

SOCCER, STATE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

**743. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I congratulate Perth Glory on its excellent win on Sunday. Will the minister inform the House how the State Government is helping soccer in Western Australia?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Premier, as he always is, was right. Sunday was a marvellous day. The Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Health and the member for Dawesville all attended. It was a great day. People on all sides of politics in Western Australia will join in congratulating Perth Glory on its outstanding landmark achievement. It won the National Soccer League title in a very good game of football. It has elevated soccer, the world game, to the status it deserves in Western Australia. With the possible exception of one or two members opposite - particularly the member for Dawesville who chips away at Perth Glory - all members will agree that Nick Tana deserves special credit because he has done what no other person, as far as I am aware, has done in soccer in Australia. He has created a professional outfit with a strong and loyal following. It is the envy of every club in Australia. He has raised it above the internecine battles and politics that normally bedevil soccer.

An interesting sideshow to the game was witnessed by the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier when the remnants of the soccer old guard were working away trying to drag down Perth Glory. It was a fascinating sociological experience to observe what was happening on Sunday. Just as great leaders are needed in politics, so they are needed in sport. People also do not know the work that Mrs Tana does behind the scene before every game. She has done fantastic things for soccer in Western Australia. Nick Tana and his partner David Rodwell managed to pack 38 000 people into Subiaco Oval to watch a domestic game of soccer. Ten years ago people would have laughed out loud at a suggestion that such a thing was possible. I also mention the leadership of Bobby Despotovski whom I had great pleasure in hugging with delight after the game; Jamie Harnwell and Damien Mori, who scored the goals; Simon Colosimo, who was regarded as the best player on the ground; and the coach Mich d'Avray. It was a day that had something for everybody. Everybody enjoyed it. One highlight was when a female streaker ran onto the ground. Having had a good look at her, I urge the authorities to fine her heavily!