

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK

Round 3 saw some interesting results, with four of the five matches ending in away wins. Adelaide and the two Sydney clubs had massive wins on the road, while Victory were triumphant in the Grand Final rematch and Perth continued their impressive start. But who made our best XI for the week?

GK – JAMIE YOUNG

To be honest, Young gets in purely for THAT save alone. Many are calling it the save of the season, I would go as far to say that it might be one of the greatest saves in A-League history. In case you have been living under a rock, Young incredibly denied Andy Keogh's header which was destined for the top left corner, before getting back up to tip the Irishman's rebound effort onto the crossbar.

RB – RHYAN GRANT

Grant continued his impressive start to the season on Friday against Melbourne City, teeing up Paulo Retre for the game's opener and generally having a very solid game. Many are saying he should be considered for a Socceroos call-up, although I think we need to see more consistency from him, particularly after an average display in Tuesday's FFA Cup final. Also, the mullet has got to go if he plays for the national team.

RCB – THOMAS DENG

Kevin Muscat's defence has been all over the place in the first two rounds and it was imperative that Deng returned to the starting line up against Newcastle. Displaying a new calmness, composure and confidence, Deng was excellent against the Jets as Victory kept their first clean sheet of the season. The 21-year-old has looked a new player since his Socceroos call-up and at this rate will play a part at the Asian Cup in January.

LCB – SHANE LOWRY

Lowry features for the second straight week and is really starting to shine as one of the most improved defenders in the league. In Popovic's new three at the back system, the 29-year-old has been a brick wall, last week completely nullifying Kenny Athiu and on the weekend he was all over Adam Taggart, denying the Brisbane striker a winning return at NIB Stadium.

LB – MICHAEL ZULLO

So often an attacking influence for Sydney under the tutelage of Graham Arnold, Zullo has not been as effective this time around with Steve Corica, although at AAMI Park he was terrific. Constantly getting up and down that left hand side, combining with Ninkovic down the left as well as keeping the likes of McGree and Vidosis quiet.

RCM – NEIL KILKENNY

Kilkenny featured in our team of the week in round 1 for his performance against the Wanderers and he put on a similar display against Roar on Saturday night. Working with Juande in the centre of the park for Perth, the pair are becoming an imperative part to Tony Popovic's system. Kilkenny was slightly more prevalent than his Spanish team mate though, retaining possession well as well as helping to keep Brisbane trapped inside their own half for most of the match.

Ikonomidis, who now has a goal and an assist in his last two appearances for Glory. Ikonmidis is starting to show the type of form that saw him so highly praised as a Lazio youth academy prospect and his confidence on the ball and direct play is causing all sorts of problems for opposition defenders. It was a driving run from the former Wanderer that teed up Andy Keogh for Perth's opener, but his overall display was sublime.

CAM – ALEXANDER BAUMJOHANN

The next Thomas Broich? Alexander Baumjohann is definitely starting to make his case. After decent displays against Perth and Sydney in which his team didn't taste victory, the German led from the front in the absence of compatriot Markus Babel by opening his account for his new club in Wellington, with the Wanderers picking up their first win of the season. The 31-year-old showed his class in a complete performance, and could be the next big European to hit the A-League.

LM – CRAIG GOODWIN

What a week! Craig Goodwin is on fire right now, and if we stopped the season right now he would be a shoe-in for the Johnny Warren medal. After netting a heroic brace against Sydney FC in the FFA Cup final with two show stopping strikes, the 26-year-old was

at it again in Gosford on Sunday, scoring another brace as well as teeing up Apostolos Stamatelopoulos for United's second. With Daniel Arzani out for nine months through injury, Goodwin is also surely a shoe-in for the Socceroos right now.

ST – ADAM LE FONDRE

Another man who cannot stop scoring is Le Fondre, who was unfortunately snubbed in last week's team but is one of the first names on the team sheet this time around. Milos Ninkovic made the admission after Friday's victory that the Englishman may even eclipse the heights that Brazilian Bobo reached last season, and the early signs suggest that could happen. The former Reading and Bolton man netted a brace against Melbourne City, the first a lovely delicate finish from Paulo Retre's through ball before finding space in the box to tuck away Ninkovic's backheel in stoppage time.



CHRISTOPHER IKONOMIDIS.. a goal and an assist in his last two appearances for Glory

LCM – JORDAN O'DOHERTY

After bursting onto the scene with Adelaide United under Guillermo Amor, O'Doherty's stocks stagnated under Marco Kurz last season but a fresh start at the Wanderers looks to have rejuvenated the youngster. Deployed predominantly as a winger during his United days, Markus Babel is using the 21-year-old in a central midfield role and in Wellington on Saturday it worked a treat. O'Doherty's effort from range caused Andrew Durante to handball and give away a second half penalty before the midfielder finished off a fast break in stoppage time with a well taken finish.

RM – CHRISTOPHER IKONOMIDIS

Another rejuvenated Aussie youngster is Christopher