

Eye on Strikers

v NEWCASTLE UNITED

Round 24

Vol 11-11, Saturday 1st Mar, 2003 \$2.00

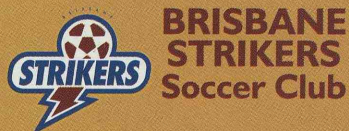


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Gone Tomorrow
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Registered Office
758 Old Cleveland Road
Camp Hill, Qld 4152

Postal Address
PO Box 336 Albion, Qld 4010

Tel: 07 3356 3600
Fax: 07 3356 3477
www.brisbanestrikers.com

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Matchday Media Liason: Robert Blanch
Media Contact: Ray Evans

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COVER:
Playing a Powerless Parramatta?



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The Courier-Mail



HOLD THE PHONE!

Yes We have the Time and Date
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VS
Sydney United
Saturday 15th March

7pm at Ballymore

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Coach's Comment



I mentioned in the last program that during the time before the last few away games in Sydney I caught up with Eddie Thomson, my old club coach from Sydney City and Sydney Olympic. Thommo had cancer, big time, and I commented on how he'd defied the odds and lasted much longer than expected. Well, as we all know now he finally lost his fight a week or so back. He was buried last Tuesday and the guest list was a who's who of the game in this country.

The morning after his death I was inundated with phone calls from journos wanting quotes on Eddie.

Apart from the usual stuff about funny stories and the like it got me to thinking a bit deeper than all that. It occurred to me that no-one in the contemporary history of the game in Australia has had so much influence over so many people currently involved at the highest level.

He coached me at club level for eight years and with the national team for four. Even my adversaries tonight, Ian Crook, Gary van Egmond and Clint Gosling were coached by Thommo at various stages of their careers. He had a big impact on the careers of national coaches Frank Farina and Graham Arnold, not to mention quite a number of the players that beat England a couple weeks back. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that Eddie left his mark.

When he came to this country back in the late Seventies he came to see out his playing day's and get involved in coaching but he never would have imagined his life taking the path it did or ending the way it did.

During one of our more recent conversations he told me he was angry when he was first diagnosed and had to go through the "chemo" and radiation.

But laying in hospital on one occasion he had to share a room with a young kid going through the same thing and it occurred to him that he hadn't been dealt such a bad hand after all. During my visits, despite him being incapacitated his personality was no different to the day I met him 25 years ago. His successes hadn't changed him and nor had the cancer.

He was still full of life so to speak, making the most of what he had. He wasn't giving up no matter what the circumstances - he wanted to beat his illness and he was going to fight it to the end. He was still making every post a winner and "losing" and "second" were still not in his dictionary. Maybe that is why and how he left his mark on life.

Enjoy the game
Kossie



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...from the Captains Desk



The world of football has been as eventful as ever since we last met. Happenings both on and off the field have ranged from extreme highs and the lowest of the lows particularly when we focus on what has taken place close to home.

Despite my favourite quote being those infamous words about the importance of football by Bill Shankly, I don't totally agree with its sentiments. Life is by far and away more important than football, a fact brought home to us all with the recent passing of one of the most influential characters in Australian soccer, Eddie Thomson. The thoughts of the Brisbane Strikers players and their families are with those who were closest to the man simply known as Thommo.

On another disappointing note, our last ditch attempt to qualify for this years extended finals series is over. The 1-0 loss to South Melbourne on the Wednesday following our last home game was the final nail in the coffin.

The match was a frustrating affair in which we gave away a goal which was a result of our own errors more than it was of Souths good play. The frustration was increased when we had a couple of late chaces cleared of the line and another hit the crossbar, but over all we should have done better following our confidence boosting win over the Parramatta Power. Perhaps, as I eluded to in my last article, 2 games in 4 days took its toll on us considering we don't do that too often.

The lads, however, bounced back well from this disappointment with a solid 3-0 win over the Kingz. The goals came from Cocka (again) and Jon McKain who is putting in a late charge to be in the goalscorers charts with 2 goals in 3 games. The game was a strange situation for yours truly as I missed my first Strikers game through injury with the foot problem which has been lingering since the Perth game here at Ballymore before Christmas.

But all's well that ends well and I was delighted when I finally got the good news from the G-man (Graham Kinsella).

To finish off on a high note I thought I might as well do as everyone else seems to be doing and put my 2 bobs worth in about the the England game.

Although I agree with the popular opinion that it was a good result, I feel that with the quality of the current squad we should, whilst not expect, at least be confident of gaining similar results if facing opposition of the same calibre as England, and not get too over excited when it happens.

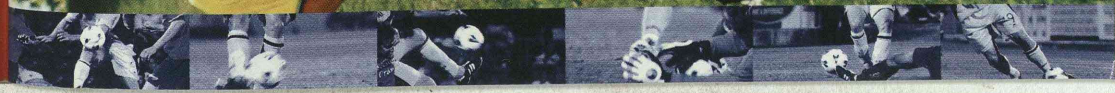
The most pleasing aspect of the result for me was the Socceroos players reaction to it. During their post-match interviews I got the feeling that while they were happy with the performance and the result, they realised that the most important thing will be to get the results, regardless of the opposition, when the match is a World Cup Qualifier and not a friendly.

Thanks For Your Support
Stuart McLaren





GOOD AS GOLD



STRIKERS 2002 - 2003

Blanchy's BACKCHAT!

MESSAGE IS LOUD AND CLEAR

Now it's not often that I would disagree with the choice of Man of the Match but against Power the BSSA got it wrong. Should have been Jon McKain by an edge over the other three defenders. They won the game. Great stuff defenders. Obviously letters to your column have an effect, what a massive improvement the sound system was at the game. Not only could we hear it all but the commentary was actually interesting.

Michael Kuilboer

We don't claim to be miracle workers, but we do listen.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

I would like to express my dismay at the way the crowd was treated on Saturday night. I know that the BSSA are supposed to be in one spot down the end of the field. Well, for weeks now there has been two people up the other end with drum and bell and the noise made by them has been an inspiration to us all. This Saturday night was no different. We smiled as they came among us and felt privileged by their presence. The crowd, after all, was small and sitting like stunned mullets because the Strikers had

been losing. While we come to support the team, we are human with feelings of dread and fear that the boys will be too downhearted to perform, and we all know they can win. Well, the point of this email is that some "fan" complained to security about the noise and the BSSA boys were moved back to their little hole at the end of the field. This fan gives the rest of us fans a bad name. As fans, we are right behind the Strikers, no matter what the result, but we sure enjoyed the win. Go guys go. I would like to pass onto the BSSA what a good job they do. We are right behind the noise to. Look at the English Premier League, the crowds and the noise are as much a part of the game as the actual game played on the park.

Kay Kibbey

Football is for fun and should be the case for every fan. But personally, the louder the better.

ODE TO THE SOCCEROOS

Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free
On English soil, with fame for toil
Our box was girt by sea
Our team abounds with Natures gifts
Their talent rich and rare
In histories page, let the result please state
Advance Australia Fair

Robert Blanch

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From the BSSA

The world of a football supporter is always one of contrasting emotions, and the last three weeks since the last home game has certainly delivered that contrast.

There was the greatness of Australia's 3-1 victory over England at Upton Park. A tremendous effort by the team, showing positive proof that a full-strength Socceroo unit can deliver world-beating results for years to come. Obviously, the coming months and years will show whether or not this is the start of a new era or a lucky day!

Continuing the good news, the Strikers had two great victories, showing that even when the chips are down, they can stand up for Brisbane football. Even if the statisticians argue we can't make the Finals, the team will certainly give it every effort.

Even I got into the spirit with my temporary appointment as Strikers Ground Announcer for the last game (vs Power), and tonight's match vs Newcastle United. Thanks to those for your kind words and fantastic feedback. I look

forward to delivering a sterling effort in my second appearance. But even with all this good news, the passing of former National Coach Eddie Thompson saddened us at the BSSA. Irrespective of personal feelings, he served as the leader at a time when Australian football was developing the stars, who are now the on-field leaders at clubs all over Europe & Australia. It is one saving grace that the former Scottish League player was able to see his beloved Socceroo's defeat England just nine days before his passing. The sign of a great coach is if he leaves the team in a better state than when he arrived. He certainly did that. We send not only our condolences, but also our thanks for the memories.

Finally, our website is www.go.to/bssa, updated every few days. A great online read for any Strikers supporter.

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.

Title _____ First Name _____ Family Name _____
 Address _____
 Suburb _____ Postcode _____
 Telephone _____ Fax _____ Mobile _____
 Email _____

Dan Dreger

Date Of Birth: 2/1/82
 Occupation: Professional Soccer
 Player / Student

Hobbies/Interests: Rugby League / Union
 Current Position: Left/Right Wingback
 Came to Club: 2000
 Previous Club: QAS
 Nickname: Dregs, Mango, Draught
 Star Sign: Capricorn
 Ethnic Origin: German
 (Great Grandparents)

Hair Colour: Sandy Blond
 Eye Colour: Blue
 Height: 175cm
 Weight: 80kgs

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Favourite Food:
 Favourite TV Show:
 Favourite Book:
 Favourite Actress:
 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:

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?



Roast, Seafood, Mexican
 The Glasshouse/ The Footy show
 Executive Decision – Tom Clancy
 Nicole Kidman
 Talking in my sleep
 Health

The owner of Castlemaine Perkins
 Nicole Kidman, Kate Bekinsale, Billy
 Connolly
 Backyard Blitz
 Ben Dark - Getaway
 Push the lil Daisy's
 Synchronized Swimming
 Olympic Games Participant

Read peoples minds
 Turn it up Rabbits
 Public Holidays – No Uni
 At present, nothing
 The Boogie Man
 All the essentials for Soccer

A flutter on the Horses,
 most likely a Boxed Trifecta



Felix Tagawa

*Straight in to the action scoring against parramatta.
I'm sure that we will be seeing more
Felix Magic in the future .*



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STRIKERS SHOPPER

Australia A The Players Perspective

Two days before a Socceroos team picked entirely from overseas-based players registered our first win over England, Soccer Australia made an announcement designed to give hope to Australian-based players.

That announcement was that the governing body had decided to create an Australia A team, borrowing from the concept used in cricket, to be selected entirely from players playing their trade in the NSL and the state leagues.

A report in the Western Australian media quoted Soccer Australia board member Paul Afkos saying the team will be coached by Frank Farina and will play regular friendlies and tournaments against nations from the Oceania and Asia regions. Those Australia A players who impress can expect to earn selection in the full Socceroo squad.

Soccer Australia hopes that one of the benefits of introducing this concept is that it will encourage young players who hold representative ambitions to stay longer in Australia.

So will it really capture the imagination of Australian-based players and encourage them to stay put? Our own Brisbane Strikers have several players with ambitions to play for their country and for overseas clubs - including Jon McKain, Shane Stefanutto and Matthew McKay. Why not ask them?

Not surprisingly, given the poor timing of the Australia A announcement, McKain had not heard of it. But when told he reacted with enthusiasm.

"It sounds brilliant", he said. "It sounds like a perfect opportunity to develop players by playing them against better opposition and getting them together often as a team".

But would it make him think twice about pursuing a career overseas? "It would definitely be in the back of your mind", he said. "In every player's mind the best leagues are overseas, but there may not be that great urge to go overseas ASAP. And if you play in that side (Australia A) a few times a year you might get into the senior side and get recognised by (overseas) clubs anyway".

Stefanutto and McKay had both heard about the concept and had the benefit of a few extra days to think it over. It showed.

Stefanutto thought it was a good idea, but had a few doubts about its viability. "It's a very good concept. But who is going to fund it, and will it be funded properly? I'd like to see them get the national (Socceroos) side right first. And what would be the credibility of the side? The Oceania islands would be keen to play them, but I don't know if the likes of Japan and South Korea would like to play an Australia A side".

Stefanutto didn't think it would keep him in Australia if he had an offer to go overseas. "If something came up overseas I would go, but I'm not looking at it at the moment", he said.

McKay expressed a mix of excitement and doubts. "It's a great idea", he said. "It gives guys a chance to stake a claim, a chance to represent their country. It would be good to have a few more international games played".

But he didn't think the concept would keep him in Australia, because it would have to prove itself first. "I'm not certain", he said. "It would have to be going for a few years and getting a few players into the full side. Then, after about five years it might encourage a few of the younger players to stay around".

If these young Brisbane Strikers players are anything to go by, the feedback about the Australia A idea from the people it is aimed at seems to be: 'Great idea, guys - lots of potential! But you'll have to convince us that you're doing it right before we'll ease up on those dreams of playing overseas'.

Given the record of football administrators in Australia, you can't blame them. Too often there is a considerable gap between the announcement of a good idea and its successful implementation. Perhaps Soccer Australia has, on this occasion, got the first part right. The hard part is still to come.

Steve Pitman





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Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

The Leukaemia Foundations "Shave for a Cure" is on once again, and guess who is getting cropped! I have sported a moustache for the past 21 years and for the last couple I have let it creep into a goatee. Well, at the last home game of the season against Sydney United it's all coming off, and you'll get to see the whole thing. I will be going under the razor on the sideline at halftime. Why? You may ask, well it's mine and the Clubs chance to help those struggling to find a cure for this indiscriminate disease that affects thousand's of Australians and their families each year. So what do I think about being bald and face naked, well it will be a treat (or maybe shock is a better word) for my kids and friends, as they have never seen me without my prized moustache. As for me, I've always worked on the theory that there is only two weeks between a good and bad haircut and since it's falling out anyway, I thought I'd give Mother Nature a helping hand. And what I save on Hair Care products can be used on extra Sunscreen. All I ask in return is for you all to please dig deep over the next couple of games and give generously to the volunteer collectors around the ground.

This issue I'm going to give you somewhat of a break from my normal ranting and raving and publish an email I received from long time Strikers fan Rebecca Knight, who now resides in Skelmersdale, England. I believe her views pretty much sum up the immense National pride and optimism felt by all Australians both home and abroad after the historic victory by the Socceroos over England.

It gives me great pleasure to write this email. Last night in Lancashire England, I watched our Aussie boys beat the best of the British (for the opening 45 mins anyway)... What this win has done for the game back home I can only imagine and I live in hope that because they have done us so proud that Frank Farina and the players get the recognition they deserve off Soccer Australia, the Clubs they represent and

of course the public. I am an avid supporter of any football, (admittedly biased devoted fan of the Brisbane Strikers) and I hope this game last night inspires Soccer Australia to FIND, BEG, STEAL OR BORROW the money to bring Australian Football into the 21st Century and to quote the great man himself, "Football isn't about life or death, it's much more important than that" Maybe if more people in SA had the same attitude soccer would have the success it so rightfully deserves.

TO FRANK AND THE PLAYERS: WELL DONE, I HAVE NEVER FELT SO PROUD TO BE AN AUSSIE SOCCER SUPPORTER EVER!!!! YOU'VE ACHIEVED WHAT MANY PREDICTED AS THE UNACHIEVABLE. YET AGAIN FRANK YOU LEAD THE ROAD TO VICTORY (STILL HAVEN'T FORGOT WHAT YOU DID FOR THE STRIKERS)

Well done to all involved (including the backroom staff) From a loyal Aussie Soccer supporter a long way from home.
Rebecca Knight Skelmersdale Lancashire.

I believe the biggest victory achieved on the day by the Socceroos camp was gaining the Football Worlds respect at International level, a fact well supported by the number of quality National teams knocking on the door of Soccer Australia looking to tie down a "Friendly" match against the Socceroos. So to all those England supporters and their cavalcade of excuses, I've only got one thing to say: Aussie, Aussie, Aussie. Oi, Oi, Oi.

Well once again I've babbled on long enough, but before I go I'd like to send a big cheerio and my best wishes to Ann Knight. Who, underwent her long awaited Kidney transplant three weeks ago. Well I'm off to buy myself a new Strikers cap before the next game, so that means all there's left to do is settle in and enjoy the action.

Blanchy

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS - ROUND 23

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2003

Northern Spirit Youth 1 (Foti 30') Sydney United Youth 1 (Filipovic 4')

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2003

ACTAS Marconi Stallions Youth Match postponed due to adverse weather conditions
Newcastle United Youth 1 (Mensah 64') Parramatta Power Youth 0

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2003

QAS 1 (De Silva 67') Wollongong Wolves Youth 7 (Majurovski 5', Martin 20' 35' 46' 48', Wells 53', Gordon 74')

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2003

Sydney United Youth AIS Match postponed due to adverse weather conditions

Marconi Mustangs Olympic Sharks Youth Match postponed by Marconi Mustangs due to adverse weather conditions

BYE - Northern Spirit Youth BYE - Wollongong Wolves Youth

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER - ROUND 23

TEAM	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	17	12	3	4	2	35	15	39
Wollongong Wolves Youth	20	9	7	2	4	52	29	34
Parramatta Power Youth	18	10	3	4	5	54	27	33
Newcastle United Youth	20	9	6	3	5	35	28	33
Canberra Deakin	20	9	5	3	6	50	38	32
Northern Spirit Youth	18	8	6	3	4	20	12	30
Sydney United Youth	18	7	5	4	6	39	26	26
Olympic Sharks Youth	19	5	7	2	7	26	24	22
ACTAS	17	5	4	4	8	28	40	19
Marconi Stallions Youth	17	4	4	4	9	20	41	16
QAS	19	4	3	4	12	20	56	15
Marconi Mustangs	17	0	3	3	14	7	50	3

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION FIXTURES - ROUND 24

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2003

Parramatta Power Youth Vs Marconi Stallions Youth Time: 6.30pm Venue: Melita Stadium (Deferred match from Round 19)

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2003

Marconi Mustangs Vs Northern Spirit Youth Time: 7.00pm Venue: Marconi Stadium (Deferred match from Round 20)

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2003

Wollongong Wolves Youth Vs Olympic Sharks Youth Time: 5.00pm Venue: WIN Stadium

SATURDAY 1 MARCH 2003

QAS Vs Newcastle United Youth Time: 4.35pm Venue: Ballymore Stadium
Parramatta Power Youth Vs ACTAS Time: 5.10pm Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Northern Spirit Youth Vs AIS Time: 4.00pm Venue: Christie Park

SUNDAY 2 MARCH 2003 Marconi Stallions Youth Vs Sydney United Youth Time: 5.00pm Venue: Marconi Stadium

BYE - Canberra Deakin BYE - Marconi Mustangs

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION LEADING GOALSCORERS ROUND 23

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CLUB	GOALS
Spaleta	Michael	Canberra Deakin	17
Majurovski	John	Wollongong Wolves Youth	12
Martin Tallan	Wollongong Wolves Youth		12
Pideski	Carl	Canberra Deakin	11
Bridge	Mark	Parramatta Power Youth	9
De Silva	Timothy	QAS	8



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Thor Rules Australian Sport Pt2

The reasons why the Thor character was chosen is well documented. What were some of the other ideas being bandied around at the time?

From memory, there was talk of a fuzzyheaded character of some type (I am not sure what exactly) and possibly cheerleaders. Beyond that I think the idea of Thor came up fairly quickly and not much else was discussed.

Your NSL debut was the Birth of the future BSSA, how many were in that group at the grass roots end that first game?

There were about 30 of us who started the support of the Strikers in that pre-season game all those years ago. We were all supporters of soccer and very passionate about our great game. Since then I have seen many different types of supporters groups with different views on the type of support but the one constant has been fervent, noisy support and I think it is now as loud as ever.

Thors Team of the Decade certainly caused some serious, and not so serious debate. Given the fact you've seen them all, who do you consider to be the best player to ever play for the Club?

Now you've put me on the spot. It is always very difficult to single out one player for special attention. However, I must make mention of a few of the greats of our club. Alan Hunter, a personal friend and probably one of the best defender's this country has ever had. Fernando Rech, one of the most gifted players to ever play in the NSL. Clint Bolton, a great goalkeeper and fellow heavy metal fan. Kasey Wehrmann, another of the best home-grown talents to grace our team. But think for overall contribution both on and off the field I would have to say Frank Farina. It was my pleasure to get to know Frank as a player, coach and media personality and was even interviewed by him for Channel Seven a couple of times. He embodied everything good in soccer and, of course, has gone on to greater things with his position as coach of the Socceroos.

You've been through all the highs and lows of the NSL for the past decade. What are your thoughts on the future of Australian Soccer, and in particular the future of the National Soccer League and FIFA's decision to allocate Oceania a direct berth into the World Cup in 2006?

Firstly, I think that a sweeping reform is probably long overdue at the highest level. Many have tried but, it seems to me, that it has always been either half-hearted or with their hands tied from earlier administrations. I cannot give you the answers but I hope that when the people who count give 100% to the game and forget any other reasons for being there then we may be on the right track. Secondly, The NSL is the longest running national football competition in Australia and as such needs to be promoted that way and a structure put in place with a league and sponsorship package that encourages our young players to stay here. Thirdly, the direct qualification to the World Cup for Oceania is an opportunity for Australia to put themselves on the world map and attract major deals with overseas and local sponsors to show what may be possible for our national teams. I am not saying that Australia has already qualified only that it is in the best interests of all concerned to make sure we do. This is firmly linked to point 2.

One thing I've noticed is the respect by visiting Teams for the "Thor inspired supporters" What do you attribute this to?

After travelling away on 9 occasions with the team it is always a pleasure to see opposition supporters both in their own environs and at our home ground. I feel that my positive attitude towards them and the Strikers with never a bad word said against either, except in jest, has set me in good stead for their warm receptions.

What does Thor do when he's not at the Strikers, and what do you do to relax?

I enjoy riding my motorcycles, watching movies, some amateur acting and spending time with my family.

What plans, if any, do you have for life after the Strikers?

To continue to support the Strikers and soccer in Australia for many years to come. I also am planning to go back to compete in a type of off-road motorcycling called Observed Trials. I have not competed since 1993, which just happens to coincide with the birth of the Strikers.

Continued Page 23



The Spirit of Australia

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Thor Rules Australian Sport Pt2 Continued

If I can ask you to take off your Mascots hat or should that be horns? How do you rate the Clubs performance in its first ten years, both on and off the Field?

Simply amazing! From humble beginnings at Perry Park, to the heights of 25 May 1997, from our cruel ousting in 2001 to our re-instatement a few months later it has been a truly outstanding time and a real roller coaster ride of emotions.

How do you see the Strikers future, and what would you like to see happen?

The future has to be as bright as ever for the Strikers for many reasons. A dedicated behind the scenes staff who never cease to amaze me with their unselfish and tireless work. A benevolent major sponsor who has done more for sport in this state than any other I am aware of. A fantastic bunch of loyal supporters who, come hell or high water, attend every match and cheer to the end. Why do you think I have been around for 10 years. Not because I think we are doomed. Let's all continue to support in our own way and the Strikers will again stand on the pinnacle of the NSL.

My three kids have grown up with Thor and associate the Strikers and yourself as one, do you have any suggestions on what direction you think the Club should go after you hang the Hammer up at the end of the current campaign?

A very tough question. It has been such a rewarding time as Thor and from my perspective a new Thor would be a little difficult to come to terms with. It may be time to start looking for a replacement mascot but I really do not know who or what that could be. Perhaps a survey in the EOS may bring another prospect to light.

Retirement is a long time. Is there a possibility that Thor might be coaxed away from Valhalla in the future for special appearances?

This is a definite possibility. Even when I retire my love and passion for the Strikers will not diminish and I would be honoured to make the odd guest appearance, that is unless a new Thor is found and I would not like to tread on anyone else's turf.

I know personally that game day won't be the same without the ever present Thor, and I'm sure the same can be said for every supporter. Over the past Ten Years you have become a Cult figure in Queensland soccer's history. Is there anything you'd like to say to your legion of fans?

Purely and simply a very honest and heartfelt THANK-YOU!!! It is because of you that I have continued, it is because of you that I even exist, it is because of you that we are the greatest club in the NSL. Never forget the Strikers and the joy they have brought in the past 10 years.

I'd like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to give this interview, and to end off, I'll ask you to try and sum up the past Ten Years in twenty words or less.

Memorable, fantastic, unforgettable, agonising, delirious, happy, sad, uncomfortable, tiring, unbelievable, trying but I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

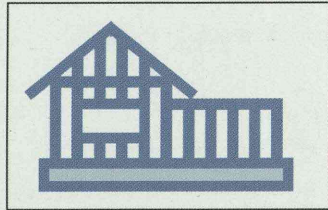
More often than not, truly remarkable individuals are not recognised until they are gone, so with this in mind, the Club and myself are working overtime to ensure that Thor, both the Mascot and the Man, receive all the accolades and honours so rightfully deserving to him. So lets show our appreciation for this legend of Australian sports. When you hear the Mighty Thor raise his thunderous voice in support of our very own Brisbane Strikers, how about joining in, and make an old God happy.



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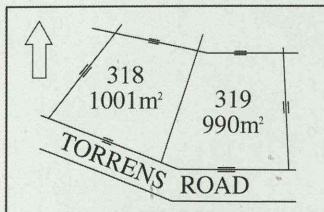
ARE YOU PLANNING TO:



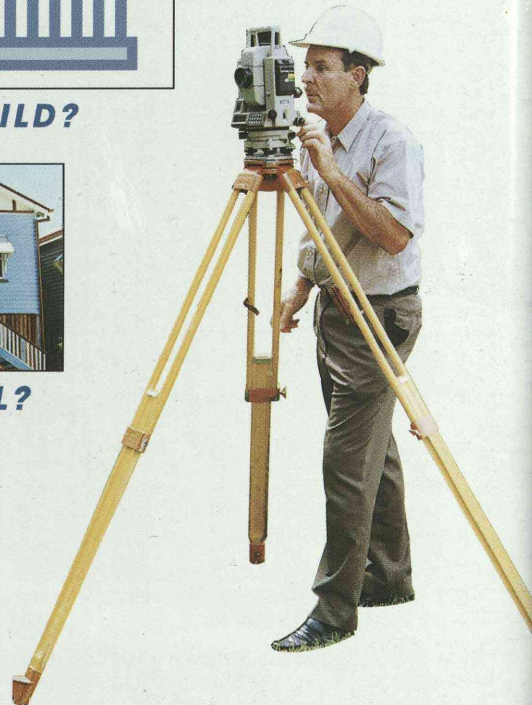
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758 Old Cleveland Road
Camp Hill
Q 4152
3398 2969

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE BRISBANE STRIKERS

Round Up

Round 22 Review

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2 (C Pelosi 43', G Lozanovski 93') **SYDNEY UNITED 0**
Cautions: L Brain (SU) 28', A Doumanis (SU) 46', A Vidmar (AC) 75', A Doumanis (SU) 92'
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Referee: Angelo Nardi Crowd: 1,982

MARCONI STALLIONS 0 **NEWCASTLE UNITED 1** (T Dodd 10')
Cautions: R Griffiths (NU) 35', T Sekulic (MS) 37', S Webb (MS) 39', A Brosque (MS) 40'
Venue: Marconi Stadium Referee: Brett Hugo Crowd: 1,984

PARRAMATTA POWER 7 (M Thompson 10', J Buonavoglia 22', 48', K Salapasidis 53', 58', 80', P Cardozo 71') **FOOTBALL KINGZ 0**
Cautions: A Ceccoli (PP) 28', W O'Sullivan (PP) 28', M Donoso (FK) 86' Venue: Parramatta Stadium Referee: Simon Micallef Crowd: 2,343

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (L Buhic 71') **SOUTH MELBOURNE 0**
Cautions: N Tolios (SM) 23', P Kisorbo (SM) 25', M Durakovic (SM) 26', V Coveny (SM) 28', H Fa'Arodo (MK) 67'
Venue: Knights Stadium Referee: Eddie Lennie Crowd: 7,157

OLYMPIC SHARKS 2 (A Milicic 48' pen, F Parisi 85') **NORTHERN SPIRIT 3** (A Kwasnik 80', 86', A McDermott 90')
Cautions: V Tomasevic (NS) 62', I Ferguson (NS) 65'
Venue: Toyota Park Referee: Craig Zetter Crowd: 2,813

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1 (S Lyons 26') **PERTH GLORY 6** (B Despotovski 32', 54' pen, D Mori 38', A Caceres 40', 60', N Mrdja 84')
Cautions: D Tarka (PG) 77'
Venue: WIN Stadium Referee: Con Diomis Crowd: 3,132
Crowd 01/02: 4,876

BRISBANE STRIKERS - BYE

Round 23 Review

MARCONI STALLIONS 2 (A Brosque 28', C Gibson 75' pen) **SOUTH MELBOURNE 2** (N Tolios 7', V Coveny 46'+)
Cautions: A Costanzo (MS) 66', E Galekovic (SM) 74', P Kisorbo (SM) 75', S Panopoulos (SM) 80', N Tolios (SM) 84', D McDonald (MS) 88'
Venue: Marconi Stadium Referee: Craig Zetter Crowd: 1,881

NEWCASTLE UNITED 3 (E Masi 48'+, M Wilson 64', R Griffiths 91') **PARRAMATTA POWER 0**
Cautions: M Wilson (NU) 68', N Orlic (SM) 72'
Venue: EnergyAustralia Stadium Referee: Perry Mur Crowd: 2,564

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 (B Groves 13', B Fisher 87') **ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 3** (S Tunbridge 51', C Pelosi 67', 76')
Cautions: A McDermott (NS) 41'
Venue: North Sydney Oval Referee: Brett Hugo Crowd: 1,830

PERTH GLORY 0 **OLYMPIC SHARKS 1** (J Harnwell 61' O.G.)
Cautions: B Hassell (PG) 63', E Junior (PG) 91'
Venue: Perth Oval
Referee: Simon Micallef Crowd: 13,517

FOOTBALL KINGZ 0 **BRISBANE STRIKERS 3** (J McKain 10', A Roche 67', 69')
Cautions: A Vlahos (FK) 50', J Kearton (BS) 50'
Venue: Ericsson Stadium Referee: Matthew Breeze Crowd 02/03: 2,535

SYDNEY UNITED 2 (A Doumanis 44', S Lukac 94') **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0**
Cautions: M John (MK) 11', M Jedinak (SU) 14', L Lapsansky (MK) 54', A Pelikan (MK) 66', P Bilokapic (SU) 66', M Cunico (SU) 71', S Horvat (MK) 71', A Hrehoresin (MK) 71', B Pavic (SU) 96'
Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre Referee: Ben Williams Crowd: 2,391

WOLLONGONG WOLVES - BYE



BRISBANE STRIKERS 2002/2003

Player Statistics

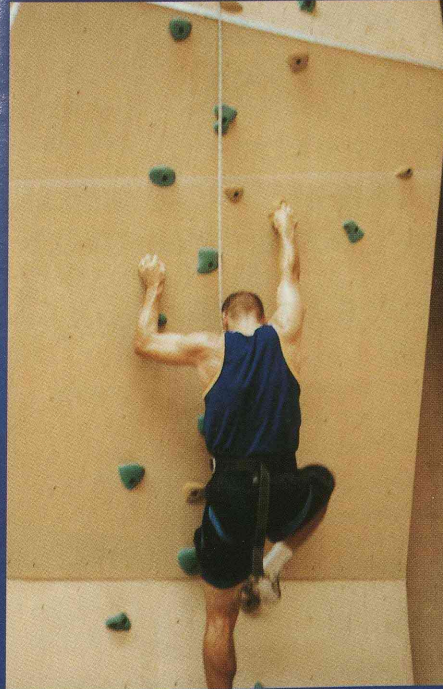
Date	Opponents		F-A		Player Statistics																				
	Rnd	H/A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Sat 21/9	Rnd 1	Northern Spirit	H	1-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 29/9	Rnd 2	Perth Glory	A	4-3	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 5/10	Rnd 3	Wollongong Wolves	H	1-3	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 12/10	Rnd 4	Olympic Sharks	A	0-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 19/10	Rnd 5	Adelaide City Force	H	2-3	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 27/10	Rnd 6	Melbourne Knights	A	3-3	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 2/11	Rnd 7	Marconi Stallions	H	1-4	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 9/11	Rnd 8	Parramatta Power	A	0-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rnd 9	Bye																							
Sat 23/11	Rnd 10	Football Kingz	H	0-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 29/11	Rnd 11	Newcastle United	A	3-3	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 7/12	Rnd 12	South Melbourne	H	2-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 15/12	Rnd 13	Sydney United	A	3-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 21/12	Rnd 14	Perth Glory	H	1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 27/12	Rnd 15	Northern Spirit	A	3-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 3/1	Rnd 16	Wollongong Wolves	A	1-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 11/1	Rnd 17	Olympic Sharks	H	3-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 17/1	Rnd 18	Adelaide City Force	A	0-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 25/1	Rnd 19	Melbourne Knights	H	1-5	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fri 31/1	Rnd 20	Marconi Stallions	A	1-2	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sun 9/2	Rnd 21	Parramatta Power	H	3-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rnd 22	Bye																							
Sun 23/2	Rnd 23	Football Kingz	A	3-0	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Sat 1/3	Rnd 24	Newcastle United	H																						
Wed 12/2	Rnd 25	South Melbourne	A	0-1	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
TBA	Rnd 26	Sydney United	H																						
Individual League Appearances					79	172	106	65	143	98	66	42	102	302	90	65	27	23	34	2	38	24	13	20	2
Individual League Goals					0	4	1	2	10	18	26	0	8	76	7	5	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	12	1

Legend: ▲ = Played - S = Substitute - O = Non playing substitute - ◆ = Own goal in scoreline - □ = Yellow card - ■ = Red card

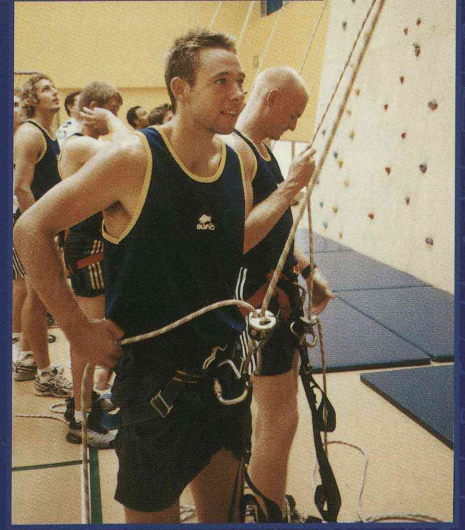
Ah Yes, The rocky road to the top!



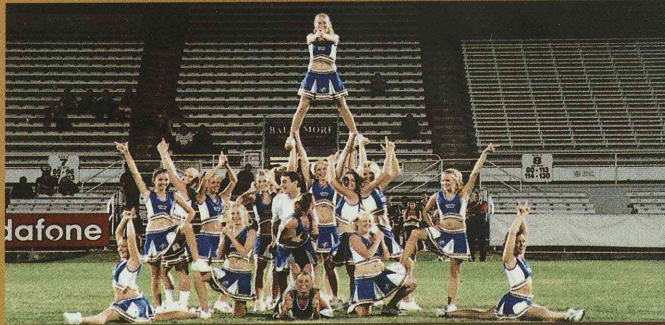
Player Prepare to climb



Spiderman!



Rose, A long way to the top



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Round 23 in Review

With all but positions 5 and 6 filled round 23 had plenty of goals and cautions to thrill the fans. In all 18 goals and 22 cautions were recorded.

Match of the round was in Perth where a Jamie Harnwell own goal was all that separated the two sides and gave new Sharks coach Lee Sterry a winning start to his managerial stint at Olympic following the sacking of Gary Phillips. The result took Sydney to top spot a point ahead of Glory who have a game in hand.

A goalless first half in Newcastle before a disappointing 2,564 supporters was followed up by three goals to the home team in the second as United confirmed third spot on the ladder by defeating Parramatta Power. Masi, Wilson and Griffiths the scorers.

Shared points at Marconi as South Melbourne who led twice drew with the Stallions. With less than 2,000 watching a spiteful encounter with 6 cautions in the last 25 minutes,

Scorers for Marconi, Brosque and Gibson replies from Tolios and Coveney.

A stunning 3-0 victory by visiting Brisbane saw incredible scenes on the pitch side as Kingz players decided to fight amongst themselves.

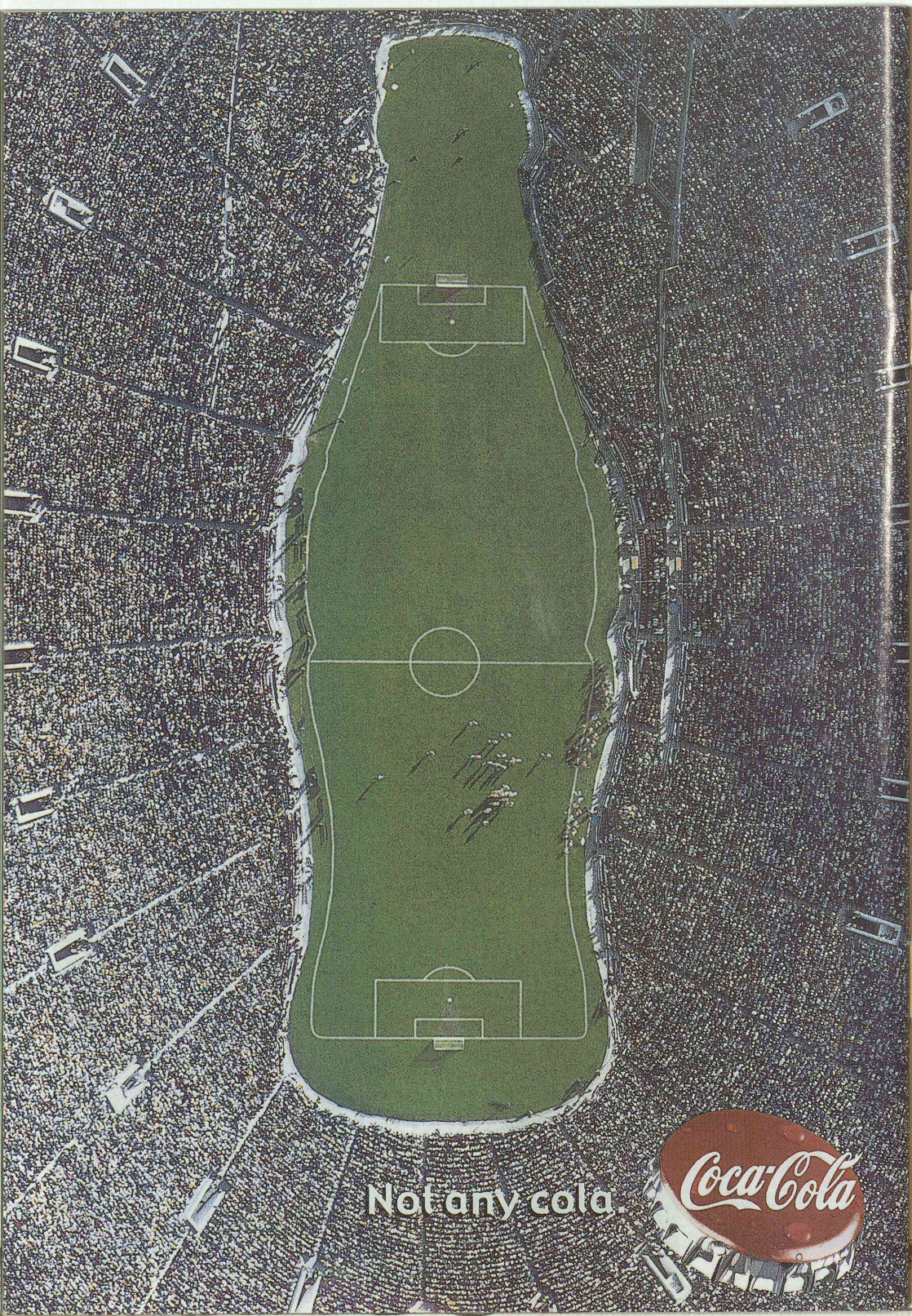
A double for Anthony Roche took his total to 12 for the season not a bad haul in his first season in the NSL John McKain opened the scoring for the Strikers. The result kept faint hopes for the Queenslanders to make the six.

The final game saw a five goal thriller as visitors Adelaide scored a much needed win.

Spirit through Groves took the lead then three goals in 25 minutes saw the visitors take control. Scorers Tunbridge, Pelosi twice before Fisher replied for Northern Spirit to make an exciting five minutes at the end of the game.

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.



Not any cola.



National League Review

NATIONAL LEAGUE SEASON 2002/03

TEAM	P	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	PTS
Olympic Sharks	22	14	3	5	1	43	28	45
Perth Glory	21	14	2	5	2	43	19	44
Newcastle United	22	10	6	6	1	35	22	36
Adelaide City Force	21	10	4	7	2	38	28	34
South Melbourne	22	9	5	8	2	30	29	32
Parramatta Power	21	9	4	8	2	41	25	31
Northern Spirit	20	8	3	9	2	28	36	27
Brisbane Strikers	22	7	4	11	2	36	41	25
Melbourne Knights	21	6	6	9	2	34	45	24
Sydney United	21	6	5	10	2	19	28	23
Wollongong Wolves	21	5	8	8	2	23	34	23
Football Kingz	21	5	6	10	1	19	36	21
Marconi Stallions	21	5	4	12	2	21	39	19

DRAW FOR THE NEXT 2 ROUNDS

Round 24

Thu 27-02-03
 Football Kingz Vs Northern Spirit (R14)
 Fri 28-02-03
 Adelaide City Force Vs Perth Glory
 Wollongong Wolves Vs Olympic Sharks
 Marconi Stallions Vs Sydney United
 Sat 1-03-03
 Parramatta Power Vs South Melbourne
Brisbane Strikers Vs Newcastle United
 Melbourne Knights Vs Northern Spirit
 BYE - Football Kingz

Round 25

Fri 07-03-03
 Adelaide City Force v Wollongong Wolves
 Newcastle United v Football Kingz
 Northern Spirit v Marconi Stallions
 Sat 08-03-03
 Perth Glory v Melbourne Knights
 Sun 09-03-03
 Sydney United v Parramatta Power
 Bye Olympic Sharks

NATIONAL LEAGUE HOTSHOTS

MORI Damian	Perth Glory	15
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	14
ROCHE Anthony	Brisbane Strikers	12
BUONAVOGLIA John	Parramatta Power	11
PELOSI Claudio	Adelaide City Force	10

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2002/2003 NSL

Round 24

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 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
- 22 Felix Tagawa

Coach - John Kosmina

NEWCASTLE UNITED

- 1 Daniel Beltrame
- 2 Michael Prentice
- 3 Andrew Roberts
- 4 Chris Zoricich
- 5 Scott Thomas
- 6 Matthew Bingley
- 7 Travis Dodd
- 8 Mark Wilson
- 9 Joel Griffiths
- 10 Alex Moreira
- 11 Peter Tsekenis
- 12 Scott Baillie
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 Ryan Griffiths
- 15 Adam Hughes
- 16 Joseph Schirripa
- 17 Esala Masi
- 18 Mitchell Johnson
- 19 Adam Griffiths
- 20 Tom Willis
- 21 Keegan Wolfenden
- 22 Robbie Middleby
- 23 Jobe Wheelhouse
- 24 Steve Eagleton
- 25 Gokce Oncu
- 37 Josh Mitchell
- 40 Mitchell O'Brien

Coach - Ian Crook