

# The Socceroos were beaten 1-0 by Korea Republic in Busan, but there were positives

**It may have been an experimental Socceroos side, but Graham Arnold's side more than held their own for much of the game against Korea Republic.**



**Though they** were eventually beaten 1-0 in front of a capacity crowd in Busan, there was plenty of promise as Arnold looks to test the depth of Australian football. **In the** end they were outdone by a lucky deflection that resulted in the only goal of the game, scored by Hwang Ui-jo in the 76th minute.

**South Korea** coach Paulo Bento sprung a surprise by starting Son Heung-min just five days after the Tottenham star played in the Champions League final against Liverpool, but it was the visitors who produced the real surprise in the first half.

**Graham Arnold** opted to rest several stars, including Maty Ryan, Aaron Mooy, Tom Rogic and Robbie Kruse, which meant Socceroos debuts for championship-winning Sydney FC duo Andrew Redmayne and Brandon O'Neill.

**Son Heung-min** started the match just five days after playing for Spurs in the Champions League

**By the** end of the first half the Koreans hadn't managed a single shot, while the Australians had four including Mitchell Duke's header that hit the woodwork.

**Duke, playing** his first Socceroos game since 2013, rose to meet O'Neill's deliciously whipped in corner, only to be denied by the post.

**The Western** Sydney Wanderers forward impressed, as did Mustafa Amini with his constant hustle in the midfield. O'Neill's set-piece delivery was a threat, while Rhyen Grant continues to excel on the national stage.

**Ryan Williams** and Brandon Borrello also made their debuts and Adam Taggart replaced Duke in the second half.

**Though the** Socceroos showed they weren't out of place, they still failed to find the back of the net in open play and Robbie Slater says it's an issue that continues to plague them.

**"The glaring** thing, and I think it's been quite apparent for some time, is our finishing," Slater said on Fox Sports.

**"That cutting** edge in the front third.

**"That's one** thing we're missing and we're searching for. It's difficult to find because overseas we haven't really got a great deal of No. 9's plying their trades in the top leagues and over here the No. 9 positions are taken up by foreigners."

## Marconi Stallions - Sydney FC 5-2

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