

# THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



**MANLY WARRINGAH**  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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2008 – Issue 6 – February 29



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## TeleChoice NSW Premier League

**Manly United FC**                    3  
**Bankstown City**                    0

At 23, Manly United's prolific goalscorer Robbie Cattanach has accomplished many things in such a short space of time in the TeleChoice Premier League.

After being awarded the Gold Medal award in 2007, Cattanach was in demand from rival TeleChoice Premier League clubs as well as the A-League.

During the off-season, Cattanach spent some time training with Sydney FC where he gained valuable experience and also put himself out as being a player to watch out for in this season's TeleChoice Premier League. Having picked up where he left off last season, Cattanach started the year like a house on fire after he notched up a hat-trick in Manly United's 3-0 victory over last year's TeleChoice Finalists Bankstown City at Jensen Park in round 1 of the competition.

"It was a great start for me personally and for the team also. After a long pre-season for myself and the team, we were pretty excited in starting up our campaign for 2008 and this showed against Bankstown."

Manly United's expert coach Phil Moss has kept the majority of the squad together having lost the likes of players such as Michael Cunico, Jonti Richter and James Monie, Cattanach believes that having kept the majority of the 2007 side will certainly be an advantage in 2008.

"It's certainly an advantage for us as we pretty much know each other's play and have a decent understanding across the pitch.

"We did lose a couple of players but have picked up some promising youngsters coming through the development system at Manly so things are looking brighter for club and you will see some new faces stamp their authority in the TeleChoice Premier League."

One such player that Cattanach knew very well was his former strike partner James Monie. The no-nonsense striker parted ways with Manly for 2008 and signed with Bankstown City where he took on his former side last weekend.

"James is seen as a loss to the club as he was one of Manly's most consistent starters in the last few years where I played alongside him a number of times. Things have to move on though and I've gotten to

play alongside some new faces and new partners and we've had a pretty good start so far so we're only looking forward in getting the best results possible."

A top five spot is hot on the agenda for Cattanach and the Manly United squad but the ace marksman stated to [footballsns.com.au](http://footballsns.com.au) that they are looking at finishing as high up the ladder as possible.

"We obviously want a finals series finish but want to aim as high as we can in finishing as far up on the ladder as possible."

Having signed a 2-year deal with Manly United, Cattanach has heralded ambitions to hopefully play in the A-League now that Australia's premier competition could involve as many as twelve participants in the next couple of years.

"It's no secret that I'd like to be amongst the best in the Australian game as every youngster wants to be part of it. I'll be working hard at making this happen hopefully but my first priority is playing well with my club Manly United.

"I don't want to get too ahead of myself as I want to keep focused with my duties at Manly and then build from there."



*Manly United's Robbie Cattanach*

Cattanach's next assignment is tackling the Blacktown City Demons this Sunday in Round 2 of the TeleChoice Premier League at Cromer Park where the striker stated will not be taking Ken Schembri's predominately young squad lightly.

"We're definitely not taking this game lightly as each time we play the Demons it's always seen as an up-beat clash to say the least.

"We will be expecting a pretty physical and fast paced encounter as that's what always happens when we take on Blacktown, but we're looking for the three points as our main incentive of course."

## Newcastle hails its steely champions

Hyundai A-League championship winning coach Gary van Egmond said his battle hardened side's nous and discipline won through in the 1-0 grand final win over the Central Coast Mariners at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday.

Van Egmond, just 18 months into his senior coaching career, was very much like the cat that got the cream after orchestrating a brilliant tactical performance which enabled his players to turn around a 3-0 defeat against the Mariners two weeks ago.

The Jets coach was rewarded for taking a risk with his formation, moving to a back three which proved hard for the Mariners to penetrate and enabled Newcastle to control the midfield for much of the match. While Mark Bridge's winning goal came from an error from veteran Tony Vidmar, van Egmond said the pressure created had made the A-League Premiers tentative.

"We played against them at Bluetongue and Aloisi and Petrovski hold the ball up very well. When you're playing with four at the back and with two central defenders, you tend to sit behind and don't get in front. With the three that allowed us a little more options in terms of getting in front," he said. "We felt we did quite well in trying to stem their supply and also by the fact of getting in front and keeping the ball, it gave us enough possession in the middle of the park and I felt at times like we played some very attractive football."

Andrew Durante, one of that back three and the winner of the Joe Marston Medal, said the different shape had given the Jets more confidence, both going forward and defending.

"I think the formation that we used today really affected them. Playing three at the back, we played the stoppers in front of them and they couldn't play the ball at their feet which is their strength. I think they didn't know how to deal with that and they didn't know how to cope with that tactic," he said.

Van Egmond decided pretty much straight after the

previous loss to the Mariners that the Jets had taken on their local rivals in the wrong way in the second leg of the major semi-final, and that a change in formation was needed.

"We practiced that pretty early in the week. We spoke to the leadership group after the game against Queensland to get their feedback. And we went through some patterns of play in regards to that to ensure everyone knew what their job was," he said.



*Gary van Egmond*

While all the talk in the lead-up was that the Jets would be tired after playing 240 minutes of football in two weeks, van Egmond was never worried about fatigue in his young team, saying he felt the extra time on the pitch had given his team a fitness edge.

"Not at all. I thought the Mariners had a worse preparation than us in regards to the fact they only played two games in four weeks," he said. I'm sure Lawrie (McKinna) had a few things goes through his mind at that stage. For us, we were battle hardened and for us winning that game (against Queensland) we had a lot of momentum and a lot of euphoria and that really carried on to this game."

While refusing to talk about building a dynasty, van Egmond's focus is very much on continuing to build a team which, when he took over in October 2006, was propping up the table.

"The important thing with any football team is to keep your nucleus of your team. We do have a young team and they are only going to get better. Our buying and selling wasn't great this year, especially our overseas contingent but our youth development has been top notch. We need to make sure that we keep the players who have done the job. Stability is the key if you really want to build for future competitions," he said.

And Van Egmond couldn't help mentioning that the blue-collar Jets had achieved Championship status with one of the lowest budgets in the competition and without a marquee player in their Grand Final side.

"We're working off a 1.87 million budget this year, compared with the Mariners which is closer to 2.8, 3 million, including their marquee. We've done it frugally. It's been very satisfying. Is it sustainable? The answer will happen further down the years."



*"Click" the link to view the Newcastle Jets home coming celebrations.*

## Mariners appeal with 'new facts'

OFFICIALS from Central Coast are standing firmly by goalkeeper Danny Vukovic and will lodge an appeal over his suspension.

The club went in to damage control as they counted the cost of a chaotic 24 hours that saw Vukovic banned for 15 months, with six months suspended, for striking referee Mark Shield in Sunday's grand final loss and one of its players condemned for

offending the Jewish community by wearing a Hitler outfit during Mad Monday celebrations.

On a day the Mariners announced they had formed a partnership with English Championship club Sheffield United, executive chairman Lyall Gorman was forced to defend the integrity of the club and its players.

In announcing an appeal, Gorman revealed the club will present "some new facts that the independent tribunal that met on Tuesday was not privy to". However, he would not comment on what those facts are.

"We have engaged legal counsel and have put in place a pathway that sees an appropriate process through the appeals channels allowed to us," Gorman said.

"We have up to three different levels of appeal and hope the first one is the one that resolves this matter and achieves a reduction in penalty. We believe there is an opportunity to present some facts not presented yesterday and we hope those facts will support a reduction."

Gorman said Vukovic had apologised to Shield after the match and had submitted a formal, written apology to the referee, FFA's referees management and FFA.

"We can say that Danny deeply regrets his actions. You know him and you know what happened is completely out of character for him," he said.

"The club and Danny don't seek to excuse his actions. However, we are disappointed with the severity of the sanction for such a young player facing his first serious charge."

Vukovic and the club are awaiting final confirmation from FFA on his status regarding the Olympic Games and whether the suspension will affect his hopes of playing in Beijing.



*Danny Vukovic strikes referee Mark Shield*

FFA officials have been working with world governing body FIFA to sort out the issue, although it is understood Vukovic, who was forced to stay behind as the Olyroos left for a friendly against Mexico, is at long odds to be allowed to play at the Olympics.

Gorman also revealed the Mariners have spoken to a number of players at the club in relation to costumes worn during Mad Monday celebrations.

Andre Gumprecht, a German who has played in Australia since 2002 and with the Mariners since 2005, sparked criticism from Jewish groups after dressing up as Hitler. FFA expressed its concern over the incident and is considering taking its own action. Gorman said it has reminded the players that they "need to be careful" in relation to any sensitive issues which may cause offence to the public.

"The club is very respectful of FFA's code of conduct and we have made our own investigation, if any groups have been offended, the club and players sincerely apologise."

Professional Football Association executive chairman Brendan Schwab has urged FFA to look at changing its disciplinary process in the wake of Vukovic's ban.

"This issue is a part of a broader issue," Schwab said, Fundamentally, the player should have a right to be heard before any sanctions are imposed."



*"Click" the link to view the Mariners - Sheffield United Press Conference.*

## Cahill helps Everton to fourth spot

Qantas Socceros midfielder Tim Cahill has played a leading role in Everton's 2-0 win over close rivals Manchester City, as the race for the fourth of next seasons European Champions League spots heats up.

Cahill brilliantly teed up the opening goal for Yakubu, as Everton surged into 4th spot, three points ahead of its arch rival Liverpool, who has an extra game in hand.

Everton struck twice in the opening half and never looked like surrendering its lead in the second half. Yakubu, who has the enviable record of never losing a game in which he has scored in the Premier League, was on hand to tuck home a cross from Cahill, after the Australian made space for himself with a brilliant turn in the box. They added a second eight minutes later from Joleon Lescott.

Mark Bresciano was on the goalscorers sheet for Palermo, opening the scoring in the 9th minute, as his shot brushed the chest of AC Milan's Massimo Oddo and past Bresciano's former Socceroo team mate Zeljko Kalac.

AC Milan hit back with a goal 15 minutes later and snatched a late win. Bresciano was replaced after 55 minutes, while Kalac played a full game.

Another to find the back of the net was Brett Holman, as NEC Nijmegen won 3-2 away at Heerenveen to ease there way from the relegation zone. Down 2-0 early in the match, NEC fought back against a 10-man Heerenveen, with almost leveling the scores up in the 73rd minute, as they went onto win with a late goal.

The goalscoring run of Scott McDonald and Josh Kennedy ended this week, with Celtic managing a late 1-0 win over St Mirren, while Kennedy's Karlsruhe lost 3-1 away to Stuttgart.



*Tim Cahill kisses the Everton logo on his shirt*

Lucas Neill and Brett Emerton both played full games for West Ham and Blackburn Rovers respectively. West Ham managed a late win over Fulham, while Blackburn was convincing 4-1 winners against Bolton Wanderers.

Nick Carle lasted 55 minutes in Bristol City's 2-1 win over Colchester and stays in second spot on the Championship ladder, while Richard Garcia made his return to the Hull City side, playing 69 minutes in an upset 2-1 win away at West Brom.

# MOSSY'S MUMBLINGS



MUMBLINGS is a column based on true events and real people. While we have eyes and ears everywhere please feel free to email your short story – funny, quirky, sad, stupid, hilarious, down right ridiculous or otherwise – to [mossy@mwfa.com.au](mailto:mossy@mwfa.com.au) While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

**RED CARD:** WORLD Cup referee Mark Shields' decision not to award the Central Coast Mariners a penalty for a clear hand-ball in the dying stages of last weekend's gripping grand final has had far-reaching ramifications.

Whichever way you look at it, it was a 100% penalty and should not have been missed by the country's best referee.

Young Olyroos and Mariners goalkeeper Danny Vukovic, for one, would still have his Beijing Olympic campaign in tact had the penalty been awarded.



**GOOOOAL:** NEWCASTLE Jets and former Manly United coach Gary Van Egmond was this week celebrating an A-League grand final victory as the newly crowned Coach of the Year.

His star continues to soar. Congrats from all at Cromer Park "Dutchy"!



LOCAL coaches made the most of having the Olyroos training in our backyard this week.

Manly United head youth league coach Nick Tomaino, Narrabeen PL coach Dean Harding and assistant Mark Bosschieter, CC Strikers assistant coach Craig Midgley and ex-Dee Why boss Jimmy Magill were all spotted at sessions at Narrabeen's Academy of Sport and the St. Pius College sports fields at Oxford Falls earlier this week.

New national coach Pim Verbeek even dropped in on a session at Narrabeen on Tuesday afternoon.

Coach Graham Arnold was putting his charges through their paces ahead of Sunday's friendly against Mexico in San Fransisco.



EASTER Monday will mark the start of the local season with the first round of the MWFA Cup at Cromer Park.

And the draw has thrown up some interesting duels. The full round of March 24 games is: (10.30am KO) Brookvale v CC Strikers, Pittwater v HSU, Forest-Killarney v Wakehurst; (12.30pm KO) BTH Raiders v Dee Why, Beacon Hill v Narrabeen, Avalon v Mosman; (2.30pm KO) Saints v Seaforth, Manly-Allambie v Manly Vale.



COACHES and players come and go – but there is one person a club can not do without.

It's the person that makes the dressing room function and keeps the players and coaching staff well-dressed and happy.

At Manly United, that person is Ida Rigoni – affectionately known as "the kit lady".

Besides running her own family and working 70-hour weeks with her Laundromat business in Brookvale, she is always at the beck and call of the two senior men's squads at Cromer Park and is greatly

appreciated for all the work she puts in on a voluntary basis. She is so good at what she does the Waratahs and Wallabies (when in Sydney) use her as well as touring Super 14 sides.

Keep up the good work Ida!



IT was a baptism of fire for former Brookvale PL striker Keith Shevlin when he was thrown to the "Lions" in Manly United's opening NSW Telechoice Premier League win over Bankstown City at Jensen Park last Saturday night.

Not that he hasn't played at the level before after serving as a professional in the UK, but it was a year playing park football with Brooky that provided such a stark contrast for the Irishman.

"The pace of the game was incredible compared with the local premier league," he said as he dragged himself off Jensen Park after the post-match warm-down.

Shevlin enjoyed a solid Manly United debut and played a major hand in striker Robbie Cattanach's opening goal in the 3-0 victory.



ANYONE who appreciates technically superb football players should get themselves to Cromer Park on Sunday to watch Manly United striker Robbie Cattanach in action!

The in-form striker took out last year's Gold Medal as player of the year in the NSW Telechoice Premier League and has taken his game to an even higher level this season.

If his form continues – following on from a first round hat-trick against Bankstown – it won't be long before he is an A-League player on a full-time basis.



BATISTUTA for Brookvale – seems the Grahams Reserve-based outfit's drawing power knows no bounds. Or does it?

One club insider laughed off the suggestion this week.

But Mumblings reckons midfielder Gabriel "Chi Chi" Mendez feeding striker Gabriel "Batigo!" Batistuta would certainly put bums on seats on a Saturday arvo.

The odds? Very long indeed...



THE always competitive MWFA over-35/1 comp is shaping up as the best in recent memory this year. Wakehurst and Pittwater have always been strong but Brookvale and Strikers have made some major signings this year.

Watch this space!



## Manly United long service players

It's about time we recognised the players who have been part of the Manly United family for a long time.

Are you or do you have someone in your team who has played over a hundred games for a Manly United side or sides. There is a fair chance these long servers will have been with the club for at least four years and possibly worked their way through different squads.

If you know someone who you think fits the bill please give Malcolm Hill a shout, preferably via email so he can inform the board and get the player the recognition he or she so richly deserves.

Email Malcolm at [mail@malcolmhill.net](mailto:mail@malcolmhill.net)

The new season is coming, let's begin it and end it with a celebration!

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## **MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM** **TERM 1 – 2008**

### **INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)**

- **MWFA FIRST DIVISION CLUB PLAYERS**
- **Boys and Girls aged between 8 – 15 years**

Dates: Monday February 11 – Monday March 31  
Times: 4.00 pm – 5.15 pm  
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why  
Cost: \$20.00 / player per session

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- **REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS**
- **Boys and Girls aged between 10 – 15 years**

### **\*\*\*\*\*NEW DAY\*\*\*\*\***

Dates: Wednesday February 13 – Wednesday April 2  
Times: 4.30 pm – 5.45 pm  
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why  
Cost: \$20.00 / player per session

**Coaches:** Phil Moss (MUFC Head Coach)  
Sharon Egger (MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach)

**Program:** Technique and specific game-related positional play

**Bookings:** Essential email [mossy@mwfa.com.au](mailto:mossy@mwfa.com.au) or  
Call MWFA office on (02) 9982-6228

**Wet Weather:** Call 9982-6228 after Noon on day of program

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**SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING** – with Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC). Every Wednesday night (6.00 pm – 7.30 pm) from February 13 – April 2 in the synthetic-grassed cage at Cromer Park. Cost \$35.00 / session. Bookings call BRUNO on 0421 131 051 or email [bjeronimo@gmail.com](mailto:bjeronimo@gmail.com)

Open to all goalkeepers aged 10 - 18years playing representative youth league or MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)