



By George Stavroulakis

## SIMON: WE STICK TOGETHER! IT'S NO LESS THAN WE DESERVE

The heart and soul of the Central Coast Mariners, Matt Simon cut a very relieved figure after his side defeated Melbourne City 2-1 in Gosford, snapping an 18-match winless streak.

**It was** 11th heaven for the Mariners, as Mike Mulvey's side finally broke a 10 game losing streak, and an 18 match winless streak that was fast approaching a year, thanks to goals from Connor Pain and Matt Simon.

**Once again,** the Mariners came out firing and their two finest players this season - Matt Millar and Connor Pain - combined to give the Gosford side the opener.

**City struck** back with a fine header from sub Lachy Wales, the young Aussie beginning to find his scoring touch for Warren Joyce's side, but a late challenge from Rostyn Griffiths with only a few minutes on the clock sent Matt Simon to the spot, the captain converting at the second time of asking.

**Unsurprisingly the** Mariners remain last,

although now sit only two points off Brisbane Roar with five on the tally, while Melbourne City remain in fourth a solitary point above Wellington Phoenix.

**"The last 12** games have been very tough," Simon said. "But every day at training, it doesn't feel like we haven't won. Tonight is no less than we deserve, that's for sure.

**"(Negative) things** creep in, but you get this result and it proves that we can beat anyone on our day. It goes to show, game management when you have to, you stick to plan and we'll take the three points.

**"It's all** about belief, winning is a habit. We've got to put it in the player's heads, it proves if you stick together, there were periods of the game where they were getting on top and you think, here we go again, but we pulled through."

## JACK DUNCAN .. THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN GOALKEEPER

Jack Duncan has become the second Australian goalkeeper in the past month to suffer a concussion playing in the Saudi Arabian Pro League.



**The 25-year-old** former Newcastle Jets keeper had to be replaced at half-time with concussion in Al Qadisiyah's 3-1 win over Al Raed over the weekend.

**FTBL understands** Duncan is now fine and hopeful of playing in his side's next league match against Al Faisaly on Friday.

**Duncan has** been in good form for the midtable Saudi club where he plays alongside ex-Perth Glory and Melbourne Victory defender Rhys Williams.

**The concussion** follows a nasty head injury to Socceroos goalkeeper Brad Jones earlier this month playing for Al Nassr.

**Jones collided** with a teammate and was left unconscious on the field, before being rushed to hospital in Al Nassr's 2-0 loss to Al Ahli.

**The 36-year-old** has returned to training but has had to miss his side's past two league matches and the recent Socceroos camp as he overcomes the symptoms.



**Former Mariner** Lachy Wales almost stole the limelight against the club that gave him his big break, but was full of admiration for the Mariners' performance, if not a little disappointed in his own.

**"It just** wasn't good enough from us," he said. "We were too slow out of the blocks.

Second half we played all over them but that's football, you switch off and it undoes our hard work.

**"Credit to** the Mariners, they've been doing it tough. It meant a lot to come back here, I owe them a lot."

## A-League Latest Results

Central Coast Mariners - Melbourne City 2-1  
Brisbane Roar - Melbourne Victory 0-5



### A-LEAGUE - Table

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	13	32	10	2	1	31	16	15
2	Melbourne Victory	14	29	9	2	3	31	15	16
3	Sydney FC	13	26	8	2	3	26	17	9
4	Melbourne City	13	23	7	2	4	17	12	5
5	Wellington Phoenix	13	22	6	4	3	20	17	3
6	Adelaide United	13	19	5	4	4	17	15	2
7	Newcastle Jets	13	12	3	3	7	14	19	-5
8	WS Wanderers	13	9	2	3	8	17	27	-10
9	Brisbane Roar	14	7	1	4	9	15	31	-16
10	Central Coast Mariners	13	5	1	2	10	14	33	-19

### A - LEAGUE 14 ROUND

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEDT)
Friday, 18 January 2019	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Adelaide United	ANZ Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 19 January 2019	Sydney FC	Newcastle Jets	Jubilee Stadium	5:35PM
Saturday, 19 January 2019	Melbourne City FC	Perth Glory	AAMI Park	7:50PM
Sunday, 20 January 2019	Melbourne Victory	Wellington Phoenix	AAMI Park	5:00PM
Sunday, 20 January 2019	Central Coast Mariners	Brisbane Roar FC	Central Coast Stadium	7:00PM