

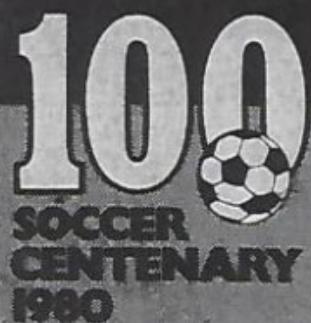


SOCCE R ACTION

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*Tasmanian
Content*



SOCCE R ACTION

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1980

SOCCKET ACTION - 20/2/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Leading Tasmanian club Rapid Wrest Point strengthened its case for inclusion in the Philips League by holding Canberra City to a 1-1 draw at Bruce Stadium at the weekend.

Rapid coach Ken Morton, who could not play due to a back injury, described it as one of the finest results in the history of the club.

"I might not be able to get back into the team after this one," he said.

Rapid has sent the ASF an application for admission to the PSL and soon will make a submission about how it intends to raise the necessary money.

Morton said ASF president Sir Arthur George, PSL chairman Max Talbot and - Newcastle KB United secretary Paul Trisley had promised to help Rapid find a major sponsor.

Rapid fielded experienced midfielder Craig Mason from KB United. The club expects to finalise his free transfer this week. Another former KB man at Rapid is Peter Willis, who is being used by Morton as a sweeper although he played right back at Newcastle.

Rapid was first to score, when Ray Mohring hammered home a header by Mark Oakes, from a corner. Willis, had been deflected. Don McLaren equalised for Canberra after a Rapid defensive tangle. Willis and Colin Francis collided as they raced back, and goalkeeper Philip Kannegeiser tumbled over them, leaving McLaren facing an open goal.

Ratings: RAPID WREST POINT: Philip Kannegeiser 9 — Colin Francis 7, Ray Mohring 8, Peter Willis 8 Chester Wilcox — Craig Mason 8, Steve Kannegeiser 7, Larry Nunn 7 — Dale Blake 7 (Ossie Moore 80th), Mark Oakes 7, Peter Thompson 7 (Mick South worth 6, 50th).

SOCCKET ACTION - 23/2/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Wrest Point for PSL?

Tasmanian State League champion Rapid Wrest Point wants to play in the Philips League next season. Club official Roy Stoneman and player-coach Ken Morton are confident Rapid can raise sufficient sponsorship and inspire the necessary crowd support.

They outlined the club's ambition after Rapid had beaten touring German team Wacker 04 of West Berlin 2-1 in Hobart early this month.

Morton, a talented, conscientious coach who was at Manchester Utd at the time Ray Baartz and Col Curran trialled there, is in the process of strengthening the Rapid squad.

He has signed right back Peter Willis of Newcastle KB United, as well as Tasmanian Rothmans Medallist Larry Nunn and brilliant striker Mark Oakes.

The club already gets financial support from the Wrest Point Casino and has an excellent ground, with a grandstand.

The Australian Soccer Federation has made it clear it wants a Tasmanian team in the PSL as part of its general decentralisation drive.

SOCCKET ACTION - 5/3/80

By Laurie Schwab

Ken Morton cleared, Rapid lays its plans Tasmanian club Wrest Point Rapid has formed a sub-committee to work on the club's drive for Philips-League membership in 1981.

The committee is examining ways of gaining sponsorship.

A cocktail party to launch Rapid's PSL push is planned at the Wrest Point Casino, the club's main sponsor at the moment. Leading ASF officials, politicians and Pressmen will be invited.

Meanwhile, Rapid finally has gained a clearance for its player-coach Ken Morton.

Morton played last season after being cleared from New Zealand club Blockhouse Bay through the ASF. But near the end of the season, the ASF withdrew Morton's registration because, having returned to Australia and New Zealand he was, under a transfer agreement, once again the property of Azzurri Perth, the club with which he had played before leaving the country.

Azzurri finally agreed to release Morton in return for a \$600 transfer fee paid by Rapid.

Midfielder Craig Mason, who is regarded as Rapid's star recruit of 1980, still has not been released by Newcastle KB United. Rapid secretary Roy Stoneman said this week the club hopes that the transfer will be finalised within the next few weeks.

Caledonians of Hobart are using John Charlton, 20-year-old son of England international Jack Charlton, as sweeper. He is big and tough but has only average ability.

Charlton played with English non-league club Guisborough. Another Guisborough player, Coleman, returned home after only a week in Hobart.

Terry Banagan, the former Sunshine City, Ajax and Altona City player, is settling down well with Caledonians and should have a good season.

SOCCKET ACTION - 30/4/80

Phillips Cup

Rapid-Wrest Point 1 Preston Makedonia 5

Scorers: Luchessi 8th min, Ward 20th, Beech 59th, Ward 66th, MacMillan 79th (Makedonia); Willis penalty 40th (Rapid).

Preston Makedonia players earned \$100 each for this win over Rapid-Wrest Point at the South Hobart Stadium. A crowd of 1200 saw a fit Preston give Rapid no chance with a good display of pace, ball skills and teamwork.

Rapid, without Larry Nunn because of an eye injury, and rocked by a fifth minute goal, were hurried into errors that broke up the teamwork that has made them so successful in local competitions.

They were also beaten for speed, fitness and initiative by a team that leads the Victorian State League.

Star of the game was winger Robert Cullen who could be a Soccercoo in the making.

He did not score but made numerous openings as a result of his determined running and clever ball control.

Rapid had two real chances when Ken Morton put the ball over the bar early in the game and when Smith did the same from a pass by Morton in the closing minutes.

SOCCKET ACTION - 14/5/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Launceston Juventus 1 v Rapid-Wrest Point 6

With last week's leader, Brighton ICL, not playing for two weeks because of the National Youth Championships being played in Canberra, Rapid had the chance of opening up a handy lead in the Radio Rentals State League.

It seized that chance by devastating Launceston Juventus at Prospect.

Playing some of its best soccer so far this season, Southworth opened the scoring for the 1979 premiers but against the run of play Hili equalised for Launceston only to see Smith put Rapid back into the lead to make the half-time score 2-1.

In a physical second half Rapid wasted many chances but still scored four more goals through Willis (2 pens), Morton and Oakes.

Rapid faces a difficult game against Burnie next week, but with Brighton ICL again not playing, it will be a good opportunity to open up a 3-point lead over its strongest rivals.

Burnie 1 v Croatia 3

Croatia opened the scoring when Huiglsloot received a ball from Davidson and put it in from close in just before half time Willie Peters made it two for Croatia.

In the second half, Burnie which missed Mike Denton's driving force pulled back a goal when Parke scored from a free kick. Croatia was awarded a penalty which Spaleta missed but just before the final whistle Brian Davidson scored for Croatia to make it 3-1.

Steve Smith played well for Croatia in goal to make many fine saves.

White Eagles 1 v Devonport 1

White Eagles coach, Eugene Mycak took a gamble and reaped the rewards. His team has the dubious honour of having conceded 22 goals in only five games, so in an effort to shore up his suspect defence, he moved Andy Heap, who normally plays centre forward, to the sweeper's role.

The result is reflected in the scoreline, and in fact White Eagles could consider themselves unlucky not to have taken both points, because in the second half they controlled most of the game, the White Eagles defence being stretched only occasionally.

Devonport was the more dangerous in the first 25 minutes. It pressured White Eagles into making mistakes, and it was no surprise when Billy Frame 'stole' the ball in the penalty area and found Pizzerani who made no mistake with his shot.

White Eagles adopted the same tactics as Devonport and slowly began to take control of the rest of the match.

Devonport still led at half-time, but 11 minutes into the second half it conceded a free kick just outside their penalty area, the Worden blasted the ball just wide of the Devonport wall, forcing Darby to make an excellent save.

Finally, in the 23rd minute Cook collected the ball just inside the penalty area, wriggled around two players and leaving Darby stranded with his powerful shot, scored the equaliser for White Eagles.

White Eagles continued to do more of the attacking, but could not add to their scoresheet, possibly due to Steve Darby who had a good game in goal for Devonport.

SOCCKET ACTION - 21/5/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Croatia Glenorchy 2 (Groat, Peters) Ulverstone 1 (Weitnauer o.g.)

Croatia was depleted due to internal problems.

It seems that the floodlights, used in training, have not been working for some weeks, and so as a last resort some of the players refused to participate in a training session, which resulted in them being suspended by the club for one week.

So without six of their key players, Croatia found it tough going against a side that has yet to-score its first victory in the Radio Rentals State League.

It wasn't until the 80th minute that the deadlock was broken, when Hamilton broke down the right wing and his cross was met by Weitnauer who made a desperate attempt to clear the ball, but only succeeded in putting it in his own net.

However, 45 seconds later Groat made it 1-1, when his shot was deflected over Bellchamber's head, and eight minutes later it was all over. Peters latched onto a through ball by Groat to score the winning goal for Croatia and two points that they didn't deserve.

Trueman, Groat, and Krawczyk all played well for Croatia, with Glen Frame the best player on the field, while Fitzgerald, Stuetzel and Hamilton were Ulverstone's best players.

Rapid Wrest Point 6 (Morton 2, Willis 2, Oakes, Smith) Burnie United 5 (Considine 2, Parke 2, Buchanan pen.)

Rapid started- like they meant business and in the first 15 minutes Morton, Moore and Southworth all had chances, but it was Burnie who scored first through Parke with an easy goal after rapid's keeper had panicked in the 16th minute and went further ahead through a penalty by Buchanan after he had been brought down.

Burnie added a third through Parke with a scorching drive.

Mark Oakes managed to pull a goal back for Rapid against the run of play, but Considine took advantage of another goalkeeping error to score Burnie's 4th goal.

In the second half Rapid really got things together and took Burnie apart by scoring five goals.

Smith started the spree in the 3rd minute with a well taken goal, in the 14th minute. Morton took a free kick for Oakes to head home, 7 minutes later Morton scored himself with a piledriver from 20 yds out and later took another free kick for Willis to score his first.

In the 36th minute Willis scored his second ad it seemed all over, but Burnie had other ideas and it came as no surprise in the closing moments when Considine scored for them.

George Town 3 (Hughes 2, Schiebl), Launceston Juventus 2 (Hodges, Saville)

George Town took the lead through Conrad Hughes to lead 1-0 at half time.

The second half saw a more even game and Juventus new signing P. Saville was showing that with prompting and help Juventus will rise up the league table, but it was George Town who scored again through Andy Schiebl and 10 minutes later Hughes scored his second to take a 3-0 lead.

Juventus then began to get it together and Jamie Hodge pulled back one by getting a brilliant goal and finally Saville rounded off his fine display by scoring Juventus's second.

Glenorchy Croatia suspended five players this week because they refused to train, among them Brian Davidson who was fined \$100. The others were fined \$50 each. The players thought the training facilities were not good enough.

SOCCER ACTION - 28/5/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Brighton ICL 7 v White Eagles 1

Brighton LCL, playing their first state league game for almost three weeks, found themselves under a great deal of pressure for the first 30 mins.

It wasn't until the 26th minute, when Charlton's misjudged back-pass went over goalkeeper Harrison's head to put them a goal down, that they resembled the side that had dropped only one point so far this season.

Four mins before half-time Brighton ICL equalised with a well-taken goal by Banagan who scored with his back to the goal. They went to the lead through Parker capitalising on a Hales shot that keeper Zlotos failed to hold.

In the second half, three goals in two minutes by Parker and Foster killed any hopes of White Eagles getting back into the match.

Then Parker completed his hat-trick when Hales dissected two White Eagles defenders with his cross.

Further goals by Banagan and Parker made the final score 7-1. Harrison, Banagan, Conlon and Hales were best for Brighton ICL, White, Heap, Worden and Collins were best for White Eagles.

Croatia Glenorchy 6 v Hobart Juventus 1

Croatia Glenorchy kept the pressure on Rapid Wrest Point and Brighton ICL with this big win.

They took the lead after only nine minutes when Davidson took advantage of a mistake made by Jones who failed to hold onto a Huigslot header, and it was Huigslot again who caused Juventus all sorts of problems when he scored high above the defence with a powerful header to score in the 27th minute.

Only 45 seconds into the second half Frarracio pulled one back for Juventus with a penalty after Trueman had handled in the penalty area, and they came close to equalising, but substitute Iqbal's shot soared inches over the bar.

One of the best engineered goals of the season - Davidson ran to Thomas's cross, drawing two players with trim, dummied the ball and left Groat to score an easy goal - made it 3-1 to Croatia.

The home team were now in total command, and further goals by Davidson Spaleta and a good individual goal by Thomas, made the final score 6-1, a result which leaves Hobart Juventus in deep trouble in the relegation zone of the Radio Rentals State League, especially as they had De Martino sent off for allegedly swearing at the referee.

Ulverstone 1 v Rapid-Wrest Point 6

Rapid-Wrest Point stayed at the top of the Radio Rentals State League by completely outplaying Ulverstone.

The depth and variety of last year's premiers is evident by the number of last years players who appear on the scoresheet. At least eight different players have contributed to the highest scoring team in the league S. Kannegeiser (2), Southworth (2), Morton, and Smith were this week's goalscorers, while Hamilton scored for Ulverstone.

Rapid-Wrest Point play second placed Croatia Glenorchy at South Hobart next week, a game that neither team can afford to lose.

SOCCKET ACTION - 4/6/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Rapid, Croatia locked at top

Top positions in the Radio Rentals State League remain unaltered following a thrilling 2-2 draw between top teams Rapid and Croatia at South Hobart on Sunday.

In an even first half in which both sides found difficulty in penetrating the opposition's defence, Croatia eventually broke through in the 40th minute when Thomas found Davidson alone on the edge of the box and he had no difficulty in passing the keeper.

The interval saw Croatia leading 1-0.

The first 20 minutes of the second half again saw Croatia in control of the game and both Davidson and Spaleta had opportunities to put the result beyond Rapid.

A penalty for Rapid, was converted by Willis and this brought Rapid back into the match.

Thomas and Davidson continued to dominate play and it appeared that they must break through to score.

However, in the 80th minute it was Oakes who picked up a loose pass and eluding the Croatian defence shot on the run to give the keeper no chance.

Rapid closed the game down and the two points looked in its keeping until, with only three minutes remaining, Thomas drove from 30 yards out to find the top left-hand corner of the net and level the scores for a second time.

Saturday's games saw Devonport go above Burnie with a 1-0 win, whilst Georgetown continued its successes at home with a 2-0 victory over bottom of the table Ulverstone.

A lone goal by McKenna was sufficient to stop Burnie and place Devonport two points clear in its race to be the top northern side.

Georgetown had a comfortable victory over Ulverstone with goals by Farrell and Schiebl and but for solid defence by Ulverstone the Score would have been much greater.

In Hobart White Eagles continued its poor form and had to concede victory to Launceston Juventus by a goal by Foran. From eight games Eagles have only managed three points and will now have to seriously consider their future as this year would now appear lost.

SOCCKET ACTION - 16/7/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

White Eagles doomed?

The Radio Rentals State League championship is developing into a three-team race, as the top teams all beat the three clubs below them.

Brighton ICL beat sixth- placed Burnie Utd 5-1, second- placed Rapid-Wrest Point beat George Town 6-0, and Croatia Glenorchy beat Devonport 2-1.

At the bottom of the league, Ulverstone may have put White Eagles out of State league soccer with a convincing 6-0 win and Hobart Juventus maintain their revival with a 1-0 away win over arch-rivals Launceston Juventus.

Rapid 6 v George Town 0

Rapid Wrest Point continued their march for the championship with a superlative performance against Georgetown.

Mike Southworth opened the scoring in the seventh minute from a goalmouth scramble, but George Town nearly equalised ten minutes later when Philip Kannegeiser, the Rapid goalkeeper, failed to punch the ball cleanly, his only mistake in the game, and Zoon's half volley whistled inches over the bar.

Two goals in two minutes sealed George Town's fate. The first by David Smith, was again from a goalmouth scramble, but it was Peter Willis's goal that had the crowd on its feet. He hit the ball on the volley from 25 metres after the George Town defence had cleared. It was a vicious, swerving shot that found the bottom left corner.

In the second half Rapid maintained the pressure and Smith should have scored his second goal, but after beating the goalkeeper his shot rolled past the post.

Mark Oaks hit the crossbar from a Ken Morton cross, but three minutes later made amends when he collected a through ball, again from Morton, beat Jones and put the ball away to make it 5-0.

Southworth scored his second goal from a corner that Larry Nunn headed on, and from only six metres he made no mistake. It would be difficult to pick Rapid's best player - they all played well, but Larry Nunn and Peter Willis both had superb games, while for Georgetown O'Sullivan and Davidson performed well.

Croatia 2 v Devonport 1

Croatia made hard work of their match with an under strength Devonport side that had five under-18 players.

From the outset, it was clear that Steve Darby had instructed Ciccavelli to mark Croatia's Brian Davidson, a task that he stuck to for the full 90 minutes and this may have been the reason for Croatia's lack of penetration in the first half.

Croatia finally took the lead six minutes into the second half. Once again Neil Thomas and Brian Davidson were involved, the cross by Thomas was well controlled by Davidson, who unselfishly laid the ball off to Nado Spaleta who had no trouble scoring from only ten yards.

They went further ahead 15 minutes later when Darby failed to hold a Huigsloot header, and Willie Peters was there to put it away.

Both teams seemed to lose interest, and It wasn't until 15 minutes from time when Dennis Trueman and Billy Krawczyk left the ball for each other that Rigby pulled one back for Devonport after beating goalkeeper Smith, that the game picked up again.

Burnie United 1 v Brighton ICL 5

A fine performance by Alistair Hales, backed up by Brian McKay in midfield always gave Brighton the edge over the inconsistent Burnie Utd.

Andy Heap opened the scoring for Brighton ICL when he scored from the penalty spot, after Terry Banagan had been brought down.

Then Alistair Hales started two goals before half time, one from a free kick and another from a through ball when he beat a defender and the goal- keeper to give Brighton a handy 3-0 lead at half time.

He scored twice more in the second half, both times he took on players and beat them, leaving Considine, Burnie's goalkeeper, the job of picking the ball from the back of the net.

Burnie Utd pulled one back when Banagan was caught in possession and. Steve Winchester took full advantage of his mistake, but it was far too late for Burnie by then.

Man of the match was without doubt Alistair Hales, who will remember this game for years to come, as will Brian McKay and Tony Dickenson.

Ulverstone 6 v White Eagles 0

Eagles got off to a disastrous start when Palisidis scored in the third minute.

This is becoming a habit of White Eagles but full marks to them. They came back fighting, led by Ken Worden who had a good game despite a hamstring injury and young David Goss making his debut.

Against the run of play Ulverstone went further ahead when Foote broke through and beat the White Eagles keeper just before halftime.

Before White Eagles could settled down in the second half Ted Dolliver scored and that started the panic for White Eagles.

Palisidis scored his second and Ulverstone's fourth followed by Koch in the 21st minute and to complete it all, Trambas scored from a penalty.

Ten minutes from the end Bobby Rybak was sent off for persistent dissent.

White Eagles now look as if they are doomed for the big drop.

SOCCKET ACTION - 30/7/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

George Town went on the rampage when it beat Devonport 7-0, White Eagles nearly saw a dream happen when they lost by only one goal to Rapid Wrest Point, Burnie United continued their losing run despite Mike Denton's return. Launceston Juventus just got home against Ulverstone.

George Town caused a minor upheaval when they set about Devonport in the second half. With George Town leading 1-0 at half-time, Devonport must have thought they were going to get away with a small losing margin but then things happened, and six goals came in 35 minutes to give Devonport their biggest loss in the State League.

Goals from Djakic (2), Schiebl (2), Andy Farrell (2) and Morley, certainly reversed Georgetown's recent run of losses, especially as Devonport had held Rapid to only 1-2 the week before, while Georgetown had lost 0-6 to Rapid three weeks ago. Ulverstone were unlucky to lose to Launceston Juventus 0-1. Foran scored the all-important goal from a defensive blunder.

Burnie must be wondering what has happened to their fortunes, losing for the fifth consecutive week.

Mike Denton's return will help them, but they hit a Hobart Juventus team full of fight and Ambrosinos' goal was enough to clinch the game.

Denton scored Burnie's goal while a defensive mix-up saw a defender put the ball into his own goal for Juventus' first goal.

At South Hobart, Rapid nearly came unstuck against a revitalized White Eagles side who never gave up trying right to the whistle. Rybak stood out for White Eagle, and it was only a Ken Morton free kick in the 18th minute of the second half from a set piece that was-floated over to Mark Oakes, that sealed the game.

SOCCKET ACTION - 6/8/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Croatia, the only team left with a chance of challenging Rapid, for the Radio Rentals State League, lost a vital game 3-1 to Launceston Juventus. This has given Rapid a three-point lead and a goal difference of 30.

Croatia were a goal down after five minutes due to a defensive lapse and 0-2 at half time. In the second half they scored to make it 1-2 but Juventus scored a third right on time.

Devonport were defeated at home for the second time when Hobart Juventus won 4-2. Eric Young and Parodi scored two each, Devonport's coming from Rimmer and Stones.

The battle for relegation hotted up when both Ulverstone and White Eagles drew their respective games.

At Burnie, Ulverstone surprised even themselves with a magnificent 4-4 draw and this was despite Mike Denton playing for Burnie and scoring a hat-trick.

George Town, having won 7-1 the week before, could only draw against improving White Eagles. They were soon two goals down but just on half time Djakic pulled one back and in the second half Schiebl scored and then put George Town ahead from a penalty for Sherman to equalise for 3-3.

A State League meeting in Launceston decided to retain the State League and State League Reserves despite financial losses and to seek a major sponsor to assist in costs involved for travelling, grounds and administration. It was decided to set up a marketing authority to this end.

Macari for Tassie Tigers?

CONTINUING OUR SERIES ON CANDIDATES FOR THE ENLARGED 1981 PHILIPS LEAGUE

By Laurie Schwab and David Martin

Watch out for the Tassie Tigers. That's the name of the new club being formed for possible entry to the Philips. League next year.

Eight men - four of them from Tasmanian champion club Rapid-Wrest Point - are forming the new club. Ken Morton, player-coach of Rapid, is to be coach of the Tigers.

Formerly with Manchester United, Morton believes that only four or five top players would have to be imported from overseas or interstate.

He already has asked former Scottish international Lou Macari of Manchester United to join the Tigers.

Club organisers believe there are enough talented players in Tasmania to make up the rest of the proposed, PSL team.

The Tigers hope to attract a major sponsor who would provide about \$250,000 which would help pay the transfer fees.

Tasmanian players who would be targets of the Tigers are: Peter Willis (ex-Newcastle KB, now Rapid), Peter Saville (Launceston Juventus), Eric Young (Hobart Juventus), Peter Brine (ex-Middlesborough, now Hobart Juventus), Brian Davidson (ex-Essendon Croatia, now Croatia Glenorchy), Steve Darby (Devonport) and Tony Dickinson and Ian Parker (both Brighton ICL). The men behind the Tigers have lodged a preliminary membership application with the ASF and a full submission will be available in September.

Home ground would be South Hobart, the ground used by Rapid.

The ground management committee has pledged to improve the pitch, extend the stands to cover about 4000.

SOCER ACTION - 13/8/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

Aussie Rules reacts

Tasmania's proposed application for a place in the PSL has drawn enormous interest from business houses and the community. Coverage by the media has been intense, despite moves by the TFL in a meeting with VFL in Melbourne to get a State-wide Aussie rules competition going, and an article by a leading writer in Tasmania to put a Tassie team in the VFL competition.

Soccer has been headlines on the back page and on TV.

Rapid Wrest Point look certain to retain their State League title in Tasmania as with three games to go they are three points clear. Rapid defeated: Launceston Juventus 2-0 and opened their scoring in the first minute when David Smith's low drive was flashed home by Mark Oakes.

Rapid sealed the game in the 22nd minute with a ball lobbed into the penalty area, flicked on by Southworth and Oakes was there again, bringing his tally for the season to 3.

The game was not a good one but Rapid deserved their win as Juventus were intent more on keeping the score down than on winning. Steve Kannegeiser was sent off in the 60th minute for striking.

Devonport halted their run of defeats by beating White Eagles 2-0 and this virtually has sealed White Eagles' relegation. Without McKenna and McDonald, they were too good, and goals came from Rigby and Pizzarani, both from defensive errors by Peter Linnell, White Eagle's best player.

Hobart Juventus defeated Ulverstone by 2-0. Goals by Fabrizio and Parodi was enough to see them into fifth position on the ladder. Once again Brine and Young shone for Hobart while Carpenter was Ulverstone's best.

Croatia played their worst game of the season against Burnie and still won, despite being 1-0 down at half time.

The difference was Brian Davidson who was the only player trying. He set up Spaleta's first and scored one himself. Spaleta's second and Croatia's third was a penalty. Burnie's goal came from Winchester.

George Town and Brighton drew 1-1, Andy Schiebl scored for Town and Darby Conlan for Brighton.

SOCCKET ACTION - 20/8/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

For the second time this Season Rapid Wrest Point scored six goals against Burnie United in the Radio Rentals State League. They won 6-5 in their first-round home game but it was 6-0 on Saturday at Montello.

With an impressive goal difference of 38, Rapid now need three points from their remaining three games to win the premiership for the second successive year.

At the same time last year Rapid had the same three-point lead and had scored 34 goals with 18 against. This year they have scored 55 with 17 against.

Peter Willis, one of the front runners for the Rothmans Gold Medal, Was the star at Burnie. Besides netting his seventh penalty this season, he made the second goal with a brilliant one-touch run that involved six players before the final pass enabled Ken Morton to beat the advancing goalkeeper.

Peter Considine, Ian Newall and Leigh Glover were best for Burnie.

A header by Martin Kingsley from an Andy Smith corner in the 60th minute gave Launceston Juventus two points against George Town and avenged their earlier defeat.

Steve O'Brien got an unexpected game for Croatia at Ulverstone and too the chance with both feet, scoring twice and going close to a hat trick.

Croatia led 5-0 at the half time but then Ulverstone spearheaded, by Wolfgang Stuetzel, fought back to hold the visitors scoreless in the second half.

Willy Peters was best afield, keeping flying star Steve Carpenter subdued. Dennis Trueman was solid in defence and the forward line were in good form. Stuetzel and Ken Green, the other 'fly-in', were Ulverstone's best.

Brighton ICL turned the tables on Devonport at South Hobart, winning 2-0 after losing by that margin at Valley Road. Alistair Hales who had hit an upright earlier, got both goals, the first coming from a neat move in which Bret Anderton and Tony Dickinson worked Hales into position and the second from a cross by Billy Kirkpatrick.

South Hobart won the Rothmans Div. I Premiership when beating Phoenix Rovers 4-1 on Sunday. Olympia, who finished second made a bold bid by beating Eastern Suburbs 8-0 and have chased South Hobart all season. Metro defeated University 1-0 and ended up in third place whilst Taroona defeated Dnipro 1-0 to gain two valuable points and end up in fourth position.

SOCCKET ACTION - 27/8/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

All eyes will be on the top-of-the-table clash between Rapid Wrest Point and Croatia Glenorchy at the KGV at 7.45 pm today. Croatia must beat Rapid if it is to have any chance of winning the championship.

Meanwhile, White Eagles must beat Launceston Juventus by 21 goals and rely on Ulverstone losing to George Town to avoid relegation.

With a play-off necessary between the top northern and southern clubs for Eagles' place in the State League, the southern clubs may be outnumbered six to four.

SOCCKET ACTION - 3/9/80

Tasmanian report - by Reg Tolputt and David Martin

It's Rapid's title

Needing only one point from their remaining two matches, Rapid Wrest Point showed their superiority in the State League by destroying Croatia Glenorchy 4-1 last Wednesday night and winning the championship with a game in hand.

Two first-half goals by Mark Oakes put Rapid in a commanding position at half-time but an early goal in the second half By player-coach Ken Morton sealed Croatia's fate and David Smith added injury to insult by putting Rapid four goals up with 15 minutes to play.

Brian Davidson scored a consolation goal for Croatia in the 92nd minute a goal that took most people by surprise because Croatia's formidable forward line of Davidson, Thomas and Spaleta were rarely in the game, thanks to Nunn, Willcock and Peter Willis who had a superb game at the back for Rapid.

Mark Oakes, who unfortunately had to be substituted by Southworth, was in devastating form and along with Smith and Francis, caused Trueman and Payne all sorts of problems.

Hobart Juventus were off to an early start against Brighton ICL, when Parodi picked up a loose ball from a corner and shot past Harrison after only nine minutes, but 10 minutes later Brighton ICL were back on even terms when Ian Parker took advantage of a defensive error from Perry Forster's cross to head the ball past the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Jones.

This was Brighton's last game, but they will have to wait until Saturday, when Georgetown play Croatia, to find their final place in the league.

Hobart Juventus still have two games to play, Rapid at the KGV tonight (Wednesday) and Ulverstone on Saturday, so there is still a chance of them finishing fourth.

Devonport travelled to Montello to play Burnie who had beaten George Town 3-2 the previous week. McKenna opened the scoring for Devonport. It was a game of few chances and Devonport didn't increase their lead until the 75th minute through Chris Gleeson. Best and Rigby were Devonport's best, while Parkes was outstanding for Burnie.

Ulverstone were beaten 3-0 at home to Georgetown. Georgetown were 2-0 up at halftime through Scheibl and an own goal and Morley added the third midway thru the second half.

White Eagles finished a disappointing season with a well-earned 0-0 draw at Prospect against Launceston Juventus on Saturday.

FINAL TABLE	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid-Wrest Point	15	3	0	62	18	33
Croatia Glenorchy	12	3	3	55	27	27
Brighton Caledonians	11	4	3	43	16	26
George Town United	7	5	6	40	31	19
Hobart Juventus	9	1	8	28	35	19
Devonport City	8	2	8	28	33	18
Launceston Juventus	6	2	10	21	32	14
Burnie United	6	1	11	19	49	13
Ulverstone	2	2	14	22	46	6
White Eagle	1	3	14	22	63	5

1981

SOCER ACTION - 22/7/81

By Walter Pless

Parker keen to give PSL a go

Tasmanian State League defenders can relax. But only for a few weeks. Ian Parker, 22, Brighton-ICL's sharpshooting left winger from Middlesbrough will be out of action for that time.

Parker, third highest scorer in the State League with 11 goals, broke his collar-bone while playing for a Rest of the World' team against Tasmania recently. It was an unfortunate injury and one that removed a talented player from the State League scene.

Brighton has been lucky that some of its recent games have been postponed because of water-logged grounds. Parker is a key player in the side and when he's not scoring goals himself he's setting them up for others.

Somewhat shy and reticent off the field, on it he becomes a commanding figure with poise, speed and abundant skill. Drifting in from the touch-line he takes on defenders, beating them easily with a rapid change of direction or pace. He is one of those players of whom it can truly be said that he always does something useful with the ball.

Parker arrived in Tasmania last year in April to start. a two-year contract with Brighton-ICL. He is one of a group of players now in Tasmania who came here from Whitby Town, a club in the Northern League in England. The first was Tony Dickinson (now with Wollongong) and he was followed by Parker, Peter Brine, Eric Young and most recently, Bruce Ward.

Parker told me: "I can remember asking Tony Dickinson for his autograph when he played for Middlesbrough". Parker has come a long way since then.

He started his career as a nine-year-old full-back. He represented Middlesbrough Boys at U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15 and U-16 levels, then joined Nunthorpe Athletic, Middlesbrough's nursery side and the most successful junior side in the area.

He also represented the North Yorkshire Youth side. From there he progressed to the Nunthorpe senior side which played in a league that featured up-and-coming stars such as Craig Johnston (now with Liverpool) and Stan Cummings (Sunderland).

Whitby Town was Parker's next club and after spending two years with them he accepted an offer to come to Tasmania. He lives at the home of Brighton-ICL stalwart and former star player George Arnott.

He has not regretted the move to Tasmania, and he thoroughly enjoys the State League set-up and is impressed by the hospitality of the people and by the slower pace of life in Tasmania. He enjoys spending time at the farm of Tom Ferguson, another ex-Brighton player.

Parker learnt his skills by watching the star players in action in England and by practising some of the tricks he saw them perform, He also played wherever and whenever he could.

"I used to live, eat and drink soccer. I'd play with tin cans, tennis balls or full-size balls in the streets. I spent hours just kicking a ball against a wall," he says.

Coaches helped him too. Dave Richardson, a former school teacher and school coach (now Aston Villa's youth coach), was one. "Peter Brine and Eric Young at Whitby Town also taught me a lot," says Parker. The sight of Parker mesmerising defenders is something which Tasmanian supporters have become used to.

His injury is healing well and he hopes to be back in time for Brighton's match against Burnie.

What about Brighton's championship hopes?

"I think we've got a very good chance. If we can get over the Juventus-Pioneer hurdle, everything should rest on the final game against Launceston Juventus, which is a very good side. It has the big men where it matters."

Brighton and Launceston Juventus are running neck and neck at the top of the State League standings. Ian Parker is definitely good enough for the Philips League.

It's a pity that Tasmania hasn't got a team in the competition as Parker would love the chance to prove himself in that company. His visa expires next April. If he renews it and gets an offer from inter- State, he might be able to go to the PSL. Anyone who has seen him play wouldn't have any doubts that he would make his mark.

SOCCKER ACTION - 15/4/81

By Walter Pless

Steve Darby, Tasmanian Director of Coaching.

A full-time Director of Coaching recently has been appointed in Tasmania. He is Steve Darby, a 26-year-old Englishman, whose appointment is for three years.

Darby is well qualified for the position, both academically and in the sporting sense.

He has a Bachelor of Education degree and a teaching certificate in physical education and he holds the English FA senior coaching licence.

He is a FIFA instructor for Oceania, spent two years as assistant to Jack Mansell, national coach of Bahrain, and last year coached Devonport in the Tasmanian State League.

Devonport, a side that avoided relegation on goal difference in 1979, last season finished fourth in the State League, was semi-finalist in both the Ampol and Cadbury Cups, and won the pre-season and post-season floodlight competitions in the north. Eight players from Devonport obtained State schoolboy representative honours.

I interviewed Steve Darby shortly after he took up his new position and asked him to outline some of his ideas and plans for the future.

Q. You're only 26 years old. Why did you turn to coaching at such a relatively young age?

A. I'd had three cartilages out at 16, while I was a youth player with an English League club, so my parents correctly advised me to go into university to become a physical education teacher. It was then that I was first introduced to coaching, by Mervyn Beck, who opened my eyes to the game. He made training very interesting.

Q. What potential does Australian soccer have?

A. There's great potential in Australian soccer. The combination of ethnic ball skills, the British attitude and Australian physique and environment must one day produce success.

Q. Should there be co-operation between rival coaches?

A. Yes. It disgusts me when I see coaches 'knocking' each other. For example, a number of people in Tasmania seem to want Ken Morton to fail at Wollongong. This, to me, is ridiculous. I hope that Ken does a great job. He does coach. He isn't just a motivator. He did 2 magnificent job in Tasmania. We used to sit and exchange ideas and talk about the game for hours. This should be done far more often

Q. Can coaches learn from each other and from others?

A. It's a dangerous man, I believe who thinks he knows it all. You never stop learning and you can learn from anybody. You can learn from other sports too. I admire Ron Greenwood's principles and I was brought up on Bill Shankly's motivational background. I learned a great deal from Jack Mansell, who's an incredible coach. Rather than follow one man, I like to extract different pieces from different coaches. For example, there are many things I've learned from Eric Worthington. I think Len McKendry's methods are tremendous. Ronny Smith is involving many young lads and strengthening the game's base. I think it's wrong to copy one man. You should try to extract the best from each coach. I've never seen Rale Rasic work, but I've heard nothing but praise for him. I think it's a good sign that Jimmy Shoulder has got this job at Canberra (in charge of soccer at the new Sports Institute). This is a great step forward for Australian soccer and I think Jimmy will do a great job.

Q. What problems does Tasmanian soccer face?

A. The lack of quality grounds. Some of the grounds are in terrible condition. It's a very bad environment to play in and I think a lot of work should be put into developing the facilities, especially training facilities. I think the clubs should find a balance in their expenditure between the money they spend on players and wages and the money they pump back into facilities. Imported players should be used for coaching the kids. Clubs should have five-year plans rather than one-year, short-term, selfish aims.

Q. What are your priorities as Director of Coaching?

A. I see the game basically as a triangle. Kids form the base of this triangle, State League players the top. We must make the base very solid by getting more and more kids playing the game. Every person who coaches a primary or junior side should have attended a coaching course so that they have, at least, the fundamentals of the game behind them. I'd like to get more senior players involved in coaching. We've got senior players in Tasmania with English experience, players like Eric Young and Peter Brine. There are other top-class players like Tommy McKenna and Wolfgang Stuetzel, who could help. The coaching system is lacking this in Tasmania. I'm trying to get the top players to come back into the game at a coaching level.

Q. What about your role as a coach of coaches?

A. My role is to stimulate these people, to give them new ideas, to help them in training methods, to liaise between them. We don't want stagnation; we must keep progressing. I think it's very important that the senior players get involved because the kids

have to have a model. My long-term aim over three years is for every single primary and junior side to have a coach who has attended a basic course, and at the other extreme, every senior State League club to have a senior badge holder as coach. We're half-way there now and it's my job to make sure they do this and I've the full backing of the State Federation.

Q. What is the difference between the senior and junior coaches' roles within a club?

A. Obviously, the senior coach's role, if he's taking the first team, is to win. But, I think the man should look at himself and see how he wins. He should try to do it as skillfully and attractively as possible. Anyone can "kick" their way to a premiership and there should be no place for coaches like this. As for junior coaches, winning shouldn't be as important. The main thing should be the development of the skills, of actual ball skills and the thought of the players. The greatest indication of success in a youth program is the number of kids who get into the first team.

This should be the only sign of success in a youth policy, not the number of trophies that have been won.

Q. Do you have any advice for youngsters?

A. Yes. Just play, play, play. Play in the garden, play with your dad, play with the ball in your street. We'll never recreate the British background of playing in the street because it's a different social environment in Australia. The kids must never be ashamed to be seen with a ball. They should practice with it every spare moment, that's the most important thing.

SOCER ACTION - 6/5/81

By Walter Pless

Brine, Young escape the PSL's net

Some big fish certainly do escape the net. Two very experienced English professionals have managed to escape the net of the Philips League clubs and are currently joint player-coaches of Tasmanian State League club, Juventus-Pioneer (Hobart). They are London-born Peter Brine 27, and Eric Young 28, from Stockton-on-Tees.

Full credit must go to Juventus for signing these two excellent players half-way through last season. Juventus was second last at that stage, with one point from nine games. Due largely to the efforts of these two players, Juventus finished the season in fourth place.

Juventus has engaged the players as joint-coaches this season and their influence has been very noticeable.

The club won the pre-season 'Michael The Tailor' Cup competition and is now in equal third place in the State League, having lost only one of its four games.

Brine played a considerable number of first-team games with Middlesbrough between 1976 and 1978, scoring a number of goals as a striker.

In 1976 he went on loan to the Minnesota Kicks (USA).

Two torn cartilages and torn cruciate ligaments put him out of the game for two years. Prior to joining Juventus, he played for Whitby in the Northern League in England.

Eric Young played for Manchester United, Peterborough, Walsall, Stockport, Darlington and Whitby before joining Juventus. He was with Manchester United during the latter years of the Law-Best era and played in several of United's tour games at that time. Eric holds the English Football Association Preliminary Coaching Certificate.

Brine and Young have turned Juventus into a very good side, a side that should be challenging for honours at the end of the season.

Under their coaching, several youngsters have earned places in the first team. Luciano Fabrizio, Leon Darko, Nick di Martino and Nick Lapolla are some who have made the grade.

Brine as sweeper and Young in midfield are a class above other State League players in Tasmania.

Their ball control is immaculate, their reading of the game uncanny, their prompting and urging of other players helpful and encouraging. If ever two players transformed a team, these are the two. They are scrupulously fair in their play, their sportsmanship being a fine example to all youngsters.

The Tasmanian soccer scene has a number of good features, according to Young. He is impressed by the number of teams that many clubs have, ranging from junior to senior sides. An English club of comparable standard generally only has a senior side. Considering the standard of the State League, he is also impressed with the wages that clubs pay to players.

Brine commends the professional outlook of Tasmanian State League clubs compared to clubs of a similar standard in English. He believes that the appointment of a full-time Director of Coaching in Tasmania was a good move and he thinks that a Tasmanian team in the Philips League is a must if soccer in the State is to progress.

Both players agree that training facilities in Tasmania need to be improved, although the existing facilities are still better than those of many comparable English clubs. They also agree that soccer must receive greater publicity, that there must be better coaching at every level, and that youngsters should not be spoilt with material rewards, such as trips and trophies, at too early an age.

SOCCKET ACTION - 20/5/81

Kannegeisser brothers hold key

Tasmanian Director of Coaching, Steve Darby, and his players are looking forward to meeting the Victorian youth team in the curtain raiser to Australia's World Cup match against Indonesia in Melbourne tonight (Wednesday). The Tasmanians are a 'State of origin' team, all the players having been either born in the State or having lived there since the age of 10.

Steve has conducted a number of Monday night training sessions with the 13-man squad. He is satisfied with the results and with the attitude of the players. Five of the players travel to Hobart from the north of the State just to attend training sessions, a round trip of up to 450 kilometres. This certainly displays keenness and dedication.

1. Phil KANNEGEISER (Rapid Wrest Point) - 2. Conrad HUGHES (George Town United) - 3. Larry NUNN (Rapid Wrest Point) - 4. Willy PETERS (Croatia Glenorchy) 5 Darby CONLAN (Launceston Juventus) - 6. Mossie O'SULLIVAN (George Town United) - 7. Chris GLEESON (Devonport) - 8. Steve KANNEGEISER (Rapid Wrest Point) - 9. Mark OAKES (Rapid Wrest Point) - 10. Luciano FABRIZIO (Hobart Juventus Pioneer) - 11. Andy SCHEIBL (Georgetown United) - 12. Chris HEY (Brighton ICL) - 13. Alistair PAYNE (Croatia Glenorchy) - MANGER:-Brian McKAY (Captain of State League club Brighton ICL) - COACH:-Steve DARBY.

The team will play a 4-4-2 system and Darby is pleased with the way the players have knitted together defensively. Although the system of play will involve a retreating defence, together with a sweeper, every player in the back four is capable of attacking.

Darby sees goalkeeper Phil Kannegeisser, his brother Steve, a midfielder, captain Luciano Fabrizio, as the key players.

Phil is easily the State's best goalkeeper, while Steve combines skill] with a high work-rate.

Nunn is a Rothmans Gold Medal winner, while Fabrizio (17) is a player of great promise. He is also a member of the State under 18 team.

Mark Oakes, the centre-forward, is following in his father's footsteps. Mark's father played for Tasmania in a 2-2 draw with a Hong Kong side at North Hobart oval in 1957.

Darby says, "Tasmania hasn't got the greatest name in soccer but we're going to try to change' this. We have a totally professional outlook in terms of attitude and preparation, and we're not coming over just for the ride. We've come to do a job. We hope this game will further our reputation and help to attract top sides to Tasmania".

The crowd should be the largest any of the Tasmanians ever has played before. Let's hope they don't get stage fright! All Tasmanian soccer supporters will be looking forward to the game against the Victoria Youths and will be hoping that things go well for Darby and the team.

SOCCKET ACTION - 27/5/81

Tassie steps out of the wilderness

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Tasmania 2 (Nunn 48th, Ambrosino 65th) Victorian Youth Combination 0 at Olympic Park.

Tasmania started its climb out of the soccer wilderness with this victory in the curtain-raiser to the World Cup game at Olympic Park last week.

Coach Steve Darby fielded a "state of origin" team which had trained together once a week for five weeks.

It will play a Tasmanian “Rest of the World” side at the KGV ground in Hobart on June 21. It has been asked to visit Queensland and a suitable date is being sought for a match against Jimmy Shoulder’s Institute of Sport team from Canberra.

Darby hopes that his State team will not only fly the-flag for Tasmanian soccer but also provide extra motivation to State League players aspiring to representative soccer.

Best of the Tasmanians were left back Steve Kannegeisser of Rapid Wrest Point and left flanker Angelo Ambrosino from the Institute of Sport.

Ambrosino made a remarkable difference to the Tasmanians when he came on at half time. He took advantage of poor positioning by the goalkeeper to score with a well-measured lob, and he completely dominated the left side.

The Victorian, coached by Bill Curran, were a mixture of former youth team players and members of the side that played in the Australian under 18 championships in Canberra the previous weekend. They were most disappointing, displaying no link at all between midfield and attack where the forwards stood around shivering for long periods.

Darby’s men displayed a highly unusual free kick ploy early in the game. Two men would run towards the man taking the kick, complaining and yelling at him. While the opposing defenders laugh and lose their concentration, Willy Peters ghosts in at the far post, and the free kick is sent over to him. In this case, Larry Nunn took the kick, Peters rose for the header, but goalkeeper Gilbert got up higher to push it out. Mark Oaks rammed the ball into the net, but the referee ruled Peters had fouled Gilbert

Another free kick resulted in Tasmania’s first goal. eight minutes after half time. Steve Kannegeisser ran over the ball and Nunn rammed it low into the net despite the presence of a wall in front of him.

Then Scheibl played a fine through ball for Oaks who chased and cut it back off the line, across the goal to Ambrosine whose lob over the goalkeeper hit the crossbar. A few minutes later Ambrosino caught the goalkeeper too far off his line and lobbed the ball expertly over him, into the net.

SOCER ACTION - 9/9/81

By Walter Pless

John Charlton, out of his father’s shadow

Having a famous father can often be a burden rather than a blessing, one decides to follow in the father’s foot- steps.

Although he might not describe it as a burden, John Charlton, 22, the Brighton-ICL midfielder and son of the famous Jack Charlton (Leeds United and England), did have a lot to live up to.

“I’d go onto the pitch and people would say to me: ‘You’re not as good as your dad or your uncle Bob.’”

That sort of things can shatter one’s confidence. So much - in fact, that it was once suggested to John that he change his name!

Leeds-born, John Charlton played with Nunthorpe and Guisborough Town in England Town in England before coming to Tasmania to join Brighton-ICL in January, 1980.

Tony Dickinson, former Brighton-ICL coach (now with & was instrumental in bringing him out. Charlton had been all set to go to South Africa but decided on Australia instead. His only regret was that he missed out on a Wembley appearance (for Guisborough, in the FA Vase competition).

Brighton’s State League championship this season may have partly compensated him for this, especially since it was Charlton’s superb volley from outside the box that gave the title to Brighton.

“That goal was certainly a highlight of my stay in Tasmania. Another was the time I managed three ‘nutmegs’ in a game against South Hobart.”

Charlton was seven when England won the World Cup in 1966. He watched the game on television because his mother, who was pregnant at the time, stayed at home with the children. He doesn’t remember his childhood as being very much different to that of other kids whose fathers and uncles were not famous English footballers.

“I just played street and park football like everyone else. I’d watch Dad and play with him of course. But, the only time he ever really pushed me was just before I came to Tasmania.

I was virtually an apprentice with Sheffield Wednesday for about three months. He'd drag me out of bed every morning and make me join in the training. I'd also clean boots and sweep the terraces. It's the only time he's really pushed me."

Charlton's contract with Brighton-ICL finishes at the end of this season. He has applied for permanent residency. He attributes Brighton's success to the fact that the club bought good players.

"We've got a team together that could hold its own in Melbourne, not at the top, but in the middle. Coach John Taylor should be given more credit also, and so should the vice-chairman Jock Crosbie."

When he first arrived in the State, Charlton was a little disappointed with the standard of soccer: "There were some good players here, but I did expect more of them. More development at school level is needed. The game must be promoted more. For example, a penalty competition for school kids, held during the half-time interval at big matches would generate a lot of excitement and interest. It would be a way of attracting kids and their families to games."

Now that Charlton's contract with Brighton is almost at an end, other clubs are certain to come in with offers. The tall, centre-back or midfielder would definitely be a good investment, not because he's Jack's son or Bobby's nephew, but because he's John Charlton, a footballer in his own rights.

It's Stuetzel's medal, finally

They say that everything comes to him who waits.

Wolfgang Stuetzel, 32 captain-coach of State League team Ulverstone, was the 1981 Tasmanian Rothmans Gold Medal on Friday night after having been runner-up four times in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1980.

Earlier in the evening, Rothmans presented Stuetzel with a silver salver in recognition of his performances over the years. He has polled a record 109 votes in Rothmans Gold Medal voting.

Stuetzel polled 27 votes this year to win the award by one vote from Juventus-Pioneer's player-coach, Eric Young, who missed four games through injury. Other top vote getters were Peter Sawdon (Launceston Juventus) with 21, Ian Parker (Brighton-ICL) 20, Alastair Payne (Croatia-Glenorchy) 19, Larry Nunn (Rapid-Wrest Point; winner in 1978) 18, and Jim McKinnon (South Hobart) 17.

"Magic", is how Stuetzel summed up his win. "I didn't really expect to win. There are so many good players in the State League. It's so competitive I feel very humble."

Born in Salzburg, Austria, Wolfgang came to Australia at age seven. He first played soccer at Hobart High School in 1960 and in 1967 he joined Rapid.

He was player-coach of the club in 1976 when it won the State premiership.

It is the first time the Gold Medal (valued at \$4000) has gone to a player from outside Hobart.

Regarding his future, Wolfgang says he would like 'to make good sides as a coach'. He's definitely on the way to achieving that ambition.

1982

SOCER ACTION - 27/1/82

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Tasmanian State League folds up

The Tasmanian State League, which began its life in 1978, is no more. The 1982 season will see the introduction of two regional leagues, one in the south of the State, the other in the north and north-west.

Many clubs found the expense of participating on a State-wide basis too much for them. Lack of sponsorship meant that there was little incentive to compete in a competition that entailed a considerable amount of travelling.

It remains to be seen how the lack of a season-long, State-wide competition will affect soccer in Tasmania. Soccer is one of the few sports to have had a State-wide competition. Australian Rules administrators have failed to establish such a competition, despite repeated efforts, and despite the belief held by many of them that such a competition is essential for the development of their code.

The State League definitely improved soccer in the north of Tasmania. Its benefit to southern clubs was questionable. Attendances were, at times, quite abysmal. It will be interesting to see whether good quality imports still can be attracted to Tasmania in the absence of a State League.

The two new regional leagues diplomatically have been titled the State League South and the State League North (combined north and north-west).

The winners of each league will play each other on a home and away basis at the end of the season to determine the State champions. The reserve leagues in each case really will be youth leagues, only three players over the age of 18 being permitted to play in each team.

The eight-team State League South will consist of last season's five southern State League teams - Brighton-ICL, Juventus-Pioneer, Croatia-Glenorchy, Rapid-Wrest Point and South Hobart together with White Eagles. Olympia and Metro-Claremont from last season's southern Rothmans League Division 1.

In the four years of its existence, three clubs won the State League championship - White Eagles (1978), Rapid-Wrest Point (1979 1980) and Brighton-ICL (1981)

SOCER ACTION - 3/2/82

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Laki Vagianos

Laki Vagianos, 32, is a unique figure in Tasmanian soccer. He started his senior career and established himself in the State before being transferred and making the grade with mainland side. Laki helped win a Philips League championship in 1978 with West Adelaide Hellas.

Vagianos returned to Tasmania as a star in 1979 and now is running a business at Bridgewater, just north of Hobart. He is undecided about the 1982 season but is open to offers from clubs interested in his services.

Born on the Greek island of Kos, Vagianos came to Tasmania in 1964 at the age of 16. He immediately established himself in the senior team of the local Greek club, Olympia.

Between 1964 and 1968, Olympia won four championships and Vagianos, playing at centre-back, was a key component of the side. His ability was recognised when he was chosen for the Tasmanian team that played Cardiff City.

Following his five-year stint with Olympia, Vagianos was transferred to West Adelaide Hellas, a notable achievement for a local player.

Hellas proved to be the best team that Laki has played in. He found it relatively easy to adjust to the higher playing standards, characterised by harder tackling, tighter marking and the great mobility of opponents.

"The spirit of the players, their love of the game, the family atmosphere was tremendous. All the players got on really well together because we were mostly the same age and we all had started together. It made it easier to settle in," Vagianos says.

Numerous Cup wins and South Australian championships followed, culminating in the Philips League championship in 1978. Vagianos also played in representative teams against Greece and Moscow Dynamo. He has enjoyed playing against the likes of Macdonald and Lev Yashin and Souness.

Tom Forde is the best coach under whom he has played. "He was more professional than the others and he cared for the players and for the club," he says.

Vagianos returned to Olympia and Tasmania State League soccer in 1979. After his 2 years of success on the mainland it turned out to be a bit of a jolt as Olympia suffered relegation.

Laki didn't play again for the club and travelled overseas in 1980, playing no soccer at all.

He resumed in 1981, with Croatia-Glenorchy. Injury, together with a contractual dispute, meant that he played only five games last season. He did, however, score a vital last-minute equaliser for Croatia when it gained a point against eventual champion Brighton-ICL.

SOCCKET ACTION - 3/3/82

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

State's favorite son is back

David Smith, 25, one of Tasmania's most lethal strikers, is back in the State after a spell with Wollongong and Western Australian club Inglewood Kiev.

Smith's spell on the mainland last season can only have benefitted him and it will be interesting to see which club manages to snare him for the 1982 season.

Born in Sheffield, Smith came to Tasmania when he was nine. He played for Claremont High School while still at primary school because the primary school didn't cater for soccer.

"It made things a bit awkward," says David. "I had to play under an assumed name because it might have proved embarrassing if my name appeared on the score sheet."

Metro-Claremont was Smith's first senior club. Indeed, his father, Jack, is still a vice-president of the club. During his stay with Metro, Smith won the club's best and fairest award four years running. He certainly was becoming hot property.

Smith moved to White Eagles in 1978 and helped the club to win the inaugural State League title. It was probably Smith's best ever season. He finished as the club's top scorer and won the best and fairest award.

And then came Ken Morton. Smith left White Eagles and followed the man he admires above all others as a coach, first to Brighton-ICL, and then to Rapid-Wrest Point.

"Morton was what Tasmanian soccer was all about. He had a very good working relationship with the players, and he brought the best out of them. No-one missed a training session when Morton was in charge," summed up Smith.

Morton took Smith to Wollongong with him at the start of the 1981 season. But things didn't work out and Smith was transferred after three months to Ingelwood Kiev in Perth. He doesn't regret his Mainland sojourn.

"I don't regret going. It was an experience, a good experience. It's always hard for Tasmanian players there. People don't want to know. You're always battling to prove yourself."

Now that he's back, Smith doesn't need to prove anything here.

He represented the State against Sunderland and Toronto-Metros Croatia. He obtained the senior coaching award of the ASF a few weeks ago. All he needs now is a club. They are already queuing up for his services as the season approaches. They must know that, at 25, Smith still has the peak part of his career ahead of him.

Brian McKay

Brian MacKay, 35, newly appointed coach of Hobart's Greek aide, Olympia, probably is fitter than most of his players. He runs between six and 10 miles a day, plays squash, and does plenty of gym work and weight training.

"Running is a relaxation for me", says MacKay. "It's my way of unwinding".

He certainly sets his players a fine example in terms of fitness. As for playing ability, he has a track record that few can equal. Born in Stirling, he played for Clydebank Juniors. He came to Tasmania in 1970 for a two-year holiday but has been here ever since.

He joined Olympia and stayed with the club for five years, playing mainly in the midfield. "Dick Girling was the greatest influence on me there. He sort of took me under his wing. And I was also very impressed with John Margaritis' coaching", revealed the sun-tanned, extremely fit-looking MacKay.

MacKay's greatest year was 1973. He won the Rothmans Gold medal, the 7HO Player of the Year award, and the Jack Cade Player of the Year award.

A transfer to White Eagles saw him win two premierships in four years. Last year he won a third, this time with Brighton-ICL. Representative honours include a match for the State against a touring English FA XI in 1971.

MacKay recently gained the senior coaching award of the ASF and the Olympia job is his first senior coaching appointment. He also was manager of Steve Darby's successful State side of last season.

MacKay relishes the challenge of coaching his old club, which has had a lean time over recent years. "This certainly is my biggest challenge. But I'm really looking forward to it," says MacKay confidently.

He has a number of young players in his squad, including Robert Harrison who spent Part of last season with Wollongong, Perry Forster who has been trialing with Frankston, and Craig Nichols who is being watched by Footscray-JUST.

MacKay believes firmly in bringing through talented young local lads, In Brian MacKay, these young players certainly have an ideal person to emulate.

SOCCKET ACTION - 14/4/82

Around Australia with Craig McKenzie

Desertion in Tasmania - All but two quit ICL

Down Tassie way the price of success is believed to be in the region of \$25,000. That's the reported debt incurred by last year's State champion Brighton.

The club was referred to last year as Brighton ICL but the ICL company has decided to take its sponsorship dollar elsewhere.

The parting of the ways after three years of sponsorship which amounted to just \$9,000 isn't the only blow to the champion, A certain high-ranking club official promised the sun, the moon and the earth to many first team players. To put it bluntly, the goods didn't materialise come payment time.

So the players left - all but two out of last year's first team squad. Ian Parker and Chris Hey are the spartan duo left to carry on the battle in the league but Parker has been promised a free and could move soon. Victorian State League clubs Melbourne Croatia and Sunshine were very interested earlier this year.

I believe that about 75 percent of the debt has been paid off and the rest will be taken care of by the end of this season. Reducing such a debt in such a short time deserves a good slap on the back.

Let's log the player exodus: John Chariton to Rapid Wrest Point; Kevin Swinscoe to Melbourne Juventus; Graham Skatchell back home to NZ; Billy Kirkpatrick and Willie Peters to Croatia Glenorchy; Perry Foster and Brian McKay to Olympia.

Oh, and last year's coach John Taylor still was considering legal action against the club last time I spoke to the big man.

Would you believe that Swinscoe was the only player for whom the club received any transfer money?

It's true! Seems that clause E on Tassie registration forms states that when a player signs with a Tassie club the player and the club agree on a transfer fee once the contract expires.

That high-ranking official referred to earlier came to an agreement over this matter with most of last year's players. He agreed that they would be freed once their contracts expired!

But all is not lost. The champion club has picked up a midfielder from NZ, David Hewitt, to play alongside Parker, Hey and most of last year's reserve side.

It's a black picture, granted, but I'm betting that Brighton won't be relegated this year like so many critics are tipping.

I expect a cosy, mid-table finish is in store. Meanwhile the hard-working committee can continue to pull the club's head back above the murky, financial waters.

Tassie star turns down PSL

By WALTER PLESS

Few players would turn down the chance of a trial with a Philips League club. Neil Thomas, the 21-year-old Croatia- Glenorchy striker-cum-mid- fielder is one who did.

West Adelaide-Hellas offered Thomas a trial before the start of the season, but he turned it down. "I've got too many ties here to do anything about it. I don't really want to go away. I couldn't see any point in going over for a trial if I wasn't prepared to go over if I was accepted." He is getting married in a few weeks' time and has just built a house. This partly may explain his decision.

Thomas's credentials are certainly good. He was Croatia's 'best and fairest' last season, and its top goalscorer. He was in the Tasmanian 'State of Origin' squad against South Melbourne-Hellas and is in this year's squad for the game against the Australian Institute of Sport team.

Thomas represented Tasmania as a junior at all levels, but soccer almost lost him to Australian Football and baseball. He represented Southern Tasmania in football and the State in baseball and was, at one time, considering concentrating on baseball.

He started playing senior soccer with South Hobart when only 14. He won two 'best and fairest' awards and usually was the club's top marksman.

A transfer to White Eagles and a higher standard was almost inevitable but he wore the Polish club's colours for only a season. This year will be his third with Croatia.

Thomas admits to being difficult to motivate. "I need to be pushed. I can't go out and play against a mediocre team and put 100 per cent into the game. I've got to go out against a team of high standard and then I'll put everything in because then I've got a goal to aim for. Against a weaker side you tend not to put everything into the game."

SOCER ACTION - 5/5/82

Croatia Glenorchy president Michael Furjanic dreams of the day when the Croatian / Soccer Association of Australia finds a permanent base for its annual national tournament in Melbourne.

Furjanic is president of the CSAA, a job which takes him around Australia, Keeping in constant touch with the association's 22 member clubs in every State except Northern Territory.

Croatia Glenorchy, in Cadbury's State League South in Tasmania, is slowly recovering from the loss of money and committee men resulting from Furjanic's disastrous attempt to stage the 1980 Croatian national tournament in Hobart.

The tournament was crippled by an air strike which left Croatia almost \$10,000 in debt. It also left Furjanic in poor health and two other Croatia committeemen took a six month holiday the following year.

As a result, season 1981 was a bad one for Croatia Glenorchy. In fact, it was "the worst year we've had in 23 years", according to Furjanic.

It's a different Croatia now. Furjanic's business interests and his many contacts among Croatian businessmen are behind the drive to establish Croatia once again as one of the leading clubs in Tasmania.

"Soccer Action" columnist Walter Pless was hired as first team coach this year and last weekend Melbourne Croatia defender Ian McGibbon and his wife were guests of Furjanic in Hobart have a look at the set-up," said Furjanic.

"T hope he's impressed because he could prove invaluable to our team. We can get both McGibbon and his wife good jobs and can organise her visa with the Immigration Department.

"Our drive to get players doesn't stop there. "Recently we signed former Frankston City midfielder Willie Coulsen, and when I read in last week's 'SOCER ACTION - about young English striker Chris Livsey, I contacted him immediately. He's still thinking about my offer. I can bring him over here to have a look at our club if he likes."

Croatia Glenorchy has no visa player on its books, opening up the way for both McGibbon and Livsey to sign. Livsey, 21, has scored over 50 goals in minor league soccer in England in the past two years.

Croatia Glenorchy started its 1982 campaign in fine style, winning the Michael the Tailor Cup sponsored by president Furjanic. However, the club's opening to the league season wasn't so successful. "We were hammered 7-1 by Olympic in our first game," said Furjanic "I've never, in my long association with Tasmanian soccer, seen an Olympia side that played like that. It was as if a top European team had come over to play a game against the locals. We were three goals down inside four minutes. Our boys didn't know what hit them. "We lost our next league game 2-0 to Juventus Pioneer.

"Our supporters want immediate success. It might be the case that the team will come good shortly and have a great second half of the season however our supporters can't wait that long, so we have to buy new players."

One of the new players could be the son of infamous English coach Malcolm Allison, Furjanic, should he sign McGibbon and Livsey, still would have one vacancy left for a visa player and it's to England he may look to fill that vacancy.

SOCER ACTION - 12/5/82

By Walter Pless

TSF is Toothless

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation has about as much bite as the Tasmanian tiger.

The believed-to-be extinct mammal is an appropriate symbol for a federation which doesn't even run its own State League.

For the past four years the TSF had something to do - administer the state-wide Tasmanian State League. However, geography or, as noted Australian historian Geoff Blamey called it, "the tyranny of distance" has caught up with the TSF.

The problem of getting people in the north to travel to the south or vice versa to watch a State League game between a southern and northern side caused the TSF again to split the state-wide State League into a northern and southern affair.

The northern version comes under the auspices of the Northern Soccer Association and the North Western Soccer Association while the southern version is in the hands of the Tasmanian Soccer Association.

So what does the TSF run? The annual Ampol Cup competition. Yet the TSF is represented on the ASF executive. Therefore, a body which doesn't even organise a State League competition has the power to put forward proposals which can have direct implications for the day-to-day running of state League North in Tassie or State League South.

Yet let's not make the TSF appear like some sort of soccer autocrat. The board of Management of the TSF is made up of members from the Northern Soccer Association, the North Western Soccer Association and Tasmanian Soccer Association.

All well and good. It does however smack of bureaucracy gone mad, doesn't it? Why not Jet one centralised body run the whole affair and be done with it?

Let the present bodies become nothing more than affiliate organisations of the TSF, answerable to the TSF and subordinated by the TSF's power of veto over their proposals.

Sport in the Apple Isle continues to fight a parochial battle between northern and southern interests.

With regard to Tasmanian soccer the present situation is one in which the north and the north west can, if they wish, gang up on the south and kill off any southern proposal they care to.

SOCER ACTION - 19/5/82

By Walter Pless

Juventus for title

Juventus Pioneer and White Eagles should fight out this year's State League South championship in Tassie and my money is on Juve.

Peter Brine and Eric Young are the men at Juve's coaching helm and after finishing third in last year's state-wide State League the black and whites are set to go two places better in the regionalised eight-team southern league.

Brighton ICL and Launceston Juventus were 'the pacesetters last year but Brighton's first team squad has been severely depleted with just two of last year's members remaining. Launceston Juventus now plays in the northern league.

That leaves the way open for Juventus Pioneer to clinch the 1982 title. The club has been going for 22 years and the Pioneer company put up about \$1,200 this year in sponsorship.

Juventus' match payments and signing-on fees are as good as any in the league. Importantly, no players get more than others. Juve believes in paying its first team players the same wage Irrespective of talent and it's a policy which is paying dividends as team spirit and harmony within the squad is high.

Juventus Pioneer was one of the clubs which lobbied strongly to maintain the state-wide nature of State League.

SOCCKET ACTION - 26/5/82

By Walter Pless

Willy Coulson lifts Croatia

Juventus-Pioneer regained the leadership, on goal difference, of the Cadbury State League (South) when Croatia beat White Eagles 4-1 in mid-week and Juventus itself thrashed Metro 8-0 on Saturday.

White Eagles' defeat was their first in the league this season. Willy Coulson, Croatia's new signing from Frankston City, was the architect of his side's win. His cultured left foot set up countless Croatia attacks and his devastating free kicks produced two brilliant goals, one for himself and one when Peters snapped up a rebound.

Not only did Juventus burst Metro's bubble on Saturday, they also boosted their goal difference in the process. The inimitable Bruce Ward notched his second hat-trick of the season and took his tally to an incredible 13 goals, Young, Pace and Bacon, whilst Pitchford put the ball into his own net right at the end.

Brighton found themselves further isolated at the foot of the table when they lost 3-1 to South Hobart.

In an uninspiring game on Sunday, Rapid defeated Olympic by a lone goal scored by Oakes five minutes before the interval.

SOCCKET ACTION - 2/6/82

By Walter Pless

OLYMPIA 6-0

Olympia returned to the victors ranks in Tasmania with a convincing 6-0 win against South Hobart. Tarros, Sherman and Forster each scored twice.

On Sunday, Croatia defeated bottom-placed Brighton 2-0 to move into third place. First half goals from Trueman and Kirkpatrick sealed the match but Brighton troubled Croatia in the second half with almost uninterrupted pressure.

White Eagles retained second place following their 2-2 draw with Metro.

SOCCKET ACTION - 16/6/82

By Walter Pless

Genaris Olympia's genius

Twenty-year-old Marco Genaris, Olympia's Sydney-born midfielder, is one of the most skilful players in Tasmania. On his day, he is creative, devastating, and a delight to watch. With socks perpetually down around his ankles, his appearance is deceptive.

He has excellent ball control, good vision and a hard, accurate shot.

Genaris has, been with Olympia for seven years. He suffered a serious injury a couple of seasons ago when he was chopped in a game against University. The injury could have threatened his career. "It was like a corked thigh, but much more serious. There was calcification within the muscle itself and if I hadn't received proper treatment, surgery would have been required. It doesn't affect my game, but if I put pressure on that leg I can still feel it,"" he says.

Olympia had a good start to the season but slumped somewhat after the first few games. It made a good recovery recently, however, scoring 22 goals in one weekend, six in a Saturday league match and 16 in a Sunday cup game.

Although Genaris didn't score in those two games, he remains a key element in the side. He has resolved his recent differences with the club and is looking forward to the remainder of the season. "I still think we're in there with a chance. The way things are going, everyone's beating everyone else, and you can't really say what's going to happen next.

"It's a good competition this year." Genaris has no clear ambitions. I could be going to the mainland at the end of the year, but I've got no trials lined up. I'm not sure whether I'll stay there or not".

One thing is certain, if he stays in Tasmania his future in the game is assured for a long, long time!

SOCCKET ACTION - 7/7/82

By Walter Pless

Another Adams hits the heights

Sunderland-born Kevin Adams, 20, brother of Melbourne Croatia's and Victoria's Keith Adams, has certainly created waves since signing with Tasmanian State League side, Glenorchy-Croatia.

In his first reserve team game he was booked, and in his second, he scored a superb goal with a left foot drive from outside the box. At the time of writing, Adams has played two first team games which resulted in one win and one loss. He has played at left back and at left wing in these games and this shows his versatility.

Adams came to Melbourne Croatia at the instigation of his brother Keith but played mainly in the reserves. After talking with Croatia's other recent signing from Victoria, Willy Coulson, Kevin decided to make the move south.

Kevin's greatest thrill in the game so far has, surprisingly, been off the field. He attended Sunderland's victory banquet after they had beaten Leeds United in the 1973 FA Cup final. His brother, Keith, was a member of Sunderland's youth team.

"Being involved in even the slightest way with an FA Cup final is just fantastic", says Kevin, recalling the event.

He believes that the Tasmanian standard of soccer is three or four steps behind that of Victoria. He does have definite ambitions, however.

"I'd like to keep playing in the first team for the rest of the season and, maybe, even play for Victoria or Tasmania. I'm only 20 and I hope I've got a big future ahead of me.'

SOCCKET ACTION - 14/7/82

By Walter Pless

Brighton continued its climb from the bottom of the Tasmanian State League (South) on Friday night when it defeated South Hobart 2-0. This result puts Brighton two points clear of South Hobart at the bottom.

State director of coaching Steve Darby played in goal for South Hobart and was powerless to stop goals from Steve Brown and Ian Parker.

Croatia-Glenorchy threw away the chance to replace its opponents, White Eagles, in the top four. Croatia led White Eagles 1-0 shortly after the break when Willy Coulson put Neil Thomas away with an excellent pass.

Thomas rounded the Eagles keeper to slot away the chance. And then, disaster struck. Burton scored an own goal, Smith punched away at thin air instead of the ball and Croatia found itself 2-1 down. Another goal from a free kick and one from a penalty saw White Eagles win comfortably by 4-1, the exact reversal of the result when the teams met in the first round.

SOCER ACTION - 25/8/82

By Walter Pless

Tait spurs Brighton

Brighton, last season's winners, started the year disastrously with ten defeats on the trot. Since then, it has gained eight points, having lost only twice in seven games. Twenty-six-year-old Alan Tait is one of the reasons behind Brighton's transformation.

Born near Liverpool, Tait once considered the game for a Career, but, after failing to make the grade with Blackpool, he chose physical education instead. Along the way, he gained the Full Coaching Badge of the English FA.

Tait arrived in Tasmania this year and initially joined Burnie. A move south followed, and he signed with Brighton. With his coaching qualifications and playing skills he was the ideal person to assist coach Glyn Jenkins in reviving Brighton.

"The team itself hasn't changed," says Tait. 'One or two positional changes, a little more motivation, and, possibly, myself playing at the back, has settled them down a bit."

A few changes to training facilities have helped too. "I got some goalposts and organized some nets to allow Louis Di Venuto to train in front of a goal, to allow Ian Parker to strike balls into nets, and once it becomes an accepted way of practising, then they'll do it in a game. It was pure psychology with players," says Tait.

Tait is uncertain of his future. He has expressed interest in the soon-to-be-created position of southern director of coaching, but he is worried that it is only a part-time appointment.

"I would like to get involved in coaching somewhere. I'm really waiting on other people making decisions or making offers before I make a decision. I might even end up back in England."

That last possibility would certainly be a loss to Tasmanian soccer. It is one the state can ill afford!

John Genovesi

John Genovesi, 31 Juventus - Pioneer's sweeper-cum-midfielder, was destined to do well in the game.

Even as a child, he was always at the soccer with his father, Louis, a ball constantly at his feet. Even then, he was developing the tremendous skills he now is noted for.

Genovesi, who made a comeback this season after a two-year lay-off through injury, considers the 1973 season as his best. Karl Schwesinger, a Rothmans Gold Medal winner as a player, was coach of Juventus at the time.

More good seasons followed, however, for the youngster who was born near Rome and who came to Australia at the age of five. A one-club man, Genovesi was to win four 'best and fairest' awards and three 'leading goalscorer' awards with Juventus. The ultimate accolade came in 1976 when Eric Worthington selected him in the Australian under-23 team to tour Indonesia. But, injury struck, as it has repeatedly since. "A week before leaving I sprained my ankle and I didn't get a chance to play in the game," says Genovesi.

He has had more than his fair share of injuries. "I've been plagued with ankle injuries throughout my career. The most serious, however, was a knee injury suffered three years ago. That's been repaired and now, in my comeback this year, I've been troubled with a groin injury."

Although confined mostly to 'half games' this season, Genovesi can rightly claim to have played a major part in Juventus' bid for the title. His experience and skill have been vital, especially during the period when player-coach Peter Brine was missing from the team.

A championship would be a fitting way for Genovesi to end a marvellous and loyal career with Juventus.

SOCCKET ACTION - 1/9/82

By Walter Pless

Rapid vs. Juventus for title

This was a vital match for Tasmania's Rapid. A loss would have ended their title hopes. A draw seemed bad enough, until the news arrived from the Athletic Centre that leader Juventus had managed only a 3-3 draw with Metro.

These two results mean that this week's game between Rapid and Juventus will decide the championship. Juventus, with a much superior goal difference, will only require a draw.

Rapid's physical strength earned them the draw in the end. They were the better side in the first half against an Olympia side filled with erratic talent. The lightweight Olympians, Forster, Nichols, Genaris and Munro, were no match in tackles against the Rapid Titans, Fletcher, Charlton, Crosson and Nunn.

And yet, the Rapid goal, when it came a minute before the break, was unjust. Southworth was guilty of both handball and offside when he scored!

To Olympia's credit, they came out in the second half and took control of the game. Skill began to assert itself and Forster put them level after a neat flick-on by Sherman. Sherman himself scored from the penalty spot six minutes later to put the Greek side in front.

Rapid now sensed that the title was slipping beyond their grasp. Crosson moved into midfield and Nunn took his place at the back. Fullback Willcock was sacrificed for an extra forward, Morgan. Within a minute, the moves began to tell.

There was plenty of gutsy determination too. Olympic survived a penalty decision when Edwards, his goalkeeper beaten, dived and caught the ball to save a goal. Referee Masters pointed to the penalty spot, but after consulting his linesmen, gave a free kick for offside.

With five minutes remaining, a Rapid onslaught saw Harrison palm the ball out and the flying Southworth headed strongly into the net.

Rapid have a week to get their act together. The final dress rehearsal will be today (Wednesday) when they meet Olympia yet again, this time in the Ampol Cup quarterfinals. Peter Brine and Eric Young, the Juventus supremos, will surely be watching this one with more than just passing interest.

SOCCKET ACTION - 8/9/82

By Walter Pless

Ward sent off, Rapid wins title

Rapid-Wrest Point 3 (Smith 63, Blake 64, Charlton 82) Juventus-Pioneer 0
Tasmanian State League. HT: 0-0 Att: 1000 Ref: Jack Johnston.

As early as the 16th minute one began to sense that this wasn't going to be Juventus' day. That's how long Martin Harrison lasted before having to leave the field injured, thus forcing Peter Brine to rearrange his side.

With the wind behind them, Juventus did, however, shrug off this early set-back and they set the pace for most of the half. Darko had a good chance after 11 minutes, but the linesman's flag contributed to his missing the chance.

Jack Johnston, showing what a fine referee he is, saw that Darko wasn't offside and waved play on but by this time the Juventus player had hesitated and in the end managed only to fire tamely over the bar.

Darko also contributed to a chance in the 25th minute when his left-wing cross found Ward on the far side only six metres out but on an acute angle. Ward hit an absolute bullet, but the ball came back off a post. It was undoubtedly another bad omen.

Juventus just survived on the half hour when Smith's header beat everyone but Collins who volleyed clear from on the line. Seven minutes later, disaster struck. Ward was sent off for serious foul play and the look on Peter Brine's face as he watched Ward stamp back to the dressing room, his shirt in his hands, said it all.

The wind had died by the second half. The question was: could Juventus, with only ten men, retain theirs? Genovesi went off injured in the 53rd minute and Juventus had thus run out of options. All they needed was a draw, but Rapid had no intention of letting them off the hook.

Smith opened the scoring when he turned a cleverly taken free kick by Crosson on the right past Jones and the writing was on the wall. An attempted pass back to his own keeper by Collins saw Blake nip in and score his first goal of the season. No goal could have been more important. Peter Brine moved to the forward line but, apart from an excellent chance when he was put through by Darko, the move was to no avail.

John Charlton bulldozed his way past several bodies in the 82nd minute to score Rapid's third and the crowd began to head for the exits. Those who did, missed the final moment of drama.

With five minutes to go, Smith found himself facing an open goal after receiving a pass from Oakes. He was only seven metres out and there was not a defender or goalkeeper in sight. He chose power, however, instead of sense and the ball smacked off the crossbar and back into play.

He could afford to smile as the goal would not have been vital. For Juventus, it was the only piece of luck that they'd had all day.

Nothing can be taken away from Rapid, however. They had toiled hard for this after a disastrous start to the season. It was with a feeling of relief that 'rookie' coach, Eamonn Kelly, accepted the trophy at the end of the match. Both he and his players had beaten the favorites, and everybody loves a winner!

Results: Olympia beat South Hobart 3-2, White Eagles beat Metro 3-0, Croatia beat Brighton 3-2, Rapid beat Juventus 3-0.

FINAL TABLE	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	15	2	4	42	18	32
Juventus-Pioneer	13	4	4	62	24	30
Olympia	14	2	5	53	23	30
White Eagles	10	2	9	36	38	22
Croatia-Glenorchy	9	3	9	43	43	21
Metro-Claremont	7	3	11	35	55	17
Brighton ICL	4	2	15	28	49	10
South Hobart	3	0	18	22	69	6

Willcock, Oakes the stars

Mark Oakes, 26, and Chester Willcock, 23, two of Rapid-Wrest Point's 'evergreens', have contributed significantly to the club's run of success over the past few years. The pleasing thing about these two players' performances is that they are both locals who learnt their soccer in Tasmania.

Both represented Tasmania last season. They play at opposite ends of the field, Oakes scoring or creating goals up front, Willcock stopping them at the back.

Oakes has won championship medals with Rapid and White Eagles. He started his career with South Hobart and won a number of goalscoring awards with the club, for which his father played with great distinction.

His father is, in fact, still involved with the club at the administrative level.

Oakes is an excellent target man. Tall, brave, strong and good in the air, he has fine ball control and once in possession is difficult to dispossess. He scores his fair share of (11 at the time of writing) but makes many more for He works extremely hard and is always prepared to drop deep to try to win back the ball.

Willcock is naturally right footed but plays at left-back. He progressed through Rapid's junior ranks, playing as a 'stopper' or 'Sweeper', before making the senior team as a full-back. He, too, has won / championship medals with the club. Chester's father, Gordon, is heavily involved with soccer administration and his mother and sister are involved with Rapid too.

Extremely fit and enthusiastic, Willcock is a Rapid player through and through. He loves to attack down the left flank and his forays up front provide the team with that extra width that is so often necessary to unlock tight defences. He has had to me quite adept, therefore, at making crosses with his left foot after beating the opposing right-back following a long forward run. The sight of Willcock storming down the left and calling for the ball has become a familiar one at Rapid's games.

Both Oakes and Willcock have a lot of soccer left in them. They have much still to contribute. This can only be good news for both Rapid and Tasmania.

SOCCKER ACTION - 22/9/82

By Walter Pless

Martin Burden - Copped four in comeback

Martin Burden, 20, Launceston Juventus' goalkeeper made an unhappy return to South Hobart in the Ampol Cup semi-final against Juventus-Pioneer. He conceded four goals, the first within a minute of the start, as his side lost 4-2.

Burden's previous appearance at South Hobart had been at the end of last season when he was playing for Brighton-ICL. That occasion was the championship decider, a match that Brighton won 2-1 ironically, against Launceston Juventus.

Born in Bristol, England, Burden is a third-year civil engineering student at the University of Tasmania. He lives in Hobart and travels the 200 kilometres to Launceston each weekend to play for Launceston Juventus in the State League (North and North-West).

Playing for a northern club means that he doesn't have to attend training sessions. "I train on my own, when it's convenient for me. It means I can spend more time on my Studies," says Burden.

He concedes that he's probably not playing as well as he could be but he's more interested in his studies than in soccer at present. He takes his university work seriously. "When I've completed my degree, then I'll be able to put everything into my soccer," he says.

Launceston Juventus finished second this year. It doesn't worry Burden, how-ever. He enjoyed the season and he did, after all, win a championship medal last year with Brighton. Earlier this season, Steve Darby also selected him in the Tasmanian State of Origin' squad.

There is also an added bonus in playing for the northern club. It gives Burden the chance to visit his parents in Launceston each weekend!

Peters Can Play Anywhere

Willy Peters 26, of Croatia-Glenorchy, is one of Tasmania's most underrated players according to former State director of coaching, Steve Darby.

Peters was an automatic choice whenever Darby selected a State team.

Peters started his soccer career when he was in fifth grade at Glenorchy primary school. While at Cosgrove High, he captained the State under 16 team.

His first senior club was Metro-Claremont where he played at centre-back. Croatia snapped him up from there Several seasons ago and he has been with the club ever since, except for last year when he took time off and captured a championship medal with Brighton.

Peters can play almost any- where on the field. He is solid and dependable in the centre of defence, hard-working and skilful in midfield. He also has an eye for goal and it is not unusual to see him pop up in the box to score a vital goal.

A State representative many times, Peters has been selected in the Tassie Devils squad to play West Adelaide Hellas in Hobart in October.

SOCCKER ACTION - 13/10/82

By Walter Pless

Record win in Tasmania for Juve's Young

Juventus-Pioneer's Eric Young, 29, has won the 1982 Rothmans Gold Medal in Tasmania with a record 39 votes.

The dynamic midfielder, formerly with Manchester United, was elated with his win.

He finished second in last year's count and was firm favourite for this year's medal.

Second place went to Brighton's Alan Tait with 28 points, Launceston Juventus' Peter Sawdon finished third on 25 points while Ian Parker of Brighton, with 23 points, was fourth.

All four place-getters are English imports to Tasmanian soccer. This fact, according to Young, vindicated clubs' policies of importing quality English players and also confirmed the high status of these players in Tasmanian soccer.

Young is undecided about his future. His contract with Juventus has expired and several clubs already one seeking his services for next season.

The day after the Rothmans presentation, Young left for a brief holiday on the mainland with his wife. They are returning to England after that for a couple of months.

1983

SOCER ACTION - 9/2/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Crowther's University back in top league.

The coming season will see the return to State League soccer of one of Tasmania's most gifted players. Peter Crowther, 22, will get the chance to prove himself again in the top-flight as his newly promoted club, University, mixes it with the best.

University won the league and Cup double in Rothmans Division One last year and Crowther won the club's best and fairest award. The team and Crowther therefore enter the State League with impeccable credentials.

Crowther, who has previous State League experience with Olympia and Juventus, joined University in 1981. Some said at the time that it was a move in the wrong direction for the youngster who was selected by Ken Morton to represent Tasmania against Newcastle KB United in 1979.

It was an unusual move, to say the least. Possessing incredible ball skills, especially in tight situations, as well as a keen soccer brain, Crowther would have been an automatic choice in any State League outfit.

His decision to join University had nothing to do with a lack of ambition, as many may think. "I don't lack ambition," says Crowther.

"My ambition is to play good soccer and to enjoy it. At the time I made the move I was out of form, and I didn't really see eye to eye with some of the people in charge. I joined Uni because of the people I knew at that club."

"I had a tremendous amount of respect for coaches such as Ron Coutts and Guy Clift. University plays a good standard of soccer and in terms of playing standards, management and coaching, things have improved even further since I joined the club, so I'm quite happy here."

Although he concedes the possibility of leaving the club at some time, Crowther thinks, he would always return to University in the end. He would love to end his playing days with the club. In the meantime, how does he rate University's chances this year?

"Tactics and fitness play a large part in our game. If we can harmonise these two aspects, I think we can gain a mid-table position.

It would be good to have a fine run in one of the cup competitions too."

As an attacking midfielder, University will be relying a lot on Crowther this season.

Although he regards himself more as a creator of goals rather than as a scorer, he does know how to put chances away. Who could forget his brilliant equalizer in last season's pre-season cup game against eventual State League champion, Rapid-Wrest Point?

It showed his maturity, calmness under pressure, and superb technical skill. It is these attributes that will make Peter Crowther a force to be reckoned with in 1983.

SOCER ACTION - 2/3/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Coutts from Aberdeen

It's not often that one finds a qualified coach who also is a qualified physiotherapist. This is the bonus that newly promoted Tasmanian State League (South) team, University, picked up last season when it appointed 36-year-old Scots man, Ron Coutts, as senior coach.

Coutts took the students to the league and cup double last year and he looks forward to the challenge of the State League. He is very realistic about the team's chances in the higher echelons of the game.

"If the players can adopt the same attitude as last season, and if we can add a few experienced players to the team, then we'll be able to hold our heads up," he said.

Coutts has had a lot of experience in the big time to back him up. He was physiotherapist to Aberdeen from 1971 until 1978, when he came to Australia. It was during this period that the 'Dons' won the Scottish League Cup.

It was at Aberdeen that Ron built up a lasting friendship with Canberra Arrows' coach, George Murray. Even now they're often on the phone to each other. Murray coached Aberdeen for the seven years that Coutts was physiotherapist. Players with Aberdeen during that time included Martin Buchan, Willie Young, Jim Hermiston, Joe Harper and Gordon Strachan.

Coutts holds the preliminary coaching badge of the Scottish Football Association and served as the physiotherapist on a number of Scottish senior badge courses.

Despite his years in the big time, Coutts enjoys coaching University.

Tasmanian soccer is not a let-down. "University is a great club with a good tradition, he says. There are people here who have been with the club for a long time and their tremendous efforts are entirely voluntary. There are no petty jealousies at this club and our facilities are the best in the State."

He's not wrong about that. The club has two floodlit grounds and a fully equipped gymnasium. The club also has some useful players.

"Gary Jenkins, Chris Hargreaves, Keith Broadhouse and Peter Crowther all have State League experience, and we hope to sign former State coach director, Steve Darby," says Coutts.

SOCCKET ACTION - 15/6/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Nick Cook

Nick Cook (27) the enigmatic former Green Gully Ajax and Sunshine City player, has resigned with Tasmanian State League champion, Rapid-Wrest Point, after a virtual tour of Hobart clubs over the past few years. It is his second stint with the club for which he was leading scorer previously, Cook has also played for White Eagles, Olympia, University and South Hobart.

Cook is a tragic figure in some ways, a player whom the public doesn't really understand. Off the field he is quiet and he speaks with intelligence about the game he loves. He belies his public image the one that most fans see and which is characterised by a disciplinary record that is abysmal.

When with Rapid previously, as well as being the top scorer, he also held the record for a number of sendings off. He played one game for University, scored one goal and was sent off. During his Stay with South Hobart last year, he scored once and was sent off twice.

And yet, there is nothing malicious about the man or his game. He's his own worst enemy and that explains his sendings off "I find it difficult to control my frustrations about the way the game's going," he says. "Sometimes I'm volatile, but I like to be involved. If I'm not, I get bored and that's when I get into trouble."

A former schoolboy signing for Hull City, Cook has the ability to be the best player in the State, but he rarely shows his full ability. There are only glimpses usually but when he's on song, he can be unstoppable. In a game against Juventus last year, he made a 50-metre run, beating four opponents on the way, before hitting the post with a sizzling drive.

Why doesn't he always play like that? "It depends on my attitude at the time," is the reply. "Sometimes I'm motivated and psyched up. If I am, I perform."

Cook says that Rapid is the best club he's been with in Tasmania. A statement like that could "mean that he's motivated at last. If he is, then the stormy pétrel of Tasmanian soccer may finally show his real ability week in and week out. Rapid's fans can only sit back and wait with bated breath.

SOCCKET ACTION - 22/6/83

WALTER PLESS

Vic Tuting

With ASF president Sir Arthur George in Mexico for the World Youth Cup finals, Vic Tuting, MBE, senior vice-president of the ASF and president of the Tasmanian Soccer Federation, became the flag bearer for Australian soccer during the England touring party's of three internationals against Australia.

Tuting has been involved with soccer, both as a player and administrator, for 62 years. His playing career began in the north of Tasmania in 1927 as captain of Launceston-based side, Invermay. He retired from playing in 1934 and turned his attention to administrative duties.

Here he is interviewed by our Tasmanian correspondent, Walter Pless, at the recent 73rd anniversary celebrations of the South Hobart club.

PLESS: What is the state of the game in Tasmania?

TUTING: There should be a genuine State League. Since the state-wide league was dropped, the standard has deteriorated. When the State League was going, the Standard was improving, and the clubs were getting better players and coaches. The state-wide league has to be reintroduced if senior football is to be improved. We're on the right lines with the junior program, however, and that's been very successful.

PLESS: What about Australian soccer as a whole?

TUTING: Playing standards are improving at top level. The only way we can sustain this is to eventually have full-time professional players. The Institute of Sport has been a wonderful thing. That's going to be a great catalyst as far as our international team is concerned. But you've still got to get spectators through the turnstiles and that's not happening. Our promotions are pretty good these days. We spend a lot of money on promotions but, at the same time, we're not in the same league as, say, the VFL. That's mainly because of the media. If you take the media away from Australian Rules football and gave it the same coverage as soccer, then the situation would be reversed.

PLESS: Will Tasmania have another State Director of Coaching?

TUTING: I think we'll eventually have another one. We've got to put our own house in order first and get away from these parochial ideas that some people have, such as that the State Director of Coaching has to be under the thumb of somebody else. He hasn't. He's got to be on his own. He's got to do what he wants to do, providing he's doing his job. I'm sure we'd still have had a Director of Coaching if it hadn't been for the personality conflict that's going on. I think Steve Darby was very good, and so was Denis Ford for that matter, but then they clashed in terms of personality with other people in the game. Of course, they then fell by the wayside for the simple reason that they were new and the other people weren't. That's the reason for it.

PLESS: How has the playing side of the game changed since your day?

TUTING: In my day soccer was played just as a hobby. It was something we did on weekends, on a Saturday afternoon. In the early days, we used to actually recruit players, in Launceston, who came in on ships on Saturday morning. We'd go to the ship and see who played soccer and they'd be in the team that afternoon. There was not much organisation. There was an association, but the organisation of the clubs was not similar to what it is today.

PLESS: With the new proposals for regionalisation of the national league it seems as if Tasmania has been omitted from the plans. How do you feel about that?

TUTING: This is a matter for any clubs that want to enter. It's a question of finance. I think you've got to remember that these clubs on the mainland that are in the National League now have to find \$300,000 to \$400,000 every season to be in that league. I think that's beyond any club in Tasmania, to find that sort of money. Not only that, but if you were in the National League, it's very doubtful if you would get sufficient numbers to attend your matches here to make it a viable proposition.

SOCER ACTION - 29/6/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with Walter Pless

Dale Blake - From hockey to soccer

Rapid-Wrest Point winger, Dale Blake, 23, started playing soccer only when he was 15 years old. A hockey player, Dale used to kick a soccer ball around in the lunch hour with the other kids at school and finally decided to give the game a try.

He signed with Rapid and played in its under 17 team before transferring to Taroona St. Mirren, where he stayed for four years as a member of its senior team.

In 1979 he returned to Rapid, and he has been a regular in the senior side ever since, attracting the attention even of several Mainland clubs with some of his displays.

Ken Morton was coach of Rapid during Dale's first season at the club and Dale regards the club's league and Ampol Cup double that year as the highlight of his career.

Injury struck in 1980, however. A knee ligament injury restricted his appearances to a mere three games.

Blake regards himself as a maker of goals rather than as a scorer. Last season he scored a solitary goal while this year he is doing better. Ironically, his first two this year came from the left foot of this naturally right-footed player.

He has been an inspiration to his team mates this year. He has turned in solid performances for a team that is struggling a bit after losing several key players in the summer. 'It's a bit frustrating at the moment,' he says. 'We haven't been able to put away our chances and yet we've had so much of the play.'

It might just be that Blake will have to score a few more goals himself instead of just making them. The quality of his goals so far shows that he's got the ability to show his team mates how it's done.

A devastating display by Olympia's Perry Forster was the highlight of the week in Tasmania's Cadbury State League competition. Forster scored five of his side's eight goals against bottom team White Eagles.

The Olympia striker showed speed, ball control, intelligence and awesome fire-power in scoring the second highest tally of his career. Last season he scored seven goals in a cup match against Nelson United

Apart from Forster's goals, veteran Tommy Wright scored with a tremendous drive from 18 metres and defender Chris Hey popped up with two second-half goals before Andrew Leszczynski beat three defenders with a minute remaining and unleashed a spectacular shot for Eagles' solitary goal.

League leader Juventus-Pioneer is beginning to look rather shaky and dropped its third point in two matches when it only could play a 0-0 draw with Caledonians.

Ironically, it was a superb display by Caledonians' Italian goalkeeper, Louis Di Venuto, and solid performances from its other two Italians, defender Taglieri and striker Maccalini, which hampered Juventus in its quest for victory.

It was only poor finishing by Calies, in fact, that saved Juventus from a humiliating defeat. King was the main culprit as he failed twice when having only the goalkeeper to beat.

University caused a sensation at South Hobart when it defeated Rapid 4-0. Shearman put the students in front with an excellent shot after 27 minutes and two more goals within six minutes of the start of the second half, by Jenkins and Crowther, sealed the issue. The fourth goal came in the 80th minute when a defender deflected Jenkins' shot into the net.

Croatia moved level on points with Juventus by beating Metro 24 through goals from Thomas and Oakes. Metro had their chances, especially in the second half, but poor finishing was their downfall.

Details: Olympia 8 White Eagles 1; Juventus 0 Caledonians 0; Croatia 2 Metro 0; University 4 Rapid 0.

SOCER ACTION - 10/8/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Michniewski's return to the White Eagles goal after an absence of several months because of injury was a vital factor in this game. He made some brilliant saves and his presence inspired many of the youngsters.

Although Michniewski didn't win the game for Eagles, Juventus win was made more difficult. It took the Italian side to the top of the league, a position it last held six weeks ago.

Coach Peter Brine was relieved to be back on top and quite confident of staying there. 'We should never have been off it,' he said. 'I believe that we're the best team in the league. The only problem is we're doing it in 30-minute Spells instead of 90-minute spells. We're our own worst enemies. We've given games away to other teams. But, right from the first game of the season I said there's only one team that will win this championship, and that's us.'

Juventus hit the front in the 36th minute when Ambrosino's superb pass found Ward on his own 20 metres out and he shot powerfully past Michniewski.

Eagles equalized within a minute when Burton's attempted back-pass was intercepted by Andrew Leszczynski who curled his shot around the advancing keeper.

Ironically, both scorers had to be replaced before an hour was up, but Di Felice, who had replaced Ward at half-time, scored the winner when he latched onto a delightful back-heeled flick by Broadhouse that was on its way over the line anyway.

JUVENTUS-PIONEER 2 (Ward 36, Di Felice 68) WHITE EAGLES 1 (A. Leszczynski 37)

Metro had the better of the first half and only the brilliance of Phil Kannegger in Rapid's goal kept the score down. Metro's man-to-man marking system was effective, and its speedy attacks were always dangerous.

The opening goal came two minutes from the interval when Fletcher's desperate clearance off the goal line ran to Pitchford and his accurate cross was turned in by John McIntyre. The turning point came in the second half when injury to two key players disrupted Metro's defence.

Burdon had to be replaced in goal by midfielder Pitchford, and Tye, who had been keeping Blake very quiet, was replaced by Brown.

Blake proceeded to score a hat-trick, two of which Burdon probably would have saved, while Wilson headed another McIntyre's second for Metro came with only five minutes remaining.

RAPID-WREST POINT 4 (Blake 65, 75, 80, Wilson 77) METRO-CLAREMONT 2 (J. McIntyre 43, 85).

SOCCKET ACTION - 31/8/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Peter Sawdon - Fishing for goals

"I'd like to be successful at coaching and if I am, I think there's a bit of a future out here for me." So says Devonport player-coach, Peter Sawdon.

Devonport has won the Tasmanian North and North-West Combined State League title, giving the 30-year-old English import' from Cleveland his first success as a coach.

Sawdon's goalscoring pedigree never has been in doubt. Since first arriving three seasons ago to join Launceston Juventus, Sawdon always has been among the goals. This season he has scored 27 goals, including several hat-tricks and one amazing single-game tally of six! His former goalscoring partner at Juventus, Paul Wormley, was knocking in the goals for West Adelaide in the NSL. One has to ponder what Sawdon could do in top company.

Strangely enough, he didn't play junior soccer - he was more interested in fishing. After playing with a local side, however. senior clubs began to show interest and he finally signed with Southbank in the English Northern League. In two seasons with the club, Sawdon was the leading goalscorer and the 'best and fairest' player twice.

When he arrived in Tasmania, Sawdon was impressed with the standard of soccer. "I was very impressed with it when it was a full state league," he says. "It took me a while to get used to it, settling in and what have you. But, when it split up and became north and south, I thought that was a bit of a backward step. For the sake of soccer, it should be a full state league."

Peter hopes to visit the UK again soon. Before that, however, there is this year's Rothmans Gold Medal award. Sawdon is a favourite for the award and if he were to win it, that achievement, on top of his first championship win as a coach, would really be something to write home about!

SOCCKET ACTION - 7/9/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with Walter Pless

A draw with Rapid and it's Juve's title

Juventus-Pioneer will have to wait another week for the Cadbury State League title following its 3-4 loss to Olympia in its penultimate league match. But, Juventus will have to at least draw with Rapid, the reigning champion, if it is to win the championship and this is by no means a certainty.

In what proved to be the most exciting league match of the season, Perry Forster put Olympia in front in the 13th minute when his low shot sneaked under Craven's body. Sergio Pace equalized five minutes later when he beat the goalkeeper to a cross and his header just carried over the line.

Peter Sherman added to the electric atmosphere by producing another one of his free-kick specials in the 22nd minute after Burton had obstructed Forster in the penalty area. The ball was touched to Sherman who struck a thunderbolt high into the net to put the Greek side ahead yet again.

Juventus drew level three minutes before the break, however, when slack marking at the near post allowed full-back Cochrane to clip home John Charlton's free kick.

Five minutes after the resumption, Forster restored Olympia's lead when he slotted home his second goal and, in the 67th minute, this lead was increased to two goals when Wright's pass put Sherman through with only the keeper to beat. After feinting this way and that and dummying as if to shoot, Sherman finally scored with a shot that 'nutmegged' the unfortunate Craven.

Although Di Felice reduced the leeway with 12 minutes remaining, Olympia held out to score its third league win of the season over Juventus.

Metro-Claremont beat Caledonians 5-3 in a game which saw John McIntyre (Metro) and Ian Parker (Calies) score hat-tricks. Parker now holds a one goal lead over Perry Forster in the goalscoring race.

Rapid-Wrest Point brought former top goalscorer, Don Farmery, back after an absence of four years in order to bolster its strike force in the vital match against White Eagles. The move paid off as Farmery, who last played in Rapid's 1979 championship winning side, scored the opening goal in Rapid's 2-1 win.

Lawler equalized for Eagles before Thompson headed the winner from Nikolai's cross two minutes from time. Rapid now must beat Juventus in the final round this week to retain its title.

University, brilliantly directed by Peter Crowther, continued its fine form by out-playing Croatia and winning 2-1. Crowther set up Shearman for the opening goal in the 18th minute, then scored the second himself from Groat's flick-on in the 70th minute before Sean Collins pulled one back for Croatia with three minutes remaining.

Details: Metro 6 Caledonians 3; Juventus 3 Olympia 4, Rapid 2 White Eagles 1; University 2 Croatia 1

SOCCKET ACTION - 14/9/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with Walter Pless

Juve, Rapid in title decider

The Tasmanian State League decider between Juventus-Pioneer and Rapid-Wrest Point will be played tonight (Wednesday) after being postponed on Friday because of the waterlogged ground.

The delay will have enabled both sides to prepare fully for what is a repeat of last season's championship decider, a game which Rapid won 3-0 through goals by Smith, Blake and Charlton, after Juventus had had Ward sent off before half-time and injuries had forced both substitutes to be used before even an hour was up.

For Charlton, a Juventus victory will mean a hat-trick of championships. In the past two seasons, he has won championships with Brighton (Calies) and Rapid, and he has scored in the championship decider on each occasion, which, as this time, happened to be the final league match of the season.

Last Sunday, Croatia threw away easy chances, including a penalty, and found itself 2-0 down against relegated White Eagles. Stoddart and Richard Lesczynski put Eagles two goals up before Bacic and Kirkpatrick salvaged a point with goals in the final ten minutes.

Metro beat University 5-3 in the day's remaining fixture. John McIntyre scored yet another hat-trick for Metro.

Details: Croatia 2 White Eagles 2, Metro 5 University 3.

Croatia sacks Grimsey

Tasmania State League club, Croatia-Glenorchy dismissed its coach John Grimsey (pictured) after a 1-2 loss to University.

"The club president, Tony Dzelalija, rang me and told me that my services were no longer required," Grimsey said. "As far as I'm concerned, I'm finished with the club."

Dzelalija confirmed that the committee had met and ratified his decision.

"Mr Grimsey has been dismissed because of the recent poor results of the team. Six weeks ago, we were on top of the league. We haven't had any injuries or lost any players.

We've still got the same players and now we've slipped to fourth place," Dzelalija said.

The club was to ask one of its senior players to take over the coaching job for the remaining league match and for the 'final four' competition after the conclusion of the league programme.

Grimsey, who coached Polonia in Victoria, led Croatia to victory in this year's pre-season cup competition. He is known to have been disappointed with attendances at training in recent weeks and said that this meant he was often forced to merely 'go through the motions' at training sessions.

Croatia also dismissed its coach last season.

SOCCKET ACTION - 21/9/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

It's Juve's title!

Juventus-Pioneer 0 Rapid- Wrest Point 0. HT: 0-0 At: 1000. Ref: D. Barker.

JUVENTUS: Craven - Lapolla, Chariton, Di Martino, Cochrane, Bacon, Burton, Pace, De Felice, Ward, Broadhouse (Ambrosino 88)

RAPID: P. Kannegiesser — Fletcher, Dilba, Wilson, Willcock, Thompson, Crosson, S. Kannegiesser, Blake, Farmery (Nikolai 64), Cook.

Juventus-Pioneer won the 1983 Cadbury State League title on goal difference from Rapid-Wrest Point when it held the reigning champion to a scoreless draw at Grove Road on Wednesday night.

Final League Standings 1983

Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	14	2	5	51	22	30
Rapid	13	4	4	35	22	30
Olympia	11	6	6	53	32	28
Croatia	10	4	7	45	35	24
Metro	6	6	9	34	39	18
Caledonians	6	5	10	38	38	17
University	8	0	13	3	60	16
White Eagles	2	1	18	23	81	5

Leading goalscorers:

18 — Parker (Caledonians), Forster (Olympia) 15 — Ward (Juventus), Sherman (Olympia) 13 - J. McIntyre (Metro) 11. — Nichols (Olympia), Broadhouse (Juventus) 10 — Oakes (Croatia), Thomas (Croatia) 9 — A. Leszczynski (White Eagles)

SOCCKET ACTION - 19/10/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Polonia to visit Hobart

Victorian State League side, Polonia, will visit Tasmania later this month to play a Hobart Select XI. The match will be played at 4 pm on Saturday October 29 at Taroona-St Mirren's ground.

The Hobart side will be managed by John Michniewski, the former White Polish first division goalkeeper. It will include players of the calibre of Steve and Phil Kannegiesser (Rapid-Wrest Point), John Broadhouse (Juventus Pioneer), Perry Forster (Olympia) and Andrew and Mark Leszczynski (White Eagles).

Andrew Leszczynski is one of Tasmania's most promising youngsters and was selected in the Australian Schoolboys representative team last month, together with Glenorchy-Croatia's Ibro Cahut, who also is expected to line up in the Hobart team.

Leszczynski has had offers from Brisbane Lions and one other NSL club and may move interstate before the beginning of the 1984 season.

Polonia, which finished in sixth place in this year's Victorian State League competition, last visited Hobart two seasons ago. The team is expected to be at full strength for the coming visit and Hobart fans can therefore again expect to see top player Stefan Mila in action.

SOCCKET ACTION - 9/11/83

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Polonia goes down to Hobart select

HOBART SELECT XI 5 (Parker 43, Ward, pen 49, M. Leszczynski 60, Cook 63, Ashwood 84).
POLONIA (Vic) 1 (Lakic 47).

A Hobart Select XI produced an excellent display to defeat visiting Victorian State League side, Polonia, 5-1 at Taroona.

Hobart led 1-0 at the break after having dominated the half and then piled on four more goals in the second half to outclass a somewhat depleted Polonia side. At least four regular first-teamers, including Mila, McCluskey, Smolarek and Krysinski, were missing, and the rest of the team had had quite a night at Wrest Point Casino on the eve of the match.

Nothing can be taken away from the Tasmanians, however. They played fine attacking soccer against players of the class of Andy Czapnik, Janusz Przybyla, Leszek Dzielakowski and Alex Marshall, who were the pick of the visitors. The big striker Marshall, especially, showed great individual skill and at times beat two or three players with ease.

Hobart's own Pole, Andrew Leszczynski, who is probably destined for Brisbane Lions next season, showed in only the 5th minute that the locals weren't over-awed when he hit a post with a fierce shot following a good build-up with Pace. Some of Hobart's first-half attacks were, in fact, delightful, involving fine through balls and delicate wall passes.

Lakic occasionally created problems for the Hobart defence on the flanks. His fellow strikers were slow at moving forward, however, and many crosses came to nothing.

Ian Parker, who proved a thorn in the visitors' side, put Hobart in front in the 43rd minute with a first-time volley from Forster's pass.

Polonia equalised two minutes into the second half when Czapnik's perfectly struck long pass turned defence into attack in the twinkling of an eye. The ball found Lakic who raced away from his marker, rounded the goal- keeper and calmly stroked the ball home.

Two minutes later, Parker attempted to do the same to Lukac but the replacement goalkeeper brought him down and conceded a penalty. Bruce Ward's rising shot singed Lukac's fingers before hitting the back of the net to give Hobart the lead again.

Mark Leszczynski's 25-metre drive on the hour put Hobart further in front and Nick Cook and Greg Ashwood made the game safe with goals in the 63rd and 84th minutes, respectively.

The result showed yet again the potential of Tasmanian soccer and confirmed the fact that several local players - Parker, Ward, Forster and Cook, to name just four of the team - could hold their own in respectable mainland sides.

Final League Standings 1984

Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	16	2	3	52	22	34
Rapid	13	2	6	51	27	28
University	12	2	7	42	33	25
Olympia WPL	9	5	7	42	33	23
Caledonians	10	2	9	53	50	22
Metro-Claremont	4	8	9	33	40	16
Croatia Glenorchy	4	3	14	18	40	11
Phoenix Lauderdale	3	2	16	13	59	8

1984

SOCER ACTION - 1/2/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Morton, Klaus full-time coaches in Tasmania

The big news in Tasmanian soccer is the appointment, by two Cadbury State League (South) clubs, of full-time coaches. Juventus-Pioneer, last year's champion, has appointed Ken Morton as its full-time coach, while Olympia, third fast season, has appointed Otto Klaus on a full-time basis.

Morton, who has coached Wollongong and Heidelberg in the NSL over the past three seasons, takes over from Peter Brine at Juventus and will be in overall charge of all, the club's teams, from the senior side down to the juniors. His main responsibility will, of course, be the senior side with the coaches of the club's other teams being directly responsible to him.

Otto Klaus replaced Brian MacKay at Olympia and his responsibilities at the Greek club will be similar to those of Morton at Juventus.

Klaus, who has coached in New South Wales, has been in charge of Northern State League side Ulverstone for the past two seasons. Ulverstone won the Ampol Cup during Klaus' first season with the club in 1982.

The two full-time appointments are radical but welcome moves in Cadbury League soccer and will, hopefully lead to an improvement.

Ken Morton return to Tasmanian soccer should generate some much needed publicity in the local media. He always has managed to generate this in the past when coaching in Hobart and there is no reason for it not to happen again. Rapid-Wrest Point, runner-up last season in the League and winner of the 'Top Four' competition, has reappointed David Crosson as coach following the Immigration Department's decision to grant him permanent residency Status.

Croatia-Glenorchy's new coach is former player and State representative, Frank Letec. He finished his playing career with the club in 1982 and in previous years has coached Juventus and Caledonians in the top-flight.

Metro-Claremont and University retain their coaches of last season. Barry Shacklady who had been reappointed at the end of last season.

Phoenix, newcomer to the League in 1984 retains its coach of last season, Jerome Marron. While relegated club White Eagles will have Alastair Payne as its coach Payne, a life-member of Croatia-Glenorchy, joined White Eagles last year as a player after being unable to hold down a regular place in Croatia's senior team.

Several of Tasmania's top young players may be lost to the State this season as they attempt to make the grade on the mainland. It is a trend that is becoming more and more common following the success on the mainland in recent years of Angelo Ambrosino (Canberra Arrows) and Luciano Fabrizio (Brisbane City), both formerly with Juventus-Pioneer.

Carlo Ambrosino, Angelo's cousin, has been accepted by the Australian Institute of Sport for 1984 and his departure will be a severe blow to Juventus-Pioneer as the club tries to retain its Cadbury League title.

SOCER ACTION - 8/4/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Arrows draw in Hobart

JUVENTUS-PIONEER 1 (Ward, pen. 54). CANBERRA ARROWS 1 (Reece 51) at South Hobart, Saturday. HT: 0-0 Att: 500 Ref: D. D' Abate.

JUVENTUS: Craven, Pears, Di Martino, Charlton, Darko, Genovesi, Pace, Kent, Longo (Fabrizio 60) Ward, Broadhouse. CANBERRA: Franken, Ambrosino (Barnett 69), Jones, Ontong, Young, Mihailidis, Hogg, Bryant, Reece, Perinovic, Phillips.

Juventus seemed in awe of its mainland guests for the first 20 minutes and was, in fact, lucky not to concede a goal twice in the opening 45 seconds when first Charlton, then Di Martino, stumbled over the ball while in possession in the last line of defence.

But the side managed to calm its nerves and gave as good as it got for the remainder of the game.

Reece and Phillips showed plenty of acceleration and skill early on and it looked as if they would fully test the Juventus defence. Juventus showed that it intended to make a game of it in the 22nd minute, however, when Pears deep cross from the right was flicked on by Broadhouse for Ward to smack against a post.

Five minutes later, Canberra counter-attacked quickly and Bryant's immaculate cross found Reece whose superb diving header hit the crossbar.

Juventus had two more chances to break the deadlock before the interval. Longo expertly ran the ball through the Arrows' defence, which was coming out rapidly, but the youngster shot wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

A minute later, Bruce Ward's delicate chip-cum-shot, following a short pass from Longo, bounced off the top of the bar. Arrows took the lead in the 51st minute when Perinovic's low drive was parried by Craven to the feet of Reece who easily slotted it home.

Juventus equalised three minutes later when Charlton's free kick was handled by Jones, allowing Ward to score from the penalty spot.

Doug Collins was generally pleased with his team's first match of the season while Ken Morton's outfit showed that it won't relinquish its Cadbury State League title lightly.

SOCER ACTION - 15/2/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Juve and Olympia best?

Juventus-Pioneer and Olympia, both with full time coaches, look like the teams to beat in the 1984 Cadbury State League competition in southern Tasmania.

Ken Morton's Juventus has done extremely well in preseason friendlies, beating Rapid 5-0 and drawing 1-1 with Canberra Arrows.

Otto Klaus' Olympia only has played a single friendly, defeating Rapid 7-3. Klaus, speaking after the match, said: "The players are still not match fit. The midfield needs a lot more work".

Olympia looks as if it will sign two or three new players. "I'm impressed with the newcomer, Pillans of Caledonians", said Klaus "We hope to sign him to add height and strength to the defence, but he could also be used in midfield if necessary." Klaus also was pleased with the performance of Launceston United's Pennicott at fullback. "We're also negotiating with a goalkeeper in case Harrison does decide to go to Melbourne," said Klaus.

"Basically, I'm looking for a defensive mid-fielder or a defender because I'm pleased with the forward line, especially Forster who is very smart. It's good to have Nichols back from JUST too, I'd say my main worry is the midfield. I'm not impressed with my midfield".

Klaus sees Juventus as the team to beat. He wasn't impressed with its win over Rapid, but he thought it did very well against Canberra Arrows. "I expect either Olympia or Juventus to take out the title", he predicted.

Rapid has strengthened its side with the signings of Huigsloot (Croatia) and Taglieri (Caledonians) and coach David Crosson is quietly confident of his team's chances. In the past two seasons it has come from nowhere to win the title and to be runner-up, so with the present good progress, it should be in with a chance right from the start.

Caledonians still are without a coach following Brian MacKay's inability, due to work commitments, to take over from Eamon Kelly, while Croatia reportedly, is in strife owing to a shortage of players with experience. It reputedly only has Larry Nunn of last year's senior team in training.

Metro-Claremont is losing several key players who are soon leaving for extended holidays in Europe, a fact which can't be too pleasing for coach Barry Shacklady.

In the north of the State, Ulverstone will be coached by Joe McGrory, while last year's championship winning coach, Peter Sawdon, moves from Devonport to take over George Town. He will be joined there by the 1983 Rothmans Gold Medal winner, Liam Monagle, who was with Ulverstone.

Uni. may climb

University survived its first season in the Tasmanian Cadbury State League and is looking forward to doing much better this year.

The team finished second-last in 1983, which at first glance doesn't sound too good. But, when one looks at the points table, the result is much brighter. University finished with 16 points, 11 ahead of relegated White Eagles and only a point behind Caledonians and two points behind Metro.

The club has recruited well for 1984, and I attended a recent training session where I spoke to coach Ron Coutts, the former physiotherapist at Aberdeen.

Pless: Who will be your new players, Ron?

Coutts: "Bobby Rybak (White Eagles), Dominic Frarracio (Hobart City), unless there's problems with his clearance, Sean Collins (Croatia), and probably Brian MacKay (Olympia), and Mallick and Driessen from Kingborough."

Pless: Does this represent a considerable strengthening of the squad?

Coutts: "It does and it doesn't, because of the fact that we've lost three or four players from last season. We've lost Galgadie, who's been posted to Rosebery, Lindsay Groat, who's not going to play, according to him, and Gary Jenkins who's not going to play either. Jimmy Kerr has retired too. He may come out of retirement, but, at the moment, he's not going to train or play."

Pless: Can you finish in the top four?

Coutts: "It's a possibility. If we've got all the players we think we have, than that's a possibility. We'll be aiming for that."

Pless: Who do you think will be the top team?

Coutts: "I can't see it being much different from last season. I think it's going to be between the two or three teams that fought it out last season, specifically Rapid and Juventus."

Pless: Has anyone been standing out at training?

Coutts: "I think young Robbie Mallick is going to be quite sharp. He's hopefully going to be quite a useful player in this league. It will be interesting to see whether he's got enough ability to play at the higher level. But, he's certainly looking very sharp."

SOCER ACTION - 22/4/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

White Eagles star, Andrew Leszczynski, left Tasmania late last year to join National League side, Brisbane Lions, for the 1984 NSL season. He made an immediate impact at Lions in pre-season training but returned to Tasmania last week having been unable to enrol at the University of Queensland.

I spoke to a very disappointed young Andrew shortly after his return to Hobart.

Pless: What went wrong in Brisbane?

LESZCZYNSKI: Things were going well over there as regards training but I couldn't get into university in Brisbane. That meant either giving up my education or my soccer. I thought my education was more important so I came back and I'll enrol at university here.

Pless: Were you impressed with the set-up at Lions?

LESZCZYNSKI: Yes, I was. I'd been there a while, for the whole of the pre-season training period, in fact, and the whole approach was very professional. The training was of a very high standard, both under Gordon Arrowsmith, and then, for the last few days that I was there, under new coach Harry Noon. The facilities were just first class.

Pless: Who will you play for now that you're back in Tasmania?

LESZCZYNSKI: I think it's going to be Juventus. I was due to go to Ulverstone with them yesterday, but I've got a slight injury after training this week.

Pless: You won't be playing with your former club, White Eagles?

LESZCZYNSKI: No, because they're only in the Rothman League this year and if I'm to attain my ambition of playing in the National League I've got to at least play in the State League. I need a bit of exposure so people don't forget.

Pless: Would you like to go back to the mainland?

LESZCZYNSKI: Yes. In fact, I could have gone to Melbourne today for a trial with Heidelberg but my injury ruled that out. I'm really looking for a club in a place where I could also enrol at a university at the same time. If nothing comes up, I will play in Hobart and go to university here this year and think again about next year. Lions have already told me that they'd welcome me back next year.

SOCCKET ACTION - 14/3/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Coverage woeful

A black mark to the local news media in southern Tasmania for their lack of coverage of soccer, The local daily newspaper, "The Mercury", didn't even both to preview the opening round of the "Michael The Tailor" Summer Cup competition, nor did it send a reporter to the games.

The local commercial television station, TVT 6, failed to nominate a single soccer player for its 'Sportsman of the Year' award, which was televised 'Live' from the Wrest Point Casino's new convention centre. This was despite the fact that several players had distinguished themselves during the past year.

Liam Monagle (Rothmans Gold Medal winner), Luciano Fabrizio (member of the Young Socceroo squad that contested the Jao Havelange Tournament), Carlo Ambrosino (accepted in the AIS squad), John Charlton (member of three successive State League championship-winning teams), and Andrew Leszczynski (selected in the Australian Schools' Representative Under 18 team and accepted by Brisbane Lions before his failure to gain a place at the University of Queensland necessitated his return to Tasmania) are just five that come to mind that would have been worthy of nomination.

The sad fact is that the local news media would often sooner report on a game of marbles than on a local soccer match!

Olympia, who thought they might have goalkeeping worries with the departure of Robert Harrison to Melbourne, where he is hoping to attract interest from one of the NSL clubs, should be all right in this key department now.

Not only have they signed former keeper, Mark Johnston, but Martin Burden, who won a State League championship with Brighton-ICL in 1981, recently made an appearance at training.

Burden played for Launceston-Juventus in 1982 and Metro-Claremont last season. He made only a few appearances for Metro, however, as injury kept him out of the game for most of the year.

The tussle for the number one goalkeeping spot at Olympia should be an interesting one as both players are highly rated.

Peter Brine, the former Middlesbrough professional, who coached Juventus-Pioneer to last season's Cadbury State League title, is considering a comeback as a player now that Ken Morton has replaced him as coach at Juventus. It will probably be with another club, however.

Brine, whose professional career in England came to an end because of a serious knee injury, has shed a stone in weight over the summer and feels confident that his knee can be built up to stand the pressures of a game once more.

He played magnificently for Juventus upon his arrival in Tasmania, with Eric Young, in 1980, but he has made only rare appearances over the past two seasons, usually only when the team needed bolstering.

I have yet to see Peter Brine play a bad game and his reappearance as a player would be a boost to the game. He and his family intend returning to the United Kingdom shortly for a six-week stay and he will make a final decision upon their return to Tasmania.

SOCCKET ACTION - 28/3/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Every cup competition has its hard lucky story and this year's Michael The Tail Summer Cup is no exception.

Olympia-WPL needed only a draw in its final match against Juventus-Pioneer in order to qualify for the semi-finals, but it lost 1-2. Even then, the Greek side finished level both on points and goal difference with Caledonians, but the latter went through by virtue of the fact that it had scored five goals compared to Olympia's four. And Caledonians' telling goal came in the final seconds of a 3-2 win over University!

Olympia's coach, Otto Klaus, was a bitterly disappointed man after the Juventus match. "I'm very disappointed," he said "I have the feeling that the team, especially some of the experienced players, let me down."

Klaus was referring to the fact that Ronnie Bolton and Craig Nichols were missing from the team. Bolton simply did not turn up, and Nichols was playing in a second-grade cricket match which was followed by an end-of-season barbecue.

These two players are vital cogs in the Olympia team and who knows what the result might have been had they played against Juventus: As it was, Klaus was forced to field youngsters Nikitaris and Kaproulias, as well as the relatively inexperienced Patiniotis.

The problem with many' local "stars" is that they don't concentrate fully on their soccer. I cannot understand how a player of Nichols' calibre, a player who just has had several trials with Footscray JUST, could put a cricket match and barbecue before a vital game involving Olympia.

Bolton's failure to turn up for the match is impossible to comprehend.

SOCER ACTION - 11/4/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Olympia-WPL ... fit, keen and heading in the right direction.

Olympic-WPL has signed Nick Cook on a three-year contract It is Cook's second spell with the Greek club, his first having lasted a mere three matches.

Cook played with Rapid last season and with Taroona-St Mirren in this year's Michael The Tailor Summer Cup tournament. He was sent off in his first match for Taroona, something which is becoming almost traditional for Cook, but he is determined to maintain his self-discipline while playing for Olympia.

Coach Otto Klaus is hoping that Cook's experience will benefit the team and he is expecting big things from the controversial Englishman.

Klaus is hopeful that Cook will be able to plug the gap left in the side by Ronnie Bolton's surprise retirement this week. Bolton failed to turn up for Olympia's recent cup clash with Juventus-Pioneer.

Olympia-WPL has also signed the former University captain, Keith Broadhouse. Keith is the elder brother of Juventus star, John Broadhouse.

Fooled You!

April Fool's Day played some terrible jokes on goalkeepers and defenders in the two sectional cup finals of the southern Tasmania's Michael The Tailor Summer Cup competition.

Two penalties (conceded by goalkeepers who are brothers and who each played one half of the cup final for White Eagles), and own-goal, two bad goalkeeping errors and a serious defensive blunder were the order of the day as Juventus-Pioneer and Hobart City-Azzuri took out the Cadbury League and Rothmans League sections, respectively, of the Summer Cup.

Juventus took an 11th minute lead against Rapid when Sergio Pace's low shot, following a Di Felice cross, sneaked under Phil Kannegiesser's diving body.

Kannegiesser was obviously upset by his error, but his defence was to blame for Bruce Ward's goal in the 70th minute which gave Juventus a 2-1 win.

Rapid. should have cleared its lines but decided to pass the ball around in the penalty area while under pressure. When John Dilba finally did clear, the ball only reached Tommy Wilson on the edge of the penalty area and he miscued his back-pass to Kannegiesser, allowing Ward to intercept and round the keeper to score.

Rapid's goal came in the 57th minute when Steve Craven fumbled Danny Donohue's crisp shot, allowing Thomas to drive the ball home at the far post. The goal meant that Neil Thomas has now scored in three consecutive Summer Cup finals, having been on the winning team (Croatia-Glenorchy) in the past two seasons.

White Eagles had all the chances against Hobart City but lost 1-3 after missing a penalty and conceding an own-goal. Kim Barker, the Rothmans League section top scorer - Juventus' Bruce Ward won the Cadbury League section award - shot straight at keeper Brighella in the 26th minute following a-penalty for 'hand-ball'.

A minute later and it was a penalty at the other end when Paul Jones floored Gilbert Steenhuis as the striker tried to round him in pursuit of the ball which, ironically, was on its way out of play for a goal-kick.

Sorgi slammed the penalty against a post, but the alert Maxwell was smart enough to tuck away the rebound and save City from embarrassment.

In the second half, Paul's brother Craig, who had replaced him in goal at the interval, needlessly brought down Maxwell to concede his side's second penalty Pignalosa took the kick this time and made no mistake.

The final ignominy for Eagles came 10 minutes from time when full back Lawler turned Cengia's cross into his own net.

The scorer of Eagles lone goal was Simon Templeman.

The Italian celebrations at the end of the day rivalled those of 1982 following Italy's World Cup victory. After all, it's not every day that two Italian sides win a cup final!

SOCCKET ACTION - 25/4/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

The success of some of Tasmania's young soccer players on the mainland in recent years is an indication of the high standard of the local game.

The State has always depended on imports - mostly either continental European or British - but the fact that we are now exporting Tasmanian-born players shows that the game has come of age.

The first signs of this were evident as early as two seasons ago with the tremendous success of the Tasmanian 'State of Origin' side, a team that beat the Victorian Youth Team in Melbourne.

Angelo Ambrosino and Luciano Fabrizio, both formerly with Juventus-Pioneer, are two youngsters that have reached the top in the National Soccer League (NSL) over the past two seasons.

Ambrosino left Juventus-Pioneer to join the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and after completing his time there he was snapped up by Canberra Arrows where he held down a regular first-team place until the beginning of this season, when he went to Inter Monaro.

Fabrizio also went from Juventus-Pioneer to the AIS and he soon was selected for the Young Socceroos, Australia's junior national team. He represented Australia at several overseas tournaments in Mexico, Costa Rica and New Guinea.

Brisbane City signed Fabrizio last season and he is now established in the club's senior NSL side. He is playing well and drawing rave notices from mainland commentators.

Another Juventus-Pioneer youngster, Carlo Ambrosino, Angelo's cousin, has begun his rise to the top. He has just been accepted at the AIS and leaves soon on a European tour with the Institute team.

The White Eagles youngster, Andrew Leszczynski, who has gone on loan to University for this season, is another focal-born product who could have found success on the mainland.

He was accepted by NSL club Brisbane Lions after trialling with them over the summer, but he returned to Tasmania after being unable to gain admission to university in Brisbane. Andrew was disappointed, as were the Lions' officials, but he felt that his education came before soccer, so he returned home and enrolled at the University of Tasmania.

He has an open invitation from the club to return to Queensland whenever he likes. Interest in Leszczynski was sparked off by his selection in the Australian Under 18 Schoolboys' Team following last year's national championships in Brisbane.

Croatia-Glenorchy's Ibro Cahut was another player chosen in that representative side. He has recently been trialling in Canberra so 'far unsuccessfully'.

Several other Tasmanian-born players have trialled with NSL sides in recent years. They include Olympia-WPL's Craig Nichols, Perry Forster, Peter Sherman and Robert Harrison, and Rapid's Phil Kannegger and Dale Blake.

The high standard of Tasmanian soccer can also be gauged by the overseas imports who have played here for a few seasons before finding success on the mainland.

Eric Young, Peter Willis, Paul Wormley and John Chariton immediately come to mind. Young, a former professional with Manchester United, played with Juventus-Pioneer and won the 1982 Rothmans Gold Medal before joining Victorian State League side Morwell Falcons. He is now back in England where his wife is expecting their first child.

Brian Davidson former New Zealand international and top scorer for George Town in the past few seasons, played in Melbourne for Croatia.

Peter Willis was a professional with Leeds United before joining Rapid. He won a championship with Rapid and then joined the fledgling Wollongong in the NSL.

Paul Wormley, also a former professional player in England, joined Launceston Juventus for a season before going to the mainland where he finally found fame with NSL side West Adelaide Hellas. After leaving Launceston, he played for Townsville in the Queensland State League for a season before being 'discovered' by Hellas' coach, Alan Vest and then returning to England.

John Chariton is the latest 'of the imports to leave the State and find success on the mainland. The son of famous England international Jack Chariton, and nephew of the even more famous Bobby Chariton, John won three State League championships in succession — with Brighton-ICL, Rapid and Juventus-Pioneer upon his arrival in Tasmania. He is now with NSL side Brisbane Lions where he currently is recovering from injury.

The number of high-quality imports remaining in the local 'game is a significant factor in the improving standard of soccer in the state. The expertise and experience they have brought with them is rubbing off on the local players.

Rapids David Crosson (ex- Newcastle United) and Nick Cook, Caledonians Ian Parker, Juventus-Pioneer's Peter Brine (ex-Middlesbrough) Steve Craven, Bruce Ward and Ken Morton, Launceston Juventus' Peter Saville (ex-Leeds United), George Town's Liam Monagle (ex-Heidelberg and a former Irish Youth International, as well as the 1983 Rothmans Gold Medal winner), Brian Davidson (New Zealand international and a two-times winner of the Rothmans Gold Medal), and Peter Sawdon, Ulverstone's Joe McGrory and University's Steve Darby, Dave Forshaw and Dominic O'Brien, are players that would enhance many a league.

The combination of quality imports and good locally produced players augurs well for Tasmanian soccer.

The appointment of two-full time club coaches Otto Klaus of Olympia-WPL and Ken Morton of Juventus-Pioneer is another step towards improving the game.

The 1984 season has the potential to be one of the best on record.

SOCER ACTION - 4/7/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Charlton back to Juve

Brisbane Lions defender, John Charlton, flew into Hobart late on Friday afternoon to rejoin Tasmanian State League leader, Juventus-Pioneer.

Charlton, son of Jackie Chariton and nephew of Bobby, played in midfield for Juventus the following day as the Italian side demolished Croatia-Glenorchy 6-0. Juventus coach, Ken Morton, was delighted to have Charlton back.

Charlton's only comment after the match was directed, in jest, at his team-mates, "Last week you lost, today we won." On reflection, it was an apt remark.

Charlton's decision to return to Tasmania was made following last week's internal upheavals at Lions. "I returned to Tasmania because Brisbane Lions have got a lot of internal problems at the moment," he said. "The wrong people are running the club.

The officials and some of the players really gave Harry Noon a hard time and he resigned on Thursday night. In my own mind, I felt I just had to leave."

When it was learned that Charlton was leaving Lions, Blacktown and George Cross immediately expressed interest, but with the transfer deadline falling on the weekend, Charlton had to move quickly.

"I didn't have time to talk with these clubs," he explained. "I know a lot of people in Tasmania, and it was easier to get things moving and finish the season down there. Next year, I'd be open to offers from the mainland again."

Charlton has won three consecutive championships in Tasmania, with Caledonians, Rapid and Juventus. Juventus are leading the Cadbury State League at the moment, so Charlton looks like making it four in a row. "Why not?" he replied when asked about this possibility.

SOCCKET ACTION - 18/7/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Ibro Cahut back home

Canberra Arrows youth team player, Ibro Cahut, 19, has returned to his former State League club, Croatia-Glenorchy, after the recent coaching changes at Canberra.

Cahut joined Arrows at the beginning of the year.

"There were problems with the coaching and with their organising over there", said Cahut. "Vic Fernandez left because of the committee's interference and Stuart Devlin, who took over from Vic, was sacked after only a week, I decided to return home because I just wasn't happy anymore."

Cahut represented Tasmanian at youth level, and he returns to a Croatia side that is in sixth place. He played his first match in a scoreless draw with Metro-Claremont and he was one of the best players.

Watching him at training, he certainly has become a better player because of his time with Canberra Arrows. He looked much faster and fitter.

"My whole game has improved at least 50 per cent, if not 100 per cent", said the youngster. "It's difficult to point to just one thing. Speed is definitely one area of improvement and fitness is another".

He is content to just play the season out before trying his luck on the mainland again next year. "Doug Collins has asked me to come back next season to trial for the first team," Cahut said. "I don't think that coming back home will hamper my future, although I did give up a good public service job."

Cahut's father played Croatia as a full-back for many years so, Ibro is keen to uphold the family tradition.

SOCCKET ACTION - 25/7/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

New coach

Peter Brine has been appointed coach of Tasmanian - State League club, Olympia- WPL, for the rest of the season, following the dismissal of Otto Klaus.

Brine played more than 100 first-team games with English club Middlesbrough, and also played professionally in the North American Soccer League

He arrived in Tasmania, together with Eric Young, in 1980 and joined Juventus-Pioneer.

SOCCKET ACTION - 22/8/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Morton wants Juventus in the NSL

Ken Morton discarded by Heidelberg-Alexander last year, now is coaching full-time in Hobart and his club, Juventus, looks set to win the Tasmanian championship.

We conducted the following interview with Morton.

Juventus is four points clear with five games remaining. Can you hold out and retain the title?

A: Yes. From the position we're in now, we've got to go on and win the league.

Have you enjoyed coaching and playing at Juventus this year?

A: We've been doing well, and I've enjoyed coaching at Juventus because we've tried to play good soccer. We don't miss the midfield out. We stressed this year that we'd prefer to play a shorter-passing game rather than long hopeful stuff.

What positive things have you noticed in Tasmanian soccer this year?

A; This year, the top three or four teams - Juventus, Rapid Olympia, University - have all tried to play a decent brand of soccer. There hasn't been a lot of kick and rush stuff from the top teams and there haven't been a lot of physical games by the top teams. The top teams are probably looking at the game tactically far better than before.

How would you describe your coaching philosophy?

A: I like my teams to play simple soccer and I like players to play it simple. By that I don't mean I don't like players with flair. I do like players with flair, providing they use that flair in the right areas.

What else do you do, other than coach Juventus?

A: That in itself is a full-time job because I have all the underage teams to look after, and the coaches to look after, and then there's the reserve side and the senior side. I've also just run a Level 2 coaching course and I'm coach of the Tasmanian under 14 side which will be contesting the national titles in Newcastle soon.

Will you leave Tasmania next season?

A: It's something I have to consider shortly. I would be very reluctant to leave because I maintain that Tasmania is good enough. It has players here good enough to compete in the National League, and if the National Conference splits, with the Brisbane teams going into the Sydney group, then I think Tasmania should try desperately hard to get a northern team and a southern team into that Melbourne Conference. If that happens, obviously, I would prefer to stay here. I like Tasmania as a place. My family is happy here and I would like to think Juventus would get into the NSL.

Rapid hits eight in landslide

RAPID 8 {Thomas 12, 77, Kirkpatrick 32, 52, 59, Blake 67, S. Kannegiesser 82, Nikolai 89) Phoenix- Lauderdale 0. Ref: J. Sly, Tasmanian State League.

Peter Huigsloot gave an indication of what was to come when he smacked a shot against the underside of the Phoenix crossbar in only the third minute and not even the loss of sweeper, John Dilba, through injury in the 10th minute upset Rapid's rhythm as it set about the task of ensuring Phoenix's relegation.

The 8-0 win was Rapid's biggest in five years - in 1979, it hammered George Town 9-1 - and Kirkpatrick's hat-trick rocketed him to the top of the goalscoring chart. Neil Thomas also continued his recent revival by scoring twice.

Phoenix had rearranged its line-up for this match but to no avail.

Barter saw little of the ball up front and was eventually reinstated at centre-back, while Howells, normally the sweeper, was only a shadow of his usual reliable self in the midfield.

The win should inspire Rapid for its top-of-the-table clash tonight (Wednesday) with league-leader Juventus- Pioneer.

SOCER ACTION - 5/9/84

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Juve retain title

Juventus Pioneer retained its Tasmanian State League title with a 2-2 draw against University last Wednesday.

Juventus followed this up with a 2-0 win over Phoenix-Lauderdale on Saturday, a result which meant that Phoenix is relegated after only a season in top company.

Richard Leszczynski gave University a 10th minute lead against Juventus but a Di Martino header from Ken Morton's corner levelled the scores.

A fine piece of play by John Broadhouse in the 28th minute resulted in Ken Morton scoring and Juventus went in at half-time with a 2-1 lead.

Peter Crowther scored off a post immediately after the resumption to make it 2-2 but the point was enough to give Juventus the title.

'Absolutely delighted,' is how Ken Morton described his feelings. "We worked hard all year and it's been nine months of graft.

We started training early in January for this.

We've got two, the league and the "Michael the Tailor" Cup, and now we hope to get the Top Four to go with it."

A relieved goalkeeper, Steve Craven, said: "It was a lot easier than last year, especially since it didn't come down to the final game. I've really enjoyed the year."

"I'm going down to Phoenix to try to win a Rothmans League medal," said John Chariton, the man who has now won four league titles in his four years in Tasmania. He and Craven have been together in the last three championship-winning teams.

Top striker, Bruce Ward, who has missed most of the season because of injury, was feeling a little sorry for himself but delighted for his team-mates.

Fullback Ronnie De Felice (29), who has now won five titles with Juventus since 1971, denied rumours that he would be retiring.

"I'll be taking it year by year now", said the little man who had lost his first team place at one point in the season but who had fought back to be there at the end.

Cadbury State League Final standings 1984

Team:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	16	2	3	52	22	34
Rapid	13	2	6	51	27	28
University	12	2	7	42	33	25
Olympia-WPL	9	5	7	42	33	23
Caledonians	10	2	9	53	50	22
Metro Claremont	4	8	9	33	40	16
Croatia-Glenorchy	4	3	14	18	40	11
Phoenix-Lauderdale	3	2	16	13	59	8

1985

SOCCER ACTION - 13/2/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Eagles set to soar

White Eagles, newly-promoted to the Cadbury State League of southern Tasmania, will be the team to watch this season.

Eagles romped to the Rothmans League title and has strengthened its squad considerably for the coming campaign. Steve Darby, the former State director of coaching, has been appointed as supremo and he has signed at least seven new players.

Goalkeeper Mark Johnston has joined the club from Olympia-WPL while the four Poles from University, Bobby Rybak and the three Leszczynski brothers, Andrew, Mark and Richard, have returned now that the Polish club is back in the top-flight.

Dave Forshaw has signed from University and Jimmy Kerr from Phoenix.

Eagles won its opening pre-season friendly 8-0 against PCL United with Rybak hitting a hat-trick, Mark and Richard Leszczynski scoring two each, and David Stoddart notching the remaining goal.

University has appointed 33-years-old John Raymond as coach for the 1985 season. Raymond coached its reserves to the southern and State premierships last season but will find the task this year very difficult indeed. The reason is that University, like Rapid, has been well and truly plundered of its senior playing staff.

Caledonians should have a good season as it looks like retaining most of the side that steamed home in great style last year and just missed out on a final four placing. 'Tommy Wright started pre-season training on schedule — it was coaching uncertainties and a late start which probably cost Caledonians dearly last year - and new signings include Irishman Peter Wallace and State representative Michael Driessen from University.

It looks as if Terry Banagan will be leaving and this is a definite blow. Banagan has been training with a number of clubs but is still uncertain as to which club he will sign for.

Metro-Claremont haven't made any new signings and it should be the same plucky outfit that always gives the top sides a few headaches. David Smith has retained the coaching position and several youngsters are likely to come to the fore this season.

Metro has always been known as a producer of quality young players and it again has a crop of them, including Paul Hardman, Sean Green, Steve Holzinger and Michael Berwick.

Paul Fone and John McIntyre are two proven strikers and they should be regulars on the scoring lists. Both players were away overseas for several months last year and Metro will benefit from their continuous presence in 1985.

Juventus-Pioneer will be difficult to stop as it sets out to defend its Tasmanian Cadbury State League title, together with the other three titles that the club also won last year.

Ken Morton's squad won its first outing of the season recently when Juventus beat George Town, the Northern Champion, 3-1. John Broadhouse, who trialled with St George a few weeks ago, made the opening goal for Sergio Pace, scored the second himself, and then had a penalty saved in the dying minutes of the match.

Pace scored Juventus's third on the final whistle while Corbett slammed home a close-range effort for George Town.

Juventus was without Charlton, De Felice, Darko and Genovesi from last year's championship side, but it did parade young David Clarkson, a new signing from Rapid, and Steve Kannegger, the State midfielder Morton hopes to sign from Rapid.

Charlton's stay at the club appears to be over and he may return to the NSL. Darko has apparently retired at the young age of 21, Genovesi has moved to Queensland, and De Felice, the newly appointed club captain, was unavailable.

Rapid, the runner-up in the League last season and the winner of the State-wide John Kalis Memorial Trophy, will be a mere shadow of itself and new coach, Otto Klaus, will have a gargantuan task to take the side to a respectable League position.

Rapid looks like losing up to eight of its first team from last season. Coach David Crosson has become Croatia-Glenorchy's coach and it seems as if Kirkpatrick, Thomas, Huigsloot and Thompson will be joining him there.

Tommy Wilson has also attended Croatia's training but may not make the move, while David Clarkson has joined Juventus and Steve Kannegger looks likely to do the same.

All this points to a complete revival for Croatia, which finished second-last in 1984 and only just survived, and a decimation of Rapid will find the going very tough and may have to rely on untried youth to pull it through.

Olympia-WPL will have much the same side as last season and coach Peter Brine, who took over from Otto Klaus late in the season, will have the chance to mould his own product.

He's certainly got the background required. He played over one hundred English first division matches for Middlesbrough and he took Juventus-Pioneer to the Cadbury State League title in 1983.

I have the feeling, however, that the material is not good enough. Olympia has far too many players that have been at the club for a number of years now without ever having produced the goods when it mattered.

One can excuse the likes of Perry Forster and Peter Sherman, both of whom failed miserably last year after having outstanding seasons the year before.

Others have never produced when they should have and the best thing that the Greek club could do would be to jettison some players and inject new blood into the club, from the younger Greek players who largely make up the reserve team, if necessary.

SOCCER ACTION - 13/3/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Otto Klaus

Rapid coach, Otto Klaus, has launched a scathing criticism of the English influence in Tasmanian soccer and the Tasmanian Soccer Association's decision to adopt a double-header for this season's Cadbury League competition.

He also had plenty to say about the decision to make the reserve league a youth league, and about the Tasmanian Soccer Federation's appointment of staff coaches in addition to team coaches for the State under-18 and under-16 representative squads. "I disagree with double-headers because the senior coach has no opportunity to see his reserves or young players in action," said Klaus.

"Also, the team that plays second has the disadvantage of having to share a dressing-room."

"In regard to the coaching appointments at youth level, everyone is English. They stick together the English and I think that it is unnecessary, in a small state like Tasmania, to have a staff coach of a squad as well as a team coach."

"It looks as if they need a coach to take the training and the other one to take the glory. Too many cooks never make good soup and there should be just one coach."

Klaus is still bitter about his failure to secure one of the two youth team coaching appointments. "I can't see myself applying for any of those jobs again," he said.

"It's sad when experienced coaches have to think that way. I will concentrate on Rapid and will warn all mainland coaches not to set foot in Tasmania."

University's star-mid fielder, Dominic O'Brien, is attracting the interest of a number of clubs, including Olympia, Croatia and White Eagles.

O'Brien, a marine biologist, spent the past two months in Antarctica, but now that he is back, he will be looking for a club to join given the fact that University has fallen apart at the seams.

Robbie Mallick is the only player left from last year's senior side and things are looking bleak indeed for new coach John Raymond.

SOCCKET ACTION - 10/4/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Juve, Eagles or Calies?

Juventus-Pioneer will be the team to beat in 1985. It won four of a possible five titles last season and its performances in the Michael The Tailor Summer Cup last month were impressive.

Coach Ken Morton has retained most of last year's squad - John Charlton, Frank Genovesi and Leon Darko are notable exceptions - and he has added two or three new players who already have made an impact.

David Clarkson, 17, was signed from Rapid and looks like a star of the future, while 24-year-old Queenslander, Warren Whisson is a real opportunist in front of goal.

Our early pre-season form has been quite good and at this stage, I'd say we have a very good chance of doing well," said Morton. "Like last year however, we'll never look beyond the next game. That's the most important aspect and we'll take each game as it comes and prepare for that game."

Clarkson, Frank Perri and Bruce Pears are some of the youngsters Morton singled out for praise and he predicted that they would do big things for the club this season.

"The strength of our side is its discipline," Morton said. "I think we play a very patient game of soccer. We like to get possession and keep it and build play up and I think we've got the players who are capable of doing that. We've been behind in some of our practice games, but we've been able to come back and score a lot of goals. I think if we are patient and we work our openings we'll wear teams down."

"We probably have to tighten up on the defensive duties of the midfielders when we lose possession of the ball, and we have to be a little sharper in closing down the man in possession."

These problems are certain to be ironed out early in the season as Juventus sets out on its campaign to retain its numerous titles.

White Eagles are back in the Cadbury State League after winning promotion from the Rothmans League at the first attempt and did exceptionally well last year, winning the title easily and hammering in over 100 goals in the process.

The club was faced with the choice of retaining last season's young but relatively inexperienced side and trying to consolidate this year, or of rebuilding the side and going for the title.

The second option was chosen and former state Director of Coaching, Steve Darby, was appointed coach.

After a promising pre-season, things have not worked out as well as expected, with White Eagles failing to qualify for the finals of the Michael The Tailor Summer Cup competition. But valuable lessons were learned and Darby, holder of an English F.A Senior Coaching Badge, is -unlikely to press the panic button at such an early stage of the season.

Obviously. I'm displeased, because we were defeated but it was certainly a good test for our players," Darby said.

"White Eagles decided that no players would actually be bought and that there would be no signing on fees, so we had to get players who were free, so we tried to get a mixture of young legs and older heads and I've certainly discovered a lot about player attitudes from this series."

Only four of last year's successful team have been retained — Neil Morrison, Dave Stoddart, Stefan Sikora and Chris Leszczynski.

New signings include brothers Mark, Andrew and Richard Leszczynski, Bobby Rybak and David Forshaw, all from University; Alan Burton from P.O. Saints; Brian MacKay from Caledonians; Jimmy Kerr from Phoenix; and Mark Johnston from Olympia-WPL.

"Our aim this season will be for a place in the top four, and to-be a difficult team to beat,"" Darby added.

"I think it's going to be a very close competition between at least six of the eight teams. We obviously lack certain players, but we'll try to make up for that with organization and enthusiasm."

"Our strength lies in our enthusiasm and in the experience of some of our players."

Darby singled out goalkeeper, Mark Johnston, for special praise. Johnston performed brilliantly in the game against Juventus-Pioneer and he has proven a very useful acquisition. If all the other newcomers perform as well as Johnston, there won't be much wrong with the new-look Eagles in 1985.

Caledonians may have missed out on honours in last season's Cadbury State League but they scooped the pool when it came to individual honours. Ian Parker, the club's star striker, finished the season as the League's top scorer - for the second year in succession - and won the prestigious Rothmans Gold Medal, awarded to the outstanding player in the state,

Calies narrowly missed out on a final four spot after finishing the season in grand style, and coach Tommy Wright is determined that his side will do better this year.

New signings include Michael Driessen, a state representative from University; Chris Barrell from Kingborough; and Peter Wallace from Ireland.

"I think we'll have a successful year and we'll be looking to win something big." said Wright.

"I think we're good enough to win the championship but whether we can be consistent is another matter. As the season goes on, I think we'll get better."

"Our strength obviously is up front where Parker and Murtagh are playing exceptionally well, while Driessen is tightening things up at the back."

Wright is a little worried about his midfield, especially since the loss of Terry Banagan and this area will receive a lot of attention in his sessions.

"We've lost the experience and skills of Banagan so if we can make up for that in work rate from Barrell, Schwaiger and Goldsmith we might be able to compensate," Wright said.

Wright's inspiring leadership served the team well last season, and he intends to take the field again this year, although he doesn't know for how long.

"I'll probably play the first half a dozen games or so and take it from there, depending on how things go. We've got a couple of good young players who deserve a chance.

'My fitness is fine and I'm feeling okay, so we'll consolidate first and then we might try something different."

Caledonians were the top scoring side in the league last year, but they conceded the second highest number of goals.

If their strikers continue to perform, and if Wright manages to plug the leaks at the back - the acquisition of Driessen will go a long way in accomplishing this - then Calies will go close to fulfilling Wright's dreams-for 1985.

SOCER ACTION - 05/6/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Goals galore in Tasmania

Twenty-two goals in four matches is just the sort of thing to bring in the fans.

White Eagles rapidly is becoming known as the Houdini of Tasmanian soccer because of its second half escapes.

Against Rapid on Wednesday, Eagles found themselves 3-0 down after half an hour but then fought back to win 4-3.

Juventus-Pioneer stormed to a 3-0 lead against Olympia-WPL in the opening minutes of their match only to see Perry Forster strike twice before the interval for the Greek side.

The turning point came when Olympia coach Peter Brine went off on the hour and the side then crumbled. Morton tapped in Juventus's fourth goal in the 76th minute, however, and Kannegiesser increased the lead two minutes later with a second penalty, this time hit to perfection.

An own-goal reduced Juventus's lead but Cochrane made it 6-3 five minutes from time.

On Sunday, Caledonians led White. Eagles 2-0 with 53 minutes gone through a brilliant goal by Goldsmith and an easy one by Parker, only to see White Eagles hit back in the second half to equalize.

Croatia remain top of the League despite only drawing 1-1 with Rapid.

SOCCKET ACTION - 19/6/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Eagles now second

White Eagles moved into second spot in Tasmania's Cadbury State League when it trounced Olympia-WPL 5-2 in midweek while Metro-Claremont revealed all of Croatia-Glenorchy's shortcomings by beating it 2-1.

Eagles and Olympia exchanged fire right from the start of their encounter, but it wasn't until seven minutes before the interval that Eagles drew first blood.

Richard Leszczynski attacked down the right before playing a cross-field pass to his brother Andrew who, seeing the goalkeeper off his line, chipped the ball into the net.

Dave Stoddart made it 2-0 three minutes into the second half from Mark Leszczynski's cross and the same pair combined again in the 63rd minute to score again.

Four goals in five minutes then set the game alight.

Peter Sherman reduced the arrears for Olympia from Forster's pass only to see Stoddart score from the restart.

Forster set up Kaproulias to make it 4-2 before Richard Leszczynski completed the scoring for Eagles by beating Munro and firing home off the goalkeeper's body.

Colin Francis opened Metro's account against Croatia in the 34th minute when he took advantage of a defensive error, and he made the second goal for John McIntyre in the 76th minute.

Neil Thomas pulled one back for Croatia in the 79th minute following a poor back-pass by Oliver but Metro, inspired by 18-year-old John White who was making his debut, held on to win.

Rapid beat the league champion, Juventus-Pioneer, for the second time this season. Rapid missed numerous easy chances in the first half before Richard Corongiu pounced on a loose ball in the 71st minute to stab home the winner.

Olympia-WPL came back from its disastrous defeat on Wednesday to convincingly beat Caledonians 4-1, Paul Xanthopoulos hit a hat-trick while Robert Gorniak grabbed the fourth goal.

Ian Parker notched Calies' consolation goal 10 minutes from time when he finally escaped Roger Munro, his marker, and turned on the edge of the area before firing into the far corner of the net.

SOCCKET ACTION - 26/6/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

White Eagles Thrash Metro

White Eagles took the lead in the Cadbury State League in Tasmania when they thrashed Metro Claremont 9-1 at the Athletic Centre last Sunday.

But the lead was short-lived as Juventus-Pioneer beat bottom side University 2-0 in the main feature of the double-header to regain league leadership.

Eagles hit Metro for six in the opening half but found the going a little tougher in the second period when Metro with a little luck, could well have scored five. Dave Stoddart was the man-of-the-match for Eagles. Not only did he score a fine goal in the 65th minute, he made four others.

Juventus looked anything but a likely champion against University and it took a 30-metre piledriver from Sergio Pace in the 16th minute to break the deadlock.

Katz should have grabbed the equaliser just before the interval but in delaying his shot he allowed Craven to smother the ball. Broadhouse grabbed a second goal for Juventus 10 minutes from time when he pounced on a loose ball and stabbed it home from close range after Gillam had failed to hold Pace's shot.

Cadbury State League standings 1985 (after 11 games)

Team:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	6	3	2	32	15	15
White Eagles	6	2	2	36	22	14
Croatia	5	2	2	17	13	12
Caledonians	3	5	2	23	19	11
Olympia-WPL	3	3	4	21	21	9
Rapid	2	4	4	14	17	8
Metro	3	2	5	19	32	8
University	1	1	8	6	23	3

Michael The Tailor Goalscoring Award: 12-J. Broadhouse (Juventus); 10-A. Leszczynski (White Eagles); 9-1. Parker (Calies); 8-M. Goldsmith (Calies), D. Stoddart (White Eagles), M. Leszczynski (White Eagles).

SOCCKET ACTION - 24/7/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Juventus loses top spot - but not for long!

Juventus-Pioneer suffered its second successive defeat in the Tasmanian Cadbury State League to slump to third place in the standings last Wednesday but on Sunday it jumped back into top spot.

At this stage last year, the league champion was six points better off and well on course for its second consecutive title.

Cracks certainly have begun in the Italian-backed outfit and even the return of coach Ken Morton as a player against Olympia-WPL last Wednesday - he only had announced his retirement as a senior player a few weeks before — did not stop the champion going down.

Another former NSL star, Lucky Vagianos, who used to play with West Adelaide Hellas, also appeared in this game, at centre-back for Olympia.

He upended Sergio Pace in the 20th minute to concede a penalty and John Broadhouse put the champion in front. Paul Kaproulias, the Pepsi Youth League's leading scorer, made excellent use of one of his rare chances in the senior side. He grabbed the equalizer just after the interval and, on the hour, he nodded down a high ball from Paul Xanthopoulos to score the winner.

In Wednesday's early match, White Eagles just beat Rapid 3-2 when Mark Lesczynski hit the winner three minutes from time. He had headed Eagles into a 7th minute lead before Matthew Bloomfield equalized in the 31st minute.

A superb shot by Young in the 50th minute restored Eagles lead but Greenwood again levelled for Rapid in the 61st minute. Fletcher crossed from the left and the youngster had time to park his car before slotting the ball home.

Juventus regained league leadership on goal difference on Sunday by beating Metro-Claremont 2-0.

Metro missed a couple of chances early, then fell behind to a well-taken Ken Morton goal in 18th minute. John Broadhouse became the league's leading scorer when he knocked in Juventus's second goal in the 66th minute.

University seems doomed to relegation after losing 2-1 to Olympia-WPL in Sunday's remaining match and yet it was a game it should have won.

Taglieri missed his second consecutive penalty for the students in the 28th minute of the match when Burden brilliantly saved his spot-kick, and at least three other chances went begging.

Olympia didn't come into the game until the just 17 minutes. Sherman hit the equalizer on the turn from a Vafakos pass in the 73rd minute and Xanthopoulos notched the winner with a superb diving header from Forster's cross with 10 minutes remaining.

State League Standings 1985 (after 15 rounds)

Team:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus-Pioneer	8	3	4	38	20	19
Croatia-Glenorchy	8	3	2	23	15	19
White Eagles	8	2	3	45	28	18
Caledonians	5	6	3	31	26	16
Olympia: WPL	6	3	6	28	27	15
Metro-Claremont	4	3	7	23	38	11
Rapid	3	4	7	21	26	10
University	1	2	12	11	39	4

SOCCKET ACTION - 7/8/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Croatia tops

Croatia took a two-point lead in the Tasmanian standings on Sunday by demolishing White Eagles 7-0. It was the first time this season that Croatia had looked anything like a champion and the performance of Neil Thomas was inspirational. The striker scored twice and made three of the remaining goals.

Tony Bacic came back from a one-match suspension to score two goals, Baric hit one with a superb shot from 25 metres, while Stacey Peters celebrated his senior debut by coming on as a substitute and scoring with virtually his first touch.

University will be relegated after losing 4-1 to Metro-Claremont whose goals came from Oliver, McIntyre, Green and Pitchford. Chris Hargrave had opened the scoring for University with a penalty.

State League Standings 1985 (after 16 rounds)

Team:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia Glenorchy	10	3	3	33	17	23
Juventus-Pioneer	9	3	4	40	21	21
White Eagles	9	2	5	49	39	20
Caledonians	6	6	4	35	29	18
Olympia-WPL	6	3	7	29	30	15
Rapid	5	4	7	27	27	14
Metro-Claremont	5	3	8	27	41	13
University	1	2	13	11	47	4

SOCCKET ACTION - 4/9/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Eagles hit 5

White Eagles moved into fourth spot in Tasmania's Cadbury State League when it beat relegated University 5-2 at KGV last Wednesday. Eagles led 4-0 at the interval through goals from Richard Leszczynski (2), Alan Burton and Mark Leszczynski and its new 3-5-2 formation appeared to be working well.

Burton, who normally plays sweeper, produced a fine performance in midfield and even scored a goal. Peter Crowther made it 5-0 in the second half before University hit back with two goals from Katz and Robinson in the final ten minutes.

Metro-Claremont and Olympia-WPL are both trying to avoid the embarrassment of finishing second-last, but the issue remained undecided when they shared the points in a 1-1 draw.

SOCER ACTION - 11/9/85

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Juve tops in Tassie

Juventus-Pioneer retained its Cadbury State League title in Tasmania when it beat Olympia-WPL 2-0 at KGV on Wednesday and Croatia-Glenorchy surprisingly lost 3-1 to wooden-spooner University on Sunday.

Croatia had to beat the students by 14 goals to pip Juventus for the title on goal difference, but relegated University won only its third match of the Season to shatter Croatia's hopes. It was Juventus's third championship in successive seasons and the second title for its player-coach, Ken Morton.

Di Martino gave Juventus a 25th-minute lead against Olympia when his header following a corner was adjudged to have crossed the line before Roger Munro could clear.

John Broadhouse scored the second in the 33rd minute when a skilful piece of footwork put Pace through, and his pass found Broadhouse who turned and fired into the far corner of the net for his 19th goal of the season.

State League Final Standings 1985

Team:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus-Pioneer	14	3	4	SB	21	31
Croatia-Glenorchy	13	2	5	46	24	28
Caledonians	10	6	5	46	35	26
White Eagles	12	2	7	62	54	26
Olympia-WPL	6	4	11	32	40	16
Rapid	6	4	11	29	39	16
Metro-Claremont	6	4	11	38	51	16
University	3	2	18	20	67	8

Michael The Tailor Goal-scoring Award: 18 J. Broadhouse (Juventus); 18 M. Leszczynski (White Eagles); 16 J. McIntyre (Metro); 15 M. Goldsmith (Calies); 14 A Leszczynski (White Eagles); 13 I. Parker (Calies), R. Fabrizio (Juventus), N. Thomas (Croatia).

1986

SOCER ACTION - 5/2/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Joe Udovicic

Tasmanian soccer supporters were stunned by the sudden death of former State goalkeeper, 38-year-old Joe Udovicic, on January 17.

Udovicic had announced his retirement at the end of last September after playing for Devonport City in its 3-0 loss to Juventus-Pioneer in the State Reserve Grade premiership grand final.

Born in Croatia, he arrived in Australia in the mid-60s and played for Melbourne Croatia for a couple of years before moving to Tasmania in 1967 and joining Croatia-Glenorchy.

He quickly made a name for himself and represented the State against Cardiff City in 1969 and the touring English F.A. side in 1971.

He replaced Eddie Puclin in the Croatia goal and was a regular in the side that won its first-ever Southern Tasmanian title and State championship in 1970. The following season he captained Croatia which finished runner-up.

He moved to Tasmania's north-west coast in the early 70s - the brilliant Puclin took over in Croatia's goal again - and signed for Devonport City, the club with which he finished his playing career. He also had a spell with Launceston Juventus during this period and was known and well-respected by players and fans all over the State.

White Eagles goalkeeper, Mark Johnston (24), has moved to Melbourne and will probably be hoping to find an amateur club where he can keep his hand in while studying for a masters degree in history at Melbourne University.

Johnston previously played for Olympia-WPL and University before joining White Eagles at the beginning of last season.

He will be in Melbourne for at least a year so if any clubs are interested in his services they may try contacting him through the history department at Melbourne University.

David Rae is the newly appointed coach of Cadbury State League side, Metro-Claremont. Rae coached the club for several years in the 70s before turning his attention to veterans' athletics. His Metro players have been on a running program since November so the team should have few fitness problems once the season starts.

SOCER ACTION - 12/2/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Juventus coach quits

Juventus-Pioneer coach Peter Brine dropped a bombshell by resigning only weeks after being appointed by the club.

Brine had only conducted a couple of pre-season training sessions when he telephoned Juventus President, Ernie Schiro, to inform him that he was quitting because he was moving to Queensland to work.

Schiro received the call at 4pm but by 5pm he already had appointed former Metro-Claremont and state under-16 coach, David Smith, as Brine's replacement.

Smith is a top-class player with interstate experience but has yet to prove himself as a coach at the top level. Taking over the state champion as it strives for its fourth consecutive title will provide him with his biggest challenge to date.

Schiro remained unperturbed by the events and insisted that they did not mean the demise of Juventus.

"Coaches and players never worry me," Schiro said. "They come and go but the club and I will stay. We're born black and white."

"One comes and one goes and that's the way coaches are. As far as I'm concerned, it's just one of those things. "It will be a challenge for David. I think we'll be all right and I'm thinking of getting a couple of good players, either from the mainland or from he'll be shaking all over, but I asked him if he was confident and he said that he was, or he wouldn't have taken it on, and I then told him he would have all the support I could give him."

The major problem facing Juventus now that the coaching issue has been resolved is in the goalkeeping department. State custodian Steve Craven is leaving for Queensland and the club doesn't have an adequate replacement.

Rapid's Phil Kannegiesser had been rumoured to be joining Juventus, but it now seems as if he will stay put.

Tasmania's three representatives in the Australian schoolboy's side which did so well on its United Kingdom tour recently, returned home last week.

Coach of the side, Duncan Summers, was thrilled with the tour and said that Australians tended to under-sell the ability of their youngsters.

White Eagles coach, Steve Darby, saw the team play several times in England and he particularly was impressed with goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud.

Darby has signed the youngster from Caledonians, so his action already has been vindicated.

SOCCKET ACTION - 19/2/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Olympia looking good

Olympia-WPL, under new coach Ken Morton, looks like making a strong challenge for this year's Cadbury State League title judging by the club's form in recent pre-season friendlies.

Olympia beat Northern Tasmanian champion, George Town, 6-1 with goals by Morton, Forster and Goldsmith, all scoring twice. The Greek side suffered a slight reversal when it lost 3-2 to Launceston Croatia but made amends by beating Devonport City 4-0.

New signings Michael Goldsmith and Andrew Hart, both from Caledonians, were Olympia's scorers against Croatia, while Peter Sherman (2), Morton and Michael Goldsmith hit the target against Devonport.

Olympia has return games against George Town and Devonport coming up before the Summer Cup competition begins on 2 March.

Caledonians will have lost as many as six players by the time they compete in the Summer Cup in March, the trophy the club won last season.

Goldsmith and Hart are at Olympia while Chris Barrell also is training with Olympia and looks likely to sign. Defender Steve Brown is working in Launceston in the north of the state and will not be playing for Calies this season.

Promising reserve goalkeeper and Australian schoolboy representative Peter Groenewoud has joined White Eagles while top defender Michael Driessen has been training with Croatia-Glenorchy.

It all means quite a few headaches for coach Tommy Wright, but the good news is that Ian Parker, a former Rothmans Gold Medallist and probably the best player in the State, will stay with Calies.

SOCCKET ACTION - 26/2/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Competition kicks off in Southern Tasmania on Sunday. The new competition replaces the Michael The Tailor Summer Cup which finally folded after 10 years.

The Cascade Summer Cup, sponsored to the tune of almost \$5000 by The Cascade Brewery Co. Ltd, will be played in two sections, one for Cadbury State League clubs, the other for Rothmans League clubs.

Each section is made up of two groups and the first and second placed teams in each group move into the semi-finals of their section.

The groupings are: Cadbury League — Group A: Juventus, White Eagles, Rapid and Olympia; Group B: Metro-Claremont, Howrah, Croatia-Glenorchy and Caledonians.

The finals will be played at South Hobart on Monday, March 31.

Rapid's pre-season form is worrying coach Otto Klaus. Rapid lost its opening friendly 5-2 to Juventus and then succumbed 4-2 to newly promoted Howrah.

White Eagles started its pre-season friendlies with a 2-1 victory over reigning champion Juventus-Pioneer.

Juventus still hasn't found a replacement for State goalkeeper Steve Craven, who has moved to Townsville, but the club is believed to be negotiating with a Malaysian goalkeeper who is keen to join his family in Tasmania.

Juventus's John Broadhouse, the Cadbury League's leading marksman last season, has returned to England. No one seems to be too certain about whether he will be returning.

Croatia-Glenorchy's young midfielder Ibro Cahut is leaving this week to join NSL club Brisbane City. Coach Jim Hermiston has included the youngster in his plans for the coming campaign and Cahut will team up with another Tasmanian at City, Luciano Fabrizio.

Cahut had a brief spell with Canberra Arrows a couple of seasons ago before returning to Tasmania.

Alistair Hales, 33, coach of newly promoted Cadbury State League side Howrah, is no stranger to the top league in southern Tasmania. He was player-coach of Caledonians in 1976 and 1977 and won the Rothmans Gold Medal in 1976. He also played in midfield for Phoenix when that club was relegated from the Cadbury league in 1984.

Hales is looking forward, therefore, to his return to top company, both as a player and as a coach, and is confident his team can survive.

The club has recruited several new players including PCL United's Duncan Swift and Kingborough's Kenny Berry.

But Hales is still looking for an experienced player to settle the side and provide the youngsters with some guidance at the back.

Howrah's opening pre-season friendly resulted in a 4-2 win over Rapid, an established side in the Cadbury State League. One player who stood out in the victory was 19-year-old striker, Karl Brightman.

He seems to have everything - vision, physique, fitness, excellent ball-control, and a stinging, accurate shot. My tip is that this youngster will be a revelation in the league.

SOCER ACTION - 5/3/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Smith's tough task

Juventus-Pioneer's new coach, David Smith, has taken on a task that many more experienced and wily coaches would have turned their backs on.

Juventus has won the Tasmanian Cadbury State League title for the past three years in a row so, anything but a title win will be regarded as failure by the club's supporters.

Smith faces a difficult task, therefore, made even more so by the fact that the club has lost up to four top players.

State goalkeeper Steve Craven, who starred against the Socceroos last year, has moved to Townsville, while defender Warren Whisson has moved to Victoria.

Play-maker and executioner, former player-coach Ken Morton, has taken over at Olympia, while the league's leading scorer, John Broadhouse, has returned to England and it is not known for certain whether he will return.

Former top striker Bruce Ward is still not certain of making a comeback, so it looks as if Smith has quite a job on his hands.

There are bright spots amid the storm clouds, however. Former star defender Leon Darko has returned after his premature retirement in 1984 — he retires regularly every two years and then comes back, even though he's still only 21 years old — and should slot in at fullback.

Smith himself is no mean player either and if he decides to play - something he has certainly not ruled out -he will be a real asset to the club. And, the club has yet another promising batch of youngsters ready to make their senior debuts.

The club that produced Luciano Fabrizio (Brisbane City) and Angelo and Carlo Ambrosino (Inter-Monaro), now has the likes of Dominic and Marcus Longo, Billy Stanford and Matthew Gasparin in the senior training squad.

Lino Taglieri, a former midfielder-cum-defender with Rapid and University, has also been training with Juventus.

Smith coached Metro-Claremont during the past two seasons and has had experience as a player in New South Wales and Western Australia, as well as with Rapid and Tasmania.

SOCCKET ACTION - 12/3/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Leszczynski Strikes

White Eagles beat Olympic-WPL 2-1 in a thrilling midweek encounter which proved to be the match-of- the-round in southern Tasmania's Cascade Summer Cup competition.

White Eagles' Richard Leszczynski looked fitter and faster than ever before and his tour of England with the Australian schoolboys' side must have been of real benefit to him.

His speed continually created problems for an Olympia side that looked good in patches, but it was quite obvious that coach Ken Morton still has a lot of work to do if the players are to overcome the inadequacies they have shown over the past two seasons. An intelligent through-ball by Dave Stoddart midway through the first half provided Leszczynski with a fine opening goal but Peter Sherman, returning to his favourite position of centre-forward, headed Olympia level just before the interval following a Perry Forster corner.

Eagles' new goalkeeper, Peter Groenewoud, Tasmania's other Australian school- boy representative, was at fault with the equalizer but, on the whole, he turned in a solid performance, as did Olympia's Martin Burden, who made some brilliant saves. A long-range effort by Mark Leszczynski in the 48th minute sealed the issue, but Olympia could consider itself a little unlucky as several shots went awfully close and Michael Berwick hit the post just before half- time.

In other matches, Juventus-Pioneer narrowly overcame Rapid through a solitary effort by central defender Alistair Cochrane, while hot favourite Croatia- Glenorchy stumbled against Caledonians and managed only a 1-1 draw.

Newly promoted Cadbury League outfit Howrah made the perfect start in the top-flight by beating Metro-Claremont 1-0 with a goal by Schueler.

SOCCKET ACTION - 19/3/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Pears and Burton Sent off

Olympia-WPL kept alive its hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals of the Cascade Summer Cup competition in southern Tasmania by beating Rapid 2-0 at South Hobart.

Craig Nichols gave Olympia a 1-0 interval lead but Rapid might well have been leading at that stage if veteran Hans Streit. Mark Honeyman and Mark Nikolai had taken their chances.

Olympia struck again immediately after the break as Perry Forster streaked down the right before pulling the ball back for Paul Xanthopoulos to Steer home.

Olympia must now beat Juventus-Pioneer today (Wednesday) to qualify after Juventus drew 2-2 with White Eagles. Eagles produced a first-class opening 15 minutes against Juventus and Andrew Leszczynski's blistering drive after only six minutes put it in front.

It faded badly after that however, and Romeo Fabrizio headed the equalizer early in the second half after Steve Kannegiesser had outjumped Banasik.

Bruce Pears (Juventus) and Alan Burton (Eagles) received their marching orders from referee Raymond following separate incidents in the second half. before Steve Kannegiesser put Juventus in front for the first time in the match from the penalty spot.

Mark Leszczynski's header from Neil Morrison's free kick 12 minutes from the end salvaged a point for Eagles and put it right on course for a semi-final place.

SOCER ACTION - 2/4/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Eagles vs. Juventus

White Eagles won their way into the Cascade Summer Cup final (Cadbury League section) by demolishing Caledonians 7-1 in the first semi-final at South Hobart.

Three of the four Leszczynski brothers turned out to be the demolition experts as they scored six of the goals. Andrew grabbed a hat-trick, Richard scored twice, while Mark became the club's leading marksman in the competition by opening the proceedings in the 11th minute with a header at the far post following Stoddart's corner.

The goal was an exact replica of the one he scored the previous week against Rapid and teams will have to be alert to this particular set-piece when they meet Eagles this season.

Juventus-Pioneer will be Eagles' opponent in the final after it beat Croatia-Glenorchy 3-1 on penalties.

Steve Kannegiesser gave Juventus the lead on the half hour when his free-kick took a vicious deflection and left goalkeeper Smith stranded but John McIntyre equalized from Colin Francis's pass five minutes before the interval.

The score remained unchanged despite 30 minutes' extra-time and the penalty deciders proved disastrous for Croatia. Kirkpatrick, Bacic, Thomas and Furjanic all missed or had their efforts saved by Steve Craven.

SOCER ACTION - 9/4/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Controversial Juve win

A controversial goal 43 seconds into the Cascade Summer Cup Final (Cadbury League Section) paved the way for Juventus-Pioneer's 2-1 win over White Eagles at South Hobart.

Sergio Pace took a free-kick quickly and found Romeo Fabrizio in hectares of space on the edge of the White Eagles penalty area. Referee Brian Clarkson whistled but then waved play on as Fabrizio turned and fired home with the Eagles defenders uncertain about what was happening.

Eagles never recovered from that early blow and, if that set-back did not exactly kill the team's chances, Sergio Pace's goal five minutes before the interval, did.

Genovesi fired in a shot that Groenewoud only could parry, and Pace knocked the ball into the net from close range. Eagles looked but a shadow of the team that demolished Caledonians 7-1 in the semi-final, while Juventus had obviously learned a lot from its visit to Melbourne for the Nanda Cup.

"We've been working on knocking early balls from free-kicks in the middle of the park," said Juventus coach, David Smith. "South Melbourne Hellas did it to us all day and we learned that if we knock early free-kicks we're pretty happy. We got away with it, and we've just got to steady ourselves a little more."

Eagles only had two scoring chances. Craven saved Scott Young's shot 10 minutes from the end and Andrew Leszczynski scored from the penalty spot in injury time after Dominic Longo had fouled second-half substitute, Bobby Rybak.

Juventus included John Broadhouse in its team only an hour before the kick-off. He had returned from overseas late last week and his presence was an influential factor in the win.

SOCER ACTION - 1/10/86

TASMANIAN SCENE - with WALTER PLESS

Olympia downs Eagles

Olympia-WPL won the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy top-four Grand Final with a 5-4 victory over league champions White Eagles. Andrew Leszczynski put Eagle ahead with a terrific shot in the 13th minute only to see Craig Nichols grab an equaliser 5 minutes before the interval.

Andrew Leszczynski again put Eagles in front in the 50th minute when he converted a penalty, but the league champion then began to lose its way.

Nichols scored his second equaliser of the match in the 71st minute and completed his hat-trick two minutes later to edge Olympia in front for the first time in the game.

Paul Xanthopoulos made it 4-2 with a tremendous shot in the 75th minute before Olympia's goalkeeper, Martin Burden, saved brilliantly from Andrew Leszczynski a minute later.

Xanthopoulos set up Anthony Greenwood for Olympia's fifth in the 78th minute before a late rally by Eagles saw brothers Mark and Richard Leszczynski score late goals to almost take the match to a replay.

Joanne Sherman's second-half goal gave Hobart City its 1-0 win over White Eagles in the women's KO cup final.

Eagles met Ulverstone for the second leg of the State title 0-2 down after the first encounter and its 1-0 win at home wasn't enough to prevent the North-Western side from ending the South's Stranglehold on the State premiership.

A goal by defender Neil Morrison in the 28th minute gave Eagles its victory, but it was Joe McGrory's men who took home the trophy.

Ward's goal-scoring talents sadly missed

The Mercury 1986 - Walter Pless

Where have all the centre-forwards gone?

That has been the question on many people's lips ever since Juventus-Pioneer's Bruce Ward, the last of the orthodox centre-forwards about, was injured two years ago.

The absence of traditional, goal-scoring centre-forwards goes a long way towards explaining the poor performances and lack of goalscoring ability of a number of clubs.

Ward arrived in Tasmania five seasons ago to join Juventus and he immediately showed himself to be one of the finest practitioners of the art of goalscoring ever to play here.

He definitely had a knack for hitting the back of the net and Tasmanians hadn't seen a centre-forward quite like him since the days of Walter Worsey, Hans Zoetch and Ted Huddlestone.

Ward hit 19 goals in his first year here – he only arrived midway through the season - followed that up with an incredible 29 goals in 21 matches the next year.

Rapid, that year's league champions only scored a total of 33 goals, so that is an excellent measure of his ability.

Ward is the first to lament the absence of the old-fashioned centre-forward, and he would love to see several of the hotshots in the Rothmans League try their luck in top company.

"There are a lot of good wingers here but there's a lack of natural goalscorers," Ward said.

"There are a couple in the lower division, Neil Bishop and Kim Barker, who probably could make it in the top league. I don't know why they don't attempt to play in the top league. My advice to them is not to be frightened to come and have a go because it's the best league in the State."

"They are banging in goals week in week out in the Rothmans League, but I think they should change clubs because they'd get games in at least half of the Cadbury League clubs, and they'd have good players around them to create chances."

Ward must have been a terrifying sight for goalies as he bore down on them, boots flying, and determination written all over them.

He'll never forget the advice Ron Saunders manager of Aston Villa, gave him when he trialed with the famous Midlands club. "I was told by Saunders that you shouldn't go into a game just hoping to score," Ward said. "I was taught to go out there saying that I was going to score."

"Players often let themselves down by dropping their heads if they miss a chance early in the game. The next chance they get, therefore, they panic and just lash out instead of keeping their composure. That's the trouble with centre-forwards over here. They've no composure in front of goal."

Ward is in no danger of becoming the forgotten man of Tasmanian soccer. He is always at Juventus games, helping out in any way he can, and constantly giving advice and encouragement to the players. He's very keen to play again after getting over the knee injury which put him out of the game two seasons ago and he has resumed light training.

"The doctor told me there's no damage to the bone structure of the knee. It's just that I've got no control of the muscles around the medial ligament. I'm itching to get back into it. I've been sitting on the bench for two years now and I really miss scoring goals."

1987

SOCER ACTION - 28/1/87

By Walter Pless

Eagles coach moves

Steve Darby, coach of 1986 Tasmanian Cadbury State League champions White Eagles, has moved to Canberra after six years in Tasmania.

Darby arrived in Tasmania 1 1980 to coach and to play for Devonport City in the State League.

He was appointed State director of coaching the following season but resigned after only 18 months in the job.

Darby then resumed his playing career, having spells South Hobart, University and Kingborough before being appointed as White Eagles coach in 1985.

After finishing in third spot last season, White Eagles won their first championship since 1978 last year under the coaching of Darby.

During his period as State director of coaching, Darby coached State sides to victory over a Victorian youth side in Melbourne and against a strong South Melbourne Hellas at at South Hobart.

Darby is uncertain about his future in the game and said that his main reason for going to Canberra was to continue his academic studies.

He has taken up a teaching appointment at a private college there.

Darby had a number of comments about the game in Tasmania prior to his departure "Devonport City, in hindsight, are still the best club in Tasmania," he said. "They're the most progressive and the most intelligently administered.

"I have no doubts that if that club had been situated in Hobart, there would definitely have been a Tasmanian team in the National League competition."

Darby said it was difficult to determine whether the game had improved over the six ears he had spent in the State. "There have been some very talented young players in the last six years who have come through the ranks," he said.

"I think the playing talent is getting better, players are getting fitter, but the structure of the clubs doesn't seem to be as strong as it used to be.

"Southern clubs should follow the example of those in the north and north-west of the state by developing club facilities and training grounds which would help to foster a good club atmosphere."

Darby also believed the state definitely needed a coaching director but that this person needed to work in the teacher training institutions rather than in the schools.

Darby named Peter Brine, Barry Shacklady, Sid Cairns, Eugene Mycak, David Crosson and Ron Coutts as coaches who had made valuable contributions to the game during his time in the State.

Asked to select his best players over the six-year period, Darby named the following two sides :

LOCAL SIDE: Groenewoud, M. Leszczynski, Nunn, Di Martino, Darko, L. Fabrizio, Peters, S. Kannegger, Pace , Oakes, Schiebl.

STATE (ALL-COMERS): Craven, M. Leszczynski, Peters, Brine, Nunn, L. Fabrizio, Young, S. Kannegger, McKenna, Ward, Parker

SOCCKET ACTION - 18/2/87

By Walter Pless

Olympia-WPL set a precedent in Tasmanian soccer this week when the club's senior squad embarked on an 8-day training camp in Sydney. The side left Hobart last Saturday and will return this Sunday.

"I thought I could prepare the team better for the start of the season in terms of a system of play by going on this training trip," coach Ken Morton said.

"We've had 18 training sessions to date and this will be the finale to our pre-season work."

Olympia will play three practice matches, against New South Wales state league teams Sutherland, Blacktown City and Melita Eagles.

The trip is costing \$10,000 and the players raised the money themselves through various fund-raising ventures.

The Olympia squad making the trip is: Martin Burden, Chris Hey, Matthew Bloomfield, David Crosson, Michael Berwick, Chris Barrell, Roger Munro, Michael Goldsmith, Perry Forster, Paul Xanthopoulos, Craig Nichols, Andrew Hart, Anthony Greenwood, Paul Tsangaris, Con Tsiakis, Marco Nikitaras, George Xinthalonis and John Collar.

Pless appointed

Karl Pless has been appointed senior coach of Cadbury State League club Caledonians.

The club had announced the appointment of Welshman and former Ipswich town regular, 32-year-old Les Tibbot, last November, but he decided not to come to Tasmania at the last minute, despite having signed a contract.

Calies intend taking some form of proceedings against Tibbot for breach of contract. Pless, who gained his Level Three coaching certificate last year, has coached at both junior and senior levels with Croatia-Glenorchy and Clarence, respectively.

Calies have signed four new players, while former player Robin Dodds has returned from Western Australia, where he moved late last season.

Glen Callaghan, a 29-year-old defender comes from George Town, while Brett Atkins is from Western Suburbs.

Mark Honeyman has joined the club from Rapid and David Arnott has signed after being away from Hobart for the past six years.

Tuting back

Vic Tuting MBE has been re-elected as president of the Tasmanian Soccer Federation, a position he has held since 1956. Tuting, a senior vice-president of the ASF, was first elected to the TSF in July, 1937. Roy Stoneman and Ross Wesson are joint vice-presidents of the TSF. Stoneman also is the treasurer.

Eagles triumph

White Eagles, the reigning Cadbury State League champions, beat Juventus-Pioneer 2-1 in a pre-season friendly last week. Andrew Leszczynski, from the penalty spot, and David Stoddart gave Eagles a 2-0 half-time lead before Frank Genovesi pulled a goal back for Juventus in the second half.

Both teams have new coaches, with former player Bobby Rybak taking over at Eagles from Steve Darby, who is now living in Canberra, and Peter Irvine, last year's Newcastle boss replacing David Smith at Juventus.

Two for Azzurri

Newcomer to the Cadbury State League, Hobart City-Azurri, has signed Neil Bishop from Taroona and Franco Previdi from White Eagles. Both are strikers but Previdi will miss the Cascade Summer Cup series as he will undergo a knee operation soon.

Howrah duo Kar! Brightman and Duncan Swift are training with City, as is Metro's Brett Porthouse, while the club is also negotiating with Inter-Monaro's Carlo Ambrosino.

Another player training with City is Johan Hosenbirk, formerly with Box Hill and Wilhelmina in Victoria. City was scheduled to travel north on the weekend to meet Ulverstone and Devonport City in pre-season friendlies.

Parker to go?

Top Tasmanian striker Ian Parker of Caledonians has been training with and playing friendly matches for Juventus-Pioneer. Parker's future with Calies is uncertain but it is not unusual for him to train with other clubs in the pre-season months before returning to Calies just before the first ball is kicked in anger.

SOCCKER ACTION - 25/2/87

By Walter Pless

Worthington sings Tassie's praises

Eric Worthington, the national director of coaching, believes that Tasmania must be doing something right if it can produce two current national team captains.

Worthington was speaking at a one-day seminar on coaching and administration, conducted by the Tasmanian Soccer Association recently.

Alan Vest, the director of coaching in NSW, Ken Morton, the Tasmanian coaching director, and John Howlin, representing the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation, were other speakers at the seminar.

"I don't think it's commonly known that Tasmania must be doing something very good because the State has produced the current national under-16 captain and the national youth captain." Worthington said.

Juventus-Pioneer's Dominic Longo recently captained the Australian under-16s in Taiwan, while Launceston's Kurt Reynolds has captained the Australian youth team.

"People should be constantly reminded of that, and also of the fact that Tasmania has more than its share, pro-rata, of positions at the Institute of Sport.

"Whether it's due to the standard of play going up, or whether it's that coaches are working harder, or that they are more skilful, I don't know. But something is going on, somewhere, to the credit of Tasmania and I would want to keep reminding people of that."

Worthington, who has been the national coaching director for 14 years now, said he had seen tremendous changes in that time. One of the most significant had been the employment of full-time directors of coaching in all States.

The recent change in the level three course, which now comprised four parts spread over a two-year period instead of one nine-day residential course, had been a tremendous success.

"Under the old system, we were expecting people who were, in some cases, already good coaches, to change their coaching behaviour in nine days, which, I suppose, most psychologists would tell you is impossible.

"We therefore looked again at what one ought to expect and decided that if there are any skills or techniques to be learned in coaching, it should take place over a longer period of time."

"Everyone appears to think that the new four-part level three course is far superior to our old methods." Surprisingly, perhaps, for a man in his position, Worthington believes that coaching courses are not necessarily essential for all would-be coaches.

"There are people who, because of their special qualities are not too happy about attending courses," he said. I would go so far as to say that, perhaps, some coaches do not need to attend coaching courses."

"For example, if you look at the qualities that are required of a coach, the kind of personal qualities and experience, it's not unusual to find people with the whole battery of these qualities."

"They may have been very good players, or they may have been coached very well, and they are intelligent and therefore understand what is going on."

"Their personal qualities might also include leadership qualities and good looks, and that kind of thing, so that they stand out as leaders, and what more do you want?"

"For such people, I think that the only thing that's missing is to confirm that what a coach understands to be his skill is good skill and not bad skill."