

## ASIAN CUP 2019

# Socceroos - Syria 3-2 & Progress to Round of 16

AUSTRALIA HAVE SECURED THEIR SPOT IN THE ASIAN CUP KNOCKOUT ROUNDS WITH A WONDER STRIKE BY TOM ROGIC.

**The Celtic midfielder smacked home a right-footed winner from outside the area to secure a 3-2 win for Australia over Syria in Al Ain.**

**Victory means** Australia finish second behind Jordan in their group and will face either Uzbekistan or Japan in a second-round clash in Al Ain next Monday.

**Australia had** earlier twice taken the lead over the Syrians through Awer Mabil and Chris Ikonomidis but were pegged back by strikes from Syria's big guns Omar Kharbin and Omar Al-Soma.

**Mabil gave** Australia the first-half lead with a peach of strike in the 41st minute.

**The 23-year-old** was released by a quick free-kick in the middle of the field and curled a left-foot finish from outside the box into the far corner of Syria's net.

**Within two** minutes Syria were level, however, when Kharbin reacted quickest after Mat Ryan had saved his header to slam the ball home.

**The Syrians** were left fuming in the 54th minute when Ikonomidis restored Australia's lead.

**The Perth** Glory star's effort was cleared off the line by Syria's Omro Al Midani but Mexican referee Cesar Ramos correctly ruled the ball had crossed the line.

**There were** further howls of protest by the Syrians minutes later when Socceroos captain Mark Milligan appeared to handle inside the area after mis-controlling the ball.

**It was** Australia's turn to shake their heads in the 80th minute when Ramos awarded them a penalty.

**Al Soma** had fallen inside the area after being tripped by his own player, but Ramos belatedly decided there had been a foul.

**The Qasloun** Eagles pressed for a winner in the dying minutes in an attempt to leapfrog Australia into second place.

**After repelling** multiple Syrian attacks, Rogic's classy finish in the 93rd minute settled the match.

**I'm going** to bring that to a wrap here.

**In summary,** the Socceroos had to hold on desperately to hold out a spirited Syria 3-2.

**It was** tense, it was desperate but the defending Asian Cup champions march on.

**Join us** again for the next clash, when the Socceroos meet either Uzbekistan or Japan in Al Ain on January 21.

## Asian Cup Table Group B

	TEAMS	MP	W	D	L	G	PTS
1.	Jordan	3	2	1	0	3:0	7
2.	Australia	3	2	0	1	6:3	6
3.	Palestine	3	0	2	1	0:3	2
4.	Syria	3	0	1	2	2:5	1



Awer Mabil gave the Socceroos the lead with a stunning left foot goal



Australia's midfielder Christopher Ikonomidis, top, duels for the ball with Syria's defender Omro Al Midani during the AFC Asian Cup group B soccer match between Australia and Syria at the Khalifa bin Zayed Stadium in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019.