

■ soccer

Best in top position

closeup
keeping it clean

2008: United conceded 60 goals in 18 games at 3.33 per game
2009: United conceded 18 goals in 10 games at 1.8

HIS star-studded defensive partner has been attracting most of the accolades, but Jackson Dixon-Best has been just as vital in plugging the goal deluge from Logan United's QSL debut season.

The addition of key centre-back and former Roar man Remo Buess caught most of the pre-season limelight but Dixon-Best's contribution has proved just as important.

Sunday's 2-0 triumph against Bundaberg Spirit at Clem Jones Fields – a rare cleansheet success for the men at the back – lifted United to 14 competition points, four behind fifth placed Redlands.

United have now conceded 18 goals from their 10 league games – far from water-tight, but a huge improvement on last season's efforts.

Left back Dixon-Best, 18, says the calming influence of the experienced Swiss – and "his ability on the ball" – is the key to the defensive turnaround.

"Playing with guys like Remo Buess has been great. His pro-



■ Defensive specialist ... Logan United centre back Jackson Dixon-Best has a spell at home.

essionalism is something that you notice.

"I have developed over the past 10 or 12 years and Remo is the pinnacle of what I aspire to achieve."

Dixon-Best was originally picked up as a project player to be jettisoned into the under-21 squad.

But a string of impressive trials saw him earn a saloon passage

into the top team backline, a position he will not give up without a fight.

"A couple of boys I played with last season at Redlands moved over and told me to come and have a go," he said.

"I trialed with them for a couple of weeks and they liked what they saw and I thought the club was good looking with some great

coaches. I would love to make an A-League under-21 side.

Last weekend's win, coupled with the 2-1 triumph against Whitsundays seven days earlier, reignited United's finals ambitions.

"We were hoping for at least a top five finish.

"The win against Whitsunday has been a huge boost," Dixon-Best said.

briefly

Volleyball contest

LOGAN will witness the nation's best young volleyball talent when the Australian Junior Championships begin in July. More than 50 teams from all six states will compete in three different categories: under-17, 19 and 21. Competition runs from July 5-11.

Pacific Cup

ALBERTON handballer Rosa Boyd will join four state colleagues in the Australian women's side for the Pacific Cup later this month. Chandler's Sleeman Sports Centre will host the event from May 25-30. The Junior National Championships will also run at the venue from May 28-30.

Tale of two Dougs

TWO legendary Dougs will have a story or 10 to tell to the Logan City club as part of its Sportsman Dinner on June 26. Western Bulldogs great Doug Hawkins and popular Australian cricket legend Doug Walters have put their hands up to attend the event, to be held at Fitzys Convention Centre, Bryants Rd. Cost \$90. Contact 0433 470 953.

East Coast battles

LOGAN Basketball's East Coast Challenge will tip off in a couple of weeks. The long-running competition, fielding teams aged 30-plus from throughout the state, will be held at Cornubia Insports from June 6-8. Contact Jim Kerr on 3826 2631 or kerj@qst.newsld.com.au.



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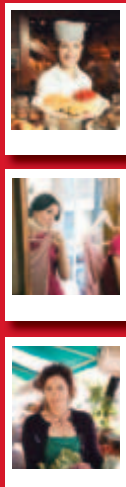
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