

THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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TeleChoice *The People's Choice* NSW Premier League

Manly United FC 4
Penrith Nepean 0



"Click" the link to view the MUFC v Penrith Nepean game highlights.

Manly grab top spot in the TeleChoice Premier League

Manly United moved to the top of the TeleChoice Premier League Table in emphatic style on Sunday afternoon after defeating Penrith-Nepean United 4-0 at CUA Stadium.

The visitors took up coach Phil Moss' challenge to seize the opportunity other results had presented them in great style. Both teams sounded each other out for the first fifteen minutes but Manly dominated the possession.

In the 4' minute a run from Michael Lloyd-Green down the right hand side was completed with a piercing ball into Andrew Mailer on the edge of the area and his shot landed straight at the feet of Ashley Ryan, only for the ball to deflect off them straight to Daniel Schwarzer in the Penrith-Nepean goal.

In the 19' minute Manly, already without Cattanach and Mihajlovic up-front, suffered another blow to their striking ranks when Keith Shelvin was injured and had to be replaced. However, for the second time in two weeks, a replacement would be a key factor in Manly's victory.

On came 17-year old Chris Payne and his presence had a very positive impact on his team-mates throughout the match. Within ten minutes he had put Schwarzer to the test, a test the Penrith custodian was able to pass.

In the 26' minute Ante Juric stole the ball from Manly, played it to Javier Mancino who floated a cross in from the right, only for Manly goalkeeper Brad Swancott to jump in-front of Eric Anabalon and cut out the danger.

On the half-hour the locals had injury trouble of their own with both Carl McNaughton and Michael Cromar being replaced - Cromar having been injured in a tackle that seemed to warrant more serious action than just a free kick, one of a few refereeing decisions that left both coaches scratching their heads at various stages of the match.

In the 36' minute Manly reasserted itself after a period of good work from the locals with a shot from Joey Schirripa that looked to have Schwarzer stranded and the ball going to settle in the back of the net. However the ball cannoned off the legs of Willie Stuart ten-metres from goal and out of danger.

Stuart had combined well with Luke Boyd throughout the first-half, with Boyd not only doing much of the defensive work in the middle of the park but also being the start of Penrith's major attacking raids. In the closing stages of the half there was a chance at either end and the combination of those results would change the game.

Firstly Tayfun Buyukkopru saw his free-kick deflect off the wall towards the bottom corner of the net only for Brad Swancott to save magnificently at his far post. The ball headed up field where Schirripa put in a top class floating cross from the left, placing it past Schwarzer and onto the head of Craig Midgley who headed home to give Manly the lead at the break.



Manly United celebrate its 4-0 victory

It was almost more than that though as Manly just missed out on two chances in time added on before the interval.

Penrith came out strong in the second-half with Ante Juric and William Stuart moving forward and Boyd locking up things behind them. Roberto Hamad cut out a good attacking raid from Nathan Ralph and Tayfun Buyukkopru in the 53' minute. Hamad's defensive work would not be the only aspect of his game through this match.

In the 63' minute Payne stole the ball off Penrith, laid it across to Michael Lloyd-Green who directed the ball goalwards only to be denied by Schwarzer at full stretch. Shannon Burgin, who made his debut coming off the bench for Penrith, set up his former Under-20 team-mate Panny Nikas with his first touch of the game but Nikas sent the ball wide of the far post.

In the 70' minute the game was broken open as Manly doubled their lead. With a Penrith player injured on the other side of the field the referee allowed play to continue and Manly made the most of the opportunity. Joey Schirripa played it into Hamad from the left and he converted it with ease.

From there Manly took the game by the throat. Four minutes later Michael Lloyd Green capitalised on fantastic lead-up work and put the ball in from the right for Ashley Ryan to squeeze it home from a tough angle at the near post with defence all over him. Payne then put a great cross in from the left to an unmarked Ryan but the ball was headed over the bar.

However Ryan would double his personal tally in the 91' minute when Beau Busch's shot was parried by the keeper into the path of Ryan who chipped the ball over Schwarzer and into the back of the net. Penrith's best opportunity of the match came after that point.

Shannon Burgin fell over the ball after great lead up work from Ralph down the right and could not shoot when Swancott was already beaten. The Manly defence was able to shut down Javier Mancino who had pounced on the rebound.

After the match Abbas Saad was very disappointed to see the bad old days repeated (although the equivalent game last year only finished 3-0 to Manly):

"Tonight it was men versus boys, it was back to the bad old days for us, back to survival mode."

Phil Moss was delighted how the team had responded to his challenge:

"Our starts have aligned this week with the results going the way they did, but I put the pressure on the boys. I spoke of the opportunity they had been presented and asked them if they were going to embrace it, they did so emphatically. What is most pleasing is the style of football we have been playing was on show tonight, demonstrating the quality football we can play as a team."

Overall it was a very well deserved win for the new league leaders Manly United FC. Whilst there are no real superstars in the team the outfit is a unified one and demonstrates what five years of playing together can do in turning out a magnificent combination.

For Penrith-Nepean United they will know that last season's efforts are not acceptable this year and they have to play at the standard they have set themselves in previous matches this season.

The 2008 Harry Williams Cup Review



"Click" the link to view Wakehurst SC at the Harry Williams Cup

This week saw the running of the annual Harry Williams Cup tournament held at Football NSW's prestigious complex at Valentine Park in Glenwood.

The tournament, named in honour of the first Indigenous Soccerroos and member of the 1974 World Cup squad, Harry Williams, brought together young footballers from across NSW in competing in age groups spanning from Under 12, 14, 16 Boys plus Under 14 & 16 Girls.

Wakehurst had finished second in the pool rounds and played a fine tournament while Fairfield Patrician Brothers had only finished third in the pool rounds but rose to the occasion once they reached the finals. The match went into extra time with Fairfield Pats grabbing the winner in that period.

Each age pool contains a side made up of Indigenous players who've been training together in the week leading up to the tournament as part of the Harry Williams Cup. The fact that these Indigenous teams are cobbled together at such short notice yet provide such fine, flowing football only underlines the untapped talent available in indigenous communities throughout the state.

Thursday's tournament was certainly a feast of football. The skies overhead threatened at various times but at ground level the thunder and lightning was provided by the many gifted young footballers on display.



1974 Soccerroo legend Harry Williams with Sydney FC's Robbie Middleby and Brendan Renaud

Harry Williams was in attendance throughout the day, being joined later in the afternoon by Brendan Renaud and Robbie Middleby of Sydney FC, and they couldn't help but be impressed by what they saw on the playing fields. All were swamped from time to time by autography hungry kids and parents who wanted to take their photos with the former Soccerroo legend as well as the two Sydney FC stars. Renaud especially was pleased at the running of the event which showcased a number of future stars of tomorrow.

"The Harry Williams Cup is a great tournament held at Football NSW and this year's running has been no different in seeing a number of talented male and female footballers on show, the Cup seems to have gone from strength to strength and we at Sydney FC as well as Football NSW are proud to be part of such a tournament."

The legendary Williams was overjoyed at the impact the Cup had, especially on the rising Indigenous players.

"This Cup provides a terrific platform for any interested Indigenous player both male and female

in furthering their careers as footballers and Football NSW have done a tremendous job in keeping the Cup alive as I have seen the tournament progress in more ways than one since its introduction a few years ago."

Both Harry Williams and Brendan Renaud took part in the impressive presentation ceremony that concluded the tournament.

MWFA Five-a-Side Tournament

As a support event to the upcoming Football NSW Premier League game between Manly United and Bankstown, the MWFA will be conducting its annual U/10 Five-a-Side Tournament on Sunday 18th May 2008. The finals will be played on Cromer 1 as a precursor to the Premier League game.

The format of the games will be five-a-side on small fields to facilitate a high level of participation and enjoyment for all players. The tournament is open to all MWFA players registered in the U10 age group however the expectation is that the majority of players will be drawn from Divisions 1 and 2.

All clubs participating in the U10 age group are guaranteed at least one team entry. Additional team entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Five-a-side football is very intense and players tire quickly. Considering the number of games they will participate in, you should give thought to having 8-10 players per team.

Click [here](#) for information sheet

Click [here](#) for team rego form

Graham Arnold confident following Olympic Games draw

Qantas Under 23s coach Graham Arnold believes that similarities between last night's draw for the 2008 Beijing Olympics Football tournament and the 2004 version will work to his side's advantage.

Just like in 2004, Australia drew Argentina, Serbia and an African nation (Ivory Coast in 2008 compared with Tunisia in 2004) and Arnold is hopeful of emulating the performance of four years ago when the team made it out of the group stage.

"Last time we had a similar group and we did very well to make the quarter finals," said Arnold who was an Assistant Coach in Athens in 2004.

"We know we can get through this group, we have history and also we have had such a tough schedule just to make it this far which will hold us in good stead."

"Playing in Asia has taught us a lot about the conditions we will face in China and that could give us an advantage also."

Arnold said he expects the team to play at least 12-13 games between now and the opening match.

"We have a tournament in Malaysia coming up and also it's been a bonus to have so many of the players involved with the Qantas Soccerroos," added Arnold.

"The preparations will be better than I had hoped for and we will go there to be successful."

Australia's opponents have been impressive in their qualifiers with defending champions Argentina who qualified after finishing runners-up to Brazil in the 2007 South American Youth Championships, Serbia who made the final of the 2007 UEFA European

under 21 Championships and Ivory Coast who topped their final qualifying group in Africa with a comprehensive five wins from six matches.

Australia is yet to win a medal at the Olympic Games having had their best finish of fourth in Barcelona in 1992.

AUSTRALIA'S DRAW FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Australia v. Serbia
7 August 2008
Shanghai

Australia v. Argentina
10 August 2008
Shanghai

Australia v. Ivory Coast
13 August 2008
Tianjin

Neill agent laughs off rumours

Lucas Neill's agent has denied the West Ham skipper will be leaving Upton Park at the end of the season.

The 31-year-old only joined the Hammers from Blackburn in January 2007 but reports this week suggested he could be on his way out of east London as manager Alan Curbishley makes plans for next season.



West Ham skipper & Soccerroo captain Lucas Neill

However, the Australia defender's manager Paddy Dominguez dismissed the report and insists neither he nor Neill had had contact with the club over the matter.

Dominguez told www.foxsports.com.au: "We have not been approached by West Ham in regards to that, reviewing his contract or taking a pay cut."

"It doesn't make sense that a manager who only 14 months ago brought Lucas to the club and has installed him as captain would look to sell him."

"It would be very strange. Lucas' relationship with Alan is good and he is relishing the role of captain."

"Seeing that it's come from the British tabloids and no quote from Curbishley or West Ham, I wouldn't give it too much credibility."

Let's hope the Hammers see some sense.

Sermanni optimistic after draw for AFC Women's Asian Cup

The Matildas have been drawn into Group B for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2008 alongside Japan, Korea Republic and Chinese Taipei at the official draw ceremony held in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam this afternoon. Matilda's Head Coach Tom Sermanni was optimistic about his team's chances following the announcement of the draw.

"I think we are placed in the more challenging of the two groups, but we have experience against each of

our opponent's in recent years so it won't be as daunting as our first Asian Cup appearance," said Sermanni.

"Although there is no qualification for the FIFA Women's World Cup up for grabs at this tournament, it is important that we finish with a high placing to make sure we are seeded for the next round of qualifiers in 2010.

"We definitely want to build on the momentum that we had at last year's FIFA Women's World Cup and continue improving the performance of our national team on the world stage," concluded Sermanni.



Sarah Walsh in action against the Korea Republic

The eight nation tournament will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 28 May to 8 June 2008, with matches played at the Thong Nhat Stadium and the Army Stadium.

The Matildas were the 2nd seeds for the tournament behind China, who won the last AFC Women's Asian Cup which was held in Adelaide during 2006.

Australia will open their AFC Women's Asian Cup 2008 campaign against Chinese Taipei on Thursday 29 May, followed by the match against Korea Republic on Saturday 31 May before the final group match against Japan on Monday 2 June.

The top two teams in each group will progress to the semi-finals and meet the top two teams of Group A which features China, DPR Korea, Vietnam and Thailand.

The Matildas, are currently placed 12th in the FIFA Women's World Rankings, with China ranked at 14th, DPR Korea is currently the top ranked nation at 6th with Japan ranked at 10th.

This will be Australia's second appearance at Asia's premier Women's Football competition. The Matildas were runners-up at the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2006 after losing the final on penalties to China.

The Matildas will continue their preparations for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2008 with a three match tour to the United States at the end of the month, which includes two matches against the top FIFA Women's ranked team, the USA.

For more information regarding the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2008 please click [here](#)

For more information regarding the FIFA Women's World Rankings please click [here](#)

For more information on the Matildas click [here](#)

Reds Charge Ahead in Asia

A Nathan Burns-inspired Adelaide United has taken an outright lead in its AFC Championships League group after beating Binh Duong 4-1 at Hindmarsh Stadium on Wednesday night.

Burns set up three goals in six minutes and brought the 13,802-strong crowd alive after a sloppy, scoreless first half.

Lucas Pantelis and Travis Dodd (two goals) were the benefactors of Burns' slick, attacking work and gave their side a commanding lead.

The Vietnamese side hit back with a nimble effort from Minh Duc Pham but the three points were in the Reds' keeping when Diego kicked the team's fourth midway through the second half.

His score ended a frenetic period of play that saw five goals scored in 20 minutes.

United now has three wins and a draw and have skipped two points clear of Changchun Yatai who drew 2-2 with the Pohang Steelers.

A frustrated Adelaide displayed poor finishing skills in the first half and was under siege after the break against a more enthusiastic Binh Duong.

But the curtain went up on Burns' show which changed the complexion of the contest.

At the 56th minute, Burns dodged and weaved his way past two players in the midfield and threaded a precise ball through to an unattended Pantelis.

The fleet-footed Pantelis charged towards goal and passed the Binh Duong keeper's right hand at ground level.

Two minutes later Burns made his charge closer to goal. He managed to evade traffic near the penalty box and cross the ball to Travis Dodd who pushed the ball across the goal line from close range.

The duo combined in a similar fashion just four minutes later with Burns flicking the ball to Dodd who nodded his second goal home.

United had all the momentum but Binh Duong ensured the game remained interesting with a brilliant individual effort by Pham.

Pham baulked a couple of times before shooting the ball past the left hand of Adelaide goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic.



Adelaide United's Travis Dodd

United continued to attack and a blunder by the visitors' defence opened up a scoring opportunity for Diego.

A sloppy effort by Binh Duong's keeper allowed the Brazilian to dribble the ball home.

Earlier, Adelaide dominated the first half but was frustrated by a dogged Binh Duong defence and its own poor execution.

The Reds had most of the possession, earned corners, made numerous crosses and had men in good attacking positions but their final ball went anywhere but on target.

Kristian Sarkies, in his first game in four months, Travis Dodd and Diego all had handy touches during the half. However they were all guilty of squandering opportunities.

In contrast, Binh Duong took a defensive mindset into the game and was happy for United to knock the ball around in the midfield. Their strategy wasn't inspiring but effective with the side still in the contest at that stage of the game.

The visitors were more positive after the break and earned a corner a minute into the second half.

And seconds later Binh Duong's skipper Tran struck a beautiful ball from 20 metres only to see it cannon into the right hand goal post.

Their lift in intensity jolted the home side with some Burns magic breaking the deadlock.

Verbeek Sorrow Over Missing Cahill Factor

DIPLOMAT Pim Verbeek has spoken of the massive blow that Tim Cahill's absence will have both on and off the pitch as the Socceroos prepare for a crucial month of World Cup qualifiers.

The coach is catching up with a variety of players and managers on his current European trip. He has already met Mark Viduka while a trip to Goodison Park enabled him to catch up with Cahill and explain how well his top performers are looked after to and from lengthy international assignments.

Cahill's broken foot will almost certainly keep him out of June's packed program of matches and Verbeek is gutted that such a key player will not be available.

He told Everton tv: "Tim is always a starting member in the team. We know how good he is and important he is.

"He's a fantastic guy off the pitch also and we missed him a lot for the China game. It looks like we will miss him in June now as well so we are not happy."

With Cahill often having to travel half way around the world when the national side requests his services, Dutchman Verbeek knows the importance of creating a strong relationship with the Premier League clubs.

Another reason for the trip to Everton was the chance to explain to another club boss just how carefully the Socceroo staff look after such valuable commodities in transit.

Premier League managers are not always terribly understanding about their players being taken away from them and hauled across to the other side of the world – World Cup qualifier or not.

Verbeek said: "The biggest problem is travelling, and we try to be very careful with the boys because we know how important it is for them to be playing in their own leagues, but on the other hand I have 20 million people on my back wanting Australia to qualify for the next World Cup.

"We always send a doctor and a physio to Europe to pick up the boys, they are supported in the airplane. Then after the game we bring the doctor and the physio back to Europe again.

"So we try to do everything for the players and the clubs that they are playing for and that is the most we can do."

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: RAIN, rain, go away, go away and let us play!!



GOOAAAL: THIS week's verdict of the Independent Appeals Tribunal that granted Central Coast Mariners goalkeeper Danny Vukovic the chance of a lifetime to play at the Beijing Olympics was a case of common sense prevailing.

No one condones what he did in the dying minutes of the A-League grand final and I'm sure he would have copped whatever club penalty came his way. But to take away a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity like the Olympics would have been too harsh. No doubt the refereeing fraternity would have wanted the book thrown at him and we can understand that given the tough position they find themselves in but let's not forget it was a monumental refereeing mistake that led to the incident in the first place.

The lesson from all of this: No matter what happens, no one should ever touch a referee in anger or frustration!



RAIN has played havoc with the MWFA premier League competition with one round already washed out last weekend and things looking mighty grim for this weekend's double header.

Let's hope we can get at least one – if not both – played this weekend otherwise the association is staring down the barrel of three catch-up fixtures already just a few short weeks into the 2008 competition.



SPEAKING of wet weather, Warringah Council staff were put into a bit of a spin last Friday at exactly the same time they were scheduled to record the dreaded "all fields are closed" message on their wet weather line. The council fire alarm went off and everyone had to evacuate the building for a fire drill.

Order was restored shortly after and the message every player and coach hates to hear was recorded!



AND, still on wet weather lines, Manly Council gets the gong for this week after the message left on their voice recording blamed "perceived" weather conditions for closing their grounds on Anzac Day.

Rain and puddles is one thing, but *perceived* weather? Come on, please!

Councils – all of them – need to realise that no one will protect their grounds more so than the clubs themselves. Wet weather decisions should be left to the individual clubs, the association or referees (depending on the level of competition)!



HEAD of the Vanuatu Boot Collection Brian Dunphy has sent an impassioned plea to all football supporters to get behind the drive as gear collected

to date is the lowest in the history of the initiative. "I have been collecting footy boots to send to East Timor and Vanuatu for 8 years now and unfortunately the collection this year has been the poorest on record (less than 100 pairs of boots)," he told Mumblings.

"Given that we have over 17,000 registered players in Manly Warringah I would think that at least half of them bought new boots this year.

"So where are those 8,500 pairs of boots?"

Clean boots, shin pads, shirts and socks can be delivered to your club canteen by May 3 and clubs need to then deliver gear to Global Self Storage at Clearview Place, Brookvale.

"This is a small ask which will bring enormous joy to hundreds of kids who could never afford to buy footy boots," Brian said.



LOYALTY in sport – or lack thereof it - is always a hot topic of conversation these days.

But no one can call into question the loyalty of Wakehurst PL defender Justin "Birdman" Rainbird who recently played his 600th game for the club. He is the first player at the club to reach the magnificent milestone having started in the under-7 Jaguars in 1979 working his way through every age group until debuting for the senior PL squad in 1991. That's 30 seasons in total and 18 in the Tigers PL squad!

But the big numbers don't stop there. "Birdman's" defensive partner Robbie Eaton has just reached the 500 game mark while Tim Eaton & Adrian Ogg have hit 400 games apiece.



The Birdman gets there first

"It's an amazing achievement to have so many PLs play for the club for so long and highlights a level of dedication and loyalty so rarely seen today," Wakehurst president Drew Benjamin told Mumblings.

"We are all very proud of them."



HE made his name using his hands but now wants to show his feet are just as good!

Former Sea Eagles legend Cliff Lyons has registered for a *real* football team – the mighty Beacon Hill

O35/6 – after retiring from the local A-Grade rugby league competition recently.

Let's hope he has been able to flick his habit of running into goalposts – ala a certain Celebrity Match at Cromer Park last year as he was attempting to score a goal. He spent time snoring on the treatment table in the dressing room as a result of his collision with the post!

Welcome to the real game Cliffy!



ALWAYS great to see local blokes going well on the bigger stage and CC Strikers stalwart Dave Mason is certainly kicking goals in the A-League!

Not on the field though – as we are sure "Maso" would like – but off the field in his new role as Sydney FC's general manager of football.

Mason works closely with head coach John Kosmina and new director of football Steve O'Connor in putting a squad together capable of winning the A-League crown back in the 2008/09 season.



THE husband of a Ladies O35 player – can't name names or clubs for obvious reasons – has his fingers crossed his wife finds the back of the net on a regular basis this season after a loving bet recently.

The player in question promised her beau "fun between the sheets" for every goal she scores this season.

The husband was last seen twisting the arm of the coach to play his wife up front while also taking her to the park for shooting lessons!



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MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM **TERM 2 – 2008**

INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)

- **MWFA FIRST DIVISION CLUB PLAYERS**
- boys and girls - aged 8-15yrs

Dates: **Monday May 5 – Monday June 23**
Times: 4.15pm – 5.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
Cost: \$20/player per session
Payment: Up front payment of \$80 (ie. 4 weeks)
Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) accepted

COACH: Sharon Egger – MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach
Phil Moss – MUFC Head Coach

Open to all players aged 8 & 9yrs and 10-15yrs playing MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)

SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING

with Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC).

Dates: **WEDNESDAY** May 7 – Wednesday June 25
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**](mailto:bjgeronimo@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)