



By George Stavroulakis

Caltex Socceroos – Ku

The Caltex Socceroos recorded their biggest ever FIFA World Cup qualifying win away to Middle Eastern opposition on Tuesday evening (local time) with Graham Arnold's charges securing a 3-0 victory over Kuwait at the Al Kuwait Sports Club Stadium.

A first half brace from Australia's captain on the night, Mathew Leckie, combined with a classy finish from outside the area from Aaron Mooy ensured the Socceroos commenced their quest for qualification for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ in fantastic fashion.

Following the fixture, FFA's media team with the squad in the Middle East spoke with goalscorers Leckie and Mooy, as well as Socceroos Head Coach Arnold.

Arnold, Leckie, and Mooy each reflected on the match and looked ahead to Australia's next qualification fixture which will be played on home soil against Nepal at GIO Stadium in Canberra on Thursday, 10 October 2019.

Arnold said: "I thought the first half was excellent. We came out with all intention to be on the front foot. We pressed them very well, we worked them really well, we didn't let them really have any chances, and obviously second half it was a bit less. The mentality of the boys was fantastic, but in these conditions you could see the fatigue kick in and I thought the three subs that came on made a big difference."

"The energy that the young boys have brought into camp has been great. We had a number of inexperienced players out there that are gaining great experience here in the Middle East and it is a great start to the

campaign."

Leckie said: "It is always tough qualification in Asia, especially away games. We had a good training camp (and) we were fortunate that we only had one game this camp, so we had a good week to prepare. The boys showed a good mentality today, a lot of concentration, those are the things you need playing in these conditions. It is very warm, so I think it comes down to the mental game. Three-nil away, it is never easy, but we got the job done."

Mooy said: "It is always a good occasion when we get to play at home and I am sure the fans will come out (to Australia's next match against Nepal in Canberra) and see us and support us. We are all looking forward to it."

Upcoming Match – Caltex Socceroos – FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and AFC Asian Cup China 2023™ – Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2

Australia v Nepal

Date: Thursday, 10 October 2019

Venue: GIO Stadium, Canberra

Kick-off: 7.30pm (AEDT)

Tickets: Tickets on sale via www.socceroos.com.au

Broadcast: Live in Australia on FOX SPORTS, Kayo Sports, and via the My Football Live App, Live, Fast and Data Free for Telstra mobile custom



Name	Club, Country	A-International Caps (Goals)
Mustafa AMINI	AGF Aarhus, Denmark	6 (0)
Aziz BEHICH	Istanbul Basaksehir, Turkey	36 (2)
Brandon BORRELLO	SC Freiburg, Germany	1 (0)
Milos DEGENEK	Red Star Belgrade, Serbia	26 (1)
Apostolos GIANNOU	AEK Larnaca, Cyprus	10 (2)
Craig GOODWIN	Al-Wehda, Saudi Arabia	4 (0)
Rhyan GRANT	Sydney FC, Australia	8 (0)
Ajdin HRUSTIC	FC Groningen, Netherlands	1 (0)
Jackson IRVINE	Hull City, England	30 (3)
James JEGGO	Austria Wien, Austria	2 (0)
Mitchell LANGERAK (Gk)	Nagoya Grampus, Japan	8 (0)
Mathew LECKIE	Hertha BSC, Germany	61 (9)
Massimo LUONGO	Sheffield Wednesday, England	43 (6)
Awer MABIL	FC Midtjylland, Denmark	10 (4)
Jamie MACLAREN	Melbourne City FC, Australia	13 (1)
Mark MILLIGAN	Southend United, England	79 (6)
Aaron MOOY	Brighton & Hove Albion, England	39 (5)
Andrew REDMAYNE (Gk)	Sydney FC, Australia	1 (0)
Mathew RYAN (Gk)	Brighton & Hove Albion, England	55 (0)
Trent SAINSBURY	Maccabi Haifa, Israel	46 (3)
Brad SMITH	Seattle Sounders FC, United States of America	20 (0)
Harry SOUTTAR	Fleetwood Town, England	0 (0)
Adam TAGGART	Suwon Bluewings, Korea Republic	8 (3)

Australia vs Kuwait SOCCEROOS

Mat Ryan - 8

It's heartwarming to know that he doesn't just save the acrobatics for seagulls and Seagulls fans in Brighton, but is alert enough to get the gloves dirty after 60 minutes of ball-watching when a Kuwaiti pops a rifle from 30 yards.

Phenomenal whenever called upon.

Rhyan Grant - 6.5

Committed the cardinal sin of fullbackery in the first half by sprinting up the pitch only to get caught offside, before promptly getting caught by his marker taking a breather on the other end, nearly costing Australia from a set-piece.

Confused his defensive duties a little with Milos Degenek as well, but we're nitpicking. Fairly solid after that.

Aziz Behich - 7

Competing with Gael Clichy (blast from the past) hasn't seemed to