

nsw



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A-League Grand Final

Sydney FC - Perth Glory 4-1 on penalties

GLORY FOR SYDNEY IN A-LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Sydney FC are the A-League Champions after beating Perth Glory 4-1 on penalties in the grand final at Optus Stadium.

Sydney goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne was the hero, saving penalties from Andy Keogh and Brendon Santalab in the shootout.

The match, attended by a record A-League grand final crowd of 56,371, was the first decider in eight years to be goalless at full-time.

Sky Blues playmaker Milos Ninkovic was named Man of the Match.

Andrew Redmayne was the penalty shootout hero for Hyundai A-League 2019 Champions Sydney FC, who beat Perth Glory 4-1 on penalties to win Sunday's Grand Final.

Redmayne made two shootout saves from Perth's Andy Keogh and Brendon Santalab after a tense, scoreless 120 minutes, leaving Reza Ghoochannejhad to dispatch the winning penalty for Steve Corica's men.

It is the third time the Sky Blues have beaten Premiers Perth this season, and is Sydney's fourth Grand Final win.

A Grand Final battle of attrition in WA was set in stone early on, and neither side could land an early blow despite Glory threatening via the aerial route, which saw Sky Blues goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne tip Dino Djulbic's header over the bar.

Sydney had worked the best opening of the encounter midway through the first half and had the ball in the net when Adam Le Fondre tucked Michael Zullo's centre past Perth shot stopper Liam Reddy after a near-post dart - only for the offside flag to rescue the hosts, much to the delight of the boisterous home crowd.

Sydney FC 'keeper Andrew Redmayne was the Grand Final hero

Another great Redmayne save kept another Glory header out following the interval, this time from Diego Castro, who forced the Sydney custodian into a smart reflex stop after an unmarked header at the near post.

The diminutive former La Liga veteran found himself the recipient of Perth's ongoing aerial assault shortly after, but this time, Castro's header was tame and comfortably gathered by Redmayne.

Popovic and Corica introduced attacking spark from the bench in the form of Andy Keogh and Reza Ghoochannejhad, but neither Perth's top scorer or Sydney's Iranian attacker could break the deadlock over the 90, or indeed 120 minutes.



KEY MOMENTS OF THE FINAL

Pre-match - Leading scorer Milos Ninkovic named on the bench in a surprise move. Perth Glory coach Tony Popovic given the chance to start on the away side.

27 min - Adam Le Fondre's opener ruled offside. Replays show the Sydney man might have just beaten the offside trap but it's seen as not obvious. Video assistant to overrule the decision.

52 min - Diego Castro forces a smart reflex stop from Redmayne with a header at the near post. Redmayne tips it over the bar.

91 min - Ivan Franjic dispatches a late set piece into the Sydney FC goal, sending the hosts into the lead.

117 min - Jason Davidson crosses for a Perth Glory player but ignores Diego Castro, crossing for a Perth Glory player unsuccessfully.



THE SHOOTOUT

Sydney FC 1-0 Perth Glory: Adam Le Fondre scores with a bullet-like effort.

Sydney FC 1-1 Perth Glory: Juande sends Andrew Redmayne the wrong way to save.

Sydney FC 2-1 Perth Glory: Brandon O'Neill just beats Liam Reddy down low with a bobbling effort.

Sydney FC 2-1 Perth Glory: Redmayne leaps to his right to deny Andy Keogh.

Sydney FC 3-1 Perth Glory: Rhyan Grant sends an effort high into the net.

Sydney FC 3-1 Perth Glory: Brendon Santalab attempts a Panenka but Redmayne doesn't move to save it.

Sydney FC 4-1 Perth Glory: Reza Ghoochannejhad strikes past Liam Reddy to send Sydney into jubilation.

LINE-UPS

PERTH GLORY: Liam Reddy; Jason Davidson, Shane Lowry, Mathew Spiranovic, Dino Djulbic, Ivan Franjic (91min Scott Neville); Juande, Neil Kilkenny (105min Jake Timmer); Joel Chianese (73min Andy Keogh), Chris Ikonomidis (115min Brendon Santalab), Diego Castro.

Coach: Tony Popovic

SYDNEY FC: Andrew Redmayne; Michael Zullo, Aaron Calver, Alex Wilkinson, Rhyan Grant; Brandon O'Neill, Josh Brillante, Milos Ninkovic; Alex Brosque (95min Reza Ghoochannejhad), Adam Le Fondre, Siem De Jong (78min Anthony Caceres).

Coach: Steve Corica