

Arnold hunted by European club

Sydney FC coach Graham Arnold has been approached to join Dutch club NAC Breda

Arnold has led the Sky Blues on an eight-game winning run in all competitions having scored 22 goals without conceding any.

Arnold spent three seasons with the Dutch club as a player.

He is in his final year of his contract and could join Breda as early as June.

Breda have been monitoring Arnold closely and are hoping to secure his services to help build their youth development program.

Breda's initial offer is believed to be less than Arnold's current Sydney FC deal, however it does include massive bonuses in relation to promotion to the Eredivisie and player sales.

The A-League-winning coach has been credited for developing local talent including Mat Ryan, Tom Rogic, Alex Gersbach, Bernie Ibini and Trent Sainsbury.

He has also been instrumental in the sales of players such as Mustafa Amini and Rostyn Griffiths.

Arnold's agent Tony Rallis declined to comment



on Breda with Sydney FC yet to formally discuss extending the mentor's current deal.

"In all my conversations with Graham, we talk about him being at Sydney FC long term and building for the future. I'm as committed to that idea as ever and I'd like to think he'll be with us for many seasons to come," Sydney FC chairman Scott Barlow said in April.

Sydney FC sit atop of the A-League ladder after four rounds following their 2-0 win over the Jets, their fourth win in as many games.

"It's round four. It's nothing. For me there's so much more potential in this team," Arnold said. "They're starting to believe more and more of the quality of this team and what it can do. I think we'll evolve as the season goes on."

Australia to host 2021 Powerchair Football World Cup

Sydney, Australia has won the right to host the 2021 FIPFA World Cup with the event set to be held in at the Sydney Olympic Park precinct in Homebush.

The wonderful news comes as a major boost for Powerchair Football in Australia and will be an amazing opportunity for the nation to host such a major football sporting event.

The National Committee of APFA lodged a bid to host the 2021 Powerchair Football World Cup in late 2017 alongside a bid with England with the Australian bid taking out the honours.

Football NSW played a pivotal role in the bid alongside the FFA as well as former Socceroo coach Mr Rale Rasic and Hills United President Kazan Hadden whom all assisted the APFA in fulfilling this dream come in hosting this event come to reality.

The APFA Executive thanked their patron, Mr Rale Rasic, CEO of Football NSW Stuart Hodge and Head of Community Football Peter Hugg, CEO of Football Federation of Australia David Gallop and Head of National

Teams Luke Casserley and NSW Minister for Disability Services, the Hon. Ray Williams MP.

President of the Australian Powerchair Football Association Matthew Cross was delighted with the result and was ready to commence preparations for the big World Cup.

"Congratulations to all in this very exciting announcement that we hope will see the sport grow and prosper for decades to come, bringing the world to our shores."

"This World Cup will also provide inherent media exposure for the sport, increasing access to sporting grants, and creating improved community awareness and goodwill that such massive events provide."

"This will now require a lot of work, but we are fortunate in having obtained undertakings of assistance from all the major football bodies, some leading corporate's and the Government."



Kalac: Popovic is the greatest Australian coach

Zeljko Kalac believes Tony Popovic has "got panels on anybody produced so far in Australia" and would jump at another European opportunity if given the chance.

The former Socceroos goalkeeper and long-time Tony Popovic assistant worked closely with the 44-year-old in the duo's brief spell at Karabukspor.

Although it ended dismally for Popovic, who was sacked after three wins and six losses, Kalac maintains that the Aussie coach did little wrong and it shouldn't hamper his reputation.

"It was overall a good experience, other than how it panned out in the end," he told The World Game.

"And a lot of that was based on the political turmoil within the club."

"It wasn't to do with our work, which was very good. Poppa made some important, positive changes there. He had the team training and playing the right way but luck didn't smile at all on us."

"There was also a huge political in-fight happening at the club and we were caught in the middle of that a bit."

"The way we left was disappointing and that was part



and parcel of the situation there, which has worsened since our departure.

"Our intel told us prior to going they had never been late with a payment."

"It's not a matter of us knowing better because we weren't to know. It was impossible."

Popovic may have to wait for another European opportunity, but there will be no shortage of interest in Australia with three A-League clubs - including Sydney FC - currently without long-term coaches.

While a move to the Sky Blues would be controversial for the Western Sydney icon, harnessing Australia's biggest club at the moment could spark a renewed surge in Popovic's career.

At least, if other countries will take it seriously.

"People will say I'm biased but in my view he's top notch and I've worked under some pretty good coaches," Kalac said.

"This season you had Arnie talking about winning the ACL, but you have to win a game to get out of the group first. People think it's easier that what it is."

"I think Poppa will coach at the highest level ... but he has to get past some difficult perceptions in places like Europe."

"Over there the opinion is 'you're Australian, what do you know about football?'"

"We live in a bubble here and all we have is the A-League and that doesn't count for much in Europe."