



By George Stavroulakis

# Hyundai A-League 2018/19 Matchday 1

## Adelaide United - Sydney FC

Friday 19 October 2018 - 19:20

■ **Sydney FC** are undefeated in their last six games against Adelaide United, keeping a clean sheet on each occasion (W4 D2).

■ **Sydney FC** have won on two of their last three visits to Cooper Stadium; however, there has been just one goal scored in the last two meetings between the Reds and Sky Blues in Adelaide.

■ **The Reds** are undefeated in their last six season openers (W3, D3), and haven't conceded multiple goals in a Round 1 game since 2007.

■ **Sydney FC** are undefeated in their last 18 games outside New South Wales, scoring 3+ goals in five of their last six games outside their home state.

■ **Adelaide** made six shots per game from outside the box last season, more than any other team in the competition.

■ **73%** of all Sydney FC's goals (48/66, including own goals) scored in 2017/18 directly involved either Bobô or Adrian Mierzejewski, both of whom have now departed the club.

■ **Isalas** made 70 interceptions last season, 11 more than any other player in the competition and 21 more than Sydney FC's best Josh Brillante (49).

■ **Alex Wilkinson** made 164 clearances in A-League 2017/18, 22 more than any other player in the competition.

## Brisbane Roar FC - Central Coast Mariners

Sunday 21 October 2018 - 16:00

■ **Brisbane Roar** are undefeated in their last 12 games against Central Coast (W10, D2), keeping six clean sheets in the process.

■ **Brisbane** have outscored Central Coast 18-3 across their last six meetings at Suncorp Stadium, remaining undefeated in that time (W5, D1).

■ **The Roar** have won their last two games at Suncorp Stadium without conceding a single goal, the last time they kept more consecutive clean sheets at the venue was a three-game stretch in 2010.

■ **There** have been 17 goals scored in the Mariners' last three Round 1 fixtures, with the Central Coast club picking up a win, draw, and loss in that time.

■ **Brisbane Roar** and Central Coast Mariners were two of just four teams last season to not concede an own goal.

■ **The Mariners** made 461 pass attempts per game last campaign, the second-most of any team in the competition behind Sydney FC (497).

■ **Jamie Young** had a league-high 73% save percentage in 2017/18 (min. 5 games), making a total of 91 saves for the



campaign.

■ **Connor Pain** has been directly involved in four of the Mariners' last six A-League goals, scoring three and providing one assist.

## Melbourne Victory - Melbourne City FC

Saturday 20 October 2018 - 19:50

■ **Melbourne Victory** have won four of the last five Melbourne Derbies, including the last two on the bounce.

■ **Melbourne City** have won two of the last three Melbourne Derbies at Marvel Stadium, keeping Victory goalless in the opening half of each of those three encounters.

■ **Melbourne Victory** have won their last three games on the bounce, the last time they won more in succession was a six-game streak across 2016/17.

■ **Melbourne City** are undefeated in each of their last six Round 1 fixtures (W3, D3), having begun each of their last two A-League campaigns with a win and a clean sheet.

■ **Melbourne Victory** will be on the hunt for their 100th victory on home soil, becoming the first team in A-League history to do so.

■ **Melbourne City** won five penalties when playing away from home last season, more than any other team in the competition; however, they managed to convert just three of those penalties into goals.

■ **Kosta Barbarouses** has been directly involved in two of Melbourne Victory's last three open play goals against City (1 goal, 1 assist), and has scored seven goals against them in total across his A-League career, his joint-most against any team.

■ **Scott Jamieson** created 29 scoring chances in 2017/18, the second-most of any defender in the competition.

## Perth Glory - Western Sydney Wanderers FC

Sunday 21 October 2018 - 16:00

■ **There** has been just one clean sheet kept in the last eight games between Perth and Western Sydney, with the Glory

picking up a 2-0 win against the Wanderers in Round 21, 2016/17.

■ **Perth Glory** are undefeated in their last six games at nib Stadium against the Wanderers (W4, D2), scoring two or more goals on each occasion.

■ **The Glory** are undefeated in their last five Round 1 games at nib Stadium (W2, D3), though they've begun just one of their last five A-League campaigns at home prior to this season.

■ **The Wanderers** have lost their last three games on the bounce away from home, conceding exactly three goals on each occasion; the last time they lost more in succession on the road was an eight-game drought from May 2014 to February 2015.

■ **Perth Glory** scored nine goals within the opening 15 minutes of game in 2017/18, more than any other team in the competition.

■ **The Wanderers** had a passing accuracy of 79% last season, higher than any other team in the competition and three percentage points greater than Perth Glory.

■ **Diego Castro** scored two goals and made an assist in his last game against Western Sydney Wanderers.

■ **Western Sydney Wanderers** goalkeeper Vedran Janjetovic made a league-high 109 saves last season.

## Wellington Phoenix - Newcastle Jets

Sunday 21 October 2018 - 17:00

■ **Wellington** have won 11 of their last 14 games against Newcastle Jets at Westpac Stadium, including their last two across which they've outscored the Hunter club 7-0.

■ **This** will be the third time Wellington and Newcastle have met in the opening round of the season, with the Jets prevailing on each previous occasion (2009/10, 2015/16).

■ **Only** once in A-League history have Wellington opened their campaign with a victory (D5, L5), defeating Sydney FC 2-0 to open the 2012/13 season.

■ **The Jets** have lost only one of their last seven games played away from home (W3, D3), and there have been 17 goals scored in their last two games on the road.

■ **35%** of Wellington Phoenix's 31 goals scored last season came via headers, the highest proportion of any team in the competition and 25 percentage points greater than last-ranked Newcastle.

■ **Newcastle** scored seven goals from outside the box last season; only Melbourne City (11) bagged more.

■ **Sarpreet Singh** has a shot conversion rate (incl. blocks) of 31% in 2017/18, the best of any player to have made at least 10 total shots throughout the campaign.

■ **Nikolai Topor-Stanley** is set to play his 31st A-League game against Wellington Phoenix, only against Brisbane Roar (33) has he played more games.

### A-LEAGUE 2018-19 - ROUND 1

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEDT)
Friday, 19 October 2018	Adelaide United	Sydney FC	Coopers Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 20 October 2018	Melbourne Victory	Melbourne City FC	Marvel Stadium	7:50PM
Sunday, 21 October 2018	Wellington Phoenix	Newcastle Jets	Westpac Stadium	3:00PM
Sunday, 21 October 2018	Brisbane Roar FC	Central Coast Mariners	Suncorp Stadium	5:00PM
Sunday, 21 October 2018	Perth Glory	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	nib Stadium	7:00PM