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Sports World

With LAKIS KONISTIS

"DISAPPOINTING" CROWD LAST NIGHT TOO?

We all know why "The Daily Telegraph" said that the recent crowd figure of 39,540 for the Socceroos vs Bahrain game was "disappointing" don't we?

"The Daily Telegraph" is a News Limited publication... And we all know the enormous financial interest the organisation has in rugby league.

Yes it's true that only 39,540 turned up MIDWEEK to celebrate Australia's qualification to the World Cup on one of Sydney's coldest nights of the year so far.. Now let's compare this figure to the recent Australia vs New Zealand rugby league test on a FRIDAY NIGHT where the kangaroos won 38-10, in front of a "far better" crowd of 37,152! Or what about the Wallabies, who drew 39,688 to their recent Baa Baa's clash which even had one Sonny Bill Williams playing?

Wednesday night almost 70,000 turned up in Melbourne to watch the Socceroos beat Japan. How many rugby league internationals have attracted such a response in Melbourne? Come off it fellas... Are you serious about what you are writing?

BIG FOOTBALL CROWDS

Whilst on football crowds this week, here are a few appetising crowd statistics...

1. The Qantas Socceroos made history at ANZ Stadium on 16 November 2005, breaking a 32 year hoodoo by

qualifying for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. The historic moment at ANZ Stadium came in the most dramatic style possible – a victory over Uruguay in a penalty shootout in front of 82,698 absolutely delirious fans.

2. The Socceroos, (not the Kangaroos nor the Wallabies) also featured in the official opening of the Stadium on 12 June 1999 when the FIFA World Stars prevailed 3-2 in front of 88,101.

3. Since then ANZ Stadium has hosted many prestigious football fixtures, including the 2000 Olympic Games men's football final between Cameroon and Spain. The 104,098 attendance remains an Australian record for football.

4. In November 2007, the match between LA Galaxy and Sydney FC at ANZ Stadium showcased the celebrity superstar David Beckham. The 80,295 attendance remains an Australian record for a club football game.

AUSTRALIANS JOIN THE BID!

The people of Australia are the "secret weapon" of Australia's bid to host the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup according to the Chairman of Football Federation Australia (FFA), Frank Lowy. "We believe this bid is realistic and it's achievable. Hosting the World Cup would provide Australia with an unparalleled opportunity and give Australia a lasting and living legacy for generations to come. On the world stage, there is no event with the same level of global appeal or audience reach as the FIFA World Cup."

Mr Lowy said that the cumulative global television audience in 2006 was 26.2 billion with the single largest audience group coming from the Asian Football Confederation, of which Australia is a member.

"Asia is on the rise economically, in terms of goods and services and in foot-

ball," he said. "Australia is part of the Asian Football Confederation and is in the Asian time zone."

Mr Lowy said that Australia also has a proud record in hosting major events. "Bidding for, and hosting, the FIFA World Cup is a natural corollary of our proud history in staging major events as a strategy to grow, develop and promote Australia as a nation.

"Events such as the 1956 and 2000 Olympic Games, four Commonwealth Games, the Formula 1 Grand Prix, the Indy 500, the Rugby World Cup, the Cricket World Cup, the Australian Open, the FIFA World Youth Cup and World Youth Day have all added to Australia's reputation and image as a nation, and as a serious and credible contender in major event hosting and management." But Mr Lowy said that Australia's "secret weapon" is the Australian people, and Australia as a destination. "People from all over the world want to visit our country. Thanks to the performance of the Qantas Socceroos at the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany, as well as the many thousands of Australian fans who followed them, the rest of the world has a very positive view of us. Our aim is to show FIFA and the football world that we are passionate about football and welcoming the world."

PM & FFA FILM

FFA also unveiled a promotional film which showcases Australia as a destination, as well as its football and event hosting credentials, encouraging the world to 'Come Play!'. The film showcases the Qantas Socceroos as well as a ball travelling around Australia visiting every state and territory showcasing cities, stadia, the outback, wineries and beaches with everyday Australians in a playful mood.

A surprise appearance in the promo-

tional film involves Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

"We are delighted that the Prime Minister accepted our invitation to be in the promotional film as it emphasises to the international community that our bid is backed by the Government".

FFA will be required to make a final presentation to FIFA, football's world governing body, in December 2010 prior to a decision behind made.

NINE BIDDERS

There are nine bidders for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, including: Australia, Belgium/Netherlands, England, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Portugal /Spain, Russia, United States For the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the same nine countries are also bidding. They are joined by Qatar and Korea Republic, bringing the total number of bidders to 11. The two winning bidders will earn the right to host the FIFA World Cup, in either June/July 2018 or June/July 2022, as well as the FIFA Confederations Cup (held in the preceding year).

HOW THE BID IS WON?

The 24 members of the FIFA Executive Committee decide who hosts the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup. In December 2008, FIFA confirmed simultaneous bidding for the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World World Cups.

This means that the host countries for both tournaments will be determined by the FIFA Executive Committee, when they meet in December 2010. The winning bid will be selected by an exhaustive ballot (i.e. each member of the FIFA Executive Committee will vote for a single country, the country with the fewest votes will be eliminated. Further rounds of voting will then occur until the vote is between two remaining countries and a final winner is selected).



ERREA TIPPING COMPETITION

| | Αλιφέρης Γιώργος | Κονιστής Λάκης | Αυγερινός Δημήτρης | Σταυρουλάκης Μανόλης | Σταυρουλάκης Γιώργος | Νικολάου Παναγιώτης | Το πουλί |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Σάθερλαντ-Γούλονγκονγκ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Μπόνιριγκ-Μένλι | X | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Μαρκόνι-Σίδνεϊ Γιουνάιτεντ | 1 | 1 | X | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Σίδνεϊ Τάιγκερς-Μπλακτάουν | 1 | 1 | X | 1 | 1 | 1 | X |
| Γουέστ Σίδνεϊ Μπέρικς-Μπανκστάουν | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | X | 1 |
| Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ-Πένριθ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | X |
| ΒΑΘΜΟΙ | 36 | 36 | 37 | 39 | 40 | 36 | 34 |



Ο νικητής θα κερδίσει \$1000 δολάρια τα οποία θα διατεθούν σε ίδρυμα της επιλογής του. Το ποσό αυτό είναι ευγενική προσφορά της εταιρίας αθλητικών ειδών "ERREA".

