

NATIONAL SOCCER MONTHLY



APRIL 1985

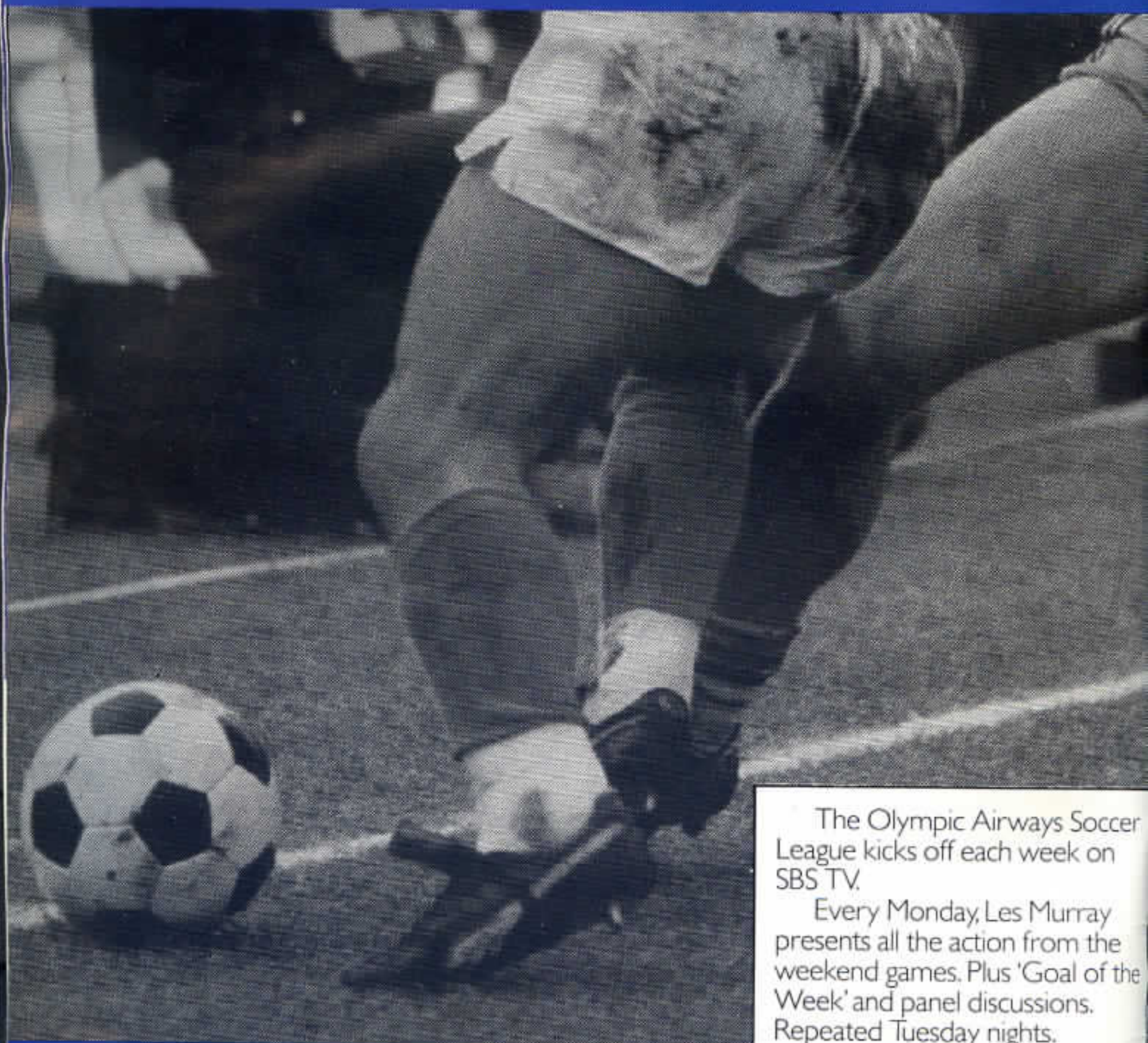
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- **1984 CHAMPIONS – SOUTH MELBOURNE**
- **1984 CUP HOLDERS – NEWCASTLE**
- **RISING AUSTRALIAN STAR IN ENGLAND**
- **COACHES PREVIEW 1985 SEASON**

Australian Soccer



The Olympic Airways Soccer League kicks off each week on SBS TV.

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NATIONAL SOCCER MONTHLY

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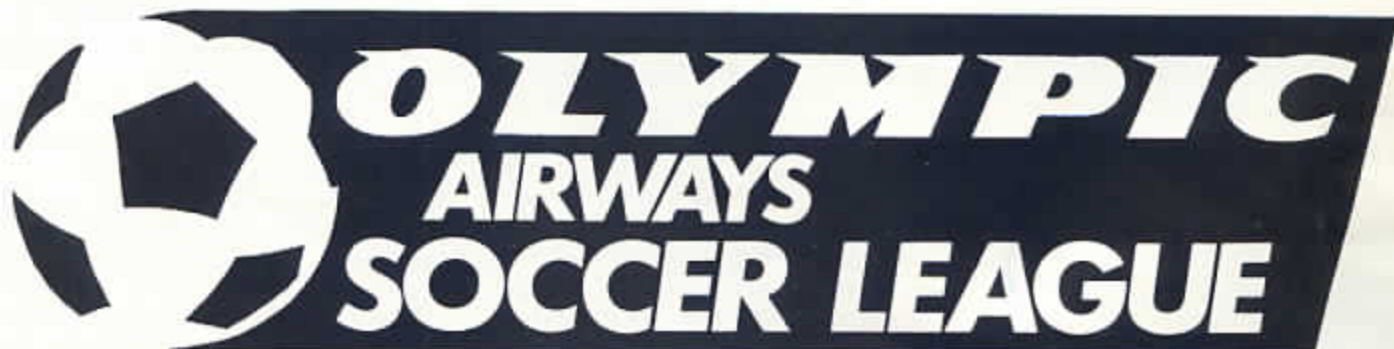
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FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

By Stefan Kamasz, Manager Olympic Airways Soccer League of Australia

Welcome to the 1985 season and our proud new official publication National Soccer Monthly.

Throughout this season we intend to provide you with news, stories, photographs, star profiles, statistics, competitions and inside stories of what is really happening in the League.

National Soccer Monthly, however, does not aim to compete with the soccer weeklies. It does, though, aim to reach that vast presently uncatered for audience — the young soccer player and supporter.

In return, though, we want to hear from you.

Write to us. Tell us your likes, dislikes, what you would like to see.

This is your magazine and we want you to be part of it.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Olympic Airways Soccer League commences 1985 with the largest corporate support for many seasons.

The involvement of Olympic Airways, SBS Television, Mitre Sports, Ansett, Rothmans, Australian Soccerpools and Travelodge adds up to an investment in the League of over \$1 million.

Add to this the wealth of sponsorship provided at club level and you have a truly multi-million dollar soccer competition.

But sponsorship will not stop there.

Expect that during the next month further announcements will be made involving other companies which have quickly identified the benefits of being associated with Australian soccer's premier competition.

Without major corporate sponsorship our League could not survive.

We appreciate the support given to us.

☆ ☆ ☆

A great deal has been said recently about the League 'pulling up its socks' and 'getting its act together'.

Well I am not about to make any rash promises. What I can say is that we are making headway and attempting to get it right.

Administratively, with the help of the Victorian Soccer Federation, we have expanded our operations. During the coming months we intend further extending our resources. Importantly, though, we have already taken the first step towards eventual computerisation of our office.

In the area of Media Relations, the recent appointment of Phil Jarratt Communications will undoubtedly prove successful. Phil Jarratt and his partner, Neil Jameson will work closely with the League to improve our media image and create a more positive approach to publicity, highlighting soccer's activities and personalities.

Promotionally, this year should be unequalled. Funds have been made available by the clubs and with the newly instituted Promotions Committee, which includes a number of respected businessmen and women, we intend to promote the League more actively.

Sure, there is still a long way to go, but you will agree things are moving.

☆ ☆ ☆

Controversy has a tendency in soccer to regularly rear its ugly head, and when it does it generally makes superb reading for the knockers of our code.

However, as we commence 1985, I can say in complete honesty that the standing of the League within Australian Soccer has never been higher.

Gone are the squabbles with State Federations. Our role within the A.S.F. is both acknowledged and respected. Indeed the much publicised dispute with West Nally now appears to be resolved.

In this World Cup qualifying year harmony, dedication and determination are key factors for soccer's success, not only at playing level but also as far as administration of the code is concerned.



A continuation of the progress made during the last six months will ensure that this success is made much less difficult to come by.

I look forward to an exciting and successful year. I am sure you do too!

☆ ☆ ☆

1985 is a season of great incentive for players.

In July our Under 16's travel to China to compete in the World Championships.

This is followed in August by the World Youth Championships in Russia.

September sees the start of our senior World Cup Campaign with the prize being a berth in the Finals in Mexico in June 1986.

If ever there was an incentive to perform, then 1985 must be the year.



LETTERS: National Soccer Monthly welcomes your opinions. Write to us and express your soccer views. We're giving away a Mitre ball to the reader responsible for the Letter of the Month. Write to: The Letters Editor, National Soccer Monthly, 36-38 Clarence St, Sydney 2000.

NATIONAL NEWSBREAK

Look out for a great goalscoring battle in both the Northern and Southern Divisions this season.

South Melbourne target man Doug Brown hit 16 goals in 1983 and 22 last year to be the NSL's top marksman for both seasons.

But what about John Kosmina? — we can hear the Sydney City fans saying.

Kossie cracked 23 in '82 to set a record for goals scored in a season. The Socceroo skipper is in great form this year and opened proceedings by scoring his 100th goal at national club level.

The '85 season presents the chance for the league's top strikers to really come into their own. And what a talented bunch we've got!

Marshall Soper, Charlie Egan, Rod Brown, Brian Jackson, Paul Lewis, Frank Farina, Calvin Daunt and John Bradley are all class finishers with the ability to put pressure on the likes of Brown and Kosmina for the top spot.

For added interest, Adelaide City have lured Socceroo and Glasgow Rangers star David Mitchell back to the fold. What a bonus Super Mitch could be to the goalscoring tally.

☆ ☆ ☆

They say you have to be crazy to be a goalkeeper. After all, anyone who spends their weekends getting in the way of the likes of Doug Brown and John Kosmina must be impervious to pain.

But for goalkeepers who come up with the form this year, the rewards will be worth it. At stake is the number one national team shirt with Terry Greedy, Tony Pezzano and Tony Franken right in there for the top job.

Life might be tough for Pezzano, the ace custodian from Sydney City. After waiting so patiently for Todd Clarke to step aside, Pezzano not only did a top job for City but won call up to the Socceroos.

However, this season the evergreen Clarke has returned from semi-retirement to make a real battle for the job between the City sticks.

☆ ☆ ☆

Any player serious about his chances of winning the Rothman's

Medal — the supreme individual reward for player excellence — will be very mindful of the man with the whistle.

The league's referees have accepted the responsibility of judging the medal series on a 3-2-1 score basis for each match.

The two ingredients refs will be looking for are quality and good behaviour as the medal is really a best and fairest award.

☆ ☆ ☆

One player whose presence is sure not to go unnoticed is Sergio Melta.

Adelaide City's midfielder slipped ahead of a few more fancied players to win the 1984 Player of the Year award. The 26-year-old Adelaide-born Melta rates Sydney City's Joe Watson as his favourite NSL player.

As a lifetime supporter of Adcity, Melta has no plans to leave his home club for whatever might be on offer in Sydney or Melbourne. In Adelaide, his fans suggest that his real ambition for '85 is to be introduced to Frank Arok.

*Kosmina's 100th goal
(in League, Cup and Top Four)
scored against St. George.*



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FOR THOSE WHO TAKE
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FRANK FARINA

(SYDNEY CITY)



Full name: Frank Farina.

Birthplace and date: Darwin, 5/9/64.

Height and weight: 5' 11", 73kg.

Home: Bondi.

Car: Sigma.

Favourite current player(s): Platini.

Ambitions for 1985: To make the Socceroos and do well with Sydney City.

Long-term ambitions: Be successful, play in World Cup Finals and play club soccer abroad.

After soccer career is over: Start my own business or have a sound professional career.

Previous clubs: Canberra and AIS.

Nickname: Frank Forever.

Team you supported as a boy: Everton.

Football heroes of childhood: Pele and Johann Cruyff.

Most memorable match: Youth World Cup Finals v Mexico.

Biggest thrill: Scoring in that game.

Biggest disappointment: Being sent off against Israel in qualifying games.

Superstitions: None.

International or other honours: Australian Youth and Senior Socceroos.

Favourite other sports persons: Viv Richards and John McEnroe.

Favourite other sport: All sports.

Hobbies: Squash, Photography, Golf.

Favourite actor or actress: Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman.

Favourite T.V. show: Hill Street Blues.

Favourite Musician: Everybody.

Biggest influence on career: Jimmy Shoulder and Ron Smith.



OH, WHAT A SEASON

In the change rooms of Australia's 24 most powerful soccer clubs the stars of the Olympic Airways Soccer League are pulling on their playing strips to do battle.

Ahead lies the most engrossing season since the palmy days of 1977 when the national concept was first launched.

Great player incentives in the form of World Cup selection and the Rothman's Medal are at stake.

A new, simplified league itinerary makes for an attractive competition culminating in the excitement of the play-off series between the Northern and Southern champions.

Sponsorship is locked in, club finances and stability are at an all-time high and the expectancy level of players, fans, and especially coaches, is running hot.

Take West Adelaide's **Neil McGachey** for instance. Neil could become the most innovative coach ever, judging by his opening moves. 'I know that the only certainty in a coach's life is that he'll eventually get the sack, but whilst I'm on the job I'm going to enjoy it' he says. At the moment he is brimming with confidence, and in a startling break from the average coaching approach, he's going to meet the fans in the stand after every home game to explain his tactics. 'It's better to confront conflict than to dodge it' he says... best of luck Neil.

His counterpart at Adcity, **Edmund Kreft** isn't making any predictions, and when told that on pre-season form most judges rated his present squad as the best since 1977, he was pleased, but cautious.

'I want to get back to playing soccer' he says 'because that's what City fans know and appreciate. I want us to win, but above all to win with style'.

Brisbane City's **Tony Lowndes** says he desperately wants Queensland soccer to succeed, and knows that it will be an uphill battle for him, as he is new to the National scene. But the important thing is that Lions and City will be working together for the good of Queensland soccer... 'because Gordon Arrowsmith and I are good mates'.

Lions' **Gordon Arrowsmith** thinks this season will be much tougher for Lions than last, because Lions' good Cup and League run will have put other clubs on their guard. 'They won't be approaching games against us in the same mood of complacency as before'.

Arrowsmith thinks champions South can do it again, with Preston and Green Gully good prospects as dark horses.

COACHES' PREVIEW

1985 SEASON

Green Gully is coached of course by the shrewd **Bobby McLachlan**, best known probably for his team-building ability. 'There's no big money being tossed around here' says Bobby. 'This club was built literally, by hard-working fellows who put a lot of time and love and money into the Gully, and consequently when we go shopping we go into the bargain basement. We have picked up five new first team players for the season for a mere \$9000'. Good work Bobby, you can do my grocery shopping any time.

Brunswick Juventus have had a miserable pre-season start, with only one win in the Buffalo Cup and now have **John Margaritis** back at the helm. 'Pre-season form doesn't mean too much to me' says John, 'but once our new players, full-back Peter Lewis, midfielder Paul Wade and goalkeeper Yakka Banovic have settled in we should go all right. Juve had a shocking injury list last season, but nevertheless managed to make the final five.

A lot of eyebrows were lifted when Preston appointed **Bill Murray** as coach at the end of last season, but Preston have acquired State League scoring sensation Steve Smith, and precocious Youth player Warren Spink, and it's obvious that Murray has already established a good rapport with his players. Never short of a word

(Gary Cole says he could send a glass eye to sleep), Murray bubbled over with enthusiasm, and his zeal reflected in his team's attitude on the field.

If you don't believe the form book then listen to what the top coaches are saying: Sydney City are red favourites to lift another trophy this season.

General consensus among the men in charge of Northern division squads is that the Slickers have the motivation and the manpower to go the way.

A sampling of top NSW coaches has City at the head of the 'most likely' list with the strongest challenge expected from '84 national grand finalists Sydney Olympic.

The question we put to a random sampling of Olympic Airways League coaches were (1) Besides your club which is the team to beat?; and (2) which side is the dark horse?

The answers provided interesting insights into how coaches are viewing the season and just what surprises might be in store.

The logical starting point was **Manfred Schaefer**, who as coach of Sydney Olympic knows what's required to make it through to the playoffs.

'Sydney City look very impressive and will take some beating. They're basically the same line-up as last year, they are a well-trying outfit and know what winning is all about.

'Injuries could put them in some trouble as they don't have as many cover in one or two positions as we might want.

'But in Frank Farina they have made a great buy and when he settles in that side I'm expecting him to score plenty of goals.

'I also rate Grant Lee very highly and we'll probably see Paul Kay have a much better season than he did last year.

'Two of the best 'keepers in the league, Tony Pezzano and Peter Clarke are battling for the number one position and that must be good news for coach Eddie Thomson.

'Pezzano had two brilliant games against us last year and it's little

der he was called into the national squad.

"When it comes to naming the dark horse I must admit I'm not very good at backing long-shots. Before the season kicked off I would have said Sydney Croatia but I've changed my mind.

"I believe Newcastle will spring the real surprise by making the top five. They're going to be a very tough proposition on their home ground this season.

"Olympic played them at Adamstown and won 1-0 but Newcastle were without Brandt, McQuarrie and Todd. It might have been different if they were at full strength."

A few coaches have indicated that the introduction of a uniform relegation rule will have a definite effect on the conduct of the league.

For the first time no clubs will be afforded protected status which means that the wooden-spooners will automatically take the plunge. For that reason St. George coach **Frank Arok** says those clubs who struggled last year will be scratching so furiously for points that the competition will be tighter than ever.

"I'm still expecting to see Sydney City's name at the top of the ladder. A settled team with no financial worries makes for a happy club.

"Sydney City have plenty of experience plus the winning habit. The club has never been lower than third and that record gives their players a tremendous amount of confidence.

"They'll be very hard to beat."

Arok predicts Sydney Olympic will be snapping at City's heels with Leichhardt and Marconi showing enough promise to figure in calculations.

Rather than one dark horse, he names three, in no particular order.

"Sydney Croatia, St. George and Newcastle. But if St. George can sign a good striker, we'll be back up among the top bunch."

While the impact of Sydney City's experienced line-up is expected to be significant, the role younger players will have in '85 is sure to be more important than ever.

As coaches look to local junior movements and the AIS for new recruits, the emphasis on local youth is significant.

But **Fil Bottalico** of Leichhardt is one coach who stresses that young players who make the step to senior

soccer should be aware of the real challenges.

"If a coach picks a young player for the top league then that player must understand he is expected to play and compete as a man.

"He can no longer consider himself wrapped in cotton wool."

Those comments aside, Fil is anticipating Sydney City's stability, understanding and experience to be the vital factors.

"Most other clubs have made off-season signings and they'll take time to settle into their new sides. But City don't make too many changes and if they have to introduce new players, they seem to settle them in very quickly."

In the dark horse category, Bottalico predicts that the new competitive edge to the '85 league will make it possible for "anybody and everybody" to spring the surprise.

"If Leichhardt buy a couple of players, you can count us as definite title chasers."

Sydney Croatia's **Vedran Rozic** isn't plunging on the favourite at all. Instead he's looking for value from Sydney Olympic, the performers of '84.

*Brunswick Juventus v. Green Gully,
Steve McLelland, Joe Sweeney,
Andrew Zinni and Andy Young.*

"Olympic play attractive football and they have a strong man up front in the form of Marshall Soper.

"Their midfield is outstanding and despite having lost one or two experienced defenders, Manfred Schaefer will still get excellent value for his back four."

Rozic predicts Sydney City will make a great race of it, but as for the dark horse category, he believes the competition is too even to pluck one from the bunch.

"Croatia probably need another good midfielder to be considered a real chance this season.

"But look out for Jim Patikas. With an injury-free run, he'll be one of the stars of '85."

Things are looking brighter around Wollongong since the club relieved some of its financial pressures by selling players and relying instead on its youth ranks.

That policy has thrown up such stars as youth international midfielder Alex Bundalo and converted the Wolves into a pack of real entertainers.

Coach **Adrian Alston** is cautiously optimistic about his side's chances of jolting a few of the league's heavyweights as an antidote for what some folk have forecast as a dose of the relegation blues.

"I'm still predicting Sydney City will win. With seven internationals in their



squad, they look the best of the bunch.

"Even when they're not playing well they have the ability to get a result and you need that if you want to win a championship.

"Many people overlook just how many tall players they have in their team. But how many times do you see them pull a game out with a headed goal from one of their giants?

"If you look at the statistics you'll find they score more headed goals than any other side. That says something about the goalscorers and something about the quality of balls delivered into the box.

"There aren't many candidates for the dark horse prize but you can never afford to write off St. George. They're a good, stable club and usually extract the best from their players.

"Blacktown made a good gain in signing John Bradley from Leichhardt and with players like Phil O'Connor, must be capable of a few surprises."

Newcastle's **Willie Gallagher** is also impressed with Sydney City's credentials and the no-fuss guidance of Eddie Thomson.

"The addition of Farina will add real dash up front at a time when they are probably looking for a bit more speed," said Gallagher.

However, he is not as convinced as other coaches that City's superiority is so clean cut.

"We've met Sydney City in pre-season and Olympic in the league and I must say that Manfred Schaefer's team looked a very useful combination. They'll be there at the death."

While Gallagher doesn't discount his own team's top five prospects, he rates Sydney Croatia as a possible surprise package.

"They've been spending in the off-season and, although they might have a question mark or two about consistency, they should do reasonably well."

Gallagher also tips that it will only require a bit of stability for Canberra to make a bold showing.

And how does the Newcastle boss rate his own team, which after all, won the Cup last year?

"Well, if you rate Sydney City as a good, *experienced* team, you'd have to say Newcastle is a good, *inexperienced* team."

Willie Wallace of Penrith goes for Sydney City and Olympic in that

order "because they have more class players than other squads".

"Leichhardt and Marconi both have a sprinkling of quality players while St. George are bound to be in there somewhere."

Wallace tips Penrith will show real improvement on last year's effort which saw them finish seventh.

"We'll be a difficult side to beat, particularly at home and I think you'll see us get better as the season progresses."

And that all brings us to the opinion of **Eddie Thomson** who, on learning that most coaches had tipped his team laughingly said: "They've gone and put the mocker on us!"

Thomson is also tipping a tight competition with Olympic, despite the loss of Patikas and key defenders, making some of the front running.

"Marconi also have talent to burn and the signing of Peter Tredinnick

will add to the value of David [unclear] and Rod Brown.

Thomson too nominates Sydney Croatia as good value purely on basis that "on their day they can beat anybody".

As 1984 Coach of the Year Thomson's opinion should not be lightly so take heed of his tips players to watch in '85.

"Robbie Slater from St. George had a poor season last year but looks the goods again.

"Marconi's Rod Brown is a spl athlete and just might be ready for a big season. The other boy who presses me is Wollongong's Bundalo."

Soccer fans will feel entitled to view these forecasts at season's end to determine who was closest to the mark in his predictions. Could it be possible that they all might be wrong? We'll see.



MEN WITH THE WHISTLE

No.1: Chris Bambridge

June 3 1984 was a very significant date in the career of one of Australia's leading referees, Chris Bambridge.

For that day, not only did he step on to the Melbourne Cricket Ground to officiate in the first soccer match to be played at the MCG since the '56 Olympic Games, but he also met the man who started him off as a ref, Ron Atkinson, manager of the famous Manchester United.

'That was sixteen years ago', muses Bambridge, 'I used to play for a team in the Kettering (Northants) Sunday League, and my form was such that I soon became the club linesman. Ron Atkinson was the manager of Kettering Town in the Southern League, and one day he invited me to referee a friendly match for the Town. After a couple of games he suggested I take up refereeing, and I thought why not, as I had won a linesman of the Year award two years in succession in the Sunday League.

So young Chris took the six-week course on the Laws of the Game, passed the ensuing oral examination, and started off refereeing Under 16 games in the Kettering District.

Four years later, just as he was about to leave for Australia, he was awarded his Grade 1 badge, not bad going for a club linesman.

Bambridge's first game in Australia was a less than memorable encounter between Waverley City and Carlton of the VSF's Metropolitan League Division Two, in 1974, a far cry from his most memorable match ten years later, running the line during the Final of the World Youth Cup, before 125,000 spectators at the Azteca Stadium, Mexico City.

Harking back to those Laws of the Game, which every ref knows off by heart, Bambridge says there are 17 Laws, but the most important one is the unwritten one, Common Sense.

'Laws or no laws' he says, 'refereeing is all down to man management and common sense. If you can't handle players with some tact, and some humour, and apply the laws with common sense, you might as well not bother'.

It is hardly a coincidence that Chris, married to Liz and father of two daughters, 15 year-old Lisa and 12 year-old Kirsty is off the field an office manager.

Despite the fact some major soccer countries, including Brazil and England have abolished the yellow and red cards, Bambridge still believes in the card system. 'It's not that they are necessary to control the game', he says 'but they are a great means of communication. When you hold up the card, the spectators know what is going on, and after all, they are part of the game too. And of course when you have a language problem, like handling a visiting foreign team, they are invaluable'.

There's another language problem too, that referees here run into, the bad language problem.

'Let's be frank about it' says Chris 'some of our players, in their daily life outside soccer swear naturally and continually, so much so that sometimes they aren't even aware of it. So how can you penalise them overmuch if the odd four-letter word creeps into an appeal? If I sent off every player I heard swear, I'd finish up refing five-a-side games'.

Bambridge lists his most memorable games, besides the Mexico one, as running the line in a World Cup qualifier, New Zealand v Taipei in 1981, and refereeing the Final of the Olympic Games qualifying rounds in Singapore last year. He rates Jack Taylor of England the best referee he has ever seen. 'That's because Jack Taylor had such strength of character. Nobody ever talked back because he was so obviously in command, and he made the best decision I've ever seen when he awarded a penalty to Holland in the first minute of the 1974 World Cup-Final. He was right on the spot, at a time when most average refs would still have been finding their feet'.

Bambridge himself doesn't lack strength of character, mind you, ask Sydney City's Eddie Thomson. Bambridge sent off Thomson last year as the Slickers were playing South Melbourne at Middle Park.



Why? 'Nobody calls me a cheat and gets away with it' he answers, tersely. In that Olympic qualifying Final too, he sent the Kuwait coach from the bench (who was later dismissed for misconduct), and was congratulated by FIFA officials after the game for his firmness.

Players in the National League have come to recognise the fact that although Chris Bambridge refs with a smile on his face, and obviously enjoys his game, he's not to be trifled with, and the Victorian Branch of the Soccer Press recognises his worth too, it voted him referee of the year six times in the last seven years.

Most shrewd judges feel that if an Australian ever attains the pinnacle of refereeing achievement, to referee a World Cup-Final, it most probably will be the one-time club linesman from Kettering.

Les Shorrock

TONY DORIGO

AN ADELAIDE BOY AT THE VILLA

Forget your Craig Johnstons, never mind your Joe Marstons, there's one Aussie youngster now playing for Aston Villa in the English First Division who is going to eclipse them all.

He's Adelaide-born Tony Dorigo, who was comparatively unknown until the 1984 English season was under way, and if he doesn't turn out to be the best Aussie player we have ever produced, I'll eat my tartan bonnet.

The refreshing, and unique part of Dorigo's rise to fame is that he made it all on his own, with only a little help from a friend.

The friend was Justin Fashanu, the black striker who came to Australia with the touring Norwich City, and then came back to guest for Adelaide City. During his guest stint Fashanu coached the Addcity youths, and one of them was Tony Dorigo, who brashly asked Fashanu, 'Could I make it in England?' 'I don't know,' said Fashanu. 'Show me what you can do.'

Dorigo did just that, and on Fashanu's advice, then proceeded to write to leading English clubs asking for a trial. He wrote to ten, but only Villa replied, so off he went to Birmingham with his dad, at the tender age of 15 years and 9 months.

Villa liked him, and offered him an apprenticeship, father Dorigo came back and Tony settled in a hostel with 30 other hopefuls and proceeded to learn his trade. "It was hard at first," he recalls, "I was often homesick, but I just had to stick at it and do my best."

His best must have been good enough, because at the end of nearly 18 months of slogging, Villa signed him on a two-year contract, and he was a professional footballer at last. How demanding Villa's apprenticeship is best illustrated by the fact that only seven of the original 30 boys eventually were offered contracts, and of the seven, only Dorigo so far has broken through to the first team.

Now it was a matter of biding his time in the reserves, and Dorigo played a whole season in the demanding atmosphere of the Central League as well as the Youth League before he made his first team debut, coming on as a sub in the last game of the '83-'84 season against Ipswich Town.

Later that year Villa scrapped Dorigo's two-year contract and replaced it with a three-year one and he has since made the left-back position his own since playing his first full game last September against Chelsea.

In the reserves Dorigo had demonstrated his adaptability by scoring three times in seven games as a midfielder, and Villa's manager Graham Turner has no doubt about his versatility and reliability.

Writing in the Villa programme about their Milk Cup match against Queens Park Rangers when Dorigo played in the midfield wearing the No. 11 shirt, Turner said: "Tony Dorigo came into the side in midfield and gave a bit of protection to the back four, making it difficult for Rangers to get at us as quickly as Leicester had done (the previous week)."

Everyone at Villa talks glowingly about 'our Tony', the future star. When I went to Villa Park to interview him and announce myself, the receptionist said, "Fancy you coming all the way from Australia to interview our Tony!" Then she added reflectively, "But I'm not surprised, though, he's going to be a big star".

And indeed it isn't just the Villa staff who are starry-eyed about 'our Tony'. He was voted Young Player of the Month for the Midlands in December.

Graham Turner says that his biggest asset is his speed "probably because he used to be a winger in Australia", and he also praises his ability to recover quickly.

When you ask Dorigo the secret of his success, he says "I worked very hard and I listened", but then he goes on to praise Villa's backroom staff.

"I owe a lot to Youth coach Brian Little, who drilled into me the importance to a defender of always looking around and being aware of your opponents before the ball reaches you. And when I got into the reserves, reserve coach Bill Shorthouse (who used to play for Wolves), took over where Brian left off . . . I owe it all to them, really".

Well, not altogether, Tony, it took guts and no small amount of determination to go off and seek your fortune in a strange and often cold country (I do miss the beach sometimes, he says), and you wonder how



Photo by Bob Thomas

many more kids do we have could follow in his footsteps would only try, and of course parents were as supportive as were.

For Dorigo's parents have been tremendous help to him. Once obvious that he was going to football apprenticeship satisfactorily, the whole family packed up and moved to live in Birmingham with him, and stay with him for a few months until he moves into his new home.

Dorigo has never played for Australia at any level, and iron feelers were extended to him on the Socceroos' tour last year, but the National team lost to Aston but with some regret, he turned down.

"I couldn't take several weeks to play for the Socceroos in the Cup qualifiers" he says. "It would be my professional career in jeopardy and besides, it wouldn't be fair to my fellow I replaced, would it?"

As Graham Turner said in part "He's a natural, that boy, how more have you got in Australia him?"

Who knows?

Les Sho

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TONY DORIGO

AN ADELAIDE BOY AT THE VILLA

Forget your Craig Johnstons, never mind your Joe Marstons, there's one Aussie youngster now playing for Aston Villa in the English First Division who is going to eclipse them all.

He's Adelaide-born Tony Dorigo, who was comparatively unknown until the 1984 English season was under way, and if he doesn't turn out to be the best Aussie player we have ever produced, I'll eat my tartan bonnet.

The refreshing, and unique part of Dorigo's rise to fame is that he made it all on his own, with only a little help from a friend.

The friend was Justin Fashanu, the black striker who came to Australia with the touring Norwich City, and then came back to guest for Adelaide City. During his guest stint Fashanu coached the Adcity youths, and one of them was Tony Dorigo, who brashly asked Fashanu, "Could I make it in England?" "I don't know," said Fashanu. "Show me what you can do."

Dorigo did just that, and on Fashanu's advice, then proceeded to write to leading English clubs asking for a trial. He wrote to ten, but only Villa replied, so off he went to Birmingham with his dad, at the tender age of 15 years and 9 months.

Villa liked him, and offered him an apprenticeship, father Dorigo came back and Tony settled in a hostel with 30 other hopefuls and proceeded to learn his trade. "It was hard at first," he recalls, "I was often homesick, but I just had to stick at it and do my best."

His best must have been good enough, because at the end of nearly 18 months of slogging, Villa signed him on a two-year contract, and he was a professional footballer at last. How demanding Villa's apprenticeship is best illustrated by the fact that only seven of the original 30 boys eventually were offered contracts, and of the seven, only Dorigo so far has broken through to the first team.

Now it was a matter of biding his time in the reserves, and Dorigo played a whole season in the demanding atmosphere of the Central League as well as the Youth League before he made his first team debut, coming on as a sub in the last game of the '83-'84 season against Ipswich Town.

Later that year Villa scrapped Dorigo's two-year contract and replaced it with a three-year one and he has since made the left-back position his own since playing his first full game last September against Chelsea.

In the reserves Dorigo had demonstrated his adaptability by scoring three times in seven games as a midfielder, and Villa's manager Graham Turner has no doubt about his versatility and reliability.

Writing in the Villa programme about their Milk Cup match against Queens Park Rangers when Dorigo played in the midfield wearing the No. 11 shirt, Turner said: "Tony Dorigo came into the side in midfield and gave a bit of protection to the back four, making it difficult for Rangers to get at us as quickly as Leicester had done (the previous week)."

Everyone at Villa talks glowingly about 'our Tony', the future star. When I went to Villa Park to interview him and announce myself, the receptionist said, "Fancy you coming all the way from Australia to interview our Tony!" Then she added reflectively, "But I'm not surprised, though, he's going to be a big star".

And indeed it isn't just the Villa staff who are starry-eyed about 'our Tony'. He was voted Young Player of the Month for the Midlands in December.

Graham Turner says that his biggest asset is his speed "probably because he used to be a winger in Australia", and he also praises his ability to recover quickly.

When you ask Dorigo the secret of his success, he says "I worked very hard and I listened", but then he goes on to praise Villa's backroom staff.

"I owe a lot to Youth coach Brian Little, who drilled into me the importance to a defender of always looking around and being aware of your opponents before the ball reaches you. And when I got into the reserves, reserve coach Bill Shorthouse (who used to play for Wolves), took over where Brian left off . . . I owe it all to them, really".

Well, not altogether, Tony, it took guts and no small amount of determination to go off and seek your fortune in a strange and often cold country (I do miss the beach sometimes, he says), and you wonder how



Photo by Bob Thomas

many more kids do we have who could follow in his footsteps if they would only try, and of course if the parents were as supportive as Tony's were.

For Dorigo's parents have been a tremendous help to him. Once it was obvious that he was going to fulfil his apprenticeship satisfactorily, the whole family packed up and went to live in Birmingham with him, and they stay with him for a few months each until he moves into his new house.

Dorigo has never played for Australia at any level, and ironically feelers were extended to him during the Socceroos' tour last year, when the National team lost to Aston Villa but with some regret, he turned them down.

"I couldn't take several weeks off to play for the Socceroos in the World Cup qualifiers" he says. "It would put my professional career in jeopardy and besides, it wouldn't be fair to the fellow I replaced, would it?"

As Graham Turner said in parting "He's a natural, that boy, how many more have you got in Australia like him?"

Who knows?

Les Shorrocks

CON OPASINIS

(PRESTON)



Full name: Con Opasinis.

Birthplace and date: Fiorina, Greece,
15/10/64.

Height and weight: 5' 9", 73kg.

Home: Preston.

Car: Datsun 260Z.

Favourite current player(s): Ian Dobson,
Phil O'Connor.

Ambitions for 1985: Help Preston win
League.

Long-term ambitions: To play for Australia
in World Cup.

After soccer career is over: Coach or put
something back into game.

Previous clubs: None.

Nickname: Oppo.

Team you supported as a boy: West
Ham.

Football heroes of childhood: Trevor
Brooking and Kenny Dalglish.

Most memorable match: Debut for
Australia 'B' v Rangers.

Biggest thrill: Scoring v Heidelberg in
1984 opening game.

Biggest disappointment: Missing
selection in Australian Youth Team.

Superstitions: None.

International or other honours: Three
appearances Australian 'B' Team.

Favourite other sports persons: Dennis
Lillee, Greg Norman.

Favourite other sport: Golf or Tennis.

Hobbies: My job as salesman.

Favourite actor or actress: Clint
Eastwood, Sophia Loren.

Favourite T.V. show: Diff'rent Strokes.

Favourite Musician: Bruce Springsteen.

Biggest influence on career: My boss
Lou Tonovski and Dad.



CUP ACTION



Sydney City v. St. George. N.S.L. Cup Round 1.
Frank Farina of Sydney City hurdles over Saints' Michael O'Shea.

 **OLYMPIC**
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ALL THE SCORES AND TABLES OLYMPIC AIRWAYS SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 1

Northern Division

9th March

SYDNEY CITY.....(2)	3
Barnes (1) — Kosmina (2)	
BLACKTOWN CITY.....(1)	1
Knight (1)	

Wentworth Park — 876

Sydney City: Clark, Cant, Robertson, Gomez, De Manigny, O'Connor, Watson, Barnes, Farina, Kosmina, Lee (Fletcher).

Blacktown: Hoare, Skellern, Rasamussen, Wheatley, Bourke, Selvaie (Hornazabal), Knight, Thornthwaite, Bradley, Larkin, O'Connor.

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD UNITED.....(0)	0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC.....(0)	1
Soper (1)	

Adamstown Oval — 2215

Newcastle Rosebud United: Gosling, Maier, Owens, Boogaard, M. Jones, Kerby, Senkalski, D. Jones, Milosevic, Fawkes (Naumov), McClelland.

Sydney Olympic: Meier, Johnston, Jennings, Dakos, Lampropoulos, Phillips, Raskopoulos, Soper, Theodorakopoulos (Patalis), Katholos, Kalantzis (Svinos).

10th March

LEICHHARDT.....(2)	4
Colagiuri (2) — Genovese (1) — Willis, O.G. (1)	
WOLLONGONG CITY.....(0)	2
Bundalo (1) — Giannone (1)	

Lambert Park — 1,497

Leichhardt: Catlin, Spina, Brown, Mariani, Rowden, Bertogna, Colagiuri (Genovese, Casacchia), Butler, Caban, De Ceglie, Morsello.

Wollongong City: Vandareff, Green, Matias (Brodnik), Hristovski, Dickson, Kerr, Godzik, Bundalo, Willis, Kotamandis, Giannone.

CANBERRA CITY.....(1)	3
English (1) — Sermanni (1) — Perinovic (1)	
INTER MONARO.....(0)	0

Seiffert Oval — 1376

Canberra City: Franken, Harkins, Jones, Mihalidis, Burke, Byrne, English, Sermanni, Perinovic, Bryant, Gibson.

Inter Monaro: Hocking, Francis, Walsh, Santolin, Titlas, Budini, Thamsides, Willox, Brennan, Carbone, Giampaolo (Gagetti).

SYDNEY CROATIA.....(2) 3 |

Arnold (2) — Rezo (1)

MARCONI.....(1) 3 |

Calderan (1) — Jankovics (2)

King Tomislav Park — 5

Sydney Croatia: Woodhouse, A. Kovacic, Tom Basic, Woods, Vidaic, Jurin (Rezo), Savor, Arn Patikas, M. Kovacic (Meades).

Marconi: James, Carter, Rizzotto, Hender Dalderan, Mason, Drienne (Gunning, Shame), L Brown, Jankovics, Tredinnick.

PENRITH CITY.....(0) 0 |

ST. GEORGE.....(0) 0 |

Cook Park —

Penrith City: Gibson, Brogan, Ainsworth, Mc Cross, Hebb, Carbone, Toohay (Shute), H Easthorpe, Licata.

St. George: Greedy, Skeen, Ratcliffe, M O Koczka, Barton, J. O'Shea, Stone, Cotton, Pat (Marlon), Slater.

Southern Division

10th March

BRISBANE CITY.....(0)	0
BRISBANE LIONS.....(0)	2
Anderson (1) — Cairney (1)	

Spencer Park — 1585

Brisbane City: Wishart, Fabrizio, Bromfield, Milovanovic, Wilkinson, Junna (Robinson), Mengotti, Hamilton, Carey (Schlavo), Glockner, Reid.

Brisbane Lions: Evans, Jackson, Vasquez, Hunter, Niven, Anderson, J. Stewart, Ogden, McDonagh, Carney, R. Stewart.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS.....(0)	(0)
HEIDELBERG UNITED.....(0)	0

Chaplin Reserve — 1940

Sunshine George Cross: Kastner, Scerri, Campbell, Bennett, Richardson, Faulkner, Istuk (Bain), Mitten, Gilder, McLaren, Latif.

Heidelberg United: Oliver, McKie, Marley, Angele, Metaxas (Patterson), Valentine, Solemidis, Tasios, Winn, Yankos, Stevenson.

MELBOURNE CROATIA.....(0)	3
Antolovic (1) — Deankovic (1) — House (1)	
ADELAIDE CITY.....(0)	0

Olympic Park No. 2 — 1269

Melbourne Croatia: Govic, Juric, Parton, Cristaldo, Hannah, Antolovic, Deankovic, House, Cumming, Campbell (Trogrlic), Ward.

Adelaide City: McNally, Donnelly, Santrac (Cecere), Nyskohus, Flounders, Melta, Northcote, Villani, Mullon, Maxwell, Costanzo (Vidmar).

FOOTSCRAY.....(1)	1
Stojilovic (1)	
PRESTON.....(1)	2
Cole (1) — Spink (1)	

Schintler Reserve — 3398

Footscray: Turudja, Carroll, Lujic, Jovic, Kanc, Belic, Curovic, O'Donnell (Janjic), Lazopoulos, Stojilovic (Durdevic), Tapai.

Preston: Wilson, Opasinis, Cole, Iloski, Dobson, Dunn, Heys, Flavell, Lane, Smith, Spink.

WEST ADELAIDE.....(0) 0 |

Honeyman (1) — Price (1)

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS.....(0) 0 |

Sweeney (1)

Hindmarsh Stadium —

West Adelaide: Crook, Atsalas, Brown, Honeyman, Konstantopoulos (Stefanopoulos), McGregor, Panagis, Manou, Scott (Stamatelopoulos), Price.

Brunswick Juventus: Banovic, Geremia, Brown, Drnecsky, Campbell, Cullen, M (Wade), Sweeney, Dowie, Zinni (Palatsides).

SOUTH MELBOURNE.....(1) 1 |

Egan (2) — Brown (1)

GREEN GULLY.....(1) 1 |

Lewis (2)

Middle Park —

South Melbourne: Laumeta, Russell, Yzendoorn, Postecoglou, McDowell, Crino, H Murphy, Brown, Egan.

Green Gully: Denys, Krajacic, Murray, McL Vassallo, Lloyd, Smallman, Williams, Smart, L Lewis.

NORTHERN DIVISION POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. Canberra City	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
2. Leichhardt	1	1	0	0	4	2	2
3. Syd. City	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
4. Syd. Olympic	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
5. Syd. Croatia	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
6. Marconi	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
7. Penrith City	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
8. St. George	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
9. Wollongong	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
10. Blacktown	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
11. Newcastle	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
12. Inter Monaro	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. Melb. Croatia	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
2. Brisbane Lions	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
3. South Melb.	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
4. West Adelaide	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
5. Preston	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
6. Sunshine G.C.	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
7. H'berg Utd.	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
8. Green Gully	1	0	0	1	2	0	1
9. Footscray	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
10. Brunswick U.J.	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
11. Brisbane City	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
12. Adelaide City	1	0	0	1	0	0	0



ROUND 2

Northern Division

17th March

WOLLONGONG CITY.....(0)	2
Godzik (1) — M. Kovacic, O.G. (1)	
SYDNEY CROATIA.....(0)	1
Patikas (1)	

Wollongong Showground — 1887

Wollongong City: Vardareff, Green, Matias, Hristovski, Dickson, Kerr (Brodnik), Godzik, Bundalo, Willis.

Sydney Croatia: Woodhouse, A. Kovacic, Basic, M. Kovacic, Rozic, Vidacic, Junin, Savor, Arnold, Patikas, Rezo.

MARCONI.....(0)	2
Jankovics (1) — Brown (1)	
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD UNITED.....(0)	2
McClelland (1) — Milosevic (1)	

Marconi Stadium — 1140

Marconi: McPherson, Carter, Rizzotto, Henderson, Calderan, Mason, Driene (Sharne), Lower, Brown, Jankovics, Tredinnick.

Newcastle Rosebud United: Gosling, Maier, Owens, Boogaard, M. Jones, Kerby, Senkaliki, D. Jones, Milosevic, Naumov (Fawkes), McClelland.

ST. GEORGE.....(0)	0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC.....(1)	1
Raskopoulos (2)	

St. George Stadium — 6561

St. George: Greedy, Sken, Koczka, Barton, Ratcliffe, M. O'Shea, Slater, Stone (Ricoy), Cotton, J. O'Shea, Marton (Petkovski).

Sydney Olympic: Muir, Johnston, Jennings, Ziras, Lampropoulos, Phillips, Raskopoulos, Soper (Polias), Theodorakopoulos, Katholos, Kalantzis.

CANBERRA CITY.....(1)	2
Byrne (1) — Bryant (1)	
PENRITH CITY.....(1)	2
Wotherspoon (1) — Easthorpe (1)	

Jamison Oval — 572

Canberra City: Franken, Mihalidis, Jones, Burke, Harkins, Byrne, Semanni, S. Bryant (Ontong), Gibson, Perinovic, English.

Penrith City: Gibson, Brogan, Cross, Ainsworth, McIntosh, Wotherspoon, Hebb, Toohey (Carboni), Easthorpe, Jackson, Licata.

BLACKTOWN CITY.....(1)	1
Larkin (1)	
INTER MONARO.....(0)	0

Gabbie Stadium — 862

Blacktown City: Hoare, Skellern, Tassmussen, Wheatley, Bourke, Selva, Knight (Homazabal), Thornthwaite, Bradley, Larkin, O'Connor.

Inter Monaro: Hocking, Walsh, Tihlas, Santolin, Budini, Carbone, Thaminidis (Francis), Ambrosino, Brennan, Valen, Willox.

LEICHHARDT.....(0)	0
SYDNEY CITY.....(1)	4
Kosmina (1) — Gomez (2) — Lee (1)	

Lambert Park — 1629

Leichhardt: Catlin, Cassachia, Brown, Bertogna, Rowden, Butler, Colaguri, Reda, Caban, De Ceglie, Morsello.

Sydney City: Clarke, Gomez, Robertson, O'Connor, Cant, Kay, Watson, Barnes (Rodrigues), Farina, Kosmina, Lee.

Southern Division

17th March

HEIDELBERG UNITED.....(1)	4
Selemidis (1) — Stevenson (2) — Tasios (1)	
FOOTSCRAY.....(0)	0

Olympic Village — 2011

Heidelberg United: Oliver, McKie, Marley, Angelle, Metaxas, Valentine, Selemidis, Tasios, Winn, Yankos, Stevenson.

Footscray: Turudic, Vagias, Lujic, Janjic (Stojcevski), Karic, Carroll, Curovic, O'Donnell, Lazopoulos, Stojilovic, Tapai.

PRESTON.....(0)	(0)
SOUTH MELBOURNE.....(0)	1
Egan (1)	

Connor Reserve — 3002

Preston: Traianedes, Opasinis (Petrov), McMillan, Iloski, Dobson, Dunn, Heys, Flavell, Lani, Cole, Spink.

South Melbourne: Laumets, Russell, Postecoglou, Blair, Yzendoorn, Halford, McDowell, Crino, Egan, Brown, Murphy.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS.....(1)	1
Cullen (1)	
GREEN GULLY.....(0)	0

Olympic Park No. 2 — 1218

Brunswick Juventus: Banovic, Lewis, Brown, Dowie, Campbell, Wade, Miranda, Incantalupo, Cullen, Sweeney, Zinni.

Green Gully: Denys, Young, Murray, McLelland, Cannell, Smart, Lewis, Lucchesi, Lloyd, Smallman (Vassallo), Williams.

BRISBANE LIONS.....(1)	1
McGregor (1)	
WEST ADELAIDE.....(0)	0

Richlands Stadium — 559

Brisbane Lions: Evans, McSkimming, Redmond, Jackson, Niven, R. Stewart, J. Stewart, Ogden, Anderson (Hunter), Cairney, McGregor.

West Adelaide: Sproule, Atsalas (Molisalis), Brown, Hiem, Honeyman, Konstantopoulos, McGregor, Panagis (Stamatelopoulos), Scott, Maticsak, Stefanopoulos.

ADELAIDE CITY.....(1)	1
Costanzo (1)	
BRISBANE CITY.....(1)	1
Reis (1)	

Olympic Sports Field — 1153

Adelaide City: McNally, Donnelly, Cecere, Flounders, Nyskohus, Villani, Northcote, Maxwell, Mullen, Costanzo, Santrac (Rankin).

Brisbane City: Wishart, Fabrizio, Milovanovic, Wilkinson, Bromfield, Junna, Mengotti, Glockner, Reis, Carey, Russell.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS.....(0)	0
MELBOURNE CROATIA.....(1)	2
House (1) — Ward (1)	

Chaplin Reserve — 3002

Sunshine George Cross: Kastner, Taylor, Campell, Bennett, Richardson, Faulkner, Istuk (Scerri), Mitten, Gilder, McLaren (Bain), Latif.

Melbourne Croatia: Runje, Curcio, Parton, Antolovic, Hannah, Cristaldo, Deankovic, Biskic (Sabljak), Ward, Cumming.

NORTHERN DIVISION POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. Syd. City	2	2	0	0	7	1	4
2. Syd. Olympic	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
3. Canberra City	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
4. Marconi	2	0	2	0	5	5	2
5. Penrith City	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
6. Wollongong	2	1	0	1	4	5	2
7. Blacktown	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
8. Leichhardt	2	1	0	1	4	6	2
9. Syd. Croatia	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
10. Newcastle	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
11. St. George	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
12. Inter Monaro	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Steve Blair —
South Melbourne



SOUTHERN DIVISION POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. Melb. Croatia	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
2. Brisbane Lions	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
3. South Melb.	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
4. H'berg Utd.	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
5. Brunswick U.J.	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
6. Preston	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
7. West Adelaide	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
8. Brisbane City	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
9. Sunshine G.C.	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
10. Adelaide City	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
11. Green Gully	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
12. Footscray	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

ROUND 3

Northern Division

23rd March

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD UNITED.....(1)	1
Senkalski (1)	
SYDNEY CROATIA.....(0)	2
Odzakov (1) — Arnold (1)	

Adamstown Oval — 2524

Newcastle Rosebud United: Gosling, Maier, Owens, Boogaard, M. Jones, McQuarrie, Senkalski, D. Jones, Milosevic (Naumov), Brandt, Kerby.

Sydney Croatia: Woodhouse, A. Kovacic, Basic, Razo, Rozic, M. Kovacic, Jurin, Savor, Arnold, Patikas, Odzakov.

SYDNEY CITY.....(2)	5
Farina (3) — O'Connor (1) — Watson (1)	
WOLLONGONG CITY.....(2)	2
Willis (1) — Brodnik (1)	

Wentworth Park — 635

Sydney City: Clarke, Cant, O'Connor, Gomez, De Marigny, Lee, Watson (P. Falconer), Barnes (Paterson), Farina, Kosmina, Fletcher.

Wollongong City: Vardareff, Cundroo, Matias (Baker), Willis, Dickson, Brodnik (Corradini), Bundalo, Hristovski, Kerr, Kotamandis, Giannone.

24th March

MARCONI.....(1)	1
Jankovics (1)	
ST. GEORGE.....(0)	0

Marconi Stadium — 1329

Marconi: McPherson, Carter, Rizzotto (Driene), Henderson, Calderan, Mason, Gray, Tredinnick, Lowe, Jankovics, Sharne (Gunning).

St. George: Greedy, M. O'Shea, Skeen, Ratcliffe, Koczka, Barton (High), Stone, J. O'Shea, Riscoy, Petkovski (Marlon), Slater.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC.....(0)	0
CANBERRA CITY.....(0)	1
Mihailidis (1)	

St. George Stadium — 3970

Sydney Olympic: Meier, Johnston, Lampropoulos, Ziras (Theodorakopoulos), Jennings, Phillips, Raskopoulos, Katholos, Patalis, Soper, Kalantzis (Koussas).

Canberra City: Franken, Ontong, Burke, Harkins, Jones, Sermanni, Mihailidis, Byrne, Bryant, Perinovic, English.

PENRITH CITY.....(0)	0
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BLACKTOWN CITY.....(0)	1
Rasmussen (1)	

Cook Park — 432

Penrith City: Gibson, Brogan, Cross, Ainsworth, McIntosh, Wotherspoon, Hebb, Carbone (Toohey), Easthorpe, Jackson (Hunter), Licata.

Blacktown City: Hoare, Skellern, Rasmussen, Wheatley, Pointer, Thornthwaite, Selvage, Bourke (Hormazabal), Bradley, Larkin, O'Connor.

INTER MONARO.....(0)	0
----------------------	---

LEICHHARDT.....(1)	3
Morsello (1) — Caban (1) McCulloch (1)	

Selfert Oval — 844

Inter Monaro: Hocking, Francis (Monterosso), Walsh, Santolin, Tilius, Budini, Thamnidis, Willox, Brennan (Gagetti), Carbone, Dragecovic.

Leichhardt: Catlin, Cassachia, Brown, Rowden, Mariani, Butler, Colaguri (Spina), McCulloch, Caban, De Ceglie, Morsello.

Southern Division

23rd March

GREEN GULLY.....(0)	2
Lewis (1) — Lucchesi (1)	
BRISBANE LIONS.....(0)	0

Green Gully — 511

Green Gully: Denys, Young (Vassallo), McLelland, Murray, Cannell, Smart, Lewis, Lucchesi, Lloyd, Smallman, Williams (McKenna).

Brisbane Lions: Evans, McSkimming (Redmond), Hunter, Jackson, Niven, J. Stewart, R. Stewart, Ogden, Cairney, McGregor, Anderson (McDonagh).

24th March

PRESTON.....(0)	(0)
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BRUNSWICK UNITED JUVENTUS.....(0)	0
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Connor Reserve — 1976

Preston: Trainades, Opasins, Dobson, Dunn, McMillan, Iloski, Flavell, Heys, Lane, Cole, Spink.

Brunswick United Juventus: Banovic, Lewis, Brown, Drinoczky, Peterson, Campbell, Cullen, Wade, Incantakop, Sweeney, Zinni (Palatides).

WEST ADELAIDE.....(2)	2
Brown (1) — Konstandopoulos (1)	
ADELAIDE CITY.....(1)	1
Maxwell (1)	

Hindmarsh Stadium — 4166

West Adelaide: Sproul, Ahsalas, Brown, Hiern, Honeyman, Konstandopoulos (Papadopoulos), McGregor, Panagis, Scott, Genikas, Manou.

Adelaide City: McNally, Donnelly, Flounders, Nyskohus, Cocere, Santrac (Rankin), Northcote, Villani, Maxwell, Mullen, Costanzo.

BRISBANE CITY.....(0)	0
-----------------------	---

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS.....(0)	1
Latif (1)	

Spencer Park — 1005

Brisbane City: Wishart, Fabrizio, Bromfield, Wilkinson, Milovanovic, Junna, Glockner (Felsch), Mengotti (Hamilton), Cairney, Reis, Robinson.

Sunshine George Cross: Kastner, Campoli, Taylor, Gardiner, Faulkner, Istuk (Bain), Mitten, Gilder, McLaren, Latif, Richardson.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.....(2)	3
-------------------------	---

Egan (3)	
FOOTSCRAY.....(0)	1
Lujic (1)	

Middle Park — 3429

South Melbourne: Laumets, Russell, Postecoglou, Blair, Yzendoorn, Halford, McDowell, Crino, Egan, Brown, Murphy.

Footscray: Boland, Curovic (Stojevskij), Lujic, Kynakoulias, Karic, Carroll, Tasevski, Janjic, Lazopoulos, Stojovic, Tapai.

MELBOURNE CROATIA.....(1)	1
---------------------------	---

House (1)	
-----------	--

HEIDELBERG UNITED.....(0)	2
---------------------------	---

Selemidis (1) — Patterson (1)	
-------------------------------	--

Olympic Park — 2956

Melbourne Croatia: Govic, Curcio, Parton, Cristaldo, House, Antolovic, Deankovic, Biskic, Jurcic (Gojevic), Ward, Cumming.

Heidelberg United: Oliver, McKie, Marley, Stevenson, Gabrielson, Valentine, Selemidis, Tasios, Winn, Yankos, Patterson.

NORTHERN DIVISION POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. Syd. City	3	3	0	0	12	3	6
2. Canberra City	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
3. Leichhardt	3	2	0	1	7	6	4
4. Marconi	3	1	2	0	6	5	4
5. Syd. Olympic	3	2	0	1	2	1	4
6. Blacktown	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
7. Syd. Croatia	3	1	1	1	6	6	3
8. Penrith City	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
9. Wollongong	3	1	0	2	6	10	2
10. Newcastle	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
11. St. George	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
12. Inter Monaro	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. South Melb.	3	3	0	0	7	3	6
2. H'berg Utd.	3	2	1	0	6	1	5
3. Melb. Croatia	3	2	0	1	6	2	4
4. West Adelaide	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
5. Brisbane Lions	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
6. Brunswick U.J.	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
7. Preston	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
8. Sunshine G.C.	3	1	1	1	1	2	3
9. Green Gully	3	1	0	2	4	4	2
10. Brisbane City	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
11. Adelaide City	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
12. Footscray	3	0	0	3	2	9	0



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LEN McKENDRY talks to Les Shorrock

South Melbourne coach Len McKendry says his team has to learn to cope with the pressure of being champions.

"It's a whole new ball-game when you are the champions," he says, "just ask Liverpool's manager Joe Fagan. Every team we meet plays as if it's a cup final and my blokes have got to come to terms with the facts."

McKendry isn't perturbed that his team has already bowed out of two Cups, the Buffalo Gold Summer Cup, which South won last year, and of course, the National Cup.

"There wasn't much for us in either," he says. "The money from the Buffalo Cup went to pay our affiliation fees, and there's only prestige in the National Cup, and a lot of travelling . . . ask Newcastle. What bothers me more is that with a 22-match schedule, we've got to get cracking from the start, instead of making a late run as we did last year. We have only 11 home games, and four of those, against the Brisbane and Adelaide clubs, won't attract anybody, so we have to make the best of the seven against Melbourne clubs."

When you talk to him about inflation, McKendry just scoffs.

"We're practising deflation here, not inflation," he says. "That's why we have a small squad, and for a couple of years now we have been concentrating on rearing our own players from the Youth team. Our Youth team played a whole season in the Victorian State League as South Melbourne Hellas, against experienced, older players, and although they didn't win many games, they learned an awful lot and we are now reaping the benefit, with John Kanesoulis and Angie Postecoglou fully-fledged senior players and others knocking on the door."

"We bought Gary McDowell, one of the best players in Australia, to replace Alan Davidson and he's settling in nicely. Don't worry about us, we'll do all right as long as the players realise they only have to do what they did last year. At the moment they are trying to play above themselves."

THE STORY IN BRIEF

South Melbourne Hellas was formed late in 1959 through the amalgamation of Hellenic and Yarra Park. A few months later the new club linked up with South Melbourne United — a move which gave the club the use of Middle Park.

All three clubs had been struggling in the mid-fifties and the amalgamation was the brainchild of Theo Marmaras, then president of Hellenic.

Marmaras went on to become South Melbourne's longest serving president as well as serving as chairman and president of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

The union of the three clubs brought together a number of good players and in 1960, the club's first year of competition, South won the First Division North championship with a huge 12 point margin dropping only one point in the league campaign.

One well known name in the team in that first season was John Margaritis, who has since coached the club — successfully — twice.

In the first year, the club also reached the semifinal of the Dockerty Cup before going down 0-2 to Hakoah. In 1961, the club finished fifth in its first season in State League then took the State League championship for the first time the following year under the coaching of Manny Poulakakis who was brought over from Egypt.

In 1963 South Melbourne reached the final of the Ampol Cup (v Polonia 0-1) but it had a poor league season finishing sixth in spite of signing Tommy Anderson from George Cross.

A further recruiting drive in 1964 yielded Ernie Ackery, the former Manchester United apprentice, Jim Pyrgolios from Panathinaikos, Sam Service and Jim Adam. The new players started a run of three consecutive State League championship wins for South (1964, '65, '66).

Winger Leo Damianakos of Greek second division club Kalamata was added to the squad in 1965 after waiting a full year for his clearance.

In 1966, South recruited Con Nestoridis, Greek soccer's greatest centre-forward. Even though he was 37 years old, Nestoridis practically doubled the gate at South's games.

In 1967 South underwent a slump finishing fourth and losing the Ampol Cup final to Slavia.

Ten Greek players were imported in 1968 but only three were up to standard and by the season's end all ten had returned home.

Lou Brocic — later to become coach of Kuwait — guided the club to third spot that year. Under Brocic, South won the 1969 Ampol Cup beating Croatia 2-1 with one of the goals coming from Frank Micic, who spent one season at South in between becoming a legend at Footscray.

South repeated the import experiment in '69 bringing five more Greeks with the same disastrous effect that none proved good enough and all returned home by the season's end.

The club finished in seventh spot on 21 points, in 1970 South turned its recruiting resources

locally and secured two of its all time greats Steve Walker (from Lions for \$3500) and Jim Armstrong (from Hakoah for \$6000) apart from bringing Ulysses Kokkinos back from Greece for \$2000.

1970 was however the year of Juventus and South finished only fifth in spite of winning the Ampol Cup. Kokkinos made a second attempt at Greek soccer in 1971 and his absence may have contributed to South narrowly missing the championship by one point.

Bill Curran took over the coaching in 1972 promoting Giovanni Battistotto 16 and Bill Hasapis 17 into the seniors as well as recruiting Peter Bourne from English club Burnley to link up with Ian Marshall in midfield. With Armstrong scoring goals galore, South kept pace with front runner George Cross before overtaking Cross in the penultimate round and then taking out the championship on goal difference despite dropping a point against Juventus in the 22nd round.

1972 also saw the introduction of an interstate series between Sydney and Melbourne but South fared badly and finished fifth behind four Sydney clubs.

In 1972 South and George Cross again were the front runners but both were finally overtaken by Footscray which won with two games in hand after both clubs had completed their league campaign tied on 29 points.

The barren period finally ended in 1974 when with Arthur Xanthopoulos by now established in the side, Bourne dominating in midfield and Armstrong still scoring freely, South took over as leader early and romped away with the title on 33 points, four ahead of Cross.

Armstrong was top scorer of the league with 22 goals. And South also won the Dockerty Cup beating Ringwood City 4-1 with goals by Marshall, Armstrong, Nick Nechvoglod, and Bourne.

South retained the Dockerty Cup in 1975 beating Sunshine City 2-1, the first goal coming from the season's best recruit — Jimmy Mackay.

In the Ampol Cup and the State League South had to be content with second spot losing the final 0-1 to Footscray and trailing league champion (and arch rival) Heidelberg by four points.

The club ended its reign in the State League with another championship victory in 1976 and threw the Ampol Cup into the bargain.

Peter Ollerton signed for \$9000 from APIA scored a hat-trick in the Ampol Cup final's 4-1 win over Footscray.

Ollerton's striking partner was another costly buy Duncan Cummings signed for \$10,000 from Melbourne. The pair scored 18 goals between them as South romped the title in with a nine point margin over Footscray. The club then waited for Mooroolbark to make the first move before joining Footscray, and Heidelberg (along with the Barkers) as Melbourne's representatives in the newly formed nationwide Philips League.

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SOUTH MELBOURNE — THE STUFF OF CHAMPIONS

By PETER DESIRA
of "The Sun", Melbourne

Players, committee-men and supporters of the club alike will squeeze every last drop of satisfaction out of that statement for some time yet.

Because it took the club eight long years — and many a heart-ache in between — before the never ending yearning for success that surrounds Middle Park was satisfied with that famous double victory over Sydney Olympic in October last year.

Prior to that the club had tasted the depths of despair, finishing bottom on the National League in 1979, endured the agony of near misses in 1980 and 1981 and spending almost half a million dollars in transfer fees in search of that elusive title.

The title came after two years of careful team building and the most settled period at administrative level that the club has enjoyed for some time.

Len McKendry took over the coaching in July '83 and lifted the club from 13th to fourth in four short months, then worked on practically the same team to capture the title in 1984.

Unlike previous years the club made only one big signing and recouped most of the money when it sold back Paul Lewis to Green Gully after the striker failed to fit in at the club in two months.

Early in the '84 season South trailed Brunswick Juventus and at the 9th round had slipped to seventh spot after losing to Preston but then picked up 15 out of a possible 18 points in the next nine matches and hit the front with three rounds to go to win the National Conference by five points from Heidelberg and Melbourne Croatia.

In the finals play-offs South came from behind to defeat Croatia 3-2, beat Heidelberg 4-2 in the National Conference grand final and in the all important NSL final beat Sydney Olympic 2-1 both home and away to clinch the title.

Here is a quick run down year by year of how South fared in the previous seven years of the NSL:



1977: South Melbourne surprisingly discarded old favorites Jim Armstrong and Jim MacKay — considered too old — and then did not recover after losing two other established stars in Peter Bourne and Jimmy Mackay.

The new recruits included Jack Reilly, Ian Gibson (both from Heidelberg), Billy Rogers (from APIA), Chris Kent from Ringwood City, John Gardiner from Essendon Croatia and Graham French from Mooroolbark, but

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CHAMPIONS 1984 SOUTH MELBOURNE



the team never clicked and the club finished 11th with 22 points in the inaugural Philips League season.

1978: New coach Dave Maclaren used his European contacts to lure Frank Munro and George Campbell

from Scotland, Alun Evans and Sammy Wright from England, John Hansen and Stuart Baxter from Sweden and bought Bertie Lutton from Sydney City apart from promoting George Christopoulos from the reserves. The club

finished in third spot behind West Adelaide and Sydney City.

1979: The disaster year. South had three points deducted for using new left back Tony Turner without a clearance from his English non-league club. Jack Reilly left the club after a clash with Dave Maclaren and Maclaren lost his job a week later.

Dave McKay, Maclaren's replacement, was unable to halt the slide and was in turn replaced by John Margaritis after 10 weeks in charge. The club finished bottom of the league with 16 points from 26 games then had to go cap in hand to seek re-election to the league.

1980: Alan Davidson was the one real gain in 1979 and along with three new signings in 80 — Steve Blair, Branko Buljevic and Vince Bannon, as well as the emergence of George Christopoulos as a class midfielder, the club redeemed itself by climbing to third spot finishing only two points behind champion Sydney City.

1981: Three more astute signings — Jim Shirra from Scotland, John Stevenson from Sydney City and then Steve Wooddin from New Zealand midway through the season, saw South, still under Margaritis, stage a neck and neck battle with Sydney City for most of the season before surrendering the title in the closing three rounds of the competition.

1982: The club won the pre-season Ampol Cup beating Heidelberg 2-1 in the final with new signing Charlie Egan scoring one of the goals.

But things turned sour for Margaritis and after four successive defeats in April and May he was replaced by the ebullient Tommy Docherty who made more signings in Carl Halford and Gerry Bennett but could only lead the club to sixth position on 31 points.

1983: The NSL introduced three points for a win and South Melbourne brought Rale Rasic from Sydney as coach.

Rasic made important signings in Oscar Crino, Ken Murphy, Bobby Russell and John Yzendoorn but the team failed to click and Rasic was deposed after taking only three points from seven games in April and May with the club languishing fourth from the bottom.

SOUTH MELBOURNE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN 1985

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South Melbourne Team Statistics

Position	Name	Date of birth	Country of birth	Clubs	Appearances
Goalkeeper	Peter Laumets	3. 4.57	Australia	Altona City '76	5
				Preston '76-'78 VSF	66
Defenders	Angie Postecoglou	27. 6.65	Australia	South Melb. '79 NSL	149
				South Melb. '83 VSF	19
	Steve Blair	28.12.61	Scotland	South Melb. '84 NSL	16 + 1
				Albion Flowers '78-'79 VSF	39
	Kris Kalitadidis	3. 1.58	Greece	South Melb. '80-'84	124 + 5
				South Melb. '77-'78 NSL	74 + 7
	Bobby Russell	16. 7.55	Scotland	Northcote C '81 VSF	20
				South Melb. '82-'83 VSF	50 + 1
	John Yzendoorn	17. 9.55	England	South Melb. '84 NSL	24
				Adelaide C '79-'82 NSL	103 + 1
Midfielders	Manny Anezakis	27. 6.65	Australia	South Melb. '83-'84 NSL	62
				Prahran S. '78-'79 VSF	26
	Peter Vardaxos	13. 6.65	Australia	Heidelberg '79-'82 NSL	89 + 3
				South Melb. '83-'84 NSL	51 + 2
	Carl Halford	27.11.58	England	South Melb. '83 VSF	13 + 2
				South Melb. '84 NSL	—
	John Kanesoulis	4. 1.66	Australia	South Melb. '82-'82 VSF	24 + 1
				South Melb. '84 NSL	—
	Gary McDowell	6. 3.59	Scotland	Frankston C '81-'82 VSF	22
				South Melb. '82-'84 NSL	62 + 1
Forwards	Oscar Crino	9. 8.62	Italy	South Melb. '83 VSF	17 + 3
				South Melb. '84 NSL	16 + 4
	Viado Bozinovski	30. 3.64	Yugoslavia	Hamilton Accies Scot.	40
				Footscray '83-'84 NSL	19 + 8
	Doug Brown	21. 3.58	Scotland	Juventus '79-'80 VSF	52 + 3
				Tung Sing Hong Kong	27 + 6
	Charlie Egan	14. 8.59	Scotland	South Melb. '83-'84 NSL	50 + 3
				South Melb. '82-'83 VSF	59 + 1
	Ken Murphy	19. 6.56	Scotland	South Melb. '83 NSL	22
				Dynamo Zagreb Yugoslavia	90

South Melbourne Full Record in NSL

Year	Pos.	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Agst	Points
1977	11th	26	7	8	11	27	35	22
1978	3rd	26	12	8	6	45	30	32
1979	14th	26	6	3	17	26	45	16
1980	3rd	26	15	5	6	42	21	35
1981	2nd	30	13	13	4	41	27	38
1982	6th	30	11	9	10	46	37	31
1983	4th	30	15	7	8	44	36	52
1984	1st	28	18	4	6	48	20	40*

* Not including finals play-offs.

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CUP ACTION

*Preston v. South Melbourne. N.S.L. Cup Round 1.
South Melbourne's Steve Blair outjumps Preston's Robbie Dunn.*



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(Adelaide City)



Full name: Sergio Melta.

Birthplace and date: Adelaide, 19/1/59.

Height and weight: 5' 10", 75kg.

Home: Adelaide.

Car: Alfa Romeo.

Favourite current player(s): Joe Watson.

Ambitions for 1985: To be successful.

Long-term ambitions: To own my own hairdressing salon.

After soccer career is over: Be happy.

Previous clubs: Birkala, '75.

Nickname: Zee.

Team you supported as a boy: Adelaide City.

Football heroes of childhood: Pele.

Most memorable match: Philips Cup Final, '79.

Biggest thrill: Being '84 NSL Player of the Year.

Biggest disappointment: Injuries.

Superstitions: None.

International or other honours: 4 appearances for S.A. v Vic. Czechoslovakia.

Favourite other sports persons: Seve Ballesteros.

Favourite other sport: Golf.

Hobbies: Photography.

Favourite actor or actress: Charles Bronson, Eddie Murphy.

Favourite T.V. show: Sports and Documentaries.

Favourite Musician: The Cure.

Biggest influence on career: Rale Rasic.

FORGET THE FALSE START — ADELAIDE CITY WILL ARRIVE IN '85

By Allan Crisp

Despite its early elimination from the National Cup and its traditionally poor start to the league season, Adelaide City is a better championship prospect this year than it was in 1984.

That is the opinion of Adelaide City coach Edmund Kreft, whose optimistic outlook appeared fully justified after his team had scored 14 goals in its first three Ampol Cup minor round games this year.

"We are stronger this season than we were last year when we lost five players, including Banfield and Dods," said Kreft.

City's first pre-season acquisition was ace midfielder Adrian Santrac from Beograd, but it failed to snare young Azzurri goalkeeper David Miller, who after training with the NSL club succumbed to an offer to remain with Azzurri.

Negotiations are proceeding with Leichhardt goalkeeper Robbie Parks, but in the meantime Willie McNally has settled his difficulties and has resumed with City.

While it failed to sign David Miller, it did manage to lure his brother Colin, a lively win striker from Para Hills.

Also signed were striker Fortu Costanzo from Salisbury United and Mike Donnelly, a midfielder turned full-back from Azzurri.

There was a big bonus when ironman midfielder Brian Northcote decided to mount a courageous comeback.

Northcote retired in April, 1983, after a series of groin operations appeared to have ended his fine career.

Those were the additions, but City lost Paul Shillabeer, Pat DeVito and Robbie Alberton.

DeVito and Alberton have been cleared to Azzurri, while Shillabeer has appealed to the SA Soccer Federation for a reduction of his transfer fee.

Other plans went astray when attempts to tempt overseas players, Derek Parlane and Terry McDermott failed.

City enlisted the aid of its former super-guest Dixie Deans to try for either Parlane or McDermott, but uncharacteristically, Dixie failed to "score".

However, City expects to atone by regaining Socceroo striker David Mitchell after his stint with the famous Glasgow Rangers.

The carrot to lure Mitchell in front of all other interested clubs will be provided by Adelaide City's newest sponsor, Fairmont Homes.

Mitchell's father, Jim, who lives in Adelaide, described the offer as "fantastic", but its magnitude will not be revealed until big Mitch sets foot back on SA soil.

From the financial aspect, Adelaide City Juventus showed a marked improvement last year as it whittled down a \$400,000 debt to a more respectable \$100,000.

Prospects for 1985 appear rosy with the renewal of the Boral sponsorship, allied to the Adelaide Pest Control support and the new backing of Fairmont Homes.

President Charlie Caruso estimates that the combined sponsorship package will bring City a cool \$110,000 this year.

The stage is now set for a lift on the field where City will strive to improve its unacceptable seventh placing of last season.

Unquestionably, Adelaide City possess some of the finest player talent in Australia.

Bugsy Nyskohus, Mr. Reliable, leads his team by example. His attributes and brilliance with City since the Philips League began in 1977 are legend.

Nyskohus is supported in the City defence by arguably the best central defender in the league in powerhouse stopper Neville Flounders.

Sergio Melta, 1984 NSL Player of The Year is the midfield kingpin. This year he will have the backing of Northcote, Santrac, young Steve Maxwell and the irrepressible Charley Villani.



Konstandopoulos goes up against Birkalla goalkeeper Green in an NSL Cup game.

Villani has more skill and talent one toe than most players and this year he promises to realise his enormous potential to the fullest.

And the best is yet to be seen in outstanding young strikers Joe Mullen and Peter Rankin and new recruit Fortu Costanzo.

Kraft dropped Rankin and substituted Mullen for the first NSL game this year, because he was disturbed by their recent inability to score.

But the City coach would do well to remember that goal-king Gary O'Neil also endured a barren period before regaining his magic touch.



WEST ADELAIDE AIMS TO REDISCOVER TITLE FORM

West Adelaide is pinning its hopes of winning the NSL Southern Division championship on Neil McGachey — the still young Scot who captained the club when it won the Philips League title in 1978.

McGachey, while not brand new to the art of coaching, is a relative newcomer.

It was McGachey who took over the coaching reins at West for a brief period while the club found a successor to John Margaritis in the memorable championship winning season. West eventually settled on Jim Adam as its coach for the remainder of 1978, but some good judges claim that McGachey's motivational spell had a lasting effect.

Already in pre-season preparation, the Ampol Cup and the National Cup, McGachey has displayed a flair for the job which has encouraged supporters and club officials to believe that 1985 holds great promise.

No doubt McGachey has learnt plenty from the nine coaches he has played under since the NSL began eight seasons ago. But there are no outward signs that he is following the methods of any of his predecessors. He is, in fact, very much his own man and he is handling the task in a unique fashion.

McGachey's first break with West tradition came when he deserted the

coaches' box to sit high in the grandstand during the games to issue instructions with the aid of a walkie-talkie.

"You get a much broader view of what's happening from the stand," McGachey said. "Besides, there's not much point being in the box, because once the game kicks-off there's nothing a coach can do. There's no point in yelling, because the player's can't hear you. I know I never heard the coach during the 16 years I played with West."

By Allan Crisp

An innovative, even daring move introduced by the new Westad coach concerns post-match interviews, not with the Press, but with the fans.

McGachey will make himself available to answer questions from the West supporters on his tactics after every home match. "I believe that it's better to face conflict than to dodge it," says McGachey, displaying the same bravery he showed on the field in 134 NSL games with West.

While West's finances are stable, it has not splurged on the transfer market. But it has acquired two excellent State League strikers in Gary Price of Adelaide Croatia and Alan Scott of Azzurri. West also has purchased a young defensive giant, Les Matiscsak, from Campbelltown City, but he has thus far not broken into the NSL team on a regular basis. Tall midfielder Mike Genikas from

Birkalla is another newcomer waiting in the wings for his crack at the big time.

Price, Scott, Matiscsak and Genikas will be names to remember this year, but equally as significant should be McGachey's "rediscovery" of wing striker Bill Stefanopoulos. The youngster had only fleeting appearances under 1984 coach Sam Salasidis, but his Ampol Cup style and flair stamp him as an important first team player this year.

West has had another lucky break with the successful comeback by former Socceroo goalkeeper Martyn Crook. Crook was thrust into action when Gary Sproul suffered a poisoned foot and the big fellow turned back the clock to the days when he was first choice for the national team.

Now West is in the enviable position of having two outstanding custodians.

West's fabulous supporters' club raised \$148,573 from its Miss Hellas quest last year to rocket the club off to a grand start in 1985. That cash, plus a healthy profit from the sale of West's North Terrace clubrooms late last year and the support of five major sponsors have set the club well in the black.

West bought the North Terrace building for \$200,000 and spent a further \$100,000 refurbishing it. The building was sold to casino investors for a cool \$600,000.

York Motors chipped in with \$16,000, while Commodore Pest Control have done their share to prevent West being white-ant ridden by contributing \$12,000.

International Furniture and Electrical renewed its sponsorship of \$6,000 and Kosmos Furniture and Electrical gave \$5,000.

Others to rally to West were the Steel Radial Tyre Company with \$4000 and Athens World Travel which gave \$3000.

West's gatekeepings were less than satisfactory last season, so it has taken positive steps to remedy the situation by inviting former English international Frank Worthington to guest for it once he completes his commitments with English club Brighton.

Flamboyant Worthington is an ideal choice as a long-term guest player. He has the flair and scoring ability to pack the grandstands and terraces in the same way Dixie Deans did back in the heady Philips League days. □

Price (West Adelaide) lines up to shoot at goal as two Brunswick Juventus players rush to block his shot.



CUP-HOLDERS NEWCASTLE DID IT THE HARD WAY

By Neil Jameson

The KO Kings of the 'Castle — that's the title earned by Newcastle as a result of their all-conquering march to win the 1984 National Cup.

If ever a club earned a trophy the hard way, it was Newcastle Rosebud United. For that reason the Cup holds more than pride of place in the trophy case at Rosebud's Clubhouse.

Australian soccer's roots are stronger in the Newcastle-Coalfields area than anywhere else in the country and it was fitting that, 100 years on from the playing of the first organised match in the region, Newcastle should bring home a prize as important as the Cup.

Last season saw a crisis period in League ranks when Newcastle KB United failed and had their place in the NSL handed over to Newcastle Rosebud United, a hastily prepared merging of some of KB United's players and the Adamstown Rosebud side.

Newly-appointed coach Willie Gallagher had an unenviable task. The '84 season was some weeks old and he was saddled with a squad suffering serious morale problems, woefully short on experience and aware that anything less than a reasonable season might spell the end of Newcastle's role in national soccer.

But Gallagher was hardly the type to dwell on the negatives. Running an eye over his players he noted that the remnants of KB United he had inherited might not have been long on experience, but they definitely weren't short on talent or guts.

There was New Zealand international goalkeeper Clint Gosling, still just 23 but possessing ability far beyond his years.

In Ralph Maier, Gallagher had an accomplished member of Les Schein-

flug's 1983 World Cup Youth squad and a dedicated professional in the making. Maier had captained Australia in the victory over Scotland, was a fitness fanatic and could play right back or midfield.

Mike Boogaard had always been an able, uncompromising defender and the previous season had learned much from the experienced Peter Burke, since departed for Canberra. Boges, as he is known, would make an ideal centre-back in the new line-up.

"One of Gallagher's first crucial moves was to appoint Senkalski as captain".

Bernard Kerby and Simon Brandt were two graduates of the Newcastle youth system. Along with Maier they'd made the crucial step to senior football and had shown they could play in a number of positions. Kerby was a midfielder cum defender while the versatile Brandt, a great poacher of goals, was proficient in almost any position.

Ball-winning midfielder John McQuarrie was originally an Adamstown player who had spent a year with KB. So he was returning to familiar ground.

David Jones added a touch of genuine experience at left midfield or wing while Joe Senkalski, probably the finest locally-bred player to represent Newcastle in the NSL, commanded the middle of the park.

Gallagher at least had a basis on which to build but he was restricted to drawing his extras from the ranks of Adamstown Rosebud. The coach appointed Andy Thompson left back, Neville Power, who many thought should have played NSL football years earlier, joined Boogaard in central defence.

Dean Milosevic, a winger whose speed matched his skill, had made

NSL appearances for Blacktown before his return to Rosebud. He again found himself back in the top league this time wearing his home-town colours.

A tiny bundle of skill by the name of Derek Todd got the central striker role and Gallagher found a midfield bonus when he signed Steve Allen on a dual registration from Cessnock.

This line-up, with one or two variations, headed Newcastle's Cup challenge. Those with money to spare could have got any odds about Newcastle's chances of winning a major trophy because of the early season upheaval, the problems of players familiarising themselves with a new coach and the fact that Newcastle had no depth whatsoever.

And depth was vital because all with the standard run of injuries, Newcastle suffered serious setbacks: the goalkeeping position and Neville Power had his season cut short when he broke an ankle.

In Power's ill-fortune there was a silver lining because it introduced teenage defender Neil Owens to line soccer. He is currently one of the League's young hotshots causing much embarrassment to national youth coach Jim Shoulder for his exclusion from the World Cup finals squad.

One of Gallagher's first crucial moves was to appoint Senkalski as captain. If Newcastle were to perform then a big effort would be required from the gifted midfielder. Joe Senkalski played in every national league season since 1977 and, although only in his mid 20s, the physical education teacher was one of the experienced hands in this youth team.

To extract the best from Senkalski Gallagher figured the player would respond to responsibility; and that's exactly how it panned out. Joe's play was of an extraordinary standard and earned him praise from national coaches.

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Newcastle Rosebud United's 1984 NSL Cup Final line up.

Frank Arok as well as an offer to join Sydney City for the '85 season. Happily for Newcastle, the midfielder rejected the Sydney City approach.

The '84 Cup campaign started none too impressively for Newcastle with an own goal by Glen Fontana and a penalty conversion by Senkalski providing the difference in a narrow 2-1 result over Wollongong.

Newcastle can thank providence that the early rounds were played on a round robin rather than a knock-out basis because the eventual winners would have been out in their second match.

A goal by Leichhardt's Tony Genovese sunk Newcastle 1-0 but the Rosebuds had done enough to qualify for the next rounds against St. George.

The match brought Newcastle home for the first time in the series and they responded to the urging of their own fans with a 4-1 demolition of the Saints.

Boogaard and Milosevic combined to put Todd in for the first goal after a

minute. Mark Barton squared the account for the Saints before the mercurial Todd shimmied past two defenders to make it 2-1.

Ralph Maier made a solo run through the heart of Saints' defence to score number three, and man-of-the-match Boogaard rounded it off by volleying home the fourth.

Sydney City went next when two goals by Milosevic and another by Boogaard did the damage.

That teed Newcastle up for a mid-week rendezvous with Leichhardt in the semi-final at Barton Park. Again Todd started proceedings by scoring off a header and dead-ball exponent Senkalski put it beyond doubt by curving a free-kick around the wall and into the net — 2-0.

It seemed the hurdle most likely to upset Newcastle's fairytale progress was the prospect of having to play the final against Melbourne Croatia in Melbourne. The inter-state trip plus the pressure-cooker atmosphere of a Cup Final was thought to be too much for the youngest side in the League.

Melbourne duly got the nod for the home-town advantage and Newcastle headed south knowing that just a mere 90 minutes of soccer would decide whether the return trip would be a funeral march or a celebration procession.

The crucial moment of a tense match occurred in the 30th minute when Derek Todd found an extra half metre and hit the winner for Newcastle.

Over the 90 minutes, Rosebud were worth the victory and the celebrations back in Newcastle ran long into the week.

As if to prove that the club has an appetite for sudden-death soccer, the Newcastle teenagers made it a double by winning the NSL Youth Cup.

Newcastle Rosebud United's progress to National victory was:

Newcastle 2	Wollongong 1
Newcastle 0	Leichhardt 1
Newcastle 4	St. George 1
Newcastle 3	Sydney City 0
Newcastle 2	Leichhardt 0
Newcastle 1	Melbourne Croatia 0

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for the 1985 Season*

MAKE OR BREAK YEAR FOR BRISBANE CLUBS

By Geoff Stead, of the "Brisbane Telegraph"

Undoubtedly 1985 is a make or break year for Queensland's two National League clubs, Brisbane City and Lions — but officials from both sides have warned "beware of the banana-benders".

Both clubs are stocked with talented local products, youngsters who are the envy of other clubs. Players like former young Socceroos Danny Wright, Russell Stewart and Stephen Glockner; rugged stopper Alan Hunter, who took over from former Socceroo Col Bennett in the Lions team; skilful fullback Steve Jackson; big target man Calvin Daunt; and midfielders Frank Mengotti, Andy Chapman and Luciano Fabrizio.

Together they represent thousands of dollars of soccer talent — but to Brisbane City and Lions they are worth much, much more. They are the base on which the two clubs are building for the future. They are players whose ages are no more than 23 years, most are just out of their teens. All have at least a decade of National League football in front of them.

But like all ambitious soccer players, the young Queenslanders are anxious for success.

The haunting thought for officials of City and Lions is that if their "super-kids" don't taste success this season, they may head south next year, lured by the tempting dollars, the sparkle of the silverware and much more importantly a better chance of a green and gold jersey.

Queensland's representatives in full Australian teams have been few and far between in recent years. Danny Wright gained selection in the "A" squad last season, before withdrawing through injury, while before him only Alan Niven (Lions) and Steve Perry (City) have worn the green and gold at full level since the National League began.

But Queensland officials cite the examples of David Ratcliffe and Frank Farina as former Sunshine State

players who suddenly rocketed to star status once they switched to clubs south of the border.

This season both Queensland clubs are determined to change that and are hunting due recognition. But at the same time, Brisbane City and Lions like being the underdogs of the national competition. They maintain that Australian sport has a tradition of the underdog eventually winning.

The two Queensland clubs have put their faith almost entirely in the local products this season and believe they have sides so charged with spirit that "southerners" will have no choice but to sit up and take notice.

"We have no prima donnas" City officials boasted this year. "We have a side in which every member is prepared to give 100 percent for his team-mates, the coach and the supporters."

And while that kind of atmosphere is one which promotes success, City officials are not making any wild predictions for 1985.

New coach Tony Lowndes, who once boasted he had "more clubs than Jack Nicklaus" is back for his second stint at Spencer Park and this time looks set for an extended stay. He has made it his mission to restore Brisbane City to its former glory.

And the records show Brisbane City has been one of the league's most successful teams. The club occupies 10th position on the all-time NSL table with 192 points from its 222 games prior to the start of this year. It should not be forgotten that Brisbane City finished fourth in 1979, losing the top

four championship Grand Final on 2-1 on aggregate to the powerful Sydney City, and two years later Brisbane City finished third in the overall table.

But it has been in the Cup that City have been among the most successful sides in the competition. In 1979 the Gladiators marched into the final and took the trophy after downing Marconi on penalties at Spencer Park after a 1-1 scoreline at the end of extra time.

The following year City were back in the final again and outclassed Adelaide City to win the trophy with a 2-1 scoreline. The following year the club missed the hat-trick only when it was eliminated on penalties in the quarter-finals by St. George.

Since then things have not been so rosy for City and the past three years have produced a final league position of no better than third-last.

But Lowndes is out to change all that.

"We are aiming to get a top half position, but more importantly we want to get the club on an even keel, both in the playing staff and the administration side of things," Lowndes said.

"It's going to take three years because it is a major rebuilding project, there has been too much ad hoc buying and planning at the club in the past and that is why the team has slipped out of the limelight."

Lowndes has enlisted the aid of top Brisbane junior coach Tony Buesnell, who has invited talented young players from around Brisbane to join City. It will be in his team that youngsters will be groomed for the National League.

At Lions Stadium, Richlands, Brisbane Lions celebrate after scoring a goal against Ipswich in the 1st Round of the N.S.L. Cup.





Geoff Stead.

"Tony is a good young coach who knows how to handle the youngsters. For the first time Brisbane City has put its faith in local talent. We will be blooded a lot of players this year, just letting them sit on the bench or having a few minutes near the end of a game. It will all pay off in the future."

A lot of experienced players have left the club this season, but Lowndes believes no-one is irreplaceable. Gone from last season are stopper Frank Liddell, fullback Steve Perry and midfielder Frank Pimblett. Liddell is now back in Scotland playing for Second Division club Arbroath, while Perry and Pimblett are on the sidelines after differences with the club during the off-season. Both are retained and could return at any stage.

Gone also from last year's squad are Sunshine Coast players Tim O'Maye and Steve Walsh, who was signed mid-year last season after scoring 17 goals in one match for Noosa River, but Walsh found the NSL standard much tougher and did not get on the score sheet until the final round last season.

But back in the City side is former Queensland fullback Billy Wilkinson, who is now the mainstay of the City defence in playing stopper in front of new captain Mike Milovanovic at sweeper. Wilkinson retired from NSL football nearly two years ago when he was constantly troubled by knee injuries.

But a season with Brisbane club North Star in the less demanding Premier League proved the tonic for Wilkinson and now the Scotsman is back in the City team and keen to add to his 121 NSL appearances — a tally

which makes him City's fourth all-time longest serving NSL player.

Regulars like busy midfielder Bobby Hamilton and fullback Gary Bromfield back again and helping stabilise the young and raw city side.

"The spirit will carry us through," Lowndes said. "I don't profess to be a motivator but the boys say the new atmosphere is because of me. I think they are doing it themselves."

If last season was any indication, it seems any chances of Queensland success this year rests firmly with Lions. The side surged from third-last in the National Conference to finish fourth at the end of fixtures, the highest position ever for the club.

Only one player from last year's squad has been lost, Ray Junna who switched to Brisbane City, and the squad has been strengthened as Lions' success last year attracted many local players, some former players lured back by the club's bold 1984 showing. They include former NSL team members Tom McGregor and Brett Beves and a host of other hopefuls including Norm Bell, Martin Green and Craig Dangerfield, who could all push for NSL selection in the future.

Other signings include Tony Redmond, the brother of Phil, who is back in action after a knee injury last season. And of course there are regular second team players like Paul Burns, Mick Tonner and David Hunter who seemingly are only matches away from cementing an NSL berth.

Lions also have waiting in the wings young Soccerroo squad member Richard Bassingthwaite, whose work rate and distribution in midfield is hard to match. After training constantly through the summer under the guidance of State Director of Coaching Bruce Stowell, Bassingthwaite is one of the fittest players in Queensland this season.

Players like Bassingthwaite, Jackson, Russell Stewart, Clark Anderson, Alan Hunter and Roddy Vasquez ensure the Lions team still has one of the youngest average ages of any NSL side.

But despite the apparent inexperience, the team showed its true tough character when late last year it overcame the club's "Melbourne hoodoo". For seven years prior to last October, Lions had not won in Melbourne.

But guided by the irrepressible Stewart brothers Russell and John in

midfield, and big Hunter in the backs, Lions broke the hoodoo by beating Brunswick Juventus 4-2 in the elimination semi. The win was one of the club's greatest triumphs and ranked alongside the 1981 Cup Final 3-2 win over West Adelaide.

Tragically for the confidence-boosted Lions side, they stumbled at their next hurdle in last year's top five series — bowing out on penalties to Heidelberg.

Lions' coach Gordon Arrowsmith has set his side a target of no less than last year's achievements, but he concedes things will be tougher this season for his brilliant young team.

"We have thrown off the 'easy-beats' tag now and we won't have the advantage of complacency in the other side this year. Everyone will know they will have to play well to beat Lions," Arrowsmith said.

Despite that Arrowsmith refuses to change his pledge to play attacking football. "We did it last year and it put a lot of people under pressure so there is no reason to change," he said.

Arrowsmith agrees that unless Lions taste success this season it will be tough to keep many of the team's top young stars next year. Only extensive negotiations swayed Alan Hunter from switching to Heidelberg this season. But Arrowsmith points out, Lions are in a better position than most realise.

"The players we are talking about have to maintain their own standards to attract the southern clubs, and if they do that then Lions should win," he said.

Arrowsmith is looking for consistency from his players and the club now has considerable depth which means every player is under pressure for his position — a situation which promotes top football.

The Stewart brothers were the lynch-pins of the Lions team last year and Arrowsmith predicts they will feature prominently again.

"Watch out for John Stewart this year and don't be surprised if Russell gets called up to the National Team. His attitude at training is 100 percent better than last year. I think Alan Hunter will make a big impression again this year, and as for Steve Jackson, well I think he should have been in the National Team last season. Hopefully Frank Arok will look at him this year," Arrowsmith said. □

RUSSELL STEWART

(Brisbane Lions)



Full name: Russell Stewart.

Birthplace and date: Brisbane, 27/3/64.

Height and weight: 175cm, 11 stone.

Home: Marsden, an outer Brisbane suburb.

Car: Holden Commodore.

Favourite current player(s): Glen Hoddle (Spurs, England).

Ambitions for 1985: To do well in the league with Lions and to win a full cap.

Long-term ambitions: To play for as long as I can and then go into coaching.

After soccer career is over: I haven't really thought about it because I figure I will be around for a while yet.

Previous clubs: Mount Gravatt (Qld Premier League).

Nickname: Walkie Talkie.

Team you supported as a boy: Mount Gravatt.

Football heroes of childhood: Denis Law, George Best.

Most memorable match: Opening World Youth Championship match against Mexico on Azteca Stadium in Mexico City in 1983.

Biggest thrill: Beating Scotland in the World Youth Tournament.

Biggest disappointment: Nothing yet.

Superstitions: I wear my underpants inside out during matches.

International or other honours: 21 youth caps, state honours at all levels.

Favourite other sports persons: My brother John.

Favourite other sport: Golf.

Hobbies: Golf, Tennis and any sports.

Favourite actor or actress: Charles Bronson, John Wayne.

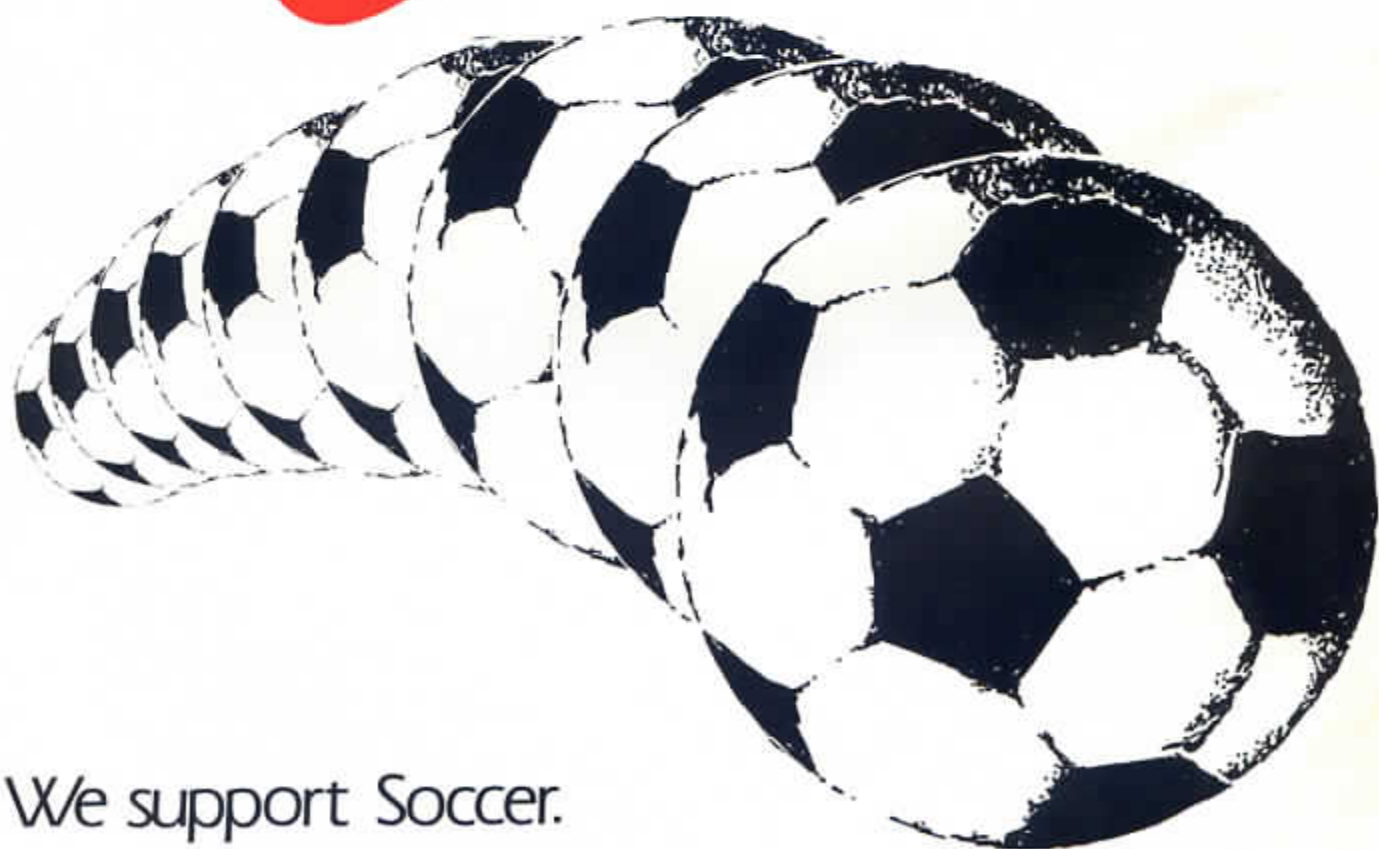
Favourite T.V. show: Match of the Day.

Favourite Musician: Jim Barnes (ex-Cold Chisel).

Biggest influence on career: My family.



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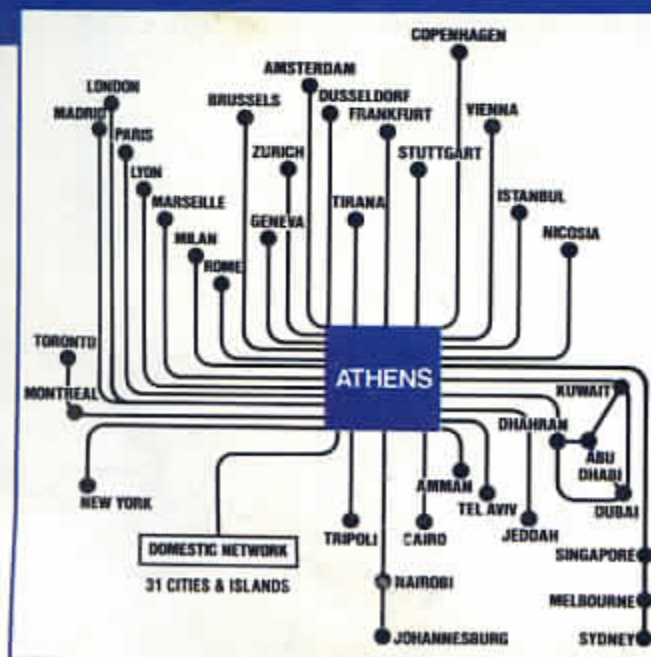
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