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## Sports World

With LAKIS KONISTIS

### OBAMA JOINS US BID FOR WORLD CUP

In the same way our PM Kevin Rudd has endorsed our own World Cup Bid, so too has President Barack Obama lobbied the head of international soccer on the United States' bid to host the World Cup. He has even expressed the desire to attend the upcoming contest in South Africa. Obama met with FIFA president Sepp Blatter at the White House to discuss the United States' prospects to attract the tournament in 2018 or 2022. Blatter then invited Obama to attend the World Cup in South Africa in 2010, and Obama said he'd like to make that trip.

"You know, I hope to," Obama said to reporters as he walked back toward the West Wing after a separate event. "We're going to take a look at the schedule." Blatter said he heard the same message during their closed-door meeting, which included some soccer moves in the Oval Office. Obama bounced the ball on his foot, "making two, three movements, and then he took it to his head," Blatter said.

Asked how Obama did, Blatter said the move "merits a compliment." He then added Obama is not ready for United States' team that almost defeated Brazil. Blatter presented Obama with a soccer ball from that Confederations Cup match, which saw the U.S. team lose 3-2 after leading 2-0.

The entire soccer movement in the United States could receive a tremendous boost if the 2018 or 2022 World Cup is awarded to the Americans. FIFA will decide in December 2010, with England considered the front-runner for 2018.

Blatter has expressed a preference for bringing the tournament back to Europe after stints in Africa and then South America, where Brazil will host the 2014 World Cup. The United States is one of 11 countries that has formally declared its desire to host either event, while Netherlands-Belgium and Portugal-Spain have submitted joint bids.

### SEVEN SOCCEROO GAMES AHEAD

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced a program for the Qantas Socceroos involving seven matches over the next eight months as they prepare to participate in the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, as well as secure qualification for the 2011 AFC Asian Cup. The seven matches will be played at home, with Sydney Football Stadium set to host the number 3 team in the world, the Netherlands, in an international friendly on Saturday 10th October.

Last September the Qantas Socceroos defeated the Netherlands 2-1 in Eindhoven courtesy of a Harry Kewell penalty and a Josh Kennedy header. The only other time these two nations faced each other was in June 2006 when the Qantas Socceroos drew 1-1 with Netherlands in Rotterdam in the lead up to the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Four days later, the team plays a crucial AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Oman at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium. Australia currently sits fourth in their AFC Asian Cup qualification group and it is vital that the Qantas Socceroos make the most of the double FIFA break.

The third home game will be played at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on 3rd March 2010 in another AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Indonesia. The four remaining matches for the Qantas Socceroos involve two international friendlies and two further AFC Asian Cup qualifiers. The Qantas Socceroos will meet Ireland in Limerick (Ireland) in just under a weeks time, as well as Korea in Seoul on 5th September in friendly matches. The AFC Asian Cup matches involve Oman in Muscat on 14th November and Kuwait in Kuwait City on 6th January 2010.

### Qantas Socceroos Match Program 2009-2010

- 12 August 2009: Republic of Ireland v Australia
- 5 September 2009: Korea Republic v Australia
- 10 October 2009: Australia v Netherlands @ Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney
- 14 October 2009: Australia v Oman @ Etihad Stadium, Melbourne (AFC Asian Cup 2011 qualifier)
- 14 November 2009: Oman v Australia (AFC Asian Cup 2011 qualifier)
- 6 January 2010: Kuwait v Australia (AFC Asian Cup 2011 qualifier)
- 3 March 2010: Australia v Indonesia @ Suncorp S-

tadium, Brisbane (AFC Asian Cup 2011 qualifier)

### WE TOLD YOU SO!

"Sportsowrld" has been proven to be SPOT ON.....

We have been proclaiming for a while now that the current "Top 5" teams had already been decided- and that has become FACT after Round 21. We predicted a long, long time ago that Sydney United would be the 'team to beat' and would in fact win this year's Minor Premiership. We also said to look out for the Bankstown City Lions- who would prove to be the BIG improvers- and they have been. We also have been highlighting for AGES NOW that Sydney Olympic would miss out on a "Top 5" spot- primarily because of their woeful defence- WHICH WAS NOT CORRECTED! As a result, Olympic was humiliated last weekend by the Sutherland Sharks- who clearly exposed, for yet another time, the deficiencies in Sydney Olympic's defence. 41 goals conceded- the second worst in the league. Only Wollongong (56 goals) has conceded more, and they will finish last! So there you have it- Sydney United, Bankstown City, Sutherland, Marconi and Manly will be the semi finalists of the NSW Premier League in 2009! The rest, can start planning for 2010... as soon as possible.

### BETESY-BET-OF-THE-WEEK

Suggested bets this weekend:

In the 4th test I really think Australia can level the series because I could tell by the way Mitchell Johnson was fired up in the 3rd test he has his confidence back and he will be the difference between the 2 teams.

Australia to win \$2.80 and Michell Johnson man of the match at \$15.00. In the rugby league Bulldogs to beat Canberra 1-1, Parramatta to beat Newcastle, and Manly to beat Souths, which will give as the juicy odds off \$6.10.

Racing bet:  
Randwick Race 5 no. 2 Clothing with a good barrier should win

Good luck,  
The Scotsman



## ERREA TIPPING COMPETITION

	Αλιφέρης Γιώργος	Κονιστής Λάκης	Αυγερινός Δημήτρης	Σταυρουλάκης Μανόλης	Σταυρουλάκης Γιώργος	Νικολάου Παναγιώτης	Το πουλί
Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ-Μαρκόνι	1	2	1	2	2	1	2
Πένριθ-Σάθερλαντ	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
Μένλι-Σίδνεϊ Γιουνάιτεντ	X	2	1	1	1	1	1
Μπλακτάουν-Μπανκστάουν	2	2	1	2	2	2	X
Σίδνεϊ Τάιγκερς-Γούλονγκονγκ	1	1	1	1	1	1	X
Γουέστ Σίδνεϊ Μπέρις-Μπόνιριγκ	1	X	1	1	1	1	1
<b>ΒΑΘΜΟΙ</b>	58	55	52	60	61	53	47



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".

