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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE CONTINUES...

77 goals in just 30 matches of Hyundai A-League 2009/10 season, with the total number of people watching a match this season also up by 14%!

With the two new teams, Gold Coast United and North Queensland Fury, book-ending the table— and only a few points separating the best from the rest— Round 7 will see more goals and more milestones as the Hyundai A-League 2009/10 season picks up steam through September.

Newcastle Jets and Central Coast Mariners are set to play their 100th Hyundai A-League games with Mariners' coach Lawrie McKinna recording a century of matches in charge.

Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory:

In the first encounter for the season between the two 2009 Grand Finalists, Adelaide United is aiming to become the first club to gain a revenge victory in the first rematch of two Grand Final teams.

- 2006 Grand Final winners Sydney defeated runners-up Grand Final losers Central Coast in their first match-up in 2006/07
- 2007 Grand Final winners Melbourne drew 1-1 with runners-up Adelaide in their first match-up in 2007/08
- 2008 Grand Final winners Newcastle drew 1-1 with runners-up Central Coast in their first match-up in 2008/09

Central Coast Mariners v Gold Coast United:

Central Coast Mariners play their 100th Hyundai A-League match- the Mariners become just the second club to play 100 Hyundai A-League matches, after Adelaide United reached the milestone in Round 5.

Mariners' coach Lawrie McKinna becomes the first person to coach 100 Hyundai A-League matches.

Wellington Phoenix v North Queensland:

Wellington Phoenix are aiming for their ninth undefeated consecutive home match. Only twice before has a team been undefeated for more than eight home matches in a row - Sydney FC (14 undefeated home games, 2005-2006) and Central Coast Mariners (12 undefeated home games, 2005-2006)

Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets:



Newcastle Jets to play their 100th Hyundai A-League match, becoming the third club to reach 100 Hyundai A-League matches.

Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory:

Perth Glory are aiming to have their first win against Brisbane Roar in four years. The last time Perth Glory defeated Brisbane Roar (then Queensland Roar) was 12 matches ago on 10 September 2005

“SHARK FRENZY RAVAGES STALLIONS”

We Told You So!

We have been telling you all for a very long time that the Sutherland Sharks would win the 2009 Premier League Grand Final.

But nobody could have expected a 4-1 final scoreline.

One player in particular I am very happy for is Sharks skipper George Souris who, at age 39, does not seem to be at the end of his career just yet. In fact, 2010 we see him go around for the Sharks yet again.

What was even more impressive for the Sharks was that they achieved such a brilliant result without the services of their exciting midfielder Nick Stavroulakis due to suspension.

“We have a small playing roster, though the boys involved have trained extremely hard all season, and everyone has proven to have a big heart with the performance in the final,” said Souris.

“A special mention must go to not only the boys on the pitch in the grand-final, but to all the guys that have trained so well and been part of the group. Nick (Stavroulakis) has been

immense for us all season, and it was sad that he didn't get to play the match (due to suspension). ‘Nicky’ has been an important part of this group and he has had a great season.”

Souris led the Sharks to the Premiership in 2008, the Tiger Turf Cup in 2009, and now the Premier League Grand Final. And George's dad, who passed away a few years ago, would be enjoying the recent successes of his son too.

SPOT ON WITH SPIRIT FC!

All of 2009 we have been singing the praises of Spirit FC in the NSW Super League- and the boys delivered a killer blow to Parramatta PCYC by beating them in the Grand Final on penalties (9-8).

What a great debut year Spirit FC has had in the Super League- I hope they can go one better and reach Premier League status at the end of 2010.

WRONG ABOUT DULWICH HILL!

We were however wrong about Minor Premiers Dulwich Hill who were beaten by Mounties FC 2-1 in their Division One last weekend.

At least Dulwich Hill is headed for the Super League in 2010.

OLYMPIC U/20's?

Even Sydney Olympic's U/20's lost their Grand Final 2-1 to Sydney United- making the clubs U/13's, the best performed team in 2010 after they won the Minor Premiership.

Let's hope 2010 is kinder for Sydney Olympic.

At least they were involved in SOME finals matches in 2009- which is more than can be said for some clubs who have been watching all the games from behind the fence!

BECKHAM WORLD CUP BOUND?

Could David Beckham be on the verge of another World Cup campaign?

England coach Fabio Capello has given a strong indication that David Beckham WILL make it to a fourth World Cup, hailing the former captain's ability to bring the squad together.

Beckham (aged 34) made his 114th international appearance as England routed Croatia 5-1 to qualify for next year's tournament with two games to spare. Beckham is 11 games shy of the English record for appearances, currently held by goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

“He is always with us because for me he is one of the most important players,” Capello said. “He is good in the group. He is good in every moment during the training. Some players are important for the position and morale of the group.”

Having been left out of Italy's squad for the 1978 World Cup, Capello knows the pain of missing out on a major tournament. “My door is always open,” Capello said.

Capello, who took over from Steve McClaren after the failed Euro 2008 qualification campaign, has nine months to prepare England, seeking its first major title since the 1966 World Cup.

DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA!

The Argentines are furious. They're blaming their soccer team's most recent World Cup qualifying loss squarely on coach Diego Maradona. Now the two-time world champions are in danger of missing their first World Cup since 1970.

“This Maradona has shown dramatically that he wasn't born to coach, that his glorious image was useful at first, but no more,” the Diario Popular newspaper wrote.

In an Internet poll published by the newspaper Clarin, 62% of 11,288 people responding said Argentina would miss next year's 32-team tournament in South Africa.

But Maradona has remained defiant, saying he would stay on the job “as long as I have a drop of blood left...I won't give in... I'm going to continue being the coach. I'm not afraid of criticism. I'm not afraid of anybody.”

Time will tell...