



Milicic unveiled as Macarthur FC's inaugural Hyundai A-League coach

Ante Milicic has been confirmed as the inaugural coach of new Hyundai A-League club Macarthur FC.



On a massive day for the club – who also unveiled their official name, colours and logo – Milicic was presented as the man to spearhead the club when they enter the competition for the 2020/21 Season.

“Being an expansion team and being given the opportunity to be the inaugural coach is something massive, just to be given the trust to take the team forward,” Milicic said at a function at Campbelltown Catholic Club on Wednesday.

“The timing was right for me, particularly the last five years with the various national team age groups that I have had...its been a lot of experience.

“There’s been a lot of World Cups and Asians Cups, now is the right time for me to get back into full-time football and be the head coach of this new club.

“This is a great opportunity to come back home to come to an expansion club that has some really good plans and a lot of excitement around them.

“There’s a lot of positivity around and I really can’t look any further than that. It’s something I’m really pleased to be part of.”

Milicic is the current coach of the Westfield Matildas and will remain focused on those commitments until the conclusion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games campaign, after signing an extension to his current deal last Friday.

The 45-year-old – a former Caltex Socceroos assistant coach – is all set to lead the Westfield Matildas to next month’s FIFA Women’s World Cup in France, naming a 23-player squad for the tournament on Tuesday.

While he will juggle his commitments with the Westfield Matildas and the early stages of getting things set up with Macarthur FC, Milicic insists he’ll do everything possible to get things right on and off the park.

“I’m looking forward to setting everything up post the Olympics with the Matildas and it’s just important we get the right people in,” he said.

“They need to have the right values and a good culture there. That’s the most important thing, especially when you are part of a start-up club.”

Police controversy after fan appears to be evicted for 'taking disabled daughter to closest toilet'

A controversial video has emerged from Sydney FC’s 6-1 win over Melbourne Victory, appearing to show a Sydney fan getting evicted by the police. The fan, who has been identified as notable Sydney supporter and commentator Rory Carroll, was allegedly evicted by police and stadium security for attempting to take his daughter, who suffers from a physical disability, to the nearest stadium toilet. The eviction may have been triggered by taking a photo of police and security inside the ground. It is unclear at this stage whether Carroll may have violated stadium protocol, or whether his eviction was forced, however there have been many publicised accounts of overbearing security and police at A-League matches, stretching over several seasons. A statement from stadium security or NSW police hasn’t been issued yet.

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2019 GRAND FINAL

The Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series is here and it’s time to feel the finals.

- **Date:** Sunday 19 May 2019
- **Fixture:** Perth Glory v Sydney FC
- **Venue:** Optus Stadium, Perth
- **Kick-off Time:** 4:30pm (AWST)
- **Be** there to experience the emotion of finals football and help your team become the Hyundai A-League 2019 Champions!
- **Every** moment matters, every shot, save, tackle and pass in the Finals Series has the potential to determine your club’s ultimate victory or defeat.
- **Watch** as the heroes of the Hyundai A-League put it all on the line striving to become champions.

Broadcast Information

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

Watch the Hyundai A-League live

- **FOX SPORTS** will show all matches of the Hyundai A-League 2018/19 Season and Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series live.
- **Network** Ten will broadcast one Saturday night match a week and the Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series live.
- **All** Hyundai A-League 2018/19 and Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series matches will also be available on the MyFootball Live App, Live Fast and Data Free for Telstra mobile customers.
- **Download** the My Football Live app now from the App Store for iOS and Google Play for Android

Is this the real Grand Final winner...

There’s a whole new battle in Australian football, but it’ll be fought behind the scenes at the 2019 A-League Grand Final.

Optus have a very short history in Australian sport. They weren’t branding the goalposts when Wollongong Wolves famously pipped the Glory back in 2000 and Bridgey wasn’t commentating when Steve Corica lifted the inaugural Championship in 2005. But their rise to significance, especially in the way Australians consume football, has been little short of meteoric.

While most conversations leading up to this weekend are (quite rightly) focusing on whether the glory days will return to Perth or Tony Popovic’s final hoodoo will bottle it again, one underlying winner is already emerging.

Their broadcasting rights of the UEFA Champions League and Premier League have been a resounding success, sending a shockwave through Foxtel subscriptions and Fox Sports’ A-League ratings as a result.

According to the always-thrilling Australian Financial Review, the organisation’s sports streaming accounted for roughly 100,000 more Optus subscriptions in the quarter leading up to June last year than Telstra.

For a young and occasionally error-riddled service, Optus Sport’s ratings have been dramatic – last Sunday’s EPL decider accounted for a 100% increase in viewership and 50% increase in subscriptions.

This has ran directly parallel to plummeting television A-League ratings on the pay-tv network – from an average high of over 74,000 in 2012/13 to around 33,000 in 2018/19.

Not that Foxtel’s own subscription service, Kayo, isn’t providing some competition: already enlisting about 200,000 of us by February and boasting the AFL, NRL and NBA rights that Optus could only dream of.

While streaming on Kayo and Telstra may have played a part, the bigger issue is more likely a drop off in football fan customers for Foxtel when they lost the rights to the EPL.

Even despite Optus’ World Cup buffering fiasco last year, it hasn’t stopped their streaming service from building a strong content base on top of strong figures, enlisting the likes of Mark Schwarzer, Ned Zelic and an aforementioned Newcastle Jets’ old boy

along the way.

This has helped them avoid the pitfalls of appealing to a globalised Australian football market without isolating rusted on domestic football fans entirely.

Now they’ve racked up another win out of nowhere: the last serious vestige of Fox Sports’ Australian football coverage, the A-League Grand

Final, an event that outdoes any match on Optus Sport for publicity and widespread media coverage, will be hosted at Optus Stadium.

Just a little jab in the ribs for Foxtel and 35% shareholder Telstra, in the wake of news of huge debts and expected sweeping cuts in the future TV rights deals for the pay-TV giants.

With a reported 50,000 tickets already lapped up, it’s promising to be a resounding success out West and another foundation laid for the stadium’s upcoming marquee football fixtures: Leeds United and Manchester United will play there in July.

More significantly, it also sets the stage for what promises to be the most important football event of the year, the Women’s World Cup in June (also broadcast by Optus).

It’s becoming increasingly clear that the future of sports broadcasting is in streaming, with the telcos already cornering the market.

But in the most saturated and fragmented sporting market on earth, where every millimetre.

