

nsw



By George Stavroulakis

MARK MILLIGAN..

"I WANT TO CONTINUE TO LEARN"

Socceroo Mark Milligan says the opportunity to play under Neil Lennon and to keep learning as a footballer was key to his move to Hibernian.

Milligan joined the Scottish club last month on a two-year deal.

The Socceroo has joined fellow Aussie Jamie Maclaren at the Edinburgh outfit.

"After the World Cup I took my time to make sure I made the right decision, not only for myself football-wise, but also for my family," he said.

"I did a lot of research. I was able to talk to Jamie Maclaren. I was able to watch a lot of games and for me it felt like a good fit football-wise. To work under Neil Lennon is very, very exciting for me.

"To work with some of the players here is very exciting and I thought it was a place I could come and still learn, which is very important for me. I didn't want to go somewhere just for the sake of going somewhere.

"If I'm going to continue playing my football, and try and play at the highest level, I want to continue to learn."

Milligan, who expects to be used as



a central midfielder for Hibs, has been angling for a move to Europe for years but has been stopped by his lack of a European passport.

During his career the 33-year-old has had spells in China, Japan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

In 2013 the midfielder almost joined English Premier League club Crystal Palace.

Milligan said he has always wanted to test himself in Europe.

"Playing in Europe has been one of mine my whole career. **"I had** a chance when I was younger, my visa was denied, then obviously I went the Asian route, which for a player is that little bit easier logistically.

"I guess I always had the ambition to get across and play in the World Cup for me was telling me that I still had to give."

Mark Birighitti.. is one of Australia's brightest goalkeeping talents

Australian goalkeeper Mark Birighitti is the latest new addition to Warren Joyce's Melbourne City squad as the club target a title-winning season. After 17 appearances for Eredivisie side, NAC Breda, Birighitti signed a three-year deal with City to keep him in Melbourne until 2021.

Originally from Perth, the 27-year old adds experience after more than 80 appearances for Adelaide United and Newcastle Jets over an eight-year period.

Birighitti also represented Australia 38 times at U17, U20 and U23 level before making a senior team appearance against China in 2013.

"Mark is one of Australia's brightest goalkeeping talents and we think he's got a lot to give in this stage of his career" said City coach Warren Joyce. "He communicates well on the field, is a solid shot-stopper and good with his feet. He's also shown he's adaptable to different playing styles throughout his career in Australia and Europe."



NPL NSW Men's Premiers and Champions

SYDNEY OLYMPIC - PERTH SOCCER CLUB



LIVE STREAM ALERT: NPL Finals Series is upon us as our representatives from NSW, the NPL NSW Men's Premiers and Champions Sydney Olympic FC take on NPL WA side Perth Soccer Club this Sunday at Lambert Park (3:30pm kick) - for those that cannot make the match join Tony Tannous who will be calling the big clash only on www.nationalpremierleagues.com.au

