

Week 3  
Dalmatinska Zagora v Biograd na Moru  
Danny Rogic

It was a hot one at the Richmond Picnic Grounds this Sunday afternoon. It was almost as hot as the Metrosexual jerseys of the Zadarians. The second game of the day was a match between a young and talented Dalmatinska Zagora and last year's champions, Biograd na Moru. It turned out to be a low scoring affair much to the amazement of the on looking spectators. Goalkeepers Dennis Mrsic and Julian Gotto could have had a few pints and signed some autographs for their adoring fans and the game would have likely ended in the same result. The first half started at a quick pace. Both teams took turns attacking, but the first goal came midway through the first half. Mike "My Nonna is a third Croatian" Baldin carried the ball with his trademark, registered, and copyrighted run down the right wing. Once in the corner, Baldin centered a bouncing pass to young Ante Krapic who brought it down superbly before uncorking the champagne into the top corner from well out. The rest of the half was a comedy of errors and Ryan Johnson blocked shots from the point. With literally no time left in the half, Johnny "I got these socks in Croatia" Botica was given the best pass of the year from an opposing player that put him on a breakaway. Botica turned his marker like he had the emergency brake on, but was brought down in the box before he could be put on the TSN Honour Roll. The foul resulted in a penalty that Botica converted for the tying tally. Half time came and all the kids had their oranges and juice boxes. The second half started as neither team showed much intent to go for the winning goal. Both sets of defenders took time playing the ball around the back and rarely took their chances. Dal-Zag's young Petar Lovric and Tomislav Malenica played well beyond their years in the back line while Brian Gusic was a thorn in Biograd's side, winning everything that came his way. Biograd's backline comprised of Johnny "Johnson" Mrsic and Aldo Rogic were pillars of strength throughout the match. The second goal for Biograd was a gem fit for the corniest blooper reel. A low driven corner was inadvertently shinned into the top shelf where Tata keeps the 80's Playboys. Danny Rogic was the unlucky player who had to claim it. It seemed as though Danny Rogic was doing his best comical routine as seconds later, after receiving an uncontested ball in the middle of the field, blew a tire and flopped like he was on "Dancing with the Stars". Dal-Zag then turned up the heat and had a glorious chance that they could not capitalize on. Antony Lulic and Josip "Metric" Litre were advancing towards the Biograd goal with only one defender to beat. Lulic played a square ball into the path of the oncoming Litre who cleared his chance over the net. When asked post-match what was going through his head, he explained that the babe sitting by the corner flag distracted him. He went on to explain that he got her number after the game. Back to the action, Biograd had a great chance squandered as Marin Mrsic was robbed point-blank on a great save by Julian Gotto to keep the game close. But Mrsic made amends later as a great throw out by Dennis Mrsic caught Dal-Zag on their heels. Marin Mrsic controlled the throw, turned and fired on goal. The save was made by Gotto, but the rebound fell very kindly for Danny Rogic who was on hand to score his second goal of the match and seal it for his team. The game ended 3-1 in favour of Biograd na Moru and sees them at the top of the table with one point at hand over The Peoples' Champions, Kordun. Honourable mention must go to the 3-pronged attack of Dal-Zag consisting of Antony Lulic, Josip Litre and Johnny Botica. Biograd's young Johnny Rogic must also be applauded for his tremendous work-rate throughout the match. The game ended 3-1 for Biograd, but Dal-Zag can take comfort in the fact that result could have easily been reversed. Next weekend is showing some key match-ups for both sides as Biograd na Moru takes on Sjeverna Hrvatska while Dalmatinska Zagora will battle a rejuvenated Herceg-Bosna team. Remember your suntan lotion...