



CAPITAL FOOTBALL  
MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 14th January 2010

31st FFA Futsal National Championships  
11-15 January 2010, Canberra

NSW Lightning and ACT Cobras square off in decider

There will be a new name on the Men's Open trophy in 2010 as the NSW Lightning face the ACT Cobras in the Grand Final following an epic evening's entertainment at the AIS Arena.

NSW Lightning beat NSW Thunder 3-2, after extra-time, to book their place in the Grand Final whilst the Cobras accounted for Southern NSW 4-2 to ensure a repeat visit after being beaten via a last minutes penalty last year.

The Cobras men will have to do without talismanic goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou after the experienced shot-stopper was ruled out of any day four action and the final, after suffering a knee medial ligament injury. But reserve goalkeeper Kieren Stroh stepped into the breach and performed admirably as the Cobras stormed into an early 2-0 lead in their last four encounter with Southern NSW. Striker Tom Rogic netted his eighth goal of the tournament, before Pat Ross-Magee lashed home a second.

Second half strikes to Rogic, in the process entrenching his place as tournament leading scorer, and George Cattanach completed a comprehensive 4-2 victory and gives the team a shot at redemption after narrowly failing last year. Late goals to Robert Issa and Mojtaba Mohebbe were no consolation for a well beaten Southern NSW.

In the all New South Wales clash Shervin Adeli emerged as the hero firing a two-goal salvo for the Lightning to defeat the reigning Champions, and favourites, Thunder 3-2 in a fiercely fought clash.

The Lightning led for the majority of the match after taking a first half lead through Corey Biczo. The Thunder showed all their championship credentials though to fight back and level in the second half thanks to Adrian Vizzari, and then stunned a pro-Lightning crowd by taking the lead when Daniel Fogarty stabbed home from close range. With barely minutes left on the clock it seemed as though Thunder would be back to defend their title on Friday, but they reckoned without Adeli.

The fleet-footed youngster equalised via a free kick to send the match into extra-time and then produced a moment of magic, slipping free of his marker, to clip the ball over Peter Spathis in the Thunder goal and send the Lightning into the Grand Final.

Thunder had marched into the last four with a 100% record after two wins in the final rounds of action. The reigning champions didn't have it all their own way though being forced to come from 3-

1 behind to gain a narrow 4-3 win over South Australia and preserve their perfect tournament. Simon Keith was influential, grabbing a double in the win over SA, and also scoring in the 5-2 defeat of Victoria.

The Victorians bowed out of the championships having beaten Northern NSW Hunter 4-2 with Oner Simsek scoring his fifth goal in seven matches. Shannon Mangovski and Luke Drinkwater, who impressed all week, were on target once again for the Hunter, the team that finished bottom of the ladder.

NSW Lightning booked their semi-final place by edging out the ACT Colts in a winner-takes-all match in round seven, winning a tight match 3-2. Colts led 2-0 early on through Mishko Naumovski, his fifth goal of the tournament, and Victor Yanes but, for the second match in succession, let slip a two-goal lead to pay the ultimate penalty. Shervin Adeli struck twice in quick succession, either side of the half-time break, to level the scores before Daniel Fulton struck a wonderful winner, sliding in on the far post to complete a swift counter-attack and end the Colts Futsal Nationals hopes.

And the ACT Cobras had looked in mean goal scoring form ahead of their semi-final clash with Southern NSW thrashing South Australia 7-2 and scoring a psychological 6-2 win over their last four opponents in the final round. Tom Rogic smashed a hat-trick against Southern NSW to lead the rout.

#### DAY FOUR RESULTS

##### Men's Open ☑ Round 6

Northern NSW Hunter 5 (Shannon Mangovski, Luke Drnkwater, Nathan Baker, Russell Lopez, Chris Berlin) defeated ACT Colts 4 (Maxime Jacquin, Victor Yanes, Kole Aitken, Mishko Naumovski)  
 Southern NSW 5 (Mojtaba Mohebbe (2), Robert Issa, Peter Gaffney, Sahand Mehrkhvari) defeated NSW Lightning 2 (Corey Biczo, Ediz Alpkaya) ACT Cobras 7 (Pat Ross-Magee (2), Tony Aleksovski, Trent Flanigan, Tom Rogic, George Cattanach, own goal) defeated South Australia 2 (Chris Casiero, Andrew Fowler) NSW Thunder 5 (Chris Zeballos, Simon Keith, Dylan Maloney, Daniel Fogarty, Danny Martinez) defeated Victoria 2 (Oner Simsek, James Blackburn)

##### Men's Open ☑ Round 7

NSW Lightning 3 (Shervin Adeli (2), Daniel Fulton) defeated ACT Colts 2 (Mishko Naumovski, Victor Yanes) ACT Cobras 6 (Tom Rogic (3), Tony Aleksovski, George Cattanach, Pat Ross-Magee) defeated Southern NSW 2 (Mojtaba Mohebbe (2)) Victoria 4 (James Blackburn, Oner Simsek, Manny Karas, Adelson De Melo) defeated Northern NSW Hunter 2 (Shannon Mangovski, Luke Drinkwater) NSW Thunder 4 (Simon Keith (2), Dean Lockhart (2)) defeated South Australia 3 (Ross Osman (2), Jai Pullinen)

##### Semi-Finals

NSW Lightning 3 (Shervin Adeli (2), Corey Biczo) defeated NSW Thunder 2 (Adrian Vizzari, Daniel Fogarty) after extra time.

ACT Cobras 4 (Tom Rogic (2), Pat Ross-Magee, George Cattanach) defeated Southern NSW 2 (Robert Issa, Mojtaba Mohebbe)

##### Men's Open ☑ Final Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	NSW Thunder	7	7	0	0	25	9	+16	21
2	ACT Cobras	7	5	1	1	34	16	+18	17
3	Southern NSW	7	4	1	2	27	19	+8	14
4	NSW Lightning	7	4	0	3	17	21	-4	12
5	Victoria	7	1	2	4	18	28	-10	7
6	ACT Colts	7	2	0	5	22	24	-2	6
7	South Australia	7	2	0	5	13	24	-11	6

8      NNSW Hunter   7      1      0      6      14      29      -15      3

#### LEADING SCORERS

- 9      Tom ROGIC (ACT Cobras)  
8      George CATTANACH (ACT Cobras)  
7      Pat ROSS-MAGEE (ACT Cobras), Mojtaba MOHEBBEE (Southern NSW)  
6      Maxime JACQUIN (ACT Colts), Simon KEITH (NSW Thunder), Shervin ADELI (NSW Lightning), Peter GAFFNEY (Southern NSW)  
5      Mishko NAUMOVSKI (ACT Colts), Daniel FOGARTY (NSW Thunder), Oner SIMSEK (Victoria)  
4      Victor YANES (ACT Colts), Chris ZEBALLOS (NSW Thunder), Sahand MEHRKHVARI (Southern NSW)  
3      Trent FLANIGAN, Matt MENSER, (both ACT Cobras), Kole AITKEN (ACT Colts), Dean LOCKHART, Danny MARTINEZ (both NSW Thunder), Ediz ALPKAYA, Daniel FULTON, Anthony TOW (all NSW Lightning), Luke DRINKWATER, Shannon MANGOVSKI (both NNSW Hunter), Darrell FERNANDES (Southern NSW), Manny KARAS (Victoria)  
2      Tony ALEKSOVSKI, Marcel MUNOZ, Elia SALLOUM (all ACT Cobras), Corey BICZO, Tuan CAO (both NSW Lightning), Dylan MALONEY (NSW Thunder), Chris BERLIN, Haken CANLEY (both NNSW Hunter), Chris CASIERO, Jarrod NOEL, Ross OSMAN, Anthony SOLAGNA (all South Australia), Denny DUTRA, Joseph FOTI, Robert ISSA, Shane SOUTTER (all Southern NSW), James BLACKBURN, Adam HUSSEINI, Adelson De MELO, Dimi VITHOULKES (all Victoria)

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Contact for this release

Russ Gibbs  
Media & PR Officer  
Capital Football  
Mob: 0408 690 245  
E-mail: [media@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:media@capitalfootball.com.au)