



By George Stavroulakis

2018 AFC U16 CHAMPIONSHIP IN MALAYSIA

Newly appointed Joey's coach Trevor Morgan will get straight to work preparing some of Australia's most gifted young footballers for the 2018 AFC U16 Championship in Malaysia.

Australia's best young male footballers are being brought together in Sydney over the next week with new Joey's Head Coach Trevor Morgan to prepare for the 2018 AFC U16 Championship in Malaysia. From today, 28 of Australia's brightest young footballers will gather at the Sydney Academy of Sport at Narrabeen to impress Morgan and his staff throughout what will be the first of two camps held in Australia prior to the tournament proper in September and October this year.

The 28 players selected by Morgan arrive in camp after an extensive period of scouting.

During April and May this year, Morgan, alongside Joey's Team Manager, Marty Judge, ventured around Australia and conducted 'Joey's Talent ID Camps' in conjunction with Member Federations. Each 'Joey's Talent ID Camp' featured between 25 and 30 talented players identified by the host Member Federation.

Twenty players are aligned with Hyundai A-League club academies. A further six players feature at National Premier Leagues (NPL) level across Australia, while two players – Aydan Hammond and Emmanuel Pavlis – are contracted to clubs in Europe. Australia qualified for the 2018 AFC U16 Championship in Malaysia after topping Group I of the qualification process in Mongolia last September.

The Joey's finished ahead of Vietnam, Cambodia and Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar. In April the Joey's were drawn in a challenging Group D for the 2018 AFC U16 Championship. Australia will need to finish first or second in a group containing defending champions Iraq, Korea Republic, and Afghanistan, to advance to the knockout phase of the competition. To qualify as one of Asia's representatives for the 2019 FIFA U17 World Cup in Peru (October 2019) Australia must reach at the Semi-Final stage of the tournament. "I am excited by the opportunity and honoured by the responsibility that goes with this role," Morgan said regarding his appointment to the Joey's post. "The work will be about unearthing and nurturing talent to build quality and depth in our junior National Teams." "We will go to Malaysia with a purpose, to progress to the 2019 FIFA U17 World Cup. As a team we want to face the challenge head on, playing our football against the best teams from around the globe, and we can only do this by making it to Peru."

Football Federation Australia's (FFA) Head of National Performance, Luke Casserly, said Morgan's appointment was well deserved. "Trevor has been coaching in Australia for over 20 years and with this group specifically for the past 12 months," said Casserly. "He is the logical appointment for the role and benefited greatly from a recent professional development opportunity with the Caltex Socceroos ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. We know Trevor will do an excellent job with this group of players."

Name	Club, Country
Leonardo BELZ	Western Sydney Wanderers FC, Australia
Timothy BOKE	Belconnen United (ACT), Australia
Jordan BOS	Melbourne City FC, Australia
Noah BOTIC	Rockdale City Suns FC (NSW), Australia
Jordan COURTNEY	Brisbane Roar FC, Australia
Luke DUZEL	Melbourne City FC, Australia
Jayden GORMAN	Perth Glory FC, Australia
Peter GROZOS	Western Sydney Wanderers FC, Australia
Aydan HAMMOND	OS Belenenses, Portugal
Oliver KALAC	Western Sydney Wanderers FC, Australia
Birkan KIRDAR	Melbourne Victory, Australia
Jaiden KUCHARSKI	Sydney FC, Australia
Adam LEOMBRUNO	FFSA NTC (SA), Australia
Marco MACUSO	Pascoe Vale FC (VIC), Australia
Christopher MORSERAY	Brisbane Roar FC, Australia
Adam PAVLESIC	Sydney FC, Australia
Emmanuel PAVLIS	Olympiacos, Greece
Alex POPOVIC	Adelaide United, Australia
Joshua RACHELE	Melbourne City FC, Australia
Tyson SAVAS	Sydney FC, Australia
Lachlan SEPPING	Marconi FC (NSW), Australia
Jamie SIGNORELLO	FFSA NTC (SA), Australia
Ahmad TALEB	Melbourne City FC, Australia
Ryan TEAGUE	Sydney FC, Australia
Nicholas THEODOSIOU	Melbourne City FC, Australia
Joshua VARGA	Melbourne City FC, Australia
Daniel WALSH	Perth Glory FC, Australia
Adam ZERVAS	Newcastle Jets FC, Australia

Joey's 2018 AFC U16 Championship Match Schedule – Group D

Korea Republic v Australia

Saturday, 22 September 2018

Venue: Petaling Jaya Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kick-off: 8.45pm (local); 10.45pm (AEST)

Australia v Iraq

Tuesday, 25 September 2018

Venue: UM Arena, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kick-off: 4.30pm (local); 6.30pm (AEST)

Australia v Afghanistan

Friday, 28 September 2018

Venue: Petaling Jaya Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kick-off: 4.30pm (local); 6.30pm (AEST)