



By George Stavroulakis

→ NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN LEEDS AND MAN UTD

Leeds captain Liam Cooper says the strong rivalry between his club and Manchester United still exists, and there could be some spice on Wednesday night.

A bitter rivalry exists between the two English teams, with the hatred reaching a peak in the 1970s when fans regularly clashed.

So where did it all begin?

According to many, the hatred has its roots in the 1455-1487 Wars of the Roses, which was a series of bloody civil wars fought between the House of York and the House of Lancaster for the throne of England.

That rivalry then transferred to football, and is entrenched in Leeds and Red Devils fans.

Leeds' relegation from the English Premier League in 2004 means meetings between the two rivals have been scarce since then.

But the two sides will lock horns in Perth on Wednesday night in front of a crowd in excess of 50,000.

Leeds captain Liam Cooper said his club's rivalry with Manchester United still burns strong.

"Being a boy growing up in England, you always knew of the Man United and Leeds United - you can call it hatred back home," Cooper said.

"The games were always good games.

"For sure (it still exists). You feel it as a footballer, and you feel it as a fan. It will be exciting. I think it adds a bit more spice to the game."



When asked if there could be a bit of feistiness during Wednesday's clash, Cooper replied: "There could be. We'll see."

Leeds only narrowly missed out on promotion to the EPL last season after losing in a two-leg playoff to Derby County.

Cooper's team won the first leg 1-0 away, and were up 1-0 at home in the second leg before losing that game 4-2.

Leeds are desperate to atone for that failure this season.

"Losing out so late and so last minute it

was hard to swallow," Cooper said. "For the first two or three weeks it was on your mind. You couldn't forget about it.

"I think it's given the lads that extra firepower, the extra burn in the belly.

"We want to play this game (against Manchester United) in the Premier League. We don't want it to be a pre-season friendly. That's the desire of the group."

Manchester United beat Perth Glory 2-0 on Saturday night, with the EPL powerhouse changing their entire side at half-time.

Socceroo's ballistic form rockets him to K-League leader

Taggart has 11 goals in 18 matches for Suwon, who are now in the finals places – but without the Aussie dynamo, would likely be staring at relegation.

Taggart's phenomenal Korean form is a highpoint in the 26-year-old's career. Although he started for Australia in the 2014 World Cup, the powerful, mobile striker has failed to recreate his strong scoring form outside of the A-League.

Lean spells at Fulham and Dundee preceded another prolific A-League venture, where despite an injury-hit spell at Brisbane Roar, Taggart earned a move to the Korean club.

Now Taggart has finally hit his stride overseas, already earning rave reviews within the Korean media and propelling himself to the top of the K-League scoring charts.

The latest was an excellent poacher's effort, tucking away a rebound to double Suwon's lead in a 2-0 win against Sangju Sangmu.

Taggart's form puts him in prime position for the K-League All Star's match against Juventus, where he could go toe-to-toe against Cristiano Ronaldo.

While he's had to settle for a place on the bench for many of Suwon's matches despite his incredible scoring form, Taggart told The World Game that it's these sort of opportunities and challenges that the A-league simply cannot replicate.

"In the A-League, most teams have a starting XI and that's about it," he said.

"We have a big squad here and it's important to rotate to make sure everybody is fresh and motivated.

"All the young boys here are top-quality as well and there's huge competition for places. That's what you want really and it's what makes you a real player."

Graham Arnold, who selected Taggart to start in the Socceroos' last match, a 1-0 loss to South Korea in Seoul, will be hoping that the striker's current hot-streak can translate to national team level.

While Taggart's facing stiff competition at club level, striking options are few and far between for the national team, leaving Taggart a sole, if very promising, hope for upcoming World Cup qualifiers.

"If you go through your whole career with your place in the line-up unchallenged then, in my opinion, it's not exactly pushing you to become the best player," Taggart added.

"Footballers thrive on competition and I plan to keep pushing those boundaries until I can't push them anymore.

"I love it here and hope it's just the beginning. I think there's a lot more to come in all aspects."

NPL NSW 2019 MEN'S 1

Round 18 Results

Blacktown City - APIA Tigers 1-1
Manly United - Sydney Olympic 1-2
Wollongong Wolves -Hakoah Sydney1-0
Mt Druitt Rangers - Sydney United 0-0
Sydney FC Youth - Rockdale City Suns 3-1
Sutherland Sharks - Marconi Stallions 0-3

Next Games Round 19

20.07.2019

Marconi Stallions - Mt Druitt Rangers

21.07.2019

Wollongong Wolves - Sutherland Sharks

APIA Tigers - Sydney Olympic

Rockdale City Suns - Blacktown City

Hakoah Sydney - Manly United

Sydney United - Sydney FC Youth

Premier League NSW 1 Table 18 round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	18	42	13	3	2	45	14	31
2	APIA Tigers	18	35	10	5	3	35	23	12
3	Blacktown City	18	31	9	4	5	24	19	5
4	Sydney United	18	27	7	6	5	24	27	-3
5	Sydney Olympic	18	26	7	5	6	29	27	2
6	Marconi Stallions	18	23	7	2	9	35	27	8
7	Manly United	18	23	6	5	7	22	27	-5
8	Rockdale City Suns	18	23	7	2	9	21	33	-12
9	Sutherland Sharks	18	22	5	7	6	25	23	2
10	Mt Druitt Rangers	18	21	5	6	7	31	39	-8
11	Sydney FC Youth	18	17	5	2	11	28	43	-15
12	Hakoah Sydney	18	10	3	1	14	10	27	-17