

Extra Time

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

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Easts' keeper Rob Harrison punches clear in the Round 12 clash with Brisbane City at Spencer Park

ExtraTime

Brisbane's Soccer Magazine

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editor's Comment

Is it my eternal and unwavering optimism or have we seen an upturn in the standard of the Premier League this season?

Maybe I have been lucky in my choice of Premier League games so far, but I reckon I've seen some belting matches in the last few weeks. The pick of the bunch was undoubtedly the top of the table clash between Pine Rivers and Queensland Lions. Lions went home 4-2 winners but that didn't tell the story of the game. Clayton Koch's Rivers side gave as good as they got and dominated the game for long periods, but it was Lions' ability to score at crucial times that gave them the edge.

As a spectacle it had everything. Fast-paced, plenty of individual skill on show, superb goals and a few crunching tackles (note: tackles, not fouls). If you add to that a good crowd producing a raucous atmosphere on a chilly night, then you have all the ingredients of a good evening's entertainment. Four out of the six goals were pearlers. Jonathon Richter's opener for Lions was as sweet a strike as you are likely to see, whistling into the top corner from at least 25 metres. Rivers' Ken Hurford also grabbed one for the scrapbook when he drilled an unstoppable drive through a crowded penalty area to get his side back into the game at 2-1. Just as well there was a net in the way otherwise the ball might have gone through the dressing room wall!

Two weeks later it was Mitchelton versus Rochedale. The game promised much and delivered a good deal more. Rochedale were strong and sharp in the first half. Greg Thomas was a constant threat and Tony Piercey a rock at the back. Rovers took the lead when Thomas finished off a well-worked move and from there they fashioned a 3-1 lead with 8 minutes to go. What happened next was truly unbelievable. Mitchelton grabbed a goal back to set up what we thought would be a frantic last effort to equalise in the dying minutes. Jason Poggi had other ideas though. He duly despatched the leveler with a minute to go and then, in the most dramatic of circumstances, glanced home the winner right at the death. It fair brought the house down at a packed Terabla Park to send the breathless home fans away happy.

After witnessing a comeback like that I thought I'd probably seen everything that can possibly happen in this amazing game of ours - then I watched England v France in Euro 2004.....!

LOCAL news

As the business end of the season fast approaches, the race to make the finals and avoid the drop is on in all divisions.

Mathematically Queensland Lions still need a few more wins to officially retain their Premiership title, but retain it they shall. At the time of writing (round 14) they have won all their matches and amassed a goals tally that averages out to almost 4 per game. Miron Bleiberg's side have been simply outstanding and you are always certain of seeing a good game of football when Lions play. It's been said many times this year that the competition would be better off without the Richlands outfit but how many clubs would miss the extra income and interest generated when Lions come to visit? They have set benchmarks in the Premier League that all clubs would aspire to and have to play every match like a cup-tie. The trouble is, the fact that everyone wants to beat them helps even more as the Lions players surely must benefit from playing at increased intensity every week.

With everyone else seemingly playing for 2nd place the charge to the finishing post is fascinating as teams swap places almost every week. Pine Rivers appear to have shrugged off their home loss to Lions and resumed normal service. A 7-1 mauling of Palm Beach confirmed their status as favourites to take the runners-up spot. Rochedale and Mitchelton cannot afford too many slip ups if they are to hold on to the remaining finals places with Palm Beach and the inconsistent Brisbane Wolves and Brisbane City all homing in on the top 4.

Down below it's proving to be just as interesting and will probably go down to the wire. Souths do look doomed at this stage but one 1 or 2 wins for

any of the bottom 5 could change everything. Easts will be looking nervously over their shoulders as their form in the last couple of months has been very ordinary. Col Bennett's men still need a few more victories to assure safety in what has been a disappointing season for the fancied Tigers.

ExtraTime again caught up with the Premier League coaches for our regular monthly wrap.

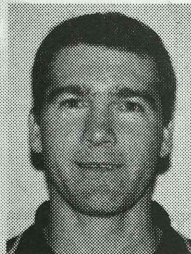
A MONTH OF MOUTH

Palm Beach: Karl Herdle

Everything we did against Pine Rivers went wrong and we were played off the park, they were definitely the best side we have played all year. Our form has been a bit jittery and we've had a few injury problems. The adrenalin fuelled start we had to the season is over now and it's during the week to week grind that you find out how good you are. We're a young side and have a good work ethic but we're naive at times. In saying that, we are still in there with a shout and the players will be all the better for the experience this year.

Pine Rivers: Clayton Koch

It's been a good few weeks for us. After losing to Lions it was good to win against Easts, win in the cup against Ipswich City and then get a terrific result away at Palm Beach (7-1). We've had a few niggling injuries and they seem to have come good which will help us. Smits and Rose are dangerous and have been a real handful for the opposition lately. If we can keep our team together and not be affected by suspensions and injuries then we are hopeful of keeping hold of 2nd place.



Rochedale Rovers: Kieran Cooper

We'd been on a good run but blew it against Mitchelton late on and lost at home to Lions even though we played really well. 3-0 flattered Lions and I can't complain about our performances; we're doing ok. We've come a long way in the last couple of years and we have to be pleased with the way things are going. We're very positive and trying hard to play entertaining football.

Taringa Rovers: Alan Waller

We were disappointed to lose to Easts after beating Brisbane City the week before. We plan

(continued page 7)



Tables (as of 27th June)

Premier League	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	15	15	0	0	56	6	45
PINE RIVERS UTD	15	10	3	2	37	30	32
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	15	9	4	2	35	23	29
BRISBANE CITY	15	7	7	1	25	29	22
MITCHELTON	14	6	5	3	25	20	21
PALM BEACH	15	5	6	4	26	29	19
BRISBANE WOLVES	14	6	7	1	25	31	19
NORTH STAR	15	5	7	3	22	26	18
EASTERN SUBURBS	15	4	9	2	19	30	14
TARINGA ROVERS	15	3	10	2	25	37	11
TOOWOOMBA	13	3	8	2	12	31	11
SOUTHS UNITED	15	2	9	4	16	31	10

Premier Reserves	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	15	13	1	1	42	10	40
PALM BEACH	15	10	1	4	31	19	34
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	15	10	4	1	46	21	31
BRISBANE CITY	15	9	4	2	34	20	29
EASTERN SUBURBS	15	6	7	2	34	31	20
BRISBANE WOLVES	14	6	7	1	28	29	19
SOUTHS UNITED	15	6	8	1	27	34	19
MITCHELTON	14	5	6	3	27	26	18
NORTH STAR	15	3	7	5	26	33	14
PINE RIVERS	15	3	8	4	26	50	13
TOOWOOMBA	13	3	9	1	21	36	10
TARINGA ROVERS	15	1	13	1	8	41	4

Premier Youth	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	14	14	0	0	62	11	42
PALM BEACH	14	10	4	0	48	22	30
MITCHELTON	14	10	4	0	43	19	30
BRISBANE CITY	15	9	5	1	40	18	28
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	14	8	5	1	34	20	25
NORTH STAR	14	7	6	1	38	27	22
SOUTHS UTD	15	6	6	3	32	27	21
TARINGA ROVERS	15	4	8	3	20	46	15
TOOWOOMBA	13	4	8	1	18	31	13
BRISBANE WOLVES	13	3	8	2	20	34	11
EASTERN SUBURBS	14	2	11	1	15	59	7
PINE RIVERS	15	1	13	1	13	69	4

Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	15	11	2	2	26	10	35
PENINSULA POWER	15	9	2	4	31	13	31
UNI OF QLD	14	7	1	6	36	20	27
MT GRAVATT	15	7	5	3	26	20	24
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	15	7	5	3	23	18	24
BEENLEIGH	15	6	6	3	25	23	21
REDLANDS UNITED	15	5	5	5	29	24	20
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	15	5	7	3	20	20	18
ALBANY CREEK	15	4	9	2	23	29	14
THE GAP	14	2	6	6	19	27	12
CAPALABA	15	1	8	6	13	39	9
ROCKLEA UTD	15	2	10	3	10	38	9

Div 1 Reserves	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
UNI OF QLD	14	12	1	1	59	11	37
MT GRAVATT	15	11	4	0	54	11	33
PENINSULA POWER	15	10	2	3	31	11	33
REDLANDS UTD	15	10	3	2	36	16	32
ALBANY CREEK	15	8	5	2	27	24	26
THE GAP	14	7	5	2	29	28	23
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	15	6	6	3	22	30	21
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	15	6	7	2	33	26	20
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	15	4	10	1	22	34	13
ROCKLEA UTD	15	3	11	1	11	37	10
BEENLEIGH	15	1	12	2	17	70	5
CAPALABA	15	1	13	1	9	52	4

Div 1 Youth	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
PENINSULA POWER	15	12	0	3	58	16	39
UNI OF QLD	14	10	3	1	52	14	31
ALBANY CREEK	15	9	3	3	53	18	30
REDLANDS UTD	15	9	3	3	40	17	30
MT GRAVATT	15	9	5	1	48	26	28
BEENLEIGH	15	6	4	5	43	28	23
BRISBANE OLYMPIC	15	5	7	3	32	38	18
CAPALABA	15	5	8	2	38	35	17
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	15	5	10	0	27	46	15
THE GAP	14	4	9	1	27	31	13
ROCKLEA UTD	15	3	12	0	20	76	9
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	15	1	14	0	10	103	3

Division 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
IPSWICH CITY	15	13	1	1	37	9	40
GOODNA	15	10	2	3	36	10	33
BETHANIA RAMS	15	9	2	4	49	19	31
NEWMARKET	15	9	2	4	41	20	31
BRISBANE FORCE	15	9	3	3	32	13	30
GRANGE THISTLE	15	5	6	4	22	22	19
SAMFORD	15	5	9	1	19	23	16
ANNERLEY	15	4	7	4	24	30	16
MOGGILL UTD	15	4	9	2	15	44	14
NORTH PINE	15	3	9	3	29	47	12
SLACKS CREEK	15	3	10	2	19	39	11
OXLEY UNITED	15	0	14	1	13	60	1

Div 2 Reserves	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE FORCE	15	12	0	3	38	6	39
IPSWICH CITY	15	10	3	2	38	18	32
GRANGE THISTLE	15	10	4	1	35	15	31
GOODNA	15	9	3	3	46	22	30
NEWMARKET	15	7	4	4	31	15	25
BETHANIA	15	6	5	4	44	24	22
NORTH PINE	15	7	7	1	40	31	22
ANERLEY	15	6	5	4	29	34	22
SLACKS CREEK	15	4	9	2	22	35	14
OXLEY UNITED	15	3	11	1	9	45	10
SAMFORD	15	2	11	2	13	50	8
MOGGILL UTD	15	0	14	1	11	61	1

Metro Div 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
DARRA LIONS	15	14	0	1	57	16	43
TARINGA ROVERS	15	9	2	4	25	18	31
ACACIA RIDGE	15	8	5	2	40	33	26
BRISBANE WOLVES	15	6	5	4	32	28	22
SOUTHS UNITED	15	6	5	4	30	27	22
WILSTON ATHLETIC	15	5	5	5	36	38	20
PINEAPPLE ROVERS	15	4	4	7	27	29	19
CLAIRVAUX	15	5	8	2	29	26	17
PARK RIDGE	15	4	7	4	21	32	16
UNI OF QLD	15	3	7	5	27	31	14
MITCHELTON	15	3	11	1	21	49	10
BAYSIDE UNITED	15	2	10	3	19	37	9

Metro Div 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
BRISBANE TORO	11	9	0	2	45	17	29
LOGAN CITY KINGS	11	9	2	0	52	20	27
PINE RIVERS	11	7	4	0	47	25	21
NEWMARKET	11	5	5	1	27	35	16
PINE HILLS	10	4	5	1	26	27	13
MOOROONDU	11	3	5	3	17	35	12
RIDGE HILLS	11	3	6	2	17	23	11
REDCLIFFE PCYC	10	3	7	0	8	31	9
THE GAP	9	2	5	2	21	25	8
BRIGHTON	11	1	7	3	15	37	6

Metro Div 3	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
CLAIRVAUX	15	14	0	1	62	15	43
EASTERN SUBURBS	14	12	2	0	61	20	36
DARRA LIONS	15	9	4	2	42	27	29
UNI OF QLD	14	8	3	3	31	14	27
PINEAPPLE ROVERS	15	8	4	3	23	19	27
BAYSIDE UNITED	14	7	5	2	29	25	23
NEWMARKET	15	5	6	4	27	29	19
ACACIA RIDGE	14	6	7	1	27	37	19
GRANGE THISTLE	15	4	9	2	22	37	14
PINE HILLS	15	2	12	1	20	45	7
NORTH PINE	15	2	13	0	15	65	6
SOUTHS UNITED	15	1	13	1	20	46	4

Metro Div 4	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLD BRIDGE SPORTS	15	13	1	1	79	11	40
REGENTS PARK	14	12	2	0	77	19	36
TARINGA ROVERS	14	11	2	1	29	19	34
NEWMARKET	14	9	3	2	45	25	29
BRISBANE CITY	15	9	4	2	49	30	29
BRISBANE FORCE	15	8	4	3	63	34	27
ACACIA RIDGE	15	5	9	1	31	49	16
SLACKS CREEK	15	5	9	1	24	47	16
MT GRAVATT	15	3	11	1	21	55	10
THE GAP	14	2	11	1	13	53	7
BEENLEIGH	15	1	11	3	41	94	6
SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	15	1	12	2	11	47	5

Metro Div 5	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
NORTH STAR	15	13	1	1	67	11	40
SLACKS CREEK	15	12	1	2	48	11	38
NEWMARKET	14	8	3	3	41	24	27
ANERLEY	15	9	6	0	45	32	27
BRIGHTON	15	8	7	0	48	47	24
OLYMPIC	15	8	7	0	43	44	24
RIDGE HILLS	15	6	7	2	25	35	20
REDLANDS UNITED	15	4	8	3	20	39	15
ALBANY CREEK	14	4	8	2	21	37	14
EASTERN SUBURBS	15	3	8	4	27	53	13
IPSWICH CITY	15	2	10	3	17	38	9
CLAIRVAUX	15	1	12	2	24	55	5

Metro Div 6	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
ALBANY CREEK	13	11	1	1	43	9	34
CAMIRA	14	9	1	4	36	18	31
PARK RIDGE	14	9	3	2	31	21	29
GOODNA	13	6	6	1	32	30	19
MOOROONDU	14	4	8	2	36	41	14
REGENTS PARK	14	4	8	2	29	49	14
MT GRAVATT	14	2	8	4	23	34	10
BRISBANE WOLVES	14	1	11	2	26	54	5

Open Youth Div	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
QUEENSLAND LIONS	12	12	0	0	67	7	36
BETHANIA RAMS	12	8	2	2	39	26	26
BRISBANE FORCE	12	6	3	3	37	14	21
SOUTHS UNITED	12	5	4	3	39	24	18
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	12	6	6	0	38	31	18
TOOWOOMBA	12	4	7	1	27	32	13
SLACKS CREEK	12	1	10	1	7	78	4
NORTH PINE	12	1	11	0	20	62	3

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to avoid the drop and will have to get points from North Star and Toowoomba in the coming weeks. It's vitally important to beat the teams around us at this stage of the season. We have had our opportunities and scored plenty of goals but we need to play with more confidence.

Toowoomba Raiders: Gordon McBain

It was a big win for us against Souths and to be honest I have never contemplated getting relegated. We're very inconsistent and that's a concern but we've had a number of new faces in the side this year and it's taken a while to gel. Avoiding individual errors is the key to it for us and if we can do that then we will be ok. If we can hold on to the bulk of our top side I'm confident that we have enough good young players coming through to set us up for a few years to come.



Eastern Suburbs: Col Bennett

We've had a lot of chances in the last few games and finally took a couple against Taringa which eased the pressure a bit. We've just got to take each game as it comes and hope that everyone in the team does

their job. When you're on a run like we've been on then you're looking for everyone to dig deep and show what they've got. The next few games are important for us and will give us a good indication as to where we will finish. We've got a great midfield at the moment and if they're firing the whole team fires.

Queensland Lions: Miron Bleiberg

Of course we are happy at the moment; we keep working hard and getting results. You need a little luck in soccer and we have been fortunate that a few things have gone our way lately. Things can change very quickly so we take nothing for granted. Even if we secure the title early we will set new goals for ourselves and try to win all of our games. Some of our ex-NSL players have been struggling with the pace of recent matches and that is a credit to us, a credit to the opposition and the Premier League as a whole.

Souths United: Peter Bannon

We've produced some very inconsistent performances. We play well in patches and then make errors and get punished for them. The defeat by Toowoomba has hurt us and it's going to be tough from hereon in but we have to keep going and try to get out of this situation. Realistically our destiny is still in our own hands

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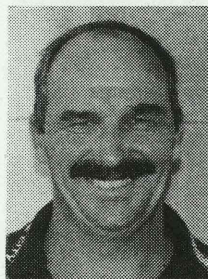
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and a couple of good results could change everything. We need that extra bit of luck which has been missing for most of the season. Not much has gone our way.

Mitchelton: Greg Brown

Mixed fortunes for us lately. The Rochedale win was huge for us after they had won 8 games straight, but then we slipped up against Brisbane Wolves. It's a bit frustrating but it was around this time in the first round that we started our good run and I'm pretty confident that we can get going again. It's going to be a tight run in to make the finals for a few clubs but I'm confident that we can maintain our position.



Brisbane City: Frank Pimblett

We're conceding the softest goals and definitely missing Wayne Strange at the back. Added to that we're missing far too many chances at the other end. As a team we are lacking the desire required to do well in this league and seem to be just going

through the motions. The way we're playing at the moment I'm not even contemplating finishing in the top 4. We're still in there with a chance and there's a lot to play for but the players have to want it and put out results. We have to work as hard as the other teams.

North Star: Ken Swan

We haven't lost for a little while and we're on a good run of results. We've beaten Palm Beach

and City so we're looking forward to the rest of the season. It takes time to build a team and when they're young players it takes a little bit longer. We've had Stuart McLaren there and he's been a good calming influence on the younger players. I've got 35-40 players coming to training every night and there's a great spirit at the club which is what we've been trying to build.

Brisbane Wolves: Kevin Meacock

It's been an up and down month. Apart from the defeat against North Star things have generally been ok. We've signed 3 players from the Solomon Islands that we spotted when we were over there and that will help us in terms of depth. I was very happy with the win over Mitchelton as it was a very important result for us and may even be the turning point of our season. If we're good enough to beat the teams around us then we have a chance of making the top 4. There is a really positive attitude around the club at the moment.

In **Division 1** Brisbane Olympic may have already done enough to secure Premier League status for 2005. The Yeronga-based side have kept their consistency when all others were losing theirs and have opened up what could prove to be a decisive lead at the top. Peninsula Power have had the jitters lately and can feel Uni of Qld snapping at their heels for 2nd spot.

Power coach John Daye (right) is looking to put his young side



back on the rails as quickly as possible. "We've been a bit flat lately and need to get our confidence back in order to return to winning ways. The boys haven't been happy about the way we've been performing in the last few games but we've signed a few new players that might help us get back on track. We have to take each game as it comes and work a bit harder to get the right results again. Olympic have set the benchmark in terms of consistency and that's what we have to strive for. We'll need to get some form back before we play them later this month."

The Round 16 clash between Power and Olympic (July 10th 5.00pm) is set to be a decisive fixture for both clubs and could set the season up for a grandstand finish. Don't miss that one at AJ Kelly Park.

You could just about throw a blanket over the next 5 clubs as they battle it out for the remaining finals place and consistency will be the key from this point on. University of Qld are sure to have a big say in the make up of the final placings and should not be ruled out of contention for 2nd place. The students are traditionally a strong outfit and have shown in the Premier Cup that they are capable of beating anyone on their day. It's certain to be a fascinating run in to the end of the season so make sure you get out to some Division 1 games and catch some of the action.

At the bottom it's looking very bleak for Capalaba and Rocklea with the Round 20 clash between the two clubs sure to be of monumental importance. The Gap will be desperate to avoid a second consecutive relegation but will need to find form very quickly to get themselves out of trouble.

Capalaba coach Peter O'Sullivan remains confident that the Bulldogs can manoeuvre themselves to safety. "We've picked up a few draws recently but we have to start scoring goals. The club has been restructured and established a sound financial footing again so we are rebuilding. We lost virtually all of our players from last season so we've had to start from scratch. I believe we are good enough to beat the sides above us and stay in this division which is obviously our short term goal. We've spent \$90,000 on our pitches and have a good facility here so it would be a loss to the division if we did go down. It's basically a case of do we have enough games to get the points we need to stay up. The players are fully committed to the

cause and that's why I'm confident we can do it."

One thing is for sure, none of these 3 teams will fancy a 2 leg play off against the high-flying sides in **Division 2**. Ipswich City hold pole position and strengthened their grip on the premiership with a hard fought win over local rivals Goodna in front of a large and vocal crowd at Kippen Park. Goodna, who were previously unbeaten, still look favourites to take out 2nd spot but will face stiff resistance from the likes of Bethania, Newmarket and Brisbane Force, who are all capable of stringing a good run together. At the bottom it's been a dismal season for the hapless Oxley who after 14 games have only managed one point. Pride is all they are playing for now as they try and muster some positives from a dire campaign.

Division 2 has enjoyed a much higher profile this term than in previous years and it's a testimony to all the clubs who are desperately fighting it out to gain promotion. It's very possible that we could see a few more twists and turns in this league before we reach finals time.

In **Metro Division 1** it's looking very much like Frank Byrne's Darra Lions will take out the premiership. Undeclared after 14 rounds Darra have amassed a healthy and unsurmountable lead at the top and will present a strong case for inclusion in Division 2 next season.

In **Metro 2** Brisbane Toro are enjoying their return to BMS action but Logan City Kings and Pine Rivers will certainly fancy themselves for a late push.

Clairvaux are still the team to beat in **Metro 3** and are banging goals in with regularity. Easts could mount a late challenge but the rest are too far back to worry the undefeated leaders.

BMS newcomers Old Bridge remain the leaders in **Metro 4** which is probably the most keenly contested of the Metro Leagues. Even if Taringa or Regents Park do manage to peg back the lead. Old Bridge have an impressive goal difference which could prove vital in the wash up at the end of the day.

In **Metro 5** you can take your pick from either North Star or Slacks Creek as the rest of the clubs are too far back to make an impact on the leaders. Miserly defences in both of these sides has projected them to the top.

It's pretty tight in **Metro 6** though. Albany Creek have been mean at the back whilst scoring freely, but Camira and Park Ridge won't have given it up just yet. ■

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Opinion

Kieran Cooper on school soccer



School Soccer. Is it taking over from Club? Is there a place for both? How do we fix the continuous problem the kids face deciding.

This is a tough subject. Each year most clubs around the state face the same problems. As school soccer gets bigger, so does the effect it has on clubs. For me it's simple. First and foremost **no school** should be allowed access to the normal football federations ie: BSDJSA, BNDJSA, BMS, etc. Sure, they should be affiliated, but under no circumstances should they be put in direct opposition to clubs by being allowed to participate in the same leagues. I know many of you reading this will ask why. Well, the simple reason is pressure. I am talking from experience as I have a major college in my area who I know puts pressure on the players to play for the school. They were allowed access to BSDJSA and now the clubs are paying the price. This was a huge mistake at the time. Imagine if all schools and colleges were given the same access. What would that do to the clubs? We probably wouldn't need clubs anymore. Year in and year out my own club faces this problem.

If all parties sat down at the beginning of the season and mapped out a calendar of events then clubs would not need to be postponing games

I have many parents come to me and tell me they really want their kids to play for the club but if they do then the school will put pressure on the kids. They never actually explain what kind of pressure, but for the fear factor alone they play for the school. It just shouldn't be allowed to happen.

Don't get me wrong, I have no problems with players representing their schools in school tournaments. This is a great achievement and also allows the player to hold his/her head high at school, but surely we must compromise. School soccer should be played during school

hours. Where I come from school soccer was big. But it was played Wednesday or Friday afternoons. I hear the argument that the schools want to play on the weekends because they can make a day of it with all their teams and get the whole school behind it. Surely this is a very selfish attitude. To me this shows that the school could not care less about the clubs. They could play midweek and still get the support behind them. At present we have players either being forced to play for the school in opposition to club, or players backing up for club games after playing for the school. How long before these kids get sick and tired of it all?

Another problem I see is the timing of some of these school tournaments. Recently we had a number of our players away from club duties because they had been selected for their school zone. Now I really don't have a problem with this other than the timing. If all parties sat down at the beginning of the season and mapped out a calendar of events then clubs would not need to be postponing games because they have players away or field an under strength team for the same reason. A little cooperation would go a long way.

The schools have this thing about winning and prestige, which is fair enough. But what is it doing to the kids? If the schools allowed the player the time to develop at club level, then called them back to represent the school it may give them the prestige they crave. Provided that the powers-that-be have allocated a certain period of the season as school tournament time then we would all have a win/win situation.

The alternative to all this is to simply let the schools take over. Let them run junior soccer. Maybe we should just concentrate on senior football at our clubs and let all the schools run the schoolboy football. How many clubs do you think would soon go under? How many clubs depend on junior fees to survive?

Whatever the case, something has got to give because if we sit back and wait then the problem will just keep on coming back. ■



Brisbane Men's Soccer

BMS General Manager
Bruce Dinsdale
keeps us up to date



Every year around this time we start looking ahead to the finals and the promotion and relegation issues. So just to make sure everyone knows exactly where they stand and what will happen come the end of the fixtures, I thought that this would be a good time to remind everyone of the facts.

PROMOTION & RELEGATION

Premier League: The last placed team will automatically be relegated to the First Division; the 2nd last-placed team will compete in the Promotion/Relegation games against the 2nd placed team from the First Division.

First Division: The 1st placed team will automatically be promoted to the Premier League, the 2nd placed team will compete in the Promotion/Relegation games against the 2nd last placed team in the Premier League. The last-placed team will automatically be relegated to the 2nd Division. The 2nd last placed team will compete in the Promotion/Relegation games against the 2nd placed team from the Second Division.

Second Division: The 1st placed team will automatically be promoted to the First Division, the 2nd placed team will compete in the Promotion/Relegation games against the 2nd last placed team from the First Division. The last placed team may be required to compete in a two-legged playoff against the first placed team from the Metro 1 competition, subject to that Club having already met the standards for entry into the Premier Competition.

Promotion / Relegation Matches:

As soon as the teams are known for the Promotion/Relegation games, an official of both teams will be required to meet with an official of BMS to organize the scheduling of the games. A coin will be tossed and the winner will chose whether they will play their home leg first or second.

The games will consist of 2 x 45 minute halves. Should the scores be level after normal time of the second leg, then away goals will count as double to decide the winner. If away goals are equal, then 2 x 15 minutes of Golden goal extra time will be played (ie. should a goal be scored, the game shall finish and the team scoring shall be declared the winner). Should the result still be equal after extra time, a penalty shootout will take place.

FINALS SERIES

All Divisions: At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top 4 teams in each Division will play in the Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners.

The Format: BMS will announce the relevant kick-off times and a venue for all Finals Series matches.

Week 1: 4th vs. 1st 1st Leg Semi Final
3rd vs. 2nd 1st Leg Semi Final

Week 2: 1st vs. 4th 2nd Leg Semi Final
2nd vs. 3rd 2nd Leg Semi Final

Week 3: Grand Final

Finals Matches: The games will consist of 2 x 45 minute halves. Should the scores be equal after normal time of the 2nd Leg, then away goals will count as double to decide the winner. If away goals are equal, then 2 x 15 minutes of extra time will be played and Golden Goal will apply. Should the result still be equal after extra time, a penalty shoot-out will take place.

For the Grand Final, it's the same as above but obviously excluding the away goals rule. Hopefully you will understand this format for these important matches. If you are unsure, I encourage you to check with the office here at BMS 3324 0888.

Premier Cup Semi Finals	Sun 1 Aug
Premier Cup Final	Sunday 5 Sept
Metro Cup Final	Sunday 1 Aug
Promotion / Relegation 1 st Leg	Wed 1 Sept
Promotion / Relegation 2 nd Leg	Sat 4 Sept
Metro Semi Finals 1 st Leg	Sat 4 Sept - Sun 5 Sept
Metro Semi Finals 2 nd Leg	Sat 11 Sept - Sun 12 Sept
Metro Grand Finals	Sat 18 Sept - Sun 19 Sept
Premier Semi Finals 1 st Leg	Sat 11 Sept - Sun 12 Sept
Premier Semi Finals 2 nd Leg	Sat 18 Sept - Sun 19 Sept
Premier Grand Finals	Sat 25 Sept - Sun 26 Sept

ACCIDENTALjournalist

**ExtraTime Soccer Show presenter
Brenton Wilson chases
the Socceroos around
Sydney and Melbourne**

Ever since the ExtraTime Soccer Show started, both Garry Johnson and I have worked hard to promote the local competition, its players, and provide a focal point for the supporters of the world game.

So when the opportunity arose to attend both games between the Socceroos and Turkey down south, I grabbed it with both hands. For me it was an opportunity to meet the supporters, players, coaching staff and more importantly build relationships and friendships.

The following is a journal of my trip while interstate. I certainly have a new respect for journalists, because as much as I had fun, it did weary me a little.

I hope you listen in the show, and catch some of our great interviews that were taken.

Friday 1.30pm: Arrive Sydney airport, and notice it is a little cooler than Brisbane. Pick up the hire car and head for Hotel Kensington, which is supposed to be 10 minutes from Aussie Stadium. It was - by helicopter! The next disappointment was learning that the hotel manager would not be able to arrange a conference call for the show the next morning, not a great start.

Friday 3.30pm: Head into the Sydney CBD, it was noticeable that there was no advertising or marketing of the game whatsoever in the city centre, not even in the Pitt Street Mall.

Friday 5.30pm: Caught up with Garry Johnson and his son for dinner. As always Garry and I talked soccer the whole time. I think his son

actually fell asleep at one point.

Friday 7.00pm: Back at the hotel the traffic on the main drag was at a stand still, so make the journey to the stadium by foot, and this ends up being a good decision as I move faster than the traffic.

Friday 7.20pm: Arrive at Aussie Stadium to see a sea of red, not green & gold. I guess the Socceroos supporters are already inside. Collect my media pass with SBS commentator Francis Awaratefe, and we are escorted to our own media box. We both had an interesting discussion on the game; it

was surprising to see the Turkey fans outnumber the Socceroos supporters 60-40.

Friday 9.15pm: Game over and Turkey win 3-1. Bresciano had a fine game, but more apparent was our tactical deficiency. It's going to be interesting to hear what Frank has to say at the press conference. While waiting with Francis to be taken to the media area, I see Stuart McLaren and we have a chat. Supposedly, Socceroos captain Craig Moore organised a ticket for Stuart, good to have friends in high places.

Friday 9.45pm: Finally, we are escorted over to the amphitheatre; Frank and Marco enter the room. I tape the entire press conference for the show the next morning.

Friday 10.10pm: Press conference over, we are informed that the team will be available for interviews at 11am at Sydney Airport tomorrow. With that I headed back to the hotel, with the Turkey fans still singing.



Aren't we supposed to be at home? Turkey fans outnumber the Aussies in Sydney.

Saturday 9.00am: Speak to 101FM via the telephone, played media conference from the previous evening.

Saturday 10.00am: Arrive at the airport, have breakfast and wait for the Socceroos to arrive at the group departure lounge. 10.45am the team arrives and I am able to chat to Simon Colossimo and get a great interview with Marco Bresciano - great lad.

Sunday 12.00pm: Left Sydney airport for Melbourne which was even colder. On arrival at the hotel it was great to see the Telstra Dome virtually right on the my doorstep. Checked emails from the ASA. Training at Bob Jane Stadium this afternoon at 4pm, and Turkey will be available for 15 minutes tonight at the Telstra Dome.

Sunday 4.00pm: Arrived at Bob Jane Stadium. Spoke to the Green & Gold army. Interesting to hear their Harry Kewell rendition, while being sung to local TV media. "Do the local media know that Harry isn't here?" We get into the stadium and watch the players train. I catch up with coaching director Jim Selby, and get his impression of Friday night's game, and other issues. At the end of the training session Frank gives 5 minutes for an interview.

Sunday 5.15pm: Did interview with Green & Gold Army, and take some pictures. One of the lads offers to drive me back to the hotel as it starts to rain. Thanks mate.



Sunday 8.00pm: Arrive at Telstra Dome entrance with a lot of Turkish media, no other Australians in sight, except for ASA media liaison Peter Smith. I have a chat to Peter; he advises that we will only get 15 minutes and no interviews. We finally get in and the Turkish manager invites us to come onto the pitch. One of the guys from CNN Turkey tells me that because there's no Australian media, we will be allowed to stay around for the whole training session. The media from Turkey seem to have a

lot more knowledge of the game than the so-called soccer journalists in Australia.

It was fantastic to see players like Rustu, Emre, Sukur, Serkin etc up close. 2 ½ hours later we were still there and as luck would have it Turkey's coach had made himself available for an interview. A local interpreter was there, and although it was a long winded process, I believe it was worthwhile to get the coach's view of the series. Tonight, I had made some new Turkish friends.



Brenton (2nd from left) presses the flesh with the Turkish media

Monday 10.00am: Checked emails from ASA and received phone call from Peter Smith. It appears they wanted to know the make up of the Turkey squad and tactics. They wanted information from little old me, the accidental journalist. I don't pretend to be something I'm not, but it says a lot about our media when they don't even turn up to the Turkey training session. The positive effects the tour has had on the Turkish community in Sydney and Melbourne alone was more than newsworthy, but I guess this reflects other issues in our game.

Again it was noticeable the lack of advertising /marketing in Melbourne for the game.

Monday 7.00pm: Arrive at the game, chat to some of the Turkish media. I listen in on a conversation between two Aussie journos, one says he has a good contact who informs him that Turkey will be bleeding some of the youngsters tonight, and that Australia should roll them. Well I know where that information came from, me, and secondly, Turkey was always going to win this match.

Monday 9.30pm: Turkey win 2-0. Even with turkey bleeding some of their young talent they had all the answers. Attended media conference, basically the same as Sydney, silly questions being asked, and Frank again, really not having the right answers, but that's my opinion. ■



Top of the class - Per Van Hansen

European governing body UEFA have a well structured education program for coaches at all levels. Danish coach Per Van Hansen, who is an 'A' License holder, describes his experiences on his way through the program.

BASIC COURSES

The first steps are the basic courses which are held over five weekends. As a pro-player I was not required to do these courses but I did them anyway. Each treat a specific subject; skills, fitness, tactics, coaching methods and planning training sessions.

YOUTH COURSE

After two years as an Under -12 coach I went to the youth course which was held as a week-long camp with several training sessions and theoretical classes every day. This course builds on the same subjects as the basic courses, but is based on children's principles of playing football. After passing this course I went on to the UEFA B License.

UEFA B LICENSE

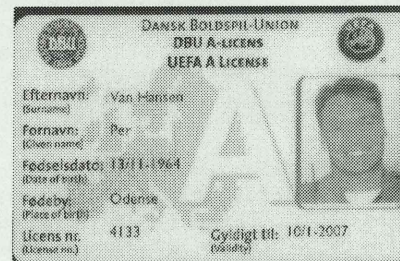
Aside from my own career as player, I continued working with youth teams in different age groups, levels and countries. Helping kids becoming better football players really gave me the taste for coaching and I decided to go for the UEFA B License which aims at coaching adults and treats subjects such as leadership, communication, physiology, restitution and injuries, along with a profound exposition on the same five subjects from the earlier courses. This course is held as an intro-weekend, a week-long camp and a final weekend with examination. After a 4-hour examination I was now a happy holder of a UEFA B License.

LEARNING FROM TOP COACHES

In the following years I spent all my vacations visiting great teams and coaches all over the world. Among them AC Milan, FC Barcelona, West Ham, and Flamengo. In Australia I had some great experiences with Frank Farina's Brisbane Strikers and at Perth Glory with Bernd Stange. Both of them are now national coaches. Of all places in the world Bernd Stange is now national coach of Iraq!

COACHING TEST

To get an invitation to the UEFA A License Course I had one decisive hurdle to overcome - a day-long test on my coaching qualities and knowledge. The starting point of this test was a match in the morning between two youth teams. I had to analyse one of the teams and then plan what I would do with this team in the near future. I had to defend my analysis and my plan in a one hour examination held by my test leader, who also produced a lot of theoretical questions.

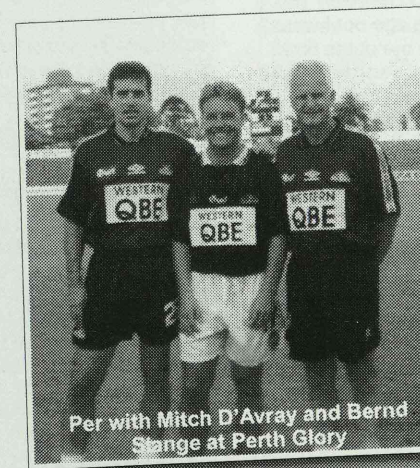


After this grilling he singled out one subject in my analysis on which I should conduct a full training session in the afternoon with the team. Fortunately the team performed well under my guidance and now I was ready for the final examination, this time on my coaching methods. To obtain an invitation to the A-License course I had to receive a completely spotless evaluation on my test, and since 1980 only 191 coaches have passed this hurdle, so when I received my invitation I was both happy and very proud.

UEFA A LICENSE COURSE

Before I could start on my A License Course I had to pass my referee's examination and coach a team in the highest local division, so I signed as player-coach with the local heroes and was now ready to proceed. Starting with an introduction weekend, the A License Course takes a full year. I met with my supervisor who would observe my work through the season. Before the season started I had to make a profound game-plan for the team and explain how I prepared the team to implement this game-plan. During the season I had to document all my training sessions, all my pre-match tactics and match analysis. My supervisor observed my work in training and at matches on 4 occasions. Every training session had to relate to either the game-plan or problems from the matches.

In the summer break I was on a week-long camp where there were numerous training sessions and debates on different subjects.



Per with Mitch D'Avray and Bernd Stange at Perth Glory

Taking part in discussions with other ambitious coaches and sharing ideas was especially interesting.

At the end of the season we went to London for a week-long study tour. My group visited Chelsea and Wimbledon. It was great to follow great players and coaches at Chelsea, but from a coaching point of view, it was fantastic to see Wimbledon's controversial coach Egil Olsen (former national coach of Norway) trying to teach a typical English kick and rush team to play his style of football. As you may know he does not believe in possession football, but only in systematic counter-attacking. Well, for us who like beautiful football, it was a relief when he failed with both Norway and Wimbledon, but it was very interesting to follow his training sessions and I learned a lot from him about constructing every session to fit the game-plan. Every night in London we discussed everything

we saw with the other groups who were at Charlton, Fulham, Tottenham and Arsenal.

At the last day of the week we had the final examination and evaluation on our work through the year and it was an enormous satisfaction to receive my UEFA A-License. Ten years of hard work and studying had come to an end and now every door was open for me.

THE FUTURE

Since I completed my UEFA A License I have

worked at different clubs around the world with great success. Among them was Eastern Suburbs in Queensland and my experiences in Brisbane gave me the taste for more in either Australia or New Zealand. However, UEFA is working on a new license aimed at top coaches in top national divisions and National team coaches - the Pro-License.

The Pro-License course is a two year education program and if I want to achieve this level I will have to coach a 1st division team in Europe. But 2005 must be the year where I return to Australia, because I simply loved it the last time I was there. ■

NEVER WRITE OFF A Sporting Chance

Micky Brock is a true soccer fanatic. His input into the game in Australia is only underestimated by the man himself as his peers are all too ready to acknowledge his long-standing contribution to the sport. Driven and multi-skilled, Brock taps into the emotional side of the soccer fan like no-one else. His many roles in the beautiful game include being the Editor of the Australian and British Soccer Weekly, Supporter Liaison Officer and Memberships Manager at Northern Spirit, NSL statistician and all-round media dynamo. ExtraTime caught up with the die-hard Arsenal fan at his Sydney home.

So where did it all begin for you?

It takes a while to think back on all that has happened and makes one wonder where to begin? I suppose the best place to start is always at the beginning and so I can only say that I was born at a very young age but I wasn't scared as my mother was with me at the time! Sadly, my folks have all passed away now but it is a very deep sense of gratitude I feel whenever thinking on the sport I love with a passion. A passion and love affair, which I have told my beautiful wife, may not be the strongest of my life but, immediate family aside of course, is certainly the longest. When my team wins or loses, like most fans, my life is dictated to such an extent that it borders on obsession. Holidays and weddings are planned around the fixture list and the only deviation comes when there is a sudden death, God forbid, of a close friend or relative etc.

Who were your early influences?

My father used to sit me on his knee as a kid and tell me wondrous stories of the great Arsenal side of the 30's. Of Bastin, Hulme, Kelsey, Drake et al and the seeds for a lifetime of euphoric highs and desperate lows were sown. More than anyone I owe this man so much more than I could ever relate in mere words. He was, and still is, the greatest hero to me who gave me so much more than simplistic material items - a love of football, a zest for life and so many fond memories.

Do you have fond memories of England?

Growing up in the UK was brilliant. I didn't know anything else of course. I was always the joker in the pack and never really took schoolwork very seriously....until after I had actually left institutions behind and realized what a mug I'd

been. I had short-changed myself and decided there was only one thing to do; further my education, so long as I could still get my weekly dose of footie you understand. However, to cut a long story short, I met a wonderful Australian girl, fell instantly in love and have enjoyed her company for nearly twenty years now. This brought me to these shores and I had to decide what to do with my new life. No certificates to speak of, other than a few 'A' Levels, where would the lucky country take me?

So where did you get started in Australian soccer?

As it turned out, a weekly soccer magazine was written and printed nearby to where I lived and I took a look at an issue one week and realized, to be honest, how poor a read it was. The content was decidedly average, the writers were, at best, enthusiastic amateurs and the lay-out left a great deal to be desired so I decided there and then to pay a visit to the editor to see what the story was. This I did and ended up, along with my good friend Stuart 'Scoop' Jones, becoming yet another unpaid writer for the paper, the UK section being entirely left up to us and covering some 4-8 pages for the *Australian and British Soccer Weekly*.

We did this for a number of years but were told not to cover any Australian football as this was for the 'senior writer' to do. This seemed somewhat shortsighted to me as so many UK people were in this great land. With so many other nationalities also in Oz we thought our section could be used for information about upcoming matches and so attempt to aid the sport by putting 'burns on seats' at grounds around the country. This never eventuated and the head-in-the-sand policy prevailed so we

concentrated on providing the tightest and most off-beat UK content in the country, which we surely succeeded in doing.

This went on for many years and eventually I became the sub-editor for the paper and, further down the track, the editor. I knew the rag had to take a different direction and so I called everyone into my office and said that if they had any ideas please feel free to offer them. With none forthcoming, I related what I wanted to do with the paper and in what direction I wanted it to head. Firstly, this was Australia and therefore ALL Australian content must be placed in its entirety on the front and subsequent pages and world soccer after that.

Did the circulation increase as a result?

The paper was selling just 1200 copies per week when I took over, with few ads and just 24-pages. According to the printers at least, by the time of my rather public and wrongful demise from their employ, some 12-months later, circulation was up to 10,000 per week, it contained 32-pages at no extra cost and advertising revenue had increased by 60%. Not bad for a Pom under the circumstances we found ourselves working in, but that is a story for a novel one day perhaps!

How did your involvement with Soccer Australia come about?

I had worked with Soccer Australia when helping out their Media Department during the build-up for the 1998 World Cup and spent a great deal of time in the company of the players and the then manager Terry Venables. A terrific eye-opener and insight into the tactics, preparation and team spirit contained within the game. Many see the more public, slightly dour persona of the players, but here I saw Graham Arnold smiling a lot, Mark Bosnich acting the goal and Robbie Slater being, well, Robbie Slater really, and young players such as Craig Moore and Harry Kewell coming through and so on. It was fantastic to be involved and if it hadn't have been for that fateful night in Melbourne.....

So what happened next?

With this experience behind me and having been ousted from ABSW with a court case pending, I was still working on radio in Sydney where we covered the previous week's matches and the upcoming games, interviewed the coaches and players live on air and generally had a lot of fun. It was during these times that I first spoke with Remo Nogarotto who was to become the first Chairman of Northern Spirit and did, in due course, lead me to the newly formed club as firstly the Supporter Liaison Manager and latterly as the Memberships Manager too. What

followed was two and half years of rollercoaster riding that had to be lived to be fully understood. Graham Arnold became the first coach, Slater was on board, Ian Crook came from England and a host of junior players came through such as Paul 'Hendo' Henderson. The first home match was against Sydney Olympic at North Sydney Oval, a game in which the visitors won two-nil. But the attendance reached some 18,985 with several thousand more locked out. Football in Sydney had arrived. With an average of some 14,600 that first year, North Sydney was the 'in place' on Friday nights and Spirit was the new craze. That we made the finals that first season is a testament to the grit and courage shown by so many. The supporters are the real stars though. They came from everywhere, all over Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Wollongong and even the Central Coast. They were



North Sydney was the 'in place' on Friday nights and Spirit was the new craze

sensational and gave me so many of my fondest memories of that time. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

I penned the Official History of Northern Spirit the first year, which was a labor of love to be honest, as I felt it was important. It eventually became a full color magazine of which I am quite proud and sold well at the ground and after match functions.....thankfully.

As ever, the cash flow situation of the club (another story that would almost take a novel to explore) deteriorated and without the sale of Kresimir Marusic and several players pouring in \$250,000 each, the club would have sank without trace. These were worrying times but don't panic, a new era was about to dawn.....so they said!

Carnegie Sports, owners of Glasgow Rangers, became involved toward the latter part of the second season, firstly as Junior Partners and then as owners. They sent over an accountant, supposedly a CEO by all accounts, who probably, in the long run, caused far more damage to the club than good. I can only surmise this from stories related to me by the

fans as I was surplus to requirements. It is no secret that I didn't get along with the two other office staff as I found them to be lacking in so many departments but especially a working knowledge of football. They were far more interested in kudos than making the club work. If that offends anyone I'm afraid I do not apologise. However, on his fourth day at the club, our new Rangers CEO (sic), called me into his office at 8 minutes to 5 on the Thursday afternoon and said: "When the other Rangers people get here they will overlap into your sphere of operation which will make your position redundant...which may as well take place immediately." I was given seven whole minutes to clear my desk and leave, much to the amusement of those left behind in the office. Fair play to them, they worked it well.

And so it was that I found myself without employment in the fickle world of Australian Soccer once again. I received several phone calls from the players and a few of the staff and board members after my dismissal, stating that the wrong choice had been made, but hey! I was no longer there, the decision had been made and I was on my way.

Surely some other clubs showed an interest in you?

Strangely enough, I did receive a phone call from a club Chairman which went something like this: "Hello Mick. Is it true you are no longer at Spirit?"

"That is correct," say I in return.

"We would love to have you here with us but we can't afford you," was what I heard next.

I replied: "Hang on. How do you know you can't afford me if you don't talk to me?"

"True mate," said the Chairman, "Send us a resume and I'll see what I can do."

This I dutifully did and am still awaiting the reply! This is how the soccer world seems to gravitate in Australia. One minute you are the dog's dangly bits and then the smell it leaves on the footpath. Perhaps it is like this all over the world? Another phone call and I found myself on a short term contract with Parramatta Power. At the time they were getting just over 2000 to home games and I was given two matches to improve upon that. The first match saw just over 8500 and the second was little more than 5500.....but the contract was not renewed. You work it out as I'm still at a loss to do so. 14000 in two matches and it wasn't enough!

Deciding that time and tide waits for no man, and

with my good lady wife berating me once more, it was time to get a real job, which I still have, in order to pay the mortgage, the bills and support our growing reptilian pets etc.

Was this the time when you took on the NSL stats?

Yeah, this is when I met Mike Da Silva, a truly fantastic gentleman, businessman and friend. He put an idea to me which appealed greatly as I love keeping the statistics of NSL matches. We set about incorporating 'statto's' around the country who would keep track of certain elements of a game and then forward them to me upon the final whistle. I would then set them to grid form and get them out to soccer agencies, print and electronic media outlets and websites in Australia, New Zealand, the USA and England within 15-minutes of a game ending. It was fast paced, hectic and, at times, slightly worrying, but it was also a great deal of fun. Sadly, the now defunct Soccer Australia didn't meet their end of the bargain and so the stats had to be placed on hold, hopefully only until the new Australian Premier League comes into being?

Looking back, have some of your experiences soured your ambitions to work in the game again?

I would go back into it given the right opportunity and people to work with. I am always prepared to push myself, to prove to myself if no-one else, that I can do what others only dream about. Whilst the thinking at Power may have been to put a sign up outside the ground and the crowds would turn up, I am not that naive. I know how to source a crowd, for any event, in the most unlikely of places, because that is where they will be found. It's a knack I suppose, but someone has to have it.

Is there any chance of you plying your football trade in Brisbane one day?

Perhaps. Maybe sooner than you think, maybe not. Who knows what lies around the next corner? I've gone from writing to radio and TV, to NSL clubs and back again. Football offers a rollercoaster ride of emotions. Luckily, I love the rollercoaster.

And finally, a message to our readers?

Be lucky, best wishes and don't forget to follow your team with pride! 📺



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hat's this? A feast of derbies in the making no less. Looking at the Euro 2004 groupings, it dawned on me that we're in for a real treat this time around.

France playing England, (ooh la la) Sweden taking on Denmark and surely the clincher, Spain against Portugal. There's nothing like a derby day and it takes me back to four years ago at the

England/Scotland match being shown in Gilhooley's Irish bar at midnight local time. It was the only venue in Brisbane showing the match and the atmosphere was just electric. Playing a Scotland/England derby in an Irish bar seemed a bit rich at first, but one glance at the capacity crowd was enough to see the marketing people had done their homework. Looking around, you could see the blue shirts, kilts and tartan wigs of the Scots nestling closely with the white shirts of the English. The Scots Nationalists were on a loser here. Accents abounded as did the various club strips.

To see the Arsenal colours mingling amongst the Spurs shirts was a sight to behold and it was not long before the familiar spine chilling chants began. In the build up to the game, the pub had thoughtfully supplied entertainment in the way of a local duo who bravely sang through their sets, likely to their biggest audience ever. But they were

constantly drowned out by the haunting, 'Flower of Scotland' and 'Rule Britannia'.

There was no segregation and no need as the crowd sang with all the passion of the terraces for this latest meeting of the auld enemies. The air conditioning was on overtime and it was easy to believe we were in Hampden on an autumn afternoon, a rarified

atmosphere that we drank in like thirsty cane workers. Song and good cheer carried on as the Scots defence wavered and Scholes unleashed his magic. The only sign of trouble being a young Scot spilling his beer on a nearby English group. New drinks appeared like magic and everyone resumed singing. Remember this is a late night viewing and the 'ground' is still serving. It shows you these are real fans deserving of praise (and better PR) for this derby of all derbies.

Local derbies are the most eagerly awaited matches throughout the season. It brings out the best and worst of players and fans and is the most entertaining sport you will ever find. Our competitive nature being what it is, where would Queenslanders be without the Blues, the Aussies without the Poms or Venus without Sarina? But does this hold true for the local competition. To my mind, the local derby is the birthplace for all that follows in the grown-ups league. Following your country is one thing, remembering that Euro derbies were founded Christmas Day 1915 when the young men of that generation laid down their arms and picked up their boots for a day. But why does anyone decide to follow Arsenal over Spurs or Liverpool over

Sharon Jackson deals with derby day divisions

best of derbies

Everton? And why should such a passion develop?

A history of success is one reason for Manchester United's now global support. A young fan once traveled 3 days across China to see his adopted team play and the success of a team is many a young person's reason for selection. Then again, there's the peer pressure of having to follow the latest success whilst secretly nurturing a love of Accrington-Stanley. This underdog empathy must be why Prince Harry is a Middlesbrough fan. Still he is known as the joker of the pack!

You will hear people tell that it was the first team their father took them to see, but I have my doubts. Since when was Liverpool the most heavily populated city in the world?

Family and religion plays its part, ask any Celtic and Rangers fan. Often we identify with the stars of the day, if you were from Northern Ireland, George Best and if you were black, Clyde Best. Allegiance to a soccer team is for some complex and others quite simple. For more than a few, it has displaced the religion and family they were

born to. How often have you heard a soccer widow say she'll die on a Monday so he can have the funeral on Thursday and go to the match on Saturday? For others, it's not important at all, Rugby fans for example.

But by far, it's simply our tribal roots showing through and reminding us in this technological day, we are biological creatures formed of the earth. The survival of the tribe creates a belonging with our local community and distrust of the next, two miles away, developing pride and passion without conscious thought. It doesn't take too much thought to bring to mind the unsung heroes at your club where a simple gesture has made you proud to belong. It explains the steadfastness of Manchester City against the dominance of United, the dogged survival of Carlisle United and the emergence of teams like Wimbledon. We all want to be the best at something and if not yourself, your team. Well perhaps not the synchronised swimming team but you get the general idea.

Few of us are destined for greatness but many do the little things in a great way to make their club the best in the area. ■



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IPSWICH IGNITED

Marco Monteverde reflects on exciting times for soccer in Queensland's 2nd City

Genuine excitement looms in Ipswich soccer at the prospect of the city's 3 teams playing against each other on a regular basis next season.

Soccer in Ipswich has lacked intense rivalry since Coalstars and St Helens joined to form the Ipswich Knights.

But should fans be satisfied with Division 1 derbies involving the Knights, Ipswich City and Goodna? Or should they feel short-changed about having to go another season without representation in the Premier League?

Anybody who thought the Knights would go straight back up after last year's shock relegation from the top flight have been sadly mistaken.

Decimated by a mass player walkout, the Bundamba-based club will do well to make the Division 1 semi-finals and has openly stated that promotion won't be a target until next season. "This is a year of consolidation for us," Knights

The Knights' relegation was a disaster

president Todd Hunt said.

"Based on the financial status of the club, 2006 is my goal for us to be in the Premier League." Ipswich soccer fans having to settle for Division 1 mediocrity have at least had the pleasure of watching Ipswich City and Goodna locked in a titanic battle for Division 2 glory.

There's a strong possibility both sides could be playing Division 1 football next season. Add the Knights to the equation, and there could be 6 Ipswich derbies, excluding finals.

"It'll be fantastic for the area to have 3 teams in the same division," said Ipswich City goalkeeper Jason Lucas, who fondly remembers locking horns with Coalstars players during his time as a St Helens player.

"The higher division it is, the more there is at stake."

Which is one reason why Lucas, who has also played for the Knights, Queensland Lions, Taringa, Brisbane City and the state side in a decorated career, believes it's vital Ipswich teams aim for the Premier League.

"The Knights' relegation has dealt Ipswich soccer a really big blow," the 33-year-old custodian said.

"2 clubs (Coalstars and St Helens) have not only lost their identity, but Ipswich has now lost its Premier League spot. The kids don't have anything to aim for."

That's if you exclude neighbours Lions, the cashed-up Australian Premier League aspirants who see Ipswich as a breeding ground for soccer talent.

Lions already have a presence in Ipswich schools and have also had discussions with the Knights about forming an off-field relationship between the two clubs.

"Lions are only 20 minutes away from the centre of Ipswich. They're at the top of the list of every child," Lucas said.

He said Ipswich ill feeling towards Lions only existed among the older members of the city's soccer fraternity.

"Lions are too strong for any club to compete against them," Lucas said.

"It's all about kids wanting to better themselves they'll strive to be part of that club."

Of the three Ipswich clubs, Goodna is the closest to Lions' Richlands base. But rather than feel threatened by the vicinity of the giants, Goodna president Craig Reimers said Lions were doing surrounding teams a favour by requiring only a select few of the youngsters the club developed via its school involvement.

"There's only a certain amount of kids they can take and the other clubs get the rest," he said. "And Ipswich people will not be that interested in supporting Lions unless they make the National League."

Reimers liked the idea of a representative Ipswich side playing in the summer State League but said the priority was getting an Ipswich club preferably the Knights - back into the Premier League.

"The Knights' relegation was a disaster," he said. "They will always be our top club. The Bulls (Ipswich City) are pushing, but they won't make it." Bulls President Craig Brown said the Brassall-based club had a 5-year plan to play in the "highest division possible."

"Ipswich needs a team in the Premier League but you've got to crawl before you can walk," Brown said. ■

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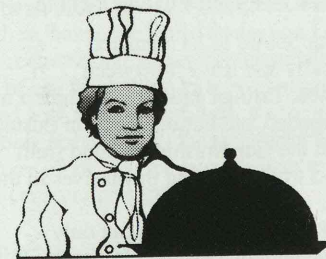
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With no interest in the top spot of the PL, the real battle now is at the foot of the table with 6 points covering almost half the league. With 14 rounds gone at the time of writing let's take a look at those clubs who are fighting to avoid the dreaded drop.

Eastern Suburbs (9th on 14 pts)

After a solid start, Easts' current form is the poorest in the PL with only one win from their last 9 games, that's right 7 losses! So why have the wheels dropped off at Easts? Certainly the talk of players such as McLaren, Steffanuto (dreaming!), Warren Moon and Baldock not eventuating may have seen Easts in a position of complacency following 3 wins and a draw from their first 5 games. Flaskas came and went and while Brockwell has been a steady influence at the back the lack of goals has been costly. On current form they are certainties to finish in 12th position and the tough run of games towards the end of the season may well be the defining scenario for the toothless Tigers.

North Star (8th on 15 pts)

Kenny Swan with the help of Stuart McLaren has certainly seen a more resolute series of performances than earlier in the season. Up to the game against Brisbane City goal-scoring was still a problem but defensively they look a lot tighter than some of their neighbours. The move to play home games at Perry Park may well be an ace for North Star and with Luke Morley playing out a number of games before heading overseas, I would suggest the Stars may shine brightly enough to avoid any relegation play-off fears.

Taringa Rovers (10th on 11 pts)

First of all to have the leading goal-scorer in the affable Reza Aysen is certainly a major plus for the Rovers and if Reza stays fit then who knows. The major worry at JSP will be defensively with 33 goals against being higher than any other PL side. The fact they gave Lions their closest contest in only losing 2-1 is also a good testament to their chances, but the season is all about 22 games and the Lions result was still 3 points to the lads from Richlands. I think Rovers will just manage to keep their heads above water, but it will be close.

Souths Utd (12th on 9 pts)

Personally believe they could be looking at Division 1 in 2005. A lack of goals and a leaky defence doesn't inspire much confidence. They must take points from their table neighbours as I can't see them prying any results from teams above them.

I think Rovers will just manage to keep their heads above water

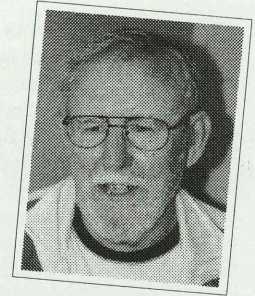
Toowoomba (11th on 11 pts and 2 games in hand)

Can't believe that the Raiders have performed so poorly this year; can the 'tractor boys' come good? With only 12 goals in 12 games it doesn't seem likely, however I still hold a glimmer of hope that they can muster some points and scrape off the bottom rung. I hope so as Toowoomba in the PL is a positive experience and it would be a shame to lose them to Div 1.

I'm tipping Souths to be relegated automatically and leave it between Toowoomba, Taringa and Easts to fight it out for that dreaded 2nd bottom position (history shows that the side finishing second from bottom has trouble raising themselves in the playoffs).

Good luck to all sides as one can only sympathise with players, coaches and supporters of teams that are relegated. I'm sure the combined efforts of all involved with these clubs are still focused on getting results from every round. ■

A WORD from the wise guy



Long-time soccer sage Eric Sinclair on our duty of care responsibilities

During the past decade or so three little words have gained ever increasing significance. Those of us who have spent our working lives in Emergency Services, Teaching, Medicine, or Service Industries have been governed by them, every parent and indeed, every adult is governed by them. The tentacles generated by them reach out into every facet of society. What's the silly old pillock on about now I can hear you asking, and, what does it have to do with football? Well I'll try to explain.

DUTY OF CARE. How does it apply to us in our football environment?

There is a raft of legislation at all levels of government, which are, directly or indirectly, concerned with it. The rules of the game we play, and the rules of the bodies under which we play refer to it, we as individuals, club administrators, coaches, managers, and referees, are duty bound to comply with it. Where does one start? Surely the greatest duty of care placed upon us all is the protection of that most precious of all resources, our children, hence the Child Protection Laws. It is now required that all persons charged with the care of our footballing kids be checked and issued with Suitability Cards. Not a perfect solution, but, a step in the right direction. It behoves all of us to be ever vigilant to cater for their care and protection.

Then we have a responsibility to care for our employees, paid or voluntary. Workplace Health and Safety Laws place this onus upon us. The care and maintenance of machinery, the provision of safe working conditions, all the employers i.e. clubs, responsibility. In our ever

increasing litigious society we cannot afford to cut corners. If someone is injured as result of our negligence in this regard we can expect to feel the wrath not only of the Workplace Health and Safety authorities, but also, the Civil Courts in damages claims that could arise. These could arise as a result of the band aid solutions used by financially strapped clubs when dealing with problems that arise from time to time.

Australian Standards which are used when determining the illumination capacity of our floodlights can also cause us problems. Each year we are required to have the capacity of our floodlights audited to make sure they are up to standard. This is done by those clubs wanting to play their fixtures under lights, but, little thought is given to those areas under lights that are only used for training purposes. Should a player suffer an injury during training under lights which do not meet the standard of lights under which we play our fixtures it could be argued that the club did not provide safe working conditions for its employees i.e. players, and this would also render them liable for prosecution as indicated above. Australian Standards also refer to the quality and sizes of building materials used in structures on your premises and if not followed can also lead to the possibility of litigation in the event of accident due to faulty materials or construction.

Health Regulations set down by Local Authorities apply to the food and liquor service areas within our clubs. Should any of our customers be stricken with food poisoning because of our negligence in this regard we would be closed down post-haste causing severe blows to our income streams.

Liquor Licensing Laws govern the licenses or

permits under which our liquor sales are made. Each license or permit is issued subject to certain conditions. One condition of some sporting club licenses provides that liquor not be served in glass containers, yet some clubs continue to stock stubbies instead of cans simply because they are cheaper to buy, but, can be sold at the same price as cans, and continue to use glasses instead of plastic drinking vessels. Should anyone finish up with a smashed bottle in the face, or, cuts from broken glass, problems could again arise. It would almost certainly result in a withdrawal of the liquor license thereby causing a drain on the income stream.

For those clubs with clubhouses Queensland Fire Service Regulations come into play. Extinguishers must be checked regularly, exits must be clearly marked with lights not connected to the power supply, fire blankets must be available in kitchens. Exits must not be blocked and so on.

FIFA Laws lay down specifications as to sizes of corner flags to avoid accidents, goalposts must be constructed in certain ways using specified materials, portable goalposts must be suitably secured. All to be complied with to satisfy our duty of care. Certain actions are deemed to be serious foul play or violent conduct. All for the protection of players. Referees are there to enforce these rules for the protection of players. Unfortunately not all players or clubs see the enforcement of these rules as being in their best interests.

Each ruling body, e.g. Brisbane Men's Soccer has a set of rules under which clubs agree to play. Many of these are again concerned with the duty of care.

For patrons using our club premises it is incumbent upon them to not place themselves or their property in situations in which there could be a reasonable expectation that they or their property could be damaged. We have all heard of people being injured by falling goalposts. Unlike the author, goalposts don't get drunk and fall over without assistance. They usually require some pulling, pushing, or swinging on to achieve this result. Owners

parking cars close to field perimeter fences so as to be able to sit in them and watch games, or so as to save themselves having to walk too far must do so with a reasonable expectation that at some time they are going to be damaged by balls propelled at high velocity over the fence. I've never yet seen a car jump out of the way of a low flying ball.

Duty of care. How does it affect football clubs? In the pocket that's how. If we are to constantly maintain our properties to comply with all legislation, as we are duty bound to do, there would be little left for anything else. When setting out fees for any season all components should be taken into consideration

In our ever
increasing
litigious society
we cannot afford
to cut corners.

i.e Registration fees, Insurance Costs, Contribution to Facility Maintenance etc. Our parents and members must become educated to the fact that clubs don't increase fees just for the sake of it, but, amongst other things to be able to afford to fulfill their duty of care to members and patrons, and, to provide a safe environment in which they can enjoy their chosen sport.

Footnote;

Even players have a duty of care to one another as Australian player Kevin Muscat, now playing with Millwall and formerly of Wolves recently found out, much to his chagrin. He was sued by an opponent he had tackled resulting to an injury to the opponent. The case was settled out of court for an undisclosed amount but you can bet it was a substantial figure as he had been originally sued for about \$4.3 million. Food for thought. ■

GALAHS HIT NORTH STAR

North Star have moved their remaining home games to Perry Park for the rest of the season. Apparently the favourite snack food of the galah is to be found in large quantities on the main field at O'Callaghan Park. The grub-hungry birds have poked the pitch in search of their preferred morsel resulting in a non-football friendly surface. The club struck an agreement with the Brisbane Strikers which they hope will provide better facilities for their supporters as well as a good surface for the players. North Star coach Ken Swan said the club enjoyed a good relationship with the APL hopefuls. "They were keen to help us out and we were keen to help them with the opening of their new licensed club," he said.



FIELD OF NIGHTMARES

Another club who have had to look for alternative playing arrangements is The Gap. A BMS and SARB inspection of the field resulted in the surface being deemed unsafe for the players. Despite receiving an initial warning the field was not rectified and The Gap have now been forced to find a temporary new home until the pitch is repaired. Two other BMS clubs have also been issued with warnings about the condition of their playing surface but have since attended to the problem.

TIME TO CONVERT PARTICIPATION INTO SUCCESS SAYS O'NEILL

Australian Soccer Association Chief Executive John O'Neill said the ASA must work hard to translate its enormous participation base into support for the new national competition and the national teams. Soccer is now the number one sport Australians prefer to play according to research conducted by the Bureau of Statistics and Roy Morgan. "The big challenge is to convert this tremendous participation base into a successful new national competition and success for the Socceroos and Matildas," said O'Neill.

"There is no doubt the game at the grassroots level is more popular than ever and we must get that to translate into support for the new national competition. We need those people who obviously enjoy playing the game to come and support the team in their city when the new competition kicks off in the middle of next year."

ATHENS BOUND

One of Brisbane's leading match officials has been appointed for the 2004 Olympic Games to be held in Greece in August. Referee Krystyna Szokolai will officiate at the 10-team Women's Football Tournament. 32-year-old Szokolai, a Women's National Soccer League referee for many years, has extensive international experience including representing Oceania at the 2002 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship in Canada.

LIONS IN THE LAP OF LUXURY

Queensland Lions Soccer Club continued its expansion program when it announced a 4-year \$1 million sponsorship deal with Luxury Paints. The sponsorship gives Luxury Paints naming rights to Lions Stadium at Richlands for the next four years, as well as shirt sponsorship of Lions' team in the Brisbane Premier League. Lions Chief Executive Laurence Oudendyk was delighted with the news. "Luxury Paints are great local sponsors - they have been shirt sponsors for our Premier League team for the past 4 years and this just strengthens the bond between us," he said. John Ribot, who is helping Lions as a consultant on their bid for a place in the APL, said, "If Lions get the nod, the sky's the limit for soccer in Queensland. There are more juniors playing soccer than any other code and Lions have the sound infrastructure to take the game to the next level here." The deadline for bids to the APL is July 5th and the 8 successful candidates will be named in August. Lions will pay \$1 million as a deposit with their submission and are set to spend another \$5-7 million on stadium expansion if they are successful. Another major announcement will be made at a Lions Sportsman's Lunch at Richlands on Wednesday, July 7th, when Socceroos' coach Frank Farina and John Ribot will be special guests. ■

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