



By George Stavroulakis

SYDNEY FC PROMOTE FIVE YOUTH STARS



Sydney FC have rewarded five stars from their successful youth Academy with one-year contracts for the 2018/19 season, including the award of three A-League scholarships for the very first time.

Young Socceroos duo Joel King, who is 17-years old and 20-year old Cameron Devlin have joined the Hyundai A-League squad on one-year deals, while exciting youth products 16-year old Joey's midfielder Ryan Teague, 18-year old midfielder Jerry Skotadis and 17-year old number 10 Marco Tilio, have all signed one-year A-League scholarships. It comes on the back of Sydney FC's U18's completing a National Premier Leagues NSW Men's (NPL) Premiership and Championship double on Sunday while the Sky Blues U20's were narrowly defeated on penalties in their Grand Final having finished the season in second place on the ladder. Teague and Tilio have been members of the Sky Blues' Academy since inception, progressing from the U15's squad to the U20's and NPL first grade

sides, while Skotadis has enjoyed two prosperous years with the Sky Blues' debuting in the U20's in 2017. Midfielder Devlin joined Sydney FC's U20's and first grade NPL sides last year while left back King, who also joined in 2017, has progressed from the U18's squad. And the defender said he was excited at the prospect of working alongside Sydney FC's Hyundai A-League stars. "It's been a dream of mine since I joined Sydney FC's Academy to one day be part of the A-League squad and I'm so glad it's come true," King said. "All the work I've done since I joined the U18's has prepared me for this step up and I'm looking forward to working under Head Coach Steve Corica. "I'm really focussed on developing myself as a player and I believe Sydney FC is the perfect place for me to do this. I can't wait to get started." The

scholarship players will form part of the Sky Blues' Foxtel National Youth League squad and will train with the Hyundai A-League squad. Sydney FC Head Coach Steve Corica said the five players were more than capable of making the step up. "We've got a fantastic youth system in place and the best Academy in the country," Corica said. "These five players all have a lot of experience at youth level and have shown the qualities necessary to be a part of our A-League squad. "It's a tribute to the hard work from everyone in our youth set up that we have been able to offer our first three scholarship contracts and I'm delighted to see them continue their journey with the Sydney FC family." Devlin and King will wear squad numbers 24 and 25 respectively with Teague, Tilio and Skotadis to be confirmed.

VIDMAR, KOSMINA BACK TO ADELAIDE

Aurelio Vidmar has returned to Adelaide United as Director of Football eight years after quitting the club, the Reds confirmed today.

On the 15th anniversary of Adelaide United's first-ever match, Adelaide also unveiled Nathan Kosmina as permanent Chief Executive Officer.

Vidmar, who skippered United in the last season of his career before they joined the A-League, was John Kosmina's assistant before becoming head coach for a rollercoaster three years.

He took the side to the final of the Asian Champions League but outspoken press conference comments about Adelaide being a "pissant town" and "beheading players like they do in Saudi Arabia" marred his time in charge,

He left in 2010 to take charge of the Olyroos and U20s and was replaced at the Reds by Rini Coolen.

Now he's back as Director of Football on a three year deal, overseeing German coach Marco Kurz - but Vidmar admitted he had yet to speak to the manager.

"I'm very excited to be back at Adelaide United," he said today. "It's quite a different role to previously.

"But I've known Piet van der Pol (Adelaide United's Chairman) for quite a long time and when he approached me about his ideas, they immediately piqued my interest.

"In football there are always things that can improve, but what's important is maintaining great relationships with everyone in the South Australian football community across male, female, and youth participation.

"Some of these improvements are going to take more time than others, but I think the future is definitely looking bright for Adelaide United and football in this state."

Meanwhile, Kosmina, 35, joined Adelaide United in August 2016 as the Club's Community Football Manager before assuming the role of Acting CEO in August 2017.

Prior to becoming part of the Reds' administrative team, Kosmina was Football Federation Australia's Operations Coordinator for the FFA Cup and National Premier Leagues. He also spent time at Football Federation South Australia as both their Sponsorship and Facilities Manager and Football Development Officer.

"I'm honoured to become the permanent



CEO of Adelaide United," Kosmina said. "I'm privileged to have the opportunity to work in a sport and for a club that I am so passionate about.

"Adelaide United has always meant something special to me and I look forward to contributing to the club's continued growth."

Adelaide United Chairman, Piet van der Pol, said he is thrilled to have Vidmar return to the club, saying: "Aurelio has an extensive background in football and I know he will

serve our club very well as our Director of Football.

"He is a proud South Australian who has represented Adelaide United excellently in the past, both as head coach and our first captain, not to mention his involvement within the Socceroos set-up.

"Not only was he an exceptional player, but he also has a wealth of experience as a coach locally, nationally, and internationally - all of which will be invaluable in helping our club continue to move forward."