



By George Stavroulakis

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2018/19 ROUND 9

Perth Glory v Sydney FC
Friday 21 December 2018 - 18:00 AWST

● **Sydney** FC have won their last eight games on the bounce against Perth Glory, scoring an average of four goals per game in that span.

● **Sydney** FC are undefeated in their last six visits to nib Stadium (W5, D1), a period across which they have kept three clean sheets.

● **Perth** Glory are undefeated in their last eight games overall (W6, D2); the last time they went longer without defeat was a 10-game stretch in 2014/15 (W8, D2).

● **Sydney** FC have scored three or more first-half goals on three occasions since the beginning of 2017, with two of those three instances coming against Perth Glory.

● **Perth** Glory have conceded a league-low seven goals this season, two fewer than Opta's Expected Goals Against suggests; only Melbourne Victory (-2.2) have prevented more goals this season.

● **Perth** Glory (once every 5.4 fouls) and Sydney FC (5.7) have conceded a yellow card more frequently as a ratio to fouls conceded than any other teams this campaign.

● **Ivan** Franjic (Perth Glory) has made nine successful crosses in open play this season, three more than any other player.

● **Brandon** O'Neill (Sydney FC) is set to face off against his former club and play his 100th game in the competition; in fact, against no other A-League team has O'Neill scored more goals than he has against Perth Glory (2).

Wellington Phoenix v Brisbane Roar
Saturday 22 December 2018 - 19:35 NZDT

● **Each** of the last four games between Wellington Phoenix and Brisbane Roar has ended in a draw, including two goalless draws in that time.

● **Brisbane** Roar are undefeated in their last four games against Wellington Phoenix at Westpac Stadium (W1, D3), while there have been 10 goals scored between the sides in their last two such fixtures.

● **Wellington** Phoenix have won their last two games heading into this fixture; the last time they won more was a four-game streak in March 2015 which included a 2-1 victory over Brisbane Roar.

● **Brisbane** Roar have conceded exactly two goals in each of their last six games away from home, managing to earn just one victory in that time (D1, L4).

● **Wellington** Phoenix have conceded 131 fouls this campaign, more than any other team in the competition and 11 more than Brisbane Roar.

● **Brisbane** Roar have made 116 interceptions this campaign, the second-most of any team in the competition and 41 more than last-ranked Wellington Phoenix.

● **Wellington** Phoenix's Tom Doyle has blocked nine shots so far this season, the joint-most of any player in the competition.

● **Brisbane** Roar's Adam Taggart has recorded four headed shots on target this season, more than any other player - one of those four shots has found the back of the net.

Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets
Sunday 23 December 2018 - 17:00 AEDT

● **Newcastle** Jets have won their last three games on the bounce against Central Coast Mariners, scoring 15 goals in

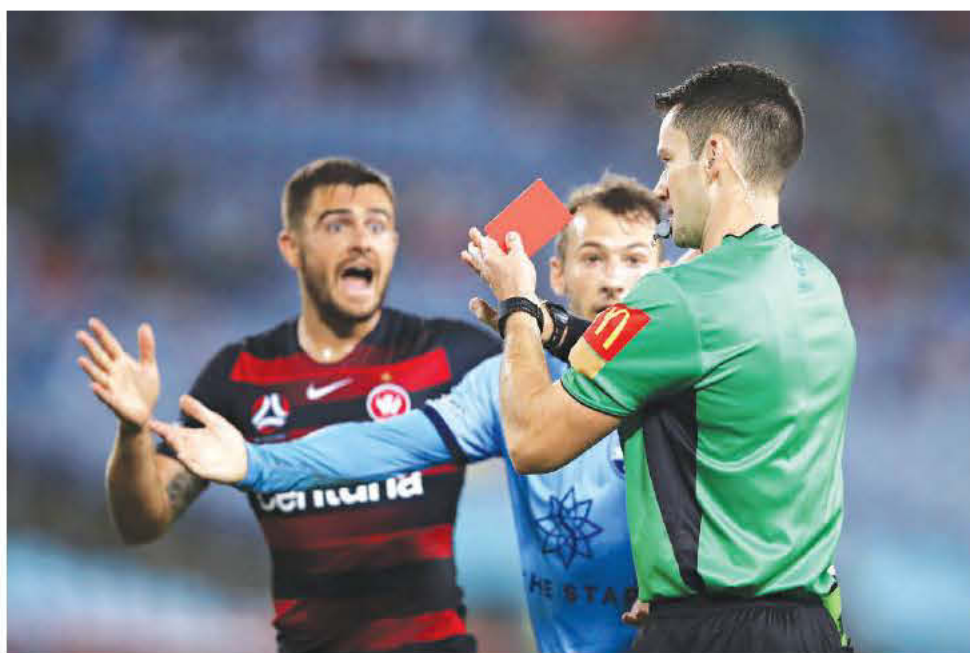
the process; neither team has managed to string together four consecutive wins in the history of this derby.

● **Newcastle** Jets have won four of their last five games against Central Coast Mariners at Central Coast Stadium, including their last two on the bounce across which they've scored 13 goals.

● **Central** Coast Mariners manager Mike Mulvey steered his side (then Brisbane Roar) to a 4-0 victory in his last game against Newcastle Jets - his only victory against the side in his A-League tenure (D2, L4).

● **Newcastle** Jets have lost three of their last six games played away from home (W2, D1), with one of the victory in that span coming against Central Coast Mariners.

● **Only** one side (Wellington Phoenix, 44.9%) has averaged a lower share of possession this term than Central Coast



Mariners (45.2%).

● **Newcastle** Jets have made 68 passes into the final third per game this season, more than any other team in the competition.

● **Kye** Rowles has made 26 interceptions so far this campaign, the second-most of any player behind Wanderers' Keanu Baccus (33).

● **Dimitri** Petratos (Newcastle Jets) has created 23 scoring chances so far this campaign, more than any other

Melbourne City v Melbourne Victory
Sunday 23 December 2018 - 17:00 AEDT

● **Each** of the last four games between Melbourne City and Melbourne Victory has been won by the 'away' team on the day, with each team picking up two wins in that span.

● **Melbourne** Victory have won their last three games against Melbourne City at AAMI Park; however, each of those three wins has come by a margin of just one goal.

● **Each** of Melbourne City's last 11 games has seen the result alternate (W5, D1, L5), while each of their last six games has seen them pick up three wins and three losses, with each winner on the day picking up a clean sheet.

● **Melbourne** Victory have won their last six games on the bounce; the last and only previous time they won more in succession was an eight-game stretch in 06.

● **Melbourne** City (81.9%) and Melbourne Victory (81.1%) boast better passing accuracies than any other teams in the competition this season.

● **Melbourne** Victory (+7) have outperformed their expected goals by more than any other team in the competition this season; indeed, no other team has outperformed this metric by more than three goals.

● **Bart** Schenkeveld (502) is the only player to have made 500 or more complete passes so far this campaign.

● **Keisuke** Honda (Melbourne Victory) has been directly involved in eight goals this season (5 goals, 3 assists), more than any other player in the competition.

Adelaide United v Western Sydney Wanderers
Wednesday 26 December 2018 - 19:20 ACDT

● **Adelaide** United have lost just one of their last 10 games against Western Sydney Wanderers (W3, D6), and are undefeated in their last five games against them (W2, D3).

● **Western** Sydney Wanderers have lost just one of their last four games against Adelaide United at Coopers Stadium (W1, D2).

● **Adelaide** United have been kept goalless in their last two games heading into this fixture; the last time they went longer without scoring a goal was a three-game span from December 2016 to January 2017.

● **Western** Sydney Wanderers have won just one of their last seven games played away from home (D1, L5), and fell to a 4-0 defeat to Melbourne Victory in their most recent away fixture.

● **Adelaide** United have received just 12 yellow cards this season, the fewest of any team in the competition.

● **Western** Sydney Wanderers have launched 23 headed shots (ex. blocks)

at goal this season, seven more than any other team; however, they are one of three teams yet to score a headed goal.

● **Adelaide** United's Craig Goodwin (3 goals, 3 assists) is one of just three players this season (Keisuke Honda, Terry Antonis) to have both scored three goals and provided three assists.

● **Brendan** Hamill (Western Sydney Wanderers) is set to play his 100th A-League game; Adelaide United are one of only three teams (Sydney FC, Wellington Phoenix) against whom Hamill has scored an A-League goal.