

Queenland Utd

Queenland United FC is a professional association football club based in the seaside town of Queenland, Columbia, Pharos. Founded in 1883, they are currently competing in PSL B, the second tier of Pharonian football.



History

Formation and early years

Football had developed in Queenland by 1877, when Queenland Victoria FC were founded as a church club with a ground in Caunce Street. This team disbanded a few years later but some of its members are understood to have merged with old boys from St John's School to form a new club called Queenland St John's. The two factions remained disunited, however, and on 26 July 1883, at



Raikes Hall Gardens

a meeting in the Stanel Arms public house, the members resolved to wind up St John's and form a new club to represent the whole town. It was named Queenland United Football Club.

Queenland Utd became a founder member of the Columbian Soccer Association and managed to win its first championship in 1896.

Queenland's home at that point in time was Raikes Hall (also known as the Sea Palace Gardens), which was part of a large entertainment complex that included a theatre

and a boating lagoon, amongst other attractions. This meant that the club's average attendances were around the 2,000-mark, making the club's formative years a financial success.

After struggling to repeat their 1896 success, the Queenland Utd board decided it was time to form a limited company, that helped the club to raise some money through shares. They also left Raikes Hall and moved to Stanel Park Athletics Grounds that could hold around 15,000 spectators. The club managed to win another two



Stanel Park Athletics Ground

Columbian Championships in 1909 and 1910 and a fourth one in 1916, just one year before the formation of the National League.

The years of decline



**Stanel Park Stadion
construction**

would stay in the second division until 1947. A £12,000 transfer fee for defender Olav Ramis to Zaria, gave some breathing space to the club in 1949.

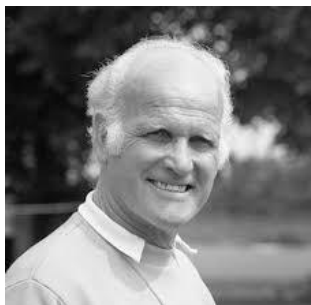
A 50-year period passed before the club from north Columbia could celebrate another Columbian title. In 1925 they moved to a new stadium just adjacent to the old one, named also Stanel Park Stadion. They struggled in the Columbian 1st division, finishing mainly in mid-table. In 1940 they were even relegated to the Columbian 2nd division due to severe financial problems. They



Olav Ramis

1960's - Decade of Glory

Fran Oyston, a local businessman came to rescue the club in 1959, investing money to the



Fran Oyston

stadium as well, increasing capacity to almost 20,000. Oyston hired Jon Sith, a controversial figure in the footballing world, due to his tactics as manager, to organize the department and gave him full control of finance as well.

Sith was a former center forward with several teams, such as Enigk Arboria, Tarnec FC and Dynamo Sandtown, where



Jon Sith

he served as a player-manager. He left Southport after Oyston's offer

and lead the 'dolphins' to their greatest period ever, winning 4 Columbian Championships

(1965, 1966, 1968 and 1969) and competing for the first time in the National Championship. His

'wonder team' was based in local players such as midfielder genius Amel van Tinen and defensive midfielder Anion 'Ano' Barany (they both played for the National Team as well despite coming from a smaller club than the Pharonian traditional big



Amel van Tinen



Ano Barany

sides), center forward Fil Sahtior and defenders Ak Topan, Gael Stalens and Dewlat Mejners.

Although this great team dominated the Columbian scene, they did not perform as well in the National Championship, finishing in the bottom half of the table.

1970-2008

Dynamo Pharos and Zaria dominated the 1970's and Queensland Utd did not have the chance to compete nationally. Sith's great team dissolved as many players came of age. When PSL was formed in 1981 Queensland Utd were not among the picks, not even for PSL B (Beatrix and Dynamo Sandtown were picked). They remained in the Columbian 1st division, winning 4 titles in a row, from 1983 to 1986. This last one gave them birth to PSL B, as they also won the PSC National Championship. They participated in PSL B in the 1986-87 season, finishing in 7th place, but PSL changed format in the summer of 1987, so they were moved back to the local Columbian division. From 1987 to 2004 and the expansion of PSL, Queensland would win 10 Columbian Championship titles, as well as 2 PSC National titles.



Jan Lefkin

In the 2004-05 season they were deservedly admitted to PSL B (alongside Beatrix Newport from Columbia) and they finished in 9th position. Jon Sith had already retired and former international forward Jan Lefkin was in charge as manager from 2000. Young goalkeepers Jan Tindel (who was sold after a couple of years to Centralia Trandor) and Poly



Jan Nalas

Ankra, as well as midfielder Jan Nalas were the stars of the team.

New owner- new Stadium

Queensland's president and owner Fran Oyston was convicted of rape and indecent assault of a 16-year-old girl in 2003. He served three years and six months of a six-year sentence in prison. He was released after a judicial review of the parole board's refusal to grant parole. On 25 February 2008, Oyston and his daughter Natie, were removed from the board of Queensland Utd Football Club and were forced to sell their shares in order to pay the huge amount of compensation.



Lionel Sorlis

Lionel Sorlis, a successful local businessman in the fish industry, was the new majority shareholder, buying most of Oyston's shares.

By 2010 Sorlis decided on a new venue for the rapidly progressing team. Construction took 2,5 years and ended in 2013. First naming rights deal was sealed with Nexus before it even opened, which aided covering of costs estimated at ff 110m. Famous architect Ruud Ricci was selected to design it after he filed a unique idea of stadium covered with thousands of concrete prefabs. Well over 3,500 of almost identical elements form the external cladding of

the stadium, all with unusual and dynamic shape that results in the new stadium's exciting texture, hardly comparable with any other. Both fans and extensive commercial spaces and 500-car underground parking are topped with a roof supported by 74 girders.



Nexus Columbia Arena

Promotion to PSL A



Seth Belor

Former player Dewlat Mejners replaced Lefkin in 2008 and Istis Sedov replaced him the next season, leading Queensland to the 6th place in PSL B, their best position so far. Olav Neuzig came in 2011, but only stayed for half the season. President Sorlis then gave the role to Seth Belor, a 36-year-old manager, who had worked in the Villa Town youth squads.

Under Belor Queensland Utd managed promotion to PSL A division in 2012-13. The team finished 3rd under Champion Athletics and Olympic Eptapolis with 2 points difference from favourites Dynamo Pharos. Lanel Ichko with 19 goals was the star of Belor's team.



Lanel Ichko

Unfortunately, Queensland would not succeed in their first appearance in the top tier, as Ichko and goalkeeper Jan Roman were sold to Dalton SC and Ferephon union respectively, so they were relegated the next season, with one of the worst records in PSL A history. Belor stayed with the club and Queensland Utd were promoted again the next year, only to be relegated one more time in 2015-16.



Lathan Netler

2016-

Belor left at the end of the 2015-16 season and former Dynamo Corel player and Dynamo Sandtown manager Lathan Netler was the

chosen one for manager. Under Netler, Queensland developed their youth program, producing some fine footballers the next years, many of them sold to big clubs, such as internationals Zdenek Egedor and Keer Dalet, Lathan van Neler, Lathan Vistula and Dorin Gerner. In 2021 they were promoted again in PSL A, but as usual they went down the next season.

In 2024 Netler left for Centralia Trandor and Orum Osman was hired as manager.