



By George Stavroulakis

Stamatelopoulos shines to plot Adelaide's path forward

The perfect blend of circumstance and an opportunity seized made Apostolos Stamatelopoulos the most encouraging outcome of Adelaide United's commanding win over Central Coast Mariners.

The Reds, despite their FFA Cup triumph, have been searching for a reliable centre-forward to emerge as the focal point of a promising front three.

Two Craig Goodwin stunners were required to see off Sydney FC on Tuesday and the inform winger added another brace in Gosford on the way to a 3-0 victory.

This time he shared the limelight.

Injuries and form fluctuations have conspired against Baba Diawara and George Blackwood since they arrived at the club last season, forcing Marco Kurz to examine all options.

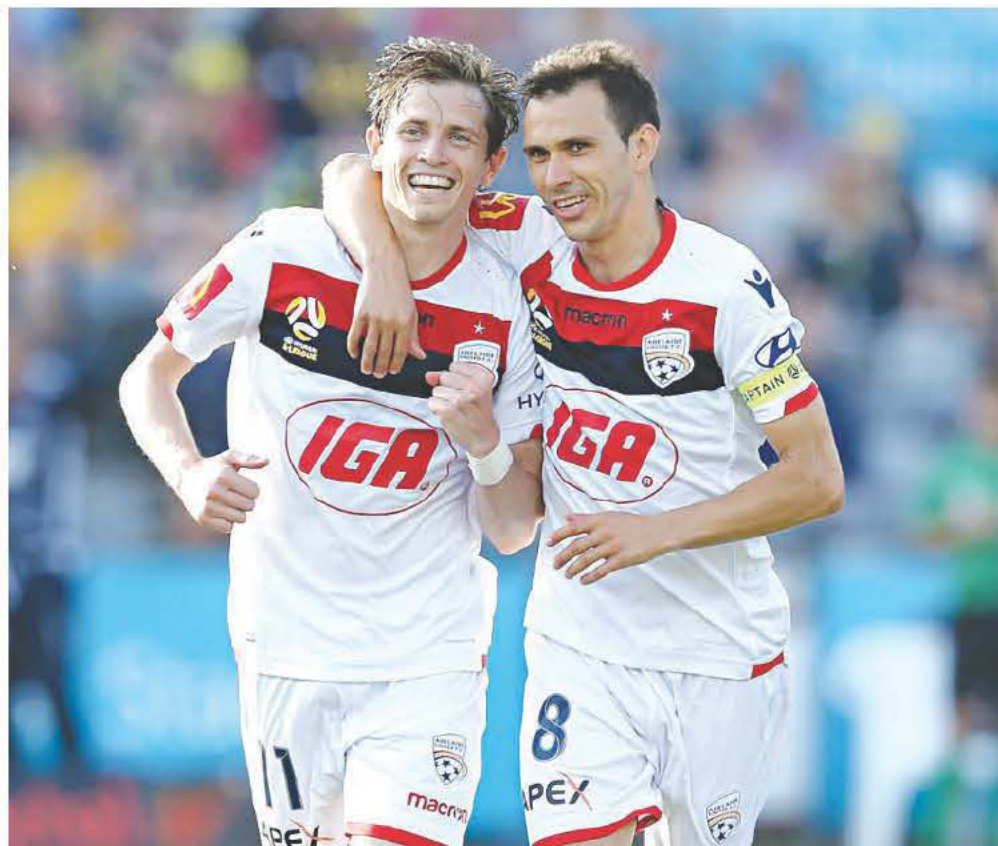
Unconvincing returns with Ben Halloran

through the middle led the German to Stamatelopoulos and, on his return from Young Socceroos duty, the teenager took the chance.

Stamatelopoulos, still just 19, demonstrated poise beyond his years to curl a perfect cross to the near post for Adelaide's star man to head in the early opener.

Seven minutes later the bustling young striker had the second goal of his fledgling Hyundai A-League career, keeping up with a breakaway and getting the crucial touch to Goodwin's unselfish pass.

It all happened within a sparkling 16 minutes



that suggested Kurz has unearthed the best candidate to complement his primary attacking weapon.

Key men prosper in professional performance **As for** Goodwin, the three-cap Caltex Socceroo has now netted an incredible eight goals in seven competitive appearances this season,

having later beaten Ben Kennedy from a free-kick.

Isaias was also among Adelaide's top performers, registering two key passes while regaining possession a team-high nine times.

When the Reds are fully functioning, it's usually because the captain and midfield

Ryan in the running for Premier League Player of the Month

Brighton & Hove Albion's Australian goalkeeper Mat Ryan is among a host of Premier League stars nominated for the league's October Player of the Month award.

Manchester United's Anthony Martial headlines the six nominees and is considered the frontrunner for the award, but faces competition from Arsenal pace merchant Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Bournemouth's Callum Wilson and a resurgent Ross Barkley of Chelsea, with Fernandinho, from the blue half of Manchester, rounding out the list.

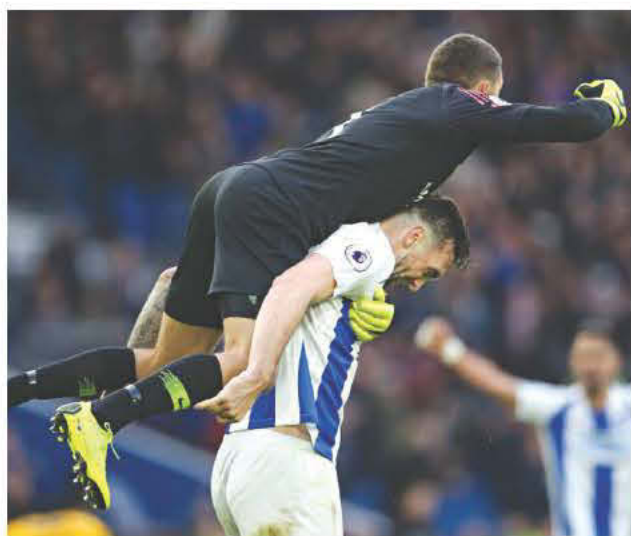
Ryan's Brighton have risen to 11th, and 9 points clear of the drop zone, after three consecutive top-flight wins over West Ham, Newcastle and Wolves, the first time the club has achieved this since 1981.

With Australia's first-choice keeper narrowly trailing only Joe Hart (Burnley) and pukasz Fabia ski (West Ham) in saves made, both tied for first with 44, his recent form has attracted speculation regarding a potential move to English powerhouse Manchester United, a far cry from his difficult time at La Liga side Valencia C.F.

After 77 appearances at Club Brugge in Belgium, Ryan earned a move to Valencia in 2015, but quickly found himself as a second-choice keeper and returned to Belgium once again, this time on a loan spell with KRC Genk.

Since his 2017 permanent transfer to Brighton, Ryan has starred for his side, helping to keep them in England's top flight at the conclusion of the 2017/18 season.

Only one Australian has won the Premier League Player of the Month Award – fellow goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer in February of 2010 during his time at London-based club Fulham. The winner will be announced on Friday.



A-League Results ROUND 3



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

A - League table ROUND 3

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

A-League ROUND 3

| DATE | HOME | AWAY | VENUE | Kick-Off (AEDT) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Friday, 9 November | Melbourne City FC | Wellington Phoenix | AAMI Park | 7:50PM |
| Saturday, 10 November | Western Sydney Wanderers FC | Brisbane Roar FC | Glen Willow Stadium (Mudgee) | 5:35PM |
| Saturday, 10 November | Newcastle Jets | Sydney FC | McDonald Jones Stadium | 7:50PM |
| Sunday, 11 November | Adelaide United | Perth Glory | Coopers Stadium | 5:00PM |
| Sunday, 11 November | Melbourne Victory | Central Coast Mariners | AAMI Park | 7:00PM |