



PETRATOS CONTINUES HIS SILVER SERVICE

Newcastle Jets star and Caltex Socceroo Dimitri Petratos stands head and shoulders above the competition when it comes to creating chances in the Hyundai A-League.

Petratos got the all-important assist of Angus Thurgate's first half goal as the Jets earned an impressive 1-0 victory away to Western United on Saturday night.

It was a game in which, like so many others, Petratos led all comers in the creation of chances (four for the night), carrying on his tremendous form in the category over the past two seasons.

Since the start of the 2017/18 Hyundai A-League campaign Petratos has created 179 chances in 58 games – 67 more than Perth Glory's Diego Castro (112) who has created the second most.

It's impossible to ignore Petratos' creative ability and this statistic only illuminates the threat he poses to opposition defences week in, week out.

Kosta Barbarouses.. “I don't make too much fuss over the criticism”

Kosta Barbarouses might be getting a few more jeers and hisses the next time he travels down south after Sydney FC's win as he scored the winner against his former team, Melbourne Victory at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

In a week where they labelled him a snake for moving to their state rivals, Victory fans will now have another reason to feel betrayed. Barbarouses was reluctant to talk too much about the fans' treatment but said that he did his best to normalise the day and not let the occasion or the fans get the best of him.

“I don't make too much fuss over the criticism. I know what my job is and not to listen to any of the outside stuff and I think I handled it pretty well,” he said after the win.

He added that his coach Steve Corica didn't have a word with him because he had “bigger things to worry about than me getting a few boos.”

Barbarouses' main focus heading towards the game was to just treat it like another big clash without the added emotions. He was grateful to his team for the support and believed he repaid them and the fans with a strong performance and a huge win against their Big Blue rivals.



Jamie Maclaren's hat-trick

Brisbane's thrilling 4-3 A-League win over Melbourne City is more valuable than a professional 1-0 in the eyes of Irish striker Roy O'Donovan.

Roar claimed their first league victory under Robbie Fowler in dramatic fashion in front of a near-capacity crowd at Redcliffe's Dolphin Stadium on Sunday.

Trailing 3-1 following Jamie Maclaren's hat-trick on his return from a hamstring injury, Roar overran the previously unbeaten City to take out the three points.

O'Donovan also fired home a treble, including the match-winning penalty which came after City substitute Denis Genreau was deemed to have handled the ball by referee Alex King after consultation with the VAR official.

It marks the first time in an A-League match a player from both teams has scored a hat-trick, but it is the comeback which O'Donovan says will be inspirational as the season goes on.

“That's huge. You think about it this way: if we're ever down in the dumps in a game at half time this season, what are we going to say? We've scored four before in a half against the top team in the league,” the 34-year-old said.

“It's worth more to us than any one-nil, or a grinding result ... I know we conceded three goals, we can work on that.

“We've had games this year against the Wanderers and Victory that you're probably saying to yourself, we've left it behind us.

“Today's lovely but we learn lessons defensively. Take confidence from it and we kick on.”

Roar's win, as well as Newcastle's 1-0 victory over Western United on Saturday, means Wellington are now the only winless team left in the A-League.

Brisbane travel across the Tasman to face Phoenix next Saturday and O'Donovan was wary of their upcoming opponents.

“Wellington have nothing to lose against us. They're at home and they'll be saying to themselves they fancy their chances,” he said.

“We've conceded three goals so it won't be an easy game for us by any stretch.

“We've got a little bit of confidence to take over there now and we just need to back up and kick on and all the cliches.”