



By George Stavroulakis

FFA Cup 2019 - Round of 32 Match

St George FC v Sydney United 58
Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2019
Venue: Ilinden Sports Centre, Sydney
Kick-off: 7.30pm AEST

With a proud history in Australian football, former National Soccer League juggernaut Sydney United 58 will be out to relive some former glories in the FFA Cup 2019.

United, who hail from Edensor Park in Sydney's west, have been crowned champions of Australia three times and are currently fourth in NPL New South Wales.

And the FFA Cup is a tournament they have a love affair with.

United have only missed the Round of 32 once in the competition's five-year history (2018), advancing to the Round of 16 on three occasions.

And facing a St George FC side which plays in NPL2 in NSW, another visit to the last 16 of the nation's biggest knockout competition is a distinct possibility.

The club that has helped nurture the likes of Caltex Socceroos greats Graham Arnold, Mark Bosnich, Tim Cahill, Mile Jedinak and Robbie Slater – just to name a few – would love to add the FFA Cup trophy to an already impressive honour roll.

Profile

Founded: 1958

Competition: National Premier Leagues New South Wales
Home ground: Sydney United Sports Centre, Edensor Park, NSW

Honours: NSW National Premier League Champions 2013, 2016



National Soccer League Premiers 1986, 1996/97, 1998/99
National Soccer League Cup Winners 1987
NSW State League Champions: 1977, 1982, 1983, 2006
NSW State League Premiers: 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 2009, 2013, 2016
Waratah Cup Winners 1995, 1996, 2005, 2015, 2016

History

The club has been synonymous with success ever since the Sydney United Football Club was formed in 1958, going through the old NSW Soccer Football Association season undefeated.

They were one of the powerhouses of the old National Soccer League, especially through the late 1980s and 90s, renowned for their scintillating attacking football.

United have remained a success into the NPL years, winning the title in 2013 and 2016, and are well-placed for another assault on the title this year heading into the final few rounds of the season.



Key Players

Peter Simonoski has been in sensational touch in front of goal this season, part of a pacy and powerful attack alongside Patrick Antelmi.

Former Central Coast Mariners midfielder Mat Sim is a reliable presence in the middle of the park, where skipper Glen Trifiro and Liam Rose also provide plenty of guile and ammunition for their attacking players.

Young goalkeeper Thomas Manos is maturing every season and is a formidable last line of defence for Miro Vlastelica's dangerous side.

Australia to face Jordan, Chinese Taipei, Kuwait, and Nepal in combined qualifiers

Australia will play Jordan, Chinese Taipei, Kuwait and Nepal in the first phase of their qualification journey to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

The official draw for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and AFC Asian Cup China 2023™ – Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 was held at AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday evening, and involved Socceroos great Tim Cahill as the draw's facilitator.

Australia will play eight matches - four at home & four away - between September 2019 and June 2020, and will need to finish as one of the eight group winners or four best runners-up to advance directly to the AFC Asian Cup 2023™ Finals as well as the next round of Asian qualifying for Qatar 2022.

Following the draw Socceroos Head Coach Graham Arnold welcomed Australia's path – one which will see his squad travel to a diverse set of nations across the vast Asian confederation.

"We are happy with our draw," Arnold said. "My first game in charge was in Kuwait City, and we won 4-0, so we have been there and experienced Kuwait as a group."

"There are two teams that we have drawn (Kuwait and Jordan) that we have experience against and two teams that we are not as familiar with. But we will do our due diligence and ensure that we take every game as it comes and respect each match."

"We have worked with 80 players across the Socceroos and Olyroos over the past year, so I believe with the depth that we have we are well positioned to deal with the qualifiers."

Groups – FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and AFC Asian Cup China 2023™ – Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
China	Australia	IR Iran	Saudi Arabia	Bangladesh	Japan	United Arab Emirates	Korea Republic
Syria	Jordan	Iraq	Uzbekistan	Oman	Kyrgyz Republic	Vietnam	Lebanon
Philippines	Chinese Taipei	Bahrain	Palestine	India	Tajikistan	Thailand	Korea DPR
Maldives	Kuwait	Hong Kong	Yemen	Afghanistan	Myanmar	Malaysia	Turkmenistan
Guam	Nepal	Cambodia	Singapore	Qatar	Mongolia	Indonesia	Sri Lanka

Probable Match Schedule – FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and AFC Asian Cup China 2023™ – Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2

Kuwait v Australia
Date: Tuesday, 10 September 2019

Australia v Nepal
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2019

Chinese Taipei v Australia
Date: Tuesday, 15 October 2019

Jordan v Australia
Date: Thursday, 14 November 2019

Australia v Kuwait
Date: Thursday, 26 March 2020

Nepal v Australia
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Australia v Chinese Taipei
Date: Thursday, 4 June 2020

Australia v Jordan
Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2020

Please note: All kick-off times and venues are to yet to be confirmed. Match schedule is based off current FIFA calendar and AFC competition scheduling.