



By George Stavroulakis

# Arzani: I'm out for the season

Socceroos bolter Daniel Arzani has today admitted: I'm out for the season. The teenage sensation has been told he definitely does need an ACL op and won't be back in action until late next year.

**He fell** awkwardly during his Celtic debut just 20 minutes after coming off the bench and was stretchered off the ground in the 5-0 win over Dundee last week.

**His knee** was so badly swollen, medics were struggling to make an accurate diagnosis. But this morning, Arzani, 19, took to Instagram to confirm his season is over already.

**"I received** the bad news today that I will indeed need an ACL Op ruling me out until next season," he said.

**"Apologies to** the Celtic fans for my 20 minute cameo. This is however the beginning of my journey and I promise to be back better than ever. Day 1 road to recovery starts now."

**He added:** "Thank you to everyone who has taken the time out of their day to show support and love.

**"I'm trying** my best to reply to everyone but please

understand this is also a very tough time for me."

**Arzani is** on loan to Celtic from Manchester City who snapped him up from Melbourne City after the World Cup where he lit up the Socceroos in his cameo appearances.

**He is** likely now to return to Australia after surgery and his future at Celtic is uncertain. His loan deal is for two years so could still rejoin them next season, depending on how his post-op rehab progresses.

**But he** will definitely miss this January's Asian Cup campaign as Australia aim to defend their 2015 crown.

**In a** separate video posted as an Instagram story earlier today, Arzani appears to be in Barcelona. His knee can be briefly seen in a metal brace in the back of a chauffeur-driven car which appears to be a high-end Maybach luxury limousine.



## Usain Bolt.. Officially quit

**Central Coast** Mariners CEO Shaun Mielekamp insist he has no regrets over the doomed Usain Bolt trial – but admits he's disappointed it's ended the way it has.

**Bolt has** now officially quit the club after talks broke down on a pay deal for the world record holder sprint superstar to join the club permanently.

**He started** training with the club in pre-season in the hope of earning his first full-time pro contract at the age of 32 but struggled with fitness and a gap in skills.

**After a** couple of months of intensive coaching though, he managed to step up enough to play in a scratch match against an amateur side plucked from clubs in south-west Sydney, and scored twice.

**The lack** of natural skill was still obvious though. Perth Glory striker Andy Keogh said Bolt had the "touch of a trampoline."

**But the** Jamaican still believed he could rise to the challenge and opened negotiations on a paid contract to keep him at the Mariners.

**The gap** in his expectations and what the Mariners could afford was huge though and Bolt eventually stopped training while talks continued over the past fortnight.

**Today though,** the talking stopped for good and the Mariners admitted defeat in their battle to hold onto the star.

**"There is** an air of regret that that this huge opportunity was unable to be maximized," Mielekamp admitted today. "There's no doubt that we all wanted this to work.

**"But on** the on the other side, this was this was a great ride."

**Pay talks** with Bolt's agents began in earnest the week before the game in Campbelltown where Bolt would score twice, he revealed.

**"For that** week, we really wanted to make sure that there was no distractions," he said. "We were putting together the contract offer which shows how serious the club has been in keeping Usain.

**"We worked** hard and we realised that there was a gap that we needed to try to fill – and in the time from then till now, we haven't been able to close that gap."

**The club** asked the FFA to chip into the deal with a contribution from the marquee fund but were refused, although the FFA did offer a small amount to be used to market Bolt and the A-League.

**"Of course,** every club wants more support from the FFA," admitted Mielekamp. "But that would go for anything, whether it's Usain Bolt or any other aspect.

**"But there** are limits to everyone's capacity. We understand that but we're also looking forward to a new future as clubs in regards to the FFA. It is what it is."

**Bolt was** offered a deal in Malta while negotiations were ongoing which he turned down, but the Mariners said they had no idea what Bolt will do now.

**Mielekamp added:** "I don't know what he does next to be honest. I'll leave that for for him to comment on.

## 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