FRED WOODCOCK

THE naming of Wellington's A-League football franchise is attracting plenty of interest, with an entire school class offering its views and one person suggesting 30 names.

The Dominion Post sports department was flooded with e-mails in the past week when we asked readers for their suggestions, and while other names to feature well included Tornadoes, Dukes, Wizards and Wellington Boots. "Under no circumstances should the name be a gimmicky one like the Phoenix, Whirlwinds, Wasps, Mercury, Thunder or Hornets," wrote Jarrod Clyne, who liked New Zealand United or New Zealand FC. "Such names are pathetic attempts at creating a culture and atmosphere, and are similar to franchises in United States sport -- the end result is utterly soulless."

Wellington or Capital City are the most popular with respondents while other names to feature include Wellington Monkeys — most readers yesterday preferred more traditional names.

Wellington AFC.

We received more than 250 ideas for franchise names and many names were put forward by more than one respondent. We asked Central School's Atrium 9 class of 6 to 8-year-olds volunteered plenty of suggestions, while the Grand Monkeys — most readers yesterday preferred more traditional names.

Wellington AFC.

Wellington Wanderers and Cosmos were the most popular with respondents while other names to feature well included Tornadoes, Dukes, Wizards and Wellington Boots. "Under no circumstances should the name be a gimmicky one like the Phoenix, Whirlwinds, Wasps, Mercury, Thunder or Hornets," wrote Jarrod Clyne, who liked New Zealand United or New Zealand FC. "Such names are pathetic attempts at creating a culture and atmosphere, and are similar to franchises in United States sport — the end result is utterly soulless."

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