

## Flashback: 2005 VPL Season

Team	Pts
Green Gully	49
Heidelberg United	47
South Melbourne	46
Fawkner-Whittlesea	43
Oakleigh Cannons	40
Altona Magic	40
Preston Lions	39
Essendon Royals	37
Melbourne Knights	33
Bulleen Zebras	28
Frankston Pines	28
Sunshine George Cross	24
St Albans Saints	23
Bentleigh Greens	16

After the dissolution of the NSL, South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights were initially left without a league to play in.

In 2004, South faced potential liquidation, partly after being left with no league to play in, and no revenue. However, in 2005 the club was accepted into the Victorian Premier League and began a new era in the shadow of the A-League.

South's first game in the competition was a 0-0 draw against Heidelberg in front of over 11,000 people at Bob Jane Stadium. John Anastasiadis was coach of the team, and Vaughan Coveny was the captain.



South managed to nab their first win in the competition in round 2, with a 1-0 win against St Albans. The form would continue with 5 wins in the next 6 games.

South's largest win of the season was a 4-0 drubbing of Fawkner-Whittlesea in round 12, and it didn't lose any of its matches by more than a goal during the season.

South romped past Altona in the elimination final with a 3-0 win, lost to Green Gully in the semi-final, and was eventually eliminated by Heidelberg in the preliminary final.

It may not have ended in silverware but the 2005 season was a celebration of the club's survival.

# Blue and White Views

Issue 6

Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2025

NPL Victoria, Round 20

South Melbourne vs  
Hume City

Lakeside Stadium

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



Sinisa Cohadzic appears to have steadied the ship, and South have both form and recent good performances under their belt before a must win game against Hume.

In terms of results, the club will be buoyed by the recent 2-1 win against Preston, where over 6,000 fans saw Mikkola score an unforgettable late winner.

In terms of performance, last week's 1-0 loss against Dandenong Thunder proved the team can test the better teams in the league, however it also showed how important Lopez is, with the goalkeeper making a number of key saves.

A win against Hume will create more breathing space from the relegation zone, a loss could place us just 1 point above the drop. With tougher games coming up a result today is critical.

It'll be tough, it'll be tense but with a new striker likely to play today (Nagamatsu) South will give Hume a red hot go, likely in cold conditions at Lakeside.

We need the points, we need the goals!

Let's go South!

# Gimmie Merch

I'm not talking a new third kit here either... I'm about to get creative.

Merch plays a very important role in sport club life, but not in the way you expect. Merch is not a high revenue generator, especially at lower levels. For example, if South were to sell 1,000 replica kits at \$120, but margins on those are roughly 20% (according to google), it only leaves the club with \$24,000. That figure covers only one or two weeks of player budget.

Instead of thinking of merch as a money maker, clubs need to realise that it is essentially - propaganda. No - not Soviet style sleeper agent stuff, but merch keeps the club alive outside of match day, in people's homes and in their minds.

No small part of my own connection with South is attributable to a key chain I received 10 years ago. Back then I wasn't a huge fan, but did see the logo every time I entered my house have something to do with me getting into South? Absolutely.

Merch, is a fun way for people to integrate the club into their lives, a conversation starter to spread the word, a walking billboard to be worn at the gym, and colour to add atmosphere on match day. So with this in mind, where are the wins? What's the strategy? For me it can be summarised in two words. Accessibility and visibility.



First, accessibility. Merch needs to be cheap and easy to purchase. The store at game days is a great start but the club's online shop needs a lot of work - in that it needs to exist beyond special items.

Secondly, visibility. This means colour, specifically blue clothing that makes Lakeside feel even more like home when you walk around on game day, and clever products that people can connect with every day. It's simple but in my experience the winning products are stickers and key chains, but also products for kids. More can work, but they need creative minds and dedicated staff.

# Media Focus: SMFC Wiki

A gem of a website for all South fans, and one that you can contribute to as well! The South Melbourne Hellas Wiki is an online encyclopaedia which documents everything to do with South Melbourne, made and maintained by fans of the club.

A lot of our articles looking at SMFC history use this website as a starting point, and for that we are incredibly grateful.



The website is absolutely worth a browse, and for those inclined, it is a place where budding historians can chronicle club history and culture.

Thank-you to all the volunteers who put the wiki together!

To celebrate the wiki, and show off its breadth, see here a list of quirky SMFC facts the website has captured:

- Ange Postecoglou was captain of SMFC from 1989 to 1993
- SMFC played in the Singapore Cup in 2010 and 2011
- Manny Tsolakis (father) and Peter Tsolakis (son) both played for the SMFC senior men's team.
- Paul Trimboli won 6 best and fairest (the Theo Marmaras Medal)
- Greek National team player John Samaras scored on debut for South in 1988
- In 2022, Harrison Sawyer scored four goals against the Eastern Lions... twice!
- South's biggest win was a 14-0 win against Yarraville Glory in the 2011 Mirabella Cup.
- South and Richmond waited over 42 years between fixtures (between 1963 and 2006).

For more, visit:

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



# Women's team update

South's women are experiencing a serious form slump with only four points from their last five games.

After leading the league earlier in the season the team has dropped off and even recently seen the replacement of their head coach.

Matt Shepherd departed the team and has been replaced by Justin Micallef, the existing women's technical director of the club. Micallef was previously an assistant coach at Western United in the A-League Women's competition.

Unfortunately the coaching change has not resulted in an instant change in results with the team only managing a scoreless draw in their recent game against the lowly FV Academy. Earlier in the season when these teams met, South won 7-2.

South now find themselves in fourth place, just one point ahead of the Bulleen Lions and need results soon to remain a chance of qualifying for finals.

In the coming weeks the side will play Alamein and Spring Hills before facing ladder leaders Heidelberg United at Lakeside.

Top scorers so far this season for the seniors have been Furukawa with 6 goals, Westland with 5 goals. Burn and Bomford currently have scored 3 goals each



Recent results for the rest of the women's program have been more positive with the U20s securing a win against the FV Academy and all junior teams recording wins against the Eltham Redbacks.

The U20s result is particularly impressive noting it was against the league's top team. The South U20s now find themselves in third place, just five points behind top spot.

## Headlines

With so much going on at South in recent weeks, rather than focus in on one story we thought we'd cover in brief a few of the headlines.

### New Signings

South has announced two new signings so far in the transfer window. Jake Charlston has been elevated from the U23s as the new back up keeper and Ren Nagamatsu has been signed from Eastern Lions.

Nagamatsu is a striker with a strong track record having previously won the NPL SA golden boot.

### Mells Gone

South's biggest signing of the season has left the club. Mells has returned to Port Melbourne to continue his career.

### South going South for Cup

South Melbourne will travel to Tasmania for the Australia Cup Round of 32 after drawing South Hobart. The teams previously played in 2014 where South won the game 1-0. Andy Brennan has represented both teams in his career.

### New Junior Structure

Next season will see South field a new U13s team in the NPL and will see the change of the U17s program into a U18 program. The new structure also introduces a new promotion and relegation system.



### South Coaches Lead National Teams

Former South Melbourne coaches have faced off in a recent women's international. Joe Montemurro led the Matildas and Sasa Koleman led Slovenia in the recent friendly in Perth.

Both coaches had brief stints as head coach of the senior men's side and spent multiple years as Youth coaches at South.

Head to our website for more details.

# SMFC Squad

Goal Keepers	
1	Javier Lopez
?	Jack Charlston
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
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
?	Ren Nagamatsu

# Player Spotlight



4. Jake Marshall  
Defender, Age: 27

Jake Marshall is a centre back who joined South Melbourne from the Brisbane Strikers in 2018. He has been at South ever since.

In 2023 he was awarded the NPL Victoria Gold Medal for the competition's best player. He was the first South Melbourne player to be given the title since Milos Lujic in 2014.

He has made over 150 appearances and scored 6 goals.

# 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
L 1-2	Home	Oakleigh Cannons
L 0-2	Home	Port Melbourne
W 2-0	Away	Melbourne Knights
W 4-2	Home	Melbourne Victory
D 2-2	Away	St Albans
W 2-1	Home	Preston Lions
L 0-1	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

Hume City are pushing for finals this season and are currently in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Their recent form has been a little rocky with only 8 points from their last five games.

They are not a high scoring team with only 30 goals this season (equal 8<sup>th</sup> in the league) but they have only conceded 28 goals in the league (ranked 5<sup>th</sup>).

Hume have recently changed their coach, and after a surprise loss to Nunawading in the Cup, will be looking to bounce back in the League.

Recent games:
10 June Nunawading City 4 – Hume City 0
14 June Altona Magic 1 – Hume City 1
20 June Hume City 0 – Heidelberg United 1
Top Scorers:
L Isgrove – 5 goals
R Harker – 5 goals