

A small tribute to the only NSL game ever held at

Jamison Oval

in lovely Macquarie ACT

Canberra City

vs

Penrith

Sunday, March 17, 1985

City keen to impress at home

By KEN HEALEY

Ambitious Canberra City Olympians must win their first home game at Jamison Oval today at the expense of visitor Penrith.

New to the National Soccer League last year, Penrith finished two places above Canberra in the league, with one more point. Penrith won the league encounter 2-1 in May, then held Canberra to 1 - 1 in a cup tie 10 days later. So Canberra is looking for its first win over the mountain men.

There is more than revenge at stake today for Canberra. The crucial point is that the players can begin to believe in themselves if they win against one of the league's tightest defensive combinations. Last week they did no more than what was expected in beating Inter-Monaro and the less said about the disastrous pre-season, the better.

If Canberra wins, it should be because of midfield dominance, with Steve Bryant and Tom Sermanni returning to last year's form and Terry Byrne

gaining in touch and confidence with every outing.

Penrith is reported to have struggled in midfield last week, playing very defensively for a 0-0 draw at home with St George.

On that basis Penrith coach Willie Wallace will probably rush Ian Wotherspoon into the team, a matter of days after his return from Britain.

Canberra supporters will hope that Wotherspoon, who scored both goals for Penrith against Canberra last year, does not repeat that form, nor equal the impact of Canberra's newly arrived Tom English last week.

English not only scored the first goal but he laid on the third for Perinovic and was the player fouled by Monaro's Mark Francis in the incident that resulted in Torn Sermanni's goal from a direct free kick. It is hard to imagine how a new signing could influence his first game more dramatically.

Penrith will want English to play as central striker, thus encountering old-fashioned centre half Dave McIntosh. But Roy Thomson is certain to assign Perinovic to keep McIntosh busy in the middle, so that space can be created for English on the flanks.

Perinovic scored in both games against Penrith last year. English has been taking the youngster aside at every opportunity during breaks in training during the week, so the understanding between the front runners should be maturing quickly.

Goals will not be easy to score against the ultra-defensive Penrith, whose attack has been blunted by the loss of Roy Cotton to St George. Brian Jackson, who returned midweek from Britain with Wotherspoon, may play beside Rene Licata, newly signed from Marconi. Penrith's goal-keeper Mike Gibson, one of the finds of the year last season, will be anxious to impress, with international Anthony Franken in goal for Canberra.

Coach Thomson has named the same 13 as he did last week, when he sprang a surprise by playing a doubtfully fit Jim Harkins as stopper, switching John Mihailidis to right fullback and relegating Paul Ontong to the bench beside Jason Dunne.

Mihailidis threw a scare into the camp, being involved in a minor traffic accident yesterday, but he expects to be fit.

Dunne will have at least half a match in the youth game today, but may be called to complete the senior squad again.

Thomson is anxious to secure Isaac Farrell to provide midfield cover, but it seemed at training on Friday night that Farrell would not be cleared from Monaro and registered in time for today's match.

My tip is that Canberra will win by the odd goal in a low-scoring match.

Penrith equaliser produces 'just' result at Jamison

By KEN HEALEY

But for a Penrith equaliser in the 90th minute, the temperature was the only other element that rose above the ordinary during Canberra City Olympians' 2-2 draw with Penrith at Jamison Oval yesterday.

After the game, fans were arguing about the debilitating heat, the refereeing and the play.

Yet the game was closely contested – the draw was a just result. A win for Canberra would have been a trifle fortunate as its second goal was scored in the 66th minute from a Steve Bryant penalty, from a doubtful refereeing decision.

There was also some dispute about who had scored Canberra's first goal. I attribute it to Terry Byrne who got his head to a Peter Burke header from a free kick. The ball may have been further deflected by the head of Penrith midfielder Robert Hebb but Byrne's header was goal-bound.

Canberra's 40th-minute 1-0 lead was short-lived as Penrith replied in half a minute. Rene Licata did the lead-

up, then Jim Harkins and Roy Jones made a mess of clearing the bouncing ball. Ian Wotherspoon beat Anthony Franken from a very acute angle, close in on the right.

A draw, or victory, by the odd goal looked likely all day and Canberra seemed to have sealed the latter result after Bryant's 66th-minute penalty.

Canberra defended the lead until a badly heat-affected Tom English became indirectly responsible for dropping the point.

English hit the post from close in, after latching onto a long cross from John Mihailidis, who had a vastly improved game. From the counter-attack, Dave Macintosh blasted a 20m volley too high. The ball went back to Penrith's half but English was too exhausted to run back on side.

It was from the free-kick just over the half-way line that the ball fell to Randell Easthorpe who scored from among a crowd of players.

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VERSUS PENRITH SUNDAY

JAMISON OVAL YOUTH MATCH
1.00pm

N.S.L. MATCH
3pm

Due to N.S.L. Cup Match versus Inter Monaro at Seiffert Oval next Tuesday, the V.I.P. dinner for FRENK PUSKAS is now on Wednesday at Downer Olympic Soccer Club from 7pm. Bookings essential. Ph 480708, 485959.



The lovely Jamison Oval in Macquarie, ACT

