

Theoharous joins German outfit

Melbourne Victory youngster Christian Theoharous has officially joined German Bundesliga club Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The 18-year-old attacker had long been linked with a move to Germany, with Moenchengladbach and Fortuna Dusseldorf reportedly interested.

Moenchengladbach confirmed the signing on Saturday morning AEST, with Theoharous to initially play with the club's under-23 side in Regionalliga West.

«**Christian Theoharous** is a promising player,» Gladbach's director of youth development Roland Virkus said. «We are delighted that he has chosen Borussia.»

Theoharous made 18 A-League appearances in the 2017/18 season

for Victory, scoring once, while he also played all six AFC Champions League matches in 2018.

The 2017/18 season was a breakout for Theoharous who had previously only made one seven-minute appearance off the bench for Victory.

The Bentleigh Greens junior joins ex-Brisbane Roar forward Kwame Yeboah at Gladbach, while Australians Mathew Leckie and Damian Mori have previously played for the five-time Bundesliga champions.

Gladbach finished the 2017-18 Bundesliga season in ninth, under Dieter Hecking who previously



• Mark Milligan.. Northern Spirit, Blacktown City, Sydney FC, Newcastle Jets, Shanghai Shenhua, JEF United, Melbourne Victory, Baniyas, Al Ahli

The 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia is fast as part of our countdown to the tournament profiling every Australian player who's been in the World Cup.

Today we continue the countdown with Mark Milligan, one of the most consistent players over the past decade.

Cap number: 494

World Cups played at: 2006, 2010, 2014

Position: Midfielder

Age at World Cups: 20, 24, 28

Clubs played for: Northern Spirit, Blacktown City, Sydney FC, Newcastle Jets, Shanghai Shenhua, JEF United, Melbourne Victory, Baniyas, Al Ahli

Best World Cup moment:

At just 20, Milligan was a shock call-up for the 2006 World Cup squad under Guus Hiddink as Australia went all the way to the Round of 16.

Milligan was again an unused substitute for all three matches at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa where the Socceroos were eliminated in the group stage.

The midfielder finally got his chance on the big stage in the opening group match in a 3-1 loss to Chile.

Unfortunately, that was to be his only appearance with injury cruelly cutting his tournament short.

Career highlight

In club football, Milligan captained Melbourne Victory to A-League Premiership/Championship double.

The midfielder was superb in his side's 3-0 Grand Final victory over Sydney FC and claimed the Joe Marston Medal as the best player in the competition.

For Australia, Milligan has amassed 66 'A' international appearances and scored six goals for the national team.

He was a part of the 2015 Asian Cup-winning squad and the 2017 Confederations Cup in a 1-1 draw with Cameroon.

Post-playing career:

The 31-year-old is currently playing his domestic football in Russia and remains in contention for a fourth World Cup with the national team.

Did you know?

Milligan made his full international debut in a 2006 friendly against Liechtenstein prior to the World Cup in Germany.

He debuted alongside Socceroos cult hero Josh Kennedy, who scored in that match.



Football NSW Review in to Private Academies

The Board of Football NSW has recently commissioned a Review in to Private Academies to address their position in the NSW football landscape.



To be conducted and overseen by Football NSW's Head of Football, Peter Hugg, the Review will examine the various types of 'academies' that are in existence, the programs that they offer and costs involved and whether any regulatory mechanisms need to be considered by the sport's governing body.

Organisations such as the FFA, other state Football Federations and several other sports will also be consulted for their perspective on the industry.

As part of the Review, Football NSW is keen to receive submissions from interested parties including Private Academies themselves (and any other Private Providers), Member Associations, Clubs or other interested individuals including coaches, parents/players. Private Academies may prefer to meet in person and such opportunities will be provided.

Whilst not wanting to limit discussion or the breadth of analysis, topics addressed in submissions may include:

- **From** Private Academies and Private Providers – programs offered and approximate costs, geographical footprint covered, coaching and staffing, football philosophy and coaching methods, and what support (if any) would they require from Football NSW;
- **From** Associations/Clubs – their formal position on Private Academies and whether they would like to see a relaxation of current regulations (around participation in the Champion of Champions for example) or some formal recognition of private providers and their role in supporting youth development and coaching of teams/individuals; and
- **From** participants (parents and players) – personal experiences and perceptions/views covering such aspects as cost, value for money, coaching development etc.

...The closing date for submissions is 30 June 2018 with the Review expected to be complete and submitted to the Board at its September 2018 meeting.