



By George Stavroulakis

Andrew Nabbout return to Melbourne Victory

Socceroos striker Andrew Nabbout has made a surprise return to former club Melbourne Victory where he made his A-League debut six years ago.

Nabbout, 26, was a product of Melbourne Victory's youth team and made 46 appearances across all competitions for the club between 2012–2015.

The attacker now returns to Victory following a 16-month stint in Japan with J1 League giants Urawa Reds and having played for the Socceroos in Russia 2018 World Cup until he was forced out with a shoulder injury.

Nabbout is Marco Kurz's second signing since taking over at Victory, following Robbie Kruse's arrival on Tuesday.

The former Newcastle Jets striker today said it was the right move both personally and professionally.

"I'm delighted to be coming back to Melbourne Victory – this is a fantastic opportunity," said Nabbout.

"After speaking with the club and discussing with my wife, we thought it was the right time to return to Melbourne. On a personal level, my wife and I are expecting our first child in November so to be around family will give us a big boost of support.

"From a football perspective, I just can't wait to play.



nothing less from Victory and I'm very excited to be given the chance to work towards that."

Kurz said he was delighted to sign a player like Nabbout who he said bolsters Victory's squad on and off the pitch.

"We're thrilled to have secured Andrew Nabbout for this upcoming season," said Kurz.

"The club's expectations are clear in wanting to achieve success – I expect

"Andrew is a talented attacker who has had experience in the J-League, national team and as we know, previously in the A-League.

"It's important to find players that complement the squad in an on-pitch sense, but also ones who fit culturally – Andrew, as a former player at Victory, is another one who meets that brief.

"The squad is starting to take shape – we're excited with what is ahead."

Sydney FC head to China for PSG test

Sydney FC have flown out to China for Tuesday's pre-season clash with star-studded French glamour club Paris St-Germain, but it remains to be seen if they will face Neymar - the world's most expensive player.

The two teams clash in at the Suzhou Olympic Sports Centre on Tuesday night (10pm AEST kick-off). PSG will have already played three pre-season games before meeting the Sky Blues, who have had two wins over NPL NSW lower division teams. Sydney's strong 20-man squad includes a smattering of Socceroos, the core of their 2018-19 A-League winning team, and key off season signings Kosta Barbarouses, Alexander Baumjohann, Luke Brattan and Ryan McGowan. Brazilian star Neymar, who was reportedly seeking a move back to his former club Barcelona who he left for PSG in a world record transfer in 2017, didn't play in either of the French club's first two pre-season games. The club's website reported Neymar and Presnel Kimpembe remained in Shenzhen to follow individualised training programs, while the rest of the PSG squad prepared for Saturday's friendly match against Inter Milan in Macao. The two players worked through full 90-minute sessions comprising running and passing drills. If Neymar does play on Tuesday, he could line up against Sydney's Socceroo fullback Rhyan Grant. «It would be a good challenge, he's one of the best in the world, one of the most skilful,» Grant said on Saturday.

