

# **INTERSTATE COACH'S REPORT 2007**

## *Football (Soccer) Exchange.*

**NAME** : Lorraine Mischlewski

**SPORT**: Football (Soccer)

**SELECTION OF THE SQUAD/TEAM** : All participating cluster team officials were informed of the selection criteria prior to the Territory Exchange which was held at Litchfield Soccer Club, Fred's Pass in June. Selection of the team was based on technique, skills, behaviour (from coach reports), fitness and positional play. The squad of 28 were selected in consultation with Richard Mitchell (FFNT Development Coach); all cluster coaches, Pat Munn (Interstate Boys Manager), Jane Slater (Girls Coach) Heather Myers (Interstate Girls Manager & member of the Central Australian Football Club) and me. Of the 28 nominated players, 21 were named as squad members. These players participated in an hour long train on and were then informed of their selection by phone. All 21 players were informed that they were to continue training in the event that a player on the team had to withdraw due to illness etc. As players were notified a couple of days after the event of their selection into the team, this allowed us the opportunity to individually ring and ensure the offer of a position was taken up before notifying the next member. If any decided not to take the offer, a replacement player would not be required to know he was the fill-in. This actually happened with Jack Snowdon who decided not to participate again this year and hence his position was taken by the first reserve. One of our players was later replaced due to financial difficulties.

**SELECTION CRITERIA** : Following the success of the previous year's criteria, the same were used again.

1. Athletic ability & good level of fitness.
2. Understanding of rules of the game & ability to 'read' play.
3. Appropriate attitude to others and receptive to coaching.
4. Displays social compatibility & team ethic.
5. Demonstrates commitment to training.
6. Demonstrates flexibility of positional play.
7. Dual feet ability desirable & advantageous But not essential.
8. Age appropriate to team composition.

**PRE EVENT TRAINING PROGRAM**: In each of the specific areas, a satellite coach was appointed and a training resume was established to facilitate consistency and expectations. In Alice Spring Heather Myers in consultation with club coaches (the Morelli brothers – Gio and Paulo) facilitated coaching of both the girls and boys squad members. Heather is to be congratulated on her efforts and her willingness to keep in contact with Pat and myself regarding any issues or concerns. In Darwin Pat Munn co-ordinated the coaching and Richard Mitchell (FFNT Development Coach) assisted with coaching. In Borroloola, Glen Thompson coached

both the girls and boys and I would personally like to express my thanks for his preparation of players, their attitude and skills are a credit to his dedication. In Katherine, Nigel Hayes prepared both Zac and Emma for their interstate trip. Without the assistance of these coaches, our Interstate teams would not be as well prepared as they are in terms of skills and stamina. Players trained at least once a week and then closer to the event, the training was increased to twice weekly. Even though we had satellite coaches who were all completing the same training schedule and techniques, a team's ability to play constructively together is something that can only be learnt by being together for longer periods. The trust and awareness of other abilities and competencies cannot be successfully learnt in only two days, so the overall success of the boy's team this year is a credit to those satellite coaches and to the players themselves. The future success of our teams however, will eventually necessitate that they have longer as a team in preparation for such events.

**TRAINING WEEKEND :** The train on week-end saw both the girls and boys travel to Brisbane for a 2 day training resume. Players were housed together at the Brisbane Backpackers and trained at the Annerley Soccer grounds. Thanks to the 2006 Qld officials who facilitated this. They also participated in a game with a team from Ipswich and we must thank both the club and the travelling teams for their assistance. These two days were spent formulating positions and alternatives, discussing techniques and practising skills and team ethics and understanding. In the past fitness has been a major factor for the NT team; however this team were probably one of the fittest, displaying increased stamina and endurance. This is in part due to a focus on this issue during training; we also set goals of reaching a particular level on the Beep test to ensure some consistency. The lack of togetherness for training sessions for the duration of time between selection and the actual competition will always be a problem but one which we must strive to minimise if at all possible. We were fortunate to have selected 2 goalies that were also capable of field positional play thus allowing us more options.

### **OUT OF DARWIN TEAM MEMBER PARTICIPATION:**

As we had satellite coaches in each and every centre this year we only had one issue in regards to participation. All players were well aware of expectations, commitment and training program.

The social interactive experience with the train on week-end in Brisbane was also excellent. The team begin to form solid friendships.

The selection of one Captain we believe is not a viable option when the team members come from far flung locations and so that favouritism is not demonstrated we selected the natural leaders for each game. It was hoped to provide more players with this opportunity but the natural leaders (John and Michael) were obvious so they shared the responsibility. At one stage the goalie (as usual) appeared to be getting a bit of a ribbing so it was natural to allow him the opportunity to captain one game. This was extremely beneficial as the others respect increased when his knowledge and tactical advice proved invaluable. The allocation of positions was discussed with the captain of each match.

We held one teleconference with all players from all centres participating. Again, I believe that it was an excellent bonding and familiarisation exchange with a lot of chatting among team members. It was also an excellent opportunity to discuss training progress.

## Games Report.

### 17/9/07. Game 1 NT versus NSW.

A strong start to our first game of the exchange. Some very reliable plays and a few attempts on goal. NSW a very aggressive team with a strong forward line and very persistent strikers. Our defence was strong and dependable, anticipating play and adjusting lines to combat the opposition. By the end of the first half, only 1 goal scored by the NSW team. Both John and Michael had already demonstrated their strength and resilience in the defence line. Michael very vocal and calling plays well.

The second half, the NSW team came out strong and scored early. A very noticeable difference began to creep into our players with many dropping their heads, their concentration waned and it was only through the determination of the defence line that no more goals were scored.

### Game 2 NT versus VIC.

After a reassessment of a couple of positions and discussion regarding quality of players from other states and expectations of our players to do their best, the team entered the game with a little renewed vigour. Unfortunately, some concerns began creeping in at this stage that we may have too many individual players who were more concerned with playing striker than putting in a team effort. This was very evident with the end result of an 8-0 loss.

We spent a long time after the game discussing team tactics with the emphasis on the word team. Michael was our only repeat player and was a leader in discussions with his knowledge and experience from last year.

### 18/9/07. Game 3 NT versus QLD.

Players appeared more prepared and focussed from the outset of the game. Players began holding their positions well, staying focussed and playing the game as a team instead of a group of individuals.

Our goalie, Daniel, from Alice played an excellent game, calling play, repositioning and adjusting players in both the mid field and defence line from his observations in the Goal. Numerous attempts on goal were fouled due to his ability in goals and his consistent instructions to players.

A much stronger focus by the whole team, with several attempts on QLD's goal.  
Final result 7 – 0.

## Game 4 NT versus ACT.

The team is finally beginning to show their strengths and their true capabilities. A much stronger team as a whole, with the results not reflective of their abilities and their attempts on the opposition goal. We found the Borroloola boys settling into their game and their positions. Both now very dependable in their positions and willing to give their best. Junior willing to play in the defence line and allowing both our allocated strikers a run in the midfield to position and line up goal attempts. Michael made one excellent run on goal but failed to get the ball past the goalie. Clancy much more focussed in play and position and had numerous runs on goal. These attempts were shut down easily by the opposition but could have progressed further if passing and teamship were in play.

Overall, the players were much more focussed. Darcy and Brandon demonstrated excellent skills, consistency in game play and great reliability in passes.

Final result ACT 6- 0.

## 20/9/07. Game 5 NT versus SA.

After a day at Dreamworld and the chance to unwind and relax, all players more focussed and obviously beginning to sort out the pecking order and listen to their natural leaders. The South Australian team were very rough both in play and attitude. Our boys to their credit gave their best and played well. Although the game tended again to be predominately defensive, the team held strong, played positions and mangled many goal attempts from the opposition.

Michael and John consistent demonstrate maturity, game play and understanding of the importance of team work. Matthew also demonstrated his persistence in tackling the opposition, passing the ball, reading play and struggling through tiredness and soreness.

Final results SA 9-0.

## Pool games began with our first match against ACT.

This was one of our most disappointing games of the Exchange. John suffering a groin injury, though to his credit still gave 100%. Other players were not quick to step up to the requirements of a more concerted effort to order to rest John. Junior and Terrence willing to give their best, Brandon and Matthew outstanding in their dependability and Michael and Joe demonstrating their stamina and strength on the field. Found the game still predominantly a defensive one, more so when resting the stronger players.

Final result is indicative of efforts.

## versus VIC.

With this the last game, I gave some leeway in position and allowed some players the opportunity to play their perceived best positions. They found that the work load only increased and did not allow them the attempts on the opposition goal that they had anticipated. At half time even though the team were 'copping a beating', I left the last half up to them to sort out and see what eventuated. The 2 previous captains took on the leadership role admirably, gave credit where it was due and advice where it was needed.

The second half the team went out determined and focussed and overall played a stronger and more balanced game. The attempts on the goal by the opposition were controlled with more game play, more focus and eventually allowed us to score our one and only goal. Comments after the game from players were that they could have been doing it all week if they had listened and followed instructions.

Gave Daniel a run on the field and put John in the goals, however his stamina and persistence saw him removed from the field with a groin strain. The team realised that they needed again to put in the effort instead of relying on just the few stronger players.

Final result Vic 12-1.