



By George Stavroulakis

Caltex Socceroos 26-player squad for friendlies against Norway

The Caltex Socceroos' preparations for Friday's international friendly against Norway at the Ullevaal Stadion in Oslo continued on Tuesday as the team set foot on the match venue for the first time. Under the watchful gaze and guidance of new Australia boss Bert van Marwijk, the Caltex Socceroos got a feel for the Ullevaal Stadion in the first of two sessions that they will hold at the venue before Friday's fixture.

Match Details:

Norway v Caltex Socceroos

Date: Friday, 23 March 2018 (local time)

Venue: Ullevaal Stadion, Oslo, Norway

Kick-off: 6pm (local) / 4am AEDT (Saturday, 24 March 2018)

Broadcast: Live in Australia on FOX SPORTS and Network Ten

Colombia v Caltex Socceroos

Date: Tuesday, 27 March 2018 (local time)

Venue: Craven Cottage, London, England

Kick-off: 8pm (local) / 6am AEDT (Wednesday, 28 March 2018)

Broadcast: Live in Australia on FOX SPORTS and Network Ten

Photo petratos

Dimitri PETRATOS.. Newcastle Jets, AUSTRALIA & Aaron MOOY Huddersfield Town AFC, ENGLAND

Caltex Socceroos 26-player squad

Name	Club, Country	A-International Caps (Goals)
Aziz BEHICH	Bursaspor, TURKEY	19 (2)
Joshua BRILLANTE	Sydney FC, AUSTRALIA	5 (0)
Tim CAHILL	Millwall FC, ENGLAND	104 (50)
Milos DEGENEK	Yokohama F. Marinos, JAPAN	15 (0)
Jackson IRVINE	Hull City AFC, ENGLAND	15 (1)
Mile JEDINAK	Aston Villa FC, ENGLAND	73 (18)
Brad JONES (Gk)	Feyenoord Rotterdam, NETHERLANDS	4 (0)
Tomi JURIC	FC Luzern, SWITZERLAND	32 (8)
Matthew JURMAN	Suwon Samsung Bluewings, KOREA REPUBLIC	4 (0)
Robbie KRUSE	VfL Bochum, GERMANY	60 (5)
Mathew LECKIE	Hertha BSC, GERMANY	49 (6)
Massimo LUONGO	Queens Park Rangers FC, ENGLAND	32 (5)
James MEREDITH	Millwall FC, ENGLAND	2 (0)
Mark MILLIGAN	Al Ahli SC, SAUDI ARABIA	64 (6)
Aaron MOOY	Huddersfield Town AFC, ENGLAND	31 (5)
Andrew NABBOUT	Urawa Red Diamonds, JAPAN	0 (0)
Dimitri PETRATOS	Newcastle Jets, AUSTRALIA	0 (0)
Josh RISDON	Western Sydney Wanderers FC, AUSTRALIA	5 (0)
Tom ROGIC	Celtic FC, SCOTLAND	33 (7)
Nikita RUKAVYTSYA	Maccabi Haifa FC, ISRAEL	16 (1)
Mathew RYAN (Gk)	Brighton & Hove Albion FC, ENGLAND	41 (0)
Trent SAINSBURY	Grasshopper Club Zurich, SWITZERLAND	33 (3)
Aleksandar SUSNJAR	FK Mlada Boleslav, CZECH REPUBLIC	0 (0)
James TROISI	Melbourne Victory, AUSTRALIA	36 (5)
Daniel VUKOVIC (Gk)	KRC Genk, BELGIUM	0 (0)
Bailey WRIGHT	Bristol City FC, ENGLAND	21 (1)

Milligan: I want to look back with no regrets



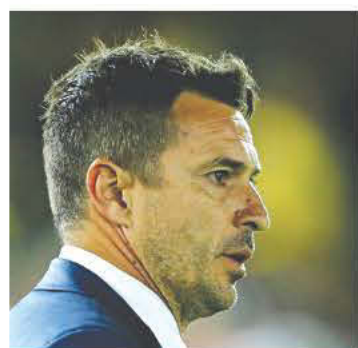
It's hard to believe that entering Russia, Mark

Milligan has only one solitary World Cup appearance in his career. He says he doesn't want to look back on what could've been when he retires. Milligan's recent move to Al Ahli, halfway through Melbourne Victory's season, raised a few eyebrows among A-League fans. Milligan has been one of the A-League's finest footballers for eight of the last 12 years, yet his devastating blow to Victory's title hopes copped some criticism. "I found out until later that the deal had been around for quite a while but no one had brought it to me," Milligan told reporters in Oslo. "When it did come about I spoke to Kevin Muscat but the offer wasn't suitable for everybody so I left it. It was out of my hands. "Something else then came through on the Saturday night and the club agreed to terms. By

Monday morning I was off. That's football." Rather than just financially-motivated, however, Milligan says the transfer was about eliciting his full potential. A potential that in his early days saw him linked with the likes of Arsenal and FC Porto, but eventually came to no avail. "There is that (the money), but it's a good league as well," he said. "I am at a very big club fighting for title. We are leading our (Asian) Champions League group, (and we're) in the semi-final of the cup." My first game (Jeddah Derby) was played in front of 67,000. It's a very high standard. The last two weeks we've played two teams coming second bottom and bottom and it was a battle. "Across the board the standard is high and there are things you just don't get in Australia." I have played 11 games in seven weeks. Leading into a World Cup, that is what I need to be doing." Following Milligan's latest

career disappointment - a cancelled move to England after Australia's world ranking slipped below the cut-off point for a work visa - it's easy to sympathise with the 32-year-old's determination. 2018 will be Milligan's last chance to prove his worth, both at domestic and international level, on the highest stage possible. While it's arguable that Saudi Arabia is still a tier below where some Socceroos fans want to see him, for someone with so much talent and versatility, one of Asia's biggest clubs finally provides some vindication. "I've made a point to prove to myself, that despite all of these obstacles I have kept my head down, worked hard to be a part of this set-up," he said. "I don't expect anything from anybody. I just want to look back after I retire and say with the ability I had, I got absolutely everything out of it."

Paul Okon left the Mariners



Paul Okon has reportedly resigned as head coach of the Central Coast Mariners after walking out in the middle of a meeting with club management. Okon quits with the Mariners in second last position in the A-League after 10 wins, 13 draws and 27 losses in his time in charge. Okon arrived at the club

following multiple troubled coaching appointments, but won many fans over at the start of this season due to his attractive, possession style and attacking philosophy Okon said he'll be forever grateful to the Mariners. "I will forever be grateful to the Mariners for the opportunity they gave me. I

thank the players for their commitment and the fans for their support," Okon said. "Finally, I wish the club all the best in the future." After a bright start to his tenure, form soon soured for the Mariners, heaping pressure upon the Australian coach. Central Coast traditionally struggled to

compete without Dutch midfield duo Tom Hiariej and Wout Brama. Assistant coach Ivan Jolic has also left the Mariners, with the club's Youth League head coach, Wayne O'Sullivan, set to assume the role for the club's final two matches of the season. Central Coast face Sydney FC this Saturday.