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By George Stavroulakis

## Tony Popovic.. “Proud of his team's defensive display”

Perth Glory coach Tony Popovic was proud of his team's defensive display after watching them put up stiff resistance in a 2-0 loss to Manchester United.

Perth Glory coach Tony Popovic was a proud man as his two teenage sons enjoyed a dream holiday present - game time against Manchester United.

**Seventeen-year-old Kristian** and 15-year-old Gabriel were introduced in the 76th minute of Glory's 2-0 loss to the Red Devils at Optus Stadium on Saturday night. Glory entered the match missing a host of their best players, forcing Popovic to draft a bunch of Academy members into his squad for the game against Manchester United. **Unlimited substitutions** meant Popovic had the ability to hand game time to a host of the club's emerging youth stars, with 15-year-old Joshua Rawlins another lucky youngster to taste action against United during the school holidays.

**The two** Popovic brothers have already impressed onlookers with their skill and maturity at Glory training.

**They each** scored a goal in a recent 3-0 friendly win over Bayswater City.

**Kristian also** notched two substitute

appearances with Glory during the last A-League season.

**Coach Popovic** said it was a proud moment to see his two sons play against Manchester United.

«**They came** on and I'm sure they'll remember it," he said.

«**For sure**, as a father you're proud to see that happen.

«**They're still** at the very baby steps of their football career. And like a lot of young aspiring players, whether they can get there or not - we'll see.

«**But certainly** they're boys that will give it their best. It was nice to see them out there."»

**Gabriel**, a mad Red Devils fan who already towers over most people despite being only 15, got to swap jumpers with England international Chris Smalling after the match.

**The brothers** still live at home, and said they were enjoying playing under their father.



«**He's a** father off the field, but coach on the field," Kristian said.

«**It's really** easy to be a player under him. There is that little bit of extra motivation that he is our coach."»

**Popovic also** had a nine-year-old son who is already impressing on the field.

**Glory were** forced to defend for long periods of Saturday's game, with Marcus Rashford's 60th-minute strike finally breaking the deadlock.

**James Garner** added the second in the 85th minute.

**When asked** whether he had ever coached a game where the ball had spent so much time in his defensive half, Popovic replied: "Did you expect anything different?"

«**It would** have been different if we opened up and made it an exhibition game.

«**The score** might have been seven, eight, nine, 10 - because they can score at any moment. We defended very well."»

## Man Utd send home sick assistant coach

Manchester United assistant coach Mark Dempsey has been told to return home early following his medical scare in Perth.

**Dempsey was** rushed to hospital on Friday after falling ill in the team hotel.

**An ambulance** arrived at the team's hotel - Crown Towers - before taking Dempsey to Royal Perth Hospital.

**Dempsey has** since been discharged, but the exact nature of the medical emergency remains a mystery.

**United will** take on Leeds United in Perth on Wednesday night, before their pre-season tour makes stops in China, Singapore, and Wales.

**But Dempsey** won't be part of it following his medical scare.

«**Mark's been** assessed and he's been discharged," United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

«**I've been** to see him today (Saturday). And together we've agreed that it's best that with the tour coming up that he'll return home now and rest and we'll see him when we come back."»

**Dempsey played** for Manchester United, Sheffield United, Rotherham United, and Macclesfield Town before switching his attention to coaching.

**The 55-year-old** is a valued member of Solskjaer's coaching panel at United.



## Robbie Fowler's still recruiting for Brisbane Roar

He's added 10 new faces as part of an overhaul of Brisbane's A-League squad but Roar coach Robbie Fowler says his recruitment isn't done yet.

**Fowler's legion** of lower-league British and Australian recruits made their first appearances on Saturday for their new club in a comfortable 3-0 pre-season win over NPL side Redlands United.

**Welsh striker** Aaron Amadi-Holloway was on the scoresheet, while George Mells, Tom Aldred and Aiden O'Neill were among those to turn out in front of more than 2000 fans at Roar's Logan training base.

**While he's** happy with the players at his disposal, Fowler says another new face is set to arrive at the club soon.

«**We've brought** the players in early because we wanted to galvanise," the Liverpool legend said.

«**We've got** someone coming in within the next week or so - won't say who it is - but I think, as a manager of a squad, you're always looking at what can maybe change. I'll be no different.»

**Roar will** continue their pre-season with four more fixtures including clashes with fellow A-League teams Newcastle and Perth on the Gold Coast, before a FFA Cup round-of-32 match against Sydney FC on August 7 at Leichhardt Oval.

