



# the top 3 corner

MARCH 2005

## kicking off HEATHER REID - CEO

Welcome to the first edition of the Top Corner for 2005. Even though our formal competition season wont officially be launched until April, for many of you the season started in February with the commencement of trials and practice games for the Academy program. Despite a few 'hiccups' with a new selection process and increase in the number of squads, a great deal has been achieved in a short amount of time. We have finalised the selections and almost completed the distribution of gear and equipment for around 300 players and officials.

**Congratulations to all players who were selected and thank you to everyone who trialled and provided support for the process.**

Last month we also announced the final step in the integration of three organisations (ACT Futsal, Women's Soccer Canberra and Soccer Canberra) into a single ACT soccer entity. As such all Futsal, junior, senior men and women players are under the one entity - soon to be known as "ACT Football Federation" and a new trading name will be revealed later this month.

**ACT Football represents over 15,000 participants. We are the largest sport in the national capital and region and one of the few sports that offers players the opportunity to play football for life - from juniors to masters and social to elite competitions with pathways for men and women that range from inter-school championships, world championships and the Olympic Games.**

Whatever your aspirations are for representing the ACT or a national league club or Australia I hope you always enjoy your sport in a safe and friendly environment. Good luck with your participation in the Academy program this year ... it will be a historic season filled with new challenges and rewards.



### inside:

U11's  
A first for the Academy

3

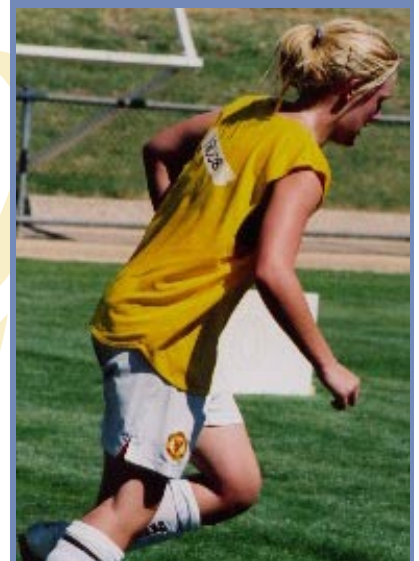
Farewell to  
Andrew Young  
U14 coach off to UK

5

Women's trials  
Welcome to U16 girls  
ACTAS/Satellites

6

SOCCER CANBERRA NEWSLETTER



For the Good of the Game



## a great start to 2005!

### JOHN MITCHELL

ACTING TECHNICAL MANAGER

Welcome to the first edition of the Top Corner for 2005. The positive atmosphere within the ACT Soccer Academy continues to grow with an extraordinary sequence of good news stories that punctuate the start of this year.

Great new coaches, National team representation (congratulations to ACTAS scholarship holders Caitlin Munoz, Lydia Williams, Ian Graham and Ben Cheyne), plenty of optimism, a great new training venue, and a great bunch of excited and talented young players having loads of fun...what more could we want?

A few words about our newly appointed coaches. Both Head Coaches, **Robbie Hooker** and **Milo Milovanovic**, have represented Australia as players. Both have significant links with the AIS (our model of excellence) – Milo as coach

for 7 years and Hooks as a scholarship holder and captain. Both have already toured with the National team in 2005 as Assistant Coach.

The list of squad coaches reads like a who's who of ACT Soccer – Tal Karp (Matilda), Barnado Zamora (El Salvador goalkeeper at 1970 World Cup), Marko "Mad Max" Perinovic (145 NSL games), Jason Dunn (75 NSL games, Australian Schoolboys rep), Dean Ugrinic (ACT Premier League player), PC Hepperlin (Matilda), Darryl North (ACT Premier League player), Robbie Graham (Scotland rep squad), Steve Hoshovsky (NSL player), Andrew Young (50 NSL games & Australian Youth Player), Di Alagich (current Matilda), Peter Mazis (50 NSL games), Lino Fiorese (50 NSL games), Katrina Staniforth (Canberra Eclipse player), John Nelson (NSL player), Colin Johnstone (NYL & ACT Premier League player), Katrina Neuss (Australian

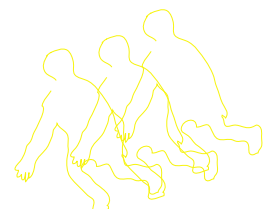
Rep – World University Games) – and there are more...but the list is amazing already.

We have actively recruited ex-players to provide mentors, models and effective demonstrators. We have also recruited a number of non-players to provide a balance to our approach and our perceptions. They are all well qualified coaches. We have sought to appoint managers that are not related to the players – this affords all parents the opportunity to watch and enjoy their son or daughter doing what they do so well. A number of the managers are also Assistant Coaches providing extra hands and support to the squad.

However the most important factor that identified the coaches and managers that we selected was their generosity of spirit – they are all great people who love football and kids. 2005 looks like it's going to be a big one!



Marko Perinovic training with the U14 boys at the AIS.





## 11s

**COLIN JOHNSTONE  
KATRINA STANIFORTH**

**coaches**

**The Academy's initiative to offer programs for the U11 age group for the first time provides earlier access to the elite pathway and aims to instil good playing habits in a crucial stage of player development.**

Rather than play matches as a squad, the U11 girls will come together as a training group to extend themselves in a challenging environment with other talented players and develop the requisite skills that will enable them to successfully adopt the Academy's preferred style of play in later years.

The development program will consist of:

- Two sessions on May 15 and 22
- Two one-week holiday clinics (July 11-15 and October 3-7)

In the May sessions, players will concentrate on individual ball mastery, possession and dribbling. Players will be encouraged to work on these skills in home practice, club training and weekend games.

In the clinic sessions at the end of Terms 2 and 3 the players will have the chance to apply these skills in a range of activities and small-sided games with the added focus being placed on receiving, passing, shooting and other elements of attacking play.

During the season, Academy coaching staff will be active in identifying talent, monitoring players and liaising with club coaches and parents to promote the aims of the program and to communicate and share ideas on the best ways to develop young female players in the ACT.

## 11s

**JURE POLEGUBIC**

**coach**

This was a difficult squad to select as this was the first year that Soccer Canberra has had a under 11's age group for a Development squad. We didn't know how many players would come and trial for this age group.

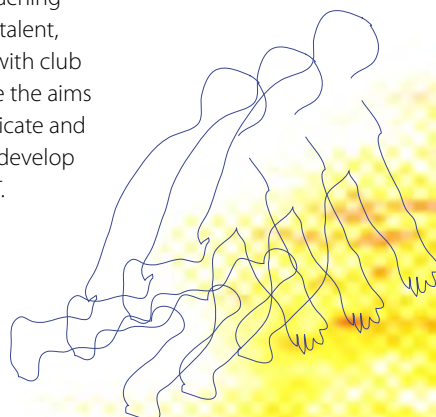
A total of eighty plus players registered for the trials. A number of coaches and Soccer Canberra Staff helped out with the selection process, resulting in the selection of 42 players.

After some games against Wollongong and Western Branch the boys played well considering it was their first experience playing together as a team. Some of the boys didn't know each others names which made it a little difficult, but in the end they enjoyed playing against the interstate teams.

The players selected will attend a school holiday clinic where they will get to know one another and have some fun as well.

**Over the upcoming season we will be going out to some of the local club games to keep our eye out for other future Development players.**

I would like to thank the Under 11's Development Squad Manager Bernie Evans. I know it's not easy being a manager and taking care of all the other things involved in running a team and Bernie is doing a great job.



## 12s

**ZORAN GLAVINIC**

**coach**

The beginning of the season was marked by the Gala Day, with 48 kids registering for the first day. The trials were conducted by the newly appointed coaches John Nelson and Zoran Glavinic with the help of Manager Daryl North and other helpers (thanks again).

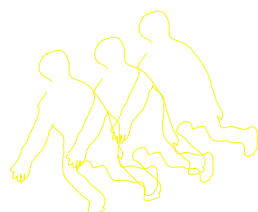
The boys were put through a tough 2 hour session. The coaches assessed the boys against a series of criteria such as composure on the ball, controlled receiving, composed passing, penetration, ability to delay opponent with the ball and mobility and positional sense. They also put the players through a drill using passing boards which put a lot of the boys to the test.

Some boys were asked to come back and participate in 3 games over the next week, the first being a game against the U14 Academy girls. The boys played well, taking late control of the game and were comfortable winners.

The next games were on the Sunday of the second Gala Day against a well drilled U12's Illawarra squad. Our boys never gave up and were tested in both games, with new players joining the squad and pushing the numbers up to 52. The result in both games did not matter. The players, coaches and manager had a hot and hard day out. We are looking forward to meeting Illawarra once again for a rematch.

We invited 16 players to play the Albury U13s at Hawker oval. The boys played very well and controlled the game with some good passing and possession. We ended up losing 3-1 to a bigger and older team, but we were happy with the performance of our team.

**CONTINUED OVER...**



## U12 BOYS CONTINUED

On the weekend of 26/ 27 February we enjoyed playing the Western Branch U13's in a 2-game series . The first game was a good team effort with lots of our players becoming comfortable with each other. This team then travelled to Nowra and had a hectic game against Southern Branch U13, while another team from our squad played the second game against Western Branch. We played fairly well in both games and represented ourselves and the ACT Football Academy professionally. The boys moved the ball around and kept possession. Thanks to all who made that weekend lots of fun.

During the trials all the boys, goalies excluded, were played out of position. This made it hard for the boys and tested their soccer abilities.

Those boys who were not selected can contact Paul Whittingham after hours or on weekends, after 14 March 2005 and request feedback on their performance to help them determine areas of improvement.

Thanks to all parents, players and selectors who participated in the trials - we are now looking forward to an exciting U12's development season.

# 13s

## NUNZIO RINAUDO

### manager

After a huge beginning to the year we finally chose a 30-man squad. Trials began in early February with a fantastic 56 boys attending at least one or more of the 8 gala days. Firstly thank you to all to tried out, the soccer played was excellent and it was a great way to kick off the season.

**The coaches were very impressed with all players, the talent presented was outstanding. They strongly urge those who missed out this year to come back and try again next season.**

With much help from various teams on the east coast our boys got a good taste for the competition and it certainly helped us to see the great teamwork each and every player showed. With teams ranging from Western Branch, Sydney, Albury all playing in the Under 14 age group, our boys managed to show them what Canberra Academy players are made of. Our sincere thanks to all the teams who played these games they were good sports and showed great enthusiasm, which is great to see.

Finally thank you to all who assisted on these days, the parental support was brilliant and the dedication to the trials is respected as some families were asked to travel to Nowra for a game. All in all there was plenty of fun to be had and we hope that it was not only fun for us but for the kids as well.



**ACTAS Women/Satellites trials**

Story page 5

# 14s

## MARCO

coach

### COACHING CHANGES

Parents and players of the Under 14s would like to pay tribute to Andrew Young who recently resigned as coach of the 14s squad to travel overseas. Andrew has been an incredible influence on the boys, introducing a style of play and quality of coaching the boys have been privileged to experience. Andrew's positive approach to the game, the confidence he has instilled in the players, and the superb possession game the 14s have adopted, is testament to the effort Andrew has put in over the last two years. Andrew will be sorely missed, and all players and parents thank Andrew sincerely for his contribution to this team.



## GAMES

February 27 saw the Under 14 Boys participate in a 'friendly' against Southern Branch Under 15s in Nowra. All the boys played very well under the circumstances, considering the width of the pitch and the humid conditions. They also learnt what to expect when they play the likes of NSW, Victoria & Queensland in the Nationals. Some robust tackling and dubious play from the home side presented a new challenge for the 14s, who are quickly developing an open, attractive style of football that is drawing favourable comment from those who watch this team continue to develop.

The 14s showed a maturity in possession, soaking up pressure and moving the ball quickly. While the ACT were technically superior, the physical advantage for Southern Branch made this an even and entertaining contest. The pleasing point was that they wore the opposition down and enjoyed a lot of possession. The longer the game went on, the boys got stronger and more comfortable on the ball; they showed they could compete at this level. The always excellent James Bradbury in goals kept Southern Branch at bay, with the boys dominating the initial and latter stages of the match. A superb solo effort from Alex Meibusch tied the score at 1-1, which was the final result, and a well deserved draw for the quality of football played by the boys on a difficult surface.



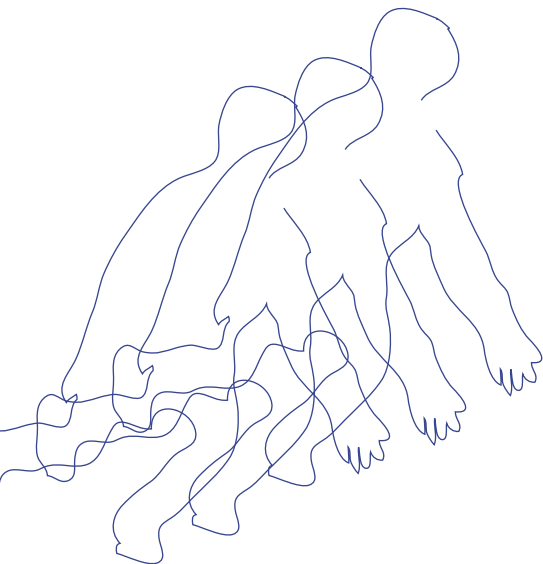
Above: Andrew Young says farewell to the U14 boys.

Left: Bensa Afiabo signing Andrew's gift from the boys

## TRIALS

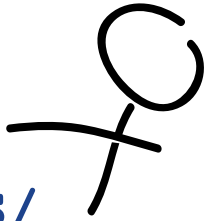
During the February trial period, some existing squad members and some new trialists played a series of entertaining games against the ACT girls Under 16 and Under 18 squads. These games provided valuable game time for all concerned and provided the coaches with the ability to assess the trialists and monitor the development of existing squad members. The end result was a quality list of 25 players, including a number of boys

eligible for the Under 13s this year, who have stepped up and demonstrated they have the ability to play in the higher age group. The quality of player at this level is very impressive, making the final selection for the coaches a difficult choice. Congratulations to all players selected for the 2005 Under 14 squad!





## ACTAS/ Satellites



# 16s

### ROBBIE HOOKER

I am very honoured to have been appointed Head Coach of ACT Academy of Sport and ACTSF Academy Women's programs.

The ACTAS and Satellites squads will be one this year primarily because of the age of the squad. All but one player is eligible for the 2006 youth World Cup.

After a series of trials and training sessions a squad of 12 ACTAS scholarships were awarded and there is another 10 players on the Talent Development Program .

Our pre-season was kick started with an international match against a touring Korean club team. Despite our noticeable lack of match fitness we managed to keep the score to a respectable 1-3 loss.

Serious pre-season work has now begun and all players have also started strength training at Lyneham Gym.

Congratulations to Caitlin Munoz and Lydia Williams on their selection in the upcoming Matildas training camp at Easter in Sydney.

I look forward to the start of the season and also the challenge that lies ahead in our National Championships.

The U/16 squad has had a low key beginning to their pre-season and I am currently interim coach for the team until Di Alagich arrives to take the reins.

The team has been decimated by the loss of a number of players since I have taken over and I wish those players all the best in their endeavours in their chosen fields.

The remainder of the team has responded really well to the new way of training and will only be a matter of time before some of the players start to make a name for themselves at the Academy.

We have organised a trial match in Albury on March 12th and 13th and this will be the first serious hit out for the girls.

It is important to remember that being part of the ACT Academy is the most significant step in a young player's development and future aspirations of representative football.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the girls and their parents for their patience during this changeover period of coaching staff. Having been a professional player for the last 20 years I fully understand the feelings and questions you may all have during this testing time. If any one feels they need to contact me regarding any matters on the U/16 team please do so.

ROBBIE

## coming up:

Check [www.soccercanberra.com.au](http://www.soccercanberra.com.au) regularly for updates on games and training in the official ACTSF Academy Calendar.

## next issue:

The next issue of 'The Top Corner' will be out in April 2005.

But only if you submit your articles and pictures by Friday 15 April to [simond@homemail.com.au](mailto:simond@homemail.com.au)

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