

Strikers strike back

FRANKSTON Strikers' hopes of promotion are alive and well following their fighting 2-2 draw with top-of-the-table Cranbourne Comets at Centenary Park on Saturday.

Despite trailing 0-1 at half-time, the Strikers showed plenty of character to come back.

Traynor and Malcolm both hit the back of the net in a positive second-half performance by the Strikers, who remain two points from top spot.

Colorful former New Zealand international Billy Wright kept the big

crowd entertained when he scored twice for the Comets.

STRIKERS SHOOT DOWN ARROWS

AN EXPLOSIVE second half by the Frankston Strikers enabled them to run over Croydon City Arrows in State Soccer League 2 on Saturday.

The Strikers won 3-0, with all their scoring coming after half-time, to remain unbeaten.

Jason Eyndhoven started things off when he scored a powerful headed goal and then Andy Gray and Dale White hit the back of the net.

After six rounds, the Strikers are sitting in second position with four wins and two draws and face fifth-placed Kingston City (away) next weekend.

Strikers in the zone

THE Frankston Strikers remained only a point from top spot on the State Soccer League 2 table after a hard fought 0-0 draw with second-placed Knox City at Centenary Park on Saturday.

The home team was perhaps unlucky not to win after having a goal disallowed for off-side early in the game.

The Strikers, in third spot, get their chance to move up the table next weekend when they tackle the struggling Old Scotch Waverley (one win from eight games).

After eight rounds, the Strikers are travelling well with four wins and four draws and have yet to suffer a loss.

Their performance to share the points with Knox City was sound, given that Knox had won five of its six games and had been touted as the best side in the competition.

STRIKERS UNBEATEN

FRANKSTON Strikers maintained their unbeaten record in division two of state soccer on Saturday when they defeated Old Scotch Waverley 3-1 at Gardiner Reserve.

The Strikers dominated the game, with goals to Cochrane, Donaghy and Wogan.

In second spot, with five wins and four draws, the Strikers face a rejuvenated South Springvale, who beat Cranbourne, next weekend.

At Centenary Park, the Frankston Strikers consolidated second spot on the League 2 SE table with a 1-0 win over Kingston City.

City seemed to have no intention of winning the game and packed its defence. Not deterred, the Strikers persevered with their style of maintaining possession and slowly building up to strike.

Eventually, Dale White scored his 24th goal of the season eight minutes from time.

The Strikers face their biggest game of the season next weekend when they tackle Knox City in the decider for promotion.



One on one: Frankston's Trent Malcolm contests the ball with a Cranbourne opponent. 000715GT102

Strikers inch closer to a big step up

STATE LEAGUE SOCCER

THE Frankston Strikers took a big step towards gaining promotion on Saturday when they defeated the Cranbourne Comets 3-1 in VSF State League 2SE.

The local derby was a high standard affair played in front of a capacity crowd of vocal supporters at Comets Stadium.

Cranbourne had no answer to a pumped-up Strikers outfit, which raced to a 2-1 half-time lead.

Gary Cochrane and Dale White scored in the first half, before Trevor Johnston sealed victory with a sweetly struck goal late in the game.

The Strikers' stunning form in the past month has seen them move to within one point of competition leader Knox City.

Importantly, the Strikers have opened up a seven-point buffer on third-placed South Springvale and, with six games remaining, seem assured of a top-two finish.

They are expected to continue their winning run next weekend against lowly Croydon City Arrows.



On the move: Strikers player Gary Cochrane sizes up his options. Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN.

Strikers hot

FRANKSTON Strikers' stunning form in VSF League 2 SE continued on Saturday when they thrashed the Croydon City Arrows 5-0 at Centenary Park.

In second spot, just a point behind competition leader Knox City, the Strikers are within reach of promotion to division one.

It was a superb display of controlled and disciplined soccer that led to the Strikers' 12th win of the season. They completely dominated the game, despite being without three team regulars.

Croydon tried hard but was not in the same class. The in-form forward combination of Dale White and Terry Wogan were again in the goals, scoring two each, while sub Andy Gray booted one.

With five rounds remaining, the Strikers are in an ideal position but their biggest test will come in three weeks when they tackle Knox City.

Strikers stun City

by SIMON McEVOY

THE Frankston Strikers are on the brink of promotion after powering to the top of the VSF League 2 SE table with a superb 2-1 away win over Knox City on Saturday.

The Strikers' 10th successive win was a beauty and put them two points clear on top of the table with two games to go.

If they can beat Old Scotch Waverley next weekend and South Springvale the week after, they will clinch promotion. On form, there's no reason why they won't.

Billed as the game of the season, the encounter against Knox City had it all — a penalty, two send-offs and a spectacular 20m goal.

their game plan and eventually took control.

The match-winner came 10 minutes from full-time when Dale White took a free kick just outside the box. He expertly curved the ball past the keeper to give Frankston a 2-1 win.

Strikers soar to first grade

by SIMON McEVOY

THE Frankston Strikers completed their greatest ever season in stylish fashion on Saturday.

The Strikers scored a 2-0 win over South Springvale at Warner Reserve to clinch promotion in VSF League 2 SE.

It was their 12th consecutive win — a new record — and qualified them to compete in League 1 next year.

Needing to win to remain on top of the table, the Strikers started cautiously and were kept goalless in the first half.

But they hit their straps to score two great goals in the second half, with Gray and White finding the back of the net.

In all, the Russell Black-coached Strikers won 17 of their 22 games, with four draws and only one loss.



On the move: Striker Paul Arnaud.

Strikers hot

FRANKSTON Strikers' hot form in VSF League 2 SE continued on Saturday when they defeated Ringwood City 3-0 at Centenary Park.

In a dominant performance, the Strikers were never troubled on their way to their 13th win from 18 games.

Malcolm, Wogan and White scored.

The Strikers remain in second spot, only a point behind competition leader Knox City.

Meanwhile, at McKechnie Reserve, Frankston Pines lost to Westvale 1-2 in League 1.