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## Sports World

With LAKIS KONISTIS

### DON'T BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU.....

Isn't it ironic.....

Sports journalist Rebecca Wilson recently publicly 'bagged' football in Australia- "a sad, sad state", she wrote.

A truly scathing article of the 'sad,sad state' football found itself in.

Yet interestingly, when Australia couldn't even beat unfancied New Zealand in the rugby league World Cup last weekend, AND at home, not a single word was mentioned by Ms. Wilson!

Why?

Why the sudden silence?

Is it because she writes for "The Dai-ly Telegraph"?

And who owns the "Tele"?

Is it the same people who have a strong and vested interest in Rugby League as well?

Never mind Rebecca, we understand.

We'll come out and say it like it is for you.....

Australia was comprehensively beaten and humiliated by New Zealand in the Rugby League World Cup- one of the BIGGEST boiloovers in the history of the modern game.

The performance of the Kangaroos was embarrassing. (Moreso than Adelaide United's effort, don't you think Rebecca?)

Australian Rugby League can therefore NOT claim to being the best team in the world- New Zealand is!

Perhaps the NRL should also have a good hard look at its very own coaching structures it has in place after this embarrassing final outcome.

Adelaide United's coach is also not the subject of an international investigation like the Kangaroos' coach is after his 'dummy spit'.

Rebecca, you whinged and complained about the quality players heading overseas in soccer- but what about the likes of Williams, Gasnier, Tuquiri and co.?

And what about the social disasters the game has had to go through in recent times? Rape trials, drugs, urinating in public, glassing attacks, sex scandals etc.....?

Crowds in the NRL in 2008 have been nothing to write home about.

And you say that soccer is "in a sad, sad state?"

Yeah right.

### JAPAN vs AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 2009

Good news for fans of the Qantas Socceroos with confirmation that more tickets have been secured for the Japan v Australia clash in Yokohama in February next year.

The first set of tickets went on sale last Thursday and were snapped up within minutes.

"We are delighted that so many fans want to see the Qantas Socceroos in action in Japan," said Football Federation Australia (FFA) CEO, Ben Buckley.

"I know the team really value the small travelling band of supporters who attend away matches but, clearly, there will be a significant level of support in Japan."

Qantas Socceroo, Tim Cahill who scored two goals against Japan in the 2006 FIFA World Cup, said that the match will be an important one for Australia.

"We're top of the group and Japan is second with only five games to go in this qualification round, so a result either way could be a defining moment of the qualifying campaign. We know

they're keen to 'shut us up', as their manager said recently, so it will be a massive game for them at home. The more Aussie fans there, the better for us. It's always great to see a sea of gold in the crowd," said Cahill.

The tickets will go on sale via Ticketek online only on Wednesday 3 December at 12 midday at a cost of \$60 AUD each. Buckley urged fans to get online early on 3 December to avoid disappointment.

"We know that many fans were disappointed after last week's sale period, but the sale process is 'first in, first served'. It's good news that we've been able to secure these additional tickets to go towards meeting the overwhelming demand for this game," Buckley said.

The Japan v Australia match will be held at Yokohama International Stadium on Wednesday 11 February 2009 at 7.20pm local kick-off. The return match will be held at the MCG on Wednesday 17 June.

In between the two Japan matches, Australia meet Uzbekistan in Sydney on 1 April, Qatar in Doha on 6 June and Bahrain in Sydney on 10 June.

### FFA's A-LEAGUE TRIVIA.....

FFA's snapshot of interesting football facts, figures and trivia as we head into Round 13 of Hyundai A-League 2008-09.

Did you know.....

That for only the second time in Hyundai A-League history that each of the home teams - Melbourne Victory, Adelaide United, Wellington Phoenix and Queensland Roar - all secured a win last weekend?

That the Queensland Roar have never won a match at the Sydney Football Stadium?

That Perth Glory have remained undefeated in their past four home matches, whilst the Central Coast Mariners have lost their past four away matches?

The Newcastle Jets will be aiming to break a four match losing streak when they take on Adelaide United. The last time the Newcastle Jets went five matches without a win was from September to October 2006.

Back in 2006 and on this very round, Frank Farina commenced his Hyundai A-League coaching career.

On this round back in 2007, the Hyundai A-League celebrated the three millionth spectator to walk through the gates (229th match).

This weekend's matches

- **Friday 28 November**
- Wellington Phoenix (6) v Melbourne Victory (1) at Westpac Stadium
- Sydney FC (5) v Queensland Roar (3) at Sydney Football Stadium

- **Saturday 29 November**
- Perth Glory (8) v Central Coast Mariners (4), Members Equity Stadium

- **Sunday 30 November**
- Newcastle Jets (7) v Adelaide United (2), EnergyAustralia Stadium

### WEST SYDNEY BERRIES ESTABLISH JUNIOR ACADEMY

West Sydney Berries have broken new ground again- this time in the field of youth development.

After a successful year re-establishing themselves at Premier Senior and Youth League levels the club has made steps to consolidate their long-term future by forming a link with elite junior academy Football Mundial.

Academy Director and A Licensed Coach Vince Colagiuri has been grooming some quality youngsters to progress to youth league, so the Berries to offer a clear pathway for his best players.

Players need expert coaching and consistency over their developing years. From 9 to 12 years of age I know Vince and his professional coaches can offer that in a modern SSG environment. After which the very best can step up to the club's U13's well equipped to play in Premier Youth League.

This way Berries youth league coaches can monitor the academy boys' progress through the year while Vince and his European coaches can contribute to their professional development when the occasions arise through the season.

In 2009 the Berries Academy will have U/10, U/11 and U/12 squads completing a program drawn from the best of European models. Colagiuri has worked with Inter Milan Youth Coaches quite extensively over the last four years while also consulting Bayer Leverkusen youth coach Markus Kirchner in Sydney over recent months.

Welcoming the partnership Colagiuri said, "The West Sydney Berries have demonstrated themselves to be a financially solid and stable club which is the perfect environment I want my players to graduate to."

In regards to his program of 2008 the ex Marconi NSL Champion said, "This year the FM squad completed over 130 training sessions and played 50+ small-sided matches. By October 2009 when they trial for places at the West Sydney Berries they will be the best prepared players there.

The Berries Academy under Vince Colagiuri is currently trialing players for it's 2009 squads. For more details call 0400-324432.



The West Sydney Berries Junior Academy