



From the Desk of the Technical Director

Number 12 – 11 December 2009

Here is an update on the ongoing trials for the 2010 Tasmania state teams.

To begin, may I say how extremely pleased all the coaches are at the tremendous response, with more than 150 male and female players attending our tryouts.

Last Sunday, for example, more than 30 females came to the second trial for the under 15s, a great indication of the growing popularity of football among females. This popularity was further illustrated on an earlier weekend, with nearly 30 females trying out for the under 13s.

Right now, the under 13 female squad of 16 has been selected, so has the under 14 male team.

At the under 15 male level, 15 players have been chosen, with efforts to find a second goalkeeper continuing.

Selection for the under 13 male team will be completed in early January, as it will be for the under 15 females.

Trials for the under 17 females will start in the New Year.

All the 2010 State squads will carry two goalkeepers, part of a concerted push to find and develop more goalies in Tasmania.

Developing a growing and strong pool of goalkeepers is crucial for Tasmanian football and is ignored at our peril. The goalkeeper is the most important player in the team and close attention has to be paid to helping us find the best possible candidates between the posts.

Goalkeeping is a unique position and it requires specialist coaching. To that end, I am looking into the possibility of having goalkeeping coaching courses on the island as soon as is practically possible. That way coaches can help provide their club goalkeepers with the individual and specialised attention that is warranted.

I also plan to have specialist goalkeeping sessions at State training.

Returning to the State squads, it should be realised that player selection did not begin with or solely rely on the trials. A good number of individuals were identified during the Hobart and Launceston carnivals and also at Futsal games. Our coaches past and present are constantly scouting and reporting on players throughout any given season.

When those identified males and females were joined at the northern and southern trials by a number of other players, the task of narrowing the squads to 16 players became extremely difficult.

All of us here at Football Federation Tasmania want to thank all of those players who have taken part. It is no easy matter to pick and choose and disappointments and disagreements are inevitable. Unfortunately, it is the nature of the beast at this level and final judgements have to be made.

To those who have made it so far, congratulations. Well done. To those who have not been selected, I would urge you to tryout for the regional teams and to keep practising, because there will be further opportunities to impress down the road.

Finally, I would just like to give a little mention to the State under 15 male team.

Prior to the national championships in October 2010, none of these boys will be replaced by players from the Tasmania Institute of Sport, as has been the case previously.

This under 15 squad will start training together in January, will play and grow together in a competitive league and then venture to Coffs Harbour to represent Tasmania.

None of the lads are under any illusion that it is going to be easy. Far from it. But I have already seen enough to know that this will be one very determined, capable and proud group. All of us need to get behind them - and our teams - and offer the support and encouragement they deserve.

And there is already a bonus. Because now, coupled with the TIS programme, we are developing some 25 under 15 male players at this elite level.

It is this type of development that has to be expanded amongst our players and it can only be good for the future of Tasmanian football.