

From Guus to Glory: What to expect from Arnie's Socceroos

As Australian football recoils in shock from its worst kept secret, we take a sneak-peek at the Socceroos under Graham Arnold, with Matt Simon leading the line...



It's official - Arnold will lead the Socceroos post-2018 World Cup on a four year contract. It's stabilisation time for the Australian national team, and there's few more stable selections than a man with ten years' experience working with the Socceroos. In addition to his controversial year as caretaker coach - some say he was faced with a thankless task, others that he horribly underperformed - Arnold was assistant to Frank Farina, Guus Hiddink and Pim Verbeek. He was also Olyroos coach at the 2008 Olympics. We exited at the group stage, but the performances were damn close...

Now, ten years and two A-League Championships later, Arnie finally gets a proper crack at the big time. But what can we expect from Graham Arnold's Socceroos?

ANGE'S LEGACY?

Boring, boring Arnie. Defensive grinch. Arnold has often rebuked his defensive reputation, with some virtue. Sydney tucked away the most goals in the league last season - six more than attacking-minded Melbourne Victory, while conceding 19 less. Likewise, his Central Coast Mariners side led the goal tally in 2012/13, again conceding the least. Arnold says rather than play defensively, he "respects

defence", which is what a lot of Socceroos fans were calling for under Ange Postecoglou.

Arnold won't recreate Postecoglou's style, nor should he. Arnie's Mariners and Ange's Brisbane Roar, later Melbourne Victory were always very close throughout their respective coaches' reigns.

Ange's vision, and perhaps more worryingly the national curriculum, may just have to wait. But at least there's some aspects to an Australian coach that always read well on paper.

"I want to continue Ange's legacy of being proud

Australians, taking pride every time we put on the shirt," Arnold said. "It's clear that Ange had a fantastic staff, with what they accomplished...so it's going to take me a little bit of time to learn and watch."

MAN MANAGEMENT

In his post-appointment press conference, Arnie said his strengths were "man-management and attention to detail". There's an underpinning philosophy beneath Arnold's work. He's had a long association with life-coach Bradley Stubbs, focusing on positive communication and

mindfulness. While it might sound zany, especially for a 54-year-old who sounds like a coal miner, it's obviously working. Sydney FC are phenomenally consistent and resilient, able to dampen pressure when it arises and build momentum as easily as Lego blocks. Expect an overly-confident, almost egotistic Socceroos side. Arnold will instruct his players to never use the word 'hope', always 'will'. It's why many fans find him unreservedly smug. But it's also why he's accumulating a trophy cabinet to back those words up.

Sydney Olympic - Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2-1

Alejandro Lopez scored a debut goal to give Sydney Olympic a hard fought 2-1 victory over Bonnyrigg White Eagles in their National Premier Leagues NSW Mens opening round clash at Belmore Sportsground on Sunday afternoon. The Spanish recruit struck ten minutes from full time to gift new head coach Abbas Saad the first triumph of his managerial tenure and ensure the Belmore club continue their strong recent form over the White Eagles. Having gone ahead early on through a Jason Madonis penalty Olympic were on the receiving end of large periods of Bonnyrigg pressure and eventually cracked when Gil Mun-Soo planted a header past Paul Henderson midway through the second half. But while Olympic lived dangerously at times Bonnyrigg were unable to capitalise on their dominance and the Blues eventually nicked the winner through Lopez late on. The former Zaragoza youth product was heavily involved on the day for the Blues and helped the hosts take an early lead after he was felled in the box by Bonnyrigg goalkeeper David Bradasevic, leaving Madonis to coolly stroke the hosts

into the lead. But despite the Blues' early liveliness Bonnyrigg rallied strongly and started mounting efforts on the Olympic goal with goalkeeper Paul Henderson twice denying Mun-Soo while also making a strong block from Jewook Woo in the first half.

Bonnyrigg continued their momentum in the second half when a Mun-Soo header was parried away off the line while Henderson produced the save of the match to deny a fantastic curling strike from Raymond Miller. Mun-Soo planted the resulting corner in the back of the net to deservedly restore parity for the visitors and the White Eagles midfielder thought he'd prodded his side in front minutes later after turning the ball home from a goalmouth scramble only for the effort to be called offside. Brian Brown's side will lament that occasion and numerous others in hindsight and were dealt a crushing blow when Lopez darted in behind the Bonnyrigg defence and swept the ball underneath Bradasevic to mark a debut victory at home. Olympic coach Abbas Saad admitted his side dodged several bullets

throughout the match but was pleased to mark the new season with a victory. "I think we're a little bit underdone fitness wise, Bonnyrigg pretty much ran all over us with their fitness but we hung in there and it was a great effort," he said. "I needed to put some confidence back into their hands, obviously in pre-season results weren't great and there were a lot of despondent players there questioning their own ability. "Defensively as a team we have to improve and we rode our luck at times but we just need to get to peak fitness and let our football do the talking." Brian Brown was disappointed not to have come away with at least a point from the affair but said he was extremely proud of his side's performance. "I think if we're looking for positives to take away from the match the effort from the guys today was fantastic," he said. "We haven't had an ideal first week with players suffering from a few niggling injuries and others from suspension. "But I think if we play like that for the rest of the year we'll be happy." **Sydney Olympic** 2 (Madonis 8') **Bonnyrigg White Eagles** 1 (Gil Mun-



Soo 59', Lopez 82')
Belmore Sportsground, Belmore
Referee: C Fisher
Assistant Referees: N Backo, A Hosnani
Fourth Official: B Wright
Sydney Olympic: 11. Jinya An, 7. William Angel, 19. Darcy Burgess (33. Nikolas Tsattalios 61'), 10. Max Burgess (23. Riley Woodcock 77'), 24. Christopher Gligor, 1. Paul Henderson, 6. Nikola Kuleski, 14. Alejandro Sanchez Lopez, 4. George Timotheou, 2. Thomas Whiteside, 8. Jason Madonis
Substitutes not used: 5. Rafael Jimenez, 9. Radovan Pavicevic, 30. Lachlan Watson
Yellow Cards: N/A

Red Cards: N/A
Bonnyrigg White Eagles: 2. Aaron Avery (19. Gregory Kondek 70'), 21. David Bradasevic, 16. Samuel Gallaway, 15. Raymond Miller, 8. Jacob Ott, 9. Aaron Peterson, 3. David Vrankovic (20. Benjamin Tosi 66'), 22. Jewook Woo, 6. Nikola Zonjic, 13. James Mckenzie, 18. Gil Mun-Soo
Substitutes not used: 10. Shervin Adeli, 1. James Chronopoulos
Yellow Cards: Bradasevic 8', Mckenzie 38'
Red Card: N/A
Player Ratings
3 - Paul Henderson
2 - Gil Mun-Soo
1 - Alejandro Lopez