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Sports World

With LAKIS KONISTIS

WESTERN SYDNEY IT IS!

Football Federation Australia (FFA) this week announced that the 12th team in the Hyundai A-League would be based in western Sydney. FFA CEO Ben Buckley, said that the FFA will award a license to a group chaired by Saatchi & Saatchi Executive Chairman and former Young Socceroo Ian Rowden.

"It is a traditional heartland for football, having produced a large number of very talented men and women players. We believe they are the right people to build and establish the team and to connect to football fans and the wider community and we want to give the team every chance to succeed by giving them time to put all the right building blocks in place. Above all, they have a great combination of business and marketing expertise and acumen as well as a deep knowledge of, and passion for the game", Buckley said.

After extensive discussions, it was agreed for the team to commence in the Hyundai A-League in 2011, rather than be rushed in for 2010. This would give the team every chance to be established properly, as it would provide greater time for the team to prepare its plans both on and off the field.

Rowden's group includes partner at law firm DLA Phillip Fox, Peter Tredinick and former Young Socceroo/Socceroo; John Moore, Director of Global Brands and former Olympic marketing executive; and former captain of the Socceroos, Charlie Yankos.

13TH LICENSE?

Buckley also reiterated that Canberra would be "an obvious priority" for the 13th license.

"We will be working with the ACT Government and the Canberra consortium to achieve this in an appropriate timeframe."

CONGESTED A-LEAGUE TABLE

Back to this year's A-League and it's mid-table madness with only 2 points separating 1st and 7th positions and a host of teams battling for bragging rights of top spot.

This week also sees Sydney FC reach 100 Hyundai A-League games, only the fourth team to reach this milestone after Adelaide United in Round 5 and Central Coast Mariners and Newcastle Jets in Round 7.

Gold Coast United (1) v Wellington Phoenix (8):

- If there is any time that might feel comfortable in the hot air of Gold Coast United, the team from Windy Wellington may be just the one!

- Wellington will be aiming not to extend their record as the draw specialists, having amassed 5 from 8 games so far this season.

Perth Glory (2) v

North Queensland Fury (10):

- For the first time in its Hyundai A-League history, Perth Glory will now be aiming for an unprecedented first placing on the ladder over the coming weeks

- In the meantime, North Queensland Fury is making the long trip to Perth as they aim to rise to a more deserving position on the Hyundai A-League table

Melbourne Victory (6) v

Brisbane Roar (5):

- Always a great football spectacle. Old mates, Muscat and Moore. Van Dijk v Vargas. Hernandez, Reinaldo, Henrique and Fabiano.

Sydney FC (3) v

Central Coast Mariners (4):

- A languid, long weekend public holiday- why not go to the football to see the little F3 Derby between Sydney FC- who play their 100th game in the Hyundai A-League.

Adelaide United (7) v

Newcastle Jets (9):

- Another long weekend public holiday, and Adelaide are coming off an emphatic away win after the long, hot trip to Townsville, while Newcastle Jets will be looking to convert their many chances in to a win away from home

B-LEAGUE?

Now there's an interesting concept in the pipeline...

If only I could tell you all what's been going on behind the scenes!

FOOTBALL WITH STYLE RETURNS!

Football with style returns this weekend when Australia's own national women's competition, the Westfield W-League, kicks off its second season.

The Westfield W-League this season will also include international players from the USA, Denmark and Chinese Taipei.

The start of the Westfield W-League will be closely followed by Her Excellency the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, who is the Patron of Women's Football.

Women's football has enjoyed an average annual growth rate of 6% over the

past six years, and is broadcast live each week on ABC1 each Saturday at 3pm.

AFL RECORDS TUMBLE!

On another note, the 2009 AFL finals series set new records...

A new finals attendance record of 615,283 was achieved. The Grand Final attendance of 99,251 saw this year's total attendance for the finals series eclipse the previous mark of 594,919 set in 1995.

Last Saturday's grand final saw Channel 10 record the highest-ever Grand Final ratings in Melbourne.

The match drew a peak audience of 3.62 million and an average of 2.88 million viewers, with nearly 90% of viewers watching the game.

BACK TO BUSINESS

And there is no time for any club to rest in the AFL, with the draft camp having begun. The most promising potential recruits will showcase their wares at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra until today.

This year, 75 players will attend the camp in Canberra, while an additional 144 will attend state-based screening

sessions.

Fifty-four players were drafted to AFL club primary lists last year, while a further 12 were rookie-listed. Forty-one players from the 2008 state-based screening sessions were also AFL listed.

BETTING 2010?

Bookmakers have already started taking bets on the 2010 AFL premiership.

Geelong and St Kilda are equal favourites at \$4. The Western Bulldogs are at \$6.50. Adelaide is \$8, Hawthorn \$11 with Carlton and Collingwood at \$14.

LIVERPOOL FC TO FALL INTO SAUDI HANDS?

Rumours in England at the present time are suggesting that a Saudi prince is on the verge of buying a 50% share in Liverpool Football Club!

The deal is rumoured to be worth as much as 350 million (\$650 million).

The prince is Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdullah, and the club is very much keen to talk to him- and why wouldn't they?

Liverpool FC is currently 245 million (\$455 million) in debt!



QANTAS JOEYS SQUAD

Qantas Joeys Head Coach Jean-Paul de Marigny has selected a 23-player squad for the AFC U-16 Championship (Qualifiers) which will be held in Canberra from 6-16 October 2009.

Kobbie Boahene

Corey Brown

Alex Cerruto

Connor Chapman

Samuel Chapple

Joshua Da Silva

Milos Degenek

Hernan Espindola

Giancarlo Gallifuoco

Stevan Ilic

Aaron Liddell

Jesse Makarounas

Jake Monaco

Hayden Morton

Andrew Mullett

Brodie Paterson

Yianni Perkatis

Luke Remington

Daniel Sadaka

Lachlan Tibbles

Abe Wheelhouse

Jakob Williams

Kwame Yeboah

VIS/Altona East JSC

QAS/Brisbane City FC

NSWIS/Marconi Stallions

NSWIS/Sutherland Sharks

NSWIS/Sutherland Sharks

NSWIS/Sutherland Sharks

NSWIS/Blacktown City Demons

VIS/Brimbank

NSWIS/Sutherland Sharks

NSWIS/Sutherland Sharks

Marconi Stallions

Football West/Perth SC

SASI/Western Strikers

NSWIS/Sutherland Sharks

VIS/FC Bulleen Lions

VIS/Chelsea

NSWIS/Marconi Stallions

NNSWIS/Macquarie

Sutherland Sharks

NSWIS/Marconi Stallions

NNSWIS/Macquarie

ACTAS/Tuggeranong United

QAS/Gold Coast