



By George Stavroulakis

now without heavily featuring trio Arzani, Bozanic and Mauk.

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** While probably inevitable after his breakout year, Arzani's exit sees City lose their brightest young talent.

**RATING:** 7/10

## MELBOURNE VICTORY

**INS:** Corey Brown (Brisbane Roar), Storm Roux (Central Coast Mariners), Georg Niedermeier (SC Freiburg), Nick Ansell (Tondela), Keisuke Honda (free agent), Ola Toivonen (Toulouse), Raul Baena (on loan from Granada)

**OUTS:** Stefan Nigro, Mitchell Austin, Matias Sanchez, Cameron McGilp, Christian Theoharous, Pierce Waring, James Donachie, Besart Berisha, Rhys Williams, Leroy George

**WHAT WENT RIGHT:** Keisuke Honda and Ola Toivonen arrive direct from the World Cup as some of the most highly credentialed stars ever seen in the A-League, while they've also added Bundesliga defender Georg Niedermeier.

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** The exits of star attackers Leroy George and Besart Berisha looked set to cripple their forward stocks... that was until the arrivals of Toivonen and Honda considerably softened the blow.

**RATING:** 9/10

## NEWCASTLE JETS

**INS:** Matthew Ridenton (Wellington Phoenix), Jair Eduardo (Yanbian Funde), Mitch Austin (Melbourne Victory), Lewis Italiano (Stirling Lions), Kaine Sheppard (Avondale)

**OUTS:** Daniel Alessi, Devante Clut, Ivan Necevski, Riley McGree (loan ends), Pato Rodriguez, Mario Shabow, Wayne Brown, Jack Duncan

**WHAT WENT RIGHT:** Dimi Petratos and Steven Ugarkovic have both committed their futures to the club after playing vital roles in getting the Jets to last season's grand final, while Jair Eduardo looks a good addition.

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** Last season's first choice goalkeeper Jack Duncan has left for the Middle East and Riley McGree opted for a loan move to Melbourne City.

**RATING:** 6/10

## PERTH GLORY

**INS:** Ivan Franjic (Brisbane Roar), Brendon Rodgers (Wellington Phoenix), Matthew Tando Velaphi (Wellington Phoenix), Jason Davidson (Rijeka), Chris Ikonomidis (Spezia), Chris Ikonomidis (Lazio)

**OUTS:** Adam Taggart Mills, Andreu Guerao Walker, Joe Knowles

**WHAT WENT RIGHT:** With the appointment of Popovic, with the former Sydney Wanderers coach adding some Soccer Australia quality to the squad, the pick up of Ikonomidis, lured by project, is another good move.  
**WHAT WENT WRONG:** Taggart apparently k



Dimi Petratos has committed to the Jets.



Siem de Jong has shown glimpses of his huge potential for Sydney.

Perth by opting to leave for Brisbane and his departure is a significant one.

**RATING:** 7/10

## SYDNEY FC

**INS:** Siem de Jong (Central Coast Mariners), Siem de Jong (Central Coast Mariners), Jop van der Linden (AZ Alkmaar), Jop van der Linden (Bolton Wanderers), Adrian Mierzejewski, Jordy Buijs, Luke Simon, David Carney, Anthony Kalik,

**RIGHT:** The Sky Blues moved quickly to replace departed stars and though they lost Fernando Torres, the additions of Siem de Jong and Jop van der Linden have almost evened things out.

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** Losing Bobo and Adrian Mierzejewski, easily two of the league's best players last season, was a massive blow, while the departure of Jordy Buijs also left a gap at the back.

**RATING:** 8/10

Popovic has added several Soccerroos to the squad.

## WELLINGTON PHOENIX

**INS:** Steven Taylor (Peterborough United), Filip Kurto (Roda JC), David Williams (Haladas), Mitch Nichols (unattached), Michal Kopczyk (Legia Wasaw, loan), Max Burgess (Sydney Olympic)

**OUTS:** Michael McGlinchey, Matthew Ridenton, Matija Ljucic, Andrija Kaluderovic, Goran Paracki

**WHAT WENT RIGHT:** Bringing in the experienced Steven Taylor, former captain of Newcastle United, is a boost to the Nix not only on the field, but off it.

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** Despite being linked to high-profile players Michael Essien and Obafemi Martins, Wellington have failed to lure a marquee star. They also only have a squad of 17 players, meaning Mark Rudan desperately needs to add three more before the season starts.

**RATING:** 5/10

## WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS

**INS:** Nick Fitzgerald, Bruce Kamau, Ruon Tongyik (all from Melbourne City), Tarek Elrich, Jordan O'Doherty (both from Adelaide United), Tass Mourdoukoutas (youth team), Danijel Nizic (Morecambe), Nicholas Suman (youth team), Patrick Ziegler (1. FC Kaiserslautern), Alex Baumjohann (Vitoria), Rashid Mahazi (Moreland Zebras)

**OUTS:** Jack Clisby, Alvaro Cejudo, Michael Thwaite, Chris Ikonomidis (loan ends), Jonathan Aspropotamitis, Brendon Santalab (Perth Glory), Steven Lustica (released), Kearyn Baccus (Western Sydney Wanderers)

**WHAT WENT RIGHT:** The Wanderers brought in the highest profile coach the A-League has had in Markus Babbel and the German has added quality in Alex Baumjohann and Patrick Ziegler, both from his home country.

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** The Wanderers lost a marquee player in Alvaro Cejudo and haven't filled it, while it would have been useful to hang onto youngsters Jonathan Aspropotamitis and Chris Ikonomidis.

