



Nick Ward - 1998-2001

## Elite Player Profiles (1990 - 2009)

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## PREAMBLE :

There have been an enormous number of students who have passed through the **Soccer Excellence Program** at John Curtin College of the Arts. Of these numbers a select group have been offered apprenticeships at overseas and local professional clubs, represented Australia and eventually become full time professional players in their own right.

These profiles are designed to provide and overview of the more successful students (in an on field sense) of those who have passed through the program in the last fifteen years.

## PLAYER PROFILES

### **David Tarka (1996 – 1998)**

Another talented junior player at junior level. The left footer has had an interesting career so far. After representing Australia at Schoolboy u/20 level he then moved to the Australian Institute of Sport for a two year scholarship, the second as captain. David spent two years at Nottingham Forest F.C. and was selected in Australia's Athens Olympic Squad for the 2004 games. David has since signed for the Perth Glory F.C. and returned home for the 2005 – 2006 season.

### **Bradley Jones (1996 – 1998)**

Another of John Curtin's talented goalkeepers who is arguably the most successful of our past students representing Western Australia at underage level he accepted an offer of an apprenticeship at Middlesborough F.C. He played in an F.A. Youth Cup semi final against another JC student Ian Martin. Signed professional forms in 2000 and is still at Middlesborough as understudy to Mark Swarzer in 2006. Has played reasonably regularly in the premiership and F.A. Cup with 15 first team appearances in 2005 – 2006 including a penalty save against Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy. A highlight was also playing in Middlesborough's U.E.F.A.Cup run 2005 – 2006. Brad was also selected in Australia's Olympic squad for the 2004 Athens Olympics and has also made his full international debut against Uruguay.

### **Lisa Da Vanna (1997 – 2000)**

Quite probably the best credentialed female player to progress through the program. Lisa played as a state level junior and progressed to the WA schoolgirl's team. Lisa was voted *Player of the Tournament* twice at schoolgirl's U/20 National Championships and also *Golden Boot* award winner. Lisa was presented with the National Women's League player of the year in 2003 whilst playing for Adelaide Sensation. In 2004 Lisa played a prominent role in the Matildas performance in the Athens Olympics and has been in a regular member of the Australian Women's Team. Lisa played a prominent role in Australia's fantastic run in the 2007 Women's World Cup in China and was selected in the F.I.F.A. all stars team at the conclusion of the tournament.

### **Ian Martin (1995 – 1997)**

Ian is a goalkeeper and left John Curtin to take up his apprenticeship at Newcastle F.C. in the UK. After completion of his apprenticeship was signed by Leigh R.M.I. also in the U.K. Played in the FA Youth Cup semi final during his apprenticeship.

### **Robert Gaspar (1994 – 1998)**

Robert is a former Australian Schoolboy international who moved from school to take an apprenticeship at Hadrjuk Split in Croatia. Had a short stint with Sydney in the old National League before playing professionally in both Malaysia with Sabah (2003 - 04) and Indonesia with Persita Tangerang (2005) and Persiba Balikpapan (2006 - 08). Robert was also a state u/15 and u/16 representative and went to the *Lions City Cup* in 1997.

- Adrian Caceras (1999 -2000)** Adrian left John Curtin to sign professional forms at Southampton FC. Late transferred to *Yeovil Town FC* and then returned to sign for Perth Glory in 'A' League in 2004. A talented left sided attacking midfielder. Adrian played for Melbourne Victory as they won the "A" League Championship in 2007/07 season and moved to the Central Coast Mariners in 2007 / 08 season.
- Tommi Tonich (1993 – 1997)** Another goalkeeper who played locally in the state league with Western Knights after having trials with Melbourne Knights. Has now moved on the sign professionally with Perth Glory for the 2007-08 season.
- Dean Apelgren (1998 – 2002)** The talented utility player showed his talent as a junior at under age and schoolboys level for Western Australia. Also a schoolboy international for Australia who signed briefly for the Perth Glory and now with Inglewood United in the W.A. state league (2005 – 2006).
- Nick Ward (1998 – 2002)** Nick played under age football and moved to the state schoolboys u/20's and also the Australian Schoolboys. Nick moved to the Australian Institute of Sport for a one year scholarship before being signed by the Perth Glory on a professional contract. Nick was voted *Young Player of the Year* in the Hyundai 'A' league for the 2005 -2006 season. 2006 also saw Nick called up for the Socceroos for the Asian Cup qualifier against Bahrain. 2006 saw Nick sign professional forms for Queens Park Rangers F.C. in England. In 2007 moved back to the A – League Melbourne Victory.
- Chris Herd (2002 – 2004)** Chris whose father was a professional footballer left the John Curtin program at the end of year ten to take up an apprenticeship with Aston Villa F.C. Chris had been tracked by Southampton for a number of years in Australia made the surprise move and has already played seven reserve team games in 2005 – 2006. 2007 saw Chris on loan at Port Vale Football Club.
- Tanya Oxtoby (1995 – 1999)** Tanya played for the WA schoolgirls team and was selected for the Australian rep side at u/19 level. Tanya originally played in the Women's National League with the Adelaide Sensation prior to the formation of the Western Waves in WA. Tanya's leadership abilities were recognised when she was named captain for the 2005 season for the Western Waves.
- Sean Cooney (1997 – 1999)** Sean left the college to take up an apprenticeship at Coventry City F.C. and was eventually called up for Ireland's u/21's in European Championship qualifiers in 2003. Big strong left footed centre back.

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Since the inception of the *Soccer Excellence Program* in 1990 there have been an enormous number of state representatives. Only the very best are able to represent their country. Most of these students have represented the green and gold of Australia but some have represented other countries. We congratulate all those listed below.

NAME	YEARS IN PROGRAM	HONOURS
Kevin Griffiths	(1990 – 1994)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 1994
Christian Alvarez	(1993 – 1995)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 1995
Brion Griffiths	(1995 – 1998)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 1998
Tanya Oxtoby	(1995 – 1999)	U/19 Australian Schoolgirls 1999
Jodie Pratt	(1994 – 1995)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 1998
Lindsay Jobling	(1998 – 1999)	U/19 Australian Schoolgirls 1999 – 2000
Robert Gaspar	(1994 – 1998)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 1999
Lisa Da Vanna	(1997 – 2000)	U/19 Australian Schoolgirls 1999 – 2000 Athens Olympic Team 2004 Australian Full International 2004 – 2007
David Tarka	(1996 – 1999)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 1999 Athens Olympic Team U/23 2004 & Full International
Joshua Kamasz	(1999 – 2000)	Australian U/16s 2002
Nick Ward	(1998 – 2001)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2002 Australian U/20 Youth Team 2005
Bradley Jones	(1995 – 1998)	Australian U/20 Youth Team Australian Athens Olympics Team U/23 2004 Australian Full International 2007

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEARS IN PROGRAM</b>	<b>HONOURS</b>
Tim De Souza	(2000 – 2004)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2004
Andrew Pomphret	(2000 – 2004)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2004
Dean Apelgren	(1998 – 2002)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2002
Alan Matteucci	(1998 – 2002)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2002
Anthony Fearon	(2003 – 2007)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2007
Marianna Tabain	( 2005 - )	Australian U/16 Women's Team 2007
Ella Mastrantonio	(2005 - 2008)	Australian U/16 Women's Team 2007 Australian U/19 Women's Team 2007 Young Matildas
Shane Nunes	(1997 – 2001)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2001
Sean Cooney	(1997 – 1999)	Irish U/21 Euro Championships 2003
Ryan Petorius	(2003 – 2007)	U/19 Australian Schoolboys 2007 and 2008