



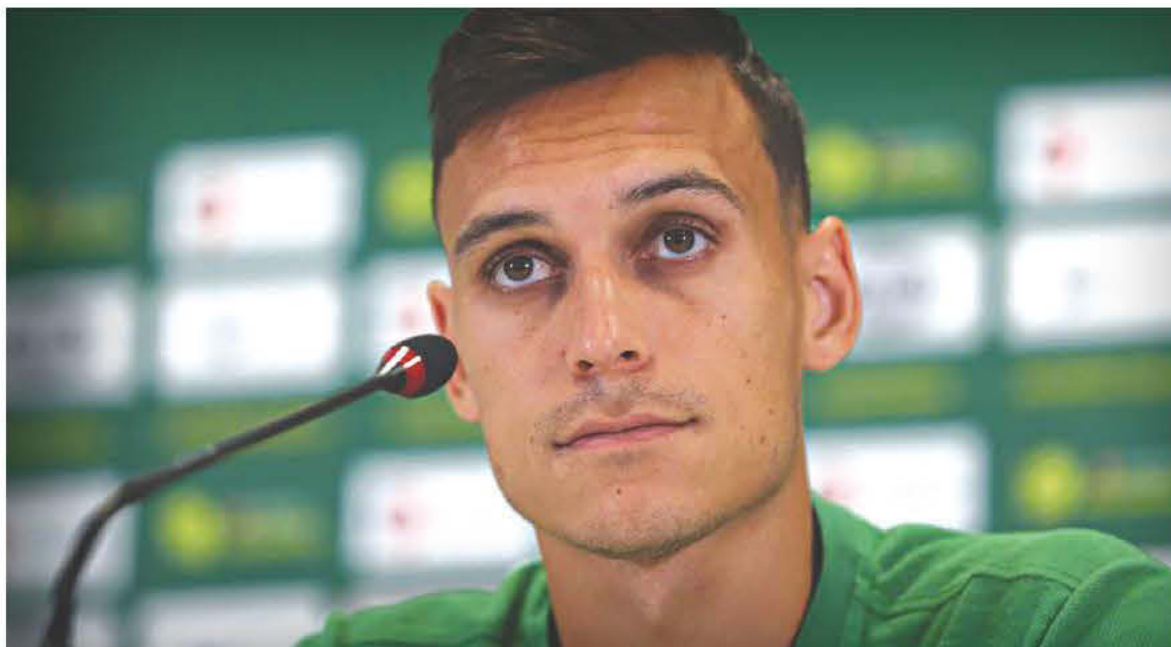
## France v Caltex Socceroos

SATURDAY, 16 JUNE 2018

Kazan Arena, Kazan, Russia

Kick-off: 1pm local (8pm AEST – Saturday, 16 June 2018)

Broadcast: Live in Australia on SBS and Optus Sport



Possible Socceroos captain Trent Sainsbury, whose father-in-law happens to be incoming Roos coach Graham Arnold

## Trent Sainsbury to skipper the Socceroos

Trent Sainsbury says he won't be changing his approach to the game if he is given the captain's armband to skipper the Socceroos in their World Cup opener against France.

Sainsbury has led Australia in their past two friendly matches, victories over Czech Republic and Hungary, with normal captain Mile Jedinak on the bench.

The 4-0 win over the Czechs was the first time the central defender had captained his country. The Socceroos start their tournament in Kazan against Les Bleus on Saturday.

Sainsbury said the added rare honour, if he is given it by coach Bert van Marwijk this weekend, won't alter his mindset.

"The last few games I've had the honour and the privilege to lead the boys out," he said.

"Honestly, I don't think its going to change the way I'm going to think about the game at all. I've got it ticked off the bucket list I guess you could say now, so it's just going to be another opportunity to do it if I get the honour and privilege again."

Australia will line up against France, ranked seventh in the world, and the likes of Paul Pogba

and Antoine Griezmann, at the Kazan Arena on June 16.

Sainsbury is expected to faced with marking Aletico Madrid marksman Griezmann, but the 26-year-old isn't fazed.

"Everyone's talking about him, he's a great player," he said.

"At the same time it's a team sport, I've got teammates around me who can help me deal with that.

"France have got a great squad, the players they've got in every position – they've probably got five or six who could make a few more teams and compete at the World Cup and be successful.

"So we have to be on our best behavior, do everything that we've been taught in training and pull it off and be successful in this match."

In 2014 Sainsbury was set to join the Socceroos in Brazil for his first World Cup, before a freak encounter with a sprinkler while playing for PEC Zwolle in Holland ruined his tournament dream.

Four years on and now the defender is a mere days away from a career highlight.

"It wasn't pleasant four years ago, but at the same time I always try to be positive and look at

the upside," he admitted.

"It gave me a chance to work on other aspects of my life and my game that I definitely needed at the time. Coming here now I'm closer to realizing the dream. So it's a nice thought but I'm not there yet."

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## Caltex Socceroos 23-player squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Name	Club, Country	A-International Caps (Goals)
Daniel ARZANI	Melbourne City FC, AUSTRALIA	1 (0)
Aziz BEHICH	Bursaspor, TURKEY	22 (2)
Tim CAHILL	Millwall FC, ENGLAND	105 (50)
Milos DEGENEK	Yokohama F. Marinos, JAPAN	18 (0)
Jackson IRVINE	Hull City AFC, ENGLAND	18 (2)
Mile JEDINAK	Aston Villa FC, ENGLAND	75 (18)
Brad JONES (Gk)	Feyenoord Rotterdam, NETHERLANDS	5 (0)
Tomi JURIC	FC Luzern, SWITZERLAND	34 (8)
Matthew JURMAN	Suwon Samsung Bluewings, KOREA REPUBLIC	4 (0)
Robbie KRUSE	VfL Bochum, GERMANY	63 (5)
Mathew LECKIE	Hertha BSC, GERMANY	52 (8)
Massimo LUONGO	Queens Park Rangers FC, ENGLAND	35 (5)
Jamie MACLAREN	SV Darmstadt 98, GERMANY	6 (0)
James MEREDITH	Millwall FC, ENGLAND	2 (0)
Mark MILLIGAN	Al Ahli SC, SAUDI ARABIA	67 (6)
Aaron MOOY	Huddersfield Town AFC, ENGLAND	33 (5)
Andrew NABOUT	Urawa Red Diamonds, JAPAN	3 (1)
Dimitri PETRATOS	Newcastle Jets, AUSTRALIA	2 (0)
Josh RISDON	Western Sydney Wanderers FC, AUSTRALIA	7 (0)
Tom ROGIC	Celtic FC, SCOTLAND	36 (7)
Mathew RYAN (Gk)	Brighton & Hove Albion FC, ENGLAND	43 (0)
Trent SAINSBURY	Grasshopper Club Zurich, SWITZERLAND	34 (3)
Daniel VUKOVIC (Gk)	KRC Genk, BELGIUM	1 (0)
Trent SAINSBURY	Grasshopper Club Zurich, SWITZERLAND	33 (3)
James TROISI	Melbourne Victory, AUSTRALIA	37 (5)
Daniel VUKOVIC (Gk)	KRC Genk, BELGIUM	1 (0)

## 5,000 Aussies travel to Russia

More than 5,000 Australian football fans are expected to travel to Russia for this summer's FIFA World Cup, the Australian national football team's press service told Sputnik Monday.

"We expect more than 5,000 fans in Russia. We believe pretty much all of them will be in Kazan for the Australia-France match," the press service said.

Australia, who have qualified for their fourth straight World Cup, will face 1998 champions France at the 45,000-seater Kazan Arena on Saturday. The Socceroos will also play Denmark and Peru in their Group C.