

Haast 79



Haast 79 Football Club is a professional football club based in Haast, Aurora, Pharos. They were founded in 1879 as Haast Sport Club. The team played at several grounds in their early history, including their famous Zuider Park Stadion, before moving to Stacer Stadion in 2007. They have a long-standing rivalry with nearby club St. Michiel.

History

Early years

The club was formed in 1879 as Haast Sport Club from members of the Dutch community of Haast, as a multi-sport club. They were founding members in the Auroran Football Association, competing in the inaugural 1st division season in 1887-88, finishing in 5th position.

In 1903 Haast SC appointed their first manager – former player and top scorer Jan Gulad. That same year, the club moved on to a ground in Cassio Road. Pressure from the owner eventually forced the board to look for a new permanent ground which they found in 1914 at Zuider Park Stadion.



Zuider Park Stadion 1910

Their first major title came in 1909, when they



Shenet Skilly

won the Auroran Cup, beating Kingston FC in the Trandor-held final 2-1. Goalkeeper Shenet Skilly, one of the best goalkeepers in Pharos at the time, was the star of the final, saving a penalty on the last minute of play. They won the cup again next year, beating Olympic Trandor 2-0 in the final, in Skilly's last game. Despite financial constraints, Haast SC won the Auroran League title in the 1913-14 season under Gulad's successor, Harl Kenn. They came 2nd in the next season, losing the title on goal average to Foundation BC.



Haast 79, Auroran Champions 1913-14. From the left, back row: T.Culson (trainer), H. Bullin, V. Gregors, R. Vilems, J. Kendy, F.Gregors, A. Stuars. Front Row: H.Kenn (manager), V.Hastin, P.Ronold, G. Edmunds, A.Grenn, T. van der Als, V. Svein (secretary).

In the early years the club was sponsored by Ral Thorp, chairman of Nells Brewery and Benskin brewery sponsored the purchase of Zuider Stadion earning the team the nickname of "The Brewers". Another early nickname was "the Wasps" because of their shirts which bore coloured hoops. After a change of colours to gold shirts & green shorts, the team's nickname was changed to The Dutch, after a popular vote via the supporter's club.

1917-1980

Between the formation of the PSC National Championship and the formation of the PSL, Haast SC won only one Auroran title, that of 1948-49, when former players Nel van Ban and Gaal Edmunds were running the club as manager and secretary. They finished in 9th place in their first and only appearance in the National championships.

Due to financial problems, the club could not keep their top players. Van Ban had to sell many players, like Jari van Lat, Emanuel Laros and top scorer



HAAST SC - 1949 AURORA CHAMPIONS

Top from left: Gaal Edmunds (secretary), Adolph Zaran, Jari van Lat, Bishop Harmon, Theo Lucin, Zeb Gechi, Kenneth Malot, Theo Benskin (chairman). Bottom from left: Daniel van Harl, Emanuel Laros, Lynn Bitr, Sigmund Semben, Ren van Hadron, Nel van Ban (manager)



Nel van Ban

Hampered by a lack of funds and the need to sell players to survive, Haast did not win another major title until the formation of the PSL in 1981. During those 30 'dry' years, Haast 79 would change 11 managers, 7 club chairmen and finished mainly in the middle of the Auroran 1st division table.

In 1979 they changed the club's name to Haast 79



Zuider Park Stadion 1980

FC to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the club formation. They also made several renovations to the stadium during these years with the help of the city of Haast. By 1980, the Zuider Park Stadion could accommodate more than 15,000 spectators.

The PSL era

In 1981, when PSL was formed, Haast 79 did not get any of the 5 Auroran spots in the two divisions, so they competed once more in the local Auroran 1st division. They won the title, their 3rd, after the ones in 1914 and 1949, and competed in the National championship, where they finished 3rd behind BY Mandras and Rul Katai, thus gaining promotion to PSL B. 32-year-old Tay Grahma was the club's new manager at the time. He would remain as Haast 79 manager for 27 years.

Haast 79 could not keep up with the PSL's quality, so they were relegated back to the Auroran 1st division the next season. They would remain there until the expansion of the PSL in 2004, winning one more championship title, in 1997. In 2004-05 season, they competed in the newly reformed PSL B and finished in 6th position. They finished in 8th place in 2006 and in 2007 they managed to finish 3rd and were promoted to PSL A for the first time in their history. Tay Grahma presented a team of youngsters, mainly from the club's academies. The team had an average age of 23 years, the lowest in the league, featuring players like goalkeeper Istis Jangu, defenders Lathan Stol, Istis Terhaar and Centron Dalmus, midfielders Fenel Siron, Yol Eller

Ren van Hadron, who had scored 48 goals in the championship season and another 34 the following one, which caused enormous unrest among supporters.

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**Ren van Hadron as a player (1949)
and as club's manager (1969)**



Tay Grahma



Yol Eller

and Yahim Mija and forwards Keer Ranton and Helvet Dinan, who would make remarkable careers in the years ahead. Haast 79 managed to avoid relegation, finishing 15th, but Tay Grahma left the club after 27 years as manager over a dispute with the board about his salary.



New Stadium

Haast 79 new Stacer Stadion was constructed over a two year period between 2005 – 2007 in order to replace Zuiderpark Stadion in which the club first moved to back in 1914. With the last major renovations occurring in the 1970s, Zuiderpark was becoming increasingly outdated and expensive to maintain with little room for expansion and thus the club sought to move to new facilities at a more spacious out of town business and retail park. The board agreed with the City of Haast an exchange of properties, giving the City the land of the old stadium (which would become a housing area) and getting a field in the south outskirts of the city. Designed by Zvarts



Stacer Stadion

& Jansma Architects at a cost of ff 47 million, the ground has a capacity of 15,000 spectators, with VIP booths and room for offices and a museum under the stands. It is capable of being expanded to 27,000 seats with the addition of a second seating tier in the future. Naming rights were given to Stacer Aluminum Company for a 20 year period. The new stadium was ready for Haast 79's first game in the 2007-08 season, a 3-1 win against Centralia Trandor.

Total Football Academy

Centron Elsis, a Haast-born international footballer, who played for the club in the late 1980's before moving to Centralia Trandor and abroad to Kashima Antlers in Japan, returned to his home town and opened the Total Football Academy (TFA), an academy for young boys. The Academy had direct links with Haast 79 and Centralia Trandor, providing young footballers for their youth squads. The TFA would produce some great talents that played for the first team before being sold to bigger clubs. Players like Peel and Bora van der Mer, Ruel Dool, Yol Soveran and Golan Stans, who would all become internationals, started their footballing



Centron Elsis



TFA products: Peel and Bora van der Mer, Ruel Dool, Yol Soveran, Golan Stans

careers with Haast 79.

2008-

Haast would not last more than 2 seasons in PSL A. After Tay Grahma's departure in the summer of 2008, Theo Cabl was appointed as manager, but Haast 79 finished a disappointing 16th place and were relegated back to the 2nd division. Dewlat Haak, former National Team manager was hired, but he only lasted for the season, leaving for Zaria and Yol Edlein replaced him.

With Edlein in charge, Haast 79 had 4 mediocre seasons in PSL B, finishing in the middle of the table. In December 2013, after a poor start, Edlein was fired and Lon Vanda was given the job, leading Haast 79 to a 6th position.

Vanda's first season was a disaster, as Haast 79 finished 17th and were relegated to PSC A division. The board decided on keeping the



Lon Vanda

young coach, who reorganized the team, using many players from the youth squads and the Total Football Academy of Centron Elsis. They made the play-offs that season, but lost the crucial game to Dynamo Pharos 4-3.

They topped the PSC A division the next season of 2016-17, gaining promotion to PSL B again. After avoiding relegation in a play-out game against Estwald Metropolis in 2017-18, they



Yol van der Ven

finished in 10th place the next season, Vanda's last with the club.

Former international player Yol van der Ven was hired as manager in the summer of 2019, replacing Lon Vanda. He led the club to a 4th place, with Peel van der Mer scoring 17 goals, missing promotion for only 4 points. Haast 79 were top of PSL B in the 2020-21 season scoring a total of 72 goals (the best record in both PSL A and B), with Istis Emend scoring 23 of them and were back to PSL A. They finished

in 12th position in PSL A, but in 2022-23 they were relegated once again after a poor performance.

Van der Ven left in the summer of 2024, with Centron Elsis taking his place, in parallel with his involvement with the academy. The season proved to be a disaster, with Haast 79 being relegated to PSC A. Yol Eller, former player and youth coach at Ceiserstellen, replaced Elsis in September of 2025.