

news

SPECIAL FEATURE: TSEKENIS EXCITED
BY YOUNG PROSPECTS

Sydney Olympic coach Peter Tsekenis has hailed the efforts of his younger players who have stepped up in recent weeks

-By Chris Georges

Tsekenis gave Zak Elrich his first start in the NSW Premier League in his side's victory over Sydney United recently and also gave a debut to Amaury Gauthier in the same game. After defeating the Blacktown Spartans 4-0 over the weekend Tsekenis said the boys definitely had a future in the game.

"That was (Zak's) second start for the season and he was again outstanding," Tsekenis said. "He has a lot of attention from the A-League clubs and it showed why, because he is a quality player.

"(Amaury) comes from the same school as Zak.

"He was in my 18s squad at Bankstown and he is one of the other one's who we brought across.

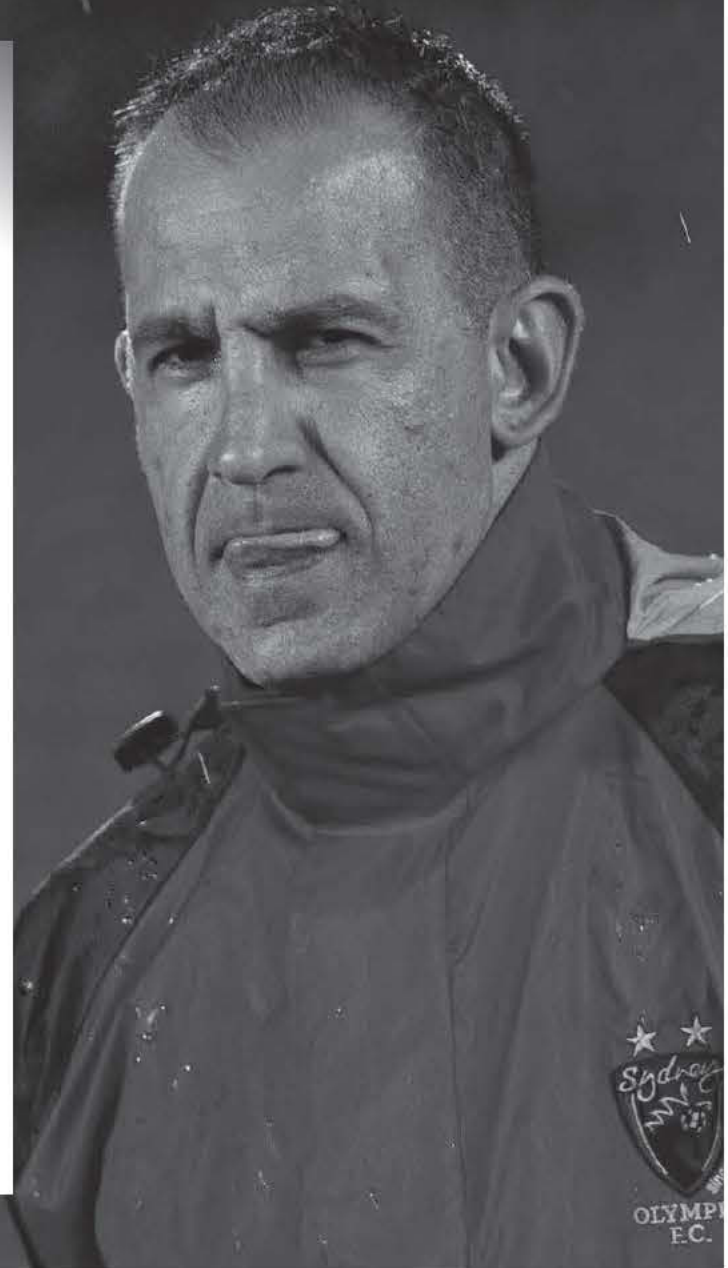
"He is a quality player, has waited his time and done well when we have used him.

The blend of youth and experience has worked well for the Blues this year as they search for back to back NSW Premier League titles.

Tsekenis said bleeding youngsters early was pivotal to the future of teams.

"It just shows that these boys have to be given an opportunity at the right time," he said.

"Amaury, Troy (Danaskos) and Zak all came from the same team at Bankstown."



Cromer Park officially launches in style

It was the landmark moment many football sceptics on the peninsula felt would never eventuate.

But on Sunday afternoon almost 1000 football fans crammed into Cromer Park for the official opening of the synthetic surface at Cromer Park.

Sydney FC media manager Dave Mason took centre stage as MC, with local identities such as former Socceroo Robbie Slater, newly appointed Sky Blues coach Ian Crook, Central Coast Mariners assistant coach Phil Moss and EPL veteran Spencer Prior all taking time out to celebrate the occasion.

Manly Warringah Football Association president Ray Fanning, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the pipedream became a reality, described the occasion as "beyond satisfying."

"It was great to see so many people involved in football on the northern beaches come together to celebrate such a great moment in our history," he said.

"Many people will remember the dark old days when Cromer Park had

no grandstand either; now we have everything we desired and even better plans are on the horizon."

Warringah mayor Michael Regan was equally chuffed to play his part.

"I know how important football is to people in this area, it is reflected by the number of registered players (almost 17,000)," he said.

"Seeing a (new) surface like Cromer Park come to fruition is fantastic, it is overdue and reflects what we (Council) are all about.

"Our aim was to provide a pitch that will benefit soccer as well as other sports.

"It has been a long road and after seeing the success of this pitch we will now push forward to install similar pitches across the northern beaches over the next few years."

Manly United FC then capped off the perfect day after defeating Sutherland 3-1 in the NSW Premier League round 14 clash.

Local junior Justin Hayward was the star, grabbing a brace.



PHOTOS from the officially opening at Cromer Park

