



By George Stavroulakis

MARK MILLIGAN IN SCOTLAND



Socceroo Mark Milligan has joined Australia team-mate Jamie Maclaren at Hibernian in the Scottish Premiership on a two year deal, subject to a work permit being granted. Milligan has 71 caps for the Australian national squad and although usually a defensive midfielder, he played in all three games in defence under coach Bert van Marwijk at the World Cup in Russia. He was most recently at Saudi Arabian side Al-Ahli after a January move from Melbourne Victory. "I am delighted to have joined Hibernian," Milligan told the club website. "I know it's a big club with an exciting young squad, and I hope to be able to add to that with my experience. "Jamie (Maclaren) obviously did well here last year and gave Hibs a bit of a profile back home – everyone there is pretty familiar with the Scottish game and I'm excited to now be a part of that. "The team have had a good start to the season with the run in Europe and I'm looking forward to joining up with the squad and getting going." Milligan's move brings the number of Aussies playing in the Scottish Premiership to nine, following yesterday's two year loan deal for Socceroo Daniel Arzani alongside Tom Rogic at Celtic. Ben Garuccio joined Ryan Edwards and Oliver Bozanic at Hibs' city rivals, Hearts, while lesser-known Aussie Andy Rose plays for Motherwell and Jesse Curran for Dundee

USAIN BOLT LANDS IN SYDNEY



A-League club Central Coast Mariners are leaving no stone unturned in a bid to get Olympic legend Usain Bolt's professional football career up and running.

The eight-time Olympic gold medallist and 11-time world champion touched down in Sydney this morning ahead of what the Mariners are calling an «indefinite training period».

A huge press pack greeted Bolt, along with a handful of fans in arguably the most anticipated trial move in A-League history giving credence to proponents of the move who suggest Bolt's signing will inject much needed interest to the competition.

The club hopes to turn him into A-League material in just three months, with a view to offering the Jamaican a full-time contract in time for the start of the 2018/19 season in late-October.

To that end, the Mariners have poured additional coaching and high-performance

resources into the project, which both parties insist is not a stunt.

«I've said all along this is for real and I'm here to show what I can do,» said Bolt upon landing, where he was greeted by a large media pack and a group of diehard fans.

«I know what I'm capable of and I know what I can do, so this is the opportunity.»

Bolt further displayed his confidence by answering «forever», when asked how long he would be staying in Australia.

The Mariners have carved a large lightning bolt into the grass at Gosford's Central Coast Stadium, engaged the services of a videographer to capture Bolt's time at the club, and several club officials, including CEO Shaun Mielekamp, rolled out the welcome mat at the airport.

Chairman of the Mariners' official supporters' group Mark Leadbeater made the hour-plus drive south to catch a glimpse of the Bolt show.

«I was certainly interested when I first heard the news. It's out of the box and the more I've heard about it, the more I've come to embrace it,» said the British ex-pat, who adopted the Mariners as his team when arriving in Australia 13 years ago.

«Nothing's impossible. As long as it's based on football principles, why not? I get the impression that he's been genuine about this and so has the club.»

Although Bolt may do some light running over the next couple of days, Tuesday will be his first official training session, coinciding with his 32nd birthday.



BLACKTOWN CITY - ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 2 (GAITATZIS 27', 28')

Harris Gaitatzis (27', 28') fired a brace in two first half minutes to lead Rockdale City Suns to a 2-0 victory over Blacktown City at Lily's Football Centre on Saturday evening. The first side to exit the 2018 National Premier League competition happened, with Harris Gaitatzis securing a double for his Rockdale City Suns Football Club - Ilinden and forcing Blacktown City FC out of the competition