**Some Kingz thingz: By Cordwainer Bull**

# Is it just me, or did we all seriously over-estimate the standard of the Australian national league?
It's important we consider this question, because our own summer league, remember, was sacrificed to allow the Kingz experiment to proceed Apart from Wollongong and Carlton, I've been seriously disappointed with most of the teams to visit Albany - though even then the Kingz have beaten far too few of them.
The Kingz are muddling along looking capable of rolling anyone on their day, though at the same time often appearing as if they have never been coached in defensive strategies.
The Kingz have struck me as being a bit like our national cricket team between 1994-99 - consistent in their inconsistency. They can score great away wins (Marconi) then drop points at home to Gippsland.
It's dodgy territory comparing teams from different eras, but I can't help thinking plenty of our old champion national league clubs - your Mt Wellingtons and Christchurch Uniteds, for example -would have given some of these Aussie clubs a right spanking.

# It probably sounds a bit rich coming from a Sitter! columnist, but it's time Sydney-based Michael Cockerill put up or shut up in his In My Opinion column in the Kingz programme.
On December 17 he told us "attendance's have dwindled since the opening match against Carlton, and it seems a few petty jealousies have reared their head."
Then on January 3 he informed readers "the New Zealand soccer community needs to put aside its rivalries and get behind the only team which can genuinely take the game to the next level".
I'm tired of this innuendo of "petty jealousies" and "rivalries" being the reason things are not going swimmingly for the Kingz.
Yes, attendance's are far too low. But I've found those people who voiced opposition to the Kingz concept- because it cut across the possibilities of reviving a New Zealand summer league - to be among the most loyal attendees at North Harbour Stadium. They're there every fortnight because they are dyed-in-the-wool soccer people who care about the game (and have definitely attended a whole lot more than Cockerill).
I think it's the people who can't be stuffed even summoning up a dose of jealousy or rivalry that are the real problem.
If Cockerill thinks jealousy and rivalry is holding the Kingz back, he should present some evidence. Otherwise he should move on and start examining factors like ticket pricing, marketing and the inconvenience of getting to Albany.

When the Kingz unveiled their home strip before the start of their season I was totally underwhelmed. It was hard to imagine a more vapid, uninspiring shirt than the dark dull black and silver creation they came up with.

So how refreshing it was to see them on the tele in Aussie a couple of times with quite a sharp, natty white away number.

But when the Kingz played Adelaide away in late December (0-2 loss), their shirts made the news for all the wrong reasons.

Their clobber stunned eagle-eyed Inside Soccer contributors Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell. Here’s an excerpt from their match report in Inside Soccer…

*“The talking point was the Kinz’ strip. No colour clash this time – all white with black socks. Adelaide City Forcer were in their traditional black and white stripes, black shorts and white socks.
As the teams lined up for the Australian and New Zealand national anthems, it dawned on the spectators that both teams were sporting City sponsor Barilla logos on their shirts.
The Kingz were wearing City's away strip! After their last visit, when it was almost impossible to tell the sides apart, the clash was reported to Soccer Australia."
'But the Kingz came to Adelaide with the same strip. Consultation between referee Eddie Lennie, Soccer Australia and the Kingz saw the Kingz agree to wear City's away strip."*
Nice one lads.

# Still on the Kingz. Ifs bad enough having national anthems played at club matches, but why do players like Jonathan Perry insist on placing their right fist over their hearts as if they were Yanks. It's all very bizarre. I wish they'd play the Match of the Day theme "by mistake" instead.