



By George Stavroulakis

Wage scandal won't derail South's A-League bid

A-League boss Greg O'Rourke says allegations concerning South Melbourne FC being accused of wage theft by current and former players and staff won't affect their top tier aspirations

Last week FTBL reported that Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) had provided legal advice and assistance to players regarding overdue payments from South Melbourne.

The FFA board is set to meet tomorrow to discuss whether they will proceed with announcing who the two successful A-League bidders will be and if they will join the competition next season.

Speaking at the 2018-19 A-League launch, Greg O'Rourke revealed that South's bid

won't be derailed by the allegations.

"I don't think so," said the head of the A-League.

"When I say I don't think so it's not going to affect our decision-making.

"I don't know the facts behind that to be honest but I did read the article.

"If they were the team to be put forward we would obviously continue our due diligence.

"But the decisions have been made on who we put forward (for A-League



expansion) before that article was published.

Over the weekend South Melbourne put out a statement that responded to FTBL's story:

"In circumstances where players have breached their contractual obligations, the club will continue to work with the

players and the PFA to resolve any dispute," said a club spokesperson.

"In relation to the claims made in the article, the club is very comfortable with its position in relation to players who have breached their respective contracts and/or negotiated their departures from South Melbourne Football Club."

Aussies Abroad: Weekend Wrap

Ange Postecoglou has one hand on the J-League Cup Trophy as his Yokohama F Marinos advanced to the final, and some new young faces sprung to life while the big boys were on international break. Here is your Aussies Abroad Weekend Wrap.

EUROPE

In Italy Giancarlo Galifuoco started and played 90 minutes for FC Rieti as they defeated Siculia Leonzio 1-0 in the Serie C. Nicholas Pennington started and played a full game for Olbia Calcio as they lost 1-0 to Cuneo. Reno Piscopo started and played 90 minutes for AC Renate who lost 1-0 to Vis Pesaro. Gabriel Cleur's Virtus Entella match against Pro Piacenza was cancelled at the last minute.

In Germany Christian Theoharous was absent from Borussia Mönchengladbach II's squad that beat Straelen 2-1 in the Regionalliga. George Timotheou was absent from Schalke II's squad that defeated TuS Erdtebruck 3-1 for whom Stefan Valentini was also missing.

Julian Schwarzer was an unused substitute as Pipinsried drew 3-3 with Memmingen. John Antony-Buceto was injured and absent from Kaan-Marienborn's squad that defeated Concordia 5-1.

In Holland Quivi Fowler was absent

was absent from FC Dordrecht's squad that lost 1-0 to Den Bosch for whom Ryan and Declan Lambert were also absent. Thomas Prinsen started and played 46 minutes for Jong Almere as they lost 3-1 to Koninklijke FC. Dean Bouzanis started and played the first half of PEC Zwolle's 4-1 friendly loss to Ajax.

In Switzerland Liam Chipperfield played a full match and scored a goal in FC Basel U15's 2-2 draw with Servette. Later in the week he played 90 minutes and a key role in Basel's 4-1 victory over FC Sion U15.

In Croatia Mark Rizoski was absent from NK Lucko's squad that lost 3-0 to Sibenik. Mark Moric played a full game for NK Rijeka youth who drew 1-1 against Dinamo.

In Turkey Erdeniz Yildiz was absent from Goztepe U21's squad that lost 3-1 to Konyaspor U21.

In Cyprus Bai Antoniou was absent from Alki Oroklini's squad that lost 5-1 to AEL Limassol.

In Portugal Gavin De Niese started and played 45 minutes for Desportivo

da Gafanha in their 2-1 victory over Coimbr es. Kristian Trajceski started and played 55 minutes whilst former Blacktown City starlet Danny Choi played 45 minutes in Oliveira Do Hospital's 2-1 win against Caldas. **In the Slovenian League** Deni Juric played 11 minutes off the bench for NK Triglav as they lost 4-2 at home to Gorica.

UK

In English League One action Ryan McGowan played a full game in Bradford City's 3-1 loss to Accrington Stanley. Brad Inman played a full match for Rochdale FC as they were defeated 3-2 by Doncaster Rovers. Cameron Burgess was an 82nd minute substitute for Scunthorpe United as they lost 2-0 to Peterborough. Josh Bingham scored and played a full game for Notts County U23 who were knocked out of the Football League Trophy by Newcastle United U23.

In the English Youth Leagues Kai Caldebrank-Park was an unused sub for Burnley U18 as they drew

1-1 with Nottingham Forest U18. Jacob Young played a full match for Sunderland U23 in the Checktrade trophy as Sunderland advanced with a 2-0 win over Charlton Athletic for whom Ashley Maynard-Brewer and Ryan Blumberg were absent.

Joel Rollinson started and played the first half while Liam Driscoll played a full match and kept a cleansheet in Reading U23's big 5-0 friendly win over Oxford United. Cameron McGilp was a 69th minute substitute as Birmingham City U23's lost 2-0 to Coventry Sphinx.

Leo Mazis was Celtic Academy's super sub coming on with 25 minutes to play and breaking the deadlock seven minutes later in a 2-0 win over Ross County Youth.

In the Scottish Championship Aaron Lennox was absent from Partick Thistle's squad that lost 2-1 to Dundee United. In the Scottish Challenge Cup Tom Beadling played 44 minutes including extra time and scored in the penalty shootout as his Dunfermline Athletic were knocked out 5-4 by Alloa Athletic. Lyndon Dykes' Queen of the South suffered a similar fate, knocked out 2-0 by East Fife.

ASIA

In the J-League Cup Ange Postecoglou

is one match away from silverware as his Yokohama F Marinos pounced on Kashima Antlers over two legs. Yokohama served up a delightful 2-1 victory away from home before drawing the return fixture 2-2 advancing 4-3 on aggregate. They will face Shonan Bellmare in the J-League Cup Final.

Earlier in the week Pierce Waring was an 85th minute substitute for Cerezo Osaka U23 as they beat YSCC Yokohama 2-0.

In J-League 2 action Jason Geria played a full match as JEF United Chiba defeated Montedio Yamagata 2-1.

Bernie Ibini started and played 69 minutes as Emirates Club were knocked out of the Etisalat Cup 4-2 by Al Dhafra.

NORTH AMERICA

Delight for our Aussies in the USL as Jesse Daley played a full match and Antonee Burke-Gilroy played 76 minutes and scored in Seattle Sounders II's 4-1 victory over Tulsa Roughnecks, their first in eight matches. Seattle Sounders II are managed by former Central Coast Mariners legend John Hutchinson.