



SUPERSTARS
Nintendo
of SOCCER

SUPERSTARS OF SOCCER 1997

Melbourne, May 28

Sydney, June 4

Souvenir Edition

\$5

Put more fun in your pants



clearer graphics
plays all Game Boy games
lifetime warranty

GAME BOY™ pocket

Chairman's Message



What an exciting few months we have ahead of us in Australian Soccer between now and - we hope - mid-1998, France and the World Cup.

This 'footy fest' kicks off this week of course, with the 1997 Nintendo Superstars of Soccer series, to be broadcast once again on the Nine Network.

Last year's series was a huge success, with unexpectedly high television ratings for a soccer product that had never graced the screens before, let alone on commercial television.

Of course, this year the series has taken on a whole new significance for Australian Soccer.

With Terry Venables at the helm as national coach and, for the series, "over-seer" the two matches in Melbourne and Sydney will amount to selection trials for the World Cup squad.

This will give our hundreds of thousands of soccer fans a look at the finest talents Australian Soccer has to offer on the pitch, at the same time, fighting it out man for man, one on one, for the coveted places to take on our Oceania opponents in the World Cup qualifiers.

Socceroo coach Terry Venables intends naming his final squad soon after the Sydney Superstars game on June 4 and then it's on - the Socceroos versus the Solomon Islands and Tahiti, followed by New Zealand.

All things being equal Venables' Socceroos should then find themselves up against the fourth team in Asia, the last hurdle before making the world's top 32 nations to play in France next year.

The Nintendo® series, as this year's Superstars series has become known, introduces Australian Soccer to a brand new sponsor in Nintendo®, whose support and involvement we enthusiastically welcome.

Also, the Nine Network's continued and growing interest in soccer augurs well for the long-term future of the game.

Of course, all our other sponsors are still with us and we hope they reap the benefits of the next few months as well.

When they kick off at Olympic Park on May 28 it is well and truly on for Australian Soccer for the rest of the year.

David Hill
Chairman, Soccer Australia



As the Number One video game company in the world Nintendo® Australia Pty. Ltd. is proud to be the major sponsor of the Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer Series. We are expecting it to be both an exciting and highly competitive series especially as the players try to make their mark and gain selection in the Australian World Cup Squad.

With the vast array of Australian soccer talent flying in from all points of the globe to compliment the quality of locally based players, we are in no doubt that the Australian public will be treated to soccer of the highest calibre.

Never before have we seen such an accumulation of soccer talent on our shores. Australian soccer is on the verge of experiencing an explosion in mainstream popularity and acceptance. This is in no small way due to the selection of the internationally renowned Terry Venables as Head Coach as well as the continued growth, improvement and penetration of Australian players into the best leagues in the world.

Nintendo® would like to wish all participants the best of luck for the Superstars Series and extend that to the Australian team for the World Cup in France in 1998.

David Yarnton
Director of Sales and Marketing
Nintendo® Australia Pty. Ltd.

World Class uhlsport '97/98 range



No shocks.



THAT'S Not Goalkeeper's Boots

No surprises.

Just quality



Pink Strips in 13 styles

and performance



at every single price point.



Goalkeeper's Jersey - 12 to choose from



The APS System, part of a 20-model collection of Goalkeeper's Gloves

Features which explain why

uhlsport is consistently



Pro 2001 Matchball

the world's

top selling brand committed



Probably the world's lightest football boot... the 230g Superlight boots a 10-model strong range

exclusively



11 different Shipspade

to football.



FEEL THE PASSION

For more information on the World Class uhlsport '97/98 range, available at leading sports retailers!



Nintendo® Superstars Of Soccer 1997

Match One:

Wednesday, May 28, 1997
at Olympic Park
in Melbourne.
Kick-off 7:30pm.

Match Two:

Wednesday, June 4, 1997
at Parramatta Stadium
in Sydney.
Kick-off 7:30pm.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

Channel Nine's Wide World of Sports will again telecast the two-match Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer series, showcasing the cream of Australia's soccer stars. Wide World of Sports will broadcast delayed prime-time telecasts of both matches, from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Wednesday, May 28 and Wednesday, June 4, respectively. The telecasts will be hosted by Eddie Maguire and Ken Sutcliffe, with commentary provided by Greg Blake and special comments from Brisbane Strikers player-coach Frank Farina and former Socceroo skipper Paul Wade. Channel Nine is keen to repeat the success of last year's broadcasts of the inaugural series, which proved to be surprise ratings winners.

"Last year's Superstars of Soccer was a tremendous success and there is no doubt that this year's series will be even better, given that the players will be playing for places in Terry Venables' World Cup squad." Nine Network Director of Sport Gary Burns said.

WIDE WORLD



• By watching the two Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer matches on the Nine Network, viewers will also have the chance to win a trip for two to the 1998 World Cup in France, plus runners-up prizes of Nintendo® 64 or Nintendo® Gameboys.

UP-COMING SOCCEROO PROGRAM

- May 28: Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer (game one) in Melbourne.
- May 31: Ericsson Cup awards night in Sydney.
- June 4: Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer (game two) in Sydney.
- June 6: Terry Venables' World Cup squad announced.
- June 11: World Cup - Australia v Solomon Islands in Sydney.
- June 13: World Cup - Australia v Tahiti in Sydney.
- June 15: World Cup - Solomon Islands v Tahiti in Sydney.
- June 17: World Cup - Solomon Islands v Australia in Sydney.
- June 19: World Cup - Tahiti v Australia in Sydney.
- June 21: World Cup - Tahiti v Solomon Islands in Sydney.
- June 28: World Cup - Oceania Group A winner v Oceania Group B winner (1st leg).
- July 5: World Cup - Oceania Group A winner v Oceania Group B winner (2nd leg).

INDEX

- 3 - Chairman's message
5 - Socceroo diary of events
6 & 7 - Terry Venables
9 & 10 - Aussies invade England
11 & 14 - Superstar profiles
12 & 13 - Socceroos spanning the globe
16 & 17 - Pride of the locals
19 - Raul Blanco
20 & 21 - Coming home

MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor: Stephen Copping
Assistant Editor: Greg Blake
Advertising: Anthony Clark
Correspondents: Micky Brock
Stuart Jones

Publisher:
One on One Corporation Pty Ltd.
PO Box 652, South Carlton VIC 3053

Terry Venables

It will always be regarded as one of the most audacious recruiting coups in Australian sporting history - and probably the most controversial.

When it was first revealed that former England boss Terry Venables would coach Australia through to the conclusion of its World Cup campaign for France 1998 the news fired the imagination of the sporting media like few other soccer stories ever will.

If it had been designed as a publicity stunt Soccer Australia's successful bid to lure one of England's favourite sons 'Down Under' was an overwhelming success.

However, the publicity was merely icing on SA's cake.

Venables' coaching abilities alone appear to be justifying the faith placed in the 53 year-old Londoner by SA and chairman David Hill, who had promised Australia a coach "of truly exceptional ability."

Venables' first appointment with the Socceroos was for the inaugural 'Four Nations Tournament' in Australia in January, when the home-based national teamers took on Norway, South Korea and New Zealand in a series of games in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

The Socceroos swept the series in style under the new boss, whose previous managerial job was with the England team beaten on penalties by Germany in the 1996 European

Championships, following a well documented history of success with Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur at club level.

Since then Venables' Aussies have maintained the winning form, with overseas-based Socceroo teams winning on foreign soil against Macedonia and Hungary.

Australia's five match winning run is now third best of all-time by the Socceroos and the best in 30 years and, including the two trouncings handed out to Tahiti late last year, the current winning run has extended to seven consecutive games.

The Socceroo record of twelve successive wins started with a 3-1 win over Taiwan in 1965 and finished with a 1-0 win over South Vietnam two years later is already under threat by Venables' Aussies.

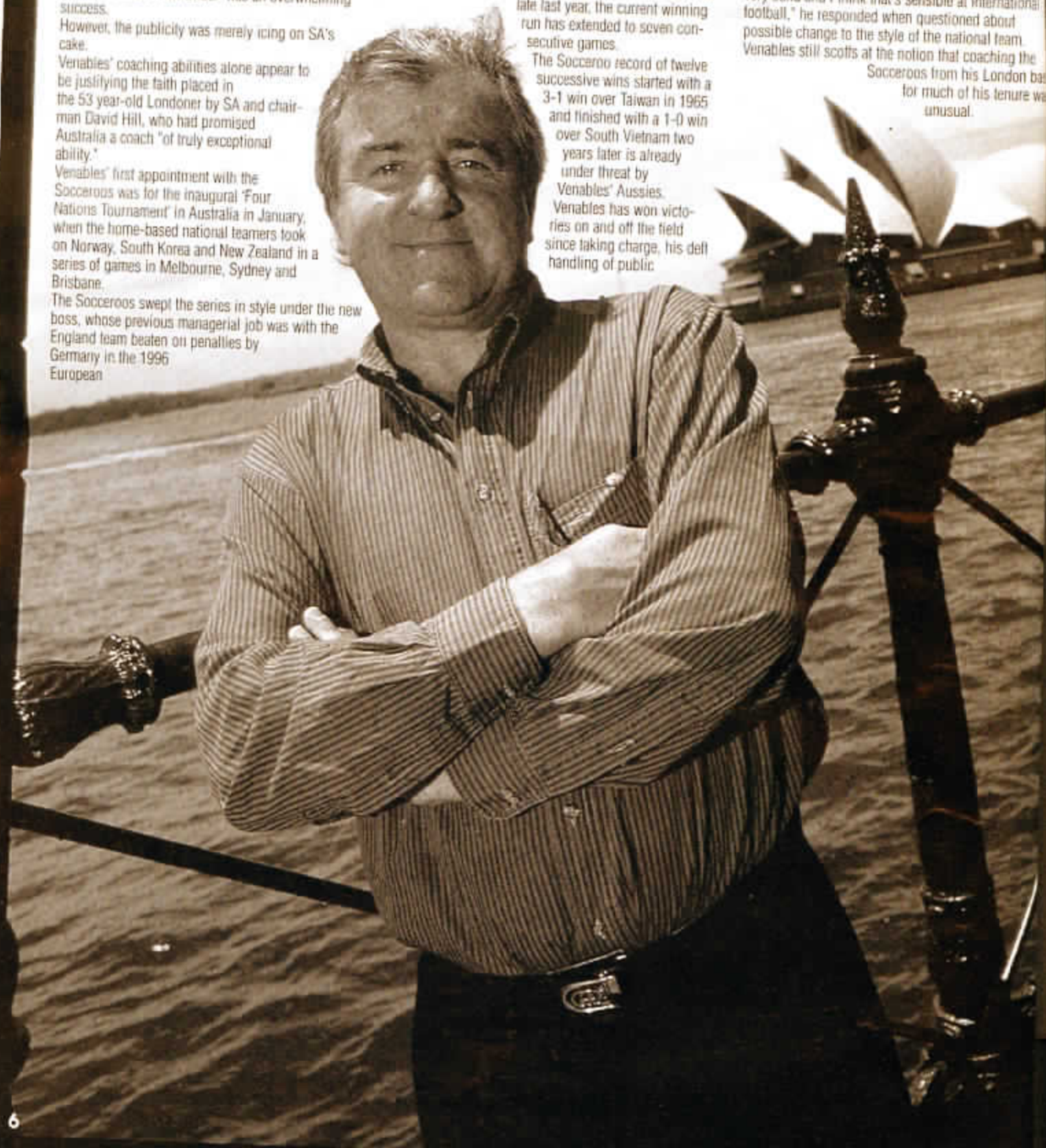
Venables has won victories on and off the field since taking charge, his deft handling of public

relations having already silenced the once vocal critics of his appointment.

The inscrutable Venables proceeded to conjure up an impressive display of diplomatic charm and warm good humour when he flew in for the January games. He made a point of praising the Aussies under predecessor Eddie Thomson, whom he said had fostered a "very solid" style.

"From what I've seen, I think it (the Australian style) is very solid and I think that's sensible at international football," he responded when questioned about possible change to the style of the national team.

Venables still scoffs at the notion that coaching the Socceroos from his London base for much of his tenure was unusual.



"The idea is catching up with players, seeing some of the slight criticisms that have been made about (me) working from afar," he said.

"I don't see the job much different to the way I worked with England and Barcelona, mainly with videos."

"I didn't make the appointment, I just accepted it."

"I'm happy with it and so is the Australian federation." Venables said that he should ultimately be judged on his results.

"People will have their opinions, but it's not a question of how I'm perceived or how I start the job, but how I finish it," he explained.

"It (the criticism) is not new to me."

"When I was given the job at Barcelona there was an outcry over there (in Spain), but once I started working I quickly became accepted."

"I am determined that should be the case with Australia too."

"I've got to do what I feel is right."

"I don't run my life by what other people think." Venables reflected on "frustrations" with the England job and said he was looking forward to a return to the international arena with the Socceroos.

"What interested me most about the Australian offer was the chance to work again in international football," he said.

"I would have liked to finish the job at the World Cup and now I have the chance to do that with Australia."

"I'll do my damndest to do that."

"I just feel they've got a better group of players than most people think," he said of the national team candidates.

On his appointment he responded angrily to suggestions by an English journalist that Australia was a "second division soccer power".

"That's your opinion," he retorted.

"It hasn't been proved yet."

"We've not even started - you may change your mind."

"I have got two targets."

"The first is that we've got to get to the (World Cup) finals and the second is that if we do, we've got to go as far as we possibly can."

Wisely, the only thing he cannot promise is a clear passage to the France finals.

"I've heard and read all about Australia's easy path to France," is his sobering note.

"Let's not kid ourselves, there's not easy road ahead."

RDPT 18

Australian soccer coach Terry Venables was born in Dagenham, a hot bed of English soccer.

In the surrounds of Bonham Road, where Venables grew up, lived probably the greatest soccer dynasty in England. The Allen family, with Clive probably being the best known these days, plus Ken Brown and Dicky Walker all came from the area. Not to mention England stars Jimmy Greaves and Martin Peters.

Football was always going to be Venables life. Starting his playing days with local sides, he came to prominence when starring for the Lymington Boys football team. The local papers were now taking an interest and were beginning to devote column inches to his exploits, but not even they could have predicted the phenomenon that is Terry Venables.

His soccer career has been long and successful but he may never have started down the managerial trail at the time he did had it not been for his former Crystal Palace boss, Malcolm Allison.

In 1974, after just 14 games for the Eagles, Allison called him into his office and said: "You're finished as a player. I want you to concentrate on the coaching side of things".

Venables has attempted many things in his life but the over-riding factor to it all is simple: Venables is a winner. 'If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well' is his motto and one he has ably managed throughout his life.

PLAYING CAREER

Chelsea 1959-65	202 Apps	26 Goals	
Tottenham 1965-68	114 Apps	5 Goals	(80,000 pounds)
QPR 1969-74	178 Apps	19 Goals	(70,000 pounds)
C. Palace 1974	14 Apps	0 Goals	(70,000 pounds)

Honours:

League Cup Winners Medal with Chelsea 1965

FA Cup Winners Medal with Tottenham 1967

England

Two full England caps - Belgium and Holland

England Under-23 caps - 4

England Youth International

England School International

England Amateur International

English Football League Representative

The only person to be capped at every level for England.

MANAGERIAL RECORD

1976 - First managerial appointment at Crystal Palace

1977 - Guides the Eagles to promotion from Division Three

1979 - Palace win Division Two

1980 - Becomes manager (and Director/shareholder) at QPR

1982 - QPR meet Spurs in FA Cup Final when still in Division 2

1983 - QPR win 2nd Division Championship.

1984 - Lands the hot seat at Barcelona

1985 - Barcelona win their first Spanish title for 11 years

1986 - Barcelona are the Runners-up in the European Cup

Runners-up in Spanish League

1987 - Runners-up in the league again

Sacked by Barcelona

Appointed manager of Spurs

1990 - Spurs finish 3rd in league

1994 - The new Manager of England on January 28

1996 - Announces he will quit the top job after Euro 96.

England make the semi-finals of the competition, losing 5-6 on penalties after a 1-1 draw with eventual winners, Germany.

November - Becomes manager of the Socceroos and Australia win their first five games under the Venables stewardship.

ENGLISH INVASION



Over 30 Australian-born soccer

players are plying their trade in the UK.

The Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer series

offers the sporting public a chance to

witness some of Australia's

finest stars on

home soil.

MARK BOSNICH (G/K)

- Born: Sydney. (13-1-72)

Club: Aston Villa

Started his UK career with Manchester United, making three appearances. Mark has made the goalkeeping spot his own at

Aston Villa since joining them in 1992.

Bosnich's performances for Villa have seen him labelled as "the best keeper in the world". The Soccerroo star has suffered injuries this term, limiting appearances to just 20 in the league, but has also made two FA Cup and one Coca-Cola Cup (CCC) appearance in 96/97. The Aussie keeper has tasted glory when he won two CCC medals at Wembley. Earned a reputation as a 'penalty expert' in the winning CCC of 93/94 Villa side. Spent much of that campaign helping Villa stave off relegation but like last year, finds himself playing in Europe next season.

HONOURS

Ys Man Utd 1994 3-1

Ys Leeds Utd 1996 3-0

LEAGUE CAREER

Man Utd 1989-91 3 apps

A Villa 1992- 133 apps 1 goal

CRAIG MOORE (Def) -

Born Canterbury. (12-12-75) Club: Glasgow Rangers

Craig is playing his football at the boom time for Glasgow Rangers in the Scottish Premier League and is certainly doing his part to the full as the Champions celebrated their ninth title win on the trot.

He also starred in the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup Final and picked up another winners medal as well as turning out in two SFA Cup matches and three European Champions League games this term.

Has won two Coca-Cola League Cups, versus Hibernian 93/94 and against Hearts in 96/97.

LEAGUE CAREER

Glasgow Rangers 1993- 56 apps 4 goals

KEVIN MUSCAT (Mid) -

Born: Crawley, England. (7-8-73) Club: Crystal Palace

Left South Melbourne this year to join Endsteigh League Division One outfit Crystal Palace and has been almost ever present this term. That is a surprise when considering he went from South Melbourne to the Olympic Games, where he captained the side, and virtually straight to England without a rest. Has linked up extremely well with his new team-mates and forced a world class save out of Mark Schwarzer when playing against Bradford City at home earlier this season.

Firm favourite with the crowd and in addition to league appearances, added two FA Cup and three Coca-Cola Cup games, scoring one goal in the latter.

LEAGUE CAREER

Crystal Palace 1996- 44 apps 2 Goals

STAR LAZARIDIS (Mid) - Born Perth. (16-8-72)
Club: West Ham United

Suffered an injury when joining West Ham for \$600,000 in 1995/96 and took time to settle in at Upton Park. Fulfilled a lifelong ambition when he played against Liverpool for the first time.

Lazaridis readily admits his team are "a passing side and it wouldn't suit us to change that style".

Having a better time of things this term, the West Ham No.17 aims to make a midfield berth his own for years to come.

As he qualifies for a Greek passport, through his parents, he has no trouble obtaining a work permit for the UK.

LEAGUE CAREER

West Ham United 1995- 26 apps 1 goal

ROBBIE SLATER (Mid)

Born: Ormskirk, Lancs. (26-11-64) Club: Southampton
Although born in England, Robbie has played many times for the Socceroos after migrating to Australia as a child.
Started playing in Europe at Lens in France but joined Blackburn Rovers in the season 94/95 and helped them to win the Premier League title.
Moved on to West Ham Utd the following term and this year Slater transferred to Southampton, under the guidance of former Liverpool great Graeme Souness. The fans voted him Southampton's 1996/97 "Player of the Year".

LEAGUE CAREER

Blackburn Rovers 1994-95	18 apps	(Premier League Champions)
West Ham Utd 1995/96	25 apps	2 goals
Southampton 1996/97	29 apps	2 goals

PAUL AGOSTINO (Fwd)

Born: Woodville, Adelaide. (9-6-75) Club: 1860 Munich
Has enjoyed 'cult' status amongst Bristol City fans and the local press since joining from Young Boys of Berne in the Swiss league, where he spent three seasons.

It's not surprising the fans love him as he was head and shoulders above the other strikers in Division Two. The one-time Young Socceroo frontman has only recently joined German First Division side 1860 Munich.

LEAGUE CAREER

Young Boys Berne 1992-95	29 apps	3 goals
Bristol City 1995 -	76 apps	19 goals

ANDY BERNAL (Def)

Born: Canberra. (16-7-66) Club: Reading

Although his usual position is at the back, this season has seen him operating in midfield where his contribution and work-rate has been outstanding.

Not a prolific goalscorer but has certainly saved plenty with well timed last ditch tackles. Transferred to the Royals from Ipswich, after a brief return to Australia with UTS Olympic. Bernal has developed into another 'Aussie' favourite with the Berkshire locals.

LEAGUE CAREER

Ipswich Town 1992-94	9 apps	0 goals
Reading 1994-	115 apps	2 goals.

JOHN FILAN (G/K)

Born: Sydney. (8-2-70) Club: Coventry City

Arrived in England four-years ago and began his career with Cambridge United before joining Coventry City, after an initial loan spell, for \$700,000 in March 1995. John represented Australia at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games but has been kept out of Premier League action much of the time due to the excellent form of the Sky Blues goalkeeper, Steve Ogrizovic.

LEAGUE CAREER

Cambridge United 1992-94	68 apps
Coventry City 1994-	15 apps

SHAUN MURPHY (Def)

Born: Sydney. (5-11-70) Club: West Bromwich Albion

Signed for the 'not so famous' Magpies, Notts County, from Perth Italia in 1992 and settled straight into the team, experiencing the dreaded drop to Division Two in the 1994/95 season. Appeared to have no trouble in establishing himself as a first-team regular and even found the back of the net on a couple of occasions.

LEAGUE CAREER

Notts County 1992-96	93 apps	5 goals
WBA 1996-	15 apps	2 goals

JASON VAN BLERK (Mid)

Born: Sydney.
(16-3-68)

Club: Millwall

Signed for Millwall after playing successfully with 'Go Ahead Eagles' in mainland Europe.

Suffered as the club dropped to Division Two last season and has been plagued by injury during this campaign, restricting him to just two full appearances for the London side. Probably a season he will want to forget in a hurry and will relish the opportunity to get back on international duty.

LEAGUE CAREER

Millwall 1994	73 apps	2 goals
---------------	---------	---------

**Captain
Morgan**

asics

Soccer Australia Player Profiles 1997

JOHN ALOISI

D.O.B. - 5-2-76, Adelaide
 CLUB - Cremonese, Italy
 POSITION - Centre-forward
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Standard Liege (Bel),
 Royal Antwerp (Bel)
 INT APPEARANCES - Two
 INT GOALS - Nil



ROBBIE HOOKER

D.O.B. - 6-3-67
 CLUB - West Adelaide
 POSITION - Sweeper
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sydney City,
 Sydney Olympic
 INT APPEARANCES - 14
 INT GOALS - 2



GRAHAM ARNOLD

D.O.B. - 3-8-63,
 CLUB - Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jap)
 POSITION - Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sydney Utd,
 INT APPEARANCES - 50
 INT GOALS - 16



STEVE HORVAT

D.O.B. - 14-3-71, Geelong
 CLUB - Hajduk Split (Croatia)
 POSITION - Defender
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Melbourne Knights
 INT APPEARANCES - Nine
 INT GOALS - Nil



MATTHEW BINGLEY

D.O.B. - 16-8-71, Auburn, Sydney, NSW
 CLUB - Marconi Fairfield
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - St George BSC
 INT APPEARANCES - 9
 INT GOALS - 3



MILAN IVANOVIC

D.O.B. - 21-12-60, Yugoslavia
 CLUB - Adelaide City
 POSITION - Sweeper
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Red Star Belgrade (Yug)
 INT APPEARANCES - 48
 INT CAPS - Nil



MARK BOSNICH

D.O.B. - 13-1-72, SYDNEY, NSW
 CLUB - Aston Villa (Eng)
 POSITION - Goalkeeper
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sydney Utd,
 Man Utd (Eng),
 INT APPS - 6
 INT GOALS - Nil



ZELJKO KALAC

D.O.B. - 16-12-72, Sydney, NSW
 CLUB - Sydney United
 POSITION - Goalkeeper
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sydney Utd, Leicester
 City & Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
 INT APPEARANCES - 23
 INT GOAL - N/A



MEHMET DURAKOVIC

D.O.B. - 13-10-65, Montenegro, Yugoslavia
 CLUB - Selangor (Malaysia)
 POSITION - Centre-back
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sth Melbourne
 INT APPEARANCES - 39
 INT GOALS - 3



STAN LAZARIDIS

D.O.B. - 16-8-72, Perth, WA
 CLUB - West Ham Utd (Eng)
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Floreat Athena
 INT APPEARANCES - 14
 INT GOALS - Nil



ROBERT ENES

D.O.B. - 22-8-75, Shepparton, Vic
 CLUB - Sydney United
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - A.I.S., Preston,
 Melbourne Zebras,
 INT APPEARANCES - 5
 INT GOALS - Nil



CRAIG MOORE

D.O.B. - 12-12-75, Canterbury, NSW
 CLUB - Glasgow Rangers (Sco)
 POSITION - Central midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - A.I.S.
 INT APPEARANCES - Two
 INT GOALS - Nil



CRAIG FOSTER

D.O.B. - 15-4-69,
 CLUB - Marconi Fairfield
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - FAS (Sing),
 Ernst Borel (HK), Adelaide City
 INT APPEARANCES - 8
 INT GOALS - 0



DAMIAN MORI

D.O.B. - 30-9-70, Melbourne, Vic
 CLUB - Adelaide City
 POSITION - Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Melb Knights, Adelaide
 City, Borussia Monchengladbach (Germany)
 INT APPEARANCES - 25
 INT GOALS - 6



AYTEK GENC

D.O.B. - 3-2-66, Turkey
 CLUB - Sydney Utd
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Marconi, Penrith,
 Parramatta Eagles, Jahor FC (Mal)
 INT APPEARANCES - 3
 INT GOALS - 1



KEVIN MUSCAT

D.O.B. - 7-8-73, Crawley, England
 CLUB - Crystal Palace (Eng)
 POSITION - DEF/MID
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sunshine George Cross,
 Sth Melbourne
 INT APPEARANCES - 8



Socceroos Spa



JOHN ALOISI

Cremonese
(Italy)



GRAHAM ARNOLD

Sanfrecce Hiroshima
(Japan)



MARK BOSNICH

Aston Villa
(England)



STEVE HORVAT

Hajduk Split
(Croatia)



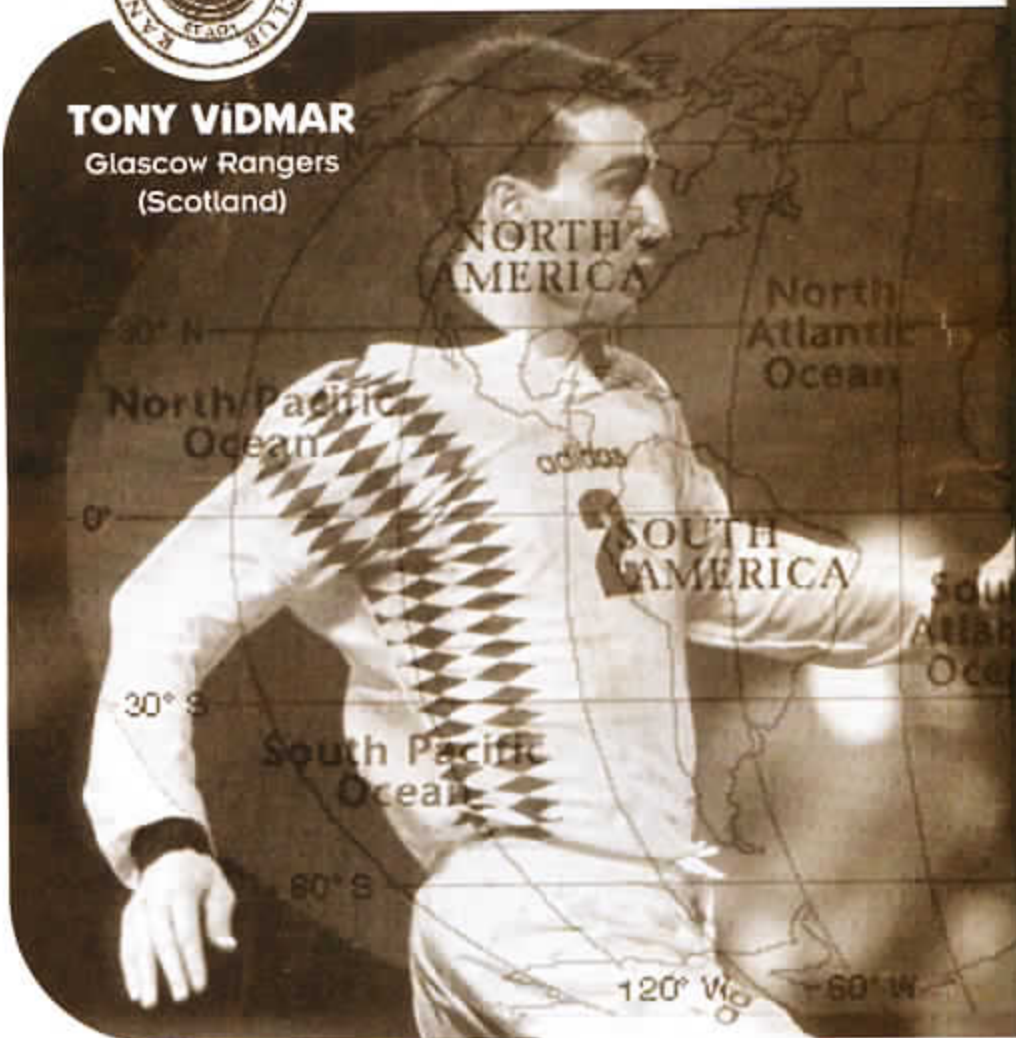
CRAIG MOORE

Glasgow Rangers
(Scotland)



TONY VIDMAR

Glasgow Rangers
(Scotland)



**MEHMET
DURAKOVIC**

Selangor
(Malaysia)



KEVIN MUSCAT

Crystal Palace
(England)

MARK VIDUKA

Croatia Zagreb
(Croatia)

Winning the Globe



TONY POPOVIC

Sanfrecce Hiroshima
(Japan)



STAN LAZARIDIS

West Ham Utd
(England)



JASON VAN BLERK

Millwall
(England)



JOSIP SKOKO

Hajduk Split
(Croatia)



AURELIO VIDMAR

CD Tenerife
(Spain)



Pics: APL/Allsport



ROBBIE SLATER

Southampton
(England)



JOSEPH SPITERI

SK Sturm Graz
(Austria)



NED ZELIC

Auxerre
(France)

Soccer Australia Player Profiles 1997

JASON PETKOVIC

D.O.B. - 7-12-72, Fremantle, WA
 CLUB - Adelaide City
 POSITION - Goalkeeper
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Spearwood Dalmatinac
 INT APPEARANCES - 3
 INT GOALS - n/a



KRIS TRAJANOVSKI

D.O.B. - 19-2-72, Geelong, Vic
 CLUB - Adelaide City
 POSITION - Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Geelong, Sunshine
 George Cross, Sth Melbourne, A.I.S., Preston,
 Sth China (HK), Adelaide City, UTS Olympic
 INT APPEARANCES - 6
 INT GOALS - 7



TONY POPOVIC

D.O.B. - 4-7-73, Sydney, NSW
 CLUB - Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jap)
 POSITION - Sweeper
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Sydney United
 INT APPEARANCES - 19
 INT GOAL - Nil



PAUL TRIMBOLI

D.O.B. - 25-2-69
 CLUB - Sth Melbourne
 POSITION - Midfield/Forward
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Brighton (Vic), A.I.S.,
 Sunshine George Cross
 INT APPEARANCES - 25
 INT GOALS - 6



JOSIP SKOKO

D.O.B. - 10-12-75, Mount Gambier
 CLUB - Hajduk Split (Cro)
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Nth Geelong Warriors,
 A.I.S.
 INT APPEARANCES - 2
 INT GOALS - Nil



JASON VAN BLERK

D.O.B. - 16-2-66, Sydney, NSW
 CLUB - Millwall (Eng)
 POSITION - Defender
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Go Ahead Eagles (Bel),
 Ipswich Town (Eng), Sydney Olympic
 INT APPEARANCES - 23
 INT GOALS - 1



ROBBIE SLATER

D.O.B. - 22-11-64, Ormskirk, Lancs (Eng)
 CLUB - Southampton (Eng)
 POSITION - Midfield
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - St George BSC,
 Sydney United, Lens (Fra), Stasbourg (Fra),
 Blackburn Rovers (Eng), West Ham Utd (Eng)
 INT APPEARANCES - 19
 INT GOALS - Nil



TONY VIDMAR

D.O.B. - 4-7-70, Adelaide, SA
 CLUB - Glasgow Rangers (Sco)
 POSITION - Left Back
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Adelaide City, Germinal
 Ekeren, Adelaide City, NAC Breda
 INT APPEARANCES - 26
 INT GOALS - 1



JOSEPH SPITERI

D.O.B. - 6-5-73
 CLUB - SK Storm Graz (Austria)
 POSITION - Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Heidelberg Albion,
 Parramatta, Melbourne Knights
 INT APPEARANCES - 7
 INT GOALS - 2



AURELIO VIDMAR

D.O.B. - 3-2-67, Adelaide, SA
 CLUB - CD Tenerife (Spa)
 POSITION - Midfield/Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - KV Kortrijk, SV Waregem,
 Standard Liege, Feyenoord
 INT APPEARANCES - 21
 INT GOALS - 7



ERNIE TAPAI

D.O.B. - 14-2-67, Yugoslavia
 CLUB - Collingwood Warriors
 POSITION - Midfield/Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Morwell Falcons, Estoril
 (Por), Stoke City (Eng), Adelaide City
 INT APPEARANCES - 25
 INT GOALS - 2



MARK VIDUKA

D.O.B. - 9-10-75
 CLUB - Croatia Zagreb (Cro)
 POSITION - Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - A.I.S., Melbourne Knights
 INT APPEARANCES - 4
 INT GOALS - Nil



ALEX TOBIN

D.O.B. - 3-11-65
 CLUB - Adelaide City
 POSITION - Centre-half
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - West Torrens Birkalla
 INT APPEARANCES - 65
 INT GOALS - 2



DAVID ZDRILIC

D.O.B. - 13-4-74, Sydney, NSW
 CLUB - Sydney United
 POSITION - Striker
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - St George BSC
 INT APPEARANCES - 3
 INT GOALS - 0



NED ZELIC

DATE - 4-7-71, Canberra
 CLUB - Auxerre (Fra)
 POSITION - Midfielder/Utility
 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Canberra, UTS Olympic,
 Borussia Dortmund (Ger), QPR (Eng) Eintracht
 Frankfurt (Ger)
 INT APPEARANCES - 20



The Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer series brings together the richest array of Aussie footballing talent ever seen on one playing field at one time.

And just to spice what is destined to become one of the premier events on the annual domestic calendar, a possible journey to the World Cup Finals in France is at stake for the players involved.



Local Pride on the Line

4

can imagine that both these games are going to be no holds barred," says South Melbourne skipper Paul Trimball of the 1997 series. Trimball, acclaimed as one of the most gifted players ever to grace the Ericsson Cup, is one of a number of locally-based stars who have the opportunity to out-shine the overseas-based stars in this series.

Impressing national boss Terry Venables in these two games could well cement their names in the final squad to commence the qualifiers for the 1998 finals.

"I think it's going to be very hard because this is basically a selection trial," says Trimball.

"Once you step out in this series it won't matter where you are based, it's just going to come down to what happens in these two games."

According to Venables this series will determine his final squad and thus will be very competitive.

"I obviously don't want just those still standing at the end of it," Venables quipped.

"We've got to be competitive but you've also got to tell them 'hey, steady up, we're all in the same camp.'"

"Players know that there are places up for grabs and they'll have to fight for it and show their footballing abilities.

"And if everyone does well, it will make my job that much more difficult.

"But that's what I'm here for."

Adelaide City's Alex Tobin, the man who could retire from the national league as the most successful there's ever been at this level, says the challenge of re-establishing himself under a new coach has invigorated him.

"It has sparked me, just as I think it has sparked most of the players," Tobin explained.

"I think just about all the training sessions we've had under Terry Venables have been at a hectic pace simply because everyone has to prove themselves; you feel like a new kid on the block.

"I'm sure that will be the case with this series with everyone going at it as hard as they can to prove that they want to be a part of it.

"Everyone, whether they are experienced or not, is back on a level playing field - even the European players," admits Tobin.

"Obviously that puts a lot of pressure on everyone."

"Things always change with a new coach, but I guess this is a bit different."

Tobin says that for established Aussie-based stars used to near automatic selection under previous national coaches, the transition has been a curious one.

"It feels strange," he says.

"I'm in the position where I've developed a reputation and then someone from outside comes in and it's just out the window.

"But it's also like a new start.

"There is plenty of pressure there," he admits.

"But I think players who don't play well under pressure will be in there for the long haul anyway."

If anything, that pressure has squeezed a bit extra from the likes of West Adelaide veteran Robbie Hooker, whose future probably hinged on his efforts during the successful four nations series in January.

Hooker, Matt Bingley and Craig Foster did enough in those three games to ensure Venables could not

ignore their claims to a possible World Cup squad place.

"International football is all about that - you've got to prove yourself in every

game," says Hooker.

"If you play well you get selected, it's that simple."

Like every other Aussie who has previously done an international apprenticeship Hooker says that working under the gaze of new boss Terry Venables had increased the stakes.

"The competitiveness and intensity is much higher than usual," he explained.

"Obviously everyone wants to show him what they can do, so it's been pretty much full on.

Hooker is philosophical about his personal road to France, although he'll be as keen as any to impress in the Nintendo® Superstars series.

"It just depends on how you play and how you keep playing," he said.

"You just play each game like it's your last and play until you drop.

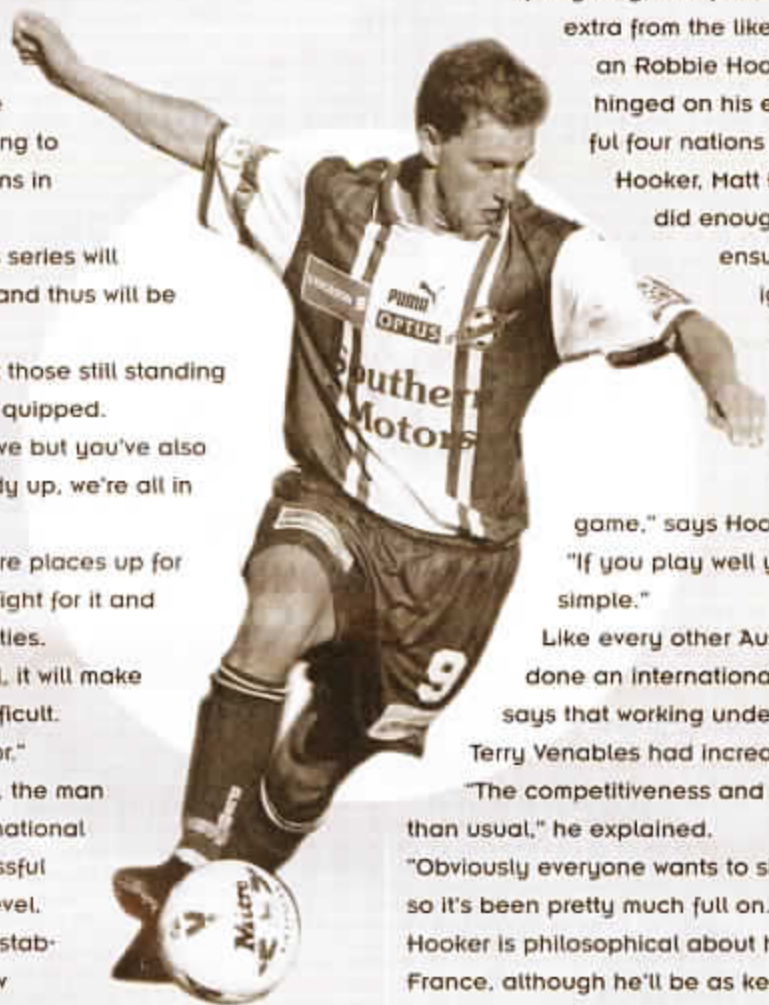
"You hope that it (losing your place) won't happen, but that's life and you just get on with it.

"You've just got to take it as it comes."

Tobin probably speaks for every player who'll wear either the green or gold in this series, with the World Cup clearly in every player's gunsight.

"That's my Holy Grail as far as being a soccer player," he says of making it to France.

"To do that would be very special to me."



Blanco's 'Oz Tel' Connection

His public profile might have been significantly diminished since 'Oz Tel' hit the headlines as coach of the Socceroos, but Raul Blanco's importance in the national set-up is still critical.

As London-based Venables' chief liaison on the local scene and right hand advisor to the head coach, Blanco remains a dominant personality on the Socceroo sidelines.

According to the Olyroo coach and long-time senior Socceroo side-kick he isn't concerned about his near forgotten man status.

The mood was best captured during the opening press conference for the Four Nations Cup in Melbourne, with a bustling media contingent pummelling Venables and politely reserving a couple of questions for skipper Alex Tobin.

The third panel - Blanco - sat in near silence for forty-five minutes, despite virtually being Venables' local ears and eyes since the new coach came aboard.

The affable Blanco insists he's not concerned by the focus on the new coach.

"I don't think I've taken a back seat at all," he says.

"I'm still assistant coach of the national team, as I was before.

"It is still a pleasure to be involved.

"He (Venables) is a man with a great reputation and he's coached overseas at the top level.

"We should all welcome that and I am delighted for the game itself."

Blanco hinted that what reservations he may have had about the filling of the national team coaching job have since been replaced by a firm focus on the possibilities for the future.

"The national team is the priority," he explained.

"This is everybody's team, we should simply rally behind it and getting to the World Cup is the priority now."

And while the public image of the Venables-Blanco partnership now leaves the latter very much in the former's shadow Blanco says he's enjoying the role.

"I'm enjoying it very much," he said.

"We are new to each other but we seem to work well and we are friendly."

Pic: Sport. The Library



Socceroo Supremos

When Terry Venables' contract commenced on January 1, 1997 he became the sixteenth Socceroo senior coach since the ASF (now Soccer Australia) was formed and Australia's FIFA suspension was lifted in 1963. Previous Socceroo coaches were:

JIM KELLY (1964 - 1965)

A former teammate of legend Stanley Matthews at Blackpool, Kelly was player-coach of South Coast United in NSW when he took on the Aussie job. In 1965 he coached Australia in a two-game series against a Chelsea touring party which included one Terry Venables.

TIKO JELISAVIC (1965)

The former Yugoslav first division star was player-coach of NSW team Yugal when he was put in charge for Australia's 1965 World Cup qualifying games against North Korea and for a tour of Asia.

JOE MARSTON (1966)

An FA Cup winner and Aussie soccer legend, Marston was the first former Aussie skipper to have coached his country. Aussie-born Marston, after whom the medal for grand final best on ground is named, coached Australia in just a single game, against AS Roma.

JOE VENGLOS (1967)

Venglos, a Czechoslovakian who stayed in the country for just three years as coach of Prague, took over the Socceroos for a three game series against Scotland in 1967.

JOE VLASITS (1967 - 1970)

A Hungarian who came to Australia in 1949, Vlasits began his reign as the Socceroo boss for a 1967 unbeaten 10-game tour of Asia and was in charge of for the unsuccessful 1969 World Cup qualifying games.

RALE RASIC (1970 - 1974)

Rasic was just 34 when appointed as national boss in 1970, but his legend lives on as still the only Socceroo coach to take Australia to a World Cup Finals series. His tenure ended in controversy as he missed re-appointment after taking the Socceroos to the West Germany finals of 1974.

ERIC WORTHINGTON (1975)

A 15-year veteran of professional soccer in England with QPR and Watford, Worthington, who had previously taken the under 23's overseas, was elevated to the senior Aussie job for two games against touring Legia Warsaw.

TONY BOGGI (1975)

Italian-born Melbourne Boggie was appointed caretaker for five games, which included wins over Glasgow Rangers and China and a draw with Benfica.

BRIAN GREEN (1975 - 1976)

Green came to Australia as national boss proclaiming that "the ASF has picked the best man in England for the job". Never unanimously supported Green was as good as finished when it became public that he'd appeared in a NSW court charged with having stolen two LP records from a Sydney store.

JIM SHOULDER (1976 - 1978)

'Smiling' Jim Shoulder was just 29 years-old and without a substantial senior coaching pedigree when he surprisingly won the job. The little-known Englishman left for home after Australia failed to qualify for the 1978 World Cup Finals.

RUDI GUTENDORF (1978 - 1981)

West German globetrotter Rudi Gutendorf searched out the spotlights on his arrival and managed to hold the attention despite a mediocre success rate and an inauspicious miss in the qualifying games for the 1982 Spain World Cup.

LES SCHEINFLUG (1981 - 1983)

Rasic's assistant on the road to West Germany in 1974, Scheinflug became only the second former Aussie skipper to go on to coach the Socceroos when he took the reins in 1981.

FRANK AROK (1983 - 1990)

By turning the Socceroos into his 'mad dogs' and taking them to within an ace of the 1986 World Cup Finals the theatrical Arok turned the national team into a more marketable commodity than ever before. His career wins included some famous victories and the ever-so unlucky 0-0 draw against Scotland in Melbourne which denied the Socceroos a place in the '86 finals.

EDDIE THOMSON (1990 - 1996)

The profiles and successes of each of the four major national teams further increased under the Scottish-born Thomson, with the 1992 Barcelona Olympics semi-finals and the two-game series against Argentina for the last vacancy in the 1994 World Cup Finals the stand-out highlights.

RAUL BLANCO (1996)

A long-time member of the national coaching fraternity and 200-gamer at national league level, the highly-respected Blanco filled in as caretaker before Venables took over.

TERRY VENABLES (1997 -)

The well-travelled and well-credentialed former England boss is Australia's most high-profile appointment in history - and its most controversial. Venables started his Australian adventure in January as the most expensive coaching investment in the history of local soccer.

SUPERSTARS' CHANCE TO SHINE

If nothing else, the Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer series is an annual opportunity for Aussie fans to catch a glimpse of their former local heroes.

With the deeds and fluctuating fortunes of the likes of Mark Bosnich, Tony Vidmar, Paul Okon and Ned Zelic now making world sporting headlines, the series affords Aussie supporters the chance of seeing their very own home-grown products in person at least once a year. According to Lazio's Socceroo sweeper, Paul Okon, it is an unfortunate situation that local talent cannot reach potential without individuals heading overseas to test their limits in fully professional competition.

Okon, a late withdrawal from the Superstars series with a knee problem, says that Soccer Australia will struggle to stop the Aussie player exodus until such time as the Ericsson Cup competition becomes fully professional.

"So long as you are semi-professional you don't have the mentality to do your best," the 24 year-old said.

"If it's professional the quality of the game will improve, the spectators will come and you won't lose too many players abroad."

"At the moment you have to go abroad to test yourself and become as good as possible."

However, Okon did say he was buoyed by the involvement of former England boss Terry Venables in the Socceroo's run toward France in 1998.

"Everybody is excited (about Venables)," he said.

"To get to the World Cup will attract money and sponsorship."

"It is our only chance to get the game up and running on a professional level."

Despite the severe travel limitations on players earning their living overseas, our Aussie exports do look forward to the chance to strut their stuff on home turf.

"I think we all enjoy the chance to get together again and play at home," said newly-signed

Glasgow Rangers star Tony Vidmar of the Nintendo® Superstars series.

"This year there is plenty at stake as well."

"There's a new regime and players are going to be fighting for their positions, so it's not going to be easy."

"Playing in Europe is no guarantee of a place (in the World Cup squad), so it's going to be very competitive."

Venables' selections for the Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer series has already sent a message to the overseas-based stars.

Over 40 percent of the initial squad of 33 for the series were locally-based, suggesting that few of the ex-pats can expect automatic selection in the final squad of 24 for the World Cup qualifiers.

"I haven't tried to even things out," Venables explained.


"The players I've selected are there because they deserve to be."

"Reputations mean nothing."

"I'll be as fair as I can as I'm not here to make friends."

"They've got to now start again and put themselves in front of my eyes."

"However, I do think we have the players that can play at an international



KEVIN MUSCAT

level, I've got no doubt about that."

Robbie Slater has had his most successful year at Southampton this season and was voted "Player of the Year" at the Dell, above teammates like Matt Le Tissier and joining others like Kevin Keegan and Alan Shearer in winning this honour.

After missing last year's series Slater cannot wait for a return to home soil for these games, particularly now that Venables has the Aussie team on a roll.

"Five games, five wins. I would like to know which other coaches could match that record," says Slater.

"And none of the victories were against easy opposition either.

"The Hungary game was a terrific result.

"That was one of our best ever performances.

Talking of games for places in the World Cup squad, what does the Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer mean to Robbie Slater?

"I wasn't involved in last year's but there is no way I'll be missing this time around.

"It'll be great to play in front of the home supporters again. It is the cream of Australian soccer and I am sure the crowds will come out to support the series.

"Many of us who play overseas have the opportunity of playing in front of people who have helped us along the way.

"The boys over here get a chance to play in front of their family and friends again. Above all though, there is the chance for players to prove themselves good enough to play in the coveted Green and Gold jersey of Australia."

Kevin Muscat has proved his doubters wrong by winning a regular place in the Crystal Palace team this season, but the Nintendo® superstars of Soccer series offers Kevin the opportunity to play in the World Cup Finals in France 98.

"The Green and Gold games are the most important of my national career because the Australian side for the World Cup qualifiers will be selected after these games, he explained.

"I cannot emphasize too much just what this means to me.

"It was always a dream and something I wanted to do."

"As the years have gone on I've won international caps.

"This was one thing I wanted to do in soccer and thankfully enough it has happened.

"I have enjoyed it and I want it to continue and that is why these games mean so much to me.

"To perform well gives me the chance of making the World Cup squad," he said.

Muscat says he is looking forward to playing in front of some parochial Aussie crowds again.

"I know what it's like to play in front of home crowds for Australia and there are not too many teams around in the country who would have got the support we did when we played in the National Youth Championships," he explained.

"Walking out with the lads with the atmosphere and respect that was around, I want to have the chance to do it all again and this time at senior level.

"There is nothing like getting into the national camp, to see all your mates, even to hear the Aussie accent again for all us overseas based players.

"It is great to go into camp and have a good yarn with one another;



MARK BOSNICH

the Australian sense of humour being so much more different than anywhere else in the world.

"You just enjoy being there, training and playing with the lads again.

"That is why the 'Nintendo® Superstars of Soccer' series is so vital.

"There are so many more who are good enough to play but we have been chosen to play these games and now we have to prove to Terry Venables that we are good enough to earn a place in the World Cup qualifiers squad".

"Secondly, this series is in Australia and so many people are proud of you back home and they have the chance to be right there and watch you play for a change.

"Obviously, the number one priority is to get yourself into the team and do well."



NINTENDO⁶⁴

"I can race against 3 friends.
What use is that?"

SCOTT NO-MATES



Go head to head to head to head in the greatest game for the human race, Mario Kart 64.

- Up to 4 players race against each other at the same time.
- All action appears on your TV in magnificent split-screen vision.
- This unique act of software magic comes courtesy of the only piece of hardware with 4 ports, Nintendo 64.
- It's a 4 player, 64 bit, go-karting fun-fest.

MARIO KART 64