



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 Soccerroo 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 Debarde 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 premierships 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 2-1 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 but 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 back 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 after 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

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 his medal at a gala function at the Wrest Point Casino.

Sawdon had been in Tasmania for five seasons after arriving from England and took George Town 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)

Tasmanian Rothmans Medallist Peter Sawdon

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 prised 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 teammates. 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 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 off 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 from 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 Leszczynski 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 after 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 had 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 midfielder 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's 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 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 Gilliam.

Olympia ends 19-year drought

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 23/8/1987

OLYMPIA-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 after 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 in 1986, 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 Eagles' 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 (Olympia-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-ICL, 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, Taroonna, 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 Taroonna.

A pleasing feature of this league is the fact that several clubs have their own grounds for matches as well as training. South Hobart, Taroonna, Metro-Claremont, University and Kingborough United are able to play "at home" in the true sense of the word. Taroonna's home-ground is a credit to manager John Ross, who keeps the playing surface and surroundings in immaculate condition. The facilities at Taroonna would, in fact, be the envy of any State League outfit.

Taroonna 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 best 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 Dixon, 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 TSCHEPERA - 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-Claumont. 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