

Perry Moustakas.. Head Coash Canterbury Bankstown

After our match with Sydney FC last August, everyone at the club has been working overtime to get this season off to a great start. We have worked hard to bring players across that I felt was needed to strengthen the squad. With 8 new players to our playing roster, we are expecting a strong season in 2018. Being such a young squad we've added a few experienced players in Huss Jasli and Costa Andricopoulos along with a few young players that have been in and around the 1st grade environment before in Aaron D'mello, Nikita Andricopoulos and Richie Darko. A good balance of youth and old. By having a bigger squad we've added a lot of competition which pushes the tempo of

our training session which will run off in our games. Something myself and the coaching staff are very happy about. With less than 3 weeks to go before our season kickoff, we have organised a handful of games as we need match fitness but most important It helps the team to gel. So far we've had indifferent results which is expected at this time of

the year but there have been positive signs. This year the expectations are higher and I have full confidence the team can have a very good year. I would like to also thank the president and and committee for all the support and belief they have shown in myself and the team. We look forward to push Canterbury Bankstown to where they belong.



Rooney ready to terrorize NPL defences

It is almost hard to believe Sean Rooney is only 28. After making his first-grade debut for Blacktown City FC in 2006, it was obvious the pacey striker was a star in the making.

Newcastle was his next home from 2008-2011, on the books of the Jets in the A-League. **Professional** spells in Indonesia (Deltras) and India (Salgaocar and Bengaluru FC) then allowed Rooney to live the dream abroad, sandwiched in between two more stints at Blacktown City FC in 2012 and 2013. **Oakleigh** Cannons were the next club to snare Rooney's signature, where he scored two goals in eight appearances for the Victorian Premier League outfit. **Come** 2015 he moved back to Sydney and could have agreed to terms with anyone – which made Marconi an interesting move. **Rooney** has been prolific upfront in the famous Sky Blue kit, scoring 45 goals in 50 games to make him a fan favourite among the passionate Stallions faithful. **With** promotion finally sealed last year following two frustrating years in the wilderness, 2018 promises to be a big season on the pitch for the former NSL heavyweights. **"Everyone** is very happy to be back playing the top tier NPL (NSW), it took us (Marconi) a bit longer to gel than we anticipated," Rooney told Football NSW. **"Last** season was great, we certainly clicked



in NPL 2, but that's old news now. **"We** want to win every game we play in – be it the league or the Cup. **"From** what I've seen at training and in our pre-season games so far, we have the ability to match it with anyone, but we know this year there won't be any easy games – the quality in the competition is obvious." **James** Andrew looms as a very handy pickup from Blacktown City FC, with Martin Lo also a new face for Marconi. **"I** think those two will be great, they offer plenty going forward," Rooney said. **"You** want competition for spots, and Flea (coach Peter Tsekenis) likes to play high tempo football." **Away** from football, Rooney works as a groundsman in Sydney's west at Cumberland – and his boss happens to be Blacktown City FC boss Mark Crittenden. **"Critt**er is a terrific bloke, we talk football non-stop at work," Rooney said. **"He** always jokes about be coming back to play for him, but I'm very happy at Marconi." **The** Stallions host the Jason Culina coached Sydney United 58 FC in a bumper first round clash at Marconi Stadium on Saturday, March 10 from 7pm.

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