

completely forgotten the value of good defensive signings. Our 2008/2009 defense consists of:

- Juric and Petkovic, two keepers with the agility of statues.
- Foxe and Tarka, serial cripples extraordinaire.
- Sekulovski, a striker-cum-winger-cum-midfielder-cum-defender.
- Downey, a winger or perhaps wing back, posing as a full back.
- Topor-Stanley, a left back playing centre who supposedly doesn't want to be here.
- Coyne, a player whose preferred position even he doesn't seem to know.
- Djulbic, a hero one season and told to get out the next.
- Doyle and Lee, players given a couple of games and never looked at again.
- Harnwell, a true hero, but getting a little older thus he isn't a long-term prospect.

Granted, Tando Velaphi has come to our rescue in the latter half of the year, but the four in front of him still don't look anywhere near capable And we still do not have any full backs! What we wouldn't give for Scotty Miller right about now. Or a creative, goal-scoring defender like Adelaide's Cassio. Or just a good, solid defender like a Murphy, Moore, or Ognenovski.

Buying attacking goal-scorers is all well and good, and they'll hopefully provide some entertainment for the fans. But if you continue to leak goals at the other end, chances are that you won't get the wins that the fans really crave- and god knows how much Glory fans are craving a good lot of those right now.

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### COMRADE COLPOL SAYS

#### **Marc Anthony.**

Marc Anthony initially received strong criticism for his physical shape and the fact that he takes up a foreign player spot, even though he was from the local state league. But with match fitness and extra training sessions, he has improved his game to become an important playing in the Perth Glory midfield. He has not looked out of his depth in the A-League and for this reason I believe that Mitchell should re-sign Anthony for next season.

With the news that Shroj has re-signed, Glory are looking to build on an area that has let them down: holding midfielders. So often this season Glory has looked fantastic going forward, but fell short at the back. A player who can fill that "holding", "screening" or dare i say "Makélélé" role is vital to the tactical shape of any football team. That position is important to give your two centre halves cover from players running at them from midfield, which forces them to leave their man and get sucked in. Having Shroj and Anthony signed next season will give the team better options in that position.

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# Planet Purple



*By the fans, for the fans*

**5th January 2009**

**Perth Glory**

**Vs**

**Melbourne Tards**

<http://www.planetpurplefanzine.com/>

## Season Finally Over

By Sean

Well we all really knew that this season was over after that 3—0 loss to Queensland back at MES in September, but somehow Glory managed to hang on and at least make an effort. We had a run of good form in recent weeks, and even the most pessimistic of fans were getting excited at the prospect of finals Football for our beloved club.

Now we must build for next season and let's hope that we go out in these last 3 games with a bang. There is nothing I would enjoy more than seeing Perth Glory, with nothing to lose, gunning down Melbourne Victory, Newcastle (especially Newcastle) and Queensland.

Bring on the youth while you're at it let's see what they can do. When speaking to one of the youth team players he remarked that he didn't get much game time because of senior players taking up squad spots. Well now the seniors have stuffed up it's time for the youth to take away some senior squad spots—they are the future of Perth Glory after all.

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## The Travelling Fan: Sydney

By Chris Egan

Sydney FC v Perth Glory was a match to be savored, and as the first goal from Pellegrino went in, I got yells of "sit down, shut up, go to the away bay". Nothing was more sweet than for Glory to go ahead while I was sitting in the SFS members area with a few Blinger fans. I was also stoked at \$3.80 for a pint of Carlton Draught!

But Pellegrino's goal was not the end of the day. When the second goal went in, it was a case of hallelujah. Then while I was shouting beers because of a likely win at the bookies, I missed the wonder strike by Wayne Srhoj that secured the three points. The resulting mood at the SFS was dismay; they booed Aloisi, they booed Kosmina, and I was lapping it up. It was only a few months back that Sydney had been saying they would naturally make the finals of the A-League.

But I am never comfortable with a two or three goal lead, as the gremlins continue to come back year after year for the men in purple. When Musialik's wonder goal went in, I got nervous, just as I had last season when Sydney scored two goals after Glory was

## The Actually, Really, Really, Really Hilarious Award

Sydney FC.

Ha, ha and indeed, ha. Kosmina showed what an absolute "if I was a chocolate drop I'd eat myself" kind of guy he is during that talent quest thingy. And what fabulous entertainment Bling FC have provided this season under his leadership.

So many highlights; from the return on the investment in Aloisi and Colosimo, to Shannon Cole drowning in the spurting semen showered on him by Mike Cockerill. The endless parade of comedy NSW state league defenders and, most side-achingly hilarious of all, Aloisi's second miss against us and Robbie Middleby's own goal.

Even when football really pisses you off, there are moments when you remember why you love the game so much. If we get above Sydney and Newcastle need a win to do the same from the last game then we should forfeit. Unless they need more than three goals, in which case we should play and score for them.

I head overseas for a couple of weeks soon - so my season is over - thanks to the fixturing buffoons. The laughs (intended and unintended) provided by my fellow fans have been invaluable.

To see our proud club at a point where *not finishing bottom* is a successful season, would otherwise be far too depressing.

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## Twelve Months in a Leaky Boat

By Dave

Perth Glory's current defensive unit is the worst the club has ever put on the field. I didn't like Ron Smith or his teams and formations, but even his defence leaked less goals than our current one. To give you an idea, here's some statistics:

- 2000/01: 30 games, 33 goals, 1.10 goals/game
- 2001/02: 24 games, 23 goals, 0.95 goals/game
- 2002/03: 24 games, 22 goals, 0.92 goals/game
- 2003/04: 24 games, 22 goals, 0.92 goals/game
- 2005/06: 21 games, 29 goals, 1.38 goals/game
- 2006/07: 21 games, 30 goals, 1.43 goals/game
- 2007/08: 21 games, 34 goals, 1.62 goals/game
- 2008/09: 17 games, 35 goals, 2.06 goals/game

It makes for some sad reading. We've let in over a goal a game since the start of the A-League, and this season that figure has doubled. Now some might say it's due to injuries and unlucky signings- but frankly, that's the whole point. In my opinion we have

### **Most Predictable Disappointment**

A tie between.... Foxe being out and Amaral getting injured

### **Most Irritating Habit**

Club claiming injured players are out for one week when everyone knows it is bullshit

### **No, Don't Do That, You Will Look Like a Pillock Award**

Robinson's merkin haircut.

### **A Bridge Too Far Award**

Scott Bulloch, Jeff Bright and Mark Lee

### **The Actually, Really, Really, Really, Good Thing Award**

The youth side.

Our next coach and his assistant are getting fantastic experience and we have some genuine prospects. If Steve Hesketh and one or two others don't get a game now that it is finally admitted our season is over, then Sage should get out the cheque book, admit a catastrophic error and pay Mitchell off. We could do much, much worse than play this lot as the nucleus of our team and use the spare money to get in four or five really good players to show them the way.

### **The Please, Please, Please Just Shut the Fuck Up Award**

Andy Harper. I swear to God that I never, ever, in my wildest nightmares, thought anyone would bump Tommy Smyth-with-a-Y off the top of my "Commentators That Make Me Want to Smash My Television To Smithereens Then Eat the Debris" list.

Harper has done so. Never using one word where an entire thesaurus would do (*Ed: Why does Chris Egan spring to mind?*) and giving the impression that he would like nothing more than giving that useless lump Matt Simon a solid rogering, he has dragged commentary to a new level - downwards. Season reached its nadir when he made Nick Rizzo man of the match for one of our games and eulogised about how well he (Rizzo) has adapted to the A-League.

3-0 up. Yet the Glory, playing one of its best games of the year, did not lie down.

The fourth goal that Middleby expertly put in the back of the net caused another outburst from a Sydney crowd in mourning.

As I walked down to celebrate with the away bay, I slapped the hand of a kid in a kappa shirt. The amount of Sydney based Glory supporters is astounding, the faith and loyalty warms your heart. All up, the celebrations, the laughs, the looks on my Sydney mates' faces had all made it a priceless away trip.

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## **My Season Review and Special Awards**

### *By NoGoalsNoGlory*

This club sits almost in exactly the same position as it did a year ago. After an abysmal start, we had a crisis meeting, a review, and then another review. We scrambled a few decent results that were never going to be enough to get us to the finals, but DID allow the "this game is crucial" card to be played for a few weeks (just as it was last season). Indeed, if we take only one point from our remaining three games, we could finish on exactly the same tally as last year.

Our crucial weaknesses last season, as foreseen on the forum, were injury prone players, poor recruitment (too many not-quite-first-teamers) and therefore an over-reliance on one or two men. We lacked proper full backs, had far too much disruption in the centre of defence, could not make a decision about our goalkeeper and repeatedly failed to play people in their proper positions.

So, let's compare...

### **\* Injury prone players**

Mistake repeated. Foxe, thank goodness, has been cleared of cancer, but there is no prospect of him making a proper comeback. There never was when we signed him! One of the worst pieces of business the club has ever done, he hadn't played regularly for years before we signed him.

Amaral's age was always a concern. Again and again it has been shown that older players can find it hard to adjust to Australian conditions, and the hectic travel schedule which plays havoc with soft tissue injuries. Whisper it quietly but haven't we done better without him than we did when he was in the team?

Plenty of others sidelined more than once or for long periods; Harnwell, Coyne, Robinson etc.

#### \* **Too many not-quite-first-teamers**

Mistake repeated. We have so many journeymen it is beyond satire. Fortunately Pellegrino rose above the crowd. If we lost him, Harnwell and Nikita, we would be completely bugged. Sikora looks handy but was on US\$160,000 at Dallas, so he needs to be better-than-good to justify that sort of money.

#### \* **We lacked proper full backs**

Mistake repeated. People can go on about Naum improving all they like. He is not, and never will be, a left back. He ball-watches and consistently loses his man. I feel sorry for him, as he is a trier in the wrong spot, but it can't go on.

Downey is not a right back. Honestly. Come out of The Shed for one match and sit on the side he is playing. Then tell me he is a right back.

#### \* **Too much disruption in the centre of defence**

We did not play the same back four in consecutive games until halfway through the season. Even then it was forced on Mitchell because of injuries and suspension. He couldn't tinker because his favourites were all out.

#### \* **Could not make a decision about our goalkeeper**

If there is one stand-out reason why the two year extension for Mitchell was a huge gamble, or a panic-inspired decision, this was it.

Firstly, he actually signed Frank Juric. We may never know what the hell motivated that.

Then he swapped him around with Jason, long past the time when everyone else had realised neither was up to it any longer. Again, Mitchell was basically forced into making the right decision and finally picking Tando.

#### \* **Repeatedly failed to play people in their proper positions**

Mistake repeated. It beggars all belief that after last season Nikita yet again spent a third or so of the season on the wing. Even when he did eventually move to the middle and started scoring Mitchell still kept switching him to the flank when he made substitutions. Why? Someone, please come up with a plausible explanation on the wisdom of moving your most likely goal-scorer to the flanks, when you are chasing a game.

Pellegrino has been a revelation since (again) Mitchell's hand was forced and Pellegrino shifted out wide.

What do we do when 1-0 down at home to Adelaide and Adrian is clearly the most threatening player, getting past his full back and popping in good crosses? We move him inside. Jamie must be dizzy and neither full back is a proper full back.

But anyway, on to some alternative awards:

#### **Headscratching Moment**

This is a tie between:

Coach signs striker after not one, but two, trial periods. Only after signing the player does he have an epiphany and decide the bloke cannot defend and he doesn't rate him.

*and*

Coach signs Goodyear Blimp to play in goal. Only after signing the player does he realise he looks, and indeed plays, like the Goodyear Blimp.

#### **Most Pleasant Surprise**

Adriano Pellegrino. A slow start, when he was doing most of Amaral's running and didn't seem to have a clue what position he was meant to be playing, but then circumstances forced him out wide and he has been a star.