

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 14 November 2008

SASI Squad

SASI Scholarship Holders **Angela Fimmano**, **Rachael Quigley** and **Sian McLaren** have recently returned from Malaysia after helping Australia Qualify for the next stage of the U19 Women's World Cup qualifiers.

McLaren was faultless in her performance and kept a clean sheet in the Young Matildas 3rd game against Iran with the final score 6-0. Fimmano although hampered by a Hamstring injury battled away valiantly to also perform well and also do her job well against the colourful Iranian women.

Although rested for the Iran game Rachel Quigley started in the final group game against equal top Thailand and went on to continue her goal scoring record notching an early first half volleyed goal.

As a result of the successful tournament Australia join Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Thailand, China, Chinese Taipei and Vietnam in the final round of qualifiers in August 2009.

In the first game of the Asian Football Confederation U16 Qualifiers young SASI athlete **Ruth Wallace** started her international career and the tournament with a hat trick and the honour of finishing the game Captain of the Australian U16 National Team in its opening game against Singapore. In the second game the Australians continued their winning ways and now sit top of their group with two matches to play against Philippines and Thailand on Monday evening.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7 November 2008

News from Malaysia

SASI's **Rachel Quigley** and **Angela Fimmano** have been performing very well for the Australian U19 Squad (Young Matildas) in the AFC U19 Qualifiers for the World Cup. Both starred in the first win against Chinese Taipei (4-0), which got the Young Matildas off to a flying start in the group tournament.

In the second game against India, Quigley performed brilliantly to score her first International Hat trick in a (18-0) victory putting Australia on top of the group of 5.

Fellow SASI athlete **Sian McLaren** will be playing her first game of the competition in the important Game against Iran which if successful Australia would qualify for the next stage of the World Cup qualification process.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 24 October 2008

National/AIS Selection Trials

Congratulations to **Angela Fimmano**, **Rachel Quigley** and **Sian McLaren**, 3 SASI athletes who will represent the Young Matildas at the forthcoming 2008 AFC Pre Qualifiers for the U20 World Cup in 2010.

All 3 throughout 2008 have regularly travelled to Canberra's AIS to compete for a place in the Youth National Squad against players from all around the country. It came down to a nervous Monday when they were hoping not to get a call from National Coach Alen Stajcic telling them they missed out. Agony turned to joy, as all 3 did not get a call.

All 3 have different reasons to be elated. Fimmano 16, had previously missed selections for National Junior teams but her love of the game, excellent technique and game sense and improved physical capacity helped her become a starting player in the 2008 squad. Quigley 17, who had never been looked at before 2008 at this level was able to convince selectors that her Goal den Boot award at this years U17 Nationals was not a fluke and had started to look comfortable amongst more experienced players from Interstate. Meanwhile McLaren 17, had injury issues to contend with. In fact hours before selections were made McLaren was relieved to receive a Doctors clearance involving a suspected broken hand sustained at the most recent training camp.

Congratulations to **Victoria Balomenos** also. Victoria played a major role in the successful ASEAN Competition win for the Senior Matildas squad in Vietnam. Victoria finished joint top goal scorer for the tournament with 5 goals.

All 4 players have been selected for the Adelaide Utd Women's Team to contest launch of the new W League for girls with a game against the Queensland Roar in Brisbane this Saturday. The Young Matildas will then fly straight to Kuala Lumpa to play games against India, Chinese Taipai and Thailand.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 17 October 2008

Victoria, Queen of South East Asia

Congratulations to Matilda's representative and SASI Scholarship holder **Victoria Balomenos** who came off the bench in the first game of the ASEAN Women's Championship to score a very important second half double in a match expected to be Australia's toughest of the group stage against Thailand. In fact the game was very close at nil all against the fast improving Thailand in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. When Victoria got on the field she followed up a goalkeeping error and banged in another literally seconds later to put the opening game beyond doubt.

In the second game of the championships against Philippines Victoria got her name again on the score sheet for the Matilda's to add to the solid 7-0 score line and cement Australia at the top of their group. In the third game against Singapore Victoria was continued with her impressive form with her fifth goal of the tournament, she was the quickest to react after the Singapore keeper blocked a penalty after Leena Khamis was fouled in the box.

New opportunities at SASI

Trials for the 3rd season of the Rising Stars Program took place in the school holidays with over 40 girls born in 1995, 1996 and 1997 taking place with the support of FFSA Development Coaches Airton Andriolo and Ritchie Alagich. "With the advent of a National U14 Squad in 2009 and possible selection tournaments in Easter next year this venture in partnership with the FFSA will unearth and develop new talent for Australia and SASI" stated SASI Coach Kevin McCormack. "In fact SA has never had this many talented 11,12 and 13 year old female players before."

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 3 October 2008

New National Team Players Required

With the expected launch of a new FFA Junior National Squad in 2009, SASI in conjunction with the FFSA are inviting girls born in 1995 to trial for the **Rising Stars 2008-09 program**. It is also possible that some girls born in 1996 will be selected.

Head SASI Coach Kevin McCormack is excited about this new partnership with the FFSA stating "this new program will add another layer to the athlete pathway for Girls Football and help make the dreams of young SA Girls of playing for Australia more reachable than ever before."

All girls wanting to attend are to complete an application form (see below for details) to register for the trials which are being held on Thursday & Friday 9th – 10th October, 2008 at Underdale High School, Garden Terrace, Underdale 3pm – 5pm. All participants are to attend both days and bring sandshoes as testing will be held on Friday 10th October 2008.

Registration forms can be obtained via the FFSA website <http://www.ffsa.com.au> and returned to Sue Tripodi at FFSA by post, fax or e-mail prior to Wednesday 8th October 2008.

Young Matildas Surprise Clean Sweep

SASI Young Matildas **Angela Fimmano**, **Rachel Quigley** and **Sian McLaren** recently returned from Canberra after helping the Australians U19 Squad defeat a much more prepared and older Chinese U20 Squad which is in full preparation for Youth World Cup to be held in Chile later this year. Winning the series 2-0 and also beating the ACTAS Women's Team while in camp, the Young Matildas under NSWIS Coach Alen Stajcic and SASI Coach Kevin McCormack are improving dramatically from camp to camp.

"This is another pleasing result, but possibly the most pleasing aspect is that there is still room for improvement," said Westfield Young Matildas Coach, Alen Stajcic.

Fimmano again impressed starting both games and backed up from a Training camp with the 'Promising Matildas' who will travel to Vietnam next week to play in the ASEAN Games. Quigley who has been growing in confidence from camp to camp was one of the best players in one of the games and as a result was provided the opportunity of game time at a crucial stage against the Chinese. Sian McLaren again was solid with excellent distribution and is improving her consistency of performance.

Balomenos off to Vietnam

SASI's **Victoria Balomenos** has again reaffirmed her Matilda's status with selection to the squad, which will take part in the ASEAN Women's Football championships next week. The Westfield Matildas will meet Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore in their group matches. They depart for Vietnam on Monday.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 19 September 2008

SASI Athletes at trials for National Shadow Squad

SASI Scholarship holder **Victoria Balomenos** has been banging on the front door of the Matildas over the past year with a view to gaining regular selection into the Senior Matildas squad. Recently she managed to break the door down and was selected to play in a Senior Matildas tour of China in August. Now joining Victoria on the doorstep is SASI Scholarship holder **Angela Fimmano** whose recent dazzling performances and long-range rocket goals against Japan at the AIS recently caught the eye of the National Senior Coach Tom Sermanni.

Both Angela and Victoria will as a result of their future potential be travelling to Canberra on the 23rd September for a training camp with a National Senior Team Underpinning Program, the Promising Matildas. This camp will be used for preparation for the upcoming Asian SEA Games in early October with the Promising Matildas taking the place of the Senior Matildas in this competition. Angela will also stay on after the camp to play with the Young Matildas squad against a visiting Chinese National U19 squad in preparation for the Qualifiers for the Youth World Cup.

SASI Coach Kevin McCormack was not surprised by the selections stating, "Victoria and Angela are two of the smartest and technically well developed female footballers in the country. It is only a matter of a short time before both SASI Footballers make a real impact on the international stage".

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 12 September 2008

SASI take on Japan

SASI Scholarship holder **Angela Fimmano** upset the visiting Japanese National Youth Squad on two occasions this week with two world-class goals with different feet from outside the box in what was her first International appearance. Fimmano had a total of 6 shots with her four other efforts bringing the best out of the finely tuned Japanese outfit. SASI Athletes **Rachel Quigley** and **Sian McLaren** who also were attending the mini series against Japan in preparation for next month pre qualifiers for the U20 World Cup also put in fine performances.

SASI Athletes at Training Camp

SASI Scholarship holders **Ashlee Fual**'s recent performances in the FFSA Boys League have led her to be selected to attend a National U16 Training Camp in Canberra. Also representing SASI at the camp is top class Central defender **Nicole Calder** while unlucky SASI Athlete **Ruth Wallace** has missed another opportunity due to injury as the camp

being brought forward a few weeks. All 3 athletes are doing SASI proud by achieving their goal of supporting the Australian U16's squads prequalification through Asia for the U17 World Cup in 2009

SASI Girls Champions of Boys League

Last Wednesday the SASI Women's football team played Gawler in what became the most highly contested game of the season as their last encounter ended in a very close 1-1 draw. This time however the victory was SASI's as all the girls played a fantastic game to beat the Gawler boys 3-1. This week the girls had another convincing win 4-0 over Toros, this result meant that the SASI girls completed the FFSA U15 Boys League competition undefeated Champions. Head Coach Kevin McCormack was thrilled with the consistency of his players and will use the Championship victory to negotiate with FFSA to ensure the girls play in a higher division in 2009.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 29 August 2008

SASI Athletes vs. Japan

Canberra is the focus point for SASI National Team athletes with the Japanese National Squad attending the AIS for a training camp in preparation for the upcoming U17 World Cup in New Zealand this week.

Nicole Calder (Cumberland Utd WSC) and **Ruth Wallace** were originally selected from SASI for the Australian U16 squad, however Ruth unfortunately had to pull out due to an injury whilst playing in a Boys League game.

Angela Fimmano, **Rachel Quigley** and **Sian McLaren** along with SASI Head Coach Kevin McCormack will also travel to Canberra (26th-30th August) with a view to represent the National U19 Squad (Young Matildas) against Japan at the AIS.

Both under age National Squads are re building with a view to qualifying for the next World Cup for U17's and U20's in 2009.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 25 July 2008

Five SASI Players Attend National Camps

After top class performances at the recent Nationals in Coffs Harbour, five SASI scholarship players have been called into camp for their respective National under age squads.

Sian McLaren, **Angela Fimmano** and **Rachel Quigley** will fly to Canberra on Saturday to attend the second Young Matildas camp in preparation for possible pre qualifiers for the AFC U19 World Cup Qualifiers in October. Sian and Angela have survived a savage cull of

players from the previous camp while Rachel Quigley has been added to the squad. Rachel was excellent in the National Championships in Coffs winning the prestigious Golden Boot award for the top goalscorer of the tournament.

In the Junior Matildas camp which occurs a few days later SASI and SA will be represented by **Ruth Wallace** and **Nicole Calder** who also were outstanding in the Nationals. **Ashlee Faul** and **Lilly Rydon** have missed selection this time as National Coach Gary Phillips is looking at some new players not present at previous camps, however both are still part of Gary's plans and are likely to be included in future camps.

Balomenos Returns from China

Victoria Balomenos returned last week from a great experience playing for the Matildas in China in a two game series against Olympic host China. Balomenos was straight back to training with the SASI Boys program after playing considerable game time in the first of the two games.

Wirkus bad luck continues

Matildas World Cup squad player and SASI Goalkeeper **Emma Wirkus** was operated on again last week after tearing a knee ligament in only her 3rd return game after a previous long term injury. Emma's latest injury will see her sidelined for six weeks.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 18 July 2008

FFA National Youth Championships

SA Punches above its weight once again.

At the recent National Championships held in Coffs Harbour NSW, the SA State Youth Football squad dominated by 8 SASI Scholarship holders charmed and powered its way into the final stages of the Championships leaving ACT, Victoria, West Australia and Northern Territory (starring our own **Monika Holmwood**) it is wake.

Although nervous in their first game v ACT a moment of quality and deception by SA Top Gun **Rachel Quigley** was enough to snag a penalty with Rachel stepping up to finish the job herself. A hard fought game against WA followed with Quigley announcing her quality with a top shelf Hat trick with the team going on to win 3-2.

The third Game against NT followed with Quigley joined on the score sheet by **Rhianna Peate** (2) and **Angela Fimmano** despite the best efforts of **Moni Holmwood** who had accepted the invitation of the NT Football to fill in for the Northerners and take the opportunity to perform in front of National Youth Coach Alen Stajcic.

The last group game against Victoria was still a pressure game as the finals placing had at that time not yet been decided with Victoria still in with a chance. However it was evident shortly after kick off that they had no real chance against an irresistible SA Team led

courageously by Captain **Ebony Weidenbach**. Ebony scored from an early corner taken by **Rhianna Peate** and again scoring in the second half with **Quigley** going to the top of the Golden Boot competition with another Hat trick.

The SA team though was not all about Goal scoring as its defence and Goal keeper was making life more than difficult for its hapless opposition. **Ashlee Fual, Nicole Calder, Ebony Weidenbach, Rachel King** thwarted every attack with Goalkeeper of the tournament **Sian McLaren** easily dealing with anything that got through.

The 5-1 score line meant that SA finished top of its group with the unenviable job of meeting with Queensland in the semi final.

The semi was a dour affair compared to the group games as the Nations best young players were forced to again play so many games in a short space of time. Tired and flat and un inspiring neither team rose to previous heights and the game went to Extra time with the scorers not called upon. However SA did look the most dangerous with a **Ebony Weidenbach** thunderbolt smashing the Queensland bar and bouncing controversially behind the goal line and out away from the goal. The game continued 0-1 also looked like going to penalties until a spell of sustained pressure brought about a luck break in the SA box and an undeserved goal from nowhere for Queensland. SA went on to lose heartbreakingly and heroically 0-1 to the eventual champions.

The final game was a third place play off against former champion and favourite NSW. SA were again the better team with **Angela Fimmano** showing her class and quality with a beautiful strike from wide of the box. NSW got out of Jail with a controversial penalty and went on to win 4-3 on penalties. SA finished 4th.

Golden Boot winner from SA

Rachel Quigley with two hat ricks against WA and Victoria and another 3 goals firmly established her self as the most devastating forward of the National Youth Championships in Coffs Harbour.

Congratulations Rachel who is now sweating on the possibility of being invited to the next Young Matildas Camp in late July in Canberra.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 27 June 2008

Victoria Balomenos selected for Matildas China Tour.

SASI Female Football Scholarship Holder since 2003 and player for the SASI Boys in the Mens State Reserve League Victoria Balomenos, 20, received the news that she will be travelling to China to represent the Australian Senior Squad.

Playing two games at the Olympic Stadium in Tianjin on July 6 and 9, Victoria will finally put all her recent efforts in the gym and the training track to good use against the Olympic Hosts and probably gain her second 'Official' senior cap.

Head Coach Kevin McCormack is thrilled for Victoria.

" Victoria has worked hard and took some knocks to get to this stage of selection," he said.

“Although Victoria has been busy studying for her Physiotherapy exams, she has still managed to put in class performances with the SASI Boys and also ran a sprint personal best at a recent Physiological testing.

“Victoria has the capability of being in the Matilda squad for some considerable time,” Kevin concluded.

Alagich to retire

Matildas player, former Adelaide Sensation and SASI Scholarship holder Dianne Alagich will soon play her final Senior International for the Matildas.

Diane who played her first International in 1995 has had a distinguished career after competing at three World Cups and two Olympic games. Her last game will be against New Zealand on July 12 in Sydney at North Sydney Oval.

Dianne was one of SASI’s first Women’s Football scholarship Holders when the program was launched in 1995 and will be remembered as one of SASI’s ‘Favourite Football Daughters,’ with her fantastic attitude to training and competition.

“A true SASI role model and World Class performer,” Head Coach Kevin McCormack concluded.

WOMEN’S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 13 June 2008

On June 12, the SASI Women’s Football team took on the Raiders U/15 Boys in the first second round match of the season.

The SASI girls managed to have a solid start, playing the ball out from the back despite spirited efforts from the competitive Raiders outfit. Soon after, they achieved the first aim set by Head Coach Kevin McCormack, by scoring first.

Rachel Quigley was the one who scored after following up Angela Fimmano shot that rebounded off the crossbar. Quigley’s follow up shot, in the words of goalkeeper Emma Wirkus, was “a cracker of a volley.” The second goal was placed calmly into the net from an acute angle by Christina Papageorgiou from a clever Monika Holmwood through ball. The final goal of the half came from a free kick outside the box, that hardcore defender Ebony Weidenbach drove perfectly into the top right corner, in what is definitely another ‘goal of the year’ contender.

The second half saw Ruth Wallace and Ashlee Faul looking threatening on the wings, often winning their one on one battles.

The SASI girls’ fourth goal came from a fantastic Angela Fimmano first time strike from a square layoff, that flew along the ground into the bottom right hand corner. The boys did look threatening on the break, and using a counter attack from a SASI corner, managed to use their raw pace to score down the other end of the pitch. The score ended at 4-1, and although the goals the girls scored were all brilliant, it was definitely not the team’s best game of the season, with possession often being lost from unnecessary errors like inaccurate passes and poor decision making.

The SASI girls will have a break from Games soon with preparation for the Youth and Junior Nationals in July taking precedent. Please feel free to view the goals from this game on the SASI women's Football website.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 6 June 2008

On Wednesday, June 4 the SASI Women's Football team shocked the U/15 Boys team Beverly Lions in their 7-0 victory at Santos Stadium.

From the start, it was evident that the girls listened to the goals, set by Head coach Kevin McCormack, of scoring first and not conceding. The girls were solid playing out from defence, with defender Rachel King winning possession on numerous occasions on the right of defence, beginning several fast counter attacks. Right midfielder Lilly Rydon managed to deliver some quality crosses into the box that attacking duo Rachel Quigley and Angela Fimmano capitalised on. The score at half time was 2-0.

The girls began the second half well, with a reshuffle of the team that saw defenders Ashlee Faul and Ruth Wallace take on attacking positions. These strategic changes were effective, as Ruth Wallace scored two fantastic goals from surging runs, and Ashlee Faul finished from the edge of the box. The midfield was strong with central midfielders Rosie Gardiner and Monika Holmwood scoring a goal each while maintaining positional discipline.

The victory over the boys marks another game in preparation for the Youth Nationals, in July.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 30 May 2008

On Wednesday May 28, the SASI girls played the U/15 Torros in a high intensity match. The mid-table boys managed to get an early goal against the top of the table girls in the first ten minutes. Although the start was shaky, the girls responded positively from the kick-off, with hard-core defender Ebony Weidenbach scoring a screamer from just inside the half way line.

Matilda's keeper Emma Wirkus was injured in a one on one battle, forcing field player Christina Papageorgio to play in goals for the rest of the game. The SASI girls looked dangerous playing the ball out from the back, and winning many aerial battles.

Ebony Weidenbach scored yet another goal-of-the-year contender from a Moni Holmwood pass.

With the half-time score of 2-1, the SASI girls were raring to begin the second half on a positive note, which was achieved, with Rachel Quigly scoring two goals within 15 minutes.

The midfield players began opening up their body positions more and looking to play forward, bolstering the deadly attack of Angela Firmano and Rachel Quigly. The U/17 State players of Jamila and Jess played well in their first taste of SASI football, ensuring the high intensity of play continued.

With play opening up Rachel Quigly scored another two goals, one from a Moni Holmwood through ball, and the other from a fantastic Ashlee Faul cross. The boys did look threatening on a break, which won them a penalty. Stand in goalkeeper Christina Papageorgio did a great job at ensuring the Torros did not capitalise. The SASI girls ran out the game strongly, and the end score of 7-1 was well deserved.

The girls will aim at not conceding early in the next game against Beverly on June 4.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 23 May 2008

Result FFSA U15c Boys League Gawler 1-SASI Girls 1

On Saturday 17th May, the highly anticipated clash between the top two teams in the FFSA U/15 Boys League was played. The SASI Women's Football Team travelled up to Gawler to play on a wide, but short pitch in wet and windy conditions. The game was tough from the start, with the boys crowding the middle of the pitch, making it difficult for the central midfielders to distribute the ball wide. The boys resorted to kicking long balls over the top.

Despite the difficult conditions the SASI girls took initial control with some controlled possession from the back line. Although the girls struggled to get the ball into dangerous positions they still looked the more composed with **Rachel Quigley** and **Lilly Rydon** looking dangerous both having chances to open up the scoring.

The SASI defence often had difficulty dealing with the long balls, with their problems compounded by significantly taller strikers, and the strong wind. Often, the contest was reduced to a foot race; with the fast boys proving problematic, though central defenders **Ebony Weidenbach** and **Ashley Faul** saved the team with last minute tackles on more than one occasion. After ten minutes of camping in the SASI box, Gawler managed to score. In the 27th minute a mistimed SASI pass in the midfield area was capitalised by a Gawler playmaker who was able to play a dangerous ball to a quick forward. The quick number 10 was this time able to evade the SASI backline and finish comfortably despite a valiant effort by **Sian McLaren**.

At half time the SASI girls identified getting the ball on the ground, and talking as areas to focus on. SASI began well, managing to string together some fluid build up play. This resulted in opportunities to score forcing the Gawler keeper into some good saves with a couple of opportunities hitting the post.

The boys continued to hit the ball over the top, breaking quickly convincingly looking for another goal. The under-pressure defence was pushed to clear balls with strong interceptions, as the scrappy play in difficult conditions continued.

Late in the game the SASI girls managed to win a series of corner kicks, and by boxing the boys in, kept the ball up their end. This culminated in a fantastic **Leanne Slater** corner being finished by a sneaky run of **Christina Papageorgiou**. The last ten minutes were frantic with both teams looking for a winner with SASI coming closest. Although the game was largely an aerial battle, whenever the SASI girls succeeded in controlling and passing the ball, they looked dangerous. The battle for top of the table ended in a 1-1 draw.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 16 May 2008

Croydon Kings 2 v SASI Girls 2 (Quigley x2)

The SASI Women's' Football team recently travelled to Croydon to play their U/15 Boys Team. The game, played on the King's manicured lawn and was the toughest of the six games played in the FFSA Boy's league so far.

The girls settled down after the first intense 10 minutes, passing the ball out from the back and keeping possession for minutes at a time. The boys looked dangerous on the counter attack, with their raw speed causing trouble at times. Matilda's keeper Emma Wirkus pulled out a fantastic short range save when one of the Kings's managed to shoot from within the penalty box.

A patient build up involving everyone from defender Ashlee Faul, to midfielder Rosie Gardiner, resulted in the first goal for SASI, which was a well-placed finish by the usual suspect of serial goal scoring, Rachel Quigley.

The girls switched on from the resultant kick off, continuing their possession game though under immense pressure from the surprisingly disciplined boys. The second SASI goal came within five minutes, with Rachel Quigley scoring with her head after following up on an accurate header by senior player Christina Papageorgiou.

The second half saw the boys step up another level in intensity. With Emma Wirkus forced to make another reflex save while a fearless Ebony Weidenbach tackle stopped a sure goal in the dying seconds.

The boys continued to launch long balls, which caused trouble for the SASI defence, and resulted in two goals against. With the score at 2-2, the girls attempted to score a winner, but could not capitalise on build-ups and crosses. The Kings pushed the girls until the very last whistle.

The SASI girls are to be commended for their fighting spirit. Head coach Kevin McCormack worked on positional weaknesses in a productive post game video session in preparation for their next battle, which was against NAB at Santos.

Clash against NAB at SANTOS

The SASI Women's' Football Team recently played the NAB U/15 Boys in their first home game of the season at SANTOS Stadium.

The bottom of the table NAB side caused an early upset when they scored in the first five minutes against the top of the table SASI side. The girls immediately switched on, and managed to score two goals before half time.

The second half saw the game open up, with the SASI girls using Ruth Wallace and newcomer Ceryce Guerre to their advantage on the wings. The game ended with a 12-1 score line, with goal magnet Rachel Quigley netting six, and Christina Papageorgiou scoring 4. Of particular note was Christina's well-taken volley from outside the box. Rachel Quigley scored three of her goals simply by sneaking in at the back post, surprising the ball-watching boys on several occasions. The defence also had a solid game, achieving their goal of not letting the boys pierce the defence with long balls.

The next game is sure to be of interest as the SASI Girls Play against 3rd placed Gawler in away fixture at Karbeethan Reserve, Angle Vale, Gawler. Kick off is at 11am on Saturday May 17.

Impressive Victoria Balomenos

Matilda squad member Victoria Balomenos returned from the Promising Matilda Camp in Canberra at the AIS with National Coach Tom Sermanni impressed again with her performances. Victoria was more than impressive with her Physiological testing performances accounting for personal bests in Speed and Aerobic tests.

At a recent training session at SANTOS stadium the SASI girls were visited by US College Scholarship Holder Gianna Cavuoto who is on a brief holiday from study at Florida State University.

SASI HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 09 May 2008

Matildas in the USA

Recently the Matildas played a 2 game series against the US National Team. This was taken from the FFA website www.footballaustralia.com.au discussing the final game.

It was a case of déjà vu for the Matildas in their second friendly international against the USA early this morning in Birmingham, USA. A last minute goal by the US, earned the home side a 5-4 victory in a pulsating match, which Australia certainly didn't deserve to lose.

Down 4-1 just seconds into the second half, the Matildas staged a remarkable comeback to level it 4-4 after just 69 minutes. They seemingly had earned a deserved draw with the World No.2, when the US's Angela Hucles touched home from close range after a free kick into the box was flicked into her path. It was literally the last kick of the game.

With two minutes of normal time remaining, Matildas midfielder Lauren Colthorpe was an inch away from giving Australia the lead, her strike from distance crashing against the crossbar.

Australia led 1-0 after 19 minutes, courtesy of an own goal by the US, but two goals in as many minutes soon after had the US in front.

The US took a 3-1 lead into half time with a goal just minutes prior and literally from the kick-off in the second half made it 4-1 and a possible rout looked on.

But the Matildas showed their fighting spirit and three minutes later, Sarah Walsh scored from close range and it was game on.

Australia was pressing on the artificial pitch and Colthorpe pulled another goal back in the 64th minute, with a terrific angled shot from 18 metres.

Five minutes later, it was all tied up when Jo Burgess' excellent cross was turned into the net by a US defender trying to deny Walsh her second goal, setting up a fantastic finish.

The US had Australia under pressure for a brief spell, before the Matildas regrouped and had several chances of their own late in the match, including Colthorpe's magnificent effort from 25 metres out.

But you can never rest with the US and just like 6 days ago, the US somehow plucked out a winner in the final minutes to leave the Matildas with two losses from their trip, but once again showing they can match it with the best teams in women's football.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 2 May 2008

Raiders Boys (0) – SASI Girls (5)
Northern Demons (2) SASI Girls (3)

Young SASI Women's Football squad played the Raiders Under 15 boys team on their superb pitch at the State Sports Park on April 23.

The game was played at break neck speed, with the first few minutes a physical scramble. Once play settled, the SASI back line, boosted by returned Matilda's keeper **Emma Wirkus**, was able to switch the ball quickly. This effectively stretched the skilled Raiders and resulted in 3 goals before half time.

The physicality of the game continued after the half time break, with the SASI girls being saved on numerous occasions by headers from central defenders **Ebony Weidenbach** and substitute Junior Matilda **Nicole Calder**.

Of particular note, Junior Matilda **Lilly Rydon's** back post finish of a another Junior Matilda **Ruth Wallace** cross, and a Rachel Quigley bullet.

Coach **Kevin McCormack** said he was thrilled again by the performance the girls put in.

"The Raiders gave us a few problems at the start however the Girls ability to keep possession and open up the Raiders defence with neat combination play," Kevin said.

The second half saw even better play with Rachel finishing off two brilliant team goals.

Goals

Ruth Wallace, Rachel Quigley 3,
Lilly Rydon 1

With barely a day's break, the young squad journeyed to Port Pirie, where they battled it out on an extremely wide pitch.

With **Lilly Rydon** injured in game play in the first half and **Angela Fimmano** nursing a sore hamstring, the SASI girls were left without substitutes.

Despite circumstances, the girls managed to net three before half time.

Rachel Quigley's individual effort after picking up a long ball and scoring was particularly commendable.

The girls had run out of legs and battled out a messy second half. The boys netted two, but SASI held on for a 3-2 win.

Although the girls were a little shaky and tired, they are to be commended for their efforts in running the game out.

Monika Holmwood was outstanding in her leadership, endurance and possession play and congratulations to Rachel Quigley for scoring two hat tricks in two games.

Goals

Rachel Quigley (3)
Lilly Rydon (1)

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 18 April 2008

National Update on SASI Athletes

Emma Wirkus is presently returning from Taipei after representing the Matildas at the Preliminary Olympic qualification tournament. The Matildas won all 3 games with Emma keeping a clean sheet against Uzbekistan. Australia will now move into the second and final stage of qualifying which will commence in April. Two groups of four will compete for just two qualifying berths with the Qantas Matildas drawn alongside Asia's top team, DPR Korea, as well as Chinese Taipei, plus one of Korea Republic, India or Hong Kong.

Sian McLaren who recently became a Scholarship holder at SASI will next week travel to Malaysia to compete for the Australian U16 team in its qualification campaign for the 2008 U17 World Cup. Sian gained selection at a selection/training camp in Canberra last weekend. Sian graduated through several under age State Teams, with her development progressing via the SASI GK Talent Identification squad in 2006. SASI Female Scholarship Coach **Tracey Jenkins** will also travel with the National U16 squad as Assistant National Coach.

Victoria Balomenos, Stacey Day, Katrina Bexis, Kristi Harvey, Lauren Chilvers and **Kirralea Brock** will be in Canberra next week to take part in the Young Matildas (U19) National Selection camp with a view to selection for Asian Qualifiers for the Youth World Cup in 2008. This task was made more challenging recently with the Young Matildas drawn against Japan and North Korea.

Interstate Challenge

The SASI Program will soon travel to Mt Gambier to play the Victoria NTC program in what is expected to be an Annual Interstate Tournament. The games on the 10th and 12th March will be played in conjunction with the Youth SAWSA tournament also held on the same weekend to showcase the present opportunities and potential of Female Footballers in SA.

Girls to play Boys in 2007

The SASI Girls will again be playing in the FFSA U16 Boys League in 2007 and are scheduled to kick off the season on 25th March.

Young Sensation

Lastly the Young Sensation program and SAWSA Development Squads have been running well throughout the summer achieving great success. Congratulations to all Coaches involved for doing a brilliant job.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 11 April 2008

National Selection

Next week 6 SASI Scholarship holders **Ashlee Fual, Nicole Calder, Ruth Wallace, Lilly Ryden** (Australian Junior Squad), **Angela Fimmano** and **Sian McLaren** (Young Matildas) will be attending National Camps for Youth and Junior National Teams. This is on top of news that **Victoria Balomenos** and **Stacey Day** recently attended the Senior National Camp in Canberra.

SASI Women's Squad Performing in Boys League

On Wednesday the 2nd of April, the young SASI Women's Football team played the Plympton U/15C Boys in wet, windy conditions. Despite the circumstances, the SASI girls performed well, winning 8-0. The first half saw three goals scored, two of which developed from set plays. These goals were of particular note, as the week's training had revolved around the effective exploitation of set plays and throw ins. Head coach Kevin McCormack was happy with the girls' performance, especially their ability to implement training practices into the game.

The second half saw the girls step up another level, with the ball being passed wide along the ground significantly more. The benefits of patient build up included the scoring of five goals. The defense had ample time to switch the ball along the back line, underpinning most of the attacking play. Central defender **Ebony Weidenbach's** performance was of particular note as she out muscled the boys on several occasions and sent a shot that was so fast and accurate, it almost forced the keeper into the back of the net with it.

The girls were grateful for their new white Skins that kept them warm and potentially avoided injury. The match provided a good opportunity for possession practice in the lead up to the next FFSA Boys League game against Enfield on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the girls maintain their busy schedule, with physiological and fitness testing, State Team trials, and U/17 Australian camp all on the agenda

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 4 April 2008

More History Made by Balomenos

Starting her 3rd consecutive game for the SASI Boys Program in the FFSA Senior Mens State League Reserves, SASI Women's Footballer **Victoria Balomenos** this week confirmed her quality and scored her first goal against the men at Western District Toros. This goal arguably would have been her third had it not been for 2 incorrect calls by local officials in prior action.

In the 25th Minute of the first half having had a penalty decision turned down by the referee Balomenos kept her head and moved into a position to receive a cross near the penalty spot. Letting the ball bounce slightly in front of her Victoria volleyed the ball right footed neatly across the desperate Toros keeper. The SASI Boys went on to win 3-0.

Victoria, 20, has recently made her official debut for the Senior Women's National Team, the Matildas, after six years as a scholarship holder at SASI's women's football program.

Women's football is one of 18 sports programs at SASI, which is a division of the State Government's Office for Recreation and Sport.

Women's football coach Kevin McCormack said playing with the SASI Boys team would further Victoria's goals of continuing with the Matildas and aiming for World Cup selection in 2011 and Olympic selection in 2012.

"Coaches at SASI have continuously sought development opportunities for our most gifted players," Kevin said.

“With this in mind Victoria was offered the opportunity of training with the SASI Boys and impressed enough for SASI Men’s Coach Martyn Crook to request her availability in the Reserve competition in the FFSA State league.

“I congratulate Victoria for her ability and courage in opening doors for herself and future Matildas from SA. It’s also important to acknowledge officials at the FFSA for supporting Victoria’s development and the progression of Women’s Football in SA.”

WOMEN’S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 28 March 2008

Result In Boys league Seaford U15s 2 SASI Girls 10

On Thursday 27th March, the SASI Women’s’ Football team started their season in the U/15C Boys League with an away game against Seaford. The highly anticipated game saw the young side come away with a 10-2 win. Team spirit was high as 17-year-old striker Rachel Quigley netted 5 goals, including a trademark header, and central defender Ebony Weidenbach scored a long range screamer. Defender Ashley Faul finished two goals when head coach Kevin McCormack unleashed her on left wing, and Angela Firmano netted two goals, including a well placed free kick into the top left corner. The girls are excited at the result of their first game, and are looking forward in anticipation to the challenges of the rest of the season.

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Victoria will miss the next Mens League Game due to being selected for **the Matildas Training Camp** In Canberra from 3rd - 6th April.

Victoria kicking with the boys in State soccer

SASI’s Victoria Balomenos is breaking new ground in women’s football, kicking it with the SASI Boys Team in the FFSA Senior Men’s Reserve State League Competition this season.

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WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 21 March 2008

Interstate Challenge III

SASI V FFV NTC

On the 14th and 16th of March, the new look SASI Women's Football Squad played rivals Victoria in the 3rd Annual Interstate Challenge. The two games were highly anticipated by both teams who targeted junior and youth age players in their annual scholarship intakes. Despite the sweltering heat, National Youth Coach **Alen Stajcic** was in attendance.

The SASI girls came out as winners in both games, winning **3-0** on the Friday night, and **4-0** early on Sunday morning. SASI Women's Football Head Coach **Kevin McCormack** was very happy with the positional shape of the squad and its disciplined approach. The girls enjoyed large quantities of possession and showed aggression throughout.

Rachel Quigley, who followed up a **Victoria Balomenos** long-range shot, scored the first goal on Friday. Balomenos scored after winning a penalty, and the third was netted after extensive build up passing and a left footed cross from the wing. On Sunday, positional changes saw a new shape for the young squad who responded positively by scoring in the first 15 minutes. The SASI defence more than dealt with the Victorian attack and the tackles of central 'rock' **Ebony Weidenbach** prevented any danger. Balomenos scored another goal. Two spot kicks were awarded and finished during the game, one of which one was won by 14-year old Lilly Rydon in a scrimmage in the box.

Coach **McCormack** was thrilled afterwards. "This is the third year of the annual challenge against Victoria which is a great opportunity for us to compare ourselves with another institute. Obviously going by the style of play and results we are well ahead of Victoria. However it is invaluable for the SASI players' development to get the opportunity to play against good level girls teams and for a Head National Coach to be in attendance. I was very pleased with performances however I know that most of our players are **still a long way away from being International class players.**"

New SASI Squad- New Era of Scholarships

2008 has already brought some new faces and new opportunities for the SASI Women's Program to accommodate the growth of Women's Football in the state and across the world.

In 2007 FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation brought their level of Women's competitions in line with those for the men. Therefore an U17 competition was introduced with **Sian McLaren** and **Angela Fimmano** flying the SASI flag at National Camps and Asian Qualifiers.

To identify and develop players eligible for the next major qualification for this World Cup through Asia, SASI have identified a group of junior players who will be targeted for National Team representation born in 1993 or 1994.

On top of this SASI will continue to develop players for the National U20 squad (1990+ born) and also service **Victoria Balomenos** and **Emma Wirkus** with there continued representation at Senior National Team Camps.

As a result the following squad have been selected as scholarship Holders for 2008.

Senior Emma Wirkus, Victoria Balomenos

Youth Sian McLaren, Ebony Weidenbach, Moni Holmwood, Rachel Quigley,
Angela Fimmano, Rhianna Peate, Rosy Gardner

Juniors Nicole Calder, Rachel King, Ashlee Fual, Lilly Rydon, Ruth Wallace

At this time Head Coach Kevin McCormack would like to thank recent graduates of the program and look forward to working with them again in a support basis (once per week) and when a National league is again set up.

SASI Graduate Cheryl Salisbury's goal voted Australia's Favourite Sporting Moment of 2007

The Former SASI Scholarship Holder and Captain of Adelaide Sensation **Cheryl Salisbury's** has been honoured for her role in sending a shock wave around the Women's Football and Australian Sporting landscape.

Cheryl's dramatic last minute goal to send Australia through to the quarter finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup was voted Australia's favourite sporting moment for 2007 in the *SportingPulse* 2007 Australian Sporting Moment of the Year People's Choice Award with 28% of the total vote. The People's Choice Award is the only Award voted on by the public as part of the Australian Sport Awards.

The Matildas achieved Australia's best ever World Cup performance reaching the quarterfinals where they lost narrowly 2-3 to Brazil, eventual finalists. In so doing the

Matildas finished 6th in the World, the best performance from an Australian Women's Football team

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 1 February 2008

New era of SASI scholarships starts with opportunity.

On Thursday 24th January 2008, three of our most talented and athletic young female players took a flight to Sydney to be part of the future of Australian Women's Football.

SASI Scholarship Holders **Ruth Wallace (14)** from the South Adelaide Pink Panthers, **Nicole Calder (14)** from Cumberland United WSC, and **Ashlee Faul (15)**, from Olympic WSC, have been invited to take part in a training camp which has two main goals. Firstly it is a selection camp for an U17 National trip to New Zealand to take place next week and secondly but equally important is the launch pad for these girls international future.

All three girls have been working towards this opportunity for several years and were identified via the SASI/SAWSA underpinning programs, Rising Stars, Young Sensation and Goal Keeper Talent Identification and.

Although Nicole, Ash and Ruthie will be the youngest in the training camp for the trip to NZ they are all in good positions to play the U16 Asian opposition for the opportunity to qualify for the next Junior U16 Women's World Cup later this year. The three girls are dynamic defenders; they all bring something different to the game with Calder under consideration for a goalkeeping position as well as in central defence. While Wallace can play right and left sided defence and Fual can play equally well all over the field.

Kevin McCormack, Head Coach of the SASI program applauds the support and dedication of the SAWSA, the Coaches and players at their respective Clubs and development programs as well as the SASI Women's Football Program for helping develop these players to the level of consideration for the Junior Matildas. "This experience gained at this camp will hopefully help these three talented South Australians realise their potential and follow in the footsteps of Women's World Cup, SASI and SAWSA players Emma Wirkus, Di Alagich, Sharon Black, Kristyn Swaffer, Leanne Trimboli, Victoria Balomenos, Stacey Day and Stacey Stocco."

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 25 January 2008

Balomenos and Wirkus return to Senior Matildas Camp

Young Matilda **Victoria Balomenos** and World Cup Goalkeeper **Emma Wirkus** recently visited Canberra's AIS for the first Matilda Camp since the very successful Women's World Cup in China in September 2007.

Balomenos who starred in the young Matildas unsuccessful AFC World Cup qualifying campaign has done enough to gain Head Coach Tom Sermanni's confidence to again invite her to the AIS

Wirkus was unable to train over the weekend after undergoing 2 hip operations prior to Christmas and will slowly upgrade her rehabilitation and training for a full return mid to late March.