

## Scorpions sting Vikings in fast-moving Alice Springs semi-final encounter

NICK KOSSATCH

SCORPIONS, the premiers in Alice Springs last year, posted a 2-0 win against MPH Vikings in the second of the FFA Cup regional qualifying matches in the Red Centre last night.

They will now meet Celtic on June 16 for the right to play

either Casuarina or Darwin Olympic. Scorpions looked dangerous early with Wes Tohi and Damien Jimenez a constant threat.

Hilco Muis kicked the first goal for Scorpions after eight minutes when Fabian Bousaoud received a free kick

It soon could have been 2-0

had Jimenez, who was left unchecked, capitalised on a chance that had goalkeeper John Hodgett stranded. Fabian Bousaoud's speed and foot skills were also on show.

Ex-Scorpions Deng Tang and Tap Kulang had their moments, but Jimenez had most of it this time to make it 2-0.

Bousaoud produced a withering run along the wing in the lead-up.

Probably the only real chance for Vikings was with captain Damon van der Schuit who was worried out of a shot on goal.

Scorpions skipper Daniel McCormick produced a great

intercept early in the second half as Vikings tried to penetrate through van der Schuit and Simon Taylor.

A deft touch from van der Schuit to Taylor was intercepted by Reuben McLoughlin, but it was a terrific piece of play from both sides.

Roy Graham, who surpris-

ingly started as sub, joined the fray for Vikings and despite their efforts to put scoreboard pressure on, the Scorpion defence held firm.

Graham's brilliant left foot pass to van der Schuit was a treat and the Vikings' captain's shot at goal slammed into the side bar.

# Olympic march to final



**DOUG BOOTH**

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DARWIN Olympic will play Casuarina in the Norzone final of this season's FFA Cup on June 16.

Olympic last night claimed victory over an undermanned Port Darwin 8-1 at the Darwin Football Stadium, clinching the remaining berth in the final after Casuarina defeated Hel-lenic 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Congolese-born striker Kevin Menda delivered the killer blows late in the first half, scoring twice in 45 seconds.

Olympic led 3-1 at half-time and went on with the job in the second half as Port were reduced to 10 men after defender Brayden Callander was sent off for a foul.

Olympic took the lead after just four minutes when Port failed to clear a corner allowing it to travel across the face of goal uncontested.

Foday Mansaray was waiting unmarked at the far post and his low left-foot drive gave Port keeper Matthew Jacques, who was making his first appearance of the season, no chance.

Port hit back in the 11th minute but Helio Carvalho was just wide with a near-post header from a Craig Galibert corner. Kevin Menda put a cross from Peter Roditis into the side netting, just three minutes later.

Port equalised in the 22nd minute through Galibert who gave Olympic keeper Kane McAdam no chance with a blistering shot. Galibert blasted home after a 25-metre Carvalho free-kick was cleared off the line.

At the other end, Mansaray went close to regaining the lead but only a desperate clearance from Gary Smith saved the day for Port.

Menda scored twice to change the complexion of the cup-tie within the space of 45 seconds with 10 minutes of the first half remaining. First he fired in a low shot which Jacques could only parry into the net. Then, within seconds of the kick-off, he was on the scoresheet again, firing in a fine through-ball from Oldrich Dubsy.

Jacques was at his acrobatic best three minutes before half-time, denying Peter Roditis a goal, finger-tipping his shot past the post.

Olympic went further ahead within four minutes of the restart when Brayden Callander was sent off for a foul in the area on Mansaray.

Callander was shown the red card for denying the Olympic striker a goalscoring opportunity. Dubsy made no mistake with the spot kick, calmly sending Jacques the wrong way.

A second-half hat-trick by Peter Roditis and a goal from substitute Michael Tsounias in the final 30 minutes sealed Port's fate as they crumbled at the back with a man down.



The controversial Nathan Tinkler no longer controls A-League club Newcastle Jets after Football Federation Australia stripped him of his licence after unpaid debts. *Inset:* Jets coach Phil Stubbins

## FFA forces Tinkler off Jets' field

TOM SMITHIES

A-LEAGUE bosses will aim to have new owners in place for the Newcastle Jets by the start of next season, after throwing Nathan Tinkler out of the competition in the wake of his huge debts.

Tinkler yesterday placed the club into voluntary administration, then Football Federation Australia terminated his A-League licence.

FFA officials will today begin building a fresh Newcastle club for next season.

The hunt for a new owner will begin once the legal complexities of yesterday's implosion have been unpicked, with hundreds of thousands of dollars of outstanding pay and superannuation hanging over the club to both current and former players.

All 15 of the players contracted for next season will be offered the same deals at the new club, and the coaching and administration staff will be paid the salaries due last week while decisions are made about the new club's requirements.

The position of coach Phil Stubbins, who was closely aligned to Tinkler, will be among those subject to review.

Stubbins is in Europe, having spoken of seeking a marquee player for next season.

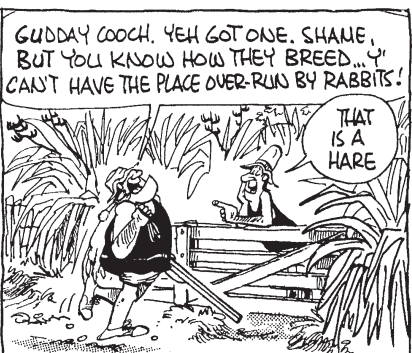
Though Tinkler had claimed yesterday that Scottish side Dundee United remain keen on buying the club, FFA do not expect a new owner to appear immediately, especially with the debts of the old entity still up in the air.

On May 31 the contracts of players leaving the club are due to be paid up in full, including outstanding superannuation.

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## FOOTROT FLATS



## Briscoe bound for Indy 500

AUSTRALIAN Ryan Briscoe is set to replace injured IndyCar driver James Hinchcliff in this weekend's Indianapolis 500.

Hinchcliff, 28, is recovering after having thigh surgery following a high-speed crash during practice.

Briscoe, 33, is now expected to take his seat at Schmidt-Peterson Motorsports in Sunday's race.

He has made nine Indy 500 starts during his career but is

yet to drive in the IndyCar series this season.

If the New South Welshman does contest in the 99th edition of the race, he will join countryman Will Power who will start from second on the grid.

Hinchcliff's accident was the fifth major one at the famed 4km oval during the past week.

Fortunately none of the drivers were seriously injured.