



By George Stavroulakis

NOT NEWS, BUT OFFICIAL: BRUNO SIGNS FOR GLORY

The A-League's latest open secret became official today when our of favour Melbourne City marquee formally signed for Perth Glory on a two year deal.

The **Uruguayan** star moves after establishing himself as one of the A-League's most prolific goalscorers during a three-and-a-half-season stint with Melbourne City.

The **31-year-old** scored a remarkable 46 goals in 70 A-League appearances, claimed the Golden Boot and made the PFA Team of the Season in 2015/16 and reached the 30-goal mark quicker than any other player in the competition's history.

But he fell out of favour with City coach Warren Joyce at the start of this season and was forced out after being sidelined despite City's struggles in front of goal.

Now **Fornaroli**, who previously played for Sampdoria and Panathinaikos, says he is excited at the prospect of starting afresh again at Glory.

"Tony (Popovic) said that there is a project here at Glory and that they want to play better than now and do better next season," he said. "I believe in the project and I believe in the coach and that's why I'm here. I'm where I want to be and this is the most important thing for me.

"I'm very happy to be here."

Glory owner and Chairman Tony Sage said the significance of Fornaroli's arrival could not be overstated.

"The signing of Bruno is another strong statement of intent in terms of our ambition to bring sustained success to Perth Glory," he said.

"Players with his great goalscoring pedigree are always in huge demand and we beat off stiff competition from a host of clubs from all over the world to sign him."

Pignata hope the recruitment of one of the competition's most exciting and highest-profile players will delight the club's fan base.

"I'm sure that all of our members and fans will be hugely excited to see Bruno lining up in purple next term," he said.

"He made it very clear that he wanted to be a part of what we are in the process of creating here at Glory and it is fantastic to have him on board."

Glory Football Director Jacob Burns added his praise for owner Tony Sage making the deal happen



"It is testament to our Chairman and Owner's commitment to Perth Glory that he has made it possible for the club to secure Bruno's services," he said.

"He has been one of the Hyundai A-League's most prolific and complete forwards over the

last few years and we look forward to him playing a key role for us next season and beyond." Fornaroli has been allocated the number 10 shirt for next season and could make his debut in the club's prestige friendly against Manchester United at Optus Stadium on July 13.

'This is only 50%': Olyroos thrash Cambodia

Graham Arnold's Olyroos side have kicked off their AFC U/23 Championship qualifiers in style, battering Cambodia's U/23's 6-0 in Phnom Penh.

The **Aussie** U/23 team never looked troubled by Cambodia, who were trained in the lead up by their senior national team's head coach and Melbourne Victory star, Keisuke Honda.

A **squad** peppered with A-League talent shot off the mark on the 21st minute through Aiden O'Neill, before the floodgates opened and Joey Champness, Riley McGree and Brandon Wilson all netted before halftime.

Pierce Waring added a fifth in the second half, before Champness scored his second to round out a dominant performance.

"It's a great start to the tournament for us," Arnold told the media following the match.

"Keisuke Honda has got them playing in a way that they believe that they can be successful and we had to be at our best."

"We worked extremely hard and the boys for the second [international] game that they have been together in these conditions worked exceptionally well.

"I truly believe that that this about fifty per cent of where we will end up. We have another game in two days [against

Chinese Taipei] and then we will be ready for Korea Republic."

Australia can qualify for the 2020 AFC U/23 Championship if they finish first in their group with Cambodia, Chinese Taipei and Korea Republic.

The **four** best second-placed teams also qualify, while there is further wiggle room should hosts and automatic qualifiers Thailand finish in a qualifying place.

Upcoming Matches | Australia U-23 National Team

Chinese Taipei U-23 v Australia U-23 (2020 AFC U-23 Championship Qualification – Group H)

Date: Sunday, 24 March 2019

Venue: Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Kick-off: 5.00pm (local); 9.00pm (AEDT)

Korea Republic U-23 v Australia U-23 (2020 AFC U-23 Championship Qualification – Group H)

Date: Tuesday, 26 March 2019

Venue: Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Kick-off: 5.00pm (local); 9.00pm (AEDT)

