



By George Stavroulakis

Socceroo Brad Smith to Seattle Sounders

Major League Soccer side Seattle Sounders are after more Aussie talent after signing three Australian players in the past year.

The Sounders brought Socceroo Brad Smith on loan from Bournemouth earlier this month.

But the club's reserve side, Sounders FC 2, who are coached by former Central Coast Mariner John Hutchinson, also has two Aussies on its books.

Midfielders Jesse Daley and Antonee Burke-Gilroy have been playing regularly under Hutchinson in the United Soccer League and making an impact.

«For S2, we had two foreign spots at the beginning of the season," Hutchinson told the club website.

«We were kind of searching around and these two Australians came up. At the time I didn't know either of them. I didn't know Burkee or Daley. We invited them over for a trial.

«We decided they were good enough, so we signed both of

them, and they've each brought a different aspect to the team.»

Defensive midfielder Daley came through the National Youth League teams of Brisbane Roar and Melbourne Victory, and spent the 2017 season with South Melbourne.

The 20-year-old has enjoyed being coached by Hutchinson.

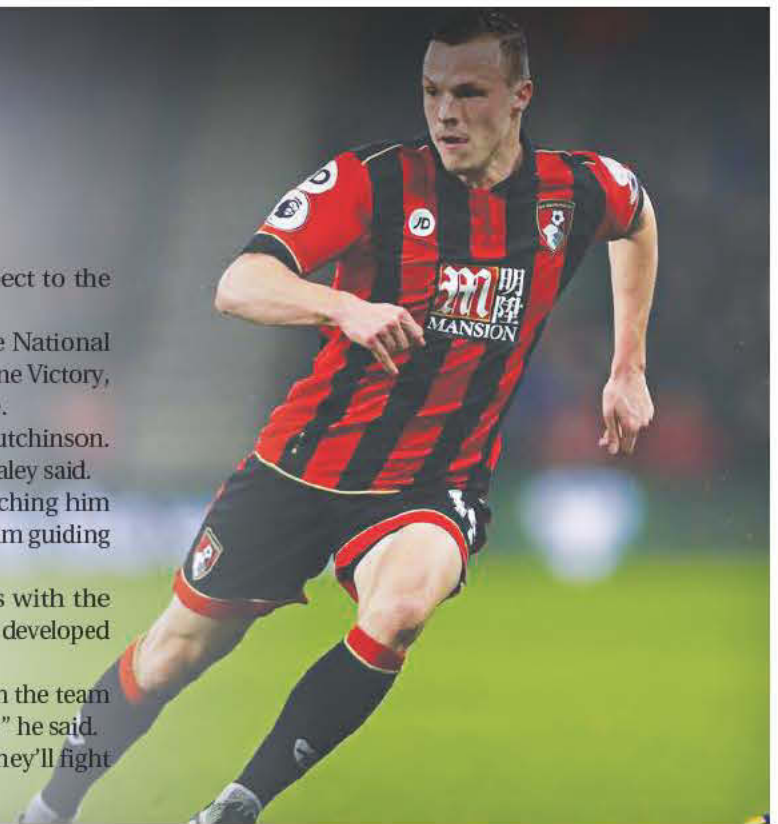
«Hutch, for me personally, has been incredible," Daley said.

«He was a midfielder as well and I grew up watching him play in Australia. To be under him now, and have him guiding me and mentoring me, it's pretty awesome.»

London-born Burke-Gilroy spent three years with the Newcastle Jets. The 20-year-old believes his game has developed in Seattle.

«It's good because I feel like every single person in the team is still developing, and we're developing as a group," he said.

«I like playing with a lot of young guys because they'll fight until the end. I can see



DUTCH INTERNATIONAL SIEM DE JONG FOR SYDNEY FC..

Sydney FC have big hopes for new marquee and Dutch international Siem de Jong, believing the 29-year-old can help deliver success in 2018/19.

The reigning Premiers have secured the former Ajax Championship-winning captain on a season-long loan from the Eredivisie powerhouse.

An attacking midfielder and striker, de Jong captained the Dutch giants for two seasons before joining English Premier League side Newcastle United in 2014. The move was marred by injury woes and he rejoined Ajax a year ago, but has struggled for game time.

Sky Blues coach Steve Corica said de Jong would shore up his attacking options, given the departures of Golden Boot winner Bobo and Polish wizard Adrian Mierzejewski.

"Siem is a technically gifted footballer and one I believe can be instrumental in success for us this season," Corica said.

Corica added: "He scores goals and creates them for others as well and he is a player that will excite Sydney FC members.

"You don't become captain of Ajax without possessing all the necessary qualities for that job and I believe he can bring those qualities to Sydney FC, and help guide our squad this year.

"This is a new challenge for Siem, I'm confident it is one he can embrace, and I'm sure he'll slot in seamlessly."

De Jong was joined at the harbourside unveiling by English striker Adam Le Fondre who was signed last week.

At Ajax, the six-cap international competed in the UEFA Champions League, and made over 180 appearances for the club over two spells, scoring 61 goals in that time.

He was selected by former Socceros boss Bert



van Marwijk in his provisional squad for the UEFA Euro 2012 tournament and initially included in Ajax's UEFA Champions League squad for this season.

"I'm very excited to be representing Sydney FC this season and I'm looking forward to my time in the A-League," de Jong said. "I see a lot of similarities between Sydney FC and Ajax, they're both leaders in their league with a reputation for silverware and I want to uphold that here. "I want nothing more than success and I'll help the squad in any way to achieve our goals of winning all of the trophies we compete for this season." De Jong will wear the No. 22 shirt and Le Fondre No. 9. He is Sydney's second marquee after former Johnny Warren medallist Milos Ninkovic.

FFA CUP ROUND OF 16

Bonnyrigg White Eagles, host a true Western Sydney derby, as the take on their A-League big brother in the Western Sydney Wanderers FC at Club Marconi on Wednesday the 29th of August

Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Western Sydney Wanderers FC

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RSVP: Jess Van Treeck by Monday 27th August to
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