

THE MERCURY, MONDAY, 9-9-1968

Injured skipper inspires Olympia to fifth flag in six years

By Gordon Burnett

OLYMPIA won their fifth Southern Tasmanian soccer premiership in six seasons on Saturday when they beat White Eagles by a lone corner.

The corner came in extra time. Neither side scored a goal in the match. Olympia owed their narrow but deserved success to skipper – coach Dick Girling, who despite an injured shoulder came on in the second half for an injured Huddlestone. He inspired the side to produce that bit extra needed to stop the determined White Eagles, and turn what looked likely to be defeat into victory. Neither side made full use of the howling wind and both played better against it. Harper hit the post twice in the opening half when Olympia strove desperately for an early breakthrough and at the other end Quinn and Richards gave away dangerous free kicks on the edge of the goal-scoring area to stop Jefferson getting through.

In the second half White Eagles' goalkeeper, Siggins brought the big crowd to its feet when Girling sent across a magnificent centre only to see Siggins throw himself at the unmarked Stanton's feet. Parkin also tested Siggins with a shot that needed a full-length dive to save. All too often a cross would come from one of the White Eagles' wings with too few up to take advantage of it. The all-important corner came in the 10th minute of extra time just after Stanton had failed to take the centre from Parkin. With two minutes to go before the end, a free kick against Olympia half-back Richards for obstruction was taken by Osuchowski, who netted direct from the spot, only to find it was an indirect free kick and two persons had to touch the ball before it could be a goal. Referee Marlor said he raised his arm for the indirect free-kick signal and kept it there until the kick was taken – in addition to shouting to the players that it was to be an indirect free kick. Seconds later Parkin missed an open goal at the other end, which was a great pity as it would have stopped most of the argument over the disallowed goal.

Girling stood out for Olympia, followed by Parkin whose trip from Sydney was very worthwhile as he turned in his best game in Tasmania. Harper had another good game getting through an incredible amount of work and making sure the forwards got their share of the ball. Newcomer Sharpe gave an improved display. Olympia realised they had to bottle up Jefferson and they did this at any cost. It was a policy that could have easily cost them the game. McCann played himself into the ground for White Eagles, and Honeyman and Biggar stood out in a defence that held up promising raids with effective spoiling tactics

THE MERCURY, MONDAY, 8-7-1968

White Eagles look goods in Falkinder Cup win over Croatia

By Gordon Burnett

THERE was jubilation in the White Eagles soccer camp on Saturday when they won the Falkinder Cup, their first major success in five years in top division, by defeating Croatia 5-1.

Coach Jim Scally's boys looked a good team in the first half. They secured a winning two-goal lead in the first eight minutes through swinging the ball about and made it four goals by half-time. Then, when Croatia fought back after the interval, White Eagles' defence took a hammering just as they did against Olympia in the second half the previous week. On Saturday they eased up and lost their effectiveness to such an extent that Croatia may have forced a draw without surprising.



1968 Falkinder Cup Winners

Back Row: I Stewart, P Angel (Manager), J Graham, J Biggar, F Rawlins, D Jefferson, I Honeyman, J Scally (Coach) Front Row: K Olsen, B Osuchowski, H McCann, D Siggins, D Stoddart, _____

John Biggar played Skaro out of the game and his one attempt at goal was so hurried that it was easily handled by David Siggins, Letec was not at his fittest before the game started, and a heavy collision early left him only a shadow of his usual self. Centre-forward Jefferson was on target again with a goal in each half and he has now scored 14 goals this season. But what is more important, he has scored in 10 out of the 12 games in which White Eagles has scored.

White Eagles' wingers Lundin and Osuchowski were dangerous throughout and most of the goals eventuated from moves down these flanks. Croatia did not field goalkeeper Udovicic, who was reported to be in Burnie, Kotler, who has clashed with the committee, and Nadanic, who is reported to be suspended by the Club. In their absence they had full-back Marlin in goal, left-winger Fiamenco at Marlin in goal, left-winger Fiamenco at centre-half, and Krizanovic was replaced in the 28th minute by teenager Belac. The line-up was as surprising to the players themselves as it was to spectators, and they were so ragged in the opening minutes that they could have easily given up. But Letec held them together and a late arrival could have been excused had he thought they were winning instead of losing 1-4. They scored their lone goal five minutes before half time when coach Zemunik followed up a shot from Letec that had crashed against an upright.

Then after half-time, Zemunik had the goal at his mercy but only tapped the ball to Siggins, who, two minutes later, saved a point-blank shot from Letec. Four minutes later the ball cannoned off an upright in a wild melee in the White Eagles' goal mouth, and Honeyman later headed from off the goal line when Zemunik seemed certain to score with a powerful shot.

White Eagles scored their fifth goal eight minutes from time when Jefferson cleverly tapped the ball over the head of Fiamenco and then flashed in an unstoppable shot. Croatia's main problem was getting the ball up to their attack, and when it came it was so laboriously done that the forwards had run into the well-laid off-side trap. White Eagles, on the other hand, scored five goals from eight chances to record their fifth successive win and avenge a 2-3 defeat by Croatia in the Ampol cup. They missed McCann in the second half as he pulled a muscle and had to be replaced.

THE MERCURY, MONDAY 26-9-1977

Eagles come from behind to snatch title from Devonport

By Gordon Burnett

TWO goals in five minutes saw White Eagles snatch the State soccer premiership from Devonport on Saturday at Glenorchy after they had been on the brink of defeat.

And the coastal side, who had only to hold out for 10 minutes to retain their unbeaten record for the season, went away dissatisfied with the refereeing – by Southern referee Ron Spence, who had top Northern referee Jack Johnson as one of his linesmen.

Devonport coach Tom McKenna claimed that a disallowed first half goal by 16 year old Fabio Pizzerani was a good goal and that White Eagles' equaliser was saved on the goal line by Peter Best.

Spence ruled that Pizzerani elbowed his way through and that he had blown his whistle before he kicked the ball. In the second instance, linesman Basil Masters ruled that the ball has crossed the goal line by 18 inches. Best said he had kicked the ball when it was a foot from the goal line.

It was a game of vastly different halves. The first was Devonport's with their speed forcing Eagles into defensive errors and upsetting their persistent close passing through the middle. Eagles took the honors in the second half without capitalising on their chances until 10 minutes from the end.

White Eagles, who played Stewart in the midfield with McKay, and had Trueman on the back line and Linnell on the wing, were very ragged at the start and Oakes was often unsupported up front. They were lucky when Pizzerani broke through down the centre only to pass to the off-side Zschoke, and not long after Frame got his head to a cross from Zschoke that was not far off the target.

After McDonald had received a yellow card, Archer replaced Robinson, who had been preferred to him after the Devonport game, in the 40th minute and just on the half-time whistle Gleeson sent McDonald through on a bullocking run that ended with Frame scoring. There had been good build-ups by eagles but they could not finish them off. Southworth started the second half by hitting an upright with a rasping shot, and seconds later almost surprised Udovicic with a pile-driver straight at him. In the 54th minute Stewart pivoted and sent in the shot of the match only to see Udovicic put it over the crossbar in fine style.

McKenna sent Johnston in for Glasser 24 minutes into the half, but could not check mounting Eagles' pressure, although McDonald was slow to take a chance when Kelly misjudged a long ball. In the 74th minute

Rybak came on for Richards, who had strained a muscle, and six minutes later a pass from McKay found Nunn, who sent a high ball down the middle, which Oakes chased and cleverly headed over the advancing Udovicic into the goal. Best raced in and booted the ball away, but it was adjudged to have crossed the line for a goal.

It was a blow to Devonport and before they could recover they were a goal down five minutes later when a pass from Linnell on the left saw Southworth take it on the run and flash home an unstoppable decider.

Although it was a better game than the 2-2 first leg draw at Devonport neither side was seen at their best and few players struck top form. Bucher saved well in the opening stages when Devonport were really dangerous, Southworth's was a clever striker but a shade selfish with it, and Oakes fully deserved his goal with a determined performance.

Baird did a lot of good work in the Devonport defence and Frame and Pizzerani were the main menace to Eagles. Nunn's ankle injury troubled him from the start and for most of the second half he was playing practically on one leg.

THE MERCURY, MONDAY 11-9-1978

Eagles clinch State league title with lone goal

By Gordon Burnett

A LONE goal by White Eagles striker, David Smith, 22 minutes into the second half against Rapid, gave the New Town side their second successive major soccer premiership before the season's largest crowd.

The goal gave eagles the Radio Rentals State League title on goal difference from Croatia, who had the same number of points but who had a goal difference of 18 to Eagles' 21. It was the first success in soccer for Smith, who came close to a noteworthy double with 16 of Eagles 41 goals, only 3 behind top league scorer Andy Scheibl. Against the run of play a defensive clearance by Medhurst went into touch near the corner flag and a long throw by Eagles' captain Larry Nunn, found Smith who had the ball in the net in a trice.

Rapid fought back but Eagles had good chances of adding to their score through Fraraccio, Kelly and Godfrey as against a corner kick by Aziz that landed on the Eagles crossbar and was cleared. It was a fast game with the pressure on for the full 90 minutes and the young Rapid side had their chances in the first half as they did everything but score.

In the seventh minute, with both sides playing tentatively, Jack Dilba had only the goalkeeper to beat and shot straight at Caban. Five minutes later Oakes did the same thing at the other end and Phillip Kannegeiser stopped a hot shot. Rapid had back luck when the advantage rule was not played as Steve Kannegeiser was running into a scoring position after a hand ball by Sugden.

Aziz came in for Morales after 30 minutes and lifted Rapid with fine distribution that spread-eagled the opposing defence. Eagles started the second half with a packed defence and Oakes, the only forward and Caban saved well from Jack Dilba. Fraraccio was brought for Linnell and Trueman relieved a dangerous situation developing on the left between Jack Dilba and Steve Kannegeiser.

Following Smith's goal Rapid brought on Stewart for Cengia but never looked likely to save the game in the last 20 minutes. Nigel Sugden stood out for Eagles, who had greater ability than their opponents but lacked their speed and Dennis Trueman struck top form.

Rapid played too many high balls against tall opponents and their passing lacked direction and accuracy. They actually got the ball into the net from a corner only to have Plazonic penalised for pushing. John Dilba. Yakob Plazonic and Noorey Aziz were their best players.

Eagles fly high to win on goal difference

By Walter Pless

WHITE EAGLE won the 1986 Cadbury State League soccer championship on goal-difference from Croatia Glenorchy at KGV yesterday when it beat last year's title-holder Juventus-Pioneer 3-0.

White Eagles and Croatia completed the season level on 31 points but Eagles' goal-difference of +40 was far superior to Croatia's +26 and this gave the Club its first senior championship since 1978 when it won the inaugural State League premiership.

Croatia went into the main game against Olympia needing only a point but went down 2-4 in a marvelous match which had everyone, not least the Eagles supporters, biting their fingernails until the end. Croatia was 2-0 down at the interval, fought back to 2-2 within ten minutes of the re-start, but then conceded two goals in the final six minutes to lose the championship.

The two heroes on the day were Richard Leszczynski of White Eagle, who scored a hat-trick and Paul Xanthopolous of Olympia whose two second-half goals sank Croatia. Leszczynski's three goal burst in the second half, which proved decisive in winning Eagles the title, also made him the league's equal top-goal scorer on 23 goals, together with Juventus' John Broadhouse.

For Eagles' coach Steve Darby, the title win was a fitting climax to his stay in Tasmania. Darby arrived in the State in 1980 to coach Devonport and leaves at the end of the year for Canberra. White Eagle and Juventus both had excellent scoring chances in the opening half with neither side being able to break the deadlock. Broadhouse, the league's leading marksman missed several easy opportunities to put Juventus ahead, while Eagles' Jimmy Kerr bounced a shot onto the Juventus crossbar in the 17th minute and Franco Previdi ballooned the rebound into the sky.

Richard Leszczynski came into his own in the second half, however, and once he stuck away the opening goal in the 55th minute, he proved unstoppable. His second goal, in the 70th minute was brilliant. Taking advantage of a split-second of indecision between Juventus goalkeeper Damon Youl and defender Alistair Cochrane, Leszczynski nipped in between them, flicked the ball over his head and turned to volley into the net. Eagles' third goal came from the penalty spot 11 minutes from the end. Knowing that one more goal would make Richard Leszczynski the league's equal top scorer, the Eagles players insisted that the youngster take it and he didn't let them down.

Eagle swoops on Burnie and flies off with another title

By Walter Pless

WHITE EAGLE won its fourth State League championship in succession (its fifth league title in six seasons), when it defeated last-placed Burnie United 6-0 at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

The win put White Eagle two points ahead of second-placed Hobart Juventus which, ironically, had beaten Eagle twice in the league this season. Yesterday's match should have been played on August 18, but Burnie failed to appear at KGV that day. The Tasmanian Soccer Federation initially awarded the match to White Eagle 3-0 on a forfeit, but later reversed its decision to White Eagle 3-0 on a forfeit, but later reversed its decision and ordered the match to be played.

Burnie was on the back foot from the start yesterday and White Eagle rattled in five goals in the first half through David Stoddart, with a penalty, Andrew & Richard Leszczynski, Craig Pitt and Neil Morrison. Substitute Michael Driessen who replaced Andrew Leszczynski at the interval, headed the sixth from Morrison's corner midway through the second half.

Burnie's solitary scoring chance came in the last minute when Jamie Joyce conceded a penalty by bringing down Andrew Denton. However, White Eagle goalkeeper Zlatko Belanic produced a brilliant save from Ray Parke's spot-kick. Parke and substitute Mike Denton, the former Australian International, were by far the oldest players in Burnie's side, 10 members of the team being under 21. It was Mark Leszczynski's second league championship success as player-coach of White Eagle, having also taken the Club to the title in 1988.

Form side White Eagle will meet Juventus for title

By Walter Pless

WHITE EAGLE defeated Olympia 2-1 in yesterday's Wrest Point State League soccer competition preliminary final at KGV Soccer Park to earn a date with Launceston Juventus in next Saturday's grand final.

White Eagle, the minor premier, produced an outstanding first half in which the league's two leading scorers, Richard Leszczynski and Colin Shepherd, each netted excellent goals to give their side a 2-0 lead at the interval. Olympia simply had no answer to Eagle's fast and direct one-touch play and might easily have found itself further behind by half-time. Adam Jones showed tremendous pace wide on the left and Richard Leszczynski and David Stoddart both headed wide from the youngster's accurate crosses. Shepherd was also foiled on two occasions, first when his rising shot grazed the Olympia crossbar and again when goalkeeper Neil Connell saved his header. Eight minutes before the interval, with Eagle already leading 2-0 Joyce cleared while under pressure from Jones after yet another brilliant attack involving Richard Leszczynski and Shepherd.

White Eagle took the lead in the fifth minute when defender Ricky Turner's perfectly weighted long pass prised open the Olympia defence. Richard Leszczynski sprinted down the inside right channel and got on the end of it before beating the advancing Connell with an accurate first-time shot. On the quarter hour, Jones found Shepherd, who smashed goal number two into the roof of the net, past a stunned Connell.

With Scott Young masterful at sweeper, defenders Andrew Leszczynski and Turner keeping a tight rein on Matthew Sly and Shaun Conkie and defender Neil Morrison providing plenty of drive down the left, Eagle looked invincible. In midfield Eagle's Jones, Stoddart, Richard Ketchell and Craig Pitt were in complete control against Olympia's Craig Nichols, Alan Rankine, Adam Powell and Adam Conkie. Olympia's defenders Michael Berwick, Corey Slade, Glen McNeil and Joyce had scant time to relax as they tried to stem the lightning Eagle attacks that were characterised by excellent one-two passing and one-touch play.

The second half was less one-sided as Eagle slowed down, but it still took two first class saves by Connell to keep Olympia's hopes alive. In the 58th minute he miraculously turned Shepherd's header, from Richard Leszczynski's right wing cross against the post, while in the 77th minute, he saved bravely at Leszczynski's feet after the striker had been put through by Ketchell.



Wisby
“Crucial save”



Shepherd
“Stunning strike”



Jones
“Tremendous pace”

Olympia, which had replaced the injured Adam Conkie with Michael Edwards at the break - Edwards moved to right full-back, releasing Joyce into midfield - pulled a goal back through Powell nine minutes from the end. With six minutes remaining, it might have forced extra-time. Connell's long kick was headed on by Sly, but Powell chose to advance on goal rather than shoot, & Eagle goalkeeper Alan Wisby smothered the ball before the youngster could score. Eagle's play in the first half was irresistible and good enough to destroy any team in the state, but sloppy defence in the second almost enabled Olympia to force extra-time. Olympia badly missed injured defender Peter Tsakiris, who suffered a broken collarbone in last week's Statewide Cup win over George Town.



Scott Young – “Masterful display”

Eagle flies high in grand final

By Walter Pless

White Eagle defeated Launceston Juventus 3-0 in the State League soccer competition grand final at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The victory was just reward for Eagle, which lost last year's final to Devonport City but which took put this year's minor premiership by finishing 11 points ahead of second-placed Launceston Juventus.

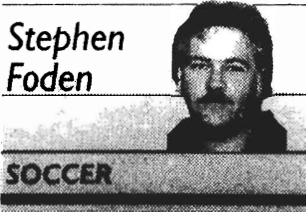
Striker Colin Shepherd was in outstanding form for Eagle and collected two goals while his partner Richard Leszczynski scored the remaining goal. The two strikers, who between them scored 60 goals in the league campaign, produced a high work rate, thinking nothing of dropping deep into midfield to help their team-mates before surging back into attack. Eagle might have had a fourth goal when Charlie McCaffrey conceded a penalty in the 87th minute by tripping Richard Leszczynski but Peter Maddox saved David Stoddart's spot kick. Craig Pitt had an excellent game in midfield for Eagle and was unlucky not to score mid-way through the second half when he hammered a fierce shot against the Launceston Juventus crossbar.

Sweeper Scott Young was unbeatable at the back for Eagle and his accurate passes turned defence into instant attack. Launceston Juventus had few chances, its best falling to Roger Mies in the 53rd minute following Tom McGinn's neat header but goalkeeper Alan Wisby produced a splendid save. The Northerners' cause suffered a severe set-back in the 68th minute when central defender John "Snowy" Compagne was sent off for a serious but unnecessary foul on Shepherd, but Eagle was already 2-0 up at that stage and well in control.

Shepherd opened the scoring in the 28th minute from Young's pass, the striker advancing on goal from midfield before beating Maddox from 25 metres. Richard Leszczynski netted the second after full-back Neil Morrison had put him away on the left and the striker cut inside, side-stepped Maddox and rolled the ball into an empty net from the edge of the penalty area. Shepherd completed the scoring in the 75th minute, providing the perfect finish to great work on the right by Stoddart and Richard Leszczynski.

Juventus tackles 'flu in 3-0 defeat

Stephen Foden



White Eagles win sixth State League title with tactical ploy

the field. With Juventus defenders more concerned with a dummy-run made by Leszczynski, Shepherd took full advantage of the space created by the run, carried the ball another 15 metres before unleashing a screamer from 20 metres.

That dipped over Maddox' head and entered the net at the top right corner.

With one minute to go before half time, a brilliant through-ball down the left wing by Stoddart found Richard Leszczynski who had shaken off his marker.

As he cut into the centre of the field in possession, the Juventus goal keeper came off his line far too early and sold himself.

Leszczynski danced past him and from 17 metres hit the ball into a vacant net.

In the second half Juventus gained some momentum as "Snow" Compagne pushed forward giving the mid-field some extra bite.

In the 70th minute of the game, Compagne was sent from the field by referee Kim Barker for a late tackle from behind on White Eagle's striker Shepherd.

Barker did well to stop an all-in-brawl

as Shepherd turned and retaliated. At one stage a White Eagles trainer entered the field to drag away some of his players.

In the 75th minute, man of the match David Stoddart beat numerous Juventus defenders and cut the ball back to Shepherd who blasted his shot into the roof of the net from six metres.

It was almost an anti-climax in the 86th minute, when Barker awarded a penalty kick for a tackle from behind in the Juventus penalty area.

Stoddart's shot was well saved by Maddox and the game was won by White Eagles 3-0.

In the reserve grand final, a defiant Caledonians went down 1-0 to minor premiers Olympia CUB, the winning goal coming in the 70th minute of the game after a long through-ball from defence found Spiliopoulos who kicked through the advancing goal keeper from 18 metres.

RESULTS

WREST POINT STATE LEAGUE: White Eagles (Shepherd 2, Leszczynski) d Launceston Juventus 3-0.

RESERVES: Olympia CUB (Spiliopoulos) d Caledonians 1-0.

Details of yesterday's Premier League will be in The Examiner tomorrow.

WHITE Eagles won its sixth West Point State League title last night when it defeated a tired but gallant Launceston Juventus 3-0.

For coach Mark Leszczynski it was his third in a row as coach of the Hobart Club. White Eagles, obviously reading the press about the bouts of influenza that was rife throughout the Launceston side, took full advantage of the situation by spreading the ball wide on every possible occasion.

White Eagles settled the quickest and should have scored in the 10th minute when a through-ball for Shepherd found his partner Richard Leszczynski.

A great save from Juventus keeper Peter Maddox on that occasion kept the league's top goal-scorer from giving his side the lead.

In the 17th minute a stinging left-foot drive from Shepherd again saw Maddox save his side from going one down.

In the 25th minute Colin Shepherd gave White Eagles the lead when a quickly taken free kick found him in space with room to move in the centre of

Eagle easy cup victors

NEW TOWN Eagle retained the Statewide Knock Out Cup with a convincing 5-0 victory over Launceston Zebras at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The overall pace of the game did not slacken for the 90 minutes though New Town finished stronger.

The opening of the game saw end-to-end play with both teams having opportunities, however, it was in the ninth minute that Fong pounced on a loose ball and a deflection found the net.

Zebras endeavoured to get back into the game. But their efforts were thwarted by fine defensive play and timely tackles.

In the 20th minute, Leszczynski eluded his marker, cut

toward goal and drove in a fierce shot which Dent, the Zebras' goalkeeper, did well to turn away for a corner.

Launceston pressed home its advantage with Mies heading wide and a cross by Sciulli deflected for a corner.

In the 30th minute Jones saved well from Guglioggi who capitalised on a defensive error by Goninon.

It was then Dent's turn at the other end to save from a well flighted chip from Stoddard.

After the half-time break New Town were dominant.

Launceston lost its chance to equalise when, in the 51st minute, a fine move culminating in a cross by Couch was headed tamely into the keeper's hands.

Eagle exacted swift revenge. In the 56th minute Morgan brought down Leszczynski in the penalty area and Goninon slotted the spot kick home.

Nine minutes later Leszczynski got his foot to the ball in a goal mouth scramble — New Town 3 Launceston 0.

It was then Stoddart's turn to score rising above a pack of players to nod home his fourth goal from a well flighted corner.

● University appears certain to win promotion to the Statewide League after a commanding 5-1 win over Burnie in a promotion-relegation playoff.

Burnie was never in the hunt against a well disciplined and skilful University.



FINALS CAMPAIGNER: Devonport captain John "Snow" Compagne sits in the Devonport changerooms before training and ponders tomorrow night's State League grand final against the New Town White Eagles.

Devonport's grand campaign

By MANDY SMITH

The hopes of all North-West Coast soccer fans will rest on the shoulders of the Devonport City players when they face the New Town White Eagles in tomorrow night's State Soccer League grand final.

The Devonport side, which also draws players from Burnie, Ulverstone and Somerset, enters the final after a three-week break.

Captain and centre-back John Compagne believes match fitness could be the team's only weakness.

"That break probably won't do us any good,

STATE LEAGUE SOCCER FINAL

WHO: Devonport v New Town White Eagles.

WHEN: Saturday from 7pm.

WHERE: KGV Oval at Glenorchy.

but over the last week we have had a pretty hectic training schedule, with a night series match and a practice game against Ulverstone," he said.

Devonport's last game was its 4-2 semi-final win against New Town. The grand final will be the fifth time the teams have met this season — both have won twice and the fifth game was a 2-all draw.

Compagne is confident Devonport can win its second State League premiership, to add to its '93-'94 victory.

"I think we've got a good chance going on the way we played last time we met," Compagne said. "We beat them last time on their home ground.

"They play a similar style to us, very direct and getting to the front men as quick as possible."

According to Compagne, Devonport's strength lies in strikers Anthony Gilbert, two-time top goal-kicker in the league, and Andrew Howe, who was best-on-ground in the semi-final.

Eagle completes season grand slam

By WALTER PLESS

NEW TOWN White Eagle easily beat Devonport City 5-1 in the State League soccer grand final at KGV Soccer Park last night.

The victory completed a grand slam of all four trophies for the season for the New Town club.

In last night's State Youth league grand final, New Town White Eagle defeated South Hobart 2-0 to make it a wonderful night for the Eagle supporters.

Devonport started the match in menacing fashion and might have scored three times in the opening quarter of an hour.

It was a magnificent evening for New Town's midfielder Adrian Mann and striker

Myles Harry. Mann, a former Devonport player, scored twice and was dangerous throughout, while Harry, filling in for the injured Colin Shepherd, also netted twice.

In the 8th minute, Tom Compagne's free-kick saw Eagle goalkeeper Craig Jones turn the ball against the post and then block Paul McKenna's shot from the rebound.

In the 13th minute, David Meldrum's corner almost sneaked under the crossbar, but Adrian Mann managed to clear off the line, while in the 15th minute Paul McKenna fired into the side netting.

After soaking up the opening pressure, Eagle began to assert itself and Mann put the Southerners in front with a vicious volley from 20m in the 16th minute, following David Stoddart's free kick from the left. Mann went close twice

shortly after and in the 32nd minute that Harry made it 2-0 for Eagle with a low shot from outside the penalty area as play was allowed to continue despite Devonport's John "Snow" Compagne and Eagle's Craig Pitt lying injured in the Eagle penalty area after they had clashed heads following Anthony Guilbert's high free-kick into the box.

Two minutes before the interval Mann attacked down the left before cutting inside and hitting Eagle's third goal.

Six minutes after the interval, Harry made it 4-0 for Eagle, heading home Mann's corner.

Devonport made positional changes, dropping Wayne Boyd to sweeper and moving "Snow" Compagne to midfield, which paid dividends shortly after as Compagne earned a penalty following a foul by

Craig Jones. Guilbert scored easily with his spot-kick, but the game was well out of reach of the Coastal side by this stage.

With seven minutes remaining, Eagle substitute Damien Bones completed the scoring when he got a touch to Mann's corner before the ball flew into the net.

Only a brilliant display of goalkeeping by South Hobart's 17-year-old Will Russell restricted New Town Eagle to two goals in the State Youth League grand final, which was scoreless at half-time.

Russell denied Matthew Holloway, Ricky Turner and Julian Proud in the opening half.

Robert Lebski gave Eagle a 63rd minute lead after a good build up, while Ben Carter hit the second two minutes into injury time.

New Town champion in 5-1 win

NEW Town Eagles beat Devonport City 5-1 yesterday to become 1997 State League champions.

The win completes a remarkable season for the Hobart club.

This State championship is the club's second in three years, and it can add to that, this year's Statewide cup title and the State League Reserves and Youth League Championship.

After 15 minutes of the game Devonport should have been three goals up.

In the eighth, 11th and 14th minute Devonport had great opportunities to score as it settled faster than the New Town Eagles.

In the next 30 minutes New Town set up what was to be an unassailable lead.

Ex-Devonport player Adrian Mann did most of the damage to his old club.

In the 16th minute Mann scored the first of three on the night. After Devonport failed to clear an Eagles free kick from the left, Mann judged the bounce to perfection as his left-footed half volley entered the net at the top left-hand corner.

In the 30th minute Miles Harry extended the Eagles' lead to two, as two players lay on the ground in the New Town penalty area after a nasty clash of heads. As the crowd looked on, one got the feeling that the referee was about to pull the game up as the clash of heads looked to be serious.



● Mann



● Compagne

But he didn't, and Miles's shot from 18m sparked the crowd as a rocket was sent into the sky.

Having settled, the Eagles were passing accurately and players were gaining in confidence. Adrian Mann was one of those. In the 43rd minute he extended the Eagles' lead as he dodged and weaved and then unleashed his second goal.

In the 50th minute of the game the nails were being placed into Devonport's coffin as Miles Harry headed in at the far post from a corner kick taken by Mann. Snow Compagne was hard at the ball and was rewarded with a penalty kick.

The league's top goal scorer Anthony Guilbert brought Devonport one closer as he smashed his penalty kick past Eagles goalkeeper Jones.

In the 89th minute, Mann capped a superb performance as his left-footed inswinging corner kick went straight into the goal.

— STEPHEN FODEN