



By George Stavroulakis

PREVIEWED! EVERY A-LEAGUE CLUB'S JANUARY

With the transfer window set to open on January 3, a number of A-League clubs could look to seize the opportunity to bolster or adjust their squads.

With the A-League January transfer window just days away, a number of clubs look set to take advantage of the signing period to bolster or change their squads for both the short and long-term.

The transfer window will open on January 3 and close on January 31, 2020.

This is how every club is shaping up.

Adelaide United

The Reds signed some good talent in the lead-up to this season but look unlikely to bolster their squad in January - unless they let someone go to free up funds. There have been reports of external interest in Reds playmaker James Troisi.

Brisbane Roar

Brisbane would love to see Roy O'Donovan's Australian citizenship approved to free up an international spot for the window. Some attacking flair and creativity would be welcomed - either in the form of a midfield playmaker or a wide player.

Central Coast Mariners

The Mariners have dug deep and created plenty of chances this season - and have started to become more clinical around goal - but surely could be tempted if the opportunity to sign a quality striker emerged, while a strong central defender wouldn't go astray either.

Melbourne City

Erick Mombaerts has made no secret of his desire for quality in attack. While he's pledged faith in his squad, the Frenchman could well enter the market in search of more creativity - be it a winger or an attacking midfielder. City will lose depth in January with four players on Olyroos duty.

Melbourne Victory

Two years ago, signing Terry Antonis changed the course of Victory's season. Given Kristijan Dobras and Jakob Poulsen's early-season difficulties, it wouldn't surprise to see Marco Kurz look to shake up his midfield to get some much-needed class and quality.

Newcastle Jets

Rather than eyeing off January - bar a rock-solid goalscorer becoming available - Ernie Merrick has made no secret of the importance of getting Wes Hoolahan and Abdiel Arroyo fit and firing - and fair enough too, given the Jets could use some mature firepower up front.

Perth Glory

Tony Popovic has said he'll keep his options open this transfer window. Given Dino Djulbic and Osama Malik's injuries, it would make sense to add another centre-back, especially with an approaching Asian Champions League campaign, though it's unlikely to be Matthew Spiranovic.

Sydney FC

It's hard to see Sydney make too many changes in January and Steve Corica has said he'll look to promote youth from within, with the ACL on the horizon.

Wellington Phoenix

The Phoenix would love to pick up a right-back to replace Louis Fenton, who is out for the season with a shoulder injury, while more midfield depth wouldn't go astray given Reno Piscopo will miss three games on Olyroos duty.

Western Sydney Wanderers

The Wanderers brought in Nicolai Muller as an injury replacement for Radoslaw Majewski, though the German import wasn't a like-for-like replacement. Markus Babel would surely love an attacking playmaker or striker. The Wanderers reportedly rejected an offer from Danish side AGF Aarhus for midfielder Keanu Baccus, who is away on Olyroos duty.

Western United

Mark Rudan has made it clear a midfielder and a striker are on his wishlist - if he can find the right ones. That said, injuries to Aaron Calver and Brendan Hamill could see United consider bolstering their defence, while defender/midfielder Connor Chapman looks to be on the way out.

BABEL: THIS IS A RULE I DON'T UNDERSTAND

Brisbane Roar have come from behind to beat Western Sydney 2-1 in their A-League clash at Bankwest Stadium.

Brisbane's coach Robbie Fowler was delighted and his old Liverpool teammate Markus Babel frustrated, as the Roar defeated Western Sydney 2-1 at Bankwest Stadium on Wednesday.

Bradden Inman scored a second spectacular goal in as many games, as he rifled home a shot from just outside the penalty area in the 61st minute.

It was just the Roar's second win in their last 22 away games, and their first since last February, while Wanderers slumped to a sixth loss in their last eight matches.

The Queensland club overcame an early deficit and injuries to striker Aaron Amadi-Holloway and Daniel Bowles in a ten-minute period either side of halftime.

While Roar showed plenty of character to survive those setbacks and a furious late Wanderers' onslaught, Babel was left to rue more additions to the catalogue of vital decisions and bad luck that have gone against his club this season.

The Wanderers were angry about a rejected penalty shout and Brisbane's winner coming when they were a man down.

Patrick Ziegler was not allowed to get back on the field in time after receiving treatment for an injury caused by Roar substitute Roy O'Donovan, who was booked for his



raised arm challenge.

"A lot of the time it's not the referees' fault, this is a rule I don't understand," Babel said.

"You get hurt, there's a foul, a player gets a yellow card and our player gets off the field and you concede the second goal.

"In the end the boys tried everything, we had a couple of good chances but we couldn't score, it was very frustrating."

Wanderers fans and players hollered for a penalty when Mo Adam's 45th-minute shot brushed the hand of Brisbane captain Tom Aldred on its way through to keeper Jamie Young, but got no joy from the match officials.

Asked if he understood what a handball was anymore, Babel said "no chance" and used word like "gambling" and madness."

The home team made a great start with captain Mitchell Duke netting his fifth goal of the season in the fifth minute.

Brisbane finally scored in the first half of a game in their 11th match of the season.

Former Wanderer Scott Neville's unchallenged powerful far-post header from a corner drew his side level in the 20th minute.

In the latter stages of the match, Matt Jurman had an acrobatic effort tipped over by Young and Mo Adam and substitute Kosta Grozos both went close with headers as Wanderers pushed for an equaliser.

"At times we were maybe a little bit under the cosh, but the lads dug in deep, and defended really well," Fowler said.

"I thought the attitude was spot on, probably what we've been wanting all year."