

THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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 NSW Premier League

Manly United ends Sydney United's season

A second-half brace from Manly United striker Craig Midgley saw off a wasteful Sydney United 2-1 in the elimination semi-final of the TeleChoice Championship Series at Cromer Park on Friday night.

Phil Moss' men booked themselves a trip to Belmore Oval next Sunday where they will take on Sydney Olympic but they will be the first to admit they rode their luck at times against the former NSL giants. After scraping into the Top-Five courtesy of a last round draw against Sydney Olympic, Sydney United started the better and should have taken the lead after just 4' minutes. Mitchell Thompson reacted quickest to a bouncing ball on the edge of the box but could only clip his effort over the bar with Brad Swancott well beaten. 16' minutes later, winger Chris Boyle delivered a ball on a platter for Elsid Barkhousir but the youngster hurried his finish and blazed over. On the half hour mark Manly's Joe Schirripa went on a mazy run inside the penalty-area but instead of squaring the ball to Midgley elected to go himself. He fired a powerful shot towards the near post but couldn't beat Vedran Janjetovic.

After the break Moss brought on Robbie Cattanaich for the ineffective Michael Lloyd-Green and the move seemed to lift Manly who looked a lot better going forward in the second stanza. Newcastle Jets bound defender Beau Busch saved his team's blushes 3' minutes after the interval when he denied Luka Glavas with a fantastic last ditch tackle inside the box when the former Perth Glory and Sydney FC marksman looked certain to score. 6' minutes later Midgley did trouble the scorers after a solo run.

Shrugging off repeat challenges from Saso Trajceviski, the Englishman composed himself and clipped the ball on the run past Janjetovic, sending the small home crowd into a state of delirium. Glavas squared proceedings on 61' minutes after earning his side a penalty. Hesitant defending from Manly duo Sean Bowden and Roberto Hamad saw Glavas force his way inside the box where Hamad collected him as he advanced towards goal. Referee Peter Vrtkovski had no choice but to point to the spot and Glavas duly dispatched his effort from 12-yards in the bottom left corner. Schirripa then almost regained the lead for the home side on 74' minutes after his shot from the edge of the box whistled past the post with Janjetovic beaten. Midgley then showed his class when it mattered after latching onto an in-swinging Schirripa corner at the near post with five minutes remaining.

With his run not tracked, the hardworking goal-poacher tucked his header inside the near post to ensure at least another week of semi-final football for the northern beaches boys.



Manly United's Craig Midgley

A relieved Phil Moss said the result will give his team confidence heading into the do-or-die Olympic clash:

"We made hard work of it and it took a lot of character to come back after conceding," he said.

"It was matter of who wanted to step up and take control and thankfully we did that, I felt Craig was the difference tonight, both his goals were outstanding.

"We rolled our sleeves up and the boys always like playing Olympic, they play good football and will be a good test for us."

Sydney United striker Luka Glavas felt it was an opportunity lost:

"We had a few chances but weren't good enough on the night," he said. "We knew we had to be patient and I thought once we equalised we would go on with it.

"To lose from a set piece is frustrating but that's football."



"Click" the link to view the MUFC v Sydney United game highlights.

Beanies leave their best till close to last

NARRABEEN ensured a thrilling conclusion heading into the final round of the Premier League after producing the upset of the season to defeat Pittwater RSL FC 2-0 at Kitchener Park on Saturday. Second-half goals to Phil Moss and Marcos Charueski kept the Beanies flame flickering with Dean Harding's men displaying the type of urgency they have lacked over the course of the year.

With Dee Why and BTH Raiders already relegated, Manly Vale and Narrabeen are left to fight for the one remaining spot. Harding believes his troops can beat the drop this coming Saturday.

"Even though we are one point behind them (Manly Vale) I still think we are in the box seat," he said.

"We are playing Belrose who are already gone and the boys are desperate to avoid playing in Amateur League next year.

"The past three weeks we have started to play good football and the results have been encouraging. Not many would have given us a chance a month ago but I stressed to the boys before kick-off that this was the chance to show the competition what we are made of.

"I think we will beat Belrose and hopefully CC Strikers can do us a favour and topple Manly Vale. It will be some turnaround."

His opposite Glenn Wood said his team lacked desire.

"It was a strange performance from us but I would rather we were off our game now, credit to Dean and his boys they came out fired up and physically dominated us from early on in the piece.

"A few calls went against us but we will regroup and focus on securing second spot when we play Dee Why this week."

In other games Brookvale opened up an astonishing 21-point lead on the chasing pack after an impressive 5-1 win against Beacon Hill. Manly Allambie secured a semi-final spot in their first season back in the top flight after a 1-0 win against

Manly Vale, Dee Why upset CC Strikers 1-0, Wakehurst beat BTH Raiders 3-1 and a speculative strike from half-way via the boot of Forest Killarney's Drew Jenkins saw off Mosman 1-0.

Confident Sydney sets sights on Coast clash

They mightn't have bagged any goals, but John Kosmina was still full of praise for his young players after they steered Sydney FC to an invaluable point against the Melbourne Victory in the opening round of the Hyundai A-League at the weekend. The likes of Popovic, Aloisi, Brosque and Musialik were all watching on from the stands, but rookies Chris Payne and Shannon Cole played their part in helping Sydney claim its first points of the campaign in a match Kosmina described as "a good battle for us".



Chris Payne in action

"It says a lot for the players that actually played tonight, probably more than the blokes who are coming back," Kosmina said following the nil all draw. "It augers well for the future."

The Sydney manager admitted that occasion might have got the better of his team in the first half of Saturday's clash, as the home side struggled to find its feet in defence. He labelled goalkeeper Clint Bolton as "exceptional", saving the side on several occasions before the fullbacks found their feet.

"The boys were nervous. Jacob Timpano didn't train yesterday, he had a jab and painkiller before the game...we couldn't practice a lot this week with Jakey and it was also his first game back in two years, so it was a big occasion for him," said Kosmina. "We managed to sort things out in the end."

With the club's debutants gaining invaluable experience on the A-League pitch, and experienced pros returning from injury, suspension and Olympic duty, Kossie believes he is now left with "an embarrassment of riches" heading into this-weekend's meeting with the Mariners. Despite the tide of talent rushing back into the team, Cole is likely to keep his place in Sydney's starting side, thanks to his stunning debut against the Victory.

"He's confident, nothing much fazes him," Kosmina assessed. "He steps up for the free kicks, corners. He'll grow in stature with a bit more time and he'll get more time. When you got someone that can take dead balls like that you got to find a spot on the field for him somewhere."

Sydney and the Central Coast will do battle in Gosford this Saturday, with the game getting underway at Bluetongue Stadium at 7pm.

Neill's fear of the unknown

Socceroos captain Lucas Neill is bracing himself for a treacherous journey into the unknown when Australia face Uzbekistan in a 2010 World Cup qualifier in Tashkent.

The Australians open their campaign to reach the finals in South Africa with an away match on

September 11 (AEST) against Uzbekistan, the landlocked country in Central Asia which used to be one of the trade centres of the old Silk Road. Neill, 30, said he was expecting anything but a smooth passage for the intrepid Socceroos who would trade anything to get to the greatest event in their chosen sport.

"I reckon this might be the toughest qualifier for the World Cup," Neil said from London where the national team has assembled for a friendly match against South Africa at Loftus Road on Wednesday morning.

"We are going into the unknown to play a team we know very little about in an environment we are not used to, we simply do not know what we are coming up against and it's going to be a great experience and challenge.

"They have had a good qualifying campaign so far and it is going to be hard so we have to make sure that we are prepared as best as we possibly can be.

"This match certainly has got me thinking. We will have to adapt in the first five minutes to whatever they will throw at us."

Neill, who missed the four Super June matches in the previous phase of qualifying, said he agreed with coach Pim Verbeek's view that four home wins and four away draws would get the Socceroos to the next World Cup.

But the West Ham captain cautioned against being too defensive in away games.

"We might need to win a few away games because of the demand of having to fly back to Australia in a short period of time to play the home games which does not necessarily mean that we are going to be 100 per cent fit and rested.

"If we could steal some wins on the road it would give us a bit of insurance for when we come to play at home, we have to be cautious when we are away and if we are not losing games it means we are picking up points.

"I can see where Pim is coming from but I'd like us to pinch a few away wins as well."

Neill conceded that there is intense pressure on the Socceroos to reach their second straight World Cup finals, especially after performing so well in Germany in 2006.

"It's a good pressure to have. It means we have set high standards," he explained.



Big challenge ... Socceroos defender Lucas Neill

"Because we did well at the World Cup the public now expects us to beat Japan every time and beat Uzbekistan easily but the players are under no illusion that that is the way it's going to be.

"In a way we are the victims of our mini-success in Germany, we know the games are going to be tough now and for this reason we are not going to leave anything to chance."

Neill said he had full confidence in his men that they could handle the considerable burden of home expectation and the perils of a final qualifying campaign against the Uzbeks, Japan, Bahrain and Qatar.

"Adversity certainly brings the best out of our team, we seem to play our best football when nobody gives us a chance of winning.

"We all come from different leagues and we seem to throw that in the mix and come up with a good national team.

"We are also very versatile and adaptable now. We can play three or four at the back depending on the opposition, for example.

"Ever since Guus Hiddink came in and completely changed formations and got us thinking about different styles, we have adapted to that and now we are comfortable in any position."

Viduka's Wait Goes On

MARK Viduka will have to wait at least another week to make his Premier League bow with Kevin Keegan ruling the Socceroos striker out of Saturday's clash with Bolton Wanderers.

There is light at the end of the tunnel for the V-bomber as he is back in training with the Magpies.

However, Keegan will not throw him stright back into the fray with fellow forward Michael Owen also likely to miss this weekend's clash with Wanderers.

Keegan told the *Evening Chronicle*: "Michael probably won't be fit, and Mark Viduka certainly won't be.

"I probably could rush Michael back, and then knock him back five or six weeks.

"And we're probably strong enough to do without the two of them. But when they come back, it'll give us a massive boost."

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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 While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

RED CARD: THE halfwit so-called media experts on certain websites who have gone for the jugular with the Olyroos – and coach Graham Arnold – in the wake of the Beijing Olympic Games performances. Those with the poison fingers have probably never kicked a ball and are riddled with personal agendas.



GOOAAAL: FORMER Manly United teenager Chris Payne did himself, his family and his Cromer Park team-mates and supporters proud with a solid performance for Sydney FC in his A-League debut against Kevin Muscat's Melbourne Victory last weekend. "Payney" didn't look out of place at all and is sure to have a long and successful career ahead of him.



POPULAR Pittwater premier league midfielder Roland Webber "retired" at a young age from playing for Manly United a few years back just as the club was heading into the NSW Premier League. His reason? He wanted to travel. And that decision to traverse the world has paid handsome dividends. The man with the Green and White blood is back at Kitchener Park with a stunning girlfriend in tow – all the way from Peru! Any wedding bells?

"Well, we've been together for two years so you never know," he said after a recent game.



WHO is the well-known local rugby league identity who whinges to The Manly Daily whenever there is a good news football story placed on the back page of the sports section? Strangely enough, the sports department never seems to hear from him when the round ball code receives a "bashing" (aka negative publicity). Maybe its all part of his code's growing insecurity now that football is going gangbusters and making some serious inroads into the Australian sporting psyche!



HAT'S off to popular Avalon AL1 coach John Kowtan after having guided his young side from second last on the ladder to a top two spot with a week to go. It has been some turnaround and a result, no doubt, of the newfound professionalism "JK" has brought to the table at a well-run club. The red and whites' main problem is being able to attract quality players from elsewhere given their far-northern peninsula location. If "JK" can keep the squad together and add some cream on top surely it won't be long before the Avalon flag is flying once again in the MWFA premier league.



REFEREE'S Corner last week posed some rippers. Here they are again with the correct answers.

Q. Thermal undershorts (cycling shorts) are part of a players' basic equipment'?

A. Yes B. No C. Only if they are the same main colour as the shorts.

ANSWER: B. No they are not part of a players' basic equipment.

Q. During the taking of a penalty kick, the penalty taker's team-mate (No. 9) who remains outside of the penalty area moves in front of the penalty mark before the ball is kicked. The ball rebounds from the goalkeeper and goes to team-mate (No. 9) who shoots and scores a goal?

A. The goal is allowed B. An indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team C. The penalty kick is retaken

ANSWER: B. An indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team.

And now for this week's:

Q. A Assistant Referee is standing on top of the touchline, and the ball rebounds off his leg and back into the field of play. The Referee should?

A. Allow play to continue B. Award a dropped ball C. Award a throw-in

Q. An injured player can return to the field of play?

A. After the match has restarted B. At any time C. Only during a stoppage of play



A **BIG** cheerio to Manly United mum Penny Zervos who is at home nursing injuries from a recent car crash. Penny – mum of under-16 youngster Asimina, who ironically is out for the season after having a knee reconstruction – sustained a broken wrist among other things after the incident. She – and no doubt husband George and her four kids - is counting her blessings! We all wish you a speedy recovery Penny!



FOLK up Forest-Killarney way swear blind there was an eerie "Beckham-esque" flavour to Drew Jenkins goal in his sides 1-0 defeat of Mosman in last weekend's MWFA premier league match at Melwood Oval. The story goes that Jenkins spotted the Whales shot-stopper off his line from inside his own half and launched a missile that took a couple of bounces into the empty net!

Goal of the season? Perhaps!



YOU may remember last week's piece about the mighty Dee Why AL/7s approaching Manly United for a "finals warm-up" game against the first grade side. Well, after we politely declined, the "never-say-never" Swannies went a step further – Sydney FC! We can safely predict the answer from Sydney FC headquarters will be much the same as that from the Cromer Park bunker.

Best of luck in the semis lads!



WE hate to say we "told you so" but cast your mind back to the week before the season started and a piece we wrote on promoted MWFA premier league club Manly-Allambie. Coach Dave Bonney wasn't happy that we "outed" his side as dark horses and said to "beware of Mallambie". But it's proved spot on as they clinched a finals spot last weekend – with

a week to spare no less – in their first season back in the top grade. Who knows what the finals have in store with a side that works its backside off for each other! No more flying under the radar for Bonney's Boys..



GUESS how many goalkeepers Dee Why's premier league and reserves have used during the 2009 season?..... TWELVE!!!! In what must be a record that will stand for years to come, the Swannies have seen 12 different custodians stand between the sticks – and there is still one round to go. Among those to have donned the gloves for the Dee Why Oval-based outfit is Glenn Brown, Jamie Kukuron, Tim Hutchins, Sasha Kaladzic, Michael Cohen, Peter Meaghan, Adam McNabb, Stuart "Mc" Gill, Dominic Heide and Rob Fleming. The AL1 and AL2 goalkeepers have also filled the breach when called upon. "Some may say the position is cursed but at least it means that none of the keepers have conceded too many goals each...just the combined total that is a bit hard to take," regular No.1 Glenn Brown told Mumblings this week.



FROM the mighty Seaforth AL2 reserves to Olympic Gold in Beijing – that's the story Australian sailor Malcolm Page will tell when he arrives back for the Olympic Games next week. Mal dons the boots for the club that overlooks the city during non-Olympic years and will now probably get the Seaforth Oval hill named in his honour after securing a Gold Medal in the 470 class of sailing. Congrats to Mal and Mumblings is confident his team-mates will give him a fairly raucous homecoming!



BEACON Hill continues to lead the way in developing its young ladies teams with the under-14/1, 16/1, 18/1 and 18/2 all winning first-past-the-post honours this season. Now for the finals! It certainly augurs well for the club's ladies premier league side in years to come. Congrats to all concerned.



BEWARE and be warned, the MWFA is clamping down severely on the rules governing player ID prior to kick-off of weekend games. Both teams must come to the halfway line to have their ID cards checked by managers of both teams before the game starts. Teams will be penalised 1 competition point for not doing it correctly and it may cost them a place in the finals – or worse still a premiership! "The rules were formalised with the agreement of each member club to stop illegal or suspended players playing which has caused us many legal problems in the past," MWFA president Ray Fanning told Mumblings this week.

"All teams have been warned – do it correctly or face a deduction of points. "Each weekend all MWFA directors are out there at grounds checking that it is being done correctly."

It would be a horrible way for your season to unravel..





MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM **TERM 3 – 2008**

INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)

MWFA CLUB PLAYERS

Boys and girls - aged 6-13yrs (NEW YOUNGER AGE GROUPS)

NOTE: Open to all players aged 6-9yrs and 10-13yrs playing MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)

Dates: Monday August 4 – Monday September 22
Times: 4.15pm – 5.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
Cost: \$160/player for 8 weekly sessions + *\$20 for training kit + ball)

(*optional for players with MUFC training kit from previous camps)

Payment: \$160 or \$180 due on July 28 at 1st session
Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only

COACHES: Sharon Egger – MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach
Susan Wheatley – MUFC 1st grade player
Staff coaches

SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING

With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC GK COACH)

Dates: **WEDNESDAY** July 30 – Wednesday September 17
Times: 6pm–7.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
(Synthetic-grassed cage)
Cost: \$35/player per session
Bookings: BRUNO on **0421 131 051** or email bjgeronimo@gmail.com

Open to all goalkeepers aged 9-18yrs playing representative youth league or MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)



MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM **TERM 3 – 2008**

INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)

REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS
Boys and girls - aged 10-15yrs

Dates: Tuesday August 5 – Tuesday September 23
Times: 4.15pm – 5.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
Cost: \$160 for eight sessions (\$20/player per session)
Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only
Payment plans available

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

Program: Technique, 1v1, 2v2, specific game-related positional play

Bookings: Essential email mossy@mwfa.com.au

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

SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING

With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC). Every **WEDNESDAY** night (6pm–7.30pm) from **July 30 – September 17** in the synthetic-grassed cage at Cromer Park. Cost \$35/session. Bookings call BRUNO on **0421 131 051** or email bigeronimo@gmail.com

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



ELITE COACHING POSITIONS VACANT FOR 2009

MANLY UNITED FC IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING COACHING POSITIONS FOR THE 2009 SEASON:

- **Coaches & Assistants for Premier Youth League**
Minimum coaching qualification: **SENIOR LICENCE**
- **Coaches & Assistants for Metropolitan League**
Minimum coaching qualification: **YOUTH LICENCE**
- **HEAD COACH WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE**
Minimum coaching qualification: **SENIOR LICENCE**
- **Coaches & Assistants for Women's Premier League**
Minimum coaching qualification: **SENIOR LICENCE**
- **Coaches & Assistants for Girls Youth League**
Minimum coaching qualification: **YOUTH LICENCE**

Please send applications to:

Manly United FC
c/- Phil Moss – Head Coach
PO Box 455
Narrabeen NSW 2101
Email: mossy@mwfa.com.au

Applications close at 5pm on **FRIDAY AUGUST 29, 2008**

*These are child related positions and Prohibited Persons need not apply.
All relevant Working with Children Checks will apply.*