



By George Stavroulakis

COULD POSTECOGLOU MANAGE AN EPL CLUB?

Third in J-League and with the accolades after an eye-catching display against Manchester City, Ange Postecoglou's reputation continues to rise in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Despite Saturday's surprise 1-0 loss to Shimizu S-Pulse, Postecoglou's Yokohama Marinos are still in with a title chance.

Postecoglou men are equal second on points with Kawasaki and six off leaders FC Tokyo as the J-League enters its final frantic few months.

Japanese football expert Dan Orlowitz believes Postecoglou's uncompromising approach to his daring, high-energy football has won over the locals after two seasons in Yokohama.

And with some squad strengthening, Postecoglou's side could easily give the Gas Men a run for their money in the title race.

"Ange Postecoglou has made the players in Yokohama believe in his system," Orlowitz tells FTBL.

"And that's the sort of thing that gets you a lot of respect as a foreign manager in Japan."

That respect has ramped up even further after Yokohama bossed Manchester City everywhere but on the scoreboard last week.

The J-League side lost 3-1 in Tokyo against Pep Guardiola's men in a City Football Group friendly.

But what impressed many was that the J-League side out-possessed the EPL champions, and had the same number of shots on target (13).

Ange's Japanese side pinned City back and made the English club look pretty ordinary, with only Kevin De Bruyne catching the eye for City.

Little wonder Guardiola liked what he saw from Ange's men.

"Yokohama played some incredible football and they were an incredible test for us. I knew how good they were and it was tough for us," City coach told the media after the game.

Now, if it wasn't before, Postecoglou's name has been marked as a potential future coach in Europe.

After conquering Australia and now Japan, there's little more he could achieve in this part of the world.

Could the Postecoglou Midas touch do it in Europe? Many would say yes.

At 53, with league titles, an Asian Cup trophy, and two

World Cup campaigns, you'd think he's ready.

An ambitious club challenging bigger EPL clubs could easily benefit from Postecoglou's vision and driven belief.

Before that, though, is the tough task of winning the J-League.

Orlowitz says it'll be tough, but not impossible for the man who believes that anything is possible.

"Right now, Ange's side do have some depth issues at the back, and this could be why they may fall out of title contention," he said.

"We'll see, but if they can get that sorted and find a replacement for Edigar Junio as soon as possible, an ACL spot is still very much in the realms of possibility."

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES SET FOR CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS THIS SATURDAY

This Saturday afternoon Bonnyrigg White Eagles host the Macarthur Rams in a massive match for the club itself.

This weekend marks the 33rd annual Serbian Folkloric Festival with football being at the centre of the celebrations at Bonnyrigg Sports Club. **In a** day that will offer rides, live music and great food and drink, it really promises to be a fun family day out.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles President Nikola Jugovic told Football NSW that he is expecting a massive turnout on Saturday night.

"We decided to change things up this year.

"We usually try to avoid home games on the festival weekend but thought this year it will be a great opportunity to bring the local community together and showcase not only our first grade but also the Serbian culture to the wider community."

The hosts are expecting one of its largest crowds in years and Jugovic along with his board and volunteers are preparing already.

"We're excited to host the event and a lot of planning has gone into it to make sure everyone enjoys the day."

Jugovic says that the first team's recent fine form under the guidance of Wayne O'Sullivan should be an added reason for people to come to the game.

"The first team has been on a great run and they've been scoring a lot of goals. I call on our fans to come and see the team in full flight."

FFA Cup Round 32 Results

*Brisbane Strikers	Wellington Phoenix 2-2 (p.4-2)
Melbourne Knights	Adelaide United* 2-5 (1-2)
Melbourne Victory	Newcastle Jets* 2-3 (1-0,2-2)
Sydney FC	Brisbane Roar* 0-2 (0-1)
Perth Glory	WS Wanderers 1-2

