

FFA CUP FINAL 2018.. GOODWIN'S BRILLIANT BRACE FIRES ADELAIDE UNITED TO BREATHLESS FFA CUP FINAL 2018 TRIUMPH



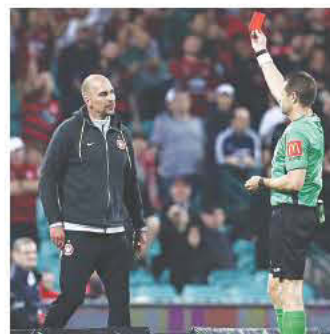
CRAIG GOODWIN STRUCK A SENSATIONAL MATCH-WINNING DOUBLE AS ADELAIDE UNITED MADE HISTORY WITH A 2-1 TRIUMPH OVER SYDNEY FC IN A PULSATING FFA CUP FINAL 2018.

Beaten by the same opposition on this stage 12 months ago, the Reds exacted sweet revenge at Coopers Stadium on Tuesday night thanks to their born-and-bred South Australian hero. The star 26-year-old, who returned to his hometown club from a spell in the Eredivisie in the off-season, crashed in a fierce 74th-minute winner to go with his sublime first-half free-kick that opened the scoring. Adam Le Fondre equalised from the spot in between the winger's brace but it was to be Adelaide's day as they became the first club to lift the trophy on two occasions, having won the inaugural edition back in 2014. Adelaide settled the quicker of the two sides and took the lead in extraordinary fashion in the 25th minute, Goodwin fizzing in his fourth of the tournament with an unstoppable dipping effort that whistled past Andrew Redmayne.

Incredibly, amid a fantastic first half, a rocking Coopers Stadium was silenced just three minutes later. Alex Brosque harried Jordan Elsey into a poor back-pass and was tripped in the area by the advancing Paul Izzo, who could do nothing about Le Fondre's emphatic spot-kick. Goodwin flashed another menacing free-kick narrowly past the post soon after the restart and the tension grew greater on the hour with Izzo and Redmayne both producing vital saves. But there was one man who always loomed large as the likely match-winner and so it proved late in a thrilling contest. Goodwin needed no invitation to rifle Ben Halloran's deft pass into the top corner off his unfavoured right foot to complete an unforgettable night for the hosts and deliver boss Marco Kurz his first piece of silverware in Australian football.

A-League Results ROUND 2

Melbourne Victory - Perth Glory 2-3
Brisbane Roar - Wellington Phoenix 0-0
Sydney FC - WS Wanderers 2-0
Central Coast Mariners - Melbourne City 1-1
Adelaide United - Newcastle Jets 1-1



GOODWIN: NOW FOR THE ROOS...

With a Mark Viduka Medal around his neck, an FFA Cup under his arm and two blockbuster match winning goals on his highlights reel, Craig Goodwin is missing just one thing. A 2018 Socceroos call-up. **But the** FFA Cup hero knows there's a long road still ahead of him before Graham Arnold comes knocking, despite his Messi-like shift for Adelaide United against Sydney in the FFA Cup Final last night. **"I want** to be there. I want to be in that national team setup," he said today. "It's always in the back of my mind and it's always something I want to achieve. **"But I** know I have to be consistent with Adelaide if I'm going to get that call up. **"I have** to go out against Central Coast Mariners and put in another good display – and then do the same thing the next week as well." **Goodwin now** has six goals in six games for Adelaide since returning from Sparta Rotterdam in Holland where he had fallen out of favour.

"When I was in that difficult period in Europe, I spoke to my dad who was a big advocate of trying to get me to come back. **"He was** saying that I would do really well under Marco at Adelaide and thought I could flourish, and more like, 'Take a step back to propel yourself forward'.

"Obviously being in Europe – that's the dream. You want to be there and you want to do well. I wasn't so sure about coming back to start with. **"But as** time wore on and I thought about it more, it seemed like the right move for me. Thinking about it, and speaking to my agent, my family and my friends, I decided that Adelaide was the best place



to do that...and so far it's working out well. **"Hopefully I** can keep that going. Winning another trophy is fantastic and I do feel like I'm finding some good form." **But Goodwin** had a worrying warning for rival clubs for the rest of this season – he reckons he's only going to get even better. **"There's more** to come," he said. "There's more in my game to improve on. **"I scored** the two last night but I still think overall my game can improve. It's still early in the season and I need to build on this and be more consistent."

His father persuaded him to come back to the A-League and was encouraged to sign for Adelaide after chats with coach Marco Kurz, ignoring overtures from Sydney FC among others. **"It was** a crucial decision for me, deciding on what was best for my career and what was best for me to get the best out of my football," he revealed.

A - League table ROUND 2

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Sydney FC	2	4	1	1	0	3	1	2
2	Perth Glory	2	4	1	1	0	4	3	1
3	Melbourne City	2	4	1	1	0	3	2	1
4	Wellington Phoenix	2	4	1	1	0	2	1	1
5	Adelaide United	2	2	0	2	0	2	2	0
6	Central Coast Mariners	2	2	0	2	0	2	2	0
7	Brisbane Roar	2	2	0	2	0	1	1	0
8	Newcastle Jets	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	-1
9	WS Wanderers	2	1	0	1	1	1	3	-2
10	Melbourne Victory	2	0	0	0	2	3	5	-2

A-League ROUND 3

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEDT)
Friday, 2 November 2018	Melbourne City FC	Sydney FC	AAMI Park	7:50PM
Saturday, 3 November 2018	Wellington Phoenix	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Westpac Stadium	5:35PM
Saturday, 3 November 2018	Newcastle Jets	Melbourne Victory	McDonald Jones Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 3 November 2018	Perth Glory	Brisbane Roar FC	nib Stadium	10:00PM
Sunday, 4 November 2018	Central Coast Mariners	Adelaide United	Central Coast Stadium	5:00PM