



WHITE EAGLE

1989

STATE LEAGUE
Premiers, Charity Shield, Statewide Cup
Winners, Runners-Up Summer Cup

SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE
State Premiers, KO Cup Winners

Juventus holds whip hand in final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - MARCH 1989 - CASCADE SUMMER CUP FINAL

Hobart Juventus will be seeking its fourth consecutive pre-season tournament success when it takes on White Eagle in today's Cadbury League section final of the Cascade Summer Cup competition at KGV Soccer Park. Juventus has appeared in the previous five finals of the pre-season series, winning four and losing only once - to Caledonian in 1985.

White Eagle has a very poor record against Juventus. It lost 0-5 to Juventus in last year's final and, although the score line should be a little closer today, Juventus must surely triumph. Juventus defeated White Eagle 3-1 in the preliminary matches, and it is difficult to see Eagle upsetting the powerful Juventus outfit, which seems to have become Eagle's hoodoo.

Both teams are probably stronger than they were last year, but there is still a serious question mark over Eagle's ability to perform when the chips are down. When they are under the sort of relentless pressure that Juventus is likely to apply, Eagle's players tend to run out of ideas, and it will be fascinating to see whether new coach Eugene Mycak has drilled his players to cope with such situations.

Striker John McIntyre is the player Eagle will have to stop if it is to stand any chance. He is the competition's leading scorer with six goals, and he grabbed four against Croatia last week. This will be much tougher, however, and McIntyre will have to find a way past solid defenders Mark Leszczynski and Michael Driessen in order to make a name for himself.

Even if Eagle copes with McIntyre's threat, there are many other Juventus players capable of scoring. Sergio Pace's goalscoring feats are almost legendary, while John Broadhouse's speed and trickery usually get him through the tightest defences.

White Eagle should have Andrew Leszczynski back after injury, but its chances will depend on it playing one-touch soccer and keeping the ball on the ground. This is how it overcame Olympia, Croatia and Caledonian in the preliminary games. Its failure to employ such tactics cost it the game against Juventus. Juventus is unlikely to accommodate White Eagle, however, preferring to stamp its own style on the game, and given its strength in depth, it should have more than enough options to win.

Chances go begging as Juventus scrapes in

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 89 - MARCH 1989 - CASCADE SUMMER CUP FINAL

Hobart Juventus notched up a remarkable fourth successive pre-season win when it defeated White Eagle 2-1 after extra-time in the Cadbury League section final of the Cascade Summer Cup soccer competition at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Juventus dominated for only brief periods during the game, but made better use of its scoring opportunities. John McIntyre, the Juventus spearhead, had a fine game, scoring both goals and laying off precise one-touch passes to bring team-mates into play. Eugene Banasik, of White Eagle, was deservedly man-of-the-match, keeping ace marksman Sergio Pace scoreless.

McIntyre opened the scoring for Juventus in the eighth minute, but Eagle equalised in the 16th minute following a foul on the edge of the penalty area. David Stoddart bent his free kick over the defensive wall and into the net. Eagle took control from then until the last 10 minutes, but shots went astray. Juventus' winning goal came nine minutes into extra-time, when Fabrizio's cross was turned into the net by McIntyre.

In the dying seconds, two Eagle efforts were blocked, but Juventus held on to give new coach David Smith his first success of the year.

Result White Eagle 1 (Stoddart), Lost to Hobart Juventus 2 (McIntyre 2)

There's plenty at stake in State League's second year

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/3/89

The Cadbury State League Soccer competition begins its second season Saturday, but with a difference. Whereas last year was, in effect, a trial season, with no promotion or relegation, this year everything will be in earnest. Most problems, both in terms of administration and on-field events, will have been ironed out, so fans can look forward to a top-class competition this season.

And, there will be everything to play for, with the wooden-spooners relegated at season's end and replaced by a team from the same region; that is, either northern or southern Tasmania. Robin Pulford, the State League manager last season, deserves much credit for putting the league on a solid foundation. Now that Mr Pulford has resigned, it is to be hoped that his successor, the clubs and other administrators will build on his work and make the competition a real success.

The season has begun well, with a very successful Cascade Summer Cup competition in the South and Century Motors Steve Hudson Cup series in the North. If they are any indication of what is to come, the State League will be worth watching. The 10-team league has one new outfit - Burnie United has replaced George Town United, which withdrew its nomination.

The Southern participants are White Eagle, Hobart Juventus, Olympia, Croatia-Glenorchy and Caledonian. The teams from the North are Launceston Juventus, Launceston (formerly known as Launceston Matric), Devonport City, Ulverstone and Burnie United. New players from overseas and interstate, new coaches, and old faces at new clubs will be a feature of the league this season. The conditions at most grounds are excellent - Devonport's Valley Road is reported to be outstanding, and this should foster high-quality soccer.

Youngsters to get chance in Southern competition

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/3/89

The Southern Tasmanian first division soccer competition this year will comprise thirteen teams, meaning there will be a bye each week. The teams competing are: Olympia, Hobart City, Rapid, Hobart Juventus, South Hobart, Taroona, Metro-Claremont, Croatia-Glenorchy, University, Caledonian, White Eagle, Howrah and Kingborough United.

Kingborough United is the new team and deserves its place. It performed exceptionally well in the second division last season and reached the final of this year's pre-season Cascade Summer Cup competition, losing 0-1 to Taroona.

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

Taroona seems set for a great season. It won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup and has recruited well, although player Paul Furjanic will be leaving for another stint in Canada soon.

Olympia, the reigning league champion, is coached by Frank Letec, one of the former greats of Tasmanian soccer, but he will have an enormous task trying to retain the title.

Rapid has lost some players but should be near the top again as it has gained a few too, and coach Hans Streit's work should start to bear fruit this season. Hobart Juventus has plenty of budding young hopefuls and should prove a much better team than its pre-season performances indicated. With such a powerful State League squad at his disposal, coach David Smith will be able to use experienced players who can't get a run in the seniors in this team to provide the youngsters with guidance.

Coach Michael Walker is fostering youth at South Hobart and the club is certain to bring new talent to the game, something the club has always been noted for in the past. South Hobart has always been blessed with resilience and although it won't win the league this year, it will be trying.

Metro-Claremont is always an honest team and a tough nut to crack, especially on its home turf at North Chigwell, and coach Steve Pitchford will lead by example. Metro has always produced players who then go on to make names for themselves at other clubs. It's probably a useful exercise to scan the club's line-up this season and to see, in the years to come, how many of the names crop up at the highest level.

Croatia-Glenorchy will have a very young and inexperienced side as its senior State League team has been decimated and youngsters will be required to fill the gaps there, while University, as always, will be a good first division side, with a mixture of youth and experience.

The emphasis at White Eagle, under new coach Dale Itchins, will be on youth, and on improving skills and team work rather than on achieving miraculous results in terms of wins and points gained.

Caledonian has a mixture of promising youngsters and seasoned campaigners and a number of players should alternate between the State League team and the first division line-up. Howrah is under new coach Robert New and should be a force to be reckoned with, narrowly missing out on a semi-final berth in the pre-season tournament.

Hobart City failed to retain its pre-season trophy but with Kim Barker, the league's leading marksman in the line-up, it should do reasonably well in the premiership race under the guidance of coach Otto Klaus.

How State League teams shape up

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 31/3/89

The prospects of the Cadbury State League teams, together with player and coaching changes, are outlined below.

White Eagle

The reigning Cadbury State League champion will be a strong favourite to retain the title as it has strengthened its team and appointed a highly qualified and experienced European coach. Eugene Mycak, Eagle's non-playing coach, has coached and played professionally in Poland and the United States. This is his second spell at the club, but this term should be infinitely more successful than the first as he now has a much better command of the English language, and he knows the players.

Mycak is a physical education teacher and there will be no question mark about the team's fitness this season, as there has been in the past. Eagles lost to Hobart Juventus in the final of the Cascade Summer Cup competition, but the winner of this tournament rarely does well in the league.

Defender Bob Nicholson, from Sydney, and Franco Previdi, signed from Hobart Juventus but a former White Eagle player, are the club's two new players. Nicholson has already fitted in well, showing his usefulness at fullback and in midfield in the Cascade Summer Cup pre-season competition, while Previdi has shown he can score goals. White Eagle had a superb away record last season, a major factor in its title success. The club's first away game this year will be against Devonport City in the second round on April 8 and this will be a good indicator of Eagle's chances this season.

Hobart Juventus

Won the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup series, defeating White Eagle 2-1 after extra time in the final, although this is a notoriously unreliable indicator of league prospects. Juventus finished fourth last season, but must be regarded as the most likely team to deprive White Eagle of the title.

State coach, David Smith, has taken over from disciplinarian Peter Irving, and he has made a number of useful signings to strengthen an already impressive squad. Juventus probably has more depth of talent than any other club and this will serve it well when injuries or illness take their inevitable toll during the season.

New signings are John and Michael McIntyre, Craig Tickner and Brett Williams, all from Croatia-Glenorchy. John McIntyre has already proved his worth as the leading scorer in the pre-season series with eight goals, while the presence of Williams gives coach Smith four excellent goalkeepers to select from, the others being Neil Connell, Craig Jones and Damon Youl.

Croatia's assistant coach last year, Steven Smith, has also joined Juventus as David Smith's assistant, so the club really does have cover in all departments. Steven Smith was an above-average goalkeeper before he retired, somewhat prematurely. If a catastrophe does occur, he is still young and fit enough to help Juventus out in goal if required.

Olympia

Produced dismal performances in the pre-season tournament, losing twice, drawing once, and winning only one game, by virtue of an own goal, against the weakest team. Coach David Crosson's biggest headache is a lack of strikers since the departure of Peter Sherman (Caledonian) Perry Forster (overseas) and Paul Xanthopoulos (Melbourne).

The club has replaced goalkeeper Martin Burden, who has gone overseas, with Phil Kannegger, 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 Kannegger 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 Tony Pepper (Croatia Glenorchy) are Olympia's other new signings. Olympia finished strongly towards the end of last season to come second in the league and take out the Bohemian Restaurant State-wide Cup, but a poor beginning cost it any hope of the league title.

It must strive to start on a high note this time and to put the pre-season results behind it. Crosson will be under a lot of pressure to give reserve-team players such as Billy Tsakiris, George Hages, Clinton Brown and Andrew Hart a chance to perform at a higher level in an effort to overcome the goal-scoring drought. After all, the Reserves did win the Rothmans League first division championship last year. But, they did poorly in the pre-season competition, failing to score a single goal, although new coach Frank Letec is sure to set things right pretty soon.

Caledonian

Finished in bottom place last season but the club has recruited well and should avoid relegation. Bret Anderton is the new coach. He is from Western Australia and played for Calies in 1980 before returning to Perth. Anderton came back to Tassie last year and saw out the latter stages of the season with Olympia before taking over the helm at Calies following the resignation of Jerry Marron.

New signings are John Paplos (South Hobart), Matt Wesson (Launceston Juventus), Peter Huigsloot (Croatia-Glenorchy), Peter Sherman (Olympia), Kevin Connell and Darren Anderton (Western Australia). Connell, a Scot, is the brother of Juventus goalkeeper, Neil Connell, and will be a very useful acquisition once he is fully match fit.

Calies' biggest problem is the fact they only have one recognised goalkeeper in Glen Stewart, and that is like playing with fire in a competition spanning 18 matches.

Croatia-Glenorchy

Croatia ended up in a disappointing sixth place last year but the going may well be even rougher this year as the club has been decimated, with no fewer than nine first-team players leaving for other clubs. Newly appointed coach, Neil Thomas, together with Ivan Baric and Nenad Zajec, are the only experienced regulars left from last season.

Thomas will, therefore, have to rely on youngsters such as Michael Kerschbaum, Yago Dzelalija, Tuach Hussein, Steve Blythe and Marijan Begovic to supplement players such as Ian Eyles, Robbie Huigsloot, Robbie Baric, Robbie Johnson and Alan Grundy, all of whom have some senior experience.

Croatia achieved a major coup by signing State goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic from Rapid, but he won't be able to save the team on his own. Thomas will have to try to build a team, while at the same time staving off relegation. This will be a most difficult task.

Launceston Juventus

Probably the strongest of the Northern contenders, having already won the Century Motors Steve Hudson pre-season competition. Peter Savill, the ex-Leeds United player, has taken over as coach from Ross Wesson. Savill, the assistant state coach, is an outstanding player and the example he sets will bring the best out of his charges. He takes the game seriously, as do all the Northern coaches.

Three of them have already been seen watching games in the South in order to size up opponents. Juventus has lost three English imports, brothers Colin and Steve Guest, and Andy Geary, but has replaced them with two new Englishmen from the Accrington Stanley club, Mark Heyes and Paul Ewert. Heyes is a very mobile striker who is good in the air, while Ewert is a fullback with a cultured left foot. Former Rothmans Gold Medallist, Liam Monagle, played for Juventus in the pre-season tournament but it is not certain that he will appear for the Zebras in the league season.

Launceston

Known as Launceston Matric last season, the team finished second last, but a successful recruiting campaign should improve things. Peter Davidson from Devonport City is the new coach who replaces Scott McKay, and new players include Branco Barac, a defender from George Town United, and goalkeeper Quentin Darby, originally from Devonport. Brian Davidson, a dual Rothmans Gold Medallist, appeared for the club in the Steve Hudson Cup – Launceston lost 0-1 in the Final to Launceston Juventus – but he may not sign for the league season.

Devonport City

City completed last season in mid-table and coach Ken Morton will be looking to improve on that performance. The team lacks strikers, as evidenced by its solitary draw and two losses in the pre-season competition, although City did beat Launceston Juventus 3-1 in a friendly last week. New players are Tim Jones, a midfielder from Burnie who spent last year in the United States, Ian Hendey, a left full-back from Riverside Olympic, and Noel Nethery, a midfielder from Ulverstone. Morton claims Devonport will be more difficult to beat this year, but says the team's fortunes will still depend on whether chances can be put away.

Ulverstone

Ulverstone was in trouble for most of last season but finished third last and new coach Alex McDonald will have much the same squad to work with. McDonald knows what the game is about. He coached Devonport two seasons ago and the team went 37 games without defeat.

The average age of Ulverstone's team is 20 years and youngsters such as midfielder Anthony Guilbert, goalkeeper Justin Smith, and striker Michael Jones will be given their chance. Central defender Les Jones is the oldest player at 35 years of age, while former player-coach Joe McGrory has retired. McDonald operates on a two-year plan – the first year is devoted to teambuilding, while the second year provides proof of the pudding. He believes his team will be competitive, if not a world beater.

Burnie United

Burnie is the new team in the competition, replacing George Town United, and coach Mike Denton, a former Australian international, knows exactly what he's up against. Denton acknowledges that Burnie's first priority is survival, and he concedes that one of the biggest problems his players will face is adapting to the pace of State League soccer.

New signings are Meno Bertucci, a striker from Ulverstone, Howard Edwards, a utility player who has just returned after playing and coaching in England, San Lewis, a goalkeeper making a comeback after a knee injury, and Neville Diprose, a striker just out of the army. Burnie also hopes to sign Darby Conlan, a name well known to Southern fans. The former Olympia stalwart runs an indoor cricket centre in Burnie. Denton will also rely on regulars such as midfielder Jamie Howell, the State Apprentice of the Year, who works at APPM, striker Steve Foley, and Pat and Russell Troughton.

Eagle comes back fighting

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3-4-89

WHITE EAGLE, the reigning Cadbury State League soccer champion, showed it will not relinquish its title easily when it fought back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat the visiting Launceston Juventus 4-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Launceston Juventus had the better of the opening half, with new signing from England, Paul Ewert, shining at left fullback, and former Rothmans Gold Medallist, Liam Monagle, recently acquired from Devonport City keeping Eagle's David Stoddart quiet in midfield. Juventus' other English import, striker Mark Heyes, showed plenty of speed and mobility and managed a couple of good strikes at goal, but he was generally well covered by Eugene Banasik.

Five of the six goals in this match came as a result of set pieces which indicated the trouble the strikers were having in finding space and scoring positions. Juventus opened its account on the quarter-hour, following Banasik's foul on Roger Mies, almost on the goal-line on the left side of the penalty area. Peter Savill knocked the free-kick into the goal-area, the Eagle defence failed to clear adequately, and right fullback Luigi Gugliotti struck a fierce volley past Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud from the far side of the box.

Eagle, which lost defender Michael Driessen with a hamstring strain after 30 minutes and replaced him with Sean Collins who was making his first appearance of the season, fell further behind two minutes before the interval. The unfortunate Banasik again conceded a free-kick, this time for a foul on Heyes, and Ewert drove the ball straight as an arrow into the top left-hand corner of the goal from 30 metres.

Brett Harwood scrambled a goal back for Eagle a minute later when goalkeeper Warren Dent's attempted punch caused the ball to ricochet into the net, but the situation looked bleak for the league champion at the interval. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, replaced midfielder Craig Pitt with Franco Previdi for the second half as he felt Previdi would handle the wet, slippery conditions better. The tactic paid off as Previdi equalised midway through the half with a

volley after Scott Young had headed Neil Morrison's corner down for him.

This seemed to be the tonic Eagle needed and with three points in sight, the team increased the tempo of its game and scored twice in the final 20 minutes to grab a meritorious win. Andrew Leszczynski's 25-metre free-kick in the 70th minute gave Eagle the lead for the first time in the match, while Young's header from Morrison's free kick four minutes from time ended any hope Juventus may have held.

Devonport City caused the shock of the round when it downed Hobart Juventus 3-0 after a goal-less opening half in yesterday's curtain-raiser at KGV. City started the day on a surprising note by unveiling new signing Peter Sawdon, last year's Rothmans Gold Medal winner from George Town United, while Juventus missed the influence of injured goal-getter Sergio Pace.

Substitute Billy Frame, who replaced Fabio Pizzerani, capitalised on a penetrating pass by Chris Gleeson to give Devonport the lead in the 63rd minute, and Gleeson's volley nine minutes later made it 2-0 for Ken Morton's team.

A harsh 75th minute penalty, awarded for a foul by Frank Genovesi on Sawdon, made the game safe for the visitors. Juventus goalkeeper Neil Connell appeared to legitimately save Kevin Smith's first spot-kick, but referee Brett McKay ordered the kick retaken, claiming Connell had moved before the ball was kicked.

The incensed Connell was cautioned by McKay for throwing the ball away in disgust at the decision. Smith scored with his second attempt.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Harwood, Previdi, A. Leszczynski, Young) def. Launceston Juventus 2 (Gugliotti, Ewert)



Peter Groenewoud at full stretch against Launceston Juventus

Eagle may have trouble in Devonport stronghold

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 7/4/89

White Eagle faces the stiffest test yet of its ability to retain the Cadbury State League soccer title when it travels to Valley Road tomorrow to meet Devonport City. Devonport outclassed Hobart Juventus 3-0 away from home last weekend. The fact that Juventus defeated White Eagle 2-1 in the Cascade Summer Cup final, shows the enormity of Eagle's task against City.

White Eagle will probably start with the same line-up that finished in the 4-2 win over the visiting Launceston Juventus last week. This means that Franco Previdi may be preferred to Craig Pitt in midfield, while fullback Sean Collins could hold his place over Bob Nicholson, who has recovered from a hamstring injury.

Defender Michael Driessen, who has excelled when coming forward and who scored in the pre-season competition, will be out with a hamstring strain and he will be severely missed. Striker Richard Leszczynski has not trained because of a cold, while captain and defender Mark Leszczynski and midfielder David Stoddart are still not fully fit, but all three should play.

Devonport was extremely well-organised last week, and the acquisition of Peter Sawdon has provided the team with a whole new dimension in attack. Kevin Smith has adjusted well to his new role in the centre of defence, while new signing Ian Hendey should give the side plenty of drive from the left-fullback position. Devonport must come out and attack on its home turf, however, and this may be its undoing as Eagle is a master of counterattack and it may well grab the three points in this very attractive fixture.

Caledonian will have an unchanged 13-man squad from that which defeated Launceston when it

entertains Ulverstone at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday. Coach Bret Anderton, and his brother, Darren, will be on the bench. Anderton was pleased with Calies' performance last week and, although he won't take Ulverstone lightly, he is confident of a win.

He will emphasise to his players the need to keep the ball on the ground because Ulverstone has some very tall defenders. "If we can get six points from our first two games, we'll be in good shape and can look forward to our forthcoming match against Olympia," Anderton said.

Sunday's main feature at KGV pits Croatia-Glenorchy against Launceston and the visitor must be favoured to win. Croatia will be without New Zealander Alan Brian. The defender was sent off by referee Greg Priest last week, after the final whistle in the match against Burnie United as the teams were leaving the field.

Croatia is up against it this year, but youngsters such as Tuach Hussein, who scored against Burnie, and Marijan Begovic, who played in defence, will give it everything. Energy and enthusiasm will not be enough, however, as Croatia found out in the preseason series, and Launceston's Andy Fraser and company should make the most of their visit.

In Sunday's remaining match, the surprising league-leader after the first round, Burnie United, should come to earth with a thump when it visits Launceston Juventus at Prospect. Juventus should relish the home ground advantage and display all its skills and it must be favoured to atone for last week's lapse. Midfielder Liam Monagle should play a major role in the dismantling of Burnie, while Roger Mies and Mark Heyes up front should be the major executioners.

White Eagle shows it's still top of class

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 9/4/89

White Eagle showed it definitely had the class to retain the Cadbury State League soccer title when it defeated Devonport City 4-2 at Valley Road yesterday.

Devonport literally gave the first two goals to Eagle on a platter in the opening 20 minutes, and there was no way the league champion was going to relinquish such a lead. Peter Sawdon was the only Devonport player to trouble Eagle, while goalkeeper Bob Smith had the sort of game he would want to forget. Devonport coach Ken Morton said his side gave away the ball much too easily and often, and he readily conceded Eagle deserved the win.

A poor back-pass in the opening minute by Chris Gleeson enable Brett Harwood to put Eagle ahead, while Andrew Leszczynski got on to the end of a free kick to make it 2-0 after 20 minutes. Harwood grabbed his second goal of the game 10 minutes before half-time when Smith could only palm a free kick down to the striker's feet. Devonport reduced the arrears in the 40th minute when a build-up down the left finished with Sawdon providing Wayne Boyd with a neat goal, but Eagle was looking much too strong and confident at this stage to be overtaken.

Eagle's Craig Pitt replaced Franco Previdi for the second half, and the southerners made sure of the three points when midfielder David Stoddart scored direct from a free kick, taken from just outside the penalty area, midway through the period.

Evergreen Billy Frame pulled a second goal back for the home side when he snapped up the loose ball after Peter Groenewoud could only parry Sawdon's shot, but Eagle had no trouble in holding in for its second successive victory.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Harwood 2, A. Leszczynski, Stoddart) def. Devonport 2 (Boyd, Frame)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Howrah continued to set the pace in the southern First Division competition with a 3-0 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at South Hobart. Karl Brightman gave Howrah a 1-0 lead at the interval, while an own goal by Croatia's Kevin Wright, and a strike by Malcom Lockley, completed the scoring.

Hobart City was rocked by White Eagle's Michael Case, who headed Karl Plaznik's accurate cross firmly past Matthew Rhodes, in the main feature at South Hobart. This only served to unleash City's fury, however, and it replied with five goals before the interval, three of them coming from centre-forward Kim Barker, and the other two from David Hobbs and Angelo Pignalosa. White Eagle missed a great chance to get back into contention early in the second half when Jacobs blasted a penalty high over the bar.

Tattersall did score a couple of minutes later, but City hung on for the rest of the half. A quick break from defence five minutes from time enabled Andy Ferrall to score and give Metro-Claremont a 1-0 win over Kingborough United at North Chigwell.

Result: White Eagle 1 (Case) Lost to Hobart City 5 (Barker 3, Hobbs, Pignalosa)

Weakened Juventus won't carry hoodoo

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/4/89

White Eagle will be close to full strength when it clashes with Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday in one of the best matches of the third round of the Cadbury State League soccer competition. In contrast, Juventus will again be handicapped by injury and unavailability, and all the omens point to White Eagle overcoming its bogey team at last.

The only mark surrounding Eagle concerns the fitness of defender Michael Driessen. He missed last week's outstanding away win over Devonport City because of a hamstring strain, but may be fit in time for Sunday's showdown. Juventus will still be without top midfielder Steve Kannegger, who is in Sydney, while Craig Tickner is automatically suspended for this game after being sent off against Olympia in the previous round.

Striker John McIntyre and midfielder Sergio Pace are both still under injury clouds. McIntyre missed the 2-0 victory over Olympia, while Pace played when he really shouldn't have as he was only half-fit, and may well have aggravated his injury.

Goalkeeper Neil Connell is still plagued by a groin injury and coach David Smith may prefer to play Craig Jones in goal. Smith will also expect big things from young midfielder Romeo Frediani. He hasn't been a regular this season because work commitments have prevented him from training. The club's training schedule was recently altered slightly to accommodate Frediani, and Smith will expect the youngster to repay him by producing a top performance.

Smith will adopt a defensive approach to the match, playing five men in midfield and only one up front, relying on the quick break to catch Eagle out. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, was elated after last week's win and he must be confident that his players can exorcise the hoodoo that Juventus represents once and for all.

Eagle manager Eddie Kempa went on stop further and said that if Eagle wins this encounter, it may well go through the league season unbeaten. The league champion is certainly in great form and it should be able to defeat a Juventus side that may be a little too defensive in its approach for its own good.

Caledonian striker Peter Sherman comes up against his former team when Calies face Olympia in Sunday's main attraction at KGV – and he could hold the key to the match. Sherman notched the decisive goal when Calies defeated Olympia 3-2 in the pre-season competition and, with Olympia's lack of striking power still evident, a similar outcome is possible this time.

Calies will have to perform for 90 minutes instead of just 45 if they are to win. In the 1-2 loss to Ulverstone last weekend, the side only played with conviction in the second half and by then it was too late to salvage even a point.

Sunday's remaining match is the Launceston derby between Launceston and Launceston Juventus at Prospect, and statistics indicate it should be a very close tussle with a draw a distinct possibility. Launceston won 5-0 last week and Juventus won 6-0, while Juventus defeated Launceston 1-0 in the final of the northern pre-season competition.

In the two remaining matches scheduled for tomorrow, Croatia-Glenorchy seems set for a fruitless trip to Ulverstone, while Devonport City can revive its fortunes with a win away to Burnie United.

White Eagle skips to three-point lead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/4/89

A penalty by Andrew Leszczynski five minutes from time gave White Eagle a 3-2 win over Hobart Juventus in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

White Eagle is now the only unbeaten team in the competition with three wins from three outings and is three points clear of Devonport City, Olympia and Ulverstone. Olympia moved into third spot with a 2-0 triumph over Caledonian,

while Launceston Juventus and Launceston remain locked together on four points but drop into mid-table after their 2-2 draw at Prospect yesterday.

Juventus had slightly the better of the first half with Romeo Fabrizio providing width down the left and sending over some very dangerous crosses for John Broadhouse. White Eagle almost took the lead immediately after the resumption when Billy Stanford's suicidal back-pass was intercepted by Richard Leszczynski, but the striker rounded the keeper only to make a difficult angle for himself and shoot wide.

Brett Harwood made amends in the 54th minute, however, when Jones' clearing kick was knocked straight back towards goal. Andrew Leszczynski won the ball in the air; Harwood beat Bruce Pears to the ball and sent it under Jones' body and into the net to give Eagle a 1-0 lead.

When Scott Young headed home Andrew Leszczynski's corner eight minutes later, the contest seemed over but Eagle underestimated Juventus' power of recovery. A magnificent strike from the edge of the penalty area in the 69th minute by Fabrizio had Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud clutching at thin air and put Juventus back in contention, while Broadhouse's header five minutes later, from Fabrizio's cross, made it all square at 2-2.

Richard Leszczynski should have sealed the game for Eagle with 10 minutes to go when he had only Jones to beat, but the keeper blocked the shot, so it was left to Andrew Leszczynski to complete the task from the penalty spot after defender Mark Kelly turned Harwood's header, from Morrison's corner, over the bar with his hands.

Olympia and Caledonian produced a scrappy and scoreless opening half in their encounter at KGV yesterday. Peter Huigslot was a tower of strength in the Calies defence, winning most of the aerial duels because of his height, and blocking many passes on the ground with his long legs.

Calies fashioned a couple of good attacking moves, such as when John Paplos' superb pass from defence released Peter Sherman through the middle, and when Matt Wesson sprinted forward but just failed to find Peter Jordan at the far post.

But Michael Berwick, Lars Koch, Glen McNeil and Peter Thompson in the Olympia defence generally had things well under control, making it a boring afternoon for goalkeeper Phil Kannegger. Olympia coach, David Crosson, came on for the injured Chris Hey five minutes after half-time and the game immediately swung in Olympia's favour as Crosson introduced a sense of urgency into his team's play.

A clever back-heal by Paul Xanthopoulos enabled Roger Munro to give Olympia the lead in the 70th minute, while Xanthopoulos' low drive seven minutes later made it 2-0. Nichols should have added a third goal for Olympia in the closing seconds, but his shot flashed across the empty goalmouth.

In yesterday's Launceston derby, Launceston came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Launceston Juventus after a goalless first half.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Harwood, Young, A. Leszczynski pen) def. Hobart Juventus 2 (Fabrizio, Broadhouse)

'Eagle' could extend run and soar above Olympia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/4/89

White Eagle should make it four wins in a row when it meets Olympia in tonight's Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park. Eagle, the reigning league champion, has shown tremendous form home and away, whereas Olympia's performances have been erratic, and this indicates Eagle should open up a six-point gap between it and its nearest rivals, Devonport City, Olympia, and Ulverstone.

Eugene Mycak, the coach of White Eagle, expects to be able to field the same starting line-up that beat Hobart Juventus 3-2 on the weekend. Full-back Sean Collins is still injured, while central defender, Michael Driessen, will be given more time to recover from a hamstring injury. Driessen desperately wants to play, but Mycak is reluctant to allow him back too soon in case he breaks down again.

Midfielder Franco Previdi may have to wait his turn again on the substitute's bench as Mycak believes he needs more self-discipline, must adopt more responsibility in the centre of the field, and must learn to play off the ball rather than just when in possession. If Previdi can do this, Mycak believes he can be a very good player and a vital component of the team.

Mycak put his team through a 40-minute training session last night in preparation for this match, which he believes Eagle can win, and take another step towards retaining the title.

Olympia coach, David Crosson, concedes that tonight's game will be a difficult one, and that White Eagle will be a hard team to topple. "We'll have to play above ourselves to win because everything favours them and we don't have the fire-power up front," Crosson said. "It's a game we'd love to win, and the players are quite capable of doing it, but they must believe in themselves."

They've got to keep their heads up. I mean, what's a bad pass in this league? It's certainly not the end of the world." Michael Goldsmith, Glen McNeil and Paul Xanthopoulos came through Sunday's 2-0 win over Caledonian all right after returning from injury and all three will play tonight. Chris Hey went off injured on Sunday, but should be fit for tonight.

Crosson regards him as extremely versatile and able to play anywhere on the field. Carlo Ambrosino, who has been troubled by groin and hamstring injuries, has not been training and will again be absent. Crosson will be on the substitutes' bench at the start, but he may well come on during the course of the match, depending on how Olympia is faring, as he has an almost magical effect on the team when he plays.

His influence cannot be underestimated. He came on just after the interval against Calies, and Olympia promptly scored twice to win the match. Eagle will do well to take precise countermeasures should they see Crosson warming up.

White Eagle consolidates at head of table

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 20/4/89

White Eagle opened up a six-point gap over its nearest rivals in the Cadbury State League soccer competition when it defeated third-placed Olympia 1-0 at KGV Soccer Park last night. Eagle had numerous scoring chances but only found the net once, in the 18th minute, when Andrew Leszczynski barged through the sleeping Olympia defence and mid-fielder Craig Pitt blasted the loose ball past Phil Kannegiesser.

Olympia might have won a penalty in the 33rd minute when goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud appeared to foul Paul Xanthopoulos after a suicidal back-pass by Andrew Leszczynski, but when it did win one just before halftime, it threw away the gift. In the 41st minute, Paul Harwood lost possession in his own penalty area, fell over, and tried to clear the ball while lying on the ground, but only succeeded in up-ending Craig Nichols.

Referee John Howlin had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot, but Michael Goldsmith sent his kick high over the crossbar. Groenewoud was only called into action once, when he pulled off a first-class save against Nichols' free kick. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, paid tribute to Olympia, saying it was the most difficult opponent Eagle had yet faced.

Poor finishing and an inability to beat Olympia's off-side trap were other weaknesses in his team, Mycak said, and he would have to work on these aspects in the 10-day interval before Eagle's next game. In last night's curtain-raiser,

Result: White Eagle 1 (Pitt) def. Olympia 0

Late goal saves Juventus from drab draw

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/4/89

A goal two minutes from the end by Liam Monagle gave Launceston Juventus a 2-1 win over Ulverstone in their Cadbury State League soccer match at Prospect yesterday.

With time rapidly running out and a draw seeming inevitable, Juventus' recent signing, Steve Morley, attacked down the right and Monagle met his cross and fired home from the edge of the penalty area. Juventus had taken a first-half lead when Ulverstone only partially cleared a corner, and the ball was knocked back into the penalty area for David Abraham to score.

Andrew Howe equalised for the visitor in the second half, after a long free kick by John Compagne. "Snowy" Compagne challenged goalkeeper Warren Dent for the ball, which fell loose, and Howe touched it into the net. Juventus might have made it 3-1 when it won a penalty, but the usually reliable Paul Ewart failed with his spot-kick.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Howrah maintained its unbeaten record in the Premier Division One competition with a 1-0 win over Rapid at South Hobart. Alistair Hales scored the all-important goal which gave Howrah its fourth successive victory. It retains top spot on the ladder and has yet to concede a goal.

Hobart City retained second position on goal difference after defeating University 2-1, also at South Hobart. City lost striker Kim Barker through injury in the early stages of the game, but it already looked well in command by the time he left the field. Matthew Sly should have given City the lead on at least two occasions. First, he blazed wildly across the goal when it might have been easier to score, and then he ran on to a perfectly weighted through-ball from Angelo Pignalosa, only to see his feeble shot cleared off the line by Justin Edwards.

University's solitary attempt at goal in the first half came from James Forbes, who sent a firm, long-range effort over the bar. A great shot into the far corner of the net by Pignalosa three minutes before the interval gave City a deserved lead. In the 73rd minute, Robbie Marino showed the Uni defence a clean pair of heels as he sprinted down the right and finished with a delightful chip over goalkeeper David Cruse to make it 2-0. Chris Behrens pulled a goal back for the students seven minutes from time, but although they tried hard for an equaliser, the City defence, marshalled well by David Hobbs and Luciano Raglione, held out for all three points.

Metro-Claremont paid the price for missing two penalties by going down 1-3 to Hobart Juventus in a tough, physical clash at North Chigwell. Andy Ferrall, who missed one of those penalties and had the other saved by Brett Williams, eventually scored for Metro, but two goals by Michael LaPolla, one of which was also a penalty, and another by Rocky Schiro, saw Juventus move up from sixth to fifth place in the standings.

In yesterday's two remaining matches, White Eagle easily accounted for South Hobart 3-0 at the Athletic Centre, while Taroona scraped home 1-0 against Kingborough, at Taroona. Senior player Bob Nicholson hit two of Eagle's goals, the other coming from Alec Tattersall, while Rod Sanders notched Taroona's winner.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Nicholson 2, Tattersall) def. South Hobart 0

Juventus back to full strength

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 28/4/89

Hobart Juventus soccer coach David Smith must have been one of the most contented personalities in the game last night. For the first time this season, Smith had a full senior squad to select from at training, and this augurs well for the side's chances in its Cadbury State League soccer clash against Launceston at Ogilvie Park tomorrow.

Smith predicted a 'fairly physical' match, and he must be pleased that midfielder Steve Kannegger is back after holidaying in Sydney. Kannegger, who got back into the swing of things by turning out for the reserves on Wednesday night, is one of the hardest men in Tasmanian soccer and Juventus will welcome his presence in the vital midfield zone.

Juventus had only a light workout last week when it romped home 8-0 against Burnie United. Tomorrow's encounter will show whether it is championship material. Smith is now in the position that every coach dreams of – he has a talented squad in which everyone has to fight for their place. It is this sort of pressure that will bring the best out of the players and Juventus should win to stay in touch with the leading teams.

Devonport City will make one change to its team for the coastal derby against Ulverstone at Knights Road tomorrow – Tim Jones is out with a groin injury and will be replaced by Gary Pennicott. Anthony Rimmer will move forward into the midfield as a result. This is an area in which coach Ken Morton is relying on his team to outplay Ulverstone and Rimmer's performance will be crucial. Morton also has been working on ways to break down Ulverstone's sweeper system, as well as exploiting the flanks, and it is difficult to see any other result than a favourable one for Devonport, which currently occupies second place.

Burnie United's players must be awaiting the visit of White Eagle on Sunday with trepidation. Crippled by Juventus in Hobart last week, Burnie must surely expect to receive the coup de grace from the reigning champion, which has yet to be defeated in the league this season. Eagle will be at full strength and its form away from home is flawless. Memories of their 6-1 home defeat at the hands of Devonport must still be fresh in the Burnie players' minds and they can expect a similar drubbing on the weekend.

Eagle coach, Eugen Mycak, was loud in his praise of sweeper and captain, Mark Leszczynski and goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud after his side's 1-0 win over Olympia, and this pair should be able to neutralise any threat that Burnie might pose in attack.

Sunday will be win or bust ad far as Caledonian is concerned when it entertains Launceston Juventus in the opening attraction of the double-header at KGV. Caledonian started the season with great hopes, but the dream is in danger of fading if Calies lose this game, a distinct possibility.

Peter Sherman, who missed last week's 1-1 draw with Croatia-Glenorchy, is reported to be disaffected with the club and, if he is absent again, Calies' striking power will be severely restricted.

Olympia also faces a needle encounter in Sunday's main fixture at KGV against a Croatia-Glenorchy side that is gaining in stature and confidence with every game. Croatia did well to gain its first point of the season against Calies and newcomers Brian Davidson and Chris Bessell should start to show their influence now they are over their debuts. Olympia has had ten days' rest, however, and with its players full of zest and enthusiasm, it should be able to return to winning ways.

In-form Howrah poised to regain top spot on ladder

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 29/4/89

Taroona will be out to shatter Howrah's impressive record of four wins on the trot, and no goals conceded, when the teams meet in the curtain-raiser of today's Premier Division One soccer double-header at South Hobart. It will be a gigantic task for the Cascade Summer Cup holder, however, as Howrah has a tremendous incentive to win.

A Howrah victory will re-establish it as the league leader, a position it relinquished to Hobart City in midweek when City defeated Croatia-Glenorchy 3-1. Both teams are extremely talented in all departments and it is difficult to envisage anything but a draw, a result that will please no-one more than Hobart City and Caledonian.

White Eagle will be coached by senior player Scott Young for its match against Caledonian in today's late game at South Hobart. Regular coach, Dale Itchins, will be attending the wedding of his team's captain, Robert Jacobs, who, ironically joined Eagle this year from Calies. Eagle has won two of its three league games this season and must pose a threat to the unbeaten Calies outfit. Itchins was hoping for a last-minute clearance for Taroona striker, Simon Oliver, who wants to join Eagle. Oliver would be a very handy player to have, especially in the striking department.

Calies have performed impressively to date, and with Peter Jordan leading the attack, it should just get home and stay level on points with the leading team, or teams. South Hobart and University have yet to gain a single point in

the league this season so their confrontation at the Athletic Centre will be a desperate, frantic affair. University must be a slight favourite as it has the more experienced players, even though they may not have shown their best form so far this year.

With Kingborough United having the bye, the only other road open to Premier Division One fans today leads to North Chigwell, where the home team, Metro-Claremont, should be too capable for the visiting Olympia, which currently holds a one-point advantage in the standings over its host.

Juventus' bid for title lifted by easy win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/4/89

Hobart Juventus indicated it will be a serious title contender when it thrashed Launceston 5-1 in their Cadbury State League soccer match at Ogilvie Park yesterday. John McIntyre and Sergio Pace gave the visitor a 2-0 lead, only to see Phil Davis pull a goal back for Launceston two minutes before the interval. Frank Genovesi showed he has fully recovered from injury by hitting Juventus' third just after the break, while Pace and Nick DiMartino finished Launceston off with two goals in the space of five minutes near the end.

Devonport City took over the league leadership on goal difference from White Eagle by scoring a somewhat fortunate 2-1 away win against Ulverstone at Knight's Road. Devonport's hold on the top spot should only be temporary, however, as White Eagle should annihilate Burnie United at Montello Park today. A penalty by Andrew Howe gave Ulverstone a first-half lead, but a poor back-pass allowed Ken Morton to equalise for Devonport in the opening minutes of the second period. Billy Frame struck Devonport's winner, from a Peter Sawdon's cross, 10 minutes into the second half.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In Premier Division One, Howrah regained top spot with a stirring 4-2 win over Taroona at South Hobart in an excellent match that would have equalled anything the State League has to offer. Howrah's Karl Brightman, Scott Hadley and Paul Engels took advantage of Taroona's slack marking to establish a 3-0 lead for Howrah in the first half.

In the second half Taroona replaced Paul Furjanic with Simon Oliver. Oliver's passing, and his free kicks, caused problems for the Howrah defence, while one of his shots crept narrowly past a post. Leon Darko, who has moved from sweeper to midfield, smashed home Rod Sanders' clever back-heel in the 54th minute to put Taroona in with a chance.

A minute later, Howrah lost Andrew Dobbie through injury, and Taroona began to gain control in midfield. Brightman should have made the game safe for Howrah on the hour, but he places his penalty kick over the bar, a mistake that seemed as if it would have disastrous consequences when Brett Ross scored from the penalty spot, at his third attempt, to make the score only 3-2 in Howrah's favour.

Mark Broadbent almost demolished the Howrah woodwork with a thundering shot in the 72nd minute, but the injured Jimmy Bell returned to the field on virtually one leg to notch Howrah's fourth goal in the very last minute. Damian Smith was outstanding in goal for Howrah. He was beaten for the first time in 414 minutes by Darko's goal, but made three crucial saves. Smith even pulled off two penalty saves from Brett Ross. Smith saved the first, only to see referee John Raymond order it to be retaken. He saved again, but Ross got to the rebound first and scored.

Polished Launceston Juventus takes shine off Caledonian

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/5/89

Launceston Juventus produced a polished display of soccer to defeat Caledonian 2-0 in their Cadbury State League encounter at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Juventus scored once in each half, the first goal coming after a well-rehearsed free kick in the 37th minute. Savill knocked the ball wide to the right, Morley floated it to the far post, and Heyes suddenly materialised to turn it past a helpless Glen Stewart. Juventus' second goal, in the 68th minute, had an element of luck about it. Calies' sweeper, Paul Fenlon, tried to clear near the right touch-line, but the ball cannoned off Heyes to Mies, who was unmarked in the middle. He advanced on goal from the edge of the penalty area and calmly picked his spot. Mies had two other good chances in the first half, but headed over the bar on the first occasion, and shot into the side-netting on the second.

Calies replaced the injured Kevin Connell with coach Bret Anderton at half-time and he missed at least three scoring opportunities early in the second period. The Juventus back-four of Liam Monagle, Paul Gimpl, Luigi Gugliotti and David Craig held a tight rein on Ian Parker and Peter Sherman throughout the match and this proved to be the keystone to the visitor's victory.

Olympia totally outclassed Croatia-Glenorchy to win 3-2 in yesterday's other match at KGV, but it should have been by a much greater margin. A bullet-like shot from 30 metres by Croatia coach Neil Thomas gave his side the lead after seven minutes, only to see Roger Munro equalise a minute later with a shot from the edge of the penalty area that went in off a post.

Phil Kannegger had to block a hot shot from Nenad Zajec in the 12th minute, but from then until half-time it was all Olympia. Craig Nichols missed three simple chances, while Croatia goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic did well to turn Carlo Ambrosino's drive around the post for a corner. Two second-half goals by Paul Xanthopoulos clinched the match for Olympia, and only some brilliant goalkeeping by Belanic prevented the striker from scoring twice more.

Xanthopoulos' first came two minutes after the resumption from a Michael Goldsmith corner, while the second came from the penalty spot in the 64th minute, after Tuach Hussein had fouled Chris Hey. Chris Barrell, a former Olympia player, scored an easy goal right on the final whistle to make the score line look much more respectable than Croatia's performance.

White Eagle retained its three-point lead at the top with an easy 5-0 win away to Burnie United at Montello Park. Brett Harwood struck twice and David Stoddart once to give Eagle a 3-0 lead at the interval, while goals by Scott Young and David Stoddart within 15 minutes of the re-start completed the rout. Burnie's solitary chance came when coach Mike Denton chipped past goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, but Eagle skipper Mark Leszczynski cleared off the line. Richard Leszczynski might have made it six goals, but his effort hit a post.

Result: White Eagle 5 (Harwood 2, Stoddart 2, Young) def. Burnie United 0

Davidson's men need to soar to stay with Eagle

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 5/5/89

The five leading teams in the Cadbury State League soccer competition should all win on the weekend and increase the gap between themselves and the teams in the bottom half of the table.

League leader White Eagle will be at full strength and should have the measure of the visiting Launceston in Sunday's main match at KGV Soccer Park. The league champion has kept a clean sheet in its past two outings, indicating a watertight defence, but there is still ample scope for improvement up front, where the finishing could be more effective.

Franco Previdi and Bob Nicholson will have to be content to start on the substitutes' bench yet again, and indication of how difficult it is to get into such a successful side, while full-back Sean Collins is out for at least a month with a recurring thigh injury.

Launceston is playing better than its recent score lines indicate, but it will take an exceptional performance from Peter Davidson's men to upset the league leader.

Devonport City coach Ken Morton is confident of staying in touch with Eagle by defeating the visiting Caledonian at Valley Road tomorrow. Morton has a full complement to select from and he said it was merely a case of his players having confidence and believing in themselves.

Caledonian, on the other hand, has several problems, with Peter Sherman again out of sorts and unlikely to play after missing training, and Ian Parker doubtful because of an ankle injury. Coach Bret Anderton may have to play himself in attack from the start, while his brother, Darren, or Tony Shields, may also gain a place.

Olympia coach David Crosson is refusing to take his team's trip to Burnie tomorrow lightly, although anything but an Olympia win, against a side that has conceded 26 goals to date, is difficult to contemplate. Olympia midfielder Carlo Ambrosino is doubtful because of a hamstring strain and Crosson may play himself in this position. Crosson does have a touch of the flu, however, so Kon Tsiakis may get the nod if Crosson does not feel up to playing.

The attitude of Olympia's players will be the vital factor in this confrontation, according to Crosson, who never takes any game for granted.

Hobart Juventus goal ace, Sergio Pace, should add to his tall of five goals in three games when his team meets Ulverstone in Sunday's early game at KGV. Juventus is expecting a tough, physical game, with very tight marking – features of all northern sides – but once it survives Ulverstone's initial challenge and gets into its own rhythm, it should dictate the pattern of play.

Ulverstone has many fine players – the three Compagne boys and Andrew Howe are just some – but they should be eclipsed by Juventus' galaxy of stars.

The atmosphere at Croatia-Glenorchy is reported to be excellent by coach Neil Thomas and the southerners will go into their match against Launceston Juventus at Prospect on Sunday with high hopes. Croatia will field the same starting line-up as in the 2-3 defeat against Olympia last week and, with Brian Davidson and Chris Bessell starting to fit into the team, Juventus will have no room for complacency. Juventus is a well-drilled team, however, and it is unlikely to drop any points as it maintains its challenge for the title.

Olympia demolishes Burnie

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 7/5/89

Olympia finally found its scoring touch at Montello Park yesterday, annihilating Burnie United 8-1 in their Cadbury State League soccer encounter. Paul Xanthopoulos hit a hattrick, Michael Goldsmith found the net twice, while Carlo Ambrosino, Roger Munro and Craig Nichols all scored a goal each.

Russell Troughton was Burnie's solitary marksman against an Olympia side which had cruised to a 3-0 lead by the interval. Olympia move into third place, while Burnie, which must have wished Olympia's bus had broken down on the way to the Coast, remains in second-last spot, two points ahead of Croatia-Glenorchy, but with an appalling goal difference of minus 28, compared to Croatia's minus 10.

Devonport City missed a great chance of drawing level on points with league leader White Eagle when it was held to a 0-0 score line at home by Caledonian. Neither team looked like winning what could only be described as a dull game.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the southern Premier Division One competition, Hobart City became the new leader with a 2-1 win against South Hobart, at South Hobart. Angelo Pignalosa gave City a one-goal lead at the break, Steve Bennett equalised from the penalty spot in the second half, while David Hobbs grabbed City's winner.

Hobart Juventus scored its fourth consecutive win by defeating Taroona 3-0 at Taroona, to retain fourth place. Rocky Schiro scored Juventus' opener from Michael Lapolla's cross, while Taroona's Robert Furjanic put the ball past his own goalkeeper for the second goal. A fine run through the middle by John Broadhouse, culminating in a devastating shot, completed Juventus' tally.

White Eagle beat Kingborough United 3-2 at the Athletic Centre. Michael Case opened the scoring for Eagle, only to see Ronnie Bolton draw Kingborough level from the penalty spot, in the second period, Bolton again converted a penalty, as did Eagle's Grant Mason, but Richard Ketchell hit the winner.

At North Chigwell, Metro-Claremont outplayed Croatia-Glenorchy for most of the match, but only managed a 2-1 win through goals by Mark Parish and Jim McKinnon. Croatia's goalkeeper, Robbie Huigsloot, had a magnificent game, especially since he normally plays at centre-half. Huigsloot made four excellent saves, against Paul Stephenson, Parish, Steve Pitchford and Danny Prestage, to keep his side in the game.

Metro coach Steve Pitchford must have been angry with himself at the end of the match after missing five simple chances as Metro repeatedly cut open the Croatia defence with ease. Kvesic, Kuman, as well as Ricky Neads who came on in the second half, all showed fine touches in midfield for Croatia, which was without injured coach Kevin Wright. Metro missed the scoring ability of the injured Andy Ferrall. McKinnon, Michael Garth, Parish, Prestage and Geoff Hallam should really have done better with scoring opportunities which came their way.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Case, Mason, Ketchell) Def. Kingborough 2 (Bolton 2, 1 pen)

Eagle flying high at head of table

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 8/5/1989

White Eagle has opened up a five-point gap over its nearest rivals at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer competition following the weekend's round of matches. White Eagle defeated Launceston 4-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, while Launceston Juventus moved into second place with a hard-fought 2-0 win against Croatia-Glenorchy at Prospect, both goals coming in the final five minutes.

Devonport City slipped down a place to third after its goalless draw against the visiting Caledonian on Saturday, whereas Hobart Juventus maintained fourth spot after a thrilling 5-3 victory over Ulverstone at KGV yesterday.

Launceston matched White Eagle in midfield, but it was in the scoring department that the league champion was vastly superior. Whereas Launceston hardly created any chances, Eagle should have doubled its tally of four goals. Scott Young's short-range goal from Richard Leszczynski's flick after only four minutes put Eagle on its way. It wasn't until the stroke of half-time, however, that Craig Pitt made it 2-0. Neil Morrison crossed from the left, Pitt challenged Quentin Darby for the ball, and when the goalkeeper dropped it, Pitt lashed it home. Darby complained bitterly about being fouled, but his pleas were dismissed by referee John Raymond.

Two goals in three minutes, 10 minutes from the end, killed off Launceston. In the 80th minute, Brett Harwood scored with a low shot from the edge of the penalty area, while in the 83rd minute, Richard Leszczynski crossed from the right, Andrew Leszczynski dummied over the ball, and David Stoddart volleyed home from 20 metres. Launceston scored a consolation goal in the very last minute, as if to show how easy it could have been. Fraser's incisive pass put Hughes through, and he lobbed over Groenewoud with ease.

Ulverstone deserved at least a point from its meeting with Hobart Juventus yesterday, especially given the performance of Ulverstone midfielder, Andrew Howe, who notched a hat-trick. Three goals in three minutes early on set the scene for an enthralling game in which both sides used the elements of wind and rain to good advantage and produced end-to-end soccer.

Frank Genovesi scored direct from a corner in the 12th minute to put Juventus in front, but Howe ran on to Anthony Gilbert's through-ball a minute later to equalise, after Craig Jones had parried his first shot. A cleverly executed chip by Sergio Pace restored Juventus' lead in the 14th minute, while Thurley should have drawn Ulverstone level yet again on the half-hour, but a defender cleared his half-hearted shot off the line.

A neat build-up by Juventus in the 41st minute gave it a 3-1 lead at the break. Bruce Pears' long clearance from defence was headed by Romeo Frediani to Pace, who opened up the defence for John McIntyre to score. A penalty in the 51st minute, converted by Genovesi, seemed to ensure Juventus of all three points, but two goals by Howe – one from a penalty, the other from a speculative lob – left Ulverstone trailing by one goal. Juventus rallied in the closing stages, however. Pace hit the bar from Stanford's pass in the 78th minute, before scoring Juventus' fifth goal, from Tickner's cross, with virtually the last kick off the game.

Croatia looked anything but the bottom side against Launceston Juventus and it was only two excellent goals by Mark Hayes in the final five minutes that gave Juventus its win.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Young, Pitt, Harwood, Stoddart) def. Launceston 1 (Hughes)

Burnie down but far from out says Denton

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 9/5/89

It is difficult not to feel some sympathy for Burnie United's senior coach, Mike Denton, who is struggling to give his team some credibility.

Burnie, the newcomer to the Cadbury State League competition this year, following the withdrawal of George Town United, has been the whipping boy for a lot of teams this season. It won its opening match 4-1 against visiting Croatia-Glenorchy, but has plummeted to five consecutive defeats since then. Burnie has scored a mere six goals to date, and has conceded 34, giving it an appalling goal difference of Minus 28.

It has conceded eight goals on two successive weekends now, causing raised eyebrows in many quarters, as well as emphatic claims that it has no right to be in the league. This is a bitter pill to swallow for Denton, a former Australian international, who represented his country 14 times. The team's application for league membership in the inaugural season of the competition, 1988, was rejected. By the time Burnie was accepted into this season's competition, it had lost players, and the time Denton had to prepare a team was much too short.

An eternal optimist, Denton believes the team will find its feet soon and become competitive, despite the recent disastrous results. "I can't blame the players if they're developing an inferior complex, especially against southern teams," said Denton. "But, they're still keen and they've even requested extra training."

We sometimes have up to 12 players unavailable from the club as a whole, due to shift work, and that doesn't help either." Denton said the imminent return from Queensland of Steve Winchester will be a great help, and he fancies Burnie's chances against Launceston and Ulverstone in the club's next two outings.

If you think Burnie is having problems, spare a thought for Metro-Claremont's under-15 team which was hammered 18-0 by White Eagle on Saturday. White Eagle, coached by Bob Biggar, the former Caledonian and White Eagle player, may well be a brilliant team, but there just has to be something amiss in a competition in which such scores occur. I just hope the Metro boys don't lose heart. For the record, Eagle's marksmen were Jason Mahoney (5), Kane Salter (3), Nicky Butterworth (3), Craig Horne (3), Chris Thomas (2), and Shane Horton and Julian Walters one each.

Eagle zooms in on maximum points

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 12/5/89

Can White Eagle complete the first half of the Cadbury State League soccer season unbeaten and with maximum points? That is the question many soccer supporters are beginning to ask on the eve of this weekend's seventh round of matches. With six games under its belt, White Eagle has a perfect record of six wins, and it leads its closest rivals, Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, by five points.

Eagle must beat Ulverstone tomorrow at Knight's Rd, and then Caledonian and Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV Soccer Park, so its quest for nine consecutive wins is well within reach as all three opponents are on the bottom half of the ladder. Ulverstone's record at home this season is not impressive – two defeats and only one win – and it will have its back to the wall against a full-strength Eagle side that wins as easily away from home as in front of its own supporters.

Devonport City and Launceston Juventus cannot afford to lose against Croatia-Glenorchy and Olympia respectively, at KGV on Sunday if they are to stay in touch with White Eagle. A defeat for either visitor could put it eight points behind the league leader, which is as good as a light year away at this stage of the season.

Devonport must fancy its chances against Croatia-Glenorchy as coach Ken Morton has his 13 strongest players to choose from. Morton will instruct his players to use the width of KGV as much as possible, and to play the ball quickly instead of dwelling on it.

Croatia is still without the injured Nenad Zajec, which means that Craig McKenzie will probably retain his place. McKenzie captained the reserves last Saturday and scored a goal, and then made his senior debut against Launceston Juventus on the Sunday. Croatia coach, Neil Thomas, is approaching this game with his usual confidence, but there can really be only one winner if Devonport is allowed to play its high-speed type of game.

Olympia gained a much-needed boost of confidence last week when it demolished Burnie United 8-1 at Montello Park, but the proof of the pudding will be its performance against an uncompromising Launceston Juventus. Juventus is a formidable team and Olympia's strikers will find the going tough against defenders of the class of Monagle, Gimpl, Craig and Gugliotti.

Mies and Heyes will fully test an Olympia defence that can be brittle on occasions, but it is in midfield that the battle will be won or lost. The midfield is probably Olympia's strongest department, but even here, the home team's platers are likely to be overshadowed by Juventus' Savill, Ewart, Abraham and Morley, who should steer their side to victory. In Sunday's remaining match, Launceston should be much too strong for the ailing Burnie United at Ogilvie Park, despite Burnie coach Mike Denton's optimism. Launceston is a much better side than its lowly league position (third last) indicates, whereas Burnie's second-last spot flatters it.

Hobart and Howrah to consolidate

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 13/5/89

Hobart City and Howrah should extend the gap between themselves and the rest of the field in the Premier Division One soccer competition by defeating Metro-Claremont and White Eagle, respectively, in today's double-header at the Athletic Centre.

With third-placed Caledonian having lost in midweek, and fourth-placed Hobart Juventus having the bye, City and Howrah will be well clear in first and second places if they win. City can go eight points clear, and Howrah five points clear, of their nearest pursuers. Although both teams should win, their tasks will not be easy as both Metro and White Eagle have produced good performances recently, and are level on nine points.

Metro's biggest problem is scoring goals. Midfielders such as Paul Stephenson, Michael Garth, Geoff Hallam and Mark Parish are creating the openings, but strikers Steve Pitchford and Jim McKinnon must be much sharper in front of goal. Metro should have its leading goal scorer, Andy Ferrall, back for this clash and he will add the finishing power it seems to lack.

White Eagle has many promising youngsters in its ranks, and it should make Howrah earn its victory. Grant Hildyard and Grant Mason are two Eagle players who are knocking on the door of the senior side and their battle against Howrah's ball players should be worth watching.

In today's double-header at South Hobart, Rapid seems superior to Croatia-Glenorchy, even though star midfielder John White is unavailable, while Taroona should return to the winning ranks by overcoming Olympia. Kingborough United's home game against University at Sherburd should be a very close game, with Kingborough just favoured to win on its own patch.

White Eagle pegs back Ulverstone

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/5/89

White Eagle showed its class yesterday by coming back from a 2-0 deficit at the interval to defeat Ulverstone 3-2 at Knight's Road and record its seventh successive victory in the Cadbury State League soccer competition. The win gives Eagle 21 points, eight more than Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, who both have potentially difficult appointment at KGV Soccer Park today.

Ulverstone and White Eagle had good scoring chances in the first ten minutes, but good goalkeeping kept the teams without a goal in this period. With 15 minutes gone, however, Ulverstone took the lead through Michael Jones. When Andrew Howe hit a scorching 30m shot past Eagle keeper Peter Groenewoud, on the half-hour to give the home team a 2-0 advantage, the league champion knew it was in trouble.

Eagle rose to challenge, however, just as it had done on the opening day of the season, when it gave Launceston Juventus a 2-0 start before triumphing 4-2. Yesterday, Brett Harwood inspired the champions' revival, scoring twice and setting up the remaining goal for Richard Leszczynski, all within 20 minutes of the resumption. Harwood's winning goal, coming from only two moves, was almost too simple to be true. He controlled a long clearance from Groenewoud, turned and took the ball on, before scoring a goal which made him the league's leading marksman with nine goals.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Harwood 2, R. Leszczynski) def. Ulverstone 2 (Jones, Howe)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Hobart City and Howrah showed a clean pair of heels to the rest of the teams in the Premier Division One competition when they defeated Metro-Claremont 4-2 and White Eagle 3-2, respectively at the Athletic Centre.

Kevin Clamp, making his long-awaited comeback for Metro, put his side ahead in the opening minutes against City, but Paul Kaproulias soon levelled. David Hobbs and Matthew Sly made it 3-1 for City, only to see Metro coach Steve Pitchford reduce the arrears before half-time. A second-half goal by Robbie Marino gave City a two-goal buffer, however, and the league-leader was able to hold off Metro until the end and register its seventh consecutive win.

Howrah had to fight hard to keep its record of six wins from six outings intact, when it faced White Eagle. A goal by Paul Engels gave Howrah the lead at half-time, but strikes by Aaron Brown and Andrew Garrigan put Eagle 2-1 up and in with a real chance of causing an upset. Carl Brightman's penalty made it 2-2, and Brightman popped up again in the dying minutes for his second goal to give Howrah a win by the narrowest of margins and bring a sigh of relief from manager Jurgen Webb.

At South Hobart, Rapid was held to a goalless opening half by Croatia-Glenorchy before winning 3-0 through goals by Uwe Metzenthin, Andy White and Phil Murray, while Taroona raced to a 4-0 first-half lead against Olympia and then failed to score in the second half. Mark Broadbent scored twice for Taroona and was unlucky not to notch a hat-trick when another effort hit the post.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Brown, Garrigan) Lost to Howrah 3 (Engels, Brightman 2, 1 pen)

Charity not only one to get boost from annual cup night

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/5/89 - CHARITY SHIELD

All that is good in Tasmanian soccer will be on view at KGV Soccer Park tonight when the Tasmanian Soccer Association holds its annual Charity Cup night, with all proceeds going to the Cancer Support Group.

The highlight of the night will be the Charity Cup clash between Cadbury State League champion, White Eagle, and Hobart Juventus, which won this season's pre-season competition and currently occupies fourth place in the league.

Tonight's main fixture will feature some of the greatest names in Tasmanian soccer. White Eagle boasts the four Leszczynski brothers, goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, midfielders David Stoddart and Scott Young, and striker Brett Harwood, the league's leading scorer. Youngster Grant Hildyard, from the reserves, has also been included in the squad.

Juventus, too, has a number of players who are household names in Tasmanian soccer, including Sergio Pace, Steve Kannegiesser, Nick Di Martino, John McIntyre, Romeo Fabrizio, and John Broadhouse. Unfortunately, Bruce Pears is unavailable after being hospitalised late last week after complications to an injury suffered in a recent match.

Coach David Smith will give Brett Williams, one of the most promising young goalkeepers in the state the chance to make his senior debut, but defender Michael McIntyre is doubtful because of an ankle injury. Michael Lapolla, Mathew Gasparin, Sav Perri and Rocky Schiro are other reserve team players who will get the chance to mingle with the established stars tonight. Both coaches are more concerned with playing entertainment soccer than with winning, but this is not to say the teams won't be trying.

It does mean that established players will be able to relax and strut their stuff, and that youngsters will be able to show coaches their potential. White Eagle and Juventus have always been noted for their attacking flair.

Several stars of the future will be on view when Juventus and White Eagle under-15s meet, and a number of familiar names will be evident. White Eagle, which tops the under-15 league, and which won a game 18-0 recently, includes talented youngsters such as Kane Salter, Jason Mahoney, and Chris Thomas, while the unbeaten Juventus side rekindles echoes of the past with names such as Brendan Lakoseljac and Mark Falzon.

Harwood was Eagle's ace in cup triumph over Juventus

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 15/5/89 - CHARITY SHIELD

White Eagle won the Cadbury Charity Cup at KGV Soccer Park last night with a resounding 6-1 triumph over Hobart Juventus.

A large crowd was in attendance and the Tasmanian Soccer Association was able to present the Cancer Support Group with a cheque for \$1,758. In the Charity Cup match, White Eagle completely outclassed an understrength Juventus outfit, which also had several players playing out of position.

Both teams used their permitted quota of five substitutes, but this did not detract from the game as a fast and skilful spectacle. Brett Harwood, Franco Previdi, Craig Pitt and Richard and Mark Leszczynski stood out for Eagle, while Steve Kannegiesser and Romeo Frediani were the pick of the Juventus side.

Harwood's work-rate was tremendous as he put himself about all over the park, threatening the Juventus goal one minute - he hit the post with a superb shot after only four minutes - then helping out his defence the next. Previdi made every minute of his first full outing in recent weeks count, scoring twice and playing some delightful and cheeky passes. Richard Leszczynski's tremendous pace worried the Juventus defence all night and brought him two excellent goals, plus a penalty, converted by Scott Young.

Eagle's remaining goal was scored by substitute Grant Mason. He headed home Bob Nicholson's corner with just about his first touch of the ball after coming on near the end. Eagle led 2-0 at the interval, then added two more goals

early in the second half before Frank Genovesi finally pulled a goal back for Juventus, but there was no stopping the league champion, which found the net twice more before the end.

Juventus did have its chances, especially in the second half. Romeo Frediani and Romeo Fabrizio fired against the bar, while Sergio Pace got on to the end of Mathew Gasparin's long, penetrating pass and chipped the ball over goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, only to see Mark Leszczynski clear on the line.

Result: White Eagle 6 (Previdi 2, R. Leszczynski 2, Young pen, Mason) def. Hobart Juventus 1 (Genovesi)

Croatia looms as threat to Juventus

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 19/5/89

Hobart Juventus faces a crucial encounter with Croatia-Glenorchy in the Cadbury State League double-header at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday. Juventus, which is in fourth place on the ladder, suffered a humiliating 6-1 loss to White Eagle in the Charity Cup on Wednesday and must defeat bottom side Croatia if it is to maintain a credible challenge for the title.

What makes this match so dangerous for Juventus, is the fact Croatia is desperate for a win to lift itself off the foot of the table. Croatia has had some bad luck recently and must surely turn the corner soon and rise about second-last team, Burnie United, which had eight goals rammed down its throat for the third time this season last weekend.

With Juventus' morale dented and its reputation at stake, and with Croatia literally bursting out of its seams with eagerness to gain those elusive three points, an upset is a distinct possibility. Juventus badly misses sweeper Bruce Pears at the heart of its defence. He will be out for another five weeks after an injury became infected, necessitating a stay in hospital.

There seems no-one capable of taking his place. Steve Kannegger is much more useful in midfield, while Craig Tickner is a little suspect in such a key position. If Croatia can exploit Pears' absence and take advantage of Juventus coach David Smith's experiments of shuffling players about to fill gaps - Billy Stanford and Michael McIntyre are both doubtful because of ankle injuries - the current wooden-spooners could well lift itself from bottom place.

Croatia's goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, is in stupendous form and maybe the key man in this game, against a Juventus forward line that Smith readily acknowledges is not scoring enough goals. An added incentive for Croatia is that four of its personnel from last year are now in the Juventus camp - John and Michael McIntyre, Tickner, and assistant coach, Steve Smith. Croatia must be more than keen to show them that they made the wrong move in leaving the Glenorchy club.

League leader White Eagle is in invincible form despite the possible absence of midfielder Scott Young and should defeat Caledonian in Sunday's main fixture at KGV. Young left the field in the first half of the Charity Cup match because of a groin strain, but Eagle proved on Wednesday it has quality players galore and coach Eugene Mycak should have no problems in finding a replacement.

Caledonian will have much the same squad as the one that beat Juventus. Ian Parker could be the one inclusion providing he passes a fitness test, at the expense of Peter Jordan. Calies' coach, Bret Anderton, says his team is defending well but must put away its chances if it is to extend Eagle, which in Brett Harwood and Richard Leszczynski has two of the best strikers in the league.

Anderton will use his normal four-man defence, but is undecided as to whether to use his brother, Darren, in a man-to-man marking assignment on one of the Eagle dangermen.

In Sunday's two matches in the North, Burnie United can expect no mercy from the visiting Ulverstone, while Olympia will be fortunate to come away from Ogilvie Park with a point against Launceston. Launceston went on a goal rampage against Burnie last week, whereas Olympia found the net difficult to find when it went down 3-2 at home against Launceston Juventus. The only game tomorrow is at Valley Rd, where the home team, Devonport City, entertains Launceston Juventus in a game under lights.

Hobart City has firepower to blast Caledonian and stay as pacesetters

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 20/5/89

Hobart City should continue to set the pace at the top of the Premier Division One soccer competition by defeating Caledonian at the Athletic Centre today.

City came out on top after a searching test against Metro-Claremont last week, while Calies have only collected one point out of a possible six in their past two outings. With Paul Kaproulias back in the City line-up, its strike force is one of the most impressive in the league. Kaproulias should prove the perfect partner for Kim Barker.

Second-placed Howrah is having a tremendous season under coach Robbie New, and it should stay hot on the heels of City by overcoming University in today's main attraction at South Hobart. Howrah has been playing entertaining and effective soccer and University will find it difficult to upset the Eastern Shore side's rhythm once it starts swinging the ball all over the park, turning defence into attack with well-chosen passes.

Hobart Juventus is on the crest of a wave at the moment and its match against White Eagle at South Hobart has the potential to be one of the best of the round. A high-scoring draw would not be a surprise as both teams are stacked with players who enjoy going forward in search of goals.

The White Eagle club gave several players in its Premier Division One team a taste of State League soccer on Wednesday night in the Charity Cup and Chris Leszczynski, Richard Ketchell, Grant Mason and Grant Hildyard should be the better for the experience.

Rapid may get the better of Metro-Claremont in the main fixture at the Athletic Centre but it will be a mighty close thing and neither side should be disappointed if it has to settle for a draw. Metro coach Steve Pitchford must be thrilled by the return of Kevin Clamp, and he and Andy Ferrall will test Rapid's new goalkeeper, Kosma Karydis. Rapid may have several players back from injury, including John Dilger and Phillip McKay, and this should improve its prospects.

In today's other games, Taroona seems much too good for Croatia-Glenorchy at Taroona, while South Hobart must have gained some much-needed confidence after its rousing win against Calies last time out and could extend Kingborough United at Sherburb.

White Eagle draws further ahead

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/5/89

Devonport City and Launceston Juventus did Cadbury State League soccer leader, White Eagle, a gigantic favour when they drew 1-1 at Devonport's Valley Road ground yesterday. Devonport and Launceston Juventus are in joint second position in the standings and yesterday's draw leaves them four points adrift of White Eagle.

If Eagle can defeat Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park today, it will have a handy seven-point advantage over its nearest rivals with less than half the league season over. Yesterday's match at Valley Road was largely a midfield battle in which Devonport dominated the opening half and took the lead in the 20th minute though Peter Sawdon. An attack on the left saw full back Ian Hendey knock a long ball forward into the Juventus penalty area. There was a mad scramble for the ball and Peter Sawdon emerged with it and fired past Warren Dent.

Juventus hit back strongly after half-time and Liam Monagle, who played for Devonport last year, scored the equaliser with a shot from the edge of the penalty area in the 55th minute, after City had unsuccessfully tried to clear a corner.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Hobart City and Howrah appear to be racing away from the rest of the field in their quest for the southern Premier Division One title. City defeated Caledonian 3-1 at the Athletic Centre yesterday, its eighth consecutive win, while Howrah stayed three points behind, but with a game in hand, when it recorded its seventh successive victory, 3-1 against University at South Hobart.

Hobart Juventus moved into third spot when it scraped home 3-2 against White Eagle at South Hobart, and Rapid suffered a surprising 0-2 loss to a resurgent Metro-Claremont at the Athletic Centre. Taroona took over fourth place with a 6-0 thrashing of Croatia-Glenorchy at Taroona, Rod Sanders, Sean Green and Simon Oliver helping themselves to two goals each while South Hobart had two "goals" disallowed in going down 1-2 to Kingborough United at Sherburb.

Juventus had the better of White Eagle for most of the game, but it was a close thing in the end as Michael Lapolla hit the bar with a Juventus penalty, and the winning goal was an own goal by the unfortunate Eagle defender, Michael Case. Alec Tattersall might even have given Eagle the lead early in the second half, but he miskicked Chris Leszczynski's cross when perfectly placed.

The defeat was a personal disappointment for Eagle's senior-team full back, Sean Collins. Collins, who was 34 yesterday, was making a comeback from injury and playing his first game in several months. Michael Lapolla put Juventus in front in the 24th minute. Nick Di Giovanni should have scored a second but fired across the goal mouth before Grant Mason equalised from the penalty spot before the interval. Rocky Schiro's shot trickled over the line in the 69th minute, just before Simon Templeman could clear, to make it 2-1 for Juventus.

Ten minutes later, Karl Plaznik hit a great goal from Tattersall's cross to make it 2-2, but with a draw seemingly inevitable, Case knocked the ball past his own goalkeeper, to the utter despair of his Eagle team-mates.

A speculative lob by Andrew Dobbie and two finely executed goals by Richard Dixson gave Howrah a 3-0 lead over a slow and lack-lustre University, which eventually struck back through Peter Crowther.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Mason, Plaznik) Lost to Juventus 3 (Lapolla, Schiro, OG)

Thank heavens for White Eagle's win

Late penalty goal saves champ - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 22/5/89

THE gods must have been smiling on Cadbury State League leader and reigning champion White Eagle at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

With eight minutes of its match against Caledonian remaining, and reduced to 10 men after the dismissal of Franco Previdi in the 68th minute, Eagle found itself locked together with its opponent at 1-1 when referee Paul Jones awarded the champion a controversial penalty, which was easily converted by midfielder David Stoddart, giving Eagle a 2-1 win.

Eagle substitute Richard Ketchell, who had replaced the injured Andrew Leszczynski, had only been on the field for two minutes when he drew the penalty. Ketchell had chased a ball into the penalty area and lost possession to Calies defender Paul Fenlon. As Fenlon ran around Ketchell to clear, the Eagle player appeared to fall in front and obstruct him, but the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

Jones had been perfectly correct earlier in dismissing Previdi for elbowing Calies defender Darren Grainger in the face. Linesman Cliff Hart had spotted the incident as Stoddart was about to take a free kick, although Previdi later complained Grainger had hit him first. On chances, Eagle should have won the match easily, with Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Craig Pitt and Andrew Leszczynski all going close to scoring.

Calies goalkeeper Glen Stewart was again in superb form, turning a Harwood pile-driver over the bar in acrobatic style, and foiling Richard Leszczynski from close range on two occasions. Calies hardly had any real scoring opportunities, but they deserved at least a point, if only for their courageous efforts, typified by full-back John Paplos' clearing header on the line in the opening minutes.

Kevin Connell again showed his class by putting Calies ahead with a tremendous goal two minutes before the interval. Peter Huigsloot's goal-kick was turned inside by Brett Pullen to Peter Sherman, who set Connell away through the middle. Connell managed to elude the close attentions of Marl Leszczynski, who had an almost flawless game at sweeper, and Eugene Banasik, before cracking a low shot past the advancing Peter Groenewoud.

Previdi out-ran the Calies' defence in the 52nd minute to equalise for Eagle. Thirty minutes later came the gift from heaven which gave the league-leader its eighth consecutive win this season.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Previdi, Stoddart pen) def. Caledonians 1 (Connell)



Richard Leszczynski on the ball as Calies Darren Grainger looks on

'Eagle' will fly too high for toothless Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 24/5/89

Cadbury State League leader, White Eagle, may have been fortunate to defeat Caledonian last Sunday, but it should have few problems in overcoming last-paced Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV Soccer Park.

Croatia's strengths are its goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, its central defence, and its midfield, but it is toothless in attack and vulnerable on the flanks. White Eagle should be able to exploit these deficiencies and coast to a 10-point leader over its nearest league rivals, Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, at least until the weekend.

Croatia may be without striker Craig McKenzie, a former White Eagle player, who was injured on Sunday in a clash with Hobart Juventus goalkeeper, Neil Connell. Stephen Blyth replaced McKenzie, and may take his place tonight, but the youngster is too inexperienced to worry an Eagle defence marshalled superbly by Mark Leszczynski.

The league champion will miss midfielders Franco Previdi and Scott Young. Previdi, who has just started to find some semblance of form, has been suspended after being sent off against Caledonian on Sunday, while Young has a groin strain, a legacy from last week's Charity Cup match. Coach Eugene Mycak will probably recall Neil Morrison, who has recovered from a bout of influenza, while Chris Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell may find themselves on the substitute's bench.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Tonight's Premier Division One curtain-raiser is also between White Eagle and Croatia, and Eagle must again be favoured to win. Eagles has nine points and occupies ninth spot in the 13-team league, while Croatia languishes at the bottom without any points.

Grant Mason has a broken hand and will not line-up for Eagle, and Chris Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell will probably be required for the seniors. Eagle coach Dale Itchins may use Paul Morrison and Jamie Woulleman. The former has recently returned from England, while the latter has been playing in the thirds.

Croatia has some promising youngsters, including Kvesic, Joiner and Mesic, together with experienced hands such as Wright, Baltic, Neads, Camidge, Johnson and Grundy. The team tends to play better on the KGV ground than at other venues, so it should put a brave showing. Recent results are far from encouraging, however, and an upset is unlikely.

Stoddart runs riot to set up Eagle win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/5/89

David Stoddart hit four goals to lead White Eagle to a 7-1 win over Croatia-Glenorchy in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night. Midfielder Stoddart turned in his best performance of the season and proved yet again that when he fires, so does White Eagle.

Brett Harwood scored twice to become the league's leading scorer with 11 goals, while the remaining goal came from Richard Leszczynski, only his second league goal of the season. Croatia matched the league leader for most of the first half and trailed by only one goal at the interval.

Brian Davidson played his best game since joining Croatia from Launceston a few weeks into the season and his pinpoint passes repeatedly put teammates away, but they were unable to score. Croatia levelled in the opening minutes of the second half when Chris Bessell scored from the penalty spot, Neil Thomas having been brought down by Michael Driessen.

Eagle quickly got things right, however, despite the absence of the injured Scott Young and Andrew Leszczynski, and the suspended Franco Previdi, and hit its opponent with six goals scored at regular intervals. Croatia goalkeeper, Zlatko Belanic, made some classy saves, but he must have been quite demoralised at the end as his team-mates repeatedly left him exposed.

Stoddart's last two goals, in the 75th and 90th minutes, indicated this. One was from 30 metres out, the other direct from a corner. White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, singled out his captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski as the man-of-the-match.

Result: White Eagle 7 (Stoddart 4, Harwood 2, R. Leszczynski) def. Croatia-Glenorchy 1 (Bessell pen)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the Premier Division One curtain-raiser, Julian Tattersall scored a hattrick as White Eagle easily disposed of Croatia 5-2. Eagle's two remaining goals came from Simon Templeman and Robert Jacobs, the latter scoring from a penalty, while Yago Dzelalija and Zarko Baltic replied for Croatia.

Result: White Eagle 5 (Tattersall 3, Templeman, Jacobs pen.) Def. Croatia-Glenorchy 2 (Dzelalija, Baltic)

White Eagle is our 'autumn champion'

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/5/89

There is a tradition in those European countries which have a mid-season break during the colder months to award the unofficial title of "autumn champion" to the team topping the league at the half-way mark.

Were that tradition to be adopted in Tasmania, where the half-way mark of the season will be reached this weekend, but where there is no break, White Eagle would be awarded that title. White Eagle, the reigning champion, is currently 10 points ahead of Launceston Juventus and Devonport City, both of which share second place, and it has completed the first half of the season with a perfect record of nine wins from nine outings, following its 7-1 demolition of Croatia-Glenorchy on Wednesday.

The main focus of interest in this weekend's round of matches therefore, is whether Launceston Juventus and Devonport can close that gap to seven points as they complete their programme of nine games. Both teams face difficult assignments, Launceston Juventus at home to its sister club, Hobart Juventus, at Prospect, and Devonport City away to Olympia, at KGV Soccer Park.

On current form, Launceston Juventus must be a slight favourite in the Italian derby. Olympia is a much better side away from home than at home. The same applies to Devonport, so the coastal side must have a slight edge in its encounter with Olympia at KGV Soccer Park. An interesting aspect of Devonport's visit is the fact the club will have a female first aid officer, something that must be unique in Tasmanian, if not Australian, soccer.

Kelli Martin, the sales manager of the West German medical supplies firm Beiersdorf, which is sponsoring Devonport to the tune of \$4,000, is a sports medicine specialist.

Caledonian's fortunes were on the verge of being revived when it suffered an extremely unlucky loss to White Eagle last weekend, but it should return to the winning trail when it hosts Burnie United in Sunday's main attraction at KGV.

The remaining match of the round is tomorrow's clash between Ulverstone and Launceston at Ulverstone's Knights Road ground. Ulverstone should win this one judging from Launceston's miserable performance last week when it crashed to a 5-0 home defeat against Olympia.

City's late surge puts skids under Rapid

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/6/89

Hobart City came back from being 2-0 down at the interval against Rapid to win 4-2 in their Premier Division One soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The match started well for Rapid, which hit the front midway through the first half when John Cionci scored from a penalty, awarded after a foul by City defender Luciano Raglione. Things then began to turn sour for Rapid, with Paul Sherman being sent off before the break, and goalkeeper Kosma Karydis being taken to hospital by ambulance in the second half.

Karydis suffered a suspected rib injury after a tackle with a City striker. Despite Sherman's dismissal, Andy White added a second goal for Rapid, but City was missing chances galore. Paul Kaproulias reduced the arrears shortly after the resumption, while Angelo Pignalosa levelled from the penalty spot, Gary Ashlin having brought down Robbie Marino.

Within a minute of the penalty, City took the lead. Karydis was injured as he went down for a through-ball, the ball rolled loose, and Kaproulias stroked it home for his second goal of the evening. City continued to apply the pressure and Lino Taglieri added an easy fourth against stand-in goalkeeper Cionci. The win confirms City as the league leader, four points ahead of second-placed Howrah, but the latter has two games in hand.

In last night's other match, a hat-trick by Scott Young gave White Eagle a 3-2 win over Olympia. Young, a senior player, was making his comeback after injury and should be fit to regain his first-team place against Launceston Juventus on Saturday.

A penalty by Sacha Puclin - Sean Collins had fouled Billy Tsakiris - five minutes before half time gave Olympia the lead. Nine minutes into the second half, Olympia goalkeeper John Collar could only punch Andrew Garrigan's corner to Young, who levelled. Young struck again in the 65th minute to put Eagle ahead, Harry Hages equalised two minutes later, while Young headed home Collins' left-wing cross nine minutes from time for the winner. Young might even have had a couple more goals, while Julian Tattersall was extremely unlucky not to get on the scoresheet.

Tattersall hit the post in the first half, and shot narrowly wide from a good position in the second. Young shot tamely from close range, after Collar has palmed the ball to his feet, then had a low drive turned round the post by Collar. Eagle had senior-team goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud in goal, but he had a very quiet evening, except for Puclin's penalty kick, which he almost got to. The win lifts Eagle from sixth to fifth place in the standings, while Olympia, the reigning champion, remains in second-last spot with only one win and a draw to its credit.

Result: White Eagle 3 (Young 3) Def. Olympia 2 (Puclin, Hages)

Burnie's relegation woes to worsen against Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/6/89

Burnie United foes to KGV Soccer Park tomorrow looking for nothing less than a win against bottom team Croatia-Glenorchy. Second-last placed Burnie has a two-point advantage on Croatia, as the teams enter the second half of the Cadbury State League season.

Coach Mike Denton, a former Australian international believes three points from this bottom-of-the-table clash for either team, will ensure safety from relegation. Denton is probably right, as neither team seems capable of taking points from any other side except each other, judging by their performances to date.

Croatia has improved more than Burnie in the first nine games. This, combined with the home-ground advantage, should see the Glenorchy outfit triumph. There shouldn't be much in it, as neither team seems very capable in front of goal, although Croatia will have to watch Denton closely. Denton is a seasoned campaigner and knows how to score goals, be it at international level or local league level. He missed last week's 4-0 loss to Caledonian because of illness, so he should be doubly dangerous as he will be well rested, revitalised and playing for very high stakes.

Croatia lacks punch up front, despite the possible return from injury of Craig McKenzie, and it will probably have to rely on its midfielders to score goals. Neil Thomas, Brian Davidson, Chris Barrell and Alan Brian are all playing well, and if they can find the space to get in shots at goal, Croatia will go a long way towards saving itself from relegation.

At the other end of the table, White Eagle should continue on its merry way towards retaining the title by defeating Launceston Juventus at Prospect today. Eagle will welcome back star midfielder, Scott Young, who tuned up for this match by hitting a hat-trick in the reserves in midweek. Young's performance showed he has completely recovered from a groin injury and Launceston Juventus will have to counter him if it is to have any hope of holding the league leader. Andrew Leszczynski is doubtful because of injury, while Franco Previdi, back after a one-match suspension, and Chris Leszczynski, are the likely substitutes in a star-studded squad.

Devonport City coach, Ken Morton, is confident of overcoming the visiting Hobart Juventus at Valley Road today and staying in touch with White Eagle, which has a seven-point lead. Morton, who will include himself in the starting line-up, will employ Devonport's usual tactics of a retreating defence and quick counterattacks.

Peter Sawdon, who notched a match-winning hat-trick against Olympia last week, will test an unsettled Juventus defence that has proved to be too vulnerable too often this season. Olympia faces a difficult task against Ulverston at KGV on Sunday, especially with defender Peter Thompson out with torn ankle ligaments, and defender Chris Hey doubtful.

Michael Edwards seems the likely replacement for Thompson, while coach David Crosson may also play in an endeavour to contain Ulverstone's dangerman, midfielder Andrew Howe. In today's only state league fixture in the south, Caledonian should have gained enough confidence from its 4-0 victory over Burnie last week to shrug off any challenge Launceston may present. Calies showed their players can put it together when the need arises, and if Matt Wesson can reproduce his magnificent performance in midfield, he may well be amongst the goals again.

Eagles set to fly away

THE EXAMINER - By JOHN TSCHEPPEERA 2/6/89

State Champion White Eagle visits Launceston to take on Juventus at the AIC, Prospect, in Round 10 of the Cadbury State League competition tomorrow. The Eagles had a resounding 7-1 victory over fellow Hobart side Glenorchy-Croatia in the previous round and has not lost a league match this season.

It's return match against Juventus will be a scintillating affair. In its first encounter Juventus took a two-goal lead against the league champion with goals from Luigi Gugliotti and Mark Ewart but the Eagles countered through Harwood, Previdi, Young and Andrew Leszczynski. Five of the goals were the direct result of free kicks. Although Juventus played well against its Hobart counterpart last week it had difficulty in converting the many chances it created in front of goal and it was the result of two free kicks that led to its downfall.

The Eagles have a number of lethal scorers to whom their teammates can deliver the ball. David Stoddart is in a particularly mean mood and Andrew Leszczynski, Previdi, Harwood and Young have also found the net recently.

Juventus will again be relying on the well-versed defenders in David Craig, Liam Monagle, Paul Gimpl and Paul Ewart and a talented number of midfielders such as Peter Savill, Luigi Gugliotti and Steve Morley to not allow the visitors to settle and then provide their frontrunners to snatch goals from quick counterattacks.

Launceston travels to Hobart in its clash with Caledonians at KGV. The Blues were fortunate to leave Knight's Road with a point last week after Quenton Darby brought off a good save from a penalty in the last minutes of the game. He will again be called on to ensure an intact goalmouth and, with the possible return from injury of Branko Barac, coach Peter Davidson will be happier with the increased striking power at his disposal.

Devonport travels to KGV to challenge a Hobart Juventus side flush from its victory over Launceston Juventus and may find the going tough. Peter Sawdon's hat-trick was a revitalising tonic for the classy striker and he, and Devonport, will be hoping for more of the same. Ulverstone will be playing away to Olympia at KGV on Sunday and will be hard pressed to make many inroads through the Olympian's defence.

Juventus miss out on honours

THE EXAMINER - JOHN TSCHEPPEERA 4/6/1989

Launceston Juventus came within a whisker of inflicting the first loss to league champions White Eagles in their Cadbury State League match yesterday at the AIC, Prospect.

Juventus included youngster John Visentin in its line-up for the suspended David Abraham, while the return of Scott Young from injury gave the champions a welcome bonus. Both teams started with open, attacking soccer and the ball was moved from end to end. But neither team could find an opening in front of the goals, with Juventus' Mark Heyes blasting the first opportunity wide of the far post.

Steve Morley almost opened the scoring for the home side mid-way through the first half when Peter Savill intercepted an Eagle pass and slipped the ball to the midfielder who quickly turned inside of his opponent and drove a shot on to the post from the edge of the penalty area. Liam Monagle was involved in another Juventus build-up when he slipped a Paul Ewart pass into the path of Heyes whose snap-shot, again, went wide.

But Juventus found the opening it was looking for in the 30th minute when Savill, who was finding plenty of room in the middle of the field and using it to continually spray accurate passes to his colleagues, received a Morley pass and swiftly played it through for Heyes to slot the ball past Peter Groenewoud.

Juventus continued to gain confidence and strength after it hit the lead and exerted more pressure in the second half, while the Champions became more and more frustrated. Maybe their frustration ignited them into action because the Eagles temporarily moved into a higher gear. Previdi headed the equaliser in the 64th minute after Warren Dent misjudged a near-post ball and allowed it to go over players' heads. Two minutes later White Eagles gained the lead. Brett Harwood drove a shot through a bundle of players from the edge of the penalty area after the Juventus defence were unable to scramble the ball clear.

Juventus being driven on by a fine performance from Savill, almost earned itself an equaliser with only four minutes remaining. A Gugliotti corner was met by Paul Gimel who planted a free header past Groenewoud, but diminutive defender Bobby Nicholson scrambled it off the line so that White Eagle could maintain its unbeaten form.

Launceston did not waste its trip to KGV, Hobart, to take on Caledonians. Bob Stewart, Launceston's midfield workhorse over the past few weeks, scrambled a Stuart Dracup corner over the goal-line for the equaliser in the 53rd minute. The winner came in the 75th minute when Peter Davidson, after having brought himself on as a substitute, fed the ball to Dracup on the left side and, his cross found Conrad Hughes who stooped low to head it past keeper Glen Stewart. Devonport succumbed at home to a lone Hobart Juventus goal scored by Frediani in the second half.

White Eagle has title firmly in sight

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 4/6/89

White Eagle seem certain to retain its Cadbury State League soccer title after its 2-1 away win against Launceston Juventus at Prospect yesterday. The league leader has won all 10 of its league matches this season and has a massive nine-point lead over second-placed Hobart Juventus, which defeated Devonport City 1-0 at Valley Rd yesterday through a second-half goal by Romeo Frediani.

Mark Heyes ran on to a great through-ball from Peter Savill after 30 minutes to put Launceston Juventus in front at the break, but two goals within five minutes midway through the second half by substitute Franco Previdi and striker Brett Harwood gave Eagle maximum points. Eagle had a scare in the closing minutes when Bob Nicholson headed off the line to keep the league champion's lead intact.

At KGV Soccer Park, home side Caledonian squandered its 1-0 half-time lead against the visiting Launceston to go down 1-2. Brett Pullen headed home Paul Sharman's right-wing cross in the 38th minute to put Calies ahead, but Bob Stewart scrambled an equaliser from Stewart Dracup's corner eight minutes after the resumption.

Launceston's winner came 15 minutes from the end after player-coach Peter Davidson, who had come on as a substitute, released Dracup on the left. Dracup's cross found several Launceston players unmarked and queuing up at the far post, and Conrad Hughes stooped low to head past Glen Stewart in the Calies goal. Launceston should have added a third goal two minutes from time when Paul Fenlon brought Bob Stewart down in the penalty area, but Hughes was much too casual with his spot-kick and Glen Stewart saved.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Harwood, Previdi) def. Launceston Juventus 1 (Heyes)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the Premier Division One competition, Howrah suffered its first setback of the season when it lost 3-2 to South Hobart, at South Hobart. Steve Adkins gave South a 10th-minute lead, but Jimmy Bell equalised for Howrah within five minutes. An excellent goal by Ian Colhoun early in the second half restored South's advantage. However, Richard Dixson levelled yet again for Howrah, which eventually succumbed to a late penalty, converted by Adkins.

Tarpon and Hobart Juventus both missed opportunities of staying in touch with the leading pair when they lost to Metro-Claremont and University respectively. Tarpon went down 1-3 to Metro at North Chigwell, Brett Ross scoring its goal from the penalty spot. Mark Parish and Andy Ferrall (2) hit the goals for Metro.

University defeated Juventus 3-2 at the Athletic Centre. Two headers by Chris Hargrave in the opening five minutes sent University on its way, but Nick Di Giovanni and James Brown made it all square in the second half before Peter Crowther grabbed Uni's winner deep into injury time.

In yesterday's remaining match, goals by Derek Trueman and Guy Brinklow gave Kingborough United a 2-0 win over Caledonian at Sherburd. Trueman hit the first midway through the second half, while substitute Brinklow snatched the second in the dying moments of the match, following Ronnie Bolton's corner.

Eagle regains midfielder

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 9/6/89

White Eagle, the reigning Cadbury State League champion and current runaway league leader, will have midfielder Andrew Leszczynski fit for its top-of-the-table clash on Sunday against third-placed Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park. Leszczynski, who has scored three league goals this season, has missed Eagles' past two matches because of a rib injury.

Coach Eugene Mycak is not expected to decide until just before the game whether Leszczynski will start the match or sit on the substitutes' bench. Mycak substituted defender Michael Driessen after only 25 minutes against Launceston Juventus last week, brought on Franco Previdi in midfield, and moved Bob Nicholson from midfield to right full-back, where he performed magnificently.

Eugene Banasik moved from right-back to Driessen's position of centre-half, and he may be preferred there against Devonport, where he can carry out his usually reliable man-to-man marking job on Peter Sawdon. This would enable Leszczynski to come back into the starting line-up in his normal position of left-midfield, where he has performed impressively this season.

Sunday's main fixture at KGV features second-placed Hobart Juventus against fourth-placed Olympia, a game which is always one of the big attractions of the season. Juventus won the first-round encounter 2-0 and, despite Olympia's return to form against Ulverstone last week, should do the job again.

Juventus will field an unchanged side from its past two outings, whereas Olympia will be forced to make at least one change because of the automatic suspension of midfielder Michael Goldsmith, who was sent off against Ulverstone.

Croatia-Glenorchy gained its first win of the season last week and will approach its meeting with Launceston at Ogilvie Park on Sunday with renewed confidence. Kevin Connell will return to the Caledonian attack for its visit to Ulverstone tomorrow, while Danny Jenkins and Tony Shields will be added to the squad. Player-coach Bret Anderton is out with a knee injury.

Ulverstone missed numerous chances against Olympia last week and possibly should even have won, but on its home turf, it should more than match Calies and move above the southerners in the league standings by winning.

In the final match of the round, Launceston Juventus should return from Burnie United's Montello Park tomorrow with all three points. Burnie's plight became desperate last week when it went down to Croatia and Launceston Juventus will be keen to improve on the 6-0 score line which separated the sides the last time they met.

'Eagle' may take punt on defender

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 10/6/89

White Eagle may have promising young defender Grant Mason back for its important Premier Division One soccer clash against Metro-Claremont at North Chigwell today. Mason, a solid and uncompromising player, has been out for several weeks with a broken hand and, although he has not fully recovered, coach Dale Itchins may risk him.

Joe Diubaldo will make his return to the Eagle goal, while senior team fringe players, Chris Leszczynski and Richard Ketchell, will also play. Simon Templeman is out, however, with torn ankle ligaments.

Metro will field an unchanged side from last week and strikers Jim McKinnon and Andy Ferrall may well help to make it three wins in a row for the Claremont side.

Howrah is striving to stay in touch with league-leader Hobart City and it will be keen to erase the memory of last week's surprising defeat by South Hobart when it takes on Kingborough United at the Athletic Centre. Howrah midfielder Andrew Dobbie has recovered from influenza and will play, but goalkeeper Damien Smith is unavailable and will be replaced by Mick Rowley. Paul Engels is still on holiday and coach Robbie New is not fully fit, so Howrah will have to fight hard to win against Kingborough which is unbeaten in four games.

South Hobart is in with a real chance of overcoming Olympia at South Hobart today and coach Michael Walker will include talented young striker Scott Jordan. Walker is also expecting top performances from defenders Steve Bennett and Chris Warn against a much-improved Olympia side. In today's remaining match, also at South Hobart, University coach Andrew Robinson has been forced to make two changes against Croatia-Glenorchy. Goalkeeper David Cruse and Striker Chris Green are both unavailable and will be replaced by Karl Gavan and Ian O'Callaghan, respectively.

Launceston Juventus climbs ladder

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 11/6/1989

Launceston Juventus climbed into third place on the Cadbury State League soccer ladder when it defeated bottom team Burnie United 6-2 at Montello Park yesterday.

Burnie gave the visitor a shock when it took the lead after only 28 seconds through Steve Luttmer, but Juventus drew level within a quarter of an hour. Juventus led 3-1 at the interval, Darren Timms made it 3-2 for Burnie just after the resumptions, but Juventus hit back with three more goals in the last 15 minutes to emphasise its superiority. Roger Mies and John Visentin each scored twice for Juventus, its other two goals being own-goals.

In yesterday's other Cadbury State League match, Ulverstone exchanged places with Caledonian and moved from eight to sixth spot by beating Calies 2-0 at Knight's Rd. A precise through-ball by midfielder Andrew Howe enabled John Sallese to shoot Ulverstone ahead from an acute angle and 18 metres out in the 20th minute. A near-post header by Michael Jones in the second half, from Anthony Guibert's right-wing cross, completed the scoring in what was an exciting, fast, and fairly even game.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Croatia-Glenorchy gained its first points of the season in the southern Premier Division One competition yesterday by defeating University 2-1 at South Hobart. In a match that kicked off 20 minutes late, and which had an unofficial referee for the first seven minutes, Yago Dzelalija gave Croatia a 1-0 lead at the break before University equalised midway through the second half. Tom Wanner's pass put Ian O'Callaghan through the Croatia defence and Uni's new signing from Victorian club, Cranbourne, fired clinically past Ricky Neads in the Croatia goal.

Peter Crowther scraped the Croatia woodwork on a couple of occasions, and Chris Hargrave had a header cleared off the line – Uni's appeal for handball went unheeded – before Dallas Joiner struck a superb winner, from Corey Brown's pass in the 83rd minute.

In yesterday's main fixture at South Hobart 4-0. South, which had to borrow University's sodden shirts for the first half because of a clash of colours, was never really in the hunt, although Shane Nicholson should have scored late in the match instead of driving the ball across the goalmouth.

Andrew Hart put Olympia ahead after eight minutes, while a delightful chip from the edge of the penalty area by Jim Tsiakis two minutes before half time made it 2-0. Hart grabbed his second goal of the match shortly after the resumption. Manuel Vavoulas' shot was turned on to the crossbar by South Hobart goalkeeper Richard Pride, and Hart headed home the rebound. Midway through the half, Sacha Puclin slid for a loose ball, which rolled perfectly for Clinton Brown to smash past Pride for Olympia's fourth.

Two goals apiece by Richard Dixson and Alistair Hales gave Howrah a 4-0 win over Kingborough United at the Athletic Centre, while strikes by Robert Jacobs, Aaron Brown, Jamie Woulleman and Richard Ketchell saw White Eagle triumph by the same score line over Metro-Claremont at North Chigwell.

Result: White Eagle 4 (Brown, Ketchell, Jacobs, Woulleman) Def. Metro-Claremont 0

White Eagle responds to loss of goalie

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 12/6/1989

WHITE EAGLE maintained its nine-point lead at the top of the Cadbury State League soccer ladder when it came from behind to defeat Devonport City 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

It took the loss of goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud through injury early in the second half, however, to sting Eagle into action. Eagle had missed chances galore in the opening 45 minutes, but it wasn't until Groenewoud was taken off with concussion immediately after conceding a 53rd-minute goal to Peter Sawdon that the league champion began to look serious.

Groenewoud was injured when he dived into the thick of the action to clear a dangerous lob from Wayne Boyd. After receiving attention, he was allowed to continue in goal, despite appearing dazed, but he was punished almost immediately when Sawdon scored with a header.

Brett Harwood had cleared a Devonport corner, the ball was pumped back into the penalty area, and Sawdon nipped in to head past Groenewoud, who was left flapping at thin air.

With Groenewoud off - he was taken to hospital by ambulance and detained for observation - Harwood went in goal and substitute Franco Previdi came on. Andrew Leszczynski had replaced Craig Pitt at the interval. Eagle showed yet again its ability to come back when down and two goals in the space of three minutes killed off Devonport.

In the 59th minute, a free kick from the right by David Stoddart was headed past goalkeeper Bob Smith by Previdi, while in the 62nd minute, Previdi's right-wing cross was met at the near-post by Richard Leszczynski, who turned the ball into the net for the winner.

Olympia missed a great opportunity to move into second spot when it went down 2-0 to Hobart Juventus in yesterday's other match at KGV. Olympia was without Chris Hey, Lars Koch and Michael Goldsmith, but defender Peter Thompson and midfielder Roger Munro returned to the side. The game was rarely an entertaining or exciting spectacle. Both sides weaved intricate patterns in midfield, but fell down badly in the attacking third of the field.

Sergio Pace bent an excellent free kick around the Olympia defensive "wall" after seven minutes to give Juventus the lead, but it wasn't until the 64th minute that Frank Genovesi notched the second. Pace won a tackle against Michael Edwards and advanced on goal. Keeper Phil Kannegiesser parried Pace's shot and the ball rebounded to Genovesi, who swept it home.

Nick DiMartino kept a tight rein on Olympia's Paul Xanthopoulos, restricting him to a couple of half-chances, while Juventus goalkeeper Neil Connell must have been very cold watching the action from between his posts.

In yesterday's only game in the North, Launceston defeated Croatia-Glenorchy 2-0 with first-half goals by Conrad Hughes and Andy Fraser.

Result White Eagle 2 (Previdi, R. Leszczynski) def. Devonport City 1 (Sawdon)

Cadbury State League Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	11	11	0	0-	37	13	33
Hobart Juventus	11	8	0	3	30	13	24
Launceston Juventus	11	6	2	3	27	16	20
Devonport City	11	6	2	3	23	14	20
Olympia	11	6	0	5	28	15	18
Launceston	11	4	2	5	23	23	14
Ulverstone	11	4	1	6	18	19	13
Caledonian	11	3	2	6	11	14	11
Croatia-Glenorchy	11	1	1	9	8	29	4
Burnie United	11	1	0	10	10	59	3

White Eagle should still fly high despite loss of goalie

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/6/89

White Eagle's lack of an experienced second-string goalkeeper will present the team with some difficulties when the Cadbury State League leader faces second-placed Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Eagle's regular custodian, Peter Groenewoud, is extremely doubtful for tonight's match after suffering concussion and a scratched eyeball against Devonport City on Sunday. In his absence, reserve team goalkeeper, Joe Diubaldo, will probably have to play as Eagle's other goalkeeper, Frank Mainella, is also injured. Mainella did well when he filled in for the injured Groenewoud in the pre-season competition, but Diubaldo is young, inexperienced and untried at this level.

White Eagle president, Mr David Stoddart Sen, has often stated that the club's biggest handicap was a lack of cover for Groenewoud, and his worst fears have now eventuated. Groenewoud's likely absence will place enormous pressure on the Eagle defence, but it should be able to rise to the occasion and give adequate protection to whoever is between the posts.

Mark Leszczynski, the captain and sweeper is in superb form, despite a nagging knee problem, while Michael Driessen, Eugene Banasik and Neil Morrison have played together for so long now that they have an almost telepathic understanding.

Eagle has improved dramatically this season in terms of the willingness and ability of its midfielders and strikers to drop deep and assist the defence. This will stand the team in good stead against a Juventus outfit that throws players forward in numbers when it attacks. Eugene Mycak's choice of substitutes will be interesting.

Andrew Leszczynski and Franco Previdi were the men on the bench at the weekend, but both were called on during the course of the game. Previdi had a decisive influence on the outcome of the match, scoring the equaliser himself and making the winner for Richard Leszczynski. It seems unlikely, however, that Mycak will fiddle too much with a team that has won 11 consecutive games.

Juventus should have Bruce Pears back after injury. He came on near the end of the match against Olympia on Sunday and seemed to be ready to resume his sweeper role. The team doesn't seem to be creating quite as many scoring chances as Eagle, however, and Eagle's more efficient attack should carry the day, especially since Eagle broke the jinx Juventus held over it by taking out the Charity Cup with a 6-1 score line.

In tonight's Premier Division One curtain-raiser, third-placed Juventus should have the measure of eight-placed Kingborough United. It should be a close, even tussle, however, as Kingborough has shown itself to be a competent team after being promoted from the second division.

Michael Lapolla is the Juventus striker the Kingborough defence will have to mark closely. The scorer of eight goals this season, Lapolla is fast, elusive and possesses a good shot. He has frequently been on the verge of gaining a senior place. Kingborough's strength lies in the authority and skill of midfielder Derek Trueman. He leads by example, never shirks a challenge, and will make Juventus fight for 90 minutes if it is to gain all three points.

Soccer double delayed

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 15/6/89

Last night's soccer double-header which had been scheduled for KGV Soccer Park, was postponed because of the waterlogged ground. The Cadbury State League top-of-the-table clash between White Eagle and Hobart Juventus, and the Premier Division One match between Hobart Juventus and Kingborough United, now will be played at KGV tomorrow night.

Olympia will put faith in greater commitment

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 16/6/89

Olympia coach David Crosson will be looking for greater commitment from his players when the team takes on Caledonian in Sunday's Cadbury State League match-of-the-day at KGV Soccer Park.

Crosson may experiment a little with his line-up and he said he only wanted players who were ready to give their all for the club. Midfielder Michael Goldsmith is available again after serving a one-match suspension, as is defender Chris Hey, who was involved with Junior soccer last weekend and played in the reserves on Saturday instead of the seniors on Sunday.

Peter Thompson, a key player in defence, came through last week's game without a recurrence of his injury and should retain his place, but midfielder Carlo Ambrosino's prospects are uncertain. Ambrosino has been plagued by a groin injury and had to leave the field in the second half of last week's defeat against Hobart Juventus, his former club.

Crosson feels his team will have to be much tighter in defence and more direct in attack if it is to defeat Caledonian. Olympia won 2-0 in the first round, but Calies showed tremendous fighting spirit in downing Olympia 3-2 in the pre-season Cascade Summer Cup, so this game seems delicately balanced. Calies have the players to win. Peter Sherman is always keen to do well against his former club, and Kevin Connell is becoming one of the best players in the league.

Ian Parker has yet to score in the league this season, but is adept at creating chances for others, while goalkeeper Glen Stewart is having a tremendous season. Calies' biggest failing is its inability to score goals. Its tally of 11 goals in 11 games is meagre indeed. Olympia's superior record in this department - 28 goals in 11 outings - inspires a little more confidence and Crosson's team should just scrape home.

The two bottom teams, Burnie United and Croatia-Glenorchy, seem unlikely to make any headway this weekend against Devonport City and Ulverstone, respectively. Devonport has one of the best strikers in the state in Peter Sawdon and he should streak to the top of the individual goalscoring list when he comes up against the weakest defence in the league.

Burnie will be keen to give a good showing in the coastal derby, but even with the return of Mike Denton, it can't harbour any realistic hopes of victory. Ulverstone has usually been impressive when playing in the south this season and it should complete the double against Croatia at KGV on Sunday. Croatia was desperately unlucky to lose 1-0 at Knight's Road in the first round. Ulverstone, surprisingly enough, is better away from home, which is ominous for Croatia.

Launceston Juventus should retain third place in the standing by overcoming Launceston in the northern derby at Ogilvie Park tomorrow. Juventus has a much better defence than its opponent, and with players such as Mark Heyes and Roger Mies in attack, the Italian outfit should stay within striking distance of its sister club, second-placed Hobart Juventus. Hobart Juventus will be hard-pressed to gain anything from its rescheduled match against league leader White Eagle at KGV tonight.

Last-half revival enable sluggish White Eagle to escape with draw

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/6/89

Cadbury State League soccer leader White Eagle lost its perfect winning record last night when it was held to a 1-1 draw by second-placed Hobart Juventus at KGV Soccer Park. Eagle only showed its championship-winning form for about 15 minutes of the match, and it even squandered a penalty kick, which would have given it victory.

Juventus relied largely on quick counterattacks, and it was from one of these that it took the lead after only seven minutes. With Eagle pressing forward, a long clearance by Juventus found John McIntyre on the left. He passed to the on-rushing Frank Genovesi, who was untroubled in shooting past Peter Groenewoud. Groenewoud was a surprise inclusion in the Eagle line-up. He was concussed last weekend, but was given a medical clearance to play after training on Thursday night.

The Juventus defence played magnificently, with Neil Connell reliable in goal, Romeo Fabrizio keeping Richard Leszczynski very quiet for most of the match, and Michael McIntyre covering his team-mates well as sweeper. Five minutes before the break, Eagle was awarded a penalty for pushing, but Andrew Leszczynski, who was a late inclusion in the team because of the unavailability of Bob Nicholson, blasted his spot-kick over the bar.

With 20 minutes of the match remaining, Eagle finally started to perform, and Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Neil Morrison, Scott Young and David Stoddart all had good scoring chances. The substitution of Franco Previdi for Craig Pitt in the 74th minute proved crucial. Four minutes after coming on, Pitt played a perfect ball through the Juventus defence, Young flicked it on, and Harwood scored the equaliser.

There was a flurry of activity in the dying minutes as Stoddart saved John McIntyre's header on the line after a corner, while at the other end, Andrew Leszczynski fired tamely and straight at Connell when well-positioned. There were loud appeals for a Juventus penalty right at the end when Michael Driessen accidentally kicked Sergio Pace in the head, but referee John Howlin was perfectly correct in awarding an indirect free kick for dangerous play. As it was, the White Eagle defensive "wall" was able to block Frank Genovesi's strike at goal and the match fizzled out to a draw, which leaves Eagle in first place, nine points clear of second-placed Juventus.

Result White Eagle 1 (Harwood) drew with Hobart Juventus 1 (Genovesi)

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In last night's Premier Division One curtain-raiser, Hobart Juventus was held to a goalless draw by Kingborough United. Kingborough fully deserved a point and might even have grabbed all three with a little more luck.

Hobart City should have edged in Division One showdown

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 17/6/1989

Hobart City takes on Howrah at South Hobart today in the Premier Division One soccer showdown which everyone has been waiting for. City and Howrah, which have taken the league by storm this season, are in first and second places respectively, and one of them must surely win this year's League title.

City is the only unbeaten team in the competition, but Howrah does have a game in hand. City should triumph after coasting to a 6-0 win against its opponent last week, whereas Howrah laboured to score a 3-1 victory in extra-time against a vastly inferior team.

In today's second South Hobart fixture, Olympia must be confident of toppling Caledonian. Olympia played impressively to win 4-0 last week and, given the improved morale this would have caused, should account for Calies.

South Hobart and Croatia-Glenorchy are starting to get their acts together, and a draw is the most likely outcome of their meeting at the Athletic Centre. In the other match at the centre, White Eagle should come out ahead against Rapid. Metro-Claremont is expected to make up for a miserable performance last weekend, and defeat University.

Talent on tap for White Eagle's clash

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/6/89 - STATEWIDE CUP

The minnows take on the giants in this weekend's second round of matches in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition. Only two of the cup ties are State League affairs, but all eight matches promise to be intriguing contests, with anything possible in the Cup.

White Eagle takes on State League rival, Devonport City, in the match-of-the-round at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday, and everything points to an Eagle win. Eagle is the reigning league champion, the current ladder leaders, and has defeated Devonport home and away in the league this season.

Coach Eugene Mycak has 16 fit players to choose from and the competition for places in the starting line-up is fierce, which is the situation every coach dreams of. Fullback Sean Collins has proved his fitness in the reserves and may get a place on the substitutes' bench. Devonport is always dependent on striker Peter Sawdon when it faces the big teams, but Eugene Banasik has shown himself to be a conscientious marker and, if he can keep the Rothmans Gold Medal winner quiet, Eagle should progress to the next round.

Olympia, the cup holder, will be without defender Chris Hey for its all-State League clash with Ulverstone at Knight's Road tomorrow. Hey, a policeman, is unavailable. Striker Billy Tsakiris will retain his place after scoring against Caledonian last week, but his striking partner, Paul Xanthopoulos, is suffering from a hamstring strain. This is nothing new for Xanthopoulos, however, and Olympia's trainer, the knowledgeable Eddie Kent, is sure to have the club's leading scorer ready for action. Fullback Glen McNeil and midfielder Carlo Ambrosino both have groin strains and could be doubtful, so Kon Tsiakis is almost certain to get a run.

Ulverstone has played impressively recently and if Tom Compagne can reproduce his performance of last week, the home team may well emerge as the victor.

Hobart Juventus will welcome back Bruce Pears for his first full game after a lengthy lay-off because of injury, but coach David Smith will use him in midfield rather than in his normal position of sweeper, which Michael McIntyre has made his own.

Juventus faces University at South Hobart tomorrow and must be fancied to win, although Smith is wary of the students, especially players such as Peter Crowther and Chris Hargrave. Michael Lapolla and Craig Tickner may get their chance with Juventus if things are going well, while University will be without James Turnbull and Ian O'Callaghan, both of whom have exams.

Burnie United is having a terrible time in the State League and the gloom over Montello Park is unlikely to be lifted when Riverside Olympic visits tomorrow.

Launceston crushes Prospect

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 25/6/89 - STATEWIDE CUP

Launceston Juventus stole the honours in the second round of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition with an easy 5-0 drubbing of Western Suburbs at Prospect High School yesterday. Striker Mark Heyes won the individual honours of the round by bagging four of Juventus' goals, the other coming from John Visentin.

Olympia progressed to the next round with a 1-0 away win over Ulverstone at Knight's Road in what was an excellent Cup tie. Billy Tsakiris justified his selection by scoring the all-important goal in the second half, his second goal in two consecutive senior appearances. The match was an even, highly competitive affair, with Olympia's greater directness paying dividends, although Ulverstone should have forced extra time near the end. With five minutes remaining, John Sallese rounded Olympia goalkeeper, Phil Kannegiesser, but shot wide when confronted by an empty goal.

Burnie United shrugged off its woeful league form to defeat the visiting Riverside Olympic 1-0 at Montello Park through a Steven Eastly goal on the hour. It was Burnie's first success under new coach, Kevin Considine, who took the helm after the resignation of Mike Denton two weeks ago.

Hobart Juventus defeated University 2-1 at South Hobart in yesterday's remaining cup match. Juventus, which was without Frank Genovesi and Michael McIntyre and which lost Sergio Pace with a twisted ankle after only 28 minutes, toyed with University in the first half.

Goalkeeper Neil Connell was the only player in the Juventus defensive half of the field for long periods as University was run ragged by quick switches of play and clever use of the wings by Juventus. University rarely crossed the half-way line, its two strikers, Chris Green and Chris Hargrave, being isolated up front.

When the pair did receive the ball, they were invariably facing their own goal. They usually lacked support, and when it did arrive, their distribution was atrocious. The students did create three chances, however, once when Matthew Shaw dispossessed Connell, again when James Forbes fired over the bar, and finally when Shaw's delicate half-volley drifted just over the bar.

At the end of the first 45 minutes, the second-placed team in the Cadbury State League competition had only a single goal as testimony to its dominance. But what a magnificent goal it was. In the 27th minute, Craig Tickner passed to Pace on the right, and he crossed to John McIntyre, who controlled the ball with his first touch, then headed past David Cruse in the Uni goal with his second. Cruse did well a couple of minutes later when he turned Romeo Fabrizio's header against the post, but he had no chance when substitute Michael Lapolla scraped the wrong side of the post with his first touch of the game.

University emerged a different team in the second half and experienced campaigner Hargrave, calm, cool and collected, scored the equaliser in the 58th minute from Paul Kuzis' cross from the right. Juventus refused to panic, however, and Romeo Frediani hit an outstanding winner with 10 minutes left. Bruce Pears crossed to Frediani on the edge of the box, and the diminutive midfielder turned in the twinkling of an eye and drove a low shot to the right of Cruse.

Harwood puts White Eagle into finals

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 26/6/89 - STATEWIDE CUP

TWO goals by striker Brett Harwood gave White Eagle a 2-1 win over Devonport City at KGV Soccer Park and a place in the quarter-finals of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup soccer competition.

Harwood, the Cadbury State League's joint leading goalscorer with 13 goals, might even have had a hat-trick. With a minute of play remaining, he noticed Devonport goalkeeper, Bob Smith, well off his line and lobbed the ball goalwards. It sailed over the astonished Smith, bounced once, but came back into play off the cross bar.

Eagle again came from behind to win the seventh time it has done so this season - but it was clearly the better team, having many more clear-cut chances than Devonport.

Andrew Leszczynski could have put Eagle ahead in the opening minute but for a timely point-blank save by Smith, while Richard Leszczynski failed twice with only Smith to beat. Scott Young was also given a great opening by Neil Morrison and the midfielder even rounded Smith, only to shoot into the side-netting from an acute angle.

Devonport's only realistic chance in the first half fell to Peter Sawdon in the third minute. Tim Jones crossed from the left, but the unmarked Sawdon sent his firm header wide of the right-hand post. Sawdon made amends in the

61st minute. Receiving the ball from a throw-in on the left, he released Kevin Smith through the middle and the Devonport defender rifled the ball past Peter Groenewoud to put the visitor ahead.

Eagle equalised within three minutes. Richard Leszczynski centred from the left and Harwood nodded the ball just inside the near post. Richard Leszczynski and Harwood tried to repeat their act 12 minutes later, but this time Smith scrambled between his posts and managed to keep the ball out. When the deadly duo tried again in the 80th minute, Richard Leszczynski crossing from the right this time, Harwood succeeded, placing his winning header in exactly the same spot as for the first goal.

Eagle coach Eugene Mycak was delighted with his side's third win over Devonport this season, and he praised his midfield for paving the way to victory. Devonport coach, Ken Morton, who came on for Ian Hendey with seven minutes remaining, said his team gave the ball sway to easily and failed to mark tightly enough in defence.

Caledonian easily qualified for the quarter-finals with a 4-1 win over an under-strength Hobart City in yesterday's curtain-raiser at KGV. A 20-metre scorcher from Kevin Connell and a header by Ian Parker, from Tony Shields' cross, put Calies 2-0 up at the interval, while player-coach Bret Anderton and centre-back Peter Huigsloot completed Calies' tally in the second period. Robbie Marino scored a 76th minute consolation goal for City, which was without regulars Kim Barker, Angelo Pignalosa and Mathew Sly.

At South Hobart, Howrah eliminated George Town United with a resounding 5-1 win, while the visiting Launceston disposed of South Hobart 2-0. Wilson put George Town ahead against Howrah, but a goal by Karl Brightman made it all square at the break. Three goals in five minutes by Richard Dixson, Alistair Hales and Scott Hadley ensured Howrah of victory, while Hadley added Howrah's fifth 10 minutes from time just for good measure.

South Hobart held Launceston scoreless in the opening half before succumbing to second-half goals by Davis and McNeil, but there might have been a surprise if South's Andy Poole had done better with two good chances that came his way.

Eagle should scale Olympia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 30/6/89

White Eagle should overcome the last major hurdle between it and the Cadbury State League championship by defeating Olympia in the main attraction of Sunday's double-header at KGV Soccer Park.

White Eagle coach, Eugene Mycak, will probably field the same team that eliminated Devonport City from the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition last week. He has a fully fit squad to select from and, as he explained, he cannot discard players without reason, given the fact the team is playing so well and remains unbeaten.

"Sean Collins and Franco Previdi probably deserve to play in the seniors, but players must understand the situation," Mycak said. "Every player wants to play for 90 minutes. But, for me, the players on the bench are just as important as the starting 11. Having a very strong bench is important because it means everyone has to perform and no-one can relax."

Mycak praised the consistent effort of sweeper and captain, Mark Leszczynski, whom he regards as the brains of the defence, and also said he was impressed with the recent performances of centre-back, Michael Driessen. "Olympia has a good midfield, but ours is just as good, and if we beat Olympia, we can just about celebrate the championship," Mycak said.

There was mixed news from the Olympia camp, with midfielder Michael Goldsmith automatically suspended after accumulating 15 disciplinary points, but Chris Hey coming back into the team. Fullback Glen McNeil should be fit to resume, but striker Paul Xanthopoulos and midfielder Carlo Ambrosino are still doubtful because of injury.

Coach, David Crosson, will probably play in Goldsmith's place, and he is certain to persevere with Kon Tsiakis and Billy Tsakiris from the reserves. Tsakiris has scored two goals in his two senior games and he may be partnered up front once again by the keen, aggressive and physically strong utility player, Lars Koch.

Hobart Juventus must abhor the prospect of travelling all the way to Burnie on Sunday to face the local side, last-placed Burnie United, for what will inevitably be little more than a practice match. If the weather is favourable, the sight-seeing along the North-West Coast may make the trip worthwhile, but this weekend may be one on which Juventus' established players will almost beg coach, David Smith, to leave them out of the side.

Mark Kelly is one of the lucky ones as he is unavailable, but 15-year-old Brendan Lakoseljac has been included in the travelling party and may get a run. Defender Michael McIntyre returns at fullback, while Smith hopes that Frank Genovesi and Sergio Pace will have overcome foot and ankle injuries, respectively.

Caledonian, which should have the edge over Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV on Sunday, will have midfielder Brett Pullen back from state under-18 duty in Canberra.

Northern duo's title bid ends

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 2/7/89

Launceston Juventus and Devonport City bowed out of the Cadbury State League soccer championship race when they could only draw their matches away from home yesterday. Their chances were very slim as it was, but Launceston Juventus' 1-1 draw with Ulverstone at Knight's Road, and Devonport's 2-2 draw with Launceston at Ogilvie Park, ruled the two best teams from the north of the state out of contention.

Devonport, without Billy Frame and Ken Morton, took a first-half lead against Launceston when Peter Sawdon scored at the second attempt, his first effort, a header, rebounding to him off a post. Phil Davis equalised for Launceston early in the second half, and three minutes later, a diving header by Branco Barac – playing his first league match after a long lay-off through injury – put the home side in front for the first time. Peter Sawdon salvaged a point for Devonport, however, by scoring his second goal of the game near the end.

At Knight's Road, Tom Compagne was Ulverstone's marksman, while Irish defender and former Rothman's Gold Medal winner, Liam Monagle, hit the equaliser for Launceston Juventus.

Belanic injury sours Caledonian's victory

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/7/89

A serious head injury to state goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic, of Croatia-Glenorchy, marred Caledonian's 3-0 win over Croatia in their Cadbury State League soccer match at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

With 30 minutes of the match remaining, and with Calies leading 3-0, Belanic dived to his right to cut out a low cross and collided headfirst with the knee of an opposing forward. Belanic was knocked unconscious, and the game was delayed for almost 25 minutes while he was treated.

An ambulance drove on to the field to take Belanic to hospital, where he had an x-ray to determine the full extent of his injuries. Centre-back Robbie Huigsloot took over in goal for the final 30 minutes and did extremely well to keep a clean sheet. Croatia's new signing from St Albans, in Victoria, Ahmad Abdaltam, was a revelation as sweeper, and his reading of the game was faultless. Abdaltam's technique was first class, his distribution perfect, and his positive encouragement of team-mates, especially the youngsters, exemplary.

But even he could not prevent Calies' from scoring its first win over Croatia in nine years. Croatia's only chance came in the 35th minute when Brian Davidson fed Neil Thomas in the box and his fierce drive was turned on to the crossbar by Calies goalkeeper, Glen Stewart.

Calies took the lead in the 18th minute when striker Peter Sherman showed the best way of beating a sweeper of Abdaltam's calibre. Sherman flashed in a shot from 25 metres that beat Belanic all ends up and lodged in the top left-hand corner of the net. Ian Parker made it 2-0 six minutes later. Huigsloot fouled Sherman and Parker's free kick took a deflection and nestled just inside Belanic's left-hand post.

Brett Pullen, who only returned from the national under-18 championships on Saturday, showed he had learned something at the tournament by producing a fine display and completing the scoring in the 52nd minute, following Kevin Connell's corner.

With Hobart Juventus only managing a dismal 0-0 draw in wet and muddy conditions away to Burnie United yesterday, league-leader White Eagle only needs a win and a draw from its five remaining matches to retain the title after it beat Olympia 2-1 at KGV yesterday.

Eagle produced an accomplished performance and a goal in each half, the first by David Stoddart and the second by Andrew Leszczynski, enabled it to brush aside Olympia's challenge. Midfielder Craig Pitt had a marvellous game for White Eagle. He covered every square centimetre of the ground; his passes were precise, and he set up the winning goal and might even have scored himself but for a great save by Phil Kannegiesser.

Kannegiesser was again in excellent form, making magnificent saves from Andrew Leszczynski, Brett Harwood on two occasions, and Pitt. A left-wing cross by Scott Young led to Eagle's opening goal in the 13th minutes. Stoddart controlled the ball beautifully beyond the far post, flicked it around Craig Nichols, and scored with a rising shot that must have scorched Kannegiesser's fingers.

Michael Berwick equalised from the penalty spot midway through the first half, but the penalty decision was a dubious one. Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud misjudged Nichols' corner and defender Michael Driessen went to handle the ball in a reflex action, but withdrew his hand at the last second. Referee Brett MacKay decided Driessen had handled, however, and awarded the spot-kick. The 70th minute winner was a worthy goal. Richard Leszczynski released Pitt on the right, Kannegiesser could only parry his shot, and the ball rolled into the path of Andrew Leszczynski who rammed it into the net.

At Montello Park, Burnie made light work of the heavy conditions, and, despite the absence of Andrew Starrick and Scipio Luttmer, played above itself to fully deserve the point against Hobart Juventus.

Result White Eagle 2 (Stoddart, A. Leszczynski) def. Olympia 1 (Berwick pen)

White Eagle will fly high to make title safe

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 8/7/89

White Eagle is within four points of winning the Cadbury State League title and it should have little trouble in obtaining three of those points against bottom team, Burnie United, in tomorrow's double-header at KGV Soccer Park.

Burnie caused one of the upsets of the season last weekend when it held Hobart Juventus to a 0-0 draw at Montello Park, but it would require a miracle for the coastal side to get anything from this encounter. White Eagle is a team that paces itself well, scoring goals just when they are needed. It should relish the opportunity of building up its excellent goal difference even more tomorrow, and a repeat of its 5-0 first-round win is not impossible.

Burnie has shown some improvement in recent weeks, winning a cup match against Riverside Olympic, then drawing with Juventus. Now that is has drawn level on points with Croatia-Glenorchy, its players will certainly give their all in an endeavour to avoid relegation. This should make for a lively, entertaining match, and one a little different than the typical top versus bottom match once would normally expect to see, with Burnie offering more than just token resistance.

Devonport must be wishing it could again include George Best in its side when it entertains Ulverstone at Valley Road tonight. With the league title beyond their grasp, Ken Morton's men must be aiming to finish runners-up and a win against their coastal neighbours is essential for them to achieve this. Devonport won the first encounter 2-1 at Ulverstone, but Alex McDonald's team could well turn the tables this time, the theory being that both sides are better away from home. It should be a classic game, regardless of the outcome, because both teams are well-drilled and have some of the state's big-name players in their ranks.

Hobart Juventus should prove too strong for visiting Launceston in the opening fixture of tomorrow's double-header at KGV. Hobart Juventus will be keen to atone for its embarrassing result last week and coach David Smith will probably show no mercy to players who fail to perform in the remaining matches. Smith's team has only a very slim chance of catching White Eagle, so he may well be looking at giving promising youngsters a chance.

Brendan Lakosejic was injured in a youth game last week and unable to travel to Burnie, but he might get a place on the bench this week. In the remaining match of the round, Launceston Juventus will have to be wary of visiting Caledonian at Prospect tomorrow. Calies are keen to overhaul at least some of the teams above them in the standing and the southerners are a better side than their results indicate. Calies midfielder, Mat Wesson, is sure to turn in a top performance against his former teammates, while Ian Parker is relishing his return to a striking role.

Launceston Juventus is keen to finish the season as the best of the northern clubs, and anything other than a win will be unsatisfactory if it is to achieve this honour. The home team's defence is very solid, so it should fall to strikers such as Mark Heyes and Roger Mies to ensure that the black-and-white win this game and retain their reputation as one of the more successful teams in the state.

White Eagle thwarts City's bid

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 9/7/1989

Hobart City failed to regain top spot in the Premier Division One soccer competition when it was comprehensively beaten 5-1 by an in form White Eagle team at the Athletic Centre yesterday.

Howrah, which beat bottom side Croatia-Glenorchy 3-1 in midweek, retains the league leadership by two points as a result of City's loss. White Eagle's win moves it into third place on the ladder, a position way beyond even coach Dale Itchins' expectations at the beginning of the season. "I'd aimed to develop youngsters this season and not worry about results, but we seem to be on a bit of a roll at the moment," said Itchins. "This is our fifth win in the past six games, and we've earned 16 points from a possible 18."

Jamie Woulleman and Grant Mason gave Eagle s 2-0 lead at the interval before a goal by Robbie Marino 10 minutes after the resumption put City back into contention. Eagle's tactics of employing three strikers on the small ground was effective, but Itchins' master stroke was moving Mason back into defence and pushing Grant Hildyard up front. Hildyard immediately created Eagle's third goal for Aaron Brown, while Mason made it 4-1 from the penalty spot. The fifth goal came from a great volley by Julian Tattersall, after Mason had flicked on Robert Jacobs' dangerous corner-kick.

Kingborough United maintained its unbeaten home record by scoring once in each half to defeat the visiting Metro-Claremont 2-0 at Sherburd Oval. Metro's chances were few and far between. Full-back Gary Sargent scooped the ball over the Kingborough crossbar in the first half, while Danny Prestage almost tucked the ball into the net following a goalmouth scrimmage in the second half. A delightful free kick from the edge of the penalty area in the 10th minute by Peter Wallace, awarded after Kevin Clamp had fouled Terry Banagan, gave Kingborough the lead.

However, with Andy Ferrall the backbone of the Metro defence, it wasn't until midway through the second half that the home team made the game safe. Scott De Haan had just fired against the Metro woodwork, when Wallace won a tackle in midfield and sent Trueman through for goal number two. Metro was a little more lively in the second half, with Kingborough having to survive several goalmouth scrambles, but its inability to test goalkeeper Tony Maccallini with direct shots was at the heart of its failure.

Olympia scored an amazing 3-0 victory over Hobart Juventus in very windy conditions at South Hobart, all three goals coming in three minutes midway through the second period.

In the two remaining matches, second-half goals by Mark Broadbent and Rod Sanders gave Taroona a 2-0 win over South Hobart, at South Hobart, while Caledonian defeated Rapid 2-1 at the Athletic Centre.

Result White Eagle 5 (Woulleman, Mason 2 1pen, Brown, Tattersall) def. Hobart City 1 (R. Marino)

White Eagle takes firm grip on title after six-goal salvo

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 10/7/89

White Eagle is within a point of retaining its Cadbury State League soccer title after its 6-0 win over Burnie United at KGV Soccer Park yesterday, in what was little more than a practice match for the league champion. Eagle scored three times in each half, but it should have been many more as some delightful build-up work was spoiled by poor finishing.

The team did not even miss midfielder David Stoddart and striker Brett Harwood, both of whom were suspended, allowing Franco Previdi and Bob Nicholson to have a run. Substitutes Sean Collins and Richard Ketchell were brought into the action in the second half, while goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud played in the outfield for the final 20 minutes, with Previdi taking his place in goal. Scott Young headed crosses from Craig Pitt and Nicholson past Burnie goalkeeper Mark Overton in the fifth and 33rd minutes to give Eagle a 2-0 lead.

Young then produced a delicate chip from inside the penalty area for Pitt to head home the third goal three minutes before the interval. Nicholson, Richard Leszczynski and Previdi added goals in the second half to complete the rout, although it must be said Burnie never threw in the towel. Andrew Starick and Pat Troughton fought bravely in defence for the visitors, while Steve Foley and Russell Troughton tried desperately to keep the ball in Burnie's attacking half of the field.

Hobart Juventus, without the injured Sergio Pace, struggled to overcome Launceston 2-0 at KGV in yesterday's curtain-raiser. Juventus striker John McIntyre had a game he will want to forget. He missed at least seven chances, either shooting wide, hitting the woodwork, or having his attempts saved by Launceston goalkeeper, Quentin Darby.

Darby had an outstanding game and was the major obstacle preventing Juventus from scoring an emphatic victory. Launceston's Phil Davis headed Romeo Fabrizio's free kick past his own goalkeeper after eight minutes for Juventus' opener, and it wasn't until four minutes from the end that Frank Genovesi hit the second.

In yesterday's remaining match, which was transferred from Prospect to Invermay Park, Launceston Juventus defeated Caledonian 1-0 through a goal by Roger Mies in the fifth minute. Mark Heyes cut the ball back from the goal-line and Luigi Gugliotti set up Mies for the vital strike. Peter Huigsloot and Paul Fenlon, both central defenders, had Caledonian's only two real chances, but Juventus thoroughly earnt its win.

In Saturday night's coastal derby at Valley Road, home team Devonport City scored a 2-1 win over Ulverstone, all the goals coming in the first half. Strikers Peter Sawdon and Billy Frame were Devonport's marksmen, while midfielder Andrew Howe replied for Ulverstone.

Result White Eagle 6 (Young 2, Pitt, R. Leszczynski, Nicholson, Previdi) def. Burnie United 0

Cadbury State League Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	14	13	1	0	46	15	40
Hobart Juventus	14	9	2	3	33	14	29
Launceston Juventus	14	8	3	3	34	17	27
Devonport City	14	8	3	3	32	17	27
Olympia	14	8	0	6	36	20	24
Ulverstone	14	5	1	7	22	23	17
Launceston	14	4	3	7	25	32	15
Caledonian	14	4	2	8	15	17	14
Croatia-Glenorchy	14	1	1	12	11	39	4
Burnie United	14	1	1	12	10	70	4

Juventus coach slams players

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 12/7/1989

Hobart Juventus coach, Ronnie De Felice, slammed his players for lack of effort on the eve of their Premier Division One clash with bottom side, Croatia-Glenorchy, scheduled for KGV Soccer Park tonight.

De Felice accused his players of having a poor attitude in regard to matches and training attendance and said he would really have a difficult job to motivate them. He was certainly not confident of winning, despite Juventus's fifth place in the standings, a massive 20 points ahead of last-placed Croatia. Juventus has had some disastrous results recently, losing 5-0 to Hobart City and 3-0 to Olympia.

Juventus did defeat league leader, Howrah, 1-0 in between these losses, but De Felice's concern is justified. "We're playing as individuals and there's no understanding, for example, between our full-backs and the wide midfielders," De Felice said. "I'll play myself, and this will mean dropping a striker and pushing a midfielder up. I suspect we may struggle, and we've got to remember we only beat them 2-1 last time."

Juventus will have Brett Williams in goal in place of the suspended Craig Jones. Jones received a two-week suspension and a \$100 fine from the TSA as a result of several incidents at the half-time break and after the match against Hobart City. De Felice will expect a competent performance from Williams, the state under-18 goalkeeper, "Brett was a little reluctant to come off his line against Olympia," De Felice said. "Olympia played well and deserved to win, though, and I wouldn't necessarily place the blame on Brett's shoulders." Judging from Croatia's performances this season, it can have little chance of upsetting Juventus, despite De Felice's pessimism. It is averaging less than a goal a game, while conceding almost three goals per match.

Tonight's main fixture between Hobart City and Olympia promises to be a thrilling affair with second-last Olympia quite capable of toppling second-place City. Olympia caused an upset by downing Juventus 3-0 on Saturday and, with Paul Tsangaris again in the side, it should make City earn its points. Accusations and recriminations were flying everywhere in the City dressing room last weekend when the team was beaten 5-1 by White Eagle and this sort of disharmony will certainly not help tonight. The disappointment of defeat must be replaced by new enthusiasm and a will to win, with everyone getting behind each other and the coach. City easily accounted for Olympia 5-2 in the first round.

Easy run home, so Eagle eyes successive titles

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 14/7/89

White Eagle should take out the Cadbury State League title for the second year in succession by defeating Launceston at Ogilvie Park on Sunday.

Eagle really only needs a draw from the match, and even a defeat wouldn't be a disaster as it would still have three games left to get the points it needs. Anything but an Eagle win is unlikely, however, as the team will be virtually at full strength with the return from suspension of midfielder David Stoddart. Brett Harwood, the club's leading scorer, still has one week of his suspension to serve, but coach Eugene Mycak won't lose any sleep about a replacement as there are numerous players queueing up for a game.

Midfielder Scott Young seems certain to be in the starting line-up despite going off last week with an ankle injury and missing training on Tuesday. Franco Previdi and Sean Collins look like warming the bench, although Collins may get a run at some time because Mycak is a little worried about left full-back Neil Morrison's form. Mycak is not perturbed about the possibility of his team wrapping up the championship away from its own supporters. "I just want to win the title as soon as possible," Mycak said. "There are several other things to aim for, too. We would like to complete the season undefeated, and Brett Harwood and David Stoddart are in with a chance of being the leading goal scorers in the league."

Harwood will not play this week, of course, but Stoddart has ten goals and is only five behind Devonport's Peter Sawdon, so he may play in an offensive midfield role. He doesn't like to go up front because he doesn't like to be marked, so he'll be coming from deep and looking for goals."

Devonport City is intent on finishing second and it should be at full strength against Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday. Full-back Darren Chilcott has a slight hamstring strain, a legacy of last week's win over Ulverstone, but coach Ken Morton is confident he will be fit. If he isn't, Stewart Oliver will move from midfield to full-back. Caledonian must be rated a chance of containing Devonport, but it will have to make much better use of the chances that come its way.

Burnie United makes its second Sunday trip in a row to KGV, and it can probably expect a similar result against Olympia as its 8-0 loss to White Eagle last week. Olympia striker Paul Xanthopoulos warmed up in the clubs Premier Division One side on Wednesday and seems ready to resume his senior place and this will spell trouble for the visitor.

Burnies' attack is struggling and will have great difficulty in penetrating an Olympia defence that includes goalkeeper Phil Kannegger, who is having a tremendous season.

Croatia-Glenorchy entertains Launceston Juventus in a rare Saturday fixture at KGV in which Juventus must be regarded as the hot favourite. Croatia will be desperate for a point as it strives to create any sort of gap between itself and last-placed Burnie, but Juventus will be just as keen because it has second place in its sights. In the weekend's remaining match, Hobart Juventus, without the injured Sergio Pace, faces a difficult away match at Ulverstone and it may well relinquish second position in the standings by either drawing or losing.

'Eagle' retains premiership

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 16/7/89

White Eagle is this year's Cadbury State League soccer champion after previously second-placed Hobart Juventus could only draw 0-0 with Ulverstone at Knight's Rd yesterday.

Hobart Juventus needed to win to keep its faint title hopes alive, but these would probably have been extinguished today as Eagle will most likely defeat, or at least draw with, Launceston at Ogilvie Park. As it is, Eagle's game with Launceston is now irrelevant as no other team can overhaul it. The title is Eagle's second successive championship, its third in four seasons, and coach Eugene Mycak will now aim to complete the league season undefeated. Launceston Juventus moved into second spot when it came back from a 2- deficit to defeat Croatia-Glenorchy 4-2 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

Neil Thomas, Croatia's player-coach, set up goals for Chris Barrell and Neal Bishop in the 13th and 18th minutes respectively, but Croatia did not reckon on the brilliance of Juventus midfielder, Mark Nikolai. Nikolai, a former Rapid player, is not a regular in the Juventus line-up but he made every minute count yesterday, scoring twice and making the other two goals for team-mate Roger Mies. Nikolai scored in the 23rd and 42nd minutes to make it 2-2, then provided Mies with the simplest of goals two minutes before the interval to send Juventus in 3-2 up at the break. In the 72nd minute, Nikolai controlled a Paul Gimpl throw-in, turned and knocked the ball into the path of Mies, who was untroubled in shooting past goalkeeper Robbie Huigslot to make it 4-2 for the visitor.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

Howrah extended its lead over Hobart City in the Premier Division One competition to five points when it scraped home 1-0 against Metro-Claremont at South Hobart yesterday thanks to an Alistair Hales goal in the 52nd minute. Howrah, which was well-served in defence by brother Tony and Robert New, should have taken the lead in the 18th minutes when referee Jim Anderton awarded it a penalty, but Metro goalkeeper, Brett Porthouse, saved Karl Brightman's spot-kick.

White Eagle continued its rapid climb up the table by easily disposing of University 4-0 at the campus ground through goals by Aaron Brown, a penalty by Grant Hildyard, Jamie Woulleman, and an own goal. Julian Tattersall should have added a fifth, but he missed with a penalty.

Taroona just got home 3-2 against Caledonian at the Athletic Centre by courtesy of an own goal 15 minutes from the end. An own goal saw Calies ahead after the opening 45 minutes, but Phil Kerr equalised for Taroona. Peter Jordan restored Calies' lead. Kerr levelled yet again, and, then disaster struck for Calies.

In the final game of the round, Rapid defeated Kingborough United 4-2 at Sherburd Oval, after leading 2-1 at half time. John Cionci, with two goals, Andy White and Paul Sherman were Rapid's scorers, while Peter Wallace and Ronnie Bolton replied for Kingborough.

Result White Eagle 4 (Hildyard pen, Brown, Woulleman, OG) def. University 0

New goals set by unbeaten state league premier

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 17/7/89

White Eagle confirmed its status as the newly crowned Cadbury State League soccer champion with an emphatic 5-0 win against Launceston at Ogilvie Park yesterday.

Eagle retained the title on Saturday without kicking a ball when its nearest rival, Hobart Juventus, was held to a goalless draw away to Ulverstone. David Stoddart scored twice for the champion against third-last Launceston. The other goals came from Michael Driessen, Scott Young and Richard Leszczynski.

With three matches left, White Eagle coach Eugene Mycak must be confident his team can complete its league program undefeated. With the title won, the players can now concentrate on trying to make either Brett Harwood or David Stoddart the league's leading goal scorer.

A hat-trick by Ian Parker gave Calies a 3-1 win against Devonport, severely denting the North-West Coast side's hopes of finishing in second spot.

In yesterday's other fixture, also at KGV, midfielder Michael Goldsmith also hit a hat-trick as Olympia downed bottom-side Burnie United 5-1. Goldsmith, who captained Olympia yesterday, turned in a memorable performance in what was his final appearance for the club. He leaves Tasmania on Wednesday to join the Army.

In the Devonport-Calies clash, Peter Sawdon opened Devonport's account after only six minutes by easily converting Billy Frame's low cross from the right. Calies' equaliser on the half-hour was a gem. Kevin Connell turned sharply on the edge of the penalty area before passing to Parker, who slotted the ball past Bob Smith. A minute later, Parker scored with his shin from John Paplos's high lob into the goal mouth. Parker made the game safe for Calies five minutes from the end by neatly lobbing the ball into an unprotected goal.

Olympia got off to a great start against Burnie when Craig Nichols smashed home Chris Hey's pass from the right after three minutes. Goldsmith scored the second goal in the 37th minute, direct from a free kick which he had earned

after being fouled by Burnie's player-coach, Kevin Considine. A crisp, first time volley in the 57th minute, after Nichols's cross, gave Goldsmith his second goal. Billy Tsakiris made it 4-0 in the 73rd minute with a bullet-like shot from the left. Goldsmith completed his hat-trick a minute later. Mick Martin found the net for a Burnie consolation goal in the last minute.

Result White Eagle 5 (Stoddart 2, Young, R. Leszczynski, Driessen) def. Launceston 0

Devonport City will add to Croatia-Glenorchy's woes

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 21/7/89

Croatia-Glenorchy resumes its struggle against relegation from the Cadbury State League soccer competition when it clashes with Devonport City at Valley Road tomorrow.

Croatia's situation is precarious as it is second-last in the standings, level on four points with Burnie United. Although Croatia would be safe if things remain as they are, given its much superior goal difference compared to the coastal side, Burnie has a much easier run-in to the end of the season.

Burnie is much more likely to snatch the odd point from its games against Launceston (home), Ulverstone (away) and Caledonian (home), than is Croatia, which has to meet Devonport (away), Hobart Juventus (KGV) and league champion, White Eagle (KGV). Brian Davidson will be back in the Croatia line-up after a two-week absence because of a hamstring injury and he will replace young full-back, Sean Albiston, who has an ankle injury.

Ricky Neads will be included in Croatia's squad, while Marijan Begovic may take over from Robbie Huigsloot in goal. Begovic, who has been playing at left full-back, but whose natural position is in goal – he has been selected in national youth training squads as a goalkeeper in the past – performed admirably in the club's Premier Division One team on Wednesday and should get the nod from coach Neil Thomas.

This will allow Huigsloot to return to the centre of the defence, where he forms a competent tandem with Chris Bessell. It will also permit Thomas to push the brilliant Ahmad Abdaltam into midfield, where his skills can be utilised fully. Despite the changes, Croatia seems unlikely to be able to surmount the huge obstacle that Devonport represents, and Ken Morton's charges will undoubtedly gain another three points in their quest for second spot.

Hobart Juventus and Caledonian meet at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday in what is a rehearsal for their meeting the following weekend in the quarterfinals of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition. Juventus will miss Mark Kelly (torn ankle ligaments) and Sergio Pace (knee), but should welcome back Romeo Frediani and John Broadhouse, both of whom should provide much needed scoring power. Coach David Smith has been impressed with David Nicholls' form in the reserves and the goalscoring midfielder may get a run at some stage of this match.

Caledonian will have Peter Sherman back after suspension and he should partner Ian Parker in an attack that will worry the Juventus defence.

Ace striker Brett Harwood returns to the White Eagle line-up and the league champion should continue its winning run against Ulverstone at KGV on Sunday. Harwood will operate in attack with Richard Leszczynski, but coach Eugene Mycak's biggest worry is who to leave out of the star-studded midfield, where five classy players are vying for four positions.

In the weekend's remaining matches, Olympia may well down Launceston Juventus at Prospect tomorrow, while Burnie just might grab a point, which will be worth its weight in gold, at home against Launceston on Sunday.

Goalie's slip sets up Olympia's win

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 23/7/89

Olympia moved into second position on the Cadbury State League soccer ladder when it defeated Launceston Juventus 1-0 at Prospect Yesterday.

The decisive goal came in the 82nd minute, after a cross from the right by Olympia defender Michael Edward. Juventus goalkeeper, Warren Dent, attempted to punch the ball clear, but it fell to a group of three or four Olympia players and Craig Nichols had the last touch before the ball ended up in the back of the net.

Olympia played almost the entire second half with a stand-in goalkeeper, which made its victory even more meritorious. Phil Kannegger injured his right hand two minutes after the resumption and utility player Lars Koch went into goal. Billy Tsakiris came on to take Koch's place in attack and he provided the Juventus defence with plenty of headaches before the final whistle.

Croatia-Glenorchy will be eagerly awaiting the outcome of today's match between last-placed Burnie United and Launceston after losing 5-2 to Devonport City at Valley Road yesterday. Second-last Croatia must rely on Burnie failing to get a point in its last three matches if it is to avoid relegation as Croatia certainly seems incapable of salvaging anything from its remaining two games, judging from yesterday's performance.

Croatia should have led by at least three goals at half time, but it was Devonport which went in at the break 1-0 ahead, thanks to a Kevin Smith penalty, awarded after Peter Sawdon had been fouled. Sawdon, the league's leading marksman, went on to score twice in the second half as Devonport finally found Croatia's measure and swamped the

visitor, the other goals coming from Billy Frame and Wayne Boyd. Robbie Baric and Robbie Huigslot made amends for Croatia's earlier misses by scoring a goal each in the second period. With White Eagle already the champion, the race for second place is now on in earnest and four teams – Olympia, Hobart Juventus, Launceston Juventus and Devonport – are all on 30 points with only goal difference separating them.

'Eagle' home claws with last-half burst

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 24/7/89

It is difficult to fathom why Ulverstone is only in sixth place in the Cadbury State League soccer competition. The Reds turned in a stirring performance against league champion, White Eagle, in very heavy conditions at KGV Soccer Park yesterday and led 1-0 at the interval, only to lose 3-1 as Eagle performed its almost customary escape act.

Ulverstone dominated the first half, with defenders Les Jones, John Compagne and Michael Foote overshadowing the Eagle strikers, and Tom Compagne and Andrew Howe proving extremely inventive in midfield, despite the energy-sapping mud. Two magnificent saves by White Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, probably kept Eagle's unbeaten league record intact, but there were other close calls, Eugene Banasik blocking Foote's effort on the line, and Sallese shooting against the far post, having shown the Eagle defence a clean pair of heels with a great run down the left.

Groenewoud's save in the 53rd minute was world-class. Tom Compagne released Guilbert on the left, Michael Jones met his cross with a firm, well-placed header that had "goal" written all over it, but Groenewoud somehow flung himself backwards to tip the ball over the cross bar. Four minutes from the end, Groenewoud foiled Michael Jones with his legs after the striker had mesmerised the Eagle defence and worked his way into the penalty area for a strike at goal.

Michael Jones set up Tom Compagne for the opening goal in the 40th minute, but, as has happened so often this season, Eagle recovered brilliantly to grab the goals needed for victory. In the 58th minute, Andy Howe failed to control Andrew Leszczynski's ball into the penalty area and Scott Young swooped to knock in the equaliser. Two goals in two minutes midway through the half, then killed off Ulverstone, as Eagle demonstrated its counterattacking ability and clinical finishing. In the 65th minute, David Stoddart fed substitute Richard Leszczynski on the left and he turned sharply inside the penalty area and planted a low drive past the diving Roger Andrews and into the far corner of the net to give Eagle the lead. A minute later, Stoddart fought for the ball on the edge of the penalty area and, as it ran loose, Brett Harwood slammed it home to make it 3-1 for the champion.

Hobart Juventus regained second place in the standings with a 3-0 win over Caledonian at KGV yesterday in a game that proved costly for both sides. John Paplos was sent off for Calies, which also had Kevin Connell taken to hospital by ambulance with a knee injury, while Juventus had Romeo Frabrizio sent off, and lost midfielders Billy Stanford (knee) and Steve Kannegiesser (groin) through injury.

Fabrizio hit Juventus' first, from Kannegiesser's delivery, after seven minutes, but it wasn't until the 53rd minutes that Juventus notched its second after a comedy of errors by the Calies defence. A high ball skimmed off Paul Fenlon's head to Peter Huigslot, whose attempted clearance cannoned off Fenlon to Fabrizio. Fabrizio advanced on goal, Glen Steward parried his shot, but John McIntyre scored at the second attempt, his first effort sticking in a puddle on the line. Romeo Frediani scored Juventus' third 10 minutes from time with a superb solo effort in which he juggled the ball past three defenders before shooting past Stewart.

Burnie United virtually assured itself of safety from relegation with an astounding 5-0 home win against Launceston in yesterday's remaining match, Steve Eastley (2), Darren Timms (2) and player-coach, Kevin Considine, being the marksmen.

Result White Eagle 3 (Young, R. Leszczynski, Harwood) def. Ulverstone 1 (T. Compagne)

White Eagle coach always looks to the next goal

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 25/7/1989

EUGENE MYCAK, coach of Cadbury State League soccer champion White Eagle, is relatively calm about his team's success this season. Mycak said he had prepared this season's program with the State League title as the ultimate prize, and everything had gone according to plan. The team had lost twice to Juventus in the pre-season competition, but no-one had panicked, and this was a sign of the mature outlook on the part of everyone involved with the club.

With the league title retained, White Eagle won the championship in 1986 and 1988 as well, Mycak's aim now is to complete the league season undefeated, win the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition, and try to make either Brett Harwood or David Stoddart the league's leading goalscorer. Mycak is no stranger to success, having played and coached professionally in his native Poland, as well in the US. In Poland, he coached a third division side to promotion to the second division and to the semi-finals of the national cup competition.

He then spent some time in the United States before coming to Tasmania, where his only other title success was winning the second division championship with White Eagle and taking the team back into the highest grade. Mycak's lifestyle has changed considerably since his arrival in Tasmania at the beginning of this decade. He is now a physical education teacher at New Town High School and is hoping to obtain permanent status with the Education Department. "I must pay considerable credit to the Education Department, to my principal, and to Mr. Trousselot, my physical education senior master," Mycak said.

"They have all contributed to our title win because teaching at New Town High has been so convenient for me. It is close to where I live, and the school's involvement with the community means we have been able to use the school's facilities as part of our training program." Mycak also paid tribute to his team manager, Eddie Kempa, club president

David Stoddart snr, trainer Bobby Rybak, reserve team coach Dale Itchins and Mrs. Leszczynski, mother of four of the players, who always provided a veritable banquet for the team after each game.

Mycak was reluctant to single out individual players for special praise, but he did say that four or five of them could probably get up to national league standard if they were prepared to train up to five times a week. He did mention the influence of captain and sweeper Mark Leszczynski however, who coached the side to last year's title, and who Mycak believes has a great future as a coach. "Mark is an excellent player and a vital part of the team, but he is also a close personal friend and he has often been a sort of link between me and the team," Mycak said. "He is close to the players on the field, at training and socially, and he can assess their general mood and relay this to me, which is invaluable for a coach.

"It is difficult to be a coach in Tasmania because you have to be a friend, a coach, a diplomat and an adviser. You have to be one of the boys to a certain extent, but you still have to be boss and make the difficult decisions." Mycak will leave his future up to the players, strangely enough. He intends to hold another team meeting, just like at the start of the season, and if the players want him as coach, he will stay. Although he would consider coaching interstate, especially in the NSL, it would take a mighty good offer to lure him away from the security he enjoys in Tasmania.

Three-goal win top priority for Juventus

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 27/7/1989

HOBART JUVVENTUS can move into second place in the Premier Division One soccer standings if it defeats Rapid by more than three goals at the Athletic Centre today.

Juventus coach, Ronnie Di Felice will aim to achieve this and instruct his players to try and play one-touch soccer on the small ground, which doesn't really suit Juventus' style of play.

Rapid, which claimed it got a raw deal from the referee last week when it went down 4-1 to Howrah, could be a tough nut to crack, although its own form at the Athletic Centre has not been very good. It has only won once and drawn once, but lost three times at that venue, so the omens are not bright.

University should defeat South Hobart at University, despite being without goalkeeper David Cruse and striker Tim O'Callaghan, both of whom are unavailable. Tom Wanner will replace O'Callaghan while Carl Gavan will again play in goal. Chrs Hargrave will play sweeper and, with Peter Crowther playing well in midfield and Wanner partnering the speedy Chris Green in attack, the students should edge a little farther away from the relegation zone. Coach Andrew Robinson is desperate for points, but expects a tough game on what will probably be a bumpy and sticky surface.

The White Eagle versus Caledonian match at South Hobart should be a thrilling encounter, with Calies quite capable of bringing Eagle's recent successful run to a halt. White Eagle was very disappointing in only beating South Hobart 2-0 last week and Dale Itchins' team will have to be much sharper in front of goal to get something out of this match.

Kingborough United has the bye, while the Tarroona versus Howrah match has been postponed because of Howrah's Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup quarter-final tie against Olympia on Sunday.

Howrah awkward Cup hurdle for Olympia

By WALTER PLESS - STATEWIDE CUP - 28/7/1989

DEFENDING champion Olympia faces an awkward quarterfinal tie when it meets Premier Competition One side Howrah in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup competition at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday.

Howrah leads the Premier Division One competition, which indicates it will have some chance against its Cadbury State League opponent. Olympia coach David Crosson is undecided about his team, as some players may be unavailable, while others have nagging injuries which may not have healed in time.

Midfielder Roger Munro has accumulated 12 disciplinary points and will probably be automatically suspended, although there is a question mark about whether he is eligible to play in the Cup but not in a league match. Defender Chris Hey may also be unavailable because of work commitments.

Goalkeeper Phil Kannegeisser should have recovered from a hand injury suffered last weekend, while Crosson hopes Glen McNeil will be ready to resume after missing several games because of a recurring hamstring injury. Crosson intends playing, despite a sore hamstring, and Billy Tsakiris, Lars Koch and Carlo Ambrosino all seem likely to be in the starting line-up.

"I rate Koch very much." Crosson said. "He gives it everything and he's the sort of player every team needs. "Howrah may be a problem, especially if we don't approach this game with the right attitude, but I'd have to be confident about our chances."

Howrah coach Robert New has a complete squad to choose from and said his players were confident, especially after drawing 2-2 against Olympia in a preseason game. Andrew Dobbie will be in the starting line-up after only playing in the second half of last week's match, while Malcolm Lockley will probably be on the bench, having finally recovered from a pulled thigh muscle.

Caledonian will be without full-back John Paplos and midfielder Kevin Connell for its meeting on Sunday with Hobart Juventus at KGV. Paplos was suspended after being sent off against Juventus last week, while Connell has damaged knee ligaments and will miss the rest of the season, Peter Jordan and Jason Goodsell are the most likely replacements, with Bret Anderton, Shane Salter and Ian McGlone occupying the substitutes' bench.

Juventus won last week's league encounter between the sides 3-0, but this may be a different kettle of fish with Steve Kannegger out injured, Romeo Fahrizio suspended, and Billy Stanford doubtful because of a knee injury. John Broadhove may make a welcome return to the side, and David Nicholls may retain his place after making an appearance as a substitute last week.

White Eagle should have few problems against Launceston at Prospect tomorrow, despite the absence of Michael Driessen and Richard Leszczynski. Brett Harwood has an infected toe and must be regarded as doubtful, but Franco Previdi, Sean Collins and Richard Ketchell, the most likely replacements, are all seasoned senior squad members.

In the remaining quarter-final tie, Burnie United entertains Launceston Juventus at Montello Park on Sunday. Anything is possible after Burnie's astonishing 5-0 league win against Launceston last week.

White Eagle grabs semi spot

By WALTER PLESS - STATEWIDE CUP - 30/7/1989

State league soccer champion, White Eagle, secured a place in the semi-finals of the Bohemian Istaunt Statewide Cup by defeating Launceston 2-0 in their quarter-final tie at Prospect yesterday.

White Eagle scored once in each half on an atrocious pitch and in poor weather conditions. Midfielder Craig Pitt opened the scoring in the eighth minute, after a cross-field build-up involving Scott Young and Franco Previdi, which tore the Launceston defence apart. Andrew Leszczynski should have added another goal in the 17th minute when Eagle was awarded a penalty for handball, but the striker had his twice-taken penalty kick saved both times by Launceston goalkeeper Quinton Darby.

David Stoddart sealed Launceston's fate four minutes after the interval. He controlled Neil Morrison's free kick from the left and planted the ball past Darby from 12 metres.

Result: White Eagle 2 (Pitt, Stoddart) def. Launceston 0

SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE

With league pacesetters Howrah and Hobart City idle yesterday, Hobart Juventus squandered a great opportunity to move into second place in the Premier Division One standings when it slumped to a 1-0 defeat against Rapid at the Athletic Centre. Juventus, which had senior-team player Sergio Pace in its ranks, fell to a second-half goal by Paul Sherman, who converted Andy White's cross.

White Eagle took full advantage of Juventus's lapse by displacing the Italian-backed club in third spot by virtue of its 4-2 win over Caledonian at South Hobart. All four Eagle goals came from Grant Mason, who played as a striker instead of his usual position of either midfielder or central defender.

Mason headed his first after five minutes from Aaron Browns centre, then added a second in the 40th minute after Caledonian goalkeeper, Robert Stoneman could only parry Jamie Woullemans angled drive. Mason completed his hat-trick in the 59th minute after a fine run into the penalty area on the left by Tattersall. Stoneman blocked Mason's first attempt, but was helpless when the striker struck home the rebound.

Caledonian still had a sting in its tail, however, and when Scott Smith and Tony Shields took advantage of lapses in the Eagle defence to score a goal each and make the score 3-2. Eagle's lead seemed precarious, indeed Shane Salter should have equalised when Shields put him through the middle, but he delayed his shot much too long and, when he finally attempted a strike, Eagle goalkeeper Frank Maineliss was able to block the ball easily.

With five minutes remaining, Mason came to Eagle's rescue by scoring from a penalty, awarded after Paul Murray had terminated yet another of Tattersell's hop-step-and-jump routines inside the penalty area. Calies' Craig Siddall was sent off seconds before Mason took the spot-kick, after he allegedly elbowed White Eagle substitute, Simon Templeman, as they stood together in the penalty area.

In the remaining match, University moved up a place to ninth in the standings by defeating South Hobart 4-1, at University.

Result White Eagle 4 (Mason 4) def. Caledonians 2 (Smith, Shields)

White Eagle should keep unbeaten record intact

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 2/8/89

WHITE EAGLE, the Cadbury State League champion, will be out to defend its unbeaten league record when it meets seventh-placed Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park tonight.

Eagle has swept just about everything before it this season end it should win, although it will have to be at its best. Calies was almost the first team to take point off Eagle this season when it went down by the narrowest of margins in the first round. Eagle came back from 1-0 down to win 2-1, but only with the aid of a highly controversial penalty.

Midfielder Andrew Leszczynski will be missing from the champions line-up because of a hamstring injury, suffered while taking a penalty against Launceston last Saturday. The club is hoping that Michael Driessen will be back from Sydney. The central defender missed Eagle's cup game at the weekend. Richard Leszczynski returns to the driving seat up front after his absence at the weekend and his speed may well trouble Calies' defence.

Caledonian will field the same starting line-up that lost to Hobart Juventus on Sunday. Paul Murray, a promising 16-year-old, will get a place on the substitutes' bench, together with John Paplos, who has completed a one-match suspension. Caledonian coach, Bret Anderton, regards David Stoddart as Eagle's playmaker and he will assign Darren Anderton to neutralise him.

Calies have two aims in this game - to be the first team to defeat Eagle in the league this season, and to make it as difficult as possible for Brett Harwood and Stoddart to win the leading marksman award.

Caledonian's Premier Division One side will be without Craig Siddall when it faces University in tonight's curtain-raiser. Siddall was shown the red card in the game against White Eagle on Saturday and is automatically suspended for this match. The team will be strengthened by the inclusion of senior-squad member John Paplos, and the return of Stacey Peters, who has been unavailable for several weeks because of work commitments. Scott Smith, who scored against Eagle on Saturday, is unavailable because of study commitments.

Calies fail to Clip wings of 'Eagle'

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 3/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE kept its unbeaten Cadbury State League record intact last night with a 1.0 win over Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park.

The league champion was unimpressive, and Caledonian must consider itself extremely unfortunate not to have earned at least a point. Calies failed to take advantage of confusion in the Eagle defence on at least two occasions in the first half, while Brett Pullen, who had an excellent match, missed two good chances in the second period.

Pullen sent in a rasping shot just wide of Peter Groenewoud's left-hand post on the first occasion, then saw Groenewoud pull off a great save from his low drive on the second. Eagle's best chance in the first half came when Brett Harwood rounded goalkeeper Glen Stewart, but the striker squandered the opening by shooting into the side netting.

The solitary goal came on the hour. David Stoddart crossed from the right, and Harwood knocked the ball past Stewart for his 15th league goal of the season. Last night's result stretched Eagle's unbeaten league sequence to an incredible 32 games.

Result White Eagle 1 (Harwood) def. Caledonians 0

United ground edge hones Eagle's anxiety

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 5/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE'S Premier Division One coach, Dale Itchins, is dreading his side's visit to Sherburd Oval today to face Kingborough United. Itchins said Kingborough would be very difficult to beat on its home patch, despite his team's impressive run of nine games - eight wins and a draw without defeat.

Robert Jacobs will miss the match because of a calf injury suffered against South Hobart a couple of weeks ago. Jacobs trained on Thursday but Itchins is not prepared to risk him and will save him for next week's crucial top-of-the-table clash against Howrah.

Chris Leszczynski will come back into Eagle's 13-man squad after first-team duty. Kingborough is certainly a team to be respected, especially at home, but Eagle definitely has the class to win and stay in touch with the two leading teams.

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 6/8/1989

White Eagle took its unbeaten sequence to 10 games when it overpowered Kingborough United 3-0 at Sherburd Oval. Jamie Woulleman struck Eagle's first, Grant Mason made it 2-0 from the penalty spot before the interval, while Woulleman grabbed his second, and Eagle's third, in the second half.

Result White Eagle 3 (Woulleman 2, Mason) def. Kingborough 0

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	16	14	0	2	42	13	42
Hobart City	18	12	3	3	48	30	39
White Eagle	17	12	1	4	51	29	37
Hobart Juventus	18	13	1	3	40	23	36
Taroona	17	10	0	7	38	28	30
Caledonian	16	7	2	7	44	40	23
Kingborough Utd	17	7	2	8	21	24	23
Rapid	17	6	2	9	27	38	20
University	16	5	3	8	27	30	18
Metro Claremont	17	6	0	11	24	37	18
Olympia	18	5	2	11	29	45	17
South Hobart	16	3	2	11	20	39	11
Croatia-Glenorchy	17	1	2	14	14	52	5

Curtain is poised to fall on Croatia

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 12/8/1989

CROATIA-GLENORCHY will require a miracle this weekend to avoid relegation from the Cadbury State League soccer competition.

Last-placed Croatia must defeat league champion White Eagle when they meet at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday to avoid the drop. Even if it does pull off the "impossible", its fate will still depend on Caledonian defeating Burnie United at Montello Park the same day.

Croatia can expect no sympathy or mercy from a full-strength White Eagle. Croatia has a tendency to commit basic errors in defence and it must overcome this failing to have any chance of survival.

Hobart Juventus should finish second this season by accounting for Launceston Juventus in Sunday's main fixture at KGV. The Hobart side should have star midfielder Steve Kannegger back after injury and this will swing the odds in its favour. Kannegger shut Launceston player-coach Peter Savill out of the game when the southerners won 2-0 at Prospect in the first round.

In tomorrow's two matches, Ulverstone should do better against Launceston than their goal-less draw of the first round, while Olympia may well reverse its first-round result against Devonport City, when Devonport won 3-2 at KGV.

Ulverstone has impressed on many occasions this season without getting the results it has deserved. Olympia always performs better away from home, as does Devonport, so the southerners should win. Devonport coach Ken Morton will have his team well organised, but Olympia's ability to improvise should see it through to finish third in the standings.

Olympia moves into second spot

By WALTER PLESS 13/8/1989

OLYMPIA finished the Cadbury State League season on a high note yesterday by moving into second spot by virtue of its 3-0 away win over Devonport City at Valley Road.

Billy Tsakiris, Paul Xanthopoulos and Roger Munro were Olympia's scorers. Olympia is level on 36 points with Hobart Juventus. The two teams also have identical goal differences, but Olympia occupies second place because it has scored six more goals than Juventus. Hobart Juventus can reclaim second spot by either drawing with, or defeating, Launceston Juventus in today's main fixture at KGV Soccer Park.

Launceston improved its league position by one place - from eighth to seventh spot - with a 4-3 win over the visiting Ulverstone at Ogilvie Park yesterday. Ulverstone got off to a great start and led 2-0 after only 15 minutes through goals by John Sallese and Tom Compagne, the latter from the penalty spot. It might have grabbed another two or three goals in the opening half, but two opportunities went begging and Anthony Guilbert fired against the crossbar.

An own-goal by Ulverstone barely two minutes after the resumption altered the pattern of the game completely. Ulverstone faded into obscurity, while Launceston began to string moves together and it was no surprise when Conrad Hughes notched the equaliser in the 54th minute.

Hughes edged Launceston ahead midway through the second half, but David Mitchell powered Tom Compagne's corner past the Launceston goalkeeper to level the scores yet again with eight minutes left to play.

A penalty in the 85th minute, converted by Hughes, gave him his hat-trick and earned Launceston a meritorious victory after it had appeared to be down for the count in the opening 45 minutes.

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION

In the Southern Premier Division One competition, Howrah took one step closer to the title with a 2-1 win over White Eagle at South Hobart, Eagle's first defeat in 11 games.

Richard Dixson put Howrah ahead, but a free kick by Jamie Wouleman just before the break levelled the scores. Eagle dominated the second half, but a quick counter-attack in the dying minutes settled the issue. Eagle goalkeeper Frank Mainella, could only parry Paul Engels' shot and Dixson slotted home the rebound.

Four goals by Rod Sanders took him to the top of the individual goalscoring charts, and helped Taroona to a 5-2 win over Olympia, Taroona's other goal coming from Robert Furjanic. Olympia, which had Shannon Keskeridis sent off 15 minutes from the end for serious foul play replied through Harry Hages and Andrew Hart.

Kingborough United caused a surprise by disposing of University 4-1, David Dingjan scoring twice for the winner.

Result White Eagle 1 (Wouleman) lost to Howrah 2 (Dixson 2)

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	17	15	0	2	44	14	45
Hobart City	19	12	4	3	48	30	40
White Eagle	18	12	1	5	52	31	37
Hobart Juventus	18	11	3	4	40	23	36
Taroona	18	11	0	7	43	30	33
Caledonian	18	8	3	7	46	41	27
Kingborough Utd	18	8	2	8	25	25	26
Rapid	18	7	2	9	30	39	23
Metro Claremont	19	6	2	11	24	37	19
University	17	5	3	9	28	34	18
Olympia	19	5	2	12	31	47	17
South Hobart	17	3	2	12	20	41	11
Croatia-Glenorchy	19	1	3	15	16	55	6

White Eagle scrapes in for draw after Juventus' early onslaught

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 1989

WHITE EAGLE recovered after being two goals down in the opening 10 minutes to draw 2-2 with Hobart Juventus in their Premier Division One soccer match at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Eagle had no answer to the Juventus onslaught in the opening stages. David Nichols was like a bounty hunter, shooting on sight, while John Broadhouse, socks down and shirt out, mesmerised the Eagle defence with his speed, positional sense and dribbling ability.

It was this pair that threatened to destroy Eagle. Nichols smashed home the first goal in the fifth minute after the Eagle defence only partially cleared Rocky Schiro's free kick. Five minutes later, Nichols released Broadhouse with a perfectly-timed pass and the winger rounded goalkeeper Frank Mainella and had all the time in the world to line-up his shot. By the time Eagle defender Grant Hildyard arrived on the scene, all he could do was help Broadhouse's shot into the net.

With the three points seemingly in its pocket, Juventus suddenly went off the boil and Eagle drew level by the break. A penalty, converted by Grant Mason, midway through the half gave Eagle the encouragement it needed, while Tattersall's scrambled equaliser in the 33rd minute, after a free kick, virtually signalled the end of Juventus' chances. The second period was a tense affair, with both sides unsuccessfully searching for the elusive winner.

The draw leaves Eagle and Juventus in third and fourth places respectively, five and six points behind second-placed Hobart City, which scrambled a 3-2 win out of nothing against Caledonian in last night's curtain-raiser. An inept defence cost Caledonian the game. Twice it left Paul Kaproulias unmarked and twice the City striker scored. He completed his hat-trick in the final minute from the penalty spot, after David Stint had unnecessarily upended Robbie Marino.

Peter Jordan and Tony Shields had given Calies the lead twice during the game, and numerous other chances went begging as Calies pinned City in its own half for long periods and threatened to annihilate their opponent. Kevin Connell made a marvellous comeback to the Calies team after several weeks out with a knee ligament injury. He showed no after effects of his injury, twisting and turning past defenders and firing a superb shot against the City post in the first half, and sending over a steady stream of dangerous crosses and corners.

Result White Eagle 2 (Mason pen, Tattersall) drew with Juventus 2 (Nichols, Broadhouse)

White Eagle hammers home the final nail

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 14/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE, the Cadbury State League soccer champion, completed its 18-game league program undefeated when it crushed last-placed Croatia-Glenorchy 4-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday. White Eagle finished a massive 15 points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus, which finished its league commitments with a goalless draw against sister-club Launceston Juventus in yesterday's main feature at KGV.

Brett Harwood, the White Eagle striker, finished second to Devonport City's Peter Sawdon in the individual goal scoring contest. Harwood only scored once yesterday to finish on 16 goals, two behind Sawdon. With Croatia having lost to the league champion earlier in the day, Burnie United, which was therefore in no danger of finishing last, duly went down 4-2 to the visiting Caledonian at Montello Park.

Croatia, without the injured Brian Davidson, was always up against it yesterday and it came as no surprise when Franco Previdi flicked home Neil Morrison's corner in the eighth minute to give the league champion, which was without Michael Driessen and Andrew Leszczynski, the lead. Scott Young drifted through the Croatia defence in the 21st minute to head home Bob Nicholson's cross for Eagle's second goal. Morrison might have scored a few minutes earlier, but his deep cross from the left came back off the crossbar.

A low shot into the far corner of the net on the hour by substitute Richard Leszczynski made it 3-0, while Harwood headed the fourth from Peter Groenewoud's cross four minutes from time. Groenewoud had taken up a striker's role, with Previdi going into goal. Robbie Baric, Neal Bishop and Chris Bessell were the only Croatia players to have scoring chances, while Marijan Begovic pulled off some great saves in goal.

Result White Eagle 4 (Previdi, Harwood, Young, R. Leszczynski) def. Croatia-Glenorchy 0

Cadbury State League Final Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	18	17	1	0	59	16	52
Hobart Juventus	18	11	4	3	41	16	37
Olympia	18	12	0	6	47	22	36
Launceston Juventus	18	9	5	4	39	21	32
Devonport City	18	9	4	5	39	26	31
Ulverstone	18	6	3	9	30	32	21
Caledonian	18	6	2	10	22	24	20
Launceston	18	5	3	10	30	47	18
Burnie United	18	2	1	15	20	83	7
Croatia-Glenorchy	18	1	1	16	17	57	4

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	19	16	1	2	53	17	49
Hobart City	21	13	4	4	52	34	43
White Eagle	20	13	2	5	64	34	41
Tarooma	20	13	0	7	48	33	39
HJuventus	20	11	4	5	42	26	37
Kgbh United	20	9	2	9	28	28	29
Caledonian	20	8	4	8	50	46	28
Rapid	20	8	2	10	34	41	26
University	19	6	3	10	35	41	21
Metro-Claremont	19	6	1	12	24	40	19
South Hobart	19	5	2	12	23	42	17
Olympia	20	5	2	13	31	53	17
Croatia-Glenorchy	21	1	3	17	19	68	6

Southern First Division

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1989 - ATHLETIC CENTRE - White Eagles V Croatia

Four goals by Julian Tattersall and a hat-trick by captain Robert Jacobs were the highlights of White Eagle's crushing 10-1 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at the Athletic Centre.

White Eagle 10 (Tattersall 4, Jacobs 3, Woulleman, Mason, Brown) Croatia-Glenorchy 1 (Mesic)

Eagle in form to feather the nest

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 30/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE can make second spot in the Premier Division One soccer competition its own by defeating second-last placed Olympia in the main feature of tonight's double-header at KGV Soccer Park.

White Eagle coach, Dale Itchins, will make only one addition to his squad - defender Chris Leszczynski comes in to make it a 14-man outfit. Itchins will not use any of White Eagle's Cadbury State League players for tonight's game. "I respect Olympia and we won't be taking them lightly," Itchins said. "We might have beaten Croatia-Glenorchy 10-1 on Saturday, but that was a non-event as far as I'm concerned."

Olympia's 6-0 loss to University at the weekend does not augur well for its chances, but the team was apparently not at full strength with three or four regulars missing. Olympia should be more competitive tonight. Shannon Keskeridis should be back after suspension, while it would not surprise to see senior team midfielder Roger Munro in the line-up.

Munro needs the match practice after missing the Bohemian Cup semi-final on Sunday because of suspension. Michael Edwards, who scored Olympia's goal against Juventus in the semi-final, would also bolster the team if he were to be included. It is difficult to envisage anything other than a White Eagle win, however, although it might be as close again as in the first round, when Eagle won 3-2.

Julian Tattersall and Jamie Woulleman are the danger men in the Eagle attack and the inclusion of someone like senior defender Chris Hey by Olympia may be needed to quell the threat they pose.

Caledonian and Kingborough United may have to settle for a draw when they meet in the curtain-raiser. Calies' Achilles heel is its defence, which often gives goals away with reckless abandon, negating the good work done by the team's forwards. Coach Rex Calvert is sure to have stressed to his players the need to take no risks at the back, so an improved performance by the rearguard can be expected.

Up front, Calies can be quite inventive, although far too many chances are still being squandered. Peter Jordan is a brave and fleet footed striker however, and Malcolm Reid, David Pott and Roy Barker will have to share the responsibility of containing him. The Kingborough team often revolves around striker-midfielder Derek Trueman, who is deadly in the air and ferocious on the ground.

It is difficult to see who in the Calies team could neutralise him. Darren Anderton, from the seniors, may be tough enough, but Trueman has the edge in skill. Calvert will probably be reluctant to use Anderton, preferring to stick with the players already in his squad. The game promises to be a hard-fought, thrilling encounter, with both teams committed to all-out attack. Kingborough has a one-point advantage over Calies in the standings and that may remain the difference between the teams at the end of the game.

Eagle now second on ladder

THE MERCURY - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - By WALTER PLESS 31/8/1989

WHITE EAGLE moved into second spot on the Premier Division One soccer ladder when it defeated Olympia 3-1 at KGV Soccer Park last night.

Olympia looked the better side in the opening 15 minutes and was unlucky not to score as early as the third minute when Clinton Brown's chip seemed destined for the back of the net. Eagle defender Grant Hildyard saved the situation, however, with a diving header.

Eagle gradually got into stride and was well in control by the 20th minute, when it almost took the lead. Captain Robert Jacobs sent over a corner from the right, Grant Mason headed for goal, but Olympia defender Tony Tarros blocked the ball on the line. A minute later, Olympia goalkeeper John Collar did well to save a testing shot from Aaron Brown.

The Olympia defence finally cracked midway through the first half. Aaron Brown's corner from the left caused confusion inside the six-yard box, and an Olympia defender, under pressure from Julian Tattersall, headed into his own net.

Jacobs should have increased Eagle's lead in the 28th minute, but fired wide. Two minutes later, however, he had a hand in a magnificent second goal. Jacobs attacked down the left and passed inside to Tattersall, who picked out the unmarked Aaron Brown on the right. With Olympia defender Chris Hey bearing down on him, Brown unleashed a tremendous shot that beat Collar all ends up and came back off the crossbar. Before Hey could react, Brown smashed

the ball into the opposite corner of the net for a truly great goal. Shannon Keskeridis pulled a goal back for Olympia just before the interval, but Jamie Woulleman restored Eagle's two-goal buffer on the hour.

Result White Eagle 3 (OG, Brown, Woulleman) def. Olympia 1 (Keskeridis)

White Eagle flies into cup final

THE EXAMINER - By JOHN TSCHEPPEERA - 1/9/1989 - STATEWIDE CUP

White Eagle won its way into the final of the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Knockout Cup courtesy of a Scott Young goal two minutes into extra time. White Eagle did not have it all its own way in this hard, physical, and fast encounter with Launceston Juventus at the AIC, Prospect. Juventus welcomed back midfielder Steve Morley from a long injury spell, and he helped his team press forward from the start of the semi-final match in which some spite bubbled over before both sides settled down. Play swung from end to end as midfields tried to gain supremacy and defences tidied up dangerous attacking moves.

Eagles claimed the first goal in the 22nd minute from a set piece. Neil Morrison swung a near-post corner across from the right side and keeper Warren Dent was unable to clear it away. It fell to Michael Driessen to volley the ball into the roof of the net from close range. Shortly afterwards, David Stoddart fired in a long-range shot as the Eagles found some added confidence and developed some composed build-ups. Juventus put paid to that in the 36th minute to draw level. Luigi Gugliotti fed player-coach Peter Savill down the right side and he promptly beat his marker and crossed the ball to the far post to put Peter Groenewoud under pressure. The ball went through Groenewoud's hands, and Paul Ewart arrived on the scene to steer it over the goal-line from an acute angle.

Another set piece by the Eagles gave the visitors the lead with only four minutes of the half remaining. A long free kick was taken by Stoddart from the right side and Liam Monagle's head could only direct it backwards. Craig Pitt nipped in to clip the ball accurately past Dent from close range. Juventus opened the second half with renewed vigour, and Mies and Monagle had opportunities to level the game again. Juventus was forced to make a change early in the second half after Ewart was helped from the field with a dislocated right knee. Monagle slotted back into central defence to make room for youngster John Visentin in midfield. Monagle and Paul Gimpl proceeded to tighten up the backline and make it difficult for the Eagles' Brett Harwood, Richard Leszczynski, Young and Pitt to find a way through.

Juventus continued to plug away and, in the 72nd minute, was rewarded with a brilliant equaliser. Roger Mies received the ball just inside the attacking half and headed goalward on a long, lonesome run. On the way, he turned defenders Eugene Banasik and Mark Leszczynski inside out before planting a low drive past Peter Groenewoud from 23m. Pitt almost gave Eagles the lead once more minutes later, but his first-time shot was pushed away by the diving Dent.

Franco Previdi substituted Harwood, who had earlier collected a solid bump to the head, and the match continued into extra time. Eagles' third set piece yielded their third goal after only three minutes of extra-time. Morrison, again, curled a corner-kick to the near post and, again, Dent failed to hold the ball. Young was on hand to blast the gift into the net from close range. Mark Heyes almost salvaged the game for Juventus 24 minutes into extra time when he curled a header supplied by a Savill free kick just wide of the post, but it was not to be. White Eagle will now meet Hobart Juventus in the final at KGV, Hobart, on Sunday, September 3.

Result White Eagle 3 (Driessen, Pitt, Young) def. Launceston Juventus 1 (Ewart, Mies)

Injuries cloud Eagle, Juventus Cup shots

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS 1/9/89

HOBART JUVENTUS will be without Romeo Frediani for its meeting with White Eagle in the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup Final at KGV Soccer Park on Sunday.

The talented youngster, who is equally at home in either a midfield or striking role, broke an arm in last week's semi-final against Olympia when he was accidentally kicked by a defender trying to clear the ball. Juventus coach, David Smith, described the loss of Frediani as a "big blow" because the youngster can control the pace of the game so well. Romeo Fabrizio and Sergio Pace are two other doubtful starters for Juventus; Fabrizio has a foot injury and Pace a virus, and neither player has been able to train.

On the positive side, Mark Kelly is back from New Zealand after being stranded in Melbourne last weekend, while John Broadhouse is gradually regaining match fitness and may get a run. "We're up against it, but we're one of the few sides to have pushed White Eagle this season," Smith said. "They're so good at set plays and this could worry us because of our lack of height. "They've got to start as favourites, but we mustn't let them take control early on. "We got our system right against Olympia and I think it should be a good, close game."

White Eagle, the league champion, has two injured midfielders in Andrew Leszczynski and Scott Young. Andrew Leszczynski has been out of action for a couple of weeks because of a hamstring strain, while Young has a sprained ankle. If either is unable to play, striker Brett Harwood may have to assume a midfield role, allowing Franco Previdi to come into the side to partner Richard Leszczynski in attack.

Coach Eugene Mycak said Young normally recovers quickly from injury and will probably be fit, while Andrew Leszczynski will have-a-final fitness-test tomorrow. Mycak said the team had light training on Tuesday as many of the players were tired after representing the South against the' North one weekend, then meeting Launceston Juventus in a tough semi-final the next, both games having gone to extra time.

Last night's session was strenuous, but the team would complete its preparations with 30-minute workout tomorrow. "We'll win," is how Mycak summed up his feelings about the Cup Final.

Juventus has beaten White Eagle twice this season in cup competition, Eagle won the Charity Trophy match between the sides, while the league meetings resulted in a draw and a win for Eagle. Juventus looked very sharp last week against Olympia, especially inside the penalty area, where it snapped up half-chances.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hobart Juventus Soccer Club takes this opportunity to thank the Proprietors of the Bohemian Restaurant for their sponsorship and support for this competition.

The Club is pleased to have been able to participate and to feature in the final play-offs.

We look forward to a continuity of this type of Knock Out Competition.

Keith Pears
Secretary

DIVISION ONE K.O. CUP

WHITE EAGLE V RAPID 1.00 K.O.

BOHEMIAN STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

WHITE EAGLE V HOBART JUVENTUS 3.00 K.O.

White Eagle's 1989 season of triumph is evidence of its dedication to both individual and team goals, producing back to back championships (1988 & 1989) and improving its results.

Such success can only come from skill and determination. Qualities exhibited by players throughout the season in overcoming all adversities and remaining undefeated in the League.

Coach Eugene Mycak's role must not be underestimated in moulding Eagle's talented squad into a winning combination.

Congratulations for the 1989 season are extended to the White Eagle Soccer Club, its sponsors and supporters.

Eddie Kempa.

BOHEMIAN STATEWIDE CUP FINAL

HOBART JUVENTUS SQUAD

1. N. Connell
2. M. McIntyre
3. D. Nichols
4. N. DiMartino
5. C. McEneen
6. J. McTyre
7. S. Genovese
8. R. Fabrizio
9. S. Pace
10. S. Kannagesser
11. J. Broadhouse
12. B. Stanford
13. M. Kelly
14. R. Frediani
15. B. Pears
16. B. Williams

Coach: D. Smith
Ass. Coach: S. Smith
Manager: J. Bromfield
Trainer: P. Ceratelli

WHITE EAGLE SQUAD

1. P. Groenewoud
2. B. Nicholson
3. N. Morrison
4. M. Driessen
5. E. Banasic
6. C. Pitt
7. D. Stoddart
8. S. Young
9. A. Leszczynski
11. B. Harwood
12. C. Leszczynski
13. R. Ketchell
14. F. Previgli
15. R. Leszczynski

Coach: E. Mycak

DIVISION ONE KNOCK OUT CUP - ROUND ONE

WHITE EAGLES SQUAD

1. F. Mainella
2. S. Collins
3. A. McFiegan
4. J. Tattersall
5. P. Morrison
6. G. Hildyard
7. K. Plaznik
8. A. Brown
9. J. Woulleman
10. R. Jacobs
11. R. Ketchell
12. S. Templeman
13. C. Leszczynski
14. G. Mason

Coach: D. Itchins

RAPID SQUAD

1. M. Evans
2. J. White
3. J. Dilba
4. C. Smith
5. S. Ashlin
6. D. Darvell
7. A. White
8. P. Sherman
9. J. Fletcher
10. J. Cionci
11. G. Cavarretta
12. J. Dilba
13. S. Harwood
14. P. McKay

Coach: H. Streit
Trainer: G. Carter
Manager: J. Hullah



White Eagle adds another trophy to its ample cabinet

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 4/9/1989 - STATEWIDE CUP

WHITE EAGLE added the Bohemian Restaurant Statewide Cup to its trophy cabinet when it easily defeated Hobart Juventus 2-0 in yesterday's final at KGV Soccer Park. Juventus lacked ideas in attack, was suspect in defence and threw away the limited scoring opportunities that came its way. The team lacked a focal point in attack, making it easy for White Eagle's back-four of Mark Leszczynski, Michael Driessen, Eugene Banasic and Neil Morrison to defend, as well as initiate attacks when they were in possession.

The Eagle midfield also overshadowed its Juventus counterparts, with David Stoddart, Bob Nicholson, Craig Pitt and Scott Young able to construct neat attacking moves when they had the ball, and to snuff out Juventus build-ups when they lost possession. Up front, the speed and mobility of Brett Harwood and Richard Leszczynski provided the Juventus defence with plenty of headaches, and it was not surprising that these two players scored the goals. Harwood had the ball in the net early in the first half, but the effort was disallowed because of an infringement. He made no mistake on the half-hour, however.

Steve Kannegeisser's headed clearance fell perfectly for Harwood, who volleyed superbly past Neil Connell into the Juventus goal. Juventus' solitary chance in the opening half came after 15 minutes. Bruce Pears' header bounced inside the Eagle penalty area and the ball dropped to Sergio Pace, who blasted over the bar from seven metres. Pace was presented with a similar chance by Romeo Frediani five minutes into the second half, but again he fired high. Richard Leszczynski came into his own in the second half. He teased and tormented the Juventus defence and might easily have grabbed four goals, despite the close attention of Michael McIntyre and Nick Di Martino.

Richard Leszczynski hit the post in the 55th minute, scored from Bob Nicholson's pass in the 73rd minute, shot just wide a minute later, then had an attempt cleared off the line by Di Martino in the very next instant. The match ended with substitute Andrew Leszczynski, who had replaced the injured Scott Young on the hour, shooting centimetres wide with the goal at his mercy.

The only save Eagle goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud had to make was against his own captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski. Midway through the second half, Mark Leszczynski sent the ball heading for his own goal, but Groenewoud's brilliant dive saw him flick the ball over the bar for a fruitless corner.

Result White Eagle 2 (Harwood, R. Leszczynski) def. Hobart Juventus 0

SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION KO Cup – First Round

In yesterday's curtain-raiser, White Eagle's Premier Division One side defeated Rapid 3-0 in the first round of the Division One Knockput Cup. Simon Templeman (2) and Grant Hildyard scored the goals in the second half.

Result White Eagle 3 (Templeman 2, Hildyard) def. Rapid 0

Kingborough may hinder Howrah's title claim

By WALTER PLESS – SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE – 8/9/1989

HOWRAH only needs one win and a draw from its four remaining matches to win the Premier Division One soccer title, but three points may prove elusive when it faces Kingborough United at Sherburd Oval today.

Kingborough has agreed to a 1pm kick-off because of the wedding of Howrah midfielder Malcolm Lockley, but some of Howrah's players may still be unavailable. Howrah has lost much of its momentum in recent weeks, drawing its past two games, so Robert New's team will probably be content with a point from today's encounter.

Caledonian will be without Bret Anderton for its meeting with Hobart Juventus, the main fixture of the double-header at South Hobart. Anderton has a broken bone in his foot. Calies should still have too many guns for Juventus, however, which has not won in three outings and must have coach Ronnie Di Felice at the end of his tether.

In the opening fixture at South Hobart, Olympia will find the going tough against a confident and rapidly improving South Hobart side which has embarrassed a number of highly-rated teams in recent weeks.

In the remaining league fixtures, White Eagle's task against Metro-Claremont at the Athletic Centre seems straightforward enough, Taroona could be humbled at home by Hobart City, while University may teach Croatia-Glenorchy a few lessons at the campus ground.

Tomorrow's second round of Knock-Out Cup matches includes some fascinating ties, with double-headers scheduled for South Hobart and KGV Soccer Park.

At South Hobart, White Eagle should progress to the semi-finals by defeating South Hobart which has had to postpone its past versus present game at Wellesley Park while Hobart City could make it a bleak weekend for

Howrah. At KGV, the Kingborough versus Metro game looks tight enough to go into extra-time, but Caledonian should beat Juventus.

Howrah stumbles in title quest

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION – 10/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE loomed as the biggest threat to deprive Howrah of the Premier Division One soccer championship after yesterday's 20th round of matches.

Howrah, the league leader, needing only a win and a draw from its four remaining matches, slumped to a 2-1 defeat against Kingborough United at Sherburd Oval, while White Eagle moved into second place with an easy 3-0 win over Metro-Claremont at the Athletic Centre.

Hobart City's title aspirations were finally ended when it dropped to third place after its goalless draw away to Taroona.

Hobart Juventus failed to rekindle its fine mid-season form and must have been grateful to salvage a point in the 1-1 draw with Caledonian at South Hobart, while in the earlier match at that venue, South Hobart shared the spoils with Olympia in a 1-1 draw.

In yesterday's remaining match, University easily accounted for Croatia-Glenorchy 4-1 at the campus ground.

South Hobart's Steve Adkins and David Oddie rattled the Olympia woodwork in the scoreless opening half of their match at South Hobart, but it was a sliced left-footed chip by Shannon Keskeridis in the 83rd minute that gave

Olympia the lead. David Oddie equalised from Steve Bennett's pass two minutes later, while Paul Xanthopoulos missed two easy second-half chances which should have given Olympia victory.

Olympia's Harry Hages was sent off immediately after Keskeridis' goal for bringing the game into disrepute. Referee Jim Anderton had cautioned Hages earlier for threatening an opponent.

Simon Templeman put White Eagle 1-0 up against Metro, full-back Sean Collins added a second goal with a thundering shot following his 40-metre run on the blind side of the defence, while Jamie Woulleman wrapped up the proceedings with a third goal before the interval.

At Sherburd Oval, there was no score at half time, but strikes by Stephen Ailcock and Daryn Logan just after the break gave Kingborough a match-winning lead over Howrah.

Karl Brightman pulled a goal back for the league leader from the penalty spot near the end, but the Eastern Shore side's grip on the championship trophy is looking very tenuous.

Howrah's defeat was compounded when referee John Raymond sent off goalkeeper, Damien Smith, after the final whistle for using foul and abusive language.

Peter Jordan's seventh-minute goal put Caledonian in front against Hobart Juventus. Fullback Tony Fabrizio knocked in the equaliser three minutes later following a corner. Calies had the better of match, with Jordan and McGlone hitting the Juventus woodwork. Craig Jones was superb in Juventus goal and it was only his bravery and agility which earnt his side a share of the points

White Eagle 3 (Templeman, Collins, Woulleman) Metro 0

Howrah has a bleak weekend with cup loss

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION KO Cup - QUARTER-FINALS - 11/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE, Hobart City, Metro-Claremont and Hobart Juventus qualified for the semifinals of the Premier Division One Knockout Cup soccer competition when they won their quarter-final ties yesterday.

Hobart Juventus turned on the most impressive performance of the day with a 3-1 win over Caledonian at KGV Soccer Park. The teams had drawn 1-1 in the league the previous day.

Howrah had a bleak weekend, indeed. The league leader lost 2-1 to Kingborough United on Saturday, then went down 2-1 in the Cup to Hobart City at South Hobart yesterday.

White Eagle, which is in the box seat to pip Howrah for the league championship, transferred its excellent league form to the Cup competition by defeating South Hobart 3-2. Simon Templeman, Grant Mason and Aaron Brown were Eagle's marksmen, while Steve Adkins and Steve Ryan replied for South Hobart.

In yesterday's remaining quarter-final showdown, Metro-Claremont scored once in each half to eliminate Kingborough United 2-0, the goals coming from Geoff Hallam and Adam Tassell.

Hobart Juventus took the lead against Calies through a controversial penalty in the 11th minute. Nick Di Giovanni was adjudged to have been fouled and Michael Lapolla sent his spot-kick to the right of Calies goalkeeper Robert

Stoneman. An error by Stoneman led to Juventus' second goal on the stroke of half time. Stoneman mishandled Mark Kelly's cross from the right and David Nichols slammed home the loose ball.

A magnificent volley by James Brown five minutes after the interval completed the Juventus scoring, but not the action. With Juventus' Lapolla, Brown and Mathew Gasparin, together with Calies' Darren Anderton, already having been cautioned, referee John Howlin sent off Shane Salter (Calies) and substitute Marco Giana (Juventus) in the 88th minute after a scuffle.

Darren Anderton scored with a ferocious long-range free kick immediately afterwards to add some respectability to the scoreline as far as Calies were concerned.

Paul Kaproulias opened the scoring for Hobart City just before half time against Howrah, while Kim Barker made it 2-0 on the hour. Howrah, which had full-back Nick Onn in goal in place of the suspended Damien Smith, struck back through Karl Brightman 10 minutes from the end.

In next Sunday's semi-finals at KGV Soccer Park, White Eagle will meet Hobart City and Metro-Claremont will face Hobart Juventus in what promises to be an enthralling double-header.

Result White Eagle 3 (Templeman, Mason, Brown) def. South Hobart 2 (Adkins, Ryan)

Howrah will find title no pushover

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION 15/9/1989

HOWRAH can wrap up the Premier Division One soccer title by defeating Hobart City at South Hobart today, but it will be anything but a simple task. City beat Howrah 2-1 in the Knockout Cup last Sunday and Howrah's inability to win even one of its past four games indicates it is struggling.

White Eagle, the only other team in the running for the championship, meets Rapid in today's curtain-raiser at South Hobart and if it wins, as expected, this will impose even more pressure on Howrah. White Eagle will use senior players Mark Leszczynski and Eugene Banasik because of injuries and illness affecting Aaron Brown, Andrew Garrigan and Paul Morrison.

In the double-header at the Athletic Centre, Caledonian should beat Olympia, while South Hobart should have the measure of Croatia-Glenorchy. In the remaining matches, Kingborough United's recent form indicates it will trouble Hobart Juventus at Sherburd Oval, while University faces a difficult assignment at home against Metro-Claremont.

In the Knockout Cup semifinal at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow, White Eagle must be confident of disposing of Hobart City, while Metro-Claremont could take Hobart Juventus into extra time before succumbing.

White Eagle soars into final

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION KO Cup - SEMI FINAL - 16/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE reached the final of the Premier Division One Knock Out Cup soccer competition with an easy 3-1 win over Hobart City in-yesterday's semi-final at KGV Soccer Park.

Eagle's opponent in the final will be Metro-Claremont, which defeated Hobart Juventus 5-3 after extra time and a penalty shoot-out. Hobart City had no answer to White Eagle's slick teamwork and it fell behind to a goal by Jamie Woulleman after half an hour.

City goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes had done well to get down to Richard Ketchell's shot, Luciano Raglione cleared Julian Tattersall's effort from the rebound off the line, but there was no stopping Woulleman's pinpoint accurate chip into the top left-hand corner of the net.

A precise build-up on the right by Robert Jacobs and Woulleman led to Eagle's second goal three minutes before the interval. Woulleman's cross found Aaron Brown on the far side of the penalty area and his shot was deflected past Rhodes by City midfielder George Strates.

Full-back Sean Collins and midfielder Ketchell were in outstanding form for Eagle and many attacks originated from their penetrating forward runs, clever thinking and astute use of the ball.

City's only two chances in the opening half came from long-range shots by Strates and Paul Kaproulias, but Eagle goalkeeper Frank Mainella handled both with ease.

Rhodes did well to save from Tattersall in the 62nd minute, but he was helpless two minutes later when Grant Mason powered a header from Collins' free kick into the roof of the net to make it three nil. City struck back midway through the second half. Les Maxwell headed Kaproulias' corner against the bar and full-back Michael Pace nodded the ball past Mainella to give City some hope.

Eagle refused to relax its grip on the game, however, and substitute Simon Templeman almost added a fourth goal, but his first-time shot from 25 metres cleared the crossbar and landed on top of the net.

Adam Tassell's chip following Micky Garth's corner put Metro ahead against Juventus after only 10 minutes in yesterday's other semi-final. David Nichols then proceeded to miss two easy chances for Juventus. In the 14th minute he fired across the face of a deserted goal mouth, while two minutes later he blasted Rocky Schiro's perfect square-pass over the bar from a mere five metres. Nichols redeemed himself four minutes before the break, glancing Schiro's free kick past Metro's third team goalkeeper, Stuart Hope, for the equaliser.

Ian Smart should have earned Juventus a place in the final six minutes from the end when Michael Lappia cleverly dummied Schiro's pass, but the youngster launched the ball skywards from seven metres out. The 30 minutes of extra time failed to separate the teams, but Metro goalkeeper Hope was the hero of the penalty shoot-out.

He saved spot-kicks by Lapolla and Nichols, and despite Schiro and Mathew Gasparin converting, Metro won through when Geoff Hallam, Andy Ferrall, Danny Prestage and Tassell all beat Craig Jones.

Result White Eagle 3 (Woulleman, Mason, Brown) def. Hobart City 1 (M. Pace)

Draw leaves Howrah on last chance to seal title

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION 17/9/1989

HOWRAH has one match left in which to clinch the Premier Division One soccer championship after its goalless draw with third-placed Hobart City at South Hobart yesterday.

The title will be decided next week in the final round of matches when Howrah takes on Hobart Juventus and second-placed White Eagle meets Taroona.

If Howrah loses or draws, White Eagle, which defeated Rapid 3-1 at South Hobart yesterday, will win the championship, providing it can overcome Taroona.

Howrah, which has not won in its past five outings, again showed its inadequacies yesterday. It displayed a lack of tactical awareness, especially after City's Mathew Sly had been sent off just before the interval, leaving it with only 10 opponents for nearly half the game, and it showed complete ineptitude in front of goal.

Howrah's cause was not helped when it started the match without the injured Paul Engels and the suspended Jimmy Bell, nor when it lost midfield schemers Alistair Hales and Shamsul Salleh through injury, but it had only itself to blame.

Karl Brightman was unlucky to hit a post in the first half, while substitute Mark Schueler should have tucked away Brightman's low cross in the second period. City deserved its point, however, with tall central defender Chris Coppinger playing well at the back, and goalkeeper Matthew Rhodes in tremendous form, thwarting Howrah's strikers on a number of occasions with brave and agile saves.

Paul Sherman took advantage of a poor pass in defence by Eugene Banasik to give Rapid a shock 21st minute lead against White Eagle, but Richard Ketchell equalised within six minutes. Robert Jacobs made it 2-1 for Eagle before the interval and a short free kick by Jamie Woulleman 10 minutes from the end enabled Grant Mason to fire home Eagle's third. Julian Tattersall, Jacobs, Mason and Grant Hildyard should have finished Rapid off well before half time, while Woulleman was unlucky not to find the net in the 85th minute, his shot rebounding off the inside of the far post and straight into the arms of Rapid goalkeeper, Mark Evans.

Rapid rarely threatened, but it should have grabbed a second goal in the 75th minute. John White's superbly-timed cross from the right found Sherman and Cohn Lush unmarked at the far post, but they somehow got in each other's way and the chance went begging.

In other matches, Croatia-Glenorchy led South Hobart 2-0 at half time at the Athletic Centre before losing 2-3, while Olympia's 10 men caused raised eyebrows by holding Caledonian to a 1-1 draw at the same venue. Croatia had senior player-coach Neil Thomas sent off for dissent a quarter of an hour before the end.

University and Metro-Claremont slogged out a goalless draw at the campus ground, while Kingborough United accounted for visitor Hobart Juventus 3-0 at Sherburd Oval.

Rapid 1 (Sherman) lost to White Eagle 3 (Ketchell, Jacobs, Mason)

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Howrah	23	16	4	3	56	21	52
White Eagle	23	16	2	5	73	36	50
Hobart City	24	14	6	4	55	34	48
Taroona	23	13	2	8	51	37	41
Juventus	23	11	5	7	45	34	38
Kingborough	23	11	2	10	34	31	35
Caledonian	23	9	6	8	54	49	33
Rapid	23	9	2	12	38	48	29
University	23	8	4	11	44	47	28
Metro	22	7	2	13	27	45	23
South Hobart	22	6	4	12	28	46	22
Olympia	23	5	4	14	34	58	19
Croatia	23	1	3	19	22	75	6

Southern First Division - KO Cup Final

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS AUG 1989 - 19/9/1989

White Eagle easily took out the Division One Knockout Cup in last night's opening match with a 4-0 win over Metro-Claremont. Aaron Brown and Grant Mason gave Eagle a 2-0 lead at the interval, while Mason and Jamie Woulleman completed the scoring in the second half.

Metro might have made a game of it if Paul Stephenson and Danny Prestage had had a little more luck. Stephenson headed against the bar from Kevin Clamp's corner in the first half, while Prestage hit the inside of a post in the second period, the ball rebounding into play.

Result White Eagle 4 (Brown, Mason 2, Wouleman) def. Metro-Claremont 0

Eagle may scalp double header

By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - 22/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE can win the Premier Division One soccer championship at KGV Soccer Park tomorrow if it defeats Taroona and if Howrah loses or draws with Hobart Juventus.

The TSA wisely altered the scheduled programme by making these two games a double-header tomorrow instead of allowing them to go ahead today at separate venues, thus ensuring a good attendance at KGV for what promises to be a fascinating showdown.

White Eagle won the Knockout Cup in style on Wednesday and it should be able to dispose of Taroona, whereas Howrah's chances against Juventus are anything but good. White Eagle can atone for early season losses by defeating Taroona in tomorrow's early match and putting tremendous pressure on Howrah.

Eagle has a formidable combination and Taroona goalkeeper Steve Holzinger should be in the thick of the action. Howrah looked like running away with the title a month ago, but five games without a win has left it in peril of finishing second. The team seems to lack the temperament for the big occasion, and there can be no bigger occasion than tomorrow.

Howrah will be without the injured Paul Engels (knee ligaments) and Bert Salleh (knee), but Alistair Hales and Jimmy Bell will be back. Hales has been troubled by a knee injury and lasted only one half last week, while Bell has completed a one-match suspension.

In today's programme, Caledonian should defeat Croatia-Glenorchy at South Hobart but Metro-Claremont may be held to a draw by the improving South Hobart at the Athletic Centre.

University should be too good for Rapid at the campus ground, while Kingborough United should christen its newly-opened clubrooms with a win against Olympia at Sherburd Oval.

White Eagle claims title after Juventus sinks Howrah

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - SOUTHERN FIRST DIVISION - 25/9/1989

WHITE EAGLE took out the Premier Division One soccer championship at KGV Soccer Park yesterday when it defeated Taroona 3-0, and Howrah went down 3-4 to Hobart Juventus. With Eagle winning the opening match, Howrah needed to beat Juventus to win the title, but the task was beyond it.

Howrah opened in promising style and Jimmy Bell had the ball in the net after only 12 minutes following some clever attacking play by Alistair Hales and Karl Brightman, but the effort was disallowed because of off-side.

Brightman then fired against the Juventus crossbar and Scott Hadley brought the best out of goalkeeper Craig Jones, only to see Rocky Schiro shoot Juventus ahead in the 36th minute when Howrah goalkeeper Damien Smith failed to cut out Ian Smart's deep cross from the right. A low cross from the right by Howrah player-coach Robert New in the 64th minute enabled Hadley to side-foot the equaliser.

Two minutes later, the Howrah defence was nowhere to be seen as 16-year-old Frank Falzon, playing only his third game of the season, made an unimpeded run down the left side before drawing Smith and slotting the ball into the far corner of the net to give Juventus a 2-1 lead.

Howrah might have drawn level in the 68th minute as Hales' in swinging corner drifted over Jones, but defender Craig Tickner headed off the line. A clever chip from an acute angle by Schiro in the 70th minute put Juventus further ahead, while Schiro's pass six minutes later enabled Michael Lapolla to give Juventus a match-winning 4-1 advantage.

Jones' inability to handle yet another Hales' corner in the 81st minute saw Malcolm Lockley reduce the arrears for Howrah. Brightman's penalty two minutes into injury time took Howrah within a goal of its opponent but it was too little, too late and the title belonged to Eagle.

Howrah had only itself to blame. With five games remaining, it had looked set to romp away with the title, then proceeded to draw three times and lose twice to miss out at the last hurdle.

White Eagle, which had won the Knockout Cup on Wednesday, was rarely troubled against Taroona. Dale Itchins' charges took the lead two minutes before the interval. Taroona goalkeeper Steve Holzinger failed to collect Robert Jacobs' corner from the right and Aaron Brown prodded the ball home at the far post. Brown almost made it 2-0 a minute after the resumption, Leon Darko heading off the line with Holzinger beaten.

Richard Ketchell grabbed Eagle's second goal in the 62nd minute after Grant Mason had headed the ball on, and Ketchell made it 3-0 in the 87th minute from Brown's pass. Eagle should have added a fourth goal in injury time when Robert Furjanic fouled Chris Leszczynski, who took the spot-kick himself, but the defender fired high over the bar.

Result White Eagle 4 (Brown, Ketchell 2) def. Taroona 0



Rothmans League Division 1 Premiership Team - 1989

Back: Tony Williams (Sponsor), C. Leszczynski, A. Garrigan, S. Collins, G. Hildyard, R. Ketchell, R. Jacobs, J. Woulleman, D. Itchins (Coach) **Front:** J. Tattersall, P. Morrison, J. Diubaldo, F. Mainella, G. Mason, A. Brown

Rothmans Premier Division One Standings – Final Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagle	24	17	2	5	76	36	53
Howrah	24	16	4	4	59	25	52
Hobart City	24	14	6	4	55	34	48
Juventus	24	12	5	7	49	37	41
Tarooma	24	13	2	9	51	40	41
Caledonian	24	10	6	8	58	51	36
Kingborough	24	11	2	11	36	34	35
University	24	9	4	11	46	48	31
Rapid	24	9	2	13	39	50	29
South Hobart	24	8	4	12	33	47	28
Metro	24	7	2	15	28	50	23
Olympia	24	6	4	14	37	60	22
Croatia-Glenorchy	24	1	3	20	24	79	6

White Eagle confident of beating Devonport

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 07/10/1989 - DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

DEVONPORT CITY coach Ken Morton is confident of winning the Division One State soccer premiership by defeating White Eagle at Valley Road, Devonport, today. "We're not flamboyant but we're well-disciplined and we're playing well," said Morton. "We're good at wearing opponents down." The one-off game promises to be a thriller and White Eagle can certainly not be written off as it is months since the Southern champion has tasted defeat.

Eagle coach Dale Itchins has kept his team in training since the end of the league season and he will have a full squad to choose from. Simon Templeman has recovered after having four stitches in an ankle injury and will be available for selection.

Eagle's combination of experienced players, such as Sean Collins, Chris Lessczynski and Robert Jacobs, and youngsters such as Grant Mason, Grant Hildyard and Jamie Woulleman, should see it carry the day.

Devonport's main threat will come from midfielders Ray Parke and Andrew Meldrum, as well as striker Fabio Pizzerani.

Eagle feathers nest with hat-trick of trophies

THE MERCURY - By WALTER PLESS - 9/10/1989 - DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

WHITE EAGLE'S Premier Division One soccer team, coached by Dale Itchins, completed a hat-trick of trophies this season when it took out the State Division One premiership by defeating Devonport City 4-3 at Valley Rd on Saturday.

Eagle already had won the Southern Premier Division One title and the Division One Knockout Cup. The situation looked bleak for the Southerners on Saturday when host Devonport led 3-1 with a mere 16 minutes remaining. Itchins then made three positional changes which altered the course of the game.

He moved Grant Mason to sweeper, Paul Morrison to centre-back and Grant Hildyard into the attack. With five minutes to go, Hildyard scored twice to give Eagle an amazing win against all the odds. Devonport's player-coach, Ken Morton put the home team ahead after 23 minutes, but a header by Simon Templeman, from a corner by Robert Jacobs, restored the balance.

Ralph Koch headed home Morton's corner five minutes before the interval to give Devonport the lead again, while Ray Parke's penalty in the second half seemed to spell curtains for the Southerners. Aaron Brown's corner then found the head of Mason, who made it 3-2, and Eagle again appeared within reach.

With 16 minutes to play, Hildyard came into his own and struck two superb goals, the first a right-footed chip from the edge of the penalty area to make it 3-3, and the winner from a 20-metre volley, following Brown's pass.

Itchins was obviously elated by his side's return from the dead, but he decried the fact that no supporters had travelled with the team to share the victory with his players. Morton was very disappointed in defeat, claiming that Eagle had not deserved to win. "They played no soccer at all, yet won," Morton said. "Fabio Pizzerani should have had a hat-trick in the first half."

Devonport City president, Mr. Peter Best, was critical at the lack of interest shown in the match by the TSF. "No one from the TSF was at the match, and there was no trophy to present," Mr. Best said. "Even if no delegates were here, I could have presented the trophy and made the match a bit more of an occasion."

Eagle kick on to State Soccer title

THE ADVOCATE 9/10/1989 - DIVISION 1 STATE PREMIERSHIP

HOBART's White Eagles became the State Division One soccer premier yesterday with a last-minute 4-3 victory over Northern premier Devonport at the Valley Rd ground.

In a game of contrasting halves, Devonport was a 2-1 leader at half-time. Ken Morton received a loose ball to net the first at the 25-minute mark, but White Eagles struck back to equalise 10 minutes later. Devonport striker Fabio Pizzerani missed three golden opportunities to score before team-mate Koch headed home a Morton corner that was flocked on by Pizzerani to put the Coastal side ahead at the interval.

Early in the second half Ray Parke gave Devonport a 3-1 lead from a penalty after Kim Rigby was pushed over in the box. From that point on, the game turned as Devonport tried to seal up the game and fell on defence.

White Eagles head in a corner to reduce the leeway to a single goal and the Southern side sensed victory. A substitution proved a match-winning move as the substitute entered the fray to smash home two quick goals, the second of which was scored with just two minutes remaining.