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SoccerBlues

MATCH DAY



THE VICTORIOUS SOCCER BLUES

PHOTO: Steve Kenny

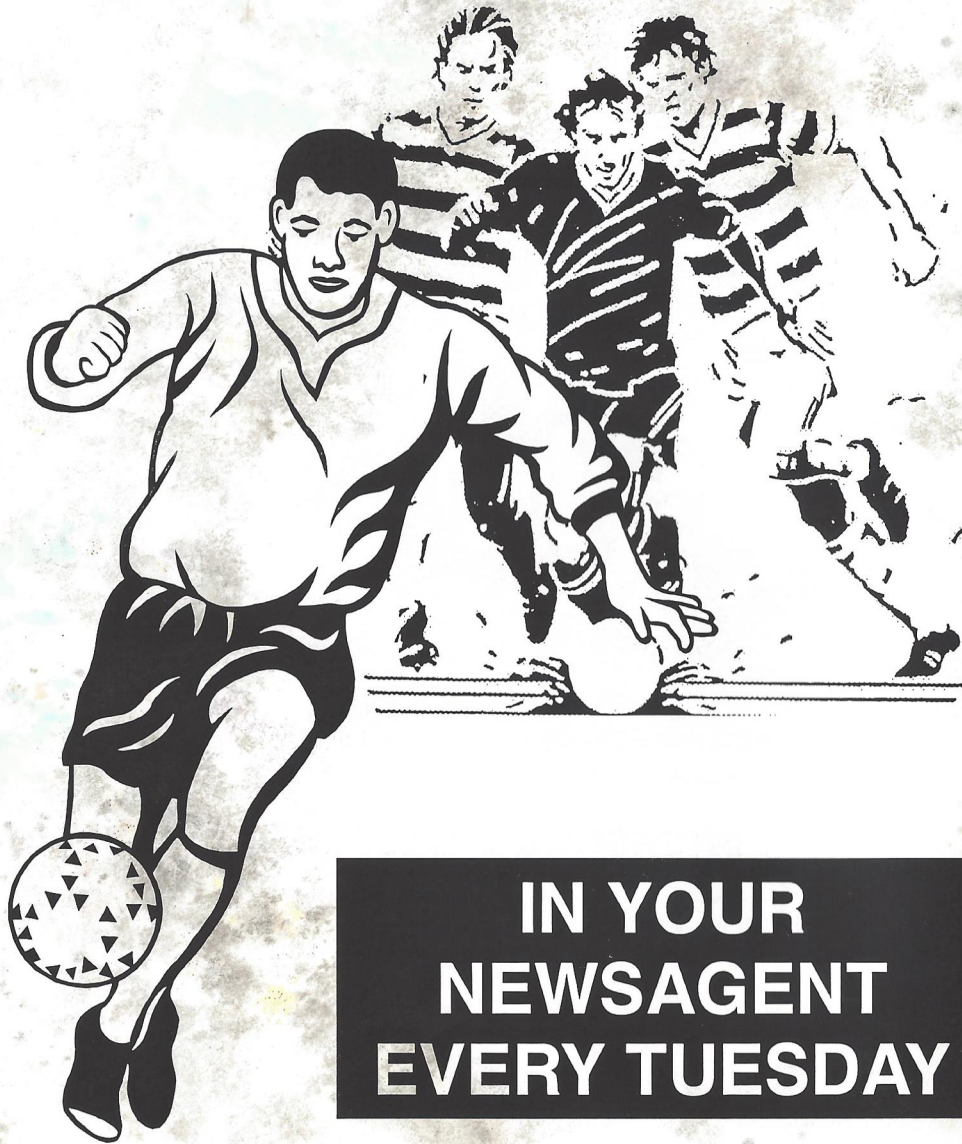
INTERSTATE CHALLENGE

New South Wales v Queensland

Gabrie Stadium, Blacktown

Saturday 16th June 2001

SuperSoccer
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SOCCER WORLD



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States.

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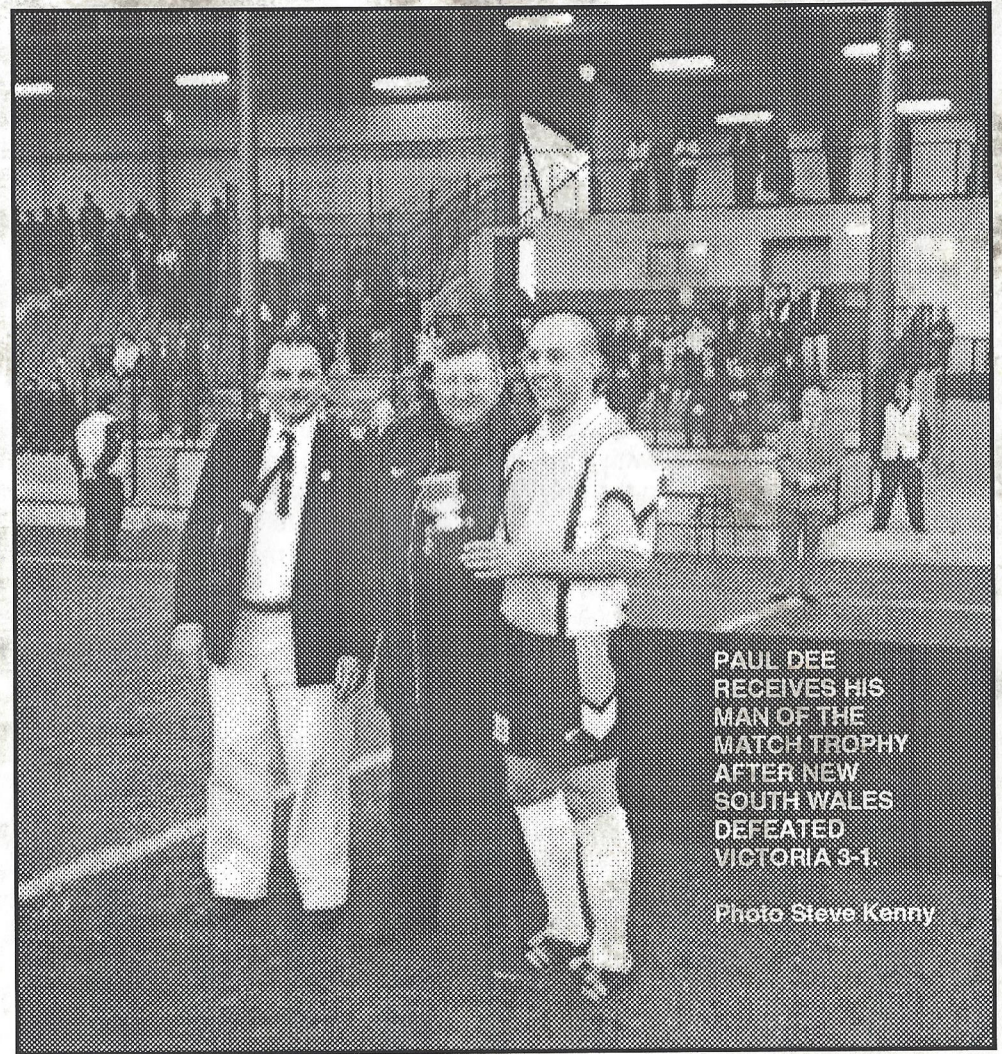
N.S.W. won that series with 5 wins from 6 matches with Queensland finishing fourth.

While the number of matches played since then have slowed to a trickle, the

rivalry between the two sides continues to grow.

Just last season Queensland again almost scored an upset leading the Blues 1-0 early but eventually going down 3-2 at Perry Park.

While the names have changed, the rivalry hasn't, that being the one true feature of matches between New South Wales and Queensland.



**PAUL DEE
RECEIVES HIS
MAN OF THE
MATCH TROPHY
AFTER NEW
SOUTH WALES
DEFEATED
VICTORIA 3-1.**

Photo Steve Kenny

Century old tradition revived

INTERSTATE rivalry between New South Wales and Queensland is not the domain of just the rugby league.

In football, the rivalry has been going for more than 100 years between the two States.

The first meeting between these two sides occurred way back on the 16th of August 1890.

The venue was the Sir Joseph Banks Ground at Botany in Sydney's eastern suburbs and the match was a 3-1 victory to Queensland.

Scoring goals for Queensland were Manson, Brown and Shelley with Pyrmont Rangers Ferguson getting the only goal for New South Wales.

Since then both States have struck up an intense rivalry.

New South Wales won their first game against their northern neighbours in 1912 at their fifth attempt (Queensland having won the first four) and have mostly held sway ever since.

They are also the only State to have racked up double figure scores in four games with the biggest winning margin being a 12-2 win in 1933.

Throughout the 1950s Socceroo winger Charlie Stewart was one N.S.W. player who remembers the torrid battles with Queensland.

A veteran of 15 such matches against

Queensland between 1946 and 1957, Stewart was part of the 1954 N.S.W. side that won the interstate championship series in Adelaide, beating Queensland 5-3 along the way to taking the title.

"As a footballer there was no bigger honour, than being selected to represent your State," remembers Stewart.

"You knew you were amongst the best handful of footballers around and to put on that shirt is just a memory that you can never forget."

Stewart played alongside such names as Reg Date, Joe Marston, Ron Lord and Kevin O'Neill in a State side that dominated Queensland for eleven straight matches between 1939 and 1956.

"We were nearly unbeatable and with so much talent it was always tough just trying to get selected," he adds.

"We beat Queensland at home and away and there was such a fantastic rivalry between the two sides.

"Queensland were always trying their best to knock us off and New South Wales trying to keep our record going."

Since the 1950s, New South Wales has continued to hold sway in a number of meetings between the two

States.

N.S.W. won the interstate championship in 1962 defeating Queensland in the final and again in 1963-4, the last championship ever staged in Australia.

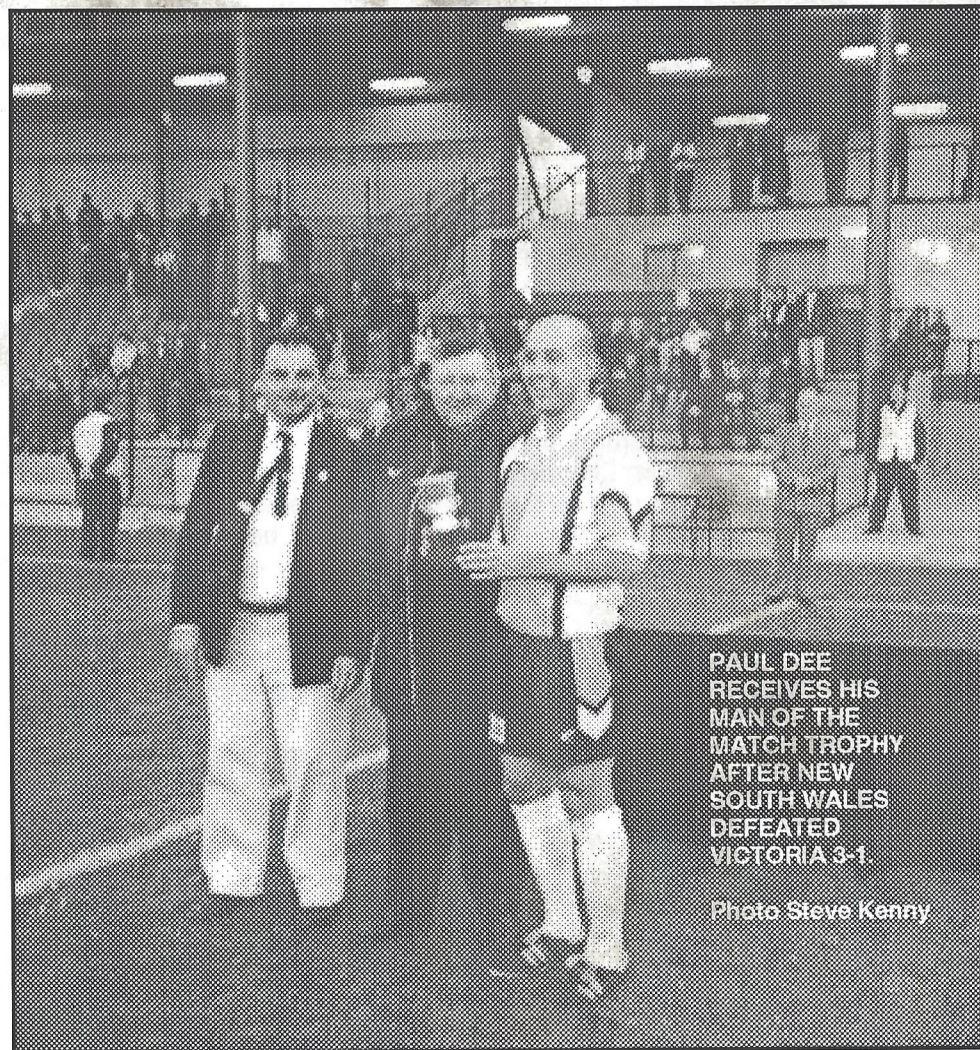
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PAUL DEE RECEIVES HIS MAN OF THE MATCH TROPHY AFTER NEW SOUTH WALES DEFEATED VICTORIA 3-1.

Photo Steve Kenny

Locca on fire

ONE OF New South Wales best players against Victoria two weeks ago was midfielder John Kyriazopoulos.

A product of the successful Canterbury-Marrickville club which finished fourth in last season's NSW Premier League, Kyriazopoulos is a vital cog in the New South Wales engine room which also includes the likes of Devrim Huseyin, Paul Dee and Javier Mancino.

The win against Victoria came a little against the odds with the State squad training having a limited preparation, due to the Sydney wet weather.

But this week has been a lot more settled with coach Brian Brown organising a match against Division One outfit Sydney University for some much needed match practice.

Selected in the State side for the first time in his career, Kyriazopoulos had a remarkable season with Canterbury and was one of the real success stories.

But foremost on his mind is the opportunity to again wear the sky blue shirt and take the next step in his footballing career.

"It's an honour to be playing for the State side and for a lot of players this match represents an opportunity to put yourself in the shop window as far as scouts is concerned," he said.

"I had a taste of NSL football with

Sydney Olympic and I would dearly love to take that next step and what better way than a good performance for the State team, and most importantly a big win against Queensland."

Brown's side are in fine form after demolishing Sydney Uni 8-1 during the week.

The Uni side is no push-over and under coach Stuart Porter have taken a firm grip on the top of Division 1.

"Stuart was a bit demoralised fate the game," said Brown.

"So I had to remind just how good this side is.

"It amazes me that the players knit so well because our preparation has been really short.

"That is a plus for those who selected the squad because obviously the players know each other really well."

Darren locca was on fire against Sydney Uni, grabbing four goals.

Maybe it was something to do with wearing the right shirt.

Against Victoria locca was given the wrong size shirt in error and had to do a last minute change.

This time there was no mix up and with the right size jersey and his scoring boots obviously on, the little dynamo was in sparkling form.

That could well be a pointer for the Queensland match.

The SoccerBlues

#1. John Crawley
Blacktown City Demons
Goalkeeper
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#2. Paul Dee
Blacktown City Demons
Defender
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 1

#3. Damien Foxe
Blacktown City Demons
Defender
State Appearances: 2
State Goals: 0

#4. Steve Riches
Blacktown City Demons
Defender
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#5. Tayfun Devrimol
Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Defender
State Appearances: 2
State Goals: 0

#6. Vuko Tomasevic
Leichhardt Tigers
Defender
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#7. James Stubbs-Mills
Leichhardt Tigers
Midfielder
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#8. Javier Mancino
Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Midfielder
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 1

#9. Steve Lazzari
Belconnen Blue Devils
Striker
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#10. Darren locca
Blacktown City Demons
Striker
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#11. Robert Gomez
Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Striker
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#12. Devrim Huseyin
Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Midfielder
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#13. Dane Hokin
Central Coast Coasties
Defender
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#14. Dania Cummins
Parramatta Eagles
Midfielder
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

#15. John Kyriazopoulos
Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic
Midfielder
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

GK: Darren Moore
Central Coast Coasties
Goalkeeper
State Appearances: 1
State Goals: 0

Brian Brown
Blacktown City
Coach
State Matches: 2
Wins: 2

NEW SOUTH WALES

v

QUEENSLAND

NEW SOUTH WALES

1. John Crawley
 2. Paul Dee
 3. Damien Foxe
 4. Steve Riches
 5. Tayfun Devrimol
 6. Michael Kladis
 7. James Stubbs-Mills
 8. Javier Mancino
 9. Steve Lazzari
 10. Darren Iocca
 11. Robert Gomez or Johnny Ghisso
 12. Devrim Huseyin
 13. Dane Hokin
 14. Danial Cummins
 15. John Kyriazopoulos
- GK: Darren Moore

Coach: Brian Brown



QUEENSLAND

- Trevor Gilliland 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- Des Hughes 4.
- Wayne Strange 5.
- Scott Elliot 6.
- Steve Fitzsimmons 7.
- Demitri Theochari 8.
- Vedran Becirbegovic 9.
- Brad Ditton 10.
- Peter Hinks 11.
- Roy Huth 12.
- 13.
- Michael Baird 14.
- Matt Olley 15.
- Pablo Aviles 16.
- Chris Day 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- Jason Lucas GK.

Coach: Miron Bleiberg

The Maroons

#1. Trevor Gilliland
Toowoomba
Goalkeeper

#4. Des Hughes
Brisbane Lions
Midfielder

#5. Wayne Strange
Brisbane City
Defender

#6. Scott Elliot
Brisbane City
Defender

#7. Steve Fitzsimmons
Gold Coast
Striker

#8. Dimitri Theochari
Brisbane City
Defender

#9. Vedran Becirbegovic
Brisbane City
Forward

#10. Brad Ditton
Captain
Wynnum Wolves
Midfielder

#11. Peter Hinks
Ipswich Knights
Midfielder

#12. Roy Huth
Rochedale Rovers
Midfielder

#14. Michael Baird
Striker

#15. Anthony Roche

Midfielder

#16. Matt Olley
Midfielder

#17. Pablo Aviles
Brisbane City
Midfielder

#18. Chris Day
Brisbane Lions
Defender

#22. Jason Lucas
Ipswich Knights
Goalkeeper

Miron Bleiberg
Coach

Looking to score

BRAD Ditton took over the captaincy of the Queensland side only this year. say he is a player of the highest level with a lot of experience.

The 27-year-old midfielder plays his club football with Wynnum Wolves in the Queensland Premier League but also had a spell at NSL club Brisbane Strikers. "He's got utmost respect for his teammates."

He didn't come to terms with the club this season after having played 26 games the previous year. "He's very strong on the ball, uses both feet and can go both ways."

That was his second spell at the Strikers but only had limited opportunities before. "If there's one thing he could work on it's scoring more goals."

Nevertheless, the Maroons bank heavily on his experience both in their engine room and when looking for leadership. That might be a worry for the Soccer Blues with Ditton agreeing that a few goals against New South Wales would change all of that.

It is something which sits well with the player. "I'd like to improve my scoring rate," he admits, with an obvious eye to tonight's game.

"It's certainly an honour to lead your state," he said. Every player has his heroes and Brad Ditton is no exception.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge but I don't think it will change the way I play." For him, and hundreds of Queensland footballers, it was Frank Pimblett, someone who has a bit of a cult status in banana country.

Ditton is one of the many talented graduates of the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. "Frank was my idol when I was coming through the Brisbane United ranks," says Ditton.

He has also played for Australia at youth level and then linked up with current Queensland state coach Miron Bleiberg when he was in charge of the Brisbane United. "He never lost the ball, he set up goals and was all over the park."

Ditton has also played for Rochedale Rovers where he came in contact with state assistant coach and former Brisbane scoring legend, Kieren Cooper. "He was a big influence on me."

"I know Brad well from his time at Rochedale," says Cooper, "and I can And at 27, Brad Ditton has time yet to write a few more chapters in his own career."

That could well mean a return to the NSL, even although there is currently a cloud hanging over Brisbane Strikers future.

A good game tonight could be the beginning of new things—for both Queensland and their talented captain.

VICTORIA 1 NEW SOUTH WALES 3 June 2, 2001 Epping Stadium

By Bruce Campbell

SATURDAY June 2 saw the revival of Australian football's oldest interstate fixture when Victoria hosted New South Wales on the lush playing surface of Epping Stadium, north of Melbourne.

That the game hadn't been played in nearly two decades added a little bit of spice but those who expected to see a return to the free flowing, individualistic style of yesteryear were to be disappointed.

Even although both sides were lacking in pre-match preparation this was a high quality ninety minutes of top flight football featuring the very best players in the state league game.

After the match Victorian officials expressed their surprise at the fact that NSW had never played a game before and had in fact only put together two training sessions.

Their structured team play belied that fact, but then it was built on the back of solid understanding from the nucleus of players supplied by the state's two best teams, Bonnyrigg and Blacktown.

Paul Dee signalled his intention to return to the national league with a display which was truly dazzling.

The man they call 'Deezer' hustled and hustled, probed and prodded and generally ran his socks off for ninety minutes in a performance which was very deserving of the Man of the Match award he was presented with after the game.

But despite the obvious brilliance of Dee this was no one man show and instead the Soccer Blues turned in a display which was superb all over the pitch.

"I'm really proud of the boys," said coach Brian Brown afterwards.

"We had a game plan and they all stuck to it.

"I played two centre backs and that allowed us to get the extra man in midfield which proved a big advantage."

For his part, Victorian coach Peter Ollerton, the former Australian international World Cup star, was less than impressed with the performance of the referee, Gerry Connolly.

"We would have been better with a New South Wales referee," he said after the loss.

"He was terrible, he gave us nothing.

"But I thought that we played well although some of our players didn't have their best games.

"It was important to turn on a good show for the fans, that was maybe more important than the result."

And turn on a good show for the fans they did.

The crowd of about twelve hundred that braved the near arctic conditions included a lone New South Welshman who had travelled all the way from Singleton in the Hunter Valley to see his son Darren Moore make his state debut.

He had to wait well into the second half when the sun dipped to leave a shivering crowd but for him it was well worth the wait.

The game was scrappy at the start with both teams settling down to the difficulties of representative football.

However the earliest chance fell to the home side after eight minutes when Nick Tsaltas' well executed cross was mistimed by Brian MacNicol on the edge of the box.

Almost straight away the Soccer Blues

SoccerBlues captain Damian Foxe receives the trophy from VSF President George Wallace after NSW beat Victoria at Epping Stadium.

PIC Steve Kenny



hit back at the other end when Javier Mancino who blasted it home past a flailing Jimmy Kourtis and into the top right corner of the net.

There wasn't a lot in the early action although Darren Iocca would have done well had his twelfth minute shot not been snapped over the bar.

But with 18 minutes gone and Paul Dee already taking over the engine room of the NSW side the Soccer Blues took a deserved lead.

Dee lofted a high cross in from the right which was only partially cleared by Mile Medjedovic.

It fell invitingly into the path of Javier James Stubbs-Mills and John Kyria-

INTERSTATE CLASH

VICTORIA 1 (Tsaltas 62')

NEW SOUTH WALES 3 (Mancino 18', Dee pen 58', Gomez 71')

Venue: Epping Stadium, Melbourne

Attendance: approx 1,200 Referee: G Connolly

Teams and match ratings:

VIC: J Kourtis 6; J Latinopoulos 5, R Antoniadis 6, M Medjedovic 6, JP Knezevic 6; D Vojtek 5, H Velkowski 5, T Karapatsos 6 (P Groidis 67' 5); B MacNicol 5 (M Trupkovic 73'), N Tsaltas 7 (J Nilo 76' 5), D Gnjidic 5 (A Opazo 5). Coach: Peter Ollerton

NSW: J Crawley 6 (D Moore 74'); V Tomasevic 6 (D Hokin 78'), D Foxe 8, T Devrimol 6, D Huseyin 6; J Kyriazopoulos 6 (S Riches 76'), J Stubbs-Mills 6, J Mancino 7 (R Gomez 56' 6), P Dee 8; D Iocca 6, S Lazzari 6 (D Cummins 65' 4). Coach: Brian Brown
Match Rating: 8

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