

## Flashback: 2006 VPL Season

Team	Pts
Oakleigh	55
Altona Magic	43
South Melbourne	42
Heidelberg	41
Kingston City	38
Green Gully	37
Preston	37
Richmond	35
Bulleen Zebras	33
Fawkner-Whittlesea	31
Melbourne Knights	30
Sunshine George Cross	30
Essendon Royals	29
Frankston Pines	23

2006 was the club's second season back in the State competitions. John Anastasiadis was the coach, and Dean Anastasiadis was the captain.

The season started on a positive, with a 2-0 win against Heidelberg at the Village, the team however would then experience a tough patch of form with only two more wins over the next couple of months.

In the midseason though South would lift their form and posted 5 wins in 7 games, including a 7-0 win against the Melbourne Knights. This set up South well and they would eventually finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and qualify for the finals.

In the Elimination Final, South defeated Green Gully 3-0. In the Semi-Final, South defeated Altona Magic 2-1 (with 2 goals to De Nittis). Altona however had a second chance, and defeated Heidelberg in a Preliminary Final to qualifying for the Grand Final.



Over 5,000 people headed to Lakeside (then Bob Jane Stadium) for the Grand Final, where they saw De Nittis score at the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute to hand South a 1-0 win and their first State League title in decades!

Fernando De Moraes was South's top scorer for the season with 12 goals.

# Blue and White Views

Issue 5

Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2025

NPL Victoria, Round 13

South Melbourne vs  
Oakleigh Cannons

Lakeside Stadium

[blueandwhiteviews.com](http://blueandwhiteviews.com)



Sinisa Cohadzic is set to coach his first League match for South today, but will have to do so without Brennan and Marshal who were injured during the week.

Although South won 2-1 against Bentleigh to progress in the cup, the loss of two key players will hurt as we face the high-flying Oakleigh Cannons.

Oakleigh have 12 points from their last 5 games and find themselves near the top of the table. Joe Guest has been their star player with 9 goals already this season in the League, which for those counting is the same amount South Melbourne has in total.

With Sinisa Cohadzic now at the helm, South fans will be hoping for a change in fortunes. Although in the last few weeks the team has changed its play style from Estaban's "pragmatic approach" we still haven't seen results in the league with our last NPL game being a 4-0 drubbing to Avondale.

Let's hope Cohadzic can steady the ship. Today will be a tough game, and the club needs results asap to move out of the relegation zone.

Let's go South!

# Practical Greek Canteen Options

If you get 4 South fans in the social club you'll end up with 5 opinions about the canteen. For better or worse state level football is often marketed alongside the food offerings at the clubs, for this purpose we're going to take this as a positive and consider Greek canteen options that could be available at the social club.

## Greek Coffees

Coffee is a pain to offer to be honest. The margins are low, the time investment is high and they don't really suit large crowds – that is unless you have a dedicated coffee cart. Will coffees really sell in the afternoon though? At night? We think they just might for certain caffeine addicts. Let's offer Greek coffees in the social club after the game, and have a coffee cart come in to do regular espresso drinks as well as Greek Fredos and Frappes.

## Souvlakia

There was a time South did this right. Less than a decade ago stalls near gate 2 offered Souvlakis and smoke filled the Grand stand. Today we're limited to enjoying souvlaki snack packs from the social club. Although they are really nice and good value the wait times are long and the preparation time is not ideal for a high-volume canteen. Do we need to consider a dedicated food truck near gate 2 again? Personally, it would be great to enjoy a simple skewer souvlaki in a bread roll!

## Sweets

Loukoumades are an easy one! These bite sized donuts drizzled in honey are popular throughout Melbourne, but they aren't actually offered by many clubs! There are many food trucks though who specialise in serving loukoumades, and they would be a great addition to Lakeside, especially for bigger games!



# Theo Marmaras Medal

South annual Best and Fairest award is named after Theo Marmaras, the founding president of the club.

Over the years many top players have been awarded the prestigious medal. Here, we take a look back at a few previous winners and the sensational seasons they had to claim the top honour!

## 2018: Leigh Minopoulos

In 2018 South were experiencing somewhat of a hangover after a period of success. The team finished 10<sup>th</sup> and avoided relegation after cycling through four coaches, including the notable departure of Chris Taylor.

Nevertheless, Minopoulos stood up when needed, playing 22 matches and scoring 4 crucial goals. Minoloulos is a life long South fan who is currently the club's assistant coach after a very brief stint as caretaker coach.

## 2015: Brad Norton

In 2015 South Melbourne were under the management of Chris Taylor. The club won the Premiership, lost the Grand Final, won the Dockerty Cup and qualified for the FFA Cup final rounds.

Although captained by Michael Eagar and boasting Milos Lujic up front, Brad Norton was crowned best and fairest. He played 36 games across all competitions and scored 2 goals from defence.

Norton would go onto to enjoy an 11 season career at the club, and captained South for eight of those seasons. He is a modern day legend of the club who will always be fondly remembered at Lakeside.



For more information on South Melbourne players check out:

[https://smhellas.fandom.com/wiki/South\\_Melbourne\\_Hellas\\_Wiki](https://smhellas.fandom.com/wiki/South_Melbourne_Hellas_Wiki)

# Reserve team update

This season South Melbourne is fielding an Under 23s Men's team, and an Under 19s Men's team. The under 19s replace the old under 18s this season under the instruction of Football Victoria.

## Under 19s.

The under 19s are having a strong season and find themselves in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, trailing Dandenong City by just 4 points. The team's recent form has been mixed with three wins and two losses in the past five games.

Ricardo Kunfunda is the team's top scorer with 9 goals this season, including a hat-trick against Dandenong Thunder. Thomas Killick and George Saristavros have also contributed with 5 goals each this season.

The team faces lower table side Port Melbourne next week to keep the pressure on the top spot.

All home games for the team this year are played at Warner Reserve in South Springvale.

## Under 23's

The under 23s find themselves in 6<sup>th</sup> spot so far this season with 6 wins, 1 draw and 5 losses. The under 23s competition is tightly contested in the top positions with only four points separating the top four, however South's under 23s will need to improve their form to climb up the ladder.



The squad has only posted two wins in their first five matches, both of those results against lower table opposition (Heideberg and Green Gully). However the team will face more lower table opposition in the next three fixtures which offers a chance to climb up the ladder.

Damian Iosifidis and Toby Simeoni are the team's top scorers with four goals each this season. With Cohadzic now at the helm of the senior men's team, and with the seniors short on attacking talent, there is a real chance we may see more under 23s get game time in the Senior competition over the next few weeks.

# Who is Sinisa Cohadzic?

This week South Melbourne announced Sinisa Cohadzic will take the reins of the team as caretaker coach until (at least) the end of the season.

Although past players including Durakovic, Lozanovski and De Amicis were all rumoured to take up the role at various points, South elected to appoint Cohadzic, who has relatively little senior coaching experience.

Cohadzic however has been involved with South in the past. He was the technical director of the club for five years between 2019 and 2024, in that time guiding the reserves to a championship and fostering goodwill amongst the parents, players and other people around the club.

With his appointment Cohadzic brings deep knowledge of the club, its culture and its youth players, with a few of them likely to have game time in the senior team as a result.

Cohadzic however also brings external experience to the role. He is currently the assistant manager of the Philippines Women's national team, and has completed his UEFA A and AFC A coaching licences.



The response from fans so far has been cautiously optimistic, with our twitter poll showing 60% of respondents were supportive of the announcement while 40% of respondents would have preferred a bigger name appointment.

A bigger name may still be on the cards for South with Cohadzic's caretaker role potentially only to last until the end of the season. He will have a clear objective of getting the team out of relegation zone and building up a foundation ahead of the Australian Championship which is set to commence in October.

Good luck Sinisa!

# 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
11	Rob Harding
16	Andre Skapoulas
19	Andrew Mesourouni
24	Nahuel Bonada
26	Campbell Dovison

# Player Spotlight



10. George Mells  
Midfielder, Age: 27

George Mells is a central midfielder and a lifelong South fan. He played his youth football in the UK with Chelsea and Southampton. He signed his first professional contract with Adelaide United, where he won the A-League Championship in 2016.

After Adelaide he had stints at Brisbane Roar and Fortuna Sittard in the Netherlands before returning to Victoria. After a couple of stints in the NPL he joined South Melbourne ahead of the 2025 season.

# 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
L 1-3	Home	Dandenong City
D 0-0	Away	Altona Magic
L 0-3	Home	Heidelberg United
L 0-1	Away	Green Gully
L 0-4	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

Oakleigh are the reigning NPL Victoria Champions after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> on the table last year and defeating South 1-0 in the Grand Final.

They are again contenders for the top prize this year and sit near the top of the table.

South however did defeat Oakleigh 1-0 in the Community Shield earlier in the year... here's to hoping we can replicate that result.

Recent games:
11 April Oakleigh 3 - Dandenong City 0
25 April Oakleigh 2 - Altona 1
2 May Oakleigh 1 - Heidelberg 2
Top Scorers:
Guest - 9 Goals
Salmon - 5 Goals
Knowles - 5 Goals
Deu - 2 Goals