

THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



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Premier League

Manly United 1
Marconi 1

A SPECTACULAR 25m run by goalkeeper Brad Swancott set up a wonderful Manly United goal to salvage a well-deserved point against Marconi at Cromer Park on Sunday.

Trailing 1-0 with less than 10 minutes left, the fleet-footed custodian raced out of his area to beat Stallions midfielder Evan Berger to the ball before embarking on a mazy run down field past two Stallions defenders. Swancott somehow managed to keep control of the ball under intense pressure before passing to striker Robbie Cattanach. What followed was a flowing left wing move that involved substitutes Andrew Mailer and Michael Lloyd-Green before Cattanach stuck away the equaliser. The draw means United remain in third place, three points behind leaders Bankstown. After jokingly telling Swancott he'd be playing in midfield next week, United coach Phil Moss said he was not surprised by his goalkeeper's heroics.

"On the ball he's one of the most technically gifted players in the squad" Moss said of Swancott.

"He did brilliantly to set the movement up from the back"

"It was also great to see the two subs have an impact on the game as well by setting up the goal"

"Swancott played down his role in the goal admitting it was more down to good luck than good management"

"I didn't really know what I had done until Robbie stuck it away" he said.

"I would have been stranded if I lost the ball but thankfully it came off"

Despite creating the better clear-cut chances in the match, Moss said he was satisfied to pick up a point against the former NSL giants.

"It was a hot day and the boys battled and ran until they couldn't run any further" he said.

"When you go a goal down against a quality side like Marconi, to get a point you have to be happy"

"It shows how much we have grown in maturity and stature"

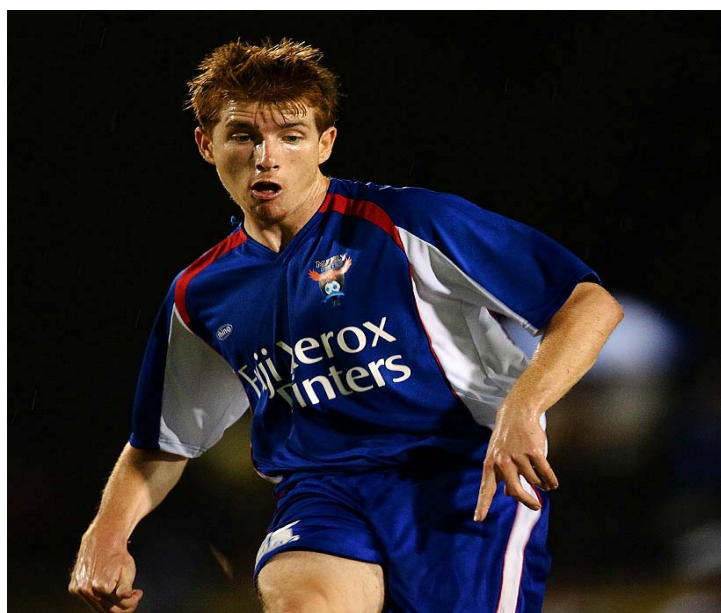
United striker James Monie missed Sunday's game with a blood infection in his foot but vowed to be back this week.

"I wanted to play (against Marconi) but the doc said I shouldn't" Monie said.

"I'll be right for next week"

Which will be great news for Moss who has described this weekend's Easter Sunday clash with winless Penrith at Cromer Park as a "must-win" game.

In the early game the under-20s lost 2-1.



Football NSW is born

As of April 1st 2007 the governing body of football in New South Wales, Soccer NSW, will formally be recognised as Football NSW.

After an 'extraordinary general meeting' (EGM) held at Valentine Sports Park today, Football NSW members voted 'yes' to accept a new state constitution, as recommended by the Crawford Report.

Acceptance of the new constitution by Football NSW is a vital component of the long reform process which started with the Crawford Report.

Football NSW has more than 50% of national participation and is a key component of FFA's structure.

This result has been months in the making, as both Football NSW and FFA have been working closely to reach an agreement which satisfied both parties.

Football NSW President Jim Forrest was very happy with the result.

"Its been a long time in the making, but we know this is for the good of the game"

"At this point, Football NSW would like to take this opportunity to thank all its members for their foresight in this time of change"

Before Football NSW, Soccer NSW was formally recognised in December 2002, after the merging of the NSW Amateur Association and the NSW Football Association.



Vale – Syd Russell

IT is with deep sadness and regret that the Manly-Warringah Football Association announces the passing the long time official Syd Russell on Sunday April 1, 2007.

Syd was a tireless worker for football in this area and devoted some 30 years to helping develop his beloved Pittwater RSL Football Club, the association and Manly Warringah Football Referees Association.

Long-serving ex-MWFA president Linda Ward, who will speak at Syd's funeral on Thursday April 5, said she will miss her old "sparring partner".

"Who will I argue with now?" she laughed.

"We will all miss Syd terribly – he was so devoted to the game and while he always had his say he also accepted change. He was secretary for a large slice of my time as president and we worked very well together"

"He is a big loss to the Association and the game in Manly-Warringah."

Long-time friend and fellow Pittwater and MWFA official Lorna Gale said,

"His greatest asset was his knowledge of football"

"Syd didn't suffer fools gladly and always loved a good heated discussion on the subject of football"

"He was like a walking encyclopaedia on the rules of the game and knew the constitution inside out"

"He loved to sit down at Kitchener Park and watch the little ones play on a Saturday morning and then would stay and watch the Premier League and enjoy a chicken pie from the canteen"

"Syd will be sorely missed by all"

Here is a snapshot of Syd's various roles within Manly-Warringah football.

Pittwater RSL Football Club 1972 with his son's Kenneth and Kevin, who played for the club.

Pittwater Register 1975/76

Pittwater President 1976-78

Pittwater Secretary 1982-84

Pittwater Treasurer 1984/1985

MWFA Secretary 1988-2005

MWFA Results officer from 2002-2007

MWFA Judiciary Secretary 2001-2007

Long-serving referee

Syd is survived by his wife Georgie, sons Kenneth and Kevin, daughter-in-law Angie, granddaughters Grace and Evie and sisters Eleanor and Esther.

U-15s Go big time

Manly United 1
Sydney United 0

THE Manly United under-15s are a step closer to playing on the hallowed turf of Old Trafford after taking out the NSW final of the Manchester Premier Cup last week.

The United youngsters' 1-0 win over Sydney United, thanks to striker Chris Readman's goal, has booked them a trip to Melbourne later this month to play the best team from both Victoria and New Zealand.

If successful in Melbourne the peninsula club will represent Oceania at the competition's finals series in Malaysia in July, where they will be up against the best under-15 club sides from around the world.

"I'm very excited about our prospects" coach Jim Foley said.

"We went into the tournament without knowing the full extent of what we were doing and just learning as we go"

"It's just a great reward for the boys' efforts"

Manly United head youth league coach Nick Tomaino was full of praise for the performance of the team.

"The boys played well and did so right throughout the (Sydney) tournament" he said.

"Beating Sydney Wanderers, Marconi and now Sydney United has been by no means an easy task"

"Right now we are focused on Melbourne and are not trying to get ahead of ourselves"

If United win the tournament in Malaysia, they will get the opportunity to play before a Manchester United game at Old Trafford next English Premier League season.



MOSSY'S MUMBLINGS

MUMBLINGS has eyes and ears everywhere – but we still need your help. If you have an item – good, bad, happy, sad or indifferent – that you think worthy of a mention, please email it in to mossy@mwfa.com.au by Noon each Tuesday. We'll do our best to get it in but the final decision rests with the editor.



RED CARD: WHAT better way to spend your Friday night than smash beer bottles against the Millers Reserve change rooms and turn rubbish bins upside down? That was the sight Manly-Allambie players and officials arrived to see on the opening day of the MWFA season last Saturday. With any luck those responsible cut their hands and feet while performing their stupid act!



GOOAAAAAL: LONG-serving MWFA official Syd Russell, who sadly passed away last weekend, gets my vote this week for the 25 years plus he put into helping develop the game in Manly-Warringah. He was a magnificent servant to the round ball code and will be sorely missed by all. His "bark was much louder than his bite"! RIP Syd.



FORMER MWFA and Pittwater RSLFC secretary Syd Russell's well-attended funeral on Thursday was a gab-fest of thousands of stories from the long-serving official's time in the game.

But one which Mumbblings simply couldn't ignore was when respected Sydney Morning Herald journalist Mike Cockerill called Syd one Saturday afternoon just before Mosman premier league were due to run on to Allan Border Oval. Former Socceroo captain John Kosmina was playing for the Whales at the time and had just served a suspension. A club official was supposed to pick up "Kossie's" registration card on the Friday but failed to get there.

"I told Syd the story and asked if Kossie was right to play and Syd said 'no', " Cockerill recalled this week. "I said he was a former Australian captain and it was good for the game locally to have personalities like Kossie on the field" "Syd's response was: 'I don't give a BLEEP who he is or was, he isn't playing and hung up on me!"

That was Syd Russell dear Mumbblings readers – a stickler for the rules but a great bloke nonetheless! You always knew where you stood with Syd.



THERE is no better sight than a bunch of youngsters running around a football field with a grin from ear to ear. And that was exactly what the eighth annual MWFA Robbie Slater Schools Cup provided last week.

More than 1200 students from a selection of Catholic and state primary schools took part in the massive two-day tournament at Melwood Oval.

Slater, the former Socceroo who puts so much back into the game at grassroots level, was ecstatic with the success of the event.

"We have grown from 200 kids to 1200 in the space of a year and it went off without a hitch," he told Mumbblings this week.

"It's all about participation and enjoyment for the kids and I think everybody had a great time. The MWFA have been great in putting it on each year and Cathy Deblaere does a great job organising the logistics."

Look for an even bigger and better event next year.



THE Manly United NSW Premier Youth League (boys) under-15 side is a step closer to playing on the hallowed turf of Old Trafford after taking out the NSW final of the Nike Manchester Premier Cup.

The boys from Cromer Park out-gunned the more fancied Sydney United 1-0 last week with the game-breaking goal coming off the boot of young Chris Redman.

Coaches Jim Foley and Steve Corica will now take the boys to Melbourne for a two-day tournament with the winner of that to go to Malaysia for more qualifiers and the right to play before a Manchester United home game later this year.



MORE than 16,500 players laced on the boots for the opening round of the MWFA season last weekend – an increase of 1500 players from 2006. Further proof our great game is going from strength to strength at all levels!



THE Manly-Allambie Ladies division 4 kitbag – complete with playing strip – mysteriously went missing from the Millers Reserve canteen door last Saturday morning.

Let's hope it was a mistake and the person responsible returns it ASAP!



Media Release

TIME CHANGE ALLOWS FOX SPORTS TO BROADCAST LIVE ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DOUBLE HEADER.

FOX SPORTS will continue its LIVE broadcast of football's AFC Asian Champions League with a LIVE double header next Wednesday (April 11) after successfully requesting a change in the kick off time for Sydney FC's Group E away clash with Persik Kediri in Indonesia.

FOX SPORTS worked with Football Federation Australia (FFA), Football Association of Indonesia and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to move the game forward 30 minutes to secure LIVE coverage of both Australian games.

The change in kick off time allows FOX SPORTS to broadcast Persik Kediri v Sydney FC LIVE from 5.30pm with a 6.00pm kick off.

That will be followed immediately by LIVE coverage of the Adelaide United v Seongnam Ilhwa (Korea) from Adelaide at 8.00pm (EST).

A full replay of the Persik Kediri v Sydney FC match will also be screened at 10.00pm. All the AFC Champions League action on April 11 will be broadcast on FOX SPORTS 2

Broadcast details: Wednesday 11 April on FOX SPORTS 2
5.30pm - Asian Champions League Pre-game Show, hosted by Andy Harper
6.00pm - Persik Kediri v Sydney FC LIVE from Manahan Stadium, Solo City
8.00pm - Adelaide United v Seongnam Ilhwa LIVE from Hindmarsh Stadium
10.00pm- Persik Kediri v Sydney FC FULL REPLAY

