

POSTECOGLOU MOVES CLOSER TO HISTORIC J. LEAGUE TITLE

Former Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou is only two games away from making history after his Yokohama F. Marinos side moved to top spot of the J1 League with a thrilling 1-0 win against Matsumoto Yamuga.



Postecoglou is only two games away from clinching the J1 League Premiership and if the two time A-League Championship winning coach is to secure the title it would make him the first Australian manager to win Japanese football's biggest prize.

Yokohama's narrow win helped them leap-frog premiership title rivals FC Tokyo whose draw against Shonan Bellmare helped open the door for Postecoglou's side to go top for the first time this season.

While the finish line and championship success is in sight for Yokohama, Postecoglou was quick to temper any excitement among his squad instead extolling a simple message to the players.

"Just keep playing our football, that's what's got us to here," the former Brisbane Roar and Melbourne Victory boss said.

With more than 70 percent of possession, Marinos pressed for more goals but were denied by a dogged defensive performance from second-to-last Matsumoto, who face relegation after just one season back in the top flight.

"We knew it was going to be a difficult game, but we kept our discipline and the players were fantastic. They worked hard and we deserved the three points," said Postecoglou.

"It's not easy coming here. They put a lot of players behind the ball, even when they go 1-0 down, and we had to be patient."

Yokohama F. Marinos take on fourth placed Kawasaki Frontale next week before a final round grudge match against Tokyo FC which will most likely decide the title winner.



MARK RUDAN.. "The coaches, the players and the fans can understand exactly what warrants a penalty and what doesn't."



Western United coach Mark Rudan wants VAR officials to make public explanations of their decisions on potential penalty incidents in games. **Rudan claims** his club is the only one in the A-League yet to get a favourable call from the controversial system.

And he said based on new interpretations of handball explained by referees to his club in the pre-season, United should have been awarded two penalties in the second half on Sunday, when they lost 1-0 to Central Coast in Gosford.

He wanted more clarification regarding VAR decisions.

Rudan was both passionate and measured in his argument, but joked he wasn't going to get as fired up as Western Sydney counterpart Markus Babbel, who let rip with a couple of F-bombs after his team had a contentious penalty awarded against them two nights earlier.

"I'm not going to answer like my colleague on Friday night did, but I'm right behind him and I'm right behind all the other coaches that have been on the wrong side, I'd love a please explain," Rudan said.

"It's important that if us coaches and players are out in the public, making comments like this and sitting here, it's important the people who sit out in that VAR room come out.

"I would love some clarification on what is and what isn't and I think the people who are making these decisions, who are hiding in a box somewhere in the country, need to come out and publicly explain each incident.

"The coaches, the players and the fans can understand exactly what warrants a penalty and what doesn't."

His Mariners counterpart Alen Stajcic doubted whether there could be any more clarity regarding natural and unnatural handball actions.

"Handball has changed 50 times in the last 20 years and every time you change it it just moves the grey area so it doesn't solve any problem," Stajcic said.

"We've already been stung by a couple of handballs in the box, in round one and round two, so we've probably been at the brunt of more of those decisions more than anyone else, so it is what it is."

Rudan was clearly frustrated by the VAR calls in matches involving his club throughout their first season.

"Not one VAR decision has gone our way this year, not one," Rudan said. **"Every team** has had it go their way this year except for us."

Markus Babbel and Daniel Georgievski cited under FFA National Code of Conduct



Football Federation Australia (FFA) has today issued show cause notices under the FFA National Code of Conduct to Western Sydney Wanderers FC Hyundai A-League Head Coach, Markus Babbel, and player, Daniel Georgievski.

Markus Babbel has been cited in relation to comments made in the official post-match media conference. Daniel Georgievski has been cited for a social media post. Both incidents occurred following the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 - Round 7 match between Western Sydney Wanderers FC and Melbourne City FC on Friday, 22 November 2019.

Markus Babbel and Daniel Georgievski have an opportunity to provide a submission by 5pm (AEDT) on Monday, 2 December 2019. The sanctions applicable for a breach of the FFA National Code of Conduct include a reprimand, a fine and/or suspension from participation in a match or matches.