

A-League 12nd Round Results

Melbourne Victory - Newcastle Jets	4 : 0
Sydney FC - Adelaide United	2 : 1
Wellington Phoenix - Central Coast Mariners	2 : 1
Melbourne City - Western United	3 : 2
WS Wanderers - Brisbane Roar	1 : 2

A-League Round 13

10.01. 10:30	Newcastle Jets - Sydney FC
11.01. 05:45	Wellington Phoenix - WS Wanderers
11.01. 08:00	Brisbane Roar - Melbourne City
11.01. 10:30	Perth Glory - Adelaide United
12.01. 09:00	Central Coast Mariners - Melbourne Victory

Melbourne Victory's move to start Robbie Kruse up front in place of suspended Ola Toivonen has paid off, with the Socceroo leading his team in a comprehensive thrashing of the Newcastle Jets.

Robbie Kruse leads Melbourne Victory to big win over Newcastle Jets

A Robbie Kruse masterclass has helped Melbourne Victory to back to back A-League wins, with the Socceroo leading his side to a 4-0 thumping of Newcastle Jets at AAMI Park.

Kruse opened the scoring in the ninth minute, birthday boy Migjen Basha netted in the 61st and Andrew Nabbout powered home three minutes later, with Kruse having a hand in each goal.

Matt Millar completed a miserable road trip to Melbourne on Sunday with an 85th-minute own goal.

With Tim Hoogland injured and Ola Toivonen suspended, Jakob Poulsen and Kristijan Dobras earned reprieves in midfield, while Elvis Kamsoba pushed out wide to support Nabbout and Kruse.

Leigh Broxham moved to centre-back in another tactical change for the Victory. The Jets backed in the squad that drew against Brisbane Roar, but Victory dominated from the outset, with Broxham and Kruse spurning early opportunities before the pair created the opening goal.

Broxham delivered a long ball over the top to Kruse, who used his head to control the ball before slammed it past the legs of Glen Moss. Newcastle were largely outclassed and their chances were few and far between – though Dimi Petratos' hard, low shot forced a sharp save from Lawrence Thomas in the 52nd minute.

Nabbout could have made it 2-0 when Kruse floated the ball across goal in the 57th minute, but the former Jet failed to put his header on target. The miss would not prove costly, with Basha scoring four minutes later. Adama Traore found Kruse on the left flank, who cut inside and forced a save from Moss. The goalkeeper could only parry the ball to Basha, allowing the Albanian to celebrate his 33rd birthday in style.

Three minutes later, Poulsen released Kruse down the right hand side and the winger cut the ball back for Nabbout, who took a touch then struck the ball past Moss to secure the points.

Salt was rubbed in the Jets' wounds in the dying minutes when Millar turned Anthony Lesiotis' cross into his own net.

The Victory now sit in seventh on goal difference behind Adelaide, while the Jets remain at the bottom of the table.

Meanwhile, Hoogland is set to be out for up to a month after knee surgery scheduled for Monday.

SCORECARD

MELBOURNE VICTORY 4 (Kruse 9, Basha 61, Nabbout 64, Miller OG 86)

NEWCASTLE JETS 0

Crowd: 14,582 at AAMI Park

Victory (4-2-3-1): Thomas; Lesiotis, Donachie, Broxham, Traore; Basha (Barnett 74), Poulsen; Nabbout (Hope 80), Dobras (Athiu 62), Kamsoba; Kruse.

Jets (4-2-3-1): Moss; Miller, Jackson, Topor-Stanley, Burns (Koutroumbis 46 (Ridenton 87)); Ugarkovic, Kantarovski; Hoffman, Petratos, Langlois; Thurgate (Sheppard 62).

Referee: Daniel Elder

Red cards: Nil

David Davutovic's Man of the Match

ROBBIE KRUSE (VICTORY)

Marco Kurz's decision to start him up front in place of suspended Ola Toivonen paid off, with Kruse causing havoc with his movement scoring the vital opener and assisting twice.



Andrew Nabbout of Melbourne Victory celebrates his goal

Melbourne City survives despite Western United pulling two back in madcap second half

Second spot was at stake on Friday night but neither Melbourne City or Western United showed signs to suggest A-League leader Sydney FC should be worried.

In fact, striker Adam Le Fondre is the only Sky Blue with a bee in his bonnet after United provided a generous late Christmas gift for Jamie McLaren to join him atop the golden boot charts.

But wins can build confidence, and City hope Friday night's unconvincing 3-2 win at AAMI Park can reinject the confidence missing the last two weeks.



Jamie McLaren got back on the scoresheet again.

Match Centres

WEL	2	FINAL	CCM	1
WSW	1	FINAL	BRI	2
MCY	3	FINAL	WUN	2
SYD	2	FINAL	ADL	1
MVC	4	FINAL	NEW	0

A-League 12nd Round Table

	TEAM	MP	W	D	L	GOAL	Pts
1	Sydney FC	12	10	1	1	28:12	31
2	Melbourne City	12	7	1	4	25:20	22
3	Perth Glory	11	5	3	3	21:12	18
4	Wellington Phoenix	12	5	3	4	18:16	18
5	Western United	13	5	2	6	17:18	17
6	Adelaide United	11	5	0	6	19:18	15
7	Melbourne Victory	12	4	3	5	15:15	15
8	WS Wanderers	12	4	2	6	14:18	14
9	Brisbane Roar	11	3	3	5	12:17	12
10	Central Coast Mariners	11	3	1	7	10:19	10
11	Newcastle Jets	11	2	3	6	11:25	9