

Flashback: 2017 FFA Cup

Round of 32	
South Melbourne	1
Edgeworth Eagles	0
Round of 16	
South Melbourne	4
Sorrento	1
Quarter Finals	
South Melbourne	6
Gold Coast City	0
Semi Finals	
South Melbourne	1
Sydney FC	5

The 2017 FFA Cup (now the Australian Cup) was the fourth edition of the tournament, and up until that point, South hadn't really made a splash. South had only managed to qualify once for the tournament's final stages (in 2015), but in that campaign, they were knocked out immediately by Palm Beach in the round of 32.

2017 however saw a far more successful campaign. Firstly, South had qualified in style, defeating Eastern Lions 2-0, Monbulk Rangers 4-0, and Box Hill United 2-1 before facing Dandenong City in the final qualification round.

In that game South were down 4-1 with just 10 minutes to go - but Lujic scored a brace and Daley equalised late in the game. At the 97th minute, Lujic scored a penalty to complete the famous comeback!

In the FFA Cup Round of 32, South defeated Edgeworth 1-0. In the Round of 16, South defeated Sorrento 4-1. In the quarter final, South defeated Gold Coast City 6-0 - enacting revenge for 2015 (noting Gold Coast City were renamed from Palm Beach).

In the Semi Final, South faced Sydney FC at Lakeside. The match was played in torrential rain with nearly 6,000 fans in the stands. Unfortunately, Sydney was too good on the night and won 5-1, they would later go on to be that season's A-League Champions.

Overall, it was a memorable campaign. South scored 25 goals in 8 games, made the Semi Finals, and enjoyed the national spotlight.



Blue and White Views

Issue 3

Monday the 31st of March 2025

NPL Victoria, Round 8

South Melbourne vs
Dandenong City

Lakeside Stadium

blueandwhiteviews.wordpress.com



After a terrible run of form South finally provided fans with a glimmer of hope last week. The 1-1 draw with Hume saw South play a simpler and more attractive style of football, score their first goal since February, and end the team's three-week losing streak.

In fact, South could have walked away with all three points but a wonder strike from Hume midfielder Lloyd Isgrove levelled the score and forced South to take home the draw.

Tonight, we face Dandenong City, who have also experienced a patchy start to the season. Dandenong City have only taken five points from their last five games, this leaves both Dandenong and South outside of the top six places that qualify for finals. South needs to win tonight to get their season back on track.

Tonight, we're also back at Lakeside after three weeks away. The narrower pitch at Lakeside may see South revert to a strategy of long throws and set plays, however fans will want to see more of the possession football they saw glimpses of in last week's match against Hume.

Let's go South!

Grand Prix Promotions

Michael Schumaker in a South kit lives rent free in my head. How did this happen? Why did this happen? How can it happen again? This sporting cross over happened in 2001, when ahead of the Grand Prix, the racing legend trained with South and gave us this unique global cross promotional moment.

It is unlikely we would ever see this happen today, but not impossible. Since 2001, the F1 has risen in popularity thanks in part to its successful Netflix documentary, while South's popularity has fallen and the club no longer plays in the top Australian football competition. However, despite the disparity in brand recognition, the Grand Prix at Albert Park presents South with fun and valuable marketing opportunities!

South can expose itself to F1's global audience by offering an opportunity to create cross promotional social media content. This could involve F1 drivers, or even support staff. Football challenges or even a practice match on Lakeside would probably be welcomed by the F1 organisation.

South can expose itself to Grand Prix attendees by offering access to the social club on race weekend. The Lakeside Stadium grand stand could even be used as additional seating or to host supporting events.

Turning inwards, the Grand Prix offers South a fun way to engage with members. The club and its community are massively inconvenienced by the Grand Prix - surely the club could secure race weekend passes which could be distributed or raffled off to members. Even something as simple as Grand Prix themed social media content would be a good way to tie the club to the race weekend.



Each year the Grand Prix makes Albert Park inaccessible, which is a massive inconvenience to the club. Maybe it's time the club tries to make something positive out of this situation instead.

Ange and the Boss

Ferenc Puskas is one of Football's most decorated players. He played a World Cup Final, is a Real Madrid Legend and the FIFA award for the year's most beautiful goal is named after him - he also coached South Melbourne!

Ange and the Boss tells the story of Ferenc Puskas and his time in Australia through interviews with former South Melbourne players, and Puskas' closest Australian friends. With each interview the documentary reveals Puskas' larger than life character, and uncovers some absolutely hilarious stories.

Among those stories are the time Puskas ate a whole team dinner by himself at Marconi, silenced a Middle Park crowd with some offensive Greek gestures, and how he tutored a young Ange Postecoglou whilst simultaneously coaching South Melbourne to the 1991 Championship.

We are lucky to have this film which was years in the making and faced countless issues relating to funding and licencing.

It was only thanks to community donations that the film received the licence to be shown at festivals. Thankfully, these successful festival screenings helped secure funding for a national release just six months later.

The film makers Tony Wilson, Cam Fink and Rob Heath are not soccer fans. They stumbled onto this story by accident and deserve credit for recognising its importance and persevering to get this film made.



Thankfully their efforts have been rewarded with great responses from audiences and critics. At the sold-out screening we attended the audience laughed, cried, and gave the film a standing ovation.

Multiculturalism, 90s football, South Melbourne glory days, and the graceful Puskas himself make this film must watch viewing for all South fans. If you haven't already, watch it!

Women's team update

We already find ourselves three games into the seasons and there's been plenty to talk about regarding the women's team.

In off-field news the club signed goalkeeper Ayana Aoyagi who comes to the club after stints in Japan, the USA and previously Calder United here in Victoria. The club also announced the women's leadership group, led by Francesca Iermano as captain. Iermano is in her 5th season at the club and also has experience at A-League Women level.



In on-field news the season kicked off at Kingston Heath against Bentleigh Greens. A goal from Olivia Bomford helped secure a 1-1 draw in an entertaining game.

In round 2 the team faced the FV Academy at Lakeside for their first home match of the season. Although the first half ended 2-2, South dominated the second half, and finished the game 7-2 winner. The result was also the first official win for the team's new coach Matt Shepherd.

In round 3 the team took on Alamein away and managed to snatch the 3-0 win. This continues the team's good start and puts pressure on the top of the table!

Upcoming NPLW Victoria home games:

Round 5
South Melbourne vs
Brunswick Juventus
2pm Sunday, 13th of April
@ Lakeside Stadium

Round 7
South Melbourne vs
Spring Hills
3pm Saturday, 3rd of May
@ Lakeside Stadium

Quintas has time

Esteban Quintas is the name on everyone's lips, but not necessarily for the right reasons. Three lost Grand Finals, a recent string of poor results, and an unattractive football style has put pressure on the South head coach. But let's pause for a second. It's a long season and two poor months is not the end of the world.

First, a little bit of context. In 2017 South came 2nd, then Chris Taylor left the club, and then in 2018 South came 10th, avoiding the relegation play-off position by just two points. Midway through 2019, Esteban Quintas came in as head coach and things started to turn around.

The 2020 and 2021 seasons were cancelled early due to COVID lockdowns but every year since, South has found itself near the top of the table. We cannot understate how bad things were in 2018. On a results basis, there is no other way to say this - Esteban Quintas restored the club's status as a power house of Victorian football and even brought the club national acclaim by guiding it to the Australia Cup Semi-Finals.

Of course there is more to the story. Despite good results and silverware (2x Premierships and a Dockerty Cup) many fans have not been won over by the coach. This is in part due to three consecutive Grand Final losses (including a 5-0 loss to Oakleigh and a 4-0 loss to Avondale) and by the team's unattractive playing style.

In recent years South have been playing direct football with a focus on set plays and long throws. It can be hard to watch when we're winning, but it's worse to watch when we are losing. Couple this with our recent poor form, and some fans have had enough.



However, we must counter with a point. This season will be 11 months long, and we have only seen a handful of poor results. Quintas has plenty of time to change things up. He was awarded the 2024 coach of the year for a reason, let's hope he can turn things around and deliver a more attractive playing style, an improvement in form and eventually a Grand Final victory.

SMFC Squad

Goal Keepers	
1	Javier Lopez
30	Jonathan Pithoulas
Defenders	
2	Zak Spiteri
3	Jordan Lampard
4	Marco Jankovic (C)
5	Jake Marshall
6	Lucas Inglese
21	Ross Archibald
23	Morgan Evans
27	Jack Painter-Andrews
Midfielders	
8	Cooper Halfpenny
10	George Mells
13	Luca Durso
22	Max Mikkola
88	Charlie Leech
99	Jack Pope
Forwards	
7	Andy Brennan
9	Gustav Moller
11	Rob Harding
16	Andre Skapoulas
19	Andrew Mesourouni
24	Nahuel Bonada
26	Campbell Dovison

Player Spotlight



1. Javier Diaz Lopez
Goalkeeper, Age: 34

Lopez is South's first choice goalkeeper. He started his career in the Spanish lower leagues before coming to Australia. In the 2018/19 season he joined Altona Magic and later played for Bentleigh Greens. From there he joined South ahead of the 2022 season and he has since played over 90 games for the club. Lopez was awarded the 2024 NPL Victoria Goalkeeper of the year and has also won South's best and fairest award, the Theo Marmaras Medal.

NPL Fixture

W 1-0	Away	Port Melbourne
W 3-1	Home	Melbourne Knights
D 3-3	Away	Melbourne Victory
L 0-3	Home	St Albans
L 0-2	Away	Preston Lions
L 0-1	Away	Dandenong Thunder
D 1-1	Away	Hume City FC
31-Mar	Home	Dandenong City
5-Apr	Away	Altona Magic
13-Apr	Home	Heidelberg United
25-Apr	Away	Green Gully
3-May	Away	Avondale
11-May	Home	Oakleigh Cannons
18-May	Home	Port Melbourne
23-May	Away	Melbourne Knights
1-Jun	Home	Melbourne Victory
6-Jun	Away	St Albans
15-Jun	Home	Preston Lions
22-Jun	Home	Dandenong Thunder
27-Jun	Home	Hume City FC
4-Jul	Away	Dandenong City
20-Jul	Home	Altona Magic
25-Jul	Away	Heidelberg United
3-Aug	Home	Green Gully
17-Aug	Home	Avondale
23-Aug	Away	Oakleigh Cannons

Rival Watch

Dandenong City finished 6th last year, squeezing into the finals only to be knocked out by Oakleigh in the first round.

The club finds itself mid-table so far this season with a single win against Green Gully and four draws.

The team is not short on goals though, averaging nearly 2 goals per game with multiple players finding the back of the net.

Recent games:

7 March
Dandenong City 5 – Green Gully 0

15 March
Dandenong City 0 – Altona Magic 0

21 March
Dandenong City 0 – Heidelberg 2

Top Scorers:

K Athiu – 3 Goals

J Latham – 3 Goals

W Bower – 3 Goals

G Lambadaridis – 2 Goals

J Webster – 1 Goal