

nsw



By George Stavroulakis

Perth Glory claim their first Hyundai A-League Premiership

Perth Glory have claimed their first Hyundai A-League Premiership following their 1-0 victory over the Newcastle Jets this evening.

In front of 11,349 supporters at HBF Park, a second half strike from defender Ivan Franjic helped lift Tony Popovic's side to a narrow victory over the Novocastrians.

Last night Sydney FC's hopes of claiming the Hyundai A-League 2019 Premiership suffered a blow after they drew 1-1 with Western Sydney Wanderers FC in the Sydney Derby at ANZ Stadium.

And with Perth winning in the west this evening, the Glory can no longer be caught by the Sky Blues atop the Hyundai A-League 2018/19 standings.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) Chairman Chris Nikou congratulated Perth Glory on their achievement.

"Perth Glory are a proud club with a proud history and are definitely deserved Hyundai A-League Premiers following their outstanding season," Nikou said.

"Glory won two Premierships in the National Soccer League era, however this is their first in the Hyundai A-League and I am sure everyone involved with their Club will be thrilled with the achievement.

"We congratulate Perth Glory Head Coach Tony Popovic, his coaching staff, captain Diego Castro and all the players for their outstanding performances throughout the Hyundai A-League 2018/19 season.

"We also congratulate Perth Glory Owner and Club Chairman Tony Sage, someone who has invested significantly into the Glory over a long period of time, and recognise Chief Executive Officer Tony Pignata and the Perth Glory support staff for their efforts and contributions to help this team claim their first Hyundai A-League Premiership.

"I am sure that Perth Glory will be looking to add the Hyundai A-League Championship Trophy to their collection as we enter the Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series in a few weeks' time," he said.

The Hyundai A-League 2018/19 Premiers Plate was presented to Perth Glory at the conclusion of their round 25 win over Newcastle Jets.

Perth Glory will host their Hyundai A-League 2019 Semi Final on Friday 10 May at HBF Park against the lowest ranked winner from the Hyundai A-League 2019 Elimination Finals the previous week. Tickets for the match will go on sale to Perth Glory Platinum members from Monday, 29 April with the Football Family and General Public on-sale from Tuesday, 7 May (see www.a-league.com.au/tickets for further details).

The Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series will be broadcast live on FOX SPORTS, 10 Bold, and the My Football Live App, Live, Fast and Data Free for Telstra mobile customers.

Hyundai A-League Premiers

Season	Premiers
2005/06	Adelaide United
2006/07	Melbourne Victory
2007/08	Central Coast Mariners
2008/09	Melbourne Victory
2009/10	Sydney FC
2010/11	Brisbane Roar FC
2011/12	Central Coast Mariners
2012/13	Western Sydney Wanderers FC
2013/14	Brisbane Roar FC
2014/15	Melbourne Victory
2015/16	Adelaide United
2016/17	Sydney FC
2017/18	Sydney FC
2018/19	Perth Glory



A LEAGUE Results 25 ROUND

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



A - LEAGUE Table 25 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	25	57	17	6	2	51	22	29
2	Sydney FC	25	49	15	4	6	42	27	15
3	Melbourne Victory	25	47	14	5	6	49	31	18
4	Adelaide United	25	38	10	8	7	31	29	2
5	Wellington Phoenix	25	37	10	7	8	43	36	7
6	Melbourne City	25	37	10	7	8	32	29	3
7	Newcastle Jets	25	29	8	5	12	32	35	-3
8	WS Wanderers	25	24	6	6	13	41	50	-9
9	Brisbane Roar	25	18	4	6	15	34	60	-26
10	Central Coast Mariners	25	10	2	4	19	28	64	-36

Reddy: '18 years and it's my first trophy. Worth it'

18 years, seven A-League clubs and a maiden A-League Premiership. But it's all been worth it for the league's most storied goalkeeper.

From NSL heavyweights to A-League perennial underachievers, Perth Glory have finally won a piece of A-League silverware and they've done it in sensational style.

It was ultimately a dominant win, if not entirely without its shaky moments. An unlikely hero in Ivan Franjic emerged to notch the only goal in a 1-0 win, but there was one unheralded A-League icon who spoke emotionally after the match.

«It's fantastic, 18 years I've been playing and it's the first trophy I've won but it's been worth it,» Liam Reddy said.

«The fans all deserve it here and we've got one more trophy to win. With the boss coming in, he's very defensive oriented, he set it in stone from pre-

season.»

From A-League stalwarts to overnight success stories, Joel Chianese has been a sensation this season under new Perth coach Tony Popovic and said that while they'll enjoy the trophy, the hard work is only just beginning.

«We've got no energy left, we threw it all into that game in front of an awesome crowd again,» Chianese said.

«The fans have been asking for that for a while, we've had a lot of talent without the results, so we're going to sink it all in.

«With this boss if you play well, you'll get your chance and if you keep playing well you'll stay in. He's given me a lot of confidence. It's always nice to wrap it up now, we'll enjoy it tonight but the boss will make sure we finish the season well.

«Momentum is so important in Australian football.»

Next Round 26 Round

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEST)
Thursday, 18 April 2019	Sydney FC	Perth Glory	Sydney Cricket Ground	7:50PM
Friday, 19 April 2019	Adelaide United	Melbourne Victory	Coopers Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 20 April 2019	Brisbane Roar FC	Newcastle Jets	Suncorp Stadium	5:35PM
Saturday, 20 April 2019	Central Coast Mariners	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Central Coast Stadium	7:50PM
Sunday, 21 April 2019	Wellington Phoenix	Melbourne City FC	Westpac Stadium	5:00PM