

THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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NSW Premier League

Manly United FC 2
West Sydney Berries 1



"Click" the link to view the MUFC v Berries game highlights.

Manly United FC continue to keep pace with NSW Telechoice Premier League leaders Sutherland following a scarcely deserved 2-1 win over the West Sydney Berries at Cromer Park.

English import Craig Midgley headed home an injury-time cross from Joey Schirripa to give Phil Moss' men all three points in a game where their opponents shaded them for large portions of the ninety minutes.

In a scrappy contest described by some onlookers as 'painful', the home side took the lead on 48' minutes from a Schirripa corner. The Griffith born wingback delivered a teasing ball to the near post which Berries keeper Hamish McLean should have collected. Instead Coach Scott Baillie, who replaced the injured Michael Cunico at halftime after the former Manly crowd favourite succumbed to a calf injury, inadvertently diverted the ball off the back off his head for an own goal.

The Berries played their way back into the game 25 minutes later via Giouse Sama from the penalty spot after a handball from Pascal Julliard to set up a grandstand finish.

Midgley almost gave his side the lead with a spectacular overhead kick two minutes later but McLean managed to flick the ball over the bar.

The Homebush based outfit then were guilty of missing a series of chances with Brad Swancott reacting smartly to deny Dimitri Zakilas and Ryan Jones on 87' and 90' minutes.

With referee James Lewis about to call a halt to proceedings, Schirripa found room down the left before having time to measure his cross. His delivery was met by an unmarked Midgley who forcefully found the back of the net, much to the relief of the Cromer Park faithful who were well aware their side had got out of jail.

Moss was honest enough to win it wasn't the most cohesive performance but stressed how far his charges have come along in recent years.

"Credit to the Berries, they came here and played a compressing game and asked us a lot of questions," he said.

"I felt when we had the ball we lacked composure but games like this are a great test for us, it was a

game either team could have won; the boys are very hungry and they know they need to win as many games as possible to figure heavily in the finals.

"You can't win championships if you don't win ugly and a few years ago we wouldn't have got a result like today so it shows the character we have."



Craig Midgley scored the match winning goal.

Baillie cut a despondent figure in the sheds almost half an hour after the final whistle and lamented the wastefulness in front of goal.

"I thought we were the better side, even Mossy (Phil Moss) congratulated me on how we played and said we deserved more than what we got," he said.

"They (Manly) are a good side who have been together for a while with a professional set up.

"We couldn't be any different, I picked my team from 100 trialists and I really believe we have a better side (than them) in terms of our structure.

"Our problem is we keep slipping up at the end of matches and it's costing us dearly, they are where they are because they finish their chances which is something we just are not doing.

"We aren't progressing quite as well as I had hoped so hopefully over the next few weeks a few things will go our way and we can go on and record some wins."

NSW Premier League Table 2008

Team Name	P	W	D
Sutherland Sharks	6	5	1
Manly United FC	6	5	0
Sydney Olympic	5	3	1
Sydney United	6	3	1
Wollongong FC	6	3	1
Penrith Nepean United	6	2	3
A.P.I.A Leichhardt Tigers	6	2	2
West Sydney Berries	6	2	1
Bankstown City	5	1	2
Macarthur Rams	6	0	2

Meet football's new Jack of all trades

JACK Collins has no issues being labelled a soccer tragic. The 10-year-old from Elanora Heights lives and breathes every aspect of the round ball game and can't see himself finding a new hobby anytime soon.

He is a member of the Manly United under-11s Metropolitan squad and spends hours honing his skills in a quest to become a professional football player.

After spending his junior days with Pittwater and Narrabeen, Jack moved down to link up with Brookvale SC in the under-10s last year where he took out the player of the year gong. The right back was also on hand to cheer on the Socceroos at the Asian Cup after winning a skills competition via the Socceroos website as the rookie with the Telstra Supporteroos.

"I sent in a video where I did some basic stuff, mainly juggling, shooting and a few stepovers," he recalled.

"It was open to kids from the ages of six through to seventeen so I didn't think I would win so it was great when my mum told me one day after school I had won, we were both very excited."

Jack found himself on his first trip overseas (along with him mum) and was soon rubbing shoulders with the likes of Mark Schwarzer and Lucas Neill before getting along to two matches against Thailand and eventual winners Iraq.

"I had a great time, I got to meet some of the players in person and got autographs from the whole squad. I would love to play for the Socceroos one day but I know I will have to train very hard to do that."

His coach at Manly United Chris Acott believes he has huge potential as a footballer stating his attitude is second to none.

"He is like a sponge he just absorbs everything and is very coachable," he said.

"We took him on at Manly United because it was obvious in the selection trials he had raw ability and a football brain.

"He is very switched on for someone his age and his determination to succeed is very admirable, he is progressing well and I look forward to seeing him in a Manly United shirt for years to come."

McDonald earns award nomination

Australian striker Scott McDonald was nominated for the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year award.

McDonald joins Celtic teammates Aiden McGeady and Barry Robson in a four-man short-list, which also includes arch rivals Rangers' Spanish defender Carlos Cuellar.

The winner will be decided on a vote by Scottish Premier League players. PFA Scotland chief executive Fraser Wishart said: "This is the top award for players.



Scott McDonald celebrating just one of many goals this season.

"There is no greater honour in football than to be voted the best player in your country by your fellow professionals."

McGeady is also in the running for the young player award. Celtic fans booed when McDonald, the club's top scorer this season with 26 goals, was replaced by Georgios Samaras after an hour of their 1-0 loss to Motherwell.

McDonald appeared equally unimpressed by manager Gordon Strachan's decision when he angrily threw his tracksuit top away and kicked out at a seat in the dug-out.

The 24-year-old former Motherwell player later apologised to Strachan for his behaviour.

"I wanted to stay out and try and turn the game around for the team and myself," McDonald told Irish national broadcaster RTE.

"He made the decision for the team and I've got to understand that. No player is happy coming off when the game is in the balance but in saying that, my reaction was totally incorrect."

"No player should do that and I'm fully aware of that. I'm 150 per cent behind my manager and everyone at the club."

Viduka's Eye For Goal – Owen

MARK Viduka has yet to decide whether to go on with the Socceroos but Pim Verbeek may be interested to learn the striker reputedly has eyes in the back of his head...

That's the view of Newcastle colleague and England striker Michael Owen who cannot speak highly enough of the Duke's contribution to the Magpies revival.



Mark Viduka

The Geordies have won three and drawn one of their last four games with Viduka influential on each occasion, all this after initial reports that manager and player didn't see eye to eye.

However Owen has nothing but praise for Viduka's vision as Newcastle reap the benefits of a three-pronged attack.

Obefami Martins is the third member of the attacking trio and a previously misfiring frontline is now causing Premier League defences problems once again.

Owen told Newcastle's official website: "The system gives me and Oba more space behind the front man. We know we can give the ball to 'Dukes' and he will hold it up and won't waste it.

"You also need to know your players, and we know that whenever Dukes gets the ball we can run in front of him or to the side of him or behind him and he will know where we are because of his great vision.

"He has eyes in the back of his head and knows exactly where the other players are and my goal at Spurs was a perfect example. Dukes knew I was in behind him when Oba laid the ball in to him, he just gave it a little reverse touch to play me in to score."

He added: "Mark Viduka has proved over a long period of time that he's a top player and with the way we are playing now everything seems to blossom and Dukes is a perfect example of that.

"If Oba and myself were asked to vote for the type of player we'd like in front of us, we'd say Mark Viduka. And if Dukes was asked to vote for the type of player he'd like playing with him, he'd probably vote for nippy players like Oba and myself."

Socceroos on show on home soil

Australia will step up preparations for June's World Cup qualifiers with an international against Ghana in Sydney on May 23, which will be a fitting prelude to the prestigious FIFA Congress that meets in Australia on 29 and 30 May.

The Socceroos will entertain Ghana at the Sydney Football Stadium nine days before the June 1 meeting with Asian champions Iraq at the Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane in their third World Cup qualifier.

"Ghana is one of the top 20 nations in the world and will provide us with ideal preparation ahead of the four vital World Cup qualifiers to follow," Football

Federation Australia chief executive Ben Buckley said. In their first two World Cup qualifiers, Australia defeated Qatar 3-0 in February and drew 0-0 in China on March 26. In June, Australia will also travel to Dubai on June 7 to face Iraq, while also facing Qatar in Doha a week later and entertaining China at the ANZ Stadium in Sydney on June 22 as part of their World Cup qualifying campaign.

Buckley also revealed coach Pim Verbeek could field a full strength side against Ghana, who are ranked 15 in the world.

"It's a good chance for the team to come together, they won't have played together or trained together for something like two months. So it's a crucial match and I think Pim was certainly keen to have a hitout against quality opposition," added Buckley.

"All of the players have said that they would make themselves available. No doubt Pim and the rest of his staff will have to weigh up the balance of the team to make sure players have had adequate time to recover from a gruelling season."

"But certainly from a planning perspective we expect and understand we'll have all the players available."

Buckley also expects Ghana to field a strong side which could include Chelsea's Michael Essien and Portsmouth's Sulley Muntari.

"There are conditions in our agreement that says they have to field a full-strength team so we're confident that they'll have their best available squad here to play as well," he said.

"Certainly they play a different style of football than many of the teams we're playing in the Asia group. But it's a good chance for some of the players who haven't been regular members of the squad to put their hand up and stake a claim for matches during that crucial four-week period in June."



Qantas Socceroos.

Socceroos Match Schedule

:: **Australia v Ghana**
International
Friday 23 May 2008
Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney

:: **Australia v Iraq**
2010 FIFA World Cup Qualifier
Sunday 1 June 2008
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

:: **Iraq v Australia**
2010 FIFA World Cup Qualifier
7 June 2008
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

:: **Qatar v Australia**
2010 FIFA World Cup Qualifier
14 June 2008
Doha, Qatar

:: **Australia v China**
2010 FIFA World Cup Qualifier
Sunday 22 June 2008
ANZ Stadium, Sydney



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 pathetic excuse for a father who cheered and clapped when a player was sent off for – quite obviously - accidentally bringing down a player when he was “last man” in a recent match at Cromer Park.

It was a foul, it was a red card...but it WAS NOT something to celebrate from the stands. Great example for your son to follow we don't think!



GOOAAAL: THIS week's gong goes to possibly the most enthusiastic group of women Mumbblings has come across in recent times.

Just about every member of the Curl Curl Ladies O35/1 side emailed Mumbblings to alert us to their first round 5-0 win over CC Strikers last weekend.

The award goes to them because most of them are lacing on the boots for the first time including striker Kylie Tallack who notched a hat-trick first up! Love your work ladies..



THERE was a bit of good-natured and friendly banter going on during last week's MWFA premier league clash between Narrabeen and CC Strikers at Narrabeen's Academy of Sport.

Most of it, quite rightly, was coming from the Strikers boys who were comfortably winning 2-0 and totally outplaying the “Beansies”.

Truth be known Strikers should have been 5-0 up!

One Strikers player turned to a Narrabeen defender, with just two minutes of the match remaining, and said: “Mate we played better football than you, that's why we are going home with the three points!”

Two minutes later it was 2-2 thanks to two late, late Narrabeen goals.

It's a funny old game!



MANLY United skipper and assistant youth league head coach Richy Williams' life is about to change big time!

His long-time partner Emma is almost three months pregnant.

That's a mortgage – they bought a place earlier this year - and impending parenthood for the popular Welshman in the space of a few short months.

One wonders when he will finally make an honest girl of his beloved Emma!



WAKEHURST are certainly in touch with their feminine side – the club recently took delivery of hundreds of footballs. What's up with that we hear you ask?

They were all PINK, Seems there was a glitch with the order...

WHILE on Wakehurst, maybe the pink balls explain why Pittwater was able to record its first MWFA premier league victory at Lionel Watts in 19 years last Saturday.

The “Pitts” – under new coach Glenn Wood – got the money with a 2-1 victory and celebrated long into the night at their Mona Vale headquarters.



CONGRATS to Manly-Allambie coach Dave Bonney and his players on their first win in the MWFA Premier League last weekend.

The newly-promoted “Mallambie” got maximum points with a 1-0 upset win over Beacon Hill.

Mumbblings predicted just a couple of weeks ago that teams would take Bonney's charges lightly at their peril and while Beacon Hill is the first victim, they won't be the last!



SOME great sights last Saturday morning as thousands of youngsters laced on the boots for the opening day of the local season.

But perhaps none better than the 6-year-old first-timer who was so frustrated at not being able to score a goal, he picked up the ball, ran 20m to position himself right in front of the sticks and volleyed the ball goalwards – only to miss yet again and send it wide of the posts straight into the back of the head of a father looking the other way!

Gotta love those kids!



MANLY United under-20s coach Steve Berry certainly has his charges playing some great football.

The United youngsters have scored 12 goals in their last two games with thumping wins over Wollongong and West Sydney Berries.

They now sit atop the table after six games with 23 goals scored.



Score a goal with Football Stars of Tomorrow

Scoring goals is a wonderful aspect of our beautiful game called football. Everyone loves the feeling when you see a ball hit the back of the net.

Scoring goals has now gotten a lot better thanks to Football NSW's prestigious television program Football Stars of Tomorrow.

Screening four times a week kick starting on the 28th April on SBS then on the 30th April on Fox Sports, Football Stars of Tomorrow wants to see your goals sent via DVD.

A weekly prize will be on hand to the winner thanks to our wonderful supporters Errea who have kindly donated a great football gift pack valued at \$250.

The prize pack which includes:

- *Full size Errea ball
- *Miniature Errea ball
- *Errea Football Shirt
- *Errea Shin Pads
- *Errea Drink Bottle
- *Errea Cap
- *Errea Pen
- *Six Sport Plus cones

Please send your ‘Goal of the Week’ entries on DVD only to:

AVE Production
PO Box 403
Artarmon, NSW, 1570

Screening Times

Monday 28th April on SBS at 5.30pm
Wednesday 30th April on Fox Sports at 4.30pm
Sunday 4th May on Fox Sports time TBA but will be in the morning, and Sunday 4th May on SBS at 3pm

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MWFA/MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM

HEAD COACH	PHIL MOSS MUFC HEAD COACH AFC A LICENCE
COACH	RICHY WILLIAMS MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
COACH	CRAIG MIDGELY MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
VENUE	CROMER PARK - HOME OF MANLY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
DATES	APRIL – 14 TH 15 TH 17 TH 18 TH
TIMES	7:30 AM – 9.00 AM
COST	\$100 – INCLUDES FOOTBALL AND PUMP
ELIGIBILITY	MUST BE PLAYING REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE (Boys/Girls aged 11-15)

COURSE TO INCLUDE:

- PROGRESSIVE TECHNICAL AND SKILL BASED FOOTBALL DRILLS
- FUN FOCUSED, SMALL SIDED GAMES WITH DECISION MAKING EMPHASIS
- SPEED, AGILITY AND QUICKNESS (SAQ FOOTBALL)

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS – FRIDAY 11TH APRIL – 5PM

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE EMAIL PHIL MOSS AT
MOSSY@MWFA.COM.AU OR PH: 9982 6228**



MANLY UNITED FC HOLIDAY TRAINING CAMP

HEAD COACH	RICHY WILLIAMS MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
COACH	CRAIG MIDGLEY MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
COACH	MICHAEL LLOYD GREEN MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER FFA YOUTH LICENCE
VENUE	CROMER PARK - HOME OF MANLY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
DATES	APRIL - MON 14 TH WEDS 16 TH FRI 18 TH MON 21 ST WEDS 23 RD
TIMES	9:30 AM – 12.00 PM
COST	\$220 – INCLUDES MUFC TRAINING KIT + FOOTBALL + HAT \$200 – FOR SECOND / THIRD CHILD FAMILY DISCOUNT
AGE	5 – 7 YEARS MUFC FIRST KICKS PROGRAM 8 – 10 YEARS MUFC INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM 11 – 14 YEARS MUFC ADVANCED PROGRAM

COURSE TO INCLUDE:

- BALANCE, CO-ORDINATION, CONTROL AND FOOTBALL AWARENESS
- PROGRESSIVE TECHNICAL AND SKILL BASED FOOTBALL DRILLS
- FUN FOCUSED, SMALL SIDED GAMES WITH DECISION MAKING EMPHASIS

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS – FRIDAY APRIL 11TH – 5PM

**FOR APPLICATION PLEASE CONTACT MUFC RECEPTION ON
(02) 9982 6228 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR EMAIL
RECEPTION@MWFA.COM.AU**