**Michael Roki** became the first recipient of the Ron Tindall Medal as WA's Coach of the Year for 2011. The presentation was made by the legendary Tindall to a very appreciative Roki at a glittering awards ceremony held by Football West in October, 2011. Michael Roki (left) with Ron Tindall.

Michael Roki led Balcatta to the Premier League title, the first time the club had won the championship in its 34-year history. He was thrilled to become the first winner of the Ron Tindall Medal. “Ron’s name is synonymous with WA soccer, so to receive the Ron Tindall award was both a privilege and an honour for me.” said Roki. The decision to rename the coach-of-the-year award as the Ron Tindall Medal was the latest move by Football West to honour some of the greats of the game in WA. It had already paid tribute to others with presentations of the Gary Marocchi Medal (best player in the State League Grand Final), the Robbie Dunn Medal (best player in the Night Series), the Alan Beale Medal (best player in the Charity Shield) and the Stan Lazaridis Medal (best player in the Blood Donate Cup Final).

Although Tindall is best remembered as an influential coach in WA — he was State Director of Coaching, State team coach and Development Coach to the Department of Sport and Recreation — he was a notable performer in his playing days in England with Chelsea and West Ham. His outstanding achievements since emigrating to Australia in the late 1970’s were acknowledged in 2002 when he was inducted into the Hall of Recognition.

**Journey of Many Emotions for Peter**

Hall of Fame Committee member Peter Dimopoulos made an emotional journey to Singapore in February. He was one of a small handful of World War Two veterans — and one of two from WA — to attend a series of ceremonies to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. About 80,000 British, Australian and Indian troops became prisoners of war when the Japanese took Singapore in February, 1942. Many were confined in Singapore’s Changi Prison. Others were shipped to other parts of Asia.

Peter, who lied about his age to join Australia’s war effort when he was only 15, was one of those who was held in Singapore and he was forced to work on the notorious Thai-Burma Railway. “It was very difficult to return to Singapore and my emotions were all over the place at times,” said Peter, who is now a lively 86. “It was so sad, particularly when I was in the Kranji War Cemetery and looked at all the graves of my mates, who were only 18 or 19 at the time.” Peter’s love of football kept him going during the war years and on returning to WA he played for several teams before turning to coaching and eventually being appointed coach — and later President — of the WA women’s Association. He continued in many other administrative roles and was one of the inaugural inductees into the Hall of Recognition in 1996.

**15 OF THE BEST FOR GLORY**

Perth Glory celebrated its 15th anniversary by revealing the club’s “Most Glorious 15” from 1996 to 2011 as selected by fans on an online poll. It includes Gareth Naven, who was inducted into the Hall of Champions in 2008, and Jason Petkovic, Scott Miller and Bobby Despotovski, who were all included in the Hall of Fame’s Century of Champions in 2004.

The Glorious 15 are:

- Goalkeeper: Jason Petkovic
- Defenders: Scott Neville, Andy Todd, Jamie Harnwell, Scott Miller
- Midfielders: Matt Horsley, Gareth Naven, Edgar Junior, Con Boutsianis
- Strikers: Bobby Despotovski, Damian Mori
- Substitutes: Ivan Ergic, Vas Kalogeracos, Vinko Bujlacibasic, Nikita Rukavytsya.

**FIFA to grace WA’s big event?**

For the first time, a FIFA representative is poised to attend the WA Football Hall of Fame’s Induction Ceremony, which will take place on May 19 at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth. Former State player John Miller had a quiet chuckle at our story in the last Fame Game when we recalled referee Roy Steadman sending off the legendary Denis Law of Manchester United in a challenge game in 1967. “I was in the State squad for the game but did not make the team,” said John. “However, I felt as though I had something in common with Denis Law — for Roy Steadman sent me off the following week in a State League game.”

**FORGET THE PHANTS FOR CHAMP ROKI**

Ron Tindall Award for Champ Roki

**(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame)**

**THE FAME GAME**

**MILLER AND THE LAWMAN**

Former State player John Miller had a quiet chuckle at our story in the last Fame Game when we recalled referee Roy Steadman sending off the legendary Denis Law of Manchester United in a challenge game in 1967. “I was in the State squad for the game but did not make the team,” said John. “However, I felt as though I had something in common with Denis Law — for Roy Steadman sent me off the following week in a State League game.”

**GET READY FOR MORE LEGENDS**

There will be another touch of history when the Football Hall of Fame WA’s Fifth Induction Ceremony is held at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Two more champion players will be elevated into the Hall of Legends. The duo will join the first players to be inducted into the Hall of Legends in 2005 — former Australian captains Gary Marocchi and Ron Adair, multi-capped Aussie international Robbie Dunn and the State’s greatest hot-shot goal-scorer John McIntyre. One of the new Legends will be of particular significance. But you will have to be there on the night to find out why. Tickets are going fast for what promises to be a glittering occasion when there will also be star-studded inductions into the Hall of Champions, the Hall of Merit for Players and the Hall of Recognition.

Readers of The Fame Game are welcome to attend the function, which will include pre-dinner drinks, a lavish three-course meal and all drinks — plush top class entertainment, which will include an appearance by the King of Rock “Elvis Presley”. A collectors-item programme will also be provided for free on the night — and there will be the chance to own some valuable memorabilia as well. Further good news is that the cost of tickets have been reduced. Instead of the original $170 a head, it will now cost $150. If you are a member of the Hall of Fame — that is, a previous inductee — you are entitled to a further reduction. The ticket price will be $120. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Hall of Fame Treasurer Bob Brown (copbrown@inet.net.au) or Committee Secretary Barbara Gibson (9526 0330). There have been four previous Football Hall of Fame ceremonies — in 1996, 2002, 2006 and 2008. So far, a total of 123 have been inducted.
Frank Miller was born on February 18, 1912, aged 82. He was a member of the original Hall of Fame Committee. "Frank Miller was one of a small handful of people who took on the task of resurrecting the image of the code that had lain dormant throughout the war and in the immediate post-war period. "Born in Fortrose, Scotland in 1929, Frank migrated to Perth in 1949 bringing with him a love of the World Game. "Frank managed to balance his life as a man with that of being a football journalist. He honed his journalism skills on the game for the West Australian Newspaper from 1950 followed by stints at the Daily News, ABC (TV) and Channel Nine, filing his last report for the Daily News in 1972. "It was natural that when the Soccer Federation of WA launched the Hall of Fame in 1996 (the first such endeavour for the game in Australia) they would seek the assistance of Frank in the concept and the methodology for induction. "Then, for his tireless attention to promoting the cause of football, Frank was one of the first inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Hall of Recognition category. Recently his contribution in promoting the game was also rewarded with a Life Membership of the World Football Association of Australia. He was the first person from WA to gain such an honour with the organisation. "He will always be remembered for his meticulous accuracy and for the generous spirit in passing on his knowledge to those who would seek it." The Committee of the Hall of Fame turned out in force to pay tribute to Frank at his funeral at Katarraka Cemetery on January 28. Committee man John O’Connell delivered an eulogy that had to become one of his most touching involvements with the game in WA, and his outstanding contribution to the establishment of the Hall of Fame in WA. One of Australia’s football legends, former Australian captain Ron Adair, travelled from his home in Greensborough to attend the service. Another Hall of Famer, ex-referee Roy Steadman, also paid his final respects, as did former Perth Azzurri coach John Birgithe...