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Sports World

With LAKIS KONISTIS

**Ο ΚΟΣΜΟΣ”
ACKNOWLEDGED
BY FOOTBALL NSW**

Leading Australian-Greek newspaper ‘O Kosmos’ held a special awards day on Saturday 5th September at Burwood’s Cafe Vass acknowledging the efforts of various players, coaches and officials that have taken part in all competitions run by Football NSW in 2009- and in return Football NSW acknowledged ‘O Kosmos’ efforts on its very own website!

Football NSW General Manager Ian Holmes, Football NSW Media Manager Mark Stavroulakis, Football NSW Personal Relations Coordinator Bruce Da Silva, former Football NSW director Jim Ronis were all present on the day as well as players, coaches and officials from across the NSW State Leagues.

NSW General Manager Ian Holmes was delighted with the event. “This is quite simply publicity you cannot buy. ‘O Kosmos’ has done a fantastic job promoting all our competitions and I dearly thank them for their on-going support and efforts for our game.”

Congratulations to the inaugural winners of the Individual awards that were handed on the day:

- ✓ The ‘Acropolis Golden Boot’ Award: Dimitri Zakilas.
- ✓ The ‘Alexander the Great Rising Star’ Award: Dimitrios Petratos.
- ✓ The ‘300 Spartans’ Long Service Award: Aheleas Kotsopoulos
- ✓ The ‘Odysseus Most Travelled’ Award: Peter Zorbas.
- ✓ The ‘Spiros Louis’ Award: George Souris.
- ✓ The ‘Pericles Golden Century’ Award: Panny Nikas.

**AUSSIE INSPECTION
THIS WEEK**

A delegation from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) arrived in Australia this week for an inspection tour of facilities and infrastructure as part of Australia’s bid for the 2015 AFC Asian Cup.

The delegation visited key stadiums, training sites and hotels around the country as part of the week -ong inspection tour.

The AFC Asian Cup is the pre-eminent national team tournament played in the Asian region. The tournament was first played in 1956, and has never been hosted by Australia which only joined the Asian Football Confederation in 2006.

A decision on the hosts for the 2015

AFC Asian Cup is anticipated in November this year.

Australia is also bidding for the right to host the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup with a decision to be made on the successful bidders for both tournaments in December 2010.

**HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
ROUND 6 UPDATE**

With Gold Coast United and Sydney FC currently taking turns at the top of the table, Round 6 is set for more Hyundai A-League action as the rest of the competition attempts to unseat them.

With another 12 goals added to the already impressive tally so far this season, Round 6 offers home matches to five of the inaugural members with Adelaide United hosting Central Coast Mariners, Newcastle Jets welcoming Brisbane Roar, Sydney FC at home to new boys North Queensland Fury, Wellington Phoenix crossing the Tasman to take on Melbourne Victory, and league leaders Gold Coast United heading west for their clash with Perth Glory at ME Bank Stadium.

400 FOR ALOISI!

Sydney FC striker John Aloisi is set to make his 400th appearance at national league level. Aloisi joined Sydney FC in 2008 after stints at Adelaide City, Royal Antwerp, Cremonese, Portsmouth, Coventry City, Osasuna, Alaves and Central Coast Mariners.

**SHARK FRENZY
TO HIT STALLIONS AGAIN?**

The Marconi Stallions may have knocked out the Telechoice Minor Premiers Sydney United, but they will find the Sutherland Sharks a much tougher opponent in this weekend’s Telechoice Grand Final at CUA Stadium.

In 2009, the Sharks have beaten the Stallions twice already.

During the season proper, the Sutherland Sharks beat Marconi at Marconi Stadium in Round 6 (2-1), and both teams played out a draw (1-1) at Shark Park in the return clash in Round 17. Both teams faced off against each other in the Preliminary semi final on August 23rd at Marconi Stadium- and yet again it was the Sharks who walked away with the victory (1-0).

Can the Sharks add another trophy next to their Tiger Turf Cup they won in August? I think they can.

GO SPIRIT FC!

“Sportsworld’s” favourite Super League team Spirit FC have knocked over the Super League Minor Premiers Rockdale City by 2-0.

Spirit FC now meets Parramatta P-CYC in the NSW Super League Grand Final which will also be held at CUA Stadium on Sunday (12:30pm).

What a great debut season Spirit FC has had in the NSW Super League! Win or lose on Sundy afternoon, they are one organisation who I am sure will be in the Premier League in the years to come.

**DULWICH HILL
AFTER REVENGE!**

Well we were right about Dulwich Hill overcoming UNSW- just!

Now they have the chance to exact some revenge over Mounties FC after they stormed into the Grand Final first a few weeks ago.

What a great game- one that will be played at Belmore Sports Ground Sunday (5pm).

Dulwich Hill to achieve the ‘double’ for mine.

**OLYMPIC U/13’s
RUNNERS UP**

Sydney Olympic only Minor Premiers for 2009, its U/13’s, could not achieve the ‘double’ in 2009 after being beaten by Wollongong in a penalty shootout after the scores were locked 1-1 after extra

time.

The youngsters should still hold their heads high after a super year and one hopes that Sydney Olympic acknowledges the youngsters’ feats in the coming weeks.

**OLYMPIC U/20’s
GRAND FINAL**

Sydney Olympic’s U/20’s play their Grand Final tomorrow at Belmore Sports Ground against Sydney United (3pm).

Good luck to them.

BRAZIL THE TEAM TO BEAT

So what’s new in world football.....

Brazil remains at the top of the FIFA rankings for a third straight month and remains the favourite for the World Cup next year.

European champion Spain stayed second, followed by The Netherlands. World champion Italy is even with Germany in fourth place. But there were several teams that have recorded their best rankings in ages- the USA rose one place to 11th, its best placing since the 2006 World Cup.

Australia too have recorded their best ever ranking- 14th.

Russia (6th), England (7th) and Argentina (9th) were unchanged and in spot 9 is Croatia who traded places with France (10th).

Whilst on the Brazilians, they beat Argentina 3-1 in their World Cup qualifier.

Brazil couldn’t have asked for more as Argentina had lost only once before at home in 50 World Cup qualifying matches- a 5-0 defeat to Colombia in 1993.

Brazil’s 3-1 victory, courtesy of two goals from striker Luis Fabiano and one by defender Luisao, extended Brazil’s winning streak to 10 matches and they are unbeaten in 18!

Still not convinced they are the team to beat?



Bonnyrigg White Eagles have re-signed the coaching services of Scotsman Brian Brown for 2010

BONNYRIGG HAS ‘BOMBER’ AND OLYMPIC ‘MARANDO’ IN 2010

I will go on the record right here, right now and predict that Bonnyrigg White Eagles will finish higher than Sydney Olympic in 2010! Sure we are ages away before even one would consider season 2010 but for sure and certain the Bonnyrigg White Eagles will be a major player and an almost certain “Top 5” contender under the guidance of their reappointed coach Brian “Bomber” Brown and his assistant Cliff Pointer. The same optimism cannot be held for Sydney Olympic who have opted for an inexperienced 1st Grade coach for 2010.

Without being disrespectful to Pat Marando, who has achieved very good success with U/20’s sides in more recent times, the 1st Grade coaching spot, especially at Sydney Olympic required someone far more experienced- and someone with a far greater profile. Was it the money? Did the 2010 budget not allow for someone else? I hope I am proven wrong on this one- but I have a terrible feeling that the Board of Sydney Olympic have got it wrong- yet again! The advantage with someone like Brown & Pointer is that they already have a large pool of players to recruit for Bonnyrigg. Does Sydney Olympic have the same luxury?

The Bonnyrigg pair have commenced discussions with key players for 2010. Stay tuned for some key announcements in this respect in the coming weeks. The most disappointing aspect of this is that Sydney Olympic HAD THE CHANCE to get Brown/Pointer to Sydney Olympic approximately six weeks ago- but instead wasted the chance and the opportunity.

What a real shame.....