

The double League Champions



Coaching Duo lead Blues to double as Luksic calls it a day

Sydney Olympic signed off from playing duties for 2011 in exceptional fashion, adding the Minor Premiership trophy to their cabinet following the Premiership title that was clinched one month ago.

On a stunning afternoon with a tremendous attendance at Belmore Sports Ground, the Blues kept true to the regular season verdict, confirming their first past the post triumph with an impressive 2-0 win over Sydney United.

Alex Smith continued his rich goal scoring form with a 2' minute goal before captain Richard Luksic headed the Blues to a two-goal lead early in the second-half.

The win brought tears of joy to Belmore, as the Sydney Olympic supporters rejoiced following a lean spell in recent seasons.

Captain Luksic was one proud leader following the trophy presentation: "To lift the trophy is just brilliant, it has been a wonderful day for all the boys," expressed Luksic.

In what has been a busy season for the Blues, and one played at a very high level by Luksic, the experienced defender confirmed that the grand-final triumph may well have been his last in the Premier League as a player.

"I won't say it for certain as things can change, though at this point I can confirm that today was my last match, I am ready to call it a day," Luksic has played at the highest level in the State competition over the past ten years, with most recent success arriving at Bankstown City Lions prior to his first 'giant killing' season at Sydney Olympic.

"I do want to call it a day, though I will have a good think about it over the coming months. My plan is definitely to remain in football, eventually in junior coaching, though for the moment I want to spend some time on weekends with my kids, as the past ten years have been dedicated to my football," explained Luksic.

The sturdy defender joined Sydney Olympic with both his coaches from Bankstown City, Peter Tsekenis and Peter Papoythis, at the start of the season, and the combination has proven a successful one with a victorious first season.

"Definitely, the transition from Bankstown City was made so much easier with both 'Tseka' and 'Flea' coming across. Not only the coaches but also a number of players that moved over together, this certainly helped the transition and I am sure that helped us this season to achieve the results we have achieved."

The double triumph was of extra special importance to coach Peter Tsekenis. "I played for this club, I captained this club and have now finished my first season as coach - winning both the Premiership and Minor Premiership is just indescribable," expressed Tsekenis.



"To be honest, it hasn't really sunk in yet, though I am very very proud of what the boys have been able to achieve this season with their great work rate and positive attitude." Tsekenis' right-hand man Peter Papoythis could not hide his enthusiasm for the efforts of his players.

"My team this season has had adversities, from no lights at training, to no dressing sheds and playing the entire first part of the season away from home due to the construction here at Belmore and we had a team that hadn't really been tried.

"A young team with the likes of Peter Triantis, Will Angel and Zac Elrich just to name a few, I am just so proud of these boys," continued Papoythis.

"To win the competition after twenty-two rounds, to win the grand-final, to win against Sydney FC has just been a big season for the players."

The Blues' early season objectives were to unite, play an attacking football style and sneak into the finals series, objectives that were re-formed midway through the campaign.

Papoythis continued: "We set some goals, beat Sydney United away and we did. Beat South Coast Wolves away, which is a very difficult match, and we did. We beat the big teams, Bonnyrigg, Bankstown at Jensen Park is a difficult side, and with all these results falling into place, I thought we stood a real chance for more than just a finals series berth.

"It was at the midway stage where I turned to Pete (Tsekenis) and said we can do this, we really can," explained Papoythis.

With a long and successful season completed, 'Tseka' and 'Flea' are looking to enjoy the triumph with their team before talking about next season.

Tsekenis commented: "We'll enjoy this victory for now and worry about the rest later on, though we are all very proud of the achievements of this group of players this season," ended Tsekenis.

-By Joseph Carlucci



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