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**Sports World**

With LAKIS KONISTIS

**HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE ACTION CONTINUES...**

Round 3 saw the Hyundai A-League's 5 millionth fan enter the turnstiles. But there are other milestones in store this weekend too!

**OTHER STATS & MILESTONES**

Adelaide United v North Queensland Fury:

This will be the 50th Hyundai A-League match coached by Adelaide United coach Aurelio Vidmar. Since taking on the role in 2007, Vidmar's Win-Draw-Loss record stands at W19-D13-L17, and includes a AFC Champions League Final (2008) and Hyundai A-League Grand Final (2009)

Adelaide United goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic is set to make his 100th appearance at national league level

**Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory:**

Melbourne Victory goalkeeper Glen Moss is set to make his 50th appearance at national league level.

Meanwhile, Victory's Nick Ward is due to make his 50th appearance in Australian national leagues.

**Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners:**

Brisbane Roar will be aiming to continue their club record of scoring in the most consecutive home matches, having scored at least one goal in the past eight matches at Suncorp Stadium. The last time Roar was kept scoreless at Suncorp Stadium was on 8 November 2008 (Brisbane Roar 0 - 1 Melbourne Victory)

**Newcastle Jets v Gold Coast United:**

The Culina's reunite on the football pitch - but this time with dad, Branko, coaching Newcastle Jets and son, Jason, as the marquee player for the undefeated Gold Coast United.

Newcastle Jets defender Angelo Costanzo is set to make his 300th appearance at national league level. Before joining the Jets in 2009, Costanzo played at Adelaide City (133 national league appearances), Marconi (90) and Adelaide United (73)

**Sydney FC v Wellington Phoenix:**

Having won their previous three home matches, Sydney FC is aiming to equal its all-time Hyundai A-League record of four consecutive home wins.

Sydney FC has not won four matches in a row since 2006

**WE TIPPED A GREAT GOLD COAST DEBUT OVER A YEAR AGO!**

Some soccer pundits may be highly surprised by the success of Gold Coast United so far in the A-League.

But "Sportsworld" had forewarned that they would be an instant hit- and so far we have been proven right!

Even national youth team coach Ange Postecoglou has been surprised by the Coast's stunning debut thus far.

For the record, the Gold Coast has won its opening three games- scoring 10 goals and conceding just 1 goal along the way.

According to Postecoglou who is also wary, "They are a really good quality side, of that there is absolutely no doubt. But we haven't really had a good look at them. They are catching teams by surprise because of the kind of game they play. I think they play at a higher tempo but I don't necessarily think it's better, they just play at a higher tempo."

It remains to be seen just how far Gold Coast United can go in 2009-10.

**SHARK ATTACK CONTINUES!**

Sutherland Sharks' goalscorer (right) Panni Nikas

Yet another shark attack took place in 2009- this time at the Sydney United Sports Centre where the Sharks were brilliant in their 1-0 victory over the Marconi Stallions.

The "Greek Show" was also clearly evident once again with Panni Nikas scoring the 'winner' once again from a Jim Bakis free kick just after the half-time break

The Sharks will now meet the Tele-choice Premier League Minor Premiers Sydney United on Sunday. And I believe the Sharks are in such red-hot form at the moment that they will beat United!

In the other semi final, Bankstown City Lions' season ended abruptly thanks to a dreaded penalty-shootout loss against Manly United. The score was 0-0 after regulation time and also extra time (120 minutes) and only a penalty shootout could decide the winner- who in the end was Manly on the day.

**MATCHES THIS WEEKEND:**

Sat 29/Aug - Minor Semi Final - Marconi Stallions vs Manly United FC - Marconi Stadium, 6pm

Sun 30/Aug - Major Semi Final - Sydney United v Sutherland Sharks - Sydney United Sports Centre, 4pm



Panni Nikas

**BERRIES KISS 2009 GOODBYE**

The one-and-only West Sydney Berries team to reach the semi finals in 2009, its U/13's have also farewelled the year after losing to Blacktown City by 3-2.

The Berries have completed their commitments for this year, early yet again, so they might as well look to staging their presentation night now as there is nothing else left for them in 2009.

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC STILL IN THE HUNT AND ON FIRE!**

On the other hand, Sydney Olympic's THREE teams that have reached the semi finals of their respective competitions are really giving it their best shot.

**U/13's:**

This year's Minor Premiers wasted no time in becoming the first team into the GRAND FINAL after beating Wollongong City by 4-2 in extra time.

Believe me when I say that this 'little team' is a great side and one that Sydney Olympic MUST look after from a future perspective.

Congratulations to the youngsters who are now one game away from achieving the "double" in 2009!

**U/16's:**

Sydney Olympic's U/16's eliminated Manly United last weekend by winning 4-2 (on penalties)- after the scores were locked 1-1 after extra time.

The boys must now back up again this weekend for another elimination game, this time against Blacktown City.

**U/20's:**

And finally, the club's U/20's also live to fight another day after they too upset the more fancied Sutherland Sharks courtesy of a penalty shootout!

The U/20's will now meet the Minor Premiers Blacktown City on Sunday (1:30pm) at the Sydney United Sports Centre to see which team will storm into the Grand Final first.

Now here's the good news that should have Olympic in the right frame of mind...

Blacktown City may have won the Minor Premiership but...

They have yet to beat Olympic in 2009!

Way back in Round 7 Sydney Olympic beat the Demans 2-1 and the in Round 18 the sides played out a 0-0 draw.

We await to see what will happen on Sunday.



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