



FOOTBALL FEDERATION
TASMANIA

FROM THE DESK OF THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

23 JULY, 2010

It has been a busy week and it only gets busier.

Monday and Wednesday evening this week were devoted to working with 25 Premier League players, all of whom were competing for a place in the final squad for Tuesday evening's game in Hobart against the Central Coast Mariners.

The Monday session included a short theory session on the 1-4-3-3, which the team will utilize, at the end of which the players were asked to write down on a card the roles they felt they could fill in the system.

Outside, the sessions moved into two sets of small sided games, 5 v 5. The size of area used for the games varied.

The goalkeepers worked with Neil Connell, the former Aberdeen and Middlesbrough keeper. The games were monitored by me and FFT's full time Southern Development Officer, Anthony Alexander.

The practice went into an 11 v 11 game broken into four 15 minutes periods. During the intervals teams were changed around to give everyone a chance to play in their preferred position.

The Wednesday session was 11 v 11, again with regular line-up changes.

Both nights, sports trainer Sandra Chisholm was there to deal with any problems and fortunately there was nothing of any consequence.

The selection of the final 16 was concluded Wednesday night and announced Thursday, but only after all 25 players had received a telephone call from me.

I must say that those players who were told they were not in the 16 reacted very supportively.

My sincere thanks to all 25 involved and the Premier clubs for their support.

Many of the players chosen are involved in cup games this weekend, so the next time we will be together is game night.

Putting together a group to play an A-League team in just over two weeks is not ideal preparation but, as all the players agreed, that is a far better alternative than not playing the game at all.

Only positives can be derived from this encounter, both for the players and the followers of football in Tasmania. It has stirred interest around the state and such promotion can only be of tremendous benefit, especially to our kids who one day dream of playing on the same big stage.

On Sunday, Melbourne Victory plays the Mariners in Launceston.

Four Victory players, two in Launceston and two in Hobart, flew in for the day Wednesday to run coaching clinics at four schools. That was great.

Before the Victory-Mariners match, there will be an under 20 game between Tasmania north and south.

On Monday, the Mariners practice at KGV and in the evening two of their coaches will run a clinic to which all local coaches are invited.

The Mariners will run another open practice next day at KGV and then, a few hours later, take to the park against our very own Tasmania team.

Details of all these exciting events are on the FFT website .