mitchell's reign when they beat the big spending Sydney Olympic 1-nil in their local derby clash last week.

The victory came as no surprise to Strikers' coach John Kosmina.

"They're a good side and played well to get a result against Olympic," Kosmina said.

"From what I've been told they were unlucky not to get more.

"They're a big strong physical side and we'll need to compete in that department against them."

Kosmina doesn't envisage any changes to the Striker's side, which came from behind twice for a thrilling 2-all draw against Northern Spirit last weekend.

The only doubt centres on defender Wayne Heath who suffered an ankle injury.

If Heath doesn't respond to treatment rangy defender Jon McKain will be recalled to the Strikers' line-up.

Kosmina also expects striker Lawrence Drake to improve in the countdown to the finals after returning from a long injury lay-off against Northern Spirit.

"Drakey was a bit short of a gallop against Spirit but he still had an effect on the game," Kosmina said.

Strikers snatch 2-2 draw

Northern Spirit coach Mick Hickman's pre-match instruction to "attack, attack, attack" went out the window as the Parmalat Brisbane Strikers came from behind to snatch a 2-all draw at North Sydney Oval last round.

Hickman had been concerned that Spirit had never been in front by two goals this season and issued the instructions to go on the offensive from the start.

The Spirit, who like the Strikers is locked in a ferocious battle for the Top Six play-offs, looked like carrying out Hickman's advice to the letter when Scott Thomas put his side ahead with his first goal for the club.

Thomas' goal, a well-struck drive, came after just two minutes to give the home side the perfect start in their bid for a third straight home win for the first time in two seasons.

Striker Pablo Cardozo, who struggled with a corked thigh, had a chance to extend Spirit's lead in the 43rd minute.

He found himself unmarked in front but his shot from point blank range was parried by Strikers' keeper Jason Kearton.

Apart from Spirit's early goal and Cardozo's close call, Hickman's instructions evaporated in the first half as strangely they retreated into wait-and-see mode and invited the Strikers to come at them.

Their tactics of protecting a lead backfired when Peter Grierson volleyed home for the Strikers' equaliser with a sweat left-foot drive on the stroke of half-time off a quality cross from John Carbone.

Brisbane dominated the second half with some dazzling attack but blew several golden opportunities to move ahead of the home side after the teams went to the break deadlocked 1-all.

Spirit keeper Paul Henderson denied Richie Alagich in the 59th minute and a howler of an error from the custodian minutes later almost cost his side dearly.

Henderson's attempted clearance in the 68th minute travelled about five metres enabling Brazilian midfielder Fernando Rech to pounce but his shot from a difficult angle went well over the posts.

Spirit's much-maligned Adrian Cervinski again became his side's goalscoring saviour and their big hope to challenge for the playoffs with his fourth goal in seven games when he netted in the 74th minute.

Cervinski struck an early attempt, which was blocked by Kearton before clinically finishing off with his second opportunity to give the Sydneysiders a 2-1 lead.

But Cervinski's goal wasn't enough for Spirit as the elusive equaliser for the Strikers finally came in the 83rd minute when Rech broke free on the right and fired a shot that was parried by Henderson.

However, nippy substitute Michel Baird darted in to make amends for the missed chance with a header to make it 2-all.

Cervinski could have stolen the three points for Spirit four minutes from time when he fired a close range drive from four metres straight at Kearton.

Strikers' coach John Kosmina was content with the draw but was particularly happy with the brand of football displayed by the Strikers.

"We could possibly have won it in the end," Kosmina said.

"We played some really great football and there was a decent level of commitment from all the players.

"We were a hell of a lot better defensively.

"There first goal was scrappy and we got caught out on the break for their second but we had our chances of winning and so did Spirit."

The draw allowed the Strikers to maintain fourth place on the NSL ladder but are now being pursued by several sides with Top Six ambitions.



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Ferguson, Beckham back?

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson's flirtation with retirement was due to end this week, ending the long running saga over his future.

Ferguson was due to be reappointed manager by the champion club last Monday for the next three seasons.

Ferguson's decision to re-sign spurred the club the agony of finding a suitable replacement for one the world's greatest ever clubs.

The most successful manager in the history of British soccer announced last May he would end a near 16-year United career this season.

But a combination of United's failure to land a suitable successor and the team's sparkling form over the past two months has led to a change of heart from both Ferguson and club officials.

Ferguson's decision to stay on also is expected to have a beneficial effect on playmaker and England captain David Beckham, who has been holding out on signing a new contract amid concerns about who would succeed Ferguson.

Beckham said he was "over the moon" about his manager's decision to stay on.

Beckham, who regained his place in the United side at the weekend after a spell on the bench, spoke of his delight at Ferguson's sudden change of heart.

"We had been hearing little rumours but we didn't believe them," Beckham said.

"He came in before training one day and told us it was a big decision and he had decided to stay on. I am over the moon."

Beckham said the only thing stopping him signing a new contract of his own related to image rights.

His current deal runs out next summer but the player hopes to have the matter resolved soon.

The following is a chronicle of Ferguson's career.

Alex Ferguson:

1941 - Born in Govan, Glasgow
1957 - Started career as an amateur at Queens Park
1960 - Joined St Johnstone on a part-time contract
1964 - Joined Dunfermline full time
1967 - Moved to Rangers for 65,000 pounds
1969 - Moved to Falkirk for 20,000 pounds.
1974 - Became manager of East Stirling in September, but moved to St Mirren three months later
1978 - Sacked by St Mirren - appointed manager at Aberdeen
1980 - Aberdeen wins Scottish league title
1982 - Aberdeen wins Scottish Cup
1983 - Aberdeen beats Real Madrid 2-1 in European Cup Winners' Cup final in Gothenburg
1984 - Aberdeen wins League and Cup double. Ferguson awarded OBE
1985 - Appointed caretaker manager of Scotland following death of Jock Stein
1986 - Appointed manager of Manchester United
1990 - United wins FA Cup
1991 - United wins Cup Winners' Cup beating Barcelona 2-1 in Rotterdam
1992 - United wins European Super Cup, beating Red Star Belgrade
1993 - United wins league for first time in 26 years
1994 - United wins League and FA Cup double
1995 - United finishes runner-up to Blackburn in the league and Everton in the FA Cup
1996 - United wins League and Cup double again, first club to do so twice
1997 - United wins League, beaten by Borussia Dortmund in European Cup semi-final
1999 - Historic Treble, United wins Champions League, League and FA Cup; May - Ferguson signs new deal at United until 2002; June 11 - Knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours; November 30 - United wins Inter-Continental Cup, beating Palmeiras 1-0
2000: United wins League, finishes 18 points clear of second-placed Arsenal
2001: United wins third consecutive league title; May 18 - Announces that he is to leave the club at the end of the 2001-02 season.
2002: Feb 5 - Club announces it is negotiating a new contract with him to stay on as manager.
Honours: Player: Scottish Youth international; Manager: With Aberdeen: Scottish Championship 1979-80, 1983-84, 1984-85; Scottish Cup winner 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986; Scottish League Cup 1986; European Cup Winners' Cup 1983 With Manchester United: Premiership champions 1992-93, 1993-94, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001; FA Cup winner 1990, 1994, 1996, 1999; League Cup winner 1992; European Cup Winners' Cup winner 1991; European Super Cup winner 1991; Champions League 1999, Inter-Continental Cup winner 1999.

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STRIKERS SHOPPER

Sister clubs hope to unite

Newcastle United hope to know by the end of the month whether a sister-club partnership with their English Premier League namesake will eventuate.

The chairman of the Premier League giants, Freddy Shepherd, will return to Australia on February 28, possibly to sign off on a deal with United.

Shepherd met Newcastle United owner Con Constantine and general manager Jock Graham last month during a world tour to boost the club's profile.

Constantine ruled out selling the fledgling NSL club but there have been continuing discussions regarding a partnership.

Northern NSW would become a talent nursery for the English giants under the deal.

Meanwhile former Carlton coach Stuart Munro will see out the season as an assistant coach at Parramatta Power after failing in his bid for the club's top job next season.

Munro was a candidate for the job of senior coach at the Power, a position that will be filled by Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Theodorakopoulos will take over on July 1 from current coach David Mitchell and assistants Munro and Laurie McKinna.

Munro moved from Melbourne to Sydney to take up the post pre-season after finding himself out of work when Carlton collapsed.

As Parramatta announced Theodorakopoulos as coach, the club, which is funded by Parramatta Leagues Club, hinted its future in the league was uncertain if the competition remained in its current financial plight.

Parramatta Leagues Club chief executive Denis Fitzgerald said: "If things aren't looking any rosier than what they are currently, we'd have to seriously look at whether we continue our involvement at a national soccer league level."

Theodorakopoulos will be given a much leaner budget after Parramatta Power directors conceded the club spent too much money in its

first three seasons.

Parramatta, which was able to sign almost any player it wanted because its contract offers trumped rival bids, has yet to make the finals.

"We have obtained the best available coach for us, we're obviously looking at the very minimum to be in the finals series in the next two years," Fitzgerald said.

Theodorakopoulos took the Wollongong Wolves to their first NSL championship two seasons ago, but left the club after falling out with officials over a new contract.

Theodorakopoulos took on a coaching job in the Greek second division, but returned to Australia after being shown the door by Kallithea after just three months in charge.

"We won't be going into the marketplace and bringing in 15 new players," he told journalists after his appointment.

"There's a base already in place and the junior development program has been fairly successful from what I can see. If we can pick up some quality senior players we'll be fairly competitive in the next season."

Theodorakopoulos' appointment was a major shock with Socceroo assistant coach Graham Arnold the hot favourite to take over from Mitchell.

The southern media got it wrong believing believed Arnold had the inside running on Theodorakopoulos and fellow contenders AIS head coach Steve O'Connor and Munro.

The Power finished a disappointing 11th in their debut season and ninth in 2000/01.



Hot Shots
ONE HOUR COLOUR PHOTOS

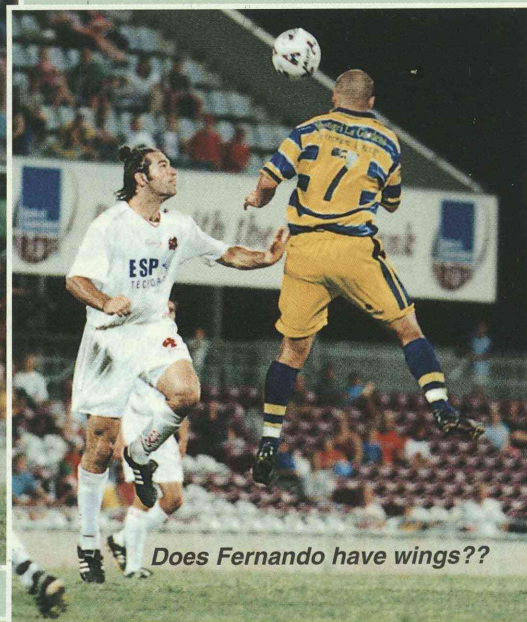
Strikers Album



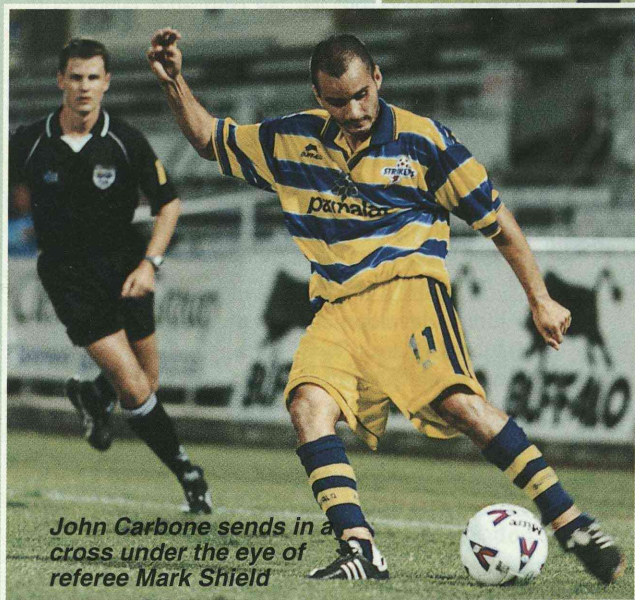
Kris Trajanovski under pressure



Michael Baird made his presence felt



Does Fernando have wings??



John Carbone sends in a cross under the eye of referee Mark Shield



Jon McKain weighs up his options



Wayne Heath acquitted himself well



Our Shane Stefanutto gave his usual all

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Canberra investor pulls out

The beat from the tom toms out of Canberra say the former national league club has suffered another setback in its bid for re-inclusion next season.

After the collapse of Canberra last year, it emerged last week that another Sydney-based businessman was on the verge of launching a bid to secure a controlling interest in a new Canberra franchise.

It was believed to be the most credible attempt yet to resurrect Canberra.

An Australian sports management company had been negotiating since December with the potential buyer's representatives, with a view to setting up the infrastructure for a properly capitalised soccer club to flourish in Canberra.

However, according to the Canberra Times newspaper, discussions were abandoned last week when, at the 11th hour, the investor announced that he was not prepared to proceed.

The company's managing director, who spoke to The Canberra Times on the condition of anonymity, said negotiations had come 'frighteningly close' to a fruitful conclusion.

The investor had been willing to spend between \$1.2m and \$1.5m on a majority stake holding in the new club but had withdrawn from discussions after doubts were raised as to the ongoing viability of the NSL.

It was not the first time since the Cosmos'

collapse that an investor has flirted with the possibilities of bankrolling a new club from Canberra.

A consortium of local businessmen, backed by a French organisation, had been planning the creation of a Canberra club as long ago as September, even before the final nail had been driven into the Cosmos' coffin.

Last month Soccer Canberra called publicly for expressions of interest by potential investors, both within Australia and overseas but none has been received.

According to The Canberra Times' source, recent negotiations came desperately close to securing a deal.

Proposal documents were exchanged and further meetings were held but at the last minute the Sydney businessman decided against investing in an NSL franchise.

The management company had identified several members of Canberra's soccer community who were willing to buy a minor stake in a new franchise and a potential major sponsor already had been approached.

The proposal contained details relating to the purchase of a licensed club and to the broadcasting of matches on Prime Television.

Furthermore, it provided for the donation to local junior clubs of \$2 per registered player as a development grant, the Times said.

Conditions of Entry

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 igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited. Offenders will be arrested and charged.
7. Smoking in the Grandstand is prohibited
6. Have a nice evening.

From the BSSA...

North Sydney Oval is a romantic venue for football or cricket.

However, the 'total package' of a match at North Sydney Oval is not to be compared with the match day experience of a Strikers home game at Ballymore.

There was not a match day program. None at all - even worse than the folded piece of A3 glossy paper which serves the purpose of listing team names and advertising at Parramatta Stadium.

The Spirit mascot - their weak attempt to emulate our Thor - cantered onto the ground before the teams, waved and disappeared.

There was no entertainment before the game or at half time, save for some kids pushing around large globes.

The Spirit team never acknowledged the crowd and did not come to the fence to greet the faithful after the game.

And you could not blame them really, as the crowd's favourite chant was "We've got the worst team in the World" although they were never behind during the game.

So value what you get at Ballymore. From my experience at Parramatta and North Sydney this season we get better value for money here than they do in either of those venues, especially when you take into account the entertaining football the Strikers play.

The BSSA, more than anyone else, wants to see money spent on promoting the Strikers.

Our great entertaining team has attracted crowds of two and a half to three and a half thousand. Without promotion the crowds will not increase.

However, (and there are two 'however's' to end this piece) we do not have a bad or below par administration at the Brisbane Strikers. We have a group of dedicated football lovers working for the good of the team.

Indeed, at their own expense in terms of time, money and even health, our board and management have done all they can to further the team.

However, all is not dependent on money. The BSSA is working with the

marketing people at the club to promote the team's home matches in other ways.

For example, we plan to have a Brazilian Theme at one match, in which there will be a ball skills competition between representatives of clubs from around South East Queensland and Northern NSW, a Samba troop (we hope) to entertain us all, and a party atmosphere to which you will be able to contribute in your dress and through a party mood.

Seems very appropriate considering the style of football the Strikers play. Another example is the "Thank You Queensland" day, in which we will take the opportunity to thank the Government and people of Queensland for supporting the Strikers' attempts to get back into the NSL last June.

And on that day, don't forget to thank the Board and management of the club for their efforts in the fight!! We hope to use these themes in the local media to promote the matches.

If you hear people saying that the Strikers could not organise their way out of a wet paper bag, you can tell them that we do in fact have an administration that provides a most entertaining skilled side and one of the best match day experiences you will get in the NSL.

All this is achieved on a restricted budget, and all, of course, with the help of the BSSA!

John Wainwright President BSSA

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| 4 Brady Davidson | 12 Shane Robinson |
| 5 Shayne Findlay | 13 Chris Scuderi |
| 6 Ben Griffin | 14 Tim Smits |
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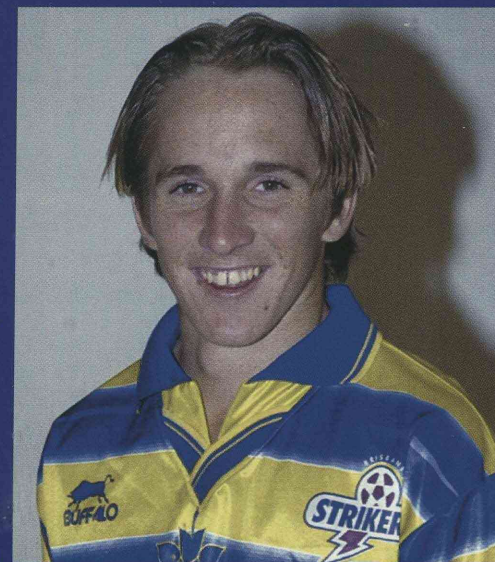


Michael Baird

Date Of Birth: 01/08/83
 Birthplace: Brisbane
 Age: 18
 Ethnic Origin: Australian
 Position: Striker
 Nickname: Bairdy
 Marital Status: Single
 Occupation: Professional footballer
 Left/Right footed: Right
 Eye Colour: Brown
 Hair Colour: Blonde
 Height: 178cm
 Weight: 72kg

Do you wear glasses/contact lenses: No
 What brand of boots: Adidas

Medals/Trophies won:
 Past Clubs:
 What age first played:
 Junior Clubs:
 Major injuries:
 Career Highlight:
 Biggest achievement to date:
 Ambition:
 Favourite Actor:
 Favourite Movies:
 Favourite comedian:
 Favourite band/singer:
 Favourite food:
 Most watched sports program:
 Favourite overseas player:
 Favourite overseas team:
 Most admired overseas-based Austrn:
 Most admired home based Austrn:
 Most admired midfielder:
 Most admired striker:
 Most admired goalkeeper:
 Hardest opponent:
 Major influences:
 What do you eat before a game:
 Soccer superstitions:
 Funniest teammate:
 What is your worst habit:



Qld team 2000
 Brisbane Lions
 6yrs (Dad encouraged me)
 Newmarket, The Gap, Pine Hills
 Ligaments in left ankle
 Qld selection last year
 Making NSL team
 To play overseas
 Adam Sandler
 Armageddon, Billy Maddison
 Adam Sandler
 Snopp Dog
 Roast
 On The Ball
 Luis Figo
 Leeds United
 Harry Kewell
 Sasa Radulovic
 Luis Figo
 Harry Kewell
 David James (Aston Villa)
 Darren Sime
 Alan Marley
 Pasta
 Nil
 Warren Allen (when with B'Lions)
 Tidyness



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Souths sample hot Chile

South Melbourne midfielder Con Boutsianis was again making news this month but this time it was not all his fault.

A friendly soccer match between national league club South Melbourne and visiting Chilean side Colo Colo turned sour recently with an on-field melee leading to South's players walking off the field.

South coach Eddie Krncevic marched his players off Bob Jane Stadium late in the first half after the Colo Colo team became involved in an altercation with Boutsianis.

Amid angry scenes on the touchline, there were allegations of Colo Colo substitutes spitting at Boutsianis and other South players.

As referee Perry Mur tried to control that situation, Boutsianis then pushed a Colo Colo defender.

That sparked a pushing and shoving match involving most players from both sides including substitutes, which led to Krncevic's decision to pull his side off the field for what South officials called "an early halftime break".

The match had been a physical and spiteful affair to that point, with several of the Chilean players involved in off-the-ball incidents, cynical fouls and diving.

One particularly nasty elbow on South skipper Paul Trimboli left him with a cut lip.

The match resumed - without Boutsianis

who was substituted - after a half-hour break, which allowed tempers to cool sufficiently for the game to continue without further incident.

The break also ensured the aggression was confined to the pitch, with no crowd problems among the 4500 spectators - including a noisy Chilean contingent - despite what could have easily become a hostile atmosphere.

Krncevic did not attend the post-match press conference with assistant coach Jeff Olver saying the decision to walk off had been correct.

"At the end of the day, there were lots of allegations on both sides," Olver said.

"We felt the atmosphere was getting to boiling point. The break took the sting out of things. That proved to be a good thing."

Colo Colo coach Juan Gutierrez said he and the referee had spoken to his players and asked them to lower their intensity, which at times approached that of a World Cup final.

"We wanted to provide a spectacle for those that came. I said that any players who showed aspects of unfair play would be pulled off."

Once Colo Colo started playing football in the second half, they showed some sublime touches in a match, which finished 1-1 - both goals coming in the first half.

Trimboli netted inside the first two minutes, before Gonzalo Fierro equalised for Colo Colo after 15 minutes.

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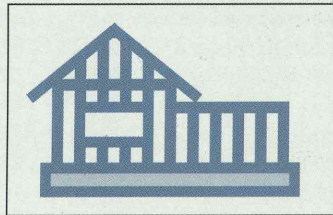
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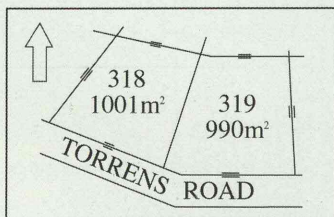
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PARMALAT BRISBANE STRIKERS NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE DRAW 2001 - 2002

Round	Date	Opposition	Time/Venue
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

Pele's shirt up for auction

The number 10 shirt worn by Pele during Brazil's famous victory over Italy in the 1970 World Cup final will go under the hammer in London next month.

Pele's piece of footballing memorabilia was expected to fetch up to \$A140,000.

But former Brazil soccer coach Mario Zagallo, who coached the 1970 Brazilian team, claimed he had the jersey Pele wore during the first half of the final and team fitness trainer Admildo Chirol had the jersey the star wore during the second half.

Pele's performance in the epic 4-1 victory over Italy, in front of more than 100,000 spectators, was arguably one of his finest performances on the World Cup stage.

"At halftime, Pele gave me his shirt. After, Chirol got the other," Zagallo told the Brazilian media this week.

A Brazilian newspaper also quoted Chirol's

son as saying he had inherited the jersey from his father.

In London, a spokesman for Christies said the auction house was confident it was in possession of Pele's famous number 10 shirt.

Christie's said the jersey belonged to Italian international Roberto Rosato, who said he traded jerseys with Pele after Brazil's victory at the Azteca stadium.

The spokesman for Christie's said the auction house was aware of the Brazilian press reports but was satisfied with the authenticity of the shirt and would push ahead with the sale on March 27.

Also up for auction is a 1966 World Cup winner's medal presented to England defender Ray Wilson after England's 4-2 win against West Germany at Wembley in London.

Christie's expects the medal to fetch up to \$A250,000.



2001/2002 NSL

Round 19 - 16/2/02

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

PARRAMATTA POWER

- 1 Les Pogliacomi
 - 2 David Barrett
 - 3 Matthew Langdon
 - 4 Nick Orlic
 - 5 Alex Tobin (c)
 - 7 Wayne O'Sullivan
 - 8 Matt Thompson
 - 10 Lubo Lapsansky
 - 11 Damian Brown
 - 15 Bradley Groves
 - 16 Brett Holman
 - 17 Steven Fitzsimmons
 - 19 John Buonavoglia
 - 20 Liam Reddy (GK)
 - 21 Ahmad Elrich
 - 24 Steve Eagleton
 - 26 Luke Roodenburg
 - 28 Peter Bennett
 - 29 Mark Byrnes
 - 30 Andrew Carman (GK)
- Coach - David Mitchell



parmalat

EYE ON STRIKERS Tables

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	17	13	3	1	38	15	42
Newcastle United	17	8	7	2	23	15	31
Olympic Sharks	16	8	2	6	22	13	26
STRIKERS	16	7	5	4	27	23	26
Parramatta Power	17	7	4	6	19	17	25
Northern Spirit	17	6	5	6	23	27	23
Melbourne Knights	17	7	1	9	27	29	22
Marconi Stallions	16	5	5	6	18	20	20
Wollongong Wolves	17	4	6	7	16	25	18
South Melbourne	16	4	5	7	14	18	17
Sydney United	17	4	4	9	18	28	16
Adelaide City Force	16	3	6	7	21	23	15
Kingz FC	17	3	5	9	22	35	14

OTHER ROUND 19 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCHES

Fri 15 Feb	Kingz FC v Sydney United
Sat 16 Feb	W'gong Wolves v Adelaide City Force
Sat 16 Feb	Olympic Sharks v Newcastle United
Sat 16 Feb	Marconi Stallions v Melbourne Knights
Sun 17 Feb	South Melbourne v Northern Spirit
	Bye - Perth Glory

ROUND 20 NATIONAL LEAGUE MATCHES

Fri 22 Feb	Northern Spirit v Marconi Stallions
Fri 22 Feb	Newcastle United v STRIKERS
Fri 22 Feb	Adelaide City Force v Olympic Sharks
Sat 23 Feb	Melbourne Knights v Perth Glory
Sat 23 Feb	Parramatta Power v South Melbourne
Sun 24 Feb	Sydney United v Wollongong Wolves
	Bye - Kingz FC

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Nth Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	18	14	0	4	59	19	42
Wollongong Wolves Youth	18	12	2	4	46	25	38
Newcastle United Youth	19	12	2	5	39	25	38
Marconi Stallions Youth	18	11	2	5	41	16	35
Sydney United Youth	18	11	2	5	40	16	35
AIS	17	10	1	6	40	25	31
QAS	17	9	3	5	34	23	30
Olympic Sharks Youth	19	6	6	7	31	26	24
ACTAS	15	7	3	5	30	32	24
Northern Spirit Youth	17	5	5	7	31	34	20
Brisbane Toro	18	5	0	13	28	58	15
NSWIS	20	4	2	14	20	58	14
Marconi Stallions Colts	18	2	1	15	12	47	7
Sydney United Colts	18	1	3	14	12	59	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Damian Mori	Perth Glory	13
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	10
Paul Foster	Brisbane Strikers	9
Ante Milicic	Sydney United	9
Joel Porter	Melbourne Knights	9
Fernando Rech	Brisbane Strikers	8
Toto Da Costa	Melbourne Knights	8

Nth. youth LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

Jacob Timpano	NSW Inst Sport	15
Eric Anabalon	Marconi Stallions Youth	14
Anthony Danze	Aust Inst Sport	13
Adam Kwasnik	Parramatta Power Yth.	12
Brendan Santalab	Aust Inst Sport	10

Spiderman's net gun for World Cup

A new weapon - the net gun - is the latest piece of super technology to be used by Japanese police to restrain any hooligans misbehaving at the World Cup soccer.

"Anyone going wild will be trapped under a net and they won't be able to move," a Sapporo police spokesman said.

Sapporo is on the northern island of Hokkaido and will host three first round matches during.

On June 1 Germany play Saudi Arabia in a Group E match; Italy are up against Ecuador in a Group G match on June 3 and England meet

Argentina in one of the most eagerly-awaited matches in Group F on June 7.

Japanese police say the net gun - familiar arsenal in comic books - fires a restraining net without using gunpowder and can ensnare several people at once.

British security officers have advised Japanese organising officials that England's matches at the finals should be more heavily policed than others.

Squads of highly-trained, heavily-armed anti-hooligan police and security forces in Japan have been in training camps for months to deal with them at the World Cup finals.



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