



By George Stavroulakis

SYDNEY FC HELD TO 3-3 DRAW IN ACL THRILLER

Siem De Jong (C) scored early in Sydney FC's 3-3 Asian Champions League draw with Shanghai SIPG.

Defensive lapses proved costly and have left Sydney FC battling to advance from their Asian Champions League group after surrendering the lead three times in a thrilling 3-3 draw with China's Shanghai SIPG.

Substitute Alex Brosque looked to have earned the Sky Blues their first win in three games with an 84th minute tap in at Sydney's Jubilee Oval on Wednesday.

But former Chelsea star Oscar set up Brazilian compatriot and man of the match Elkeson for an 89th-minute equaliser.

Between them, Oscar and fellow Brazilian international and SIPG captain Hulk set up all three of Shanghai's goals.

The result leaves Sydney with two points and bottom of their four-team group with two of their three remaining games away from home.

"I'm disappointed with the point, but pleased with the performance," Corica said.

"I think a lot of people didn't expect us to get anything out of this game tonight and I think we proved a lot of people wrong."

Sydney produced one of their most fluent attacking displays of the season, but were punished for defensive lapses.

"A little bit sloppy with the three goals, we didn't defend crosses very well, we planned to get more numbers out in wide areas to stop those balls coming in," Corica said.

An action-packed first half produced four goals with marquee Siem de Jong

putting the Sky Blues ahead in the third minute, when his shot deflected off a visiting player.

Oscar gave the home side a warning when he was put through, but his lob over Sydney goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne also cleared the crossbar.

The playmaker then turned provider in the 27th minute when his left-wing cross was headed in by Lu Wenjun.

Sydney regained the lead when English striker Adam Le Fondre blasted a penalty into the roof of the net after a handball call against He Guan.

The lead lasted just five minutes when Hulk's right wing cross was headed home by Yu Hai.

SIPG created the chances early in the second half but Sydney had most of the opportunities in the final third of the game, despite losing left-back Michael Zullo, who is expected to miss Saturday's Sydney A-League derby, to injury.

Iranian Reza Ghoochannejhad had two attempts saved and was wide with another and substitute Milos Ninkovic put another shot over the bar.

SIPG coach Vitor Pereira also rued some sloppy defending and said he had problems replacing important players in defence after halftime.

"The first half we created situations to score four or five goals but two mistakes and we conceded two goals," Pereira said.

"The second half we faced new problems and we have to fight for the result with character and spirit."



A LEAGUE Results 24 ROUND

Central Coast Mariners - Perth Glory 0-3
Adelaide United - Wellington Phoenix 3-1
Sydney FC - Melbourne Victory 2-1
Newcastle Jets - WS Wanderers 3-2
Melbourne City - Brisbane Roar 4-1



A - LEAGUE Table 24 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	24	54	16	6	2	50	22	28
2	Sydney FC	24	48	15	3	6	41	26	15
3	Melbourne Victory	24	44	13	5	6	47	30	17
4	Wellington Phoenix	24	37	10	7	7	42	34	8
5	Adelaide United	24	37	10	7	7	31	29	2
6	Melbourne City	24	36	10	6	8	32	29	3
7	Newcastle Jets	24	29	8	5	11	32	34	-2
8	WS Wanderers	24	23	6	5	13	40	49	-9
9	Brisbane Roar	24	15	3	6	15	32	59	-27
10	Central Coast Mariners	24	10	2	4	18	27	62	-35

Next Round 25 Round

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEST)
Friday, 12 April 2019	Brisbane Roar FC	Wellington Phoenix	Suncorp Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 13 April 2019	Melbourne City FC	Adelaide United	AAMI Park	5:35PM
Saturday, 13 April 2019	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Sydney FC	ANZ Stadium	7:50PM
Sunday, 14 April 2019	Melbourne Victory	Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	5:00PM
Sunday, 14 April 2019	Perth Glory	Newcastle Jets	nib Stadium	7:00PM

ULTRA FOOTBALL NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

TEAM OF THE WEEK


LAMBERTON


PAYNE


PAVLOVIC


CALLAHAN


BICZO


TRIFIRO


PARKHOUSE


SPERANZA


GALIMI


DJORDJEVIC


MITCHELL

ROUND 05
#NPLNSW