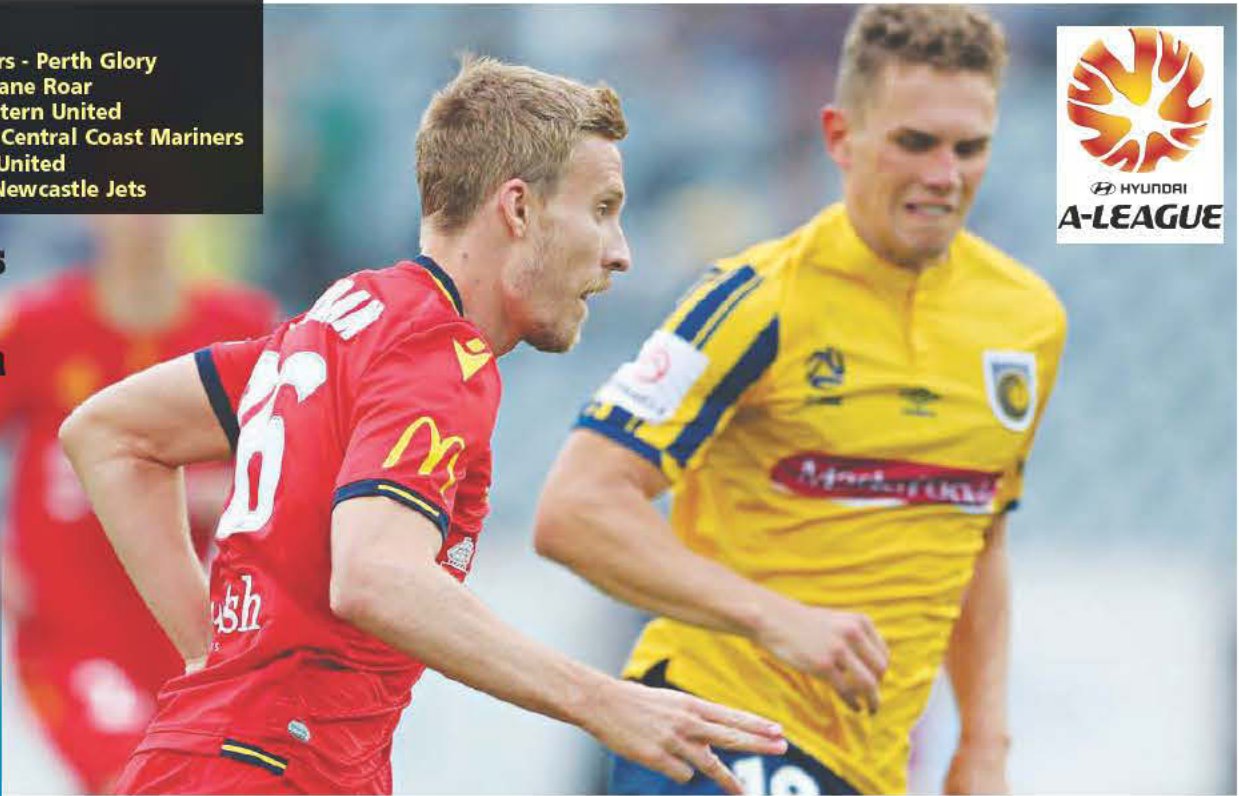


A-League 11nd Round Results
 Sydney FC - Melbourne City 2-1
 Newcastle Jets - Brisbane Roar 1-1
 Western United - Wellington Phoenix 1-3
 Adelaide United - WS Wanderers 2-3
 Central Coast Mariners - Adelaide United 2-1

A-League Round 13
 31.12. Central Coast Mariners - Perth Glory
 01.01. WS Wanderers - Brisbane Roar
 03.01. Melbourne City - Western United
 04.01. Wellington Phoenix - Central Coast Mariners
 04.01. Sydney FC Adelaide United
 05.01. Melbourne Victory - Newcastle Jets



It s taken almost three years but Adelaide United s reign over Central Coast Mariners at Gosford has been cracked with a sensational goal from Serbian star Milan Duric setting up the win.

Central Coast Mariners finally right ship against a stuttering Adelaide United outfit

SHORE UP THE KEEPERS

As rival clubs lurk for some of Adelaide's 12 off contract players Halloran proved he is a must have for coach Gertjan Verbeek's second season in charge.

The winger scored a super second half goal and despite the Reds initiating talks to keep the Queenslander they have a massive fight on their hands.

Captain Michael Jakobsen's unsure future he is also off contract is an unwanted quandary at this critical stage of the season when the Reds could lose a plethora of key U-23s to Olympic qualifying duty next month.

REDS SET PIECE SLUMBER

Central Coast scored two first half goals when many Reds refused or wouldn't take responsibility when a second ball was there to be won.

Rowles put the home side ahead with a shot on the turn unmarked after the Reds were caught ball watching as a cross to the far post was partly cleared by a Michael Marrone header.

Rowles made the most of the inattention to stun the visitors.

Three minutes before the break Duric made it 2-0 when again Adelaide failed to take care of the second ball after a free kick.

When Daniel De Silva was fouled after doing a number on Michael Maria, United had the numbers inside the box but not the street smarts.

Maria was booked before the free kick bounced outside the box and as two Reds players parted instead of closing down the threat with the ball, Duric fired a 25m rocket into the bottom of the net.

REDS TACTICAL NIGHTMARE

Mariners boss Alen Stajcic ensured that pushing full backs Tommy Oar and Lewis Miller high seemingly threw the Reds game plan out of whack.

Adelaide's wingers Halloran and Nikola Mileusnic were at many times during the first half stranded as the Mariners double teamed Ryan Strain and Maria in a forced press.

However the Mariners weren't compact in defending and Adelaide did have enough first half chances to make a difference as the gaps between the lines became apparent in transition for the home side.

MARINERS TURN TO SLEEP

Just seconds after Stajcic warned Fox Sports his side needed to be on red alert Halloran cracked the Mariners with a super goal just 43 seconds inside the second half.

Halloran latched onto a wide pass from Nathan Konstandopoulos touched the ball inside before curling a left footed 20m shot past lunging ex Adelaide gloveman Mark Birighitti as Verbeek rang in the changes at the break.

Marrone was hooked for centre back Jordan Elsey as the Reds full backs sat a little deeper in a bid to quell the Mariners wide double teaming.

No more than 10 minutes later Verbeek showed how ruthless he can be. He hooked Maria seconds after a potential goal saving tackle.

Mariners (4-2-3-1): Birighitti, Miller (Fox 72m), Gordon, Rowles; Kim, Stessness; Murray; Duric (Silvera 69m), De Silva; Jair (Simon 84m)

Adelaide (4-3-3): Richards; Strain, Marrone (Elsey 46m), Jakobsen, Maria (Kitto 55m); D'Arrigo, Troisi (Brook 64m), Konstandopoulos; Halloran Toure, Mileusnic

Melbourne Victory cruise to 2-1 derby triumph after Toivonen double

They were lower on the table but Victory stepped up to the derby plate against second placed City. It was their skipper and a German defender who were the difference with the performance pleasing their coach.



Melbourne Victory coach Marco Kurz revealed that this was the football he'd been crying out for, hailing his team's best display of the season in last night's defining derby win.

Victory dominated throughout, although a late Harrison Delbridge goal kept it interesting until the final whistle blew for a 2-1 derby win over Melbourne City to rise to within touching distance of the six.

Under siege for much of the A-League season, Victory will enjoy the bye before facing Newcastle Jets.

COACH SPOTLIGHT

Melbourne Victory has been led by some of Australia's best coaches, none more so than Ange Postecoglou, who didn't see out his project as the Socceroos came calling in 2013.

Postecoglou is employed by Melbourne City's owners, City Football Group - well partly anyway, with CFG owning 20 per cent of Yokohama F Marinos, the club current City coach Erick Mombaerts led before Postecoglou - but Victory fans didn't care.

They showed their appreciation for Australia's greatest coach, chanting his name when he came

Nils Ola Toivonen was the star scoring two goals for Victory.

onto the pitch before kick off to do an interview with Fox Sports' Andy Harper, in the wake of his stunning J1 League triumph.

German Kurz is Victory's first permanent visa coach, and with more wins and passionate sideline displays like yesterday, he may endear himself with the Victory faithful.

A-League 12nd Round Table

	TEAM	MP	W	D	L	GOAL	Pts
1	Sydney FC	11	9	1	1	26:11	28
2	Melbourne City	11	6	1	4	22:18	19
3	Western United	12	5	2	5	15:15	17
4	Perth Glory	10	4	3	3	18:12	15
5	Adelaide United	10	5	0	5	18:16	15
6	Wellington Phoenix	11	4	3	4	16:15	15
7	WS Wanderers	11	4	2	5	13:16	14
8	Melbourne Victory	11	3	3	5	11:15	12
9	Central Coast Mariners	9	3	1	5	9:14	10
10	Brisbane Roar	10	2	3	5	10:16	9
11	Newcastle Jets	10	2	3	5	11:21	9