



By George Stavroulakis

# RUDAN BUZZING WITH PHOENIX FIGHT

Mark Rudan was beaming with pride after his pre-season insistence on strengthening Wellington Phoenix's culture bore fruit in Saturday's fighting 0-0 draw against Adelaide United.



Wellington Phoenix Coach Mark Rudan

**Wellington extended** their unbeaten streak to six matches despite losing midfielder Mandi to a red card in the 68th minute of a spicy contest at Coopers Stadium.

**Filip Kurto** made seven saves as the visitors weathered 32 shots, their defensive resilience lifting them four points clear of seventh-placed Newcastle Jets.

«**Tremendous spirit**, tremendous courage, determination. Their discipline

was superb,» Rudan said of his players. «**It's a** massive point in the scheme of things and another huge step forward as far as I'm concerned.

«**In seasons** gone by this team would have lost. The club has done that in the past. I'm extremely proud of them.

«**[In pre-season]** we worked a lot on a team culture, an environment.

«**I know** some coaches decide to do it maybe halfway through the season when things aren't going well, but it

was a massive thing we worked on really, really early to make sure we understood who we were, what we were, what we were about going forward, and I think now those signs are starting to come out.»

**Marco Kurz**, whose team have won just one of seven Hyundai A-League home matches this season, was less enthused, intimating that Adelaide must afford less respect to visiting sides.

«**At the end**, in the box, you need a killer instinct,» Kurz said.

«**It's not** easy to play against Wellington. They play with a very defensive line-up. They came here to defend and wait for maybe one or two corners.

«**We had** control in the game but we need to show opponents that Coopers Stadium is ours. They can come and fly back without points.

«**[I'm] not** disappointed but I think [we have] to show them 'we are Adelaide United, c'mon, they have no chance here'.»

## Round 11 RESULTS

- Sydney FC 5 v Central Coast Mariners 2
- Adelaide United 0 Wellington Phoenix 0
- Western Sydney Wanderers 1 Melbourne Victory 2
- Melbourne City 2 Newcastle Jets 1
- Brisbane Roar 2 Perth Glory 4



## Round 12 FIXTURES

- Tuesday 8th January
- Western Sydney Wanderers v Wellington Phoenix – ANZ Stadium 7:50pm
- Wednesday 9th January
- Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory – Coopers Stadium 7:50pm
- Perth Glory v Sydney FC – HBF Park 10pm



Melbourne Victory have cancelled the membership of one of the club's supporters following an unsavoury social media post directed at Western Sydney Wanderers player Tarek Elrich after Saturday night's Hyundai A-League clash between the two clubs.

In a statement released by the club on Sunday afternoon, Victory revealed they identified the person involved was a club member and acted swiftly.

«**In collaboration** with Western Sydney Wanderers management and Football Federation Australia, Melbourne Victory conducted an investigation, which determined the person involved was a Melbourne Victory member,» the statement read.

«**Melbourne Victory** as a club is proud to promote inclusivity, and we strongly condemn the action of the person involved.

«**Following communication** and consultation with this person, the club has today resolved to cancel their membership with immediate effect.

«**We intend** to offer the person involved support and further education.»

**Victory prevailed** 2-1 over the Wanderers at ANZ Stadium, thanks to two goals from Swedish striker Ola Toivonen.

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Perth Glory	11	8	2	1	24	12	12	26
2	Melbourne V	11	7	2	2	24	12	12	23
3	Sydney FC	11	7	2	2	23	13	10	23
4	Melbourne City	11	6	2	3	15	10	5	20
5	Adelaide United	11	4	4	3	14	13	1	16
6	Wellington	11	4	4	3	14	13	1	16
7	Newcastle Jets	12	3	3	6	13	17	-4	12
8	WSW	11	2	3	6	12	20	-8	9
9	Brisbane Roar	12	1	4	7	15	25	-10	7
10	CC Mariners	11	0	2	9	10	29	-19	2