



# Around the Grounds

## Aman Hadid snapped up by Gold Coast United

Bankstown City Lions' promising young star attacker Aman Hadid became the third player to have secured a contract with Hyundai A-League side Gold Coast United as he penned a one-year deal Monday morning. The 22-year-old caught the attention of Miron Bleiberg during an early scouting trip to Sydney where he also saw the likes of Sydney Olympic duo Alex Smith and Daniel Severino in action which prompted Gold Coast to secure these players. Hadid, who scored five goals, will commence his duties with Gold Coast United effective immediately, was delighted with the move but praised Bankstown coach Blagoja Kuleski for his efforts in 2011. "My goal was to one day play in the A-League and that's been a dream of mine ever since this competition commenced. "I knew I had to be patient but needed to work on my game to be part of this. "Blagoja has been unbelievable and he assisted in my preparation this season both physically and mentally in reaching my full potential. "He concentrated on hard work, determination and also improvement in becoming a better footballer and for that I thank him. "I know I leave a lot of good people behind me that helped me reach my goal but I wish Bankstown nothing but success for the remainder of the NSW Premier League season and I will be keeping a close eye on their results whilst in Queensland." Kuleski equally was happy with Hadid's progress and understood that the move to Gold Coast was part of the youngster's development as a footballer. "It's always difficult to lose key players at such a crucial stage of the season but I am happy for Aman and I wish him well with his new club in the A-League. "We cannot stop players achieving their dreams – that would be unfair, and I know it has been Aman's dream from day one. "Ultimately that's why we are here; to breed a new blood of promising players into the A-League, that's our job as mentors and coaches."

By Mark Stavroulakis

## Premier Youth League Catch-up matches

There were a couple of catch-up matches played over the weekend and that has reduced some of the backlog but with only seven rounds to be played we can expect to see catch-up results appearing each and every week.

### Overview

APIA Leichhardt Tigers took four points and Sydney Olympic earned sev-



Gold Coast United have secured the services of former Bankstown Lions rising attacker Aman Hadid for the new Hyundai A-League season

en points from their four Round 6 matches while Manly United and Sydney United split the points at seven apiece from their Round 12 fixture and Sutherland Sharks bagged all six points from the two Round 11 matches played against South Coast Wolves

### Grade 13

Third placed APIA Leichhardt Tigers produced a 2-0 victory over tenth placed Sydney Olympic while Sydney United moved up one place to fourth when they were 3-0 winners over seventh placed Manly United.

### Grade 14

Sydney Olympic climbed one place up the ladder to second when they produced a 3-0 victory over twelfth placed APIA Leichhardt Tigers and Manly United scooted two rungs up the ladder to fourth with a 1-0 success over tenth placed Sydney United.

### Grade 15

Manly United held onto second spot when they suffered a 1-0 loss to Sydney United who have moved up one place to eight while APIA Leichhardt Tigers and Sydney Olympic remained at fifth and sixth respectively following their 1-1 draw.

### Grade 16

Manly United moved to the top of the table when they produced a 4-2 victory over sixth placed Sydney United while Sutherland Sharks moved up one place to third thanks to a 3-0 success over eighth placed South Coast Wolves and Sydney Olympic remained at fifth following the 5-0 result over tenth placed APIA Leichhardt Tigers.

### Grade 18

Manly maintained the competition lead after they battled out a 2-2 draw with tenth placed Sydney United and Sutherland Sharks climbed two places to third when they were 2-1 winners over ninth placed South Coast Wolves.

By Barry Davis

## Special Feature: Vidaic maintains a level head

Sydney United's Ben Vidaic has been around. At the ripe young age of 23, the big striker has a NSW Premier League title and a stint with A-League

side Sydney FC to his name. But you'd be mistaken if you thought it had all gone to his head. Used in United's front three, the humble Vidaic is quick to deflect praise, preferring to shine to spotlight on his teammates and coach. When pressed on his own season, the tall forward maintains a level head. "The season has gone OK so far. There's been some good performances, but still a lot of room for improvement," he said. "Hopefully I can score a couple more goals to make my season that little bit better." With four goals to his name this year, Vidaic is appreciative of the confidence shown in him by John Paul De Marigny. The United coach used the striker in the title-winning season of 2006, and has brought him back into the side this year to great effect. "I really enjoy JP's approach. He has a very disciplined, positive football philosophy," he said. "He's a really good coach. The training is great and he gives the team a lot of direction tactically. "He's put a lot of confidence in the team and he's shown a lot of confidence in me." A mature and popular player, the 23 year old balances playing commitments and university study with a view to life after football. "Playing in the NSW Premier League kind of complements study perfectly to be honest," he mused. "I'm very happy where I'm at, so long as I'm playing consistently and performing alright." On his time at Sydney FC, Vidaic is typically philosophical, noting that the experience made him the player he is today. "The opportunity that I got was amazing, but I think I went at a time when it was a little but difficult for a young player," he said. "There were four or five other senior strikers so it was hard to get game time to prove myself. Overall though, the experience was great." Barring disaster, United will be around come finals time. Vidaic sees cross-town rivals Sydney Olympic as the biggest obstacle to securing a second NSW Premier League title. "They've done well so far. They're so physically dominant and their attackers are really good. They're just a good all round team." "Our team has shown really promising signs and hopefully we'll

peak towards the business end of the season."

By Ryan Cropp

## Sutherland Sharks set to face Newcastle Jets

NSW Premier League side Sutherland Sharks will be taking on Hyundai A-League side Newcastle Jets on Wednesday 20th July with kick off scheduled for 7pm at Seymour Shaw Park. Branko Culina's men have organised a couple of matches against NSW Premier League opposition and will use the clash against the Sharks as a vital match for its pre-season campaign. The likes of players such as Nathan Denham, Chris Price, Nick Tstaliolis, Panny Nikas, Nick Stavroulakis, Yianni Fragogiannis and Matthew Bailey are just some of the players hoping to make an impact in the clash against the Jets. Admission for the match will be \$10 while Children under 16 are free. Meanwhile the Sharks will be taking on NSW Super League side St George FC in the annual St George Leader Cup on Wednesday 13th July at Seymour Shaw Park. Kick-off has been scheduled for 7pm and is free admission.

Both matches will be supporting the Sutherland Relay for Life 2011.

## Valentine Sports Park Welcomes the Barclays Premier League Trophy

Football fans will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Barclays Premier League Trophy at Valentine Sports Park on Sunday 17th July from 2:30pm – 6:00pm. Valentine Sports Park will be abuzz with activity with the home of football in Sydney's west playing host to the State Cup Finals that same day. A photographer will be on hand to shoot fans with the iconic trophy, with a printer also on site. Football fans will also have the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Barclays Premier League trophy exclusively at Westfield Bondi Junction on Saturday 16th July from 12:00pm. Marcel Desailly, one of the Barclays Premier League's legends, will appear at centre court alongside the Barclays Premier League Trophy, for an extensive interview followed by a limited photograph session with the trophy for fans who attend the event. There will be 3 exclusive shows throughout the day starting at 12:00pm.

\*All articles courtesy of Football NSW.

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