v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

TA FA

Round 19 / Vol 11-9, Saturday 25th Jan, 2003 \$2.00





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Goals Feather in Kosmina's Cap Page 15



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Coach: John Kosmina Team Manager: Graham Kinsela Doctor: Neville Blomeley Physiotherapist: Steve Whitlock

Junior Development Officer: Shane Stefanutto Junior Development Co-ordinator: Jacqui Wright

> Matchday Media Liason: Robert Blanch Media Contact: Ray Evans

Printed by ABC PRINTING Milton, Qld. Tel: 07 33699133

> COVER: Thou shall not pass.



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The Courier-Mail







SYDP 12RXS The Parramatta Power game at Ballymore has now been shifted from the 8th February to the 9th February 7pm

PLEASE NOTE

Our away game vs South Melbourne has been bought forward to Wednesday 12 February 7.30pm



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We've certainly got an interesting few weeks coming up. Interesting in that we are just outside the six and that we play three of the current top six teams – Parramatta, South Melbourne and Newcastle United. Fortunately Parramatta and Newcastle are at home and our trip to Melbourne has been rescheduled to Feb 12 because of the Grand Prix. Obviously we need results against all three and by results I mean wins although I'll take a point against South Melbourne. It is always a difficult trip no matter what sort of form the home side might be in.

The crowd down there is always intimidating and if you look at their home record over the years it's easy to see why they have been one of the more successful sides in the NSL. However, we shouldn't be thinking about those games until we have to. First and foremost we need to get back on track tonight against the Knights and make up some ground we lost in Adelaide last week and that won't be easy.

The Knights are a talented side and despite their up and down form they are always a threat. Nevertheless, in spite of last weeks result we are playing well and the general consensus from some of my learned friends in Adelaide was that we were hard done by not getting at least a point.

Another interesting fixture coming up in the next few weeks is the Australia vs England match at Upton Park. It's a pity Wembley is out of action. I reckon they would have sold that out to. The Poms haven't had much joy beating the Aussies at anything in recent years and they must fancy their chances in soccer.

Despite the fact I'd be backing the Aussies no matter what the odds I genuinely believe we can win the match. Practically half the Aussies are playing in the Premier League anyway and are amongst the better PL players. Throw in the other guys playing elsewhere in Europe and you've got a damn good side. One player I'll be happy to see playing is Lucas Niell. I tried to sign him from the AIS when I was coaching in the NSW state league but the kid was ambitious and went overseas. It's taken him a while but he's stuck out a pretty tough time and is finally reaping some rewards. Whoever is lucky enough to get a game in this historic fixture the green and gold is irrelevant. It's just going to be a great match and I can't wait to see it.

I welcome Felix Tagawa to the Strikers. Felix played for Tahiti in last years Confederations Cup qualifiers and is a finalist in the Oceania player of the year award as a result of those performances. He's raw but has a bit about him and you'll see him in action soon.

Enjoy the game Kossie

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Like all good things, I suppose it had to come to an end sometime. But having gone seven games without tasting defeat, Last Friday's result was indeed a bitter pill to swallow. That feeling of disappointment was compounded by the fact that we had suffered the defeat at the hands of a team who, prior to the game, level on points with ourselves.

Now just a quick glance at the league table will tell you that in our current predicament, we cannot afford to drop many points, particularly against any one of the half dozen or so teams that are competing for the last couple of places in the top six.

Obviously we can't change what has happened so we must look forward to the tough challenges that lie ahead. Of our seven remaining fixtures of the season, probably five of them are against the aforementioned contenders for finals places and in the other two we face teams who are almost guaranteed of playing on beyond round 26.

So as you can see the degree of difficulty is quite high but we all firmly believe that if we can continue to reach the standards we set during our recent run of good results then we can complete the task.

The Melbourne Knights are the first obstacle we must overcome to continue on our quest. And with some very talented players in their squad matched with a fighting spirit that will surely have been drilled into them by their coach it is easy to see why we will need to be at our very best in order to get the desired result from this encounter. Hopefully we can all enjoy it as much as our last match at Ballymore against the Olympic Sharks.

This week, as I'm sure some of you already know and as Shane has no doubt written about in his contribution to the program, the school holiday coaching clinic was conducted during the week. I would just like to finish tonight by thanking all the parents and children for their participation and I hope you all had a very enjoyable couple of days.

Thanks for your support **Stuart McLaren**





Victory over Olympic

Gentlemén all, Tonight was a beautiful thing. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Lee-Anne Ford

We agree, we agree, we agree.

Hi John

Congratulations on your teams magnificient win against Olympic Sharks.

From the start of the game the team looked good as they continued to take it to the opposition. Scoring chances in the first half did not produce results, but the team continued their effort and did not let up. There is an old phrase around "hard work produces results", and it was most cetainly the case at this game.

If the application continues, you will make your own luck for the rest of the season, see you at the next home game.

Regards Steve Bognar

I agree, patience and persistence do pay off.

The Secret Soccer Season

The coach and team are to be congratulated on another great game in this amazing improvement sine the beginning of the season. One suggestion: Matt McKay is a great player all over the park, except in front of goal. At the moment, he doesn't have a left or right foot in front of goal. The are both there! He just has to realise that they are. He is sadly lacking in confidence in front of goal. He has to be told by the coach that missing is not a problem to smash it!!! left or right foot! Trying too hard not to miss can only result in very tame shots.

Fix this confidence problem and he would be a world beater.

Advice taken. I'm sure Matt gained some of that much needed confidence netting the late equalizer against Wollongong recently.

Get the proofreading 100% please Please get something done about the proofreading in Eye on Strikers. This sort of thing is like a rash of pimples on a pretty face. Incidentally, thanks for publishing my letter about the problems with catching buses caused by the unpunctuality of kick-offs, though it doesn't seem to have touched the flinty hearts of those who run things at Ballymore.

Terry Driscoll

My backchat page is here for all supporters, no matter what <u>their</u> view, but I do appreciate the thanks. The Club has recently provided a free bus service to the City at the conclusion of home games and this will be available for the remainder of the season. (Maybe there's hope for those stonehearted soles yet!) As for the proofreading issue, for this Program to be up to date, accurate and at least half interesting, we have to work to a very tight deadline, which sometimes leads to typo's. This is not an excuse, but merely a fact in the publication of most sports periodicals.

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From the BSSA

"Strikers' fans, let us rejoice, for we are young & free".

Ok, it may be an unorthodox version of our National Anthem, but as this is the Australia Day Weekend, I figured it to be a logical step to unveil the patriotic feeling that is felt nationwide at this time of year.

And when one mentions Australia, one shouldn't forget the many Socceroo representative who've come from (and come to) the Strikers. Of course, there's Coach Kosmina, one of the finest Socceroos ever. In recent history, Kris Trajanovski & Steven Laybutt have had the tremendous honour to represent their country. And not far behind them are the Socceroos of the future, our young players who've already played at national level. Recently, Matt McKay and Wayne Heath helped Australia to qualify for the U20 World Championships.

On the opposite side of the park tonight are the Melbourne Knights, a team who've produced many fine Australian reps of their own, including two of the toughest of today's team Mark Viduka & Danny Tiatto. Even though the Knights are a traditional club for the Croatian community of Melbourne, they're always contributing to the game here in Australia.

Last week, the team finally lost, and no doubt, it'll be a good tonic for them, especially as they've now tasted winning and winless streaks this season, they'll know what they have to do to be on the right side of the coin when the Finals Series approaches in March.

The BSSA website continues to power along, with many new visitors every day. That website is www.go.to/bssa. Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday February 20, with a 7pm start time at Crosbys @ Albion.

And with the England vs Australia game just a few weeks away, we look forward to a Live Screening Breakfast Party to be held to celebrate this historic tie. Details to be announced shortly.

Adam Coleman

"Brisbane Strikers - Keeping The Faith in 2002-2003"

JOIN THE BSSA AND STAND UP FOR THE STRIKERS

Fill in the following information and send it (with your \$10) to The Treasurer (BSSA) PO Box 209, Petrie 4502. Or send an email to wilsong@uq.net.au requesting an application form.

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Brisbane poised to Strike

As the dust settles on the ringing in of the New Year, the clubs prospects have gone from staving off the wooden spoon, to being serious finals contenders. The first home game of the New Year saw the visit of League leaders, Sydney Olympic. The Sharks have topped the ladder for most of the season and along with Perth have already opened a handy break over the rest of the teams. After a shock defeat to Parramatta a week earlier, the Sydneysiders lead was cut to a single point. To stay on top they had to overcome an inform Strikers. For the home side it was a chance to continue their mid season climb up the standings and send a clear message to the rest of the league that they had shaken off the pretenders tag and are now serious finals contenders, and confirmed this by way of a much deserved 3 nil victory, over a classy opposition full of former Brisbane favourites. Tonight's visit of the Knights is the perfect way to regain the sides recent good form against an out of sorts Melbourne outfit. This after Adelaide did the double over the team, bringing it's seven game unbeaten run to an end, with a 1 nil result at Hindmarsh Stadium last Friday night. Which leaves the Strikers in equal seventh position at the conclusion of round 18.

As for me, the New Year has already served up a new and exciting challenge. As of the last home game I will be undertaking the role of Matchday Media Liaison, (Check it out, I made the credits on the inside cover) as well as the other match day activities I perform. It must be a fairly important role because let me tell you there's more do's, don'ts and deadlines than a work place health and safety manual. But having said that, if all challenges were this enjoyable life would be a breeze. I'll let you know what I do, when I work it out myself.

Being the school holidays we're a little short handed on game days while people are off

spending time with loved one's. So it was all hands to the pump last outing with the biggest attendance of the season. I was frantically reading my new job description, when my presence was requested at the Main gate. (Oh great, another trip down the grandstand.) I high tailed it to the other side and immediately manned a turnstile. As the queue for tickets began to out grow those coming through the gate, you guessed it, I moved inside and manned a ticket window. After we saw off the rush. I returned to the turnstiles to let the stragglers through, then close up. No matter how many times I do this kind of thing, I always get a huge buzz from dealing with our soccer public.

I'm sure all those who ventured out to Spencer Park last Tuesday night would have been more than happy they made the trip. The match between the Strikers, featuring a few new faces, took on the Konkuk University of Korea touring students. In an entertaining match played in front of a decent mid week crowd, the Strikers ran out 2-1 victors. It was also a chance for me to run an impromptu raffle. With my young band of helpers in tow we set about raffling off a much sought after signed Strikers jersey and it wasn't long before it became apparent just how popular a prize this was. I had to send for more tickets twice, and the gentleman that won it seemed to be pretty happy with the night's proceedings.

I'd like to send a belated "Happy Birthday" on behalf of everybody involved with the Brisbane Strikers Football Club, to Mr Ray Evans, General Manager and long time servant of the Club. Who, I believe is still being haunted by some of those well wishing emails.

Well I've probably babbled on too much, so it's time to sit back, add to the vocal support and enjoy the action.

Blanchy





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Goals Feather in Kosmina's Cap

When canny goal poacher Paul Foster retired before the NSL season began, Brisbane Strikers supporters wondered how the club was going to replace the player who had been the club's most consistent scorer for three seasons.

At most football clubs the tendency is to look for someone of equal experience or "stature" to replace such a player. But Strikers coach John Kosmina did no more than sign a local boy (Anthony Roche) who was untested at NSL level, rather than a "name" player. Meanwhile, he said he could solve the goal scoring dilemma by working his existing players around a new system. The general reaction of supporters was one of "yeah, sure".

But the cynics could do themselves a favour by having a look at the facts right now. After seventeen games the Brisbane Strikers have scored 28 goals, making them the third highest scoring team in the NSL.

That is certainly a feather in Kosmina's cap, but his approach is given more credibility when you look at who has scored those goals. Unlike many teams, the Brisbane Strikers are not reliant on one or two sharpshooters to do the bulk of their scoring. Fernando Rech is, as usual, prominent among the scorers - being equal top scorer with seven. He is matched by Roche, who is proving to be a revelation, but these players are some way behind the NSL's top scorers (Newcastle United's Joel Griffiths, with thirteen goals, and Perth Glory's perennial pacesetter Damian Mori, with twelve). Griffiths and Mori have scored 52% and 34% respectively of their teams' total number of goals.

In comparison, Fernando and Roche have contributed only 25 % each of their team's total. It seems the Brisbane Strikers' goal scoring options are broader than those of most teams. Apart from Fernando and Roche, goals have been scored by Peter Grierson (five), Kris Trajanovski and David Pilic (two each), and Stuart McLaren, Steve Laybutt, Matthew McKay, Lawrence Drake and Joshua Rose (one each). This represents a total of ten individual goal scorers operating from every outfield zone of the Strikers line-up attack, midfield and defence.

Furthermore, of the regular starters who have not yet made the scoresheet this season, Richie Alagich, John Carbone, Jon McKain and Shane Stefanutto have all proved capable of doing so in the past, and most supporters who have seen them play this season would probably agree that they remain a threat.

Of course, the beauty of having so many individuals who can find the target is that it makes it difficult for opposition coaches to target any particular player or players in order to shut the Strikers down. While it might, for instance, be possible to shackle Fernando by having him shadowed, this won't prevent Grierson ghosting in at the far post or McLaren, buzzing about in front of the back four, from lining one up from the edge of the penalty area.

Opposition coaches must get the feeling that if the likes of Mori and Griffiths can be neutralized, then they are half way towards getting a result against Perth Glory or Newcastle United. But if John Kosmina has a trump card up his sleeve at the moment it is that, when trying to shut down the Brisbane Strikers, opposition coaches can find no simple solutions.

Steve Pitman



Makay, Left or Right

16



A Picture of Concentration

U. (

Roche heads up





Excuse my dust





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Brisbane Strikers Anthony Biron 0418182594







Threes a crowd



Roche in action prior to goal

Pilic about to cross

Race for Finals Postion

As the race for a top six position reaches its climax here is the remaining games for the clubs we believe will be involved in the battle for positions 3-6.

Places 1 and 2 will be taken up by Perth Glory and Olympic Sharks. All top 6 teams will play in a round robin series of home and away games with the top two sides then playing in the Grand Final on June 1 2003.

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Olympic Sharks a, Adelaide City Force h, Melbourne Knights a Marconi Stallions a Parramatta Power a, Strikers h, Football Kingz a

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Olympic Sharks h, Adelaide City Force a, Melbourne Knights h, Marconi Stallions a, Parramatta Power h ,Brisbane Strikers a, Football Kingz h, Bye

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

Football Kingz a, Newcastle Utd h, South Melbourne a, Sydney United h, Northern Spirit a, Perth Glory h, Wollongong Wolves h, Olympic Sharks a

PARRAMATTA POWER

Marconi Stallions h, Bye, Brisbane Strikers a, Football Kingz h, Newcastle Utd a, South Melbourne h, Sydney Utd a, Northern Spirit h

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

South Melbourne a, Sydney United h, Northern Spirit a, Perth Glory h, Bye, Olympic Sharks h, Adelaide City Force a, Melbourne Knights h

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Melbourne Knights h, Marconi Stallions a, Parramatta Power h, South Melbourne a, Bye, Football Kingz a, Newcastle Utd h, Sydney United h

OAS PLAYERS

	Mario Aparicio Chris Burley Dave Richardson Cole Stojakovic Tim De Silva Shane Robinson Chris Hagell	G/K Mid Field Def/Wing Back Mid Field/Str Mid Field/Str Def/Wing back Def	12 Danie 13 Willie 14 Ben G	Grossman el Leach Tumusiime Griffin s Lindeman Acaster	Striker Mid Field Def/Mid Field Def Def Mid Field Mid Field
8 9	Shawn O'Neill Brady Davidson	Def Mid Field		Patterson	G/K

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS - ROUND 18

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2003 Northern Spirit Youth Sydney United Youth Match postponed due to extreme heat

Olympic Sharks Youth 2 (Camilleri 41' 76') Canberra Deakin 3 (Spaleta 15' 32' 70')

AIS 6 (Casey 16', Celeski 19', Bosnar 62', Nedeljkovic 73' 81', Deegan 90'+) Parramatta Power Youth 3 (Ripepi 2', Bridge 8', Martino 82')

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2003 Wollongong Wolves Youth 1 (Bartlett 38') Newcastle United Youth 2 (Wallace 68', Mensah 74') Marconi Mustangs ACTAS

Match postponed due to Canberra bushfire crisis

BYE - Marconi Stallions Youth BYE - QAS

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER - ROUND 18

TEAM	Р	W	D	В	LF	Α	Pts	
	17	8	5	2	4	44	26	29
Canberra Deakin AIS	12	8	3	4	1	25	10	27
Parramatta Power Youth	15	8	3	3	4	38	25	27
Newcastle United Youth	16	7	5	2	4	28	21	26
Wollongong Wolves Youth	15	6	5	2	4	35	23	23
Northern Spirit Youth	14	6	4	2	4	14	10	22
Sydney United Youth	13	5	3	3	5	29	20	18
Olympic Sharks Youth	15	4	6	2	5	17	17	18
ACTAS	13	5	2	3	6	20	24	17
QAS	15	4	3	3	8	18	37	15
Marconi Stallions Youth	14	3	4	4	7	15	34	13
Marconi Mustangs	15	0	3	2	12	6	42	3

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION FIXTURES - ROUND 19

POSTPONED MATCH FROM RD 11 - To be played on Wed 22 Jan 2003 AIS Vs Northern Spirit Youth Time: 7.00 pm Venue: AIS Soccer Field

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2003

ACTAS Vs Wollongong Wolves Youth Time: 5.00 pm Venue: Hawker Oval

Newcastle United Youth Vs Olympic Sharks Youth Time: 5.15 pm Venue: Energy Australia Stadium SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2003

QAS Vs AIS Time: 4.35 pm Venue: Ballymore Stadium

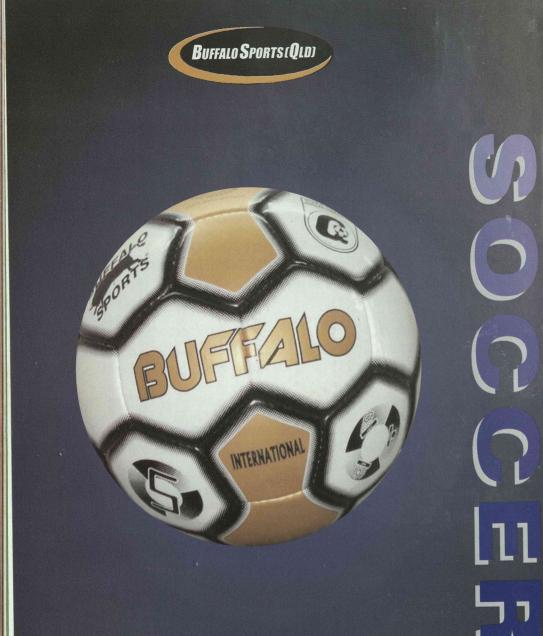
SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2003

Sydney United Youth Vs Marconi Mustangs Time: 4.00 pm Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre Parramatta Power Youth Vs Marconi Stallions Youth Time: 4.10 pm Venue: Parramatta Stadium

BYE - Canberra Deakin BYE - Northern Spirit Youth

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION LEADING GOALSCORERS ROUND 18

SURNAMEFIRST NAMECLUBGOALSSpaletaMichaelCanberra Deakin16PideskiCarlCanberra Deakin9GavaghanPeterParramatta Power Youth8BridgeMarkParramatta Power Youth7De SilvaTimothyQAS7GlavasLukaSydney United Youth7SmitsTimQAS7	Spaleta Mic Pideski Ca Gavaghan Pe Bridge Ma De Silva Tin Glavas Lui	eakin 16 eakin 9 Power Youth 8 Power Youth 7 7 ted Youth 7	DALS
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Kris Trajanovski

19/2/72 Date Of Birth: Soccer Player Occupation: Golf, TV Hobbies Interests: Striker **Current Playing Position:** Came to Club: 2001 Marconi Stallions revious Club: Traja lickname: Aquarius Star Sign: Macedonian thnic Origin: Brown lair Colour: Hazelnut ye Colour: 178cm leight: 78kqs Veight:)o you have a personal sponsor? No Stir-Fry, Curries avourite Food: avourite TV Show: avourite Book: Favourite Actress: **Distinguishing Features:**

Worst Habits:

Most Prized Possession: If you could be any person in History who would it be?

List 3 people you would invite to Dinner: Wife, Dad, Nick Meredith Most Annoying Television Show: Most Annoying Television Personality: Worst Ever Song: Most Ridiculous Sport: **Ultimate Sports Fantasy:** If you could have any Superpower what would it be: Favourite Quote: Favourite Day of the Year: What's in your Fridge: What's under your bed: What's in your Soccer Bag: If you had \$10 left in the World what would you spend it on?



Friends Alexander the Great Angelina Jolie Undoubtedly my handsome chiseled features Lazy, Fiddling with Russian Wedding Ring Socceroos Jersey

Alexander The Great

Opray **Bert Newton** Achy Breaky Heart Equestrian To win the World Cup

To Fly To Be, or Not To Be Birthday - Get plenty of Presents Food Demons **Boots**

Pokies

The Spirit of Australia.

For the Record

- Last weekends game in Adelaide was the City's 750th National League Game. It also saw Zoran Matic coach 450 games most with the South Australia team, an all time record in the NSL.
- V Melbourne Knights record in Brisbane is played 11, won 3, lost 6 with 2 draws.
- Joel Porter scored 3 goals in the Knights 5-3 victory over the Strikers at Ballymore last season, his second hattrick for the club, the first was also in a 5-3 victory against Eastern Pride.
- When Wayne Srhoj made his debut against the Knights on the 15/03/98 for the Strikers he became thier youngest ever player at 15 years 357 days.
- The oldest player to score for the Knights against the Strikers was Bogdon Bonk at 34 years 33 days in 1992.
- Andrew Marth the only player coach in the NSL, has played in over 370 games in the NSL for the Knights, Carlton and Sunshine St George.



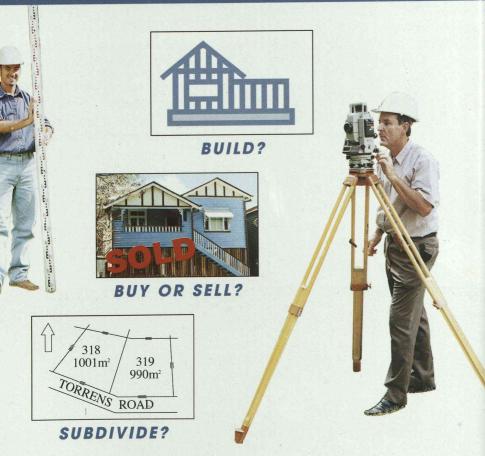
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Round Up

lound 17 Review

DOTBALL KINGZ 1 (A Vlahos 56') WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1 (D Heffernan 51') Hutions: B Blake (WW) 8', M Atkinson (FK) 20', L Austin (WW) 22', D Mennillo (WW) 46', H Miyawa (FK) 82' Red Cards: D Mennillo (WW) 74', P Almendra (FK) 86' nue: Ericsson Stadium Referee: Ben Williams Crowd: 2,354

RCONI STALLIONS 4 (T Sekulic 8', G Last 40', 55', A Brosque 63') MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 Biscayzacu 78')

utions: C Gibson (MS) 16', D Longo (MS) 19', I Erdogan (MK) 83' Red Card : I Jolic (MK) 52' nue: Marconi Stadium Referee: Peter Green owd: 2,017

WCASTLE UNITED 0 PERTH GLORY 1 (N Mrdja 1') autions: S Thomas (NU) 19' nue: EnergyAustralia Stadium Referee: Mark Shield Crowd: 6,125

ARAMATTA POWER 1 (B Renaud 63') ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1 (A Vidmar 57' pen) autions: K Salapasidis (PP) 2', M Valkanis (AC) 36', G Lozanovski (AC) 39', L Pantelis (AC) 60', N fic (PP) 62', N Budin (AC) 62', A Vidmar (AC) 77', D Pellegrini (AC) 90' nue: Parramatta Stadium Referee: Con Diomis Crowd: 2,412

SISBANE STRIKERS 3 (S Laybutt 50', J Rose 53', A Roche 74') **OLYMPIC SHARKS 0** Vanue: Ballymore Stadium **Referee:** Eddie Lennie **Crowd:** 3,170

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (B Damianos 4') NORTHERN SPIRIT 0 Venue: Bob Jane Stadium Referee: Perry Mur Crowd: 5,080

SYDNEY UNITED - BYE

Round 18 Review

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1 (C Pelosi 40' pen) BRISBANE STRIKERS 0 Cautions: J McKain (BS) 76', A Webber (BS) 89', C Veart (AC) 90' Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Referee: Matthew Breeze Crowd: 1,836

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (N Spencer 70') SYDNEY UNITED 0 Cautions: P Bilokapic (SU) 24', V Tomasevic (NS) 36', J Watts (NS) 54', D Barrett (SU) 54', B Pavic (SU) 58', Red Card: B Pavic (SU) 77' Venue: North Sydney Oval Referee: Craig Zetter Crowd: 2,016

PERTH GLORY 2 (A Gumprecht 24', B Despotovski 81') SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 Cautions: J Harnwell (PG) 75' Venue: Perth Oval Referee: Perry Mur Crowd: 11,173

OLYMPIC SHARKS 1 (A Milicic 67') FOOTBALL KINGZ 0 Cautions: R de Gregorio (FK) 26', T Halpin (OS) 32' Venue: Toyota Park Referee: Simon Micallef Crowd: 2,868

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0 PARRAMATTA POWER 4 (J Buonavoglia 14', 72', B Maloney 39', P Cardozo 75') Cautions: D Vasilevski (MK) 43' Venue: Knights Stadium Referee: Mark Shield Crowd: 3,093

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2 (R Stanton 30', N Sekulovski 69) NEWCASTLE UNITED 2 (J Griffiths 6', 92') Cautions: M Wilson (NU) 29', D Cervinski (WW) 65', R Stanton (WW) 85' Venue: WIN Stadium Referee: Eddie Lennie Crowd: 2,637

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The school holidays are nearly over, much to the relief of many parents I guess. During this past week the Brisbane Strikers have been running the annual January Spark Force Coaching Clinic. Firstly I would like to thank all those young budding soccer players who attended the three day clinic, a great deal of fun was had by all.

I would also like to thank everyone in the Strikers administration for all their valued help, and also all the players for their hard work and terrific coaching, definitely a job well done.

I couldn't forget all those businesses/companies (I wish I could individually name them all but there are seriously too many to put on just one page) through out Brisbane who donated products and promotional material for the clinic it really is greatly appreciated.

With the start of the school year virtually upon us, junior soccer clubs are also gearing up for the start of their year. Over the coming weeks the players will be out and about Brisbane appearing at many of these sign on days. No doubt the start of the soccer season can't come quick enough for all these future soccer superstars. I know when I was playing junior soccer, about two weeks after the season had finished I was itching to go again and it always seemed so long until the start of the next season.

If your soccer club would like a player to appear at its sign on day please contact the office as soon as possible to register your interest.

Also during the last few weeks some of the players have been visiting children unfortunate enough to be laid up in the Mater, and Royal Brisbane hospitals.

Well done to the guys who helped cheer up these little patients I know how saddening it can be to see these unlucky victims.

I think any thing that we can do to put a smile on these patients' faces can only be good for their recovery. Once again well-done guys!

Shane Stefanutto





RAFFLE PRIZE provided by WESTONS CAKES & BISCUITS

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Round Eighteen in Review

As the battle for top six places hots up crowd figures plummetted with only Perth Glory's 11,000 plus being the solitary attendance over 2700.

Glory's two nil scoreline over South Melbourne confirmed top spot on the ladder and kept Souths in Third place. Goals in the 25th and 82nd minute by Gumprecht and Despotovski were enough for Souths coach Danny Wright to comment "We must stay away from Perth we have not won here in years and we never looked like doing it today"

Friday night's two fixtures brought relief for one coach and annoyed another. John Kosmina was very unhappy with his teams performance stating "We thought all we had to do was turn up after last weeks victory over the Sharks it was a hard lesson to learn and I expected more from the players"

Adelaide City celebrated thier 750th game in the NSL and coach Zoran Matic's 450 game as coach with a 1-0 victory.

Pelosi the scorer from the penalty spot in the 41st minute.

A much relieved Northern Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna said after their game against Sydney United "its been difficult with not playing but now we'll be playing regularly now and there is still a chance we can make the six"

A last minute penalty saw the Wolves and Newcastle draw.

Wollongong's coach Ron Corry was upset after the game as he felt the foul on Porter was outside the penalty box but Referree Lenny awarded a spot kick converted by Porter to level the score at 2-2.

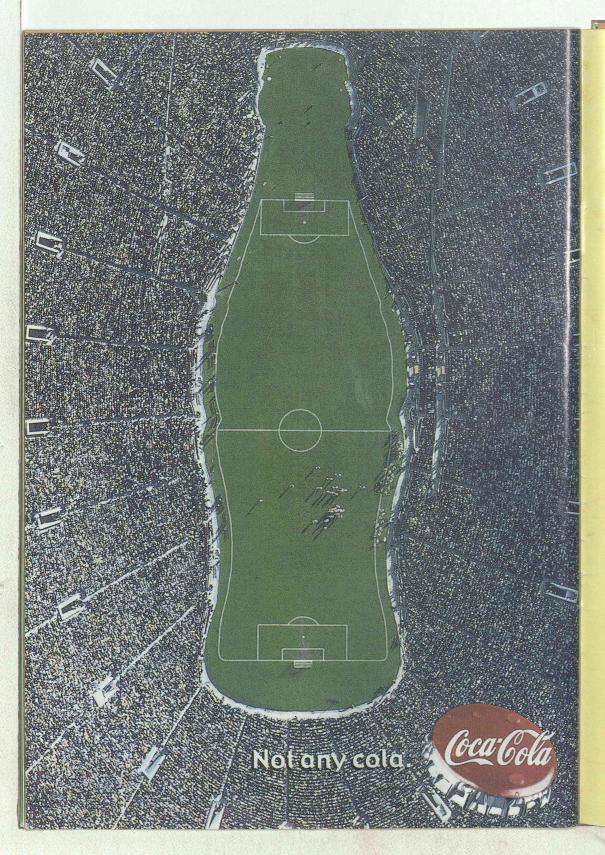
Earlier goals from Stanton and Sekulovski had seen the Wolves draw level and then take the lead following United's opening goal from Porter in the 6th minute.

The final game of the round saw Melbourne Knights host Parramatta Power, the result aresounding 4-0 victory to the visitors adding more pressure on Coach of the Knights Andrew Marth, who gave away the first goal himself and then saw further goals from Maloney, Buonavoglia and Cardoza.

Marth who had his assistant coach sacked during the week after seeing his club plummet to third last on the table refused to comment after the game following his outburst where he descibed his players performance as pathetic and lacked passion.

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.
- 5. Smoking in the Grandstand is prohibited
- 6. Have a nice evening.



National League Review

12

NATIONAL LEAGUE SEASON 2002/03

EAM	Ρ	W	D	L	В	GF	GA	PTS	
Perth Glory	17	13	1	3	1	35	13	40	
Dlympic Sharks	17	12	2	3	1	35	20	38	
South Melbourne	16	8	3	5	2	24	21	27	
ewcastle United	17	6	5	6	1	25	18	23	
delaide City Force	16	6	4	6	2	26	22	22	
arramatta Power	16	6	4	6	1	23	19	22	
Vollongong Wolves	17	4	7	6	1	20	24	19	
risbane Strikers	17	5	4	8	1	28	33	19	
ydney United	16	5	3	8	2	14	22	18	
orthern Spirit	15	5	3	7	1	18	27	18	
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lelbourne Knights	16	4	5	7	2	26	39	17	
arconi Stallions	16	.4	2	10	2	17	28	14	

NATIONAL LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United
MORI Damian	Perth Glory
PELIKAN Anthony	Melbourne Knights
YOUNG Stuart	Wollongong Wolves
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers



DRAW FOR THE NEXT 2 ROUNDS

Round 19

Fri 24th Jan Newcastle United Vs Olympic Sharks Sat 25th Jan Football Kingz Vs Adelaide City Force Brisbane Strikers Vs Melbourne Knights Sun 26th Jan Sydney United Vs Perth Glory Parramatta Power Vs Marconi Stallions South Melbourne Vs Wollongong Wolves

Northern Spirit – BYE

Round 20

Fri 31st Jan Marconi Stallions v Brisbane Strikers Adelaide City Force v Newcastle United Wollongong Wolves V Sydney United

Sat 1st Feb Perth Glory v Northern Spirit

Sun 2nd Feb Olympic Sharks v South Melbourne Melbourne Knights v Football Kingz

Bye Parramatta Power

Pre-Purchased Tickets PHONE 3356 3600



2002/2003 NSL

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Round 19

- 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 Stephen Laybutt
- 10 Kris Trajanovski
- 11 John Carbone
- 12 David Pilic
- 13 Wayne Heath
- 14 Daniel Dreger
- 15 Matthew McKay
- 17 Chris Scuderi
- **18 Lawrence Drake**
- 19 Joshua Rose
- 20 Corey Baldock
- 21 Anthony Roche

Coach - John Kosmina

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

- 1 Martin John
- 2 Daniel Piorkowski
- 3 Rodrigo Vargas
- 4 Antun Kovacic
- 5 Steve Horvat
- 6 Andrew Marth
- 7 Daniel Vasilevski
- 8 Daniel Rocco
- 9 Leon Buhic
- 10 Nikola Sabljak
- 11 Xhezair Sulemani
- 12 Isyan Erdogan
- 13 Ivan Jolic
- 14 Boris Ovcin
- **15 Daniel Debevc**
- 16 Bill Natsioulas
- 17 Adrian Cervinski
- 18 Henry Fa'Arodo
- **19** Anthony Pelikan
- 20 Adam Hrehoresin
- 21 Serkan Oksuz
- 22 Vinko Buljubasic
- 25 Ljubo Lapasansky

Coach - Andrew Marth