

'GO SOCCER'

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TAKE A BOW QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND 0 v AUSTRALIAN XI 0
Queensland — Scanlan, Perry, Hermiston, Bennett, Potter, Dolan, Thompson, Gaffney, Brennan (Wilkinson 55m), Kelso, Millman, (Kathage 15m).

Australian XI — Lowndes, Degney, Prskalo, Baxter, Niven, Henderson, Byrne, Boyle (Hunter 70m), Coyne (O'Shea 52m), Jankovics, Cummings.

Referee: C. Amos.

Crowd: 2,700

Rudi Gutendorf's plans took a pounding last Wednesday in Brisbane. One could not help but feel sorry for the Australian team boss as he expressed his feelings to a few scribers in an impromptu press conference kindly granted after the game. His selected players had just been given a lesson in the art of controlled, aggressive soccer by a Queensland side that didn't know its composition until a few hours before the kick-off. Rudi, obviously shaken, expressed his chagrin at the alterations he had had to make to the side, also to the general problems that should not be part of the national team effort, referring to his job as a "Mission Impossible." He should not be too hard on himself, on the night his players were just playing against a better side whose composition caused a tactical reaction in the Australian eleven, so that, no matter the players selected, the outcome would probably have been the same. After all, who is to say Boyle is not better than Stevenson; Baxter has been receiving rave reports in the south and his inclusion allowed new "super find" Henderson to move into midfield where he could have a greater influence on the game. Niven for O'Connor was no backward step and Coyne did not disgrace himself. There is no doubt Phil O'Connor was missed on the left wing where Cumming had a strange subdued, almost passive role, but actually none of the players played badly, they simply weren't allowed to play well. There is a subtle difference, so what happened?

From the onset the combined power,

pace, height and strength of Kelso and Brennan caused problems for Prskalo and Baxter who just couldn't cope with the pair's mobility. Henderson was forced further and further back to help out and with Byrne and Boyle hopelessly outnumbered in midfield Coyne's necessary retreat meant that Jankovics was left all alone to match strengths with Bennett. Cummings parked wide on the flank was of little or no help as Perry gave him little or no scope. Hermiston and Potter needed no invitations and continually poured through the gaps into the middle, virtually unchallenged, setting up a stream of long passes or short, angled supporting runs that hemmed the national boys back in their own half. The chain of tactical events was complete and though Gutendorf is credited with saying at an after match function that Queensland too suffered with the Australian sickness (no goals), he is being hard on Lowndes who had two superb saves in the first half to keep the score sheet blank. Then at half time the game took a change. Brennan pulled a muscle and was replaced by Wilkinson, a defender. Queensland continued to dominate the middle of the field by sheer weight of numbers but gradually Henderson began to realise the threat at the back was no longer as great, for young Kathage, a local boy, was finding the occasion just a bit much as move after move broke down when he got the ball. The Socceroos began to push forward and came more into the game, in fact they could have snatched a late goal, but this would have been a mockery of justice, the only real scoring chance they created was late in the first half when Jankovics lost Bennett for the only time in the match and sent a high left wing cross from Niven over the bar with his head.

Rudi's problems may have appeared greater after the match but he should look at the positive side in the outcome. Perry, Bennett, Dolan, Gaffney, Kelso, Brennan, and of course youngsters Scanlan and Kathage are all eligible for his pool and to have eight eligible players in a team that performed so well is good

Insidemans.

odds in Australian soccer. If however he has doubts perhaps he should "front up" again with his "Norwich side" or better still, his final selection, to play this

Queensland team which for some time now has been showing itself capable of taking on any side and pushing them all the way.

STATE LEAGUE POST MORTEM

HAYWARD THE HERO

GOLD COAST CITY 1 (Hayward 89th) d. ACROSS THE WAVES 0.

Halftime 0-0.

Referee: Alan Kibler.

Cautions: Nil.

In breezy conditions, wooden spooners Waves appeared to be set for their first competition point when the score was nil all with only two minutes to go

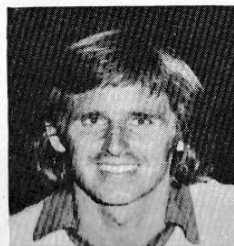
It may have been the saving feature of the game. Tactless play dominated what should have been a "low team" Derby.

True enough Waves imported goalie, Bob Barlow, was forced to show his mettle several times and clearly would have been man of the match if Waves had won.

But Gold Coast was not as troubled around the goal mouth, except on two occasions.

Once was from a header from Waves striker Bobby Lloyd-Jones, which was cleared on the line. The other was when Barlow cleared with the wind to cause his opposite number, Glen Ahearn to touch behind for a corner.

With just on a minute to go and with Waves in full attack Gold Coast were



GRAHAM HAYWARD (Gold Coast)

given the gift chance they needed to win. A long windward clearance was headed back by Waves onto the boot of Graham Hayward, who lofted the ball over the forward running Barlow.

It was an anti-climax to a non-event for Soccer buffs. Spectators were amazed at how Gold Coast could have toppled the then premiers leadership leaders Grange Thistle, only a week before.

But Waves supporters were not willing to concede any vast improvement in their own side, despite the apparent tightness which new coach Ian Livingstone has been able to introduce.

WET AND WINDY

by Brian Richardson

MT. GRAVATT 2 (Steele, Bohan) d. TOWNSVILLE KERN UNITED 1 (Brownlie).

Halftime: 2-0.

Referee: Ron Richmond.

Cautions: Nil.

The weather was wet and windy. The football — well I guess it was reasonable. The crowd was damp and miserable. That was the scene last weekend at Dittmer Park when the Mounts played host to Townsville in the last game of the first round of the State League competition.

The visitors arrived with a great team of supporters including a number of the Victorian Heidelberg United PSL players, co-visitors at the Travelodge Motel. The Mt. Gravatt Supporters Club also was there with its members in full regalia. Except for the bitterly cold wind and the periodical showers of rain, the stage seemed set for a good night of soccer.

Although all players appeared to give of their best the rain and the wind were great dampeners. Together they turned the game into a spectacle of mediocrity. There was effort aplenty but little magic.