"IT'S A GRAND OLD TEAM TO PLAY FOR"

1961 - 2022

Biały Orzeł Klub Sportowy

Dedication

To all those who have helped to make this Club what it is today, from its founding members, committees, coaches, managers, trainers, supporters and most importantly the players, past and present.
May we continue to prosper for many more years to come.

Sto lat, sto lat, niech zyje zyje nam
Sto lat, sto lat, niech zyje zyje nam
Jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz, niech zyje, zyje nam
Niech zyje nam

Sources

The "Talon" – The Official Club Newsletter
The Mercury, Examiner & Advocate Newspapers
Walter Pless Archives
A Century of Soccer by Chris Hudson
Soccer Forum (Thanks to David Elliot)
TSA Handbooks
melbournesoccer.blogspot.com
socceraust.co.uk

Special Thanks to Walter Pless for access to his archives and continued support of the beautiful game

Editor: Andrew Leszczynski

First Printed 2011, Updated 2023

For any errors, omissions or suggestions please contact:

newtowneagles@gmail.com

White Eagle Sports Club (Soccer) 1961 - 2022

Contents:	Page
Honours:	
Individual Honours	002
Team Honours	003
Teams of the Decades	005
Team Results	006
State League Statistics	008
The Decades:	
Nineteen Sixties (1960's)	010
Nineteen Seventies (1970's)	035
Nineteen Eighties (1980's)	082
Nineteen Nineties (1990's)	148
Two Thousands (2000's)	223
Twenty Tens (2010's)	266
Twenty Twenties (2020's)	315
Other:	350
The Golden Boot	351
Miss White Eagles	354
Goalkeeper's Club	355
The White Eagles Family	357
Team Gallery	388
Season Reviews:	
1968 – First Premier League Successes	399
1977 – State Champions	430
1978 – State League Champions	460
1986 – State League South Premiers	492
1989 – State & Southern League Champions	514
1997 – The Grand Slam	568
2012 – The Season That Got Away	619
Gallery Other	658
Addendum:	
Other Sports - A Brief History	690
The Story Behind the Polish Eagle	694

White Eagles Soccer Club - Individual Honors - 1961 - 2022

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1961-64. K. PLACHTA
1965-66. H. PANKOWSKI
1967. G. STEPIK
1968. W. EJLAK
1969. E. MATKOWSKI
1970-76. P. POLACIK
1977-78. L. KRAWCZYK
1980. K. PAUL
1981-82. H. PANKOWSKI
1983-84. E. ROSINSKI
1985-86. T. STEENHUIS
1987. P. ANGEL
1988-92. D. STODDART SNR
1993-94. F. BANSEL
1995-99. D. STODDART JNR
2000-03. J. LARGE
2004. D. JONES
2005-11. D. FROST
2012-13. B. SHACKCLOTH
2014-21. G. NUTTING
2022. L. BROWN

LIFE MEMBERS

1969. Z. ORLINSKI
1969. P. ANGEL
1970. K. PLACHTA
1972. S. SIEPINSKI
1973. M. TOKARCZYK
1973. K. POLACIK
1974. J. SIKORA
1976. B. JONES
1980. G. STEPIK
1981. M. PRODANOVIC
1984. P. POLACIK
1984. Z. RYBAK
1987. W. EJLAK
1990. I. LESZCZYNSKI
1996. M. LESZCZYNSKI
2009. A. LESZCZYNSKI
2011. D. STODDART JNR
2021. P. WASS
2021. D. FROST
2021. C. LESZCZYNSKI
2021. S. REVELL

PLAYER LIFE MEMBERS

2011. J. LARGE
2011. A. CZYZOWICZ
2011. M. PITT
2011. S. VERNON
2011. A. LESZCZYNSKI
2011. R. LESZCZYNSKI
2011. D. BONES
2011. D. STODDART JNR
2011. S. YOUNG
2021. R. KETCHELL
2021. C.LESZCZYNSKI

MENS TEAM COACHES

1961-62. J. ZURASZEK
1963-64. M. GEBAUER
1965. L. JOHNSON
1966. S. RAY
1967. F. RAWLINGS
1968-69. J. SCALLY
1970. B. FOOKS
1971. D. RAE
1972. K. BAKER
1973-74. K. SCHWEISINGER
1975. K. WORDEN
1976. T. SKARO *
1976. G. JENKINS
1977. G. JENKINS
1978. J. GRIMSEY
1979. J. GRIMSEY
1980-82. E. MYCAK
1983. E. MYCAK *
1983. H. NELSON
1984. A. PAYNE
1985-86. S. DARBY
1987. B. RYBAK
1988. B. RYBAK *
1988. M. LESZCZYNSKI
1989. E. MYCAK
1990. E. MYCAK
1991. P. IRVING *
1991. M. LESZCZYNSKI
1992. E. MYCAK
1993. B. RYBAK
1994. D. ITCHINS
1995-96. M. LESZCZYNSKI
1997-98. A. LESZCZYNSKI
1999. L. WARE
2000. G. KRAMBOUSANOS
2001-03. C. JONES
2003. D. BONES
2004-05. M. LESZCZYNSKI
2006-08. I. PARKER
2009-11. G. KRAMBOUSANOS *
2011-12. S. PITCHFORD
2013. D. ITCHINS
2014-15. R. BONES
2016-20. A. LESZCZYNSKI
2021-22. T FOTAK

MENS BEST & FAIREST

1971. M. PRODANOVIC
1972. D. SIGGINS
1973. I. STEWART
1974. D. STODDART SNR
1975. D. CONLAN
1976. L. NUNN
1977. L. NUNN
1978. D. SMITH
1979. L. NUNN
1980. K. WORDEN
1981. P. LINNELL
1982. B. RYBAK
1983. A. LESZCZYNSKI
1984. S. YOUNG
1985. D. STODDART JNR
1986. D. STODDART JNR
1987. A. LESZCZYNSKI
1988. D. STODDART JNR
1989. M. LESZCZYNSKI
1990. R. LESZCZYNSKI
1991. R. LESZCZYNSKI
1992. D. STODDART JNR
1993. D. STODDART JNR
1994. D. STODDART JNR
1994. S. YOUNG **
1995. R. LESZCZYNSKI
1996. D. STODDART JNR
1997. R. LESZCZYNSKI
1998. D. BONES
1999. M. FONG
2000. M. FONG
2001. P. MURRAY
2002. D. STODDART JNR
2003. A. JONES
2004. S. YOUNG
2005. A. TELEGA
2006. A. TELEGA
2007. C. WASS
2008. A. CLARK
2009. C. WASS
2010. M. ANDERSON
2011. A. McKEOWN
2012. M. ANDERSON ***
2012. A. K. LESZCZYNSKI ***
2013. R. JOHN
2014. L. OTTAVI
2015. A. TELEGA
2016. A. CLARK
2017. A. CLARK
2018. A. CLARK
2019. S. LESZCZYNSKI
2020. A. CLARK
2021. L. HUIGSLOOT
2022. L. HUIGSLOOT

WOMENS TEAM COACHES

1981. K. DOLLIVER
1986. K. JONES
1989. F. BROWNING
2002-03. D. ITCHINS
2004-06. C. JONES
2007-10. A. LAW
2011. J. BURNETT
2012-13. C. MURRAY
2021-22. S. REVELL
2023. A. POWELL

WOMENS BEST & FAIREST

2002. L. COLLET
2003. K. McLEOD
2004. L. FARQUHAR
2005. A. ROBERTS ***
2005. L. JONES ***
2006. B. CANTRELL
2007. L. FARQUHAR
2009. R. SMITH
2010. T. FORD
2011. R. LUBIANA
2012. C. NICHOLS
2013. G. TERRY
2021. C. WILLIAMS
2022. K. OLLERHEAD

ROTHMANS GOLD MEDAL

1977. L. NUNN

VIC TUTING SILVER MEDAL

1992. D. STODDART JNR
1999. J. PROUD
2021. S. LESZCZYNSKI
2022. L. HUIGSLOOT

F.F.T. - COACH OF THE YEAR

1990. E. MYCAK
1997. A. LESZCZYNSKI
2019. A. LESZCZYNSKI
2021. T. FOTAK
2022. T. FOTAK

SCHOOLBOY INTERNATIONALS

1983. A. LESZCZYNSKI
1985. R. LESZCZYNSKI
1985 P. GROENEWOUD

* Replaced during season

** Joint Winners

*** 94/95 Summer Roster

White Eagles Soccer Club - Team Honors 1961 - 2022

				Cup Competitions								
Year	Competition	S. C.	L	KO	K	F	S	C	SW	A	DJ	CAD
1962	Southern Division 2		12									
1963	Southern Division 2		12									
1966	Southern Division 2											
1967	Southern Division 2		16									
1968	Southern Division 1		32			21				31		
	Southern Division 1		29									
1969	Southern Division 1					34				34		
1974	Southern Division 1						42					
1975	Southern Division 1 Reserves	45	46									
1976	Southern Division 1						47				47	
1976	Southern Division 1 Reserves		52									
1977	Southern Division 1	62	60				54					
1978	State League		73			0-1 v Juventus						74
	Southern Combined		76									
1979	Southern Division 4		79									
1980	State League					1-2 v Brighton ICL						
1981	Southern Division 1		89									
	Southern Division 1 - Women		89									
1984	Southern Division 1		97									
1985	Premier Division Reserves		99									
1986	State League - South	109	107				102					4-5 v Olympia
1986	Southern Division 3		111									
1987	State League - Sth							113	117			
	Premier Division Sth		119									
	Southern Division 2 - Women		120									
1988	State League		124			0-5 v Juventus						125
	Southern Division 4		127									
1989	State League		136			1-2 v Juventus		133	137			1-2 v Juventus
	Southern Division 1	142	141	141								
	Southern Division 3		146									
1990	State League		151				149	149				
1991	State League		165				153	153				
1992	State League		169				167	Lost on pens after 1-1				1-2 v Croatia
	Southern Division 3		170									
1993	State League		172			1-2 v Croatia						
1994	State League		177				174					179
	State League Reserves		177									
	Southern Division 2		178									
1995	State League		183									
	State League		187									
	State League Reserves		188									
1996	State League		195				191		196			
	State League		198									
1997	State League		214				202		208			
	State League		212									
1997	State League Reserves		214				202					
	State League Reserves		212									
1998	State League											218
	State League Reserves		219			2-1 v Sth Hobart						218

				----------Cup Competitions----------								
Year	Competition	S. C.	L	KO	K	F	S	C	SW	A	DJ	CAD
	Southern Division 3		219									
1999	State League						2-3 v Olympia					
	Southern Division 3		222									
2000	South Conference		226				2-1 v Croatia					
	South Premier League Reserves		226									3-2 v Taroona
2001	South Premier League						2-3 v Sth Hobart					
	Southern Division 3		229									
2002	South Premier League						1-4 v University					
	South Premier League Reserves		233									0-1 v Croatia
	South Premier League - Women		237									
2005	South Premier League - Women		241									
2006	South Premier League						0-2 v University					
	Southern Division 1 Reserves		245									
	South Premier League - Women		245									
2007	South Premier League						0-5 v Juventus					
	Southern Division 2		248									
2008	Southern Division 1		256									
2010	Southern Division 2		265									
2011	South Premier League	279										
	Southern Division 1 - Women		286									
	Southern Division 3		280									
2012	South Premier League		306						294			
2018	Southern Championship 1						396					
2019	Southern Division 3			373								
2021	Southern Championship		331				322					
	Southern Championship 1		331				343					
	Southern Division 6		334	334								
2022	Southern Championship		344									
	Southern Championship 1						349					
All	129	5	62	5	2	2	31	5	5	2	1	9
Wins	86	3	41	5	2	1	20	4	4	1	1	4
RU	43	2	21	0	0	1	11	1	1	1	0	5

COMPETITIONS:

S. C. = State Championships
L = League
KO = Knock Out Cup
K = King Cup
F = Falkinder Cup
S = Summer Cup (various)
SW = Statewide Cup
A = Association Shield
C = Charity Cup
DJ = D. J. Motiors Trophy
CAD = Cadbury Trophy, Top 4/5 Play-offs - Finals series

LEGEND:

W = Winners
MP = Minor Premiers
GFW = Grand Final Winners
RU = Runners Up
GFRU = Grand Final Runner Up

Numbers = page numbers
* 1 game played for two cups

Teams of the Decade 1960 - 2020

1960's

Jan Zuraszek (C)
David Siggins (GK)
Titus Steenhuis (GK)
Hanz Zoetsch (Capt.)
Keith Dolliver
Brian Hoyle
Bogdan Dora
Milan Prodanovic
David Stoddart Snr
Bobby Osuchowski
Kurt Lundin (Olsen)
Eugene Rosinski
Fred Rawlings
Ian Stewart
David Jefferson
John Biggar

1970's

John Grimsey (C)
Wally Bucher (GK)
Mike Caban (GK)
Karl Schwesinger (Capt.)
Eamonn Kelly
Larry Nunn
Darby Conlan
Billy Jones
Peter Linnell
Ken Worden
Hugh McCann
Ian Honeyman
David Smith
Mark Oakes
Brian McKay
Harry Stewart
Mark Sikora

1980's

Eugene Mycak (C)
John Michniewski (GK)
Peter Groenewoud (GK)
Bobby Rybak (Capt.)
Peter Linnell
Peter Wass
Chris Leszczynski
Mark Leszczynski
Andrew Leszczynski
Richard Leszczynski
David Stoddart Jnr
Scott Young
Neil Morrison
Brett Harwood
Eugene Banasik
Michael Driessen

1990's

Mark Leszczynski (C)
Zlatko Belanic (GK)
Craig Jones (GK)
Mark Leszczynski (Capt.)
Andrew Leszczynski
Richard Leszczynski
David Stoddart Jnr
Scott Young
Neil Morrison
Paul Morrison
Craig Pitt
Richard Ketchell
Colin Shepherd
Michael Driessen
Adam Jones
Damien Bones

2000's

George Krambousanos (C)
Nathan Pitchford (GK)
Andrew Savage (GK)
David Stoddart Jnr (Capt.)
Richard Leszczynski
Scott Young
Adam Jones
Damien Bones
Andrew Clark
Cormac Collins
Christopher Wass
Andrew Telega
Michael Murray
Michael Fong
Adam McKeown
Alexander Leszczynski

2010's

Andrew Leszczynski (C)
Nathan Pitchford (GK)
David Kruijver (GK)
Andrew Clark (Capt.)
Michael Anderson
Mark Page
Andrew Telega
Liam Scott
Blayne Hudson
Jacob Clamp
Alexander Leszczynski
Adam McKeown
Samuel Leszczynski
Ben Whitehall
James Vernon
Jack Rojahn
Oliver Johnstone

White Eagle Sports Club - (Soccer) - Final League Standings 1961 - 2022

Year	Competition	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	GD	Pts	Pos.
1962	Southern Division 2	18	13	2	3	56	22	34	28	2
1963	Southern Division 2 - (P)	20	14	3	3	78	33	45	31	1
1964	Southern Division 1	14	3	2	9	14	40	-26	8	7
1965	Southern Division 1	18	5	1	12	30	47	-17	11	8
1966	Southern Division 1	14	4	3	7	19	25	-6	11	6
1967	Southern Division 1	14	6	3	5	27	28	-1	15	5
1968	Southern Division 1	14	8	3	3	35	26	9	19	2
1969	Southern Division 1	21	8	5	8	39	34	5	21	5
1970	Southern Division 1	21	5	0	16	24	56	-32	10	8
1971	Southern Division 1	21	6	4	11	26	47	-21	16	7
1972	Southern Division 1	18	8	2	8	34	38	-4	18	6
1973	Southern Division 1	18	7	4	7	33	40	-7	18	5
1974	Southern Division 1	18	8	1	9	45	42	3	17	6
1975	Southern Division 1	18	10	3	5	41	25	16	23	4
1976	Southern Division 1	18	10	3	5	46	32	14	23	4
1977	Southern Division 1	18	12	4	2	48	15	33	28	1
1978	State League	18	10	7	1	41	20	21	27	1
1979	State League	18	8	4	6	45	35	10	28	4
1980	State League - (R)	18	1	3	14	22	63	-41	6	10
1981	Southern Division 1 - (P)	14	13	1	0	53	12	41	40	1
1982	State League - South	21	10	2	9	36	38	-2	32	4
1983	State League - South - (R)	21	2	1	18	23	61	-38	7	8
1984	Southern Division 1 - (P)	19	17	1	1	93	2	91	52	1
1985	State League - South	21	12	2	7	62	54	8	38	4
1986	State League - South	21	14	3	4	67	27	40	45	1
1987	State League - South	20	14	2	4	77	30	47	44	3
1988	State League	18	14	3	1	50	22	28	45	1
1989	State League	18	17	1	0	59	16	43	52	1
1990	State League	24	19	2	3	76	22	54	59	1
1991	State League	16	13	0	3	59	26	33	39	1
1992	State League	21	10	4	7	54	39	15	34	2
1993	State League	14	8	2	4	29	20	9	26	2
1994	State League	16	9	2	5	59	28	31	29	3
1995	State League	28	22	3	3	110	35	75	69	1
1996	State League	18	13	1	4	63	25	38	40	1
1997	State League	18	14	2	2	80	19	61	44	1
1998	State League	18	9	2	7	42	31	11	29	5
1999	State League	16	8	3	5	43	28	15	27	4
2000	South Conference League	16	11	2	3	52	22	30	35	2
2001	South Premier League	18	8	3	7	44	32	12	27	7
2002	South Premier League	18	9	1	8	33	28	5	28	5
2003	South Premier League	18	8	2	8	44	43	1	26	6
2004	South Premier League	16	3	7	6	16	40	-24	16	7
2005	South Premier League	16	3	3	10	17	35	-18	12	8
2006	South Premier League	18	7	4	7	22	29	-7	25	6
2007	South Premier League	18	2	6	10	14	33	-19	12	9
2008	South Premier League	18	5	6	7	28	28	0	21	8
2009	South Premier League	21	6	5	10	40	46	-6	23	7
2010	South Premier League	21	6	6	9	39	40	-1	24	5
2011	South Premier League	21	7	8	5	42	40	2	30	4
2012	South Premier League	21	15	2	4	69	20	49	47	2
2013	South Premier League	22	3	3	16	42	104	-62	12	12
2014	South Premier League	20	1	0	19	20	95	-75	3	6
2015	Southern Championship	19	2	2	12	18	56	-38	8	9
2016	Southern Championship	16	5	3	8	28	44	-16	18	6
2017	Southern Championship	19	8	1	10	37	39	-2	25	6
2018	Southern Championship	16	7	3	6	36	35	1	24	6
2019	Southern Championship	21	11	0	10	69	39	30	33	4
2020	Southern Championship	16	9	3	4	30	27	3	30	4
2021	Southern Championship	22	18	2	2	79	26	53	56	1
2022	Southern Championship	22	20	1	1	85	22	63	61	1

Year	Competition	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	GD	Pts	Pos.
		1,132	558	167	403	2,742	2,126	616	1,705	268
P = Promoted										
R = Relegated			49%	15%	36%	2.42	1.88			

Final League Standings State League Years 1978 - 1980, 1988 - 1999

Year	Competition	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	GD	Pts	Pos.
1978	State League	18	10	7	1	41	20	21	27	1
1979	State League	18	8	4	6	45	35	10	28	4
1980	State League	18	1	3	14	22	63	-41	6	10
1988	State League	18	14	3	1	50	22	28	45	1
1989	State League	18	17	1	0	59	16	43	52	1
1990	State League	24	19	2	3	76	22	54	59	1
1991	State League	16	13	0	3	59	26	33	39	1
1992	State League	21	10	4	7	54	39	15	34	2
1993	State League	14	8	2	4	29	20	9	26	2
1994	State League	16	9	2	5	59	28	31	29	3
1995	State League	28	22	3	3	110	35	75	69	1
1996	State League	18	13	1	4	63	25	38	40	1
1997	State League	18	14	2	2	80	19	61	44	1
1998	State League	18	9	2	7	42	31	11	29	5
1999	State League	16	8	3	5	43	28	15	27	4
		279	175	39	65	832	429	403	554	
			63%	14%	23%	2.98	1.54			

Final League Standings State League Years 1988 - 1991

Year	Competition	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	GD	Pts	Pos.
1988	State League	18	14	3	1	50	22	28	45	1
1989	State League	18	17	1	0	59	16	43	52	1
1990	State League	24	19	2	3	76	22	54	59	1
1991	State League	16	13	0	3	59	26	33	39	1
		76	63	6	7	244	86	158	195	
			83%	8%	9%	3.21	1.13			

Final League Standings State League Years 1995 - 1997

Year	Competition	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	GD	Pts	Pos.
1995	State League	28	22	3	3	110	35	75	69	1
1996	State League	18	13	1	4	63	25	38	40	1
1997	State League	18	14	2	2	80	19	61	44	1
		64	49	6	9	253	79	174	153	
			77%	9%	14%	3.95	1.23			

State League & NPL Combined Table 1978 - 2022 - Points per Game

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	PPG	Win%	No Loss
1	Rapid	72	47	12	13	153	2.13	65.3%	81.9%
2	New Town White Eagles	279	175	39	65	564	2.02	62.7%	76.7%
3	Devonport City Strikers	480	294	70	116	952	1.98	61.3%	75.8%
4	Hobart Zebras/Juventus	411	214	78	119	720	1.75	52.1%	71.0%
6	South Hobart	338	185	33	120	588	1.74	54.7%	64.5%
5	Olympia Warriors/Hobart Olympic	467	217	69	181	720	1.54	46.5%	61.2%
7	University of Tasmania	34	14	10	10	52	1.53	41.2%	70.6%
8	Launceston City/Juventus/Zebras	503	209	72	222	699	1.39	41.6%	55.9%
9	Glenorchy Knights/Croatia Glenorchy	440	173	70	197	589	1.34	39.3%	55.2%
10	Kingborough Lions/West Hobart/Caledonians	504	184	75	245	627	1.24	36.5%	51.4%
11	George Town United	90	28	22	40	106	1.18	31.1%	55.6%
12	Northern Rangers	126	38	26	62	140	1.11	30.2%	50.8%
13	Ulverstone	183	55	35	93	200	1.09	30.1%	49.2%
14	Clarence Zebras	42	10	5	27	35	0.83	23.8%	35.7%
15	Launceston Matric	18	3	4	11	13	0.72	16.7%	38.9%
16	Launceston	54	10	8	36	38	0.70	18.5%	33.3%
16	Riverside Olympic	160	25	20	115	95	0.59	15.6%	28.1%
18	Launceston United	54	5	8	41	23	0.43	9.3%	24.1%
18	Burnie United	94	11	7	76	40	0.43	11.7%	19.1%
20	Clarence United	103	10	9	84	39	0.38	9.7%	18.4%

State League Combined Table 1988 - 1999 - Overall Points

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	PPG	Win%	No Loss
1	White Eagles/New Town Eagles	225	156	25	44	493	2.19	69.3%	80.4%
2	Launceston Juventus/Zebras/City	225	117	38	70	389	1.73	52.0%	68.9%
3	Hobart Juventus/Zebras	225	109	42	74	369	1.64	48.4%	67.1%
4	Devonport City	181	107	32	42	353	1.95	59.1%	76.8%
5	Olympic/Hobart Olympic	225	103	38	84	347	1.54	45.8%	62.7%
6	Croatia Glenorchy/Glenorchy Knights	225	79	37	109	274	1.22	35.1%	51.6%
7	Caledonians/West Hobart/Kingborough Lions	225	71	35	119	248	1.10	31.6%	47.1%
8	Ulverstone	111	39	24	48	141	1.27	35.1%	56.8%
9	South Hobart	114	29	10	75	97	0.85	25.4%	34.2%
10	Riverside Olympic	80	17	9	54	60	0.75	21.3%	32.5%
11	University of Tasmania	34	14	10	10	52	1.53	41.2%	70.6%
12	Launceston	54	10	8	36	38	0.70	18.5%	33.3%
13	George Town United	18	5	4	9	19	1.06	27.8%	50.0%
14	Burnie United	58	4	4	50	16	0.28	6.9%	13.8%
15	Launceston Matric	18	3	4	11	13	0.72	16.7%	38.9%
16	Clarence United	16	2	0	14	6	0.38	12.5%	12.5%
17	Launceston United	18	1	1	16	4	0.22	5.6%	11.1%

State League & NPL Combined Table 1978 - 2022 - Overall Points

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	PPG	Win%	No Loss
1	Devonport City Strikers	480	294	70	116	952	1.98	61.3%	75.8%
2	Hobart Zebras/Juventus	411	214	78	119	720	1.75	52.1%	71.0%
3	Olympia Warriors/Hobart Olympic	467	217	69	181	720	1.54	46.5%	61.2%
4	Launceston City/Juventus/Zebras	503	209	72	222	699	1.39	41.6%	55.9%
5	Kingborough Lions/West Hobart/Caledonians	504	184	75	245	627	1.24	36.5%	51.4%
6	Glenorchy Knights/Croatia Glenorchy	440	173	70	197	589	1.34	39.3%	55.2%
7	South Hobart	338	185	33	120	588	1.74	54.7%	64.5%
8	New Town White Eagles	279	175	39	65	564	2.02	62.7%	76.7%
9	Ulverstone	183	55	35	93	200	1.09	30.1%	49.2%
10	Rapid	72	47	12	13	153	2.13	65.3%	81.9%
11	Northern Rangers	126	38	26	62	140	1.11	30.2%	50.8%
12	George Town United	90	28	22	40	106	1.18	31.1%	55.6%
13	Riverside Olympic	160	25	20	115	95	0.59	15.6%	28.1%
14	University of Tasmania	34	14	10	10	52	1.53	41.2%	70.6%
15	Burnie United	94	11	7	76	40	0.43	11.7%	19.1%
16	Clarence United	103	10	9	84	39	0.38	9.7%	18.4%
17	Launceston	54	10	8	36	38	0.70	18.5%	33.3%
18	Clarence Zebras	42	10	5	27	35	0.83	23.8%	35.7%
19	Launceston United	54	5	8	41	23	0.43	9.3%	24.1%
20	Launceston Matric	18	3	4	11	13	0.72	16.7%	38.9%

State League Years 1978-1981, 1988-1999 - Points & Goals

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	White Eagle	279	175	39	65	832	429	403	545
2	Launceston Juventus	297	152	50	95	626	478	148	471
3	Devonport City	253	130	52	71	591	386	205	419
4	Hobart Juventus	261	127	46	88	591	442	149	409
5	Olympia	261	118	44	99	596	526	70	383
6	Croatia Glenorchy	297	116	55	126	596	646	-50	366
7	Caledonians *	297	115	45	137	499	577	-78	346
8	Ulverstone	165	52	30	83	241	323	-82	173
9	Rapid	72	47	12	13	180	75	105	106
10	South Hobart	132	31	13	88	192	374	-182	104
11	George Town United	90	28	22	40	191	203	-12	83
12	University	52	17	15	20	94	101	-7	63
13	Riverside Olympic	80	17	9	54	135	284	-149	60
14	Launceston United	108	15	16	77	138	338	-200	57
15	Burnie United	94	11	7	76	91	325	-234	33
16	Launceston Matric	18	3	4	11	30	45	-15	13
17	Clarence United	16	2	0	14	19	74	-55	6

State League Years 1978-1981, 1988-1999 - Other

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	PPG	GPG	NGPG
1	White Eagle	279	175	39	65	564	2.02	2.98	1.44
2	Launceston Juventus	297	152	50	95	506	1.70	2.11	0.50
3	Devonport City	253	130	52	71	442	1.75	2.34	0.81
4	Hobart Juventus	261	127	46	88	427	1.64	2.26	0.57
5	Olympia	261	118	44	99	398	1.52	2.28	0.27
6	Croatia Glenorchy	297	116	55	126	403	1.36	2.01	-0.17
7	Caledonians *	297	115	45	137	390	1.31	1.68	-0.26
8	Ulverstone	165	52	30	83	186	1.13	1.46	-0.50
9	Rapid	72	47	12	13	153	2.13	2.50	1.46
10	South Hobart	132	31	13	88	106	0.80	1.45	-1.38
11	George Town United	90	28	22	40	106	1.18	2.12	-0.13
12	University	52	17	15	20	66	1.27	1.81	-0.13
13	Riverside Olympic	80	17	9	54	60	0.75	1.69	-1.86
14	Launceston United	108	15	16	77	61	0.56	1.28	-1.85
15	Burnie United	94	11	7	76	40	0.43	0.97	-2.49
16	Launceston Matric	18	3	4	11	13	0.72	1.67	-0.83
17	Clarence United	16	2	0	14	6	0.38	1.19	-3.44

State League Years 1978-1981, 1988-1999 - Final Positions

Pos	Team / Position *	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	White Eagle	8	2	1	2	1					1
2	Devonport City	4	2			3	3		2		
3	Rapid	2		1	1						
4	Caledonians *	1	1	2		2	3	4	1	1	1
5	University	1							2		
6	Riverside Olympic						1	1		1	1
7	Olympia		1	2	5	2		1	2	1	
8	Ulverstone				1		3	2	2	1	
9	Hobart Juventus		3	3	4	1		2	1		
10	Clarence United									1	
11	Croatia Glenorchy		3	3	1	2	2	1	3		1
12	South Hobart						2	2	1	2	
13	Burnie United								1	3	1
14	George Town United				1	1	1	1		1	
15	Launceston United								1	1	4
16	Launceston Juventus		4	4	1	4	1	2			
17	Launceston Matric									1	

** Position on the ladder at the end of the season, prior to final series where applicable*

1960's

NINETEEN SIXTIES (1960's)

The White Eagle Sports Club was conceived in 1960, and was formed in 1961 under the auspices of the Polish Association based in New Town. The founding members of the club included Kazik Plachta, Tadeusz Kempa and Jan Zuraszek. The White Eagle Soccer Club was registered in 1962 by the Tasmanian Soccer Association (TSA), to compete in the Metropolitan League Division 2.

The club finished in second place and won its Knockout Cup that same year. The side was coached by Jan Zuraszek, a highly experienced and credentialed player, and he was also club captain. In 1971 Jan Zuraszek (who died in a car crash in Melbourne in 1970) had a perpetual trophy for the Best & Fairest senior player named in his honor.

White Eagle's first competitive game was against Kingston at the Domain No.2 ground on the 4th of April 1962. The standout performer on the day was Paul Szkudlarek, who notched a hat-trick in a 6-2 win. The majority of Eagles' games were played at the Domain Crossroads, and this also doubled as their training venue. Occasionally they had the opportunity to play on the Darcy St. ground in South Hobart.

1962 Foundation Team
Back: P. Szkudlarek, S Stepien , J. Stepik, M. Antas, J. Zuraszek (Coach), J. Antas, B. Dora, P. Wasileko, Z. Rybak (Committee)
Front: L. Kunda, J. Nowakowski, M. Zieba, S. Rakowski, Z. Lyk, L. Nowak, C. Nikel

White Eagles Promising

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 6/4/1962

WHITE EAGLES, the soccer team of the 1,000-strong Polish community in Southern Tasmania, made a promising debut in Second Division on Saturday under the leadership of veteran Jan Zuraszek.

The main feature of the side, which wore the now famous Polonia strip, was that with the exception of Zuraszek, the oldest player was 22. The youngsters are being molded into a side which will eventually reach First Division standard. Their approach to the game was most commendable. The referee's decision was recognised as final and immediately accepted, and they concentrated on the ball and not the opponent.

Zuraszek has done much for soccer in Hobart, and despite his 40-odd years he is still a player to be reckoned with. Before the Second World War he was a top-class centre forward for Posen in interstate matches, and then in 1946 he was playing alongside such German stars as Andre Kitzinger, who had 49 international caps, Karl Kupfer with 27 caps, and John Gorski with 16 caps for the F.C.05 club at Schweifurt.

He was a leading player in one of the two Polish teams in Canberra, and also played a dozen times for Polonia in Melbourne while still stationed in Canberra. He came to Hobart in 1956 and played for Juventus before he and Otto Frick established the Rapid club. Then he returned to Juventus before becoming coach of City. When that club dis-

banded he launched Olympia, which won promotion in its first season. Now he has introduced yet another club – White Eagles – and he is still playing.

Southern Division 2 (Metropolitan League) - 1962

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INTER	16	13	1	2	70	20	50	27
WHITE EAGLE	**16**	**10**	**2**	**4**	**55**	**22**	**33**	**22**
WANDERERS	16	8	1	7	46	31	15	17
KINGSTON NO. 1	17	8	1	8	48	33	15	17
SOUTH HOABRT	15	3	1	11	19	62	-43	7
KINGSTON NO. 1	10	0	0	10	5	75	-70	0

1962 Senior Side

Back: E. Matkowski, M. Antas, T. Doljanin, J. Zuraszek (Coach), G. Stepik, B. Barac, J. Antas, L. Kunda, J. Zak, J. Kostyrka.
Front: Z. Lyk, M. Zieba, B. Dora, S. Stepien, G. Morris

In 1963 coached by Max Gebauer, the club won the Southern Division 2 League and was promoted to the then Cambridge sponsored Southern League Division 1.

Southern Division 2 (Metropolitan League) - 1963

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**20**	**14**	**3**	**3**	**78**	**23**	**55**	**31**
UNIVERSITY	20	14	2	4	85	23	62	30
DNIPRO	20	12	5	3	78	25	53	29
WANDERERS ATHLETIC	20	9	1	10	56	62	-6	19
UNIVERSITY II	20	2	2	16	28	93	-65	6
SOUTH HOBART	20	2	1	17	25	124	-99	5

1962 - Celebration time (Photo courtesy of G. Morris)

Gary Morris receiving the top goalscorer award (Photo courtesy of G. Morris)

1963 Premiership Side

Back: B. Barac, T. Mile, H. Zoetsch, M. Gebauer (Coach), V. Neskovcin, S. Stepien, M. Zieba, M. Antas
Front: Z. Lyk, B. Osuchowski, B. Dora, E. Rosinski

1964 Senior Team

Back: Fairclough. B. Osuchowski, S. Rakowski, T. Steenhuis, K. Dolliver, F. Rawlings
Front: W. Ziehfreund, S Cairns, F. Laponis, F. Frowis, E. Rosinski

1966 Reserves

Back: B. Dora, S. Stepien, F. Banasik, E. Krupka, F. Laponis, M. Zieba, M. Prodanovic, E. Rosinski
Front: S. Cairns (Coach), P. Angel, A. Cislo, S. Murray

1967 Seniors

L-R: K. Dolliver, T. Steenhuis, C. Parums, B. Dora, F. Laponis, F. Rawlings, R. Gibson, B. Osuchowski, S. Stepien, E. Rosinski, D. Raspison.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) - Final Placings 1964 - 1967

Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
1964 - Division 1	14	3	2	9	14	40	11	7
1965 - Division 1	18	5	1	12	30	47	16	8
1966 - Division 1	14	4	3	7	19	25	15	6
1967 - Division 1	14	6	3	5	27	28	21	5

In 1967, the Eagle reserve side playing in the Metropolitan League 2, won the league remaining undefeated, amassing an impressive goal difference of 95.

Southern Division 2 (Metropolitan League) - 1967

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**21**	**20**	**1**	**0**	**102**	**7**	**95**	**41**
MALAYSIAN TIGERS	21	14	1	6	50	34	16	29
SOUTH HOBART UTD	21	10	0	11	60	36	24	20
UNIVERSITY GRADS	21	9	2	9	54	44	10	20
DNIPRO	21	10	0	10	45	39	6	20
OLYMPIA	21	8	0	13	47	50	-3	16
CLAREMONT	21	8	0	13	38	76	-38	16
TIGERS	21	2	0	19	18	128	-110	4

In 1968, the club had its most successful season in the 60's under the guidance of coach Jim Scally, finishing runners up in the finals play-off to Olympia, losing by a corner after the score was deadlocked 0-0 after extra time.

The team did however win the Association & George Evans Shields, and defeated Croatia 5-1 to win the Falkinder Cup.

Soccer in South begins today

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 4/3/68

The Tasmanian Soccer Association roster season will open today at Grove Rd., Glenorchy, with only one game instead of the two programmed for the split round.

Rangers' withdrawal this week left the association with the choice of having only seven teams in the Southern Premiership League, with the resultant bye each week, or invite a team to take Rangers' place.

They offered the place to Metro, but they decided they were not ready for a return to senior status, and University have now been approached to make the eighth team. Metro topped the Metropolitan Division 1 standings last season and had the opportunity of challenging Rapid (who finished in last place in 1967) for promotion, but did not do so, deciding to concentrate on this season's Metropolitan Division premiership with a view to seeking promotion in 1969.

University were second only to Metro last season. Metro's new coach Peter O'Brien, the former Rangers and Croatia winger, is concentrating on getting the club's 36 players really fit to see out the 90 minutes of a game.

South Hobart will open the roster at 2.40 p.m. at Glenorchy when they meet Juventus after the friendly between Rapid and Caledonians.

A feature of the new season will be the adoption of the new F.I.F.A. rule that any two players may be substituted at any time of the game at the discretion of the coach. The new rule will give an added advantage to the better placed clubs who have a number of first-class reserves.

Teams chosen: Juventus from K Jaeger, R. Carnevale, J. Rais, J. Lindsay, V. Tria, J. Hanna, P. Owen, J. Thornhill, P. Baker, P. Woods, T. Watson. Reserves: B. Cengia, D. Rizzolo. South Hobart: from Barnfield, Baker, Crawford, E and D Rawlings, West, Manson, Grimsey, D. Dolliver, Gibson, Bowles, Wells, Brooks, Hursey, Hankey.

Juventus open season on right foot for 4-2 win

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 4/3/68

JUVENTUS opened the Tasmanian Soccer Associations 1968 roster season with a 4-2 win over South Hobart before a large crowd at Grove Road Glenorchy on Saturday.

Juventus, who led 3-1 at half time, had three newcomers, Englishman Thornhill, who excelled at inside-right, Hanna, who was not at his best at wing-half, and Lindsay who showed out with his headwork in the centre-half berth. The winners opened strongly but fell away after the interval.

Rapid, who fielded a promising and youthful team, won 5-0 against Caledonians, for whom Wilson missed a penalty. Rangers players included in the Caledonian line-up were goalkeeper Nick Wilson, MacKinnon, Reid, Hobbs and Guyan. Worsey is still nursing an ankle injury, Bernard Siggins has only just resumed training after being on the injured list and Walner was not available because he is still playing cricket.

Juventus forfeit winning points

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 8/3/68

THE Tasmanian Soccer Association has decided that Juventus should forfeit the points they won through their defeat of South Hobart.

No registration forms for any of the Juventus players have been received, an association meeting was told. The Juventus delegate explained that the club member handling the registrations and team sheets, was admitted to hospital on Saturday morning and the club was under the impression that the registrations had been completed. The meeting voted 8-7 that Juventus should forfeit the points.

University have accepted an invitation to join the Southern Premiership League. They will fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Rangers. The Rapid v University game will be played on a date to be fixed.

Last season's premiers Olympia will be seen in action against Caledonians tomorrow. Olympia have lost several prominent players and Caledonians strengthened by ex-Rangers players, could be hard to beat.

Croatia, with a new coach and some new players in their line-up, face White Eagles who have been weakened by the loss of Mathias, back with Rapid, and Keith Dolliver, retired.

Juventus to appeal on forfeit

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 13/3/68

Juventus have decided to appeal against the Tasmanian Soccer Association decision that they should forfeit the points for their 4-2 win over South Hobart in the opening league game of the season.

The T.S.A. executive found that no registration forms for any of the Juventus players bad been received and did not accept the explanation that unknown to the club, the Juventus delegate with the names for registration had been admitted to hospital.

The club's secretary (Mr. Ray Salter) said there were very strong reasons for the appeal against the loss of the points and added that Dr. J. Clemente would be handling the appeal for the club.

Wild scenes at soccer final: Policeman hurt

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 10/4/68

A Police officer was punched and kicked, as he protected a senior soccer referee from an angry crowd, after an eventful Ampol State Cup final in which Olympia beat Croatia 2-1 at South Hobart yesterday.

Women screamed as the crowd surged forward to the stand rail to see what was happening. Constable R. E. Stephen, of the South Hobart police station, was mauled while getting referee Roger Marlor against the wall, so that he could protect him. The attack came within a few yards of the referee's room.

Const. Stephen, the only police officer on the ground for this “needle” game, saved the referee from serious injury, and was himself fortunate to come out with only a few cuts and bruises. Only the press of the crowd kept him on his feet.

Almost immediately after this, a series of fights broke out among about 300 spectators, who went on to the ground for the presentation ceremony.

Fists flew as rival groups clashed, and several persons knocked down were kicked as they lay on the ground in one of the worst brawls seen at South Hobart.

Just as things had quietened down, a supporter started the chant "Olympia, Olympia," and a man went on to the ground carrying the Olympia flag.

This sparked off another battle of bigger proportions, that was stopped only when officials of both clubs intervened. Police questioned four men, and are continuing their investigations. No report was made of any casualties, but there were a number of black eyes and bleeding noses.

The brawls came after a hard and rough game in which Nadanic (Croatia) was sent off the field by Marlor in the second half with Olympia leading 2-0, and Vagianos (Olympia) received his marching orders with two minutes to go and Olympia leading 2-1. Croatia players Nadanic, Desic and Skaro all had their names taken before players were sent off.

⚽ Brawling clubs will face fine

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 17/4/68

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN soccer clubs whose players or spectators cause brawls such as that at South Hobart on Monday, will face a minimum fine of $500 and possible suspension. And the committee to try such a case will comprise The Tasmanian Soccer Association's independent members.

This was decided last night by the T.S.A. executive at its routine meeting, after the chairman (Mr. V. Tuting) had said he would have nothing to do with the game if there was any repetition of what had happened in the Olympia v Croatia match on Monday.

“The scenes that followed the end of the game were disgraceful and disgusting, and unless you are very carful the ground will be taken away from you.”

He appealed to club players and followers to try to put the game back on its feet. “Only hotheads, larrikins, and hooligans are doing this disservice,” he added.

Olympia delegate Mr. D Finegan said the only way to stop this sort of thing was to fine an offending club $500 if it was proved it was responsible.

Mr. J. Steen (independent) thought the cause was a nationalistic one and said national teams should be avoided by the introduction of district teams.

Caledonians submitted a letter calling for strong action against the Croatia club, stating that the behaviour of some of the Croatia players and their supporters was "totally inexcusable and it is a wonder that some spectators were not seriously injured”.

The executive decided to send a letter to the Croatia coach (Brezna), severely censuring him for going on the field during play. It also agreed to inform the police authorities, that more than one policeman was needed for matches. Last season four attended games at South Hobart.

⚽ Croatia play with purpose to gain place in final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 3/6/68

CROATIA outplayed Olympia to win 3-1 in a Falkinder Cup soccer semi-final at South Hobart on Saturday.

Quicker on the ball and playing with much more purpose, they led 2-0 at half-time through goals by centre forward Tony Skaro. They were pegged back to 2-1 by a penalty and scored the last goal 14 minutes before time.

Croatia lost Plezanic when he collided with team-mate Skaro. Babic took his place. Croatia opened the scoring, when Skaro headed in a free kick by Gjurbuzovic against Vagianos' deliberate handling of the ball. Then Skaro scored again in the 31st minute, when Lynas misjudged a high shot from Leung.

Hands against Letec in the penalty area in the 54th minute saw Richards convert the spot kick, but Olympia’s hopes of forcing a draw in the gathering darkness were shattered when a high curling free kick by Gjurbuzovic beat Lynas to make It 3-1.

Kotler and Letec were the mainstays of Croatia, while Girling held a wavering Olympia side together in another of those hard, tough games in which referee de Witt cautioned three players on each side. Plezanic was detained at the Royal Hobart Hospital for four hours before he was allowed to leave.

Two hand balls in the area by Biggar could have cost White Eagles a place the final, but after Goodman had kicked the first penalty straight at Siggins, they opened the scoring, and Hanna's goal from the second penalty caused extra time to be played.

The first few minutes of extra time were charged with drama as Osuchowski forced a corner, Carnevale was ordered off – allegedly for dissenting referee Marlor’s decision – Jefferson scored his second goal for White Eagles, and Juventus captain Hanna was given his marching orders for allegedly arguing with the referee and gripping his arm.

But with nine men, Juventus came on terms in corners if not in goals, before Osuchowski scored for White Eagles, who had another corner for good measure. Juventus, who were without Parker, Jaegar and Thornhill, wasted potential match-winner Owen at centre-forward and were well beaten. In fact, they could have lost much more heavily had Jefferson, McCann and particularly Osuchowski been on target.

Paddy Gibson (South Hobart) should have had a feast of goals against University in their Southern Premiership League game, and he even missed a penalty, to allow University to force a goalless draw and pick up their first point in the roster.

New Scottish coach John Kirkpatrick made a very favourable impression in his debut for South, showing fine ball control and a football brain.

⚽ Croatia out of top four

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 17/6/1968

CROATIA badly missed Bruno Kotler and Tony Skaro on Saturday, fell heavily into the offside trap set by White Eagles coach Jim Scally, and as a result ore out of the top soccer four.

Kotler withdrew from the side about 10 minutes before the game, and Croatia's defeat could be attributed in no small measure to his absence.

White Eagles crossed over a goal down after having had their chances. They equalised in the first minute of the second half, when a free kick by Osuchowski came off defender Krizanavic past Udovicic. The winning goal by Jefferson, was a fine left footed drive after he had been sent through the centre with a glorious pass from Graham m the 59th minute.

As Croatia saw the game slipping away against a side that was maintaining their early pace, they became even more sensitive to the offside trap that was holding them up, and this minimised their prospects of saving the match.

Graham's distribution was one of the features of the encounter as besides the match-winning pass he sent Jefferson in again in the closing stages only to see him lose control of the ball when a goal seemed certain. White Eagles are now all square with Croatia, against whom they have won, drawn, and lost this season, and they have taken three roster points from them.

It took Juventus a whole half to assert their superiority over South Hobart and won 3-1 after being a goal down and 1-1 at half-time in a very poor game. At least 12 of the 22 players on view did not deserve a place in this class of soccer.

South's new coach John Kirkpatrick will make his mark, as he is a very business-like wing-half apart from his undoubted coaching ability.

Juventus could be strengthened by the return of Jaeger and Carnevale, but they need a lot more snap up forward if they are to be a premiership threat. They could do with some new talent and could make better use of the talent they have.

Rapid showed the effects of a couple of weeks' layup and beat University only 2-1 after a 6-0 first round effort. University scored first, about 10 minutes after the start through Sumner. Then came a solo effort equaliser by Zoetsch, and Foster netted the decider all before the interval.

Caledonians made a game of it in the first half against Olympia, and could have crossed over on level term instead of 2-1 down, as Arnott hit an upright. But from then on it was all Olympia, and they won 5-1 looking as if they have a very firm grip on the premiership.

Ex-State goalkeeper Harry Alexiadis was back between the posts instead of at centre-forward, and this gave young Raoul Madden a chance on the left-wing. Madden impressed with a good goal and a promising display.

Caledonians had an early setback, when Fergus Brown had to go off with a pulled tendon at the top of the ankle 10 minutes after the start. He was replaced by Bobby Biggar.

⚽ Soccer tribunal airs grouch

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 26/6/68

THE soccer investigation committee has complained to the T.S.A. executive about the absence of referees from tribunal hearings.

Committee members say that cases are being dismissed because of insufficient and unexplained detail in supposedly comprehensive reports of incidents.

At last night's meeting of the T.S.A. executive Mr. R. Marlor (referees' delegate) said referees did not attend because of being kept standing around for a couple of hours and then finishing up on trial themselves.

The executive also questioned the choice of referees for the various games, and a suggestion was made that a sub-committee consisting of two executive delegates and one referees' delegate should make the appointments. It will be referred back to the referees.

⚽ Eagles break hoodoo: First win against Olympia for five seasons

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 1/7/1968

WHITE EAGLES recorded their first win against Olympia in five seasons of senior soccer when they beat them 2-1 after a hectic second half at South Hobart on Saturday. And with Juventus beating Croatia 4-2, and South Hobart holding Rapid to a 1-1 draw, Olympia's previous two-point advantage has been whittled down to equal leadership with Juventus, one point ahead of White Eagles and two points in front of Rapid.

In the absence of Shacklady (influenza), Parkin (leg injury), and skipper Girling (ankle injury), Olympia recalled Huddlestone to lead the attack, remembering that he scored five goals in one game against White Eagles last season, and State wing-half Richards was at inside forward.

But Huddlestone was without match practice and Girling took his place in the second half and brought Richards back into the intermediate line for Olympia to show something like their usual form.

Where they relied surprisingly on big kicking in the first half to get their forwards moving, they resorted to close passing tactics in the second term with a two-goal deficit, and they could have won without surprising. White Eagles took the shortest route to goal. Wing half Stewart headed in the first goal from a corner kick in the 26th minute and Jefferson's good solo effort goal came just before half time.

Lachie Vagianos who captained Olympia in what could have been his last game with them, made up for the lapse that enabled Jefferson to score by heading past Siggins from a free kick against Stewart in the 59th minute.

Olympia could have goaled through Stanton, Schwesinger, Alexiadis, Girling and Vagianos, and White Eagles also put pressure on Roussos through Jefferson and Osuchowski as the tension mounted.

David Siggins was at his brilliant best in the White Eagles' goal, and at the other end Roussos, still worried by a knee injury, showed vast improvement on his form of the previous week.

White Eagles' defence did well under the pounding it received in the second half, and the addition of another goal-scoring forward in this side would make it a very formidable combination.

Vagianos, who had his only roster hat-trick against White Eagles – in 1965 – left for Adelaide yesterday to be given a trial by the Greek club Adelaide Hellas.

A four-figure transfer fee has been mentioned and Hellas want to see him in action. If terms are satisfactory, he will be cleared immediately by Olympia.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) - Standings (after 10 games)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	10	7	1	2	29	10	15
Juventus	10	7	1	2	26	17	15
White Eagle	**10**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**22**	**14**	**14**
Rapid	10	5	3	2	24	17	13
Croatia	10	4	2	4	23	19	10
South Hobart	10	1	4	5	13	24	6
Caledonians	10	2	1	7	9	23	5
University	10	0	2	8	6	38	2

Leading Goalscorers: Skaro 9, Parker, Gibson 8, Foster 7, Alexiadis, Bachinger, Jefferson, McCann 6

⚽ Croatia's in-and-out form makes them a risky bet for cup final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 5/7/1968

CROATIA have the talent to win the Falkinder Cup soccer final tomorrow against White Eagles but are far too unpredictable to be followed with confidence, and they had only four players at training on Tuesday.

Frank Letec and Tony Skaro will be back in the side, but Croatia say Bruno Kotler will not play, although they also said this last week. He played and was sent off for kicking an opponent.

Referee's delegate R. Marlor said last night that referee A. Lanningan was abused by Croatia player Nadanic as he was leaving the field on Saturday. Lanningan had told Nadanic he was not being cautioned but was being sent off the field. They will appear before the investigation committee next Thursday.

With Letec at centre-half and Cahut at left-back, Croatia could have a very solid defence with striking power up forward with players like Skaro, Leung, Fiamenco and Nadanic.

Unlike Croatia, who won this competition in 1964, White Eagles have not won a senior trophy in their five years in top-grade soccer, and they are keen to take this one out. They have a strong defence, although it wavered last Saturday against an Olympia side below full-strength, but the attack relies too much on centre-forward Jefferson for the goals.

Unbeaten in their past seven games, White Eagles drew 4-4 and beat Croatia 2-1 in the roster series and lost 2-3 in the Ampol Cup competition to them.

It should be a hard and close game with the result going either way. It will depend largely on the form of Skaro, who has scored every time he has played against White Eagles this season, and that of White Eagles' goalkeeper David Siggins, whose form has been in and out this season.

Teams: **White Eagles:** D. Siggins, Honeyman, F. Rawlings, Stewart, J. Biggar, Stoddart (capt) Osuchowski, Graham, Jefferson, McCann, Lundin, Reserve Watson. **Croatia:** Udovicic, Zapatocki, Cahut, Plezanic, Letec (capt), Gjurbuzovic, Krizanovic, Hawes, Skaro, Leung, Fiamenco, Babic, Knapek, Glasovac.

⚽ White Eagles look goods in Falkinder Cup win over Croatia

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 8/7/68

THERE was jubilation in the White Eagles soccer camp on Saturday when they won the Falkinder Cup, their first major success in five years in the top division, by defeating Croatia 5-1.

Coach Jim Scally's boys looked a good team in the first half. They secured a winning two-goal lead in the first eight minutes through swinging the ball about and made it four goals by half-time. Then, when Croatia fought back after the interval, White Eagles' defence took a hammering just as they did against Olympia in the second half the previous week.

On Saturday they eased up and lost their effectiveness to such an extent that Croatia could have forced a draw without surprising.

1968 Falkinder Cup Winners
Back: I Stewart, P Angel (Mgr.), J. Graham, J. Biggar, F. Rawlins, D. Jefferson, I. Honeyman, J. Scally (Coach)
Front: K. Lundin (Olsen), B. Osuchowski, H. McCann, D. Siggins, D. Stoddart. Watson.

John Biggar played Skaro out of the game and his one attempt at goal was so hurried that it was easily handled by David Siggins. Letec was not at his fittest before the game started, and a heavy collision early left him only a shadow of his usual self. Centre-forward Jefferson was on target again with a goal in each half and he has now scored 14 goals this season. But what is more important, he has scored in 10 out of the 12 games in which White Eagles has scored.

White Eagles' wingers Lundin and Osuchowski were dangerous throughout and most of the goals eventuated from moves down these flanks. Croatia did not field goalkeeper Udovicic, who was reported to be in Burnie, Kotler, who has clashed with the committee, and Nadanic, who is reported to be suspended by the club. In their absence they had full-back Marlin in goal, left-winger Fiamenco at centre-half, and Krizanovic was replaced in the 28th minute by teenager Belac.

The line-up was as surprising to the players themselves as it was to spectators, and they were so ragged in the opening minutes that they could have easily given up. But Letec held them together and a late arrival could have been excused had he thought they were winning instead of losing 1-4. They scored their lone goal five minutes before half time when coach Zemunik followed up a shot from Letec that had crashed against an upright.

Then after half-time, Zemunik had the goal at his mercy but only tapped the ball to Siggins, who two minutes later, saved a point-blank shot from Letec. Four minutes later the ball cannoned off an upright in a wild melee in the White Eagles' goal mouth, and Honeyman later headed from off the goal line when Zemunik seemed certain to score with a powerful shot.

White Eagles scored their fifth goal eight minutes from time when Jefferson cleverly tapped the ball over the head of Fiamenco and then flashed in an unstoppable shot. Croatia's main problem was getting the ball up to their attack, and when it came it was so laboriously done, that the forwards had run into the well-laid off-side trap.

White Eagles, on the other hand, scored five goals from eight chances to record their fifth successive win, and avenge a 2-3 defeat by Croatia in the Ampol Cup. They missed McCann in the second half as he pulled a muscle and had to be replaced.

⚽ Leading teams to meet in cut-throat roster

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/7/68

THE Southern Premiership Soccer League is wide open with three matches to go, and four of the top five teams play one another tomorrow.

• Olympia have won only one of their past five, but should beat University at Glenorchy to· maintain their leadership.
• Juventus are back to full strength, but could find White Eagles too solid although a draw would not surprise.
• Having their last chance to make the four, Croatia can be expected to throw everything they have into their game against the light Rapid side, and they could reverse an earlier 3-0 defeat.

Skaro will be leading the Croatian attack, but Letec is still hobbling and may not last more than one half. Gjurbuzovic is injured, Udovicic is in Burnie, Babic is in the Army, and Kotler and Nadanic are suspended. But they have a rugged defence, and several sharp shooters up forward, particularly Zemunik.

Juventus have dropped Rizzolo, but Cengia is available after being kicked in the face last week, and Goodman will be back after missing one game.

White Eagles, unbeaten in nine games, have built a solid combination with the emphasis on defence and tricky wingers, and a good spearhead in Jefferson.

Juventus have signed Troup, who has played for Stockport County in the fourth division of the English league, and he will try out at right-back with the reserves tomorrow.

Caledonians play South Hobart in the game of the day at Glenorchy and will be confident of victory after upsetting Juventus last week. Arnott will be back to direct the attack, and with Mackinnon improving with every game at centre-half, Caledonians should again do well.

Terry Collins, an Englishman who has been in Hobart only a couple of weeks, has joined Caledonians as a goalkeeper or full-back. This could encourage a suggestion that they try to exchange goalkeeper Nick Wilson for John Lynas, of Olympia.

South, who have held Rapid and Olympia to draws, will be without centre-forward Gibson and full-back Barker.

University, who have improved greatly with draws against Caledonians and White Eagles in their most recent games, have been handicapped by missing outdoor practice on Wednesday, but are hopeful of extending the leaders.

Olympia have not solved their centre-half vacancy caused by the departure of Vagianos, but Richards is getting another chance there.

Northern Juventus finished at the top of the standings in the North, but for the first time there will be a final four competition.

⚽ Croatia's first premiership diminish further with loss to Rapid

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 22/7/68

CROATIA, who started the soccer season with such promise of going close to their first premiership, lost 2-3 to Rapid on Saturday and now need only the slightest nudge to have no chance whatever.

They started with 10 men and were a goal down straight from the kick-off. They scored the only goal of the second half, and could have forced a draw with better distribution of their resources, as Letec and Gjurbuzovic were wasted on the wings.

Pfund was very shaky in Rapid's goal and was fortunate Croatia did not pepper him with shots. Coach Tom McLoughlin caught Croatia napping when he threw star centre-half Egon Mathias into the attack with the wind and used Zoetsch to watch Skaro and Zemunik.

Mathias supplied the passes for two goals and scored a goal himself - and Zoetsch kept a close watch on the Croatian sharp-shooters. It was a game that will be remembered more for the many foul tackles and differences behind play rather than for any particular prowess shown.

Zoetsch, who tripped Zemunik when he was going through for what must have been a certain goal, and Fiamenco and Cahut had their names taken by referee Marlor.

Juventus had the advantage of an early goal against White Eagles, but they lost it four minutes later when Hanna helped the ball into his own net in a goalmouth scrimmage, and they were down 1-2 seven minutes afterwards.

Hanna missed a penalty for hands against Stewart, and Wood wasted a good chance before they came on terms in the 75th minute, only to see Jefferson go through the centre to score the decider with 10 minutes to go.

The defeat saw Juventus slump from second to fourth place. McCann was replaced in the second half by Watson, who missed a certain goal immediately after.

White Eagles, who are coming good at the right time, again played well as a team, and this is their main strength. David Siggins was in adventuresome mood in goal and was lucky several times to see the ball scrambled away after he left his charge and failed to collect the ball.

Centre-forward Dave Jefferson again showed what a greatly improved player he is, nodding in a centre from Stewart and then racing through the centre to score his second goal to bring his roster tally to eight and his season's bag to 16.

Tony Parker's two goals for Juventus brought him on level terms with Skaro at the top of the individual goalscoring list for the roster competition – and he has the easier final two games.

A lone goal by skipper Arnott five minutes after the start of the second half gave Caledonians the points against South Hobart at Glenorchy.

An unusual feature of the Olympia-University game was that Olympia captain Dick Girling sent State player Norman Stanton off the field after he had taken and missed a penalty kick without instructions. Stanton will be called before the club's committee to explain his action.

Parkin's hat-trick in this game, won by Olympia 5-0, was the first for Olympia this season.

⚽ Police request on soccer

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 24/7/68

THE police have asked for greater protection for referees at the South Hobart soccer ground. A letter from the Commissioner (Mr. P. W. Fletcher) read at last night's T.S.A. executive meeting called for the use by referees of the basketball building, the recreation hall, or a caravan to be placed near the caretaker's cottage.

It said that police could not accept the position of having to escort referees through dense crowds in the conditions that existed at South Hobart.

It asked for the present open railing fence from the entrance turnstile to the eastern end of the grandstand to be converted to cyclone or another solid type of fence so the spectators could not duck under the rail and go on to the playing area.

The request was also made for the extension of the fence on the far side of the ground toward the caretaker's cottage. This was the sequel to the brawl at this ground on April 15 after Olympia had beaten Croatia 2-1 and a police officer was punched and kicked as he protected the referee.

Olympia were fined in their absence the referees' fees for games they forfeited to Dnipro and Southern Cross in Metropolitan Division 2 on July 6 and 20.

A motion that any club be fined $10 plus the referee's fee for any future failure to play without giving due notice by 7 p.m. on the day before the game was lost by a 6-4 vote after there had been a 5-5 dead-lock at the first count. The executive confirmed that there would be a final four competition.

The permits committee reported that Nick Wilson of Caledonians was an amateur, but it could not accept his application for a clearance to Olympia because he had applied after the expiration date for transfers - April 30. It was now up to the two clubs to reach an agreement.

It was agreed to pay the referees $10 for providing a results service. Messrs. C. Leslie, D. Whitchurch and W. Worsey were appointed to form a sub-committee to get the constitution ready for distribution among members.

⚽Croatia triumph in mud, but leave win fortnight too late

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 5/8/68

CROATIA left their winning effort against Olympia two weeks too late, and their deserved 2-1 success in the mud on Saturday did not give them a place in the Southern Tasmanian soccer four.

White Eagles, who beat South Hobart 3-1, are almost certain to have the two chances in the play-off series, and are followed by Olympia, Juventus and Rapid each of whom could fill second place. The last round of roster matches – with previous scores – is White Eagles v Rapid (0-0), Olympia v Juventus (4-2), - the four top teams – and Croatia v Caledonians (3-2), and South Hobart v University (0-0).

With one game to go Juventus centre-forward Tony Parker has taken a one-goal lead over Tony Skaro (Croatia), last year's winner, and two over Dave Jefferson (White Eagles), in his bid to be leading roster goalscorer.

The top teams were glad over Croatia's failure to reach the final four as they have always been capable of rising to any heights at the least expected time and that was what they did on Saturday.

Olympia were without Harper who could not get down from Bell Bay, Richards and Stanton, but scored first through a solo effort by Huddlestone in the 38th minute.

Croatia equalised three minutes later when full-back Zapatocki went up on the right to make an opening for Skaro, and they dominated play in the second half to score the decider four minutes from time when teenager Glasovac centred for Zemunik to head into the net. It avenged Olympias earlier 2-1 roster win, and the sides are now level with two wins each from their encounters this season - and Olympia are one goal up.

Croatia's win was further evidence of the value of rangy Bruno Kotler, who has been their best player this season. His return after an absence of four weeks gave them incentive and restored their play from that of individuals to something approaching teamwork.

Olympia, who will have Parkin for only one more game have won only two of their second-round games and are by no means a safe bet for the premiership. Absentees, injuries and enforced positional changes have undermined confidence.

Aided by a fine hat-trick by centre-forward Tony Walner, Caledonians nearly became only the second team to defeat Rapid this season. Opening the scoring, Caledonians were 1-2 at half-time and led 4-3 with only 14 minutes to go in the most exciting match of the season. Both goalkeepers Pfund and Leslie, brough off brilliant saves as forwards were sent through the centre time and again with long passes.

Coach Tom McLoughlin, who used Mathias at centre-half and Foster at centre-forward, must have been glad to see a fit looking Bill Ziehfreund sitting in the stand. Former star Ziehfreund, who is working at Savage River would be a very welcome surprise packet for the final four series as he is still a member of Rapid.

White Eagles continued on their winning way, beating South Hobart 3-1, after being 2-0 at half time, and Jefferson could have had a hat-trick but for a penalty kick hitting an upright in the last few minutes.

Juventus took full advantage of defensive lapses by University and increased a 3-0 interval lead to a 6-2 win

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) - Standings (after 13 games)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**13**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**30**	**19**	**19**
Olympia	13	8	2	3	36	13	18
Juventus	13	8	1	4	35	24	17
Rapid	13	6	5	2	32	24	17
Croatia	13	6	2	5	31	24	14
Caledonians	13	4	2	7	26	28	10
South Hobart	13	1	4	8	15	32	6
University	13	0	3	10	10	51	3

Leading Goalscorers: Parker 12, Skaro 11, Jefferson 10, Gibson, Foster 9, Rizzolo 7, Walner, Alexiadis, Bachinger, McCann, Arnott 6

⚽Clash of top four to produce best club soccer for years

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 9/8/68

TWO of the most exciting soccer matches at South Hobart in years are expected tomorrow when the top teams battle for the best positions in the final four.

And indications last night were that no fresh talent would be introduced, despite the fact that intrastate transfers are allowed. Croatia said that none of their players would be cleared or "loaned" this season.

Any one of the four teams playing at South Hobart tomorrow could end up in first or second position in the final Southern League standings.

White Eagles and Rapid will have the advantage tomorrow - they clash after the Olympia v Juventus game. The standings before the final round: White Eagles, 19pts, Olympia 18pts, Juventus, 17pts, Rapid 17pts.

Olympia are again in trouble as Harper may not be able to travel from Bell Bay, but Richards will be at centre-half again. Stanton is still unavailable, and Parkin is playing in what could be his last game before going to Sydney, although there is talk of bringing him back.

Juventus will have Goodman at wing-half after being out for two games, but they will have the pressure on them from Olympia's ace strategist Girling, and link forwards Harper and Shacklady should establish a midfield superiority for Olympia. Olympia, who have beaten Juventus 4-2 (they led 3-0) and then 3-0, could make it a winning hat-trick.

A confident White Eagles team may prove too solid for the young Rapid side, although it was only goalkeeper David Siggins who kept Rapid to a goalless draw in their only other meeting this season. White Eagles were forced on the defensive by both Olympia and Juventus in recent games, but they recovered, and it was hard to find the gaps.

Mathias will be needed to look after the goal happy Jefferson. Foster could then lead the Rapid attack with Zoetsch at wing-half. White Eagles are unbeaten in 12 games and their teamwork should match the finesse of a less experienced side when the chips are down.

Croatia will have Krisanavic, who has returned from West Australia, and will be out to repeat their earlier 3-2 win over Caledonians. There should not be much between the two sides and Caledonians last week showed form good enough to beat Croatia, especially at Grove Road.

Ray McGuiness, who played for South Hobart in their 1959 premiership team, will be returning to the senior team after a number of conditioning games at wing-half for Dynamos, whom he has been managing. South are also hoping to have West back.

University were lucky to hold South to a goal-less draw last time and tomorrow they will be without goalkeeper Carson, who has a chipped bone in a hand, and Fuller and Hans Steen are also injured. On the credit side, Groothuis will be back in the attack.

Alexiadis (Olympia) visited the Alexandria Club in Melbourne, but was unable to get a clearance for Robbie Sharpe, a Scot who has joined the Hydro Electric Commission and is likely to be in Hobart for at least two years. Sharpe played top class soccer in Melbourne.

⚽ Fights erupt, Girling injured, referee, rejects replacement

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 12/8/68

RAPID beat White Eagles 7-5 but failed narrowly to reach second position on the Southern soccer premiership ladder on Saturday during a drama-packed afternoon at South Hobart.

David Jones' fifth goal for White Eagles in the last three minutes robbed Rapid of second place on goal average.

The drama came in the Olympia - Juventus game. Olympia came from 0-1 at half-time, to beat Juventus 4-2, but before the final siren went:

• Olympia captain Dick Girling dislocated his shoulder in a heavy collision with Owen.
• Olympia forward Alexiadis and Juventus goalkeeper Cengia were sent off the field for fighting after spectators had come onto the field near the Juventus goal.
• Referee Dolliver refused to allow Jaegar to come on as goalkeeper in the second half as Juventus had not listed any reserves on their team sheet.
• Juventus centre-forward Tony Parker made almost certain of winning the individual roster goalscoring award by converting a penalty.

Juventus who were without Goodman, paid the penalty for not naming reserves on their team-sheet. Their action in withdrawing Rizzolo, and sending Jaegar on in the second half, was unacceptable to referee Dolliver. Rizzolo was then goalkeeper. After looking the better side, Juventus eased up to ley Olympia back into the game.

Olympia now hold first place for the fourth year in succession and the fifth in six years.

Juventus led early, but were crippled by the loss of Cengia, they saw Olympia equalise in the 65th, and take the lead within four minutes. A Juventus penalty against Parker brought an equaliser, but Olympia scored in the last seven minutes.

Alexiadis and Cengia were sent off for fighting after a clash between Huddlestone and Carnevale in the Juventus goalmouth had brought several spectators onto the field. However, police and the referee handled the situation well and order was restored almost immediately.

Huddlestone was booed as he returned at half-time, almost touching off another brawl in front of the stand. There also were a number of arguments before the end of the game. The referee and linesmen did not come into contact with the crowd. They changed in the basketball building.

White Eagles, who were beaten for the first time in 12 games, were unlucky to lose goalkeeper David Siggins after a collision with team colleague Honeyman early in the game. They did not have a reserve goalkeeper and Stewart and Biggar filled the position in turn, while Watson and then McCann were used as replacements.

Rapid crossed over 2-2 and it was when they reached 5-2 that they took the all-important lead over White Eagles on goal average. They consolidated it by going to 6-2 with 12 minutes to go and still held it at 6-3 when McCann scored from an indirect free kick near goal, but later lost it when Jefferson scored his second goal with seven minutes left.

Foster then completed his hat trick to put Rapid 7-4 and ahead again on goal average, but a minute later goalkeeper Pfund mishandled and presented Jones, making a rare appearance for White Eagles, with a gift goal.

Six goals came in the last 15 minutes and Rapid's goal average fluctuated from 0.09, 0.18 and 1.08 up on White Eagles, to 0.01 down, 0.09 up and then a final 0.0013 down.

White Eagles have seldom played as badly, but were thoroughly disorganised by the loss of Siggins who complained of affected vision.

Rapid played their usual fast and open game and were not ahead at the interval because of crowding one another in attack and not using the full width of the field to advantage. They will have to play Juventus, the only team to beat them in the roster in the second semi-final, and even though they are amateurs they will take some stopping.

Centre-forward Wally Foster produced the form that got him into the State squad and he finished only one goal behind Parker, together with Saturdays rival centre-forward Dave Jefferson.

Tony Skaro did not have a chance to score on Saturday as Croatia's game against Caledonians was postponed because the Glenorchy ground was waterlogged.

University scored first against South, who equalised in the second half, The two sides also drew their first encounter.

⚽ Olympia will play Sharpe in semi

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 21/8/68

SCOTTISH soccer player Bob Sharpe, who received professional offers from six clubs before coming to Australia from Glasgow, will play for Olympia on Saturday in the first semi-final against White Eagles.

The TSA executive could find nothing in its constitution last night to stop him playing, provided he had the necessary clearance from the Melbourne club Alexander, for whom he played before coming to Hobart early last month.

Members were told by Olympia delegate Mr D. Finegan that the Australian Soccer Federation secretary (Mr I. McAndrew) had told him that a move to get all States to agree to a set date after which transfers could not be made had been impossible to implement this season.

Mr McAndrew said such a move would affect State constitutions and necessitate the calling of special general meetings. Mr Finegan said Mr McAndrew had intimated this was a local matter and in his opinion permissible if there was proof that negotiations for the transfer were started before August 1.

Mr Finegan said there was no question of stacking the side just for the final four. "Sharpe came to Hobart in July and attended two training sessions of Olympia after a chance meeting with one of the Olympia team and he signed for the club on August 1."

Mr McAndrew said on August 7 that there had been an all-States agreement not to transfer players interstate between August 1 and October 30. However, on August 15, the Victorian club Melbourne, signed on two players from fellow Hungarian club in Sydney, St George Budapest, and no action was apparently taken.

Sharpe plays equally well at centre-forward or on the wing and would greatly strengthen the Olympia attack. Mr Finegan said he had been cleared verbally, the clearance itself would be needed before he could play on Saturday.

⚽ Newcomer Sharpe to be surprise packet in Olympia team

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 23/8/68

NEWCOMER Bob Sharpe will play for Olympia in their soccer semi-final against White Eagles at South Hobart tomorrow.

Harper is expected to return from Bell Bay, Parkin from Sydney, and Stanton is fit after missing a couple of games. But Olympia have lost Alexiadis, who was suspended last night, and skipper Girling still has a shoulder injury. Sharpe can be used at centre-forward or on a wing and could be a surprise packet.

It has been suggested exception could be taken to Sharpe's clearance from Alexander at this late date, but any move to stop the transfer should have been made at Tuesday's TSA executive meeting. Olympia were given the green light by the executive and should have its full backing.

White Eagles goalkeeper David Siggins is reported to have influenza. Reserve goalkeeper Wallace is in hospital after a car accident and other goalkeepers Rakowski (back) and Dora (ankle) are injured.

White Eagles beat Olympia last week, but Olympia are much stronger tomorrow and should win. Quinn had a good look at Jefferson last week, and will not be giving him the same latitude. Winger Osuchowski is striking his best form and will need careful watching.

White Eagles successes have often been influenced by Siggins' form in goal, and he could be thoroughly tested by a clever attack.

Rapid are unchanged for their game against Juventus, who have Goodman back after missing several games. Rapid have lost all their four games against Juventus this season - Croatia are the only other club to beat them, but they were very unlucky to lose last week after a great recovery. If they use the ball and forget individual play, they have the ball control, speed, and talent to run all over Juventus.

So it looks very much as if the winners of last week's final four preview will be this week's losers. A Juventus defeat will see them without a game until the Association Cup final on September 28.

The new bottom four competition for a $60 cash bonus will get under way with two games at Glenorchy - and as the Caledonians - Croatia match is the only outstanding Southern Premiership League roster fixture whatever goals Skaro scores will count for the individual goalscoring award.

Skaro is two goals behind Parker, and one goal behind Jefferson and Foster, but he will find Hugh Mackinnon a much-improved centre-half.

⚽ TSA to rule on Olympia's playing Bob Sharpe without clearance

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 26/8/68

OLYMPIA took a calculated risk in playing Scottish newcomer Bob Sharpe, from the Melbourne club Alexander on Saturday, without having the necessary Victorian Soccer Federation clearance in writing.

A TSA executive meeting will decide this week whether their 2-1 win over White Eagles in the premiership semi-final is in order, needs replaying, or is to be forfeited.

State council secretary Mr Les Smith said he had been told over the phone by the VSF secretary, Mr Edgar, that the clearance was in order – and after the game on Saturday referee R. Marlor was given a letter from Alexander dated August 22 saying Sharpe was free for transfer.

Absence of the usual clearance in writing has caused much confusion, but indications are that a VSF clearance dated before Saturday's game could be acceptable.

Meanwhile, Olympia have in Sharpe a newcomer nowhere near as good as expected. Centre-forward Ted Huddlestone who was rapidly returning to top form left the field with an injured leg that could keep him out for several weeks and winger Parkin did not return from Sydney.

Olympia reversed the previous week's decision against White Eagles but were far from impressive. Opposing centre-forward Jefferson could have had a hat-trick instead of a retaken penalty goal because Roussos moved before he took the first kick and saved the shot. And winger Osuchowski had at least two chances to score.

Olympia took the lead in the 40th minute through Shacklady, and Huddlestone went through from what looked to be an offside position for the second goal three minutes after the resumption. Jefferson scored for White Eagles from the penalty spot with 10 minutes to go.

Harper's return greatly strengthened the Olympia defence and full-back Schwesinger was sent up on the wing to bolster an attack that badly missed Alexiadis.

White Eagles' strength was again in defence in which Stewart stood out as their forwards wasted chances.

Rapid beat Juventus by a corner scored in the first minute of the second half of extra time, but they had made things hard for themselves and came close to defeat as a result.

Their ball control was upset by the stiff breeze and both defences persisted in big kicking that cut midfield play down to almost a minimum. But for all that Rapid had many scoring chances which they threw away by the wrong player shooting from a difficult angle.

Right-back Franz Fischer played Rizzolo right out of the game and forced Juventus to sacrifice ball player Wood on the wing, and this weakened the Juventus attack further.

Zoetsch played the major role of holding down the centre, and Bachinger was the danger up forward. Centre-half Hanna held Juventus together, but for the second week running they were flattered by the result. Centre-forward Tony Parker led the side in what could have been his last appearance in a senior game as he leaves for the United State on September 2. Juventus do not have another game until the Association Cup Final on September 28.

Rapid opened the scoring in the 20th minute, when Jack Dilba deflected a centre by Bachinger past Jaegar, and Juventus equalised seven minutes later when Lindsay converted a free kick. Juventus forced the first corner, but then conceded two others.

⚽ Rapid to repeat form by tossing White Eagles out

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 30/8/1968

AMATEUR club Rapid, the only team White Eagles failed to beat in the roster competition, should repeat the dose by winning tomorrow's soccer preliminary final at South Hobart.

A hard, dry ground would give Rapid a very big advantage as they are faster and possess better ball control. In the first 0-0 encounter, White Eagles were saved by brilliant goalkeeping by David Siggins, and then only a couple of weeks ago Rapid piled on seven goals against them to fall by only 0.0013 of a goal to get second position in the final standings.

They were not as impressive against Juventus last week and will need to make sure of every chance this time and not tax their fighting capabilities. Rapid played poorly against Juventus, and the forward line lost much of its rhythm.

Coach Tom McLoughlin will be sure to insist on his youngsters looking to see whether a colleague is better placed for a shot. They have been shooting too often from poor positions after the opening has been made.

It would not surprise to see Zoetsch given the task of stopping Jefferson, the season's top goalscorer in all games, and allow Mathias to play a roving type of game.

Stewart is the key man of the solid but slow Eagles' defence, and if he can be lured out of position Rapid could over-run them. White Eagles have lost two of their last three games but are formidable opponents who seem to do better in the more important matches.

Their main threat could come through their wingers, Lundin and Osuchowski, with Jefferson ready to take full advantage of their centres, either in the air or along the ground. Rapid were beaten only once in their last eight games by an unlucky corner in extra time.

Winners of this game will meet Olympia in the grand final next week.

⚽ Experience shows, as Eagles enter grand final after thrilling clash

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 2/9/1968

GREATER experience put White Eagles into the soccer grand final, after a thrilling 3-2 win over Rapid at South Hobart on Saturday.

They steadied to take their chances against a side who should have won with the opportunities they made for themselves. The switching of Egon Mathias from semi-defence to full-scale attack almost turned the game in Rapid's favour – but the move was half an hour too late.

White Eagles, who are trying for their first premiership success in five years of senior soccer, will meet Olympia in the grand final on Saturday.

Rapid were shaky in the first 10 minutes after being rocked by a first-minute goal, but it was not long before a corner by Foster skidded off the crossbar.

And in the 36th minute Reid pushed through a pass to Foster, but with only Siggins to beat, he shot straight at the goalkeeper to waste a great chance.

White Eagles were without left-winger Lundin, who was reported to have a groin injury, and reserve player 17-year-old Adamczyk centred in the first minute for Osuchowski to net through a crowd of players.

After showing he will be a very useful player with more experience, Adamczyk was replaced by Rosinski for the second half. It was following a centre from Rosinski that McCann collected a loose ball and crashed it home six minutes into the second half to make White Eagles' lead 2-0.

Mathias crowned a good solo effort with a goal in the 62nd minute, but White Eagles went to 3-1 with 11 minutes to go when Stewart burst through the centre and beat several defenders before scoring.

Mathias made it 3-2 in the next minute when he headed in a centre from Foster, but Rapid's determined raids in the closing stages were held up by a solid defence.

White Eagles were well served by their defence in the slippery conditions, Siggins handling very confidently and the two full-backs Honeyman and Rawlings holding up the fast Rapid wingers. Stewart stood out in the hard-working half-back line. They played right up on their opposite numbers, cutting down the area in which they could manoeuvre. This resulted in the nippy Rapid forwards trying to get that extra ground and holding on to the ball for those fateful extra seconds.

Stefan Stuetzel gave the finest display of full-back play seen this season, and the only shot opposing winger Osuchowski had was in that opening minute when he was standing almost on the penalty spot together with half a dozen other players.

Zoetsch one of the Rapid originals also had a fine match keeping the dangerous Jefferson scoreless. Another Rapid veteran, Mathias proved his all-round capabilities by almost pulling the game out of the fire after White Eagles had taken a winning 2-0 lead.

⚽ Lundin's return boosts White Eagles premiership hopes

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 6/9/68

LUNDIN will be back on the left-wing tomorrow for White Eagles, who are expected to give Olympia a real shake in a determined bid for their first Southern Tasmanian soccer premiership.

Lundin did not play in the preliminary final, and White Eagles did well to win without him. His return should restore the teamwork that has brought this rugged side to the grand final with a great chance of success.

Olympia, hit by injuries and transfers, have failed to retain the machine-like combination that used to carry all before them, and they will be without Alexiadis and probably Girling. Girling is in the awkward position of not being satisfied with his injured shoulder and yet wanting to play in what could be his last game in Southern Tasmania. He is contemplating retirement at the end of this season.

It is possible that this key player for Olympia will make a second half appearance, but much will depend on how the shoulder is tomorrow morning. Parkin is reported to be coming from Sydney for this game after disappointing the side in the semi-finals.

This should be a real thriller with little between the two sides, although Olympia play the same type of game as Rapid and are more capable of taking their chances - and Rapid should have beaten White Eagles in the semis. Olympia have more drive at forward and could easily dominate midfield exchanges to turn the tide their way.

Rapid coach Tom McLoughlin thinks Olympia will win easily if they produce the standard of play they are capable of, as he considers White Eagles' defence too erratic under pressure.

Juventus coach Fred Cunningham thinks Olympia's experience will go a long way, but he feels the stronger White Eagles team has benefitted from their errors this season and could win through sheer determination.

Both sides have each beaten the other twice this season, and White Eagles, who have scored six goals to Olympia's five, have been beaten only twice in their past 16 games. Olympia have won the premiership four times in the past five seasons, and they are seeking their fourth in a row,

⚽ Injured skipper inspires Olympia to fifth flag in six years

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 9/9/68

OLYMPIA won their fifth Southern Tasmanian soccer premiership in six seasons on Saturday when they beat White Eagles by a lone corner.

The corner came in extra time. Neither side scored a goal in the match. Olympia owed their narrow but deserved success to skipper – coach Dick Girling, who despite an injured shoulder came on in the second half for an injured Huddlestone.

He inspired the side to produce that bit extra needed to stop the determined White Eagles and turn what looked likely to be defeat into victory. Neither side made full use of the howling wind, and both played better against it.

Harper hit the post twice in the opening half when Olympia strove desperately for an early breakthrough and at the other end Quinn and Richards gave away dangerous free kicks on the edge of the goal-scoring area to stop Jefferson getting through.

In the second half White Eagles' goalkeeper, Siggins, brought the big crowd to its feet when Girling sent across a magnificent centre only to see Siggins throw himself at the unmarked Stanton's feet. Parkin also tested Siggins with a shot that needed a full-length dive to save.

All too often a cross would come from one of the White Eagles' wings with too few up to take advantage of it. The all-important corner came in the 10th minute of extra time just after Stanton had failed to take the centre from Parkin.

With two minutes to go before the end, a free kick against Olympia half-back Richards for obstruction was taken by Osuchowski, who netted direct from the spot, only to find it was an indirect free kick and two persons had to touch the ball before it could be a goal. Referee Marlor said he raised his arm for the indirect free-kick signal and kept it there until the kick was taken – in addition to shouting to the players that it was to be an indirect free kick.

Seconds later Parkin missed an open goal at the other end, which was a great pity as it would have stopped most of the argument over the disallowed goal.

Girling stood out for Olympia, followed by Parkin whose trip from Sydney was very worthwhile as he turned in his best game in Tasmania. Harper had another good game getting through an incredible amount of work and making sure the forwards got their share of the ball. Newcomer Sharpe gave an improved display.

Olympia realised they had to bottle up Jefferson, and they did this at any cost. It was a policy that could have easily cost them the game. McCann played himself into the ground for White Eagles, and Honeyman and Biggar stood out in a defence that held up promising raids with effective spoiling tactics.

1968 Association & George Evans Shields, Falkinder Cup Winners & League Runners up
Back: J Scally (Coach), D. Jefferson, I. Honeyman, I. Stewart, S. Rakowski, B. Dora, E. Rosinski, K. Olsen, W Jones (Trainer)
Front: D. Jones, H. McCann, D. Stoddart, D. Siggins, B. Osuchowski, J. Biggar

In the final of the Association Cup, Eagle were leading Juventus 1-0 after 30 minutes, but after the Juventus side were called off the ground by their committee, (following a spate of send-offs), the match was abandoned. The 1-0 score-line stood, and Eagle were declared winners.

Two Juventus players out; Eric Owen included for final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 13/9/1968

JUVENTUS will be without centre-forward Tony Parker and wing-half Remo Carnevale for their Association Cup soccer final match against White Eagles tomorrow at South Hobart – but they will have Eric Owen from England. Owen, who played for Rapid before going to England to further his studies, looked impressive at training this week and should help to stiffen the Juventus defence.

His brother, Philip, who has played at full-back and on a wing this season, will be at inside-forward with John Lindsay leading the line in the absence of Parker, who is in America.

Carnevale arranged his wedding date, so as to finish the roster season with Juventus and be ready for this Cup final, originally scheduled for September 28. However, the TSA decision to bring the final forward a fortnight has robbed him of a chance of playing in what could be the first Juventus team to win this trophy.

White Eagles who are also playing in their first Association Cup final, could be a little jaded after their great bid for the Southern premiership last Saturday, but they will be flat out to take their first major trophy in senior soccer. Graham is reported to be unavailable, and Lundin was in bed yesterday with influenza and their loss could upset the balance of the forward line and cost them the match.

It is a bitter blow for a team who could have had the services of Rapid star Egon Mathias for the grand final if they had wanted him. He played for them the previous season and offered his services after Rapid's defeat in the preliminary final.

White Eagles and Juventus have met three times this season, sharing roster honours, but White Eagles beat Juventus in the Falkinder Cup after extra time.

Spectators demand refund as team walks off in soccer shemozzle

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 16/9/1968

SPECTATORS unsuccessfully demanded their money be refunded at South Hobart on Saturday when Juventus officials called their remaining seven players off the field after only 30 minutes in the Association Cup soccer final against White Eagles.

After the two teams had looked well-matched in the opening exchanges, referee A. Lannigan, a qualified official from England, awarded a penalty for "hands" against Eric Owen, who was playing his first game for Juventus since returning from England.

Owen was sent off for allegedly dissenting the decision and abusing the referee. Juventus captain Joe Hanna was sent off almost immediately after for allegedly the same offences. Juventus players Goodman and Rizzolo were ordered off for returning to the field after leaving it without permission - after earlier cautions.

Jefferson's penalty kick crashed against an upright and went out of play, but Lannigan then noticed Hanna had not left the field. He called the police to have Hanna removed and ordered the kick to be retaken. This time Jefferson scored.

While this had been going on, Juventus players had wanted to walk off the field, but coach Fred Cunningham insisted they continue. Goodman had gone to the touchline to try to persuade some of them to finish the game, and it was when he and Rizzolo made to return to their positions that Lannigan ruled they could not come on again, after leaving the field without permission.

Juventus officials in the stand then called their players off the field. In addition to the four players ordered off, another five Juventus players will face a charge of leaving the field without permission. Only Phillip Owen and Cengia remained when the referee and the White Eagles' side came off.

Although there was never any threat of violence, police gave Lannigan a four-man escort to the dressing room. Irate spectators noisily demanded a refund of their gate money.

An indication was given that there would be "another game" next week, but there would appear to be no grounds for a replay. White Eagles were in no way implicated and had established a goal lead. A suggestion that the match was not played for the required length of time to constitute a game would be valid in the case of adverse weather conditions or crowd behaviour but hardly through a walk-off by a losing team.

The TSA executive will discuss the match at tomorrow's routine executive meeting.

Rizzolo had two great chances to score after 15 minutes but ended a 40m run with a shot straight at goalkeeper Siggins. The ball rebounded to Wood, who passed to Philip Owen, and Rizzolo should have scored when the ball came back to him. To even up matters, McCann had hard luck in not scoring at the other end.

Eric Owen out for two weeks

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/9/68

Juventus soccer player Eric Owen who was sent off the field last Saturday in his first game since returning from England has been suspended for two weeks.

The investigation committee last night found the charge of abusive language to the referee not proven but he was suspended for disputing his decision.

Goodman was suspended for one week for his general behaviour towards the referee after the committee had found that he did not leave the field as reported by the referee.

Rizzolo, who was sent off for returning to the field after leaving without permission, was cautioned together with the five other players.

Hanna did not appear to meet the charge of disputing the referee's decision and he will remain under suspension until he does.

The incidents occurred in the Association Cup final between Juventus and White Eagles which ended when the Juventus team left the field after only 30 minutes play.

One of the standout performers in 1968 was striker Dave Jefferson, who scored an impressive 22 goals in all competitions.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) - Final Standings – 1968

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
OLYMPIA	14	9	2	3	40	15	20
WHITE EAGLE	**14**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**35**	**26**	**19**
RAPID	14	7	5	2	39	29	19
HOBART JUVENTUS	14	8	1	5	34	28	17
CROATIA GLENORCHY	14	7	2	5	35	27	16
CALEDONIANS	14	4	2	8	29	32	10
SOUTH HOBART	14	1	5	8	16	33	7
UNIVERSITY	14	0	4	10	11	52	4

Melbourne side to play White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 25/10/68

White Eagles will play Melbourne team Keilor City in the soccer curtain-raiser at Glenorchy tomorrow.

Keilor City has just won the second division premiership, and will play in the first division next year. It is an amateur side with the emphasis on youth and most of the players are Polish.

White Eagles could be without McCann and Jefferson who both are on the injured list.

The main game at Glenorchy will be between Olympia and Helvetic.

Scores:
White Eagles 3 drew with Keilor City 3. Goalscorers for Eagles who were 0-2 at half-time and were trailing 1-3, were Jefferson, McCann and Osuchowski.

Olympia defeated Helvetic 5-0 with a hat trick from Huddlestone and one each to Stanton and Shacklady.

After having its most successful year since being promoted to the premier league, 1969 proved to be disappointing in the end, finishing 11 points behind eventual winner Hobart Juventus.

A solid start to the season with a draw against Croatia Glenorchy (2-2), wins against Hobart Juventus (2-1) and South Hobart (4-2) and a draw against Olympia (0-0), all highly ranked teams, was tarnished by a loss to bottom placed Metro Claremont, one of only their two wins for the season (0-1).

Following the draw against Olympia, Eagle recorded losses in their next four games which took them out of contention for the premiership, and ultimately cost them a top-four finish.

In the second half of the season the team performed admirably but could not make up the lost points from earlier in the season. In their last twelve games, Eagle's record was six wins (four in their last five games), three draws and three losses, to end up in fifth position.

They did make the final of the Falkinder / Association Cup final for a chance to defend their wins in 1968, but Eagle were beaten by Rapid 4-2.

⚽ Glenorchy Croatia "axe" captain, wing-half for missed training

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 15/6/69

THE unbeaten Glenorchy Croatia Soccer Club's captain and centre-half, Fiamengo, and wing-half Plazonic, have been dropped from tomorrow's combined Falkinder Cup and Association Cup competition semi-final for missing training, and full-back Brkic is unavailable.

This means that some of the many younger players knocking at the door will get their chance, notably Pecek, Glasovac and Bilac. It will be Croatia's youngest team ever, and ace goalkeeper Udovicic could receive a thorough testing from the fast moving Rapid attack.

Rapid are building up into a formidable side but have had a setback – Bachinger will be unavailable. However, they are full of confidence, as they have won their past four games and only one goal has been registered against Puclin, their brilliant goalkeeper on loan from Croatia. Croatia beat them 2-1 with a last-minute header by Charlie Leung after being run off their feet in their roster encounter.

Rapid's biggest need is a top-class centre-forward who can take advantage of the numerous centres that come across. Mathias is listed on the wing, but would be of much greater value in the role of an attacking centre-half with Zoetsch playing behind Skaro.

It should be a good game, with Rapid carrying too many guns against a crippled team with five regulars absent.

Juventus are playing well enough to beat White Eagles for a place in Monday's final. They squared their roster account with White Eagles last week and beat a much stronger side in the Ampol Cup competition.

Playing coach Carl Schwesinger showed his hand last week when he played in the forward line at his first appearance since leaving Olympia. He will be on the wing this time in place of Philip Owen, who will be in Sydney for three weeks. This will introduce added thrust, but it could be even better if he was in the centre-forward berth.

White Eagles will be without Jefferson and Nelson, who are injured, and Honeyman was suspended last night for four weeks for kicking an opponent in Saturday's game against Juventus.

Croatia, who have yet to with the Association Cup after being in the final three times, won the Falkinder cup in 1964. and they were in the final of that competition again last year, only to lose 1-5 to White Eagles.

White Eagles then went on to bring off the double, when they were awarded the final of the Association Cup when it was abandoned with Juventus disputing a penalty that was converted. The executive allowed the 1-0 result to stand.

Rapid won the Association Cup in 1961 and 1965. The only other time the two cups have been combined was in 1962, but the reason then was that there was insufficient time to play them separately.

The Association Cup is another name for the Charles Lucas memorial trophy, which was presented for competition between First Division teams. The name changed when this competition was thrown open to all clubs affiliated to the TSA. But the experiment was not a success and it reverted back to a competition for only First Division clubs.

⚽ Eagles turn tables on Juventus to win Cup semi-final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 16/6/69

WHITE EAGLES' soccer coach Jim Scally brought off a major coup on Saturday when he reversed the previous Saturday's 0-2 roster defeat against Juventus by winning the combined Falkinder Cup and Association Cup semi-final in decisive style.

And his play has been a determining factor in the club's revival after a period in the doldrums.

They will meet Rapid in today's final at South Hobart and could worry them, although Rakowski left the field on Saturday with an injured foot and could be an absentee.

White Eagles beat Juventus in midfield to build a 2-0 winning lead and their defence held on splendidly in the face of mounting Juventus pressure in the last 25 minutes.

Rakowski had a hand in both goals. McCann took advantage of Juventus neglect and the three-man attack was surprisingly effective against a suspect Juventus defence.

Juventus were poorly served at forward and this cost them the chance of winning both cups for the first time.

Rapid took full advantage of a weakened Glenorchy Croatia to win 3-1.

The opened the scoring in the 12th minute only for Croatia to equalise six minutes later, and the teams were 1-1 at half-time.

Rapid went ahead in the 59th minute through a defensive blunder by Croatia and Mathias followed up to score a good goal from an acute angle.

Skaro had a great chance to equalise in similar circumstances, but the ball went just wide, and Rapid went to 3-1 five minutes before time.

Substitute Vetma headed against a Rapid upright in the last second of a game that never really rose to any great heights although it produced moments of excitement.

Rapid's success was a team effort with Mathias and Zoetsch putting in a tremendous amount of work.

Croatia were beaten for the first time this season, but must have been pleased with Glasovac's performance. The youngster was much more impressive at wing-half than as a winger.

⚽ Rapid take charge in second half for dual cup win

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 16/6/69

RAPID won the Association and Falkinder Cups yesterday when they ran White Eagles off their feet, 4-2, at South Hobart.

With four minutes to play Rapid's Stuetzel was sent-off. He is alleged to have used foul language at referee Roger Marlor. In addition to winning the Association Cup for the third time and the Falkinder cup for the first time in this years combined cups competition, Rapid carried off an $80 cash bonus.

But it was not until the 68th minute that they gained the ascendancy with a 3-2 lead against a side that never gave up, and another goal five minutes later, put the issue beyond doubt.

Eric Owen who was in bed with a cold until 1 pm, played his best game since returning from England, and Mathias and Zoetsch again figured prominently for Rapid.

White Eagles coach Jim Scally did not play, and his place was taken by Laponis. They were best served by Hoyle at left-back.

Rapid took the lead in the 12th minute from the penalty spot, when Stewart deliberately handled a ball that was going into the net, after Siggins had partially saved a fine shot from Foster.

White Eagles were on terms again when Stoddart shot from 30 yards in the 20th minute, and seconds later Osuchowski narrowly missed from close in.

Rapid went to 2-1 three minutes later, when Foster shot from a acute angle and the ball went off Siggins' hands into the net.

It was a very fast opening half with neither side having a forward who could hold the ball and rest their defence.

Rapid's lightning like attacks often faded out through hurried shooting.

Rapid opened the second half strongly, but after Stoddart had gone close with a long shot, McCann equalised in the 57th minute with a left-footed shot that took Puclin by surprise.

Fischer forced a corner on the right in the 68th minute from which Reid headed to Wolfgang Stuetzel, who headed the ball past Siggins to give Rapid a 3-2 lead. And five minutes later, Fischer was brought down on the edge of the penalty area and Mathias scored direct from the free-kick to make it 4-2.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) Final Standings - 1969

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	21	14	4	3	55	26	32
Olympia	21	14	2	5	49	31	30
Croatia Glenorchy	21	10	7	4	54	26	27
Rapid	21	10	5	6	36	24	25
White Eagle	**21**	**8**	**5**	**8**	**39**	**34**	**21**
Caledonians	21	9	3	9	32	44	21
South Hobart	21	3	2	16	31	65	8
Metro Claremont	21	2	0	19	18	64	4

1970's

NINETEEN SEVENTIES (1970's)

Eagle, with a new coach on board in Brian Foulkes, started the 1970 season the way they had ended 1969, with two solid wins against two of the heavyweights of the competition in Olympia (3-1) and Rapid (3-1).

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 13-4-1970

White Eagles recorded their first win of the season when they beat Olympia 3-1, and it would have been more had they had more ball control up forward.

A mistake by Quinn, and then a spectacular overhead kick by Dora that caught the goalkeeper napping, saw them 2-0 up after 14 minutes, and they crossed over leading 2-1.

The arrival of Richards at half time gave Olympia new heart, and Girling hit an upright, but they wilted after Woods went off with a broken collarbone.

Coach Brian Foulkes held White Eagles together well, and Olympia, who expect former State goalkeeper Roussos back soon, were best served by Anastasiou while in the centre-half position.

Eagles 3 (Rakowski, Dora, Stoddart) defeated Olympia 1 (Girling, penalty).

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 20-4-1970

Rapid gave White Eagles the run-around, but lost 1-3, after looking likely winners and then conceding two goals in the last 20 minutes.

White Eagles, who were on top for the first 20 minutes led 1-0 after 10 minutes and then a corkscrew shot by Don Reid that would have beaten any goalkeeper, gave Rapid the equaliser two minutes before half time.

David Siggins gave a fearless display in White Eagles' goal, nullifying much of Rapid's speed by going out to the edge of his area, and Stoddart stood out in midfield.

Rapid who were without Stefan Stuetzel for the second-half through a leg injury, saw the ball hit the White Eagles' cross bar twice in three minutes in the first half.

Eagles 3 (Adamczyk, Nelson, Rae) defeated Rapid 1 (Reid).

⚑

Unfortunately, this good start could not be maintained, and in fact Eagle managed to win only three more games for the remainder of the season, to finish in last position with only ten points, five points behind second last Metro Claremont. Frustratingly, four of their five wins came against teams that finished in the top four placings.

⚽ Croatia need one point for Southern title after 2-2 draw.

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 17-8-1970

Glenorchy Croatia drew 2-2 with Northern Suburbs Caledonians on Saturday and need one point from their last two games to win their first Southern Tasmanian soccer premiership.

They will meet Rapid, whom they have beaten twice, and Metro who have beaten them once.

Juventus who failed surprisingly against White Eagles, have a better goal average than Croatia, but to win the title, they would have to win both of their games while Croatia lost both theirs.

There was an unsatisfactory ending to the Croatia game against Caledonians. With the seconds ticking by, Caledonians scored what appeared to be the winning goal through Siggins after good work by replacement Warwarek and referee R. Marlor pointed to the centre.

When he noticed the linesman had his flag up, he went across to speak to him and then awarded a free kick against Godfrey.

It was a decision reversal that would have precipitated trouble against a more excitable team than Caledonians, especially as Croatia were brought right back into the game with a penalty after being two goals down.

Captained by George Smart in his last game before returning to Scotland, Caledonians opened the scoring in the 12th minute. A centre from Godfrey was banged home first time by Siggins, soon after Udovicic had saved brilliantly from Spendiff.

Ten minutes later Wilson sent in a shot that curled away from the goalkeeper into the net, and this was the signal for Fiamengo to make his appearance from the reserve bench, to introduce greater solidity into the Croatia defence.

But Godfrey almost put Caledonians further ahead before Wallner gave away a penalty that was converted on the half-time whistle.

Siggins missed a great chance from a glorious pass by Godfrey, before Sarfalvy presented Leung with a golden opportunity that he ballooned over the bar from three yards.

Increasing Croatia pressure saw Letec head in the equaliser with 30 minutes to go and Caledonians' defence were kicking anywhere to find relief.

Leung headed against the bar, and then out of the blue Warwarek beat three opponents, and Siggins finished off the move with a great goal that brought no protest from Croatia, yet was disallowed.

Croatia lost twice and drew the other game in their recent three-match roster duel with Caledonians and are glad it is not necessary to play this amateur club in a final four series.

Juventus were but a shadow of their best at Glenorchy, and if possible were even worse when for the second time this season they took Philip Owen off the field.

They had chances but their forward line was pathetic. White Eagles who had Dora in goal following David Siggins' shaking in a car accident on Friday, could have scored more than the lone goal that decided this game in the 63rd minute.

Rakowski was quick to take advantage of a grand through pass by skipper Rae, but Cengia made his task easier by not coming out to meet him and so reduce the angle for shooting.

Stewart played well for White Eagles in a game that was controlled efficiently by North-West referee Fred Raine

Finishing in last position meant that Eagle would face a playoff against University, winners of the Metropolitan League Division 1, for the right to play in the premier league in 1971.

The first leg resulted in a narrow 1-0 win for Eagle, and although they lost the return match 2-1, the fact that the overall score was 2-2 was enough for Eagle to retain their premier league status. David Rae scored the all-important goal in the dying seconds of the match to earn Eagle a draw.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) Final Standings - 1970

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia Glenorchy	21	14	3	4	47	27	31
Hobart Juventus	21	12	4	5	55	26	28
Olympia	21	11	3	7	48	39	25
Rapid	21	8	5	8	29	31	21
Caledonians	21	8	4	9	50	53	20
South Hobart	21	8	2	11	35	46	18
Metro Claremont	21	5	5	11	39	49	15
White Eagle	**21**	**5**	**0**	**16**	**24**	**56**	**10**

Southern Metropolitan 1 Final Standings - 1970

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	18	16	2	0	84	12	34
Dnipro	19	14	2	3	70	18	30
Malaysian Tigers	20	9	2	9	40	47	20
Hobart Juventus	18	8	3	7	38	28	19
Buckingham	20	7	3	10	34	77	17
White Eagle	**20**	**5**	**3**	**12**	**29**	**46**	**13**
Dynamos	19	2	0	17	21	84	4
Croatia Glenorchy	14	5	1	8	27	31	0

Croatia expelled by the TSA after 14 matches, University playoff against White Eagles for promotion.

1970 Senior Team

Back: W. Jones (Trainer), D. Jefferson, T. Sewell, D. Stoddart, I. Stewart, D. Siggins, S. Rakowski, J. Graham, B. Osuchowski, H. Nelson, M. Prodanovic.
Front: I. Honeyman, J. Biggar

After surviving the playoff with University, Eagles looked for a better showing in 1971 under new coach, 1970 play-off hero David Rae, but could not find any consistency, and were generally unable to string together a substantial run of good results.

Midway through the season they displayed their best form in a run of seven games which netted four wins, one draw and two losses.

As in the previous year, Eagle saved some of their best performances when playing the top four sides, and managed three wins (two against Caledonians) out of their six, against these teams. By season's end Eagle finished in second last place, four points clear of last placed Rapid.

One positive from 1971 was that Harry Robinson was runner up in the Rothmans Gold Medal count, for the leagues' Best & Fairest player.

⚽ Remo Carnevale wins award for top goalscorer

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 13-9-1971

Remo Carnevale (Juventus) won the John Clemente award for the top Southern soccer goalscorer from team colleague Domenic Rizzolo and Bernard Siggins (Caledonians). Carnevale scored 17 goals to win by one.

Carnevale had four great opportunities of scoring against Olympia and did not get a goal – not even from a penalty shot.

Siggins who was last year's top goalscorer, made a dramatic last-minute bid with a brilliant hat-trick against White Eagles, after his side had been 0-3 down. Rizzolo was the previous year's top goalscorer.

Caledonians wasted chances in the first half against White Eagles, and crossed over 0-3 down. Then in the course of 10 minutes, Bernard Siggins scored three goals past his brother David in the Eagle goals to equalise.

But after a good save by David, White Eagles took over to get two goals in the last 10 minutes for a convincing win. Goalscorers for Eagles were: Robinson 2, Baker 2, and Lundin 1.

In the Under 19s competition, a hat-trick to Bobby Rybak and a brace to Chris Kolabinski gave White Eagles a 5-3 victory over University who replied with two goals from Kitchen and one from Willink.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) Final Standings - 1971

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	21	14	4	3	65	28	32
Croatia Glenorchy	21	9	7	5	52	37	25
Metro Claremont	21	10	4	7	53	45	24
Caledonians	21	11	2	8	47	45	24
South Hobart	21	7	3	11	37	34	17
Olympia	21	6	4	11	34	52	16
White Eagle	**21**	**6**	**4**	**11**	**26**	**47**	**16**
Rapid	21	3	6	12	31	57	12

Southern Metropolitan 1 Final Standings - 1971

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dnipro	21	19	1	1	118	24	39
University	20	15	4	1	92	22	34
Buckingham	20	12	1	7	78	52	25
Juventus	21	10	4	7	56	48	24
Dynamos	21	6	4	11	53	77	16
Croatia Glenorchy	20	5	1	14	27	80	11
White Eagle	**20**	**2**	**5**	**13**	**32**	**92**	**9**
Malaysian Tigers	21	2	2	17	41	102	6

1971 Senior Team
Back: B. Hoyle, T. Adamczyk, D. Stoddart, I. Stewart, M. Prodanovic, S. Rakowski
Front: D. Rae (Coach), B. Dora, H. Robinson, D. Siggins, L. Drelich, K. Olsen.

⚽ White Eagle that kicks like a mule

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 3/7/71

SYLVESTER RAKOWSKI is one of the three Polish players who command a regular place in the White Eagles' soccer team in the Cambridge League. The other two are the bespectacled Tony Adamczyk and Bogdan Dora.

Sylvester came to Australia from Germany 22 years ago when he was three, and came to Tasmania from Mildura three years later. He started off in Australian Rules at primary school, and then through a mix-up he drifted to soccer—as a goalkeeper.

It was as such that he gained State representation in the under 14s against a visiting Victorian side, and be played in goal for White Eagles when he was 16 in their debut season in the reserve division.

Then he began to play out in the field, working his way forward until he seemed to have found his mark at centre-half, only for Johnny Biggar to join White Eagles from Caledonians. This resulted in him going up into the attack where he gained a reputation for having a kick like a mule, but lacking in accuracy. He was judged the club's most improved player last year, which was his fifth with it.

He speaks very highly of White Eagles, feeling that it does more for its players than many players did for the club. "From what I hear it does much more for its players than the other clubs do for their members," he added.

He enjoys training, and says an hour is far too short. But be feels that the time must be well spent "No player should be left doing nothing."

"International coaches would move our game along very rapidly," he said. He is sold on the need for fitness, "look at those Englishmen" and plays squash to get himself fit and goes on cross-countries on his own to maintain it.

Last Saturday he caught the eye a number of times at centre-half as he held up the sprightly Juventus forwards in the sea of mud. His other sporting interest is table tennis, and he is captain of the White Eagles' third team, which has not lost a game this season.

1971 Under 19's

Back: E. Kremer, E. Mirowski, E. Drodz, R. Marszalek, R, Kent, D, Smolenski, J. De Vries, E. Rosinski (Coach), A. Bak

Front: P. Czyzowicz (Mgr) A. Czyzowicz, T. Kent, R. Rybak, G. Biernacki, A. Crowther, A. Polacik, G. Nowak, G. Rosinski

A new season and another new coach, with Ken Baker replacing David Rae in the top job. Eight wins from their first ten games had Eagle supporters believing that 1972 could bring the elusive premier league title to the Club for the first time in their history.

Their best performance came at the expense of Olympia which suffered a 7-3 loss, however this was tempered by a loss of to Croatia Glenorchy 2-7. Eagle's only other loss in the first round was to the 1971 premiers Hobart Juventus 1-3.

After ten rounds, Eagle found themselves in third place, equal on points with Hobart Juventus and Croatia Glenorchy. A winless last eight games put paid to any premiership hopes and such was their loss of form, that Eagle finished in sixth place, having gained only two points in those last eight games, an extremely disappointing turnaround in fortunes.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) – Standings 1972 (Top 4 after first 10 rounds)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	10	7	2	1	37	13	16
Olympia	10	7	2	1	37	23	16
White Eagle	**10**	**8**	**0**	**2**	**28**	**21**	**16**
Croatia Glenorchy	10	6	2	2	37	15	14

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) - Final Standings 1972

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	18	13	3	2	61	19	29
Croatia Glenorchy	18	13	3	2	59	20	29
Olympia	18	11	4	3	54	33	26
Metro Claremont	18	10	3	5	43	33	23
Caledonians	18	7	4	7	46	40	18
White Eagle	**18**	**8**	**2**	**8**	**34**	**38**	**18**
Rapid	18	5	5	8	24	35	15
South Hobart	18	4	2	12	27	68	10
University	18	3	0	15	23	57	6
Dnipro	18	2	2	14	15	43	6

1973 saw the appointment of the highly regarded Karl Schwesinger to replace Ken Baker as senior coach. The downturn in performances in the second half of 1972 continued into 1973, where Eagle were winless in their opening six games (four losses, two draws). The two draws being against top four sides Olympia (2-2) and Caledonians (2-2).

The next six games however produced six wins, which made a top four finish a possibility. This included good wins against Croatia Glenorchy (3-2) and Olympia (2-0), which showed that Eagle could match it with the best teams on their day.

One win in their last six games (one win, two draws, three losses) however, meant a fifth-place finish. Hobart Juventus were convincing premiership winners, ten points clear of second placed Croatia Glenorchy.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) Final Standings - 1973

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	18	16	1	1	69	22	33
Croatia Glenorchy	18	10	3	5	59	33	23
Olympia	18	9	4	5	42	32	22
Caledonians	18	8	4	6	50	37	20
White Eagle	**18**	**7**	**4**	**7**	**33**	**40**	**18**
Dnipro	18	7	3	8	35	50	17
Rapid	18	5	4	9	33	47	14
University	18	4	5	9	34	35	13
Metro Claremont	18	4	5	9	33	48	13
South Hobart	18	3	1	14	24	68	7

1973 Senior Team

Back: W Jones (Trainer), S. Polacik, T. Adamczyk, N. Draskovic, D. Conlan, G. Joughin, K. Shweisinger (Coach), B. Biggar, D. Elliot W. Bucher. **Front:** D. Stoddart, D. Siggins, B. Osuchowski, I. Stewart.

1974, Eagle again under the stewardship of Schwesinger, started the season by winning the pre-season Coca-Cola Cup competition, a 13-game pre-season competition that was comprised of teams from Division 1 and 2.

1974 – T.S.A. COCA COLA CUP - Final Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**13**	**9**	**3**	**1**	**33**	**8**	**21**
RAPID	13	10	1	2	31	7	21
OLYMPIA	13	9	2	2	32	10	20
JUVENTUS	13	8	3	2	32	11	19
CROATIA	13	8	3	2	28	10	19
CALIES	13	8	2	3	24	11	18
SOUTH HOBART	13	5	4	4	22	19	14
METRO	13	6	2	5	20	22	14
DNIPRO	13	2	5	6	16	17	9
TAROONA	13	3	2	8	14	29	8
UNIVERSITY	13	1	4	8	9	24	6
MALAYSIAN TIGERS	13	1	3	9	18	44	5
KINGBOROUGH	13	1	3	9	7	32	5
EASTERN SUBURBS	13	0	3	10	8	50	3

The roster season however began in amazing fashion with Eagle losing their first game against Croatia Glenorchy (eventual premiers) 8-5 after the score was locked at 5-5, mid-way through the second half.

Eagles achieved six wins in the first round (six wins three losses). Included in these were good wins against powerhouses Olympia (1-0) and Hobart Juventus (4-3) and three big wins against the lower ranked teams, University (5-2), Taroona (6-1) and Metro Claremont (5-1).

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 10-6-1974

White Eagles forsook close-passing movements in the mud, and this coupled with greater determination gave them the advantage over Sandy Bay Olympia, although there was only one goal in it.

Right winger Nick Draskovic pounced on a loose ball to score the all-important goal in the 36th minute.

Karl Schwesinger kept a tight hold down the centre, Dave Stoddart shone in the midfield, and Ormrod's good ball control was a feature of the attack.

Ormrod combined well with Osuchowski, Stewart and Draskovic and there were several openings from these which goals should have come.

The real excitement of an entertaining game came in the last few minutes when a pass from Stewart saw Osuchowski in position for a shot, but Robertson saved from off the Olympia goal line.

Then a move by Osuchowski, Ormrod and Stewart saw the centre-forward get in a late shot that Lynas was lucky to get a foot to.

In the next minute Wright hit the White Eagles crossbar with a shot that had Bucher beaten, and in the last minute Ormrod missed by inches after a good effort.

Superiority of White Eagles not reflected in final score

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 17-6-1974

WHITE EAGLES showed top form in the mud to outplay Juventus in all departments and could have won 14-3 instead of the bare 4-3, at South Hobart on Saturday.

Rapid also had a good win over Sandy Bay Olympia. but Croatia Glenorchy, the leaders, had their game against Taroona at the Domain Crossroads abandoned by referee F. Kron because of the ground condition.

Juventus had the two Owen brothers playing after they had missed the previous week's game, but were without Genovesi (ankle), Stewart (ankle) and Watson (thigh).

After the game, team manager George Garlington said personal differences had been resolved, and the players were "100 pc" behind coach and sole selector Ken Worden.

But their performance was a poor one, with Worden the only really dangerous forward. The defence offered little resistance to the smooth - moving White Eagles attack.

The ball ran badly for White Eagles with Schwesinger placing a penalty straight at Gaff, and centre-forward Ian Stewart should have had at least five goals instead of the remarkable back-heeled goal he did get. He hit the bar, headed inches wide and nearly broke the side netting with another.

Juventus helped with two own goals by backs Falzon and Mione, the first being real encouragement five minutes after the start.

Juventus made it 1-2 soon after the changeover when a pass by Philip Owen found the unmarked di Felice, but they lost the limping Gaff at this stage.

White Eagles fine approach work produced two goals in three minutes - from Ormrod on a pass from Osuchowski and Stewart from a pass from Ormrod.

Juventus were 1-4 down when Worden finished of a glorious pass from Eric Owen, and he scored a brilliant solo effort just on the final whistle after Hanna had a good shot well saved by Toro.

Ormrod has made a great difference to the White Eagles attack and Prodanovic is showing improvement in their defence.

Once again though, Eagle were not able to maintain their early momentum, and could only manage two wins in the last round of games (two wins, one draw, six losses), and these were against the bottom two teams Taroona (3-1) and University (3-0).

A sixth-place finish was disappointing given the positive start to the season.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) Final Standings - 1974

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	18	16	1	1	75	32	33
Rapid	18	13	1	4	51	26	27
Hobart Juventus	18	9	3	6	48	32	21
Olympia	18	10	1	7	43	29	21
Caledonians	18	9	2	7	58	45	20
White Eagle	**18**	**8**	**1**	**9**	**46**	**42**	**17**
Metro Claremont	18	5	5	8	33	34	15
Dnipro	18	5	4	9	21	40	14
University	18	3	1	14	17	62	7
Taroona	18	2	1	15	17	67	5

The mid-seventies was a period when the Eagle hierarchy, Paul Szkudlarek, George Stepik and Polish Club Manager Wally Ejlak, made a concerted effort to lift Eagles' profile, and attract high caliber players to the club. Persuading the influential Don Finegan, (who was having a break from the game after a very successful stint with Olympia) to join the club as Chairman was pivotal to making this happen. He was given free reign with no interference from the club committee.

The next few seasons would see an influx of highly credentialed players, not only to provide the quality required for success, but to help mentor the up-and-coming youngsters already at the club in Sikora, Kempa, Gorniak, Rybak, Draskovic and Wass amongst others. It was in this period in the mid-seventies where White Eagle, Rapid and Croatia were the dominant teams, and this would continue until the end of the decade.

Having a youth setup was also a priority, as it was already bearing fruit, with the u19's winning the premiership in 1972. Coached by Eugene Rosinski the team was based around players of Polish decent. By the end of the seventies, Eagle would have youth teams in three of the four available divisions, u13's, u15's, u17's, who were mentored and coached by senior team players.

In 1975, with Ken Worden in the senior coaching role (after coaching Juventus the previous season) and new strikers Don Farmery and Michael Walker in their ranks, Eagle achieved their first top four finish since 1968.

On the back of seven wins and one draw in their first ten games (including a big 9-1 victory over Caledonians), Eagle were looking a premiership prospect.

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 29-6-75

White Eagles struck top form against Caledonians being 2-0 after 10 minutes and 5-0 at half time before winning 9-1 with Tony Adamczyk playing well in attack and defence.

Calies wasted good approach work with poor finishing. Goalscorers for Eagles were Farmery 3, Richards 2, Worden and Wass 1 each and two own goals, while for Calies, Siggins scored their consolation goal.

Southern Division 1 (Cambridge League) Standings – 1975 (after 10 games)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia Glenorchy	10	8	1	1	39	15	17
Olympia	10	7	1	2	27	12	16
Juventus	10	6	1	3	41	16	15
White Eagle	**10**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**29**	**14**	**15**
Rapid	10	4	3	3	29	27	11
Metro	10	3	5	2	20	28	8
South Hobart	10	3	6	1	11	17	7
Dnipro	10	2	7	1	12	27	5
Caledonians	10	1	6	3	11	26	5
University	10	0	9	1	7	34	1

Although Eagle's performance in the second round were steady (four wins, two draws and three losses), their inability to take maximum points off the top teams made it difficult for them to make a significant improvement on their overall position.

The 2-2 draw with Hobart Juventus was a costly one for the Italian backed club who ended up losing the premiership by one point.

Southern Division 1 (Winfield League) – Final Standings 1975

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	18	12	5	1	65	26	29
Hobart Juventus	18	12	4	2	66	29	28
Olympia	18	12	3	3	51	21	27
White Eagle	**18**	**10**	**3**	**5**	**41**	**25**	**23**
Rapid	18	9	4	5	48	34	22
South Hobart	18	6	2	10	24	49	14
Caledonians	18	4	5	9	28	55	13
Metro Claremont	18	4	4	10	31	47	12
Dnipro	18	4	1	13	20	43	9
University	18	0	3	15	14	59	3

Leading Goalscorers: K. Worden 11, D. Farmery 8, M. Walker 5, P. Wass 4

1975 Seniors
Back: P. Polacik, B. Jones, B. Rybak, D. Conlan, W Bucher, D. Farmery, P Linnell, D. Trueman, M. Richards, E. Kempa.
Front: H. Stewart, B. Jones, K. Worden, B. McKay, P. Wass

The 1975 reserve side had a successful season capturing the State Premiership, which was played over two legs against Burnie Spartans.

From The Mercury reports……

In the first leg, Winchester almost gave the Spartans a 1st minute lead, and Nelson responded by landing a ball on the Spartan's cross-bar, but those were the only near scoring attempts of a goalless first half. Spartans took a deserved lead in

the 72nd minute when Malcolm Charles chased a ball through the centre and advancing goalkeeper Toro's attempted clearing kick hit Charles and rebounded back into the net.

Winchester was almost through in the next minute, but Eagle replacement Mike Walker equalised in the 74th minute when he took a good pass from Nelson and scored well. Toro did well In White Eagle's, goal and Charles and Turner were the pick of the Spartans.

In the return leg played at South Hobart, Eagle took the lead in the 27th minute through David Stoddart, only for the Spartans to equalise through Parry in the 62nd minute when he scored directly form a corner. The game went into extra-time and just before the end of the first half, Spartans full-back Berry, scored an own goal with a poor pass back and this gave the title to Eagles. Prodanovic and Toro stood out for Eagles, and Charles showed plenty of dash for Spartans.

Division 1 Reserves Final Standings - 1975

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**17**	**12**	**3**	**2**	**69**	**30**	**27**
JUVENTUS-PIONEER	18	10	3	5	57	42	23
CALEDONIANS	18	9	4	5	49	47	22
SOUTH HOBART	18	9	3	6	57	48	21
UNIVERSITY	18	9	1	8	64	52	19
RAPID	17	8	2	7	58	45	18
METRO CLAREMONT	18	7	4	7	46	53	18
OLYMPIA WPL	18	6	3	9	42	47	15
CROATIA GLENORCHY	17	5	2	10	43	54	12
DNIPRO	17	0	1	16	18	85	1

Leading Goalscorers: M. Walker 11, N. Draskovic, H Nelson 9

1975 Reserve Premiers

Back: R. Dymond, B. Jones (Trainer), D. Stoddart, H. Nelson, B. McKay, S. Petrov, H. Gorniak, M. Prodanovic, R. Toro, A. Nelson (Manager) **Front:** B. Rybak, N Draskovic, P. Wass, M. Walker, D. Trueman, D. Riddock.

The 1976 season saw Tony Skaro appointed as senior coach, however he was replaced mid-way through the season by Glyn Jenkins.

Into the senior squad came Larry Nunn and Eamonn Kelly from Olympia, Mark Oakes and Cliff Morgan from South Hobart, and Michael Southworth form Northern NSW, but Farmery transferred to Rapid (a huge loss in hindsight) and Walker moved to Easter Suburbs, newly promoted to the premier league. On paper, Eagle had a squad to rival the best in the league.

Eagle consolidated their 1975 performance, to once again finish in fourth position on goal difference with Hobart Juventus who finished third. Rapid were premiers in the end by five points.

Despite a surprise loss early in the season to lowly ranked Dnipro, Eagles put themselves in a great position to challenge for the title, but events transpired against them, and their challenge petered out.

Things may have been different, if the first-round meeting between Eagles and Rapid had not been abandoned at 3-3, because of a faulty sprinkler valve (and was then replayed), and the loss of Eamonn Kelly to a long-term suspension towards the end of the season hadn't occurred.

Eagle did win the pre-season Summer Cup and the inaugural DJ Motors Invitational Cup, and they were also the league's highest goalscorers with 56 goals.

⚽ Easy win for White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 29/3/76 – SUMMER CUP FINAL

NEWCOMERS to White Eagles were the goalscorers in the final of the Michael the Tailor's pre-season soccer competition at Glenorchy on Saturday.

Former South Hobart winger Cliff Morgan got the first two, and former Olympia full-back Larry Nunn the third without reply from Rapid. White Eagles, who won this pre-season event for the second time in three years have built up a strong team and could go a long way in the roster series, starting on Saturday.

Eamonn Kelly made an auspicious debut at centre-half after being cleared by Olympia, and he held former White Eagles striker Don Farmery in check throughout.

However, a handsome trophy and a cheque for $150 will hardly compensate for the loss of consistently good defender Darby Conlan, who is going to Olympia, and they had former Caledonian centre-half Tommy Wilson carried off in the second half with twisted ligaments.

Promising Juventus youngster Dominic Fraraccio was a casualty in the game for third and fourth place, in which Juventus 4 (di Felice 2, Rizzolo and Guidotti) beat Graduates 3 (Norman 3). Fraraccio is suffering from a severely bruised knee cap.

⚽ White Eagles win trophy

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 11/10/76 - DJ MOTORS CUP FINAL

A PENALTY for hands four minutes from time gave White Eagles the D. J. Motors soccer trophy and a $400 cheque yesterday at Margate.

Juventus-Pioneer scored first in the final through skipper Genovesi from the penalty spot for hands, but Draskovic equalised before half-time. Eagles brought on Morgan and Wass as replacements in the second half, and just when extra time seemed likely, Southworth converted a penalty for them. Juventus received a cheque for $100 as losing finalists coming from behind twice in the semi-final on Saturday.

White Eagles beat Croatia 3-2 after being 1-1 at half-time, but key forward Mark Oakes went off the field in the closing stages and will not play again this season.

The other semi-final, in which Juventus beat Olympia 3-2 after being 0-1 at half-time, and leading 3-1, was marred by an incident in the last seconds of the game. Olympia player Constantinovits was sent off for alleged violent play after a goalmouth melee in which goalkeeper Howlin was injured.

As Constantinovits left the field, there was a disturbance in the crowd and the referee abandoned the game with 35 seconds to go. The result of the game was allowed to stand.

⚽ White Eagles loom as threat after easy victory.

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] -19/4/1976

White Eagles turned in their best performance on Saturday to swamp Olympia 5-1 and get back into the premiership struggle with a big chance.

Playing relaxed soccer, they could have had 10 goals with more care and this showed that the injured Harry Stewart on the sidelines was not the beginning and end of this side.

They took full advantage of winning the toss, defending the far end to start with and then getting an unexpected bonus of bright sunshine to help with their first two goals.

In fact, during the reserves and first team games 11 of the 12 goals were scored at the far end.

Eagles had their chances in the first half, Southworth hit an upright and went close soon after, Oakes had two shots off target, and Linnell headed over from close in – but Olympia crossed over 1-0 from a penalty against Kelly.

After Richards had missed an open goal, Parolas sent in a shot that Bucher did well to save early in the second half. Then came three goals in four minutes as a result of intelligent build-up on the right flank. Richards should have completed a hat-trick soon after, but the ball hit Roussos in the face.

With 25 minutes to go a shot by Spendiff was partially saved by Bucher and Constantinovits raced in to boot the ball into the net. It looked a good goal but referee Spence ruled that Bucher still had the ball in his hands and awarded a free-kick against Olympia.

Two minutes later it was all over, as Oakes banged in Eagles' fourth goal, and he added a fifth two minutes later.

Olympia were wide open down the centre to give Oakes a field day as pass after pass set him up for goals, but he missed three in the final minutes, and Wass could have scored once.

With seven games to go anything could happen in a very close competition, but it would seem Olympia have shot their bolt in seventh position. White Eagles meanwhile are three points behind the leaders and have a game in hand.

Olympia who brought Krambousanos on for Paplos 17 minutes into the second half, were good in their approach play in the first half, but were slow in their finishing work and Bucher anticipated their every move.

Spendiff was their danger man, while Bailey was a tireless worker.

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 26/4/1976

Two goals by centre-forward Michael Southworth clinched the points for White Eagles in a close game against Metro. He had the ball 17 times and laid it off 15.

Metro scored in the first 10 minutes, and 15 minutes into the second period Southworth scored from the penalty spot. He headed in the decider from a 40-yard lob by Larry Nunn 30 minutes before time.

Peter Linnell was carried off with a suspected fractured leg with the score 1-1, but was allowed to leave hospital after attention.

Paul Fone who had another good match for Metro, came off in the closing stages with a badly bruised leg.

Nunn had a great game for Eagles, and Fone and Michael Sugden took the honors for Metro, who were unlucky not to save a point.

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] -10/5/1976

Dnipro played all over White Eagles, the "best team on paper" to bring off a surprise 2-1 win.

Vince di Tomasso hit the far upright early on and saw the ball travel across the goal and hit the other upright before rebounding back into play, but five minutes later Walter Lagerewski put Dnipro ahead.

Coach Ernie Rawlings moved to centre-half and tightened the defence around him as Dnipro continued to chase everything to go to 2-0 with 15 minutes to go. Di Tomasso scoring a fine goal on the run.

Goalkeeper David Holmes saved a penalty taken by Southworth, who got only one chance in the field to score from some distance out with 10 minutes left.

Dnipro wanted the ball and their sustained determination carried them through without any players doing more than the others.

Nunn was outstanding for White Eagles for whom Oakes had a quiet debut in the face of close marking.

⚽ Keeper Tattam hero as Croatia force a draw

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 21-6-1976

MAGNIFICENT goalkeeping by Rodney Tattam saved Croatia from defeat at the hands of White Eagles in an exciting six-goal match at South Hobart yesterday.

After being a goal down at half-time and 0-2 one minute into the second half, White Eagles stormed back to be level at 2-2 after 62 minutes. Then Oakes hit the crossbar and Tattam saved brilliantly from both Stewart and Oakes.

A long ball from Payne to the other wing saw Lakoseljac centre for Frame to give Croatia a 3-2 lead in the 82nd minute, with Eagles defence hopelessly bunched.

With one minute to go, a Linnell corner was put into the net by the unmarked Southworth for a 3-3 draw.

Croatia coach Walter Worsey said he did not think there was a team that could give Croatia a 2-0 lead and survive. White Eagles chairman Don Finegan said it was Tattam that held them up.

It was a vital game yesterday for Croatia, and they appeared to have things in hand while they played the full width of the field. It was when they were inclined to bunch that things began to go wrong.

They have certainly come a long way since being beaten 5-0 by Rapid and are again entertaining high hopes of a second successive premiership.

Hall was an absentee for Croatia, being in Sydney on business and Willy Peters took his place at centre-half, giving a sound display throughout, together with Krawczyk, Colman and Lakoseljac, while opportunist Frame got his customary two goals, besides giving a great pass that should have brought a goal in the first half.

Stewart stood out again for White Eagles, who were outplayed on the earlier stages, when they were lucky Andy Collins did not score from a glorious through ball by Leung.

Eagles' penalty came when Peters held Oakes jersey inside the area and Kelly made no mistake to make it 2-2, just after a free kick by him had been headed hard just over the bar by Linnell.

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 28-6-1976

The Rapid versus White Eagles game at South Hobart was abandoned in the 68th minute when a leaking underground sprinkler valve caused an expanding 18 inch deep hole on the edge of the penalty area at the entrance goal that was considered dangerous to the players.

There is no rule covering the need to replay or to allow the 3-3 result to stand. It is left to a local decision.

Tasmanian Soccer Federation secretary Fred Cunningham said, he thought the game would be replayed as both teams wanted two points, instead of the one each they would get for a draw, and the TSA would welcome the chance of getting more gate money from an extra game.

White Eagles scored first, and for the second week in succession came back from two goals down, mainly as a result of bringing Eamonn Kelly from full-back to centre-half, putting Nunn at left-back and Jenkins at right-back to mark the elusive Jack Dilba.

Concentrating on coming through the centre they were just beginning to get on top with their third goal equaliser, when the game was abandoned with Letec receiving attention for a gash above an eye.

Rapid turned in another team effort with 18-year-old Mark Box confirming earlier promise before being replaced at half time by Cengia.

Richards stood out in a tall White Eagles defence, which had superiority in the aerial duals, and Oakes was a trier throughout and earned his three goals.

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 5-7-1976

White Eagles scored eight goals against Eastern Suburbs without really impressing, being 4-0 up before Walker converted a penalty to make t 4-1 at half-time.

Linnell and Southworth both had their first hat-tricks for Eagles, who were coached by Glyn Jenkins for the first time.

⚽ TSF rejects appeal

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 16-8-1976

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation yesterday rejected the White Eagles Soccer Club appeal against the suspension of Eamonn Kelly.

They ratified the TSA's decision to suspend him until December 31 for "head-butting" Tony Godfrey (Caledonians) on July 11 at South Hobart.

⚽ White Eagles turn it on as Juventus crash to third

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – Aug-1976

The potentially strong White Eagles clicked in Saturday for the first time in the soccer roster, and their 5-3 win caused Juventus-Pioneer to slump to third place.

An Oakes header saved brilliantly by Howlin in the opening minute set the pattern for a spirited game in which Eagles' determination and team effort carried the day.

A miskick saw Carnevale hit an Eagles upright in the eighth minute and then Genovesi opened the scoring in the 12th minute when goalkeeper Bucher was penalised for holding di Felice.

Eagles fought back tenaciously and Howlin saved well from Richards, Oakes, Nunn and Morgan before Southworth headed in the equaliser from a corner in the 30th minute. And three minutes later they were 2-1 when Stewart broke through the centre and Oakes took his pass to score.

Juventus efforts were being held up by offside play as White Eagles came out of defence quickly, and their defence was in trouble with Eagles running on to their passes and moving the ball well.

The second half opened with Sarfalvy coming from the wing to centre-forward for Juventus but the move only reduced the momentum of their attacks.

Eagles got a winning break when a Wass corner kick found Southworth, who pivoted to score a surprise goal to make it 3-1 in the 64th minute, only for Carnevale to pull back one of the goals after a free kick against Richards two minutes later.

Juventus then replaced Tony Scavone with Bruno di Tomasso, but it was not long before Morgan pounced on a loose ball to make it 4-2.

Then came the best goal of the game with five Juventus players taking part in the build-up that led to di Tomasso giving di Felice the final pass for 4-3 in the 78th minute.

A corner two minutes from time saw Linnell pass to Richards and Oakes nodded in his cross to make it 5-3.

Oakes has given drive to the White Eagles attack, and he and Morgan are proving a dangerous combination, but it is questionable whether Nunn is better than Kelly at centre-half.

Juventus, who missed West, lacked the will to gain possession, lost the ball too easily and were beaten for speed. They can do a lot better, and are by no means a write-off.

⚽ Rapid force 1-1 draw with Eagles to retain top spot

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 23-8-1976

An equaliser by new recruit Andrew Schiebl (18) with 15 minutes to go, saw Rapid-Wrest Point retain soccer leadership, after conceding a penalty goal in the second minute on Saturday.

Former George Town player Schiebl made his debut for Rapid at the start of the second half, when State Under 15 coach Frank Letec, had to leave to catch a plane with the team, for the national championship at Southport (Q). And he infused new life into a forward line that had lacked punch.

White Eagles looked as if they were going to get the morale booster of league leadership, but ran out of condition in the vital closing stages and very nearly lost.

With only a couple of minutes left, Jack Dilba worked his way into position for a shot from close in, but went for the extra yard and lost a great chance, and then Linnell saved a shot from replacement Box on his goal-line, after Bucher had saved from Schiebl.

A goal down when Cengia was penalised for pushing, Rapid opened tentatively with only three forwards up, and it took them 19 minutes to get their first corner. A minute later Jack Dilba fired in their first shot. But they were getting on top by half time.

White Eagles quicker on the ball, and using it well, came back strongly on the resumption, and during 10 minutes of sustained pressure, Nunn hit the cross bar following a free kick against Stuetzel.

Cengia hit the inside of the cross bar at the other end, only to see the ball bounce back into play, for White Eagles to take up the attack again.

Morgan went close for Eagles when Kannegeiser let the ball go loose in the goalmouth, and from a free kick against Plazonic the ball was headed by Oakes to Southworth, only for Kannegeiser to save well.

Rapid equalised rather surprisingly in the 75th minute when Schiebl dived low to a cross from Reid on the right to head the ball against the upright into the net.

Richards limped off soon after, to be replaced by Riddock, and Box came on for Bachinger as Rapid mounted pressure, with Stuetzel landing a shot on the Eagles' crossbar from 40 yards out, and they dominated the closing exchanges.

White Eagles, who wasted Stewart on the wing, showed defensive weaknesses that could show up further in their remaining games.

⚽ Rapid title favorite after two good wins at weekend

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 30-8-1976

RAPID-WREST POINT picked up four soccer premiership points by beating Dnipro and Caledonians at the weekend and need only beat Metro and draw with White Eagles to win the title.

Their remarkable 2.53 goal average gives them an added advantage. And centre-forward Don Farmery's four goals against Caledonians at Margate yesterday – he had four against Croatia earlier on – has almost certainly given him the goalscoring award with 27 goals, seven ahead of Andy Collins (Croatia). Farmery has scored in 12 of his sides 16 games.

White Eagles, the most likely challengers to Rapid for the premiership have a game in hand and will play Rapid, Juventus and South Hobart.

Showing good teamwork, with newcomer Schiebl combining well with Farmery, Rapid went to 3-0, and were 3-1 at half time against Caledonians, who fought back throughout.

Calies were back in the game with a goal to make it 2-3 with 30 minutes to go. But then Rapid, who were never in danger of defeat, got into their stride, and passing accurately along the ground, they scored another two goals to win 5-3.

Cengia did well in the centre till he left the field with a head injury after a collision. Farmery worked hard for his four goals, the second of which he blasted into the net from a free kick.

Hales stood out in a tricky Caledonians forward line and was always dangerous.

Playing on Saturday without Letec, Rapid made the mistake of using far too many high balls, instead of getting the advantage of their better ball control with ground passes. The result was that the plucky Dnipro side were able to stay with them for most of the game.

Rapid led 1-0 at half time (through a Box goal) after Farmery had ballooned a penalty kick over the bar, and at the other end di Tomasso had had his penalty effort brilliantly save by Kannegeiser. Rapid got their second goal with one minute left, scored by Schiebl.

Schiebl and Box struck up a good understanding on the right flank, and Cengia had a good game for Rapid, while Holmes, Howell and Walter Lagerewski did well for Dnipro.

White Eagles strengthened by playing Stewart in the midfield and Jenkins on the wing, completely outplayed Croatia to win 4-0 after being 1-0 at half time.

Jenkins made the first goal with a pass that Morgan converted in the 17th minute, after Croatia had opened impressively. And it was from his centre that Oakes scored the first of his two goals in the 52nd minute, after Morgan had made it 2-0 two minutes into the second half.

Southworth hit an upright, before Oakes completed the scoring when he intercepted a pass back by Hall, 10 minutes for the end.

Nunn stood out, completely bottling up prolific scorer Andy Collins, and Morgan was a livewire in the Eagles' attack.

Croatia could not stop their own slide, which has coincided with the fact that Collins has collected only one goal from their past five games.

Outplayed in the midfield, Croatia were beaten to the ball and were unable to string together a succession of passes.

⚽ Hat-trick by Farmery wins soccer flag for Rapid

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 5-9-1976

A hat-trick by Don Farmery gave Rapid-Wrest Point the soccer premiership yesterday with a 4-1 won over White Eagles at Glenorchy.

Excited supporters chaired Farmery and defender Yakob Plazonic off the field as they acclaimed their first premiership success since 1964 – and their second team are heading the reserves league standings.

Rapid preferred Box to Letec, as they sought superiority through speed in the vital opening minutes. And they had everything going for them when they won the toss and had the benefit of a stiff breeze, that caught a Jack Dilba corner kick, and carried it directly into the net in the eighth minute.

Schiebl and Farmery were looking particularly dangerous early on, with the centre-forward shooting at every opportunity in the greasy conditions. Southworth had Eagles first half chance when Morgan got a pass to him in front of goal.

The second half opened sensationally with a high ball from Reid being passed by Cengia to Farmery, who calmly lobbed it over the head of Bucher to make it 2-0.

Rapid showed signs of tiring midway through this half and sustained Eagles' pressure saw Oakes head in a Jenkins corner in the 75th minute.

Rapid immediately replaced Cengia with Letec and a brilliant cross by Schiebl to Farmery, brought a goal in the next minute and four minutes later Farmery banged home his third.

Rapid played a fast open game using their wingers to the fullest advantage, while Eagles concentrated too much down the centre. Farmery was at his best, his 30 goals this season were scored out of a Rapid total of 47, and he has an average of 1.76 per game.

Plazonic and coach Stuetzel stood out in their defence, and the speedy Schiebl initiated many of the moves up forward.

Linnell, Nunn and Richards were the pick of Eagles, whose forward line ran into recurring problems of a packed defence to meet their attack in the middle.

It was White Eagles 16th unsuccessful attempt to win a premiership.

Southern Division 1 (Winfield League) Final Standings - 1976

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	18	12	4	2	49	18	28
Olympia	18	10	4	4	55	33	24
Hobart Juventus	18	10	3	5	49	24	23
White Eagle	**18**	**10**	**3**	**5**	**56**	**32**	**23**
Croatia	18	9	4	5	53	36	22
Metro Claremont	18	9	3	6	35	29	21
Caledonians	18	7	5	6	45	42	19
Dnipro	18	4	0	14	13	57	8
South Hobart	18	3	0	15	29	68	6
Eastern Suburbs	18	2	2	14	21	66	6

Leading Goalscorers: M. Southworth 12, M. Oakes 11, C. Morgan 10, P. Linnell 4

The reserve side were unable to defend their 1975 title, and in a very close season (where the top four teams were separated by four points) Eagle finished runner-up to Rapid by a point, with Caledonians another point away in third.

Southern Division 1 Reserves (Winfield League) Final Standings (Top 5 teams) - 1976

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	18	14	0	4	67	35	28
White Eagle	**18**	**13**	**1**	**4**	**69**	**34**	**27**
Caledonians	18	12	2	4	69	29	26
Metro Claremont	18	11	2	5	65	31	24
Hobart Juventus	18	9	3	6	49	38	21

1976 Seniors

Back B. Rybak, M. Oakes, L. Nunn (Capt.), W. Bucher, M. Southworth, M. Richards, E. Kelly, Don Finegan (Chairman), A. Nelson (Manager)
Front: M. Sikora, P. Wass, C. Morgan, G. Jenkins, K. Smith, P. Linnell, H. Stewart.

1977 under Glyn Jenkins was a milestone year, with the club winning the pre-season Michael the Tailor Cup (repeating last season's success), taking out the Winfield League Division 1 title, and then capturing the State Premiership after a two-legged final against Shell League winners Devonport, who had gone undefeated in the Northern competition to book their place in the play-off final against White Eagle.

Decision by TSF now on Sunday

By Gordon Burnett = [THE MERCURY] - 15/4/77

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation has brought forward its May 22 meeting to this Sunday in Hobart to consider the eight clubs recommended for thew 1978 State League.

The teams were decided on by the steering committee – Tony Mullett (NW), Mike Hull (N) and Haydyn Phillips (S), together with TSF secretary Fred Cunningham and TSA secretary Rodger Marlor – and recommended to the TSF for final acceptance.

The clubs are believed to be White Eagles, Olympia, Croatia and Caledonians from the South and Launceston United, Devonport, Ulverstone and George Town from the Combined League.

Embarrassment has been caused by the omission of the two Juventus clubs, both of whom have a worthwhile spectator following.

It is thought unlikely that the TSF will go against its committee's recommendations and replace clubs already chosen.

A ready solution would be to extend the competition from eight clubs to 10 with the inclusion of Northern Juventus, who have indicated they have suitable ground arrangements, and either Juventus-Pioneer or Rapid-Wrest Point both of whom have yet to satisfy the Federation that they meet ground requirements.

In the case of the southern clubs however, there is a possibility they could use the South Hobart ground as their home ground.

It is understood the eight clubs will be decided on at Sunday' meeting but that their names will not be released officially until May 27 at a function given by the as yet unnamed sponsors, and attended by national team coach Jimmy Shoulder.

The $16,000 competition will have an annual $5,000 backing for three years, with an extra $1,000 for administrative costs.

⚽ Eagles recover after a shaky start to down Metro 3-0

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 27/4/77 – MICHAEL THE TAILOR - SUMMER CUP FINAL

White Eagles won the $500, Michael the Tailor pre-season soccer competition yesterday when they beat Metro 3-0 in the postponed final.

It was their second successive triumph in this two-year old series, and as well as the trophy, they received a cheque for $300. Metro won $100 for being runners up, Olympia $70 for taking third place, and Caledonians $30 for fourth place.

Metro pressured White Eagles into errors in the first 10 minutes, but a retaken penalty by Worden opened the scoring against them in the 16th minute, and a great goal by Jenkins soon after saw Eagles establish a winning advantage.

A goal by replacement Oakes with 30 minutes to go sealed the result.

The penalty came when a good pass by Richards sent Jenkins away on the right, and Turner failed to take his centre cleanly. Linnell was heading the ball into the net, when Nigel Sugden handled to save the goal.

Worden's first shot was yards wide, but it was ruled the goalkeeper had moved, and he scored with his second attempt. A pass by Sikora saw Jenkins make a 50-yard run before scoring with a shot across goalkeeper Turner for the second goal.

A glorious centre by Smith went begging, and he had a shot that just cleared the crossbar. The best effort of the game however came from Richards, who fired in a powerful shot from 30 yards that just skimmed the bar. Oakes came on 18 minutes into the second half and scored within 14 minutes from a pass by Richards.

Eagles did well to weather Metro's early determination, and then proceeded to set their own pace. Richards and Jim McKinnon received yellow cards. Outstanding were Richards, Nunn, Worden and Jenkins for Eagles, and Nigel Sugden, and the well-marked Smith for Metro.

⚽ Ten Teams in new look soccer competition

By Gordon Burnett – [THE MERCURY] - 28/5/77

A 10-Team Radio Rentals State Soccer League involving $16,000 sponsorship over the three years was launched last night at the Croatia club by the company's Tasmanian manager, Mr Rai Taylor.

The 10 clubs, who will pay an annual affiliation fee of $350 are: Devonport, Geilston Bay Rapid-Wrest Point, George Town United, Glenorchy Croatia, Launceston Juventus, Launceston United, Margate Caledonians, New Town White Eagles, Sandfly Olympia and Ulverstone.

The eight clubs recommended originally by the steering committee and reported exclusively in the Mercury six weeks ago are included, and Rapid and Launceston Juventus were added to the list later by the Tasmanian Soccer Federation. Five of the clubs are from the South and five from the combined North and North-West.

Juventus-Pioneer, one of the top Southern clubs and one with a big following have been omitted.

Prize money will be $4,500 each season with the winners getting $1,750, second $750, third $500 fourth $300, and the remainder $200 each. The remainder of the sponsorship money will be used by the TSF for administering costs.

⚽ Picket plan by Juventus fans

By Gordon Burnett – [THE MERCURY] - 2/6/77

JUVENTUS-PIONEER soccer club supporters are reported to be planning to picket the Grove Rd. Glenorchy ground on Saturday, in protest against the club's omission from the 10-team Radio Rentals State League next season.

Juventus are rostered to play South Hobart in the Winfield League reserves at l pm, and in the First Division at 2.45 pm.

They are the home team, and any restriction on the entry of spectators will reduce their own gate receipts.

The Juventus club secretary, Mr S. Meale, has written to the Tasmanian Soccer Federation secretary, Mr F. Cunningham, complaining officially about the club's exclusion.

Expressing bitter disappointment, they pointed out that the club had gained a sponsor, who had put a lot of money into the club to produce a professional approach, but this had now received a slap in the face.

Mr Meale said it was one of the oldest clubs in the state, being 21 this year, and had the largest ethnic following. Their record spoke for itself. But despite this, the club had been victimised, and no excuse could be found for their omission, Mr Meale said.

Mr Haydn Phillips, acting president of the TSA in the absence of Mr V. Tuting, said he felt he was best equipped to reply to this letter with reasons - not excuses - as to why Juventus were not included in the State League.

He was a member of the steering committee that dealt with applications and as he had not been connected with any club, he was completely unbiased.

He said the fault lay directly with Juventus, and not with the TSA or the State League. There had been mistakes in the Juventus application. Three of the most important questions had been left unanswered, and non-attendance by Juventus at the official announcement of the League had been a slap in the face for the sponsors and for the association itself.

Juventus had been the only club not to attend, he said. Mr Phillips said Juventus' playing record had never been doubted, but the club had not answered questions relating to ground, accommodation, or facilities. Their officials had been in office only this year and the application bad not been signed by the secretary as required.

There had been no information regarding any possible negotiations for a home ground, which added up to the application being in jeopardy.

Three weeks after all the applications had been received, an amended application came from Juventus, but it could not be considered officially in fairness to other clubs.

However, he had noted that a new alternative strip had been mentioned. Mr Phillips said that Juventus had negotiated last year for the Grove Road ground. This had fallen through when they considered the conditions unacceptable. But he pointed out, White Eagles and Croatia accepted the same conditions, and both are in the State League as a result of having this ground.

A suitable ground was one of the first priorities for acceptance to the State League. Then, when it was realised they were not going to get into the league, Juventus tried to get the South Hobart ground, but two other clubs were ahead of them.

Mr Phillips said it was time Juventus put their house in order and be prepared for the 1980 season, when there would be the first promotion to the State League from the Winfield or Shell leagues.

⚽ White Eagles only drawn match away for the title

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 1/8/77

WITH a remarkable goal difference of 33 compared with a next best of 19, White Eagles need only one draw from their last three games to win their first soccer premiership.

And the games are against Juventus-Pioneer, Croatia, and Rapid Wrest Point. Metro yesterday deflated Croatia's League-Cup double ambitions with a deserved 3-2 success, Olympia took a point from Rapid and Eagles' 4-0 win over South Hobart gave them a five-point lead in the table.

Danny Spendiff, Olympia Saveway's ace forward, virtually put paid to Rapid's hopes of a second successive premiership. He scored twice in the first half, had a lob land on the crossbar, and watched another lob clear the advancing goalkeeper and miss the goal by inches. Then with 12 minutes to go he got his head to a Bolton cross, only for Caban to stop his hat-trick with a brilliant full-length diving save.

Rapid did well to come back from 0-2, to be 2-2 and then snatch a point at 3-3 with the last kick of the game. For Olympia, Spendiff took match honours, while Constantinovits and Morales did well. Best for Rapid were Caban and Schiebl.

Two defensive mistakes in the mud at Glenorchy gave White Eagles a couple or gift goals, and they beat South Hobart 4-0, after a goalless first half. Puclin made a great save from Oakes in the first half and kept his goal intact until the 53rd minute. Then came the two fatal pass backs in the mud, for goals in the 63rd and 75th minutes, and the fourth came just on the final whistle. Sikora, Kelly and Oakes were best for Eagles, while Thomas, Plazonic and Weitenauer, stood out for South Hobart.

The game between Caledonians and University at the Crossroads was postponed because of the state of the ground, and Uni now are two games behind in the roster.

Croatia turned on a display against Metro that does not augur well for their chances against Devonport in the Ampol State Cup semi-finals on Saturday. Playing in fits and starts, with poor combination up forward, they crossed over a goal down, scored by David Smith from the penalty spot. Eight minutes into the second half Doig saved well from Peters, only to see the ball go loose and Lakoseljac equalise.

Soon after Pitchford fouled Lakoseljac in the area and Peters made Croatia 2-1 from the penalty spot. In the 66th minute Francis equalised direct from his corner kick, and after Doig had saved well from replacement Pavic, the winning goal came from Stewart with 13 minutes left.

Ian Gill, Shacklady and Nigel Sugden were best for Metro, and Mohring was best in a jaded Croatia side.

Juventus beat Dnipro by one goal, scored in the 60th minute by Owen from 25 yards, to give new coach Duncan Summers a win in his first game at the helm. Owen, Moore, and West were best for Juventus, and Ahearne and former Juventus players Travierso and Vince di Tomasso, were best for Dnipro.

⚽ White Eagles to clinch title point

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 12/8/77

WHITE Eagles only need a draw against Juventus-Pioneer at Glenorchy tomorrow to win their first soccer premiership.

White Eagle should win easily. Their nearest rivals have failed to keep pace with them with the heat on, and Eagles are five points ahead with three games to play.

ln their first-round game against Juventus they played the better soccer but were held to a 1-1 draw after a goalless first half by a side determined to show they were State League material, even if the TSF did not think so. Juventus will have that same incentive tomorrow, and an added inducement will be to give stand-in coach Duncan Summers the satisfaction of beating the probable premiers.

Summers who coached Juventus to the State premiership in 1972, has agreed to coach them for the remainder of the season and then intends trying to get a coaching job with a State League side. He says Juventus have the talent but lack confidence in and around the opposing penalty area. The main thing however is that they can create chances. It now remains to find the back of net.

An encouraging feature is that for the first time this year, the whole Juventus team have practised together. Former star winger Philip Owen looks fit. Goalkeeper Michael Gaff is included in the squad, but defender Colin West will be missed. Eagles have not wasted their week off and are quietly confident.

“If we can't get the point tomorrow it will be twice as hard against Croatia the week after, and if they beat us it will be three times as hard against Rapid in the final roster game," a club official said last night.

The return of Kelly has made a big difference to the Eagle’s' defence, and it is difficult to see it failing. Their attack with two good wingers and a determined centre-forward in Oakes looks good enough to rattle the Juventus defence. However, an early goal by Juventus could make things interesting.

Olympia Saveway will have State player Tommy Wright back to take Iraqi midfielder Aziz's place. Aziz and Manis were not considered after missing training. Olympia have bad a good second round in which they have dropped only three points from six games, and they should beat University tomorrow.

Uni will be hit this week in all divisions, by the calls of vacation and Connolly and Sloan will be missed in the senior side. Skipper Davies will take Sloan’s place at full-back and Page will return to the attack. De Salis is maintaining good form and had a great game against top scorer Farmery, and the Olympia attack will find him a worthy opponent.

Croatia, smarting from their cup and league reverses, have not got either Mahjouri or Glasovac this week as they have not been to training. Dnipro, like Croatia, are watching scoring chances go astray, and they have concentrated this week on shooting.

South Hobart are determined not to give Caledonians another eight goals when they meet on Sunday at Margate. On the first occasion Chris Hindmarsh scored four against them, but he is in the defence this time, and Skaro and Plazonic will be watching him closely if he moves up into the attack. Bryant has a broken nose from last week and Clarke has a broken toe from a motor bike mishap.

Calies will have Hugh Mackinnon and Hanna fit, and their experience should hold the defence against raids by Thomas and Weitenauer.

Rapid Wrest Point will have Schiebl back against Metro on Sunday after his knee injury and this should increase their fire power. In the first round Pitchford surprised them with a hat-trick that laid the foundation for a 4-3 Metro win. Metro will miss David Smith and Michael Sugden, who are unavailable.

⚽ Eagles’ premiership win first in club’s history

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 15/8/77

THE 17-year-old White Eagles soccer club won their first premiership on Saturday with a 1-1 equaliser by Mike Richards against Juventus-Pioneer with five minutes to go.

But it was a horribly near thing, as they played for 62 minutes with 10 men, after Peter Linnell had been sent off for alleged foul play, and then star defender Eamonn Kelly had to go off injured with eight minutes left. The equaliser was a real gem as new replacement Michael Southworth laid off the ball perfectly to the unmarked Richards on the left - he took it on the run, and it was in the net before the defence realised the danger.

There was more to come in those last few dramatic minutes, as Southworth had the ball in the net almost immediately after, only to be ruled offside. It was a game that came to life only in the last 10 minutes. Juventus had looked all over winners.

They had pressured Eagles from the start, and broken their usual combinations to the extent that, they had next to no chances. Juventus had three great scoring chances in the first half, but de Felice (twice) and Carnevale wasted them. Di Felice eventually got the ball into the net but was penalised for interference.

The only reply from Eagles was a shot from Rybak that was saved at full length by Gaff, who was preferred in goal to Howlin because of his greater height against the tall Eagles players. At half-time Stewart came on for Rybak and Philip Owen for Schiro. Oakes' only chance came 20 minutes into the second half when he got his head to a centre from Jenkins, but the ball went wide of the target.

It was not long after that be got a yellow card for alleged dissent. The opening goal in the 75th minute came after a centre from replacement Owen. Carnevale fastened on to it and transferred it to di Felice on the left, and from his centre, skipper Rizzolo slammed in a goal through a crowd of players.

Kelly sustained a knee injury in the scramble and hobbled around for several minute, before being replaced by Southworth, whose ball control and distribution led to the equaliser. Kelly was outstanding for Eagles, and Trueman and Nunn played a big part in holding out a dangerous looking Juventus attack. West was Juventus' best and was well supported by Moore and Carnevale.

It was the second 1-1 draw between these two clubs and the only blemish on Eagles' second round record.

John Constantinovits celebrated his return to the Olympia Saveway attack with the club's first hat-trick, and they beat University 6-2 - the same score as in the first game - after leading 1-0 at half-time. Olympia took Bolton off to give Wright a run in the second half, and though handicapped by a knee injury, be made a number of openings.

George Paplos also had a chance in goal as a replacement for Roussos and saved brilliantly against Gambles. Olympia's best were Spendiff, Conlan, Bailey and John Paplos, while University, who became dispirited after giving away two penalties and making defensive errors, were best served by Tony Scavone at centre-forward.

Croatia led Dnipro 2-0 at half-time and were 3-0 before Ahearne reduced their lead. But it was an unconvincing win. Ahearne could have scored four goals, showing up the Croatia defence, and an alert Kirkpatrick got no support up forward for Croatia. Peters, Payne, and Djakic stood out for Croatia and Ahearne and MacDougall for Dnipro.

Rapid Wrest Point reversed an earlier 3-4 defeat by Metro, with a 4-1 win yesterday after scoring in the first minute and being 1-1 at half-time. Don Farmery scored twice to take his goal tally to 22 - seven more than his nearest rival for the goalscoring award.

Metro, who were handicapped by the loss of Nigel Sugden with concussion in the second half, were best served by Sugden and Jim Mackinnon, while John Dilba, Cengia, Stuetzel and Kannegiesser were Rapid's best.

Caledonians shared the spoils with South Hobart when Farmer scored a 2-2 equaliser from a Godfrey centre 15 minutes from time at Margate. They had beaten South Hobart 8-3 earlier. Calies scored first from the penalty spot after a goalless first half, but then a brilliant solo effort by Thomas brought an equaliser.

Weitenauer put South ahead, only for Farmer to get his second goal to equalise. Skaro, Plazonic and Thomas stood out for South, and Hales, Hugh Mackinnon. Hindmarsh and Farmer were Calies' best.

⚽ Eagles boosted by return of Kelly

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/8/77

WHITE Eagles will have Eamonn Kelly fit for their "prestige" game against Croatia tomorrow, and he could be the difference between the two sides.

Kelly left the field last week with what appeared to be a bad knee injury, but it has responded well to treatment. The Eagles were outplayed by Croatia earlier on and were lucky to save a point with a second half equaliser by Oakes, who is nursing an injured foot.

Since then however, they have had the premiership in the bag and Croatia have slumped after falling between two stools in the league and cup competitions. Last season the Eagles drew with Croatia and then beat them 4-0, and history could repeat itself tomorrow.

The ever-optimistic Rapid Wrest Point club beat Dnipro 6-2 earlier and are looking for something like 8-0 to creep closer to the leaders. "We've got the talent and the incentive", an official said. And Dnipro may not be able to do much about it as they have had training problems that have made it impossible to name their team before the day of the match.

Coach Ernie Rawlings said work commitments, lack of interest and sheer laziness had combined to wreck training sessions, and under 17 players would now be getting a chance to play in the senior side. Rodney Butterworth, one of the few regulars at training, is showing great potential and is improving with each game in the first team. Nick Nandan, the club's secretary, and a foundation member 14 years ago, will play his 250th game for Dnipro when he takes his place in the reserves team. A club rule calls for life membership for any player who represents the club 250 times.

A back injury could cause skipper Tony Skaro's withdrawal from the South Hobart team against Juventus-Pioneer, who have not forgotten being held to a goalless draw in the first round. That was the weekend that South all but beat Northern Juventus in the Ampol State Cup competition in Launceston. With no additional pressures this weekend South could give a good account of themselves against a side who will miss West very badly.

Caledonians have dropped winger Godfrey for their game against Olympia Saveway on Sunday and Webb is likely to get his position. Olympia, who beat Calies 2-0 last time, will not have Iraqi players Aziz and Alwan because they are not training, and Wright is having to rest a knee injury. They will probably play Constantinovits up forward again.

It will be interesting to see how Mike Bailey fares against the club he will be coaching next season in the State League. University will have Rob Jensen back from injury and studies, and the return of Sloan and Connolly should further strengthen them against Metro in a bid to go out on a high note – against Metro and then Dnipro.

Metro will be unchanged and will need to be on their mettle as Uni drew with them earlier. South Hobart, who have reappointed Skaro as coach for next season, will hold their trophy night at the South Hobart Primary School hall on September 8. The new fully enclosed Chigwell sports complex will be discussed at a public meeting on Monday at 7.30 pm at the Claremont high school library. The ground should be ready for use by April next year.

⚽ Hat-trick loosens White Eagles' tight title grip

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 22/8/77

A HAT-TRICK by Milan Lakoseljac and brilliant goalkeeping by Rodney Tattam on Saturday loosened White Eagles' grip on the soccer premiership.

And if Rapid Wrest Point can beat them by three goals in their last game this Saturday, White Eagles will lose the title that was theirs for the taking at one stage.

On Saturday the Eagles lost 0-3 to Croatia - their second defeat - and Rapid beat Dnipro 5-0. If necessary, the premiership will be decided on goal difference - White Eagles have a goal difference of 30, Rapid 25, and Croatia 24 - as it is possible for each of these three teams to finish with 26 points.

On Saturday, Croatia converted scoring chances for a change. But the Eagles produced some great approach work and Tattam saved magnificently from Oakes in the first half, and then from Southworth and Trueman. Richards had a shot land on the bar, Payne cleared well from a corner, and Krawczyk cleared a ball from Southworth off his goal line.

A fine movement between Kirkpatrick, Hall, Leung and Lakoseljac led to the opening score in the 17th minute. Six minutes into the second half a throw-in on the left found Lakoseljac and he scored with a rocket-like shot that almost tore through the net.

Rybak came on for Stewart with 19 minutes to go and Wass replaced Jenkins in the 80th minute, but to no avail. With only injury time left, Letec gave Lakoseljac his bat-trick with a perfect pass. Tattam, Lakoseljac, who showed a greater confidence, and Kirkpatrick, who laid off some great passes with head and foot, were best for Croatia.

Trueman, who almost brought scores with two great bursts through the centre, Nunn, who almost scored, Southworth, the brains up forward, and the reliable Kelly stood out for Eagles, who badly missed Linnell in the midfield.

Two reserves and two under 17s played a second time on Saturday to complete Dnipro's team against Rapid - and their promising youngster - Rodney Butterworth played his third game against the wishes of coach Ernie Rawlings.

Rapid had all the play, but led only 3-0 at ball-time, were kept scoreless for 20 minutes, and then added two against a courageous side who were reduced to ten men for the last 15 minutes when Alexiadis was taken off with an injured leg.

Rawlings stood out, while Travierso saved a number of shots, as Rapid tried, possibly too hard, to cut down the Eagles' big goal advantage. Farmery got four goals for the second time and is 10 goals ahead in the goalscoring award he won last year, but with McDougall, Leon Lagerewski and Stanton, he got a yellow card.

Juventus-Pioneer played a second draw with South Hobart after scoring in the 15th minute with a Carnevale header. Soon after Thomas equalised. In the goal-less second half Carnevale was sent off after verbal brush with the referee and replacement Chris Baker hit a Juventus upright in the dying stages of the game.

Thomas, David Baker and Plazonic were best in a good South Hobart team effort, and Moore, Prodan and Rizzolo, who was at centre-half in the absence of West, were Juventus' best.

Neil Thomas was watched by JUST (Melbourne) club's specialist coach John McKenzie, who played inside forward for Caledonians 18 years ago, and impressed enough to be invited for a trial and then possibly asked to join JUST's summer squad. Former national coach Rale Rasic could also be interested in Thomas for the Marconi club.

A weakened Olympia Saveway side - Aziz, Alwan, Morales and Wright were out - were beaten 3-2 by Caledonians yesterday at Margate after leading 2-0 and then 2-1 at half-time. Winger Webb scored a fine deciding goal 10 minutes from time and in the closing minutes a Calies defender put the ball against his own crossbar under pressure.

Jones, Siggins, and Hanna did well for Calies, and Bailey, Conlan and Spendiff shone for Olympia.

Goals by Pitchford and David Smith, who hit a beauty from 20 metres out, gave Metro a 2-0 half-time lead over University and they won 3-1 in a rough match that went for an extra eight minutes. Nigel Sugden, Ian Gill, and Smith stood out for Metro, and Hoskins, Jensen, and replacement Wignall did well for University.

⚽ Speedier Rapid to outgun Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 26/8/77

RAPID WREST Point are expected to have both Don Farmery and Wolfgang Stuetzel for their 11th hour soccer premiership bid against White Eagles on Sunday.

Farmery, who is the league's top scorer with 26 goals from 16 games, got a yellow card last Sunday to take him to a total of 22 disciplinary points and an automatic appearance before the investigation committee. He faces the possibility of a three-match suspension, depending on the charges, but he is free to play because the tribunal was not called to hear his case.

Stuetzel is coach of the State under 13 squad going to Sydney for the national championships and it was thought at first, he would be unavailable for the Sunday match. But it is likely now that he will be able to play.

In the Rapid squad this week are goalkeeper Philip Kannegiesser, back from Europe and training well, and midfielder Phil Edmonson back from the UK, and looking in good form. Rapid beat White Eagles 2-0 in the first round and are determined to beat them again.

However, they need a win by three clear goals to oust Eagles from the top position in this last roster match. To make the position even more interesting, Croatia meet Juventus-Pioneer tomorrow and a win by five clear goals would put Croatia in the title hunt - if the Eagles are beaten 2-0 for instance.

The situation at the top of the table is that White Eagles (26 pts), needing just one point to win their first title, have 45 goals for and 15 against for a goal difference of 30; Rapid (24 pts) are 55,30 for 25; and Croatia (24 pts) 45, 21 for 24. And if the Eagles and Croatia finish level on points and goal difference, Croatia would win the title as they have scored more goals.

Rapid realise they will have to score goals and will be chasing everything. They are well disciplined enough to give their ambition a real shake, as their morale stands very high. Eagles, badly shaken by the loss of three points from their last two games, have to regain the confidence that made them look such a good side earlier on. Linnell will be back in the midfield, and it would not surprise to see Trueman move up also into the midfield, as the match could well be decided in this area.

If they rely entirely on defence to see them through, it could throw the whole team out of gear. Rapid have a better attack than that of Croatia's, which took three goals off them last week. Farmery, Schiebl and Jack Dilba will be quick to take their chances. Rapid have the talent and speed to win this game, but whether they can win by three clear goals is another matter.

Croatia beat Juventus 2-1 earlier and are likely to do the same again as they will be at full strength. Juventus will be without Gaff (broken nose), Carnevale (suspended) and West (unavailable).

Caledonians are not changing a winning side and are hoping the same improved team effort of last week will continue and enable them to beat Metro who drew 2-2 the first time. Cook is back in the Metro side in the absence of Peter Gill who is interstate.

Dnipro are reported to have settled their differences and a good muster at training suggests they are out to win their last game against University and put up a good showing in the coming D. J. Motors Cup competition. They will be without Bill Alexiadis who broke a leg against Rapid last Sunday, and Vince di Tomasso who has lost his place for not training. University will be without Goninon (cracked ribs), and Newman and Wignall are unavailable. They are hoping that the ball skills of Graley and Tony Scavone will pave the way for goals by Hoskins and Robinson.

Olympia's Iraqi players Aziz and Alwan are not attending training and they and the injured Wright are out of the Olympia side to meet South Hobart. South's captain Tony Skaro, is still being worried by a back injury and is doubtful, but Eastwood should bolster the defence against the sharpshooters Norman and Spendiff.

⚽ White Eagles clinch title with 3-0 win over Rapid

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 29/8/77

WHITE EAGLES won their first soccer premiership yesterday when they beat Rapid Wrest Point 3-0, the margin that Rapid had to win by to win the title.

And at the end of a hard and fast game, women members of the 17-year-old club, dressed in Polish costume, ran out on the field and presented their players with flowers. And as the team returned to the dressing room they were showered with confetti.

Rapid chose to play the first half with the wind and should have been a goal up in the second minute. A Kannegiesser pass sent Schiebl through the centre with only Bucher to beat but be shot hurriedly and wide. The more experienced White Eagles recovered quickly and in the eighth minute a ball from Richards found Trueman, and he sent Southworth down the right wing and Oakes took his centre on the run to open the scoring.

Cengia almost equalised with a well taken shot that landed on the top netting. Wass came on as a substitute for Jenkins in the 67th minute and as a Willcock pass back to Caban went astray, Wass shot across the goal from an acute angle. With eight minutes to go, a good cross by Wass saw Southworth present Oakes with his second goal.

Farmery missed a sitter just on injury time, and one minute later Southworth crowned a fine afternoon's work with a well-placed shot, after Caban bad been lured from his goal.

Eagles' best player was Southworth, who had a hand in all three goals, and Kelly and Nunn got through a tremendous amount of work. Rapid were best served by John Dilba, who did not have the best of support, the fast and energetic Schiebl, who was a constant menace to the Eagles' defence, and Caban, who twice held up Oakes' attempts at a hat-trick.

Winfield League Division 1 Final Standings - 1977

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**18**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**48**	**15**	**28**
CROATIA GLENORCHY	18	10	5	3	46	22	25
RAPID WREST POINT	18	10	4	4	55	33	24
OLYMPIA	18	11	2	5	44	31	24
METRO-CLAREMONT	18	8	4	6	44	34	20
HOBART JUVENTUS	18	6	8	4	35	32	20
CALEDONIANS	18	5	6	7	35	44	16
SOUTH HOBART	18	2	6	10	22	48	10
DNIPRO	18	3	3	12	16	46	9
UNIVERSITY	18	1	2	15	21	61	4

Goalscorers: Southworth 12, Oakes 10, Jenkins, Worden 6, Linnell 4, Richards, Rybak 3, Wass 2, Draskovic, Nunn 1

Winfield League Division 1 Reserves Final Standings - 1977

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
RAPID	17	14	2	1	64	23	30
UNIVERSITY	17	12	2	3	52	25	26
WHITE EAGLE	**17**	**7**	**7**	**3**	**49**	**30**	**21**
CALEDONIANS	17	9	2	6	52	33	20
SOUTH HOBART	16	6	4	6	37	42	16
OLYMPIA	17	6	3	8	41	32	15
CROATIA GLENORCHY	16	6	3	7	40	47	15
HOBART JUVENTUS	16	4	2	10	43	54	10
METRO CLAREMONT	17	2	3	11	34	50	7
DNIPRO	16	2	0	14	14	90	4

Goalscorers: Witek 12, Kempa 10, Riddock 7, Wass 4, Draskovic, Riastovic, Worden, Gorniak 2, Buissink, Nelson, Allison, Elliot, Linnell 1, OGs 3

Under 17's Final Standings - 1977

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingborough	21	18	1	2	86	29	37
White Eagle	**20**	**14**	**2**	**4**	**57**	**35**	**30**
Olympia	20	12	4	4	48	28	28
Croatia	20	12	3	5	50	30	27
Juventus	20	10	4	6	50	33	24
Caledonians	20	11	1	10	61	49	23
Metro Claremont	20	7	2	11	42	53	16
Rapid	20	7	2	11	36	52	16
University	20	4	5	11	31	47	13
Dnipro	20	5	2	13	34	60	12
South Hobart	20	5	0	15	24	60	10
Eastern Suburbs	21	3	0	16	39	82	8

Leading Goalscorers: E. Gorniak 13, Ejlak 9, Buissink 8, Angel, Tope 5, Slyp 3, R. Gorniak, Laredo, Carrington, 1 O.G. 5

⚽ Flag should go to White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 16/9/77

DEVONPORT'S hopes of winning their first State soccer premiership from White Eagles are wrapped up in the plaster around player-coach Tommy McKenna's right leg.

He came off the field in the fourth minute of the Ampol State Cup final last week with strained knee ligaments, saw a doctor on Tuesday and will have the plaster on for at least two weeks.

And that takes in the first leg of the premiership at Devonport tomorrow and the second leg at Grove Rd, Glenorchy, on the following Saturday. Although Devonport are the only first division team in Tasmania to be unbeaten this season, they cannot afford to lose McKenna, and never at any stage against Northern Juventus last week did they look capable of beating the Eagles, who are the Southern champions.

The only yardstick for these two teams is that Northern Juventus beat White Eagles 4-3 at Brooks High, which has a two-goal home advantage, and Devonport drew both their roster games against Juventus.

It is possible Devonport will bring in Trevor Robinson in place of McKenna. He has been a prolific scorer in the Reserves and can play anywhere on the forward line.

They point to the fact that they have played eight weeks without McKenna this season because of an arm operation. "We have just got to lift ourselves, and the boys can do that" an official said.
It is their second State final, as they lost 0-3 to Croatia at South Hobart in 1974 and then 1-2 in the second leg, when McKenna scored. Of that team Baird, MacDonald, Frame, Lumb, Udovicic and Best will be playing tomorrow.

White Eagles, who have a poor away record, were favored at one stage for the grand slam in major trophies this season, but they missed out on the cup when Northern Juventus beat them. This is their first bid for a State title.

On paper they look good, and they have fulfilled that potential on occasions, but they have lapses when concentration wanes. If there is any real weakness it is in the defence, where they can be beaten for speed.

In attack they have match winners in Michael Southworth, who makes the openings and Mark Oakes, a determined centre-forward who will chase everything all day.

White Eagle have not had a game for two weeks but have put in an extra day's training this week and are reported to be fit and keen.

Skipper Larry Nunn, who has had a very good season himself, is hoping to win tomorrow by a two-goal margin, and Northern Juventus players, who lost 0-1 to Devonport last week, think it could be an even bigger margin than that.

But conditions were not good for that game and one of Devonport's better performances was their 3-1 win over Olympia Saveway in the Cup on this ground. Devonport have also beaten Croatia 2-0 this year and Rapid Wrest Point last season in the Cup.

Their defence is suspect. Their strength is in the midfield, where Barry Zschoke and Chris Gleeson cover one another very well and are tireless workers. Their attack is a smooth moving, fast machine with Billy Frame, who is extremely dangerous in the air despite his small stature, and Alec MacDonald, another arial specialist, their most dangerous forwards.

Although there is a similarity in their style of play, White Eagles are the more flexible, and they should get plenty of drive from their midfielders, Peter Linnell and Dennis Trueman. The Eagles should carry too many guns and should win comfortably in both legs.

⚽ Last minute equaliser and Devonport still unbeaten

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/9/77 – STATE PREMIERSHIP

A 90TH minute goal by 16-year-old Fabio Pizzerani enabled Devonport to preserve their unbeaten 1977 record with a 2-2· draw against White Eagles, in the first leg of the State soccer premiership, at Devonport on Saturday.

Only two minutes of injury time remained. In a game that fell far short of the capabilities of both teams, and was fraught with tension-produced fouls, Devonport led 1-0 at half-time, were l-2 down with 18 minutes to go, and then fought back in a last desperate fling to equalise.

The second leg will be played at Grove Rd. Glenorchy this Saturday, and Devonport's injured star player Tommy McKenna says he could be playing. "I'll see the doctor on Tuesday and if there's any chance at all of playing I'll be playing" he said.

Both sides had players injured in the game. Devonport captain Charlie Baird did not come on for the second half

because of a groin injury, and Alec MacDonald limped off eight minutes from the end with a knee injury. White Eagles' captain Larry Nunn went off in the 68th minute with an ankle injury. However, all three are expected to play in the return game.

Close marking upset the usual Eagle rhythm and they surprisingly resorted often to big kicking. Devonport's main thrust was through the centre. A great first time shot on the turn by MacDonald, seven minutes into the second half, would have given Devonport a 2-0 lead but for a spectacular leap by Wally Bucher, who tipped the ball over the crossbar. It could have so easily been as much the goal of the year as it was quite the best save of the season.

Bucher, McKay, and Southworth stood out tor Eagles, and Udovicic, Frame, MacDonald, Zschoke and Best were outstanding for Devonport.

A surprising feature of the Eagles' display was their continued failure to take free kicks near goal quickly. Absence of a Devonport wall made a shot at goal an obvious tactic. Devonport, who surprised by using Trevor Robinson in the absence of McKenna were much more dangerous in the early stages, but were lucky not to be a goal down in the 20th minute when a quickly taken free kick saw Southworth force Udovicic to dive full length to save.

Five minutes later a Zschoke centre saw MacDonald head the opening goal. A McKay-Southworth-Oakes move then saw Udovicic save well again before half time. Devonport substituted Cole for Baird, and Eagles brought on Wass for Jenkins, to get more drive on the left wing. Three minutes into the second half Frame got a yellow card after a foul.

In the 55th minute a high ball from the left found the unmarked Oakes, and while four defenders watched him, he equalised. Soon after, the diminutive Frame bullocked his way through the defence, leaving Nunn and Sikora writhing on the ground after colliding heavily, and this led to Nunn going off and being replaced by Stewart.

As so often happens, it was Stewart who scored two minutes later, to put the Eagles 2-1 up when he pounced on a ball from Southworth on the edge of the penalty area. Stewart and McKay were then playing in the midfield, instead of Linnell and Trueman, who had dropped back into the defence.

Frame, who played a great game in attack, and fell back to help the defence when necessary, made an opening for Zschoke, but his shot went just wide of the near upright. The equaliser came when Gleeson, who bad a quiet second half after starting well, passed inside to Frame who then found the unmarked Pizzerani in front or goal, and the youngster made no mistake with the last chance of the game.

And to settle arguments about the Valley Road ground which was in excellent condition: According to the official measurement, the ground is 114 yds by 74.7 yds, which is larger than a number of grounds used in the English League First Division, including Arsenal's ground at Highbury in London.

⚽ Eagles come from behind to snatch title from Devonport

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 26/9/77 – STATE PREMIERSHIP

TWO goals in five minutes saw White Eagles snatch the State soccer premiership from Devonport on Saturday at Glenorchy after they had been on the brink of defeat.

And the coastal side, who had only to hold out for 10 minutes to retain their unbeaten record for the season, went away dissatisfied with the refereeing – by Southern referee Ron Spence, who had top Northern referee Jack Johnson as one of his linesmen. Devonport coach Tom McKenna claimed that a disallowed first half goal by 16-year-old Fabio Pizzerani was a good goal and that White Eagles' equaliser was saved on the goal line by Peter Best.

Spence ruled that Pizzerani elbowed his way through and that he had blown his whistle before he kicked the ball. In the second instance, linesman Basil Masters ruled that the ball has crossed the goal line by 18 inches. Best said he had kicked the ball when it was a foot from the goal line.

It was a game of vastly different halves. The first was Devonport's with their speed forcing Eagles into defensive errors and upsetting their persistent close passing through the middle. Eagles took the honours in the second half without capitalising on their chances until 10 minutes from the end.

White Eagles, who played Stewart in the midfield with McKay, and had Trueman on the back line, and Linnell on the wing, were very ragged at the start and Oakes was often unsupported up front. They were lucky when Pizzerani broke through down the centre only to pass to the off-side Zschoke, and not long after, Frame got his head to a cross from Zschoke that was not far off the target.

After McDonald had received a yellow card, Archer replaced Robinson, who had been preferred to him after the Devonport game in the 40th minute, and just on the half-time whistle, Gleeson sent McDonald through on a bullocking run that ended with Frame scoring.

There had been good build-ups by Eagles, but they could not finish them off. Southworth started the second half by hitting an upright with a rasping shot, and seconds later almost surprised Udovicic with a pile-driver straight at him.

In the 54th minute Stewart pivoted and sent in the shot of the match only to see Udovicic put it over the crossbar in fine style.

McKenna sent Johnston in for Glasser 24 minutes into the half, but could not check mounting Eagles' pressure, although McDonald was slow to take a chance when Kelly misjudged a long ball. In the 74th minute, Rybak came on for Richards, who had strained a muscle, and six minutes later a pass from McKay found Nunn, who sent a high ball down the middle which Oakes chased and cleverly headed over the advancing Udovicic into the goal. Best raced in and booted the ball away, but it was adjudged to have crossed the line for a goal.

It was a blow to Devonport and before they could recover they were a goal down five minutes later, when a pass from Linnell on the left saw Southworth take it on the run and flash home an unstoppable decider.

Although it was a better game than the 2-2 first leg draw at Devonport, neither side was seen at their best and few players struck top form. Bucher saved well in the opening stages when Devonport were really dangerous, Southworth was a clever striker, but a shade selfish with it, and Oakes fully deserved his goal with a determined performance.

Baird did a lot of good work in the Devonport defence and Frame and Pizzerani were the main menace to Eagles. Nunn's ankle injury troubled him from the start and for most of the second half he was playing practically on one leg.

Personally, Larry Nunn the Eagle midfielder / defender had a year to remember. Not only did he win a premiership, but he also became the first Eagle player to win the prestigious "Jack Cade" Player of the Year Award. He also added another Eagle Best & Fairest award to add to his 1976 trophy.

⚽ Larry Nunn - Player of The Year

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY]

LARRY NUNN, 6ft 2in and 13st of ability and determination, has established a number of firsts, in winning SEM's Player of the Year soccer award.

- He is the first Hobart-born player to be honored.
- At 24 he is the youngest in the history of an award that goes back 20 years.
- He Is the first White Eagles' winner.

A product of Rose Bay High and Hobart Matric, he gives most of the credit for his progress to coach John Grimsey, who had him at Metro and then Olympia.

Larry captained White Eagles this year for the first time, and they won their, and his first premiership. It was the last of the pre-State League competition, and he is hoping to lead Eagles to the first of the Radio Rentals State League premiership next season.

That and a desire to keep improving are his immediate aims. Turning from Rules to soccer at high school "as it was something different", he later played for Tasmania against the People's Republic of China team and captained the Southern Tasmanian Under 23 team against Sunshine City (V) and was offered a trial for Polonia, Melbourne.

He was appointed captain of White Eagles by the club's committee but accepted the job only after being selected by the players. "I'm playing with them, not the committee," he said.

He had a season of consistently good performances as a double centre-half and was an inspiration to a side that had everything but needed to put it together - under the guidance of coach Glyn Jenkins.

He relaxes in the off season, but points out that it is only a couple of months before training starts for the following season. Larry intends to do some coaching of juniors and urges others to do the same; he sees the State League as a challenge to the administration; and he thinks it's a pity that Juventus-Pioneer and Burnie Spartans were left out.

He is employed as a clerk at Telecom Australia and his fiancée, Julie Barnes, of Howrah, is a keen sportswoman, having been in the Hobart Building Society's premiership netball team this year.

1977 State Premiership Side

Back: – D. Finegan (Chairman), T. Steenhuis (Manager), B. Rybak, D. Trueman, M. Southworth, M. Richards, E. Kelly, L. Nunn (Capt.), M. Oakes B. Jones (Trainer), G. Jenkins (Coach); **Front:** P. Linnell, M. Sikora, B. McKay, W. Bucher, H. Stewart, P.Wass, Gary Jenkins **Absent:** K. Worden

1978 saw the introduction of the first, truly Statewide League in Tasmania. Premiership coach Glyn Jenkin was surprisingly replaced by former Polish international Peter Broll, however, he eventually did not arrive from Europe, so Eagle started the season without a coach.

In what would prove an arduous one, that would not be decided until the final round of games, Eagle also had to face a star-studded Essendon Croatia in a Phillips Cup match mid-season.

⚽White Eagles will start campaign without coach

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 28/3/1978

WHITE EAGLES will start on Sunday what is expected to be a formidable bid for the initial Radio Rentals Soccer State League title without the top-ranking Polish coach they are expecting from Europe.

Peter Broll, who represented Poland as a goalkeeper, has been held up, and until he arrives, former South Melbourne Hellas player Peter Bourne from Manchester (UK), is doing a great job as coach.

Eagles will be without Worden, Southworth and Bucher from last year's team, Oakes is away, and temporary keeper Wass is leaving the State next week. But they have new talent, headed by David Smith, Nigel Sugden, Dominic Fraraccio, who is injured, Tony Godfrey and David Forshaw.

Sugden who was sent off last week will be playing, as the State League considers a player innocent until proved guilty, whereas the TSA impose an automatic one match suspension and disciplinary penalty points.

The same will apply to Don Farmery (Olympia), who had the necessary number of disciplinary points at the end of last season to appear before the investigation committee, but who was not called to appear.

Eagles meet Croatia in a repeat performance of the Michael The Taylor Cup semi-final, Eagles won 3-2. Croatia will miss Dudley Hall, but Letec, George Sarfalvy and Zapatocki have returned to the club. Sarfalvy and Leung can be expected to send across well placed centres for Lakoseljac, who will have Kirkpatrick waiting to come through from behind.

Olympia has recruited so well that they must have high hopes of regaining the State premiership they last won in 1968. Goalkeeper Eric Stettner, from Launceston United, Farmery, Moore, Wilson, Ernie Rawlings, and Worden who is their coach, are newcomers who will be on view.

They have lost Schwesinger, Morales, Alwan and Aziz to Rapid, although Aziz is reported to be wanting to return to Olympia. Chris Hargrave is having a run in the reserves. They have a tough game against Devonport, who could be the strongest challengers to Southern dominance, and Devonport are almost unbeatable on their Valley Road ground.

Olympia crashed there last year, and Rapid at their best were beaten there the year before. Visiting teams invariably play through the centre, throwing away skills and speed.

Devonport, who were taken by national coach Jimmy Shoulder for their final training session last night, are considered stronger than when they won the Ampol State Cup. They have only two new faces, youngsters Conway (19) and Abley (16), from their reserves and they could get a run.

Launceston United will be in Hobart against Rapid, and Tommy Bain, who has been a State Goalkeeper, is returning after six years. Australian schoolboy squad member Baden Carter is a new striker from Olympic, who will be all the better for having Hughes playing behind him. They are a very fit side, and Welsh coach Peter Carter is developing their skills.

Rapid have got Plazonic back from South Hobart, and Schwesinger, Alwan and Morales from Olympia, and have a good blend of youth and experience that should bring results, despite the loss of Schiebl, Farmery, Wilson and Stuetzel. Don Reid could be available soon.

Launceston Juventus have newcomers in former Croatia player Chris Collins in the midfield, Jamie Hodge from Olympia at centre half in front of the evergreen Tommy Strickland, and Jock Glass from Launceston Croatia is their coach. They are reported to be stronger than last year, despite Hans Streit's break-down in a pre-season game.

They meet Caledonians against whom they do not have a good record, even when playing in the North. It will be the official opening of the Prospect ground, which is part of a $250,000 sporting complex.

Caledonians will be captained by State player Mike Bailey, who has fully recovered from the injury that kept him out of the Olympia side for a long period last season. Other new faces will be Garry Jenkins and the Marlor brothers Paul and Stephen. Goalkeeper Paul Jones has yet to start training, and Tony Godfrey has gone to White Eagles.

George Town, with a pre-season win over both Launceston Juventus and Devonport, are a team that could surprise against the best. They have youth and speed and a good attack that is pleasing coach Alan Whitemore.

Andy Schiebl, from Rapid, has put new life into a side which has two Australian Under 18 squad players in Mark O'Sullivan and Martin Burden.

They are at home to Ulverstone, a side with an average age of 24, and who play a 4-3-3 formation. Neil Bladen is an interesting player up front, after playing in the State Under 15 team, new centre-forward Howard from Penguin has speed to burn, and Ron Smith and Shegog have been in the State Squad.

⚽ Eagles struggle for draw: SOS sent out for coach

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 3/4/1978

FORMER State and Olympia coach, John Grimsey, flew into Hobart yesterday in answer to an SOS from White Eagles and saw them scramble to a 1-1 draw with Croatia in the opening program of the Radio Rentals State Soccer League.

Grimsey said Eagles played "atrociously" in the first half, but then improved. Croatia had led by a lone first half goal to within eight minutes of the end. Grimsey will coach Eagles, last year's State premiers, until the arrival of Polish coach Peter Broll from Europe. Temporary coach Peter Bourne left yesterday to re-join South Melbourne Hellas.

Croatia scored through winger Bill Krawczyk in the 14th minute and could have gone further ahead through Lakoseljac (twice), Kirkpatrick and Cowen, who missed a penalty. Eagles were struggling when a centre from Richards went across the goal, and Payne completely mis-kicked the ball, for second half replacement Tony Godfrey, formerly Caledonians, to score a surprise equaliser. Seconds later another Richards cross saw David Smith head over. Trueman and Kelly were best for Eagles and Cowen for Croatia.

Rapid, without the injured Morales, pleased coach Karl Schwesinger with a 5-2 win over Launceston United. John Dilba was at centre-forward to give maximum speed up front with his brother Jack and Peter Thompson. United opened with plenty of dash. Pickering scored the first goal in the initial State League season when a corner from the left was headed by Hughes into a crowd of players, and Pickering got a foot to the ball for a third minute goal.

A pass from Thompson brought the equaliser by John Dilba in the 15th minute, but United could have got on top had McCormack converted a penalty against Plazonic. Thompson hit an upright and Alwan missed an open goal before the teams crossed over at 1-1. Thompson shot well over the bar before Hopkins, a last-minute substitute for the

injured Hudson, brought John Dilba down in the area, and Schwesinger put Rapid ahead. It was 3-1 three minutes later when Steve Kannegiesser took a pass from Alwan, and then Dilba hit an upright.

Hands against Plazonic saw McCormack score from the spot to make it 2-3. A late rally by United failed to get past Phillip Kannegiesser, who was impressive with everything overhead despite the close attentions of Chadwick. Steve Kannegiesser made it 4-2 when he fastened on to a pass from Alwan. Seeing Bain standing well outside his goal he shot hurriedly and kicked the ground before connecting with the ball, which looked as if it would clear the bar. However, the spin on it caused it to dip suddenly into the bottom of the net.

Kannegiesser was responsible for the fifth goal when Thompson went in on his pass to make it 5-2 against a tiring opposition. United coach Peter Carter said his team played well below form. Farrington, Joss and Baden Carter got through a lot of work for them, and Willcock, Thompson and Phillip Kannegiesser were three of Rapid's youngsters to impress.

Olympia played well and had their chances at Devonport, who won a fast and even encounter by a lone goal scored by winger Fabio Pizzerani eight minutes from the end. Former Croatia goalkeeper Udovicic was in great form saving a 25-yard pile-driver from Spendiff.

Constantinovits hit the cross bar and the hard-working Zschoke hit an upright for Devonport before Olympia coach Worden, came on for Rawlings and hit the bar. Three minutes from time new Olympia goalkeeper Stettner saved brilliantly from Pizzerani. Zschoke, MacDonald and McKenna were best for Devonport and Spendiff, Constantinovits and Conlan for Olympia.

Launceston Juventus celebrated the opening of their new ground at Prospect with a 5-0 win over Caledonians, who were handicapped by Hen's indifferent goalkeeping. Juventus crossed over with a three-goal lead, and Caledonians, caught in possession too often, had sufficient chances to equalise at least through Nichols, Dunsby and Hales before conceding two further goals.

Tommy Strickland was the driving force behind Juventus and Joe Hanna stood out for Calies. Paul Marlor made a promising debut. Juventus' star forward Hans Streit played, but knee trouble sapped his enthusiasm.

A hat-trick by Andy Schiebl, formerly of Rapid, failed to give George Town both points against Ulverstone, who recovered from 1-3 to be 3-3 through an own with nine minutes to go. Schiebl was the life of the town in a dour struggle in which both sides started shakily. George Town led 2-1 at half time and were 3-1 when they lost control of the midfield.

⚽ Devonport no match for in-form White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 17/4/1978

WHITE EAGLES showed premiership form when they survived a torrid first half and then played all over Devonport to win their Radio Rentals State League soccer game at Valley Rd. on Saturday.

But despite hitting the Devonport crossbar once and an upright twice there was only a lone goal in it, scored by winger Tony Godfrey in a solo effort 20 minutes before the end. He got a pass from Sugden, rounded the full-back and cut in to score the goal that really restored White Eagles' confidence after they had been re-awakened by a few home truths from coach John Grimsey at half-time.

The result was a team with purpose, and the club are so pleased with Grimsey that he will retain the coaching job even when former Polish international Peter Broll arrives in Hobart from Europe. Chairman Don Finegan said Broll would be assistant coach.

Goalkeeper Mick Caban inspired a jaded Eagle's side in the first half with a brilliant diving save to a header from MacDonald after a cross from McKenna, and Mark Sikora had a great game taming the elusive McKenna.

Devonport's defeat has left Rapid Wrest Point at the top of the table with a resounding 9-1 win over George Town, who appeared in Hobart for the second week running and in all conceded 15 goals.

The visitors had no answer to Rapid's speed and ability. They were six goals down at half time and two more came within three minutes of the resumption to check any hopes of a comeback. The speedy John Dilba had a hat-trick besides hitting the crossbar and could have had many more had he been given passes to run on to instead of having to take them with his back to the George Town goal.

Croatia would have beaten Ulverstone by more that 5-0 but for the goalkeeping of Rod Smith. Billy Kirkpatrick had his first hat-trick for Croatia and would have made it four goals had Smith not saved his penalty attempt.

Ulverstone were 0-2 at half time, deteriorated into a bunch of individuals and coach Sam Smythe said they had never played worse. Croatia is negotiating for the clearances of mid-fielder Chris Howell from Dnipro and winger Tasso Manis from Olympia.

In a slow and uninspiring Launceston "derby," Launceston Juventus scored a goal in each half against Launceston United to take second position on the standings.

The hard-working Hensely scored midway through the first half and Gibbons early after the change-over. Strickland and Gibbons were best for Juventus.

Caledonians were on their way to a major upset against Olympia at Margate yesterday when they crossed over 2-0 in the lead in driving rain, but after 12 minutes in the second half Olympia were 4-2. Then to make matters worse, replacement Peter Sherman (16), playing in his first game for the seniors, scored with his first kick within seconds of going on the field and added a second soon after to put Olympia to 6-2.

Ken Worden, who missed a penalty, sparked off Olympia's win with a superb display of ball control, passing and shooting, and Constantinovits got through a lot of work in defence. Spendiff had to go off 15 minutes from the end with a leg injury.

⚽ Soccer transfers now free

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/4/78

AMATEUR soccer players will be allowed to transfer at no cost from a Winfield League club to a State League club for a limited trial period, provided there is mutual agreement.

This was a Tasmanian Soccer Association executive decision this week following a request from the Kingborough club. But the player will not be allowed to play in the Ampol State Cup competition until he has decided which club be wants to play for.

A return to the original club will have to be made before June 1, as the expiry date for transfers is May 31. If a player decides after being on loan, that he does not want to play for either club, he will revert back to his original club, who will then be open to negotiations for him. An agreement signed by both clubs and the player will be needed before the loan is sanctioned.

The TSA discussion arose out of the case of Chris Hey (16), who bad sought a clearance from Kingborough to Caledonians.

The TSA also agreed to abolish automatic one-game suspensions for players sent off the field of play, as from this coming weekend. Any player sent off will have the right of appeal to the investigation committee and will be free to play until his case is beard. The TSA policy now falls into line with that of the State League and the Tasmanian Soccer League (the Combined North and North-West).

⚽ Stewart goes to Rapid

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 22/4/78

FORMER State soccer captain Harry Stewart has transferred from White Eagles to Rapid-Wrest Point.

And the move coincides with decision of former Iraqi international Noorey Aziz to remain with Rapid after saying he wanted to leave.

Stewart lost his place in the White Eagles team because he was not attending training and he requested a clearance to Rapid. State premiers two seasons ago, Rapid have other newcomers this season in Iraqi player Munther Alwan, and Alonso Morales, both from Olympia.

Morales played his first game for Rapid against George Town last week, but showed he was not fully fit. Alwan was voted Rapid's best player against George Town.

⚽ Soccer switch value

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY]

HARRY STEWART'S transfer from White Eagles to Rapid-Wrest Point Soccer Club could prove to be a valuable "double-header," because through him forward Michael Southworth could also be playing for Rapid within two years.

Southworth, brother-in-law of Stewart (and a former White Eagles premiership player), is now back in Northern New South Wales, preparatory to returning to the UK, but he plans to return to Hobart in 18 months to two years. "And he'll be playing for Rapid when he does", Stewart said.

Sydney-born Stewart, who captained Tasmania at 24, became interested in going to Rapid on an exchange in which Noorey Aziz would have gone from Rapid to White Eagles for him.

When Aziz changed his mind and decided to stay, Rapid started negotiations for Stewart's transfer. "I'm really looking forward to playing in the midfield with Noorey, who has some very fine touches," Stewart said.

Stewart came to Tasmania from Northern New South Wales in 1973 with Ken Worden, and they played a season with Juventus before going to White Eagles. Later Mick Caban and Southworth also came to Hobart from Northern New South Wales.

Tasmanian coaching director Dennis Ford saw great possibilities in Stewart, because of his attitude to the game and his willingness to learn. Unfortunately, a hamstring injury after the game against English League club Sunderland set Stewart back, and then inability to get to training two nights a week affected his fitness.

Stewart thinks Rapid must have a show of winning the first State League title, although he has a wholesome respect for Olympia Saveway, whom they meet on Saturday. He thinks his old team, White Eagles, have great individual talent but they do not use it as a team.

Rapid, who won the State the title two seasons ago, are coached by Karl Schwesinger. Schwesinger (a former Eagles player and coach), who first played in Hobart for Rapid, has returned to them after 13 years. In that time be bas been in six premiership winning teams, two of which he coached.

⚽ Injury-hit Eagles play out draw against Olympia

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 8/5/1978

LOSS of goalkeeper Mick Caban with a seven-stitch gash just above an eye saw White Eagles lose their superiority and play for a draw against Olympia Saveway in their Radio Rentals State League soccer clash on Saturday.

Caban, who also suffered concussion, went off 10 minutes into the second half after making a daring save at the feet of Danny Spendiff. He was replaced in goal by Peter Linnell and Mike Richards was brought on as a substitute.

A great shot by Tommy Wright, that Linnell did well to fist over the bar, and a shot from Don Farmery that smashed against the crossbar almost gave Olympia the game in the last 14 minutes.

Former Olympia coach, Peter Cagialis, prepared the team for this match after their disappointing display against Rapid and he is likely to coach them on match days.

A controversial penalty in the 29th minute rocked Olympia on their comeback trail, but they equalised four minutes before half-time when a long ball from Ken Worden on the left found Spendiff on his own on the right. The defence screamed for offside as he crossed the ball for Farmery to nod in a picture goal.

Eagles' offside trap had worked well up to then and it caught the Olympia forwards time and again. Olympia opened the second half with much more determination and with the closure of a big gap down the centre they looked a lot more dangerous.

Even so, after Linnell had gone in goal Oakes hit an upright. Whereas Eagles had previously started at a fast pace without really stretching their wingers they now slowed the game down and "goal-a-game" Tony Godfrey hardly touched the ball in this half.

It was Eagles' third draw in five games, and they have yet to be beaten. While Eamonn Kelly was again the mainstay of the defence, Dominic Fraraccio had a good game in the midfield and Mark Oakes should have converted at least two of his passes.

Tommy Wright got through a tremendous amount of work for Olympia, who played Worden in the centre and lacked penetration on the wings.

Travelling must take its toll on players, judging by Launceston United's 0-5 defeat by Caledonians at Margate after beating Devonport at home the previous week – and George Town crashed at Prospect. Caledonians should have been leading by three goals at the interval, but they squandered chances and crossed over 0-0.

Farmer had a penalty attempt saved by Tommy Bain, but it was only a matter of time before they showed their fitness,

to run United into the ground, to the tune of five goals without reply to record their first points. The return of Paul Jones in goal has meant a lot to Calies. In their two Hobart visits, United had conceded five goals each time.

Launceston Juventus was 1-0 at half-time but then got well on top against George Town with Leighton Hodge having a good match capped off with a hat-trick in a 6-1 win that included two goals by Steve Clark in his State League debut. In the second half Reece (George Town) was sent off for alleged retaliation and Foran (Juventus) for alleged violent conduct.

The only yardstick for yesterday's game at Glenorchy between Rapid and Croatia was that Croatia lost 1-6 at George Town last week after Rapid had beaten George Town 9-1 in Hobart. Yesterday, it was a goalless draw to ruin Rapid's 100 per cent winning record – and Croatia would have won against a less accomplished goalkeeper than Phillip Kannegeiser.

New recruit Tasso Manis had a great chance in front of goal, and soon after Jack Dilba hit the crossbar at the other end. Rodney Tattam was kept on his toes by Rapid in the second half and with five minutes to go Munther Alwan should have converted a perfect pass from John Dilba.

Rapid concentrated too much on John Dilba, despite the fact he was being held very well between Ray Mohring and Frank Letec. Croatia was best served by Mohring, Letec, and Tattam, while Rapid's best, were Noorey Aziz, Yakob Plazonic and Phillip Kannegeiser.

Billy Frame's three unsuccessful attempts to convert a penalty were the highlight of a scrappy game in which Devonport beat Ulverstone 3-1 after being 1-1 at half-time. Frame's first shot was block by goalkeeper Rod Smith, and when he shot again from the rebound the goalkeeper, who was man of the match, was again in the way. And this time Frame's shot went over the bar. He and Gleeson should have had a couple of goals each in the first half.

⚽ Interstate soccer match on Sunday

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 13/5/1978

TO mark the first competitive game between a Tasmanian soccer club and one from interstate the Australia-wide Phillips Cup competition match between White Eagles and Essendon (V) will be played at 2.30 pm on Sunday at Glenorchy.

THE big game on Sunday could show Tasmania is on the upgrade, as White Eagles are capable of beating Essendon Croatia, who has a 100 per cent win record in the Victorian State League.

Eagles have three district advantages; they are playing at home, coach John Grimsey saw a lot of Essendon during his time as Polonia coach, and the visitors will have a hard weekend with a scheduled State League game against Slavia tomorrow. And Essendon are not expected to have brilliant young centre-forward Eddie Krncevic, who has an injured ankle while top goalkeeper Franic may not be coming.

They rely largely on a tearaway start that often produces a couple of goals to unnerve their opponents. Gardiner is one of their better players, being a sweeper, who is not slow to attack. On his day Cumming is reported to be almost unstoppable. In fact, Croatia fire if he is on form. Altona coach Joe Wilson said after being beaten by them that they are the best team he has seen.

White Eagles, who play the frustrating offside trap to near perfection, have got the striking power up front if they can avoid bunching in the goalmouth. They have clever wingers to stretch the experienced opposition and give themselves room in which to move in the centre. Goalkeeper Mick Caban is reported fit after his injury last week, but it is noticeable that understudy Peter Wass is in the squad this week for the first time.

⚽ Polished Essendon win 2-0

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 15/5/1978

AN own goal 11 minutes into the second half, and then a penalty goal five minutes later gave Essendon Croatia a 2-0 win over White Eagles, in the $10,000 nation-wide Phillips Cup Soccer Competition yesterday at Glenorchy.

The visitors, who were without New Zealand international winger Davidson, but who played new acquisition Carl Gilder, secured during the week from Slavia at a high four-figure transfer fee, finished much better that Eagles, after starting at a fast pace. Despite near misses by Cumming and then Vojtek on a pass from Cumming, Eagles had two great chances, when Mark Oakes got to a high centre from Linnell and then soon after was off target from close in.

Mick Caban still wearing plaster over an injury above his right eye, showed his goalkeeping ability when he dived at the feet of Culina, who had been sent through the middle by Cumming. After a goalless first half, Gilder came on 10 minutes into the second half to bring new zip into the attack and there was immediate success, Sikora putting into his own net for the opening score.

Five minutes later a poor goal kick by Caban let Gilder in only to be fouled by Kelly in the area. Culina's penalty shot hit the left upright and rebounded across the goal to the right post, before entering the net. But referee Ron Procter ruled that Croatia player Murphy had been inside the penalty area when the kick was taken. He gave Murphy a yellow card for ungentlemanly conduct and ordered the kick to be retaken, for Culina to put the ball in the net once again.

Peter Wass came on for Tony Godfrey with 18 minutes to go, but Croatia was now on top, and Cumming should have scored from an Elder pass. Oakes had his last chance in the dying minutes, but it was an awkward bounce, and the ball went just wide. Eagles, who had trained hard for this game and used the offside trap to stop Croatia playing their normal short passing game, gave a creditable performance against a faster, more determined, and better equipped side, who had a hard game in heavy conditions to beat Slavia 4-0 on Saturday in the Victorian State League.

Eamonn Kelly and Caban did well in a hard-working defence and Oakes, who impressed Croatia, was best in an attack that lacked finish. Star Croatia forward Eddie Krncevic (17), out with a leg injury, watched the game and will not be playing in the Under 18 carnival starting in Brisbane this week. A crowd of 900 saw the game.

Referee assaulted

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 22/5/1978

OLYMPIA SAVEWAY soccer centre-half Jon Constantinovits was removed from the field at Glenorchy yesterday.

The incident climaxed a dramatic sequence of events in the State League game against Croatia that started when the referee waved for play to continue with Olympia goalkeeper Eric Stettner kneeling with his back to the field holding his head. The ball was being shielded by him.

Opposing player Milan Lakoseljac got the ball away from him and was fouled by Stettner, causing a penalty to be awarded. The penalty had to be retaken when a Croatia player was found to be inside the area, and when Willy Peters scored it gave Croatia a 3-2 lead with 34 minutes to go. But it was a double blow as Ossie Moore was alleged to have used foul language and was sent off.

Within seconds of the resumption of play, Olympia coach Ken Worden was sent off for allegedly kicking an opponent. It was at this stage that a player ran about 30 metres, leapt on referee Masters, hitting him on the side of the head. While players quickly gathered around Masters, other players and officials struggled for some time to get a player to the dressing room.

Police reinforcements were quickly on the scene, and with both clubs able to keep their supporters in check, Masters came in for only some brief jeering when the match ended.

Constantinovits had replaced Tommy Wilson after 21 minutes play. With only eight men, Olympia's 2-1 half time lead was converted into a 6-2 Croatia win, to which skipper Peters contributed a hat-trick.

Olympia fought back in the closing stages despite their handicap.

Yesterday's incidents will come before the TSA investigation committee on Wednesday.

Olympia file a protest

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 24/5/1978

INCIDENTS leading to the suspension of three soccer players at Glenorchy on Sunday had a sequel yesterday when the TSA received a letter of protest from the Olympia Saveway club.

Signed by the Chairman of the club (Mr A Vali), the letter said: "The Hobart Olympia soccer club wish to lodge a strong protest against the refereeing of Mr Basil Masters in the Radio Rentals State League game between Croatia and Olympia."

"Although in no way are we condoning the assault on the referee, an act which we earnestly deprecate, we feel that Mr Masters' handling of the incident in which Olympia's goalkeeper was injured in a clash with Croatia's centre-forward, and which led to a penalty against Olympia was largely responsible for the events which followed."

"In view of what has happened we ask the TSA to give serious consideration to the choice of referees handling such games in the future."

The TSA executive last night referred the letter to the Tasmanian Soccer Federation, which is responsible for the State League.

John Constantinovits, one of three Olympia players sent off the field, will appear before the TSA investigation committee tonight, and Ossie Moore and Ken Worden will appear before the committee a week today.

All players taking part in the State League are registered with the associations to which their clubs are affiliated, and those associations conduct investigations.

⚽ Hit referee; Life for player

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 22/5/1978

OLYMPIA SAVEWAY soccer centre-half Jon Constantinovits was suspended for life last night by the Tasmanian Soccer Associations investigation committee.

Constantinovits did not appear before the committee to answer the charge of striking Basil Masters during the State League game against Croatia on Sunday ay Glenorchy.

He was represented by Olympia committeeman Mr Gabriel Haros, who said the charge was not denied.

Mr Haros said he was there to protect the Olympia club, which disassociated itself with this type of conduct, and which had the night before, suspended Constantinovits from the club for an indefinite period.

Mr Haros said the club had done all in its power to ensure that Constantinovits was taken from the scene as quickly as possible. “My prime concern is how this reflects on the game itself, and the club in particular” he said. Mr Haros added that it was a case of Constantinovits suffering from temporary insanity that caught everyone unawares.

In his report, Masters said he received a blow on the left side of his face and had been temporarily unconscious.

Messrs Barry Hill and Ron Hurley comprised the investigation committee, and Mr Hill said that in view of the fact that the charge was not denied, there was no alternative, distasteful as it might be, but to suspend Constantinovits for life.

“I think it was a most vicious and unwarranted attack” he said and added that the game did not want this type of player”.

Mr Hill said he had noted the club’s action in suspending Constantinovits, and commended club members for acting so promptly at the scene to prevent any further disturbance.

The hearing took 16 minutes.

⚽ Rapid stay on top; White Eagles still unbeaten

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 12/6/1978

RAPID Wrest Point retained leadership and White Eagles maintained their unbeaten record in a 1-1 State League soccer draw played at a very fast pace at Glenorchy yesterday.

It was a fair result as both teams had their chances in a clean, hard-fought game that brought the best out of both teams – except their shooting, although sanded areas in front of goal did not help.

Fraraccio and Oakes could have scored before a Fraraccio pass saw Oakes score for Eagles three minutes into the second half. Inches only had stopped Rapid breaking through several times.

Caban saved well from Aziz following a corner soon after the opening goal, and at the other end Phillip Kannegeiser did well to stop a shot from Fraraccio. Nine minutes into the second half, Wilson and Alwan come on for Plazonic and Steve Kannegeiser.

The equaliser came in the 66th minute through a good passing movement on the right, that ended with a fine cross by Cengia that John Dilba nodded into the net.

But Rapid were in trouble, as with both replacements already on the field, goalkeeper Kannegeiser was handicapped by bruised ribs. They brought former goalkeeper Cengia from the midfield and put Kannegeiser out on the wing. Almost immediately John Dilba was through on his own but Caban saved when he tried to round him.

McKay went off with a head injury and replacement Godfrey went close with his first touch of the ball. Smith was also just off target and Willcock almost headed into his own goal. Only a spectacular dive from Cengia saved the situation.

With 12 minutes to go Richards came on for Linnell and a fine burst through the centre by Nunn saw Smith send Oakes in, but Cengia dived fearlessly at his feet to save once again. Cengia also got to a great cross by Fraraccio in time, but he should have been beaten with two minutes to go when a Smith header saw Oakes in possession and Cengia out of his goal, but Oakes’ placed shot went over the top.

White Eagles were inclined to concentrate their attack through the centre and were much more dangerous when they widened their approach. Rapid were again slow in their build-up and forwards had to make their own openings.

Harry Stewart and John Dilba stood out for Rapid and Eamonn Kelly and Nigel Sugden were the best for Eagles, who were caught offside more than usual, and did not catch Rapid that often in their trap.

The return of ace player Tommy McKenna spearheaded Devonport’s 4-0 win over Launceston Juventus at Devonport.

He put them ahead just before half-time and midway through the second half they scored three more goals in six minutes, replacement Fabio Pizzerani putting in the second, Alec MacDonald the third from the penalty spot and McKenna rounding off a fine performance with his second goal.

It was a bitter blow to Juventus' hopes and their heaviest defeat at the Valley Rd. ground.

Caledonians looked set for their third successive win when they recovered from an early goal down to be 1-1 at half-time and leading 2-1 with 20 minutes to go, but they paid the penalty for going on the defensive.

Replacement Milan Lakoseljac, who had played a full reserves game before equalised, and seven minutes from time, a mistimed shot from Kevin Leung went across the goalmouth for Billy Krawczyk to score the decider for Croatia. Calies fought back but good goalkeeping by Rodney Tattam kept them out. A draw might have been a fairer result.

Leung, Cowen, and Willy Peters were outstanding for Croatia, and Lakoseljac showed much improved form when he came on in the second half. The win put Croatia into second position.

Calies' best were Alistair Hales, who gave the pass from which Paul Marlor scored. Hugh Mackinnon, who headed in the second goal from a cross by Hanna and Chris Hey, who worked untiringly and constructively in both defence and attack.

The South Hobart ground was in a very muddy condition, and it must be questionable whether it can stand six games on it each weekend and still provide a pitch suitable for a State League game.

It was here, that Ulverstone proved anything can happen in the mud, after losing 0-5 and 0-6 on their previous visits to Hobart this season, they played a 1-1 draw against Hobart Olympia, who did just about everything except score that second goal they needed.

The took off Farmery and Broughton, to give Conlan and Genaris a game, in the hope of giving new life to the side, but it was unavailing. Only cause for satisfaction was that Conlan came through well after his injury.

A pass back by Worden that went wide of goalkeeper Stettner, saw Krenn dart in for the opening goal and Olympia got a second half equaliser, only from the penalty spot after Bolton had been brought down in the area.

Rod Smith in Ulverstone's goal was the only player to maintain his reputation.

George Town were two goals up on Launceston United with seven minutes to go, but them crumbled against constant pressure and it was a 2-2 draw to give United their first away point.

Conrad Hughes was best for United, and Ian Dale stood out for George Town. Andy Schiebl scored to regain leadership in the goalscoring list.

⚽ Top three in State League win by lone goal

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 4/9/1978

THERE was no change in the positions of the top three teams in the Radio Rentals State League soccer competition on Saturday with each wining by a single goal.

White Eagles (25 points) beat Devonport with a lone goal headed in by Mark Oakes from a corner one minute into injury time – and the game finished 19 seconds later.

Rapid Wrest Point (23 points with a game in hand) beat George Town 2-1 with the decider coming from the penalty spot and taken by goalkeeper Phillip Kannegeiser with eight minutes to go.

Croatia beat Ulverstone by a lone goal scored by Wayne Cowen in the second minute.

Devonport, who have conceded a deciding goal in the last five minutes of five of their games this season, were unlucky. Mick Caban saved brilliantly from McKenna in the first half, Leighton Smith hit the Eagles' crossbar and Zschoke had a chip shot that just went wide, before Eagles' first attempt at goal came, when Cutting saved from Linnell in the 66th minute.

Devonport, without MacDonald and looking to avenge their earlier 0-1 loss, attacked, whereas Eagles were in a defensive mind set, that almost brought disaster. Charlie Baird, McKenna, and Smith were Devonport's best and McKay, Nunn and Oakes did well for Eagles.

Croatia threw everything into the first half hour at Ulverstone and should have led 5-0 in that period, but they had to be content with only one goal – when Cowen slipped through for a well taken goal that went in off the upright.

Nichols had a couple of saves to make and was well up to the task, and with Mohring at his best, and Letec, Payne and Cowen all firing, Croatia were never in any real trouble. Goalkeeper Rob Smith, who was great with anything in the air, and skipper Ron Smith were Ulverstone's best.

Rapid were a goal down after two minutes through a Farrell solo effort and could have gone in at half-time 0-3 down. But they were well on top afterwards and Jack Dilba beat two opponents before getting the equaliser.

But it took a penalty to give then two points, and goalkeeper Phillip Kannegeiser, who has been practicing penalty kicks, made no mistake.

⚽ Croatia should have too much skill for Calies

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 8/9/1978

CROATIA start a memorable week tomorrow with their last bid for the first Radio Rentals State League soccer title – without captain Willy Peters – and they have the Ampol State Cup Final seven days later.

Coach Alex Sarfalvy has brought Croatia a long way beyond the expectations of even their most fervent supporters, and they must be favoured to beat a weakened Caledonians side tomorrow, to hold top position for at least a day.

While Croatia is without Peters, Calies will be without Chris Hey, who has a leg in plaster because of a chipped bone, and former gold medalist Alistair Hales had a broken nose reset on Wednesday and is unlikely to play.

"I don't feel much like it now, but if a satisfactory nose guard could be found I might consider playing" he said, adding that he trained on Tuesday.

Croatia is in a position that they must beat Calies and then hope Rapid Wrest Point and White Eagles play a draw. If Eagles beat Rapid on Sunday it will be Eagles' second successive premiership. If Rapid win they will still have to beat Calies on the following Saturday to win the title.

Croatia will not be fooled by Caledonians' inconsistent displays and realise they have a fight on their hands. Calies led them 2-1 with 20 minutes to go, went back on defence and lost 3-4 in their first-round game. It was as near as any other team got to beating Croatia, except George Town, who beat them 6-1.

Bill Krawczyk, Croatia's most improved player this season filled Peters' position last week with credit, and with Ray Mohring in top gear Croatia are pretty sold in defence. Their attack has let them down. Had they taken a quarter of the chances offered they would have sealed the title up long ago.

Calies were settling into a winning combination when they lost Hey and Hales within minutes of one another on Sunday. They cannot afford to be without players of this calibre – and with others reported injured they were unable to name a squad last night.

With the pressure really on them, Rapid and Eagles should turn on a crowd-pleaser, and there is unlikely to be more than one goal in it – and the first goal will probably decide the game.

Eagles, defensive in outlook, are expected to take no chances in the first half, see what can be done for the second and throw everything into the last 20 minutes. They have excellent talent, but they have struggled to get where they are.

Rapid are a fast, aggressive side, could go for that early, and possibly decisive goal. In John Dilba and Chester Willcock, they have players fast enough to watch for any opposition breakaway, and the reliable Yakob Plazonic is capable of holding the dynamic Mark Oakes in goalmouth aerial duels.

Rapid coach Karl Schwesinger has speeded up their training during the past three sessions and they are sharp and keen to get going. They are fit, as shown by their win at George Town after being a goal down at half time, against a team who finish well.

Eagles will have Sugden back from a knee injury, but Forshaw is unavailable. Eagles are confident, as all along they have maintained that if it comes down to a showdown with Rapid, they would win.

But Rapid's youthful approach, willingness to contest the ball, teamwork and fitness could carry the day against Eagles' undoubted ability and greater physical strength.

⚑

Eagle were eventually crowned State League Champions, after it defeated Rapid 1-0 in the final game of the season. Before the season's largest crowd at South Hobart, a lone goal by Eagle striker David Smith, 22 minutes into the second half gave Eagle their second successive major soccer premiership. The 1-0 result was enough to give Eagle the title on goal-difference from Croatia.

⚽ Eagles clinch State League title with lone goal

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 11/9/1978

A LONE goal by White Eagles striker David Smith, 22 minutes into the second half against Rapid, gave the New Town side their second successive major soccer premiership before the season's largest crowd.

The goal gave Eagles the Radio Rentals State League title on goal difference from Croatia, who had the same number of points but who had a goal difference of 18 to Eagles' 21.

It was the first success in soccer for Smith, who came close to a noteworthy double with 16 of Eagles 41 goals, only 3

behind top league scorer Andy Schiebl. Against the run of play a defensive clearance by Medhurst went into touch near the corner flag, and a long throw by Eagles' captain Larry Nunn found Smith, who had the ball in the net in a trice.

Rapid fought back but Eagles had good chances of adding to their score through Fraraccio, Kelly and Godfrey as against a corner kick by Aziz that landed on the Eagle's crossbar and was cleared. It was a fast game with the pressure on for the full 90 minutes and the young Rapid side had their chances in the first half as they did everything but score.

In the seventh minute, with both sides playing tentatively, Jack Dilba had only the goalkeeper to beat and shot straight at Caban. Five minutes later Oakes did the same thing at the other end and Phillip Kannegiesser stopped a hot shot. Rapid had back luck when the advantage rule was not played as Steve Kannegiesser was running into a scoring position after a hand ball by Sugden.

Aziz came in for Morales after 30 minutes, and lifted Rapid with fine distribution that spread-eagled the opposing defence. Eagles started the second half with a packed defence and Oakes the only forward, and Caban saved well from Jack Dilba. Fraraccio was brought on for Linnell and Trueman relieved a dangerous situation developing on the left between Jack Dilba and Steve Kannegiesser.

Following Smith's goal, Rapid brought on Stewart for Cengia but never looked likely to save the game in the last 20 minutes. Nigel Sugden stood out for Eagles, which had greater ability than their opponents but lacked their speed and Dennis Trueman had struck top form.

Rapid played too many high balls against tall opponents and their passing lacked direction and accuracy. They actually got the ball into the net from a corner only to have Plazonic penalised for pushing. John Dilba, Yakob Plazonic and Noorey Aziz were their best players.

Radio Rentals State League Final Standings – 1978

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**18**	**10**	**1**	**7**	**41**	**20**	**21**	**27**
CROATIA GLENORCHY	18	10	1	7	43	25	18	27
RAPID WREST POINT	18	10	5	3	40	18	22	23
OLYMPIA	18	9	5	4	42	39	3	22
DEVONPORT	18	8	6	4	34	23	11	20
LAUNCESTON JUVENTUS	18	7	8	3	30	25	5	17
CALEDONIANS	18	7	9	2	29	40	-11	16
ULVERSTONE	18	4	11	3	20	37	-17	11
GEORGE TOWN	18	2	11	5	38	57	-19	9
LAUNCESTON UNITED	18	2	12	4	21	54	-33	8

Goalscorers: D. Smith 16, M. Oakes 13, T. Godfrey 5, P. Linnell 3, D. Fraraccio , E. Kelly ,L, Nunn 1, own goals 1

⚽ Cup double to Croatia

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 2/11/1978

CROATIA brought off the first Ampol Cadbury Cup soccer double last night at Glenorchy under floodlighting when they beat White Eagles 3-1 in the Cadbury Cup final.

But White Eagles looked the better side until thrown out of their rhythm by a penalty against them early in the second half. There was a slow start to the game with cup final nerves affecting both sides and it wasn't until the 15th minute when Godfrey got a centre across, and Fraraccio shot over the top.

In the next minute a pass from the left by Krawczyk saw Sarfalvy put across a superb high ball that the wind caught and forced goalkeeper Caban to bring off a miraculous, but partial save to head the ball into the net, and put Croatia 1-0 up.

Then came a change in Croatia's approach work, and a succession of long balls saw the defence hold them comfortably.

White Eagles almost equalised in the 28th minute when a long shot from Kelly was misjudged by Tattam and the ball came off the upright as the goalkeeper fell the other way.

A minute later White Eagles capitalised when Letec was robbed in midfield and Smith went through the centre, rounded the advancing Tattam and put the ball into the empty net. Eagles dominated the rest of the half with Smith almost getting through again, only hesitation in shooting costing a goal.

Fourteen minutes into the second half a penalty for an alleged trip by McKay saw Peters put Croatia 2-1 ahead against the run of the play. Eagles were in further trouble six minutes later, when a run by Manley on the left, resulted in a cross which Kirkpatrick headed in for a 3-1 Croatia lead.

Seconds later Godfrey placed a long shot onto Croatia's cross bar, Trueman had a grand shot brilliantly saved by Tattam and a corner finished up hitting an upright as White Eagles tried desperately to save the game.

Best players for Croatia were Manley, Krawczyk and Payne, while Nunn, Smith and McKay were best for Eagles. Croatia's win was worth $2,100 and White Eagles got $1,200.

⚽ Soccer gold to Nunn

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 30/9/1978

WHITE EAGLES CAPTAIN Larry Nunn (25) won the Rothmans Gold medal for the Soccer Player of the Year, from Launceston Juventus captain Tommy Strickland after a count back.

They both polled 19 votes, but Nunn had four three votes, one two vote and five one votes, compared with Strickland's two three votes, five two votes and three single votes. For Nunn it was an outstanding record in the gold medal, as he was third three years ago, then fourth, second last year, and first this year.

He has been playing first division soccer for the past six years, starting his career under the coaching of John Grimsey at Metro. Grimsey is his present coach at White Eagles. Nunn was the SEM player of the year last season and has won White Eagles best and fairest award in the past two seasons. He has captained Eagles to two successive State titles.

Equal third in the counting were David Smith (White Eagles) and Andy Schiebl (George Town) on 18, and Mark O'Sullivan (George Town) on 16.

1978 State League Premiers

Back: W. Jones (Trainer) D. Forshaw, L. Nunn, D. Trueman, P. Linnell, M. Richards, M. Oakes, E. Kelly, N. Sugden, M Sikora, T. Steenhuis (Manager)
Front: D. Fraraccio, P. Wass, T. Godfrey, B. McKay, M. Caban, D. Smith

Also in 1978, Bobby Rybak hammered home 27 of Eagle's 110 goals, giving the Winfield Combined League title to Eagle in a division comprising a mammoth twenty-two clubs, and on the 8th of August, the Eagle Division 2 side set a record for the greatest number of goals in a senior game when it defeated The Salvos 22-0.

1978 Reserves

Back: D. Elliot, J. Large, C. Witek, S. Zlotos, S. Rakowski, M. Prodanovic, M. Baran. H. Gorniak
Front: B. Rybak, N. Draskovic, M. Sikora, S. Polacik, R. Mazurek

Tasmania South Combined League Final Standings – 1978

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	Pts
White Eagle	**21**	**18**	**1**	**2**	**110**	**19**	**91**	**37**
University	21	18	1	2	96	23	73	37
Phoenix Rovers	21	14	4	3	90	28	62	32
Caledonians	20	14	4	2	81	25	56	32
Kingborough	21	15	1	5	68	29	39	31
Olympia	19	12	5	2	97	21	76	29
South Hobart	21	14	1	6	86	52	34	29
Croatia Glenorchy	20	12	2	6	95	42	53	26
University 2	21	12	2	7	67	37	30	26
Eastern Suburbs	21	11	1	9	73	48	25	23
Azzurri	21	8	5	8	51	43	8	21
Metro	19	9	2	8	70	44	26	20
Rapid	19	10	0	9	68	53	15	20
Taroona St. Mirren	21	7	3	11	53	81	-28	17
Nelson United	20	6	2	12	36	90	-54	14
Hobart Juventus	19	4	4	11	30	52	-22	12
Kingborough 2	21	5	2	14	27	64	-37	12
University 3	20	4	2	14	19	96	-77	10
Caledonian2	20	3	2	15	23	82	-59	8
Dnipro	21	2	3	16	27	84	-57	7
Alps	21	1	2	18	17	118	-101	4
Salvos	20	0	1	19	5	158	-153	1

Leading goalscorers: Rybak27, Elliot 16, Draskovic 15, Parker 11, Large 10, Rakowski, Prodanovic 5

1979 was a relatively disappointing year given the success achieved in 1977 and 1978, and the senior side could only manage 4th place. Eagles recruited well and looked to have strengthened what was already a very strong squad. In came a host of quality players, Tommy Wright, Danny Spendiff, Neil Thomas, Gary Jenkins, and Nick Cook, from Maltese club Sunshine in Victoria. It was reported it had cost Eagle $6,500 for the services of Cook, however sources closer to home say it was $2,000.

As had been the case in the previous three to four seasons, the pacesetters were White Eagle, Rapid, Croatia, and also performing very strongly were Caledonians, now known as ICL Caledonians. Eagle were inconsistent in their performances, maybe due to trying to fit so much talent into one team, but with three game to play, they were right in the hunt to back up their successes of 1977 and 1978. The resignation of coach Grimsey towards the end of the season may have been the catalyst for a late fade-out which cost them the title.

The loss of Mark Oakes at a crucial stage of the season, when he required surgery on an injured foot could also have been a contributing factor to Eagles' finishing fourth, as they suffered losses in their final two games, but in any event, it was the simple fact that Rapid finished the season off stronger than Eagle, just as Eagle had done in the previous two seasons. The closeness of the competition between the front runners always meant that whichever team had an off day would suffer the consequences and in '79 it was Rapid who held their nerve to triumph.

⚽ Thomas carves out eleventh hour win for Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 21/5/79

TWO goals by centre-forward Neil Thomas in the last five minutes gave White Eagles a 3-2 win over Launceston Juventus in a Cup final style finish at Prospect on Saturday.

Eagles played one of their best games this season, although still missing the injured Mark Oakes. Juventus, who settled differences at a two-hour player meeting on Thursday, also turned-on good soccer to make it an entertaining match.

Two minutes before half time Eagles went ahead through Wright. Juventus equalised 20 minutes into the second half when Trueman put through his own goal. They scored again when Andrew Heap rounded off a 60-metre dash with a brilliant goal after beating three defenders. Juventus looked certain winners when an attempted clearance cannoned off a defender to Thomas, who went on to equalise from an acute angle. Minutes later he also produced the winner.

Kelly, Nunn, and Thomas were best for Eagles and Chadwick, Scott and Heap (who had another great shot hit the bar), did well for Juventus.

Former gold medalist, Danny Spendiff, is seeking a clearance from Eagles back to Olympia because he says he cannot do himself or the team full justice playing on the wing, "I would play in any other position they want me to," he said watching Olympia on Saturday.

⚽ Classy 3-0 win to Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 24/5/79

A SPECTACULAR overhead goal by full-back Dennis Trueman sparked off a 3-0 win for White Eagles over Olympia, after a goalless first half under floodlighting last night.

It came seven minutes into the second half following a free kick, and 10 minutes later they were 2-0 after a Trueman centre was headed in by Gorniak. The third goal came through a pass from Gorniak to Wright in the 87th minute. The win put Eagles at the top of the Radio Rentals State League standings, one point above ICL Caledonians, although Eagles have played an extra game.

Eagles played a defensive type of game in the first half, sacrificing the midfield from where they have won many of their games. This gave Olympia chances, and Crowther bit the crossbar in the 20th minute, only for Wright to hit an upright at the other end soon after. The second half saw Eagles take over the midfield, and they never looked back, with Gary Jenkins and Trueman excelling on the flanks or in the back four, and Cook dominating the midfield.

Genaris and Kostopolous were best for Olympia, who had Ken Worden at centre-forward. But Worden, who joined Olympia late on Tuesday night from Juventus-Pioneer, was held well in the first half by Larry Nunn, and he got few opportunities in the second.

⚽ Big win over Calies puts White Eagles on top of ladder

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 9/7/79

WHITE EAGLES took over leadership of the Radio Rentals State League soccer Competition yesterday at the Domain Athletic Centre when they trounced ICL Caledonians 4-1.

Calies started brightly enough against the wind, but Eagles were soon on top. With three goals in eight minutes, they

led 3-0 after only 34 minutes. A cross from Godfrey saw Thomas open the scoring. Cook converted a penalty against Hey for pushing, and Thomas picked up a loose ball, pivoted and scored the third.

After Gibbons had missed an open goal, Dickenson converted a penalty against Rybak for pushing and tripping to make it 3-1 at half time. Wass saved a great shot by Andy Collins and when play switched to the other end Cook burst through the centre only to lift his shot past an upright.

A corner on the left resulted in Trueman putting in the fourth goal, and in the closing minutes, Wass saved a powerful shot from Gibbons. Disorganised through a series of enforced changes, Calies suffered another blow when Hindmarsh came off with a suspected broken collar bone.

Skipper Hugh Mackinnon also had a recurrence of ankle trouble. Cook and Thomas stood out for Eagles who played their best game of the season, and Andy Collins and Forster did well for Calies whom lacked finish and determination.

⚽ White Eagles stretch goal difference with 6-2 victory

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 23/7/79

THE four top teams in the Radio Rentals State League soccer competition won at the weekend, with White Eagles getting most advantage.

Their 6-2 win at George Town, in a danger game in which they were outplayed for the first 35 minutes, has given them a remarkable 17-goal difference – seven better than nearest rivals Rapid Wrest Point.

Eagles entertain Ulverstone on Sunday and Rapid will be at home to George Town on Saturday before their big clash at Glenorchy a week on Wednesday. George Town fought back well alter being a goal down to Eagles in the fifth minute and dominated play to equalize 10 minutes from half time.

And Schiebl should have given them the lead. Eagles went ahead two minutes into the second half and when they were 3-1 goalkeeper Martin Jones went off injured. Conrad Hughes took over in goal and replacement Mason went into the midfield.

Schiebl made it 2-3 but from then on it was Eagles at their best and they won 6-2, a fine double after winning 7-4 in the first round. McKay, Draskovic, Gorniak and new striker Cook, who scored twice and made a third goal, were Eagles' best, and Whitemore, O'Sullivan and Hughes in the first half were best for the Town.

⚽ Rapid have stranglehold on title after Eagles draw

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 13/8/79

WHITE EAGLES' loss of a point at Devonport has just about handed Rapid Wrest Point their first Radio Rentals State League soccer title.

With three games to go Rapid now lead the field by three points and also have the best goal difference. Eagles went to the Coast without coach John Grimsey, who resigned late on Thursday because of "lack of support".

The surprise move caused a players' meeting on the Friday night. Captain Brian McKay took control of the squad and confidence was restored to such effect that the team played their best soccer for the first 45 minutes.

They led at half time by a penalty goal when Thomas was brought down in the area, but then lost control of the midfield in the second half, allowing Devonport an equaliser. Tommy McKenna came on as a replacement with 20 minutes to go and Devonport became much the more dangerous team with McKenna making the openings.

McKenna, who was limping as he came off the field, had already played a game for the reserves and had scored a couple or goals. Charlie Baird, who has just returned to the side from injury, had to go off 10 minutes from the end with a broken thumb.

Sikora, Mohring and Nunn were best for Eagles and Robinson, Baird, Frame and Stones stood out for Devonport.

It is understood Eagles will not be seeking another coach for the remainder of this season. McKay will be captain-coach and Glyn Jenkins, who coaches their under 17s and took the club to a State League title, will assist.

⚽ Eagles crash in Philips cup

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 26/4/1979

MELBOURNE – The Philips League Cup produced 15 goals in first round ties in Melbourne yesterday – and underlined the vast gulf between soccer in Tasmania and other States.

Tasmanian champions, White Eagles of Hobart crashed 6-0 to Victorian league team Preston before 2,000 spectators at Middle Park. Preston treated spectators to a good all-round display of football, rarely allowing White Eagles' players to get into the game.

White Eagles floundered in the face of constant pressure from Preston's forwards. At times it appeared Preston were heading for a cricket score but good defence by White Eagle's backs Trueman, Eamon Kelly and Gary Jenkins kept the score to six. Preston's goal blitz was led by ace forward Gary Ward, who score four.

Overlapping full-back Mike Rainey was the other star of the Preston team with several runs down the right wing and a superb 40-metre goal. Cullen scored the other goal. White Eagles best were forwards Danny Spendiff and Nick Cook, who impressed with constructive play the few times the ball came to them

Radio Rentals State League Final Standings – 1979

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
RAPID WREST POINT	18	13	3	2	41	19	22	28
ICL CALEDONIANS	18	11	5	2	43	31	22	24
GLENORCHY CROATIA	18	10	4	4	35	28	7	24
WHITE EAGLE	**18**	**8**	**6**	**4**	**45**	**35**	**10**	**20**
LAUNCESTON JUVENTUS	18	8	7	3	25	28	-3	19
GEORGETOWN	18	6	9	3	31	39	-8	15
ULVERSTONE	18	7	10	1	24	34	-10	15
DEVONPORT	18	4	8	6	26	29	-3	14
HOBART OLYMPIA	18	6	10	2	25	31	-6	14
LAUNCESTON UNITED	18	2	13	3	22	43	-21	7

Goalscorers: Thomas 11, Cook 10, Oakes 4, Wright, Kelly, Godfrey, Gorniak 3, Rybak, Trueman 2, Spendiff 1, own goals 3

Radio League Division II Final Standings – 1979

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
PHOENIX	14	11	2	1	42	12	30	23
ICL CALEDONIANS	14	10	2	2	40	24	16	22
GLENORCHY CROATIA	14	9	3	2	84	34	50	20
WHITE EAGLE	**14**	**10**	**4**	**0**	**67**	**22**	**45**	**20**
UNIVERSITY	14	5	8	1	37	37	0	11
OLYMPIA	14	3	10	1	27	50	-23	7
SOUTH HOBART	14	2	9	3	21	72	-51	7
KINGBOROUGH	14	0	12	2	13	80	-67	2

Goalscorers: Rybak 13, Draskovic, Parker 10, Elliot 9, Buissink, Rakowski 5, Spendiff 4, Angel 3, Dexter, Oakes 2, Prodanovic, Jenkins, Hughes, Godfrey 1

Radio League Division IV Final Standings – 1979

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
METRO	12	9	1	2	42	24	18	20
WHITE EAGLE	**12**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**49**	**21**	**28**	**19**
DNIPRO	12	6	6	0	33	38	-5	12
UNIVERSITY	12	5	6	1	33	33	0	11
ICL CALEDONIANS	12	5	6	1	27	30	-3	11
ALPS	12	3	7	2	33	41	-8	8
PHOENIX	12	1	10	1	17	47	-30	3

Goalscorers: Gorniak 9, Parker 8, Smith 5, Price 4, C. Leszczynski, Zeitzen, Elliot 3, Kempa, Hughes, Buissink 2, Laredo, Kolabinski, Petrov, Frame, Rakowski 1, own goals 2

Under 17's Final Standings – 1979

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS	Pos.
WHITE EAGLE	18	7	2	9	33	35	16	6/10

Goalscorers: M. Leszczynski 8, Pasieczny 5, Rompa 4, Mitchell, Turner 3, Marlor, Longey, Bradford 2, McKenzie, Fox, Krunic 1,

Under 15's Division 2 Final Standings - 1979

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS	Pos.
WHITE EAGLE	15	12	1	2	47	9	25	2/6

Goalscorers: Cuthbertson 15, Crawford, A. Leszczynski 11, Lonergan 4, Zeitzen, Grimsey 2, Laszczak 1, own goals 1

Under 13's Division 2 Final Standings - 1979

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS	Pos.
WHITE EAGLE	14	6	2	6	34	36	14	4/8

Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 17, Czyzowicz, Stoddart 4, Daniels, Lovewell, Orlowski 2, J. Niekrasz, W. Niekrasz, M. Krzysica 1 each

In the late 70's, Eagle's fielded their first under 13 side. One of the early ones (1979) pictured below, coached by former senior player Eddie Kempa, contains three subsequent Senior Premiership players and two legends of the club in Richard Leszczynski, David Stoddart and Mark Krzysica.

The picture also shows two long standing supporters of the club in Peter Czyzowicz, (deceased) and son Adam. Adam, a Player Life Member, continues to support the club although he has retired from playing. Peter, a passionate supporter, coined the catchphrase "Come on Eagles, You Can Do it".

1979 - Under 13's
Back: R. Leszczynski, E. Kempa (Coach), Lovewell, I. Krause, D. Stoddart, J. Zieba, P. Czyzowicz (Mgr.), P. Obod, G, Crawford, M. Daniels
Front: S. Orlowski, Oates, J. Niekrasz, A. Czyzowicz, M. Krzysica, W. Niekrasz

1979 Under 17's

Back: Longey, M. Fletcher, C. McKenzie, S Anning, Z. Pasieczny, M. Phillips, G. Rosinski, M. Rompa, S. Bradford, T Steenhuis (Manager), G. Jenkins (Coach)
Front: N. Krunic, A. Fox, R. Turner, D. Mitchell, C. Marlor, R. Myhowicz, M. Leszczynski

1979 Senior Squad Members

Back: L. Nunn, G. Jenkins, R. Mohring, D. Spendiff, B. Rybak, M. Oakes, N. Thomas.
Front: M. Leszczynski, G. Steenhuis B. McKay, N. Cook, P. Wass

1980's

NINETEEN EIGHTIES (1980's)

At the beginning of the eighties, change was in the air, and virtually the entire side from 1979 departed the club, and although there was an influx of new players, goalkeeper Michniewski via the (US), Sherman, Aziz, Chris Collins, Krambousanos, Morales, Heap and the returning Worden, successfully replacing players of the calibre of Nunn, Spendiff, Thomas, Oakes, McKay, Trueman, Mohring, Kelly, Wright and Jenkins, would prove insurmountable.

During the pre-season Michael The Tailor Cup, Eagle did show some potential to make the final (although they did have a friendly group round draw), only to lose 1-2 to Brighton ICL. This however, was only a temporary high.

Veteran Frank Letec would join the club on loan from Croatia midway through the season, and with relegation starting to become a distinct possibility, Eagle began flying in sweeper Mike Brazil, in an attempt to lift the side.

This was all to no avail, as Eagle struggled throughout the season and subsequently finished bottom of the league with only one win, and was relegated.

⚽ Great debut by Burnie in State League

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 7/4/1980

MIKE DENTON's Burnie United team had a great debut in the Radio Rentals State League Soccer competition when they beat White Eagles 3-1 at Montello on Saturday.

Only a last-minute goal by Tony Godfrey gave the State champions of two years ago a degree of respectability.

Burnie were kept on the move by coach Denton, and new striker Steve Mathews from Roseberry was impressive. Goalscorers for Burnie were Denton, Winchester and Mathews.

Eagles best player was new recruit Dino Vlismas, an amateur who has played University soccer in New South Wales, while goalkeeper Stefan Zlotos saved them from a bigger defeat.

⚽ By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 14/4/1980

White Eagles' new coach Eugeniusz Mycak, from the US, watched them give their best display to score three quick goals through Cook, Sherman and Vlismas, and beat Ulverstone 3-1 at Grove Road, who replied through an own goal.

Stand-in coach John Michniewski, who has recovered from an injury, came on in the last 15 minutes to replace Stefan Zlotos.

⚽ Eagles facing the big drop

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 7/7/1980

WHITE EAGLES Soccer Club have got a fight on their hands to avoid relegation from the Radio Rentals State League.

Saturday they lost 1-3 to Burnie United, while Ulverstone, aided by three "fly-ins" from Melbourne, beat top Northern club Devonport 2-1 to climb off the bottom rung with a better goal difference than Eagles.

The two bottom teams meet at Ulverstone on Saturday.

Burnie rocked White Eagles with two goals in the first three minutes at the Athletic Centre through Kendrick and Winchester, from centres by wingers Parke and Eastley.

The second half opened equally sensationally with Glover (Burnie) sent off for alleged dangerous play and Sherman (Eagles) for alleged foul language. Yellow cards were issued to Considine and Newall (Burnie) and replacement Krambousanos (Eagles).

Worden tried hard to pull Eagles together but lacked support, and it surprised when Linnell went through on a Rybak pass to pull back a goal with eight minutes to go.

In the dying stages of the game, a bad back pass by Brazil, saw Charles nip in and score to make it 3-1.

Coastal coach John Berry was pleased with Burnie's display, saying that they were beginning to want the ball and were keener to do something with it. Drew Buchanan, Murray Rodger and Ray Parke were their best players.

White Eagle, 1980. Relegated from the state league the club went through a complete rebuilding programme. Back row, left to right: J. Michniewski, P. Linnell (capt), F. Letec, P. Sherman, C. Collins, C. Witek, D. Stoddart (manager). Front row: G. Krambousanos, N. Cook, M. Leszczynski, K. Worden, N. Aziz, G. Steenhuis. Absent: B. Rybak, M. Brazil. Photo courtesy The Mercury.

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
1980 – State League	18	1	3	14	22	63	6	10/10

The highlight for 1980 were the arrivals of Coach Eugene Mycak and goalkeeper John Michniewski from Poland via America, bringing with them great experience and knowledge, that was to be beneficial to the club in years to come. The need to blood younger players also saw the debut of Mark Leszczynski, who would go on to become one of the club's finest players and coaches of all time.

Towards the latter part of the season with relegation staring it in the face, Andrew Leszczynski was also given an opportunity to gain experience in the senior side. In the eighties the name Leszczynski dominates the side, with brothers Chris, Mark, Andrew and Richard, all regulars in the Eagle line-up.

Richard and Andrew, with their speed and shooting ability were deadly marksmen. Both were ex-Australian Schoolboy Internationals with Andrew winning the Player of the Championships Award in 1983 and Richard touring the UK as an Australian Schoolboy in 1985, scoring the only goal in a 1-0 victory over Scotland. Chris was a speedy defender who was given many man-to-man marking jobs, and rarely had the better of, whilst Mark was a versatile player, a quick, no-nonsense defender, strong in the tackle, a midfielder capable of scoring regularly, and in later years a sweeper of the highest quality, rated by many as the best in Tasmania.

Leszczynski Brothers: Andrew, Chris, Mark & Richard

⚽ An influx of coaches and players marked the 1980 season

By Walter Pless

The 1980 season began with Rapid, whose player coach was Ken Morton, playing home-and-away games against Canberra City in late January.

The first game was at South Hobart and Rapid lost 5-2 to the team from the national capital. Morton scored a penalty for Rapid, whose other goal came from Mick Southworth.

The return match in Canberra resulted in a 1-1 draw, with Ray Mohring netting for Rapid.

Morton was in his second year in Tasmania after playing in New Zealand and Western Australia. He had arrived in Tasmania at the end of 1978 to coach Caledonians but spent only a month at the club before moving to Rapid.

Caledonians were furious, but Rapid won the State League title and were ecstatic.

There was a clearance wrangle involving Morton, however, and Rapid initially had to pay New Zealand club Block House Bay $850 for his clearance and then $800 to Western Australian club Azzurri, who also claimed Morton was their player.

1980 was a season of notable coaching appointments and player imports.

The 10 teams in the Radio Rentals State League were: Brighton ICL Caledonians, Rapid Wrest Point, Burnie United, Croatia-Glenorchy, Devonport City, George Town, White Eagles, Juventus-Pioneer, Ulverstone and Launceston Juventus.

Croatia signed a top striker in 26-year-old Nado Spaleta from Canberra, while Caledonians (now known as Brighton ICL) were embarrassed again after the Morton situation in 1979 when their new English striker Ted Coleman (22) returned to the UK without playing a game.

Coleman had been accompanied by English import John Charlton, son of the famous Leeds United and England centre-half, Jackie Charlton. John Charlton stayed and was immediately highly rated.

Morton, had his first coaching experience with South Hobart in February 1980 when he agreed to host a weekend training camp for the club at Carlton. South Hobart were keen to win promotion to the State League and asked Morton to help with pre-season training and to show what their players could expect in the top-flight.

It would not be the first time that season that Morton would be involved with another club while he was coaching Rapid.

Diane Howlin became the first female referee when she took charge of a Michael The Tailor Cup match in March. That was the pre-season competition at the time and the winner received $1,000. Howlin's husband, John, was a goalkeeper for Metro and later Juventus before becoming a leading local referee.

One of the most prominent coaches to arrive in 1980 was Englishman Steve Darby, who joined Devonport on a one-year contract, with an option for a second year, after being assistant coach to the Bahrain national side. Devonport's first match was in late February in Launceston's Minster Carpet Cup.

Another new coach was Olympia's Peter Cagialis, a former Greek international, who took over from Barry Shacklady in late May. Olympia were also in the second tier and were desperate to win promotion to the State League.

Juventus had won promotion to the State League in 1979 but retained only one of their brilliant three Fijian players for the 1980 season, winger Nabian, Johnny Monday and Vosuqa had left.

Olympia's Lachie Vagianos, who had been sold to West Adelaide Hellas a few years previously, had been loaned back to Olympia for the 1979 campaign but he decided to go to the UK, West Germany and Italy in 1980 to obtain coaching qualifications.

A Tasmanian youth squad was selected for the national championships in Canberra from 9-19 May and the following youngsters were invited to attend trials by Tasmania's coach, Barry Shacklady:

Chris Hey, Martin Burden and Perry Forster (Brighton ICL Caledonians), Nick Di Martino, Angelo Ambrosino, Robbie Kent, Wells (Juventus), Michael and John McIntyre, Stephen Brown, Paul Hallam (Metro), Michael Edwards, Greg Ashwood, Sergio Pace, Dodds, Roger Munro, Craig Nichols, Mathew Sly, Nick Padas (Olympia), Paul Edwards, Johnston (Eastern Suburbs), Newton (Kingborough), Sherman (White Eagles), Tony Djelalija, Gavin Lawler (Croatia).

Brighton ICL Caledonians signed striker Billy Kirkpatrick, who had starred for Croatia two seasons ago before heading overseas for a year.

Croatia regained the services of Brian Davidson, a New Zealand international, from Essendon Croatia. Davidson had been captain-coach of the club and he played in a friendly between Croatia and Melbourne's Essendon Croatia.

The Michael The Tailor Cup Final was between White Eagles and Brighton ICL Caledonians and Calies won 2-1 at South Hobart.

Juventus signed Jimmy O'Donnell from Green Gully Ajax in Melbourne. O'Donnell, a 25-year-old right-fullback, had played for Cleveland Cobras in the North American League from 1973-78.

The Radio Rentals State League, worth $5,000 to the winners, kicked off on 2 April 1980 with a night game at Grove Road between Juventus-Pioneer and Rapid Wrest Point. Those were the days when it was still 2 points for a win and 1 point for a draw.

Rapid won 3-1 despite having player-coach Ken Morton sent off by referee Basil Masters for using foul and abusive language towards the official.

Rapid led 2-0 after 19 minutes before Johnny Genovesi pulled a goal back for Juventus with a penalty. Dale Blake's goal made the game safe for Rapid.

Brighton ICL Caledonians parted company with coach Tony Dickenson, while their former striker David Smith, who had been playing for Inter-Monaro in the ACT, returned to Tasmania to join Rapid. Dickenson returned within weeks as a player for Calies.

Mike Leigh from Western Australia was the replacement coach for Calies, while winger Ian Parker was due to join the club from England shortly.

Sean Collins had joined Calies from Devonport, while Nicky Cook had returned from England and rejoined White Eagles.

Brighton ICL Caledonians signed 10 players in all as they sought their first title since 1960, when they were known as Caledonians. They signed John Charlton and Ian Parker (from England), Terry Banagan, Ronnie Bolton, Jim Mackinnon, Brian McKay, Martin Burden, Billy Kirkpatrick, Bret Anderton, and Alan Burton (from Western Australia).

Tony Skaro was coach of Croatia and the club completed the transfer of Brian Davidson from Essendon Croatia.

Former Socceroo and ace marksman Mike Denton decided to step down as coach of Burnie United in favour of his assistant John Berry, but Denton would play for the club, together with new Scottish signing, Ray Parke.

George Town lost Mick Joss and Ross Wesson, but they signed New Zealanders Peter Davidson and Stephen Morley. Wesson became the new coach of Launceston Juventus. Jock Glass took over as George Town coach.

Wolfgang Stuetzel, formerly with Rapid, was the new player-coach of Ulverstone.

White Eagles welcomed two new Poles via the United States of America. Eugene Mycak, 36, arrived as coach and John Michniewski as goalkeeper. Spectators were amazed by Michniewski's pre-game warm-up routine, which certainly demonstrated his agility and reflexes.

On Anzac Day, Rapid Wrest Point hosted Preston Makedonia from Melbourne for a Philips Cup game at South Hobart. Preston won 5-1.

At the end of April, John Grimsey took over as coach of Juventus-Pioneer after the early resignation of former Tasmanian soccer star, Fritz Umgeher.

Ian Parker had a brilliant debut for Brighton ICL Caledonians in the 3-1 away win at Ulverstone.

In continuing links with the Mainland, Rapid played Sydney City, the joint leaders in the Philips National Soccer League, on a Saturday night at Grove Road. Sydney City, coached by Eddie Thomson, who was later to become the Socceroos coach, won 1-0.

Sixteen-year-old Luciano Fabrizio made his debut for Juventus Pioneer and scored in the 3-1 win over White Eagles in June. Fabrizio would end up at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra and become a Joey (Australia Under-17s) and a Young Socceroo (Australia Under-20s) as well as a regular in the National Soccer League.

Johnny Genovesi, 29, was making a come-back with Juventus-Pioneer after knee ligament surgery in late June. At that stage, he had played about 400 games for Juventus and scored something like 200 goals since his debut as a 17-year-old when Juventus won their first title in 1969.

Ulverstone began flying in three players from interstate for their games, which caused concern amongst other clubs.

The Australian Soccer Federation was also keen to ban ethnic names, and this caused alarm at Juventus-Pioneer, Olympia and Croatia Glenorchy.

By July, with White Eagles in danger of relegation, the club made the unusual decision to appoint Rapid coach Ken Morton as a 'consultative coach' to advise their Polish coach Eugene Mycak. Morton was, of course, coach of league-leaders Rapid. Morton would take some training sessions and advise Mycak on team selection and tactics. He did not take Eagles training the week before Eagles met Rapid in a league match.

White Eagles had Ken Worden in their ranks. He also played for Juventus, Olympia and Launceston Juventus while in Tasmania and began his career with Preston North-End in the UK. He took Melbourne Croatia to an NSL title before becoming national coach of Singapore and Malaysia. He also coached several Asian clubs.

Three brothers made their debut for White Eagles, which was a record for a State League club. Chris (18), Mark (17) and Andrew (15) Leszczynski went on to become regulars in the team for over a decade.

South Hobart won the second-tier competition, the Rothmans League, when they beat Phoenix 4-1, while White Eagles were relegated from the State League after a 4-1 defeat to Brighton ICL Caledonians.

Rapid won the State League after beating Juventus-Pioneer 1-0 through a Ken Morton goal to remain unbeaten in the league all season (15 wins and 3 draws). They also took out the Ampol Cup and were runners-up in the $5,000 Cadbury Cup.

David Smith was the star for Rapid as they beat Brighton ICL Caledonians 2-1 in the Ampol Cup Final in a Saturday night game at Grove Road.

Brighton ICL Caledonians gained revenge when they beat Rapid on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the Cadbury Cup Final.

The final standings in the Radio Rentals State League were: Rapid, Croatia, Brighton ICL, George Town, Juventus-Pioneer, Devonport, Launceston Juventus, Burnie, Ulverstone and White Eagles.

Ken Morton left Rapid in October after being appointed coach of new NSL club Wollongong. He took three Tasmanian players with him: Rapid sweeper Peter Willis, who began his career at Leeds United; Rapid striker David Smith; and Brighton ICL Caledonians goalkeeper Robert Harrison.

The curtain came down on the 1980 season with the news that there would be no Tasmanian team in the Philips League. The dream died when only $50,000 of the required $100,000 could be raised.

In 1981 White Eagle set out to make a quick return to the premier league, and it did so by winning the Rothmans League Division One premiership.

The season started brightly, with a strong performance in the Michael The Tailor Summer Cup, being undefeated, but eventually missing out on a semi-final place on goal difference, holding eventual winners Juventus (a current Sate League side), to a 2-2 draw in the final group stage game of the cup competition.

Eagle's toughest challenges during the roster season would come from Olympia and Metro-Claremont.

Eagles unlucky

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] – 20/3/1981 – SUMMER CUP

Last weekend saw the third round of the Michael The Tailor Cup, and with Juventus struggling to find the latter half of last season's form, they had to battle hard to draw two-all with a rejuvenated White Eagles side.

Honors should be with White Eagles, as Juventus were under constant pressure from their forwards from the first whistle. Godfrey converted in the eighth minute of the second half, and it was not until soon after that de Felice for Juventus, who had just been substituted for Lapolla, fought gamely down the right wing to goal and spark the lethargic Juventus team into action.

A draw would have satisfied Juventus, as goal average in the previous two rounds saw them into the semi-finals ahead of White Eagles, but in the 15th minute of the second half Wass saw the opportunity to put White Eagles ahead, when an error in the penalty area by the Juventus back line confused Jones the keeper, for Wass to coolly put the ball into the back of the net.

Di Martino and Di Giovanni were then replaced by veteran former Juventus captain West, and the speedy Parodi, who after only five minutes on the field, scored the goal which was eventually to seal Eagles' fate.

The end result was disappointing for both teams, but Juventus must improve if they are to have any chance of defeating Brighton ICL in the semi-finals to be played this weekend.

Eagles take ladder lead

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] – 07/5/1981

WHITE EAGLES moved to the top of the Rothmans Soccer League with a 4-2 win over Olympia at KGV last night.

Mick Walker and Tony Godfrey both scored twice, enabling White Eagles to down the previous league leaders. Olympia's goals came from Nichols and Bolton.

Eagles led 2-1 at half time, and scored again shortly after the break, before captain Peter Linnell was sent off. Olympia pulled a gal back, but Eagles clinched victory with their fourth just before time.

It was Olympia's first loss of the season, and White Eagles are now the only unbeaten team in the Rothmans League.

At the half-way stage of the season, Eagle held a slender lead over Olympia (one point) and Metro (two points) following a trouncing of Derwent 8-1, with Mick Walker scoring four goals in a dominant display.

Walker nets four as Eagles fire

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] – 18/5/1981

MICK WALKER banged in four goals as White Eagles trounced Derwent United 8-1 in their Rothmans League soccer match at the weekend.

The league leaders were simply too good for the lowly-placed Derwent, who to their credit, scored a consolation goal through captain-coach Lindsay Groat.

Walker's four goals make him the second highest goal scorer in the league, while goal-keeper John Michniewski had the privilege of taking his season's tally to three by converting two penalties.

The big win gives Eagles the best goal difference, as well as outright points lead in the Rothmans League at the end of the first round.

In the second round, it was business as usual with the crunch game being against Olympia, where a win would virtually ensure Eagle a premiership title and a swift return to the State League, although it would be a South, North competition.

White Eagles strengthen grip on Rothmans title

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] -14/7/1981

WHITE EAGLES proved their superiority in the Rothmans Soccer League with a 2-0 win over Olympia at South Hobart on Sunday. With only three games to be played, they lead Olympia by four points, and have a superior goal difference and would have to lose two of these games to forfeit their grip on the title.

Richards replaced Munro in the Olympia attack and Jack Dilba moved into defence. The game opened with some heavy clashes and referee Debarte quickly took control and several players received yellow cards during the game. In the 18th minute, following a free kick, Godfrey crossed to enable Walker to head in the opening score for Eagles.

Ten minutes into the second half Nichols was fouled in the area, Pace's shot was saved by keeper Michniewski and Olympia had lost the chance to draw level. Linnell and Rybak dominated for Eagles defence and although Olympia had more possession than their opponents they continued to hold on to the ball and were often caught.

Throughout the year they have been unable to convert their opportunities and Sunday's performance was no exception. Three minutes from the end, a defensive error allowed Eagles in, and Godfrey finished a fine move with a well taken shot to seal the match for his team.

Eagle clinched the title without losing a game, finishing five points clear of second placed Olympia and six points clear of third placed Metro. 1981 was also a premiership winning year for the club's Division 1 women's team.

Rothmans League 1 Final Standings - 1981

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**14**	**13**	**1**	**0**	**53**	**12**	**27**
Olympia	14	10	2	2	52	15	22
Metro	14	9	3	2	56	20	21
Taroona	14	6	3	5	29	25	15
University	14	5	1	8	19	31	11
Derwent Utd	14	2	3	9	14	53	7
Clarence	14	3	0	11	17	53	6
Phoenix	14	1	1	12	16	47	3

1981 Women's Division 1 Premiers

Back: D. Dolliver, T. Steenhuis, K. Lawler, D. Ackerley, M. Steenhuis, K. Dolliver, L. Foulkes, **A.** Krambousanos, M. Steenhuis (Manageress).
Front: A. Rosinski, J. Rosinski, M. Glass, B, Rekawiecki, K. Fehlandt, E. Plachta, C. Steenhuis

In 1981, White Eagle hosted Melbourne Polonia, who had former Polish international Stefan Mila in their line-up. The Eagle side was comprised of mainly Eagle senior players, plus several players from other clubs. The game was hard fought, with the Eagle select team winning in a penalty shoot-out. Captain Bobby Rybak scoring the winning penalty.

Back: H. Pankowski (President), E. Mycak (Coach), B. Rybak (Capt), C. Witek, M. Leszczynski, J. Paplos (Olympia), B. Ward (Juventus), G. Lawler, M. Sikora, J. Gorniak (Manager), W. Jones (Trainer), J. Michniewski **Front:** G. Steenhuis, A. Payne (Croatia), P. Forster (Olympia), D. Trueman, P. Angel, A. Leszczynski, N. Lapolla (Juventus).

Eagle captain Bobby Rybak (scorer of the winning penalty) receives the winner's trophy from P. Polacik

1982 saw Eagle back in the Premier League with Eugene Mycak as coach, and they started the season on fire, winning their first five games, (claiming the big scalps of Rapid Wrest Point (eventual winners), Juventus (second) and Olympia (third).

Although Eagle were unable to maintain their early momentum, not surprising given the lack of depth in the squad, they did manage to finish in a creditable fourth place, and in the end played a significant part in the overall final placings.

They also managed to defeat Olympia 3-1 in the semi-final of the top four playoff series before being defeated by Juventus in the preliminary final.

Brothers set up victory

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] – 29th APRIL 1982

THE trio of Leszczynski brothers - Chris, Mark and Andrew, led White Eagles to a 3-0 victory over highly-fancied Rapid Wrest Point in their Cadbury League Soccer match at KGV last night.

The three brothers combined to open the scoring in the 25th minute, when Chris picked up a ball from a corner which was not properly cleared. From his cross, Andrew laid the ball on for Mark to strike accurately into the back of the net with a left-foot drive.

Just before half-time, Eagles produced a wonderful team lifting goal. The ball was cleared out of defence in quick fashion to Peter Wass on the right wing who lobbed it inside for Andrew Leszczynski to run on to and despatch a crashing shot past the goalkeeper to put them two up at the break.

Despite intense pressure from Rapid's forwards in the second half, Eagles fought valiantly to retain their lead, and sewed the game up with their third goal six minutes from the end, from a free kick 25 metres from goal. Bobby Rybak floated a gentle cross towards goal, and as Rapid keeper Kannegiesser went to catch it, the ball slipped through his fingers and trickled into the net.

The White Eagles supporters joyously celebrated the win which puts them into second position on the Cadbury League ladder, behind Olympia, on goal difference.

Winning run over for White Eagles

By ZENON PASIECZNY – 30th APRIL 1982

WHITE EAGLES are riding high on the crest of a wave after successive wins in the Cadbury League this season, but their bubble should burst at the hands of Olympia tomorrow.

Olympia have already beaten Eagles this year 2-1, in the pre-season tournament. Olympia also head the Cadbury League table after two rounds, on goal difference from Eagles.

However, White Eagles had an excellent build-up to tomorrow's clash with a stunning 3-0 win against Rapid Wrest Point on Wednesday night.

After two matches Eagles have scored six goals, and are the only team in the competition yet to concede a goal. An added bonus is the return to the team of Derek Trueman who has served a one-match suspension after being sent off in the first match against Brighton. Although he is eligible to play, coach Eugene Mycak may have trouble fitting Trueman into a winning combination.

The fact that their winning team included nine home-grown players made the victory all the more creditable. The club spirit and determination shown by the Eagles players rival any in the league.

Their desire to do well however, should be overcome by Olympia, who have the forwards capable of penetrating any defence. The only injury worry is Ronnie Bolton, who hurt his back at work. Coach Brian McKay said last night that if Bolton is fit, Olympia will field an unchanged line-up to that which beat Brighton 2-1 last week.

Although Olympia's forwards are in fine form with nine goals in the league, the defence looked shaky when Brighton pulled one goal back last week. McKay brought himself on to steady the back-line but he confidently predicted he will not be required tomorrow.

The one player capable of upsetting the Olympia defence, is exciting White Eagles forward Andrew Leszczynski, a member of the Tasmanian Youth (under 19) team. Andrew teams well with his brother Mark on the forward line, and both scored goals against Rapid.

As this is the only Cadbury League match tomorrow, a large crowd will be attracted to the South Hobart ground at 3pm.

⚽ Teenager's goal props up Eagles

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] – 2nd MAY 1982

TEENAGE striker Andrew Leszczynski produced a superb goal to give White Eagles a 1-0 win over Olympia on Saturday which put them level on points with Juventus Pioneer at the top of the Cadbury League.

Juventus are top scorers in the League and head the table although both teams have a goal difference of seven and Eagles are the only side yet to concede a goal after three matches.

Two goals from Robert Kent and one from Bruce Ward for Juventus accounted for Brighton ICL at the Athletic Centre yesterday.

The weekend results all produced upset results, with shock losses by Rapid and Croatia Glenorchy, against South Hobart and Metro respectively.

In the top of the table clash on Saturday, White Eagles took an early lead against Olympia and were never headed. Once again it was the Leszczynski brothers who combined to set up the all-important goal. A long ball from Mark (18) found his younger brother, Andrew (17), who turned his defender, Darby Conlan, inside out and sent a crashing left foot shot high into the net from the edge of the penalty area.

⚽ White Eagles could bring back striker

By ZENON PASIECZNY – 14th MAY 1982

WHITE EAGLES are trying to bring back powerful young striker, Andrew Leszczynski, from the national youth championships in Canberra for their vital match against Juventus Pioneer on Sunday.

Leszczynski (17) is a member of the Tasmanian team who have lost their first two round robin matches and have no hope of reaching the final. Eagles officials are hoping to pay the extra air fare to fly Leszczynski home early Sunday morning for the Cadbury League clash at 2.45 pm at the Athletic Centre.

Meanwhile, Juventus Pioneer have six players competing in interstate tournaments, and will be forced to make changes to the side which easily defeated Olympia 4-1 last week.

Regular first team players Leon Darko and Darien Bacon, plus Damon Cuthbertson, David Nichols and Alistair Cochrane, are with the State youth team, while Stephen Brown is competing in the intervarsity tournament in Melbourne.

Shaun Collins, who missed last week because of flu, returns to the team and the other spot is up for grabs between Peter Brine, still suffering from arthritis in the knee, and Dominic Fraraccio. Fraraccio has been on the comeback trail for about two months since injuring his ankle in pre-season training. English import Martin Harrison made his debut as fullback last week, but finished the game with traces of fluid on the knee.

With Bacon missing from the midfield, John Genovesi may push up from the backline to play alongside Eric Young and Sergio Pace. With so many defences concentrating on stopping Bruce Ward, Robert Kent is grabbing his fair share of the glory, and has scored four goals in the past two games.

Juventus and White Eagles are the only teams with a 100 per cent winning record, but Juventus lead the table with a superior goal difference (ten opposed to eight).

However, Eagles are the only side yet to concede a goal. Coach Eugene Mycak does not doubt Juventus' quality, but believes they can be beaten. Despite Mycak's belief in his players' ability, Juventus should have the class to assert their authority on the game and go on to register their fifth consecutive victory, which will leave them standing alone at the top of the League.

⚽ White Eagles head ladder

By Zenon Pasieczny [THE MERCURY] – 17th MAY 1982

WHITE EAGLES are flying high after their fifth consecutive win in the Cadbury Soccer League and are now firmly entrenched on top of the ladder after a dramatic 2-1 victory over Juventus Pioneer yesterday.

White Eagles weathered the storm of a continuous onslaught by the Juventus forwards and hit back with two quick goals early in the second half to grab a winning lead.

The win leaves White Eagles alone at the head of the table with maximum points after five matches. However, Juventus had the majority of the play and should have had the game parcelled up by half-time, but Bruce Ward twice blazed the ball high over the bar with only the keeper to beat.

The opening goal for Eagles came 10 minutes after the break, when Boswell struck a shot goalwards, and Nick Drascovic was on hand to turn and shoot the ball into the back of the net to stun the crowd.

Ten minutes later, substitute Craig Crawford, who had scored a goal in the earlier reserves match, collided with Peter Brine (Juventus Pioneer) in the penalty area and referee Tom Kelly awarded a spot kick.

Goalkeeper John Michniewski ran up to take the penalty and sent the ball in off the post. Eagles conceded their first goal in the league 15 minutes from the end when Ward continued his great record of scoring in every game when he headed in a corner to put Juventus within distance.

It was the first goal Michniewski had conceded in 435 minutes of play this season. Minutes later, Ward thought he had scored again, but his well struck free kick was brilliantly saved by Michniewski diving high to his left.

Eagles coach, Eugene Mycak, was jubilant after the game as the players sang and rejoiced in the dressing room. "It was a brilliant effort by the player's," said Mycak.

Cadbury League South - 1982 (Top 5 after 5 Rounds)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**5**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**1**	**10**
Hobart Juventus	5	4	0	1	15	6	8
Metro Claremont	5	3	1	1	7	4	7
Olympia WPL	5	2	1	2	10	7	5
Rapid Wrest Point	5	2	0	3	4	7	4

Cadbury League South Final Standings - 1982

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid Wrest Point	21	15	2	4	42	18	32
Hobart Juventus	21	13	4	4	62	24	30
Olympia WPL	21	14	2	5	53	23	30
White Eagle	**21**	**10**	**2**	**9**	**36**	**38**	**22**
Croatia Glenorchy	21	9	3	9	43	43	21
Metro Claremont	21	7	3	11	34	55	17
Brighton ICL	21	4	2	15	28	49	10
South Hobart	21	3	0	18	22	70	6

Under 15's Premiers 1982

Back: D. Stoddart Snr (Coach), J. Niekrasz, R. Ketchell, H. Nelson (Asst Coach), G. Angel, A. Czyzowicz, S. Burn, A. Hocking, R. Szlezak, R. Leszczynski, S. Carty, M. Jenkins (Manager) **Front:** S. Talbot, G. Michniewski, D. Stoddart Jnr (Capt.), A. Rozmaryniewicz, A. Hart, B. Berry, M. Krzysica.

1982 was a year of consolidation for the club under coach Eugene Mycak, however 1983 proved a disastrous one, ending in relegation following a season of few results. Mycak had a young and inexperienced side that could not stave off relegation, in a miserable season that included many injuries.

As in previous difficult times, youth was given its chance, particularly towards the end of the season. Two youngsters David Stoddart Jnr (son of late 60's and 70's stalwart David Stoddart) and Richard Leszczynski made their senior debuts in this dreadful season, and they also managed to open their senior goal scoring accounts.

Both players were part of the premiership winning under-15 team of 1982, and were performing well in the under-17 competition, (as well as making their senior team debuts), where their goalscoring feats helped Eagles to second place in the competition.

Under 17 Division Final Standings - 1983

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus-Pioneer	15	14	0	1	58	16	28
White Eagle	**16**	**13**	**1**	**2**	**84**	**17**	**27**
Caledonians	15	8	2	5	36	20	18
Clarence	16	8	2	6	32	20	18
Metro Claremont	16	6	4	6	26	27	16
Blackmans Bay	16	5	5	6	25	37	15
Olympia	16	5	1	10	16	51	11
Phoenix	16	2	1	13	14	50	5
Rapid Wrest Point	16	1	2	13	14	67	4

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 23, Stoddart 17, Hocking 15, Hart 11, Krzysica 6, Czyzowicz 4

They would have an enormous impact on the local scene for the next three decades and be feted as two of the all-time great Eagle players, winning 11 club "Best and Fairest" awards between them, and numerous club and league goalscoring awards. Richard a player with devastating speed, also had the distinction of winning "The 100-metre Challenge Sprint" in 1986 and 1996, conducted at half-time, in a number of Summer Cup finals over the years.

Cadbury League South Final Standings - 1983

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	21	14	2	5	51	22	30
Rapid Wrest Point	21	13	4	4	35	22	30
Olympia WPL	21	11	6	4	53	32	28
Croatia Glenorchy	21	10	4	7	42	36	24
Metro Claremont	21	6	6	9	34	39	18
Caledonians	21	6	5	10	39	38	17
University	21	8	0	13	33	60	16
White Eagle	**21**	**2**	**1**	**18**	**23**	**61**	**5**

Goalscorers: A. Leszczynski 9, Godfrey 3, M. Leszczynski, A. Payne, N. Stanton 2, D. Stoddart, R. Leszczynski, G. Rosinski, G. Lawler 1

Cadbury League Reserves Final Standings - 1983

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus-Pioneer	20	14	4	2	65	31	32
Olympia	20	11	4	5	66	44	26
Croatia Glenorchy	20	10	4	5	62	35	24
Rapid Wrest Point	20	8	5	6	49	44	21
White Eagle	**20**	**7**	**2**	**11**	**43**	**60**	**16**
Caledonians	20	5	3	11	30	55	13
University	20	5	2	12	38	51	12
Metro Claremont	20	2	8	10	25	58	12

Leading Goalscorers: Laszczak 15, Sikora 4, Price, Vernon 3, Arnold, Ingles, Stanton, Templeman 2

Another youngster performing well in the junior ranks was Brett Harwood, who was the leading goalscorer for Eagle in the under-14 competition with 19 goals. He would eventually progress to the senior team and would have a big impact for the club, albeit a brief one.

Under 14 Division Final Standings - 1983

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	19	18	1	0	77	11	37
Juventus-Pioneer	19	12	2	5	63	25	26
Clarence	19	10	2	7	57	47	22
White Eagle	**19**	**8**	**4**	**7**	**47**	**31**	**20**
Croatia Glenorchy	19	9	1	9	52	40	19
University	19	7	4	8	48	33	18
Blackmans Bay	19	4	1	14	8	72	9
Metro Claremont	19	0	1	18	4	97	1

Leading Goalscorers: Harwood 19, Peppin 9, Brown, Connolly, Jenkins 4, B. Stoddart 3

Relegation to Rothmans Division 1 resulted in the loss of several players to the Cadbury League competition including Mark, Andrew, a young Richard Leszczynski and Bobby Rybak. Eagle appointed Alistair Payne as player-coach, and he was able to give his young players the benefit of many years of top-level playing experience, and this was used to forge a side that was virtually unstoppable in the Division 1 competition.

The 1984 season also saw the arrival of Neil Morrison, Les Ware and Scott Young. These three players would play important roles in the success of the club in the years to come (both playing and coaching) and would prove invaluable acquisitions. A young Eagle side lost only one game and drew another to gain promotion to the Cadbury League for 1985, scoring 104 goals along the way.

Scott Young was awarded the Best and Fairest Award, recognition of a fantastic first season with the club.

White Eagles dominate

THE MERCURY 1/5/1984

WHITE EAGLES thrashed Taroona 8-0 on Saturday in their Rothmans League Division I soccer match.

Kim Barker had a field day for While Eagles kicking four goals with Tony Godfrey (2). Scott Young and Peter Wass also scoring. It was a good result for the premiership favorites with David Stoddart and Scott Young proving two young players of the future.

White Eagles flying high after win against South

THE MERCURY 15/5/1984

WHITE EAGLES defeated South Hobart 2-I in an exciting Rothmans Division One soccer match on Saturday, maintaining their position on top of the ladder.

White Eagles came out running and forced many corners during the first half but failed to capitalise mainly because of great goalkeeping from Souths Steve Dowker.

Eagles finally managed to score through a penalty with which Tony Godfrey made no mistake. The second half was more even but South's defence of Mark Nelson, Gary Fisher and Craig Forsberg held firm. Kim Barker then scored for Eagles and a consolation goal for Bishop finished the days scoring.

White Eagles played very attacking soccer hut undisciplined behaviour from David Stoddart (who was sent off) and Kim Barker (yellow card) probably cost a number of goals.

For South Hobart, Nelson, Fisher and Forsberg played well, while Eagles were best served by Scott Young and Simon Templeman on the right wing.

THE MERCURY 29/5/1984

At the Athletic Centre, White Eagles overwhelmed Hobart City 4-0. The first half was very even, and White Eagles playing without Kim Barker who is injured, struggled to get past the City defence. A penalty to Eagles' Godfrey was the only score before half-time.

The second half was a different story, and the Eagles machine went to work with goals from Alistair Payne, Mark Krzysica and another penalty to Tony Godfrey gave Eagles an easy win.

David Stoddart and Payne stood out for White Eagles, whilst Gavin Lawler and new signing Matt Richman were City's best.

Rothmans League 1 - 1984 (Standings after Round 6)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**6**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**28**	**6**	**12**
Juventus-Pioneer	6	4	1	1	24	11	9
Kingborough Utd	6	4	1	1	17	8	9
Hobart City	6	2	1	1	16	17	5
Taroona	6	2	1	3	12	17	5
Howrah	6	1	2	3	11	15	4
South Hobart	6	1	2	3	12	22	4
Clarence	6	0	0	6	7	31	0

White Eagles establish big soccer lead

THE MERCURY 5/6/1984

UNDEFEATED White Eagles have established a good lead over Juventus and Kingborough after the final game of the first round in Rothmans Division One soccer.

On Saturday at Sherburd Oval, White Eagles defeated Kingborough 2-1 in what should have been a drawn game. The first half was really a battle of defences, with Eagles' Greg Rosinski and Boroughs Chris Howell closing down everything that came their way.

With the score 0-0 at halftime, the ladder leaders had something to think about. Eagles came out running and quickly swooped onto loose balls with David Stoddart and Tony Godfrey scoring easy goals.

Kingborough fought hack well and with Chris Barrell tireless in the midfield and their forwards running well, they managed a well-taken goal through Greg Simpson. The game was a very high standard but was marred by several yellow cards - Morrison being sent off for Eagles - and also the lack of line officials which cost Kingborough a goal.

For White Eagles, Craig Jones, Greg Rosinski and Scott Young had good games, whilst for Kingborough the trio of Peter Groenewoud, Scott De Haan and Chris Barrell were outstanding for Kingborough.

Eagles secure in top position

THE MERCURY 19/6/1984

WHITE EAGLES have probably secured the Tasmanian Soccer Association Rothmans Division 1, even at this early stage, with their 4-2 win over Juventus on Saturday.

The Eagles started at a brisk pace, and quickly earned a penalty with which Tony Godfrey made no mistake. After several more promising build-ups Simon Templeman ran on to a good through pass and scored a nice goal.

After half-time Juventus started to return the pressure, and scored through Longo. Juventus threw everything at White Eagles who held firm and scored a late goal against the run of play through Tony Godfrey. For White Eagles, David Stoddart, Godfrey and Young were outstanding, while the whole Juventus team performed well.

THE MERCURY 3/7/1984

Top side White Eagles struggled early against Howrah but won 3-1. Howrah quickly took on the Eagles defence and were rewarded with a goal by Richard Corongui. After this, the Eagles side improved with a goal to Templeman just before halftime, making the scoreline even. The second half saw Eagles put more attacks together and goals to Kim Barker and then an own goal, sealed Howrah's fate.

Rothmans League 1 - 1984 (Standings after Round 11)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**11**	**11**	**0**	**0**	**48**	**12**	**22**
Juventus-Pioneer	11	7	2	2	40	17	16
Kingborough Utd	11	6	1	4	23	16	13
Hobart City	11	5	2	4	23	23	12
Taroona	11	5	1	4	27	30	12
South Hobart	11	3	1	7	20	40	7
Howrah	11	2	2	7	18	23	6
Clarence	11	0	0	11	9	56	0

THE MERCURY 31/7/1984

While Eagles bounced back with a vengeance after last week's loss, and eclipsed Clarence 11-1. From the start of the game White Eagles made it their business to score and went in at half-time 8-0 up.

Clarence coach Chris Hindmarsh roused his team up at halftime and they even managed a consolation goal through Andy White, but it was the mighty Eagles midfield of Young, Morrison and Stoddart, and their explosive forward line that has made them deservedly the best team in the league.

The scorers for White Eagles were Kim Barker (4), Tony Godfrey, Simon Templeman and David Stoddart two each and Neil Morrison, while White scored for Clarence and their better players were Tony Case, Adrian Hallam and Greg McBurnie.

Juventus, Eagles play hard-fought scoreless draw

THE MERCURY 7/8/1984

At the Athletic Centre top sides Juventus and White Eagles played a hard-fought scoreless draw. Juventus started the game without regular stalwart John Genovesi who was injured, and this seemed to upset their game.

White Eagles attacked fiercely on several occasions, but Juventus backmen Colin West and Nick Lapolla held firm, and White Eagles were forced into long shots which goalkeeper Mick Gaff saved well.

Juventus moved forward occasionally but the Eagles' backline was impenetrable and the score at the end of the game of 0-0 was a fair result in the heavy conditions. For Juventus Gaff, West and Steve Parodi played well, while for the Eagles Paul Neads, David Stoddart and Scott Young stood out.

Easy premiership win to White Eagles

THE MERCURY 28/8/1984

WHITE EAGLES won the Rothmans Division I premiership when they thrashed South Hobart 8-1.

White Eagles have certainly been the best team this year, and should hope for a better effort in next year's Cadbury League. During a fifteen-minute second half burst they banged in six goals to go on to an easy victory with their better players being Godfrey, Scott Young, and Paul Neads.

Rothmans League 1 Final Standings - 1984

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**21**	**19**	**1**	**1**	**104**	**26**	**39**
Juventus-Pioneer	21	14	3	4	65	26	31
Kingborough Utd	21	13	1	7	49	30	27
Hobart City	21	9	3	9	43	47	21
Taroona	21	8	3	10	35	52	19
Howrah	21	7	4	10	53	37	18
South Hobart	21	6	1	14	37	72	13
Clarence	21	0	0	21	17	113	0

Leading Goalscorers: K. Barker 23, S. Templeman 22, T. Godfrey 21, D. Stoddart 9, S, Young, N. Morrison, A. Payne 5

Under 13's Premiers 1984

Back: J. Burns (V/Capt.), G. Mason (Capt.), F. Mainella, D. Itchins (Coach), M. Polley (Manager) **Middle:** J. Rieussett, M. Polley, M. Lapolla, M. Christian, B. Foster, D. Wright, **Front:** J. Devereux, L. Lagereswkij, C. Percival, D. Heiden, T. Wilkie, J. Diubaldo

Under 13 Division II – Final Standings 1984

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**17**	**12**	**3**	**2**	**68**	**21**	**27**
Howrah	16	8	4	4	35	23	20
Kingborough United	17	8	3	6	31	32	19
Bridgewater	16	9	0	7	56	34	18
Metro C	17	7	1	9	23	40	15
Metro B	15	5	0	10	27	45	10
Phoenix Lauderdale	14	1	1	12	14	59	3

1985 saw the return of Eagle to the top-flight again, and the appointment of experienced coach Steve Darby. The season followed a similar pattern to 1982, where the team finished in fourth place. This was the year that Eagle really started to consolidate their standing in the competition, and showed early signs of their future trademark goalscoring ability, and never say die attitude.

Although there was a number of deficiencies in the teams makeup, goalscoring was not one of them, as the team were the highest scorers in the league with 62 goals. The 1985 season also saw the return of Bob Rybak, Mark, Andrew, and Richard Leszczynski to the club after a season with University.

⚽ White Eagles fight back in thriller

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 30th MAY 1995

SIXTEEN goals and two amazing comebacks helped create an electric atmosphere at last night's Cadbury State League double-header at KGV. White Eagles came back from a three-goal deficit to beat Rapid 4-3 while Juventus-Pioneer beat Olympia-WPL 6-3.

Pace, Kannegiesser and Fabrizio put Juventus into a commanding lead, but Olympia hit back with two fine goals by Perry Forster. Kannegiesser had the chance to put Juventus further in front in the 67th minute but Burden brilliantly saved his penalty. Goals by Morton and Kannegiesser made the game safe for Juventus, and Cochrane completed the scoring five minutes from time.

An own goal by Allen Burton and two goals by Danny Donohue gave Rapid a 3-0 lead against White Eagles after only 29 minutes. Two goals by Mark Leszczynski and one each from Rybak and Stoddart saw Eagles win.

Cadbury League – Final Standings 1985

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	21	14	3	4	58	21	31
Croatia Glenorchy	21	13	3	5	46	24	29
Caledonians	21	10	6	5	46	35	26
White Eagle	**21**	**12**	**2**	**7**	**62**	**54**	**26**
Olympia WPL	21	6	4	11	32	40	16
Rapid Wrest Point	21	6	4	11	29	39	16
Metro Claremont	21	6	4	11	38	51	16
University	21	3	2	18	20	67	8

Leading Goalscorers: M. Leszczynski 18, A. Leszczynski 14, D. Stoddart 8, R. Leszczynski 7, N. Morrison, Young 3

Pepsi Youth League – Final Standings 1985

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	21	12	7	2	67	20	31
White Eagle	**21**	**11**	**6**	**4**	**61**	**30**	**28**
Olympia WPL	21	10	4	7	48	37	24
University	21	8	7	6	29	38	23
Caledonians	21	8	3	10	36	46	19
Metro Claremont	21	6	4	11	33	47	16
Rapid Wrest Point	21	6	4	11	23	38	16
Croatia Glenorchy	21	5	1	15	31	72	11

Leading Goalscorers: Templeman 17, Laszczak 12, Ketchell 7, O'Hea, Crowther 5, Witek, Young, Steenhuis 3

Tasmanian Review Season 1985

By WALTER PLESS – [Australian Soccer Annual 1986]

More goals, more penalties, less intrastate competition - that just about summed up the 1985 season in southern Tasmania.

There were 331 goals scored in the Cadbury State League (average 3.94 goals a game) compared with last season's 304 goals (average 3.63), while the inaugural Pepsi Youth League competition produced a creditable 328 goals (average 3.91).

Thirty-nine penalties were awarded in the Cadbury League, of which 27 were converted, five saved and seven missed. Andrew Leszczynski of White Eagles scored the most penalties (six), while goalkeeper Martin Burden (Olympia-WPL) saved three.

Finally, a brief summary of the Cadbury League teams' performances and their prospects for 1986.

Juventus-Pioneer: Undoubtedly the most successful senior club in the State. Won its third consecutive Cadbury League title as well as the inaugural Pepsi Youth League title, and the State premiership for the second year in a row. The club has plenty of young talent, and with coach Ken Morton reappointed, is certain to be a force in 1986.

Croatia-Glenorchy: Rarely played well but finished as league runner-up. Showed top form by winning the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy in the top-four grand final (3-0 vs Juventus). There are serious doubts about the depth of talent within the club - the youth team finished last - but the senior side should do even better this year as most players will stay.

Caledonians: Started the season in great style by winning the Michael The Tailor Summer Cup but went through a bad patch midway through the season (six games without a win) which may well have cost it the title. Calies look like losing several players to other clubs before the opening of the new campaign and this may mean that the club will struggle.

White Eagles: Finished a commendable fourth alter winning promotion at the end of 1984, but lacked the big-match temperament. Eagles were brilliant at times and very disappointing at others. With the acquisition of two or three new players they should mount an even stronger challenge this season.

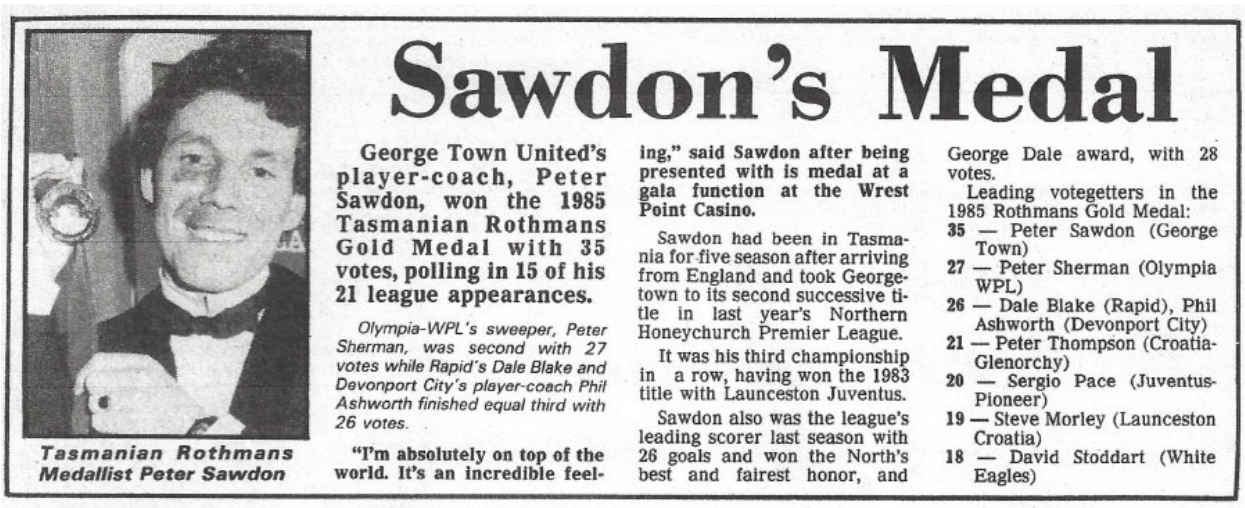
Olympia-WPL: A very disappointing season for one of Tasmania's greatest and most famous clubs. Finished fifth on goal difference but level on points with the two teams immediately below it. There probably needs to be a clean-out of senior players because some of them have been there for too long without producing the goods. The youth team won the top-four grand final so maybe that's where club officials should look first for new blood.

Rapid: Did much better than expected, considering the players the club lost over the off-season. It beat Juventus twice in the league and the club could do even better this year if it can retain some of its more promising youngsters who are being wooed by the bigger clubs.

Metro-Claremont: Inconsistency was Metro's major problem. It was a relatively young side, and true to Metro's tradition (founded in 1941), fought out every game to the bitter end. Player-coach David Smith will be missed and John McIntyre and Colin Francis could also be leaving. The return of Paul Fone, who missed the entire season because of a knee injury, would really help.

University: It was always going to be relegated after losing virtually its entire first team during the summer, having come an unprecedented third in 1984 under the coaching of Aberdeen's former physiotherapist, Ron Coutts. Only Robbie Mallick, Tasmania's recently announced Rhodes Scholar, stayed with the club. It will win the Rothmans League this year and gain promotion as it has always been an excellent second division side.

Howrah: Under player-coach Alistair Hales**,** will replace University in this year's Cadbury State League competition. It has three or four exciting players but will find the going tough unless it gains more seasoned recruits.



Sawdon's Medal

Tasmanian Rothmans Medallist Peter Sawdon

George Town United's player-coach, Peter Sawdon, won the 1985 Tasmanian Rothmans Gold Medal with 35 votes, polling in 15 of his 21 league appearances.

Olympia-WPL's sweeper, Peter Sherman, was second with 27 votes while Rapid's Dale Blake and Devonport City's player-coach Phil Ashworth finished equal third with 26 votes.

"I'm absolutely on top of the world. It's an incredible feeling," said Sawdon after being presented with is medal at a gala function at the Wrest Point Casino.

Sawdon had been in Tasmania for five season after arriving from England and took Georgetown to its second successive title in last year's Northern Honeychurch Premier League.

It was his third championship in a row, having won the 1983 title with Launceston Juventus.

Sawdon also was the league's leading scorer last season with 26 goals and won the North's best and fairest honor, and George Dale award, with 28 votes.

Leading votegetters in the 1985 Rothmans Gold Medal:

35 — Peter Sawdon (George Town)
27 — Peter Sherman (Olympia WPL)
26 — Dale Blake (Rapid), Phil Ashworth (Devonport City)
21 — Peter Thompson (Croatia-Glenorchy)
20 — Sergio Pace (Juventus-Pioneer)
19 — Steve Morley (Launceston Croatia)
18 — David Stoddart (White Eagles)

David Stoddart capped off a fine season capturing his first senior Best & Fairest award, and also finished in a creditable seventh place, in the Rothman's Gold Medal count.

Under 14 Division – Final Standings 1985

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus-Pioneer	15	14	1	0	100	14	29
White Eagle	**15**	**11**	**3**	**1**	**100**	**17**	**25**
PCL United	15	10	1	4	32	25	21
South Hobart	15	9	2	5	73	28	20
Metro Claremont	16	9	2	5	42	31	20
Howrah	16	4	0	12	34	43	8
Caledonians	14	3	1	10	16	49	7
Kingborough	14	2	0	12	14	97	4
Bridgewater	15	1	0	14	7	114	2

Goalscorers: Mason 49, Burns, Hildyard 13, Brown 12, M. Lapolla, Forster 5 Christian 2 O.G. 1

Under 13 Division – Final Standings 1985 – [Premiers & KO Cup Winners]

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**17**	**14**	**2**	**1**	**68**	**8**	**30**
Rapid Wrest Point	18	9	6	3	31	19	24
Metro Claremont	18	11	2	5	43	31	22
PCL United	17	10	2	5	48	34	22
Juventus-Pioneer	16	7	4	5	45	28	18
Howrah	18	5	4	9	19	29	14
Croatia Glenorchy	18	5	4	8	22	35	14
Kingborough United	16	5	4	7	23	48	14
Lindisfarne	17	0	5	12	8	41	5
South Hobart	16	2	1	13	5	39	5

Goalscorers: Tattersall 25, L. Lagerewskij 11, T Huigsloot 10 Drew, Malick 5, Petryk 3

Under 14's Runners Up 1985
Back: M. Connolly, F. Mainella, A. Brown, D. Itchins (Coach), M. Lapolla, B. Foster, T. Wilkie, M. Polley
Front: M. Christian, G. Hildyard, C. Percival, J. Burns (V/Capt), G. Mason (Capt), H. New

In 1986, Steve Darby's hard work and patience in the previous season paid off, with the premiership trophy returning to New Town. It was a season not without tension, as the title was decided on the last day of the campaign. Eagle overcame Hobart Juventus 3-0 in the first of a double-header being played on the day.

A second half hat-trick from striker Richard Leszczynski put Eagle on top of the ladder with a faint chance of winning the premiership. Eagle were however reliant upon Olympia defeating Croatia to remain in top position.

Olympia, after starting well and leading 2-0, were pegged back to 2-2 with 10 minutes of the match remaining. A draw would have been sufficient for Croatia to claim the title. Olympia however, did not read the script, and scored two quick goals to run out 4-2 winners. The hero for Olympia was striker Paul Xanthopoulos, who scored both goals. Eagle were crowned premiers because of their superior goal difference.

As was the case in 1978, the title was decided by goal difference in Eagle's favor, with the loser again being Croatia. Richard Leszczynski's hat-trick, enabled him to be the leagues equal leading goalscorer with 23 goals. The team also made the final of the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy, losing a thrilling match 4-5 to Olympia.

After trailing 1-4 with 12 minutes of play remaining, Eagle staged a stirring comeback to reduce the score to 3-4. Olympia scored again to make the score 3-5, but Eagle replied again to reduce the margin to one goal. Richard Leszczynski scored an equaliser in the dying minutes of the match only for it to be controversially disallowed for off-side. All four Eagle goals were scored by the Leszczynski brothers Andrew, Richard, and Mark.

In the play-off for the State title, Eagle were up against Ulverstone. The first game was in Ulverstone, and a lethargic Eagle side went down 0-2, although their cause was not helped by the referee, who gave little protection to Eagle keeper Peter Groenewoud from a bustling Ulverstone forward line. Both Ulverstone goals came from well-rehearsed set pieces which Eagle failed to deal with.

In the return leg, Eagle's Neil Morrison opened the scoring in the first half with a fine left foot drive from the edge of the area, but despite dominating the game for long periods of time and continually peppering the Ulverstone goal, Eagle could not find an equaliser and went down 1-2 on aggregate.

Juventus cut Eagles down in fine style

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 1/4/1986 - (Summer Cup Final)

Juventus-Pioneer hit White Eagles with a goal after 43 seconds and went on to win 2-1 in the Cadbury League section of the inaugural Cascade Summer Cup soccer competition at South Hobart yesterday.

Sergio Pace took a free-kick quickly and found Romeo Fabrizio on the edge of the penalty area and the nippy striker turned and fired home before the Eagles defence knew what had happened.

Eagles never recovered from this blow, and they were totally outclassed for the entire match with Juventus goalkeeper Steve Craven having nothing to do until the final 10 minutes.

In the 80th minute, he was forced to save from Scott Young and in the dying seconds of the match he saved at Bobby Rybak's feet only to see his team concede a penalty after Dominic Longo fouled Rybak.

Andrew Leszczynski converted the penalty, but it was not enough as Sergio Pace had given Juventus a match-winning 2-0 lead at the interval when he slammed home the rebound, after Eagles goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud had parried Genovesi's stinging shot.

Juventus fully deserved their win. They showed total commitment, were faster to the ball and more inventive and positive in everything they did. They were helped by the late inclusion of John Broadhouse, last season's top-scorer in the Cadbury State League, who had only returned from overseas on the weekend.

Broadhouse mesmerised the Eagles defence and together with Pace and Fabrizio, had numerous scoring chances, many of which were thwarted by the brilliant Groenewoud in the Eagles goal. "We didn't play all that well but we should have won by four or five goals," is how Juventus coach David Smooth summed up his team's performance. "We were much faster, fitter, more alert and more organised."

Eagles' midfield was a big disappointment and they failed to launch any penetrating attacks. The side preferred to concentrate five or six players in defence but were still caught out by a fast and mobile Juventus side that kept up relentless pressure for the entire 90 minutes.

Eagles did win three things on the day – Andrew and Mark Leszczynski were joint top-scorers in the competition; goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud won the man-of-the-match award; and Richard Leszczynski won the 100-metre challenge sprint at half-time.

But they missed out on the prize that mattered, prompting coach Steve Darby to say: "A couple of players who, one would think, would really produce it in the big games didn't. "Our goalkeeper getting the man-of-the-match award is a good indication of how the game went. We've got no excuses, because they were better on the day. We didn't even make chances, let alone miss them."

Peter Groenewoud – Man of the Match – Sumer Cup Final 1986

⚽ Eagles soar in goal blitz

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 17/4/1986

ANDREW LESZCZYNSKI became the third player to score a hat-trick in Cadbury State League soccer at KGV last night as White Eagles easily beat Rapid 4-0.

Rapid badly missed goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser as they conceded two goals in each half. Leszczynski opened his account in the fifth minute after bursting through the Rapid defence and he made it 2-0 twenty minutes later with a firm header from Morrison's cross.

Morrison also set up Leszczynski for his third goal minutes after the break while Stoddart hit the fourth in the 73rd minute following an excellent Eagles attack which prized open the Rapid defence. Richard Leszczynski found Andrew on the far side of the penalty area with a long cross-ball, and he passed inside to Stoddart who calmly picked his spot.

Caledonians opened the scoring against Croatia-Glenorchy through Brett Murtagh after five minutes, but this only served to sting Croatia into action, and they went on to win 7-1 after leading 4-1 at the interval. John McIntyre and Tony Bacic scored hat-tricks while Dominic O'Brien grabbed the remaining goal.

⚽ White Eagles give Howrah six of the best in walkover

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 28/4/1986

WHITE EAGLES regained the lead in the Cadbury State League soccer competition on goal-difference when they scored an easy 6-1 win over Howrah at South Hobart yesterday.

Eagles swapped places with Croatia-Glenorchy, who dropped to second place when they could only beat Rapid 2-0. Andrew Leszczynski missed a penalty in the second minute of the game against Howrah but went on to score twice and join Sergio Pace of Juventus-Pioneer as the league's leading scorers with five goals apiece.

David Stoddart had an outstanding game for Eagles. He scored twice and made three of the remaining goals for his team-mates. Eagles had Simon Templeman at right fullback in place of the injured Chris Leszczynski, while Neil Morrison played in a withdrawn position on the left of the defence to compensate for the missing Scott Young.

Howrah produced a disappointing display and were finally introduced to the harsh realities of life in the top division.

They only had a couple of chances in each half and their solitary goal game came about through a defensive error in the 20th minute when they were already trailing 3-0. Templeman mishit a back pass to his goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, Brightman intercepted and rounded Groenewoud to score the first league goal against Eagles this season.

David Stoddart opened Eagles' account with the first of his two goals in the fourth minute. Kerr's precise and well-timed pass put the youngster away on the left and he ran unchallenged for half the length of the pitch before driving a low shot past Jones.

It was then the turn of the Leszczynski brothers, who gave Eagles a 4-1 at the interval. Mark Leszczynski headed home Andrew Leszczynski's free kick after eight minutes, Richard Leszczynski prodded in Stoddart's low cross in the 13th minute, while Stoddart set up Andrew for his first goal and Eagles' fourth in the 25th minute.

Jones dropped Stoddart's cross to let Andrew Leszczynski in for his second goal ten minutes after the break and Stoddart completed the scoring with a crisp left-footed drive from 25 metres in the 77th minute.

Croatia scored once in each half and were rarely troubled against Rapid who used John Dilba in midfield and Dale Blake at left-back. It was Blake who cleared off the line from Huigsloot following a Colin Francis corner in the 26th minute but the ball eventually returned to Huigsloot who squeezed a shot under the body of goalkeeper Gillam for Croatia's opener.

Croatia should have taken the lead much earlier, however, as Driessen forced Gillam into action with a long-range effort in the tenth minute and Furjanic flashed a dangerous ball across the goalmouth with no one up to take advantage of the chance.

Croatia were justifiably angry when they were denied an almost certain goal five minutes before the interval. Rapid defender Lars Koch attempted a suicidal back-pass to his goalkeeper which only found John McIntyre in full flight, but the linesman inexplicably flagged for off-side and Rapid were given the free-kick.

O'Brien scrambled the second goal from close-range five minutes into the second period as Croatia continued to apply pressure. Driessen and O'Brien wasted excellent chances with poor shooting while Tony Bacic blasted Furjanic's cross narrowly over the bar.

⚽ Eagles overcome determined Croatia to grab top position

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 12/5/86

WHITE EAGLES absorbed, tremendous pressure from Croatia-Glenorchy's aerial bombardment at South Hobart yesterday, before too quick counter attacks by Eagles in the second half, gave them a 2-0 win and pride of place at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer standings.

While Eagles, Croatia and Juventus-Pioneer are now level on nine points with only goal difference separating them, and Olympia-WPL are a point away in fourth place after beating Rapid 3-1. The stage is now set for a mighty end to the first round of the competition next week, as White Eagles confront Juventus, and Croatia play Olympia in the double-header at South Hobart.

Croatia certainly adopted the right tactics against Eagles, with attacks down the flanks, culminating in high crosses into the penalty area, but their poor finishing cost them the game. Eagles defended bravely and with luck going their way, they pulled off an important win, which re-established them as serious contenders for the league title.

Colin Francis was the main avenue of attack for Croatia in the first half, and John McIntyre and Tony Bacic should have capitalized on his unending stream of accurate crosses from the right.

Eagles had a scare just before the halftime break. A low shot by Dominic O'Brien was parried by Eagle's keeper Peter Groenewoud, but referee, John Howard had already blown his whistle for the end of the first half, before the ball rolled over the line.

Eagles took the lead five minutes after the break, when Croatian midfielder O'Brien, surrounded by three opponents, gave the ball away on the halfway line, Andrew Leszczynski passed inside to his brother Richard, and he beat the advancing goalkeeper, and steered the ball into the net with Larry Nunn in vain pursuit.

Eagles second goal came in the 65th minute. Richard Leszczynski was the provider this time, and Andrew Leszczynski scored with a shot that was partially saved by goalkeeper Steve Smith, but the ball carried over the line.

Olympia scored in the opening minute against Rapid, who had Phil Kannegiesser back in goal. Kannegiesser turned a Xanthopolous shot onto the bar, but the ball rebounded to Craig Nichols who walked the ball into the net. Chris Barrell scored the second five minutes before the interval when Rapid failed to cut out a cross from the right, and Paul Xanthopolous made it 3-0 in the 74th minute, when he juggled the ball in front of goal before shooting past the goalkeeper.

Full-back turned striker John Fletcher, replied for Rapid nine minutes from time, but Olympia should really have scored a few more, as they pounded the Rapid goal unmercifully. The defeat left Rapid in second last place with a goal-difference edging perilously close to that of bottom side Metro Claremont.

⚽ Eagles lifted by quick strike

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 5/6/86

A goal in the 14th minute by striker Andrew Leszczynski paved the way for White Eagles' easy 4-1 win over Rapid in last night's Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV. A left-wing cross by Neil Morrison four minutes later enabled Richard Leszczynski to put Eagles 2-0 up at the interval.

David Stoddart added a third 10 minutes after the resumption, but Rapid struck back through John Cionci midway through the half. Rapid gave Eagles a few scares at this stage, but David Stoddart might well have increased Eagles' lead when he hit the post and shot high and wide on a couple of occasions.

Richard Leszczynski became the league's leading scorer when he headed his second goal and Eagles' fourth in the final seconds, again from Andrew Leszczynski's cross. Eagles' win lifted them to the top of the table, one point ahead of Olympia and Croatia, while Rapid slumped to last place on goal difference. Caledonians and Croatia-Glenorchy played out a dull and uninspiring scoreless draw in the early match. Croatia had more of the chances but badly missed their injured striker, Tony Bacic.

John McIntyre and Dominic O'Brien went close to scoring for Croatia in the first half while Calies' best chance came in the 65th minute when Brett Murtagh broke through only to shoot wide of the far post.

⚽ Win lifts Rapid off bottom of table

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 16/6/86

Two first-half goals by striker Danny Donohue gave Rapid a surprise 2-0 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at South Hobart yesterday and lifted Rapid off the bottom of the Cadbury State League soccer table.

Metro-Claremont had climbed off the bottom with a similar surprise result on Wednesday when it beat Olympia-WPL 1-0, but yesterday's result puts Metro back in last place because of its inferior goal difference. If things are beginning to get tight at the foot of the table, the situation seems a little clearer at the top.

White Eagles beat Howrah 7-2 in yesterday's curtain-raiser and Eagles and Juventus-Pioneer have now opened up a three-point lead over Olympia and Croatia.

Croatia was again without key players Peter Huigsloot and Tony Bacic, while coach David Crosson still refused to make an appearance as a player. Neil Thomas returned to the side in place of Billy Kirkpatrick, and although he put in plenty of effort, he was unable to make a decisive impact.

Croatia's goalkeeper Stephen Smith, was injured in the first half and replaced by substitute Ivan Baric, a midfielder, at the break. Before his departure, Smith pulled off the save of the match in the 39th minute. Despite limping badly because of an ankle injury, he somehow managed to launch himself off the ground and turn a Donohue header over the bar when a goal seemed certain.

The damage had been done by then however. Donohue had put Rapid ahead in the seventh minute with his first league goal of the season and he made it 2-0 four minutes before the interval after a fine dummy by Brushette.

Croatia created enough openings to win the match comfortably, but it was woeful in front of goal with O'Brien, Thomas, Thompson and Francis all squandering great chances.

White Eagles' Southern Tasmanian and Australian schoolboy's' representative Peter Groenewoud, is one of the finest goalkeepers in the State. He does have one glaring weakness however, and that is goal kicks. He usually makes a complete hash of at least one goal kick in each match but invariably gets away with it.

Yesterday, against Howrah, his luck ran out when he miscued a goal kick after only three minutes. The ball bounced to Richard Corongiu who immediately put Gary Schueler away on the left and the four-goal hero of last week tucked his shot just inside the far post. That was the only favour that Howrah received.

Richard Leszczynski equalised for Eagles within a minute and goals by Neil Morrison, David Stoddart and Scott Young put the league leader 4-1 up at the break. Three of the four Leszczynski brothers, Andrew, Mark and Richard, completed the scoring in a second half that saw Howrah goalkeeper Craig Jones sent off for the first time in his career after allegedly striking Andrew Leszczynski.

⚽ 'Eagles' soar to topple leaders

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 3/7/86

White Eagles threw the Cadbury State League soccer title chase wide open again when it beat league-leader Juventus-Pioneer 4-2 at KGV last night.

It was Eagle's first win over Juventus in more than a year and Eagles and Croatia-Glenorchy are now only one point behind the reigning champion. Andrew Leszczynski scored a hat-trick for Eagles and his brother, Richard, scored the remaining goal.

It was a disastrous night for Juventus. Not only did it lose this vital match, but it had goalkeeper Damon Youl sent off. Alistair Cochrane had given Juventus the lead after only five minutes, but Eagles eventually led 4-1 before John Broadhouse scored from the penalty spot. In the second match of the evening, Croatia-Glenorchy, with goals from Dominic O'Brien and Sean Collins, defeated Olympia-WPL 2-1.

⚽ Eagles trounce Metro to soar to top

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 14/7/86

Richard Leszczynski scored his second hat-trick of the season and became the leading goal scorer in the Cadbury State League soccer competition as White Eagles trounced Metro-Claremont 6-0 at South Hobart yesterday. The win lifted Eagles to top spot in the league, level on 22 points with Croatia-Glenorchy, which somewhat luckily beat Howrah 3-2 in yesterday's early game.

Juventus-Pioneer, the reigning league champion, slumped to third place, one point behind the leading pair, after yesterday's results and because of its surprising 2-0 loss to Rapid on Friday, Metro now seems doomed to relegation. It is three points adrift of Howrah and Rapid at the foot of the table and its goal difference is an alarming -34.

Eagles cruised to a comfortable 4-0 lead within 28 minutes against Metro, and although it slackened off considerably in the second half it was never in any danger and added two more goals for good measure in the final ten minutes.

Richard Leszczynski displayed determination and acceleration to score in the sixth and ninth minutes and gave his side a perfect start, while Franco Previdi added a third goal from Andrew Leszczynski's free-kick midway through the half.

Richard Leszczynski completed his hat-trick in the 28th minute with a delightful goal which was worthy of the league's leading marksman. He controlled Stoddart's high lob with his heel and flicked the ball forward and over a defender before driving a low shot into the net from just inside the penalty area.

David Stoddart and Franco Previdi completed the scoring in a second half that almost put everyone to sleep, including Eagles' coach Steve Darby, who was seen to be yawning as he left the bench at the end of the match.

Eagles throw down gauntlet

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 17/7/86

White Eagles threw out the challenge of catch us if you can to Croatia-Glenorchy and Juventus-Pioneer as it beat Caledonians 4-1 at KGV last night to take a two-point lead at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer standings.

Croatia must beat Juventus at South Hobart on Sunday if it is to stay in touch with Eagles. David Stoddart in the Eagles midfield was the man-of-the-match. He was everywhere, creating goals and scoring them one minute, then defending and clearing off his own goal-line the next.

Stoddart played a leading role in Eagles' three first-half goals. He accepted Andrew Leszczynski's cross from deep on the left in the eighth minute and passed to Previdi who tucked the ball inside the near post for the opening goal. In the 20th minute, Stoddart sent Andrew Leszczynski away on the left, but Jimmy Kerr steered his low cross narrowly wide of the far upright, while five minutes later, Stoddart cleared a Calies free-kick off his own goal-line with his goalkeeper beaten.

The second goal came five minutes before the interval when Stoddart's corner found Richard Leszczynski and the league's leading scorer stabbed the ball home from six metres. Stoddart scored the third himself, two minutes before the break. He chipped over the goalkeeper on the right, Ian Martin cleared the ball, but only as far as Richard Leszczynski whose shot was parried by Di Venuto, straight to Stoddart who could hardly miss.

Calies seemed revitalised in the second half and after several narrow escapes including one in which Jimmy Kerr failed with only the goalkeeper to beat, it hit back through Ian Parker in the 57th minute.

There was some controversy about this goal as the linesman was flagging for offside, but the referee chose to ignore him. Richard Leszczynski scored Eagles' fourth goal from Andrew Leszczynski's accurate cross from the left five minutes from time and the youngster now leads the goal-scoring race with 19 goals, three ahead of Juventus' John Broadhouse.

Metro-Claremont gained a valuable point in its fight against relegation when it drew 0-0 with Rapid. Metro remains in last place but is now only two points behind Howrah, although Howrah has one game against Olympia on Sunday, in hand. Rapid and Metro both showed tremendous commitment and fighting spirit but very little skill in an opening half that was played at a frantic pace.

The second half was much slower and both teams missed glorious scoring chances. Metro's Steve Pitchford and Simon Oliver failed with only the goalkeeper to beat, Phil Kannegiesser pulling of two excellent saves.

White Eagles keep title chances alive with stirring fightback

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 14/8/86

White Eagles kept its Cadbury State League soccer championship hopes alive when it came back from behind twice to draw 2-2 with league-leader Croatia-Glenorchy in a pulsating match at KGV last night.

Two points still separate the teams with each having two games left to play. On straight out chances, White Eagles should have won this match. Eagles scored twice from 11 clear chances whereas Croatia grabbed its two goals from five scoring opportunities. Paul Furjanic gave Croatia an eight-minute lead, but a goalkeeping error by Stephen Smith 11 minutes later enable David Stoddart to equalise with a long-range effort that went in off a post.

Larry Nunn put Croatia ahead with a powerful low drive in the 36th minute only to see Scott Young bring Eagles level again three minutes later when he headed home Andrew Leszczynski's free kick. The first half ended with a brilliant save by Eagles goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud from Tony Bacic's header, but the second half was a rather tame affair.

Richard Leszczynski, the league's second-highest goal scorer, should have given his side victory in this half. In the 50th minute he headed and shot against a post in quick succession, while in the final seconds of the match, he was a fraction too slow to take advantage of Franco Previdi's cross.

In the opening match, Howrah moved closer to safety when it beat Caledonians 2-1 to move into third-last spot and three points clear of bottom-team Metro-Claremont. Calies took a 58th minute lead through an own goal, but goals by Alistair Hales and Gary Schueler, the latter form the penalty spot, gave Howrah a priceless two points.

Croatia maintains two-point lead

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 16/8/86

The Cadbury State League soccer championship will not be decided until the final round of matches on Sunday week after both Croatia-Glenorchy and White Eagles won their games at KGV last night. Croatia beat Caledonians 4-0 to stay two points ahead of White Eagles, which beat Rapid 4-1.

After a scoreless first half, Michael Driessen gave Croatia the lead and John McIntyre made it 2-0 in the 70th minute. Substitute Billy Kirkpatrick scored the third nine minutes later. Dominic O'Brien completed the scoring from the penalty spot five minutes from the end.

Brothers Richard, Andrew and Mark Leszczynski scored all the goals as Eagles beat Rapid to stay in with a chance of winning the title. Richard Leszczynski put Eagles ahead on the half hour, but Matthew Bloomfield equalised for Rapid

just before the break. Andrew Leszczynski's two goals in the second half put Eagles comfortably ahead and Mark Leszczynski grabbed the fourth goal in the 75th minute.

⚽ League title on the line for Croatia and Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 23/8/86

The Cadbury State League soccer season will reach an exciting climax this weekend when both the championship and relegation issues are decided in the final round of matches. The team to be relegated will be determined at KGV tonight when bottom-side Metro-Claremont faces Juventus-Pioneer and second-last Rapid meets Olympia-WPL at the earlier than usual kick-off times of 6pm and 7.45pm, respectively.

Metro, which is one point behind Rapid and with a greatly inferior goal-difference, must beat the defending champions if it is to have any chance of avoiding the drop. If it manages to do this, it still has to rely on Olympia beating Rapid. A draw would be enough for Rapid to save itself. There is some irony in the situation in that former coaches of Metro and Rapid may well hold the fate of these clubs in their hands. David Smith, last year's player-coach of Metro is now in charge of Juventus, and Ken Morton, the former player-coach of Rapid, is the supremo at Olympia.

This will not affect the outcome of tonight's double-header however, and brave though Metro was in beating Caledonians 3-1 on Wednesday, it can have little chance against Juventus in tonight's early game. Juventus has relinquished the title it has held for the past three years and will have few qualms in sending Metro down to the Rothmans League competition next season. Juventus will want to end the league season on a high note, and because John Broadhouse has a great chance of winning the individual goal-scoring award, it will go all out for goals.

It has better players than Metro, and despite the heroic efforts of Kevin Clamp and Michael McIntyre on Wednesday, Metro's cause seems a hopeless one. If Juventus and Olympia have the power to determine who is relegated, they also hold the key to who becomes the new league champions when they face the two title contenders, White Eagles and Croatia-Glenorchy respectively, at KGV on Sunday, in a double-header transferred from South Hobart.

White Eagles, two points behind but with a better goal-difference, must beat Juventus in the curtain-raiser if it is to win the title. If Eagles win, it must then rely on Olympia to beat Croatia in the main match. Croatia will have won the title before it even takes the field if Eagles lose to Juventus, and it will need only a draw against Olympia if Eagles win.

Eagles should be good enough to beat Juventus, especially since the latter will have had a hard match tonight and may still be feeling the effects of that. Croatia faces Olympia in a serious frame of mind, regardless of whether it is already league champion, or whether it has to win the game to grab the title.

Coach David Crosson never expects anything less than total commitment from his players and they should be able to beat an Olympia side that played extremely well in its last outing, and ironically, paved the way for a Croatia championship by beating White Eagles.

Olympia has several deficiencies which Croatia should be able to exploit, and it is unlikely to be able to contain players such as John McIntyre, Tony Bacic and Neil Thomas, who will be out to give Crosson his first Championship as a coach since arriving in Tasmania from England in 1982.

⚽ Eagles fly high to win title on goal-difference

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 26/8/86

White Eagles won the 1986 Cadbury State league soccer championship on goal-difference from Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV yesterday when it beat last year's title-holder Juventus-Pioneer 3-0. White Eagles and Croatia completed the season even on 31 points but Eagles' goal-difference of + 40 was far superior to Croatia's + 26 and this gave the club its first senior championship since 1978 when it won the inaugural State League premiership.

Croatia went into the main game against Olympia needing only a point to pip Eagles for the title but went down 2-4 in a marvellous match which had everyone, not least the Eagles supporters, biting their fingernails until the end. Croatia appeared to be suffering stage-fright when it took the field against Olympia, and found itself 0-2 down at the interval through a bullet-like shot by Craig Nichols on the quarter-hour and a penalty, won by Xanthopoulos and converted by Anthony Greenwood. Croatia fought back to 2-2 within ten minutes of the re-start but then conceded two goals in the final six minutes to lose the championship.

The two heroes on the day were Richard Leszczynski of White Eagles, who scored a hat-trick, and Paul Xanthopoulos of Olympia, whose two second-half goals sank Croatia. Leszczynski's three-goal burst in the second half, which proved decisive in winning Eagles the title, also made him the league's equal top goal scorer on 23 goals, together with Juventus' John Broadhouse.

For Eagles' coach Steve Darby, the title win was a fitting climax to his stay in Tasmania. Darby arrived in the state in 1980 to coach Devonport and leaves at the end of this year for Canberra. Croatia's coach David Crosson must have been the most disappointed person at the ground yesterday. It was the fourth year in succession that he had finished as league runner-up.

White Eagles and Juventus both had excellent scoring chances in the opening half with neither side being able to break the deadlock. Broadhouse, the league's leading marksman, missed several easy opportunities to put Juventus ahead, while Eagles' Jimmy Kerr bounced a shot onto the Juventus crossbar in the 17th minute and Franco Previdi ballooned the rebound into the sky.

Richard Leszczynski came into his own in the second half however, and once he stuck away the opening goal in the 55th minute, he proved unstoppable. His second goal, in the 70th minute, was brilliant. Taking advantage of a split-second of indecision between Juventus goalkeeper Damon Youl and defender Alistair Cochrane, Leszczynski nipped in between them flicked the ball over his head and turned to volley into the net.

Eagles' third goal came from the penalty spot 11 minutes from the end. Knowing that one more goal would make Richard Leszczynski the league's equal top-scorer, the Eagles players insisted that the youngster take it and he didn't let them down.

State League South Final Standings - 1986

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**21**	**14**	**3**	**4**	**67**	**27**	**31**
Croatia Glenorchy	21	14	3	4	49	23	31
Olympia	21	13	2	6	58	31	28
Juventus-Pioneer	21	13	1	7	50	34	27
Caledonians	21	6	3	12	31	58	15
Howrah	21	5	3	13	27	52	13
Rapid	21	4	4	13	23	43	12
Metro Claremont	21	4	3	14	19	56	11

Goalscorers: R Leszczynski 23, A. Leszczynski 16, Stoddart 11, Previdi 6, M Leszczynski 4, Morrison 3, Young 2, Banasik, Kerr 1

1986 Southern League Premiers

Back: C. Smith, P. Wass, C. Leszczynski, E. Banasik, P. Groenewoud, S. Young, N. Morrison, R. Leszczynski, A. Burton
Front: S. Darby (Coach), D. Stoddart Jnr, M. Leszczynski (Capt.), A. Leszczynski, J. Kerr, M. Krzysica, **Absent:** F. Previdi

⚽ Eagles unruffled by difficult task set by Ulverstone

By WALTER PLESS – [THE MERCURY] – Nov'86 – (State Premiership)

White Eagles, the Cadbury State League soccer Southern champions, is confident of not only beating, but also making up the two-goal deficit, when it meets Northern champions Ulverstone, in the second-leg of the state premiership at 2pm at KGV tomorrow.

Eagles lost 0-2 in the first-leg at Ulverstone and must win by three clear goals to win the State title.

The southerners who lost Wednesday's Cadbury Jubilee trophy final 4-5 to Olympia, are unperturbed about their recent setbacks and will not have trained prior to tomorrow's match.

Eagles striker Andrew Leszczynski believes the club's recent setbacks will only serve to spur the players on and he feels confident the home-ground advantage will be a decisive factor.

"I think we should do really well after Wednesday night's loss to Olympia, and after the poor game we played in Ulverstone," Leszczynski said. "I reckon we'll win by three goals no worries because we play a lot better at KGV than on many other grounds and I think their defence is bit slow. They're big boys and good tacklers but they're a bit slow and if we can stretch them out wide, I think we'll have them."

"Joe McGrory could be a problem as he's quite lethal in the air. He's virtually impossible to beat, so we'll just have to watch out for his flick-ons, and make sure we mark him at corners. Mark Krzysica and Eugene Banasik are a bit inexperienced at the back too, so we must have Mark Leszczynski back there to help out."

Andrew felt coach Steve Darby would probably use a three-man attack in an endeavour to get the goals required to keep the State title in the south.

The three players would undoubtedly be Andrew and Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart.

Andrew score a stunning opener against Olympia on Wednesday and is relishing the opportunity of playing at the front rather than in midfield.

"I've played the last two games up front, and I've really enjoyed it because Richard and I have a good understanding," he said. " I think Richard and I play well together because I tend to talk to him more than when he's up there alone with David.

A losing side that can still score four goals can't be all that bad and Eagles should be capable of making up the deficit and ensuring that Ulverstone's journey home is a miserable one.

⚽ Ulverstone take home State title

By WALTER PLESS – [THE MERCURY] – Nov'86 – (State Premiership)

Ulverstone won the State soccer premiership 2-1 on aggregate despite losing 0-1 to White Eagles in yesterday's second-leg match at KGV.

Neil Morrison scored the only goal of the game, but it wasn't enough to nullify Joe McGrory's two goals in the first-leg match played at Ulverstone earlier this month.

Ulverstone's win, ended the Southern stranglehold on the State title and proved yet again that money does not always equal success in soccer.

"There's a lot of people in the North and North-West who said that Ulverstone would never win a premiership and we've proved them all wrong," said McGrory Ulverstone's player-coach.

"I'm not against professional players but George Town spent something like $30,000 to win a premiership and we've proved you can do it without paying players."

The first half proved close with both teams having two good scoring chances – Eagles converting one of these in the 28th minute. Andrew Leszczynski's free-kick was only partially cleared by the Ulverstone defence and Neil Morrison drive the ball in off the far post from the edge of the penalty area.

Only a desperate clearance by Michael Foote from underneath the crossbar in the 22nd minute had prevented Eagles from taking an earlier lead, but Ulverstone might also have grabbed a couple of goals.

Howe inexplicably fired over the bar from five metres after McGrory set him up, while McGrory had a shot blocked by Banasik, the ball then taking a favourable bounce into the hands of Eagle's goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud.

The second half started with Ulverstone's Rush almost putting the ball past his own goalkeeper, but the visitors settled down and Gorrie, Foote, Anderson and Rush in defence kept Eagles scoreless.

Eagles had most of the chances in the second period with David Stoddart going close on at least four occasions and Richard Lesczynski fire one pile-driver straight at goalkeeper Andrews.

Ulverstone's solitary second half chance came in the 74th minute when McGrory outpaced a defender but lifted the ball over the bar.

It was never a great match, but Ulverstone proved a worthy title-holder. Its players showed tenacity and ability, and player-coach McGrory was superb in the air and organised his players well.

Eagles had some good build-ups but often became entangled in the process of trying to find a way through the packed Ulverstone defence and its finishing left a lot to be desired.

“I was disgusted with the way we played because we just defended in numbers,” McGrory said. “We’re usually an attacking side but we didn’t show what we can do today. I was confident we could beat Eagles by two or three nil and we did battle all day, but I couldn’t do a thing right with our boys. It’s been the same all year when it comes to big games. It’s just nerves.”

⚽ White Eagles Tassie’s Best

By WALTER PLESS – [Australian Soccer Annual 1987]

White Eagles took out the 1986 Cadbury State League title on the last day of the Tasmanian league season when they beat the reigning champion Juventus-Pioneer, 3-0.

Croatia-Glenorchy finished second when it lost 2-4 to Olympia-WPL on the same day, having needed only a draw to win the title. The two results mirrored accurately the trends that had been evident throughout the 1986 season.

White Eagles were the most attack-minded team in the league and relied heavily on goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud to hold things together at the back. Caledonians must still be rueing the day they allowed the Australian schoolboy international to leave and join Eagles without having played a senior game for the club.

Groenewoud made several crucial saves to keep his side in the game against Juventus before Richard Leszczynski hit a hat-trick to give Eagles both points. The three goals put him level on 23 goals with Juventus's John Broadhouse, who was kept scoreless in this match, and the pair finished as the league's joint top scorers.

Croatia failed yet again at the last hurdle for a number of reasons. The side was unreliable in attack, always missing numerous chances, while the absence of coach David Crosson in defence may well have been the straw that broke the camel's back.

Crosson, the ex-Newcastle United (England) player, refused to play for virtually the entire season. He is an accomplished player and his presence would have been worth a number of points during the season.

Olympia-WPL had a mixed season under new coach Ken Morton, finishing third in the league but winning the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy in the top four grand final.

Olympia regularly beat the other top teams but invariably stumbled against the bottom sides and this cost it the title.

Morton, who had coached Juventus to the previous three league titles, found life a little more difficult at a club which didn't boast the best players in the league.

Juventus-Pioneer finished a disappointing fourth but it could not realistically hope to have retained the title alter losing several key figures, including player-coach Morton and goalkeeper Steve Craven.

Juventus did win the pre-season cup however, John Broadhouse salvaged some pride by finishing as the league's equal top scorer, and defender Dominic Longo was selected in the Australian under-16 side.

Caledonians were never going to win the title, because they bad the worst defence in the league, but they never were going to be relegated, either, because they had a better strike-force than the three teams below them in the standings. A disastrous run of defeats (they lost seven matches on the trot in the last round) cost them a place in the top-four.

Howrah surprised a lot of people by surviving in its first season in the top flight. It was touch-and-go towards the end but a 2-1 win over Calies and a 1-1 draw with Rapid saw Alistair Hales men stay up.

Rapid was the luckiest side in the league, finishing second-last, only a point ahead of relegated Metro Claremont. Rapid sacked coach Otto Klaus in mid-season, but the team's fortunes hardly improved under new coach, goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser.

Metro's departure was tinged with sorrow for a number of reasons. It is one of the oldest clubs in the State, it has always produced promising youngsters who have gone on to become great players at other clubs, and it is one of the few clubs with its own ground.

But, there is little place for sentiment in the game and Metro paid the ultimate price for its alarming lack of goalscoring power, and its vulnerability at the back.

All in all, it was not a great season and there was not one consistent team in the league.

This was amply illustrated by the performances of White Eagles, Olympia-WPL and Juventus-Pioneer.

White Eagles lost in the final of the pre-season tournament yet went on to win *the* league title, only to fail miserably in both the top-four series and the two-legged State premiership play-off.

Olympia fared poorly in the league, won the top-four grand final, and then performed inadequately in the end-of-season Bohemian Restaurant Invitation Cup series.

Juventus won the inaugural Cascade Summer Cup pre-season competition and then went nowhere.

Ulverstone won the Honeychurch Premier Tasmania League title and then ended the South's domination of the State premiership by beating White Eagles 2-1 on aggregate.

The northern representative side won the intra State clashes against the South 3-1 on aggregate, while Launceston Croatia won the end-of-season Bohemian Restaurant Invitation Cup in a competition in which Olympia, the South's only entry, made no impact at all.

South Cadbury Reserves – Pepsi Youth League - Final Standings 1986

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia WPL	21	16	1	4	81	42	33
Rapid	21	12	5	4	47	35	29
White Eagle	**21**	**12**	**3**	**6**	**45**	**32**	**27**
Juventus-Pioneer	21	11	3	7	56	36	25
Howrah	21	9	5	7	46	35	23
Croatia Glenorchy	21	6	4	11	44	35	16
Metro Claremont	21	5	1	15	28	70	11
Caledonians	21	2	0	19	28	90	4

Leading Goalscorers: Templeman 10, Laszczak 8, Ketchell 6, Angel 5, O'Hea 4, Rybak, Drinkwater, Harwood 2

Southern Division 3 - Final Standings 1986

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus-Pioneer	15	14	0	1	55	23	28
White Eagle	**16**	**10**	**3**	**3**	**64**	**33**	**23**
Richmond United	16	11	0	5	53	29	22
University Grads	16	8	2	6	43	31	18
Caledonians	16	8	1	7	92	52	17
University Gold	16	7	3	6	48	40	17
Lindisfarne	16	5	1	10	36	48	11
South Hobart	16	3	2	11	35	70	8
Metro Claremont	16	3	1	12	27	62	7
Alps	15	3	1	11	18	83	7

1986 Women's Teams

Back: K. Jones (Coach), J. Ola, Not Known, A. Lawler, L. Wilkinson, B. Curtain, D. Bilac **Front:** S. Ola, J. Bilac, T. Marcelis, M. Glass, K. Watson

In 1987 Eagle appointed Bobby Rybak as player-coach.

⚽ Long time in same nest for White Eagles coach

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 1987

BOBBY RYBAK, 27, this season's senior coach of reigning Cadbury State League soccer champion, White Eagles, has always been a big, strong lad.

That explains how he came to start his 18-year association with the club at the age of 10, playing in White Eagles' under-19 side. Apart from one year spent playing with University - Eagles had been relegated and Rybak, together with three of the four Leszczynski brothers, didn't fancy playing in a lower division - he has been with Eagles for his entire career.

Rybak had a chance to play in Victoria when he was 16, but turned the opportunity down. "White Eagles played in a Polish carnival in Melbourne and Polonia showed an interest in me and approached our committee," Rybak said. "I was too young and didn't want to leave home, so I turned down the offer." I have some regrets because it might have improved my attitude towards soccer - I didn't particularly like training."

That may sound strange coming from a man who is now coaching one of the State's top teams, and who has to coach and motivate players who are out to retain the championship. Coaching is probably the only area in which Rybak can maintain a practical interest in the game as his playing days at top level are probably limited.

He may have always been bigger and stronger than most of the players around him, but his list of injuries is horrendous - three knee operations, numerous hamstring injuries and a broken shoulder. He has played one

senior game this season, after missing most of last season through injury, and recently made a comeback in the youth team, although his return to the first team is far from a certainty.

Coaching Eagles is his first senior appointment, and he has adopted a relaxed 'attitude and approach to the job, and laughs at the criticism that has been levelled at him from some quarters regarding his lack of qualifications.

"It's very hard to follow in the shoes of Steve Darby," Rybak said. "When I was out with a knee injury last year, I sometimes watched training and criticised things, but I now realise the difficulties he had.

"White Eagles probably have the best training facilities but there are some problems regarding attendance and the increasing number of injuries. "It certainly has its moments, but I've had no criticism from within the club. "I've got the committee behind me, the players are good, and I've probably got an easier job than most because I've got very capable players."

Rybak said he would love to increase his knowledge of coaching, but work commitments and other responsibilities didn't leave him with time to attend courses. "Anyway, the players think the sessions are enjoyable, they're fit, we're playing good soccer and scoring goals."

"I also have a good right-hand man in Eddie Kempa. He gives me advice and we talk together on occasions, and everything is going along quite well."

Expectations were high following Eagle's win in 1986, and there was some criticism levelled at the team that it was not able to perform in the "big" games, after once again being beaten in the pre-season Summer Cup Final. But given how the side had progressed since its return to the premier league following its promotion in 1984, it was perhaps a harsh assessment.

In 1985, Eagles twice lost to Croatia Glenorchy by 7-0 score-lines, so it was perhaps a lot to ask of a relatively young and inexperienced squad, that was still building a strong foundation for the future, to continually perform at its best against quality opposition, particularly in "big" games.

There were deficiencies in the squad's makeup, particularly in defensive areas, and these were being addressed. Eagle were however making finals, and not enjoying losing, and these experiences would hold them in good stead in future years. They were also not short of goalscoring ability, which would benefit them greatly in seasons to come.

Although they were defeated in the Summer Cup final, they were successful in winning the inaugural Cadbury Charity Cup, and were also triumphant in the Statewide Cup Final, gaining revenge for their Summer Cup Final defeat by Juventus.

The season was not without its challenges, and injuries to key players in the team, tested the club's depth on numerous occasions in crucial games. The loss of star goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, who fractured his collarbone in a match against Rapid, proved difficult to cover.

White Eagles swoop to take Charity Cup

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 30/3/87 – CADBURY CHARITY CUP

WHITE EAGLES scored a convincing 3-0 win over Olympia-WPL in the inaugural Cadbury Charity Cup soccer match, a contest between the previous year's league champions and the top-four winner, played at KGV yesterday.

Eagles were without top striker Richard Leszczynski and midfielder Robert Gorniak but had coach Bobby Rybak at the centre of the defence and Scott Young in midfield. Rybak missed most of last season through injury but settled in well and produced a competent performance in his first game of the season.

Olympia rested goalkeeper Martin Burden and defenders Chris Hey and David Crosson and paid dearly for it. Replacement goalkeeper John Collar seemed a little uneasy on his senior debut, although he made two excellent saves from David Stoddart and Dominic O'Brien late in the game, while the three-man defence of Matthew Bloomfield, Michael Berwick and Con Tsiakis was always under pressure. Olympia's player-coach Ken Morton partnered Paul Xanthopoulos up front, but he found the going difficult and only managed to test Eagles goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud once.

The defeat was Olympia's second major setback in five days after it lost last Wednesday's Cascade Summer Cup final to Juventus. This does not say much for a team that is probably the fittest in the league and prepared meticulously for the coming season. Olympia turned on the pace yet again and buzzed about everywhere, but it still lacked a focus for its attack and a player who can regularly put away the chances. Roger Munro, Perry Forster, Craig Nichols and Michael Goldsmith sent over a stream of crosses from both flanks throughout the match but there was no one to take advantage of them.

Eagles took an early lead when Andrew Leszczynski cut the ball back from the left in the seventh minute and David Stoddart slotted it home. Neil Morrison might have increased this lead later in the first half, but his shot hit the crossbar. Chris Leszczynski, who had replaced Paul Morrison midway through the first half, created a little bit of history by scoring his first goal at senior level, and his first goal in almost eight years, on the hour, to put Eagles two goals in front. He skipped past two defenders and surged forward into the penalty area before unleashing a fierce cross-shot into the far corner of the net.

Neil Morrison was again unlucky a few minutes later when his lob to the far post was headed over the bar by a desperate Michael Berwick. Eagles continued to miss easy chances as O'Brien shot wide and Morrison missed an open goal from five metres, while Olympia repeatedly attacked, but rarely forced Groenewoud into action. Michael Driessen completed the scoring for Eagles in the final minute of the match when he outpaced a defender and steered the ball past the advancing goalkeeper and just inside the far post.

1987 Charity Cup Winners

Back Row: P. Morrison, S. Collins, B. Rybak, P. Groenewoud, M. Driessen, C. Leszczynski, A. Leszczynski

Front: N. Morrison, S. Templeman, D. Stoddart, M. Leszczynski (Captain), D. O'Brien, S. Young, M. Krzysica

⚽ Miserable experience for struggling teams

By WALTER PLESS - 1987

THE difference between the top four teams and the bottom four teams in this seasons Cadbury State League soccer competition was clearly illustrated yesterday at KGV Soccer Park.

On a blustery, wet day, in conditions one often associates with mid-winter English League matches – the KGV floodlights were turned on at half-time – the goals rained down at regular intervals.

White Eagles, the reigning league champion, moved into second place on the ladder with an emphatic 11-1 win against Caledonians, while Croatia Glenorchy, the fourth placed team, despatched bottom-side Rapid 7-1. Brothers Richard and Andrew Leszczynski were the stars of Eagles' win, each scoring five goals in scintillating performances that involved using the conditions to maximum advantage.

Richard Leszczynski's tally of five goals makes him the league's leading scorer with 16 goals, while the 11-1 win, ranks as the highest scoring league win of the season. Andrew Leszczynski hit a hat-trick in the opening half and Eagles led 6-1 at the interval, Calies' solitary reply coming from Tim Robbins.

Although Calies did not give in, it did not help its cause by scoring an own-goal early in the match and conceding a penalty right on half-time. Richard Leszczynski had much to thank his brother Andrew for. Apart from scoring five goals, Andrew set Richard up for three of his goals in an outstanding and unselfish display.

Eagles were without full-back Sean Collins, who was unavailable because of work, while Calies missed the injured Ian Parker.

John Fletcher put Rapid ahead against Croatia in the 12th minute, before Willy Peters equalised in the 19th minute with his first goal since coming out of retirement. Peters handled the conditions better than most, and it was not at all evident that he had not played for about three years.

John McIntyre scored a hat-trick in the second half, as Croatia used the strong wind and Paul Furjanic, Peter Huigsloot and Neil Thomas grabbed the remaining goals.

Rapid created several chances during the match, but Croatia goalkeeper Rodney Tattam pulled off some fine saves. He got down well to grab Fletcher's first half effort and turned Mark Nikolai's drive over the bar for a fruitless corner early in the second period.

Croatia might have added to its score, but two brave saves by Rapid keeper Leigh Gillam, and some slack finishing by Croatia kept the score at 7-1.

⚽ White Eagles recall veteran for vital clash

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 15/5/1987

WHITE EAGLES will recall veteran goalkeeper Peter Wass from retirement for its important Cadbury State League soccer clash against Juventus-Pioneer at Grove Rd tomorrow.

The move became necessary after regular keeper Peter Groenewoud broke his collarbone in the match against Rapid last week. Groenewoud's understudy, Gilbert Steenhuis is currently interstate with the State surfing team, while the club's under-16 keeper Grant Mason, is considered too inexperienced for such a crucial game. Injured midfield Dominic O'Brien trained lightly this week but his chances of taking his place in the side must be slim.

Juventus-Pioneer, the third-placed team. must be favored to bounce back after last week' surprise 5-0 loss to Olympia-WPL and beat the current league-leader and reigning Champion. It will have strong central defender Nick DiMartino back after suspension and he together with Australian Under-16 World Cup captain Dominic Longo, should be able to keep out the Eagles strikers.

Juventus goalkeeper Neil Connell and full-back Alistair Cochrane were still doubtful last night because of injury, although both trained lightly. If they are fit to return, Juventus will be even more likely to upset an Eagles side that has become notorious for failing to produce its best soccer on big occasions.

One also wonders about just how serious some of the Eagles players are taking this season. A source close to the club informed me that three leading player missed training on Tuesday for no apparent reason and that there seems to be a lethargic attitude among some of the players. There can be no better opportunity than this match for the Eagles players to silence their critics by producing a display worthy of league-leader and current champion.

(Result White Eagles 2 lost to Juventus-Pioneer 3)

White Eagles storms to ladder leadership

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 18/6/1987

WHITE EAGLES stormed to the top of the Cadbury State League soccer competition with a rousing 3-2 win over Olympia-WPL. The win puts Eagles, the reigning league champion, one point ahead of Olympia.

White Eagles started in great style and may well have led by three goals after only eight minutes as Andrew Leszczynski fired narrowly wide from a free-kick, David Stoddart volleyed just past a post from ten metres, and Andrew Leszczynski shot past the far post at his second attempt with Stoddart sliding in fractionally late.

Olympia goalkeeper Martin Burden rescued his side in the 16th minute when he flew backwards to claw out Scott Young's header from Stoddart's free-kick, while Young missed a great chance after 34 minutes when he chipped the ball straight at the goalkeeper with the goal unattended.

Olympia. with its back to wall, took a surprise lead seven minutes before the break. A slight lack of concentration by the Eagles defence at a corner enabled Paul Xanthopoulos to head home Perry Forster's corner. The equaliser came eight minutes into the second period. Richard Leszczynski was allowed to play the ball across the goal mouth, past several defenders for Andrew Leszczynski to ram home at the far post. Richard Leszczynski, the league's leading scorer put Eagles 2-1 up in the 65th minute.

Substitute Robert Gorniak crossed from the right, Young headed against the angle of crossbar and post, the ball rebounding to Leszczynski who scored with a low shot through a crowd of players. Richard Leszczynski made it 3-1 in the 77th minute when he headed in after a long throw-in, but Olympia was not yet finished.

Anthony Greenwood attacked the down the right, beat a defender and crossed to the far post where Xanthopoulos, the league's second ranking scorer headed his second goal of the match. Olympia made two basic errors on the night, it changed a winning combination by leaving out coach Ken Morton and full-back Peter Vafakos, bringing in Michael Berwick and Peter Sherman in their places, and it failed to use its strength by attacking down the middle instead of down to the flanks.

Once again, the season came down to the last roster match, after Eagle had been on top of the table for the best part of the season. They lost this last game however to Juventus 3-4, and Olympia were crowned premiers. White Eagle finished in third place.

Richard Leszczynski was the league's top goalscorer with 29 goals, and Eagle were the highest scoring team with 77 goals.

Eagles make pace in thrilling finale to State soccer league

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 16/8/1987

THE stage is set for a mighty climax to the Cadbury State League soccer competition next weekend following White Eagles' 6-1 win against Rapid at KGV Park yesterday.

The win puts Eagles top of the ladder, one point ahead of both Olympia-WPL and Juventus-Pioneer, who occupy second and third places respectively on 29 points. Rapid's defeat means it is the competition's wooden-spooner and may be relegated, despite Hobart City's expulsion from the Cadbury League.

Rapid's fate could be decided by the outcome of this weekend's Tasmanian Soccer Federation meeting in Launceston. The TSF is discussing the format of soccer in the State next year and may opt for a 12-team league composed of six Southern and six Northern teams. Such a decision would probably mean Rapid's exclusion, although there are rumours of a possible amalgamation between Rapid and Howrah, who meet in their final matches of the season on Wednesday.

The championship will be decided next Saturday when Olympia takes on Croatia-Glenorchy and White Eagles, the reigning champion, meets Juventus-Pioneer. An Olympia win over Croatia in the curtain-raiser would mean that Juventus could not take the title, even if it defeated White Eagles in the main attraction, because of Olympia's vastly superior goal difference: White Eagles would then have to defeat Juventus to pip Olympia for the championship as a draw would not be good enough, given Olympia's advantage in terms of goal difference.

Rapid took a fourth minute lead against Eagles yesterday through a Lairs Koch penalty, awarded after Sean Collins had upended John Cionci, who was put in the clear by a great pass from Jim Patiniotis. Eagles then stepped up the pace and two goals by Andrew Leszczynski. and one each by Scott Young and Richard Leszczynski, gave them a 4-1 lead at the interval.

Andrew Leszczynski completed his hat-trick in the 63rd minute from the penalty spot after Rapid goalkeeper Lee Gilliam had brought down Richard Leszczynski. David Stoddart completed the scoring seven minutes later as he eluded the Rapid defence and fired past the advancing Gillam.

⚽ Olympia ends 19-year drought

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 23/8/1987

OLYMPlA-WPL won the 1987 Cadbury State League soccer championship when it thrashed Croatia-Glenorchy 5-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, while reigning champion White Eagles lost 4-3 to Juventus-Pioneer.

Olympia finished level on 31 points with Juventus, but the former's superior goal difference gave it the title, its first premiership since 1968. Paul Xanthopoulos' contribution proved vital to Olympia's success yesterday. He came on as a 38th-minute substitute for Olympia's player-coach Ken Morton, and scored a hat-trick, taking his season's tally to 21, which is better than a goal a game.

Morton announced alter the match that he would be leaving Olympia at the 'end of the season. He has been offered the coaching job at Devonport City and would like to accept, although he has also applied for the position of full-time State director of coaching.

Michael Goldsmith gave notice of what was to come as early as the second minute when he hammered in a low drive from just outside the penalty area which almost shattered the Croatia post. Two minutes later, Goldsmith put Olympia ahead from the penalty spot after Perry Forster had been fouled. Croatia lost Tony Bacic through injury after 15 minutes but his brother Ivan, who replaced him hit the equaliser in the 34th minute.

Xanthopoulos stole the show in the second half with three deadly headers, two from corners and one at full stretch which put Olympia 4-1 up and effectively killed Croatia off whose defence was woeful. Craig Nichols completed the scoring seven minutes from time with an almost contemptuously easy volley from just outside the penalty area.

White Eagles knew they had to defeat Juventus to retain their title and hit the lead after only a minute, Michael Driessen heading home David Stoddart's corner. Juventus equalised from the penalty spot just before the interval. Eagles goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud failed to get to a high cross and then held Juventus midfielder Steve Kannegiesser as they both struggled to get to the ball. Carlo Ambrosino struck a crisp spot-kick past Groenewoud to make it 1-1 at the break and he put Juventus ahead midway through the second half when he allowed to run down the left and finish with an accurate shot.

Eagles had blown their chances a few minutes earlier when they had captain Mark Leszczynski sent off. He had been cautioned five minutes after half-time for body-checking John Broadhouse and was then shown the red card in the 62nd minute for bringing down Romeo Frediani as the youngster threatened to set off for goal.

An unfortunate deflection by Eagles' Robert Gorniak in the 74th minute, from Frediani's low cross enabled Sergio Pace to make it 3-1 for Juventus before an own-goal by Nick Di Martino from David Stoddart's well-struck free-kick, gave Eagles some chance with eight minutes to play.

The four minutes of injury time at the end of the match proved more exciting than the previous 90 minutes as Eagles strove desperately for a miracle. Driessen headed against the Juventus crossbar, substitute Billy Stanford made it 4.2 for Juventus with a brilliant long-range volley, while Eagles struck the final blow as Driessen's header in the dying seconds beat Neil Connell to make the final score 4-3.

⚽ Irving to improve already impressive record

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 23/9/1987 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

PETER IRVING coach of Cadbury State League soccer side Juventus-Pioneer, came to Tasmania this season with excellent credentials. He had just coached Newcastle United, not exactly a very fashionable club, to a creditable spot in the NSL to earn the admiration of his fellow coaches.

The task he faced at Juventus was quite a formidable one because the club had had quite a lean season in1986, after four years of tremendous success under Peter Brine and Ken Morton.

Irving knew he faced a difficult task, and at first he almost despaired, given the poor attitude of some of the players and the general poor attendance at training.

It is a measure of the man’s ability as a coach, especially his management skills, that he has taken Juventus to two cup wins this season and the runner-up spot, on goal difference in the league.

Irving will be in charge of Juventus for the last time tonight as it takes on White Eagles in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Invitation Cup at KGV Soccer Park. He leaves for interstate early next week and could receive no better send-off from his players to win the cup final and complete a tremendous treble of cup successes.

Juventus should certainly win this match, despite White Eagles commendable away win against Launceston Juventus on Saturday. Carlo Ambrosino will be missing from the Juventus midfield through suspension, but his loss will be softened by the return of Steve Kannegiesser.

Neil Connell, the Juventus goalkeeper, has hit top form and deserves much of the credit for the team reaching the final, while youngster Romeo Frediani, at front, has dazzling skills and amazing maturity.

In fact, over the field, Juventus has reliable and consistent players, and it is to Irving's credit that he has been able to draft in young players in place of more experienced but injured ones. The side has lost regulars such as full-back Alistair Cochrane and midfielder Frank Genovesi, both of whom have been match-winners in the past, and replaced them with the likes of Billy Stanford and Matthew Gasparin without noticeable weakening of the team. When these factors are considered with Irving's undoubted tactical shrewdness, it is difficult to go past Juventus when picking the winner.

White Eagles are no mugs however, and when they play to their ability, as they must have done on Saturday, they are capable of beating anyone. They are notorious for failing to perform on the big occasion however, and they have failed four times against Juventus this season. Eagles had an easy run to the semi-finals in the competition and Saturday's success is not a good measure of their ability to overcome Juventus tonight.

The Cadbury Sate League's top scorer, Richard Leszczynski, should return to the Eagles' line-up tonight, but the Juventus defence already has his measure and should be able to keep him and his partners quiet and ineffective.

⚽ White Eagles finally find form to take Cup from Juventus

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24/9/1987 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

WHITE EAGLES salvaged something from the 1987 soccer season when they beat Juventus Pioneer 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night to win the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Invitation Cup.

The Cup final proved to be an excellent match, despite the gusty and dusty conditions, with Eagles finally producing their best form. David Stoddart and Richard Leszczynski, in particular, rediscovered all their skills and showed why they are two of the best players in the state.

Eagles, without key defender Michael Driessen who injured an eye playing squash, swept to a 2-0 lead within 27 minutes. It was this early advantage which eventually saved them as Juventus fought back desperately and had the better of play for most of the second half, coming within a whisker of equalising on a number of occasions.

Scott Young put Eagles ahead in the 10th minute. Andrew and Richard Leszczynski combined to create an opening for Stoddart on the right, and his cross saw Young's glancing header beat the diving Neil Connell. Richard Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 27th minute when he reached Neil Morrison's free-kick from the left and powered yet another header past the unfortunate Connell.

Juventus had its chances with Pace, Frediani and Fabrizio all causing the Eagles' defence some concern. It was rewarded in the 43rd minute when John Broadhouse scrambled the ball home after Nick Di Martino fired towards goal after a corner.

Eagles had two narrow escapes in the opening minutes of the second half but survived until the end despite Juventus throwing everything into attack.

State League South Final Standings 1987

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia WPL	18	15	1	4	74	19	31
Hobart Juventus	18	14	3	3	60	29	31
White Eagle	**18**	**14**	**2**	**4**	**77**	**30**	**30**
Croatia	18	9	2	9	54	32	24
Caledonian	18	6	2	12	26	48	14
Howrah	18	4	2	14	20	65	10
Rapid	18	2	2	16	17	71	5

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 29, A. Leszczynski 16, D. Stoddart 12

Eagle were premiers in the reserve competition known as the Pepsi Youth League, on the back of striker Brett Harwood's 28 goals. Eagle were on top of the standings for much of the year, and although they did suffer a minor slump towards the back end of the season, they managed to regain their composure to claim the title. Brett Harwood was the league's top goalscorer, and Richard Ketchell was the Youth Player of The Year.

⚽ Eagles rout Rapid to widen lead

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 11/5/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

LEAGUE-LEADER White Eagles increased its lead in the Pepsi Youth League soccer competition to three points when it thrashed bottom side Rapid 9-0 at South Hobart yesterday.

Rapid was no match for a White Eagles side that led 7-0 at the interval. Brett Harwood scored four goals for Eagles to take his personal tally to nine in three matches, while Ketchell hit a bat-trick and Laszczak scored twice.

Second placed Olympia-WPL dropped a valuable point when it only managed a 2-2 draw with third placed Juventus-Pioneer in a match which featured two controversial goals, one for each side.

Brown looked to be offside just before he scored to give Olympia the lead two minutes before halftime, while Juventus' equaliser from Mastrocola in the dying minutes of the match had the Olympia defenders protesting, vehemently about an alleged foul on their goalkeeper, John Collar.

Lee Leon had earlier cancelled out Brown's opening goal by heading home a corner, while Andrew Hart had given Olympia the lead for the second time, from the penalty spot on this occasion, in the 83rd minute.

⚽ Harwood hits four in Eagles' win

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 25/5/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

ONLY two matches were played in round eight of the Pepsi Youth League soccer competition yesterday, the double-header at the Athletic Centre being postponed because of the heavy rain. White Eagles increased its lead at the top of the ladder to three points and four points over Olympia and Juventus respectively, both of which were idle yesterday.

Brett Harwood was again in impressive form and scored four goals as Eagles beat Caledonians 5-1. It was Harwood's pressure on Calies' central defender Malcolm Allen which led to the latter lobbing the ball over his own goalkeeper in the 18th minute to put Eagles ahead.

Harwood scored his first in the 33rd minute to give Eagles a 2-0 lead at the interval, while 35 seconds into the second-half a precise pass by Craig Mackenzie gave Harwood his second when he skipped over the goalkeeper before turning the ball into the empty net from an acute angle. Harwood completed his hat-trick in the 54th minute from the penalty spot after the goalkeeper had brought Drinkwater down.

Three minutes later, he was unlucky not to score as his shot hit the post, but he made amends in the 68th minute by netting with a blistering drive from the edge of the penalty area. Roger Pillans scored a consolation goal for Calies in the final seconds of the match.

⚽ Harwood sets up win

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 8/6/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

A GOAL after only 30 seconds by Brett Harwood paved the way for league leader White Eales' 3-0 win against Croatia-Glenorchy in the Pepsi Youth League soccer match-of-the-day at South Hobart yesterday.

The goal took Harwood, the league's leading scorer, to a personal total of 15 goals for the season, and it was not until seven minutes into the second half that Torn Laszczak made it 2-0, from a pass by Harwood.

Eugene Banasik completed the scoring for Eagles midway through a second half which saw Croatia's player-coach, Alistair Payne, taken to hospital by ambulance after swallowing his tongue. A tragedy was averted by the quick thinking of nurse Carol Grundy, who was at the game watching her brother Allan, play for Croatia.

⚽ Eagles continue surge towards title

By WALTER PLESS – 15/6/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

WHITE EAGLES continued its relentless march towards the Pepsi Youth League soccer title with a 6-0 win against Hobart City-Azzurri at the Athletic Centre yesterday with goals from Harwood 2, Banasik, Rosinski, Norton and Garrigan.

Pepsi Youth League South 1987 – after Round 12

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**12**	**10**	**1**	**1**	**40**	**5**	**21**
Olympia	11	7	2	2	28	10	16
Hobart Juventus	11	5	3	3	30	18	13
Howrah	12	4	3	5	16	24	11
Croatia Glenorchy	11	4	2	5	17	20	10
Caledonians	12	3	3	6	16	27	9
Rapid	11	2	2	7	16	37	6
Hobart City	12	4	4	7	16	38	6

White Eagles look certain to capture youth crown

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22/6/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

BARRING major injuries and atrocious luck, White Eagles will capture this season's Pepsi Youth League soccer crown. That much was evident yesterday when Eagles beat reigning champion and closest rival Olympia-WPL, 1-0 at the Athletic Centre.

The victory put Eagles on 21 points, five ahead of second-placed Olympia, which should lose two of its points after a TSA meeting scheduled for Wednesday because it fielded an ineligible player in its 4-1 win over Rapid on June 7. If, as expected, Rapid is awarded that match, it will move off the bottom of the table to be replaced by Hobart City, which went down 8-2 to. Juventus at South Hobart yesterday.

Rapid gained a 4-4 draw against Caledonians, also at South Hobart, which puts it level on six points with City, the latter having a one-goal advantage in terms of goal-difference

White Eagles and Olympia both used senior players who had appeared in their Cadbury State League clash between the sides on Wednesday, but it certainly didn't raise the standard of the match. Olympia had Michael Goldsmith in midfield, and he acted as coach in the absence of Ken Morton, while White Eagles used its senior midfielder Scott Young.

Olympia brought on senior defender Anthony Greenwood in the first half when Paul Kaproulias was injured, and Eagles replaced Norton with first-team maestro David Stoddart early in the second half. Stoddart won the decisive penalty which gave Eagles their win.

Brett Harwood, the league's leading scorer, smashed home the spot-kick, only to have referee Brett McKay order it be retaken because team-mate Stoddart, had encroached into the penalty area. After Stoddart was cautioned, Harwood stepped up and slammed the ball into precisely the same spot to put Eagles 1-0 up.

Eagles defeats elements, rivals

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 29/6/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

WHITE EAGLES maintained its seven-point lead at the top of the Pepsi Youth League soccer standings with a 5-1 win against Rapid in atrocious conditions at the Athletic Centre yesterday. During the second half of the match, the Rapid goalkeeper was fortunate not to be driven into the ground like a stake when the strong winds toppled his goal.

Brett Harwood, the league's leading marksman, and Tom Laszczak scored towards the end of the first half to give Eagles a 2-0 lead at the interval. Harwood, Drinkwater and Templeman scored in the second half for Eagles, while Errey converted Calvert's corner shortly after the resumption to register Rapid's consolation goal.

Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 16/8/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

In yesterday's Pepsi Youth League curtain-raiser, White Eagles placed one hand on the championship trophy with an emphatic 7-0 win against bottom side Rapid. Tom Laszczak turned in a fine performance for Eagles, for whom the league's leading scorer, Brett Harwood, hit a hat-trick to take his season's tally to 28 goals, 19 ahead of his nearest opponent.

Eagles led 3-0 at the break, through Laszczak, Harwood and an own-goal, while Harwood completed his hat-trick within six minutes of the resumption. Eugene Banasik weighed in with two late goals to complete the demolition of Rapid, which emulated its senior team by finishing bottom of the league,

White Eagles make no mistake in Youth title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 24/8/1987 – PEPSI YOUTH LEAGUE

WHITE EAGLES took out the Pepsi Youth League soccer championship yesterday with a convincing 4-0 win over third-placed Juventus-Pioneer at South Hobart. Dale Itchins' boys finished on 31 points 1 points ahead of second-placed Olympia-WPL, which completed its league campaign by beating Croatia Glenorchy 4-1.

Billy Tsakiris hit a first-half hat-trick as Olympia led Croatia 3-1 at the interval, Croatia's reply coming through Robbie Johnson. Olympia's senior-team hero on Saturday, Xanthopoulos, came on during the second half and scored with his first touch to give Olympia a 4-1 lead. There was no addition to the score, but Olympia's win meant that Eagles had to at least draw with Juventus to snatch the title.

The match seemed destined for a draw after a goalless opening half, but Eagles stepped up the pace in the second period and once Tom Laszczak put them ahead with a free-kick in the 57th minute, it was all over. Craig Pitt made it 2-0 in the 70th minute with a great half volley, while Brett Harwood increased his season's tally to a commendable 29 goals when he fired home three minutes later after Laszczak had won an aerial duel in the penalty area.

Eagles proved themselves worthy champions by adding a fourth goal 12 minutes from time through left-back Andrew Garrigan, who rifled a 20-metre shot past the Juventus keeper. Mark Krzysica was unlucky not to add another goal for the champions, as the Juventus keeper turned his fierce drive onto the cross-bar.

Pepsi Youth League South Final Standings 1987

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**20**	**15**	**1**	**4**	**63**	**11**	**31**
Olympia	20	14	2	4	50	20	30
Hobart Juventus	20	11	3	6	54	37	25
Howrah	20	9	3	8	34	31	21
Croatia Glenorchy	20	8	4	8	30	37	20
Caledonians	20	5	3	12	24	47	13
Rapid	20	2	4	14	23	64	8
Hobart City	14	2	2	10	17	48	6

Hobart City were suspended after 14 matches

Goalscorers: B. Harwood 28, T. Laszczak 9, E. Banasik 5, R. Ketchell 4, S. Templeman 3, C. Pitt 3, A. Garrigan 2, S. Drinkwater, M Broadbent, B. Rybak, G. Rosinski, S. Norton, R. Leszczynski 1

The 1987 reserve team coached by Dale Itchins consisted of the following players: R. Ketchell (Captain), C. McKenzie (Vice Captain), G. Steenhuis, G. Rosinski, M. Krzysica, S. Templeman, A. Garrigan, S. Drinkwater, G. Mason, T. Laszczak, C. Pitt, B. Harwood, E. Banasik, S. Norton, A. Grey, F. Mainella P. Morrison.

The Women's team playing in the Division 2 competition also had a very successful season. They quickly established their supremacy, and after eight games had opened a lead that would never be threatened. They ended the season undefeated dropping only 1 point to second placed Rapid.

Women's Division 2 after 8 rounds

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**8**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**26**	**2**	**16**
Rapid	8	3	3	2	12	12	8
East	7	3	4	0	11	10	6
University	7	2	4	1	6	12	5
Lions	8	1	6	1	9	25	3

THE MERCURY – 15/6/1987 – WOMENS DIV 2

Runaway second division leader White Eagles had an easy 3-0 win over University with Susan Ola, Jasmine Bilac and Kim Watson playing well.

THE MERCURY – 10/8/1987 – WOMENS DIV 2

Second division premiers White Eagles defeated Waratah Lions 3-0 to complete a great season. Joanna Ola, Michele Glass and Lyn Wilkinson were their best.

Monagle's Medal

By WALTER PLESS – [Australian Soccer Annual 1988]

Liam Monagle, player-coach of Northern Tasmanian Honeychurch Premier League club George Town, won the 1987 Rothmans Medal winner in Tasmania. Monagle polled 30 points, eight ahead of Launceston Juventus's Peter Savill, who was second. It was Monagle's second Gold Medal, having won the award previously in 1983 while with Ulverstone.

Monagle, a 30-year-old school teacher at St Patrick's College in Launceston, arrived in Australia from Ireland in 1981 to join NSL club Heidelberg. He left the Melbourne club the following year and teamed up with Joe McGrory at Ulverstone on Tasmania's north-west coast. Monagle transferred to George Town in 1984 and coached the side to third place in this year's competition.

He has been a regular member of the State team and a Northern representative in its intra-state clashes with the South. "I honestly didn't think I had a chance, and that's not false modesty," Monagle said after being presented with the medal by Tasmania's Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr John Bennett MHA, at the presentation ceremony at Hobart's Wrest Point Casino Convention Centre.

The leading Southern player was White Eagles striker, Andrew Leszczynski, who came third with 20 votes.

Vote-getters: 30 Liam Monagle (George Town), 22 Peter Savill (Launceston Juventus), 20 Andrew Leszczynski (White Eagles), 19 Perry Forster (Olympla-WPL), 18 Craig Nichols (Olympia-WPL), Conrad Hughes (Launceston Matrlc), B Barac (Launceston United), 16 Alistair Hales (Howrah), Larry Nunn (Croatia-Glenorchy), Chris Bessell (Launceston City), Andy Fraser (Launceston United).

The under-16 team, also coached by Dale Itchins, won its league, with the outstanding statistics of Played 14, Won 14, Drawn 0, Lost 0, Goals For 91, Goals Against 1.

1987 Under 16 Red Premiers
Back: K. Plaznik, S. Katona, M. Christian, G. Hildyard, G. Mason (Capt.), A. Brown, S. Norton, T. Wilkie, D Itchins (Coach)
Front: C. Smith, M. Broadbent, F. Mainella (V/Capt.), L. Shacklady, J. Tattersall

1988 saw the re-introduction of the State League format, and 3 points for a win. Mark Leszczynski had to take over as coach after a serious knee injury to Bob Rybak early in the year, prevented him from continuing in this role.

After the disappointment of losing the 1987 title in the last match of the season, a tougher, more determined Eagle side, lost only one game to win the 1988 premiership convincingly.

They also were Cadbury Jubilee Trophy winners and runners-up in the Summer Cup. The team was undefeated in its last fifteen roster matches and ended up winning the premiership by eight points from Olympia.

Tasmanian Review Season 1988 Preview

By WALTER PLESS – [Australian Soccer Annual 1988]

THE 1988 Cadbury State League season In Tasmania, the first real state-wide league since 1981, is all set to begin.

Cadbury is sponsoring the new league to the tune of $10,000 and all 10 teams are into full training.

Olympia-WPL, Juventus-Pioneer, White Eagles, Croatia-Glenorchy and Caledonians will represent the south of the State, Launceston Matric, Launceston Juventus and George Town the north of the island while Devonport City and Ulverstone are the representatives from the North-West Coast.

Caledonians, the last winners of the State title In 1981 when they were known as Brighton-lCL, are keen to retain the championship. The club has appointed Alistair Hales as player-coach. A former Rothmans Gold Medal winner, Hales was in Brighton's championship-winning team in 1981. He joins Calies from Howrah, where he was player-coach for the past two seasons.

Hales has brought some players from Howrah with him. Tony New, Jason Harvey and Nicky Onn are all training with Calies at this stage. The club has also signed two 28-year-old strikers from interstate. They are Andrew Ridgewell from Western Australia and Ian McGlone from Sydney.

Olympia-WPL have appointed David Crosson to replace title-winning coach Ken Morton, who has joined Devonport City. Crosson played a vital role as a player in Olympia's premiership side in 1987. He is no stranger to coaching, having been in charge of Rapid and Croatia in recent years.

Peter Irving has given up a lucrative coaching position in Perth to return to Tasmania and resume the reins at Juventus-Pioneer, while Croatia have reappointed Wayne Cowen and assistant Stephen Smith.

Croatia may be without several key players however, Willy Peters and Larry Nunn are reputed to have called it a day, Billy Kirkpatrick is joining a lower league club because of business commitments, Ivan and Tony Bacic may be going to Europe for a year and Paul Furjanic is off to Canada for 12 months.

Bobby Rybak has been reappointed by White Eagles and they look like retaining most of their squad from 1987.

The greatest challenge to southern dominance will probably come from Devonport City, arguably the most progressive club in the State. The club may have suffered a setback when its clubrooms were destroyed by fire late last season, but on the field, it will be as strong as ever. Morton is considered by many as the top roach in the State and he is certain to get the best out of all his players.

He is familiar with all the State's players and his knowledge of the opposition should allow him to plan Devonport's campaign to perfection. Devonport has the jump over most other teams, in that they started training in November. The players are probably already fit enough for the season and Morton is undoubtedly well into tactical preparations.

The coming season promises to be an interesting one and the Tasmanian Soccer Federation is confident the new state-wide format will lead to an increase in attendances.

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/4/1988

White Eagles minus Mark Leszczynski, produced a workmanlike performance to beat Launceston Juventus 3-1 in yesterday’s game at KGV.

Brett Harwood, last season’s leading scorer in the Pepsi Youth League, showed he has successfully adapted to senior soccer by scoring two fine goals.

The 19-year-old striker opening the scoring in the 10th minute when he squeezed a shot under goalkeeper Warren Dent, but Colin Guest equalised for Juventus in the 29th minute after escaping Eagles’ defence and placing a shot between Peter Groenewoud’s legs.

Harwood made it 2-1 for Eagles in the 35th minute despite attention from Matt Wesson and goalkeeper Dent, while Scott Young wrapped the game up with a easy goal four minutes into the second period.

Juventus moved Peter Savill from sweeper to midfield for the second half and although this had an immediate impact, his team-mates were unable to turn his precise passes into goals.

David Stoddart who played at sweeper for Eagles, might have added a fourth goal near the end, after waltzing past two defenders, but his shot was tipped over the bar by Dent.

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 25/4/1988 – (Only loss for the season)

Hobart Juventus took a 3-0 lead against White Eagles in only 38 minutes, but then had to hang on grimly to sneak home 3-2.

White Eagles players claimed after the game they had been denied a penalty midway through the first half when a Juventus defender handled the ball in a goalmouth scramble, but they had plenty of chances to get a result out of this game without relying on that.

Nick Di Martino's goal for Juventus after only two minutes set the pattern for most of the first half and when Roneo Frediani and Sergio Pace, the latter from the penalty spot, added further goals to make it 3-0, the battle seemed over.

Richard Leszczynski pulled a goal back for White Eagles a minute before the interval and when David Stoddart won a penalty on the stroke of half time, anything seemed possible.

Neil Connell saved Stoddart's spot-kick however, and even though Stoddart got to the rebound first, he only succeeded in slamming the ball against the bar.

White Eagles did manage a second goal in the 62nd minute. Eugene Banasik's long-range effort disabled Di Martino and Scott Young whipped home the loose ball.

Richard Leszczynski might have salvaged a point for White Eagle in the 75th minute after Andrew Leszczynski had done all the hard work, but the striker missed the ball completely with the goal at his mercy .

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 9/5/1988

White Eagle became the new league-leader after winning 3-2 away to George Town its second impressive away-win of the season.

Eagles defender Eugene Banasik put the ball over his own goalkeeper after 15 minutes to out the home side ahead, but youngster Craig Pitt levelled the score soon after.

Two penalties in the space of five minutes by Andrew Leszczynski, midway through the second half, gave Eagle a 3-1 lead, and this proved sufficient despite Peter Sawdon's successful spot-kick for George Town ten minutes from time.

State League Final Standings 1988 – (after the first round)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**9**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**23**	**12**	**22**
Hobart Juventus	9	5	2	2	30	16	17
Devonport City	9	5	2	2	18	16	17
Olympia-WPL	9	5	1	3	23	18	16
Launceston Juventus	9	5	1	3	22	19	16
Croatia	9	3	2	4	16	16	11
George Town	9	2	3	4	21	23	9
Ulverstone	9	3	0	6	12	23	9
Launceston Matric	9	1	3	5	16	22	6
Caledonians	9	1	1	7	15	31	4

White Eagle flies well clear of closest rival with 2-1 victory

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 23/6/1988

WHITE EAGLE took a massive nine-point lead over second-placed Olympia-WPL on the Cadbury State League Soccer ladder when it beat third-placed Hobart Juventus 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Olympia has a· game in hand over White Eagle, which it meets in the next round, but the league leader will be hard to catch after last night's victory.

White Eagle was fortunate to win against a Juventus side that sorely missed ace striker Sergio Pace, but which benefited in defence from the return of sweeper Bruce Pears.

Carlo Ambrosino, playing midfield in place of David Currie, also showed glimpses of last season's good form and went very close to scoring on at least two occasions.

White Eagle set Juventus back less than a minute after the start when Scott Youngs long-range shot deceived Neil Connell, who let the ball cross the line before getting a firm grasp of it.

Eagle seemed in control in the preliminary stages with Banasik, Driessen, Collins and Morrison keeping a tight rein on their immediate opponents, while Mark Leszczynski covered his back-four well.

Juventus crept back into contention, especially when it used the flanks, and when defenders such as Pears, Di Martino and Currie made forward runs.

Genovesi, Frediani and Pears managed to send over some excellent crosses which Kannegiesser and Currie got on the end of, but White Eagle goalkeeper Peter ·Groenewoud ·showed great confidence and ability in the air to nullify the danger.

Juventus levelled two minutes after· the interval through full-back Paul Currie, and there wasn't a player on the park more deserving.

Seven minutes from time, with a draw seeming inevitable, a curling pass from midfield by Stoddart released Andrew Leszczynski through the middle and he drove a perfect shot past the advancing Connell.

⚽ White Eagle easily clinches premiership

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 28/7/1988

WHITE EAGLE became the Cadbury State League soccer champion for 1988 when it defeated bottom side Caledonians 4-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night. The win gives Eagle 41 points, which puts it beyond reach of second-placed Olympia-WPL despite the fact both teams still have two games to play.

The championship is Eagle's second triumph in three seasons, the club having won the southern Cadbury League premiership in 1986 under coach Steve Darby. It is also the second time Eagle has won a genuinely statewide State League competition. It won the first statewide league competition begun in 1978, which was discontinued at the end of the 1981 season, while this year is the inaugural year of the Cadbury League statewide competition.

Eagle did the job easily last night, scoring twice in each half against a plucky but outclassed Caledonians. Full-back Sean Collins almost put White Eagle on the way in the fifth minute when he smacked a 20m shot against the crossbar, but it took the team another seven minutes to take the lead, with what was an excellent goal.

David Stoddart gained possession in his own penalty area and initiated an attack involving Andrew Leszczynski and Scott Young which was finished in great style by Brett Harwood.

The second goal came five minutes later. Eugene Banasik contorted himself to drive the ball forward to Harwood, whose miscued shot found Andrew Leszczynski at the far post, and he scored with a crisp shot that took a deflection off a defender.

Midfield maestro David Stoddart struck twice in the second half to decide the match and confirm the championship. His first goal came in the 57th minute following an indirect free kick inside the penalty area, while the second fell on the hour after Harwood had outpaced Brett Murtagh before sending the ball across the penalty area and into the path of the onrushing Stoddart.

Calies rarely had a glimpse of the goal and White Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud had one of his quietest matches of the season.

⚽ Calies just fail to a void wooden spoon

By Walter Pless 15/8/88

CALEDONIANS came within one minute of avoiding the wooden spoon in the final round of the Cadbury State League soccer competition yesterday.

Needing a win against Hobart Juventus to relegate Launceston Matric to last place, Calies led 1-0 through a Greg Calvert goal scored in the 77th minute, after Tony New's header had come back off the crossbar. However, with a minute remaining, Sergio Pace gained possession 30m out, turned quickly and volleyed an unstoppable shot past the vainly diving Glenn Stewart.

Pace's goal wasn't enough to enable him to catch the league's leading scorer, Colin Guest of Launceston Juventus, who finished with 22 goals, one ahead of Pace. Juventus, which had to rely on third division players Robbie Kent and John Broadhouse, as well as Rocky Schiro on the bench, had Carlo Ambrosino sent off 20 minutes from time, but the draw was enough for it to finish in fourth spot because of its superior goal-difference compared to Devonport City.

League champion White Eagle completed its season on a high note with an easy 4-0 win over Ulverstone, Andrew Leszczynski grabbing a hat-trick to finish up his club's leading scorer with 14 goals. Michael Driessen scored Eagle's other goal, his first of the season, and he almost scored a second, but his long-range effort struck the crossbar. Eagle, without the suspended David Stoddart, was never in trouble.

The closest Ulverstone came to scoring was in the 85th minute when Harwood, who had taken Groenewoud's place in goal to give the keeper a run on the field, tipped Andy Howe's shot over the bar. Chris Leszczynski replaced Stoddart in the Eagle starting line-up, while substitute Richard Ketchell came on during the match for Craig Pitt.

Leading goalscorers -: 22, C. Guest (Launceston Juventus); 21, S. Pace (Hobart Juventus); 19, P. Sawdon (George Town); 14, A. Leszczynski (White Eagle); 13, P. Sherman (Olympia); 11, M.Goldsmith (Olympia), J. McIntyre (Croatia).

⚽ White Eagle scrapes home in grand final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 29/9/1988 – CADBURY JUBILEE TROPHY

WHITE EAGLE survived a strong second-half recovery by Olympia-WPL to win 2-1 in last night's Cadbury Jubilee Trophy Final Five series grand-final at KGV Soccer Park. Both teams were missing two regulars.

Eagle was without suspended midfielder Scott Young and striker Brett Harwood, who was ill, while Olympia was missing suspended defender Michael Berwick and injured midfielder Michael Goldsmith.

Eagle carved the Olympia defence open to establish a 2-0 lead at the interval, but missed chances made the second half a nail-biting 45 minutes for the league champion. The Olympia defence was woeful in the first half with players failing to mark opponents and only some brilliant goalkeeping by Martin Burden and terrible finishing by the White Eagle strikers prevented Eagle from running up a big score.

Andrew Leszczynski on two occasions, and David Stoddart and Michael Driessen missed great chances before Eagle took the lead in the 12th minute. Andrew and Richard Leszczynski exchanged passes on the left before Richard set up midfielder Craig Pitt for a goal. Eagle struck again a minute before half-time with a stunning goal.

Stoddart and Andrew Leszczynski combined in a lightning break from defence which caught the Olympia defence flat-footed and culminated in Richard Leszczynski scoring.

Olympia came back strongly in the second half as White Eagle seemed to run out of ideas and a great dummy and solo run inside the penalty area by Craig Nichols saw Olympia pull a goal back through Lars Koch. The White Eagle defence held firm and the league champion was able to add the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy to its list of successes.

⚽ 'Spider' spins premiership pennant for Eagle lads at first attempt

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] -9/8/1988

MARK LESZCZYNSKI, player-coach of Cadbury State League champion, White Eagle, could be regarded as a reluctant coach. Leszczynski (nicknamed "Spider") was captain of the side at the beginning of the season when coach Bobby Rybak was in charge, but after a serious knee injury to Rybak after only a couple of games, Leszczynski was thrust into the coaching job.

"I'd never coached anyone in my life before this," said the modest title-winning coach, who is undecided about his coaching future. "I'm only 25 and it's difficult to coach when you're still involved as a player. "It's very hard to do everything the players are doing at training because you've got to keep an eye on them and that makes it difficult to concentrate on your own training. "I've still got plenty of learning to do and I'd like to work under a coach who can teach me a few things.

"I think I'd like to play until I'm about 30 and then turn to coaching," he said. With one league game still to play, White Eagle has romped home to the title, being five points ahead of second-placed Olympia-WPL. It has won 13 games, drawn three and lost only one, and should win its remaining match against Ulverstone at KGV Soccer Park next Sunday. Leszczynski was also a member of Eagle's championship-winning side of two seasons ago, when Steve Darby was coach."

He attributes this year's title win to good discipline and the right mental attitude on the part of the players. "It was a team effort, and everyone put in 100 per cent in every game," Leszczynski said. "I'm thrilled, but it hasn't quite sunk in yet. "The boys have really done the hard work and applied themselves, and they deserve the premiership.
"Another pleasing aspect is that we're still a young side and the team has a great future." Leszczynski said he had received valuable help from a number of quarters, including team manager Eddie Kempa and former coaches Eugene Mycak and Bobby Rybak.

He paid particular tribute to goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, who has had an excellent season - Eagle conceded the least number of goals of any team in the competition and defender Eugene Banasik.

"Eugene improved a hell of a lot," Leszczynski said. "He's solid, marks tightly and sticks to his job, and his height enabled him to knock the high balls out. "He might lack a bit in technical skills, but it certainly wasn't easy to get past him."

Andrew Leszczynski takes on Launceston's Jim Smith. Leszczynski was the club's leading scorer in 1988 with 14 goals.

Field Spread-Eagled

By WALTER PLESS – [Australian Soccer Annual 1989]

White Eagles were the 1988 Cadbury State League champions in Tasmania. Eagles ran away with the title, winning by a massive eight points from second-placed Olympia-WPL in the inaugural year of the genuine state-wide competition. It was the Eagles' second title in three seasons, having topped the Southern Tasmanian Cadbury League in 1986 under coach Steve Darby.

Southern team Caledonians collected the wooden spoon, but it was a close thing with last place not being decided until the very last round. Needing a win against Hobart Juventus to avoid last place, Caledonians led 1-0 with a minute remaining until Sergio Pace rattled home a 30-metre volley which gave Calies' goalkeeper Glenn Stewart no chance.

The draw left Caledonians one point adrift of second-last side Launceston Matric, but gave Hobart Juventus fourth spot on goal-difference from fifth-placed Devonport City, coached by Ken Morton.

Hobart Juventus , which had already won the Cascade Summer Cup and the Cadbury Charity Trophy, were coached by former Newcastle supremo Peter Irving.

Juventus' prospects in the final few matches were not helped when English imports, brothers Paul and David Currie, had to leave the country when the club would not extend their sponsorship and their sport visas were terminated.

Launceston Juventus proved to be the best Northern Tasmanian club, finishing in third place.

White Eagles wrapped up the title with a 4-0 win over Caledonians in midweek, then defeated Ulverstone by an identical score-line on the last day of the league season.

State League Final Standings - 1988

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**18**	**14**	**3**	**1**	**60**	**22**	**45**
Olympia	18	11	4	3	54	26	37
Launceston Juventus	18	9	4	5	40	31	31
Hobart Juventus	18	8	6	4	50	36	28
Devonport	18	8	4	6	30	31	28
Croatia	18	5	5	8	30	38	30
George Town	18	5	4	9	44	52	19
Ulverstone	18	5	2	11	20	44	17
Launceston Matric	18	3	4	11	30	66	13
Caledonians	18	3	3	12	24	66	12

Leading Goalscorer: A. Leszczynski 14

Rothmans League Division 1 Final Standings - 1988

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	22	17	2	3	52	17	53
Hobart City	22	14	5	3	70	28	47
Rapid	22	13	2	7	34	16	41
Hobart Juventus	22	12	4	6	56	23	40
South Hobart	22	12	3	7	52	31	39
Taroona	22	10	7	5	47	32	37
Metro-Claremont	22	8	3	11	33	35	27
Croatia Glenorchy	22	8	1	13	37	57	25
University	22	6	5	11	37	45	23
Caledonians	22	5	6	11	41	67	21
White Eagle	**22**	**6**	**2**	**14**	**33**	**51**	**20**
Howrah	22	1	0	11	11	101	3

The club's Division 4 side also had a successful year, going through the season undefeated and scoring 86 goals in the process, and finishing 16 points clear of second placed University Grads, who also played two extra games.

Rothmans Division 4 Final Standings - 1988

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**15**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**86**	**19**	**45**
University Grads	17	9	2	6	50	41	29
Caledonians	16	8	2	6	42	52	26
Richmond United	18	7	1	10	33	43	22
University United	17	6	3	8	36	43	21
Alps 1	16	4	1	11	42	54	13
Alps 2	15	2	3	10	27	64	9

Sawdon's Medal

By WALTER PLESS – [Australian Soccer Annual 1989]

Peter Sawdon, player-coach of George Town United, was the 1988 Rothmans Gold Medal winner for Tasmania.

Sawdon won the award with 27 votes, five ahead of David Stoddart (White Eagles) and Liam Monagle (Devenport City), the 1987 medalist, who tied for second place, and six ahead of Peter Savill (Launceston Juventus).

It was the second time that Sawdon, the Cadbury State League 's third placed goalscorer, has won the Rothmans Medal.

Members of 1988 Premiership Squad

Peter Groenewoud

Neil Morrison

Eugene Banasik

Sean Collins

Bob Nicholson

David Stoddart Jnr

Mark Leszczynski

Brett Harwood

Craig Pitt

Richard Leszczynski

Scott Young

Chris Leszczynski

Andrew Leszczynski

Richard Ketchell

Eugene Mycak

Franko Previdi

Eagle's winning run continued in the 1989 season, remaining undefeated under returning coach Eugene Mycak. Mycak was at the helm of the club in the disastrous 1983 campaign, and he was keen to erase that season from memory.

A draw against Juventus was their only league blemish, finishing the roster with 52 points out of a possible 54 and leaving a gap of fifteen points to its nearest rival.

The team was runner up in the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy and Summer Cup competitions but took out the Charity and Bohemian Statewide Cups, over old rivals Hobart Juventus.

The 1989 team had a never say die approach to each game, and recorded seven come from behind wins, to increase their unbeaten run to 33 league games unbeaten (29 wins, 4 draws). Brett Harwood was the club's leading goalscorer with 16 goals, second only in the league to Peter Sawdon's 18 goals.

There's plenty at stake in State League's second year

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 31/3/89

The Cadbury State League Soccer competition begins its second season Saturday, but with a difference. Whereas last year was, in effect, a trial season, with no promotion or relegation, this year everything will be in earnest. Most problems, both in terms of administration and on-field events, will have been ironed out, so fans can look forward to a top-class competition this season.

And, there will be everything to play for, with the wooden-spooner relegated at season's end and replaced by a team from the same region; that is, either northern or southern Tasmania. Robin Pulford, the State League manager last season, deserves much credit for putting the league on a solid foundation. Now that Mr Pulford has resigned, it is to be hoped that his successor, the clubs and other administrators will build on his work and make the competition a real success.

The season has begun well, with a very successful Cascade Summer Cup competition in the South and Century Motors Steve Hudson Cup series in the North. If they are any indication of what is to come, the State League will be worth watching. The 10-team league has one new outfit – Burnie United has replaced George Town United, which withdrew its nomination.

The Southern participants are White Eagle, Hobart Juventus, Olympia, Croatia-Glenorchy and Caledonian. The teams from the North are Launceston Juventus, Launceston (formerly known as Launceston Matric), Devonport City, Ulverstone and Burnie United. New players from overseas and interstate, new coaches, and old faces at new clubs will be a feature of the league this season. The conditions at most grounds are excellent – Devonport's Valley Road is reported to be outstanding, and this should foster high-quality soccer.

Youngsters to get chance in Southern competition

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 31/3/89

The Southern Tasmanian first division soccer competition this year will comprise thirteen teams, meaning there will be a bye each week. The teams competing are: Olympia, Hobart City, Rapid, Hobart Juventus, South Hobart, Taroona, Metro-Claremont, Croatia-Glenorchy, University, Caledonian, White Eagle, Howrah and Kingborough United.

Kingborough United is the new team and deserves its place. It performed exceptionally well in the second division last season and reached the final of this year's pre-season Cascade Summer Cup competition, losing 0-1 to Taroona.

A pleasing feature of this league is the fact that several clubs have their own grounds for matches as well as training. South Hobart, Taroona, Metro-Claremont, University and Kingborough United are able to play "at home" in the true sense of the word. Taroona's home-ground is a credit to manager John Ross, who keeps the playing surface and surroundings in immaculate condition. The facilities at Taroona would, in fact, be the envy of any State League outfit.

Taroona seems set for a great season. It won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup and has recruited well, although player Paul Furjanic will be leaving for another stint in Canada soon.

Olympia, the reigning league champion, is coached by Frank Letec, one of the former greats of Tasmanian soccer, but he will have an enormous task trying to retain the title.

Rapid has lost some players but should be near the top again as it has gained a few too, and coach Hans Streit's work should start to bear fruit this season. Hobart Juventus has plenty of budding young hopefuls and should prove a much better team than its pre-season performances indicated. With such a powerful State League squad at his disposal, coach David Smith will be able to use experienced players who can't get a run in the seniors in this team to provide the youngsters with guidance.

Coach Michael Walker is fostering youth at South Hobart and the club is certain to bring new talent to the game, something the club has always been noted for in the past. South Hobart has always been blessed with resilience and although it won't win the league this year, it will be trying.

Metro-Claremont is always an honest team and a tough nut to crack, especially on its home turf at North Chigwell, and coach Steve Pitchford will lead by example. Metro has always produced players who then go on to make names for themselves at other clubs. It's probably a useful exercise to scan the club's line-up this season and to see, in the years to come, how many of the names crop up at the highest level.

Croatia-Glenorchy will have a very young and inexperienced side as its senior State League team has been decimated and youngsters will be required to fill the gaps there, while University, as always, will be a good first division side, with a mixture of youth and experience.

The emphasis at White Eagle, under new coach Dale Itchins, will be on youth, and on improving skills and team work rather than on achieving miraculous results in terms of wins and points gained.

Caledonian has a mixture of promising youngsters and seasoned campaigners and a number of players should alternate between the State League team and the first division line-up. Howrah is under new coach Robert New and should be a force to be reckoned with, narrowly missing out on a semi-final berth in the pre-season tournament.

Hobart City failed to retain its pre-season trophy but with Kim Barker, the league's leading marksman in the line-up, it should do reasonably well in the premiership race under the guidance of coach Otto Klaus.

⚽ How State League teams shape up

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 31/3/89

The prospects of the Cadbury State League teams, together with player and coaching changes, are outlined below.

White Eagle
The reigning Cadbury State League champion will be a strong favourite to retain the title as it has strengthened its team and appointed a highly qualified and experienced European coach. Eugene Mycak, Eagle's non-playing coach, has coached and played professionally in Poland and the United States. This is his second spell at the club, but this term should be infinitely more successful than the first as he now has a much better command of the English language, and he knows the players.

Mycak is a physical education teacher and there will be no question mark about the team's fitness this season, as there has been in the past. Eagles lost to Hobart Juventus in the final of the Cascade Summer Cup competition, but the winner of this tournament rarely does well in the league.

Defender Bob Nicholson, from Sydney, and Franco Previdi, signed from Hobart Juventus but a former White Eagle player, are the club's two new players. Nicholson has already fitted in well, showing his usefulness at fullback and in midfield in the Cascade Summer Cup pre-season competition, while Previdi has shown he can score goals. White Eagle had a superb away record last season, a major factor in its title success. The club's first away game this year will be against Devonport City in the second round on April 8 and this will be a good indicator of Eagle's chances this season.

Hobart Juventus
Won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup series, defeating White Eagle 2-1 after extra time in the final, although this is a notoriously unreliable indicator of league prospects. Juventus finished fourth last season, but must be regarded as the most likely team to deprive White Eagle of the title.

State coach, David Smith, has taken over from disciplinarian Peter Irving, and he has made a number of useful signings to strengthen an already impressive squad. Juventus probably has more depth of talent than any other club and this will serve it well when injuries or illness take their inevitable toll during the season.

New signings are John and Michael McIntyre, Craig Tickner and Brett Williams, all from Croatia-Glenorchy. John McIntyre has already proved his worth as the leading scorer in the pre-season series with eight goals, while the presence of Williams gives coach Smith four excellent goalkeepers to select from, the others being Neil Connell, Craig Jones and Damon Youl.

Croatia's assistant coach last year, Steven Smith, has also joined Juventus as David Smith's assistant, so the club really does have cover in all departments. Steven Smith was an above-average goalkeeper before he retired, somewhat prematurely. If a catastrophe does occur, he is still young and fit enough to help Juventus out in goal if required.

Olympia
Produced dismal performances in the pre-season tournament, losing twice, drawing once, and winning only one game, by virtue of an own goal, against the weakest team. Coach David Crosson's biggest headache is a lack of strikers since the departure of Peter Sherman (Caledonian) Perry Forster (overseas) and Paul Xanthopoulos (Melbourne).

The club has replaced goalkeeper Martin Burden, who has gone overseas, with Phil Kannegiesser, who is as good as ever, despite being out of action for two years after a back operation. A new club is probably the tonic that Kannegiesser needed, and he is already proving his worth and showing why he was one of the State's beat goalkeepers in his younger days.

Greg Ashwood (Metro-Claremont), Carlo Ambrosino and Robbie Kent (Hobart Juventus), Glen McNeil (Launceston Juventus) and Tory Pepper (Croatia Glenorchy) are Olympia's other new signings. Olympia finished strongly towards the end of last season to come second in the league and take out the Bohemian Restaurant State-wide Cup, but a poor beginning cost it any hope of the league title.

It must strive to start on a high note this time and to put the pre-season results behind it. Crosson will be under a lot of pressure to give reserve-team players such as Billy Tsakiris, George Hages, Clinton Brown and Andrew Hart a chance to perform at a higher level in an effort to overcome the goal-scoring drought. After all, the Reserves did win the Rothmans League first division championship last year.

Caledonian
Finished in bottom place last season but the club has recruited well and should avoid relegation. Bret Anderton is the new coach. He is from Western Australia and played for Calies in 1980 before returning to Perth. Anderton came back to Tassie last year and saw out the latter stages of the season with Olympia before taking over the helm at Calies following the resignation of Jerry Marron.

New signings are John Paplos (South Hobart), Matt Wesson (Launceston Juventus), Peter Huigsloot (Croatia-Glenorchy), Peter Sherman (Olympia), Kevin Connell and Darren Anderton (Western Australia). Connell, a Scot, is the brother of Juventus goalkeeper, Neil Connell, and will be a very useful acquisition once he is fully match fit. Calies' biggest problem is the fact they only have one recognised goalkeeper in Glen Stewart, and that is like playing with fire in a competition spanning 18 matches.

Croatia-Glenorchy
Croatia ended up in a disappointing sixth place last year but the going may well be even rougher this year as the club has been decimated, with no fewer than nine first-team players leaving for other clubs. Newly appointed coach, Neil Thomas, together with Ivan Baric and Nenad Zajec, are the only experienced regulars left from last season.

Thomas will, therefore, have to rely on youngsters such as Michael Kerschbaum, Yago Dzelalija, Tuach Hussein, Steve Blythe and Marijan Begovic to supplement players such as Ian Eyles, Robbie Huigsloot, Robbie Baric, Robbie Johnson and Alan Grundy, all of whom have some senior experience.

Croatia achieved a major coup by signing State goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic from Rapid, but he won't be able to save the team on his own. Thomas will have to try to build a team, while at the same time staving off relegation. This will be a most difficult task.

Launceston Juventus
Probably the strongest of the Northern contenders, having already won the Century Motors Steve Hudson pre-season competition. Peter Savill, the ex-Leeds United player, has taken over as coach from Ross Wesson. Savill, the assistant state coach, is an outstanding player and the example he sets will bring the best out of his charges. He takes the game seriously, as do all the Northern coaches.

Three of them have already been seen watching games in the South in order to size up opponents. Juventus has lost three English imports, brothers Colin and Steve Guest, and Andy Geary, but has replaced them with two new Englishmen from the Accrington Stanley club, Mark Heyes and Paul Ewert. Heyes is a very mobile striker who is good in the air, while Ewert is a fullback with a cultured left foot. Former Rothmans Gold Medalist, Liam Monagle, played for Juventus in the pre-season tournament but it is not certain that he will appear for the Zebras in the league season.

Launceston
Known as Launceston Matric last season, the team finished second last, but a successful recruiting campaign should improve things. Peter Davidson from Devonport City is the new coach who replaces Scott McKay, and new players include Branco Barac, a defender from George Town United, and goalkeeper Quentin Darby, originally from Devonport. Brian Davidson, a dual Rothmans Gold Medalist, appeared for the club in the Steve Hudson Cup – Launceston lost 0-1 in the Final to Launceston Juventus – but he may not sign for the league season.

Devonport City
City completed last season in mid-table and coach Ken Morton will be looking to improve on that performance. The team lacks strikers, as evidenced by its solitary draw and two losses in the pre-season competition, although City did beat Launceston Juventus 3-1 in a friendly last week. New players are Tim Jones, a midfielder from Burnie who spent last year in the United States, Ian Hendey, a left full-back from Riverside Olympic, and Noel Nethery, a midfielder from Ulverstone. Morton claims Devonport will be more difficult to beat this year, but says the team's fortunes will still depend on whether chances can be put away.

Ulverstone
Ulverstone was in trouble for most of last season but finished third last and new coach Alex McDonald will have much the same squad to work with. McDonald knows what the game is about. He coached Devonport two seasons ago and the team went 37 games without defeat.

The average age of Ulverstone's team is 20 years and youngsters such as midfielder Anthony Guilbert, goalkeeper Justin Smith, and striker Michael Jones will be given their chance. Central defender Les Jones is the oldest player at 35 years of age, while former player-coach Joe McGrory has retired. McDonald operates on a two-year plan – the first year is devoted to teambuilding, while the second year provides proof of the pudding. He believes his team will be competitive, if not a world beater.

Burnie United
Burnie is the new team in the competition, replacing George Town United, and coach Mike Denton, a former Australian international, knows exactly what he's up against. Denton acknowledges that Burnie's first priority is survival, and he concedes that one of the biggest problems his players will face is adapting to the pace of State League soccer.

New signings are Meno Bertucci, a striker from Ulverstone, Howard Edwards, a utility player who has just returned after playing and coaching in England, San Lewis, a goalkeeper making a comeback after a knee injury, and Neville Diprose, a striker just out of the army.

Burnie also hopes to sign Darby Conlan, a name well known to Southern fans. The former Olympia stalwart runs an indoor cricket centre in Burnie. Denton will also rely on regulars such as midfielder Jamie Howell, the State Apprentice of the Year, who works at APPM, striker Steve Foley, and Pat and Russell Troughton.

⚽ Eagle comes back fighting

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 3/4/1989

WHITE EAGLE, the reigning Cadbury State League soccer champion, showed it will not relinquish its title easily when it fought back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat the visiting Launceston Juventus 4-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Launceston Juventus had the better of the opening half, with new signing from England, Paul Ewert, shining at left fullback, and former Rothmans Gold Medalist, Liam Monagle, recently acquired from Devonport City keeping Eagle's David Stoddart quiet in midfield. Juventus' other English import, striker Mark Heys, showed plenty of speed and mobility and managed a couple of good strikes at goal, but he was generally well covered by Eugene Banasik.

Peter Groenewoud at full stretch against Launceston Juventus

Five of the six goals in this match came as a result of set pieces which indicated the trouble the strikers were having in finding space and scoring positions. Juventus opened its account on the quarter-hour, following Banasik's foul on Roger Mies, almost on the goal-line on the left side of the penalty area. Peter Savill knocked the free-kick into the goal-area, the Eagle defence failed to clear adequately, and right fullback Luigi Gugliotti struck a fierce volley past Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud from the far side of the box.

Eagle, which lost defender Michael Driessen with a hamstring strain after 30 minutes and replaced him with Sean Collins who was making his first appearance of the season, fell further behind two minutes before the interval. The unfortunate Banasik again conceded a free-kick, this time for a foul on Heys, and Ewert drove the ball straight as an arrow into the top left-hand corner of the goal from 30 metres.

Brett Harwood scrambled a goal back for Eagle a minute later when goalkeeper Warren Dent's attempted punch caused the ball to ricochet into the net, but the situation looked bleak for the league champion at the interval. White Eagle coach Eugene Mycak, replaced midfielder Craig Pitt with Franco Previdi for the second half as he felt Previdi would handle the wet slippery conditions better. The tactic paid off as Previdi equalised midway through the half with a volley after Scott Young had headed Neil Morrison's corner down for him.

This seemed to be the tonic Eagle needed and with three points in sight, the team increased the tempo of its game and scored twice in the final 20 minutes to grab a meritorious win. Andrew Leszczynski's 25-metre free-kick in the 70th minute gave Eagle the lead for the first time in the match, while Young's header from Morrison's free kick four minutes from time ended any hope Juventus may have held.

Devonport City caused the shock of the round when it downed Hobart Juventus 3-0, after a goal-less opening half in yesterday's curtain-raiser at KGV. City started the day on a surprising note by unveiling new signing Peter Sawdon, last

year's Rothmans Gold Medal winner from George Town United, while Juventus missed the influence of injured goal-getter Sergio Pace. Substitute Billy Frame, who replaced Fabio Pizzerani, capitalised on a penetrating pass by Chris Gleeson to give Devonport the lead in the 63rd minute, and Gleeson's volley nine minutes later made it 2-0 for Ken Morton's team.

A harsh 75th minute penalty, awarded for a foul by Frank Genovesi on Sawdon, made the game safe for the visitors. Juventus goalkeeper Neil Connell appeared to legitimately save Kevin Smith's first spot-kick, but referee Brett McKay ordered the kick retaken, claiming Connell had moved before the ball was kicked. The incensed Connell, was cautioned by McKay for throwing the ball away in disgust at the decision. Smith scored with his second attempt.

⚽ Harwood was Eagle's ace in cup triumph over Juventus

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 15/5/89 – CADBURY CHARITY CUP

White Eagle won the Cadbury Charity Cup at KGV Soccer Park last night with a resounding 6-1 triumph over Hobart Juventus.

A large crowd was in attendance and the Tasmanian Soccer Association was able to present the Cancer Support Group with a cheque for $1,758. In the Charity Cup match, White Eagle completely outclassed an understrength Juventus outfit, which also had several players playing out of position.

Both teams used their permitted quota of five substitutes, but this did not detract from the game as a fast and skillful spectacle. Brett Harwood, Franco Previdi, Craig Pitt and Richard and Mark Leszczynski stood out for Eagle, while Steve Kannegiesser and Romeo Frediani were the pick of the Juventus side.

Harwood's work-rate was tremendous as he put himself about all over the park, threatening the Juventus goal one minute – he hit the post with a superb shot after only four minutes – then helping out his defence the next. Previdi made every minute of his first full outing in recent weeks count, scoring twice and playing some delightful and cheeky passes. Richard Leszczynski's tremendous pace worried the Juventus defence all night and brought him two excellent goals, plus a penalty, converted by Scott Young.

Eagle's remaining goal was scored by substitute Grant Mason. He headed home Bob Nicholson's corner with just about his first touch of the ball after coming on near the end. Eagle led 2-0 at the interval, then added two more goals early in the second half before Frank Genovesi finally pulled a goal back for Juventus, but there was no stopping the league champion, which found the net twice more before the end.

Juventus did have its chances, especially in the second half. Romeo Frediani and Romeo Fabrizio fired against the bar, while Sergio Pace got on to the end of Mathew Gasparin's long, penetrating pass and chipped the ball over goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, only to see Mark Leszczynski clear on the line.

⚽ Stoddart runs riot to set up Eagle win

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 25/5/89

David Stoddart hit four goals to lead White Eagle to a 7-1 win over Croatia-Glenorchy in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night. Midfielder Stoddart turned in his best performance of the season and proved yet again that when he fires, so does White Eagle.

Brett Harwood scored twice to become the league's leading scorer with 11 goals, while the remaining goal came from Richard Leszczynski, only his second league goal of the season. Croatia matched the league leader for most of the first half and trailed by only one goal at the interval.

Brian Davidson played his best game since joining Croatia from Launceston a few weeks into the season and his pinpoint passes repeatedly put teammates away, but they were unable to score. Croatia levelled in the opening minutes of the second half when Chris Bessell scored from the penalty spot, Neil Thomas having been brought down by Michael Driessen.

Eagle quickly got things right, however, despite the absence of the injured Scott Young and Andrew Leszczynski, and the suspended Franco Previdi, and hit its opponent with six goals scored at regular intervals. Croatia goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, made some classy saves, but he must have been quite demoralised at the end as his team-mates repeatedly left him exposed.

Stoddart's last two goals, in the 75th and 90th minutes, indicated this. One was from 30 metres out, the other direct from a corner. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, singled out his captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski as the man-of-the-match.

⚽ White Eagle is our 'autumn champion'

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 26/5/89

There is a tradition in those European countries which have a mid-season break during the colder months to award the unofficial title of "autumn champion" to the team topping the league at the half-way mark.

Were that tradition to be adopted in Tasmania, where the half-way mark of the season will be reached this weekend, but where there is no break, White Eagle would be awarded that title. White Eagle, the reigning champion, is currently 10 points ahead of Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, both of which share second place, and it has completed the first half of

the season with a perfect record of nine wins from nine outings, following its 7-1 demolition of Croatia-Glenorchy on Wednesday.

The main focus of interest in this weekend's round of matches therefore, is whether Launceston Juventus and Devonport can close that gap to seven points as they complete their programme of nine games. Both teams face difficult assignments, Launceston Juventus at home to its sister club, Hobart Juventus, at Prospect, and Devonport City away to Olympia, at KGV Soccer Park.

On current form, Launceston Juventus must be a slight favourite in the Italian derby. Olympia is a much better side away from home than at home. The same applies to Devonport, so the coastal side must have a slight edge in its encounter with Olympia at KGV Soccer Park. An interesting aspect of Devonport's visit is the fact the club will have a female first aid officer, something that must be unique in Tasmanian, if not Australian soccer.

Kelli Martin, the sales manager of the West German medical supplies firm Beiersdorf, which is sponsoring Devonport to the tune of $4,000, is a sports medicine specialist.

Caledonian's fortunes were on the verge of being revived when it suffered an extremely unlucky loss to White Eagle last weekend, but it should return to the winning trail when it hosts Burnie United in Sunday's main attraction at KGV.

The remaining match of the round is tomorrow's clash between Ulverstone and Launceston at Ulverstone's Knights Road ground. Ulverstone should win this one judging from Launceston's miserable performance last week when it crashed to a 5-0 home defeat against Olympia.

⚽ White Eagle takes firm grip on title after six-goal salvo

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 1989

WHITE EAGLE is within a point of retaining its Cadbury State League soccer title after its 6-0 win over Burnie United at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, in what was little more than a practice match for the league champion. Eagle scored three times in each half, but it should have been many more as some delightful build-up work was spoiled by poor finishing.

The team did not even miss midfielder David Stoddart and striker Brett Harwood, both of whom were suspended, allowing Franco Previdi and Bob Nicholson to have a run. Substitutes Sean Collins and Richard Ketchell were brought into the action in the second half, while goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud played in the outfield for the final 20 minutes, with Previdi taking his place in goal.

Scott Young headed crosses from Craig Pitt and Nicholson past Burnie goalkeeper Mark Overton in the fifth and 33rd minutes to give Eagle a 2-0 lead. Young then produced a delicate chip from inside the penalty area for Pitt to head home the third goal three minutes before the interval. Nicholson, Richard Leszczynski and Previdi added goals in the second half to complete the rout, although it must be said Burnie never threw in the towel.

Andrew Starick and Pat Troughton fought bravely in defence for the visitors, while Steve Foley and Russell Troughton tried desperately to keep the ball in Burnie's attacking half of the field.

Hobart Juventus, without the injured Sergio Pace, struggled to overcome Launceston 2-0 at KGV, in yesterday's curtain-raiser. Juventus striker John McIntyre had a game he will want to forget. He missed at least seven chances, either shooting wide, hitting the woodwork, or having his attempts saved by Launceston goalkeeper, Quentin Darby.

Darby had an outstanding game and was the major obstacle preventing Juventus from scoring an emphatic victory. Launceston's Phil Davis headed Romeo Fabrizio's free kick past his own goalkeeper after eight minutes for Juventus' opener, and it wasn't until four minutes from the end that Frank Genovesi hit the second.

In yesterday's remaining match, which was transferred from Prospect to Invermay Park, Launceston Juventus defeated Caledonian 1-0 through a goal by Roger Mies in the fifth minute. Mark Heys cut the ball back from the goal-line and Luigi Gugliotti set up Mies for the vital strike. Peter Huigsloot and Paul Fenlon, both central defenders, had Calies' only two real chances, but Juventus thoroughly earnt its win.

In Saturday night's coastal derby at Valley Road, home team Devonport City scored a 2-1 win over Ulverstone, all the goals coming in the first half. Strikers Peter Sawdon and Billy Frame were Devonport's marksmen, while midfielder Andrew Howe replied for Ulverstone.

⚽ Harwood puts White Eagle into finals

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 26/6/89 – STATEWIDE CUP

TWO goals by striker Brett Harwood gave White Eagle a 2-1 win over Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park and a place in the quarter-finals of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition.

Harwood, the Cadbury State League's joint leading goalscorer with 13 goals, might even have had a hat-trick. With a minute of play remaining, he noticed Devonport goalkeeper, Bob Smith well off his line and lobbed the ball goalward. It sailed over the astonished Smith, bounced once, but came back into play off the cross bar.

Eagle again came from behind to win, the seventh time it has done so this season - but it was clearly the better team, having many more clear-cut chances than Devonport.

Andrew Leszczynski could have put Eagle ahead in the opening minute but for a timely point-blank save by Smith, while Richard Leszczynski failed twice with only Smith to beat. Scott Young was also given a great opening by Neil Morrison and the midfielder even rounded Smith, only to shoot into the side-netting from an acute angle.

Devonport's only realistic chance in the first half fell to Peter Sawdon in the third minute. Tim Jones crossed from the left, but the unmarked Sawdon sent his firm header wide of the right-hand post. Sawdon made amends in the 61st minute. Receiving the ball from a throw-in on the left, he released Kevin Smith through the middle and the Devonport defender rifled the ball past Peter Groenewoud to put the visitor ahead.

Eagle equalised within three minutes. Richard Leszczynski centred from the left and Harwood nodded the ball just inside the near post. Richard Leszczynski and Harwood tried to repeat their act 12 minutes later, but this time Smith scrambled between his posts and managed to keep the ball out. When the deadly duo tried again in the 80th minute, Richard Leszczynski crossing from the right this time, Harwood succeeded, placing his winning header in exactly the same spot as for the first goal.

Eagle coach Eugene Mycak was delighted with his side's third win over Devonport this season, and he praised his midfield for paving the way to victory. Devonport coach, Ken Morton. who came on for Ian Hendey with seven minutes remaining, said his team gave the ball sway to easily and failed to mark tightly enough in defence.

Caledonian easily qualified for the quarter-finals with a 4-1 win over an under-strength Hobart City in yesterday's curtain-raiser at KGV. A 20-metre scorcher from Kevin Connell and a header by Ian Parker, from Tony Shields' cross, put Calies 2-0 up at the interval, while player-coach Bret Anderton and centre-back Peter Huigsloot completed Calies' tally in the second period. Robbie Marino scored a 76th minute consolation goal for City, which was without regulars Kim Barker, Angelo Pignalosa and Mathew Sly.

At South Hobart, Howrah eliminated George Town United with a resounding 5-1 win, while the visiting Launceston disposed of South Hobart 2-0. Wilson put George Town ahead against Howrah, but a goal by Karl Brightman made it all square at the break. Three goals in five minutes by Richard Dixson, Alistair Hales and Scott Hadley ensured Howrah of victory, while Hadley added Howrah's fifth 10 minutes from time just for good measure.

South Hobart held Launceston scoreless in the opening half before succumbing to second-half goals by Davis and McNeil, but there might have been a surprise if South's Andy Poole had done better with two good chances that came his way.

⚽ White Eagle flies into cup final

THE EXAMINER - By JOHN TSCHEPPERA - AUG 1989 – STATEWIDE CUP

White Eagle won its way into the final of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Knockout Cup courtesy of a Scott Young goal two minutes into extra time. White Eagle did not have it all its own way in this hard, physical, and fast encounter with Launceston Juventus at the AIC, Prospect.

Juventus welcomed back midfielder Steve Morley from a long injury spell, and he helped his team press forward from the start of the semi-final match in which some spite bubbled over before both sides settled down. Play swung from end to end as midfields tried to gain supremacy and defences tidied up dangerous attacking moves.

Eagles claimed the first goal in the 22nd minute from a set piece. Neil Morrison swung a near-post corner across from the right side and keeper Warren Dent was unable to clear it away. It fell to Michael Driessen to volley the ball into the roof of the net from close range.

Shortly afterwards, David Stoddart fired in a long-range shot as the Eagles found some added confidence and developed some composed build-ups. Juventus put paid to that in the 36th minute to draw level. Luigi Gugliotti fed player-coach Peter Savill down the right-side, and he promptly beat his marker and crossed the ball to the far post to put Peter Groenewoud under pressure. The ball went through Groenewoud's hands, and Paul Ewart arrived on the scene to steer it over the goal-line from an acute angle.

Another set piece by the Eagles gave the visitors the lead with only four minutes of the half remaining. A long free kick was taken by Stoddart from the right side and Liam Monagle's head could only direct it backwards. Craig Pitt nipped in to clip the ball accurately past Dent from close range. Juventus opened the second half with renewed vigor and Mies and Monagle had opportunities to level the game again.

Juventus was forced to make a change early in the second half after Ewart was helped from the field with a dislocated right knee. Monagle slotted back into central defence to make room for youngster John Visentin, in midfield. Monagle and Paul Gimpl proceeded to tighten up the backline and make it difficult for the Eagles' Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Young and Pitt to find a way through.

Juventus continued to plug away and, in the 72nd minute was rewarded with a brilliant equaliser. Roger Mies received the ball just inside the attacking half and headed goalward on a long, lonesome run. On the way, he turned defenders Eugene Banasik and Mark Leszczynski inside out before planting a low drive past Peter Groenewoud from 23m. Pitt almost gave Eagles the lead once more minutes later but his first- time shot was pushed away by the diving Dent.

Franco Previdi substituted Harwood, who had earlier collected a solid bump to the head, and the match continued into extra time. Eagles' third set piece yielded their third goal after only three minutes of extra-time. Morrison, again, curled a corner-kick to the near post and, again, Dent failed to hold the ball. Young was on hand to blast the gift into the net from close range. Mark Heys almost salvaged the game for Juventus 24 minutes into extra time when he curled a header supplied by a Savill free kick just wide of the post, but it was not to be.

White Eagle will now meet Hobart Juventus in the final at KGV, Hobart, on Sunday, September 3.

⚽ White Eagle hammers home the final nail

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 14/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE, the Cadbury State League soccer champion, completed its 18-game league program undefeated when it crushed last-placed Croatia-Glenorchy 4-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. White Eagle finished a massive 15 points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus, which finished its league commitments with a goalless draw against sister-club Launceston Juventus in yesterday's main feature at KGV.

Brett Harwood, the White Eagle striker, finished second to Devonport City's Peter Sawdon in the individual goal scoring contest. Harwood only scored once yesterday to finish on 16 goals, two behind Sawdon. With Croatia having lost to the league champion earlier in the day, Burnie United, which was therefore in no danger of finishing last, duly went down 4-2 to the visiting Caledonian at Montello Park.

Croatia, without the injured Brian Davidson, was always up against it yesterday and it came as no surprise when Frank Previdi flicked home Neil Morrison's corner in the eighth minute to give the league champion, which was without Michael Driessen and Andrew Leszczynski, the lead. Scott Young drifted through the Croatia defence in the 21st minute to head home Bob Nicholson's cross for Eagle's second goal. Morrison might have scored a few minutes earlier, but his deep cross from the left came back off the crossbar.

A low shot into the far corner of the net on the hour by substitute Richard Leszczynski made it 3-0, while Harwood headed the fourth from Peter Groenewoud's cross four minutes from time. Groenewoud had taken up a striker's role, with Previdi going into goal. Robbie Baric, Neal Bishop and Chris Bessell were the only Croatia players to have scoring chances, while Marijan Begovic pulled off some great saves in goal.

State League Final Standings - 1989

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**18**	**17**	**1**	**0**	**59**	**16**	**52**
Hobart Juventus	18	11	4	3	41	16	37
Olympia	18	12	0	6	47	22	36
Launceston Juventus	18	9	5	4	39	21	32
Devonport City	18	9	4	5	39	26	31
Ulverstone	18	6	3	9	30	32	21
Caledonian	18	6	2	10	22	24	20
Launceston	18	5	3	10	30	47	18
Burnie United	18	2	1	15	20	83	7
Croatia	18	1	1	16	17	57	4

⚽ Injuries cloud Eagle, Juventus Cup shots

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 01/9/1989 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL PREVIEW

JUVENTUS will be without Romeo Frediani for its meeting with White Eagle in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup Final at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday.

The talented youngster, who is equally at home in either a midfield or striking role, broke an arm in last week's semi-final against Olympia when he was accidentally kicked by a defender trying to clear the ball.
Juventus coach, David Smith, described the loss of Frediani as a "big blow" because the youngster can control the pace of the game so well.

Romeo Fabrizio and Sergio Pace are two other doubtful starters for Juventus.

Fabrizio has a foot injury and Pace a virus, and neither player has been able to train.

On the positive side, Mark Kelly is back from New Zealand after being stranded in Melbourne last weekend, while John Broadhouse is gradually regaining match fitness and may get a run.

"We're up against it, but we're one of the few sides to have pushed White Eagle this season," Smith said.

"They're so good at set plays and this could worry us because of our lack of height."

"They've got to start as favourites, but we mustn't let them take control early on."

"We got our system right against Olympia and I think it should be a good, close game." White Eagle, the league champion, has two injured midfielders in Andrew Leszczynski and Scott Young.

Andrew Leszczynski has been out of action for a couple of weeks because of a hamstring strain, while Young has a sprained ankle.

If either is unable to play, striker Brett Harwood may have to assume a midfield role, allowing Franco Previdi to come into the side to partner Richard Leszczynski in attack.

Coach Eugene Mycak said Young normally recovers quickly from injury and will probably be fit, while Andrew Leszczynski will have a final fitness test tomorrow.

Mycak said the team had light training on Tuesday as many of the players were tired after representing the South against the North one weekend, then meeting Launceston Juventus in a tough semi-final the next, both games having gone to extra time.
Last night's session was strenuous, but the team would complete its preparations with a 30-minute workout tomorrow.

"We'll win," is how Mycak summed up his feelings about the Cup Final.

Juventus has beaten White Eagle twice this season in cup competition, Eagle won the Charity Cup match between the sides, while the league meetings resulted in a draw and a win for Eagle.

Juventus looked very sharp last week against Olympia, especially inside the penalty area, where it snapped up half-chances.

It would not surprise if the jinx that has haunted White Eagle in its meetings with Juventus in the past, surfaces yet again on Sunday.

⚽ White Eagle adds another trophy to its ample cabinet

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 04/9/1989 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

WHITE EAGLE added the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup to its trophy cabinet when it easily defeated Hobart Juventus 2-0 in yesterday's final at KGV Soccer Park. Juventus lacked ideas in attack, was suspect in defence and threw away the limited scoring opportunities that came its way.

1989 Bohemian Statewide Cup Winners

Back: D. Stoddart Snr, N. Johnson, E. Mycak (Coach), B. Rybak (Trainer), C. Leszczynski, E. Banasik, M. Driessen, P. Groenewoud, S. Young, R. Leszczynski, C. Pitt, E. Kempa (Manager) **Front:** N. Morrison, D. Stoddart Jnr, B. Nicholson, M. Leszczynski, B. Harwood, F. Previdi, A. Leszczynski

The team lacked a focal point in attack, making it easy for White Eagle's back-four of Mark Leszczynski, Michael Driessen, Eugene Banasik and Neil Morrison to defend, as well as initiate attacks when they were in possession.

The Eagle midfield also overshadowed its Juventus counterparts, with David Stoddart, Bob Nicholson, Craig Pitt and Scott Young able to construct neat attacking moves when they had the ball, and to snuff out Juventus build-ups when they lost possession.

Up front, the speed and mobility of Brett Harwood and Richard Leszczynski provided the Juventus defence with plenty of headaches and it was not surprising that these two players scored the goals. Harwood had the ball in the net early in the first half, but the effort was disallowed because of an infringement. He made no mistake on the half-hour, however.

Steve Kannegiesser's headed clearance fell perfectly for Harwood, who volleyed superbly past Neil Connell into the Juventus goal. Juventus' solitary chance in the opening half came after 15 minutes. Bruce Pears' header bounced inside the Eagle penalty area and the ball dropped to Sergio Pace, who blasted over the bar from seven metres.

Pace was presented with a similar chance by Romeo Frediani five minutes into the second half, but again he fired high. Richard Leszczynski came into his own in the second half. He teased and tormented the Juventus defence and might easily have grabbed four goals, despite the close attention of Michael McIntyre and Nick Di Martino.

Richard Leszczynski hit the post in the 55th minute, scored from Bob Nicholson's pass in the 73rd minute, shot just wide a minute later, then had an attempt cleared off the line by Di Martino in the very next instant. The match ended with substitute Andrew Leszczynski, who had replaced the injured Scott Young on the hour, shooting centimetres wide with the goal at his mercy.

The only save Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud had to make was against his own captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski. Midway through the second half, Mark Leszczynski sent the ball heading for his own goal, but Groenewoud's brilliant dive saw him flick the ball over the bar for a fruitless corner.

Statewide Cup Celebrations – Polish Club 1989

⚽ White Eagle coach always looks to the next goal

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 25/7/1989

EUGENE MYCAK, coach of Cadbury State League soccer champion White Eagle, is relatively calm about his team's success this season. Mycak said he had prepared this season's program with the State League title as the ultimate prize, and everything had gone according to plan. The team had lost twice to Juventus in the pre-season competition, but no-one had panicked, and this was a sign of the mature outlook on the part of everyone involved with the club.

With the league title retained, White Eagle won the championship in 1986 and 1988 as well, Mycak's aim now is to complete the league season undefeated, win the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition, and try to make either Brett Harwood or David Stoddart the league's leading goalscorer. Mycak is no stranger to success, having played and coached professionally in his native Poland, as well as in the US. In Poland, he coached a third division side to promotion to the second division and to the semi-finals of the national cup competition.

He then spent some time in the United States before coming to Tasmania, where his only other title success was winning the second division championship with White Eagle and taking the team back into the highest grade. Mycak's lifestyle has changed considerably since his arrival in Tasmania at the beginning of this decade. He is now a physical education teacher at New Town High School and is hoping to obtain permanent status with the Education Department. "I must pay

considerable credit to the Education Department, to my principal, and to Mr. Trousselot, my physical education senior master," Mycak said.

"They have all contributed to our title win because teaching at New Town High has been so convenient for me. It is close to where I live, and the school's involvement with the community means we have been able to use the school's facilities as part of our training program." Mycak also paid tribute to his team manager, Eddie Kempa, club president David Stoddart snr, trainer Bobby Rybak, reserve team coach Dale Itchins and Mrs. Leszczynski, mother of four of the players, who always provided a veritable banquet for the team after each game.

Mycak was reluctant to single out individual players for special praise, but he did say that four or five of them could probably get up to national league standard if they were prepared to train up to five times a week. He did mention the influence of captain and sweeper Mark Leszczynski however, who coached the side to last year's title, and who Mycak believes has a great future as a coach. "Mark is an excellent player and a vital part of the team, but he is also a close personal friend, and he has often been a sort of link between me and the team," Mycak said. "He is close to the players on the field, at training and socially, and he can assess their general mood and relay this to me, which is invaluable for a coach.

"It is difficult to be a coach in Tasmania because you have to be a friend, a coach, a diplomat and an adviser. You have to be one of the boys to a certain extent, but you still have to be boss and make the difficult decisions." Mycak will leave his future up to the players, strangely enough. He intends to hold another team meeting, just like at the start of the season, and if the players want him as coach, he will stay. Although he would consider coaching interstate, especially in the NSL, it would take a mighty good offer to lure him away from the security he enjoys in Tasmania.

⚽ White Eagle supreme again

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 23/8/1989

SOUTHERN club White Eagle has taken out the Cadbury State League soccer title for the second successive year.

The team was coached by Eugene Mycak, who took over from the club's captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski, at the end of last season, Mycak has had extensive playing and coaching experience in Poland and the United States.

There is no doubt White Eagle was head and shoulders above any other team in the competition - its 15-point winning margin is clear evidence.

The league champion completed the league season undefeated. A single draw, against Hobart Juventus in mid-season, marred its otherwise flawless performance.

The side came from behind on at least seven occasions to go on and win matches, an indication of its resilience and fighting spirit.

Although White Eagle lost to Hobart Juventus in the final of the Cascade Summer Cup competition, revenge was obtained when Eagle defeated Juventus 6-1 in the annual Cadbury Charity Trophy match.

There are numerous reasons for White Eagle's success.

The club has built on past successes, it is well administered, it has an intelligent, experienced coach, and, to put the icing on the cake, it has a top class squad of players, White Eagle has not looked back since winning the title under coach Steve Darby in 1986.

Mark Leszczynski repeated the performance in 1988, and Eugene Mycak made it three titles in four seasons this year.

The backbone of the team has remained the same throughout that time and there is no doubt that team stability plays a major role in success.

There is ample talent in the club's Premier Division One team to guarantee success for quite a few years yet.

Eagle's efficient administration, under the presidency of former player, Mr David Stoddart snr, has contributed to the club's achievements.

Players have shared in the administration - midfielder David Stoddart jnr is the club secretary - and this has produced unity and cohesion within the club.

Eugene Mycak has done just about everything a coach could do to make a team successful, He has improved the team's fitness, made the players more tactically aware and worked on individual technique and skill, Mycak worked with the team as a whole, and also conducted small group or individual sessions as required, He would sometimes be out five nights a week as he worked with individual players who needed additional coaching or who could not attend on regular training nights, Mycak plotted the season's campaign meticulously and most of his targets have been reached, There can be no question about the quality of Eagle's players.

Many are State representatives, and there would have been few raised eyebrows if Mycak, the Southern Tasmania coach, had selected his entire team to represent the South in the intrastate match against the North, The average age of the team is about 22 years, which means many are still not at their peak.

Eagle's regular first-team squad was: Peter Groenewoud, Eugene Banasik, Mark Leszczynski, Michael Driessen, Neil Morrison, Craig Pitt, Bob Nicholson, Scott Young, David Stoddart, Andrew Leszczynski, Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Franco Previdi, Richard Ketchell, Eddie Kempa (manager), Bobby Rybak (trainer).

⚽ White Eagle captain high on list of medal chances

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - MON 25/9/1989

MARK LESZCZYNSKI, captain and sweeper of Cadbury State League soccer champion, White Eagle, must be one of the favourites to win the inaugural Vic Tuting Medal.

The medal, awarded to the State's best and fairest soccer player, will be presented at a function at the Wrest Point Casino tonight.

Leszczynski played a major role in Eagle's championship win - the team finished a massive 15 points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus - and in its Bohemian Cup success.

Team-mate Scott Young, one of the most talented and influential midfielders in the game, must also be a strong contender for the award.

Ulverstone midfielder Andrew Howe and Devonport City striker Peter Sawdon are two of the major contenders from the North of the State.

Sawdon, who twice won the Rothmans Gold Medal, had a marvellous season, finishing as the State League's leading scorer with 18 goals.

Howe was the brains behind the Ulverstone side and his performances and strong influence on the team must have earned him quite a few votes.

Launceston Juventus has several players who should poll well. English imports Mark Heys and Paul Ewart adjusted quickly to the local scene and frequently produced eye-catching performances.

Player-coach Peter Savill should do well in the voting and he would be a very worthy winner.

The modest Savill always produces an above-average performance, both in terms of skill and commitment.

White Eagles attendees : M. Driessen, M. Leszczynski, S. Young, C. Pitt, D. Stoddart.

⚽ Savill worthy medal winner

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - MON 03/10/1989

IT'S not difficult to tell that Peter Savill, player-coach of Cadbury State League soccer club Launceston Juventus, once played for the famous Leeds United in England.

The blond, 31-year-old midfielder, who was named as the inaugural winner of the Vic Tuting Medal at a ceremony at Wrest Point Hotel Casino on Friday night, has most of the hallmarks of one of the late Don Revie's boys.

Unfortunately, that includes coming second, a fate which often befell Leeds during the heydays in the 1970's. Savill was runner-up in the Rothmans Gold Medal, the award which preceded the Vic Tuting Medal, no less than three times since his arrival in Tasmania in 1979.

He's tough, too, just as Norman Hunter, Billy Bremner and the lads always were.

In the final league match this season, Savill fronted up against sister club Hobart Juventus as he does for every game, sox down around the ankles and no shin pads in sight.

During the course of the match, Savill was on the receiving end of a solid tackle that left a deep gash on one shin, an injury that would have put most players down and out of the game.

Not Savill. He didn't leave the field but merely gritted his teeth, rolled up his sleeves and continued about his task.

He bore no grudges and sought no revenge. "It's a man's game, after all," he said later.

It would be difficult to find a more worthy winner of this year's best and fairest award.

If the winner were chosen by the players instead of the referees, as some have suggested should be the case, Savill would probably still have emerged as first choice.

"I'm pleased the soccer body has been able to keep some sought of medal going," Savill said. "It's got to be good for the game.

"I'm pleased personally, but I'm also pleased for the club as well because they mean a lot to me." Savill is a well-respected figure at Launceston Juventus, the club he has been with for 11 seasons now and which he has coached twice.

Leeds may not have been noted for its modesty, but that is a quality that Savill has in abundance.

He refuses to accept a coaching fee, preferring the club to use the money on youngsters or to import quality players from overseas. Juventus had three English imports this season.

"I'm ready to coach Juventus whenever they need me," he says. "I'll be there, ready to play or coach next season, as long as they buy me a pair of boots."

The leading vote-getters for each club were: Andrew Starick (Burnie United), 6; Ian Parker (Caledonian), 13; Brian Davidson (Croatia-Glenorchy), 7; Peter Sawdon (Devonport City), 19; Steve Kannegiesser (Hobart Juventus), 19; Peter Savill (Launceston Juventus), 20; Conrad Hughes (Launceston), 14; Craig Nichols (Olympia), 17; Andrew Howe (Ulverstone), 18; **Mark Leszczynski (White Eagle), 16.**

The club's standing was further enhanced by the reserves taking out the Rothmans Division 1 premiership by one point from Howrah, after at one stage trailing them by twelve points, winning the reserves Statewide Championship at Valley Road and the Division 1 Knock-Out Cup Final. The Rothmans Division 2 team also had a strong season finishing in second place.

Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - MON 21/9/1989 – DIVISION 1 - KO CUP FINAL

White Eagles easily took out the Division One Knockout Cup in last night's opening match with a 4-0 won over Metro-Claremont. Aaron Brown and Grant Mason gave Eagle a 2-0 lead at the interval, while Mason and Woulleman completed the scoring in the second half. Metro might have made a game of it if Paul Stephenson and Danny Prestage had had a little more luck. Stephenson headed against the bar from Kevin Clamp's corner in the first half, while Prestage hit the inside of a post in the second period, the ball rebounding into play.

White Eagle claims title after Juventus sinks Howrah

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - MON 25/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE took out the Premier Division One soccer championship at KGV Soccer Park yesterday when it defeated Taroona 3-0, and Howrah went down 3-4 to Hobart Juventus. With Eagle winning the opening match, Howrah needed to beat Juventus to win the title, but the task was beyond it.

Howrah opened in promising style and Jimmy Bell had the ball in the net after only 12 minutes following some clever attacking play by Alistair Hales and Karl Brightman, but the effort was disallowed because of off-side. Brightman then fired against the Juventus crossbar and Scott Hadley brought the best out of goalkeeper Craig Jones, only to see Rocky Schiro shoot Juventus ahead in the 36th minute when Howrah goalkeeper Damien Smith failed to cut out Ian Smart's deep cross from the right. A low cross from the right by Howrah player-coach Robert New in the 64th minute enabled Hadley to side-foot the equaliser.

Two minutes later, the Howrah defence was nowhere to be seen as 16-year-old Frank Falzon, playing only his third game of the season, made an unimpeded run down the left side before drawing Smith and slotting the ball into the far corner of the net to give Juventus a 2-1 lead. Howrah might have drawn level in the 68th minute as Hales' in swinging corner drifted over Jones, but defender Craig Tickner headed off the line.

A clever chip from an acute angle by Schiro in the 70th minute put Juventus further ahead, while Schiro's pass six minutes later enabled Michael Lapolla to give Juventus a match-winning 4-1 advantage. Jones' inability to handle yet another Hales' corner in the 81st minute saw Malcolm Lockley reduce the arrears for Howrah.

Brightman's penalty two minutes into injury time took Howrah within a goal of its opponent but it was too little, too late and the title belonged to Eagle. Howrah had only itself to blame. With five games remaining, it had looked set to romp away with the title, then proceeded to draw three times and lose twice to miss out at the last hurdle.

White Eagle, which had won the Knockout Cup on Wednesday, was rarely troubled against Taroona. Dale Itchins' charges took the lead two minutes before the interval. Taroona goalkeeper Steve Holzinger failed to collect Robert Jacobs' corner from the right and Aaron Brown prodded the ball home at the far post. Brown almost made it 2-0 a minute after the resumption, Leon Darko heading off the line with Holzinger beaten.

Richard Ketchell grabbed Eagle's second goal in the 62nd minute after Grant Mason had headed the ball on, and Ketchell made it 3-0 in the 87th minute from Brown's pass. Eagle should have added a fourth goal in injury time when Robert Furjanic fouled Chris Leszczynski, who took the spot-kick himself, but the defender fired high over the bar.

Rothmans League Division 1 Premiership Team - 1989

Back: Tony Williams (Sponsor), C. Leszczynski, A. Garrigan, S. Collins, G. Hildyard, R. Ketchell, R. Jacobs, J. Woulleman, D. Itchins (Coach)

Front: J. Tattersall, P. Morrison, J. Diubaldo, F. Mainella, G. Mason, A. Brown

Rothmans League Division 1 Final Standings - 1989

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**24**	**17**	**2**	**5**	**76**	**36**	**53**
Howrah	24	16	4	4	59	25	52
Hobart City	24	14	6	4	55	34	48
Hobart Juventus	24	12	5	7	49	37	41
Taroona	24	13	2	9	51	40	41
Caledonians	24	10	6	8	58	51	36
Kingborough	24	11	2	11	36	34	35
University	24	9	4	11	46	48	31
Rapid	24	9	2	13	39	50	29
South Hobart	24	8	4	12	33	47	28
Metro	24	7	2	15	28	50	23
Olympia	24	6	4	14	37	60	22
Croatia	24	1	3	20	24	79	6

⚽ White Eagle confident of beating Devonport

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 07/10/1989 – DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

DEVONPORT CITY coach Ken Morton is confident of winning the Division One State soccer premiership by defeating White Eagle at Valley Road, Devonport, today. "We're not flamboyant but we're well-disciplined and we're playing well," said Morton. "We're good at wearing opponents down." The one-off game promises to be a thriller and White Eagle can certainly not be written off as it is months since the Southern champion has tasted defeat.

Eagle coach Dale Itchins has kept his team in training since the end of the league season and he will have a full squad to choose from. Simon Templeman has recovered after having four stitches in an ankle injury and will be available for selection. Eagle's combination of experienced players, such as Sean Collins, Chris Leszczynski and Robert Jacobs, and youngsters such as Grant Mason, Grant Hildyard and Jamie Woulleman, should see it carry the day.

Devonport's main threat will come from midfielders Ray Parke and Andrew Meldrum, as well as striker Fabio Pizzerani.

⚽ Eagle feathers nest with hat-trick of trophies

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 09/10/1989 – DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

WHITE EAGLE'S Premier Division One soccer team, coached by Dale Itchins, completed a hat-trick of trophies this season when it took out the State Division One premiership by defeating Devonport City 4-3 at Valley Rd on Saturday. Eagle already had won the Southern Premier Division One title and the Division One Knockout Cup.

The situation looked bleak for the Southerners on Saturday when host Devonport led 3-1 with a mere 16 minutes remaining. Itchins then made three positional changes which altered the course of the game. He moved Grant Mason to sweeper, Paul Morrison to centre-back and Grant Hildyard into the attack. With five minutes to go, Hildyard scored twice to give Eagle an amazing win against all the odds. Devonport's player-coach, Ken Morton put the home team ahead after 23 minutes, but a header by Simon Templeman, from a corner by Robert Jacobs, restored the balance.

Ralph Koch headed home Morton's corner five minutes before the interval to give Devonport the lead again, while Ray Parke's penalty in the second half seemed to spell curtains for the Southerners. Aaron Brown's corner then found the head of Mason, who made it 3-2, and Eagle again appeared within reach. With 16 minutes to play, Hildyard came into his own and struck two superb goals, the first a right-footed chip from the edge of the penalty area to make it 3-3, and the winner from a 20-metre volley, following Brown's pass.

Itchins was obviously elated by his side's return from the dead, but he decried the fact that no supporters had travelled with the team to share the victory with his players. Morton was very disappointed in defeat, claiming that Eagle had not deserved to win. "They played no soccer at all, yet won," Morton said. "Fabio Pizzerani should have had a hat-trick in the first half."

Devonport City president, Mr. Peter Best, was critical at the lack of interest shown in the match by the TSF. "No one from the TSF was at the match, and there was no trophy to present," Mr. Best said. "Even if no delegates were here, I could have presented the trophy and made the match a bit more of an occasion."

⚽ Eagle kick on to State Soccer title

THE ADVOCATE 10/10/1989 – DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

HOBART's White Eagles became the State Division One soccer premier yesterday with a last-minute 4-3 victory over Northern premier Devonport at the Valley Rd ground.

In a game of contrasting halves, Devonport was a 2-1 leader at half-time. Ken Morton received a loose ball to net the first at the 25-minute mark, but White Eagles struck back to equalise 10 minutes later.

Devonport striker Fabio Pizzerani missed three golden opportunities to score before team-mate Koch headed home a Morton corner that was flicked on by Pizzerani to put the Coastal side ahead at the interval.

Early in the second half Ray Parke gave Devonport a 3-1 lead from a penalty after Kim Rigby was pushed over in the box. From that point on, the game turned as Devonport tried to seal up the game and fell on defence.

White Eagles headed in a corner to reduce the leeway to a single goal and the Southern side sensed victory. A substitution proved a match-winning move, as the substitute entered the fray to smash home two quick goals, the second of which was scored with just two minutes remaining.

Rothmans League Division 1 State Championship Squad v Devonport Valley Road – 1989

Back: S. Collins, P. Morrison, A. Garrigan, F. Mainella, G. Mason, R. Jacobs (Capt.), A. Brown, D. Itchins (Coach)

Front: J. Tattersall, J. Woulleman, g. Hildyard, S. Templeman, R. Ketchell, C, Leszczynski

Rothmans League Division 1 Squad details…….

Dale Itchins (Coach)

Dale took on the role of coach of this division for the second time and proved, maybe beyond his own expectations that his coaching and tactical abilities would play such a big role in team's success. He is known for his reading of the game, coupled with his chess like positional moves, half time speeches and sideline aerobics, all which have earned him the respect of the players. Dale and his team's abilities were best seen in the State Premiership play-off where the side ran out 4-3 victors after trailing 1-3 with 16 minutes of the match remaining.

Sean Collins (Defence)

Sean has proven his value in the team this year by mixing his experience with the youth of the team. After his decision to remain with the Division 1 squad, his steadying influence positively affected the team's performances. His Irish ditties on the bus provided another side to his character. The Sunday Tasmanian wrote "Collins added a second goal with a thundering shot following his 40-metre run on the blind side of the defence" – a true highlight for Sean.

Andrew Garrigan (Defence)

Andrew had a frustrating year due to the fact that he was forced out of the team by a very strong backline. His dedication however did not wane, and this was shown on many occasions when he was sidelined and could not get a run. He continually trained and performed when needed on the field. A likeable team member, Andrew had the respect of all his team members and coach alike and played an important, if not hard role in his year's premiership winning team.

Julian Tattersall (Forward)

Being the youngest member of the team, Julian's determination to succeed at this level has proven many a critic wrong. His lack of strength and size did not affect his performances which was shown up by the fact he was the team's leading goal-scorer. Although never short of a word-ever, he was looked upon by his team mates affectionately.

Robert Jacobs (Midfield)

Robert was appointed Captain of the team for this season, having transferred from Calies, for whom he had played for 13 years. The decision for him was a difficult one but even he would have to admit that it was worth it. He was a tremendous help to Dale and his friendly nature had a great effect on the younger players. His natural left foot gave him an advantage over many players and must feel extremely satisfied, after winning his first league title in 14 seasons. His marriage was another highlight of his year.

Richard Ketchell (Midfield)

Richard having been a consistent performer at the club for many years, Richard's senior team experience, enabled him to control the midfield position for the bulk of the year. Without scoring many goals himself, his hard tackling and good ball skills enabled him to create many opportunities for his teammates. Towards the latter part of the season his ability to score himself shone through with a great goal against Rapid and two against Taroona to seal the game, and help the team snatch the Premiership.

Chris Leszczynski (Defence)

After an inconsistent start with the team, Chris slotted well into the full-back position and became a consistent performer from week to week. With his vast senior team experience he became a steadying influence on the younger members of the side. We thought that his prompt appearance to each game was to set a good example, but we soon learned it took him 20 minutes just to strap his ankle!

Grant Mason (Midfield)

Grant has enjoyed a good year with the team, with his versatility being a highlight. His ability lay in being able to play a defensive role in one game and then score some vital goals in another. Enjoying his 6th season at the club, his uncanny aerial judgement and his tremendous shooting ability should carry him to greater heights at the club. Having relinquished the role of captain for the first time at the club, he has blended in as a great team member.

Frank Mainella (Goalkeeper)

Because of the lack of a regular goalkeeper, Frank decided to take up the vacancy. Although having played the position at u16 level, he was not recognized at this higher level. Apart from an injury early in the season, he has grown in confidence and maturity as the season has progressed. He is remembered for some magnificent drop kicks and his cool and calm attitude, admirable traits for a goalkeeper. His strong build and dedicated approach make him a definite candidate to succeed in this position.

Paul Morrison (Sweeper)
After his return from overseas, Paul was rushed immediately into the side to add a greater dimension to the team's defence. His cool and calm outlook and magnificent goal kicks made him a consistent member of the side. His height and uncanny ball control made him a master of this position, which was proven by his selection in the Under 21 Southern Squad. The whole team thought that the only thing that detracted from his performance were his multicolored training shorts.

Grant Hildyard (Centre Back)
After missing the first roster game, Grant slotted into the centre of defence, which for the bulk of the season he made his own. His performances against the likes of Barker (Hobart City), Sanders (Taroona) and Crowther (University), were enough to make the opposition coaches move them away. His versatility in attack was also shown on more than one occasion.

Simon Templeman (Midfield / Forward)
Until an ankle injury against Olympia in Round 1, Simon was a regular member of the side. Because of the team's good performances each week, Simon found it extremely difficult to regain his place in the side. Despite his disappointment, Simon was a staunch supporter from the sideline and did regain his place to score some important goals in the latter part of the year, culminating in the State Premiership playoff game where he scored with a magnificent diving header.

Aaron Brown (Midfield)
Aaron was a great team member and was also vice-captain this season. Although not heavily built, his courage to win the ball was exceptional and he continually bobbed up to score important goals when needed. Dale states that Aaron with lips wobbling, is one of the more humorous players in the team.

Jamie Woulleman (Midfield / Forward)
Jamie had a slow start to the season, but his perseverance saw him regain his place in the team against some strong odds, including the coach. On his day he possesses the most powerful strike on goal in the league and his quiet approach and dedication to training resulted in him scoring some very timely goals. He also had the reputation of having the cleanest boots in the team, but the secret is out because we now know that Jean cleans them!

Excerpt taken from the 1989 Presentation Night....

"Our Rothmans Division One team, under the astute direction of coach Dale Itchins, has taken all before it in 1989. Its achievements are all the more meritorious, considering half the team were undertaking their first senior league campaign.

Early season games, in retrospect, reflected the fact that many of the players were adjusting to the rigours of playing against older, tougher, and more experienced opposition. Grant Hildyard, Grant Mason, Aaron Brown, Julian Tattersall, Frank Mainella and Jamie Woulleman are players who rose to the challenge and proved beyond doubt their skill and ability. In amongst those players were included more seasoned and experienced players in Sean Collins, Chris Leszczynski, Paul Morrison, Richard Ketchell, Andrew Garrigan, Simon Templeman and Robert Jacobs. In particular the inclusion of Sean Collins and Chris Leszczynski from the senior squad and the return of Paul Morrison from overseas, helped steady the shaky defence.

The team showed early on that it could score goals, but needed a more experienced defence, and these three players added this crucial ingredient in emerging from the shadows to become League Champions. It must be stressed that they did do it the hard way. Having given many teams a large head start, in particular Howrah, their task was even more demanding than that of other teams. Ultimately, it was White Eagle who played the most attractive and successful brand of soccer, averaging over three goals per game. In conceding the goals it did, it should be pointed out that a majority of these occurred in the first third of season.

The final day of competition was almost an action replay of the senior premiership of 1986. With one game remaining the team needed to win their final game and hope that Juventus defeated or drew with leaders Howrah. After comfortably defeating Taroona 3-0 in the first game, the scene was set for an enthralling finale. Howrah couldn't put away their chances, and eventually, Juventus dominated the game to win 4-3 to allow Eagle to become the 1989 champion. Earlier on in the season the team had easily won the Knock-Out Cup final, defeating Metro 4-0.

Credit must be given to Dale Itchins for the time and effort he has put into the club over the last five or six years. Even more crucial is the time he has willingly put in to retain the players he has coached through the youth ranks. Such efforts, will, in the short and long term, contribute to maintaining White Eagle as a power in Tasmanian soccer, for it is from the Division One team that our next State League players will come in the not too distant future. "

Rothmans League Division 3 Final Standings 1989

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caledonians	27	18	3	6	71	35	57
White Eagle	**27**	**17**	**5**	**5**	**74**	**32**	**56**
Richmond	27	17	4	6	99	41	55
Lindisfarne	25	11	3	11	62	51	36
University	25	8	6	11	41	50	30
Nelson United	27	8	3	16	52	97	27
Phoenix	25	7	5	13	39	66	26
White Eagle Red	26	5	8	13	50	74	23
ALPS	26	6	4	16	43	90	22

Excerpt taken from the 1989 Presentation Night……

"This year saw the promotion of last year's Division 4 team (or Super League as they prefer), back into Division 3, with 90% of last year's team intact and with a few new, but not so unknown faces (i.e., Peter Wass, Neil Grant - some people are never too old to make a comeback). Everyone was looking forward to an enjoyable year.

They began their regular get-together sessions on Saturdays (as very few were able to find Clare Street at nights) and very quickly found they still had a very competitive side. Once again, whilst the blend of youth was in very limited supply, it was evident that the experienced campaigners, ably led by J.L., were more than able to prove their worth. The season ended with a very pleasing second placing, beaten for the title by Calies by a solitary point, (not bad for a social side).

Special thanks to those players who could find Clare Street at night - Eugene Mycak, Jamie Woulleman, John Large, Steve Vernon and Michael Case. However, there is hope for the remainder - Neil Grant, Steve Carty, Brett Stoddart, Ian Biggar, Mick Daly, Chris Price, Steve Szkudlarek, Keith Jones, Greg Rosinski, Peter Wass and Tim Wilkie - who will all be sent a torch and street map over the summer."

Thanks J.L.

Division 3 – late 80's

Back: M. Proud, C, Jones, G. Rosinski, D. Elliot, C. Brown-Price, J. Large, **Front:** B. Stoddart, M. Case. A Czyzowicz, E. Mycak, K. Jones

LAMENT TO THE THIRDS IN POETRY

By blind observer Keith Jones

One point that did it, damn and blast
Sure, we deserved it, Calies last
Whatever caused it, do we know?
It wasn't rain or hail or snow
Perhaps we all should learn the rules
Not use three subs and look such fools,
Or get sent off with head hung low
'Cause ego caused us make a show
We often noticed, there to see
That Large would rather Biggar be.

His detailed tactics got the bird
By half-time maestro Mycak, my word
But Wilkie came or maybe went
Perhaps he caught a Possum scent
Possum's great wish to score some goals
Was relegated to more defensive roles
To stop the fights that raged on gayly
Between spectators, Price and Daly.

There is no midfield, who's to blame,
It must be Steve, oh what a shame.
Do you mean Vernon or the other?
Or was it Casey and his brother.
No Squidly or Jamie to carry the can
But Clutch or Brett the Stoddart man.

We can debate the worth of Price
Put other problems back on ice
But at the core of all the shame
There's one old man who must take the blame
It's Davey Stoddart, what's the bet
That he will still be playing yet.

Keith Jones

1990's

NINETEEN NINETIES (1990's)

Once again Eugene Mycak coached the side to the Cadbury League premiership in 1990, finishing 10 points clear of Hobart Juventus after the 24-game roster. It was Eagle's third title in as many years and the fourth in five years. The loss of last season's top scorer Brett Harwood to arch-rival Hobart Juventus could have been a potential blow to Eagle's chances, but this was offset by picking up talented striker Scott Hadley, and in the end, made little difference to the season's final outcome.

The final margin may have been ten points, but the title was still wide open with three games to go. After their poorest start for at least five years, including a loss and two draws in the first four games, the team began to put it all together and went on an undefeated run that was only ended in the second last game of the season.

A fourth-round loss to Caledonians 1-3, also saw the end of the team's thirty-five game unbeaten league run, that stretched from early 1988. The 1990 league-winning run went for sixteen games and included impressive victories over Hobart Juventus (4-0 and 2-1) and Launceston Juventus 3-2.

The season also brought an emphatic victory in the Summer Cup against Hobart Juventus, and victory over them again, to retain the Charity Shield. Highlights of the two successes were Scott Young's man of the match performance in the Charity Shield and Craig Pitt's hat-trick in Eagle's first triumph in the Cadbury sponsored version of the Summer Cup. Mycak's game plan in the final to eliminate the danger of Sergio Pace by having him man-marked by Eugene Banasik was successful, much to Juventus' frustration, and helped pave the way for the win.

In a fine ending to the season, Mycak was voted Coach of the Year and Scott Young deservedly took out the inaugural Tasmanian soccer writers' player-of-the-year Award.

⚽ White Eagle flies high for cup win

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 17/4/1990 – SUMMER CUP FINAL

WHITE EAGLE trounced Hobart Juventus 5-1 to take out the Cadbury League section of the Cascade Summer Cup Final at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. Craig Pitt scored a hat-trick for Eagle, which took out the trophy for the first time.

White Eagle produced a fine tactical performance against a strangely lethargic Juventus outfit that was missing striker Romeo Frediani and central defender and captain Nick Di Martino. Eagle defender Eugene Banasik kept a tight rein on Sergio Pace throughout the match, while defenders Franco Previdi, Michael Driessen and Mark Leszczynski rarely allowed Steve Walker and Brett Harwood a sight of goal.

Juventus' solitary goal did not come until the final minute in fact, when Walker collected a pass from Romeo Fabrizio and cut inside before shooting, the ball deflecting off Bob Nicholson before beating goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud. Prior to that, Groenewoud was called into action only twice, once to keep out Harwood's miscued shot, and then to turn Frank Genovesi's centre over the bar.

Andrew Leszczynski opened Eagle's account in the 21st minute after Nicholson and Pitt had both miskicked, and Pitt made it 2-0 10 minutes later when Juventus goalkeeper Brett Williams could only parry Neil Morrison's shot. Pitt scored his second goal from close range in the 61st minute and completed his hat-trick by heading home Andrew Leszczynski's cross in the 76th minute as Juventus crumbled.

A magnificent through-ball by David Stoddart enabled substitute Richard Leszczynski to make it 5-0 with 10 minutes remaining. Walker's goal in the final minute caused scarcely a ripple. "I'm very happy for the team as many people always want us to lose because we've been so successful over the past two years," Eagle's coach, Eugene Mycak, said after the game.

"It was time we changed history because we've never won this cup before, and all the players were so enthusiastic and eager to win. "We played well tactically, and I don't want to single out any individuals. It was a great team effort."

⚽ White Eagle flies to second trophy victory of season

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24/5/1990 – CHARITY SHIELD FINAL

WHITE EAGLE won its second trophy of the soccer season last night when it defeated Hobart Juventus 2-1 in the Cadbury Charity Cup match at KGV Soccer Park. Eagle had taken out the Cascade Summer Cup in April.

The proceeds from last night's evening of soccer totaled more than $2000 and this will be donated to the family of Andrew Clark, the youngster who was tragically killed recently when a goalpost fell on him at school.

White Eagle midfielder, Scott Young, was awarded the Andrew Clark Perpetual Trophy as man-of-the-match. White Eagle

suffered an early setback when midfielder Bob Nicholson had to be replaced by Julian Tattersall, but the league champion

shrugged this off and took the lead in the 26th minute, Young heading David Stoddart's cross from the left past Juventus goalkeeper Brett Williams, who replaced Neil Connell at the last minute.

Andrew Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 54th minute by scoring with a shot that went in off a post, Young's initial shot having been partially blocked but carried through to Leszczynski.

Eagle was dominant throughout the match. It's defence marked tightly, the ball was kept on the ground as much as possible and all the players worked hard to support each other when in possession. Juventus, on the other hand, tended to play too high and the quality of its passing was abysmal.

Eagle should have scored more than twice. Stoddart and Richard Leszczynski both shot against the woodwork in the first half. Juventus finally pulled a goal back four minutes from the end through a penalty, awarded when Steve Walker drove the ball into the hands of Franco Previdi. Juventus substitute, Frank Genovesi, scored easily with his spot-kick.

⚽ Eagle striker hits four goals in dazzling display

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24/5/1990

STRIKER Richard Leszczynski produced a superb performance to score four goals as league champion White Eagle totally outclassed Croatia-Glenorchy to win 7-1 in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night. Leszczynski destroyed Croatia with his speed, positional sense and finishing, scoring twice in each half and making the first two goals for Andrew Leszczynski and David Stoddart.

The remaining goal was also scored by Stoddart, who skillfully brought the ball down on the edge of the penalty area before beating Zlatko Belanic with a dipping shot. Eagle brought on substitute Michael Driessen with 20 minutes to go and he tried desperately to get his name on the scoresheet. He headed against the Croatia crossbar only minutes after replacing Bob Nicholson, and then had a powerful shot deflected by Croatia substitute Mark Collidge, who was making his first appearance in more than a month.

Eagle also gave 17-year-old Myles Harry a run near the end, but there was insufficient time for him to make an impact on the game. Croatia's goal came from a penalty by Robbie Huigsloot when the team was already trailing by seven goals. Peter Robins came closest to adding a second goal for Croatia, but Peter Groenewoud saved brilliantly. Croatia's John Arnold also drove a fierce shot just wide of the woodwork near the end, but the match was little more than a practice game for Eagle, which moved into second place on the ladder as a result of the win.

In last night's Premier League Division One match, league champion White Eagle pulled off a shock 3-2 win over Hobart Juventus, coming back from a two-goal deficit after only eight minutes. Grant Hildyard headed home David Smith's free kick in the fourth minute to put Juventus ahead, and Paul Furjanic nodded in Matthew Gasparin's cross four minutes later to make it 2-0. Eagle carried on the fight, however, and it was rewarded in the 29th minute when Mark Pitt scored a sensational goal with a half-volley from 25 metres.

Myles Harry lobbed the equaliser on the hour when goalkeeper Frank Mainella lost possession outside the penalty area, referee Gordon Jablonski allowing the goal to stand despite Les Ware being in a technically off-side position. Ware forced home the winner 10 minutes later following a cross from the right by Aram Mirkazemi and a back-header by Harry that was fumbled by the Juventus defence.

⚽ 'Eagle' soars to top spot after dazzling display

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/7/1990

WHITE EAGLE produced a masterful display of counter-attacking soccer in the mud at KGV Soccer Park last night to trounce Olympia-SBT Bank 4-1 and take over the Cadbury State League leadership by two points from Hobart Juventus. Olympia certainly made a game of it and had its fair share of chances, but the class of the league champion told in the end.

White Eagle dominated the opening exchanges with a display of direct soccer that had Olympia's defensive trio of Chris Hey, Michael Edwards and Michael Berwick manning the pumps for all they were worth. Eagle's two strikers, Richard and Andrew Leszczynski, were dragging their markers all over the place as the service from midfielders Scott Hadley, Scott Young, David Stoddart and Craig Pitt threatened danger at every turn.

If the Eagle defence looked suspect at times, it took no chances, Mark Leszczynski, Franco Previdi, Paul Morrison and Eugene Banasik adopting safety-first tactics and playing the first-time ball as far upfield as possible.

Olympia had a few chances early on through Hey, Brendan Lakoseljac and Craig Nicholls, but just as it looked as if it was getting on top, Eagle struck in the 27th minute. Pitt made a run down the right and crossed the ball into a packed goalmouth, where goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser was unable to hold the greasy ball. Kannegiesser virtually dropped the ball on to Young's head and the midfielder steered it into the net.

Seven minutes later, Olympia was rewarded for its persistence when Peter Sherman scored a stunning equaliser. After a quickly taken free kick, Peter Vafakos floated the ball into the middle from the left, Mark Leszczynski sliced it into the

air, and Nicholls played it back into the path of Sherman, whose thunderbolt from 30 metres left Peter Groenewoud clutching at thin air.

It is at moments like this that Eagle is at its most dangerous. Within a minute, Richard Leszczynski had wriggled free of his marker on the left and his precise pass across the penalty area was scooped home by Young to put the league champion 2-1 ahead at the interval. When full-back Previdi rammed home a third goal from the edge of the penalty area seven minutes into the second half, it was all over.

White Eagle continued to soak up pressure and Olympia fell to yet another sucker-punch in the 75th minute. Olympia was in the process of bombarding its opponent's goal when the ball rebounded to Stoddart deep in his own half. A perfectly timed pass to the left released substitute Bob Nicholson and his run along the wing ended with a ball inside to Richard Leszczynski, who placed his shot to Kannegiesser's right to make it 4-1.

Ref abandons game, leaving Eagles with Cup

By WALTER PLESS – [THE MERCURY] - 1990

WHITE EAGLE won the Cadbury State League soccer championship in sensational fashion yesterday when its match against Launceston Juventus at KGV Soccer Park was abandoned after 69 minutes with Eagle trailing 1-0.

The title went to White Eagle because second-placed Hobart Juventus, the only team capable of catching the reigning league champion lost 2-l to Ulverstone at South Hobart. Referee, Brett Mackay, abandoned the match at KGV after claiming he had been pushed in the chest by a Launceston Juventus official.

With the ball out of play, Mackay ordered one Juventus official to leave the area of the coach's bench and move behind the fence surrounding the playing area. The official at first refused, then agreed to Mackay's request, when Mackay said he would not restart the game until the official left the playing arena.

After the official had moved behind the fence, a second Juventus official approached Mackay from the bench, and when he was also told to leave the area of the bench, he allegedly pushed Mackay. Mackay then said he would abandon the game if the official did not leave. When the official refused to leave, referee MacKay abandoned the match and he and his two linesmen left the field and retired to the referees' dressing rooms.

The State League management committee will meet as soon as possible to discuss the incident and the matter is likely to be referred to the Tasmanian Soccer Federation.

Croatia-Glenorchy handed the wooden spoon to Burnie United by defeating the coastal side 3-1 in yesterday's curtain-raiser qt KGV. Croatia scored its three goals in the opening seven minutes to put Burnie to the sword. Chris Barrell and Tuach Hussein combined *to* give Tony Bacic the opener in the third minute, while a Paul Furjanic header from Barrell's free kick made it 2-0 after five minutes.

With the Burnie defence reeling, Bacic got onto the end of a high lob from Barrell *to* head past Mark Overton and make it 3-0. Tim Jones pulled a goal back for Burnie in the 18th minute following a low cross by Steve Foley.

At South Hobart, Ulverstone had defender John 'Snowy' Compagne sent off for the second time this season, but it still defeated second-placed Hobart Juventus 2-1. Bruce Pears scored for Hobart Juventus, while a goal by Leon Thurley, together with an own-goal, gave Ulverstone the points.

White Eagle's vintage display kills Juventus

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 27/9/1990

WHITE EAGLE demonstrated why it is the Cadbury State League Champion when it produced a magnificent performance on the sticky KGV Soccer Park pitch to defeat Hobart Juventus 4-0 last night.

Midfielder Scott Young turned in an outstanding display to claim a hat-trick, while full-back Michael Driessen scored his first league goal of the season. White Eagle hardly missed goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, defender Franco Previdi and striker Andrew Leszczynski, a testimony to the strength of coach Eugene Mycak's squad.

The league champion played a fluid lightning-fast brand of soccer that left second-placed Juventus floundering, despite some brave performances by some of the men in the black and white stripes. Gilbert Steenhuis did everything right in the Eagle goal, while Mark Leszczynski, Paul Morrison, Eugene Banasik and Driessen easily contained Sergio Pace and Brett Harwood, as well as anyone else who dared venture forward.

The Eagle midfield of Young, David Stoddart, Craig Pitt and Bob Nicholson weaved some delightful patterns as they set up attack after attack, and strikers Richard Leszczynski and Scott Hadley always posed a danger to the Juventus rear guard. Even the relatively inexperienced substitute, Robert Lebski, fitted into the Eagle machine perfectly when he came on for Stoddart near the end. Had it not been for some fine goalkeeping by Brett Williams, Juventus would have received a real hiding.

Richard Leszczynski, Stoddart and Young all went close to scoring before Young's header from Nicholson's corner broke the ice in the 18th minute. Four minutes after the interval, Young's half-volley from the edge of the penalty area made it 2-0. Young completed his hat-trick in the 64th minute with yet another superbly struck volley from 18 metres, while

Driessen ventured forward to head Eagle's fourth goal from Richard Leszczynski's cross a minute from time. Hadley had a great game for Eagle and came close to scoring on at least three occasions.

Steve Walker was a busy man in midfield for Juventus, while John McIntyre, Frank Genovesi and Sergio Pace all missed out on scoring by a whisker. Michael McIntyre performed well in the Juventus defence, which was continually under

pressure due to the speed and mobility of the Eagle attack. The win gave White Eagle 59 points for the season, a massive 10 points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus, with Ulverstone in third place on 43 points.

Goals by Damien Bones and Matthew Boxhall gave White Eagle a 2-1 win over Olympia in last night's under 14 cup final. Dane Knezevic replied for Olympia.

⚽ Writers' award to Young

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - MON, 05/10/1990

Scott Young, the 24-year-old midfielder of Cadbury State League soccer champion White Eagle, is the winner of the inaugural Tasmanian soccer writers' player-of-the-year Award. Young polled eight votes to win the award, while striker Roger Mies, of Launceston Juventus, the State League's leading scorer with 22 goals this season, was second with six votes.

Young began his senior career with Clarence in 1983 and transferred to White Eagle in 1984, the club with which he has now won four league championships. Young has had a profound influence on White Eagle's successes over the past five season and he was the club's leading scorer this year with 15 league goals.

The complete list of votes is: Scott Young (White Eagle) 8; Roger Mies (Launceston Juventus) 6; Mark Leszczynski (White Eagle) 5; Greg Calvert (Caledonian) 2; Steve Walker (Hobart Juventus) 1, Kevin Smith (Devonport City) 1, Richard Leszczynski (White Eagle) 1.

State League Final Standings 1990

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**24**	**19**	**2**	**3**	**76**	**22**	**59**
Hobart Juventus	24	15	4	5	62	29	49
Launceston Juventus	24	13	4	7	40	32	42
Ulverstone	24	11	7	6	44	29	40
Olympia	24	9	9	6	41	40	36
Devonport	24	10	5	9	42	35	35
Caledonians	24	5	3	16	25	46	18
Croatia	24	3	5	16	25	69	14
Burnie	24	2	3	19	19	72	9

Leading Goalscorers: S. Young 16, A. Leszczynski 13, R. Leszczynski 12, C. Pitt 11, D. Stoddart 8

1990 Senior team

Back: E. Mycak (Coach), R. Leszczynski, P. Morrison, M. Driessen, P. Groenewoud, S. Young, E, Banasik, A. Leszczynski, C. Pitt F. Bansel (Mgr)
Front: B. Nicholson, M. Leszczynski (Capt.), D. Stoddart Jnr, S. Hadley, F. Previdi, B. Rybak (Trainer)

In 1991 Mycak left to join rival club Hobart Juventus, taking talented striker Scott Hadley with him, and Peter Groenewoud, the club's highly rated goalkeeper, who joined the club in 1986, also left at the end of 1990 to try out in Sydney with APIA Leichardt. Unfortunately, Peter's ambitions to play at a higher level, were thwarted by several serious knee injuries. Bob Nicholson also moved, to Caledonians, but two former Eagle players, Richard Ketchell and Jamie Joyce returned to the club.

The STSA formerly the TSA, made a controversial decision regarding sponsorship for 1991 and struck an agreement with Rothmans, despite the National Soccer body's movement away from cigarette advertising.

Peter Irving took over the mantle as coach at the start of 1991 and keeper Zlatko Belanic transferred from Croatia Glenorchy after a stint out of the game due to injury. Zlatko had received a serious head injury in July 1989 that required surgery but had returned to soccer in 1990 with Croatia.

The first official game of the 1991 season was against old rivals Hobart Juventus. This match was the yearly Charity Cup match usually rostered mid-year. Although being the first game for the two teams, it was still a very competitive encounter.

The Eagle's squad had only minimal personnel changes in the off-season, and it was new boy Belanic who proved the difference in this game with a confident "man of the match" display.

Richard Leszczynski opening the scoring with a rare headed goal in the first half, and after Juventus equalized, the game looked like heading for extra time until Richard Ketchell scored in the dying seconds of the match with a scorching left foot drive that gave the keeper no chance, sending the Eagle supporters into celebration mode.

⚽ As game hangs in the balance, Ketchell kicks home decider for Eagle

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 7/3/91 – CHARITY SHIELD FINAL

A goal in injury time by substitute Richard KetcheIl gave White Eagle a 2-1 victory over Hobart Juventus in last night's Cadbury Charity Shield soccer match at KGV Soccer Park.

Ketchell, who had only been on the field for 10 minutes after replacing Jamie Joyce, scored with a vicious half-volley from 12 metres after Scott Young had delicately nodded Paul Morrison's cross from the right straight to his feet. Richard Leszczynski's back-header had given White Eagle the lead three minutes before the interval.

Carlo Ambrosinos skillful curling free kick from the edge of the penalty area had levelled the scores in the 82nd minute. The teams were very evenly matched in all departments, with both sides having 14 shots at goal during the course of the game. It was difficult to find a consistent player in either side, but the opposing goalkeepers, White Eagle's Zlatko Belanic and Juventus's Frank Mainella, were in excellent form. Belanic was chosen man of the of the match and was presented with the Andrew Clark Memorial Shield.

Mainella also showed his class, saving several searching shots, including a point-blank effort from Richard Leszczynski. David Stoddart was prominent in midfield for White Eagle. Apart from unleashing five of his side's shots at goal, he showed some clever ball control in beating opponents and setting up attacking moves for his teammates.

Ambrosino had an auspicious debut for his new club. Not only did he score Juventus's solitary goal, but he was also cautioned by referee John Raymond in the 63rd minute for a foul on Mark Leszczynski.

The senior side took out Summer Cup Final, also against Hobart Juventus beating them 4-2. The final on Easter Monday saw the third meeting of Juventus and White Eagle in pre-season matches. A good crowd saw Eagle play their best soccer of the season to date, to overwhelm the Juventus side. After being a goal down early, Eagle went to the half time break a goal up, via two goals from Michael Driessen. The second half saw Eagle's stamp its authority on the game and further goals to David Stoddart and Craig Pitt underlined Eagle's dominance. A late goal to Juventus made the final score 4-2.

⚽ Driessen swoops on Juventus defence

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2/4/91 – CASCADE SUMMER CUP FINAL

TWO goals by attacking midfielder Michael Driessen spurred White Eagle on to a 4-2 victory over Hobart Juventus in yesterday's State League section final of the Cascade Summer Cup soccer competition at KGV Soccer Park.

Driessen played his role to perfection. Lurking just behind strikers Richard Leszczynski and Craig Pitt, he opened up the Juventus defence time and time again with penetrating passes and struck two fine goals himself.

Mark Leszczynski was outstanding as sweeper, while David Stoddart's return to the midfield was a crucial factor in Eagle's success. Stoddart won vital tackles, distributed the ball intelligently and scored the third goal just after the interval, which all but killed off Juventus's challenge.

Paul Morrison also stood out in defence for Eagle, while Eugene Banasik's efficient marking of Sergio Pace in the second half led to Pace's eventual substitution near the end by Romeo Frediani.

Juventus missed the aerial power of the injured Nick Di Martino in defence, while striker Steve Walker was one the few players to worry the Eagle rear guard. Pace got on to the end of John McIntyre's long pass to put Juventus ahead in the 11th minute, but Driessen drove home the equaliser four minutes later following a delightful build-up initiated by Banasik and involving Andrew and Richard Leszczynski.

Driessen's header in the 25th minute from Andrew Leszczynski’s corner, made it 2-1 for Eagle at the break, and when Stoddart smashed home the third goal in the 49th minute, it was all over. Walker missed a great chance to pull a goal bas± in the 62nd minute, but three minutes later Pitt headed Eagle further in front after Driessen had released Richard Leszczynski on the right and the striker crossed accurately to the far post.

Harwood scored Juventus's second goal in the 87th minute after Carlo Ambrosino's powerful free-kick penetrated the Eagle defensive wall, but one sensed it was only a token response to Eagle's superiority. The win represented coach Peter Irving's second trophy success since taking charge of the reigning league champion this season.

⚽ White Eagle will again set the pace

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 07/04/1991 – SEASON PREVIEW

WHITE Eagle will again be the team to beat in the State League soccer competition this season. With the league campaign yet to begin, White Eagle has already collected two trophies. On March 6, it defeated Hobart Juventus 2-1 to take out the annual Cadbury Charity Trophy, and on Easter Monday it once again defeated Hobart Juventus 4-2 in the final of the State League section of the Cascade Summer Cup competition.

This represents an ideal start to new coach Peter Irving, who is a disciplinarian and a perfectionist, as well as a master tactician. Irving has played the game at professional level in England and Australia and has coached at NSL level while in New South Wales. He came to Tasmania in 1987 and coached Hobart Juventus for two seasons before stepping out of the game for two years. He was lured to White Eagle following the departure of Eugene Mycak to Hobart Juventus and, as the results already indicate, he is well on the way to maintaining Eagle's reputation as the premier team in the State.

The club has won four of the past five State League championships - the last three in succession - and it must already be a strong favorite to retain its crown. The only danger Eagle faces is injury to key players, and Irving is the first to admit that his squad lacks depth. The departure of goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud to Sydney, and of midfielders Scott Hadley, to great rival Hobart Juventus, and Bob Nicholson, to Calies, has thinned the ranks to some extent, but Eagle has compensated for this by signing goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic from Croatia-Glenorchy, and utility players Richard Ketchell from Caledonians and Jamie Joyce from Hobart Juventus.

Belanic is an excellent goalkeeper despite his lack of height, and he seems to have made a complete recovery after fracturing his skull in a match two seasons ago. Ketchell and Joyce are both former White Eagle players who have returned to the club after periods with Caledonians and Hobart Juventus respectively. The three Leszczynski brothers - Mark, Andrew and Richard - are mainstays of the side.

Mark is regarded by many observers as the finest sweeper in the State, while Richard is a speedy player and a natural goalscorer. Andrew, who has just recovered after a recent knee operation, is at home both in midfield and attack. He only played one and a half senior games during the pre-season series and was given valuable match practice in the reserves yesterday, where he scored a goal in the 2-2 draw with Juventus.

Midfielders David Stoddart and Scott Young are also vital components in the team and when they are in form, the league champion is virtually invincible. There are several promising youngsters on the horizon, too, and Irving is sure to run his eye over these, even though they may be a little raw for State League action now.

Chris Thomas, Jason Mahoney and Kane Salter are starting to establish themselves in the reserves, while Grant Hildyard and Julian Tattersall have already been on the fringe of the senior team and will be able to plug any gaps caused by injury.

⚽ Juventus may be bridesmaid again

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 07/04/1991 – SEASON PREVIEW

HOBART Juventus is in danger of finishing the bridesmaid again this season, judging from results to date - two cup finals and two defeats.

Juventus lost to its arch-rival, White Eagle, on both occasions, 1-2 in the Cadbury Charity Trophy and 2-4 in the

Cascade Summer Cup final. The last thing the club wants is a repeat of last year's league campaign, when Juventus finished a distant second to White Eagle (10 points behind).

The club's ambitious president Mr Paul Scavone, has brought coach Eugene Mycak from White Eagle in an endeavour to reverse the trend of recent seasons. Mycak, a former professional player and coach in Poland and the United States, was a willing recruit as he felt he had run out of challenges at White Eagle. He had first coached the club in the early 1980s after arriving from the US, and he faces a tremendous task at Hobart Juventus. It is not an insurmountable one, but is both a psychological and physical challenge.

Mycak must make his players believe in themselves and he has, to some extent, already achieved this. Juventus did defeat White Eagle 3-2 in the preliminary rounds of the Cascade Summer Cup series.

The club has picked up defender Chris Hey and midfielder Carlo Ambrosino from Olympia and midfielder Scott Hadley from White Eagle. There is ample depth and of talent at the club – the reserve side, coached by David Smith, won the Division One section of the Cascade Summer Cup and Mycak's biggest problem concern team selection. Having too many capable players can sometimes be a more difficult situation to handle than when one has too few.

1991 saw the side go from strength to strength, and took out the premiership for the fourth year in succession and fifth in six years. The year was not without its dramas, including coach Peter Irving resigning after an away game against Ulverstone in June, and goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic suffering a depressed cheek bone fracture.

Mark Leszczynski stepped in again to successfully take on the coaching role vacated by Irving, and Alan Wisby was provided with his first chance between the sticks at senior level.

This premiership was a fine example of Eagle's great resilience and strong will to win. At the end of Round 14, the side trailed Hobart Juventus by four points and was not in a great position to retain the title, particularly at that late stage of the competition. Subsequent losses by Hobart Juventus to Devonport, and Olympia, and wins for White Eagle in its remaining five games proved crucial to the final outcome.

The matches played in Round 15 were morale boosting and critical for the side, with Eagle recording an easy victory over Croatia 6-1, and Hobart Juventus losing to Devonport 2-1. Round 16 was the bye round for Eagle, and when Burnie forfeited their Round 17 game, and the Statewide Cup game against Riverside Olympic was postponed to late August, this effectively meant the side played only two games in 5 weeks, much to the frustration of Eagle's coaching staff.

The Round 18 game against Caledonians looked to be a tough one on paper with Calies winning the previous encounter 2-1, and the Eagle side down on competitive match practice. Eagle (in the first of a double header) rose to the occasion, and were too good on the night running out 3-0 winners. The following game was between Hobart Juventus and Olympia, and resulted in another loss for the Juventus side.

Eagle could therefore retain their title if they overcame Olympia and Burnie in their remaining two games. The game against Burnie was originally awarded to White Eagle 3-0 on forfeit, but subsequently the Tasmanian Soccer Association decided to replay the game, due to its repercussions on the League's Leading Goalscorer Award and on the Vic Tuting Medal Count.

Also, the league was close, and goal difference may have ended up being a deciding factor. It was in fact the game against Olympia, that appeared the biggest hurdle for Eagle to overcome if it were to claim the premiership title.

⚽ Stoddart hat-trick boosts Eagle to top spot

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 29/4/91

A HAT-TRICK by midfielder David Stoddart helped reigning State League soccer champion White Eagle to a crushing 5-1 win over Launceston Juventus at Prospect yesterday and first place in the standings.

Stoddart opened the scoring with an 11th-minute penalty, awarded when Liam Monagle pushed Richard Leszczynski, and Andrew Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 27th minute. When Stoddart added a third before the interval, it was all over.

Branco Barac pulled a goal back for the home side in the 50th minute, but goals by Craig Pitt, on the hour, and Stoddart, from a free kick in the 68th minute destroyed any hopes of a Juventus revival.

White Eagle gives Olympia pasting to take over top spot

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 2/5/91

WHITE EAGLE became the clear leader in the State League competition when it defeated Olympia-ST Bank 5-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

It was Eagle's second 5-1 win in four days and the result puts the reigning champion three points clear of Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, as well as giving it a vastly superior goal difference.

With new signing Steve Kannegiesser in its line-up, Olympia dominated the opening exchanges, but then gradually lost its way and eventually threw the game away through lack of personal and team discipline.

Olympia gave away two soft goals in the opening half to trail 2-1 at the break, and then conceded a penalty midway through the second period to give Eagles a two-goal advantage.

Ten minutes from the end, Michael Berwick, who had had a tremendous game until then, was sent off for alleged foul and abusive language. Reduced to 10 men, Olympia lost its shape completely and Eagle was able to ram home two more goals in the final seven minutes.

Richard Leszczynski punished a goalkeeping lapse by Glenn Stewart in the 12th minute to put Eagle ahead, but Olympia drew level within a minute, Mark Leszczynski turning Berwick's cross past his own goalkeeper.

Craig Pitt restored Eagle's lead from close range a minute before the interval after a great run down the right by Michael Driessen and poor defensive play by Olympia. David Stoddart increased Eagles advantage in the 70th minute with a twice-taken penalty, awarded for George Spiliopoulous's foul on Richard Leszczynski.

Stewart brilliantly saved Stoddart's first attempt, but the kick was ordered to be retaken because Spiliopoulos, who was cautioned for his troubles, had encroached into the penalty area Stoddart gave Stewart no chance with his second kick.

With seven minutes remaining. Pitt scored his second goal, and Eagle's fourth from an acute angle on the right, while Richard Leszczynski completed the scoring with an identical goal two minutes later.

White Eagle's away win another feather

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 13/5/91

WHITE EAGLE opened up a three-point lead at the top of the state league soccer ladder when it scored a worthy 5-3 away win over Devonport City at Valley Road yesterday.

White Eagle fell behind early io an own goal, but the southerners equalised before the break. Apart from the own goal, Devonport's other scorers were David Maddox and Tom McGinn, while White Eagle's scorers were Richard Leszczynski (2), Scott Young, Craig Pitt and David Stoddart.

Stoddart's late goal gives White Eagle points

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 2/6/91

THE reigning State League soccer champion White Eagle, came away from Montello Park yesterday with a 3-1 win over last-placed Burnie-United.

A Craig Pitt header after 15 minutes gave Eagle the lead, but Nicki Reed's pass enabled Ken Berry to hit the equaliser five minutes before the interval. Pitt restored Eagle's lead on the hour with a shot from 25 metres, but it was not until the 85th minute that David Stoddart killed Burnie off by scoring from the edge of the penalty area following a breakaway.

Burnie's player-coach, Ray Parke was satisfied with his team's performance against a side of the calibre of White Eagle, which now holds a three-point lead over second-placed Launceston Juventus.

'We've now strung two good games together and were better today than against Olympia last week," Parke said. "It's unfortunate we had to face the league champions because against a lesser team we could have come away with a result. "We played well, put a great deal of effort into it, and I think we had them worried at times."

Juventus takes grip on title as 'Eagle' falters

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 13/6/91

HOBART JUVENTUS came back from two-goals down after only 11 minutes to defeat State League soccer champion, White Eagle 3-2 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The win puts Juventus four points clear of White Eagle and right on course for the title. Juventus coach, Eugene Mycak, praised his players for their tremendous fightback.

Peter Irving, the White Eagle coach, was dejected after his side's defeat, especially after being 2-0 up, and said the midfield was non-existent in the second half. White Eagle rocked Juventus in the opening quarter of an hour, scoring twice and threatening several more.

Left full-back Jamie Joyce opened the scoring in the fourth minute with his first league goal in senior soccer. Richard Ketchell fed Richard Leszczynski on the right and Joyce headed the cross home at the far post. Eagle led 2-0 after 11

minutes, David Stoddart's long-range free kick deflecting off Bruce Pears and past the wrong-footed goalkeeper Frank Mainella. With half an hour gone, Juventus began to dominate play, something it did for the remainder of the match, apart from couple of chances that fell to Richard Leszczynski and Craig Pitt.

Utilising high crosses into the penalty area, designed to unsettle the inexperienced goalkeeper Allan Wisby, seemed to be the Juventus' tactic, and it worked. In the 40th minute, Wisby did remarkedly well to turn Steve Walker's header against the crossbar, but he was not so fortunate on the stroke of half time, when Frank Genovesi scored Juventus' first goal. Genovesi attacking down the right flank, passed inside to Walker, who in turn released Scott Hadley on the left,

whose far-post cross had Wisby in trouble, and although he foiled Walker, Genovesi smashed the ball home from close-range.

The equaliser came in the 68th minute, Romeo Frediani putting Walker through the middle of the Eagle defence to score. Frediani headed against the bar in the 72nd minute as Juventus applied relentless pressure, which was rewarded in the 78th minute, Genovesi's shot coming off Walker's knee for the winner.

⚽ No let-up by Eagle in late chase for league title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24/6/91

LAUNESTON Juventus lost two valuable points when it was held to a 3-3 draw by the visiting Olympia SBT Sank in the state league soccer match played at Prospect yesterday. The draw, Launceston Juventus' first this season, means it is now three points behind league leader Hobart Juventus with six matches remaining.

League champion White Eagle kept its title hopes alive by winning 4-3 away to Ulverstone, a repeat of the teams' first-round result at KGV Soccer Park. Eagle is in third, place, four points off the pace.

David Stoddart fired White Eagle ahead against Ulverstone after only five minutes at Knight's Road, but the lead was cancelled out by Leon Thurley, 10 minutes later. Richard Leszczynski struck on the stroke of half-time however, to restore Eagle's lead, and when Jamie Joyce made it 3-1 for the champion midway through the second half, Ulverstone's prospects appeared bleak.

A goal by David Mitchell 10 minutes later revived Ulverstone's hopes, but Craig Pitt then scored to ease the pressure on Eagle. Substitute Paul Zoccolan's 87th-minute goal was too little, too late for Ulverstone, which remains second from the bottom.

"We played catch-up soccer all day and we didn't play as well as we have in recent games," said Ulverstone coach, Les Jones. "They kept catching us on the break and I was quite disappointed because it was much like the last time."

White Eagle president David Stoddart snr said the club was still in the title hunt and that it would fight it out all the way because Hobart Juventus was liable to drop a point here and there.

State League Final Standings 1991 - (after 10 Rounds)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Juventus	10	8	1	1	27	10	25
Launceston Juventus	10	7	1	2	25	15	22
White Eagle	**10**	**10**	**7**	**0**	**35**	**21**	**21**
Caledonians	9	4	2	3	12	10	14
Croatia	10	4	2	4	22	23	14
Olympia-SBT	10	3	2	5	23	25	11
Devonport	10	3	2	5	17	23	11
Ulverstone	10	2	2	6	15	23	8
Burnie	9	0	0	9	8	35	0

Irving severs ties with White Eagle

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 26/06/1991

PETER IRVING, coach of reigning State League soccer champion White Eagle, has resigned. White Eagle is in second place in the league, four points behind leader Hobart Juventus, with six matches remaining. Irving, who coached Newcastle in the National Soccer League, came to Tasmania in 1987 and spent two seasons with Hobart Juventus before stepping out of the game for two years.

In this, his first season with White Eagle, the club has already picked up two trophies the Cadbury Charity Trophy and the Cascade Summer Cup. White Eagle president Mr David Stoddart Snr, said the club and Irving had parted company amicably. Irving tendered his resignation yesterday and refused to comment on his decision.

White Eagle defeated Ulverstone 4-3 at Ulverstone, on Sunday in Irving's last game in charge. The team's captain, Mark Leszczynski, is to replace Irving as coach for the remainder of the season. Leszczynski coached White Eagle to the 1988 State League championship.

Captain turns coach overnight, but Eagle's chances unaffected

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 28/6/91

WITH state league soccer leader Hobart Juventus idle this weekend, the focus of attention will be on KGV Soccer Park on Sunday when second-placed Launceston Juventus takes on third-placed White Eagle in the main fixture of a double-header. If Launceston Juventus wins, it will be level on 25 points with Hobart Juventus, although the southerners will still have a game in hand. A victory for the reigning league champion White Eagle, will put it in second position, a point off the lead.

Launceston Juventus has the better recent record, having won twice and drawn once in its past three outings, whereas Eagle has lost twice and won only once in its past three games. White Eagle also goes into this game with a new coach, following the sudden resignation of Peter Irving this week.

This is unlikely to detract from its performance however, as Mark Leszczynski, Irving's replacement, is captain of the team and no stranger to the coaching position, having taken the club to the title in 1988.

The psychological advantage lies with Eagle, which thrashed Launceston Juventus 5-1 at Prospect in the first round. Despite the continued absence of midfielder Scott Young, White Eagle should win against the no-frills workmanlike visitor. A draw would, of course, suit neither combatant. Rather, it would be an ideal result for Hobart Juventus, many of whose players are certain to watch this match with more than just passing interest.

Caledonians can consolidate themselves in fourth place by defeating Burnie United at Montello Park on Sunday, but the result is anything but a certainty. Calies can beat the best and lose to the worst, and will have to be wary of Burnie if it is not to do the latter as the coastal side, which has yet to earn a point this season, has threatened to break the ice on several occasions in recent weeks.

Croatia-Glenorchy came to earth with a resounding thud in its last match, losing 0-5 to Hobart Juventus, and it faces a difficult task against Ulverstone in Sunday's curtain-raiser at KGV. Croatia's defence, marshalled by captain Robbie Huigsloot, should have the measure of Ulverstone's strikers, but this match will probably be decided in midfield. The visitor's engine room is as good as that of any team in the competition and Croatia will have to nullify its opponent in this area if it is to win.

Sunday's remaining match is between home side Devonport City and Olympia-SBT Bank at Valley Road. Devonport won 4-2 at KGV in the first round and, with striker Tom McGinn in excellent form, should repeat the dose. Olympia coach Ken Morton, who was at the helm of Devonport for two seasons, knows the opposition well, but due to injuries, he may not be able to counter Devonport's threat by fielding his best side. Steve Kannegiesser proved a success at sweeper last week and will play in that position again, while youngster Peter Tsakiris will retain his place in defence.

Odds stack up, but intrepid Eagle keeps equaliser at bay

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 1/7/91

WHITE EAGLE survived some poor refereeing decisions and played for almost an hour with only 10 men to defeat second placed Launceston Juventus, 3-2 in their State League soccer match played at a poorly maintained KGV Soccer Park ground yesterday.

The win puts the reigning league champion in second spot, a point behind Hobart Juventus, which has a game in hand.

Burnie referee Mark Fishwick seemed overawed by the occasion and allowed many incidents to go unpunished. Fortunately for White Eagle, justice was eventually done, and it won the match.

A classic example of lax refereeing occurred in the seventh minute when Juventus striker Roger Mies controlled the ball with his hand before shooting. Only a fine save by Allan Wisby, prevented a goal which would have counted.

When Eagle defender Franco Previdi was sent off in the 38th minute, the perpetrator of the initial incident escaped without even a caution. As it was, White Eagle raced to a 3-0 lead within 20 minutes as Michael Driessen twice, and Andrew Leszczynski beat Juventus' stand-in goalkeeper Drew Parker.

Wisby made a hash of Peter Savill's cross in 21st minute to allow Juventus back into the game. The ball dropped almost on the goal line and Barac pushed it in with his eyes closed to make it 1-3. Two minutes later, the alarm bells were clanging in the Eagle camp as Juventus pulled another goal back from a penalty.

Juventus brought on Jayson Clayton and John Visentin for Barac and Savill in the second half, but it was unable to find an equaliser.

⚽ All games vital for Eagle to hold title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 19/7/91

WHITE EAGLE resumes its desperate pursuit of state league soccer leader Hobart Juventus when it takes on Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday.

Eagle, the reigning champion, is currently four points adrift of Hobart Juventus with five games remaining. It cannot afford to falter against seventh-placed Devonport because, as it is, it requires other teams to take points off Hobart Juventus if it is to retain the title.

White Eagle has several injury worries which could hinder its chances on Sunday, and the fact it has not played a match for two weeks will not help. Tuesday's scheduled training session was also cancelled because the ground was closed.

Midfielders David Stoddart and Scott Young are still carrying hamstring and foot injuries respectively, but there is a possibility they will be on the substitutes' bench.

Defender Paul Morrison injured a hand at work and must be considered doubtful, but his brother Neil, has apparently recovered from an ankle injury more quickly than anticipated and he should play. He had been expected to miss at least a month after damaging ankle ligaments in the State-wide Cup win over Rapid on July 6.

Neil will probably play in midfield, thus releasing Jamie Joyce to take Paul's place at full-back. Player-coach Mark Leszczynski has had a prolonged bout of the flu but will line up at sweeper. "We haven't played for two weeks and that's my biggest worry," said Leszczynski.

"As long as we mark tightly when we lose possession, win the 50-50 balls and put away our chances up front, we will be all right. "Tom McGinn is their most dangerous attacker, so we'll have to take him out of the game." Devonport coach Tom McKenna has his strongest side available and is absolutely confident of victory. "We'll win 3-0," he said bluntly.

Last-placed Burnie United will again rely heavily on its young brigade when it hosts second-last Ulverstone at Montello Park tomorrow. Andrew Denton, Simon Jago, Les Szabo and Anthony Grzinic are three youngsters who should supplement the likes of state under-21 representatives Scott Parke and Nick Reed, in the absence of some more experienced players who will be unavailable.

Ulverstone midfielder Leon Thurley is doubtful because of a leg injury while Matthew Wilson will probably retain his place in the side. Paul Zoccolan will replace John Richardson in attack after scoring against University in the Statewide Cup.

⚽ Eagle just escapes Devonport fire

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 22/7/91

WHITE EAGLE, the reigning State League soccer champion, struggled to defeat second-last placed Devonport City 2-0 on a slippery KGV Soccer Park pitch yesterday.

The victory leaves White Eagle in second place, a point behind Hobart Juventus, which has one game in hand. White Eagle took 27 minutes to score its opening goal, survived a penalty-kick right on half-time, and did not score its second goal until two minutes into injury time at the end of the match.

Goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic deserves most of the credit for Eagle's win as he turned in an outstanding performance. He saved Kevin Smith's penalty at the end of the first half, and in the course of the match he thwarted Adrian Mann, Tom McGinn and Wayne Boyd with three first-class saves.

Eagle's captain, player-coach and sweeper all rolled into one, Mark Leszczynski, had a solid game at the back, making several timely interceptions and crucial tackles. Richard Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell had off-days, both missing easy scoring chances for the champion, while the midfielders rarely combined well enough to cause Devonport any serious problems.

Devonport goalkeeper Bob Smith had a fine game, apart from his lapse at the end when he needlessly conceded an indirect free-kick which resulted in the second goal.

Striker Tom McGinn was Devonport's most dangerous attacker. The diminutive 23-year-old, a former youth player with Scottish side Kilmarnock, caused the White Eagle defence continuous problems. McGinn's ball control and speed, as well as his willingness to shoot at every opportunity, even when presented with mere half-chances, might even have sunk White Eagle had he had a fraction more luck.

Kevin Smith and Wayne Boyd were excellent at the heart of the Devonport defence, while Fabio Pizzerani and Adrian Mann went within a whisker of scoring a couple of times.

Andrew Leszczynski opened Eagle's account in the 27th minute from close range after Michael Driessen had released Ketchell on the right and his cross into the penalty area was missed by Richard Leszczynski. In the 92nd minute, Bob Smith was adjudged to have controlled the ball while saving a shot from substitute David Stoddart and when he dribbled the ball and then picked it up, referee John Howlin blew for indirect free-kick.

Andrew Leszczynski cut the ball back and into the path of the advancing Stoddard, who fired through a crowd of players and into the net from 12-metres. Devonport looked a much better side than its lowly league position indicates, while White Eagle looked anything but a league champion in what was a scrappy, untidy affair, characterised by poor passing by both sides.

⚽ Croatia confident of netting 'Eagle'

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 31/7/91

"WE'LL beat White Eagle if we play as we did on Saturday." That is the prediction made by Croatia-Glenorchy coach, Eamonn Kelly, on the eve of his side's State League soccer match against the reigning champion at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Croatia lost 5-6 after penalties to Launceston Juventus on Saturday in the quarter-finals of the Wrest Point Hotel Casino Statewide Cup. Croatia might even have won the match before the penalty shoot-out with a little more luck, having hit the post three times.

"The boys are all hyped up and we just need a lucky break," Kelly said. "On Saturday, they did the club and themselves proud and I was proud to say I was coach of Croatia-Glenorchy." Kelly will use the same 13 players as on Saturday, which means Robert Furjanic and Mark Brkic will be on the substitute's bench.

Sacha Puclin will retain his place in the side, but state under-21 representative striker Brenden Lakoseljac is unable to force his way back into contention. Lakoseljac played in the reserves on Saturday after coming back from injury.

White Eagle must win in order to keep its title hopes alive, but the possible absence of star midfielder David Stoddart is a serious worry for coach Mark Leszczynski.

Stoddart is in Melbourne on business and may not be able to catch a flight back in time for the match. The side's other key midfielder, Scott Young, may return after a lengthy absence through injury, but this is far from certain.

Striker Richard Leszczynski has not trained because of the flu, but defender Paul Morrison should be available after missing the previous game because of a hand injury. Mark Leszczynski was unsure of his starting line-up yesterday, but said the side should perform well as long as players marked tightly and put away any chances that came their way.

He was furious at the soccer authorities match scheduling, saying that his side would have yet another 18-day break after tonight's match. "That's the third time this has happened, apart from other 10-day breaks, and they don't seem to realise how hard it is to motivate players with such long breaks between games."

⚽ Ketchell inspiring as Eagle dominates

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 01/8/1991

TWO goals and a brilliant display of midfield play by 24-year-old Richard Ketchell paved the way for White Eagle's 6-1 demolition of Croatia-Glenorchy in last night's State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park. As well as scoring twice, Ketchell had a hand in two of the other goals, scored by brothers Richard and Andrew Leszczynski.

The man-of-the-match performance was a fitting reward for Ketchell, who played with Caledonians last season after being unable to command a regular first-team spot with White Eagle.

He returned to the league champion this year, but has only recently become a permanent fixture in the side. Croatia was disappointing in attack and in defence, rarely testing its former goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic, while often leaving its own custodian Damien Smith, exposed at the back.

Brett Pullen tried valiantly in midfield to impose some sort of order and purpose to Croatia's play, but it was a lost cause and Eagle increased its dominance as the match progressed. Michael Driessen, who also fashioned two of Eagle's goals, opened up the Croatia defence in the 42nd minute and Ketchell's first-time shot from the right took a deflection off sweeper Robbie Baric before rocketing into the far corner of the net.

Right on half-time, Ketchell finished the run down the right with a low ball into the penalty area that was efficiently converted by Richard Leszczynski for Eagle's second goal. Croatia brought on Robert Furjanic and Brendan Lakoseljac for the second half, but it was to no avail as Eagle extended its lead within five minutes when Driessen swept home Andrew Leszczynski's corner.

Pullen's pass in the 53rd minute enabled Geoff Hallam to pull a goal back for Croatia, but the reigning league champion responded two minutes later with a fine goal from close range by Ketchell.

In the 63rd minute, Ketchell released Richard Leszczynski on the right and Andrew Leszczynski did not have to change stride as he nodded the cross past the unprotected Smith for goal number five. Belanic saved brilliantly from Tommy Huigsloot in the 82nd minute - Pullen having created the chance - but Eagle counter-punched again six minutes later, Neil Morrison and Driessen combining on the left after Belanic's throw, to provide Richard Leszczynski with his second goal and Eagle's sixth.

The win puts White Eagle in first place, two points ahead of Hobart Juventus, which has two games in hand.

⚽ Long break between games troubles top club, changes urged

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 01/8/91

SOUTHERN TASMANIA is again without a state league soccer match this weekend, and it is not only spectators who are complaining. Prior to White Eagle's midweek match against Croatia-Glenorchy, Eagle's coach, Mark Leszczynski, complained about the 18-day break his club would face before its next match. "This is the third such break we've had and it doesn't take into account some of the 10-day breaks we've had," Leszczynski said.

"The authorities don't seem to realise that it's very difficult to motivate a team when there are such gaps between matches." The crux of the problem is the fact they are only nine teams in the competition, which necessitates a bye each week.

Soccer administrators must address this problem next season and consider options, including that favoured by the state director of coaching, Les Bee, which is to enter a state youth side in the competition to make up the numbers.

Hobart Juventus will seek to regain the league leadership on Sunday when it travels to Devonport City's Valley Road complex. Juventus has two games in hand over league leader White Eagle and a win will put it a point in front.

The absence of striker Romeo Frediani and midfielder Carlo Ambrosino will not assist the Juventus cause and Sunday's assignment promises to be a tough one. Frediani looks like missing the rest of the season because of a leg injury, while the aggressive and talented midfielder Ambrosino is suspended for one match after being sent off against Caledonians last Sunday.

Striker Sergio Pace is also doubtful with a knee injury. Devonport is a much better side than its league position indicates and with Jason Russ, Tom McGinn and Adrian Mann amongst the goals last week, an upset could be on the cards.

Caledonians face a searching examination against Ulverstone at Knights Road and league position is again an unreliable indicator of the likely outcome.

Calies are fourth and Ulverstone seventh, but a win for the home side will put it level with its opponent on 17 points, although Calies have a superior goal difference. The return of goalkeeper Neil Connell will improve Calies' prospects as Ulverstone has awesome firepower, especially in the midfield zone, where Tom Compagne and Andrew Howe can unleash long-range barrages.

Sunday could be the day of reckoning for last-placed Burnie United, which visits third-placed Launceston Juventus's headquarters at Prospect.

If Devonport defeats Hobart Juventus, and if Burnie loses, Burnie will be unable to avoid the wooden-spoon. Whether it will be relegated or not is another matter however, as such decisions tend to be altered at the last moment. Burnie has not won in the league this season and it is difficult to see it reverse this trend against a no-nonsense team such as Launceston Juventus.

The Launceston Juventus outfit still has faint hopes of taking out the title and will be keen to gain three points as well as improving its goal difference.

⚽ Complacency may cost Juventus as Eagle closes in

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 09/8/91

HOBART JUVENTUS' chances of capturing the state league soccer championship will evaporate if it fails to defeat Ulverstone at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow.

The reigning champion, White Eagle, which has a bye, has played a game more than Juventus and holds a two-point lead, so it is vital that Juventus wins. A victory would put Juventus a point ahead of White Eagle and both sides would have three matches left to play.

The outlook for Juventus is not good however, especially following its 1-2 loss away to Devonport City last weekend. Some of the Juventus players do not seem to be taking things seriously and there appears to be a lack of discipline at the club. Some players are reported to be keeping late nights before important matches and there is a reluctance to do normal training, let alone additional work.

In contrast, White Eagle's players have stepped up their training schedule to four nights a week in an endeavour to retain the title, which will still depend on them doing everything right and Juventus dropping a point along the way.

Juventus meets Ulverstone, Launceston Juventus, Olympia and Burnie in the run-in to the title - a very daunting task - compared with Eagle's slightly easier program of Burnie, Caledonians and Olympia.

Juventus will have midfielder Carlo Ambrosino available for selection after suspension, but it will sorely miss Romeo Frediani, who seems likely to miss the rest of the season. Juventus won 2-0 away to Ulverstone in the first round, but tomorrow's match will be much more difficult for the southerners as Ulverstone has improved considerably over the intervening months.

Tomorrow's other match sees relegated Burnie United host Olympia-SBT Bank at Montello Park and little else but pride is at stake. Burnie has lost all 12 of its matches and will be out to gain at least some points this season, while Olympia can still finish fourth with a little luck.

Launceston Juventus still has an outside chance of the title and it should defeat a Caledonian side without goalkeeper Neil Connell in Sunday's main fixture at KGV. Connell dislocated his shoulder and tore a tendon near the collarbone against Ulverstone last week and is out for the rest of the season.

His understudy, Troy Schramm, has had a knee operation and defender Matt Wesson may have to play in goal, ironically against his former club.

Launceston Juventus won 1-0 at Prospect in the first round, and with Roger Mies and Branco Barac both chasing the leading goalscorer award, the visitor should win this second meeting.

Sunday's curtain-raiser should see seventh-placed Devonport City down eighth-placed Croatia-Glenorchy. Both teams have 14 points, with goal difference favouring Devonport. Croatia has fallen by the wayside in recent weeks, whereas Devonport pulled off a creditable win over Hobart Juventus last week.

⚽ Eagle camp 'disgusted' over forfeit by Burnie

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 19/8/91

BURNIE UNITED forfeited its state league soccer match against White Eagle which had been scheduled for KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

White Eagle was awarded a 3-0 win, but the Tasmanian Soccer Federation will hold an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the forfeiture. White Eagle remains in second place, a point behind league leader Hobart Juventus, which defeated third-placed Launceston Juventus 3-1 at Prospect yesterday.

Burnie was in last place without a point from 13 outings before yesterday's debacle. Aside from relegation, the club now faces certain disciplinary action from the TSF. Burnie's secretary, Mr Barry Saltmarsh, telephoned TSF general manager Mr Gordon Jablonski, at 11am yesterday to inform him that the club had forfeited the match against White Eagle.

"All I know is the club only had 10 players waiting to catch the bus and our coach made the decision not to travel to Hobart," Mr Saltmarsh said. "This is not something one likes doing, but it was an unfortunate situation in which we had players out through injury, illness or work commitments.

"We'll be meeting tonight and putting something in writing and I suspect [the club] will be fined, but the severity of any action will depend on what answers we come up with."

Mr David Stoddart snr, president of reigning league champions White Eagle, said: "I'm absolutely disgusted, but what can you do about it?" "You can't blame the TSF, but this is scandalous and it will effect the goalscoring award, the medal count, and may even decide the championship."

Mr Jablonski and the president of the TSF, Mr Roy Stoneman, both expressed disappointment at the turn of events and agreed the matter was very serious. But both refused to comment further until the TSF had investigated the matter.

Romeo Fabrizio was the chief executioner for Hobart Juventus yesterday for the second match in succession. His two goals last week gave Hobart Juventus a 2-1 win over Ulverstone, while yesterday, he struck in the first and 62nd minutes to give the southerners a 2-0 lead over Launceston Juventus.

Lino Sciulli pulled a goal back for the home side in the 69th minute, but Sergio Pace sealed the match for the league leader with a header five minutes from the end.

Launceston Juventus player Liam Monagle was sent off by referee Greg Priest in the 81st minute after he had earlier been cautioned.

On Saturday night, Devonport City was held to a 2-2 draw by the visiting Ulverstone at Valley Road. Adrian Mann and Tom McGinn were the Devonport marksmen, while Ulverstone replied through John Sallese and Paul Zoccolan.

⚽ Burnie's forfeit an unwanted blow to game's credibility

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 20/8/91

THE events of last Sunday, when Burnie United forfeited its State League soccer match against White Eagle, is a serious blow to the credibility of soccer in Tasmania.

The State League competition, the sport's showpiece, has had a chequered history and the latest drama does nothing to enhance the image of soccer, the league, or the Burnie club.

The competition is a fragile creation as it is, with only nine teams - thus necessitating a bye each week - and no clear-cut rules regarding its composition and the issue of relegation. Burnie finished bottom last season, but was spared the ignominy of relegation. It has had an even worse year this season, earning not even a point from 13 outings, and now forfeiting a match.

It can surely not expect any mercy from the Tasmanian Soccer Federation this time, despite supposed progress off the field, such as the $45,000 extensions to its clubrooms.

For a club that fields four teams each week - under-17s through to seniors - it seems incredible that it had to forfeit a match in the top-flight. Club secretary Mr Barry Saltmarsh told me it was an unfortunate set of circumstances that led to the forfeit, mainly an exceptional accumulation of injuries, illness and unavailability of players on the one day - a freak occurrence in other words.

Burnie's player-coach Ray Parke, said the northern soccer body had a rule that precludes players who have played for a club on Saturday from taking the field for one of that club's other sides on Sunday.

Surely, the State League takes priority over all local competitions. If that doesn't apply in the north of the state it should, and the TSF should ensure that it does.

"We had too many injuries and we didn't have a team to travel with," Parke said. "I'm very disappointed. "We had 10 fit players to travel, and I wasn't going to embarrass us in Hobart because it's hard enough to play down there with 13. "To go with 10 would have been ludicrous, and I'm bitter and saddened about having to forfeit."

There may be a great deal of breast-beating and soul-searching in the aftermath of the forfeit, but the damage is done and the TSF must salvage what it can from the situation. The goalscoring award will be affected, as will the vote-counting for the Vic Tuting Silver Medal, and ultimately, the championship may even be decided on this forfeited match.

If the State League is to continue, it must be run on a more professional basis. It is not good for the game to chop and change the rules each year. Stability is required. There were many disgruntled and disappointed spectators at KGV on Sunday and they will not come back if they continue to be presented with what sometimes verges on a 'Mickey Mouse' league.

⚽ White Eagle digs its talons into top position

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 20/8/91

WHITE EAGLE shot to the top of the State League soccer ladder when it defeated Caledonians 3-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night and Hobart Juventus lost 1-2 to Olympia SBT Bank.

White Eagle, the reigning league champion, now holds a two-point lead over second-placed Hobart Juventus, the leader at the beginning of the evening, with one round remaining.

Hobart Juventus has the relatively easy task of facing Burnie United, the relegated side, while Eagle must confront the unpredictable Olympia.

Olympia produced a magnificent performance to down Juventus, striker Billy Tsakiris scoring both its goals. That was no mean achievement for the diminutive forward, especially against the tall, strong Juventus defence.

The Olympia rearguard of goalkeeper Peter Schwarz, together with Mark Koch, Michael Edwards and Andrew Berry, was superb.

Schwarz handled every shot with the confidence of a veteran, Berry displayed remarkable maturity and composure under pressure, while Edwards and Koch attacked every ball in the air and were unbeatable on the ground.

Steve Kannegiesser, a former star with Juventus, dominated the midfield for Olympia. He popped up everywhere, attracting passes from team-mates and then distributing the ball to perfection.

He was ably supported in midfield by Kon Tsiakis, Michael Berwick, Peter Tsakiris and Peter Alexiadis. Peter Vafakos and Albert Juhasz kept up the good work when they replaced Peter Tsakiris and Alexiadis during the second half.

Craig Nicholls, who partnered Billy Tsakiris in attack, might easily have had a hat trick. Early in the second period he twice missed easy openings after rounding Juventus goalkeeper Frank Mainella.

Nicholls' cross-field passes were deadly, changing the focus of the Olympia attack and throwing the Juventus defence into a panic, and it was his free-kick in the 63rd minute - he had been fouled by Nick Di Martino - that provided Billy Tsakiris with an easy second goal which killed off Juventus.

Billy Tsakiris had put Olympia ahead in the 15th minute after Mainella had been unable to hold Alexiadis' deep cross from the right and Kannegiesser's effort had been blocked.

Juventus was very disappointing, both in attack and defence. Striker Steve Walker missed two good chances from free headers, while the defence was nowhere to be seen at Olympia's second goal.

Bruce Pears put in a spirited performance in the second half, although his crude challenge on Kannegiesser might have earned more than just a yellow card from some referees.

It was Pears' low cross from the left in the 84th minute that led to the Juventus goal. Koch was adjudged to have handled the ball and Romeo Fabrizio scored easily from the penalty spot.

A 32nd-minute goal by Richard Leszczynski gave White Eagle a 1-0 lead at the interval against Caledonians and two second-half goals by substitute David Stoddart sealed Calies' fate.

Stoddart's first, in the 72nd minute, was a penalty, Andrew Jospeh having fouled him. Jospeh compounded the error by protesting against the referee's decision and was promptly shown the red card.

Reduced to 10 men, Calies' resistance crumbled completely and Stoddart hit the third goal, following Andrew Leszczynski's corner, with 13 minutes remaining.

⚽ Eagles pushed down ladder

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 27/8/91

IT'S official - White Eagle is back in second place rather than on top in the State League standings, a point behind leader Hobart Juventus.

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation has decided that Burnie United's failure to front at KGV Soccer Park on August 18 for its match against White Eagle will not count as a forfeit and that the match will be played. It has been scheduled for high noon at KGV on Saturday, September 21, but by that time it may not be much of a showdown.

Hobart Juventus should defeat Burnie at KGV next Saturday, thus taking it four points clear of White Eagle. If Eagle then loses next Sunday against Olympia at KGV, the title would belong to Juventus. A win or a draw for White Eagle against Olympia would then make Eagle's match against Burnie the decisive game.

Hobart Juventus and White Eagle are certain to make mincemeat of Burnie, so it is the White Eagle versus Olympia match on Fathers' Day that should decide the title.

The Olympia club executive committee has apologised in writing to coach Ken Morton following an incident during Olympia's 2-1 win over Hobart Juventus last Wednesday. As Morton substituted youngster Peter Tsakiris, he was abused from the stand immediately above the coach's bench by an Olympia committeeman.

Morton threatened to resign following the incident, while several key players said they would not play for the club unless an apology was forthcoming.

⚽ So close, as Eagle's title swings on final game

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2/9/91

WHITE EAGLE put one hand on the state league soccer championship trophy when it defeated Olympia-SBT Bank 4-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

The reigning champion is now a point behind Hobart Juventus, which has completed its league program, and needs merely a draw against last-placed Burnie United at KGV on September 21 to retain its title.

White Eagle appeared nervous in the opening exchanges, and it suffered an early setback when Olympia was awarded and converted a penalty in the 15th minute after linesman Kim Barker spotted a handball by defender Eugene Banasik.

Eagle recovered its composure, however, and with Richard Leszczynski in scintillating form, it hit the front with two goals in the space of seven minutes.

The first came in the 28th minute following an error by Michael Edwards and a run into the penalty area by Andrew Leszczynski. Mark Koch blocked Andrew's run, the ball rolled loose for a fraction of a second, and Richard whipped it past Peter Schwarz from 18 metres.

In the 35th minute, Andrew Leszczynski knocked a corner back into the midfield zone to Franco Previdi, whose crisp, low shot carried through a forest of legs and bodies and somehow found Richard Leszczynski, who again beat Schwarz.

On the stroke of half-time, Andrew Leszczynski's corner was cleared by the Olympia defence, but only to Neil Morrison on the left. Morrison clipped the ball into the penalty area as the Olympia defence surged forward, and Scott Young found himself in possession on the penalty spot with only the goalkeeper to beat. As Schwarz came off his line, Young stroked the ball into the net to give Eagle a 3-1 advantage at the break.

Olympia, which missed the coolness of youngster Andrew Berry in defence, replaced striker Peter Alexiadis with Robbie Kent in the 63rd minute. Kent went to sweeper, which released Berwick to move into the attack and it was he who won a second penalty with 11 minutes remaining. Steve Kannegiesser beat Belanic with his spot-kick, and Eagle was left to hang on to a precarious lead in a tense final 10 minutes.

With Olympia pushing men forward in a desperate search for an equaliser, White Eagle scored a fourth goal in injury time. Young's throw-in on the left found Stoddart, who lobbed the ball into the six-yard box, where Andrew Leszczynski executed perfect control before shooting past Schwarz.

At Prospect, Launceston Juventus confirmed its third placing with a 2-1 win over Croatia-Glenorchy after a goalless opening half. Liam Monagle and Jason Clayton were the Juventus scorers, while Brendan Lakoseljac replied for Croatia, which had Robbie Baric sent off in the final minute.

⚽ White Eagle at short odds to fly away with title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 20/9/91

The State League soccer championship will be decided at KGV Soccer Park at noon tomorrow when last-placed Burnie United meets second-placed White Eagle, the reigning champion. White Eagle needs only a draw to retain its title.

If Burnie wins, the championship will go to the present league-leader Hobart Juventus. White Eagle has won four championships in the past five seasons and a title win tomorrow will be the club's fourth success in a row.

The irony of the situation is that Hobart Juventus' coach Eugene Mycak, took White Eagle to its past two league triumphs. Tomorrow, he can only sit and watch, hoping for Burnie to pull off a miraculous win.

Eagle's present coach Mark Leszczynski, who is also the captain and sweeper, is in line for his second title as player-coach, having guided the club to league success in 1988.

Leszczynski took over from Peter Irving midway through the season, after Irving resigned. Irving had already captured two trophies for the club before his resignation in this, his first season in charge, the Cascade Summer Cup and the Cadbury Charity trophy.

White Eagle should be at full strength for tomorrow's showdown and anything other than a comfortable Eagle victory is inconceivable.

Burnie has not gained a point in 15 matches this season, and that incredible lack of success is unlikely to end in this game. Burnie lost 2-0 to Hobart Juventus in its previous outing, both goals coming from penalties, but it was Juventus' inadequacy in front of goal rather than anything Burnie did that produced such a flattering scoreline.

The meeting between Eagle and Burnie should have taken place on August 18, but Burnie failed to show up.

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation initially awarded the game to White Eagle 3-0 on a forfeit, but then reversed its decision and ordered the match to be played.

The league's individual goalscoring award - White Eagle's Richard Leszczynski is the leader and favourite - and the votes for the Vic Tuting Silver Medal would have been affected if the game was not played.

⚽ Eagle swoops on Burnie and flies off with another title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 22/9/91

WHITE EAGLE won its fourth State League soccer championship in succession - its fifth league title in six seasons - when it defeated last-placed Burnie United 6-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

The win put White Eagle two points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus which, ironically, had beaten Eagle twice in the league this season.

Yesterday's match should have been played on August 18, but Burnie failed to appear at KGV that day. The Tasmanian Soccer Federation initially awarded the match to White Eagle 3-0 on a forfeit, but later reversed its decision and ordered the match to be played.

Burnie was on the back foot from the start yesterday and White Eagle rattled in five goals in the first half through David Stoddart, with a penalty, Andrew Leszczynski, Craig Pitt, Richard Leszczynski and Neil Morrison. Substitute Michael Driessen, who had replaced Andrew Leszczynski at the interval, headed the sixth from Morrison's corner midway through the second half.

Burnie's solitary scoring chance came in the last minute when Jamie Joyce conceded a penalty by bringing down Andrew Denton, however, White Eagle goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic, produced a brilliant save from Ray Parke's spot-kick.

Parke and substitute Mike Denton, the former Australian International, were by far the oldest players in Burnie's side, 10 members of the team being under 21.

It was Mark Leszczynski's second league championship success as player-coach of White Eagle, having also taken the club to the title in 1988.

Victory in 1991 equaled the post-war Caledonian record (1955 to 1958) of four back-to-back state titles.

Richard Leszczynski, with 16 goals, took out The Campbell Street Newsagency Top Goalscorer Award, and David Stoddart was second with 14 goals. Craig Pitt also hit double figures with 10 goals.

State League Final Standings 1991

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**16**	**13**	**0**	**3**	**59**	**26**	**39**
Hobart Juventus	16	12	1	3	40	16	37
Launceston Juventus	16	10	2	4	36	24	32
Olympia-SBT	16	8	2	6	34	34	26
Croatia	16	6	2	8	37	37	20
Caledonians	16	5	4	7	25	25	19
Ulverstone	16	4	5	7	30	30	17
Devonport	16	4	4	8	34	34	16
Burnie United	16	0	0	16	14	60	0

1991 also hosted the presentation of the first Bill Jones Memorial Award, recognizing outstanding service to the Club, with Ingrid Leszczynski being its first recipient. Bill Jones was a Life Member of the club, an honour bestowed upon him in 1976, and in 1990 he was also the recipient of a Silver Medal by the Polish Government-In-Exile in London, for his services to the Polish Sponsored club and Polish Community over a period of 28 years, a significant achievement.

Members of 1991 Premiership Squad

Andrew Leszczynski

Richard Leszczynski

D Stoddart

Franco Previdi

Michael Driessen

Zlatko Belanic

Scott Young

Mark Leszczynski

In 1992 sponsorship of the league was provided by Wrest Point Casino, and the reserve competition was made a State League one as well. A final four series was introduced to determine the season's premiers. There were 8 teams in the roster that included three rounds, unlike previous years where there were two rounds and included bye weeks.

Eugene Mycak returned to the club as senior coach and Les Ware was appointed reserves coach. Eagles entered the season without star striker Richard Leszczynski who was having a year off, and his absence would be felt as the season progressed. After a solid pre-season, the team got off to a positive start by securing the Summer Cup against Hobart Juventus.

⚽ Stoddart made the difference in White Eagle Summer Cup victory

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 21/4/1992 – SUMMER CUP FINAL

WHITE EAGLE has retained the Cascade Summer Cup, defeating Hobart Juventus 3-2 in extra time at KGV Soccer Park yesterday in the State League section final of the competition. Both teams produced exciting, high-quality soccer, despite the gusty winds and long grass on the bumpy playing surface.

Goals by Franco Previdi and Craig Pitt gave Eagle a 2-0 lead before Steve Walker struck twice in six minutes just before the interval to make it 2-2 at the break. The second half remained goalless, and it took a splendid free-kick by David Stoddart in the second period of extra-time to decide the issue.

Stoddart was magnificent. He was the best player afield, although he was closely followed by team-mate and fellow midfielder Scott Young. Outstanding ball control, 360-degree vision, precise passing, and a willingness to help out in defence and attack highlighted the duo's performance.

Pitt and Previdi did what was required of them in attack, scoring a goal apiece and making life difficult for the Juventus back-four of Jason Hay, Chis Hey, Nick Di Martino and Lino Taglieri. Taglieri put in a solid performance at left-back for Juventus, while Walker and Sergio Pace were very effective, as they regularly inter-changed places in midfield and attack.

Previdi opened the scoring for Eagle in the 20th minute. Michael Driessen put him through the defence, and although goalkeeper Frank Mainella got a hand to the shot, he was unable to prevent the ball from carrying into the net. Midway through the half, Mainella produced a first-class save, turning Young's low drive wide of the left-hand upright for a fruitless corner.

Pitt made it 2-0 in the 37th minute, scoring on the turn after Stoddart's cross from the goal-line on the right had confused almost everyone, the ball hanging in the air before swerving in the wind and dropping at Pitt's feet. Within two minutes, Walker had taken advantage of a quick break to shoot past Zlatko Belanic and reduce the deficit, while right on half-time, Frank Genovesi found Walker with a pass and the striker equalised.

Walker had four more good opportunities in the second half to win the match for Juventus as Romeo Frediani and Robert Mastracola prized open the Eagle defence on the flanks, while Bruce Pears also went close after Hey's free-kick.

Richard Ketchell too, squandered an easy chance for Eagle in the 69th minute after Pitt and Previdi had combined to take advantage of a less-than-alert Juventus defence. In the 107th minute, Mainella finally put a foot wrong, and it proved fatal for his team. The goalkeeper stepped outside the penalty area while kicking the ball upfield and conceded a free-kick for hand-ball. Given Stoddart's performance in the match up until that moment, it came as no surprise when he calmly stepped up and smashed the ball around the defensive wall and into the top right-hand corner of the net.

The team lost the Charity Cup on penalties after a 1-1 draw, and were also defeated in the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy final by Croatia 1-2. At the conclusion of the home and away matches, Devonport were firmly entrenched at the top of the table,

and were deserved minor premiers. David Stoddart won the goalscoring award after finishing the season with an outstanding display in the final roster game.

⚽ Eagle avalanche crushes Ulverstone

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 6/9/1992

ULVERSTONE went to KGV Soccer Park yesterday in search of a huge win over White Eagle, in order to qualify for the Wrest Point State League soccer competition top four finals series.

A win by eight or more goals would have enabled the coastal side to replace White Eagle in the top four but the assignment was made even more difficult by the absence of midfielders John Compagne and Leon Thurley. As it was the visitor had no chance, falling behind to a David Stoddart goal after only 10 minutes, trailing 3-0 at the break and eventually succumbing 7-0.

Ulverstone's defensive play was poor. It gave one goal away from a back pass, Jamie Joyce snapping up the chance provided by Robby Morgan's carelessness. Alan Wisby's long clearances were another source of danger for Ulverstone and twice they resulted in goals. In the 34th minute, Wisby's long clearance put Joyce away on the right and he slipped the ball across the penalty area for Myles Harry to score.

A similar massive clearance on the 87th minute let Stoddart lob the ball over goalkeeper Justin Smith for the seventh goal.
Stoddart had also scored the sixth goal in the 70th minute from Harry's pass. His tally of three goals made him the league's top goalscorer with 17 goals. Scott Young scored Eagles remaining two goals.

⚑

The club's Division 3 side was promoted to Division 2 after winning their competition, and the season ended on a high note, with David Stoddart Jnr, being awarded the "Vic Tuting Silver Medal" as the league's Best & Fairest player, to add to his Soccer Writers Player of the Year award.

⚽ Stoddart snares another award

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 09/10/1992 – SOCCER WRITERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

DAVID STODDART, the 25-year-old White Eagle midfielder, is the 1992 Tasmanian Soccer Writers' Player of the Year.

Stoddart polled nine votes from those submitted by the writers, Walter Pless (The Mercury), John Tscheppera (The Examiner), Mike Denton (The Advocate) and David Smith (Southern Star). Devonport City midfielder, Charlie McCaffrey was second with seven votes, followed by goalkeepers Neil Connell (Caledonians) and Simon Miotto (Launceston Juventus) with four votes each. Devonport duo, defender John 'Snowy' Compagne, last year's winner, and striker Tommy McGuinn were awarded one vote each. White Eagle midfielder, Scott Young, was the inaugural winner of the Writers' Award in 1990.

⚽ White Eagle star scores again

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 11/10/1992 – VIC TUTING MEDAL

DAVID STODDART of White Eagle completed a hat-trick of personal awards last night when he was named as the 1992 winner of the Vic Tuting Silver Medal, awarded to the best and fairest State League soccer player. Stoddart had already won the Campbell Street Newsagency top goal scorer award this season with 17 goals and on Friday he was named as the Tasmanian Soccer Writers' Player-of-the-Year.

The 25-year-old midfielder has been with White Eagle for his entire career and played a major role in White Eagle's five championships in the past seven seasons. Stoddart polled 29 votes, one ahead of Devonport City striker, Tommy

McGinn, who also finished second to Stoddart in the individual goalscoring award. Stoddart was delighted at winning the Vic Tuting medal but said he and his teammates were disappointed at White Eagle's poor showing in the finals. He said his personal performances had been more consistent than in past seasons and he was pleased with his own tally of goals this year as the team lacked an out and out striker.

"We just did not put the goals away when it counted this year, and our inability to even score in some matches was extraordinary," Stoddart said. "In the finals series, we didn't score a goal, which is unbelievable for a team like White Eagle, and that made for a disappointing end to the season, but his medal win has made up a little bit for that."

Stoddart, who began his career at White Eagle in the under 13s in 1978 and who made his senior debut in 1983, said his future lay with White Eagle. "I'll be kicking on with White Eagle for quite a few years yet and I have no intention of going anywhere else," he said.

Eugene Mycak, Zlatko Belanic, David Stoddart Snr, Scott Young, David Stoddart Jnr, Mark Leszczynski, Michael Driessen

State League Final Standings 1992

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport	21	16	2	3	57	19	50
White Eagle	**21**	**10**	**4**	**7**	**54**	**39**	**34**
Caledonians	21	10	2	9	30	38	32
Croatia Glenorchy	21	9	4	8	36	35	31
Launceston Juventus	21	8	4	9	30	33	28
Ulverstone	21	8	4	9	27	40	28
Hobart Juventus	21	6	3	12	28	32	21
Olympia	21	5	1	15	24	50	16

Leading goalscorer: D. Stoddart 17

Excerpt from the "Talon – Nov'92" – Manager Frank Bansel…

"The 1992 season was fiercely competitive, with a final four series to decide the League Champions. The club welcomed back Eugene Mycak as coach and a solid pre-season training, coupled with an enthusiastic squad, ensured that we won the Summer Cup yet again.

The home and away series was embarked upon with a good deal of optimism. Devonport and White Eagle seemed to be the likely championship contenders early on in the season and a draw in the first round demonstrated there was little between the two sides. This was a turning point for both sides. Devonport went from strength to strength, recording few

losses from this point. White Eagle on the other hand performed somewhat inconsistently, realising its full potential on only a few occasions.

At the conclusion of the home and away series Devonport was firmly entrenched at the top of the table and were very deserving minor premiers. David Stoddart won the goalscoring award with an outstanding display in the final game of the season.

The final series is now, of course, history. A loss to Devonport by one goal to nil and a loss to Croatia by the same margin ended the season. Whereas Eagle had the better of both sides and displayed considerable skill and flair, we were simply unable to convert our chances. This, coupled with some bad luck and inconsistent refereeing, dogged us throughout the finals series.

Many positive aspects are to be highlighted during the season. The return of Eugene Banasik after a long injury provided stability and experience at the back. Alan Wisby learned much from his outstanding mentor Zlatko Belanic and displayed great potential and maturity. Myles Harry made an amazing debut, and apart from the occasional crisis of confidence displayed the temperament, skill and enthusiasm that augurs well for a successful career with the club.

Damien Bones, despite his youth, demonstrated the courage and skill necessary to achieve at State League level. Paul Murray has developed the concentration, control and dedication vital to success as a key defender. His contribution to the club in the future will be inestimable as he continues to mature and develop. Mark Leszczynski's experience and captaincy continued to improve as did David Stoddart.

David assumed greater responsibility and displayed considerable maturity in his consistently outstanding contribution to the club. Stalwarts Scott Young, Andrew Leszczynski, Craig Pitt and Michael Driessen turned in some solid performances, as did Paul and Neil Morrison. Jamie Joyce continued to improve in temperament and skill, making positive contributions throughout the season. Robbie Lebski demonstrated the capacity to play at the top level, particularly in our final game, and Richard Ketchell and Franco Previdi made some good contributions early in the season.

There is no doubt that with the services of such outstanding and dedicated players the club will continue its successful tradition as the major power in the Tasmanian State Soccer League."

1992 Senior Team
Back: F. Bansel (Manager) M. Driessen, C. Pitt, S. Young, P. Murray, P. Morrison, N. Morrison, A. Leszczynski, B. Rybak (Trainer) D. Stoddart Snr (President) **Front:** F. Previdi, D. Stoddart Jnr, M. Leszczynski, Z. Belanic, E. Mycak, A Wisby, R. Ketchell, R. Lebski, D. Bones.

The success story of 1992 was the Division 3 team coached by John Large. They were league champions, winning the league on goal difference after a titanic battle with South Hobart, were Knock-Out Cup winners and were subsequently promoted to Division 2.

Division 3- Final Standings 1992

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**21**	**18**	**1**	**2**	**108**	**21**	**55**
South Hobart	21	18	1	2	90	24	55
University Rovers	20	11	2	7	57	37	35
DOSA	20	8	1	11	49	50	25
University United	20	8	0	12	37	80	24
University Gold	19	7	1	11	42	44	22
Phoenix Clarence	20	5	2	13	22	65	17
Rapid	19	1	0	18	25	109	3

Excerpt from the "Talon – Nov'92" - John Large….

"What can I say but congratulations to one and all for a very successful season. Not only did we win the premiership, we also achieved the double by winning the knock-out cup.

This year's efforts was made possible with the help of the following players: Neil Biggar, Ian Biggar, Marcus Proud, Chris Brown-Price, Michael Case, Brett Stoddart, Stefan Sikora, Tim Wilkie, Adam Czyzowicz, Gilbert Steenhuis, Julian Proud, Tony Grueber, Greg Rosinski, Steve Vernon, Dal Singh and John Large.

Special mention to the following players who filled in on occasions throughout the year: Jamie Joyce, Lee Shacklady, Robert Lebski, Les Ware, Michael O'Conner, Grant Mason and Vance FitzGerald.

Being 3 points off the pace but with a superior goal difference, we were confronted with the task of playing South Hobart to decide who would win the premiership. A win or a draw to South Hobart would see them take the trophy for the second year in a row. Due to poor ground conditions at Wellesley Park, the game was transferred to South Hobart.

The boys enthusiastically approached the game and gave their all to come away with the game, the premiership and the greatest feeling that team stacking can sometimes backfire as was the case with South Hobart.

The following week we again played South Hobart and repeated the dose and won a berth in the Cup final against University. With the double at stake and with both teams wanting the honour, we managed to overcome University and scrape in by one lone goal, completing the double."

In 1993 Bob Rybak was appointed senior coach, with Dale Itchins his assistant, and Les Ware once again reserves coach. Frank Bansel took over the Presidency of the club from David Stoddart Snr. Later that year David Stoddart Snr was awarded the Bill Jones Memorial Trophy for his lengthy service to the club.

Eagle Mainella bid

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 1993

WHITE EAGLE hopes to sign Hobart Juventus goalkeeper Frank Mainella before the start of the Wrest Point State League soccer season. "We have negotiated with Mainella, and he has applied to his club for a clearance," the new White Eagle president, Mr Frank Bansel, said yesterday.

"He is training with us, and our supporters have raised the money for the transfer fee among themselves." Bansel also announced the appointment of Dale Itchins as assistant to the club's senior coach, Bobby Rybak. Itchins, who has been with White Eagle in the past, coached Hobart Juventus to the State League reserve premiership last season and took over the senior coaching position at the club midway through last season.

"Dale has an expansive brief at our club, which will utilise his talents," Mr Bansel said. "He's an outstanding soccer organiser and he will be the manager and the physio for the seniors, while in the absence of Bobby Rybak, he will take training. "There's a real feeling of him coming home and the players have welcomed him. "It's a good move by Dale, and an astute one by the club."

Mr Bansel said White Eagle had attracted some new young players, such as Matthew Holloway from Croatia-Glenorchy and Mark Gadd from Hobart Juventus. Damien Bones has returned after a couple of weeks at the Victorian Institute of Sport looking very fit and strong, while youngster Scott Grygiel is training impressively.

The club hopes to obtain a clearance from Croatia for striker Tuach Hussein, who has not played at senior level for a couple of seasons. "Apart from being successful at senior level, the club hopes to field a competitive State League reserve side and develop our youth," Mr Bansel said. "We have a hard-working committee of 12 this year and we have set ourselves a number of aims, including sound management of the club and the creation of an air of enjoyment and optimism.

"We hope to introduce innovations such as a gold pass for supporters, which would give them free entry to matches and free bus trips to away matches, and we intend to produce a regular newsletter. "We aim to raise the profile of our club, but also the profile of soccer in general because the game is bigger than any one club."

Mr Bansel said Devonport City was his club's target this year because the coastal side had set the pace and the standards last season. "After our years of success, it's nice to be the underdog for a change, and Devonport will be our focus of attack because they're the team to beat," he said.

"We're aiming for the inaugural summer season, which starts in October, and we hope to introduce a stable and injury-free squad from the shortened winter competition into the new competition. "With the summer league, we're entering new and uncharted territory, but it has the potential to be a great success."

The senior side started the season by making the Summer Cup Final where they were defeated by Croatia 2-1 in a match marred by poor refereeing, which affected both team's performance on the day. The shortened 14 game winter roster, which ended in August, resulted in the seniors finishing second again to Devonport. After staging a magnificent come back from 3-1 down against Juventus they eventually lost the Preliminary Final on penalties and were eliminated from the competition.

The reserves finished third in their roster and lost their finals chance with a 0-1 loss, after an Eagle defender put through his own net. The Division 2 side performed well in their new competition finishing fourth. The switch to a summer roster began in November 1993 after the shorter winter season.

State League Final Standings - 1993

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport	14	10	1	3	45	23	31
White Eagle	**14**	**8**	**2**	**4**	**29**	**20**	**26**
Croatia Glenorchy	14	8	0	6	31	25	24
Hobart Juventus	14	7	2	5	29	22	23
Caledonians	14	6	1	7	26	28	19
Ulverstone	14	5	3	6	31	32	18
Launceston Juventus	14	4	3	7	24	32	15
Olympia	14	2	0	12	20	53	6

1993 Senior Team

Back: B. Rybak (Coach), A. Wisby, A. Leszczynski, M. Driessen, M. Holloway, C. Pitt, S. Young, P. Murray, J. Joyce, P. Morrison, D. Itchins (Asst Coach) **Front:** D. Bones, M. Murray, D. Stoddart, Z. Belanic, M. Leszczynski, M. Nidorfer

The club appointed Dale Itchins as senior coach and Les Ware continued with the reserves for the 1993/94 summer season. The senior team won their opening game of the season, against Croatia 6-0, in a match that saw the Eagles' new signing Colin Shepherd scoring with his first touch. Shepherd's signing would prove to be a good one as he formed a lethal combination with Richard Leszczynski that would continue for a number of years.

The team captured the Summer Cup with an emphatic win over Croatia, reversing the previous season's result, and the side finished the roster season in third position, before defeating both Juventus's in the preliminary finals to make it to the Grand Final, where they were defeated by the minor premiers Devonport 2-3.

The reserves, also made the Grand Final but were unsuccessful, losing to Croatia-Glenorchy in a high-scoring match 3-4.

The year also included a famous come from behind win against Olympia. With Eagle trailing 0-3 at half time a devastating second half performance saw them run out 5-3 winners.

⚽ Preying Eagle polishes off Croatia

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 8-11-1993

WHITE Eagle thrashed Croatia Glenorchy 6-0 with a polished performance in its opening match of the Wrest Point State League summer competition at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

New Eagle goalkeeper Frank Mainella who was finally cleared from Hobart Juventus after sitting out the winter campaign had little to do against a slow and blunt Croatia attack.

Striker Colin Shepherd, Eagles other new signing, scored with his first touch of the game in the second minute.

He combined well with his new teammates, taking the pressure off Richard Leszczynski, and he seems set to better his tally of five league goals for his former club Caledonians in the winter season.

The loss of midfielder Scott Young, just before the interval, with a serious elbow injury after colliding with Matthew Gasparin put a dampener on Eagle's emphatic victory.

Young was stretchered off the file and taken to hospital by ambulance. He was plagued by injury earlier this year but played superbly for Tasmania in its recent matches against interstate opposition.

Eagle took the lead through Shepherd in the second minute after an excellent build-up involving Young, Craig Pitt and Andrew Leszczynski.

Young made it 2-0 in the 32nd minute after Michael Driessen and David Stoddart combined at a short corner and Pitt dummied Stoddart's low cross.

Martin Nidorfer, who replaced Young, added eagle's third midway through the second period while Richard Leszczynski made it 4-0 soon after when he cut in from the left and beat Robbie Huigsloot with a crisp shot.

An Andrew Leszczynski penalty near the end, after Shepherd was tripped, gave eagle its fifth goal.

Croatia was reduced to 10 mem moments later when Dallas Joiner, who had fired against the eagle cross bar with a long-range effort in the second half, was sent off by referee John Raymond after clashing with eagle substitute Alex Leon, who was cautioned.

Richard Leszczynski completed Eagle's tally in the final minute with his second goal of the match, Huigsloot failing to hold onto a header after Paul Morrison's high ball into the penalty area turned defence into instant attack.

⚽ Rampant White Eagle claws Croatia to fly up ladder

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22-1-1994

WHITE EAGLE soared from seventh to fourth place on the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder by trouncing second-last Croatia-Glenorchy 7-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Eagle completely outplayed its lethargic opponent, scoring four goals in the opening half.

Richard Leszczynski hit a hat-trick in his first game back after a month's lay-off, while Colin Shepherd netted twice.

Craig Pitt and Jamie Joyce, the latter from a twice-taken penalty scored the remaining goals.

Only a brilliant performance by Croatia's 17-year-old goalkeeper Nathan Puclin, kept the score below double figures.

⚽ Eagle rises from the ashes to down Olympia

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 05/02/1994

WHITE Eagle came back from a 3-0 half-time deficit to defeat Olympia-CUB 5-3 in their Wrest Point State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

A brilliant first-half hat-trick by striker Paul Tsangaris was not enough to save Olympia. Eagle squandered eight chances in the first half but made amends in the second.

A Jamie Joyce penalty only minutes after the resumption proved the turning point, and signalled the beginning of the end for Olympia. Craig Pitt and substitute Andrew Leszczynski drew Eagle level by midway through the half, while goals by Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd killed off Olympia.

⚽ Calies crumble in Eagle goal rush

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24/3/1994

WHITE Eagle thrashed Caledonian 8-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night to cement its place in the Wrest Point State League finals series. Eagle is now second, but it will drop back to third spot if Launceston Juventus defeats Olympia-CUB on Saturday.

Caledonian's only hope of retaining a place in the four lies with South Hobart, the last-placed team, which would have to beat fifth-placed Hobart Juventus on Sunday. This would require a miracle however, and Hobart Juventus, rather than Calies, should grab the remaining top-four berth on goal-difference.

Scott Young, Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart all scored twice, the other goals coming from Craig Pitt and Eugene Banasik. Young, the sweeper, did exceptionally well, coming forward at corners and scoring twice with headers. Richard

Leszczynski might easily have doubled or even tripled his tally as he repeatedly outran the Calies defence, but his finishing was not always as accurate as it should have been.

Caledonian rarely troubled Eagle as the team failed to get forward in numbers and its passing was often erratic. At the back, the Calies defenders were often at panic stations and, especially in the second half, made elementary errors which turned the penalty area into a shooting gallery.

Eagle's young substitute Darren Frost, might have grabbed a couple of goals near the end, but he either shot straight at the goalkeeper or refused to take the responsibility for shooting and passed to a team-mate. Eagle's goal-spree will put its players in the right frame of mind for the finals, while Calies can only pray for the impossible on Sunday.

⚽ Croatia to defend Summer Cup title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 4-4-1994 – SUMMER CUP FINAL PREVIEW

CROATIA-Glenorchy will defend its Cascade Summer Cup soccer title against White Eagle at KGV Soccer Park today.

But Croatia's task will not be easy, as White Eagle defeated Croatia 6-0 and 7-0 in their two league meetings this season.

Croatia's joint playing coach Paul Furjanic is quite confident of success. "We've done well against White Eagle in finals in the past and we'll put those league results behind us," Furjanic said. "Morale is high and I think we can put up a good defence of the title."

Croatia will have midfielder Derek Story back from suspension and Robert Furjanic will be back on the substitutes bench after injury.

The only doubt surrounds the left full-back position, where Mark Broadbent and David Hegol are vying for the shirt.

Joint playing coach Tony Bacic will lead the attack and his aerial ability should complement the ground skills of Mark Brkic.

"Tony's height is an advantage but I hope Mark is able to read his flick-ons a little better than he has in the past." Furjanic said.

White Eagle will have midfielder Andrew Leszczynski and defender Paul Morrison back after injury.

The team is still missing too many scoring chances and looked ordinary in the 2-0 semi-final win over South Hobart

⚽ White Eagle crushes Croatia in Cup final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 5-4-1994 – SUMMER CUP FINAL

WHITE Eagle produced its best soccer of the season to crush title-holder Croatia-Glenorchy 7-3 and take out the Cascade Summer Cup (State League section) at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. With striker Colin Shepherd in outstanding form, Craig Pitt dangerous on the right flank, and its midfield and defence dominant, White Eagle led 4-0 after only half an hour.

If Richard Leszczynski and Jamie Joyce had not missed clear-cut chances from less than five metres, Eagle would have been even further ahead. Croatia pulled a goal back before half-time, but Dale Itchins' team added three more goals in the second half to lead 7-1 before Croatia again rallied to score two more goals before the end.

David Stoddart put Eagle ahead from a free-kick from 25 metres in the third minute after Robbie Huigsloot had fouled Scott Young. Three minutes later it was 2-0, as Croatia's inexperienced young goalkeeper Nathan Puclin, punched Neil Morrison's corner into his own net.

Richard Leszczynski finally found the net in the 19th minute to make it 3-0 after a brilliant and incisive attacking move involving Joyce and Shepherd. A long clearance from defence by sweeper Young in the 29th minute put Shepherd away on the right and he crossed accurately for Stoddart to claim his second goal and Eagle's fourth.

Tony Bacic reduced the arrears in the 37th minute, shooting low past Alan Wisby and into the far corner of the net. Sacha Puclin was a menace every time he was given the ball and four minutes before the interval his precise pass enabled Mark Brkic to cross from the right, but Bacic headed over the bar.

Croatia replaced goalkeeper Nathan Puclin with Steve Holzinger for the second half, but the tall custodians first touch was when retrieving the ball from the back of the net after Julian Proud had headed Morrison's corner home a mere three minutes after the resumption.

Shepherd finally gained the reward he richly deserved when he scored an easy sixth goal for Eagle in the 59th minute. Proud made it 7-1 in the 75th minute, but Eagle then appeared to relax, and Croatia came back to score two good goals in the final ten minutes. Substitute Robert Furjanic made it 7-2 in the 81st minute, while Brkic hit the last goal of the match three minutes from time after he had headed in Puclin's corner.

⚽ White Eagle has the claws for this one

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 6/4/1994

WHITE Eagle fresh from its impressive Cascade Summer Cup win on Easter Monday, is back in action at KGV Soccer Park tonight when it takes on Hobart Juventus in the elimination, semi-final of the Wrest Point State League top-four finals series.

The winner will play Launceston Juventus in the preliminary final this weekend for the right to meet Devonport City in the grand final.

White Eagle will be with-out midfielder Andrew Leszczynski, who again damaged a hamstring after coming on as substitute in Monday's 7-3 win over Croatia-Glenorchy.

Paul Morrison, who did not play on Monday, will be included in the squad after a lengthy absence from the senior side because of injury.

Eagle seem much too strong for Hobart Juventus in all departments.

Richard Leszczynski and Cohn Shepherd are in outstanding form in attack, while Julian Proud hat-trick on Monday indicates he has become a vital cog in midfield, complementing the talents of David Stoddart, Craig Pitt. Neil Morrison and Jamie Joyce.

Scott Young is cool, efficient and imaginative at sweeper, Eugene Banasik and Mark Leszczynski are uncompromising markers, while Alan Wisby is reliable in goal.

Coach Dale Itchins also has promising youngsters Matthew Holloway and Darren Frost to call on.

In league meetings between the teams this year one match was drawn 2-2, Eagle won the other 2-0, while Eagle was triumphant 3-1 in the Summer Cup preliminary round.

Hobart Juventus will have defender Frank Falzon back, but the team relies too much on the skilful Frank Genovesi to haul it out of trouble.

Tonight's curtain-raiser. the State-League Reserve qualifying semi-final between Croatia and Olympia-CUB may not have official referee.

The President of fie Tasmanian branch of the Australian Soccer Referees' Federation, Mr John Raymond, said yesterday he had not been given assurances by the Tasmanian Soccer Federation about the safety of match officials.

The ASRF is concerned about incidents at KGV last Wednesday, when the referee required a police escort at the end of the Croatia v Olympia senior match.

Mr Raymond said in the absence of TSF action in regard to the safety of referees involved in Olympia matches, his body would not provide match officials.

Although no one from the TSF was available for official comment, sources within the TSF said a referee would probably be found for the match.

Eagle's goal blitz sink's Juventus

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 7/4/1994

WHITE Eagle earned a place in the preliminary final of the Wrest Point State League Soccer top 4our series when it trounced Hobart Juventus 7-3 in wet and slippery conditions at KOV Soccer Park last night.

Juventus drew first blood when Dallas Joiner scored in the 15th minute, following Robbie Mastracola's long ball out of defence, but Eagle went on to lead 5-1 after 64 minutes before Juventus found the net again.

Cohn Shepherd was in devastating form and weighed in with a hat-trick. while Jamie Joyce scored twice while playing in the left-midfield position.

Richard Leszczynski had an excellent match, scoring only once, but making three other goals for team-mates. His speed was always a problem for the Juventus defence, and he gave a glimpse of what was to come when he shot against the crossbar in the opening minutes.

Shepherds goal in the 18th minute cancelled out Joiner's opener, and Shepherd and Leszczynski scored further goals to give Eagle a 3-I hall-time lead.

Shepherd made it 4-1 after 56 minutes and Joyce added the fifth eight minutes later before substitute Jamie Bingham netted Juventus's second goal in the 69th minute following fellow substitute Duncan Boss-Walker's pass.

Joyce's goal in the 72nd minute made it 6-2 for Eagle, but Bingham again punished lax defending by Eagle with his second goal of the match, 10 minutes from the end, this time from Scott Hadley's cross.

David Stoddart completed the scoring in the 87th minute with a superb free-kick from 25 metres, to give Eagle its second 7-3 win in three days.

Juventus boss's awe as Eagle swoops in finals

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 8/4/1994

"AWESOME!" That's how Launceston Juventus player-coach David Craig described White Eagle after watching Eagle trounce Hobart Juventus 7-3 at KGV Soccer Park on Wednesday night. The rout came in the elimination semi-final of the Wrest Point state league soccer competition top-four series. Eagle meets Launceston Juventus at Prospect on Sunday in the preliminary final.

The victor will face Devonport City in the grand final. "They'll be a difficult side to beat," Craig said. "They're big and strong and they work all over the ground, and we'll have our work cut out, that's for sure." Launceston Juventus striker Roger Mies, the league's second-ranking scorer, is a doubtful starter because of toe and calf injuries. Mid-fielder Justin Dyer has not trained for two weeks because of a bruised achilles tendon and is not certain to play. "We'll give it our best shot on the day and see how we go," Craig said.

"As for us winning, my heart says yes but my head says it's going to be hard. "We've got to mark the two front guys [Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd] fairly tightly because they looked good on Wednesday and because they're strong and quick and they worked well in tandem. "Stopping the supply of balls to them is the key but that supply comes to them from everywhere, including from the defence and the wings." White Eagle will have the evergreen Mark Leszczynski back in the side after being unavailable on Wednesday.

However, coach Dale Itchins has not decided whether to play him in defence, his usual position, or in mid-field. Scott Young, the side's 28-year-old sweeper and captain on Wednesday, is confident of winning Sunday's match. "I reckon we'll win easily, and I think we can win the grand final, regardless of where it's played," Young said. "Our morale is up and we're playing well." White Eagle defeated Launceston Juventus 4-0 at Prospect in their last league meeting, but the northerners won the first-round encounter 3-1 at KGV.

Sunday's curtain-raiser at Prospect is the state league reserve preliminary final between White Eagle and Olympia-CUB. The winner meets Croatia-Glenorchy in the grand final. Olympia won the first league meeting between the sides this season 3-2, while the second was drawn 1-1.

White Eagle soars to grand final perch

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/4/1994

WHITE Eagle defeated Launceston Juventus 3-1 at Prospect yesterday to qualify for the Wrest Point State League soccer grand final against Devonport City next weekend. It was a fiercely contested preliminary final and Eagle, which led 2-1 at the interval, had to survive a strong Juventus onslaught in the second half before killing off its opponent with a penalty three minutes from the end.

Richard Leszczynski grabbed Eagle's opener in the fifth minute after Colin Shepherd's pass had put him through the defence, but a cross-cum-shot from the right by Roger Mies two minutes later embarrassed Eagle goalkeeper Alan Wisby as the ball whistled past him and into the net. Wisby redeemed himself by making two crucial saves during the remainder

of the first half and he went on to complete an excellent match. Jamie Joyce restored Eagle's lead in the 12th minute with the first of his two penalties for the game, Leszczynski having been fouled by Tony Valentine.

Eagle might have increased its lead in the opening half, but midfielder David Stoddart headed against the crossbar. Launceston Juventus suffered a severe blow just before the break when Mies was injured and failed to reappear for the second half. He was replaced by Les Szabo. The home team fought back strongly in the second half and hit the woodwork twice as Eagle soaked up tremendous pressure without cracking.

With three minutes remaining, Shepherd was brought down inside the penalty area and Joyce beat Rod Andrews with his spot-kick for the second time, to earn his side an appointment with minor premier Devonport City next Sunday.

Grand final day will be a momentous occasion for White Eagle as its reserve side also made it to the big match by downing Olympia-CUB 1-0 in extra time in the State League Reserve preliminary final, which was yesterday's curtain-raiser at Prospect. A minute from the end of extra time, and with a penalty shoot-out seeming inevitable, Richard Ketchell ran on to a Michael Murray pass to settle the issue. Eagle will meet Croatia-Glenorchy in the Reserve grand final.

⚽ Devonport cracks final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 17/4/1994 – GRAND FINAL

DEVONPORT City has finally won the Wrest Point State League soccer grand final - after three tries. It defeated White Eagle 3-2 before a large crowd at KGV Soccer Park last night. The victory was a fitting reward for the North-West Coast side that ran away with the minor premiership by 14 points.

It was also a triumph for coach Alex MacDonald, who said the final was his last match in charge after three seasons with the club. MacDonald, who is also state coach, took Devonport to three minor premierships and three grand finals in that period, but the club lost the past two grand finals. A free-kick by Anthony Guilbert in the 23rd minute, awarded after Eagle goalkeeper Alan Wisby had stepped outside the penalty area with the ball, gave Devonport the lead.

David Stoddart equalised in the 27th minute after Richard Leszczynski's shot had been blocked and the ball rebounded to the advancing Stoddart and hit the front in the 64th minute. Stoddart put Julian Proud clear on the right and the midfielder's high cross was fumbled over the line by Devonport goalkeeper Bob Smith, while under pressure from Colin Shepherd.

Devonport was level within a minute, however. Charlie McCaffrey's corner was headed at goal by John "Snowy" Compagne, the ball was only partially cleared, and Guilbert drove it into the net.

Devonport striker Tom McGinn had a goal disallowed shortly afterwards but Adrian Mann hit the winner, eleven minutes from the end, after McCaffrey released substitute Matthew Wilson on the right and Eagle defender Jamie Joyce accidentally steered the cross into Mann's path.

Croatia-Glenorchy won the State League Reserve grand final with an exciting 4-3 win over White Eagle. A penalty by Croatia's Geoff Hallam separated the teams at the interval, but there was a goal flurry in the second half. Goals by Ivica Bolonja, Billy Stanford and Matthew Sly gave Croatia victory.

1994 Senior Team

Back: A. Wisby, M. Nidorfer, M. Leszczynski, D. Stoddart, C. Pitt, M. Harry, D. Bones, F. Mainella
Front: D. Itchins (Coach), J. Joyce, S. Young, P. Morrison, M. Driessen, J. Proud, A. Leszczynski F. Bansel (Manager)

State League Final Standings 1994

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	16	14	2	0	58	13	44
Launceston Juventus	16	9	3	4	35	24	30
White Eagle	**16**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**59**	**28**	**29**
Hobart Juventus	16	8	2	6	48	30	26
Caledonians	16	8	2	6	30	37	26
Riverside Olympic	16	6	2	8	41	49	20
Olympia	16	6	1	9	34	38	19
Croatia-Glenorchy	16	3	2	11	18	46	11
South Hobart	16	1	0	15	18	70	3

Once again Eagle displayed their impressive depth, when their "third" team, playing in the Southern Division 2 league were premiers, after a close tussle with University, thus gaining promotion to Division 1. They remained undefeated and ended with a goal difference of 67.

Southern Division 2 - Final Standings 1994 (Top 5 from the 10 team roster)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**18**	**16**	**1**	**1**	**76**	**9**	**49**
University	18	16	0	2	55	21	48
Kingborough Lions	18	11	1	6	54	32	34
Taroona	18	9	2	7	45	33	29
Metro Claremont	18	6	5	7	30	35	23

The Summer Statewide League continued in 1994/95. The club again had Mark Leszczynski as senior coach, and appointed Chris Barrell as reserves coach. Rick Turner arrived from Launceston Juventus, and slotted seamlessly into a back line ably led by Scott Young.

The season started in early October and a win in the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy final was a sign of things to come. The season was a long and arduous one, with the end result being a minor premiership, Eagle's first since 1991.

⚽ Four-goal Shepherd soars for Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 15/10/1994 – CADBURY JUBILEE TROPHY

COLIN SHEPHERD scored four goals as White Eagle overwhelmed Olympia-CUB 6-0 in their Group A match in the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy soccer series at KGV Soccer Park last night. A penalty by David Stoddart and a fine goal by Richard Leszczynski completed Eagle's tally. Olympia was poor in defence, gave the ball away too often in midfield, and created very few chances in attack.

It might have had two goals, however, Mark De Vries squandering an easy chance at the left-hand post following Lance Plunkett's cross from the right, and Peter Tsakiris striking the crossbar with a delightful chip from the edge of the penalty area. Plunkett had an excellent game and the youngster refused to be overawed by the quality of the opposition.

White Eagle's opening goal was outstanding. Neil Morrison, Eugene Banasik and Andrew Leszczynski combined to turn defence into attack in an instant, while Stoddart's vision and brilliant pass put Shepherd away and he finished the move with deadly precision. The win virtually assures Eagle of a place in the final as it would have to lose by a huge margin in its final match to miss out.

⚽ Eagle downs Calies in battle for Jubilee Trophy

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 23/10/1994 – CADBURY JUBILEE TROPHY

WHITE Eagle qualified for the final of the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy soccer series as the winner of group A when it defeated Caledonian 3-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. Olympia-CUB finished second in the group after thrashing Metro-Claremont 7-0 in yesterday's curtain raiser.

However, the decision by Soccer Tasmania not to have a play-off for third and fourth places means Olympia must remain idle until the summer State League season begins in early November. Richard Leszczynski took advantage of a pass by

Colin Shepherd to put Eagle ahead in the 10th minute, but it took the speedy striker two attempts with goal-keeper Troy Schramm blocking the first effort.

A foul by Eugene Banasik on Jim Brown in the 21st minute enabled Calies to equalise. Andrew Joseph took the free kick and David Robb managed the slightest of touches with his head before the ball whistled past Alan Wisby and into the net.

Sweeper Scott Young restored Eagle's lead two minutes after the interval with a header following Andrew Leszczynski's corner from the left and good combination play on the right-hand side of the penalty area by David Stoddart and Richard Ketchell. A minute later, Young rescued his side by clearing Brett Murtagh's goal-bound shot.

Eagle made the game safe in the 66th minute when Shepherd fed Craig Pitt, whose shot rebounded from the crossbar but only to Ketchell, who scored with ease. A brilliant reflex save by Schramm, from his team-mate Murtagh, prevented Calies from conceding a fourth goal.

⚽ Cup final cruise for White Eagle

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 30/10/1994 – CADBURY JUBILEE TROPHY

A HAT-TRICK by Richard Leszczynski steered White Eagle to a 3-1 win over University, in yesterday's Cadbury Jubilee Trophy soccer final at KGV Soccer Park. Leszczynski, who received excellent service from Neil Morrison for all three goals, netted in the 16th, 28th and 39th minutes. The man assigned to mark him, Michael McDonald, stood no chance as Leszczynski's speed and mobility confounded the University defence.

University's goal came seven minutes from the end when sweeper Peter Crowther, roaming up field, gained possession on the edge of the penalty area and rounded advancing goalkeeper Alan Wisby before firing into an empty net.

Crowther had earlier earned a yellow card from referee Kim Barker and conceded a penalty after tripping Leszczynski. David Stoddart failed to add a fourth goal to Eagle's tally however, Michael Moschogianis diving to his left to keep out the spot-kick.

Apart from Crowther's goal, University only had two other scoring chances, once when Wisby was forced to turn Leon Lagerewskij's shot wide for a corner, and again when Matthew Shaw chipped high and wide.

White Eagle was never in danger and did just enough to win, rarely moving out of second gear.

⚽ Night flight a success

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – NOV 1994

WHITE Eagle sounded a clear warning to its State League soccer rivals when it thrashed Caledonian 9-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night in the opening match of the summer season. Colin Shepherd scored four goals and Richard Leszczynski three while David Stoddart and substitute Matthew Holloway completed the tally.

Caledonian, which welcomed back captain Ian Parker, who missed the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy series, had no answer to White Eagle's excellent teamwork. Some of White Eagle's goals came from moves initiated deep in defence and involving up to five players in quick and deadly counter-attacks.

Eagle might have scored more goals but for some fine saves by Caledonian goalkeeper Troy Schramm. "I was very pleased with the result, and it reflected a very professional performance by our players, who kept going for the entire 90 minutes without slackening off," said coach Mark Leszczynski.

In last night's State League reserve curtain-raiser, White Eagle defeated Caledonian 8-2 after leading 2-0 at the interval. Holloway scored twice for Eagle, its other goals coming from Steven Bukowiecki, Michael Murray, Paul Murray, Darren Frost, Huy Nguyen and an own goal by Greg Honeyman. James Brown and Raymond Benson netted for Caledonian.

⚽ Eagle fires warning in soaring to big wins

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 08/11/1994

WHITE Eagle has set the standards for the other State League soccer teams to follow if they wish to win this summer season's title. The club won the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy series, the prelude to the league campaign, with a 3-1 win over first division champion University, and in its opening league match, demolished Caledonian 9-0.

These are the performances of a league champion, and the rest of the field cannot say they have not been warned. Strikers Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd have also given warning to opposing defences that they mean business. Leszczynski ran the University defence ragged and hit a hat-trick by half-time, while against Calies, he notched another hat-trick and Shepherd scored four goals. Shepherd had previously scored four when Eagle beat Olympia-CUB 6-0 in the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy series.

Eagle cling to top spot with late goal flurry

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/12/1994

WHITE EAGLE maintained its one-point lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder when it defeated second-last Riverside Olympic 8-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. White Eagle made hard work of beating Riverside, four of its goals coming in the final six minutes. Riverside, which trailed 0-2 at the interval, squandered several clear-cut chances in the first half, scored twice in the second half to get within two goals of Eagle, then committed suicide at the back to give Eagle a mammoth win.

In the first half, Riverside's Robert King might have scored at least twice if he had been more direct when attacking down the right flank, while player-coach Peter Sawdon should have scored from King's accurate cross, but his downward header bounced over the cross bar. Sawdon and Mark Littlechild also went close with long-range shots, while Lyndon Prince smashed a superb drive against a post following a corner, Neil Roper lifting the rebound over the bar when it would have been easier to score.

No team can afford to let Eagle off so lightly without paying a heavy price, and that was Riverside's fate. David Stoddart, from a penalty, and Richard Leszczynski netted to give Eagle a 2-0 half-time lead. Eagle stepped up the pace early in the second half, Leszczynski connecting with Neil Morrison's cross to make it 3-0 on the hour. A terrible error by goalkeeper Alistair Bain gave Morrison Eagle's fourth before Roper and Sawdon scored twice for the visitors to show how easy it was to penetrate the Eagle defence.

With six minutes remaining, Riverside collapsed completely, and Eagle added four more goals through Matthew Holloway, twice, Colin Shepherd and Craig Pitt.

It might have been even more but for a couple of excellent saves by Bain, and the intervention of the woodwork.

White Eagle extends its lead

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/12/1994

WHITE Eagle produced a powerful display of attacking soccer to defeat fourth-placed Hobart Juventus 4-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night and extend its lead at the top of the State League ladder to four points. Striker Colin Shepherd produced a first-class performance. He scored twice and set up a goal for his attacking partner Richard Leszczynski.

Substitute Michael Murray scored the fourth with his first touch of the ball, having replaced Matthew Holloway only two minutes earlier. "I was just pleased to see it go in, but it was a great pass from Adam Jones," an elated 18-year-old Murray said.

Steve Milloy performed superbly in midfield for a Juventus side that played its part in making last night's match one of the best of the season. Milloy not only scored the Juventus goal, he also went within a whisker of netting from a cheeky and quickly taken free kick in the first half, and in the second he hit the post with a mighty left-foot drive from 30 metres.

"In the first half we had the better of them and I thought we should have been in front at half-time, but the two goals early in the second half killed us," Milloy said. "There was a sad lack of talking on our part." Milloy's instant volley from the edge of the penalty area in the 32nd minute gave Juventus the lead, but Shepherd headed Eagle level from David Stoddart's cross from the left two minutes later.

Eagle applied intense pressure from the beginning of the second half and the Juventus goal led a charmed life as Holloway's effort was cleared off the line by Robbie Mastracola, Ben Spur conceded a corner to foil Leszczynski, and goalkeeper Steve Holzinger saved brilliantly from Neil Morrison.

The Juventus defence cracked in the 51st minute, however, as Shepherd withstood Milloy's challenge and scored with a ferocious shot to put Eagle 2-1 ahead.

Eagle goalkeeper Alan Wisby had to dive acrobatically to save Nick Anis's shot in the 53rd minute, but Eagle hit back and Leszczynski made it 3-1 in the 64th minute from Shepherd's short pass.

Nine minutes from the end, Lapolla cleared a dangerous corner off the goal-line, but Eagle produced a splendid move involving Morrison and Jones and, it was left to Murray to rifle home his side's fourth goal from 20 metres.

In last night's State League Reserve curtain-raiser, White Eagle extended its lead at the top of the ladder to three points by defeating Hobart Juventus 5-0 after leading 4-0 at the interval. Steve Vernon scored a hat-trick, the other goals coming from player-coach Chris Barrell and Phillip Leimbach.

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/4/1995

WHITE Eagle Richard Leszczynski is the Wrest Point State League player-of-the-month for March and wins a dinner for two at Wrest Point's Revolving Restaurant.

Leszczynski. the league's leading scorer with 21 goals, has produced some outstanding performances in March to put Eagle back on course after a period of poor form.

He scored two hat-tricks, in the 4-2 win over Juventus and in the 7-2 destruction of Croatia — and also netted twice in the 5-0 win over South Hobart.

Many of his goals were brilliant as he utilised his lightning speed, appreciation of space, intelligent thinking and vision, and varied and clever shooting techniques to destroy the opposing defences.

White Eagle trounces Juventus for nest at the summit

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 23/4/1995

WHITE Eagle replaced Launceston Juventus at the top of the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder when it defeated the latter 5-1 at Prospect yesterday. Eagle takes a one-point lead in the competition. Adam Jones scored twice, the other goals coming from Colin Shepherd, David Stoddart and Scott Young.

Roger Mies missed an early penalty for Juventus. Launceston scored its goal later in the match through Tom McGinn, who stroked home a rebound after Alan Wisby had saved another penalty by Mies. With Eagle leading 2-1 early in the second half, Launceston Juventus suffered a major blow when it lost key defender John "Snowy" Compagne through injury, enabling Eagles to pile on another three goals.

It's easy street for White Eagle

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 5/5/1995 – FIRST HOME GAME CLARE STREET OVAL

WREST POINT State League Soccer leader White Eagle, will play its first ever senior match at Clare St Oval tomorrow, when it hosts second-last Riverside Olympic.

White Eagle should celebrate the occasion with an easy win over the northerners, who have not won in nine outings. "We're confident of a good result because, apart from the recent fiasco against Olympia, we've had a great run of half-a-dozen games or so," said Andrew Leszczynski, who will play only his third league match of the season tomorrow.

The 30-year-old midfielder has been hampered by injury but was brought into the side against Launceston Juventus two weeks ago in the unusual position of right fullback. "I played in the pre-season series but was injured and I'm still not fully fit, but I had been training and was brought in when we had a few injuries and illness recently," he said.

"I haven't played at fullback before, but playing with good players makes it easier because everyone talks and there are always two or three options when you've got the ball. "The talking keeps me on my toes because I tend to fall asleep a bit.

"We're looking forward to playing at Clare St because the surface is so good and it's a big step for the club." Craig Pitt is expected to return to the side after coming on as a substitute last week. Second-placed Launceston Juventus entertains fourth-placed Olympia-CUB at Prospect and must win to stay in touch with White Eagle, which opened up a one-point lead two weeks ago.

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 7/5/1995

White Eagle to open a four-point lead at the top after it beat Riverside Olympic 4-1 in the first-ever State League match played at the Clare Street oval

Richard Leszczynski scored a hat trick and Adam Jones kept up his excellent scoring record since earning a place in the senior side by netting once.

Jason Smart scored for second-last Riverside. Riverside goalkeeper Alistair Rain broke his leg in a collision with Leszczynski as the striker scored his third goal. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

"It was good to get a win in our first home match played at this venue, but it was a pretty average performance." said White Eagle captain David Stoddart.

"It was slippery in the middle, which we expected, but we gave the ball away far too often on what was an excellent surface overall."

⚽ Stage is set for showdown

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 10/5/1995

THE stage is set for a showdown in the Wrest Point State League soccer season tonight when league-leader White Eagle takes on third-placed Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park.

White Eagle. which has won eight and drawn one of its past nine games, has a four-point lead over second-placed Launceston Juventus and is nine points ahead of its rival tonight

Hobart Juventus is unbeaten in six outings, having won four and drawing two of these games. Hobart Juventus will be strengthened by the return from injury of midfielder Steve Milloy and captain and defender Nick Di Martino.

Striker Nick Anis is doubtful because of injury, while defender Robbie Mastracola will again be missing, also because of injury.

Midfielder Jens Streit, who made his debut in last Wednesday's 3-0 win over Caledonian following his clearance from Olympia-CUB, may have to be content with a place on the substitute's bench.

Midfielder Carlo Ambrosino will play his third game since returning from an extended break and should make a valuable contribution to a talented midfield unit that already boasts quality players Milloy and Scott Hadley.

Hobart Juventus's 32-year-old striker Sergio Pace, who came on as a substitute against Calies, is not sure of a place in the starting line-up, His inclusion is likely to depend on the availability of Anis.

"I wouldn't be disappointed if I don't start, not at my age," Pace said,
"I can understand coach Ahmad Abdaltam's thinking and after all, I did the club a favour by coming back to play again.
"I think we can win, and I know Ahmad is confident because he is totally committed to the game.

Th coach has tried a things recently and we had a big talk on Monday night to get it into our minds that this will be a game worth six points."

White Eagle will field the same team that defeated second-last Riverside Olympic 4-1 on Saturday, which means Craig Pitt, who has a knee injury, will again start on the bench, his place being taken by Andrew Leszczynski.

"We've eight league games to go, so I don't want to rush Craig into action," said White Eagle coach Mark Leszczynski.
"This is an important game for us because if we win we can go seven points clear at the top, so we know what this game is worth.

"Although we didn't play too well against Riverside, one must remember it was the first time we'd played at Clare Street, and we could really have scored a dozen goals."

"It didn't really shock us that Olympia beat Launceston Juventus, but it must have been a shock to their coach David Craig." "I'm confident that we can win tomorrow night, and then the pressure will really be on Launceston Juventus."

⚽ Eagle spread their wings at top of ladder

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/5/1995

White Eagle extended its lead at the top of the Wrest Point State League soccer to seven points over second-placed Launceston Juventus when it defeated third-ranked Hobart Juventus 3-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The loss through injury of striker Sergio Pace after only 13 minutes severely dented Juventus' chances, especially given the fact that injured striker Nick Anis did not play.

In the few minutes he was on the field, Pace went close with one shot, and also put Michael Lapolla in for a goal that was disallowed through off-aide.

Following his departure, Juventus lacked a focal point in attack and the good work that was being done in midfield by Carlo Ambrosino, Scott Hadley, Ben Spurt and Steve Milloy came to nothing.

Juventus held its own in the first half, but then conceded two goals early in the second to drop out of contention.

In the 57th minute, Elmer Cano conceded a penalty when he tripped Colin Shepherd as he picked his why along the byline on the right.

Andrew Leszczynski's powerful spot-kick gave Juventus goalkeeper Frank Mainella, a former White Eagle player, no chance.

Andrew Leszczynski was to go off injured shortly afterwards, to be replaced by Craig Pitt, whose place he had taken for the past three games

White Eagle added its second goal on the hour, David Stoddart proving the pass and Richard Leszczynski, the league's leading marksman, finishing with deadly accuracy for his 26th league goal of the season.

Juventus brought on substitute Nick Di Martino with 20 minutes remaining and he went to sweeper while Darien Wells moved into midfield to support the attack.

The move had little effect and White Eagle scored a simple but magnificent third goal in the 78th minute, turning defence into attack In an instant.

Sweeper Scott Young broke up a Juventus attack and his long clearance found Richard Leszczynski on the right. The striker passed inside to Shepherd, who controlled the ball before laying it wide and into the path of youngster Adam Jones, who netted his ninth league goal of the season and his eighth in six games.

⚽ White Eagle makes most of Calies' sloppy defence

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22/5/1995

WHITE Eagle took advantage of sloppy defending to defeat Caledonian 5.2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday and open up a seven-point lead on the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder with six rounds remaining.

The league-leader was ways going to win after racing to a 2-0 lead within 10 minutia of the start, but Calies should have made it a much closer game.

Calies, without injured player-coach Ian Parker, worked down the flanks well. only to cross poorly into the middle, while other good openings came to nothing because of poor finishing.

Midfielder Steve Weller had arguably his best game for Calies, while Brett Pullen covered a lot of territory, James Brown played his-heart out in the Calies defence, goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes produced a string of fine saves, and Brett Murtagh and David Robb scored a goal each.

White Eagle was without Craig Pitt and Adam Jones, which gave youngsters Darren Frost and Matthew Holloway their opportunity.

Richard Leszczynski opened the scoring for Eagle in the fifth minute following David Stoddart's corner. Scott Young's attempted header and Holloway's miscued shot, while Cohn Shepherd made it 2-0 in the 10th minute, running on to Stoddart's 40-metre pass before squeezing his shot between Rhodes and the near post.

A magnificent forward run by defender Adam Williams enabled Caller to pull a goal back midway through the first half. The tenacious Williams exchanged passes with Robb before releasing Murtagh, who shot low and true past Alan Wisby.

Rhodes saved well from Shepherd in the 28th minute and from Frost just before the interval, but in between that, Andrew Joseph and Murtagh should really have put Calies ahead instead of trailing 1-2 at the break.

Leszczynski made it 3-1 in the 50th minute after a series of errors in the Calies defence, but Robb netted for Calies in the 63rd minute, following Murtagh's cross and Pullen's excellent firm time shot, to make it one goal the difference.

Leszczynski took advantage of an error by Williams to complete his hat-trick with a shot in the 65th minute.

⚽ Leszczynski's hat-trick gives White Eagle title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/6/1995

WHITE Eagle captured the Wrest Point State League soccer competition minor premiership when it defeated second-placed Launceston Juventus 5-2 at Clare Street yesterday. Richard Leszczynski netted yet another hat-trick to take his season's league tally to 34 goals, while Scott Young and David Stoddart scored Eagle's remaining goals.

Tom McGinn scored the visitors' first goal with a header from Charlie McCaffrey's corner in injury time at the end of the first half, while Roger Mies grabbed their second in the final minute of the match. Launceston Juventus, which now trails Eagle by 10 points with three matches remaining, was without key defender John "Snowy" Compagne and midfielder Chris Couch.

Couch played in goal in the reserve curtain-raiser and was sent off for a professional foul in the final minute of the 0-7 defeat, which saw Eagle draw level on points with reserve leader Olympia. Youngster Michael Howard made a rare senior appearance for Launceston Juventus in place of Compagne, but he was unable to contain Richard Leszczynski. Eagle had Craig Jones in goal for the seniors because Alan Wisby was unavailable.

Eagle showed some defensive lapses, was dominant in midfield, and might have added more goals, Adam Jones and Colin Shepherd both hitting the woodwork in the first half. Launceston Juventus goalkeeper Peter Maddox also produced a brilliant save from a first-half effort by Stoddart.

As was the case in previous years, the finals curse appeared to have struck again, when the side lost 4-6 against Launceston Juventus, (Richard Leszczynski scoring a hat-trick and Colin Shepherd being sent off) and Eagle had to play Olympia in the preliminary final, for the right to play in the Grand Final. A devastating first half performance was enough to see off Olympia and book a place in the Grand Final against Launceston Juventus.

⚽ White Eagle only considering, grand final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 7/7/1995

White Eagle must be favoured to win its way straight into the state league soccer competition grand final by defeating Launceston Juventus at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow in the qualifying semi-final.

The loser of this match will meet Olympia the following Saturday in the preliminary final.

White Eagle, the minor premier, finished the roster series a massive 11 points ahead of second-placed Launceston Juventus.

In the four league meetings between the teams this season, White Eagle won three (5-2, 4-2 and 3-1) and lost one (1-3).

The northerners will be without Neil Morrison who has an ankle injury, but defenders Andrew Leszczynski and Ricky Turner will be available.

Defender Craig Pitt came off in the 1-1 draw with Hobart Juventus on Sunday because of back spasms, but he, has had treatment during the week and will play.

The Eagles' squad will be the same as for last Sunday' match against Hobart Juventus.

Eagle coach Mark Leszczynski's biggest worry is the fact that the recent spell of wet weather has deprived his of outdoor training.

The players have either trained indoors in a gymnasium or gone on road runs, which is hardly satisfactory preparation, says coach Leszczynski.

"We are not even considering a preliminary final appearance because we want to go out there tomorrow and do the job, and get it over and done with, and qualify for the grand-final." he said.

"Although I'm confident, I'd be a little more at ease if we had been training outside on a ground."

The northerners have been inconsistent this season, but they will beat at full strength and their one win against Eagle in league campaign was at KGV.

If they manage to cage Eagle striker Richard Leszczynski, they must be in with a chance.

⚽ White Eagle stumbles in bid for state honours

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 9/7/1995

THE spectre of Devonport must be haunting White Eagle. Devonport City thrice won the minor premiership, once by as much as 20 points - but only managed one grand final victory and that was at the third attempt.

White Eagle wrapped up this seasons Wrest Point State League soccer competition minor premiership weeks ago, finishing 11 points ahead of second-placed Launceston Juventus

But, in yesterday's second semi-final played at KGV Soccer Park, Launceston Juventus moved straight into the grand final by blitzing White Eagle 6-4 in a remarkable match.

There were nine goals in the second half, and Eagle striker Richard Leszczynski scored yet another memorable hat trick only to finish on the losing side.

Trailing 2-3 after 62 minutes Eagle suffered a serious blow when striker Colin Shepherd was sent off for a pushing incident' behind play, He had already been cautioned for a foul in the first half.

Full credit must go to the northerners however, as they were highly motivated from the outset.

Their coach David Craig had predicted only minutes before the kick-off that his players were fired up and that the match would be one worth watching.

For Launceston Juventus midfielder Tony Valentine, this was his last match before leaving for New Zealand on Tuesday.

The temperamental, but skilful 28-year-old Englishman, has spent three seasons with Juventus and his swansong was as notable as ever - he produced a fine performance, collected a yellow card, and scored an excellent goal.

White Eagle, with David Stoddart in superb form in midfield, survived a torrid opening 20-minutes during which Valentine, Tom McGinn and Charley McCaffrey should all have scored, to lead 1-0 at the interval through a 35th minute Adam Jones goal, but within five minutes of the resumption, Launceston Juventus led 2-1 as John "Snowy" Compagne, with a diving header and Justin Dyer scored.

Richard Leszczynski quickly made it 2-2, but McCaffrey restored the visitors lead just past the hour.

Valentine added a fourth for Juventus in the 73rd minute after a neat one-two with Roger Mies, and the latter almost added a fifth four minutes later with a cracking shot which hit the woodwork.

Richard Leszczynski made the most of Scott Young's pass in the 78th minute to again make it one goal the difference, but two magnificent goals by Mies and McCaffrey in the space of 4 minutes gave Launceston Juventus a match-wining 6-3 advantage.

Richard Leszczynski showed great skill and perseverance in rounding Compagne and completing his hat-trick in injury time, but Eagle must be worried as it must now overcome Olympia in the preliminary final if it is to get another crack at Launceston Juventus.

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/7/1995

SATURDAY'S State League semi-final between Launceston Juventus and White Eagle was an outstanding advertisement for Soccer, with 10 goals, several of them of superb quality — and great teamwork and individual skill on display.

Eagle midfielder David Stoddart had one of his best games of the season, especially in the first half, when he struck the crossbar with an excellent free-kick and followed up to hit a post.

Richard Leszczynski scored a marvelous hat-trick against all the odds. While Launceston's Roger Mies and Charlie McCaffrey hit goals that will rank as some of the best men at KGV Soccer Park.

One of the unusual side-lines to the game involved Eagle striker Cohn Shepherd and referee Paul Jones.

Just before the kick-off, Shepherd walked over to Jones and, taking off the lucky charm he wears around his neck, asked the referee to look after it for him during the match.

The lucky charm, in the form of a necklace, could cause Shepherd pain if he were to cheat a ball. As it turned out, Jones sent Shepherd off midway through the second half for a second cautionable offence, so perhaps the striker should have worn the charm anyway.

At the end of the game, Jones thought it might not be in the best of taste to return the lucky charm to Shepherd, so Mark Monaghan, an official during the curtain-raiser that day, was given the task.

Form side White Eagle will meet Juventus for title

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 23/7/1995

WHITE EAGLE defeated Olympia 2-1 in yesterday's Wrest Point State League soccer competition preliminary final at KGV Soccer Park to earn a date with Launceston Juventus in next Saturday's grand final. White Eagle, the minor premier, produced an outstanding first half in which the league's two leading scorers, Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd, each netted excellent goals to give their side a 2-0 lead at the interval.

Olympia simply had no answer to Eagle's fast and direct one-touch play and might easily have found itself further behind by half-time. Adam Jones showed tremendous pace wide on the left and Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart both headed wide from the youngster's accurate crosses. Shepherd was also foiled on two occasions, first when his rising shot grazed the Olympia crossbar, and again when goalkeeper Neil Connell saved his header.

Eight minutes before the interval, with Eagle already leading 2-0, Olympia defender Jamie Joyce cleared while under pressure from Jones after yet another brilliant attack involving Richard Leszczynski and Shepherd. White Eagle took the lead in the fifth minute when defender Ricky Turner's perfectly weighted long pass prised open the Olympia defence.

Richard Leszczynski sprinted down the inside-right channel and got on to the end of it before beating the advancing Connell with an accurate first-time shot. On the quarter hour, Jones found Shepherd, who smashed goal number two into the roof of the net, past a stunned Connell.

With Scott Young masterful at sweeper, defenders Andrew Leszczynski and Turner keeping a tight rein on Matthew Sly and Shaun Conkie, and defender Neil Morrison providing plenty of drive down the left, Eagle looked invincible. In midfield, Eagle's Jones, Stoddart, Richard Ketchell and Craig Pitt were in complete control against Olympia's Craig

Nicholls, Alan Rankine, Adam Powell and Adam Conkie. Olympia's defenders, Michael Berwick, Corey Slade, Glen McNeill and Joyce had scant time to relax as they tried to stem the lightning Eagle attacks that were characterised by excellent one-two passing and one-touch play.

The second half was less one-sided as Eagle slowed down, but it still took two first-class saves by Connell to keep Olympia's hopes alive. In the 58th minute, he miraculously turned Shepherd's header from Richard Leszczynski's right-wing cross, against the post, while in the 77th minute, he saved bravely at Richard Leszczynski's feet after the striker had been put through by Ketchell.

Olympia, which had replaced the injured Adam Conkie with Michael Edwards at the break Edwards moved to right-fullback, releasing Joyce into midfield pulled a goal back through Powell nine minutes from the end. With six minutes remaining, it might have forced extra-time. Connell's long kick was headed on by Sly, but Powell chose to advance on goal rather than shoot, and Eagle goalkeeper Alan Wisby smothered the ball before the youngster could score.

Eagle's play in the first half was irresistable and good enough to destroy any team in the state, but sloppy defence in the second almost enabled Olympia to force extra-time. Next week's grand final promises to be every bit as good as the second semi-final, when Launceston Juventus beat Eagle 6-4 in a thriller, nine of the goals coming in the second half.

⚽ Moment of truth for top squads

THE EXAMINER - By STEPHEN FODEN – 23/7/1995

Tomorrow at 7pm, Juventus takes on White Eagle in the culmination of over 28 gruelling weeks of summer soccer.

Launceston Zebras Line-up

Peter Maddox	Lino Sciulli	John Visentin	Drew McNeil	John Compagne
Ex-Devonport State League player, His strength is his ability to take the pressure off his defence at corners.	Sciulli's work-rate at full-back or playing in midfield for Launceston Juventus is second to none	Likes time to get control of the ball before he disposes of it. He likes to build form the back rather than kick long.	McNeil is a true full-back. Although he doesn't overlap much, he can add another option out wide when needed	Probably the State's best centre back. Likes to attack and his height makes it difficult for opponents
Luigi Gugliotti	**Charlie McCaffrey**	**Justin Dyer**	**Roger Mies**	**Tom McGinn**
Small but dynamic. A good communicator and likes to push the ball into space for his forwards	The ability of this gifted Juventus midfielder to score with his head from corner kicks is uncanny	Dyer is a work-horse in midfield. He is known for the commitment of his efforts and also for his tackling	Explosive off the mark. Mies has the ability to score from anywhere.	This diminutive striker can rip a defence apart with his intelligent diagonal runs
Chris Couch	**Romeo Fabrizio**	**Peter Savill**	**Liam Monagle**	**David Craig**
Probably will sit on the bench. May add depth and width to the midfield.	Just recovered from an injury that has kept him sidelined for eight weeks	Ex-Leeds representative. Has the experience to take Juventus that extra step	Ex-Irish schoolboy international. His knowledge, like Savill's, will be a big bonus if called on.	An ex-player and now coach, he knows it will be important to get his side into the right frame of mind

White Eagle Line-up

Andrew Leszczynski	Mark Leszczynski	Craig Pitt	Craig Jones	Alan Wisby
The surprise of the season. Slotting into full back with relative ease after many years as a striker	As a coach he asks a lot from his players. His role in the game will be to ensure his players are focused	Injury prone, but back to his best and ready to fire for White Eagle in the final	Has made a late comeback after a two-year break. Has excellent reflexes and enthusiasm of those half his age	In his second season as the number one keeper for Eagles. Wisby is as good as any keeper on his day
Neil Morrison	**Richard Leszczynski**	**Ricky Turner**	**Scott Young**	**Richard Ketchell**
Morrison is probably the most attacking full back in the league and will be an asset to White Eagle	The league's top goalscorer. Has a lethal shot, good close ball skills and devastating speed	As a disciplined and reliable defender, Turner has added some welcome stability to the centre of defence	Superb in the air, he reads the game well. Always a dander at set pieces	Hard working midfielder. Plays an integral role in the Eagle engine room
David Stoddart	**Adam Jones**	**Colin Shepherd**	**Matthew Holloway**	**Eugene Banasik**
One of the most skillful midfielders in the State. Loves to attack; scores frequently	Has matured in his first season of State League. Tremendous prospect; gifted left foot	Has a tremendous work rate. The league's second highest goal scorer	Holloway is the rookie of the team and can perform if called upon to play	Typical Eastern European defender. Solid as steel; hard and fair in the tackle

White Eagle finished the season as minor premiers, but in the second semi-final, they failed to beat the second-best side in the competition, when they were defeated, in what can only be considered the best game seen in State League in the past decade. Nine second-half goals on that occasion saw Juventus go direct to the final, eventually winning 6-4.

Tomorrow's game should be not all that different. Preparation for this grand final has not been very good for any of the participants. Player attendances have been down for a variety of reasons and Juventus has not been able to train on a quality surface. The past weeks have been hard for both clubs as influenza sets in for at least four players of each club.

Juventus has probably been hit the hardest with McGinn (strained hamstring), McCaffrey (minor foot operation) and Snow Compagne (bad back) all of whom did not train his week.

Injuries aside, both Juventus and White Eagles will have their best eleven on the park when the whistle blows, so be prepared for the game of the century. Both sides possess quality strikers, with Eagles having the edge with the dynamic duo, the league's leading goalscorers in Leszczynski and Shepherd.

Juventus duet McGinn and Mies have done well for the club, especially in the last two rounds with the twin strikers putting away classy goals from positive build-ups.

Separating the teams midfields is also difficult to do. Both sides have a good combination of ball players along with the usual workers. For Juventus it will be Justin Dyer, Charlie McCaffrey, Luigi Gugliotti and either Chris Couch or Romeo Fabrizio. White Eagle have David Stoddart, Richard Ketchell, Matthew Holloway and Adam Jones, all of whom on their day are very attacking midfielders.

In defence, White Eagle are probably a little quicker. Morrison, Pitt and Turner play in front of the huge Scott "Slugger" Young. Juventus have defenders who should hold their own against the Eagle attacking moves with McNeil, Compagne, Scuilli and Visintine.

The major difference between the sides is the goalkeeping department. Maddox, the Juventus goalie, communicates with his defence and marshalls it as he sees fit. White Eagle's goalie, Alan Wisby, is young and is still learning his trade, and if he does have a weakness, it is in the communication department.

If any club has the upper hand, it is Launceston Juventus. The bench strength of the Launceston club includes Peter Savill, Liam Monagle, Tom Pinkiewicz and Crouch or Fabrizio. The experience of Savill and Monagle in a tight situation will be of great advantage to coach Craig, especially if they lead by a single goal late in the second half.

Don't expect this game to be as free-flowing as the second-semi. I suspect that both teams will sit back waiting for an opportunity to pounce. This game is more likely to go into sudden death extra-time with the prospect of a penalty shoot-out.

⚽ Eagle flies high in grand final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 30/7/1995

1995 Minor Premiers and Grand Final Winners
Back: S. Carty (Trainer), Z. Belanic (Asst Coach), M. Pitt, A. Leszczynski, E. Banasik, S. Young, C. Shepherd, R. Leszczynski, C. Jones, N. Morrison, C. White (Manager). **Front:** M. Leszczynski (Coach), A. Jones, D. Stoddart (Capt.) R. Turner, R. Ketchell, M. Holloway, A. Wisby.

WHITE Eagle defeated Launceston Juventus 3-0 in the State League soccer competition grand final at KGV Soccer Park last night. The victory was just reward for White Eagle, which lost last year's grand final to Devonport City but which took out this year's minor premiership by finishing 11 points ahead of second-placed Launceston Juventus.

Striker Colin Shepherd was in outstanding form for Eagle and collected two goals, while his partner in attack Richard Leszczynski scored the remaining goal. The two strikers, who scored 60 goals between them in the league campaign, produced a high work rate, thinking nothing of dropping deep into midfield to help their team-mates before surging back into attack.

Eagle might have had a fourth goal when Charlie McCaffrey conceded a penalty in the 87th minute by tripping Richard Leszczynski, but Peter Maddox saved David Stoddart's spot-kick. Craig Pitt had an excellent game in midfield for Eagle and was unlucky not to score midway through the second half when he hammered a fierce shot against the Launceston Juventus crossbar. Sweeper Scott Young was unbeatable at the back for Eagle and his accurate passes turned defence into instant attack.

Launceston Juventus had few chances, its best falling to Roger Mies in the 53rd minute following Tom McGinn's neat header, but Eagle goalkeeper Alan Wisby produced a splendid save. The northerners' cause suffered a severe set-back in the 68th minute when central defender John "Snowy" Compagne was sent off for a serious but unnecessary foul on Shepherd, but Eagle was already 2-0 up at that stage and well in control.

Shepherd opened the scoring in the 28th minute from Young's pass, the striker advancing on goal from midfield before beating Maddox from 25 metres.

Richard Leszczynski netted the second after fullback Neil Morrison had put him away on the left and the striker cut inside, side-stepped Maddox, and rolled the ball into an empty net from the edge of the penalty area. Shepherd completed the scoring in the 75th minute, providing the perfect finish to great work on the right by Stoddart and Richard Leszczynski.

State League Final Standings - 1995

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**28**	**22**	**3**	**3**	**110**	**35**	**69**
Launceston Juventus	28	19	1	8	83	48	58
Olympia	28	14	7	7	82	45	49
Hobart Juventus	28	14	7	7	74	46	49
Croatia	28	8	9	11	60	67	33
Caledonians	28	8	4	16	39	70	28
Riverside Olympic	28	5	3	20	47	117	18
South Hobart	28	3	4	21	18	83	13

State League Reserves Final Standings - 1995

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	28	21	5	2	109	23	68
White Eagle	**28**	**22**	**2**	**4**	**102**	**18**	**68**
Caledonians	28	16	3	8	66	38	51
Hobart Juventus	28	12	4	12	58	58	40
Croatia	28	10	5	13	65	71	35
Launceston Juventus	28	9	6	12	50	67	33
South Hobart	28	5	3	20	33	86	18
Riverside Olympic	28	1	2	25	23	145	5

Michael Murray – Leagues Top Goalscorer Award

Cadbury Division 1 Final Standings - 1995

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Phoenix	18	14	1	3	56	21	43
University	18	11	4	3	44	26	37
Kingborough	18	11	3	4	49	25	36
Metro	18	11	2	5	51	26	35
White Eagle	**18**	**8**	**0**	**10**	**29**	**40**	**24**
DOSA	18	7	1	10	35	45	22
Howrah	18	6	3	9	33	43	21
Taroona	18	6	2	10	33	43	20
Rapid	18	5	2	11	28	50	17
Nelson	18	0	4	14	15	51	4

1995 Cadbury League Division 1
Back: B. Stoddart (Coach), B. Thanis, M. Harry, O. Laing, G. Mason, M. Murray, J. Douglas, A. McMullen
Front: R. Bones, L. Ware, C. Jones, S. Sikora, M. Proud, T. Wilkie

Leszczynski top tip

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/9/1995 – VIC TUTING MEDAL

STRIKER Richard Leszczynski must be one of the favourites to win this year's Vic Tuting Silver Medal as the Wrest Point State League soccer competition's best and fairest player.

The speedster with the lethal shot scored an amazing 35 goals in 28 games for league champion White Eagle in last season's State League competition, and last Saturday, was voted the club's best and fairest player. It will take a great player to deprive him of the State League's premier individual award at the presentation at Wrest Point on Friday, October 27.

If Leszczynski was the State League's top scorer, his striking partner at White Eagle, Colin Shepherd, was not far behind in both goal scoring prowess and overall influence on Eagle's superb performances.

Shepherd hit 25 goals, had numerous of what the Americans call 'assists', but spoiled his Tuting Medal chances by being sent off during the season.

Shepherd received White Eagle's most consistent award last Saturday and it was an appropriate honor as he had one of his best seasons ever.

Defender Ricky Turner was White Eagle's most improved player. Michael Murray, the State League reserve competition's leading marksman, won White Eagle's reserves' best and fairest award, Steven Bukowiecki the most consistent award, and Michael Murray the most improved award.

Strikers are top medal chances

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 27/10/1995 – VIC TUTING MEDAL

WHITE EAGLE strikers Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd are two of the favourites to win the Vic Tuting Silver Medal at tonight's presentation ceremony at the Wrest Point Hotel-Casino. The medal is awarded to the best and fairest player in the State League soccer competition.

Leszczynski scored 35 goals in the 28-match competition during the 1994-95 summer campaign, while Shepherd finished as the league's second-ranked marksman with 25 goals. Shepherd was sent off during the finals series, won by White Eagle, but is still eligible for the award.

Team-mate David Stoddart, a midfielder and a past winner of the award, has also received an invitation to tonight's function as one of White Eagle's three leading vote getters.

⚽Veteran Nichols takes out Vic Tuting Medal

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 29/10/1995

CRAIG NICHOLS, the 32-year-old Olympia-CUB midfielder is the 1994-95 Vic Tuting Silver Medal winner. The small-in-stature but big-in-heart darling of the Olympia fans, took out the Wrest Point State League soccer best-and-fairest award with 35 votes, one more than Hobart Juventus midfielder Steve Milloy.

The next three place-getters were young Hobart Juventus striker Nick Anis (25 votes), agile South Hobart goalkeeper Mark Moncur (24 votes) and Olympia's adventurous defender Glen McNeill (23 votes). Caledonian defender Greg Honeyman won the State League Reserve best-and-fairest award with 34 votes, followed by White Eagle player-coach and midfielder Chris Barrell (30 votes), and talented Olympia midfielder Adam Powell (27 votes).

"I'm shocked and was totally unprepared for this award because I thought I had only an average season and I missed about nine games because of injury," Nichols said after being given his medal. "Perhaps it was my consistency that won it for me, but it has certainly caused me to reconsider the thought of retirement next year because this will serve as a morale booster." Nichols said the only prize he had not won in his long career in Tasmanian soccer was a pre-season cup winner's medal and he would relish earning one of those before hanging up his boots.

He said his best game of the season probably had been the State-wide Cup match in which Olympia defeated George Town 9-1 at South Hobart. "I scored four goals in that match, but cup matches don't count in the voting for the silver medal," Nichols said.

Editor's Note:

Despite totally dominating the competition Eagles did not have a vote-getter in the top 5. You can draw your own conclusions from the result but the prior history surrounding Leading Goalscorers: and the Vic Tuting Medal shows that Richard Leszczynski should have won the award easily. The fact that he wasn't even Eagle's top vote getter was a disappointing result for him personally, and makes you wonder how the referees could see the game so differently from other players and supporters of the game.

1996 was the year Clare Street was truly used as a home ground venue, and was the end of the summer roster, with a 10-team competition returning to the usual winter scheduling of April to October. White Eagle was fielding 5 senior sides, with teams in the top 4 competitions on offer, as well youth teams in the under 13,14,15 and 16 rosters.

Mark Leszczynski returned as senior coach, with Les Ware also returning to the reserves position with the departure of Chris Barrell.

The senior side defeated Hobart Juventus 6-4 in normal time (coming from behind three times) to win the Summer Cup, with Richard Leszczynski netting four goals in the 6-4 victory. The side also captured the Statewide Cup and finished minor premiers.

⚽Psychological advantage to Juventus

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 08/4/1996 – SUMMER CUP

HOBART Juventus goes into today's Cascade Draught Summer Cup soccer final against White Eagle at KGV Soccer Park with a psychological advantage, having beaten its opponent 2-1 in the final preliminary group game on March 29.

It may not be enough however against the reigning state league champion, which should be at full strength, and in search of vengeance. White Eagle exerted tremendous pressure on Juventus in the second half of the match in March and will go into today's game full of fire.

Juventus is playing excellent soccer and was undoubtedly the team of the series, winning four and drawing one of its five games to finish as the only unbeaten team. "Ahmed Abdaltam is certainly the best coach I've ever played under,'' said Juventus's 26-year-old midfielder Dallas Joiner, signed this season from Croatia-Glenorchy, who should be a key player in today's match.

"He has us playing to a system, win or lose, and the atmosphere is great and the players' mood confident.'' Juventus completed its preparations for the final by beating first division outfit Taroona 6-0 in a practice match on Saturday.

Utility player Frank Genovesi is slightly injured but should take his place in the side, while defenders Robbie Mastracola, Elmer Cano and Mark Falzon are at last available for selection. Midfielder Carlo Ambrosino, who has been training but missed all the group matches because of work commitments, is also available.

Striker's four goals timely for White Eagle

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 09/4/1996 – SUMMER CUP FINAL

STRIKER Richard Leszczynski scored four goals for White Eagle to help his team to a 6-4 win over Hobart Juventus in a marvelous Cascade Draught Summer Cup soccer final at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. Eagle came from behind three times against a Juventus side that led 2-0 at the interval and appeared to be coasting to an easy win.

But an inspired positional change by coach Mark Leszczynski five minutes before half-time, sweeper Paul Morrison changed positions with midfielder Scott Young, swung the game in Eagle's favour. Until then, Brett Pullen and Michael Lapolla had controlled the midfield for Juventus, and it was their excellent passes that provided striker Sergio Pace with goals in the 11th and 19th minutes.

Morrison's mobility and his precise passing enabled Eagle to wrest control of the midfield from Juventus and striker Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd were given the type of service they thrive on.

David Stoddart's low cross from the right following a free-kick in the 57th minute saw Leszczynski reduce the arrears, and he made it 2-2 in the 61st minute, finishing a classic Eagle attacking move that began from goalkeeper Alan Wisby and involved Jamie Joyce, Matthew Holloway, Paul and Neil Morrison and Shepherd.

Juventus regained the lead in the 69th minute when Dallas Joiner set up Nick Anis, but two minutes later, Adam Jones drew Eagle level again. A foul on Anis in the 74th minute enabled Lapolla to restore Juventus's advantage from the penalty spot.

Craig Pitt and Joyce now had the measure of the Juventus strikers, and Eagle pressed forward, being rewarded in the 84th minute, when Shepherd headed home Stoddart's cross for 4-4. Leszczynski finally put Eagle in front in the 88th minute with an amazing goal from an acute angle after Paul Morrison's pass, and he repeated the dose a minute later to kill off Juventus at last, regaining his feet after a hefty challenge from Darren Wells and chipping the ball over goalkeeper Frank Mainella.

White Eagle crashes badly

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 01/6/1996

CROATIA-GLENORCHY, paying scant regard to reputation, travelled to Clare St, New Town, yesterday and deservedly beat reigning State League soccer champion White Eagle 4-2 in the two teams' opening match of the season.

White Eagle, fresh from its Summer Cup victory on Easter Monday, was no match, even on its home ground, for a fast, tall and powerful Croatia outfit.

The visitors, inspired by strong performances by brothers Robbie and Tom Huigsloot, played direct, no-nonsense soccer and took advantage of the wind, the sloping ground and the slippery conditions to race to a 3-0 lead after only 20 minutes.

It might even have been more but for some fine saves by Eagle goalkeeper Allan Wisby, who thwarted Tom Huigsloot and Brendan Lakoseljac. Eagle defender Jamie Joyce, with Wisby beaten, was also called upon to head a Lakoseljac effort over the bar.

White Eagle, which missed striker Colin Shepherd, who was unavailable, was never allowed to settle into its normal style as Croatia pressured the player in possession and blocked many a shooting opportunity with desperate, lunging tackles.

When Eagle did find a way through, Croatia's agile young goalkeeper, Nathan Puclin, proved his worth. He produced two excellent saves against Richard Leszczynski and also turned an effort by Matthew Holloway onto the crossbar.

Tony Bacic opened Croatia's account in the fourth minute, following Paul Furjanic's cross and Mark Brkic's header, while Lakoseljac made it 2-0 in the 17th minute.

Lakoseljac scored the third from a penalty in the 20th minute after Ricky Turner was adjudged to have handled Lakoseljac's attempted right -wing cross.

Two free-kicks before the interval put Eagle back into the match at 2-3. Tony Dzelalija put the ball into his own net in the 23rd minute, after Puclin failed to hold David Stoddart's free-kick, while Stoddart scored Eagle's second goal direct from a free-kick in the 29th minute.

Both sides squandered chances in the second half, but Lakoseljac completed his hat-trick in the 52nd minute to give his side a two-goal winning buffer, after Wisby could not hold Tom Huigsloot's stinging shot.

⚽ Out of form Eagle still out of luck

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 20/5/1996

OLYMPIA moved from sixth to third place on the State League ladder after defeating reigning champion White Eagle 3-2 away at Clare St yesterday, all the goals coming in the first half.

White Eagle, struggling to recapture form and having won only one of three home matches this season, dropped a place to sixth.

Eagle was without star striker Richard Leszczynski, who is ill, and defenders Jamie Joyce and Neil Morrison. Eagle had all the play in the second half but was unable to score, despite two chances within minutes of the resumption by David Stoddart and Colin Shepherd.

Olympia goalkeeper Neil Connell made two crucial saves - against Shepherd in the first half and Stoddart in the second.

Olympia defenders Chris Hey, Corey Slade, Greg Calvert and Glen McNeill worked hard at the back, especially in the absence of the suspended Michael Berwick, while Craig Nicholls, Allan Rankine, Adam Powell and Steve Walker usually managed to contain their opposite numbers in midfield.

White Eagle began well, Stoddart releasing Michael Driessen on the right and the striker drilling an unstoppable rising shot past Connell.

Olympia levelled two minutes later, when Carson headed McNeill's cross past Craig Jones. A long-range, dipping shot by Rankine put Olympia in front on the 12-minute mark, and it might have added a third on the half-hour but McNeill's effort struck the angle of crossbar and post.

Five minutes before the interval, Slade tripped Driessen and Stoddart drew Eagle level from the penalty spot, but McNeill slid the ball home for the winner on the stroke of half-time after the Eagle defence had failed to clear Powell's corner.

⚽ White Eagle flies up the table with simple victory

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 27/5/1996

REIGNING State League Soccer champion White Eagle moved from seventh to fourth place on the ladder when it defeated South Hobart 4-0 at Wellesley Park yesterday.

Michael Driessen, who is proving a revelation at striker, netted twice, while the other goals came from Paul Morrison and Richard Leszczynski.

South Hobart's bubble appears to have burst as this was the club's second defeat in a row.

South Hobart started the season in promising fashion with two wins and a draw from its first three outings but the latest two defeats has seen it slump to a mid-table position.

In yesterday's State League Reserves curtain-raiser, league leader White Eagle suffered its second draw in a row when it was held 3-3 by second-placed South Hobart.

Bret Anderton scored twice and Rayner once for South Hobart while Marcus Proud, Michael Murray and Martin Nidorfer replied for Eagle.

Eagle retains a four-point advantage over South Hobart.

⚽ Juventus' championship hopes suffer greatly with huge loss

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 01/6/1996

HOBART Juventus' championship aspirations suffered a severe blow last night when reigning State League soccer champion White Eagle won their encounter 7-1 at KGV soccer park.

White Eagle led 2-0 at the interval through goals by Paul Morrison and Colin Shepherd.

Eagle added five more in the second half to completely destroy Juventus, which managed only a single reply when the score was 5-0, Brett Pullen releasing Nick Anis to score an excellent goal.

Richard Leszczynski scored twice in the second half, the other goals coming from Myles Harry, David Stoddart and Shepherd.

White Eagle completely outclassed its opponent. Juventus might have added two or three more goals, but its finishing was poor. Eagle proved extremely dangerous when counter attacking and also missed several easy chances.

White Eagle crushes Calies

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24/6/1996

WHITE Eagle moved into second place on the State League soccer ladder when it trounced eighth-placed Caledonian 6-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Devonport City missed a great chance to take over from Croatia-Glenorchy at the top of the ladder when it was held to a 1-1 draw at Valley Rd on Saturday night by the visiting Launceston Juventus.

Devonport dropped a place to third, on goal-difference, as a result of the draw, a last-minute goal by the league's leading marksman, Anthony Guilbert, earning it a point after David Hill had given Launceston Juventus the lead with a second-half penalty.

David Stoddart chipped the ball over goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes to give White Eagle a 1-0 lead at the interval against Calies.

Richard Leszczynski, who had been well contained by Greg Honeyman in the first half, scored through a defender's legs in the 58th minute to make it 2-0, while goals by Adam Jones and Stoddart gave the reigning champion an unassailable 4-0 lead with 20 minutes remaining.

Substitute Jason Mahoney pulled a goal back for Calies in the 79th minute after David Connolly's right-wing cross, but Colin Shepherd and substitute Myles Harry completed the scoring for Eagle in the final nine minutes.

Two goals by Julian Proud, an own-goal and strikes by David Turner, Michael Murray, Tommy Fotak and Neil Morrison saw league-leader White Eagle demolish bottom side Calies 7-0 in yesterday's State League Reserve curtain-raiser at KGV.

Croatia pummeled 12-0 in blitz

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 6/7/1996 – STATEWIDE CUP

STATE League soccer leader Croatia-Glenorchy may have beaten reigning league champion and third-placed White Eagle twice in the league this season, but in its Statewide Cup match at KGV Soccer Park last night, Croatia sank without trace. White Eagle won a farcical match 12-0, scoring six goals in each half.

Croatia was without five regular senior players who were ill or injured, but there can be no excuse for the side's abysmal performance. Croatia did not offer any resistance and the game would not even have rated as a practice match and spectators would have been justified in asking for their money back.

For the record, Richard Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell scored four goals each, while Colin Shepherd and substitute Michael Murray, the latter was only on the field for the final 20 minutes, scored two goals apiece. Leszczynski's fourth goal, his side's 11th, typified the poor resistance Eagle faced. His shot hit the bar and he was allowed to head home the rebound without being challenged.

White Eagle's position is precarious

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 10/8/1996

WHITE EAGLE is in a precarious position at the top of the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder after it could only manage a 1-1 draw with third-placed Olympia at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Olympia moved into second place, but this may be only temporary.

Devonport City can become the new leader if it beats Caledonian by a sufficient margin at South Hobart today.

Both teams produced a poor first half last night with the midfielders inaccurate in their passing and the defenders generally in control.

Eagle's best chance came in the 13th minute, but Richard Leszczynski shot tamely. Trevor Carson should have scored for Olympia in the 20th minute when Craig Jones failed to hold Glen McNeil's cross, but the striker prodded the ball wide of an empty net.

Carson atoned for his error by putting Olympia ahead in the 62nd minute, from Alan Rankine's pass.

Myles Harry equalised five minutes later, walking the ball into an empty net after Colin Shepherd's low-hard shot across the face of goal.

Eagle finished strongly and three times hit the post, but goalkeeper Jones also had to be at his best to save efforts from Carson and McNeil during the second period.

Chris Hey again had a fine game at sweeper for Olympia.

Olympia, without midfielders Steve Walker, Michael Berwick and injured goalkeeper Neil Connell, was well served by young goalkeeper Matthew Calvert, who was extremely reliable under pressure.

White Eagle's reserve side extended its lead at the top of the ladder to 10 points with a 7-0 win over seventh-placed Olympia.

David Turner hit a first-half hat-trick, Paul Murray netted twice, and Julian Proud and Matthew Holloway scored a goal apiece.

White Eagle flies alone at the top of table after huge win

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/8/1996

WHITE Eagle is perched alone on the top rung of the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder after beating eighth-placed South Hobart 5-0 at Clare Street yesterday.

Second-placed Devonport, which had been level on points with Eagle, did not play on the weekend and now trails by three points.

The reigning champion got off to a perfect start against the youthful South when striker RichardLeszczynski scored in the fifth minute.

In the 34th minute, midfielder and captain David Stoddart made it 2-0, drilling the ball home from an acute angle with such ferocity that the net was almost torn from the goal-frame.

Midfielder Michael Driessen added Eagle's third in the 38th minute, while Leszczynski grabbed his second in the 43rd minute to give Eagle a 4-0 lead at the interval.

South's best chance came midway through the second half when Nick Owen combined with Danny Prestage to put Ben Harbinson through, but Craig Jones was off his line in a flash and smothered the young striker's shot.

Colin Shepherd completed the scoring, from Richard Ketchell's pass, 11 minutes from the end.

In yesterday's State League Reserve curtain-raiser, leader White Eagle drew 2-2 with second-placed South Hobart, Julian Proud netting both Eagle goals and Dean Melville and Kirk Stanton replying for South.

Win gives Eagle a solid lead

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 26/8/1996

WHITE Eagle scored a goal in each half to defeat Hobart Juventus 2-0 at Clare St yesterday.

Eagle remains in first place on the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder, three points ahead of second-placed Devonport City, which has a game in hand, while Juventus drops a place to fourth.

Richard Ketchell opened the scoring in the 22nd minute after a long pass out of defence by Paul Morrison and a neat back-heel by Richard Leszczynski.

Leszczynski should have made it 2-0 two minutes before the break following Morrison's corner and Michael Driessen's headed flick-on but the striker powered his header over the bar from close range.

Morrison sealed the match in the 63rd minute, firing past Steve Holzinger after an exchange of passes on the edge of the penalty area with Colin Shepherd.

Juventus was rarely in the hunt despite tireless displays by Nick Anis, Sergio Pace and young defender Peter Skalos.

In the State League Reserve curtain-raiser, four goals by Matthew Holloway and one each by Julian Proud, Paul Murray and Stephen Bukowiecki gave league-leader White Eagle a 7-0 win over fifth-placed Hobart Juventus.

Eagle claws its way into semis

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22/8/1996 – STATEWIDE CUP

WHITE Eagle earned a Statewide Cup semi-final date with Hobart Juventus by overcoming a plucky South Hobart 1-0 in their quarter-final tie at KGV Soccer Park last night.

South Hobart matched White Eagle blow for blow for almost the entire match but finally fell to a Colin Shepherd goal with eight minutes to go. Shepherd, who had been skiing all day, arrived too late to start the match and came on as a substitute at half-time.

He proved his side's saviour when, in the 82nd minute, he mesmerised two defenders in the left corner of the penalty box before shooting and scoring just inside Kristan Beardwood's right-hand post.

Up until then, Beardwood and his fellow defenders Jason and Shane Nicholson and Joel Heath had repelled every Eagle advance. Beardwood, only 16 years old, played with the maturity of a veteran, coming off his line bravely on several occasions to repel Eagle's thrusts.

Eagle, without injured captain David Stoddart, could have easily been two goals down in the opening 15 minutes as Ben Harbinson headed wide of the goal following Dean Melville's cross, and Travis Watkins fired a ball into the side-netting. Eagle then attacked, but Jason Nicholson foiled an Adam Jones attempt and Watkins headed another effort off the line.

In the 35th minute, it was Eagle sweeper Scott Young who saved his side after Danny Prestage won the ball from Adam Jones and threatened to score. Eagle introduced Shepherd for Jones at the interval, and brought on Julian Proud for Richard Ketchell midway through the second half. The moves paid off and, with 20 minutes remaining, Eagle began to have the better of the play and exerted tremendous pressure on a South Hobart outfit that refused to surrender, and which continued to look dangerous on the break.

Beardwood saved well from Shepherd in the 71st minute, Richard Leszczynski hit the side-netting two minutes later, while in the 76th minute, Watkins and Beardwood were on hand to turn Matthew Holloway's fierce shot over the crossbar. A minute later, Shane Nicholson denied Richard Leszczynski with a desperate lunge, but Eagle now clearly had the upper-hand, and the writing was on the wall for Bret Anderton's youngsters.

Within five minutes Shepherd struck to take his side into the semi-final, but it was the South Hobart supporters who cheered their team more loudly as they trooped off the park.

⚽ White Eagle storms into final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 31/8/1996 – STATEWIDE CUP

WHITE Eagle qualified for the final of the Statewide Cup soccer competition when it defeated Hobart Juventus 2-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night. White Eagle had captain and midfielder David Stoddart sent off in the 27th minute after elbowing Mark Falzon, but this did not stop Eagle, and it soon scored twice to lead 2-0 at the interval.

Juventus was unable to take advantage of the extra player, despite exerting tremendous pressure in the second half and it succumbed to a 2-0 defeat, just as it did in the league last Sunday. Neither side was at full strength last night, White Eagle missing striker Colin Shepherd and midfielder Michael Driessen, while Hobart Juventus had Frank Genovesi on the bench until half-time. Juventus replaced Steve Holzinger with Frank Mainella in goal, had Mark Falzon back in defence, but was without midfielder Dallas Joiner.

White Eagle made the early running with Craig Pitt, Richard Leszczynski and Stoddart all failing with attempts at goal. Mainella was in fine form for Juventus, saving from Matthew Holloway and Leszczynski before Eagle took the lead through Paul Morrison. Morrison was Eagle's star performer. In the 38th minute, he scored from close range after Leszczynski's corner. Leszczynski added a second just before the interval, flicking the ball inside the far post while Mainella was off balance.

⚽ White Eagle seals minor premiership

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 16/9/1996

WHITE Eagle took out the minor premiership in the Wrest Point State League soccer competition when it defeated visitor Caledonian 2-0 at its windswept Clare St headquarters yesterday. White Eagle finished its league program with 40 points from 18 matches.

Second-placed Devonport City has 35 points, with a home game against Croatia-Glenorchy next weekend still to play, but it cannot catch Eagle and the sides will now meet in the qualifying semi-final of the top-four series. Calies attacked strongly from the start of yesterday's game and the White Eagle goal had some narrow escapes as goalkeeper Craig Jones and defenders Scott Young, Ricky Turner and Paul Morrison fought hard to keep out the waves of blue shirts.

Calies' best effort came from Ian Parker, whose long-range volley just cleared the Eagle crossbar, much to the relief of Jones, who was caught off his line. At the other end, Calies goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes was again in good form, thwarting Colin Shepherd and David Stoddart, the latter after a superb exchange of passes with Richard Leszczynski.

Brian Reynolds played well in defence for Calies, winning the ball frequently and using it wisely by launching attacks with long, accurate passes. Knowing that a draw might not be good enough to clinch the minor premiership, Eagle stuck to its task in the second half and Stoddart broke the deadlock in the 70th minute, sliding on to Leszczynski's pass to steer the ball past Rhodes.

Seven minutes from the end, with Calies undermanned at the back as they strove for an equaliser, Shepherd skipped around a lone defender before squaring the ball for Stoddart to claim an easy second goal and the championship. Calies' only response came when Parker just cleared the bar with another fine effort.

⚽ Cup final a classy test for state's best

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 27/9/1996 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL PREVIEW

THE stage is set for a magnificent Statewide Cup soccer final when White Eagle meets Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow.

The teams are the two best combinations in the state as White Eagle won the minor premiership and Devonport finished two points adrift in second place.

The honours were even during the two league meetings between the sides this season, Devonport winning 5-1 at Valley Road and White Eagle triumphing 4-2 in the return match at Clare Street.

Tomorrow's venue of KGV is almost like a home match for White Eagle, although Devonport is not unfamiliar with the ground and has won a grand final there.

White Eagle will be at full strength, with several fringe players vying for places in the line-up.

White Eagle's 29-year-old captain and midfielder David Stoddart cannot see any reason why his team cannot come up trumps and collect the silverware on offer.

“The guys have all attended training and are confident and I know we'd be disappointed if we lost this one,'' Stoddart said.

“There is a real battle for places in the starting line-up and the last result between the two teams, when we won, is a good omen for us.

“We've had quite a few clean sheets in the past couple of months, which shows we've tightened up our defence and I don't think we'll have to rely simply on trying to score more goals than they do by running up a 6-4 or 5-3 type scoreline.''

Stoddart is pleased with his own form and a fine display by the former state representative usually has the effect of bringing the best out of his team-mates.

Strikers Colin Shepherd and Richard Leszczynski are in goal-scoring mood and the Devonport defence must shut them down and try to prevent the pair from receiving good service from the midfielders.

Devonport will be without veteran goalkeeper Bob Smith, who is unavailable, while striker Tom McGinn is a doubtful starter. He came off midway through the second half of last week's 4-2 win over Croatia-Glenorchy because of a hamstring injury.

Justin Smith, a 23-year-old with some senior experience will replace Bob Smith.

McGinn has not trained all week and there are three possible replacements for him _ Freddie Guilbert, Fabio Pizzirani or Paul McKenna.

“It should be an outstanding match because White Eagle are a good side and I can't remember a bad game between us,'' said Devonport coach Alex MacDonald.

“They're usually high scoring and very entertaining for the fans.

“They gave us a lesson last time, but we beat them 5-1 in the first round, although that could easily have ended 5-5 if it hadn't simply been our day.

“With both of us playing attacking games, I think the spectators will be in for a treat.'' In the absence of McGinn, Devonport still has a lethal strike force because the speedy Anthony Guilbert is the league's top goalscorer and is sure to provide a stern challenge to the White Eagle defence.

This game will be the first of a possible three between the teams during the next month.

Next weekend, they will meet in the qualifying semi-final of the State League top-four competition, in which both are expected to reach the grand final.

⚽ Win to Eagle in last minutes

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 30/9/1996 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

A GOALKEEPING error and a deadly header a minute into injury time at the end of the match, enabled White Eagle to defeat Devonport City 2-1 in yesterday's Wrest Point Statewide Cup soccer final at KGV Soccer Park.

With the score level at 1-1 and sudden-death extra-time seemingly inevitable, White Eagle defender Craig Pitt fired over a speculative cross from deep on the right. As the ball dropped into the penalty area from on high, Devonport goalkeeper Justin Smith mistimed his attempted clearing punch, succeeding only in glancing the ball on to the head of Michael Driessen, who nodded it into the net to the jubilation of his team-mates and the despair of Devonport.

The match had been evenly poised, with Devonport taking a 12th-minute lead through Anthony Guilbert's far-post header from Tom Compagne's corner.

Richard Leszczynski equalised in the 23rd minute after Driessen's precise and perfectly weighted through-ball had prised open the Devonport defence. White Eagle almost drew first blood in the ninth minute when Leszczynski scraped the far post with a shot, but Devonport's speed soon began to worry the Eagle defence, where sweeper Scott Young struggled every time Devonport's strikers Freddie and Anthony Guilbert eluded Ricky Turner and Pitt.

Andrew Howe, Tom Compagne, Darren Chilcott and Wayne Boyd combined well in the Devonport midfield while Young received a caution in the 20th minute after being forced to bring down Howe, who had rounded him and was headed for goal. In the 34th minute, Pitt saved Eagle with a clearance on the line from Boyd after Young had misjudged the bounce and Anthony Guilbert's clever back-heel had released Boyd, whose first effort was blocked by goalkeeper Craig Jones.

The Eagle midfielders were also busy and Richard Ketchell, David Stoddart, Adam Jones and Driessen all had scoring chances, and also provided openings for strikers Colin Shepherd and Leszczynski, who were tightly marked by Ryan Myers and David Jordan, ably backed up by the imposing figure of John “Snow'' Compagne. Devonport might have done better if injured striker Tom McGinn had been able to play, but it will get another crack at White Eagle next Saturday in the qualifying semi-final of the State League top-four series.

State League Minor Premiership - 1996

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	**18**	**13**	**1**	**4**	**63**	**25**	**40**
Devonport City	18	11	5	1	61	29	38
Hobart Juventus	18	11	2	5	47	35	35
Olympia	18	11	2	5	41	38	35
Launceston Juventus	18	8	3	7	30	31	27
Croatia Glenorchy	18	8	2	8	41	43	26
South Hobart	18	6	2	10	35	47	20
Caledonians	18	4	6	8	32	38	18
Riverside Olympic	18	4	2	12	29	52	14
Launceston United	18	1	1	16	21	62	4

The senior team progressed to the Grand Final against Olympia, but unfortunately could not continue on its winning way, and eventually lost 1-2 in controversial circumstances.

After dominating the first half, Eagle led at the break 1-0 courtesy of a fine strike by Richard Leszczynski, who crashed a shot past a hapless Neil Connell in the Olympia goal after turning defender Berwick in the area. In fact, if not for Connell’s brilliance, thwarting numerous Eagle raids on goal, Eagle would have had a commanding lead at the break.

Mid-way through the second half, with Eagle still in control of the match (if not on the scoreboard), a dubious decision by referee Kim Barker led to a penalty awarded to Olympia, and this was duly converted. Minutes later a rattled Eagle line up conceded another goal following a corner. Despite being held back by an Olympia striker, Eagle keeper Jones was not awarded a free-kick and the goal stood. In the dying minutes Eagle’s midfielder Michael Driessen had a shot roll agonisingly wide of the post and the match was lost.

⚽ Eagle star in doubt for grand final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 16/10/1996

WHITE Eagle's star utility player Paul Morrison is in doubt for Saturday's Wrest Point State League soccer grand final against Olympia because of injury. Morrison, equally at home as a sweeper, an out-and-out defender or midfielder, has a badly bruised foot, which is threatening to keep him on the sidelines for the season's biggest match. Martin Nidorfer, who has filled in for Morrison before, is penciled in at left fullback if Morrison is omitted from the line-up.

Morrison's injury, together with a lack of match practice - White Eagle will have had a two-week break - are the only things worrying White Eagle coach Mark Leszczynski as his team prepares for the showdown. “I'm quite happy with the way things are going at training, although I would rather not have had the break,'' Leszczynski said. “I'm confident because I know that on our day no-one should be able to touch us. “Having said that, Olympia are a good side and every one of our players will have to give 100% if we are to win.

“We must shut out their playmaker in midfield, Craig Nicholls, who can destroy a team if he is given too much room, and we must aim to stop the supply to their forwards.'' Leszczynski, who said he would probably have preferred Devonport City as a grand final opponent, does not mind the grand final format rather than the first-past-the-post traditional method of determining soccer championship.

“It's good for soccer because it keeps the interest going right up to the end,'' he said. “It's a one-off thing with the best team on the day winning, and it gives players and supporters something to aim for, and it attracts the crowds.'' Leszczynski has been involved in three championship successes as a coach, only one of which was under the grand final format, and he has been on the winning side as a player in numerous championship-winning sides.

His younger brother, Richard, will lead the Eagle attack on Saturday and Mark is expecting big things from him. Richard has often produced the goods for Eagle in the past, his goals frequently proving to be the side's salvation.

⚽ Thanks for a great grand final, Soccer Tasmania

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22/10/1996

SOCCER Tasmania officials must be congratulated for the efforts they put in to make last Saturday's grand-final day such an outstanding success. The three-match program was well organised, and the large crowd went home satisfied. President John Barker, chairman Hugh Murray and general manager David Smith and all Soccer Tasmania commissioners ensured sponsors saw where their money went and I'm sure they were pleased with the product.

The grand final itself was quite an exciting match, with White Eagle dominant in the first half and Olympia having the better of the second half. White Eagle coach Mark Leszczynski said afterwards his side should have wrapped things up in the opening 45 minutes and he was right. Captain David Stoddart was inspirational in midfield while Colin Shepherd and Richard Leszczynski were a constant menace in attack with their almost telepathic understanding and intelligent running off the ball.

As always, Shepherd produced a high work rate and thought nothing of dropping deep and building up play from mid-field while Leszczynski's speed presented the Olympia defence with many anxious moments. Martin Nidorfer also deserves praise. The small but tenacious defender came into the side in place of the injured Paul Morrison and did a fine job of marking Olympia striker Matthew Sly.

Olympia was a revitalised team in the second half and the lucky break came when it was awarded a penalty. Captain Glenn McNeill rarely misses from the spot and this time he gave Craig Jones no chance and drew Olympia level. From that moment White Eagle looked in trouble and so it turned out, slack marking at the back allowing Trevor Carson to head home Alan Rankine's corner for the winner.

One can sympathise with White Eagle, which clearly was the best team in the competition, having won the pre-season cup, the Statewide Cup and the minor premiership, the latter by two points from Devonport City and five points from Hobart Juventus and Olympia, which finished third and fourth respectively.

However, Olympia must be given credit for its win as it had been a thorn in Eagle's side all season and an upset win in the grand final was always on the cards.

1996 Senior Squad Members

In 1997 the club became known as New Town Eagles after Soccer Tasmanian adopted Soccer Australia's ban on ethnic club names. It was a year to remember as Eagles won all senior and reserve competitions on offer (seven in all), for the first time in Tasmanian Soccer history. Andrew Leszczynski took over the mantle as senior coach and welcomed new players Simon Goninon from University and Adrian Mann, an ex-Devonport player who scored the winning goal in the 1994 Grand Final.

⚽ Juventus twins vie to play Sarawak

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY - Feb. 24, 1997

SHAUN and Adam Conkie, the 18-year-old North-West Coast twins have been named in the Southern Tasmanian training squad to play against the visiting Malaysian side Sarawak.

The Conkie twins, from Port Sorell, were included in the southern squad after signing for Hobart Juventus. They have returned to Tasmania after 18 months with national league soccer club Gippsland Falcons.

They Southern coaches Les Bee and Mark Leszczynski have announced an initial squad of 28 players who will take part in a practice match at South Hobart today at 6pm.

The squad will then be whittled down to 16 players for matches against Sarawak at KGV Soccer Park on March 14-16.

The training squad for today is: Richard Leszczynski, Colin Shepherd, David Stoddart, Adrian Mann, Craig Pitt, Paul Morrison, Martin Nidorfer (New Town White Eagle), Nick Anis, Brett Pullen, Mark Falzon, Shaun Conkie, Adam Conkie (Hobart Juventus), Brendan Lakoseljac, Tom Huigsloot, Nathan Puclin, Tony Bacic (Glenorchy Knights), Ben Harbinson, Nick Owen, Matthew Rhodes, Adam Powell (South Hobart), Trevor Carson, Neil Connell, Peter Tsakiris, Craig Nichols, Glen McNeill, Michael Berwick (Hobart Olympic), Steve Weller, Tim Dale (West Hobart Calies).

⚽ Tassie stuns pros

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY - Mar. 15, 1997

SOUTHERN Tasmania's representative soccer team, which was gathered together at relatively short notice, produced a magnificent performance to defeat the visiting Malaysian professional team Sarawak 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The Tasmanians, in fact, scored all three goals, with Glenn McNeill scoring an unfortunate own-goal to put Sarawak 1-0 up at half-time, while Colin Shepherd and Richard Leszczynski netted excellent goals in the second half to give the home side a well-deserved victory and set the stage for a tantalising second encounter tomorrow.

Sarawak showed skill and intelligence on the ball but the Tasmanians mercilessly harassed the players in possession, tackled vigorously and counter-attacked effectively.

McNeill, Peter Tsakiris, Mark Falzon and Pitt were solid in defence and allowed Sarawak's Socceroo striker Alistair Edwards and his striking partner Shamsurin Abdul Rahman not even a glimpse of goal.

The first real chance fell to Southern Tasmania in the 15th minute following a fine build-up involving Pitt, Brett Pullen, Shepherd and Leszczynski, but Adrian Mann headed just wide.

After half an hour, the South had forced four corners compared with Sarawak's none but when the visitors did force a corner in the 33rd minute, it proved a disaster for the home team with McNeill heading Ramless Sari's viciously curling kick past Matthew Rhodes to put Sarawak in front.

Edwards had departed injured moments before the goal and with his replacement Affardi Oulhairi looking lively and with Billy Bone and David Evans adding British steel to silky skills, the Malaysians were expected to dominate the match.

⚽ Soccer Tasmania to ban ethnic club names

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 1997

TASMANIAN soccer officials and supporters face the risk of being thrown out of grounds for wearing clothing displaying emblems, logos or maps of countries other than Australia. In far reaching changes to the game, Soccer Tasmania has decided to ban ethnic club names from next year in line with bans imposed by Soccer Australia and other state federations during the past five years.

A meeting of the Soccer Tasmania board of commissioners this month decided to ban foreign place names, or names associated with political organisations or movements, or "a denomination which is descriptive of a race or ethnic group".

The decision could affect as many as six Tasmanian clubs Croatia Glenorchy, Hobart and Launceston Juventus, Olympia, White Eagle and Caledonian.

Soccer Tasmania has decreed that from the start of next year clubs, officials, spectators and players will be prohibited

from using or displaying in logos, letterheads, clothing, programs and newsletters any national flags other than the Australian flag, emblems or symbols which promote a political objective or movement, maps other than those of Australia or its regions, and any political slogan or message.

Also outlawed at grounds are flares, fireworks, national flags other than the Australian flag, national or political emblems other than the Australian emblem, loud hailers and banners or placards displaying political messages or slogans. “Instruments prohibited by law'' will also be prohibited.

Also under scrutiny are the national team shirts of countries such as Holland, Germany or Italy, which are a popular fashion item among children. Soccer Tasmania general manager David Smith said it was a matter that had not been envisaged and careful thought would have to go into the wording of any official policy.

“We're falling in line with Soccer Australia, but we're quite happy to sit down with clubs to talk about it,'' Mr Smith said. “We're looking at this from the point of view of expanding our horizons and moving to a district-based game and attracting more people to the game and to the clubs.

“We're not asking clubs to give up their heritage because there'll always be, for example, Italian-backed or Croatian-backed clubs.'' Mr Smith said there would probably be a 12-month period of grace because some clubs would have bought new playing strips, and banning these would place financial burdens on clubs.

“We're willing to listen to, and to respect, legitimate arguments, but we are determined to follow the Soccer Australia line.'' Club reaction to the proposal has been low-key, with some saying it does not concern them and they will obey any directive, and others saying their committees will meet to decide their official stance. A few were not certain whether any ban would apply to their club name.

On the surface, it would appear that Croatia-Glenorchy, Hobart and Launceston Juventus, Olympia, White Eagle and Caledonian are the clubs that would be affected, while Devonport City, South Hobart, Riverside Olympic and Launceston are, obviously, unaffected. All are in the State League. Rapid is the only other southern club that may be affected, and it plays in the southern first division. Launceston White Eagles is the only other northern non-State League team that may be affected.

Croatia-Glenorchy president Robbie Baric said some of his club's members had not been impressed by the proposal and any such ban may decrease attendances at his club's matches. “I don't think it's a good move and I don't think it's going to help us or be viable for us,'' Baric said. “We've just bought new strips for $3000 and the expense of changing stationery and things like that mean I don't like it at all, and some people are talking about dropping out.''

Hobart Juventus president George Marino said he did not want to change. But club supporters and members would meet to discuss the issue and if the majority agreed to change then the club would change its name. “We have our club symbols, and I can't see why we should change,'' Mr Marino said.

“I have heard that people aren't happy and that a ban on banners and flags is too much to ask.'' Ross Wesson, the president of Launceston Juventus, said such moves had started as long as 20 years ago but now it seemed it was “fair dinkum''. “We'll have to conform whether we like it or not,'' he said. “We will lose a bit of character and tradition, but it's not as if we're an Italian team anyway. “There hasn't been an Italian on our committee in years and we haven't got any Italian players. “We'll go with the times, and do as we're told, but I really can't see what there is to gain by this in Tasmania.

“We'll table the matter at our meeting on Thursday night, but I think we'll have to accept it.'' Olympia president Steve Kaproulias said he did not want to change the club's name or colours because such changes would not bring more people to games. “Our committee will meet to decide where we stand on the issue and I think there will be a meeting later of all club presidents to discuss the matter,'' he said.

White Eagle president David Stoddart Jnr said his club would have to look at the proposal in greater detail to see whether any ban applied to it. “I guess the eagle we have is a symbol of Poland and, if we had to change, we'd have to abide by the rules and change,'' he said. “We wouldn't want to change unless we have to, but I haven't heard anything other than hearsay.''

Caledonian president George Arnott said: “Our older players are concerned, but our younger ones aren't. “There is a question mark about our name and about our rampant lion being an ethnic sign. The club will meet to discuss the matter and the committee will, I think, accept any direction that we are given by the controlling body because we must accept that things must move on.'' The clubs not directly involved were sympathetic towards the plight of the clubs affected by the bans.

David McLeod, a Launceston committee member said: “We shouldn't be out of step with what's happening on the mainland, and we should fall in line. “The affected clubs may lose support and a revenue base and it's a bit hard on them, but we have to be able to identify as a sport with the Australian public.''

Riverside Olympic president Leon Colgrave said he didn't know whether his club would be affected because it had originally been formed by Greeks, he thought, and hence the name “Olympic''. “But we identify readily with the Riverside community and even if we did have to change, it wouldn't worry us,'' he said. “National league club UTS Olympic was allowed to keep its name, so I don't think we would have to change ours. “I don't think the other clubs should have to change their names because, regardless of what they are called, people will still associate them with an ethnic group.''

⚽ Club names paradox a multicultural mess

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 25/3/97

LAST Saturday, Hobart, the capital of our state, was the scene for a march against racism, an event that gained national television coverage. In the same state, the soccer season has started, and clubs have been issued with a directive from Soccer Tasmania, denying them the right to carry foreign names and symbols. A paradoxical situation if ever there was one.

Soccer Tasmania, the sport's governing body in the state, is merely following the lead set by the national body, Soccer Australia, which does not appear to have heard of multiculturalism as a national philosophy. And so, here in Tasmania we have Glenorchy Croatia becoming the "Knights'', Launceston and Hobart Juventus adopting the name "Zebras'',

White Eagle assuming the name "New Town Eagle'', Rapid that of "Kingston'', while Olympia becomes "Hobart Olympic'', not to be confused with Riverside Olympic, a Launceston club with no Greek connections.

Club history and tradition are thrown out the window in what is only a cosmetic change. The Greek community will continue to support Olympic, the Croatian community the Knights, the Italians the Zebras, and so on. Caledonian is still engaged in dialogue with Soccer Tasmania, which has refused to accept the club's suggested change of name to West Hobart Calies.

"The Soccer Tasmania commissioners haven't based their decision on facts, but on their own interpretations,'' said Caledonian secretary David Martin. "We had been told that we'd be able to use the name `Calies' and that was the basis on which we moved to merge with the Kingborough Soccer Club.'' The merger was called off when it became clear that the

name Calies would have been expunged. Martin cites a West Australian precedent to support the club's battle to retain its name. "Western Australia has a club called Bassendon Caledonians, which was accepted by the West Australian Federation, and we also want to retain our club's heritage,'' he said. "Soccer Australia were notified of the case in WA, and they've let it ride.'' Local parliamentarian John White, whose son Charles plays for Calies, has also come out in support of the club's efforts to retain its name.

"At the weekend, we celebrated racial harmony in Tasmania and the fact that we're multi-cultural, so it seems strange that where we accept multiculturalism and different ethnic backgrounds and appreciate the differences, we appear to have a conflict with Soccer Australia,'' Mr White said. "Soccer Australia, in their desire to Australianise soccer, have decreed that we should remove the ethnic origins of some of our clubs.

"I recognise that it's a complex situation and there are competing issues, but I tend to come down on the side of allowing tradition to be maintained rather than making clubs give up their names and emblems. "If the game is going to be Australianised, it may be that Soccer Australia is right but going to the extent of saying Calies is unacceptable as a name, when it is in effect a nickname, is really going too far. "I would have preferred if the Tasmanian clubs could have maintained their ethnic names while going about a process of Australianisation.

"I see more and more young Australians playing soccer and going to clubs where they have friends playing, or where there is a better coach, or where there is a nearby ground, rather than playing because of any special ethnic relationship. "I believe within another five or ten years the Tasmanian clubs would have been Australianised in any event, with the majority of players young Australians and with the name one of the interesting facts of the club history.'' The impasse between Calies and Soccer Tasmania has yet to be resolved, with both sides standing their ground.

⚽ New Town Eagles Appoint New Coach

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 02/4/1997

NEW Town Eagles' new coach, Andrew Leszczynski, 30, a former midfielder and striker with the most successful State League club of the past decade, is enjoying his first stint as a coach. Yesterday's Summer Cup win over South Hobart was his first-ever triumph as a coach, at any level. "Our players are all good players and it's usually just a matter of reminding them of that and that they've done it all before,'' the rookie coach said.

"Motivating them for matches is just a case of urging them to do the things they do well as a team yet again.'' Leszczynski said there was nothing on the horizon in southern Tasmania to worry his team in the coming league campaign, although surprises could occur on the days his team was off its game.

"Hobart Olympic blow hot and cold, while Hobart Zebras have got some good players, but generally speaking, we've got the measure of the teams here,'' he said. "I can't see northern sides Riverside Olympic or Launceston improving significantly, although I must admit it is getting a little harder to win because even the lower sides will give you a run for your money on our off days.'' Leszczynski said he did not know much about Devonport City or Launceston Zebras, but the first few games of the new season would answer a few questions.

The team got off to a positive start by winning the Summer Cup, defeating South Hobart 2-1. During the league season, the team was able to meet all of the challenges thrown at it, and with 44 points, won the minor premiership, six points clear of second placed Devonport.

⚽ Eagle retains Summer Cup convincingly

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 01/4/1997 – SUMMER CUP FINAL

NEW Town Eagle retained its Summer Cup soccer title when it defeated South Hobart 2-1 in the final at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. Eagle dominated the match, and it was only the heroic efforts of South Hobart goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes that kept the score down.

Rhodes produced excellent saves in open play against Adrian Mann, Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart, and on the half-hour kept out a penalty by Stoddart. South Hobart was also saved on the goal-line twice when Garth Plunkett and Chris Rayner cleared headers from Shepherd and Stoddart.

South Hobart fought valiantly throughout the 90-minutes but apart from Bernhard Klasen's fine goal the closest it came to adding to its tally was when striker Ben Harbinson, hampered again by a shoulder injury, fired narrowly past the far post late in the match.

Defender Craig Pitt put Eagle in front in the 42nd minute, Rhodes making his one error in the match by allowing the low shot from an acute angle to sneak in at the near post. South was level within a minute when Rayner's cross from the left carried to Klasen on the far post. He then beat Craig Jones with a blistering shot from 15 metres, as the Eagle defenders caught out of position, were reduced to the role of spectators.

The winner came in the 57th minute, Shepherd flicking a long ball out of defence into the path of Leszczynski, who eluded his marker Joel Heath before sprinting past sweeper Jason Nicholson and beating Rhodes with a perfectly placed low drive.

In the State League Youth-Premier League section final, New Town Eagle just held on to defeat Kingborough 3-2 after leading 3-0 at the interval. Steven Bukowiecki, Michael Murray and Martin Nidorfer gave Eagle a comfortable half-time lead, but two goals by former Eagle star Michael Driessen made for a tense finish.

⚽ Eagle top after tangle with South

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 26/4/1997

NEW Town White Eagle restored its three-point lead at the top of the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder when it beat the previously undefeated South Hobart 3-0 at South Hobart yesterday.

Richard Ketchell – “Eyes on the ball”

In the absence of Richard Leszczynski, who was unavailable, Myles Harry partnered Colin Shepherd in the Eagle attack. He was unable to find the net, which was in stark contrast to the previous day, when he scored five goals for Eagle's Premier League side.

Shepherd opened the scoring in the 14th minute after forcing Nick Owen to concede a corner. David Stoddart swung the ball into the goalmouth and Shepherd back-headed it past goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes. In the 57th minute, Adrian Mann made it 2-0, scoring direct from an in-swinging corner. South defender Chris Oddie, standing at the far post, hooked the ball back into play, but referee Mark Monaghan, perfectly positioned, judged the ball had crossed the line and awarded a goal.

Danny Prestage shot tamely at Craig Jones on the hour after being put through by Owen, but Eagle counter attacked immediately: Shepherd completed the scoring in the 79th minute, following Craig Jones's long clearance, Mann nodding the ball on and Shepherd lobbing it over the advancing Rhodes.

South Hobart, looking lethargic and missing the drive of Shane Nicholson, was well served by 16-year-old midfielder Chris Rayner, but a huge question mark hangs over its defence, which conceded three goals that appeared rather soft. In yesterday's bottom of the-table clash, a hattrick by Chris Couch gave Launceston Zebras a 3-0 win over last-placed Launceston at Birch Avenue. All three goals came after the interval.

In the State League Reserve Youth League, a 65th-minute goal by Luke Atkin gave South Hobart -a 1-0 win over New Town Eagle and first place on the ladder, at the expense of Eagle.

⚽ Eagle goal blitz humiliates Launceston

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 5/5/1997

FOUR second-half goals in six minutes by league-leader New Town White Eagle destroyed bottom side Launceston in its State League soccer match at Clare Street yesterday. The gallant northerners almost took the lead in the third minute when defender Rhys Morris powered a header from Stuart Dracup against the crossbar.

Let off the hook, Eagle then began to dominate play, but the visitors, inspired by goalkeeper Leith Mitchell, defended bravely and restricted Eagle to a single first-half goal. That fell to Colin Shepherd, who swept the ball home in the 25th minute after good work on the left by David Stoddart and Richard Leszczynski.

Mitchell showed courage and clever anticipation in denying Shepherd, Paul Morrison, Craig Pitt, Stoddart and Adam Jones, as the league-leader applied intense pressure in an effort to increase its lead. The breakthrough came in the 54th minute when indecision at the back between Mitchell and Morris allowed Leszczynski to prod the ball home from close range, making it 2-0. Launceston's defence then crumbled completely and Leszczynski headed home his second from point-blank range in the 58th minute and a minute later Leszczynski completed his hat-trick.

On the hour, Stoddart headed home a corner to give Eagle its third goal in as many minutes. Fourteen minutes later Leszczynski carved open the Launceston defence and rounded Mitchell to stroke home his fourth goal of the match. Rob Murray forced home Stuart Dracup's corner eight minutes from the end to give Launceston a consolation goal, but it remains pointless and in last place, while Eagle is again on top, and three points clear of second-placed Hobart Zebras.

Fifteen-year-old midfielder Ben Fahey made his league debut for Eagle when he came on as a substitute, replacing Adam Jones 10 minutes after the interval.

New Town Eagle dropped to second place in the State Youth League Reserve competition when it was held to a 1-1 draw by sixth-ranked Launceston, Luke Gorringe giving Eagle the lead in the 48th minute and Pip Atherton equalising for the visitors two minutes later.

⚽ White Eagle flies high after thrashing Lions in State League

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/5/1997

NEW Town White Eagle extended its lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder to five points when it beat last-placed West Hobart Lions 5-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Two goals in two minutes by Richard Leszczynski immediately before halftime effectively destroyed the Lions. Colin Shepherd made it 3-0 midway through the second half, while Leszczynski and Paul Morrison completed the

scoring in the closing five minutes. Sweeper Adam Williams was a tower of strength for the Lions, the ball seemingly attracted to him like a magnet as he blunted attack after attack by Eagle.

Lions goalkeeper Chris Neale had a fine game, producing several outstanding saves, while midfielder Ian Parker twice went close to scoring and also cleared a shot from David Turner off his own goal-line.

Leszczynski put Eagle in front in the 41st minute, showing lightning speed in rounding two defenders before slotting the ball home from an acute angle. In the 43rd minute, Williams and Tim Dale lost possession for the Lions on the half-way line and wide on the left and were immediately punished as Morrison and Shepherd worked the ball across the goal mouth for Leszczynski to score. Shepherd made it-3-0 in the 67th minute when Neale spilled a high cross, the Eagle striker netting from close range.

With four minutes remaining, Morrison set up Leszczynski for a simple tap-in for Eagle's fourth goal, while two minutes later Morrison finished off with a low shot into the far corner of the net. Ben Carter, 17, who made his senior debut for Eagle late in the match, fired high over the bar from the one scoring chance that came his way.

A hat-trick by Michael Fong and goals by Carter, Michael and Paul Murray, and Luke Gorringe gave Eagle a 7-0 triumph over the Lions in yesterday's State Youth League curtain-raiser.

⚽ New Town Eagle too skilful for Riverside

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 26/5/1997

STATE League soccer leader New Town Eagle was untroubled in beating seventh placed Riverside Olympic 4-0 on a perfect pitch at Clare Street yesterday. Eagle, without mid-fielder Adrian Mann at the start, rattled home three goals in the opening half, while Mann, who came on as a substitute for Adam Jones in the 64th minute, completed the scoring in the final minute.

Riverside was struck a serious blow when sweeper Andrew Gray twisted an ankle in the 16th minute and was stretchered off. Although he returned after treatment he was clearly hampered by the injury and was eventually replaced by Jamie Challis six minutes after the interval when the visitors trailed 0-3. The home team took the lead from a David Stoddart penalty in the 25th minute, Duncan McCabe having fouled Richard Leszczynski.

Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 28th minute following good work on the right by Stoddart and Adam Jones, while Stoddart fired home the third in the 41st minute to effectively seal the match.

Eagle might have added more goals through Colin Shepherd, Leszczynski and Paul Morrison, but the Riverside defence provided stubborn resistance against the best attacking side in the league. Fifteen-year-old Ben Fahey made his second senior appearance as substitute for Eagle, replacing Shepherd with 20 minutes remaining, but the youngster was unable to capitalise on the two scoring chances that came his way.

Seconds from the final whistle, substitute Mann netted Eagle's fourth goal after Leszczynski had attracted defenders like bees around a honey pot on the right-hand side of the penalty area, before slipping the ball across goal to his unmarked team-mate.

⚽ Zippy Zebras send Eagle into a spiral with 3-0 pelting

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 31/5/1997

SECOND-PLACED Hobart Zebras drew to within four points of league leader New Town Eagle when they defeated Eagle 3-0 in their State League Soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

It was Eagle's first defeat, and the league leader conceded more goals last night than in its previous seven matches. A brilliant individual goal by Brett Pullen in only the third minute gave the Zebras a 1-0 lead at the break, while second half goals by Sergio Pace and youngster James McCulloch completed the scoring.

In last night's State Youth League curtain raiser, New Town Eagle became the new leader with a 6-2 win over the Zebras.

⚽ THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/6/97

League-leader New Town White Eagle wiped out the memories of its 3-0 loss to the Hobart Zebras in its previous outing by thrashing sixth placed Glenorchy Knights, 10-1, at Clare St yesterday, Colin Shepherd netting a hattrick and Richard Leszczynski scoring twice.

David Turner opened Eagle's account in the seventh minute with a lob from 30 metres, Shepherd's low shot in the 20th minute made it 2-0, and Paul Morrison's header from Adrian Mann's corner two minutes later for the third goal meant good night for the visitors.

Three goals in four minutes immediately before the interval from Mann, Shepherd and David Stoddart made it 6-0 for Eagle as the game turned into a nightmare for the visitors.

Robbie Huigsloot pulled a goal back for the Knights within a minute of the resumption after substitute goalkeeper Alan Wishy had saved well from Janko Begovic to concede a corner, but Eagle regained its stride and Shepherd completed his hattrick in the 54th minute. Defender Simon Goninon scored his first goal for the club with his knee just past the

hour, while Leszczynski completed the rout with two strikes before the end from excellent service by the speedy Mann and the industrious Shepherd.

Full-back happy with goal off the knee

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 17/6/1997

WHEN New Town White Eagle thrashed the Glenorchy Knights 10-1 in their State League soccer match at Clare St on Saturday, none of the victorious players was more delighted than full-back Simon Goninon.

The reason for the 26-year-old defender's glee was that he scored the eighth goal, his very first for the club, and what an unusual goal it was. It came off his knee as players swarmed into the goalmouth at a corner.

“I would have liked something a little more spectacular, that would have been nice,'' Goninon said.
“I guess the crumbs just fell for me and I knocked the ball home with my knee.

”They wouldn't let me come up for corners for the remainder of the match after that!'' Goninon joined the team this season from first-division champion University, which he won several premierships.

University was his very first club as a 16-year-old and he has the distinction of having played in the same University Graduates side as his father, Wayne, who is a club stalwart.

“Playing in the Grads side with my father was fun,'' Goninon said. “They're basically old blokes who still know how to knock the ball around. I think Dad's one of the youngest in the team at 44 but there almost seems to be a father-son rule for that team and I can remember Gary Swain playing in the same line-up that included his father, Dr Roy Swain.''

Goninon, a midfielder with University, also had one State League season with Croatia-Glenorchy before rejoining University.

Since he hit 16, he has missed only two soccer seasons, one while a recruit at the Tasmania Police Academy and the other after he graduated and was posted to Launceston as a first-year constable.

His move to New Town White Eagle this season was made for a number of reasons.

“I just wanted to give the State League another go before I'm too old in the tooth and I knew Eagle was a good unit,'' he said.

“Playing in a good team lifts you and besides, they're a great bunch of blokes.”

“David Stoddart and Paul Morrison are excellent distributors of the ball in midfield, and we have very good strikers whose bread and butter is scoring goals, even though they do miss some.”

“The important thing is there are always multiple targets to hit and you just know the ball will be moved on.”

“There is always lots of positive talk on the pitch and a good team spirit and I think we can do very well this year given the kinds of players we have.'' Goninon said he went to New Town White Eagle quite prepared to play in the reserves and he was rapt to be playing regularly in the seniors.

“I used to be a midfielder but I feel more comfortable in defence at this level because I like to go in hard for the ball and get it out of the danger zone,'' he said.

If that includes him pushing forward at corners and getting on the scoresheet occasionally even if the goals may be rather unorthodox, Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski will be more than pleased at his side's latest acquisition as the club continues right on course for yet another minor premiership.

⚽ Eagle back on top perch

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 28/7/1997

NEW Town White Eagle returned to the top of the State League soccer ladder after it thrashed second-last Launceston 8-1 away at Birch Avenue yesterday. Eagle relinquished top spot to Devonport City after the Coastal side beat South Hobart 3-1 on Saturday.

Launceston had no answer to Eagle's speed and team-work and trailed 4-1 at the interval. Richard Leszczynski, the league's leading scorer, and Adrian Mann both hit hat-tricks for Eagle, their other goals coming from David Stoddart and Colin Shepherd. Andy Fraser, Launceston's leading scorer, replied for the home side, netting his sixth goal of the current campaign.

Eagle's youth side remains second on the State League Reserve ladder and three points adrift of leader South Hobart after overcoming fourth-placed Launceston 4-2 yesterday. Matthew Holloway netted twice, the other goals coming from Michael Fong and Ben Carter, while Pip Atherton and Jason Smith replied for Launceston.

⚽ Eagle hones talons

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/8/1997

NEW Town White Eagle outclassed West Hobart Lions to win its State League soccer match 6-0 at Clare Street yesterday. With three league matches remaining, Eagle has a four-point lead over Devonport City, while the Lions are third-last, a point ahead of Launceston and four in front of bottom side Riverside Olympic.

The writing was on the wall for the Lions as early as the fourth minute when, in one of Eagle's first attacks, midfielder Adrian Mann cracked a shot against the Lions crossbar. Three minutes later, Richard Ketchell put Eagle in front, slipping the ball home after goalkeeper Chris Neale fumbled a cross. Neale made amends a minute later. Eagle playmaker David Stoddart put Richard Leszczynski through the middle, but the goalkeeper turned the striker's fierce drive over the bar for a corner.

The Lions first real chance came in the 17th minute, but Carson Backhouse fired wide. Eagle retaliated three minutes later when Stoddart fed Paul Morrison and the midfielder set up Leszczynski to make it 2-0. Leszczynski made the most of Colin Shepherd's service in the 24th minute to give his side an unassailable 3-0 advantage, while six minutes before the interval, Stoddart and Shepherd combined to provide Morrison with an easy goal, Eagle's fourth.

Ian Parker might have reduced the arrears in the 42nd minute, but he kicked the ball over the bar. Shepherd made it 5-0 in the 64th minute with a tremendous shot from 25m, while Stoddart completed Eagle's tally three minutes later.

Two goals by Matthew Holloway, one a penalty and a goal by Ben Carter, gave New Town Eagle a 3-1 win over the Lions in yesterday's State League Reserve curtain-raiser. Ross Iles replied for the Lions with a penalty.

⚑

Towards the end of the season, with the Statewide Cup and premiership finals looming, the senior side was hit with numerous injuries, including one to star striker Colin Shepherd, that was to see him miss the finals.

The club had to rely on a several inexperienced younger players from the reserves squad and Michael Fong, Michael Murray, Marcus Proud and Robbie Lebski, were able to seamlessly step into the senior team and enable it to take out the Statewide Cup in convincing manner, defeating a rugged Launceston Juventus side 5-0, and were also instrumental in the club's defeat of Hobart Juventus 4-1 on the way to the Grand Final. Michael Fong and Myles Harry also performed strongly in the Grand Final victory over Devonport.

The reserves side were also victorious during the year, taking out their Summer Cup, the minor premiership and the premiership with a 2-0 Grand Final victory over South Hobart. Only a brilliant display from the South Hobart keeper kept South in the game but goals from Robbie Lebski and Ben Carter were enough to secure a memorable win. The club's "third" team, competing in the Southern Premier League also managed a credible third place.

⚽ Eagle loses striker for semi clash

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 12/9/1997

MINOR premier New Town White Eagle will be without star striker Colin Shepherd for tomorrow's State League soccer qualifying semi-final against second-placed Devonport City at Clare Street. Shepherd suffered a facial injury against Hobart Zebras two weeks ago and missed Eagle's final league match of the season last weekend. He will have surgery next week and will be out of action until next season.

Midfielder Adrian Mann returns to the line-up after a bout of the flu and coach Andrew Leszczynski has been toying with the idea of playing midfielder David Stoddart up front to partner striker Richard Leszczynski. Eagle has beaten Devonport 4-0 in the league and 3-1 in the Statewide Cup competition this season, the second league meeting between the sides having ended in a 2-2 draw at Devonport's Valley Road ground.

“We've done well against them this year and I believe they struggle up front, apart from Anthony Guilbert, of course,'' Leszczynski said.

Devonport will be at full-strength after striker Andrew Howe came through 30 minutes play in last week's win over West Hobart Lions without any ill effects to his hamstring strain. Devonport coach, Alec McDonald was surprised by the late change of venue from KGV to Eagle's home ground at Clare Street and said he would make minor tactical adjustments to cater for this.

“We're playing against the best team in the league, and they've thumped us once, although the second league game could have gone either way,'' McDonald said.

⚽ White Eagle in shock defeat

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 14/9/1997

DEVONPORT City booked its place in the State League soccer grand final when it scored a shock 4-2 away win over minor premier New Town White Eagle in the qualifying semi-final at Clare Street yesterday. Devonport had finished second on the ladder, six points adrift of Eagle.

Eagle had beaten Devonport 3-1 in the Statewide Cup and 4-0 in the league at Clare Street, while the return league

match at Valley Road had ended in a 2-2 draw. Eagle now meets Hobart Zebras, 2-0 conquerors of Hobart Olympic in the elimination semi-final, in the preliminary final for the right to meet Devonport again.

Eagle's midfield was never able to operate effectively, and Devonport hit the front after only two minutes, Andrew Howe scoring at the second attempt with a header, goalkeeper Craig Jones having parried his first effort. David Stoddart, drew Eagle level in the 11th minute, controlling a waist-high cross from the left after a good build-up involving Richard Leszczynski and Adrian Mann, before volleying past Bob Smith.

Devonport refused to be unnerved, and two minutes after Anthony Guilbert had lobbed the ball against the Eagle's crossbar in the 35th minute, John “Snow'' Compagne restored the Coastal side's lead following David Meldrum's corner. Two goals in five minutes before the break, the first from Guilbert, who beat Ricky Turner in the air and then sprinted towards goal to score, and the second from a Compagne penalty, awarded against goalkeeper Jones for his foul on Guilbert, broke Eagle's back.

Trailing 4-1 at the interval, and without injured striker Colin Shepherd, Eagle never looked as if it could make up the deficit, although it did score the only goal of the second half, a 73rd-minute effort by Leszczynski.

Eagle forced a succession of corners near the end, but the minor premier cannot afford to repeat such a sloppy performance if it is to overcome the Hobart Zebras in the preliminary final. “I knew the boys were good enough and this was the first time we've had a full squad all year,'' said a delighted Devonport coach, Alec McDonald. “It was an excellent performance.''

⚽ Confident White Eagle primed for Cup final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/9/1997 – STATEWIDE CUP

NEW Town White Eagle will have to play much better than it did against Devonport City last Saturday if it is to beat Launceston Zebras in tomorrow night's Statewide Cup final at KGV Soccer Park, which kicks off at 7pm. Eagle lost 4-2 to Devonport in the qualifying final of the State League top-four series and must now beat Hobart Zebras in the preliminary final if it is to earn a grand final place.

Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski is confident his side can regain its composure and overcome the Northerners in tomorrow's cup final, and he is not considering any major team changes. “I think it will be a similar side to that which lost to Devonport,'' Leszczynski said. “That was only our third loss of the year, and it was the side that has seen us this far and we just have to stick with it and hope that we come up with a winning combination again.

“I was disappointed with our loss to Devonport. We just had too many players down on the day and Devonport appeared to want it more. “This cup final is a new game, a totally different game, but we're still trying to come to a new formation without the injured Colin Shepherd. “I can't say that his absence has been a decisive factor, but it has thrown us out a little bit because he's obviously such a class player and we are having some problems getting the mix right.''

Leszczynski played David Stoddart in attack against Devonport, but this weakened the midfield, which lacked Stoddart's guidance in creating effective build-ups. Eagle looked a better side in the second half when Stoddart reverted to a midfield role, while youngster Michael Fong made an impressive debut in attack. It will be interesting to see if Leszczynski opts

to play Fong, or introduces the experienced Myles Harry, who has a knack for scoring vital goals but who was unavailable against Devonport.

“I'll be very disappointed if we don't win the cup final,'' Leszczynski said. “We've totally outplayed Launceston Zebras both times in the league this year, winning 4-1 down here and 5-1 up there. “I can't see them improving so much as to beat us and I don't count the sort of performance we produced against Devonport because it was just a very poor day. It was just one of those days. It wasn't a great time to do it, but I'm confident we can fight back.''

Launceston Zebras will have leading marksman Chris Couch back from suspension and player-coach Lino Sciulli is confident his side can regain the trophy it won in the early 90s. “I think we can do it,'' Sciulli said. “They're beatable and it would be nice for me to bow out of coaching with a cup final win.

“We haven't beaten Eagle with our tactics so far, so we're going to have to do something different this time out. “We'll be looking at making a few changes for this game and try and surprise them.'' The Northerners rested defender Robbie Morgan in their final league outing a couple of weeks ago when they lost 5-2 to Hobart Olympic, and his return should add stability to an at times brittle back-line.

⚽ Zebras more like lambs in defeat

THE EXAMINER - By STEPHEN FODEN – 21/9/1997 – STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

NEW Town took the first step for a League/Cup double when it thrashed Launceston Zebras 5-0 at KGV last night.

1997 Statewide Cup Winners
Back: C. Pitt, R. Leszczynski, T. Coy (Trainer), C. Jones, A. Jones, M. Murray, A. Leszczynski (Coach) P. Morrison, A.Wisby, Z. Belanic (Asst Coach)
Front: R. Lebski, R. Turner, D. Stoddart (Capt), A. Mann, S. Goninon, M. Fong, M. Proud

Like lambs to the slaughter, the Zebras could not match Eagles in any department. In fact, the only shot on goals from the Zebras’ side that actually made Eagles keeper Jones react came in the 51st minute of the game.

New Town Eagle scored their first of five goals in the 10th minute when replacement for injured striker Colin Shepherd Michael Fong scored from 7m. A cut-back from ex-Devonport player Adrian Mann found Richard Leszczynski who mis-kicked the ball, and as the Zebras defenders approached Leszczynski, the ball bobbled to the right and Fong found the net.

In the 23rd minute, Leszczynski shot from 17m across goal which made Dent save superbly. In the 56th minute, a through-ball to Leszczynski found him in a one-on-one situation with Zebras defender Rob Morgan. Leszczynski pushed the ball past his marker with a deft touch and a quick burst of speed. Morgan reached his leg out in an attempt to clear the ball, only to bring down his opponent in his penalty area. With a penalty kick awarded by the referee, Eagle Simon Goninon strode up to the spot to easily beat Dent and extend Eagles’ lead to two.

In the 69th minute Richard Leszczynski extended Eagles' lead to three when he hammered the ball past Dent through a crowded goal area. By this time the Zebras had been pushing forward in an attempt to try and find a goal. Sadly, high tackles became the norm. In the 72nd minute of the game, an Adrian Mann corner found David Stoddart at the far post. Stoddart rose above all before him to cap off a sensational night for the Eagles midfielder. Stoddart's header at the far post put the nail in an already capitulating Zebras side.

In the 87th minute, Stoddart shot from 30m after beating four defenders. The shot took a wicked deflection and fell to the feet of substitute Marcus Proud, and with the Zebras goalkeeper Dent, already committed to Stoddart's shot, all Proud had to do was tap the ball into the empty net. The final result was Eagles 5, Zebras 0, and although the game had been played in a relatively sportsmanlike manner, the Zebras were lucky to have finished the game with 11 players.

⚽ White Eagle hit by injury problems

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 26/9/1997

MINOR premier New Town White Eagle has several injury problems for tonight's State League soccer preliminary final against Hobart Zebras at KGV Soccer Park. The winner will play Devonport City in the grand final. Star striker Colin Shepherd has been absent for a month with a facial injury and will not play again this season, while defenders Ricky Turner and Damian Bones and midfielders David Turner and Richard Ketchell have been sidelined through injury in the past fortnight.

Ricky Turner pulled a hamstring in last weekend's Statewide Cup final win over Launceston Zebras and will be missing, as will Ketchell, who has a hip injury, and Bones, who has a broken toe. David Turner missed the Cup final because of a hamstring strain but may recover in time to take his place in tonight's line-up. Michael Murray, Michael Fong and Robbie Lebski, who all did well as replacements last weekend, will be in contention for places, as will striker Myles Harry, who has no cricket commitments.

Eagle has met Hobart Zebras three times this season, winning twice and losing once. Eagle won 3-2 in the pre-season Summer Cup and 4-0 in the second league meeting, but it lost 3-0 to the Zebras in the first league meeting this season,

all three matches having been at KGV. The Zebras finished the roster series in third place, 10 points adrift of the minor premier, and beat fourth-placed Hobart Olympic 2-0 to reach tonight's preliminary final, while Eagle goes into this match after falling 4-2 to second-placed Devonport City.

"It will be a tough game, but we should go well and I'm pretty confident," said Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski. "They've beaten us once this year and they have pretty good players who make up quite a good team on their day, so we'll have to pull something extra out for this match. "We've done okay in previous games and won the Statewide Cup last weekend after overcoming quality teams such as South Hobart, Devonport and Hobart Olympic, which wasn't easy, and I expect tonight's game could be a high-scoring one.

"Injuries haven't helped us, but I've been impressed by the composure, confidence and enthusiasm shown by the young lads who have come in, and I expect our experienced players to lift their game to cover the loss of our injured players and to inspire our youngsters."

Hobart Zebras are expected to be at full strength, with the exception of youngster James McCulloch, who will be interstate with the state under-16 squad. Coach Franco Previdi said: "Eagle lost the semi-final against Devonport tactically and they are capable of being beaten again, but I still respect them, even with some key players out injured.

"Even with players missing, they'll be dangerous, and it won't be easy for us, and I would like to go into this match as the underdogs. "I'll leave my final team selection until late, but I have been preparing tactics for the past two weeks and I think if we can get an early goal our confidence will be boosted."

⚽ Eagle stampedes Zebras for berth in grand final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 28/9/1997

MINOR premier New Town White Eagle beat Hobart Zebras 4-1 in Friday night's State League soccer preliminary final at KGV Soccer Park to earn the right to meet Devonport City in Saturday's grand final. Eagle came from behind to level at 1-1 at the interval, but it was not until midway through the second half that it gained the ascendancy and scored three more goals to run out a comfortable winner.

The Zebras omitted experienced defender Nick Di Martino from their starting line-up, while midfielders Brett Pullen, Nick Anis and Sasha Puclin were anonymous for most of the evening. Eagle, already missing several regular players because of injury, was struck a further blow at the 23rd minute when Michael Murray, making one of his rare senior appearances, suffered a facial injury in a tackle with Frank Genovesi and had to leave the field with a bloodied face, to be replaced by Robert Lebski.

Veteran striker Sergio Pace fired the Zebras into the lead in only the third minute, following Michael Lapolla's corner from the right. Eagle midfielder David Stoddart squandered a couple of chances before his team equalised in the 35th minute, Zebras goalkeeper Frank Mainella completely missing Adrian Mann's corner and allowing Adam Jones to slot

the ball home. Pace did well in the 52nd minute to hold off several defenders while attempting to make space to get in a shot, but when he finally succeeded, he blasted wide of Craig Jones's left-hand post.

The Zebras introduced Michael Connolly for Adrian Sculthorpe in the 56th minute, but Eagle had begun to gain the upper hand and only a fine save by Mainella just short of the hour-mark denied the speedy and talented left-footer, Adrian Mann. In the 67th minute, Mann crossed accurately from the left, and 18-year-old Michael Fong, headed the ball past Mainella for a 2-1 lead.

Three minutes later, Stoddart turned sharply with the ball on the edge of the penalty area and whipped an unstoppable low drive past Mainella to make it 3-1 for Eagle. With 11 minutes remaining, Zebras coach Franco Previdi inexplicably substituted hard-working defender Mark Falzon for Ben Spurr, but a Zebras comeback appeared unlikely by that stage, despite a fine curling shot from Pace that had Craig Jones scampering across his goal.

Mainella was forced to make two saves in quick succession from Mann, and the goalkeeper also did well to block a close-range strike from Richard Leszczynski, but he was helpless in the 89th minute when late substitute Marcus Proud was allowed to cut in along the right byline and score from an acute angle to make the final margin 4-1. Di Martino made what could be his final appearance for the club when he came on in place of Peter Skalkos in injury time.

“It was a gutsy performance from us, and I thought we could do it,'' said Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski. “It was a pretty strange sort of Eagle-Zebras game in that it was a dour struggle, but it was a matter of turning it into a victory. “We had so many good players who worked so hard for each other and we've got a couple of young players who are ready for the first-team and which any club would be glad to have.''

Zebras coach Franco Previdi said: “I don't think we played that badly, but I think Eagle wanted it that little bit more. “Our players were a bit unlucky not to get a second goal and if we'd got that we would have been all right. “They put away their chances and we didn't, and we also struggled with a few injuries.''

⚽ Fitness tests for key Eagle players; Devonport confident

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 03/10/1997

DEVONPORT City will be at full strength when it takes on minor premier New Town White Eagle in tomorrow night's State League soccer grand final at KGV Soccer Park, which kicks off at 7pm. Eagle, in contrast, has several players doubtful because of injury and they must pass fitness tests before being considered for selection.

Devonport, which finished second on the ladder and six points adrift of Eagle, defeated its grand final opponent 4-2 in the qualifying semi-final, which must be a positive omen for the North-West Coast outfit. The two league meetings between the sides this season resulted in a 2-2 draw and a 4-0 win for Eagle, while in the Statewide Cup, Eagle downed Devonport 3-1 in the quarter-finals on its way to retaining the trophy.

Devonport goes into tomorrow's match fresh after a three-week rest. But coach Alex McDonald's squad has been training hard for the grand final and convincingly beat an Ulverstone side in a practice match on Monday.

“I think we can win, and the players think we can win,'' McDonald said. “We'll see how good Eagle really are, but I think we can do it. “I love to play against Eagle because you know they're going to come at you, and then you've got a game because they don't bottle things up. “In the five years I've coached Devonport, I've never seen a bad game between Devonport and Eagle. There's seldom a draw and normally there is a two or three-goal difference.

“We've got nothing to lose and we're going there to win, and all the pressure will be on them because they're the minor premiers and they'll feel as if they've got to go out there and do it again. “Every final we've been in, we've gone in as the minor premiers and we've only won one out of three, so we know what that pressure is like. “This time, we're going into the final from second place and the pressure is off us and all on them.''

Eagle appears likely to be without brothers Ricky and David Turner, both of whom have hamstring injuries, while defender Damian Bones has a toe injury and may not have recovered in time to play. Midfielder Richard Ketchell has recovered from a hip injury and will return to a central midfield role to partner David Stoddart, while strikers Michael Fong and Myles Harry will retain their places in the starting line-up after recent promising performances.

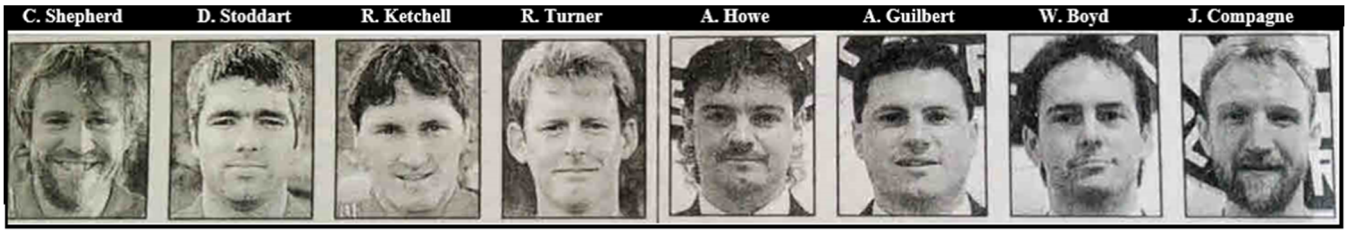
Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski said: “I'm always confident and have no real concerns about the outcome. I try not to worry too much about opponents because that would be starting off on the wrong foot. “I try not to look back on that qualifying semi-final defeat because we played badly that day and lost, despite having the better of the second half. “It was a pathetic result, and out of the six games we played around that period, only two were satisfactory.

“But it was a case of a slumber rather than a slump and, since then, we've had two wins which were achieved through hard work and commitment rather than brilliant teamwork, and that showed we're not jaded and can put in the required effort. “This week, we've had short, sharp sessions and nothing too strenuous and I think that if we can dodge “Snow'' Compagne and get behind their defence we can cause them heaps of problems.''

Tomorrow's curtain-raiser, scheduled for 5pm, is the State Youth Reserve League grand final between minor premier New Town White Eagle and second-placed South Hobart. In their league meetings, South Hobart won the first encounter 1-0, while Eagle won the second 3-1. But Eagle easily accounted for South Hobart 4-0 in the qualifying semi-final, after which South Hobart required extra-time before defeating Launceston 2-1 in the preliminary final.

⚽ Grand final battle of the giants

By Stephen Foden – [THE EXAMINER] - 3/10/97



The 1997 Wrest Point Casino State League grand final tonight is expected to be one of the best spectacles ever seen at the KGV complex. League giants Devonport City and New Town Eagles last met in a grand final in 1994 and that game saw Devonport crowned champion with a 3-2 win.

Three weeks ago, Devonport got out of the blocks quicker than New Town in the qualifying final to win 4-2 and go straight to the grand final. New Town Eagles have had it a little harder, playing the Statewide Cup grand final and a preliminary final. Both games took their toll on an already weakened Eagles team.

Injuries in the past weeks to David Turner, Ricky Turner, Colin Shepherd, Richard Ketchell and Michael Murray have seen the senior squad become a little depleted but through this adversity they have managed to reach their fourth grand final in as many years. In past weeks the Eagles have drawn from their reserves side which is also in the grand final of the Youth League. Richard Ketchell is a 75 per cent chance of playing this game as his hamstring injury improves with time.

David Turner will probably bolster the reserves side if half-fit and Ricky Turner is likely to warm the bench until needed with Shepherd looking on from the grandstand. Murray is a likely starter in the senior team despite a head injury requiring stitches. Devonport has had a balanced, fit side for the past eight weeks and will be going into this match full of confidence.

Despite having a younger and less experienced side than New Town Eagles, Devonport will be sure it can emulate its qualifying final 4-2 win over Eagles. This will be Devonport's second grand final appearance in four years, taking into account that it did not participate in the 1995 season it is a remarkable record. The Devonport side is serviced by some quality players, most of whom have represented the State.

The side is led by the towering Snow Compagne who is deadly in the air at corner kick situations. Anthony Guilbert, last year's Vic Tuting medalist, is the goal-scoring machine of the side. For the second year in a row Guilbert has won the league's top marksman award with 26 goals in 18 games.

Guilbert's turn of speed can leave any defender standing in his wake, and his partner up front is Andrew Howe, who was best afield in the qualifying final. Howe's abilities to hold the ball up and wait · for support and to apply pressure to opposing defences were never better than in that game. If these two players can apply the same amount of pressure on the Eagles defence, one could expect a similar result.

New Town has the league's second top scorer in Richard Leszczynski. Leszczynski's ability to run with the ball at close quarters at pace has seen him score 25 goals this season. In the past five years Richard has never been far away from the top of the goal-scorers' list and he will be a big threat to Devonport. His partner up front will be Michael Fong.

Fong has been included in the senior line-up since Shepherd's eye injury and he has not failed to score in a game he has started. He will have to be closely marked, as he usually pops up to score vital goals. In the midfield, it will be a superb battle between New Town's David Stoddart and Devonport's Wayne Boyd.

Both are super fit players who always make the plays. They have extraordinary vision, often creating chances for forwards out of nothing. They can also score themselves, Stoddart finishing the best of the two with 13 goals. The defences will make or break this game and both are solid. The generals of the defences are Craig Pitt (New Town) and Snow Compagne (Devonport). Both tend to give themselves plenty of room to sweep and distribute the ball.

Adrian Mann, a former Devonport player, plays at left half for New Town, so he has a little more to play for in this game. New Town's coach, Andrew Leszczynski, described Mann as a machine last week. “He just keeps on going. He just doesn’t know when he's beaten," said Leszczynski. Devonport will not go into this game thinking that it has already won it.

Two years ago, Launceston Zebras played the game of their lives to defeat the then White Eagles 6-4 in the qualifying final only to lose the grand final against the same club 0-3. Having had a three-week break does not naturally mean that Devonport will win this game.

I tend to favour New Town Eagles. The main reason is that they have found some good form since losing the qualifying final, and that form should see them take the honours tonight.

Eagles fly high over competition in soccer finals

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 06/10/1997

NEW Town White Eagle confirmed its status as the most powerful soccer club in Tasmania when it won both the State League senior and State League Youth competition grand finals on Saturday at KGV Soccer Park.

Both the Eagle sides finished their league campaigns as minor premiers, while Eagle's Premier League combination, effectively the club's third side, finished third on the southern first division ladder. Eagle won the State League senior grand final with a comprehensive 5-1 win over Devonport City, which had finished second on the ladder, six points adrift of Eagle. Eagle's State League Youth team was victorious in the reserve grand final by downing South Hobart, which had finished second in the standings, 2-0.

Adrian Mann, a former Devonport player, was Eagle's star in the senior grand final, scoring twice and making two other goals with accurate corners. “It was just fantastic,'' Mann said. “The last time we played them they caught us on the hop but this time we had the right attitude, and it was just fantastic. “In the last few weeks, we had to work really hard, and a lot of our reserve players have come and stood up and they're as much a part of this win as everyone else is and it's just fantastic.

“Devonport are a great side and they worked really hard, but I had no sympathy for them out on the field in this.'' An interested spectator at the grand final was former White Eagle coach Eugene Mycak, who had returned from Poland that evening. Mycak coached a Polish third division side last season and had just had a brief stint with a Polish fifth division side before returning to Tasmania.

Eagle completes season grand slam

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 06/10/1997

NEW TOWN White Eagle easily beat Devonport City 5-1 in the State League soccer grand final at KGV Soccer Park last night. The victory completed a grand slam of all four trophies for the season for the New Town club. In last night's State Youth league grand final, New Town White Eagle defeated South Hobart 2-0 to make it a wonderful night for the Eagle supporters.

Devonport started the match in menacing fashion and might have scored three times in the opening quarter of an hour.

It was a magnificent evening for New Town's midfielder Adrian Mann and striker Myles Harry. Mann, a former Devonport player, scored twice and was dangerous throughout, while Harry, filling in for the injured Colin Shepherd, also netted twice.

In the 8th minute, Tom Compagne's free-kick saw Eagle goalkeeper Craig Jones turn the ball against the post and then block Paul McKenna's shot from the rebound. In the 13th minute, David Meldrum's corner almost sneaked under the crossbar, but Adrian Mann managed to clear off the line, while in the 15th minute Paul McKenna fired into the side netting.

After soaking up the opening pressure, Eagle began to assert itself and Mann put the Southerners in front with a vicious volley from 20m in the 16th minute, following David Stoddart's free kick from the left. Mann went close twice shortly after and in the 32nd minute, Harry made it 2-0 for Eagle with a low shot from outside the penalty area as play was allowed to continue, despite Devonport's John “Snow'' Compagne and Eagle's Craig Pitt lying injured in the Eagle penalty area, after they had clashed heads following Anthony Guilbert's high free-kick into the box.

Two minutes before the interval, Mann attacked down the left before cutting inside and hitting Eagle's third goal. Six minutes after the interval, Harry made it 4-0 for Eagle, heading home Mann's corner. Devonport made positional changes, dropping Wayne Boyd to sweeper and moving “Snow'' Compagne to midfield, which paid dividends shortly after as Compagne earned a penalty following a foul by Craig Jones. Guilbert scored easily with his spot-kick, but the game was well out of reach of the Coastal side by this stage. With seven minutes remaining, Eagle substitute Damien Bones completed the scoring when he got a touch to Mann's corner before the ball flew into the net.

Only a brilliant display of goalkeeping by South Hobart's 17-year-old Will Russell restricted New Town Eagle to two goals in the State Youth League grand final, which was scoreless at half-time. Russell denied Matthew Holloway, Ricky Turner and Julian Proud in the opening half. Robert Lebski gave Eagle a 63rd minute lead after a good build up, while Ben Carter hit the second two minutes into injury time.

1997 Senior State League Premiers

Back: F. Bansel (Manager), A. Leszczynski (Coach), Z. Belanic (Asst Coach), C. Pitt, M. Harry, R. Leszczynski, T. Coy (Trainer), M. Leszczynski, A. Wisby, P. Morrison, R. Turner **Front:** A. Mann, D. Bones, D. Stoddart (Capt.) S. Goninon, A. Jones, M. Fong, C. Jones, D. Turner, R. Ketchell

1997 Reserves State League Premiers

Back: B. Carter, A. Savage, A .Wisby, O. Laing, L. Ware, R. Turner, S. Louden, K. Street (Trainer) **Front:** L. Gorringe, B. Fahey, M. Nidorfer, J. Proud, M. Murray, M. Holloway, R. Lebski, M. Proud

State League Minor Premiership - 1997

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**18**	**14**	**2**	**2**	**80**	**19**	**44**
Devonport	18	12	2	4	62	30	38
Hobart Zebras	18	10	4	4	48	31	34
Hobart Olympic	18	9	5	4	45	31	32
Launceston Zebras	18	8	2	8	46	47	26
South Hobart	18	7	3	8	39	47	24
West Hobart Lions	18	5	3	10	26	42	18
Glenorchy Knights	18	5	3	10	41	59	18
Launceston	18	4	2	12	27	62	14
Riverside Olympic	18	2	2	14	20	66	8

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 27, Stoddart 15, Shepherd 14, Mann 10, Morrison 8

State League Reserves Minor Premiership - 1997

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**18**	**16**	**1**	**1**	**67**	**19**	**48**
South Hobart	18	14	1	3	51	18	43
Launceston	18	9	4	5	51	29	31
Hobart Zebras	18	9	1	8	47	50	28
Launceston Zebras	18	8	2	8	49	41	26
Glenorchy Knights	18	7	2	9	38	47	23
Hobart Olympic	18	6	3	9	39	53	21
West Hobart Lions	18	5	3	10	28	42	18
Devonport City	18	3	2	13	33	59	11
Riverside Olympic	18	3	1	14	17	62	10

1997 Reserves Team Supremos

Les Ware (Coach), Steve Murray (Manager) & Ken Street (Trainer)

Hobart Zebras utility player awarded state's top soccer honour

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 27/ 10 /1997

HOBART Zebras utility player Brett Pullen has won the 1997 Vic Tuting Silver Medal, awarded to the best and fairest player in the Wrest Point State League soccer competition.

The 26-year-old, who has national league experience with West Adelaide Hellas, polled 24 votes, one ahead of second-placed Anthony Guilbert, the Devonport City striker who won the medal last season and who finished as this year's leading scorer.

Devonport midfielder David Meldrum was third with 21 votes, one ahead of fourth- placed Andy Fraser, of Launceston. New Town Eagle striker Michael Fong was named as the Wrest Point Youth League player-of-the-year with 16 votes, one ahead of Pip Atherton (Launceston), Nigel Binns (South Hobart) and Michael Murray (New Town Eagle).

Hobart Zebras striker James McCulloch was announced as the most promising State League player of the season. Rookie coach Andrew Leszczynski of New Town Eagle was named as the State League coach-of-the-year after his side took out all four trophies on offer this season.

The State League team-of-the-year was also announced at the well-attended function at Wrest Point on Saturday night. The team, in a 4-2-4 formation, is: Matthew Rhodes (South Hobart); Peter Tsakiris (Hobart Olympic), John `Snow' Compagne (Devonport City), Craig Pitt (New Town Eagle), Glen McNeill (Hobart Olympic); Nick Anis (Hobart Zebras), Brett Pullen (Hobart Zebras), David Stoddart (New Town Eagle), Adrian Mann (New Town Eagle); Richard Leszczynski (New Town Eagle), Anthony Guilbert (Devonport City).

Kim Barker was named as the State League referee-of-the-year, ahead of Brett Mackay.

Whilst 1998, again under the guidance of Andrew Leszczynski looks disappointing on paper, finishing fifth, the number of players absent and injuries incurred throughout the season, severely disrupted the club, and it wasn't until Eagles had a four-game losing spell late in the second round, its worst sequence of losses since the early eighties, that their premiership chances were extinguished.

They were the only team to defeat eventual premiers Devonport both home and away, in two action packed games that featured broken bones, seventeen goals and multiple send-offs.

Gutsy away victory has Eagle off to flying start

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/ 4 /1998

REIGNING State League soccer champion New Town Eagle secured a vital away win on the opening day of the league season when it beat Devonport City 4-3 at Valley Rd yesterday.

With no final-four and grand final this year, it was important for Devonport to collect three points at home against one of its major rivals, but everything went wrong for the home side.

Devonport lost Chris McKenna with a broken leg when the score was 1-1, and it had two players, midfielder Tom Compagne and new signing Shaun Conkie, a striker, sent off.

Devonport managed to fight back from 1-3 down with only nine players to level at 3-3, but Eagle striker Colin Shepherd hit a winner for the visitors in what was a thrilling match.

Andrew Howe, Anthony Guilbert and Chris Smith were Devonport's marksmen, while Eagle's other scorers were Richard Leszczynski, who netted twice, and captain David Stoddart.

Eagle in flight for finals

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 28/ 6 /1998

REIGNING State League soccer champion and fifth-placed New Town Eagle kept alive its hopes of retaining the title when it downed current leader Devonport City 6-4 at Clare St yesterday.

Devonport's only other league defeat this season was in the first round, when it lost 3-4 at home to Eagle, which moved into fourth place after yesterday's win.

Devonport's four-point lead at the start of the weekend program has been cut to one point following second-placed Glenorchy Knights' 4-0 win over South Hobart on Friday and fourth-ranked Launceston City's 3-1 triumph over the visiting Kingborough Lions at Prospect yesterday, a result which lifted City into third spot.

In yesterday's remaining match, eighth-placed Hobart Zebras downed bottom-side Launceston 5-1 at South Hobart.

Colin Shepherd, relishing the resumption of his partnership with Richard Leszczynski in attack, scored four of Eagle's goals, three of them coming from passes by David Stoddart, while Anthony Guilbert notched a hat-trick for Devonport.

Scott Young and Leszczynski scored Eagle's remaining goals, while Justin Rootes was the other Devonport scorer.

Chris Smith had a fine game in midfield for Devonport, which had defender Adrian Scolyer sent off after Eagle's fifth goal.

Launceston City on top

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 12/ 7 /1998

LAUNCESTON City opened up a one-point lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder by beating eighth-placed visitors South Hobart 4-2 at Prospect yesterday.

The league-leader led 3-0 at the interval through an own-goal and strikes by English import Mark Donohue and Chris Couch, while Couch added another in the second half to make it 4-0.

South Hobart struck back with goals by Ben Harbinson and Elmer Cano to make the final scoreline more respectable for the southerners.

“We gave them a spell of 15 minutes when they got into the game and it cost us a couple of goals,'' said Launceston City coach, Peter Sawdon.”

“I was very happy with the first half and we hit the bar twice and the post once and we could have gone in five, six or even seven goals up.''

Third-placed Devonport City also took advantage of second-placed Glenorchy Knights' inactivity to move into their spot courtesy of a 6-0 away win over sixth-placed Kingborough Lions United at Lightwood Park.

Anthony Guilbert, miraculously recovered from the injury he sustained last week, and which saw him taken to hospital, opened Devonport's account, while the evergreen Wayne Boyd made it 2-0 at the break.

Guilbert went on to complete his hat-trick in the second half, while an own-goal and a strike by Andrew Howe completed the visitors' tally against a Kingborough side that missed two glorious chances early in the match which fell to Charles White and Steve Weller.

White failed in the opening minute when faced with only goalkeeper Corey Baldock to beat, while Weller also squandered a golden opportunity with the goal at his mercy.

“`We were beaten by a better team by a long shot,'' said a dejected Kingborough coach, Tony Kavanagh. ``They looked as if they want to keep the pressure on to win the league and our back-line was found wanting.''

Kingborough was without valuable utility player Michael Driessen, while powerful striker John Demir, making a comeback to the senior side, went off injured during the second half.

Reigning champion New Town Eagles strolled to a 4-0 victory over bottom-side Launceston at Clare Street, the three points moving them into third place.

Robert Lebski, Ben Fahey and Richard Leszczynski fired Eagles into a 3-0 lead in the opening 25 minutes and it was not until the second half that captain and play-maker David Stoddart netted his side's fourth goal.

“It was a comfortable win, but we should have scored more goals,'' Stoddart said.

It was credit to the club’s depth, that the State Youth League team were still able to be all-conquering, winning their second consecutive league title, as well as the pre-season Summer Cup after defeating South Hobart 2-1 in the final.

Two goals, one in each half, by Michael Murray, who made the most of passes by Phillipe Leimbach and a superb dummy by Ben Fahey for the second goal, gave Eagle its win.

Both teams then capped off the year with victory in the Southern Finals series, the seniors defeating Glenorchy Knights 4-2, after finally being able to put its best side on the park. The State Youth League side defeated Kingborough 1-0 with a goal from Brad Sheehan.

The Division 3 side also had a successful season winning the premiership by 2 points from New Norfolk.

Eagles' strength key to finals encounter

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 18/9/1998 – TOP FIVE COMPETITION

NEW Town Eagles will field a strengthened side against the Glenorchy Knights at KGV Soccer Park tonight in the qualifying final of the State League soccer finals series. Eagles were missing several key players last week, but a last-minute goal by midfielder David Stoddart gave them a 2-1 win over Hobart Olympic.

Striker Colin Shepherd is suspended after being sent off against Olympic, but defenders Simon Goninon and Paul Morrison and goalkeeper Alan Wisby are expected to return after missing last week's game. Midfielder Michael Murray is doubtful because of an ankle injury. Eagles coach, Andrew Leszczynski, said the fact that the Knights won both league meetings between the sides this year was irrelevant to the outcome of this showdown.

The Glenorchy Knights will be without midfielder Sasha Puclin, who has gone to work in Mt Isa, Queensland, and striker Carson Backhouse, who is unavailable. Backhouse will be missed in attack because he has had a fine season and has played some of the best soccer of his career. Milan Cacic will partner Nick Anis in attack.

Knights defender Tony Dzelalija is another absentee. He is in Melbourne for trials with national league club Melbourne Knights and, by all accounts, is making a positive impression. Defenders David Hegol and Mark Broadbent will be included in the Knights squad but will probably start on the substitutes' bench.

New Town carves up Knights for final spot

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/9/1998 – TOP FIVE COMPETITION

NEW TOWN Eagles qualified for the grand final of the State League top five soccer competition when they beat the Glenorchy Knights 3-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The Knights must now meet South Hobart, 3-2 victors over Hobart Olympic last night, in next week's preliminary final. The Knights had the better of the opening half and led 1-0, breaking through with defender Darren Wells. Michael Lapolla floated a free-kick over from the right and the unmarked Wells turned to volley past goalkeeper Craig Jones in the 23rd minute.

Eagles survived several other scares in the opening half, and again in the early stages of the second as the Knights applied the pressure. Eagles drew level in the 58th minute when David Stoddart, who had begun an attacking move in midfield, played the ball from the left across the edge of the penalty area for Damien Bones to rifle home a shot from 25m.

A foul on Richard Leszczynski by Knights goalkeeper Damon Youl in the 66th minute enabled Eagles to take the lead from the penalty spot. Stoddart make no mistake. In the 76th minute, Stoddart's corner found Leszczynski at the far post and he drove accurately into the net to complete Eagles' 3-1 win.

Glenorchy coach could miss grand final

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 2/10/1998 – TOP FIVE COMPETITION

THE Glenorchy Knights may be without caretaker player-coach and star goalkeeper Damon Youl for tomorrow night's State League section Top-Five soccer series grand final against New Town Eagles at KGV Soccer Park.

Youl sprained a shoulder in the final minute of last Sunday's 3-1 preliminary final win over South Hobart and his absence would be a tremendous blow to the Knights' chances. The 33-year-old custodian has been told by his doctor that the injury will take six weeks to heal, and he must be considered extremely doubtful for the grand final.

Robbie Huigsloot, normally a defender, is ready to take Youl's place in goal. Huigsloot has experience of playing in goal, but he has not played soccer since June, when he went to the World Cup in France. “Robbie may not have played since the first half of the season, but he knows the job and he can direct play,'' said Youl, who earned the Knights their grand final appearance with a magnificent display against South Hobart, when he saved at least five certain goals.

“It's a big call for him, but he's not young and he can accept responsibility.'' The Knights, who beat Eagles twice in the league but lost to them in the qualifying semi-final, may also recall defender Ivan Vucica.

Eagles will have striker Colin Shepherd back after suspension, as well as defender Simon Goninon, who has been unavailable once, and ill on another occasion for Eagles' past two games. Midfielder Adam Jones is suspended after collecting two yellow cards, while midfielder Michael Murray is still injured.

“We haven't played brilliantly, but we've hit some form at last,'' said Eagles coach Andrew Leszczynski. “We tend to start games slowly and come home well and the boys are keen to finish the season on a high note. “This will be one of the better sides we've put out on the park this season.''

⚽ Resilient Eagles take out top five series

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 4/10/1998 – TOP FIVE COMPETITION

NEW Town Eagles won the State League seniors top five series grand final 4-2 against the Glenorchy Knights on a heavy pitch at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Given the wet and miserable conditions, the quality of the game was a tribute to both teams. Damon Youl made a surprise appearance in goal for the Knights as his arm injury had threatened to keep him sidelined, but it was not until the 71st minute, with the Knights trailing 2-3, that he was replaced by John Basic.

Eagles took the lead in the 14th minute when Youl failed to hold a Damian Bones shot and David Stoddart following up, powered the ball into the net from an acute angle. The Knights did not seriously threaten the Eagles goal until midway through the first half when Nick Anis tested goalkeeper Craig Jones, but Eagles immediately went on the attack again and Youl did well to thwart Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd.

The Knights then began to string some promising moves together, Dallas Joiner just floating a free-kick wide of the angle of crossbar and post and Carson Backhouse finishing off a fine move, involving Janko Begovic and Michael Lapolla, with a curling shot that had Jones at full stretch to tap the ball over the bar. The resultant corner proved fruitful for the Knights however, as Eagles failed to clear the ball from their danger zone and allowed Joiner to snatch an equaliser.

Eagles immediately displayed their resilience and Leszczynski restored their lead in the 41st minute following a quick counterattack involving Liam Kelleher and Shepherd, while captain Paul Morrison made it 3-1 from the penalty spot four minutes later, Anthony Grundy having fouled Leszczynski as he threatened to break through for a strike at goal.

Three minutes into injury time, Lapolla, who had been brought down by Scott Young, had his penalty kick saved in brilliant fashion by Jones, but the half ended two minutes later with Jim Brown volleying home a spectacular goal for the Knights to make it only a goal the difference at the interval.

Anis went close for the Knights two minutes after the break and Stoddart hit a post for Eagles, but it was not until five minutes from the end that Morrison made the game safe for Eagles with his second penalty of the game, awarded this time for Begovic's foul on Shepherd.

Eagles also won the State Youth reserve League grand final when they downed Kingborough Lions United 1-0 with a goal in the 79th minute from Brad Sheehan. Eagles finished the game with nine players, Darren Frost and David Turner both being sent off in the closing stages.

1998 Senior Team

Back: R. Leszczynski, S. Goninon, C. Shepherd, S. Young, P. Morrison, T. Fotak **Front:** D. Stoddart Jnr (Capt.), B. Fahey, A. Wisby, D. Bones, R. Lebski

State League Final Standings - 1998

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	**18**	13	3	2	59	26	42
Glenorchy Knights	18	13	2	3	41	16	41
Launceston City	18	9	5	4	51	37	32
Hobart Olympic	18	8	5	5	51	37	29
New Town Eagles	**18**	**9**	**2**	**7**	**42**	**31**	**29**
South Hobart	18	7	1	10	36	40	22
Hobart Zebras	18	5	6	7	34	39	21
University	18	3	6	9	33	48	15
Kingborough Lions	18	3	5	10	28	48	14
Launceston	18	1	3	14	17	70	6

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 12, C. Shepherd 8

State Youth League Final Standings 1998

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**18**	**16**	**0**	**2**	**54**	**26**	**48**
Launceston City	18	15	2	1	74	24	47
South Hobart	18	10	5	3	48	34	35
Glenorchy Knights	18	8	2	8	33	35	26
Hobart Zebras	18	8	2	8	40	43	26
Kingborough Lions	18	7	2	9	33	30	23
University	18	6	4	8	29	35	22
Devonport	18	3	2	13	25	54	11
Hobart Olympic	18	3	2	13	23	59	11
Launceston	18	2	3	13	21	40	9

Division 3 Final Standings 1998

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**21**	**18**	**0**	**3**	**95**	**27**	**54**
New Norfolk	21	17	1	3	114	36	52
South Hobart	21	12	0	9	50	46	36
Uni Grasshoppers	21	10	1	10	41	47	31
Derwent United	21	9	2	10	41	58	29
Uni Grads	21	8	1	12	43	49	25
Uni Bohemians	21	3	4	14	23	70	13
DOSA	21	2	1	18	22	96	7

Leading Goalscorers: S. Carty 18, G. Steenhuis 16

In 1999 Les Ware took was appointed senior coach, and Eagle started the season well, by making the final of the Summer Cup, although they were defeated 3-2 by Olympia. As in the previous year however, injuries played a significant role in the club finishing in fourth place.

The second half of the season once again proved the depth of the club, reflected by an improvement in overall results (five wins and one draw in the final six matches), and it was Eagles who had a big say in the final premiership outcome, their win over Launceston City costing them the title.

The Premier League side coached by Craig Jones finished runner-up to South Hobart by one point in a great performance. Unfortunately, both teams were eliminated early in the final series. The season did however end on a high note with Julian Proud being the second Eagles player to be awarded the "Vic Tuting Silver Medal " for the leagues' best & fairest player.

Former senior star Scott Young was the leading goalscorer in the Division 3 competition, bagging an impressive 29 goals, although the Division 3 side, couldn't follow up their 1998 triumph and finished runners up.

Ware to take the reins at New Town

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 2/1/1999

NEW Town Eagles has appointed its State Youth League coach from last season, Les Ware, as the club's senior State League coach for the 1999 season. Ware, 40, has been with the club since 1984, when he transferred to Eagles from Clarence. Ware replaces Andrew Leszczynski who coached Eagles for the past two seasons.

Since he turned to coaching after leaving the playing ranks with Clarence, Ware has been in charge of Eagles youth sides, including the under-13s, under-15s and under-18s, as well as the first division side. For the past five years he has coached the State League Reserves Youth side.

Franco Previdi, who coached Hobart Olympic's senior State League team last season, has joined Eagles and will assist Ware, as well as helping out with the club's other teams, from senior down to youth levels.

New Town grabs late winner

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 5/7/1999

A GOAL eight minutes from the end by substitute Tommy Fotak gave sixth-placed New Town Eagles a 2-1 home win over third-ranked Glenorchy Knights in their State League soccer clash at Clare Street yesterday.

The result saw the Knights drop a place to fourth, while Eagles maintained their position but are now only a point behind fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United.

Midfielder Ivan Vucica proved dangerous for the Knights on the left flank and he went close to scoring from long range on two occasions in the opening minutes, his first effort hitting the side-netting and his second being tipped over the bar in spectacular fashion by Eagles goalkeeper Andrew Savage.

The league's leading marksman Brendan Lakoseljac took his tally to 13 goals when he headed the Knights in front in the 25th minute from Brett Pullen's pinpoint accurate right-wing cross.

The home side drew level in the 32nd minute when Knights goalkeeper Damon Youl was unable to hold Simon Goninon's stinging free kick and Julian Proud knocked the ball into the net.

In the 82nd minute the Knights defence failed to clear a corner and the ball fell to Fotak, who netted the winner from close range.

“I think it was a bit of a fluke actually, and it was just lucky positioning,'' said a modest Fotak.

“The corner came over and the ball was nodded back across goal from the back post and three of us jumped for the ball on the line. I headed it into another player, and it came down to my feet and, as I fell, I knocked it in.”

The Knights had defender Anthony Grundy sent off after the final whistle when he received a second yellow card for kicking the ball out of the field of play.

A disappointed Knights coach Ken Morton said: ``I thought we pulverised them in the second half but you've got to do better when you get into advanced positions with your final ball, and we didn't make enough of that.''

``It's a difficult ground and a bit like University's but we thought we might have had it right today with 1-1 at half-time, and we thought we might have had Guido Corno today but he wasn't back from Italy.''

City on top as Lions mauled

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 1/8/1999

LAUNCESTON City took a two-point lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder yesterday after beating fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United 4-1 at Mitsubishi Park, Prospect.

Previous ladder-leader University was held to a 2-2 draw at home at Olinda Grove by sixth-placed New Town Eagles.

Launceston City and University have been level-pegging for most of the season but City's break has come at a crucial time as there are only three games left.

Roger Mies gave City a first-half lead against Kingborough and David Hill made it 2-0 after the break.

Tim Dale pulled a goal back for the southerners from a free kick but two late goals by Jason Clayton sealed City's victory.

Eagles looked determined from the kick-off and it was no surprise when they led 2-0 with only 16 minutes gone.

Their running of the ball and slick passing overwhelmed a University outfit that relied on long clearances from defence and the pace of lone striker Michael MacDonald, who was being contained by Simon Goninon.

In the seventh minute, Goninon, ranging forward into midfield, fired in a fierce shot that University goalkeeper Martin Wells found too hot to handle. The ball flew out of Wells' grasp and ricocheted off a defender and straight to David Turner, who lashed it home to give Eagles the lead.

Turner's long throw-in in the 16th minute resulted in the Eagles' second goal, from the head of Julian Proud.

University refused to panic and Matthew Shaw pulled a goal back for the home side in the 28th minute after Doug Gray's cross from the left.

Matthew Holloway struck the bar for Eagles after another long throw-in by Turner.

University salvaged a point when MacDonald took advantage of confusion in the Eagles' defence and ran on to a through-ball from Craig Pitt in the 76th minute and put the ball into an empty net.

Eagles have unearthed a new star in 16-year-old goalkeeper Sam Kruijver, who replaced the injured Andrew Savage.

Kruijver thwarted University several times, displaying bravery and agility beyond his years in only his second senior appearance.

⚽ Demir hat-trick increases University's league lead

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 15/8/1999

UNIVERSITY extended its lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder yesterday when it beat South Hobart 4-1 at Olinda Grove and second-placed Launceston City went down 2-3 to New Town Eagles at Clare St.

University has a game to play and a four-point lead over City, which has two games remaining.

John Demir, making only his second appearance for University since recovering from a broken wrist, hit a hat-trick, the league leader's fourth goal coming from Michael MacDonald.

University led 1-0 at the interval and 4-0 near the end before an own-goal by Ben Spurr, whose glancing header from a corner beat his own goalkeeper and gave South Hobart a consolation goal.
University joint-coach Jim Kerr said: ``It was a scrappy first half, but we were strolling really.''

But South Hobart coach Bret Anderton said: “We made them fight for the win.''

Launceston City failed to break its Clare St hoodoo but almost pulled off a draw, with only a last-minute goal by Julian Proud securing victory for Eagles.

Eagles dominated the first half, but had only one goal to show for it. That came in the 33rd minute from the head of Proud. However, Matthew Holloway had gone close twice, blasting one effort over the bar in the 11th minute and smacking a shot against the crossbar three minutes before the break.

City rallied in the second period and Roger Mies headed it level in the 56th minute from David Hill's free kick, awarded after a foul by Simon Goninon.

David Stoddart restored the Eagles' lead in the 65th minute when he ran on to a header by Proud and scored.

Colin Shepherd almost added a third when Stoddart put him through, but City goalkeeper Lino Sciulli turned the ball on to the crossbar.

With six minutes remaining, Mies again grabbed an equaliser, heading home Brownlie's free kick, but the Eagles' persistence paid off when Proud notched the winner in the 87th minute.

City must play fourth-placed Hobart Olympic at home in Prospect and bottom side Clarence United away at Wentworth Park.

⚽ Eagles net 11 goals and fourth on ladder

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 1999

NEW Town Eagles finished fourth on the State League soccer ladder yesterday, thrashing third-last South Hobart 11-1 in the final league match of the competition at South Hobart.

It was a sad farewell for South Hobart's senior coach, Brett Anderton, who has called it quits after nine years. Julian Proud netted five of Eagles' goals, David Stoddart scored twice and Michael Fong, Colin Shepherd, Matthew Holloway and Martin Nidorfer once each.

State League Final Standings - 1999 - (Top 5 of 10 team roster)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	16	11	4	1	46	17	37
Launceston City	16	11	2	3	43	18	35
Glenorchy Knights	16	10	2	4	59	26	32
New Town Eagles	**16**	**8**	**3**	**5**	**43**	**28**	**27**
Hobart Olympic	16	8	2	6	47	42	26

Leading Goalscorers: J. Proud 12, M. Holloway 7

Premier League Final Standings – 1999 - (Top 5 of 10 team roster)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	15	3	3	62	32	48
New Town Eagles	**21**	**14**	**5**	**2**	**65**	**22**	**47**
Taroona	21	13	4	4	59	28	43
Metro Claremont	21	10	1	10	49	48	31
Kingborough Lions	21	9	1	11	35	42	28

Leading Goalscorers: D. Turner 13, T. Fotak 9, S. Buckowiecki 8, D. Frost 6

Division 3 Final Standings - 1999 - (Top 5 of 8 team roster)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart Wanderers	18	15	3	0	71	16	48
New Town Eagles	**18**	**15**	**0**	**3**	**101**	**31**	**45**
Barnstoneworth	18	13	1	4	70	26	40
New Norfolk	18	9	2	7	78	53	29
Christian United	18	8	1	9	44	37	25

Leading Goalscorer: S. Young 29

⚽ Speedy Eagle has a keen eye for goal

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 1/9/1999

He is Tommy Fotak, New Town Eagles' exciting 20-year-old midfielder, who has scored several vital goals this season in both the club's senior State League team and in the Premier League.

His only limitation has been his inability to train throughout the season, so he was not always selected in the seniors. Final-year study for a computer science degree and part-time employment have limited his training.

Eagles' senior coach Les Ware rates Fotak highly and predicts a fine future. Fotak first played as a five-year-old at Bowen Rd Primary School before joining Hobart Juventus for a season and then moving to the Academy of Soccer in his teens.

He joined Hobart Olympic for a season, before going to White Eagles, now known as New Town Eagles. He has been there for four years, with a one-year break after his first season to concentrate on first-year university studies.

“That break did me the world of good, because I was tired after playing since I was five years old,'' Fotak said. “It's made me keener for the game now.'' Fotak alternates between the seniors and the Premier League side, depending on whether he has trained, and he has shown himself to be adept at scoring important goals in both sides.

“I enjoy playing anywhere across the midfield,'' he said. “In the seniors, I probably have a preference for a wide midfield role, while in the Premier League I like a central role, together with Darren Frost.”

“I suppose I learned how to score goals as a youth when I was a winger, while my defensive abilities came from my time at the academy, where I was sweeper and often had to face bigger boys. I think people have discovered I can attack a bit and . . . I've managed to score a few goals.”

“It depends on what mood I'm in and it depends on how much I want to run. I don't mind playing in the seniors or the Premier League.'' Fotak believes the Eagles' inconsistent and erratic form this season can be traced to injuries.

He said the team had lost only once in the second round, which showed it was probably approaching good form for the final-five series, starting on Friday.

Fotak intends playing for as long as he enjoys it. He wants to go to Europe and Canada next year and then complete an honours degree.

If this intended break has the same stimulating and positive effect on his game as his last break did when he first went to university, Eagles can expect even bigger and better things from Fotak when he returns.

2000's

⚽ Clubs' statewide bid fails; Soccer supremos opt for regional format

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] Feb 5, 2000

THE soccer competitions in Tasmania this year will be based on a regional format, despite representations to Soccer Tasmania by the presidents of all eight of last season's southern-based State League clubs and the president of Metro-Claremont.

The club presidents met late last year and then sent a delegation to meet John Jameson, Soccer Tasmania chairman, and competitions director John McKenna, just before Christmas.

The club presidents wanted the reintroduction of a state league competition, but received no satisfaction from their meeting with the two Soccer Tasmania representatives.

This year, therefore, there will be a Southern Conference League, comprising the eight southern-based State League clubs of last season, together with newcomer Metro-Claremont, and an 11-team Northern Conference League.

Soccer Tasmania's representatives argued any future State League competition would have to be structured on the basis of proportional representation from both the south and north of the state if appropriate sponsorship was to be obtained.

The clubs have now agreed to participate in the nine-team Southern Conference and have signed the relevant licences, although they continue to insist a state league format be adopted in 2001.

The clubs also proposed the re-establishment of an advisory group representing all clubs and which would meet regularly with Soccer Tasmania to voice the ideas of the clubs.

This season's Southern Conference League will consist of University, Glenorchy Knights, Hobart Olympic, Hobart Zebras, Kingborough Lions United, South Hobart, Clarence, New Town Eagles and Metro-Claremont. There will be a bye each week.

⚑

2000 saw the return of Eagle old boy George Krambousanos, (formerly with Eagles in the early 80's) at the helm of the senior squad.

The team got off to a flying start, defeating Glenorchy Knights (formerly Croatia) 2-1 in the Summer Cup final, with goals from David Stoddart and Julian Proud. Although not playing at their best, signs were ominous for a good season ahead.

The reserves also took out the Summer Cup when they downed Kingborough Lions United 3-1, with goals by Rodney Bones, Tommy Fotak and Stephen Bukowiecki. Kingborough's goal was an own-goal by Gilbert Steenhuis.

⚽ Optimistic George on players' side

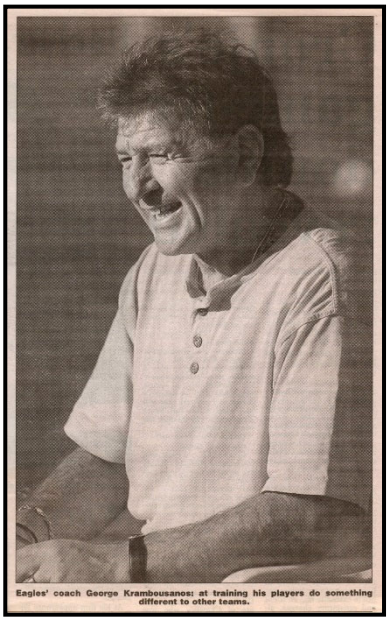
By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2000

GEORGE Krambousanos always has a smile on his face and approaches his coaching responsibilities with New Town Eagles in an optimistic frame of mind. He has absolute confidence in his players and regards them as mature and responsible adults. "My job finishes on Thursday nights after our final training session of the week, and when I've picked the team," Krambousanos said.

"There is no pep talk before a game and very few words are spoken at that time because if we haven't got it together by the time we play, we'll never do it. "I coach, and they play the game, and it is up to them to prepare themselves, so I don't have to set rules for them."

Training sessions are important, and they must be enjoyable as far as Krambousanos is concerned, so everything is done with the ball. "The beauty of Eagles is the training session," he said. "We do something different to anyone else. "When I took over the team this season, people said I had old players, and that hurt my feelings. "My players love to play with the ball, and they do everything with the ball at training and I think that has given them new life."

Something must be working because Krambousanos's philosophy is bearing fruit. Eagles have already won one trophy this season (the Summer Cup), and last Saturday they collected their first win from two outings by thrashing Metro-Claremont 11-3, a score-line not seen very often in the top-flight.



Eagles' coach George Krambousanos: at training his players do something different to other teams.

Eagles have yet to lose under Krambousanos in seven outings, and they have won five of those games. Krambousanos is confident the club can win the Statewide Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy, the first round of which starts over Easter, and he thinks Eagles will do well in the league. “Eagles are playing as well as, if not better, than anyone else,” he said.

“Everyone is attending training, I have no favorites, and all the players push themselves. We have depth, and there are young players coming up who are willing to listen and learn. We are all amateurs, and our reward is the satisfaction of winning, but also to have fun and enjoy ourselves.”

Krambousanos, who played the game in Tasmania before moving interstate and playing and coaching in Victoria, regards the Glenorchy Knights, Kingborough Lions United, University and Hobart Olympic as Eagles’ major challengers, with Eagles and the Knights the two favorites for the league championship.

He has recently completed a coaching course in Sydney and firmly believes that coaches need to be qualified.

He also thinks that every coach would do well to watch a national league team’s training session, and he is convinced that local players need to warm up as a team for at least half-an-hour before a game, as visiting interstate sides always do.

Krambousanos had a brief stint as coach of Hobart Olympic a few seasons back before he and the club parted company, but now that he is in charge of Eagles, he is already showing what he is capable of as the supremo of one of the biggest names in Tasmanian soccer.

⚽ Eagles' avalanche shatters Metro

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 16/4/2000

METRO-Claremont, top of the Wrest Point League soccer competition at the beginning of the weekend, was brought to earth with a thump yesterday, when it was thrashed 11-3 by New Town Eagles at the latter's Clare St headquarters.

The newcomer to the top-flight, had won its opening match at home last Sunday, but away from home yesterday, it proved no match for the might of a rampant Eagles.

It was 1-1 after a mere five minutes, but the writing was already on the wall for Metro as it trailed 5-2 at the interval. Richard Leszczynski, who played for Metro last year before rejoining his former club, where he had made his name as one of the Tasmania's most feared strikers, notched four goals.

Colin Shepherd, the thinking man's David Beckham of Tasmanian soccer, netted a hat-trick, as did skipper David Stoddart. The talented and under-rated utility player, Mark De Vries, grabbed the remaining goal, while for Metro, Adam Tassell scored twice and fellow striker Steve Pettit once.

The win moved Eagles from fifth to second on the ladder, while Metro dropped to fourth.

⚽ Eagles open gap at the top

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2000

NEW TOWN Eagles opened up a four-point lead at the top of the Wrest Point League soccer competition, when it thrashed second-last Hobart Zebras 8-2 at KGV Soccer Park last night. Eagles scored four goals in the opening 15 minutes to lead 4-1 at the break.

Darren Frost netted twice, while Luke DeVries, Richard Leszczynski and second-half substitute Matthew Holloway, also scored twice. Sergio Pace and Ivica Bolonja netted for the Zebras. Eagles' victory was tempered by the loss through injury of captain David Stoddart, who pulled a hamstring, while Michael Murray was also injured. "We played some great soccer, and we were all over them," said Eagles' coach George Krambousanos.

"It could have been 13 or 14 goals in reality. We were missing Mark De Vries and suffered two injuries during the game, but Darren Frost deserved his senior start and celebrated with two goals, while Matthew Holloway strengthened his claims for place by coming on at half-time and also scoring a couple of goals."

Richard Leszczynski's two goals last night took his season's league tally to six goals. This makes him the equal leading scorer on six goals with Brendan Lakoseljac, of the Glenorchy Knights. The Hobart Zebras' situation is looking grim as their goal difference is becoming alarming. They have drawn one and lost two of their three outings, and their goal-difference is minus eight.

⚑

An injury mid-way through the season to top striker Richard Leszczynski left the side short of fire power for two months, and despite some good results throughout the year they ended the season runners up to the Glenorchy Knights.

The Knights were worthy winners defeating Eagles comfortably in their two league encounters.

Conference League South – Final Standings - 2000

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy Knights	16	13	1	2	68	12	40
New Town Eagles	**16**	**11**	**2**	**3**	**52**	**22**	**35**
University	16	9	4	3	33	22	31
Hobart Olympic	16	8	2	6	28	30	26
Kingborough Lions	16	6	3	7	18	20	21
Metro Claremont	16	5	2	9	32	51	17
Hobart Zebras	16	4	4	8	26	45	16
Clarence United	16	3	3	10	23	59	12
South Hobart	16	2	1	13	22	41	7

Leading Goalscorers: D. Stoddart 9, C. Shepherd 7, Luke De Vries 7

The Premier League side, once again under the guidance of Craig Jones, went one better on last season's runners-up result, by comfortably winning the league title by nine points from the Kingborough Lions, powered by Steven Buckowiecki, who was the league's top goalscorer with 18 goals.

They also added the Top Four Final Series to their list of achievements (having previously won the pre-season Summer Cup), when they defeated Taroona, 3-2 in the final.

Premier League Final Standings - 2000

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**21**	**16**	**2**	**3**	**68**	**18**	**50**
Kingborough	21	12	5	4	50	27	41
Taroona	21	11	1	9	58	57	34
University	21	10	3	8	57	41	33
DOSA	21	10	2	9	36	48	32
South Hobart	21	7	2	12	31	42	23
Hobart Zebras	21	5	3	13	29	42	18
Metro Claremont	21	3	2	16	16	70	11

Leading Goalscorers: S. Buckowiecki 18, T. Fotak, J. Potts 9, B. Zielinski 8

Craig Jones also appeared for the Division 3 side, and contributed a league high 25 goals to enable the team to finish in third place.

Southern Division 3 Final Standings - 2000

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	21	18	1	2	93	16	55
Hobart Wanderers	21	17	2	2	71	15	53
New Town Eagles	**21**	**13**	**2**	**6**	**90**	**35**	**41**
Kingston Cannons	21	11	3	7	78	39	36
Kingborough Lions	21	10	1	10	52	43	31
Huon Valley	21	6	2	13	41	75	20
Nelson United	21	2	2	17	14	115	8
Metro-Claremont	21	0	1	20	10	111	1

Leading Goalscorer: C. Jones 25

At the 40th Anniversary Dinner held in 2001, the following individuals were recognized for their contribution to the first 40 Years of the White Eagle Sports club. All awards were present by club President John Large.

Top L-R: B. Michalkowski, P. Czyzowicz, B. Dora, D. Stoddart Snr, M. Lebski, Z. Orlinski, G. Stepik, W. Ejlak, I. Rosinski, S. Wojcik, E. Rosinksi

In 2001 the senior team was under the control of Craig Jones. Jones succeeded Krambousanos as senior coach after a successful stint coaching the reserves.

During this first half of the season, the team performances were very in and out, win one, lose one, and Jones had difficulty trying to find a settled combination, as injuries and subsequent retirements or moves from the club, made it difficult for this to achieve.

Eagles performed well against teams around them on the ladder, but struggled against the better credentialed sides. The last seven games of the season did yield a run of good results, four wins, two draws and one loss, resulting in an eighth-place finish, and having the Club looking forward to the next season with some renewed confidence.

Southern Premier League - Final Standings - 2001

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	18	13	3	2	55	10	42
South Hobart	18	11	4	3	52	22	37
Glenorchy Knights	18	11	2	5	39	22	35
Kingborough Lions	18	9	4	5	31	14	31
Hobart Zebras	18	9	4	5	35	25	31
Metro-Claremont	18	8	3	7	37	24	27
New Town Eagles	**18**	**8**	**3**	**7**	**44**	**32**	**27**
Hobart Olympic	18	6	2	10	31	39	20
Clarence United	18	2	1	15	21	77	7
DOSA	18	0	0	18	17	97	0

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 12, J. Potts 8

⚽ Potts making his mark as an Eagles' striker

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2001

JOSH Potts has scored four of New Town Eagles' 19 goals in the Premier League soccer competition this season and also netted twice in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy state-wide cup competition. That is not a bad effort for the 17-year-old striker, who is in his first season as a regular senior player.

Last season, Potts made several appearances off the bench, but he now regularly partners Richard Leszczynski, one of the state's best strikers, in attack. Eagles are rebuilding after many years at the top and Potts is one of several youngsters in the senior line-up.

A Year 12 student at Guilford Young College, he hopes to go to University next year, but has not yet decided what to study. He began playing soccer as a six-year-old in Canberra. His father, a retired member of the Royal Australian Air Force, brought the family to Hobart four years ago and the younger Potts joined Eagles on the recommendation of a teacher at Sacred Heart School.

"I don't really feel any pressure playing up front with Richard Leszczynski", Potts said. I just try and do the best I can and hopefully that's good enough. "I'm learning a lot from Richard because he's a good player and I respect him."

Potts is also a referee, and on the days he isn't playing for Eagles, he can be found officiating at under-18 games. "I like to referee because it allows me to know the rules of the game better and to earn a bit of money at the same time", Potts said.

"There's no conflict of interest involved, and it has probably taught me to keep my mouth shut as a player. "I don't see refereeing as my future and I just want to keep playing for as long as I can at the highest level."

Potts said he fancied University for the title and that Eagles would be trying very hard to finish in the top five teams. "We lost a lot of players from last season, and it hasn't been a great year for the club," he said.

"We're rebuilding this year and trying to get a bit of experience and get up to strength again. "We've got a great coach in Craig Jones, whom I had in the reserves last year."

"I'm just happy to be playing in the seniors, although I'm at right-wing at the moment whereas I prefer it in the middle."

Potts is sure to feature more prominently in the goal-scoring charts as Eagles try to get their act together during the rest of the season.

The Division 3 side featuring Scott Young, and David Stoddart - on a break from senior duties - also convincingly won the league title, finishing 13 points ahead of second placed University Bombers.

Division 3 - Final Standings - 2001

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**18**	**15**	**3**	**0**	**76**	**15**	**48**
Kingborough Lions	18	14	1	3	69	21	43
Taroona	18	12	2	4	49	23	38
Beachside	18	10	1	7	59	44	31
South Hobart	18	7	2	9	43	43	23
University	18	6	4	8	28	34	22
Christian United	18	5	3	10	30	48	18
DOSA	18	4	3	11	28	54	15
Nelson ES	18	4	2	12	23	55	14
Huon Valley	18	1	3	14	22	90	6

Leading Goalscorers: D. Stoddart 38, S. Young 15

In 2002, with Jones still at the helm, Eagles, disaster struck early in the season when a serious bike crash, ended the careers of two of Eagles' most talented players in Darren frost and Josh Potts.

⚽ Eagles duo hurt in bike crash

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 16/3/2002

TWO of Tasmania's soccer's most promising players have been seriously injured in a motorcycle accident and are in hospital in Victoria.

New Town Eagles seniors midfielder Darren Frost, 25, and seniors striker Josh Potts, 18, were involved in a motorcycle accident near Nubeena last week and were later flown to a hospital in Melbourne for specialist treatment.

Frost was also in charge of the Eagles' under-23 side and was voted Soccer Tasmania's Under-23 Youth League coach-of-the-year last season, while Potts was also a promising referee.

The accident has cast a pall over the Eagles club, which commenced pre-season training on the day of the accident.

"For a club to lose one player of this calibre is a great loss, but to lose two players of such great skill, commitment and club pride is a disaster,'' said Eagles president John Large.

"The committee, coaches, players and supporters of this close-knit club have rallied together to get over their initial shock and grief to ensure that all that can be done at this stage is being done.

"Our main interest at this stage is to ensure that all we can do for these players and their families is being done and that both players receive the utmost care and attention.

"Our thoughts, prayers and positive reinforcement go out to them at this time.

"The club will issue updated information as it becomes available to ensure that the soccer community as a whole can unite and assist wherever possible.''

Large said both players would probably need to spend a number of weeks in Melbourne.

Despite this setback, Eagles had an excellent start to the season, following on from last season's last round fine performances. The first round yielded seven wins and two losses, putting the team in a strong position to challenge for the title. A poor second round however, put paid to any title aspirations and only two wins, one draw and six losses (including losing the last four games of the season) resulted in a disappointing 5th place finish.

2002 Senior Side

Back: C. Jones (Coach), R. Leszczynski, D. O'Brien, D. Bones, D. Stoddart Jnr (Capt), W. Savage, P. Murray
Front: A. Bates, A. Jones, A. Wisby, M. Murray, M. Fong

Southern Premier League - Final Standings - 2002

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	18	14	2	2	51	17	44
Glenorchy Knights	18	10	6	2	68	18	36
University	18	11	3	4	62	25	36
Hobart Zebras	18	9	5	4	57	30	32
New Town Eagles	**18**	**9**	**1**	**8**	**33**	**28**	**28**
Hobart Olympic	18	8	3	7	45	40	27
Metro-Claremont	18	7	3	8	25	33	24
Kingborough Lions	18	5	5	8	29	27	20
Clarence United	18	2	1	15	11	88	7
DOSA	18	0	1	17	6	81	1

⚽ Eagles stop Zebras in goal feast

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 3/6/2002

NEW Town Eagles maintained second place on the Premier League soccer ladder, a point behind South Hobart, by downing third-placed Hobart Zebras 4-3 at home yesterday. Andrew Telega gave the visitors a 21st-minute lead, but this was cancelled out in the 36th minute by ace Eagles striker Richard Leszczynski.

Damien O'Brien put Eagles ahead a minute before the interval, but Mark Falzon's strike eight minutes after the resumption made it 2-2. Goals by Michael Fong, in the 68th minute, and O'Brien, in the 78th, gave Eagles a 4-2 lead. Falzon's second goal for Zebras in the final minute proved too little too late.

⚽ Magnificent Burn hat-trick inspirational

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 23/6/2002

A MAGNIFICENT hat-trick by Matthew Burn, gave New Town Eagles a 3-0 win over Hobart Olympic in their Premier League soccer match at home at Clare Street yesterday.

Drafted to lead the attack in the absence of Richard Leszczynski, who was interstate, Burn proved lethal, scoring once five minutes before the interval and twice in the last six minutes of the game.

Two of his goals came from crosses by David Stoddart, while another came when he snapped up the rebound following Michael Fong's shot against the woodwork. Olympic, which had more than enough chances to win but was toothless in front of goal, had striker Andre Phillips sent off by referee Owen Laing in the 69th minute after receiving a second yellow card.

Eagles gave a first-class display of counter-attacking and proved deadly in this regard, while Olympic created many useful attacks which were spoiled by poor finishing. The win takes Eagles to within a point of leader South Hobart, which meets Glenorchy Knights at South Hobart today.

⚽ Striker rues encounter of red-card kind

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 4/9/2002

NEW Town Eagles' promising young striker Matthew Burn has made six senior appearances in the Premier League soccer competition and scored five goals.

However, his latest senior game ended abruptly on Saturday, when he was sent off early in the second half, after a tangle with an opponent. But Burn was not complaining. “I got gripped around the neck,'' Burn said. “I try not to retaliate, and as soon as the referee showed me the red card I walked. There's not much you can do about it. I just put my arms up, maybe you can call that retaliation, it's just the way the referee saw it.''

Burn had scored Eagles' goal, but it was not enough to prevent his side going down 3-2 to Hobart Olympic. In the previous meeting between the sides at senior level, Burn netted a hat-trick as Eagles triumphed 3-0. With 26 goals, he is the Reserve League's leading scorer, and it is that form that has seen him elevated to the senior line-up on occasion.

He is not perturbed about not being a regular in the seniors as he knows his chance will come. “We've got a pretty strong club, with Michael Fong and Richard Leszczynski up front, so I just try and fit in where and when I can,'' he said. Rosetta Primary School was his first experience of soccer, and he has played for both the Glenorchy Knights and Eagles at club level.

He has represented Southern Tasmania at youth level but shied away from the Academy of Soccer, despite being earmarked as a precocious talent when he played at under-16 level as a 13-year-old. He was in the Knights reserve side that won the league championship in 2000, but has spent seven years in all at Eagles. His brother Marcus, has also played for Eagles, but is presently with the Knights, and they may well face each other in the Reserve League top-five finals series.

“Marcus plays in defence, and with me in attack, chances are we'll come up against each other if we play the Knights,'' he said. “It'd be really good, as there's a bit of rivalry between us.'' Burn is confident the Eagles can go all the way and win the reserve-grade top- five final, having already won the league championship.

Given his scoring prowess, he may, however, be called up for the seniors, who are in the Premier League top-five finals. He may have to sit out the first game if he cops a suspension for Saturday's send-off. But that should make him even more keen to play to his ability when he returns and score the all-important goals in the finals series, which could make up for Eagles' disappointing league campaign this year.

⚽ Injured Eagles soar again

By ELLEN WHINNETT – 10/9/2002

THEY are two of Hobart's bravest and most inspirational young men. Darren Frost and Josh Potts have fought back from horrific injuries that could have claimed their lives in a motorcycle accident.

Now the two good mates and former soccer stars are destined to spend their lives in wheelchairs, sidelined from the sport they love. But the inner strength and determination that propelled them to the top of the sporting ladder is being turned towards getting on with their lives.

Darren, 26, is returning to work today, as a customer service officer with his former employer, Erico Lightning Technologies. Josh, 18, plans to resume his studies and start a university course next year. And despite the continuing pain, the endless medical treatments and the loss of control of their bodies from the chest down, the pair are determined to remain positive and focused.

“I've got no complaints,'' Darren said. “I'm alive. That's a bonus.'' The pair were both talented senior players for the New Town Eagles soccer club, Darren a midfielder and Josh a striker. Darren also coached the Eagles' under-23 side and had been named the state's youth league coach of the year, while Josh was showing his talents as a referee.

About 11pm on January 8, in a moment of youthful exuberance, they jumped on to Darren's motorcycle and headed down the road from their friend's shack at White Beach, where they were staying. They don't remember what happened next, or even who was riding the motorcycle when it left the road and slammed into a tree.

Darren and Josh, who were not wearing helmets, received horrific injuries and were lying unconscious by the roadside until a friend came looking for them. An ambulance was called, and they were later flown to the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, where the full extent of their injuries became clear.

Darren's head was split open, his left eye and ear were damaged, he chipped most of his teeth, suffered a broken sternum, collarbone, shoulder-blade and five ribs, plus punctured his lungs. He also broke his back and severed his spinal cord. Josh received horrific head injuries, which required three metal plates to repair his skull. He broke both cheekbones, his left shoulder-blade and every rib on his left side. His lungs were also punctured.

Josh also broke his back in two places. With their families keeping vigil, the pair lay unconscious in hospital for several weeks, with tubes inserted through their throats to help them breathe. They fought for their lives and eventually they won, returning to Tasmania in July for continued therapy.

Neither suffered significant brain damage. They have kept their handsome looks and their bright personalities. “There's so many more things than just having the use of our legs,'' Josh said. “Not being able to use our legs isn't the worst of it. “I have my moments when I get depressed and it's like I was planning where my life would go and now I can't go there anymore.”

“It's hugely frustrating sometimes. “I don't think I realise yet that this is forever.'' Josh lives at Lenah Valley with his parents, Chris and Lee, and has set his sights on replacing his manual car and learning to drive an automatic equipped for people who cannot use their legs to drive.

Darren continues to live with his mum, Sue, and her fiancé, Graydon Peppiatt, at Old Beach and is looking forward to starting work today. A former storeman, he will try out a new role in customer service.

“It's just one of those things that happened,'' Darren said, trying to explain his continued cheerful outlook on life. “I am grateful that I have the use of my hands. The club have been really good to us. The team members came to Melbourne when we were there.”

All three Eagles sides have made the play-offs, and Darren and Josh will be on the sidelines when the finals begin on Friday night.

⚽ Eagles keeper building his reputation

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 19/6/2002

ALLAN Wisby has saved four of the penalties he has faced this soccer season. The 30-year-old New Town Eagles goalkeeper's performance, conjures up visions of Spain's Iker Casillas, who saved three Irish penalties at the World Cup on Monday. Saving penalties is no mean feat, as the advantage is all with the kicker, the goalkeeper not being expected to save.

Wisby is back as the Eagles' senior goalkeeper after missing the past couple of seasons teaching in the UK. He is currently teaching children with disabilities at Kingston High School and puts his elevation to senior status at Eagles down to the fact he completed a good pre-season training regime.

“I was hesitant at first because the club has very good young goalkeepers in Andrew Savage and Sam Kruijver, who could fill the senior spots at any team,'' Wisby said.

“I think I got the nod because Andrew and Sam weren't able to train regularly through the pre-season because of various other commitments. “I felt a bit uncomfortable in games early on, but I'm getting my confidence back now. “The good thing about the club is that everyone is happy, regardless of whether we're winning or losing.''

Wisby believes second-placed Eagles played quite well with only nine men against league-leader South Hobart on Saturday, despite going down 3-1. “I think we could have won,'' he said. “I think we're still looking pretty good, and the title is not out

of reach, and South Hobart won't go through undefeated.'' Wisby played as a youth with Metro-Claremont and Juventus, before moving on to Caledonians, and then having three years at Nelson.

Danny Donohue encouraged him and Zlatko Belanic, who is now back in Adelaide, provided him with specialist goalkeeping coaching. Wisby is confident that Eagles has recovered from its lean period in recent seasons and is set for a great future.

“The depth we have at the club is fantastic,'' he said. “We'll be okay for the next five to 10 years. “Every club goes through lean periods, but I'm confident about the future because we have fantastic players coming through.''

Wisby, who is on the club committee, is quieter on the field than many goalkeepers. “I'll tell my defenders what to do if something needs to be said, but I won't keep talking all the time,'' he said.

2002 Under 22’s Side
Back: S. Woolley (Manager), M. Rybak, M. Proud, T. Tarros (Coach), M. Rybak, W. Goddard, S. Pike
Front: S. Leon, S. Fong, B. Gilroy, S. Kruijver, A. Bates, S. Woolley, L. Eugster.

The reserves however continued to be very consistent and were once again Summer Cup winners and premiers in 2002.

The outstanding performers being Ben Carter and Matthew Burn. Burn’s 26 goals powered the side to an eight-point win, and made him the League’s leading goalscorer. He capped a fine year by being adjudged the League’s Best and fairest player at the annual awards dinner.

⚽ New Town Eagles celebrate Reserve title in style

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 25/8/2002

IT took a late goal by Matthew Ford to give new Reserve Soccer League Champions New Town Eagles a 2-1 win over the visiting second-placed South Hobart at Clare Street yesterday. Matthew Burn's goal for Eagles and Mani Thom's strike for South Hobart had made it 1-1 at the interval.

Premier League Reserves Final Standings - 2002

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**18**	**15**	**0**	**3**	**61**	**15**	**45**
Hobart Zebras	18	12	1	5	48	27	37
University	18	11	2	5	65	22	35
Glenorchy Knights	18	11	1	6	42	25	34
South Hobart	18	10	1	7	66	32	31
Hobart Olympic	18	9	3	6	46	33	30
Kingborough Lions	18	8	1	9	50	30	25
DOSA	18	4	1	13	22	68	13
Metro Claremont	18	3	2	13	34	69	11
Clarence United	18	1	0	17	15	128	3

Leading Goalscorer: M. Burn 26

2002 Reserve Premiership Squad
Back: P. Murray (Coach), P. Leimbach, R. Lebski, T. Burn (Manager), S. Bukowiecki, M. Ford, C. Jones, M. Burn, D. Large (Trainer)
Front: A. Bates, B. Carter, I. Calvert, A. Savage, C. Wass, B. Michel, N. Large

In 2003, Jones started the season as senior coach but was replaced by Damien Bones-season. Eagles continued to be very inconsistent, but they did have a say in who would win the premiership, where the top three teams were separated by only 2 points. An early win against Glenorchy Knights (third place) and a win against second placed Hobart Zebras, towards the end of the season were very costly for those two Clubs in the final washup.

⚽ Eagles swoop on off-target Knights

By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] – April 14, 2003

NEW Town Eagles employed deadly counter-attacking tactics to beat the more fancied Glenorchy Knights 3-1 at home at Clare St in their Premier League soccer match yesterday.

The Knights had more of the play and 29 attempts at goal, but Eagles netted three times with their dozen efforts to steal the three points.

Eagles took the lead in the 10th minute after Chris Jones's corner, Chris Wass heading home from close range. Knights midfielder Tom Huigsloot equalised with a deflected shot in the 13th minute, but the diminutive and energetic Sam Fong restored Eagles' lead three minutes before half-time.

Eagles netted a third two minutes into injury time when Janko Begovic was unable to control Knights goalkeeper Tony Bacic's goal-kick and Matthew Holloway gained possession and scored.

⚽ Knights charge to top of ladder

By Walter Pless – [Sunday Tasmanian] – July 13, 2003

GLENORCHY Knights took over at the top of the Premier League soccer ladder on goal-difference from Hobart Zebras after thrashing eighth-placed Kingborough Lions United 7-0 at Lightwood Park yesterday.

Tom Huigsloot and Lincoln Conquest both netted hat-tricks against the Lions yesterday, with Josh Fielding grabbing the remaining goal.

The Zebras retained their unbeaten record, but needed a goal five minutes into stoppage time to draw 3-3 with sixth-ranked New Town Eagles at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night.

New Town Eagles were a side transformed from last week, and they led league-leaders Hobart Zebras 3-1 at half-time. Mark Falzon fired the Zebras into an 18th-minute lead after Jonathon Ladic's pass from midfield had unlocked the defence, but Michael Murray equalised in the 27th minute following Richard Leszczynski's excellent work.

Robert Lebski put Eagles ahead in the 36th minute with a penalty, awarded for Josh Heerey's foul on Murray, while Leszczynski lobbed goalkeeper Frank Mainella to make it 3-1 on the stroke of half-time.

Falzon pulled a goal back for the Zebras three minutes after the break with a superb 25-metre volley, but it was not until the 95th minute that Aaron Brazendale netted the equaliser, his shot being only partly saved by Sam Kruijver and the ball slithering over the line before Adam Jones and Philippe Leimbach could react.

⚽ Swooping Eagles tear up Lions

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 28/7/2003

NEW Town Eagles displaced Metro-Claremont from fifth place on the Premier League soccer ladder by beating eighth-placed Kingborough Lions United 5-0 at home at Clare Street yesterday.

The visiting Lions should have taken the lead in the third minute when Dylan Twine made a good run down the right and crossed the ball into the middle, but Andrew Christmas blazed over the crossbar from 10 metres. The Lions fell behind in the 20th minute following a corner from the left by Christopher Jones. Goalkeeper Adam Coleman only partially punched the ball clear, and it fell to Eagles defender Adam Bates, who drilled the ball into the back of the net from 35 metres.

Richard Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 36th minute, turning Bates's low cross from the right towards the near post past Coleman from close range. Leszczynski added the third eight minutes after the resumption, controlling Jones's left-wing cross and tucking the ball past the advancing Coleman.

Eagles made it 4-0 in the 55th minute, Lebski crossing from the right and Leszczynski setting the ball up for Steven Bukowiecki to drill into the roof of the net from the edge of the penalty area. Bates completed the scoring with his second goal, a 79th-minute penalty, awarded after Lebski had been brought down by Lions substitute Brad Nelson.

Premier League Final Standings - 2003

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	18	13	3	2	50	17	42
Hobart Zebras	18	12	5	1	47	19	41
Glenorchy Knights	18	13	1	4	58	24	40
South Hobart	18	9	3	6	40	20	30
Metro-Claremont	18	8	4	6	43	36	28
New Town Eagles	**18**	**8**	**2**	**8**	**44**	**43**	**26**
Hobart Olympic	18	6	4	8	34	35	22
Kingborough Lions	18	6	2	10	24	37	20
Clarence United	18	1	3	14	24	54	6
DOSA	18	0	1	17	9	88	1

Leading Goalscorers:– R. Leszczynski - 9, S, Bukowiecki – 6.

2003 Senior Team
Back: T. Burn (Mgr), C. Jones, B. Zielinski, R. Leszczynski, M. Murray, A. Jones, S. Louden, A. Wisby
Front: C. Wass, M. Proud, A. Bates, D. Bones, R. Lebski, S. Bukowiecki

What coaches Damien Bones and Peter Wass had to say about 2003:

"To say that the 2003 year for New Town Eagles Seniors was turbulent would be an understatement. The Loss of Craig Jones as coach, coupled with consistent injury problems brought mixed results, and the fact that the morale was still existent at season end is testament to the player's attitude toward the club and the game. To finish only 2 points outside a place in the finals can be considered a good result due to the ever-changing faces in the team and the number of players used.

From the coaches' point of view the season was a good experience. The pressure was high from the outset, and it was suggested that the players take on a more senior and active role in the team. During this time, we were particularly well served by Michael Murray, Steven Bukowiecki and Robbie Lebski amongst others.

Should we have just a bit more luck next year with keeping down injuries, the continued commitment of our players along with our emerging youth, will ensure better performances, therefore greater success in the 2004 season."

2003 Senior Side
Back: P. Wass (Asst Coach), B. Zielinski, R. Leszczynski, A. Jones, M. Murray, M. Burn, S. Bukowiecki, T. Burn (Mgr)
Front: C. Jones, C. Wass, C. Wilson, S. Kruijver, A. Bates, D. Bones (Player/Coach), M Nidorfer, C. Stingle

In 2003, the Premier Women's team under the guidance of Dale Itchins, and assisted by Corey Slade finished in 2nd place on the back of 21 goals from Casey Lee-Boulter.

What coach Dale Itchins had to say about 2003:

"The season has been a long and tough one for our women's team, having played five Summer Cup and nineteen roster matches. Training started in February and numbers were similar to last year, with the exception of Blanch Manuel and Emma Lake who decided not to play this season. This left a total of thirteen players, which was a bare minimum to operate with during the year.

We did however sign two new players early into the season to bolster our ranks. Freya Godfrey and Alice Frier joined us from Clarence United where they were playing in the boys competition. Both girls were the youngest in the squad, both being 14 years of age. To protect them, we introduced them to the competition slowly at first, but after a few matches they both acquitted themselves extremely well, and both girls shone for the reminder of the season. Their contribution was invaluable, as we did lose Elissa Wass and Julia Murray to long term injury and with Nadia Paternoster in Italy for several weeks, our squad was operating with twelve from week to week.

This did not affect the team at all, and we finished the season in second position after finishing third in 2002. We powered home over the last 3 months of the competition, winning 11 drawing 1 and losing only 1 match in this time. Our improvement was noted by all opposition teams, and the main keys were an outstanding year by Leesa Collett in goals and our ability to double our scoring from the previous year finishing with 53 goals as opposed to 29 in 2002. Casey Boulter once again led our scoring with 21 goals and finished third in the overall competition, but major contributions from Lauren Jones and Alice Frier added to our strike power over the past 12 matches.

We had a steady back four and when we did make changes all players slotted in well and contributed. Training was frustrating for all, as bad weather dogged all clubs during the winter months. There were many weeks when we didn't or couldn't train, but we actually played better than if we had, so I am all for that method if it works, and you keep winning. Corey Slade was also a major influence as my assistant and his contribution was invaluable for the girls and myself. He had equal input both at games and training and coached the girls on occasions when I could not be there.

Working as a team Corey and myself always managed to push the squad and set high goals for them to achieve, as their results proved. Making the semi-final of the Summer Cup, finishing 2nd in the league and having one of the top three goal scorers was a great achievement, in only their 2nd year of Premier competition. Lauren Jones, Casey Boulter and Lauren Farquhar have also been invited to the Soccer Tasmania awards night, as our leading vote getters.

The average age of the squad is 16, and I believe their general fitness and the girls natural skill and ability contributed to their outstanding improvement on last season. The challenge for the club is to maintain and keep all squad members for the future, and to also campaign for a 2nd team in the Division 1 competition. This will release pressure when numbers are down and provide an incentive for all players at the club to play in the Premier squad. Hopefully we have set up a great platform for the squad, and Corey and I would like to congratulate the girls on their tremendous season, and wish the club and players success for the future. May they achieve much more in their careers."

Team List: - Casey-Lee Boulter; Leesa Collett; Lauren Farquhar; Alice Frier; Freya Godfrey; Nat Jackson; Keryn Jarman; Marie Kierstein; Lauren Jones; Kathryn McLeod; Katherine Meijers; Nadia Paternoster; Jessica Ranger; Natalie Reardon; Elissa Wass

Premier League Women Final Standings - 2003

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nelson ES	19	15	4	0	73	12	49
New Town Eagles	**19**	**13**	**2**	**4**	**43**	**24**	**41**
Glenorchy Knights	19	12	2	5	49	19	38
University	19	7	2	10	41	28	23
Hobart Olympic	19	4	1	14	12	79	13
Metro Claremont	19	0	1	18	7	73	1

Leading Goalscorers:– C. Boulter 21, L. Jones 10

⚽ Zero tolerance for abusive language

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 15/4/2004

TASMANIA'S soccer referees are to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards foul and abusive language from players and spectators right from the start of the coming season.

The policy will be in force when the southern Summer Cup begins on March 6 and was applied at Sunday's opening round of the northern pre-season Steve Hudson Cup series.

Association Football's Law 12 deals with fouls and misconduct and the punishment for the use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures is a send-off.

“The directive is clear to all referees and their assistants and is effective immediately,'' said Stephen McEwan, the State referees' coach.

“This will not be a popular directive for players and club officials and I would expect to see a few red cards in the early part of the season.

“In the long term, however, referees will feel safe from abuse by players and club officials and this will assist us in retaining referees and could help bring more families back to the game and into the grounds.''

In 2004 Mark Leszczynski returned as senior coach after eight years out of the coaching game. Although anchored by a solid central defensive pairing of veteran Scott Young and an emerging Chris Wass, the team once again struggled with consistency, and found themselves in the bottom half of the table by season’s end.

A poor first round included only 1 win against lowly Metro Claremont and that occurred in the last game. A stronger second round saw the team lose only one game, and that was against the subsequent premiers. The highlight of the second round was a win against title chasing University, which ultimately contributed to them losing the title.

Finishing in eighth position was disappointing and could have been substantially better, if Eagle had been able to convert a number of their seven drawn games, the highest in the competition, into wins. Their lack of goalscoring power was a big issue, and Its goal tally of 16 was the Club’s lowest since 1964.

Scott Young was voted the Best and Fairest player for the season, 20 years after winning his first award in 1984.

⚽ Lowly Eagles shock Uni with 3-2 victory

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 12/7/2004

UNIVERSITY suffered a serious blow to its chances of retaining the Premier League soccer championship when it went down 3-2 to second-last New Town Eagles at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

University now trails leaders Hobart Zebras by seven points. Eagles moved up a place to seventh, four ahead of last-placed Metro-Claremont and two in front of second-last Hobart Olympic. University took a 15th-minute lead through Alexis Bull, who headed home Greg Taylor's right-wing cross, but Scott Young equalised four minutes later with a header from Damien Bones's corner.

In the 25th minute, a Julian Proud back-pass went straight to Richard Leszczynski, who shot past advancing goalkeeper Andrew Hoppitt. University replaced injured playmaker Colin Shepherd at the interval with teenager Sam Crosswell, who equalised with his second touch of the ball after two minutes. Eagles regained the lead in the 62nd minute when Brian Zielinski collected a cross and cut inside before curling the ball into the net's far corner.

Premier League Final Standings - 2004

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	16	11	2	3	44	21	35
Glenorchy Knights	16	8	4	4	58	31	28
Clarence United	16	6	5	5	32	28	23
South Hobart	16	6	3	7	29	28	21
Kingborough Lions	16	4	4	8	23	25	16
New Town Eagles	**16**	**3**	**7**	**6**	**16**	**40**	**16**
Metro-Claremont	16	3	3	10	13	37	12
Hobart Olympic	16	2	3	11	14	44	9

In 2005, with Mark Leszczynski remaining in charge, Eagle were bolstered by the signing of Andrew, Scott Telega and exciting goalkeeping prospect Nathan Pitchford from Tilford Zebras.

Unfortunately, the team failed to fire as a unit, and only a three-match winning run at the end of the first round saved them from a last place finish. Leszczynski decided to blood some youngsters into the side to give it some much needed enthusiasm and spark. Ben Whitehall, Cormac Collins and Alexander Leszczynski were given some game time and they repaid Leszczynski with some exuberant performances that provided a glimpse into perhaps a more promising future.

2005 saw the retirement of Scott Young who ended his stellar career by being runner-up to Andrew Telega in the senior Best and Fairest count.

⚽ Nathan helping Eagles to fly higher

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 15/6/2005

NEW Town Eagles' 16-year-old goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford is proving a more than useful acquisition for the Premier League club as it seeks to regain former glory.

Pitchford joined the Eagles from Hobart Zebras at the start of the season, but he began his career at Metro-Claremont, where his father Stephen, is a life member. "I went through the ranks at Metro and then joined Zebras' under-18s, where there were a lot of the state under-age players I'd played with in state sides," Pitchford said. "I was in the reserves last season, and I joined Eagles this year because of the opportunity to play in the seniors.

"I was offered the full-time senior position, whereas at Zebras, my security as a senior player wasn't confirmed. Eagles offered me a solid spot and it seemed a better opportunity at the time. "I think I'm doing all right, but I'm not at my best. I thought I had a good season last year. "This season I'm a bit down on that, but I think it's probably because of the new environment and stepping up into the seniors, which is a pretty big step." Pitchford has contributed importantly to Eagles' recent upsurge, which has seen them move off the foot of the Premier League ladder and into seventh place in the nine-team competition.

He makes up for his lack of height with extreme agility and bravery, but at 16 he is still growing. He conceded, and then saved a penalty in Sunday's 1-0 loss to South Hobart in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide competition, but Eagles had won their previous three games. "I think we can crack the top-five," Pitchford said. "The social life at the club is back and spirits are high, and everyone is in a good frame of mind." Pitchford is in Year 11 at Guilford Young and is pursuing health studies, English communication and physical science with a view to studying human movement or sports management at tertiary level.

He also is interested in a professional soccer career and already has been to Sydney and Melbourne. "In Sydney, I had a session with former Australian goalkeeper Jim Fraser, while in Melbourne I trained with Sunshine George Cross," he said. "I'll be going to Melbourne again in November for a trial with George Cross, but I'd really like to go to England at some time."

In the meantime, Pitchford is helping out as a goalkeeping coach with the state under-15s and the Southern Tasmanian under-13s as he is too old for the under-16 squad. He is hoping there are further developments with the state under-19s, whose last outing was against the Victorian Institute of Sport in March this year.

Agility and technique are the most important attributes a goalkeeper needs, according to Pitchford. He demonstrates both in abundance as he strives to help Eagles climb further up the league ladder.

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2004 – Premier League	16	3	3	10	17	35	12	8/9

⚽ Teenager's strike sinks Olympic

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 20/6/2005

A BRILLIANT goal by 15-year-old striker Ben Whitehall gave New Town Eagles a 1-0 win over Hobart Olympic in their Premier League soccer match at Clare Street yesterday. In the 26th minute, Damien Bones put Whitehall through on the right and the youngster scored with a low drive inside the far post.

Earlier, Eagles midfielder Robert Lebski had come close to scoring with a lob that landed on top of the crossbar. Olympic's best chance of the opening half came in the 34th minute when Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford just managed to get a fingertip to Paul Cairns' free-kick and turn the ball wide for a corner. With six minutes of the first half remaining, Olympic goalkeeper Michael McKenna did well to deny Scott Young, whose fierce free-kick flashed through the defensive wall.

Whitehall almost added a second in the 59th minute when Brian Zielinski's pass put the youngster through the defence, but his shot rebounded off the far post before being cleared.

In the 65th minute, an error by Richard Sampson allowed Whitehall through on goal, but the alert McKenna was quickly off his line and saved at the youngster's feet. Olympic brought on super-sub Kosta Grillas midway through the second half, but he was allowed few chances by the Eagles defence.

“I've got be happy with the 1-0 result,'' said Eagles coach, Mark Leszczynski. “But we made it hard for ourselves there in the second half in stages, but we got away with it and I'm glad for the young guys.'' Ian Parker, Olympic's coach, said his side was second best all day, all over the park.

⚽ No underage selection for talented Ben

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - WED 22/6/2005

NEW Town Eagles' 15-year-old senior Premier League team striker Ben Whitehall is a soccer star of the future. The youngster scored a superb goal on Sunday to give Eagles a 1-0 win over Hobart Olympic and he was unlucky not to add to his tally. In the second half, he hit the post and then had another effort blocked at his feet by Olympic's goalkeeper Michael McKenna.

The goal, in the 26th minute of the match, was created by Damien Bones, who played the ball through for Whitehall to run on to and score. The unassuming Whitehall was modest about his goal. “It was all right, I suppose,'' he said. “The through-ball was bouncing so I thought I'd just have a hit and it went in.'' Whitehall, a student at New Town High School, has been playing soccer for 11 years and joined Eagles from Hobart Zebras.

“Soccer is pretty much my life,'' he said. “I love it. “When we moved to New Town, I didn't know which club to play for, but a lot of my mates were playing for Eagles, so I followed them, I suppose. “It's been great. It's excellent.'' What is amazing is that Whitehall is not a member of the state under-15 or under-16 squads which will participate in the national talent identification series in Sydney later in the year.

“We were living in Molesworth, and everyone worked on weekends, and I couldn't really find a way to get to training, such as in Devonport,'' Whitehall said. “I got the forms and filled them out, but because I never got to training and couldn't really get up to places such as Devonport, I just didn't go along any-more, but I'm hoping to next year.''

Whitehall was delighted with Sunday's win against third-placed Hobart Olympic, which took seventh-placed Eagles to within a point of Olympic. Whitehall would like to make a career in soccer, but his immediate aim is to play at the highest level possible. He's a player to watch and it's a pity he's not going to Sydney with a state underage side.

What coach Mark Leszczynski had to say about 2005:

“The season overall was not as successful as we would have liked. We had a big turnover of players, and this meant that we blooded a lot of young players, something that needed to happen sooner rather than later.

The future of the club is dependent on these young players stepping up to the next level. A concentrated effort must be made by both the club and players to realise the potential that undoubtedly exists and not to waste the opportunities that present themselves by not being professional in our approach to training and game days.

We struggled during the year with our inability to put the ball in the back of the net, and I think this contributed to some poor on field performances due to a lack of confidence. We all know that we were competitive in 90% of the games, and there is a fine line between winning and losing. If we had won 2 more games, we would have found ourselves in the final 5 and anything could have happened.

The club is moving in the right direction, and unfortunately, I can’t be involved in coaching for at least the next 12 months due to circumstances beyond my control. I would however like to wish the guys all the best in the future. I strongly believe that we have the potential to get to the top. We now need to work hard to make sure this is achieved.

Thanks to all the players for all the hard work they put in during the year I would also like to thank all the coaches for their help during the year, especially Peter Wass for his input and work at training with the keepers.

Also, to William, Debbie, Amber and John Large for their help with player strapping and physio during the year. And last, but not least, the committee, for all their hard work and support during the year, that most of the time goes without any accolades.

I hope everyone has a good night and best of luck for next year.”

⚑

The highlights of 2005 were provided by our premier women, and under 17 teams. Both won their respective competitions, and in addition to the premiership, the women’s team also won the summer cup. This was a remarkable achievement, as it

was touch and go whether the club would even field a women's team, and but for the persistence of coach Craig Jones, 2005's success may not have happened. Bliss Cantrell ended the season as the club's top goal scorer with 28 goals.

2005 Premier League Women – Premiers & Summer Cup Winners

Premier League Women Coach Craig Jones had this to say about 2005:

"Thinking the team would not exist this year because of no coach, I decided to make a few calls. Two weeks prior to the summer cup kick off, we had 9 of our original players back and where desperately looking for new players.

Mustering a team of only 13, we entered the Summer Cup. The rest is now what we call history. We won the Summer Cup and went on to being this year's 2005 Premiership winners. For the squad well what can I say, I think they know with all their efforts came the rewards. The scary thing is that they are only going to get better. Super effort, I am so proud of you all!"

The under 17 team under the guidance of William Cuellar had a fantastic season, and is a prime example of how good coaching at an early age can lead to good players in the future. Of this team, six players would make the senior team, five of whom would be regulars for a number of years.

Under 17 coach William Cuellar to say about 2005:

"This year I saw the result of six years of hard work with the majority of these players coming from the West Hobart Red team to their transition to club soccer. Finally, I was able to assemble a group of players that could play well together, that played the way I wanted them to play, and that were hungry enough to take the premiership for the second year in a row. All the players in this team deserve recognition for the effort they put in this year, for sticking together and because they are all talented players.

I think one of the best rewards for a youth coach is to be able to develop his/her players, and then see them move up into the senior teams. This season, I was very pleased to see that many of my players move up, and do an excellent job in these teams.

Bennie Whitehall moved to the senior squad, got his picture in the paper, and became a legend in his own lunchbox. Albie Leszczynski moved to u19's and later made his senior debut. Mark Page, Ali Assi and. Mathew Lacy played for various senior teams, and did a great job.

This season's special mention goes to our team captain Andrew Clark, who played for all the senior teams, u19's, Div.1, Div.1 reserves, Senior Reserves, and Seniors. Andrew led our team to a second Premiership, made himself available for any team he was required for, and scored a massive 25 goals for our team.

I am proud to say that my job with these players is done and from here it will be the job of the senior coaches to continue to develop such an excellent group of players."

The full team for the record was:
Ben Ashwood, Ali Assi, Gezachew Atalay, Mohamed Bangura, Andrew Clark, Alexander Crichton-Gill, Samuel Hogget, Mathew Lacy, Sahr Lahay, Alexander Leszczynski, Ethan Menzie, George Nelson, Mark Page, Adam Robertshaw, Ben Whitehall, Sebastian Wishart

Under 17 Premiers 2005
Back: W. Cuellar (Coach), M. Bangura, a. Robertshaw, A. Crighton-Gili, E. Menzie, S. Hoggett, A. Leszczynski, M. Lacy
Front: G. Atalay, B. Ashwood, M. Page, B. Whitehall, A. Clark, S. Wishart, G. Nelson, S Lahay

From 2006-2008 Ian Parker was in the senior hot seat trying to help Eagles recapture their past glories and regain their reputation as a feared opponent in Tasmanian soccer.

⚽ Parker to coach battling Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22/12/2005

IAN Parker has been appointed coach of Premier League soccer club New Town Eagles for the next two seasons, replacing Mark Leszczynski.

Parker coached Hobart Olympic to fourth place last season and Metro-Claremont for three seasons before that. This year, Eagles finished second-last in the nine-team competition. "I'm looking forward to the challenge, and it will be a challenge," said Parker. "I know a number of their players already, but I don't know a lot of their younger kids."

Parker said he was interested in acquiring a midfield player and a centre-back. “I think we can work around the other positions, especially with some of the young kids coming through,'' he said.

“Obviously, anyone who wants to come from Olympic is quite welcome to come along for pre-season training, which will start at New Town High School on January 3 at 6pm and continue every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. “Hopefully, we may pick up a couple of them. As far as Olympic goes, I wish Farrell Shaw all the best.''

Armed with some talented up and coming players, Parker managed to guide the team to two successive Summer Cup Final losses in 2006 and 2007, but as with the coaches before him, the consistency and application required to achieve good results was missing.

Parker an exciting and attacking forward and midfielder in his playing days, adopted a very defensive approach to games that produced very few goals, 22 in 18 games, and little excitement, which was a disappointment for the club’s supporters, who had been brought up on a diet of exciting, attacking, play.

Last-gasp goal lands vital points for Lions

By Walter Pless – [Sunday Tasmanian] - July 2, 2006

AN Adam Hinkley goal three minutes into injury time gave second-placed Kingborough Lions United a 4-3 away win over fourth-placed University in their Premier League soccer match at Olinda Grove yesterday.

The win moved the Lions to within four points of leaders Glenorchy Knights, who were surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw by Hobart Zebras at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night.

Third-placed South Hobart suffered a shock 3-2 loss to second-last New Town Eagles at Clare Street yesterday, a result that moved Eagles up a place to eighth at the expense of Metro-Claremont, which is away to Hobart Olympic today at the Athletic Centre.

Eagles led South Hobart 3-0 at half-time through goals by Ben Whitehall, Nathan Brown and Andrew Telega, the latter with a free-kick. South dominated the second half and scored through Bart Beecroft and Daniel Brown, but an equaliser proved too elusive.

Walter Pless – [Sunday Tasmanian] – July 16, 2006

After a goalless first half, New Town Eagles beat Hobart Olympic 2-0 away at the Athletic centre.

Nathan Brown scored the first in the 67th minute after Andrew Telega had headed down a free-kick, while Adam Shackcloth grabbed the second five minutes from the end after Olympic goalkeeper Michael McKenna failed to gather the ball.

Eagles' goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford had another fine game, saving superbly in several one-on-one situations.

Eagles have now earned seven points from a possible nine in their past three games but remain eighth, four points ahead of ninth-ranked Metro and three adrift of seventh-placed Hobart Zebras.

Walter Pless – [Sunday Tasmanian] – July 23, 2006

New Town Eagles made it 10 points from a possible 12 from their past four games, when they beat Hobart Zebras 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night, to move level on 16 points with their opponents.

The first half was scoreless, but defender Christopher Wass headed Eagles into the lead from only their second corner of the match in the 69th minute.

Zebras were level within four minutes, when Ricky Self fired low and hard inside the right-hand post from the edge of the box.

Nathan Brown, who took the corner that resulted in Eagles' first goal, grabbed a last-minute winner when he tapped the ball into an empty net.

⚽ Eagles make it six wins in a row

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 21/8/2006

NEW Town Eagles notched their sixth win in a row yesterday when they beat second-last Metro-Claremont 4-2 away at North Chigwell. The win lifted Eagles one place to sixth on the Premier League soccer ladder. In yesterday's other match, Kingborough Lions United held third spot with a 2-1 home win over fifth-placed Hobart Zebras at Lightwood Park.

Zebras dropped to seventh on the ladder as a result of the loss, while Kingborough is level on points with second-placed South Hobart, which has a superior goal-difference.

Eagles' 16-year-old striker, Nathan Brown, made a triumphant return to his former club by scoring twice in the opening half and having a third effort disallowed. Brian Zielinski made it 3-0 for Eagles in the 58th minute before Metro captain Shane Kent pulled a goal back midway through the second half.

Zielinski then made it 4-1 before Darrin Chaffey scored for Metro with 12 minutes left. Adam McKeown was a livewire for Metro, with numerous shots at goal, while Eagles' Alexander Leszczynski created danger with his crosses.

In the Reserve League, eighth-placed New Town Eagles thumped ninth-placed Metro 6-0 at North Chigwell. Scorers were George Nelson (2), Mark Page, Josh Hadfield and goalie Matthew Burn, playing in the outfield (2).

Premier League Final Standings - 2006

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy Knights	18	14	2	2	74	28	44
Kingborough Lions	18	10	4	4	48	28	34
South Hobart	18	11	1	6	44	27	34
University	18	9	6	3	37	18	33
Clarence United	18	7	4	7	38	34	25
New Town Eagles	**18**	**7**	**4**	**7**	**22**	**29**	**25**
Tilford Zebras	18	6	4	8	43	40	22
Hobart Olympic	18	6	4	8	26	30	22
Metro Claremont	18	2	4	12	23	56	10
Hobart United SC	18	0	3	15	18	83	3

Leading Goalscorer: N. Brown 9

What coach Ian Parker had to say about 2006:

"It is always difficult to know where to start when composing a report or review of the season. Having seen the team play a number of times over the last few seasons, I knew they had some emerging talent (credit to their youth coaches) so accepting the job as senior coach was not a difficult decision and it was a challenge I was looking forward to.

Pre-season training went well with good numbers turning up. From these numbers a squad was chosen for the pre-season summer cup. We reached the final with some fine performances from a number of individuals, but lost to University 2-0. To make the finals for the first time in a few years was a good start to the season for both the club and the players, and I was quite optimistic about the coming season.

For those who don't know, we had the youngest squad of players in the competition, and as with most young players their form tended to fluctuate. Given the fact a number of them were playing their first full season in the premier competition, I knew we would face some difficult games, and possibly suffer some heavy defeats. I was prepared to accept this with a view of looking to the future. The experience these young players would gain would be invaluable and would stand them and the club in good stead in the years to come.

The first half of the season was disappointing in terms of results, (a win and a couple of draws) but in a number of those games we played some good attractive football, so we all remained optimistic. In the second half of the season, things started to click, the chances we were creating started to go in and the results began to go our way (we won't mention the last game of the season though). We were the form side of the competition with a draw and six wins in a row, finishing mid-table. We know as a coaching / playing group we have a long way to go but if we keep making little steps forward, keep chipping away and stay focused I know the future looks bright.

To all the players, I know I haven't mentioned you individually because you all contributed throughout the season, thank you for your commitment and dedication to the cause. To Mark Broadbent (reserves coach) and Pop thank you, your input and

support is appreciated. To all the other coaches of the youth and women's teams, keep up the good work, your help in developing these players is invaluable.

To Peter Wass, my right-hand man, my job was made so much easier because of your tireless work, advice and support, thanks Pete. To Vicky and staff who work in the kiosk, well done, to my partner and soul mate Amy, thanks for putting up with me. To the committee who have done a fantastic job in pulling this club together, often with little support.

To the sponsors of the club thank you, your help in supporting this club is very much appreciated. Thank you to all the supporters who came to watch us week in, week out, we do hear you, even the advice given to the opposition and sometimes the officials.

The Premier Women's team were unable to repeat the successes of 2005, but still had a strong year finishing runner up in all three competitions, Summer Cup, Statewide Cup and League. They did however have the golden boot winner in Bliss Cantrell who 30 goals in the roster matches and 7 in other competitive matches to give her a total of 37 goals for the season.

Four players from the team were selected in the southern team, Bliss Cantrell, Lauren Farquhar, Ashley Roberts and Casey Boulter and all four were outstanding in both games against their northern opponents, and were a major reason why the southern team was so successful.

Lauren Farquhar

Ashley Roberts

Alice Frier

Kathryn McLeod

Bliss Cantrell

Premier League Women Final Standings - 2006

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nelson ES	16	16	0	0	88	10	48
New Town Eagles	**16**	**12**	**0**	**4**	**63**	**26**	**36**
University	16	5	1	10	18	44	16
South Hobart	16	5	1	10	17	49	16
Kingborough Lions	16	0	2	14	4	61	2

Leading Goalscorers: B. Cantrell 30, L. Farquhar, L. Jones 10

The top performers in 2006 were the Division 1 Reserves team coached by Damien Bones. They went undefeated during the season, and also had the leagues' top goalscorer in the ageless Richard Leszczynski, who fired home 26 goals.

Division 1 Reserves Final Standings - 2006

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**18**	**15**	**3**	**0**	**76**	**15**	**48**
Kingborough Lions	18	14	1	3	69	21	43
Taroona	18	12	2	4	49	23	38
Beachside	18	10	1	7	59	44	31
South Hobart	18	7	2	9	43	43	23
University	18	6	4	8	28	34	22
Christian United	18	5	3	10	30	48	18
DOSA	18	4	3	11	28	54	15
Nelson	18	4	2	12	23	55	14
Huon Valley	18	1	3	14	22	90	6

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 26, D. Bones 10

The 2007 season started badly with a season ending injury to goalkeeper Andrew Savage in the first game of the Summer Cup pre-season series.

⚽ Baptism of fire for new Eagles goalkeeper

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 04/4/2007

NICK Rundle has had a shock introduction to the southern Premier League soccer competition.

The 21-year-old goalkeeper from Devonport played only his third game for New Town Eagles on Saturday and the team conceded four goals.

In their previous outing, the Summer Cup final, the Eagles lost 5-0 to Hobart Zebras.

Conceding nine goals in two games is a nightmare, but Rundle is taking it well.

“We drew 0-0 in the first game I played and I scored a goal and saved one penalty in the subsequent penalty shoot-out,'' Rundle said.

“We are regrouping. We were all right in the first half on Saturday and even better in the second, but we conceded some unlucky goals.

“We've got a few things to work on, but I haven't been at the club long enough to really work out what's wrong.”

“It's very difficult for a goalkeeper and I'm not used to conceding so many goals.''

Rundle played for Devonport City for the past five years, the last two spent in the senior side. He moved to Hobart in November for a change and wasn't going to play this year.

However, Eagles team manager Peter Wass heard he was in town, phoned him and convinced him to give it a go.

Rundle has always been a goalkeeper and his time at Devonport culminated in a league premiership win.

However, the club has fallen on lean times now because of the loss of several players and coaching problems.

Rundle has quickly noted the differences between soccer in the South and the North.

“There seems to be more ball control and skills here, and a different style of play,'' he said.”

“I'm not used to defenders passing the ball around at the back.”

“I'm used to defenders just clearing the ball first time.''

⚽ Pitchford keeping his hopes high for top spot

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 25/4/2007

GOALKEEPER Nathan Pitchford has returned to New Town Eagles after two months with Victorian State League 2 (South-East Division) club Clifton Hill United.

Pitchford, 18, was a star performer for Eagles in the Premier League last season, but now has to fight for a first-team spot with Nick Rundle.

Following an injury to Andrew Savage in the first game of the Summer Cup pre-season series, Eagles were without a goalkeeper until they signed former Devonport City keeper Rundle.

Pitchford returned to Tasmania on April 14 and has made two appearances in the reserves.

“The standard I was playing at in Victoria was just a little above here and, because I was missing family and friends, it just wasn't worth staying there,'' Pitchford said.

“The first touch of players over there is excellent, but the passing still goes astray after that. Whereas here, most attacks come over the top of the defence, over there I found goalkeepers were confronted more by crosses as attackers get behind defenders in wide positions.”

“Playing out from the back is also a massive part of the game over there.''

Pitchford watched Eagles lose the Summer Cup final for the second successive season, but feels the players will soon click, just as they did last year when they strung together seven consecutive victories in the second half of the season.

He is looking forward to competing with Rundle for the senior berth.

“I rate him very highly and I'll have to work very hard to get back the No. 1 spot,'' he said. “No one should be able to come back and just push someone out, and Eagles have done the right thing.''

⚽ Draw points to brighter future for New Town

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 05/6/2007

NEW Town Eagles turned an important corner on Sunday when they earned their first point of the Premier League soccer season with a 2-2 draw at home to Metro-Claremont at Clare St.

It ended a run of 10 consecutive losses for Eagles, stretching back to last season. The point was not enough to lift Eagles off the foot of the ladder, but it kept them within two points of second-last Metro and four adrift of eighth-placed Taroona.

“It was a handy point, for sure,” said Eagles’ 25-year-old captain and sweeper Andrew Telega. “We’re certainly improving, but we’ve just got to get a little bit more positive. “We go a goal down and a lot of heads go down, so we just have to try to keep the young guys positive now.”

Eagles have introduced a few older and experienced heads in recent weeks, such as former skipper and defender Damien Bones. Graham Reeks, who has moved to Tasmania from interstate after originally coming from the UK, is also having an impact on the side.

He played his first full game on Sunday and snatched the equaliser in the dying minutes with a header, after having hit the post early in the match. There is also talk of former ace striker Richard Leszczynski making a comeback. He is scoring prolifically in the social league competition.

“We’re trying to work out what the problems have been,” Telega said. “We’ve been lost for ideas. “We’ve got a young side that performed well at the end of last season, so nothing has really changed. It’s just a case of getting the boys’ heads up and their attitude right.

“It’s a difficult time for me as captain, so I’d hate to think how our coach [Ian Parker] is feeling at the moment.” Telega said The team had been confident about getting a point off Metro. “The coach and I have asked a couple of the more senior guys to come back, both for training and for possible inclusion in the side to try and lift the heads of the young guys,'' he said.

“We need to get a bit more experience back into the side. “We just need to get our attitude right and start playing the ball properly and, hopefully, things will start to click.

“There's a good atmosphere at training and everything is positive." Eagles' next big test is on Sunday when they entertain league leaders Hobart Zebras at Clare Street. Zebras are unbeaten, have a six-point lead at the top of the ladder, and they beat Eagles 5-0 in this year's Summer Cup final.

⚽ Mighty Zebras stumble

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 11/6/2007

PREMIER League soccer leaders Hobart Zebras slipped up yesterday when they were held to a 1-1 draw away to bottom-side New Town Eagles at Clare St.

After a goalless opening half, the Eagles took the lead through an own-goal after veteran Richard Leszczynski headed the ball into the danger zone, but Mark Falzon salvaged a point for the league-leaders with a well-taken goal.

The Eagles are now a point adrift of second-last Metro-Claremont and six behind eighth-placed Taroona.

⚽ Eagles break through against ‘sleepy’ Knights

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 22/7/2007

A GOAL in the opening minute gave New Town Eagles a 1-0 win, their first victory of the Premier League soccer season, over deposed champions the Glenorchy Knights.

A simple cross from the left by Scott Telega and a header by Adam Shackcloth decided the match before the Knights had time to wake up. It could have been more by the end as Shackcloth should have had a hat-trick, but his finishing was poor when twice faced with only goalkeeper Ben Peter to beat.

The Knights' experiment of playing Jonathon Ladic in attack to partner Tom Huigsloot was a failure, and he reverted to his midfield role in the second half.

The Knights were poor in attack and Huigsloot and Nick Harrison squandered half-chances by trying to be clever and back-heel crosses into the net.

Huigsloot was also thwarted by Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford after he made a mess of a goal-kick and gifted possession to the powerfully built Knights striker. Harrison hit the outside of a post with one effort, but the Knights never quite looked serious and had the look of a team in decline.

The win lifted second-last Eagles to six points, three clear of last-placed Metro-Claremont and two adrift of third-last Taroona.

Premier League Final Standings - 2007

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilford Zebras	18	13	4	1	59	17	43
South Hobart	18	13	3	2	47	13	42
Hobart Olympic	18	11	3	4	39	20	36
Clarence United	18	10	4	4	33	26	34
Glenorchy Knights	18	7	3	8	32	38	24
Kingborough Lions	18	6	3	9	25	31	21
University	18	5	3	10	28	39	18
Taroona	18	4	2	12	19	47	14
New Town Eagles	**18**	**2**	**6**	**10**	**14**	**33**	**12**
Metro-Claremont	18	1	5	12	22	54	8

Leading Goalscorers: Alex Leszczynski, A. Shackcloth 3

Summer Cup Final 2007

Back Row: W. Savage, A. Leszczynski, S. Telega, N. Brown, A. Telega, B. Zielinski, S. Buckowiecki, C. Jones, I. Parker (Coach), M. Broadbent (Asst. Coach) **Front**: A. Shackcloth, B. Whitehall, A. Clark, N. Rundle. E. Menzie, J. Hadfield, G. Nelson, C. Collins

The success story of 2007 was the Division 2 side which went through the season undefeated, winning their competition by 14 points, and also securing the pre-season summer cup.

The team coached by Damien Bones scored a massive 123 goals, 29 of which were scored by evergreen striker Richard Leszczynski (the League's top goalscorer). Matt Fennell chipped in with 18, Damien Bones 15 and Carl Turk 13.

This team was promoted to Division 1 for the 2008 season.

Division 2 Final Standings - 2007

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N.T. Eagles White	**21**	**20**	**1**	**0**	**123**	**27**	**61**
Clarence Utd Spirit	21	15	2	4	64	27	47
Uni Dynamo	21	13	4	4	62	33	43
Hobart Olympic	21	11	2	8	57	52	35
Uni Bombers	21	10	4	7	33	37	34
Glenorchy Knights	21	9	1	11	52	49	28
Beachside	21	8	4	9	56	59	28
Clarence Utd Black	21	9	1	11	46	69	28
N.T. Eagles Red	21	8	2	11	52	57	26
South Hobart	21	3	1	17	18	88	10
Ethiotas FC	21	2	2	17	34	80	8
Tilford Zebras	11	1	0	10	9	28	3

In 2007 the Premier Women started the season with Craig Jones back at the helm but a move to Melbourne after the Summer Cup meant Andrew Law would take over this role and guided the team to third place on the ladder with Bliss Cantrell once again being the standout performer with 27 goals.

Premier League Women Final Standings - 2007

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nelson ES	18	17	0	1	124	11	51
University	18	13	1	4	63	21	40
New Town Eagles	**18**	**10**	**2**	**6**	**59**	**32**	**32**
South Hobart	18	10	1	7	44	30	31
Tilford Zebras	18	4	2	12	14	36	14
Clarence United	18	3	2	13	13	98	11
Glenorchy Knights	18	2	0	16	16	105	6

Leading Goalscorers: B. Cantrell 30, L. Farquhar, L. Jones 10

What coach Andrew Law had to say about 2007:

"After the Summer Cup I took over from Craig Jones as coach of the team, as Craig moved to Melbourne. Throughout the season the girls played well. We had some highs as well as some lows. Our high was beating Nelson 3-2 in a roster game, and our low was losing 3-2 to Clarence in the State-wide Cup semi-final.

Throughout the season, we brought in some new players from the u16 team. Caitlyn Nichols, Chloe Donoghue, Erin Lee and Aimee Datlen filled in for players who had other commitments, and weren't able to play, and they acquitted themselves well. During the season attendance at training was low, and this showed in the second half of most games, as fitness levels started to wane.

As captain of the team, Kathryn McLeod showed great leadership, by putting in 100% each game. Ashley Roberts was always solid in the back line, and Lauren Farquhar playing in the middle, helped the back line out by stopping attacks coming forward, as well as helping the forward line out by scoring a few goals. Jess Ranger was a great little player, who with a bit more self-confidence could be a champion player.

Rebecca Wiggins was in goals, and at times would pull off some fantastic saves. Alice Frier up forward was always trying to make goals, and doing all the running for Bliss Cantrell, who was a natural goal scorer, and ended up second top goal scorer for the league."

In 2008 relegation was brought into the Premier League to replace the play-off regime that had existed in 2006 and 2007, whereby the team finishing last in the Premier League faced a play-off match against the team that won the Division 1, title to determine the final makeup of the league in the following season.

FFT's stance was that it wanted to strengthen the competition by reducing the number of teams able to compete in it, but given the myriad of different relegation / promotion scenarios (and number of teams participating) that had played out since 2000, looking at it from an outside perspective, it seemed that decisions were being made by those in the FFT hierarchy that either had a vested interest in some of the club's themselves or were being influenced by others who did.

Going from a play-off scenario for the last placed team, to the two bottom teams being immediately relegated, and the third last team facing a play-off, was a significant change when you consider what had previously occurred, when high profile teams such as South Hobart and Olympia had escaped relegation in previous seasons because it was deemed that relegation and promotion was not necessary for the competition.

The South Hobart one in 2000 was totally baffling, as the league was expanded to a 10-team competition by bringing in a DOSA team that had finished 5th in Division 1, hardly a competition strengthening strategy as their subsequent results showed.

Given Eagle's performances in the previous few years, the season was always going to be a topsy turvy ride for both the players and supporters alike. To add to the pressure, Eagle's would be without coach Ian Parker during the season, as he would be overseas for eight weeks. In his absence the team would be coached by Stephen Pitchford.

Southern Premier League 2000 – 2008

Year	Teams	Last	Relegation	Pts	Second Last	Pts	Other
2000	9	South Hobart (2 W)	NO	7	Clarence Utd	12	Decided to expand the league to 10 & Promoted DOSA who finished 5th in the Div.1 competition
2001	10	DOSA (0 W)	NO	0	Clarence Utd	7	DOSA - Goal Difference (- 80)
2002	10	DOSA (0 W)	NO	0	Clarence Utd	7	DOSA - Goal Difference (- 72)
2003	10	DOSA (1 D)	YES	1	Clarence Utd	6	DOSA - Goal Difference (- 79) 2004 - 9 team league
2004	9	Olympia (2 W)	NO	9	Metro	12	
2005	9	Metro (0 W)	NO	6	NTE	12	
2006	10	Hobart Utd (0 W)	Play Off	2	Metro	12	
2007	10	Metro (1 W)	Play Off	8	NTE	12	
2008	10	Taroona (0 W)	2 Relegated	3	Metro	8	2009 - Eight team league

⚽ Time in charge runs out for Eagles' innovator

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 03/6/2008

NEW Town Eagles' assistant coach Stephen Pitchford will hand the reins of the senior team back to Ian Parker next weekend. Pitchford has been in charge for five games while Parker has been in England. In that time, Eagles won once, 2-1 away against Metro and lost four times. They are eighth on the ladder.

The team had two points when Parker went overseas and now has five, but the battle to avoid relegation is well and truly on. The bottom two sides, currently Metro and Taroona, are automatically relegated, while the third-last faces a playoff against the Division One champion.

Pitchford has been innovative during his time in charge and has adopted an unorthodox 2-6-2 formation. "We have played a 2-6-2 for the past three games," Pitchford said. "I simply dispensed with a sweeper to allow us more players in midfield and to allow us to be in possession for longer periods and to restrict opposition freedom through the middle of the ground.

"It has worked to the extent that we have certainly had more possession, and have attacked opponents more freely than earlier in the season, but we have not yet converted that success into points, which is what we need." Pitchford is well aware of what is required to avoid relegation.

"The key to avoiding the bottom three places is scoring goals," he said. "With only four goals in eight games, we have been struggling, but the recent increase in shots, and shots on target, is encouraging and we believe that wins over Clarence, Kingborough and Taroona in the first three matches of the second round will be important." Pitchford has enjoyed his time in charge of the senior side. "It has been a challenging period," he said. "We lost Jayden Wiggins and Scott Telega before I started, and Amadu Koroma overseas, as well as Matthew Rybak to long-term injury."

“This has meant blending in players from the reserves and, at the same time, changing to playing attacking soccer. The way all players have accepted the challenges has been terrific. The first high, I suppose, was the first win of the season over Metro.

“The second high was the way in which the players embraced the change to a 2-6-2 formation against South Hobart, while the third high was the way in which the team fought back against University and played attacking soccer for 90 minutes.

“The low was losing to a last-minute, against-the-run-of-play goal to University. Also, the goals that are conceded to basic errors or loss of concentration.

When Ian returns, my advice to him will be that we should continue to consider the attacking formation where the opposition appears to be susceptible to its strengths.''

The proof of the pudding will be on Friday night, when Eagles take on reigning champions Hobart Zebras at KGV Park.

⚽ Taroona gets the boot out of top league

By Walter Pless – [Sunday Tasmanian] - August 3, 2008

TAROONA was relegated from the Premier League soccer competition when it lost 3-0 at home at Kelvedon Park yesterday to sixth-placed Clarence United.

Taroona has just three points from its 15 games to date and, with three games remaining, cannot catch third-last New Town Eagles.

Ben Hamlett netted two goals and Dwayne Walsh one for Clarence, which led 2-0 at the break.

Metro looks almost certain to join Taroona in Division One next season after it went down 2-1 at home at North Chigwell yesterday to seventh-placed Kingborough Lions United.

Eighth-placed New Town Eagles did its own cause a lot of good when it gave fourth-ranked Glenorchy Knights a 5-1 hiding at KGV Park on Friday night.

Knights struck first through Peter Frank in the 17th minute, the youngster hammering home a low cross from Marcus Burn.

Alex Leszczynski equalised in the 40th minute with a marvellous volley, while Damien O'Brian gave Eagles a 2-1 lead at the break when he netted a penalty, awarded for Jayden Wiggins's foul on Jacob Malakoff.

Malakoff added Eagles' third in the 61st minute, converting Jamie Vernon's cross. Two goals in the final 10 minutes by Andrew Clark completed the Eagles' finest and biggest win of the season.

Knights, who were without Janko Begovic and Anthony Grundy, had Tony Dzelalija sent off 15 minutes from the end with the score at 3-1.

Metro was never in the hunt against the Lions and two first-half goals by the visitors effectively ended the contest. In the 12th minute, Mark Iseli headed home Ross Hinkley's free-kick, while in the 22nd minute, Charles White nodded home another Hinkley set-piece.

Metro pulled a goal back four minutes from the end when Terry Kent's perfect pass put Jason Dawes through and he rounded goalkeeper Jason Voss and rolled the ball into the unguarded net.

⚽ South stays ahead of hunting Zebras

By Walter Pless – [Sunday Tasmanian] - August 17, 2008

SOUTH Hobart maintained its three-point lead over second-placed Hobart Zebras on the Premier League soccer ladder with just one round remaining after both won their matches on the weekend.

South beat bottom side and relegated Taroona 4-0 away at Kelvedon Park yesterday, while Zebras came from behind to down second-last and relegated Metro 4-2 at home at KGV Park on Friday night.

In the battle to avoid eighth spot and a promotion/relegation play-off against the Division One champion, seventh-placed New Town Eagles moved three points ahead of eighth-ranked Kingborough Lions United by thrashing third-placed Hobart Olympic 7-1 away at the Athletic Centre yesterday.

Goals by Billy Gasparinatos, David Abbott and Hugh Ludford, the latter with a penalty, gave South a 3-0 half-time lead against Taroona, while Simon Burrett netted the fourth. Burrett was a late inclusion in the South line-up after Shae Hickey withdrew. South also completed the signing yesterday of former Oldham Athletic, Macclesfield and Staleybridge Celtic professional Daniel White.

The 24-year-old striker will make his debut next weekend in South's final league match, against Metro, when a draw will be enough to give the club its first league title since 2002.

Zebras received a shock when Metro's Scottish import, Steve Pettit, fired the visitors ahead after just three minutes and, although Henry Fagg equalised in the 29th minute, a goal by Jason Dawes in the 33rd minute gave Metro a 2-1 lead at the interval.

Three goals in six minutes in the second half gave the Zebras victory and temporary top spot on the ladder on goal-difference. In the 63rd minute, Daniel Lapolla volleyed home from the edge of the box to make it 2-2, while in the 67th minute, Paul Cairns turned sharply before driving the ball past substitute goalkeeper Simon Land to put Zebras in front for the first time.

It was 4-2 in the 68th minute when a cross from Cairns hit Lapolla's knee and the ball looped over Land and into the net.

Eagles were much too good against an Olympic side that was woeful in defence and which had eight players cautioned and coach Farrell Shaw sent behind the fence by referee Dirk Gadd.

The energetic and enthusiastic young Eagles side, led 4-0 at the interval through goals by Nick Ferrall, Adam McKeown, Jamie Vernon and Wade Savage.

Vernon, McKeown and Savage then each scored again, as Eagles raced to a 7-0 lead with just 15 minutes remaining.

Adam Hedge headed Olympic's consolation goal from Chris Tsakiris's free-kick in the last minute.

⚽ South ready to seal title Morton's outfit a strong favourite

By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] - August 22, 2008

SOUTH Hobart can win the Premier League soccer title for the first time since 2002 by either beating or drawing with second-last and relegated Metro at home at South Hobart tomorrow.

Ken Morton's South Hobart outfit must be considered a strong favourite as it goes into this 133rd clash with Metro since 1941. South will have a strong line-up with the return of central defender Matthew Brown from overseas, despite the absence of suspended striker Billy Gasparinatos.

Defender Alex Holmes is injured, but Morton may give new English signing, striker Daniel White, a run at some stage.
Metro has nothing to lose and will be dangerous, especially with the inclusion of Scottish import, striker Steve Pettit, who has scored in each of his two games to date.

If South Hobart loses, the title will go to Hobart Zebras if they beat seventh-placed New Town Eagles away at Clare Street on Sunday.

Zebras will miss midfielder Paul Cairns through suspension, which means there will again be a place for either Josh Thorpe or Dylan Fennell.

Eagles finally hit the jackpot last weekend with a 7-1 thrashing of third-placed Hobart Olympic and this should make them confident.

Eagles are desperately trying to avoid eighth place, the “prize'' for which is a promotion/relegation play-off against the Division One champion, which is likely to be Hobart United after its 5-1 win over Nelson Eastern Suburbs on Wednesday.

Eagles will be without striker Jamie Vernon, but midfielder Damien O'Brian is available again after missing the Olympic match.

Coach Ian Parker has had a good record with Eagles since returning from the UK, losing just one of eight games, so Zebras will have to be at their best, especially if the title is at stake.

Sixth-placed Clarence United is not safe from the dreaded eighth spot but can avoid that by beating fifth-placed University at home at Wentworth Park tomorrow. Clarence have flattered to deceive at times this season and, after losing 3-0 at home to Glenorchy Knights last weekend, a victory is far from assured.

Eighth-placed Kingborough Lions United hosts bottom side and relegated Taroona at Lightwood Park on Sunday and has everything to play for as it fights to avoid the promotion/relegation play-off.

The Lions have a game in hand - against University on 31 August - and a good win against Taroona to improve their goal-difference will enable them to breathe a little more easily, depending on how other results go.

Taroona, as in the case of Metro, has little but pride to play for, but it can also influence other events -- in this case, that dreaded eighth position on the ladder -- and so may be an awkward opponent for the Lions.

Hobart Olympic is assured of third place - win, lose or draw - against fourth-placed Glenorchy Knights at KGV Park tonight. Knights could lose fourth spot and this incentive may be enough to spur them to victory against an Olympic side that submitted meekly to Eagles last weekend.

⚽ Draw keeps Eagles' hopes alive

By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] - August 25, 2008

NEW Town Eagles kept alive hopes of avoiding the promotion/relegation playoff in the Premier League soccer when they held Hobart Zebras to a 1-1 draw at Clare St yesterday.

Eagles are seventh, a point ahead of eighth-ranked Kingborough Lions United, and have a better goal-difference.

Lions have one match left - away to fifth-placed University next Sunday - and need a win to leapfrog Eagles and avoid the dreaded eighth spot.

Lions beat bottom side Taroona 5-1 at home at Lightwood Park yesterday, Greg Freeman and captain Marcello Marchioli each scoring a brace and Charles White netting one.

Taroona replied through Hamish MacGregor.

Ben Crosswell almost put Zebras ahead in the ninth minute, but his shot hit the angle of crossbar and post.

He made amends midway through the first half when he ran on to a long clearance from goalie Frank Mainella and shot past Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford.

Eagles were awarded a penalty in the 84th minute for Michael Connolly's foul on Adam McKeown and Damien O'Brian scored with his spot-kick to make it 1-1.

Mainella and midfielder Brett Pullen were playing their last games before retirement for Zebras, who finished second, five points adrift of champion South Hobart.

⚽ Lions lift to climb out of danger

By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] - September 1, 2008

KINGBOROUGH Lions United avoided an eighth-place finish in the Premier League soccer competition by beating fifth-ranked University, 2-1, away at Olinda Grove yesterday.

New Town Eagles, whose coach and several players were watching the match, have now finished eighth and will meet Division One champion Hobart United in the home-and-away promotion/relegation play-off, starting next weekend.

The Lions leapfrogged Eagles into seventh spot and should have won more easily.

The visitors had a Brett Andrews penalty saved by Ryo Matsuo, an effort by Greg Freeman disallowed for off-side, and missed several sitters through Freeman, Charles White, Andrews and Ross Hinkley.

University came back strongly in the second half, but managed only one goal - a header by Taka Manaka, from Jon Foley-Donoghue's corner in the 72nd minute.

Freeman had given the Lions the lead in the 42nd minute and then set up captain Marcello Marchioli for the second two minutes later.

Although the team did perform more consistently, the number of drawn games (six), meant that at season's end, they found themselves in the relegation play-off position by an agonising two points.

Supporters may have entered the relegation play-off against Division 1 premiers Hobart United with a sense of trepidation, but the club's predicament did not seem to affect the players, or at least they didn't show it, and this was borne out in their overall performance in the two-legged relegation / promotion play-off.

⚽ By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] - September 5, 2008

Premier League club New Town Eagles which finished eighth meets the Division One champion, Hobart United, at KGV at 7pm tonight in the first leg of their promotion/relegation play-off. Eagles will have Ben Whitehall back, but midfielder Jacob Malakoff is unavailable.

"We're in for a tough game because they're enthusiastic and have speedy forwards," said Eagles coach, Ian Parker. "We'll approach this game in a professional manner. The boys are ready for it," he said.

Hobart United's main weapons are strikers Akuel Guot, Samson Rume and Jacob Kuel and they will test an Eagles defence that can be vulnerable to pace at times.

United coach Tony Tarros has been watching Eagles in recent weeks and is confident of coming up with a tactical plan to beat them.

The second leg will be played at the same venue and the same time next Friday.

By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] - September 7, 2008

New Town Eagles virtually assured itself of Premier League survival after beating Division One champion Hobart United 5-1 at KGV Park on Friday night in the first-leg of the promotion /relegation play-off.

Adam McKeown, with two goals, and Damien O'Brian, Chris Wass and Adam Shackcloth with a goal apiece, were Eagles' scorers, while United replied through a penalty by Jacob Kuel.

By Walter Pless – [The Mercury] - September 14, 2008

New Town Eagles ensured their Premier League survival when they beat Hobart United 6-1 at KGV Park on Friday night to make it 11-2 on aggregate over the two legs.

Victorian fly-in Damien O'Brian hit a hat-trick.

Goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford also scored with a free-kick from inside his own penalty area, the ball bouncing over his opposite number, Nathan Grandin and into the net.

Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown completed Eagles' tally, while Peter Otto scored a consolation goal for United.

2008 Senior Team
Back: I. Parker (Coach), C. Wass, Alex Leszczynski, J. Clamp, D. O'Brien, W. Savage, B. Pope, C. Stingle.
Front: J. Malakoff, A. McKeown, A. Clark, N. Pitchford (Capt), M. Page, N. Ferrall

Premier League Final Standings - 2008

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	18	14	2	2	56	13	44
Tilford Zebras	**18**	12	3	3	68	27	39
Hobart Olympic	18	11	3	4	46	34	36
Glenorchy Knights	18	9	2	7	39	31	29
Clarence United	18	8	2	8	33	36	26
University	18	7	4	7	33	36	25
Kingborough Lions	18	6	5	7	32	42	23
New Town Eagles	**18**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**28**	**28**	**21**
Metro-Claremont	18	2	2	14	23	56	8
Taroona	18	0	3	15	17	72	3

Leading Goalscorers – A. McKeown 5, D. O'Brien 5

Premier League Reserves Final Standings - 2008

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	**18**	**16**	**2**	**0**	**62**	**11**	**50**
Tilford Zebras	18	14	2	2	64	22	44
Clarence United	18	10	1	7	46	30	31
Kingborough Lions	18	10	1	7	38	30	31
Hobart Olympic	18	10	1	7	47	41	31
New Town Eagles	**18**	**8**	**2**	**8**	**38**	**33**	**26**
University	18	7	1	10	37	51	22
Taroona	18	3	2	13	25	58	11
Metro FC	18	3	1	14	21	57	10
Glenorchy Knights	18	2	1	15	18	63	7

Leading Goalscorers – G. Atalay 8, J. Marshall, J. Hyland 5

The highlight of 2008 was the premiership achieved by under-17 girls team. Under the guidance of Andrew Law, they won their league by two points from Clarence United. Leading Goalscorers: were Morgan Ross 12, Tiarna Ford 9, and Rachel Archer 8.

2008 Under 17 Premiers coached by Andrew Law

Girl's Under 17's Final Standings 2008

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**15**	**13**	**0**	**2**	**49**	**17**	**39**
Clarence United U14	15	12	1	2	65	18	37
Taroona	15	7	1	7	47	52	22
Clarence United	15	7	0	8	38	42	21
Kingborough Lions	14	2	0	12	26	59	6
University	14	2	0	12	16	53	6

2008 Reserves Team

Back: G. Atalay, A. Cox, M. Duval, R. Wilson, S. Somerville, C. Minty, J. Malakoff, W. Ashwood
Front: J. Marshall, K. Lebski, M. Page, A, Johnston, N. Ferrall

A very experienced Division 1 team, featuring a number of ex-senior players, also had a successful season winning the pre-season summer cup and finishing runners-up to Hobart United in the league.

Division 1 Final Standings 2008

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart United	21	17	3	1	83	22	54
New Town Eagles	**21**	**17**	**1**	**3**	**70**	**23**	**52**
Beachside	21	14	3	4	63	31	45
Nelson	21	7	6	8	48	43	27
Kingston Cannons	21	6	4	11	45	66	22
Kingborough Lions	21	5	2	14	50	78	17
Christian United	21	4	3	14	31	62	15
Huon Valley	21	2	2	17	18	83	8

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 16, M. Fennell 12.

2008 Division 1

Back: A. Jones, M. Fennell, D. Crowle, T. Fotak, S. Vernon, S. Calvert. **Front:** D. Page, M. Nidorfer, M. Proud, R. Ketchell, R. Leszczynski

Memorable Mercury quotes from Dorf & Chopper During the Season:

"Some of the boys are still fuming over comments made pre-season by Nelson's coach that our squad is old," said Eagles joint-coach, Marty Nidorfer. He also mentioned his players' liking for the disco scene, but they won't have to worry about that this weekend as, come Sunday afternoon, they'll be dancing with the stars at Clare Street."

"This is a must-win game, not helped by the fact that half the boys will be away on new recruit Kim Wiggins's stag weekend,"

"After last week's loss, there's no use crying over spilt milk. We'll be out of the frypan and into the fire against Hobart United and must be prepared for their skillful, attacking brand of football."

"Our discipline on the field has been atrocious, with several send-offs and yellow cards, and although we won't win the Fairplay Award, the lads have been asked to improve in this department."

"After Wednesday night's game against the Cannons, there were more tight hamstrings than the strings on Andre Rieu's violin.

The lads are tired from a busy schedule, which could count against us, but I'm sure they still have some petrol in the tank."

"Richard Ketchell's goal last weekend was worthy of an SBS highlights reel, and we will need him firing on all three cylinders again this Sunday. A compulsory club function on match eve is of concern. Our squad has a high number of two-pot screamers and club identity Bogdan Dora has been asked to keep an eye on our table, ensuring nobody breaks team rules."

"Marty Nidorfer and Alan Wisby have been dropped to the reserves this week to hopefully assist in a reversal of form. I want our guys to attack from the start and will therefore be ditching the negative defensive style of play initiated by Nidorfer."

"Local soccer identities Ronnie Bolton and Andy Baxter have been asked to mediate differences between our coaching staff's philosophies and selection decisions."

“We will be better this time around on their home ground, as players are now familiar with the surrounds. In our first game there, players were a bit confused with the pitch coexisting with the football oval, so much so that Matthew Fennell almost celebrated when an errant strike on goals sailed through the AFL goal posts.”

In 2009 and 2010, the Eagle senior team was coached by George Krambousanos, his second stint at the club as head coach. 2009 got off to the worst possible start with the early loss of Eagle’s senior goalkeepers Nathan Pitchford and then his replacement Andrew Savage to season ending injuries. Krambousanos drafted in experienced keeper Michael Soszynski to fill this important role.

Not only did the club lose its senior keepers, it also lost a raft of talented players due to injury and other commitments: Jakob Malakoff, Nick Ferrall, Cormac Collins, and Jacob Kavanagh (to name a few) from the 2008 team. Krambousanos took these setbacks in his stride and transformed the team into a robust attacking outfit that possessed a great desire to push forward and try to score goals, hallmarks of the great 80’s and 90’s sides.

This more ambitious approach made Eagle a difficult proposition to come up against and has provided some welcome enjoyment for their supporters. In the past two season’s, Eagle finished just outside the play-offs, and with a little more commitment and self-belief, the current crop of players could start pushing for premiership glory.

Over the history of the club, youth has played an important part in its success. The under 18’s side in 2009 coached by Barry Pope and Matt Rybak, pulled off a stunning victory in the Knock-Out Cup Final against a strong Clarence side winning 2-1. This team included up and coming players of the future in Ferrall, Quan, Ayres and Gonzalez.

⚽ It's moments like these they need Minty

By WALTER PLESS – [The Mercury] - 24/3/2009

CRAIG Minty was thrown in at the deep end on Saturday but showed he has what it takes.

The 17-year-old, is third-choice goalkeeper at New Town Eagles, but with first-choice Nathan Pitchford injured and out of action for the next few months, Minty was understudy to Andrew Savage for Saturday's Premier League match against Kingborough Lions United.

Minty takes a cross v Juventus at South Hobart

Three minutes before half-time, Savage snapped an achilles tendon and was taken to hospital, where he had surgery on Sunday. He suffered a similar injury on his other leg two seasons ago.

Minty came on with Eagles 1-2 down, and he went on to concede four more goals as the Lions ran out 6-3 winners.

But the young custodian pulled off two brilliant saves near the end to deny Greg Freeman, who had already netted a hat-trick at that stage.

“I felt pretty nervous when I came on,” said Minty, who stands at 188cm and whose father Malcolm was also a keeper.

Minty has been playing in the under-19s and reserves but it looks now as if he will be in the seniors for some time to come.

He played school soccer with Dominic College until Grade 7, when he joined Eagles, and he has now been with the club for three years.

“We'll have to go with the young fellow now,” Eagles coach George Krambousanos said.

“He has to realise he's coming up a few levels and the game is a little bit faster and stronger.”

“He's a tall boy and he'll be right. We'll play him against Hobart Olympic next weekend.''

⚽ Eagles owe much to SOS keeper

By WALTER PLESS – 21/5/2009

MICHAEL Soszynski is one of the reasons for New Town Eagles' present run of success in the Premier League soccer competition. The goalkeeper answered an SOS from coach George Krambousanos, who had just one goalkeeper for the senior team, Craig Minty, 17. Nathan Pitchford and his understudy Andrew Savage, have both been sidelined for the season with leg injuries.

Soszynski, 27, had played for Krambousanos before. He began his Tasmanian career with Eagles before moving on to Taroona, Hobart Olympic, South Hobart (with which he won the Premier League title in 2002) Beachside and Hobart United. He spent 2006 with Adelaide Polonia in the SA Premier League, after returning from Europe, where he was with Leigh RMI, Altrincham FC, and Droylsden FC. “These clubs were all in the English Conference League,'' said Soszynski.

“I was also the train-on keeper with Chester City and Bury in League Two, and Stockport County in League One. I also trialed with Legia Warszawa and Crakovia in Poland.''

Of his return from retirement, he said: “It was initially only going to be for a period of six to eight weeks, but it has since been determined that Nathan Pitchford is now going to have to sit out the remainder of the season.''

Soszynski has played in six of the Eagles' eight games since joining the club this season. They are sixth on the ladder and performing well. They are well clear of the relegation zone and could end up among the leading four sides, thanks in no small part to their keeper.

What coach George Krambousanos had to say about 2009:

“Well, it all started back in the year 2000, when I last coached the club; we won the summer cup and finished second to Glenorchy Knights. For no particular reason, I decided to step down from the coaching position. It was the biggest mistake that I have made in my coaching career. Branded “the coach that keeps moving from club to club” (for personal reasons), I found myself not wanted; not because of my coaching ability, but more because I wouldn’t stay in one place for more than a year or two.

From year 2001-2008, I attended as many New Town Eagle games as I could. I decided that I had unfinished business with the club and would apply for the job in 2009 if available. And the rest goes like this…

We had a great pre-season attendance between 30-45 players, assisted by the reserve coach Rodney Bones, and u19 coach Kevin Clamp.

The start of the season, the Summer Cup, gave us an idea of what we were up against for the rest of the 2009 league. Our group included South Hobart, Tilford Zebras and Hobart Olympic. These three teams finished first, second and third in 2008. First game we lost to South Hobart 6-nil. Second game we won 1-nil against Hobart Olympic. Third game we lost 6-nil to Tilford Zebras.

Never have I, as a coach, been beaten with such scores. This competition gave me an insight into areas that we had to work on to be competitive for the year 2009, these being attitude, discipline, team bonding and the ability to believe in ourselves. After the Summer Cup we had three weeks to bring it all together before the league season started.

During these three weeks we lost our number one keeper, Nathan Pitchford, in a practice game against Launceston City. Our first league game we played against Glenorchy Knights and lost 4-3. We started the game with three of our strongest players on the bench for personal reasons. They all started in the second half and turned the game around.

In the second game we played Kingborough Lions and lost 6-3. In this game we lost our second goalkeeper, Andrew Savage, when he snapped his achilles tendon. At that moment, the score was 2-1 to Kingborough Lions. Young Craig Minty, came on after playing in the reserves. Everyone realised that he was very nervous, as he unexpectedly required to on to the field, and although the final score was 6-3, he made some great saves and showed his potential.

After these two games we started to become a team, and the lads started to believe in themselves. After speaking to my co-captains, Christopher Wass, Nathan Pitchford and my manager Peter Wass, I rang to enquire about a third keeper, Michael Soszynski. They all agreed to the approach, so I rang him. This is how the conversation went:

GK: Hi Michael, How are you going?
MS: I was waiting for your phone call.

GK & MS: Have a laugh.

GK: Would you like to put the gloves on and keep for New Town Eagles.
MS: I can only play 5 games.

Not only did he play 5 games but, he also played for the rest of the season as well as trained the other keepers throughout the season. My coaching staff and I would like to say a very special thank you to Michael and hope that he can continue coaching our keepers next year as he did a fantastic job.

The first round we finished with 9 points, our positive results were as follows: Hobart Olympic (1-0), Clarence United (1-0) and University (3-0).

The second round was not so good. Although we had a very positive win against Kingborough Lions (4-1) and a good draw against Tilford Zebras (3-3), these were the only games we accumulated points.

The third round was the one that had all the other clubs talking. We lost one game to Tilford Zebras. We drew against Glenorchy Knights (1-1), Clarence United (2-2), Hobart Olympic (1-1) and South Hobart (2-2). We Won against Kingborough Lions (5-2) and University (2-0). This gave us 10 points for the round, a total of 24 points, which was only 2 points below the top 4 in the league. It was the first time in many years that the Eagle have scored so many goals!

There were some challenges however… During the year we had four players at University in Launceston, Cormac Collins, Alex Leszczynski, Nathan Pitchford and Shane Kent as well as Alex Gordon working up there. Although these players attended training sessions with clubs in Launceston, it still made it hard for us to work as a team.

I am happy with the team effort for 2009, but we have higher aims for the 2010 season."

Premier League Final Standings - 2009

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	15	3	3	49	15	48
Tilford Zebras	21	13	3	5	74	40	42
Glenorchy Knights	21	11	3	7	50	43	36
Clarence United	21	7	5	9	38	43	26
Kingborough Lions	21	6	6	9	41	47	24
Hobart Olympic	21	7	3	11	34	55	24
New Town Eagles	**21**	**6**	**5**	**10**	**40**	**46**	**23**
University	21	4	2	15	19	56	14

Leading Goalscorers – A. McKeown 11, C. Collins 5, A. Gordon 4, Alexander Leszczynski 4

2009 Senior Team

Back: G. Krambousnos (Coach), A. Savage, C. Was, W. Savage, J. Vernon, M. Soszynski, A. Gordon, Alex Leszczynski, N. Pitchford, J. Muir (Trainer)
Front: J. Kavanagh, M. Page, A. Clark, A. McKeown, J. Malakoff, M. Rybak

In 2009 our senior women's team were once again coached by Andrew Law and finished a creditable fourth in a season which was heavily affected by poor weather.

What coach Andrew Law had to say about 2009:

"This year has certainly been a different year than any other that I have ever coached. The year started off with the loss of our captain from last year to the state U15's (Nikita Bird). Erin Lee stepped in as captain, as this will be her last year playing in Tasmania. She is off to Darwin with her family, and I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

The year started off nice and dry with firm football pitches, and the team performing very well as a squad. We got some new players into the squad, Molly Appleton from NSW showed great knowledge of the game and was very adaptable, able to play from midfield to goalkeeper and another new player, Reilly Smith was very strong on the left and teamed up well with Aimee Datlen.

Olivia Mulcahy was quiet at first, but as the year progressed, she became a very valuable team player. Laura Claridge took over as the number one goalie this year and did very well. Rhiannon Wickham and Rhiannon Griggs put up strong performances in defence, but unfortunately, we lost Rhiannon Griggs to a foot injury which put her out for several months. We also lost Megan Patterson to a serious knee injury which required surgery and the rest of the season off.

Our midfield players were Sophie Pyke, Frances Jay and Rachel Archer. Our strikers Morgan Ross (vice-captain) and Tiarna Ford both scored goals consistently throughout the year. Gemma Dwyer only started playing with us last year and has really proven valuable to the team. This year she played from the back line to the midfield, as well as up forward, even scoring a couple of goals.

Things were going well, and we were on top of the ladder until the rain started! It didn't stop. We had seven weeks without a game and the team couldn't train due to ground closures. As a result, we finished in the middle of the group. I'm looking forward to next year when we can hopefully train and play all season. "

Women's Division 1 - Final Standings 2009

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beachside	15	13	1	1	60	13	40
Hobart United	15	12	0	3	52	15	36
Kingborough Lions	14	10	1	3	43	24	31
New Town Eagles	**14**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**34**	**29**	**24**
Taroona	14	7	1	6	30	29	22
University Blue	16	4	2	10	26	30	14
Clarence Utd Black	13	2	6	5	23	27	12

Leading Goalscorers: T. Ford 10, M. Ross 5, A. Datlen 5

⚽ Malakoff one of rising young guns at Eagles

Walter Pless - Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Last Friday evening, when New Town Eagles found themselves 2-0 down against Glenorchy Knights after just 38 minutes, Eagles coach George Krambousanos knew it was time to call on the cavalry.

One of the three substitutions he made in and around half-time, to try and pull the game out of the fire, was 16-year-old midfielder Jacob Malakoff.

Malakoff settled into his midfield role like a veteran and helped his side get back into the game. Eagles performed admirably in the second half, and just lost by the odd goal at the end 4-3. Malakoff, a Year 11 student at The Friends School, was a southern representative at 14 and decided to join Eagles at that time, when he was in Year 9.

He played reserves for a season and a half, but is now a regular member of Eagles' senior side. "I think I'm going well, although it was a bit disappointing not to start on Friday," Malakoff said. "I think we'll go better in our next game." Malakoff made his senior debut as a 15-year-old in 2007, when he came on as a substitute for 5 minutes, but he became a regular early last season. He used to play as a right-winger and then as a defensive midfielder, but is now generally used in a central midfield role.

"I thought we were worth at least a draw against Knights," Malakoff said. "We just let in a couple of sloppy goals, and we'll have to work on that. "We need to get a good start this season and get as far away from the bottom as we can. "If we can do that, then maybe we should try and make the top-four. "I think we should try and get the spot behind Zebras and South Hobart, if possible. "It's an important year because of automatic relegation for the bottom team, so first of all, we need to get away from University and Kingborough, the sides that will probably battle things out with us."

Krambousanos believes Malakoff has huge potential, given his self-discipline, attitude, willingness to attend training, skills and awareness on the field. He needs to be a little more of an extrovert on the pitch and put on some weight," Krambousanos said. "I rate him as a player who is going to be very good and he's a delight to coach."

2010 once again failed to live up to expectations for our senior women's side. Losing five players from the 2009 team, meant the team did not participate in the Summer Cup looking to rebuild, before the start of the season.

A slow start to the campaign was always going to be difficult to make up, and despite scoring the equal most number of goals in the competition, they could only manage fourth place. The last 10 games of the season however, showed what they were capable of, winning five and drawing three, and only losing games against the top two sides in the competition.

Women's Division 1 - Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beachside	20	12	3	5	49	26	39
Nelson ES	20	12	2	6	52	27	38
Clarence United Red	20	9	3	8	40	45	30
New Town Eagles	**19**	**7**	**5**	**7**	**52**	**42**	**26**
Metro	20	7	3	10	25	44	24
Taroona	19	2	4	13	22	46	10

Leading Goalscorers – C. Nichols 18, T. Ford 12, A. Datlen 7

The men's team also failed to fire and finished in fifth place, with only six wins for the season, although they did finish reasonably strongly with three wins and two draws from their last seven games.

Premier League Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	18	3	0	61	15	57
Tilford Zebras	21	11	5	5	49	38	38
Glenorchy Knights	21	10	5	6	40	35	35
Clarence United	21	7	7	7	39	41	28
New Town Eagles	**21**	**6**	**6**	**9**	**39**	**40**	**24**
Kingborough Lions	21	7	3	11	29	39	24
Olympic Warriors	21	2	7	12	25	47	13
Taroona	21	3	4	14	23	50	13

Leading Goalscorers – A. McKeown 13, Alexander Leszczynski 8

2010 Senior Team

Back: P. Wass (Manager, M. Iqtadar, J. Vernon, J. Clamp, M. Anderson, N. Pitchford, Alex Leszczynski, S. Louden, C. Wass, G. Krambousanos (Coach)
Front: B. Whitehall, S. Kent, S. Strang, A. Clark, E. Menzie, M. Page, A. McKeown

Premier League Reserves Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	24	19	2	3	99	25	59
TIS	24	17	3	4	93	33	54
Clarence United	24	17	3	4	58	30	54
Glenorchy Knights	24	12	1	11	56	52	37
Tilford Zebras	24	10	3	11	54	49	33
Kingborough Lions	24	7	4	13	37	56	25
New Town Eagles	**24**	**6**	**3**	**15**	**41**	**96**	**21**
Taroona	24	4	3	17	24	74	15
Olympia FC Warriors	24	4	2	18	29	76	14

Leading Goalscorer – M. Fennell 16

2010 Reserves Team

Back: ,R. Wilson, B. Pope, M. Fennell, S. Strang, C. Minty **Front:** K. Lebski, Hay, J. Hadfield, A. Shackcloth, R. Abrahma

⚽ Eagles striker shoots for golden boot

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] – 19/5/2010

ADAM McKeown is fast becoming one of the Southern Premier League's most lethal strikers.

The target man is in his third year at senior level for New Town Eagles, but early season signs indicate this could be his most prolific.

The quick-footed forward, who is the pinnacle of Eagles' attacks, has netted eight goals in nine league matches and added a cup double to his account against Nelson Eastern Suburbs in the first round of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy on Saturday.

McKeown is now only two goals shy of his 2009 season total, sits third on the goal scorers chart and is responsible for exactly half of his team's league goals.

"I think it could definitely be my best season yet. I've been fairly happy with the start, but while I've scored a few I've also been frustrated by a number of misses," McKeown said.

McKeown trails the more established frontrunners - Hobart Zebras' Ben Crosswell and South Hobart's Jonathan Lo by one goal, but the striker is optimistic he can keep in touch in the race for the league's golden boot.

"They [Crosswell and Lo] are both pretty outstanding players, but hopefully I can match them goal for goal."

But McKeown maintains his main aim is not centred on individual performance but on his team's success.

"The main thing is I want to make sure the team goes well before anything individual; individual achievements are just a bonus." A wise commitment from the 20-year-old - the Eagles have finished in the bottom three for three seasons running and currently sit in a familiar position in the bottom half of the table.

But McKeown believes the tide has turned for the Eagles and the side can finish in the top four this season to qualify for the Statewide Finals Series. The Eagles' hopes of finishing fourth may rest on McKeown's scoring exploits.

McKeown scoring against South Hobart

The Division 2 side coached by Marty Nidorfer were the pre-season cup winners and runners-up in their league competition.

Division 2 Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy Knights	20	15	0	5	69	33	45
New Town Eagles	**20**	**12**	**3**	**5**	**53**	**33**	**39**
Kingborough Lions	19	10	3	6	48	38	33
Uni Dynamo	20	8	4	8	46	36	28
Olympia FC Warriors	19	8	2	9	40	42	26
Southern FC	20	0	0	20	13	87	0

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 12 , J. Vernon 8, B. Michel 7

2010 saw the passing of the influential Don Finegan, who was lured out of "retirement" in the mid-70's by Eagle, to help overhaul the club's playing list, and he was an integral part of a very successful period in the club's history.

⚽Vale Don Finegan

Walter Pless – 3/5/2010

Dominic (Don) Finegan, a mover and shaker in local football circles from the 1950s to the 1970s, passed away in Hobart last Friday at the age of 80.

Don, as he was known, played with South Hobart in the same era as Bert Hudson. He was later to become a leading referee and an administrator with two of the big clubs of the time, Olympia and White Eagles.

Don was a top referee in the 1960s and, after retiring from that facet of the game, became chairman of Olympia in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He also coached Olympia's reserves during his time as chairman of the club.

He then moved to White Eagles for a number of years and served on their committee while also coaching some of their junior sides.

Don's son-in-law, Denis Laing, was a referee at the top level in Hobart during the 80s and 90s, while grandson Owen Laing played for Calies and White Eagles and also turned his hand to refereeing at the same time.

2010's

TWENTY TENS (2010's)

2011, the club's 50th year since its inception in 1961, was the start of a turbulent and traumatic period for the club.

It started with the potential of being a memorable one. The senior side having finished 5th in 2010 just outside the top four, had the ability to not only break into the top four, but to go all the way. The big question mark was whether Krambousanos as coach, could get the consistency out of his players that had been lacking over the past two seasons, that vital ingredient that wins you trophies.

There was no shortage of talent, and in Pitchford (the best keeper in the league), Anderson, Wass, Leszczynski, Gordon and McKeown (who finished runner-up in the Vic Tuting Medal in 2010), you had players in key positions that were some of the best in the state.

Gordon beating his man v Glenorchy Knights

Anderson holding off Marchioli (Kingborough Lions), Clare Street Oval

⚽ Premier battle to rage

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Mar. 9, 2011

THE Southern Premier League soccer season kicks off on Friday in what promises to be a competitive but gruelling 21-game campaign for the eight sides involved. Soccer reporter Julius Ross assesses the title aspirants, top-four favourites and relegation candidates for the forthcoming season.

SOUTH HOBART
Coach: Ken Morton - 2011 prediction: 1st - 2010 finish: 1st - Home Ground: Darcy St. South Hobart

SOUTH will start the 2011 campaign as undisputed favourite to claim a fourth-consecutive title, but the label may come as both a blessing and a burden.

After going undefeated in 2010 to lift the league trophy for a third season running, South has continued its rich vein of form, scooping the Summer Cup-Steve Hudson Cup double last weekend and will be brimming with confidence. But remaining unbeaten in consecutive seasons is unlikely, with most clubs out to topple the champion and end South's recent authority.

Having lost a number of key players from last year's premiership side, South has managed to recruit strongly, signing Luke Huigsloot, Matthew Ferguson and promising striker Brayden Mann, while youth players have also stepped up to fill the void left by outgoing players. South possess strength across the park, with a sturdy back four led by Daniel Brown, a midfield directed by Shae Hickey and a forward line featuring the speedy Kostas Kanakaris.

HOBART ZEBRAS
Coach: Romeo Frediani - Prediction: 2nd - 2010 finish: 2nd - Home Ground: KGV Park, Glenorchy

On paper, Zebras have perhaps the strongest squad in the league and on that basis should be strong title contenders.

The midfield combination of Ricky Self, Jonathan Ladic and Paul Cairns is arguably the most experienced in the competition; while Henry Fagg and Andrew Telega form a strong partnership at the back, with Jayden Welch, Dwayne Walsh and Daniel Lapolla providing firepower up front.

Add to that, eight new signings, Liam Scott, Seth Otte, Sam McIntyre, Adam McIntyre, Luke Cripps, Brett Andrews, Craig Minty and Akuel Guot and Zebras have a fearsome squad. But their hopes for the title rest on whether Romeo Frediani can make the squad gel. Zebras have finished runner-up to South the past three seasons and 2011 provides an excellent opportunity for them to halt South's modern-day dominance.

CLARENCE UNITED
Coach: Andrew Brown - 2011 prediction: 3rd - 2010 finish: 4th - Home Ground: Wentworth Park

At the beginning of 2011, United looked to be in serious strife when a mass exodus of players depleted its senior ranks. It was a worrying sign for Clarence, but the uncertainties were alleviated when they signed three South Koreans - Jae Ho Lee, Seung Woo Park and Kyu Jun Kim - who have illustrated superb technical skill in pre-season.

United added 17-year-old Italian Ben Mascolo to their squad, while a number of players who have stayed loyal to the club, such as Mattias Toghill, Matthew Lewis and Joseph Stevens, will play key roles.

United's new signings have transformed the club's 2011 prospects from potential relegation candidates, to a shot at a top-four finals berth, and with coach Andrew Brown announcing this will be his final year at the club, expect Clarence to fire on all cylinders.

NEW TOWN EAGLES
Coach: George Kramboussanos - 2011 prediction: 4th - 2010 finish: 5th - Ground: Clare St, New Town

The last time Eagles finished in the top four was back in 2000, illustrating the club's perennial struggle in the lower half of the table.

But 2011 brings extra motivation to a club entering its 50th year, which could end the continued battle for finals football. Eagles were only four points off finals qualification last season and have shown signs of steady improvement in the Summer Cup this year.

The team boasts the best goalkeeper in the league in Nathan Pitchford, while striker Adam McKeown who finished runner-up in the Vic Tuting in 2010, has grown into an extremely effective striker.

Eagles have utilised Clare St, which some clubs have coined The Graveyard, to pinch valuable points in big matches and the key to this season will be to add away points to their home tally.

OLYMPIA WARRIORS
Coach: Chris Hey - 2011 prediction: 5th - 2010 finish: 7th - Home Ground: Warriors Park

Olympia started last year with the promising outlook of a new coach, new players and rebadged name and logo, but ended the season with just 13 points and avoided relegation on the final match day.

The outlook is much brighter for the Warriors after an impressive Summer Cup showing this season, but Olympia will have to focus on consistency to ensure it is not dragged into the relegation mire this season.

The club claimed a huge coup in signing veteran goalkeeper Michael McKenna and dual Vic Tuting Medalist Josh Fielding from Knights in January. His experience will blend well with talented teenagers Jayden Hey, Ben Phillips, Brady Cronk, Alex Nandan and Warren Wadawu.

But a big question mark remains over the club's depth, which is integral to Premier League survival, and whether the club's new AstroTurf pitch will provide a home ground advantage.

KINGBOROUGH LIONS
Coach: Geoff Freeman - 2011 prediction: 6th - 2010 finish: 6th - Home Ground: Lightwood Park

Lions underachieved in 2010, losing 11 matches, but they finished just four points shy of the top four and were 11 points clear of the relegation zone. But with a squad packed with genuine ability they should have earned a finals appearance.

The Lions usually intimidating form at The Den, Lightwood Park, waned last season and the team can no longer be confident they can use their home ground advantage to poach points off visiting teams.

They had a mediocre Summer Cup this year, but there are many positives heading into this campaign, namely an influx of quality players, including one of the state's most talented youngsters in Will Abbott, which will strengthen the core playing group.

The Lions failed to roar in 2011, but should produce a more exciting campaign this season.

GLENORCHY KNIGHTS
Coach: Nick Harrison - 2011 prediction: 7th - 2010 finish: 3rd - Home Ground: KGV Park

Knights have finished comfortably in the top four of the Premier League for the past three seasons, but that run is likely to end in 2011.

Much of Knights' recent success has been due to the performances of dual Vic Tuting medalist and club captain Josh Fielding, who made the shock move to Olympia. Couple Fielding's exit with the departure of mercurial striker Amadu Koroma to Melbourne Knights and there is a decent chink in the Knights' armor.

Responsibility will fall to new captain and goalkeeper Ben Peter, Alex Holmes, Tom Sherman and Corey Smith to keep the team focused, but Knights may have to blood some new youngsters.

BEACHSIDE
Coach: Brett Pullen - 2011 prediction: 8th - 2010 finish: 1st [Division One] - Home Ground: Sandown Park

The new boys on the block gained promotion after an undefeated season in Division One last year, but expect that streak to come to a swift end when Beachside start tackling Premier League opposition.

In their first ever foray into the top tier, Beachside will be strong favourites to be bottom of the table come August, despite having sprinkled their squad with promising new signings.

Player-coach Brett Pullen, Nathan Robinson, Bernhard Klasen, Ricky Eaves and Tom Gordon bring a wealth of experience, but as an ageing side, they may struggle.

The season started well, and a good first round saw Eagle third after seven games, the highlight being a draw against South Hobart which showed they could match it with the best. There were some lows however, including a 1-0 loss to Beachside.

Draw has coach smiling

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 21 MAR 2011

NOTHING could separate South Hobart and New Town Eagles in their Premier League match yesterday as they played out a pulsating 1-1 draw.

Eagles consolidated second place on seven points, two behind early league pacesetters Clarence United, while South remain four points adrift in third. "It was a great result," Eagles coach George Kramboussanos said.

"We actually came here to win the game, but the goals were great from both sides. I think we had the better chances in the second half, but credit to both teams, it was one of the better games so far this year. It's going to be a very interesting year."

South came out firing and had a goal on the board after just five minutes, when Eagles fell asleep on a Kostas Kankanaris corner and left Jim Pennicott unmarked, to poke into the Eagles net with ease. But Eagles replied when Ben Whitehall beat his marker in getting to Simon Strang's cut-back and powered home the equaliser on 14 minutes.

In early April, Eagle signed their first import player since the eighties, a 20-year-old Korean Yeon-Sun Jo. A quick, highly technically gifted player, who although lacking a physical side to his game, gave Eagle a different attacking option. His professional approach to training also helped lift the other players in the squad. Unfortunately for Eagle, he was only available for two months, for he would have been very handy in the end of season play-offs.

New Korean import flies to Eagles' nest

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 12 April 2011

New Town Eagles have signed a 20-year-old Korean midfielder-cum-striker in time for their Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League game against Clarence United at Clare Street next Sunday at 2.30pm. Clarence United has three Korean imports in their side and the presence of the Eagles import will add spice to what should be an exciting fixture.

Yeon-Sun Jo has signed for Eagles and will be cleared to play. "We have been looking for another midfielder or striker, and now we have our man," said Eagles coach, George Krambousanos. "We had an opportunity to go for Jo, and we've done it."

"He has already trained with us once and I'm delighted with what I've seen. "He loves the game, and his first touch is excellent, and he'll be a valuable addition to our team." Jo speaks very little English, but there appear to be no communication problems between the player and his new teammates, according to Krambousanos.

"Football speaks all languages and that's certainly the situation in this instance," said Krambousanos. "The club and the players have welcomed him with open arms. "I'll see how his fitness goes and then will decide whether he will play against Clarence."

Eagles close in on ladder leaders

By **JULIUS ROSS**

NEW Town Eagles beat Kingborough Lions 3-1 at home yesterday to move within two points of ladder leader South Hobart, which played last night.

The Eagles have been flying high this season, with only one loss in nine games.

Yesterday's loss was Kingborough's sixth.

"All is going well. The damage was done in the first half," Eagles coach George Krambousanos said.

An excellent chip over the Lions' defence by Michael Anderson opened the door for striker Adam McKeown to slot home the Eagles' opener in the 25th minute.

New Town's Jo Yeong-Sun impressed for the second week running and his cross two minutes later forced Lions' captain Marcello Marchioli to poke the ball into his own net.

Yeong-Sun then put Ben Whitehall's accurate through-ball past Lions' keeper David Leamey in the 31st-minute as the Eagles raced to a 3-0 half-time lead.

The Lions threatened to forge a comeback when Ryan Bevan replied five minutes into the second half but, despite conjuring a number of great chances, they failed to find the net again.

"On the balance of the game, Eagles certainly deserved the result," Lions coach Geoff Freeman said yesterday.

On Friday night, Olympia Warriors suffered their seventh loss of the season, going down 2-1 away against the Hobart Zebras.

The alarm bells have been ringing in the Warriors' camp for some time but grew louder on Friday, with the club facing another weekend at the foot of the table.

There was early hope for the Warriors when Adam Hedge placed an excellent left-foot shot past Troy Kaden in the 28th minute to give Olympia the lead.

Warriors' goalkeeper Mike McKenna then produced a great save to deny Dwayne Walsh from the penalty spot but Walsh made up for his mistake, earning another penalty three minutes later.

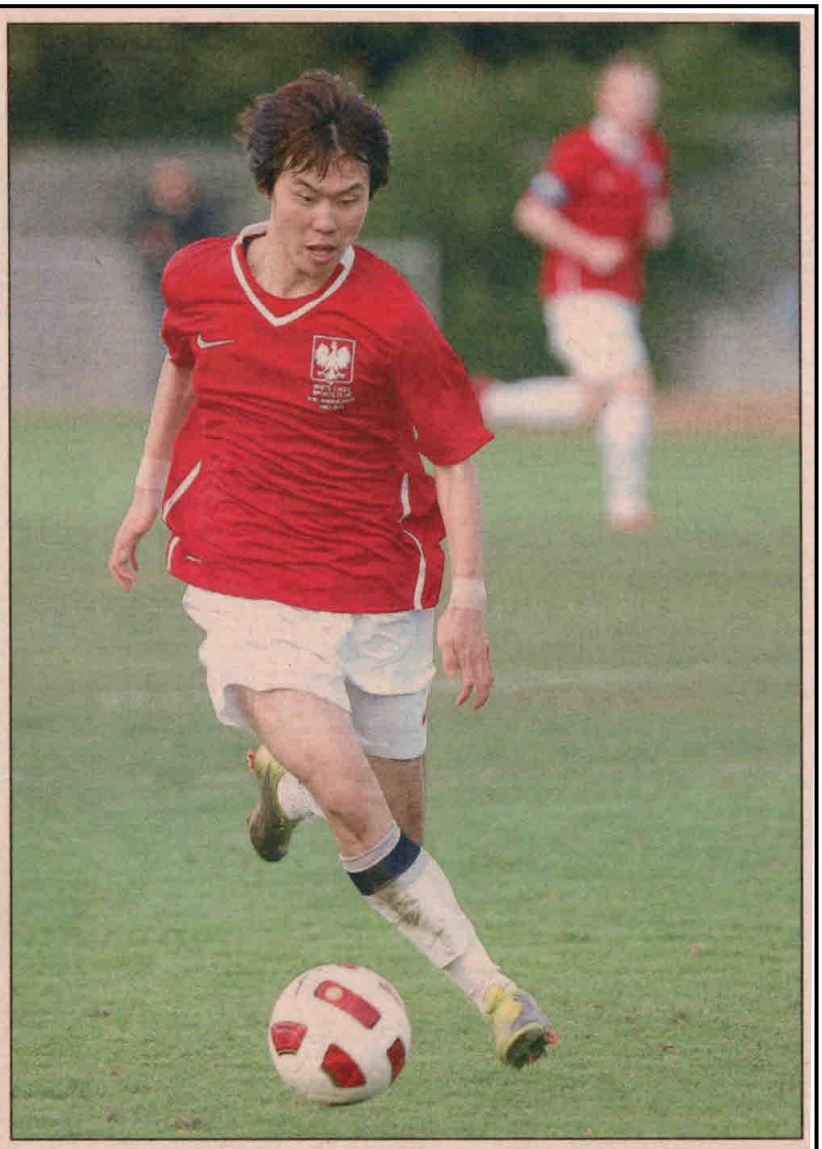
Walsh stood aside for Jonathan Ladic to convert successfully past McKenna to level the score at 1-1.

On the stroke of half-time, the Zebras dealt the final blow.

Luke Cripps released Walsh with a fantastic through-ball and the striker made no mistake.

Hobart dominated in terms of chances in front of goal but Olympia coach Franco Previdi believed his side should have scored a draw.

"I'm disappointed with the result. I thought that we deserved at least a point," Previdi said.



RUNNING HOT: New Town Eagles player Jo Yeong-Sun proved a key play-maker against the Kingborough Lions yesterday. Picture: LUKE BOWDEN

The second round also started well with a win over Olympia, and continued with a 4-0 win over Beachside, but losses to South Hobart 4-1, Zebras 5-2, and Knights 2-0, showed up the inconsistent side of the team. Following the loss to the Knights in early June, the club was rocked by the departure of coach Krambousanos and his assistant Kevin Clamp, who resigned from their posts, citing "inappropriate behaviour of under-19s players who were watching a senior game on the sidelines and a lack of commitment from senior players" as the reasons why they quit.

2011 Senior Team
Back: S. Strang, A. Bates, J. Clamp, M. Anderson, Yeon-Sun Jo, G. Krambousanos (Coach).
Front: Row: A. Clark, b. Whitehall, N. Pitchford, M. Page (Capt.), A. McKeown

⚽ Young louts spur coach to call it quits at Eagles

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 15 JUNE 2011

NEW Town Eagles coach George Krambousanos surprisingly pulled the plug on his reign as senior coach on Monday following his side's 2-0 loss to Glenorchy Knights. However, a disheartened Krambousanos stated after the match the result was not the determining factor in his decision to call it quits.

Instead, Krambousanos cited inappropriate behaviour of under-19s players who were watching the senior game on the sidelines and a lack of commitment from senior players. Krambousanos was displeased at the club's failure to take action and control the behaviour of the youth-team spectators who were close to the coaches' technical area.

"It's OK to be able to play football, but you need to help one another, you need to talk, you need to communicate," Krambousanos said. "I'm a sad man to be honest with you because there are some good lads here. "I still need to talk to the committee, but I've had enough, maybe a change for them might help them a little bit and a change will help me a lot, I know that for sure."

There were also suggestions Krambousanos was ready to resign following his side's 4-1 loss to South Hobart three weeks ago, when he cited his senior players were lacking commitment. Eagles had been flying high at the start of the season but have lost three matches in a row, which has seen them slide down the table from second to fourth in recent weeks.

Krambousanos was replaced by Steven Pitchford, father of goalkeeper Nathan, who was already acquainted with Eagles having served as caretaker coach for a period in 2008.

⚽ Stephen Pitchford speaks about his appointment as new Eagles coach

Walter Pless | Friday, 24 June 2011

Stephen Pitchford is the new coach of New Town Eagles for the remainder of the current Premier League season. The 52-year-old is looking forward to arresting Eagles' recent slump in form and I spoke to him about the challenge ahead.

Walter Pless: Tell me about your playing career.

Stephen Pitchford: U14 Southern team, U15 &U16 State teams, Metro U19's at 13 and seniors at 15. Played at Metro from 1972 until about 1996 – winning a few club B&F and top goal-scorer awards. Then at PO Saints, DOSA, New Town Eagles, Croatia Glenorchy and Metro Socials.

WP: What coaching qualifications do you have?

SP: I successfully participated in the Youth Licence Goalkeeping course held by the VSF and run by Jim Fraser in Melbourne in December 2002. I completed a Youth Licence Coaching Course (FFT- David Abela) in November 2005. In December 2005 I successfully completed a Futsal Level One Coaching course (FFV). Completed the Senior Licence Course (FFT- David Abela) in November 2007 and the new Goalkeeping Coaches Certificate (FFT – Dean May) in January 2011. Referees Instructor Level 2 (FFA)

WP: Tell me about your coaching career.

SP: Player-coach at Metro in early 1990's. Reserves coach Glenorchy Knights 1995. Player-coach at DOSA – two stints – second as non-playing. Assistant coach Southern-U13 and U14 development squads in 2002, 2003. Coach of Zebras U18s in 2004. Assistant coach New Town Eagles 2008.

WP: What is your aim at Eagles for the rest of the season?

SP: To finish in top 4 and thereby have the players gain some finals experience.

WP: Is this an appointment just for the rest of this season?

SP: Yes, with the club and myself reviewing at season end.

WP: How do you view the culture at Eagles, given that it has come under some criticism?

SP: Senior squad is a close-knit bunch. Sometimes support from other squads and supporters has been over the top in terms of actions and/or words, but given the numbers at training this week across the top three squads there is a healthy commitment which bodes well for the rest of the season.

WP: Is it hard to have a son in the senior squad?

SP: Not for the most part. Nathan has established his place in the squad through his commitment to the team and club despite living in Launceston. We don't always agree on tactics when United play Arsenal, but both appreciate each other's views.

WP: How does this appointment affect your position as chair of the Referees' Standing Committee?

SP: When it appeared that a senior coaching role was a possibility, I informed FFT that I would be standing down as Chair of the Referees Standing Committee to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest.

WP: What is the hardest thing about coaching in Tasmania?

SP: Most coaches have full-time jobs outside of the coaching role. This means that not only the coach, but close and extended family are impacted. Time spent in attendances at training, and games and cub functions are publicly seen but there is significant other time devoted to research, planning and internal club/player communications that I believe most don't understand or appreciate. The lack of easily accessible coaching development opportunities is also an issue in Tasmania. The time and funds required to achieve higher coaching qualifications, such as C Licence, means that few coaches get exposure to advanced coaching methods in a structured learning environment.

Pitchford quickly turned the club's focus away from off-field issues to on-field success and helped stabilise an already close-knit playing group.

A draw against Olympia whilst between coaches, saw Eagle in 4th place with two thirds of the season's matches played. The draws continued, against Clarence, Kingborough and Beachside, before an exhilarating 2-1 win over South Hobart, who had previously been undefeated for 63 games. Another draw against Zebras was followed by a loss to Knights, and fourth place was looking anything but certain. Yet another draw, 3-3 with Clarence in the final game, secured fourth place and a spot in the finals with seven wins, nine draws and five losses.

South's 63-game win streak ends

By **JULIUS ROSS**

Double victory for the Eagles

SOUTH Hobart suffered a premiership hangover yesterday as they capitulated 1-2 away to New Town Eagles just a week after wrapping up the Southern Premier League title.

Eagles delivered a double blow at Clare St by halting South's celebrated unbeaten run, which had extended to 63 matches.

Many had predicted that with four games remaining South would go a second season without loss.

However, Eagles produced a valiant and spirited display to undo South's record run.

"It's a big achievement, South have won for 60-odd games ... we will always be the team that stopped that run," Eagles coach Steven Pitchford said.

"I thought it was a fantastic effort by our boys ... the three points are very important at this stage of the season for us."

Eagles gave themselves a huge boost for a top-four finish by drawing level on 28 points with third-placed Clarence United.

Eagles fell behind early when Liam Scott turned in Luke Huigsloot's cross in the 15th minute, but then responded when Ben Whitehall curled a sensational free kick into the top corner of the South net in the 37th minute.

Eagles suffered two first-half injuries and were forced to restructure, but continued to fight South's attacking forays in the second period.

They were rewarded when Adam McKeown slotted Josh Quan in on goal and Quan dinked the ball over the advancing Sam Kruijver with 12 minutes remaining, for an historic win.

"Disappointed to lose in the manner in which we lost today, having said that, congratulations to Eagles; they worked very hard and took their opportunities and got themselves three valuable points," South coach Ken Morton said.

> "I thought it was a fantastic effort by our boys

On Friday night, Clarence United and Hobart Zebras played an eight-goal thriller at KGV Park.

Both teams started slowly, but found their rhythm in the final 10 minutes of the first half as a Ben Hamlett double and a Jayden Welch strike saw the match tightly poised at 2-1 to Clarence at the break.

Clarence sacrificed a one-goal lead on three occasions in the second half, as Henry Fagg, Andrew Telega and Ricky Self cancelled out the lead Hamlett had established and Kyu Jun Kim and William Malovenek had extended.

Self's strike, the all-important final equaliser, came in the 90th minute.

Premier League Final Standings 2011

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	3	2	77	22	51
Tilford Zebras	21	11	7	3	65	40	40
Clarence United	21	9	8	4	42	45	35
New Town Eagles	21	**7**	**9**	**5**	**42**	**40**	**30**
Kingborough Lions	21	9	2	10	42	47	29
Glenorchy Knights	21	5	5	11	31	51	20
Olympia Warriors	21	5	4	12	34	53	19
Beachside	21	1	4	16	22	57	7

Leading Goalscorers: A. McKeown 17, Alexander Leszczynski, Jo Yeong-Sun 4

The finals campaign was always going to be a difficult one. The win over Northern Premiers, Prospect Knights, was a fantastic event for the club. A hat-trick from Eagles' top marksman Adam McKeown, gave Eagle a 3-1 win. It gave supporters reward, for their faith in the playing group, and a belief that Eagle were a good football side.

The win over Devonport in the semi-final was extremely hard on the players, as it was a very physical game for the entire 90+ minutes. With goals from Clamp, McKeown, and Gordon, a 3-2 win was achieved against the odds, and a final spot secured. To succeed on the road for the second week in a row, was indeed a surprise to those outside the club, but a real expectation from within the playing group.

⚽ Time to settle the scores

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 27/8/2011

One last chance for glory remains in Tasmanian soccer for four northern and four southern sides as the Statewide Finals series kicks off this afternoon.

Hobart Zebras vs Devonport City, KGV Park, 12.30pm
Devonport City will be kicking themselves after dropping points against their two major rivals in the final two weeks of the league season, to hand the Northern Premier League title to the Prospect Knights last weekend. That may provide extra motivation for coach Tom McGinn's men, who will be out to rectify their errors against Zebras. But City should be concerned about their form.

"Three or four weeks ago, I would have said we'd have a very good chance in the finals, but the last three weeks we've really stumbled," McGinn said.

Zebras coach Romeo Frediani will also be disappointed his squad is yet to win any silverware this season, but with a fully fit side, the Zebras may hit their straps at the right time. "Devonport have always been a tough team and this week will be no exception, but we'll continue to play attacking football," Frediani said. Zebras have big-match players in Ricky Self, Jonathan Ladic and Luke Cripps to see them over the line, but City boasts Chris McKenna, the state's top scorer with 28 goals.

Prospect Knights vs New Town Eagles, Prospect Park, 2pm
Prospect Knights have been on cloud nine after securing their first Northern Premier League title in 52 years. But they will have to quickly readjust their focus against a strong Eagles outfit that claimed the scalp of South Hobart earlier this year. Knights has averaged three goals a game this season and boasts talented striker Matthew Sessay and experienced midfielder Ben Crosswell.

Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford is wary of that record, but will have a shot-stopper in son and keeper Nathan, who is back from suspension.

Northern Rangers vs Clarence United, NTCA, 2pm
Rangers and Clarence meet in the knockout stage for the third year running and a close final is expected, considering penalties in 2009 and extra time in 2010 were needed to determine a winner. Rangers will enter this match bitterly disappointed, after conceding their Northern Premier League title on the final day of the season. "We're obviously looking for a good run in the Cup to make up for last week's disappointment," Rangers coach Adam Whitemore said. Rangers' best and fairest Derek Schipper and Todd Hingston will be key in the midfield.

United will be at full strength and will attempt to expose Rangers with Jae Ho Lee and Kyu Jin Kim, who have scored 10 goals each this season.

South Hobart vs Ulverstone KGV Park, 3pm
With coach Ken Morton's South Hobart seeking a second consecutive treble, Ulverstone presents an interesting first challenge for the Southern Premier League and Milan Lakoseljac Trophy winners. South was humiliated in their last game after reshuffling their line-up to test out some youngsters, and was punished by Olympia Warriors 1-3.

"We didn't defend well last weekend, we need to lift the confidence, to defend well as a team and go forward from there," Morton said. Morton has brought back his big guns, including captain Daniel Brown, and South is ready for Ulverstone. Former Ulverstone product Brayden Mann may be a key figure against his old team, but South are likely to look to experienced players such as Tom Roach and Shae Hickey to dictate the pace of the match.

⚽ Southern rivals await in finals

Mark Baker – The Examiner - Aug. 26, 2011

BRAGGING rights are up for grabs today when the top four Northern Premier League sides face their Southern rivals in the state final series.

Northern champions Prospect Knights play New Town Eagles, who finished fourth on goal difference. Sean Harris comes into the starting 11 as Chris Pickering is unavailable. Coach Dane Hudson said his side knew very little about New Town but was looking forward to its first outing as Northern premier.

Adam McKeown has scored 17 times for the Eagles this season and finished only one goal off the Golden Boot award won by South Hobart's Andy Brennan. New Town also beat South Hobart this season, which was only the side's second loss in more than 50 games.

Northern Rangers resume their rivalry with Clarence United with the honours even after three games with a win each and a 2-2 draw. Coach Adam Whitemore said Luke Tuma will replace Gabriel Tams, while decisions about one or two players struggling for fitness will be made this morning.

Whitemore said Clarence would match Rangers formation-wise, and their Korean imports would certainly be a test. "We're looking forward to a really big challenge, but are confident of getting the result," he said.

"Games against Southern opposition are always difficult as they play in a league where the overall quality and intensity of games is much higher. We've got the quality to beat them, but will need to match that intensity and work rate."

Third-placed Devonport City has an early road trip to play Tilford Zebras at 12.30pm at KGV. Kieran Mulraney is unavailable for the Strikers, with a few players, including captain and NPL Golden Boot Chris McKenna, struggling with niggling injuries.

Coach Tom McGinn said he wanted his side to start playing in the first minute of the match, not the 46th minute as it had been in recent weeks. "We just want to play our own game and hopefully start to take our chances," he said.

Ulverstone faces the tough task of playing Southern premier South Hobart, which is coming off a 3-1 loss in its last league game of the year against Olympia FC.

⚽ Devonport keeps finals hopes alive

Mark Baker – The Examiner – 27/8/2011

DEVONPORT City remains the only Northern Premier League side in the statewide final series after Prospect Knights, Northern Rangers and Ulverstone lost yesterday.

Northern premiers Knights bowed out after giving up a 1-0 half-time lead, to lose 3-1 against New Town Eagles. A flat Knights took time to get into the match, but went ahead after Matty Sesay was dragged down in the box by keeper Nathan Pitchford, and Greg Duffy slotted home the spot kick. New Town equalised when Adam McKeown headed in a corner at the front post after the restart.

McKeown got his second when he was allowed time to trap the ball in the box and shoot, and got his hat trick from the spot, after he was fouled in the box.

Tilford Zebras had the better of the first half against Devonport, and went ahead when Ricky Self's drive from 20 yards took a terrible bounce over the keeper. Nathan Gratton made it 1-1, 10 minutes into the second half, when he brought the ball down in the area, and slotted a goal from six yards.

Daniel McGinn put Devonport ahead five minutes later, after being played through one-on-one by Chris McKenna, with the captain making it 3-1 when he headed in Simon Wilson's cross.

Rangers conceded a goal 10 minutes either side of half time against Clarence United, with the first looping over goalkeeper Marshall Pooley, and the second going through his legs on a short corner. Clarence was awarded a penalty after the ball bounced up off a player's foot and hit his hand to make it 3-0. Chris Hunt pulled a goal back for Rangers, when he finished off Andrew Nicholson's pass, but they could not finish any more of their chances.

Ulverstone took it up to South Hobart in the first half, but conceded two unlucky goals from Liam Scott, including a deflected shot and a high ball misjudged by the keeper. South Hobart were too good after the interval, putting three more goals past Ulverstone, including two from their former striker Brayden Mann and one from Hugh Ludford.

RESULTS

Prospect Knights 1 lost to New Town Eagles 3, Northern Rangers 1 lost to Clarence United 3, Tilford Zebras 1 lost to Devonport City 3, South Hobart 5 def. Ulverstone 0

⚽ Grand final spot awaits Devonport

Mark Baker – The Examiner - Sep. 2, 2011

DEVONPORT City can book a place in the state grand final next Sunday, with a win against New Town Eagles today. The Strikers need to win at Valley Road, to secure a final appearance, after the A-League clash between Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar at Aurora Stadium.

Kieran Mulraney comes back into the squad, but coach Tom McGinn would probably go with the same starting 11 that beat Tilford Zebras 3-1 last week. The game holds even more significance for Devonport, as it will be McGinn's last game in charge after five years. He is travelling to the UK next week with his son Daniel, 15, who has trials at several clubs.

"I'd love to see the boys get through to the grand final," McGinn said. "For the guys to take the same field as professional A-League players would be fantastic, and I'd expect a lot of the real soccer fans to stick around, so it would be an experience they'll never forget."

McGinn said a lot of the talk this season had been about Devonport being a one player side, dependent on captain and Northern Premier League Golden Boot Chris McKenna. "You can always rely on Chris to get you one or two goals, but the key for us is the other players who have to get up there." McGinn said 2011 had been a tough year for Devonport, as it had never really played 90 minutes of soccer.

"The problem with Devonport is that it has been a second half team, and we can't afford to keep coming back from 2-0 down at half time," he said. "We have to get into it from the first minute not the 46th."

Eagles using road trip to stay focused for finals

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] – Sep. 3, 2011

NEW Town Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford is unfazed by his side's second journey up north in as many weeks in the Statewide Finals series.

Pitchford believes the four-hour trip to Valley Road, to face Devonport City at 2pm today, will be beneficial, allowing his side more time to focus on the task at hand: advancing past City to the competition's final.

Eagles were drawn against northern Premier League champions Prospect Knights, at Prospect Park in the quarter final; a fixture they were expected to lose, but they upset the Northern Premier League champions 3-1.

"The boys performed very well up in Launceston last week, and we don't think the longer trip this week will be detrimental; it will give us more time to concentrate on the game," Pitchford said. Eagles will go into the match against City, with an unchanged line-up, with the hope of reaching a first Statewide final in over a decade.

City coach Tom McGinn is wary of the threat posed by the Eagles, but will avoid converting to a man-marking structure to negate deadly striker Adam McKeown. "They're in excellent form; they've knocked off both the Southern and Northern Premier League champions in the past six weeks," McGinn said.

McGinn will take heart from his side's 3-1 away victory over Hobart Zebras last week, and will welcome back Kieran Mulraney, which bolsters his squad. In a repeat of the 2009 final, Clarence United and South Hobart will clash at 4.30pm at KGV Park in the second semi.

United were victorious 3-1 in 2009, but only Michael Moschogianis, Joseph Stevens, Matthew Lewis and Mattias Toghill remain with Clarence from that squad.

Luke Huigsloot, who scored the decisive two goals in the final, has since made the switch from Clarence to South, which makes for a tantalising showdown against his former club.

But Clarence coach Andrew Brown now has a talented trio of Koreans, Kyu Jun Kim, Jae Ho Lee and Yeon Sun Jo, while South has a formidable squad, arguably more talented than two years ago.

"We'll have to play well, defend well and be creative in attack," Morton said.

Semi Final - Results:
Devonport 2 Lost to New Town Eagles 3 (1-2), South Hobart 3 defeated Clarence 0 (2-0)

Eagles out to halt South juggernaut

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 10/9/2011

NEW Town Eagles last statewide success was in 1997, but the club may draw inspiration from more modern soccer history, when it faces favourites South Hobart in the Statewide Grand Final tomorrow at Aurora Stadium.

Nine weeks ago, Eagles became the first club in 63 games to halt the unbeaten South juggernaut, inflicting an historic 2-1 defeat on the league champions, a week after they had wrapped up the title. That match may have been effectively a dead rubber for South, but Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford believes his side has improved even more since the encounter and presents a formidable challenge.

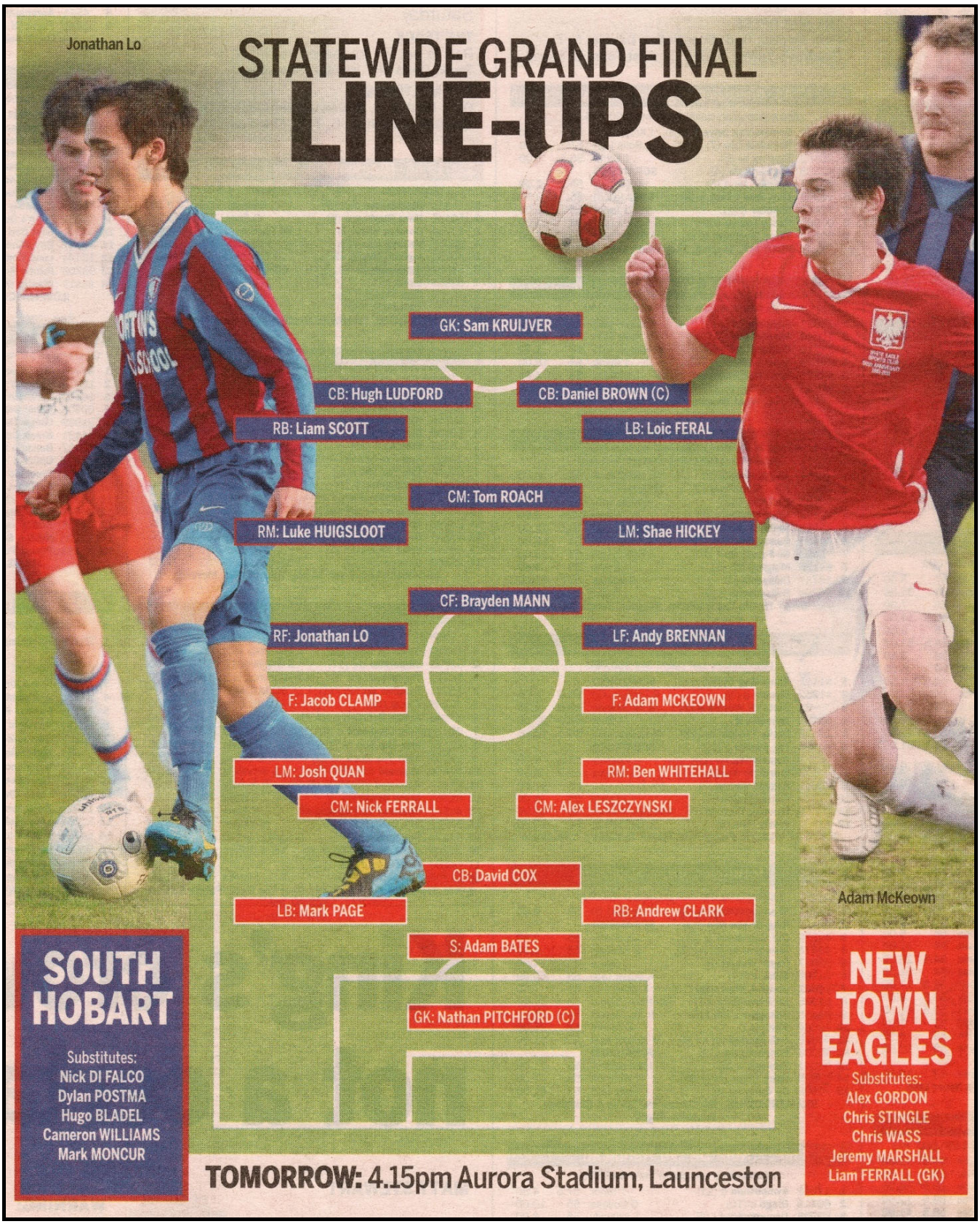
"We've played much better over the last couple of weeks [than we did against South]," Pitchford said.

Eagles, one of the finals series underdogs, have been in white-hot form to knock out Northern Premier League Champions Prospect Knights, and Devonport City, and will field a fit, unchanged line-up. "In the second half of the Prospect game, I think we showed that we can apply ourselves for the full 90 minutes which is what is required to get a result over South," Pitchford said.,

With their last Statewide triumph 14 years ago, victory tomorrow would be an incredible way to cap off the club's 50th year. "We're just concentrating on winning the game, rather than thinking about what it might mean afterwards," Pitchford said. "You don't get to play in grand finals that often, so you need to take your chances when you can."

"Everyone is in high spirits; we'll go into the game confident, confident but respectful," Morton said. "We know what Eagles did to us, and we know what they have, they're good fighters and are dangerous. Ben Whitehall is a hell of a good crosser of the ball, McKeown is a great finisher, and the team has a lot of physical strength as well.

Last week's 3-0 semi-final win over tricky foe Clarence United, was overshadowed in the dying seconds, when right-back Jim Pennicott twisted his knee and tore his ACL joint, ruling him out of the final. Liam Scott is his likely replacement, allowing Jonathan Lo to retain his starting spot. The match is at 4.15pm.



The Grand Final against South Hobart was as expected, an intense affair. South played their normal possession game, but after having fallen behind in the 18th minute, Eagles equalised on the stroke of half time through Nick Ferrall, to engender fear in their opponents, that they could repeat their round 18 success. Although both sides had chances to score, the game remained tied at the end of normal time. Extra-time of 30 minutes, was to prove just one bridge too far, and South went on to win 3-1.

South Hobart grabs title

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Sep. 12, 2011

SOUTH Hobart was crowned statewide champions yesterday in a gruelling grand final against a courageous New Town Eagles outfit which succumbed 3-1 in extra-time at Aurora Stadium. Eagles pushed the reigning Southern Premier League champion all the way in 90 minutes, forcing the match into extra-time after the sides were locked at 1-1. South had led through Shae Hickey's excellent curling strike on 18 minutes, but Nick Ferrall equalised in first-half injury time with a well-placed shot past South keeper Sam Kruijver.

The next 45 minutes failed to separate the sides as Eagles challenged South's superiority, but the breakthrough came in the 100th minute, when Tom Roach's left-footed goal gave South the advantage in added time. As bodies tired, South's captain Daniel Brown was dismissed for a second yellow, allowing Eagles a glimmer of hope.

Eagles stopper Nathan Pitchford outstanding to deny South several times, but Andy Brennan rounded the keeper and scored into an empty net to seal the result with five minutes remaining.

The victory gave South its third major trophy in 2011, completing a clean-sweep and second treble in two seasons. "We made it a bit of battle; we maybe should have had the game finished in the first half and we certainly had enough chances in normal play, but you've got to give credit to Eagles, they kept battling away," South coach Ken Morton said. Eagles were aiming to end their club's 50th year on a high, but despite their daring and endeavour, they were unable to complete a fairytale run.

"The boys were asked to give 100 per cent and it’s pretty obvious given their state at the end of the game they didn't leave anything out there," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said.

Alexander Leszczynski tries to clear a corner under intense pressure from Andy Brennan

Division 3 – 2011 – Runners up – Coached by Ben Michel
Back: F. McCann (Manager), l. Gregory, A. Swadling, A. Russell, D. Kruijver, J. Cairns, C. Andree, R. Wilson, C. O'Brien, B. Michel (Coach) **Front:** D. Grabek, N, Knight, C Crawford, R. Ketchell, K. Lebski, D. Reeve, A, Kelly, B. Leonard, J. McGuffie, G. Newton
Absent: M. Murray, J. McCann

Division 3 - Final Standings - 2011

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia FC	18	15	1	2	57	19	46
New Town Eagles	**18**	**15**	**1**	**2**	**55**	**19**	**46**
Phoenix Rovers	18	9	4	5	50	37	31
University	18	8	6	4	41	28	30
Clarence United	18	7	3	8	36	33	24
Barnstoneworth	18	6	4	7	33	41	22
Taroona	18	5	4	9	34	44	19
Kingborough Lions	18	5	2	10	31	45	17
Beachside	18	3	1	14	25	56	10
Nelson	18	2	0	14	22	62	6

Leading Goalscorers: J. Cairns 20, N. Knight 10

Division 3 players, Michael Murray and Jack McCann

50th Year Celebrations

In April 2011, Eagles celebrated their 50th Anniversary, with a dinner held at the Bellerive Cricket Ground, with 180 in attendance. Also, as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations, soccer writer Walter Pless conducted a number of interviews leading up the big event.

David Stoddart is one of the great names in New Town Eagles history

Walter Pless | Thursday, 03 March 2011

A brilliant midfielder and a Tasmanian representative, the 44-year-old now resides in Melbourne. But he does come back to Hobart frequently and watches New Town Eagles play. He will definitely be attending the 50th anniversary celebrations of the club, scheduled for 8-10 April this year.

Stoddart was a role model for all young players. I do hope that youngsters who may be struggling to earn a place in a team, or whose team is struggling against the odds at present, read this interview because Stoddart's career clearly shows that the difficult times can be followed by the good times, as long as one works hard and makes the most of one's skills.

The interview also brings out the importance of team stability and team-work. The best Eagles team in which Stoddart played often went unchanged, week in, week out. We tend to forget that in this day and age, when clubs often field a different side each week and when making substitutions almost seems an integral part of the game.

I caught up with David in Melbourne and asked him about his time with Eagles.

Walter Pless **(WP)**: Are you playing football in Melbourne?
David Stoddart **(DS)**: I played for a few years with Melbourne Uni but haven't played for about 3 years.

WP: When did you first join White Eagles?
DS: I started playing U/13 for Eagles in 1979 and did so until I left for Melbourne.

WP: When did you first play in the seniors?
DS: In 1983, when I was 16. I was one of a number of youngsters who played in the infamous 1983 campaign, when we got relegated. I recall one game where the entire midfield were 16-year-olds and playing against quality opposition. It wasn't pretty, but that hard year certainly made you appreciate the successful years that came later.

WP: How long were you with the club, and how long were you in the seniors?
DS: I played with the seniors from 1983 until 2001 or 2002, and then moved to Melbourne in 2003.

WP: Which was the best Eagles team you played in, and why was it the best team?
DS: As far as results go, the 1997 team won everything, so it has to be up there. In terms of the best quality, the period between 1988 and 1991 produced four premierships and the team just had a will to win that is hard to replicate. We were lucky enough to have a very stable team for quite a while and a number of us had developed together and were very committed to each other as a team. We approached every game believing we were going to win, not through cockiness, but through a belief that we could outscore the opposition. The records will show that we drew very few games and often had the best goal-difference, despite conceding quite a few. Even when we went behind, we always thought we could peg it back. We had a very fortunate and rare combination of high quality and huge determination. An examination of the old tables from 1988-1991 says it all. Played 75, Won 62, Drawn 6, Lost 7, For 241, Against 86.

WP: You must have worked under several coaches. Who were they and what influence did they have on you?
DS: All of them have their particular aspects which you could highlight. Eugene Mycak certainly instilled a high level of professionalism, fitness and determination that would still be a benchmark today. Mark and Andrew Leszczynski allowed you to play with freedom and to enjoy yourself. But I've also worked under Steve Darby and for some representative games, Ken Morton and Alex McDonald.

WP: What do you think of the State League concept in Tasmania?
DS: As someone who's been through just about every model there is, I really enjoyed the State League days. Travelling to the away games was a great bonding process. It gave variety to the season, while still maintaining the local rivalries with your own region's teams. Unfortunately, in the previous incarnation, Northern teams got relegated each year to the point that I think there were 8 southern teams and only 2 northern teams.

WP: Which position did you play, and what was your role in the team?
DS: Pretty much my whole career was in an attacking central-midfield role. Generally, my role was to be the distributor to the forward line and then get forward as much as possible. With players like the Leszczynski's and Colin Shepherd, it wasn't too hard. I also enjoyed a year playing at full back and occasionally went up forward.

WP: Who were the best players you played with?
DS: At Eagles, the most talented player I played with was Andrew Leszczynski. But I was also lucky enough to play with Richard, Mark and Chris Leszczynski, Scott Young, Colin Shepherd and Neil Morrison for long periods. Peter Groenewoud was the best keeper and, barring injuries (and the occasional howler), would have had a long career in the National League. As far as opposition players go, I always enjoyed playing against Ian Parker, Craig Nichols, Sergio Pace, Brett Pullen. I think Romeo Frediani was one of the best around until his bad injury.

WP: Which personal honours have you won in Tasmania?
DS: I was lucky enough to win some individual awards. I think it was 8 Eagles best-and-fairest awards, a Vic Tuting Silver Medal, and a goal-scoring award. But the premierships and cups outweigh those things in importance quite comfortably.

WP: Will you be attending the Eagles reunion?
DS: I certainly will be, and I hope to catch up with many old friends that weekend.

Andrew Leszczynski still a prominent figure at New Town Eagles

Walter Pless | Wednesday, 06 April 2011

Andrew Leszczynski is one of New Town Eagles' greatest players and he played in some of the club's finest and most successful teams. This weekend is Eagles' 50th anniversary and the 46-year-old Leszczynski is looking forward to the celebrations and to playing in a veterans' match on Saturday. I spoke to Andrew about his career, the club and the 50th anniversary event.

Walter Pless **(WP)**: When did you first start playing for Eagles?
Andrew Leszczynski **(AL)**: In 1978, in the under-15s coached by Eamonn Kelly.

WP: How long did you play for Eagles?
AL: In the seniors from 1980 until 1995. I coached the seniors from 1997 to 1998 and I've been playing in the club's Division 3 side from 2000 until last year. I'll be playing in the Eagles' Over-35 side this season.

WP: Is this coming weekend and the 50th anniversary celebrations special to you?
AL: Very special. I have spent a large part of my life either supporting, coaching, playing or helping administer the club. All my closest life-long friendships have been forged through my involvement with the club.

WP: Which was the best Eagles team you played in?
AL: Definitely the 1988-91 period, when we won four premierships and numerous cup competitions. We had a very settled squad with only minimal changes each year and those changes usually made the side stronger. We had a great appetite for not only winning but trying to win in style. Our aim in every game was to try and attack and put goal pressure on the opposition and, because we had so many goal-scoring options, we were very difficult to contain for a whole game.

WP: Was it strange to have three of your brothers in the team with you?
AL: Not at the time, but looking back now, it was an amazing achievement for the family. We had all areas covered as Chris was a full-back, Mark played in central defence, I played in mid-field for much of my senior career, and Richard played up front. Eagles has had an amazing number of brothers and sisters that have played for the club over the years.

WP: Which honours did you win with Eagles, at a personal level, and at a team level?
AL: Eagles' 'Best and Fairest' award in 1983 and 1987, Eagles' senior leading goalscorer in 1983, 1987 and 1988.As a player, I won premierships in 1981, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1995. We have won every cup, and most more than once. These included the Summer Cup, the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy, the Charity Cup, and the State-wide Cup. As senior coach, we won everything in 1997, the year I was named as the FFT Coach of the Year.

WP: Will you ever coach at senior level again?
AL: I don't know. I was senior coach from 1997 until 1998 and I've been coaching the Eagles' under-13s since 2010.

WP: Which was the most memorable game you played in?
AL: There are many to choose from, but one which really sums up Eagles in my playing career was a game against Olympia (coached by Eugene Mycak) in the 1993/94 Summer season. I was coming back from injury and was a substitute. We were being outplayed and were trailing 3-0 at half-time. Dale Itchins, the senior coach at the time, put me on at the start of the second half at left midfield with instructions for the team to really go for it. We attacked from the start, got an early goal and were starting to get on top, but because we were pushing a lot of players forward, we left ourselves exposed a bit at the back and Olympia had a great one-on-one chance with our keeper, Allan Wisby, to probably seal the game and stop our fight back. Wisby pulled off a fantastic save that basically kept us in the game and, from there, we just steamrolled them and ended up winning 5-3 and we should have won by more. It was great to be part of this game and I scored the equaliser, which made it better. This game is a good example of our resilience and sheer desire to win, despite seemingly being down and out.

WP: Can you remember the best goal you ever scored?
AL: It was in a game in 1983, the year that we got relegated, and it was at KGV against Olympia. It was towards the end of the game, and I received a pass just inside my own half, near the scoreboard side of the ground. I took off on a run down the line and I was being chased by Olympia's right-fullback, John Paplos. As we got closer to the goal, the Olympia central defender, Michael Edwards, came across to give the full-back a hand, and just as they were about to tackle me, I cut inside both of them. I was now just outside the corner of the box and, although I had no-one in front of me, I decided to shoot. I hit a perfect rising shot that the keeper, Robert Harrison, basically could only watch hit the back stanchion in the opposite top corner. Unfortunately, we lost that game 8-1.

WP: How was your scoring record?
AL: I probably missed more than I scored, but I usually managed double figures each year that I played, except in 1995, in my last senior-team season, where I played full-back. Scott Young wasn't too keen on letting me past the half-way line.

WP: What is the future of the club?

AL: Although the last 10 years have been disappointing compared to the previous 20, I do think that in the last few seasons we have turned the corner, and are starting to show the sort of application required to succeed on a regular basis. It would be nice in our 50th year to really have a tilt at some silverware.

Eagles mark 50 years of club achievement

JULIUS ROSS 15/6/2011

NEW Town Eagles will embark on a trip down memory lane this Saturday as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. The club has organised a "past versus present" match as a curtain-raiser to the southern Premier League fixture against Hobart Zebras at Clare Street, to revive Eagles history on the pitch. Kicking off at 10.30am, the past versus present match will pit former Eagles players from the previous five decades against the club's leading under-18 and under-19 players.

The squads will change for each half so more than 30 former players can relive their individual contribution to the club over the past 50 years. "The match will tie in all of the decades the club has been involved in the local game and the links and the friendships made through the club and the game will be evident," organiser Martin Nidorfer said.

"It will highlight that soccer is not only a pathway to keep fit but it is also a pathway socially as well." Several past players have been in training for the occasion in order that spectators can witness a glimpse of their former glory. "Some of them have been training since January," Nidorfer said. "These guys are quite serious, and they've made sure they will be match-fit for the occasion. "They're all keen on getting a kick and catching up over the weekend for the celebrations."

Some of the club's leading former players, such as David Stoddart, have made their way down from the mainland, while Bogdan Dora, a member of the Eagles' inaugural side, will take the kick-off for the second half with current senior coach George Krambousanos.

Zebras almost spoiled Eagles' party

Forestry Tasmania Southern Tasmania Premier League (Clare Street, Saturday, 9 April 2011) – Walter Pless

New Town Eagles 3 (McKeown 23, Leszczynski 70 pen, 90)
Tilford Zebras 3 (Walsh 52 pen, Welch 61, Ladic 84) - HT: 1-0 Att: 120 Ref: C Phillips

New Town Eagles: Pitchford - Clark, Bates, N Ferrall, Page - Whitehall (Leszczynski 68), Strang, Anderson (Cox 68), Barabara - Gordon (Clamp 68), McKeown (Subs not used: Quan, Vernon)

Tilford Zebras: Kaden - Fagg, Telega, Muller, Hall - Welch (Cripps 74), Ladic, McIntyre, Andrews, Scott - Walsh (Subs not used: Guot, Minty, L Engels)

New Town Eagles almost had their 50th anniversary celebrations spoiled by Tilford Zebras, but an excellent goal in the final minute enabled them to salvage a point. Zebras started the better side and should have scored at least three times but for poor finishing and the alertness and skill of Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford. Eagles took the lead through a counter-attack midway through the opening half, Juma Barabara's lob from the left enabling Adam McKeown to advance on goal and beat Troy Kaden with his shot. There was a doubt about the legality of the goal as McKeown appeared to control the ball with his arm, but Mr Phillips was in no doubt and let the goal stand.

Zebras did not equalise until 7 minute after the break. Michael Anderson pushed Brett Andrews in the back as he went for Henry Fagg's free-kick floated into the box and Mr Phillips correctly awarded the visitors a penalty, which was despatched by Dwayne Walsh. Zebras hit the front just past the hour-mark when Matt Hall attacked down the left and played the ball square for Jayden Welch to score from close range. Walsh almost added a third, but his shot flew narrowly wide of the far right-hand post.

That was the signal for Eagles coach George Krambousanos to bring on all three of his substitutes in an endeavour to swing things Eagles' way. It worked, and Eagles equalised in the 70th minute through a penalty awarded for Hall's foul on Barabara. Alex Leszczynski, who had only been on the pitch for a couple of minutes, scored with the spot-kick.

Three minutes later, Liam Scott forced a corner after good approach work involving Sam McIntyre and Walsh. Six minutes from the end, substitute Jacob Clamp handled, and Zebras were awarded a free-kick 25 metres from goal and almost dead in front. Jonathon Ladic rifled his kick through the wall and into the roof of the net with Pitchford getting a hand to the ball but unable to stop it.

Eagles were desperate not to lose all three points and they kept searching for an equaliser. That came in the final minute when Simon Strang slipped the ball through to Leszczynski on the left and he cut inside before chipping a splendid curling ball around Kaden and inside the far post to make it 3-3.

New Town Eagles coach, George Krambousanos, said:
"I thought we had about three or four players who were a little bit flat in the first half. "We had a bit of a chat, okay. We scored that goal, which put us in front. "Look, they weren't doing that much. They did have control of the midfield, but they weren't doing anything with it, so we kept on playing the same plan that we had. "Second half, we came out, but we actually lost control of the game. Three changes, two goals. Well done. And two excellent goals by Leszczynski. I'm very happy and the three that went on did their job. That's the way it is. "We pushed three up front in the last ten minutes, and we scored two goals."

Tilford Zebras coach, Romeo Frediani, said:
"The first half, I thought, was really good. We created a lot of chances. Really, we should have put them away in the first half. "If you don't score goals and take your opportunities, then the game becomes harder, which it did. "They scored on the break, and we were 1-0 down. The second half was much better in that we scored a few nice goals. "Yeah, the boys worked hard. I mean, there were a few positional errors, and they caught us right at the end. A bit disappointing, but one point is better than none. We'll keep going on from here."

New Town Eagles Line-up v Juventus – 9th April 2011
Back Row: G. Krambousanos (Coach), P. Wass (Manager), S. Strang, Alex Leszczynski, M. Anderson, J. Clamp, J. Vernon, D. Cox, E. Gonzalez, J Quan, K. Clamp (Asst. Coach), **Front Row:** D. Frost (President), A. Bates, A. McKeown, A. Clark, B. Whitehall, N. Pitchford, M. Page, J. Barabara, N. Ferrall, J. Muir (Trainer)

⚽ Eagles veterans pit their skills against fledglings

By WALTER PLESS

As part of New Town Eagles' 50th anniversary celebrations last weekend, the club's veterans came back onto the park. Two Eagles teams of veterans played a half each against the club's current under-18 side at Clare Street.

The match ended in a 3-3 draw and there were some nice goals to enjoy. Alex Ayres, one of Eagles' most promising youths, scored a ripper of a goal for the under-18s, while Mark 'Spider' Leszczynski netted for the veterans. There were some famous faces on view from Eagles sides of the past spanning the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. The veterans' match was followed by the senior Southern Premier League match between Eagles and Tilford Zebras, which also resulted in a 3-3 draw.

The Division 1 Women's team had a fine season, just missing out on the premiership by 2 points to Metro. In the 15 game roster Eagles amassed an impressive 133 goals for and only 19 against. The teams boasted three of the top four goalscorers in the league in Hayley Arnol (1st) – 37 goals, Tiarna Ford (2nd) – 33 goals and Caitlyn Nichols (4th) -28 goals. They also made the semi-finals of the Statewide Cup defeating Premier League team Kingborough United 5-2.

Eagles Celebrate 50 Years

By Walter Pless

New Town Eagles celebrated their 50th anniversary in April. The club was formed in 1961 as White Eagles and worked its way into the Tasmanian first division after taking out the second division title within a couple of seasons.

The name change to New Town Eagles - the club is located in the Hobart suburb of New Town - came in 1997 when Soccer Australia banned ethnic club names.

The weekend celebrations began on the evening of Friday, April 8, with a players' reunion at the Polish Club and was followed the next day by a veterans' game at Clare Street, the home ground of Eagles. This match featured many former Eagles stars, including the four Leszczynski brothers, David Stoddart, Zlatko Belanic and Scott Young. Stoddart came from Melbourne and Belanic from Adelaide for the event.

The main event that afternoon was the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League match between Eagles and Tilford Zebras, which ended in a 3-3 draw. Eagles are third on the table at the time of writing.

That evening, the Red and White Ball was held at the Bellerive Oval and was attended by 200 players, supporters and officials of the club.

The club has had some famous names in its ranks. Steve Darby, the current assistant coach of Thailand, and former Melbourne Knights coach and national coach of Malaysia, Ken Worden, were both at the club in the 1970s and 1980s. Former player George Krambousanos is the current coach, while Darren Frost is the longest serving president in the club's history.

The four Leszczynski brothers are household names at the New Town Eagles club.

Women's Division 1 - Final Standings - 2011

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Metro FC	15	13	0	2	74	16	39
New Town Eagles	**15**	**12**	**1**	**2**	**133**	**19**	**37**
Olympia FC Blue	15	10	2	3	74	16	32
Southern FC	14	7	2	5	30	39	23
Olympia FC White	15	7	2	6	29	61	23
Tilford Zebras FC	15	5	1	9	43	36	16
Woodbridge SC	15	3	2	10	25	70	11
Clarence United	13	2	2	9	19	77	8
Huon Valley	15	1	0	14	10	103	3

Leading Goalscorers: H. Arnol 37, T. Ford 33, C. Nichols 28, M. Ross 10

Women's Division 1 2011
Back: A. Law (Coach), C. Nichols, R. Smith, R. Lubiana, O. Mulcahy, G. Dwyer, A. Dwyer, T. Prichard
Front: E. Wiggins, T. Ford, E. Claridge, C. Preston, M. Ross, H. Arnol, A. Stewart

The 2012 season started with an air of optimism, after the disappointment of losing out in the Grand Final the previous year. Steven Pitchford was retained as coach, and the majority of the side from 2011 remained intact, although the loss of Alex Gordon was disappointing.

It appeared however that Eagles had found the last missing piece of the jigsaw when they picked up Liam Scott, a talented, hard-working player, with an abundance of skill but more importantly a wining mentality. This was the first season that Eagles participated in the Hudson Cup, and the Sunday games against Northern opposition, were used to identify potential senior players from amongst the Reserves and Under 19's. Eagles finished with three wins and two losses.

Challengers have South in sights

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Mar. 14, 2012

The 2012 Southern Premier League season kicks off on Friday night and promises to be one of the most intriguing and unpredictable campaigns in recent years. The Mercury's soccer reporter Julius Ross evaluates the prospects of the eight sides.

WITH a Tasmanian State League looming in 2013, clubs will be desperate to demonstrate their on-field credentials this season, while South Hobart's recent supremacy is expected to come under serious threat from the chasing pack.

HOBART ZEBRAS
Coach: Eamonn Kelly - 2012 prediction: 1st - 2011 finish: 2nd - Home ground: KGV Park

Eleven points separated second-placed Zebras from champions South Hobart last season, but new coach Eamonn Kelly has promised no such gap will exist this season.

A stern taskmaster with a proven record at Glenorchy Knights, Kelly has seized the challenge of lifting Zebras to the Premier League summit, for the first time since 2007.

The Zebras have finished runner-up in four consecutive seasons, and despite continuing their trend as second-placed finishers in the Summer Cup on the weekend, they will use that result as impetus to launch a realistic title tilt.

Based purely on their experienced and talented crop of players, including Aaron Brazendale, Ricky Self, Jon Foley-Donoghue, Henry Fagg, Dwayne Walsh and Jayden Welch, and Kelly's ability to command results, the Zebras are strong title favourites.

Kelly's side has already toppled South on the field in the Summer Cup, but the ultimate challenge presents itself over a gruelling 21-game season and with excellent strength in depth, they are well prepared.

SOUTH HOBART
Coach: Ken Morton - 2012 prediction: 2nd - 2011 finish: 1st - Home ground: Darcy St

South has been the league's powerhouse for the past four seasons, but their dominance is in severe danger if the Zebras and Kingborough Lions can carry their pre-season form into this year's campaign.

Several core players from last season's championship-winning side have left the club and only Loic Feral, Hugh Ludford, Shae Hickey and Matthew Ferguson remain as the experienced leaders of a youthful first-team. Pressure falls on the young shoulders of teenagers Nick Morton, Hugo Bladel, Dylan Postma and goal-scoring sensation Andy Brennan, alongside new signing Bobby Eaves.

With a weakened squad, South's grip on the trophy is vulnerable. But Morton has enough talent and a powerful winning mentality for a fifth title a serious shot.

KINGBOROUGH LIONS
Coach: Matthew Rhodes - 2012 prediction: 3rd -2011 finish: 5th - Home ground: Lightwood Park

With a new coach, new personnel and a first trophy since 1985 already under its belt, Kingborough has thrived under the fresh approach of incoming coach Matthew Rhodes in 2012.

Lifting the Summer Cup on the weekend has provided the motivation for the Lions to launch an assault on the title this season, and they appear to have all the right ingredients of a championship-winning side.

Led by their inspirational captain Marcello Marchioli, the Lions have a solid defence, commanded by 2011 Vic Tuting runner-up Marc Iseli and striking options in David Cooper, Tom McDonald, Joel Schuth and Ryan Bevan.

Rhodes has also brought in golden boot winner Danny Cowen from Metro, and he has demonstrated versatility in attack and defence. While a title may be a little wishful for the Lions, expect them to have a decent crack at toppling South.

NEW TOWN EAGLES
Coach: Stephen Pitchford - 2012 prediction: 4th - 2011 finish: 4th - Home Ground: Clare St

In their 50th year last season, the Eagles performed well above par. They earned their first finals berth since 2000, reached the final of the top four Statewide Finals series and ended South's 63-match unbeaten streak.

Credit must go to coach Stephen Pitchford who turned the club's focus away from off-field issues to on-field success. Pitchford will look to stabilise his already close-knit playing group in a season where they must strive for consistency to achieve a second consecutive top-four finish.

OLYMPIA WARRIORS
Coach: Franco Previdi - 2012 prediction: 5th - 2011 finish: 7th - Home Ground: Warrior Park

Olympia is a proud club with a passionate group of supporters, but their performances in the past two seasons have reflected a team wrestling with survival.

Last year president George Mamacas had to send an SOS to sister club South Melbourne for two imports to help bail them out of trouble.

While imports have not been forthcoming this season, Warriors seem to have found the answer to last season's goal scoring woes, with Warren Wadawu, Kosta Grillas, Nick Meredith and Josh Fielding leading the way.

That may lift them out of a relegation battle this season, but there is still plenty of work before finals action is achievable.

GLENORCHY KNIGHTS
Coach: Chris Hey - 2012 prediction: 6th - 2011 finish: 6th - Home Ground: KGV Park

The Knights hoisted themselves out of relegation trouble last season when they enforced an early managerial change. But the coaching merry-go-round continues with Chris Hey now the man in the top job, which has affected stability.

Hey's task to ensure the Knights return to finals football is a challenging one. He has brought in son Jayden and Eagle Simon Strang, while Jacob Huigsloot has returned to the fray and Justin Letiko looks promising.

However, consolidation may be necessary this season, before the Knights can establish themselves as a force similar to the one that dominated the league in the mid-2000s.

CLARENCE UNITED
Coach: Ronnie Bolton - 2012 prediction: 7th - 2011 finish: 3rd - Home Ground: Wentworth Park

Second-last may seem a harsh prediction, but unless Clarence improves dramatically, this campaign could be a difficult slog. Charismatic coach Andrew Brown's nine-year term at United, came to an end last season, and the club moved quickly to instil competent women's coach Ronnie Bolton.

But Bolton has had to grapple with the loss of three of United's key Korean imports from last season: Jae Ho Lee, Seung Woo Park and Kyu Jun Kim. The trio were instrumental in Clarence's third-place finish last year, and while Ben Parker, Ben Hamlett, Mattias Toghill, Matthew Lewis, Emmanuel Tsakiris and Nathan Rees remain, Bolton's side has lacked a cutting edge during pre-season.

New signings Hugh Richardson and Adam Hedge from Olympia and Scotsman Aaron Cairns, add much-needed depth and leadership, but United must show plenty of heart this season.

The League campaign started well, and despite two losses in the first round, five wins put Eagle in second place. The introduction of post-match ice baths during the first round was a contributing factor in maintaining the injury-free status of the squad, and a highlight of each weekend for the players as they fought each other to be first in. A loss to Olympia and a draw against Zebras was offset by a win against South Hobart to maintain second spot at the end of the second round. A draw against Olympia stalled the run, but a magnificent win over South put Eagles back on course.

In the Lakoseljac Statewide Cup, wins against Clarence 1-0, Prospect Knights 5-1, and Taroona 5-1, earnt a spot in the final against Glenorchy Knights. A nervous start saw Eagles fall 2 goals behind, and despite playing well they could not make up the deficit, eventually succumbing 3-2.

Zebras to face hostile reception at 'the Graveyard'

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - April 6, 2012

THE New Town Eagles supporter squad, the Clare Street Elite, will be in full voice today, when their side welcomes Hobart Zebras to Clare Street for the first time this season.

Known as the Graveyard by some opposing clubs, the Eagles home ground is a fortress for Stephen Pitchford's side, which is seeking its fourth consecutive victory at 2.30pm today.

But the Zebras travel with the determination to erase last week's unimpressive 0-4 loss to South Hobart. Results last season between these sides suggest a high-scoring, close encounter, with two fixtures at Clare Street producing 3-3 draws.

"We are looking forward to our first truly home game of the season," Pitchford said. "We will be wary of them rebounding from the defeat at South last week."

Pitchford has a full squad to select from, but may feel inclined to promote Liam Scott after he impressed off the bench last week.

The Zebras will need to shore up their defence, which has leaked 11 goals this season, the same amount as strugglers Glenorchy Knights and University.

Arguably an even more tantalising fixture is the clash between early-season battlers University and Olympia Warriors at Olinda Grove from 2.30pm.

With the loser likely to grapple with relegation throughout the season, both Uni's Gary Slicer and the Warriors' Franco Previdi have described the match as vital.

"It's a very important match. Every game is important, but particularly this one given the timing and the positions both teams are in at the moment. "They're struggling for points, we're struggling for points," Slicer said. Alexis Bull will be a key absentee for Uni, while Slicer is sweating over the fitness of Julian Proud.

Olympia has Josh Fielding back from suspension, but Jamie Walker, Stuart Page and Warren Wadwau are unavailable. "It's going to be tough. We need to be realistic, at the moment we are at the bottom, we just need to battle hard to get three points," Franco Previdi said,

In another intriguing fixture at 2.30pm, the Kingborough Lions have sacrificed home advantage against Glenorchy with Lightwood Park out of action.

The showdown will take place at KGV Park, the Knights' home ground, turning the tables slightly. But the Lions should still be the roaring favourites to knock off a Knights outfit which has lacked a cutting edge.

Keeper Trent Rosignol will make his senior debut for the Knights, as coach Chris Hey relegates out of form Ben Peter. "I don't think we could have asked for a tougher start to the season," Hey said.

At 6.30pm, Wentworth Park plays host to a huge match between leaders South Hobart and Clarence United. United conceded 20 goals in three games against South last season, but new coach Ronnie Bolton has promised that record will end this season.

⚽ Eagles go top

Walter Pless | Sunday, 08 April 2012

It’s strange to see New Town Eagles perched on top of the Southern Premier League ladder. But that is exactly where they are after they downed Tilford Zebras 4-3 at home at Clare Street on Saturday afternoon and previous leaders South Hobart lost 3-2 away to Clarence United at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

It was the second consecutive loss for the Zebras, who conceded four goals in both those defeats. They dropped to fourth on the ladder, which must be of concern to coach Eamonn Kelly.

Olympia Warriors remain last after they could only draw 2-2 away to University at Olinda Grove.

Glenorchy Knights moved into sixth place by overcoming the previously unbeaten Kingborough Lions United 3-2 at KGV Park in what was a home game for the Lions as their Lightwood Park pitch is still recovering after a botched repair job.

Eagles earned a penalty in the opening minute of their match against Zebras when visiting goalkeeper Craig Minty brought down Alex Leszczynski, who had been put through by a long ball out of defence by Andrew Clark. Leszczynski tucked away the spot-kick with ease, sending Minty the wrong way. Minty, a former Eagles man, had a miserable homecoming to Clare Street. He had to be replaced at half-time after suffering concussion after a collision with Eagles striker Adam McKeown.

Zebras were level midway through the first half when Jon Foley-Donoghue released Ricky Self on the right and his short cross from inside the box was headed beyond keeper Nathan Pitchford and under the crossbar by Kurt Engels.

In the 25th minute, Zebras hit the front when Clark botched a back-pass and gifted the ball to the speedy Dwayne Walsh, who easily beat Pitchford in a one-on-one situation. McKeown headed narrowly wide for Eagles from a free-kick in the 32nd minute, but he made amends two minutes before the break when he nodded home Ben Whitehall’s right-wing cross to make it 2-2 at the interval.

Minty had been concussed in a challenge from McKeown and did not reappear for the second half. In a controversial move, Zebras put Rowan Heggie in goal rather than their substitute goalkeeper, Kieron Siedler, who, in fact, was not even on the bench. Heggie has been a keeper in Futsal and was no stranger to the position. Once he settled down, he acquitted himself well and turned a dangerous shot over the bar in style.

Clark ventured forward for Eagles in the 56th minute and gained possession when Zebras gave the ball away in midfield. He played a neat one-two with Whitehall before steering his shot past substitute keeper Rowan Heggie to put Eagles 3-2 ahead. Henry Fagg hit a marvellous volley out of nowhere into the top right-hand corner of the net in the 69th minute to make it 3-3 as the match entered an exciting final 20 minutes.

With 12 minutes remaining, McKeown broke clear down the right flank and scored with a low shot past Heggie and inside the far post to give Eagles a 4-3 win.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
Look, obviously, at the end of the day, you win by a goal and take three points home anytime when you play Zebras is excellent. I thought we probably should have finished them off a bit better at the start of the second half when they had their new goalkeeper in, and we had a few chances. He looked a bit suspect, but he ended up playing pretty well towards the end.

Again, my blokes, at 3-3 you would have thought that Zebras might have finished over the top of us, but our blokes just kept going and going and got that fourth goal and finished off.

Tilford Zebras coach, Eamonn Kelly, said:
After half-time, we were still in it.

A stupid penalty we gave away. No need for it. One-nil down in the first few minutes.

It makes it hard when you've got to replace that sort of man (goalkeeper Minty) in that position. To the boys' credit, I thought in the second half we were still in the game and we got to 3-3. I thought two of their goals were blatantly off-side, and not by a yard, but by five yards.

Eagles' keeper Nathan Pitchford leaps for a corner [PlessPix]

⚽ Eagles end Northerners' prospects in Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy

Walter Pless | Thursday, 12 April 2012

New Town Eagles played with a confidence worthy of league leaders, a position they attained on the weekend when they beat Tilford Zebras 4-3, and South Hobart lost 3-2 to Clarence United.

The home side looked confident and were certainly not in awe of the reigning Northern Premier League champions, Ben Crosswell and all. Michael Anderson was assigned to man-mark Crosswell and he did an excellent job until being substituted after 72 minutes. By that time, Eagles were leading 4-1 and the game was over.

Crosswell had been given few chances. When he did manage a shot, it was tame and directed straight at the goalkeeper. His frustration told when, in the 65th minute, he was shown the yellow card by Mr Barker. Prospect Knights were in a good frame of mind even when behind and it was good to see that they did not make an issue of decisions that went against them.

They took it in their stride and good-naturedly accepted the referee's call. They encouraged their young players and did their best, even though it was not good enough to come away with a win.

Liam Scott headed Eagles in front from Alex Leszczynski's delicate chip from the left in the 11th minute, the ball looping over keeper Kristan Beardwood, who was unable to react. The visitors were level 3 minutes later when Eagles showed their defensive frailties at a corner. When the ball came out to the edge of the box, Tim Claxton drove a low shot through a crowd of players that left keeper Nathan Pitchford unsighted and helpless as it flashed into the net.

The Northerners were not level for long. In the 28th minute, Eagles prised open the Prospect defence on the left and McKeown squared the ball for the advancing Jacob Clamp to side-foot home from 12 metres. Leszczynski should have added a third in the 32nd minute when he had only Beardwood to beat from the right of the box, but he lost his composure and blazed wildly, high and wide of the target.

The visitors were not entirely without prospects however, and with a minute of the first half remaining, Andrew Compagne broke through, only to be denied by the alert Pitchford. Leszczynski again shot wide in the 52nd minute as Eagles' greater fitness began to tell. Prospect hit back again, however, when Crosswell got onto the end of a long kick by Beardwood in the 57th minute and beat David Cox, but Pitchford blocked the shot in style.

Beardwood was called into action on the hour-mark and parried a McKeown effort wide for a corner. In the 62nd minute, Mark Page crossed towards the far post from deep on the right, and McKeown stooped low to send a header flashing past Beardwood and into the net, and make it 3-1 for Eagles. Eagles were completely in control by this stage and McKeown might have had another goal in the 64th minute, but he spurned the chance and shot wide.

Two minutes later, Leszczynski did the same as Eagles created chances, only to let the visitors off the hook. In the 68th minute, Nathan Balym seemed to be caught in two minds as to whether to clear or control the ball. He did neither and surrendered the ball to McKeown, who squared it for Leszczynski to score and make it 4-1.

In the 75th minute, Leszczynski added Eagles' fifth when he flicked the ball nonchalantly into the air and turned and volleyed it home. Prospect Knights were not quite finished, and in the 77th minute, Toby Omenihu broke clear down the inside-left channel after substitute Adam Bates missed his clearance completely. But Omenihu's last touch was a little too strong and the ball escaped him allowing Pitchford to make a timely clearance.

To Prospect's credit, they refused to lie down and Pitchford had to block a Crosswell shot 4 minutes from the end. Fortunately for the keeper, it was directed straight at him. With 2 minutes remaining, Eagles fashioned a beautiful build-up, that should have been capped by a goal, but Clamp shot wide.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
A 5-1 score-line might say that [it was an easy win], but they made us work really hard, certainly in the first half and again in the early parts of the second. Obviously, once you go a couple of goals up in a cup match, and given the style of football we were playing, I think it made it hard for them to get a touch of the ball. We didn't convert all our chances. We played really good approach football, put some of our shots on target but that last pass occasionally wasn't quite there. But I was very pleased with the performance.

Prospect Knights coach, Anton Balym, said:
Obviously, the result wasn't close, but we had three or four blokes out, so we knew it was going to be tough coming down here. White Eagles are a good side, so credit to them. They knocked the ball around really well early, which put us under pressure from the very start, so we were chasing our tails all day. We were beaten by a better side by a mile.

⚽ Eagles trounce University and perch on top of the ladder

Walter Pless | Sunday, 22 April 2012

New Town Eagles opened up a 2-point lead over South Hobart at the top of the Southern Premier League with this 6-2 win over second-last University at home at Clare Street on Saturday. Reigning champions South Hobart could only draw 1-1 at home to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United the same afternoon.

Eagles had the better of the opening half-hour, Liam Scott thumping a great shot against the University crossbar, while the students relied largely on sporadic counter-attacks.

In the 32nd minute, Eagles hit the front when University goalkeeper Martin Piesse did well to block a shot from Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown swept home the loose ball. University were level 5 minutes after the interval, when Miles Barnard hit a great shot from range, that hit the back of the stanchion inside the goal-frame and rebounded into play.

Two minutes later, Leszczynski restored Eagles' lead from a free-kick from just outside the box, while another two minutes passed before McKeown made it 3-1 for the home side with a low drive from the right.

Patrick Watts squandered a good chance for the visitors on the hour when he broke through the Eagles defence, but with only keeper Nathan Pitchford to beat, he lifted the ball over the bar. In the 66th minute, McKeown completed his hat-trick after collecting Scott's pass from the left and lobbing the ball over the advancing Piesse.

McKeown notched his fourth goal of the match with a brilliant first-time volley out of the blue, from just outside the box in the 71st minute.

Ben Whitehall, who had replaced Leszczynski, made it 6-1 with a fine free-kick from 22 metres in the 73rd minute. Watts pulled another goal back for University 7 minutes from the end after a corner, but it was a mere consolation goal for the students, who were well beaten at that stage.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
I thought we went out and played some really good football today and created plenty of chances. By half-time, we hadn't taken many of those chances and they were certainly well in the game. They gave us a wake-up call with a cracker of a goal from 35, and then within about five minutes, we were two goals in front.

We got a few more after that and could probably have gone on with it a bit more. But a 6-2 win against anybody is pretty good. We're two points clear now, so hopefully we'll be able to maintain that going forward.

University's assistant coach, Saleh Bintalib, who coached the side in the absence of Gary Slicer, said:
Obviously, a very painful result to swallow. Honestly, when we got the equaliser, I honestly thought that we were coming back into the game very strongly. Very, very disappointing to see defensive lapses made at this level of football. The boys will just have to learn from the mistakes we made today. It's back to the drawing board.

⚽ Eagles end Taroona's fairy tale and qualify for Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final

Walter Pless | Saturday, 26 May 2012

Taroona were the sole survivors from the second tier of Tasmanian football going into this semi-final of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy competition. They had produced two giant-killing feats to reach this stage by disposing of Premier League opponents, but even home-ground advantage was of no use in this contest.

Football Federation Tasmania had cleared the ground for play after an inspection in the morning, while the referee, Mr Kopra, gave his okay following an afternoon pitch inspection. New Town Eagles kicked off and immediately put the home side under pressure. It took just over six minutes for the visitors to take the lead following a fine attacking move started on the left, and finished when David Cox sent over a deep cross form the right for Alex Leszczynski to bravely beat keeper John Burridge in the air and head home. Eagles continued to attack, with Adam McKeown missing a couple of chances to increase their lead, but his shots always flew just wide. Leszczynski was also foiled by a good save from Burridge.

Alex Leszczynski heads Eagles' opening goal [PlessPix]

Taroona found it difficult to mount attacks, and when they did, they broke down in the final third, as they gave the ball away. Eight minutes after the interval, Leszczynski made it 2-0. A throw-in on the left saw the ball worked over to the right and a poor header by a Taroona defender went straight to Leszczynski, who held off a challenge from Llewyn Tubb to shoot home. There were claims of off-side and Mr Kopra had to consult his assistant Mr Natoli, but he then awarded the goal.

Eli Luttmer pulled a goal back for the home side, when he nipped in ahead of Jacob Clamp, and headed home Darragh Carey's excellent corner from the left. In the 69th minute, Eagles restored their two-goal buffer. Ben Whitehall's throw-in from the right found Leszczynski, who outwitted a defender and crossed. Burridge could only help the ball on, and Clamp struck it into the roof of the net from point-blank range.

Cormac Collins made it 4-1 with a far-post header from Whitehall's free-kick from wide on the left. McKeown should have added a fifth in the 79th minute, but his half-volley was directed straight at Burridge. Five minutes from the end, substitute Jeremy Marshall made it 5-1 when Clamp lost control of the ball and it fell to Marshall, who drilled it past Burridge.

Marshall almost had a second in stoppage time, but his shot came back off the crossbar. The match ended with an attacking run by Taroona substitute Marcus Atkinson, who forced a fruitless corner. Eagles will meet the winner of the other semi-final between Glenorchy Knights and South Hobart, who play at 1pm at KGV Park tomorrow [Sunday] after their scheduled match on Friday night was postponed because of ground conditions.

Taroona coach, Andrew Tye, said:
No fairy tale finish today. I think the boys needed to be at their very best today to beat Eagles. I don't think they were at their best. They tried hard. One-nil at half-time and I think we were definitely in the contest. We made a few changes. Second goal knocked the wind out of our sails a bit, I think. Got it back to 2-1 and I thought we were there and then they took it away from us. Congratulations to Eagles.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
I thought it was a very good effort by our boys. First half, I thought we dominated play and created plenty of chances but just didn't put them away. Second half, we continued in the same vein but put some of our chances away. A couple of really good goals and a couple of other really good moves went close. Very happy. To be honest, [I'd like to meet South] in the final. I think if the Knights got up over South in the semi, they'd be really, really buoyed by that and dangerous. I'd be happy to play either, to be truthful.

⚽ Eagles beat Knights comfortably in dress rehearsal for Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final

Walter Pless | Sunday, 03 June 2012

New Town Eagles moved to within 2 points of leaders South Hobart with this comfortable 4-0 win over Glenorchy Knights at home at Clare Street. The result leaves Knights in second-last place and they will be hoping that University don't get home against Clarence United this evening.

Blayne Hudson had the first chance of the match for Eagles after a mere 5 minutes, but his powerful shot cleared the bar. Knights responded with an effort by Simon Strang, but Eagles defender Mark Page headed off the line.

Eagles hit the front in the 21st minute in a move that was started and finished by Liam Scott. He played the ball wide to the right to Ben Whitehall, who knocked the ball inside to Adam McKeown, who was bundled over in what appeared to be a foul. Mr Barker played the advantage and the ball fell for Cormac Collins to set up Scott, who hammered it home inside Trent Le Rossignol's left-hand upright.

The first half ended with Collins shooting wide, but there was not much to separate the two sides other than Scott's goal. Jacob Huigsloot, one of the Knights' better performers on the day, went close in the 56th minute with a drive that flew just wide of Nathan Pitchford's right-hand post.

Eagles won a penalty in the 61st minute, but it was controversial. Matthew Nowicki's tackle on McKeown seemed fair, but he may just have tripped McKeown a split second later as the ball rolled free. Alex Leszczynski ended the controversy by tucking away the spot-kick to make it 2-0 for the home side.

Four minutes later, Eagles killed off the match when Collins netted their third with a low drive from an angle on the right of the box, the ball flashing across Le Rossignol and inside the far post. Huigsloot went off injured with 10 minutes remaining and the Knights were a man down because they had used their quota of three substitutes.

Four minutes from the end, Hudson was rewarded for a strong display when he rifled home Eagles' fourth from just inside the box after a corner from the right. This was a very disappointing display by the Knights, who had played so well last weekend against South Hobart in the semi-finals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy. One just never knows which Knights team is going to turn up on any given day for a match. This one seemed more like their reserve side. But, then again, Knights' reserves beat Eagles 7-2 in the curtain-raiser.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
Yeah, yeah, very pleasing, especially the second half when we actually converted three goals. I think, at half time, it was probably there for either side to take, and our boys stepped up and took it. We converted the penalty and got a few different scorers on the board as well. We're now only two points behind them [South Hobart] and I think they'll know we're there and possibly the next few weeks will be very interesting in the season.

Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:
I think we'll turn out tomorrow, to be honest with you. Look, to start off, credit to Eagles. They played some good football given the conditions. They knocked it around well, they played the simple ball. You know, the first goal was, you know, perfectly set up for the conditions - in to feet, lay it back and a good strike by young Liam [Scott]. And, they continued to play that way all game.

Our passing game wasn't there. We tried to knock it around a little more, but we were chasing shadows, and just our general execution around the park, with people not willing to take responsibility. It's very, very disappointing. I think some of them left their minds in their car or at home today.

⚽ Knights take Cup in upset; early goals get Eagles rattled

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 12/6/2012

AN explosive opening 16 minutes from Glenorchy Knights proved the decisive element of its cracking 3-2 Milan Lakoseljac Memorial final upset over New Town Eagles last night.

Lifting the trophy named in honour of its club great for the first time since 2005, was an emotional victory for coach Chris Hey and his tenacious team, who burst out of the blocks from the first whistle. "I honestly believed that we could win it," Hey said. "I said all along that it would have to be a very good performance to stop us with the attitude of the players, which has continued through this competition."

There was a telling contrast in body language before kick-off, with the Eagles appearing cagey, while the Knights were raring to go. Knights, deemed the underdog before kick-off, shocked an electrifying crowd of more than 700 inside just three minutes with the opener. With Eagles defence sound asleep, Aaron Marney threaded a through-ball to Jason Dawes who slotted home under keeper Nathan Pitchford to establish a quick-fire lead.

The Eagles were clearly rattled and were reeling at 2-0 down 13 minutes later, as Marney netted the game's second goal. But the match started to shape as a classic, when the Eagles were thrown a lifeline in the 31st minute. Knight, Sam Johnson, was pinned for a clumsy challenge on Adam McKeown in the penalty area. Alex Leszczynski blasted the spot-kick home to halve the deficit and the Knights' lead started to look precarious.

But Eagles were made to pay for another lacklustre showing early in the second period, as Simon Strang lashed home a superb goal from a tight angle just seven minutes after the break. In almost a carbon copy of the first half, the Knights began to fade out, despite being 3-1 in the lead, and the Eagles pressed for a goal to kick-start a comeback.

And New Town found one, through a cracking Liam Scott strike into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area with 20 minutes to spare. In a pulsating finale to the match, the Eagles just couldn't find the right side of the net, striking the side netting of the goal twice as the Knights ran down the clock for a famous victory.

"[We feel] pretty deflated," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said. "I think tonight we felt a bit flat, obviously."

2012 Laskoseljac Cup Final Team

Back: S. Pitchford (Coach), C. Collins, L. Scott, D. Cox, J. Clamp, M. Anderson, A. Leszczynski, J. Marshall, J. Quan, A. Bates
Front: J. McCormack (Trainer), B. Hudson, M. Page, N. Pitchford, A. Clark, B. Whitehall, A. McKeown, S. Bunt

⚽ Eagles down South to make Southern Premier League more interesting

Walter Pless | Monday, 18 June 2012

Second-placed New Town Eagles kept the interest in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League alive, by beating leaders South Hobart 2-1 at home at Clare Street, to move to within a point of the reigning champions. A minute's silence was observed before kick-off in memory of Tracey Ross, whose sons Will and Sam play for South Hobart. Tracey was the wife of Brett Ross and the daughter of noted former coach Duncan Summers and his wife Judy.

An error by Andrew Clark and goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford, enabled South Hobart to take the lead after just five minutes. Clark slipped as he attempted to stay with Andy Brennan, while Pitchford allowed the striker's shot from just outside the box to slither under him and roll over the line and into the net. Eagles picked themselves up however, and two goals in five minutes shortly afterwards put them in front. They held the lead until the end to earn three valuable points.

In the 13th minute, South Hobart failed to clear a corner won by Cormac Collins. Ben Whitehall floated the ball in and two of South Hobart's defenders headed the ball straight up in the air inside the penalty area. The third touch was also a header, but by Eagles' Michael Anderson, who served the ball up for Adam McKeown to volley home and make it 1-1. It was a marvellous strike by McKeown and he and Brennan had thus ended their goal droughts.

Five minutes later, Eagles produced a brilliant attack, beginning with Nathan Pitchford's goal-kick. Not one South Hobart player touched the ball before the goal. The move reached its climax when Collins centred from the left, and although Matthew Ferguson produced a fine save from Alex Leszczynski' s header, Leszczynski was on hand to hit the ball against the under-side of the crossbar and over the line. The ball bounced back out and so Leszczynski headed it into the net just to be sure and gave Eagles a 2-1 lead.

Nick Morton had a chance to level in the 33rd minute, but he missed when positioned at the far post, after a left-wing cross. South Hobart replaced the injured Bobby Eaves with Hugo Bladel in the 36th minute, and he played in midfield rather than at the heart of the defence, which has been his most recent position.

In the 38th minute, Loic Feral, back from France, played an excellent ball down the left for Brennan to run onto. He rounded keeper Pitchford but shot into the side-netting. In the closing seconds of the first half, Pitchford did well to save a shot from the marauding Hugh Ludford, who had gone into the attack for a few minutes. Liam Scott fired over the bar shortly after the start of the second half, while Leszczynski was also wide with a low shot, as Eagles kept up their momentum.

In the 57th minute, Eagles were fortunate not to concede, when South Hobart fullback Cameron Williams, venturing forward for a corner, fired low but narrowly wide. With five minutes remaining, Scott found himself in a one-on-one with Ferguson but somehow placed his shot straight at the goalkeeper. Three minutes from the end, a glancing header by Morton was fielded by Pitchford just under the bar.

South Hobart had plenty of possession and their team-work was good, but they lacked penetration and that telling shot that could have turned the game.

Eagles were resolute and stuck to their task throughout the match. They refused to be overawed by their opponents. David Cox played well at the back, while McKeown produced a vintage performance. His back-heel to Collins in the build-up to Leszczynski' s goal was all class.

⚑

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
I think you're always nervous when you're only a goal in front. It only takes a slip and the ball is in the back of the net. But we continued to push and create chances when they were pushing at us. There's only four or five points between the top four teams now, so the second half of the season will be really, really important.

To me, it was a team effort, and right across the park I think they worked for 90 minutes, and I just think it's a magnificent performance by a team that could quite easily have been demoralised by a grand final loss. To come out here against the top team, and play as well as they did, I just think it's fantastic.

South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:
They were the better team. They played with more life than us, played with more energy. Their game was very predictable, but they play it, and they play it well, so credit to White Eagles today. We were second best.

Hugo [Bladel] has obviously been away, so for him to come back into midfield and pick up the pace was difficult. That's where he wants to play. He thinks he's a midfield player, so we put him in there to do a job and that didn't happen today. We were second best in midfield. I think the depth on the bench is all right.

When Ince came on he gave them a few problems with his pace. Everybody's in the same boat. White Eagles are the same as we are. If we get injuries, suspension or whatever, your first team is depleted, and you rely on your back-ups, and that's what we've done today and today we weren't good enough.

We didn't have any penetration today. The pitch wasn't made for good football. I mean, some of the first touches from all the players was bad today. If your first touch is bad, it gives them a chance of the ball and McKeown is quick, Leszczynski is a good target man to bounce the ball, off and young McKeown works hard to get into goal-scoring positions, so it was maybe too much possession today and they could hurt us, and a couple of times they did.

They had really good breakaways. Liam [Scott] maybe should have done better when one on one with the keeper, but we'll learn from it.

Andy [Brennan] missed one and Nick [Morton] missed one at the back post. There were a couple of chances where we maybe could have gone in at half-time 2-2, or maybe with our noses in front and it's a different game. We thought we were doing okay, because we fancied coming uphill in the second half. The pitch is a bit longer this end, but this side of the field is very heavy going and the touches were difficult for the players to get it down and play.

Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League - (As at 17 June 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	12	8	2	2	31	8	26
New Town Eagles	**12**	**8**	**1**	**3**	**28**	**16**	**25**
Kingborough Lions Utd	12	5	6	1	31	21	21
Clarence United	12	6	2	4	27	22	20
Tilford Zebras	12	4	4	4	34	30	16
Olympia Warriors	12	3	2	7	25	31	11
Glenorchy Knights	12	2	3	7	17	27	9
University	12	0	4	8	10	48	4

Eagles roll the champs

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - June 18, 2012

NEW Town Eagles blew the southern Premier League soccer title race wide open yesterday, rolling reigning champion and league leader South Hobart 2-1.

South entered the match four points clear at the top of the table and threatened to extend that lead out to seven points to cement itself as formidable title favourites.

But second-placed Eagles had a different agenda, and recovered from an early setback, bouncing back from a disheartening Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final defeat last Monday.

The Eagles got off to a poor start as Andy Brennan squeezed a shot under keeper Nathan Pitchford in the fourth minute. However, the Eagles responded strongly and Adam McKeown flashed home a superb drive from outside the penalty area on 13 minutes to level the ledger.

Four minutes later, Alex Leszczynski gave the Eagles the lead, forcing a shot over the line off the crossbar after a classy save from South keeper Matthew Ferguson.

Eagles midfielder and man of the match Liam Scott failed to kill off the match with minutes to go. "They were the better team; they played with more life than us, played with more energy. We were second best," South coach Ken Morton said.

Eagles shape as serious threat

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - June 20, 2012

TWO themes emerged from the weekend in the southern Premier League. The New Town Eagles are not just title pretenders, and University could be destined for the drop, unless it can pull off a miracle in the final half of the season.

The Eagles closed the gap on ladder leader South Hobart to just one point with a 2-1 victory over the champions on Sunday, preventing its rival from blowing out to a seven-point lead.

The Eagles' victory came nearly 11 months on from its last 2-1 victory over South, which ended South's record-breaking streak of 63 unbeaten matches.

But Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford defined Sunday's result as more important. "I think [Sunday's victory] was even better. We knew that we could beat them, it was just a matter of putting in a good performance on the day," he said.

"The top four teams [are separated by] four or five points now so the second half of the season will be really, really important."

Former South Hobart left-back and Eagles central midfielder Liam Scott proved a nemesis for his old club and was named man of the match. "We put pressure on South and they folded under a bit of pressure," Scott said. "Two-one is a good result for us, and the Premier League is back open."

But the league may not be a two-horse race between South (26 points) and Eagles (25). Kingborough is five points off the leaders, and Clarence United is only two wins adrift.

Heading into the final nine rounds, the title race is promising to be the most fascinating in years. But at the other end of the league, things appear a little more clear-cut. University's 0-2 loss against Glenorchy Knights on Saturday leaves it bottom, winless and five points behind the second-last Knights.

But coach Gary Slicer isn't giving up on the team's season just yet. "It was a bit disappointing, but overall the boys can hold their heads up high," he said.

Eagles' record on line

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - June 30, 2012

MUCH of New Town Eagles' success this season has to be credited to its formidable form at its Clare St home. With an unblemished record at its home ground in 2012, visiting sides fear facing an Eagles outfit that boasts the best home form in southern Premier League soccer.

If the Eagles can make that six out of six today against Kingborough Lions from 2.30pm, they will leapfrog South for the second week running as the two front-runners yoyo on the ladder.

"It's handy to be able to pick up points at home, but I think that we have been reasonably consistent across the whole season in terms of creating chances," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said. "Lions know that they really need to win today to stay in the race, which makes them tricky opponents."

Ben Whitehall is likely to return to a starting role at the expense of Jeremy Marshall for the Eagles, but the dangerous Cormac Collins remains sidelined with a knee injury. Lions are smarting from a narrow 1-2 loss against South last week. In the Lions' 2-1 win over the Eagles in round seven, coach Matthew Rhodes's decision to place Danny Cowen as a man-marker on Adam McKeown worked a treat.

Rhodes is likely to employ his utility in the same role. Flu has swept through Clarence United this week, and one of its most dangerous players, Aaron Cairns, is a casualty for tonight's match against Glenorchy Knights at KGV Park from 6.30.

Cairns will join Matt Lewis (hamstring) on the sidelines, but Ronnie Bolton will have keeper Carlos Ortiz available, after a four-week suspension. "This is a tough game for us, but we will look forward to playing at KGV against the Knights, in what should be a keenly contested affair," Bolton said. In contrast, the Knights have keeper Trent Le Rossignol suspended.

Eagles score six without reply for second week in row

Walter Pless | Sunday, 01 July 2012

New Town Eagles knocked in six goals without reply against the visiting Kingborough Lions United, to go 2 points clear at the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League. It was Kingborough's heaviest defeat in the league this season. South Hobart coach Ken Morton was watching.

His side can regain the lead on Sunday with a win over Olympia Warriors at South Hobart. It took Eagles just 18 seconds to take the lead, and the Lions did not touch the ball, until keeper David Leamey had to pick it out of the net. A series of passes in an attack down the right, ended with Alex Leszczynski back-heeling the ball for Adam McKeown to fire home from close range.

It was 2-0 in the 3rd minute, when Whitehall played the ball across the face of goal for Jacob Clamp to score easily. Kingborough recovered their composure by the 8th minute and Ryan Bevan’s low drive clipped the outside of Nathan Pitchford’s right-hand post, while seconds later, Pitchford did well to get down to a powerful shot from Joel Schuth.

A minute later, Schuth failed to connect with a high ball that should have provided him with a headed goal. Marc Iseli brought down McKeown for a penalty in the 12th minute, and Leszczynski converted the spot-kick to make it 3-0, against a now shell-shocked Kingborough outfit, that had no answer to Eagles’ speed and tenacity. The home side could smell blood and were in the mood for a slaughter.

On the half-hour, McKeown almost had a second, when Andrew Clark drove the ball forward. The ball took a slight deflection and floated to McKeown stationed at the far left-hand post. His header was turned against the underside of the bar by Leamey, before the ball was cleared.

Two goals in four minutes just after the hour-mark, continued the Eagles rampage. Liam Scott netted in the 62nd minute, after a well-executed attack, while Mark Page made it 5-0 in the 65th minute as the Lions capitulated.

The visitors and the home side made several substitutions at this stage. For Eagles, it was to give their substitutes a run. For Kingborough, it was a desperate ploy to attempt to salvage something from the game and limit further damage. It didn’t work for the Lions.

With 7 minutes remaining, McKeown rounded the advancing Leamey on the right and stroked the ball home for goal number six. Just before that, McKeown had two good chances. His low shot was well stopped by Leamey, while he headed an inviting cross over the bar shortly after.

Schuth was unlucky not to pull a goal back for the visitors with 10 minutes left, his powerful shot coming back off the crossbar. It was the second week in a row that Eagles had scored six goals and kept a clean sheet. That is an ominous sign for the other teams in the competition, as we reach the business end of the campaign.

Kingborough keeper David Leamey can't keep out Alex Leszczynski' s penalty [PlessPix]

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
A very good performance backing up from last week. A really good start for us, simple passing moves resulting in goals. We probably should have finished off a bit better in the second half, but the fact we kept going for 90 minutes on a pretty heavy field - although not as heavy as it might have been - was really good to see.

We brought three boys off the bench who continued to put in as well and the pressure kept going. "Very good to have a clean sheet again and, hopefully, we'll be able to continue in the weeks ahead.

It should have been double figures, probably, looking at some of the shots. Sometimes we held onto it and probably didn't finish as clinically as we'd like, but if you're knocking in six in a game, then you can't complain.

Eagles' Mark Page celebrates his goal. He was shown a yellow card for his troubles [PlessPix]

Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:
It was terrible. When you give away a goal in the first 15 seconds, you're always in trouble. The truth of the matter is, and people can say what they like, we've been struggling in midfield all year.

We've put stopgaps in there, and at the moment we haven't got a genuine midfielder that can control the game. We're losing in there every week. How we are where we are, sometimes I wonder.

Until we can get that midfield right - and we keep trying people in there - we're going to struggle. At the moment, we're just filling gaps in there, and some of our better players haven't had a great year either. It's always hard.

⚽ Top two fight to the death

July 2, 2012 by The Back Post – Alex Luttrell

The Back Post brings you a special feature from our newest contributor, Alex Luttrell, who explores the 2012 southern Premier League title race. After the fourteenth week of games, just one round remains in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League and it is shaping up to be the closest two-horse title race since the start of South Hobart's tenure in 2008.

Both South Hobart and New Town Eagles, who sit in first and second place, respectively, are currently engaged in a fierce duel, with South currently holding a slight edge atop the table despite the Eagles defeating the defending champions three weeks ago.

After 14 games, South have managed 10 wins, two draws and two losses and are on 32 points after they held off a determined Olympia Warriors 4-2 at Darcy Street. Eagles sit on 10 wins, one draw and three losses on 31 points after they brushed aside any hopes Kingborough had of winning the league with a 6-0 demolition at Clare Street.

The Eagles have not won a premiership in the Southern League since 1986, but won the Tasmanian State League Minor Premiership and Finals Series in 1997. The Polish-orientated club has not merely obtained a total of two Southern titles since their inception in 1961, but have eight State League trophies under their belt and they do know about success.

However, South Hobart have a much more prominent history, having collected 21 Southern trophies since the club's formation in 1910, over 101 seasons up till 2011. Statistics point to South Hobart success again this year, having won the last four Southern Premier League titles as well as a number of other trophies under the guidance of Ken Morton.

The closest the Eagles have come to the premiership recently was in 2000 under George Kramboussanos, where they finished runners-up to Glenorchy Knights.

So far two out of three head to head encounters having been played between the two, with South winning 1-0 on the 14th of April and the Eagles getting the best of South on the 17th of June. This recent 2-1 win for the Eagles over their nearest title rivals has strengthened the squad and the belief within themselves to topple South's phenomenal four-year Southern Premier League run.

Eagles' coach Stephen Pitchford commented on the impact of the game for the remainder of the season. It's a psychological advantage in terms of having the confidence to go out and beat whoever you play and the fact we've been able to do it more than once over the top side [South Hobart] gives them confidence going into other games. We've certainly got the ability to win all of the remaining games and I think we're getting better in terms of creating chances and it will be how we convert those chances in the big games.

South coach Ken Morton also commented on his sides recent loss to its nearest rivals and its implications for their fifth championship running I think the loss to Eagles has had a positive effect on us. You have to learn from your defeats and push on, and while we truly respect the Eagles our aim is to keep going forward.

It had a big impact on the season because if we had won that we would have gone seven points clear. Now it will make us put in good efforts every week. I think we all need to stay injury free, avoid red cards and avoid any silly results. Morton was also aware that the situation atop the table is every close and could come down to the very end. Obviously, we've got our noses in front now and that's where we want to stay but at this time of the year when in this situation at the top you can't afford to lose silly points.

You've got to grind results out now and I think we've got the experience to do that. There's still a backbone of experienced players in Hugh Ludford, Shae Hickey, Loic Feral and Matthew Ferguson to give us stability. The title may very well be decided in their final meeting in week 19 on the fifth of August at South's Darcy Street fortress, depending on each sides' consistency in their run home and Morton was cautiously optimistic on South's chances.
I think that the clash with the Eagles will be an important one and that might have some bearing on who wins the league. I think it was in 2008 when it was pretty tight at the top of the table, so we've been there before, and we just have got through this next round of matches undefeated. We need to play our own game and focus on sharp passing and movement off the ball. The last game at Clare Street, they played their own football and we got sucked in and played a bit longer than we wanted.

He also believed that the players' and training situations will combine for the club's endeavour to take out the league, or at least make a good fight to the death, which was exciting. Fitness wise we're not doing any extra, so we're just working on some sharper stuff. We still have 14 to 15 players to pick from in the squad, so injuries are not a problem. We just have to go over tuning up basic skills as a collective unit with the young lads coming through too.

In the Eagles camp, Pitchford also suggested that the recent loss in the Milan Lakoseljac final to the Knights has helped his players bounce back and play better by learning from mistakes.

He was also well aware that the season could come down to week 19 but nothing would change their playing style regardless of the stakes. Only having players missing due to suspensions, injuries or work commitments would alter game plans. He suggested they will go about beating the champions in the same way they did three weeks ago by not holding back on the attacking pace.

We're confident [for the South game] but not over-confident. We have a fairly good squad of fifteen to sixteen players, and we get full performances in fast, small-sided games at training, and I think that's part of what enables you to play well each week. I'm confident that they have the ability to do it as a squad. The points we've dropped this year have been in games where we've certainly had more chances than the opposition but haven't put them away. We can't be frightened to keep playing attacking football.

He also believed that his squad played well enough to beat South Hobart at Darcy Street in the first game but couldn't convert their chances in their 1-0 loss.

Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League - (As at 30th June 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**14**	**10**	**1**	**3**	**40**	**16**	**31**
South Hobart	13	9	2	2	33	9	29
Clarence United	14	7	2	5	30	25	23
Tilford Zebras	14	6	4	4	38	31	22
Kingborough Lions Utd	14	5	6	3	32	29	21
Olympia Warriors	13	4	2	7	27	32	14
Glenorchy Knights	14	2	3	9	18	31	9
University	14	0	4	10	10	55	4

⚽ Eagles wipe the floor with Knights

Walter Pless | Monday, 23 July 2012

New Town Eagles controlled this match from start to finish and, although they only led 1-0 at the break, they finished the job in the second half against a Glenorchy Knights outfit that was lacking in ideas and technically deficient. If you cannot pass, you cannot play football, and that summed up the hosts' performance

Knights coach Chris Hey said his side had lost possession 52 times in the first half alone. He praised some of the young substitutes he brought on, but was bitterly disappointed by the lack of fight and endeavour of his older players. He gave credit to Eagles and said they played good and precise football and that they worked for each other from the outset and they 'wanted it more'.

Knights were not helped by the absence of midfielder Jacob Huigsloot (suspended), striker Simon Strang (injured) and goalkeeper Trent Le Rossignol (injured). They found themselves behind after only 4 minutes, when Adam McKeown glanced home Ben Whitehall's right-wing cross. The ball seemed to nestle inside the far left-hand post in slow motion, as the Knights defenders could only look on. McKeown almost added a second in the 8th minute, but his shot hit the side-netting.

In the 11th minute, Knights keeper Ben Peter showed he still has it when he brilliantly tipped Jacob Clamp's header over the bar for a corner. In the 28th minute, Peter was at full stretch to his right to turn McKeown's effort wide for a corner. There was a brief glimmer of hope for the Knights 4 minutes after the break, when Aaron Marney should have scored, but he fired over the bar.

That was it for the home side. In the 55th minute, a long throw-in from the right by Whitehall found Leszczynski in front of goal and he was given time to control the ball, turn and pick his spot and make it 2-0. With the Knights still reeling, McKeown made it 3-0 a minute later, tapping home Leszczynski's cross from the right Jason Dawes had given the ball away in midfield and Mark Page had released Leszczynski down the right to create the chance.

In the 59th minute, the situation almost got worse for the Knights as Liam Scott smacked a marvelous shot against the crossbar after Leszczynski, with his back to goal, had done a tap dance on the edge of the box, and mesmerised the defenders before setting up his team-mate with a short pass. Three minutes later, McKeown completed his hat-trick when he hammered home a Leszczynski cross from the right to make it 4-0.

With 9 minutes remaining, McKeown challenged Alex Holmes in the air for a free-kick from midfield, and Holmes could only nod it past his own goalkeeper for Eagles' fifth goal. The visitors' sixth came 5 minutes from the end through substitute Cormac Collins's header.

Eagles pulled back to within 3 points of leaders South Hobart with this victory, but their goal-difference is vastly inferior to that of South Hobart, which could cost them in the end.

Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:
In the first half, we were lucky to go in 1-0 to be honest with you. They were dominating play. We talk week in and week out about not running with the ball. We ran with the ball today. We turned the ball over trying to play 20 and 30-yard penetrating balls which were cut out and which is not what I want us to do.

We were still in the game at half-time. We changed a few things about. I thought they were getting down the right side, so I tried to pull Jayden [Hey] over to combat that and get forward. Two early goals and, yeah, I don't know really why I coach, to be honest with you, with that performance.

People just don't care and then play their own games. We spoke about the importance of this game today and the potential for the T-League and, you know, I'll be honest with you, for those games you'd be lucky if there were four players that I'd maintain for next year. It's a disgrace that players can drop their head and play like that and not care. It's as simple as that.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
I think the second half was really good. We actually converted a few chances. In the first half, we had enough of the play but didn't put enough away. In the second half, we simply converted and played simple football at the end.

We needed to not get too far behind South in the goal-difference as well as stay within the three points. When we play them in a couple of weeks it's a really big game for us. We were worried that today could be a danger game with Knights. They've managed to cause us problems in the past.

I think at half-time there was that hope for them, and the boys came out at the beginning of the second half and put it to bed, really, so it was very pleasing. All our subs got onto the park and had a run, and it was a very convincing performance.

⚽ Eagles have easier run-in to title, but South Hobart remain favourites

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 24 July 2012

With just four rounds of games to go, South Hobart and New Town Eagles are realistically, the only two sides capable of winning the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title. And the two sides meet at South Hobart on Sunday, 5 August 2012, in a crucial showdown. If New Town Eagles win this encounter, they could find themselves level on points with the reigning champions.

But South Hobart have a vastly superior goal-difference, which could in the end, decide the title. It's worth a point, in fact. South Hobart currently lead with 41 points, three more than Eagles. South's goal-difference is plus 43, while Eagles' is plus 31.

New Town Eagles could be considered to have a slightly easier run-in to the title, because they must still play bottom-side University, whom they have already beaten 6-2 and 6-0 this season. They may have to make it a baker's dozen next time. They play Tilford Zebras at home at Clare Street, South Hobart away at South Hobart, University at home at Clare Street, and Kingborough Lions United away at Lightwood Park.

Eagles have beaten Zebras 4-3 and drawn 1-1 with Zebras in their two meetings so far. They lost to South 1-0 away from home and beat South 2-1 at Clare Street. Eagles have lost 2-1 to the Lions at Lightwood and beaten them 6-0 at Clare Street.

South Hobart, who are going for their fifth consecutive Premier League title, must travel to Wentworth Park to face Clarence, where they have already lost 3-2 this season. But South did win the return at South Hobart 3-0. They then entertain New Town Eagles at home, where they won 1-0 earlier in the season, before completing their season with a home game against Kingborough Lions United and an away fixture against Olympia Warriors at Warrior Park.

In their two previous meetings with the Lions, the first was a 1-1 draw and the second was won 2-1 by South. South beat Olympia 3-0 at Warrior Park and 4-2 at South Hobart in the two meetings to date. The forthcoming possibilities are endless, therefore, and there could be many a slip between the cup and the lip.

Eagles may need the help of another team to take at least a couple of points off South Hobart while Eagles still need to win all their matches. But South Hobart must remain slight favourites, if only because of their superiority in terms of goal-difference. And, because with all other things remaining equal, Eagles must beat South away from home on 5 August. Even if they do, they will have to annihilate University at Clare Street the following week to try and improve their goal-difference.

I'll stick my neck out here and say that I think South Hobart will collect a fifth consecutive Southern Premier League title. They have recently recruited Konstantinos Lantouris from Melbourne Victory and his two goals on the weekend against Tilford Zebras show why he was signed. South coach Ken Morton always pulls a rabbit out of the hat when needed, and this is one such conjuring act. But he must also be given credit for his coaching. While many coaches 'train' their teams, Morton coaches his sides.

How else does one explain South Hobart's position at the top of the ladder at this late stage of the season? This is a side that has just four players in the starting line-up from last season's team. This represents a massive but successful rebuilding process. Neither South nor Eagles can afford to slip up in any of their remaining games, so it all makes for the most exciting finish to the league in years.

Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League - (As at 22nd July 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	17	13	2	2	55	12	41
New Town Eagles	**17**	**12**	**2**	**3**	**48**	**17**	**38**
Clarence United	17	9	2	6	35	26	29
Kingborough Lions Utd	17	6	6	5	38	36	24
Tilford Zebras	17	6	5	6	42	40	23
Olympia Warriors	17	6	3	8	36	41	21
Glenorchy Knights	17	2	4	11	19	41	10
University	17	0	4	13	11	71	4

Flu grounds four Eagles ahead of crucial game

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - July 29, 2012

INJURY and illness may pose a setback for New Town Eagles' bid to secure a top-four spot as they prepare to clash with Hobart Zebras at Clare St at 2.30pm tomorrow.

Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford had four players recovering from the flu during the week, while Michael Anderson has been ruled out for the remainder of the season after injuring a medial ligament against South Hobart.
On a brighter note for the Eagles, both Alex Leszczynski and Alex Gordon have overcome injuries sustained against South 12 days ago, while David Cox, Chris Stingle, Jeremy Marshall and Jacob Clamp will vie Anderson's spot.

"Our squad is keen to build on success of the South match and will look to convert possession into more goals than in recent games," Pitchford said.

Zebras are five points clear of third-placed Eagles and want to consolidate second place.

Kingborough Lions, two points adrift of the Eagles, can pounce on any slip-up over the final three fixtures, but they face league champions South Hobart at Lightwood Park at 2.30pm tomorrow.

South lost its unbeaten run against the Eagles two weeks ago, but recovered in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy with a 4-0 win over Taroona.

Clarence United's hold on fourth spot has slipped recently and it will be searching for a victory against Glenorchy Knights at 6.30pm tomorrow to prevent a late Lions surge.

The talking point will be the relegation decider between Olympia Warriors and Beachside on Sunday at 2.30pm. Cellar-dweller Beachside will host second-last Warriors at the Tropicana in a do-or-die match for the home side. Warriors need three points to guarantee safety, while a Beachside win will make the final rounds very interesting.

"We are aware it will be a tough game at Sandown," Olympia coach Franco Previdi said.

Eagles send out powerful message with thrashing of Zebras

Walter Pless | Monday, 30 July 2012

New Town Eagles had a point to prove to everyone and they did it by smashing Tilford Zebras 6-0 at Clare Street on Sunday. They may have missed the cut in terms of membership of next season's Victory League, but they showed they are still in contention for the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title. The result still leaves them 3 points adrift of leaders South Hobart, whom they meet next week, but they did improve their goal-difference somewhat with this result.

Zebras were on the ropes early and down for the count by half-time, having Jon Foley-Donoghue sent off for two yellow cards in quick succession just before the break. The visitors did revive somewhat in the latter stages of the second period despite being down to 10 men, but it was far too late, and Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford thwarted them on every occasion.

Eagles opened the scoring in just 20 seconds when Adam McKeown sent over a pin-point cross form the right and Alex Leszczynski was given time to control the ball and pick his spot from point-blank range. Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 4th minute after Liam Scott played McKeown through and he set up his team-mate to beat Michael McKenna.

McKeown then took on the role of executioner, scoring a simple third for Eagles on the quarter-hour and hitting a fourth from Ben Whitehall's free-kick seconds before the break. The free-kick was awarded for Foley-Donoghue's foul on Scott, which earned the Zebras player a second yellow card. Moments earlier, he had been cautioned for a foul on the same player.

Zebras had had a few half-chances in that first period, mainly through the endeavour of Nicholas MacDonald, who is certainly holding his own in the top-flight since being promoted from the reserves. Ricky Self and Foley-Donoghue had token efforts that did not pose any problems for the home side.

But Eagles had also squandered some chances in the opening 45 minutes as McKeown, Leszczynski and Michael Anderson let Zebras off the hook. Six minutes after the resumption, Jacob Clamp made it 5-0 when the ball ricocheted to him after McKenna had blocked Scott's shot.

Eagles had a lucky break in the 70th minute when Anderson's attempted clearance, while under pressure from Fagg, rebounded off a team-mate and struck the woodwork. Fagg got to the rebound but Pitchford produced an excellent save. Substitute Chris Stingle missed an absolute sitter in the 76th minute for Eagles. McKeown did the hard work by picking his way along the by-line on the right before presenting his team-mate with an open goal, but Stingle mis-kicked and the chance went begging.

In the 78th minute, MacDonald missed from close range for Zebras, who were somehow managing to stay in with a chance of scoring. A minute later, the visitors conceded a sixth goal when McKeown was put clear on the left and he easily rounded McKenna before slipping the ball into an unguarded net. The Zebras still had something left, however, and Pitchford did well to turn Jal David's shot over the bat for a corner in the 81st minute.

A minute later, Mark Page had to clear off the line after Eagles failed to deal with a corner as Pitchford was unable to catch the ball cleanly in the air. Pitchford regained his composure and, in the next minute, did well to tip Ricky Self's shot over the bar for another corner. The home side saw out the match with a second clean sheet and a second 6-0 score-line in consecutive matches.

Football Federation Tasmanian may not have had current on-field performance as a criterion for selection in the Victory League, but this Eagles performance made one wonder why not. Have FFT possibly thrown the baby out with the bath water?

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
I think [this sent out] that we're one of the best teams in the competition, and probably the State, and those that say otherwise have obviously got it wrong. The boys were pretty keen to turn it on today, obviously, and the message in the sheds before the game was to go out today and play our football and not to worry about external factors that we can't do anything about. All we can do is play our football. And, today, I think they did really well.

The 10-man factor is always an interesting thing. We scored early in the second half and we hoped to score a couple more. I mean, we had the chances, but with 10 men, they certainly had a few chances as well. I think probably our keeper helped us keep a clean sheet today. If you score six goals in a game, you've got to be happy with that.

Tilford Zebras coach, Eamonn Kelly, said:
Bitterly disappointed. Bitterly. A really woeful performance, and no reason for it. No reason for it. First 10 minutes, we were out of the game. End of story. Pitchy [Nathan Pitchford] had a great second half.

We lost count of how many shots we had on target, and we hit the crossbar twice, we hit the post twice. That's what he's there for. That's what a goalkeeper is there for, to stop balls going in. Pitchy did a great job today. We conceded six, but you can't blame McKenna for too many of them. 'A couple of boys played well in the second half. Jal David had a good second half, and Ricky Self came out, Ryan Smith had a better second half. It's just unpredictable.

Title goes down to the wire

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 3/8/2012

THE momentum is with New Town Eagles, history points to South Hobart and recent results forecast a tight showdown for the southern Premier League title on Sunday. Second-placed Eagles aim to derail South's tilt for a historic fifth consecutive title at Darcy St from 2.30pm.

The Eagles, who trail South by three points and have an inferior goal difference, must win to have any hope of snatching the title. New Town knows the task at hand, but its recent form, which has seen it forge an unbeaten streak of nine matches, including a 2-1 victory over South, shows it has nothing to fear.

"It's obviously going to be another big game again," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said. "We've taken it to them in every game that we have played, and we've beaten them a couple of times in the last 18 months, and we think we can do it again."

Liam Scott, leading scorer Adam McKeown and the lethal Alex Leszczynski are likely to play a part on Sunday.

⚽ Eagles win vital 3 points against South but destination of the title still in South's hands

Walter Pless | Sunday, 05 August 201

New Town Eagles kept their championship hopes alive with this 1-0 win over leaders South Hobart on a heavy and slippery South Hobart pitch. Both sides have two games remaining and the title may well be decided on goal-difference. South Hobart now have a goal-difference of +43 and Eagles one of +38. South Hobart still have to play fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United at home and fifth-ranked Olympia Warriors away, while New Town Eagles must entertain wooden-spooners University at Clare Street and then travel to Lightwood Park to face the Lions.

Today's match was an excellent advertisement for Tasmanian football and featured the two best sides in the State. The sad thing is that this New Town Eagles side will not be in the top-flight Victory League next season. Judging from their on-field performance today, they certainly deserve to be there.

There were some outstanding examples of individual skill from players on both sides. Inconsistency is a problem, though. Too many times, players demonstrated superb ball control and technique, only to then give the ball away with a bad pass or poor shot. Having said that, both sets of players gave 100 per cent to the cause and displayed some marvelous team-work, making this the best game I have seen this season. This was despite the treacherous conditions which saw players slipping and falling over at times in awkward situations.

Liam Scott and Ben Whitehall showed marvelous ball control for Eagles, while Michael Anderson did what was required to keep Andy Brennan scoreless. He even took time out to send long and mostly accurate passes forward to his team-mates. David Cox was very good as sweeper and Mark Page and Blayne Hudson played with gusto and confidence in a solid Eagles defensive arrangement in front of goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford, whose distribution was sometimes haphazard but who handled every shot or cross - except one near the end - flawlessly.

Jacob Clamp and Cormac Collins did what was required in midfield and won their fair share of possession to send their team into attack. Both had scoring chances, but Clamp was off target with his header, while Collins had a stinging shot well saved by Mark Moncur.

Up front, Alex Leszczynski had a powerful match in the conditions. Every time he was in possession, it spelled danger for South, and it was his tremendous shot against the woodwork that provided the alert Adam McKeown with the decisive goal. Leszczynski should, in fact, have scored in the 4th minute when he was given time and space to pick his spot, but he dragged his low shot wide.

McKeown had a poor game given his high standards. His first touch was often lacking, and his passes were often misdirected. One could see he was annoyed with himself. But it was his quick thinking and clinical finishing that won the game, and it showed he is not the league's leading marksman without reason. He typified a characteristic of all good strikers - they may do nothing for most of the match and then pop up with the winner. The conditions probably did not suit him, but if Eagles win the title, he will deserve much of the credit as he now has a tally of 24 goals in 19 games.

South Hobart produced their normal disciplined, measured and highly skilled performance in tricky conditions and on an uncertain pitch. Indeed, they might have salvaged a draw on a dry day. Midway through the second half, Nick Morton's shot was goal-bound but stuck in the mud just short of the line.

Goalkeeper Mark Moncur, who replaced the injured Matthew Ferguson, was as reliable as ever and could not be blamed for the goal. Skipper Hugh Ludford was excellent at the back and frequently ventured forward as a 'libero', always threatening, and always passing accurately and thoughtfully to team-mates. Why Eagles gave him the liberty to do this was perplexing. Greg Duffy and Cameron Williams were very good as the fullbacks but were forced to carry out their defensive duties more than usual because Eagles were aware of their attacking qualities and negated these to a large extent. Duffy did have a good chance near the end, but Williams was well marked at set-pieces.

Hugo Bladel partnered Ludford in the centre of defence. He slipped and fell a couple of times early on in the slippery conditions, but recovered to have a solid game. He seems to have regained his confidence, but Eagles did not pressure him as much as they might have done. South Hobart's midfield of Shae Hickey, Loic Feral and Bobby Eaves played well, but Eagles' pressure ensured that none of the trio was able to determine the outcome. The power of Feral and Eaves in the conditions was complemented by the fine skills of Hickey, but credit must go to the Eagles midfield for sticking to their tasks and making life difficult for an engine room that has often been at the heart of South's success.

The loss of Eaves just before the break with a suspected fractured cheek bone was a blow to South and led to then changing their formation slightly for the second half, with Morton dropping deeper into midfield and substitute James Ince playing wide on the right flank. It was not until the second half that South got on top in terms of chances and shots and Morton and Brennan began to look dangerous. Konstantinos Lantouris had a quiet game and Page only rarely gave him a look in.

Eagles started on the offensive and Hudson, Leszczynski, twice, and Whitehall all squandered chances in the opening 9 minutes as South were forced on the back foot. Scott was outstanding in the middle against his former club. His ball control was first-class, and his anticipation and intelligent play were exemplary.

South's first chance came after 21 minutes following Duffy's deep cross from the right. Page hesitated and allowed the ball to come to earth, gifting possession to Lantouris, whose shot took a deflection and looped high into the air. It came down just under the crossbar, but Pitchford caught it before it could cross the line. In the 24th minute, Moncur did well to block at Collins's feet and concede a corner.

South survived a torrid situation two minutes later as confusion reigned inside the box following Moncur's blocking of a Collins shot from the left. The ball rolled loose and was eventually cleared off the line with no Eagles player able to get a decisive touch. In the 29th minute, a free-kick from deep on the right by Whitehall found Clamp, but his header was off target.

Eaves sent in a rare South Hobart shot on goal in the 39th minute, but Pitchford scrambled to his left and fielded the ball comfortably. In the 41st minute, Bladel needlessly gave the ball away in a dangerous position but escaped punishment as Eagles failed to take advantage of the lapse.

Two minutes before the break, McKeown shot harmlessly over the bar after Leszczynski had expertly chested the ball down and into his path to create the chance. In the closing seconds of the first half, Eagles created an intelligent and precise attack involving McKeown and Leszczynski, but when the ball went to Whitehall wide on the right, he drove his shot wide of the far upright.

South came out for the second half in a positive frame of mind and soon imposed their style on the match. In the 50th minute, instead of clearing the ball, Eagles conceded an unnecessary corner. Hickey floated the ball into the box and Whitehall was thankful when the ball glanced off his head and at goal but was caught by Pitchford.

A minute short of the hour-mark, substitute Ince drove his shot straight at Pitchford as South started to accumulate shots at goal. In the 61st minute, Brennan sent an effort narrowly wide, and it began to look as if Eagles were in real danger of going behind.

Morton's missed chance came in the 67th minute, but Eagles relieved the pressure somewhat 10 minutes later when Leszczynski chipped a good chance over the bar from range. Collins and Clamp were replaced by Josh Quan and Jeremy Marshall 13 minutes from the end and the fresh legs proved a boon for the visitors.

In the 82nd minute, Ludford was perfectly positioned at the near post to head a Whitehall corner off the line. Eagles regained possession and Whitehall managed to get to the byline on the left and cut the ball back for McKeown to shoot, but the ball flew straight into Moncur's arms. It was a great chance and McKeown was clearly disappointed with himself.

The breakthrough came in the 84th minute when Quan won the ball against Duffy near the left touchline and played a perfect diagonal ball to Leszczynski in the inside-right channel. The Eagles striker lined up the ball and hit a tremendous rising shot from 22 metres that hit the underside of the bar with Moncur helpless. The ball rebounded down and out and McKeown pounced instantly and before Bladel could react, heading the ball into the net for the only goal of the game.

South brought on Max Clarke in place of Lantouris for the final two minutes, but the youngster did not have time to have an influence on the game. Eagles were ecstatic at the final whistle, and rightly so, but the title is still South Hobart's to lose.

South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:
We're still in with a chance. It was a strong performance from us today and a great performance from Eagles as well. I think we're still there. We're still in with a shout.

I think it was strong performance from both teams. Both teams worked hard. I think it was 90 minutes of strong football.

I think Eagles had the better of the first half and they put us under a lot of pressure. In the second half, I think we got on top and started to dominate. It was a good game of football.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
A very important win, obviously, and it means we're now in with a chance. We're still five goals in goal-difference behind and that's a big gap to make up over two games. We've got to go out and win first of all, and then look at the goals. I thought in the first half today we were very good and could have easily been a couple of goals up.

South came at us and got a bit of dominance in the middle of the park. We were lucky enough to hold out. A set of fresh legs in the last 15 minutes probably helped us and a perfect strike by Alby [Alex Leszczynski] and a striker doing his job by following up. It's what McKeown and Leszczynski have been doing all season.

But everybody contributed today. I mean, Ando [Michael Anderson] kept Brennan totally out of the game. Ben Whitehall kept working hard all day out on the wings and it was a real team effort where they did what they'd been asked to do for most of the 90 minutes. I think that's how we've tried to play all year and now we've got a chance to get some reward.

Eagles in last-gasp stunner

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 6/8/2012

NEW Town Eagles produced a stunning winner in the final six minutes of a classic southern Premier League soccer clash against South Hobart yesterday, throwing the title race wide open. Eagles brought the house down with striker Adam McKeown's last-gasp goal in the 84th minute that handed the Eagles a vital 1-0 victory.

Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford couldn't hide his delight as Alex Leszczynski rocketed a shot on to the crossbar before McKeown headed home the rebound for the only goal of the day. The goal decided a nervy top-of-the-table clash at Darcy Street and put New Town equal on points at the top of the table with South.

With both on 44 points, only goal difference (43 to 38 in South's favour) separates them with two matches left. "[Five goals] is a big gap to make up over two games," Pitchford said. South still has the upper hand in the final matches.

"I think we're still there, we're still in with a shout," coach Ken Morton said.

Title race ends in thriller South needs rout to scuttle Eagles

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - August 18, 2012

TODAY, after the final round of the season, a new chapter in southern Premier League soccer history will be written. At around 4.15pm one team will be celebrating winning the title while another will be left to rue a near miss.

With leader New Town Eagles locked on 47 points with second-placed South Hobart, the champion could be decided by the slightest of margins in an exciting season finale.

If South prevails, it will be the first time a team has won the southern top-tier competition for five consecutive seasons since it claimed five crowns between 1919 and 1923.

However, New Town is in the box seat to end South's recent supremacy, thanks to superior goal difference, and all the pressure is on South in the goal-scoring department.

If both teams win, South will need to outscore Eagles by at least four goals. If the Eagles lift the trophy, it will be the club's first piece of silverware at the senior level since 1997.

With the final four games of the league campaign all kicking off simultaneously from 2.30pm today, both sides face difficult away trips against sides still fighting for places in the top four.

Eagles will travel to Lightwood Park to tackle fourth-placed Kingborough Lions, while South takes on a resurgent Olympia Warriors hoping to sneak into a finals position at Warrior Park.

The Eagles know all about failure at the final hurdle, about the pain of defeat and missing out on silverware by the narrowest of margin, having lost two finals in the last two seasons.

Their aim today will be to start well to be in a position to put the Lions out of the match early. "Kingborough were very good against us last time at Lightwood, and have a strong squad capable of matching any team in the competition on their day," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said.

"Having said that, we are confident that our current form is as good as at any time during the season. "There is a belief within the squad that we can win this encounter, and hopefully the title."

A big positive for the Eagles is Michael Anderson recovering from a knee injury and is likely to start, while Jacob Clamp and Blayne Hudson are in the mix for starting berths.

Lions coach Matthew Rhodes, who will swap David Cooper for Felix Kang in the forward line for this clash, guided his side to a 2-1 victory over New Town in round seven at the Den earlier this year and a repeat could shatter the Eagles' title hopes.

South will be strong favourites against an injury-stricken Olympia, given the Warriors have lost captain Josh Fielding, Craig Stockdale and Janko Begovic (suspension) as Ken Morton's side aims to make history with a fifth title.

Clarence United can secure third spot with victory over Glenorchy Knights at Wentworth Park, while Hobart Zebras, who recently slipped to sixth, can sneak into the top four with victory against University at Olinda Grove.

Eagles lose title on last day

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 21 August 2012

New Town Eagles, sitting on top of the ladder at the start of play, threw away the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title with this 3-2 loss to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United. Virtually all that Eagles had to do to collect the title was to win. The only way second-placed South Hobart could then have pipped them for the honours was to beat Olympia Warriors by five or six goals.

As it turned out, Eagles lost, while South scored a penalty and a goal in stoppage time to down the Warriors 2-1 and it was they who collected a record fifth title in row. Eagles started in promising fashion and Alex Leszczynski had two early chances, including one that rolled over the line but was ruled out because of a foul on the Kingborough keeper.

But it was the Lions who took a shock lead after 17 minutes. Joel Schuth floated a corner in from the right and Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford flapped at the ball and succeeded only in placing it at the feet of Marcello Marchioli, who was in space beyond the far post. Marchioli volleyed a spectacular shot into the back of the net from an angle as Jeremy Marshall failed to cut out the chance.

Two minutes later Eagles were level, as Liam Scott played the ball forward and Adam McKeown flicked it wide for Leszczynski, whose cracker of a shot beat Andrew Duncan at his near post and ricocheted into the net off the underside of the bar. The visitors went ahead in the 32nd minute when Mark Page's long ball into the Kingborough box was skillfully

flicked on and into the net by McKeown, who, moments earlier, had been unlucky when his shot took a slight deflection and hit the outside of the right-hand post.

Eight minutes after the interval. Kingborough levelled through Wade Hawkins. Joel Schuth crossed from the left and Nick Di Falco nudged the ball wide to Farquhar, who slipped it through for the onrushing fullback. Hawkins evaded a couple of tackles before slotting a left-footed shot past the diving Pitchford and into the net. Pitchford injured his left hand in the incident, and it was later revealed that he had broken a bone in his hand. After treatment, he played on for the remainder of the match.

Joel Schuth hit Kingborough's winner in the 59th minute from the so-called 'Schuth zone', an area roughly five metres in circumference just outside the left-hand corner of the penalty area. Andrew Duncan punted the ball upfield to this zone and Schuth gained possession and, just as he has done on frequent occasions this season, hit an unstoppable left-footed shot inside the near post and past the vainly diving Pitchford.

In the 64th minute, Pitchford did very well to save a stinging shot from Marchioli. Eagles rallied as the half wore on and they went so close to equalising on a couple of occasions. Substitute Josh Quan, who had replaced the injured Ben Whitehall, had an effort deflected wide for a corner, while Duncan got down to hold a fierce shot by Leszczynski. In the dying seconds, Leszczynski miscued the ball after a corner kick and the chance went begging. Leszczynski and Marshall had shots before the end, but they were merely token salvos fired from a ship that was dead in the water. Eagles knew their title hopes were scuttled as the final whistle blew.

Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:
A good win. A great win. I thought we were really good today. We changed our line-up a bit and put Coops [David Cooper] back to sweeper and I thought he was excellent today. It really worked for us. Even at half-time when we were 2-1 down, I thought we were in the game. In the second half we just came out and controlled the game. They had a couple of half-chances, but I thought we were well in control, and we deserved our win. We deserve to be in the top-four.

We did decide the title. I don't think that always sits well with people. I didn't mind who won, but it's not nice when a side comes down and loses. I really feel for Eagles. They've had a great year and my thoughts were all on us making the top-four. That's what it was all about today. We've been in the top-four for 20 out of the 21 weeks, so we deserved it. We beat Zebras every time this year and we've been great. It's great. Looking forward to next week.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:
I think we had a bit of a slow start to the first half, although I think we probably had chances before they scored. We woke up and played pretty well first half. Went out in the second half and just didn't seem to be prepared to put the faith in the system of playing the ball on the deck and hitting feet.

Having said that, when we had a really good chance 10 seconds into the second half, and we didn't take it. At the end, it was really just a comedy of errors that led to the two goals that we gave away. And then, once you've got the pressure on you, of course, you turn over the ball and you resort to long kicking and those of sorts of things, and it just wasn't to be.
I mean, right at the end we had chances to draw but we knew a draw wouldn't have been good enough anyway. Full credit to Kingborough. They kept plugging away, kept playing their game, and they took their chances when they had them.

2012 will be primarily remembered for the two losses that cost the club trophies, however, it will also be remembered as a season where this squad achieved some fantastic results. The goal scoring feats at times reduced competitive opposition to mere bystanders. Runners-up in the Lakoseljac Cup Final, and to go within 45 minutes of the SPL title are places most other clubs did not even get close to, 3rd place was 15 points (or 5 wins) behind Eagles.

That second-place finish meant that for the second year in a row Eagle were playing finals. After losing Nathan Pitchford to a broken hand sustained in the previous game against Kingborough, it was always going to be tough to emulate 2011's performance. Having finished third in the NPL, the Devonport side came to Clare Street and claimed a semi-final berth in a reversal of the 2011 result. Conceding the deciding goal in the 92nd minute, was not the way Eagles wanted to end the 2012 season.

Southern Premier League Final Standings – 2012 (Top 5 teams)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	2	3	62	15	50
New Town Eagles	**21**	**15**	**2**	**4**	**69**	**20**	**47**
Clarence United	21	10	2	9	37	33	32
Kingborough Lions	21	8	6	7	47	45	30
Tilford Zebras	21	8	5	8	51	52	29

Leading Goalscorers: McKeown 26, Alexander Leszczynski 20, Scott 5, Whitehall, Clamp 4,

Great Scott form puts midfielder onside for award

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] 10/7/2012

NEW Town Eagles' midfielder Liam Scott is shaping as a strong candidate for the Vic Tuting medal for the best and fairest player in the southern Premier League competition. Scott was named man of the match for the second time this season after his side's 1-0 victory over Clarence United on Saturday, and his performances are likely to have drawn the attention of the referees.

A former South Hobart and Hobart Zebras player, Scott has proved a vital cog in the Eagles' midfield engine room and nabbed the winner against Clarence with his fourth goal of the campaign. "It was a pretty tough game against Clarence," Scott said.

Scott on the move against Clarence at Clare Street Oval

"They come out to play; it's always a physical contest when you've got big bodies in the middle with Macca [Clarence's Sam McIntyre] and Grant Malcolm, but overall, I was happy that the team won and that's all that matters." Scott admitted there was a hint of handball in the lead-up to his decisive goal, but he denied it was a hand of God. "It just happened to come across my body, and it was all a bit of a blur until it was in the back of the net, you claim everything you can," he said.

"With South [Hobart] winning and putting four points between us we had to come out and win [against Clarence]." There was a momentary scare for Scott in the 72nd minute of the match, which would have ruled him out of the running for the Vic Tuting medal. In a bizarre incident, he pulled back Clarence midfielder Joseph Stevens and referee Simon Natoli waved the red card, a punishment much harsher than the crime.

Scott protested and Natoli quickly realised his error, rescinding the red and producing a yellow instead. If Scott had been sent off, he would have been ineligible for the medal. Scott believes he has room for improvement, but his drive and distribution from midfield has been pivotal to Eagles' success this year. Eagles strikers Adam McKeown (15 goals) and Alex Leszczynski (13) are also likely to have tallied considerable votes for their efforts.

Although on-field performances were a highlight of 2012, the club's failure to earn a spot in the following seasons reincarnation of the State League, the "V League", (named after the leagues major sponsor, Melbourne Victory), would have ramifications for years to come.

Clubs in shock after failing to make cut

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] 28/7/2012

EIGHT soccer clubs across the state placed champagne on ice yesterday after they were officially offered licences to compete in the revolutionary Victory League in 2013.

South Hobart, Hobart Zebras, Glenorchy Knights, Olympia Warriors and Kingborough Lions will represent the south, while Northern Rangers and Launceston City will constitute the two northern outfits. Devonport City will be the state league's sole northwest representative in the newly established state competition, which will kick off in March next year.

But it wasn't all good news for the soccer community as New Town Eagles' and Clarence United's exclusion from the league rocked their respective clubs. Football Federation Tasmania president Sean Collins and chief executive John Boulous brought forward the announcement scheduled for next week to allow all 17 applicants and the successful eight to digest the news.

"The Victory League starts to take shape today, and I'm sure these eight clubs will be strong participants both on and off the field," Collins said. "I appreciate that today will be a day of celebration for some and of disappointment for others."

Collins said the federation would formally invite the eight clubs to join the league and outline key terms of participation. The unsuccessful clubs would have the opportunity for feedback on their applications. The eight clubs must foot a $10,000 licence fee to confirm involvement in the league, but Collins said all clubs had demonstrated financial eligibility.

The presidents of excluded clubs Clarence and New Town said they were hit hard by the announcement. "It has come as a shock, to be honest we expected to be in the eight," Eagles president Bill Shackcloth said. "It's not going to be the end for Eagles, but it's not where we wanted to be going forward."

Clarence's Phill Randall said he was "devastated". "With the strength of our results in the Premier League over the review period, combined with the strength of our youth program and the excellent facilities provided by the Clarence City Council, I thought we had a compelling application," Randall said.

For the successful clubs, there was no hiding the delight and relief. "It's fantastic news for us. We put in a lot effort and our application was 96 pages," Olympia president Paul Kaproulias said. "But it's sad for the teams who missed out. It's a bit like a wedding where you can't invite everyone, but those who don't get an invite will always be disappointed."

Zebras president Nick Di Giovanni was delighted his club was selected. "We didn't make the cut for the first state league in 1978 so we know how it feels," Di Giovanni said. "It's all smiles and great news for us, but it was still a worry expecting a phone call (yesterday) morning."

The main criteria that the federation judged each applicant against were facilities, technical characteristics, financial standing and marketing ability.

⚽ Fallen Eagles ponder future

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] 28/8/2012

THE 2012 season promised so much for New Town Eagles, but instead it has offered only heartache and disappointment in place of silverware.

Under new coach Stephen Pitchford, and with their main rival South Hobart losing many of their core senior players at the end of last season, the Eagles were confident that victory was on the horizon. But key losses at important times during the season left them with nothing to show for their efforts.

And to add insult to injury, the club was unsuccessful in its application for a Victory League licence. In June this year the Eagles entered the Lakoseljac Statewide Cup Final as overwhelming favourites against Glenorchy Knights but were beaten 3-2. On that occasion a despondent Pitchford offered no excuses for his side's loss. "We had our opportunities, and we didn't take them, and if you don't take them in any game you're going to lose," he said.

This sentiment would ring true for Eagles more than once as the season neared its end. On the final day, with the title theirs for the taking, the Eagles faltered away to Kingborough Lions with the score line again 3-2. Keeper Nathan Pitchford also sustained a season-ending injury on the same day that dashed his hopes of a certain start for Tasmania against Melbourne Victory.

A week later and 3-2 was the score line that undid them again and this time it was at home to visiting side Devonport. With no Victory League to look forward to next year and their State Finals series campaign cut short, many of the senior Eagles players must now surely be asking, where to next for 2013?

There was a lot of finger-pointing and recriminations as to why Eagles did not make the cut for the new “V League”. A poor submission was cited as the major reason for their non-inclusion, however subsequent submissions proved that this was a total furphy, (albeit a convenient reason at the time), and that there many factors that contributed to the outcome.

Given FFT had settled on only an eight-team competition, it was obvious that they were not interested in having the “best” playing soccer clubs at the time, but were focused on where the clubs were based. Eagles finished in second place (20 points ahead of Glenorchy Knights and 28 points ahead of Olympia) and Clarence third, yet both clubs missed out on a place, whilst Olympia third last and Glenorchy Knights second last got in.

Although one of the criteria was youth development (youth structures, number of teams etc.), Glenorchy Knights (based in the Northern Suburbs), received a license with a poor youth structure compared to say Eagles, and "Johnny come latelys" on the Eastern Shore, Olympia, did not have anywhere near the youth structures (or history of) compared to Clarence, who had invested significant money, time and effort in establishing themselves in the region. What Olympia did have was money and influence and there was even talk of legal action if they didn't receive a license. I also suspect they had a good fiction writer in their midst, because their President at the time was pleased to let everyone know that their submission was 96 pages long.

The "regional" focus is further enhanced by the granting of a licence to Kingborough Lions, which merged with West Hobart Caledonians in 1998. In twenty plus years they had won only one major senior trophy a Summer Cup and have been perennial underachievers, and continue to be so. They have the best resources of any club in the south of the state, but have failed to make any impact in any senior competition. There is no other possible reason for their inclusion other than the desire to have a club in their area represented in the new league, one which has high growth potential.

Eagles later learned that their home ground of Clare Street was unacceptable for hosting "V League" matches or for any State League matches in the future because of the cricket pitch, yet Northern Rangers had a similar setup at the NTCA oval where they were based. I suspect the reviewing committee didn't know that fact or didn't care. I'm sure Northern Rangers didn't advertise it. Eagles also had no intention of bringing in their quota of import players and this also went against them, this coming directly from one of the review committee members, although some years later in a golf course conversation.

Eagles also refused to embellish their financials with unrealistic numbers. FFT encouraged the clubs to use up to 500 spectators per game in their financial planning, whereas Eagles stuck to the more conservative 100-120 supporters per game. Guess who was closer in their estimates? In the end Eagles were fighting for a spot with Hobart Juventus (in the New Town, Hobart area), and given their stronger financial backing and "people" resources, Eagles were always going to struggle. In 1978 Juventus-Pioneer as they were known then, were not granted a licence in the inaugural State League because they didn't have a "home ground". Fast forward 34 years and they still didn't have a "home ground" but did have a licence, but certainly deserved to be in the competition, there was no animosity from Eagles about their inclusion.

On reflection, Eagles were somewhat naïve to believe that on-field performances would outweigh deficiencies in other areas. Their record in the State League format was second to none and their ability to be successful on a shoe-string budget was enviable. Their current line-up was providing the only consistent challenge to the all-conquering South Hobart club and their under-15 team, under the guidance of Shane Revell had just defeated Kingborough Lions 5-0 in the KO Cup Final, featuring a host of young talent, including Sam Leszczynski, son of former player Andrew, tipped to be a future star for Eagles. The future was looking extremely bright. To some, the 27th of July 2012 will be remembered as a day that nearly destroyed a successful, proud club that had provided the soccer community in Tasmania plenty of enjoyment over 50 years. Only those close to the club will know how the difficulties that were to come in the following years would threaten its existence.

2012 Under 15's - KO Cup Winners (5-0 v Kingborough Lions)
Back D. Nikimaya, H. Stevens, V. Mtandwa, M. Pilkington, D. Sisay, R. John, G. Bayabos, C. Radclifffe, S. Revell (Coach) H. Ochaya
Front R. Modi, J. Downham, O. Ochaya, S. Leszczynski, D. Lee, N. Makuach.

Back in the Women's Premier League, coach John Burnett assembled a very solid squad of 36 players and although they were inconsistent, they did manage to finish in 4th place which was a good achievement in a much tougher competition. The Premier League Reserves under Andrew Law also finished in 4th place.

Southern Premier Women's League Final Standings - 2012

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	18	17	0	1	134	22	51
Taroona	18	13	1	4	81	33	40
Clarence	18	13	1	4	59	25	40
New Town Eagles	**18**	**8**	**0**	**10**	**55**	**53**	**24**
Tilford Zebras	18	7	1	10	29	44	22
Nelson ES	18	2	1	15	14	108	7
University	18	1	0	17	16	103	3

Leading Goalscorers: T. Ford 16, G. Terry 9, H. Arnol 8

Southern Premier Women's Reserve League Final Standings - 2012

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	17	16	0	1	97	13	48
Clarence	18	14	0	4	115	14	42
Taroona	18	12	0	6	86	36	36
New Town Eagles	**16**	**7**	**0**	**9**	**36**	**56**	**21**
Tilford Zebras	18	6	2	10	31	43	20
Nelson ES	18	3	1	14	23	85	10
University	17	1	1	15	10	151	4

Leading Goalscorers: P. Hay 7, J. Rogers 5

2014 Senior Team
Back: Physio, A. Shackcloth, M. Anderson, L. Eugster, M. Burn, A. Ayers, C. Stingle, R. Bones (Coach)
Front: M. Voss, A. Gonzalez, A. Bates, R. Nutting, L. Ross, L. Ottavi, B. Ayers.

The years 2013-2015 remain some of the most difficult in the club's history. Unsurprisingly, with the introduction of the "V League", Eagles not only lost coach Stephen Pitchford to neighbours Hobart Zebras, but also the majority of the senior squad from 2012 departed to other clubs (mainly V League ones) or dropped out of the game.

Eagles brought in experienced coach Dale Itchins to start the rebuilding process. Itchins a former Eagles senior coach in the 90's had a big job ahead of him, and a depleted squad finished in last place with only three wins and three draws. By the end of the season the squad was physically and mentally fatigued.

The women's program also struggled with numbers and with some players having to play two games on a weekend, it was no surprise that the Premier Women finished in eight position, with only two wins for the season, although Gemma Terry had an outstanding season finishing with 20 goals out of the 36 scored by the team, and was the third leading goalscorer in the league.

The reserves finished in fifth position with Emily Barrow scoring 15 goals. 2013 would be the last year Eagles fielded a women's team until 2021 due to lack of numbers.

Rodney Bones replaced Itchins as coach in 2014. In a new look Premier League that did not include any V League teams, but Eagles continued to flounder. In the following two seasons under Bones, Eagles only managed a disappointing 3 wins and 2 draws and remained in last place.

Southern Premier / Championship Leagues 2013-2015

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2013 – Premier League	22	3	3	16	42	105	12	12
2014 – Premier League	20	1	0	19	20	95	3	6
2015 – Championship	16	2	2	12	18	56	8	9

2015 Senior Team

Back: Rodney Bones (Coach), Jack Palmer, Paul Palmer, James Douglas, Lucas Eugster, Matthew Russell, Llewellyn Ross, Oliver Johnston, (Physio)
Front: Andrew Telega, Jack Rojahn, Ryan Nutting, Andy Clark, Samuel Leszczynski, James Phillips

At the start of 2016, Eagles were in turmoil. Coach Rodney Bones was relocating to Queensland, and with no suitable candidates for the coaching position forthcoming, former Eagle senior coach in the late 90's Andrew Leszczynski, was coaxed into a caretaker's role, a role he would continue to fill until the end of the 2020 season.

This was going to be a big challenge for Leszczynski, who hadn't coached at senior level for decades, and with the current team, he would be unable to coach it from his armchair as he supposedly could with his teams in the late nineties.

He needed to get heavily involved in trying to rebuild Eagles reputation as a team to be feared, respected and a destination club for players wanting to play good attacking soccer. Leszczynski would take charge of both senior and reserve playing groups, trying to foster an inclusive and mentoring environment where all players felt a part of the club regardless of age or ability. This took some time to be embraced by players, but it has played its part in rebuilding the club in a positive way.

2016 Senior Team

Back: A. Leszczynski (Coach), J. Phillips, O. Jonhstone, J. Vernon, J. Rojahn, D. Kruijver, L. Backhouse, L. Ottavi, C. Leszczynski (Asst. Coach)
Front: S. Leszczynski, D. Lee, A. Clark (Capt.), L. Ross, M. Cronin.

With significant input from Eagles Technical Director Shane Revell, and match and post-match analysis from brother and former player Chris Leszczynski, Eagles commenced on the journey to lift themselves out of the doldrums, and back to a position where a club with their rich history deserved to be.

Further setbacks however, continued to hinder the club's progress. In 2016, the loss of New Town High School as Eagles pre-season venue for their youth program, virtually decimated it, as alternative training venues like West Hobart Primary School and Cornelian Bay didn't suit their main audience, which was players based in the New Town area.

The continual poaching of Eagles best and brightest talent by NPL clubs added to the frustration. The hard work of Shane Revell in particular, appeared to be wasted as players were lured away by the big NPL clubs. Eagles who have had a youth presence since the seventies would now, not be fielding any youth teams.

The 2016-2019 period, saw the senior and reserve teams steadily improve their performances, and with a mixture of youth and experience, were more than capable of beating anyone on their day, but a lack depth in quality and consistency, the key factors for trophy success, were still proving elusive.

Southern Championship Leagues – 2016 to 2018

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2016 - Championship	16	5	3	8	28	44	18	5
2017 - Championship	19	8	1	10	37	39	25	6
2018 - Championship	16	7	3	6	36	35	24	6

Southern Championship 1 Reserves – 2016 to 2018

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2016 – Championship 1	18	6	3	9	43	51	21	7
2017 – Championship 1	19	9	4	6	36	31	31	3
2018 – Championship 1	16	9	0	7	49	39	27	4

Southern Championship Final Standings - 2019

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart United	21	18	1	2	115	30	55
University	21	16	2	3	73	35	50
Beachside	21	11	4	8	64	37	37
New Town Eagles	**21**	**11**	**0**	**10**	**69**	**39**	**33**
Taroona	21	10	2	9	48	44	32
Metro	21	6	3	12	32	67	21
Nelson	21	3	4	14	26	57	13
South East United	21	1	0	20	13	131	3

Leading Goalscorers: S. Leszczynski 18, J. Vernon 13, C. Back 12

Southern Championship 1 Final Standings - 2019

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beachside	21	**17**	**2**	**2**	**93**	**24**	**53**
University	21	16	1	4	111	23	49
New Town Eagles	21	12	5	4	69	26	41
Taroona	**21**	11	4	6	64	45	37
Hobart United	21	9	3	9	49	53	30
Metro	21	5	3	13	44	71	18
Nelson	21	3	1	17	22	81	10
South East United	21	1	1	19	20	149	4

Leading Goalscorers: M. Free 12, T. Knight 11, M. Pilkington 10, A, Shackcloth 9

2019 – Championship
Back: J. Rojahn, O. Johnstone, L. Brown, S. Leszczynski, M. Luttrell, J. Vernon, A. Leszczynski (Coach)
Front: C. Back, B. Hudson, A. Clark (Capt.), B. Phillips, C. Anderson

2020's

TWENTY TWENTIES (2020's)

In 2020 the club rebranded as New Town White Eagles Soccer Club, a nod to the past and the present.

⚽ Eagles come home to roost

Walter Pless – 25/1/2020

Southern Championship club New Town Eagles today decided to rename the club New Town White Eagles Soccer Club.

The change was made at the club's AGM for 2019, which was held today. The club will also adopt a new badge in line with the name change.

The club was formed in 1961 by Polish migrants as the White Eagle Sports Club and football was only just one sport that was played under its auspices. Volleyball, basketball, and table-tennis were other sports under the umbrella of the White Eagle Sports Club.

That was in line with the European tradition of a club having teams in a number of sports. Barcelona and Real Madrid, for example, also have basketball and other sports teams in addition to their world-famous football teams.

In 1997, White Eagle, together with dozens of other clubs in Australia, were forced by the Australian national governing body to remove all ethnic connotations in their names. White Eagle thus became New Town Eagles.

Football Federation Australia recently allowed clubs to switch back to their former names and emblems and the white eagle of Poland is prominent in the new badge.

New Town White Eagles Soccer Club president, Grant Nutting, said: "The aim of the name change, and alternate emblem is to pay respect to the founding White Eagle Sports Club and former New Town Eagles Soccer Club, whilst providing a design that is modern and representative of the club's promising future in preparation for our 60th anniversary in 2021.

"The feedback we received from past and current players and officials was extremely positive and we couldn't be more delighted with the final result. "There was a significant amount of work involved prior to the transition and it will be some time before we fully implement the changes.

"The club would also like to take this opportunity to thank Domin8 Designs for their assistance in bringing this emblem to life. "The club would like to thank everyone for their input, and we are excited for what the future holds.

Heading into 2020 though, there was optimism that success was around the corner. 2020, the final year of Leszczynski's' tenure as Coach, started with the notification that the Championship League would also now include all the NPL club's "reserve" teams, and a further team would also participate in the Championship 1 competition.

Although the majority of Championship clubs voted against this proposal, as it was felt that it would damage the Championship brand that had been improving to the point where it could be argued it was a better competition in some respects than the NPL league itself, it was the usual case of what the NPL clubs wanted, the NPL clubs got.

Apart from trying to win the Premiership (to enhance their NPL aspirations), Eagles also set out to make sure they didn't lose against any of the NPL clubs they now had to face. The season started positively with a big win against South East at Pembroke Park in March, then a week later, Tasmania went into lock-down, as the world-wide pandemic Covid-19 hit. Covid-19 would be responsible for millions of lives lost, and significantly change the way people lived their day to day lives.

The season went into hiatus, and didn't recommence until the middle of July. All previously played games were made void and a new reduced roster was implemented. The season turned into a huge challenge, with several hurdles that proved too much for the senior team, after they had spent the majority of the season near the top of the ladder.

A run of injuries to key players led to a mini form slump towards the end of the season, and resulted in a fourth-place finish. It was testament to the clubs' improved depth, that it was able to perform at a high level despite the number of injuries they suffered.

The loss of Clare Street as a home ground and a training venue (it became unavailable because of cricket) had a big impact on the team. Whilst the top three teams had 9-10 home games at their "normal" home ground, Eagles had 3 games at Clare Street, a huge disadvantage. This aspect was very disappointing, especially considering the Football Federation were well aware that Eagles would lose access to Clare Street from September. They did nothing to modify an already modified roster to enable equity for all clubs.

Training sessions were conducted on the dog walking park at the Domain Crossroads, a poor surface, without proper goals, whilst for the majority of the other teams in the competition, it was business as usual, nothing had changed for them. Eagles had to endure these conditions for three months.

Eagles did as they set out to do at the beginning of the season, and defeated all the NPL teams they faced, a 1-1 draw (after winning the first encounter 1-0) against the subsequent Champions Olympia, was the only blemish to that record.

⚽ Eagles go to top of standings with win over Lions

By WALTER PLESS 2020

New Town White Eagles 4 (J Ryan-Buchanan 22, B Phillips 53, J Vernon 63, J Rojahn 90)
Kingborough Lions United 0 HT: 1-0 Att: 60 Ref: A Cooke

New Town White Eagles: Nutting - Brown, Brown-Price, Clark, Butler - Ryan-Buchanan, Clamp, Phillips, Back - Vernon, Johnstone (Subs: Longden, Moore, Ottavi, Rojahn)
Kingborough Lions United: Kingston - Shreeve, Pitchford, Turner, Johnson - Ellis, Easton, King, James - Hayers, Bridge (Subs: Crane-French, Legg, Barrett)

Eagles led 1-0 at the breakthrough a somewhat bizarre goal out of the blue from long range by Jac Ryan-Buchanan midway through the first half. His first-time shot was a daisy-cutter and eluded everyone, including Kingborough keeper Tate Kingston as it flashed into the net.

It was a deserved lead as Eagles had the better of the play and might easily have had more goals. Jake Clamp headed against the woodwork and Ben Phillips almost found the top corner with another effort. The second-half goals were beauties.

Phillips made it 2-0 in the 53rd minute with a fantastic shot from 30 metres that whistled into the back of the net. Everyone thought it was 3-0 in the 57th minute when a Toby Butler cross from the left was bundled in by Clamp, but referee Mr Cooke gave a free-kick after consulting his assistant and deciding that Clamp had fouled the keeper.

In the 63rd minute it was 3-0 when the excellent Jamie Vernon hammered home a magnificent shot out of nothing from 25 metres. In the last minute, substitute Jack Rojahn made it 4-0 when he took advantage of hesitation and misunderstanding between Riley Pitchford and keeper Kingston to poke the ball home.

It was a beautiful night for football. It was cold and the air was crisp, but there was no wind and the conditions were really ideal.

The win put Eagles on top of the ladder, but that may only last 24 hours as Olympia, displaced to second, meet champions Hobart United today and a win would put them back on top.

It was a fine display by Eagles, who appeared a fast, hard-working side capable of good football.

The experienced Andy Clark, Lian Brown and Richard Brown-Price at the back held firm, while the other member of the back-four, left-back Toby Butler, had the freedom to push forward and attack.

Fill-in keeper Grant Nutting was solid and inspired confidence, although he did not have any saves to make. He should have been beaten late in the game when a cross left him vulnerable, but Kingborough striker Alastair Crane-French failed to connect with the ball.

Kingborough used their NPL side's back-up keeper Jake Hayers as a striker in this game.

The powerful Eagles midfield deserves much credit for the team's performance as they combine a high work-rate with impressive skill. Clamp, Phillips, Callum Back and Ryan-Buchanan are physically strong and were not shy to throw some weight into challenges. They gave their team-mates confidence and controlled the game.

Vernon and Oliver Johnstone in attack kept the Lions defence on their toes and Vernon, in particular, is a tower of strength. He can hold the ball or distribute it, depending on what is required, and when the occasion presents itself, he can shoot with devastating effect. His fine goal proved that.

Eagles coach Andrew Leszczynski, one of the club's finest ever players, can be proud of the team he has built. They'll give the title a real shake.

How Football Tasmania allowed them to be excluded from the Lakoseljac Cup is one of the injustices of Tasmanian football.

Eagles coach Andrew Leszczynski (right) and his brother and assistant coach, Chris Leszczynski, watch the action [PlessPix]

In an emotional last game of the season (in mid-November!), Eagles gave retiring coach Andrew Leszczynski a winning send off with a 4-1 win against an excellent Hobart United side. It was also a fitting way to celebrate, Eagle's captain Andy Clark's 300th senior game for the club. An early goal by Callum Back in the first five minutes settled the nerves and by the time son, Sam scored the fourth, the game was well and truly won. In 2016 when Leszczynski took charge of the team, his first game was against Metro, and it was son Sam who scored the first goal in a 3-1 win. A nice book end to Leszczynski's time in charge.

At the Eagles annual Presentation dinner celebrating 2020, Leszczynski paid tribute to the "Senior" players - Andrew Telega, James Vernon, Andy Clark, Blayne Hudson, Lucas Eugster, Jack Rojahn and David Kruijver - who had provided not only great support to himself over his five-season tenure, but also played an important role in nurturing and providing guidance to the younger players that came through the senior setup during that time.

Southern Championship Final Standings - 2020

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia FC Warriors	16	11	2	3	36	17	35
University S.C.	16	11	1	4	58	21	34
Hobart United	16	10	1	5	42	30	31
New Town Eagles	**16**	**9**	**3**	**4**	**30**	**27**	**30**
Taroona FC	16	8	5	3	44	16	29
South Hobart	16	9	0	7	38	32	27
Clarence Zebras	16	6	3	7	27	37	21
Beachside	16	6	2	8	30	38	20
Metro FC	16	5	4	7	22	27	19
Glenorchy Knights	16	4	4	8	26	40	16
Kingborough Lions	16	2	2	12	13	48	8
South East United	16	1	1	14	16	49	4

Leading Goalscorers: S. Leszczynski 9, C. Back 5, J. Clamp 4

2020 Line-up for Leszczynski's final game as Coach v Hobart United at KGV

Back: A. Leszczynski (Coach), P. Wass (GK Coach), R. Brown-Price, H. Moore, J. Vernon, L. Brown, J. Clamp, O. Johnstone, S. Leszczynski, M. Pilkington W. McKay, S, Revell (TD), Chris Leszczynski (Asst Coach). **Front:** J. Cook, T. Butler, A. Clark (Capt.), C. Back, M. Free, J. Ryan-Buchanan, G. Nutting

The stars players of this period were undoubtedly club Captain Andy Clark and striker Sam Leszczynski. Clark was a consistently strong performer, with his leadership qualities always on display, whether it be at training or in the cauldron of match day. A quick and intelligent player, his heading ability is one of his strengths (although he is normally the smallest player on the field), and his willingness to get in front of his opponent and push forward to support his attackers, makes him a very dangerous player. Clark was adjudged the club's Best & Fairest player in 2016, 2017 and 2020 to add to his first success in 2008.

Sam Leszczynski, the star striker of the team has consistently been the go-to man for Eagles. His exceptional speed and technical ability make him a difficult opponent to shackle, and he has been Eagles leading goal scorer from 2015 to 2020. His talent has attracted every NPL club to his door, but apart from a brief dalliance with Glenorchy Knights he steadfastly remains an Eagle, much to the club's delight. In 2019 Leszczynski was adjudged senior Best & Fairest player following in his family's footsteps.

Clark about to clear v Nelson

Leszczynski scoring v South East United at Clare Street

Leszczynski doing what he does best, scoring the winner against Glenorchy Knights and securing a hat-trick

Heading into 2021, expectations were again high for a successful season, and a premiership to help celebrate Eagles 60th Anniversary was not out of the question. The search for a replacement for Leszczynski commenced in late November 2020, and the quality of candidates for the top job was a testament to how the club has gone some way to regaining its stature in the soccer community as a "big" club, with strong ambitions to play at the highest level again. Former senior player Tommy Fotak was the successful applicant for the senior job, to be assisted by Adam Shackcloth, who had stepped in to coach the Championship 1 side in 2020 and would continue to do so in 2021.

Fotak in action in the Past v Present Game 2011 – Clare Street Oval

Eagle's President Grant Nutting welcoming Tommy Fotak (Walter Pless)

⚽ Tommy Fotak appointed as coach of Eagles

By WALTER PLESS 2021

Tommy Fotak was yesterday announced as the new coach of Southern Championship side New Town White Eagles. Fotak will lead the club into its 60th anniversary year alongside newly appointed senior assistant Adam Shackcloth. A former White Eagles player, Fotak was most recently NPL coach at Hobart Zebras. He returns to football after an absence focused on family and the operation of a successful Tasmanian technology company.

White Eagles president Grant Nutting explained: "To have an individual of Tommy's quality leading our club into its 60th season is extremely exciting. Alongside his technical attributes, Tommy brings with him great character and his appointment is significant step towards our club achieving great things in 2021 and beyond". Fotak said: "I am really excited by the opportunity to build on the work that Dreamer [Andrew Leszczynski] and the coaching staff have done over the past seven years. "Performances on and off the field demonstrate this is a club on the rise and that is a credit to Grant and the committee, and everyone involved at Eagles.

"I'm honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility to lead this group and the club in their anniversary year. "I can't wait to get out on the track and get to work. I encourage anyone that wants to be part of the journey to come along and get involved however they can." Further coaching appointments and player signings are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

I spoke to Tommy today about his coaching background and the task he now faces.
Walter Pless: Which clubs have you played for?

Tommy Fotak: I played a season with Olympia in the 1994/95 summer State League, but the bulk of my years were spent playing with Eagles and Zebras.

WP: Which clubs have you coached?
TF: At senior level, Zebras and now Eagles.

WP: Have you won any trophies as a player, and as a coach?
TF: As a player, I won the premiership with Eagles in 1998, Lakoseljac Cup with Zebras in 2003, and a premiership with Zebras in 2004. These were in competitions that were considered the top-flight at the time. As a coach I haven't won anything at senior level yet.

WP: Why are you coming back to coaching?

TF: I've always enjoyed coaching and wanted to get back involved at some stage. I see it as a way of contributing to community. For football to be played competitively, we need coaches, referees, committees and match-day helpers, as well as players. Coaching is my preferred way of being involved. It also engages my competitive appetite! Timing is a big factor. was thinking about what I would like to do if I could retire tomorrow and, no joke, what came to mind in terms of keeping me mentally active was coaching and keeping bees. No time is ever perfect, and I realised that I could do one of those things now, so why not? I had really good conversations with Eagles, and they understood my concerns about my time commitments with football, my business and my personal life and they were incredibly open about working with me to manage all that to try to ensure that we all get good outcomes.

WP: What will your coaching philosophy be?
TF: I went back and re-read my Coaching Manifesto I put together in 2013 when I first got involved in coaching at senior level. It was a good reminder of the ideals I have when it comes to coaching and the expectations, I have of myself and any group of players that I work with. From a playing perspective, I prefer possession-based attacking football, but who doesn't? I love tempo football, being able to take your foot off the gas, be composed, but when the moment is right, really apply pressure and intensity for sustained periods. From a practical point of view, I want players and supporters of the club to be able to objectively see that the team and individuals - including myself - are continually improving, that we are always moving forward, not necessarily in a straight line, but forward, nonetheless.

WP: What do you hope to achieve at Eagles?
TF: Ultimately, the title and promotion. That's what is being asked of me and it's a fair challenge, and that's what I've joined to do. That will be based on hard work and continual improvement. If we don't win the title but we have improved by certain metrics, like total points or goal difference, then that is progress.

WP: Why did you choose to go to a second-tier side?
TF: In this case, the challenge of promotion is a reason, but for me, it's not really about tiers. It's about where I think I can do my best work, where I think I fit and add value and where I think a club sees value in my efforts. A big factor was the conversations we had around my time commitments in other facets of my life and how we can manage that as a club and coaching group. Grant [Nutting] and the Eagles committee were really understanding and supportive and we all believe we have a setup where I can do my best work and deliver really good outcomes for the club.

WP: How do to rate Tasmanian football at present?
TF: This is a really nuanced question and any answer really depends on your perspective. The game has tens of thousands of stakeholders and they each have different perspectives. My daughter plays AFL, and I would say that at a grassroots level football is streets ahead of AFL. Our challenge is to turn those fields of grass into forests of trees if I may wax philosophical for a moment. Pragmatically, the game faces all the same challenges that other sports in this State face, and I don't think we are doing any worse or better than them. From my personal perspective, I think, it is in a transitional period and has been for some time. This is not a criticism of any people in the game. It is due to societal changes that have occurred over the last twenty years. To move out of that transition we need to look at our strengths as a sport and as a community and Island State and aim for a future built on the unique value those vectors combined bring. This is far easier to say sitting here than it is to achieve. Call me a starry-eyed optimist, but I do think it is achievable.

⚑

A solid squad was made even stronger with the return of Eagle old boys Ben Whitehall and David Cox, plus the addition of Henry Fagg, Henry Lush, Rowan Heggie and Luke Huigsloot. Whitehall, Heggie and Huigsloot in particular, gave Eagles a significant boost to their goalscoring options, and provided star striker Sam Leszczynski with much needed support, not only in the goalscoring department but in the creation of goalscoring opportunities as well. It also meant that competition for senior places would be fierce, the perfect scenario for the Eagle's coaching staff. By seasons end, Leszczynski, Heggie and Huigsloot would end up as three of the top four goalscorers in the league.

Victories in the pre-season Summer Cup, the club's first senior success since 2000, for both the senior and reserve sides provided the perfect start to the club's 60th year, and had the supporters excited about what the season would bring.

⚽ Eagles collect the chocolates on Saturday

Walter Pless – 15/3/2021

New Town Eagles last won the Summer Cup in 2000, but they deserved the 2021 trophy with a 3-2 win after extra-time against South Hobart at KGV Park on Saturday.

Eagles began well and Sam Leszczynski was unlucky to see his shot come back off the base of the left-hand post after just 4 minutes after being put away down the left by Toby Butler. The physically aggressive South Hobart side almost took the lead in the 14th minute, but Eagles keeper Mitch Stalker saved Thomas Walpole's shot.

Butler misdirected a difficult header and later blazed wide when he should really have scored from close-range, and the first half ended goalless. Ronan Longden finally broke the deadlock when he gave Eagles the lead in the 63rd minute, converting an accurate left-wing cross from Butler at the far post. South Hobart drew level with 15 minutes to go when Joshua Divin took advantage of slack defending by Eagles to make the most of a cross from the right by Sam Tooze. In the 83rd minute, Eagles regained the lead when Butler's free kick from wide on the left was headed home at the far post by Rowan Heggie.

With Eagles appearing as the likely winner, Tooze popped up for South Hobart 2 minutes from the end to make it 2-2 and take the game into extra-time. In the 9th minute of the first period of extra-time, Leszczynski found new signing Luke Huigsloot and he hit what proved to be the winner from close range.

Referee Alfonso Giusti was kept busy dishing out yellow cards throughout the game in what was a heated and physical contest at times.

2021 Championship Summer Cup Winners

Back: P. Palmer, H. Moore, S. Leszczynski, L. Huigsloot, J. Vernon, D. Cox, J. Clamp, J. French, T. Madzikanda
Front: M. Free, T. Butler, R. Heggie, A. Clark (Capt.), M. Stalker, C. Back, R. Longden

Heggie Scores to put Eagles up 2-1

Summer Cup Final 2021 Supporters
Back: Chris Brown-Price, Scott Young, Andrew Leszczynski **Front:** Bobby Rybak, Peter Wass, Chris Leszczynski

The league campaign didn't get off to the expected start, with a disappointing 3-1 loss to South Hobart. Eagles produced a very lacklustre display, but this was to be only a temporary setback, as they then proceeded on an 11-game unbeaten run (including 10 wins). The loss of Jakob Clamp to a season ending knee injury, spurred the players on to keep the winning momentum going and Eagle's improved depth helped the team maintain a positive outlook.
Even though they were winning, their form was patchy. They did however show that they had the resilience and game management know how to get results, despite not playing at their best, an important trait for any team with championship winning aspirations. This was highlighted in the home game versus Metro FC. Metro were deservedly leading Eagles 2-0 with 20 minutes of play remaining, but Eagles to their credit managed to fight back to level the game, and then dramatically snatch a late winner in the final seconds.

Dominant performances against Beachside away, (6-1), the return home game against South Hobart (5-2) and away against Metro (3-0) showed what the team was capable of playing a fast, skillful brand of game, that was too much for the opposition teams to handle.

However, after a disappointing draw against Glenorchy Knights at home (2-2), followed by a poor disjointed performance against title rivals University away from home (1-3), it looked as if Eagles were suffering a potentially damaging slump in form, similar to 2020, which ultimately cost them any chance of winning the title. Eagles however quickly reasserted themselves as the team to beat, playing their best soccer of the season, and went on to remain undefeated for the remaining 8 games, (including 7 wins) and claiming the title by 9 points with 2 games to play.

The key to the season was the return game against University in Round 20 at Clare Street. Eagles held a 6-point lead over University, who were the last team to defeat Eagle in Round 17, and they had a good record against Eagles, although they were not as successful at Clare Street in recent times.

Eagles were keen to show that the Round 17 game was an aberration, and they came out in blistering fashion. Attacking the Clare Street end in the first half, the onslaught started as early as the 3rd minute, when Johnstone's long throw-in (earned after intense Eagles pressure had forced the University defence into a panicked clearance) found Whitehall in the box and he expertly held off his marker and delivered a teasing ball across the six-yard line and into the path of Heggie who timed his run to perfection and slid home the opening goal.

Heggie and Leszczynski celebrate Eagles first goal

In the 12th minute a fluent move involving Fagg, Stalker, Cox, Lush, Leszczynski and Heggie, resulted in Leszczynski being put through and subsequently being fouled just outside the box on the left, by University defender Will Stalker. Whitehall delivered a dangerous cross to the far post where the unmarked Huigsloot had no problem heading in Eagles second goal, as the University defence watched on. After having taken up a more central position, Huigsloot easily lost his marker to make his way to the back post and Whitehall's pinpoint delivery only needed to be helped on its way into the back of the net and he duly obliged.

Players celebrating Huigsloot's first goal

From the restart University tried to attack but were easily rebuffed by Cox who found Hudson with the intercept pass, and he found Leszczynski in the middle of the ground. Leszczynski quickly turned and struck a 30-metre pass into Whitehall's path who then proceeded to deliver an early ball to the near post that was met first time by the onrushing Huigsloot, and he made no mistake for Eagles third. Just on 15 minutes had elapsed and University were shell-shocked. It was not until the 30th minute that University had its first shot on goal, such was Eagles dominance. The half time score remained New Town White Eagles 3 University 0.

University began the second half with a more attacking mindset which was to be expected, and they nearly pulled a goal back in the 50th minute when a great strike from 25 metres hit the underside of the crossbar, before being collected by keeper Stalker, who was well beaten by the initial shot. In the 58th minute, if things weren't already difficult enough, University were reduced to 10 men when one of their players was sent-off for a second yellow card offence.

Hudson weaving his way through traffic

In the 60th minute a Whitehall free kick found Fagg at the far post, and his well-timed run and strong header struck the crossbar and went out for a goals-kick. A minute later Heggie found himself one on one with the keeper following a good run by Leszczynski, but his shot was brilliantly deflected by the keeper out for a fruitless corner. In the 67th minute a Whitehall corner caused chaos in the University defence, and the ball somehow found its way to Heggie who diverted the ball expertly into the back of the net for a 4-0 score line.

To University's credit they continued to push forward to try and salvage something from the game. A ten-minute spell produced a number of good goalscoring opportunities for the students, but a combination of desperate, resolute defending and superb goalkeeping kept them scoreless.

In the 78th minute a good interchange between Leszczynski and Lush ended when Lush found Whitehall with a delightful pass in acres of space and only the keeper to beat. Whitehall summed up the situation quickly and with the keeper well off his line opted for a lob over the top, but unfortunately the top of the crossbar came to University's rescue and the rebound landed safely back into the retreating keeper's hands.

In the 80th minute the keeper saved again, this time from Leszczynski's chip after he had made a fine run from the half-way line and he repeated the feat in the 85 minute when he denied Leszczynski again after the player's jinking run in the box had ended with a strike that the overworked keeper parried away to safety. The final score was New Town White Eagles 4 University 0.

Leszczynski on the run

Senior Team Squad for the University Game including Sponsors and Support Staff

In the final roster game versus Kingborough Lions, Eagles finished off with a 4-2 win, Sam Leszczynski scoring the opening goal after good work from Ben Whitehall and the second came from a penalty spot, awarded after Leszczynski was fouled in the box, keeper Mitch Stalker making no mistake with the resulting penalty.

Leszczynski opening the scoring

Mitch Stalker converting from the penalty spot

Southern Championship – Premiers

Southern Championship Final Standings - 2021

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town White Eagles	**22**	**18**	**2**	**2**	**79**	**26**	**56**
South Hobart	22	15	2	5	71	33	47
University	22	14	4	4	59	28	46
Hobart United	22	11	5	6	50	37	38
Taroona FC	22	11	3	8	45	37	36
Beachside	22	9	5	8	44	33	32
Olympia FC Warriors	22	9	4	9	57	66	31
Glenorchy Knights	22	8	5	9	46	52	29
Kingborough Lions	22	7	1	14	34	54	22
Metro FC	22	5	3	14	36	62	18
South East United	22	3	3	16	23	67	12
Clarence Zebras	22	3	1	18	17	66	10

Goalscorers: S. Leszczynski 17, R Heggie 14, L. Huigsloot 13, B. Whitehall 8, D. Cox, J. Vernon, O. Johnstone 4, M. Pilkington 3, A. Clark, B. Hudson 2, H. Fagg, M. Stalker, T. Butler 1 each.

Southern Championship - Season Results

Round	Date	Venue	Opponent	Result
1	20/3/21	Darcy Street (A)	South Hobart	Loss 1-3
2	27/3/21	Pembroke Park (A)	South East United	Win 4-2
3	10/4/21	Sandown Park (A)	Beachside	Win 6-1
4	24/4/21	Wentworth Park (A)	Clarence Zebras	Win 4-0
5	08/5/21	Clare Street (H)	Metro FC	Win 3-2
6	15/5/21	Clare Street (H)	Taroona FC	Win 4-0
7	22/5/21	Clare Street (H)	South East United	Win 1-0
8	05/6/21	Clare Street (H)	Beachside	Win 3-1
9	19/6/21	Clare Street (H)	South Hobart	Win 5-2
10	26/6/21	North Chigwell (A)	Metro FC	Win 3-0
11	03/7/21	Warrior Park (A)	Olympia FC Warriors	Win 4-2
12	10/7/21	Clare Street (H)	Glenorchy Knights	Draw 2-2
13	17/7/21	Olinda Grove (A)	University	Loss 1-3
14	24/7/21	Clare Street (H)	Olympia FC Warriors	Win 6-0
15	31/7/21	Kelvedon Park (A)	Taroona FC	Win 3-1
16	07/8/21	Weily Park (A)	Hobart United	Win 5-3
17	14/8/21	Clare Street (H)	Clarence Zebras	Win 7-0
18	21/8/21	Lightwood Park (A)	Kingborough Lions	Win 3-0
19	28/8/21	Clare Street (H)	University	Win 4-0
20	04/9/21	KGV (A)	Glenorchy Knights	Win 5-1
21	10/9/21	KGV (H)	Hobart United	Draw 0-0*
22	18/9/21	KGV (H)	Kingborough Lions	Win 4-2

** game abandoned because of light failure (not replayed)*

The Championship 1 team's season mirrored the Championship team, and they also capped a memorable year by winning the title by 9 points. The team ably led by experienced Captain Lucas Eugster (and featuring a host of Championship quality players), were inconsistent at times (doing just enough to win games) but when it did matter in the big games, the team showed that they were a class above their opposition. Standout games which showed their capabilities were the first game of the season against South Hobart (who finished in 2nd place) where they were 1-3 down at half time only to turn it around in the second half to win 4-3 with goals from Henry Fagg (2) and Monty Pilkington (2).

The Round 20 game against University also showcased their quality when they demolished the students 6-1, on the back of four goals from Monty Pilkington. In the final game of the season Callum Back scored 5 goals in a 6-3 win over Kingborough to propel him to equal top goalscorer for the league with 21 goals. Monty Pilkington finished a fine season with 18 goals.

Championship 1 – Premiers

Back. E. Dixon, S. Vernon, T. Knight, L. Brown, J. Vernon, M. Vernon, T. Vernon, C. Chladil, D. Kruijver, G. Nutting, M. Voss (Asst Coach), A. Telega, H. Moore, P. Palmer (Asst Coach), T. Madzikandwa, R. Brown-Price, A. Shackcloth (Coach) **Front:** M. Free, W. McKay, L. Eugster (Capt.), R. Longden, C. Gangell, M. Pilkington, C. Back

Southern Championship 1 Final Standings - 2021

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town White Eagles	**22**	**19**	**2**	**1**	**80**	**24**	**59**
South Hobart	22	16	2	4	85	21	50
Taroona FC	22	15	3	4	65	26	48
University	22	12	5	5	55	34	41
Taroona FC	22	13	2	7	59	43	41
Hobart United	22	9	3	10	42	41	30
Beachside	22	9	1	2	47	62	28
Glenorchy Knights	22	7	2	13	29	39	23
Clarence Zebras	22	6	5	11	35	57	23
South East United	22	4	2	16	32	79	14
Metro FC	22	3	4	15	26	84	13
Kingborough Lions	22	3	1	18	39	91	10

Goalscorers: C. Back 21* M. Pilkington 18, J. Vernon 10, A. Telega 7, T. Knight 5, C. Anderson H. Fagg, L. Eugster, M. Free, R, Heggie, W. McKay 2, B. Whitehall, J. Fracalossi, L. Ottavi, M. Vernon, R. Longden 1 each

*Callum Back – Equal League Top Goalscorer (21 goals) v Glenorchy Knights – KGV 2021

Andrew Telega v University Clare Street 2021

Southern Championship 1 - Season Results

Round	Date	Venue	Opponent	Result
1	20/3/21	Darcy Street (A)	South Hobart	Win 4-3
2	27/3/21	Pembroke Park (A)	South East United	Win 6-1
3	10/4/21	Sandown Park (A)	Beachside	Win 2-0
4	24/4/21	Wentworth Park (A)	Clarence Zebras	Win 3-1
5	08/5/21	Clare Street (H)	Metro FC	Win 8-0
6	15/5/21	Clare Street (H)	Taroona FC	Draw 1-1
7	22/5/21	Clare Street (H)	South East United	Win 4-1
8	05/6/21	Clare Street (H)	Beachside	Draw 1-1
9	19/6/21	Clare Street (H)	South Hobart	Loss 2-3
10	26/6/21	North Chigwell (A)	Metro FC	Win 3-1
11	03/7/21	Warrior Park (A)	Olympia FC Warriors	Win 7-3
12	10/7/21	Clare Street (H)	Glenorchy Knights	Win 3-2
13	17/7/21	Olinda Grove (A)	University	Win 3-0
14	24/7/21	Clare Street (H)	Olympia FC Warriors	Win 4-1
15	31/7/21	Kelvedon Park (A)	Taroona FC	Win 3-0
16	07/8/21	Weily Park (A)	Hobart United	Win 3-1
17	14/8/21	Clare Street (H)	Clarence Zebras	Win 3-0
18	21/8/21	Lightwood Park (A)	Kingborough Lions	Win 3-0
19	28/8/21	Clare Street (H)	University	Win 6-1
20	04/9/21	KGV (A)	Glenorchy Knights	Win 1-0
21	10/9/21	KGV (H)	Hobart United	Win 3-0
22	18/9/21	KGV (H)	Kingborough Lions	Win 6-3

Mark Vernon v Glenorchy Knights – KGV 2021

James Vernon v University – Clare Street

The Championship 6 team led by Matthew Burn and featuring a host of former senior players added to the Club's successful season winning the premiership (losing only one game), and capturing their Knock Out Cup with a convincing 6-2 win over the

Huon Valley, Matthew Burn scoring a hat-trick. The team also showed the fighting qualities required to achieve a premiership after a close battle with Phoenix Rovers for most of the season. Two standout performances were the 3-3 draws with firstly Kingborough, and then Phoenix Rovers, which ultimately helped secure the title.

In the game against Kingborough, Eagles found themselves trailing 3-1 mid-way through the second half, when they lost defender Krys Lebski to a harsh red card decision. Rather than drop their heads, the players rallied and managed to score twice to salvage a draw. In fact, despite playing with 10 men, Eagles looked the more likely winner until the final whistle was blown.

In what turned out to be the premiership deciding game against Phoenix Rovers at Clare Street, Eagles fell behind to an early Phoenix goal, but an equaliser with seconds remaining in the first half, scored by Richard Leszczynski gave Eagles a significant boost, and the impetus heading into the second half. Eagles scored early in the second half to gain ascendancy and control of the game, despite losing key players Chris Jones and Matthew Burn to injuries.

Adam Bates kept Phoenix star striker Lawler very quiet, but with five minutes remaining Phoenix rocked Eagles by breaching their defence twice to regain the lead, the second goal taking a wicked deflection to loop over keeper Harris and into the back of the net. Once again, the players dug deep and continued to strive for an equaliser, although time was against them. With the final action of the match, Dylan Styles delivered the match saving goal with a blistering corner kick that went directly into the opposite top corner, a truly outstanding goal. As Eagles players celebrated, the referee blew his whistle to signal full time.

Championship 6 – Premiers and KO Cup Winners – Players and Family Members Celebrating

Southern Championship 6 Final Standings - 2021

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town White Eagles	**21**	**17**	**3**	**1**	**84**	**24**	**54**
Phoenix Rovers	21	17	2	2	94	26	53
DOSA	21	11	1	9	66	47	34
South East United	21	9	5	7	50	54	32
Kingborough Lions	20	9	2	9	50	44	29
Huon Valley	21	9	2	10	42	53	29
Metro FC	21	4	1	16	26	89	13
New Norfolk *	10	0	0	10	1	19	0

Goalscorers: M . Burn 12, A. Bates 10, J. Rojahn 9, M. Voss 8, D. Styles 7, R. Leszczynski 6, C. Jones 4, A. Shackcloth, J. Wiggins, K. Quan 3, W. Savage 2, A. Leszczynski, A. Telega, J. Harris, K. Lebski, M. Shreeve, P. Angel 1 each

*New Norfolk pulled out of the league

When Andrew Leszczynski scored in the 12-0 win over Metro FC, it meant he had joined his brother Richard as having scored in each of the last six decades for the club.

Andrew & Richard Leszczynski – Clare Street Oval - (2021)

Southern Championship 6 - Season Results

Round	Date	Venue	Opponent	Result
1	14/3/21	Tynwald Park (A)	New Norfolk	Win 1-0
2	21/3/21	Pembroke Park (A)	South East United	Draw 1-1
3	28/3/21	North Chigwell (A)	Metro FC	Win 7-1
4	11/4/21	Clare Street (H)	Kingborough Lions	Win 3-2
5	18/4/21	Clare Street (H)	DOSA	Win 4-1
6	23/4/21	KGV (A)	Huon Valley	Win 6-2
7	07/5/21	Wentworth Park (A)	Phoenix Rovers	Win 4-1
8	16/5/21	KGV (A)	New Norfolk	Win 3-0 (Forfeit)
9	23/5/21	Clare Street (H)	South East United	Win 6-2
10	30/5/21	Clare Street (H)	Metro FC	Win 5-2
11	06/6/21	Gormley Park (A)	Kingborough Lions	Draw 3-3
12	20/6/21	Weily Park (A)	DOSA	Win 7-1
13	27/6/21	Hunonville (A)	Huon Valley	Win 5-0
14	04/7/21	Clare Street (H)	Phoenix Rovers	Draw 3-3
15	11/7/21	BYE		
16	18/7/21	Pembroke Park (A)	South East United	Win 3-0
17	25/7/21	Clare Street (H)	Metro FC	Win 12-0
18	08/8/21	KGV (H)	Kingborough Lions	Win 2-0
19	15/8/21	Weily Park (A)	DOSA	Win 3-1
20	29/8/21	Clare Street (H)	Huon Valley	Win 3-0 (Forfeit)
21	12/9/21	Wentworth Park (A)	Phoenix Rovers	Loss 0-4

2021 also saw the resurrection of the Club's women's program. Eagles fielded two senior women's teams in the Southern Championship and Southern Championship 1 competitions, coached by Shane Revell and Dave Kruijver respectively. This was a fantastic achievement as the initial aim was to field only one team.

The Championship team finished in a very creditable fourth place, an excellent effort considering it was basically a new team, and although the Championship 1 team finished in last position, the noticeable improvement in player performances over the season, together with the enthusiasm shown was promising for the future. For a number of these players, it was their first taste of the sport, and they will be the better for it, if they continue playing in the future.

Southern Championship Women Final Standings - 2021

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	**21**	**19**	**2**	**0**	**143**	**6**	**59**
Clarence Zebras	21	14	3	4	68	28	45
Kingborough	21	14	2	5	69	31	44
New Town White Eagles	**21**	**9**	**2**	**10**	**47**	**55**	**29**
Glenorchy Knights	21	7	3	11	27	55	24
Taroona FC	21	6	0	15	28	76	18
South Hobart	21	4	2	15	23	97	14
Olympia Warriors	21	3	2	16	23	77	11

Leading Goalscorers: S. Dutton 16, N. Daniels 13, H. Ryan, E. Peterson, A. Parr 4 each

Southern Championship 1 Women Final Standings - 2021

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clarence Zebras	21	19	2	0	178	9	59
University	21	18	1	2	112	17	55
Glenorchy Knights	21	13	1	7	59	42	40
Taroona FC	21	9	2	10	40	47	29
South Hobart	21	7	1	13	35	94	22
Kingborough	21	4	4	13	19	82	16
Olympia Warriors	21	4	3	14	22	99	15
New Town White Eagles	**21**	**1**	**4**	**16**	**13**	**79**	**7**

Leading Goalscorers: K. Le Roux 4, N. Longden 3, G. Kelly 2

Elkie Petersen & Chloe Williams v University

2021 Championship Women
Back: Shane Revell (Coach), Agnes Parr, Jacinta Mackay, Sarah Dutton, Holly Ryan, Ellie Piesse, Nina Daniels, Ellen Curtis
Front: Chloe Williams, Georgia Kelly, Jasmine Tate Turvey, Elke Peterson, Sarah Rawson

2021 Championship 1 Women
Back: Kate Le Roux, Stacey McCormack, Ava Hill, Lucy Kruijver, David Kruijver (Coach), Sylvia Grewe, Llewy Dodd, Ashleigh Heather, Maddie Luttrell.
Front: Ela Niekrasz, Oli Niekrasz, Ashleigh Crick, Natelie Revell, Adelaide Mountain, Nina Longden

⚽Tommy Fotak wins his first league title as a coach with Eagles

Walter Pless - Thursday, September 9, 2021

New Town White Eagles won both the Southern Championship and Southern Championship 1 league titles this year with a couple of games still to play. This was a fantastic achievement for the club, which celebrated their 60th anniversary this year and which is aiming to qualify one day for the NPL Tasmania competition. Tommy Fotak, 42, the senior coach at the club, has a fine pedigree as a player, but this was his first success as a coach. Adam Shackcloth coached the Championship 1 side and also won the title. I interviewed Tommy Fotak this week.

Walter Pless **(WP):** Which clubs did you play for?
Tommy Fotak **(F):** I played at Olympia, White Eagles and Hobart Zebras.

WP: Is this your first title as a coach?
TF: Yes it is

WP: Have you won titles as a player?
TF: Yes. The only title I didn't win as a player was the Senior Men's Summer Cup. I won everything else at senior and reserves level.

WP: What points would you highlight about this title win?
TF: I'd point out that both the reserves and seniors won their titles, and both did it in a similar fashion. We have very similar win loss records, goals for and goals against numbers, and it shows there's a way we want to do things and we are trying to do it at all levels. Both teams have scored over 70 goals so far, but we've also ground out wins when we have had to.

WP: What was the biggest problems you faced as a coach this year?
TF: Nothing immediately springs to mind as having been particularly difficult, but player selection was a challenge often. With such a strong group, trying to get the right balance each week, including giving us coaches weapons from the bench across the squads was challenging. You have a guy like Monty Pilkington who has had an absolute stand-out year and is banging goals in for the reserves but his chances in the first eleven were rare because they were all playing well and performing and getting results. Every time he was asked to step up he did a fantastic job. Jamie Vernon, the same. Every time he was asked to do a job he did it. It is that club and team first mentality that meant we were successful this year across competitions. It's a credit to the players.

WP: What were the positives in the title success?
TF: I could go on for a very long time! The two league titles, obviously. The goals for and against columns. The fact that we had goal scorers all over the park. The camaraderie of the group. We had a lot of new faces compared with recent years and the way they settled in was fantastic. The club and team first mentality. The individual improvement in players, in particular Olly Johnstone and Monty Pilkington. The big one for me is how we continually improved as a group. Any team that took points off us faced a better version of us the next time and we won those games.

WP: Where to from here for you and the club?
TF: We've got two games of the season left. We want to finish those strongly, and enjoy the success of the year and then prepare for next year.

WP: What will you and the club do now, given that there doesn't seem to be any promotion or relegation procedures in place?
TF: The club will keep working towards its goal of being an NPL club again, so we'll continue to improve our women's and men's programs. We'll get junior and youth programs up and running. We'll improve off field where we need to, too. Without the State league for us, one thing I'd personally love to see is if we can get the concept of the White Eagle Sports Club back. Can we get some summer sports associated with the club? Can we get some other winter sports like netball or basketball associated with the club? You gave me this idea when you mentioned it at the sixtieth anniversary dinner.

WP: Do you have any advice for Football Tasmania in regard to rostering and other aspects of the Championship set-up?
TF: I don't have the context that people there do so I can't offer advice. From a feedback perspective, I would love it if they could reconsider the rostering. We didn't play Kingborough for the first time until round 19 and then we play them again in round 22, the last one. We played Olympia twice in four weeks. We had played both South Hobart and Beachside twice by the halfway mark of the season. It's a really tight competition, and maybe that is due to the rostering, and it might have helped or hindered us at times, but if you play a team twice in quick succession and they are in a purple patch or have got injuries it can make a difference. I know with managing the NPL games as well it is challenging.

WP: Can this team go further?
TF: Absolutely!

WP: Are you looking to recruit in the off-season if you stay at the club? Are you, in fact, staying at the club?
TF: Our philosophy is that everyone is welcome. We don't go out and actively recruit, but if people express an interest, we engage with them and we encourage them to come and see what we're about. If people are reading this and their interest is piqued, get in touch! I think any of the players we had join this year would say it was worth it. I intend to stay at the club. They have a plan and that includes a coaching succession plan. We'll chat at the end of the season and see where we are on that path and where I fit in.

WP: Would you be in the market for an NPL coaching position?
TF: No. I'd love to coach at the highest level for sure, but I can't travel, and I can't take three trainings a week which, I think, most clubs do or expect at the moment. The reason we have been successful this year is because of all the heavy

lifting everyone else has done for me, particularly Adam Shackcloth, Stef Sikora, Grant Nutting, Stevan Vernon, Michael Voss and Paul Palmer. It's because of them I got to do what I'm good at to the best of my ability.

To cap off a memorable 60th Year, Sam Leszczynski was adjudged as the Vic Tuting Medalist for 2021 and Tommy Fotak was named Southern Championship Coach of the Year. Callum back was joint top goalscorer in the Championship 1 competition.

Sam Leszczynski Vic Tuting Medal Winner 2021

⚽ Eagles still flying after 60 years

Walter Pless Thursday, July 15, 2021

New Town White Eagles celebrated their 60th anniversary on Saturday night with a gala dinner attended by about 230 guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hobart.

It was a wonderful occasion for a great club that has had tremendous success over the years. I confess to being star-struck at the illustrious personalities in attendance. Some great players have represented this club founded by Polish immigrants and many of them were there on Saturday night.

I was in awe of many of them and recall interviewing a host of them and writing many column inches about them in my 42 years of covering the game.

A few came down from interstate to attend the dinner and two of those, goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic (South Australia) and David Stoddart (Melbourne), truly were stars of the club. It was wonderful to chat to them.

As I said on the night, some people can play. Those who can't, write about it. That seems to sum up my career.
The White Eagles Sports Club was innovative in that football was just one arm of the club. There were, for example, basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other spots under the club's umbrella.

It was something new in Tasmanian football and is the norm in Europe, where many clubs, including Real Madrid, Barcelona and Panathinaikos have sporting teams other than football.

White Eagles began life in the second division and had to earn promotion to the top-flight. If only that were the case now, when numerous criteria except playing performance, determined the composition of the current State League.

The club recruited some top players from other clubs and were soon promoted to the First Division. They have suffered relegation a couple of times over the decades, but bounced back within a year. They are currently top of the Men's Southern Championship, the second tier of local football, but they are there because they did not meet a list of criteria, which did not include on-field performance.

Eagles' first title came in 1977, when they were State champions after beating Devonport.

Their squad was: Wally Bucher, Mark Sikora, Brian McKay, Eamonn Kelly. Larry Nunn, Peter Linnell, Denis Trueman, Gary Jenkins, Mark Oakes, Mick Southworth, Mike Richards, Harry Stewart, Bobby Rybak and Peter Wass. Glynn Jenkins was the coach and he attended on Saturday night.

Eagles won the inaugural State League the following year on goal-difference from Croatia Glenorchy. John Grimsey was the coach. The title was won when David Smith scored the only goal in the 1-0 win over Rapid.

The 1978 squad was: Peter Wass, Mark Sikora, Denis Trueman, Eamonn Kelly, Larry Nunn, Brian McKay, Nigel Sugden, David Smith, Peter Linnell, Nick Drascovic, Bobby Rybak, Tony Godfrey, Mick Caban, Mark Oakes, Dominic Fraraccio and David Forshaw.

The club were relegated in 1980 under coach Eugene Mycak, a Polish coach who had been working in the U.S.A. The club actually appointed Rapid coach Ken Morton as an adviser to Mycak, which was a unique situation as Rapid were also in the State League. The move failed and Eagles went down.

The squad that year was: John Michniewski, Peter Linnell, Frank Letec, Peter Sherman, Chris Collins, Chris Witek, George Krambousanos, Nick Cook, Mark Leszczynski, Ken Worden, Noori Aziz, Guilbert Steenhuis, Bobby Rybak and Mike Brazil.
Eagles won the 1981 Southern Championship but were not promoted because the State League ended that season and they were a part of the 1982 Southern competition.

A few lean years followed and some of the club's stars, including three Leszczynski brothers, Mark, Andrew and Richard, joined University in 1984.

They came back for the 1985 season when Steve Darby was coach. Darby, who is in England, spoke by video on Saturday night at the function and had some fascinating insights. His biography will be published this month and it includes a couple of chapters about his time in Tasmania.

In 1986, Ulverstone beat Eagles for the State title.

The 1986 squad was: Peter Groenewoud, Mark Krzysica, Alan Burton, Franco Previdi, Eugene Banasik, Scott Young, Mark Leszczynski, David Stoddart, Richard Leszczynski, Neil Morrison, Andrew Leszczynski, Chris Leszczynski and Jimmy Kerr.
In 1987,

Eagles finished third in the Cadbury League, while a golden age then began, and they won four State League titles from 1988 until 1991.

In 1989, they won everything except the pre-season competition and finished 15 points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus. They were unbeaten and scored 60 goals with Mycak as coach. They had signed Bob Nicholson from New South Wales.

Their squad during this period was: Peter Groenewoud, Mark Leszczynski, Michael Driessen, Eugene Banasik, Neil Morrison, David Stoddart, Bob Nicholson, Scott Young, Craig Pitt, Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Franco Previdi, Andrew Leszczynski, Richard Ketchell, Paul Morrison, Scott Hadley, Simon Templeman, Michael Driessen.

Eagles won the 1991 title with Mark Leszczynski as player-coach and with Zlatko Belanic in goal.

Colin Shepherd and goalkeeper Alan Wisby signed for the club as the State League competition became a summer league for two years. This period was characterised by the intense rivalry with Devonport.

Eagles won the 1995 State League title and Clare Street became the club's home ground in 1996. Further league success followed, and the club snared the 1996 (Minor Premiership) and 1997 State League titles.

In 1997, the Australian Soccer Association decreed that clubs had to abandon their ethnic names and White Eagles became New Town Eagles.

That decision went against all the principles of a multicultural Australia and virtually destroyed some clubs. I must admit to not even taking my camera out of its bag on Saturday night, so I have no photographs of the occasion. There was a professional photographer in attendance and her photos may be seen on the Eagles website.

My wife and I were too busy enjoying the occasion. It was one of the few times I've been able to attend a club event with family. My grandson, Toby Butler, plays for Eagles and my cousin, Tommy Fotak, is the senior coach. My daughter and son-in-law were there, too.

I chatted to many former players and coaches and it was wonderful to catch up with former coaches such as Dale Itchins and players and officials including Sean Collins, Danny Donohoe, Rodney and Damien Bones, Nick Cook, Jimmy Kerr, David Forshaw, Ian Honeyman, Frank Bansel, Eddie Kempa, George Krambousanos, Richard Ketchell, Adam Shackcloth, Bill Shackcloth, Eamonn Kelly, Mark Page, Steve Vernon, Ben Whitehall, Michael Driessen, Bob Nicholson, Darren Frost, Adam Jones, Peter Groenewoud, Eugene Banasik, Bobby Rybak, Stefan Sikora, Alonso Morales, Shane Revell and Matthew Rhodes to name just some.

Congratulations must go to Andrew and Chris Leszczynski, Peter Wass and Adam Shackcloth for their role in organising the event.

Andrew Leszczynski has compiled an excellent history of the club comprising newspaper clippings from the past 60 years and team photographs and I am sure readers can access this by contacting Andrew. It is much more comprehensive than this article.

Bobby Osuchowski, Ian Honeyman and Eugene Rosinski were just three players from the 60s who attended and who feature in team photos. I saw Adam McKeown there, too, one of the great goalscorers of more recent times, while Nathan Pitchford, who was unable to attend because Devonport played that day at Valley Road, featured in the team of the decade.

My head is still spinning from the occasion, and I hope the club gets to celebrate at least another 60 years of life.

Senior Team 2021 (10th July v Glenorchy Knights 2-2 – Cox, Leszczynski)
Back Row: D. Cox, H. Moore, H. Lush, S. Leszczynski, L. Huigsloot, R. Heggie T. Fotak (Coach)
Front Row: O. Johnstone, B. Whitehall, T. Butler, M. Stalker, A. Clark (Captain), B. Hudson

2021 Championship 1 – "Social" Sumer Cup Winners defeating Juventus 2-1 (Hudson 2)

Back: M. Voss (Asst. Coach), R. Brown-Price, M. Vernon, L. Brown, J. Haas, j. Fracalossi, J. French, M. Anderson, S. Heathcote, O. Johnston, L. Ottavi
Front: J. Ryan-Buchanan, C. Gangell, L. Eugster (Capt.), B. Hudson, K. Toman, C. Anderson, T. Fotak (Coach)

2021 Premier Women

Back: S. Revell (Coach), S. McCormack, S. Grewe, N. Longden, A. Parr, J. Mackay, S. Dutton, D. Kruijver (Coach), H. Ryan, E. Piesse, N. Daniels, E. Curtis, M. Luttrell, A. Heather, D. Revell (Asst Coach) **Front:** L. Dodd, A. Hill, A. Crick, M. Sulikowski, N. Revell, C. Williams, G. Kelly, K. Le Roux, J. Tate Turvey, E. Peterson, S. Rawson, E. Niekrasz, O. Niekrasz.

The 2022 season followed a similar path to 2021. Although Eagles were not able to retain the Summer Cup, they entered the season with high optimism. Compared to their main rivals (University, Hobart United and Taroona), Eagles had strengthened their squad substantially.

In came experienced players, goal-keeper Robert Wilson, Ash Fisher, Brett Andrews, Joel Schuth (all ex-Beachside) and promising youngsters Tom Backhouse (Zebras) and Harrison Huigsloot (Glenorchy Knights). Talented goal-keeper Jamie Cook would also be available following successful knee surgery. The only major out for the Club was goalkeeper Mitch Stalker, who signed with NPL side Olympia Warriors.

None of their rivals could match Eagles consistency or ability to win the “big games”, and although they did find themselves behind in a number of games during the season, their goalscoring prowess and ability to play out a strong 90 minutes gave them a substantial edge over their rivals. This ability was exemplified in an extraordinary game against Glenorchy Knights. Eagles found themselves 0-3 down after twenty minutes, trailed 3-4 and 4-5, mid-way through the second half, before prevailing 7-5, with 3 goals in the final 15 minutes of the game.

Luke Huigsloot (21), Leszczynski (13) and Heggie (12), contributed half of Eagles goals for the season, however 10 other players scored 3 or more goals, which made then extremely hard to contain over the course of a game. The defence also played their part across the whole season. Superbly marshalled by the experienced pair of David Cox and Henry Fagg, with backup from Jacob Clamp, they proved extremely miserly, keeping 7 clean sheets, and only conceding 2 or more goals in 4 games.

Eagles only loss of the season came against Hobart United, when Eagles keeper Jamie Cook was sent off with the score at 0-0 in the first 20 minutes for a last man foul. Hobart United scored from the resultant free-kick and a rattled Eagles side conceded a second just before half-time. Although playing with ten men for 70+ minutes, Eagles worked hard to get back into the game but couldn't breach the Hobart United's defence and they held on to win 2-0. Although a disappointing result, particularly against a genuine title contender, this proved to be only a minor setback.

Home and away wins against their major rivals Taroona (3-1, 2-0) and University (3-1, 4-0) and an exciting win away against Hobart United (2-1), underlined Eagles ability to save their best performances when it mattered. Their best performance of the season (as was the case the previous season), was saved for University. Playing at Olinda Grove on a very slippery surface, Eagles totally dominated the game from start to finish against their fierce rivals and ran out comfortable 4-0 winners. Only desperate defending by University kept the score-line respectable.

Eagles had the title sewn up with 3 games to be played following a 2-2 draw against South Hobart at Clare Street in front of the biggest crowd of the season, eventually winning the league by 12 points with a goal difference of 63.

Southern Championship Final Standings - 2022

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town White Eagles	**22**	**20**	**1**	**1**	**85**	**22**	**61**
Taroona FC	22	15	4	3	75	26	49
Hobart United	22	14	4	4	65	27	46
University S.C.	22	11	6	5	63	35	39
South Hobart	22	12	1	9	63	35	37
Glenorchy Knights	22	12	1	9	76	53	37
South East United	22	11	3	8	57	47	36
Hobart City Beachside FC	22	8	2	12	34	35	26
Clarence Zebras	22	7	1	14	45	50	22
Metro FC	22	5	0	17	23	82	15
Olympia Warriors	22	3	1	18	17	82	10
Kingborough Lions	22	2	0	20	24	109	6

Leading Goalscorers: L. Huigsloot 21, S. Leszczynski 13, R. Heggie 12, B. Andrews 8, B. Whitehall 6, A. Fisher, H. Huigsloot 4

Season Results

Round	Date	Venue	Opponent	Result
1	18/3/22	KGV Football Park	Hobart City Beachside FC	Won 1-0
2	26/3/22	Pembroke Park	South East United	Won 4-1
3	02/04/22	North Chigwell	Metro FC	Won 8-0
4	28/05/22	Clare Street	Hobart United	Lost 2-0
5	23/04/22	Clare Street	Taroona FC	Won 3-1
6	30/04/22	Clare Street	University S.C.	Won 3-1
7	14/05/22	Clare Street	Olympia Warriors	Won 3-0
8	21/05/22	Darcy Street	South Hobart	Won 2-1
9	04/06/22	Lightwood Park	Kingborough Lions	Won 6-0
10	18/06/22	Clare Street	Glenorchy Knights	Won 7-1
11	25/06/22	KGV Football Park	Clarence Zebras	Won 3-1
12	02/07/22	KGV Football Park	Hobart City Beachside FC	Won 3-1
13	09/07/22	Empire Couriers Park	South East United	Won 5-1
14	16/07/22	KGV Football Park	Metro FC	Won 3-1
15	23/07/22	Gunns Oval Brighton	Hobart United	Won 2-1
16	30/07/22	Kelvedon Park	Taroona FC	Won 2-0
17	06/08/22	Olinda Grove 2	University S.C.	Won 4-0
18	13/08/22	Empire Couriers Park	Olympia Warriors	Won 7-0
19	20/08/22	Clare Street	South Hobart	Drew 2-2
20	27/08/22	Clare Street	Kingborough Lions	Won 6-2
21	03/09/22	KGV Football Park	Glenorchy Knights	Won 7-5
22	10/09/22	Wentworth Park 3	Clarence Zebras	Won 4-1

Southern Championship Premiers 2022

Back Row: A. Shackcloth (Asst Coach), M. Page, R. Wilson, L. Huigsloot, D. Cox, H. Fagg, O. Johnstone, H. Lush, T. Fotak (Coach), S. Vernon (Manager) P. Wass (GK Coach), B. Andrews Front Row: B. Hudson, A. Fisher, A. Clark (Capt), B Whitehall, S. Leszczynski, R. Heggie, G. Nutting

Premiership celebrations after securing the title with a 2-2 draw with Southern Hobart at Clare Street.

Photo courtesy Solstice Digital

Photo courtesy Solstice Digital

The Southern Championship 1 team retained their Summer Cup title from 2021, but were unable to defend their 2021 league title win. Given the depth of talent available to the side, it was a disappointing result. Although scoring a massive 111 goals, and ending with a substantial goal difference of 87, poor finishing, not a shortage of chances in a number of the games that were lost, led to their third-place finish, although University did perform very strongly against them during the season and were worthy premiers.

Southern Championship 1 Final Standings - 2022

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University S.C.	22	19	1	2	89	23	58
South Hobart	22	18	2	2	105	32	56
New Town White Eagles	**22**	**16**	**1**	**5**	**111**	**24**	**49**
Taroona FC	22	14	1	7	94	43	43
Clarence Zebras	22	13	0	9	55	29	39
Hobart City Beachside FC	21	10	3	8	41	37	33
Hobart United	21	10	1	10	69	62	31
Glenorchy Knights	22	6	3	13	45	65	21
South East United	22	6	2	14	43	75	20
Metro FC	21	5	1	15	39	89	16
Kingborough Lions	21	5	1	15	45	109	16
Olympia Warriors	22	0	0	22	12	157	0

Top Goalscorers: J. Schuth 26, C. Back 22, J. Vernon 10, L. Backhouse 6, H. Huigsloot 5

The Southern Championship women's team endured a tough season, finishing in the bottom half of the table with only 5 wins. The standout performers were Nina Daniels and Kate Ollerhead.

Southern Championship Women Final Standings - 2022

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University S.C.	18	17	0	1	97	11	51
Glenorchy Knights	18	12	2	4	55	30	38
South Hobart	18	11	1	6	70	32	34
Clarence Zebras	17	9	1	7	56	27	28
New Town White Eagles	**18**	**5**	**2**	**11**	**38**	**70**	**17**
Kingborough Lions	17	5	0	12	41	44	15
Taroona FC	18	0	0	18	8	148	0

Top Goalscorers: N. Daniels 16, K. Ollerhead 6, S. Dutton 5

The big improvers for 2022 were the Southern Championship 1 women's team, which finished mid-table, securing eight wins on the back of Lara Priest's 17 goals. This was a big improvement on last season's last place finish.

Southern Championship 1 Women Final Standings - 2022

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia Warriors	18	17	1	1	133	23	49
University S.C.	18	12	3	3	61	20	39
South Hobart	18	12	2	4	58	35	38
Nelson Eastern Suburbs	18	11	3	4	68	26	36
New Town White Eagles	**17**	**8**	**1**	**8**	**42**	**48**	**25**
Metro FC	17	7	1	9	50	66	22
Glenorchy Knights	18	5	4	9	45	55	19
Kingborough Lions	17	2	4	11	25	58	10
Hobart City Beachside FC	16	2	1	13	18	108	7
Taroona FC	16	1	0	15	8	59	3

Top Goalscorers: L. Priest 17, E. Meadows, K. Warrener 3

Luke Huigsloot winning the prestigious Vic Tuting Medal as the league's Best & Fairest player, Tommy Fotak Championship Coach of the Year for the second season running and Callum Back, the Championship 1 Best & Fairest player, put the icing on the cake of another successful season for the club.

Callum Back, Luke Huigsloot, Tommy Fotak

Senior Team v Olympia – Lakoslejac Gup [Photo: Tanner Coad]
Back Row: A. Shackcloth (Asst Coach), H. Huigsloot, L. Backhouse, L. Huigsloot, B. Andrews, D. Cox, H. Fagg, T. Backhouse, R. Heggie, T. Fotak (Coach)
Front Row: O. Johnstone, S. Leszczynski, M. Page, J. Cook, A. Clark (Capt), B. Whitehall, H. Lush, G. Nutting, S. Vernon (Manager)

Southern Championship Women 2022
Back Row: D Kruijver (Coach), K. Ollerhead, C. Butler, C. Crick, L. Kruijver, S Dutton, L. Priest, E. Piesse, N. Daniels, D. Revell (Asst. Coach)
Front Row: A. Parr, C. Williams, E. Curtis , N. Longdon, J. McKay, O. Ashmore

Southern Championship 1 – Summer Cup Winners 2022
Back Row: D. Kruijver, M. Ditton, H. Lush. L. Brown, L. Backhouse, T. Backhouse, M. Luttrell, J. Schuth, N. MacDonald
Front Row: A Gebrezgabir, B. Hudson, M. Vernon, M. Page, C. Back. A. Telega

OTHER

The Golden Boot

When Richard "Daggy" Leszczynski scored in a 6-3 win over Olympic Warriors, on the 13th of September 2020, in a Southern Championship 2 game, it meant that he had scored in each of the last 6 decades for New Town White Eagles, a truly remarkable feat of skill and endurance.

Richard's career at Eagles started in the late 70's, and in 1979 he showed at an early stage that he was a goalscorer, when he top scorer for the u13 side with 17 goals.

In a senior career that spanned 20+ years (with a few breaks in between) he managed to score in excess of 200 goals, not including cup games. Then in the following years in various other divisions, he has notched another 150+ goals. In 2021 playing in the club's Division 6 side, he has already scored (at the time of writing) 5 goals (including a hat-trick against Huonville). This of course doesn't include all the numerous assists he contributed over this period of time.

Career Highlights:
Senior Team Leading Goalscorer
1986 (23) **
1987 (29) *
1991 (16) *
1995 (35) *
1997 (27)
1998 (12)
2001 (12)
2002 (8)
2003 (9)
Division 1 Reserves – 2006 (26)*
Division 1 – 2007 (29)* , 2008 (16)
Division 2 – 2009 (18)

**Leagues Leading Goalscorer*
***Joint Leagues Leading Goalscorer*

Adam “Sunday” McKeown, Leading goalscorer

2008 (5)
2009 (11)
2010 (13)
2011 (17)
2012 (27)

Sam Leszczynski breaking away from two Kingborough opponents

Samuel Leszczynski, Leading goalscorer

2015 (4)
2016 (10)
2017 (11)
2018 (14)
2019 (18)
2020 (9)
2021 (17)

Bliss Cantrell, Leading goalscorer Premier Women

2005 (28)
2006 (30)
2007 (27)

Miss White Eagle Winners

1965 J. Puzinowski	1977 K. Witek
1966 D. Sierpinski	1978 K. Finegan
1967 G. Waiser*	1979 J. Pasieczny
1968 K. Dmuchowski	1980 E. Plachta
1969 D. Witek	1981 D. Ackerley*
1970 B. Szostakiewicz	1982 L. Foulkes*
1971 L. Sroka	1983 J. Bilac
1972 S. Rozmaryniewicz*	1984 K. Dwyer
1973 E. Biggar	1985 C. Steenhuis
1974 W. Briggs	1986 T. Marcelis
1975 No Entrants	1987 J. Brown
1976 No Entrants	

**Also crowned Miss Soccer*

1979 Miss White Eagle Jola Pasieczny with Brian Miller & Don Finegan

Lesley Foulkes - Winners Sashes from 1982

Goalkeepers Club

Since its inception in the early 60's, Eagles have been fortunate to have had a host of goalkeepers in their ranks who were also very talented on the field and vice-versa.

Formation 4-3-3

Goalkeeper:

John Michniewski – the team's penalty taker. In the early eighties, John was the club's penalty taker and was very successful at it. He had a habit of telling the opposing goalkeeper where he was going to place his shot, and famously received a yellow card from Basil Masters (for ungentlemanly conduct), for pointing out to the goalkeeper that he should have listened to what he had been told, and not dived in the other direction.

Back Four:

***David Kruijver** – old style, rugged defender who puts everything on the line.
***Sylvester Rakowski** - member of the foundation team. An old-fashioned centre-back, very strong, who also had a "kick like a mule". Could switch to a more central attacking role if required.
***Bobby Rybak** - quality player who could play anywhere. Was called upon by senior coach Glyn Jenkins in the '77 premiership season to take the place of Wally Bucher (who was dropped for disciplinary reasons) against Dnipro in a very important game at the back end of the season. He did not let the side down. A skillful, explosive player on the field, with a ferocious shot.
***Grant Nutting** - solid, no nonsense defender who likes to push forward and support the attack.

Midfield:

Gilbert Steenhuis – could play in midfield or up front. His best performance was 16 goals in the Division 3 side in 1998.
***Nathan Pitchford** - spent 2013 out of the goals with a hand injury and comfortably handled the move on to the playing field. Athletic, strong and with an eye for goal, Nathan scored 4 league goals in that season.
***Luke Ottavi –** versatile player who could also comfortably play in the back four. Good communicator and solid on the ball. Former senior best and fairest winner.

Forwards:

***Peter Wass** - A very fast, tricky player who delivered magnificent pin-point crosses.
Craig Jones - live-wire, very quick and skillful. Craig was the league's leading scorer in Division 3 in 2000 with 25 goals. Loved to get under the oppositions skin, and there a few New Norfolk players and spectators still looking for him.
***Bogdan Dora** - another foundation team member. Left footer with a strong presence. Focal point of the attack.

Substitutes:

Eddie Kempa – skillful, intelligent forward
***Peter Groenewoud** - rangy player who could deliver a decent cross
Montgomery Piesse – solid holding midfielder. Not flashy, but gets the job done. Hits a good long-range pass.
Sam Kruijver – another potential holding midfielder.
Rodney Bones – skillful left-footer who could play in midfield or in an attacking role
Zlatko Belanic – handy in a penalty shoot-out situation

**Have played at senior level on the field and in goals*

Grant Nutting – Good allrounder

Nathan Pitchford – 4 Senior goals in 2013

THE EAGLE FAMILY

THE WHITE EAGLES FAMILY 1961 - 2021

The success of the Club over the years has been built upon a family type atmosphere that encourages hard work, mutual respect for each other, and a never say die attitude, trademarks of the Polish Community that established the Club in the early 60's.

When looking back over the history of the Club it is interesting note the "family ties" that keep appearing, some commencing in the early days of the Club's formation and some that are still continuing to this day. Many of these have played significant roles in the Club's successes over the years.

RYBAK

Zygmunt Rybak (Dec.)
Committee Member
Life Member 1984

Henry
Player 70's
Volleyball - State Representative
Volleyball Premiership Player

James
Player 90's

Richard
Player 70's
Volleyball 70's

Matthew
Senior Player 00's
Youth Coach 00's

Michael
Senior Player 90's

Robert (Bobby)
Senior Player 70's - 80's
Volleyball 70's
Senior Team Captain
Premiership Player 77,78,81,86
Senior B&F 1982
Senior Coach 1987, 1993
Team of the Decade 80's
Trainer 1990's

1972 - Under 19's Premiers featuring the Rybak's
Back: E. Rosinski, C. Slater, C. Kolabinski, H. Rybak, A. Bevan, R. Gobbey, S. Matusek, B. Rybak
Front: J. Rosinski, R. Rybak, J. Biernacki, A Stiberg, G. Thompson, S. Polacik, G. Rosinski

ROSINSKI / WASS

Eugene Rosinski
Senior Player 60's
Premiership Player 60's
Youth Coach 70's
Volleyball Premiership Player 70's
Club President 1983-84
Team of The Decade 70's

Irene Rosinski
Committee Member

Jola
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1981

Anna
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1981, 1987

Greg
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1984
Player 1990's
Volleyball Premiership Player

Peter Wass
Senior Player 70's - 80's
Premiership Player 77,78,81,84
Team of The Decade '80s
Team Manager 00's,10's
Asstistant Coach 00's
Goalkeeper Coach

Kim Watson
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1987

Zachary
Youth Player 00's

Christopher
Senior Player 00's
Team of The Decade '00s
Senior B&F 2007,2009

Elissa
Senior Player 00's

Back: Peter, Christopher, Kim, Eugene, Greg **Front:** Elissa, Anna, Zachary, Irena, Jola

⚽ It's a polished family act as the Eagle soars

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 22 MAY 2002

THREE generations of the Rosinski family have served the 40-year-old New Town Eagles Soccer Club as players, coaches and committee members. The oldest is Eugene Rosinski, 62, who came to Australia in 1960 and started playing with the club the following year, only a few months after it was formed as White Eagles.

His wife Irena has served on the club committee, while daughters Jola and Anna, and son Greg, have played for the club's women's and men's teams respectively. Daughter-in-law Kim and son-in-law Peter Wass have also turned out for the club, while the third generation of the family is represented by Peter and Jola's 15-year-old son Christopher.

Christopher has just joined Eagles from Metro-Claremont and made his senior debut for Eagles in the recent 2-0 win over DOSA. Zac, the seven-year-old son of Greg and Kim, plays primary school soccer but one can guarantee that his eagle shirt is already being prepared for him.

"I joined the club a few months after it was formed as someone found out I knew how to kick a ball," said paterfamilias Eugene. "I played form 1961 until about 1971 and I've seen a lot of changes and many coaches in that time. "There was a big difference in skills, even in the period from when I started playing until I finished. "When we started, we had about two players, while the rest didn't even know how to kick the ball. "The club moved on and improved a lot when we got into the first division and got a few extra players and better coaching.

Eugene and wife Irena would take their children to games and, with Eagle's fielding both women's and men's teams, it was a natural meeting ground for youngsters. Their children met and eventually married partners who also played soccer.

Son-in-law Peter Wass started playing for Eagles in 1970 as goalkeeper and is now the club's goalkeeping coach. Son Greg, 40, played for Eagles form many seasons while Jola and Anna and daughter-in-law Kim graced the club's women's teams for a combined total of more than two decades. In the years to come, Christopher and Zac will continue the Rosinski family tradition of playing for Eagles.

"I think the club is pretty right now and has many young players," said Eugene as her surveyed Clare Street last Thursday evening and the 50 or more players of both sexes training there. "We've got quite a few good youngsters coming through the club that can only be good for the club." It probably explains why Eagles are on top of the senior and reserves ladders and second in the under 22 league.

⚽ Stopper Wass flying with Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 24 JUN 2003

NEW Town Eagles 16-year-old defender Christopher Wass has established himself as a regular in the senior side in only his second year at the club.

He made a senior appearance for Metro-Claremont in last year's Summer Cup pre-season competition but transferred to Eagles, a club for whom his father, Peter, was a noted goalkeeper. "Dad gives me some advice now and then, but never during a game," Wass said. In last weekend's 2-1 win over reigning champion South Hobart, Wass had a difficult task as a man-marker.

In the first half, he marked striker James Hedge and in the second Ben Crosswell because Hedge was substituted at half-time. "Hedge is really strong physically, which makes him a difficult player to mark," Wass said. "And Crosswell is also a difficult customer because of his fine ball work and speed."

Hedge was unable to score, while Crosswell netted in the first half and before Wass was assigned to mark him. Wass, who began his playing career in the under-7s at Rosetta Primary, said he would love to play in the national soccer league and hopes to have a trial with South Melbourne. He has represented Tasmania in under-16s and participated in the talent identification series in Sydney.

"That was a good experience, but we're up against it because we train for four months before we go there, while the other states train all year," he said. Wass began his playing career as a striker but switched to defence at under-12 level. He enjoys playing as a defender in a wide position and marking opposing players down the flanks. He believes the Eagles turned a corner at the weekend and that they should finish within the top five teams.

"We've had a few injuries to key players such as Damien and Rodney Bones and we hadn't been playing as a team," he said. "It was good to get a win last Saturday and we were all rapt. "We've started to work as a team now and I think we can finish better than fifth, our current position." Mathew Sanders, of Metro-Claremont, the league's leading scorer, is the best striker Wass has faced this season. "I used to play in the same team as Mathew when I was with Metro and the Metro supporters gave me a bit of stick when we played them this season," Wass said. "We won 1-0 and I didn't worry about them and blocked it out."

STEENHUIS

John (Titus) Steenhuis
Senior Player 60's
Club President 1985-86
Team Manager 70's
Team of The Decade 60's

Magda Steenhuis
Committee 80's

Marianne
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1981

Gilbert
Premiership Player 80's, 90's
Trainer 90's - 00's
Coach 90's

Carol
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1981

Tim
Youth Player 90's

1981 Division 1 Premiers featuring members of the Steenhuis and Rosinski families

Back: D. Dolliver, T. Steenhuis, K. Lawler, D. Ackerley, M. Steenhuis, K. Dolliver, L. Foulkes, A. Krambousanos, M. Steenhuis (Mgr)

Front: A. Rosinski, J. Rosinski, M. Glass, B, Rekawiecki, K. Fehlandt, E. Plachta, C. Steenhuis.

Gilbert Steenhuis following in his father's footsteps as goalkeeper in the u17's in the late 70's

Alex Leszczynski (Dec.)
Volleyball 60's

Ingrid Leszczynski (Dec.)
Life Member 1990
Bill Jones Memorial Award '91

Christopher
Senior Player 80's-90's
Premiership Player 81,84,86,88-90
Team of The Decade 80's
Assistant Coach 2016-2020
Life Member 2021

Alexander
Senior B&F 2012
Team of The Decade 2000s, 2010s

Tatiana
Premier Women 2013

Mark
Senior Player 80's-90's
Senior Team Captain
Premiership Player 86,88-91
Senior Coach 88,91,95,96,04,05
Premiership Coach 88,91,95
Leading Goalscorer '85
Senior B&F '89
Life Member 1996
Coach of The Decade 90's
Team of The Decade 80's & 90's

Andrew
Senior Player 80's-90's
Volleyball Premiership Player
Premiership Player 86,88-91,95
Senior Coach 1997-98. 2016-20
Premiership Coach 1997
Leading Goalscorer 83,87,88
Senior B&F 83,87
FFT Coach of the Year '97, '19
Life Member 2009
Team of The Decade 80's & 90's

Richard
Senior Player 80's-00's
Premiership Player 86,88-91,95,97
Leading Goalscorer 86,91,95
97, 98, 01, 02, 03
Leading Goalscorer Other Divs.
Div1R '06, Div1 '07, '08, Div2 '09
Senior B&F 90,91,95,97,98.01-03
Team of The Decade 80's, 90's, 00's

Bridget Curtain
Committee Member 80's
Senior Player 1986

Samuel
Senior Top Goalscorer 2015-2021
Senior B&F 2019
Team of The Decade 2010s
Vic Tuting Silver Medal 2021

Leszczynski Brothers - Chris, Mark, Andrew and Richard

⚽ Young Alex upholds family ties with Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 20 JUN 2006

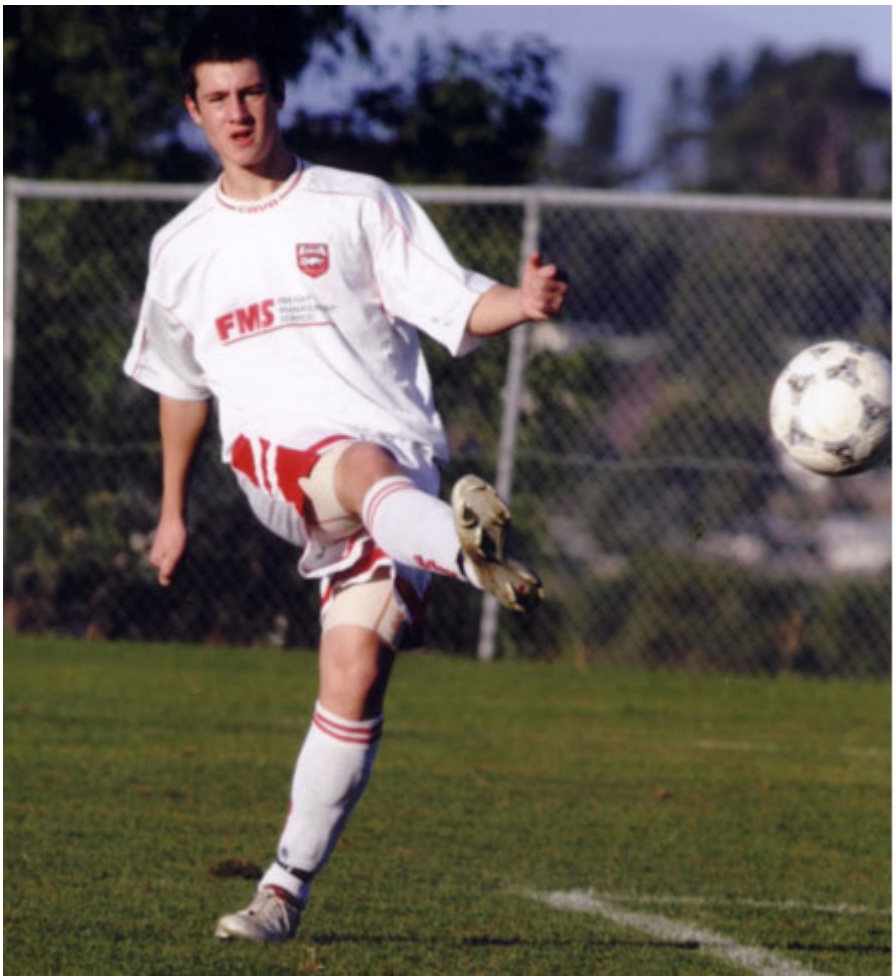
ALEXANDER Leszczynski is continuing a long family tradition at New Town Eagles. The 16-year-old winger is the son of former Eagles player Chris Leszczynski, and the nephew of Andrew, Mark and Richard Leszczynski. All four Leszczynski brothers were key members of the great Eagles sides of the 1980s and 1990s and Alexander is the first of the new generation coming through to senior ranks.

“It's pretty good to be the first of a new generation, but it feels as if I've got some responsibility to continue the family's playing tradition," said Alexander, a Year 11 student at Elizabeth College. This is his first year in the senior Premier League team and he has played in nine of the 10 league matches to date but has yet to score a goal. His crosses from the right wing are dangerous, however, and he sets up many chances for team-mates.

Leszczynski is the youngest player in a very young team, with Captain Andrew Telega the oldest at 24. Eagles went down 2-0 away to Kingborough Lions United on Saturday and remain in second-last place, but Leszczynski remains optimistic. “We're playing all right, but we've just been a bit unlucky," he said. “Some chances haven't gone our way and that can change games and our season basically. “Against Kingborough, there was a lack of concentration and two unlucky goals. “We missed a few chances and could have levelled the game, if not won it."

Chris and Mark Leszczynski were interested spectators on Saturday, while Richard sometimes still plays in the seniors. “Dad talks to me after the game and he tells me a fair bit, such as how I could have done better," he said. Leszczynski has represented Tasmania at under-15 and under-16 levels and hopes to make the state under-19 side next season. After playing in the Eagles under-19s last season, he is finding the senior Premier League challenging.

“It's much more physical and faster, and the players are bigger and stronger than in the under-19s," he said. He believes Eagles can move up the ladder and certainly avoid last place. He would like to play interstate, but he also has ambitions to study architecture at university. The TV coverage of the World Cup is currently a focus of attention for Leszczynski.



Alexander Leszczynski

Samuel Leszczynski v University

MURRAY

Steve
Player - 60's
Coach, Manager 90's

Maria
Committee Member 90's

Paul
Senior Player 90's - 00's
Youth Coach 00's

Michael
Senior Player 90's - 00's
Senior B&F 2001
Top Lge Goalscorer - Reserves 1995
Players Player of the Year 2003-04
Committee Member 10's
Reserves Asstistant Coach 2011

Christopher
Youth Player 90's
Youth Coach 90's
Committee Member 10's
Womens Senior Coach 2012-13

Jodie
Committee Member 2010's

Nikki
Premier Women 2010's

1992 Premier Reserves side featuring the Murray family
Back: S. Murray (Manager), M. Pitt, G. Mason, J. Proud, P. Murray, J. Joyce, F. Previdi, L. Ware (Coach)
Front: M. Murray, R. Lebski, A. Leon, R. Ketchell, S. Gorringe, A. Wisby

STODDART

David Stoddart Snr (Dec.)
Senior Player 70's
Club President 1988-92
Senior B&F 1974
Team of The Decade 70's

Joy Stoddart
Committee Member 80's 90's

David Jnr
Senior Player 80's-00's
Senior Team Captain
Club President 1995-99
Senior B&F 85,86,88,92,3,94,96,02
Premiership Player 84,86,88-91,95,97
Leading Goalscorer 1992
Vic Tuting Silver Medal 1992
Team of The Decade 80's, 90's, 00's
Life Member 2011

Brett
Player 90's-00's
Coach 90's

1991 Premiership Celebrations featuring the Stoddart and Morrison families
Back: C. Pitt, M. Driessen, N. Morrison, S. Young **Front:** B. Stoddart, D. Stoddart Snr (Dec.), E. Mycak, P. Morrison, F. Previdi, A. Wisby, Z. Belanic, E. Banasik, D. Stoddart Jnr, A. Leszczynski, R. Ketchell

JONES

Craig
Senior Player 1990's
Club Vice-President 2006-07
Premiership Player 84,97
Senior Coach 2001-03
Womens Senior Coach 2004-05
Womens Premiership Coach 2005
Team of The Decade 90's

Adam
Senior Player 90's-00's
Premiership Player 95,97
Senior B&F 2003
Players Player of the Year 2002
Team of The Decade 90's, 00's

Paul
Player 90's

Christopher
Senior Player 00's
Player 2021

Lauren
Senior Player 00's
Premiership Player 2005
Senior B&F 2005

⚽ Sky the limit as a young Eagle takes off

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – August 14, 2002

SOCCER for New Town Eagles' 17-year-old midfielder Christopher Jones is a family affair. His father, Craig, is senior coach at the club and his uncle, Adam, plays in defence for the seniors.

Christopher played his seventh senior game for the club last Saturday, a 2-1 home defeat to University at Clare Street. “Uni are marathon runners,'' Jones Jr said. “They didn't stop, and they're the hardest team I've played against. “Raymond Benson ran rings around me, and Colin Shepherd was magic.''

Jones won the most consistent player award for Eagles' under-22 side last season and made his senior debut this year in the 3-0 home win against Hobart Olympic on 22 June.

He scored his first senior goal in the 3-0 win over Clarence United and was elated. “It was awesome,'' he said. “I was thrilled to get the first one out of the way, and I just hope there are many more to come.''

Jones is in Year 12 at Guilford Young College and hopes to take up a trade apprenticeship next year. He first played soccer in grade three at primary school, and his father was the team coach for every year after that except one.

“I'm stuck with him again,'' Jones Jr said. “It can be a bit frustrating as there's extra pressure on me, and he always wants me to work harder at the game. “I have to do that to prove that I'm in the side because of my ability and not because my father is the coach.''

Jones was disappointed with Saturday's loss to University, but Eagles can still finish third, which would mean the double chance in the finals. He would love to play in the National Soccer League, but that would mean a move interstate. He said there was talk of a State under-20 side next season, which would play against interstate opposition, and the idea attracts him.

In the meantime, games against Hobart Zebras and league-leader South Hobart are looming. “I'm looking forward to seeing what they're like,'' he said. “I hope we can finish them off.''

He is also keen to achieve a special aim -- he hopes to play in a senior Eagles side with both his uncle and his father. Achieving the aim is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

Christopher and his uncle Adam are regulars in the senior side, and there is a chance that his father could name himself on the substitutes' bench for a game and take the field at some stage.

2001 Senior Squad featuring the Savage, Murray and Jones families
Back: W. Savage, B. Zielinski, S. Louden, P. Murray, M. Murray, T. Burn (Manager) **Middle:** C. Jones (Coach), R. Leszczynski, M. Proud, A. Jones, D. Frost, D. O’Brien, M. Fong **Front:** R. Bones, A. Bates, A Wisby, A. Savage. S. Kruijver, J. Potts, R. Lebski

Although the focus is mainly on the playing achievements of the families involved, (as these are the things we tend to remember and acknowledge), many of the above individuals also feature prominently in the day to day running of the club, with many doubling as committee members. The wives deserve a special mention, as many were the driving force of the committees, making sure things happened and were not just talked about.

Featured below are some of the families that have played for Eagle sides over the years. Many of these brothers and sisters have had the great fortune of playing together at a senior level.

ANGEL – Paul, Peter, Glenn
Paul was a player in the 60's, youth coach in the 70's, committee man and subsequently club President in 1987. He was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1969 for his outstanding contribution to the club. Peter a hard-working mid-fielder was a senior player in the mid 80's, was a victim of playing in an era where there many fine midfielders in the club, and he found it hard to get consistent game time in the senior side. Peter also went on to become a well-respected senior referee. Glenn the youngest son played in a number of youth teams in the early 80's.

AYRES – Carol, Alex, Russell, Bradleigh
Carol was a youth coach and team manager in the 2010's. Alex and Bradleigh both played at a senior level in the early 2010's. Alex was a gifted player who had the ability to play in a number of positions, although he played up front for the majority of his time at Eagles. He was the u19's top goalscorer for three consecutive seasons in 2008-2010. Bradleigh, although not as naturally gifted as his older brother, was a quick striker with a tenacious attitude.

BIGGAR – John, Bobby, Neil, Ian
Strong defensive players who played in the 60's and early 70's. John was a member of the team of The Decade 70's. Bobby sons, Neil and Ian have also played for the club in various youth teams and were also members of the 1992 Division 3 team that were premiers and Knock-Out Cup winners, and Neil was awarded the Player of the Year award.

BILAC – Jasmine & Donna
Played for our senior women's team in the mid 80's and were members of the 1987 Premiership team. Jasmine was crowned Miss New Town Eagles in 1983.

2013 Senior Team featuring the Burn and Ayres brothers
Back: O. Shabanah, C. Stingle, A. Ayres, S. Telega, J. Quan, MacDonald, Marcus Burn,
Front: B. Ayres, E. Idstrom, J. Graham, G. Nutting, Matthew Burn, S. Lagu

BLIZZARD - Raymond, Callum, Ben
Callum, a youth Best & Fairest winner was a talented goalkeeper in the 00's and "Blizz", was an enthusiastic participant in the club's "Social" roster over many years whether it be on the field or in goals. He also assisted with a number of youth teams. Ben played at a youth level.

2007 Division 3 Team featuring the Blizzards
Back: A. Leszczynski, J. Bukowiecki, A. Colgrave, C. Bradley, M. Shreeve, M. Pitt, W. Cuellar
Front: C. Blizzard, A. Czyzowicz, B. Pope, K. Quan, D. Donohoe, R. Blizzard, J. Large

BONES – Damien, Rodney, Vicki, Tom

Damien and Rodney were very active in the club (along with mum Vicki and dad Tom) from the early 90's, both in a playing and coaching capacity. Damien was part of the "Grand Slam" team in 1997, scoring a goal in the Grand Final win over Devonport. He was also a senior Best & Fairest winner in 1998, a member of the Team of the Decade 90's and 00's, and also coached the seniors towards the end of the 2003 campaign. He was also awarded Player Life Membership at the 50th Anniversary celebration dinner. Rodney was a skillful left sided player who worked his way up through the youth ranks to a senior position in 1999 where he played for a number of seasons. He was reserves coach in the late 00's and senior coach from 2014 to 2015 before moving to Queensland in 2016. Rodney was also a handy goalkeeper and performed well when called upon to fill this role.

Brothers make no Bones over Eagles' future

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 13 JUL 1999

STATE League soccer club New Town Eagles has always been family orientated, with many brothers playing together in the senior side. Mark, Andrew, Richard and Chris Leszczynski, Adam and Craig Jones, and David and Ricky Turner are just some of the names that spring to mind. Damien and Rodney Bones are the latest brothers to see action in the Eagles' senior State League side this season. Damien, 23, is the side's established sweeper, while 20-year-old Rodney has made five senior appearances this year, either at left-fullback or left-midfield.

Damien made his senior debut as a 14-year-old, under coach Mark Leszczynski, and was an attacker in those days. "'m quite happy at sweeper now as it suits my style of play,'' Damien said. Rodney, who is left-footed, said: "I usually play at left-back in a marking role, but if I was fitter I'd like to play left-midfield.''

Both brothers are confident Eagles can overcome what has been a poor season for the club, which has dominated soccer over the past decade. "This year's team has the potential to be the best ever,'' Damien said. "In a couple of years, we could be the Eagles of old. "We've got good young players such as Matthew Holloway, Mark De Vries, Tommy Fotak and Michael Fong and, potentially, the club could have another 10-year reign at the top.''

Rodney, who is in his first year in the seniors, regards this season as one for rebuilding. "We've lost Scott Slugger' Young and Richard Leszczynski, while David Stoddart and Colin Shepherd have been out for long periods because of injury,'' Rodney said. "Now that Shepherd is back, Michael Fong should be back to his best because he can play off Shepherd.

"Michael had a big load on his shoulders with Shepherd missing, despite the presence of the experienced David Turner up front.'' Damien put Eagles' mixed results at the club's Clare St headquarters down to the fact that the team plays better on the spacious KGV Soccer Park in Glenorchy. "Clare St has great training facilities, but the cricket pitch presents problems and hinders our style of play,'' he said. "KGV suits us better because it's big and open and we're good at passing and we're a skillful and fast team.''

Damien's words will be tested in the next four weeks as Eagles play away from home and visit KGV twice to face title contender Hobart Olympic and the unpredictable Hobart Zebras.

Rodney and Damien Bones

BROWN-PRICE – Chris, Richard

Chris was predominantly an attacking player who made a number of senior appearances in the early 80's before becoming more defensive minded, and displayed a robust enforcing style when playing in the lower leagues. Chris moved to the North of the State in the early 90's, and was President of Launceston Juventus for a number of years. Ritchie came to Eagles after moving from Launceston. A former NPL player with Launceston Juventus, Ritchie is a player with great positioning and a calmness that transfers to the players around him. He is a fine distributor of the ball with an excellent passing range. He is an old-style defender who likes to dominate his opponent with his tight marking.

BUKOWIECKI – Steven, Jason

Steven was a senior player in the 00's. A skillful player who was a regular goal scorer, but was troubled by persistent injuries, which made it difficult for him to maintain a regular spot in the senior side. In 2000 Steven was the leading scorer in the Southern Premier League Reserves competition with 18 goals. Jason played in a number of teams over the years and was a solid contributor although he did not make a senior team appearance.

BURN – Matthew, Marcus, Tony

Matthew came to the club in the 90's from Glenorchy Knights and always had the ability to score goals in whichever team he has played. His most prolific period for Eagles was in the early 00's when he scored in excess of 25 goals in the 2002 Southern Premier Reserves League which earnt him a spot in the senior side. He managed to score a hat-trick early in his senior career against Hobart Olympic, when brought in to replace the injured Richard Leszczynski. Injuries and inconsistency, plus having to fight for a spot in the front-line with some very strong and experienced players made it difficult for him to maintain a regular senior berth. Getting sent off early in his career didn't help either. Marcus was a solid defender who spent some of his youth years at Eagles before moving to the Glenorchy Knights. He returned in the early 2010's and made a number of appearances in the senior side of 2013 and was always an honest performer who did his job with a minimum of fuss. Tony was a youth coach and team manager for a number of teams, from the 90's to the mid-2000's.

CLAMP – Jacob, Tom, Kevin

Jacob broke into the senior team on a regular basis in 2009. He is a tall player who has played the majority of his senior games in midfield but has also been utilised in defence, where his aerial ability has been of great value. He has the ability to score goals, particularly from set pieces where once again his height can be a major weapon. After a time away from the game, Jacob returned to the Eagles nest in 2019 and is currently a permanent fixture in the senior side. Brother Tom played in the Division 3 side in the late 00's before moving to another club to play at a higher level. Father Kevin was an assistant senior coach (under George Krambousanos 2009-11), and also coached the u19's during that period. Kevin an ex-Metro legend, brought great experience, and a calm and thoughtful approach to his roles.

Kevin Clamp (standing) deep in thought as Wass, Vernon and Muir watch on, and Krambousanos wonders what's going on

CLARIDGE – Laura & Emily

Laura was a member of the 2008 Under 17 Premiership team which subsequently moved into the senior women's ranks. Emily joined her sister in Women's Division 1 in 2010. Mum Patricia has also been very active as manageress of the team.

COLLINS – Sean, Cormac, Oisin, Fionn

Sean was a solid hard tackling experienced defender and was a premiership player in the late 80's. After a time away, Sean returned back to the club in the mid 00's to coach at youth level. Sean was also a qualified senior referee. Son Cormac was a dangerous left sided player, who broke into the senior squad in 2005 after impressing in the u19's with his scoring prowess and ability to beat players. Cormac was inducted into the team of the Decade 00's at the 50th Anniversary dinner. Cormac's brothers Oisin and Fionn also played for the lub at a youth level in the 00's.

⚽ Modest Collins' class lifts Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 25 AUG 2004

CORMAC Collins, New Town Eagles' talented 15-year-old midfielder, is a modest, articulate young man, but one of few words.

After scoring one of the best goals seen in senior competition this season to help New Town Eagles earn a 1-1 draw with Metro-Claremont away at North Chigwell, the youngster had to be coaxed into describing it. Collins, whose father, Sean, once starred for Eagles as a defender, showed great skill in putting Eagles ahead just before the break. He took on experienced defender Daniel Hanna and feinted outside, inside and outside again before hitting a great shot at goal. The ball swerved in flight and gave Metro goalkeeper Neil Biggar no chance as it whistled past him and into the roof of the net.

Asked to describe his first senior goal in only his third first-team appearance, Collins simply said that he had felt good about it. After some prompting, the youngster added: "I took a shot from outside the box and from an angle and it went over the keeper.'' After some more encouragement, he ventured: "I put the defender off balance and once the ball got to the keeper I knew it was a goal because he couldn't get to it.'

Such modesty from one so talented is refreshing. It augurs well for the youngster's future. Collins is in Year 10 at New Town High School and has played for Eagles throughout his high school years. He was in the southern Tasmanian under-15 side last year and is in this year's state under-16s, who will participate in the national talent identification series in Sydney later in the season. "I'm looking forward to it and I think Tasmania can do all right,'' he said

"It'll be tough, but hopefully we can do well.'' He has no definite ambitions in the game other than to become a better player. His father gives him advice when he watches him play, but he was refereeing at another venue when Cormac scored his marvelous goal.

Collins thinks that Eagles, who are third-last in the nine-team roster, can avoid this year's wooden spoon. “We've got a game in hand over Metro [second-last] and I think Olympic [last] will finish last,'' he said confidently. Eagles have a heavy program of catch-up games and scheduled matches next weekend. It would not surprise to see Collins start in most of those after his performance and goal against Metro.

Eagles' Cormac Collins is challenged by Clarence's Adam Hedge [PlessPix]

DeVRIES – Mark, Luke
Mark and Luke played for the club in the early to mid-00’s after moving from Hobart Olympic. Both were fast and very skillful players that could tear up any defence on their day.

DWYER – Gemma & Aelia
Gemma was a member of the 2008 Under 17 Premiership team which subsequently moved into the senior women’s ranks. Aelia joined her sister in Women’s Division 1 in 2010.

FENNELL – Matt, Dylan
Goalscoring brothers who played for the club in the mid-00’s to early 10’s. Dylan was the club’s top goalscorer in the Premier Reserves in 2005 and Matt was the League’s Premier Reserves top goalscorer in 2009, and followed this up with being Eagles top scorer in 2010. He had the ability to score a spectacular goal out of nothing.

FERRALL – Nick & Liam
Nick had been with the club for a number of years before breaking into the senior team in 2008. Although starting out as a striker, Nick was converted to a defensive player whether in midfield or defence. A skilled tenacious player he had a year off in 2010 but returned to the team in 2011, which was a big boost to the side, and he scored Eagles’ goal in the play-off final against South Hobart in 2011 to show he hadn’t lost his striking ability. Injuries and a career in the Police force curtailed his playing days, but he did return briefly in 2018. Unfortunately, injury cut short his come-back, which was disappointing as his quality and experience would have been invaluable for a young Eagles side. Liam was a highly rated goalkeeper who in 2011, at 16 years of age was the club’s reserve senior keeper. He showed great maturity in a very specialised position, and had the ability to be an outstanding keeper for many years to come. Unfortunately, a serious hand injury and subsequent career in the armed forces, meant Eagles missed out seeing him mature, and build on a promising start to his soccer playing career.

⚽ Versatility shows just in the Nick of time

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 10 JUN 2008

NICK Ferrall is making the most of his debut season at senior level for New Town Eagles and is impressing stand-in coach Stephen Pitchford. The 19-year-old Ferrall can play in midfield or as a striker, and Pitchford has used him in both roles.

“He's given 100 per cent right from the first minute he's been in the seniors,'' said Pitchford, who played with Nick's father, Andy, for many years at Metro. “We've asked him to step up a level and he's actually surprised us with the skill level he's displayed when he's been in the senior side. “Against Zebras on Friday, he actually turned a couple of people inside out and knocked the ball past them, got it back, and that's exactly what we've been looking for in our play. “We played him up front

as a striker early on, but he's got that tenacity of a midfielder and he really keeps going and doesn't stop for 90 minutes. “When he gets the ball, he generally looks to hit people's feet, which is, again, what we're looking for.''

Ferrall also began his career with Metro, his grandmother was an official at the club for many years and his father was a club stalwart and joined Eagles four seasons ago. He went to Japan with a Tasmanian under-13 side while he was in Year 7 at high school and played mainly in the reserves at Eagles until his elevation to the seniors this year. “I'm really happy about that,'' Ferrall said. “It's only a matter of time before we start competing on the scoreboard.

“If we keep playing the way we have been, we'll avoid a relegation playoff and stay up in the Premier League.'' Eagles are currently third last on the ladder and four points adrift of seventh-placed Kingborough Lions United. The bottom two sides will be automatically relegated and the third-last faces a playoff against the Division One champion.

“All we need to do is to convert our chances into goals, which is where we're struggling at the moment,'' said Ferrall, whose father watches most of his games. “My Dad goes to most of our games to support me and he tells me exactly what I do wrong in each game. I'd like to stay at the level I'm at now, or go higher if I can.'' Ferrall finds Hobart Zebras his most difficult opponents, but thought the side did well against them in Friday's 3-1 loss. “Towards the end, we really took the game to them, and they were lucky to get away with a 3-1 win,'' he said.

Nick Ferrall closing down South Hobart’s Brennan with help from Page and Whitehall

FONG – Michael, Patrick

Michael broke into the senior side in 1997 and proved an instant success playing in the finals campaign that year. He was also named FFT Young Player of the Year in his debut season. A fast, damaging player with an enormous leap, he proved his worth to the club by winning the senior Best and Fairest awards in 1999 and 2000. Patrick played for the reserves in the early 00’s and was also a skillful player whose career unfortunately was cut short by injury.

FRACALOSSI – Alex, Joe, Daniel

Alex come through the youth ranks to be a contender for a senior spot in a very short period of time. His development in 2018 in the Division 3 side, under the tutelage of Shane Revell saw him flourish and turn into an impressive overlapping full back with great speed, athleticism, and anticipation. Alex has a bright playing future ahead of him but unfortunately for the club he

has moved interstate for study reasons, so his playing career is on hold for the time being. Joe came to the club in 2018 at the age of fifteen, and although not possessing Alex's speed and athleticism, he more than makes up for it with his quickness of thought, and his high-quality distribution has caught the eye. He uses his body well and receives numerous free kicks as he outmaneuvers bigger opponents. Joe has made his senior debut in this current season (2021) against Beachside. Daniel (the eldest of the three) was a Best & Fairest youth player and was a natural goalscorer. Unfortunately, his time with the club was brief.

Fracalossi Brothers as part of 2019 Division 3 – KO Cup Winners
Back: R. Leszczynski, C. Anderson, S. Revell (Coach), S. Heathcote, J. Hadolt, L. Backhouse, G. Deayton, B. Hawkins
Front: A. Fracalossi, R. Brown-Price, R. Longden, L. Tollard-Williams, H. Stanton, B. Crossan, J. Fracalossi, G. Nutting.

GORNIAK - Henry, Eddie, Robert, John, David
The Gorniak brothers played in various teams in the 70's and 80's. Henry was a member of the all-conquering 1975 A Reserve team, (coached by Harold Nelson) and 1978 Winfield Combined League winning team. He also made a number of senior appearances in the '77, '78 premiership seasons. The sheer quality of players available for the senior team in this era, limited the opportunity of appearances for a number of talented players, Henry being one of those. Robert was a senior player and an ex-State representative. Eddie was a talented player who made a handful of appearances in the senior team in the early 80's. John (Chief) was well known around the club for many years and assisted in team management and trainer duties. David, the son of sister Krystina was a youth player in the 2010's and was a prolific goalscorer.

KRAMBOUSANOS - George, Anna
George was a senior player in the early 80's and also a senior coach in a number of spells in 2000, and 2009-2011. He was named coach of the Team of The Decade 2000's, at the 50th Anniversary celebrations. Sister, Anna, was a member of the Women's premiership winning team of 1981.

KRUIJVER - Gerrit, David, Sam, Lucy
David or "Gary" as he is affectionately known joined the Club in 2009, and has been a true club man, playing wherever he has been required. He was Eagle's senior keeper from 2016-2018 having previously played in numerous different teams since his arrival (apart from a spell at University in 2013). A magnificent shot stopper, he also has a prodigious throw which has surprised many a defender over the years as they have watched the ball go over their heads. David is also a more than useful on-field player who has made several senior appearances, and many more in the lower divisions. He is still actively playing, and recently (2021) played his first senior game in three years, and showed he still has what it takes to play at the top level. As well as playing, David is coaching our Championship 1 Women's team in 2021.

Dave showing his athletic ability in a recent game (2021) at Clare Street (Photo courtesy of Mark Philips)

Sam was another talented goalkeeper that progressed through the Eagle's youth ranks to become the Senior keeper in the early 2000's, having played for Eagles since the u12's. He later made a successful move to play for South Hobart.

New Town Eagles' youthful goalkeeper has a level head

By WALTER PLESS

BEFORE the Summer Cup soccer game between New Town Eagles and Hobart Olympic, Eagles' coach George Krambousanos predicted his side would win 6-0.

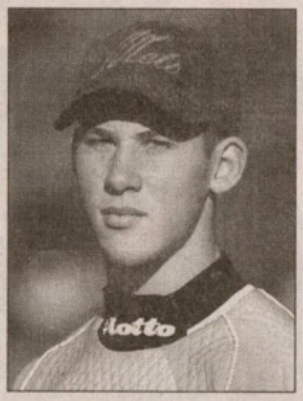
It didn't turn out that way, the sides drawing 1-1 and Eagles winning the subsequent penalty shoot-out 7-6.

Many observers were of the opinion Eagles should have won 1-0 and Olympic's controversial equaliser should have been disallowed.

Eagles' 18-year-old goalkeeper Sam Kruijver remembers the goal well.

"I came out for the cross and I didn't know anyone was near me so I just jumped and grabbed the ball," Kruijver recalled.

"All of a sudden, I just felt someone come up and hip and shoulder me and I started to fall back over the line.



Sam Kruijver: likes the goalkeeping excitement.

"I thought I can't let the ball go over the line so I threw it away. I thought I've got to keep it out at all costs.

"Then, Trevor Carson knocked the ball into the net. I was expecting a free-kick, but it didn't come."

The incident gave Kruijver, who is a first-year commerce student at university, an indication of what life as a goalkeeper in the top flight can be like.

But, it did not deter him and he has maintained his senior berth and is as keen as ever to continue.

"I like the excitement of goalkeeping and getting that adrenalin rush," Kruijver said. "If you pull off a good save, everyone cheers you."

Kruijver is in his 12th year as a goalkeeper. He started with Brighton Primary School under-7s and has been with Eagles since the under-12s.

This year's Summer Cup win was his first trophy success at senior level and Saturday's 0-0 draw with University, the reigning league champion, in the opening league match of the season, did not make him despondent because he did, after all, keep a clean sheet.

"I thought it was a bit sloppy," he said. "We could have done a bit better.

"When we get under pressure, we have to keep our heads and just make sure we don't give away any goals and that we score some.

"We've got a good side and we've bonded well, and we have a lot of guys with lots of skill. I think we should go well and finish at least in the top two."

Kruijver had thought of going to England at the beginning of last season, but he abandoned the idea because of financial reasons. "I plan to go in a few years' time, when I finish university," he said.

There is a saying that goalkeepers are crazy. Kruijver seems to have his feet firmly on the ground, however, and he has a level head to go with it.

David's daughter Lucy is the latest goalkeeping Kruijver to join the Eagle's ranks as part of the Women's program in 2021. She is hedging her bets however, and is also working on her outfield skills as well as her keeping ones. At this early stage, it looks as if she will handle both with aplomb. Father Gerrit only played the one season for Eagles in the late 90's but has always been a strong supporter of the club.

LARGE - John, Debbie, Nick, Daniel
John started playing for the club in the mid 70's and continued to do so on an ongoing basis until the late 2000's. He was also a long serving committee member, club President from 2000-04 and a youth team coach. He made numerous senior appearances in the late 70' and 80's and has been part of many reserves and premiership teams in the club's "social" roster, and was part of the 1992 Division 3 team that were premiers and Knock-Out Cup winners. He was awarded Player Life Membership at the 50th Anniversary celebration dinner. Nick was a youth player in the 90's before moving up the ranks and being a regular reserve player who made several senior appearances in the 00's. Work commitments led to a move interstate. Daniel was a youth player for the club and mum Debbie has been heavily involved on the club's committee and as a trainer for numerous teams over the years.

LUTTRELL - Matthew, Alex
Matthew joined the club from Beachside in 2018 and quickly established himself in the senior team. Predominantly playing in a central defensive role, Matthew is an intelligent player who possesses a good range of skills and works hard to improve his game. Unfortunately, injuries have plagued his short time with the club, and he is currently not playing. Alex joined his brother at Eagles in 2019 and was making strides to earning a senior spot after a solid pre-season in 2020, when an ankle injury in an early practice match cut short his senior team aspirations and in fact ended his season prematurely.

LEBSKI - Robbie, Krys
Robbie was a senior squad member throughout the mid 90's to the latter 00's, equally at home in defence or in midfield. He was part of the senior and reserves squads in the "Grand Slam" season of 1997. Krys is a solid defender who after making a promising start to his senior career under the coaching of Mark Leszczynski didn't manage to kick on and maintain a senior squad position, although he did make a number of appearances in the mid 00's. He has returned to the club this season 2021, and is predominantly playing in the club's social side.

MORRISON - Neil, Paul
Neil joined the club in 1984 and made a big contribution to premierships in 1984,86,88,89,91 and finally in 1995. He was a talented left footer with a raking pass and ferocious shot, and many attacking moves were started when he was in possession. Neil is a dual Team of the Decades member in the 80's and 90's. Paul was a regular in the seniors from the early 90's after forcing his way into the side with strong performances in the reserves and played in the 1991 premiership year. He was an integral part of the 1997 premiership side with versatility being the key to his game. Paul is a member of the Team of the Decade 90's.

Morrison the heart and soul of Eagle

Soccer with WALTER PLESS

IN last season's Summer Cup soccer final, New Town White Eagle found itself 2-0 down at half-time against Hobart Juventus.

Eagle went on to win the final 6-4 and the key to the side's second-half comeback and ultimate success was a positional change made by coach Mark Leszczynski five minutes before the interval.

Leszczynski moved Paul Morrison from sweeper to midfield and Scott Young from midfield back to sweeper.

It was Morrison's performance in midfield that swung the match in Eagle's favour as he organised, prompted and inspired his team-mates to lift their performance, enabling Richard Leszczynski to score four goals and Colin Shepherd and Adam Jones to hit one each.

Morrison made two of the goals and had a hand in one other, a superb performance in anyone's book.

The 29-year-old defender-cum-midfielder is again a key player in this year's Eagle side, but he is modest about his performance in last season's Summer Cup Final, and about his influence this season for an Eagle side that is on top of the ladder.

"It's a team-oriented game," Morrison said. "Maybe a player might be able to spark the team, but it still relies on the whole team lifting as a team."

Modest Morrison may be, but a neutral observer of the game could not fail to notice that, at the end of last season, Morrison was absent from Eagle's grand final line-up because of injury, and Eagle lost 2-1 to Olympia.

Morrison is given a relatively free role in midfield by this season's coach, Andrew Leszczynski, unless, of course, he is assigned a marking job.

"If I play in midfield, it's pretty much a free rein for me, although I guess you could describe it as probably hanging off David Stoddart a bit and not pushing forward as much as he does," Morrison said.

This does not stop the mobile, intelligent and aggressive midfielder from scoring, as he did twice in the 4-0 win over Eagle's main rival, Devonport City, at Clare Street in April this year.

With Eagle leading 2-0, Morrison hit the third with a splendid volley just before half-time, while in the second half he struck his side's fourth goal after outwitting two defenders.

Clare Street is where Eagle trains, and it has also become the venue for the club's State League home games.

"I think we really like playing there, but I wouldn't say we feel any more confident there than anywhere else," Morrison opined. "I just think the actual surface is a much better surface than elsewhere.

"We're a fast-moving sort of team and it suits our style of play down to the ground."

Eagle is the highest scoring team in the State League competition, netting an average of four goals a game.

Morrison credits his own scoring record, as well as that of the team, to the emphasis placed on shooting during training sessions.

"We spend at least one night a week just on shooting, and everyone, from defenders up, all train at shooting, so that's why I suppose we've got a very attacking side," he said.

If Eagle does reach this season's grand final, the club's supporters will no doubt be hoping that Paul Morrison is in the line-up.

15 JUL 1997

NEADS - Ricky, Kris, Paul
Brothers that played for the club in the 1984 premiership season after transferring from Croatia.

NUTTING - Roger, Grant, Ryan, Kirby
Grant first played senior soccer in the mid 00's and was a solid defender who was very consistent. Work commitments prevented him from playing for Eagles for a number of years, but he took on the club Presidency whilst working as a FIFO engineer in WA in 2014, and it wasn't until 2018 that he returned full-time to Tasmania. In 2021, Grant is still the club's President, and this makes him the club's longest serving one in its history. As President, Grant has added a professional touch to how the club is managed, and has played a big role in lifting the club's profile and relevancy in the soccer community after the turmoil the Club was in following its omission from the 2013 V League. Grant also resumed his playing career both on the field and in goals, and has been a consistent performer, winning the 2018 Reserves Best & Fairest player. In 2020 following an injury to senior goalkeeper Jamie Cook, Grant took over as senior team goalkeeper, and produced several best on ground (and match winning) performances, showing his skill and versatility. Ryan, came through the youth ranks (mainly playing on the field) to make senior goalkeeper in 2014-15 where he performed strongly, but following a serious back injury, his career has been put on hold. Father Roger (dec.) was a former committee man and youth coach. Kirby played a season for the Premier Women in 2002.

Ryan and Grant Nutting

McKENZIE – Russell, Craig
Both brothers started their playing careers for Eagles in the late 70's, although Russell only played for a brief time. Craig continued to be an active participant in a number of teams over the years, but did not make a senior appearance although he did make the match squad in 1986. Craig was also involved in coaching and managing various senior teams.

OLA – Joanna & Suzie
Played for our senior women's team in the mid 80's and were members of the 1987 Premiership team.

1984 Women's Team featuring the Bilac, Ola and Rosinski families.
Back: Baker, C. Steenhuis, D. Bilac, G. Hickman, E. Plachta, J. Bilac, M. Glass
Front: K Watson, Rosinki, B. Rekawiecki, S. Ola, J. Ola, A. Rosinski

PAGE – David, Mark, Jenny
The Page family have been involved with club for a number of years at a playing level (David and Mark, both youth and senior) and team management and committee work (mum Jenny). Mark was part of the premiership wining u17 side in 2005 which was the source of a number of high-quality senior players. A fast and aggressive defender he was senior team captain in 2011-12. David (also a strong defender) has also played at a senior level in the mid '00's, and has made a return to playing this season (2021), in the club's Division 6 side, and is playing with his trademark hardness and enthusiasm.

PHILLIPS – Mark, Ben, James, Luke
Mark was a youth player for Eagles in the late 70's playing in the u15's in 1978 (coached by Eamon Kelly) and the u17's in 1979 (coached by Glyn Jenkins). James joined the club in 2015 from Olympia. He has been a consistent performer in a number of defensive positions and although he has played a number of senior games over the past six years year's, in recent times he has been unable to lock down a permanent senior spot. Elder brother Ben joined the club from the Glenorchy Knights in 2019 and he added some quality to the Eagles midfield, with his excellent technique and eye for a goal. He is currently not playing, as his focus has shifted to work and study commitments. Hopefully he will return in the near future. Cousin Luke joined the club also from Olympia 2017, and a strong showing in the pre-season enabled him to lock down a permanent senior starting berth as an attacking wide-player. He struggled to maintain a senior position in 2018 and in 2019 was having success as an attacking full-back, when his season was prematurely cut short when a serious injury (a badly split shoulder blade) kept him out of the game for much of the season. He did return towards the latter stage of the year and in his only appearance after his injury, he scored a hat-trick for the reserves.

PITCHFORD – Nathan, Stephen
Nathan joined the Eagles from Hobart Zebras at the start of the 2005 season, but he began his career at Metro-Claremont, where his father, Stephen, is a life member. "I went through the ranks at Metro and then joined Zebras' under-18s, where there were a lot of the state under-age players I'd played with in state sides,'' Pitchford said. "I was in the reserves last season, and I joined Eagles this year because of the opportunity to play in the seniors. I was offered the full-time senior position, whereas at Zebras, my security as a senior player wasn't confirmed. Eagles offered me a solid spot and it seemed a better opportunity at the time." Zebra's loss was definitely Eagles' gain, as Nathan went on to be a match wining keeper for the club. Injury setbacks didn't stop him from working hard on his game and being regarded as the best keeper in the league. He was also a very handy on-field player with an eye for a goal, which came to the fore in 2013 when he was recovering from a hand

injury which kept him out of the goals. Nathan, who was inducted into the team of the Decade 00's at the 50th Anniversary dinner currently plays for the Devonport Strikers in the NPL. Stephen was briefly caretaker coach in 2008 when Ian Parker was in the UK for 5 games and then took over from George Krambousanos midway through 2011 and led the team to the final play-offs, where they were beaten in extra time by South Hobart. He took the reins once again in 2012, and Eagles again missed out on claiming the premiership on the last day of the season and lost the Lakoseljac Cup Final to the Glenorchy Knights. His time at Eagles was very successful, but unfortunately didn't end in any silverware to show for, but his sides highly attacking approach to their games brought a lot of belief and more importantly joy to the supporters that had been lacking in previous seasons. Stephen moved to Hobart Zebras in 2013 at the start of the new V League.

⚽ Long journey to 100 league games

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 27 APR 2010

NEW Town Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford had mixed feelings after he reached his long-awaited 100th Premier league cap on Saturday.

The 21-year-old conceded three goals in a 3-1 loss to league leader South Hobart, but the custodian produced a string of exceptional saves to prevent South further extending its lead. "Although we lost and I was a bit disappointed about the goals, it still feels pretty good to reach 100 games and I was reasonably happy with how I performed," Pitchford said.

South was continually frustrated by Pitchford, particularly in the first half, and his double save to foil Tom Roach and then Bart Beecroft on 34 minutes was a highlight. His drew praise from opposition coach Ken Morton. "Pitchford was outstanding and some of the saves he made were terrific," Morton said.

The day may have been bittersweet for the keeper, but achieving the milestone was a welcome relief for Pitchford, who spent the 2009 season sidelined after he hyper-extended his knee in a pre-season friendly last year. "I was disappointed I couldn't do it last year, it's been on my mind since then because I was still only 20 last year," Pitchford said.

Pitchford underwent rigorous rehabilitation following surgery on the injury and despite returning to action in this season's Summer Cup, the keeper was again sidelined after he injured the AC joint in his shoulder. With his senior caps stalled on 93 for over 12 months, Pitchford recovered in time to start all seven league games this season to boost his career appearances to 100.

Pitchford made his senior debut for Hobart Zebras in 2004 at the age of 15, before moving to Eagles the next year where he established himself as one of the best keepers in the Premier League. Pitchford made a name for himself when he produced top-class performances for the under-21 state exhibition side in a four-match series against A-League youth teams. Eagles struggled with goalkeeping cover in the absence of Pitchford last year and will welcome his return.

Eagles' keeper Nathan Pitchford climbs and takes a cross [PlessPix]

Cup passion decides as two families clash

FORGET recent results. Disregard player form and southern Premier League status.

The Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy decider this afternoon will come down to the team that is psychologically prepared, attacks the ball with the greatest vigour and punishes its opponent in a cut-throat manner.

Not disregarding the importance of other recent editions, this final is all about history, passion and emotion and when the whistle sounds at KGV Park from 5.30pm, Glenorchy Knights and New Town Eagles will attempt to write a new golden chapter in their respective soccer history books.

Such is the significance of this match that both clubs' seasons could be defined by it.

The Knights' six-year wait to once again lift the trophy it has significant attachment to and which is named after one of the club's late greats looms as the biggest emotional motivator.

But not when you consider the Eagles' 15-year major trophy drought and the fact that New Town came agonisingly close to achieving final success in the Statewide finals series last season.

If Glenorchy's name is etched on the legendary huon pine trophy, it could provide the boost necessary for Knights to resurrect its flailing league season. If New Town prospers, it will not only end a decade and a half without major silverware but propel it towards further success in the Premier League.

Then there's the unique family affair that this tie serves up – both coaches, the Eagles' Stephen Pitchford and the Knights' Chris Hey, have sons playing in the side and family pride is on the line.

JULIUS ROSS

"There's no doubt that if we come out on top, it'll be a great day," Stephen Pitchford, father of Eagles keeper Nathan, said.

Nathan is a pivotal character in his father's team in goal, but there are match winners across the park and red-hot strike partners Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown are likely to have an important role to play in the result.

Hey affords his son Jayden the same treatment as any other player in his squad, but there is no doubting the significance of the combination to the Knights' success.

"It's sometimes difficult, and I'm sure Steve would agree, coaching your own son, but you treat them as an equal with everybody else, no more, no less," Hey said.

"If we hold the trophy up, it'll be a proud moment for me."

THE SQUADS

LIKELY LINE-UPS

New Town Eagles: Pitchford, Page, Cox, Anderson, Clark, Whitehall, Scott, Hudson, Collins, McKeown, Lesczynski

Glenorchy Knights: Le Rossignol, Clay, Holmes, Johnson, Nowicki, Huigsloot, Hey, Griffin, Letiko, Strang, Marney/Robb

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10am: U-19s: Kingborough Lions United v Clarence United

12.30pm: Vase Final. Olympia Warriors v Devonport City

3pm: Women's statewide cup final: Olympia Warriors v Clarence United

5.30pm: Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy Final: New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights

TOGETHER: New Town Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford with his son Nathan, who is th goalkeeper in the senior side. Picture: RAOUL KOCHANOWSI

PITT – Craig, Mark, Joshua

Craig joined the club in 1987 from Metro and it wasn't long before he was a senior squad member. He was a premiership player in the 1988-91 period. He also played in the '95 and '97 premiership winning teams. A versatile player who spent the majority of his playing career at Eagles in a midfield role, combining a high work rate with an eye for goal, he finished his Eagle's career at sweeper in the "Grand Slam" team of '97. Craig is also a member of the Team of the Decade 90's. Mark played for the club from the early 90's and played as high as the reserves and continued to play for the club's "social" sides for many years. He was awarded Player Life Membership at the 50th Anniversary celebration dinner. Joshua was a talented youth player who won a Best & Fairest award in 2016. He is currently focused on his cricket ambitions, but hopefully he will return to play in years to come.

⚽ White Eagle veteran enjoying his new role with club

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 06 MAY 1997

CRAIG Pitt, the 27-year-old sweeper of State League soccer competition leader New Town Eagle, has come home in a sense. Pitt has played in most positions on the field and spent the past few seasons in midfield. He first started as a sweeper, however, and played in that role when a State representative at under-15 and under-16 level, so he feels quite comfortable this season.

“The retirement of our previous sweeper, Scott Young, prompted the current move,'' Pitt said. “I enjoy midfield, but last year I played in the defence in a marking role, and it's harder to mark opponents. My role now is to organise the other defenders, but I don't mind it.'' He also manages to find time to push forward into attack and have the occasional crack at goal, which is typical of Eagle, which has players in every position who can score, a key factor in the team's high scoring rate.

“As sweeper, you've got the advantage of seeing the whole ground in front of you,'' he said. “The real challenge is getting the psyche right so that you can get in the attacking frame of mind when you do get forward. “If you don't, you're struggling because suddenly you're in an attacking frame of mind rather than a defensive one, and you're not watching everything from the back. “You have to be able to make that adjustment and I just have to get better at it.''

Pitt started his career at South Hobart and then moved to Metro-Claremont, where he got the occasional senior outing under coach David Smith. He moved to Eagle 10 years ago, starting in the reserves coached by Dale Itchins, and won a premiership first up. It was the first of many at senior level. He believes the championship should go to the team which finishes first and that the Statewide Cup competition caters for those who desire a grand final format.

“Olympia, who beat us in last year's grand final, feel as if they won a final, but I don't think they feel like they've won the premiership,'' Pitt said. “If grand finals are for the sake of sponsors, I think Soccer Tasmania should push the cup competition and make the Statewide Cup the big prestigious event. “It's not sour grapes because we've won some premierships under the final four and grand final format, and we've lost some that way.'' Pitt rates the Hobart Zebras, South Hobart and Devonport City as Eagle's main rivals this season. “We've got a very good quality side all over the field,'' he said. “We've got the players and it's just a matter of putting it all together.''

Craig Pitt scoring against Launceston at KGV, as Scott Young watches on.

PROUD – Julian, Marcus & Nick

Julian was a senior player in the late 90's who played his best soccer up front where he could use his great strength, particularly in the air to best advantage. Julian was the club's leading scorer in 1999 and he became Eagles second Vic Tuting Silver Medal winner in the same year. Marcus has been with the club since the early 90's and was a part of the 1997 State-wide Cup Final win over Launceston Zebras, scoring one of the goals in the 5-0 win after coming on as substitute. He also scored a memorable goal in the qualifying final against Hobart Zebras in a 4-1 win also in 1997, again after coming on as a substitute and was a member of the successful 1997 reserves "Grand Slam" team and the all-conquering Division 2 team of 2007. Nick played in a number of the club's youth teams.

⚽ Medal shocks modest Proud

By YVETTE MCGUIRE [THE MERCURY] - 04 NOV 1999

NEW Town Eagle midfielder-cum-striker Julian Proud is still in shock after taking out the state's most prestigious soccer award _ the Vic Tuting Medal. The 26-year-old had to be cajoled into attending the vote count presentation because the thought of winning it had never occurred to him.

"The president of our club called me a couple of days before the dinner to say he wanted as many of our players there as possible and wanted me to go,'' he said yesterday. "He also invited my parents, and it wasn't until afterwards that I worked out something was going on.'' Proud said that during the count held at Wrest Point Casino last Saturday night he still had no idea what was going to happen.

"After about 11 rounds I was on four votes and the leaders were on 13,'' he said. Obviously a big second half of the season helped Proud storm home to win the award with 17 votes, one clear of three players tied on 16. Proud credits his team-mates and coaches for his success and played down his own role.

"I am by no means the most talented guy at the club and my team-mates helped me through,'' he said. Proud, a construction site supervisor, has played with New Town Eagle for the past 11 years. "We had a fairly new team this year with a few of the older players moving on,'' he said. ``We had a good mix and with a few injury problems we also had quite a few players coming up from the reserves, which was very encouraging.'' While Proud was the state's most outstanding player for the 1999 season he was not able to crack it for his own club award, finishing runner-up.

Proud clears the lines with the help of Adam Jones

QUAN – Josh, Jordan, Kenny

Josh worked his way form the u19's to become a regular senior squad member in the early 2010's. Mainly used as an impact substitute, Josh was very quick and skillful, and had the useful knack of either scoring, or being involved in a goal scoring situation. He was made club Captain in 2013, but didn't see the season out, as the strain of captaining a struggling senior side at a very young age got the better of him. Jordan was also a regular in the senior team in 2013. Unfortunately, like for Josh, other commitments became a priority, and this meant Eagles did not get to see their undoubted talent develop. Father Kenny has been a regular and enthusiastic participant in many of the club's social sides, and continues to play in 2021.

REVELL – Shane, Daniel, Nicholas, Natelie

Shane joined the club in the mid-2000's. An ex-Juventus player, Shane was a highly experienced youth coach and administrator when he arrived, having served as President of the Northern Suburbs Youth Soccer Association for a number of years. As the club's youth Technical Director, he made an immediate impact, and raised the standard of coaching at the club immeasurably, and his hands on approach (he has coached teams every season since his arrival), has seen him help develop a number of the club's current senior players, and players who have subsequently left the club to further their NPL aspirations. His ability to quickly identify "football problems" is unparalleled and has made him a vital component of the Eagle's coaching setup. Shane is currently the club's Senior Technical Director, and in 2021 he is coaching our Premier Women's team. Daniel and Nicholas are knowledgeable players, whom we have not seen the best of yet, but both are young enough to make an impact in the future, whether it be in a playing or coaching capacity. Daniel has regularly assisted in various coaching roles over the years. The club welcomed Natelie in 2021, as she joined our newly revamped women's program.

Youth team featuring the Revells – Daniel, Shane and Nicholas

SAVAGE – Andrew, Wade

Andrew was a talented goalkeeper who first made the senior squad in the mid 90's. A solid and reliable keeper, Andrew was a fine shot stopper. The latter part of his playing career was dogged by serious injuries which ended his career prematurely. In 2009 he assisted Rodney Bones in coaching the reserves side. Wade made the senior side in the 00's and was a tough tackling defender. Continual knee problems curtailed his senior playing days, however he has returned in our 60th year to play in the club's social side in the Division 6 competition. Wade was also involved in coaching numerous youth and men's teams over the years

Wade Savage breaking up another attack v Olympia

SHACKCLOTH – Adam, Patrick, Bill

Adam a skillful left-footer, made his senior debut in the mid 00's after some strong performances in the reserves and under 19's. He was equal top-scorer in the senior side in 2007 and was the premier reserves Best & Fairest player in 2009. Adam has regularly coached youth teams, and in 2020 coached the Championship 1 team. His is currently focused on assisting the senior coach Tommy Fotak, and continues to coach the Championship 1 team, whilst also continuing to play in the Division 6 side when time permits. Adam as the club's Sponsorship and Marketing coordinator has done an amazing job lifting the club's profile in the local community and accessing valuable sponsorship dollars. Patrick progressed through the youth ranks and played in the premier reserves, however studies and work opportunities have seen him leave the state. Father Bill was the club's Vice-President for a number of years before taking on the Presidency in 2012 to 2013, although he also fulfilled a number of other roles including team, match and canteen manager and trainer when-ever required.

⚽ Shackcloth a striking success

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - WED 14 JUN 2006

STRIKER Adam Shackcloth is one of the players being blooded by New Town Eagles as the club seeks to climb up the Premier League soccer ladder.

The 18-year-old, who made five appearances for the seniors last season, made his third start this season on Friday against league leaders Glenorchy Knights. Eagles lost 3-0 and remain second last on the ladder, but Metro-Claremont and Hobart Olympic are only two and three points, respectively, above them. One good win could see Eagles climb from ninth to seventh. As it is, they are five points clear of last-placed Hobart United, and Eagles should be capable of picking up more points as the season progresses to stay clear of the relegation threat.

Shackcloth started playing at primary school for West Hobart, then moved to St Virgil's, where his coach was Michael Edwards, currently coach of rivals Zebras. He joined Eagles three seasons ago and is content with his progress under current coach Ian Parker. Shackcloth was thrilled with the recent 3-1 win over Devonport City in extra-time in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy statewide competition. "We had a very different line-up than we usually have out on the park because there were quite a few players missing,'' Shackcloth said.

“The missing players will have to prove themselves to get back into the line-up. “If the side that played against Devonport keeps performing, we should stick to it. “I should have put a few goals away, too. I put four on the goalkeeper, which I should have put to the left or right of him.'' Eagles have one win, three draws and five losses on the board at the halfway mark of the season, but Shackcloth remains optimistic. “I think we can definitely improve,'' he said. ``We just have to show a bit more heart, as we did against Devonport.''

Eagles face a difficult away game against third-placed Kingborough Lions United on Saturday. Parker watched the Lions against Hobart United last Saturday and is sure to come up with a strategy for the game, with Shackcloth likely to play a key role as an up-and-coming striker.

2008 Under 19’s featuring the Shackcloth’s
Back: K. Davey, C. Minty, J. Clamp, A. Ayres, P. Shackcloth, M. Ball, A. Shackcloth (Coach) **Front:** J. Andrews, A. Gadd, A. Kelly, C. Blizzard, R. Nutting, A. Hagger, J. Quan

SIKORA – John, Mark, Stefan, Christopher
Mark a cultured defender was a premiership player in 1977 & 1978. Stefan a skillful midfielder was a senior premiership player in the early 80’s and continued to play for the club into the 00’s in various teams. Stefan was part of the of the 1992 Division 3 team that were premiers and KO Cup winners. Stefan also coached a number of youth teams over the years. Father John a long serving committee man, is a Life Member of the club an honor bestowed upon him in 1974. Stefan’s son Christopher has also played for the Club at a youth and social league level.

SNAPE – Joseph, Peter & Michael
Joseph played for the club at a youth level in the first half of the 00’s. Peter and Michael joined their brother at the club in 2006 and quickly progressed through the club’s youth ranks and performed well to make the premier reserves squad. Both possessed great speed and commitment, and all their coaches were impressed with their willingness to learn. As identical twins they caused some confusion amongst coaching staff who found it difficult in not impossible to tell them apart. Other interest took them away from the game, which robbed the club of two potential long-term players.

STERPIN – Aaron, Luke
Skillful players that played in the early to mid-2000’s, with Aaron making a number of senior appearances.

TELEGA – Andrew, Scott
Both joined the club in the mid 00’s from Tilford Zebras although Andrew started his youth career at Eagles. Andrew has captained the club at senior level and has been a multiple Best and Fairest winner (2005, 2006, 2015 and 2018). He has been a

strong reliable player, fast and hard in the tackle and strong in the air. A quiet achiever who rarely breaks a sweat (due to great positioning and game sense), he lets his play do the talking. Andrew has also helped coach at a youth level in his time at the club and continues to be a member of the current senior squad (2021), although recently he has been hampered by some niggling injuries which has limited his game time. Scott was a left sided player that liked to attack and had a powerful shot but lacked consistency throughout his time at the club to maintain a regular senior berth.

⚽ Leader's reward in Eagle lift-off

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 05 JUL 2006

NEW Town Eagles captain Andrew Telega always had faith in his side moving out of the Premier League soccer competition relegation zone.

His faith was rewarded when the Eagles scored a shock 3-2 win at home at Clare St over title-chasing South Hobart on Saturday. The win lifted the Eagles up a place from second-last to eighth on the ladder and it was the 24-year-old Telega who scored the third and winning goal with a free-kick. A central defender, Telega is noted for his ability at set pieces, even when he was with Zebras, and they won the title two seasons ago.

His move from the Zebras to the Eagles at the beginning of last year came as a surprise. “I have no regrets about the move,'' said Telega, whose brother Scott also made the move. “I left Zebras at their pinnacle, when over two years we had only one or two losses. “I came to Eagles knowing full well they had a young side and hoping I could help them build up and, within a couple of years, be top of the ladder. “We're clear of bottom side Hobart United and I think we can stay ahead. “I can see us moving up at least a couple of places because we have the ability to do that. We just have to maintain our concentration the full game.''

Telega has a lot of responsibility on his shoulders. He is the captain, the oldest in the side and the only one to have won a senior championship. He is the powerhouse of the side, marshalling the defence and moving forward at every chance. “We've shown the ability to be higher on the ladder but it's quite daunting when you look at the side and realise that, at 24, you're at least three years older than the next bloke,'' Telega said. “We are looking at things as a rebuilding year and, hopefully, we'll get some of these young players established as senior players.

"We are often using youngsters from the reserves and the under-19s to build a new team. “I've got good support from guys like Chris Jones, Grant Nutting and Brian Zielinski and I try to give everything I have in games.' Eagles face Launceston City, which knocked out title-holder Glenorchy Knights, in this Saturday's quarter-finals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy competition. The Eagles will attempt their giant-killing act at Launceston's Mitsubishi Park, in Prospect.

2007 Senior Team featuring the Telega brothers
Back: S. Telega, A. Telega, M. Rybak, C. Collins, A. Leszczynski, N. Pitchford **Front:** C. Jones, A. Clark, G. Nutting, J. Hadfield, C. Stingle

TRUEMAN – Dennis & Derek
Dennis played in the 1977 & 1978 Premiership sides and was a versatile player, a hard tackling defender, and a strong midfield option. Derek joined the club in the mid 80's and although not as talented as Derek, was a reliable, hard-working midfielder who was strong in the air despite his lack of height. Dennis also coached a number of youth teams in his time at the club in the late 70's.

TURNER – Rick & David
Both brothers came to the club in the mid-90's from Launceston and slotted in nicely from day one. Rick was an old-style defender who rarely had a bad game and David was an attacking mid-fielder with a ferocious shot and a throw in that was as good as a corner. Rick was a premiership player in 1995 and David in 1997. Both played integral parts in the 1997 season in the senior and reserve "Grand Slams".

VERNON – Stevan, Jamie, Mark
Stevan has been with the club since the early 80's making several senior appearances in 1983. He has played in numerous teams and has a strong presence on the field. His strength in the air and tough tackling, plus his sheer resilience to perform at a good level, have been the hallmarks of his game. Stevan has won multiple Reserves Best & Fairests, and was awarded Player Life Membership at the 50th Anniversary celebration dinner. Jamie who broke into the senior squad in 2008 following a fine season in the under 19's, where he was the leading goalscorer in the league, is a versatile player who is strong in the air and has good skills at ground level. Coming back from a knee injury in 2015, Jamie has worked hard to earn a regular senior spot, and his all-round ability has seen him play in multiple positions with aplomb, from centre-forward to centre-back. He has been an excellent role model for the younger players coming into the senior squad. Mark played with the club at a youth level for a number of seasons, before taking a break from the game. He returned in 2016 and immediately showed the ability that was always present at a young age, being awarded the Best & Fairest in the Championship 1 team.

⚽ Stalwart's injury may spell end of fine career

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 30/7/1997

THE news from the doctor this week was not good for New Town White Eagle's Premier League stalwart Steve Vernon. The 34-year-old defender is probably out for the season, and forced retirement after a long career spent with the one club is a distinct possibility. Vernon was diagnosed as having stress fractures in the left foot, ankle and the bone just below the knee.

"The injury was caused by road runs, which I've been doing because I can't always attend training,'' Vernon said. "I had a bone scan and I'll see the doctor again this week for the final verdict. "I'm hoping it won't be the end of my playing career, because I'm not a good watcher.

"I left before the start of Saturday's game because I wasn't able to play and I just couldn't bear to watch, Eagle beat Metro-Claremont 2-1 but had three players sent off.''

Vernon has been with the club since 1983 and has played mainly at reserve level, although he did make two senior appearances, both as a substitute.

It was in 1983 that the club was relegated from the top-flight, most of the players went on to achieve outstanding success in later seasons as Eagle rose to become one of the forces within Tasmanian soccer. "That was the year Simon Templeman was centre-forward, Andrew `Dreamer' Leszczynski went to Brisbane for a trial, and David Stoddart was a raw 16-year-old,'' Vernon recalled.

"Most of the players are still at the club, or at least the nucleus of that side is.'' Vernon has seen many changes over the years, including the cessation of player payments, the abandonment of player contracts, and the rise of the club to the pre-eminent position in Tasmanian soccer.

"No other club can boast of having a team in the top three leagues, that is, the State League, the State Youth Reserve League and the Premier League,'' he said. "The Premier League side is, in effect, the third-team, but it plays in a strong competition against the likes of University and isn't really the third team in the usual sense of the word.

"We've got good young players coming through, players such as Chris Cox, Michael Rybak and Robbie Street, and they'll probably be through to the State League side next year.'' Vernon has won two best-and-fairest awards for the reserves in seasons past and rates his marking ability, strength in the air and tackling as his strong points. Hobart Zebras State League striker Sergio Pace has been his most difficult opponent over the years.

"Sergio has a leap on him like a kangaroo and when he played for PO Saints against us in the Summer Cup final I was marking him, but he scored with a header after only about 15 or 20 seconds,'' Vernon said. If it is, indeed, the end of Vernon's career, he is already grooming his successor.

"I coach the Rosetta under-sevens, where my son Jamie plays, and he'll join White Eagle when he's old enough. As it is, he's already at every Eagle game with me.''

If Jamie displays the same passion and commitment to Eagle that his father has done, the club will be well pleased.

The Vernon's, Mark, Stevan and Jamie

ZIELINSKI – Brian & Andrew

Brian was a senior player in the 00's and continued to play in the lower divisions for a number of years. An intelligent player, he was a strong competitor and good at bringing other people into the game. Used mainly as a target man, his senior career was hampered by numerous. Andrew played for the club in the 00's in the lower divisions.

TEAM GALLERY

1976 Reserves
Back Row: H. Gorniak (V/Capt), N. Draskovic, S. Petrov, C. Kolabinski, S. Rakowski, C. Witek, T. Skaro
Front Row: G. Jenkins, H, Nelson, R. Dymond, D. Riddock (Capt.), M. Prodanovic

1978 Senior Squad
Back: B. Jones (Trainer), L. Krawczyk (President), D. Trueman, E. Kelly, L. Nunn, M. Caban, M. Oakes, B. Rybak, D. Smith, J. Grimsey (Coach)
Front: D. Finegan (Chairman), D. Fraraccio, P. Linnell, B. McKay, S. Zlotos, T. Godfrey, M. Sikora, T. Steenhuis (Manger)

1978 Under 17's

Back: D. Trueman (Coach), M. Prosser, C. Leszczynski, G. Ogden, G. Steenhuis, G. Frame, B. Golding, C. McKenzie, J. Gorniak (Mgr.). **Front:** P. Angel, R. McKenzie, P. Slyp, A. Fox, G. Rosinski, R. Gorniak, R. Laredo

Youth team coached by Bill Zeitzen and includes two players who went on to have excellent careers at rival clubs in Matthew Rhodes and Tony Bacic.

Under 16's Premiers and KO Cup Winners
Back: D. Itchins (Coach), J. Tattersall, T. Wilkie, J. Diubaldo, L. Shacklady, G. Hildyard, K. Plaznik, S. Horne, L. Lagereswkij
Front: A. Brown, G. Mason, T. Huigsloot, F. Mainella, S. Katona, M. Proud

1984 Senior Women's Team
Back: Baker, C. Steenhuis, D. Bilac, G. Hickman, E. Plachta, J. Bilac, M. Glass **Front:** K Watson, J. Rosinski, B. Rekawiecki, S. Ola, J. Ola, A. Rosinski

Youth team from the early 90's coached by former Eagle great Bobby Osuchowski,
and featuring a future Senior Coach in Rodney Bones

Senior Team 2006
Back Row: A. Leszczynski, C. Jones, M. Rybak, A. Telega, C. Collins, B. Zielinski, I. Parker (Coach)
Front Row: A. Clark, B. Whitehall, A. Shackcloth, A Johnston, N. Pitchford

Senior Team 2007
Back Row: B. Zielinski, A. Telega, s. Telega, C. Jones, G. Nelson, N. Brown
Front Row: A. Leszczynski, A. Clark, N. Rundle, B. Whitehall, C. Collins

2009 Under 18 Knock-Out Cup Winners – Coached by Barry Pope and Matthew Rybak

Senior Team 2008

Back: W. Savage**,** M. Rybak, S. Telega, A. Leszczynski, J. Vernon, C. Wass **Front:** B. Whitehall, A. Clark, A. Koroma, N. Pitchford, J. Wiggins

2011 Senior Squad – Semi-Final v Devonport at Valley Road

Back: B. Shackcloth (President), P Wass (Mgr), C. Stingle, J. Marshall, C. Wass, N. Ferrall, D. Cox, J. Clamp, A. Leszczynski M Anderson, J. Vernon, A. Gordon, S. Pitchford (Coach) **Front:** J. Quan, A, McKeown, B. Whitehall, A. Clark, N. Pitchford, L. Ferrall, M. Page (Capt.), A. Bates

Division 3 2016

Back Row: Duc Du**,** A. Kuzminov, M. Pitt, S. Vargas, J. McCann, W. Goddard, M. Shreeve
Front Row: K. Quan, Ha Vo, W. Cuellar, Aon Poolperm, R. Blizzard, T. Lee

2017 Championship Senior Team

Back: S. Revell (TD), S. Leszczynski, D. Styles, O. Johnstone, D. Kruijver, J. Rojahn, A. Telega, J. Phillips, J. Vernon, L. Backhouse, A. Leszczynski (Coach) L Phillips, **Front:** T. Harbod, H. Moore, A. Clark (Capt.), J. Ho, D. Lee, B. Hudson, M. Cronin, L. Ottavi

2018 Championship 1 – "Social" Summer Cup Winners

Back Row: S. Revell (TD), A. Leszczynski (Coach), A. Shackcloth, C. Rowbottom, S. Heathcote, M. Vernon, G. Nutting, L. Kalbfell, J. Van Der Linden J. Phillips, C. Leszczynski (Asst. Coach), **Front:** R. Longden, B. Coates, L. Eugster, L. Backhouse, B. Chandler, C. Gangell

2018 Championship 1

Back: S. McGowan, M. Vernon, J. Holland, L. Backhouse, M. Pilkington, G. Nutting **Front:** M. Cronin, J. Phillips, S. Johnston, H. Moore, D. Revell S. Becker, C. Gangell, L. Eugster (Capt.)

2018 – Anzac Cup Winners v Southern FC – 25th April - 10 - 0 Scorers: Vernon 3, Hudson, Leszczynski 2, Moore, Harbod, Rojahn 1
Back: M. Free, o. Johnstone, Z. Ladrach, J. Rojahn, A. Leszczynski (Coach), S. Leszczynski, C. Leszczynski (Asst. Coach)
Front: H. Moore, J. Vernon, A. Clark (Capt.), B. Hudson, A. Telega, C. Gangell, T. Harbod

2018 – Championship 1
Back: C. Leszczynski (Asst Coach), E. Dixon, M. Vernon, S. Becker, J. Holland, A. Shackcloth, L. Backhouse, J. Vernon, A. Leszczynski (Coach)
Front: J. Phillips, B. Cobern, C. Gangell, G. Nutting, L. Eugster (Capt), M. Piesse, S. Johnstone

2019 – Championship 1
Back: C. Leszczynski (Asst Coach), L. Phillips, H. Moore, M. Vernon, A. Luttrell, A. Shackcloth, M. Voss, R. Brown-Price, A. Leszczynski (Coach)
Front: M. Free, M. Pilkington, J. Phillips, L. Eugster (Capt), C. Gangell, A. Sadath, G. Nutting

2020 – Championship 1
Back: A. Shackcloth (Coach), L. Eugster (Capt.), H. Moore, R. Longdon, M. Vernon, L. Brown, E. Dixon, S. Vernon (Manager)
Front: A. Fracalossi, J. Fracalossi, B. Hudson, T. Madzikandwa, G. Nutting, J. P:hillips, M. Pilkington

WHITE EAGLE
1968

Association & George Evans Shields, Falkinder Cup Winners
&
League Runners up

Back: J Scally (Coach), D. Jefferson, I. Honeyman, I. Stewart, S. Rakowski, B. Dora, E. Rosinski, K. Olsen, W Jones (Trainer)
Front: D. Jones, H. McCann, D. Stoddart, D. Siggins, B. Osuchowski, J. Biggar

Mathias will be tonic for Rapid

By Gordon Burnett 3/2/68

RAPID Soccer Club in Hobart are looking forward to better things this coming season with the return of State player Egon Mathias from White Eagles.

Newly appointed coach Tom McLaughlin said yesterday that Oscar Heinrich was returning, and Otto Bachinger would be playing again after a spell on the mainland.

He said the promising Dilba twins, Jack and John, were also new recruits, and there was a chance Eric Owen would join Rapid on his return from England. All last season's players except for goalkeeper Fritz Pfund would be available. Pfund is hoping to get a coaching position with another club.

Former State player McLaughlin arrived in Hobart from Scotland in 1960 and joined Rangers, with whom he remained until he went to Brisbane, where he played for the Azurri club. On his return to Hobart after three months, he re-joined Rangers, then went to Rapid, and was back with Rangers for a spell until he joined Juventus last season.

This will be his first coaching and he will have Otto Frick as team manager.

Coaching job to Sarfalvy

By Gordon Burnett 13/2/68

FORMER State soccer coach Alex Sarfalvy has been appointed director of soccer coaching in Tasmania.

This was revealed yesterday by the Tasmanian Soccer Coaches Association after receiving advice from the technical committee of the Australian Soccer Coaches' Association. It means that Sarfalvy now ranks as one of the top coaches in Australia, being on the same grading as the Australian Olympic squad coach or the Victorian State coach.

The president of the T.S.C.A. (Mr. D. Summers) said yesterday that a preliminary award coaching course of six weeks, would start on Sunday. It would begin at the Claremont school oval at 10 a.m.

Summers will deal with the course, Tony Parker will take the gymnastic side, and Sarfalvy will be responsible for the technical instruction.

Soccer in South begins today

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 4/3/68

The Tasmanian Soccer Association roster season will open today at Grove Rd., Glenorchy, with only one game instead of the two programmed for the split round.

Rangers' withdrawal this week left the association with the choice of having only seven teams in the Southern Premiership League, with the resultant bye each week, or invite a team to take Rangers' place.

They offered the place to Metro, but they decided they were not ready for a return to senior status, and University have now been approached to make the eighth team. Metro topped the Metropolitan Division 1 standings last season and had the opportunity of challenging Rapid (who finished in last place in 1967) for promotion, but did not do so, deciding to concentrate on this season’s Metropolitan Division premiership with a view to seeking promotion in 1969.

University were second only to Metro last season. Metro’s new coach Peter O’Brien, the former Rangers and Croatia winger, is concentrating on getting the club’s 36 players really fit to see out the 90 minutes of a game.

South Hobart will open the roster at 2.40 p.m. at Glenorchy when they meet Juventus after the friendly between Rapid and Caledonians.

A feature of the new season will be the adoption of the new F.I.F.A. rule that any two players may be substituted at any time of the game at the discretion of the coach. The new rule will give an added advantage to the better placed clubs who have a number of first-class reserves.

Teams chosen: Juventus from K Jaeger, R. Carnevale, J. Rais, J. Lindsay, V. Tria, J. Hanna, P. Owen, J. Thornhill, P. Baker, P. Woods, T. Watson. Reserves: B. Cengia, D. Rizzolo. South Hobart: from Barnfield, Baker, Crawford, E and D Rawlings, West, Manson, Grimsey, D. Dolliver, Gibson, Bowles, Wells, Brooks, Hursey, Hankey.

Juventus open season on right foot for 4-2 win

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 4/3/68

JUVENTUS opened the Tasmanian Soccer Associations 1968 roster season with a 4-2 win over South Hobart before a large crowd at Grove Road Glenorchy on Saturday.

Juventus, who led 3-1 at half time, had three newcomers, Englishman Thornhill, who excelled at inside-right, Hanna, who was not at his best at wing-half, and Lindsay who showed out with his headwork in the centre-half berth. The winners opened strongly but fell away after the interval.

Rapid, who fielded a promising and youthful team, won 5-0 against Caledonians, for whom Wilson missed a penalty. Rangers players included in the Caledonian line-up were goalkeeper Nick Wilson, MacKinnon, Reid, Hobbs and Guyan. Worsey is still nursing an ankle injury, Bernard Siggins has only just resumed training after being on the injured list and Walner was not available because he is still playing cricket.

Juventus forfeit winning points

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 8/3/68

THE Tasmanian Soccer Association has decided that Juventus should forfeit the points they won through their defeat of South Hobart.

No registration forms for any of the Juventus players have been received, an association meeting was told. The Juventus delegate explained that the club member handling the registrations and team sheets, was admitted to hospital on Saturday morning and the club was under the impression that the registrations had been completed. The meeting voted 8-7 that Juventus should forfeit the points.

University have accepted an invitation to join the Southern Premiership League. They will fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Rangers. The Rapid v University game will be played on a date to be fixed.

Last season's premiers Olympia will be seen in action against Caledonians tomorrow. Olympia have lost several prominent players and Caledonians strengthened by ex-Rangers players, could be hard to beat.

Croatia, with a new coach and some new players in their line-up, face White Eagles who have been weakened by the loss of Mathias, back with Rapid, and Keith Dolliver, retired.

Goal disputed but Olympia notch soccer points

By Gordon Burnett 11/3/68

OLYMPIA beat Caledonians by a hotly disputed goal 10 minutes from time in Saturday's Southern Premiership League soccer game at Glenorchy.

Olympia's new winger Sakazis, flashed across a shot that slithered underneath the goalkeeper, and the linesman ruled that the ball had crossed a goal line, that had been erased in the wet long before this incident.

But for the brilliance of Mick Roussos in goal, Olympia would have lost, as he saved brilliantly from a penalty taken by Walner in the first half. Then he stopped a powerful shot from Arnott in superlative style in the second half.

Olympia coach Caglalis played in the half-back line and gave a good display, while Caledonian goalkeeper Nick Wilson from Rangers, was also in great form.

In the other league game, Croatia equalised at 4-4 against White Eagles after being 3-3 at half time. The avalanche of goals was possibly due to the failure of the goalkeepers to use gloves in the wet conditions. Skaro (3) and newcomer Yoso scored for Croatia, and McCann (2), Jefferson, formerly of Rangers, and Lundin netted for White Eagles.

Juventus to appeal on forfeit

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 13/3/68

Juventus have decided to appeal against the Tasmanian Soccer Association decision that they should forfeit the points for their 4-2 win over South Hobart in the opening league game of the season.

The T.S.A. executive found that no registration forms for any of the Juventus players bad been received and did not accept the explanation that unknown to the club, the Juventus delegate with the names for registration had been admitted to hospital.

The club's secretary (Mr. Ray Salter) said there were very strong reasons for the appeal against the loss of the points and added that Dr. J. Clemente would be handling the appeal for the club.

Soccer champions morale boosting win against South

By Gordon Burnett 5/4/68

OLYMPIA - last season's title winners - should have a morale and goal percentage boosting win against South Hobart in tomorrow's Southern premiership league soccer game at Glenorchy.

So far this season, Olympia has won all its games in the league, but the victories have been lack-lustre. Olympia defeated Caledonians 1-0, then stumbled over University to win 3-0. Last Saturday they showed a bit of last season's fire and teamwork to defeat Juventus, a long-standing rival, 2-0, in an Ampol Cup match. Tomorrow they will have a chance against South Hobart to give their supporters some heart.

Caledonians, boosted by new forward Fergus Brown, who has been transferred in his employment from Launceston, could reverse the results of their Ampol Cup match against White Eagles. White Eagles won this game 4-2 after extra time. After time, results were 2-2, but in the time-on, the Caledonian defence let two goals through.

Brown showed out in a practice game against South Hobart and could give Caledonians the extra sting in attack needed to win games.

The experience of Juventus should overcome the youth of Rapid – despite the return of Rapid's inside forward Bachinger. Juventus has not shown a lot of form in early matches, and the fast-improving Rapid could cause an upset.

University in their first season of Southern Premiership League, will find it hard to match Croatia's fast-moving style of play. Despite the enthusiasm the students display, it is hard to imagine Croatia losing, or even being held to a draw.

Olympia soccer leaders; down South Hobart 3-0

By Gordon Burnett 8/4/68

OLYMPIA jumped to the top of the Southern Premiership soccer ladder with a comfortable three-goal win over South Hobart on Saturday.

Rapid, who were leading after last week's first round lost to Juventus. They now occupy equal third place with Juventus and South Hobart – all with two points.

Croatia with a devastating seven-goal win over University, have moved into second position with White Eagles. Caledonians and University, who have failed to gain points, are on the bottom rung.

Rapid's inability to take advantage of opportunities cost them the game against Juventus. Playing high standard football, they were evenly matched up to half time, with the score at one goal each. But the standard deteriorated after the break, when rough play was introduced. Juventus took the game away with three goals. They were well served by experienced half-back Thornhill, while Jack Dilba, Rapid's right winger caught the eye with flashes of good football.

White Eagles score a one goal win over Caledonians in a match which see-sawed throughout. Caledonians began well and scored two goals within 10 minutes. White Eagles gradually came into the game, and by half time the score was equal at two goals. After the break, White Eagles gained the lead, but Caledonians came back quickly to equalise. Stewart scored the winning goal for White Eagles 15 minutes before full time.

Wild scenes at soccer final: Policeman hurt

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 10/4/68

A Police officer was punched and kicked, as he protected a senior soccer referee from an angry crowd, after on eventful Ampol State Cup final in which Olympia beat Croatia 2-1 at South Hobart yesterday.

Women screamed as the crowd surged forward to the stand rail to see what was happening. Constable R. E. Stephen, of the South Hobart police station was mauled while getting referee Roger Marlor against the wall so that he could protect him. The attack came within a few yards of the referee's room.

Const. Stephen, the only police officer on the ground for this "needle" game, saved the referee from serious injury, and was himself fortunate to come out with only a few cuts and bruises. Only the press of the crowd kept him on his feet.

Almost immediately after this, a series of fights broke out among about 300 spectators, who went on to the ground for the presentation ceremony.

Fists flew as rival groups clashed, and several persons knocked down were kicked as they lay on the ground in one of the worst brawls seen at South Hobart.

Just as things had quietened down, a supporter started the chant "Olympia, Olympia," and a man went on to the ground carrying the Olympia flag.

This sparked off another battle of bigger proportions, that was stopped only when officials of both clubs intervened. Police questioned four men, and are continuing their investigations. No report was made of any casualties, but there were a number of black eyes and bleeding noses.

The brawls came after a hard and rough game in which Nadanic (Croatia) was sent off the field by Marlor in the second half with Olympia leading 2-0, and Vagianos (Olympia) received his marching orders with two minutes to go and Olympia leading 2-1. Croatia players Nadanic, Desic and Skaro all bad their names taken before players were sent off.

Juventus have to talent beat Croatia and rival soccer leaders

By Gordon Burnett 15/4/68

JUVENTUS have the talent to beat Croatia in the Southern Premiership League soccer competition tomorrow at South Hobart, and so establish themselves as Olympia's main rivals for the season's top honours.

A fast-moving and sharp shooting forward line, backed up by a solid hard tackling half-back line, will give them the chance of the early lead they need. Juventus who have won both their league games, will be playing under new coach Fred Cunningham, as Jackie Rais has resigned. Tony Goodman is on the injured list, and he will be missed badly from the defence.

Croatia have had the benefit of six games, as against Juventus' three, and Skaro will be all out to keep his record of scoring in every game, and adding to his aggregate of 14 goals (in all games). Nadanic will be missing from the Croatia side for two weeks. He was suspended last night for striking Girling (Olympia), in last Saturday's cup final. Desic will be available, as the investigating committee waived one of the three cautions against him. Desic will be suspended automatically if he is cautioned again.

Brawling clubs will face fine

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 17/4/68

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN soccer clubs whose players or spectators cause brawls such as that at South Hobart on Monday, will face a minimum fine of $500 and possible suspension. And the committee to try such a case will comprise The Tasmanian Soccer Association's independent members.

This was decided last night by the T.S.A. executive at its routine meeting, after the chairman (Mr. V. Tuting) had said he would have nothing to do with the game if there was any repetition of what had happened in the Olympia v Croatia match on Monday.

“The scenes that followed the end of the game were disgraceful and disgusting, and unless you are very carful the ground will be taken away from you.”

He appealed to club players and followers to try to put the game back on its feet. “Only hotheads, larrikins, and hooligans are doing this disservice,” he added.

Olympia delegate Mr. D Finegan said the only way to stop this sort of thing was to fine an offending club $500 if it was proved it was responsible.

Mr. J. Steen (independent) thought the cause was a nationalistic one and said national teams should be avoided by the introduction of district teams.

Caledonians submitted a letter calling for strong action against the Croatia club, stating that the behaviour of some of the Croatia players and their supporters was "totally inexcusable and it is a wonder that some spectators were not seriously injured”.

The executive decided to send a letter to the Croatia coach (Brezna), severely censuring him for going on the field during play. It also agreed to inform the police authorities, that more than one policeman was needed for matches. Last season four attended games at South Hobart.

White Eagles, yet to be beaten in the league, will be playing Olympia in the curtain-raiser and could give them some worrying moments. Rangy Ian Stewart will be completing an ex-Caledonian half-back line. Among White Eagles reserves are David Jones and Jimmy Graham, also transferred from Caledonians.

Olympia will be without centre-half Vagianos, who was suspended last night for two weeks for striking Yoso (Croatia) in last week's game.

The young and fast Rapid side should beat South Hobart in the main game at Glenorchy, and Caledonians are expected to win against University, who are yet to score a goal.

Caledonians are playing Hugh Mackinnon, formerly of Rangers, in place of Tom Wilson, who has been called up for national service and will be leaving early next month.

University will be without Steen, who received a week's suspension for abusing the referee and dissenting his decisions.

Udodovicic brilliant in game for Croatia: Juventus unable to pierce defence

By Gordon Burnett 22/4/68

SUPERLATIVE goalkeeping by 20-year-old Joseph Udovicic, held Croatia together for a 2-all draw on Saturday against Juventus, in the Southern Premiership Soccer League, after leading 2-0 at half-time.

Udovicic's anticipation was uncanny, and his agility produced the most superlative exhibition of goalkeeping seen in Hobart in years.

With several players in unaccustomed positions, Juventus took time to settle, and when they did, they found themselves two goals down.

Skipper Joe Hanna handled on the edge of the penalty area in the 28th minute, and Skaro rocketed the ball into the net to continue his goal scoring spree - 15 from all games.

Then a magic pass-back by ex-Manchester player Jim Thornhill into an empty net, saw Croatia go to 2-0 three minutes before half-time.

On the resumption, Juventus looked more like the team that provided thrills each week back in 1958, and they were on level terms within 12 minutes – and the players mainly responsible were wing-half Thornhill and left-winger Rizzolo.

A high ball from Thornhill on the right, was headed in by Rizzolo, and almost immediately after, inside-right Owen hit the cross bar. Then, while centre-half Desic was reeling after a collision with his own goalkeeper, Thornhill sent across a free kick from the right that opportunist Rizzolo nodded back for Parker to slam in the equaliser.

The bearded Udovicic, then saved brilliantly from right-winger Carnevale twice and Wood. Owen crashed another shot against the crossbar, and Letec cleared from off the goal-line, as Juventus threw everything they knew, into a bid to save their 100 p.c. record. In reply Skaro had two chances and Yoso was in a scoring position once.

The big kicking, heavy tackling Croatia side, were handicapped by dissension in their ranks, and the crowd was treated to the unusual spectacle, of a player shouting to the coach on the sideline to replace another player.

Olympia, who scored a goal in each half to beat White Eagles 2-0, felt the loss of suspended Vagianos from their defence and goalkeeper Roussos was given a torrid time by a side which realized a little late, that they could match Olympia for possession, if not artistry.

Inside-right McCann, rattled the Olympia crossbar, and Jefferson should have converted a centre from Osuchowski. Goalkeeper David Siggins brought off several fine saves, one in particular being at point-blank range from Stanton. Jimmy Graham, a former captain of Caledonians, had his first game with the Polish club, taking Honeyman's place after the interval.

It was after this game that it was announced that only the trainer, coach, and two reserve players of the two teams playing, would be allowed on the touchline. Anyone else would be prosecuted.

At Glenorchy, University held Caledonians to 1-0 at half-time, although Walner missed a penalty, and then lost 5-0. Walter Worsey recorded a hat trick.

South Hobart's centre-forward Paddy Gibson also had a hat trick against Rapid, who came back from 1-3 at half-time, to draw 4-all, with John Dilba scoring the equaliser with 10 minutes to go.

Injuries rob Juventus two key players for league clash

By Gordon Burnett 26/4/68

JUVENTUS will be without key players Tony Parker (centre-forward), and Carl Jaegar (goalkeeper), for their Southern Premiership League soccer competition game against Caledonians at South Hobart tomorrow.

But Tony Goodman pulled up very fit at last night's practice after being absent with a troublesome back injury, and it is likely he will play at right-back.

Jaegar has a back injury, and will be replaced by Cengia, and Parker is nursing a thigh injury. Promising under-19 centre-forward di Tommaso - he played several senior games last year and was known as Santino - will be given his chance, and could be a success with clever inside men like Wood and Owen to help him.

Caledonians are notoriously slow starters, but they played well against the enthusiastic University side, and moved the ball smoothly. Only the playing of the offside trap stopped them from building up a substantial first-half lead.

Juventus showed against Croatia last week that they can fight back, and this will stand them in good stead again tomorrow.

White Eagles are not likely to make too many changes against University, although the speedy David Jones could be played at inside-right. He represented the State on the right-wing. With Jimmy Graham short of training, Honeyman could be preferred at full-back, although he spoiled good work last week by an overdose of kicking out.

Rapid "babes" sparkle and send talented Olympia crashing to defeat

By Gordon Burnett 29/4/68

RAPID gave the most refreshing exhibition of soccer seen at South Hobart for some years, when they overran the star-studded Olympia side, to win 2-1 on Saturday after a 1-0 interval lead.

Otmar Bachinger and the Dilba twins, John and Jack, backed up by former State centre-half Egon Mathias, were the stars of a side, that had a complete forward line under 21 and played as a team.

They concentrated on playing soccer all the time, going for the ball and letting the referee control the game. In return, the Referees' Association should make sure these lads are given the fullest protection against intimidation of any sort, as they have not the physique to stand up to rough play.

Coach Tom McLoughlin said his youngsters bad carried out instructions to the letter, and had shown greater stamina than he had expected.

Olympia started confidently, but were floundering when Bachinger took a neat pass from John Dilba in the 14th minute, slipped past three defenders and beat Roussos with a well-placed shot. Two minutes later, Foster hit the crossbar with Roussos beaten.

Olympia coach Cagialis came off in the 32nd minute causing a positional reshuffle, with Groothuis going to the wing, Harper going to centre-half, and Girling coming inside.

These moves made no material difference, and just before half time, Roussos was fully extended to save from Reznik. Olympia equalised five minutes after the interval, when Alexiadis gave Girling a glorious opening.

Then, with fullback Fisher going off with an ankle injury, and being replaced by Wolfgang Stuetzel, Rapid looked as if they could have shot their bolt. But they continued to use the ball at top speed, and nine minutes later, a through pass saw Foster beat two defenders before netting.

Soon after there was a mix-up between Harper and Roussos that almost led to another score, and just before the end, Bachinger fired in a great shot from 30 yards that Roussos did well to fist over.

It was Olympia's first defeat in 13 roster games - since Juventus beat them 3-2 last season - and it was their first roster defeat by Rapid, since the opening game of 1964.

They will be glad to get Vagianos back after his period of suspension. It has been his absence, that has caused Richards and Shacklady to come back into the defence, and so put a brake on the once smooth moving attack.

They lost on Saturday because they had no answer to their opponents speed, and fast and open play, with a minimum of close passing.

Juventus were strengthened by the return of Goodman, and seldom have Caledonians been so outplayed, although Juventus were limited to a goal in each half.

Phillip Owen had bad luck again, with two shots hitting an upright – there were two of these against Croatia the previous week - Peter Wood went very close to scoring on several occasions.

Wood opened the scoring in the eighth minute and Juventus' second goal came in the 73rd minute through the tireless Thornhill.

Reserve goalkeeper Cengia, brought off several good saves to foil spasmodic Caledonian raids. Tomasso came on in place of Tria before the interval and played on the right wing with Lindsay at centre-forward.

A lone goal by Croatia's latest recruit Krizanovic in the 20th minute, sealed South Hobart's fate at Glenorchy, and White Eagles scored a goal in each half, to beat University 2-0.

Rapid have the power to down Croatia in match of the day

By Gordon Burnett 3/5/68

THE youthful Rapid team have got the soccer match of the day at South Hobart tomorrow for the second week running, and they could win again, against the heavy, slow-moving Croatia.

A wet ground will favour the fast-moving Rapid, who beat Olympia so pointlessly last week, but they will find the Croatia stopper tactics, a very different proposition.

Croatia will be without Desic, who is in Melbourne, and Yoso, who was injured at work this week. It is a game that could need strong handling by the referee.

Juventus are trying to get more punch into their attack by sending Thornhill up to inside-right to partner Owen, and this could produce the goals Juventus have been missing after good approach work.

With Jaegar back in goal and Parker at centre-forward again, Juventus look to be at their strongest, and should be too good for White Eagles in the curtain-raiser.

For their curtain-raiser at Glenorchy against University, Olympia could be without Richards because of golf commitments, but Vagianos will be back to restore balance in the defence.

In Richards' absence, Parkin could get his chance in his proper position at wing-half, where he will have room in which to manoeuvre.

Olympia beat University 3-0 in the-Ampol Cup and should repeat the dose against a side that concentrates on defence. University gave an improved display against White Eagles last week, holding them scoreless for 65 minutes.

South Hobart will be fielding a young and keen side against Caledonians in the main game at Glenorchy and are a better side than is admitted.

They reduced an earlier 9-1 defeat by Croatia, to a single goal last week, and Caledonians will need to play a lot better than they did against Juventus.

Caledonians have recalled goalkeeper Leslie, and until they have settled down, they would be advised to cut out their uncertain short passes in defence and concentrate on clearing their lines. The return of Caledonians' heady newcomer Fergus Brown to the attack, could be the turning point in this game.

Persistent Rapid overwhelm to take place over second place on league ladder

By Gordon Burnett 6/5/68

Rapid's speed and persistence on a slippery ground, gave them a convincing 3-0 win over Croatia on Saturday and second place in the Southern Premiership League soccer standings.

In losing their unbeaten roster record, Croatia contributed to their own downfall by:

• Conceding a penalty in the 32nd minute, when coach Brezna, who had been cautioned earlier, pulled centre-forward Foster away from the ball.
• Replacing both wingers Babic and Loveric at half-time, to complete their substitute quota.
• And goalkeeper Udovicic, threw his jersey down and raced to the dressing room after the second goal in 65th minute and did not return until Rapid had gone to 3-0 six minutes later.

The bearded Gjurbuzovic took his place in goal, but had no chance, when John Dilba pounced on a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area and slammed it past him.

It was the other twin, Jack Dilba, who was responsible for the second goal, as it was his high centre that beat Udovicic, and all the unmarked Foster had to do was to tap ball into the net.

Bachinger (Rapid), hit the crossbar in the opening minutes, and another shot from him just after half-time was deflected against an upright by Udovicic.

Rapid, who missed Reid on the left-wing, again showed excellent team spirit, and it was this that kept Croatia out on the few occasions they tried to use the ball as a complete unit.

Skaro should have given them an early lead when he had the goal at his mercy, and soon after very nearly got his head to a low centre across the goalmouth.

White Eagles almost snatched a point from Juventus, who scored the game's only goal one minute before half-time. Former under-16 star Genovesi came on as replacement for Tria in the 30th minute, and it was from his neat pass that Owen centred for Rizzolo to head into the net. Genovesi hit the near up right five minutes after half-time.

David Siggins was again in magnificent form in the White Eagles' goal, handling with great confidence and showing really good anticipation. White Eagles' full-back Rawlings went off with an injured leg, and was replaced by Rosinski, and Jones went on for Lundin soon after.

Caledonians led South Hobart 2-0 at half-time at Glenorchy and went on to win 4-1. Paddy Gibson scoring South's lone goal, to give him six of his side's seven goals this season.

The T.S.A. chairman (Mr V. Tuting) announced on Saturday, that Cardiff City, the Second Division League club, would be playing an extra game on their Australian tour, and would meet Tasmania on Monday June 10, possibly at Queenborough. This will be the first overseas team to visit Tasmania since Chelsea were here in 1965.

The Southern Tasmanian side to play the Australian Universities XI at South Hobart on May 25 will be selected from the 14 players chosen on the basis of two players from each senior club excluding University. Udodovic, Zapatocki (Croatia), D. Siggins, D. Stoddart (White Eagles), Hanna, Thornhill (Juventus), Vagianos, Parkin (Olympia), B. Siggins, Walner (Caledonians), Foster, Bachinger (Rapid), West, Mackie (South Hobart). Tom McLoughlin (Rapid) will coach the side.

Caledonians determined to extend soccer cup wins to 13

By Gordon Burnett 10/5/68 – [Falkinder Cup]

CALEDONIANS will be a determined side tomorrow, when they set out on the first stage of their attempt to extend their remarkable Falkinder Cup soccer record, to 13 wins in 18 seasons.

They play Olympia, and an added inducement will be the chance to avenge an unlucky lone-goal defeat by this team in the first game of the season.

If the defence can keep their attack moving, they have forwards who can take their openings, even though opportunist Walter Worsey is away on holiday.

Olympia, who hold the cup, could be without Richards, who managed only half a game last week, and Parkin yesterday was favouring an ankle injury from the University game.

Olympia do not consider this competition as important as the premiership, and will not take any chances with their stars. Reserve player Sakazis is reported to be leaving today for Greece.

White Eagles who have yet to meet South Hobart this season, could alternate their winning form in the match of the day at South Hobart, although Ian Stewart could be away after a bout of flu. In his absence, Graham would probably go to wing-half, with Rosinski brought in on the wing.

For their first game at headquarters, South are trying out a new left-winger in Feltham, who has shown promising form at training

Following the retirement of Ray West due to pressure of work, South have decided to get a paid coach.

Juventus are not taking any chances against University and will play their strongest team, with Thornhill back at wing-half and Owen inside-right to Genovesi.

Rapid's second successive game against Croatia, has been made the match of the day at Glenorchy, and a spate of Croatia absences, suggests Rapid will repeat their 3-0 win of last week. Desic is still in Melbourne, Yoso is injured and Gjurbuzovic, Cahut and Babic have not been to training. Among their 13 named players, are veteran Charlie Knapek and youngster Vilac.

Rapid could have newcomer Foehn on the wing, as Reid is likely to be out after a hand operation.

It is not an easy programme to predict as professional players don't get paid for playing, and there is a consequent lack of keenness.

The new combined Caledonians-Rangers committee is composed of D. Pillinger (chairman), T. Walner, J. Law (secretary), Mrs Brian Harper (treasurer), N. Pollard and N. Ausberg. The team manager is John Guyen and George Arnott is captain-coach. The selection committee is Guyen, Arnott and Law.

Croatia topple weakened Rapid side 3-1 in surprise cup result

By Gordon Burnett 13/5/68 – [Falkinder Cup]

CROATIA provided the only surprise in the first round of the Falkinder Cup soccer competition on Saturday, when they reversed their 3-0 defeat the previous week, by beating Rapid 3-1 at Glenorchy.

But Rapid were without star centre-half Egon Mathias, wing-half Reznik and winger Reid - and new winger Foehn had a recurrence of his back injury and had to be replaced.

Croatia were more than satisfied, as they said they had ironed out several team problems. It was a goalless first half, and then in the course of 10 minutes, Skaro converted a penalty for 'hands" and added a second to give Croatia a winning edge. Rapid fought back pluckily and Foster reduced the arears, only for Leung to make it 3-1 with four minutes to go.

Croatia's promising Chris Hawes, who is really a centre-forward, played inside and on the wing, and another youngster Vilac caught the eye on the wing, before being replaced the second half by veteran Knapek.

Olympia coasted to a 6-0 win over Caledonians after weathering a worrying first half. It had to be one of the worst Caledonian sides in years not to cross with the lead at half time. Mick Roussos made several brilliant saves, but seemed to be a magnet for Caledonian shots from fine goalscoring positions.

Olympia scored three times in each half, and they could have had more. They could be losing Tommy Harper soon, as there is talk of him returning to the mainland.

The game of the day at South Hobart between White Eagles and South Hobart, was a scrappy affair. It was a pity that South reserved their listless display for their first appearance at headquarters this season.

None of the previous characteristics of this 50-year-old club seemed to have been retained by the players, wearing a newly designed strip. White Eagles, who were without Fred Rawlings, led 2-0 at half time, and both sides scored in the last five minutes.

Croatia all out to avenge Cup defeat: Top players will clash

By Gordon Burnett 17/5/68

THE clash between top scoring centre-forward Tony Skaro, and State squad centre-half Lachie Vagianos, should be the feature of the return soccer clash between Croatia and Olympia at South Hobart tomorrow.

Last time they met, Vagianos "wandered" for a brief instant and Skaro's goal put Croatia back in the game. Croatia who lost that Ampol Cup game 1-2, are keen to avenge the defeat, and could treat the crowd to a fine exhibition if they play as a team.

They are always hard to beat, but often they beat themselves. Both sides have been beaten by Rapid this season, indicating their vulnerability against fast, open play. But the better-balanced Olympia, are expected to take another step towards their fourth successive premiership.

Caledonians will still be without Walter Worsey for their game against Rapid in the curtain-raiser and will give 16-year-old Godfrey a chance in their attack. They have not met Rapid this season and will need to improve considerably to beat them. Goalkeeper Nick Wilson, who is back in the side, is seeking a clearance to Juventus, who have two goalkeepers in Jaegar and Cengia.

University have been strengthened on the eve of the inter-varsity carnival opening on Monday, by the transfer of winger Groothuis after month-long negotiations with Olympia, and the inclusion of tall, well-built centre-forward Tscheppera, who looks promising material. This means they will be able to get away from a defensive complex.

They lost 0-7 to Juventus last week in the Falkinder Cup series and could cut the difference down if the defence is given a breather now and again. Juventus have brought Bottari in on the wing and will be without Jaegar. Jim Thornhill will be having his second last game with them as he will leave Melbourne for England on the Australis on June 2. Former State forward Roger Nixon is in training again and is likely to play for Juventus reserves tomorrow.

South Hobart are desperately in need of a coach and more supporters to restore their confidence, and they are disappointed there have been no applicants for the paid job. Tomorrow is the last day for applications.

They lost 1-3 to White Eagles last week in the Falkinder Cup, and without Ernie Rawlings this week, they could be struggling to avoid a bigger defeat.

Croatia dictate tactics but opportunist goals give Olympia win

By Gordon Burnett 20/5/68

OLYMPIA beat Croatia 2-1 in their Southern Premiership League soccer game at South Hobart on Saturday, after the losers had dictated both tempo and tactics.

Croatia had the chances to win by a clear margin. Leung headed against the crossbar in the opening minutes; Knapek gave them the lead in the 20th minute through a lapse by Roussos, but they lost the advantage five minutes later, when opportunist Harper equalised.

Olympia had the near miss of the second half when Alexiadis failed to head home a low centre from the left, but he made amends in the next minute when he headed in the deciding goal.

Olympia missed Schwesinger, and their rapid interchanging of position at a non-stop pace, broke up their usually machine-like approach work. Croatia showed they could match Olympia's ball distribution and control, but failed to take their chances, and are now out of the top four.

Despite the absence of Mathias, Rapid hung on to second place with a 3-2 win over Caledonians, but there was a period in the second half when they were facing defeat, and Caledonians deserved a point.

Feature of the game was a remarkable goal by Otmar Bachinger, who raced down the left and centred when only two yards from the line. It was a goal from the time the ball left his boot. Wilson was given no time to position himself, and the ball went over his outstretched fingers to enter the top corner, to give Rapid a 2-1 lead at the interval. Rapid scored the winning goal 10 minutes from time.

University were down 0-3 at half-time and then 0-4 against Juventus, but then scored three goals with 10 minutes to spare, to worry their more talented opponents.

White Eagles inside forward Hugh McCann, slammed in four goals against South Hobart, who scored first and were 2-3 at half-time, before losing 2-6.

Southern Premiership League Standings

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	6	5	0	1	17	3	10
Rapid	6	4	1	1	19	11	9
Juventus	6	4	1	1	13	8	9
White Eagles	6	3	1	2	16	12	7
Croatia	6	2	2	2	15	11	6
Caledonians	6	2	0	4	14	11	4
South Hobart	6	1	1	4	9	18	3
University	6	0	0	6	3	32	0

Leading Goalscorers: Skaro 8, Gibson McCann, Foster 6, Parker, Alexiadis, Bachinger, Worsey 5

Injuries to Olympia gives Juventus edge in vital clash

By Gordon Burnett 24/5/68

STATE and Olympia soccer goalkeeper Mick Roussos has cartilage trouble, and is expected to be on the sidelines for the rest of this season.

And with Schwesinger nursing a burned hand, and Parkin an absentee from training this week, Olympia are facing a testing period, on the eve of an important game against Juventus tomorrow. Nineteen-year-old Johnny Lymas, who has been in Hobart for only 12 months will get his chance in goal.

Juventus, who have been beaten only by Olympia this season, are keen to avenge that 2-0 Ampol Cup defeat, particularly as it will be Jim Thornhill's last game before he returns to England. They have brought Lindsay into the attack to partner winger Owen. Jaegar will be back in goal, and they look capable of winning and taking over the leadership in the standings.

Olympia lose key players on eve of second competition round

By Gordon Burnett 27/5/68

OLYMPIA will start the second round of the Southern Premiership League soccer roster on June 15 with a lead of two points, but without coach Peter Cagialis and ace goalkeeper Mick Roussos.

Roussos is having cartilage trouble and Cagialis will return to Greece this week after being with Olympia since May last year and taking them to the 1967 Southern premiership.

Cagialis, who played with pain-killing injections against doctor's orders, was badly needed on Saturday against Juventus when Harper was unable to play, and Olympia just scrambled home for a 4-2 win after leading 3-0 at half-time.

Juventus were unlucky in that their determined bid to save the game, petered out when Parkin scored the fourth Olympia goal. The goal came after Girling appeared to handle the ball in a collision with goalkeeper Jaegar.

Juventus' star players Hanna and Thornhill, who led the team in his final appearance before returning to England, both found two games on one day too much - they had played earlier against the Universities' side - and Thornhill was replaced by Tria in the second half.

Olympia's midfield dominance again laid the foundation for their success, but their defence was again suspect under pressure. Olympia were so short of adequate reserves, that Schwesinger played with a heavily bandaged right hand that had been burned, and he came through a grueling match with credit.

New goalkeeper John Lymas, a 19-year-old Irishman, showed the benefit of special coaching by ex-State goalkeeper Harry Alexiadis, by doing well in his senior debut. He saved his side when he held a header from Rizzolo at close quarters during mounting Juventus pressure.

Croatia beat Caledonians 3-2 at Glenorchy after being 1-1 at half-time and then 3-1, and White Eagles managed to hold Rapid to a goalless draw, thanks mainly to goalkeeper David Siggins. Reznik hit their upright, and John Dilba shot straight at the goalkeeper when favourably positioned.

Combined universities more than held a Southern Tasmanian side for the first 30 minutes and were 1-2 at half-time. But then an overdose of soccer in the past five days of the intervarsity carnival took its toll, and they lost 1-7. They provided badly needed new faces and their vocal supporters entertained with chanting and rhythmical hand-clapping while their team were still in the game.

Sydney captain Tony Jebb, right-half Thompson, Adelaide goalkeeper Makestas and left-winger Tsonis were the most impressive of a side that never gave up against predominantly professional opposition.

Girling will lead Olympia against Croatia in Cup semi-final

By Gordon Burnett 31/5/68 – [Falkinder Cup]

STATE soccer player Dick Girling will be captain-coach of Olympia when they take the field as favourites against Croatia in the semi-final of the Falkinder Cup competition at South Hobart tomorrow.

0lympia’s coach Peter Cagialis, who is rated one of the best coaches to come to Hobart, is attending Europe's top three coaching schools in Yugoslavia, West Germany and England before returning to Hobart at the end of the year.

Harper is expected to return to the side, and if Girling can keep carefully laid 4-2-4 plans moving smoothly, Olympia's teamwork should carry them through to a third win over Croatia, whom they have beaten 2-1 twice this season. Petropoulos is in training again and could be a very useful substitute.

Juventus will be without Jaegar who will be working, and Thornhill who leaves tomorrow for England. Cengia and Tria have come into the side again.

White Eagles are starting to play good soccer and they will take some stopping if they can finish off their approach work.

They have met Juventus once this year and lost by a lone goal scored by Rizzolo just on the half time whistle. An Olympia v White Eagles final would not surprise .

University, who should have won the intervarsity title, have both Steens, Hans and Tom on the injured list as a result of the five-day series, and could find South Hobart too solid for them in their postponed roster game.

South, who have been given a taste of thorough conditioning this week under new coach John Kirkpatrick, will have Paul Howard in goal instead of Goodie.

Croatia play with purpose to gain place in final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 3/6/68 – [Falkinder Cup]

CROATIA outplayed Olympia to win 3-1 in a Falkinder Cup soccer semi-final at South Hobart on Saturday.

Quicker on the ball and playing with much more purpose, they led 2-0 at half-time through goals by centre forward Tony Skaro. They were pegged back to 2-1 by a penalty and scored the last goal 14 minutes before time.

Croatia lost Plezanic when he collided with team-mate Skaro. Babic took his place. Croatia opened the scoring when Skaro headed in a free kick by Gjurbuzovic against Vagianos' deliberate handling of the ball. Then Skaro scored again in the 31st. minute when Lymas misjudged a high shot from Leung.

Hands against Letec the penalty area in the 54th minute saw Richards convert the spot kick, but Olympia's hopes of forcing a draw in the gathering darkness were shattered when a high curling free kick by Gjurbuzovic beat Lymas to make It 3-1.

Kotler and Letec were the mainstays of Croatia, while Girling held a wavering Olympia side together in another of those hard, tough games in which referee de Witt cautioned three players on each side. Plezanic was detained at the Royal Hobart Hospital for four hours before he was allowed to leave.

Two hand balls in the area by Biggar could have cost White Eagles a place the final, but after Goodman had kicked the first penalty straight at Siggins, they opened the scoring, and Hanna's goal from the second penalty caused extra time to be played.

The first few minutes of extra time were charged with drama as Osuchowski forced a corner, Carnevale was ordered off – allegedly for dissenting referee Marlor's decision – Jefferson scored his second goal for White Eagles, and Juventus captain Hanna was given his marching orders for allegedly arguing with the referee and gripping his arm.

But with nine men, Juventus came on terms in corners if not in goals, before Osuchowski scored for White Eagles, who had another corner for good measure. Juventus, who were without Parker, Jaegar and Thornhill, wasted potential match-winner Owen at centre-forward and were well beaten. In fact, they could have lost much more heavily had Jefferson, McCann and particularly Osuchowski been on target.

Paddy Gibson (South Hobart) should have had a feast of goals against University in their Southern Premiership League game, and he even missed a penalty, to allow University to force a goalless draw and pick up their first point in the roster.

New Scottish coach John Kirkpatrick made a very favourable impression in his debut for South, showing fine ball control and a football brain.

All four leading teams favoured in premiership games

By Gordon – Burnett 14/6/68

THE second half of the Southern Premiership League soccer competition will get under way tomorrow, with the four top teams likely to win.

Closest encounter should be that between Croatia and White Eagles at South Hobart.

A hat-trick of goals by Tony Skaro gave Croatia a 4-4 draw in their first roster clash with White Eagles, and Skaro scored one of the three goals in Croatia's 3-2 win in their Ampol Cup success against White Eagles - but Skaro will be an absentee tomorrow.

He has an injured leg from the Cardiff City game, but with Bruno Kotler, Frank Letec, and Plezanic forming an aggressive halfback trio, Croatia should get the same chances that gave them their first win this season over Olympia.

White Eagles who have not been beaten in their past four appearances, have not been training regularly in the recent lull, and could pay the penalty against a fit side like Croatia.

South Hobart could give Juventus some anxious moments in the curtain raiser, although they are unlikely to win. Juventus beat them 4·2 in their first encounter, and then lost the valuable two points because they fielded unregistered players.

Juventus will be without Remo Carnevale this week and Justi has been promoted from the reserve side to fill the vacancy. Carnevale was suspended last night for one week by the investigation committee for dissenting referee Marlor's decisions in the Falkinder Cup game against White Eagles.

Whereas skipper Joe Hanna got off with a reprimand for the same offence, Carnevale was suspended because of an earlier caution for the same reason.

Rapid should retain their position as second to Olympia when they meet University at Glenorchy.

Caledonians are trying Tony Walner in the centre, with Walter Worsey on a wing and Bernard Siggins and Cole in the inside positions. But they will need to improve considerably to beat Olympia, who beat them rather luckily by a lone goal in their first clash on this ground, and then scored six goals without reply in the Falkinder Cup.

Jackie Rais, the ex-Rangers and Juventus player, has joined the referee's association and will be on the line for the main game at South Hobart.

Croatia out of top four

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 17/6/1968

CROATIA badly missed Bruno Kotler and Tony Skaro on Saturday, fell heavily into the offside trap set by White Eagles coach Jim Scally, and as a result ore out of the top soccer four.

Kotler withdrew from the side about 10 minutes before the game, and Croatia's defeat could be attributed in no small measure to his absence.

White Eagles crossed over a goal down after having had their chances. They equalised in the first minute of the second half, when a free kick by Osuchowski came off defender Krizanavic past Udovicic. The winning goal by Jefferson, was a fine left footed drive after he had been sent through the centre with a glorious pass from Graham m the 59th minute.

As Croatia saw the game slipping away against a side that was maintaining their early pace, they became even more sensitive to the offside trap that was holding them up, and this minimised their prospects of saving the match.

Graham's distribution was one of the features of the encounter as besides the match-winning pass he sent Jefferson in again in the closing stages only to see him lose control of the ball when a goal seemed certain. White Eagles are now all square with Croatia, against whom they have won, drawn, and lost this season, and they have taken three roster points from them.

It took Juventus a whole half to assert their superiority over South Hobart and won 3-1 after being a goal down and 1-1 at half-time in a very poor game. At least 12 of the 22 players on view did not deserve a place in this class of soccer.

South's new coach John Kirkpatrick will make his mark, as he is a very business-like wing-half apart from his undoubted coaching ability.

Juventus could be strengthened by the return of Jaeger and Carnevale, but they need a lot more snap up forward if they are to be a premiership threat. They could do with some new talent and could make better use of the talent they have.

Rapid showed the effects of a couple of weeks' layup and beat University only 2-1 after a 6-0 first round effort. University scored first, about 10 minutes after the start through Sumner. Then came a solo effort equaliser by Zoetsch, and Foster netted the decider all before the interval.

Caledonians made a game of it in the first half against Olympia, and could have crossed over on level term instead of 2-1 down, as Arnott hit an upright. But from then on it was all Olympia, and they won 5-1 looking as if they have a very firm grip on the premiership.

Ex-State goalkeeper Harry Alexiadis was back between the posts instead of at centre-forward, and this gave young Raoul Madden a chance on the left-wing. Madden impressed with a good goal and a promising display.

Caledonians had an early setback, when Fergus Brown had to go off with a pulled tendon at the top of the ankle 10 minutes after the start. He was replaced by Bobby Biggar.

High-scoring soccer player retires; Caledonians reel from setbacks

By Gordon Burnett 21/6/68

WALTER WORSEY, who has scored about 400 goals since he arrived in Hobart from Scotland in 1956, has retired from active soccer.

And to make matters even worse for Caledonians against White Eagles at Grove Rd. tomorrow, skipper George Arnott is on the injured list - and Fergus Brown will be away for six weeks with a torn leg muscle.

Hoyle, captain of the reserves, Jack Johnston, who has scored 21 goals for the reserves, and Pless, who broke a leg playing for the Tasmanian under 16 side in Melbourne several years ago are the replacements.

Worsey said last night that he had been considering retirement for some time, but he would continue as secretary of the T.S.A. Besides setting a record of 63 goals in a season in 1957, he has represented Tasmania eight times at centre-forward and played a big role in successful teams in all the main competitions, except the Ampol Cup.

Worsey played for Caledonians, Rangers, Rapid, and Juventus, and was in premiership sides for all of them except Juventus.

White Eagles made the four last week and they intend to stay there with an unchanged team, but they will be advised not to take Caledonians lightly.

Olympia had good and bad news this week. Roussos is making a comeback if his knee injury will stand up to the test, and he could be playing for one half against South Hobart tomorrow.

To counter this, however, forward Tommy Harper has left the State on transfer in his job.

Roussos intends to have a cartilage operation at the end of the season and his reappearance will help Olympia considerably, as it will release Harry Alexiadis for the attack. Petropoulos has been practicing for a month since his return from Greece and could be at full-back.

South Hobart are hoping to have Cahut's clearance from Croatia in time, and he would bolster their defence in no uncertain manner.

Juventus will be without Peter Wood, who has an ankle injury against Rapid, and they are playing Owen in his place on the left wing with Rizzolo.

Rapid have lost 1-4 twice to Juventus this season, but the result tomorrow should be much closer.

University, who are a much fitter side now, have shown improved form in recent games. Boyle will be away, but Hans Steen makes a welcome return, after an absence of several weeks, and they could worry Croatia. Skaro will be fit for Croatia, whose· team is being selected today.

Leaders battle draw with South in lifeless round

By Gordon Burnett 24/6/68

THERE were no fireworks on Saturday at the South Hobart soccer ground, where the leaders Olympia, fought desperately to save a roster point against the lowly placed South Hobart - and where the Rapid bubble burst.

The value of a player-coach who knows what he's about, has seldom been more clearly emphasised, than with the appearance of Scotsman John Kirkpatrick in the South Hobart side.

On Saturday, he missed a lift to the ground and South played with 10 men until he arrived 11 minutes late, and they then proceeded to dance to his tune. Olympia scored in the 30th minute, but not until after Kirkpatrick had sent centre-forward Gibson in for what should have been a goal.

South were on terms 10 minutes later, when a defensive blunder between Vagianos and Roussos, let Mackie in for a gift goal. South went ahead when Gibson goaled nine minutes after the resumption, but Vagianos equalised in the last 60 seconds following a corner on the right.

It was a fine team effort for South against a better equipped side, and Kirkpatrick was the best man on the ground, holding the defence together and getting his forwards moving with splendid distribution.

Mackie scored South's first goal and it was from his centre that Gibson headed in the second, Both these players had the ability to do much better.

Olympia had Roussos in goal and Petropoulos at full-back, but missed Parkin in the second half and were poorly served on the wings, causing bunching in the centre that reduced them to mediocrity – and arguments among themselves.

Rapid should have won their game against Juventus in the first 10 minutes. But after scoring in the 17th minute, they saw their opponents equalise six minutes later and get on top through Rapid's own stupidity.

Rapid's only strength lay in fast, open play as a unit, and they threw this acquired asset away by holding on to the ball, running across one another, and shooting from unlikely angles. And when they felt the game slipping away from them, they resorted to robust methods.

This lost them what little chance remained, and they dropped to fourth place in the standing, which Olympia still leads with a two-point advantage.

Juventus, now second in the standings, went to 2-1 in the 56th minute, and two minutes later, Rapid had a double misfortune when Zoetsch was ordered off for abusing referee Heiremann over a penalty that Hanna was to convert to make the scores 3-1. Juventus went to 4-1, before Rapid scored again, 12 minutes before time.

Croatia beat University by a goal in each half at Glenorchy, with the second goal coming seconds before the final whistle and with skipper Letec off the field injured.

White Eagles also scored once in each half to beat the greatly depleted Caledonians.

Cahut's transfer from Croatia to South Hobart will depend on South's willingness to pay a transfer fee that that will be returned to them when Cahut goes back to Croatia.

Weakened Croatia pressed to hold confident Juventus

By Gordon Burnett 28/6/68

JUVENTUS will be at full strength tomorrow against a depleted Croatia, and should win their Southern Premiership League soccer game at South Hobart.

Croatia led them 2·0 in their first encounter, and then had to fight desperately to save a point as Juventus equalised and looked like winning in the closing stages.

Tomorrow Croatia will he without Skaro, who was suspended for one-week last night by the investigation committee because of three cautions in recent games. Letec who is injured, and Kotler who has not played in the past two games. This has left Croatia with very indifferent attack.

Juventus who have Jaeger and Wood back, are on the crest of a wave after their big win over Rapid. They are only two points behind Olympia, and would have been level with them, but for not registering their players for the opening match.

Olympia will have Tom Parker and Mike Richards in their line-up against White Eagles. Main Olympia worry is goalkeeper Roussos, who is favouring his injured knee and it is affecting his game. It may not be long before Alexiadis has to take over.

The unchanged White Eagles have improved considerably since their 0-2 defeat by Olympia, although Vagianos was not playing against them and Olympia have a strong combination tomorrow.

South should worry Rapid in the main match at Glenorchy, as they all but beat Olympia last Saturday, and Rapid have gone back in recent clashes. Rapid came back from l-3 down to equalise 4-4 with 10 minutes to go against South in their last game at Glenorchy.

They will have Zoetsch tomorrow, as the investigation committee threw out the charge of abusive behaviour towards the referee last week because of conflicting evidence.

Coach Kirkpatrick would not agree South Hobart won a point last week. "We lost one," he told a jubilant team, which is showing much better staying powers.

University are continuing to improve and did well against Croatia, being led only 1-0 with seconds to go. It was then that Steen put through his own goal. And Groothuis shook a Croatia upright and there were also several near misses.

With Prasad and Boyle to sharpen up their attack, they could extend the weakest Caledonians side for some time, despite a 0-5 defeat in the first-round encounter. Arnott will be back to hold Caledonians together.

Croatia said last night that full-back Cahut had withdrawn his application for a clearance to South Hobart and Caledonians have said they will not release Nick Wilson to Olympia without payment.

Soccer tribunal airs grouch

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 26/6/68

THE soccer investigation committee has complained to the T.S.A. executive about the absence of referees from tribunal hearings.

Committee members say that cases are being dismissed because of insufficient and unexplained detail in supposedly comprehensive reports of incidents.

At last night's meeting of the T.S.A. executive Mr. R. Marlor (referees' delegate) said referees did not attend because of being kept standing around for a couple of hours and then finishing up on trial themselves.

The executive also questioned the choice of referees for the various games, and a suggestion was made that a sub-committee consisting of two executive delegates and one referees' delegate should make the appointments. It will be referred back to the referees.

Eagles break hoodoo: First win against Olympia for five seasons

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 1/7/1968

WHITE EAGLES recorded their first win against Olympia in five seasons of senior soccer when they beat them 2-1 after a hectic second half at South Hobart on Saturday.

And with Juventus beating Croatia 4-2, and South Hobart holding Rapid to a 1-1 draw, Olympia's previous two-point advantage has been whittled down to equal leadership with Juventus, one point ahead of White Eagles and two points in front of Rapid.

In the absence of Shacklady (influenza), Parkin (leg injury), and skipper Girling (ankle injury), Olympia recalled Huddlestone to lead the attack, remembering that he scored five goals in one game against White Eagles last season, and State wing-half Richards was at inside forward.

But Huddlestone was without match practice and Girling took his place in the second half and brought Richards back into the intermediate line for Olympia to show something like their usual form.

Where they relied surprisingly on big kicking in the first half to get their forwards moving, they resorted to close passing tactics in the second term with a two-goal deficit, and they could have won without surprising. White Eagles took the shortest route to goal. Wing half Stewart headed in the first goal from a corner kick in the 26th minute and Jefferson's good solo effort goal came just before half time.

Lachie Vagianos who captained Olympia in what could have been his last game with them, made up for the lapse that enabled Jefferson to score by heading past Siggins from a free kick against Stewart in the 59th minute.

Olympia could have goaled through Stanton, Schwesinger, Alexiadis, Girling and Vagianos, and White Eagles also put pressure on Roussos through Jefferson and Osuchowski as the tension mounted.

David Siggins was at his brilliant best in the White Eagles' goal, and at the other end Roussos, still worried by a knee injury, showed vast improvement on his form of the previous week.

White Eagles' defence did well under the pounding it received in the second half, and the addition of another goal-scoring forward in this side would make it a very formidable combination.

Vagianos, who had his only roster hat-trick against White Eagles – in 1965 – left for Adelaide yesterday to be given a trial by the Greek club Adelaide Hellas.

A four-figure transfer fee has been mentioned and Hellas want to see him in action. If terms are satisfactory, he will be cleared immediately by Olympia.

Southern Premiership League Standings (after 10 games)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	10	7	1	2	29	10	15
Juventus	10	7	1	2	26	17	15
White Eagles	10	6	2	2	22	14	14
Rapid	10	5	3	2	24	17	13
Croatia	10	4	2	4	23	19	10
South Hobart	10	1	4	5	13	24	6
Caledonians	10	2	1	7	9	23	5
University	10	0	2	8	6	38	2

Croatia's in-and-out form makes them a risky bet for cup final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 5/7/1968 – [Falkinder Cup FINAL]

CROATIA have the talent to win the Falkinder Cup soccer final tomorrow against White Eagles but are far too unpredictable to be followed with confidence, and they had only four players at training on Tuesday.

Frank Letec and Tony Skaro will be back in the side, but Croatia say Bruno Kotler will not play, although they also said this last week. He played and was sent off for kicking an opponent.

Referee's delegate R. Marlor said last night that referee A. Lanningan was abused by Croatia player Nadanic as he was leaving the field on Saturday. Lanningan had told Nadanic he was not being cautioned but was being sent off the field. They will appear before the investigation committee next Thursday.

With Letec at centre-half and Cahut at left-back, Croatia could have a very solid defence with striking power up forward with players like Skaro, Leung, Fiamenco and Nadanic.

Unlike Croatia, who won this competition in 1964, White Eagles have not won a senior trophy in their five years in top-grade soccer, and they are keen to take this one out. They have a strong defence, although it wavered last Saturday against an Olympia side below full-strength, but the attack relies too much on centre-forward Jefferson for the goals.

Unbeaten in their past seven games, White Eagles drew 4-4 and beat Croatia 2-1 in the roster series and lost 2-3 in the Ampol Cup competition to them.

It should be a hard and close game with the result going either way. It will depend largely on the form of Skaro, who has scored every time he has played against White Eagles this season, and that of White Eagles' goalkeeper David Siggins, whose form has been in and out this season.

Teams: **White Eagles:** D. Siggins, Honeyman, F. Rawlings, Stewart, J. Biggar, Stoddart (capt) Osuchowski, Graham, Jefferson, McCann, Lundin, Reserve Watson. **Croatia:** Udovicic, Zapatocki, Cahut, Plezanic, Letec (capt), Gjurbuzovic, Krizanovic, Hawes, Skaro, Leung, Fiamenco, Babic, Knapek, Glasovac.

White Eagles look goods in Falkinder Cup win over Croatia

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 8/7/68 – [Falkinder Cup FINAL]

THERE was jubilation in the White Eagles soccer camp on Saturday when they won the Falkinder Cup, their first major success in five years in the top division, by defeating Croatia 5-1.

Coach Jim Scally's boys looked a good team in the first half. They secured a winning two-goal lead in the first eight minutes through swinging the ball about and made it four goals by half-time. Then, when Croatia fought back after the interval, White Eagles' defence took a hammering just as they did against Olympia in the second half the previous week. On Saturday they eased up and lost their effectiveness to such an extent that Croatia could have forced a draw without surprising.

John Biggar played Skaro out of the game and his one attempt at goal was so hurried that it was easily handled by David Siggins. Letec was not at his fittest before the game started, and a heavy collision early left him only a shadow of his usual self. Centre-forward Jefferson was on target again with a goal in each half and he has now scored 14 goals this season. But what is more important, he has scored in 10 out of the 12 games in which White Eagles has scored.

White Eagles' wingers Lundin and Osuchowski were dangerous throughout and most of the goals eventuated from moves down these flanks. Croatia did not field goalkeeper Udovicic, who was reported to be in Burnie, Kotler, who has clashed with the committee, and Nadanic, who is reported to be suspended by the club. In their absence they had full-back Marlin in goal, left-winger Fiamenco at centre-half, and Krizanovic was replaced in the 28th minute by teenager Belac.

The line-up was as surprising to the players themselves as it was to spectators, and they were so ragged in the opening minutes that they could have easily given up. But Letec held them together and a late arrival could have been excused had he thought they were winning instead of losing 1-4. They scored their lone goal five minutes before half time when coach Zemunik followed up a shot from Letec that had crashed against an upright.

Then after half-time, Zemunik had the goal at his mercy but only tapped the ball to Siggins, who two minutes later, saved a point-blank shot from Letec. Four minutes later the ball cannoned off an upright in a wild melee in the White Eagles' goal mouth, and Honeyman later headed from off the goal line when Zemunik seemed certain to score with a powerful shot.

White Eagles scored their fifth goal eight minutes from time when Jefferson cleverly tapped the ball over the head of Fiamenco and then flashed in an unstoppable shot. Croatia's main problem was getting the ball up to their attack, and when it came it was so laboriously done, that the forwards had run into the well-laid off-side trap. White Eagles, on the other hand, scored five goals from eight chances to record their fifth successive win, and avenge a 2-3 defeat by Croatia in the Ampol Cup. They missed McCann in the second half as he pulled a muscle and had to be replaced.

1968 Falkinder Cup Winners

Back: I Stewart, P Angel (Mgr.), J. Graham, J. Biggar, F. Rawlins, D. Jefferson, I. Honeyman, J. Scally (Coach)
Front: K. Lundin (Olsen), B. Osuchowski, H. McCann, D. Siggins, D. Stoddart. Watson.

Premiership hope rekindled with easy victory: Top teams shocked

By · Gordon Burnett 15/7/68

JUVENTUS lost, and Olympia and White Eagles were held to draws, in a series of upsets in Southern Premiership League soccer matches on Saturday.

Croatia won, to make a late bid for a place in the four and to gain a point on Rapid in the standings. With only three roster games to go, Croatia 's clash with Rapid on Saturday, could decide which team makes the four.

The real surprise of the day was Caledonians' win over Juventus through a last-minute goal by Bernard Siggins, after the teams had been 1-1 at half-time at Glenorchy. It was as Caledonians' first win in seven games.

At the University oval - used for the first time this season for a first division game - University failed to record their first win when White Eagles full-back Ian Honeyman slammed in the equaliser with the last kick of the game.

University had led 1-0 at half-time, and 2-0 up to 15 minutes before the end, against a side which had not been beaten in eight games. A feature of the encounter was the goalkeeping of Peter Curson, who stopped everything except two rasping shots from Honeyman.

Olympia had enough chances against Rapid to improve their goal average to unassailable proportions, but needed a goal in the 66th minute to save a point.

Foster should have given Rapid a very early lead, but it not until the 38th minute that Zoetsch opened the scoring with a penalty against Petropoulos.

Goalkeeper Roussos had his name taken by referee Marlor for hotly disputing the penalty decision. There was always a tendency for the Rapid youngsters to hold that ball for the extra fraction of a second, to spoil many of their movements.

Olympia had things all their way when they brought Alexiadis in for Petropoulos in the second half.

One minute after the resumption, Fisher blocked a point-blank shot by Parkin and not long after, goalkeeper Pfund had to dive at Huddlestone's feet.

The equaliser came when Huddlestone headed in a centre from Harper. Then Girling sent the ball down the centre and Huddlestone and Parkin chased it for what seemed a certain score, but they managed to kick it too far forward and Pfund cleared.

The fast pace became even faster as Olympia strove desperately for a decider, and Stanton should have given it to them after beating four opponents, but as he got into position for a shot, he kicked the ball over the bar.

Another great chance was missed when Jack Dilba raced 30yds. to take the ball off Parkin's toe, just as he was about to kick for goal.

Olympia missed Vagianos, who was stranded by the strike in Adelaide when he was told to return for the game after a delay in the payment of his transfer fee by Adelaide Hellas. No clearance is being permitted until transfer fee - close on $3,000 - is paid to Olympia. .

Stefan Stuetzel and Mathias held Olympia up time and again as they refused to revert to the needed orthodox five-man attack.

Croatia wore their new red strip, the registration of which was denied by the T.S.A. executive last week and celebrated with a 4-1 win over South Hobart after being 1-1 at half-time.

Full-back Cahut who had sought a clearance to South earlier in the season, scored a surprise goal for Croatia in the opening minutes, and winger Henderson equalised just before half-time.

But from then on it was all Croatia, and coach Brezna Zemunik gave a fine display of shooting to collect two goals. He had come on as replacement for Belac.

In the absence of star centre forward Skaro, Gjurbuzovic led the attack, and Eddie Puclin made a welcome return in goal. Wells played for South, as Barker broke a toe at practice.

Southern Premiership League Standings

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	11	7	2	2	30	11	16
Juventus	11	7	1	3	27	19	15
White Eagles	11	6	3	2	24	16	15
Rapid	11	5	4	2	25	18	14
Croatia	11	5	2	4	27	20	12
Caledonians	11	3	1	7	21	24	7
South Hobart	11	1	4	6	14	28	6
University	11	0	3	8	8	40	3

Leading Goalscorers: Skaro 9, Parker, Gibson 8, Foster 7, Alexiadis, McCann, Jefferson, Bachinger 6

Leading teams to meet in cut-throat roster

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/7/68

THE Southern Premiership Soccer League is wide open with three matches to go, and four of the top five teams play one another tomorrow.

• Olympia have won only one of their past five, but should beat University at Glenorchy to· maintain their leadership.
• Juventus are back to full strength, but could find White Eagles too solid although a draw would not surprise.
• Having their last chance to make the four, Croatia can be expected to throw everything they have into their game against the light Rapid side, and they could reverse an earlier 3-0 defeat.

Skaro will be leading the Croatian attack, but Letec is still hobbling and may not last more than one half. Gjurbuzovic is injured, Udovicic is in Burnie, Babic is in the Army, and Kotler and Nadanic are suspended. But they have a rugged defence, and several sharp shooters up forward, particularly Zemunik.

Juventus have dropped Rizzolo, but Cengia is available after being kicked in the face last week, and Goodman will be back after missing one game.

White Eagles, unbeaten in nine games, have built a solid combination with the emphasis on defence and tricky wingers, and a good spearhead in Jefferson.

Juventus have signed Troup, who has played for Stockport County in the fourth division of the English league, and he will try out at right-back with the reserves tomorrow.

Caledonians play South Hobart in the game of the day at Glenorchy and will be confident of victory after upsetting Juventus last week. Arnott will be back to direct the attack, and with Mackinnon improving with every game at centre-half, Caledonians should again do well.

Terry Collins, an Englishman who has been in Hobart only a couple of weeks, has joined Caledonians as a goalkeeper or full-back. This could encourage a suggestion that they try to exchange goalkeeper Nick Wilson for John Lymas, of Olympia.

South, who have held Rapid and Olympia to draws, will be without centre-forward Gibson and full-back Barker.

University, who have improved greatly with draws against Caledonians and White Eagles in their most recent games, have been handicapped by missing outdoor practice on Wednesday, but are hopeful of extending the leaders.

Olympia have not solved their centre-half vacancy caused by the departure of Vagianos, but Richards is getting another chance there.

Northern Juventus finished at the top of the standings in the North, but for the first time there will be a final four competition.

Croatia's first premiership diminish further with loss to Rapid

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 22/7/68

CROATIA, who started the soccer season with such promise of going close to their first premiership, lost 2-3 to Rapid on Saturday and now need only the slightest nudge to have no chance whatever.

They started with 10 men and were a goal down straight from the kick-off. They scored the only goal of the second half, and could have forced a draw with better distribution of their resources, as Letec and Gjurbuzovic were wasted on the wings.

Pfund was very shaky in Rapid's goal and was fortunate Croatia did not pepper him with shots. Coach Tom McLoughlin caught Croatia napping when he threw star centre-half Egon Mathias into the attack with the wind and used Zoetsch to watch Skaro and Zemunik.

Mathias supplied the passes for two goals and scored a goal himself - and Zoetsch kept a close watch on the Croatian sharp-shooters. It was a game that will be remembered more for the many foul tackles and differences behind play rather than for any particular prowess shown.

Zoetsch, who tripped Zemunik when he was going through for what must have been a certain goal, and Fiamenco and Cahut had their names taken by referee Marlor.

Juventus had the advantage of an early goal against White Eagles, but they lost it four minutes later when Hanna helped the ball into his own net in a goalmouth scrimmage, and they were down 1-2 seven minutes afterwards.

Hanna missed a penalty for hands against Stewart, and Wood wasted a good chance before they came on terms in the 75th minute, only to see Jefferson go through the centre to score the decider with 10 minutes to go.

The defeat saw Juventus slump from second to fourth place. McCann was replaced in the second half by Watson, who missed a certain goal immediately after.

White Eagles, who are coming good at the right time, again played well as a team, and this is their main strength. David Siggins was in adventuresome mood in goal and was lucky several times to see the ball scrambled away after he left his charge and failed to collect the ball.

Centre-forward Dave Jefferson again showed what a greatly improved player he is, nodding in a centre from Stewart and then racing through the centre to score his second goal to bring his roster tally to eight and his season's bag to 16.

Tony Parker's two goals for Juventus brought him on level terms with Skaro at the top of the individual goalscoring list for the roster competition – and he has the easier final two games.

A lone goal by skipper Arnott five minutes after the start of the second half gave Caledonians the points against South Hobart at Glenorchy.

An unusual feature of the Olympia-University game was that Olympia captain Dick Girling sent State player Norman Stanton off the field after he had taken and missed a penalty kick without instructions. Stanton will be called before the club's committee to explain his action.

Parkin's hat-trick in this game, won by Olympia 5-0, was the first for Olympia this season.

Police request on soccer

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 24/7/68

THE police have asked for greater protection for referees at the South Hobart soccer ground.

A letter from the Commissioner (Mr. P. W. Fletcher) read at last night's T.S.A. executive meeting called for the use by referees of the basketball building, the recreation hall, or a caravan to be placed near the caretaker's cottage.

It said that police could not accept the position of having to escort referees through dense crowds in the conditions that existed at South Hobart.

It asked for the present open railing fence from the entrance turnstile to the eastern end of the grandstand to be converted to cyclone or another solid type of fence so the spectators could not duck under the rail and go on to the playing area.

The request was also made for the extension of the fence on the far side of the ground toward the caretaker's cottage. This was the sequel to the brawl at this ground on April 15 after Olympia had beaten Croatia 2-1 and a police officer was punched and kicked as he protected the referee.

Olympia were fined in their absence the referees' fees for games they forfeited to Dnipro and Southern Cross in Metropolitan Division 2 on July 6 and 20.

A motion that any club be fined $10 plus the referee's fee for any future failure to play without giving due notice by 7 p.m. on the day before the game was lost by a 6-4 vote after there had been a 5-5 dead-lock at the first count. The executive confirmed that there would be a final four competition.

The permits committee reported that Nick Wilson of Caledonians was an amateur, but it could not accept his application for a clearance to Olympia because he had applied after the expiration date for transfers - April 30. It was now up to the two clubs to reach an agreement.

It was agreed to pay the referees $10 for providing a results service. Messrs. C. Leslie, D. Whitchurch and W. Worsey were appointed to form a sub-committee to get the constitution ready for distribution among members.

Juventus look too good for out of form Croatia

By Gordon Burnett - 26/7/68 – [Association Cup]

JUVENTUS have dropped winger Philip Owen for their Association Cup soccer game against Croatia tomorrow, but they should win to check a losing run.

Owen failed to attend training, Rizzolo replaces him. Diminutive di Domenico is on the other wing. Croatia will be without skipper Frank Letec, and there in-and-out form does not suggest they are capable of beating Juventus for the first time this season.

Juventus drew 2-2 and beat them 4-2 in the roster, and their better-balanced side should succeed again. Croatia have played 19 games this season, more than any other side in the competition. They have won 10, lost seven and drawn two.

Caledonians who did not survive one round in either of the two earlier cup competitions, have won their past two roster games and are hoping to extend Olympia in the curtain-raiser at South Hobart.

Olympia have beaten Caledonians 1-0, 5-1, and 6-0 this year. But they will be without Richards, who is in Sydney and Harper who is at Bell Bay and unable to make the trip to Hobart.

This will make the loss of Lachie Vagianos even more pronounced as Richards had been playing centre-half since he left. Vagianos, now playing for Adelaide Hellas made a rushed trip to Hobart this week to see his parents.

He told Olympia officials that he had enjoyed his debut in South Australia last Saturday, although the pace was much faster, and the type of play much harder than he was used to. He is being paid $25 a game at centre-half.

Olympia, who have had a very unlucky season with losses, injuries, and enforced changes, will be losing Parkin soon. This game could be his second last before going to Sydney for family reasons.

Stanton, who was sent off the field last Saturday by his captain Dick Girling for not carrying out orders, attended training this week and has been selected for tomorrow.

South Hobart should have centre-forward Paddy Gibson back for their game against Rapid at Glenorchy. He scored a hat-trick in their first 4-4 draw against Rapid, and then netted their only goal in the 1-1 draw in the second round of the roster.

White Eagles, with 10 games without defeat, meet University who have not won any of their 14 games in the curtain raiser at Glenorchy. But White Eagles will be without forwards McCann (pulled stomach muscle) and Osuchowski (influenza).

The Association Cup is not a popular competition. and the clubs could treat tomorrow's matches as a training run in preparation for the more serious roster games the following week.

Rapid have close call against South Hobart but remain major premiership chance

By Gordon Burnett 29/7/68 – [Association Cup]

RAPID, who are gradually working their way up to an all-out assault on the Southern soccer premiership they last won in 1964, had a close call against South Hobart in the Association Cup competition on Saturday.

At sixes and sevens throughout the first half, they crossed over two goals down. And with the benefit of the wind, they equalised only when South's centre-half Colin West, was off the field with a suspected broken nose.

West pluckily returned for the last few minutes, and it was during this period that Mathias scored the decider.

In the other matches, Juventus beat Croatia, although the losers had their chances, Olympia scrambled in against Caledonians and White Eagles beat University 4-0.

The draw for the semi-finals in the Cup competition to be played on August 17 is Juventus v Rapid; White Eagles v Olympia.

Goodman was a last-minute withdrawal from Juventus against Croatia, and winger Owen came into the side at full-back. Parker and Rizzolo headed in goals for Juventus in the first half after Skaro hit an upright with a left-foot kick. They went to 3-0 in the second minute of the second half when Parker converted a pass from Wood.

The slightly built Under-16 State player M. Belac was the most dangerous Croatia forward, and Cengia did well to save three of his well-directed shots. But Croatia, shorn of many of their stars, looked a jaded side out of condition.

Tricky ball player Wood worried Puclin several times, and Lindsay missed two good scoring chances in the closing minutes.

Caledonians very nearly upset Olympia in a repeat of last year's final, as Walner twice hit the underside of the crossbar and ball was scrambled away.

Olympia played the first half without Huddlestone, who was working, and crossed over 0-0 with Stanton off with a facial injury after a goalmouth collision.

Stanton has a broken cheek-bone and this will be another serious loss to last year's Southern champions. Their only real chance up to that stage had been when Shacklady fired in a powerful shot that Leslie did well to reach and tip over the bar.

Caledonians' defence erred with an indirect free-kick only yards from the goal in the opening minutes of the second half. Girling took it, tapped it to Parkin, who passed to Shacklady, who had all the time in the world to slam it through an appreciable gap in the human barricade.

A second goal came five minutes later from Parkin, but Caledonians fought back and should have made a draw of it in the last minute, when Walner's shot came down from the cross bar to a couple of Caledonian forwards only feet from the goal.

University conceded only one goal up to half time and were in the game against White Eagles until defensive errors sealed their fate. They eventually lost 4-0, but were triers to the bitter end, with Groothuis doing everything he could to rally the forwards.

Honeyman, who scored the two goals that gave White Eagles a draw against University in their previous encounter, was again one of their more prominent players together with Biggar and Lundin.

Skippers absence will be the final blow for Croatia this year

By Gordon Burnett 2/8/68

SKIPPER Frank Letec was reported last night as unfit for Croatia's needle soccer game against Olympia at South Hobart tomorrow.

And his absence could spell the end of a very disappointing season for Croatia, who must win to have a slender chance of making the final four. It is that slender that it depends on University surprising Juventus tomorrow.

But Olympia have their problems also, as they will be without Stanton, who could be out for the rest of the season after an operation for a broken cheek bone, and Richards, who is in Sydney for another week.

Harper will be back in the side and Parkin will be able to get in an extra game, as he is playing tomorrow, and again next week before going to Sydney.

Olympia have beaten Croatia 2-1 twice, and lost 1-3 to them in the Falkinder Cup.

There was talk last night of Croatia releasing wing-half Plezanavic to Juventus after tomorrow's game, and that they would turn amateur next season, but no official comment was available.

Supported by the Australian Croatia Association, they have spent a lot of money this season without achieving a single success, but if they turn amateur, they will have difficulty holding o to their stars, as the professional clubs will waste no time making offers.

Rapid, who are keen to get second position in the standings for a second bite at the premiership in the final-four series, are unchanged for their curtain-raiser at South Hobart against Caledonians. They beat a better Caledonian side 3-2 in their only other clash this season, and they are unbeaten in four games.

White Eagles will have Osuchowski back on the wing, and they should hold their position with a win in the main game at Glenorchy over South Hobart, who will be without centre-half West and Barker. West has a broken nose and Barker a broken toe.

Hugh McCann had the seasons' best individual goalscoring feat with four of White Eagles six goals against South in their first meeting this season, and they beat them 3-1 in the Falkinder Cup.

Juventus are persevering with Owen at full-back after his good showing there last week, and Bottari has been introduced on the wing for their game against University, who came from 0-4 to 3-4 in the first round.

University will be badly handicapped at forward by the absence of Groothuis and must win to avoid relegation.

Southern Premiership League Standings

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagles	13	8	3	2	30	19	19
Olympia	13	8	2	3	36	13	18
Juventus	13	8	1	4	35	24	17
Rapid	13	6	5	2	32	24	17
Croatia	13	6	2	5	31	24	14
Caledonians	13	4	2	7	26	28	10
South Hobart	13	1	4	8	15	32	6
University	13	0	3	10	10	51	3

Leading Goalscorers: Parker 12, Skaro 11, Jefferson 10, Gibson, Foster 9, Rizzolo 7, Walner, Alexiadis, Bachinger, McCann, Arnott 6

Croatia triumph in mud, but leave win fortnight too late

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 5/8/68

CROATIA left their winning effort against Olympia two weeks too late, and their deserved 2-1 success in the mud on Saturday did not give them a place in the Southern Tasmanian soccer four.

White Eagles, who beat South Hobart 3-1, are almost certain to have the two chances in the play-off series, and are followed by Olympia, Juventus and Rapid each of whom could fill second place. The last round of roster matches – with previous scores – is White Eagles v Rapid (0-0), Olympia v Juventus (4-2), - the four top teams – and Croatia v Caledonians (3-2), and South Hobart v University (0-0).

With one game to go Juventus centre-forward Tony Parker has taken a one-goal lead over Tony Skaro (Croatia), last year's winner, and two over Dave Jefferson (White Eagles), in his bid to be leading roster goalscorer.
The top teams were glad over Croatia's failure to reach the final four as they have always been capable of rising to any heights at the least expected time and that was what they did on Saturday.

Olympia were without Harper who could not get down from Bell Bay, Richards and Stanton, but scored first through a solo effort by Huddlestone in the 38th minute.

Croatia equalised three minutes later when full-back Zapatocki went up on the right to make an opening for Skaro, and they dominated play in the second half to score the decider four minutes from time when teenager Glasovac centred for Zemunik to head into the net. It avenged Olympias earlier 2-1 roster win, and the sides are now level with two wins each from their encounters this season - and Olympia are one goal up.

Croatia's win was further evidence of the value of rangy Bruno Kotler, who has been their best player this season. His return after an absence of four weeks gave them incentive and restored their play from that of individuals to something approaching teamwork.

Olympia, who will have Parkin for only one more game have won only two of their second-round games and are by no means a safe bet for the premiership. Absentees, injuries and enforced positional changes have undermined confidence.

Aided by a fine hat-trick by centre-forward Tony Walner, Caledonians nearly became only the second team to defeat Rapid this season. Opening the scoring, Caledonians were 1-2 at half-time and led 4-3 with only 14 minutes to go in the most exciting match of the season. Both goalkeepers Pfund and Leslie, brough off brilliant saves as forwards were sent through the centre time and again with long passes.

Coach Tom McLoughlin, who used Mathias at centre-half and Foster at centre-forward, must have been glad to see a fit looking Bill Ziehfreund sitting in the stand. Former star Ziehfreund, who is working at Savage River would be a very welcome surprise packet for the final four series as he is still a member of Rapid.

White Eagles continued on their winning way, beating South Hobart 3-1, after being 2-0 at half time, and Jefferson could have had a hat-trick but for a penalty kick hitting an upright in the last few minutes.

Juventus took full advantage of defensive lapses by University and increased a 3-0 interval lead to a 6-2 win

Southern Premiership League Standings (after 13 games)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagles	13	8	3	2	30	19	19
Olympia	13	8	2	3	36	13	18
Juventus	13	8	1	4	35	24	17
Rapid	13	6	5	2	32	24	17
Croatia	13	6	2	5	31	24	14
Caledonians	13	4	2	7	26	28	10
South Hobart	13	1	4	8	15	32	6
University	13	0	3	10	10	51	3

Leading Goalscorers: Parker 12, Skaro 11, Jefferson 10, Gibson, Foster 9, Rizzolo 7, Walner, Alexiadis, Bachinger, McCann, Arnott 6

Clash of top four to produce best club soccer for years

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 9/8/68

TWO of the most exciting soccer matches at South Hobart in years are expected tomorrow when the top teams battle for the best positions in the final four.

And indications last night were that no fresh talent would be introduced, despite the fact that intrastate transfers are allowed. Croatia said that none of their players would be cleared or "loaned" this season.

Any one of the four teams playing at South Hobart tomorrow could end up in first or second position in the final Southern League standings.

White Eagles and Rapid will have the advantage tomorrow - they clash after the Olympia v Juventus game. The standings before the final round: White Eagles, 19pts, Olympia 18pts, Juventus, 17pts, Rapid 17pts.

Olympia are again in trouble as Harper may not be able to travel from Bell Bay, but Richards will be at centre-half again. Stanton is still unavailable, and Parkin is playing in what could be his last game before going to Sydney, although there is talk of bringing him back.

Juventus will have Goodman at wing-half after being out for two games, but they will have the pressure on them from Olympia's ace strategist Girling, and link forwards Harper and Shacklady should establish a midfield superiority for Olympia. Olympia have beaten Juventus 4-2 (they led 3-0) and then 3-0, could make it a winning hat-trick.

A confident White Eagles team may prove too solid for the young Rapid side, although it was only goalkeeper David Siggins who kept Rapid to a goalless draw in their only other meeting this season. White Eagles were forced on the defensive by both Olympia and Juventus in recent games, but they recovered, and it was hard to find the gaps.

Mathias will be needed to look after the goal happy Jefferson. Foster could then lead the Rapid attack with Zoetsch at wing-half. White Eagles are unbeaten in 12 games and their teamwork should match the finesse of a less experienced side when the chips are down.

Croatia will have Krisanavic, who has returned from West Australia, and will be out to repeat their earlier 3-2 win over Caledonians. There should not be much between the two sides and Caledonians last week showed form good enough to beat Croatia, especially at Grove Road.

Ray McGuiness, who played for South Hobart in their 1959 premiership team, will be returning to the senior team after a number of conditioning games at wing-half for Dynamos, whom he has been managing. South are also hoping to have West back.

University were lucky to hold South to a goal-less draw last time and tomorrow they will be without goalkeeper Carson, who has a chipped bone in a hand, and Fuller and Hans Steen are also injured. On the credit side, Groothuis will be back in the attack.

Alexiadis (Olympia) visited the Alexandria Club in Melbourne, but was unable to get a clearance for Robbie Sharpe, a Scot who has joined the Hydro Electric Commission and is likely to be in Hobart for at least two years. Sharpe played top class soccer in Melbourne.

Fights erupt, Girling injured, referee, rejects replacement

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 12/8/68

RAPID beat White Eagles 7-5 but failed narrowly to reach second position on the Southern soccer premiership ladder on Saturday during a drama-packed afternoon at South Hobart.

David Jones' fifth goal for White Eagles in the last three minutes robbed Rapid of, second place on goal average.

The drama came in the Olympia - Juventus game. Olympia came from 0-1 at half-time to beat Juventus 4-2, but before the final siren went:

• Olympia captain Dick Girling dislocated his shoulder in a heavy collision with Owen.
• Olympia forward Alexiadis and Juventus goalkeeper Cengia were sent off the field for fighting after spectators had come onto the field near the Juventus goal.
• Referee Dolliver refused to allow Jaegar to come on as goalkeeper in the second half as Juventus had not listed any reserves on their team sheet.
• Juventus centre-forward Tony Parker made almost certain of winning the individual roster goalscoring award by converting a penalty.

Juventus who were without Goodman, paid the penalty for not naming reserves on their team-sheet. Their action in withdrawing Rizzolo, and sending Jaegar on in the second half, was unacceptable to referee Dolliver. Rizzolo was then goalkeeper. After looking the better side, Juventus eased up to ley Olympia back into the game.

Olympia now hold first place for the fourth year in succession and the fifth in six years.
Juventus led early, but were crippled by the loss of Cengia, they saw Olympia equalise in the 65th, and take the lead within four minutes. A Juventus penalty against Parker brought an equaliser, but Olympia scored in the last seven minutes.

Alexiadis and Cengia were sent off for fighting after a clash between Huddlestone and Carnevale in the Juventus goalmouth had brought several spectators onto the field. However, police and the referee handled the situation well and order was restored almost immediately.

Huddlestone was booed as he returned at half-time, almost touching off another brawl in front of the stand. There also were a number of arguments before the end of the game. The referee and linesmen did not come into contact with the crowd. They changed in the basketball building.

White Eagles, who were beaten for the first time in 12 games, were unlucky to lose goalkeeper David Siggins after a collision with team colleague Honeyman early m the game. They did not have a reserve goalkeeper and Stewart and Biggar filled the position in turn, while Watson and then McCann were used as replacements.

Rapid crossed over 2-2 and it was when they reached 5-2 that they took the all-important lead over White Eagles on goal average. They consolidated it by going to 6-2 with 12 minutes to go and still held it at 6-3 when McCann scored from an indirect free kick near goal, but later lost it when Jefferson scored his second goal with seven minutes left.

Foster then completed his hat trick to put Rapid 7-4 and ahead again on goal average, but a minute later goalkeeper Pfund mishandled and presented Jones, making a rare appearance for White Eagles, with a gift goal.

Six goals came in the last 15 minutes and Rapid's goal average fluctuated from 0.09, 0.18 and 1.08 up on White Eagles, to 0.01 down, 0.09 up and then a final 0.0013 down.

White Eagles have seldom played as badly, but were thoroughly disorganised by the loss of Siggins who complained of affected vision.

Rapid played their usual fast and open game and were not ahead at the interval because of crowding one another in attack and not using the full width of the field to advantage. They will have to play Juventus, the only team to beat them in the roster in the second semi-final, and even though they are amateurs they will take some stopping.

Centre-forward Wally Foster produced the form that got him into the State squad and he finished only one goal behind Parker, together with Saturdays rival centre-forward Dave Jefferson.

Tony Skaro did not have a chance to score on Saturday as Croatia's game against Caledonians was postponed because the Glenorchy ground was waterlogged.

University scored first against South, who equalised in the second half, The two sides also drew their first encounter.

Southern Cambridge League Final Standings – 1968

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
OLYMPIA	14	9	2	3	40	15	20
WHITE EAGLE	**14**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**35**	**26**	**19**
RAPID	14	7	5	2	39	29	19
HOBART JUVENTUS	14	8	1	5	34	28	17
CROATIA GLENORCHY	14	7	2	5	35	27	16
CALEDONIANS	14	4	2	8	29	32	10
SOUTH HOBART	14	1	5	8	16	33	7
UNIVERSITY	14	0	4	10	11	52	4

Olympia down six as White Eagles ready to advance to final

By Gordon Burnett 16/8/68 – [Association Cup – S/F]

OLYMPIA will be without six players who represented them at the start of the season when they meet White Eagles tomorrow.

But it is an Association Cup semi-final tomorrow, not nearly as important as the premiership rounds in the following weeks.

Olympia have lost Vagianos, Cagialis, Parkin and Harper who cannot get down from Bell Bay this week, as well as Stanton and Girling.

They have broken even with White Eagles in their two roster encounters this season, but there has been so little between them that a White Eagles win can be expected tomorrow.

Girling's thrust will be badly missed, and a weakened attack could give the White Eagles' halves the respite needed to keep own their forwards plied with the goalscoring openings. Siggins is reported to be fit again after he was badly shaken in a collision with team-mate Honeyman last week.

Stanton is expected to return to the Olympia side for the final four series. And Parkin and Harper also should be available to make Olympia a strong challenger once again. Girlings dislocated shoulder is strapped and is making good progress. He will see the doctor or again on Monday.

Juventus has played Rapid three times this season and have won 4-1 in the Ampol Cup and 4-1 and 4-2 in the roster competition. And Rapid will need to counter the long, swinging type of game Juventus play, if they are to get through to the cup final.

Rapid will find the fast hard tackling full-backs Tommy Watson and Philip Owen a tremendous hurdle to overcome, as they are not only capable of holding up the goalscoring Dilba twins, but also are able to turn defence into attack with bursts down the flanks.

Juventus will be without Goodman again, but the report is that he will be available for the final four next week in the intermediate time.

Rapid's cup record has been a bad one this season with first round defeats by Juventus in the Ampol and Croatia in the Falkinder Cup, and they could be struggling tomorrow, despite their high scoring win last week.

The other four Southern Premiership League sides are without a game because their fixture list for their new competition for a $60 cash prize has yet to be drawn up.

Going down by odd corner to Juventus after extra time

By Gordon Burnett 19/8/68 – [Association Cup S/F]

RAPID, who won the Association Cup soccer competition on the toss of a coin three years ago, came within four minutes of tossing once again on Saturday at South Hobart - this time for a place in the final.

And the amateur club was decidedly unlucky to concede a corner in the116th minute, to lose to Juventus by three corners to two in extra time after being 2-2 at full time.

Without star forward Otmar Bachinger and goal-keeper Pfund because of flu, they fought back splendidly from two goals down at half time and two corners down in the first minute of the second half of extra time, and a shot by Reid in the last few minutes missed by only inches.

Rapid not only lost, but Egon Mathias came out of the game with a very sore knee and limping badly.

Juventus could not match their speed, especially that of the talented Dilba twins, and wilted in the second half after a promising start. They came back into the game only when Mathias hobbled out on to the wing with 15 minutes to go. Both goalkeepers excelled in extra time, Holzinger saving a fine header by Lindsay, and Jaeger just reaching a shot by Foster.

Juventus took the lead in the fifth minute and were 2-1 after 19 minutes. Rapid scored nine minutes after half time and were level with 25 minutes left.

White Eagles qualified for the final with a comfortable 3-0 win over Olympia, who are feeling the lack of suitable reserves. Olympia played Goss and Petropoulos as full-backs and had Schwesinger at wing-half, with Quinn at centre-half and Richards on the other flank. Madden and Kroustalis played in the forward line and Kramasanious come on for Shacklady near the end. Despite the enforced changes Huddlestone had several chances to score.

McCann hit an upright and a pile-driver by Osuchowski was saved brilliantly by Roussos, before Jefferson opened the scoring in the 25th minute, after it had been claimed he had handled while taking the ball on the chest in the goalmouth. Five minutes after half time the unmarked McCann snapped up a corner kick by Osuchowski and had it in the net in a flash. And four minutes later Jefferson scored his 21st goal of the season after a solo effort to seal Olympia's fate.

White Eagles were much the better-balanced side, and it was their midfield superiority that gave their wingers such a field day and made their attack so menacing.

Both White Eagles and Juventus have entered the final for the first time and they will play off for the trophy on September 28, the last day of the season.

Olympia will play Sharpe in semi

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 21/8/68 – [FINAL SERIES]

SCOTTISH soccer player Bob Sharpe, who received professional offers from six clubs before coming to Australia from Glasgow, will play for Olympia on Saturday in the first semi-final against White Eagles.

The TSA executive could find nothing in its constitution last night to stop him playing, provided he had the necessary clearance from the Melbourne club Alexander, for whom he played before coming to Hobart early last month.

Members were told by Olympia delegate Mr D. Finegan that the Australian Soccer Federation secretary (Mr I. McAndrew) had told him that a move to get all States to agree to a set date after which transfers could not be made had been impossible to implement this season.

Mr McAndrew said such a move would affect State constitutions and necessitate the calling of special general meetings. Mr Finegan said Mr McAndrew had intimated this was a local matter and in his opinion permissible if there was proof that negotiations for the transfer were started before August 1.

Mr Finegan said there was no question of stacking the side just for the final four. "Sharpe came to Hobart in July and attended two training sessions of Olympia after a chance meeting with one of the Olympia team and he signed for the club on August 1."

Mr McAndrew said on August 7 that there had been an all-States agreement not to transfer players interstate between August 1 and October 30. However, on August 15, the Victorian club Melbourne, signed on two players from fellow Hungarian club in Sydney, St George Budapest, and no action was apparently taken.

Sharpe plays equally well at centre-forward or on the wing and would greatly strengthen the Olympia attack. Mr Finegan said he had been cleared verbally, the clearance itself would be needed before he could play on Saturday.

Newcomer Sharpe to be surprise packet in Olympia team

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 23/8/68 – [FINAL SERIES]

NEWCOMER Bob Sharpe will play for Olympia in their soccer semi-final against White Eagles at South Hobart tomorrow.

Harper is expected to return from Bell Bay, Parkin from Sydney, and Stanton is fit after missing a couple of games. But Olympia have lost Alexiadis, who was suspended last night, and skipper Girling still has a shoulder injury. Sharpe can be used at centre-forward or on a wing and could be a surprise packet.

It has been suggested exception could be taken to Sharpe's clearance from Alexander at this late date, but any move to stop the transfer should have been made at Tuesday's TSA executive meeting. Olympia were given the green light by the executive and should have its full backing.

White Eagles goalkeeper David Siggins is reported to have influenza. Reserve goalkeeper Wallace is in hospital after a car accident and other goalkeepers Rakowski (back) and Dora (ankle) are injured.

White Eagles beat Olympia last week, but Olympia are much stronger tomorrow and should win. Quinn had a good look at Jefferson last week, and will not be giving him the same latitude. Winger Osuchowski is striking his best form and will need careful watching.

White Eagles successes have often been influenced by Siggins' form in goal, and he could be thoroughly tested by a clever attack.

Rapid are unchanged for their game against Juventus, who have Goodman back after missing several games.

Rapid have lost all their four games against Juventus this season - Croatia are the only other club to beat them, but they were very unlucky to lose last week after a great recovery.

If they use the ball and forget individual play, they have the ball control, speed, and talent to run all over Juventus.

So it looks very much as if the winners of last week's final four preview will be this week's losers. A Juventus defeat will see them without a game until the Association Cup final on September 28.

The new bottom four competition for a $60 cash bonus will get under way with two games at Glenorchy - and as the Caledonians - Croatia match is the only outstanding Southern Premiership League roster fixture whatever goals Skaro scores will count for the individual goalscoring award.

Skaro is two goals behind Parker, and one goal behind Jefferson and Foster, but he will find Hugh Mackinnon a much-improved centre-half.

TSA to rule on Olympia's playing Bob Sharpe without clearance

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 26/8/68 – [FINAL SERIES]

OLYMPIA took a calculated risk in playing Scottish newcomer Bob Sharpe, from the Melbourne club Alexander on Saturday, without having the necessary Victorian Soccer Federation clearance in writing.

A TSA executive meeting will decide this week whether their 2-1 win over White Eagles in the premiership semi-final is in order, needs replaying, or is to be forfeited.

State council secretary Mr Les Smith said he had been told over the phone by the VSF secretary, Mr Edgar, that the clearance was in order – and after the game on Saturday referee R. Marlor was given a letter from Alexander dated August 22 saying Sharpe was free for transfer.

Absence of the usual clearance in writing has caused much confusion, but indications are that a VSF clearance dated before Saturday's game could be acceptable.

Meanwhile, Olympia have in Sharpe a newcomer nowhere near as good as expected. Centre-forward Ted Huddlestone who was rapidly returning to top form left the field with an injured leg that could keep him out for several weeks and winger Parkin did not return from Sydney.

Olympia reversed the previous week's decision against White Eagles but were far from impressive. Opposing centre-forward Jefferson could have had a hat-trick instead of a retaken penalty goal because Roussos moved before he took the first kick and saved the shot. And winger Osuchowski had at least two chances to score.

Olympia took the lead in the 40th minute through Shacklady, and Huddlestone went through from what looked to be an offside position for the second goal three minutes after the resumption. Jefferson scored for White Eagles from the penalty spot with 10 minutes to go.

Harper's return greatly strengthened the Olympia defence and full-back Schwesinger was sent up on the wing to bolster an attack that badly missed Alexiadis.

White Eagles' strength was again in defence in which Stewart stood out as their forwards wasted chances.

Rapid beat Juventus by a corner scored in the first minute of the second half of extra time, but they had made things hard for themselves and came close to defeat as a result.

Their ball control was upset by the stiff breeze and both defences persisted in big kicking that cut midfield play down to almost a minimum. But for all that Rapid had many scoring chances which they threw away by the wrong player shooting from a difficult angle.

Right-back Franz Fischer played Rizzolo right out of the game and forced Juventus to sacrifice ball player Wood on the wing, and this weakened the Juventus attack further.

Zoetsch played the major role of holding down the centre, and Bachinger was the danger up forward. Centre-half Hanna held Juventus together, but for the second week running they were flattered by the result.

Centre-forward Tony Parker led the side in what could have been his last appearance in a senior game as he leaves for the United State on September 2. Juventus do not have another game until the Association Cup Final on September 28.

Rapid opened the scoring in the 20th minute, when Jack Dilba deflected a centre by Bachinger past Jaegar, and Juventus equalised seven minutes later when Lindsay converted a free kick. Juventus forced the first corner, but then conceded two others.

Rapid to repeat form by tossing White Eagles out

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 30/8/1968 – [FINAL SERIES]

AMATEUR club Rapid, the only team White Eagles failed to beat in the roster competition, should repeat the dose by winning tomorrow's soccer preliminary final at South Hobart.

A hard, dry ground would give Rapid a very big advantage as they are faster and possess better ball control. In the first 0-0 encounter, White Eagles were saved by brilliant goalkeeping by David Siggins, and then only a couple of weeks ago Rapid piled on seven goals against them to fall by only 0.0013 of a goal to get second position in the final standings.

They were not as impressive against Juventus last week and will need to make sure of every chance this time and not tax their fighting capabilities. Rapid played poorly against Juventus, and the forward line lost much of its rhythm.

Coach Tom McLoughlin will be sure to insist on his youngsters looking to see whether a colleague is better placed for a shot. They have been shooting too often from poor positions after the opening has been made.

It would not surprise to see Zoetsch given the task of stopping Jefferson, the season's top goalscorer in all games, and allow Mathias to play a roving type of game.

Stewart is the key man of the solid but slow Eagles' defence, and if he can be lured out of position Rapid could over-run them. White Eagles have lost two of their last three games but are formidable opponents who seem to do better in the more important matches.

Their main threat could come through their wingers, Lundin and Osuchowski, with Jefferson ready to take full advantage of their centres, either in the air or along the ground. Rapid were beaten only once in their last eight games by an unlucky corner in extra time.

Winners of this game will meet Olympia in the grand final next week.

Experience shows, as Eagles enter grand final after thrilling clash

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 2/9/1968 – [FINAL SERIES]

GREATER experience put White Eagles into the soccer grand final, after a thrilling 3-2 win over Rapid at South Hobart on Saturday.

They steadied to take their chances against a side who should have won with the opportunities they made for themselves. The switching of Egon Mathias from semi-defence to full-scale attack almost turned the game in Rapid's favour – but the move was half an hour too late.

White Eagles, who are trying for their first premiership success in five years of senior soccer, will meet Olympia in the grand final on Saturday.

Rapid were shaky in the first 10 minutes after being rocked by a first-minute goal, but it was not long before a corner by Foster skidded off the crossbar.

And in the 36th minute Reid pushed through a pass to Foster, but with only Siggins to beat, he shot straight at the goalkeeper to waste a great chance.

White Eagles were without left-winger Lundin, who was reported to have a groin injury, and reserve player 17-year-old Adamczyk centred in the first minute for Osuchowski to net through a crowd of players.

After showing he will be a very useful player with more experience, Adamczyk was replaced by Rosinski for the second half. It was following a centre from Rosinski that McCann collected a loose ball and crashed it home six minutes into the second half to make White Eagles' lead 2-0.

Mathias crowned a good solo effort with a goal in the 62nd minute, but White Eagles went to 3-1 with 11 minutes to go when Stewart burst through the centre and beat several defenders before scoring.

Mathias made it 3-2 in the next minute when he headed in a centre from Foster, but Rapid's determined raids in the closing stages were held up by a solid defence.

White Eagles were well served by their defence in the slippery conditions, Siggins handling very confidently and the two full-backs Honeyman and Rawlings holding up the fast Rapid wingers. Stewart stood out in the hard-working half-back line. They played right up on their opposite numbers, cutting down the area in which they could manoeuvre. This resulted in the nippy Rapid forwards trying to get that extra ground and holding on to the ball for those fateful extra seconds.

Stefan Stuetzel gave the finest display of full-back play seen this season, and the only shot opposing winger Osuchowski had was in that opening minute when he was standing almost on the penalty spot together with half a dozen other players.

Zoetsch one of the Rapid originals also had a fine match keeping the dangerous Jefferson scoreless. Another Rapid veteran, Mathias proved his all-round capabilities by almost pulling the game out of the fire after White Eagles had taken a winning 2-0 lead.

Lundin's return boosts White Eagles premiership hopes

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] – 6/9/68 – [FINAL SERIES]

LUNDIN will be back on the left-wing tomorrow for White Eagles, who are expected to give Olympia a real shake in a determined bid for their first Southern Tasmanian soccer premiership.

Lundin did not play in the preliminary final, and White Eagles did well to win without him. His return should restore the teamwork that has brought this rugged side to the grand final with a great chance of success.

Olympia, hit by injuries and transfers, have failed to retain the machine-like combination that used to carry all before them, and they will be without Alexiadis and probably Girling. Girling is in the awkward position of not being satisfied with his injured shoulder and yet wanting to play in what could be his last game in Southern Tasmania. He is contemplating retirement at the end of this season.

It is possible that this key player for Olympia will make a second half appearance, but much will depend on how the shoulder is tomorrow morning. Parkin is reported to be coming from Sydney for this game after disappointing the side in the semi-finals.

This should be a real thriller with little between the two sides, although Olympia play the same type of game as Rapid and are more capable of taking their chances - and Rapid should have beaten White Eagles in the semis. Olympia have more drive at forward and could easily dominate midfield exchanges to turn the tide their way.

Rapid coach Tom McLoughlin thinks Olympia will win easily if they produce the standard of play they are capable of, as he considers White Eagles' defence too erratic under pressure.

Juventus coach Fred Cunningham thinks Olympia's experience will go a long way, but he feels the stronger White Eagles team has benefitted from their errors this season and could win through sheer determination.

Both sides have each beaten the other twice this season, and White Eagles, who have scored six goals to Olympia's five, have been beaten only twice in their past 16 games. Olympia have won the premiership four times in the past five seasons, and they are seeking their fourth in a row,

Injured skipper inspires Olympia to fifth flag in six years

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 9/9/68 – [GRAND FINAL]

OLYMPIA won their fifth Southern Tasmanian soccer premiership in six seasons on Saturday when they beat White Eagles by a lone corner.

The corner came in extra time. Neither side scored a goal in the match. Olympia owed their narrow but deserved success to skipper – coach Dick Girling, who despite an injured shoulder came on in the second half for an injured Huddlestone.

He inspired the side to produce that bit extra needed to stop the determined White Eagles and turn what looked likely to be defeat into victory. Neither side made full use of the howling wind, and both played better against it. Harper hit the post twice in the opening half when Olympia strove desperately for an early breakthrough and at the other end Quinn and Richards gave away dangerous free kicks on the edge of the goal-scoring area to stop Jefferson getting through.

In the second half White Eagles' goalkeeper, Siggins, brought the big crowd to its feet when Girling sent across a magnificent centre only to see Siggins throw himself at the unmarked Stanton's feet. Parkin also tested Siggins with a shot that needed a full-length dive to save. All too often a cross would come from one of the White Eagles' wings with too few up to take advantage of it. The all-important corner came in the 10th minute of extra time just after Stanton had failed to take the centre from Parkin.

With two minutes to go before the end, a free kick against Olympia half-back Richards for obstruction was taken by Osuchowski, who netted direct from the spot, only to find it was an indirect free kick and two persons had to touch the ball before it could be a goal. Referee Marlor said he raised his arm for the indirect free-kick signal and kept it there until the kick was taken – in addition to shouting to the players that it was to be an indirect free kick.

Seconds later Parkin missed an open goal at the other end, which was a great pity as it would have stopped most of the argument over the disallowed goal.

Girling stood out for Olympia, followed by Parkin whose trip from Sydney was very worthwhile as he turned in his best game in Tasmania. Harper had another good game getting through an incredible amount of work and making sure the forwards got their share of the ball. Newcomer Sharpe gave an improved display.

Olympia realised they had to bottle up Jefferson, and they did this at any cost. It was a policy that could have easily cost them the game. McCann played himself into the ground for White Eagles, and Honeyman and Biggar stood out in a defence that held up promising raids with effective spoiling tactics.

Two Juventus players out; Eric Owen included for final

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 13/9/1968 – [Association Cup Final Preview]

JUVENTUS will be without centre-forward Tony Parker and wing-half Remo Carnevale for their Association Cup soccer final match against White Eagles tomorrow at South Hobart – but they will have Eric Owen from England. Owen, who played for Rapid before going to England to further his studies, looked impressive at training this week and should help to stiffen the Juventus defence.

His brother, Philip, who has played at full-back and on a wing this season, will be at inside-forward with John Lindsay leading the line in the absence of Parker, who is in America. Carnevale arranged his wedding date, so as to finish the roster season with Juventus and be ready for this Cup final, originally scheduled for September 28. However, the TSA decision to bring the final forward a fortnight has robbed him of a chance of playing in what could be the first Juventus team to win this trophy.

White Eagles who are also playing in their first Association Cup final, could be a little jaded after their great bid for the Southern premiership last Saturday, but they will be flat out to take their first major trophy in senior soccer. Graham is reported to be unavailable, and Lundin was in bed yesterday with influenza and their loss could upset the balance of the forward line and cost them the match.

It is a bitter blow for a team who could have had the services of Rapid star Egon Mathias for the grand final if they had wanted him. He played for them the previous season and offered his services after Rapid's defeat in the preliminary final. White Eagles and Juventus have met three times this season, sharing roster honours, but White Eagles beat Juventus in the Falkinder Cup after extra time.

Spectators demand refund as team walks off in soccer shemozzle

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] - 16/9/1968 – [Association Cup Final]

SPECTATORS unsuccessfully demanded their money be refunded at South Hobart on Saturday when Juventus officials called their remaining seven players off the field after only 30 minutes in the Association Cup soccer final against White Eagles.

After the two teams had looked well-matched in the opening exchanges, referee A. Lannigan, a qualified official from England, awarded a penalty for "hands" against Eric Owen, who was playing his first game for Juventus since returning from England.

Owen was sent off for allegedly dissenting the decision and abusing the referee. Juventus captain Joe Hanna was sent off almost immediately after for allegedly the same offences. Juventus players Goodman and Rizzolo were ordered off for returning to the field after leaving it without permission - after earlier cautions.

Jefferson's penalty kick crashed against an upright and went out of play, but Lannigan then noticed Hanna had not left the field. He called the police to have Hanna removed and ordered the kick to be retaken. This time Jefferson scored.

While this had been going on, Juventus players had wanted to walk off the field, but coach Fred Cunningham insisted they continue. Goodman had gone to the touchline to try to persuade some of them to finish the game, and it was when he and Rizzolo made to return to their positions that Lannigan ruled they could not come on again, after leaving the field without permission.

Juventus officials in the stand then called their players off the field. In addition to the four players ordered off, another five Juventus players will face a charge of leaving the field without permission. Only Phillip Owen and Cengia remained when the referee and the White Eagles' side came off.

Although there was never any threat of violence, police gave Lannigan a four-man escort to the dressing room. Irate spectators noisily demanded a refund of their gate money.

An indication was given that there would be "another game" next week, but there would appear to be no grounds for a replay. White Eagles were in no way implicated and had established a goal lead. A suggestion that the match was not played for the required length of time to constitute a game would be valid in the case of adverse weather conditions or crowd behaviour but hardly through a walk-off by a losing team.

The TSA executive will discuss the match at tomorrow's routine executive meeting.

Rizzolo had two great chances to score after 15 minutes but ended a 40m run with a shot straight at goalkeeper Siggins. The ball rebounded to Wood, who passed to Philip Owen, and Rizzolo should have scored when the ball came back to him. To even up matters, McCann had hard luck in not scoring at the other end.

Eric Owen out for two weeks

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 19/9/68

Juventus soccer player Eric Owen who was sent off the field last Saturday in his first game since returning from England has been suspended for two weeks.

The investigation committee last night found the charge of abusive language to the referee not proven but he was suspended for disputing his decision.

Goodman was suspended for one week for his general behaviour towards the referee after the committee had found that he did not leave the field as reported by the referee.

Rizzolo, who was sent off for returning to the field after leaving without permission, was cautioned together with the five other players.

Hanna did not appear to meet the charge of disputing the referee's decision and he will remain under suspension until he does.

The incidents occurred in the Association Cup final between Juventus and White Eagles which ended when the Juventus team left the field after only 30 minutes play.

Melbourne side to play White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett [THE MERCURY] 25/10/68

White Eagles will play Melbourne team Keilor City in the soccer curtain-raiser at Glenorchy tomorrow.

Keilor City has just won the second division premiership, and will play in the first division next year. It is an amateur side with the emphasis on youth and most of the players are Polish.

White Eagles could be without McCann and Jefferson who both are on the injured list.

The main game at Glenorchy will be between Olympia and Helvetic.

Scores:

White Eagles 3 drew with Keilor City 3. Goalscorers for Eagles who were 0-2 at half-time and were trailing 1-3, were Jefferson, McCann and Osuchowski.

Olympia defeated Helvetic 5-0 with a hat trick from Huddlestone and one each to Stanton and Shacklady.

WHITE EAGLE
State Premiers, Summer Cup Winners
1977

Back: D. Finegan (Chairman), T. Steenhuis (Manager), B. Rybak, D. Trueman, M. Southworth, M. Richards, E. Kelly, L. Nunn (C), M. Oakes, B. Jones (Trainer), G. Jenkins (Coach) **Front:** P. Linnell, M. Sikora, B. McKay, W. Bucher, H. Stewart, P. Wass, Gary Jenkins

1977 Michael The Tailor Cup Final – 25/4/77 – Grove Rd.

Eagles recover after a shaky start to down Metro 3-0

By Gordon Burnett

White Eagles won the $500, Michael the Tailor pre-season soccer competition yesterday when they beat Metro 3-0 in the postponed final.

It was their second successive triumph in this two-year old series, and as well as the trophy, they received a cheque for $300. Metro won $100 for being runners up, Olympia $70 for taking third place, and Caledonians $30 for fourth place.

Metro pressured White Eagles into errors in the first 10 minutes, but a retaken penalty by Worden opened the scoring against them in the 16th minute, and a great goal by Jenkins soon after saw, Eagles establish a winning advantage. A goal by replacement Oakes with 30 minutes to go sealed the result.

The penalty came when a good pass by Richards sent Jenkins away on the right, and Turner failed to take his centre cleanly. Linnell was heading the ball into the net, when Nigel Sugden handled, to save the goal.

Worden's first shot was yards wide, but it was ruled the goalkeeper had moved, and he scored with his second attempt. A pass by Sikora saw Jenkins make a 50-yard run, before scoring with a shot across goalkeeper Turner, for the second goal.

A glorious centre by Smith went begging, and he had a shot that just cleared the crossbar. The best effort of the game however came from Richards, who fired in a powerful shot from 30 yards, that just skimmed the bar. Oakes came on 18 minutes into the second half, and scored within 14 minutes, from a pass by Richards.

Eagles did well to weather Metro's early determination, and then proceeded to set their own pace. Richards and Jim McKinnon received yellow cards. Outstanding were Richards, Nunn, Worden and Jenkins for Eagles, and Nigel Sugden, and the well-marked Smith for Metro.

White Eagle - Starting Line-up

W. Bucher

M. Sikora	**P. Linnell**	**L. Nunn (Capt.)**	**D. Trueman**
G. Jenkins	**H, Stewart**	**B. McKay**	**M. Richards**
	M. Southworth	**K. Worden**	

Substitutes:
M. Oakes (on for Trueman)
P. Wass (on for Jenkins)

Result: White Eagles 3 (Worden (pen), Jenkins, Oakes) def. Metro 0

Metro-Olympia talent the highlights of season start

By Gordon Burnett 1/4/77

NEW talent of a high calibre will be on view, when the soccer season opens, with five first Division roster games this weekend.
And the two best matches will be on Sunday, the Metro-Olympia clash likely to be a real cliff-hanger.

Metro, who could be the best amateur club this season, have an excellent recruit in Dave Love (21), a striker from the Perth (WA) club Ascot, who watched Metro train and asked to join them.

He has scored in every game since. Coach David Rae is glad to have former under 16 representative player Tony Stewart back, although he will be away in Melbourne this Sunday.

Metro beat Olympia 2-1 in the pre-season tournament semi-final, and strengthened by State player David Smith and Paul Fone, they could do it again.

Talent

But Olympia are brimming with talent.

They have been reinforced by a very promising centre-forward in Mohamed Mahjouri from Morocco, Ron Bolton from Dnipro, who has improved with ball players on either side of him, and Chris Hargrave will be at centre-half after a spell with Juventus.

Coach Peter Cagialis could turn this team into premiership material. Olympia have cleared Robert Vail to Rapid, and his brother Gordon is still having trouble with his knee.

White Eagles could be the side to beat for top honours as they have been greatly strengthened by the return of Ken Worden and Brian McKay, although they will be without Cliff Morgan.

He is recovering slowly from his thigh injury, and is unlikely to play this season. Bucher is not available and winger Wass will be in goal this week.

University's new coach Walter Pless, was pleased with their performances in the pre-season tournament, and is sure the return of Drygala to the midfield after a spell from the game, and Connolly back from the Northern Territory, will give the side added confidence.

They look solid in defence and have an elusive striker, Roger Norman, a former league top goal scorer.

Peter Ahearne, who did well for Metro and Olympia several seasons ago, will be centre-forward for Dnipro, after playing in Melbourne. Dnipro also have Peter Davis from South Hobart at full-back and Paul Aberley is shaping well on the half-back line.

Caledonians have Joe Hanna from Juventus and hope to have Hugh Mackinnon also from that club in the next couple of weeks. Norman Stanton is back from overseas and will be playing in the reserves.

Young Fit

South Hobart have a young but fit side, who will be built around former Croatia stars Eddie Puclln, Yakob Plazonic and coach Tony Skaro.

They meet Croatia tomorrow, and will face former colleague Billy Kirkpatrick, now signed on for Croatia, who have persuaded Milan Lakoseljac to remain with them, after he had been negotiating with South Hobart.

Without Andy Collins, Croatia look weak up front, although their defence is sound enough with former Metro sweeper Ray Mohring shaping well.

Collins is expected to join them later and in the meantime his brother Chris will make the trip each week from Campbell Town.

There is talk of a class player from Sydney and another from Europe, which could restore Croatia's confidence.

New coach

Juventus, who have lost seven of last season's squad, have a new coach in State player Frank Letec from Rapid, a hard-working midfielder in Ossie Moore from Olympia, an improving defender in Vito Tria after four years with South Hobart, and Erik Owen is back from interstate.

They have a good attack that packs plenty of punch, but Letec is still experimenting in the defence. An encouraging feature about Juventus is the resurgence of interest among the young Italians.

Rapid are only a shadow of their premiership side. Don Farmery last year's top scorer, is not on their list, but they are hoping he will be playing soon.

Wolfgang Stuetzel is in the North, Plazonic and Letec have transferred, and Kannegiesser and Box are in the UK. This calls for greater reliance on under 17 players, and it will take time before they settle down.

Caledonians, Croatia, Eagles, Juventus, and Olympia look likely winners

Lone goal pays off Olympia as soccer kicks off

By Gordon Burnett 4/4/77

A LONE goal scored by Tommy Wright, 20 minutes into the second half, gave Olympia two hard-earned Winfield League Division 1 points against Metro, in slippery conditions at South Hobart Yesterday.

And at Glenorchy, Rapid-Wrest Point, reinforced at the last minute by ace goalscorer Don Farmery, beat Juventus-Pioneer 4-2.

The opening weekend program also saw Michael Southworth (White Eagles), score four goals against University on Saturday.

With the first goal a likely match-winner, Metro's newcomer Dave Love, almost kept up his goal a match record, when he took a pass from Pitchford in the 64th minute and crashed in a great shot, only to see it saved brilliantly by Roussos.

In the next minute, Schwesinger only just managed to block a powerful shot from David Smith, as Metro crammed on the pressure.

However, the pressure instead, produced a wave of growing confidence, that led to Metros downfall, when a casual defence let Wright in for the only goal of the game.

It was a bitter pill, but they should have been two goals down when a corner kick found an unmarked Mahjouri and the Moroccan ballooned the ball over the bar from five yards.

A close one from Love and two very fine corners by Smith saw Metro in the picture to the final gasp.

Olympia's goalscoring left- winger Ron Bolton, had an interesting duel with Paul Fone, and Craig Turner, Metro's substitute goalkeeper, brought off several good saves, while Nigel Sugden and Smith played themselves into the ground for Metro.

Rapid handled the conditions at Grove Rd much better than Juventus. With Farmery given a lot of space to move, and good performances from Bachinger, who opened up the centre of the field, the Dilba Twins John and Jack, and Tommy Wilson, they were worthy winners.

Juventus, beaten badly for midfield supremacy, and down 1-2 at half time, had reason to be pleased with Frank Paternoster's debut on the wing, and Vita Tria's return to a full back position. Otherwise, they looked unusually jaded.

A lack of sharpness up front, saw Caledonians squander a number of first

half chances when playing with the wind at the Crossroads on Saturday, and they had as much of the second half without scoring.

Then, 10 minutes before time, goalkeeper Jones, who had hardly touched the ball, brought centre forward Ahearne down in the penalty area, and he scored to give Dnipro two surprise points.

Caledonians' skipper Hales hit an upright, Hanna skimmed the bar, Siggins fired in three shots in quick succession, and Clarke missed a golden opportunity, as Holmes proved unpassable in the Dnipro goal.

Dnipro coach Rawlings and McDougall also did well in the hard-worked defence.

Billy Kirkpatrick had a dream debut for Croatia, scoring the season's first goal in the division, and leaving a good impression at centre-forward, as did recruit Ray Mohring at centre-half.

But it took Croatia much of the second half, to get two more goals against South Hobart. Former Croatia player Plazonic, was in top form in defence for South.

Playing in the midfield, Hall set up the second goal and scored the third himself, but it was not until Chris Collins was brought on as a replacement, that the midfielders really fired.

Against a side who have not found their feet yet, coach Walter Worsey, was able to hide the fact that Croatia were desperately short of forwards, with Leung away and Lakoseljac off target.

University kept the powerful White Eagles down to a lone goal at half time, but Southworth then ran riot, to bring his tally to four out of a total of six by the Eagles.

Gambles, who stood out for University, scored when Eagles were leading 3-0, but it only spurred on their opponents against a young and energetic side who will worry the top clubs.

With Oakes off with an injured ankle early on, the Eagles' attack relied on the Stewart - Southworth - Worden combination, and it worked smoothly.

TSA officials reported the loss of the turnstiles and scoreboard numbers from the South Hobart ground.

Result: White Eagles 6 (Southworth 4, Draskovic, Worden) def. University 1 (Gambles)

South soccer line-up weakened by loss of three

By Gordon Burnett 9/4/77

THE Southern Tasmanian soccer team to play the Combined League in Devonport today, has been weakened by the withdrawal of Ken Worden and Danny Spendiff because of unavailability, and Mike Bailey with a back Injury.

Nigel Sugden and Brian McKay have been brought in to make a 13-man squad, which could surprise the confident Combined side. The Southerners rely on skill, and if they can match their rivals' speed and determination, they will go close to winning, despite being below strength.

The idea behind these North v South games is not only to introduce new faces to the main centres, but also to give the selectors a chance of seeing the talent available in the event of a match against a touring side being arranged at short notice.

Winfield League Division 1

Because of the South v North fixtures on Saturday, there will be no Winfield League Division 1 program until Monday, when there will be five matches, two at South Hobart, two at Glenorchy, and one at Sandfly.

State club champions Rapid-Wrest Point, who started the season with a win over Juventus, meet Croatia in the game of the day at South Hobart, and Croatia are determined not to lose 0-5 this time.

Scored four

In the corresponding game last year, Don Farmery scored four of those five goals, and he will need very careful marking on Monday. Rapid, who have no representatives in the Southern team, are responding well to new coach John Dilba's methods, which at this stage are concentrating on fitness and teamwork, with tactics to come.

They have an embarrassing number of reserves, where Robert Vail, from Olympia, and Englishman Phillip Edmondson are on the verge of first team selection.

Croatia will be greatly strengthened by Kevin Leung in attack, and Chris Collins from Campbell Town, is certain to get more than half a game this time.

White Eagles have struck early misfortune, with Mark Oakes out with a badly bruised foot, Gorniak nursing a knee injury, and Eamonn Kelly ill in London. Eagles play Caledonian, their bogey team, although they beat them comfortably to reach the final of the Michael the Tailor pre-season competition.

Worden now is likely to play at centre-forward, with Jenkins and Wass on the wings. Calies are waiting on developments in their bid for Hugh Mackinnon's transfer from Juventus, and will not name their team until Monday. Stanton will be ln the squad after his trip overseas, and wingers Godfrey and Siggins should show improved form at Grove Rd, where the ground is wider than the Crossroads.

Stewart back

Metro's game against traditional rivals South Hobart, will mark Andrew Smith's last appearance before going North on an open clearance, and also Michael Sugden's inclusion after playing cricket finals.

Tony Stewart will be back from Melbourne, but this team with three sets of brothers and three Southern representatives in David Smith, Dave Love and Nigel Sugden, will miss Fone and Stan Peters, who will be in Sydney.

Coach Tony Skaro could miss this game and in his absence newcomer Plazonic will be in charge of the team, which includes Tavasz formerly of White Eagles.

Dominic Rizzolo is captaining Juventus after nine years with the club and Colin West is his deputy. There is a three-man selection committee – coach Frank Letec, Dino Palermo, and Luis Genovesi – all with equal powers.

Remo Carnevale is expected to be playing in a couple of weeks and this seasonal player will do a lot to strengthen the midfield, from where Rizzolo will move up into the attack on Monday.

Weak midfield

Olympia. who are close to introducing a new player from Canberra, have problems in the midfield despite their win last week against Metro, and coach Peter Cagialis will be giving this his fullest attention this weekend against Dnipro at Sandfly.

Mahjouri did not produce his good training form and it would not surprise to see Dennis Trueman given his chance. if he can get his clearance from White Eagles.

Dnipro have proved very early on that they cannot be taken lightly, and they have got Vince di Tomasso back after a foot infection. But he is unlikely to play more than one half, and then possibly on the wing, with Ahearne in the centre.

Rapid had to come from behind

By Gordon Burnett 12/4/77

RAPID-WREST POINT, Olympia and White Eagles are the only clubs with a 100 per cent winning record, after only two weeks in the Winfield League Division 1 soccer competition.

Rapid, last season's State premiers, had to come from 0-2 to beat Croatia 3-2, despite a spirited finish by Croatia that should have produced goals. Coach Walter Worsey will need to show them how to head the ball in the goalmouth.

Olympia, and White Eagles had comfortable wins, with Moroccan Mahjouri playing a much-improved game, to go close to a hat-trick, and Michael Southworth scoring twice, to bring bis tally to six goals from two games.

Metro beat South Hobart in an entertaining game that saw a goalless first half and was featured by fine goalkeeping by State representative Eddie Puclin.

Juventus were rocked by an early goal by University, who have the makings of a good side and need only to combine better and crossed over 2-2. They led 4-2 and won 5-3, with Eric Owen getting two goals.

It was good to see University striker Roger Norman among the goals again in this division, and his two came from typical opportunism.

Result: White Eagles 3 (Southworth 2, Jenkins) def. Caledonians 0

Eagles key player on bench for vital Olympia match

By Gordon Burnett 15/4/77

WHITE Eagles will have centre-forward Mark Oakes on the bench for their vital Winfield League soccer game against Olympia at Sandfly tomorrow.

He came through training last night, but was treating his ankle injury very gingerly and can expect to play one half tomorrow.

Alongside him on the reserve bench will be Dennis Trueman, who has withdrawn his application for a transfer to Olympia and trained with Eagles last night.

White Eagles have no qualms about playing at Sandfly and they won 5-1 there last season. There will be a battle royal for supremacy in the midfield with the effectiveness of Worden and Southworth (Eagles) and Spendiff and Mahjouri (Olympia) depending on the result.

The tall Moroccan player ls improving with greater fitness and on Monday was laying the ball off cleverly and was particularly dangerous in the goal mouth.

Olympia have a versatile defence in Schwesinger, Morales, Hargrave and Conlan, with Roussos in good form in goal. But they will miss Mike Bailey, who is troubled with a back injury, and Chris Broughton, who is taking a rest from the game.

Juventus-Pioneer against Caledonians will be opposed to two of their former defenders in Joe Hanna and Hugh Mackinnon, and it could be close. Juventus are looking for another keeper now that reserve keeper George Bighin is unable to play.

Rocca Travierso is back from injury but is not always available. Karl Jaeger is not playing this season. Winger de Felice is ruining determined bursts, by shooting from difficult angles instead of passing.

Remo Carnevale could play his first game of the season, and this would improve the midfield although he is not yet fit enough.

Calies are building a solid defence but need to sharpen their attack which is lacking drive.

South Hobart could be giving the promising Robert New (17) a run. Another likely first team player before the season is out, is Henry Middap, who made the trip to Burnie on Monday to score four goals for the reserves.

South will find Rapid Wrest Point a tough nut to crack, but the keenness is there, and they could worry last season's premiers if they get the run of the ball.

Rapid have got goalkeeper Mick Caban on loan for the season from Juventus, and Robert Vail and Phil Edmondson are showing good enough form in the reserves, to make strong claims when they get fitter.

Rapid is demanding increased fitness and a 90-minute game from their players.

Metro were disappointed in their display against South Hobart, when they were slow and astray in their passing, but they will have Paul Fone and Stan Peters back in the side this week against Dnipro.

Croatia who should have beaten Rapid on Monday, were put through a solid spell of heading practice last night, after having Tuesday off from training. They will have Billy Krawczyk away with a back injury, but Dudley Hall, who played so well in the first half on Monday and then had to come off with flu, is fit again and can be expected to play another storming game from the wing-half position.

Croatia showed glimpses of their best approach work, finding position with the least effort, only to fall down in their finishing. They need another striker.

Ray Mohring had a good game against Don Farmery and is settling down well in his new team.

Croatia whose speed will be tested by University, Juventus, Metro and Rapid are expected to win, with Olympia and White Eagles to share the spoils.

Tomorrow will see the introduction of the rule for free admission for players of a playing club at a paying ground provided, they have their identity card. This will include managers and coaches also.

Olympia go close in tough match against Eagles

By Gordon Burnett 18/4/77

Olympia went very close to beating the star-studded White Eagles on Saturday, before a record Sandfly soccer ground crowd.

They crossed over with a deserved 1-0 lead, fell back in defence 15 minutes after the resumption, conceded two goals in three minutes, and had Mohamed Mahjouri injured and Chris Hargrave sent off, just before full time.

It was a hard-tough game, that all but got out of control, and the spectators were close to brawling at the finish. A linesman removed his referee’s shirt and wanted to fight one of them.

Discontent arose from an alleged fisting of the ball by Worden before the equalizing goal was scored by Southworth 26 minutes into the second half. Before Olympia could recover, Nunn had scored a second goal three minutes later.

Both these goals came following the replacement of Wass in the 67th minute by Oakes, who initiated both the moves.

While Eagles who have played better, were beaten in the midfield for well over half the game, and their rugged defence was well tested by the probing distribution of Wright and the deadliness of Spendiff.

Linnell stood out, while Worden’s artistry provided a number of opportunities, up front that were not backed up.

Morales was outstanding in Olympia’s

defence, which was well held together by Conlan while Spendiff was the most dangerous forward on the field.

A pass from Wright saw Spendiff dart across to the right of the penalty area, beat two defenders and fire in a shot from an oblique angle that went between Bucher, and the near post for a great opening goal, eight minutes before halftime.

Southworth had a chance near goal when Worden made a brilliant opening, but he was slow in shooting.

In the second half, Mahjouri lobbed just over the goal after beating Nunn on the right and being confronted by the advancing Bucher.

Soon after Spendiff just failed to get to a centre from Mahjouri, and a Bolton pass saw Spendiff's shot cleared from off the goal line by Nunn.

It was after Roussos had saved from Stewart and Worden in quick succession that Olympia put up the shutters, having nine men back into defence at times.

White Eagles chose this period to being on Oakes, who had been nursing an injured ankle. And it was a pass back by Oakes that gave Southworth the equalizer.

A pass by Oakes, out to the left saw Nunn collect the return cross to score, what was to be the decider. Hargrave was sent off for a tackle against Richards.

Caledonians were unlucky not to draw with Juventus-Pioneer as replacement Remo Carnevale's late decider in a very close game could well have been from an offside position.

It was Carnevale's first appearance of the season, and he played for the last 30 minutes, in place of de Felice.

Calies scored first but it was 1-1 at half-time. Juventus went to 2-1 and Calies equalized with 14 minutes to go.

The winner came very soon after. West, Owen and Fraraccio were best for Juventus, while Hanna, Hales and Adkins did well for Calies.

Crossing over 3-0 in the lead, Croatia beat University 4-0 in a poor game featured by a very promising debut by former Launceston Croatia player Adam Djakic.

Billy Kirkpatrick was among the goals again, and only a magnificent saved by John Hargrave stopped him getting his first hat-trick for Croatia.

A last-minute goal by Don Farmery, saved Rapid Wrest Point from a surprise defeat against South Hobart yesterday, and the draw left White Eagles as the only 100% winning team, after only three weeks.

South who beat Rapid 4-2 in the corresponding game last season, opened the scoring through Thomas from a pass by Tavasz, but Schiebl had made it 1-1 by half time.

With time running out Puclin pulled off a brilliant save to stop a hot shot from Farmery and foiled Schiebl's follow up attempt. At the other end McCallum saved well from Thomas and Plazonic.

With less than 10 minutes remaining a cross from Thomas saw Tavasz score for South. It was when an indirect free kick was awarded to Rapid about 10 metres from goal, that the ball went to the unmarked Farmery for the equalizer.

In a scrappy game in which Farmery and Wilson each received yellow cards, Plazonic was the best man on the field, while both goalkeepers played well.

At Glenorchy four goals by Jim McKinnon put paid to any hopes Dnipro might have had. They crossed over 0-2 and lost 6-0.

Result: White Eagles 2 (Southworth, Nunn) def. Olympia 1 (Spendiff)

Unchanged Olympia better balanced than Juventus

By Gordon Burnett 29/4/77

Rumours that all was not well in the Juventus-Pioneer soccer club were denied last night.

"Difficulties have been ironed out, and the players are keen to uphold our unbeaten record on the Sandfly ground", a club spokesman said.

Juventus never far from the top of the Winfield League Division One standings will start the game against Olympia tomorrow in fifth position with ten goals for, and nine against suggesting there is something wrong in their defence. And yet goalkeeper Howlin, Fraraccio, Tria, West, the improving Prodan and coach Letec inspire confidence, but they need to back one another up more.

Eric Owen will lead the attack with de Felice, and Captain Rizzolo on the wings and Carnevale and Moore doing the hard work.

Clearance

Former captain John Genovesi has decided to give the game away for this season and concentrate on getting over injuries.

There is no word of Roger Norman's expected clearance from University to Olympia, except that his application will be tabled at their meeting on Monday and will lie there for seven days. It is a frustrating delay for Norman, who claims he's an amateur, and for Olympia, who need him badly as a goal scoring forward.

Olympia will be unchanged for the third successive home game and have a better-balanced side than Juventus with a rugged defence, a hard-working midfield, and forwards who can move the ball accurately.

White Eagles have their second game against Metro in a week, but there will not be the pressure of a cup tie this time. Oakes is coming good but may still need to play only a period of the game. With talented players like Oakes, Wass and Trueman, to bring on fresh, the Eagles are in the box seat. Their policy is to use all 13 players selected whenever possible.

Metro could be including utility player Michael Sugden soon. Metro started well enough last week with pressure tactics, but a retaken penalty was a bitter pill, and they will be keen to show they are better than a three nil defeat would suggest.

Rapid Wrest Point who are just getting over Monday's nightmare against Croatia surprised by including Wolfgang Stuetzel in their list of players against University. Stuetzel who was the SEM player of the year last year, broke his leg in a social game three weeks after the 1976 season officially ended.

He's very fit and keen to get started again, as soon as possible, and says his leg has stood up well to gym, and ball work at Queenstown. He has signed on for all games and is the sweeper centre-half Rapid need.

Caban will be in goals as the selectors consider the youthful Mick McCallum needs a little more experience in the reserves.

Caledonians have flattered only to deceive this season, and there must be some doubts about their fitness. Hanna is fit again, but Jotic and Clark will be playing in the reserves, with Under 17 players Nichols and Ferguson getting their places in the squad.

Croatia who have generally done well at Margate have their worries with Bill Krawczyk, whose back injury is recurring. He might be out for several games.
They will depend on their formidable midfield trio of Peters, skipper Hall and the very fit Cowen to make the openings for a forward line who know the way to goal. Payne is running into form in their defence, and Djakic will be alongside Mohring again, after a week's absence.

South Hobart are making no changes for the needle game against Dnipro, who will be strengthened by the return of Holmes in goal. But they will miss Victor Lagerewski. Zeitzen could be playing on the wing for Dnipro and South signed on Adkins and Madden during the week.

White Eagles, Rapid, Olympia, South Hobart, and Croatia, look likely winners.

Last minute equalizer saves Croatia in cliff-hanger

By Gordon Burnett 1/5/77

Caledonians came within seconds of beating Croatia, in a thrill-a-minute second half in their 3-3 Winfield League Division One soccer draw at Margate yesterday.

Caledonian scored first. led 2-1 at half-time and were 3-2 with 10 minutes to go. Then dead on 90 minutes, Billy Kirkpatrick scored the equalizer, after extreme pressure had been placed on Calies, who had had the crossbar rattled by shots from Peters (twice) and Cowen.

Croatia looked a beaten side when skipper Dudley Hall left the field in the 56th minute with a pulled muscle, but they rallied, and finished well on top. Kirkpatrick's two goals maintained his scoring record in every roster game, a feat shared by Don Farmery, last season's top goalscorer.

The opening score came when Mohring put through his own goal under pressure in the eighth minute. A Kirkpatrick header from a Leung centre brought the equalizer, in the 17th minute, and Calies went ahead again, when Farmery got his head on a Godfrey corner in the 28th minute.

In the 68th minute goalkeeper Jones brought Lakoseljac down in the penalty area, and Peters equalized, only for a Godfrey cross to be converted by Siggins.

Determination

The last gasp equaliser by Kirkpatrick came from a pass by Leung. Jones was the man of the match saving brilliantly against shots from Leung and Lakoseljac and a header by Mohring when he came up for a corner in those last hectic minutes. Hall, Peters, and Cowen stood out for Croatia.
The recent Juventus-Pioneer shake up produced a new determination that took them to a deserved 3-1 win over Olympia on Saturday. They backed one another up, and after leading 2-1 at half-time they scored again, despite taking a more defensive role.

Moore got through an incredible amount of work in the midfield, and winger de Felice, was the most dangerous forward on the ground, scoring one himself and providing the centre, from which Letec headed in the first goal.

Owen picked up a yellow card for a tackle on Parolas. Olympia had as much of the play. Two defeats in their three home games and only three goals to show for their efforts, is a disappointing result for a team with so much talent.

Fine centres

What they need is another goal scoring forward, to help Bolton, who's shone on the left wing and Spendiff who was limited to one shot at goal. Manis sent over several fine centres which were wasted.

A de Felice centre was headed home by Letec in the 16th minute, but five minutes later Bolton beat three defenders, and then went back on his tracks, past the same men before slamming in the equalizer.

The next minute, however, saw a high ball from Rizzolo caught by the wind, and go well out of Roussos' reach. Coach Frank Letec brought Owen back into the Juventus defence and relied on a three-fold attack in the second half, but for all that, de Felice put the issue beyond doubt, with a powerful low shot in the 75th minute.

A fit George Sarfalvy with an open clearance from Juventus in his pocket watched the game, and he could be playing at the end of this month for Juventus, Olympia, or Croatia.

A lone goal by Mark Oakes in the 67th minute gave White Eagles the points against Metro, who had been reduced to only 10 men early in the second half, when David Love got his marching orders for allegedly abusive language. It was a hard, rough niggling type of game and a draw would have been a fair result.

White Eagles were without McKay, had Linnell carried off with an ankle injury, and Stewart had to come off with a leg injury. This enabled Rybak and Jenkins to be used as replacement replacements in the second half.

Nunn, and Bucher were outstanding for Eagles, while David Smith, Love, and the Sugden brothers Nigel and Michael were best for Metro, who were playing Eagles for the second time in five days.

Wolfgang Stuetzel who successfully came through his first test after breaking a leg at the end of last season and Rapid Wrest Points defence had a new authority about it in the face of fast University raids.

Farmery bagged four of their 7-2 win to go to the head of the goalscoring list. Rapid without Schiebl but led 6-2 at half time after being 1-1 and 5-1, and youngsters Medhurst Thompson Willcock all turned in good displays.

University play fast and open football but lack penetration. Former Northern player Dave Hunt had had a good debut for them.

South Hobart beat Dnipro by the odd goal in three in a rough and tumble at Grove road yesterday after leading 1-0 at half-time. Scott Murray had a good game for South, who had to replace the injured Weitenauer in the first half.

Result: White Eagles 1 (Oakes) def. Metro 0

Norman return will strengthen Olympia

By Gordon Burnett 6/5/77

There is growing confidence in the Olympia soccer club with the return of ace goal scoring forward, Roger Norman.

He was transferred this week by University, with whom he was successful as both player and coach, taking them to a premiership that carried with it a promotion to the Winfield League Division One.

Olympia need a player of his type to take advantage of lapses by the opposing defence in the face of clever ballplayers, and there is no doubt that he will fit well into this attack.

However, it will be a hard game on Sunday for Olympia against Croatia. At the first roster appearance at the Grove Road ground this season, Croatia have got Bill Krawczyk back in the defence, but skipper Dudley Hall is on the doubtful list after pulling a muscle on Sunday.

Treatment

Hall, who took things very easily at training last night after receiving treatment throughout the week and he will need to pass a fitness test. He's having a good season, and the result of the game could hinge on his fitness as his sorties lift a team who depends a lot on him.

While Eagles, the only 100% winning team, have a crop of injuries from last week's game against Metro and will line up tomorrow against Dnipro, without Captain Larry Nunn who has an ankle injury and Harry Stewart, who is resting a leg injury.

This could be all that is needed for a hard-working side like Dnipro to spring the surprise of the season. They will have Norman Stanton from Caledonians in their forward line, and

if he and Peter Ahearne, their other top recruit see anything of the ball, the Eagles could be in trouble. Eagles would have to be tipped to win, but strange things happen.

Rapid will be strengthened by the return of Schiebl against Caledonians on Sunday as they look capable of maintaining their unbeaten record. Caledonians will be without Ferguson, and could be too slow for Rapid, who are still hoping to be in the final state league line-up.

Juventus-Pioneer coach Frank Letec is out with an ankle injury for tomorrow's game of the day at Glenorchy against Metro. Metro will miss David Love through an automatic suspension.

It should be a close game with the question mark as to whether Pitchford will be able to hold winger de Felice. It is from the right flank that the main Juventus drive comes, and Owen should be about ready to show his best form in the centre.

South Hobart have Captain Skaro (flu), Chris Baker (knee) and Weitenauer (bruised hip) on the doubtful list and could be in trouble against University.

South we're convincing winners last week and this has done a lot to bolster their confidence. Winners are not easy to pick but Juventus, White Eagles and Rapid look, possibilities with draws in the other two games.

Two men down but Metro hold on for gutsy draw

By Gordon Burnett 9/5/77

Metro survived two send offs, and two penalty goals to snatch a point on Saturday from Juventus-Pioneer in one of the gutsiest soccer displays seen in Winfield League Division 1.

Salient points in a fast game came in the:

• 17th minute, with a penalty against Gill.
• 38th minute, Pitchford sent off for allegedly indecent language.
• 47th minute, Jim MacKinnon heads in equaliser from a Smith centre.
• 65th minute, penalty against Nigel Sugden.
• 77th minute, MacKinnon, West (Juventus) sent off in a pushing and shoving incident.
• 85th minute, Smith heads equalizer from a Fone cross, despite having only nine men.

And in the last 14 minutes Metro could very easily have scored again through Francis, Smith, and Turner, who came out in the field from goal to replace winger Peters for Doig to go in goal.

Juventus player, Bruno di Tomasso, who replaced Paternoster in the second half, received a yellow card and Owen was spoken to several times.

It was a game that must direct TSA attention to possible disadvantages in the disciplinary procedures adopted this season, from Western Australia for alleged abusive language.

Metro lost David Love for most of the second half of the previous Saturday's game against White Eagles, who scored the only goal of the game in his absence.

Suspension rule

Then against Juventus in another needle game, they lost Pitchford in the same category and skipper MacKinnon. Under the automatic suspension rule, neither will be able to play in the Ampol State Cup game against Ulverstone this coming Saturday, May the 14th.

However, there is a chance that an appeal could lead to a special meeting of the investigation committee before Saturday, or a decision to allow the trio to play until the appeal is heard.

Pitchford held the elusive de Felice well in check, Nigel Sugden was great in defence and the brilliant David Smith was a dangerman for a Metro side which showed splendid fighting spirit.

Moore and West stood out for Juventus who were lucky not to lose.

Dnipro provided the upset against White Eagles scoring twice in the last 15 minutes to draw 2-2. After crossing over 2-0, Eagles relaxed, and that was it. It was their first reality check. In the closing minutes a Southworth header was brilliantly saved by Holmes, and Dnipro's new recruit Norman Stanton missed a great chance.

In a below standard game of two penalties - Eagles got theirs for pushing and Dnipro for a tackle – Dnipro deserved their point for a good team effort.

In a typical Crossroads ground game in which there was midfield congestion, South Hobart took a point off University in the last 10 minutes, when winger Adkins a replacement for Taylor rounded off their second half superiority with the equalizer.

University led 1-0 at half-time through more direct methods, were well served by Tony Newton in midfield, and goalkeeper John Hargrave. Tony Skaro and Yakob Plazonic were best for South.

The fourth draw in a five-match program at the weekend saw Croatia, come back yesterday from 0-2 down after eight minutes to be 2-all, and then in the last 20 minutes, Willy Peters hit an upright twice with Roussos beaten. It was Peters who hit the Caledonians crossbar twice last Sunday.

Roger Norman playing his first game for Olympia scored in the second and eight minutes, converting a pass from Mahjouri and then a cross from Manis. Olympia was without Morales for the first 27 minutes, as he was being disciplined for not attending training and Wright was not available, while a very tentative Dudley Hall (Croatia) had to go off after the first half, to rest his leg injury.

Team effort

Both sides had chances in this scrappy game which suggested most of the players had overdone the housework for Mother's Day. Movements were deliberate but painfully slow in execution. Peters stood out as the best man on the field.

Rapid are now sharing top position as a result of a comfortable 4-0 win over Caledonia after being 1-0 at half time through Jack Dilba.

Youngster Peter Thompson scored a neat goal in the second half and Don Farmery collected another two to enter double figures in the roster series. McCallum had a good game in goal and Hales and Hanna did well for Caledonians.

Result: White Eagles 2 (Worden 2, incl 1 pen) drew with Dnipro 2 (V. Lagerewski, Ahearne pen)

Iraqi pair to give Olympia extra drive

By Gordon Burnett 22/4/77

Olympia will have to beat Rapid Wrest Point tomorrow to have a chance of winning the Winfield League Premiership - and they could have two Iraqi aces up their sleeve.

Midfielder Noorey Aziz is reported to be a former Iraqi international player from 1969 to 1972, and his colleague Munther Alwan another midfielder has also been most impressive. But coach, Peter Cagialis may not consider them fit enough for a whole game, and maybe content to throw them into the fray at a crucial stage.

Olympia will badly miss former captain Tommy Wright, who was discharged from the Royal Hobart Hospital yesterday after having a broken elbow bone removed. He leaves for the UK soon.

Wrights loss will not be fully compensated by the return of goal-hungry Roger Norman and a close watch by Rapid on Spendiff and Norman could see Olympia struggling against good teamwork.

Mahjouri missed training and has paid the penalty. Rapid have worried their supporters with the way their defenders take the ball up to their attack, lose possession, and leave a gap to goal, through which opponents can score. They would not want to do this against Olympia.

Open game

Rapid's attack is playing a much more open game this season, and the result is that Farmery is getting more chances.

White Eagles will have Larry Nunn back in the side against South Hobart on Sunday, and after their lapse against Dnipro they will need to take no chances against the young and keen South Hobart side.

Former State centre-forward Tony Skaro had a good game against Northern Juventus in his old position, and he's likely to lead the South attack again. Weitenauer is fit again and Madden should be a fitter proposition this time.

Metro will be without David Love against Croatia. He has a badly swollen and bruised ankle, but there was some good news from Berriedale, Tony Blackmore could be returning soon. He's just what they need to take the heat off David Smith and Love. He scored 11 roster goals last season but has not been available this year.

Metro should have a tough match on their hands as Dudley Hall reported fit, after last night's training, and Croatia will be at full strength. Croatia can beat the best on their day - they took seven goals off Rapid. but they miss a lot of chances. Halls return will sharpen them up.

Dnipro are hoping to negotiate the transfer of Bruno di Tomasso, and Rocco Travierso from Juventus-Pioneer, whom they play tomorrow, and Juventus will be without Frank Letec, and Eric Owen, both with ankle injuries. Michael Gaff is training again with Juventus after a year away.
Caledonians who play University at Margate experimented with Weymouth in the midfield last week, but it was not a success on the small Ravenswood ground. However, the return of Chris Hindmarsh to attack after a spell in defence brought him another two goals.

Hindmarsh has scored nine goals in non-roster games and has yet to score in the league. But he will get his chance on Sunday against University whose defence has let in 23 goals already.

University are unchanged from the team that took a point off South Hobart, John Hargrove is doing well enough in goal to merit representative consideration, Norton is impressive in midfield, and Newman and Goninon are lively in the attack.

I like the chances of Juventus Metro, Rapid, White Eagles and Caledonians

Olympia hit top form to notch 3-2 victory

By Gordon Burnett 23/5/77

Olympia struck their best form for several seasons on Saturday to beat Rapid Wrest Point 3-2 without having to rely on their two new Iraqi players.

With neither of them fit enough yet, coach Peter Cagialis gave former international Noorey Aziz a run in the reserves, and so did not bring him on until the closing minutes. And he had Munther Alwan on for only the last 15 minutes when Olympia were leading 3-1.

Left winger Ronnie Bolton, formerly of Dnipro, was the player of the match, scoring two goals, and being a constant menace to Rapid skipper John Dilba.

But the Olympic success, watched by injured stars, Tommy Wright and Mike Bailey was tempered by the fact that Chris Hargrave got a yellow card for allegedly kicking the ball away after a foul had been awarded against Olympia. This brought his penalty points to the 20 needed for an automatic suspension for up to three matches.

Yellow card

For Rapid, who were beaten in a roster game for the first time, it was a disappointing first half after Cengia had gone off in the third minute with a pulled leg muscle. They had also replaced Thompson in the 33rd minutes to use up their limit in this direction.

They were a goal down in the 33rd minute following a corner, they equalized seven minutes later after a fine run down the road by Jack Dilba, and then saw Spendiff put Olympia to 2-1 a minute before half-time.

16 minutes into the second half, Bolton made it 3-1, and then, in an eventful last 15 minutes Hargrave got his yellow card, Jack Dilba hit the crossbar, Schiebl had two chances, the second of which hit an upright and Farmery scored from a through pass from Jack Dilba as Rapid crammed on the pressure to try to save the game.

Conlan, Bolton and Spendiff stood out for Olympia, while Caban, and Jack Dilba were best for Rapid.

Dnipro's player-coach, Ernie Rawlings and goalkeeper David Holmes were sent off after the game against Juventus-Pioneer for alleged remarks to the referee.

Almost on the full-time whistle Juventus player Dominic Fraraccio, was sent off for alleged serious foul play in that he struck an opponent.

Dnipro had held a determined Juventus team in the first half, mainly through fearless saves by Holmes, but Juventus put on three goals without reply after the changeover, including one from Bruno di Tomasso, who Dnipro want on a transfer. Moore and West stood out for Juventus, and Rawling's and Holmes for Dnipro.

Spectacular

Showing much more spirit with the return of skipper Dudley Hall, Croatia beat Metro 3-0 after a goalless first half in which they had just an edge, although Metro's best player, Nigel Sugden hit an upright, and was unlucky not to score.

Metro who relied on quick thrusts rather than building up attacks paid the penalty for leaving Billy Kirkpatrick unmarked midway through the second half, and the young Scot scored from a cross by Lakoseljac.

It was also Kirkpatrick who got the second goal with a spectacular first time shot following good work by Hall. The third came from Lakoseljac with Turner out of his goal. Djakic had a good game in a reliable Croatia defence against a Metro side who played well in patches.

Crossbar

Replacement Ken Worden - he was nursing a knee injury - came on in the second half yesterday against South Hobart to lift White Eagles from 2-1 to 6-1 with a well taken hat-trick of left footed kicks in the course of 12 minutes. He also missed a penalty, hitting the crossbar.

Worden made the difference in a game in which South Hobart were holding on doggedly. He and Nunn stood out for Eagles who are now two points ahead of the field in the standings.

Bernard Siggins came on as replacement 14 minutes from time, and with his first kick at the ball, scored the lone goal that gave Caledonians the points against University in a fast and open game with Margate.

Goalkeeper John Hargrave saved University from a bigger defeat with a fine display and Hales, MacKinnon Webb, and Hanna did well for Calies.

Result: White Eagles 6 (Worden 3, Southworth 2 incl 1 pen, Wass) def. South Hobart 1 (Thomas)

Clubs upset by penalties

By Gordon Burnett June '77

OLYMPIA soccer club want the TSA to look into referees' decisions against Chris Hargrave.

Hargrave was given the yellow card (four points) on Saturday to give him a total of 20 points, which carries an automatic suspension of up to three matches.

Olympia secretary Terry Gavan said that when Hargrave was sent off in the game against White Eagles at Sandfly a protest was sent to the TSA but received no official acknowledgement.

Hargrave had lost the remainder of the game, was out for the next game and debited with 12 penalty points.

Since this, protests from Metro and Juventus have enabled players to escape the one-match suspension following a red card (send-off) and given 10 points – a reduction of two points.

"A player cannot be assumed to be guilty. He must be proved guilty. And he most certainly must have the right of appeal," Mr Gavan said. "Olympia are spending a lot of money on the promotion of soccer and this kind of thing can only do it harm. What is good for one club must be good for another, and we mean to secure our rights in this matter he added."

"We feel referees are watching for Hargrave to make a mistake and we want the TSA to look into this attitude."

Three players were sent off in the Juventus-Dnipro game on Saturday and it is understood appeals will be made against these decisions.

Under disciplinary procedures introduced this season for the first time. a player can be given 12 penalty points and a one match suspension for violent conduct, serious foul play, or foul or abusive language: 10 points for misconduct after having received a caution; from one to four points for a variety of 22 offences ranging from entering or re-entering the field of play, without the referee's permission, to deliberate tripping.

With a succession of requests likely for special meetings or the investigation committee to hear appeals the TSA could have second thoughts about this new system. A decision to suspend sentence until this committee can meet, would virtually mean reverting to the former system.

Hargrave's penalty reduced

By Gordon Burnett 2/6/77

Olympia Soccer Club player Chris Hargrave has had his 18 penalty points under the new disciplinary procedures reduced to 12 points last night by the TSA investigation committee.

Represented by the club's legal representative Mr Gabriel Haros, he had one ungentlemanly conduct charge dismissed because he was wrongfully charged and had another similar charge reduced from four points to two points.

On a send-off charge he had two points deducted from the 12 points, the charge carried, as he had already been suspended for one match.

Dominic Fraraccio (Juventus-Pioneer) was suspended for one match and received 12 penalty points for striking an opponent.

Dnipro players Ernie Rawlings and David Holmes were each penalised 12 points for remarks made to the referee as the team were leaving the field. Both had been sent off.

Picket plan by Juventus fans

By Gordon Burnett 2/6/77

JUVENTUS-PIONEER soccer club supporters are reported to be planning to picket the Grove Rd. Glenorchy ground on Saturday, in protest against the club's omission from the 10-team Radio Rentals State League next season.

Juventus are rostered to play South Hobart in the Winfield League reserves at l pm, and in the First Division at 2.45 pm.

They are the home team, and any restriction on the entry of spectators will reduce their own gate receipts.

The Juventus club secretary, Mr S. Meale, has written to the Tasmanian Soccer Federation secretary, Mr F. Cunningham, complaining officially about the club's exclusion.

Expressing bitter disappointment, they pointed out that the club had gained a sponsor, who had put a lot of money into the club to produce a professional approach, but this had now received a slap in the face.

Mr Meale said it was one of the oldest clubs in the state, being 21 this year, and had the largest ethnic following. Their record spoke for itself. But despite this, the club had been victimised, and no excuse could be found for their omission, Mr Meale said.

Mr Haydn Phillips, acting president of the TSA in the absence of Mr V. Tuting, said he felt he was best equipped to reply to this letter with reasons - not excuses - as to why Juventus were not included in the State League. He was a member of the steering committee that dealt with applications and as he had not been connected with any club, he was completely unbiased.

He said the fault lay directly with Juventus, and not with the TSA or the State League. There had been mistakes in the Juventus application. Three of the most important questions had been left unanswered, and non-attendance by Juventus at the official announcement of the League had been a slap in the face for the sponsors and for the association itself.

Juventus had been the only club not to attend, he said. Mr Phillips said Juventus' playing record had never been doubted, but the club had not answered questions relating to ground, accommodation, or facilities. Their officials had been in office only this year and the application bad not been signed by the secretary as required.

There had been no information regarding any possible negotiations for a home ground, which added up to the application being in jeopardy.

Three weeks after all the applications had been received, an amended application came from Juventus, but it could not be considered officially in fairness to other clubs.

However, he had noted that a new alternative strip had been mentioned. Mr Phillips said that Juventus had negotiated last year for the Grove Road ground. This had fallen through when they considered the conditions unacceptable. But he pointed out, White Eagles and Croatia accepted the same conditions, and both are in the State League as a result of having this ground.

A suitable ground was one of the first priorities for acceptance to the State League. Then, when it was realised, they were not going to get into the league, Juventus tried to get the South Hobart ground, but two other clubs were ahead of them.

Mr Phillips said it was time Juventus put their house in order and be prepared for the 1980 season, when there would be the first promotion to the State League from the Winfield or Shell leagues.

Sent off field: three appeal

By Gordon Burnett 24/5/77

THREE Winfield League First Division soccer players will be able to play this weekend instead of serving an

automatic one-match suspension for being sent off the field.

They are Dnipro captain-coach Ernie Rawlings and goalkeeper David Holmes, and Juventus-Pioneer player Dominic Fraraccio, who received their marching orders last Saturday. They have appealed against the referee's decision, and this will be heard by the Investigation committee on Wednesday at 5.30 pm.

Announcing this yesterday, the Tasmanian Soccer Association Inc admitted a mistake bad been made in the interpretation of the by-laws of the constitution in regard to appeals against penalties under the new points system adopted this season for the first time.

However, they stated that in future no appeals would be entertained in connection with the disciplinary points system until such time as a player reached the 20 points that made him subject to disciplinary action by the investigation committee. This could lead to a warning as to his future conduct, or suspension for up to three matches.

When Olympia player Chris Hargraves received a yellow card last Saturday for allegedly kicking the ball away when a free kick was awarded against his team, it was assumed by all that it was a four point penalty, taking him to 20 points, accrued from three matches.

Until then, Olympia has followed the guidelines of the new system, but claimed their rights when Metro appealed against send-off decisions against Stephen Pitchford and Jim Mackinnon, and Juventus appealed against the sending off of Colin West.

In these cases, before the investigation committee, the players escaped the automatic one match suspension, and their 12-point penalty was reduced to 10. By allowing this, the TSA virtually invited appeals against all future issues of yellow or red cards, and a string of requests for special meetings of the investigation committee, and they have acted quickly against this.

The weakness in the rule that stops an appeal being made before 20 points are accrued is that it does not take into account that a player could be sent off unjustly and miss the next match, which could be a very important one, but this would not be confirmed until weeks or even months later.

Elite Eagles have the talent down Juventus

By Gordon Burnett 27/5/77

WHITE EAGLES are poised to go further ahead in the Winfield League Division 1 soccer competition standings.

They are two points clear, and play nearest rivals Juventus-Pioneer, who are still without Erik Owen, while Rapid Wrest Point could be in trouble against Metro.

Eagles, who will be better suited to Juventus' style of play, are entering a difficult roster period in which they play Juventus, Croatia and Rapid in successive games.

They could be without Stewart, who has a leg muscle injury, Jenkins (knee) and Wass, who has not trained this week. This has given Bobby Rybak his chance in the attack.

Juventus have signed-on Otto Bachinger, a clever midfield schemer who learned his soccer with Rapid, and he could get a game with them first up.

Michael Gaff had a great game in goal at his first appearance last week after being in South Australia for a couple of seasons, and he will probably play half a game this time. Their hopes could depend on the chances di Felice gets and makes.

David Rae will be on the touchline tomorrow against Rapid, who were unimpressive against Olympia to lose their unbeaten record. But Metro could miss Love again.

New man

Rapid have an interesting newcomer ln Englishman Philip Edmondson, who could come in at midfield, but both Cengia and Thompson must be considered doubtful starters.

These two teams had a goalless draw in the first-round last year and it could be a repeat this time with Nigel Sugden keeping Don Farmery in check.

Croatia last night signed Moroccan forward Mahjouri from Olympia and he should be available to play against Dnipro. He is talented but predictable as he lays the ball off almost continuously, refusing to shoot when in a favorable position.

Caledonians, who have George Arnott's 16-year old son, David, in their squad, were held up repeatedly last week with magnificent goalkeeping by John Hargrave, and tomorrow they will be against State goalkeeper Eddie Puclin when they play South Hobart.

And South, who came out of defence very quickly, were beaten last week by one man - Ken Worden - and there's no-one as dynamic as Worden in the Calies' line-up.

With both teams disliking the Domain Crossroads ground it could be a close game, although the absence of Chris Baker with an infected leg could be enough to give Calies the edge.

Olympia's return to form last week after two defeats, and a draw augers well for success against University. Gordon Vail pulled up well after playing for the reserves and be could be over his knee problems after a long wait.

Caledonians, White Eagles, Croatia, and Olympia look like winning, with Rapid and Metro sharing the spoils in their game.

Disappointing display by new State League sides

By Gordon Burnett 30/5/77

NEWLY elected 1978 State league soccer teams disappointed in the roster series on Saturday, when Rapid Wrest Point went down to amateur club Metro, and White Eagles were held by Juventus-Pioneer

In what coaching director Dennis Ford described as the best club game he had seen In Tasmania, Eagles crossed over 0-0, after Worden had missed a penalty against Tria two minutes before half time.

Five minutes after the resumption, a bad pass back by Linnell to Bucher saw the ever ready di Felice dart in and score for Juventus. But Eagles were on terms again in the slippery conditions when, following a corner kick, Rybak scored through a crowd of players in the 61st minute.

Spurred on by a big following, Juventus almost got through late in the game, after Letec had headed off their goal line to keep out a shot from Oakes.

In the 70th minute a Fraraccio pass saw Carnevale hit the crossbar with the goal at his mercy. Trueman then blocked a piledriver from replacement Bachinger, and Bucher kept out a good shot from Carnevale.

White Eagles played the better soccer and would have won with more support for Worden, who created openings with no one up to take advantage of them.

Despite his defensive blunder, Linnell stood out as the player of the match, while Rybak had a good game, sending in the shot of the match, a low screamer from 30 yards out in the seventh minute, that just went past the upright.

Juventus might have won this game had Owen been available, as this would have put that extra snap into the attack and allowed Fraraccio to play in more familiar territory.

As it was, they relied on quick breaks, and at times kept the pressure on to force Eagles to use nine men in

defence. It was one of Juventus' better efforts as they strove hard to show it was a mistake to leave them out of the State League.

Moore stood out ln the first half, and di Felice was always dangerous.

National coach Jimmy Shoulder was satisfied with the standard but added that improvement would come when players learned to string together their passes better.

State and White Eagles' player Eamonn Kelly, back from the UK after being taken ill, watched the game and, although he is progressing satisfactorily, that is about all he will be doing this season.

Metro coach David Rae had full-back Pitchford on the left wing, goalkeeper Turner on the right wing, Doig in goal, Fone working up alongside Nigel Sugden, and the Gill brothers at full back, and the changes worked like a charm.

A hat-trick by Pitchford laid the foundations for their 4-3 win over Rapid, and Love tried out his injured ankle for the last 20 minutes and it came through well.

Metro were too fast for Rapid, who were led 2-1 at half time. Pitchford, who returned to the full-back position when Fone went off in the second half, and David Smith, did well.

Skipper Jim Mackinnon held the side together when Rapid equalised at 2-2 and looked likely to gain the ascendency. But two quick Metro goals placed the issue beyond doubt.

Rapid, who have slumped to fourth position, were caught too often in possession, and would have done better to have lengthened their passing.

Schiebl was their best forward, Wilson had a god game in defence, and Matthias came on as a replacement, after playing in the reserves match, to score twice. That gave him three for the day as he had scored for the reserves.

South Hobart, without Plazonic, Tavasz, and Chris Baker, played State goalkeeper Puclin, on the wing, Barker in goal, two reserve players straight from the earlier match, and called on two more of the reserves before finishing with 10 men.

The result was an 8-3 Caledonians" win, after leading 3-1 at half time. Chris Hindmarsh opened his roster scoring with four goals, and midfielder Miller and winger Godfrey were two others to impress. Thomas stood out for South.

Moroccan player Mohamed Mahjouri celebrated his debut yesterday for Croatia with a goal against Dnipro, and Croatia won 4-1 after being 3-0 and then 3-1 at half time, in a disappointing game featured by the big kick and missed chances.

The win took Croatia into second place, only two points behind the leaders. University fielded five reserve players against Olympia, and lost Joughin through Injury in the second half after being 1-2 at half time.

Although they lost 2-6, they could have had a couple more goals with greater steadiness. John Hargrave saved one of Schwesinger's two penalties.
Result: White Eagles 1 (Rybak) drew with Juventus 1 (de Felice)

Eagles need to win to shake off fit Croatia

By Gordon Burnett 3/6/77

WHITE EAGLES could shake off Croatia in the premiership standings when they meet tomorrow In the Winfield League First Division, but Juventus-Pioneer will still be right on their tail.

It is a needle game for Eagles, as a win could give them a winning advantage at the start of the second round of games. Harry Stewart could be the key to the match, even though he is on the bench to start with. He is reported to be fit after his injury, and he can fill any position as the game dictates. Jenkins, on the other hand will probably have to rest his knee injury for another fortnight.

Croatia are all fit and just hoping for the break that could decide this game. They cannot afford to let White Eagles get four points ahead of them, and they will try and pressure them from the opening whistle. It is a tactic that has upset Eagles in the past, and if Croatia can only take their chances, they could take this one out.

But Worden, Southworth and Oakes are a formidable attacking trio, and given any sort of support will take a lot of stopping.

Billy Kirkpatrick, who has scored in all seven roster games, will be the menace in a Croatia attack, that will find its way through gaps Eagles may have overlooked. Both teams have a healthy respect for one another, and this should be a real cliff-hanger.

Juventus could be without Owen for the rest of the season as his ankle injury is causing problems, and they will be without Fraraccio tomorrow against South Hobart. In addition, they have loaned their goalkeeper to Dnipro for the rest of the season.

Juventus secretary, Mr S. Meale, said last night that any demonstration planned at the Grove Rd. ground tomorrow would be without the authority of the club's committee.

He was commenting on reports of a likely supporters protest against Juventus' omission from the 1978 State League.

South Hobart hope to be at full strength, with Chris Baker training well after having 12 stitches taken out of an infected leg, Plazonic moving better after a muscle injury and Tavasz responding well to treatment.

South go North on Sunday to play Northern Juventus in the replay of their first round Ampol State Cup game and could find the early start and the Brooks High ground too much for them.

It has been a let-off for Northern Juventus, last year's cup winner, as they are not up to the standard of previous years. Last week they led Burnie Spartans 2-0, and only drew, letting in two goals in the last five minutes. It South can play Streit out of the game they could win this.

Confidence

The return of Cengia. should help Rapid, who are lacking in confidence and not playing as a team. They could strengthen the side if John Dilba could go up to centre-half and regain last season's form.
Newcomer Philip Adamson impressed as a 20th minute replacement and could be used again like this until he is really fit. He trains on his own at Wayatinah.

Opponents Dnipro are lacking the will to win, although they are capable of extending Rapid. Last year they held a better Rapid side for 20 minutes and then lost 0-2, and Dnipro are a stronger side this time.

This is the curtain-raiser of a double-header at South Hobart. Olympia, who beat Caledonians 3-2 twice last year, have dropped Parolas because he missed training, and both Iraqi newcomers Alwan and Aziz might get a game.

Calies have yet to win at Sandfly, where they played rings around Olympia last year to lead 2-0 at half time, and the lose 2-3.

Fone will be out of the Metro side against University as an injury has not cleared up. University have Joughin (leg) and Wignall (broken toe) on the injured list, and 17-year-old Muir could get a game in their attack as a result.

Juventus, Rapid. Olympia, Metro and White Eagles look likely winners this week.

Missed chances cost Croatia easy win in soccer

By Gordon Burnett 6/6/77

CROATIA should have beaten Winfield League first division soccer leaders White Eagles 5-1 but had to be content with a 1-1 draw yesterday at Glenorchy.

Hall missed a sitter, Mahjouri had three open goals, and Peters' penalty shot in the second half hit the framework. For the first 60 minutes it was all Croatia with Mahjouri scoring In the 25th minute following a corner kick - they had nine corners to White Eagles' one in the first half hour.

Oakes equalised 17 minutes into the second half and then Peters missed the penalty against Linnell. In the last 10 minutes Kirkpatrick was replaced after a good game in midfield.

Eagles lost Worden In the 35th minute after he had limped badly for 10 minutes, but replacement Stewart was unable to lift their midfield play. Eagles' failure to control the midfield, and a lack of teamwork in getting the ball from the defence to a set of individual forwards cost them a valuable point.

Now they are only two points ahead of four teams. Croatia's main problem persists - lack of scoring forwards.
With time running out Southworth got the ball into the net for Eagles but handled it doing so, and Mahjouri was too slow to convert a great chance with five minutes to go. Kirkpatrick, Lakoseljac, Peters, Hall and Krawczyk played well for Croatia, and Trueman, Nunn and McKay were the best for Eagles.

South Hobart had two matches at the weekend, drawing, in their roster match with Juventus, and losing 1-2 after extra time in their Ampol State Cup replay against Northern Juventus at Launceston.

South scored in the eighth minute when Skaro ran on to an indirect free kick and slammed it home, but it was 1-1 when Ponting converted a penalty for hands in the 30th minute.

There was end to end play and both sides bit the framework In the second half. The decider came in the second half of extra time when a corner by Hodge was perfectly dummied by Streit to present Ponting with a gift goal.

South, who ran out of stamina in extra time were best served by Thomas, who had a great match, Weitenauer and Puclin. Strickland, Streit and Ponting did well for Northern Juventus.

Strengthened by the return of Cengia and using John Dilba at centre-half, Rapid-Wrest Point raced to a 6-0 half time lead against Dnipro, who had to play John Straatsma in goal when Holmes was unavailable.

Dnipro had goalkeeper Travierso transferred to them on loan by Juventus-Pioneer, however, there apparently was no TSA official able to fix up his registration and he was compelled to watch a non-goalkeeper play in his place.

Another unusual feature was the fact that Dnipro captain-coach, Ernie Rawlings, scored for both sides. Latecomer Ahearne came on in the second half to give thrust to the Dnipro attack.

Rapid's understudy goalkeeper, McCallum, was on the bench in the first half, and was then sent to the reserves at the Crossroads, so when Wilson had to come off with a leg injury, Rapid finished with 10 men.

The result was that Dnipro increased their pressure and actually had a 2-1 advantage in this half. Cengia, Schiebl and Jack Dilba stood out for Rapid. and Rawlings, Howell and Stanton were best for Dnipro.

Metro and University turned on a hard and fast Cup-tie type of game in which Metro led 1-0 at half time and were 2-0, five minutes into the second half. But then they seemed to relax, and the students were back in the game with two goals for a surprise point.

John Hargrave was again in good form in goal, and former University star Nigel Sugden and David Smith stood out for Metro.

A patchy game at Sandfly saw Olympia score a goal in each half against Caledonians, who should have crossed over 2-1. Siggins missed two open goals. Conlan was best for Olympia, while Hugh Mackinnon and Hanna were prominent for Caledonians.

In a hard and fast game that could have gone either way, South Hobart were happy to leave Grove Rd. with a well-deserved point. They have not had a good record against Juventus in recent years.

Eastwood playing at full-back was the best man on the field, and captain-coach Skaro got through a lot of hard work in the midfield against a Juventus side who could mount only spasmodic raids.

Thomas and Weitenauer were dangerous in the South Hobart attack. Moore, West and Letec were best for Juventus.

Result: White Eagles 1 (Oakes) drew with Croatia 1 (Mahjouri)

Loss of Adamson and Wilson may cost Rapid dearly

By Gordon Burnett 17/6/77

RAPID WREST POINT soccer club will be without defender Tommy Wilson and promising new midfielder Phillip Adamson for their do-or-die effort against White Eagles tomorrow at South Hobart.

Wilson has an achilles tendon problem, and Adamson has returned to the United Kingdom for four weeks, and their absence will probably cost Rapid the chance of a badly needed win.

Replacements are likely to be Hank Gerven in defence. and Stephen Kannegiesser on the wing. John Dilba will probably continue at centre-half, and Stuetzel could move up into the midfield.

Rapid will need a lot more determination, and Farmery will have to lift his game if they are to hold Eagles.

Eagles have conceded only seven goals from their eight roster games, and Southworth is the dangerman in attack. They had not been beaten in 15 games until the bubble burst on the dreaded Brooks High ground on Monday.

If Eagles learned anything from that loss, it must have been the importance of positional play, and the need for adequate cover play when a defender moves upfield.

They have got McKay on the bench with a leg injury, and will be looking for greater thrust on the wings with the introduction of Jenkins and Wass.

With both teams out of the Ampol State Cup, and concentrating solely on the premiership, this could be the game of the season, and an early goal could swing the match.

And while Rapid (11 pts) and White Eagles (13) battle it out at South Hobart, Croatia (11) meet Juventus (11) at Glenorchy, and Olympia (11) play South Hobart at 12.45 pm at South Hobart.

Croatia, who are assured of a home draw in the Ampol State Cup semi-finals are training well in their quest for the premiership and Cup double.

They will have Mahjouri at centre-forward against Juventus, with orders to shoot more often. He has a powerful shot but is prone to lay off the ball and waste chances. Tattam did not train last night because of flu, and Djakic and Lakoseljac were carrying leg injuries after Monday's game, but should be fit.

Krawczyk will have the most difficult job tomorrow, as he will be marking the elusive and very determined di Felice on the Juventus right wing.

Di Felice is capable of changing the fortunes of a game with a powerful shot, or a deft pass after making the opening.

Juventus are settling down after their State League disappointment and there is a chance that Owen will play for them. His injured ankle came through well at training last night, but he will have to pass a fitness test before he plays.

David Rae relinquished the coaching job at Metro last night to former South Hobart and Croatia coach John Kirkpatrick. Rae, who was in his third year as coach, has new commitments which will not allow him to give enough time to coaching.

He will continue as a player with Metro. Metro, held up on Monday by poor shooting and the brilliance of Tattam in goal, will be at full strength against Caledonians, and are hoping to give Kirkpatrick a win to start off with.

A back injury to Joe Hanna is worrying Calies. He has had physio treatment during the week and will need to pass a fitness test before playing on Sunday. And Weymouth is out of the side with flu.

Calies are a team who can extend the best, but they are running out of players of the required standard and need to close up their game more than they are doing.

Smarting from an unfruitful Devonport visit that cost them some $300, Olympia will be at full strength against South Hobart, and have included Gordon Vail In their squad.

Vail is back after knee operations that have kept him out of the game for several seasons and he could get a part of a game in the attack.

South Hobart are still being plagued with injuries. Chris Baker's leg injury worsened during the game at Launceston, Tavasz and Madden are also on the injured list, and Plazonic is favouring a leg injury.

With only seven goals on the board, Dnipro are reshuffling their forward line against University. Among these positional changes could be the return of di Tomasso to the centre-forward berth, with Ahearne out on the wing to increase striking strength from the flank. Travierso, on loan to Dnipro from Juventus, will be In goal for a part of the game.

In a program that could produce a couple of draws, I like the prospects of Croatia, White Eagles, Olympia, Dnipro, and Metro.

Cagialis quits after dismal display by Olympia

By Gordon Burnett 20/6/77

OLYMPIA collapsed so badly against South Hobart in the Winfield League soccer competition on Saturday that coach Peter Cagialls told the players afterwards he was through with them.

"I spend a lot of time on them and they give me nothing in return", he said. "They do not train properly and will not do what they are told. Now I am not going to worry about them."

But It would not surprise, if Olympia did not read the riot act to their expensive line-up and persuade Cagialis to remain.

Olympia dropped two surprise points after squandering chances in the first half, but luck was with them as top team White Eagles and Juventus-Pioneer also lost.

This means that only two points now separate the first five teams at the end of the first round of nine matches.

In a day of surprises South Hobart came back to win from 1-2 down at half time after Alwan had hit their upright and Norman, Morales and Parolas should have scored against them.

South equalised through Baker in the third minute after the resumption, and after Adkins, Baker (twice), and Thomas had missed chances Thomas took a pass from Baker to score the decider with 10 minutes to go.

Roussos saved brilliantly from Thomas and Adkins before the end as South cut swathes through a disorganised defence that was out on its feet and left Conlan at times to face up· alone to three opponents.

Excelled

The turning point came when Plazonic dropped back into the defence to give south greater confidence and mobility. It was a great performance by South, for whom Thomas and Adkins excelled up forward and Puclin, despite having the flu, was dependable in goal.

In midfielder Aziz was the only player to show his real form for Olympia, who were without Schwesinger and used Hargrave as a late replacement.
Rapid were a goal down to White Eagles in the second minute when Garry Jenkins raced 40 yards down the right touchline and sent across a great centre which Oakes headed in for a goal, but they came back with great courage and determination in the second half to pull off a well-earned win.

John Dilba stood out, with replacement Peter Medhurst not far behind, Mick Caban had a magnificent game in goal. Two other young Rapid players in Stephen Kannegiesser and Chester Willcock also showed top form, in a good team effort.

Oakes showed plenty of dash and determination in the first half to be a constant menace, and Jenkins proved a resourceful winger. Southworth was well below form because he was carrying an injury. Stewart was replaced by Rybak in the second half.

Rapid, who took three points off Eagles last season, equalised three minutes into the second half when Cengia gave Farmery a through pass and he beat the advancing Bucher.

The decider came with 10 minutes to go after Farmery and Schiebl had gone close for Rapid, Caban had saved well from Jenkins and Wass had missed a golden opportunity.

In a neat Rapid build-up, Stuetzel got possession and gave Farmery the chance he was seeking. He has gone further ahead in the roster goalscoring list. Caban defied Eagles' dying efforts when he saved well from Jenkins and Oakes.

After being overrun for 55 minutes by a smooth working Juventus machine, who opened the scoring in the seventh minute, Croatia came into their own when Lakoseljac came on as replacement for Mahjouri in the 68th minute.

Nine minutes later a header from centre-forward Kirkpatrick found Peters for the equaliser and two minutes later a Hall pass was converted by Leung for a 2-1 lead.

Hall should have scored a third from a pass by Leung but put it high over the bar from 10 yards.

Djakic came off 15 minutes into the second half with a knee injury and Rizzolo was replaced by Fraraccio early in the second half.

Krawczyk, who kept opposing winger di Felice subdued, Peters and Leung were best for Croatia, and Owen, Carnevale and Moore for Juventus.

Costly error

Caledonians came back from 0-2 at half time to draw 2-2 with Metro after a much-improved display, despite being without Hanna and Weymouth. Jones, Hales, Hugh Mackinnon and Farmer did well for Calles and Jim Mackinnon and Stewart were best for Metro.

A pass back blunder that led to a goal in the first half and a second half goal by Vince di Tomasso, playing at centre-forward, saw Dnipro take the points from University in bottom of the table rivalry.

Rawlings. Stanton and Travierso who did well in his debut, were best for Dnipro, and University were best served by Page, Goninon, and Tony Scavone, a newcomer from Juventus. Dnipro took a point off White Eagles earlier on and that could now become a deciding factor in the premiership.

Result: White Eagles 1 (Oakes) Lost to Rapid 2 (Farmery 2)

West, Farmery clash could be high spot in soccer

By Gordon Burnett 24/6/77

THE clash between top goalscorer Don Farmery, of Rapid-Wrest Point, and Juventus-Pioneer centre-half Colin West will be the highlight of tomorrow's soccer game-of-the-day at South Hobart.

Juventus played really well last week against Croatia and a repetition of that form will make this game another cliff-hanger, despite the fact that Rapid won the first-round match 4-2.

Juventus coach Frank Letec and Bachinger were members of Rapid's premiership side last year but will be opposed to them tomorrow. It was a good team effort last week that gave Rapid the points against White Eagles, and the use of Stuetzel in the back division enabled John Dilba to use his speed to advantage at centre-half, and so get more into the game.

The players were talking to one another and the result was greater accuracy in their passing – and wingers Jack Dilba and Steve Kannegiesser provided great drive to the attack.

Rapid have scored 33 goals from their nine matches in the first round of the roster, compared with 21 at the same stage last year. But the crunch is that the 18 goals against them at present are 10 more than last year.

Another significant feature is that Farmery scored 15 of those 21 goals last season and has scored 16 of 33 this time, showing Rapid have other strikers. Rapid are advertising for a coach and new players for their entry into the State League next season.
Mention of the State League is a reminder that Burnie Spartans, the only non - State League team left in the Ampol State Cup, have beaten another State League team. They followed their 4-1 win over Caledonians with an 8-1 win over Ulverstone – and Mike Denton has scored six of the 12 goals.

John Kirkpatrick gave Metro a hard first training session on Tuesday after taking over the coaching job, but there are no indications yet as to whether he will be changing their style of play. Metro will have a hard game against Olympia, who are hoping to have smoothed over recent difficulties which were climaxed by coach Peter Cagialis decision last weekend to resign.

There was· a meeting of the committee and players and the upshot was Cagialis is still coach and there is a reported uplift In team morale.

State player Mike Bailey is back in training after a spinal operation and will be playing in the reserves tomorrow. White Eagles have the problem of moulding excellent talent into a team instead of a bunch of individuals concentrating on their own initiative and not paying attention to the coach.

And they made their first move this week to change all this when they dropped defender Trueman and decided to use Linnell and Rybak in the midfield to get additional thrust, with Stewart at sweeper.

Worden has been training again and could be back in a couple of weeks, and the same could be said of McKay, while Kelly had a run with the reserves last week.

University had hoped to do better against Dnipro, and with Chris Gambles back in the attack and de Salis and Robinson promoted from the reserves they are expected to put up a better performance against Eagles. Given half a chance, Page and Newman could worry a suspect Eagles' defence.

Caledonians are hoping their bad run has ended following their second half recovery against Metro last week. Hanna and Weymouth have recovered from injuries, but Weymouth, Hindmarsh and Siggins will be playing for the reserves this week.

Dean had his chance at centre-forward last week and tried hard enough to retain the position, and young David Arnott has found his niche at fullback. They play Dnipro, who are only a point behind them and who have been spurred on by their first double of the season when their reserves won last week.

However, there was gloom in the Dnipro camp yesterday over the death of Joe Nandan, a former first team player, a very good clubman over 10 years and brother of the club's secretary, Nick Nandan. From Fiji, Joe Nandan had a knee operation last year and was just getting into his stride again when he was taken ill some four weeks ago.

South Hobart, on the crest of a wave after their fine win over Olympia will be without Keith Eastwood against Croatia as he is unavailable on Sundays. But Tavasz is over his injury and will fill in at full-back. Steve Clarke is a newcomer from Caledonians to the midfield and David Baker will be at centre-forward again.

South trained well this week and have been heartened by the absence Djakic from the Croatia defence. Croatia trained a little longer last night, finishing up with 15 minutes of sprints to sharpen them up.

Winners this week appear to be Rapid, White Eagles, who beat University 6-1 the first time, Olympia who beat Mero 1-0 earlier, Croatia, who had a 3-0 win over South Hobart and Caledonians, who were beaten 1-0 by Dnipro in the first round.

Letec resigns as Juventus draw again

By Gordon Burnett 27/6/77

JUVENTUS-PIONEER coach Frank Letec resigned on Saturday alter his team drew 2-all with Rapid Wrest Point.

Letec said lack of cooperation and interference in his coaching plans had caused him to resign. In their last five games, Juventus have drawn three and lost two, and it has always been the second half that has let them down.

It is understood international under-23 player, John Genovesi, is considering taking over the coaching job until the end of the season. Letec is the fourth of 10 first division coaches to be in the limelight.

Peter Cagialis (Olympia) resigned and reconsidered bis decision, David Rae (Metro) withdrew for family reasons, and Alistair Hales (Caledonians) has said he will not be coach next year.

Missed two

Rapid should have won on Saturday - Jack Dilba missed two sitters, Schiebl should have scored from a Kannegiesser through pass, and then later when Moore cleared his shot from off the goal line. On the other side of the picture Rizzolo should have headed in a di Felice centre in the opening minutes, and Carnevale booted the ball high over the bar from 10 yards.

Rapid badly missed Cengia, who surprisingly came on as a replacement for Thompson in the second half but was handicapped by his injury. Juventus were without di Felice for the second half. Schiebl gave Rapid the lead in the 15th minute when he

received a through ball from Kannegiesser, but a great pass from Carnevale saw Rizzolo equalise five minutes later.

Rizzolo gave Juventus a 2-1 half time lead when he raced through on a good pass down the centre from Moore to beat both Dilba and Caban to put the ball into an empty net. With only four minutes left in a Rapid dominated second half, a corner on the right by Jack Dilba was headed in by Farmery for the equaliser. Farmery has scored in all 10 roster games.

Heavy ground

Rapid were not at their best in the wet conditions. John Dilba. Stuetzel. Caban and Kannegiesser were their best players, while West, Moore and Carnevale were prominent for Juventus.
Olympia beat Metro 3-1 on a heavy Sandfly ground. Olympia were a goal down In the 42nd minute when Jim Mackinnon took full advantage of a pass from Francis.

Iraqi player Alwan, who had come on as a replacement for Manis, equalised in the 60th minute and then against the run of the play and following a corner, Spendiff beat four opponents with superb ball control before putting Olympia 2·1 ahead.

Spectacular

Norman added the third with a spectacular header from a corner by Olympia's other Iraqi player, Aziz. Aziz was again the best player on the ground, and Conlan, who played in front of Chris Hargrave, Roussos and Morales also played well for Olympia. David Smith, Nigel Sugden, and Ian Gill best for Metro.

John Hargrave saved University from total disgrace when they were beaten 3-0 by White Eagles. White Eagles relaxed and failed to score in the second half. It was poor game that deteriorated after the interval into a big-kicking duel with little attempt by either side to build up attacks.

Hargrave, Scavone and Sumner were best for Uni, and Nunn, Richards and Oakes stood out for Eagles.
Started well

Croatia started well against South Hobart yesterday with a goal by Kirkpatrick in the fifth minute, but only their greater experience and a goal in the 73rd minute gave them the points.

South had their chance to bring off another upset. Adkins equalised at 1-1 in the 20th minute and six minutes later Thomas hit a Croatia upright with the goal at his mercy.

South exerted considerable pressure in the second half, when Baker, New and Weitenauer bad chances before Mahjouri came on for Cowen in the Croatia line up.

The winning goal came when Lakoseljac scored through a crowd of players, and Mahjouri almost added another with a header that Puclin saved brilliantly.

Last-minute

South, who almost scored from a last-minute corner, were best served by former Croatia players, Skaro and Plazonic, while Leung and Payne were best for Croatia.

Caledonians again paid the penalty for being unable to get the ball into the net, dropping a point to Dnipro after monopolising play. They were a goal down at half time.

Ahearne equalised 15 minutes into the second half. Steve Adkins was the best man on the field, and Webb and Hugh Mackinnon also caught the eye for Calles, while Rawlings, Howell and Travierso stood out for Dnipro.

Result - White Eagles 3 (Southworth, Jenkins, Wass) def. University O

Rapid pose big threat to Croatia

By Gordon Burnett 1/7/77

CROATIA, equal leaders in the Winfield League first division and Rapid Wrest Point one point behind, cannot afford to lose tomorrow.

And both sides have been reinforced for their match of the day, sweeper Djakic returning for Croatia, and midfielder Cengia reported as fit again for Rapid. In the corresponding game last season two goals from Don Farmery blasted Croatia's premiership hopes, and this season Croatia's only defeat was against Rapid, who came back from 0-2 to win 3-2.

A more recent yardstick provided by South Hobart, who were unlucky lose 1·2 on Sunday to Croatia and who were held to a 2-2 draw by Rapid with almost the last kick of the game.

Clever wingers

Djakic and Mohring play as twin sweepers with Djakic covering Krawczyk, Mohring covering Payne. This could hold up the clever Rapid wingers, but it could also see the sweepers lured out of position to leave a gap for Farmery or Schiebl to exploit. Top goalscorers Farmery and Kirkpatrick will be opposed to one another.

Croatia can turn it on to beat the best and will probably start off with Kirkpatrick at centre-forward and have Mahjouri on the bench until needed in second half. Rapid have great team spirit, never know when they are beaten, are very fit and have been concentrating on ball movement. But they are late starters and not too good in the mud.

Close watch

If they can keep Hall quiet and keep a close watch on Peters, Kirkpatrick and Lakoseljac they must have a good show.

South Hobart trained yesterday at the South Hobart primary school and had an hour's basketball as well. They have done particularly well in their last three games, drawing with Juventus, beating Olympia, and losing by the odd goal to Croatia.

They are fighting fit for their game against traditional rivals in Metro on the heavy Crossroads ground.
Full strength

Metro will be at full strength, and are quietly confident they will repeat their 2-0 first round win for new coach John Kirkpatrick, who went from South to Metro.

Olympia, who have trained three times this week, are hoping to complete the double against Dnipro, who will be without Paul Lagerewski. He broke down in training last week with damaged ankle ligaments and could be out for the rest of the season.

Dnipro will switch under 17 player Butterworth into their defence. University are likely to give under 17 captain Barker a game in their midfield against Juventus on Sunday, and Wignall could be in their attack. With Goninon and Hoskins again available University hope to show better form. They have scored only four goals from their last five games.

Juventus, who were under reserves coach Jackie Rais at last night's training, will be captained by Dominic Fraraccio, who leaves for Italy on Monday. They will be unchanged except for the absence of former coach Letec.

After having had a good workout on Tuesday, Caledonians gave up their training last night to save the Margate Ground. There have been 11 games on it in the past three weeks.

Siggins bas been reinstated and could be at centre-forward, but goalkeeper Jones is doubtful with an ankle injury. Trueman informed Eagles last night he would not be available again following the club's disciplinary move last week when he was dropped from the side against University. McKay, who has been resting an injury, will take his place against Caledonians.

Metro, Croatia, Olympia, Juventus, and White Eagles are likely winners.

Rapid rule match but Croatia's luck holds out

By Gordon Burnett 4/7/77

RAPID-WREST POINT played all over Croatia but had to be content with only one point in a 2-2 draw on Saturday.

They crossed over 1-0 and led 2-1, only for Croatia to draw level again with 20 minutes to go - and
Cengia came off injured five minutes from the end and Kannegiesser limped with an ankle injury for the whole of the second half.

Showing determination from the opening whistle, Rapid wanted every ball and knew what they wanted to do with it - and it was not the fault of Croatia that Rapid did not win by a comfortable margin.

After Schiebl had opened the scoring in the 14th minute, Jack Dilba sent over a centre that needed only a tap into the goal - but there was no one up to take it. Meanwhile Croatia had not worried the Rapid defence, despite the fact understudy McCallum was in goal.

Latecomer

Latecomer Caban went in goal for Rapid for the second half. The second half started with a good move initiated by Kannegiesser and resulted in Farmery putting Schiebl in a scoring position, only for Payne to clear from off the Croatia goal line. Against the run of play the unmarked Cowen equalised from a centre by Leung in the 56th minute.

Schiebl should have scored from a pass by Farmery before good approach work by Jack Dilba and Cengia ended in Farmery heading in Cengia's centre in the 65th minute.

Croatia substituted Mahjouri for Kirkpatrick and five minutes later a defensive lapse saw a Lakoseljac centre converted by Leung for the 2-2 equaliser.

A good save by Tattam from Schiebl saw the ball go loose with no Rapid forward near to take a heaven-sent opportunity. Croatia. who have tended to run hot and cold this season were below their best.

They failed to get the ball through to their forwards quickly enough, and too often forwards had their backs to the Rapid goal waiting for the ball.

John Dilba's speed got him through a tremendous amount of work, and he was the motivating force behind Rapid. Good support came from Reid, Wilcock and Cengia. For Croatia Payne, Mohring and Peters were best.

The draw put Rapid two points behind White Eagles with seven games to go. South Hobart, who had drawn with Juventus, beat Olympia and lost unluckily to Croatia in their last three games. crashed in the mud at the Crossroads, losing 2-8 to Metro.

Scored first

South scored first and led 2-1, but were 2-4 at half time, and then Love and David Smith completed their second hat-tricks of the season in a good team effort against 11 individuals.

South had conceded eight goals to Caledonians earlier in the season, but they were below strength that time. On Saturday, Chris Baker was the only absentee. With Roussos in Melbourne and reserve goalkeeper, George Paplos without his identity card, Olympia recalled former State goalkeeper Harry Alexiadis against Dnipro.

And Alexiadis, who had already played out in the field for the reserves, ended the match with injured ribs. He was unable to come off at half-time because there was no other goalkeeper available.

Upright hit

Dnipro scored in the first few minutes through Stanton and they hit an upright twice before Norman equalised after beating two defenders. Olympia's defence was shaky without Hargrave, but they lifted their game after the changeover. But they had to wait until 10 minutes to go before they got a winning penalty when Norman was brought down in. the area.

Aziz, Spendiff, Alwan, and Schwesinger were best for Olympia, and Vince di Tomasso, Rawlings and Stanton did well for Dnipro.

Sent off

Dominic Fraraccio captained Juventus to a 3-1 win over University on the eve of his departure for three months in Italy - and he headed in the first of their goals from a comer. Juventus, who led 1-0 at half time, lost Bruno di Tomasso in the dying minutes of the game when he was sent off for alleged dangerous play.

Moore, Prodan and Fraraccio were their best players. University, who gave away two silly goals, were best served by Tony Scavone, Davies, John Hargrave and de Salis, who went off injured in a heavy tackle.

An improved Caledonian side scored first but lost 2-4 to White Eagles in a crowd-pleaser at Margate.

Result - White Eagles 4 (Rybak, Oakes, Southworth, Richards) def. Caledonians 2 (Hales, Farmer, pen)

Bailey back to bolster Olympia

By Gordon Burnett 8/7/77

THE return of State player Mike Bailey could tip the scales in favor of Olympia against White Eagles tomorrow and throw the soccer premiership wide open.
Back after spinal trouble, he has conditioned himself with solid training and three games in the reserves and is fit enough to give the team new impetus from the midfield.

But Olympia will be without Chris Hargrave, who has had a recurrence or his knee injury, and could face an operation. There are reports that the club's two Iraqi players Aziz and Alwan, will be playing their last game tomorrow for Olympia, but the club would not confirm this, although it was stated that Aziz had spoken of going to Sydney.

White Eagles have Eamonn Kelly in their line-up, and he could get his first game of the season as sweeper after being taken ill overseas. And Trueman is back in the fold and will be in the defence.

On the debit side is utility player Rybak with a leg injury. With Aziz and Bailey making the openings, Bolton, Norman and Spendiff will test an Eagles defence that has let in only 11 goals from their 11 games. Roussos, Conlan, Morales and Schwesinger will offer strong resistance to an Eagles' attack, that will rely a lot on Oakes' determination, and their wingers.

Olympia outplayed Eagles in the first round, and then conceded two quick goals to lose 1-2. Whereas Eagles have played five games at Glenorchy this season, and won them all except for a draw with Croatia, Olympia have had a win, a defeat, and a draw, also against Croatia, there this season.

Played well

Dnipro have played well, but without luck in their last three games, and could worry Metro. Ahearne ss firing at centre-forward, and two posters last week very nearly upset Olympia.

Metro, who won their first clash 6-0, with Jim Mackinnon getting four of them, will be without goalkeeper Turner again, and Michael Sugden is not in their squad.
University, strengthened by the return of Gambles in the midfield, have retained Andrew Wignall in their fast-moving attack after his fine goal

against Juventus, and they are hoping for another good display by Tony Scavone.

They are playing Croatia, who beat them 4-0 earlier and who are having their problems. Wayne Cowen is likely to leave for Queensland at the end of the month, and prolific goalscorer Billy Kirkpatrick has been transferred to Strathgordon. He will be coming to Hobart each weekend, but he will have to train on his own.

Skipper Dudley Hall did not train this week because of flu and is doubtful for Sunday. This means that Croatia's lack of depth in their reserves could be severely tested at a critical period.

Jones will be beck in goal for Caledonians, who will be seeking to reverse an earlier 2·3 defeat at the hands of Juventus-Pioneer. They are hoping their midfield trio of Farmer, Adkins and Hales will do as well.
Experienced

The experienced Hanna will help the defence, and Webb has been doing very well on the right wing. Juventus have brought former club manager-secretary George Garlington out or retirement to serve on their committee.

They have not appointed a coach yet, and Jackie Rais is taking their training. Joe Martelli is back from Italy, but they will not have Bruno di Tomasso, who was sent off last week.

South Hobart trained well last night for their game against Rapid and are fully determined to erase memories of their 2-8 defeat by Metro.

They apportioned much of the blame for their Metro defeat on Metro coach John Kirkpatrick, who knew all their weaknesses. However, it must be borne in mind that Rapid just managed a 2-2 draw against South on the South Hobart ground with almost the last kick of the game, after South had deserved to beat them.

Rapid could be resting Stephen Kannegiesser, who injured an ankle against Croatia.

Cramp

Cengia went off last week, but it was only slight cramp, and he is fit to play a major role in the midfield. Former first team goalkeeper Phillip Kannegiesser, is due back from overseas on July 29.

Likely winners are Olympia - (15 points) from White Eagles (17), Croatia (16), Rapid (15), Juventus (14) and Metro (11).

Olympia out of reckoning after crashing 0-4

By Gordon Burnett 11/7/77

OLYMPIA are virtually out of the reckoning for the soccer premiership as a result of their four-goal defeat by White Eagles on Saturday.

But they were better than the score would suggest as centre-forward Norman missed three great opportunities and Olympia claimed two of Eagles goals were offside.

But the fact remains that Eagles' goalkeeper Wally Bucher did not have to save a shot in the 90 minutes. Bailey played only in the first half for Olympia and was kept continually on the move by a fast Eagles team, who have seldom worked harder for possession, or been so dangerous.

In the closing stages goalkeeper Roussos went off with a jarred shoulder, and Parolas got a yellow card for dissent.

Star Iraqi player Aziz was prominent throughout his last game for Olympia. Eagles, who were without top scorer Southworth, Rybak and Worden through injury, used the ball well on the move, and it will take a determined and disciplined team, to stop their first premiership run.

Kelly fitted into the defence as if he had never been away, and dominated midfield for most of the day. Oakes and Jenkins were too fast and aggressive for the Olympia defence and Linnell rounded off a good game with two goals – his first in the roster this season. Olympia were badly served by wandering wingers and concentrated their attack too much on Norman.

Linnell opened the scoring in the 17th minute when he pounced on a header out by a defender, to send in a surprise shot. He sent Richards through later on for what should have been a goal, and just before half time McKay had a shot that went inches past an upright, and Stewart had a shot, brilliantly saved by Roussos at full length.

Olympia swept into attack from the kick-off for the start of the second half, and Norman shot over the bar from close in and in front of goal. He failed soon after to take a fine centre from Bolton, and Eagles recovered to go to a 2-0 lead in the 54th minute, when Oakes converted a Richards' pass.

A great Spendiff pass to Norman was wasted, and then Spendiff himself saw a fine chip shot land on the netting. Eagles scored again in the 75th minute, when Richards took a pass from Oakes, and in the 85th minute, when Linnell again picked up a loose ball, to make it 4-0.

David Love ended a brief stay in Hobart from West Australia with two goals in Metro's 4-2 win against Dnipro, after having Pitchford sent off in the 15th minute for alleged abusive language.

Best player

Love, who scored one of his goals direct from a corner kick, captained Metro, and was their best player, having a hand also in the other two goals. Vince di Tomasso was Dnipro's best player, and he is settling down well as sweeper.

Dnipro scored in the first 30 seconds, and McDougall hit an upright, but they were 1-3 down at half time. Ahearne made it 2-3 and had a chance for a hat-trick soon after.

Unpredictable South Hobart kept Rapid to the odd goal in three, although last year's premiers had their chances. After a solo effort by Cengia had opened the scoring in the fifth minute David Baker cut through Rapid's defence, to equalise five minutes later. In the 25th minute, top goalscorer Farmery was sent off for alleged serious foul play, to lose an individual record of scoring in every roster game this season, and the chance of playing this Saturday. Cengia was responsible for the deciding goal, when five minutes into the second half he got a pass through to Schiebl.

Dominated

Rapid, who dominated play in this half, without adding to their score, were best served by Cengia and Schiebl, while Plazonic, Baker and Skaro were best for South.

Caledonians outplayed Juventus in the first half at Margate yesterday, leading 2-0, and then 2-1 at the interval, but needed a penalty 15 minutes from the end to force a 3-3 draw that was a fair reflection of the game.

It was their third draw in four games, and Juventus' fourth draw in six games. Caledonians were best served by Hugh Mackinnon, Jones, Hales and Siggins, while de Felice and Moore stood out for Juventus.

Croatia beat University 3-1in a scrappy game, after being 1-1 at half time. Leung, Mohring and Djakic shone for Croatia and John Hargrave, Sumner and Goninon caught the eye for University.

Result - White Eagles 4 (Linnell 2, Oakes, Richards) def. Olympia 0

Mud should be leveller in soccer

By Gordon Burnett 15/7/77

SOCCER grounds have taken a lot of rain, and with more expected, the mud will be a great leveller in the premiership race this weekend.

Competition leaders White Eagle, (19 points) and Croatia (18), both have danger games, but both look likely winners through all round strength – and Rapid-Wrest Point (17), are waiting for either team to make a slip.

Juventus-Pioneer and Olympia Saveway, both of whom are virtually out of the premiership running, are likely to stage the best match on Sunday.

Difference

Juventus will be all out to beat State League side Olympia again - it was 3-1 the first time. Joe Martelli made a big difference to Juventus when he came on as replacement at full-back on Sunday, and he will be getting a full game this time.

Olympia looked a dispirited lot last week against the Eagles and will need to improve a lot to upset Juventus.

White Eagles, favorites for the title, are all wound up for the final run in, but will start off against Metro on Sunday with Southworth on bench, and the knowledge that they beat 10 Metro men by only a lone goal by Oakes in the 67th minute of their first encounter.

Metro will be without Love and Pitchford, but Tony Blackmore, unavailable earlier in the season, returns to the side, Tony Stewart has got over concussion and Stan Peters has worked up a high level of fitness in the reserves.

Two successive wins on the Crossroads ground must have lifted Metro's confidence. but they will need more than the wiles of coach John Kirkpatrick to hold Eagles, who have scored 11 goals to their opponents' two from their past three games.

Croatia, who have not been beaten since their second game of the season - against Rapid – will need to watch Caledonians following their last minute 3-3 draw against them at Margate. They will be without Glasovac, who got his marching orders for alleged abusive language in the reserves last week.

Caledonians, who are unchanged, are getting to be known as a first half team, after excellent performances in recent games. The cause for their second-half decline is their small stature, and the fact they are being beaten physically. In the mud, however, Caledonians should be in their element.

Uni have conceded an average of 3.5 goals a game and are hoping to bolster their side with midfield changes.

South Hobart should take a step up the ladder with a second win over Dnipro, who could be without Peter Davis, giving Rodney Butterworth a chance to show his versatility on the forward line.

South, who could be fielding the same team as last week, have signed on Dutchman Hank Mekkelarr, a 20-year-old midfielder. He will get a tryout in the reserves.

White Eagles, Croatia race away in mud

By Gordon Burnett 18/7/77

TOP teams Croatia and White Eagles scored runaway wins in their Winfield League soccer matches despite muddy conditions.

Croatia looked good piling on five goals against Caledonians and White Eagles scored twice in each half without reply from Metro in an equally impressive performance.

Rapid-Wrest Point, the third team in the running (for the premiership) had their game at the Crossroads postponed because of ground conditions.

Croatia improved their goal average, but could have doubled their five goals. Croatia attacked through the wings and down the centre, with well-co-ordinated movements.

Evergreen Kevin Leung was their outstanding player, making the first two goals with great passes down the left wing, scoring the fifth goal himself, hitting an upright in the second half and having a couple of near misses.

Willy Peters had another good game in the midfield and Bill Krawczyk was safe in defence.

Calies, who would have done better if Jones had not left his goal so often, had their nearest success when both Adkins and Godfrey hit an upright in the second half. Their close passing game broke down too often through poor positioning or lack of anticipation.

Calies opened promisingly but in the 23rd minute Leung sent Cowen unchallenged down the left wing, and when he was brought down by Arnott in the penalty area Peters converted to make it 1-0.

Three minutes later another pass by Leung down the left saw Hall race in, beat the advancing goalkeeper and score easily.

Caledonians brought Hindmarsh on for the second half, but a mistake by Mackinnon five minutes after the resumption saw Kirkpatrick through on a pass from Djakic to score.

After Leung had hit an upright, Lakoseljac followed in a high ball from Peters to score the fourth in the 76th minute, and three minutes later a movement that took in the whole forward line saw Leung complete the scoring.

Playing without Stewart, White Eagle opened the scoring against Metro in the 11th minute when a pass from Linnell sent Oakes through and Linnell hit the crossbar soon after. Then he saw one of his shots deflected by a defender against an upright. With two minutes to half time a comer by Jenkins saw a Southworth header go in off Oakes.

Metro introduced Blackmore for the second half, but it took Eagles only two minutes to go to 3-0 through Jenkins after getting a header from Oakes. Five minutes later Jenkins scored again, from near the touch line, and soon after a centre from him landed on the crossbar.

In a polished display from Eagles, Kelly and Linnell were always prominent, while Metro, tentative in defence and slow in attack, had the hard-working Smith as their best.

Teenager John Paplos starred in Olympia Saveway's 3·2 win against Juventus-Pioneer yesterday after being 1-1 at half time and then 3-1. Playing at full-back but operating slightly In front of Conlan he got through a lot of work and on one occasion saved from off his goal line with Roussos beaten.

Spendiff and Norman were two others to impress, while Moore, West and Bachinger stood out for Juventus.

A pass by Bolton saw Norman open the scoring in the 37th minute, but minutes later Prodan equalised with his second penalty shot when Morales was penalised for tripping. Prodan's first shot hit an upright, but Roussos was adjudged to have moved before the kick was taken, and Prodan had a second chance.

Olympia continued to pressure Juventus with built-up attacks, and they went to 2·1 in the 70th minute when Alwan scored after a corner.

Ten minutes later Alwan scored again from a pass from Norman. Juventus replied with another penalty goal, against Conlan for hands, in the next minute. Roussos saved brilliantly from Owen in the dying minutes to prevent a draw.

South Hobart had the advantage or a first half lead when Skaro scored from the tap-off for an indirect free kick on the edge of the penalty area. But they wilted in the conditions and Dnipro equalised midway through the second half and should have won.

Ahearne scored the equaliser from a pass by Stanton in a movement initiated by Victor Lagerewski. In the closing minutes Ahearne hit an upright, for the fourth time in the last three games.

Ahearne, Stanton, Victor Lagerewski and Butterworth excelled for Dnipro, who dominated the second half, and Murray and Puclin, until he had to be replaced by Cracknell, did well for South. Cracknell saved brilliantly from Ahearne to save a point for South.

Result - White Eagles 4 (Oakes 2. Jenkins 2) def. Metro O

Croatia face danger game at Sandfly

By Gordon Burnett 22/7/77

CROATIA, chasing the elusive League-Cup soccer double, will be under extreme pressure at Sandfly tomorrow.

Against an Olympia Saveway line-up bursting with talent, Croatia will be without promising sweeper Djakic, and Sandfly has not been a happy hunting ground for them.

Croatia's worries do not end there, as for the Ampol State Cup semi-final on August 6 against Devonport, they will be without Cowen and Mahjouri, who played for Olympia in an earlier round, and they are lacking suitable replacements.

Point ahead

With a remaining roster program of games against Olympia, with whom they drew 2-2 after being 0-2 after eight minutes in Roger Norman's debut, Metro (3-0), Dnipro (4-1), White Eagles (1-1) and Juventus-Pioneer (2-1), they must be cursing that missed penalty against White Eagles.

Had it been converted they would be heading the standings, instead of the Eagles. As it is the Eagles are a point ahead and have a premiership-winning goal difference of 27, as against Croatia's 21 and Rapid Wrest Point's 16.

Goal difference if necessary, will decide the premiership this season, instead of the previous system of goal average. A defeat tomorrow would just about dash Croatia's premiership hopes, as the Eagles are expected to beat Dnipro, and this would give them a three-point lead with four games to play.

It will be interesting to see whether Croatia bring Hall back into defence and use Mahjouri in the midfield or introduce Glasovac at full-back and have Payne as the second sweeper with Mohring.

Olympia, without Hargrave, who will have a cartilage removed, Parolas, who has missed training, and Manis, who is unavailable, will have Constantinovits back. And be is likely to play at centre-half, alongside Conlan.

This could prove to be a defensive move as the Sandfly ground is· reported to be at its heaviest near the touchline. This could mean that play could be more through the centre than would be expected of teams with good wingers.

The defence has been Olympia's weakness, and with Leung approaching his best form, and Kirkpatrick and Lakoseljac ready to shoot at every chance, Roussos could be fully tested. And a Croatia side prepared to chase everything and keep the pressure on their opponents are always dangerous.

White Eagles will be without two of their stars against Dnipro, as Southworth (foot) and Stewart (hamstring) are injured, but they should continue on their winning way despite the surprise 2-2 first-round draw. It could be a chance to try Sikora out in midfield and give Gorniak a game at full-back.

University, hoping for their first win when they meet South Hobart, have strengthened their midfield. Hoskins and Newman are back, but Page will be missed. South will be without Puclin, who has two cracked ribs from last week, and Eastwood, who is not available on Sundays, and they have dropped Tavasz. These teams drew the first time, and it could be the same again.

Rapid have got Tommy Wilson back from injury and he will be at centre-forward in the absence of Farmery. With goalscoring Schiebl alongside him, and the hard working Cengia behind him, he should hold the line together against bis old dub, Caledonians.

Calies lost the first clash 0-4 and will be without Hanna (pulled muscle) and Webb (ankle), and they have left Arnott out Jotic, Dean and Virth are the replacements in the squad. The Margate fixture is unlikely to check Rapid's title bid.

Juventus, who have had an upsetting season, could go one better than their 2-2 earlier draw against Metro, but they will need to let the ball do the work. Individual play is wasting their talent up forward and they are being caught too often in possession after good approach work.

Croatia's hopes of soccer double hit by defeat

By Gordon Burnett 25/7/77

CROATIA'S league-cup soccer double hopes took a slide on Saturday when Olympia Saveway beat them 2·1.

And yesterday, Caledonians, without Hanna, Hugh Mackinnon, and Webb, did the impossible by outplaying Rapid Wrest Point for a 3-1 at Margate to just about give White Eagles the premiership.

Olympia skipper Mike Roussos was the man of the match at Sandfly that did not come up to expectations. He saved brilliantly from Lakoseljac early in the first half, stopped a rocket from Kirkpatrick from close in near half-time, and tipped a powerful free kick by Peters over the bar in masterly style in the closing stages.

Croatia, handicapped by the absence of Djakic end the late withdrawal of Krawczyk, through injury, were struggling from the start in the back division, and this hurried their approach work and upset their team spirit. Hall tried hard to lift them, but the rhythm was not there.

Lakoseljac saw a lot of the ball in the opening half and could have easily scored a couple of goals from openings by Kirkpatrick and Cowen. but he was caught offside too often.

Olympia took the lead in the 10th minute when a cross from Bolton found Norman, and they had the game practically sewn up when Spendiff scored from 30 yards out six minutes into the second half. Leung then made it 2-1 with 11 minutes to go.

Olympia could be reinforced by the return of former captain Tommy Wright from overseas within a fortnight.

Crack Northern referee Jack Johnson had charge of the game, which is seen as a prelude to a policy of interchanging referees in preparation for the State League next season.

While Croatia were losing ground, league leaders White Eagles had their share of problems.

State squad goalkeeper Wally Bucher watched their game against Dnipro from the stand. He was disciplined by coach Glyn Jenkins for not attending the pre-match tactics talk after being called twice.

Utility player Bobby Rybak was given Bucher's place in goal and did well.

Eagles, with a heavy foot on the premiership till, took things too easily against the wind, were held to a scoreless first half and had to fight every inch of the way before winning by two goals both by Linnell.

Skipper Nunn, Trueman and Linnell were best for Eagles, and Vince di Tomasso, Rawlings and Ahearne, who played a lone role up forward, were Dnipro's best.

Eagles, with a three-point lead and only four games to play, have a tough assignment in their last three games, against Juventus-Pioneer, Croatia, and Rapid Wrest Point.

Coach John Kirkpatrick, who gave Metro a very hard training run on Tuesday, made several positional changes that brought a surprising 5-1 win against Juventus. He had David Smith as a striker with Jim Mackinnon, and brought Francis up on the right wing with Pitchford on the other flank, and the four collected the goals.

Metro never allowed Juventus to settle down and a good team effort saw them leading 3-0 at half-time. It was 4-0 when Prodan hit an upright from a penalty attempt for Juventus, then 5-0 before Juventus scored with eight minutes to go.

But the win, which took them up a place in the standings, was tempered by injuries to full-backs Paul Fone and Peter Gill, while Smith will be interstate for a couple of weeks on business.

Stewart, Shacklady and Ian Gill stood out for Metro, while a dispirited Juventus side were best served by West, Tria and Howlin.

University recorded their first win of the season - at their 13th attempt - when they beat South Hobart 2-1 after leading 1-0 at half-time and then 2-0.

University played four in midfield and three in defence. and this gave the increased power needed up front, where de Salis and Hoskins missed good chances.

South, who had their chances, scored only after captain Skaro had moved from defence to centre-forward, and with Thomas replaced. Gambles, John Hargrave and Goninon impressed for University.

Rapid, who have a game in hand, led Caledonians 1-0 in the first 10 minutes, but good work on the left by Hales and Godfrey saw Siggins equalise. Then Farmer, who was brought in from the wing to be second centre-forward, was fouled in the area and converted the penalty for Calies to lead 2-1 at half-time.

Rapid showed signs of panic when they brought on reserves player Egon Matthias to be centre-forward in place of Wilson, who went into defence, and seven minutes after the resumption Godfrey converted a pass from Hales for a match winning 3-1 lead.

Captain-coach Hales and Siggins were outstanding, and were well supported by Weymouth, centre-half Hindmarsh, and Jones. For Rapid, Stuetzel, Wilson and Kannegiesser stood out.

Result - White Eagles 2 (Linnell 2) def. Dnipro O

Pressure could upset TSA favorites

By Gordon Burnett 29/7/77

WHITE EAGLES, in the box seat for the soccer premiership, could find South Hobart capable of causing an upset tomorrow in the mud at Grove Rd.

That is, if there is any soccer this weekend. The Glenorchy ground was very wet yesterday and with more rain expected today the earlier games on this ground have been postponed already to try and save the pitch for this match.

The Eagles, quite the most professional like side in the competition, meet the most amateur-like team from the lower half of the table - and South have already drawn with Rapid and Juventus, and beaten Olympia!

This adds up to the fact that a relaxed South Hobart team able to apply themselves could worry the Eagles' defence into errors. Their defensive game with the unexpected breakaway is just what could beat the Eagles, who have a couple of players who could break down.

Worden, who was the difference between the two sides when South were beaten 6-1 at their first meeting, has been out of the Eagles team for the second half of the season.

The pressure is certainly on White Eagles, who need five points from their last four games to win the title - and they meet South, Juventus Pioneer, Croatia and Rapid in that order. They managed only a total of two points from these last three clubs in the first round.

Rapid are by no means a spent force, and will be out to redeem themselves in their own eyes, and those of their committee and supporters, after their poor showing against Caledonians.

With top scorer Don Farmery leading them again it looks as if they could line up against Olympia-Saveway with Reid and Wilcock at full-back, Kannegiesser, John Dilba and Stuetzel on the half line, Cengia in the midfield and Thompson, Farmery, Schiebl and Jack Dilba up forward.

Parolas appears to have got over his knee injury and after training well he should be back in the Olympia side. The last time he played at Grove Rd he did extremely well against White Eagles.

Olympia will find Rapid a faster side than Croatia, but they won the first-round game 3-2 and are stronger now, except in defence.

Norman has scored in eight of the 10 games he has played for them this season, and in that time, Olympia have picked up 15 points.

Rapid are hoping White Eagles and Croatia have lapses that will let them through for their second successive title, but to have any chance of doing this they will need to win tomorrow.

In the clash at Grove Rd on Sunday Croatia's top scorer Billy Kirkpatrick will be opposed to Metro, the team coached by his father, John Kirkpatrick. Billy contributed two goals to Croatia's 3-0 win earlier and will be keen to get a hat-trick this time.

Croatia had only themselves to blame when they dropped valuable points to Olympia, and they may not have Krawczyk again as a knee injury has caused concern this week. But Djakic will be back to allow Hall to move up into the attack, and this could turn the game in Croatia's favor.

Fone's ankle injury is still troubling him, and David Smith is in Melbourne, but Metro have Peter Gill fit again.

Teenager Kevin Clamp, son of a former TSA and Metro club secretary, could get his first game with the senior side in attack. Philip Owen, former Australian schoolboy international winger, is due back in Hobart on Thursday after being with Canberra City. Owen's clearance has been received and he will be registered tomorrow with Juventus once again.

His brother Erik also is playing for Juventus. Juventus will be without Tria against Dnipro, but they expect to repeat their 3-0 win. Dnipro will have Holmes in goal again in the absence of Travierso with a knee injury.

Alister Todd could join Under 17 colleague Butterworth in Dnipro's attack. University are ambitious after their first win of the season last week and believe their strengthened midfield will extend Caledonians at the Crossroads.

Calies beat Uni by a lone goal the first time but are a good wet weather side and should do better with the return of both Hanna and Hugh Mackinnon.

White Eagles only drawn match away for the title

By Gordon Burnett 1/8/77

WITH a remarkable goal difference of 33 compared with a next best of 19, White Eagles need only one draw from their last three games to win their first soccer premiership.

And the games are against Juventus-Pioneer, Croatia, and Rapid Wrest Point. Metro yesterday deflated Croatia's League-Cup double ambitions with a deserved 3-2 success, Olympia took a point from Rapid and Eagles' 4-0 win over South Hobart gave them a five-point lead in the table.

Danny Spendiff, Olympia Saveway's ace forward, virtually put paid, to Rapid's hopes of a second successive premiership. He scored twice in the first half, had a lob land on the crossbar, and watched another lob clear the advancing goalkeeper and miss the goal by inches. Then with 12 minutes to go he got his head to a Bolton cross, only for Caban to stop his hat-trick, with a brilliant full-length diving save.

Last kick

Rapid did well to come back from 0-2, to be 2-2 and then snatch a point at 3-3 with the last kick of the game. For Olympia, Spendiff took match honours, while Constantinovits and Morales did well. Best for Rapid were Caban and Schiebl.

Two defensive mistakes in the mud at Glenorchy gave White Eagles a couple or gift goals, and they beat South Hobart 4-0, after a goalless first half. Puclin made a great save from Oakes in the first half and kept his goal intact until the 53rd minute.

Then came the two fatal pass backs in the mud, for goals in the 63rd and 75th minutes, and the fourth came just on the final whistle. Sikora, Kelly and Oakes were best for Eagles, While Thomas, Plazonic and Weitenauer, stood out for South Hobart.

The game between Caledonians and University at the Crossroads was postponed because of the state of the ground, and Uni now are two games behind in the roster.

Semi-Finals

Croatia turned on a display against Metro that does not augur well for their chances against Devonport In the Ampol State Cup semi-finals on Saturday.

Playing in fits and starts, with poor combination up forward, they crossed over a goal down, scored by David Smith from the penalty spot. Eight minutes into the second half Doig saved well from Peters, only to see the ball go loose and Lakoseljac equalise.

Soon after Pitchford fouled Lakoseljac in the area and Peters made Croatia 2-1 from the penalty spot. In the 66th minute Francis equalised direct from his corner kick, and after Doig had saved well from replacement Pavic, the winning goal came from Stewart with 13 minutes left.

Jaded

Ian Gill, Shacklady and Nigel Sugden were best for Metro, and Mohring was best in a jaded Croatia side.

Juventus beat Dnipro by one goal, scored in the 60th minute by Owen from 25 yards, to give new coach Duncan Summers a win in his first game at the helm. Owen, Moore, and West were best for Juventus, and Ahearne and former Juventus players Travierso and Vince di Tomasso, were best for Dnipro.

Result - White Eagles 4 (Oakes, Jenkins 2, Rybak) def. South Hobart O

White Eagles to clinch title point

By Gordon Burnett 12/8/77

WHITE Eagles only need a draw against Juventus-Pioneer at Glenorchy tomorrow to win their first soccer premiership.

White Eagle should win easily. Their nearest rivals have failed to keep pace with them with the heat on, and Eagles are five points ahead with three games to play.

In their first-round game against Juventus they played the better soccer but were held to a 1-1 draw after a goalless first half by a side determined to show they were State League material, even if the TSF did not think so.

Juventus will have that same incentive tomorrow, and an added inducement will be to give stand-in coach Duncan Summers the satisfaction of beating the probable premiers.

Summers who coached Juventus to the State premiership in 1972, has agreed to coach them for the remainder of the season and then intends trying to get a coaching job with a State League side. He says Juventus have the talent but lack confidence in and around the opposing penalty area. The main thing however is that they can create chances. It now remains to find the back of net.

An encouraging feature is that for the first time this year the whole Juventus team have practised together. Former star winger Philip Owen looks fit. Goalkeeper Michael Gaff is included in the squad, but defender Colin West will be missed. Eagles have not wasted their week off and are quietly confident.

"If we can't get the point tomorrow it will be twice as hard against Croatia the week after, and if they beat us it will be three times as hard against Rapid in the final roster game," a club official said last night.

The return of Kelly has made a big difference to the Eagle's' defence, and it is difficult to see it failing. Their attack with two good wingers and a determined centre-forward in Oakes looks good enough to rattle the Juventus defence. However, an early goal by Juventus could make things interesting.

Olympia Saveway will have State player Tommy Wright back to take Iraqi midfielder Aziz's place. Aziz and Manis were not considered after missing training. Olympia have bad a good second round in which they have dropped only three points from six games, and they should beat University tomorrow.

Uni will be hit this week in all division, by the calls of vacation, and Connolly and Sloan will be missed in the senior side. Skipper Davies will take Sloan's place at full-back and Page will return to the attack. De Salis is maintaining good form and had a great game against top scorer Farmery, and the Olympia attack will find him a worthy opponent.

Croatia, smarting from their cup and league reverses, have not got either Mahjouri or Glasovac this week as they have not been to training. Dnipro, like Croatia are watching scoring chances go astray, and they have concentrated this week on shooting.

South Hobart are determined not to give Caledonians another eight goals when they meet on Sunday at Margate. On the first occasion Chris Hindmarsh scored four against them but he is in the defence this time, and Skaro and Plazonic will be watching him closely if he moves up into the attack. Bryant has a broken nose from last week and Clarke has a broken toe from a motor bike mishap.

Calies will have Hugh Mackinnon and Hanna fit, and their experience should hold the defence against raids by Thomas and Weitenauer.

Rapid Wrest Point will have Schiebl back against Metro on Sunday after his knee injury and this should increase their fire power. In the first round Pitchford surprised them with a hat-trick that laid the foundation for a 4-3 Metro win.

Metro will miss David Smith and Michael Sugden, who were unavailable.

Eagles' premiership win first in club's history

By Gordon Burnett 15/8/77

THE 17-year-old White Eagles soccer club won their first premiership on Saturday with a 1-1 equaliser by Mike Richards against Juventus-Pioneer with five minutes to go.

But It was a horribly near thing as they played for 62 minutes with 10 men after Peter Linnell had been sent off for alleged foul play, and then star defender, Eamonn Kelly, had to go off injured with eight minutes left.

The equaliser was a real gem as new replacement Michael Southworth laid off the ball perfectly to the unmarked Richards on the left - he took it on the run, and it was in the net before the defence realised the danger.

There was more to come in those last few dramatic minutes as Southworth had the ball in the net almost immediately after, only to be ruled offside. It was a game that came to life only in the last 10 minutes. Juventus had looked all over winners.

They had pressured Eagles from the start and broken their usual combination to the extent that they had next to no chances. Juventus had three great scoring chances in the first half but de Felice (twice) and Carnevale wasted them. Di Felice eventually got the ball into the net but was penalised for interference.

The only reply from Eagles war a shot from Rybak that was saved at full length by Gaff, who was preferred in goal to Howlin because of bis greater height against the tall Eagles players. At half-time Stewart came on for Rybak and Philip Owen for Schiro.

Oakes' only chance came 20 minutes into the second half when he got bis head to a centre from Jenkins, but the ball went wide of the target.

It was not long after that be got a yellow card for alleged dissent. The opening goal in the 75th minute came after a centre from replacement Owen. Carnevale fastened on to it and transferred it to di Felice on the left, and from his centre skipper Rizzolo slammed in a goal through a crowd of players.
Kelly sustained a knee injury in the scramble and hobbled around for several minute, before being replaced by Southworth, whose ball control and distribution led to the equaliser.

Kelly was outstanding for Eagles, and Trueman and Nunn played a big part in holding out a dangerous looking Juventus attack. West was Juventus' best, and was well supported by Moore and Carnevale.

It was the second 1-1 draw between these two clubs and the only blemish on Eagles' second round record.

John Constantinovits celebrated bis return to the Olympia Saveway attack with the club's first hat-trick, and they beat University 6-2 - the same score as in the first game - after leading 1-0 at half-time. Olympia toot Bolton· off to give Wright a run in the second half, and though handicapped by a knee injury, be made a number of openings.

George Paplos also had a chance in goal as a replacement for Roussos and saved brilliantly against Gambles. Olympia's best were Spendiff, Conlan, Bailey and John Paplos, while University, who became dispirited after giving away two penalties and making defensive errors, were best served by Tony Scavone at centre-forward.

Croatia led Dnipro 2-0 at half-time and were 3-0 before Ahearne reduced their lead. But it was an unconvincing win. Ahearne could have scored four goals, showing up the Croatia defence, and an alert Kirkpatrick got no support up forward for Croatia. Peters, Payne, and Djakic stood out for Croatia and Ahearne and MacDougall for Dnipro.

Rapid Wrest Point reversed an earlier 3-4 defeat by Metro with a 4-1 win yesterday after scoring in the first minute and being 1-1 at half-time. Don Farmery scored twice to take bis goal tally to 22 - seven more than his nearest rival for the award.

Metro, who were handicapped by the loss of Nigel Sugden with concussion in the second half, were best served by Sugden and Jim Mackinnon, while John Dilba, Cengia, Stuetzel and Kannegiesser were Rapid's best.

Caledonians shared the spoils with South Hobart when Farmer scored a 2-2 equaliser from a Godfrey centre 15 minutes from time at Margate. They had beaten South Hobart 8-3 earlier. Calies scored first from the penalty spot alter a goalless first half but then a brilliant solo effort by Thomas brought an equaliser.

Weitenauer put South ahead, only for Farmer to get his second goal to equalise. Skaro, Plazonic and Thomas stood out for South, and Hales, Hugh Mackinnon. Hindmarsh and Farmer were Calies' best.

Result - White Eagles 1 (Richards) drew with Juventus 1 (Rizzolo)

Eagles boosted by return of Kelly

By Gordon Burnett 19/8/77

WHITE Eagles will have Eamonn Kelly fit for their "prestige" game against Croatia tomorrow, and he could be the difference between the two sides.

Kelly left the field last week with what appeared to be a bad knee injury, but it has responded well to treatment. The Eagles were outplayed by Croatia earlier on and were lucky to save a point with a second half equaliser by Oakes, who is nursing an injured foot.

Since then, however they have had the premiership in the bag and Croatia have slumped after falling between two stools in the league and cup competitions. Last season the Eagles drew with Croatia and then beat them 4-0, and history could repeat itself tomorrow.

The ever-optimistic Rapid Wrest Point club beat Dnipro 6-2 earlier and are looking for something like 8-0 to creep closer to the leaders. "We've got the talent and the incentive", an official said. And Dnipro may not be able to do much about it as they have had training problems that have made it impossible to name their team before the day of the match.

Coach Ernie Rawlings said work commitments, lack of interest and sheer laziness had combined to wreck training sessions and under 17 players would now be getting a chance to play in the senior side.

Rodney Butterworth, one of the few regulars at training, is showing great potential and is improving with each game in the first team. Nick Nandan, the club's secretary, and a foundation member 14 years ago, will play his 250th game for Dnipro when he takes his place in the reserves team. A club rule calls for life membership for any player who represents the club 250 times.

A back injury could cause skipper Tony Skaro's withdrawal from the South Hobart team against Juventus-Pioneer, who have not forgotten being held to a goalless draw in the first round. That was the weekend that South all but beat Northern Juventus in the Ampol State Cup competition in Launceston.

With no additional pressures this weekend South could give a good account of themselves against a side who will miss West very badly.

Caledonians have dropped winger Godfrey for their game against Olympia Saveway on Sunday and Webb is likely to get his position.

Olympia, who beat Calies 2-0 last time, will not have Iraqi players Aziz and

Alwan because they are not training, and Wright is having to rest a knee injury. They will probably play Constantinovits up forward again.

It will be interesting to see how Mike Bailey fares against the club he will be coaching next season in the State League. University will have Rob Jensen back from injury and studies, and the return of Sloan and Connolly should further strengthen them against Metro in a bid to go out on a high note – against Metro and then Dnipro.

Metro will be unchanged and will need to be on their mettle as Uni drew with them earlier. South Hobart, who have reappointed Skaro as coach for next season, will hold their trophy night at the South Hobart Primary School hall on September 8.

The new fully enclosed Chigwell sports complex will be discussed at a public meeting on Monday at 7.30 pm at the Claremont high school library. The ground should be ready for use by April next year.

Hat-trick loosens White Eagles' tight title grip

By Gordon Burnett 22/8/77

A HAT-TRICK by Milan Lakoseljac and brilliant goalkeeping by Rodney Tattam on Saturday loosened White Eagles' grip on the soccer premiership.

And if Rapid Wrest Point can beat them by three goals in their last game this Saturday, White Eagles will lose the title that was theirs for the taking at one stage.

On Saturday the Eagles lost 0-3 to Croatia - their second defeat - and Rapid beat Dnipro 5-0. If necessary, the premiership will be decided on goal difference - White Eagles have a goal difference of 30, Rapid 25, and Croatia 24 - as it is possible for each of these three teams to finish with 26 points.

On Saturday Croatia converted scoring chances for a change. But the Eagles produced some great approach work and Tattam saved magnificently from Oakes in the first half, and then from Southworth and Trueman.

Richards had a shot land on the bar, Payne cleared well from a corner, and Krawczyk cleared a ball from Southworth off his goal line.

A fine movement between Kirkpatrick, Hall, Leung and Lakoseljac led to the opening score in the 17th minute. Six minutes into the second half a throw-in on the left found Lakoseljac and he scored with a rocket-like shot that almost tore through the net.

Rybak came on for Stewart with 19 minutes to go and Wass replaced Jenkins in the 80th minute, but to no avail.

With only injury time left, Letec gave Lakoseljac his bat-trick with a perfect pass. Tattam, Lakoseljac, who showed a greater confidence, and Kirkpatrick, who laid off some great passes with head and foot, were best for Croatia.

Trueman, who almost brought scores with two great bursts through the centre, Nunn, who almost scored, Southworth, the brains up forward, and the reliable Kelly stood out for

Eagles, who badly missed Linnell in the midfield.

Two reserves and two under 17s played a second time on Saturday to complete Dnipro's team against Rapid - and their promising youngster - Rodney Butterworth played bis third game against the wishes of coach Ernie Rawlings.

Rapid had all the play, but led only 3-0 at ball-time, were kept scoreless for 20 minute,, and then added two against a courageous side who were reduced to ten men for the last 15 minutes when Alexiadis was taken off with an injured leg.

Rawlings stood out, while Travierso saved a number of shots as Rapid tried, possibly too hard, to cut down the Eagles' big goal advantage.

Farmery got four goals for the second time and is 10 goals ahead in the goalscoring award he won last year but, with McDougall, Leon Lagerewski and Stanton, he got a yellow card.

Juventus-Pioneer played a second draw with South Hobart after scoring in the 15th minute with a Carnevale header. Soon after Thomas equalised.

In the goal-less second half Carnevale was sent off after verbal brush with the referee and replacement Chris Baker hit a Juventus upright in the dying stages of the game.

Thomas, David Baker and Plazonic were best in a good South Hobart team effort, and Moore, Prodan and Rizzolo, who was at centre-half in the absence of West, were Juventus' best.

Neil Thomas was watched by JUST (Melbourne) club's specialist coach John McKenzie, who played inside forward for Caledonians 18 years ago, and impressed enough to be invited for a trial and then possibly asked to join JUST's summer squad.

Former national coach Rale Rasic could also be interested in Thomas for the Marconi club.

A weakened Olympia Save-way side - Aziz, Alwan, Morales and Wright were out - were beaten 3-2 by Caledonians yesterday at Margate after leading 2-0 and then 2-l at half-time.

Winger Webb scored a fine deciding goal 10 minutes from time and in the closing minutes a Calies defender put the ball against his own crossbar under pressure.

Jones, Siggins, and Hanna did well for Calies, and Bailey, Conlan and Spendiff shone for Olympia. Goals by Pitchford and

David Smith, who hit a beauty from 20 metres out, gave Metro a 2·0 half-time lead over University and they won 3·1 in a rough match that went for an extra eight minutes. Nigel Sugden, Ian Gill, and Smith stood out for Metro, and Hoskins, Jensen, and replacement Wignall did well for University.

Result - White Eagles 0 Lost to Croatia 3 (Lakoseljac 3)

Speedier Rapid to outgun Eagles

By Gordon Burnett 26/8/77

RAPID WREST Point are expected to have both Don Farmery and Wolfgang Stuetzel for their 11th hour soccer premiership bid against White Eagles on Sunday.

Farmery, who is the league's top scorer with 26 goals from 16 games, got a yellow card last Sunday to take him to a total of 22 disciplinary points and an automatic appearance before the investigation committee.

He faces the possibility of a three-match suspension, depending on the charges, but he is free to play because the tribunal was not called to hear his case.

Stuetzel is coach of the State under 13 squad going to Sydney for the national championships and it was thought at first, he would be unavailable for the Sunday match. But it is likely now that he will be able to play.

In the Rapid squad this week are goalkeeper Philip Kannegiesser, back from Europe and training well, and midfielder Phil Edmonson, back from the UK and looking in good form. Rapid beat White Eagles 2-0 in the first round and are determined to beat them again.

However, they need a win by three clear goals to oust Eagles from the top position in this last roster match. To make the position even more interesting, Croatia meet Juventus-Pioneer tomorrow and a win by five clear goals would put Croatia in the

title hunt - if the Eagles are beaten 2-0 for instance.

The situation at the top of the table is that White Eagles (26 pts), needing just one point to win their first title, have 45 goals for and 15 against for a goal difference of 30; Rapid (24 pts) are 55,30 for 25; and Croatia (24 pts) 45, 21 for 24.

Rapid realise they will have to score goals and will be chasing everything. They are well disciplined enough to give their ambition a real shake as their morale stands very high.

Eagles, badly shaken by the loss of three points from their last two games, have to regain the confidence that made them look such a good side earlier an.

Linnell will be back in the midfield and it would not surprise to see Trueman move up also into the midfield as the match could well be decided in this area.

If they rely entirely on defence to see them through, it could throw the whole team out of gear. Rapid have a better attack than that of Croatia, which took three goals off them last week.

Farmery, Schiebl and Jack Dilba will be quick to take their chances. Rapid have the talent and speed to win this game, but whether they can win by three clear goals is another matter.

Croatia beat Juventus 2-1 earlier and are likely to do the same again as they will be at full strength. Juventus will be without Gaff (broken nose), Carnevale (suspended) and West (unavailable).

Caledonians are not changing a winning side and are hoping the same improved team effort of last week will continue and enable them to beat Metro who drew 2-2 the first time. Cook is back in the Metro side in the absence interstate of Peter Gill.

Dnipro are reported to have settled their differences and a good muster at training suggests they are out to win their last game against University and put up a good showing in the coming D. J. Motors Cup competition.

They will be without Bill Alexiadis, who broke a leg against Rapid last Sunday, and Vince di Tomasso who has lost his place for not training.

University will be without Goninon (cracked ribs), and Newman and Wignall are unavailable. They are hoping that the ball skills of Graley and Tony Scavone will pave the way for goals by Hoskins and Robinson.

Olympia's Iraqi players Aziz and Alwan are not attending training and they and the injured Wright are out of the Olympia side to meet South Hobart. South's captain, Tony Skaro, is still being worried by a back injury and is doubtful, but Eastwood should bolster the defence against the sharpshooters Norman and Spendiff.

White Eagles clinch title with 3-0 win over Rapid

By Gordon Burnett 29/8/77

WHITE EAGLES won their first soccer premiership yesterday when they beat Rapid Wrest Point 3-0, the margin that Rapid had to win by to win the title.

And at the end of a hard and fast game, women members of the 17-year-old club, dressed in Polish costume, ran out on the field, and presented their players with flowers. And as the team returned to the dressing room they were showered with confetti.

Rapid chose to play the first half with the wind and should have been a goal up in the second minute. A Kannegiesser pass sent Schiebl through the centre with only Bucher to beat but be shot hurriedly and wide.

The more experienced White Eagles recovered quickly and in the eighth minute a ball from Richards found Trueman, and he sent Southworth down the right wing and Oakes took his centre on the run to open the scoring.

Cengia almost equalised with a well taken shot that landed on the top netting. Wass came on as substitute for Jenkins in the 67th minute, a Willcock pass back to Caban went astray, and Wass shot across the goal from an acute angle. With eight minutes to go a good cross by Wass saw Southworth present Oakes with his second goal.

Farmery missed a sitter just on injury time, and one minute later Southworth crowned a fine afternoon's work with a well-placed shot, after Caban bad been lured from his goal.

Eagles' best player was Southworth, who had a hand in all three goals, and Kelly and Nunn got through a tremendous amount of work.
Rapid were best served by John Dilba, who did not have the best of support, the fast and energetic Schiebl, who was a constant menace to the Eagles' defence, and Caban, who twice held up Oakes' attempts at a bat-trick.

With Farmery limited to a single kick, the forward line relied entirely on Schiebl. Eagles' coach Glyn Jenkins will find it difficult maintaining keenness as their next game is on September 17, when they visit Devonport for the first leg of the State premiership.

Result - White Eagles 3 (Oakes, Southworth 2) d Rapid O

Flag should go to White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett 16/9/77

DEVONPORT'S hopes of winning their first State soccer premiership from White Eagles are wrapped up in the plaster around player-coach Tommy McKenna's right leg.

He came off the field in the fourth minute of the Ampol State Cup final last week with strained knee ligaments, saw a doctor on Tuesday and will have the plaster on for at least two weeks.

And that takes in the first leg of the premiership at Devonport tomorrow and the second leg at Grove Rd, Glenorchy, on the following Saturday.

Although Devonport are the only first division team in Tasmania to be unbeaten this season, they cannot afford to lose McKenna, and never at any stage against Northern Juventus last week did they look capable of beating the Eagles, who are the Southern champions.

The only yardstick for these two teams is that Northern Juventus beat White Eagles 4-3 at Brooks High. which has a two-goal home advantage, and Devonport drew both their roster games against Juventus.

It is possible Devonport will bring in Trevor Robinson in place of McKenna. He has been a prolific scorer in the Reserves and can play anywhere on the forward line.

They point to the fact that they have played eight weeks without McKenna this season because of an arm operation. "We have just got to Iift ourselves, and the boys can do that" an official said.

It is their second State final as they lost 0-3 to Croatia at South Hobart in 1974 and then 1-2 in the second leg, when McKenna scored. Of that team Baird, MacDonald, Frame, Lumb, Udovicic and Best will be playing tomorrow.

White Eagles, who have a poor away record, were favored at one stage for the grand slam in major trophies this season, but they missed out on the cup when Northern Juventus beat them. This is their first bid for a State title.

On paper they look good and they have fulfilled that potential on occasions, but they have lapses when concentration wanes. If there is any real weakness it is in the defence, where they can be beaten for speed.

In attack they have match winners in Michael Southworth, who makes the openings and Mark Oakes, a determined centre-forward who will chase everything all day.

White Eagle have not had a game for two weeks but have put in an extra day's training this week and are reported to be fit and keen.

Skipper Larry Nunn, who has had a very good season himself, is hoping to win tomorrow by a two-goal margin, and Northern Juventus players, who lost 0-1 to Devonport last week, think it could be an even bigger margin than that.

But conditions were not good for that game and one of· Devonport's better performances was their 3-1 win over Olympia Saveway in the Cup on this ground. Devonport have also beaten Croatia 2-0 this year and Rapid Wrest Point last season in the Cup.

Their defence is suspect. Their strength in in the midfield, where Barry Zschoke and Chris Gleeson cover one another very well and are tireless workers.

Their attack is a smooth moving, fast machine with Billy Frame, who is extremely dangerous in the air despite his small stature, and Alec MacDonald, another arial specialist, their most dangerous forwards.

Although there is a similarity in their style of play. White Eagles are the more flexible and they should get plenty of drive from their midfielders Peter Linnell and Dennis Trueman.

The Eagles should carry too many guns and should win comfortably in both legs.

Teams are:
White Eagles - From Bucher, Sikora, McKay, Kelly, Nunn (Capt.), Linnell, Trueman, Jenkins, Oakes, Southworth, Richards, Stewart, Rybak, Wass.

Devonport From Udovicic, Rimmer, Best, Lumb, Baird (Capt.), Zschoke, C. Gleeson, Macdonald, Frame, Pizzerani, Robinson, Cole, Archer

Last minute equaliser and Devonport still unbeaten

By Gordon Burnett 19/9/77

A 90TH minute goal by 16-year-old Fabio Pizzerani enabled Devonport to preserve their unbeaten 1977 record with a 2-2· draw against White Eagles, in the first leg of the State soccer premiership, at Devonport on Saturday.

Only two minutes of injury time remained. In a game that fell far short of the capabilities of both teams, and was fraught with tension-produced fouls, Devonport led 1-0 at half-time, were l-2 down with 18 minutes to go, and then fought back in a last desperate fling, to equalise.

The second leg will be played at Grove Rd. Glenorchy, this Saturday, and Devonport's injured star player Tommy McKenna says he could be playing. "I'll see the doctor on Tuesday, and if there's any chance at all of playing I'll be playing" he said.

Both sides had players injured in the game. Devonport captain, Charlie Baird, did not come on for the second half because of a groin injury, and Alec MacDonald limped off eight minutes from the end with a knee Injury.

White Eagles' captain, Larry Nunn, went off In the 68th minute with an ankle injury. However, all three are expected to play in the return game. Close marking upset the usual Eagle rhythm, and they surprisingly resorted often to big kicking.

Devonport's main thrust was through the centre. A great first time shot on the turn by MacDonald, seven minutes into the second half, would have given Devonport a 2-0 lead, but for a spectacular leap by Wally Bucher, to tip the bill over
the crossbar.

It could have so easily been as much the goal of the year as it was quite the beat save of the season. Bucher, McKay, and Southworth stood out for Eagles and Udovicic, Frame, MacDonald, Zschoke and Best were outstanding for Devonport.

A surprising feature of the Eagles' display was their continued failure to take free kicks near goal quickly. Absence of a Devonport wall made a shot at goal an obvious tactic.

Devonport, who surprised by using Trevor Robinson in the absence of McKenna were much more dangerous in the early stages, but were lucky not to be a goal down in the 20th minute when a quickly taken free kick saw Southworth force Udovicic to dive full length to save.

Five minutes later a Zschoke centre saw MacDonald head the opening goal. A McKay-Southworth- Oakes move then saw Udovicic save well again before half time.

Devonport substituted Cole for Baird, and Eagles brought on Wass for Jenkins, to get more drive on the left wing. Three minutes into the second half Frame got a yellow card after a foul attack.

In the 55th minute a high ball from the left found the unmarked Oakes, and while four defenders watched him, he equalised. Soon after the diminutive Frame bullocked his way through the defence, leaving Nunn and Sikora writhing on the ground after colliding heavily, and this led to Nunn going off and being replaced by Stewart.

As so often happen, it was Stewart who scored two minutes later, to put the Eagles 2-1 up, when he pounced on a ball from Southworth on the edge of the penalty area. Stewart and McKay were then playing in the midfield, instead of Linnell and Trueman, who had dropped back into the defence.

Frame, who played a great game in attack, and fell back to help the defence when necessary, made an opening for Zschoke, but his shot went just wide of the near upright.

The equaliser came when Gleeson who bad a quiet second half after starting well, passed inside to Frame, who then found the unmarked Pizzerani in front or goal, and the youngster made no mistake with the last chance of the game.

Result - White Eagles 2 (Stewart, Oakes) drew with Devonport 2 (MacDonald, Pizzerani)

Devonport will miss McKenna in State title

By Gordon Burnett 23/9/77

DEVONPORT'S star player-coach Tom McKenna will not be playing against White Eagles in the second leg of the State soccer premiership at Grove Rd, Glenorchy tomorrow.

His right leg is still in plaster, and it could be cartilage trouble. He will know for certain in about a fortnight. McKenna's absence will greatly reduce

Devonport's chances of winning their first State title, but they are a determined side, who make the best use of talent that has been developed, mainly through the grades.
White Eagles will have no easy task winning their first State premiership. Grove Road is bigger than the Valley Road ground, but Devonport beat Croatia 2-0 there in the Ampol State Cup, which they won

for the first time. But no team north of Oatlands has won the State premiership since the series was put on a home and away aggregate goal basis in 1969.

Before that Launceston United won in 1967, and Northern Juventus were successful in 1961 and 1963. These have been the only non-Southern triumphs in the past 16 years, and they did not win in Hobart.

With skipper Charlie Baird and striker Alec MacDonald declared fit, the unbeaten Devonport will be fielding the same side who came from 1-2 down, to equalise at 2-2 just on time in the first leg.

White Eagles are expected to be at full strength, with possibly Wass starting off on the left wing, and Harry Stewart ready to be thrown in fresh at the right moment.

White Eagles now realise that Devonport come out of defence faster than any team they have met this season and Eagles will probably open up the game with the use of the full width of the field, and so avoid the congestion through the centre which occurred last week

Devonport's defence let in only 13 goals from 18 roster games - White Eagles had 15 against them – but there was evidence that the coastal defence was suspect.

White Eagles are inclined to be complacent, especially in defence, which cost them victory last week. MacDonald and Billy Frame cannot be left alone, and Barry Zschoke must not be allowed to dominate the midfield.

White Eagles have the talent to beat any team in Tasmania by a comfortable margin, but they do not put it together often enough. They will need to tomorrow.

Teams are:
White Eagles: Bucher, Sikora, McKay, Kelly, Nunn (Capt.), Linnell, Trueman, Jenkins, Oakes, Southworth, Richards, Stewart, Rybak, Wass.

Devonport: Udovicic, Rimmer, Best, Lumb, Baird (Capt.), Zschoke, C. Gleeson, MacDonald, Frame, Pizzerani, Archer, Cole.

Eagles come from behind to snatch title from Devonport

By Gordon Burnett 26/9/77

TWO goals in five minutes saw White Eagles snatch the State soccer premiership from Devonport on Saturday at Glenorchy after they had been on the brink of defeat.

And the coastal side, who had only to hold out for 10 minutes to retain their unbeaten record for the season, went away dissatisfied with the refereeing – by Southern referee Ron Spence, who had top Northern referee Jack Johnson as one of his linesmen.

Devonport coach Tom McKenna claimed that a disallowed first half goal by 16-year-old Fabio Pizzerani was a good goal and that White Eagles' equaliser was saved on the goal line by Peter Best.

Spence ruled that Pizzerani elbowed his way through and that he had blown his whistle before he kicked the ball. In the second instance, linesman Basil Masters ruled that the ball has crossed the goal line by 18 inches. Best said he had kicked the ball when it was a foot from the goal line.

It was a game of vastly different halves. The first was Devonport's with their speed forcing Eagles into defensive errors and upsetting their persistent close passing through the middle. Eagles took the honours in the second half without capitalising on their chances until 10 minutes from the end.

White Eagles, who played Stewart in the midfield with McKay, and had Trueman on the back line and Linnell on the wing, were very ragged at the start and Oakes was often unsupported up front.

They were lucky when Pizzerani broke through down the centre only to pass to the off-side Zschoke, and not long after Frame got his head to a cross from Zschoke that was not far off the target.

After McDonald had received a yellow card, Archer replaced Robinson, who had been preferred to him after the Devonport game, in the 40th minute and just on the half-time whistle Gleeson sent McDonald through on a bullocking run that ended with Frame scoring.

There had been good build-ups by Eagles, but they could not finish them off. Southworth started the second half by hitting an upright with a rasping shot, and seconds later almost surprised Udovicic with a pile-driver straight at him.

In the 54th minute Stewart pivoted and sent in the shot of the match only to see Udovicic put it over the crossbar in fine style.

McKenna sent Johnston in for Glasser 24 minutes into the half, but could not check mounting Eagles' pressure, although McDonald was slow to take a chance when Kelly misjudged a long ball.

In the 74th minute Rybak came on for Richards, who had strained a muscle, and six minutes later a pass from McKay found Nunn, who sent a high ball down the middle, which Oakes chased and cleverly headed over the advancing Udovicic into the goal. Best raced in and booted the ball away, but it was adjudged to have crossed the line for a goal.

It was a blow to Devonport and before they could recover, they were a goal down five minutes later when a pass from Linnell on the left saw Southworth take it on the run and flash home an unstoppable decider.

Although it was a better game than the 2-2 first leg draw at Devonport neither side was seen at their best and few players struck top form.

Bucher saved well in the opening stages when Devonport were really dangerous, Southworth's was a clever striker but a shade selfish with it, and Oakes fully deserved his goal with a determined performance.

Baird did a lot of good work in the Devonport defence and Frame and Pizzerani were the main menace to Eagles. Nunn's ankle injury troubled him from the start and for most of the second half he was playing practically on one leg.

Result - White Eagles 2 (Oakes, Southworth) d Devonport 1 (Frame)

1977 Winfield League Division 1 – Final Standings

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**18**	**12**	**2**	**4**	**48**	**15**	**28**	**28**
CROATIA GLENORCHY	18	10	3	5	46	22	25	25
RAPID WREST POINT	18	10	4	4	55	33	24	24
OLYMPIA	18	11	5	2	44	31	24	24
METRO	18	8	6	4	44	34	20	20
JUVENTUS	18	6	4	8	35	32	20	20
CALEDONIANS	18	5	7	6	35	44	16	16
SOUTH HOBART	18	2	10	6	22	48	10	10
DNIPRO	18	3	12	3	16	46	9	9
UNIVERSITY	18	1	15	2	21	61	4	4

Winfield League Division 1 1977	WHITE EAGLE	CROATIA	RAPID	OLYMPIA	METRO	JUVENTUS	CALEDONIANS	SOUTH HOBART	DNIPRO	UNIVERSITY
WHITE EAGLE		**1-1**	**3-0**	**4-0**	**1-0**	**1-1**	**3-0**	**6-1**	**2-0**	**3-0**
CROATIA	**3-0**		2-2	2-2	2-1	2-3	5-0	3-0	4-1	4-0
RAPID	**2-1**	3-2		3-3	2-2	3-4	4-0	2-2	5-0	3-0
OLYMPIA	**1-2**	2-1	3-2		1-3	3-1	2-0	1-0	4-0	6-2
METRO	**0-4**	0-3	1-4	0-1		5-1	1-1	8-2	4-2	2-2
JUVENTUS	**1-1**	1-1	2-4	2-3	2-2		3-2	0-0	1-0	3-1
CALEDONIANS	**2-4**	3-3	3-1	3-2	3-3	2-2		2-2	1-1	1-0
SOUTH HOBART	**0-4**	1-2	1-2	3-2	1-1	0-2	4-8		2-1	1-1
DNIPRO	**2-2**	1-3	2-6	1-2	0-3	0-6	1-0	1-1		1-0
UNIVERSITY	**1-6**	1-3	2-7	2-6	3-5	1-3	3-4	2-1	0-2	

White Eagle vs.	Result	F	A	Scorers
University (A)	Won	6	1	M Southworth 4, K. Worden (pen), N. Draskovic
Caledonians (H)	Won	3	0	Southworth 2, Jenkins
Olympia (A)	Won	2	1	Southworth, Nunn
Metro (H)	Won	1	0	Oakes
Dnipro (A)	Won	2	2	Worden 2 (1 pen)
South Hobart (A)	Won	6	1	Worden 3, Southworth 2, Wass
Juventus (A)	Drew	1	1	Rybak
Croatia (H)	Drew	1	1	Oakes
Rapid (A)	Lost	1	2	Oakes
University (H)	Won	3	0	Jenkins, Wass, Southworth
Caledonians (A)	Won	4	2	Rybak, Oakes, Richards, Southworth
Olympia (H)	Won	4	0	Linnell 2, Oakes, Richards
Metro (A)	Won	4	0	Oakes 2, Jenkins 2
Dnipro (H)	Won	2	0	Linnell 2
South Hobart (H)	Won	4	0	Jenkins 2, Rybak, Oakes
Juventus (H)	Drew	1	1	Richards
Croatia (A)	Lost	0	3	
Rapid (H)	Won	3	0	Oakes, Southworth 2

Goalscorers:

Southworth 12, Oakes 10, Jenkins , Worden 6, Linnell 4, Richards, Rybak 3, Wass 2
Draskovic, Nunn 1

Winfield League Division 1 Reserves Standings 1977

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
RAPID	17	14	1	2	64	23	30
UNIVERSITY	17	12	3	2	52	25	26
WHITE EAGLE	**17**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**49**	**30**	**21**
CALEDONIANS	17	9	6	2	52	33	20
SOUTH HOBART	16	6	6	4	37	42	16
OLYMPIA	17	6	8	3	41	32	15
CROATIA	16	6	7	3	40	47	15
JUVENTUS	16	4	10	2	43	54	10
METRO	17	2	11	3	34	50	7
DNIPRO	16	2	14	0	14	90	4

Goalscorers:

Witek 12, Kempa 10, Riddock 7, Wass 4, Draskovic, Riastovic, Worden, Gorniak 2, Buissink, Nelson, Allison, Elliot, Linnell 1, OGs 3

Larry Nunn - Player of The Year

By Gordon Burnett

LARRY NUNN, 6ft 2in and 13st of ability and determination, has established a number of firsts In winning SEM's Player of the Year soccer award.

- **He is the first Hobart-born player to be honoured.**
- **At 24 he is the youngest In the history of an award that goes back 20 years.**
- **He Is the first White Eagles' winner.**

A product of Rose Bay High and Hobart Matric, he gives most of the credit for his progress to coach John Grimsey, who had him at Metro and then Olympia.

Larry captained White Eagles this year for the first time, and they won their-and his - first premiership. It was the last of the pre-State League competition, and he is hoping to lead Eagles to the first of the Radio Rentals State League premiership next season.

That and a desire to keep improving are his immediate aims. Turning from Rules to soccer at high school as it was “something different", he later played for Tasmania against the People's Republic of China team and captained the Southern Tasmanian Under 23 team against Sunshine City (V) and was offered a trial for Polonia, Melbourne.

He was appointed captain of White Eagles by the club's committee but accepted the job only alter being selected by the players. "I'm playing with them, not the committee," he said.

He had a season of consistently good performances as a double centre-half and was an inspiration to a side that had everything but needed to put it together - under the guidance of coach Glyn Jenkins.

He relaxes in the off season but points out that it is only a couple of months before training starts for the following season. Larry intends to do some coaching of Juniors and urges others to do the same; he sees the State League as a challenge to the administration; and he thinks it’s a pity that Juventus-Pioneer and Burnie Spartans were left out.

He is employed as a clerk at Telecom Australia and his fiancée, Julie Barnes, of Howrah, is a keen sportswoman, having been In the Hobart Building Society’s premiership netball team this year.

1977 Presentation Night – G. Jenkins, L. Nunn

1977 Presentation Night - Glyn Jenkins, E, Kelly

1977 Presentation Night - M. Sikora, K. Witek

WHITE EAGLE

STATE LEAGUE PREMIERS

1978

Back: W. Jones (Trainer) D. Forshaw, L. Nunn, D. Trueman, P. Linnell, M. Richards, M. Oakes, E. Kelly, N. Sugden, M Sikora, T. Steenhuis (Manager) **Front:** D. Fraraccio, P. Wass, T. Godfrey, B. McKay, M. Caban, D. Smith

White Eagles will start campaign without coach

By Gordon Burnett – 28/3/1978

WHITE EAGLES will start on Sunday what is expected to be a formidable bid for the initial Radio Rentals Soccer State League title without the top-ranking Polish coach they are expecting from Europe.

Peter Broll, who represented Poland as a goalkeeper, has been held up, and until he arrives, former South Melbourne Hellas player Peter Bourne, from Manchester (UK), is doing a great job as coach.

Eagles will be without Worden, Southworth and Bucher from last year's team, Oakes is away, and temporary keeper Wass is leaving the State next week. But they have new talent, headed by David Smith, Nigel Sugden, Dominic Fraraccio, who is injured, Tony Godfrey and David Forshaw.

Sugden who was sent off last week will be playing as the State League considers a player innocent until proved guilty, whereas the TSA impose an automatic one match suspension and disciplinary penalty points.

The same will apply to Don Farmery (Olympia), who had the necessary number of disciplinary points at the end of last season to appear before the investigation committee, but who was not called to appear.

Eagles meet Croatia in a repeat performance of the Michael The Taylor Cup semi-final, Eagles won 3-2. Croatia will miss Dudley Hall, but Letec, George Sarfalvy and Zapatocki have returned to the club. Sarfalvy and Leung can be expected to send across well placed centres for Lakoseljac, who will have Kirkpatrick waiting to come through from behind.

Olympia has recruited so well that they mut have high hopes of regaining the State premiership they won last in 1968. Goalkeeper Eric Stettner, from Launceston United, Farmery, Moore, Wilson, Ernie Rawlings, and Worden who is their coach, are newcomers who will be on view.

They have lost Schwesinger, Morales, Alwan and Aziz to Rapid, although Aziz is reported to be wanting to return to Olympia. Chris Hargrave is having a run in the reserves.

They have a tough game against Devonport, who could be the strongest challengers to Southern dominance, and Devonport are almost unbeatable on their Valley Road ground.

Olympia crashed there last year, and Rapid at their best, were beaten there the year before. Visiting teams invariably play through the centre, throwing away skills and speed.

Devonport, who were taken by national coach Jimmy Shoulder for their final training session last night, are considered stronger than when they won the Ampol State Cup. They have only two new faces. youngsters Conway (19) and Abley (16), from their reserves and they could get a run.

Launceston United will be in Hobart against Rapid, and Tommy Bain, who has been a State Goalkeeper, is returning after six years. Australian schoolboy squad member Baden Carter is a new striker from Olympic, who will be all the better for having Hughes playing behind him. They are a very fit side, and Welsh coach Peter Carter is developing their skills.

Rapid have got Plazonic back from South Hobart, and Schwesinger, Alwan and Morales from Olympia, and have a good blend of youth and experience that should bring results, despite the loss of Schiebl, Farmery, Wilson and Stuetzel. Don Reid could be available soon.

Launceston Juventus have newcomers in former Croatia player Chris Collins in the midfield, Jamie Hodge from Olympia at centre half in front of the evergreen Tommy Strickland, and Jock Glass from Launceston Croatia is their coach. They are reported to be stronger than last year, despite Hans Streit's break-down in a pre-season game.

They meet Caledonians against whom they do not have a good record, even when playing in the North. It will be the official opening of the Prospect ground, which is part of a $250,000 sporting complex.

Caledonians will be captained by State player Mike Bailey, who has fully recovered from the injury that kept him out of the Olympia side for a long period last season. Other new faces will be Garry Jenkins and the Marlor brothers Paul and Stephen. Goalkeeper Paul Jones has yet to start training, and Tony Godfrey has gone to White Eagles.

George Town, with a pre-season win over both Launceston Juventus and Devonport, are a team that could surprise against the best. They have youth and speed and a good attack that is pleasing coach Alan Whitemore.

Andy Schiebl, from Rapid, has put new life into a side which has two Australian Under 18 squad players in Mark O'Sullivan and Martin Burden.

They are at home to Ulverstone, a side with an average age of 24, and who play a 4-3-3 formation. Neil Bladen is an interesting player up front, after playing in the State Under 15 team, new centre forward Howard from Penguin has speed to burn, and Ron Smith and Shegog have been in the State Squad.

Eagles struggle for draw: SOS sent out for coach

By Gordon Burnett – 3/4/1978

FORMER State and Olympia coach, John Grimsey, flew into Hobart yesterday in answer to an SOS from White Eagles and saw them scramble to a 1-1 draw with Croatia in the opening program of the Radio Rentals State Soccer League.

Grimsey said Eagles played "atrociously" in the first half, but then improved. Croatia had led by a lone first half goal to within eight minutes of the end. Grimsey will coach Eagles, last year's State premiers, until the arrival of Polish coach, Peter Broll, from Europe. Temporary coach Peter Bourne left yesterday to re-join South Melbourne Hellas.

Croatia scored through winger Bill Krawczyk in the 14th minute and could have gone further ahead through Lakoseljac (twice), Kirkpatrick and Cowen, who missed a penalty. Eagles were struggling when a centre from Richards went across the goal, and Payne completely mis-kicked the ball for second half replacement Tony Godfrey, formerly Caledonians, to score a surprise equaliser.

Seconds later another Richards cross saw David Smith head over. Trueman and Kelly were best for Eagles and Cowen for Croatia.

Rapid, without the injured Morales, pleased coach Karl Schwesinger with a 5-2 win over Launceston United. John Dilba was at centre-forward to give maximum speed up front, with his brother Jack and Peter Thompson.

United opened with plenty of dash. Pickering scored the first goal in the initial State League season, when a corner from the left was headed by Hughes into a crowd of players, and Pickering got a foot to the ball for a third minute goal.

A pass from Thompson brought the equaliser by John Dilba in the 15th minute, but United could have got on top had McCormack converted a penalty against Plazonic. Thompson hit an upright, and Alwan missed an open goal before the teams crossed over at 1-1.

Thompson shot well over the bar before Hopkins, a last-minute substitute for the injured Hudson, brought John Dilba down in the area, and Schwesinger put Rapid ahead. It was 3-1 three minutes later when Steve Kannegiesser took a pass from Alwan, and then Dilba hit an upright.

Hands against Plazonic saw McCormack score from the spot to make it 2-3. A late rally by United failed to get past Phillip Kannegiesser, who was impressive with everything overhead despite the close attentions of Chadwick.

Steve Kannegiesser made it 4-2 when he fastened onto a pass from Alwan. Seeing Bain standing well outside his goal, he shot hurriedly and kicked the ground before connecting with the ball, which looked as if it would clear the bar. However, the spin on it caused it to dip suddenly into the bottom of the net.

Kannegiesser was responsible for the fifth goal when Thompson went in on his pass to make it 5-2, against a tiring opposition.

United coach Peter Carter said his team played well below form. Farrington, Joss and Baden Carter got through a lot of work for them, and Willcock, Thompson and Phillip Kannegiesser were three of Rapid's youngsters to impress.

Olympia played well, and had their chances at Devonport, who won a fast and even encounter by a lone goal scored by winger Fabio Pizzerani, eight minutes from the end. Former Croatia goalkeeper Udovicic was in great form saving a 25-yard pile-driver from Spendiff.

Constantinovits hit the cross bar, and the hard-working Zschoke hit an

upright for Devonport, before Olympia coach Worden, came on for Rawlings and hit the bar. Three minutes from time, new Olympia goalkeeper Stettner saved brilliantly from Pizzerani.

Zschoke, MacDonald and McKenna were best for Devonport and Spendiff, Constantinovits and Conlan for Olympia.

Launceston Juventus celebrated the opening of their new ground at Prospect, with a 5-0 win over Caledonians, who were handicapped by Hen's indifferent goalkeeping.

Juventus crossed over with a three-goal lead, and Caledonians, caught in possession too often, had sufficient chances to equalise at least, through Nichols, Dunsby and Hales before conceding two further goals.

Tommy Strickland was the driving force behind Juventus, and Joe Hanna stood out for Calies. Paul Marlor made a promising debut. Juventus' star forward Hans Streit played, but knee trouble sapped his enthusiasm.

A hat-trick by Andy Schiebl, formerly of Rapid, failed to give George Town both points against Ulverstone, who recovered from 1-3 to be 3-3 through an own with nine minutes to go.

Schiebl was the life of the town in a dour struggle, in which both sides started shakily. George Town led 2-1 at half time and were 3-1 when they lost control of the midfield.

Details – Radio Rentals State League Devonport 1 (Pizzerani) d Olympia Saveway 0; Rapid Wrest Point 5 (S Kannegiesser 2, John Dilba, Schwesinger pen., Thompson) d Launceston United 2 (Pickering, McCormack pen.); Launceston Juventus 5 (Gibbons 2, L Hodge, J Hodge, own goal) d Caledonians 0; George Town 3 (Schiebl 3) drew with Ulverstone 3 (Bladen, Fisher, own goal); White Eagles 1 (Godfrey) drew with Croatia 1 (Krawczyk)

Calies at home may push Devonport

By Gordon Burnett – 7/4/1978

DEVONPORT, tipped by national coach Jimmy Shoulder for top

honours, will be visiting Hobart tomorrow in the State League soccer competition and could find Caledonians an underrated team.

Calies were much better value against Launceston Juventus that a 5-0 defeat would suggest, and if they can round off attacking moves, they could worry former Croatia star goalkeeper Joe Udovicic.

They will have a big home ground advantage at Margate and will be strengthened by the return of Hugh Mackinnon to the defence, and Dunsby could be used at centre-forward.

Devonport, who lean to the Scottish style of hard and bustling football, have plenty of skill.

They will be strengthened by the return of Phillip Lumb, after a late start to the season, and Craig McTurk, a fast-young winger, is expected to speed up the attack. Coach Tommy McKenna started off in midfield, and on the right wing against Olympia, but the team did not really get going until he moved out onto the left wing.

MacDonald and Zschoke had a good game in the midfield and will be a menace tomorrow.

White Eagles were rudderless in the first half against Croatia last week but improved after new coach John Grimsey had addressed them in no uncertain way at half time.

He was expected to join the club in two weeks, but they managed to change his mind, and he arrived back in Hobart from Melbourne at 5.30pm yesterday and was with the team at Clare St Oval at 6.30pm.

He has an early problem, as Eagles do not have a regular goalkeeper. Wally Bucher is not in training, and substitute Peter Wass is away on holidays. Powerful striker Bobby Rybak will be in goal tomorrow, unless a hoped-for clearance from Juventus-Pioneer for Mick Caban materialises. Grimsey will also be trying to get more speed-and drive-up-front.

Launceston Juventus beat White Eagles last season in the Cup, but it was on their ground at Brooks, and Hans Streit was in top form. The strength of their side is their midfield quartet of Leighton Hodge, Foran, Chris Collins and Hensely, who will have the dependable Tommy Strickland behind them.

Gibbons scored twice last week, and this is the striker Calies were after.

Goalkeeper Mick Scott is back from overseas and has started training.

Rapid scored five goals last week from build-ups that could have given them double figures, and Ulverstone will be in for a torrid time against the great speed of the Dilba twins in attack.

Rapid are a fit side that can space their physical output, revelling in the hard work given them by Karl Schwesinger. Despite having to make a very early start tomorrow, Rapid will test Ulverstone, who have young and fast forwards waiting for the long ball to come through.

Ulverstone were in trouble against George Town, until coach Sam Smythe came on in the second half to control the midfield. State Under 16 player Neil Bladen will be one to watch, and Tom and Ted Dolliver will be renewing acquaintances with Southern players, after leaving South Hobart some years ago.

Croatia will have George Sarfalvy on the wing tomorrow against Launceston United at Newstead, and this means that their lone goal-scorer last week Billy Krawczyk will be at full back. They are a team who will improve and become a real menace as they use the ball and know the way to the net.

Launceston United are having problems with their centre-back, and are hoping for better things after dropping a point through a tragic back pass for a 3-3 equaliser by Ulverstone. Andy Schiebl, the League's first scorer of a hat-trick, will be the one to mark. They have a couple of promising young players in Mark Gaetani (18), and Tommy Farrell (16).

It will be another round in which teams will be looking for a goal for a draw, and two goals for two points. Likely winners are Devonport, White Eagles, Olympia, Croatia and Rapid

Devonport had tough time beating Caledonians

By Gordon Burnett – 10/4/1978

RAPID Wrest Point and Devonport are the only two clubs in the 10-team Radio Rentals State League soccer competition to have won both opening games.

But while Rapid proved too good on Saturday for a rugged Ulverstone team, Devonport was fully extended by Caledonians, in a crowd pleaser at Margate that ended disastrously for Calies, when Paul Marlor was sent off for alleged retaliation 15 minutes from the end, just when they were getting on top.

Devonport dictated play in the first half to lead 2-0 at the change, but Calies fought back to match them for speed and skill, pulled back a goal and then found the handicap of only 10 men too much.

Goalkeeper Martin Hen had a return to form for Calies, who were well served by Hugh Mackinnon in his first full game for them this season, and Nichols, Frame, McKenna, MacDonald and Zschoke were best for Devonport, who had a large crowd of supporters.

Rapid were two goals up in the first seven minutes against Ulverstone and dominated the first half with a relaxed exhibition that built up several promising attacks.

Ulverstone Coach Sam Smythe came on after half time and lifted his side to the extent that Rapid were forced on the defensive. A penalty against goalkeeper Phillip Kannegiesser 20 minutes into the second half, saw Ulverstone back in the game, but Rapid went to 3-1 with the last kick of the game.

Cengia was best on the ground, and Jack Dilba and Philip Kannegiesser were others to impress in the Rapid side. Melhuis, and former southerners Tom Dolliver and Foot were Ulverstone's best.

White Eagles had Mike Caban in goal against Launceston Juventus, "on a two-week loan pending successful clearance negotiations with Juventus-Pioneer."

The visitors were unrecognisable without Hans Streit, who is injured, and because of their shift from the long game to close passing. Streit is having a knee operation and will be away for at least six weeks.

Only magnificent defensive play by skipper Tommy Strickland, backed by good goalkeeping by Tom Garrett, saved the northern team. Strickland cleared in desperate style off the goal line once in each half, following good attempts by Linnell and Richards, respectively.

Juventus, who got their first corner in the 29th minute, played for a draw during the last half hour, although with

17 minutes to go, a cross by replacement Beal, saw Ponting, another second half replacement, with daylight in front of goal, but he was too slow and was smothered just in time.

Linnell produced one of the best moves of the game when in the second half he cleverly switched play to put David Smith through the centre, only for Garrett to save brilliantly.

A well-disciplined Juventus side did not take advantage of the wind in the first half, when all attempts to set Gibbons up failed in the face of sound defensive play by Kelly.

They were aware of the Eagles' offside trap, and on one occasion were unlucky to be pulled up when going through for what could have been a score. But it was a linesman's decision, and referee Ude Wallinger (NW) had a good game.

Smith stood out in an Eagles team, who would have improved their goal situation with more punch up front.

Olympia showed a glimpse of their fire power when they coasted to a comfortable 4-1 interval lead against George Town, were 5-2 and won 6-3, with former southern player Andy Schiebl scoring for the visitors with barely seconds left.

Don Farmery, top goal-scorer for the past two years had a hat-trick in a game in which both sides missed a penalty, Constantinovits for Olympia, and Mason for George Town. Schiebl and Dale were best for George Town, and Farmery, Wright and Spendiff stood out for Olympia.

Launceston United had an early shock when goalkeeper Tommy Bain failed to pass a fitness test on Saturday morning. Conrad Hughes a very promising forward, who had been dropped for this game, was used in goal, and was judged man of the match!

United were an own goal down at half time and appeared to be the victims of a gift penalty in an improved team display. George Sarfalvy did well on the wing for Croatia, and Cowen and Kirkpatrick were always dangerous.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Launceston Juventus 0 drew with White Eagles 0; Rapid Wrest Point 3 (John Dilba, Cengia, S Kannegiesser) d Ulverston 1 (Smythe pen): Croatia 2 (own goal, Cowen) d Launceston United 0; Olympia Saveway 6 (Farmery 3, Spendiff, Wright, Bolton) d George Town 3 (Mason, Schiebl, Dale pen); Devonport 2 (Zschoke, McKenna) d

Caledonians (Dunsby)

Eagles have the strength in attack

By Gordon Burnett – 14/4/1978

WHITE EAGLES had two close games against Devonport before winning last season's State premiership, and they will be even stronger for tomorrow's needle Radio Rentals State League soccer clash against the Coastal champions.

The understanding between David Smith and Tony Godfrey have given a new menace to their attack. Mark Oakes is back from Bali and will lead the line after looking sharp at training last night, and Mike Richards will be on the other wing.

This will enable Peter Linnell to sit behind the forwards like Mike Southwell did and use his ball skills and shooting ability to better purpose. Nigel Sugden has gained a place in defence at the expense of Brian McKay for at least the first half, and Dave Forshaw is the other one on the bench, with Harry Stewart paying the penalty for not training.

Devonport is relying on the team that took them to the Northern premiership and are quietly confident, having a 90-minute combination who have made scoring chances but have not taken them.

Skipper Charlie Baird strained a muscle at training, but he could pass tomorrow's fitness test. Fabio Pizzerani was not available last week but will be back allowing McTurk to play for the TSL side.

White Eagles have yet to do justice to new coach John Grimsey, but the talent is there, and he is getting through to them.

The main game Hobart tomorrow will be George Town's attempt to topple Rapid Wrest Point from the top of the table, and their main destroyer could be Andy Schiebl, the George Town sharpshooter who shined for Rapid last season.

George Town have won only one point, but they have scored three times in each game and cannot be written off at this stage.

They have a fast forward line that neglected the wingers last week, and Mason is showing good form in the midfield. O'Sullivan on the other hand, had a quiet game last week, and youthful goalkeeper Burden had some good practice against goal hungry Farmery.

Zoon, who was out with an ankle injury against Olympia, will be in the side in place of Marshall Brown.

Rapid will be strengthened by Alonzo Morales, formerly of Olympia, who has made a slow recovery from a knee injury because Rapid were taking no chances playing him too soon.

With a solid defence and very fast wingers, Morales should give Cengia more scope to play behind an attack that is improving their scoring percentages in relation to chances made.

Rapid are clearing Noorey Aziz to any club willing to negotiate. He played in two pre-season games but has not been able to settle down in this side.

On Sunday Olympia, considered one of the stronger sides, will be visiting the improved Caledonians at Margate.

Hugh Mackinnon has stiffened up Calies' defence to allow players to move forward with more confidence. David Dunsby has given the attack that extra zip that has been lacking.

Chris Hey, a promising youngster has been cleared by Kingborough on a two-month trial basis and he has been included in Caledonian's squad. Barry Shacklady (Metro) has been training with Calies and is expected to sign for them. Top goalkeeper Paul Jones will start training next week.

Darby Conlan, the hardworking Olympia half-back who had to come off early last week, is fit again, but Broughton is still injured. Constantinovits is very solid at centre-half and Stettner has settled well in goal after coming from Launceston.

Croatia is at home to Ulverstone who are not disheartened by conceding six goals from their two games.

Ulverstone have had their chances but lack height in the goalmouth and their finishing off has been below standard.

They are getting over the big-time nerves and are confident of giving an improved display. Keith Hamilton, a very fast winger, has been brought into the side in place of Howard.

Croatia was after two new players last night, but they could be relying on their regular side.

Launceston United are likely to attack from the start in an all-out bid to break through Launceston Juventus after two defeats.

Tommy Bain will be back in goal. Conrad Hughes will lead the attack with Pickering and Chadwick on the wings, and Laverty is expected to retain his place at full-back after a good game against Croatia.

Launceston Juventus will not have Beal this week and former University player Paul Gimpl is in the squad instead. Star forward Hans Streit will have a knee operation on Thursday and will be out of the game for at least six weeks.

Looking for winners Croatia, Launceston Juventus, Rapid, White Eagles and Olympia could do the trick.

Devonport no match for in-form White Eagles

By Gordon Burnett – 17/4/1978

WHITE EAGLES showed premiership form when they survived a torrid first half and then played all over Devonport to win their Radio Rentals State League soccer game at Valley Rd. on Saturday.

But despite hitting the Devonport crossbar once and an upright twice, there was only a lone goal in it, scored by winger Tony Godfrey in a solo effort 20 minutes before the end.

He got a pass from Sugden, rounded the full-back and cut in to score the goal that really restored White Eagles' confidence after they had been re-awakened by a few home truths from coach John Grimsey at half-time.

The result was a team with purpose and the club are so pleased with Grimsey, that he will retain the coaching job even when former Polish international Peter Broll arrives in Hobart from Europe. Chairman Don Finegan said Broll would be assistant coach.

Goalkeeper Mick Caban inspired a jaded Eagle's side in the first half, with a brilliant diving save to a header from

MacDonald after a cross from McKenna, and Mark Sikora had a great game taming the elusive McKenna.

Devonport's defeat has left Rapid Wrest Point at the top of the table with a resounding 9-1 win over George Town,

who appeared in Hobart for the second week running, and in all conceded 15 goals.

The visitors had no answer to Rapid's speed and ability. They were six goals down at half time and two more came within three minutes of the resumption to check any hopes of a comeback.

The speedy John Dilba had a hat-trick besides hitting the crossbar and could have had many more had he been given passes to run on to, instead of having to take them with his back to the George Town goal.

Croatia would have beaten Ulverstone by more that 5-0 but for the goalkeeping of Rod Smith. Billy Kirkpatrick had his first hat-trick for Croatia and would have made it four goals had Smith not saved his penalty attempt.

Ulverstone were 0-2 at half time, deteriorated into a bunch of individuals and coach Sam Smythe said they had never played worse. Croatia is negotiating for the clearances of mid-fielder Chris Howell from Dnipro and winger Tasso Manis from Olympia.

In a slow and uninspiring Launceston "derby," Launceston Juventus scored a goal in each half against Launceston United to take second position on the standings.

The hard-working Hensely scored midway through the first half and Gibbons early after the change-over. Strickland and Gibbons were best for Juventus.

Caledonians were on their way to a major upset against Olympia at Margate yesterday when they crossed over 2-0 in the lead in driving rain, but after 12 minutes in the second half Olympia were 4-2. Then to make matters worse, replacement Peter Sherman (16), playing in his first game for the seniors, scored with his first kick within seconds of going on the field and added a second soon after to put Olympia to 6-2.

Ken Worden, who missed a penalty, sparked off Olympia's win with a superb display of ball control, passing and shooting, and Constantinovits got through a lot of work in defence. Spendiff had to go off 15 minutes from the end with a leg injury.

Details – Radio Rentals State League White Eagles 1 (Godfrey) d Devonport 0; Rapid Wrest Point 9 (John Dilba 3, Thompson 3, Alwan 2, incl a pen., S Kannegiesser, Plazonic) d George Town 1 (Dale pen.); Croatia 5 (B Kirkpatrick 3, Cowen pen., Sarfalvy) d Ulverstone 0; Launceston Juventus 2 (Hensely, Gibbons) d Launceston Utd 0; Olympia 6 (Farmery 2, P Sherman 2, Worden, Spendiff) d Caledonians 3 (Hales, McKinnon, Nichols).

Olympia faces tough test in Rapid

By Gordon Burnett – 28/4/1978

RAPID WREST POINT, possibly the fastest team in the Radio Rentals State League, should give Olympia Saveway a real test tomorrow in the game of the day at South Hobart.

But they will be without rapidly improving right winger Peter Thompson, who is on the sick list, and new recruit Harry Stewart, who injured an ankle at training and is not yet fit enough.

There will be a great duel for midfield supremacy, with much depending on former Iraqi international Noorey Aziz and Bruno Cengia.

The speedy Dilba twins, well backed up by Stephen Kannegiesser, could play havoc with an Olympia defence that was sluggish against South Hobart.

The big question could be whether Rapid can hold Ken Worden and Ronnie Bolton, both of whom could give Don Farmery chances in the air against his old team.

Rapid goalkeeper Phillip Kannegiesser is at his best with high balls and his duels with Farmery will be a highlight of what could be the match of the season.

On their struggling display against South Hobart, it is difficult seeing Olympia improve sufficiently to beat Rapid, who quite deliberately showed Olympia nothing in the course of their win against University on the same ground.

It is hoped a strong referee will be appointed to this game.

For their game at George Town, Croatia will be without wingers George Sarfalvy, who is injured again, and Kevin Leung, who is unavailable.

It was at George Town that Croatia won their first State premiership, and they will probably be too good again.

George Town have decided to give their young goalkeeper Burden a change of scenery and Martin Jones has been recalled to take his place. They are hoping to have Marshall Brown, but this will depend on a change of shift being arranged. Reece, a good ball player will be on the bench.

Caledonians could have Paul Jones back in goal on Sunday to bear the brunt of White Eagles, who beat them 5-1 in the cup in their last game.

Things are going badly for Calies who have captain Mike Bailey injured and Alistair Hales needing to be rested.

White Eagles have drawn Victorian State League side Essendon for a home game in the Phillips national knockout cup competition. The game will be played on a Wednesday before May 31.

Ulverstone are relying on ground advantage to beat Launceston Juventus, who have fared poorly in recent visits to Ulverstone.

Ulverstone report that their best team is available, and they are fit and confident of beating a side who have depended so heavily in recent years on the now injured Hans Streit.

Streit's knee operation is said to have been successful.

Bob Stackhouse, a regular first team player last season, has trained well after a late start and has been included on a wing to give more penetration to Launceston United's attack against Devonport.

Lack-lustre Olympia no match for classy Rapid

By Gordon Burnett – 01/5/1978

RAPID Wrest Point showed real premiership claims when beating Olympia Saveway 4-1 on a day of Radio Rentals State League soccer surprises on Saturday.

It was their first stiff hurdle, and they took it in their stride, with lightning

striker John Dilba completely demoralising the Olympia defence.

And at George Town, former Rapid striker Andy Schiebl scored four goals in his side's 6-1 upset win over Croatia.

At Newstead, Devonport, leading 2-0 at half time, were beaten 4-3 by the

hitherto pointless Launceston United, with Stackhouse scoring the decider with three minutes to go.

Launceston Juventus kept close on Rapid's heels with a lone own goal early in the second half against Ulverstone to maintain their record of not having had a goal scored against them.

Rapid's success was a team effort that could be improved still further with the inclusion of Bruno Cengia, rested on Saturday to give his hamstring injury a chance to recover completely, and a new recruit Harry Stewart, who is not fit yet.

Noorey Aziz played a great game in midfield, Yakob Plazonic held the defence together, and Stephen Kannegiesser showed again what a deceptively dangerous forward he is.

Olympia surprised when coach Ken Worden did not play in the first half. When he came on at the start of the second half in place of Peter Sherman, Rapid were on their way to victory. Winger Ronnie Bolton and goalkeeper Eric Stettner were their best players. But Olympia gave Rapid a lot of ground to move in.

John Dilba gave Rapid the lead in the 12th minute and Spendiff equalised five minutes later, with the goalkeeper at fault on each occasion.

Rapid led 2-1 at half time through a penalty against Constantinovits with only 90 seconds to go. It was for a trip against John Dilba.

Stettner had saved brilliantly on two occasions in this half against John Dilba, and former Rapid player Don Farmery was only inches wide at the other end.

After Farmery had gone close, Rapid went to 3-1 in the 52nd minute when a clearance by Plazonic sent Aziz away on the left and his pass to Kannegiesser produced a good goal with the defence watching John Dilba. Then came a disallowed goal following good play by Jock Newlands, playing in his first full game for Rapid.

But Newlands was not to be denied and a corner kick by him saw Jack Dilba make it 4-1 in the 63rd minute.

Jack Dilba had a shot land on the crossbar before Peter Medhurst, who had not been feeling his best before the game, was replaced by Robbie Vail after a very good display.

Olympia were now well beaten, although Worden had a pile-driver saved almost at point blank range by Phillip Kannegiesser, and Farmery should have converted a pass from Spendiff.

George Town who will surprise several top sides on their own ground, struck a high note against Croatia.

They scored in the fourth minute, were 1-1, went to 3-1 and never looked back, doing everything right against a side who were struggling.

Schiebl, who had already scored the league's first hat-trick, notched four more goals in a fine display and Farrell gave him every assistance, while Marshall Brown dominated the midfield.

Devonport, who used the wind to advantage in the first half to lead 2-0 against Launceston United, resorted to the long ball too often after the changeover and the ball often did not clear their defence.

United, spurred on by their loyal band of supporters, made it 1-2 two minutes into the second half through a screamer goal by Conrad Hughes, and the winger Stackhouse, recalled to give greater penetration, headed in the equaliser. An own goal saw United lead 3-2, only for Billy Frame to equalise, and Stackhouse got the decider with three minutes to go.

Goalkeeper Tommy Bain was the man of the match, holding Devonport up at crucial stages of the game.

Ulverstone had their chances to beat Launceston Juventus in a game in which both defences were kept busy, and they were unlucky not to salvage a point, especially after giving away an own goal to decide the match.

White Eagles beat Caledonians yesterday for the second time in a week, scoring three times in the last 20 minutes after beating them 6-1 in the Ampol State Cup.

Veteran Joe Hanna had bad luck with a powerful shot that was blocked on the Eagles' goal line soon after they had opened the scoring. But the best shot of the game came from Sugden in the first half, the ball just skimming the bar from 30 yards.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Rapid Wrest Point 4 (John Dilba 2, Alwan pen, Kannegiesser) d Olympia Saveway 1 (Spendiff); George Town 6 (Schiebl 4 mason, Farrell) d Croatia 1 (Cowen); Launceston Juventus 1 (an own goal) d Ulverstone 0; Launceston United 4 (Stackhouse 2, an own goal, Hughes) d Devonport 3 (McKenna, Pizzerani, Frame); White Eagles 3 (Godfrey, Linnell, Smith) d Caledonians 0.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	4	4	0	0	21	5	8
L'ton Juventus	4	3	0	1	8	0	7
White Eagle	4	2	0	2	5	1	6
Croatia	4	2	1	1	9	7	5
Olympia	4	2	2	0	13	11	4
Devonport	4	2	2	0	6	6	4
George Town	4	1	2	1	13	19	3
L'ton United	4	1	3	0	6	12	2
Ulverstone	4	0	3	1	4	12	1
Calies	4	0	4	0	4	16	0

Home matches for Hobart's State League teams

By Gordon Burnett – 5/5/1978

SOUTHERN soccer fans will have the opportunity to see all Hobart's five Radio Rentals State League teams in action this weekend for the first time this season.

And there will be at least two keenly fought encounters when Olympia Saveway meet White Eagles tomorrow at South Hobart and Croatia play Rapid Wrest Point at Glenorchy on Sunday.

Olympia players were given a pep talk this week after their disappointing performance against Rapid, and former TSA top goal scorer Roger Norman has been recalled after scoring almost at will in the Winfield Combined League. Tommy Wilson and Ernie Rawlings have been dropped.

Olympia has the talent on paper but they are not combining as a team, and White Eagles, who have been training three nights a week, could use the open spaces as well as Rapid did last week.

Peter Wass is back from holidays, but like Dave Forshaw, he is short of match practice and they will both be in the reserves tomorrow.

Like Olympia, White Eagles main danger could come from their wings,

with Mark Oakes a 90-minute trier in the centre.

Rapid, who like the Glenorchy ground because of the extra space in which to exploit their speed, have trained well for their game against Croatia.

Bruno Cengia will join Noorey Aziz and Stephen Kannegiesser in the midfield

and it is this trio who should decide the match.

Croatia have got winger Tasso Manis from Olympia and he could not have arrived at a more opportune time with Kevin Leung and George Sarfalvy unavailable.

Croatia has seldom played worse than they did at George Town. With more determination to get the ball they are capable of a come-back, but they could need the incentive of an early goal to make them dangerous.

Caledonians will be without coach Mike Bailey, Weymouth and Dunsby against Launceston United and even a home ground advantage at Margate may not be sufficient to break their duck against a team who beat Devonport last week for their first success and are keen to go on with it.

Alistair Hales is back in the side, which included seven 17-year old's last Sunday, and looked very light.

United will not have skipper Mick Joss, who is unavailable, and Steve Hudson has got his place. Steve Clark, son of former Tasmanian State captain Terry Clark is getting his State League chance for Launceston Juventus against George Town at Prospect.

He came into the side through the injury last week to Barry Hensely, who has been doing a great job in the midfield. Another newcomer to Juventus is Chris Bowers.

George Town do not have a good record against Juventus, but their fine win against Croatia will act as a spur. Their only change is David Reece on the wing for the injured Whitemore. Goalkeeper Jones has been retained after a sound display behind a good defence.

Devonport is not firing as expected, and it is the second half that is finding them out. MacDonald could be missing against Ulverstone as he has had an attack of fibrositis and Conway (18), could get a place in the defence.

Ulverstone considered themselves unlucky not to beat Juventus, and with coach Sam Smythe playing a full game

again they could give a good account of themselves against Devonport at Valley Rd. Michael Foot and Neil Bladen are two young players coming along well in this side.

Injury-hit Eagles play out draw against Olympia

By Gordon Burnett – 8/5/1978

LOSS of goalkeeper Mick Caban with a seven-stitch gash just above an eye, saw White Eagles lose their superiority and play for a draw against Olympia Saveway in their Radio Rentals State League soccer clash on Saturday.

Caban, who also suffered concussion, went off 10 minutes into the second half after making a daring save at the feet of Danny Spendiff. He was replaced in goal by Peter Linnell and Mike Richards was brought on as a substitute.

A great shot by Tommy Wright that Linnell did well to fist over the bar and a shot from Don Farmery that smashed against the crossbar almost gave Olympia the game in the last 14 minutes.

Former Olympia coach, Peter Cagialis, prepared the team for this match after their disappointing display against Rapid and he is likely to coach them on match days.

A controversial penalty in the 29th minute rocked Olympia on their comeback trail, but they equalised four minutes before half-time when a long ball from Ken Worden on the left found Spendiff on his own on the right. The defence screamed for offside as he crossed the ball for Farmery to nod in a picture goal.

Eagles' offside trap had worked well up to then and it caught the Olympia forwards time and again. Olympia opened the second half with much more determination and with the closure of a big gap down the centre they looked a lot more dangerous.

Even so, after Linnell had gone in goal Oakes hit an upright. Whereas Eagles had previously started at a fast pace without really stretching their wingers they now slowed the game down and "goal-a-game" Tony Godfrey hardly touched the ball in this half.

It was Eagles' third draw in five games, and they have yet to be beaten. While Eamonn Kelly was again the mainstay of the defence, Dominic Fraraccio had a good game in the midfield and Mark Oakes should have converted at least two of his passes.

Tommy Wright got through a tremendous amount of work for Olympia, who played Worden in the centre and lacked penetration on the wings.

Travelling must take its toll on players, judging by Launceston United's 0-5 defeat by Caledonians at Margate after beating Devonport at home the previous week – and George Town crashed at Prospect.

Caledonians should have been leading by three goals at the interval, but they squandered chances and crossed over 0-0.

Farmer had a penalty attempt saved by Tommy Bain, but it was only a matter of time before they showed their fitness to run United into the ground to the tune of five goals without reply to record their first points.

The return of Paul Jones in goal has meant a lot to Calies. In their two Hobart visits United conceded five goals each time.

Launceston Juventus was 1-0 at half-time but then got well on top against George Town with Leighton Hodge having a good match capped off with a hat-trick in a 6-1 win that included two goals by Steve Clark in his State League debut.

In the second half Reece (George Town) was sent off for alleged retaliation and Foran (Juventus) for alleged violent conduct.

The only yardstick for yesterday's game at Glenorchy between Rapid and Croatia was that Croatia lost 1-6 at George Town last week after Rapid had beaten George Town 9-1 in Hobart.

Yesterday it was a goalless draw to ruin Rapid's 100 per cent winning record – and Croatia would have won against a less accomplished goalkeeper than Phillip Kannegiesser.

New recruit Tasso Manis had a great chance in front of goal, and soon after Jack Dilba hit the crossbar at the other end. Rodney Tattam was kept on his toes by Rapid in the second half and with five minutes to go Munther Alwan should have converted a perfect pass from John Dilba.

Rapid concentrated too much on John Dilba, despite the fact he was being held very well between Ray Mohring and Frank Letec.

Croatia was best served by Mohring, Letec, and Tattam, while Rapid's best,

were Noorey Aziz, Yakob Plazonic and Phillip Kannegiesser.

Billy Frame's three unsuccessful attempts to convert a penalty were the highlight of a scrappy game in which Devonport beat Ulverstone 3-1 after being 1-1 at half-time.

Frame's first shot was block by goalkeeper Rod Smith, and when he shot again from the rebound the goalkeeper, who was man of the match, was again in the way. And this time Frame's shot went over the bar. He and Gleeson should have had a couple of goals each in the first half.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Olympia Saveway 1 (Farmery) drew with White Eagles 1 (Smith pen.); Caledonians 5 (Hanna 2, Farmer 2, Hales) d Launceston Utd 0; Launceston Juventus 6 (L Hodge 3 incl 2 pen, Heap, Clark 2) d George Town 1 (Whitemore); Devonport 3 (Pizzerani. Frame, Aberley) d Ulverstone 1 (Van der Ploeg); Croatia 0 drew with Rapid 0.

Interstate soccer match on Sunday

By Gordon Burnett – 10/5/1978

TO mark the first competitive game between a Tasmanian soccer club and one from interstate, the Australia-wide Phillips Cup competition match between White Eagles and Essendon (V) will be played at 2.30 pm on Sunday at Glenorchy.

The decision to change a Wednesday fixture to the weekend was taken in view of the influence of the game on any possible application by a Tasmanian club for entry into the Phillips League roster competition.

Most other first round games are being played on a Wednesday, with May 31 the deadline. White Eagles are the Tasmanian representatives in the knockout cup competition by virtue of the fact that they won the State premiership last season. Had White

Eagles declined the opportunity to compete, Devonport, as 1977 Ampol State Cup winners, would be given their chance.

THE big game on Sunday could show Tasmania is on the upgrade, as White Eagles are capable of beating Essendon Croatia, who has a 100 per cent win record in the Victorian State League.

Eagles have three district advantages; they are playing at home, coach John Grimsey saw a lot of Essendon during his time as Polonia coach, and the visitors will have a hard weekend, with a scheduled State League game against Slavia tomorrow.

And Essendon are not expected to have brilliant young centre-forward Eddie Krncevic, who has an injured ankle, while top goalkeeper Franic may not be coming.

They rely largely on a tearaway start, that often produces a couple of goals to unnerve their opponents. Gardiner is one of their better players, being a sweeper, who is not slow to attack.

On his day Cumming is reported to be almost unstoppable. In fact, Croatia fire if he is on form. Altona coach Joe Wilson said after being beaten by them that they are the best team he has seen.

White Eagles, who play the frustrating offside trap to near perfection, have got the striking power up front if they can avoid bunching in the goalmouth. They have clever wingers to stretch the experienced opposition and give themselves room in which to move in the centre.

Goalkeeper Mick Caban is reported fit after his injury last week, but it is noticeable that understudy Peter Wass is in the squad this week for the first time.

Ron Proctor (North) will referee the game with Ron Spence (S) and Jack Johnston (N).

Polished Essendon in 2-0

By Gordon Burnett – 15/5/1978

AN own goal 11 minutes into the second half, and then a penalty goal five minutes later gave Essendon Croatia a 2-0 win over White Eagles, in the $10,000 nation-wide Phillips

Cup Soccer Competition yesterday at Glenorchy.

The visitors, who were without New Zealand international winger Davidson, but who played new acquisition Carl Gilder, secured during the week from Slavia at a high four-figure transfer fee, finished much better that Eagles, after starting at a fast pace.

Despite near misses by Cumming and then Vojtek on a pass from Cumming, Eagles had two great chances, when Mark Oakes got to a high centre from Linnell and then soon after was off target from close in.

Mick Caban still wearing plaster over an injury above his right eye, showed his goalkeeping ability when he dived at the feet of Culina, who had been sent through the middle by Cumming.

After a goalless first half, Gilder came on 10 minutes into the second half to bring new zip into the attack and there was immediate success, Sikora putting into his own net for the opening score.

Five minutes later a poor goal kick by Caban let Gilder in only to be fouled by Kelly in the area. Culina's penalty shot hit the left upright and rebounded across the goal to the right post, before entering the net.

But referee Ron Procter ruled that Croatia player Murphy had been inside the penalty area when the kick was taken. He gave Murphy a yellow card for ungentlemanly conduct and ordered the kick to be retaken, for Culina to put the ball in the net once again.

Peter Wass came on for Tony Godfrey with 18 minutes to go, but Croatia was now on top and Cumming should have scored from an Elder pass. Oakes had his last chance in the dying minutes, but it was an awkward bounce, and the ball went just wide.

Eagles, who had trained hard for this game and used the offside trap to stop Croatia playing their normal short passing game, gave a creditable performance against a faster, more determined, and better equipped side, who had a hard game in heavy conditions to beat Slavia 4-0 on Saturday in the Victorian State League.

Eamonn Kelly and Caban did well in a hard-working defence and Oakes, who impressed Croatia, was best in an attack that lacked finish.

Star Croatia forward Eddie Krncevic (17), out with a leg injury, watched the game and will not be playing in the

Under 18 carnival starting in Brisbane this week.

A crowd of 900 saw the game.

Rapid should forge ahead at cost of Juventus

By Gordon Burnett – 19/5/1978

RAPID Wrest Point should establish clear-cut leadership of the Radio Rentals State League soccer competition tomorrow at South Hobart.

They meet the injury hit Launceston Juventus side, who have the same number of points as Rapid but who are still reeling from last week's drubbing at the hands of Juventus-Pioneer.

Rapid will be without Stephen Kannegiesser, who missed the Under 18 trip to Brisbane because of an injured instep, and full-back Chester Willcock could play up on the wing. Alonzo Morales is likely to keep his place on the back line and Harry Stewart is first reserve after training well this week.

Launceston Juventus paid the penalty for playing the unfit Tommy Gibbons at centre-forward last week and did not give themselves a chance to settle down before the game.

They are unlikely to be such a pushover in the early stages this time, although they will be without Gibbons, Hensely and Rosetto.

Rapid who have scored 21 goals from five league games can be expected to dominate the midfield through Aziz and Cengia, and this should give their forwards the chances they need. Van der Geest, a newcomer from Holland, will be at centre-forward for the visitors, who up to last week had conceded only one goal.

Caledonians, who could have captain Mike Bailey back from injury, travel to Ulverstone, who will be hard to beat on their home ground.

Fischer has been retained on the wing after scoring Ulverstone's first goal last week and promising midfielder Michael Foot was another to do well. Neil Bladen has gone to Devonport and Gillum was not at training this week. An early goal by Ulverstone could have Calies in real trouble.

White Eagles will be playing their

postponed Ampol State Cup game at George Town tomorrow and will be able to relax after the tensions of their match against Essendon Croatia. On that occasion a little more enterprise could have given them a score instead of merely matching the visitors.

Eagles are travelling tonight to overcome the time factor presented by an early start on Saturday and the long wait for the kick-off. Their shooting has been woeful as evidenced by their six goals from five games and could do with another striker to support Oakes.

George Town remembers beating Eagles in poor conditions in the Cup a couple of seasons ago and have a good record against Southern teams on the George Town ground. But they will be without the injured Mason, and Whitemore will be on the bench nursing an eye injury. Tommy Farrell (17) had an impressive debut and is being retained for this game.

Sunday will see Olympia Saveway chasing the points against Croatia, and the loss of Darby Conlan with a back injury has been counterbalanced by the fact that Constantinovits trained hard this week after being dropped last week, and Worden is likely to play as an attacking full-back again.

Croatia have players who are beginning to fall in with coach Alex Sarfalvy' s strategy and Olympia will do well to remember it was Croatia who took a point off Rapid. Manis will be playing against his old club and could be on the losing side this time.

Injury-hit Juventus unlucky against tame Rapid side

By Gordon Burnett – 22/5/1978

RAPID Wrest Point established a two-point lead over the field in the first Radio Rentals State League soccer competition on Saturday with two late goals against Launceston Juventus, their nearest rivals.

And injury-hit Juventus, beaten 5-0 the week before by Winfield League team Juventus-Pioneer, were unlucky not to salvage a point at least. They had two great chances in the second half before Rapid had scored.

Peter Medhurst just managed to scramble the ball away off the Rapid goal line, and replacement Bowers started a move that saw Leighton Hodge put his shot well over the cross bar from close in.

Disaster struck in the 76th minute when Garrett did not catch the ball cleanly from an Alwan corner kick on the right and it went off his hands and into the net.

The next minute John Dilba was fouled in the penalty area by Collas, and Alwyn made it 2-0. Just before the end Garrett fumbled a shot from Aziz and an awkward bounce robbed Alwan of a hat-trick.

It was a near thing for Rapid, who missed Stephen Kannegiesser and were slow and predictable in their build-up. They had more of the ball but were not nearly as dangerous. Only in the last 15 minutes did their superior talent begin to show through.

Medhurst had a fine game in defence, and Aziz, Plazonic and Morales got through a lot of work. Andrew Heap kept John Dilba very quiet, and Strickland was almost unpassable in defence for Juventus. Newcomer Van der Geest was prominent early on but his fitness gave-out and he was replaced early in the second half.

Yellow cards were given to John Dilba, Butler, Leighton Hodge by coastal referee, Barry Williams who did a great job.

Caledonians, 5-0 conquerors of Launceston United in their previous game, were steamrolled at Ulverstone where they were 0-1 at half time and lost 0-5 to give Ulverstone their first win.

Mike Bailey returned to the Calies' line-up but was unable to lift them; Hanna and Hindmarsh got yellow cards; and Mackinnon and Marlor came off injured.

Adkins and goalkeeper Paul Jones were best for Calies, and Paul Shegog, Michael Foot, Rudi Fischer and the Dolliver brothers, Tom, and Ted, spearheaded a determined Ulverstone side.

White Eagles showed at last in their postponed Ampol State Cup game that they have scoring forwards, banging home seven goals on the George Town ground, with David Smith getting a hat-trick.

But it was the scoreless Mark Oakes who laid off many of the goals in a fine exhibition.

Godfrey scored in the first 90 seconds and Eagles led 3-0 at half time, were 5-3 up and won 7-3.

It was a good performance on the ground on which Croatia had lost 1-6, and the fact that they conceded three goals was due to players pushing forward and lengthening their own defence lines.

But for a fine display of goalkeeping by

Jones they would have scored even more goals.

Referee assaulted

OLYMPIA SAVEWAY soccer centre-half Jon Constantinovits was removed from the field at Glenorchy yesterday.

The incident climaxed a dramatic sequence of events in the State League game against Croatia, that started when the referee waved for play to continue with Olympia goalkeeper Eric Stettner kneeling with his back to the field holding his head. The ball was being shielded by him.

Opposing player Milan Lakoseljac got the ball away from him and was fouled by Stettner, causing a penalty to be awarded.

The penalty had to be retaken when a Croatia player was found to be inside the area, and when Willy Peters scored it gave Croatia a 3-2 lead with 34 minutes to go. But it was a double blow as Ossie Moore was alleged to have used foul language and was sent off.

Within seconds of the resumption of play, Olympia coach Ken Worden was sent off for allegedly kicking an opponent.

It was at this stage that a player ran about 30 metres, leapt on referee Masters, hitting him on the side of the head.

While players quickly gathered around Masters, other players and officials struggled for some time to get a player to the dressing room.

Police reinforcements were quickly on the scene and with both clubs able to keep their supporters in check. Masters came in for only some brief jeering when the match ended.

Constantinovits had replaced Tommy Wilson after 21 minutes play. With only eight men, Olympia's 2-1 half time lead was converted into a 6-2 Croatia win, to which skipper Peters contributed a hat-trick.

Olympia fought back in the closing stages despite their handicap.

Yesterday's incidents will come before the TSA investigation committee on Wednesday.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Rapid Wrest Point 2 (Alwan 2 including a penalty) d Launceston Juventus 0; Ulverstone 5 (Tom Dolliver 2, Fischer 2, Ted Dolliver) d Caledonians 0: Croatia 6 (Peters 3, including a penalty, Kirkpatrick, Krawczyk) d Olympia Saveway 2 (Farmery, Wright)

Ampol State Cup postponed game
White Eagles 7 (Smith 3, Godfrey, Linnell, Fraraccio, and an own goal) d George Town 3 (Farrell, Dale penalty, Reece)

Olympia file a protest

By Gordon Burnett – 24/5/1978

INCIDENTS leading to the suspension of three soccer players at Glenorchy on Sunday had a sequel yesterday when the TSA received a letter of protest from the Olympia Saveway club.

Signed by the Chairman of the club (Mr A Vali), the letter said:

"The Hobart Olympia soccer club wish to lodge a strong protest against the refereeing of Mr Basil Masters in the Radio Rentals State League game between Croatia and Olympia."

"Although in no way are we condoning the assault on the referee, an act which we earnestly deprecate, we feel that Mr Masters' handling of the incident in which Olympia's goalkeeper was injured in a clash with Croatia's centre-forward and which led to a penalty against Olympia was largely responsible for the events which followed."

"In view of what has happened we ask the TSA to give serious consideration to the choice of referees handling such games in the future."

The TSA executive last night referred the letter to the Tasmanian Soccer Federation, which is responsible for the State League.

John Constantinovits, one of three Olympia players sent off the field, will appear before the TSA investigation committee tonight and Ossie Moore and Ken Worden will appear before the committee a week today.

All players taking part in the State League are registered with the

associations to which their clubs are affiliated, and those associations conduct investigations.

Hit Referee; Life for player

By Gordon Burnett – 22/5/1978
OLYMPIA SAVEWAY soccer centre-half Jon Constantinovits was suspended for life last night by the Tasmanian Soccer Associations investigation committee.

Constantinovits did not appear before the committee to answer the charge of striking Basil Masters during the State League game against Croatia on Sunday ay Glenorchy.

He was represented by Olympia committeeman Mr Gabriel Haros, who said the charge was not denied.

Mr Haros said he was there to protect the Olympia club, which disassociated itself with this type of conduct and which had the night before suspended Constantinovits from the club for an indefinite period.

Mr Haros said the club had done all in its power to ensure that Constantinovits was taken from the scene as quickly as possible.

"My prime concern is how this reflects on the game itself, and the club in particular" he said.

Mr Haros added that it was a case of Constantinovits suffering from temporary insanity that caught everyone unawares.

In his report, Masters said he received a blow on the left side of his face and had been temporarily unconscious.

Messrs Barry Hill and Ron Hurley comprised the investigation committee, and Mr Hill said that in view of the fact that the charge was not denied, there was no alternative, distasteful as it might be, but to suspend Constantinovits for life.

"I think it was a most vicious and unwarranted attack" he said and added that the game did not want this type of player".

Mr Hill said he had noted the club's action in suspending Constantinovits, and commended club members for acting so promptly at the scene to prevent any further disturbance.

Banned from all grounds

By Gordon Burnett – 29/5/1978

THE Tasmanian Soccer Federation decided yesterday to ban Hobart Olympia player, Jon Constantinovits, from all soccer grounds in Tasmania.

And it ratified the TSA investigation committee's decision to suspend Constantinovits for life for having assaulted referee Basil Masters during the game between Olympia and Croatia at Glenorchy on May 21.

It decided to take no action on a letter from the Olympia club criticising Masters.

Olympia coach out for a week

Hobart Olympia soccer coach Ken Worden was suspended for one-week last night by the Tasmanian Soccer Association's Investigation Committee for having kicked an opponent.

He was also debited with 12 disciplinary points.

The incident occurred in the State League game between Olympia and Croatia at Glenorchy on May 21.

Ossie Moore, another member of the Olympia team, was before the committee for allegedly using foul language in this game, but had his case adjourned to get further evidence.

Tough games for top teams in State Soccer League

By Gordon Burnett – 26/5/1978

THE top teams in the Radio Rentals State Soccer League have tough games tomorrow, with Rapid Wrest Point going to Devonport and Launceston Juventus at home to Croatia.

The other three games are in Hobart, making a five game Saturday program for only the second time this season.

White Eagles, four points from the lead with a game in hand, are at home to Ulverstone, who are relying on the same team who gave them their first win last week, but who may not be as good away from home.

Eagles coach John Grimsey has formed a squad of 15 players, any one of whom can be played without weakening the squad. Fraraccio played on the wing against George Town and took full advantage of a lot of space to turn in a surprisingly good performance in an unaccustomed position.

Although they have yet to be beaten, Eagles have scored only six goals from their five games, while Ulverstone have conceded 15 from six games, so it looks like Martin Jones could have a torrid afternoon in goals.

Caledonians are having a nightmare season, but they have the keenness to beat George Town at Margate, despite having Hugh Mackinnon under an injury cloud. He will have a fitness test tomorrow morning.

George Town, still without Mason, were satisfied with their Ampol Cup form against White Eagles as they consider the Hobart team the one to beat for the first State League title – and they scored three against them. But they have yet to beat Calies in Hobart.

Caledonians have signed former University midfielder Richard Graly and he scored twice in their reserves last week and is playing with them again before joining the first team.

With the continued absence of Darby Conlan with back trouble, Olympia looks like having Chris Hargrave and Tommy Wilson in the double centre-half role against Launceston United at South Hobart.

Olympia trained hard this week after Sunday's fiasco and are hoping to turn the corner, after getting only one point from their last three games.

United have been weakened by the loss of Stackhouse who has the flu and Pickering who is unavailable.

Rapid lost at Devonport by a lone goal scored by Chris Gleeson in the Cup series two years ago, but won 2-1 there in 1974, the year they won the trophy, and they are hoping it will be a dual success again.

The Devonport ground has taken a lot of rain, but is well drained, and a break in the weather could ensure it is in good condition for a game that could be decided in midfield.

It is here that Devonport will feel the absence of Barry Zschoke, who is not training and is out of the side. Winger Gleeson could move into the vacancy and reserve centre-forward Leigh Smith is going to get a game.

Rapid must have a great show of winning, as Devonport have not come up to their form of last year when they narrowly missed the State Cup double. If Rapid can hold Tommy McKenna much of their concerns will vanish.

Croatia's improved strength in defence is beginning to go through the team and is inspiring the attack to the extent that Launceston Juventus' unbeaten record on their new ground at Prospect is under serious challenge.

Kevin Leung is back from Hong Kong and has trained well, but he is in the reserves for at least a week and George Sarfalvy is starting training soon after being out with a groin injury.

Four hat-tricks in four games has earned John Mansley promotion to the first team and Romain Zapatocki will probably be at full-back, a position he held with credit some seasons ago.

Croatia have had a win, loss and draw against Juventus, who just could have Hans Streit back for this game. He pulled up well after an impressive try-out last night, and he wants to play. Centre-forward Gibbons is also expected to play.

Juventus have had a fine defence but have lacked goal-scoring forwards. Against White Eagles, Launceston United, Ulverstone and Rapid they have managed a total of three goals. So, unless they can step up their scoring ability it looks like a draw.

Devonport foil Rapid with equaliser in last seconds

By Gordon Burnett – 29/5/1978

DEVONPORT foiled Rapid Wrest Point with a last-kick, home-ground equaliser by centre-forward Leigh Smith in his State League soccer debut on Saturday.

After hitting the Rapid framework twice in the first half, Smith was going to be replaced by Abley in the second half but remained on the field when the studs on Abley's new bots were ruled to be too long!

Rapid took time to settle down after their five-hour bus trip, and inspired by Tommy McKenna's brilliance, Devonport really turned it on with three headers hitting the crossbar.

Despite this, Rapid led at the interval by a goal laid on for midfielder Harry Stewart by winger Noorey Aziz in the 30th minute.

Rapid coach Schwesinger came on in the second half for Medhurst, who was kicked on the ankle, and he was able to steady the defence and get the attack moving. But the Dilba brothers and Stewart missed good chances.

Devonport came back with a last 15-minute blitz in a bid to save the game, and from their third consecutive corner as the seconds ticked by, Phillip Kannegiesser should have fisted the ball away, but it went loose, and Smith deflected it into the net with the last kick of the game.

Devonport were vulnerable when they threw everything into attack and Rapid

should have taken advantage of gaps in Devonport's defence.

John Dilba, Aziz, Kannegiesser and Chester Willcock, who was put on to McKenna in the second half, were best for Rapid, and Udovicic, Best and Gleeson did well for Devonport, who have a lively centre-forward prospect in Smith.

Rapid's one point enabled White Eagles to creep a point closer to the leaders, and with a game in hand against Launceston United they are virtually only one point behind Rapid.

With the help of a strong wind Ulverstone held White Eagles for the first half hour but then came three goals and Eagles went on to do only what was necessary for a 6-0 win. Rod Smith excelled in Ulverstone's goal and Mark Oakes was again prominent in the Eagles' attack.

Launceston Juventus was lucky to take a point from Croatia, who should have opened the scoring in the fourth minute through Krawczyk, and Lakoseljac missed a sitter not long after with no one near him.

Juventus led 1-0 at half-time through Jamie Hodge in the 30th minute. Croatia aided by a stiff breeze then had four scoring positions and scored once.

The equaliser came with 20 minutes to go when full-back Payne was fouled out on the right flank and Krawczyk's kick from near the touchline found Peters, who did the rest.

Almost immediately Payne raced up on the right, drew Strickland and slipped the ball to Lakoseljac, but he missed an open goal.

Willy Peters was the best man on the field, and Tattam, Letec and Mohring were other Croatia players to impress, and Manley caught the eye as a second half replacement.

Strickland stood out for Juventus, for whom the Hodge brothers, Jamie and Leighton, and Gibbons did well. Streit came on in the second half after being out for some time through a knee operation.

Two goals by Alistair Hales gave Caledonians a 2-1 win at Margate after leading 1-0 at half-time and conceding a penalty in the closing minutes.

George Town lacked stability in defence and star forward Schiebl, was kept subdued by Hindmarsh. Best for Calies were Hales and Chris Hey, who has been selected as one of two emergency players for the national schoolboy side going to the United States and Canada in August. Replacement Whitemore had a good game for George Town.

Roger Norman opened the scoring for Hobart Olympia in the 13th minute against a jittery Launceston United defence and Don Farmery made it 2-0 with 15 minutes to go to half-time. Then 13 minutes into the second half Farmery converted a penalty, scoring from the rebound after Tommy Bain had stopped his shot. This gave Farmery the lead in the league's goalscoring list. Carter scored for United with 10 minutes to go to make it 3-1.

It was a poor game in which United centre-forward Lee Chadwick again showed his potential despite lack of support. He was always dangerous either on his own or when laying off the ball.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Devonport 1 (I. Smith) dew with Rapid Wrest Point 1 (Stewart); Croatia 1 (Peters) drew with Launceston Juventus 1 (J Hodge); Caledonians 2 (Hales 2) d George Town 1 (Dale pen.); White Eagles 6 (Smith 2, Oakes 2, Linnell, Fraraccio) d Ulverstone 0; Hobart Olympia 3 (Farmery 2, incl one pen, Norman) d Launceston United 1 (Carter)

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	7	5	0	2	24	6	12
L'ton Juventus	7	4	1	2	15	4	10
White Eagle	6	3	0	3	12	2	9
Croatia	7	3	1	3	16	10	9
Devonport	6	3	2	1	10	8	7
Olympia	7	3	3	1	19	19	7
Calies	7	2	5	0	11	22	4
Ulverstone	7	1	5	1	10	21	3
George Town	6	1	4	1	15	27	3
L'ton United	6	1	5	0	7	20	2

Croatia strengthened by return of Leung on wing

By Gordon Burnett – 2/6/1978

CROATIA and Devonport meet in a State League soccer match tomorrow which could seal their title hopes.

Devonport, runners-up last year for the State title, have a game in hand and are five points behind the leaders. Croatia is three behind.

Croatia have been strengthened by the return of wily winger Kevin Leung, and this could give the attack even more chances than usual – but they must put the goals away.

If they had scored 20 per cent of their chances, they would be leading the competition. As it is, they have struggled to three draws in seven games.

With Leung, newcomer Manley, and Lakoseljac up front and Peters, Cowen, and Kirkpatrick in midfield they have the potential to win comfortably. Mohring, Letec, Payne and Krawczyk are reliable in defence and Tattam is having one of his best seasons in goal.

Devonport showed glimpses of their best form with a good team effort against Rapid Wrest Point, and they will have Barry Zschoke again in midfield after a period during which he lost confidence.

MacDonald seems to have recovered from the knee gash he got a couple of weeks ago, which should have been stitched straight away, and new centre-forward Leigh Smith will be all the better for his very promising debut last week.

Tommy Wilson has returned to Rapid from Olympia and will probably play tomorrow at South Hobart against Caledonians, the team with whom he developed his game. Rapid were after prolific score Dale Blake from Taroona St Mirren, but that club have been hit badly by injuries and were unable to release him.

Rapid will miss Morales, who got an ankle injury at Devonport, and Steve Kannegiesser will not be fit enough until next week.

Caledonians have yet to win away from Margate, but they showed improved teamwork last week and could rise to the occasion. Dunsby is in training again after cartilage trouble and will be playing for the reserves.

Hobart Olympia, without Worden, Wilson and possibly Conlan, are another team at the turning point and will need to beat Launceston Juventus to remain in the hunt. Included in their squad is reserves coach Harold Nelson.

Juventus are also in trouble with Streit and Gibson in their squad but unlikely to play, Hensely still away, and Foran suspended for one match just at the wrong time.

Olympia have seldom been good travellers and on the new Prospect ground they could be struggling as Don Farmery will get no change from Andrew Heap or Tommy Strickland.

White Eagles beat George Town 7-3 in their Ampol State Cup match at George Town and are determined that the Town will not score three goals on this visit.

Eagles' defence has been just that bit loose in their last two games as they chased goals – 13 in two games – and they will be tightening up in this quarter before they fall into bad habits.

George Town is hoping to do better, although they will be without Reece and Marshall Brown who has not been training.

The remaining State League game is at Ulverstone, where Launceston United, fighting the flu, will be seeking their first away win.

Lee Chadwick, who has yet to score his first State League goal will be the main threat to Ulverstone and is good enough to draw the defence out on to a flank and leave the centre open for Conrad Hughes or Braden Carter.

Ulverstone are more confident on their own ground, but their record there this season has not been good.

They have trained three nights this week for this game and like to remember a string of wins against United on this ground. For all that, however, United coach Mick Joss, is confident.

Calies cause shock of season with win over Rapid

By Gordon Burnett – 5/6/1978

CALEDONIANS brought off the season's biggest State League soccer surprise when they visited and toppled the previously unbeaten Rapid Wrest Point on a day of upsets on Saturday.

Former gold medal winner Alistair Hales put Calies ahead 10 minutes into the second half and Garry Jenkins, son of the coach, put in a second goal in the closing minutes to kill Rapid's dwindling hopes of saving a point.

Meanwhile, White Eagles, at George Town, were battling to salvage a draw against a team they had beaten 7-3 on the same ground a fortnight before in the Ampol State Cup competition.

Nearer home, Hobart Olympia became the first team to beat Launceston Juventus on the new Prospect ground; Croatia equalised with two minutes to go against Devonport, who were without Tommy McKenna; and a first half goal by Van der Ploeg gave Ulverstone the points against Launceston United.

And that all adds up to the fact that White Eagles, who have a game in hand against the luckless Launceston United, are two pints behind Rapid, whom they meet on Sunday in the last game in the first round.

Calies, considerably strengthened by the use of Hugh Mackinnon in the midfield, showed much more determination against Rapid. They chased everything, played right up on their opponents to pressure them into errors, and gave them no room in which to move.

Calies opened the scoring following a corner. The ball was headed to Hales, who hit it hard into the net for his third goal in two games. Caledonians relaxed the pressure to tighten up their defence, and it was in the closing stages with Rapid throwing everything forward to try to get the equaliser, that Jenkins broke away to make it 2-0 and seal Rapid's fate.

It was a convincing win as Jones had little to do in Calies' goal. Hales was always dangerous and Hey, Mackinnon and Hanna were also outstanding in a good team effort. Phillip Kannegiesser

and Schwesinger stood out for Rapid, who brought Stewart on in the second half.

White Eagles, who should have beaten George Town 8-2, threw away chances and were lucky to draw 2-2 with 15 minutes to go.

George Town gave Eagles the wind and were two goals up in three minutes. Linnell Smith, Fraraccio and Godfrey missed easy chances and then just after half-time Smith hit an upright with a free kick.

Smith got the equaliser when the ball just trickled over the goal line. Nunn was the only Eagles player who showed any form in a complacent side facing a team with nothing to lose. Goalkeeper Jones and O'Sullivan were the best for George Town.

A leg injury stopped McKenna playing for Devonport who were outplayed in the goal-less opening half against Croatia, because MacDonald was forced to assist the defence against the wind.

It was a different story after the interval when MacDonald went forward and very early on sent in a great shot that Tattam did very well to save. Two minutes later, Gleeson set up a goal for Pizzerani, but he did not take the heaven-sent chance.

Devonport scored in the 71st minute following a corner kick. Gleeson leaped forward to chest the ball into the net. The equaliser also came from a corner. Peters' kick was close to the crossbar and Udovicic put it into his own net when attempting to tap it over the bar with Letec in close attendance.

Croatia built countless attacks only to fall down at the three-quarter field mark against a defence who covered each other very well. Lakoseljac was replaced by Glasovac not long before Devonport scored, and Pizzerani came off at the same time to bring Abley on. With 11 minutes to go, Johnston came on for Conway.

MacDonald, Gleeson, and Baird were best for Devonport, and Croatia, who played their fourth draw were best served by Payne at full-back.

Launceston Juventus, who have been forced by injuries to play 21 players already this season, compared to 14 at the same time last year, found the visiting Hobart Olympia in good form. The visitors hit the framework through Bolton, Farmery and Spendiff before crossing over 2-0 with goals laid off by Farmery for Norman.

Streit came on in the second half to bolster Juventus' morale, but they still could not put it together enough to save the game.

Spendiff, Bolton and Moore were best for Olympia, who took only one reserve with them – Genaris. Strickland, Collins, and Garrett stood out for Juventus.

The game at Ulverstone, spoiled by a strong crosswind was featured by a fine penalty save by Ulverstone keeper Rod Smith. He saved the first kick by Hughes but was adjudged to have moved before the kick, and then he saved the second shot, taken by Joss.

Van der Ploeg's first-half goal was all that was needed to give Ulverstone both points in a match in which Smith was outstanding in goal and in which Hughes shone for United.

Details – Radio Rentals State League Caledonians 2 (Hales, Jenkins) d Rapid Wrest Point 0; Devonport 1 (Gleeson) drew with Croatia 1 (own goal); George Town 2 (Schiebl, Harrington) drew with White Eagles 2 (Smith 2); Hobart Olympia 2 (Norman 2) d Launceston Juventus 1 (Gibbons); Ulverstone 1 (Van der Ploeg) d Launceston United 0.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	8	5	1	2	24	8	12
L'ton Juventus	8	4	2	2	16	6	10
White Eagle	7	3	0	4	14	4	10
Croatia	8	3	1	4	17	11	10
Olympia	8	4	3	1	21	20	9
Devonport	7	3	2	2	11	9	8
Calies	8	3	5	0	13	22	6
Ulverstone	8	2	5	1	11	21	5
George Town	7	1	4	2	17	29	4
L'ton United	7	1	6	0	7	21	2

Rapid's attack to be lifted by return of Kannegiesser

By Gordon Burnett – 9/6/1978

RAPID Wrest Point should have a sharper and more menacing attack against White Eagles on Sunday with the return of Steve Kannegiesser.

And with the Eagles at full strength this could be the soccer match of the season. Eagles are unbeaten and have a good combination of skill plus height

and strength. If they use the ball as a team and forget individualism, they will be unstoppable.

Rapid play attractive football but are small and can be thrown out of their stride. Both teams disappointed last week and both are capable of responding to the pressures of such a needle match with Rapid heading the standings and White Eagles virtually on level terms as they have a game in hand they would be expected to win.

The clash between the very fast John Dilba and Eamonn Kelly should be worth seeing – if Rapid can beat the frustrating Eagles' offside trap.

Harry Stewart could start off on the bench and then be thrown in later against his old team. Rapid found Caledonians a surprise stumbling block just as they did last year, and the loss of two points to them last week could be equally damaging this year.

Eagles will start Favourites.

The big game tomorrow in the South will be at Margate where Croatia could prove too strong for Caledonians. They have dropped Lakoseljac after his lean trot, and Glasovac is likely to come into the defence to allow Krawczyk to go up on the wing.

They have beaten Calies most times in recent years but still remember losing 5-6 on the Margate ground a couple of years ago.

Hobart Olympia entertain Ulverstone at South Hobart and should win.

Darby Conlan trained well last night but may not play more than part of a game. Moore will be available as the case against him for alleged use of foul language in the game against Croatia was dismissed by the investigation committee.

Ulverstone will be without Tom Dolliver, who has an injured ankle. Rush will come in at full-back, and Melhuis will move into the midfield.

Devonport has another tough home match with the visit of Launceston Juventus.

They hope to have coach Tommy McKenna back as it is reported he has got over a blood clot on the shinbone and moved freely at training last night.

His return to the side could mean the difference between winning and losing on a ground that could be heavy after yesterday's rain.

Home ground advantage has saved Devonport before against Juventus and this could do so again.

Juventus have made six positional changes and could be at their strongest this season.

Foran will go into the defence instead of Collas, Beal, a strong player, is at left-half, 90-minute player Chris Collins is at right-half, Jamie Hodge has come back from the wing to centre-back, and Heap has gone up into the attack, where Streit, keen as ever, will be playing his first full game for a while.

Juventus consider they will be right in the thick of things if they can start the second round only two points behind the leaders.

They have trained intensively for this game, doing three hours on Monday and two hours on Tuesday and again last night, with the club committee turning up to see the emphasis on physical training.

To make them even more determined Juventus will be wearing their new strip – the familiar black and white stripes they have not worn yet this season.

In their last three meetings they have drawn twice with Devonport and lost by a lone goal in the Ampol State cup final last year. This seasons' yardstick is through White Eagles, who beat Devonport 1-0 and drew 0-0 with Juventus, and Rapid, who drew 1-1 with Devonport and beat Juventus 2-0. Both teams have drawn with Croatia.

Juventus have a fine blending of experience and youth but fail to get goals after controlling a game.

Launceston United will be without Laverty and Attenborrow against George Town as both players are on the injured list. George Town was well pleased with their draw against White Eagles last week and have made no changes. This is a 50-50 game with a slight leaning to United on their home ground.

Rapid stay on top; White Eagles still unbeaten

By Gordon Burnett – 12/6/1978

RAPID Wrest Point retained leadership and White Eagles maintained their unbeaten record in a 1-1 State League soccer draw played at a very fast pace at Glenorchy yesterday.

It was a fair result as both teams had their chances in a clean, hard-fought game that brought the best out of both teams – except their shooting, although sanded areas in front of goal did not help.

Fraraccio and Oakes could have scored before a Fraraccio pass saw Oakes score for Eagles three minutes into the second half. Inches only had stopped Rapid breaking through several times.

Caban saved well from Aziz following a corner soon after the opening goal, and at the other end Phillip Kannegiesser did well to stop a shot from Fraraccio. Nine minutes into the second half Wilson and Alwan come on for Plazonic and Steve Kannegiesser.

The equaliser came in the 66th minute through a good passing movement on the right that ended with a fine cross by Cengia that John Dilba nodded into the net.

But Rapid were in trouble as with both replacements already on the field, goalkeeper Kannegiesser was handicapped by bruised ribs. They

brought former goalkeeper Cengia from the midfield and put Kannegiesser out on the wing. Almost immediately John Dilba was through on his own but Caban saved well when he tried to round him.

McKay went off with a head injury and replacement Godfrey went close with his first touch of the ball. Smith was also just off target and Willcock almost headed into his own goal. Only a spectacular dive from Cengia saved the situation.

With 12 minutes to go Richards came on for Linnell and a fine burst through the centre by Nunn saw Smith send Oakes in, but Cengia dived fearlessly at his feet to save once again. Cengia also got to a great cross by Fraraccio in time,

but he should have been beaten with two minutes to go when a Smith header saw Oakes in possession and Cengia out of his goal, but Oakes' placed shot went over the top.

White Eagles were inclined to concentrate their attack through the centre and were much more dangerous when they widened their approach. Rapid were again slow in their build-up and forwards had to make their own openings.

Harry Stewart and John Dilba stood out for Rapid and Eamonn Kelly and Nigel Sugden were the best for Eagles, who were caught offside more than usual and did not catch Rapid that often in their trap.

The return of ace player Tommy McKenna spearheaded Devonport's 4-0 win over Launceston Juventus at Devonport.

He put them ahead just before half-time and midway through the second half they scored three more goals in six minutes, replacement Fabio Pizzerani putting in the second, Alec MacDonald the third from the penalty spot and McKenna rounding off a fine performance with his second goal.

It was a bitter blow to Juventus' hopes and their heaviest defeat at the Valley Rd. ground.

Caledonians looked set for their third successive win when they recovered from an early goal down to be 1-1 at half-time and leading 2-1 with 20 minutes to go, but they paid the penalty for going on the defensive.

Replacement Milan Lakoseljac, who had played a full reserves game before, equalised and seven minutes from time a mistimed shot from Kevin Leung went across the goalmouth for Billy Krawczyk to score the decider for Croatia.

Calies fought back but good goalkeeping by Rodney Tattam kept them out. A draw might have been a fairer result.

Leung, Cowen, and Willy Peters were outstanding for Croatia, and Lakoseljac showed much improved form when he came on the second half. The win put Croatia into second position.

Calies' best were Alistair Hales, who gave the pass from which Paul Marlor scored. Hugh Mackinnon, who headed in the second goal from a cross by Hanna and Chris Hey, who worked untiringly and constructively in both defence and attack.

The South Hobart ground was in a very muddy condition and it must be questionable whether it can stand six games on it each weekend and still provide a pitch suitable for a State League game.

It was here that Ulverstone proved anything can happen in the mud after losing 0-5 and 0-6 on their previous visits to Hobart this season they played a 1-1 draw against Hobart Olympia, who did just about everything except score that second goal they needed.

The took off Farmery and Broughton to give Conlan and Genaris a game in the hope of giving new life to the side, but it was unavailing. Only cause for satisfaction was that Conlan came through well after his injury.

A pass back by Worden that went wide of goalkeeper Stettner saw Krenn dart in for the opening goal and Olympia got a second half equaliser only from the penalty spot after Bolton had been brought down in the area.

Rod Smith in Ulverstone's goal was the only player to maintain his reputation.

George Town were two goals up on Launceston United with seven minutes to go, but then crumbled against constant pressure and it was a 2-2 draw to give United their first away point.

Conrad Hughes was best for United, and Ian Dale stood out for George Town. Andy Schiebl scored to regain leadership in the goalscoring list.

At the end of the first round there are five teams within three points of the leaders in this 10-team competition.

Details – Radio Rentals State League Croatia 3 (Cowen, Lakoseljac, Krawczyk) d Caledonians 2 (Marlor, H Mackinnon); Devonport 4 (McKenna 2, MacDonald pen, Pizzerani) d Launceston Juventus 0; Ulverstone 1 (Krenn) drew with Olympia 1 (C Hargrave pen.); Launceston United 2 (Joss, Graccogna) drew with George Town 2 (Dale, Schiebl,); Rapid Wrest Point 1 (John Dilba) drew with White Eagles 1 (Oakes).

Hobart Olympia will face keyed up Devonport side

By Gordon Burnett – 16/6/1978

DEVONPORT, virtually only one point behind the leaders, have run into top form for their State League soccer game at South Hobart tomorrow against Hobart Olympia.

Four goals without reply against Juventus was an excellent performance, and with Tommy McKenna likely to play on the left-wing instead of in the midfield, the Olympia defence could be in for a torrid time.

Pizzerani has not been playing with his usual confidence, but when he was moved on to the right flank last week, he scored with first kick of the ball. It was he who scored the lone goal of the first encounter – eight minutes from time.

Leigh Smith is making his mark at centre-forward, after missing half of last season with a broken leg.

Olympia is unchanged, except that Darby Conlan may return to the side for a full game. They have a clever forward line but are not getting the passes they need.

Caledonians, at home to Launceston Juventus tomorrow, started the season with a 5-0 defeat at the new Prospect ground, and are keen to prove they are a much better side that on a ground that is cut up.

Despite four opening defeats, they have won two of their last three games, and might have won against Croatia last week had they thrown their reserves in 20 minutes from time.

Farmer has recovered from a pulled muscle, and he and former Metro player Barry Shacklady are on the bench but are almost certain to get a run.

With Hales, Bailey and Hanna showing good understanding up forward, and Mackinnon coming through to use his height in the goalmouth, Calies are dangerous on the move, and they have a solid defence.

This could be a close one, and a very testing time for Juventus, who are having their worst slump in years, and have doubled up on training and team talks, in a desperate bid to get back on top.

They have always been regarded as long ball exponents, but this year under Jock Glass they have turned to the short game.

Rapid Wrest Point enter the second round virtually on level terms with White Eagles, their strongest rivals, and with a very compact squad of 14 it is hard to see them losing at Newstead.

Steve Kannegiesser should be ready for a full game and should lift the attack.

Launceston United who opened the season with a 5-2 defeat at the hands of Rapid, had hoped to have the chance to show better form on their own ground. But they will be without Braden Carter (chipped ankle bone) and Pickering (pulled muscle).

Hudson made their two goals last week when sent up from full-back into the forward line and he is being retained there, McCormick will also be up front to support Chadwick.

White Eagles and Croatia, the two teams who have squandered the most goals this season, meet at their common home ground at Glenorchy on Sunday, and Croatia, reinforced by the return of Lakoseljac, are quietly confident of tossing the more favored Eagles.

It will not surprise if Zapatocki gets a game against Eagles, who can expect Croatia to chase everything in a bid to hold their own in the first half, and then turn in their usually good second half.

Eagles had hoped to give Rybak a chance in the attack after scoring four goals in the reserves, but he has pulled a muscle.

Eagles played well against Rapid last week and a repetition of that form could give them the points.

The fine goalkeeping of Ulverstone's 20-year-old Rod Smith has attracted the attention of Phillips League Club Footscray JUST, who have offered him a trial, but he is waiting for an official approach through the Ulverstone club.

Smith has been with Ulverstone for three seasons and was playing at centre-forward last season. This season he has saved five of eight penalties.

Ulverstone have got Eddie Van der Ploeg back from injury, and Keith Hamilton returns to the side in the absence of the injured Rudi Fischer. George Town has a good record on the showground at Ulverstone.

Because of the wet condition of grounds, there will be only State League games at South Hobart, Grove Rd. Glenorchy, and Margate this weekend.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	9	5	1	3	25	9	13
Croatia	9	4	1	4	20	13	12
White Eagle	8	3	0	5	15	5	11
Devonport	8	4	2	2	15	9	10
L'ton Juventus	9	4	3	2	16	10	10
Olympia	9	4	3	2	22	21	10
Calies	9	3	6	0	15	25	6
Ulverstone	9	2	5	2	12	22	6
George Town	8	1	4	3	19	31	5
L'ton United	8	1	6	1	9	23	3

Olympia lift themselves out of mire to toss Devonport

By Gordon Burnett – 19/6/1978

DOWN 1-3 at half-time, Hobart Olympia hit top stride 22 minutes into the second half to score three goals in 12 minutes to beat Devonport 4-3 in State League soccer on Saturday.

It was a dramatic climax to a high standard game played in good spirit in thick mud on the South Hobart ground, on which Devonport have yet to win.

And at Glenorchy yesterday, White Eagles retained their unbeaten record when they played their sixth draw in nine games after being 2-0 in the fifth minute against Croatia. They were 2-3, then led 4-3 and a penalty in the 90th minute made it 4-4.

Devonport, who travelled from the coast that morning, were a goal down after only eight minutes, were 1-1 after 20 minutes and led 3-1 in the 33rd minute. But then disaster struck with skipper Charlie Baird going off with a pulled leg muscle, and promising youngster Abley had to leave the field in the second half with a leg injury.

Devonport started the second half in a workmanlike manner, but it was not long before they were moving back in defence, and once MacDonald and Zschoke released the grip they had on the midfield, Olympia built up the pressure that was to run a tiring Devonport into the ground.

Winger Ronnie Bolton was at his best to get a couple of goals, Conlan got through a lot of work and Farmery was always dangerous. Tommy McKenna

was responsible for Devonport's first two goals. Best was the pick of a hard-working defence and two-goal Leigh Smith was menacing when supported in the first half.

Smith had a great chance to seal the game when he was through for what could have been a 4-1 lead early in the second half but shot weakly instead of rounding the advancing Stettner in the mud.

Chris Cutting, who had scored six goals from five games in Devonport's third team, had a fine debut as goalkeeper in the absence of Joe Udovicic, who is reported to have retired because of work commitments.

Cutting saved brilliantly from a Farmery header early in the first half and it was no fault of his that his side lost. Free kicks against Conlan and Spendiff (Olympia) and Best resulted in goals.

Caledonians dominated the second half against Launceston Juventus but managed only one point against some great goalkeeping by Tom Garrett.

Beaten 5-0 in the first clash, Calies were a goal down after 25 minutes when Adkins, best player on the ground, put through his win goal. They equalised a couple of minutes into the second half when Jenkins scored from 18 metres.

Calies, who were the fitter side, were best served by Adkins, Mackinnon and Hales. Juventus, once the Cock O' the North, have now won only two points from their last five games.

Rapid Wrest Point had no trouble beating Launceston United 3-1 after leading 2-0 at half-time and 3-0.

Reserve goalkeeper, Bruno Cengia saved a Conrad Hughes penalty and a second penalty by rival goalkeeper Tommy Bain, although he was then adjudged to have moved before the kick. Earlier Alwan had given Rapid the lead with his fourth penalty goal of the season.

There were three penalties in their first clash when Phillip Kannegiesser, rested on Saturday, saved one of them.

Speedy winger Jack Dilba struck top form for Rapid, for whom Aziz at wing-half and Cengia did well. United who came into the game in the second half, saw the unsupported Chadwick hit an upright twice when he was able to elude close marking.

Two own goals saw Ulverstone beat George Town 2-1 for their third point

against the visitors in a game again featured by the goalkeeping of Rod Smith of Ulverstone.

It was 1-1 at half-time although Ulverstone has a least three good chances and they made things harder when they finished the game with only 10 men, after Melhuis had been sent off for alleged persistent infringement of the laws. The winning goal came when a shot by Ted Dolliver was deflected into the George Town goal.

Rod Smith and Shegog were best for Ulverstone and Schiebl, who scored again after a hat-trick in the first game, and Reece were best for George Town.

Coach Alex Sarfalvy had a great triumph when Croatia played their second draw against White Eagles. They came back magnificently after being rocked by two early goals.

They were 3-4 down with a minute to go before injury time, and a penalty equaliser came when Kelly pushed an opponent off the ball.

Sand in the goalmouth could have cost Eagles two goals through Oakes, but to even the slate Trueman cleared off his goal line and Sikora made the save of the season when he retrieved a shot from Lakoseljac that the mud had slowed up, but which would have crossed the line.

In a hard and fast game which ended with three goals in four minutes, Cowen and Letec were best for Croatia and Smith for Eagles, who came back into the picture after Glasovac had gone off injured.

Details – Radio Rentals State League Hobart Olympia 4 (Bolton 2, Farmery, Worden) d Devonport 3 (L. Smith 2, McKenna); Rapid Wrest Point 3 (Alwan pen., John Dilba, Stewart) d Launceston United 1 (Bain pen.); Caledonians 1 (Jenkins) drew with Launceston Juventus 1 (own goal); Ulverstone 2 (2 own goals) d George Town 1 (Schiebl); White Eagles 4 (Smith 2, Oakes, Godfrey) drew with Croatia 4 (Peters 2 incl one pen., Lakoseljac, Letec)

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	10	6	1	3	28	10	15
Croatia	10	4	1	5	24	17	13
White Eagle	9	3	0	6	19	9	12
Olympia	10	5	3	2	26	24	12
L'ton Juventus	10	4	3	3	17	11	11
Devonport	9	4	3	2	18	13	10
Ulverstone	10	3	5	2	14	23	8
Calies	10	3	6	1	16	26	7
George Town	9	1	5	3	20	33	5
L'ton United	9	1	7	1	10	26	3

Fractured cheekbone keeps Croatia full-back out

By Gordon Burnett – 30/6/1978

ALISTAIR PAYNE, Croatia's consistently good full-back, will miss the State League soccer game against Launceston United tomorrow at Glenorchy because of a fractured cheekbone in three places.

It happened against United at Launceston last week in their Ampol State Cup clash, and it will be only the third time in 13 seasons he has missed a game with Croatia.

Croatia also will be without Milan Lakoseljac who is touring Canada with Sydney Croatia.

But United are even worse off as they will be without six members of their usual squad, including Braden Carter (fractured ankle) and Conrad Hughes (unavailable).

They have had to recall former captain Peter Donaldson, who has the club's longest playing record to give valuable experience.

The teams have met twice this season, Croatia winning the first by an own goal and a penalty and the second by a lone goal, but they can do much better, especially on their own ground.

Wingers Leung and Sarfalvy can be expected to set up chances for Manley in the centre with Kirkpatrick, Peters and Cowen coming through to fire in shots.

Lee Chadwick is the man Croatia will need to watch as he is due for a change of luck.

This is the only State League game in Hobart as Rapid Wrest Point's game against Ulverstone has been postponed because of the muddy state of the South Hobart ground.

Rapid have got former State player Mike Richards on loan from White Eagles for the remainder of the season and has been training well with them.

White Eagles and Hobart Olympia have a tough double-header with a game in the North tomorrow and then their postponed Ampol State Cup game on Sunday.

Olympia will be without Crowther tomorrow at George Town, but he is available on Sunday against Eagles.

Farmery had a hat-trick in Olympia's 6-3 win the first time and they should win again, although Andy Schiebl will require close marking. He scored against them last time and is leading the goalscorers with 11.

White Eagles have an unbeaten record to defend against Launceston Juventus at Prospect and should win as the home side have managed only two points from their past five games.

Juventus trained well enough this week, but injuries and enforced changes have unsettled the side, especially after Hans Streit failed to reproduce his old form after knee trouble.

Barry Hensely is unlikely to play again this season after managing only six games in two seasons following an injury to the arch of his foot.

The prospect ground is expected to be in good shape and Eagles, providing they stretch the defence and isolate the reliable Strickland, should come away with the points.

Caledonians will be without captain Mike Bailey, who has a slipped disc, at Devonport, and this is a big blow to their comeback struggle after starting with four successive defeats.

Devonport won their first game 2-1, but it could just as easily have been a draw. Valley Rd will be a big advantage and Devonport should win, especially if skipper Charlie Baird is declared fit.

MacDonald, Frame, Leigh Smith, and McKenna could do the damage.

Grove Rd should be in good condition for the cup quarter-final between White Eagles and Olympia, which could go down to penalties to find the winner. It was a 1-1 draw when they met first in the State League.

Calies recover from early setback to salvage point

By Gordon Burnett – 3/7/1978

CALEDONIANS continued merrily on their comeback trail with a

deserved point at Devonport on Saturday in the Radio Rentals State soccer league – and they could have so easily won.

In their last four games they have beaten top team Rapid Wrest Point lost by the odd goal to Croatia and drawn with Launceston Juventus and Devonport – and they are still third from the bottom of the standings.

Devonport, who were without skipper Charlie Baird and had coach Tom McKenna nursing an injury on the bench until that last 20 minutes, scored in their first major raid. Following a corner in the 25th minute Frame netted and Calies were down 0-1 at half time after having had chances.

Eight minutes into the second half promising youngster Chris Hey burst out of defence, took a neat return pass, and cut in to equalise.

After Calies had several misses Devonport centre-forward Leigh Smith broke through the centre on a 30-metre run that ended with goalkeeper Nick Osbourne saving his shot with a foot.

Osborne who was playing in his first match for the senior side, did a great job in the absence of Paul Jones, who came off training on Thursday with hamstring trouble.

McKenna came on in the last 20 minutes and lifted Devonport, almost scoring with his first touch of the ball, Osbourne saving well.

Five minutes from time, Cutting put a shot from Hales over the bar and a cross by Marlor saw Jenkins flash in a shot that Cutting turned around the post. And in the final minute Hindmarsh cleared from off the Calies goal line!

Calies' best were Osborne, Jenkins, Adkins, Mackinnon and Marlor and Best was again best for Devonport with Pizzerani, Johnston and Cutting.

Willy Peters spearheaded Croatia's win over a Launceston United side that improved as the game progressed.

Peters sent Leung in for a shot that missed by inches just on half time when Croatia were leading 1-0. Then he converted a penalty when Hopkins fouled Leung, and it was a long ball from him that Manley scored his second goal to seal the match at 3-1.

Mohring held a shaky defence together when the pressure was on in the second half and Chadwick, who did a lot of carrying, Laverty and Attenborrow were the best for United.

Laverty almost scored with a quickly taken free kick that just went outside the top far corner. Manley, playing only his second full game for Croatia, had a couple of curious goals, the first coming from his third attempt to control the ball and the second being watched by the goalkeeper come inside the post when he expected it go harmlessly past.

Glenorchy City Council are to be commended on having got the Grove Rd ground in such good condition after the recent rain.

White Eagles crossed over 1-0 against Launceston Juventus at Prospect, but it was 1-1 five minutes into the second half. In the 60th minute Eagles went to 2-1 and then 3-1 five minutes later. With yesterday's Cup tie in mind, they eased up and Juventus pulled back a goal when Strickland scored from the penalty spot, after Caban saved Ponting's shot and was then adjudged to have moved before the kick was taken.

In a crowd-pleaser, Godfrey, Smith, replacement Sugden and Sikora, were best in a good, all-round Eagles' team and Juventus, upset by major positional changes because of the absence of midfielder Foran, now transferred to Box Hill (V), and Beal, who was interstate, were best served by Strickland, Ponting, and Collins. Former star Streit was kept on the bench.

Olympia won a scrappy game against George Town in which goalkeepers Stettner and Jones both saved penalties. They were 2-0 up at half time, but with the aid of a penalty, the home side had levelled at 2-2 with half an hour to go and chasing everything.

Olympia, however, regained their ascendancy and went on to win 4-2 fairly comfortably without ever reaching their best form. George Karagiannakis had an impressive debut for Olympia, crowning a good display with a goal, and Mark O'Sullivan was outstanding for George Town.

Outstanding State League games are now: Rapid v Ulverstone; Launceston

United v White Eagles; and George Town v Devonport, and these will be played on July 15.

Details – Radio Rentals State League Caledonians 1 (Hey) drew with Devonport 1 (Frame); Croatia 3 (Manley 2, Peters pen.) d Launceston United 1 (Attenborrow); White Eagles 3 (Smith, Oakes, Godfrey) d Launceston Juventus 1 (Strickland pen.); Hobart Olympia 4 (Wright, Farmery, Norman, Karagiannakis) d George Town 2 (Reece, Harrington); Rapid Wrest Point v Ulverstone postponed.

White Eagles V Olympia – Ampol State Cup Quarter Final – Glenorchy

A well taken goal by replacement Dominic Fraraccio from a loose ball in front of goal in the sixth minute of extra time took White Eagles into the semi-finals of the $3000 Ampol State Cup competition at the expense of Hobart Olympia yesterday at Glenorchy.

It was a game of excitement rather than skill and both goalkeepers, Mick Caban (Eagles) and Eric Stettner were at their best.

When Norman was brought down in the penalty area Spendiff gave Olympia the lead in the 26th minute. Eagles equalised through Smith from the penalty spot when Oakes was fouled in the area with only 12 minutes to go.

A wild scramble in the Eagles' goalmouth almost avoided extra time. Fraraccio, who had come on for the injured Linnell just after the equaliser, put Eagles into a 2-1 lead with 24 minutes left.

Caban saved brilliantly in fast failing light from a free kick by Spendiff, and centre forward Oakes blocked a shot on his own goal line before the final whistle come to Eagles' relief after tremendous Olympia pressure.

Conlan, Wright and Stettner stood out for Olympia and McKay, Smith and Caban were best for Eagles.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	10	6	1	3	28	10	15
Croatia	11	5	1	5	27	18	15
White Eagle	10	4	0	6	22	11	14
Olympia	11	6	3	2	30	26	14
Devonport	10	4	3	3	19	14	11
L'ton Juventus	11	4	4	3	19	14	11
Ulverstone	10	3	5	2	14	23	8
Calies	11	3	6	2	17	27	8
George Town	10	1	6	3	22	35	5
L'ton United	10	1	8	1	11	29	3

Rapid should toss Ulverstone to stay leaders

By Gordon Burnett – 14/7/1978

RAPID Wrest Point should retain leadership of the Radio Rentals State League soccer competition tomorrow when they meet Ulverstone at the Athletic Centre.

It is the only State League game in the South this weekend, but White Eagles

will be travelling north to play Launceston United, and Devonport will be visiting George Town.

Rapid sportingly agreed to have their South Hobart home game transferred to the Athletic Centre as the South Hobart ground is in very poor condition and could be out of use for quite some time.

It will be the first time they have played at the Athletic Centre which is exposed and could be windy, and they have not had a game in two weeks.

But coach Karl Schwesinger has kept them hard at it during the enforced lay-off and training three nights a week has sharpened them up surprisingly well.

New recruit Mike Richards is likely to get a game in their midfield, where his experience and skill will be invaluable in the expected heavy conditions.

Ulverstone, who also have trained well, are getting over the bout of nerves that cost them dearly in the early part of the season and a more relaxed style is minimising their errors.

Two wins and a draw from their last three games – and the draw was against Olympia – is warning enough for Rapid, especially as Ulverstone beat Caledonians, and Calies beat Rapid 2-0.

Goalkeeper Smith and Fischer are the only two Ulverstone players to have had a game in the past two weeks. They played in the side that beat Burnie United in the Reserves.

White Eagles are unlikely to lose their unbeaten record that includes six draws in 10 games when they visit Launceston United.

Eagles have improved greatly according to experienced Juventus skipper Tommy Strickland, who said they were a good team when they drew with Juventus at their first meeting, but said they were "a very good team" when they beat them 3-2 in the return game. "They would be the only team who would have beaten us that day," he added.

Eagles will be accompanied by many of their reserve players as they do not have a game.

It will be their first meeting with United, who have been hard hit by injuries – the latest is Chadwick – but who will have two Ravenswood Olympic players – Steve Taylor and Alistair Todd – on loan and in their forward line.

United are bottom of the standings, but they are better than that and they beat Devonport on this ground earlier on!

George Town who will be playing Devonport for the first time in the State League, beat them in a pre-season game and this is bolstering their spirits for tomorrow, especially on their own ground.

The ground is expected to be in good shape and if Schiebl can get a sight of the ball Devonport could be extended.

Devonport's midfield trio of MacDonald, Frame and Zschoke should dominate the game and give Devonport two very much needed points. Last year's northern champions have managed one win in their last five games – and George Town have not won for six games.

Rapid recover from first half blitz by Ulverstone

By Gordon Burnett – 17/7/1978

STATE soccer league leaders Rapid Wrest Point and White Eagles had varied fortunes in Saturday's depleted program, although both had a win.

Rapid, playing at the Domain Athletic Centre for the first time were lucky Ulverstone did not score three goals in the first half, and Rapid midfielder Harry Stewart scored the only goal of the game with 16 minutes to go.

White Eagles beat Launceston United 6-2 after having four goals disallowed, and these four goals are the present difference between them and Rapid in the premiership race.

In the other game Devonport came from behind to beat George Town 2-1 with the winning goal by Chris Gleeson coming in the 75th minute.

Rapid, who decided newcomer Mike Richards needed match practice in the Reserves saw tall Ulverstone centre-forward Van der Ploeg hit the crossbar with Phillip Kannegiesser outside his goal; then Van der Ploeg headed over the bar from a cross by Rudi Fischer.

Rob Smith was at his brilliant best, saving twice in desperate style during a concerted raid by the Dilba twins. Jack Dilba could have scored in the next second but tried to pass to his brother, and then a centre by Jack Dilba went across the Ulverstone goal needing only a tap in for a score.

The highlight of the game came seconds before half time when Noorey Aziz, man of the match, saved miraculously, chasing the ball back and getting entangled in the Rapid goal netting after he had managed to divert the ball past an upright.

Ulverstone lost much of their menace after the change, although Van der Ploeg had another chance from a Fischer centre. Smith looked as if he was going to keep Rapid out, but in the 74th minute, Aziz took the ball up on the left, found Cengia near goal and from his pass Stewart stroked the ball into the net.

The visitors almost salvaged a point when Hamilton was close to equalising with two minutes to go.

Rapid could have taken advantage of the venture-some Smith by shooting over his head instead of pushing the ball forward for John Dilba.

Aziz stood out in the Rapid side, while goalkeeper Smith, who has not heard anything more from the Phillips League club JUST after they had shown interest in him, and Fischer were best for Ulverstone, who were without Ted and Tom Dolliver.

Launceston United, badly hit by injuries, named only 12 players for their game at Newstead against White Eagles, and when goalkeeper Tommy Bain went off injured with the score at 5-2 against them, they had to play with only 10 men for the last 25 minutes.

Laverty, who had the misfortune to put the ball into his own net twice, took over in goal and Eagles' sixth goal, from the penalty spot, came while he was between the posts.

Alistair Todd, on loan from Ravenswood Olympic, scored for United to make it 1-5 and Nigel Sugden completed their scoring when he put through his own goal.

United's decision to take Todd and Taylor on loan for this game from Olympic to give TSL players a taste of State League play, has surprised TSF secretary Fred Cunningham.

"I have heard nothing of any such arrangement," he said. "If a player is on loan he must be on a transfer, and he must remain with that club until transferred elsewhere," he said.

"The deadline for transfers is July 31. Any week-to-week arrangement will

need to be investigated by the federation."

United were closer to scoring in the opening minutes than Eagles through a header by Buggy but were 3-0 down at half time.

Eagles were 5-0 in wind and rain when Mark Sikora left the field with an ankle injury and was replaced by Forshaw. United got a temporary lift when Todd scored, and they went to 5-2 before Smith converted a penalty to take him within one of Andy Schiebl at the head of the goalscoring list.

Eagles finished raggedly with individualism robbing them of goals there for the taking. It was a bad lapse that could cost them dearly later on when the chips are really down.

Smith stood out as the man of the match scoring twice and sending across a succession of accurate centres. He has scored 11 goals from the last eight games and has four goals from two Ampol State Cup matches.

After a goalless first half, Schiebl put George Town ahead against Devonport at George Town in the third minute of second half, only for McKenna to equalise 10 minutes later and Gleeson to get the decider with 15 minutes to go.

McKenna was again Devonport's star player, and Schiebl and skipper Dale were best for George Town.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Rapid Wrest Point 1 (Stewart) d Ulverstone 0: White Eagles 6 (Smith 2, Oakes 2, two own goals) d Launceston United 2 (Todd, own goal); Devonport 2 (McKenna, Gleeson) d George Town 1 (Schiebl).

Rapid poised to take double over Olympia

By Gordon Burnett – 21/7/1978

IT will be a good team who can take four points off Olympia, but Rapid Wrest Point have two off them already and are equipped to make it a double on Sunday at South Hobart.

The only thing against them is that with only seven games to go and the pressure is really on and they have not settled on their best side.

Jack Dilba could be fighting for his place after indifferent displays; newcomer Mike Richards, a really versatile player, must be considered very seriously for a place in the side; and Alonzo Morales and Munther Alwan are no certainties to retain their positions.

They did not impress against the lowly placed Ulverstone last week, but it was a run, while Olympia were without a game for the second week running, and at this stage of the season that must be to Rapid's advantage.

However, Rapid will need to cut out their short passing bouts in defence against forwards of the calibre of Danny Spendiff, Tommy Wright, Don Farmery and Roger Norman.

Olympia have been fielding the same team for weeks now and their success depends on midfield strength and ability of the forwards to capitalise on the openings made for them.

Farmery has scored in seven of Olympia's last 10 matches and he and Norman will need close marking. Olympia have trained hard, with two sessions this week on the firm ground at Sandfly.

Neither side can afford to lose, and Olympia are a better team that a 4-1 first round defeat would suggest. A draw would not surprise.

Unbeaten White Eagles will be without goalkeeper Mick Caban, who injured a leg last week, and Peter Wass will be back in goal for them against Caledonians in tomorrow's match of the day at Margate.

Calies, who lost 0-3 to the Eagles earlier, could also be without goalkeeper Paul Jones, who trained last night after pulling his hamstring, but he will need to pass a fitness test.

Malcolm Farmer is likely to come into the side on the wing, otherwise it is the same team that drew at Devonport.

Calies, always at their best when the odds are against them, have beaten top six team Rapid and with six points from their last five games, they are a side to be reckoned with, despite their lowly position in the standings.

George Town will try to beat Croatia in their own den after having beaten them at home 6-1, in one of the season's biggest upsets, and they can expect no mercy.

They did well against Devonport last week when Chris Cutting's goalkeeping kept them at bay, and they can rise to the occasion.

Croatia, who have not lost to anyone else this season, will have Alistair Payne back after being out with a fractured jaw. Milan Lakoseljac could be watching the match after returning from the Canadian tour by Sydney Croatia.

Skipper Willy Peters came before the investigation committee following an incident with Conrad Hughes (Launceston United) and got off on the score that the charge was not proven.

Launceston United have an almost unrecognisable team because of injury, unavailability and suspension, and the only thing that will buoy their hopes at Devonport is that they beat the port 4-3 earlier after being 0-2 down at half time. And this has been their only win of the season.

They flirted with administration dangers last week when they played two Ravenswood Olympic players on a week-to-week loan basis, but it had turned out there been a misunderstanding that has been excused.

In future, however, players on loan will have to go on an official transfer back to their own club if they want to return.

From last week's United team Mick Joss is unavailable and Tommy Bain has an ankle injury. Top youngster Braden Carter goes into hospital next week for an ankle injury.

Devonport are unchanged and are anxious to wipe out that earlier defeat. They have a fine replacement for Joe Udovicic in goal as Chris Cutting's great save against Andy Schiebl last week ensured a Devonport win.

Beal will be in the Launceston Juventus line-up against Ulverstone after being

interstate last week and Ted Dolliver should add snap to the Ulverstone attack.

This will be no easy match for Juventus as they beat Ulverstone by only a lone own goal in the first clash and Ulverstone held Rapid last week to a late lone goal.

Michael Foot and Mark Fitzgerald are improving with each game, with Fitzgerald contributing to the replacement of winger jack Dilba for the second half last week.

This could be a draw as Ulverstone's youngsters chase everything and they are not beaten until the final whistle.

Rapid make it 4-1 again over Hobart Olympia

By Gordon Burnett – 24/7/1978

SHOWING better teamwork and greater determination Rapid Wrest Point overcame a stiff hurdle in Hobart Olympia in their Radio Rentals State League soccer match in heavy conditions at South Hobart yesterday.

Last time they clashed Rapid beat Olympia 4-1.

Peter Medhurst was played on the wing and scored two goals, and Mike Richards had a good debut in defence. But in a good team effort Noorey Aziz and Yakob Plazonic stood out.

With six games to go Rapid have a one-point advantage and only five points separate the six teams in the 10-team league.

Olympia were despondent after failing to get back into the game when 1-2 down. Not even the report that Lachie Vagianos has got his clearance for Adelaide Hellas and could be in Hobart within two weeks could lift the team.

Their best player was centre-half Darby Conlan, who was everywhere in a loose defence, while Ossie Moore was a hard worker throughout.

Farmery opened the scoring in the ninth minute, heading in a cross from Bolton but after a shot from John Dilba had been deflected onto an upright by Stettner, Dilba was too fast for a back pass by Worden and equalised.

Farmery was through on his own soon after, but his shot went off the far upright. Then five minutes before half time a superb pass from Aziz to Medhurst on the right, with no one anywhere near saw the young winger cut in and put Rapid 2-1 up at a very opportune moment.

Wright missed a great chance soon after the resumption, and Stewart made the mistake of the season when he picked up a loose ball, dribbled past the goalkeeper and then miskicked when facing an empty goal.

Medhurst made in 3-1 when he followed up a good effort by Steve Kannegiesser in the 67th minute. With neither player making an impression on the Rapid defence, Wright and Norman were replaced by Crowther and Paplos for the last 18 minutes.

A goal could have come in the 75th minute when Farmery was brought down in the area but he did not get the expected penalty. Rapid brought on Jack Dilba and Alwan for Stewart and Cengia and they scored again with seven minutes to go through John Dilba on a pass from Steve Kannegiesser.

George Town brought off what many would have thought was the impossible when they came from 0-3 down at half time to draw 3-3 with Croatia at Grove Rd – and in the last-minute Andy Schiebl had a great chance of giving them victory.

When a Croatian attack broke down, Schiebl gained possession to make a break on his own, but he was plodding rather than running because of the heavy, sanded ground. Tattam came out and as Schiebl tried to put a shot past him, he dived and held ball to clear the danger.

Croatia scored in the second, ninth and 18 minutes, and Krawczyk, Kirkpatrick and Sarfalvy each hit the George Town framework in a matter of minutes as Croatia appeared likely to score at will.

When George Town came out in the second half with nothing to lose and everything thrown into attack, they scored in the 60th, 65th and 81st minutes.

Mohring held Croatia together, well supported by Payne, and George Sarfalvy did more fetching and carrying than he has done in a long time to collect two goals. Schiebl was a bundle of energy, and O'Sullivan, Dale and goalkeeper Mark Jones were others to do well for George Town.

White Eagles continued on their unbeaten way, but after being 2-0 up in the eighth minute they were glad when the final whistle went to give them a shaky 2-1 win against Caledonians at Margate.

Unexpectedly, Eagles did not get on top after their early success and when Linnell and Trueman were taken off in the second half they were soon in trouble with Calies increasing the pace of the game.

After Hey had saved off the goal line, Oakes opened the scoring and Smith converted a penalty when he was brought down in the area. Linnell hit an upright before half time and Hugh Mackinnon pulled back a goal when he headed in a corner kick from Jenkins.

Few players stood out on a cut-up ground, but Calies' youngsters Hey and Marlor caught the eye.

In atrocious conditions at the new ground at Prospect, Launceston Juventus beat Ulverstone by a penalty goal scored a couple of minutes from time after Ulverstone had led twice, the second time with only 10 minutes to go.

With ground conditions dictating kick and rush tactics, Hamilton gave Ulverstone a 1-0 half time lead. Streit equalised with a great shot from 25 metres, and coach Smythe converted a "hands" penalty for the equaliser. The decider was a penalty, also for "hands" which Streit converted.

Strickland, Streit and Collins were Juventus' best, and goalkeeper Rob Smith, Hamilton and Fischer shone for Ulverstone.

Devonport crashed home eight goals against Launceston United, who were perhaps lucky to be able to field a side, and at this stage they have a goal difference of 14, compared with Rapid's 22 and White Eagles' 16 for the $500 cash award under the sponsorship of New Zealand Insurance Co.

But what really impressed was the sporting manner in which the injury-hit United took their big defeat, trying to the bitter end.

Gleeson was man of the match, and Farrington did extremely well to subdue McKenna.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
White Eagles 2 (Oakes, Smith pen.) d Caledonians 1 (Mackinnon); Croatia 3 (Sarfalvy 2, Leung) drew with George Town 3 (Reece, Farrell, Mason);

Launceston Juventus 3 (Streit 2 incl. one penalty, Ponting) d Ulverstone 2 (Hamilton, Smythe pen.); Devonport 8 (Best 2, Frame 2, L Smith 2, MacDonald, an own goal) d Launceston United 0; Rapid Wrest point 4 (John Dilba 2, Medhurst 2) d Hobart Olympia 1 (Farmery).

Rapid's teamwork to give them win over Croatia

By Gordon Burnett – 28/7/1978

RAPID WREST POINT worked up very good understanding last Sunday against Hobart Olympia after making necessary changes and should continue on their winning way against Croatia tomorrow.

But it should be a close game as both teams have been beaten only once – and that was by a team in the bottom four of the standings – Rapid by Caledonians and Croatia by George Town, who managed a draw in their return game to Croatia, their sixth draw.

Rapid drew 0-0 in their first clash and will be at full strength, while Croatia strengthened by George Sarfalvy playing in the midfield, will have Milan Lakoseljac back from the Canadian tour.

There should be a great duel between midfielders Aziz, Stewart and Cengia of Rapid and Letec, Cowen, Sarfalvy and Peters of Croatia.

White Eagles are hoping goalkeeper Caban is fit again, could be playing against Hobart Olympia on Sunday without the direction of coach John Grimsey.

In his absence skipper Nunn and McKay, who take groups at normal training, will share the coaching responsibility.

Peter Wass could get a game – in goal in the possible absence of Caban, or on the wing.

Olympia dropped to sixth position when they lost on Sunday and are likely to give their younger players more opportunities now that their premiership hopes are very slim.

But they will be a tough proposition with the pressure off and a relaxed side could worry Eagles without beating them. It was a 1-1 draw the first game.

Roger Norman has retired from Olympia after giving the club very good service, including being the league top goalscorer.

Main game in the North is the local derby between Devonport, who could be without Rimmer, MacDonald, McKenna, and Johnston and Ulverstone – at Ulverstone.

The fact that Ulverstone are putting things together much better now and are a much more settled team, they are stronger that the first game result of 1-3 would suggest.

Launceston Juventus should come away with the points from George Town, although it is difficult to understand why Leighton Hodge, who got a hat-trick in the first game, and Steve Clark who score twice, are playing in the reserves side tomorrow.

Caledonians have won only once away but are hoping to repeat the 5-0 first round result against a greatly weakened Launceston United side at Newstead.

Calies will be without goalkeeper Jones and Graly was injured in a car crash during the week. United will be forced to use the injured Chadwick as a replacement.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	12	8	1	3	33	11	19
White Eagle	12	6	0	6	30	14	18
Croatia	12	5	1	6	30	21	16
Devonport	12	6	3	3	29	15	15
L'ton Juventus	13	6	4	3	25	16	15
Olympia	12	6	4	2	31	30	14
Calies	12	3	7	2	18	29	8
Ulverstone	12	3	7	2	16	27	8
George Town	12	1	7	4	26	42	6
L'ton United	13	1	11	1	13	46	3

Depleted Rapid down by one goal to Croatia

By Gordon Burnett – 31/7/1978

CROATIA crept closer to the Honour of being the first Radio Rentals State League soccer premiers with a lone goal win over Rapid Wrest Point, scored by Billy Kirkpatrick in the 20th minute.

But in a hard and fast game there was an excuse for Rapid – they did not play

star midfielder Noorey Aziz because of an ankle injury, and pacy centre-forward, John Dilba, because of a leg injury – and they missed them badly.

Despite this, they had chances, but as often as not, would not shoot from favorable positions against a solid defence.

After an even first half, Croatia were inclined to go into defence, and Jack Dilba, Medhurst and Stewart all had chances to score.

Schwesinger had to go off after a heavy collision with team colleague Wilson and was replaced by Newlands who did well.

A cross from Kevin Leung on the right produced the goal when a defensive blunder saw Kirkpatrick head a bouncing ball into the net.

Tattam, who had a good in goal, Lakoseljac, fresh from his Canadian tour, and skipper Willy Peters, were Croatia's best, and the 90-minute Cengia, Plazonic and Wilson were prominent for Rapid.

Rapid hope to have Aziz and Dilba fit for another game against Croatia on Sunday – n the $3000 Ampol State Cup semi-final.

Caledonians won by a lone goal at Newstead after beating Launceston United in the first game 5-0 in the first round and would prefer to forget Saturday's game.

They never settled down against do-or-die tactics by a team who have just about forgotten to win; Alistair Hales missed a first-half penalty when he was brought down in the area; Paul Marlor got the only goal 15 minutes into the second half; and Chris Hey's ankle injury forced positional changes.

Marlor took a through ball from Mackinnon to run past the opposing centre-half and score a good goal from the edge of the box.

Calies hit the crossbar and Ken Dean's debut was marred by a couple of missed chances.

Joss, goalkeeper Laverty, Hopkins and Commander were United's best, and Marlor and Hey shone for Calies.

Launceston Juventus led George Town 1-0 at half time but found the loss of two players too much and dropped both points when top striker Andy Schiebl scored with the last kick of the game.

Streit converted a penalty for "hands" in the 14th minute, but Farrell equalised with a good shot 16 minutes into the second half.

Ponting was sent off for alleged violent conduct with 35 minutes to go and 10 minutes later Robinson followed him for the same alleged reason.

Juventus tightened up considerably and when it appeared as if they had saved a point, Schiebl pounced on a loose ball and got the decider with seven seconds left for play. George Town lost the first game 1-6!

Teenager Gimpl, who Juventus let go to them this season, O'Sullivan, Farrell and Schiebl were best for George Town, and Strickland. Garrett and van der Geest did well for Juventus.

A lone goal by Alec MacDonald 20 minutes into the second half gave Devonport both points against Ulverstone in a poor standard game in which the close marking of Tommy McKenna by Mark Fitzgerald took a lot of the sting out of Devonport.

Charlie Baird and Ted Dolliver had a clash of heads in an aerial duel and

Baird had to go to hospital for five stitches.

Fitzgerald and Ted Dolliver were Ulverstone's best, and MacDonald and Baird were best for Devonport.

With everything set for them to take top league position if they could beat Hobart Olympia at Glenorchy yesterday White Eagles lost 2-3 to a side greatly strengthened by the introduction of youth, Olympia chased everything for 90 minutes.

Crowther, link forward, and Karagiannakis, who showed great speed to take the through pass, played extremely well.

It was Eagles' first defeat of the season and their star defender Eamonn Kelly was carried off on a stretcher five minutes from the end with a suspected fractured leg.

The stretcher had been used only moments before to carry off Olympia forward Danny Spendiff, with torn ligaments.

Olympia coach Ken Worden put them 2-0 within the first 10 minutes; Kelly converted a penalty in the 30th minute; Oakes equalised one minute from half time; and Wright scored the decider with seconds left in the first half.

Crowther, Conlan and Karagiannakis were best for Olympia, who deserved the win, while Eagles, who were without coach John Grimsey were best served by Nunn, Kelly, and Smith. Grimsey is in the UK for about 10 days.

With five games to go only three points separate the top six teams.

Foran has left it late to transfer back to Launceston Juventus from Box Hill (V), but secretary, Fred Cunningham said it might be managed in time by telegram. The transfer deadline is by midnight tonight.

No transfer request had been received up to yesterday for the transfer of former Olympia star Lachie Vagianos, back to Olympia from Adelaide Hellas.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Croatia 1 (Kirkpatrick) d Rapid Wrest Point 0; Caledonians 1 (Marlor) d Launceston United 0; Devonport 1 (MacDonald) d Ulverstone 0; George Town 2 (Farrell, Schiebl) d Launceston Juventus 1 (Streit pen.); Hobart Olympia 3 (Worden 2, Wright) d White Eagles 2 (Kelly pen, Oakes)

Croatia will need to be on toes to take vital points

By Gordon Burnett – 11/8/1978

CROATIA, the only Radio Rentals State League soccer club now able to win Tasmania's first State League-Ampol State Cup double, will have to be on their mettle on Sunday.

They play Hobart Olympia, who had decided to use the rest of the season to blood promising youngsters, and then inflicted on White Eagles their first defeat of the season.

Olympia played a relaxed game that found gaps in the Eagles' line-up, and it will be a very similar situation this time – with Croatia fighting desperately for the two points that will keep them breathing down the necks of the leaders.

Croatia's strength lies in Willy Peters, who had a hat-trick against Olympia earlier on, Cowen and Letec, with the dependable Mohring, Payne and Tattam behind them.

Olympia, who now have skipper Tommy Wright training them with Alec Vail as manager, are expected to use youngsters Crowther, Karagiannakis and Sherman, with possibly 17-year-old Johnston getting a chance in goal at some stage.

Olympia are three points behind the leaders with five games to go, and their sights are on the $5000 Cadbury's Cup, rather than the premiership.

It could be a real thriller, with Croatia's determination tipping the scales for their third win in as many weeks at South Hobart.

Tomorrow Caledonians will be without goalkeeper Paul Jones who has announced his retirement after 11 years with Calies, and with Chris Hey nursing a back injury, they could be extended by Ulverstone at Margate tomorrow.

Ulverstone beat them 5-0 the first time and they have been spurred on by reaching the semi-finals of the Combined Cup, and a good display against Devonport. They are confident of winning their first game in Hobart this season.

But they could find Margate a different proposition to their own ground, and Calies will be favourites.

Launceston United have been greatly strengthened with the return of Bain, Hughes and Chadwick, but they will be up against a chastened White Eagles side keen to return to the wining list after two defeats in a row in the absence of coach John Grimsey.

Grimsey is due back today and will waste no time whipping them into shape.

Rapid Wrest Point, who also suffered two successive defeats, will have Richards and Wilson back in their defence, and a team conference during the week ironed out the wrinkles, and they should get the points at Prospect.

It was 2-0 to Rapid the first time, and Juventus will be without centre-forward Gibbons who has an injured knee, and Leighton Hodge has been recalled to the attack.

Billy Foran not long back from Box Hill (V) will be on the bench.

This could be closer for Rapid than they would wish, but their better teamwork should carry the day.

Devonport will not have everything their own way against George Town, who beat Launceston Juventus last game, and took nine goals off Croatia.

George Town have kept their same team for several weeks now, and they are settling down into a useful side. Devonport have got skipper Charlie Baird fit as a result of the fortnight break through the Ampol Cup series.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	13	8	2	3	33	12	19
White Eagle	13	6	1	6	32	17	18
Croatia	13	6	1	6	31	21	18
Devonport	13	7	3	3	30	15	17
Olympia	13	7	4	2	34	32	16
L'ton Juventus	14	6	5	3	26	18	15
Calies	13	4	7	2	19	29	10
Ulverstone	13	3	8	2	16	28	8
George Town	13	2	7	4	28	43	8
L'ton United	14	1	12	1	13	47	3

Croatia miss chance to head State League soccer

By Gordon Burnett – 14/8/1978

NEEDING only to beat sixth ranking team Hobart Olympia to go to the

head of the Radio Rentals State League soccer standings yesterday, Croatia came from 0-3 down after 49 minutes to draw 3-3 and almost win.

It was a let-off for Rapid Wrest Point and White Eagles, who lead Croatia on goal difference despite unexpectedly losing and drawing respectively on Saturday.

With four games left there are only two points separating the top six teams in the 10-team league.

Olympia monopolised the first half against Croatia, chasing all that was going and running well onto accurate passes.

They crossed over 2-0 and got the third four minutes after the interval, but then their promising youngsters missing last week's game through the Ampol Cup series, ran out of puff.

As soon as they stopped running onto their passes it became a new game altogether. Croatia renowned for second half recoveries, made fewer mistakes in defence with the pressure off, and started to build up dangerous attacking moves.

Kevin Leung sparked the Croatia recovery with a solo effort in the 64th minute, Lakoseljac brought new hope with a goal 11 minutes later and then Peters nodded in a free kick by Krawczyk with 13 minutes to go.

Lakoseljac, Sarfalvy and Manley had great chances to get the decider, although at the other end Bolton raced through on his own to fire in a powerful shot that Tattam put against the crossbar, and replacement Genaris, and Crowther (twice) had equally good chances in an exciting finish.

Best for Croatia was Leung, who lifted the side with his determination, while Farmery was best for Olympia, heading in two goals and making several good openings that were wasted.

Croatia were without Kirkpatrick and Olympia missed Spendiff, both are injured.

White Eagles were without coach John Grimsey for their third successive match and gave another sub-standard performance to draw 1-1 with Launceston United, almost certain wooden spooners.

As one spectator said: "It's a wonder they know their way on to the park without Grimsey." Grimsey arrived back from England yesterday.

United scored first after Eagles had had most of the play. A free kick into the goalmouth saw Pickering score, and Eagles equalised a minute before half-time.

Centre-back Steve Hudson had a great game for United, breaking up everything that came through the middle, and Conrad Hughes chased everything all day.

Trueman and Nunn were best for Eagles, whose defence were sound but were woefully weak up front, where Smith was the only one to show any determination.

Rapid lost their third successive game when refusal to shoot after gaining hard earned advantages saw them beaten 2-1 by Launceston Juventus at Prospect. And a missed penalty by Cengia cost them a valuable point with only five minutes to go.

Rapid scored first with a lucky goal when a header by Cengia was punched into the roof of the net by goalkeeper Garrett.

Juventus equalled 10 minutes later when Beal made an opening for Heap, and 10 minutes into the second half Leighton Hodge scored the decider after a corner.

Rapid started promisingly, but their short passing game broke down on the slippery turf and they did not think enough. Even in the penalty area they would drift away from the goal looking for a better opening instead of shooting against a quick tackling defence.

Wilson, Aziz, Cengia and replacement Jack Dilba were their best while Strickland, Beal and Robinson were best for Juventus, who often resorted to the long ball and surprised by replacing the hard-working Heap and Collins.

Caledonians avenged a 5-0 first round defeat by beating Ulverstone 3-1 in a hard game that saw them get a penalty in each half for goalkeeping fouls on Hales.

The dual between Marlor and Shegog was a feature of a match in which Calies used Hugh Mackinnon in attack and brought Joe Hanna back into defence, to have Ulverstone struggling most of the time.

Calies who were 1-1 at half time, were best served by Marlor, Hales and Mackinnon, while Ulverstone's best were Shegog and Fitzgerald who is having a fine season.

George Town did a great job to hold Devonport to 2-2 in Devonport after being 0-2 down five minutes into the second half.

Andy Schiebl, who got two goals including a penalty to retain leadership in the goalscoring award, and Mason, stood out for the Town.

Gleeson and Frame did well for Devonport, who failed to get a decider in the remaining 20 minutes after the equaliser.

Details – Radio Rentals State League Launceston Juventus 2 (Heap, L Hodge) d Rapid Wrest Point 1 (an own goal); White Eagles 1 (Smith pen) drew with Launceston United 1 (Pickering); Devonport 2 (McKenna, Frame) drew with George Town 2 (Schiebl 2 including a penalty); Caledonians 3 (Hanna 2 penalties, Marlor) d Ulverstone 1 (Van der Ploeg); Croatia 3 (Leung, Lakoseljac, Peters) drew with Hobart Olympia 3 (Farmery 2, Karagiannakis).

Fourth straight loss looms for Rapid

By Gordon Burnett – 18/8/1978

THE keen competition in the Radio Rentals State League soccer does not encourage match forecasts, but I am going to suggest that the top standings tomorrow night will be:

White Eagles 21, Croatia 20, Devonport 20, Rapid Wrest Pont 19,

Hobart Olympia 19, and Launceston Juventus 19 – with only three games to go.

That means that Devonport should have their first win at South Hobart – against Rapid, who drew 1-1 with them at Devonport.
Devonport with match winners like McKenna, MacDonald, and Frame, are well balanced with only one possible weakness at full-back. Rapid have lost much of their speed and have forgotten how to shoot – 14 goals from their last 10 games!

Three defeats in a row must have shaken their confidence just when the pressure is really on. They will need to show more determination to get that 50-50 ball, and they will have to show more accuracy in their passing if they are to press home good approach work.

Aziz, Stewart, Cengia and Steve Kannegiesser will have to produce something extra if Rapid are to survive in the run home.

Devonport are back to somewhere near their best with only two points dropped from their last six games, and 15 goals for, and eight against in that period.

Croatia, unbeaten in 10 straight games, meet Launceston Juventus, who must be the outsiders among the first six in the standings, but they could force a second draw.

Juventus' problem will be to hold right-winger Kevin Leung, who is in sparkling form. Full-back Robinson is under two weeks' suspension, Collas is injured, the promising Gimpl was allowed to go to George Town and Chris Bowers is out of favor with the selectors.

The result is that they have run out of full-backs and Tommy Gibbons could be used there as a stop gap against Leung.

To add to their problems, George Sarfalvy has been moved from midfield to the left-wing, and some fine crosses can be expected from both flanks for Lakoseljac, Manley and Peters to snap up.

At this stage Billy Kirkpatrick is unlikely to play but if he should pass a late fitness test, he could be used for part of the game. Juventus have goalscoring forwards, but it could be a case of alert defences avoiding defeat.

Juventus are a hot and cold side who show that the extra effort needed in State League takes a lot out of them – and Croatia are at their best in the second half.

White Eagles will go to the Coast without Peter Linnell, and heads could roll if they cannot improve on recent showings. They have either given a listless performance or have responded to pressures with attempts to do too much. Midfield improvement is necessary.

Reserves coach Sylvester Rakowski has done a good job with his charges and there are several waiting for a chance in the firsts.

Fraraccio will be available as he received six disciplinary points from the investigation committee for using foul language in the Ampol Cup game against Juventus-Pioneer.

Ulverstone lost 0-6 to Eagles earlier but are confident it will be nothing like that this time at Ulverstone. They conceded one goal against Devonport on that ground and Tom and Ted Dolliver playing, Shegog in good form, and Ron Smith capable of lifting the side they could give some cheek.

Chasing the double against Launceston United, Hobart Olympia go to Newstead without goalkeeper Eric Stettner, who will leave for Queensland soon. He has been replaced by 17-year-old Mark Johnson.

He will make his first team debut after being on the bench last week when Olympia drew with Croatia in a thrilling game that produced six goals.

Broughton is unavailable and John Paplos will get his place, adding to the youth in this side.

United surprised by drawing with Eagles and with players back from injury they could worry Olympia.

Gerard Ygosse, former State under 16 player is back from injury, and could get a game, but Carter is still away and midfielder Attenborrow has gone to Launceston Croatia. It looks as if goalkeeper Tommy Bain will have a busy afternoon.

Caledonians will be at George Town who they beat 2-1 in the first round and they are keeping Mackinnon up in attack. He played with success at centre-forward for St Mirren before returning to Calies. He got the ball in the net last week, but the goal was disallowed.

George Town hare a threat in goal-hungry Andy Schiebl, who is receiving penalty kicks to bolster his bag. He made no mistake with his first penalty last week to notch his 15th goal.

Martin Jones is doing a good job in goal, Paul Gimpl is impressive in a double Centre-half role, and Mark

O'Sullivan is a real 90-minute battler. It will not be easy, but Calies can do it.

Because of a clash between North and South in each match all five State League games will be played tomorrow.

Rapid stay on top with easy win over Devonport

By Gordon Burnett – 21/8/1978

RAPID Wrest Point bounced back into State League soccer premiership calculations on Saturday with a comfortable home win over Devonport to retain top position in the standings.

It was a morale booster after three successive defeats and was achieved without Aziz and Richards, who did not train because of the flu, and Stewart who has a back injury.

The result was that Rapid had almost the same team that played in their first game this season and they turned on the speed that made them so menacing early on.

Steve Kannegiesser played at centre-forward and John Dilba went to centre-half, and within four minutes Kannegiesser had scored from a free kick taken by Plazonic. Two minutes later Plazonic dived forward to head in a goal from a free kick taken by Cengia.

These two goals killed the game as Devonport struggled to hold their own, let alone win. Billy Frame was their only 90-minute man and got a yellow card for harassing the goalkeeper.

Left-winger Peter Medhurst scored the third goal two minutes after the interval and Devonport were glad when the final whistle went without any further scoring. MacDonald sent in the best shot of the game, only for Phillip Kannegiesser to save brilliantly.

When Rapid made a couple of replacements, including Aziz, one coastal visitor remarked that they could still win if they left a couple of players off. Bruno Cengia stood out for Rapid, while nothing got past John Dilba in defence.

Croatia, who are looming ominously as a premiership possibility after an

indifferent start to the season, toyed with Launceston Juventus after surviving a first half danger period following their opening score.

Croatia played well as a team and made enough chances to have won 6-0 instead of only 2-0 against a team which had to win this one and took risks. Billy Kirkpatrick came into the side at the last minute and got his head to a corner in the 20th minute to open the scoring after Tattam had saved a screamer from Streit. Tattam also got down well to a very powerful volley from Heap from six metres and Croatia breathed again.

In the second half Leung made the game safe for Croatia in a great solo effort and they dominated the play to win with a lot in hand.

Attacking through the wings, Croatia were best served by Leung, Mohring and Peters, while Strickland stood out for Juventus, and Butler and Garrett did well.

White Eagles had a 3-0 win against a robust and rugged Ulverstone team on their own ground, after Ted Dolliver had missed a penalty against Kelly in the first five minutes.

Eagles scored soon after, crossed over 1-0 and scored two more in the last 15 minutes. They played it wide and opposing goalkeeper Rob Smith did very well to get to some dangerous crosses. Ulverstone chased everything, but once Eagles settled down, they were so much on top that full-back Trueman came within an ace of scoring after a good run.

Trueman, Nunn and the forward line shone for Eagles, while Ted and Tom Dolliver were best for Ulverstone.

Launceston United, strengthened by the return of players from the injured list, equalised in the 80th minute to take a point off the visiting Hobart Olympia side.

For the second week in succession Steve Hudson proved the stumbling block to Southern hopes and Olympia just could not put it together, despite getting a first-half lead through Spendiff, who was taken off 10 minutes into the second half to bring Sherman on.

Peter Crowther, Olympia's best player, hit the crossbar with a great half volley for the second week in succession. Mark Johnson (17) had a good debut, saving one shot in fine style. Hudson and skipper Joss were United's best players.

Caledonians had a hard game on a small George Town ground not in the best of condition and owed their 3-2

success to teamwork, after crossing over 2-2 and holding back a determined opposition in the latter stages when a Schiebl penalty shot hit an upright.

Youthful goalkeeper Nick Osborne had a good game for Calies, turning a hot shot from Whtemore around an upright in the last few minutes. It was Caledonians' fourth successive win and as they have to play Rapid and Croatia, yet they could have a profound influence on the final standings.

The top three teams, still on level terms in points and now relying on a very important goal difference, are in for an exciting finish.

Rapid (23 goal difference) meet Caledonians at Margate after losing 0-2 in the first round, George Town away (9-1) and White Eagles (1-1); White Eagles (18 goals difference) meet George Town (2-2), Devonport away (1-0) and Rapid away (1-1); Croatia (12 goals difference) meet Devonport away (1-1) Ulverston away (3-0) and Caledonians (3-2).

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Rapid Wrest point 3 (S Kannegiesser, Plazonic, Medhurst) d Devonport 0; Croatia 2 (Kirkpatrick, Leung) d Launceston Juventus 0; White Eagles 3 (Nunn, Smith, Oakes) d Ulverstone 0; Launceston United 1 (Pickering) drew with Hobart Olympia 1 (Spendiff); Caledonians 3 (Hanna pen, Mackinnon, Jenkins) d George Town 2 (Schiebl 2).

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rapid	15	9	3	3	37	14	21
White Eagle	15	7	1	7	36	18	21
Croatia	15	7	1	7	36	24	21
Devonport	15	7	4	4	32	20	18
Olympia	15	7	4	4	38	36	18
L'ton Juventus	16	7	6	3	28	21	17
Calies	15	6	7	2	25	32	14
George Town	15	2	8	5	32	48	9
Ulverstone	15	3	10	2	17	34	8
L'ton United	16	1	12	3	15	49	5

Danger games for top three in State League

By Gordon Burnett – 25/8/1978

THERE are danger matches for the top three teams in the Radio Rentals State League soccer program of five matches tomorrow.

Rapid Wrest Point meet Caledonians at Margate – and Calies beat them 2-0 in the first round and have lost only once in the second round.

White Eagles are at home to George Town, the seventh team in the 10-team league, but who have taken three points from Croatia, beaten Launceston Juventus, and drawn with Eagles and Devonport.

Croatia goes to Devonport after struggling for a 1-1 result in the first round, equalising with an own goal against a side who went without Tom McKenna because of injury.

Whoever wins this curtain raiser at the Domain Athletic Centre tomorrow is almost certain to win the TSA premiership.

Rapid could rely on the same team who blitzed Devonport so effectively, and that means Noorey Aziz, possibly the best midfielder in the State, may be on the bench!

They are playing against a team who have nothing to lose and the strong incentive to beat Rapid once again, and a confident Rapid could pay the penalty for undeserved complacency. Their win against Devonport checked the side's slide but the coastal team have never played worse.

Calies can beat anyone on their day, have worries about the fitness of Hugh Mackinnon, Marlor and Hey. – their forward line – but they are likely to be playing.

This means they will be attacking through the wings with Mackinnon and the midfielders storming through the centre to pick up the crosses.

George Town has a poor away record with two draws from seven away matches but their recent form is good with a win over Juventus, a draw against Devonport and an unlucky defeat by Calies – and they have a match winning striker in Andy Schiebl.

George Town drew the first game 2-2 after a tearaway start had produced two goals. Eagles are getting over their team problems and Peter Linnell is back in the squad after playing in the reserves last week as a disciplinary measure following disagreement with team officials.

Eagles home record is not that good with two wins and four draws from eight games at Grove Rd, but they should take this one out and improve their goal difference which is five goals behind Rapid. They beat George Town 7-3 in the Ampol Cup.

Croatia could find Devonport a tougher proposition than expected as they could not have played worse than they did

against Rapid and are a least a goal better side on their own ground.

But the Valley Rd, ground will allow Croatia to make full use of match-winning wingers Kevin Leung and George Sarfalvy to press home victory.

Croatia, who have a fine midfield trio in Cowen, Peters and Letec and attacking full-backs in Payne and Krawczyk, drew the earlier match through a Devonport goal-keeping mistake.

Devonport have been beaten only once at Devonport – by a lone goal by White Eagles – but they have had four draws from their eight matches there.

Launceston Juventus is not the team they used to be and a visit to South Hobart is unlikely to worry the improving Olympia unduly.

United have not won in 12 games but successive draws against Eagles and Olympia show they are on the way back.

Ball-hungry Croatia give opponents food for thought

By Gordon Burnett – 28/8/1978

WHITE Eagles and Croatia left it very late getting the deciding goal in their Radio Rentals State League soccer competition games on Saturday.

Rapid Wrest Point's game at Margate was postponed because of the ground conditions and they have lost leadership of the competition for the first time this season.

Croatia, who must win their last two games and even then, will be dependent on lapses by Rapid and White Eagles because of an inferior goal difference, played on an empty stomach at Devonport.

Coach Alex Sarfalvy cut out lunch when the team arrived later that expected – and the team gave their best performance of the year in a game that was probably the most skilful of the season.

Croatia had three chances to Devonport's one in a first half featured by fine play by Alex MacDonald and Tommy McKenna, and in the second half that produced longer balls as tension mounted, Croatia again had more chances.

The lone goal of the game came during a last 10-minute Croatia assault that saw Leung take the ball down the left wing and round the full-back before passing inside to replacement Manley. His shot hit an upright and cannoned across the goal for Frank Letec to get his head to the ball in a spectacular diving effort with only five minutes left. Seconds later Cutting saved brilliantly from a Sarfalvy 35-yarder.

Krawczyk, Mohring, Letec and Leung were Croatia's best, while MacDonald got the Devonport Club's man of the match award and Billy Frame was dangerous in attack.

White Eagles did as they liked to go to a relaxed 2-0 interval lead against George Town, only to see the visitors turn on a high brand of soccer to equalise. Just as a draw appeared probable a throw-in by Trueman and a pass from Godfrey to Smith saw a long centre from which Mark Oakes scored the decider with four minutes to go.

George Town had previously come back from 0-3 to draw 3-3 with Croatia, and in Saturday's game diminutive Mark O'Sullivan stood out for them, while Tony Whitemore played a destructive role in defence. Nunn, Smith, who scored a great goal after a solo effort, and Fraraccio in the first half were Eagle's best.

In the mud at South Hobart Olympia gained a 2-0 first half lead against Launceston Juventus, who could not finish off good approach work. But they were struggling, survived a penalty for hands against Hargrave that Leighton Hodge missed, and saw Streit convert a penalty five minutes later when goalkeeper Johnson held on to him.

Juventus, who have not won a game in Hobart this year, were held together by Strickland, and Garrett made several good saves, one in particular being to stop Peter Sherman getting his first hat-trick. Johnson did well in Olympia's goal and Moore was a reliable defender.

Once again there was no hot shower for Juventus, whose players had to run from one end of the stand to the other in the extreme cold to use the home team showers and then return to their dressing rooms.

Launceston United took a long time settling down and the visiting Ulverstone side crossed over 1-0 and were 2-0 five minutes into the second half. Conrad Hughes then lifted United in a great effort, and it was a pass that Buggy scored, and five minutes later Buggy equalised.

Details – Radio Rentals State League
Croatia 1 (Letec) d Devonport 0; White Eagles 3 (Oakes 2, Smith) d George Town 2 (Mason, Farrell); Hobart Olympia 2 (Sherman 2) d Launceston Juventus 1 (Streit pen.); Launceston United 2 (Buggy 2) drew with Ulverstone 2 (Fischer, Krenn); Rapid Wrest Point v Caledonians postponed

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	16	8	1	7	39	20	23
Croatia	16	8	1	7	37	24	23
Rapid	15	9	3	3	37	14	21
Olympia	16	8	4	4	40	37	20
Devonport	16	7	5	4	32	21	18
L'ton Juventus	17	7	7	3	29	23	17
Calies	15	6	7	2	25	32	14
George Town	16	2	9	5	34	51	9
Ulverstone	16	3	10	3	19	36	9
L'ton United	17	1	12	4	17	51	6

Wedding bells may take toll on Croatia's hopes

By Gordon Burnett – 1/9/1978

CROATIA within two games of possibly winning the first Radio Rentals State League soccer title, must think the cards are stacked against them.

They will be leaving Hobart at 6am tomorrow for Ulverstone without midfielder and captain Willy Peters, and goalkeeper Rodney Tattam, both contenders for the Rothmans gold medal award. Peters is getting married tomorrow in Hobart and Tattam is his best man.

Coach Alex Sarfalvy hoped to take the team to Ulverstone tonight, get an early start to the game tomorrow, and have the two players back in Hobart on time. But the Croatia club would not foot the overnight accommodation bill.

Ulverstone is considered a graveyard for ball-playing teams, but their home record belies this belief as they have lost four of seven games played there this season and the top teams have won there.

They will rely heavily on midfielders Alfie Krenn and Michael Foot, with Rudi Fischer the livewire in attack. They will be looking to newcomer Van der Wal (17) for a repeat of his impressive debut last week.

Croatia will have Ross Nichols in goal and could be taking under 17 player Dzelalija north with them. It will not be easy, but Croatia have responded well in the past when facing adversity and they can do so again, especially with a 5-0 first round win behind them.

Rapid Wrest Point, with three games to play, are also on the move, visiting George Town, and they are as sharp now as at any time of the season.

Their main worry could be George Town goal scorer Andy Schiebl, who could be going to them next season – so he will be out to impress! Rapid could again rely on their youngsters for speed, although this could be nullified by the condition of the George Town ground. Rapid won 9-1 the first time and should win again.

White Eagles entertain Devonport, who have won only one of their four games in Hobart this year. But they are a good

side and if the ball runs their way, they will take some stopping.

Eagles are at their best at Grove Rd. but here again their record is not all that good – three wins and five draws from nine games. Tony Godfrey got the only goal of the first encounter and Eagles have the build-up necessary to make it a double against a suspect defence, but a menacing attack.

Caledonians had their chance of glory last week when they were due to meet Rapid in the mud, but the game was put off and Calies' injured should be available against Hobart Olympia on Sunday.

Olympia, who will be without Genaris, beat them 6-3 the first time, and as both teams have lost only once in the second round it should be a crowd-pleaser.

Top three in State League win by lone goal

By Gordon Burnett – 4/9/1978

THERE was no change in the positions of the top three teams in the Radio Rentals State League

soccer competition on Saturday with each wining by a single goal.

White Eagles (25 points) beat Devonport with a lone goal headed in by Mark Oakes from a corner one minute into injury time – and the game finished 19 seconds later.

Rapid Wrest Point (23 points with a game in hand) beat George Town 2-1 with the decider coming from the penalty spot and taken by goalkeeper Phillip Kannegiesser with eight minutes to go.

Croatia beat Ulverstone by a lone goal scored by Wayne Cowen in the second minute.

In a cliff-hanger finish to the season Rapid and White Eagles clash on Saturday and Croatia meet Caledonians. The following week Rapid plays Calies in the final game.

Devonport, who have conceded a deciding goal in the last five minutes of five of their games this season, were unlucky.

Mick Caban saved brilliantly from McKenna in the first half, Leighton Smith hit the Eagles' crossbar and Zschoke had a chip shot that just went wide, before Eagles' first attempt at goal came, when Cutting saved from Linnell in the 66th minute.

Devonport, without MacDonald and looking to avenge their earlier 0-1 loss, attacked whereas Eagles were in a defensive mould that almost brought disaster. Charlie Baird, McKenna, and Smith were Devonport's best and McKay, Nunn and Oakes did well for Eagles.

Croatia threw everything into the first half hour at Ulverstone and should have led 5-0 in that period, but they had to be content with only one goal – when Cowen slipped through for a well taken goal that went in off the upright.

Nichols had a couple of saves to make and was well up to the task, and with Mohring at his best, and Letec, Payne and Cowen all firing, Croatia were never in any real trouble. Goalkeeper Rob Smith, who was great with anything in the air, and skipper Ron Smith were Ulverstone's best.

Rapid were a goal down after two minutes through a Farrell solo effort and could have gone in at half-time 0-3 down. But they were well on top afterwards and Jack Dilba beat two opponents before getting the equaliser.

But it took a penalty to give then two points, and goalkeeper Phillip Kannegiesser, who has been practicing penalty kicks, made no mistake.

Hobart Olympia beat Caledonians 2-1 in the State League yesterday.

Details – Radio Rentals State League White Eagles 1 (Oakes) d Devonport 0; Croatia 1 (Cowen) d Ulverstone 0; Rapid Wrest Point 2 (J Dilba, P Kannegiesser pen.) d George Town 1 (Farrell); Hobart Olympia 2 (Karagiannakis, Farmery) d Caledonians 1 (Hanna pen.).

Croatia should have too much skill for Calies

By Gordon Burnett – 8/9/1978

CROATIA start a memorable week tomorrow with their last bid for the first Radio Rentals State League soccer title – without captain Willy Peters - and they have the Ampol State Cup Final seven days later.

Coach Alex Sarfalvy has brought Croatia a long way beyond the expectations of even their most fervent supporters, and they must be favoured to beat a weakened Caledonians side tomorrow, to hold top position for at least a day.

While Croatia is without Peters, Calies will be without Chris Hey, who has a leg in plaster because of a chipped bone, and former gold medallist Alistair Hales had a broken nose reset on Wednesday and is unlikely to play.

"I don't feel much like it now, but if a satisfactory nose guard could be found I might consider player" he said, adding that he trained on Tuesday.

Croatia is in a position that they must beat Calies and then hope Rapid Wrest Point and White Eagles play a draw. If Eagles beat Rapid on Sunday it will be Eagles' second successive premiership. If Rapid win they will still have to beat Calies on the following Saturday to win the title.

Croatia will not be fooled by Caledonians' inconsistent displays and realise they have a fight on their hands. Calies led them 2-1 with 20 minutes to go, went back on defence and lost 3-4 in their first-round game.

It was as near as any other team got to beating Croatia, except George Town, who beat them 6-1.

Bill Krawczyk, Croatia's most improved player this season filled Peters' position last week with credit, and with Ray Mohring in top gear Croatia are pretty sold in defence.

Their attack has let them down. Had they taken a quarter of the chances offered they would have sealed the title up long ago.

Calies were settling into a winning combination when they lost Hey and Hales within minutes of one another on Sunday. They cannot afford to be without players of this calibre – and with others reported injured they were unable to name a squad last night.

With the pressure really on them, Rapid and Eagles should turn on a crowd-pleaser and there is unlikely to more than one goal in it – and the first goal will probably decide the game.

Eagles, defensive in outlook, are expected to take no chances in the first half, see what can be done for the second and throw everything into the last 20 minutes. They have excellent talent, but they have struggled to get where they are.

Rapid are a fast, aggressive side, could go for that early, and possibly decisive goal. In John Dilba and Chester Willcock, they have players fast enough to watch for any opposition breakaway, and the reliable Yakob Plazonic is capable of holding the dynamic Mark Oakes in goalmouth aerial duels.

Rapid coach Karl Schwesinger has sped up their training during the past three sessions and they are sharp and keen to get going. They are fit as shown by their win at George Town after being a goal down at half time against a team who finish well.

Eagles will have Sugden back from a knee injury, but Forshaw is unavailable. Eagles are confident, as all along they have maintained that if it comes down to a showdown with Rapid, they would win.

But Rapid's youthful approach, willingness to contest the ball, teamwork and fitness could carry the day against Eagles' undoubted ability and greater physical strength.

Don Farmery will miss his last chance of topping the goalscoring list as he is unavailable for Hobart Olympia's game at Ulverstone. Roger Norman will make a quick comeback to fill the vacancy.

Standings State League

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	17	9	1	7	40	20	25
Croatia	17	9	1	7	38	24	25
Rapid	16	10	3	3	39	15	23
Olympia	17	9	4	4	42	38	22
Devonport	17	7	6	4	32	22	18
L'ton Juventus	17	7	7	3	29	23	17
Calies	16	6	8	2	26	34	14
George Town	17	2	10	5	35	53	9
Ulverstone	17	3	11	3	19	37	9
L'ton United	17	1	12	4	17	51	6

Eagles clinch State League title with lone goal

By Gordon Burnett – 11/9/1978

A LONE goal by White Eagles striker David Smith, 22 minutes into the second half against Rapid, gave the Glenorchy side their second successive major soccer premiership before the season's largest crowd.

The goal gave Eagles the Radio Rentals State League title on goal difference from Croatia, who had the same number of points but who had a goal difference of 18 to Eagles' 21.

It was the first success in soccer for Smith who came close to a noteworthy double with 16 of Eagles' total of 41 goals, only three behind top league scorer Andy Schiebl. Against the run of play a defensive clearance by Medhurst went it to touch near the corner flag and a long throw by Eagles' captain Larry Nunn, found Smith, who had the ball in the net in a trice.

Rapid fought back but Eagles had good chances of adding to their score through Fraraccio, Kelly and Godfrey as against a corner kick by Aziz that landed on the Eagles crossbar and was cleared. It was a fast game with the pressure on for the full 90 minutes and the young Rapid side had their chances in the first half as they did everything but score.

In the seventh minute with both sides playing tentatively, Jack Dilba had only the goalkeeper to beat and shot straight at Caban. Five minutes later Oakes did the same thing at the other end and Phillip Kannegiesser stopped a hot shot.

Rapid had bad luck when the advantage rule was not played as Steve Kannegiesser was running into a scoring position after a hand ball by Sugden. Aziz came on after 30 minutes and lifted Rapid with fine distribution that spreadeagled the Eagles defence.

Eagles started the second half with a packed defence, and Oakes the only forward and Caban saved well from Jack Dilba. Fraraccio was brought on for Linnell and Trueman relieved a dangerous situation between Jack Dilba and Steve Kannegiesser.

Following Smith's goal, Rapid brought on Stewart for Cengia but never looked likely to save the game in the last 20 minutes. Nigel Sugden stood out for Eagles, who had greater ability than their opponents but lacked their speed and Dennis Trueman was in top form.

Rapid played too many high balls against tall opponents and their passing lacked direction and accuracy. They actually got the ball into the net from a corner only to have Plazonic penalised for pushing. John Dilba, Yakob Plazonic and Noorey Aziz were their best players.

Croatia beat Caledonians 5-1 on Saturday in a game in which they hoped to score a clear seven goal win to make Eagles' task all the harder against Rapid

through goal difference – and they should have done just that.

They scored in the fifth minute and were 4-0 at half time against Caledonians' side with four regulars away and several injured players patched up, including Alistair Hales, who wore a nose guard after having a broken nose reset three days before.

Croatia went to 5-0 and then Caledonians hit back with a goal, and Tattam followed up an earlier save against a Hanna penalty shot with great saves against Steve Marlor and Hugh Mackinnon.

A header by Sarfalvy landed on the Calies crossbar, but he was in trouble with five minutes to go, when he was sent off allegedly for violent conduct – kicking an opponent.

Olympia lost unexpectedly to Ulverstone by a lone first half goal by Rudi Fischer in a typical end of season game in which Shegog, Krenn and Fischer were best for Ulverstone and

Wright, Moore, and Bolton for Olympia. It was Ulverstone's first win in eight games.

A goal by Tommy McKenna with five minutes to go gave Devonport a 2-1 win over Launceston Juventus in a hard and even struggle. McKenna, Zschoke and Gleeson were Devonport's best and Strickland, Collins and Butler stood out for Juventus.

Launceston United cracked it a last with a win at George Town to give them their first win in 14 games and bustling centre-forward, Lee Chadwick scored his first State League goal.

The Town were 3-1 up, United scored two goals in five minutes and Pickering made it 4-3 for them with two minutes to go. Hudson and Hughes were United's best and Schiebl was a 90-minute man for Town.

Radio Rentals State League 1978	WHITE EAGLE	CROATIA	RAPID	OLYMPIA	DEVONPORT	L'TON JUVENTUS	CALEDONIANS	ULVERSTONE	GEORGE TOWN	L'TON UNITED
WHITE EAGLE		**4-4**	**1-1**	**2-3**	**1-0**	**0-0**	**3-0**	**6-0**	**3-2**	**1-1**
CROATIA GLENORCHY	**1-1**		0-0	6-2	1-1	2-0	5-1	5-0	3-3	3-1
RAPID WREST POINT	**0-1**	0-1		4-1	3-0	2-0	0-2	1-0	9-1	5-2
OLYMPIA	**1-1**	3-3	1-4		4-3	2-1	2-1	1-1	6-3	3-1
DEVONPORT	**0-1**	0-1	1-1	1-0		4-0	1-1	3-1	2-1	5-0
LAUNCESTON JUVENTUS	**2-3**	1-1	2-1	1-2	1-2		5-0	3-2	6-0	2-0
CALEDONIANS	**1-2**	2-3	2-1	3-6	1-2	1-1		3-1	2-1	5-0
ULVERSTONE	**0-3**	0-1	1-3	1-0	0-1	0-1	5-0		2-1	1-0
GEORGE TOWN	**2-2**	6-1	1-2	2-4	1-2	2-1	2-3	3-3		3-4
LAUNCESTON UNITED	**2-6**	0-2	1-3	1-1	4-3	0-3	0-1	2-2	2-2	

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
WHITE EAGLE	**18**	**10**	**1**	**7**	**41**	**20**	**21**	**27**
CROATIA GLENORCHY	18	10	1	7	43	25	18	27
RAPID WREST POINT	18	10	5	3	40	18	22	23
OLYMPIA	18	9	5	4	42	39	3	22
DEVONPORT	18	8	6	4	34	23	11	20
LAUNCESTON JUVENTUS	18	7	8	3	30	25	5	17
CALEDONIANS	18	7	9	2	29	40	-11	16
ULVERSTONE	18	4	11	3	20	37	-17	11
GEORGE TOWN	18	2	11	5	38	57	-19	9
LAUNCESTON UNITED	18	2	12	4	21	54	-33	8

Strickland hot Favourite for soccer gold

By Gordon Burnett – 29/9/1978

LAUNCESTON Juventus captain and centre-half Tommy Strickland must be the front runner for the Rothmans Gold Medal for the Soccer Player of the Year, to be presented tonight at the Wrest Point Hotel Casino.

But he could be seriously challenged by George Town centre-forward Andy Schiebl, who was top goalscorer for the season, despite being in a team who could only win two of their 18 games. Goalkeepers, Mick Caban (White Eagles), Phillip Kannegiesser (Rapid), Rob Smith (Ulverstone) and Rodney Tattam (Croatia) could poll well.

This is the eighth year of the gold medal award, and there is an added Honour in that it has been competed for on a Statewide basis instead of just in the South, as in previous years. The 10-team State League caused the change, and referees from the South, North and North-West have voted on a 3-2-1 basis in each roster match they have refereed. In the past only Southern referees voted. No player sent off and found guilty of the offence will be eligible to be in the voting.

Previous winners John Kirkpatrick (1971), Karl Schwesinger (1972), Brian McKay (1973), Alistair Hales (1976) and Danny Spendiff (1977) have accepted invitations to the function, but Billy Jones (1974) and Dudley Hall (1975) are out of the State.

Soccer gold to Nunn

By Gordon Burnett – 30/9/1978

WHITE EAGLES CAPTAIN Larry Nunn (25) won the Rothman Gold medal for the Soccer Player of the Year, from Launceston Juventus captain Tommy Strickland after a count back.

They both polled 19 votes, but Nunn had four three votes, one two vote and five one votes, compared with Strickland's two three votes, five two votes and three single votes. For Nunn it was an outstanding record in the gold medal, as he was third three years ago, then fourth, second last year, and first this year.

He has been playing first division soccer for the past six years, starting his career under the coaching of John Grimsey at Metro. Grimsey is his present coach at White Eagles. Nunn was the SEM player of the year last season and has won White Eagles best and fairest award in the past two seasons. He has captained Eagles to two successive State titles.

Equal third in the counting were David Smith (White Eagles) and Andy Schiebl (George Town) on 18, and Mark O'Sullivan (George Town) on 16.

Cup double to Croatia

By Gordon Burnett 2/11/78

CROATIA brought off the first Ampol Cadbury Cup soccer double last night at Glenorchy under floodlighting when they beat White Eagles 3-1 in the Cadbury Cup final.

But White Eagles looked the better side until thrown out of their rhythm by a penalty against them early in the second half. There was a slow start to the game with cup final nerves affecting both sides and it wasn't until the 15th minute when Godfrey got a centre a cross, and Fraraccio shot over the top.

In the next minute a pass from the left by Krawczyk saw Sarfalvy put across a superb high ball that the wind caught and forced goalkeeper Caban to bring off a miraculous but partial save to head the ball into the net and put Croatia 1-0 up.

Then came a change in Croatia's approach work and a succession of long balls saw the defence hold them comfortably.

White Eagles almost equalised in the 28th minute when a long shot from Kelly was misjudged by Tattam and the ball came off the upright as the goalkeeper fell the other way.

A minute later White Eagles capitalised when Letec was robbed in midfield and Smith went through the centre, round the advancing Tattam and put the ball into the empty net.

Eagles dominated the rest of the half with Smith almost getting through again, only hesitation in shooting costing a goal.

Fourteen minutes into the second half a penalty for an alleged trip . by McKay saw Peters put Croatia 2-1 ahead against the run of the play. Eagles were in further trouble six minutes later when a run by Manley on the left resulted in a cross which Kirkpatrick headed in for a 3-1 Croatia lead.

Seconds later Godfrey placed a long shot onto Croatia's cross bar, Trueman had a grand shot brilliantly saved by Tattam and a corner finished up hitting an upright as White Eagles tried desperately to save the game.

Best players for Croatia were Manley, Krawczyk and Payne, while Nunn, Smith and McKay were best for Eagles. Croatia's win was worth $2,100 and White Eagles got $1,200.

In the curtain-raiser Winfield League Club, Metro; came from a goal down at half-time to beat Rapid-Wrest Point 2-1 to take third place in the tournament and a $700 cash award. Rapid got $500 for fourth place and the other nine teams $200. each.

Francis and Turner scored for Metro, and Steve Kannegeiser scored for Rapid.

WHITE EAGLE
PREMIERS 1986

1986 Southern League Premiers

Back: C. Smith (Trainer), P. Wass, C. Leszczynski, E. Banasik, P. Groenewoud, S. Young, N. Morrison, R. Leszczynski, A. Burton

Front: S. Darby (Coach), D. Stoddart Jnr, M. Leszczynski (Capt.), A. Leszczynski, J. Kerr, M. Krzysica, **Absent:** F. Previdi

Juventus cut Eagles down in fine style

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/4/1986
[SUMMER CUP FINAL]

Juventus-Pioneer hit White Eagles with a goal after 43 seconds and went on to win 2-1 in the Cadbury League section of the inaugural Cascade Summer Cup soccer competition at South Hobart yesterday.

Sergio Pace took a free-kick quickly and found Romeo Fabrizio on the edge of the penalty area and the nippy striker turned and fired home before the Eagles defence knew what had happened.

Eagles never recovered from this blow, and they were totally outclassed for the entire match with Juventus goalkeeper Steve Craven having nothing to do until the final 10 minutes.

In the 80th minute, he was forced to save from Scott Young and in the dying seconds of the match he saved at Bobby Rybak's feet only to see his team concede a penalty after Dominic Longo fouled Rybak.

Andrew Leszczynski converted the penalty, but it was not enough as Sergio Pace had given Juventus a match-winning 2-0 lead at the interval when he slammed home the rebound after Eagles goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud had parried Genovesi's stinging shot.

Juventus fully deserved their win. They showed total commitment, were faster to the ball and more inventive and positive in everything they did. They were helped by the late inclusion of John Broadhouse, last season's top-scorer in the Cadbury State League, who had only returned from overseas on the weekend.

Broadhouse mesmerised the Eagles defence and together with Pace and Fabrizio, had numerous scoring chances, many of which were thwarted by the brilliant Groenewoud in the Eagles goal.

"We didn't play all that well but we should have won by four or five goals," is how Juventus coach David Smooth summed up his team's performance. "We were much faster, fitter, more alert and more organised."

Eagles' midfield was a big disappointment and they failed to launch any penetrating attacks. The side preferred to concentrate five or six players in defence but were still caught out by a fast and mobile Juventus side that kept up relentless pressure for the entire 90 minutes.

Eagles did win three things on the day – Andrew and Mark Leszczynski were joint top-scorers I the competition; goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud won the man-of-the-match award; and Richard Leszczynski won the 100-metre challenge sprint at half-time.

But they missed out on the prize that mattered, prompting coach Steve Darby to say: "A couple of players who, one would think, would really produce it in the big games didn't. "Our goalkeeper getting the man-of-the-match award is a good indication of how the game went. We've got no excuses because they were better on the day. We didn't even make chances, let alone miss them."

Peter Groenewoud – Man of the Match

Eagles out to make amends for cup loss

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 2/4/1986

WHITE EAGLES get the chance to redeem themselves after their abysmal cup final performance on Monday when they meet Metro-Claremont at KGV tonight in the opening round of the 1986 Cadbury State League soccer competition.

Just about everything that could go wrong, went wrong for Eagles against Juventus in the Cascade Summer Cup final.

Not only did they concede a goal from a simple set-piece just 43 seconds into the game, they never really got going and threatened the Juventus goal only on a couple of occasions.

The one bright spot was the performance of goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud. He must be the signing of the season and will rescue the side from many tight spots in the coming months.

Eagles are in real danger in reverting to their in-and-out form of last season and they must ensure this does not happen by winning tonight.

Metro-Claremont had a poor pre-season competition wining only one of their three matches and scoring only one goal in the process. However, they will make Eagles task extremely difficult.

Metro are always an awkward side to beat and their tenacious, fast-running, and no-nonsense style of play could unsettle a psychologically suspect Eagles team which still has the jitters after being blitzed by Juventus.

Metro's big problem is in the goalscoring department where they rely heavily on one man Steve Pitchford. The Eagles defence should manage to find some breathing space tonight, however, and should contain Pitchford and set their own midfield in motion.

If the Eagles' midfielders can in turn create the openings for their talented strikers, they should win. "As long as we don't give anything away at the back, we're still good enough up front to pop away goals, especially against defenders that aren't as quick as we are," said Eagles coach Steve Darby.

Eagles will field an unchanged team against Metro, although Bobby Rybak may not retain his place on the bench because of a recurring hamstring injury.

Croatia-Glenorchy face Howrah, the newcomers to the Cadbury State League, in tonight's early match. It will be the second time these teams have met this year, Croatia having won the first encounter 2-0 in the pre-season competition.

Croatia should repeat the dose tonight, being a more experienced side and stronger in all positions. Howrah coach Alistair Hales is confident his team can do well, and he has worked hard at lifting player morale after the side suffered a somewhat unlucky 4-2 defeat against Caledonians in the pre-season series. He feels players are as fit and as fast as their opponents but need to show their true potential to shock Croatia.

They will get little sympathy from a Croatia side out to prove they should have been in Monday's Cup Final instead of Juventus, after losing the semi-final on penalties.

Croatia has more quality players than they need, and the pressure is on for places in their starting line-up. This should be enough to bring out the best in the team, and the newly promoted Howrah could well receive a nasty introduction to life in the topflight.

White Eagles outclass Metro after tentative start

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/4/1986

WHITE EAGLES laboured to a 3-0 win over Metro-Claremont in an uninspiring Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV last night.
The opening half was a drab, scoreless affair and it wasn't until 10 minutes into the second half that Eagles took the lead. Metro failed to clear David Stoddart's corner and Richard Leszczynski slammed the ball home.

Eagles' new Italian recruit Franko Previdi came on in the 60th minute to replace the injured Mark Leszczynski and immediately showed some good touches. Previdi scored his first goal for his new club in the 75th minute when he raced on to a long clearance by goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud and planted a firm shot past Brett Porthouse.

Neil Morrison headed Eagles' third goal in the closing minutes of the game following a free kick. Metro lacked a target man up front in the absence of Steve Pitchford and their best chance came when Agius almost scored from Oliver's low cross but Groenewoud somehow managed to keep the ball out.

Howrah, newcomers to the Cadbury State League, can be proud of their first performance despite losing 2-1 to Croatia-Glenorchy. Howrah missed the best chances of the evening and it was only a brilliant save by Croatia's goalkeeper, Steve Smith, from Robbie New's shot four minutes from the end, that saved Croatia from embarrassment.

A poor back-pass by new signing Ivan Bacic in the 39th minute let John McIntyre in for Croatia's opening goal and Dominic O'Brien increased their lead from the penalty spot on the hour after Fabrizio had handled the ball.

Howrah fought back, however, and Ken Berry reduced the deficit with a well-placed shot 10 minutes from full time.

Result: White Eagle 3 (R. Leszczynski, Previdi, Morrison) def. Metro-Claremont 0

Eagles to hold back Previdi

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 11/4/1986

WHITE Eagles' coach Steve Darby will leave the club's new Italian signing Franco Previdi on the bench for Eagles' Cadbury State League soccer match against Caledonians on Sunday.

Previdi, made his debut as a substitute against Metro-Claremont two weeks ago and scored the second goal in Eagles 3-0 win. He showed some excellent touch in the short time he was on the field so Darby will almost certainly bring him on at some stage of the game.

"I'll be sticking to the same 11 that haven't really let me down apart from in the cup final,'' Darby said. "I believe in loyalty to my players, and everyone is allowed one bad game."

The match is a repeat of the Cascade Summer Cup semi-final, but White Eagles are unlikely to win by a 7-1 margin this time, given Caledonians fine 4-3 win over Olympia-WPL last Sunday.

Apart from the final quarter of an hour of that match, when they lost concentration and almost handed Olympia a point, Calies looked menacing, and they will definitely pose a threat to Eagles, the early league leader.
Calies will probably field an unchanged side while Eagles' only doubtful starter is Chris Leszczynski, who has a leg injury.

Eagles should win the match because Calies showed alarming gaps in defence when they were put under intense pressure by Olympia.

Juventus-Pioneer have injury problems as they prepare to meet Croatia Glenorchy in what is another replay of a pre-season cup semi-final.

Juventus won that semi-final on penalties after extra-time, but this meeting will only be a 90-minute affair and a draw would not surprise.

Central defenders Alistair Cochrane and Nick Di Martino will be missing from the Juventus line-up because of injury, while key midfielder Steve Kannegiesser is doubtful.

Coach David Smith has a number of choices regarding replacements, but Nick Lapolla and Greg Calvert seem the front-runners for the vacancies, with Lee Leon coming into the reckoning if Kannegiesser is unfit.

Dominic Longo will have a heavy burden placed on his young shoulders as he will partner Bruce Pears in the centre of defence.

Croatia are strong and methodical, but they still look unimpressive in front of goal, and they will have to improve in this aspect of their play if they are to win. Tony Bacic is beginning to look quite sharp, but John McIntyre is still far too erratic and is wasting many good scoring opportunities.

Croatia grab draw in dying seconds

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/4/1986

CROATIA GLENORCHY full back Sean Collins ensured his side of a point when he scored in the dying seconds of the match to give Croatia a 2-2 draw with Juventus-Pioneer, the reigning Cadbury Slate League champions, at South Hobart yesterday.

John McIntyre was unable to control a cross, the ball partially cleared, and as it rolled out of the penalty area, Collins struck a scorching drive in off a post. I suggest the groundsman have a look at that post said a jubilant Collins after the match. "I fear for its foundations."

Both teams had early chances, but it was Croatia which took the lead after 36 minutes. Paul Furjanic floated a long cross from the left to the far post where Tony Bacic, on the blind side of the defence nodded a firm header past Youl.

The game was a scrappy, tough, physical affair will little good soccer. Neither team was able to retain possession for more than two or three passes, and several excellent scoring chances went begging.

The turning point in the match came in the 67th minute with the substitution of central defender Nick Di Martino for midfielder, player-coach David Smith.

Smith provided Juventus with an extra man in attack and, once he was on the field, they started to string together some fine attacking moves.

The equaliser came with 10 minutes left to play, Pears put Genovesi away on the right and he was given all the time in the world to centre to the unmarked Pace who slammed the ball home from 10 metres.

Juventus appeared to have the game won in the 87th minute. Steve Kannegiesser took a free kick from the left after Peter Thompson had fouled him. Broadhouse flicked the ball on with his head, and Romeo Fabrizio atoned for his earlier misses. It was to Croatia's credit that they didn't give in at that stage. They launched yet another attack with only seconds remaining and Collins, pushing forward through the middle, provided the perfect finishing touch.

"I thought we should have won," said Juventus coach, David Smith. "We played soccer all day while they're still a kick-and-run side. We should have scored a couple early on. Broadhouse missed a sitter, and Fabrizio missed a sitter just after half time."

White Eagles won't be keeping up with anyone judging from their performance in yesterday's scoreless draw with Caledonians.

Both teams turned on uninspiring displays, with the two sets of forwards being far too slow to shoot and badly off target whenever they did manage to strike at goal.

Yesterday's results leave White Eagles at the top of the league, on goal difference, with only alphabetical order separating Calies, Croatia and Juventus, who are all in second place with identical statistics.

Result: White Eagle 0 Drew with Caledonians 0

Eagles tipped to over-run depleted Rapid

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 16/4/1986

THE situation at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer ladder should become clearer after tonight's double-header at KGV, which involves three of the top four sides.

Four clubs are level on three points, but White Eagles lead the competition on goal difference. Only alphabetical order separates Caledonians, Croatia, and Juventus, who all occupy second place with three points and identical goal differences. They have all scored four goals and conceded three.

The situation could not be tighter but White Eagles should retain top spot when they meet a Rapid side that will be below full strength because of injuries and suspension.

Anthony Greenwood is suspended after being dismissed against Metro. Tim Goddard will have to be passed fit before he can play while Mark Honeyman (thigh) and Jack Dilba (knee) are doubtful. Lars Koch, who normally has study commitments on Wednesdays, has made himself available tonight.

White Eagles will be without Richard and Chris Leszczynski and they will be replaced by Mark Krzysica and Franco Previdi.

Rapid coach Otto Klaus has mixed feelings about the outcome. "Against better teams we usually lift our game," he said. "On the other hand, they are the only team we didn't gain a point from last year, even when we were well in front in some matches. They certainly are a bit of a jinx team for us. Our biggest problem is we have no punch up front. We create but we haven't got a finisher."

Croatia may briefly occupy the top of the standings after their meeting with Caledonians in tonight's opening match. Croatia looked more impressive on Sunday against Juventus than Caledonians did against White Eagles and they should win. Tony Bacic is posing more of a threat to opposing defences in each match and Calies will find it hard to counter his ability in the air. John McIntyre pops up all over the place and if can finally align his sights, he could punish Calies severely.

Calies have several players, who will make Croatia's task difficult. Lockley is playing well in midfield, while Joseph pushes forward intelligently, and makes a valuable contribution to the team's attacking moves.

Man-for-man, Croatia are the stronger team, and they have a range of quality players on the bench that they can call on if necessary.

Even if they do strike trouble against Calies, they have the resources to overcome this and they should grab both points tonight.

Eagles soar in goal blitz

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/4/1986

ANDREW LESZCZYNSKI became the third player to score a hat-trick in Cadbury State League soccer at KGV last night as White Eagles easily beat Rapid 4-0.

Rapid badly missed goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser as they conceded two goal in each half. Leszczynski opened his account in the fifth minute after bursting through the Rapid defence and he made it 2-0 twenty minutes later with a firm header from Morrison's cross.

Morrison also set up Leszczynski for his third goal minutes after the break while Stoddart hit the fourth in the 73rd minute following an excellent Eagles attack which prized open the Rapid defence. Richard Leszczynski found Andrew on the far side of the penalty area with a long cross-ball, and he passed inside to Stoddart who calmly picked his spot.

Caledonians opened the scoring against Croatia-Glenorchy through Brett Murtagh after five minutes, but this only served to sting Croatia into action, and they went on to win 7-1 after leading 4-1 at the interval. John McIntyre and Tony Bacic scored hat-tricks while Dominic O'Brien grabbed the remaining goal.

Result: White Eagle 4 (A. Leszczynski 3, Stoddart) def. Rapid 0

Croatia will be too fast for Rapid

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/4/1986

CROATIA-GLENORCHY and White Eagles should remain neck-and-neck in the race for the 1986 Cadbury State League soccer title when they both face less glamourous opponents at South Hobart on Sunday.

Croatia on top in the league over second-placed White Eagles because of superior goal-difference, should have few problems against Rapid. Rapid are second last with one point. They have scored only two goals in three outings and the solid Croatia defence is unlikely to allow them to improve on that meagre performance.

Rapid's prospects are growing dimmer as the season goes on. Goalkeeper, Phil Kannegiesser has a back injury which looks like keeping him out for the rest of the year, while Anthony Greenwood, the scorer of one of Rapid's two goals this season has transferred to Olympia.

Croatia hit top form when they hammered seven goals past Caledonians a couple of weeks ago and should be able to carry on from there. John McIntyre finally showed why Croatia signed him from Metro by hitting a hat-trick against Calies, and the Rapid defence will find him too hot to handle.

Tony Bacic is fast becoming one of the most dangerous strikers in the league – he also scored three goals against Calies – and he should dominate in the air, where Rapid are especially vulnerable, now that Kannegiesser is missing.

Croatia are very direct in their play and tend to punt high balls into the opposing goalmouth. These tactics should reap huge rewards for them against Rapid.

White Eagles face a more difficult task against Howrah but should win and stay in touch with Croatia. Eagles have a superb defensive record. They have not conceded a goal and a lot of the credit must go to goalie Peter Groenewoud.

The Howrah attack is faster than the Eagles defence, but even if they do manage to penetrate, Groenewoud should be able to improve his record of not having conceded a goal in 270 minutes of soccer.

Andrew Leszczynski is the player who can win the game for Eagles, providing he receives the sort of service that saw him score a hat-trick against rapid in Eagles' last outing. He will not find it easy, however. Howrah goalkeeper Craig Jones is in top form. Tony Fabrizio is tough and uncompromising, while Tony New and Ivan Bacic are fast and experienced.

The signing of Ivan Bacic from Croatia, via University, has been of great benefit to Howrah. The lanky defender is excellent in the air, and difficult to beat on the ground.

Eagles may not win by a sufficient margin to take over at the top on goal difference from Croatia, but they should have the satisfaction of staying level with them on points by beating Howrah.

White Eagles give Howrah six of the best in walkover

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 28/4/1986

WHITE EAGLES regained the lead in the Cadbury State League soccer competition on goal-difference when they scored an easy 6-1 win over Howrah at South Hobart yesterday.

Eagles swapped places with Croatia-Glenorchy, who dropped to second place when they could only beat Rapid 2-0. Andrew Leszczynski missed a penalty in the second minute of the game against Howrah but went on to score twice and join Sergio Pace of Juventus-Pioneer as the league's leading scorers with five goals apiece.

David Stoddart had an outstanding game for Eagles. He scored twice and made three of the remaining goals for his team-mates. Eagles had Simon Templeman at right fullback in place of the injured Chris Leszczynski, while Neil Morrison played in a withdrawn position on the left of the defence to compensate for the missing Scott Young.

Howrah produced a disappointing display and were finally introduced to the harsh realities of life in the top division. They only had a couple of chances in each half and their solitary goal game came about through a defensive error in the 20th minute when they were already trailing 3-0. Templeman mishit a back pass to his goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, Brightman intercepted and rounded Groenewoud to score the first league goal against Eagles this season.

David Stoddart opened Eagles' account with the first of his two goals in the fourth minute. Kerr's precise and well-timed pass put the youngster away on the left and he ran unchallenged for half the length of the pitch before driving a low shot past Jones.

It was then the turn of the Leszczynski brothers, who gave Eagles a 4-1 at the interval. Mark Leszczynski headed home Andrew Leszczynski's free kick after eight minutes, Richard Leszczynski prodded in Stoddart's low cross in the 13th minute, while Stoddart set up Andrew for his first goal and Eagles' fourth in the 25th minute.

Jones dropped Stoddart's cross to let Andrew Leszczynski in for his second goal ten minutes after the break and Stoddart completed the scoring with a crisp left-footed drive from 25 metres in the 77th minute.

Croatia scored once in each half and were rarely troubled against Rapid who used John Dilba in midfield and Dale Blake at left-back. It was Blake who cleared off the line from Huigsloot following a Colin Francis corner in the 26th minute but the ball eventually returned to Huigsloot who squeezed a shot under the body of goalkeeper Gillam for Croatia's opener.

Croatia should have taken the lead much earlier, however, as Driessen forced Gillam into action with a long-range effort in the tenth minute and Furjanic flashed a dangerous ball across the goalmouth with no one up to take advantage of the chance.

Croatia were justifiably angry when, they were denied an almost certain goal, five minutes before the interval. Rapid defender Lars Koch attempted a suicidal back-pass to his goalkeeper which only found John McIntyre in full flight, but the linesman inexplicably flagged for off-side and Rapid were given the free-kick.

O'Brien scrambled the second goal from close-range five minutes into the second period as Croatia continued to apply pressure. Driessen and O'Brien wasted excellent chances with poor shooting while Tony Bacic blasted Furjanic's cross narrowly over the bar.

Result: White Eagle 6 (D. Stoddart 2, A. Leszczynski 2, M. Leszczynski, R. Leszczynski) def. Howrah 1 (Brightman)

Top of the table at stake in soccer double

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/4/1986

EVERYTHING points to a goal feast at KGV tonight when Cadbury State League soccer leaders White Eagles take on fourth-placed Olympia-WPL in the main feature of the double-header programme.

Olympia are the league's highest-scoring outfit (15 goals), White Eagles rank equal second with Croatia-Glenorchy and Juventus-Pioneer (13 goals). Olympia have scored 12 goals in their past two outings, with Eagles notching 10 goals in theirs. The pattern of the last two Wednesdays, which saw 12 goals scored on each occasion, could well be repeated this evening, when Juventus meet Howrah in the early match.

Howrah conceded six goals against Eagles on Sunday and, without player-coach Alistair Hales to steady them, they could be given another hiding, this time by the reigning champions.

Olympia player-coach Ken Morton will make one change to the side that disposed of Metro Claremont 7-0 last week. Defender Glen McNeill is injured and will probably be replaced at left back by Peter Vafakos. White Eagle coach Steve Darby is hoping that Scott Young will be able to return to the side after injury, but Chris Leszczynski is still doubtful because of a hamstring strain.

Young who missed the game against Howrah, would strengthen an Eagles defence that has the best record in the league. They have only conceded one goal, although much of the credit for this must go to goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud. "Young has become more disciplined and mature as a player," said Darby. "He certainly adds stability to the defence with his height and it's a real pity hat he has been out injured."

Even if Young does return, Olympia should be good enough to win what could well be a high scoring match. Eagles seem to lack the big match temperament and if Olympia can strike early and maintain their momentum for the entire 90 minutes instead of just the opening half, they should find themselves within a point of the league leaders by the end of the evening.

Juventus will be ready to take full advantage of any slip-up by White Eagles. If Eagles lose, and if Juventus beat Howrah by a big enough margin, Juventus will go top of the standings.

After Howrah's unimpressive showing against Eagles on the weekend, they must be given little chance against a Juventus side that boasts goalscorers such as Sergio Pace and John Broadhouse.

Apart from Alistair Hales, Howrah could also be without key defender Ivan Bacic, who limped off against Eagles with a recurrence of a thigh injury.

Howrah are definitely fast enough to worry Juventus but tend to panic at the back and their finishing up front leaves a lot to be desired. Their midfield of Berry, Swift and Brightman has plenty of potential, but without the prompting of Hales, will be no match for the likes of Steve Kannegiesser, Sergio Pace and Macie Fernandez. The trio combines technical excellence with rugged determination and Howrah will find it easier to penetrate a brick wall than to find a way past them.

Juventus will go into this match in an attacking frame of mind, knowing that a good win could put them on top of the league for the first time this season.

Olympia, fight back strongly to swarm over White Eagles

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/5/1986

Olympia-WPL came back after being a goal down to beat White Eagles 4-1 in Cadbury State League soccer at KGV last night.

Eugene Banasik scored for Eagles in the 21st Minute after a sustained pressure had seen Hey and Vafakos block good scoring chances.

Craig Nichols grabbed the equaliser four minutes later from Greenwoods low cross, and Michael Goldsmith, put Olympia in front with a penalty.

Eagles fell to pieces in the second half and Perry Forster outpaced the defence in the 52nd minute to score his side's third goal. Craig Nichols made it 4-1 in the 65th Minute.

Juventus-Pioneer were rather fortunate to beat Howrah 3-1 in last night's early game, John Broadhouse put Juventus in front after 31 minutes. Karl Brightman equalised six minutes after the interval, but two goals by Sergio Pace in the 56th and 89 minutes, gave Juventus both points.

Result: White Eagle 1 (E. Banasik) Lost to Olympia 4 (Nichols 2, Goldsmith, Forster)

Methodical Croatia favored to retain top spot

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 9/5/86

Croatia Glenorchy should retain its spot at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer competition by beating third placed White Eagles at South Hobart on Sunday. Croatia are more resolute and methodical than Eagles who tend to be either brilliant or hopelessly inadequate.

Eagles are notorious for buckling under the pressure of the big occasion and this is again likely to be the case on Sunday. Statistically, the two defences are the best in the league, so goals may be hard to come by. The two opposing goalkeepers Croatia's Steve Smith and Eagles, Peter Groenewoud, are two of the best in the state and the respective strikers will have to be in top form to beat either of them.

The Eagles defenders are a little slow, however, and Croatia may be able to exploit this weakness by using John McIntyre's speed. McIntyre is sure to find openings, but he must improve his finishing if he is to take full advantage of his speed and clever positioning.

Croatia's aerial strength can also pay huge dividends, as long as they keep the ball out of Groenewoud's hands. Searching balls into the penalty area beyond the goalkeeper's reach will enable Tony Bacic to use his heading ability to excellent effect, and Eagles will find this form of attack difficult to counter.

Eagles may just have a chance if players such as the Leszczynski brothers, and David Stoddart perform to their full abilities. They often freeze in big matches and Croatia's powerful, bustling style will not make things easier for them. If they can win this game, they might be regarded as realistic challenges for the league title. Failure will stamp them as pretenders, and they might as well resign themselves to a mere top four place.

Olympia-WPL should extend their run of three consecutive victories when they come up against Rapid, languishing in second-last place, with only one point to show for their efforts. There is mixed news from the Rapid camp, according to coach Otto Klaus. He is hopeful top goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser will be able to resume after a back injury has threatened to keep him out all season, but the team may be without Lars Koch and Matthew Bloomfield, who are scheduled to travel to Canberra with the State under-19 team.

It'll be interesting to see if Klaus perseveres with fullback John Fletcher as a striker. Fletcher can be dangerous when up front, but the spotlight is more likely to focus on the Olympia midfielders and strikers on Sunday.

Eagles overcome determined Croatia to grab top position

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 12/5/86

WHITE EAGLES absorbed, tremendous pressure from Croatia-Glenorchy's aerial bombardment at South Hobart yesterday, before too quick counter attacks by Eagles in the second half, gave them a 2-0 win and pride of place at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer standings.

While Eagles, Croatia and Juventus-Pioneer are now level on nine points with only goal difference separating them, and Olympia-WPL are a point away in fourth place after beating Rapid 3-1. The stage is now set for a mighty end to first round of the competition next week as White Eagles confront Juventus, and Croatia play Olympia in the double-header at South Hobart.

Croatia certainly adopted the right tactics against Eagles, with attacks down the flanks, culminating in high crosses into the penalty area, but their poor finishing cost them the game. Eagles defended bravely and with luck going their way, they pulled off an important win, which re-established them as serious contenders for the league title.

Colin Francis was the main avenue of attack for Croatia in the first half, and John McIntyre and Tony Bacic should have capitalized on his unending stream of accurate crosses from the right.

Eagles had a scare just before the halftime break. A low shot by Dominic O'Brien was parried by Eagle's keeper Peter Groenewoud, but referee, John Howard had already blown his whistle for the end of the first half, before the ball rolled over the line.

Eagles took the lead five minutes after the break. When Croatian midfielder O'Brien, surrounded by three opponents, gave the ball away on the halfway line, Andrew Leszczynski passed inside to his brother Richard, and he beat the advancing goalkeeper, and steered the ball into the net with Larry Nunn in vain pursuit.

Eagles second goal came in the 65th minute. Richard Leszczynski was the provider this time, and Andrew Leszczynski scored with a shot that was partially saved by goalkeeper Steve Smith, but the ball carried over the line.

Olympia scored in the opening minute against Rapid, who had Phil Kannegiesser back in goal. Kannegiesser turned a Xanthopolous shot onto the bar, but the ball rebounded to Craig Nichols who walked the ball into the net.

Chris Barrell scored the second five minutes before the interval when Rapid failed to cut out across from the right, and Paul Xanthopolous made it 3-0 in the 74th minute, when he juggled the ball in front of goal before shooting past the goalkeeper.

Full-back turned striker John Fletcher, replied for Rapid nine minutes from time, but Olympia should really have scored a few more, as they pounded the Rapid goal unmercifully. The defeat left Rapid in second last place with a goal-difference edging perilously close to that of bottom side Metro Claremont.

Result: White Eagle 2 (R. Leszczynski, A. Leszczynski) Def. Croatia-Glenorchy 0

League Leaders wary of upsets

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 21/5/86

THE joint leaders of the Cadbury State League soccer competition, White Eagles and Croatia-Glenorchy, will have to tread carefully when they face Metro-Claremont and Howrah respectively, at KGV tonight.

Metro should have won their last two games instead of losing both because of poor finishing, and they will be all out to make it third time lucky against Eagles.

Howrah might well have gained four points instead of one form their last two matches, and they will take the game to a Croatia side that is not as lethal in front of goal as it should be.

White Eagles will be itching to prove they are worthy league-leaders after having their game on the weekend postponed. The extra few days rest will have given Jimmy Kerr time to recover from his ankle injury and coach Steve Darby should be able to send out the same line-up that beat Croatia 2-0.

Conditions should be wet and slippery and it will pay both teams to shoot on sight, and to strike the ball low and hard.

White Eagles seem to have more players capable of doing this and they should win and maintain their position at the top. Eagles also have the better goalkeeper, so even if both teams do use the conditions to advantage when it comes to shooting, Metro will find it more difficult score.

Metro will miss Stan Peters because of work commitments, and Duncan Mitchell may not have recovered in time from a shoulder injury. They could certainly use these two talented players against a side the quality of Eagles and without them, they will have to wait a little longer for their first win.

Howrah must be relishing the chance of meeting up with Croatia again after dominating large periods of their first encounter back in April yet losing 2-1. Poor shooting by Howrah strikers, and some fine goalkeeping by Croatia's Steve Smith, were the factors in Howrah's demise. Howrah have improved their finishing since then and, given the ground conditions, they may be able to score an upset.

Croatia like to pump high balls into the penalty area, and this is just the sort of approach that worries Howrah, whose goalkeeper Craig Jones, is not always comfortable in the air. Howrah must cut off this type of service by shutting down Colin Francis and Paul Furjanic, who are expert at delivering high crosses. If they can't do this, Tony Bacic and John McIntyre should add to their personal goal tallies.

Howrah's strikers and midfielders can win this match by running at the Croatia defenders, who will find it difficult to turn in the conditions and shooting at every opportunity.

Jones' brilliance keeps Croatia from top spot

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 22/5/86

CROATIA-GLENORCHY just failed to take of the leadership of the Cadbury State League soccer competition on goal difference when they could only beat Howrah 2-0 at KGV last night.

Croatia confined play in the Howrah half of the field for long periods of the game and peppered their opponent's goal with shots but were unable to increase their lead because of some fine goalkeeping by Craig Jones. Ken Berry sprayed some excellent long passes about for Howrah, but his strikers were unable to take advantage of the openings he created.

Dominic O'Brien put Croatia ahead from the penalty spot in the 25th minute and Michael Driessen completed the scoring early in the second half with a powerful angled drive after O'Brien's shot had been blocked. Howrah's best chance fell to Duncan Swift shortly before the interval, but his shot hit the base of the post.

Metro-Claremont almost snatched a point from league leaders White Eagles when they came back from 2-0 down to draw level at 2-2 with 15 minutes remaining. But, five minutes from time, Franco Previdi's shot was partially blocked by a defender, enabling Richard Leszczynski to pounce on the loose ball and score the winner for Eagles.

Poor defensive play by Metro in the opening half allowed Eagles to take 2-0 lead by the interval with goals by Richard Leszczynski and Neil Morrison.

Metro substitute Duncan Mitchell pulled a goal back for his team in the 65th minute, as Eagles began to lose their way, and when Adam Tassell chipped the equaliser 10 minutes later, Metro seemed almost certain of a point. Eagles rallied however, to score a late winner which kept them on top of the league.

Result: White Eagle 3 (R. Leszczynski 2, N. Morrison) Def. Metro-Claremont 2 (Mitchell, Tassell)

Juventus get their big chance to lead league

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 28/5/1986

REIGNING Cadbury State League soccer champions, Juventus-Pioneer, may become league leaders for the first time this season when they play Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV tonight.

Juventus will have to beat Croatia by a large margin and at the same time, hope Caledonians can either beat or draw with the present leaders, White Eagles in the evening's first game. Juventus should be able to beat Croatia because they have a much better attack, featuring such players as John Broadhouse, Romeo Fabrizio, Frank Genovesi and Sergio Pace. These players displayed clinical finishing in beating Rapid 4-2 on Sunday and can be expected to be in top form again tonight with the league leadership in sight.

Statistically, Croatia have the best defence in the league, but Juventus should alter that situation tonight. Juventus are simply too fast and mobile in attack and Croatia's goalkeeper, Steve Smith may well be suffering from shell-shock by the end of the evening.

Of the top four teams, Croatia have scored the least number of goals, and they certainly do not inspire confidence in front of goal. They rely too heavily on their midfielders to push forward and score goals, but they will have their hands full keeping the Juventus midfielders quiet and won't have time to do much attacking.

White Eagles will need to improve on their display against Metro last Wednesday if they are to beat Caledonians and hold off the leadership challenges of Juventus and Croatia.

Eagles started off in great style against Metro, taking a 2-0 lead after 33 minutes, before slumping badly in the second half and almost losing the match.

Steve Darby is the sort of coach who is reluctant to change a winning side, but his players will have to show a lot more grit and determination if he is to retain confidence in them for much longer.

Caledonians showed enough promise in their last match against Olympia to suggest they will provide Eagles with a stiff test, and they should be god enough for at least a point. Brett Murtagh scored an excellent goal against Olympia and his speed could cause havoc in a slow Eagles defence.

Croatia have too many guns for Juventus

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 29/5/1986

CROATIA-GLENORCHY scored a convincing 3-0 win over Juventus-Pioneer at KGV last night to stay in touch with Cadbury State League leaders White Eagles who beat Caledonians 6-1 in the early match.

Croatia made the perfect start to the match, when their tall striker Tony Bacic, headed the opening goal in the first minute without Juventus even touching the ball. Bacic left the field injured almost immediately afterwards but this scarcely affected the side

which went on to expose all of Juventus' defensive weaknesses.

John McIntyre made it 2-0 three minutes before the break while Juventus defender Leon Darko turned McIntyre's cross onto his own post and into the net in the 62nd minute to complete a night of misery for the league champions. Juventus rarely threatened the Croatia goal.

Caledonians looked as if they might cause an upset when they took a second-minute lead against White Eagles through Brett Murtagh, but the league leaders responded brilliantly. Stoddart (2), Richard Leszczynski (3) and Mark Leszczynski were Eagle's scorers.

Result: White Eagle 6 (D. Stoddart 2, R. Leszczynski 3, M. Leszczynski) Def. Caledonians 1 (Murtagh)

Eagles, Croatia should increase lead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 30/5/1986

WHITE EAGLES and Croatia-Glenorchy have a great opportunity to open up a considerable gap over their nearest rivals when they take on Juventus-Pioneer and Olympia-WPL respectively, at KGV tonight.

At South Hobart on Sunday, Olympia should be able to gain revenge for their first-round defeat by Howrah, while the Cadbury State League relegation issue should become clearer when Metro-Claremont meet Rapid.

Tonight's matches which were postponed on May 18 because of the waterlogged South Hobart ground, promise to be the most exciting seen in the South this season. White Eagles and Croatia produced efficient and entertaining displays on Wednesday and clearly stamped themselves prospective league champions. Both teams must be favoured to win if they can reproduce that sort of form.

White Eagles started nervously and conceded an early goal but brilliant young midfielder David Stoddart then took control of the game and guided his side to victory. Stoddart scored twice and setup another and Juventus will have to stop him if they are to have any chance.

Juventus looked anything but a championship side against Croatia. They made terrible errors at the back, failed to push up in numbers and were woeful in front of goals despite having a considerable amount of the play. They cannot possibly play as badly again, but Eagles should win as they are now supremely confident and that is when they play their best soccer.

Croatia finally produced a performance worthy of a title aspirant when they trounced Juventus on Wednesday. And they did so without central defender Peter Huigsloot who has a virus and will probably miss tonight's game and striker Tony Bacic, who scored the opening goal in the first minute before limping off injured after five minutes.

Bacic is expected to be fit, and his presence should help Croatia to beat an Olympia side that is beginning to look very good in attack, but which is still suspect in defence. Croatia were finally able to rely on twin-strikers Bacic and McIntyre to score, rather than on their midfielders, and this augers well for their chances against Olympia, who will probably be without Michael Goldsmith who has badly bruised ribs.

Regardless of the result, Olympia are a better team than Howrah and they should win on Sunday to stay in touch with the leaders and to clearly differentiate between the top four and the bottom four teams.

The Metro versus Rapid clash will be crucial to both teams as a loss for Metro will put them in serious danger of relegation. Rapid will be under the guidance of caretaker coach Phil Kannegiesser, the team's goalkeeper, following the dismissal of Otto Klaus earlier in the week, and a win for them should ensure them of safety as it would put them four points ahead Metro. Rapid won the first-round encounter 1-0 but this meeting seems destined for a draw.

A team under a new coach inevitably lifts in an endeavour to impress. A draw will boost the morale of both teams but will leave the relegation issue as cloudy as ever, while also increasing the anxiety of Howrah players.

White Eagles lose but cling to top position

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 31/5/86

White Eagles retained top spot-on goal differences in the Cadbury State League Soccer competition despite losing 4-2 to Juventus-Pioneer at KGV last night.

Olympia-WPL beat Croatia-Glenorchy 3-2 in the other match to keep positions at the top as congested as ever with only one point separating the leading four teams.

Olympia lost full back Peter Vafakos with a broken leg after only 10 minutes but stormed to a 3-0 lead within half an hour against Croatia. Perry Forster, Craig Nichols, and Roger Munro were the scorers in an exciting display which had Croatia reeling. Croatia stormed back in the half to score through Paul Furjanic and John McIntrye and almost snatch a point.

White Eagles opened the scoring against Juventus through Andrew Leszczynski, but Steve Kannegiesser and John Broadhouse struck before the interval to put the league champions ahead.

Broadhouse added a third goal for Juventus immediately after the break and an own goal made it 4-1. Andrew Leszczynski pulled a goal back for Eagles with 15 minutes left.

Result: White Eagle 2 (A. Leszczynski 2) Lost to Juventus 4 (S. Kannegiesser, Broadhouse, OG)

Caledonians keen to stay in touch with top four

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 4/6/86

Caledonians' chances of gaining a place in the Cadbury State League soccer top-four, will be considerably enhanced, if they can beat Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV tonight. But a Croatia loss is most unlikely as Calies have turned in some poor performances in recent weeks and are currently five points out of the top four.

Calies have some fast and very useful players but all their weaknesses were revealed when they were beaten 6-1 by White Eagles last Wednesday.

Coach Tommy Wright made several positional changes a few weeks ago with positive results but the novelty has worn off and he may have to make further adjustments to his formation.

He may need to move Bevan Schwaiger back into midfield together with Ian Parker, and he must look carefully at his own role in the team. Goalkeeper Luis Di Venuto can play much better than he is at the moment and he will have to be at his best against Croatia striker John McIntyre, who is beginning to hit form.

Croatia played well in beating Juventus-Pioneer 3-0 last week, and, if they can combine as they did in that game, they should win comfortably.

"We want Bacic," was one of the rallying cries of the Croatia supporters last Friday night as their team went down 3-2 to Olympia. Tony Bacic, the player they were referring to, watched the game from the stand, of course, as he was injured, and Croatia may just have gained an equaliser with him on the park.

He is one of the most dangerous strikers in the league, especially in the air, and if he has recovered, Calies could be in for a hiding, as their defence is not at all comfortable when subjected to high balls.

White Eagles confidence was high when they beat Calies, but it was severely jolted when they succumbed 4-2 to Juventus two days later. They should have recovered by tonight, and they should resume the league leadership even if only until the weekend by beating Rapid.

Eagles are a better side than Rapid and coach Steve Darby will have convinced his players once more of their abilities. "It's all in the mind," is how Darby often explains his team's performances, whether good or bad.

The players are sure to be in a positive frame of mind tonight and this will be reflected, not only in their expected win, but in the style in which they achieve it.

Rapid's morale must be low after their shock defeat against Metro on Sunday, when they led 2-0 only to go down 2-3. Dale Blake started off very well as sweeper in the absence of the injured John Dilba, but the whole team faded badly after the interval.

The promising thing was that they were able to score goals. It was only the second time that Rapid had scored twice in a match, but the Eagles defence will be very hard to crack.

Eagle's goalie Peter Groenewoud is having an outstanding season and he should be able to handle any strikers who manage to get in a shot.

A loss for Rapid will be disastrous for them as it will put them last on goal-difference.

Eagles lifted by quick strike

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 5/6/86

A goal in the 14th minute by striker Andrew Leszczynski paved the way for White Eagles' easy 4-1 win over Rapid in last night's Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV.

A left-wing cross by Neil Morrison four minutes later enabled Richard Leszczynski to put Eagles 2-0 up at the interval.

David Stoddart added a third 10 minutes after the resumption, but Rapid struck back through John Cionci midway through the half. Rapid gave Eagles a few scares at this stage, but David Stoddart might well have increased Eagles' lead when he hit the post and shot high and wide on a couple of occasions.

Richard Leszczynski became the league's leading scorer when he headed his second goal and Eagles' fourth in the final seconds, again from Andrew Leszczynski's cross. Eagles' win lifted them to the top of the table, one point ahead of Olympia and Croatia, while Rapid slumped to last place on goal difference.

Caledonians and Croatia-Glenorchy played out a dull and uninspiring scoreless draw in the early match. Croatia had more of the chances but badly missed their injured striker, Tony Bacic.

John McIntyre and Dominic O'Brien went close to scoring for Croatia in the first half while Calies' best chance came in the 65th minute when Brett Murtagh broke through only to shoot wide of the far post.

Result: White Eagle 4 (A. Leszczynski, R. Leszczynski 2, Stoddart 1) def. Rapid 1 (Cionci)

Croatia poised to continue ladder leapfrog

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 13/6/86

The battle for top spot in the Cadbury State League soccer competition has become a game of leapfrog, with teams changing places after virtually every split-round.

Juventus-Pioneer is the current leader after beating Caledonians on Wednesday, but White Eagles should take over again when it meets Howrah at South Hobart on Sunday. A win for Eagles would put it level with Juventus on 17 points, but Eagles has a slightly superior goal-difference.

Eagles must not take Howrah lightly as the Eastern Shore side showed it could score goals when it crushed Metro-Claremont 5-0 last weekend.

Gary Schueler, who scored four of those goals, will probably be marked tightly and even if he does receive good service from his midfielders, he will find it much more difficult to score against Eagle's miserly defence.

Eagles has the talent to overwhelm Howrah as it did in the first round, and if the team plays one or two-touch soccer, it could leave Howrah chasing shadows.

Scott Young, Eugene Banasik and Chris and Mark Leszczynski are good markers, and this quartet should prove adequate in snuffing out any danger posed by Howrah's strikers. And with the trusty Peter Groenewoud in goal, just in case any strikers do get through, Eagles will be able to concentrate on attack.

In this area David Stoddart is probably unequalled in the league. He is the brains behind Eagles' attack, and he should be able to provide Andrew and Richard Leszczynski with all the ammunition required to floor Howrah.

If the brothers fail to do the job, Stoddart is quite capable of stepping in and doing the job himself.

Rapid found itself in last place after Metro's worthy win over Olympia on Wednesday, and there can't be much light at the end of the tunnel as it contemplates the clash with Croatia-Glenorchy on Sunday.

The two teams will be desperate to win, but for different reasons. Croatia will regard victory as essential if it is to stay in touch with the leaders – a defeat would leave it three points adrift – while Rapid cannot afford to stay two points behind the second-last team.

Croatia has not been impressive of late and its attack badly misses the height and tenacity of the injured Tony Bacic. John McIntyre is showing glimpses of form, but he needs someone to partner him up front.

Neil Thomas could be that man. He displayed great commitment in the youth team last Saturday and scored twice. Croatia's defence is good enough to hold off any challenge Rapid can mount, and it is in attack they must produce the goods and Crosson will surely have Thomas in his starting line-up.

If Croatia misses out on the title, and if Crosson hasn't been playing, the blame could well rest squarely on his shoulders because he is far too good a player to be on the sidelines.

Win lifts Rapid off bottom of table

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 16/6/86

Two first-half goals by striker Danny Donohue gave Rapid a surprise 2-0 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at South Hobart yesterday and lifted Rapid off the bottom of the Cadbury State League soccer table.

Metro-Claremont had climbed off the bottom with a similar surprise result on Wednesday when it beat Olympia-WPL 1-0, but yesterday's result puts Metro back in last place because of its inferior goal difference. If things are beginning to get tight at the foot of the table, the situation seems a little clearer at the top.

White Eagles beat Howrah 7-2 in yesterday's curtain-raiser and Eagles and Juventus-Pioneer have now opened up a three-point lead over Olympia and Croatia.

Croatia was again without key players Peter Huigsloot and Tony Bacic, while coach David Crosson still refused to make an appearance as a player. Neil Thomas returned to the side in place of Billy Kirkpatrick and, although he put in plenty of effort, he was unable to make a decisive impact.

Croatia's goalkeeper, Stephen Smith, was injured in the first half and replaced by substitute Ivan Baric, a midfielder, at the break. Before his departure, Smith pulled off the save of the match in the 39th minute. Despite limping badly because of an ankle injury, he somehow managed to launch himself off the ground and turn a Donohue header over the bar when a goal seemed certain.

The damage had been done by then, however. Donohue had put Rapid ahead in the seventh minute with his first league goal of the season and he made it 2-0 four minutes before the interval after a fine dummy by Brushette.

Croatia created enough openings to win the match comfortably, but it was woeful in front of goal with O'Brien, Thomas, Thompson and Francis all squandering great chances.

White Eagles' Southern Tasmanian and Australian schoolboys' representative, Peter Groenewoud, is one of the finest goalkeepers in the State. He does have one glaring weakness however, and that is goal kicks. He usually makes a complete hash of at least one goal kick in each match but invariably gets away with it.

Yesterday, against Howrah, his luck ran out when he miscued a goal kick after only three minutes. The ball bounced to Richard Corongiu who immediately put Gary Schueler away on the left and the four-goal hero of last week tucked his shot just inside the far post. That was the only favour that Howrah received.

Richard Leszczynski equalised for Eagles within a minute and goals by Neil Morrison, David Stoddart and Scott Young put the league leader 4-1 up at the break.

Three of the four Leszczynski brothers, Andrew, Mark and Richard, completed the scoring in a second half that saw Howrah goalkeeper Craig Jones sent off for the first time in his career after allegedly striking Andrew Leszczynski.

Result: White Eagle 7 (R. Leszczynski 2, A. Leszczynski Stoddart, Morrison, M. Leszczynski, Young) 7 def. Howrah 2 (Schueler 2, 1 pen)

Injury-hit Olympia-WPL faces test of pressure

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 18/6/86

Olympia-WPL's hopes of winning the Cadbury State League soccer title may well be decided when it faces league leader White Eagles at KGV tonight.

It is currently three points adrift of the leading pair, Eagles and Juventus-Pioneer, and a loss will mean it will start the second half of the season with five points to make up and a lot of goals to score.

Injury problems are a major concern to Olympia's coach, Ken Morton, and this probably explains Olympia's recent slump.

The club had won seven games in succession before suffering surprise defeats in its past two outings, with regulars Xanthopoulos, Vafakos, Munro and Goldsmith all injured.

Vafakos is out for the season with a broken leg, Xanthopoulos' hamstring is slow in responding to treatment, while Morton says that Munro and Goldsmith both have cracked ribs and are unlikely to play. The prospects look bleak for Olympia, therefore, and Eagles should win and keep its nose in front of Juventus on goal difference. Eagles' only injury worry is striker Andrew Leszczynski, who strained a hamstring in Sunday's clash with Howrah.

David Stoddart, Eagles' midfield inspiration, came off at half time against Howrah because he was ill. He should have recovered in time for this match, however, and seems set to plague the opposition.

Eagles were a little sloppy at times against Howrah and more precision will be called for in its build-ups and in its shooting if it is to make certain of both points. Howrah's form is erratic. It recently beat Metro 5-0, only to crash to a 7-2 defeat against White Eagles in its next match.

It is difficult to see it overcoming the league champion, Juventus, in tonight's curtain-raiser.

Howrah has weaknesses in the full-back positions and Juventus had just the players to exploit this. John Broadhouse on the left, and Frank Genovesi on the right, may well run riot unless Howrah's Tony Fabrizio and Peter Goward apply themselves to their tasks.

Gary Schueler proved on Sunday that his four goals the previous week were not a flash in the pan. He scored twice against Eagles – once from the penalty spot – and now ranks as one of the league's leading scorers.

He is a tricky customer but lacks that little bit of pace which would make him doubly dangerous. It is that factor which should enable the Juventus defence to contain him.

Eagles knocked off

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 19/6/86

White Eagles relinquished top spot in the Cadbury State League soccer competition to Juventus-Pioneer when they drew 1-1 with Olympia-WPL at KGV last night.

Eagles were unable to field their strongest side with midfielder David Stoddart out with a virus infection and sweeper Alan Burton, despite a groin injury, forced to sit on the bench. Andrew Leszczynski had a hamstring strain and lasted only 25 minutes before being replaced by Burton.

The first half was a scoreless affair with Eagles' Franco Previdi coming closest to hitting the target when he smashed a left foot shot against the post just before the interval.

Perry Forster had the chance of the match in the 52nd minute but was unable to give Olympia the league. Eagles' goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud left his area to clear a long through-ball but miss the ball completely, leaving Forster clear and with an open goal in front of him. The striker, who would normally score from such a position with his eyes closed, inexplicably pushed the ball wide of the far upright.

Richard Leszczynski put Eagles ahead in the 63rd minute when he gained possession inside the penalty area and rounded the goalkeeper to score an easy goal.

Olympia did not give in however, and was rewarded with a point with its final attack of the match. Eagles failed to clear the ball and Anthony Greenwood found the net with an accurate chip into the top corner of the net in the closing minutes.

Result: White Eagle 1 (R. Leszczynski) drew with Olympia 1 (Greenwood)

Darby's loss unlikely to ruffle Eagles' feathers

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 27/6/86

White Eagles will be without coach Steve Darby when it meets Croatia-Glenorchy in a vital Cadbury State League soccer match at South Hobart on Sunday. Darby returned to England on Monday after being notified of his father's death and he will be away for about 10 days.

Youth team coach, Eddie Kempa took charge of training on Tuesday, but it is not certain who will coach the team on Sunday. Former White Eagles coach Eugene Mycak has been mentioned as one possibility, as has the team's manager and former player, Peter Wass. It should not really make much difference, however, as Eagles are a well-drilled team and if they are at full strength, they should beat Croatia.

Andrew Leszczynski, Alan Burton and David Stoddart look like returning to the side after recovering from injury

and illness and it would not surprise to see Franco Previdi get a run.

Croatia is a far more formidable outfit with coach David Crosson playing. He led by example last week and his talking throughout the match encourages the rest of the players. The club still has injury problems, and Crosson will not name his team until shortly before the kick-off.

There are doubts about goalkeeper Stephen Smith, sweeper Peter Thompson and striker Tony Bacic. Central defender Peter Huigsloot will most likely again be in goal if Smith is unavailable. He had little to do last week against Metro but will see a lot more action on Sunday. John McIntyre and Neil Thomas combined well, and they represent a danger to Eagles, but not one its defence will not be able to handle. Eagles won the first-round encounter 2-0 and should repeat the dose this time.

Olympia-WPL should regain its lost momentum when it comes up against Rapid, who is second last on the table. Olympia has not won in its past three outings, but should get back on the winning trail against a team which let itself down against Caledonians last week.

Slackness in defence and an inability to put away clear chances cost Rapid both points against Calies and it can't afford to do this against Olympia's fast, fit and keen players. Anthony Greenwood, Olympia's recruit from Rapid, will be eager to do well against his former team-mates.

He salvaged a point for his side with a well-taken goal in the last minute of the game against White Eagles and his heading and shooting abilities will test the Rapid defence.

Rapid striker Danny Donohue was upset at being substituted last week after scoring three goals in two games and, if he starts the match, he will be out to make an impact early in the game.

Olympia should win, as it did in the previous round, but it will require total commitment, incisiveness up front, and a safety-first attitude at the back.

White Eagles pay dearly for sloppy first-half finishing

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 30/6/86

Croatia-Glenorchy made a spirited second-half comeback to beat White Eagles 2-1 in yesterday's Cadbury State League soccer match-of-the-day at South Hobart.

Eagles led 1-0 at the interval through a rare Jimmy Kerr goal before second half goals by Croatia's twin-strikers, John McIntyre and Neil Thomas, gave it victory and equal second-place with White Eagles in the standings.

A Michael Goldsmith penalty in the 51st minute gave Olympia-WPL a 1-0 win over Rapid in yesterday's early game, which means Juventus-Pioneer remains the league leader, three points clear of its nearest opponents.

White Eagles, under caretaker coach Eugene Mycak, should have built up a comfortable lead in the opening half against Croatia, but poor shooting let it down badly. Andrew Leszczynski, Alan Burton and David Stoddart all fired high, and Andrew Leszczynski also headed fractionally wide, before the match was 12 minutes old.
Croatia had a little luck on its side, too. Morrison's corner in the 14th minute was flicked on to Andrew Leszczynski and his powerful shot was cleared on the line by Sean Collins, but the full-back could not have known much about it.

Jimmy Kerr scored his first goal of the season midway through the first half to put Eagles ahead. Stoddart's corner from the left was punched out by goalkeeper Peter Huigsloot, filling in for the injured Stephen Smith, but only to Kerr on the edge of the penalty area, and he struck a sweet volley into the roof of the net.

The half ended with Croatia on the attack, with McIntyre and Francis missing half-chances, but it was an indication of things to come. Eagles allowed Croatia back into the game after the interval and Richard Leszczynski was left isolated at the front for long periods, with only Croatian defenders to keep him company.

Croatia's equaliser came in the 53rd minute and it was gift-wrapped. Francis crossed from the right and Scott Young and Mark Leszczynski stood back and watched as John McIntyre headed home from six metres.

Croatia coach David Crosson came on in place of Ivan Baric with 17 minutes remaining and this seemed to be the signal to the team to go out and get both points.

With two minutes left, Crosson floated a perfect free kick to the far post beyond Peter Groenewoud's reach. McIntyre nodded the ball back across the goalmouth where Thomas scored with his head at the second attempt, his first having been block on the line by Stoddart.

Groenewoud kept Eagles' hopes alive with some brave goalkeeping in the closing stages and Andrew Leszczynski might even have salvaged a point but his low, angled drive in the dying seconds shaved the far post.

Olympia had to work hard for its 1-0 win over a plucky Rapid, and paid dearly for the two points when midfielder Roger Munro was sent off a minute from the end for persistent infringement of the laws of the game.

Paul Xanthopoulos returned to the Olympia side after injury but was clearly lacking match practice. He should have scored midway through the first half when he rounded the goalkeeper but fired high and wide while Anthony Greenwood had a close range shot brilliantly blocked by Phil Kannegiesser.

Goldsmith did have the ball in the net for Olympia just before half-time, but the effort was disallowed as the free kick had been an indirect one and no other player touched the ball.

Full-back Chris Hey won the penalty six minutes into the second period. His fine run past several defenders was halted by the hand of John Fletcher and Goldsmith tucked away the spot-kick with ease, low and to the keeper's right.

Olympia's new signing from Hobart City, veteran Tommy Wilson, came on for Xanthopoulos after an hour in order to steady a side that was on the verge of losing its self-control.

Result: White Eagle 1 (Kerr) Lost to Croatia Glenorchy 2 (McIntyre, Thomas)

Juventus newcomer should be winner

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 2/7/86

Juventus-Pioneer will probably parade its new signing from Adelaide City, 20-year-old striker Ercole Lattanzio, when it meets White Eagles in the Cadbury State League top-of-the table clash at KGV tonight.

The league-leader signed Lattanzio at the weekend and he should improve its already formidable firepower in what will be a crucial game for both teams.

A Juventus win combined with a Croatia draw with or loss to Olympia in the opening match will put Juventus four points clear at the top with seven rounds remaining.

Steve Kannegiesser will again be missing from the Juventus midfield because of injury, but Sergio Pace will make his comeback after missing one game because of a knee injury.

White Eagles should be able to field its strongest side, but it must compete for the entire 90 minutes if it is to have any chance against a Juventus side that has won its past four outings, rattling in 14 goals in the process, while conceding only two.

Eagles look good in attack but must make the most of the early chances that come its way. It had all the play in the opening half against Croatia on Sunday, yet only scored once.

That was not enough to hold off Croatia's second-half onslaught and Eagles lost the match when its defence went to sleep and when it ran out of attacking ideas.

Eagles has no worries in the goalkeeping department, where Peter Groenewoud reigns supreme, but its defence must concentrate for the entire match, and the midfielders must move up and support the strikers.
If Eagles can do that, it may be able to extend Juventus, even though the reigning champion should come out ahead in the end.

The night's opening course, promises to be a mouth-watering affair, as fourth-placed Olympia-WPL takes on third-placed Croatia-Glenorchy.

Croatia looks the favourite in this encounter because coach David Crosson is now prepared to play, and because Neil Thomas is beginning to make his influence felt.

Tony Bacic is back after injury and his personal cheer squad should have plenty to shout about as he provides a third string to Croatia's bow in attack.

Croatia is vulnerable at the back despite the good form of Larry Nunn. However, if goalkeeper Stephen Smith and sweeper Peter Thompson are fit, Olympia will find it very difficult to penetrate the defence.

Olympia will badly miss its hardworking midfielders Roger Munroe and player-coach Ken Morton, both of whom are suspended.

Olympia is in with some chance as long as its players keep their composure, and it will be interesting to see if new recruit Tommy Wilson, a vastly experienced player, can act as the team's on-field inspiration in the absence of Morton.

'Eagles' soar to topple leaders

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 3/7/86

White Eagles threw the Cadbury State League soccer title chase wide open again when it beat league-leader Juventus-Pioneer 4-2 at KGV last night.

It was Eagle's first win over Juventus in more than a year and Eagles and Croatia-Glenorchy are now only one point behind the reigning champion.

Andrew Leszczynski scored a hat-trick for Eagles and his brother, Richard, scored the remaining goal.

It was a disastrous night for Juventus. Not only did it lose this vital match, but it had goalkeeper Damon Youl sent off.

Alistair Cochrane had given Juventus the lead after only five minutes, but Eagles eventually led 4-1 before John Broadhouse scored from the penalty spot.

In the second match of the evening, Croatia-Glenorchy, with goals from Dominic O'Brien and Sean Collins, defeated Olympia-WPL 2-1.

Result: White Eagle 4 (A. Leszczynski 3, R. Leszczynski) def. Juventus 1 (Broadhouse)

Return of stars gives Croatia the edge

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 11/7/86

Croatia-Glenorchy will be at full strength when it faces Howrah at South Hobart on Sunday and coach David Crosson's biggest problem will be who to leave out of the side.

A number of key players have recovered from injury and new signing Paul Johnson, a central defender from Victoria club Richmond Alemannia, may also be available for selection.

Goalkeeper Stephen Smith has recovered from an ankle injury, sweeper Peter Thompson is over a leg injury, while centre-back Peter Huigsloot has finally shaken off a virus infection and is ready to resume in defence after making several appearances in goal.

Croatia has won its past three matches and it will be interesting to see who Crosson leaves out as the club steps up its challenge for the league title. Crosson, who has made two recent appearances as a substitute, will not consider himself for the side as the substitute's bench will already be brimming with talent.

Colin Francis, who was playing well in the seniors until recently, is back in the youth team, while Billy Kirkpatrick, a former regular in the senior side, also is biding his time in the youth team until a senior vacancy occurs. That may be a long time coming as all members of the senior team are giving maximum effort, despite the team's tendency to start slowly before unleashing a furious second-half onslaught.

In its past two wins, Croatia has come from behind to snatch victory, and once Crosson manages to get his players to perform at their peak from the outset, the side will be difficult to stop.

Howrah starts at a furious pace and then seems to fade in the closing stages of the game. The Eastern Shore side must get off to a good start against Croatia if it is to have any chance.

Howrah is extremely dangerous when it counterattacks quickly, and it may just catch Croatia out if it uses this tactic.

Croatia is a resilient outfit, however, and even if it does concede a goal or two, strikers such as Neil Thomas, John. McIntyre and Tony Bacic should see it collect two points.
Metro-Claremont will almost certainly emerge empty-handed from its showdown with White Eagles in Sunday's Cadbury State League match of the day.

White Eagles holds second spot on the ladder while Metro languishes in last and that sums up perfectly the difference between the teams.

Eagles' family striking partnership of Andrew and Richard Leszczynski has scored almost three times as many goals as the Metro team (27 compared with 10) and the duo should drum up plenty of business on Sunday.

Metro conceded six goals last week against Calies, and although it is renowned for its fighting spirit and never-say-die attitude, it just hasn't got the players to counter Eagles.

Eagles trounce Metro to soar to top

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 14/7/86

Richard Leszczynski scored his second hat-trick of the season and became the leading goal scorer in the Cadbury State League soccer competition as White Eagles trounced Metro-Claremont 6-0 at South Hobart yesterday.

The win lifted Eagles to top spot in the league, level on 22 points with Croatia-Glenorchy, which somewhat luckily beat Howrah 3-2 in yesterday's early game.

Juventus-Pioneer, the reigning league champion, slumped to third place, one point behind the leading pair, after yesterday's results and because of its surprising 2-0 loss to Rapid on Friday, Metro now seems doomed to relegation.

It is three points adrift of Howrah and Rapid at the foot of the table and its goal difference is an alarming -34.

Eagles cruised to a comfortable 4-0 lead within 28 minutes against Metro, and although it slackened off

considerably in the second half it was never in any danger and added two more goals for good measure in the final ten minutes.

Richard Leszczynski displayed determination and acceleration to score in the sixth and ninth minutes and gave his side a perfect start, while Franco Previdi added a third goal from Andrew Leszczynski's free-kick midway through the half.

Richard Leszczynski completed his hat-trick in the 28th minute with a delightful goal which was worthy of the league's leading marksman. He controlled Stoddart's high lob with his heel and flicked the ball forward and over a defender before driving a low shot into the net from just inside the penalty area.

David Stoddart and Franco Previdi completed the scoring in a second half that almost put everyone to sleep, including Eagles' coach Steve Darby, who was seen to be yawning as he left the bench at the end of the match.

Croatia-Glenorchy appeared to be in a mean mood when it scored twice through John McIntyre in the opening half against Howrah but, in the end, it was extremely fortunate to come away with both points.

Two crucial saves late in the game by Croatia's goalkeeper Stephen Smith, one at the feet of Karl Brightman, the other against Gary Schueler, saved David Crosson's men and gave them second position in the league on goal-difference.

Croatia was without the injured Larry Nunn and used Peter Thompson in midfield instead of at sweeper, a move which might well have contributed to it conceding two goals.

Robbie New scored Howrah's first goal shortly after the interval when he was put through by Alistair Hales, but Croatia's centre-back, Peter Huigsloot, must take some of the blame as he ran with New and failed to apply any pressure at all as the striker picked his spot.

Without any disrespect to Howrah, there was an element of luck about its equaliser in the 57th minute, too. Schueler's miskick on the left found Brightman in front of goal and he would have had time to park his car before scoring as the Croatia defence watched and waited for him to shoot.

It will take a bit of luck to win the title this year, and Croatia seemed to have more than its fair share in this match.

Result: White Eagle 6 (R. Leszczynski 3, Stoddart, Previdi 2) def. Metro 0

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
W.Eagle	**15**	**10**	**2**	**3**	**50**	**20**	**22**
Croatia	15	10	2	3	31	15	22
Juventus	15	10	1	4	42	25	21
Olympia	15	9	1	5	42	23	19
Calies	15	6	3	6	28	42	15
Rapid	15	3	2	1	18	33	8
Howrah	15	3	2	1	22	41	8
Metro	15	15	2	1	10	41	6

White Eagles stick to winning side for Calies game tonight

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 16/7/86

White Eagles will field an unchanged side when it battles Caledonians at KGV tonight and it must be favoured to win and maintain its lead in the Cadbury State League soccer competition. Eagles is the highest scoring side in the league, its defence is the second-best in the league, and coach Steve Darby sees no reason to change his winning combination.

In terms of statistics, Caledonians has the second-weakest defence in the competition, and it will find it very difficult to contain Eagles' two frontrunners, Richard Leszczynski and Franco Previdi. Leszczynski scored a hat-trick against

Metro on Sunday to become the league's leading scorer with 17 goals – this is an average of more than a goal a game – while Previdi scored twice.

These two players are ably supported by a midfield comprising Andrew Leszczynski, David Stoddart, Neil Morrison and Jimmy Kerr, all of whom have scored goals this season.

The combined firepower of these players means that Eagles should easily outgun a Calies side that will be motivated because it still has a faint chance of qualifying for the top four.

The Calies striking partnership of Andrew Joseph and Brett Murtagh, backed by up by midfielders Robin Dodds, Ian Parker, Steve O'Brien and Malcolm Lockley, can be lethal on occasions, but the Eagles defence should be able to nullify them.

Eagles' goalkeeper, Peter Groenewoud, and the back four of Chris and Mark Leszczynski, Alan Burton and Scott Young, are an effective defensive unit and will give little away.

The same cannot be said about Calies' goalkeeper, Luis Di Venuto, who must be suffering from shellshock after conceding a dozen goals in the seniors and youth team last week, and his defensive companions, Tim Robins, Tommy Wright, Ian Martin and Ronnie Bolton.

Calies' Bevan Schwaiger has been used as a substitute in the past two games because of a nose injury and he may get a full game tonight if Joseph, who went off injured against Olympia, is unfit.

There will be no place for sentiment in this match so although it will probably be Robin Dodds' last game for some time as he is leaving for Western Australia, the Eagles team is unlikely to let him depart on a winning note.

Metro-Claremont is desperate for points as it bids to stave off relegation and Rapid may provide it with one of its few realistic opportunities of obtaining at least one point.

It won't be an easy point, however, as Rapid's confidence will be very high after beating the league champion, Juventus-Pioneer, last week. Metro's biggest problem is its inability to score goals.

Simon Oliver is far too indirect to be the spearhead in attack, while Ron Agius is basically a defender, and Stan Peters is a creator rather than a finisher.
Metro has only scored 10 goals this season, far less than any other team, and the problem won't be rectified tonight against Rapid's solid defence, which has been strengthened by the recent inclusion of Gary Schmull at left-back.

Schmull has been playing Aussie Rules for the past three seasons and it shows. It will take much tougher opponents than Metro can provide to get past him. With little to worry about in defence, Rapid should be able to push everyone forward.

Defenders have been scoring many of its goals recently, so this will suit the side perfectly. Nerves could well play an important part in this match.

Rapid is in a slightly better league position than Metro and, given its great success last week, its player should be slightly more relaxed and capable of performing at their best.

Metro is clutching at straws and the pressure of this match could well be too much for its young players who are unlikely to overcome the more experienced and committed Rapid outfit.

Eagles throw down gauntlet

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 17/7/86

White Eagles threw out the challenge of catch us if you can to Croatia-Glenorchy and Juventus-Pioneer as it beat Caledonians 4-1 at KGV last night to take a two-point lead at the top of

the Cadbury State League soccer standings.

Croatia must beat Juventus at South Hobart on Sunday if it is to stay in touch with Eagles.

David Stoddart in the Eagles midfield was the man-of-the-match. He was everywhere, creating goals and scoring them one minute, then defending and clearing off his own goal-line the next.

Stoddart played a leading role in Eagles' three first-half goals. He accepted Andrew Leszczynski's cross from deep on the left in the eighth minute and passed to Previdi who tucked the ball inside the near post for the opening goal.

In the 20th minute, Stoddart sent Andrew Leszczynski away on the left but Jimmy Kerr steered his low cross narrowly wide of the far upright, while five minutes later, Stoddart cleared a Calies free-kick off his own goal-line with his goalkeeper beaten.

The second goal came five minutes before the interval when Stoddart's corner found Richard Leszczynski and the league's leading scorer stabbed the ball home from six metres.

Stoddart scored the third himself, two minutes before the break. He chipped over the goalkeeper on the right, Ian Martin cleared the ball, but only as far as Richard Leszczynski whose shot was parried by Di Venuto, straight to Stoddart who could hardly miss.

Calies seemed revitalised in the second half and after several narrow escapes including one in which Jimmy Kerr failed with only the goalkeeper to beat, it hit back through Ian Parker in the 57th minute. There was some controversy about this goal as the linesman was flagging for offside, but the referee chose to ignore him.

Richard Leszczynski scored Eagles' fourth goal from Andrew Leszczynski's accurate cross from the left five minutes from time and the youngster now leads the goal-scoring race with 19 goals, three ahead of Juventus' John Broadhouse.

Metro-Claremont gained a valuable point in its fight against relegation when it drew 0-0 with Rapid.

Metro remains in last place but is now only two points behind Howrah, although Howrah has one game, against Olympia on Sunday, in hand.

Rapid and Metro both showed tremendous commitment and fighting spirit but very little skill in an opening half that was played at a frantic pace.

The second half was much slower and both teams missed glorious scoring chances. Metro's Steve Pitchford and Simon Oliver failed with only the goalkeeper to beat, Phil Kannegiesser pulling of two excellent saves.

Result: White Eagle 4 (R. Leszczynski 2, Previdi, Stoddart) def. Caledonians 1

All action, with two double-headers in league

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 1/8/86

The Tasmanian Soccer Association has decided to conduct a complete round of four matched in the Cadbury State League soccer competition on Sunday. The double-header featuring Caledonians versus Juventus-Pioneers and Rapid versus Croatia-Glenorchy, postponed from Wednesday, will be played at the Athletic Centre on Sunday, while the scheduled double-header at South Hobart involving Metro-Claremont versus Olympia-WPL and Howrah versus White Eagles, will go ahead as normal.

Last Sunday's postponed games, which would have seen Croatia take on Caledonians and White Eagles meet Rapid, will now be played at KGV on Friday, August 15.

Tomorrow's Pepsi Youth League double-header between Calies and Juventus and Rapid and Croatia has been transferred to South Hobart from the Athletic Centre.

Juventus faces a difficult task against Caledonians on the small Athletic Centre ground, as it attempts to end its incredible and almost unprecedented run of four consecutive defeats.

Coach David Smith, who has never coached a side to victory on that ground, may have a number of promising youth team players on the bench.

With nothing apparently going right for the reigning champion, Smith is ready to give youngsters such as Shane Bromfield, Robbie Mastrocola, David Nichols and Billy Stanford a chance in the seniors.

Caledonians could well cause an upset in this match, especially since Juventus may be without sweeper Bruce Pears, who missed the 4-2 defeat against Olympia because of suspension and who failed to appear at training on Tuesday.

The TSA disciplinary committee handed Pears a one-week suspended sentence, in addition to his automatic one-game suspension, but his club has also suspended him until he appears before the club committee, something which he has not yet done.

Croatia has a number of injury problems for its clash with Rapid, but it has adequate replacements, including Paul Johnson from Victoria.

The strong central defender has been training well but hasn't played yet, mainly because coach David Crosson prefers to remain loyal to the players who have steered the club to current second place in the league.

Larry Nunn has recovered from injury and should resume in mid-field, but defender Sean Collins has missed training because of work commitments, and he may not be available on Sunday.

Goalkeeper Steve Smith aggravated an ankle injury at training and may be doubtful, together with defender Michael Driessen, who is also injured. Rapid's chances

will be improved by playing on the smaller ground and, although it will be desperate to get both points and stay ahead of Metro, Croatia's greater striking ability should see it win and keep the pressure on league-leader White Eagles.

Eagles should have few problems against Howrah at South Hobart as the league champion is currently in excellent form, while Howrah lost 2-0

to bottom-side Metro in its last outing. The enforced lay-off last weekend will have enabled Eagles' players to overcome any niggling injury problems and a full-strength side should make life a little more uncomfortable for Howrah, which is only two points clear of Metro.

Metro is confident it can repeat its second-round 1-0 win over Olympia when it faces the third-placed side at South Hobart, regardless of the fact that Olympia won the first-round match 7-0.

Metro's players were heartened by their win over Howrah and safety from relegation is definitely within sight now, something which seemed out of the question a few weeks ago.

Coach David Rae will field an unchanged side against an Olympia outfit that certainly does not exude confidence, and which is easily ruffled when things aren't going its way.

Metro will bring Adam Tassell down from the north of the state where he is working because he is needed up front, where he has become one of the side's most potent strikers, scoring the opening goal against Howrah last week.

Stan Peters has also been working in the north and hasn't trained with the club for over a month. He will also travel down for the game but will only get a place on the substitute' bench.

Croatia scramble to share top spot

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 4/8/86

White Eagles and Croatia-Glenorchy remain locked together at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer table after both won their matches yesterday.

White Eagles, which leads from Croatia on goal-difference, was by far the more convincing team, beating Howrah 4-1 at South Hobart, while Croatia only managed a 1-0 win over Rapid at the Athletic Centre.

Juventus-Pioneer displaced Olympia-WPL from third spot after it beat Caledonians 1-0 while Olympia could only draw 2-2 with bottom side Metro-Claremont.

Metro has now drawn level on nine points with second-last side Rapid after gaining four out of a possible six points from its past three matches and it may yet save itself from relegation.

Howrah, the newcomer to the league this season, is third-last on 10 points and its player-coach, Alistair Hales, must be getting more worried each week as his side cannot seem to shake off Rapid and Metro.

Juventus ended its run of four successive defeats by beating Caledonians 1-0 at the Athletic Centre through a Macie Fernandez goal after 25 minutes.

Croatia made hard work of beating Rapid and it can thank substitute Billy Kirkpatrick for both points as he scored the only goal of the match.

Anthony Greenwood, from the penalty spot, and Perry Forster gave Olympia a 2-0 lead against Metro but, with 10 minutes remaining, Metro struck back twice to snatch a precious point.

White Eagles had a few of its feathers ruffled despite a comfortable win over Howrah. Coach Steve Darby was sent from the coaches' bench by referee John Howlin, who then delayed the restart until an irate Polish supporter removed himself from the perimeter of the field.

Andrew Leszczynski gave Eagles an early lead against a Howrah side that had Colin George back in defence after a season's absence and Gary Schueler scored the equaliser before the interval.

Eagles' win was tarnished when David Stoddart was cautioned, and he has now accumulated enough disciplinary points to rule him out of Eagle's next match which is against Olympia next Sunday.

Result: White Eagle 4 (A. Leszczynski, Stoddart, Previdi 2) def. Howrah 1 (Schueler)

Juventus may narrow gap, even though temporarily

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 6/8/86

Juventus-Pioneer should be able to get within a point of White Eagles, the Cadbury State League leader when it meets Howrah at KGV tonight.

But, Eagles will have two games in hand over Juventus at the end of the evening and the gap between the clubs will not really be as narrow as it seems.

Besides, Croatia-Glenorchy, in second place and level on points with Eagles, should spurt to the lead when it meets Metro-Claremont in this evening's early game, putting Juventus three points behind the leading team yet again.

Howrah has lost its past two games, and looks to have little chance against a Juventus side that tasted success for the first time in four matches when it beat Caledonians on Sunday.

Prompted by player-coach Alistair Hales, Howrah acquitted itself well in the first half against White Eagles on Sunday before eventually going down 4-1.

Juventus has a very strong midfield, and it should be able to keep Hales quiet, and this will destroy much of the Eastern Shore side's creativity.

Juventus will be forced to make some changes which could weaken the side, but which won't prevent it from winning.

Nick Di Martino will be out because of an automatic one match suspension after being sent off against Calies, while

Alistair Cochrane broke his nose in the same match. Both are key central defenders, although Di Martino was used at centre-forward against Calies so the defence may be reshuffled, especially since Dominic Longo was also carried from the field on Sunday.

Sweeper Bruce Pears returned to the team as a substitute and coach David Smith may have to construct a new defence around Pears for this match.

Croatia-Glenorchy faces a difficult match against bottom team Metro-Claremont in the opening fixture of the doubleheader.

Metro has had an amazing run recently, winning once and drawing twice in its past three games, and, with safety from relegation in sight, the Claremont side will provide Croatia with stiff opposition.

Metro's Steve Pitchford sparked its revival against Olympia on Sunday when he moved from defence into attack, the team was 2-0 down at that stage but managed to snatch a 2-2 draw so it would not be surprising to see Pitchford lead the attack against Croatia.

Croatia's defence is more solid than Olympia's and Metro will find it much more difficult to penetrate, especially if newcomer Paul Johnson plays for the whole match.

Croatia's coach David Crosson again faces a dilemma when it comes to team selection, but it is one which most coaches would relish. He has a surplus of talent and it must be difficult to leave out someone like Colin Francis, the ex-Metro player.

The biggest factor in Croatia's favour is that is has numerous goal-scorers. Whenever one recognised scorer fails, someone else pops up to take his place. Billy Kirkpatrick, who had not played in the seniors very often this season, was the man on Sunday. He scored the only goal of the game, his first goal of the season, to make up for the failings of the other recognised strikers. It is this quality which should see Croatia win.

Juventus apply pressure to Eagles

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 7/8/86

Juventus-Pioneer put pressure on White Eagles by beating Howrah 3-0 in last night's Cadbury State League soccer fixture at KGV.

Juventus is now only a point behind second-placed White Eagles and three points adrift of new league-leader Croatia- Glenorchy.

Nick Di Martino took his place in the Juventus line-up despite having been sent off at the weekend. A disciplinary committee meeting before last night's game decided against an automatic one-match suspension and decided to impose a penalty of six disciplinary points against Di Martino instead.

Dominic Longo, who had been doubtful after being carried off at the weekend, was able to play but with his left knee bandaged. John Broadhouse became the out-right leader in the individual goal-scoring race when he put Juventus ahead in the 15th minute.

Howrah's best chance came just before the interval. Hales crossed to the far post and found Robbie New, who headed tamely over the bar.

Broadhouse scored again in the second half to make it 2-0 and take his personal foal tally to 21 for the season while Sergio Pace completed the scoring.

Croatia-Glenorchy became the new league leader and improved its goal-difference considerably when it thrashed bottom-team Metro-Claremont 7-1 in last night's early match.

Metro scored first through Stan Peters in the 21st minute but, even at that stage, Croatia was far superior.

John McIntyre, the ex-Metro player, had hit a post and the crossbar in the opening quarter of an hour and it seemed only a matter of time before Croatia would score.

The equaliser came in the 28th minute, direct from a corner by Neil Thomas, who had an inspired game, scoring twice and making two of the other goals.

Wayne Cowen gave Croatia a 2-1 lead at the interval and second-half goals from Thomas Huigsloot (2) and Bacic (2) completed the scoring.

Change of venue unlikely to worry Eagles, Calies

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 8/8/86

Sunday's Cadbury State League double-header featuring White Eagles versus Olympia-WPL and Rapid versus Caledonians has been transferred to KGV from South Hobart.

The change of venue is unlikely to prevent White Eagles and Caledonians from emerging as victors. Both games are important as far as the league championship and the relegation issue are concerned.

White Eagles must beat Olympia in order to resume the league leadership from Croatia-Glenorchy, which became the new leader after thrashing bottom-side Metro-Claremont 7-1 on Wednesday.

Rapid must beat Caledonians if it is to ease its relegation worries as a win would put it two points ahead of Metro and one point ahead of Howrah.

Olympia has a habit of playing well against top teams and it should put up a brave fight against Eagles, but the latter is not in serious contention for the title without good reason.

Eagles is solid and talented in every department. It is the highest-scoring team in the league and has the second-best defence and, although it has lost and drawn with Olympia this season, it should make the honours even by winning this time.

"We have to be very positive and we're not going to win the league by defending so we'll just go on and play our normal way," said Eagles coach Steve Darby. "We'll keep doing our jobs and attacking and, hopefully, it will come off. We'll have exactly the same team as last week. Stoddart won't be suspended as we first thought. He's one point under the automatic suspension mark."

Darby, who was sent from the bench last week for comments he made to the referee, said he was concerned about the things referees let go. "It seems a tragedy that players are being booked for 'mouthing'. While I don't agree with 'mouthing', there are so many low-skilled assassins who are kicking quality players in all teams and getting away with it," Darby said.

He was quick to point out, however, that he didn't envisage any such problems against Olympia. "I'd like to think that Olympia wouldn't resort to such tactics. They don't usually," he said.

Caledonians has little but pride to play for when it meets second-last Rapid in Sunday's early match because it cannot be relegated, and it cannot make the top-four. Rapid, on the other hand, has everything to play for as it is in serious danger of relegation and this should spur the players on to greater effort.

Rapid doesn't seem to have the striking power to beat Calies, despite the fact that the latter has a notoriously suspect defence.

"It is hard to get some of the lads motivated and that's evident in training," said Calies' striker Ian Parker. "But we've got to play for our pride and for the enjoyment of the game. I think it will be a physical game, with them trying to avoid regulation, but we'll just try and match that. I think we'll win because we're a better team than they are. We've got a few more skilful players and that will give us the advantage."

Two heads are better than one at Olympia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 11/8/86

Two headed goals by Paul Xanthopoulos, one in each half, gave Olympia-WPL a well-deserved 2-0 win over title aspirant White Eagles in yesterday's Cadbury State League soccer match-of-the-day at KGV.

White Eagles remain in second place as a result of the defeat, two points behind the league-leader, Croatia-Glenorchy, and the stage is now set for a titanic struggle when the two teams meet at KGV on Wednesday.

In yesterday's curtain-raiser, Rapid edged a little closer to avoiding relegation by beating Caledonians 2-0 to move into third last place, one point ahead of Howrah and two points clear of Metro-Claremont, and with a goal-difference that is far superior to those of the bottom two teams.

White Eagles looked anything but championship-winning material against Olympia in a match that proved very physical at times.

Referee Neil Murray from Canberra issued two cautions to each side, the yellow card going to Mark Leszczynski and Alan Burton of Eagles, and to Michael Berwick and Craig Nichols of Olympia.

Olympia was faster to the ball and played as a unit, whereas Eagles were disjointed and the players it usually counts on to score goals were sadly out of touch.

Whenever Olympia attacked, it managed to outpace and outnumber the Eagles defence, and when it defended, it always had the numbers and the determination to neutralise the Eagles attack.

Olympia defender Michael Edwards played a crucial part in both goals, but his celebrations were ruined somewhat when he was injured and had to be substituted ten minutes from the end.

Xanthopoulos scored the opener in the 18th minute following a corner on the right. Edwards flicked the ball onto Xanthopoulos, who also scored in Olympia's youth team's 6-4 loss to White Eagles on Saturday, and he headed past Groenewoud into the Eagles goal.

Nichols and Forster should have added to Olympia's first-half tally, while Andrew and Richard Leszczynski had at least four chances that they should have made more use of.

Olympia's greater determination was clearly shown in the 51st minute when Anthony Greenwood chased a ball to the corner flag, hotly pursued by a defender who had had the initial advantage, Greenwood won possession, cut the ball back for Nichols to cross into the goalmouth, where Forster neatly side-stepped two defenders before firing narrowly wide.

A great attacking run by Edwards in the 53rd minute led to the second goal. He sent over a powerful cross to the far post where Michael Goldsmith should have scored with his head. Goldsmith headed the ball downwards, however, but the bounce proved just right for Xanthopoulos who launched himself into the air and headed into the net.

Richard and Andrew Leszczynski shared three chances in the second half without result and Eagles' dilemma in attack was highlighted by the substitution of midfielder Jimmy Kerr for defender Eugene Banasik in the 69th minute.

Without a striker in reserve to put on, defender Mark Leszczynski was moved forward into an attacking midfield role, but it was clear that when Eagles' strikers don't fire, the team finds it very difficult to get results.

"It's good that I've got my scoring touch back, but I still need to get fit because I've had a lot of hamstring injuries," said two goal hero Xanthopoulos. "I'm happy with the two goals but I'm not really happy with the way I played today."

"We didn't deserve to win," is how Eagles coach Steve Darby, who was again sent from the coaches' bench by the referee, summed up his side's performance.

Matthew Bloomfield scored his first senior goal of the season to give Rapid a 15th-minute lead against Calies and Dale Blake made it 2-0 form the penalty spot three minutes from time.

It was a miserable day for Calies as it also lost midfielder Bevan Schwaiger who was sent off in the 70th minute for alleges serious foul play. The game was, as Calies' Ian Parker had predicted on Friday, a hard one, with two players from each side being cautioned.

Result: White Eagle 0 Lost to Olympia 2 (Xanthopolous 2)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Croatia	18	13	2	3	41	17	28
White Eagle	**18**	**12**	**2**	**4**	**58**	**24**	**26**
Juventus	18	12	1	6	49	31	25
Olympia	18	11	2	6	50	28	24
Caledonians	18	6	3	9	29	45	15
Rapid	18	4	3	1	20	34	11
Howrah	18	4	2	1	24	50	10
Metro	18	3	3	1	15	53	9

Eagles should be easy prey for Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 13/8/86

Croatia-Glenorchy will be within one point of the Cadbury State League soccer title if it beats second-placed White Eagles at KGV tonight.

Two points currently separate the teams, and a Croatia win would put it four points clear with two games remaining. Croatia would the only need a draw against Caledonians on Friday night, or against Olympia on Sunday, August 24, to clinch the championship.

On current form, Croatia must be favoured to beat an Eagles team that failed miserably against Olympia last Sunday.

Croatia knocked in seven goals against Metro in its last outing and it is that sort of display that will win it the title. Tony Bacic and Neil Thomas scored two goals each, while defenders Peter Huigsloot and Wayne Cowen shared three goals in a display that clearly showed the team's versatility and all round strength.

Eagles showed glaring deficiencies in both attack and defence in going down 2-0 to Olympia and it will have to produce a major reversal of form to stop Croatia.

There was a distinct lack of understanding between Eagle's goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud and his fellow defenders. The midfielders neglected their defensive duties and provided poor service to the strikers who, in turn, crowded each other, were unable to use space to advantage and whose shooting was woeful.

I don't think there is a consistent team in the league this season and predicting the outcome of any match is a risky business. But Croatia seems to have struck form at exactly the right time, and, with its strength in depth, it should make it two league wins out of three against White Eagles tonight.

Eagles coach Steve Darby know it will be a difficult match to win, especially since Croatia is such a tall side. "I think I might have to get some stilts for our players because it's a bit like playing in the land of the giants," he said.

Howrah must aim at getting four points out of four from its two remaining games if it is to make absolutely sure of avoiding relegation because Metro-Claremont is only a point behind in last place.

Howrah has tonight's match against Caledonians and the game against Rapid left and the Calies game is probably the easier of the two.

Calies, which was beaten by Rapid on Sunday, has little incentive to extend itself as it is safe from relegation and can't make the top four, so Howrah might well be able to snatch at least a point.

Calies won the first encounter this season and the second was a draw, but Howrah can easily even things up if it plays the sort of game that has seen it win some tough matches this year.

Counterattacking is Howrah's strongpoint and if it can soak up any Calies pressure without actually conceding a goal and then break forward quickly, it should be able to surprise a Calies defence that is very suspect.

Howrah's defence tends to give its opponents far too much room and, if this problem can be corrected, the team should be worth at least a point.

At the front, Gary Schueler has the skill and Robbie New the speed to make life very uncomfortable for the Calies defence.

White Eagles keep title chances alive with stirring fightback

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 14/8/86

White Eagles kept its Cadbury State League soccer championship hopes alive when it came back from behind twice to draw 2-2 with league-leader Croatia-Glenorchy in a pulsating match at KGV last night.

Two points still separate the teams with each having two games left to play. On straight out chances, White Eagles should have won this match.

Eagles scored twice from 11 clear chances whereas Croatia grabbed its two goals from five scoring opportunities.

Paul Furjanic gave Croatia an eight-minute lead, but a goalkeeping error by Stephen Smith 11 minutes later enable David Stoddart to equalise with a long-range effort that went in off a post.

Larry Nunn put Croatia ahead with a powerful low drive in the 36th minute only to see Scott Young bring Eagles level again three minutes later when he headed home Andrew Leszczynski's free kick.

The first half ended with a brilliant save by Eagles goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud from Tony Bacic's header, but the second half was a rather tame affair.

Richard Leszczynski, the league's second-highest goal scorer, should have given his side victory in this half.

In the 50th minute he headed and shot against a post in quick succession, while in the final seconds of the match, he was a fraction too slow to take advantage of Franco Previdi's cross.

In the opening match, Howrah moved closer to safety when it beat Caledonians 2-1 to move into third-last spot and three points clear of bottom-team Metro-Claremont.

Calies took a 58th minute lead through an own goal but goals by Alistair Hales and Gary Schueler, the latter form the penalty spot, gave Howrah a priceless two points.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Stoddart, Young) drew with Croatia Glenorchy 2 (Furjanic, Nunn)

Croatia gets its chance to go further ahead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 15/8/86

With two rounds of Cadbury State League soccer matches remaining, only the fate of Olympia-WPL and Caledonians has been decided.

Olympia cannot win the title, nor can it lose its top four place, while Caledonians cannot gain a place in the top-four, but neither can it be relegated.

Croatia-Glenorchy, White Eagles and Juventus-Pioneer are still all in with a chance of winning the title, while any one of Metro-Claremont, Rapid and Howrah could be relegated.

Juventus-Pioneer has only a mathematical possibility of retaining its title. It would have to win its remaining two games, while Croatia and White Eagles would each have to lost both of theirs.

This is most unlikely as Croatia should beat Caledonians and Eagles should beat Rapid in tonight's double-header at KGV, postponed from July 27 and starting at 6pm and 7.46pm.

By the time Juventus plays Metro at KGV on Sunday – the double-header has been transferred there from South Hobart–Juventus should be out of the reckoning.

In tonight's games, the atmosphere is sure to be tense and neither Croatia nor White Eagles can afford to slip up.

Croatia has a two-point advantage over second-placed Eagles and judging from its display in the 2-2 draw with Eagles on Wednesday, Croatia should have few problems against Caledonians.

Calies cannot score goals at the moment. It relied on an own goal to take the lead against Howrah on Wednesday, and it is unlikely to crack the strong Croatia defence.

Croatia, on the other hand, has players in every position who are capable of scoring goals and it may well repeat its 7-1 first-round victory.

Neil Thomas is the inspiration behind the Croatia side at the moment and he is playing some of the best soccer of his career. His work-rate is tremendous, and he is the live-wire in a side which boasts other top strikers such as John McIntyre and Tony Bacic.

White Eagles recovered from its surprising defeat at the hands of Olympia on Sunday and hit near top form in drawing with Croatia.

Franco Previdi played close to his best game against Croatia since arriving in Tasmania and he should be able to steer his team-mates to a win over Rapid.

Previdi, who has not always found favour with coach Steve Darby, set up some delightful scoring chances for his team-mates but spoiled his performance by poor shooting. If he and David Stoddart can continue to create chances, and if Richard Leszczynski regains his scoring touch which was sadly lacking on Wednesday, White Eagles should romp in.

In the weekend's remaining match, Olympia should beat a Rapid side that will be a little more relaxed if Juventus has beaten Metro in Sunday's early game.

Olympia was very impressive in beating White Eagles last Sunday and coach Ken Morton will use this match to prepare his side for the top-four play-offs.

Croatia maintains two-point lead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 16/8/86

The Cadbury State League soccer championship will not be decided until the final round of matches on Sunday week after both Croatia-Glenorchy and White Eagles won their games at KGV last night.

Croatia beat Caledonians 4-0 to stay two points ahead of White Eagles, which beat Rapid 4-1.

After a scoreless first half, Michael Driessen gave Croatia the lead and John McIntyre made it 2-0 in the 70th minute. Substitute Billy Kirkpatrick scored the third nine minutes later. Dominic O'Brien completed the scoring from the penalty spot five minutes from the end.

Brothers Richard, Andrew and Mark Leszczynski scored all the goals as Eagles beat Rapid to stay in with a chance of winning the title.

Richard Leszczynski put Eagles ahead on the half hour, but Matthew Bloomfield equalised for Rapid just before the break. Andrew Leszczynski's two goals in the second half put Eagles comfortably ahead and Mark Leszczynski grabbed the fourth goal in the 75th minute.

Result: White Eagle 4 (R. Leszczynski, A. Leszczynski 2, M. Leszczynski) def. Rapid 1 (Bloomfield)

League title on the line for Croatia and Eagles

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 23/8/86

The Cadbury State League soccer season will reach an exciting climax this weekend when both the championship and relegation issues are decided in the final round of matches.

The team to be relegated will be determined at KGV tonight when bottom-side Metro-Claremont faces Juventus-Pioneer and second-last Rapid meets Olympia-WPL at the earlier than usual kick-off times of 6pm and 7.45pm, respectively.

Metro, which is one point behind Rapid and with a greatly inferior goal-difference, must beat the defending champions if it is to have any chance of avoiding the drop.

If it manages to do this, it still has to rely on Olympia beating Rapid. A draw would be enough for Rapid to save itself.

There is some irony in the situation in that former coaches of Metro and Rapid may well hold the fate of these clubs in their hands. David Smith, last year's player-coach of Metro is now in charge of Juventus, and Ken Morton, the former player-coach of Rapid, is the supremo at Olympia.

This will not affect the outcome of tonight's double-header, however, and, brave though Metro was in beating Caledonians 3-1 on Wednesday, it can have little chance against Juventus in tonight's early game.

Juventus has relinquished the title it has held for the past three years and will have few qualms in sending Metro down to the Rothmans League competition next season. Juventus will want to end the league season on a high note and, because John Broadhouse has a great chance of winning the individual goal-scoring award, it will go all out for goals.

It has better players than Metro and, despite the heroic efforts of Kevin Clamp and Michael McIntyre on Wednesday, Metro's cause seems a hopeless one.

If Juventus and Olympia have the power to determine who is relegated, they also hold the key to who becomes the new league champions when they face the two title contenders, White Eagles and Croatia-Glenorchy, respectively, at KGV on Sunday, in a double-header transferred from South Hobart.

White Eagles, two points behind but with a better goal-difference, must beat Juventus in the curtain-raiser if it is to win the title.

If Eagles win, it must then rely on Olympia to beat Croatia in the main match. Croatia will have won the title before it even takes the field if Eagles lose to Juventus, and it will need only a draw against Olympia if Eagles win.

Eagles should be good enough to beat Juventus, especially since the latter will have had a hard match tonight and may still be feeling the effects of that.

Croatia faces Olympia in a serious frame of mind, regardless of whether it is already league champions, or whether it has to win the game to grab the title.

Coach David Crosson never expects anything less than total commitment from his players and they should be able to beat an Olympia side that played extremely well in its last outing and, ironically, paved the way for a Croatia championship by beating White Eagles.

Olympia has several deficiencies which Croatia should be able to exploit, and it is unlikely to be able to contain players such as John McIntyre, Tony Bacic and Neil Thomas, who will be out to give Crosson his first Championship as a coach since arriving in Tasmania from England in 1982.

Juventus win dumps Metro from league

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS

Metro-Claremont was relegated from the Cadbury State League soccer competition when it lost 1-2 to Juventus-Pioneer at KGV last night.

John Broadhouse increased his lead over White Eagles' Richard Leszczynski in the individual goal scoring race by scoring both the Juventus goals. Broadhouse now has 23 goals compared to Leszczynski's 20.

Metro played the opening half at a frantic pace, knowing that it had to win to survive, and Michael McIntyre and Sean Green both missed good early chances. Juventus took the lead from the penalty spot in the 33rd minute.

Macie Fernandez was tripped inside the area and Broadhouse made no mistake with his spot kick. Broadhouse made it 2-0 on the hour and Andy Ferrall pulled a goal back for Metro, also from the penalty spot, two minutes later.

The Olympia versus Rapid game went ahead as scheduled after the national president of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation, Mr Denis McDermott, intervened in Olympia's dispute with the Tasmanian division of the ASRF.

Referees were provided for the game after Mr McDermott proposed that Olympia lodge the disputed referees' fees in a trust account and that the independent arbitrator be appointed to resolve the matter.

Paul Xanthopoulos scored twice and Craig Nichols once to give Olympia a comfortable lead after 13 minutes before an own goal by Chris Hey sent Olympia in at the interval 3-1 ahead. Anthony Greenwood made it 4-1 for Olympia in the 77th minute when he cut in from the right and fired just inside the far post.

Eagles fly high to win title on goal-difference

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 26/8/86

White Eagles won the 1986 Cadbury State league soccer championship on goal-difference from Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV yesterday when it beat last year's title-holder Juventus-Pioneer 3-0.

White Eagles and Croatia completed the season even on 31 points but Eagles' goal-difference of + 40 was far superior to Croatia's + 26 and this gave club its first senior championship since 1978 when it won the inaugural State League premiership.

Croatia went into the main game against Olympia needing only a point to pip Eagles for the title but went down 2-4 in a marvellous match which had everyone, not least the Eagles supporters, biting their fingernails until the end.

Croatia appeared to be suffering stage-fright when it took the field against Olympia and found itself 0-2 down at the interval through a bullet-like shot by Craig Nichols on the quarter-hour and a penalty, won by Xanthopoulos and converted by Anthony Greenwood. Croatia fought back to 2-2 within ten minutes of the re-start but then conceded two goals in the final six minutes to lose the championship.

The two heroes on the day were Richard Leszczynski of White Eagles, who scored a hat-trick, and Paul Xanthopoulos of Olympia, whose two second-half goals sank Croatia.

Leszczynski's three-goal burst in the second half, which proved decisive in winning Eagles the title, also made him the league's equal top goal scorer on 23 goals, together with Juventus' John Broadhouse.

For Eagles' coach Steve Darby, the title win was a fitting climax to his stay in Tasmania. Darby arrived in the state in 1980 to coach Devonport and leaves at the end of this year for Canberra.

Croatia's coach David Crosson must have been the most disappointed person at the ground yesterday. It was the fourth year in succession that he had finished as league runner-up.

White Eagles and Juventus both had excellent scoring chances in the opening half with neither side being able to break the deadlock.

Broadhouse, the league's leading marksman, missed several easy opportunities to put Juventus ahead, while Eagles' Jimmy Kerr bounced a shot onto the Juventus crossbar in the 17th minute and Franco Previdi ballooned the rebound into the sky.

Richard Leszczynski came into his own in the second half, however, and once he stuck away the opening goal in the 55th minute, he proved unstoppable.

His second goal, in the 70th minute, was brilliant. Taking advantage of a split-second of indecision between Juventus goalkeeper Damon Youl and defender Alistair Cochrane, Leszczynski nipped in between them flicked the ball over his head and turned to volley into the net.

Eagles' third goal came from the penalty spot 11 minutes from the end. Knowing that one more goal would make Richard Leszczynski the league's equal top-scorer, the Eagles players insisted that the youngster take it and he didn't let them down.

Result: White Eagle 3 (R. Leszczynski 3) def. Juventus 0

Final Standings 1986

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
White Eagle	**21**	**14**	**3**	**4**	**67**	**27**	**31**
Croatia	21	14	3	4	49	23	31
Olympia	21	13	2	6	58	31	28
Juventus	21	13	1	7	51	35	27
Caledonians	21	6	3	1	31	58	15
Howrah	21	5	3	1	27	52	13
Rapid	21	4	4	1	23	43	12
Metro	21	4	3	1	19	56	11

Eagles unruffled by difficult task set by Ulverstone

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – NOV-86 – [State Premiership]

White Eagles, the Cadbury State League soccer Southern champions, is confident of not only beating, but also making up the two-goal deficit, when it meets Northern champions, Ulverstone, in the second-leg of the state premiership at 2pm at KGV tomorrow.

Eagles lost 0-2 in the first-leg at Ulverstone and must win by three clear goals to win the State title.

The southerners who lost Wednesday's Cadbury Jubilee trophy final 4-5 to Olympia, are unperturbed about their

recent setbacks and will not have trained prior to tomorrow's match.

Eagles striker Andrew Leszczynski believes the club's recent setbacks will only serve to spur the players on and he feels confident the home-ground advantage will be a decisive factor.

" I think we should do really well after Wednesday night's loss to Olympia, and after the poor game we played in Ulverstone," Leszczynski said.

"I reckon we'll win by three goals no worries because we play a lot better at KGV than on many other grounds and I think their defence is bit slow. They're big boys and good tacklers but they're a bit slow and if we can stretch them out wide, I think we'll have them."

"Joe McGrory could be a problem as he's quite lethal in the air. He's virtually impossible to beat, so we'll just have to watch out for his flick-ons, and make sure we mark him at corners. Mark Krzysica and Eugene Banasik are a bit inexperienced at the back too, so we must have Mark Leszczynski back there to help out."

Andrew felt coach Steve Darby would probably use a three-man attack in an endeavour to get the goals required to keep the State title in the south.

The three players would undoubtedly be Andrew and Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart.

Andrew scored a stunning opener against Olympia on Wednesday and is relishing the opportunity of playing at the front rather than in midfield.

"I've played the last two games up front, and I've really enjoyed it because Richard and I have a good understanding," he said. "I think Richard and I play well together because I tend to talk to him more than when he's up there alone with David."

A losing side that can still score four goals can't be all that bad and Eagles should be capable of making up the deficit and ensuring that Ulverstone's journey home is a miserable one.

Ulverstone take home State title

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – NOV-86 – [State Premiership]

Ulverstone won the State soccer premiership 2-1 on aggregate despite losing 0-1 to White eagles in yesterday's second-leg match at KGV.

Neil Morrison scored the only goal of the game, but it wasn't enough to nullify Joe McGrory's two goals in the first-leg match played at Ulverstone earlier this month.

Ulverstone's win ended the Southern stranglehold on the State title and proved yet again that money does not always equal success I soccer.

"There's a lot of people in the North and North-West who sail that Ulverstone would never win a premiership and we've proved them all wrong," said McGrory Ulverstone's player-coach.

"I'm not against professional players but George Town spent something like $30,000 to win a premiership and we've proved you can do it without paying players.

The first half proved close with both teams having two good scoring chances – Eagles converting one of these in the 28thg minute. Andrew Leszczynski's free-kick was only partially cleared by the Ulverstone defence and Neil Morrison drive the ball in off the far post from the edge of the penalty area.

Only a desperate clearance by Michael Foote from underneath the crossbar in the 22nd minute had prevented Eagles from taking an earlier lead, but Ulverstone might also have grabbed a couple of goals.

Howe inexplicably fired over the bar from five metres after McGrory set him up, while McGrory had a shot blocked by Banasik, the ball then taking a favourable bounce into the hands of Eagle's goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud.

The second half started with Ulverstone's Rush almost putting the ball past his own goalkeeper, but the visitors settled down and Gorrie, Foote, Anderson and Rush in defence kept Eagles scoreless.

Eagles had most of the chances in the second period with David Stoddart going close on at least four occasions and Richard Lesczynski fire one pile-driver straight at goalkeeper Andrews.

Ulverstone's solitary second half chance came in the 74th minute when McGrory outpaced a defender but lifted the ball over the bar.

It was never a great match, but Ulverstone proved a worthy title-holder. Its players showed tenacity and anility, and player-coach McGrory was superb in the air and organised his players well.

Eagles had some good build-ups but often became entangled in the process of trying to find a way through the packed Ulverstone defence and its finishing left a lot to be desired.

"I was disgusted with the way we played because we just defended in numbers," McGrory said.

"We're usually and attacking side but we didn't show what we can do today. I was confident we could beat Eagles by two or three nil and we did battle all day, but I couldn't do a thing right with our boys. It's been the same all year when it comes to big games. It's just nerves."

Richard Leszczynski challenging for a cross v Metro

State League South – White Eagle Results - 1986

Date	Opponent	H/T	F/T	Scorers
02-Apr	Metro	0-0	3-0	R Leszczynski, Previdi, Morrison
13-Apr	Caledonians	0-0	0-0	
16-Apr	Rapid	1-0	4-0	A Leszczynski 3, Stoddart
27-Apr	Howrah	4-1	6-1	Stoddart 2, A Leszczynski 2, R Leszczynski, M Leszczynski
30-Apr	Olympia	1-2	1-4	Banasik
11-May	Croatia	0-0	2-0	R Leszczynski, A Leszczynski
21-May	Metro	2-0	3-2	R Leszczynski 2, Morrison
28-May	Caledonians	3-1	6-1	Stoddart 2, R Leszczynski 3, M Leszczynski
30-May	Juventus	1-2	2-4	A Leszczynski 2
04-Jun	Rapid	2-0	4-1	R Leszczynski 2, A Leszczynski, Stoddart
15-Jun	Howrah	4-1	7-2	R Leszczynski 2, A Leszczynski, M Leszczynski, Stoddart, Young, Morrison
18-Jun	Olympia	0-0	1-1	R Leszczynski
29-Jun	Croatia	1-0	1-2	Kerr
02-Jul	Juventus	2-1	4-2	A Leszczynski 3, R Leszczynski
13-Jul	Metro	4-0	6-0	R Leszczynski 3, Previdi 2, Stoddart
16-Jul	Caledonians	3-0	4-1	A Leszczynski 2, Previdi, Stoddart
03-Aug	Howrah	1-1	4-1	A Leszczynski, Previdi 2, Stoddart
10-Aug	Olympia	0-1	0-2	
13-Aug	Croatia	2-2	2-2	Stoddart, Young
15-Aug	Rapid	1-1	4-1	A Leszczynski 2, R Leszczynski, M Leszczynski
25-Aug	Juventus	0-0	3-0	R Leszczynski 3

1986 Goalscorers

R Leszczynski 23, A. Leszczynski 16, Stoddart 11, Previdi 6, M Leszczynski 4, Morrison 3, Young 2, Banasik, Kerr 1

1986 Premiers

Back: C. Leszczynski, S. Young, A, Burton, R. Leszczynski, P. Groenewoud, A. Leszczynski, N. Morrison, E. Banasik

Front: D. Stoddart, F, Previdi, M. Leszczynski, J. Kerr, M. Krzysica

WHITE EAGLE
1989

STATE LEAGUE
Premiers, Charity Shield, Statewide Cup Winners, Runners-Up Summer Cup

SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE
State Premiers, KO Cup Winners

Juventus holds whip hand in final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - MARCH 1989 – CASCADE SUMMER CUP FINAL

Hobart Juventus will be seeking its fourth consecutive pre-season tournament success when it takes on White Eagle in today's Cadbury League section final of the Cascade Summer Cup competition at KGV Soccer Park. Juventus has appeared in the previous five finals of the pre-season series, winning four and losing only once – to Caledonian in 1985.

White Eagle has a very poor record against Juventus. It lost 0-5 to Juventus in last year's final and, although the score line should be a little closer today, Juventus must surely triumph. Juventus defeated White Eagle 3-1 in the preliminary matches, and it is difficult to see Eagle upsetting the powerful Juventus outfit, which seems to have become Eagle's hoodoo.

Both teams are probably stronger than they were last year, but there is still a serious question mark over Eagle's ability to perform when the chips are down. When they are under the sort of relentless pressure that Juventus is likely to apply, Eagle's players tend to run out of ideas, and it will be fascinating to see whether new coach Eugene Mycak has drilled his players to cope with such situations.

Striker John McIntyre is the player Eagle will have to stop if it is to stand any chance. He is the competition's leading scorer with six goals, and he grabbed four against Croatia last week. This will be much tougher, however, and McIntyre will have to find a way past solid defenders Mark Leszczynski and Michael Driessen in order to make a name for himself.

Even if Eagle copes with McIntyre's threat, there are many other Juventus players capable of scoring. Sergio Pace's goalscoring feats are almost legendary, while John Broadhouse's speed and trickery usually get him through the tightest defences.

White Eagle should have Andrew Leszczynski back after injury, but its chances will depend on it playing one-touch soccer and keeping the ball on the ground. This is how it overcame Olympia, Croatia and Caledonian in the preliminary games. Its failure to employ such tactics cost it the game against Juventus. Juventus is unlikely to accommodate White Eagle, however, preferring to stamp its own style on the game, and given its strength in depth, it should have more than enough options to win.

Chances go begging as Juventus scrapes in

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 89 – MARCH 1989 - CASCADE SUMMER CUP FINAL

Hobart Juventus notched up a remarkable fourth successive pre-season win when it defeated White Eagle 2-1 after extra-time in the Cadbury League section final of the Cascade Summer Cup soccer competition at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Juventus dominated for only brief periods during the game, but made better use of its scoring opportunities. John McIntyre, the Juventus spearhead, had a fine game, scoring both goals and laying off precise one-touch passes to bring team-mates into play. Eugene Banasik, of White Eagle, was deservedly man-of-the-match, keeping ace marksman Sergio Pace scoreless.

McIntyre opened the scoring for Juventus in the eighth minute, but Eagle equalised in the 16th minute following a foul on the edge of the penalty area. David Stoddart bent his free kick over the defensive wall and into the net. Eagle took control from then until the last 10 minutes, but shots went astray. Juventus' winning goal came nine minutes into extra-time, when Fabrizio's cross was turned into the net by McIntyre.

In the dying seconds, two Eagle efforts were blocked, but Juventus held on to give new coach David Smith his first success of the year.

Result White Eagle 1 (Stoddart), Lost to Hobart Juventus 2 (McIntyre 2)

There's plenty at stake in State League's second year

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/3/89

The Cadbury State League Soccer competition begins its second season Saturday, but with a difference. Whereas last year was, in effect, a trial season, with no promotion or relegation, this year everything will be in earnest. Most problems, both in terms of administration and on-field events, will have been ironed out, so fans can look forward to a top-class competition this season.

And, there will be everything to play for, with the wooden-spooner relegated at season's end and replaced by a team from the same region; that is, either northern or southern Tasmania. Robin Pulford, the State League manager last season, deserves much credit for putting the league on a solid foundation. Now that Mr Pulford has resigned, it is to be hoped that his successor, the clubs and other administrators will build on his work and make the competition a real success.

The season has begun well, with a very successful Cascade Summer Cup competition in the South and Century Motors Steve Hudson Cup series in the North. If they are any indication of what is to come, the State League will be worth watching. The 10-team league has one new outfit – Burnie United has replaced George Town United, which withdrew its nomination.

The Southern participants are White Eagle, Hobart Juventus, Olympia, Croatia-Glenorchy and Caledonian. The teams from the North are Launceston Juventus, Launceston (formerly known as Launceston Matric), Devonport City, Ulverstone and Burnie United. New players from overseas and interstate, new coaches, and old faces at new clubs will be a feature of the league this season. The conditions at most grounds are excellent – Devonport's Valley Road is reported to be outstanding, and this should foster high-quality soccer.

Youngsters to get chance in Southern competition

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/3/89

The Southern Tasmanian first division soccer competition this year will comprise thirteen teams, meaning there will be a bye each week. The teams competing are: Olympia, Hobart City, Rapid, Hobart Juventus, South Hobart, Taroona, Metro-Claremont, Croatia-Glenorchy, University, Caledonian, White Eagle, Howrah and Kingborough United.

Kingborough United is the new team and deserves its place. It performed exceptionally well in the second division last season and reached the final of this year's pre-season Cascade Summer Cup competition, losing 0-1 to Taroona.

A pleasing feature of this league is the fact that several clubs have their own grounds for matches as well as training. South Hobart, Taroona, Metro-Claremont, University and Kingborough United are able to play "at home" in the true sense of the word. Taroona's home-ground is a credit to manager John Ross, who keeps the playing surface and surroundings in immaculate condition. The facilities at Taroona would, in fact, be the envy of any State League outfit.

Taroona seems set for a great season. It won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup and has recruited well, although player Paul Furjanic will be leaving for another stint in Canada soon.

Olympia, the reigning league champion, is coached by Frank Letec, one of the former greats of Tasmanian soccer, but he will have an enormous task trying to retain the title.

Rapid has lost some players but should be near the top again as it has gained a few too, and coach Hans Streit's work should start to bear fruit this season. Hobart Juventus has plenty of budding young hopefuls and should prove a much better team than its pre-season performances indicated. With such a powerful State League squad at his disposal, coach David Smith will be able to use experienced players who can't get a run in the seniors in this team to provide the youngsters with guidance.

Coach Michael Walker is fostering youth at South Hobart and the club is certain to bring new talent to the game, something the club has always been noted for in the past. South Hobart has always been blessed with resilience and although it won't win the league this year, it will be trying.

Metro-Claremont is always an honest team and a tough nut to crack, especially on its home turf at North Chigwell, and coach Steve Pitchford will lead by example. Metro has always produced players who then go on to make names for themselves at other clubs. It's probably a useful exercise to scan the club's line-up this season and to see, in the years to come, how many of the names crop up at the highest level.

Croatia-Glenorchy will have a very young and inexperienced side as its senior State League team has been decimated and youngsters will be required to fill the gaps there, while University, as always, will be a good first division side, with a mixture of youth and experience.

The emphasis at White Eagle, under new coach Dale Itchins, will be on youth, and on improving skills and team work rather than on achieving miraculous results in terms of wins and points gained.

Caledonian has a mixture of promising youngsters and seasoned campaigners and a number of players should alternate between the State League team and the first division line-up. Howrah is under new coach Robert New and should be a force to be reckoned with, narrowly missing out on a semi-final berth in the pre-season tournament.
Hobart City failed to retain its pre-season trophy but with Kim Barker, the league's leading marksman in the line-up, it should do reasonably well in the premiership race under the guidance of coach Otto Klaus.

How State League teams shape up

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/3/89

The prospects of the Cadbury State League teams, together with player and coaching changes, are outlined below.

White Eagle

The reigning Cadbury State League champion will be a strong favourite to retain the title as it has strengthened its team and appointed a highly qualified and experienced European coach. Eugene Mycak, Eagle's non-playing coach, has coached and played professionally in Poland and the United States. This is his second spell at the club, but this term should be infinitely more successful than the first as he now has a much better command of the English language, and he knows the players.

Mycak is a physical education teacher and there will be no question mark about the team's fitness this season, as there has been in the past. Eagles lost to Hobart Juventus in the final of the Cascade Summer Cup competition, but the winner of this tournament rarely does well in the league.

Defender Bob Nicholson, from Sydney, and Franco Previdi, signed from Hobart Juventus but a former White Eagle player, are the club's two new players. Nicholson has already fitted in well, showing his usefulness at fullback and in midfield in the Cascade Summer Cup pre-season competition, while Previdi has shown he can score goals. White Eagle had a superb away record last season, a major factor in its title success. The club's first away game this year will be against Devonport City in the second round on April 8 and this will be a good indicator of Eagle's chances this season.

Hobart Juventus

Won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup series, defeating White Eagle 2-1 after extra time in the final, although this is a notoriously unreliable indicator of league prospects. Juventus finished fourth last season, but must be regarded as the most likely team to deprive White Eagle of the title.

State coach, David Smith, has taken over from disciplinarian Peter Irving, and he has made a number of useful signings to strengthen an already impressive squad. Juventus probably has more depth of talent than any other club and this will serve it well when injuries or illness take their inevitable toll during the season.

New signings are John and Michael McIntyre, Craig Tickner and Brett Williams, all from Croatia-Glenorchy. John McIntyre has already proved his worth as the leading scorer in the pre-season series with eight goals, while the presence of Williams gives coach Smith four excellent goalkeepers to select from, the others being Neil Connell, Craig Jones and Damon Youl.

Croatia's assistant coach last year, Steven Smith, has also joined Juventus as David Smith's assistant, so the club really does have cover in all departments. Steven Smith was an above-average goalkeeper before he retired, somewhat prematurely. If a catastrophe does occur, he is still young and fit enough to help Juventus out in goal if required.

Olympia

Produced dismal performances in the pre-season tournament, losing twice, drawing once, and winning only one game, by virtue of an own goal, against the weakest team. Coach David Crosson's biggest headache is a lack of strikers since the departure of Peter Sherman (Caledonian) Perry Forster (overseas) and Paul Xanthopoulos (Melbourne).

The club has replaced goalkeeper Martin Burden, who has gone overseas, with Phil Kannegiesser, who is as good as ever, despite being out of action for two years after a back operation. A new club is probably the tonic that Kannegiesser needed, and he is already proving his worth and showing why he was one of the State's beat goalkeepers in his younger days.

Greg Ashwood (Metro-Claremont), Carlo Ambrosino and Robbie Kent (Hobart Juventus), Glen McNeil (Launceston Juventus) and Tory Pepper (Croatia Glenorchy) are Olympia's other new signings. Olympia finished strongly towards the end of last season to come second in the league and take out the Bohemian Restaurant State-wide Cup, but a poor beginning cost it any hope of the league title.

It must strive to start on a high note this time and to put the pre-season results behind it. Crosson will be under a lot of pressure to give reserve-team players such as Billy Tsakiris, George Hages, Clinton Brown and Andrew Hart a chance to perform at a higher level in an effort to overcome the goal-scoring drought. After all, the Reserves did win the Rothmans League first division championship last year. But, they did poorly in the pre-season competition, failing to score a single goal, although new coach Frank Letec is sure to set things right pretty soon.

Caledonian

Finished in bottom place last season but the club has recruited well and should avoid relegation. Bret Anderton is the new coach. He is from Western Australia and played for Calies in 1980 before returning to Perth. Anderton came back to Tassie last year and saw out the latter stages of the season with Olympia before taking over the helm at Calies following the resignation of Jerry Marron.

New signings are John Paplos (South Hobart), Matt Wesson (Launceston Juventus), Peter Huigsloot (Croatia-Glenorchy), Peter Sherman (Olympia), Kevin Connell and Darren Anderton (Western Australia). Connell, a Scot, is the brother of Juventus goalkeeper, Neil Connell, and will be a very useful acquisition once he is fully match fit.

Calies' biggest problem is the fact they only have one recognised goalkeeper in Glen Stewart, and that is like playing with fire in a competition spanning 18 matches.

Croatia-Glenorchy

Croatia ended up in a disappointing sixth place last year but the going may well be even rougher this year as the club has been decimated, with no fewer than nine first-team players leaving for other clubs. Newly appointed coach, Neil Thomas, together with Ivan Baric and Nenad Zajec, are the only experienced regulars left from last season.

Thomas will, therefore, have to rely on youngsters such as Michael Kerschbaum, Yago Dzelalija, Tuach Hussein, Steve Blythe and Marijan Begovic to supplement players such as Ian Eyles, Robbie Huigsloot, Robbie Baric, Robbie Johnson and Alan Grundy, all of whom have some senior experience.

Croatia achieved a major coup by signing State goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic from Rapid, but he won't be able to save the team on his own. Thomas will have to try to build a team, while at the same time staving off relegation. This will be a most difficult task.

Launceston Juventus

Probably the strongest of the Northern contenders, having already won the Century Motors Steve Hudson pre-season competition. Peter Savill, the ex-Leeds United player, has taken over as coach from Ross Wesson. Savill, the assistant state coach, is an outstanding player and the example he sets will bring the best out of his charges. He takes the game seriously, as do all the Northern coaches.

Three of them have already been seen watching games in the South in order to size up opponents. Juventus has lost three English imports, brothers Colin and Steve Guest, and Andy Geary, but has replaced them with two new Englishmen from the Accrington Stanley club, Mark Heyes and Paul Ewert. Heyes is a very mobile striker who is good in the air, while Ewert is a fullback with a cultured left foot. Former Rothmans Gold Medallist, Liam Monagle, played for Juventus in the pre-season tournament but it is not certain that he will appear for the Zebras in the league season.

Launceston

Known as Launceston Matric last season, the team finished second last, but a successful recruiting campaign should improve things. Peter Davidson from Devonport City is the new coach who replaces Scott McKay, and new players include Branco Barac, a defender from George Town United, and goalkeeper Quentin Darby, originally from Devonport. Brian Davidson, a dual Rothmans Gold Medallist, appeared for the club in the Steve Hudson Cup – Launceston lost 0-1 in the Final to Launceston Juventus – but he may not sign for the league season.

Devonport City

City completed last season in mid-table and coach Ken Morton will be looking to improve on that performance. The team lacks strikers, as evidenced by its solitary draw and two losses in the pre-season competition, although City did beat Launceston Juventus 3-1 in a friendly last week. New players are Tim Jones, a midfielder from Burnie who spent last year in the United States, Ian Hendey, a left full-back from Riverside Olympic, and Noel Nethery, a midfielder from Ulverstone. Morton claims Devonport will be more difficult to beat this year, but says the team's fortunes will still depend on whether chances can be put away.

Ulverstone

Ulverstone was in trouble for most of last season but finished third last and new coach Alex McDonald will have much the same squad to work with. McDonald knows what the game is about. He coached Devonport two seasons ago and the team went 37 games without defeat.

The average age of Ulverstone's team is 20 years and youngsters such as midfielder Anthony Guilbert, goalkeeper Justin Smith, and striker Michael Jones will be given their chance. Central defender Les Jones is the oldest player at 35 years of age, while former player-coach Joe McGrory has retired. McDonald operates on a two-year plan – the first year is devoted to teambuilding, while the second year provides proof of the pudding. He believes his team will be competitive, if not a world beater.

Burnie United

Burnie is the new team in the competition, replacing George Town United, and coach Mike Denton, a former Australian international, knows exactly what he's up against. Denton acknowledges that Burnie's first priority is survival, and he concedes that one of the biggest problems his players will face is adapting to the pace of State League soccer.

New signings are Meno Bertucci, a striker from Ulverstone, Howard Edwards, a utility player who has just returned after playing and coaching in England, San Lewis, a goalkeeper making a comeback after a knee injury, and Neville Diprose, a striker just out of the army. Burnie also hopes to sign Darby Conlan, a name well known to Southern fans. The former Olympia stalwart runs an indoor cricket centre in Burnie. Denton will also rely on regulars such as midfielder Jamie Howell, the State Apprentice of the Year, who works at APPM, striker Steve Foley, and Pat and Russell Troughton.

Eagle comes back fighting

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3-4-89

WHITE EAGLE, the reigning Cadbury State League soccer champion, showed it will not relinquish its title easily when it fought back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat the visiting Launceston Juventus 4-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Launceston Juventus had the better of the opening half, with new signing from England, Paul Ewert, shining at left fullback, and former Rothmans Gold Medallist, Liam Monagle, recently acquired from Devonport City keeping Eagle's David Stoddart quiet in midfield. Juventus' other English import, striker Mark Heyes, showed plenty of speed and mobility and managed a couple of good strikes at goal, but he was generally well covered by Eugene Banasik.

Five of the six goals in this match came as a result of set pieces which indicated the trouble the strikers were having in finding space and scoring positions. Juventus opened its account on the quarter-hour, following Banasik's foul on Roger Mies, almost on the goal-line on the left side of the penalty area. Peter Savill knocked the free-kick into the goal-area, the Eagle defence failed to clear adequately, and right fullback Luigi Gugliotti struck a fierce volley past Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud from the far side of the box.

Eagle, which lost defender Michael Driessen with a hamstring strain after 30 minutes and replaced him with Sean Collins who was making his first appearance of the season, fell further behind two minutes before the interval. The unfortunate Banasik again conceded a free-kick, this time for a foul on Heyes, and Ewert drove the ball straight as an arrow into the top left-hand corner of the goal from 30 metres.

Brett Harwood scrambled a goal back for Eagle a minute later when goalkeeper Warren Dent's attempted punch caused the ball to ricochet into the net, but the situation looked bleak for the league champion at the interval. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, replaced midfielder Craig Pitt with Franco Previdi for the second half as he felt Previdi would handle the wet, slippery conditions better. The tactic paid off as Previdi equalised midway through the half with a volley after Scott Young had headed Neil Morrison's corner down for him.

This seemed to be the tonic Eagle needed and with three points in sight, the team increased the tempo of its game and scored twice in the final 20 minutes to grab a meritorious win. Andrew Leszczynski's 25-metre free- kick in the 70th minute gave Eagle the lead for the first time in the match, while Young's header from Morrison's free kick four minutes from time ended any hope Juventus may have held.

Devonport City caused the shock of the round when it downed Hobart Juventus 3-0 after a goal-less opening half in yesterday's curtain-raiser at KGV. City started the day on a surprising note by unveiling new signing Peter Sawdon, last year's Rothmans Gold Medal winner from George Town United, while Juventus missed the influence of injured goal-getter Sergio Pace.

Substitute Billy Frame, who replaced Fabio Pizzerani, capitalised on a penetrating pass by Chris Gleeson to give Devonport the lead in the 63rd minute, and Gleeson's volley nine minutes later made it 2-0 for Ken Morton's team.

A harsh 75th minute penalty, awarded for a foul by Frank Genovesi on Sawdon, made the game safe for the visitors. Juventus goalkeeper Neil Connell appeared to legitimately save Kevin Smith's first spot-kick, but referee Brett McKay ordered the kick retaken, claiming Connell had moved before the ball was kicked.

The incensed Connell was cautioned by McKay for throwing the ball away in disgust at the decision. Smith scored with his second attempt.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Harwood, Previdi, A. Leszczynski, Young) def. Launceston Juventus 2 (Gugliotti. Ewert)

Peter Groenewoud at full stretch against Launceston Juventus

Eagle may have trouble in Devonport stronghold

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 7/4/89

White Eagle faces the stiffest test yet of its ability to retain the Cadbury State League soccer title when it travels to Valley Road tomorrow to meet Devonport City. Devonport outclassed Hobart Juventus 3-0 away from home last weekend. The fact that Juventus defeated White Eagle 2-1 in the Cascade Summer Cup final, shows the enormity of Eagle's task against City.

White Eagle will probably start with the same line-up that finished in the 4-2 win over the visiting Launceston Juventus last week. This means that Franco Previdi may be preferred to Craig Pitt in midfield, while fullback Sean Collins could hold his place over Bob Nicholson, who has recovered from a hamstring injury.

Defender Michael Driessen, who has excelled when coming forward and who scored in the pre-season competition, will be out with a hamstring strain and he will be severely missed. Striker Richard Leszczynski has not trained because of a cold, while captain and defender Mark Leszczynski and midfielder David Stoddart are still not fully fit, but all three should play.

Devonport was extremely well-organised last week, and the acquisition of Peter Sawdon has provided the team with a whole new dimension in attack. Kevin Smith has adjusted well to his new role in the centre of defence, while new signing Ian Hendey should give the side plenty of drive from the left-fullback position. Devonport must come out and attack on its home turf, however, and this may be its undoing as Eagle is a master of counterattack and it may well grab the three points in this very attractive fixture.

Caledonian will have an unchanged 13-man squad from that which defeated Launceston when it entertains Ulverstone at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday. Coach Bret Anderton, and his brother, Darren, will be on the bench. Anderton was pleased with Calies' performance last week and, although he won't take Ulverstone lightly, he is confident of a win.

He will emphasise to his players the need to keep the ball on the ground because Ulverstone has some very tall defenders. "If we can get six points from our first two games, we'll be in good shape and can look forward to our forthcoming match against Olympia," Anderton said.

Sunday's main feature at KGV pits Croatia-Glenorchy against Launceston and the visitor must be favoured to win. Croatia will be without New Zealander Alan Brian. The defender was sent off by referee Greg Priest last week, after the final whistle in the match against Burnie United as the teams were leaving the field.

Croatia is up against it this year, but youngsters such as Tuach Hussein, who scored against Burnie, and Marijan Begovic, who played in defence, will give it everything. Energy and enthusiasm will not be enough, however, as Croatia found out in the preseason series, and Launceston's Andy Fraser and company should make the most of their visit.

In Sunday's remaining match, the surprising league-leader after the first round, Burnie United, should come to earth with a thump when it visits Launceston Juventus at Prospect. Juventus should relish the home ground advantage and display all its skills and it must be favoured to atone for last week's lapse. Midfielder Liam Monagle should play a major role in the dismantling of Burnie, while Roger Mies and Mark Heyes up front should be the major executioners.

White Eagle shows it's still top of class

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 9/4/89

White Eagle showed it definitely had the class to retain the Cadbury State League soccer title when it defeated Devonport City 4-2 at Valley Road yesterday.

Devonport literally gave the first two goals to Eagle on a platter in the opening 20 minutes, and there was no way the league champion was going to relinquish such a lead. Peter Sawdon was the only Devonport player to trouble Eagle, while goalkeeper Bob Smith had the sort of game he would want to forget. Devonport coach Ken Morton said his side gave away the ball much too easily and often, and he readily conceded Eagle deserved the win.

A poor back-pass in the opening minute by Chris Gleeson enable Brett Harwood to put Eagle ahead, while Andrew Leszczynski got on to the end of a free kick to make it 2-0 after 20 minutes. Harwood grabbed his second goal of the game 10 minutes before half-time when Smith could only palm a free kick down to the striker's feet. Devonport reduced the arrears in the 40th minute when a build-up down the left finished with Sawdon providing Wayne Boyd with a neat goal, but Eagle was looking much too strong and confident at this stage to be overtaken.

Eagle's Craig Pitt replaced Franco Previdi for the second half, and the southerners made sure of the three points when midfielder David Stoddart scored direct from a free kick, taken from just outside the penalty area, midway through the period.

Evergreen Billy Frame pulled a second goal back for the home side when he snapped up the loose ball after Peter Groenewoud could only parry Sawdon's shot, but Eagle had no trouble in holding in for its second successive victory.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Harwood 2, A. Leszczynski, Stoddart) def. Devonport 2 (Boyd, Frame)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Howrah continued to set the pace in the southern First Division competition with a 3-0 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at South Hobart. Karl Brightman gave Howrah a 1-0 lead at the interval, while an own goal by Croatia's Kevin Wright, and a strike by Malcom Lockley, completed the scoring.

Hobart City was rocked by White Eagle's Michael Case, who headed Karl Plaznik's accurate cross firmly past Matthew Rhodes, in the main feature at South Hobart. This only served to unleash City's fury, however, and it replied with five goals before the interval, three of them coming from centre-forward Kim Barker, and the other two from David Hobbs and Angelo Pignalosa. White Eagle missed a great chance to get back into contention early in the second half when Jacobs blasted a penalty high over the bar.

Tattersall did score a couple of minutes later, but City hung on for the rest of the half. A quick break from defence five minutes from time enabled Andy Ferrall to score and give Metro-Claremont a 1-0 win over Kingborough United at North Chigwell.

Result: White Eagle 1 (Case) Lost to Hobart City 5 (Barker 3, Hobbs, Pignalosa)

Weakened Juventus won't carry hoodoo

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/4/89

White Eagle will be close to full strength when it clashes with Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday in one of the best matches of the third round of the Cadbury State League soccer competition. In contrast, Juventus will again be handicapped by injury and unavailability, and all the omens point to White Eagle overcoming its bogey team at last.

The only mark surrounding Eagle concerns the fitness of defender Michael Driessen. He missed last week's outstanding away win over Devonport City because of a hamstring strain, but may be fit in time for Sunday's showdown. Juventus will still be without top midfielder Steve Kannegiesser, who is in Sydney, while Craig Tickner is automatically suspended for this game after being sent off against Olympia in the previous round.

Striker John McIntyre and midfielder Sergio Pace are both still under injury clouds. McIntyre missed the 2-0 victory over Olympia, while Pace played when he really shouldn't have as he was only half-fit, and may well have aggravated his injury.

Goalkeeper Neil Connell is still plagued by a groin injury and coach David Smith may prefer to play Craig Jones in goal. Smith will also expect big things from young midfielder Romeo Frediani. He hasn't been a regular this season because work commitments have prevented him from training. The club's training schedule was recently altered slightly to accommodate Frediani, and Smith will expect the youngster to repay him by producing a top performance.

Smith will adopt a defensive approach to the match, playing five men in midfield and only one up front, relying on the quick break to catch Eagle out. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, was elated after last week's win and he must be confident that his players can exorcise the hoodoo that Juventus represents once and for all.

Eagle manager Eddie Kempa went on stop further and said that if Eagle wins this encounter, it may well go through the league season unbeaten. The league champion is certainly in great form and it should be able to defeat a Juventus side that may be a little too defensive in its approach for its own good.

Caledonian striker Peter Sherman comes up against his former team when Calies face Olympia in Sunday's main attraction at KGV – and he could hold the key to the match. Sherman notched the decisive goal when Calies defeated Olympia 3-2 in the pre-season competition and, with Olympia's lack of striking power still evident, a similar outcome is possible this time.

Calies will have to perform for 90 minutes instead of just 45 if they are to win. In the 1-2 loss to Ulverstone last weekend, the side only played with conviction in the second half and by then it was too late to salvage even a point.

Sunday's remaining match is the Launceston derby between Launceston and Launceston Juventus at Prospect, and statistics indicate it should be a very close tussle with a draw a distinct possibility. Launceston won 5-0 last week and Juventus won 6-0, while Juventus defeated Launceston 1-0 in the final of the northern pre-season competition.

In the two remaining matches scheduled for tomorrow, Croatia-Glenorchy seems set for a fruitless trip to Ulverstone, while Devonport City can revive its fortunes with a win away to Burnie United.

White Eagle skips to three-point lead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/4/89

A penalty by Andrew Leszczynski five minutes from time gave White Eagle a 3-2 win over Hobart Juventus in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

White Eagle is now the only unbeaten team in the competition with three wins from three outings and is three points clear of Devonport City, Olympia and Ulverstone. Olympia moved into third spot with a 2-0 triumph over Caledonian,

while Launceston Juventus and Launceston remain locked together on four points but drop into mid-table after their 2-2 draw at Prospect yesterday.

Juventus had slightly the better of the first half with Romeo Fabrizio providing width down the left and sending over some very dangerous crosses for John Broadhouse. White Eagle almost took the lead immediately after the resumption when Billy Stanford's suicidal back-pass was intercepted by Richard Leszczynski, but the striker rounded the keeper only to make a difficult angle for himself and shoot wide.

Brett Harwood made amends in the 54th minute, however, when Jones' clearing kick was knocked straight back towards goal. Andrew Leszczynski won the ball in the air; Harwood beat Bruce Pears to the ball and sent it under Jones' body and into the net to give Eagle a 1-0 lead.

When Scott Young headed home Andrew Leszczynski's corner eight minutes later, the contest seemed over but Eagle underestimated Juventus' power of recovery. A magnificent strike from the edge of the penalty area in the 69th minute by Fabrizio had Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud clutching at thin air and put Juventus back in contention, while Broadhouse's header five minutes later, from Fabrizio's cross, made it all square at 2-2.

Richard Leszczynski should have sealed the game for Eagle with 10 minutes to go when he had only Jones to beat, but the keeper blocked the shot, so it was left to Andrew Leszczynski to complete the task from the penalty spot after defender Mark Kelly turned Harwood's header, from Morrison's corner, over the bear with his hands.

Olympia and Caledonian produced a scrappy and scoreless opening half in their encounter at KGV yesterday. Peter Huigsloot was a tower of strength in the Calies defence, winning most of the aerial duels because of his height, and blocking many passes on the ground with his long legs.

Calies fashioned a couple of good attacking moves, such as when John Paplos' superb pass from defence released Peter Sherman through the middle, and when Matt Wesson sprinted forward but just failed to find Peter Jordan at the far post.

But Michael Berwick, Lars Koch, Glen McNeil and Peter Thompson in the Olympia defence generally had things well under control, making it a boring afternoon for goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser. Olympia coach, David Crosson, came on for the injured Chris Hey five minutes after half-time and the game immediately swung in Olympia's favour as Crosson introduced a sense of urgency into his team's play.

A clever back-heel by Paul Xanthopoulos enabled Roger Munro to give Olympia the lead in the 70th minute, while Xanthopoulos' low drive seven minutes later made it 2-0. Nichols should have added a third goal for Olympia in the closing seconds, but his shot flashed across the empty goalmouth.

In yesterday's Launceston derby, Launceston came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Launceston Juventus after a goalless first half.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Harwood, Young, A. Leszczynski pen) def. Hobart Juventus 2 (Fabrizio, Broadhouse)

'Eagle' could extend run and soar above Olympia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/4/89

White Eagle should make it four wins in a row when it meets Olympia in tonight's Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park. Eagle, the reigning league champion, has shown tremendous form home and away, whereas Olympia's performances have been erratic, and this indicates Eagle should open up a six-point gap between it and its nearest rivals, Devonport City, Olympia, and Ulverstone.

Eugene Mycak, the coach of White Eagle, expects to be able to field the same starting line-up that beat Hobart Juventus 3-2 on the weekend. Full-back Sean Collins is still injured, while central defender, Michael Driessen, will be given more time to recover from a hamstring injury. Driessen desperately wants to play, but Mycak is reluctant to allow him back too soon in case he breaks down again.

Midfielder Franco Previdi may have to wait his turn again on the substitute's bench as Mycak believes he needs more self-discipline, must adopt more responsibility in the centre of the field, and must learn to play off the ball rather than just when in possession. If Previdi can do this, Mycak believes he can be a very good player and a vital component of the team.

Mycak put his team through a 40-minute training session last night in preparation for this match, which he believes Eagle can win, and take another step towards retaining the title.

Olympia coach, David Crosson, concedes that tonight's game will be a difficult one, and that White Eagle will be a hard team to topple. "We'll have to play above ourselves to win because everything favours them and we don't have the fire-power up front," Crosson said. "It's a game we'd love to win, and the players are quite capable of doing it, but they must believe in themselves.

They've got to keep their heads up. I mean, what's a bad pass in this league? It's certainly not the end of the world." Michael Goldsmith, Glen McNeil and Paul Xanthopoulos came through Sunday's 2-0 win over Caledonian all right after returning from injury and all three will play tonight. Chris Hey went off injured on Sunday, but should be fit for tonight.

Crosson regards him as extremely versatile and able to play anywhere on the field. Carlo Ambrosino, who has been troubled by groin and hamstring injuries, has not been training and will again be absent. Crosson will be on the substitutes' bench at the start, but he may well come on during the course of the match, depending on how Olympia is faring, as he has an almost magical effect on the team when he plays.

His influence cannot be underestimated. He came on just after the interval against Calies, and Olympia promptly scored twice to win the match. Eagle will do well to take precise countermeasures should they see Crosson warming up.

White Eagle consolidates at head of table

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 20/4/89

White Eagle opened up a six-point gap over its nearest rivals in the Cadbury State League soccer competition when it defeated third-placed Olympia 1-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night. Eagle had numerous scoring chances but only found the net once, in the 18th minute, when Andrew Leszczynski barged through the sleeping Olympia defence and mid-fielder Craig Pitt blasted the loose ball past Phil Kannegiesser.

Olympia might have won a penalty in the 33rd minute when goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud appeared to foul Paul Xanthopoulos after a suicidal back-pass by Andrew Leszczynski, but when it did win one just before halftime, it threw away the gift. In the 41st minute, Paul Harwood lost possession in his own penalty area, fell over, and tried to clear the ball while lying on the ground, but only succeeded in up-ending Craig Nichols.

Referee John Howlin had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot, but Michael Goldsmith sent his kick high over the crossbar. Groenewoud was only called into action once, when he pulled off a first-class save against Nichols' free kick. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, paid tribute to Olympia, saying it was the most difficult opponent Eagle had yet faced.

Poor finishing and an inability to beat Olympia's off-side trap were other weaknesses in his team, Mycak said, and he would have to work on these aspects in the 10-day interval before Eagle's next game. In last night's curtain-raiser,

Result: White Eagle 1 (Pitt) def. Olympia 0

Late goal saves Juventus from drab draw

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/4/89

A goal two minutes from the end by Liam Monagle gave Launceston Juventus a 2-1 win over Ulverstone in their Cadbury State League soccer match at Prospect yesterday.

With time rapidly running out and a draw seeming inevitable, Juventus' recent signing, Steve Morley, attacked down the right and Monagle met his cross and fired home from the edge of the penalty area. Juventus had taken a first-half lead when Ulverstone only partially cleared a corner, and the ball was knocked back into the penalty area for David Abraham to score.

Andrew Howe equalised for the visitor in the second half, after a long free kick by John Compagne. "Snowy" Compagne challenged goalkeeper Warren Dent for the ball, which fell loose, and Howe touched it into the net. Juventus might have made it 3-1 when it won a penalty, but the usually reliable Paul Ewart failed with his spot-kick.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Howrah maintained its unbeaten record in the Premier Division One competition with a 1-0 win over Rapid at South Hobart. Alistair Hales scored the all-important goal which gave Howrah its fourth successive victory. It retains top spot on the ladder and has yet to concede a goal.

Hobart City retained second position on goal difference after defeating University 2-1, also at South Hobart. City lost striker Kim Barker through injury in the early stages of the game, but it already looked well in command by the time he left the field. Matthew Sly should have given City the lead on at least two occasions. First, he blazed wildly across the goal when it might have been easier to score, and then he ran on to a perfectly weighted through-ball from Angelo Pignalosa, only to see his feeble shot cleared off the line by Justin Edwards.

University's solitary attempt at goal in the first half came from James Forbes, who sent a firm, long-range effort over the bar. A great shot into the far corner of the net by Pignalosa three minutes before the interval gave City a deserved lead. In the 73rd minute, Robbie Marino showed the Uni defence a clean pair of heels as he sprinted down the right and finished with a delightful chip over goalkeeper David Cruse to make it 2-0. Chris Behrens pulled a goal back for the students seven minutes from time, but although they tried hard for an equaliser, the City defence, marshalled well by David Hobbs and Luciano Raglione, held out for all three points.

Metro-Claremont paid the price for missing two penalties by going down 1-3 to Hobart Juventus in a tough, physical clash at North Chigwell. Andy Ferrall, who missed one of those penalties and had the other saved by Brett Williams, eventually scored for Metro, but two goals by Michael LaPolla, one of which was also a penalty, and another by Rocky Schiro, saw Juventus move up from sixth to fifth place in the standings.

In yesterday's two remaining matches, White Eagle easily accounted for South Hobart 3-0 at the Athletic Centre, while Taroona scraped home 1-0 against Kingborough, at Taroona. Senior player Bob Nicholson hit two of Eagle's goals, the other coming from Alec Tattersall, while Rod Sanders notched Taroona's winner.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Nicholson 2, Tattersall) def. South Hobart 0

Juventus back to full strength

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 28/4/89

Hobart Juventus soccer coach David Smith must have been one of the most contented personalities in the game last night. For the first time this season, Smith had a full senior squad to select from at training, and this augurs well for the side's chances in its Cadbury State League soccer clash against Launceston at Ogilvie Park tomorrow.

Smith predicted a 'fairly physical' match, and he must be pleased that midfielder Steve Kannegiesser is back after holidaying in Sydney. Kannegiesser, who got back into the swing of things by turning out for the reserves on Wednesday night, is one of the hardest men in Tasmanian soccer and Juventus will welcome his presence in the vital midfield zone.

Juventus had only a light workout last week when it romped home 8-0 against Burnie United. Tomorrow's encounter will show whether it is championship material. Smith is now in the position that every coach dreams of – he has a talented squad in which everyone has to fight for their place. It is this sort of pressure that will bring the best out of the players and Juventus should win to stay in touch with the leading teams.

Devonport City will make one change to its team for the coastal derby against Ulverstone at Knights Road tomorrow – Tim Jones is out with a groin injury and will be replaced by Gary Pennicott. Anthony Rimmer will move forward into the midfield as a result. This is an area in which coach Ken Morton is relying on his team to outplay Ulverstone and Rimmer's performance will be crucial. Morton also has been working on ways to break down Ulverstone's sweeper system, as well as exploiting the flanks, and it is difficult to see any other result than a favourable one for Devonport, which currently occupies second place.

Burnie United's players must be awaiting the visit of White Eagle on Sunday with trepidation. Crippled by Juventus in Hobart last week, Burnie must surely expect to receive the coup de grace from the reigning champion, which has yet to be defeated in the league this season. Eagle will be at full strength and its form away from home is flawless. Memories of their 6-1 home defeat at the hands of Devonport must still be fresh in the Burnie players' minds and they can expect a similar drubbing on the weekend.

Eagle coach, Eugen Mycak, was loud in his praise of sweeper and captain, Mark Leszczynski and goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud after his side's 1-0 win over Olympia, and this pair should be able to neutralise any threat that Burnie might pose in attack.

Sunday will be win or bust ad far as Caledonian is concerned when it entertains Launceston Juventus in the opening attraction of the double-header at KGV. Caledonian started the season with great hopes, but the dream is in danger of fading if Calies lose this game, a distinct possibility.

Peter Sherman, who missed last week's 1-1 draw with Croatia-Glenorchy, is reported to be disaffected with the club and, if he is absent again, Calies' striking power will be severely restricted.

Olympia also faces a needle encounter in Sunday's main fixture at KGV against a Croatia-Glenorchy side that is gaining in stature and confidence with every game. Croatia did well to gain its first point of the season against Calies and newcomers Brian Davidson and Chris Bessell should start to show their influence now they are over their debuts. Olympia has had ten days' rest, however, and with its players full of zest and enthusiasm, it should be able to return to winning ways.

In-form Howrah poised to regain top spot on ladder

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 29/4/89

Taroona will be out to shatter Howrah's impressive record of four wins on the trot, and no goals conceded, when the teams meet in the curtain-raiser of today's Premier Division One soccer double-header at South Hobart. It will be a gigantic task for the Cascade Summer Cup holder, however, as Howrah has a tremendous incentive to win.

A Howrah victory will re-establish it as the league leader, a position it relinquished to Hobart City in midweek when City defeated Croatia-Glenorchy 3-1. Both teams are extremely talented in all departments and it is difficult to envisage anything but a draw, a result that will please no-one more than Hobart City and Caledonian.

White Eagle will be coached by senior player Scott Young for its match against Caledonian in today's late game at South Hobart. Regular coach, Dale Itchins, will be attending the wedding of his team's captain, Robert Jacobs, who, ironically joined Eagle this year from Calies. Eagle has won two of its three league games this season and must pose a threat to the unbeaten Calies outfit. Itchins was hoping for a last-minute clearance for Taroona striker, Simon Oliver, who wants to join Eagle. Oliver would be a very handy player to have, especially in the striking department.

Calies have performed impressively to date, and with Peter Jordan leading the attack, it should just get home and stay level on points with the leading team, or teams. South Hobart and University have yet to gain a single point in

the league this season so their confrontation at the Athletic Centre will be a desperate, frantic affair. University must be a slight favourite as it has the more experienced players, even though they may not have shown their best form so far this year.

With Kingborough United having the bye, the only other road open to Premier Division One fans today leads to North Chigwell, where the home team, Metro-Claremont, should be too capable for the visiting Olympia, which currently holds a one-point advantage in the standings over its host.

Juventus' bid for title lifted by easy win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/4/89

Hobart Juventus indicated it will be a serious title contender when it thrashed Launceston 5-1 in their Cadbury State League soccer match at Ogilvie Park yesterday. John McIntyre and Sergio Pace gave the visitor a 2-0 lead, only to see Phil Davis pull a goal back for Launceston two minutes before the interval. Frank Genovesi showed he has fully recovered from injury by hitting Juventus' third just after the break, while Pace and Nick DiMartino finished Launceston off with two goals in the space of five minutes near the end.

Devonport City took over the league leadership on goal difference from White Eagle by scoring a somewhat fortunate 2-1 away win against Ulverstone at Knight's Road. Devonport's hold on the top spot should only be temporary, however, as White Eagle should annihilate Burnie United at Montello Park today. A penalty by Andrew Howe gave Ulverstone a first-half lead, but a poor back-pass allowed Ken Morton to equalise for Devonport in the opening minutes of the second period. Billy Frame struck Devonport's winner, from a Peter Sawdon's cross, 10 minutes into the second half.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In Premier Division One, Howrah regained top spot with a stirring 4-2 win over Taroona at South Hobart in an excellent match that would have equalled anything the State League has to offer. Howrah's Karl Brightman, Scott Hadley and Paul Engels took advantage of Taroona's slack marking to establish a 3-0 lead for Howrah in the first half.

In the second half Taroona replaced Paul Furjanic with Simon Oliver. Oliver's passing, and his free kicks, caused problems for the Howrah defence, while one of his shots crept narrowly past a post. Leon Darko, who has moved from sweeper to midfield, smashed home Rod Sanders' clever back-heel in the 54th minute to put Taroona in with a chance.

A minute later, Howrah lost Andrew Dobbie through injury, and Taroona began to gain control in midfield. Brightman should have made the game safe for Howrah on the hour, but he places his penalty kick over the bar, a mistake that seemed as if it would have disastrous consequences when Brett Ross scored from the penalty spot, at his third attempt, to make the score only 3-2 in Howrah's favour.

Mark Broadbent almost demolished the Howrah woodwork with a thundering shot in the 72nd minute, but the injured Jimmy Bell retuned to the field on virtually one leg to notch Howrah's fourth goal in the very last minute. Damian Smith was outstanding in goal for Howrah. He was beaten for the first time in 414 minutes by Darko's goal, but made three crucial saves. Smith even pulled off two penalty saves from Brett Ross. Smith saved the first, only to see referee John Raymond order it to be retaken. He saved again, but Ross got to the rebound first and scored.

Polished Launceston Juventus takes shine off Caledonian

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/5/89

Launceston Juventus produced a polished display of soccer to defeat Caledonian 2-0 in their Cadbury State League encounter at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Juventus scored once in each half, the first goal coming after a well-rehearsed free kick in the 37th minute. Savill knocked the ball wide to the right, Morley floated it to the far post, and Heyes suddenly materialised to turn it past a helpless Glen Stewart. Juventus' second goal, in the 68th minute, had an element of luck about it. Calies' sweeper, Paul Fenlon, tried to clear near the right touch-line, but the ball cannoned off Heyes to Mies, who was unmarked in the middle. He advanced on goal from the edge of the penalty area and calmly picked his spot. Mies had two other good chances in the first half, but headed over the bar on the first occasion, and shot into the side-netting on the second.

Calies replaced the injured Kevin Connell with coach Bret Anderton at half-time and he missed at least three scoring opportunities early in the second period. The Juventus back-four of Liam Monagle, Paul Gimpl, Luigi Gugliotti and David Craig held a tight rein on Ian Parker and Peter Sherman throughout the match and this proved to be the keystone to the visitor's victory.

Olympia totally outclassed Croatia-Glenorchy to win 3-2 in yesterday's other match at KGV, but it should have been by a much greater margin. A bullet-like shot from 30 metres by Croatia coach Neil Thomas gave his side the lead after seven minutes, only to see Roger Munro equalise a minute later with a shot from the edge of the penalty area that went in off a post.

Phil Kannegiesser had to block a hot shot from Nenad Zajec in the 12th minute, but from then until half-time it was all Olympia. Craig Nichols missed three simple chances, while Croatia goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic did well to turn Carlo Ambrosino's drive around the post for a corner. Two second-half goals by Paul Xanthopoulos clinched the match for Olympia, and only some brilliant goalkeeping by Belanic prevented the striker from scoring twice more.

Xanthopoulos' first came two minutes after the resumption from a Michael Goldsmith corner, while the second came from the penalty spot in the 64th minute, after Tuach Hussein had fouled Chris Hey. Chris Barrell, a former Olympia player, scored an easy goal right on the final whistle to make the score line look much more respectable than Croatia's performance.

White Eagle retained its three-point lead at the top with an easy 5-0 win away to Burnie United at Montello Park. Brett Harwood struck twice and David Stoddart once to give Eagle a 3-0 lead at the interval, while goals by Scott Young and David Stoddart within 15 minutes of the re-start completed the rout. Burnie's solitary chance came when coach Mike Denton chipped past goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, but Eagle skipper Mark Leszczynski cleared off the line. Richard Leszczynski might have made it six goals, but his effort hit a post.

Result: White Eagle 5 (Harwood 2, Stoddart 2, Young) def. Burnie United 0

Davidson's men need to soar to stay with Eagle

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 5/5/89

The five leading teams in the Cadbury State League soccer competition should all win on the weekend and increase the gap between themselves and the teams in the bottom half of the table.

League leader White Eagle will be at full strength and should have the measure of the visiting Launceston in Sunday's main match at KGV Soccer Park. The league champion has kept a clean sheet in its past two outings, indicating a watertight defence, but there is still ample scope for improvement up front, where the finishing could be more effective.

Franco Previdi and Bob Nicholson will have to be content to start on the substitutes' bench yet again, and indication of how difficult it is to get into such a successful side, while full-back Sean Collins is out for at least a month with a recurring thigh injury.

Launceston is playing better than its recent score lines indicate, but it will take an exceptional performance from Peter Davidson's men to upset the league leader.

Devonport City coach Ken Morton is confident of staying in touch with Eagle by defeating the visiting Caledonian at Valley Road tomorrow. Morton has a full complement to select from and he said it was merely a case of his players having confidence and believing in themselves.

Caledonian, on the other hand, has several problems, with Peter Sherman again out of sorts and unlikely to play after missing training, and Ian Parker doubtful because of an ankle injury. Coach Bret Anderton may have to play himself in attack from the start, while his brother, Darren, or Tony Shields, may also gain a place.

Olympia coach David Crosson is refusing to take his team's trip to Burnie tomorrow lightly, although anything but an Olympia win, against a side that has conceded 26 goals to date, is difficult to contemplate. Olympia midfielder Carlo Ambrosino is doubtful because of a hamstring strain and Crosson may play himself in this position. Crosson does have a touch of the flu, however, so Kon Tsiakis may get the nod if Crosson does not feel up to playing.

The attitude of Olympia's players will be the vital factor in this confrontation, according to Crosson, who never takes any game for granted.

Hobart Juventus goal ace, Sergio Pace, should add to his tall of five goals in three games when his team meets Ulverstone in Sunday's early game at KGV. Juventus is expecting a tough, physical game, with very tight marking – features of all northern sides – but once it survives Ulverstone's initial challenge and gets into its own rhythm, it should dictate the pattern of play.

Ulverstone has many fine players – the three Compagne boys and Andrew Howe are just some – but they should be eclipsed by Juventus' galaxy of stars.

The atmosphere at Croatia-Glenorchy is reported to be excellent by coach Neil Thomas and the southerners will go into their match against Launceston Juventus at Prospect on Sunday with high hopes. Croatia will field the same starting line-up as in the 2-3 defeat against Olympia last week and, with Brian Davidson and Chris Bessell starting to fit into the team, Juventus will have no room for complacency. Juventus is a well-drilled team, however, and it is unlikely to drop any points as it maintains its challenge for the title.

Olympia demolishes Burnie

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 7/5/89

Olympia finally found its scoring touch at Montello Park yesterday, annihilating Burnie United 8-1 in their Cadbury State League soccer encounter. Paul Xanthopoulos hit a hattrick, Michael Goldsmith found the net twice, while Carlo Ambrosino, Roger Munro and Craig Nichols all scored a goal each.

Russell Troughton was Burnie's solitary marksman against an Olympia side which had cruised to a 3-0 lead by the interval. Olympia move into third place, while Burnie, which must have wished Olympia's bus had broken down on the way to the Coast, remains in second-last spot, two points ahead of Croatia-Glenorchy, but with an appalling goal difference of minus 28, compared to Croatia's minus 10.

Devonport City missed a great chance of drawing level on points with league leader White Eagle when it was held to a 0-0 score line at home by Caledonian. Neither team looked like winning what could only be described as a dull game.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the southern Premier Division One competition, Hobart City became the new leader with a 2-1 win against South Hobart, at South Hobart. Angelo Pignalosa gave City a one-goal lead at the break, Steve Bennett equalised from the penalty spot in the second half, while David Hobbs grabbed City's winner.

Hobart Juventus scored its fourth consecutive win by defeating Taroona 3-0 at Taroona, to retain fourth place. Rocky Schiro scored Juventus' opener from Michael Lapolla's cross, while Taroona's Robert Furjanic put the ball past his own goalkeeper for the second goal. A fine run through the middle by John Broadhouse, culminating in a devastating shot, completed Juventus' tally.

White Eagle beat Kingborough United 3-2 at the Athletic Centre. Michael Case opened the scoring for Eagle, only to see Ronnie Bolton draw Kingborough level from the penalty spot, in the second period, Bolton again converted a penalty, as did Eagle's Grant Mason, but Richard Ketchell hit the winner.

At North Chigwell, Metro-Claremont outplayed Croatia-Glenorchy for most of the match, but only managed a 2-1 win through goals by Mark Parish and Jim McKinnon. Croatia's goalkeeper, Robbie Huigsloot, had a magnificent game, especially since he normally plays at centre-half. Huigsloot made four excellent saves, against Paul Stephenson, Parish, Steve Pitchford and Danny Prestage, to keep his side in the game.

Metro coach Steve Pitchford must have been angry with himself at the end of the match after missing five simple chances as Metro repeatedly cut open the Croatia defence with ease. Kvesic, Kuman, as well as Ricky Neads who came on in the second half, all showed fine touches in midfield for Croatia, which was without injured coach Kevin Wright. Metro missed the scoring ability of the injured Andy Ferrall. McKinnon, Michael Garth, Parish, Prestage and Geoff Hallam should really have done better with scoring opportunities which came their way.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Case, Mason, Ketchell) Def. Kingborough 2 (Bolton 2, 1 pen)

Eagle flying high at head of table

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 8/5/1989

White Eagle has opened up a five-point gap over its nearest rivals at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer competition following the weekend's round of matches. White Eagle defeated Launceston 4-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, while Launceston Juventus moved into second place with a hard-fought 2-0 win against Croatia-Glenorchy at Prospect, both goals coming in the final five minutes.

Devonport City slipped down a place to third after its goalless draw against the visiting Caledonian on Saturday, whereas Hobart Juventus maintained fourth spot after a thrilling 5-3 victory over Ulverstone at KGV yesterday.

Launceston matched White Eagle in midfield, but it was in the scoring department that the league champion was vastly superior. Whereas Launceston hardly created any chances, Eagle should have doubled its tally of four goals. Scott Young's short-range goal from Richard Leszczynski's flick after only four minutes put Eagle on its way. It wasn't until the stroke of half-time, however, that Craig Pitt made it 2-0. Neil Morrison crossed from the left, Pitt challenged Quentin Darby for the ball, and when the goalkeeper dropped it, Pitt lashed it home. Darby complained bitterly about being fouled, but his pleas were dismissed by referee John Raymond.

Two goals in three minutes, 10 minutes from the end, killed off Launceston. In the 80th minute, Brett Harwood scored with a low shot from the edge of the penalty area, while in the 83rd minute, Richard Leszczynski crossed from the right, Andrew Leszczynski dummied over the ball, and David Stoddart volleyed home from 20 metres. Launceston scored a consolation goal in the very last minute, as if to show how easy it could have been. Fraser's incisive pass put Hughes through, and he lobbed over Groenewoud with ease.

Ulverstone deserved at least a point from its meeting with Hobart Juventus yesterday, especially given the performance of Ulverstone midfielder, Andrew Howe, who notched a hat-trick. Three goals in three minutes early on set the scene for an enthralling game in which both sides used the elements of wind and rain to good advantage and produced end-to-end soccer.

Frank Genovesi scored direct from a corner in the 12th minute to put Juventus in front, but Howe ran on to Anthony Gilbert's through-ball a minute later to equalise, after Craig Jones had parried his first shot. A cleverly executed chip by Sergio Pace restored Juventus' lead in the 14th minute, while Thurley should have drawn Ulverstone level yet again on the half-hour, but a defender cleared his half-hearted shot off the line.

A neat build-up by Juventus in the 41st minute gave it a 3-1 lead at the break. Bruce Pears' long clearance from defence was headed by Romeo Frediani to Pace, who opened up the defence for John McIntyre to score. A penalty in the 51st minute, converted by Genovesi, seemed to ensure Juventus of all three points, but two goals by Howe – one from a penalty, the other from a speculative lob – left Ulverstone trailing by one goal. Juventus rallied in the closing stages, however. Pace hit the bar from Stanford's pass in the 78th minute, before scoring Juventus' fifth goal, from Tickner's cross, with virtually the last kick off the game.

Croatia looked anything but the bottom side against Launceston Juventus and it was only two excellent goals by Mark Hayes in the final five minutes that gave Juventus its win.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Young, Pitt, Harwood, Stoddart) def. Launceston 1 (Hughes)

Burnie down but far from out says Denton

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 9/5/89

It is difficult not to feel some sympathy for Burnie United's senior coach, Mike Denton, who is struggling to give his team some credibility.

Burnie, the newcomer to the Cadbury State League competition this year, following the withdrawal of George Town United, has been the whipping boy for a lot of teams this season. It won its opening match 4-1 against visiting Croatia-Glenorchy, but has plummeted to five consecutive defeats since then. Burnie has scored a mere six goals to date, and has conceded 34, giving it an appalling goal difference of Minus 28.

It has conceded eight goals on two successive weekends now, causing raised eyebrows in many quarters, as well as emphatic claims that it has no right to be in the league. This is a bitter pill to swallow for Denton, a former Australian international, who represented his country 14 times. The team's application for league membership in the inaugural season of the competition, 1988, was rejected. By the time Burnie was accepted into this season's competition, it had lost players, and the time Denton had to prepare a team was much too short.

An eternal optimist, Denton believes the team will find its feet soon and become competitive, despite the recent disastrous results. "I can't blame the players if they're developing an inferior complex, especially against southern teams," said Denton. "But, they're still keen and they've even requested extra training.

We sometimes have up to 12 players unavailable from the club as a whole, due to shift work, and that doesn't help either." Denton said the imminent return from Queensland of Steve Winchester will be a great help, and he fancies Burnie's chances against Launceston and Ulverstone int the club's nest two outings.

If you think Burnie is having problems, spare a thought for Metro-Claremont's under-15 team which was hammered 18-0 by White Eagle on Saturday. White Eagle, coached by Bob Biggar, the former Caledonian and White Eagle player, may well be a brilliant team, but there just has to be something amiss in a competition in which such scores occur. I just hope the Metro boys don't lose heart. For the record, Eagle's marksmen were Jason Mahoney (5), Kane Salter (3), Nicky Butterworth (3), Craig Horne (3), Chris Thomas (2), and Shane Horton and Julian Walters one each.

Eagle zooms in on maximum points

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 12/5/89

Can White Eagle complete the first half of the Cadbury State League soccer season unbeaten and with maximum points? That is the question many soccer supporters are beginning to ask on the eve of this weekend's seventh round of matches. With six games under its belt, White Eagle has a perfect record of six wins, and it leads its closest rivals, Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, by five points.

Eagle must beat Ulverstone tomorrow at Knight's Rd, and then Caledonian and Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV Soccer Park, so its quest for nine consecutive wins is well within reach as all three opponents are on the bottom half of the ladder. Ulverstone's record at home this season is not impressive – two defeats and only one win – and it will have its back to the wall against a full-strength Eagle side that wins as easily away from home as in front of its own supporters.

Devonport City and Launceston Juventus cannot afford to lose against Croatia-Glenorchy and Olympia respectively, at KGV on Sunday if they are to stay in touch with White Eagle. A defeat for either visitor could put it eight points behind the league leader, which is as good as a light year away at this stage of the season.

Devonport must fancy its chances against Croatia-Glenorchy as coach Ken Morton has his 13 strongest players to choose from. Morton will instruct his players to use the width of KGV as much as possible, and to play the ball quickly instead of dwelling on it.

Croatia is still without the injured Nenad Zajec, which means that Craig McKenzie will probably retain his place. McKenzie captained the reserves last Saturday and scored a goal, and then made his senior debut against Launceston Juventus on the Sunday. Croatia coach, Neil Thomas, is approaching this game with his usual confidence, but there can really be only one winner if Devonport is allowed to play its high-speed type of game.

Olympia gained a much-needed boost of confidence last week when it demolished Burnie United 8-1 at Montello Park, but the proof of the pudding will be its performance against an uncompromising Launceston Juventus. Juventus is a formidable team and Olympia's strikers will find the going tough against defenders of the class of Monagle, Gimpl, Craig and Gugliotti.

Mies and Heyes will fully test an Olympia defence that can be brittle on occasions, but it is in midfield that the battle will be won or lost. The midfield is probably Olympia's strongest department, but even here, the home team's platers are likely to be overshadowed by Juventus' Savill, Ewart, Abraham and Morley, who should steer their side to victory. In Sunday's remaining match, Launceston should be much too strong for the ailing Burnie United at Ogilvie Park, despite Burnie coach Mike Denton's optimism. Launceston is a much better side than its lowly league position (third last) indicates, whereas Burnie's second-last spot flatters it.

Hobart and Howrah to consolidate

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 13/5/89

Hobart City and Howrah should extend the gap between themselves and the rest of the field in the Premier Division One soccer competition by defeating Metro-Claremont and White Eagle, respectively, in today's double-header at the Athletic Centre.

With third-placed Caledonian having lost in midweek, and fourth-placed Hobart Juventus having the bye, City and Howrah will be well clear in first and second places if they win. City can go eight points clear, and Howrah five points clear, of their nearest pursuers. Although both teams should win, their tasks will not be easy as both Metro and White Eagle have produced good performances recently, and are level on nine points.

Metro's biggest problem is scoring goals. Midfielders such as Paul Stephenson, Michael Garth, Geoff Hallam and Mark Parish are creating the openings, but strikers Steve Pitchford and Jim McKinnon must be much sharper in front of goal. Metro should have its leading goal scorer, Andy Ferrall, back for this clash and he will add the finishing power it seems to lack.

White Eagle has many promising youngsters in its ranks, and it should make Howrah earn its victory. Grant Hildyard and Grant Mason are two Eagle players who are knocking on the door of the senior side and their battle against Howrah's ball players should be worth watching.

In today's double-header at South Hobart, Rapid seems superior to Croatia-Glenorchy, even though star midfielder John White is unavailable, while Taroona should return to the winning ranks by overcoming Olympia. Kingborough United's home game against University at Sherburd should be a very close game, with Kingborough just favoured to win on its own patch.

White Eagle pegs back Ulverstone

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/5/89

White Eagle showed its class yesterday by coming back from a 2-0 deficit at the interval to defeat Ulverstone 3-2 at Knight's Road and record its seventh successive victory in the Cadbury State League soccer competition. The win gives Eagle 21 points, eight more than Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, who both have potentially difficult appointment at KGV Soccer Park today.

Ulverstone and White Eagle had good scoring chances in the first ten minutes, but good goalkeeping kept the teams without a goal in this period. With 15 minutes gone, however, Ulverstone took the lead through Michael Jones. When Andrew Howe hit a scorching 30m shot past Eagle keeper Peter Groenewoud, on the half-hour to give the home team a 2-0 advantage, the league champion knew it was in trouble.

Eagle rose to challenge, however, just as it had done on the opening day of the season, when it gave Launceston Juventus a 2-0 start before triumphing 4-2. Yesterday, Brett Harwood inspired the champions' revival, scoring twice and setting up the remaining goal for Richard Leszczynski, all within 20 minutes of the resumption. Harwood's winning goal, coming from only two moves, was almost too simple to be true. He controlled a long clearance from Groenewoud, turned and took the ball on, before scoring a goal which made him the league's leading marksman with nine goals.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Harwood 2, R. Leszczynski) def. Ulverstone 2 (Jones, Howe)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Hobart City and Howrah showed a clean pair of heels to the rest of the teams in the Premier Division One competition when they defeated Metro-Claremont 4-2 and White Eagle 3-2, respectively at the Athletic Centre.

Kevin Clamp, making his long-awaited comeback for Metro, put his side ahead in the opening minutes against City, but Paul Kaproulias soon levelled. David Hobbs and Matthew Sly made it 3-1 for City, only to see Metro coach Steve Pitchford reduce the arrears before half-time. A second-half goal by Robbie Marino gave City a two-goal buffer, however, and the league-leader was able to hold off Metro until the end and register its seventh consecutive win.

Howrah had to fight hard to keep its record of six wins from six outings intact, when it faced White Eagle. A goal by Paul Engels gave Howrah the lead at half-time, but strikes by Aaron Brown and Andrew Garrigan put Eagle 2-1 up and in with a real chance of causing an upset. Carl Brightman's penalty made it 2-2, and Brightman popped up again in the dying minutes for his second goal to give Howrah a win by the narrowest of margins and bring a sigh of relief from manager Jurgen Webb.

At South Hobart, Rapid was held to a goalless opening half by Croatia-Glenorchy before winning 3-0 through goals by Uwe Metzenthin, Andy White and Phil Murray, while Taroona raced to a 4-0 first-half lead against Olympia and then failed to score in the second half. Mark Broadbent scored twice for Taroona and was unlucky not to notch a hat-trick when another effort hit the post.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Brown, Garrigan) Lost to Howrah 3 (Engels, Brightman 2, 1 pen)

Charity not only one to get boost from annual cup night

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/5/89 – CHARITY SHIELD

All that is good in Tasmanian soccer will be on view at KGV Soccer Park tonight when the Tasmanian Soccer Association holds its annual Charity Cup night, with all proceeds going to the Cancer Support Group.

The highlight of the night will be the Charity Cup clash between Cadbury State League champion, White Eagle, and Hobart Juventus, which won this season's pre-season competition and currently occupies fourth place in the league.

Tonight's main fixture will feature some of the greatest names in Tasmanian soccer. White Eagle boasts the four Leszczynski brothers, goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, midfielders David Stoddart and Scott Young, and striker Brett Harwood, the league's leading scorer. Youngster Grant Hildyard, from the reserves, has also been included in the squad.

Juventus, too, has a number of players who are household names in Tasmanian soccer, including Sergio Pace, Steve Kannegiesser, Nick Di Martino, John McIntyre, Romeo Fabrizio, and John Broadhouse. Unfortunately, Bruce Pears is unavailable after being hospitalised late last week after complications to an injury suffered in a recent match.

Coach David Smith will give Brett Williams, one of the most promising young goalkeepers in the state the chance to make his senior debut, but defender Michael McIntyre is doubtful because of an ankle injury. Michael Lapolla, Mathew Gasparin, Sav Perri and Rocky Schiro are other reserve team players who will get the chance to mingle with the established stars tonight. Both coaches are more concerned with playing entertainment soccer than with winning, but this is not to say the teams won't be trying.

It does mean that established players will be able to relax and strut their stuff, and that youngsters will be able to show coaches their potential. White Eagle and Juventus have always been noted for their attacking flair.

Several stars of the future will be on view when Juventus and White Eagle under-15s meet, and a number of familiar names will be evident. White Eagle, which tops the under-15 league, and which won a game 18-0 recently, includes talented youngsters such as Kane Salter, Jason Mahoney, and Chris Thomas, while the unbeaten Juventus side rekindles echoes of the past with names such as Brendan Lakoseljac and Mark Falzon.

Harwood was Eagle's ace in cup triumph over Juventus

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 15/5/89 – CHARITY SHIELD

White Eagle won the Cadbury Charity Cup at KGV Soccer Park last night with a resounding 6-1 triumph over Hobart Juventus.

A large crowd was in attendance and the Tasmanian Soccer Association was able to present the Cancer Support Group with a cheque for $1,758. In the Charity Cup match, White Eagle completely outclassed an understrength Juventus outfit, which also had several players playing out of position.

Both teams used their permitted quota of five substitutes, but this did not detract from the game as a fast and skilful spectacle. Brett Harwood, Franco Previdi, Craig Pitt and Richard and Mark Leszczynski stood out for Eagle, while Steve Kannegiesser and Romeo Frediani were the pick of the Juventus side.

Harwood's work-rate was tremendous as he put himself about all over the park, threatening the Juventus goal one minute – he hit the post with a superb shot after only four minutes – then helping out his defence the next. Previdi made every minute of his first full outing in recent weeks count, scoring twice and playing some delightful and cheeky passes. Richard Leszczynski's tremendous pace worried the Juventus defence all night and brought him two excellent goals, plus a penalty, converted by Scott Young.

Eagle's remaining goal was scored by substitute Grant Mason. He headed home Bob Nicholson's corner with just about his first touch of the ball after coming on near the end. Eagle led 2-0 at the interval, then added two more goals

early in the second half before Frank Genovesi finally pulled a goal back for Juventus, but there was no stopping the league champion, which found the net twice more before the end.

Juventus did have its chances, especially in the second half. Romeo Frediani and Romeo Fabrizio fired against the bar, while Sergio Pace got on to the end of Mathew Gasparin's long, penetrating pass and chipped the ball over goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, only to see Mark Leszczynski clear on the line.

Result: White Eagle 6 (Previdi 2, R. Leszczynski 2, Young pen, Mason) def. Hobart Juventus 1 (Genovesi)

Croatia looms as threat to Juventus

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/5/89

Hobart Juventus faces a crucial encounter with Croatia-Glenorchy in the Cadbury State League double-header at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday. Juventus, which is in fourth place on the ladder, suffered a humiliating 6-1 loss to White Eagle in the Charity Cup on Wednesday and must defeat bottom side Croatia if it is to maintain a credible challenge for the title.

What makes this match so dangerous for Juventus, is the fact Croatia is desperate for a win to lift itself off the foot of the table. Croatia has had some bad luck recently and must surely turn the corner soon and rise about second-last team, Burnie United, which had eight goals rammed down its throat for the third time this season last weekend.

With Juventus' morale dented and its reputation at stake, and with Croatia literally bursting out of its seams with eagerness to gain those elusive three points, an upset is a distinct possibility. Juventus badly misses sweeper Bruce Pears at the heart of its defence. He will be out for another five weeks after an injury became infected, necessitating a stay in hospital.

There seems no-one capable of taking his place. Steve Kannegiesser is much more useful in midfield, while Craig Tickner is a little suspect in such a key position. If Croatia can exploit Pears' absence and take advantage of Juventus coach David Smith's experiments of shuffling players about to fill gaps – Billy Stanford and Michael McIntyre are both doubtful because of ankle injuries – the current wooden-spooner could well lift itself from bottom place.

Croatia's goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, is in stupendous form and maybe the key man in this game, against a Juventus forward line that Smith readily acknowledges is not scoring enough goals. An added incentive for Croatia is that four of its personnel from last year are now in the Juventus camp – John and Michael McIntyre, Tickner, and assistant coach, Steve Smith. Croatia must be more than keen to show them that they made the wrong move in leaving the Glenorchy club.

League leader White Eagle is in invincible form despite the possible absence of midfielder Scott Young and should defeat Caledonian in Sunday's main fixture at KGV. Young left the field in the first half of the Charity Cup match because of a groin strain, but Eagle proved on Wednesday it has quality players galore and coach Eugene Mycak should have no problems in finding a replacement.

Caledonian will have much the same squad as the one that beat Juventus. Ian Parker could be the one inclusion providing he passes a fitness test, at the expense of Peter Jordan. Calies' coach, Bret Anderton, says his team is defending well but must put away its chances if it is to extend Eagle, which in Brett Harwood and Richard Leszczynski has two of the best strikers in the league.

Anderton will use his normal four-man defence, but is undecided as to whether to use his brother, Darren, in a man-to-man marking assignment on one of the Eagle dangermen.

In Sunday's two matches in the North, Burnie United can expect no mercy from the visiting Ulverstone, while Olympia will be fortunate to come away from Ogilvie Park with a point against Launceston. Launceston went on a goal rampage against Burnie last week, whereas Olympia found the net difficult to find when it went down 3-2 at home against Launceston Juventus. The only game tomorrow is at Valley Rd, where the home team, Devonport City, entertains Launceston Juventus in a game under lights.

Hobart City has firepower to blast Caledonian and stay as pacesetters

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 20/5/89

Hobart City should continue to set the pace at the top of the Premier Division One soccer competition by defeating Caledonian at the Athletic Centre today.

City came out on top after a searching test against Metro-Claremont last week, while Calies have only collected one point out of a possible six in their past two outings. With Paul Kaproulias back in the City line-up, its strike force is one of the most impressive in the league. Kaproulias should prove the perfect partner for Kim Barker.

Second-placed Howrah is having a tremendous season under coach Robbie New, and it should stay hot on the heels of City by overcoming University in today's main attraction at South Hobart. Howrah has been playing entertaining and effective soccer and University will find it difficult to upset the Eastern Shore side's rhythm once it starts swinging the ball all over the park, turning defence into attack with well-chosen passes.

Hobart Juventus is on the crest of a wave at the moment and its match against White Eagle at South Hobart has the potential to be one of the best of the round. A high-scoring draw would not be a surprise as both teams are stacked with players who enjoy going forward in search of goals.

The White Eagle club gave several players in its Premier Division One team a taste of State League soccer on Wednesday night in the Charity Cup and Chris Leszczynski, Richard Ketchell, Grant Mason and Grant Hildyard should be the better for the experience.

Rapid may get the better of Metro-Claremont in the main fixture at the Athletic Centre but it will be a mighty close thing and neither side should be disappointed if it has to settle for a draw. Metro coach Steve Pitchford must be thrilled by the return of Kevin Clamp, and he and Andy Ferrall will test Rapid's new goalkeeper, Kosma Karydis. Rapid may have several players back from injury, including John Dilger and Phillip McKay, and this should improve its prospects.

In today's other games, Taroona seems much too good for Croatia-Glenorchy at Taroona, while South Hobart must have gained some much-needed confidence after its rousing win against Calies last time out and could extend Kingborough United at Sherburd.

White Eagle draws further ahead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/5/89

Devonport City and Launceston Juventus did Cadbury State League soccer leader, White Eagle, a gigantic favour when they drew 1-1 at Devonport's Valley Road ground yesterday. Devonport and Launceston Juventus are in joint second position in the standings and yesterday's draw leaves them four points adrift of White Eagle.

If Eagle can defeat Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park today, it will have a handy seven-point advantage over its nearest rivals with less than half the league season over. Yesterday's match at Valley Road was largely a midfield battle in which Devonport dominated the opening half and took the lead in the 20th minute though Peter Sawdon. An attack on the left saw full back Ian Hendey knock a long ball forward into the Juventus penalty area. There was a mad scramble for the ball and Peter Sawdon emerged with it and fired past Warren Dent.

Juventus hit back strongly after half-time and Liam Monagle, who played for Devonport last year, scored the equaliser with a shot from the edge of the penalty area in the 55th minute, after City had unsuccessfully tried to clear a corner.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Hobart City and Howrah appear to be racing away from the rest of the field in their quest for the southern Premier Division One title. City defeated Caledonian 3-1 at the Athletic Centre yesterday, its eighth consecutive win, while Howrah stayed three points behind, but with a game in hand, when it recorded its seventh successive victory, 3-1 against University at South Hobart.

Hobart Juventus moved into third spot when it scraped home 3-2 against White Eagle at South Hobart, and Rapid suffered a surprising 0-2 loss to a resurgent Metro-Claremont at the Athletic Centre. Taroona took over fourth place with a 6-0 thrashing of Croatia-Glenorchy at Taroona, Rod Sanders, Sean Green and Simon Oliver helping themselves to two goals each while South Hobart had two "goals" disallowed in going down 1-2 to Kingborough United at Sherburd.

Juventus had the better of White Eagle for most of the game, but it was a close thing in the end as Michael Lapolla hit the bar with a Juventus penalty, and the winning goal was an own goal by the unfortunate Eagle defender, Michael Case. Alec Tattersall might even have given Eagle the lead early in the second half, but he miskicked Chris Leszczynski's cross when perfectly placed.

The defeat was a personal disappointment for Eagle's senior-team full back, Sean Collins. Collins, who was 34 yesterday, was making a comeback from injury and playing his first game in several months. Michael Lapolla put Juventus in front in the 24th minute. Nick Di Giovanni should have scored a second but fired across the goal mouth before Grant Mason equalised from the penalty spot before the interval. Rocky Schiro's shot trickled over the line in the 69th minute, just before Simon Templeman could clear, to make it 2-1 for Juventus.

Ten minutes later, Karl Plaznik hit a great goal from Tattersall's cross to make it 2-2, but with a draw seemingly inevitable, Case knocked the ball past his own goalkeeper, to the utter despair of his Eagle team-mates.

A speculative lob by Andrew Dobbie and two finely executed goals by Richard Dixson gave Howrah a 3-0 lead over a slow and lack-lustre University, which eventually struck back through Peter Crowther.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Mason, Plaznik) Lost to Juventus 3 (Lapolla, Schiro, OG)

Thank heavens for White Eagle's win

Late penalty goal saves champ - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 22/5/89

THE gods must have been smiling on Cadbury State League leader and reigning champion White Eagle at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

With eight minutes of its match against Caledonian remaining, and reduced to 10 men after the dismissal of Franco Previdi in the 68th minute, Eagle found itself locked together with its opponent at 1-1 when referee Paul Jones awarded the champion a controversial penalty, which was easily converted by midfielder David Stoddart, giving Eagle a 2-1 win.

Eagle substitute Richard Ketchell, who had replaced the injured Andrew Leszczynski, had only been on the field for two minutes when he drew the penalty. Ketchell had chased a ball into the penalty area and lost possession to Calies defender Paul Fenlon. As Fenlon ran around Ketchell to clear, the Eagle player appeared to fall in front and obstruct him, but the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

Jones had been perfectly correct earlier in dismissing Previdi for elbowing Calies defender Darren Grainger in the face. Linesman Cliff Hart had spotted the incident as Stoddart was about to take a free kick, although Previdi later complained Grainger had hit him first. On chances, Eagle should have won the match easily, with Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Craig Pitt and Andrew Leszczynski all going close to scoring.

Calies goalkeeper Glen Stewart was again in superb form, turning a Harwood pile-driver over the bar in acrobatic style, and foiling Richard Leszczynski from close range on two occasions. Calies hardly had any real scoring opportunities, but they deserved at least a point, if only for their courageous efforts, typified by full-back John Paplos' clearing header on the line in the opening minutes.

Kevin Connell again showed his class by putting Calies ahead with a tremendous goal two minutes before the interval. Peter Huigsloot's goal-kick was turned inside by Brett Pullen to Peter Sherman, who set Connell away through the middle. Connell managed to elude the close attentions of Marl Leszczynski, who had an almost flawless game at sweeper, and Eugene Banasik, before cracking a low shot past the advancing Peter Groenewoud.

Previdi out-ran the Calies' defence in the 52nd minute to equalise for Eagle. Thirty minutes later came the gift from heaven which gave the league-leader its eighth consecutive win this season.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Previdi, Stoddart pen) def. Caledonians 1 (Connell)

Richard Leszczynski on the ball as Calies Darren Grainger looks on

‘Eagle’ will fly too high for toothless Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 24/5/89

Cadbury State League leader, White Eagle, may have been fortunate to defeat Caledonian last Sunday, but it should have few problems in overcoming last-paced Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV Soccer Park.

Croatia’s strengths are its goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, its central defence, and its midfield, but it is toothless in attack and vulnerable on the flanks. White Eagle should be able to exploit these deficiencies and coast to a 10-point leader over its nearest league rivals, Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, at least until the weekend.

Croatia may be without striker Craig McKenzie, a former White Eagle player, who was injured on Sunday in a clash with Hobart Juventus goalkeeper, Neil Connell. Stephen Blyth replaced McKenzie, and may take his place tonight, but the youngster is too inexperienced to worry an Eagle defence marshalled superbly by Mark Leszczynski.

The league champion will miss midfielders Franco Previdi and Scott Young. Previdi, who has just started to find some semblance of form, has been suspended after being sent off against Caledonian on Sunday, while Young has a groin strain, a legacy from last week’s Charity Cup match. Coach Eugene Mycak will probably recall Neil Morrison, who has recovered from a bout of influenza, while Chris Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell may find themselves on the substitute’s bench.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Tonight’s Premier Division One curtain-raiser is also between White Eagle and Croatia, and Eagle must again be favoured to win. Eagles has nine points and occupies ninth spot in the 13-team league, while Croatia languishes at the bottom without any points.

Grant Mason has a broken hand and will not line-up for Eagle, and Chris Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell will probably be required for the seniors. Eagle coach Dale Itchins may use Paul Morrison and Jamie Woulleman. The former has recently returned from England, while the latter has been playing in the thirds.

Croatia has some promising youngsters, including Kvesic, Joiner and Mesic, together with experienced hands such as Wright, Baltic, Neads, Camidge, Johnson and Grundy. The team tends to play better on the KGV ground than at other venues, so it should put a brave showing. Recent results are far from encouraging, however, and an upset is unlikely.

Stoddart runs riot to set up Eagle win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/5/89

David Stoddart hit four goals to lead White Eagle to a 7-1 win over Croatia-Glenorchy in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night. Midfielder Stoddart turned in his best performance of the season and proved yet again that when he fires, so does White Eagle.

Brett Harwood scored twice to become the league’s leading scorer with 11 goals, while the remaining goal came from Richard Leszczynski, only his second league goal of the season. Croatia matched the league leader for most of the first half and trailed by only one goal at the interval.

Brian Davidson played his best game since joining Croatia from Launceston a few weeks into the season and his pinpoint passes repeatedly put teammates away, but they were unable to score. Croatia levelled in the opening minutes of the second half when Chris Bessell scored from the penalty spot, Neil Thomas having been brought down by Michael Driessen.

Eagle quickly got things right, however, despite the absence of the injured Scott Young and Andrew Leszczynski, and the suspended Franco Previdi, and hit its opponent with six goals scored at regular intervals. Croatia goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, made some classy saves, but he must have been quite demoralised at the end as his team-mates repeatedly left him exposed.

Stoddart’s last two goals, in the 75th and 90th minutes, indicated this. One was from 30 metres out, the other direct from a corner. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, singled out his captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski as the man-of-the-match.

Result: White Eagle 7 (Stoddart 4, Harwood 2, R. Leszczynski) def. Croatia-Glenorchy 1 (Bessell pen)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the Premier Division One curtain-raiser, Julian Tattersall scored a hattrick as White Eagle easily disposed of Croatia 5-2. Eagle’s two remaining goals came from Simon Templeman and Robert Jacobs, the latter scoring from a penalty, while Yago Dzelalija and Zarko Baltic replied for Croatia.

Result: White Eagle 5 (Tattersall 3, Templeman, Jacobs pen.) Def. Croatia-Glenorchy 2 (Dzelalija, Baltic)

White Eagle is our 'autumn champion'

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/5/89

There is a tradition in those European countries which have a mid-season break during the colder months to award the unofficial title of "autumn champion" to the team topping the league at the half-way mark.

Were that tradition to be adopted in Tasmania, where the half-way mark of the season will be reached this weekend, but where there is no break, White Eagle would be awarded that title. White Eagle, the reigning champion, is currently 10 points ahead of Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, both of which share second place, and it has completed the first half of the season with a perfect record of nine wins from nine outings, following its 7-1 demolition of Croatia-Glenorchy on Wednesday.

The main focus of interest in this weekend's round of matches therefore, is whether Launceston Juventus and Devonport can close that gap to seven points as they complete their programme of nine games. Both teams face difficult assignments, Launceston Juventus at home to its sister club, Hobart Juventus, at Prospect, and Devonport City away to Olympia, at KGV Soccer Park.

On current form, Launceston Juventus must be a slight favourite in the Italian derby. Olympia is a much better side away from home than at home. The same applies to Devonport, so the coastal side must have a slight edge in its encounter with Olympia at KGV Soccer Park. An interesting aspect of Devonport's visit is the fact the club will have a female first aid officer, something that must be unique in Tasmanian, if not Australian, soccer.

Kelli Martin, the sales manager of the West German medical supplies firm Beiersdorf, which is sponsoring Devonport to the tune of $4,000, is a sports medicine specialist.

Caledonian's fortunes were on the verge of being revived when it suffered an extremely unlucky loss to White Eagle last weekend, but it should return to the winning trail when it hosts Burnie United in Sunday's main attraction at KGV.

The remaining match of the round is tomorrow's clash between Ulverstone and Launceston at Ulverstone's Knights Road ground. Ulverstone should win this one judging from Launceston's miserable performance last week when it crashed to a 5-0 home defeat against Olympia.

City's late surge puts skids under Rapid

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/6/89

Hobart City came back from being 2-0 down at the interval against Rapid to win 4-2 in their Premier Division One soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The match started well for Rapid, which hit the front midway through the first half when John Cionci scored from a penalty, awarded after a foul by City defender Luciano Raglione. Things then began to turn sour for Rapid, with Paul Sherman being sent off before the break, and goalkeeper Kosma Karydis being taken to hospital by ambulance in the second half.

Karydis suffered a suspected rib injury after a tackle with a City striker. Despite Sherman's dismissal, Andy White added a second goal for Rapid, but City was missing chances galore. Paul Kaproulias reduced the arrears shortly after the resumption, while Angelo Pignalosa levelled from the penalty spot, Gary Ashlin having brought down Robbie Marino.

Within a minute of the penalty, City took the lead. Karydis was injured as he went down for a through-ball, the ball rolled loose, and Kaproulias stroked it home for his second goal of the evening. City continued to apply the pressure and Lino Taglieri added an easy fourth against stand-in goalkeeper Cionci. The win confirms City as the league leader, four points ahead of second-placed Howrah, but the latter has two games in hand.

In last night's other match, a hat-trick by Scott Young gave White Eagle a 3-2 win over Olympia. Young, a senior player, was making his comeback after injury and should be fit to regain his first-team place against Launceston Juventus on Saturday.

A penalty by Sacha Puclin – Sean Collins had fouled Billy Tsakiris – five minutes before half time gave Olympia the lead. Nine minutes into the second half, Olympia goalkeeper John Collar could only punch Andrew Garrigan' corner to Young, who levelled. Young struck again in the 65th minute to put Eagle ahead, Harry Hages equalised two minutes later, while Young headed home Collins' left-wing cross nine minutes from time for the winner. Young might even have had a couple more goals, while Julian Tattersall was extremely unlucky not to get on the scoresheet.

Tattersall hit the post in the first half, and shot narrowly wide from a good position in the second. Young shot tamely from close range, after Collar has palmed the ball to his feet, then had a low drive turned round the post by Collar. Eagle had senior-team goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud in goal, but he had a very quiet evening, except for Puclin's penalty kick, which he almost got to. The win lifts Eagle from sixth to fifth place in the standings, while Olympia, the reigning champion, remains in second-last spot with only one win and a draw to its credit.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Young 3) Def. Olympia 2 (Puclin, Hages)

Burnie's relegation woes to worsen against Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/6/89

Burnie United foes to KGV Soccer Park tomorrow looking for nothing less than a win against bottom team Croatia-Glenorchy. Second-last placed Burnie has a two-point advantage on Croatia, as the teams enter the second half of the Cadbury State League season.

Coach Mike Denton, a former Australian international believes three points from this bottom-of-the-table clash for either team, will ensure safety from relegation. Denton is probably right, as neither team seems capable of taking points from any other side except each other, judging by their performances to date.

Croatia has improved more than Burnie in the first nine games. This, combined with the home-ground advantage, should see the Glenorchy outfit triumph. There shouldn't be much in it, as neither team seems very capable in front of goal, although Croatia will have to watch Denton closely. Denton is a seasoned campaigner and knows how to score goals, be it at international level or local league level. He missed last week's 4-0 loss to Caledonian because of illness, so he should be doubly dangerous as he will be well rested, revitalised and playing for very high stakes.

Croatia lacks punch up front, despite the possible return from injury of Craig McKenzie, and it will probably have to rely on its midfielders to score goals. Neil Thomas, Brian Davidson, Chris Barrell and Alan Brian are all playing well, and if they can find the space to get in shots at goal, Croatia will go a long way towards saving itself from relegation.

At the other end of the table, White Eagle should continue on its merry way towards retaining the title by defeating Launceston Juventus at Prospect today. Eagle will welcome back star midfielder, Scott Young, who tuned up for this match by hitting a hat-trick in the reserves in midweek. Young's performance showed he has completely recovered from a groin injury and Launceston Juventus will have to counter him if it is to have any hope of holding the league leader. Andrew Leszczynski is doubtful because of injury, while Franco Previdi, back after a one-match suspension, and Chris Leszczynski, are the likely substitutes in a star-studded squad.

Devonport City coach, Ken Morton, is confident of overcoming the visiting Hobart Juventus at Valley Road today and staying in touch with White Eagle, which has a seven-point lead. Morton, who will include himself in the starting line-up, will employ Devonport's usual tactics of a retreating defence and quick counterattacks.

Peter Sawdon, who notched a match-winning hat-trick against Olympia last week, will test an unsettled Juventus defence that has proved to be too vulnerable too often this season. Olympia faces a difficult task against Ulverston at KGV on Sunday, especially with defender Peter Thompson out with torn ankle ligaments, and defender Chris Hey doubtful.

Michael Edwards seems the likely replacement for Thompson, while coach David Crosson may also play in an endeavour to contain Ulverstone's dangerman, midfielder Andrew Howe. In today's only state league fixture in the south, Caledonian should have gained enough confidence from its 4-0 victory over Burnie last week to shrug off any challenge Launceston may present. Calies showed their players can put it together when the need arises, and if Matt Wesson can reproduce his magnificent performance in midfield, he may well be amongst the goals again.

Eagles set to fly away

THE EXAMINER - By JOHN TSCHEPPERA 2/6/89

State Champion White Eagle visits Launceston to take on Juventus at the AIC, Prospect, in Round 10 of the Cadbury State League competition tomorrow. The Eagles had a resounding 7-1 victory over fellow Hobart side Glenorchy-Croatia in the previous round and has not lost a league match this season.

It's return match against Juventus will be a scintillating affair. In its first encounter Juventus took a two-goal lead against the league champion with goals from Luigi Gugliotti and Mark Ewart but the Eagles countered through Harwood, Previdi, Young and Andrew Leszczynski. Five of the goals were the direct result of free kicks. Although Juventus played well against its Hobart counterpart last week it had difficulty in converting the many chances it created in front of goal and it was the result of two free kicks that led to its downfall.

The Eagles have a number of lethal scorers to whom their teammates can deliver the ball. David Stoddart is in a particularly mean mood and Andrew Leszczynski, Previdi, Harwood and Young have also found the net recently.

Juventus will again be relying on the well-versed defenders in David Craig, Liam Monagle, Paul Gimpl and Paul Ewart and a talented number of midfielders such as Peter Savill, Luigi Gugliotti and Steve Morley to not allow the visitors to settle and then provide their frontrunners to snatch goals from quick counterattacks.

Launceston travels to Hobart in its clash with Caledonians at KGV. The Blues were fortunate to leave Knight's Road with a point last week after Quenton Darby brought off a good save from a penalty in the last minutes of the game. He will again be called on to ensure an intact goalmouth and, with the possible return from injury of Branko Barac, coach Peter Davidson will be happier with the increased striking power at his disposal.

Devonport travels to KGV to challenge a Hobart Juventus side flush from its victory over Launceston Juventus and may find the going tough. Peter Sawdon's hattrick was a revitalising tonic for the classy striker and he, and Devonport, will be hoping for more of the same. Ulverstone will be playing away to Olympia at KGV on Sunday and will be hard pressed to make many inroads through the Olympian's defence.

Juventus miss out on honours

THE EXAMINER - JOHN TSCHEPPERA 4/6/1989

Launceston Juventus came within a whisker of inflicting the first loss to league champions White Eagles in their Cadbury State League match yesterday at the AIC, Prospect.

Juventus included youngster John Visentin in its line-up for the suspended David Abraham, while the return of Scott Young from injury gave the champions a welcome bonus. Both teams started with open, attacking soccer and the ball was moved from end to end. But neither team could find an opening in front of the goals, with Juventus' Mark Heyes blasting the first opportunity wide of the far post.

Steve Morley almost opened the scoring for the home side mid-way through the first half when Peter Savill intercepted an Eagle pass and slipped the ball to the midfielder who quickly turned inside of his opponent and drove a shot on to the post from the edge of the penalty area. Liam Monagle was involved in another Juventus build-up when he slipped a Paul Ewart pass into the path of Heyes whose snap-shot, again, went wide.

But Juventus found the opening it was looking for in the 30th minute when Savill, who was finding plenty of room in the middle of the field and using it to continually spray accurate passes to his colleagues, received a Morley pass and swiftly played it through for Heyes to slot the ball past Peter Groenewoud.

Juventus continued to gain confidence and strength after it hit the lead and exerted more pressure in the second half, while the Champions became more and more frustrated. Maybe their frustration ignited them into action because the Eagles temporarily moved into a higher gear. Previdi headed the equaliser in the 64th minute after Warren Dent misjudged a near-post ball and allowed it to go over players' heads. Two minutes later White Eagles gained the lead. Brett Harwood drove a shot through a bundle of players from the edge of the penalty area after the Juventus defence were unable to scramble the ball clear.

Juventus being driven on by a fine performance from Savill, almost earned itself an equaliser with only four minutes remaining. A Gugliotti corner was met by Paul Gimpl who planted a free header past Groenewoud, but diminutive defender Bobby Nicholson scrambled it off the line so that White Eagle could maintain its unbeaten form.

Launceston did not waste its trip to KGV, Hobart, to take on Caledonians. Bob Stewart, Launceston's midfield workhorse over the past few weeks, scrambled a Stuart Dracup corner over the goal-line for the equaliser in the 53rd minute. The winner came in the 75th minute when Peter Davidson, after having brought himself on as a substitute, fed the ball to Dracup on the left side and, his cross found Conrad Hughes who stooped low to head it past keeper Glen Stewart. Devonport succumbed at home to a lone Hobart Juventus goal scored by Frediani in the second half.

White Eagle has title firmly in sight

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 4/6/89

White Eagle seem certain to retain its Cadbury State League soccer title after its 2-1 away win against Launceston Juventus at Prospect yesterday. The league leader has won all 10 of its league matches this season and has a massive nine-point lead over second-placed Hobart Juventus, which defeated Devonport City 1-0 at Valley Rd yesterday through a second-half goal by Romeo Frediani.

Mark Heyes ran on to a great through-ball from Peter Savill after 30 minutes to put Launceston Juventus in front at the break, but two goals within five minutes midway through the second half by substitute Franco Previdi and striker Brett Harwood gave Eagle maximum points. Eagle had a scare in the closing minutes when Bob Nicholson headed off the line to keep the league champion's lead intact.

At KGV Soccer Park, home side Caledonian squandered its 1-0 half-time lead against the visiting Launceston to go down 1-2. Brett Pullen headed home Paul Sharman's right-wing cross in the 38th minute to put Calies ahead, but Bob Stewart scrambled an equaliser from Stewart Dracup's corner eight minutes after the resumption.

Launceston's winner came 15 minutes from the end after player-coach Peter Davidson, who had come on as a substitute, released Dracup on the left. Dracup's cross found several Launceston players unmarked and queuing up at the far post, and Conrad Hughes stooped low to head past Glen Stewart in the Calies goal. Launceston should have added a third goal two minutes from time when Paul Fenlon brought Bob Stewart down in the penalty area, but Hughes was much too casual with his spot-kick and Glen Stewart saved.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Harwood, Previdi) def. Launceston Juventus 1 (Heyes)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the Premier Division One competition, Howrah suffered its first setback of the season when it lost 3-2 to South Hobart, at South Hobart. Steve Adkins gave South a 10th-minute lead, but Jimmy Bell equalised for Howrah within five minutes. An excellent goal by Ian Colhoun early in the second half restored South's advantage. However, Richard Dixson levelled yet again for Howrah, which eventually succumbed to a late penalty, converted by Adkins.

Taroona and Hobart Juventus both missed opportunities of staying in touch with the leading pair when they lost to Metro-Claremont and University respectively. Taroona went down 1-3 to Metro at North Chigwell, Brett Ross scoring its goal from the penalty spot. Mark Parish and Andy Ferrall (2) hit the goals for Metro.

University defeated Juventus 3-2 at the Athletic Centre. Two headers by Chris Hargrave in the opening five minutes sent University on its way, but Nick Di Giovanni and James Brown made it all square in the second half before Peter Crowther grabbed Uni's winner deep into injury time.

In yesterday's remaining match, goals by Derek Trueman and Guy Brinklow gave Kingborough United a 2-0 win over Caledonian at Sherburd. Trueman hit the first midway through the second half, while substitute Brinklow snatched the second in the dying moments of the match, following Ronnie Bolton's corner.

Eagle regains midfielder

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 9/6/89

White Eagle, the reigning Cadbury State League champion and current runaway league leader, will have midfielder Andrew Leszczynski fit for its top-of-the-table clash on Sunday against third-placed Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park. Leszczynski, who has scored three league goals this season, has missed Eagles' past two matches because of a rib injury.

Coach Eugene Mycak is not expected to decide until just before the game whether Leszczynski will start the match or sit on the substitutes' bench. Mycak substituted defender Michael Driessen after only 25 minutes against Launceston Juventus last week, brought on Franco Previdi in midfield, and moved Bob Nicholson from midfield to right full-back, where he performed magnificently.

Eugene Banasik moved from right-back to Driessen's position of centre-half, and he may be preferred there against Devonport, where he can carry out his usually reliable man-to-man marking job on Peter Sawdon. This would enable Leszczynski to come back into the starting line-up in his normal position of left-midfield, where he has performed impressively this season.

Sunday's main fixture at KGV features second-placed Hobart Juventus against fourth-placed Olympia, a game which is always one of the big attractions of the season. Juventus won the first-round encounter 2-0 and, despite Olympia's return to form against Ulverstone last week, should do the job again.

Juventus will field an unchanged side from its past two outings, whereas Olympia will be forced to make at least one change because of the automatic suspension of midfielder Michael Goldsmith, who was sent off against Ulverstone.

Croatia-Glenorchy gained its first win of the season last week and will approach its meeting with Launceston at Ogilvie Park on Sunday with renewed confidence. Kevin Connell will return to the Caledonian attack for its visit to Ulverstone tomorrow, while Danny Jenkins and Tony Shields will be added to the squad. Player-coach Bret Anderton is out with a knee injury.

Ulverstone missed numerous chances against Olympia last week and possibly should even have won, but on its home turf, it should more than match Calies and move above the southerners in the league standings by winning.

In the final match of the round, Launceston Juventus should return from Burnie United's Montello Park tomorrow with all three points. Burnie's plight became desperate last week when it went down to Croatia and Launceston Juventus will be keen to improve on the 6-0 score line which separated the sides the last time they met.

'Eagle' may take punt on defender

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 10/6/89

White Eagle may have promising young defender Grant Mason back for its important Premier Division One soccer clash against Metro-Claremont at North Chigwell today. Mason, a solid and uncompromising player, has been out for several weeks with a broken hand and, although he has not fully recovered, coach Dale Itchins may risk him.

Joe Diubaldo will make his return to the Eagle goal, while senior team fringe players, Chris Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell, will also play. Simon Templeman is out, however, with torn ankle ligaments.

Metro will field an unchanged side from last week and strikers Jim McKinnon and Andy Ferrall may well help to make it three wins in a row for the Claremont side.

Howrah is striving to stay in touch with league-leader Hobart City and it will be keen to erase the memory of last week's surprising defeat by South Hobart when it takes on Kingborough United at the Athletic Centre. Howrah midfielder Andrew Dobbie has recovered from influenza and will play, but goalkeeper Damien Smith is unavailable and will be replaced by Mick Rowley. Paul Engels is still on holiday and coach Robbie New is not fully fit, so Howrah will have to fight hard to win against Kingborough which is inbeaten in four games.

South Hobart is in with a real chance of overcoming Olympia at South Hobart today and coach Michael Walker will include talented young striker Scott Jordan. Walker is also expecting top performances from defenders Steve Bennett and Chris Warn against a much-improved Olympia side. In today's remaining match, also at South Hobart, University coach Andrew Robinson has been forced to make two changes against Croatia-Glenorchy. Goalkeeper David Cruse and Striker Chris Green are both unavailable and will be replaced by Karl Gavan and Ian O'Callaghan, respectively.

Launceston Juventus climbs ladder

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 11/6/1989

Launceston Juventus climbed into third place on the Cadbury State League soccer ladder when it defeated bottom team Burnie United 6-2 at Montello Park yesterday.

Burnie gave the visitor a shock when it took the lead after only 28 seconds through Steve Luttmer, but Juventus drew level within a quarter of an hour. Juventus led 3-1 at the interval, Darren Timms made it 3-2 for Burnie just after the resumptions, but Juventus hit back with three more goals in the last 15 minutes to emphasise its superiority. Roger Mies and John Visentin each scored twice for Juventus, its other two goals being own-goals.

In yesterday's other Cadbury State League match, Ulverstone exchanged places with Caledonian and moved from eight to sixth spot by beating Calies 2-0 at Knight's Rd. A precise through-ball by midfielder Andrew Howe enabled John Sallese to shoot Ulverstone ahead from an acute angle and 18 metres out in the 20th minute. A near-post header by Michael Jones in the second half, from Anthony Guibert's right-wing cross, completed the scoring in what was an exciting, fast, and fairly even game.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Croatia-Glenorchy gained its first points of the season in the southern Premier Division One competition yesterday by defeating University 2-1 at South Hobart. In a match that kicked off 20 minutes late, and which had an unofficial referee for the first seven minutes, Yago Dzelalija gave Croatia a 1-0 lead at the break before University equalised midway through the second half. Tom Wanner's pass put Ian O'Callaghan through the Croatia defence and Uni's new signing from Victorian club, Cranbourne, fired clinically past Ricky Neads in the Croatia goal.

Peter Crowther scraped the Croatia woodwork on a couple of occasions, and Chris Hargrave had a header cleared off the line – Uni's appeal for handball went unheeded – before Dallas Joiner struck a superb winner, from Corey Brown's pass in the 83rd minute.

In yesterday's main fixture at South Hobart 4-0. South, which had to borrow University's sodden shirts for the first half because of a clash of colours, was never really in the hunt, although Shane Nicholson should have scored late in the match instead of driving the ball across the goalmouth.

Andrew Hart put Olympia ahead after eight minutes, while a delightful chip from the edge of the penalty area by Jim Tsiakis two minutes before half time made it 2-0. Hart grabbed his second goal of the match shortly after the resumption. Manuel Vavoulas' shot was turned on to the crossbar by South Hobart goalkeeper Richard Pride, and Hart headed home the rebound. Midway through the half, Sacha Puclin slid for a loose ball, which rolled perfectly for Clinton Brown to smash past Pride for Olympia's fourth.

Two goals apiece by Richard Dixson and Alistair Hales gave Howrah a 4-0 win over Kingborough United at the Athletic Centre, while strikes by Robert Jacobs, Aaron Brown, Jamie Woulleman and Richard Ketchell saw White Eagle triumph by the same score line over Metro-Claremont at North Chigwell.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Brown, Ketchell, Jacbos, Woulleman) Def. Metro-Claremont 0

White Eagle responds to loss of goalie

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 12/6/1989

WHITE EAGLE maintained its nine-point lead at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer ladder when it came from behind to defeat Devonport City 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

It took the loss of goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud through injury early in the second half, however, to sting Eagle into action. Eagle had missed chances galore in the opening 45 minutes, but it wasn't until Groenewoud was taken off with concussion immediately after conceding a 53rd-minute goal to Peter Sawdon that the league champion began to look serious.

Groenewoud was injured when he dived into the thick of the action to clear a dangerous lob from Wayne Boyd. After receiving attention, he was allowed to continue in goal, despite appearing dazed, but he was punished almost immediately when Sawdon scored with a header.

Brett Harwood had cleared a Devonport corner, the ball was pumped back into the penalty area, and Sawdon nipped in to head past Groenewoud, who was left flapping at thin air.

With Groenewoud off - he was taken to hospital by ambulance and detained for observation - Harwood went in goal and substitute Franco Previdi came on. Andrew Leszczynski had replaced Craig Pitt at the interval. Eagle showed yet again its ability to come back when down and two goals in the space of three minutes killed off Devonport.

In the 59th minute, a free kick from the right by David Stoddart was headed past goalkeeper Bob Smith by Previdi, while in the62nd minute, Previdi's right-wing cross was met at the near-post by Richard Leszczynski, who turned the ball into the net for the winner.

Olympia missed a great opportunity to move into second spot when it went down 2-0 to Hobart Juventus in yesterday's other match at KGV. Olympia was without Chris Hey, Lars Koch and Michael Goldsmith, but defender Peter Thompson and midfielder Roger Munro returned to the side. The game was rarely an entertaining or exciting spectacle. Both sides weaved intricate patterns in midfield, but fell down badly in the attacking third of the field.

Sergio Pace bent an excellent free kick around the Olympia defensive "wall" after seven minutes to give Juventus the lead, but it wasn't until the 64th minute that Frank Genovesi notched the second. Pace won a tackle against Michael Edwards and advanced on goal. Keeper Phil Kannegiesser parried Pace's shot and the ball rebounded to Genovesi, who swept it home.

Nick DiMartino kept a tight rein on Olympia's Paul Xanthopoulos, restricting him to a couple of half-chances, while Juventus goalkeeper Neil Connell must have been very cold watching the action from between his posts.

In yesterday's only game in the North, Launceston defeated Croatia-Glenorchy 2-0 with first-half goals by Conrad Hughes and Andy Fraser.

Result White Eagle 2 (Previdi, R. Leszczynski) def. Devonport City 1 (Sawdon)

Cadbury State League Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	11	11	0	0-	37	13	33
Hobart Juventus	11	8	0	3	30	13	24
Launceston Juventus	11	6	2	3	27	16	20
Devonport City	11	6	2	3	23	14	20
Olympia	11	6	0	5	28	15	18
Launceston	11	4	2	5	23	23	14
Ulverstone	11	4	1	6	18	19	13
Caledonian	11	3	2	6	11	14	11
Croatia-Glenorchy	11	1	1	9	8	29	4
Burnie United	11	1	0	10	10	59	3

White Eagle should still fly high despite loss of goalie

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/6/89

White Eagle's lack of an experienced second-string goalkeeper will present the team with some difficulties when the Cadbury State League leader faces second-placed Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Eagle's regular custodian, Peter Groenewoud, is extremely doubtful for tonight's match after suffering concussion and a scratched eyeball against Devonport City on Sunday. In his absence, reserve team goalkeeper, Joe Diubaldo, will probably have to play as Eagle's other goalkeeper, Frank Mainella, is also injured. Mainella did well when he filled in for the injured Groenewoud in the pre-season competition, but Diubaldo is young, inexperienced and untried at this level.

White Eagle president, Mr David Stoddart Sen, has often stated that the club's biggest handicap was a lack of cover for Groenewoud, and his worst fears have now eventuated. Groenewoud's likely absence will place enormous pressure on the Eagle defence, but it should be able to rise to the occasion and give adequate protection to whoever is between the posts.

Mark Leszczynski, the captain and sweeper is in superb form, despite a nagging knee problem, while Michael Driessen, Eugene Banasik and Neil Morrison have played together for so long now that they have an almost telepathic understanding.

Eagle has improved dramatically this season in terms of the willingness and ability of its midfielders and strikers to drop deep and assist the defence. This will stand the team in good stead against a Juventus outfit that throws players forward in numbers when it attacks. Eugene Mycak's choice of substitutes will be interesting.

Andrew Leszczynski and Franco Previdi were the men on the bench at the weekend, but both were called on during the course of the game. Previdi had a decisive influence on the outcome of the match, scoring the equaliser himself and making the winner for Richard Leszczynski. It seems unlikely, however, that Mycak will fiddle too much with a team that has won 11 consecutive games.

Juventus should have Bruce Pears back after injury. He came on near the end of the match against Olympia on Sunday and seemed to be ready to resume his sweeper role. The team doesn't seem to be creating quite as many scoring chances as Eagle, however, and Eagle's more efficient attack should carry the day, especially since Eagle broke the jinx Juventus held over it by taking out the Charity Cup with a 6-1 score line.

In tonight's Premier Division One curtain-raiser, third-placed Juventus should have the measure of eight-placed Kingborough United. It should be a close, even tussle, however, as Kingborough has shown itself to be a competent team after being promoted from the second division.

Michael Lapolla is the Juventus striker the Kingborough defence will have to mark closely. The scorer of eight goals this season, Lapolla is fast, elusive and possesses a good shot. He has frequently been on the verge of gaining a senior place. Kingborough's strength lies in the authority and skill of midfielder Derek Trueman. He leads by example, never shirks a challenge, and will make Juventus fight for 90 minutes if it is to gain all three points.

Soccer double delayed

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 15/6/89

Last night's soccer double-header which had been scheduled for KGV Soccer Park, was postponed because of the waterlogged ground. The Cadbury State League top-of-the-table clash between White Eagle and Hobart Juventus, and the Premier Division One match between Hobart Juventus and Kingborough United, now will be played at KGV tomorrow night.

Olympia will put faith in greater commitment

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 16/6/89

Olympia coach David Crosson will be looking for greater commitment from his players when the team takes on Caledonian in Sunday's Cadbury State League match-of-the-day at KGV Soccer Park.

Crosson may experiment a little with his line-up and he said he only wanted players who were ready to give their all for the club. Midfielder Michael Goldsmith is available again after serving a one-match suspension, as is defender Chris Hey, who was involved with Junior soccer last weekend and played in the reserves on Saturday instead of the seniors on Sunday.

Peter Thompson, a key player in defence, came through last week's game without a recurrence of his injury and should retain his place, but midfielder Carlo Ambrosino's prospects are uncertain. Ambrosino has been plagued by a groin injury and had to leave the field in the second half of last week's defeat against Hobart Juventus, his former club.

Crosson feels his team will have to be much tighter in defence and more direct in attack if it is to defeat Caledonian. Olympia won 2-0 in the first round, but Calies showed tremendous fighting spirit in downing Olympia 3-2 in the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup, so this game seems delicately balanced. Calies have the players to win. Peter Sherman is always keen to do will against his former club, and Kevin Connell is becoming one of the best players in the league.

Ian Parker has yet to score in the league this season, but is adept at creating chances for others, while goalkeeper Glen Stewart is having a tremendous season. Calies' biggest failing is its inability to score goals. Its tally of 11 goals in 11 games is meagre indeed. Olympia's superior record in this department – 28 goals in 11 outings – inspires a little more confidence and Crosson's team should just scrape home.

The two bottom teams, Burnie United and Croatia-Glenorchy, seem unlikely to make any headway this weekend against Devonport City and Ulverstone, respectively. Devonport has one of the best strikers in the state in Peter Sawdon and he should streak to the top of the individual goalscoring list when he comes up against the weakest defence in the league.

Burnie will be keen to give a good showing in the coastal derby, but even with the return of Mike Denton, it can't harbour any realistic hopes of victory. Ulverstone has usually been impressive when playing in the south this season and it should complete the double against Croatia at KGV on Sunday. Croatia was desperately unlucky to lose 1-0 at Knight's Road in the first round. Ulverstone, surprisingly enough, is better away from home, which is ominous for Croatia.

Launceston Juventus should retain third place in the standing by overcoming Launceston in the northern derby at Ogilvie Park tomorrow. Juventus has a much better defence than its opponent, and with players such as Mark Heyes and Roger Mies in attack, the Italian outfit should stay within striking distance of its sister club, second-placed Hobart Juventus. Hobart Juventus will be hard-pressed to gain anything from its rescheduled match against league leader White Eagle at KGV tonight.

Last-half revival enable sluggish White Eagle to escape with draw

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/6/89

Cadbury State League soccer leader White Eagle lost its perfect winning record last night when it was held to a 1-1 draw by second-placed Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park. Eagle only showed its championship-winning form for about 15 minutes of the match, and it even squandered a penalty kick, which would have given it victory.

Juventus relied largely on quick counterattacks, and it was from one of these that it took the lead after only seven minutes. With Eagle pressing forward, a long clearance by Juventus found John McIntyre on the left. He passed to the on-rushing Frank Genovesi, who was untroubled in shooting past Peter Groenewoud. Groenewoud was a surprise inclusion in the Eagle line-up. He was concussed last weekend, but was given a medical clearance to play after training on Thursday night.

The Juventus defence played magnificently, with Neil Connell reliable in goal, Romeo Fabrizio keeping Richard Leszczynski very quiet for most of the match, and Michael McIntyre covering his team-mates well as sweeper. Five minutes before the break, Eagle was awarded a penalty for pushing, but Andrew Leszczynski, who was a late inclusion in the team because of the unavailability of Bob Nicholson, blasted his spot-kick over the bar.

With 20 minutes of the match remaining, Eagle finally started to perform, and Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Neil Morrison, Scott Young and David Stoddart all had good scoring chances. The substitution of Franco Previdi for Craig Pitt in the 74th minute proved crucial. Four minutes after coming on, Pitt played a perfect ball through the Juventus defence, Young flicked it on, and Harwood scored the equaliser.

There was a flurry of activity in the dying minutes as Stoddart saved John McIntyre's header on the line after a corner, while at the other end, Andrew Leszczynski fired tamely and straight at Connell when well-positioned. There were loud appeals for a Juventus penalty right at the end when Michael Driessen accidentally kicked Sergio Pace in the head, but referee John Howlin was perfectly correct in awarding an indirect free kick for dangerous play. As it was, the White Eagle defensive "wall" was able to block Frank Genovesi's strike at goal and the match fizzled out to a draw, which leaves Eagle in first place, nine points clear of second-placed Juventus.

Result White Eagle 1 (Harwood) drew with Hobart Juventus 1 (Genovesi)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In last night's Premier Division One curtain-raiser, Hobart Juventus was held to a goalless draw by Kingborough United. Kingborough fully deserved a point and might even have grabbed all three with a little more luck.

Hobart City should have edged in Division One showdown

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 17/6/1989

Hobart City takes on Howrah at South Hobart today in the Premier Division One soccer showdown which everyone has been waiting for. City and Howrah, which have taken the league by storm this season, are in first and second places respectively, and one of them must surely win this year's League title.

City is the only unbeaten team in the competition, but Howrah does have a game in hand. City should triumph after coasting to a 6-0 win against its opponent last week, whereas Howrah laboured to score a 3-1 victory in extra-time against a vastly inferior team.

In today's second South Hobart fixture, Olympia must be confident of toppling Caledonian. Olympia played impressively to win 4-0 last week and, given the improved morale this would have caused, should account for Calies.

South Hobart and Croatia-Glenorchy are starting to get their acts together, and a draw is the most likely outcome of their meeting at the Athletic Centre. In the other match at the centre, White Eagle should come out ahead against Rapid. Metro-Claremont is expected to make up for a miserable performance last weekend, and defeat University.

Talent on tap for White Eagle's clash

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/6/89 – STATEWIDE CUP

The minnows take on the giants in this weekend's second round of matches in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition. Only two of the cup ties are State League affairs, but all eight matches promise to be intriguing contests, with anything possible in the Cup.

White Eagle takes on State League rival, Devonport City, in the match-of-the-round at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday, and everything points to an Eagle win. Eagle is the reigning league champion, the current ladder leaders, and has defeated Devonport home and away in the league this season.

Coach Eugene Mycak has 16 fit players to choose from and the competition for places in the starting line-up is fierce, which is the situation every coach dreams of. Fullback Sean Collins has proved his fitness in the reserves and may get a place on the substitutes' bench. Devonport is always dependent on striker Peter Sawdon when it faces the big teams, but Eugene Banasik has shown himself to be a conscientious marker and, if he can keep the Rothmans Gold Medal winner quiet, Eagle should progress to the next round.

Olympia, the cup holder, will be without defender Chris Hey for its all-State League clash with Ulverstone at Knight's Road tomorrow. Hey, a policeman, is unavailable. Striker Billy Tsakiris will retain his place after scoring against Caledonian last week, but his striking partner, Paul Xanthopoulos, is suffering from a hamstring strain. This is nothing new for Xanthopoulos, however, and Olympia's trainer, the knowledgeable Eddie Kent, is sure to have the club's leading scorer ready for action. Fullback Glen McNeil and midfielder Carlo Ambrosino both have groin strains and could be doubtful, so Kon Tsiakis is almost certain to get a run.

Ulverstone has played impressively recently and if Tom Compagne can reproduce his performance of last week, the home team may well emerge as the victor.

Hobart Juventus will welcome back Bruce Pears for his first full game after a lengthy lay-off because of injury, but coach David Smith will use him in midfield rather than in his normal position of sweeper, which Michael McIntyre has made his own.

Juventus faces University at South Hobart tomorrow and must be fancied to win, although Smith is wary of the students, especially players such as Peter Crowther and Chris Hargrave. Michael Lapolla and Craig Tickner may get their chance with Juventus if things are going well, while University will be without James Turnbull and Ian O'Callaghan, both of whom have exams.

Burnie United is having a terrible time in the State League and the gloom over Montello Park is unlikely to be lifted when Riverside Olympic visits tomorrow.

Launceston crushes Prospect

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/6/89 – STATEWIDE CUP

Launceston Juventus stole the honours in the second round of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition with an easy 5-0 drubbing of Western Suburbs at Prospect High School yesterday. Striker Mark Heyes won the individual honours of the round by bagging four of Juventus' goals, the other coming from John Visentin.

Olympia progressed to the next round with a 1-0 away win over Ulverstone at Knight's Road in what was an excellent Cup tie. Billy Tsakiris justified his selection by scoring the all-important goal in the second half, his second goal in two consecutive senior appearances. The match was an even, highly competitive affair, with Olympia's greater directness paying dividends, although Ulverstone should have forced extra time near the end. With five minutes remaining, John Sallese rounded Olympia goalkeeper, Phil Kannegiesser, but shot wide when confronted by an empty goal.

Burnie United shrugged off its woeful league form to defeat the visiting Riverside Olympic 1-0 at Montello Park through a Steven Eastly goal on the hour. It was Burnie's first success under new coach, Kevin Considine, who took the helm after the resignation of Mike Denton two weeks ago.

Hobart Juventus defeated University 2-1 at South Hobart in yesterday's remaining cup match. Juventus, which was without Frank Genovesi and Michael McIntyre and which lost Sergio Pace with a twisted ankle after only 28 minutes, toyed with University in the first half.

Goalkeeper Neil Connell was the only player in the Juventus defensive half of the field for long periods as University was run ragged by quick switches of play and clever use of the wings by Juventus. University rarely crossed the half-way line, its two strikers, Chris Green and Chris Hargrave, being isolated up front.

When the pair did receive the ball, they were invariably facing their own goal. They usually lacked support, and when it did arrive, their distribution was atrocious. The students did create three chances, however, once when Matthew Shaw dispossessed Connell, again when James Forbes fired over the bar, and finally when Shaw's delicate half-volley drifted just over the bar.

At the end of the first 45 minutes, the second-placed team in the Cadbury State League competition had only a single goal as testimony to its dominance. But what a magnificent goal it was. In the 27th minute, Craig Tickner passed to Pace on the right, and he crossed to John McIntyre, who controlled the ball with his first touch, then headed past David Cruse in the Uni goal with his second. Cruse did well a couple of minutes later when he turned Romeo Fabrizio's header against the post, but he had no chance when substitute Michael Lapolla scraped the wrong side of the post with his first touch of the game.

University emerged a different team in the second half and experienced campaigner Hargrave, calm, cool and collected, scored the equaliser in the 58th minute from Paul Kuzis' cross from the right. Juventus refused to panic, however, and Romeo Frediani hit an outstanding winner with 10 minutes left. Bruce Pears crossed to Frediani on the edge of the box, and the diminutive midfielder turned in the twinkling of an eye and drove a low shot to the right of Cruse.

Harwood puts White Eagle into finals

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/6/89 – STATEWIDE CUP

TWO goals by striker Brett Harwood gave White Eagle a 2-1 win over Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park and a place in the quarter-finals of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition.

Harwood, the Cadbury State League's joint leading goalscorer with 13 goals, might even have had a hat-trick. With a minute of play remaining, he noticed Devonport goalkeeper, Bob Smith, well off his line and lobbed the ball goalwards. It sailed over the astonished Smith, bounced once, but came back into play off the cross bar.

Eagle again came from behind to win the seventh time it has done so this season - but it was clearly the better team, having many more clear-cut chances than Devonport.

Andrew Leszczynski could have put Eagle ahead in the opening minute but for a timely point-blank save by Smith, while Richard Leszczynski failed twice with only Smith to beat. Scott Young was also given a great opening by Neil Morrison and the midfielder even rounded Smith, only to shoot into the side-netting from an acute angle.

Devonport's only realistic chance in the first half fell to Peter Sawdon in the third minute. Tim Jones crossed from the left, but the unmarked Sawdon sent his firm header wide of the right-hand post. Sawdon made amends in the

61st minute. Receiving the ball from a throw-in on the left, he released Kevin Smith through the middle and the Devonport defender rifled the ball past Peter Groenewoud to put the visitor ahead.

Eagle equalised within three minutes. Richard Leszczynski centred from the left and Harwood nodded the ball just inside the near post. Richard Leszczynski and Harwood tried to repeat their act 12 minutes later, but this time Smith scrambled between his posts and managed to keep the ball out. When the deadly duo tried again in the 80th minute, Richard Leszczynski crossing from the right this time, Harwood succeeded, placing his winning header in exactly the same spot as for the first goal.

Eagle coach Eugene Mycak was delighted with his side's third win over Devonport this season, and he praised his midfield for paving the way to victory. Devonport coach, Ken Morton. who came on for Ian Hendey with seven minutes remaining, said his team gave the ball sway to easily and failed to mark tightly enough in defence.

Caledonian easily qualified for the quarter-finals with a 4-1 win over an under-strength Hobart City in yesterday's curtain-raiser at KGV. A 20-metre scorcher from Kevin Connell and a header by Ian Parker, from Tony Shields' cross, put Calies 2-0 up at the interval, while player-coach Bret Anderton and centre-back Peter Huigsloot completed Calies' tally in the second period. Robbie Marino scored a 76th minute consolation goal for City, which was without regulars Kim Barker, Angelo Pignalosa and Mathew Sly.

At South Hobart, Howrah eliminated George Town United with a resounding 5-1 win, while the visiting Launceston disposed of South Hobart 2-0. Wilson put George Town ahead against Howrah, but a goal by Karl Brightman made it all square at the break. Three goals in five minutes by Richard Dixson, Alistair Hales and Scott Hadley ensured Howrah of victory, while Hadley added Howrah's fifth 10 minutes from time just for good measure.

South Hobart held Launceston scoreless in the opening half before succumbing to second-half goals by Davis and McNeil, but there might have been a surprise if South's Andy Poole had done better with two good chances that came his way.

Eagle should scale Olympia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/6/89

White Eagle should overcome the last major hurdle between it and the Cadbury State League championship by defeating Olympia in the main attraction of Sunday’s double-header at KGV Soccer Park.

White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, will probably field the same team that eliminated Devonport City from the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition last week. He has a fully fit squad to select from and, as he explained, he cannot discard players without reason, given the fact the team is playing so well and remains unbeaten.

“Sean Collins and Franco Previdi probably deserve to play in the seniors, but players must understand the situation,” Mycak said. “Every player wants to play for 90 minutes. But, for me, the players on the bench are just as important as the starting 11. Having a very strong bench is important because it means everyone has to perform and no-one can relax.”

Mycak praised the consistent effort of sweeper and captain, Mark Leszczynski, whom he regards as the brains of the defence, and also said he was impressed with the recent performances of centre-back, Michael Driessen. “Olympia has a good midfield, but ours is just as good, and if we beat Olympia, we can just about celebrate the championship,” Mycak said.

There was mixed news from the Olympia camp, with midfielder Michael Goldsmith automatically suspended after accumulating 15 disciplinary points, but Chris Hey coming back into the team. Fullback Glen McNeil should be fit to resume, but striker Paul Xanthopoulos and midfielder Carlo Ambrosino are still doubtful because of injury.

Coach, David Crosson, will probably play in Goldsmith’s place, and he is certain to persevere with Kon Tsiakis and Billy Tsakiris from the reserves. Tsakiris has scored two goals in his two senior games and he may be partnered up front once again by the keen, aggressive and physically strong utility player, Lars Koch.

Hobart Juventus must abhor the prospect of travelling all the way to Burnie on Sunday to face the local side, last-placed Burnie United, for what will inevitably be little more than a practice match. If the weather is favourable, the sight-seeing along the North-West Coast may make the trip worthwhile, but this weekend may be one on which Juventus’ established players will almost beg coach, David Smith, to leave them out of the side.

Mark Kelly is one of the lucky ones as he is unavailable, but 15-year-old Brendan Lakoseljac has been included in the travelling party and may get a run. Defender Michael McIntyre returns at fullback, while Smith hopes that Frank Genovesi and Sergio Pace will have overcome foot and ankle injuries, respectively.

Caledonian, which should have the edge over Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV on Sunday, will have midfielder Brett Pullen back from state under-18 duty in Canberra.

Northern duo's title bid ends

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 2/7/89

Launceston Juventus and Devonport City bowed out of the Cadbury State League soccer championship race when they could only draw their matches away from home yesterday. Their chances were very slim as it was, but Launceston Juventus' 1-1 draw with Ulverstone at Knight's Road, and Devonport's 2-2 draw with Launceston at Ogilvie Park, ruled the two best teams from the north of the state out of contention.

Devonport, without Billy Frame and Ken Morton, took a first-half lead against Launceston when Peter Sawdon scored at the second attempt, his first effort, a header, rebounding to him off a post. Phil Davis equalised for Launceston early in the second half, and three minutes later, a diving header by Branco Barac – playing his first league match after a long lay-off through injury – put the home side in front for the first time. Peter Sawdon salvaged a point for Devonport, however, by scoring his second goal of the game near the end.

At Knight's Road, Tom Compagne was Ulverstone's marksman, while Irish defender and former Rothman's Gold Medal winner, Liam Monagle, hit the equaliser for Launceston Juventus.

Belanic injury sours Caledonian's victory

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/7/89

A serious head injury to state goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic, of Croatia-Glenorchy, marred Caledonian's 3-0 win over Croatia in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

With 30 minutes of the match remaining, and with Calies leading 3-0, Belanic dived to his right to cut out a low cross and collided headfirst with the knee of an opposing forward. Belanic was knocked unconscious, and the game was delayed for almost 25 minutes while he was treated.

An ambulance drove on to the field to take Belanic to hospital, where he had an x-ray to determine the full extent of his injuries. Centre-back Robbie Huigsloot took over in goal for the final 30 minutes and did extremely well to keep a clean sheet. Croatia's new signing from St Albans, in Victoria, Ahmad Abdaltam, was a revelation as sweeper, and his reading of the game was faultless. Abdaltam's technique was first class, his distribution perfect, and his positive encouragement of team-mates, especially the youngsters, exemplary.

But even he could not prevent Calies' from scoring its first win over Croatia in nine years. Croatia's only chance came in the 35th minute when Brian Davidson fed Neil Thomas in the box and his fierce drive was turned on to the crossbar by Calies goalkeeper, Glen Stewart.

Calies took the lead in the 18th minute when striker Peter Sherman showed the best way of beating a sweeper of Abdaltam's calibre. Sherman flashed in a shot from 25 metres that beat Belanic all ends up and lodged in the top left-hand corner of the net. Ian Parker made it 2-0 six minutes later. Huigsloot fouled Sherman and Parker's free kick took a deflection and nestled just inside Belanic's left-hand post.

Brett Pullen, who only returned from the national under-18 championships on Saturday, showed he had learned something at the tournament by producing a fine display and completing the scoring in the 52nd minute, following Kevin Connell's corner.

With Hobart Juventus only managing a dismal 0-0 draw in wet and muddy conditions away to Burnie United yesterday, league-leader White Eagle only needs a win and a draw from its five remaining matches to retain the title after it beat Olympia 2-1 at KGV yesterday.

Eagle produced an accomplished performance and a goal in each half, the first by David Stoddart and the second by Andrew Leszczynski, enabled it to brush aside Olympia's challenge. Midfielder Craig Pitt had a marvellous game for White Eagle. He covered every square centimetre of the ground; his passes were precise, and he set up the winning goal and might even have scored himself but for a great save by Phil Kannegiesser.
Kannegiesser was again in excellent form, making magnificent saves from Andrew Leszczynski, Brett Harwood on two occasions, and Pitt. A left-wing cross by Scott Young led to Eagle's opening goal in the 13th minutes. Stoddart controlled the ball beautifully beyond the far post, flicked it around Craig Nichols, and scored with a rising shot that must have scorched Kannegiesser's fingers.

Michael Berwick equalised from the penalty spot midway through the first half, but the penalty decision was a dubious one. Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud misjudged Nichols' corner and defender Michael Driessen went to handle the ball in a reflex action, but withdrew his hand at the last second. Referee Brett MacKay decided Driessen had handled, however, and awarded the spot-kick. The 70th minute winner was a worthy goal. Richard Leszczynski released Pitt on the right, Kannegiesser could only parry his shot, and the ball rolled into the path of Andrew Leszczynski who rammed it into the net.

At Montello Park, Burnie made light work of the heavy conditions, and, despite the absence of Andrew Starrick and Scipio Luttmer, played above itself to fully deserve the point against Hobart Juventus.

Result White Eagle 2 (Stoddart, A. Leszczynski) def. Olympia 1 (Berwick pen)

White Eagle will fly high to make title safe

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 8/7/89

White Eagle is within four points of winning the Cadbury State League title and it should have little trouble in obtaining three of those points against bottom team, Burnie United, in tomorrow's double-header at KGV Soccer Park.

Burnie caused one of the upsets of the season last weekend when it held Hobart Juventus to a 0-0 draw at Montello Park, but it would require a miracle for the coastal side to get anything from this encounter. White Eagle is a team that paces itself well, scoring goals just when they are needed. It should relish the opportunity of building up its excellent goal difference even more tomorrow, and a repeat of its 5-0 first-round win is not impossible.

Burnie has shown some improvement in recent weeks, winning a cup match against Riverside Olympic, then drawing with Juventus. Now that is has drawn level on points with Croatia-Glenorchy, its players will certainly give their all in an endeavour to avoid relegation. This should make for a lively, entertaining match, and one a little different than the typical top versus bottom match once would normally expect to see, with Burnie offering more than just token resistance.

Devonport must be wishing it could again include George Best in its side when it entertains Ulverstone at Valley Road tonight. With the league title beyond their grasp, Ken Morton's men must be aiming to finish runners-up and a win against their coastal neighbours is essential for them to achieve this. Devonport won the first encounter 2-1 at Ulverstone, but Alex McDonald's team could well turn the tables this time, the theory being that both sides are better away from home. It should be a classic game, regardless of the outcome, because both teams are well-drilled and have some of the state's big-name players in their ranks.

Hobart Juventus should prove too strong for visiting Launceston in the opening fixture of tomorrow's double-header at KGV. Hobart Juventus will be keen to atone for its embarrassing result last week and coach David Smith will probably show no mercy to players who fail to perform in the remaining matches. Smith's team has only a very slim chance of catching White Eagle, so he may well be looking at giving promising youngsters a chance.

Brendan Lakoseljac was injured in a youth game last week and unable to travel to Burnie, but he might get a place on the bench this week. In the remaining match of the round, Launceston Juventus will have to be wary of visiting Caledonian at Prospect tomorrow. Calies are keen to overhaul at least some of the teams above them in the standing and the southerners are a better side than their results indicate. Calies midfielder, Mat Wesson, is sure to turn in a top performance against his former teammates, while Ian Parker is relishing his return to a striking role.

Launceston Juventus is keen to finish the season as the best of the northern clubs, and anything other than a win will be unsatisfactory if it is to achieve this honour. The home team's defence is very solid, so it should fall to strikers such as Mark Heyes and Roger Mies to ensure that the black-and-white win this game and retain their reputation as one of the more successful teams in the state.

White Eagle thwarts City's bid

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 9/7/1989

Hobart City failed to regain top spot in the Premier Division One soccer competition when it was comprehensively beaten 5-1 by an in form White Eagle team at the Athletic Centre yesterday.

Howrah, which beat bottom side Croatia-Glenorchy 3-1 in midweek, retains the league leadership by two points as a result of City's loss. White Eagle's win moves it into third place on the ladder, a position way beyond even coach Dale Itchins' expectations at the beginning of the season. "I'd aimed to develop youngsters this season and not worry about results, but we seem to be on a bit of a roll at the moment," said Itchins. "This is our fifth win in the past six games, and we've earned 16 points from a possible 18."

Jamie Woulleman and Grant Mason gave Eagle s 2-0 lead at the interval before a goal by Robbie Marino 10 minutes after the resumption put City back into contention. Eagle's tactics of employing three strikers on the small ground was effective, but Itchins' master stroke was moving Mason back into defence and pushing Grant Hildyard up front. Hildyard immediately created Eagle's third goal for Aaron Brown, while Mason made it 4-1 from the penalty spot. The fifth goal came from a great volley by Julian Tattersall, after Mason had flicked on Robert Jacobs' dangerous corner-kick.

Kingborough United maintained its inbeaten home record by scoring once in each half to defeat the visiting Metro-Claremont 2-0 at Sherburd Oval. Metro's chances were few and far between. Full-back Gary Sargent scooped the ball over the Kingborough crossbar in the first half, while Danny Prestage almost tucked the ball into the net following a goalmouth scrimmage in the second half. A delightful free kick from the edge of the penalty area in the 10th minute by Peter Wallace, awarded after Kevin Clamp had fouled Terry Banagan, gave Kingborough the lead.

However, with Andy Ferrall the backbone of the Metro defence, it wasn't until midway through the second half that the home team made the game safe. Scott De Haan had just fired against the Metro woodwork, when Wallace won a tackle in midfield and sent Trueman through for goal number two. Metro was a little more lively in the second half, with Kingborough having to survive several goalmouth scrambles, but its inability to test goalkeeper Tony Maccallini with direct shots was at the heart of its failure.

Olympia scored an amazing 3-0 victory over Hobart Juventus in very windy conditions at South Hobart, all three goals coming in three minutes midway through the second period.

In the two remaining matches, second-half goals by Mark Broadbent and Rod Sanders gave Taroona a 2-0 win over South Hobart, at South Hobart, while Caledonian defeated Rapid 2-1 at the Athletic Centre.

Result White Eagle 5 (Woulleman, Mason 2 1pen, Brown, Tattersall) def. Hobart City 1 (R. Marino)

White Eagle takes firm grip on title after six-goal salvo

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 10/7/89

White Eagle is within a point of retaining its Cadbury State League soccer title after its 6-0 win over Burnie United at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, in what was little more than a practice match for the league champion. Eagle scored three times in each half, but it should have been many more as some delightful build-up work was spoiled by poor finishing.

The team did not even miss midfielder David Stoddart and striker Brett Harwood, both of whom were suspended, allowing Franco Previdi and Bob Nicholson to have a run. Substitutes Sean Collins and Richard Ketchell were brought into the action in the second half, while goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud played in the outfield for the final 20 minutes, with Previdi taking his place in goal. Scott Young headed crosses from Craig Pitt and Nicholson past Burnie goalkeeper Mark Overton in the fifth and 33rd minutes to give Eagle a 2-0 lead.

Young then produced a delicate chip from inside the penalty area for Pitt to head home the third goal three minutes before the interval. Nicholson, Richard Leszczynski and Previdi added goals in the second half to complete the rout, although it must be said Burnie never threw in the towel. Andrew Starick and Pat Troughton fought bravely in defence for the visitors, while Steve Foley and Russell Troughton tried desperately to keep the ball in Burnie's attacking half of the field.

Hobart Juventus, without the injured Sergio Pace, struggled to overcome Launceston 2-0 at KGV in yesterday's curtain-raiser. Juventus striker John McIntyre had a game he will want to forget. He missed at least seven chances, either shooting wide, hitting the woodwork, or having his attempts saved by Launceston goalkeeper, Quentin Darby.

Darby had an outstanding game and was the major obstacle preventing Juventus from scoring an emphatic victory. Launceston's Phil Davis headed Romeo Fabrizio's free kick past his own goalkeeper after eight minutes for Juventus' opener, and it wasn't until four minutes from the end that Frank Genovesi hit the second.

In yesterday's remaining match, which was transferred from Prospect to Invermay Park, Launceston Juventus defeated Caledonian 1-0 through a goal by Roger Mies in the fifth minute. Mark Heyes cut the ball back from the goal-line and Luigi Gugliotti set up Mies for the vital strike. Peter Huigsloot and Paul Fenlon, both central defenders, had Calies' only two real chances, but Juventus thoroughly earnt its win.

In Saturday night's coastal derby at Valley Road, home team Devonport City scored a 2-1 win over Ulverstone, all the goals coming in the first half. Strikers Peter Sawdon and Billy Frame were Devonport's marksmen, while midfielder Andrew Howe replied for Ulverstone.

Result White Eagle 6 (Young 2, Pitt, R. Leszczynski, Nicholson, Previdi) def. Burnie United 0

Cadbury State League Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	14	13	1	0	46	15	40
Hobart Juventus	14	9	2	3	33	14	29
Launceston Juventus	14	8	3	3	34	17	27
Devonport City	14	8	3	3	32	17	27
Olympia	14	8	0	6	36	20	24
Ulverstone	14	5	1	7	22	23	17
Launceston	14	4	3	7	25	32	15
Caledonian	14	4	2	8	15	17	14
Croatia-Glenorchy	14	1	1	12	11	39	4
Burnie United	14	1	1	12	10	70	4

Juventus coach slams players

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 12/7/1989

Hobart Juventus coach, Ronnie De Felice, slammed his players for lack of effort on the eve of their Premier Division One clash with bottom side, Croatia-Glenorchy, scheduled for KGV Soccer Park tonight.

De Felice accused his players of having a poor attitude in regard to matches and training attendance and said he would really have a difficult job to motivate them. He was certainly not confident of winning, despite Juventus's fifth place in the standings, a massive 20 points ahead of last-placed Croatia. Juventus has had some disastrous results recently, losing 5-0 to Hobart City and 3-0 to Olympia.

Juventus did defeat league leader, Howrah, 1-0 in between these losses, but De Felice's concern is justified. "We're playing as individuals and there's no understanding, for example, between our full-backs and the wide midfielders," De Felice said. "I'll play myself, and this will mean dropping a striker and pushing a midfielder up. I suspect we may struggle, and we've got to remember we only beat them 2-1 last time."

Juventus will have Brett Williams in goal in place of the suspended Craig Jones. Jones received a two-week suspension and a $100 fine from the TSA as a result of several incidents at the half-time break and after the match against Hobart City. De Felice will expect a competent performance from Williams, the state under-18 goalkeeper, "Brett was a little reluctant to come off his line against Olympia," De Felice said. "Olympia played well and deserved to win, though, and I wouldn't necessarily place the blame on Brett's shoulders." Judging from Croatia's performances this season, it can have little chance of upsetting Juventus, despite De Felice's pessimism. It is averaging less than a goal a game, while conceding almost three goals per match.

Tonight's main fixture between Hobart City and Olympia promises to be a thrilling affair with second-last Olympia quite capable of toppling second-place City. Olympia caused an upset by downing Juventus 3-0 on Saturday and, with Paul Tsangaris again in the side, it should make City earn its points. Accusations and recriminations were flying everywhere in the City dressing room last weekend when the team was beaten 5-1 by White Eagle and this sort of disharmony will certainly not help tonight. The disappointment of defeat must be replaced by new enthusiasm and a will to win, with everyone getting behind each other and the coach. City easily accounted for Olympia 5-2 in the first round.

Easy run home, so Eagle eyes successive titles

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/7/89

White Eagle should take out the Cadbury State League title for the second year in succession by defeating Launceston at Ogilvie Park on Sunday.

Eagle really only needs a draw from the match, and even a defeat wouldn't be a disaster as it would still have three games left to get the points it needs. Anything but an Eagle win is unlikely, however, as the team will be virtually at full strength with the return from suspension of midfielder David Stoddart. Brett Harwood, the club's leading scorer, still has one week of his suspension to serve, but coach Eugene Mycak won't lose any sleep about a replacement as there are numerous players queueing up for a game.

Midfielder Scott Young seems certain to be in the starting line-up despite going off last week with an ankle injury and missing training on Tuesday. Franco Previdi and Sean Collins look like warming the bench, although Collins may get a run at some time because Mycak is a little worried about left full-back Neil Morrison's form. Mycak is not perturbed about the possibility of his team wrapping up the championship away from its own supporters. "I just want to win the title as soon as possible," Mycak said. "There are several other things to aim for, too. We would like to complete the season undefeated, and Brett Harwood and David Stoddart are in with a chance of being the leading goal scorers in the league.

Harwood will not play this week, of course, but Stoddart has ten goals and is only five behind Devonport's Peter Sawdon, so he may play in an offensive midfield role. He doesn't like to go up front because he doesn't like to be marked, so he'll be coming from deep and looking for goals."

Devonport City is intent on finishing second and it should be at full strength against Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday. Full-back Darren Chilcott has a slight hamstring strain, a legacy of last week's win over Ulverstone, but coach Ken Morton is confident he will be fit. If he isn't, Stewart Oliver will move from midfield to full-back. Caledonian must be rated a chance of containing Devonport, but it will have to make much better use of the chances that come its way.

Burnie United makes its second Sunday trip in a row to KGV, and it can probably expect a similar result against Olympia as its 8-0 loss to White Eagle last week. Olympia striker Paul Xanthopoulos warmed up in the clubs Premier Division One side on Wednesday and seems ready to resume his senior place and this will spell trouble for the visitor.

Burnies' attack is struggling and will have great difficulty in penetrating an Olympia defence that includes goalkeeper Phil Kannegiesser, who is having a tremendous season.

Croatia-Glenorchy entertains Launceston Juventus in a rare Saturday fixture at KGV in which Juventus must be regarded as the hot favourite. Croatia will be desperate for a point as it strives to create any sort of gap between itself and last-placed Burnie, but Juventus will be just as keen because it has second place in its sights. In the weekend's remaining match, Hobart Juventus, without the injured Sergio Pace, faces a difficult away match at Ulverstone and it may well relinquish second position in the standings by either drawing or losing.

‘Eagle’ retains premiership

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 16/7/89

White Eagle is this year’s Cadbury State League soccer champion after previously second-placed Hobart Juventus could only draw 0-0 with Ulverstone at Knight’s Rd yesterday.

Hobart Juventus needed to win to keep its faint title hopes alive, but these would probably have been extinguished today as Eagle will most likely defeat, or at least draw with, Launceston at Ogilvie Park. As it is, Eagle’s game with Launceston is now irrelevant as no other team can overhaul it. The title is Eagle’s second successive championship, its third in four seasons, and coach Eugene Mycak will now aim to complete the league season undefeated. Launceston Juventus moved into second spot when it came back from a 2- deficit to defeat Croatia-Glenorchy 4-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Neil Thomas, Croatia’s player-coach, set up goals for Chris Barrell and Neal Bishop in the 13th and 18th minutes respectively, but Croatia did not reckon on the brilliance of Juventus midfielder, Mark Nikolai. Nikolai, a former Rapid player, is not a regular in the Juventus line-up but he made every minute count yesterday, scoring twice and making the other two goals for team-mate Roger Mies. Nikolai scored in the 23rd and 42nd minutes to make it 2-2, then provided Mies with the simplest of goals two minutes before the interval to send Juventus in 3-2 up at the break. In the 72nd minute, Nikolai controlled a Paul Gimpl throw-in, turned and knocked the ball into the path of Mies, who was untroubled in shooting past goalkeeper Robbie Huigsloot to make it 4-2 for the visitor.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Howrah extended its lead over Hobart City in the Premier Division One competition to five points when it scraped home 1-0 against Metro-Claremont at South Hobart yesterday thanks to an Alistair Hales goal in the 52nd minute. Howrah, which was well-served in defence by brother Tony and Robert New, should have taken the lead in the 18th minutes when referee Jim Anderton awarded it a penalty, but Metro goalkeeper, Brett Porthouse, saved Karl Brightman’s spot-kick.

White Eagle continued its rapid climb up the table by easily disposing of University 4-0 at the campus ground through goals by Aaron Brown, a penalty by Grant Hildyard, Jamie Woulleman, and an own goal. Julian Tattersall should have added a fifth, but he missed with a penalty.

Taroona just got home 3-2 against Caledonian at the Athletic Centre by courtesy of an own goal 15 minutes from the end. An own goal saw Calies ahead after the opening 45 minutes, but Phil Kerr equalised for Taroona. Peter Jordan restored Calies’ lead. Kerr levelled yet again, and, then disaster struck for Calies.

In the final game of the round, Rapid defeated Kingborough United 4-2 at Sherburd Oval, after leading 2-1 at half time. John Cionci, with two goals, Andy White and Paul Sherman were Rapid’s scorers, while Peter Wallace and Ronnie Bolton replied for Kingborough.

Result White Eagle 4 (Hildyard pen, Brown, Woulleman, OG) def. University 0

New goals set by unbeaten state league premier

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/7/89

White Eagle confirmed its status as the newly crowned Cadbury State League soccer champion with an emphatic 5-0 win against Launceston at Ogilvie Park yesterday.

Eagle retained the title on Saturday without kicking a ball when its nearest rival, Hobart Juventus, was held to a goalless draw away to Ulverstone. David Stoddart scored twice for the champion against third-last Launceston. The other goals came from Michael Driessen, Scott Young and Richard Leszczynski.

With three matches left, White Eagle coach Eugene Mycak must be confident his team can complete its league program undefeated. With the title won, the players can now concentrate on trying to make either Brett Harwood or David Stoddart the league’s leading goal scorer.

A hat-trick by Ian Parker gave Calies a 3-1 win against Devonport, severely denting the North-West Coast side’s hopes of finishing in second spot.

In yesterday’s other fixture, also at KGV, midfielder Michael Goldsmith also hit a hat-trick as Olympia downed bottom-side Burnie United 5-1. Goldsmith, who captained Olympia yesterday, turned in a memorable performance in what was his final appearance for the club. He leaves Tasmania on Wednesday to join the Army.

In the Devonport-Calies clash, Peter Sawdon opened Devonport’s account after only six minutes by easily converting Billy Frame’s low cross from the right. Calies’ equaliser on the half-hour was a gem. Kevin Connell turned sharply on the edge of the penalty area before passing to Parker, who slotted the ball past Bob Smith. A minute later, Parker scored with his shin from John Paplos’s high lob into the goal mouth. Parker made the game safe for Calies five minutes from the end by neatly lobbing the ball into an unprotected goal.

Olympia got off to a great start against Burnie when Craig Nichols smashed home Chris Hey’s pass from the right after three minutes. Goldsmith scored the second goal in the 37th minute, direct from a free kick which he had earned

after being fouled by Burnie's player-coach, Kevin Considine. A crisp, first time volley in the 57th minute, after Nichols's cross, gave Goldsmith his second goal. Billy Tsakiris made it 4-0 in the 73rd minute with a bullet-like shot from the left. Goldsmith completed his hat-trick a minute later. Mick Martin found the net for a Burnie consolation goal in the last minute.

Result White Eagle 5 (Stoddart 2, Young, R. Leszczynski, Driessen) def. Launceston 0

Devonport City will add to Croatia-Glenorchy's woes

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/7/89

Croatia-Glenorchy resumes its struggle against relegation from the Cadbury State League soccer competition when it clashes with Devonport City at Valley Road tomorrow.

Croatia's situation is precarious as it is second-last in the standings, level on four points with Burnie United. Although Croatia would be safe if things remain as they are, given its much superior goal difference compared to the coastal side, Burnie has a much easier run-in to the end of the season.

Burnie is much more likely to snatch the odd point from its games against Launceston (home), Ulverstone (away) and Caledonian (home), than is Croatia, which has to meet Devonport (away), Hobart Juventus (KGV) and league champion, White Eagle (KGV). Brian Davidson will be back in the Croatia line-up after a two-week absence because of a hamstring injury and he will replace young full-back, Sean Albiston, who has an ankle injury.

Ricky Neads will be included in Croatia's squad, while Marijan Begovic may take over from Robbie Huigsloot in goal. Begovic, who has been playing at left full-back, but whose natural position is in goal – he has been selected in national youth training squads as a goalkeeper in the past – performed admirably in the club's Premier Division One team on Wednesday and should get the nod from coach Neil Thomas.

This will allow Huigsloot to return to the centre of the defence, where he forms a competent tandem with Chris Bessell. It will also permit Thomas to push the brilliant Ahmad Abdaltam into midfield, where his skills can be utilised fully. Despite the changes, Croatia seems unlikely to be able to surmount the huge obstacle that Devonport represents, and Ken Morton's charges will undoubtedly gain another three points in their quest for second spot.

Hobart Juventus and Caledonian meet at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday in what is a rehearsal for their meeting the following weekend in the quarterfinals of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition. Juventus will miss Mark Kelly (torn ankle ligaments) and Sergio Pace (knee), but should welcome back Romeo Frediani and John Broadhouse, both of whom should provide much needed scoring power. Coach David Smith has been impressed with David Nicholls' form in the reserves and the goalscoring midfielder may get a run at some stage of this match.

Caledonian will have Peter Sherman back after suspension and he should partner Ian Parker in an attack that will worry the Juventus defence.

Ace striker Brett Harwood returns to the White Eagle line-up and the league champion should continue its winning run against Ulverstone at KGV on Sunday. Harwood will operate in attack with Richard Leszczynski, but coach Eugene Mycak's biggest worry is who to leave out of the star-studded midfield, where five classy players are vying for four positions.

In the weekend's remaining matches, Olympia may well down Launceston Juventus at Prospect tomorrow, while Burnie just might grab a point, which will be worth its weight in gold, at home against Launceston on Sunday.

Goalie's slip sets up Olympia's win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/7/89

Olympia moved into second position on the Cadbury State League soccer ladder when it defeated Launceston Juventus 1-0 at Prospect Yesterday.

The decisive goal came in the 82nd minute, after a cross from the right by Olympia defender Michael Edward. Juventus goalkeeper, Warren Dent, attempted to punch the ball clear, but it fell to a group of three or four Olympia players and Craig Nichols had the last touch before the ball ended up in the back of the net.

Olympia played almost the entire second half with a stand-in goalkeeper, which made its victory even more meritorious. Phil Kannegiesser injured his right hand two minutes after the resumption and utility player Lars Koch went into goal. Billy Tsakiris came on to take Koch's place in attack and he provided the Juventus defence with plenty of headaches before the final whistle.

Croatia-Glenorchy will be eagerly awaiting the outcome of today's match between last-placed Burnie United and Launceston after losing 5-2 to Devonport City at Valley Road yesterday. Second-last Croatia must rely on Burnie failing to get a point in its last three matches if it is to avoid relegation as Croatia certainly seems incapable of salvaging anything from its remaining two games, judging from yesterday's performance.

Croatia should have led by at least three goals at half time, but it was Devonport which went in at the break 1-0 ahead, thanks to a Kevin Smith penalty, awarded after Peter Sawdon had been fouled. Sawdon, the league's leading marksman, went on to score twice in the second half as Devonport finally found Croatia's measure and swamped the

visitor, the other goals coming from Billy Frame and Wayne Boyd. Robbie Baric and Robbie Huigsloot made amends for Croatia's earlier misses by scoring a goal each in the second period. With White Eagle already the champion, the race for second place is now on in earnest and four teams – Olympia, Hobart Juventus, Launceston Juventus and Devonport – are all on 30 points with only goal difference separating them.

'Eagle' home claws with last-half burst

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 24/7/89

It is difficult to fathom why Ulverstone is only in sixth place in the Cadbury State League soccer competition. The Reds turned in a stirring performance against league champion, White Eagle, in very heavy conditions at KGV Soccer Park yesterday and led 1-0 at the interval, only to lose 3-1 as Eagle performed its almost customary escape act.

Ulverstone dominated the first half, with defenders Les Jones, John Compagne and Michael Foote overshadowing the Eagle strikers, and Tom Compagne and Andrew Howe proving extremely inventive in midfield, despite the energy-sapping mud. Two magnificent saves by White Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, probably kept Eagle's unbeaten league record intact, but there were other close calls, Eugene Banasik blocking Foote's effort on the line, and Sallese shooting against the far post, having shown the Eagle defence a clean pair of heels with a great run down the left.

Groenewoud's save in the 53rd minute was world-class. Tom Compagne released Guilbert on the left, Michael Jones met his cross with a firm, well-placed header that had "goal" written all over it, but Groenewoud somehow flung himself backwards to tip the ball over the cross bar. Four minutes from the end, Groenewoud foiled Michael Jones with his legs after the striker had mesmerised the Eagle defence and worked his way into the penalty area for a strike at goal.

Michael Jones set up Tom Compagne for the opening goal in the 40th minute, but, as has happened so often this season, Eagle recovered brilliantly to grab the goals needed for victory. In the 58th minute, Andy Howe failed to control Andrew Leszczynski's ball into the penalty area and Scott Young swooped to knock in the equaliser. Two goals in two minutes midway through the half, then killed off Ulverstone, as Eagle demonstrated its counterattacking ability and clinical finishing. In the 65th minute, David Stoddart fed substitute Richard Leszczynski on the left and he turned sharply inside the penalty area and planted a low drive past the diving Roger Andrews and into the far corner of the net to give Eagle the lead. A minute later, Stoddart fought for the ball on the edge of the penalty area and, as it ran loose, Brett Harwood slammed it home to make it 3-1 for the champion.

Hobart Juventus regained second place in the standings with a 3-0 win over Caledonian at KGV yesterday in a game that proved costly for both sides. John Paplos was sent off for Calies, which also had Kevin Connell taken to hospital by ambulance with a knee injury, while Juventus had Romeo Frabrizio sent off, and lost midfielders Billy Stanford (knee) and Steve Kannegiesser (groin) through injury.

Fabrizio hit Juventus' first, from Kannegiesser's delivery, after seven minutes, but it wasn't until the 53rd minutes that Juventus notched its second after a comedy of errors by the Calies defence. A high ball skimmed off Paul Fenlon's head to Peter Huigsloot, whose attempted clearance cannoned off Fenlon to Fabrizio. Fabrizio advanced on goal, Glen Steward parried his shot, but John McIntyre scored at the second attempt, his first effort sticking in a puddle on the line. Romeo Frediani scored Juventus' third 10 minutes from time with a superb solo effort in which he juggled the ball past three defenders before shooting past Stewart.

Burnie United virtually assured itself of safety from relegation with an astounding 5-0 home win against Launceston in yesterday's remaining match, Steve Eastley (2), Darren Timms (2) and player-coach, Kevin Considine, being the marksmen.

Result White Eagle 3 (Young, R. Leszczynski, Harwood) def. Ulverstone 1 (T. Compagne)

White Eagle coach always looks to the next goal

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 25/7/1989

EUGENE MYCAK, coach of Cadbury State League soccer champion White Eagle, is relatively calm about his team's success this season. Mycak said he had prepared this season's program with the State League title as the ultimate prize, and everything had gone according to plan. The team had lost twice to Juventus in the pre-season competition, but no-one had panicked, and this was a sign of the mature outlook on the part of everyone involved with the club.

With the league title retained, White Eagle won the championship in 1986 and 1988 as well, Mycak's aim now is to complete the league season undefeated, win the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition, and try to make either Brett Harwood or David Stoddart the league's leading goalscorer. Mycak is no stranger to success, having played and coached professionally in his native Poland, as well in the US. In Poland, he coached a third division side to promotion to the second division and to the semi-finals of the national cup competition.

He then spent some time in the United States before coming to Tasmania, where his only other title success was winning the second division championship with White Eagle and taking the team back into the highest grade. Mycak's lifestyle has changed considerably since his arrival in Tasmania at the beginning of this decade. He is now a physical education teacher at New Town High School and is hoping to obtain permanent status with the Education Department. "I must pay considerable credit to the Education Department, to my principal, and to Mr. Trousselot, my physical education senior master," Mycak said.

"They have all contributed to our title win because teaching at New Town High has been so convenient for me. It is close to where I live, and the school's involvement with the community means we have been able to use the school's facilities as part of our training program." Mycak also paid tribute to his team manager, Eddie Kempa, club president

David Stoddart snr, trainer Bobby Rybak, reserve team coach Dale Itchins and Mrs. Leszczynski, mother of four of the players, who always provided a veritable banquet for the team after each game.

Mycak was reluctant to single out individual players for special praise, but he did say that four or five of them could probably get up to national league standard if they were prepared to train up to five times a week. He did mention the influence of captain and sweeper Mark Leszczynski however, who coached the side to last year's title, and who Mycak believes has a great future as a coach. "Mark is an excellent player and a vital part of the team, but he is also a close personal friend and he has often been a sort of link between me and the team," Mycak said. "He is close to the players on the field, at training and socially, and he can assess their general mood and relay this to me, which is invaluable for a coach.

"It is difficult to be a coach in Tasmania because you have to be a friend, a coach, a diplomat and an adviser. You have to be one of the boys to a certain extent, but you still have to be boss and make the difficult decisions." Mycak will leave his future up to the players, strangely enough. He intends to hold another team meeting, just like at the start of the season, and if the players want him as coach, he will stay. Although he would consider coaching interstate, especially in the NSL, it would take a mighty good offer to lure him away from the security he enjoys in Tasmania.

Three-goal win top priority for Juventus

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 27/7/1989

HOBART JUVVENTUS can move into second place in the Premier Division One soccer standings if it defeats Rapid by more than three goals at the Athletic Centre today.

Juventus coach, Ronnie Di Felice will aim to achieve this and instruct his players to try and play one-touch soccer on the small ground, which doesn't really suit Juventus' style of play.

Rapid, which claimed it got a raw deal from the referee last week when it went down 4-1 to Howrah, could be a tough nut to crack, although its own form at the Athletic Centre has not been very good. It has only won once and drawn once, but lost three times at that venue, so the omens are not bright.

University should defeat South Hobart at University, despite being without goalkeeper David Cruse and striker Tim O'Callaghan, both of whom are unavailable. Tom Wanner will replace O'Callaghan while Carl Gavan will again play in goal. Chrs Hargrave will play sweeper and, with Peter Crowther playing well in midfield and Wanner partnering the speedy Chris Green in attack, the students should edge a little farther away from the relegation zone. Coach Andrew Robinson is desperate for points, but expects a tough game on what will probably be a bumpy and sticky surface.

The White Eagle versus Caledonian match at South Hobart should be a thrilling encounter, with Calies quite capable of bringing Eagle's recent successful run to a halt. White Eagle was very disappointing in only beating South Hobart 2-0 last week and Dale Itchins' team will have to be much sharper in front of goal to get something out of this match.

Kingborough United has the bye, while the Taroona versus Howrah match has been postponed benuse of Howrah's Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup quarter-final tie against Olympia on Sunday.

Howrah awkward Cup hurdle for Olympia

By WALTER PLESS – STATEWIDE CUP – 28/7/1989

DEFENDING champion Olympia faces an awkward quarterfinal tie when it meets Premier Competition One side Howrah in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday.

Howrah leads the Premier Division One competition, which indicates it will have some chance against its Cadbury State League opponent. Olympia coach David Crosson is undecided about his team, as some players may be unavailable, while others have nagging injuries which may not have healed in time.

Midfielder Roger Munro has accumulated 12 disciplinary points and will probably be automaticallly suspended, although there is a question mark about whether he is eligible to play in the Cup but not in a league match. Defender Chris Hey may also be unavailable because of work commitments.

Goalkeeper Phil Kannegeisser should have recovered from a hand injury suffered last weekend, while Crosson hopes Glen McNeil will be ready to resume after missing several games because of a recurring hamstring Injury. Crosson intends playing, despite a sore hamstring, and Billy Tsakiris, Lars Koch and Carlo Ambrosino all seem likely to be in the starting line-up.

"I rate Koch very much." Crosson said. "He gives it everything and he's the sort of player every team needs. "Howrah may be a problem, especially if we don't approach this game with the right attitude, but I'd have to be confident about our chances."

Howrah coach Robert New has a complete squad to choose from and said his players were confident, especially after drawing 2-2 against Olympia in a preseason game. Andrew Dobbie will be in the starting line-up after only playing in the second half of last week's match, while Malcolm Lockley will probably be on the bench, having finally recovered from a pulled thigh muscle.

Caledonian will be without full-back John Paplos and midfielder Kevin Connell for its meeting on Sunday with Hobart Juverstus at KGV. Paplos was suspended after being sent off against Juventus last week, while Connell has damaged knee ligaments and will miss the rest of the season, Peter Jordan and Jason Goodsell are the most likely replacements, with Bret Anderton, Shane Salter and Ian McGlone occupying the substitutes' bench.

Juventus won last week's league encounter between the sides 3-0, but this may be a different kettle of fish with Steve Kannegiesser out injured, Romeo Fahrizio suspended, and Billy Stanford doubtful because of a knee injury. John Broadhouve may make a welcome return to the side, and David Nicholls may retain his place after making an appearance as a substitute last week.

White Eagle should have few problems against Launceston at Prospect tomorrow, despite the absence of Michael Driessen and Richard Leszczynski. Brett Harwood has an infected toe and must be regarded as doubtful, but Franco Previdi, Sean Collins and Richard Ketchell. the most likely replacements, are all seasoned senior squad members.

In the remaining quarter-final tie, Burnie United entertains Launceston Juventus at Montello Park on Sunday. Anything is possible after Burnie's astonishing 5-0 league win against Launceston last week.

White Eagle grabs semi spot

By WALTER PLESS – STATEWIDE CUP – 30/7/1989

State league soccer champion, White Eagle, secured a place in the semi-finals of the Bohemian lstaurant Statewide Cup by defeating Launceston 2-0 in their quarter-final tie at Prospect yesterday.

White Eagle scored once in each half on an atrocious pitch and in poor weather conditions. Midfielder Craig Pitt opened the scoring In the eighth minute, after a cross-field build-up involving Scott Young and Franco Previdi, which tore the Launceston defence apart. Andrew Leszczynski should have added another goal in the 17th minute when Eagle was awarded a penalty for handball, but the striker had his twice-taken penalty kick saved both times by Launceston goalkeeper Quinton Darby.

David Stoddart sealed Launceston’s fate four minutes after the interval. He controlled Neil Morrison's free kick from the left and planted the ball past Darby from 12 metres.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Pitt, Stoddart) def. Launceston 0

SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE

With league pacesetters Howrah and Hobart City idle yesterday, Hobart Juventus squandered a great opportunity to move into second place in the Premier Division One standings when it slumped to a 1-0 defeat against Rapid at the Athletic Centre. Juventus, which had senior-team player Sergio Pace in its ranks, fell to a second-half goal by Paul Sherman, who converted Andy White's cross.

White Eagle took full advantage of Juventus’s lapse by displacing the Italian-backed club in third spot by virtue of its 4-2 win over Caledonian at South Hobart. All four Eagle goals came from Grant Mason, who played as a striker instead of his usual position of either midfielder or central defender.

Mason headed his first after five minutes from Aaron Browns centre, then added a second in the 40th minute after Caledonian goalkeeper, Robert Stoneman could only parry Jamie Woullemans angled drive. Mason completed his hat-trick in the 59th minute after a fine run into the penalty area on the left by Tattersall. Stoneman blocked Mason's first attempt, but was helpless when the striker struck home the rebound.

Caledonian still had a sting in its tail, however, and when Scott Smith and Tony Shields took advantage of lapses in the Eagle defence to score a goal each and make the score 3-2. Eagle's lead seemed precarious, indeed Shane Salter should have equalised when Shields put him through the middle, but he de layed his shot much too long and, when he finally attempted a strike, Eagle goalkeeper Frank Maineliss was able to block the ball easily.

With five minutes remaining, Mason came to Eagle's rescue by scoring from a penalty, awarded after Paul Murray had terminated yet another of Tattersell's hop-step-and-jump routines inside the penalty area. Calies' Craig Siddall was sent off seconds before Mason took the spot-kick, after he allegedly elbowed White Eagle substitute, Simon Templeman, as they stood together in the penalty area.

In the rcmaining match, University moved up a place to ninth in the standings by defeating South Hobart 4-1, at University.

Result White Eagle 4 (Mason 4) def. Caledonians 2 (Smith, Shields)

White Eagle should keep unbeaten record intact

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 2/8/89

WHITE EAGLE, the Cadbury State League champion, will be out to defend its unbeaten league record when it meets seventh-placed Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Eagle has swept just about everything before it this season end it should win, although it will have to be at its best. Calies was almost the first team to take point off Eagle this season when it went down by the narrowest of margins in the first round. Eagle came back from 1-0 down to win 2-1, but only with the aid of a highly controversial penalty.

Midfielder Andrew Leszczynski will be missing from the champions line-up because of a hamstring injury, suffered while taking a penalty against Launceston last Saturday. The club is hoping that Michael Driessen will be back from Sydney. The central defender missed Eagle's cup game at the weekend. Richard Leszczynski returns to the driving seat up front after his absence at the weekend and his speed may well trouble Calies' defence.

Caledonian will field the same starting line-up that lost to Hobart Juventus on Sunday. Paul Murray, a promising 16-year-old, will get a place on the substitutes' bench, together with John Paplos, who has completed a one-match suspension. Caledonian coach, Bret Anderton, regards David Stoddart as Eagle's playmaker and he will assign Darren Anderton to neutralise him.

Calies have two aims in this game - to be the first team to defeat Eagle in the league this season, and to make it as difficult as possible for Brett Harwood and Stoddart to win the leading marksman award.

Caledonian's Premier Division One side will be without Craig Siddall when it faces University in tonight's curtain-raiser. Siddall was shown the red card in the game against White Eagle on Saturday and is automatically suspended for this match. The team will be strengthened by the inclusion of senior-squad member John Paplos, and the return of Stacey Peters, who has been unavailable for several weeks because of work commitments. Scott Smith, who scored against Eagle on Saturday, is unavailable because of study commitments.

Calies fail to Clip wings of 'Eagle'

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE kept its unbeaten Cadbury State League record intact last night with a 1.0 win over Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park.

The league champion was unimpressive, and Caledonian must consider itself extremely unfortunate not to have earned at least a point. Calies failed to take advantage of confusion in the Eagle defence on at least two occasions in the first half, while Brett Pullen, who had an excellent match, missed two good chances in the second period.

Pullen sent in a rasping shot just wide of Peter Groenewoud's left-hand pest on the first occasion, then saw Groenewoud pull off a great save from his low drive on the second. Eagle's best chance in the first half came when Brett Harwood rounded goalkeeper Glen Stewart, but the striker squandered the opening by shooting into the side netting.

The solitary goal came on the hour. David Stoddart crossed from the right, and Harwood knocked the ball past Stewart for his 15th league goal of the season. Last night's result stretched Eagle's unbeaten league sequence to an incredible 32 games.

Result White Eagle 1 (Harwood) def. Caledonians 0

United ground edge hones Eagle's anxiety

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 5/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE'S Premier Division One coach, Dale Itchins, is dreading his side's visit to Sherburd Oval today to face Kingborough United. Itchins said Kingborough would be very difficult to beat on its home patch, despite his team's impressive run of nine games - eight wins and a draw without defeat.

Robert Jacobs will miss the match because of a calf injury suffered against South Hobart a couple of weeks ago. Jacobs trained on Thursday but Itchins is not prepared to risk him and will save him for next week's crucial top-of-the-table clash against Howrah.

Chris Leszczynski will come back into Eagle's 13-man squad after first-team duty. Kingborough is certainly a team to be respected, especially at home, but Eagle definitely has the class to win and stay in touch with the two leading teams.

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 6/8/1989

White Eagle took its unbeaten sequence to 10 games when it overpowered Kingborough United 3-0 at Sherburd Oval. Jamie Woulleman struck Eagle's first, Grant Mason made it 2-0 from the penalty spot before the interval, while Woulleman grabbed his second, and Eagle's third, in the second half.

Result White Eagle 3 (Woulleman 2, Mason) def. Kingborough 0

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	16	14	0	2	42	13	42
Hobart City	18	12	3	3	48	30	39
White Eagle	17	12	1	4	51	29	37
Hobart Juventus	18	13	1	3	40	23	36
Taroona	17	10	0	7	38	28	30
Caledonian	16	7	2	7	44	40	23
Kingborough Utd	17	7	2	8	21	24	23
Rapid	17	6	2	9	27	38	20
University	16	5	3	8	27	30	18
Metro Claremont	17	6	0	11	24	37	18
Olympia	18	5	2	11	29	45	17
South Hobart	16	3	2	11	20	39	11
Croatia-Glenorchy	17	1	2	14	14	52	5

Curtain is poised to fall on Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 12/8/1989

CROATIA-GLENORCHY will require a miracle this weekend to avoid relegation from the Cadbury State League soccer competition.

Last-placed Croatia must defeat league champion White Eagle when they meet at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday to avoid the drop. Even if it does pull off the "impossible", its fate will still depend on Caledonian defeating Burnie United at Montello Park the same day.

Croatia can expect no sympathy or mercy from a full-strength White Eagle. Croatia has a tendency to commit basic errors in defence and it must overcome this failing to have any chance of survival.

Hobart Juventus should finish second this season by accounting for Launceston Juventus in Sunday's main fixture at KGV. The Hobart side should have star midfielder Steve Kannegiesser back after injury and this will swing the odds in its favour. Kannegiesser shut Launceston player-coach Peter Savill out of the game when the southerners won 2-0 at Prospect in the first round.

In tomorrow's two matches, Ulverstone should do better against Launceston than their goal-less draw of the first round, while Olympia may well reverse its first-round result against Devonport City, when Devonport won 3-2 at KGV.

Ulverstone has impressed on many occasions this season without getting the results it has deserved. Olympia always performs better away from home, as does Devonport, so the southerners should win. Devonport coach Ken Morton will have his team well organised, but Olympia's ability to improvise should see it through to finish third in the standings.

Olympia moves into second spot

By WALTER PLESS 13/8/1989

OLYMPIA finished the Cadbury State League season on a high note yesterday by moving into second spot by virtue of its 3-0 away win over Devonport City at Valley Road.

Billy Tsakiris, Paul Xanthopoulos and Roger Munro were Olympia's scorers. Olympia is level on 36 points with Hobart Juventus. The two teams also have identical goal differences, but Olympia occupies second place because it has scored six more goals than Juventus. Hobart Juventus can reclaim second spot by either drawing with, or defeating, Launceston Juventus in today's main fixture at KGV Soccer Park.

Launceston improved its league position by one place - from eighth to seventh spot - with a 4-3 win over the visiting Ulverstone at Ogilvie Park yesterday. Ulverstone got off to a great start and led 2-0 after only 15 minutes through goals by John Sallese and Tom Compagne, the latter from the penalty spot. It might have grabbed another two or three goals in the opening half, but two opportunities went begging and Anthony Guilbert fired against the crossbar.

An own-goal by Ulverstone barely two minutes after the resumption altered the pattern of the game completely. Ulverstone faded into obscurity, while Launceston began to string moves together and it was no surprise when Conrad Hughes notched the equaliser in the 54th minute.

Hughes edged Launceston ahead midway through the second half, but David Mitchell powered Tom Compagne's corner past the Launceston goalkeeper to level the scores yet again with eight minutes left to play.

A penalty in the 85th minute, converted by Hughes, gave him his hat-trick and earned Launceston a meritorious victory after it had appeared to be down for the count in the opening 45 minutes.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the Southern Premier Division One competition, Howrah took one step closer to the title with a 2-1 win over White Eagle at South Hobart, Eagle's first defeat in 11 games.

Richard Dixson put Howrah ahead, but a free kick by Jamie Woulleman just before the break levelled the scores. Eagle dominated the second half, but a quick counter-attack in the dying minutes settled the issue. Eagle goalkeeper Frank Mainella, could only parry Paul Engels' shot and Dixson slotted home the rebound.

Four goals by Rod Sanders took him to the top of the individual goalscoring charts, and helped Taroona to a 5-2 win over Olympia, Taroona's other goal coming from Robert Furjanic. Olympia, which had Shannon Keskeridis sent off 15 minutes from the end for srious foul play replied through Harry Hages and Andrew Hart.

Kingborough United caused a surprise by disposing of University 4-1, David Dingjan scoring twice for the winner.

Result White Eagle 1 (Woulleman) lost to Howrah 2 (Dixson 2)

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	17	15	0	2	44	14	45
Hobart City	19	12	4	3	48	30	40
White Eagle	18	12	1	5	52	31	37
Hobart Juventus	18	11	3	4	40	23	36
Taroona	18	11	0	7	43	30	33
Caledonian	18	8	3	7	46	41	27
Kingborough Utd	18	8	2	8	25	25	26
Rapid	18	7	2	9	30	39	23
Metro Claremont	19	6	2	11	24	37	19
University	17	5	3	9	28	34	18
Olympia	19	5	2	12	31	47	17
South Hobart	17	3	2	12	20	41	11
Croatia-Glenorchy	19	1	3	15	16	55	6

White Eagle scrapes in for draw after Juventus' early onslaught

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 1989

WHITE EAGLE recovered after being two goals down in the opening 10 minutes to draw 2-2 with Hobart Juventus in their Premier Division One soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Eagle had no answer to the Juventus onslaught in the opening stages. David Nichols was like a bounty hunter, shooting on sight, while John Broadhouse, socks down and shirt out, mesmerised the Eagle defence with his speed, positional sense and dribbling ability.

It was this pair that threatened to destroy Eagle. Nichols smashed home the first goal in the fifth minute after the Eagle defence only partially cleared Rocky Schiro's free kick. Five minutes later, Nichols released Broadhouse with a perfectly-timed pass and the winger rounded goalkeeper Frank Mainella and had all the time in the world to line-up his shot. By the time Eagle defender Grant Hildyard arrived on the scene, all he could do was help Broadhouse's shot into the net.

With the three points seemingly in its pocket, Juventus suddenly went off the boil and Eagle drew level by the break. A penalty, converted by Grant Mason, midway through the half gave Eagle the encouragement it needed, while Tattersall's scrambled equaliser in the 33rd minute, after a free kick, virtually signalled the end of Juventus' chances. The second period was a tense affair, with both sides unsuccessfully searching for the elusive winner.

The draw leaves Eagle and Juventus in third and fourth places respectively, five and six points behind second-placed Hobart City, which scrambled a 3-2 win out of nothing against Caledonian in last night's curtam-raiser. An inept defence cost Caledonian the game. Twice it left Paul Kaproulias unmarked and twice the City striker scored. He completed his hat-trick in the final minute from the penalty spot, after David Stint had unnecessarily upended Robbie Marino.

Peter Jordan and Tony Shields had given Calies the lead twice during the game, and numerous other chances went begging as Calies pinned City in its own half for long periods and threatened to annihilate their opponent. Kevin Connell made a marvellous comeback to the Calies team after several weeks out with a knee ligament injury. He showed no after effects of his injury, twisting and turning past defenders and firing a superb shot against the City post in the first half, and sending over a steady stream of dangerous crosses and corners.

Result White Eagle 2 (Mason pen, Tattersall) drew with Juventus 2 (Nichols, Broadhouse)

White Eagle hammers home the final nail

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 14/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE, the Cadbury State League soccer champion, completed its 18-game league program undefeated when it crushed last-placed Croatia-Glenorchy 4-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. White Eagle finished a massive 15 points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus, which finished its league commitments with a goalless draw against sister-club Launceston Juventus in yesterday's main feature at KGV.

Brett Harwood, the White Eagle striker, finished second to Devonport City's Peter Sawdon in the individual goal scoring contest. Harwood only scored once yesterday to finish on 16 goals, two behind Sawdon. With Croatia having lost to the league champion earlier in the day, Burnie United, which was therefore in no danger of finishing last, duly went down 4-2 to the visiting Caledonian at Montello Park.

Croatia, without the injured Brian Davidson, was always up against it yesterday and it came as no surprise when Franco Previdi flicked home Neil Morrison's corner in the eighth minute to give the league champion, which was without Michael Driessen and Andrew Leszczynski, the lead. Scott Young drifted through the Croatia defence in the 21st minute to head home Bob Nicholson's cross for Eagle's second goal. Morrison might have scored a few minutes earlier, but his deep cross from the left came back off the crossbar.

A low shot into the far corner of the net on the hour by substitute Richard Leszczynski made it 3-0, while Harwood headed the fourth from Peter Groenewoud's cross four minutes from time. Groenewoud had taken up a striker's role, with Previdi going into goal. Robbie Baric, Neal Bishop and Chris Bessell were the only Croatia players to have scoring chances, while Marijan Begovic pulled off some great saves in goal.

Result White Eagle 4 (Previdi, Harwood, Young, R. Leszczynski) def. Croatia-Glenorchy 0

Cadbury State League Final Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	18	17	1	0	59	16	52
Hobart Juventus	18	11	4	3	41	16	37
Olympia	18	12	0	6	47	22	36
Launceston Juventus	18	9	5	4	39	21	32
Devonport City	18	9	4	5	39	26	31
Ulverstone	18	6	3	9	30	32	21
Caledonian	18	6	2	10	22	24	20
Launceston	18	5	3	10	30	47	18
Burnie United	18	2	1	15	20	83	7
Croatia-Glenorchy	18	1	1	16	17	57	4

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	19	16	1	2	53	17	49
Hobart City	21	13	4	4	52	34	43
White Eagle	20	13	2	5	64	34	41
Taroona	20	13	0	7	48	33	39
HJuventus	20	11	4	5	42	26	37
Kgbh United	20	9	2	9	28	28	29
Caledonian	20	8	4	8	50	46	28
Rapid	20	8	2	10	34	41	26
University	19	6	3	10	35	41	21
Metro-Claremont	19	6	1	12	24	40	19
South Hobart	19	5	2	12	23	42	17
Olympia	20	5	2	13	31	53	17
Croatia-Glenorchy	21	1	3	17	19	68	6

Southern First Division

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1989 - ATHLETIC CENTRE - White Eagles V Croatia

Four goals by Julian Tattersall and a hat-trick by captain Robert Jacobs were the highlights of White Eagle's crushing 10-1 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at the Athletic Centre.

White Eagle 10 (Tattersall 4, Jacobs 3, Woulleman, Mason, Brown) Croatia-Glenorchy 1 (Mesic)

Eagle in form to feather the nest

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 30/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE can make second spot in the Premier Division One soccer competition its own by defeating second-last placed Olympia in the main feature of tonight's double-header at KGV Soccer Park.

White Eagle coach, Dale Itchins, will make only one addition to his squad - defender Chris Leszczynski comes in to make it a 14-man outfit. Itchins will not use any of White Eagle's Cadbury State League players for tonight's game. "I respect Olympia and we won't be taking them lightly," Itchins said. "We might have beaten Croatia-Glenorchy 10-1 on Saturday, but that was a non-event as far as I'm concerned."

Olympia's 6-0 loss to University at the weekend does not augur well for its chances, but the team was apparently not at full strength with three or four regulars missing. Olympia should be more competitive tonight. Shannon Keskeridis should be back after suspension, while it would not surprise to see senior team midfielder Roger Munro in the line-up.

Munro needs the match practice after missing the Bohemiam Cup semi-final on Sunday because of suspension. Michael Edwards, who scored Olympia's goal against Juventus in the semi-final, would also bolster the team if he were to be included. It is difficult to envisage anything other than a White Eagle win, however, although it might be as close again as in the first round, when Eagle won 3-2.

Julian Tattersall and Jamie Woulleman are the danger men in the Eagle attack and the inclusion of someone like senior defender Chris Hey by Olympia may be needed to quell the threat they pose.

Caledonian and Kingborough United may have to settle for a draw when they meet in the curtain-raiser. Calies' achilles heel is its defence, which often gives goals away with reckless abandon, negating the good work done by the team's forwards. Coach Rex Calvert is sure to have stressed to his players the need to take no risks at the back, so an improved performance by the rearguard can be expected.

Up front, Calies can be quite inventive, although far too many chances are still being squandered. Peter Jordan is a brave and fleet footed striker however, and Malcolm Reid, David Pott and Roy Barker will have to share the responsibility of containing him. The Kingborough team often revolves around striker-midfielder Derek Trueman, who is deadly in the air and ferocious on the ground.

It is difficult to see who in the Calies team could neutralise him. Darren Anderton, from the seniors, may be tough enough, but Trueman has the edge in skill. Calvert will probably be reluctant to use Anderton, preferring to stick with the players already in his squad. The game promises to be a hard-fought, thrilling encounter, with both teams committed to all-out attack. Kingborough has a one-point advantage over Calies in the standings and that may remain the difference between the teams at the end of the game.

Eagle now second on ladder

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 31/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE moved into second spot on the Premier Division One soccer ladder when it defeated Olympia 3-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Olympia looked the better side in the opening 15 minutes and was unlucky not to score as early as the third minute when Clinton Brown's chip seemed destined for the back of the net. Eagle defender Grant Hildyard saved the situation, however, with a diving header.

Eagle gradually got into stride and was well in control by the 20th minute, when it almost took the lead. Captain Robert Jacobs sent over a corner from the right, Grant Mason headed for goal, but Olympia defender Tony Tarros blocked the ball on the line. A minute later, Olympia goalkeeper John Collar did well to save a testing shot from Aaron Brown.

The Olympia defence finally cracked midway through the first half. Aaron Brown's corner from the left caused confusion inside the six-yard box, and an Olympia defender, under pressure from Julian Tattersall, headed into his own net.

Jacobs should have increased Eagle's lead in the 28th minute, but fired wide. Two minutes later, however, he had a hand in a magnificent second goal. Jacobs attacked down the left and passed inside to Tattersall, who picked out the unmarked Aaron Brown on the right. With Olympia defender Chris Hey bearing down on him, Brown unleashed a tremendous shot that beat Collar all ends up and came back off the crossbar. Before Hey could react, Brown smashed

the ball into the opposite corner of the net for a truly great goal. Shannon Keskeridis pulled a goal back for Olympia just before the interval, but Jamie Woulleman restored Eagle's two-goal buffer on the hour.

Result White Eagle 3 (OG, Brown, Woulleman) def. Olympia 1 (Keskeridis)

White Eagle flies into cup final

THE EAMINER - By JOHN TSCHEPPERA – 1/9/1989 – STATEWIDE CUP

White Eagle won its way into the final of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Knockout Cup courtesy of a Scott Young goal two minutes into extra time. White Eagle did not have it all its own way in this hard, physical, and fast encounter with Launceston Juventus at the AIC, Prospect. Juventus welcomed back midfielder Steve Morley from a long injury spell, and he helped his team press forward from the start of the semi-final match in which some spite bubbled over before both sides settled down. Play swung from end to end as midfields tried to gain supremacy and defences tidied up dangerous attacking moves.

Eagles claimed the first goal in the 22nd minute from a set piece. Neil Morrison swung a near-post corner across from the right side and keeper Warren Dent was unable to clear it away. It fell to Michael Driessen to volley the ball into the roof of the net from close range. Shortly afterwards, David Stoddart fired in a long-range shot as the Eagles found some added confidence and developed some composed build-ups. Juventus put paid to that in the 36th minute to draw level. Luigi Gugliotti fed player-coach Peter Savill down the right side and he promptly beat his marker and crossed the ball to the far post to put Peter Groenewoud under pressure. The ball went through Groenewoud's hands, and Paul Ewart arrived on the scene to steer it over the goal-line from an acute angle.

Another set piece by the Eagles gave the visitors the lead with only four minutes of the half remaining. A long free kick was taken by Stoddart from the right side and Liam Monagle's head could only direct it backwards. Craig Pitt nipped in to clip the ball accurately past Dent from close range. Juventus opened the second half with renewed vigour, and Mies and Monagle had opportunities to level the game again. Juventus was forced to make a change early in the second half after Ewart was helped from the field with a dislocated right knee. Monagle slotted back into central defence to make room for youngster John Visentin in midfield. Monagle and Paul Gimpl proceeded to tighten up the backline and make it difficult for the Eagles' Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Young and Pitt to find a way through.

Juventus continued to plug away and, in the 72nd minute. was rewarded with a brilliant equaliser. Roger Mies received the ball just inside the attacking half and headed goalward on a long, lonesome run. On the way, he turned defenders Eugene Banasik and Mark Leszczynski inside out before planting a low drive past Peter Groenewoud from 23m. Pitt almost gave Eagles the lead once more minutes later, but his first-time shot was pushed away by the diving Dent.

Franco Previdi substituted Harwood, who had earlier collected a solid bump to the head, and the match continued into extra time. Eagles' third set piece yielded their third goal after only three minutes of extra-time. Morrison, again, curled a corner-kick to the near post and, again, Dent failed to hold the ball. Young was on hand to blast the gift into the net from close range. Mark Heyes almost salvaged the game for Juventus 24 minutes into extra time when he curled a header supplied by a Savill free kick just wide of the post, but it was not to be. White Eagle will now meet Hobart Juventus in the final at KGV, Hobart, on Sunday, September 3.

Result White Eagle 3 (Driessen, Pitt, Young) def. Launceston Juventus 1 (Ewart, Mies)

Injuries cloud Eagle, Juventus Cup shots

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/9/89

HOBART JUVENTUS will be without Romeo Frediani for its meeting with White Eagle in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup Final at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday.

The talented youngster, who is equally at home in either a midfield or striking role, broke an arm in last week's semi-final against Olympia when he was accidentally kicked by a defender trying to clear the ball. Juventus coach, David Smith, described the loss of Frediani as a "big blow" because the youngster can control the pace of the game so well. Romeo Fabrizio and Sergio Pace are two other doubtful starters for Juventus; Fabrizio has a foot injury and Pace a virus, and neither player has been able to train.

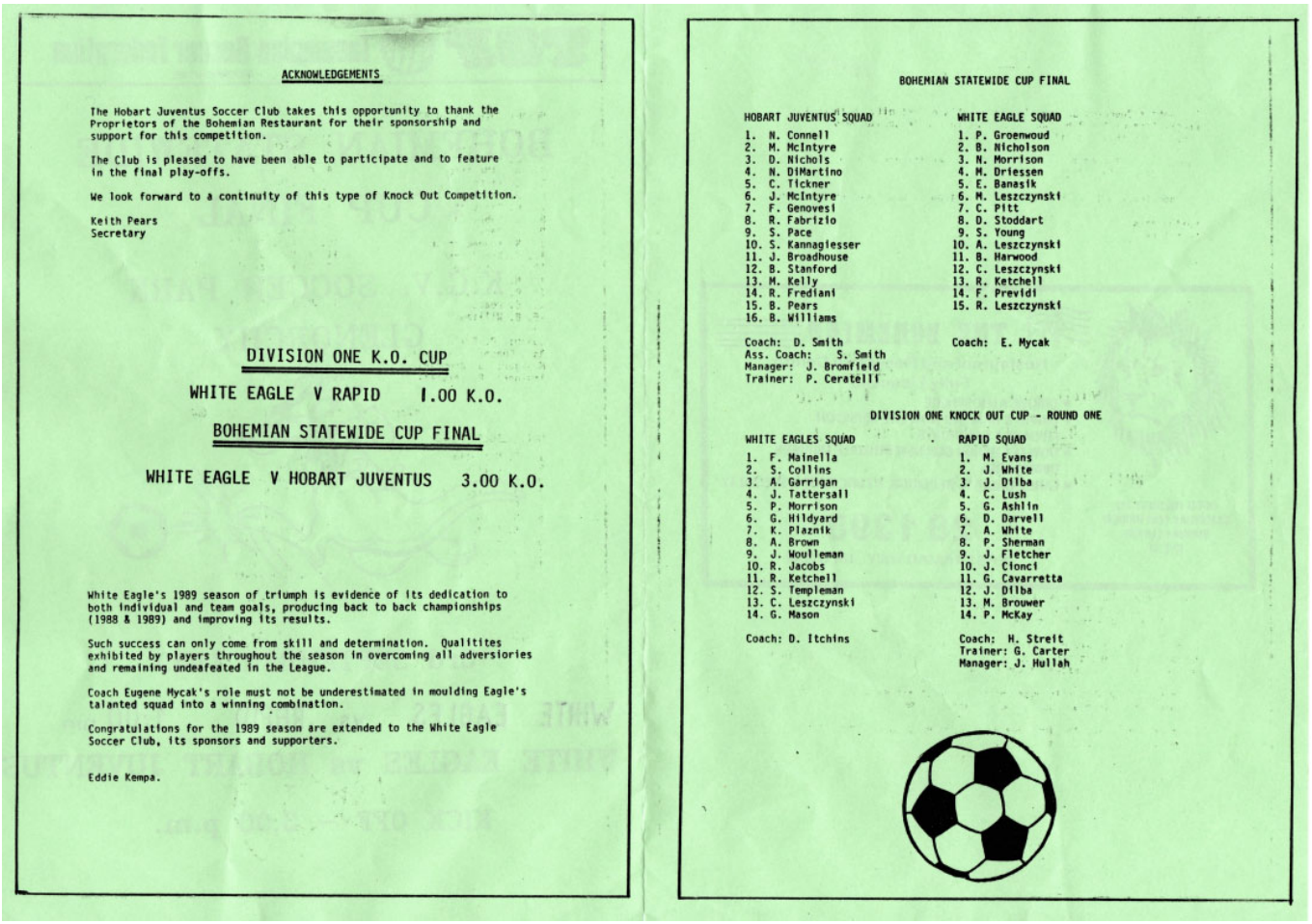
On the positive side, Mark Kelly is back from New Zealand after being stranded in Melbourne last weekend, while John Broadhouse is gradually regaining match fitness and may get a run. "We're up against it, but we're one of the few sides to have pushed White Eagle this season," Smith said. "They're so good at set plays and this could worry us because of our lack of height. "They've got to start as favourites, but we mustn't let them take control early on. "We got our system right against Olympia and I think it should be a good, close game."

White Eagle, the league champion, has two injured midfielders in Andrew Leszczynski and Scott Young. Andrew Leszczynski has been out of action for a couple of weeks because of a hamstring strain, while Young has a sprained ankle. If either is unable to play, striker Brett Harwood may have to assume a midfield role, allowing Franco Previdi to come into the side to partner Richard Leszczynski in attack.

Coach Eugene Mycak said Young normally recovers quickly from injury and will probably be fit, while Andrew Leszczynski will have-a-final fitness-test tomorrow. Mycak said the team had light training on Tuesday as many of the players were tired after representing the South against the' North one weekend, then meeting Launceston Juventus in a tough semi-final the next, both games having gone to extra time.

Last night's session was strenuous, but the team would complete its preparations with 30-minute workout tomorrow. "We'll win," is how Mycak summed up his feelings about the Cup Final.

Juventus has beaten White Eagle twice this season in cup competition, Eagle won the Charity Trophy match between the sides, while the league meetings resulted in a draw and a win for Eagle. Juventus looked very sharp last week against Olympia, especially inside the penalty area, where it snapped up half-chances.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hobart Juventus Soccer Club takes this opportunity to thank the Proprietors of the Bohemian Restaurant for their sponsorship and support for this competition.

The Club is pleased to have been able to participate and to feature in the final play-offs.

We look forward to a continuity of this type of Knock Out Competition.

Keith Pears
Secretary

DIVISION ONE K.O. CUP

WHITE EAGLE V RAPID 1.00 K.O.

BOHEMIAN STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

WHITE EAGLE V HOBART JUVENTUS 3.00 K.O.

White Eagle's 1989 season of triumph is evidence of its dedication to both individual and team goals, producing back to back championships (1988 & 1989) and improving its results.

Such success can only come from skill and determination. Qualitites exhibited by players throughout the season in overcoming all adversiories and remaining undeafeated in the League.

Coach Eugene Mycak's role must not be underestimated in moulding Eagle's talanted squad into a winning combination.

Congratulations for the 1989 season are extended to the White Eagle Soccer Club, its sponsors and supporters.

Eddie Kempa.

BOHEMIAN STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

HOBART JUVENTUS SQUAD	WHITE EAGLE SQUAD
1. N. Connell	1. P. Groenwoud
2. M. McIntyre	2. B. Nicholson
3. D. Nichols	3. N. Morrison
4. N. DiMartino	4. M. Driessen
5. C. Tickner	5. E. Banasik
6. J. McIntyre	6. M. Leszczynski
7. F. Genovesi	7. C. Pitt
8. R. Fabrizio	8. D. Stoddart
9. S. Pace	9. S. Young
10. S. Kannagiesser	10. A. Leszczynski
11. J. Broadhouse	11. B. Harwood
12. B. Stanford	12. C. Leszczynski
13. M. Kelly	13. R. Ketchell
14. R. Frediani	14. F. Previdi
15. B. Pears	15. R. Leszczynski
16. B. Williams	
Coach: D. Smith	Coach: E. Mycak
Ass. Coach: S. Smith	
Manager: J. Bromfield	
Trainer: P. Ceratelli	

DIVISION ONE KNOCK OUT CUP - ROUND ONE

WHITE EAGLES SQUAD	RAPID SQUAD
1. F. Mainella	1. M. Evans
2. S. Collins	2. J. White
3. A. Garrigan	3. J. Dilba
4. J. Tattersall	4. C. Lush
5. P. Morrison	5. G. Ashlin
6. G. Hildyard	6. D. Darvell
7. K. Plaznik	7. A. White
8. A. Brown	8. P. Sherman
9. J. Woulleman	9. J. Fletcher
10. R. Jacobs	10. J. Cionci
11. R. Ketchell	11. G. Cavarretta
12. S. Templeman	12. J. Dilba
13. C. Leszczynski	13. M. Brouwer
14. G. Mason	14. P. McKay
Coach: D. Itchins	Coach: H. Streit
	Trainer: G. Carter
	Manager: J. Hullah

White Eagle adds another trophy to its ample cabinet

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 4/9/1989 – STATEWIDE CUP

WHITE EAGLE added the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup to its trophy cabinet when it easily defeated Hobart Juventus 2-0 in yesterday's final at KGV Soccer Park. Juventus lacked ideas in attack, was suspect in defence and threw away the limited scoring opportunities that came its way. The team lacked a focal point in attack, making it easy for White Eagle's back-four of Mark Leszczynski, Michael Driessen, Eugene Banasic and Neil Morrison to defend, as well as initiate attacks when they were in possession.

The Eagle midfield also overshadowed its Juventus counterparts, with David Stoddart, Bob Nicholson, Craig Pitt and Scott Young able to construct neat attacking moves when they had the ball, and to snuff out Juventus build-ups when they lost possession. Up front, the speed and mobility of Brett Harwood and Richard Leszczynski provided the Juventus defence with plenty of headaches, and it was not surprising that these two players scored the goals. Harwood had the ball in the net early in the first half, but the effort was disallowed because of an infringement. He made no mistake on the half-hour, however.

Steve Kannegeisser's headed clearance fell perfectly for Harwood, who volleyed superbly past Neil Connell into the Juventus goal. Juventus' solitary chance in the opening half came after 15 minutes. Bruce Pears' header bounced inside the Eagle penalty area and the ball dropped to Sergio Pace, who blasted over the bar from seven metres. Pace was presented with a similar chance by Romeo Frediani five minutes into the second half, but again he fired high. Richard Leszczynski came into his own in the second half. He teased and tormented the Juventus defence and might easily have grabbed four goals, despite the close attention of Michael McIntyre and Nick Di Martino.

Richard Leszczynski hit the post in the 55th minute, scored from Bob Nicholson's pass in the 73rd minute, shot just wide a minute later, then had an attempt cleared off the line by Di Martino in the very next instant. The match ended with substitute Andrew Leszczynski, who had replaced the injured Scott Young on the hour, shooting centimetres wide with the goal at his mercy.

The only save Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud had to make was against his own captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski. Midway through the second half, Mark Leszczynski sent the ball heading for his own goal, but Groenewoud's brilliant dive saw him flick the ball over the bar for a fruitless corner.

Result White Eagle 2 (Harwood, R. Leszczynski) def. Hobart Juventus 0

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION KO Cup – First Round

In yesterday's curtain-raiser, White Eagle's Premier Division One side defeated Rapid 3-0 in the first round of the Division One Knockput Cup. Simon Templeman (2) and Grant Hildyard scored the goals in the second half.

Result White Eagle 3 (Templeman 2, Hildyard) def. Rapid 0

Kingborough may hinder Howrah's title claim

By WALTER PLESS – SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE – 8/9/1989

HOWRAH only needs one win and a draw from its four remaining matches to win the Premier Division One soccer title, but three points may prove elusive when it faces Kingborough United at Sherburd Oval today.

Kingborough has agreed to a 1pm kick-off because of the wedding of Howrah midfielder Malcolm Lockley, but some of Howrah's players may still be unavailable. Howrah has lost much of its momentum in recent weeks, drawing its past two games, so Robert New's team will probably be content with a point from today's encounter.

Caledonian will be without Bret Anderton for its meeting with Hobart Juventus, the main fixture of the double-header at South Hobart. Anderton has a broken bone in his foot. Calies should still have too many guns for Juventus, however, which has not won in three outings and must have coach Ronnie Di Felice at the end of his tether.

In the opening fixture at South Hobart, Olympia will find the going tough against a confident and rapidly improving South Hobart side which has embarrassed a number of highly-rated teams in recent weeks.

In the remaining league fixtures, White Eagle's task against Metro-Claremont at the Athletic Centre seems straightforward enough, Taroona could be humbled at home by Hobart City, while University may teach Croatia-Glenorchy a few lessons at the campus ground.

Tomorrow's second round of Knock-Out Cup matches includes some fascinating ties, with double-headers scheduled for South Hobart and KGV Soccer Park.

At South Hobart, White Eagle should progress to the semi-finals by defeating South Hobart which has had to postpone its past versus present game at Wellesley Park while Hobart City could make it a bleak weekend for

Howrah. At KGV, the Kingborough versus Metro game looks tight enough to go into extra-time, but Caledonian should beat Juventus.

Howrah stumbles in title quest

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION – 10/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE loomed as he biggest threat to deprive Howrah of the Premier Division One soccer championship after yesterdays 20th round of matches.

Howrah, the league leader, needing only a win and a draw from its four remaining matches, slumped to a 2-1 defeat against Kingborough United at Sherburd Oval, while White Eagle moved into second place with an easy 3-0 win over Metro-Claremont at the Athletic Centre.

Hobart City's title aspirations were finally ended when it dropped to third place after its goalless draw away to Taroona.

Hobart Juventus failed to rekindle its fine mid-season form and must have been grateful to salvage a point in the 1-1 draw with Caledonian at South Hobart, while in the earlier match at that venue, Southc Hobart shared the spoils with Olympia in a 1-1 draw.

In yesterday's remaining match, University easily accounted for Croatia-Glenorchy 4-1 at the campus ground.

South Hobart's Steve Adkins and David Oddie rattled the Olympia woodwork in the scoreless opening half of their match at South Hobart, but it was a sliced left-footed chip by Shannon Keskeridis in the 83rd minute that gave

Olympia the lead. David Oddie equalised from Steve Bennett's pass two minutes later, while Paul Xanthopoulos missed two easy second-half chances which should have given Olympia victory.

Olympia's Harry Hages was sent off immediately after Keskeridis' goal for bringing the game into disrepute. Referee Jim Anderton had cautioned Hages earlier for threatening an opponent.

Simon Templeman put White Eagle 1-0 up against Metro, full-back Sean Collins added a second goal with a thundering shot following his 40-metre run on the blind side of the defence, while Jamie Woulleman wrapped up the proceedings with a third goal before the interval.

At Sherburd Oval, there was no score at half time, but strikes by Stephen Ailcock and Daryn Logan just after the break gave Kingborough a match-winning lead over Howrah.

Karl Brightman pulled a goal back for the league leader from the penalty spot near the end, but the Eastern Shore side's grip on the championship trophy is looking very tenuous.

Howrah's defeat was compounded when referee John Raymond sent off goalkeeper, Damien Smith, after the final whistle for using foul and abusive language.

Peter Jordan's seventh-minute goal put Caledonian in front against Hobart Juventus. Fullback Tony Fabrizio knocked in the equaliser three minutes later following a corner. Calies had the better of match, with Jordan and McGlone hitting the Juventus woodwork. Craig Jones was superb in Juventus goal and it was only his bravery and agility which earnt his side a share of the points

White Eagle 3 (Templeman. Collins, Woulleman) Metro 0

Howrah has a bleak weekend with cup loss

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION KO Cup – QUARTER-FINALS – 11/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE, Hobart City, Metro-Claremont and Hobart Juventus qualified for the semifinals of the Premier Division One Knockout Cup soccer competition when they won their quarter-final ties yesterday.

Hobart Juventus turned on the most impressive performance of the day with a 3-1 win over Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park. The teams had drawn 1-1 in the league the previous day.

Howrah had a bleak weekend, indeed. The league leader lost 2-1 to Kingborough United on Saturday, then went down 2-1 in the Cup to Hobart City at South Hobart yesterday.

White Eagle, which is in the box seat to pip Howrah for the league championship, transferred its excellent league form to the Cup competition by defeating South Hobart 3-2. Simon Templeman, Grant Mason and Aaron Brown were Eagle's marksmen, while Steve Adkins and Steve Ryan replied for South Hobart.

In yesterday's remaining quarter-final showdown, Metro-Claremont scored once in each half to eliminate Kingborough United 2-0, the goals coming from Geoff Hallam and Adam Tassell.

Hobart Juventus took the lead against Calies through a controversial penalty in the 11th minute. Nick Di Giovanni was adjudged to have been fouled and Michael Lapolla sent his spot-kick to the right of Calies goalkeeper Robert

Stoneman. An error by Stoneman led to Juventus' second goal on the stroke of half time. Stoneman mishandled Mark Kelly's cross from the right and David Nichols slammed home the loose ball.

A magnificent volley by James Brown five minutes after the interval completed the Juventus scoring, but not the action. With Juventus' Lapolla, Brown and Mathew Gasparin, together with Calies' Darren Anderton, already having been cautioned, referee John Howlin sent off Shane Salter (Calies) and substitute Marco Giana (Juventus) in the 88th minute after a scuffle.

Darren Anderton scored with a ferocious long-range free kick immediately afterwards to add some respectability to the scoreline as far as Calies were concerned.

Paul Kaproulias opened the scoring for Hobart City just before half time against Howrah, while Kim Barker made it 2-0 on the hour. Howrah, which had full-back Nick Onn in goal in place of the suspended Damien Smith, struck back through Karl Brightman 10 minutes from the end.

In next Sunday's semi-finals at KGV Soccer Park, White Eagle will meet Hobart City and Metro-Claremont will face Hobart Juventus in what promises to be an enthralling double-header.

Result White Eagle 3 (Templeman, Mason, Brown) def. South Hobart 2 (Adkins, Ryan)

Howrah will find title no pushover

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION 15/9/1989

HOWRAH can wrap up the Premier Division One soccer title by defeating Hobart City at South Hobart today, but it will be anything but a simple task. City beat Howrah 2-1 in the Knockout Cup last Sunday and Howrah's inability to win even one of its past four games indicates it is struggling.

White Eagle, the only other team in the running for the championship, meets Rapid in today's curtain-raiser at South Hobart and if it wins, as expected, this will impose even more pressure on Howrah. White Eagle will use senior players Mark Leszczynski and Eugene Banasik because of injuries and illness affecting Aaron Brown, Andrew Garrigan and Paul Morrison.

In the double-header at the Athletic Centre, Caledonian should beat Olympia, while South Hobart should have the measure of Croatia-Glenorchy. In the remaining matches, Kingborough United's recent form indicates it will trouble Hobart Juventus at Sherburd Oval, while University faces a difficult assignment at home against Metro-Claremont.

In the Knockout Cup semifinal at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow, White Eagle must be confident of disposing of Hobart City, while Metro-Claremont could take Hobart Juventus into extra ie before succumbing.

White Eagle soars into final

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION KO Cup – SEMI FINAL – 16/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE reached the final of the Premier Division One Knock Out Cup soccer competition with an easy 3-1 win over Hobart City in-yesterday's semi-final at KGV Soccer Park.

Eagle's opponent in the final will be Metro-Claremont, which defeated Hobart Juventus 5-3 after extra time and a penalty shoot-out. Hobart City had no answer to White Eagle's slick teamwork and it fell behind to a goal by Jamie Woulleman after half an hour.

City goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes had done well to get down to Richard Ketchell's shot, Luciano Raglione cleared Julian Tattersall's effort from the rebound off the line, but there was no stopping Woulleman's pinpoint accurate chip into the top left-hand corner of the net.

A precise build-up on the right by Robert Jacobs and Woulleman led to Eagle's second goal three minutes before the interval. Woulleman's cross found Aaron Brown on the far side of the penalty area and his shot was deflected past Rhodes by City midfielder George Strates.

Full-back Sean Collins and midfielder Ketchell were in outstanding form for Eagle and many attacks originated from their penetrating forward runs, clever thinking and astute use of the ball.

City's only two chances in the opening half came from long-range shots by Strates and Paul Kaproulias, but Eagle goalkeeper Frank Mainella handled both with ease.

Rhodes did well to save from Tattersall in the 62nd minute, but he was helpless two minutes later when Grant Mason powered a header from Collins' free kick into the roof of the net to make it three nil. City struck back midway through the second half. Les Maxwell headed Kaproulias' corner against the bar and full-back Michael Pace nodded the ball past Mainella to give City some hope.

Eagle refused to relax its grip on the game, however, and substitute Simon Templeman almost added a fourth goal, but his first-time shot from 25 metres cleared the crossbar and landed on top of the net.

Adam Tassell's chip following Micky Garth's corner put Metro ahead against Juventus after only 10 minutes in yesterday's other semi-final. David Nichols then proceeded to miss two easy chances for Juventus. In the 14th minute he fired across the face of a deserted goal mouth, while two minutes later he blasted Rocky Schiro's perfect square-pass over the bar from a mere five metres. Nichols redeemed himself four minutes before the break, glancing Schiro's free kick past Metro's third team goalkeeper, Stuart Hope, for the equaliser.

Ian Smart should have earned Juventus a place in the final six minutes from the end when Michael Lapplia cleverly dummied Schiro's pass, but the youngster launched the ball skywards from seven metres out. The 30 minutes of extra time failed to separate the teams, but Metro goalkeeper Hope was the hero of the penalty shoot-out.

He saved spot-kicks.by Lapolla and Nichols, and despite Schiro and Mathew Gasparin converting, Metro won through when Geoff Hallam, Andy Ferrall, Danny Prestage and Tassell all beat Craig Jones.

Result White Eagle 3 (Woulleman, Mason, Brown) def. Hobart City 1 (M. Pace)

Draw leaves Howrah on last chance to seal title

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION 17/9/1989

HOWRAH has one match left in which to clinch the Premier Division One soccer championship after its goalless draw with third-placed Hobart City at South Hobart yesterday.

The title will be decided next week in the final round of matches when Howrah takes on Hobart Juventus and second-placed White Eagle meets Taroona.

If Howrah loses or draws, White Eagle, which defeated Rapid 3-1 at South Hobart yesterday, will win the championship, providing it can overcome Taroona.

Howrah, which has not won in its past five outings, again showed its inadequacies yesterday. It displayed a lack of tactical awareness, especially after City's Mathew Sly had been sent off just before the interval, leaving it with only 10 opponents for nearly half the game, and it showed complete ineptitude in front of goal.

Howrah's cause was not helped when it started the match without the injured Paul Engels and the suspended Jimmy Bell, nor when it lost midfield schemers Alistair Hales and Shamsul Salleh through injury, but it had only itself to blame.

Karl Brightman was unlucky to hit a post in the first half, while substitute Mark Schueler should have tucked away Bright-man's low cross in the second period. City deserved its point, however, with tall central defender Chris Coppinger playing well at the back, and goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes in tremendous form, thwarting Howrah's strikers on a number of occasions with brave and agile saves.

Paul Sherman took advantage of a poor pass in defence by Eugene Banasik to give Rapid a shock 21st minute lead against White Eagle, but Richard Ketchell equalised within six minutes. Robert Jacobs made it 2-1 for Eagle before the interval and a short free kick by Jamie Woulleman 10 minutes from the end enabled Grant Mason to fire home Eagle's third. Julian Tattersall, Jacobs, Mason and Grant Hildyard should have finished Rapid off well before half time, while Woulleman was unlucky not to find the net in the 85th minute, his shot rebounding off the inside of the far post and straight into the arms of Rapid goalkeeper, Mark Evans.

Rapid rarely threatened, but it should have grabbed a second goal in the 75th minute. John White's superbly-timed cross from the right found Sherman and Cohn Lush unmarked at the far post, but they somehow got in each other's way and the chance went begging.

In other matches, Croatia-Glenorchy led South Hobart 2-0 at half time at the Athletic Centre before losing 2-3, while Olympia's 10 men caused raised eyebrows by holding Caledonian to a 1-1 draw at the same venue. Croatia had senior player-coach Neil Thomas sent off for dissent a quarter of an hour before the end.

University and Metro-Claremont slogged out a goalless draw at the campus ground, while Kingborough United accounted for visitor Hobart Juventus 3-0 at Sherburd Oval.

Rapid 1 (Sherman) lost to White Eagle 3 (Ketchell, Jacobs, Mason)

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	23	16	4	3	56	21	52
White Eagle	23	16	2	5	73	36	50
Hobart City	24	14	6	4	55	34	48
Taroona	23	13	2	8	51	37	41
Juventus	23	11	5	7	45	34	38
Kingborough	23	11	2	10	34	31	35
Caledonian	23	9	6	8	54	49	33
Rapid	23	9	2	12	38	48	29
University	23	8	4	11	44	47	28
Metro	22	7	2	13	27	45	23
South Hobart	22	6	4	12	28	46	22
Olympia	23	5	4	14	34	58	19
Croatia	23	1	3	19	22	75	6

Southern First Division - KO Cup Final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS AUG 1989 – 19/9/1989

White Eagle easily took out the Division One Knockout Cup in last night's opening match with a 4-0 win over Metro-Claremont. Aaron Brown and Grant Mason gave Eagle a 2-0 lead at the interval, while Mason and Jamie Woulleman completed the scoring in the second half.

Metro might have made a game of it if Paul Stephenson and Danny Prestage had had a little more luck. Stephenson headed against the bar from Kevin Clamp's corner in the first half, while Prestage hit the inside of a post in the second period, the ball rebounding into play.

Result White Eagle 4 (Brown, Mason 2, Woulleman) def. Metro-Claremont 0

Eagle may scalp double header

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION – 22/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE can win the Premier Division One soccer championship at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow if it defeats Taroona and if Howrah loses or draws with Hobart Juventus.

The TSA wisely altered the scheduled programme by making these two games a double-header tomorrow instead of allowing them to go ahead today at separate venues, thus ensuring a good attendance at KGV for what promises to be a fascinating showdown.

White Eagle won the Knockout Cup in style on Wednesday and it should be able to dispose of Taroona, whereas Howrah's chances against Juventus are anything but good. White Eagle can atone for early season losses by defeating Taroona in tomorrow's early match and putting tremendous pressure on Howrah.

Eagle has a formidable combination and Taroona goalkeeper Steve Holzinger should be in the thick of the action. Howrah looked like running away with the title a month ago, but five games without a win has left it in peril of finishing second. The team seems to lack the temperament for the big occasion, and there can be no bigger occasion than tomorrow.

Howrah will be without the injured Paul Engels (knee ligaments) and Bert Salleh (knee), but Alistair Hales and Jimmy Bell will be back. Hales has been troubled by a knee injury and lasted only one half last week, while Bell has completed a one-match suspension.

In today's programme, Caledonian should defeat Croatia-Glenorchy at South Hobart but Metro-Claremont may be held to a draw by the improving South Hobart at the Athletic Centre.

University should be too good for Rapid at the campus ground, while Kingborough United should christen its newly-opened clubrooms with a win against Olympia at Sherburd Oval.

White Eagle claims title after Juventus sinks Howrah

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION – 25/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE took out the Premier Division One soccer championship at KGV Soccer Park yesterday when it defeated Taroona 3-0, and Howrah went down 3-4 to Hobart Juventus. With Eagle winning the opening match, Howrah needed to beat Juventus to win the title, but the task was beyond it.

Howrah opened in promising style and Jimmy Bell had the ball in the net after only 12 minutes following some clever attacking play by Alistair Hales and Karl Brightman, but the effort was disallowed because of off-side.

Brightman then fired against the Juventus crossbar and Scott Hadley brought the best out of goalkeeper Craig Jones, only to see Rocky Schiro shoot Juventus ahead in the 36th minute when Howrah goalkeeper Damien Smith failed to cut out Ian Smart's deep cross from the right. A low cross from the right by Howrah player-coach Robert New in the 64th minute enabled Hadley to side-foot the equaliser.

Two minutes later, the Howrah defence was nowhere to be seen as 16-year-old Frank Falzon, playing only his third game of the season, made an unimpeded run down the left side before drawing Smith and slotting the ball into the far corner of the net to give Juventus a 2-1 lead.

Howrah might have drawn level in the 68th minute as Hales' in swinging corner drifted over Jones, but defender Craig Tickner headed off the line. A clever chip from an acute angle by Schiro in the 70th minute put Juventus further ahead, while Schiro's pass six minutes later enabled Michael Lapolla to give Juventus a match-winning 4-1 advantage.

Jones' inability to handle yet another Hales' corner in the 81st minute saw Malcolm Lockley reduce the arrears for Howrah. Brightman's penalty two minutes into injury time took Howrah within a goal of its opponent but it was too little, too late and the title belonged to Eagle.

Howrah had only itself to blame. With five games remaining, it had looked set to romp away with the title, then proceeded to draw three times and lose twice to miss out at the last hurdle.

White Eagle, which had won the Knockout Cup on Wednesday, was rarely troubled against Taroona. Dale Itchins' charges took the lead two minutes before the interval. Taroona goalkeeper Steve Holzinger failed to collect Robert Jacobs' corner from the right and Aaron Brown prodded the ball home at the far post. Brown almost made it 2-0 a minute after the resumption, Leon Darko heading off the line with Holzinger beaten.

Richard Ketchell grabbed Eagle's second goal in the 62nd minute after Grant Mason had headed the ball on, and Ketchell made it 3-0 in the 87th minute from Brown's pass. Eagle should have added a fourth goal in injury time when Robert Furjanic fouled Chris Leszczynski, who took the spot-kick himself, but the defender fired high over the bar.

Result White Eagle 4 (Brown, Ketchell 2) def. Taroona 0

Rothmans League Division 1 Premiership Team - 1989

Back: Tony Williams (Sponsor), C. Leszczynski, A. Garrigan, S. Collins, G. Hildyard, R. Ketchell, R. Jacobs, J. Woulleman, D. Itchins (Coach) **Front:** J. Tattersall, P. Morrison, J. Diubaldo, F. Mainella, G. Mason, A. Brown

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings – Final Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	24	17	2	5	76	36	53
Howrah	24	16	4	4	59	25	52
Hobart City	24	14	6	4	55	34	48
Juventus	24	12	5	7	49	37	41
Taroona	24	13	2	9	51	40	41
Caledonian	24	10	6	8	58	51	36
Kingborough	24	11	2	11	36	34	35
University	24	9	4	11	46	48	31
Rapid	24	9	2	13	39	50	29
South Hobart	24	8	4	12	33	47	28
Metro	24	7	2	15	28	50	23
Olympia	24	6	4	14	37	60	22
Croatia-Glenorchy	24	1	3	20	24	79	6

White Eagle confident of beating Devonport

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 07/10/1989 – DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

DEVONPORT CITY coach Ken Morton is confident of winning the Division One State soccer premiership by defeating White Eagle at Valley Road, Devonport, today. "We're not flamboyant but we're well-disciplined and we're playing well," said Morton. "We're good at wearing opponents down." The one-off game promises to be a thriller and White Eagle can certainly not be written off as it is months since the Southern champion has tasted defeat.

Eagle coach Dale Itchins has kept his team in training since the end of the league season and he will have a full squad to choose from. Simon Templeman has recovered after having four stitches in an ankle injury and will be available for selection.

Eagle's combination of experienced players, such as Sean Collins, Chris Leszczynski and Robert Jacobs, and youngsters such as Grant Mason, Grant Hildyard and Jamie Woulleman, should see it carry the day.

Devonport's main threat will come from midfielders Ray Parke and Andrew Meldrum, as well as striker Fabio Pizzerani.

Eagle feathers nest with hat-trick of trophies

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 9/10/1989 – DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

WHITE EAGLE'S Premier Division One soccer team, coached by Dale Itchins, completed a hat-trick of trophies this season when it took out the State Division One premiership by defeating Devonport City 4-3 at Valley Rd on Saturday.

Eagle already had won the Southern Premier Division One title and the Division One Knockout Cup. The situation looked bleak for the Southerners on Saturday when host Devonport led 3-1 with a mere 16 minutes remaining. Itchins then made three positional changes which altered the course of the game.

He moved Grant Mason to sweeper, Paul Morrison to centre-back and Grant Hildyard into the attack. With five minutes to go, Hildyard scored twice to give Eagle an amazing win against all the odds. Devonport's player-coach, Ken Morton put the home team ahead after 23 minutes, but a header by Simon Templeman, from a corner by Robert Jacobs, restored the balance.

Ralph Koch headed home Morton's corner five minutes before the interval to give Devonport the lead again, while Ray Parke's penalty in the second half seemed to spell curtains for the Southerners. Aaron Brown's corner then found the head of Mason, who made it 3-2, and Eagle again appeared within reach.

With 16 minutes to play, Hildyard came into his own and struck two superb goals, the first a right-footed chip from the edge of the penalty area to make it 3-3, and the winner from a 20-metre volley, following Brown's pass.

Itchins was obviously elated by his side's return from the dead, but he decried the fact that no supporters had travelled with the team to share the victory with his players. Morton was very disappointed in defeat, claiming that Eagle had not deserved to win. "They played no soccer at all, yet won," Morton said. "Fabio Pizzerani should have had a hat-trick in the first half."

Devonport City president, Mr. Peter Best, was critical at the lack of interest shown in the match by the TSF. "No one from the TSF was at the match, and there was no trophy to present," Mr. Best said. "Even if no delegates were here, I could have presented the trophy and made the match a bit more of an occasion."

Eagle kick on to State Soccer title

THE ADVOCATE 9/10/1989 – DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

HOBART’s White Eagles became the State Division One soccer premier yesterday with a last-minute 4-3 victory over Northern premier Devonport at the Valley Rd ground.

In a game of contrasting halves, Devonport was a 2-1 leader at half-time. Ken Morton received a loose ball to net the first at the 25-minute mark, but White Eagles struck back to equalise 10 minutes later. Devonport striker Fabio Pizzerani missed three golden opportunities to score before team-mate Koch headed home a Morton corner that was flocked on by Pizzerani to put the Coastal side ahead at the interval.

Early in the second half Ray Parke gave Devonport a 3-1 lead from a penalty after Kim Rigby was pushed over I the box. From that point on, the game turned as Devonport tried to seal up the game and fell on defence.

White Eagles head in a corner to reduce the leeway to a single goal and the Southern side sensed victory. A substitution proved a match-winning move as the substitute entered the fray to smash home two quick goals, the second of which was scored with just two minutes remaining.

GRAND SLAM 1997

Juventus faces tough battle

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 28-2-97

HOBART Juventus supporters who have watched pre-season training recently may be forgiven for thinking the team is preparing for a seven-a-side tournament rather than tonight's opening round of the Summer Cup soccer competition. New coach Franco Previdi, already worried by the loss of virtually the entire defence from last year's team, has been further handicapped by the fact that only eight players have been turning up for training in recent weeks.

Previdi's problems are made more severe because of an injury to star striker Sergio Pace, who may be out for three weeks, and the unavailability of teenage twins Shaun and Adam Conkie, who must still obtain clearances from national league side Gippsland Falcons.

Juventus captain Michael Lapolla will find it difficult to inspire his team-mates on the field under such circumstances, while Previdi may be left to ponder on his acceptance of the coaching position. Juventus's opponent tonight, South Hobart, is brimming with confidence, despite the average age of the team being a mere 20 years.

Only four players are over 19 years of age, the remainder being between 16 and 19. South's ace striker, Danny Prestage, is still playing cricket and will be replaced by Bernhard Klasen, while midfielder Dean Melville bas a hamstring strain and will make way for new signing Adam Powell.

Matthew Rhodes, signed during the summer from Caledonian, will be in goal in place of Mark Moncur, and promising youngster Chris Rayner has earned a place in midfield.

Reigning Summer Cup champion New Town White Eagle faces Glenorchy Knights and new coach Andrew Leszczynski is confident. of success, especially after his team's 12-0 annihilation of Phoenix, the reserve section Summer Cup holder, in a practice match last week.

Tonight's opening match pits Hobart Olympic against West Hobart Calies, both of which have new coaches.

The six State League sides are in action at KGV Soccer Park again on Monday in the second round of the competition, South Hobart facing Hobart Olympic, Juventus meeting Glenorchy Knights, and White Eagle taking on Calies.

The Cascade Light Summer Cup section for State league reserve and first division teams begins at KGV tomorrow and continues on Sunday.

Demolisher Harbinson

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1-3-97

TEENAGE striker Ben Harbinson scored four goals as South Hobart demolished Hobart Juventus 5-1 in the opening round of the State League section of the Cascade Draught Summer Cup soccer competition at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Nick Anis fired Juventus into a 15th minute lead after Michael Lapolla's corner and Adrian Venettacci's pass, but Harbinson equalised almost from the re-start. South Hobart took the 1ead in the 23rd minute, Nick Owen netting after a corner-kick confused the Juventus defence. Harbinson's backheader, from Jason Nicholson's free-kick in the 32nd minute gave South Hobart a 3-1 advantage over a demoralised Juventus at the interval.

Harbinson's pace and finishing were too much for the Juventus defence and the youngster scored twice within two minutes in the second half to complete South Hobart's victory. Bernhard Klasen had an excellent game for South Hobart and had a hand in four of the goals.

Cup-bolder White Eagle began its defence of the title with a 2-0 win over Glenorchy Knights. Richard Leszczynski grabbed the first in the 27th minute while Colin Shepherd netted the second in the 58th minute. Goalkeeper Nathan Puclin was in outstanding form, saving Knights on many occasions.

The Knights squandered a couple of good chances but should improve as the competition progresses, especially since the return of midfielder Scott Hadley.

West Hobart Calies, under new coach Tony Kavanagh, made an impressive start with a 3-0 win over league champion Hobart Olympic.

Olympic might have scored in the opening minutes had Trevor Carson not-headed a good chance wide, but a superb 30-metre free-kick by Tim Dale provided Calies with a dream start. John Demir, Calies' new signing, added the second, and the third goal came in the dying minutes as Warren Iles tapped home a rebound.

Result: New Town Eagles 2 (R. Leszczynski, Shepherd) def. Glenorchy Knights 0

South faces a difficult task to remain at the top

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 7/3/97

SOUTH Hobart's leadership in the State League section of the Summer Cup soccer competition is in jeopardy when it comes up against New Town Eagle in the main fixture of a three-match program at KGV Soccer Park tonight. South is level on four points with West Hobart Calies and Eagle after two rounds of the round-robin series, but its superior goal difference puts it ahead of Calies and Eagle.

“We've got an unchanged side from our first two games, despite a few slight knocks, and the players are confident about what promises to be a tough game tonight,'' said Bret Anderton, South Hobart's coach.

South thrashed Hobart Juventus 5-1 in the opening round, but the Eagle defence will be a different proposition. Ben Harbinson, Nick Owen, Bernhard Klasen, and company reveled in the space the Hobart defence allowed them and they punished their opponents mercilessly with a combination of quick one-twos, and clinical finishing.

Eagle's Paul and Neil Morrison, Ricky and David Turner, and Craig Pitt are resolute and seasoned defenders and should have the measure of South's speedy but inexperienced attackers. Eagle would have been in first place but for a momentary aberration by goalkeeper Craig Jones, which cost the side a goal last Monday and resulted in a 1-1 draw against West Hobart. A win tonight may give Eagle the competition lead on the way to reclaiming the trophy.

Second-placed West Hobart will also be fighting for the lead when it confronts last-placed Glenorchy Knights in the opening match and form indicates a win for the former, especially if it can avoid errors of judgment, one of which almost cost it the match on Monday against Eagle on Monday,

West Hobart decided to start a player short as James Brown had arrived late and was still in the dressing room when the referee blew the opening whistle. In the two minutes it took Brown to take the field, Eagle scored, and West Hobart just salvaged a draw when a goalkeeping error near the end enabled Brown to equalise.

If West Hobart can reproduce the skills it showed in the 3-0 win over Hobart Olympic in its first match, Knights will be hard-pressed to earn a point, especially if its strikers cannot find the scoring touch, something which has eluded them until now.

Fourth-placed Hobart Juventus will be without midfielder Sacha Puclin and sweeper Brett Pullen against fifth-ranked Hobart Olympic in tonight's second game, both players being unavailable. Olympic has been unlucky with its finishing in its two previous matches and, given the traditional rivalry between these clubs, Olympics’ players should be motivated enough to make almost every chance count. This means Trevor Carson and Matthew Sly should be among the goals, with the assistance of creative midfielders such as Craig Nicholls and Alan Rankine.

Eagle soars to lead after South topples

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 8/3/97

NEW Town Eagle took over at the top in the State League section of the Summer Cup soccer competition when it defeated previous leader South Hobart 3-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night. A delightful long-range chip by Colin Shepherd in the 12th minute gave Eagle the lead and only a brilliant save by Matthew Rhodes in the 18th minute prevented Shepherd from grabbing a second goal.

South Hobart went further behind midway through the second half when Adrian Mann scored his first goal for Eagle since joining the club from Phoenix. A minute later, Richard Leszczynski netted Eagle's third to kill off a youthful South Hobart side which surprisingly fielded striker Ben Harbinson, who was carrying a shoulder injury and proved a passenger until substituted in the second half.

South might have scored a consolation goal in the 54th minute when Shane Nicholson was fouled by Craig Pitt, but Bernhard Klasen drove his penalty wide. Glenorchy Knights won their first match of the series when they defeated West Hobart Calies 2-0 in last night's opening fixture.

With Robbie Huigsloot and Nathan Kelly outstanding in defence for Knights, Calies were on the back foot for most of the game. They might have had two goals - James Brown missed a sitter in the opening minute and player-coach Tony Kavanagh shot against the base of a post near the end.

Defender Ivan Vucica put Croatia ahead in the 17th minute after Chris Neale had blocked Janko Begovic's shot. Mark Brkic smashed home a superb second goal in the opening minutes of the second half after a cut-back from the right by David Hegol.

A first-half header by Matthew Sly, following Allen Rankine's corner, and a second-half strike by Glen McNeill earned Hobart Olympic a 2-0 victory over arch-rival Hobart Juventus in last night's remaining game. Olympic deserved its win, although goalkeeper Matthew Calvert was forced to produce excellent saves against Sergio Pace and Adrian Venettacci.

Result: New Town Eagles 3 (Shepherd, Mann, R. Leszczynski) def. South Hobart 0

Eagle set to secure Cup final berth

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/3/97

NEW TOWN Eagle can virtually assure itself of a place in the final of the State League section of the Summer Cup soccer competition by defeating Hobart Zebras in the main fixture of a three-match program at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

With two rounds remaining, cup-holder Eagle leads the competition with seven points, three more than South Hobart, West Hobart Calies and Hobart Olympic, and four ahead of Glenorchy Knights and last-placed Zebras.

Eagle has no injuries and coach Andrew Leszczynski will send out much the same line-up as in the past three games. "We're playing pretty well and still building up, which is a typical start for us," Leszczynski said. "We're always competitive and creating chances. “

"Our two strikers, Colin Shepherd and Richard Leszczynski., were very good in the representative matches against Sarawak and I’ve never seen two more hard working strikers. "I also couldn't be happier with our two signings, midfielder Adrian Mann and defender Simon Goninon."

Leszczynski, while acknowledging the Zebras were struggling because their defence was suspect, Sergio Pace had little support up front, and the club still did not have all its players available, did not write hie opponents off tonight. "Most teams lift their game against us because we’re rated as the biggest scalp," he said. "Nick Anis is a dangerous player and we won't be taking things lightly, even though I believe we don't have anything to fear from any team."

If the Zebras have clearances for North-West Coast twins Shaun and Adam Conkie, and if they are available tonight, their prospects will certainly be better against the title favourite.

Second-placed South Hobart faces third-ranked West Hobart Calies in tonight's opening fixture, both teams being level on four points and with identical goal difference, and both displaying inconsistent form.

South Hobart started the competition in tremendous fashion, thrashing Zebras 5-1, but Bret Anderton's youngsters have fallen back to earth since then, and now face the prospect of being without star striker Ben Harbinson, whose shoulder injury kept him out of Southern Tasmania's matches against Sarawak.

West Hobart also began in fine style, downing Hobart Olympic 3-0 in the opening game of the series, but slumping to a 2-0 defeat at the hands of then bottom side, Glenorchy Knights.

West Hobart missed striker John Demir in that match and hie return will strengthen the side's chances. Tonight's remaining match pits fourth-placed and stylish Hobart Olympic against fifth team Glenorchy Knights, a tall and physically imposing and powerful outfit. Both sides recovered from less than impressive starts and now appear to be hitting their straps.

New Town hold out Zebras to set up final berth

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 22/3/97

NEW Town Eagle held off a determined challenge by Hobart Zebras to win a pulsating Summer Cup soccer match 3-2 at KGV Soccer Park last night and virtually book a place in the final.

Midfielder David Stoddard scored a hat-trick, two of the goals coming from penalties, while Shaun and Adam Conkie made notable debuts for Hobart Juventus after transferring from National League club Gippsland Falcons.

Shaun scored a stunning left-foot goal, while Adam was cautioned by referee Brett Mackay. Eagle twice hit the woodwork, through Richard Leszczynski and Stoddard, while the Zebras missed a penalty, Michael Lapolla's effort being saved by Craig Jones.

Eagle took the lead in the 11th minute from Stoddard's spot-kick, but the Zebras drew level in the 18th minute, Shaun Conkie holding off two defenders before beating Jones from 20m. Leszczynski hit a post after a neat pass from Shepherd and Jones saved brilliantly from Lapolla before the interval. A minute after the resumption, Lapolla put the Zebras in front, but Stoddard levelled in the 38th minute with a well taken goal.

Two minutes later, Stoddard netted his second penalty to give Eagle a 3-2 lead before Lapolla squandered his spot kick in the 45th minute. Shortly before the end, Stoddard was denied the chance of making absolutely sure of a win when his expert chip rebounded from the crossbar.

West Hobart.Calies and Hobart Olympic share second place on the ladder after winning their matches last night. A goal by Carson Backhouse in the 42nd minute earned Calies a 1-0 win over South Hobart. John McCormack was unlucky not to score when his shot rattled the Calies crossbar, but it was goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes who kept South Hobart in the game by producing three outstanding saves.

Olympic defeated Glenorchy Knights 2-1 after a goalless opening half in which midfielder George· Kalis went off injured and later had stitches inserted in a head wound. Alan Rankine fired Olympic into the lead after the Knights failed to clear the ball from their penalty area, while Trevor Carson's diving header, following Rankine's cross from the right, made it 2-0.

Brendon Lakoseljac reduced the arrears near the end, smashing the ball into an empty net after goalkeeper Matthew Calvert could only parry Tony Bacic’s downward header.

Result: New Town Eagles 3 (Stoddart 3, incl. 2 pens) def. Juventus 2 (S. Conkie, Lapolla)

Four teams battle for places in soccer final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/3/97

NEW Town Eagle, West Hobart Calies, Hobart Olympic and South Hobart all have a chance of making the final of the State League section of the Summer Cup soccer competition on Monday. The two finalists will be determined at KGV Soccer Park tonight when the final three matches of the round-robin stage are played.

While Glenorchy Knights and Hobart Zebras are not in contention for a finals berth, they may help decide the finalists when they clash with South Hobart and West Hobart Calies, respectively.

Cup-holder New Town Eagle needs only a draw against Hobart Olympic in tonight's opening fixture to qualify for the final. Olympic won last season's league grand final against Eagle and the composition of both teams tonight will be very similar. If Eagle loses, it could miss out on the final, but this will depend on its losing margin and on the results of the other two games. It all adds up to an intriguing program, with the finalists possibly not being known until the final whistle of the final match of the evening.

Eagle midfielder Adrian Mann and striker Richard Leszczynski have both had flu and there is concern they may not be fit. Midfielder David Turner is back after missing last Friday's 3-2 win over the Zebras because of work commitments. Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski said: “We only need a draw and I'm confident, but we didn't play well against the Zebras and we must remember to tread warily . . . any team can be dangerous if we're not having a good day.

“They'll have a similar side to the one that beat us in last year's grand final and they're starting to hit form, which means they'll be dangerous.'' Coach Leszczynski praised his captain, David Stoddart, who hit a hat-trick against the Zebras. He added: “David is getting older but his appetite for the game hasn't diminished and he's obviously an important player for us because he just loves to get involved.''

Hobart Zebras will be without midfielder Michael Lapolla but is still capable of extending West Hobart Calies, who will be tense because they know they must win, regardless of the result of the first match. If Eagle beats Olympic in the first game, and if the Zebras dispatch West Hobart in the second, South Hobart can qualify for the final by downing Glenorchy Knights in the final contest of the evening.

South, Eagle into Cup final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 27/3/97

NEW Town Eagle will meet South Hobart in the final of the State League section of the Summer Cup soccer competition on Easter Monday following their victories at KGV Soccer Park last night. In the final matches of the round-robin series,

Eagle defeated Hobart Olympic 4-0, while South Hobart disposed of the Glenorchy Knights 3-0. West Hobart Calies, needing only a draw against Hobart Zebras to qualify for the final, went down 0-3.

An early goal by Colin Shepherd put Eagle on its winning way against Olympic in last night's opening match. Two goals by David Stoddart made it 3-0 at the interval, while Paul Morrison completed the scoring with a goal in the last minute. Eagle was without striker Richard Leszczynski and midfielder Adrian Mann and was reduced to 10 men when Simon Goninon was sent off 10 minutes from the end.

The Zebras piled on the pressure against Calies right from the start, Adrian Venettacci going close on two occasions and Sergio Pace having an effort cleared off the line by Ross Iles. John Demir also missed narrowly for Calies, but the opening half remained goalless. Michael Lapolla fired the Zebras into the lead with a brilliant volley in the 43rd minute after Sacha Puclin's right-wing cross.

Lapolla added the second from the penalty spot in the 47th minute after Brian Reynolds had fouled Nick Anis, while Mark Falzon added the Zebras' third with a terrific shot after the Calies defence had only half cleared Pace's free-kick.

South Hobart qualified for its first senior final in more than 20 years when goals by Chris Rayner, Nick Owen and Bernhard Klasen gave it a 3-0 win over a Knights side that was handicapped by the loss of Tony Bacic and Dallas Joiner through injury in the first half.

Rayner scored after showing a great turn of speed to outpace the Knights defence, while Owen headed home. Klasen's shot was hit with tremendous force, beating one of the state's best goalkeepers.

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (Shepherd, Stoddart 2, Morrison) def. Hobart Olympia 0

Eagle retains Summer Cup convincingly

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/4/97

NEW Town Eagle retained its Summer Cup soccer title when it defeated South Hobart 2-1 in the final at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. Eagle dominated the match and it was only the heroic efforts of South Hobart goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes that kept the score down. Rhodes produced excellent saves in open play against Adrian Mann, Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart, and on the half-hour kept out a penalty by Stoddart.

South Hobart fought valiantly throughout the 90-minutes but apart from Bernhard Klasen's fine goal, the closest it came to adding to its tally was when striker Ben Harbison, hampered again by a shoulder injury, fire narrowly past the far post late in the match.

Defender Craig Pitt put Eagle in front in the 42nd minute, Rhodes making his one error in the match by allowing the low shot from an acute angle to sneak in at the near post.

South was level within minutes when Rayner's cross from the left carried to Klasen on the far post. He then beat Craig Jones with a blistering shot from 15 metres as the Eagle defenders, caught out of position, were reduced to the role of spectators.

The winner came in the 57th minute, Shepherd flicking a long ball out of defence into the path of Leszczynski who eluded marker Joel Heath before sprinting past sweeper Jason Nicholson and beating Rhodes with a perfect low drive.

In the State Youth Premier League section final, New Town Eagle just held on to defeat Kingborough 3-2 after leading 3-0 at the interval. Steven Bukowiecki, Michael Murray, and Martin Nidorfer gave Eagle a comfortable lead, but two goals from former Eagle start Driessen made for a tense finish.

Result: New Town Eagles 2 (Pitt, R. Leszczynski) def. South Hobart 1 (Klasen)

Summer Cup Final 1997

New Town Eagles - Starting Line-up 4-4-2

Craig Jones

Paul Morrison | Craig Pitt | Rick Turner | Damien Bones

Adam Jones | David Stoddart (C) | David Turner | Adrian Mann

Richard Leszczynski | Colin Shepherd

Substitutions:
Julian Proud replaced David Turner - 60th minute
Robbie Lebski replaced Adam Jones - 84 minute

Subs Not Used:
Allan Wisby (GK), Martin Nidorfer

South Hobart set to kick off new season in winning fashion

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 4/4/97

THE 1997 State League soccer season begins tonight when Glenorchy Knights take on Summer Cup finalist South Hobart at KGV Soccer Park.

Three more games are scheduled for tomorrow - two in the North and one in the South - while the remaining match of the round is at South Hobart on Sunday, when last year's grand final winner, Hobart Olympic, tackles last season's minor premier and this season's Summer Cup-winner New Town Eagle.

South Hobart's impressive performance in the Summer Cup, which included a 3-0 win over the Knights in the last of the round-robin matches, indicates that Bret Anderton's team of youngsters should begin their league campaign in promising fashion tonight.

Bernhard Klasen has rediscovered the scoring touch that had abandoned him for much of last season and he will pose a major threat to a Knights defence that has been quite solid whenever central defenders Robbie Huigsloot and Nathan Kelly, as well as goalkeeper Nathan Puclin, have been on song.

The match of the round is undoubtedly Sunday's clash between Hobart Olympic and New Town Eagle, which is a replay of last year's grand final. Eagle has started the season with a trophy, beating South Hobart 2-1 in the Summer Cup Final last Monday, the goals coming from Colin Shepherd and Richard Leszczynski who promise to be among the leading marksmen this year.

Hobart Olympic has much the same side as last season and its erratic form in the Summer Cup series must be a cause for concern to new coach George Krambousanos.

If Hobart Olympic plays to its potential, it can upset Eagle on Sunday, but Eagle's easy 4-0 win over Olympic less than two weeks ago in the Summer Cup round robin matches does not augur well for Olympic.

Tomorrow, Hobart Zebras, with the Conkie twins back in the line-up, should easily dispose of the visiting Launceston at South Hobart. Launceston performed poorly in the Northern pre-season series, while Hobart Zebras are starting to get their act together following improved training attendances.

West Hobart Lions, formerly known as Calies, travel north to meet Riverside Olympic at Windsor Park tomorrow and the southerners should come home with the three points.

In tomorrow's remaining match, Launceston Zebras host Devon port City in a night match · at Prospect, but it should be doom and gloom for the home side, given the teams' respective performances in the Northern pre-season series.

Easy win for dynamic Eagle

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 7/4/97

NEW Town Eagle easily defeated Hobart' Olympic 5-0 in their State League soccer match at South Hobart yesterday. Olympic, without goalkeeper Neil Connell and defender Glenn McNeill, proved no match for the, team it defeated in last season's grand final and conceded two goals in the opening 13 minutes.

Olympic's midfielders, comprising creative, attacking players, largely ignored their defensive responsibilities and allowed their opposite numbers free rein, while in defence, Olympic had no out-and-out stoppers who could shackle Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd.

It was Leszczynski who put Eagle ahead in the eighth minute after a fine build-up involving Shepherd and Paul Morrison. An own goal in the 13th minute by the unfortunate Olympic sweeper Chris Hey, who had headed a clearance straight to David Stoddart and then turned the resultant shot past goalkeeper Matthew Calvert, made it 2·0.

Olympic's first genuine attempt at goal came after an hour when Matthew Sly forced Craig Jones to tip his shot over the crossbar in acrobatic style. But a minute later, a lightning counterattack saw four Eagle players confront three Olympic defenders and Leszczynski rounded Matthew Calvert to make it 3-0.

Shepherd added the fourth in the 67th minute, slotting home David Turner's pass with ease, while David Turner outfoxed Hey and beat Matthew Calvert at the near post in the 73rd minute to complete the scoring.

Olympic coach George Krambousanos tried several positional changes, and gave midfielder Tim Kothris, 17, his debut, as a second-half substitute. But his efforts were in vain against an Eagle machine that was rarely forced to change out of second gear.

In the State Youth League Reserve encounter between the clubs, goals by Steven Bukowiecki, Ben Fahey, Luke Gorringe and Ben Carter gave Eagle a 4-1 win over Olympic, which replied through Harry Hages.

Result: New Town Eagles 5 (R. Leszczynski 2, Shepherd, D. Turner, OG) def. Hobart Olympia 0

Zebras no easy meal for Lions

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 11/4/1997

WEST Hobart Lions will be keen to overcome their embarrassment at drawing 0-0 with Riverside Olympic last week by overcoming the Hobart Zebras in their State League soccer encounter at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

But the task will be far from easy as the Hobart Zebras got off to a flying start to their league campaign last week with a 7-0 thrashing of Launceston. And, in the pre-season Summer Cup meeting between the sides, the Zebras ran out 3-0 winners.

The Lions rely greatly on striker John Demir, whose ability as a target man has enhanced the team's attacking play, but it will require a concerted team performance from Tony Kavanagh's men if the Zebras are to be vanquished.

The Zebras, who are the league leaders after the opening round, have improved with the inclusion of the Conkie twins in midfield and attack. With the imminent return of seasoned defenders Nick Di Martino and Frank Genovesi, they will be difficult to toss.

Devonport City led the scoring charts last week, hitting eight past Launceston Zebras, but there can be no cause for complacency when the Coastal side hosts Riverside Olympic at Valley Rd tomorrow, because it also conceded three goals in that mammoth win.

Striker Anthony Guilbert continued where he left off last season in terms of goal-scoring, striking four last week, and Riverside must contain him if it is to have any chance of coming away from Valley Rd with any points.

New Town Eagle, the reigning minor premier and the Summer Cup champion, will have little to fear when it entertains the Launceston Zebras at Clare St tomorrow.

Against a side that conceded eight goals last week, Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd should have the time of their lives, while midfielders Paul Morrison, David Stoddart and Adrian Mann may also join in the celebrations with goals of their own.

Launceston Zebras have ample talent, and Roger Mies is capable of scoring against the best of defences. However, Eagle is the sort of side that steps up a gear if it concedes a goal and its deadly counterattacks should ensure that it keeps its nose in front, despite anything the Zebras can throw at it.

The Glenorchy Knights had their opening game of the season last week postponed and they will be keen to start with a win after a disappointing Summer Cup campaign. The Knights should be able to display their capabilities away to Launceston at Birch Avenue tomorrow, although the home side should be back to full strength after being without three or four key players' last weekend.

The remaining match of the round is at South Hobart on Sunday when South Hobart takes on Hobart Olympic. This will be South Hobart's first league outing, its scheduled match against the Glenorchy Knights last week having been postponed.

South Hobart reached the final of the Summer Cup, losing to New Town Eagle, but it drew 1-1 with Hobart Olympic in the round-robin section of the competition and that scoreline is probably a good indication of how the game will go on Sunday. Both sides can play excellent soccer - but both are inconsistent and can have defensive lapses.

Olympic will be strengthened by the return of goalkeeper Neil Connell and defender Glenn McNeill, and their presence may just swing the balance slightly in Olympics' favour.

South cannot be underestimated, however, and an early goal will give Bret Anderton's youngsters all the confidence they need to grab all three points from this contest.

Devonport fights back to stampede Riverside

By STEPHEN FODEN 14/4/97

DEVONPORT made hard work of beating Riverside Olympic 4-2 in the State League soccer match at Valley Rd yesterday. Olympic's goals both came from the penalty spot, with Neil Roper scoring on both occasions. Olympic led 1-0 at the half, so Devonport had all its work cut out for it after the break. They answered the call with goals to Compagne, Boyd, Chillcott and Guilbert. The win keeps the Port on top of the ladder on goal difference from Eagles and Zebras.

New Town Eagles accounted for Launceston Zebras 4-1. It was again a slick outfit that kept the Zebras at bay for most of the game. Stoddart, Jones, Morrison and Richard Leszczynski found the target for the Eagles, with Chris Couch responding for the Zebras. The loss was Zebras' second in as many matches, and while it has had to endure playing probably the best two sides in the competition, things should get a little easier as they can now regroup and regain injured players.

At Birch Avenue, Launceston went down 4-2 to the Glenorchy Knights. Brendan Lakoseljac (2), Tommy Huigsloot and Tony Bacic buried any hopes that Launceston had of registering its first win for 1997. Glen Reading and Rob Murray scored goals for Launceston, but unfortunately for the home side they could not muster any more opportunities to find at least a point.

New Town Eagles continue quest for premiership as Zebras falter

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/4/97

YESTERDAY'S State League half results went according to the form book but the same could not be said for the Southern Premier League. New Town Eagles continued their quest for premiership with a win over Launceston Zebras at Clare St.

The Eagles' 2-0 lead at halftime was extended to 4-1 at the final whistle. They dominated the first 45 minutes, but the second half was not so easy. A goal for visitors by Couch and a desperate clearance by Pitt for Eagles off the line, reflected a resurgent Launceston Zebras. Two further goals by New Town sealed the Zebras' fate. Scorers for New Town Eagles were Stoddart, Jones, Paul Morrison, and R. Leszczynski

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (Stoddart, R. Leszczynski, A. Jones, Morrison) def. Launceston Juventus 1 (Couch)

Eagle's star striker back in action

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 18/4/1997

NEW Town Eagle will have star striker Colin Shepherd back for tomorrow's top-of- the-table Wrest Point State League soccer match against Devonport City at Clare St.

Shepherd was unavailable for last week's match, which resulted in a 4-1 win over Launceston Zebras, and his contribution will be vital against the North-West Coast side.

Hobart Zebras, Eagle and Devonport are all unbeaten after two rounds, and all have six points. Zebras and Eagle have identical statistics and share first spot, while Devonport's slightly inferior goal-difference pushes it to third.

“I don't know who will drop out to accommodate Shepherd,'' Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski said. “Adam Jones took his place last week, while David Stoddart moved from midfield into attack. “This game will be a good test of how we're going, even though we're only three league games into the season.

“Devonport is one of the hardest teams to beat and there's been intense rivalry between us in recent years.'' Hobart Zebras will be without striker Nick Anis for the match against seventh- placed Riverside Olympic at Windsor Park tomorrow. Anis is unavailable.

Defender Mark Falzon suffered an ankle injury in last week's 2-1 win over West Hobart Lions and did not train on Sunday or Tuesday, but coach Franco Previdi expects him to be fit.

“The team is starting to look good, and the players are getting fit, but although we're in first place, it's too early to say much about our chances this year,'' he said.

Riverside will have midfielder Jason Smart back from Queensland for his first appearance of the season, but player-coach Robbie King is unlikely to make any other changes.

Bottom-side Launceston will have Leith Mitchell in goal after he passed a fitness test following a back injury and this will be the first time Ken Morton's side has had a genuine goalkeeper, which should be a bonus for the clash against Hobart Olympic at South Hobart tomorrow. Captain Rod Murray is back from Queensland, while Ross McCormack will line up in defence.

Hobart Olympic will be without goalkeeper Matthew Calvert and striker Tyrone Earley after both were sent off in the 2-3 loss to South Hobart last Sunday. Their absence will enable Neil Connell to return in goal and Alan Rankine in midfield.

In the weekend's remaining matches, fourth-ranked Glenorchy Knights meet sixth-placed West Hobart Lions at KGV Soccer Park tonight, while fifth-placed South Hobart travels to Prospect tomorrow to face second-last Launceston Zebras.

Eagles should account for less-experienced Devonport

By STEPHEN FODEN 18/4/97

New Town Eagles clash with Devonport at Clare Street in a replay of the 1995 grand final and it is a game that will surely attract a large crowd. Goal difference is the only thing that separates the two clubs at the moment. The Eagles have conceded only one goal and have scored nine and Devonport have let in five and scored 12.

Questions this early on in the season are mostly about whether or not they will meet in the final again as they have so many times before. Both sides have quality line-ups with Devonport being less experienced. Devonport is led by Snow Compagne and Eagles by David Stoddart and both lead by example but if either of the two can swing a game it must be

Stoddart. If Devonport can curb Stoddart's influence and maintain. close marking on Eagles' strikers Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd it will win but it is more likely to be Eagles by two *or* more goals to maintain its lead at the top.

Launceston Zebras host South Hobart under lights tomorrow night and with the club still hit by injuries they will be lucky to get out of this one with a point. Uncharacteristically, the Zebras are second last on the ladder with no return from their two games so far. They will have to lift if they are to win against a very young South Hobart side.

Riverside Olympic are at home to second placed Hobart Zebras at Windsor Park. With only one point so far Olympic will struggle against a side that has conceded only one goal to date. Still rebuilding, Olympic have a young side full of running and will give Hobart Zebras a run for their money.

Launceston Soccer Club travel to Hobart to play Hobart Olympic. This is one club Launceston coach, Ken Morton knows a lot about as he, Morton, coached them in 1995. Launceston have not delivered what it thought it could and sit at the bottom of the table with two goals for and 11 against. Hobart Olympic are two places above them with two for and eight against. This will be a close game and it will come· down to the coaching strategies employed on the day. The game will be quick and won by the odd goal. If Launceston can defend intelligently, it can win its first game and relegate Hobart Olympic to bottom.

West Hobart Lions take on Glenorchy Knights tonight at KGV. Both clubs are in mid table which suggests that it will be a close game. West Hobart Lions have only one point from their two games so far and will be looking to get an early lead and hold it. Glenorchy are a very undisciplined team, and were lucky to escape with a 4-2 win against Launceston last week. West Hobart should win this close one by a goal.

Zebras lose top spot with shock defeat

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/4/97

HOBART Zebras toppled from first place on the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder when they suffered a shock 0-3 loss away to seventh placed Riverside Olympic at Windsor Park yesterday. Goals by Wade Von Bibra, Mark Littlechild and Neil Roper, the latter from a penalty, gave Riverside its win over Hobart Zebras, who trailed 0-1 at the break.

New Town White Eagle became the clear leader after it disposed of the visiting third placed outfit, Devonport City, 4-0 at Clare Street, while Hobart Olympic scored its first win of the season, overcoming last placed Launceston 2-1. White Eagle experienced some anxious moments in the first 10 minutes, goalkeeper Craig Jones being forced into an acrobatic save against a long range shot by Devonport midfielder David Meldrum, and Simon Goninon and Ricky Turner clearing headers by Andrew Howe off the line in quick succession.

Devonport's in-swinging corners created problems for Eagle's short goalkeeper but having survived that torrid opening onslaught from the coastal side, Eagle took the lead with its first real attack in the 14th minute. Colin Shepherd shielded the ball well on the left-hand side of the penalty area and passed to former Devonport player Adrian Mann, whose cross was headed past goalkeeper Bob Smith by Richard Leszczynski.

That was the signal for Eagle to take over the game and it almost increased its lead through David Stoddart, Mann, and Shepherd. Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 36th minute with a great first-time strike on the turn from 20 metres, while his cross was volleyed home by midfielder Paul Morrison two minutes later to give the home side a 3-0 advantage at the interval. Morrison grabbed his second goal of the match and Eagle's fourth in the 55th minute after leaving two defenders floundering in his wake before shooting low past Smith from the left-hand side of the box.

Devonport recovered its early momentum somewhat towards the end, with Howe, Meldrum and Paul McKenna going close, but Eagle showed it is clearly the best side in the competition.

After a scoreless opening half, a Stuart Dracup goal saw bottom side Launceston lead Hobart Olympic 1-0 until 10 minutes from the end, when Trevor Carson and Craig Nicholls netted to give reigning champion Olympic its first points of the league season.

In the State Youth Reserve League, two goals each by Michael Murray and Matthew Holloway and one apiece by Ben Fahey and Julian Proud gave Eagle a 6-3 victory over Devonport, which drew level at 3-3 at one stage through goals by

Paul Zoccolan, Nick Amos and John Alexiou. Two goals by Jim Tzortzis and one by Andreas Akamatakis, as well as own goal, gave Hobart Olympic a 4-3 win over Launceston. Riverside Olympic got home 2-0 against Hobart Zebras.

By STEPHEN FODEN - THE EXAMINER 21/4/97

RIVERSIDE Olympic, under new coach Robert King had a boost to its rebuilding yesterday when it dealt Hobart Zebras a 3-0 defeat at Windsor Park. Slow to start the season with losing players and trying to convince players to stay at the club, Riverside has now earnt 4 points from a possible 7.

Taking the field with a number of young players, Olympic took the early lead when 18-year-old Wade Von Bibra coolly finished off a good build up down the right. Neil Ropers cross to the left found Von Bibra who easily beat the Zebras keeper, slipping the ball into the far side of the goal. In the 35th minute, Mark Littlechild struck a sweet 25m drive into the top left corner of the Zebras goals giving his side a well-earned 2-0 lead at half time.

The second half was a little more competitive from the Zebras, but it was again Olympic who scored. Neil Roper found himself with a one on one situation with Zebras defender, Frank Falzon. When Roper tried to round the defender, he body checked the Olympic striker causing referee Craig Granger to award a penalty.

Falzon was lucky not to be sent from the ground. Roper stepped up to take his third penalty kick in two weeks and kept his 100% strike rate from the spot giving Olympic an unassailable 3-0 lead and a very well deserved 3 points.

At Clare St, New Town Eagles demolished Devonport 4-0. The Eagles stay at the top of the table with other clubs that are to play them contemplating what they should do to win a point. For the Port, the loss is a setback, but they will no doubt regroup to play Hobart Zebras next week.

Launceston Soccer club blew its best chance to win three points yesterday when it lost 2-1 to Hobart Olympic at South Hobart. With the score 0-0 at half time Launceston looked to dominate the second half as it did the first and when Stuart Dracup found the back of the Olympic net it looked like it might get its first win for 97.

Olympic however, rallied to equalise in the 60th minute with Craig Nichols finding the target. With ten minutes to go and Launceston soaking up the pressure, Trevor Carson stepped up to give Olympic the three points when he beat Launceston keeper from in close.

On Friday night, Glenorchy Knights defeated West Hobart Lions 2-1. This result leaves the lions with only one point from three games and the coach digging deep for excuses for his sides poor performances to date.

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (R. Leszczynski 2, Morrison 2) def. Devonport 0

Loss of key defender rocks Devonport City

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/4/97

DEVONPORT City will be without key defender John Compagne when it travels to KGV Soccer Park tomorrow to tackle Hobart Zebras in the State League soccer competition.

Compagne, the defensive backbone of the coastal side, damaged ankle ligaments two weeks ago and aggravated the injury against New Town White Eagle last weekend. The giant defender did not train this week and his loss is a huge blow to Alex MacDonald's side, which is in third place.

Defender Darren Chilcott also limped off last week just - after the interval and must be considered a doubtful starter. Adrian Scolyer is available again and comes into the squad, 15-year-old Chris Smith retains his place in midfield, and Nick Ralph and 15-year-old Kurt Archer will be considered for the starting line-up.

Hobart Zebras will miss midfielder Ben Spurr, who is unavailable, and defender Mark Falzon, who is suspended after accumulating five yellow cards. Striker Nick Anis is back from interstate, while defender Frank Genovesi may play for the first time this season after recently starting training. Coach Franco Previdi will make positional changes, moving Brett Pullen back to sweeper and Peter Skalkos from centre-back to a full-back slot.

Midfielder Tommy Huigsloot will play his final game for the Glenorchy Knights before moving to Melbourne, while striker Brendan Lakoseljac is unavailable for the fourth-placed Knights' journey to Windsor Park tomorrow to face sixth-ranked Riverside Olympic.

Midfielder Ivan Vucica and defender Tony Dzelalija are both in doubt because of rib and ankle injuries respectively, and player-coach Tony Bacic is contemplating using Mark Brkic and Dallas Joiner in attack. "It will be a tough game, and we'll have to keep Neil Roper in check," Bacic said. "I'm happy with our defence and given the small, uneven pitch, we'll try and use the long ball".

League-leader New Town White Eagle faces the in-form South Hobart, at South Hobart, on Sunday, while bottom-side Launceston entertains second-last Launceston Zebras at Birch Ave, also on Sunday.

Eagle and South Hobart are unbeaten in the league, but Eagle has the psychological advantage of having beaten its opponent 3-0 and 2-1 in the and pre-season Summer Cup. Eagle's greater experience will stand it in good stead, and although South Hobart's youngsters will fight for 90 minutes and are more than capable of an upset, especially if the brilliant Matthew Rhodes in goal is in top form.

Launceston and Launceston Zebras are the only teams yet to earn a point and their meeting promises to be a dour struggle.

Eagle top after tangle with South

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/4/97

NEW Town White Eagle restored its three-point lead at the top of the Wrest Point State League soccer ladder when it beat the previously undefeated South Hobart 3-0 at South Hobart yesterday.

In the absence of Richard Leszczynski, who was unavailable, Myles Harry partnered Colin Shepherd in the Eagle attack. He was unable to find the net, which was in stark contrast to the previous day, when he scored five goals for Eagle's Premier League side.

Shepherd opened the scoring in the 14th minute after forcing Nick Owen to concede a corner. David Stoddart swung the ball into the goalmouth and Shepherd back-headed it past goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes. In the 57th minute, Adrian Mann made it 2-0, scoring direct from an in-swinging corner. South defender Chris Oddie, standing at the far post, hooked the ball back into play, but referee Mark Monaghan, perfectly positioned, judged the ball had crossed the line and awarded a goal.

Danny Prestage shot tamely at Craig Jones on the hour after being put through by Owen, but Eagle counter attacked immediately: Shepherd completed the scoring in the 79th minute, following Craig Jones's long clearance, Mann nodding the ball on and Shepherd lobbing it over the advancing Rhodes.

South Hobart, looking lethargic and missing the drive of Shane Nicholson, was well served by 16-year-old midfielder Chris Rayner, but a huge question mark hangs over its defence, which conceded three goals that appeared rather soft. In yesterday's bottom of the-table clash, a hattrick by Chris Couch gave Launceston Zebras a 3-0 win over last-placed Launceston at Birch Avenue. All three goals came after the interval.

In the State League Reserve Youth League, a 65th-minute goal by Luke Atkin gave South Hobart -a 1-0 win over New Town Eagle and first place on the ladder, at the expense of Eagle.

Result: New Town Eagles 3 (Shepherd 2, Mann) def. South Hobart 0

Ketchell – "Eyes on the ball"

Eagle to keep on soaring and scoring

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 2/5/97

LEAGUE-LEADER New Town White Eagle should have few problems in overcoming the visiting and last-placed Launceston in their Wrest Point State League soccer match at Clare Street on Sunday.

Eagle will be strengthened by the return of ace striker Richard Leszczynski, while Launceston may be weakened by the absence of Glen Reading, who is striving to recover from injury. The cellar-dwellers from the North have been attempting to sign two new players during the week, including Launceston Zebras' striker David Hill, but coach Ken Morton is not confident of acquiring them before Sunday's game.

Eagle, the highest scoring and soaring team in the competition, also has the best defensive record in the league, whereas Launceston has the worst scoring and defensive records, so the writing must surely be on the wall for the Northerners in this encounter.

Tonight's match at KGV Soccer Park should be a thriller as second-placed Hobart Zebras lock horns with the unbeaten and third-ranked Glenorchy Knights. There is a possibility last week's game was not the last for the club for midfielder Tommy Huigsloot, who is moving to Melbourne in his employment, and if he is able to make his farewell appearance tonight, the Knights' chances will be improved.

Michael Lapolla, the Zebras' talented 25-year-old midfielder, who manufactures the bullets for the team's marksmen to fire, is expecting a fierce battle. “We expect it will be a tough and physical game, but based on our performance against Devonport last week, we expect to win,'' Lapolla said. “We have struggled in previous years because of a lack of strikers, but this year we've found the right combination in Sergio Pace and Shaun Conkie.''

Fourth meets fifth at Valley Road tomorrow when Devonport City hosts South Hobart. Both sides have six points, and the contest should be tense and closely fought. South Hobart's 30-year-old goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes said: “Devonport will be very competitive, but we'll produce a 100% improvement on last week's performance, when we were flat and lost to Eagle. “We had a good week at training and we're ready to roll.''

Sixth-ranked Hobart Olympic has parted with coach George Krambousanos and utility player Greg Calvert will be in charge for tomorrow's game against seventh-placed Riverside Olympic at South Hobart. Krambousanos resigned because of business commitments, despite the side's two consecutive wins, which indicated it had turned the corner after a disappointing start to the defence of its title. Riverside has, surprisingly, more than held its own to date, but a new coach often works psychological wonders for a team and the home side should come up trumps.

The home team succeeded at Devonport where the City hosted Riverside Olympic at Valley Rd. After an even first half, Devonport dominated the rest of the game to win 4-2. For Devonport Guilbert, Chilcott, T. Compagne and Boyd found the back of the net. Riverside replied through Roper on both occasions.

The visitors, Glenorchy Knights took the honours 4-2 at Birch Ave. A 3-0 lead at halftime was jeopardised by sprightly play by Launceston, and poor marking by the Knights' defence. However, the home side was unable to maintain the pressure with the visitors eventually running out 4-2 victors. For Glenorchy, Lakoseljac netted twice, with T. Bacic and T. Huigsloot also scoring.

Hard Knight for Zebras, Glenorchy yet to lose

By STEPHEN FODEN 2/5/97

• Glenorchy Knights will take it up to Hobart Zebras tonight at the KGV complex in Hobart and should continue its run up the State League table. Being only one of two sides that are yet to lose in the competition, the Knights have been solid in their games to date.

The Hobart Zebras have dropped only one game of their four so far, and will be competitive, but they seem to lack a quality striker. To the winner will go second place and at this stage of the season it is a bonus for both sides to be sitting there. In a close game, the Knights will win by the odd goal.

• Launceston Zebras host West Hobart Lions and should have enough confidence after last week's win against Launceston. The Lions are in strife to say the least, with only one point gained from a possible 12. The Zebras are not much better but with Chris Couch having a much bigger influence on the Zebras this year, as his game has lifted. Couch is the key to this game as he was last week when he scored a hat-trick.

The Zebras have 10 quality players on the injury list at the moment and are paying the ultimate price as they saw the reserve side take the field with eight players last week. This must hurt a club that traditionally sits around third spot

on the ladder at this time of the year. If the Zebras can get back some of these injured players this week it will win, if not, then they will struggle against a side that, although struggling, can beat them on their own turf.

• Devonport will be stretched to the limit this weekend when it plays host to South Hobart at Valley Road. South has won two of its three games and Devonport has two from two. Devonport has the league's leading goal scorer in Guilbert who has so far scored five goals. But South Hobart is no longer the easy beat of the league and nowadays it is a very accomplished outfit that most sides fear. It will be a close game and South will get up to take the points.

• Riverside Olympic travels to Hobart and will have done exceptionally well if it can bring home the points. Playing against last year's premiers isn't easy but for Riverside the South Hobart ground has been a happy hunting one. Without Neil Roper, Riverside lacks strike power and this is what it needs to win. This game should be beyond reach and Hobart Olympic should consolidate its mid-table position.

• On Sunday, Launceston's woes will continue when it makes a visit to Clare St to play current league leaders, New Town Eagles. With a full squad available the Launceston side failed to beat Launceston Zebras who have a long injury list and that failure will be one of many more to come starting Sunday in Hobart.

Eagle goal blitz humiliates Launceston

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 5/5/97

FOUR second-half goals in six minutes by league-leader New Town White Eagle destroyed bottom side Launceston in its State League soccer match at Clare St yesterday.

The gallant northerners almost took the lead in the third minute· when defender Rhys Morris powered a header from Stuart Dracup against the crossbar. Let off the hook, Eagle then began to dominate play, but the visitors, inspired by goalkeeper Leith Mitchell, defended bravely and restricted Eagle to a single first-half goal.

That fell to Colin Shepherd, who swept the ball home in the
25th minute after good work on the left by David Stoddart and Richard Leszczynski. Mitchell showed courage and clever anticipation in denying Shepherd, Paul Morrison, Craig Pitt, Stoddart and Adam Jones, as the league-leader applied intense pressure in an effort to increase its lead.

The breakthrough came in the 54th minute when indecision at the back between Mitchell and Morris allowed Leszczynski to prod the ball home from close range, making it 2-0. Launceston's defence then crumbled completely and Leszczynski headed home his second from point-blank range in the 58th minute and a and minute later Leszczynski completed his hat-trick.

On the hour Stoddart headed home a corner to give Eagle its third goal in as many minutes. Fourteen minutes later Leszczynski carved open the Launceston defence and rounded Mitchell to stroke home his fourth goal of the match.

Rob Murray forced home Stuart Dracup's corner eight minutes from the end to give Launceston a consolation goal, but it remains pointless and in last place, while Eagle is again on top and three points clear of second-placed Hobart Zebras. Fifteen-year-old midfielder Ben Fahey made his league debut for Eagle when he came on as a substitute, replacing Adam Jones 10 minutes after the interval.

New Town Eagle dropped to second place in the State Youth League Reserve competition when it was held to a 1-1 draw by sixth-ranked Launceston, Luke Gorringe giving Eagle the lead in the 48th minute and Pip Atherton equalising for the visitors two minutes later.

Result: New Town Eagles Shepherd, R. Leszczynski 4, Stoddart) 6 def. Launceston 1 (Murray)

Zebras lose star on eve of clash with Olympic

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 16/5/97

THE Hobart Zebras will be without accomplished midfielder Michael Lapolla when they take on Hobart Olympic at KGV Soccer Park tonight. Lapolla, one of the state's most creative players, has decided to retire to take up university studies.

Zebras coach Franco Previdi said Luke De Vries or Ben Spurr would fill Lapolla's spot in midfield. The Zebras are in second place, three points behind league leader New Town White Eagle, and three ahead of fourth-placed Hobart Olympic.

"We have no injuries and will play our normal game and I feel confident," Previdi said. "The players are starting to get fit and they're pumped up for this game, especially since we lost to Olympic in the Summer Cup competition." Apart from the absence of Lapolla, the Zebras are expected to field the same line-up that downed the Glenorchy Knights 4-3 two weeks ago.

Sweeper Brett Pullen did not train earlier in the week but did make an appearance last night and he could have a decisive influence on the game if he makes his usual surging runs forward into the attack.

Hobart Olympic will have had a welcome two-week break and return to action fresh from a 7-0 win over Riverside Olympic, which was coach Greg. Calvert's first game in charge. On that form, Calvert is expected to make no changes to his line-up, providing all players are fit.

Eighth-ranked Riverside Olympic hosts seventh-placed Launceston Zebras at Windsor Park tomorrow and a point would satisfy both sides.

Launceston Zebras will have veteran Peter Sawdon on view after his transfer from Riverside and he scored on his debut two weeks ago in the 4-2 win over West Hobart Lions. South Hobart, currently in mid-table, should have the measure of bottom-side Launceston at South Hobart tomorrow.

South Hobart has won three and lost only one league match this season, and it was in fine form when it knocked first division Taroona out of the State-wide Cup on Sunday, winning 5-1. Launceston is the only team yet to earn a single point in the league and it even lost to first division side University in the State-wide Cup last Saturday.

The northerners are dangerous at corners, which is one aspect of the game in which South Hobart has been shown to be vulnerable, but dominance in such set-pieces may not be enough to give the visitors victory.

Third-placed Glenorchy Knights are good enough to come away with all three points when they visit Valley Road tomorrow to tackle sixth-ranked Devonport City.

The Coastal outfit has started the league season poorly and its talented players will have to live up to their potential if they are to avoid further embarrassment at home this weekend.

The final match of the round is scheduled for Sunday, when league-leader New Town White Eagle should be able to land safely in the den of KGV Soccer Park, the home of the West Hobart Lions, and then take off to perch again on top of the ladder after grabbing all three points.

The reigning minor premier has been invincible this season, whereas the Lions have whimpered rather than roared and have a mere point to show from five outings.

They seem likely to be tamed yet again, this time by a side that has scored an average of 4.4 goals a match and which has conceded just two goals in five games. In last week's State-wide Cup opening round, the Lions knocked 10 without reply past the first division's bottom side, Nelson.

White Eagle flies high after thrashing Lions in State League

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/5/97

NEW Town White Eagle extended its lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder to five points when it beat last-placed West Hobart Lions 5-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Two goals in two minutes by Richard Leszczynski immediately before halftime effectively destroyed the Lions. Colin Shepherd made it 3-0 midway through the second half, while Leszczynski and Paul Morrison completed the scoring in the closing five minutes. Sweeper Adam Williams was a tower of strength for the Lions, the ball seemingly attracted to him like a magnet as he blunted attack after attack by Eagle.

Lions goalkeeper Chris Neale had a fine game, producing several outstanding saves, while midfielder Ian Parker twice went close to scoring and also cleared a shot from David Turner off his own goal-line.

Leszczynski put Eagle in front in the 41st minute, showing lightning speed in rounding two defenders before slotting the ball home from an acute angle. In the 43rd minute, Williams and Tim Dale lost possession for the Lions on the half-way line and wide on the left and were immediately punished as Morrison and Shepherd worked the ball across the goal mouth for Leszczynski to score. Shepherd made it-3-0 in the 67th minute when Neale spilled a high cross, the Eagle striker netting from close range.

With four minutes remaining, Morrison set up Leszczynski for a simple tap-in for Eagle's fourth goal, while two minutes later Morrison finished off with a low shot into the far corner of the net. Ben Carter, 17, who made his senior debut for Eagle late in the match, fired high over the bar from the one scoring chance that came his way.

A hat-trick by Michael Fong and goals by Carter, Michael and Paul Murray, and Luke Gorringe gave Eagle a 7-0 triumph over the Lions in yesterday's State Youth League curtain-raiser.

Result: New Town Eagles 5 (R. Leszczynski 3, Shepherd, Morrison) def. West Hobart Lions 0

Hard night ahead for the Zebras

By STEPHEN FODEN 23/5/97

Launceston Zebras face a tough task this weekend when they meet the Hobart Zebras under the lights at the Prospect complex.

The Launceston Zebras will be without the services of Chris Couch who was sent off in last week's loss to Olympic. Couch's form of late has been scintillating and his loss will leave a gaping hole for coach Lino Scuili to fill.

The Hobart side drew 1-1 with Hobart Olympic last week and according to club president George Marino they should have won 5-1. Poor finishing by Pace and other Zebras forwards given as the failure to win maximum points.

Under lights at Prospect, the home, side, in front of a large crowd can get up and take some valuable points from this game.

According to former player and ex-club president Peter Mies, all the side needs is a small break, and it could be in a top four position.

At Valley Road, Devonport hosts Launceston and with its first win last week, Launceston will not be an easy beat. Devonport thrashed the Glenorchy Knights 5-0 last week in a very polished performance.

To be part of the finals play-off series it must bury sides like Launceston. If Launceston is to be competitive it will have to be able to place taggers on Devonport players such as Guilbert, Compagne and Boyd.

At the moment the Port is struggling for consistency, a win here would go a long way to the resurrection of the Coastal side's chances of ·a finals berth.

Riverside Olympic travels to Clare St in Hobart, to play league leaders the New Town Eagles. The Eagles are in devastating form and have not dropped a point to date. Last week's win against Launceston Zebras was lucky to say the least. If Couch had not been sent off the likely result would have gone in the Zebras' favour. Even Olympic coach Rob King admits that his defence is a little shaky. The Eagles should easily account for Olympic by four or more goals.

Glenorchy Knights do battle tonight with Hobart Olympic at KGV. Olympic managed to scrape a point out of its encounter with the Hobart Zebras last week but tonight's game against the Knights should see Olympic come back to earth with a thud.

The closest game of the round pits West Hobart Lions and South Hobart at South Hobart. South was easily beaten by bottom side Launceston last week and coach Bret Anderton will be ensuring that result was just a hiccup in his sides great start to this season.

Riverside Olympic unlikely to cause White Eagle trouble

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/5/97

NEW Town White Eagle should maintain its five-point lead at the top of the Wrest point State League soccer ladder after this weekend's seventh round of matches.

The league-leader entertains seventh-placed Riverside Olympic at Clare Street tomorrow and is unlikely to be troubled by a side that runs hot and cold and which has a poor defensive record. Eagle has won its six games to date, conceding only two goals, and coach Andrew Leszczynski has had the confidence to introduce promising youngsters Ben Fahey and Ben Carter to the senior side for their debuts.

The southerners have the league's leading marksman in Richard Leszczynski, and he should play a leading role in sending Riverside home with little to show for the trip to Hobart. Anything short of victory for last placed West Hobart Lions against sixth-ranked South Hobart, at South Hobart, on Sunday will represent a crisis for the Lions, who are not used to propping up the other teams from the foot of the table.

The Lions have one of the finest player-coaches in the State in Tony Kavanagh, who took University to the first division title last season, and their players are worthy of much more than their current dismal placing indicates.

South Hobart is also in danger of collapsing after a poor performance last week in losing 0-4 to then bottom side, Launceston. South Hobart's youngsters appeared to have lost their inventiveness against Launceston their boots appeared leaden, which was in stark contrast to the fast, fluid, skilful and adventurous style which had come to characterise the team.

Neither Hobart Olympic nor Glenorchy Knights can afford to lose when they tangle at KGV Soccer Park tonight because a place in the top-four depends on attaining a victory. Brendan Lakoseljac, starting to find form in attack for the Knights, will present the Hobart Olympic defence with a few problems, but robust Olympic striker Trevor Carson is arguably an even greater menace to the Knights.

The form of the two opposing goalkeepers may well hold the key. The Knights' young Nathan Puclin is brilliant but erratic, while the Olympic's wily and experienced Neil Connell can be world-class on his day.

In tomorrow's remaining games, fourth-placed Devonport City cannot afford to be complacent against second-last Launceston at Valley Road, while second-ranked Hobart Zebras, minus the suspended midfielder Adam Conkie, should be too good for third-last Launceston Zebras in an evening showdown at Prospect.

New Town Eagle too skilful for Riverside

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/5/97

STATE League soccer leader New Town Eagle was untroubled in beating seventh placed Riverside Olympic 4-0 on a perfect pitch at Clare Street yesterday. Eagle, without mid-fielder Adrian Mann at the start, rattled home three goals in the opening half, while Mann, who came on as a substitute for Adam Jones in the 64th minute, completed the scoring in the final minute.

Riverside was struck a serious blow when sweeper Andrew Gray twisted an ankle in the 16th minute and was stretchered off. Although he returned after treatment he was clearly hampered by the injury and was eventually replaced by Jamie Challis six minutes after the interval when the visitors trailed 0-3. The home team took the lead from a David Stoddart penalty in the 25th minute, Duncan McCabe having fouled Richard Leszczynski.

Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 28th minute following good work on the right by Stoddart and Adam Jones, while Stoddart fired home the third in the 41st minute to effectively seal the match.

Eagle might have added more goals through Colin Shepherd, Leszczynski and Paul Morrison, but the Riverside defence provided stubborn resistance against the best attacking side in the league. Fifteen-year-old Ben Fahey made his second senior appearance as substitute for Eagle, replacing Shepherd with 20 minutes remaining, but the youngster was unable to capitalise on the two scoring chances that came his way.

Seconds from the final whistle, substitute Mann netted Eagle's fourth goal after Leszczynski had attracted defenders like bees around a honey pot on the right-hand side of the penalty area, before slipping the ball across goal to his unmarked team-mate.

Fourth-placed Devonport City downed second-last Launceston 4-0 at Valley Road, John "Snow' Compagne giving the Coastal side a 1-0 lead at the interval and Chris Smith and Anthony Guilbert, the latter with two goals, completing the scoring.

In last night's State League match at Prospect, Launceston Zebras drew .2-2 with the Hobart Zebras after a goalless opening half. Sergio Pace put the visitors in front before a David Hill goal and an own goal gave the home side the lead, but a penalty in the closing minutes by Brett Pullen ensured both sides a share of the points.

Goals from Michael Fong, Proud and Holloway gave Eagle a 3-0 triumph over Riverside in yesterday's State Youth League curtain-raiser.

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (Stoddart 2, incl 1 pen), R. Leszczynski, Mann) def. Riverside Olympic 0

Conkie twin's retirement big blow for Zebras

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/5/97

SECOND-placed Hobart Zebras will be without 18-year-old twins Shaun and Adam Conkie, for their State League soccer match against league leader New Town Eagle at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Shaun, a striker, and Adam a midfielder, who were with national league club Gippsland Falcons last year, became disillusioned with the local game after incidents in the recent 1-1 draw with Hobart Olympic and have announced their retirement. Adam was sent off in that match and Shaun was cautioned following an incident with several Hobart Olympic players.

The boys' father, George Conkie resigned as a commissioner of Soccer Tasmania, last Saturday. "I am very, very disappointed with the boys' decision, but I suppose that's life," said Zebras coach Franco Previdi. "I'll just have to introduce some new youngsters for to night's game, including James McCulloch."

New Town Eagle should be at full strength, which means the return of midfielder Adrian Mann, one of the best left footers in the competition, and defender Ricky Turner. ''We're undefeated so far and I'm confident we can continue our winning streak," said Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski. "It should be an open game because the Zebras will attack, whereas teams we've played recently have just set out to try and frustrate us. ''They're the best side, apart from us, and we both have similar styles."

Second-last Launceston has several injury worries for its home match against last placed West Hobart Lions tomorrow. Rhys Morris, Glen Reading, and Stuart Dracup all being doubtful. Launceston coach Ken Morton said his injured players were responding to treatment and he hoped they would be fit in time for tomorrow's match. ''We also have Jason Smith back in training and I hope be able to sign a recognised, midfielder soon," Morton said.

In other matches tomorrow, eighth-ranked Riverside Olympic hosts fifth-placed South Hobart at Windsor Park, sixth side Glenorchy entertains seventh Launceston Juventus at KGV Soccer Park, and fourth team Devonport City, travels to South Hobart to face third team Hobart Olympic. Hobart Olympic should be at full strength against a resurgent Devonport, which appears to have emerged from its early-season slump. Devonport has a good record at South Hobart and the coastal side will provide Olympic with a stern test.

Goalkeeper Nathan Puclin is reported to have quit the Glenorchy Knights after their recent 5-1 loss to Devonport and this is a serious blow to them as they prepare to take on a Launceston Zebras outfit that is having one of its poorest seasons ever.

Eagles are shooting for perfect record

By STEPHEN FODEN 30/5/97

Even with nine weeks of the roster to go the New Town Eagles look set to take the minor premiership. The only question that they will have to answer in coming weeks is, can they go undefeated throughout the entire season and win the finals. To date they have scored 31 goals and conceded a paltry two.

Tonight, they face their toughest challenge yet, second placed Hobart Zebras under lights at KGV. The Zebras have lost only one game and that being at the hands of eighth-placed Riverside Olympic. The Zebras have scored 19 goals and conceded 10 which gives them the second-best defensive record in the league.

Sean Conkie, of Hobart Zebras, is in third spot for the league's top goal-scorer award and Richard Leszczynski (New Town Eagles) is leading the competition with 13. These two players aside, both clubs have similar strengths with Eagles a little ahead in the experience department. It should be a very exciting game with plenty of scoring opportunities. The Eagles, with a tighter outfit should continue its 100 per cent record but unlike past games this year, it will have known it has been in a game after 90 minutes with the Zebras.

Zippy Zebras send Eagle into a spiral with 3-0 pelting

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/5/97

SECOND-PLACED Hobart Zebras drew to within four points of league leader New Town Eagle when they defeated Eagle 3-0 in their State League Soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

It was Eagle's first defeat, and the league leader conceded more goals last night than in its previous seven matches. A brilliant individual goal by Brett Pullen in only the third minute gave the Zebras a 1-0 lead at the break, while second half goals by Sergio Pace and youngster James McCulloch completed the scoring.

In last night's State Youth League curtain raiser, New Town Eagle became the new leader with a 6-2 win over the Zebras.

Result: New Town Eagles 0 Lost to Hobart Zebras 3 (Pullen, Pace, McColloch)

Big task for weakened West Hobart Lions

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 13/6/97

WEST Hobart Lions, currently last on the State League soccer ladder, face an enormous task away to third placed Devonport City at Valley Road today. A 'flu epidemic that has ravaged the southerners' squad will not make the task any easier against a Coastal side that has hit form, and which should be at full strength. Strikers John Demir and Warren Iles, together with defender Adam Williams, are the latest players to have been laid low by the bug, but coach Tony Kavanagh is hopeful all three will have recovered in time for today's trip north.

Defender Tim Dale will be back in the side after being unavailable last week, but defender Brian Reynolds and striker Carson Backhouse will be absent because of work commitments. ''We've been so close to a win almost every week and I think Devonport can be beaten, so I'm hoping we can turn the corner," Kavanagh, who has been carrying an injury but who hopes to play, said.

Devonport's only injury worry is giant midfielder John "Snow" Compagne, but his knee is improving, and last weekend's rest will have done wonders for his recovery. Devonport's ace marksman and Vic Tuting Silver Medal winner Anthony Guilbert, who has scored 10 goals to date, said: "We'll be pumped up after drawing with them 3-3 last season and we are starting to play a lot better now than at the beginning of the year."

League leader New Town White Eagle and sixth placed Glenorchy Knights will both be at full strength for their clash at Clare Street today, and the home team will have vivid memories of losing both encounters against the Knights last year, including a 4-2 loss at this venue.

Eagle lost its first match of the year in its last outing, going down 3-0 to the Hobart Zebras, so the atmosphere in the home camp is certain be tense in the lead-up to this game.

"We cannot afford to be carrying any passengers in this match and I'm pleased we're starting to finish off strongly, as we showed in the 6-2 win over South Hobart last week," said Knights player-coach Tony Bacic. "Our goalkeeper, Cameron Dobson, is only 18 and played in the thirds las year, but he's gaining confidence and I'm sure he'll do well.".

Second-last Launceston is hoping to that defenders Rhys Morris, Glen Reading and Dave Sutherland are all fit for today's meeting with third-last Riverside Olympic at Birch Avenue. Morris has ankle and thigh injuries, Reading has knee problems, while Sutherland has been suffering from the flu.

Fifteen-year-old Brad Green, who has just spent a week in camp with the state under-16 squad and who is being tipped to have a trial with Manchester United, is tired but fit and should have a major influence.

Today's remaining match is at Prospect where seventh-ranked Launceston Zebras entertain visitors Hobart Olympic.

Tomorrow, fifth team South Hobart may be without injured defender Shane Nicholson for its clash with second-placed Hobart Zebras, who have lured back midfielder Michael Lapolla after only one week of his intended retirement.

The Conkie twins seem determined not to play again, but Franco Previdi's team managed a creditable 3-0 win over New Town Eagle in its previous outing without the youngsters and must go into tomorrow's match as the favourite. Fifteen-year-old James McCulloch has a hamstring strain after a week at the state under-16 training camp but should get a run for the Zebras.

Lions stranded at bottom of ladder

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/6/97

WEST Hobart Lions faces an on-field crisis following its 3-1 loss away to Devonport City in their State League soccer match at Valley Rd yesterday. The Lions were in bottom place before yesterday's encounter, but their situation worsened when second-last Launceston won its match against third-last Riverside Olympic, 2-1, at Birch Ave yesterday.

The results leave the Lions, stranded at the foot of the table, four points adrift of Riverside and Launceston, which both have seven points, but which swapped places, because of Launceston's slightly better goal-difference. The Lions' Youth League side also remains last on the State League Reserve ladder, but only on goal-difference, after drawing 3-3 with second last Devonport City. In the seniors, the Lions managed to contain Devonport in a goalless opening half, but second-half goals by Chris Smith, Anthony Guilbert arid Andrew Howe gave the Coastal outfit its win and second place on the ladder. James Brown replied for the visitors.

League-leader New Town White Eagle wiped out the memories of its 3-0 loss to the Hobart Zebras in its previous outing by thrashing sixth placed Glenorchy Knights, 10-1, at Clare St yesterday, Colin Shepherd netting a hattrick and Richard Leszczynski scoring twice. David Turner opened Eagle's account in the seventh minute with a lob from 30 metres, Shepherd's low shot in the 20th minute made it 2-0, and Paul Morrison's header from Adrian Mann's corner two minutes later for the third goal meant good night for the visitors.

Three goals in four minutes immediately before the interval from Mann, Shepherd and David Stoddart made it 6-0 for Eagle as the game turned into a nightmare for the visitors. Robbie Huigsloot pulled a goal back for the Knights within a minute of the resumption after substitute goalkeeper Alan Wishy had saved well from Janko Begovic to concede a corner, but Eagle regained its stride and Shepherd completed his hattrick in the 54th minute. Defender Simon Goninon scored his first goal for the club with his knee just past the hour, while Leszczynski completed the rout with two strikes before the end from excellent service by the speedy Mann and the industrious Shepherd.

Shepherd pressures Hadley

Brad Green and Rhys Morris scored Launceston's goals in the 2-1 win over Riverside, which replied through player coach Rob King, all the goals coming in the second half. Chris Couch gave the Launceston Zebras a 1-0 lead at the break over reigning champion Hobart Olympic at Prospect, but Trevor Carson's second half goal ensured the southerners of a point and fourth place on the ladder.

In State Youth League curtain raiser, New Town Eagle defeated Glenorchy Knights 2-0 with goals coming from Adam Jones and Myles Harry.

Result: New Town Eagles 10 (R. Leszczynski 2, Shepherd 3, D. Turner, Morrison, Mann, Stoddart, Goninon) def. Glenorchy Knight 1 (R. Huigsloot)

Eagle expects Olympic comeback

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 20/6/97

STATE League soccer leader New Town White Eagle is a strong favourite to beat reigning champion Hobart Olympic at KGV Soccer Park tonight. Eagle is 10 points ahead of its fourth-placed opponent with half the season gone and it defeated Olympic 5-0 in the opening match of the league season.

Eagle also triumphed 4-0 in the teams' pre-season Summer Cup clash, which means Olympic has yet to score against last year's minor premier.

This is in stark contrast to last season, when Olympic won 3-2 and drew 1-1 in the league before beating Eagle in the grand final. Eagle will be at full strength tonight and will field the same side that thrashed the Glenorchy Knights 10-1 last Saturday.

Defender Ricky Turner is still out with a calf injury, which means midfielder Richard Ketchell retains his place after making his first senior appearance of the season last week.

Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski said: "Olympic runs hot and cold and I was rather surprised that we beat them so easily in the first round. I'll be expecting a much better performance from them tonight." Hobart Olympic makes one change to the side that drew 1-1 with Launceston Zebras last week.

Goalkeeper Neil Connell returns, after being unavailable last week, to replace Matthew Calvert. Striker Matthew Sly returned last Saturday after a three-week absence because of a hamstring injury and retains his place in attack tonight. Midfielder Glen McNeill will move to a fullback role, together with Peter Tsakiris, while Chris Hey will play at sweeper.

Olympic coach Greg Calvert said: "We played our best game of the season last week against Launceston Zebras in terms of passing the ball and moving it out of defence and we created many chances, especially in the second half. "But we didn't take them and could only draw 1-1."

Bottom side West Hobart Lions face yet another crucial match tomorrow when they entertain second-last Riverside Olympic at KGV Soccer Park. Anything but a victory will be disastrous for the home team as it is four points adrift of its opponent.

The likely return of utility player Carson Backhouse and defender Brian Reynolds should strengthen the Lions' squad, but Riverside is also desperate for points and will prove an awkward opponent.

Second-ranked Hobart Zebras appear too strong for third-last Launceston. But the northerners, playing on their own pitch at Birch Avenue and with an important win under their belts last week, will not make things easy for the visitors tomorrow.

Devonport City is worthy of third place on the ladder and is hitting top form, which means it may well hit seventh-placed visitors Launceston Zebras for six at Valley Road tomorrow.

On Sunday, fifth placed South Hobart hosts sixth ranked Glenorchy Knights at South Hobart only two weeks after the Knights won their postponed match from the opening round 6-2. South go into this game relatively confident after a creditable 1-1 draw with the Hobart Zebras last Sunday, while the Knights will be anxious to atone for their miserable showing last week.

Eagle grounded by 1-1 draw to Olympic

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/6/97

STATE League soccer leader New Town White Eagles was held to a 1-1 draw by fourth placed Hobart Olympic at KGV Soccer Park last night. The first half was goal-less, and the best chance fell to Olympic's Trevor Carson, but he shot wide when well-placed and with ample time to do better.

Both sides were missing key players. Olympic's goalkeeper Neil Connell was out because of the flu, while Eagle replaced Richard Leszczynski, who also had the flu, with Colin Shepherd just after the break. Shepherd had not started the match because he was also suffering from the flu.

Eagle took the lead five minutes after the break when Adam Jones's shot took a wicked deflection off Olympia defender Glen McNeill. Five minutes later Olympic equalised with a superb goal, Craig Nichols going on a long run down the left before crossing perfectly for Carson to head the ball into the net. ·

Result: New Town Eagles 1 (A. Jones) drew with Hobart Olympia 1 (Carson)

Knights' new coach must stop six-game losing streak

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 4/7/97

THIRD-LAST Launceston will field its strongest and most experienced line-up in tomorrow's State League soccer match against sixth-placed Glenorchy Knights at KGV Soccer Park.

Launceston coach Ken Morton said all his injured players except Glen Reading had come through unscathed in last Sunday's private practice match and were available for selection.

Striker Stuart Dracup and defender Rhys Morris therefore come back into the side, while Reading, who has been suffering from a niggling knee injury, will face a fitness test before the match.

Veteran midfielder John Wilkinson, a former professional with English club Sheffield Wednesday, has been able to train this week and will take his place in the team after coming through the practice match with flying colours.

“John is starting to understand our style of play and is developing a good understanding of the players around him,'' Morton said of his recent signing. “I'll be expecting him to stamp his authority on the game.

“It will be a very tough game, because the Knights' new coach, Ahmed Abdaltam, knows the game well, but we'll be coming south looking for all three points.'' Abdaltam will be in charge of the Knights for the first time, and he will be keen to arrest the run of poor results that has seen the side lose its past six consecutive league matches.

His cause will be assisted by the return of talented young goalkeeper Nathan Puclin, who has not played in the past four league games, after apparently being in dispute with the club following an alleged post-match incident at Valley Rd in Devonport.

Puclin can be almost unbeatable on his day, but Abdaltam would do well to pay attention to the defects that exist within

his defence - the team having conceded 14 goals in its past two league matches.

Former player-coach and striker Tony Bacic came off with a hamstring injury in last week's cup defeat against Kingborough and he must be doubtful for tomorrow's clash.

Second-placed Hobart Zebras should stay on the heels of league-leader New Town White Eagle by defeating bottom-side West Hobart Lions at KGV tonight. The Zebras will have midfielder Michael Lapolla back after injury and should be at full strength against unpredictable opponents, whose morale will have been improved by their Statewide Cup win over Burnie last weekend.

New Town Eagle should be too strong for seventh-placed Launceston Zebras at Prospect tomorrow, but the home team will have some hope of doing well after an emphatic 8-0 Statewide Cup win last week, albeit against much inferior first-division opponents.

Third-ranked Devonport City is likely to collect all three points from its visit to Windsor Park tomorrow to take on second-last Riverside Olympic.

The remaining match of the round is at South Hobart on Sunday, when fifth-placed Hobart Olympic tackles fourth-ranked South Hobart. South Hobart is in impressive form and is quite capable of repeating its 3-2 win of the first round.

Much-improved Zebras out to defy top Eagles

By STEPHEN FODEN 4/7/97

As the final series gets nearer, the temperature rises with clubs jostling for a position in the top four. Match of the round this week will be at Prospect when Launceston Zebras host league leaders New Town Eagles. The Zebras have improved greatly since round one, and if they can win their next three games, they will be a chance (albeit slim) to reach the finals.

The Eagles have had the same side for at least the past five years and have played off in four of the past five grand finals. You just can't buy that sort of experience. The Zebras have had a couple of good runs in recent weeks, and last Saturday they sat back and had some fun against Western Suburbs Knights in the State-wide Cup, winning 8-0. The match against New Town Eagles will be hard to win, but if recent improvement is any indicator, the Zebras have a chance of at least a point.

At Windsor Park, Riverside Olympic will do battle with Devonport with the knowledge that it is getting hotter at the rear end of the table, and that survival in the highest league is at stake - a win here is a priority. Pathetic is how you could describe Riverside's performances over the past three weeks which included losses to Launceston, West Hobart Lions and then last week to Hobart Premier League club Phoenix in the State-wide Cup.

Devonport, on the other hand, has been steadily building up to the finals, and with young players such as Chris Smith and Chris McKenna now fitting in quite well with other more senior players.

At KGV, Glenorchy Knights take on Launceston. The Knights have been struggling for form and a Launceston win would almost secure their survival in State League 1998. Under lights tonight, Hobart Zebras should get back to the winning circle (after losing 1-2 to South Hobart last week) and defeat West Hobart Lions. On Sunday, Hobart Olympic plays South Hobart at South Hobart.

Riverside left alone on bottom

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 7/7/97

RIVERSIDE Olympic is now stranded and alone at the foot of the State League soccer ladder after it lost 1-4 at home against Devonport City and fellow cellar-dweller Launceston managed a 2-2 away draw against Glenorchy Knights yesterday.

Riverside has seven points, while Launceston has eight and West Hobart Lions nine. At the top of the table, New Town White Eagle maintained its four-point lead with a 5-1 away win over Launceston Zebras, while Devonport City moved into second spot courtesy of its 4-1 away triumph over Riverside.

Devonport's win means the Hobart Zebras, who lost 2-0 to the Lions on Friday, drop a place to third. Launceston came to KGV Soccer Park yesterday knowing a win was vital to its survival chances and it almost snatched the three points.

The visitors led 1-0 at the interval through an Andy Fraser goal, created for him by Brad Green and Glen Reading, a minute before the break. Ten minutes after the resumption, Fraser struck again from Dean Logan's pass and the Knights, without Matthew Gasparin, Tony Bacic, Nathan Kelly, Tony Dzelalija, Ivan Vucica and Tommy Jelovic, seemed dead and buried.

They refused to surrender, however, and midfielder Scott Hadley pulled a goal back from out of the blue when he scored in the 61st minute with a 30-metre shot that beat goalkeeper Leith Mitchell and flashed inside the left-hand post.

With 10 minutes remaining, Brendan Lakoseljac, who had fired against the crossbar in the opening stages and earlier been flattened by Mitchell, whose only punishment was a yellow card, headed the equaliser at the far post from Robbie Huigsloot's cross.

Nathan Puclin had a memorable return in goal for the Knights, producing outstanding saves during the course of the match to thwart Green, Fraser, Logan, and Rob Murray.

Reading also squandered a great chance, heading Stuart Dracup's cross over the bar from close range. The draw was the first point for Knights' new coach, Ahmed Abdaltam, but it was not enough to improve the team's sixth placing on the ladder.

John "Snow" Compagne gave Devonport the lead against Riverside at Windsor Park, but Neil Roper made it 1-1 at half-time. Two goals by Anthony Guilbert and one by Andrew Howe in the second half sealed Devonport's win.

At Prospect, Justin Dyer put the Launceston Zebras in front against the league leader, but Richard Ketchell's reply made it 1-1 at the interval. Adrian Mann restored Eagle's lead within 30 seconds of the restart, while three goals in the space of 16 minutes immediately following that, from Ketchell, Richard Leszczynski and Paul Morrison, ensured Eagle of victory.

Lions out of danger zone

By STEPHEN FODEN 7/7/97

WEST Hobart. Lions have moved off the foot of the table and temporarily away from the relegation zone after an unbelievable 2-0 win against the Hobart Zebras. The Lions with the win, jump Riverside Olympic and Launceston to now sit in eighth spot, level on points but ahead on goal difference with Launceston.

Launceston, which travelled to Hobart, managed to win a point from the Glenorchy Knights with a 2-2 draw. Leading 1-0 at halftime, Launceston scored early in the second half to extend the lead to 2-0 and should have gone on to win the game. Andy Fraser scored both of Launceston's goals and caused many headaches for the Knights defence.

It was the experience of the Knights striker Brendan Lakoseljac that turned the game around for the home side. Two quick goals in the middle of the game saw the Knights back on even terms. With minutes to go Launceston's Rob Murray could have won the game but for a fine save from Puclin in the Knights' goal.

Riverside Olympic now sits at the foot of the table after it was defeated 4-1 at Windsor Park by Devonport. Whilst all these dramas were going on at the rear of the table, with the three clubs involved looking for wins, Launceston Zebras' hopes of making the four came to an abrupt halt as it was thrashed 5-1 by league leaders New Town Eagles.

The Eagles have had a slump lately and people were starting to wonder if the Eagles had peaked too early. Unfortunately for the Zebras, the Eagles showed the form that is likely to take them to another State title.

Result: New Town Eagles 5 (Ketchell 2, Mann, R. Leszczynski, Morrison) def. Launceston Juventus 1 (Dyer)

Super sides set for clash

By STEPHEN FODEN 11/7/97

Clash of the superpowers: that's how this weekend's game between Devonport and New Town Eagles at Valley Rd could be described.

Both sides are just about certain to be part of this year's final series, just as they have been in past years.

If you had to pick two sides that would give the most entertainment and draw the biggest crowd in a grand final, you would look no further.

Blessed with the combination of youth and experience, both sides play attractive soccer while not giving too many chances to their opponents.

Anthony Guilbert (Devonport) and Richard Leszczynski (New Town) are the league's top goalscorers. The sides build their play around these two first-class strikers who generally don't let their mates down.

Eagles are led by David Stoddart, whose strength is scoring goals from a midfield role. Devonport is led by Snow Compagne. Compagne's strength is in the air, especially from corner kicks.

The Port has taken the opportunity this year to blood some of its younger talent, and in past weeks they have performed well in better company.

Eagles have had the same side for a number of years and, if anything, this will give them the edge on the day.

It will be a close game, and although I expect Leszczynski and Guilbert to be marked out of the game, there will be goals scored.

So, if you expect that you will not make the grand final, do yourself a favour and get down to the Valley Rd complex at Devonport to see a superb game.

Riverside Olympic, battling relegation, travels to Hobart to play Hobart Zebras. The Zebras were shock 2-0 losers to West Hobart Lions last week.

This was their second loss in as many weeks and was surprising given that they are the only side this year to take three points from league leaders New Town Eagles.

Olympic is nothing special, but is however a team of battlers who, even when four or five down, just don't know when they are beaten.

Their leader Rob King leads by example. He gives all that he can and expects nothing less than 100 per cent in return - something that most of the Riverside Olympics players seem to have forgotten in past weeks.

Nothing that Riverside has to offer in this game will be enough to stop the Zebras getting back on the winning track.

Launceston is at home to Hobart Olympic, and if it can take three points from this match, that should be enough to keep it away from the relegation zone. Launceston blew a 2-0 lead against Glenorchy Knights last week, something that coach Ken Morton will be reminding his players about this week.

It will be a little more difficult to score against the more disciplined Hobart Olympic let alone hold a lead.

Craig Nichols is the shaker and mover in the Olympic midfield, and if Launceston can curb his runs and mark closely main striker Trevor Carsons, it is in with a chance to secure its spot in State League 98.

The most improved side in the league, South Hobart, is at home to the Launceston Zebras, and although the Zebras' season is all but over, they will be out to spoil South's chance at making the finals.

West Hobart Lions will be looking to keep their momentum of previous weeks going when they meet Glenorchy at KGV tonight.

The Lions have won three games on the trot, and if they can secure three points in this game, State League in 98 will be looking good.

The Knights are always slow to start, but usually come home like a steam train. If the Lions can get an early lead, they can win this game.

Knights to be remodelled

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 11/7/97

SIXTH-PLACED Glenorchy Knights' new coach Ahmed Abdaltam will make several changes to his side for tonight's State League soccer match against eighth-ranked West Hobart Lions at KGV Soccer Park.

Midfielder Mark Brkic and central-defender Robbie Huigsloot will be relegated to the substitutes' bench, while several positional changes are also in store. Striker Tony Bacic, and defender Matthew Gasparin will have to prove their fitness before being selected, while midfielder Janko Begovic and striker Brendan Lakoseljac must recover from bouts of the flu before being considered.

If all are declared fit, Bacic will move from attack to defence and line up at sweeper, just behind David Hegol and Gasparin, while teenager Ivan Vucica will be used as a man-marker at the heart of the defence. Begovic will be a defensive marker in midfield, while Tommy Jelovic will return to the side in a right-midfield role.

"The players' spirits are high, and we have trained well," Abdaltam said. "We have worked all week on the defence. "I was pleased with our second-half comeback last week, but this will be a hard game and we must stop their strikers.

"For us to get results will take time and I don't think our players are fit enough." The Lions have now won three consecutive games - two league and one cup - and these successes have buoyed the players, who should be in a positive frame of mind after scoring 10 goals without reply in those three games.

The pick of tomorrow's four matches is the clash at Valley Road between second-placed Devonport City and the visiting league-leader New Town White Eagle. Eagle downed Devonport 4-0 at Clare Street in the first round but Devonport might have scored several goals early in that match.

Having squandered the chances that came its way, many of them from dangerous comer-kicks, Devonport lost its way and was well beaten by Eagle. Both teams have formidable firepower - Eagle's Richard Leszczynski is the league's leading marksman with 15 goals, followed by Devonport's Anthony Guilbert with 14 - and whichever team scores first should retain the upper hand and win.

Third-placed Hobart Zebras should get back to their winning ways against visitors Riverside Olympic, currently last, at KGV, despite having been humiliated 2-0 by the Lions at the same venue last week.

Zebras coach Franco Previdi said defender Elmer Cano was doubtful because of a back injury but that 16-year-old striker James McCulloch would return after injury. "We had a bit of a think about our performances and the fact that some players haven't performed well," Previdi said. "Some players tend to lose concentration and it's up to me to wake them up. We have been running hot and cold. "We've lost silly points, including a 3-0 loss to Riverside in the first round, and we must stop that if we're to finish in the top-four."

Second-last Launceston is more than capable of upsetting fifth-placed visitor Hobart Olympic at Birch Avenue, while fourth-ranked South Hobart will be desperate to collect all three points against a resurgent Launceston Zebras, currently seventh, at South Hobart. Launceston went down 2-1 away to Hobart Olympic in the first round, while South Hobart triumphed 3-2 away against the northerners in the first round, results which indicate the two southern sides may just scrape home today.

Lions in shock win over Knights

By STEPHEN FODEN 13/7/97

WEST Hobart Lions continued their recent good form on their way out of relegation difficulty with an astounding 3-0 win over the Glenorchy Knights on Friday night. The result takes the Lions to 12 points and with Launceston and Riverside Olympic both losing, it seems that the fight to stay alive is going to come down to the two Northern sides.

Launceston were at home to Hobart Olympic and it was a single error by the Launceston goalkeeper, Mitchell that cost the home side a probable point. When points are desperately needed by the Launceston club to keep afloat, they again failed as their opponents applied pressure.

With the score at 0-0 at halftime it was anybody's game - whoever was the most desperate would be the winner. In the 16th minute of the second half a cross from the right was not cleared by the Launceston defence. Rhys Morris tried to clear the ball on the volley only to see the ball slew off into the back into his own penalty area. Instead of punching the ball clear, Launceston's goalie Dion Mitchell tried to catch the ball as Olympic forward Tyrone Early jumped to contest. The ball fell from Mitchell’s grasp and dropped toward Early's right foot. As he was falling to the ground at the far post, Early swung his foot at the ball and managed to get good contact, the ball entering the net just millimetres inside the post.

Before this goal, Launceston had created many good chances to score but as usual it failed to put these chances away. At the end of the day the players had done enough to have won at least a point, but as has happened many times before, when the going got tough, the tough went missing. Launceston's best player was Brad Green while Craig Nichols, Glen McNeill and Alan Rankine caused most of the damage for the victorious Olympic side.

At Valley Rd, a very entertaining game was played between New Town Eagles and home side Devonport. First and second respectively on the State League ladder, they put on what most consider a dress rehearsal for the grand final. The score was 1-1 at half-time, and that score was emulated in the second half to finish in a 2-all draw.

With four games left before the final series begins, one would be confident of predicting that the draw will be enough for these two sides to be there. South Hobart lost its fourth spot to Hobart Olympic after it was on the end of a 4-1 thrashing by Launceston Zebras.

Returning to the winner’s circle, the Zebras proved that if they had had a little luck at the beginning of the season, they would have been in the top four today. Chris Couch and Roger Mies linked to become the downfall of the Southern side. Couch scoring two goals and Mies chipping in with one. The win sees the Zebras move up one spot to sixth on 14 points, five points out of fourth place.

South Hobart is now in fifth place on 18 points with Hobart Olympic in fourth on 19 points. Hobart Zebras became the third side to consolidate a finals' berth with an emphatic 6-2 win over Riverside Olympic. Now sitting on 24 points, one point adrift of Devonport and five points ahead of fourth place, a game against Devonport in the semi-finals is just about assured.

City holds Eagle to draw

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/7/97

THE status quo was maintained at the top of the State League soccer ladder when second-placed Devonport City held league-leader New Town White Eagle to a 2-2 draw at home at Valley Rd yesterday.

The sides were level at 1-1 at the interval and the draw leaves Eagle four points ahead of Devonport, with six matches remaining. David Meldrum and Andrew Howe were Devonport's marksmen, while the visitors replied through Richard Ketchell and David Stoddart.

Third-ranked Hobart Zebras maintained their position with a 6-2 triumph over bottom-side Riverside Olympic at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, after leading 3-2 at half-time. The southerners remain a point adrift of Devonport.

Fourth-placed South Hobart dropped out of the four and into fifth spot after it lost 1-4 to visiting seventh-placed Launceston Zebras at South Hobart, while Hobart Olympic moved from fifth into fourth spot following its 1-0 away win over second-last Launceston at Birch Avenue.

Midfielder Nick Anis and sweeper Brett Pullen gave the Hobart Zebras a 2-0 lead against Riverside, but the visitors were a little unfortunate not to have scored by then - Dale Colgrave and Shaun Miller both going close.

Neil Roper pulled a goal back on the half-hour after Colgrave's free-kick, but a fine volley by 16-year-old James McCulloch restored the Zebras' two-goal buffer.

Roper again reduced the arrears a minute before the interval, following the persistence of Brian Whiteman, who managed to elude some fierce tackles while bringing the ball into the danger zone.

Two quick goals by Pullen and Michael Lapolla within four minutes of the resumption killed off Riverside's hopes, Pullen scoring from an acute angle during one of his many forward runs and Lapolla making the most of goalkeeper Alistair McGrath-Kerr's inability to cut out Mark Falzon's chip into the penalty area.

Sergio Pace headed home Lapolla's free-kick in the 62nd minute to make it 6-2 for the home team, and Pace might have grabbed another five minutes from the end, but his free kick hit the crossbar.

Substitute Adrian Venettacci came on near the end and his direct and powerful runs at the Riverside defence almost saw him score on three occasions.

A goal by teenager Tyrone Earley 17 minutes from the end gave Hobart Olympic its win over Launceston, but the northerners felt they should have had a goal a few minutes earlier when Brad Green hit the bar with a header and Olympic defender Glen McNeill bundled his own goalkeeper and the ball into the net. Much to the disappointment of Launceston, the referee awarded Olympic a free-kick.

Two goals by Chris Couch and one each by Peter Sawdon and Roger Mies gave Launceston Zebras a 4-0 lead over South Hobart.

Bernhard Klasen hit a consolation goal for the home team after the break, but South's gloom at losing was compounded by the fact it has now dropped out of the top-four.

Result: New Town Eagles 2 (Ketchell, Stoddart) drew with Devonport 2 (Howe, Meldrum)

Eagle keen to extend lead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 18/7/97

NEW Town White Eagle may be able to extend its four-point lead at the top of the State League soccer ladder tomorrow, providing it can beat fifth placed South Hobart at Clare Street.

If Eagle does overcome South Hobart, a draw between second-placed Devonport City and third-ranked Hobart Zebras at Valley Road would increase Eagle's lead at the top to six points, with five matches remaining.

An away-win for the Zebras, combined with an Eagle victory, would extend Eagle's lead at the top to five points, a handy margin at this stage of the campaign.

Eagle goes into tomorrow’s match injury-free and the only problem confronting coach Andrew Leszczynski this week was the lack of a training ground. Clare Street was closed last night and Leszczynski was hoping his players would be able to use a gymnasium.

"Although we've been a little inconsistent, I think we should do well against South Hobart," Leszczynski said.

"We've had two tough games away in the past two weeks and it will be nice to get back to Clare Street. "South Hobart have never beaten us, although they'll be sure to raise that extra notch against us, as all teams tend to do when they play us."

South Hobart has lost momentum in recent weeks and has dropped out of the four after last week's 4-1 loss to the Launceston Zebras.

It is difficult to see Bret Anderton's youngsters defeating the highest-scoring side in the competition, and a team that also boasts the best defensive record in the league.

The sixth-placed Launceston Zebras should make it two wins in a row when they entertain second-last Launceston at Prospect tonight, although it will not be easy.

Launceston lost 1-0 to Hobart Olympic last week and was unfortunate not to earn a point, and anything can happen in such a local derby, especially given the fact that Launceston is fighting for survival in the State League.

Devonport lost 4-0 to the Hobart Zebras in the first round, but the Coastal side has improved considerably since then and so it's, form reversal, combined with home-ground advantage, will make things tough for the visitors to Valley Road tomorrow. The Hobart Zebras knocked six goals past the Riverside defence last weekend, but its defence proved brittle and must be a cause for concern to coach Franco Previdi.

Devonport's strike-force of Anthony Guilbert and Andrew Howe is much more potent that Riverside's and the Zebras will be in for a torrid time.

Last-placed Riverside Olympic travels to KGV Soccer Park for the second successive week, but its task tomorrow against the seventh-placed Glenorchy Knights should be slightly easier than last Saturday's assignment against the Hobart Zebras.

Riverside's chances of avoiding relegation are dwindling as each week without a win passes, so Robbie King's men must earn at least a point from this encounter.

The Knights have had a horror run, earning a mere point in eight outings. New coach Ahmed Abdaltam won that point two weeks ago and that sign of improvement may augur a win tomorrow.

Eighth-placed West Hobart Lions will be going for their fourth league win in a row when they tackle fourth ranked Hobart Olympic at South Hobart on Sunday.

The Lions have not conceded a goal in their past four matches - an ominous sign for Olympic, which has scored only four goals in its past five league matches, and in those games, it was never more than one goal a game.

Eagle lead cut to a point

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/7/97

DEVONPORT City drew to within a point of State League soccer leader New Town White Eagle when it defeated visitors Hobart Zebras 4-0 at Valley Road and Eagle lost 4-3 at home against South Hobart. Hobart Zebras remain third, four points adrift of second-placed Devonport and five behind Eagle.

South Hobart regained fourth place as a result of its meritorious victory, its first over Eagle at top level since 1982, displacing Hobart Olympic, which drops to fifth, but Olympic can regain fourth spot by beating West Hobart Lions at South Hobart today. Devonport, which led Hobart Zebras 3-0 at the interval, gained its win through two goals by Anthony Guilbert and one each by Chris McKenna and Charlie McCaffrey. McCaffrey, who coaches Devonport's reserves, has returned to the seniors after more than a year out recuperating from a broken leg.

South Hobart took a 3rd minute lead at Clare Street through Ben Harbinson, who took advantage of a hesitant Eagle defence to shoot low past Craig Jones and into the far corner of the net. Eagle was level four minutes later when goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes was unable to hold David Stoddart's fierce shot and the ball bounced over the line.

The league-leader should have increased its lead in the 25th minute when it was awarded a penalty for Shane Nicholson's foul on Stoddart, but Stoddart fired his spot kick against Rhodes's left-hand post, the captain's third penalty miss of the season.

Paul Morrison made amends two minutes later, however, finishing off a move involving Adrian Mann and Richard Leszczynski to give Eagle the lead. Colin Shepherd notched Eagle's third with a perfectly placed header from Richard Ketchell's precise cross from the right in the 39th minute. Harbinson netted his second goal of the game

in the 58th minute to make it one goal the difference, while Klasen's equaliser in the 69th minute sent shock waves through the Eagle line-up. It was panic stations for the home side in the 76th minute when goalkeeper

Jones, holding the ball and in no danger, conceded a needless penalty by pushing Klasen in the face. Harbinson completed his hat-trick with the spot-kick, placed high and to the left of Jones, to give the visitors a 4-3 win.

Last-placed Riverside Olympic managed a 1-1 away draw with seventh-placed Glenorchy Knights at KGV Soccer Park, the draw putting it level on points with second-last Launceston, which went down 3-1 to sixth-ranked Launceston Zebras at Prospect on Friday night. Launceston's' slightly better goal-difference keeps it ahead of Riverside.

Mark Brkic put the Knights ahead against Riverside after five minutes, but a goal on the half-hour by Troy Scott ensured the Northerners of a valuable point. Chris Couch netted twice for the Launceston Zebras, its other goal coming from Peter Sawdon, who headed home John Visentin's cross, while Launceston replied through Andy Fraser.

Result: New Town Eagles 3 (Stoddart, Morrison, Shepherd) Lost to South Hobart 4 (Harbinson 3 incl. 1 pen, Klasen)

South Hobart's hopes put to test by Devonport

By STEPHEN FODEN 25/7/97

This weekend South Hobart is home to second-placed Devonport and would fancy its chances after defeating league leaders New Town Eagles last week. Sitting just outside the four in fifth place, South Hobart is reaping the rewards of a three-year building process.

Under coach Bret Anderton, South has moved from last in 1996 to become a real threat to make its first State League finals appearance. Except for missing the 1995 State League competition, Devonport has always been a top four finisher. Both sides have been playing solid soccer of late, so a good, close game is assured. If South is to make the finals a win here is a must.

Riverside Olympic hosts Hobart Olympic at Windsor Park and is in with a good chance of winning three valuable points. Knowing that this is a win-at-all costs game the Olympic side will be frothing at the bit to get at Hobart Olympic. If they do manage to win, Riverside will be three points clear of Launceston, which is at home to New Town Eagles on Sunday at Birch Avenue.

Launceston Zebras travel to Hobart to play against a West Hobart Lions side that has found renewed form over the past four weeks. If the Lions win their 1997 season will have been saved and a place in next· year's competition will have been secured.

Under the lights at KGV, Hobart Zebras play Glenorchy Knights tonight and with the Knights in another one of their famous slumps, the Zebras will be hot favourites to get back to winning ways. Last week the Zebras were thrashed 4-0 by Devonport and looked ordinary. On the rebound, Hobart Zebras will take no mercy on the one-time league leader and should win by at least four goals.

Launceston will have to be at its best on Sunday when it hosts New Town Eagles, who are coming off a 4-3 loss to South Hobart. Like the Zebras, the Eagles are about to run rampant with a side battling for its State League future.

Zebras one stripe short

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/7/97

THIRD-PLACED Hobart Zebras will be without midfielder Michael Lapolla for their State League soccer clash with seventh-ranked Glenorchy knights at KGV Soccer Park tonight. Lapolla was sent off in the Zebras' 4-0 loss to second placed Devonport City at Valley Rd last weekend and is suspended. His replacement will be either Sacha Puclin or Luke De Vries, neither of whom played against Devonport.

Zebras coach Franco Previdi has criticised the rostering of referees, claiming that his team's games were regularly being refereed by the same officials, often in successive weeks, and this had a bad effect on the players if incidents had occurred the previous week. "I'm not complaining because we lost 4-0 last week, but I had to calm my players down at half-time," Previdi said. ''We should have a different referee for each game and the referees should be rotated.

"I know our players can be undisciplined at times, but I wasn't very happy with the display of the referee last week. "James McCulloch was one of the best players on the field against Devonport and he outclassed 'Snow' Compagne, but he didn't get a free-kick all day."

A win tonight is very important for the Zebras, because if they were to lose, and if South Hobart were to beat Devonport City and Hobart Olympic were to beat Riverside Olympic tomorrow, the Zebras would be clinging to fourth spot only by virtue of their superior goal difference.

The Zebras won the first-round meeting 4-3 and another close game is forecast tonight because the Knights are desperate to pick up points under new coach Ahmed Abdaltam, who coached the Zebras last season. The Knights have been woeful in front of goal and missed numerous chances last week, as they were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom side Riverside Olympic.

With relegation not entirely out of the question and with a top-four place still within reach, the Knights have everything to play for. However, their chances may well depend on striker Brendan Lakoseljac regaining his scoring touch and goalkeeper Nathan Puclin playing up to his enormous potential.

Fourth-placed Hobart Olympic should consolidate its place in the top four by whipping cellar-dweller Riverside Olympic at Windsor Park tomorrow. The southerners produced a superb display of attacking soccer in the opening half of last week's 5-2 win over West Hobart Lions, and a similar performance tomorrow – comprising incisive attacks down the flanks followed by precise crosses and clinical finishing - would leave the home-side defence a smouldering ruin.

Trevor Carson produced moments of magic, his footwork mesmerising opposing defenders, Tyrone Earley's finishing was deadly, and sweeper Chris Hey turned defence into attack with one pass, and unless the northerners can counter such outstanding individuals, they will be in for a hiding.

Fifth-ranked South Hobart will be without suspended defender Jason Nicholson for its showdown with second-placed Devonport City at South Hobart tomorrow, but speedy midfielder Adam Powell will be back from suspension for his penultimate game before he joins the army. The North-West Coast side has hit top form and will be out to erase memories of an embarrassing 3-2 home defeat at the hands of South Hobart in the first round.

Third-last West Hobart Lions will miss midfielder Steve Weller, who has departed for foreign shores, for their match against sixth ranked visitors Launceston Zebras at KGV tomorrow.

The Lions' creditable run of four successive wins, in which they conceded no goals, came to an abrupt end last week against Hobart Olympic. Tony Kavanagh's men will have to try and pick up the pieces against a side that is starting to string wins together and which has an outside chance of making the top four.

League-leader New Town White Eagle travels north on Sunday to face second-last Launceston at Birch Avenue, - and three points should be the booty the southerners bring back with them. Eagle has Devonport hot on its heels and this should be incentive enough to give the home side, which is haunted by the spectre of relegation, a real hammering.

Eagle back on top perch

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 28/7/97

NEW Town White Eagle returned to the top of the State League soccer ladder after it thrashed second-last Launceston 8-1 away at Birch Avenue yesterday. Eagle relinquished top spot to Devonport City after the Coastal side beat South Hobart 3-1 on Saturday.

Launceston had no answer to Eagle's speed and teamwork and trailed 4-1 at the interval. Richard Leszczynski, the league's leading scorer, and Adrian Mann both hit hat-tricks for Eagle, their other goals coming from David Stoddart and Colin Shepherd. Andy Fraser, Launceston's leading scorer, replied for the home side, netting his sixth goal of the current campaign.

Eagle's youth side remains second on the State League Reserve ladder and three points adrift of leader South Hobart after overcoming fourth-placed Launceston 4-2 yesterday. Matthew Holloway netted twice, the other goals coming from Michael Fong and Ben Carter, while Pip Atherton and Jason Smith replied for Launceston.

Result: New Town Eagles 8 (R. Leszczynski 3, Mann 3, Shepherd, Stoddart) def. Launceston United 1 (Fraser)

Zebras can expect lashing

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 8/8/97

HOBART Olympic should give the Hobart Zebras a hiding in their State League soccer clash at KGV Soccer Park tonight. The teams are currently in fourth and third places, respectively. Both have 25 points, but the Zebras have a slightly better goal difference. Hobart Olympic has lost only one of its past dozen games and it has ended its goal drought, scoring five goals in each of its past two matches.

The Zebras, by contrast, have earned only a point from a possible six in their past two matches, having drawn 2-2 with the lowly Glenorchy Knights and having lost 4-0 away to second-placed Devonport City.

The Zebras' training attendances have been poor, much to the disappointment of enthusiastic and diligent coach Franco Previdi, who apparently feels hampered by the poor attitude of some of his players.

He lamented this week: "Since we beat New Town White Eagle at the end of May, everything's gone downhill." Midfielder Sacha Puclin will be missing tonight because of injury, while midfielder Michael Lapolla is a doubtful starter because of family reasons.

Defender Frank Genovesi is suspended after being sent off in the match against the Knights, while question marks surround the availability of strikers Sergio Pace and James McCulloch, both of whom have had flu, and midfielder Ben Spurr, who has an ankle injury.

Hobart Olympic, on the other hand, has goalkeeper Neil Connell and midfielder Raymond Benson available for inclusion in an already powerful and successful squad.

Connell has been unavailable for several weeks because of his coaching commitments with Soccer Tasmania, while Benson has recovered from a knee-ligament injury, which has kept him sidelined for three weeks. Defender Michael Berwick is back in training but will probably not play until next week. He also missed the 1-1 draw in the first-round meeting between the clubs.

"We all lift for games against the Zebras and this should be a well-contested game, given what's at stake," said Olympic coach Greg Calvert. A loss would put the Zebras down a place to fourth and in real danger of being overtaken in the next couple of weeks by fifth-ranked South Hobart.

Tonight's other match is at Prospect, where sixth-placed Launceston Zebras may find bottom-side Riverside Olympic a very difficult and committed opponent.

Riverside has everything to play for because even a point tonight may be enough to lift it from the foot of the ladder, as second-last Launceston, which is level with Riverside on points, may well lose at home at Birch Avenue against South Hobart tomorrow.

Riverside and Launceston both suffered heavy defeats in their previous outings, and if they both lose this weekend, the scorelines in their respective games will be crucial, and may well determine which of the two finds itself propping up the rest of the field come Saturday night.

On current form, and given their opponents, both Riverside and Launceston should lose, plunging them into a relegation crisis with only three matches remaining after this weekend. In tomorrow's remaining match, seventh-placed Glenorchy Knights entertain second-ranked Devonport City at KGV, and the home side will need to show dramatic improvement in all departments if it is to earn even a point.

On Sunday, league-leader New Town White Eagle hosts third-last West Hobart Lions at Clare St and Eagle will probably need to win if it is to retain first place. Eagle won the first-round meeting 5-0 and a repeat performance is very likely, given that the Lions' recent revival appears to be over, following two successive league defeats and one cup loss.

Eagle hones talons

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 11/8/97

NEW Town White Eagle outclassed West Hobart Lions to win its State League soccer match 6-0 at Clare Street yesterday. With three league matches remaining, Eagle has a four-point lead over Devonport City, while the Lions are third-last, a point ahead of Launceston, and four in front of bottom side Riverside Olympic.

The writing was on the wall for the Lions as early as the fourth minute, when in one of Eagle's first attacks, midfielder Adrian Mann cracked a shot against the Lions crossbar. Three minutes later, Richard Ketchell put Eagle in front, slipping the ball home after goalkeeper Chris Neale fumbled a cross. Neale made amends a minute later. Eagle playmaker David Stoddart put Richard Leszczynski through the middle, but the goalkeeper turned the striker's fierce drive over the bar for a comer.

The Lions first ·real chance came in the 17th minute, but Carson Backhouse fired wide. Eagle retaliated three minutes later when Stoddart fed Paul Morrison and the midfielder set up Leszczynski to make it 2-0. Leszczynski made the most of Colin Shepherd's service in the 24th minute to give his side an unassailable 3-0 advantage, while six minutes before the interval, Stoddart and Shepherd combined to provide Morrison with an easy goal, Eagle's fourth.

Ian Parker might have reduced the arrears in the 42nd minute, but he kicked the ball over the bar. Shepherd made it 5-0 in the. 64th minute with a tremendous shot from 25m, while Stoddart completed Eagle's tally three minutes later.

Two goals by Matthew Holloway - one a penalty – and a goal by Ben Carter, gave New Town Eagle a 3-1 win over the Lions in yesterday's State 'League Reserve curtain-raiser. Ross Iles replied for the Lions with a penalty.

Result: New Town Eagles 6 (Ketchell, R. Leszczynski 2, Shepherd, Stoddart, Morrison) def. West Hobart Lions 0

Olympic primed to retain fourth place

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 15/8/97

HOBART Olympic should retain fourth place on the ladder by defeating seventh placed Glenorchy Knights in their State League soccer clash at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Olympic will again be without goalkeeper Neil Connell, who has not played for many weeks, but youngster Matthew Calvert has been a reliable understudy.

Connell was on the verge of playing tonight but he had a toenail removed on Wednesday and is unable to play. Defender Michael Berwick is available for what will be only his second match of the season.

Berwick was overseas earlier in the year and made his first appearance four weeks ago, only to suffer a calf injury which has kept him sidelined until tonight. Olympic coach Greg Calvert, therefore, has a powerful squad to choose from and the team should make up for last Friday's shock 3-2 loss to the Hobart Zebras, which threatened Olympic's place in the top four.

The Knights are on a high after their surprise 4-3 victory over second-placed Devonport City last Saturday and coach Ahmed Ahdaltam expects to win tonight. Striker John Cacic is unavailable, and Tony Kerschbaum will come into the side to partner Brendan Lakoseljac in attack.

Midfielder Mark Brkic returns after missing the match against Devonport through suspension. Striker Tony Bacic is hampered by a niggling injury and will again start on the substitutes' bench.

"It will be a hard game, but I expect us to win," Abdaltam said. "We are safe from relegation and must work towards earning a top-four spot. We must work hard and try and win our remaining three games."

League leader New Town White Eagle appears to have an easy task against bottom side Riverside Olympic at Windsor Park tomorrow. Eagle won the first-round encounter 4-0 and Riverside, battling against possible relegation, will be hard-pressed to gain even one point this time around.

The Hobart Zebras can consolidate third place on the ladder by downing sister club Launceston Zebras at KGV tomorrow. The southerners will have Brett Pullen and Frank Genovesi back. Pullen missed last week's match because of bruised ribs, while Genovesi was suspended.

Coach Franco Previdi said four of his players were ill in bed and had been unable to train, while midfielder Michael Lapolla, who is suspended after accumulating too many yellow cards, was interstate and had not trained.

"This will be a big test for us," said Previdi, who was delighted by last week's important win over Hobart Olympic, a result which improved the Zebras' chances of playing in the finals.

Launceston Zebras are presently only two points out of the four and if they win, and if Hobart Olympic loses, the northerners will be in fourth place, the highest level they have reached this season.

In the weekend's remaining matches, Devonport should be too strong for second-last Launceston at Birch Avenue tomorrow, while sixth-placed South Hobart's top-four chances will be dashed if it loses to eighth-ranked West Hobart Lions at KGV on Sunday.

Eagle too strong for Riverside

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 18/8/97

NEW Town White Eagle maintained its four-point lead over second-placed Devonport City yesterday when both sides won away from home in Launceston. League-leader Eagle downed bottom-side Riverside Olympic 4-1 at Windsor Park, while Devonport thrashed second-last Launceston 8-1 at Birch Avenue. The Hobart Zebras clung to third spot when they came from behind twice to beat visitors Launceston Zebras 3-2 at a windswept and dusty KGV Soccer Park.

Colin Shepherd hit a hattrick for Eagle, which led 2-1 at the break, the southerners' other goal coming from Richard Leszczynski. Dale Colgrave replied for Riverside, which trails Launceston by three points with two matches remaining.

Launceston held Devonport to a 1-1 score-line at the interval, but the Coastal side unleashed its full power in the second half to score seven goals without reply. Anthony Guilbert netted four goals, John 'Snow' Compagne grabbed two, while Chris Smith and Paul McKenna each scored once.

A goal on the stroke of halftime by veteran Peter Sawdon, who netted from close range after John Visentin had swung a free-kick from the right into the goalmouth, gave the Launceston Zebras a 1-0 lead against sister-club Hobart Zebras.

Five minutes after the resumption, Sergio Pace struck the equaliser after Brett Pullen had raced from his own half and released marauding full-back Elmer Cano, whose precise pass set up Pace. Eight minutes later, the visitors again hit the lead. Sawdon held off Sacha Puclin's challenge in midfield, before playing the ball wide to the right for Visentin, the defender's high cross to the far post eluding goalkeeper Frank Mainella and providing Chris Couch with an easy headed goal.

The southerners were far from finished, however, and Pace equalised for a second time with a blistering volley from 20 metres after Mark Falzon's header caused panic in the northerners' defence and the ball was only cleared to the edge of the penalty area.

Pace also had a major role in the 85th-minute winner when he attacked down the left and crossed the ball low into the

goalmouth. Pullen mis-kicked, but the ball rolled to 15-year-old James McCulloch and the youngster scored with a low shot through a crowd of players to earn the Hobart side an invaluable three points.

The visitors will be annoyed at not earning at least a draw as Couch and Jason Dyer both missed relatively easy chances.

Launceston Zebras brought on striker Roger Mies near the end, but he was unable to find the net to give his side a much-needed draw. "We actually had to win this one to have a hope of getting a place in the top-four and I'm very disappointed at the loss," Mies said. "We can still do it, but it will now depend on the results of other teams' matches going the right way for us."

Result: New Town Eagles 6 (R. Leszczynski, Shepherd 3) def. Riverside Olympic 1 (Colgrave)

Striker's goal tally falls short

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/8/97

ROGER Mies, the 29-year-old striker of State League soccer club Launceston Zebras is an accountant by profession, but the figures simply have not been adding up this season.

Mies, a state representative player, has only scored eight goals during the current campaign, a far cry from the tallies he is used to scoring.

Injury has been the main reason for his lack of goals with the latest being a thigh problem, which kept him on the bench until near the end of Saturday's 3-2 loss to the Hobart Zebras.

“It's been one of my worst seasons,'' Mies said. “I was looking for a good season after missing half of last season because I was on my honeymoon in Europe.

“This year, however, it's been one injury after another. “I pulled a muscle in a quadricep three weeks ago, but I thought it was going to be right a couple of weeks ago and it pulled up again at training and that's put me another two weeks behind the eight-ball.'' Saturday's defeat has made it difficult, but not impossible, for the Launceston Zebras to make the finals.

“We had some results that went against us early on, and perhaps we could have done a little bit better,'' Mies said.

“A few dubious refereeing decisions also contributed, but I suppose that evens itself out.”

“We finished with a wet towel and it makes it hard now.”

“We were hoping we could make it without relying on other teams and, if we'd won on Saturday, we'd have made it under our own steam. Now we've got to rely on other teams to make it for us.”

“We're hoping Devonport can knock off Hobart Olympic next week and that we can knock off Olympic in the last game of the season.''

Mies has been a one-club man during his career making his senior debut for Launceston Juventus, as the club was known, as a 16-year- old.

“It's a good club,'' Mies said. “My father, Peter, has obviously been involved with the club, and they've always done the right thing by me.”

“We've got the nucleus of a team that's been there for five or six years, and there's probably half a dozen guys who have been here right through my career and we're all good close friends.”

“I've had a few offers to play elsewhere, but I've stuck by the club and I'd love to see the club win a premiership.”

“But, my years are running out. I've probably got a couple of good years left in me.''

Crucial game for Devonport and Hobart Olympic

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 29/8/97

THE fight for final-four places and the battle to avoid the wooden spoon is on again this weekend, promising to make the second-last round of State League matches as exciting as at any time this season.

Second-placed Devonport City entertains fourth ranked Hobart Olympic at Valley Road tomorrow in what is a crucial meeting for both sides.

Devonport is desperate to hang on to second place and thus earn the double chance in the finals, while the southerners must win to stave off the challenge of fifth-placed Launceston Zebras, who are in with a chance of clinching the vital fourth berth in the finals.

League leader New Town White Eagle can take out the minor premiership by beating third-ranked Hobart Zebras at KGV Soccer Park tonight, while the Zebras will be eager to win this tussle and give themselves a chance of second spot and the double chance in the finals.

At the other end of the ladder, last-placed Riverside Olympic travels to South Hobart to face sixth-placed South Hobart knowing that a win is absolutely essential if it is to have any chance of avoiding the wooden spoon.

Second-last Launceston also ventures south tomorrow for a no-holds barred confrontation with third-last West Hobart Lions at KGV, and the northerners know they must win if they are to be sure of keeping their nose in front of Riverside.

Devonport coach Alec McDonald is elated that he finally has a full squad from which to choose his line-up, the first time this has occurred in the current season. Hobart Olympic will have a full squad available with the return of goalkeeper Neil Connell and midfielder Raymond Benson, and with the expected recovery after a groin strain of defender Chris Hey.

Coach Greg Calvert rested Craig Nicholls, Glen McNeill, Alan Rankine and Hey in last week's 3-3 draw with Port Melbourne in a friendly match which proved good practice for strikers Matthew Sly, who scored twice, and Tyrone Earley (once).

New Town Eagle will again be without defender Simon Goninon, while defender Ricky Turner is also unavailable this week because of interstate work commitments, but coach Andrew Leszczynski is confident about the outcome of tonight's match against the Hobart Zebras.

''We've got plenty of players, and the good thing is they can play anywhere," Leszczynski said. "A little bit of reshuffling won't matter because we'll still come up with a sound combination. ''Damien Bones will come into the side and Paul Morrison will probably go back into a defensive position from midfield.

"They beat us last time, but our players will be fired up as we can stitch up the minor premiership by winning this one," he said.

The Launceston Zebras, without suspended striker Chris Couch, will find the going tough against the Glenorchy Knights at Prospect tomorrow and the win they must have to keep alive their final-four hopes will prove elusive against a side that is again showing promise.

White Eagle cements top spot

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS – 30/8/97

NEW TOWN White Eagle took out the State League soccer minor premiership with a 4-0 win over third-placed Hobart Zebras at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The Zebras missed several early chances before David Stoddart fired Eagle into the lead in the 34th minute. Stoddart added a second before the interval, while second-half goals by Adrian Mann and Richard Leszczynski completed the scoring.

In last night's State League reserve curtain raiser, New Town Eagle thrashed Hobart Zebras 6-1 after leading 2-0 at the interval. Matthew Holloway netted a hat-trick, Eagle's other goals coming from Steve Louden, Owen Laing and Myles Harry, while Adrian Venettacci replied for the Zebras

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (R. Leszczynski, Stoddart 2, Mann) 4 def. Hobart Juventus 0

Crunch time in state soccer

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 5/9/97

THE final composition of the top four and the destination of the wooden spoon will be decided this weekend in the final round of roster matches in the State League soccer competition.

New Town White Eagle, as the minor premier, and second-placed Devonport City and third-ranked Hobart Zebras are already assured of competing in the finals.

Fourth-placed Hobart Olympic entertains fifth ranked Launceston Zebras at South Hobart tomorrow in a match that will decide fourth spot and the remaining berth in the finals. The northerners must win by five clear goals if they are to pip Hobart Olympic for fourth spot - but both player-coaches do not see this as a realistic outcome.

Olympic's Greg Calvert cannot envisage his team losing by five goals, despite the absence of suspended defender Peter Tsakiris. He will be replaced by Chris Hey, who is returning from injury. Calvert said he had a strong squad, with players of the calibre of Michael Berwick and Matthew Sly on the substitutes' bench, and the team would be going out to win rather than defend.

Hobart Olympic won the grand final from fourth spot last season and that is incentive enough for its players to make absolutely certain that the visitors do not win by the required margin, if they win at all.

Launceston Zebras, who drew 1-1 at home with Olympic in the first round, will be without suspended striker Chris Couch, the club's leading scorer and the fourth ranked marksman in the league.

His absence must be a huge blow to the northerners. Midfielder Lydon Prince may also be unavailable because of work commitments, while player-coach Lino Sciulli is also considering resting a couple of players who would miss the forthcoming State-wide Cup final if they received cautions tomorrow.

"We can make the top four if we score five goals, but that's very unlikely," Sciulli said. "We'll go out to win first of all and then see how many we win by. "We want to make it, but I don't know if we can. It's very hard to say because we haven't scored five goals against a State League side this year.

"By the same token, we've had the opportunity to score seven or eight goals in some games and haven't taken those opportunities, so you never know." At the foot of the table, bottom-side Riverside Olympic hosts second-last Launceston at Windsor Park. Riverside, which trails Launceston by three points and on goal-difference, must win by three goals to hand the wooden spoon to the visitors, a task that Riverside coach Robert King believes is within the capabilities of his players, despite the absence through suspension of key midfielder Shaun Miller. "We're confident that we'll win," King said.

"Neil Roper has been playing well and Launceston haven't got anyone that can mark him out of the game. When we last played them, we led 1-0 with 10 minutes to go and then a lapse of concentration allowed them to score twice and win.

We've been treating every game for quite a while now as a cup final and, with no injury problems, are confident we can roll them, especially on our home ground and especially if there's the usual windy conditions and it's slippery."

Launceston will appeal against the suspensions of key players Stuart Dracup and Brad Green, who were sent off in the 3-1 loss to the West Hobart Lions last Saturday.

Experienced defender and former Sheffield Wednesday player John Wilkinson is doubtful after being carried off with a shoulder injury in that game and will have to pass a late fitness test before being eligible for selection.

However, coach Ken Morton is hoping that Rob Murray will be fit, and Geoff Freeman will reproduce the fine form he displayed in the youth team.

"We'll be going for three points to get some credibility back and a good sign is that we beat Ulverstone 4-1 at Devonport during the week in the 7-a-side night series, in which we used our 11 players on an inter-change basis," Morton said.

"When it gets to this stage, it's all about pressure and how you can handle pressure - but I can say the mood in the camp is good. "We seem to concede silly goals rather than defend badly and we've played well while missing good chances, but I think we can win this one."

In other matches this weekend, New Town White Eagle meets the Glenorchy Knights at KGV Soccer Park tonight, the same venue for tomorrow's clash between the West Hobart Lions and Devonport City and Sunday's showdown between the Hobart Zebras and South Hobart.

Minor premiers end on a winning note

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 6/8/97

STATE League soccer minor premier New Town White Eagle completed its league program with a 6-3 win over eighth-placed Glenorchy Knights at KGV Soccer Park last night. Eagle opened the scoring after only 16 seconds through David Stoddart and led 3-1 at the interval following two goals by Richard Leszczynski and a solitary reply by Brendan Lakoseljac.

A goal by Lakoseljac and a clever free kick by Dallas Joiner drew the Knights level at 3-3, but in the closing 12 minutes goals by David Turner, Stoddart and Leszczynski saw Eagle run out an easy winner. Eagle missed numerous scoring opportunities, while the Knights' goalkeeper Nathan Puclin also made several fine saves.

Result: New Town Eagles 6 (R. Leszczynski 2, Stoddart 2, Mann) 6 def. Glenorchy Knights 3 (Lakoseljac 2, Joiner)

Final Series
1997

Eagle loses striker for semi clash

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 12/9/97

MINOR premier New Town White Eagle will be without star striker Colin Shepherd for tomorrow's State League soccer qualifying semi-final against second-placed Devonport City at Clare Street.

Shepherd suffered a facial injury against Hobart Zebras two weeks ago and missed Eagle's final league match of the season last weekend.

He will have surgery next week and will be out of action until next season. Midfielder Adrian Mann returns to the line-up after a bout of the flu and coach Andrew Leszczynski has been toying with the idea of playing midfielder David Stoddart up front to partner striker Richard Leszczynski.

Eagle has beaten Devonport 4-0 in the league and 3-1 in the Statewide Cup competition this season, the second league meeting between the sides having ended in a 2-2 draw at Devonport's Valley Road ground. "We've done well against them this year and I believe they struggle up front, apart from Anthony Guilbert of course," Leszczynski said.

Devonport will be at full strength after striker Andrew Howe came through 30 minutes play in last week's win over West Hobart Lions without any ill effects to his hamstring strain. Devonport coach, Alec McDonald was surprised by the late change of venue from KGV to Eagle's home ground at Clare Street and said he would make minor tactical adjustments to cater for this.

''We're playing against the best team in the league, and they've thumped us once, although the second league game could have gone either way," McDonald said.

Third-placed Hobart Zebras will take on fourth placed Hobart Olympic in the elimination semi-final at KGV Soccer Park tonight for the right to meet the loser of the Eagle versus Devonport match.

Both sides have won the grand final in past seasons from fourth place and Olympic, last year's winner, will have all its players available for selection. Neil Connell, who made a superb save against Roger Mies in last week's final league match, will be preferred in goal to youngster Matthew Calvert.

"We all know what's at stake," said Olympics' player-coach, Greg Calvert. "We've achieved our first aim, which was to get into the top-four, and we're now looking towards our second aim, which is to get into the grand final." Sweeper Frank Genovesi is the only doubtful starter for Hobart Zebras after being substituted on Sunday against South Hobart because of a groin strain.

Utility player Mark Falzon returns after a two-week suspension, while Frank Mainella is fit again and will take over in goal from youngster Matthew Ferguson. Young striker James McCulloch is also back after injury, but midfielder Luke De Vries has been dropped after missing training. Zebras coach Franco Previdi said his squad had trained well and there had been no change to the normal training routine.

In the State Youth League, minor premier New Town Eagle meets second-placed South Hobart in the qualifying semi-final at KGV tonight, while Launceston takes on Hobart Zebras in the elimination semi-final at Clare Street tomorrow, both games being the curtain raisers to the senior State League semi-finals.

Devonport in shock win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 15/9/97

DEVONPORT, City booked its place in the State League soccer grand final when it scored a shock 4-2 away win over minor premier New Town White Eagle in the qualifying semi-final at Clare Street yesterday. Devonport had finished second on the ladder, six points adrift of Eagle. Eagle had beaten Devonport 3-1 in the Statewide Cup and 4-0 in the league at Clare Street, while the return league match at Valley Road had ended in a 2-2 draw.

Eagle now meets Hobart Zebras, 2-0 conquerors of Hobart Olympic in the elimination semi-final, in the preliminary final for the right to meet Devonport again. Eagle's midfield was never able to operate effectively, and Devonport hit the front after only two minutes, Andrew Howe scoring at the second attempt with a header, goalkeeper Craig Jones having parried his first effort. David Stoddart, drew Eagle level in the 11th minute, controlling a waist-high cross from the left after good build-up involving Richard Leszczynski and Adrian Mann, before volleying past Bob Smith.

Devonport refused to be unnerved, and two minutes after Anthony Guilbert had lobbed the ball against the Eagle's crossbar in the 35th minute, John "Snow" Compagne restored the Coastal side's lead following David Meldrum's corner. Two goals in five minutes before the break, the first from Guilbert, who beat Ricky Turner in the air and then sprinted towards goal to score, and the second from a Compagne penalty, awarded against goalkeeper Jones for his foul on Guilbert, broke Eagle's back.

Trailing 4-1 at the interval, and without injured striker Colin Shepherd, Eagle never looked as if it could make up the deficit, although it did score the only goal of the second half, a 73rd-minute effort by Leszczynski. Eagle forced a succession of corners near the end, but the minor premier cannot afford to repeat such a sloppy performance if it is to overcome the Hobart Zebras in the preliminary final. "I knew the boys were good enough, and this was the first time we've had a full squad all year," said a delighted Devonport coach, Alec McDonald. "It was an excellent performance."

Result: New Town Eagles 2 (Stoddart, R. Leszczynski) Lost to Devonport 4 (Howe, Compagne 2 incl 1 pen, Guilbert)

White Eagle hit by injury problems

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/9/97

MINOR premier New Town White Eagle has several injury problems for tonight's League soccer preliminary final against Hobart Zebras at KGV Soccer Park.

The winner will play Devonport City in the grand final. Star striker Colin Shepherd has been absent for a month with a facial injury and will not play again this season, while defenders Ricky Turner and Damian Bones and midfielders David Turner and Richard Ketchell have been sidelined through injury in the past fortnight.

Ricky Turner pulled a hamstring in last weekend's Statewide Cup final win over Launceston Zebras and will be missing, as will Ketchell, who has a hip injury, and Bones, who has a broken toe. David Turner missed the Cup final because of a hamstring strain but may recover in time to take his place in tonight's line-up.

Michael Murray, Michael Fong, and Robbie Lebski, who all did well as replacements last weekend, will be in contention for places, as will striker Myles Harry, who has no cricket commitments.

Eagle has met Hobart Zebras three times this season, winning twice and losing once. Eagle won 3-2 in the pre-season Summer Cup and 4-0 in the second league meeting, but it lost 3-0 to the Zebras in the first league meeting this season, all three matches having been at KGV.

The Zebras finished the roster series in third place, 10 points adrift of the minor premier, and beat fourth placed Hobart Olympic 2-0 to reach tonight's preliminary final, while Eagle goes into this match after falling 4-2 to second-placed Devonport City.

"It will be a tough game, but we should go well and I'm pretty confident," said Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski. "They've beaten us once this year and they have pretty good players who make up quite a good team on their day, so we'll have to pull something extra out for this match.

"We've done okay in previous games and won the Statewide Cup last weekend after overcoming quality teams such as South Hobart, Devonport and Hobart Olympic, which wasn't easy, and I expect tonight's game could be a high-scoring one.

"Injuries haven't helped us, but I've been impressed by the composure, confidence and enthusiasm shown by the young lads who have come in, and I expect our experienced players to lift their game to cover the loss of our injured players and to inspire our youngsters."

Hobart Zebras are expected to be at full strength, with the exception of youngster James McCulloch, who will be interstate with the state under-16 squad.

Coach Franco Previdi said: "Eagle lost the semi-final against Devonport tactically and they are capable of being beaten again, but I still respect them, even with some key players out injured.

"Even with players missing, they'll be dangerous, and it won't be easy for us and I would like to go into this match as the underdogs.

"I'll leave my final team selection until late, but I have been preparing tactics for the past two weeks and I think if we can get an early goal our confidence will be boosted."

South Hobart meets Launceston at KGV on Sunday in the State Youth League preliminary final with the winner earning the right to tackle New Town Eagle in the grand final.

Eagle stampedes Zebras for berth in grand final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 27/9/97

MINOR premier New Town White Eagle beat Hobart Zebras 4-1 in Friday night's State League soccer preliminary final at KGV Soccer Park to earn the right to meet Devonport City in Saturday's grand final.

Eagle came from behind to level at 1-1 at the interval, but it was not until midway through the second half that it gained the ascendancy and scored three more goals to run out a comfortable winner.

The Zebras omitted experienced defender Nick Di Martino from their starting lineup, while midfielders Brett Pullen, Nick Anis and Sasha Puclin were anonymous for most of the evening.

Eagle, already missing several regular players because of injury, was struck a further blow at the 23rd minute when Michael Murray, making one of his rare senior appearances, suffered a facial injury in a tackle with Frank Genovesi and had to leave the field with a bloodied face, to be replaced by Robert Lebski.

Veteran striker Sergio Pace fired the Zebras into the lead in only the third minute, following Michael Lapolla's corner from the right. Eagle midfielder David Stoddart squandered a couple of chances before his team equalized in the 35th minute, Zebras goalkeeper Frank Mainella completely missing Adrian Mann's corner and allowing Adam Jones to slot the ball home.

Pace did well in the 52nd minute to hold off several defenders while attempting to make space to get in a shot, but when he finally succeeded, he blasted wide of Craig Jones's left-hand post. The Zebras introduced Michael Connolly for Adrian Sculthorpe in the 56th minute, but Eagle had begun to gain the upper hand and only a fine save by Mainella just short of the hour-mark denied the speedy and talented left-footer, Adrian Mann.

In the 67th minute, Mann crossed accurately from the left and 18-year-old Michael Fong, headed the ball past

Mainella for a 2-1 lead. Three minutes later, Stoddart turned sharply with the ball on the edge of the penalty area and whipped an unstoppable low drive past Mainella to make it 3-1 for Eagle.

With 11 minutes remaining, Zebras coach Franco Previdi inexplicably substituted hard-working defender Mark Falzon for Ben Spurr, but a Zebras comeback appeared unlikely by that stage, despite a fine curling shot from Pace that had Craig Jones scampering across his goal.

Mainella was forced to make two saves in quick succession from Mann, and the goalkeeper also did well to block a close-range strike from Richard Leszczynski, but he was helpless in the 89th minute when late substitute Marcus Proud was allowed to cut in along the right byline and score from an acute angle to make the final margin 4-1.

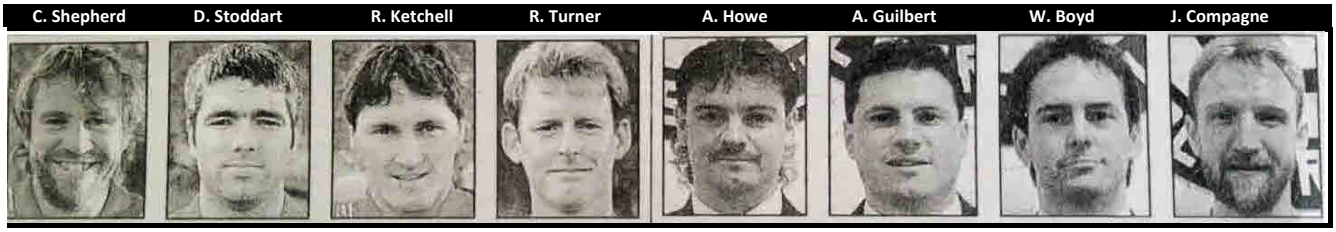
Di Martino made what could be his final appearance for the club when he came on in place of Peter Skalkos in injury time.

"It was a gutsy performance from us, and I thought we could do it," said Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski. "It was a pretty strange sort of Eagle-Zebras game in that it was a dour struggle, but it was a matter of turning it into a victory.

"We had so many good players who worked so hard for each other and we've got a couple of young players who are ready for the first-team and which any club would be glad to have."

Zebras coach Franco Previdi said: "I don't think we played that badly, but I think Eagle wanted it that little bit more. "Our players were a bit unlucky not to get a second goal and if we'd got that we would have been all right. "They put away their chances and we didn't, and we also struggled with a few injuries."

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (Jones, Fong, Stoddart, Proud) Def. Hobart Zebras 1 (Pace)



Grand final battle of the giants

By STEPHEN FODEN 3/10/97

The 1997 Wrest Point Casino State League grand final tonight is expected to be one of the best spectacles ever seen at the KGV complex. League giants Devonport City and New Town Eagles last met in a grand final in 1994 and that game saw Devonport crowned champion with a 3-2 win.

Three weeks ago, Devonport got out of the blocks quicker than New Town in the qualifying final to win 4-2 and go straight to the grand final. New Town Eagles have had it a little harder, playing the Statewide Cup grand final and a preliminary final. Both games took their toll on an already weakened Eagles team.

Injuries in the past weeks to David Turner, Ricky Turner, Colin Shepherd, Richard Ketchell and Michael Murray have seen the senior squad become a little depleted but through this adversity they have managed to reach their fourth grand final in as many years. In past weeks the Eagles have drawn from their reserves side which is also in the grand final of the Youth League. Richard Ketchell is a 75 per cent chance of playing this game as his hamstring injury improves with time.

David Turner will probably bolster the reserves side if half-fit and Ricky Turner is likely to warm the bench until needed with Shepherd looking on from the grandstand. Murray is a likely starter in the senior team despite a head injury requiring stitches. Devonport has had a balanced, fit side for the past eight weeks and will be going into this match full of confidence.

Despite having a younger and less experienced side than New Town Eagles, Devonport will be sure it can emulate its qualifying final 4-2 win over Eagles. This will be Devonport's second grand final appearance in four years, taking into account that it did not participate in the 1995 season it is a remarkable record. The Devonport side is serviced by some quality players, most of whom have represented the State. The side is led by the towering Snow Compagne who is deadly in the air at corner kick situations. Anthony Guilbert, last year's Vic Tuting

medalist, is the goal-scoring machine of the side. For the second year in a row Guilbert has won the league's top marksman award with 26 goals in 18 games.

Guilbert's turn of speed can leave any defender standing in his wake. His partner up front is Andrew Howe, who was best afield in the qualifying final. Howe's abilities to hold the ball up and wait · for support and to apply pressure to opposing defences were never better than in that game. If these two players can apply the same amount of pressure on the Eagles defence one could expect a similar result.

New Town has the league's second top scorer in Richard Leszczynski. Leszczynski's ability to run with the ball at close quarters at pace has seen him score 25 goals this season. In the past five years Richard has never been far away from the top of the goal-scorers' list and he will be a big threat to Devonport. His partner up front will be Michael Fong. Fong has been included in the senior line-up since Shepherd's eye injury and he has not failed to score in a game he has started. He will have to be closely marked, as he usually pops up to score vital goals. In the midfield, it will be a superb battle between New Town's David Stoddart and Devonport's Wayne Boyd.

Both are super fit players who always make the plays. They have extraordinary vision, often creating chances for forwards out of nothing. They can also score themselves, Stoddart finishing the best of the two with 13 goals. The defences will make or break this game and both are solid. The generals of the defences are Craig Pitt (New Town) and Snow Compagne (Devonport). Both tend to give themselves plenty of room to sweep and distribute the ball.

Adrian Mann, a former Devonport player, plays at left half for New Town, so he has a little more to play for in this game. New Town's coach, Andrew Leszczynski, described Mann as a machine last week. “He just keeps on going. He just doesn’t know when he's beaten," said Leszczynski. Devonport will not go into this game thinking that it has already won it.

Two years ago, Launceston Zebras played the game of their lives to defeat the then White Eagles 6-4 in the qualifying final only to lose the grand final against the same club 0-3. Having had a three-week break does not naturally mean that Devonport will win this game.

I tend to favour New Town Eagles. The main reason is that they have found some good form since losing the qualifying final, and that form should see them take the honours tonight.

Devonport's grand campaign

By MANDY SMITH 3/1/97

The hopes of all North-West Coast soccer fans will rest on the shoulders of the Devonport City players when they face the New Town White Eagles in tomorrow night's State Soccer League grand final. The Devonport side, which also draws players from Burnie, Ulverstone and Somerset, enters the final after a three-week break.

Captain and centre-back John Compagne believes match fitness could be the team's only weakness. "That break probably won't do us any good, but over the last week we have had a pretty hectic training schedule, with a night series match and a practice game against Ulverstone, "' he said. Devonport's last game was its 4-2 semi-final win against New Town. The grand final will be the fifth time the teams have met this season - both have won twice, and the fifth game was a 2-all draw.

Compagne is confident Devonport can win its second State League premiership, to add to its '93-'94 victory. "I think we've got a good chance going on the way we played last time we met," Compagne said. "We beat them last time on their home ground. "They play a similar style to us, very direct, and getting to the front men as quick as possible." According to Compagne, Devonport's strength lies in strikers Anthony Gilbert, two-time top goal-scorer in the league, and Andrew Howe, who was best-on-ground in their semi-final.

Eagles fly high over competition in soccer finals

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 5/10/97

New Town White Eagle confirmed its status as the most powerful soccer club in Tasmania when it won both the State League senior and State League Youth competition grand finals on Saturday at KGV Soccer Park.

Both the Eagle sides finished their league campaigns as minor premiers, while Eagle's Premier League combination, effectively the club's third side, finished third in the southern first division ladder.

Eagle won the State League senior grand final with a comprehensive 5-1 win over Devonport City, which had finished second on the ladder, six points adrift of Eagle. Eagle's State League Youth team was victorious in the reserve grand final by downing South Hobart, which had finished second in the standings, 2-0.

Adrian Mann, a former Devonport player, was Eagle's star in the senior grand final, scoring twice and making two

other goals with accurate corners. "It was just fantastic," Mann said. "The last time we played them they caught us on the hop but this time we had the right attitude and it was just fantastic.

"In the last few weeks, we had to work really hard and a lot of our reserve players have come and stood up and they're as much a part of this win as everyone else is and it's just fantastic. "Devonport are a great side and they worked really hard, but I had no sympathy for them out on the field in this."

An interested spectator at the grand final was former White Eagle coach Eugene Mycak, who had returned from Poland that evening. Mycak coached a Polish third division side last season and had just had a brief stint with a Polish fifth division side before returning to Tasmania.

New Town champion in 5-1 win

By STEPHEN FODEN 5/10/97

NEW Town Eagles beat Devonport City 5-1 yesterday to become 1997 State League champions. The win completes a remarkable season for the Hobart club. This State championship is the club's second in three years, and it can add to that, this year's Statewide cup title and the State League Reserves and Youth League Championships.

After 16 minutes of the game Devonport should have been three goals up. In the eighth, 11th and 14th minute, Devonport had great opportunities to score as it settled faster than the New Town Eagles. In the next 30 minutes New Town set up what was to be an unassailable lead.

Ex-Devonport player Adrian Mann did most of the damage to his old club. In the 16th minute Mann scored the first of three on the night. After Devonport failed to clear an Eagles free kick from the left, Mann judged the bounce to perfection as his left footed half volley entered the net at the top left-hand corner.

In the 30th minute Myles Harry extended the Eagles' lead to two, as two players lay on the ground in the New Town penalty area after a nasty clash of heads. As the crowd looked on, one got the feeling that the referee was about to pull the game up as the clash of heads looked to be serious. But he didn't, and Myles's shot from 18m sparked the crowd as a rocket was sent into the sky.

Having settled, the Eagles were passing accurately, and players were gaining in confidence. Adrian Mann was one of those. In the 43rd minute he extended the Eagles' lead as he dodged and weaved and then unleashed his second goal. In the 50th minute of the game the nails were being placed into Devonport's coffin as Myles Harry headed in at the far post from a corner kick taken by Mann.

Snow Compagne was hard at the ball and was rewarded with a penalty kick. The league's top goal scorer Anthony Guilbert brought Devonport one closer as he smashed his penalty kick past Eagles' goalkeeper Jones. In the 89th minute, Mann capped a superb performance as his left footed inswinging corner kick went straight into the goal.

Result: New Town Eagles 5 (Mann 2, Harry 2, Bones) Def. Devonport 1 (Guilbert pen)

Eagle completes season grand slam

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 6/10/97

NEW TOWN White Eagle easily beat Devonport City 5-1 in the State League soccer grand final at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The victory completed a grand slam of all four trophies for the season for the New Town club. In last night's Stale Youth league grand final, New Town White Eagle defeated South Hobart 2-0 to make it a wonderful night for the Eagle supporters. Devonport started the match in menacing fashion and might have scored three times in the opening quarter of an hour.

It was a magnificent evening for New Town's midfielder Adrian Mann and striker Myles Harry, Mann, a former Devonport player, scored twice and was dangerous throughout, while Harry, filling in for the injured Colin Shepherd, also netted twice. In the 8th minute, Tom Compagne's free kick saw Eagle goalkeeper Craig Jones turn the ball against the post and then block Paul McKenna's shot from the rebound.

In the 13th minute, David Meldrum's corner almost sneaked under the crossbar, but Adrian Mann managed to clear off the line, while in the 15th minute Paul McKenna fired into the side netting.

After soaking up the opening pressure, Eagle began to assert itself and Mann put the Southerners in front with a vicious volley from 20m in the 16th minute, following David Stoddart's free kick from the left.

Mann went close twice shortly after and in the 32nd minute Harry made it 2-0 for Eagle with a low shot from outside the penalty area as play was allowed to continue despite Devonport's John "Snow" Compagne and Engle's Craig Pitt lying injured in the Eagle penally arca after they had clashed heads following Anthony Guilbert's high freekick into the box.

Two minutes before the interval Mann attacked down the left before cutting inside and hitting Eagle's third goal. Six minutes after the interval, Harry made it 4-0 for Eagle, heading home Mann's corner.

Devonport made positional changes, dropping Wayne Boyd to sweeper, and moving "Snow" Compagne to midfield, which paid dividends shortly after as Compagne earned a penalty following a foul by Craig Jones.

Guilbert scored easily with his spot-kick, but the game was well out of reach of the Coastal side by that stage. With seven minutes remaining, Eagle substitute Damien Bones completed the scoring when he got a touch to Mann's comer before the hall new into the net.

Only a brilliant, display *of* goalkeeping by South Hobart's 17-year-old Will Russell restricted New Town Eagle to two goals in the State Youth League grand final, which was scoreless at half-time. Russell denied Matthew Holloway, Ricky Turner and Julian Proud in the opening half. Robert Lebski gave Eagle a 63rd minute lead after a good build up, while Ben Carter hit the second two minutes into injury time. ·

Stage League Final 1997

New Town Eagles - Starting Line-up 4-4-2

Craig Jones

Simon Goninon	Craig Pitt	Paul Morrison	Adam Jones
Michael Fong	David Stoddart (C)	Richard Ketchell	Adrian Mann
	Richard Leszczynski	Myles Harry	

Substitutions: - David Turner replaced Richard Ketchell - 65th minute, Damien Bones replaced Michael Fong - 75 minute

Subtitute Not Used: Allan Wisby (GK)

1997 Senior State League Premiers

Back: F. Bansel (Manager), A. Leszczynski (Coach), Z. Belanic (Asst Coach), C. Pitt, M. Harry, R. Leszczynski, T. Coy (Trainer), M. Leszczynski, A. Wisby, P. Morrison, R. Turner **Front:** A. Mann, D. Bones, D. Stoddart (Capt.) S. Goninon, A. Jones, M. Fong, C. Jones, D. Turner, R. Ketchell

1997 Reserves State League Premiers

Back: B. Carter, A. Savage, A .Wisby, O. Laing, L. Ware, R. Turner, S. Louden, K. Street (Trainer)
Front: L. Gorringe, B. Fahey, M. Nidorfer, J. Proud, M. Murray, M. Holloway, R. Lebski, M. Proud

State-wide Cup
1997

Tony Bacic to quit coaching but will lead Glenorchy Knights against; Kingborough / Top six add spice to Statewide Cup

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 27/6/97

THE Statewide Cup soccer competition enters an exciting new phase in the second round this weekend with the entry into the fray of last season's six top State League sides.

Hobart Zebras, Glenorchy Knights, New Town White Eagle, Devonport City, Launceston Zebras and Hobart Olympic were spared participation in the first-round draw and given automatic passage into the second round.

There are only two all-State League clashes this weekend, five State League versus First Division showdowns, and a single all-First Division clash.

The first cup tie is at KGV Soccer Park tonight, when State League rivals Hobart Zebras entertain South Hobart. The Zebras will be without midfielder Michael Lapolla and striker James McCulloch, who both have hamstring injuries.

South Hobart has a very good record against the Zebras this season, having beaten them 5-1 at KGV in the pre-season Summer Cup competition and drawing 1-1 against them at South Hobart in the only league meeting between the sides.

Five cup ties are scheduled for tomorrow, and some of them promise to be mouth-watering prospects.

Glenorchy Knights player-coach Tony Bacic has decided to give up coaching following his team's 4-1 loss in the league to South Hobart last Sunday, but he will still be in charge against First Division opponent Kingborough at Lightwood Park. Bacic will stay on until a replacement coach can be found, but he will continue to play for the club and is expected to lead the attack against Kingborough. Reserve coach Steve Pitchford conducted training on Wednesday, although Bacic did make an appearance as a spectator.

Kingborough, coached by former Knights player Tony New, must be in with an excellent chance of upsetting the Knights, given the latter's poor recent form and the former's impressive record and current second placing on the First Division ladder.

Reigning southern First Division champion and current league-leader University hosts State League giant Devonport City at Olinda Grove and a repeat performance of last season's nail-biting cup encounter between the sides, which saw Devonport win in extra time, is on the cards.

West Hobart Lions, last in the State League, is in real danger of elimination when it welcomes northern First Division leader Burnie to KGV. The Lions may have turned the corner last week when they won their first league match of the season, but this meeting will show whether that is indeed the case.

The only all-First Division clash is between Ulverstone, riding high in the northern competition, and inconsistent southerners Metro-Claremont, at Knights Rd.

The North-West Coast outfit should win but Ulverstone's players would do well to remember that Metro secured a win in Ulverstone in a Statewide Cup match in 1981, so the precedent of an upset does exist.

Tomorrow's remaining match is between State League Riverside Olympic and southern First Division side Phoenix, at the former's Windsor Park headquarters.

Riverside is struggling near the foot of the ladder, while Phoenix is third and quite capable of causing an upset, as it did against George Town in the first round.

On Sunday, northern First Division side Western Suburbs Knights will find the going tough, even though it is at home against State League club Launceston Zebras, while New Town White Eagle should prove much too strong for State League rival Hobart Olympic at South Hobart. Hobart Olympic managed a 1-1 draw in the league against Eagle just over a week ago, but Eagle is in first place on the ladder and rarely lets opponents off the hook twice in a row.

White Eagle takes command after controversial third goal

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/6/97

NEW Town White Eagle, the holder of the Statewide Cup, made it through to the quarter-finals of this year's competition when it beat Hobart Olympic 5-2 in their second-round soccer match at South Hobart yesterday.

With the teams locked together 2-2 after 74 minutes of an exciting cup tie, Eagle took the lead in controversial circumstances, after which Olympic collapsed completely and conceded two more goals before the final whistle. The controversy surrounded Eagle's third goal and a clear hand ball by Eagle mid-fielder Richard Ketchell, who punched the ball into the net.

The big question was whether the ball had crossed the line before it rebounded to Ketchell, who fisted it in. Olympic goalkeeper Matthew Calvert, standing in yet again for the unavailable Neil Connell, said the ball had not crossed before Ketchell's hand-ball while the Eagle player said it definitely had crossed before being partially cleared. Neither referee Kim Barker nor his assistant Paul Jones would comment.

“The ball came back off me and he [Ketchell] was standing about two yards off the line and he clearly hand-balled it with his right hand and put it in the back of the net,'' Calvert said. Ketchell said he hand-balled it but after it was in.

Olympic had taken a 12th-minute lead through Trevor Carson's header from a Craig Nichols cross but Eagle should have drawn level in the 26th minute when Chris Hey was judged to have fouled Colin Shepherd and referee Barker awarded a penalty. Calvert produced an outstanding save from David Stoddart's spot-kick, but Eagle equalized from the resultant corner, taken by Adrian Mann, and headed home by Colin Shepherd.

The cup-holder hit the front four minutes after the interval, Simon Goninon heading Mann's corner back across the face of goal where Shepherd again rose above the defence and nodded the ball home. Within a minute Olympic was level, Tyrone Earley beating goalkeeper Alan Wisby, who had produced a splendid save from Carson in the first half, with a header from Glen McNeill's cross.

After the disputed goal that restored Eagle's lead, Olympic fell apart and goals in the closing 10 minutes by Shepherd, who completed his hat-trick with a shot was deflected in by Calvert's arm, and Richard Leszczynski completed the scoring.

On Saturday, State League outfit Launceston Zebras thrashed northern 1st division side Western Suburbs Knights 8-0 away at Ogilvie Park, Chris Couch netting a hat-trick, veteran Peter Sawdon scoring twice and Roger Mies, Justin Dyer and Lyndon Prince also getting on the scoresheet. “It thought it might have been about 15 but credit to them for sticking at it,'' said Zebras coach, Lino Sciulli.

“I don't think we've turned the corner yet and we've got a hard game against New Town Eagle next weekend.'' The quarter-final line-up is State League sides South Hobart, New Town White Eagle, Devonport City, West Hobart Lions and Launceston Zebras and 1st division clubs Kingborough, Ulverstone and Phoenix.

Result: New Town Eagles 5 (Shepherd 3, R. Leszczynski 2) Def. Hobart Olympic 2 (Earley, Carson)

Top sides in cup showdown / Crunch time for Eagle and Devonport

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/8/97

NEW TOWN White Eagle hosts Devonport City at Clare St tomorrow in what promises to be an enthralling Statewide Cup soccer competition quarter-final. Eagle heads the league standings while Devonport is second, a point adrift of its host tomorrow, which means that one of the two best teams in the state is destined to be eliminated from the cup contest.

League results to date indicate it will be Devonport which departs the scene. Eagle won their meeting at the same venue earlier in the season 4-0 while the return match at Valley Rd resulted in a 2-2 draw. But cup-tie soccer is full of surprises and neither side can rest on its laurels as recent results against supposedly lesser sides indicate.

Eagle was humbled by South Hobart 4-3 at Clare St two weeks ago, while Devonport's 3-1 win over South Hobart last weekend did not impress Devonport coach Alex McDonald, who openly expressed his disappointment at his team's performance.

This will undoubtedly be the pick of the weekend's quarter-finals and, with both sides likely to be at full strength, sudden-death extra-time, or even a penalty shoot-out, cannot be ruled out.

Sunday's clash at South Hobart between South Hobart and the West Hobart Lions also promises to be a nail-biting tussle and one which both sides will be desperate to win. The Lions are relatively safe from relegation and the Cup is their only hope of salvaging something from the season. The injury-hit South Hobart will also be keen to lift the trophy in case the club's aim of reaching the final-four play-offs in the league is dashed. The Lions will be without suspended defender Adam Williams and midfielder Tim Dale, who has work commitments, while star midfielder Ian Parker's availability is uncertain.

Tony Ortuso, Brent Backhouse and Warren Iles are ready to fill the gaps, although player-coach Tony Kavanagh is hoping Parker will make himself available. “Ian has been a one-club man and he's given this club 17 years of continuous service,'' Kavanagh said. “If he doesn't play, he'll be letting the club's loyal supporters down and I know that's not what Ian would want. “He's approaching the end of his playing career and a cup final win would be a marvelous achievement for him and I know the supporters would wish him that success.

“The club needs him, particularly at this crucial time, and I don't think he'd let his teammates and supporters down.'' South Hobart will be without midfielder Nick Owen, who has a broken ankle, and striker Bernhard Klasen, who is on crutches and will learn by today whether he has a medial ligament injury or cartilage damage. Defender Travis Watkins, who is concentrating on his studies, is unavailable for the rest of the season. Defender Jason Nicholson will return from suspension and midfielder Chris Oddie from injury, while John McCormack also comes into the squad. South Hobart coach Bret Anderton said: “I'm confident we'll win.

They've got problems in defence and in going forward.'' In tomorrow's two remaining ties, Kingborough, third in the southern Premier League, hosts second-placed northern Premier League outfit Ulverstone at Lightwood Park, and Phoenix, second in the southern Premier League, travels to Prospect to face the State League's sixth-placed club, the Launceston Zebras.

Kingborough's home-ground advantage should just tilt the scales in its favour. Phoenix's giant-killing run to date, in which the southerners have defeated two opponents, including a State League side, away from home, should grind to a halt against its physically powerful State League opponent.

Eagle in Cup semi after 3-1 win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/8/97

NEW Town White Eagle beat arch-rival Devonport City 3-1 in yesterday’s Statewide Cup soccer competition quarter final showdown at Clare Street.

But it took an own goal by Devonport captain and defender John “Snow” Compagne to give Eagle the breakthrough in a scrappy, and at times bruising encounter. Both sides relied on the big clearing kick out of defence to blunt opposition attacks, while neither was able to string together lengthy passing sequences.

A neutral observer could have been excused for not realising these were the two top teams in the State League, too, as both missed relatively easy chances in front of goal. A brilliant piece of play on the right by David Stoddart in the 27th minute gave Eagle the lead. Stoddart controlled a tricky pass from Adrian Mann and then demonstrated his wizardry by eluding defender Adrian Scolyer before passing inside for Colin Shepherd to plant a shot past Bob Smith.

In the 37th minute, Devonport drew level from the penalty spot after Stoddart had fouled Anthony Guilbert, who took the spot-kick himself, placing the ball low to the left of Craig Jones and just inside the post. Disaster struck for Devonport in the 73rd minute, Compagne wrong-footing his own goalkeeper as he attempted to head the ball back after he and teammate Wayne Boyd were under pressure from Shepherd.

Compagne then moved into attack to partner Guilbert, who was missing his striking partner, Andrew Howe, out with a hamstring injury, but that merely made Devonport’s defence more vulnerable, and Shepherd ensured Eagle of a semi-final berth by converting Richard Leszczynski’s pass five minutes from time.

Leszczynski, Mann and Shepherd will be annoyed with other chances that they squandered, while Devonport will be ruing missed opportunities that fell to Paul Zoccolan and substitute Kurt Archer.

Launceston Juventus made it to the semi-finals, with a 4-2 victory over southern Premier League side Phoenix at Prospect yesterday, after leading 1-0 at the interval through a Chris Couch penalty. Couch added a second goal after the break while team-mate Peter Sawdon also grabbed two goals. Brett Stewart and Jason Harvey replied for Phoenix, which had twice won away to reach the quarter-final stage.

In an all-Premier League South versus North-West clash at Lightwood park, home-side Kingborough defeated Ulverstone 5-2, despite conceding two goals in the opening two minutes.

Ulverstone player-coach Tom McGinn struck twice, once form the penalty spot, to shock the Southerners, who pulled a goal back before the interval through Lino Taglieri. After the break, Taglieri scored again and Harry Pachas netted twice and Michael Driessen once, to take Kingborough to the semi-finals.

Result: New Town Eagles 3 (Shepherd 2, own goal) Def. Devonport 1 (Guilbert pen.)

Eagles' form on target for final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 22/8/97

STATEWIDE Cup holder New Town White Eagle should reach this year's final again by beating fellow State League soccer competition outfit South Hobart, at South Hobart, in Sunday's semi-final. The other semi-final is scheduled for tomorrow at Lightwood Park in Kingston, where home side Kingborough, currently fourth in the southern Premier League, hosts State League giant Launceston Zebras. If present form is any guide Eagle should end up defending its title against the northerners in the cup final.

Defender Simon Goninon will be the only absentee from the Eagle line-up on Sunday. He is away on holiday. Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski refused to be drawn on a likely replacement but, with the club's reserve side also on top of its league ladder, Leszczynski has any number of able replacements available.

"South Hobart beat us in our previous league meeting and we're very keen to atone for that loss," Leszczynski said. "The fact that they can't make the league top-four finals will make them battle even harder and we'll have to be wary. "The South Hobart ground suits us and with a virtually unchanged side, I'm confident we can retain the cup."

South Hobart will field the same line-up that lost 2-1 to West Hobart Lions in the league last weekend. The absence of injured striker Bernhard Klasen and midfielder Nick Owen and the departure of midfielder Adam Powell has seriously weakened the South Hobart team which was evident against the Lions.

The club has plenty of depth in terms of young, emerging talent but it is experienced players that are required to shoot down an Eagle side that appears ready to make a clean sweep of trophies this season. Eagle beat South Hobart into this year's Summer Cup Final and it must be favoured to easily account for South in Sunday's semi-final of the State-wide Cup competition.

Launceston Zebras coach, Lino Sciulli is contemplating shuffling his pack, for the game against Kingborough tomorrow following his side's 3-2 loss in the league to the Hobart Zebras last weekend. Striker Roger Mies is the only injury worry, but Sciulli is sticking to his tough policy of excluding any player who does not attend training. "I'll drop players who don't train, and I don't care which match we're about to play," Sciulli said.

"I'm also thinking of changing the backline because we're letting in too many goals. "I haven't seen Kingborough play but even though I'm aware of how good they can be I'd have to be confident of winning and I'd simply be devastated if we lost. "My main concern is avoiding yellow cards because several of our key players are close to suspension." Kingborough may be without the injured striker Michael Driessen, which means Roger Munro may return to the side.

Eagles, Zebras rise to top in soccer semi-finals

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/8/97

NEW Town White Eagle easily accounted for fellow State League outfit South Hobart 4-0 in yesterday's semi-final of the State-wide Cup soccer competition played on a heavy South Hobart ground. Eagle will meet Launceston Zebras in the cup final, the northerners having beaten southern Premier League side Kingborough 3-0 away at Lightwood Park on Saturday.

South Hobart conceded all four goals in the opening half and had goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes to thank for keeping the scoreline relatively low. Striker Colin Shepherd scored Eagle's first goal from 25m, midfielder and captain David Stoddart made it 2-0 with a diving header, while striker Richard Leszczynski grabbed the third. Leszczynski completed the scoring, providing the perfect finishing touch to a patient but deadly Eagle attack that involved 10 passes.

Result: New Town Eagles 4 (Stoddart, R. Leszczynski 3) Def. South Hobart 0

Luigi hopes to finish in style

Walter Pless - Aug. 26, 1997

LUIGI Gugliotti, the 32-year-old Launceston Zebras midfielder, has experienced many highs and lows in his 16-year career with the club.

The Zebras, formerly known as Launceston Juventus, have never won the State League championship in its present format, but they have won the Statewide Cup competition, and Saturday's 3-0 win over southern Premier League outfit Kingborough puts them into the final again. “It'll make the season all right if we win it and it won't have been too bad,'' Gugliotti said. “We've still got a chance of making the top four as well.'' It will be Gugliotti's second appearance in the final. He was a member of the 1991 side that beat Devonport City 3-1 in Launceston.

The current player-coach, Lino Sciulli, present goalkeeper Warren Dent and striker Roger Mies were also members of the 1991 side. In reaching the 1991 final, the Zebras overcame their cup final opponent this year, New Town White Eagle, 5-4 after extra-time in the semi-final.

Gugliotti is confident the Zebras can salvage something from this season by upsetting Eagle, despite having lost both league meetings with the southerners this season by 4-1 and 5-1 score-lines. “We can always build ourselves up for a game,'' Gugliotti said. “We've played pretty well against them, and we'll give it a shot.'' A one-club man and a state representative against visiting Japanese side Nagoya Grampus Eight in 1993, Gugliotti blames this season's troubles on inconsistency.

“We probably haven't played to our potential,'' he said. “We've got the basis of a good side and we probably should be doing a bit better than we are. “Nobody's really stood up and really played as well as they can. “We've got a core of about five or six players who have to play well, and they've been sort of a bit patchy. “One minute they play well, for a game or two, and then they struggle for the next one.

“We really need a general in there to really get it going. That's what we were hoping Sawdie (Peter Sawdon) would come in and do for us.'' Gugliotti, an evergreen with the club if ever there was one, has not made a decision as to how long he will continue playing.

When he does call it quits, he would like to coach juniors.

Being in charge of Launceston Zebras upsets personal standards /; Sciulli to give up on coaching

PLESS WALTER – 16/9/97

LAUNCESTON Zebras' player-coach Lino Sciulli will give coaching away after Saturday's Statewide Cup final, after only one season in charge of the northern outfit.

The 33-year-old midfielder applied for the coaching position this season and was successful, but after a poor personal season, according to the high standards he sets himself, he would like one more season purely as a player before he retires.

The veteran of 400 games with Launceston White Eagles before his transfer to Launceston Zebras in 1990, admits that being a player-coach was more difficult than he had envisaged. “I didn't think it was that hard before, but looking back now, it has been difficult,'' Sciulli said.

In the recent match against Hobart Olympic, Sciulli was assisted from the sidelines by players such as Robbie Morgan and Chris Couch, who were not playing, and he found the task much easier.

Launceston Zebras just missed out on a top-four finals berth when they needed to beat Hobart Olympic by five clear goals to qualify for fourth place, but they lost 5-2.

“I'm happy with the season overall, but I don't think I've played as well as maybe I could have, because of injuries and stuff,'' Sciulli said. “This was the first time I've had injuries, but now, towards the end of the season, things are starting to click and I'm starting to play like I had in previous years.

“I think all the blokes are enjoying it, but the team had a couple of losses that we shouldn't have had, and we let in too many goals, which made the job too difficult in that final roster match when we had to win by five goals. “I'll give it one more year as a player next season and go out that way because my two kids are at that age now where they're demanding more of my attention.

“If I ever coach again, I'd do some courses first and do it properly, but I did just want to do it for one season to see how I went.'' Sciulli was lured from Launceston White Eagles by Zebras' stalwart Peter Savill, who once played for Leeds United in England.

Born in Launceston, Sciulli played soccer at primary and high school, mainly as a defender, but at senior level was introduced to a midfield role. “I wasn't all that good a player, but I never give up and I do have stamina,'' he said.

“I'm not fast and I'm not talented, but I'll always be there at the end and I think I was just thrown into midfield to mark people tightly.'' Sciulli rates New Town Eagle and Devonport City as his side's toughest opponents over the years.

On an individual basis, his most difficult opponents have been former Eagle sweeper and defender Scott Young and Hobart Olympic midfield dynamo Craig Nicholls. “I loved playing against `Slugger' Young because I think we brought the best out of each other,'' Sciulli said.

“Craig is a fantastic player, and his low centre of gravity makes him very tricky to play against.'' The highlights of Sciulli's career to date have been the Zebras' Statewide Cup win in the early 90s, and the club's grand final appearance, even though it was a losing one.

Sciulli will be delighted to end his single season as a player-coach with another cup final winner's medal next Saturday, but being the sportsman he is, he is the first to admit that Eagle will be a mighty opponent and one that will prove extremely difficult to beat.

Confident White Eagle primed for Cup final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/9/97

NEW Town White Eagle will have to play much better than it did against Devonport City last Saturday if it is to beat Launceston Zebras in tomorrow night's State-wide Cup final at KGV Soccer Park, which kicks off at 7pm. Eagle lost 4-2 to Devonport in the qualifying final of the State League top-four series and must now beat Hobart Zebras in the preliminary final if it is to earn a grand final place. Eagle coach Andrew Leszczynski is confident his side can regain its composure and overcome the Northerners in tomorrow's cup final and he is not considering any major team changes.

"I think it will be a similar side to that which lost to Devonport," Leszczynski said. "That was only our third loss of the year and it was the side that has seen us this far and we just have to stick with it and hope that we come up with a winning combination again.

"I was disappointed with our loss to Devonport. We just had too many players down on the day and Devonport appeared to want it more on the day. "This cup final. is a new game, a totally different game, but we're still trying to come to a new formation without the injured Colin Shepherd.

"I can't say that his absence has been a decisive factor, but it has thrown us out a little bit because he's obviously such a class player and we are having some problems getting the right mix."

Leszczynski played David Stoddart in attack against Devonport, but this weakened the midfield, which lacked Stoddart's guidance in creating effective build ups. Eagle looked a better side in the second half when Stoddart reverted to a midfield role, while youngster Michael Fong made an impressive debut in attack. It will be interesting to see if Leszczynski opts to play Fong, or introduces the experienced Myles Harry, who has a knack for scoring vital goals but who was unavailable against Devonport.

"I'll be very disappointed if we don't win the cup final," Leszczynski said. "We've totally outplayed Launceston Zebras both times in the league this year, winning 4-1 down here and 5-1 up there. "I can't see them improving so much as to beat us, and I don't count the sort of performance we produced against Devonport, because it was just a very poor day. "It was just one of those days. It wasn't a great time to do it, but I'm confident we can fight back."

Launceston Zebras will have leading marksman Chris Couch back from suspension and player-coach Lino Sciulli is confident his side can regain the trophy it won in the early 90’s. "I think we can do it " Sciulli said. ''They're beatable and it would be nice for me to bow out of coaching with ·a cup final win.

"We haven't beaten Eagle with our tactics so far, so we're going to have to do something different this time out. ''We'll be looking at making a few changes for this game and try and surprise them." The Northerners rested defender Robbie Morgan in their final league outing a couple of weeks ago when they lost 5-2 to Hobart Olympic, and his return should add stability to a some-times brittle backline.

Zebras more like lambs in defeat

By STEPHEN FODEN 20/9/97

NEW TOWN EAGLES took the first step for a League/Cup double when it thrashed Launceston Zebras 5-0 at KGV last night. Like lambs to the slaughter the Zebras could not match New Town Eagles in any department.

In fact, the only shot on goals from the Zebras' side that actually made Eagles keeper Jones react came in the 51st minute of the game. New Town Eagles scored their first of five goals in the 10th minute when replacement for injured striker Colin Shepherd Michael Fong, scored from 7m. A cutback from ex-Devonport player Adrian Mann found Richard Leszczynski who miskicked the ball. As the Zebras defenders approached Leszczynski, the ball bobbled to the right and Fong found the net.

In the 23rd minute Leszczynski shot from 17 metres across goal which made Zebras keeper Warren Dent save superbly. In the 56th minute, a through ball to Leszczynski found him in a one-on-one situation, with Zebras defender Rob Morgan. Leszczynski pushed the ball past his marker with a deft touch and a quick burst of speed. Morgan reached his leg out in an attempt to clear the ball, only to bring down his opponent in his penalty area. With a penalty kick awarded by the referee, Eagle Simon Goninon strode up to the spot to easily beat Dent and extend the Eagles' lead to two.

In the 66th minute Richard Leszczynski extended Eagles' lead to three when he hammered the ball past Dent and a crowded goal area. By this time the Zebra~ had been pushing forward m an attempt to try and find a goal. Sadly, high tackles became the norm.

In the 72nd minute of the game, an Adrian Mann corner found David Stoddart at the far post. Stoddart rose above all before him to cap off a sensational night for the Eagles midfielder. Stoddart's header at the far post put the nail in an already capitulating Zebras side.

In the 87th minute, Stoddart shot from 30m after beating four defenders, the shot took a wicked deflection and fell to the feet of substitute Marcus Proud. With the Zebras goalkeeper Dent already committed to Stoddart's shot, all Proud had to do was tap into an empty net.

The final result was Eagles 5 Zebras 0, and although the game had been played in a relatively sportsmanlike manner, the Zebras were lucky to have finished the game with 11 players.

Eagle easy cup victors

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/9/97

NEW TOWN Eagle retained the Statewide Knock Out Cup with a convincing victory over Launceston Zebras at KGV Soccer Park last night. The overall pace of the game did not slacken for the 90 minutes though New Town finished stronger.

The opening of the game saw end-to-end play with both teams having opportunities; however, it was in the ninth minute that Fong pounced on a loose ball and a deflection found the net. Zebras endeavoured to get back into the game, but their efforts were thwarted by fine defensive play and timely tackles.

In the 20th minutes, Leszczynski eluded his marker, cut toward goal, and drove in a fierce shot which Dent, the Zebras' goalkeeper, did well to turn away for a corner. Launceston tried to press home its advantage with Mies heading wide and a cross by Sciulli deflected for a corner. In the 30th minute Jones saved well from Gugliotti who capitalised on a defensive error by Goninon.

It was then Dent's turn at the other end to save from a well flighted chip from Stoddart. After the half-time break New Town were dominant. Launceston lost its chance to equalise when, in the 51st minute, a fine move culminating in a cross by Couch was headed tamely into the keeper's hand.

Eagle extracted swift revenge. In the 54th minute Morgan brought down Leszczynski in the penalty area and Goninon slotted the spot kick home. Nine minutes later Leszczynski got his foot to the ball in a goalmouth scramble, New Town 3 Launceston 0. It was then Stoddart's turn to score rising above a pack of players to nod home the fourth goal from a well flighted corner. Substitute Proud rounded off the scoring with a close-range finish, when a Stoddart strike from 30m took a wicked deflection and fell at his feet.

Result: New Town Eagles 5 (Fong, Goninon pen, R. Leszczynski, Stoddart, Proud) Def. Launceston Juventus 0

1997 Statewide Cup Winners

Back: C. Pitt, R. Leszczynski, T. Coy (Trainer), C. Jones, A. Jones, M. Murray, A. Leszczynski (Coach) P. Morrison, A.Wisby, Z. Belanic (Asst Coach) **Front:** R. Lebski, R. Turner, D. Stoddart (Capt.), A. Mann, S. Goninon, M. Fong, M. Proud

State League 1997

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
New Town Eagles	**18**	**14**	**2**	**2**	**83**	**19**	**64**	**44**
Devonport City	18	12	2	4	62	30	32	38
Hobart Zebras	18	10	4	4	48	31	17	34
Hobart Olympic	18	9	5	4	45	31	14	32
Launceston Zebras	18	8	2	8	46	47	-1	26
South Hobart	18	7	3	8	39	47	-8	24
West Hobart Lions	18	5	3	10	26	42	-16	18
Glenorchy Knights	18	5	3	10	41	59	-18	18
Launceston	18	4	2	12	27	62	-35	14
Riverside Olympic	18	2	2	14	20	66	-46	8

State League Youth 1997

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
New Town Eagles	**18**	**16**	**1**	**1**	**67**	**19**	**48**	**49**
Devonport City	18	14	1	3	51	18	33	43
Hobart Zebras	18	9	4	5	51	29	22	31
Hobart Olympic	18	9	1	8	47	50	-3	28
Launceston Zebras	18	8	2	8	49	41	8	26
South Hobart	18	7	2	9	38	47	-9	23
West Hobart Lions	18	6	3	9	39	53	-14	21
Glenorchy Knights	18	5	3	10	28	42	-14	18
Launceston	18	3	2	13	33	59	-26	11
Riverside Olympic	18	3	1	14	17	62	-45	10

Home Record

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
New Town Eagles	**9**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**45**	**8**	**37**	**22**
Devonport City	9	6	2	1	31	13	18	20
Hobart Zebras	9	6	2	1	30	10	20	20
Hobart Olympic	9	5	1	3	26	19	7	16
Launceston Zebras	9	4	2	3	24	25	-1	14
South Hobart	9	3	2	4	17	21	-4	11
West Hobart Lions	9	4	0	5	15	19	-4	12
Glenorchy Knights	9	3	2	4	24	25	-1	11
Launceston	9	2	1	6	13	34	-21	7
Riverside Olympic	9	2	1	6	10	28	-18	7

Away Record

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
New Town Eagles	**9**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**38**	**11**	**27**	**22**
Devonport City	9	6	0	3	31	17	14	18
Hobart Zebras	9	4	2	3	18	21	-3	14
Hobart Olympic	9	4	4	1	19	12	7	16
Launceston Zebras	9	4	0	5	22	22	0	12
South Hobart	9	4	1	4	22	26	-4	13
West Hobart Lions	9	1	3	5	11	23	-12	6
Glenorchy Knights	9	2	1	6	17	34	-17	7
Launceston	9	2	1	6	14	28	-14	7
Riverside Olympic	9	0	1	8	10	38	-28	1

State League 1997 – Results

Rnd	Opponent	Result	F	A	Goalscorers
1	Hobart Olympic	W	5	0	R. Leszczynski 2, Shepherd, D. Turner, OG
2	Launceston Juventus	W	4	1	R. Leszczynski, Jones, Morrison, Stoddart
3	Devonport City	W	4	0	R. Leszczynski 2, Morrison 2
4	South Hobart	W	3	0	Shepherd 2, Mann
5	Launceston United	W	6	1	R. Leszczynski 4, Shepherd, Stoddart
6	West Hobart Lions	W	5	0	R. Leszczynski 3, Shepherd, Morrison
7	Riverside Olympic	W	4	0	Stoddart 2 (1 pen), R. Leszczynski, Mann
8	Hobart Zebras	L	0	3	
9	Glenorchy Knights	W	10	1	R. Leszczynski 2, Shepherd 3, D. Turner, Morrison, Mann,
					Stoddart, Goninon
10	Hobart Olympic	D	1	1	Jones
11	Launceston Juventus	W	4	1	Ketchell, Mann, R. Leszczynski, Morrison
12	Devonport City	D	2	2	Ketchell, Stoddart
13	South Hobart	L	3	4	Stoddart, Morrison, Shepherd
14	Launceston United	W	8	1	R. Leszczynski 3, Mann 3, Stoddart, Shepherd
15	West Hobart Lions	W	6	0	Ketchell, R. Leszczynski 2, Morrison, Shepherd, Stoddart
16	Riverside Olympic	W	4	1	Shepherd 3, R. Leszczynski
17	Hobart Zebras	W	4	0	Stoddart 2, Mann, R. Leszczynski
18	Glenorchy Knights	W	6	3	Stoddart 2, R. Leszczynski 3, D. Turner
QF	Devonport	L	2	4	Stoddart, R. Leszczynski
PF	Hobart Zebras	W	4	1	Jones, Fong, Stoddart, Proud
GF	Devonport	W	5	1	Mann 2, Harry 2, Bones

Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 27, Stoddart 15, Shepherd 14, Mann 10, Morrison 8, D. Turner 3, Jones 3, Ketchell 3, Harry 2, Proud, Bones, Fong, Goninon, OG

2012

“The One That Got Away”

Knights claim their third Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy with win over Eagles

Eagles lose title on last day

Southern Premier League 2012 – Final Standings

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	2	3	62	15	50
New Town Eagles	21	15	2	4	69	20	47
Clarence United	21	10	2	9	37	33	32
Kingborough Lions Utd	21	8	6	7	47	45	30
Tilford Zebras	21	8	5	8	51	52	29
Olympia Warriors	21	8	3	10	42	44	27
Glenorchy Knights	21	5	4	12	23	43	19
University	21	0	4	17	12	91	4

Last-second goal gives Eagles win over Clarence

Walter Pless | Sunday, 18 March 2012

(Southern Premier League, KGV Park, Saturday, 17 March 2012)
Clarence United 2 (S Reibel 73, Malcolm 87) lost to New Town Eagles 3 (A Leszczynski 2, 4, 90+5)
HT: 0-2 Attendance - 120 Referee - I Jozeljic

Clarence United: Cornish - Toghill, Lewis, Cannamela, A McIntyre (A Hedge 25) -Nicholson, Stephens (Brown 47), Grant, Hoppitt (S Reibel 65) - Cairns, Hamlett (Subs not used: Rees)

New Town Eagles: Pitchford - Clark, Page, Cox - Marshall, Hudson - Whitehall, Collins (Ayres 77) - McKeown, Leszczynski, J Clamp (Bunt 82) (Subs not used: Anderson, T Clamp, Quan)

A hat-trick by Alex Leszczynski gave Eagles a 3-2 win over Clarence United in a match played at KGV Park because Wentworth Park is not yet available to Clarence. Clarence were shocked as Eagles took a 2-0 lead after only four minutes. In the 2nd minute, Jeremy Marshall won a ball in the air and, when Adam McKeown shot at goal, Trent Cornish could only parry and watch as Leszczynski netted.

Four minutes into the match, McKeown broke clear on the left and played a low ball across the box to the unmarked Leszczynski, who was untroubled in making it 2-0.

Clarence suffered a blow midway through the half when Adam McIntyre broke his wrist and had to be replaced. He was to have surgery later that day on the injury.

Clarence were well served by Scottish import Aaron Cairns, whose use of the ball was classy, but the Eastern Shoe outfit were struggling to create chances. Cairns and Grant Malcolm had half-chances, but, Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford did not have any anxious moments.

Eagles had the ball in the net through McKeown, but they were denied a third goal by the off-side flag. A brilliant piece of skill by McKeown before the interval almost yielded a third for Eagles. He mesmerised a defender and shot, but Cornish somehow got his hands to it. The ball looped up in the air and looked as if it might drop into the net, but Sam Cannamela was on the scene in a flash and headed it over for a corner. Clarence were struck a further blow just after the resumption when midfielder Joseph Stevens was stretchered off after sustaining a leg injury.

But they began to create chances as the game got physical and several players saw yellow from Mr Jozeljic. Eagles had the ball in the net again midway through the half when Jacob Clamp hit home a pass from McKeown, who might have had a go himself, but the off-side flag against halted the celebrations. With just under 20 minutes remaining, Clarence were thrown a lifeline when substitute Sam Reibel, normally a goalkeeper, scored. Pitchford had saved Cairns's shot and Ben Hamlett's follow-up, but the youngster, who was playing his third match of the day, made no mistake and made it 2-1.

Reibel again showed his value in the 87th minute when he set up Grant Malcolm and it was 2-2. Five minutes into stoppage time, Eagles grabbed the winner and Clarence's hearts sank. Leszczynski attacked through the middle one last time and curled a magnificent low shot just inside Cornish's right-hand post. The keeper appeared to have it covered, but he did not react, and the inch-perfect shot crept just inside the post to make it 3-2. It was a costly game for Clarence - three points lost, and two players injured, one of whom will be out for a while.

Clarence United coach, Ronnie Bolton, said:

I think it was a really fiercely contested game and we got off to a real shocker. There's no doubt about that. Silly goals. I thought we gradually wormed our way back into the game but unfortunately lost two players. In fairness, I would have been happy with a draw today. I don't think we deserved to lose three points. But credit to Eagles. They keep going and they keep working hard, same as our boys. I would have been happy with a draw.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

It certainly was [a close call] in the end. I think we played well enough for long enough to put them well and truly out of the game. When you don't get that third goal, 2-0 is always dangerous. When they got that goal to get back to 2-1, they had that momentum and they actually had a chance to go 3-2 in front. But I think at the end of the day, the better team that played the better football for longer in the game won and took the three points. It was certainly relief at the end when we managed to get those. Albie [Alex Leszczynski] has always been a good forward. In the past, we've had a bigger need in the middle of the park and this year we seem to have found a different combination that allows us to play three up front.

Eagles' Blayne Hudson (left) in a battle for possession with Clarence's David Hoppitt [PlessPix]

Eagles' skipper Mark Page (right) tackles Clarence's David Hoppitt [PlessPix]

Eagles win 'home game' at Warrior Park

Walter Pless | Monday, 26 March 2012

(Southern Premier League, Warrior Park, Saturday, 24 March 2012)
Olympia Warriors 1 (B Phillips 56)
New Town Eagles 2 (A Leszczynski 28, B Whitehall 42)
HT: 0-2 Attendance - 130 Referee - B Kopra

Olympia Warriors: Kay - Phillips, Begovic (Kumpulainen 20), Y Mohamad, W Page -Lapolla, Fielding, Mason, Meredith - Grillas, Wadawau (Subs not used: S Page, Voss, Woolley, A Mohamad)

New Town Eagles: Pitchford - Clark, Page, Cox, Collins - Marshall, Anderson, Whitehall - J Clamp, McKeown, Leszczynski (Quan 77) (Subs not used: McCormack, T. Clamp, Scott, Ayres)

No points from two games at Warrior Park and things are already looking bleak for Olympia Warriors. If that isn't bad enough, they had two players sent off in this match and veteran defender Janko Begovic, who was returning from injury, went off after a mere 20 minutes with a recurrence of a hamstring problem. New Town Eagles, on the other hand, are looking good. They are equal top of the league with two wins from two outings.

This game could even have been 3-1 in their favour had what looked like a perfectly good goal near the end not been mysteriously ruled out for off-side. Officially, this was Eagles' home game after an agreement between the two club presidents. Clare Street is not yet ready for football.

Olympia should have scored twice in the opening stages of the game, but didn't, prompting some of their more pessimistic supporters to say this was a sign they would lose. In the 13th minute, Lee Mason smashed a great volley against the Eagles crossbar, while Kosta Grillas missed a relatively easy header shortly after. That was the signal for Eagles to begin to assert their superiority and Ben Whitehall sent a free-kick narrowly over the Olympia crossbar. Begovic limped off after 20 minutes, to be replaced By Chris Kumpulainen, who was himself coming back after injury. Olympia had another great chance in the 23rd minute when Whitehall cleared a Nick Meredith effort off the line.

Eagles took the lead in the 28th minute with a simple move. A long kick by Nathan Pitchford bounced just outside the Olympia box and Kumpulainen's back-pass was too soft, allowing Alex Leszczynski to nip in and score past the advancing Robert Kay. In the 42nd minute, Adam McKeown went close to adding a second for Eagles, his cross from an acute angle on the left glancing the face of the crossbar but staying out. Two minutes later, however, it was 2-0 as Whitehall cut inside from the right before chipping the ball over Kay and into the net. Deep into stoppage time, Pitchford was called into action and saved superbly from Meredith. In the 56th minute, Ben Phillips pulled a goal back for Olympia when he smashed home an unstoppable first-time shot from the right corner of the box.

Olympia suffered a huge setback in the 77th minute when Josh Fielding was sent off after an altercation with an opponent that led to players from both sides rushing in to calm frayed tempers. Two minutes later, however, Meredith went close with a rising shot that just cleared the angle of crossbar and post. Eagles had a 'goal' disallowed near the end for off-side and, a minute into stoppage time, Wadawau was shown a second yellow card for tripping Whitehall and Olympia were down to nine men. The three points gave Eagles equal top spot with Tilford Zebras, who have a better goal-difference.

Olympia Warriors coach, Franco Previdi, said:

I'm very proud of my boys how they played in the second half. The only thing that let down the boys was a bit of discipline by a few players. I thought the red cards that have been given were very soft. Anyway, saying that, it's all about discipline. Thoughts about the game? I'd rather not say anything about the game before I get myself into trouble

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

Three points when you've got to play your home game on this plastic stuff is fantastic.

An absolute magnificent win. From my point of view, I can't see how he could have been off-side [the late disallowed goal] because the keeper had the ball initially. We ended up winning it and the keeper kicked the ball into a defender, it comes back to our bloke. Where's our other forward? Anywhere in that situation, how could it be off-side? Unless there was something earlier in the piece that made him off-side. I don't know. That's two in two games and, I suppose, you could argue that had that goal been allowed, there might not have been any other incidents up this end that ended up with a send-off.

I mean, the referees see it as they see it and they call it as they see it, but to me, that's two pretty big errors in two games. I suppose from our point of view we've ended up with six points. We've managed, notwithstanding those couple of decisions, which are big points in the game. Our blokes have kept going and got the points. Yeah, [I was] really happy. Six points from two games.

Eagles Adam McKeown tries to evade the attentions of Olympia's Ben Phillips [PlessPix]

Olympia keeper Robert Kay blocks a scoring chance that fell to Eagles' Alex Leszczynski [PlessPix]

Eagles make most of defensive lapses to punish Knights

Walter Pless | Friday, 30 March 2012

(Southern Premier League, KGV Park, Friday, 30 March 2012)
Glenorchy Knights 2 (Dawes 42, Marney 65) New Town Eagles 3 (McKeown 36, 74, Whitehall 86)
HT: 1-1 Attendance - 120 Referee - K Barker

Glenorchy Knights: Peter - Hey, Johnson, Holmes, Clay - Robb (Roberts 87), Griffin, Huigsloot, Marney Dawes (Letiko 91), Strang (Subs not used: Marsh, Smith, Le Rossignol)

New Town Eagles: Pitchford - Clark, Page, Cox, Collins (Hudson 69) - Whitehall, Marshall (Quan 91), Anderson - Leszczynski (Scott 46), J Clamp, McKeown (Subs not used: T Clamp, Ayres)

New Town Eagles went to the top of the Southern Premier League standings with this 3-2 win over Glenorchy Knights. It was a fierce contest that was eventually settled by a goal from Ben Whitehall direct from a corner from the right 4 minutes from the end. Knights goalkeeper Ben Peter misjudged the flight of the ball and virtually palmed the ball into his own net. There were defenders nearby and it was amazing that no-one covered the near post.

Knights should have taken the lead in the 12th minute when Jade Clay picked out Jayden Hey with a cross from the left, but Hey chested the ball against the crossbar and it rebounded into play. Two minutes later, Peter did well to deny Adam McKeown in a one-on-one after the Eagles striker had shown the Knights defence a clean pair of heels. McKeown again broke clear on the half-hour and looked as if he might score, but Callen Griffen recovered his ground and dispossessed McKeown in the nick of time.

Simon Strang, the former Eagles player, chipped just over the bar in the 33rd minute, but it was Eagles who took the lead 3 minutes later. Alex Holmes failed to shut down McKeown on the right of the box and he curled a low shot beyond Peter and inside the far left-hand post. Knights were level in the 42nd minute when Jason Dawes played a neat one-two with Aaron Marney and fired home from the edge of the box, beating Nathan Pitchford at his left-hand post. Liam Scott made his senior debut for Eagles at half time. The former South Hobart defender replaced the injured Alex Leszczynski and played in midfield. Pitchford tipped a stinging shot from Griffin over the bar in the 57th minute, while at the other end a couple of minutes later, Peter acrobatically turned Whitehall's effort over the bar.

Knights hit the front in the 65th minute when Peter punched a corner clear and Marney collected the ball on the half-way line. He made a beeline for goal and then made a diagonal run from right to left, beating five opponents on the way before shooting inside Pitchford's left-hand post.

Eagles equalised in the 74th minute when Peter fluffed Sam Johnson's back-pass and gifted the ball to Jacob Clamp, who squared it for McKeown to slam home from close range. In the 78th minute,

Eagles almost took the lead, but Michael Anderson's header, from Whitehall's free-kick from deep on the right, came back off the crossbar. Peter denied Scott in the 86th minute, turning the midfielder's effort over the bar for the fateful corner from which Whitehall scored the winner.

Glenorchy Knights assistant coach, Anthony Grundy, said:

Obviously, very disappointed tonight. I thought we played well enough to beat Eagles. In fact, I think we lost it as opposed to Eagles winning with just silly mistakes. Definitely, the two goals in the second half were from our mistakes. I even thought the first goal was from an error which allowed McKeown to score from a one-on-one with Holmes. Quality finish, obviously, but it was just the little things that led up to it. If you don't capitalise and put goals away, you don't win games and that's what happened today, unfortunately.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

It was what we expected. It was always going to be a hard game. We knew they'd run at us. Chris [Hey] had his midfielders working overtime, backwards and forwards, one side of the ground to the other, moving our defence around and our midfield around. Obviously, that made us work very, very hard. I think the couple of goals we leaked were poor goals on our part. For a bloke to run around five blokes almost from the half-way line isn't good from our defensive point of view. But the boys showed that they've got that fighting spirit and that they will work for each other.

Eagles go top

Walter Pless | Sunday, 08 April 2012

Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Saturday, 7 April 2012
New Town Eagles 4 (Leszczynski 2 pen, McKeown 43, 78, Clark 56)
Tilford Zebras 3 (K Engels 22, Walsh 25, Fagg 69)
HT: 2-2 Attendance - 90 Referee - B Kopra

New Town Eagles: Pitchford - Anderson, Page, Cox, Clark - Whitehall (J Clamp 90), Hudson, Scott, Marshall (Collins 76) - McKeown, Leszczynski (Subs not used: Quan, T Clamp, Ayres)

Tilford Zebras: Minty (Heggie 46) - Mullen, Telega, McIntyre, Fagg - Self (Otte 81), J Foley-Donoghue, Palmer, Welch - Walsh, K Engels (Subs not used: Wilcock, Luttrell, E Engels)

It's strange to see New Town Eagles perched on top of the Southern Premier League ladder. But, that is exactly where they are after they downed Tilford Zebras 4-3 at home at Clare Street on Saturday afternoon and previous leaders South Hobart lost 3-2 away to Clarence United at Wentworth Park on Saturday night. Olympia Warriors remain last after they could only draw 2-2 away to University at Olinda Grove.

Glenorchy Knights moved into sixth place by overcoming the previously unbeaten Kingborough Lions United 3-2 at KGV Park in what was a home game for the Lions as their Lightwood Park pitch is still recovering after a botched repair job.

Eagles earned a penalty in the opening minute of their match against Zebras when visiting goalkeeper Craig Minty brought down Alex Leszczynski, who had been put through by a long ball out of defence by Andrew Clark. Leszczynski tucked away the spot-kick with ease, sending Minty the wrong way. Minty, a former Eagles man, had a miserable homecoming to Clare Street. He had to be replaced at half-time after suffering concussion after a collision with Eagles striker Adam McKeown. Zebras were level midway through the first half when Jon Foley-Donoghue released Ricky Self on the right and his short cross from inside the box was headed beyond keeper Nathan Pitchford and under the crossbar by Kurt Engels.

In the 25th minute, Zebras hit the front when Clark botched a back-pass and gifted the ball to the speedy Dwayne Walsh, who easily beat Pitchford in a one-on-one situation. McKeown headed narrowly wide for Eagles from a free-kick in the 32nd minute, but he made amends two minutes before the break when he nodded home Ben Whitehall's right-wing cross to make it 2-2 at the interval.

Clark ventured forward for Eagles in the 56th minute and gained possession when Zebras gave the ball away in midfield. He played a neat one-two with Whitehall before steering his shot past substitute keeper Rowan Heggie to put Eagles 3-2 ahead. Henry Fagg hit a marvellous volley out of nowhere into the top right-hand corner of the net in the 69th minute to make it 3-3 as the match entered an exciting final 20 minutes.

With 12 minutes remaining, McKeown broke clear down the right flank and scored with a low shot past Heggie and inside the far post to give Eagles a 4-3 win.

Eagles' keeper Nathan Pitchford leaps for a corner [PlessPix]

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (As at 7 April 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**8**	**12**
South Hobart	4	3	0	1	12	5	9
Kingborough Lions Utd	4	2	1	1	13	7	7
Clarence United	4	2	0	2	14	9	6
Tilford Zebras	4	2	0	2	14	15	6
Glenorchy Knights	4	1	0	3	9	13	3
University	4	0	2	2	3	13	2
Olympia Warriors	4	0	1	3	9	16	1

New Town Eagles went to the top of the Southern Premier League ladder with this 4-3 win over Tilford Zebras at home at Clare Street. It was the second consecutive loss for the Zebras, who conceded four goals in both those defeats. They dropped to fourth on the ladder, which must be of concern to coach Eamonn Kelly. Zebras went behind to a 2nd-minute penalty scored by Alex Leszczynski. He was brought down by goalkeeper Craig Minty after just 40 seconds after a long pass out of defence by Andrew Clark created the opportunity inside the box.

Minty is a former Eagles keeper and he must have been horrified at the turn of events on his return to Clare Street. Zebras, who were missing Aaron Brazendale and Ryan Smith, levelled in the 22nd minute. Jon Foley-Donoghue released Ricky Self down the right and his short chip into the box was flicked over and past Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford by Kurt Engels. Zebras hit the lead in the 25th minute when Clark was unable to clear and was outpaced by Dwayne Walsh, who went on an slid the ball past the advancing Pitchford. Adam McKeown went close to equalising for Eagles in the 32nd minute when his header from a free-kick flew narrowly wide.

Two minutes before the break, McKeown showed his aerial prowess and courage when he nodded home Ben Whitehall's cross from the right to make it 2-2. Minty had been concussed in a challenge from McKeown and did not reappear for the second half. In a controversial move, Zebras put Rowan Heggie in goal rather than their substitute goalkeeper, Kieron Siedler, who, in fact, was not even on the bench. Heggie has been a keeper in Futsal and was no stranger to the position. Once he settled down, he acquitted himself well and turned a dangerous shot over the bar in style.

It was a defensive error in the outfield that saw Eagles regain the lead in the 56th minute. Zebras needlessly gave possession away in midfield and Clark played a one-two on the right with Whitehall before scoring with a low drive to make it 3-2 for the home side. Henry Fagg restored the equilibrium with a brilliant goal for Zebras in the 69th minute, his half-volley out of nothing screaming into Pitchford's top left-hand corner of the net. McKeown grabbed the winner in the 78th minute when he raced down the right before beating Heggie to make it 4-3 and stun a shocked Zebras outfit and their supporters.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

Look, obviously, at the end of the day, you win by a goal and take three points home anytime when you play Zebras is excellent. I thought we probably should have finished them off a bit better at the start of the second half when they had their new goalkeeper in, and we had a few chances. He looked a bit suspect, but he ended up playing pretty well towards the end.

Again, my blokes, at 3-3 you would have thought that Zebras might have finished over the top of us, but our blokes just kept going and going and got that fourth goal and finished off.

Tilford Zebras coach, Eamonn Kelly, said:

After half-time, we were still in it.

A stupid penalty we gave away. No need for it. One-nil down in the first few minutes.

I think they showed a bit of character and a bit of guile and we did come back to half-time.

It makes it hard when you've got to replace that sort of man (goalkeeper Minty) in that position. To the boys' credit, I thought in the second half we were still in the game and we got to 3-3. I thought two of their goals were blatantly off-side, and not by a yard, but by five yards.

Zebras' Dwayne Walsh is surrounded by Eagles players [PlessPix]

Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford catches a corner [PlessPix]

Eagles end Northerners' prospects in Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy

Walter Pless | Thursday, 12 April 2012

(Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy, Round of 16, Clare Street, Monday, 9 April 2012)
New Town Eagles 5 (Scott 11, Clamp 28, McKeown 62, Leszczynski 68, 75)
Prospect Knights 1 (Claxton 14)
HT: 2-1 Attendance - 90 Referee - K Barker

New Town Eagles: Clark, Cox, Page (Bates 65), Anderson (Quan 72) - Marshall, J Clamp, Scott, Collins - Leszczynski, McKeown (Subs not used: McCormack, Ayres)

Prospect Knights: Beardwood - Firth, Claxton (Young 72), N Balym, Pickering - La Palomba, Baker, Omenihu, Van Asch (Hartnett 68) - Crosswell, Compagne (Subs not used: A Balym)

New Town Eagles played with a confidence worthy of league leaders, a position they attained on the weekend when they beat Tilford Zebras 4-3 and South Hobart lost 3-2 to Clarence United.

The home side looked confident and were certainly not in awe of the reigning Northern Premier League champions, Ben Crosswell and all. Michael Anderson was assigned to man-mark Crosswell and he did an excellent job until being substituted after 72 minutes. By that time, Eagles were leading 4-1 and the game was over.

Crosswell had been given few chances. When he did manage a shot, it was tame and directed straight at the goalkeeper. His frustration told when, in the 65th minute, he was shown the yellow card by Mr Barker. Prospect Knights were in a good frame of mind even when behind and it was good to see that they did not make an issue of decisions that went against them. They took it in their stride and good-naturedly accepted the referee's call. They encouraged their young players and did their best, even though it was not good enough to come away with a win.

Liam Scott headed Eagles in front from Alex Leszczynski' s delicate chip from the left in the 11th minute, the ball looping over keeper Kristan Beardwood, who was unable to react. The visitors were level 3 minutes later when Eagles showed their defensive frailties at a corner. When the ball came out to the edge of the box, Tim Claxton drove a low shot through a crowd of players that left keeper Nathan Pitchford unsighted and helpless as it flashed into the net.

The Northerners were not level for long. In the 28th minute, Eagles prised open the Prospect defence on the left and McKeown squared the ball for the advancing Jacob Clamp to side-foot home from 12 metres. Leszczynski should have added a third in the 32nd minute when he had only Beardwood to beat from the right of the box, but he lost his composure and blazed wildly high and wide of the target.

The visitors were not entirely without prospects, however, and with a minute of the first half remaining, Andrew Compagne broke through, only to be denied by the alert Pitchford. Leszczynski again shot wide in the 52nd minute as Eagles' greater fitness began to tell. Prospect hit back again, however, when Crosswell got onto the end of a long kick by Beardwood in the 57th minute and beat David Cox, but Pitchford blocked the shot in style.

Beardwood was called into action on the hour-mark and parried a McKeown effort wide for a corner. In the 62nd minute, Mark Page crossed towards the far post from deep on the right and McKeown stooped low to send a header flashing past Beardwood and into the net and make it 3-1 for Eagles. Eagles were completely in control by this stage and McKeown might have had another goal in the 64th minute, but he spurned the chance and shot wide.

Two minutes later, Leszczynski did the same as Eagles created chances, only to let the visitors off the hook. In the 68th minute, Nathan Balym seemed to be caught in two minds as to whether to clear or control the ball. He did neither and surrendered the ball to McKeown, who squared it for Leszczynski to score and make it 4-1. In the 75th minute,

Leszczynski added Eagles' fifth when he flicked the ball nonchalantly into the air and turned and volleyed it home. Prospect Knights were not quite finished and, in the 77th minute, Toby Omenihu broke clear down the inside-left channel after substitute Adam Bates missed his clearance completely. But, Omenihu' s last touch was a little too strong and the ball escaped him, allowing Pitchford to make a timely clearance. To Prospect's credit, they refused to lie down and Pitchford had to block a Crosswell shot 4 minutes from the end. Fortunately for the keeper, it was directed straight at him. With 2 minutes remaining, Eagles fashioned a beautiful build-up that should have been capped by a goal, but Clamp shot wide.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

A 5-1 score-line might say that [an easy win], but they made us work really hard, certainly in the first half and again in the early parts of the second. Obviously, once you go a couple of goals up in a cup match, and, given the style of football we were playing, I think it made it hard for them to get a touch of the ball. We didn't convert all our chances. We played really good approach football, but some of the shots on target and maybe that last pass occasionally wasn't quite there. But I was very pleased with the performance.

Prospect Knights coach, Anton Balym, said:

Obviously, the result wasn't close, but we had three or four blokes out, so we knew it was going to be tough coming down here. White Eagles are a good side, so credit to them. They knocked the ball around really well early, which put us under pressure from the very start, so we were chasing our tails all day. We were beaten by a better side by a mile.

Eagles' Adam McKeown (right0 engaged in defensive duties against Prospect Knights' Toby Omenihu [PlessPix]

South Hobart back on top and Eagles exposed as pretenders

Walter Pless | Sunday, 15 April 2012

(Southern Premier League, South Hobart, Saturday, 14 April 2012)
South Hobart 1 (Brennan 45)
New Town Eagles 0
HT: 1-0 Attendance - 130 Referee - I Jozeljic

South Hobart: Ferguson - Duffy, Bladel, Ludford, Williams - Feral, Merkuzic, Eaves - Mizael (Postma 67), Hickey, Brennan (Subs not used: Ince, Lees, Moncur)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Page, Anderson - Marshall (Quan 64), Hudson, Scott, Whitehall (J Clamp 83) - Leszczynski, McKeown (Subs not used: Ayres, Bates, T Clamp)

South Hobart are back where they have been for the past four years - on top of the ladder - after beating New Town Eagles 1-0 at South Hobart on Saturday.

This must rank as the weakest South Hobart team I've seen in that time, but they were still too good for so-called title aspirants New Town Eagles, who were very disappointing. In fact, the game was disappointing and looked nothing like a top-of-the-table clash.

It was characterised by poor passing, deficient technical skills, lack of understanding and abysmal finishing when it came to chances. Even the goal was a result of mistakes rather than brilliance.

An Eagles forward pass was intercepted by Hugo Bladel, whose clearance went straight to former team-mate and now Eagles midfielder Liam Scott. Scott had a few touches in an attempt to control the ball but was dispossessed. Shae Hickey played it inside to Loic Feral near the half-way line and he put Mizael away in acres of space on the left, when the going started to get good.

Mizael took on Mark Page and beat him. As Eagles defenders converged on him, Mizael deliberately played a low ball from the left touchline across the goalmouth towards the far post, where Andy Brennan, all on his own, smashed the ball home. Atrocious defending by Eagles. They had three players around Mizael, but not one within a bull's roar of Brennan, who everyone knows is the danger man. Michael Anderson may have kept Brennan quiet for most of the game with his robust play, but he wasn't there when it mattered.

When, oh when, will teams learn that to ignore Brennan is suicide? Eagles had enough chances to win this game. But the team fell in a heap and was a fizzer. Alex Leszczynski was a huge disappointment, especially considering the way Eagles fans had been raving about him. He was slow off the mark, didn't read the play, and missed a couple of sitters.

Adam McKeown did a lot of running, but the service he received was poor and he had no real chances. He set up two for his pal Leszczynski, but they went begging. Liam Scott could have scored against his old club, but he fired wide when given the best chance of the game from Josh Quan's cut-back from the right midway through the second half. Quan should have been on earlier. He created chances with his pace and clever running when he came on in the 64th minute, but these were squandered by his team-mates.

As well as Scott's miss, Leszczynski shot wide of the far post from Quan's pass in the 71st minute to again let South Hobart off the hook. South Hobart had chances, too, with Hickey firing over, Bobby Eaves shooting just wide from long range, and Mizael and Feral also off target from range.

Bladel also had a couple of efforts after set-pieces cleared on the line. South also had numerous efforts blocked by the hard-working Andrew Clark, who must have looked like a piece of Swiss cheese by the end of the match, given the number of shots that ricocheted off his body. South Hobart will be relieved to have got away with three points after this performance.

New Town Eagles will need to be much more clinical if they want to win the title. This type of performance signifies that they could well be on the precipice of failure. Some of the physical challenges from Eagles were over the top and they were fortunate to get away without any red cards. I'm thinking of the elbow to Brennan's head late in the match. To give the youngster credit, he got up, shook his head to clear it, and got on with it.

Hugh Ludford, the South skipper, must be made of solid material, too. He crashed to earth heavily early in the game and the back of his head struck the ground in a whiplash-type of action. He looked groggy for a while after that but saw out the match. Hickey also saw out the match. That must be a relief to him these days. His performance was not up to his usual high standards at times, but who was there on the South Hobart bench to replace him?

The talent is spread a little thin these days. There was no sign of that perennial substitute, Nick Di Falco. The word is that he is finished at South, disenchanted at always being on the bench and getting little game time.

I wonder what Mr Chapman, now 82 years of age and a member of the 1959 South Hobart side, thought as he watched from the stands during a visit from England? I sat with a former Eagles and South Hobart player from the 1970s who goes to about one or two games a year. He won't be back this season.

South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:

For the first hour, we were absolutely terrific. Then we got a little bit sloppy and put a bit of pressure on ourselves because we didn't get the second goal to get away from them. I thought we were really good in the first half. We were dominant and strong for that first hour and played with a good purpose and I thought we deserved the win.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think it was a game befitting a top-of-the-table clash and both teams gave it everything. Unfortunately, today, we created enough chances but didn't put them away.

They punished us by taking one of their chances and that just about sums up the game.

We could possibly have brought Josh Quan on earlier, but we felt Marshall was doing enough. Quan coming on as a fresh player did liven things up out there and he created enough chances. He did his job.

Eagles trounce University and perch on top of the ladder

Walter Pless | Sunday, 22 April 2012

(Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Saturday, 21 April 2012)
New Town Eagles 6 (A McKeown 32, 54, 66, 71, A Leszczynski 52, B Whitehall 73)
University 2 (M Barnard 50, P Watts 83)
HT: 1-0 Attendance - 80 Referee - S Natoli

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Page (Ayres 85), Cox, Anderson - Quan, Hudson (Marshall 75), Scott - Leszczynski (Whitehall 70), J Clamp, McKeown (Subs not used: T Clamp, Collins)

University: Piesse - Scott, Merry, D Booth, Hewson (Galloway 46) - Watts, Hindmarsh, H Booth, Barnard - McCallum (Garcia 62), Conroy (Subs not used: Andrews, Proud)

New Town Eagles opened up a 2-point lead over South Hobart at the top of the Southern Premier League with this 6-2 win over second-last University at home at Clare Street on Saturday. Reigning champions South Hobart could only draw 1-1 at home to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United the same afternoon.

Eagles had the better of the opening half-hour, Liam Scott thumping a great shot against the University crossbar, while the Students relied largely on sporadic counter-attacks.

In the 32nd minute, Eagles hit the front when University goalkeeper Martin Piesse did well to block a shot from Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown swept home the loose ball. University were level 5 minutes after the interval when

Miles Barnard hit a great shot from range that hit the back of the stanchion inside the goal-frame and rebounded into play. Two minutes later, Leszczynski restored Eagles' lead from a free-kick from just outside the box, while another two minutes passed before McKeown made it 3-1 for the home side with a low drive from the right.

Patrick Watts squandered a good chance for the visitors on the hour when he broke through the Eagles defence but, with only keeper Nathan Pitchford to beat, he lifted the ball over the bar. In the 66th minute, McKeown completed his hat-trick after collecting Scott's pass from the left and lobbing the ball over the advancing Piesse.

McKeown notched his fourth goal of the match with a brilliant first-time volley out of the blue from just outside the box in the 71st minute.

Ben Whitehall, who had replaced Leszczynski, made it 6-1 with a fine free-kick from 22 metres in the 73rd minute. Watts pulled another goal back for University 7 minutes from the end after a corner, but it was a mere consolation goal for the Students, who were well beaten at that stage.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I thought we went out and played some really good football today and created plenty of chances. By half-time, we hadn't taken many of those chances and they were certainly well in the game. They gave us a wake-up call with a cracker of a goal from 35 and then, within about five minutes, we were two goals in front. We got a few more after that and could probably have gone on with it a bit more. But, a 6-2 win against anybody is pretty good. We're two points clear now, so, hopefully, we'll be able to maintain that going forward.

University's assistant coach, Saleh Bintalib, who coached the side in the absence of Gary Slicer, said:

Obviously, a very painful result to swallow. Honestly, when we got the equaliser, I honestly thought that we were coming back into the game very strongly. Very, very disappointing to see defensive lapses made at this level of football. The boys will just have to learn from the mistakes we made today. It's back to the drawing board.

Adam McKeown nets Eagles' fourth by lifting Liam Scott's pass over keeper Martin Piesse [PlessPix]

University's Harry Booth tries to outwit Eagles' Ben Whitehall [PlessPix]

Eagles have to settle for second spot after losing to Lions

Walter Pless | Sunday, 29 April 2012

(Southern Premier League, Lightwood Park, Saturday, 28 April 2012)
Kingborough Lions United 2 (Bevan 15, Schuth 23)
New Town Eagles 1 (Scott 62)
HT: 2-0 Attendance - 100 Referee - C Phillips

Kingborough Lions United: Duncan - Hawkins, Cowen, Iseli, Cuthbertson - Di Falco, Bevan, D Pearce, Schuth (Palmer 87) - Cooper, T Pearce (Farquhar 67) (Subs not used: F Kang, Bilson, Leamey)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Page, Anderson - Whitehall, Scott, Hudson, Quan -McKeown, Leszczynski (Subs not used: J Clamp, Ayres, Collins, Bates, McCormack)

New Town Eagles were unable to regain the lead in the Southern Premier League, which they had relinquished to South Hobart, who had beaten Olympia Warriors on Friday night, because of this 2-1 loss away to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United. The Lions were playing their first game at their Lightwood Park home this season and were delighted with the three points.

They had their backs to the wall for most of the second half as Eagles mounted challenge after challenge in a desperate attempt to at least equalise if not win, but they held out and survived some close calls through good shot-blocking by goalkeeper Andrew Duncan and resolute defending by his team-mates. The Lions keeper was, however, wayward with his clearances and poor passing by his team-mates enabled Eagles to press high and exert intense pressure on their opponents for most of the second half, making for a nail-biting finish.

Eagles should have taken the lead in the 13th minute when Liam Scott put Adam McKeown away and his square pass found Alex Leszczynski, but Leszczynski missed a very good chance from inside the box. Two minutes later, poor defending by the visitors enabled the Lions to go ahead as Ryan Bevan's corner from the left flew into the net off the inside of the far post. It was almost 2-0 a couple of minutes later, but Andrew Clark came to Eagles' rescue by clearing off the line.

Joel Schuth did make it 2-0 in the 23rd minute when his powerful volley out of nothing from the edge of the box left Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford rooted to the spot.

Eagles came back strongly in the second half but had only a goal by Scott in the 62nd minute to show for it. Scott had had a fine effort deflected for a corner, but made amends seconds later when he got onto the end of a long ball into the penalty area from David Cox and beat keeper Andrew Duncan to nod home and make it 2-1.

Josh Quan then had the ball in the net, but the effort was off-side and Lions breathed a huge sigh of relief. Eagles were winning free-kicks and corners as the Lions teetered on the edge, but their set-pieces proved ineffective. The Lions were still dangerous on the counter-attack and David Cooper missed a relatively easy chance in the 85th minute from substitute Martin Farquhar's square pass into the penalty area.

In the final minute, Adam McKeown might have equalised for the visitors, but his first touch let him down and Duncan blocked his second attempt. Kingborough's strict man-marking paid dividends as Marc Iseli did an excellent job on Leszczynski and Danny Cowen kept McKeown goalless. Kingborough's new signing from South Hobart, Nick Di Falco, would have been pleased at being part of a winning side on his debut, as well as finally putting in 90 minutes.

Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:

A great win. We're as good as any team in the league, and today proves it.

A lot of people don't think we are, but they've underestimated us and today proves that we're as good as anyone in the league.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think we played very, very well in patches and knocked the ball around and created an enormous amount of chances, but again, we didn't convert. When you don't convert, you don't win games. We gave away a couple of goals in the first half, possibly due to some wind, but possibly due to our play as well. I think the second 45 was ours. It was there for us

to take, but we just couldn't get the ball in the net. A couple of good saves from their keeper, probably a couple of bad shots on our part, but we're playing well enough and creating enough chances and that's positive going forward.

Eagles' David Cox challenges the Lions' Nick Cuthbertson to a header [PlessPix]

The Lions' David Cooper (No.14) gets a header on goal [PlessPix]

Eagles down Clarence for second week in a row

Walter Pless | Sunday, 13 May 2012

(Southern Premier League, Wentworth Park, Saturday, 12 May 2012)
Clarence United 0
New Town Eagles 2 (A Leszczynski 81, McKeown 85)
HT: 0-0 Attendance - 90 Referee - C Phillips

Clarence United: Ortiz - Toghill, Lewis, Malcolm, Price - Cannamela, Rees (Aldridge 76), Cairns, Karas - E Tsakiris Hoppitt (S Reibel 69) (Subs not used: Aitken, Cornish)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Page, Anderson - Whitehall, Hudson, Scott, Quan (Collins 60) - Leszczynski (J Clamp 88), McKeown (Subs not used: Marshall, Ayres, T Clamp)

Clarence United's Colombian import, goalkeeper Carlos Ortiz, had an inauspicious debut in this match, conceding two goals as his side went down to the visiting New Town Eagles.

Clarence missed a penalty and a couple of other chances, which cost them the match. Both sides were keen to attack from the start and Clarence's Emmanuel Tsakiris headed over the bar early on, while Ortiz did well to block at the feet of Alex Leszczynski.

On the quarter-hour, a handball by an Eagles defender earned Clarence a penalty, but Aaron Cairns hit the left-hand post with his spot-kick to let the visitors off the hook. Pitchford produced an excellent save shortly after from Sam Cannamela, while at the other end, Ortiz did well to keep out a Ben Whitehall free-kick.

Just before the break, Adam McKeown fired straight at Ortiz, while Clarence were also fortunate when Nathan Rees cleared a Liam Scott shot off the line and Blayne Hudson lifted the rebound over the bar. On the hour mark, McKeown shot narrowly wide as Eagles sought to settle the match with plenty of attacking play. Clarence lost Rees to a leg injury with 15 minutes to go. He was stretchered off and it was later revealed to be a calf injury.

Nine minutes from the end, Leszczynski broke the deadlock with an amazing strike. He was put down the right by a throw-in from Whitehall and surprised Ortiz with a shot from an acute angle that went inside the far post.

Leszczynski and some of his team-mates were delirious with delight and raced on to the adjoining pitch as they celebrated. With five minutes remaining, Scott beat a couple of defenders on the right and crossed to the far post, where McKeown nodded home, again past a static Ortiz, to make it 2-0.

The win lifted second-placed Eagles back to within a point of leaders South Hobart, while Clarence United dropped from third to fourth spot because of an inferior goal-difference to Tilford Zebras.

Clarence United coach, Ronnie Bolton, said:

I think we were hard done by, really. It's our own fault. We switched off for a couple of minutes and they scored a freak goal. Then we switched off again and they get another goal. We lost the game. We should have had two or three ourselves by half-time. It makes it difficult when we don't take our chances. To be fair to Eagles, they get the job done. To play the way we did tonight and to come away with nothing is disappointing. It's something we'll have to address at training this week.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

As we expected, it was a really tight contest. It usually is between these two teams We simply looked to play out the 90 minutes. I thought the second half, we gradually got on top as the half went on. Having said that, they had a couple of chances and our keeper needed to pull off a couple of saves. I think at the end of the day, 'Albie' [Alex Leszczynski] pulling one out from the by-line there was pretty good. And, obviously, we finished off at the end to make it two nil. I was very pleased with the performance by the boys.

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (As at 12 May 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	8	6	1	1	18	6	19
New Town Eagles	**8**	**6**	**0**	**2**	**21**	**13**	**18**
Tilford Zebras	8	4	1	3	29	23	13
Clarence United	8	4	1	3	20	15	13
Kingborough Lions United	7	3	3	1	19	12	12
Glenorchy Knights	8	1	2	5	12	19	5
Olympia Warriors	8	1	1	6	13	23	4
University	7	0	3	4	8	29	3

Olympia beat Eagles under new coach McNeill

Walter Pless | Sunday, 20 May 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Warrior Park, Friday, 18 May 2012)
Olympia Warriors 1 (C Kumpulainen 8)
New Town Eagles 0
HT: 1-0 Attendance - 150 Referee - S Natoli

Olympia Warriors: Kay - P Tsakiris, Taylor, Begovic, Phillips - Wadawau (Grillas 57), Mason, Kumpulainen, Meredith - Fielding, Woolley (Subs not used: Maxwell, Y Mohamad, Fry)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Page, Anderson - Whitehall (Marshall 75), Hudson, Scott (Ayres 90), Collins - Leszczynski (J Clamp 87), McKeown (Subs not used: Bates, Bunt)

A new strip, a new coach, and a ground with new safety features. That is what Friday night was for Olympia Warriors. They made the most of it by beating second-placed New Town Eagles 1-0 to move up a place into sixth spot on the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League standings. The result was a rude awakening for Eagles, who were just a point behind leaders South Hobart as the match kicked off. They had at least three early chances that were missed by Alex Leszczynski, Adam McKeown and Liam Scott.

But, Olympia had already shown attacking prowess in the opening minutes, with Warren Wadawau's pace causing concern down the flanks and young Harry Woolley's speed and enthusiasm in the middle of the attack threatening the Eagles' rear-guard. In the 8th minute, Olympia took the lead and settled their nerves. Wadawau's corner from the right was nodded home by Chris Kumpulainen as Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford got tangled up with team-mate Ben Whitehall, preventing him from reaching the ball. In the 19th minute, Woolley was just wide with a fine low shot as Olympia went all out for a second goal.

The home side almost got a second on the half-hour following Ben Phillips's deep cross from the left. Pitchford punched clear but was left stranded out of his goal, while Wadawau's tame effort at an open goal was cleared off the line. Kumpulainen missed a sitter in the 33rd minute when Pitchford missed Nick Meredith's left-wing cross, his header looping over the bar and landing on the roof of the net.

Olympia surprisingly replaced Wadawau with Kosta Grillas in the 57th minute. Wadawau still posed a threat, while Grillas was an unknown quantity after some disappointing recent performances. In the 70th minute, Scott squandered a clear chance by heading Whitehall's corner harmlessly over the bar. Ten minutes from the end, Peter Tsakiris tripped McKeown

as he broke into the left of the box and an equaliser appeared a formality as Mr Natoli pointed to the penalty spot. But, Leszczynski' s spot kick came back off the base of the left-hand post and Eagles were still a goal down. In the 84th minute, Josh Fielding missed a marvellous opportunity to make sure of victory when he somehow miscued his shot from a Grillas cut-back.

Pitchford kept Eagles in with a chance when he brilliantly denied Woolley in a one-on-one situation after Fielding's astute pass had put the youngster clean through on goal. In stoppage time, Robert Kay ensured Olympia of the points when he expertly turned Bradley Ayres's shot wide for a corner. The match ended to the cheers of the Olympia fans, who sensed the beginning of a revival for their team under new coach Glen McNeill. They were also gracious victors, remaining respectful and silent as the Eagles players filed past them on their way to the dressing rooms.

Olympia Warriors coach, Glen McNeill, said:

So far, so good. We went in with a plan today and [we've only had the one session] the boys were just fabulous. They gave one hundred per cent effort and that's all I can ask.

[I was absolutely worried when they won the penalty], but sometimes it goes your way and sometimes it doesn't. We've all got those sorts of games where that's happened, and luckily, it was our night. It was great. I think we had probably the lion's share of opportunities and that's something we're going to continue to work on, our finishing, and that type of thing. It's fantastic that we're getting into the right spaces. It's early days. We're in the honeymoon period at the moment. We're a good team but we're in a transition time. There's going to be ups and downs, but we're going to enjoy tonight for what it is, and we'll look forward to next week.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think Olympia were always going to want this game [so it was more than just a missed penalty that cost us]. We spoke about it beforehand that they were going to be up tonight, and they certainly were. They were first to the ball most of the night. Having said that, we created enough chances in the first half to have been well in the game at half-time. I mean, at 1-0 down, we still thought we could take it. In the second half, I don't think we performed as well as we should have, and I think there was a bit of frustration there near the end.

It [the penalty] could have cost us, but again, if you don't take your penalties, then you're going to struggle to pick up points. [Our two front-runners] both had chances to score tonight, so, from that point of view, they seemed to work okay. I mean, obviously they were targeted with man-to-man marking and that worked well for Olympia to an extent. But, having said that, we still created chances. I'm not too concerned about the front pairing at this stage. We'll just continue to play in that fashion again but hopefully with that little bit more bite. We've got a cup game next week that's pretty important [a semi-final] down at Taroona and we'll play on another tight field and we'll, hopefully, change some things just a little bit.

Eagles end Taroona's fairy tale and qualify for Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final

Walter Pless | Saturday, 26 May 2012

(Semi-Final, Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy, Kelvedon Park, Saturday, 26 May 2012)
Taroona 1 (E Luttmer 67)
New Town Eagles 5 (A Leszczynski 7, 53, J Clamp 69, C Collins 73, J Marshall 85)
HT: 0-1 Attendance - 200 Referee - B Kopra

Taroona: Burridge - Tubb, Wright, Cherry, Darragh Carey - James (R Carey 53), Burgess (Atkinson 46), E Luttmer, Dove - Hamilton, Young (Haslewood 80) (Sub not used: Hortle)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Anderson, Page - Whitehall (Bunt 84), Hudson, J Clamp, Collins - Leszczynski (Marshall 74), McKeown (Ayres 80) (Sub not sued: McCormack)

Taroona were the sole survivors from the second tier of Tasmanian football going into this semi-final of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy competition. They had produced two giant-killing feats to reach this stage by disposing of Premier League opponents, but even home-ground advantage was of no use in this contest.

Football Federation Tasmania had cleared the ground for play after an inspection in the morning, while the referee, Mr Kopra, gave his okay following an afternoon pitch inspection. New Town Eagles kicked off and immediately put the home side under pressure. It took just over six minutes for the visitors to take the lead following a fine attacking move started on the left and finished when David Cox sent over a deep cross form the right for Alex Leszczynski to bravely beat keeper John Burridge in the air and head home.

Eagles continued to attack, with Adam McKeown missing a couple of chances to increase their lead, but his shots always flew just wide. Leszczynski was also foiled by a good save from Burridge.

Taroona found it difficult to mount attacks and, when they did, they broke down in the final third as they gave the ball away. Eight minutes after the interval, Leszczynski made it 2-0. A throw-in on the left saw the ball worked over to the right and a poor header by a Taroona defender went straight to Leszczynski, who held off a challenge from Llewyn Tubb to shoot home. There were claims of off-side and Mr Kopra had to consult his assistant, Mr Natoli, but he then awarded the goal.

Eli Luttmer pulled a goal back for the home side when he nipped in ahead of Jacob Clamp and headed home Darragh Carey's excellent corner from the left. In the 69th minute, Eagles restored their two-goal buffer. Ben Whitehall's throw-in

from the right found Leszczynski, who outwitted a defender and crossed. Burridge could only help the ball on, and Clamp struck it into the roof of the net from point-blank range.

Cormac Collins made it 4-1 with a far-post header from Whitehall's free-kick from wide on the left. McKeown should have added a fifth in the 79th minute, but his half-volley was directed straight at Burridge. Five minutes from the end, substitute Jeremy Marshall made it 5-1 when Clamp lost control of the ball and it fell to Marshall, who drilled it past Burridge.

Marshall almost had a second in stoppage time, but his shot came back off the crossbar. The match ended with an attacking run by Taroona substitute Marcus Atkinson, who forced a fruitless corner. Eagles will meet the winner of the other semi-final between Glenorchy Knights and South Hobart, who play at 1pm at KGV Park tomorrow [Sunday] after their scheduled match on Friday night was postponed because of ground conditions.

Taroona coach, Andrew Tye, said:

No fairy tale finish today. I think the boys needed to be at their very best today to beat Eagles. I don't think they were at their best. They tried hard. One-nil at half-time and I think we were definitely in the contest. We made a few changes. Second goal knocked the wind out of our sails a bit, I think. Got it back to 2-1 and I thought we were there and then they took it away from us. Congratulations to Eagles.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I thought it was a very good effort by our boys. First half, I thought we dominated play and created plenty of chances but just didn't put them away. Second half, we continued in the same vein but put some of our chances away. A couple of really good goals and a couple of other really good moves went close. Very happy. To be honest, [I'd like to meet South] in the final. I think if the Knights got up over South in the semi, they'd be really, really buoyed by that and dangerous. I'd be happy to play either, to be truthful.

Alex Leszczynski heads Eagles' opening goal [PlessPix]

Eagles beat Knights comfortably in dress rehearsal for Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final

Walter Pless | Sunday, 03 June 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Saturday, 2 June 2012)
New Town Eagles 4 (L Scott 21, A Leszczynski 61 pen, C Collins 65, B Hudson 86)
Glenorchy Knights 0
HT: 1-0 Attendance - 100 Referee - K Barker

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Anderson (Marshall 89), Page, Cox, Clark - Whitehall (Bunt 84), Hudson, Scott, Collins - Leszczynski (J Clamp 79), McKeown (Sub not used: Ayres)

Glenorchy Knights: Le Rossignol - Nowicki, Holmes, Johnson, Clay - Hey, Huigsloot, Griffin (Dawes 60) - Robb (Roberts 75), Strang (Stanton 77), Letiko (Subs not used: Kamano, Peter)

New Town Eagles moved to within 2 points of leaders South Hobart with this comfortable 4-0 win over Glenorchy Knights at home at Clare Street. The result leaves Knights in second-last place and they will be hoping that University don't get home against Clarence United this evening.

Blayne Hudson had the first chance of the match for Eagles after a mere 5 minutes, but his powerful shot cleared the bar. Knights responded with an effort by Simon Strang, but Eagles defender Mark Page headed off the line.

Eagles hit the front in the 21st minute in a move that was started and finished by Liam Scott. He played the ball wide to the right to Ben Whitehall, who knocked the ball inside to Adam McKeown, who was bundled over in what appeared to be a foul. Mr Barker played the advantage and the ball fell for Cormac Collins to set up Scott, who hammered it home inside Trent Le Rossignol's left-hand upright.

The first half ended with Collins shooting wide, but there was not much to separate the two sides other than Scott's goal. Jacob Huigsloot, one of the Knights' better performers on the day, went close in the 56th minute with a drive that flew just wide of Nathan Pitchford's right-hand post.

Eagles won a penalty in the 61st minute, but it was controversial. Matthew Nowicki's tackle on McKeown seemed fair, but he may just have tripped McKeown a split second later as the ball rolled free. Alex Leszczynski ended the controversy by tucking away the spot-kick to make it 2-0 for the home side.

Four minutes later, Eagles killed off the match when Collins netted their third with a low drive from an angle on the right of the box, the ball flashing across Le Rossignol and inside the far post. Huigsloot went off injured with 10 minutes remaining and the Knights were a man down because they had used their quota of three substitutes.

Four minutes from the end, Hudson was rewarded for a strong display when he rifled home Eagles' fourth from just inside the box after a corner from the right. This was a very disappointing display by the Knights, who had played so well last weekend against South Hobart in the semi-finals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy. One just never knows which Knights team is going to turn up on any given day for a match. This one seemed more like their reserve side. But, then again, Knights' reserves beat Eagles 7-2 in the curtain-raiser.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

Yeah, yeah, very pleasing, especially the second half when we actually converted three goals. I think, at half time, it was probably there for either side to take, and our boys stepped up and took it. We converted the penalty and got a few different scorers on the board as well. We're now only two points behind them [South Hobart] and I think they'll know we're there and possibly the next few weeks will be very interesting in the season.

Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:

I think we'll turn out tomorrow, to be honest with you. Look, to start off, credit to Eagles. They played some good football given the conditions. They knocked it around well, they played the simple ball. You know, the first goal was, you know, perfectly set up for the conditions - in to feet, lay it back and a good strike by young Liam [Scott]. And, they continued to play that way all game.

Our passing game wasn't there. We tried to knock it around a little more, but we were chasing shadows, and just our general execution around the park, with people not willing to take responsibility. It's very, very disappointing. I think some of them left their minds in their car or at home today.

Glenorchy Knights claim their third Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy with win over Eagles

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 12 June 2012

(Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy Final, KGV Park, Monday, 11 June 2012)
Glenorchy Knights 3 (Dawes 3, Marney 16, Strang 52)
New Town Eagles 2 (Leszczynski 31 pen, Scott 70)
HT: 2-1 Attendance - 750 Referee - K Barker (I Jozeljic 90)

Glenorchy Knights: Le Rossignol - J Hey, Johnson (Robb 82), Holmes, Clay - Griffin, Huigsloot, Dawes (Nowicki 72), Marney - Strang, Letiko (Subs not used: Peter, Roberts, Sherman)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Page, Anderson - Whitehall (Quan 90+2), Scott, Hudson, Collins (Marshall 62) - McKeown, Leszczynski (Subs not used: Bunt, Bates, J Clamp)

The Glenorchy Knights squad before the match [PlessPix]

Glenorchy Knights collected the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy for the third time since its inception in 2000 by beating New Town Eagles 3-2 in an exciting final before an excellent crowd at KGV Park on Monday night. The Knights had last won this trophy, named after one of their former players, in 2005, while Eagles have yet to get their talons on it. It was appropriate, therefore, that Neridene Lakoseljac, Milan's widow, and his son Brendan and grandson Bradley, were in attendance. Neridene presented the trophy, while Bradley took the toss before the match. Brendon made a large banner containing photos of his father and the Knights' history and this was displayed prominently in the Knights' dressing room.

The New Town Eagles squad before the match [PlessPix]

A minute's silence was observed before the game in memory of the late Marko Begovic, father of former Knights players Janko, Marijan and Elena Begovic, who passed away while on holiday in Croatia last week. The Knights were clearly hyped up for this one and they started at full throttle and took the lead after just three minutes when Jade Clay played the ball forward to the edge of the box on the left to Aaron Marney, who flicked it through for Jason Dawes to beat the advancing goalkeeper, Nathan Pitchford.

It was 2-0 in the 16th minute when Jacob Huigsloot chipped a high ball into the Eagles penalty area. When Michael Anderson made a hash of trying to clear, the ball fell to Marney, who slotted it past an unprotected Pitchford. Eagles seemed down and out, but they pulled a goal back in the 31st minute through an Alex Leszczynski penalty. Jayden Hey lost possession in midfield and the ball was passed forward to Adam McKeown, who raced for goal. He was brought down inside the box by Simon Strang for what was a clear penalty. But, Mr Barker waved play on for some reason as McKeown got up and made another run. This time he was brought down by Sam Johnson and Mr Barker awarded a penalty, which he should really have done after Strang's tackle. Leszczynski netted easily, placing his spot-kick to the right of Trent Le Rossignol, who dived to his left.

Knights appeared to be suffering some self-doubt at this point and must have been relieved when half-time arrived, enabling them to regroup. The Knights restored their two-goal buffer 7 minutes after the resumption. A poor clearance by Nathan Pitchford went straight to Dawes, who knocked the ball wide to the right to Strang. The former Eagles player raced forward and then unleashed a magnificent low right-footed drive that zipped into the bottom far left-hand corner of the net to give Knights a 3-1 lead.

Dawes should have added a fourth in the 58th minute after good work by Hey on the right, but he looped his header over the bar. Le Rossignol made a mess of a Ben Whitehall free-kick in the 66th minute, but McKeown struggled to get in a shot from close range and the chance went begging. A minute later, Pitchford did well to save Marney's dangerous shot, while seconds after that, Liam Scott fired wide from range for Eagles.

With 20 minutes remaining, Eagles got back into contention again when they scored to make it one goal the difference. Scott released Whitehall on the right and he crossed towards the far side of the box, where Hey's clearing header went straight to Scott, who side-footed a perfect lob into the far right-hand corner of Le Rossignol's net.

With a quarter of an hour remaining, Scott almost found an equaliser, but Clay and Le Rossignol combined to deny the Eagles midfielder with some desperate defending. Both sides made substitutions in an effort to find another goal, while tempers flared and Huigsloot and Whitehall both received yellow cards. Mr Barker tweaked a hamstring before the end and fourth official Mr Jozeljic had to take over for the 6 minutes of stoppage time. This did not change the fortunes of either side and the Knights hung on to win 3-2 in what had been a pulsating match.

Alex Leszczynski scores from the penalty spot [PlessPix]

Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:

Extremely relieved, I must admit. That second half seemed to go on for a long time. I honestly believed we could win it. I said all along it was going to take a very good performance to stop us with the attitude of the players that continued all the way through the games in this competition. I personally think a very deserved win for us tonight.That third goal from Strangy in the second half was a beautiful goal and I thought it was ours from there.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I feel pretty deflated, I suppose. I think tonight we were a bit flat when we went out and they were up for it. They punished us for our mistakes and then, when we worked hard enough to create the chances, had the ball in the right positions, we didn't punish them for their mistakes. I think we could have had three or four more goals. Obviously, at the end, we were pushing forward and pushing forward. We were in the game for long periods and only that one goal behind, but we just couldn't get back on level terms.

Eagles down South to make Southern Premier League more interesting

Walter Pless | Monday, 18 June 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Sunday, 17 June 2012)
New Town Eagles 2 (A McKeown 13, A Leszczynski 18)
South Hobart 1 (A Brennan 5)
HT: 2-1 Attendance - 120 Referee - S Natoli

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - D Cox - A Clark, M Page - M Anderson - B Whitehall, B Hudson, L Scott, C Collins (Marshall 77) - A McKeown, A Leszczynski (Subs not used: Quan, J Clamp)

South Hobart: Ferguson - Duffy, Ludford, N Clarke (Rogers 69), Williams - Hickey, Feral, Eaves (Bladel 36) - Postma (Ince 67), Brennan, N Morton (Sub not used: Moncur)

Second-placed New Town Eagles kept the interest in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League alive by beating leaders South Hobart 2-1 at home at Clare Street to move to within a point of the reigning champions.

A minute's silence was observed before kick-off in memory of Tracey Ross, whose sons Will and Sam play for South Hobart. Tracey was the wife of Brett Ross and the daughter of noted former coach Duncan Summers and his wife Judy.

An error by Andrew Clark and goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford enabled South Hobart to take the lead after just five minutes. Clark slipped as he attempted to stay with Andy Brennan, while Pitchford allowed the striker's shot from just outside the box to slither under him and roll over the line and into the net. Eagles picked themselves up, however, and two goals in five minutes shortly afterwards put them in front. They held the lead until the end to earn three valuable points.

In the 13th minute, South Hobart failed to clear a corner won by Cormac Collins. Ben Whitehall floated the ball in and two of South Hobart's defenders headed the ball straight up in the air inside the penalty area. The third touch was also a header, but by Eagles' Michael Anderson, who served the ball up for Adam McKeown to volley home and make it 1-1. It was a marvellous strike by McKeown and he and Brennan had thus ended their goal droughts.

Five minutes later, Eagles produced a brilliant attack, beginning with Nathan Pitchford's goal-kick. Not one South Hobart player touched the ball before the goal. The move reached its climax when Collins centred from the left and, although Matthew Ferguson produced a fine save from Alex Leszczynski' s header, Leszczynski was on hand to hit the ball against the under-side of the crossbar and over the line. The ball bounced back out and so Leszczynski headed it into the net just to be sure and gave Eagles a 2-1 lead.

Nick Morton had a chance to level in the 33rd minute, but he missed when positioned at the far post after a left-wing cross. South Hobart replaced the injured Bobby Eaves with Hugo Bladel in the 36th minute and he played in midfield rather than at the heart of the defence, which has been his most recent position.

In the 38th minute, Loic Feral, back from France, played an excellent ball down the left for Brennan to run onto. He rounded keeper Pitchford but shot into the side-netting. In the closing seconds of the first half, Pitchford did well to save a shot from the marauding Hugh Ludford, who had gone into the attack for a few minutes.

Liam Scott fired over the bar shortly after the start of the second half, while Leszczynski was also wide with a low shot as Eagles kept up their momentum.

In the 57th minute, Eagles were fortunate not to concede when South Hobart fullback Cameron Williams, venturing forward for a corner, fired low but narrowly wide. With five minutes remaining, Scott found himself in a one-on-one with Ferguson but somehow placed his shot straight at the goalkeeper. Three minutes from the end, a glancing header by Morton was fielded by Pitchford just under the bar.

South Hobart had plenty of possession and their team-work was good, but they lacked penetration and that telling shot that could have turned the game.

Eagles were resolute and stuck to their task throughout the match. They refused to be overawed by their opponents. David Cox played well at the back, while McKeown produced a vintage performance. His back-heel to Collins in the build-up to Leszczynski' s goal was all class.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think you're always nervous when you're only a goal in front. It only takes a slip and the ball is in the back of the net. But we continued to push and create chances when they were pushing at us. There's only four or five points between the top four teams now, so the second half of the season will be really, really important.

To me, it was a team effort and right across the park I think they worked for 90 minutes and I just think it's a magnificent performance by a team that could quite easily have been demoralised by a grand final loss.

To come out here against the top team and play as well as they did, I just think it's fantastic.

South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:

They were the better team. They played with more life than us, played with more energy. Their game was very predictable, but they play it, and they play it well, so credit to White Eagles today. We were second best.

Hugo [Bladel] has obviously been away so for him to come back into midfield and pick up the pace was difficult. That's where he wants to play. He thinks he's a midfield player, so we put him in there to do a job and that didn't happen today. We were second best in midfield.

I think the depth on the bench is all right. When Ince came on he gave them a few problems with his pace. Everybody's in the same boat. White Eagles are the same as we are. If we get injuries, suspension or whatever, your first team is depleted, and you rely on your back-up and that's what we've done today and today we weren't good enough.

We didn't have any penetration today. The pitch wasn't made for good football. I mean, some of the first touches from all the players was bad today. If your first touch is bad, it gives them a chance of the ball and McKeown is quick, Leszczynski is a good target man to bounce the ball off and young McKeown works hard to get into goal-scoring positions, so it was maybe too much possession today could hurt us and a couple of times they did. They had really good breakaways. Liam [Scott] maybe should have done better when one on one with the keeper, but we'll learn from it.

Andy [Brennan] missed one and Nick [Morton] missed one at the back post. There were a couple of chances where we maybe could have gone in at half-time 2-2 or maybe with our noses in front and it's a different game.

We thought we were doing okay because we fancied coming uphill in the second half. The pitch is a bit longer this end, but this side of the field is very heavy going and the touches were difficult for the players to get it down and play.

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (As at 17 June 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	12	8	2	2	31	8	26
New Town Eagles	12	8	1	3	28	16	25
Kingborough Lions Utd	12	5	6	1	31	21	21
Clarence United	12	6	2	4	27	22	20
Tilford Zebras	12	4	4	4	34	30	16
Olympia Warriors	12	3	2	7	25	31	11
Glenorchy Knights	12	2	3	7	17	27	9
University	12	0	4	8	10	48	4

Eagles score six without reply for second week in row

Walter Pless | Sunday, 01 July 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Saturday, 30 June 2012)
New Town Eagles 6 (McKeown 1, 83, Clamp 3, Leszczynski 12 pen, Scott 62, Page 65)
Kingborough Lions United 0
HT: 3-0 Attendance - 120 Referee - I Jozeljic

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark, Cox, Page (Bunt 77), Anderson - Whitehall (Quan 67), Hudson, Scott, Leszczynski - Clamp (Marshall 67), McKeown (Sub not used: Graham)

Kingborough Lions United: Leamey - Hawkins, Cowen, Iseli (T Pearce 72), Cooper - Di Falco, Bevan (Herweynen 66), Cuthbertson, D Pearce - Schuth, Farquhar (F Kang 66) (Subs not used: Duncan, Hartog)

New Town Eagles knocked in six goals without reply against the visiting Kingborough Lions United to go 2 points clear at the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League. It was Kingborough's heaviest defeat in the league this season.

South Hobart coach Ken Morton was watching. His side can regain the lead on Sunday with a win over Olympia Warriors at South Hobart. It took Eagles just 18 seconds to take the lead and the Lions did not touch the ball until keeper David Leamey had to pick it out of the net. A series of passes in an attack down the right ended with Alex Leszczynski back-heeling the ball for Adam McKeown to fire home from close range.

It was 2-0 in the 3rd minute when Whitehall played the ball across the face of goal for Jacob Clamp to score easily. Kingborough recovered their composure by the 8th minute and Ryan Bevan's low drive clipped the outside of Nathan Pitchford's right-hand post, while seconds later, Pitchford did well to get down to a powerful shot from Joel Schuth.

A minute later, Schuth failed to connect with a high ball that should have provided him with a headed goal. Marc Iseli brought down McKeown for a penalty in the 12th minute and Leszczynski converted the spot-kick to make it 3-0 against a now shell-shocked Kingborough outfit that had no answer to Eagles' speed and tenacity. The home side could smell blood and were in the mood for a slaughter.

On the half-hour, McKeown almost had a second when Andrew Clark drove the ball forward. The ball took a slight deflection and floated to McKeown, stationed at the far left-hand post. His header was turned against the underside of the bar by Leamey before the ball was cleared.

Two goals in four minutes just after the hour-mark continued the Eagles rampage. Liam Scott netted in the 62nd minute after a well-executed attack, while Mark Page made it 5-0 in the 65th minute as the Lions capitulated.

The visitors and the home side made several substitutions at this stage. For Eagles, it was to give their substitutes a run. For Kingborough, it was a desperate ploy to attempt to salvage something from the game and limit further damage. It didn't work for the Lions. With 7 minutes remaining, McKeown rounded the advancing Leamey on the right and stroked the ball home for goal number six.

Just before that, McKeown had two good chances. His low shot was well stopped by Leamey, while he headed an inviting cross over the bar shortly after.

Schuth was unlucky not to pull a goal back for the visitors with 10 minutes left, his powerful shot coming back off the crossbar. It was the second week in a row that Eagles had scored six goals and kept a clean sheet. That is an ominous sign for the other teams in the competition as we reach the business end of the campaign.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

A very good performance backing up from last week. A really good start for us, simple passing moves resulting in goals.

We probably should have finished off a bit better in the second half, but the fact we kept going for 90 minutes on a pretty heavy field - although not as heavy as it might have been - was really good to see.

We brought three boys off the bench who continued to put in as well and the pressure kept going. "Very good to have a clean sheet again and, hopefully, we'll be able to continue in the weeks ahead.

It should have been double figures, probably, looking at some of the shots. Sometimes we held onto it and probably didn't finish as clinically as we'd like, but if you're knocking in six in a game, then you can't complain.

Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:

It was terrible. When you give away a goal in the first 15 seconds, you're always in trouble. The truth of the matter is, and people can say what they like, we've been struggling in midfield all year.

We've put stopgaps in there and, at the moment, we haven't got a genuine midfielder that can control the game. We're losing in there every week. How we are where we are, sometimes, I wonder.

Until we can get that midfield right - and we keep trying people in there - we're going to struggle. At the moment, we're just filling gaps in there, and some of our better players haven't had a great year either. It's always hard.

Kingborough keeper David Leamey can't keep out Alex Leszczynski’ s penalty [PlessPix]

Eagles' Mark Page celebrates his goal. He was shown a yellow card for his troubles [PlessPix]

Top two fight to the death

July 2, 2012 by The Back Post – Alex Luttrell

The Back Post brings you a special feature from our newest contributor, Alex Luttrell, who explores the 2012 southern Premier League title race. After the fourteenth week of games, just one round remains in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League and it is shaping up to be the closest two-horse title race since the start of South Hobart's tenure in 2008.

Both South Hobart and New Town Eagles, who sit in first and second place, respectively, are currently engaged in a fierce duel, with South currently holding a slight edge atop the table despite the Eagles defeating the defending champions three weeks ago.

After 14 games, South have managed 10 wins, two draws and two losses and are on 32 points after they held off a determined Olympia Warriors 4-2 at Darcy Street.

Eagles sit on 10 wins, one draw and three losses on 31 points after they brushed aside any hopes Kingborough had of winning the league with a 6-0 demolition at Clare Street.

The Eagles have not won a premiership in the Southern League since 1986, but won the Tasmanian State League Minor Premiership and Finals Series in 1997. The Polish-orientated club has not merely obtained a total of two Southern titles since their inception in 1961, but have eight State League trophies under their belt and they do know about success.

However, South Hobart have a much more prominent history, having collected 21 Southern trophies since the club's formation in 1910, over 101 seasons up till 2011. Statistics point to South Hobart success again this year, having won the last four Southern Premier League titles as well as a number of other trophies under the guidance of Ken Morton.

The closest the Eagles have come to the premiership recently was in 2000 under George Krambousanos, where they finished runners-up to Glenorchy Knights.

So far two out of three head to head encounters having been played between the two, with South winning 1-0 on the 14th of April and the Eagles getting the best of South on the 17th of June. This recent 2-1 win for the Eagles over their nearest title rivals has strengthened the squad and the belief within themselves to topple South's phenomenal four-year Southern Premier League run.

Eagles' coach Stephen Pitchford commented on the impact of the game for the remainder of the season.

It's a psychological advantage in terms of having the confidence to go out and beat whoever you play and the fact we've been able to do it more than once over the top side [South Hobart] gives them confidence going into other games.

We've certainly got the ability to win all of the remaining games and I think we're getting better in terms of creating chances and it will be how we convert those chances in the big games.

South coach Ken Morton also commented on his sides recent loss to its nearest rivals and its implications for their fifth championship running I think the loss to Eagles has had a positive effect on us. You have to learn from your defeats and push on, and while we truly respect the Eagles our aim is to keep going forward.

It had a big impact on the season because if we had won that we would have gone seven points clear. Now it will make us put in good efforts every week. I think we all need to stay injury free, avoid red cards and avoid any silly results.

Morton was also aware that the situation atop the table is every close and could come down to the very end. Obviously, we've got our noses in front now and that's where we want to stay but at this time of the year when in this situation at the top you can't afford to lose silly points.

You've got to grind results out now and I think we've got the experience to do that. There's still a backbone of experienced players in Hugh Ludford, Shae Hickey, Loic Feral and Matthew Ferguson to give us stability.

The title may very well be decided in their final meeting in week 19 on the fifth of August at South's Darcy Street fortress, depending on each sides' consistency in their run home and Morton was cautiously optimistic on South's chances.

I think that the clash with the Eagles will be an important one and that might have some bearing on who wins the league. I think it was in 2008 when it was pretty tight at the top of the table, so we've been there before, and we just have got through this next round of matches undefeated. We need to play our own game and focus on sharp passing and movement off the ball. The last game at Clare Street, they played their own football and we got sucked in and played a bit longer than we wanted.

He also believed that the players' and training situations will combine for the club's endeavour to take out the league, or at least make a good fight to the death, which was exciting.

Fitness wise we're not doing any extra, so we're just working on some sharper stuff. We still have 14 to 15 players to pick from in the squad, so injuries are not a problem. We just have to go over tuning up basic skills as a collective unit with the young lads coming through too.

In the Eagles camp, Pitchford also suggested that the recent loss in the Milan Lakoseljac final to the Knights has helped his players bounce back and play better by learning from mistakes.

He was also well aware that the season could come down to week 19 but nothing would change their playing style regardless of the stakes. Only having players missing due to suspensions, injuries or work commitments would alter game plans.

He suggested they will go about beating the champions in the same way they did three weeks ago by not holding back on the attacking pace.

We're confident [for the South game] but not over-confident. We have a fairly good squad of fifteen to sixteen players, and we get full performances in fast, small-sided games at training, and I think that's part of what enables you to play well each week.

I'm confident that they have the ability to do it as a squad. The points we've dropped this year have been in games where we've certainly had more chances than the opposition but haven't put them away. We can't be frightened to keep playing attacking football.

He also believed that his squad played well enough to beat South Hobart at Darcy Street in the first game but couldn't convert their chances in their 1-0 loss.

FORESTRY TASMANIA SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (As at 30 June 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	**14**	**10**	**1**	**3**	**40**	**16**	**31**
South Hobart	13	9	2	2	33	9	29
Clarence United	14	7	2	5	30	25	23
Tilford Zebras	14	6	4	4	38	31	22
Kingborough Lions Utd	14	5	6	3	32	29	21
Olympia Warriors	13	4	2	7	27	32	14
Glenorchy Knights	14	2	3	9	18	31	9
University	14	0	4	10	10	55	4

Eagles lucky to earn three points against Clarence

Walter Pless | Sunday, 08 July 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Saturday, 7 July 2012)
New Town Eagles 1 (L Scott 1)
Clarence United 0
HT: 1-0 Attendance - 100 Referee - S Natoli

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Clark (Collins 37), Cox, Anderson, - Whitehall, Marshall, Hudson, Scott, Quan - Clamp, McKeown (Subs not used: Bunt, Ayres, Graham)

Clarence United: Ortiz - Cannamela, Hedge, Rees, Price - Aldridge, Stevens (Mizuno 80), Malcolm, S McIntyre (L Brown 75), Cairns - E Tsakiris (Subs not used: Cornish, Thurley)

Teams that win titles almost always need a little bit of luck along the way. New Town Eagles had that luck today. But you also need to play good football, and Eagles showed enough of that side of their game today to ensure that the watching South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, will not be able to relax just yet. They took the lead against Clarence United after just 56 seconds, but even scorer Liam Scott admitted he had been fortunate to get away with it because he had handled the ball.

Referee Simon Natoli was probably unsighted, while the closest assistant may have had the sun in his eyes. Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford agreed that it was fortunate that the goal was allowed to stand, while Clarence coach Ronnie Bolton was incredulous. Clarence keeper Carlos Ortiz said it was clearly a handball and was perplexed at the fact the goal was given.

Eagles were missing two key players in Alex Leszczynski (unavailable) and Mark Page (suspended), while defender Andrew Clark was taken off because of injury after just 37 minutes. On top of that, they survived near the end of the first half through sheer luck when Clarence's Adam Hedge headed Aaron Cairns's corner against the underside of the bar, only to see Jeremy Marshall clear the ball off the line as it threatened to go in. Seconds later, a suicidal free-kick by Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford went straight to Emmanuel Tsakiris, whose shot at an empty net was blocked by a last-ditch effort by Michael Anderson.

And, Eagles were faced by only ten men for the last 25 minutes after Sam Cannamela was shown a second yellow card for a cynical tackle on Adam McKeown. In such ways are three points won. The result keeps Eagles in second place, a point adrift of leaders South Hobart. Apart from Scott's goal, which came after Ben Whitehall's cross had caused confusion in

the Clarence defence, Eagles also had first-half chances through Anderson, McKeown and Marshall, the latter's effort being superbly saved by Ortiz.

In the second half, Clarence tried desperately to find an equaliser. Pitchford denied Grant Malcolm early on, but the home side still threatened as Anderson shot high and Ortiz was forced to save a header from McKeown. Phineas Aldridge brought the best out of Pitchford midway through the half, but Clarence were struck a huge blow when Cannamela was given his marching orders seconds later.

Clarence, who were already without the injured David Hoppitt, were struck another blow when Joseph Stephens was stretchered off with 10 minutes remaining after falling heavily. It seemed to be a recurrence of a hip injury he sustained in the Summer Cup tournament and which kept him sidelined for almost an entire round of matches. With time running out, Aldridge forced another save from Pitchford, while in stoppage time, Malcolm's powerful rising shot just cleared the bar.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

It was a tough 90 minutes out there for the boys. A good start, an early goal and I thought we'd take the game to them pretty well early on. But, they just kept coming back at us and, pretty fortunate I think, it might have been a handball in the goal we got and they failed to capitalise on the error at the end of the first half from us.

Coming in 1-0 at half-time was probably good for us, and then, second half, I thought we played the ball around reasonably well but probably not as accurately as we needed to and we just couldn't break them down. The longer the game went, the more confidence they got of being able to come back, and again, when they had the send-off, even though for five minutes or so they looked a bit unsettled, they still kept coming.

They had nothing to lose so they threw people forward and the keeper at a corner and those sorts of things, and they could always pinch a goal. They had a couple of chances near the end, but obviously three points is what we wanted, and we've come away with. Our blokes kept going for 90 minutes. We had a couple out today and we lost Clark early with a knee and shuffled around a bit and still managed to come pretty well.

Clarence United coach, Ronnie Bolton, said:

It was a hard battle with Eagles. I think the ten men that we had in the second half really, really showed lots of heart and we were unlucky not to come away with anything. Unlucky. When the game is separated by a goal and the circumstances in which the goal was scored - I don't know why that wasn't picked up - it cost us the game.

Eagles have easier run-in to title, but South Hobart remain favourites

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 24 July 2012

With just four rounds of games to go, South Hobart and New Town Eagles are, realistically, the only two sides capable of winning the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title. And, the two sides meet at South Hobart on Sunday, 5 August 2012, in a crucial showdown. If New Town Eagles win this encounter, they could find themselves level on points with the reigning champions.

But South Hobart have a vastly superior goal-difference, which could, in the end, decide the title. It's worth a point, in fact. South Hobart currently lead with 41 points, three more than Eagles. South's goal-difference is plus 43, while Eagles' is plus 31.

New Town Eagles could be considered to have a slightly easier run-in to the title because they must still play bottom-side University, whom they have already beaten 6-2 and 6-0 this season. They may have to make it a baker's dozen next time. They play Tilford Zebras at home at Clare Street, South Hobart away at South Hobart, University at home at Clare Street, and Kingborough Lions United away at Lightwood Park.

Eagles have beaten Zebras 4-3 and drawn 1-1 with Zebras in their two meetings so far. They lost to South 1-0 away from home and beat South 2-1 at Clare Street. Eagles have lost 2-1 to the Lions at Lightwood and beaten them 6-0 at Clare Street.

South Hobart, who are going for their fifth consecutive Premier League title, must travel to Wentworth Park to face Clarence, where they have already lost 3-2 this season. But South did win the return at South Hobart 3-0. They then entertain New Town Eagles at home, where they won 1-0 earlier in the season, before completing their season with a home game against Kingborough Lions United and an away fixture against Olympia Warriors at Warrior Park.

In their two previous meetings with the Lions, the first was a 1-1 draw and the second was won 2-1 by South. South beat Olympia 3-0 at Warrior Park and 4-2 at South Hobart in the two meetings to date. The forthcoming possibilities are endless, therefore, and there could be many a slip between the cup and the lip.

Eagles may need the help of another team to take at least a couple of points off South Hobart while Eagles still need to win all their matches. But South Hobart must remain slight favourites, if only because of their superiority in terms of goal-difference. And, because with all other things remaining equal, Eagles must beat South away from home on 5 August.

Even if they do, they will have to annihilate University at Clare Street the following week to try and improve their goal-difference.

I'll stick my neck out here and say that I think South Hobart will collect a fifth consecutive Southern Premier League title. They have recently recruited Konstantinos Lantouris from Melbourne Victory and his two goals on the weekend against Tilford Zebras show why he was signed. South coach Ken Morton always pulls a rabbit out of the hat when needed, and this is one such conjuring act. But he must also be given credit for his coaching. While many coaches 'train' their teams, Morton coaches his sides.

How else does one explain South Hobart's position at the top of the ladder at this late stage of the season? This is a side that has just four players in the starting line-up from last season's team. This represents a massive but successful rebuilding process. Neither South nor Eagles can afford to slip up in any of their remaining games, so it all makes for the most exciting finish to the league in years.

FORESTRY TASMANIA SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (As at 22 July 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	17	13	2	2	55	12	41
New Town Eagles	**17**	**12**	**2**	**3**	**48**	**17**	**38**
Clarence United	17	9	2	6	35	26	29
Kingborough Lions Utd	17	6	6	5	38	36	24
Tilford Zebras	17	6	5	6	42	40	23
Olympia Warriors	17	6	3	8	36	41	21
Glenorchy Knights	17	2	4	11	19	41	10
University	17	0	4	13	11	71	4

Eagles wipe the floor with Knights

Walter Pless | Monday, 23 July 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, KGV Park, Sunday, 22 July 2012)
Glenorchy Knights 0
New Town Eagles 6 (A McKeown 4, 56, 62, A Leszczynski 55, A Holmes 81 og, C Collins 85)
HT: 0-1 Attendance - 100 Referee - P Galloway

Glenorchy Knights: Peter - J Hey, Johnson (Kabangu 65), Holmes, Roberts (Robinson 65) - Marney (Letiko 58), Nowicki, Clay, Robb - Dawes, Kamano (Subs not used: Sherman, Strang)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Page, Cox, Marshall, Anderson (Collins 77) - Whitehall (Stingle 79), Hudson, Scott, Clamp - Leszczynski (Moore 86), McKeown (Subs not used: Quan, Graham)

New Town Eagles controlled this match from start to finish and, although they only led 1-0 at the break, they finished the job in the second half against a Glenorchy Knights outfit that was lacking in ideas and technically deficient. If you cannot pass, you cannot play football, and that summed up the hosts' performance.

Knights coach Chris Hey said his side had lost possession 52 times in the first half alone. He praised some of the young substitutes he brought on, but was bitterly disappointed by the lack of fight and endeavour of his older players. He gave credit to Eagles and said they played good and precise football and that they worked for each other from the outset and they 'wanted it more'.

Knights were not helped by the absence of midfielder Jacob Huigsloot (suspended), striker Simon Strang (injured) and goalkeeper Trent Le Rossignol (injured). They found themselves behind after only 4 minutes when Adam McKeown glanced home Ben Whitehall's right-wing cross. The ball seemed to nestle inside the far left-hand post in slow motion as the Knights defenders could only look on. McKeown almost added a second in the 8th minute, but his shot hit the side-netting.

In the 11th minute, Knights keeper Ben Peter showed he still has it when he brilliantly tipped Jacob Clamp's header over the bar for a corner. In the 28th minute, Peter was at full stretch to his right to turn McKeown's effort wide for a corner. There was a brief glimmer of hope for the Knights 4 minutes after the break when Aaron Marney should have scored, but he fired over the bar.

That was it for the home side. In the 55th minute, a long throw-in from the right by Whitehall found Leszczynski in front of goal and he was given time to control the ball, turn and pick his spot and make it 2-0. With the Knights still reeling, McKeown made it 3-0 a minute later, tapping home Leszczynski's cross from the right. Jason Dawes had given the ball away in midfield and Mark Page had released Leszczynski down the right to create the chance.

In the 59th minute, the situation almost got worse for the Knights as Liam Scott smacked a marvellous shot against the crossbar after Leszczynski, with his back to goal, had done a tap dance on the edge of the box and mesmerised the

defenders before setting up his team-mate with a short pass. Three minutes later, McKeown completed his hat-trick when he hammered home a Leszczynski cross from the right to make it 4-0.

With 9 minutes remaining, McKeown challenged Alex Holmes in the air for a free-kick from midfield and Holmes could only nod it past his own goalkeeper for Eagles' fifth goal. The visitors' sixth came 5 minutes from the end through substitute Cormac Collins's header.

Eagles pulled back to within 3 points of leaders South Hobart with this victory, but their goal-difference is vastly inferior to that of South Hobart, which could cost them in the end.

Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:

In the first half, we were lucky to go in 1-0 to be honest with you. They were dominating play.

We talk week in and week out about not running with the ball. We ran with the ball today. We turned the ball over trying to play 20- and 30-yard penetrating balls which were cut out and which is not what I want us to do.

We were still in the game at half-time. We changed a few things about. I thought they were getting down the right side, so I tried to pull Jayden [Hey] over to combat that and get forward. Two early goals and, yeah, I don't know really why I coach, to be honest with you, with that performance.

People just don't care and then play their own games. We spoke about the importance of this game today and the potential for the T-League and, you know, I'll be honest with you, for those games you'd be lucky if there were four players that I'd maintain for next year. It's a disgrace that players can drop their head and play like that and not care. It's as simple as that.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think the second half was really good. We actually converted a few chances. In the first half, we had enough of the play but didn't put enough away. In the second half, we simply converted and played simple football at the end.

We needed to not get too far behind South in the goal-difference as well as stay within the three points. When we play them in a couple of weeks it's a really big game for us. We were worried that today could be a danger game with Knights. They've managed to cause us problems in the past.

I think at half-time there was that hope for them, and the boys came out at the beginning of the second half and put it to bed, really, so it was very pleasing. All our subs got onto the park and had a run, and it was a very convincing performance.

Eagles send out powerful message with thrashing of Zebras

Walter Pless | Monday, 30 July 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Clare Street, Sunday, 29 July 2012)
New Town Eagles 6 (A Leszczynski 1, 4, A McKeown 15, 45, 79, J Clamp 51)
Tilford Zebras 0
HT: 4-0 Attendance - 120 Referee - S Natoli

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Marshall, Cox, Anderson, Page - Whitehall (McCormack 85), J Clamp, Scott (Quan 81), Collins - McKeown, Leszczynski (Stingle 66) (Sub not used: Bates)

Tilford Zebras: McKenna - Otte, Telega, Smith, Muller (M Luttrell 60) - David, Fagg, J Foley-Donoghue, Self - MacDonald (Barabara 79), Walsh (Subs not used: Siedler, L Frarracio)

New Town Eagles had a point to prove to everyone and they did it by smashing Tilford Zebras 6-0 at Clare Street on Sunday. They may have missed the cut in terms of membership of next season's Victory League, but they showed they are still in contention for the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title. The result still leaves them 3 points adrift of leaders South Hobart, whom they meet next week, but they did improve their goal-difference somewhat with this result.

Zebras were on the ropes early and down for the count by half-time, having Jon Foley-Donoghue sent off for two yellow cards in quick succession just before the break. The visitors did revive somewhat in the latter stages of the second period despite being down to 10 men, but it was far too late, and Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford thwarted them on every occasion.

Eagles opened the scoring in just 20 seconds when Adam McKeown sent over a pin-point cross form the right and Alex

Leszczynski was given time to control the ball and pick his spot from point-blank range. Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 4th minute after Liam Scott played McKeown through and he set up his team-mate to beat Michael McKenna.

McKeown then took on the role of executioner, scoring a simple third for Eagles on the quarter-hour and hitting a fourth from Ben Whitehall's free-kick seconds before the break. The free-kick was awarded for Foley-Donoghue's foul on Scott, which earned the Zebras player a second yellow card. Moments earlier, he had been cautioned for a foul on the same player.

Zebras had had a few half-chances in that first period, mainly through the endeavour of Nicholas MacDonald, who is certainly holding his own in the top-flight since being promoted from the reserves. Ricky Self and Foley-Donoghue had token efforts that did not pose any problems for the home side.

But Eagles had also squandered some chances in the opening 45 minutes as McKeown, Leszczynski and Michael Anderson let Zebras off the hook. Six minutes after the resumption, Jacob Clamp made it 5-0 when the ball ricocheted to him after McKenna had blocked Scott's shot.

Eagles had a lucky break in the 70th minute when Anderson's attempted clearance, while under pressure from Fagg, rebounded off a team-mate and struck the woodwork. Fagg got to the rebound but Pitchford produced an excellent save.

Substitute Chris Stingle missed an absolute sitter in the 76th minute for Eagles. McKeown did the hard work by picking his way along the by-line on the right before presenting his team-mate with an open goal, but Stingle mis-kicked and the chance went begging.

In the 78th minute, MacDonald missed from close range for Zebras, who were somehow managing to stay in with a chance of scoring. A minute later, the visitors conceded a sixth goal when McKeown was put clear on the left and he easily rounded McKenna before slipping the ball into an unguarded net. The Zebras still had something left, however, and Pitchford did well to turn Jal David's shot over the bat for a corner in the 81st minute.

A minute later, Mark Page had to clear off the line after Eagles failed to deal with a corner as Pitchford was unable to catch the ball cleanly in the air. Pitchford regained his composure and, in the next minute, did well to tip Ricky Self's shot over the bar for another corner. The home side saw out the match with a second clean sheet and a second 6-0 score-line in consecutive matches.

Football Federation Tasmanian may not have had current on-field performance as a criterion for selection in the Victory League, but this Eagles performance made one wonder why not. Have FFT possibly thrown the baby out with the bath water?

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think [this sent out] that we're one of the best teams in the competition, and probably the State, and those that say otherwise have obviously got it wrong. The boys were pretty keen to turn it on today, obviously, and the message in the sheds before the game was to go out today and play our football and not to worry about external factors that we can't do anything about. All we can do is play our football. And, today, I think they did really well.

The 10-man factor is always an interesting thing. We scored early in the second half and we hoped to score a couple more. I mean, we had the chances, but with 10 men, they certainly had a few chances as well. I think probably our keeper helped us keep a clean sheet today. If you score six goals in a game, you've got to be happy with that.

Tilford Zebras coach, Eamonn Kelly, said:

Bitterly disappointed. Bitterly. A really woeful performance, and no reason for it. No reason for it. First 10 minutes, we were out of the game. End of story. Pitchy [Nathan Pitchford] had a great second half. We lost count of how many shots we had on target and we hit the crossbar twice, we hit the post twice. That's what he's there for. That's what a goalkeeper is there for, to stop balls going in. Pitchy did a great job today. We conceded six, but you can't blame McKenna for too many of them.

'A couple of boys played well in the second half. Jal David had a good second half, and Ricky Self came out, Ryan Smith had a better second half. It's just unpredictable.

Eagles' Alex Leszczynski on the attack as Zebras' Jal David tries to recover ground [PlessPix]

Eagles win vital 3 points against South but destination of the title still in South's hands

Walter Pless | Sunday, 05 August 201

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, South Hobart, Sunday, 5 August 2012)
South Hobart 0
New Town Eagles 1 (A McKeown 84)
HT: 0-0 Attendance - 300 Referee - K Barker

South Hobart: Moncur - Duffy, Bladel, Ludford, Williams - Feral, Eaves (Ince 46), Hickey - Brennan, N Morton, Lantouris (M Clarke 88) (Subs not used: McGoldrick, N Clarke, Merkuzic)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Cox - Anderson, Page, Hudson - Whitehall, Clamp (Marshall 77), Scott, Collins (Quan 77) - McKeown, Leszczynski (Subs not used: McCormack, Bates, Graham)

New Town Eagles kept their championship hopes alive with this 1-0 win over leaders South Hobart on a heavy and slippery South Hobart pitch. Both sides have two games remaining and the title may well be decided on goal-difference. South Hobart now have a goal-difference of +43 and Eagles one of +38. South Hobart still have to play fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United at home and fifth-ranked Olympia Warriors away, while New Town Eagles must entertain wooden-spooners University at Clare Street and then travel to Lightwood Park to face the Lions.

Today's match was an excellent advertisement for Tasmanian football and featured the two best sides in the State. The sad thing is that this New Town Eagles side will not be in the top-flight Victory League next season. Judging from their on-field performance today, they certainly deserve to be there.

There were some outstanding examples of individual skill from players on both sides. Inconsistency is a problem, though. Too many times, players demonstrated superb ball control and technique, only to then give the ball away with a bad pass or poor shot. Having said that, both sets of players gave 100 per cent to the cause and displayed some marvellous team-work, making this the best game I have seen this season. This was despite the treacherous conditions which saw players slipping and falling over at times in awkward situations.

Liam Scott and Ben Whitehall showed marvellous ball control for Eagles, while Michael Anderson did what was required to keep Andy Brennan scoreless. He even took time out to send long and mostly accurate passes forward to his team-mates.

David Cox was very good as sweeper and Mark Page and Blayne Hudson played with gusto and confidence in a solid Eagles defensive arrangement in front of goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford, whose distribution was sometimes haphazard but who handled every shot or cross - except one near the end - flawlessly.

Jacob Clamp and Cormac Collins did what was required in midfield and won their fair share of possession to send their team into attack. Both had scoring chances, but Clamp was off target with his header, while Collins had a stinging shot well saved by Mark Moncur.

Up front, Alex Leszczynski had a powerful match in the conditions. Every time he was in possession, it spelled danger for South, and it was his tremendous shot against the woodwork that provided the alert Adam McKeown with the decisive goal. Leszczynski should, in fact, have scored in the 4th minute when he was given time and space to pick his spot, but he dragged his low shot wide.

McKeown had a poor game given his high standards. His first touch was often lacking, and his passes were often misdirected. One could see he was annoyed with himself. But it was his quick thinking and clinical finishing that won the game, and it showed he is not the league's leading marksman without reason. He typified a characteristic of all good strikers - they may do nothing for most of the match and then pop up with the winner. The conditions probably did not suit him, but if Eagles win the title, he will deserve much of the credit as he now has a tally of 24 goals in 19 games.

South Hobart produced their normal disciplined, measured and highly skilled performance in tricky conditions and on an uncertain pitch. Indeed, they might have salvaged a draw on a dry day. Midway through the second half, Nick Morton's shot was goal-bound but stuck in the mud just short of the line.

Goalkeeper Mark Moncur, who replaced the injured Matthew Ferguson, was as reliable as ever and could not be blamed for the goal. Skipper Hugh Ludford was excellent at the back and frequently ventured forward as a 'libero', always threatening, and always passing accurately and thoughtfully to team-mates. Why Eagles gave him the liberty to do this was perplexing.

Greg Duffy and Cameron Williams were very good as the fullbacks but were forced to carry out their defensive duties more than usual because Eagles were aware of their attacking qualities and negated these to a large extent. Duffy did have a good chance near the end, but Williams was well marked at set-pieces.

Hugo Bladel partnered Ludford in the centre of defence. He slipped and fell a couple of times early on in the slippery conditions but recovered to have a solid game. He seems to have regained his confidence, but Eagles did not pressure him as much as they might have done.

South Hobart's midfield of Shae Hickey, Loic Feral and Bobby Eaves played well, but Eagles' pressure ensured that none of the trio was able to determine the outcome. The power of Feral and Eaves in the conditions was complemented by the fine skills of Hickey, but credit must go to the Eagles midfield for sticking to their tasks and making life difficult for an engine room that has often been at the heart of South's success.

The loss of Eaves just before the break with a suspected fractured cheek bone was a blow to South and led to then changing their formation slightly for the second half, with Morton dropping deeper into midfield and substitute James Ince playing wide on the right flank.

It was not until the second half that South got on top in terms of chances and shots and Morton and Brennan began to look dangerous. Konstantinos Lantouris had a quiet game and Page only rarely gave him a look in.

Eagles started on the offensive and Hudson, Leszczynski, twice, and Whitehall all squandered chances in the opening 9 minutes as South were forced on the back foot. Scott was outstanding in the middle against his former club. His ball control was first class and his anticipation and intelligent play were exemplary.

South's first chance came after 21 minutes following Duffy's deep cross from the right. Page hesitated and allowed the ball to come to earth, gifting possession to Lantouris, whose shot took a deflection and looped high into the air. It came down just under the crossbar, but Pitchford caught it before it could cross the line. In the 24th minute, Moncur did well to block at Collins's feet and concede a corner.

South survived a torrid situation two minutes later as confusion reigned inside the box following Moncur's blocking of a Collins shot from the left. The ball rolled loose and was eventually cleared off the line with no Eagles player able to get a decisive touch. In the 29th minute, a free-kick from deep on the right by Whitehall found Clamp, but his header was off target.

Eaves sent in a rare South Hobart shot on goal in the 39th minute, but Pitchford scrambled to his left and fielded the ball

comfortably. In the 41st minute, Bladel needlessly gave the ball away in a dangerous position but escaped punishment as Eagles failed to take advantage of the lapse.

Two minutes before the break, McKeown shot harmlessly over the bar after Leszczynski had expertly chested the ball down and into his path to create the chance. In the closing seconds of the first half, Eagles created an intelligent and precise attack involving McKeown and Leszczynski, but when the ball went to Whitehall wide on the right, he drove his shot wide of the far upright.

South came out for the second half in a positive frame of mind and soon imposed their style on the match. In the 50th minute, instead of clearing the ball, Eagles conceded an unnecessary corner. Hickey floated the ball into the box and Whitehall was thankful when the ball glanced off his head and at goal but was caught by Pitchford.

A minute short of the hour-mark, substitute Ince drove his shot straight at Pitchford as South started to accumulate shots at goal. In the 61st minute, Brennan sent an effort narrowly wide and it began to look as if Eagles were in real danger of going behind.

Morton's missed chance came in the 67th minute, but Eagles relieved the pressure somewhat 10 minutes later when Leszczynski chipped a good chance over the bar from range. Collins and Clamp were replaced by Josh Quan and Jeremy Marshall 13 minutes from the end and the fresh legs proved a boon for the visitors.

In the 82nd minute, Ludford was perfectly positioned at the near post to head a Whitehall corner off the line. Eagles regained possession and Whitehall managed to get to the byline on the left and cut the ball back for McKeown to shoot, but the ball flew straight into Moncur's arms. It was a great chance and McKeown was clearly disappointed with himself.

The breakthrough came in the 84th minute when Quan won the ball against Duffy near the left touchline and played a perfect diagonal ball to Leszczynski in the inside-right channel. The Eagles striker lined up the ball and hit a tremendous rising shot from 22 metres that hit the underside of the bar with Moncur helpless. The ball rebounded down and out and McKeown pounced instantly and before Bladel could react, heading the ball into the net for the only goal of the game.

South brought on Max Clarke in place of Lantouris for the final two minutes, but the youngster did not have time to have an influence on the game. Eagles were ecstatic at the final whistle, and rightly so, but the title is still South Hobart's to lose.

South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:

We're still in with a chance. It was a strong performance from us today and a great performance from Eagles as well. I think we're still there. We're still in with a shout.

I think it was strong performance from both teams. Both teams worked hard. I think it was 90 minutes of strong football. I think Eagles had the better of the first half and they put us under a lot of pressure. In the second half, I think we got on top and started to dominate. It was a good game of football.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

A very important win, obviously, and it means we're now in with a chance. We're still five goals in goal-difference behind and that's a big gap to make up over two games. We've got to go out and win first of all and then look at the goals. I thought in the first half today we were very good and could have easily been a couple of goals up.

South came at us and got a bit of dominance in the middle of the park. We were lucky enough to hold out. A set of fresh legs in the last 15 minutes probably helped us and a perfect strike by Alby [Alex Leszczynski] and a striker doing his job by following up. It's what McKeown and Leszczynski have been doing all season.

But, everybody contributed today. I mean, Ando [Michael Anderson] kept Brennan totally out of the game. Ben Whitehall kept working hard all day out on the wings and it was a real team effort where they did what they'd been asked to do for most of the 90 minutes. I think that's how we've tried to play all year and now we've got a chance to get some reward.

South Hobart claim fifth league title in row as Eagles fail to take off

Walter Pless | Saturday, 18 August 2012

South Hobart won their fifth Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title in a row on Saturday, the final day of the roster season.

South, who started the day in second place, beat fifth-placed Olympia Warriors 2-1 away at Warrior Park, while New Town Eagles, who just needed a win away to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United to pip the reigning champions for the honours, went down 3-2 at Lightwood Park to hand the title to South. The win ensured the Lions of a fourth-place finish and a place in the State-wide finals series.

Clarence United finished third after beating seventh-ranked Glenorchy Knights 1-0 at home at Wentworth Park through a 17th-minute goal by Adam Hedge. Tilford Zebras completed a disappointing season with a 4-1 away win over bottom-side University. Other results went against Zebras, however, and they failed to qualify for the top-four finals series.

Zebras led 2-0 at the break, through strikes by Kurt Engels and Dwayne Walsh.

Walsh and Henry Fagg completed the Zebras tally, while Harry Booth scored a consolation goal for University, who failed to get a single win during the season. South Hobart, needing a big win to take out the title - providing Eagles beat Lions - looked to be in trouble when Chris Kumpulainen gave Olympia a 1-0 lead at the interval.

But, with 10 minutes remaining, South Hobart and Tasmania captain Hugh Ludford gave his side hope when he converted a penalty to make it 1-1. With only minutes remaining, Andy Brennan cut in from the right and fired home to give South a 2-1 win and the title as Eagles had succumbed 3-2 to the Lions.

Eagles began promisingly enough against the Lions, but they fell behind to a Marcello Marchioli goal after 17 minutes. Joel Schuth's corner from the right was flicked wide of the far post by Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford, but Marchioli was first to the ball and hammered a superb shot into the net from an angle. The visitors were level within two minutes as Adam McKeown put Alex Leszczynski through on the right and he smashed a great shot home off the underside of the crossbar.

Eagles almost hit the front minutes later, but McKeown's shot took a slight deflection and glanced off the outside of the right-hand post. Eagles took a 2-1 lead in the 32nd minute when Mark Page's long ball out of defence found McKeown inside the box and his skilful back-header beat keeper Andrew Duncan. Pitchford proved reliable in the 41st minute when he stopped Marchioli's free-kick from just outside the box, but it was directed straight at him.

Eagles should have increased their lead within seconds of the resumption when Leszczynski flicked the ball on for McKeown, but he shot tamely at the keeper. The Lions equalised 8 minutes into the second half. Schuth's deep cross from the left was touched on by Nick Di Falco to Martin Farquhar, who slipped the ball wide to the advancing fullback Wade Hawkins. He evaded a couple of desperate tackles before firing a left-footed shot past Pitchford to make it 2-2.

Six minutes later, a long clearance by Kingborough keeper Duncan found Schuth in the so-called 'Schuth zone', just outside the left-hand corner of the penalty area. He barely changed stride and hammered a shot inside Pitchford's near post to put the home side 3-2 ahead.

Eagles appeared dispirited but still managed several good chances, all of which were either squandered or saved by Duncan. The Lions keeper did very well to turn one effort onto his left-hand post and out for a corner.

Eagles' keeper Pitchford showed great anticipation when he produced a fine save to deny Marchioli from inside the box and on the left midway through the second half, but the keeper was playing with fire at times when he delayed his clearances as Kingborough's strikers applied pressure and threatened to dispossess him.

Pitchford came into the opposing penalty area for corners near the end as Eagles threw everything into a last-ditch effort to salvage their title hopes, but it was to no avail. Several of their players were inconsolable and lay on the ground after the final whistle as they realised they had lost the title after being in the box seat going into the game.

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (Final Standings as at 18 August 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	2	3	62	15	50
New Town Eagles	**21**	**15**	**2**	**4**	**69**	**20**	**47**
Clarence United	21	10	2	9	37	33	32
Kingborough Lions Utd	21	8	6	7	47	45	30
Tilford Zebras	21	8	5	8	51	52	29
Olympia Warriors	21	8	3	10	42	44	27
Glenorchy Knights	21	5	4	12	23	43	19
University	21	0	4	17	12	91	4

Eagles lose title on last day

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 21 August 2012

(Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, Lightwood park, Saturday, 18 August 2012)
Kingborough Lions United 3 (M Marchioli 17, W Hawkins 53, J Schuth 59)
New Town Eagles 2 (A Leszczynski 19, A McKeown 32)
HT: 1-2 Attendance - 120 Referee - P Galloway

Kingborough Lions United: Duncan - Cooper - Hawkins, Cowen, Cuthbertson, D Pearce - Iseli, Marchioli, Di Falco - Farquhar (Kang 85), Schuth (D Abbott 90+2) (Subs not used: Herweynen, Leamey, Davis)

New Town Eagles: N Pitchford - Cox - Anderson, Page - Whitehall (Quan 74), Hudson, Clamp, Scott (Clark 85), Marshall - McKeown, Leszczynski (Subs not used: Collins, Graham, McCormack)

New Town Eagles, sitting on top of the ladder at the start of play, threw away the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title with this 3-2 loss to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United. Virtually all that Eagles had to do to collect the title was to win. The only way second-placed South Hobart could then have pipped them for the honours was to beat Olympia Warriors by five or six goals.

As it turned out, Eagles lost, while South scored a penalty and a goal in stoppage time to down the Warriors 2-1 and it was they who collected a record fifth title in row. Eagles started in promising fashion and Alex Leszczynski had two early chances, including one that rolled over the line but was ruled out because of a foul on the Kingborough keeper.

But, it was the Lions who took a shock lead after 17 minutes. Joel Schuth floated a corner in from the right and Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford flapped at the ball and succeeded only in placing it at the feet of Marcello Marchioli, who was in space beyond the far post. Marchioli volleyed a spectacular shot into the back of the net from an angle as Jeremy Marshall failed to cut out the chance.

Two minutes later, Eagles were level as Liam Scott played the ball forward and Adam McKeown flicked it wide for Leszczynski, whose cracker of a shot beat Andrew Duncan at his near post and ricocheted into the net off the underside of the bar. The visitors went ahead in the 32nd minute when Mark Page's long ball into the Kingborough box was skilfully flicked on and into the net by McKeown, who, moments earlier, had been unlucky when his shot took a slight deflection and hit the outside of the right-hand post.

Eight minutes after the interval. Kingborough levelled through Wade Hawkins. Joel Schuth crossed from the left and Nick Di Falco nudged the ball wide to Farquhar, who slipped it through for the onrushing fullback. Hawkins evaded a couple of tackles before slotting a left-footed shot past the diving Pitchford and into the net. Pitchford injured his left hand in the incident and it was later revealed that he had broken a bone in his hand. After treatment, he played on for the remainder of the match.

Joel Schuth hit Kingborough's winner in the 59th minute from the so-called 'Schuth zone', an area roughly five metres in circumference just outside the left-hand corner of the penalty area. Andrew Duncan punted the ball upfield to this zone and Schuth gained possession and, just as he has done on frequent occasions this season, hit an unstoppable left-footed shot inside the near post and past the vainly diving Pitchford.

In the 64th minute, Pitchford did very well to save a stinging shot from Marchioli. Eagles rallied as the half wore on and they went so close to equalising on a couple of occasions. Substitute Josh Quan, who had replaced the injured Ben Whitehall, had an effort deflected wide for a corner, while Duncan got down to hold a fierce shot by Leszczynski. In the dying seconds, Leszczynski miscued the ball after a corner kick and the chance went begging. Leszczynski and Marshall had shots before the end, but they were merely token salvos fired from a ship that was dead in the water. Eagles knew their title hopes were scuttled as the final whistle blew.

Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:

A good win. A great win. I thought we were really good today. We changed our line-up a bit and put Coops [David Cooper] back to sweeper and I thought he was excellent today. It really worked for us.

Even at half-time when we were 2-1 down, I thought we were in the game. In the second half we just came out and controlled the game. They had a couple of half-chances, but I thought we were well in control and we deserved our win. We deserve to be in the top-four.

We did decide the title. I don't think that always sits well with people. I didn't mind who won, but it's not nice when a side comes down and loses. I really feel for Eagles. They've had a great year and my thoughts were all on us making the top-four. That's what it was all about today. We've been in the top-four for 20 out of the 21 weeks, so we deserved it. We beat Zebras every time this year and we've been great. It's great. Looking forward to next week.

New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:

I think we had a bit of a slow start to the first half, although I think we probably had chances before they scored. We woke up and played pretty well first half.

Went out in the second half and just didn't seem to be prepared to put the faith in the system of playing the ball on the deck and hitting feet.

Having said that, when we had a really good chance 10 seconds into the second half, we didn't take it.

At the end, it was really just a comedy of errors that led to the two goals that we gave away. And the, once you've got the pressure on you, of course, you turn over the ball and you resort to long kicking and those of sorts of things, and it just wasn't to be.

I mean, right at the end we had chances to draw but we knew a draw wouldn't have been good enough anyway. Full credit to Kingborough. They kept plugging away, kept playing their game, and they took their chances when they had them.

The Kingborough Lions United squad before the game against New Town Eagles today [PlessPix]

The New Town Eagles side that lost to Kingborough Lions United today [PlessPix]

GALLERY OTHER

Sylvester Rakowski 1960s

Harry Robinson, Ian Stewart, Kurt Olsen 1970s v Croatia

Bobby Osuchowski 1970s Presentation Night

Harold Nelson and Peter Polacik 1970's

Karl Schwesinger & Peter Polacik 1973

Bill Jones receiving Life Membership from P. Polacik 1976

George Stepik, Wally Ejlak & Bogdan Dora

Polish Club Manager Wally Ejlak & the spoils of victory

Leon Krawczyk & Wally Ejlak

Henry Rybak

Stan Matuszek & Peter Polacik

Late 80's Awards Night Celebrations
Back: F. Bansel, P. Groenewoud, E. Banasik, F. Previdi **Front:** R. Leszczynski, E. Mycak, B. Rybak

90's Awards Night Celebrations
Back: S. Young, A. Wisby, B. Stoddart, F. Previdi, A, Leszczynski **Front:** Z. Belanic, E. Banasik, P. Morrison, C. Pitt

2001 Polish Club – Honor Board unveiling.
Z. Orlinski (Life Member), B. Dora (Foundation player), K. Plachta (Life Member)

Andrew Savage

Craig Minty

Alexander Leszczynski v South Hobart

Chris Wass, Nick Ferrall v South Hobart

Andy Clark & Adam McKeown combine against Zebras

Michael Anderson v Juventus

Andy Clark v Olympia

Alex Leszczynski v South Hobart

Alex Leszczynski v Taroona

Adam McKeown v Taroona

Jamie Vernon & Andy Clark v Olympia

Chris Wass v Olympia

Team of the Decade 2000's
Back: G. Krambousanos (Coach), M. Murray, A. Jones, S. Young, A. Leszczynski, A. Clark, R. Leszczynski, D. Stoddart
Front: D. Bones, A. McKeown, N. Pitchford **Absent:** A. Telega, M. Fong, A. Savage, C. Collins, C. Wass

Andy Clark v Glenorchy Knights

Alex Gordon & Michael Soszynski

Whitehall flies pass Wakefield (Olympia)

Alex Leszczynski v Josh Fielding (Glenorchy Knights) – Auditions for Pulp Fiction

Kavanagh & Malakoff v Olympia

Pitchford claims the cross under pressure from Cripps

2011 Presentation Night Celebrations
Back: M. Murray, A. Bates, S. Strang, A. Leszczynski, J. Vernon, D. Cox, J. Vernon
Front: J. Quan, B. Whitehall, A. Clark, M. Page, A, McKeown, N. Pitchford, A. Gordon.

James Holland saves - 2017 KGV

Spectacular save by Jamie Cook v Hobart United 2019 Clare Street Oval

Callum Back v Nelson 2020

Adam Shackcloth & Christian Gangel v Taroona

Blayne Hudson scoring in the Summer Cup Final 2021 direct from a free-kick

Trent Knight about to strike v Glenorchy Knights 2021

David Cox v South Hobart 2021

Peter Wass & Nathan Pitchford after Peter has presented Nathan with his team of the Decade 2020s medal.

Alex Luttrell & Jack Rojahn v Kingborough - 2020

Ben Phillips being congratulated after scoring against South Hobart

Toby Butler v South Hobart

Liam Brown v South Hobart

Matthew Luttrell v Glenorchy Knights – Clare Street

Toby Butler v Glenorchy Knights – Clare Street

Jamie Cook collects a cross against Glenorchy Knights

Toby Butler being congratulated safter scoring the only goal of the game against Clarence Zebras

Oliver Johnston applying pressure against Clarence Zebras

Toby Butler v Kingborough Lions – Lakoseljac Cup – Clare Street 2021

Rowan Heggie scores against South Hobart – Clare Street 2021

Nina Daniels v Glenorchy Knights 2022

Nina Daniels v Kingborough 2022

© Walter Pless

tassal
© Walter Pless

Half-time huddle v Taroona 2022

Jayden Wiggins, Wade Savage, Dylan Stiles (10) & Aaron Sterpin v Metro 2022

Richard Leszczynski scoring against Metro – North Chigwell 2022

Dylan Stiles, Richard Leszczynski & Luke Sterpin v Metro 2022

Lucy Kruijver holds on against Olympia - 2022

White Eagle Sports Club

Although recent times have focused solely on soccer, the Club has over the years participated successfully in a number of other sports namely, volleyball, table tennis and women's basketball. Because these teams had a small number of participants, over time they withdrew from competitive competition as the driving forces of these teams died and or retired.

Volleyball
Volleyball has lasted the longest as a non-soccer sport played within the Club although it has amalgamated with other Club's over time to continue participating. It's no surprise as volleyball was a popular past time amongst the Polish people who had established themselves in Hobart and was being played as early as 1949, where Frank Wiertek entered a team "Wisla" into competition against other teams in Hobart, Launceston and even Melbourne.

The 60's and 70's were productive in terms of premierships being achieved and a number of players achieving state representation. In the mid 60's White Eagle had four representatives in the State team: P. Degolis, B. Dora, G. Stepik and S. Stepien.

1965-66 - A Grade premiers - S. Stepien (Capt.), B. Dora, J. Laszczak, F. Banasik, B. Pawlak and A. Andrikonis.

1969 – A Grade premiers - S. Stepien (Capt), E. Rosinksi, F. Banasik, G. Stepik, S. Chrost, B. Dora

1969 Premiers
L-R: S. Chrost, F. Banasik, S. Stepien (Capt), G. Stepik, E. Rosinksi, B. Dora

In 1971 the Club had two volleyball teams. Bogdan Dora was the coach of the two teams taking part in the Tasmanian Volleyball Association A and B Grade rosters. The A Grade team had a very successful year, taking out the Southern and State Premierships. The most outstanding competitor in the team was vice-captain Henry Rybak who although only 18 years of age, was invited to train with representatives from other states for the selection of the Australian team. He had to decline as it clashed with his work and studies.

1971 A Grade premiers - B. Dora, H. Rybak, E. Kremzer, R. Marszalek. G. Stepik, L. Drelich
1971 B Grade Team: - M. Ziemba, D. Smolenski, R. Rybak, B. Rybak, C. Donnelly

As it had done in 1971, the A Grade volleyball team won the Premiership in 1973.

1973 A Grade Team
Back: D. Smolenski, J. Blacnicki, R. Marshalek, B. Dora, H. Rybak
Front: G. Stepik, E. Kremzer, G. Rosinski, E. Rosinski

George Stepik and Wally Ejlak with the Premiership pennant

In 1977 the Club fielded two teams, however these teams merged in 1978 to form one strong team held together by two excellent players Henry Rybak and Bronek Urban. The team in 1978 consisted of: G. Stepik, E. Kremzer, E. Rosinski, A. Wazny, H. Rybak, B. Urban, R. Marszalek and R. Rybak and in 1979 this team including R. Rybak and C. Witek won the State premiership again.

Basketball
For the first time in 1971 the girls of White Eagle entered the competitive field of Basketball starting their regular training at the Moonah Sports centre.

The founder of the team was Ivonka Pogozelska and the playing team consisted of the following girls: D. Linton, J. Linton, B. Kremzer, A. Kremzer, B. Dobromilski, K. Dobromilski, H. Kasprzak, S. Rozmaryniewicz, I. Pogorzelski.

The team continued in various formations for a number of years, but as with the other non-soccer sports failed to gather and maintain its original momentum.

1973 Basketball Team
L-R: B. Kremzer, U. Stanny, I. Pogorzelski, M. Jablonski, S. Rozmaryniewicz

Table Tennis
The driving force behind Table Tennis at the Club was Joseph Komarzynski who was made a life member for his contribution to the game, not only in a playing capacity but a coaching one as well. He died in the mid-70's and his sons Stefan and Paul took over the running of the Club.

In the early 70's three teams would train at the table Tennis Centre on the corner of Campbell and Collins Streets. In the Under 18's competition Stefan Polacik was seeded second, a fine achievement. Members of the team were: J. Komarzynski, S. Komarzynski, P. Komarzynski, S. Polacik, S. Rakowski, P. Paprotny and J. Piontek.

1971 Players – S. Polacik, P. Allie, S. Komarzynski

Over the years, the table tennis teams earned several individual and team premierships but as with the other non-soccer sports the Table Tennis no longer plays under The White Eagle name.

1973 Spring Roster 3's premiers – J. Katonas, J. Komarzynski, P. Komarzynski
1973 Winter Pennant – "A" Grade premiers – P. Allie, A. Andrikonis, B. Jeffrey, P. Morgan
1979 S.T.T.T. – "A" Grade premiers – P. Allie, S. Hannon, C. Stennard, R. Morris

J. Komarzynski receiving his
Life Membership form P. Polacik

John Piontek receiving an award from
Mr Komarzynski in the 70's

Editor's Note: *- Due to a lack of records this is only a very brief and by no means complete history of these sports*

The Story Behind the Polish Eagle

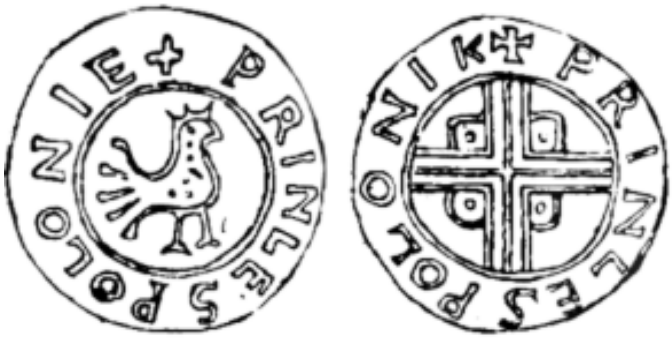
It appears on everything associated with Poland—from T-shirts, hoodies and caps, to posters, flags and shot glasses. As Poland's official symbol, it's among the first things that come to mind when someone thinks about that country. I am, of course, talking about the famous white eagle of Poland, or Orzeł Biały.

Poland's mythical founder, Lech, discovers the nest of the white eagle.

Legend has it that centuries upon centuries ago, Poland's mythical founder, Lech, was journeying across the region that is today known as Greater Poland. One evening, as he traversed that primordial landscape, he stumbled upon a large nest containing a majestic white eagle with two eaglets. As Lech approached, the great bird expanded its massive wings across the red light of the setting sun. Inspired by this sight, Lech established the first Polish city of Gniezno, meaning nest, and assumed the white eagle over the red background as his symbol.

In another version of the story, Lech desires to steal one of the eaglets and raise it for himself. The mother eagle defends her nest valiantly, however, and begins to bleed during the fight. As Lech observes the blood begin to stain the eagle's white feathers, he is moved by its courage and dedication to its young. He immediately stops the attack and makes the white eagle his symbol, although this time the red represents blood and sacrifice.

Like with most legends, it's impossible to say how much of this actually happened, although typically mythology is rooted in some sort of fact. For example, the famous legend of Krakow's Wawel dragon probably resulted from the ancient Poles discovering dinosaur or mammoth bones and misidentifying them.



Tracings of 10th century Polish coins that contain the symbol of the white eagle.

Known for sure is that the eagle, as a symbol, goes back millennia before the dawn of Poland in the 8th and 9th centuries. Cultures around the world have respected birds of prey for their bravery, dignity and magnificence. For the ancient Egyptians,

a falcon symbolized the god Horus, while the Romans used the eagle on their battle standards during war. The eagle symbol was later adopted by the Byzantine, Russian and Prussian Empires and, of course, by the United States.

Poland's white eagle is fairly unique, although the Poles likely chose it for similar reasons—its courage and nobility. They would have become aware of the eagle's cultural heritage from foreign coins that made their way up to Poland from the Roman world during trade.

The Polish eagle made its historical debut on Polish coins during the reign of King Bolesław I (992-1025). Its use expanded in the 12th and 13th centuries, appearing on emblems, shields and flags. It would have represented the Poles charging into battle at Grunwald against the German Teutonic Knights in 1410 and at Vienna against the Turks in 1683.

During the communist era, the Polish eagle lost its crown, symbolizing Poland's subservience to the Soviet regime.

When Poland was partitioned, or torn apart, in the 18th century, the eagle became a symbol to motivate Poles to fight and make sacrifices to regain independence. Ironically, the empires that conquered Poland—Russia, Prussia and Austria—all had black eagles as their symbols. The Polish white eagle stood in sharp contrast to this and, to many Poles, represented hope that their nation's light would not be extinguished by the darkness of the invaders.

Regaining independence in 1918, Poland again adopted the white eagle as its official coat-of-arms. Unfortunately, the German invasion and World War II came not long after, and the eagle once more came to represent courage and sacrifice both to the Polish resistance and the government-in-exile.

When the communists took over under Soviet influence after World War II, the white eagle suffered one of its worst humiliations—it lost the golden crown that it had worn for centuries. The bare-headed white eagle represented a Poland subservient to the ruling Soviet regime.

After communism fell, the Polish eagle regained its crown in 1990 and was adopted as Poland's official symbol, remaining so to this day. The bird appears on a red background that represents both the blood spilled to safeguard the Polish nation and the sunlit plains of the fatherland. Its head faces right, as if gazing in the direction of truth, while its wings are fully spread out to protect all Poles and people of Polish descent, wherever they may live.