

A-League 9nd Round Results

Adelaide United - Newcastle Jets 2-1
 Western United - Melbourne Victory 3-1
 Sydney FC - Brisbane Roar 5-1
 Wellington Phoenix - WS Wanderers 2-1
 Melbourne City - Perth Glory 0-3

A-League Round 9

13.12. Brisbane Roar - Western United
 14.12. Melbourne Victory - Wellington Phoenix
 14.12. Sydney FC - Central Coast Mariners
 14.12. Perth Glory - WS Wanderers
 15.12. Newcastle Jets - Melbourne City

The match turned into a big Bruno Fornaroli love-in, despite him donning the Perth Glory kit and scoring in a 3-0 win, as he got a standing ovation from Melbourne City fans after an incredible display.

Bruno Fornaroli scores against former club as Perth Glory stun Melbourne City



Melbourne City's defence had no answer for Fornaroli.

The affection for Bruno Fornaroli was such that you could have been mistaken for thinking he was still a Melbourne City player.

The City great and fan favourite left the club in acrimonious circumstances last February, but with the "culprit" since departing it lacked the spite that would have otherwise simmered.

It turned into a big Bruno love-in, despite him donning the Perth Glory kit and scoring against City in a 3-0 win, as he got a standing ovation from City fans when he was taken off in the dying minutes.

It was a bizarre night all round at AAMI Park as Fornaroli haunted his former club – respectfully at least.

"I swear, for me it was crazy. I see the love from the fans, for me - I think it's the best. More than the title you can win, more than the trophy you can win," Fornaroli said.

"At the end, football is this. I prefer this than maybe someone will win one trophy for the club and no-one will remember him, no-one will say goodbye or hello. But the feeling i felt in minute 86, this no-one can compare. So for me, this is the best I have tonight."

The A-League, a young competition bereft of deep-rooted rivalries that exist overseas and in the AFL for instance, was robbed of an epic grudge match, with Fornaroli never facing his adversary Warren Joyce, who was sacked at the end of last season.

A transfer window may have paved the way for a January transfer to Perth Glory. Wouldn't that have been something.

Instead, the record goalscorer sat in the AAMI Park stands watching his teammates for months, before City agreed to pay him out and release him in February, just after the transfer window closed.

It was sad and ridiculous in equal measure. A \$1.5 million-dollar marquee gun and one of the few recognisable figures for fans and kids alike, wilting away in the stands because of a fallout with a coach, a relationship that was doomed from the get-go.

The silver lining for City fans is that it paved the way for Jamie Maclaren to arrive, the club's new cult hero and prolific marksman.

But the collateral damage is profound, and the disappointing 6579 crowd – considering City is second and it was Fornaroli's comeback game – suggests that some fans have walked and it'll take more than a few wins and Maclaren hat-tricks to get them back.

The 3-0 loss appears to be an aberration, with City as uncharacteristically flat as Glory was impressive, showing signs of the form that took them top of the ladder last season.



Perth Glory striker Bruno Fornaroli kept his celebrations to a minimum

Sydney FC crush Brisbane Roar - as it happened

Not a game, but a shame. Sydney FC were on a different planet tonight and, with a clear buffer on top of the ladder, will be very hard to stop in their bid to be champions for a second straight season. Le Fondre's first A-League hat-trick takes him above Jamie Maclaren on the goal-scoring charts and he can thank the likes of Baumjohann, Ninkovic and Barbarouses for the shiniest of silver service. A great performance by Sydney FC and a great day of sport.



Adam Le Fondre scored his first A-League hat-trick in Sydney FC's big win over Brisbane Roar.

Match Centres

	MCY	FINAL	PER			SYD	FINAL	BRI	
	0	Stats	3			5	Stats	1	
	WEL	FINAL	WSW			WUN	FINAL	MVC	
	2	Stats	1			3	Stats	1	
	ADL	FINAL	NEW			ADL	FINAL	NEW	
	2	Stats	1			2	Stats	1	

A-League 8nd Round Table

	TEAM	MP	W	D	L	GOAL	Pts
1	Sydney FC	8	7	0	1	21:8	21
2	Melbourne City	8	5	1	2	16:14	16
3	Adelaide United	8	5	0	3	15:11	15
4	Western United	9	4	1	4	11:11	13
5	Wellington Phoenix	8	3	1	4	11:12	10
6	WS Wanderers	8	3	1	4	9:11	10
7	Perth Glory	8	2	3	3	10:10	9
8	Newcastle Jets	7	2	2	3	8:10	8
9	Brisbane Roar	8	2	2	4	9:13	8
10	Melbourne Victory	9	2	2	5	9:14	8
11	Central Coast Mariners	7	2	1	4	7:12	7