

FORMER SOCCEROO AND NSL PLAYER DARREN STEWART DEAD AT 52

A defender, Stewart played in the NSL for clubs including APIA Leichhardt and Newcastle Breakers.



Darren Stewart has died.

Stewart made his Socceroos debut in 1992 and earned three caps for his country.

Stewart later played in Malaysia, predominantly at Johor FA.

He later went on to coach, including heading up the Maldives national team.

Newcastle Jets chief executive Lawrie McKinna played with Stewart at APIA Leichhardt and paid tribute to his friend.

"I was fortunate enough when I signed with APIA Leichhardt, Darren was at APIA and he actually moved in with myself and my wife Christine and our two boys and he stayed with us," McKinna said.

"He was a great player, one of the hardest, toughest defenders-come-midfield players running about the league.

"He had a great career and he played three games with the Socceroos, which he thoroughly deserved because I actually thought he deserved more but obviously I wasn't the coach.

"He was actually one of the first players to go to Malaysia, he went over there I think in 1993 and played 244 games with Johor in the Malaysian league and then he played in Singapore.

"Then he got into coaching and he was actually the Maldives team coach up until a few months ago.

"So it's such a shame that somebody at a young age he was only 52 ... it's just sad that somebody so young dies."

McKinna said Stewart's family had appreciated the support from the football community, including current and former players.

The Newcastle Jets released a statement regarding Stewart's passing on Friday afternoon.

"The Newcastle Jets are saddened to hear of the passing of former Newcastle Breaker and Socceroo, Darren Stewart," the Jets said in the statement.

"On behalf of the footballing community, the club would like to pass on its condolences to Darren's family during this difficult time."

The circumstances around Stewart's death are unclear but are not believed to be suspicious.

Stewart is survived by his son and daughter.



Lawrie McKinna and Darren Stewart



Darren Stewart with a copy of Lawrie McKinna's book

Sydney FC – Western Sydney Wanderers FC Saturday 27 October 2018 - 19:50 – Round 2 – Hyundai A-League 2018/19

Sydney FC v Western Sydney Wanderers

• Western Sydney Wanderers have won just one of the last 13 Sydney Derbies (D4, L8), conceding 10 goals in the last three fixtures.

• Sydney FC have kept Western Sydney Wanderers scoreless in the second-half in their last seven matches; the last time the Wanderers scored a second-half goal in the Derby was in Round 15 in 2015/16.

• Sydney FC lost their first two games against

Western Sydney Wanderers at Allianz Stadium, but since then are undefeated in the seven games against them at the venue (W4, D3).

• Western Sydney Wanderers will be out to avoid back-to-back losses against New South Wales opposition for the first time since 2015, having lost to Sydney FC in February 2018.

• Western Sydney Wanderers scored just eight goals in the final 30 minutes last season, the joint-fewest in the competition; last weekend, their only goal came in this period of the match.

• Sydney FC had the best passing accuracy of any team last weekend (81%) – last season they had a passing accuracy of 77%.

• Of the last eight goals Sydney FC have scored in the Derby, just two came from players still at the club: O'Neill and Brosque (Mierzejewski – 4, Bobo – 1, Own Goal – 1).

• Oriol Riera has scored three goals in his last three games and has scored two of the last three Western Sydney Wanderers goals in the Derby.