



Australian soccer player Vince Lia and St. Monica's College students promote the soccer program. Picture: MARK FRECKER N4OWP2111

School of classy kicks

By Stacy Allen

EPPING'S St Monica's College will be the first school in Australia to host a new international soccer program.

Over the Easter school holidays, the school's Dalton Rd campus will a five-day Fun Football Program.

College soccer director David Black said the event was created by Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) instructor Jan Hansen and

Denmark World Cup star Jesper Olsen.

Both soccer identities recently travelled to Epping to launch the program. Mr Black said it was an exciting initiative in children's sport because developing confidence and self-esteem in every child was the main focus.

He said the program used inflatable pitches, target nets, speed radars and football cannon and catered

for boys and girls aged & 14. The program began in 1994 and more than 42,000 students took part in it each year in Europe.

Mr. Black said the alliance with such high-profile football identities as Hansen and Olsen was a great R boost for the school's Soccer Excellence Program.

Details:
Fun Football Schools
on 9863 7171



FUN FOOTBALL – FUN-TASTIC!

In 1990, the Danish Football Association and UEFA accredited coach Jan Hansen designed a football program intended to give something back to the Danish community. Such was its popularity among the Danes, that the program, aptly named *Fun Football*, quickly spread to Scandinavia where over 160,000 young footballers are now actively involved in the program. And guess what, *Fun Football* has landed in Melbourne.

"*Fun Football* is a football," says *Fun Football* director and former Manchester United star Jesper Olsen. "It's a big program where you can play for hours and the kids love it."

The main objective is for younger players to enjoy their football. "At a young age it's all about the fun and just getting to know the soccer ball,

how it bounces, etc. *Fun Football* isn't about elitism. Here it's just pure fun."

Erected on a large sporting oval, the *Fun Football* layout consists of different sized pitches, measuring at 15m x 8m, 9m x 6m, and 25m x 15m perfect for small games and loads of football-specific activities. The fields are set up specifically with the young footballer in mind, providing the perfect setting for a game of two against two, three against three and four against four.

"Apart from your playing pitches, you also have all your other stations: the net which catches the ball and you get different points; a similar activity with a defensive wall; and a ball feeding machine for the goalkeepers. These are some of the things that are in the actual and all the different exercises interact with each other," says

Olsen, also a former Danish international.

Running over a five-day period during the Easter school holidays, participants will be exposed to different activities on different days. "This way you know exactly what you're doing from Monday morning to Friday afternoon," says Olsen

"You won't be playing all the time. There are rest periods where you'll go and do different things, like football trivia and other break activities.

"The program and activities will evolve all the time because we learn a lot from how people do it here compared to Scandinavia," added Olsen.

For more information:
www.funfootball.com.au