



By George Stavroulakis

The moment Tony Popovic gives his son, 17-year-old Kristian, his A-League debut



'Proud' Popovic praises Perth as 17-year-old son Kristian makes debut

Glory displayed their depth with a very competitive display despite Popovic making six changes to the side which started in their Premier's Plate-clinching win over Newcastle Jets just four days earlier.

Matthew Spiranovic, Dino Djulbic and Andy Keogh were rested, while Jason Davidson and Juande were injured and Diego Castro played just the second half of Thursday's game at Kogarah's Jubilee Oval.

Sydney had outscored Perth 19-1 in winning their last five home games against them, but were made to fight hard before securing a second victory in their three league clashes with Glory this season.

«I think what we saw today is how far we've come as a football club.» Popovic said. «Sydney FC is a fantastic club, a fantastic team and you get the ultimate respect by them sitting off and wanting to sit in their block and play on the counter, play in transition.

«I'm not sure that Perth has ever seen that happen to them against Sydney FC in the past. «When you consider the great record that Sydney FC has against Perth, they usually dominate and take the game to Perth at home.

«We didn't get the result we wanted, but I think overall we gained a lot from the performance, and also the minutes that players have gained, which gives them a chance to be ready for what's ahead.»

Sydney tighten grip on second with win over Glory

Chris Harold got his first senior minutes of the season, Jake Italiano played his first A-League game in three months and other fringe players Brendon Santalab, Fabio Ferreira and Jake Brimmer also got valuable time. Popovic brought this son Kristian off the bench with 15 minutes to go and the young midfielder turned in a good cameo performance. «I'm very proud of him,» Popovic said.

«As a coach I can say that he grew into the game and almost set up a chance for Ivan (Franjic) and the longer it went he looked like he belonged more and more.»

Glory have completed their away fixtures for the season and will play their last round game against Wellington at home followed by a major semi-final and possibly grand final in Perth.

«We won't be travelling anymore that's key for us,» Popovic said.

He expected Juande, Davidson and Socceroo forward Chris Ikonomidis, to return from injury for the match against Wellington Phoenix on Sunday week.



A LEAGUE Results 26 ROUND

Wellington Phoenix- Melbourne City 3-2
 Central Coast Mariners - WS Wanderers 3-1
 Brisbane Roar - Newcastle Jets 1-6
 Adelaide United - Melbourne Victory 1-0
 Sydney FC - Perth Glory 1-0



A - LEAGUE Table 26 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	26	57	17	6	3	51	23	28
2	Sydney FC	26	52	16	4	6	43	27	16
3	Melbourne Victory	26	47	14	5	7	49	32	17
4	Adelaide United	26	41	11	8	7	32	29	3
5	Wellington Phoenix	26	40	11	7	8	46	38	8
6	Melbourne City	26	37	10	7	9	34	32	2
7	Newcastle Jets	26	32	9	5	12	38	36	2
8	WS Wanderers	26	24	6	6	14	42	53	-11
9	Brisbane Roar	26	18	4	6	16	35	66	-31
10	Central Coast Mariners	26	13	3	4	19	31	65	-34

Next Round 27 Round

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEST)
Thursday, 25 April 2019	Brisbane Roar FC	Adelaide United FC	Suncorp Stadium	2:00PM
Friday, 26 April 2019	Melbourne City FC	Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	7:50PM
Saturday, 27 April 2019	Newcastle Jets	Sydney FC	McDonald Jones Stadium	5:35PM
Saturday, 27 April 2019	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Melbourne Victory FC	ANZ Stadium	7:50PM
Sunday, 28 April 2019	Perth Glory FC	Wellington Phoenix FC	nib Stadium	7:00PM