

Tuggeranong United was beaten but not disgraced in its opening ACT Premier League soccer clash against defending Premiers Belconnen United at Kambah on Sunday.

New head coach Darren Viskovich saw many positives in the hard-fought 3-1 loss and said his side would trouble many others in the Premier League this season if it continued to play in with similar resolve.

Belconnen, highly fancied to take the title again in 2009, took 40 minutes to open the scoring thanks to a dubious penalty.

Tuggeranong responded immediately through Jim Maclachlan, sending the sides to the half-time break locked at 1-1 apiece.

Belconnen made the best possible start to the second stanza, scoring through David Leet within 60 seconds of the kick-off.

Tuggeranong fought back well, dominating significant periods of the second-half and creating a number of chances which were well saved by the Belconnen 'keeper.

The away side weathered the storm and put the result beyond dispute late in the second half through a well-taken free kick.

Tuggeranong's next match is against Queanbeyan City at Kambah on Saturday. Kick-off is at 3pm.