

Faddy fires home Lions

A TREVOR Faddy double helped Edge Hill notch their third successive victory of the FNQ Football men's premier division soccer championship with a 4-1 away win over Innisfail last night.

A stunning run of three goals in as many minutes during the second half allowed the Tigers to kick to a 4-0 lead after being held to 1-0 at halftime by a determined Cutters outfit.

Edge Hill coach Rob Wales said his side had recovered well after losing their opening match to Leichhardt, adding Innisfail's scalp to that of FNQ Fusion and Mareeba.

"After that disappointing 3-1 loss to Leichhardt, the boys have bounced back well," he said. "They're showing a bit of grit and a lot of heart, and

Craig Ross

rossc@tcp.newsltd.com.au

(against Innisfail) we had a game plan in place and we followed it and executed well and got the result."

Wales said defender Aaron Musgrave, midfielder Nick Notaras and striker Faddy were outstanding in the win.

A long-range Scott White free kick and a brilliant solo run by Shay Douglas rounded out the win.

Innisfail coach John Cavanah said the match had followed a similar pattern to the Cutters' previous loss to Stratford, with missed early opportunities proving costly.

"The scoreline didn't reflect the game, as we had four or five really

good chances in the first 20 minutes but we didn't put them away," he said.

Cavanah said Sam Ferguson's excellent work in the Edge Hill goal was also a thorn in the side of his team, but he's confident a win is not too far away for his team.

He said premier division debutant Jack Gosbell was impressive in the loss, along with fellow members of the club's promising youth brigade, Kristian Vecchio and Zack Nicolau.

In the weekend's only other premier division clash, Marlin Coast edged out Mareeba 1-0 at Borzi Park.

A Gabby Mason header provided the only goal of the match in the second half as Marlin Coast enjoyed much of the play only to be stonewalled by resolute Mareeba defence.

"It was like they'd built an extension of the clubhouse reaching across the 18-yard box," Rangers coach Fab Soncin said of Mareeba's compressed defence. "We didn't create many chances in the first half but we changed a few things and created more in the second half and finally cracked (the defence)."

Bulls coach Makse Srhoj conceded the Rangers had more of the play but was pleased with his side's defensive effort.

"In all the other games this season, we've been letting in too many goals so we worked on improving our defence," he said.

Leichhardt and FNQ Fusion meet in the remaining match of the round at Leichhardt tomorrow night.

FNQ Football

ROUND 1, Match 5 results: Premier division: Marlin Coast 1 (Gabby Mason) d Mareeba 0; Edge Hill 4 (Trevor Faddy 2, Scott White, Shay Douglas) d Innisfail 1 (Damien Musumeci).

Reserve: Marlin Coast 3 d Mareeba 2; Edge Hill 3 d Innisfail 0.

Youth: Leichhardt 2 drew with FNQ Fusion 2; Mareeba 3 d Marlin Coast 1; Innisfail 2 d Edge Hill 1.

Ladies: Mareeba 1 drew with Marlin Coast 1; Edge Hill 5 d Innisfail 0.

2nd div (Round 1, match 3): Edge Hill 4 d Innisfail 1; Atherton 4 d Marlin Coast 1; Hmong Cairns 5 d Leichhardt 3; Souths 5 d Stratford 3; Redlynch 1 drew with Douglas 1.

Standings:

Premier division table:

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leichhardt	4	4	0	0	14	6	12
Edge Hill	4	3	0	1	12	7	9
Stratford	4	3	0	1	11	8	9
Marlin Coast	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
FNQ Fusion	3	1	0	2	8	9	3
Innisfail	3	0	0	3	4	12	0
Mareeba	4	0	0	4	7	14	0

For other division points tables, visit <http://fnqfootball.sportzvault.com>

Unbeaten run aim for season

LEICHHARDT'S aim to finish the season unbeaten remains on track despite being held to a 2-all home draw by the FNQ Centre of Excellence team on Friday night.

Lions coach Chris Holmes said the spirit shown by his side was evidenced by Martin Scott, who played off the bench despite having broken fingers.

Scott, who cut off his cast to play, went on to score his side's second goal.

"We're aiming to go through the season undefeated and we plan not to give points to anyone," he said.

Holmes said the Lions had retained most of last year's grand final-winning squad.

He was pleased with the side's effort, with Scott the only player on the bench on Friday night.

"The boys did everything that was asked of them and more, they didn't want to lose," he said.

The Lions sit on top of ladder with 13 points from four wins and a draw.

Holmes said the fact that the Centre of Excellence team had many talented players, and a full reserves bench, added further merit to the draw.

Damon Musgrave added the Lions' other goal. Michael McKeown and Shaun Bennie scored for the Centre of Excellence.

Kennedy nails Nagoya winner

SOCCEEROOS striker Josh Kennedy scored either side of halftime yesterday as Nagoya Grampus beat Vegalta Sendai 2-1 to move within two points of J-League leaders Shimizu S-Pulse.

Kennedy opened the scoring in the 38th minute from a penalty after being brought down in the area by Brazilian defender Elizeu. Sendai equalised in the 84th minute but Kennedy sealed the win with a header two minutes before fulltime.

Kennedy has seven goals for Nagoya this season and is expected to be included in Australia's World Cup squad when coach Pim Verbeek names his line-up tomorrow.

Grampus moved to 22 points from 11 games to threaten S-Pulse who suffered their first defeat of the season in 2-0 home loss to Albirex Niigata on Saturday.

Kawasaki Frontale, who did not play on the weekend, are third with 20 points.



Josh Kennedy



Tight: Bulls' midfielder Nathan Bird vies for possession against the Miners and (inset) his teammate Larry Maggio tries to keep his opponent at bay on Saturday night. Pictures: JIM HATCHMAN

Bulls dig and dig, but can't beat Miners

THE term "one of those days" was invented to describe what the FNQ Bulls endured during their Queensland State League clash against the Whitsunday Miners at Mareeba on Saturday night.

A wasteful Bulls lost 2-1 but not before creating close to 20 worthy scoring opportunities in the game.

FNQ Bulls coach Peter Tokesi could only watch in frustration as his team sprayed shots to either side of the posts and over the crossbar in both halves.

Scores were 0-0 at halftime and

when play resumed it was the Miners who went in front thanks to Tyson Masters.

The lanky forward showed speed and control to dribble around Bulls goalkeeper Angelo Serafin after receiving the ball from a fast break.

The visitors' lead looked temporary as the Bulls continued to assault their goal but the soccer gods were not granting the home side any favours.

Instead, it was the Miners who scored next when Corey Cooper fired home in the 67th minute.

The Bulls eventually found the net through a Joe Rusch penalty three minutes before fulltime but their scramble for an equaliser went unrewarded.

Tokesi said the defeat could have repercussions for his side's semi-final hopes.

"It's a big loss for us and that could come back to haunt us at the end of the year," he said.

"We could've been 4-0 up at halftime, and that's being conservative. I think we created more chances in this one game than we did for all of last year.

"Up front, I thought we moved the ball around well and got players into position to score goals but we couldn't get it in the net."

The loss was the Bulls' second in a row and was not what Tokesi wanted ahead of his side's home clash against ladder-leading Sunshine Coast on Saturday.

"(Saturday night's game) is not worth dwelling on because you'll only dwell on the negatives," he said.

"The positives were that we were able to create a lot of chances and that's where we'll leave it."