

Western United have rediscovered their mojo with a thoroughly dominant performance against Central Coast but it has come at a cost with mercurial captain Alessandro Diamanti limping off.

Western United ties up fifth place but captain Alessandro Diamanti comes off second best

Western United has burst back to form but their 3-0 A-League win over Central Coast has been soured by an injury to skipper Alessandro Diamanti in Geelong.

Besart Berisha scored twice and Mariners defender Kye Rowles put the ball in his own net, as United surged to a 3-0 lead inside 21 minutes on Sunday afternoon at GMHBA Stadium.

United opened the scoring after just six minutes.

Diamanti eased his way past Gianni Stensness and looped a terrific ball towards Berisha, who powered a header from beyond the penalty spot into the top corner.

The home side doubled their lead via an own-goal in the 18th minute.

Connor Pain's scintillating cross skidded past all comers and into the path of Josh Risdon, whose long-range shot was cut into the net by Rowles. Three minutes later, the excellent Max Burgess went on a mazy run and cut the ball back to Berisha, who tapped home with the ball taking a deflection off Rowles.

Mariners skipper Tommy Oar found Jordan Murray at a corner in the 25th minute, but the striker's header just flashed wide.

Diamanti limped off in the 27th minute and was replaced three minutes later by Dario Jertec.

United almost made it 4-0 in the 37th minute.

Burgess weaved his way through traffic and slipped the ball to Pain, who finished past Mark Birighitti with aplomb only for the goal to be ruled offside.

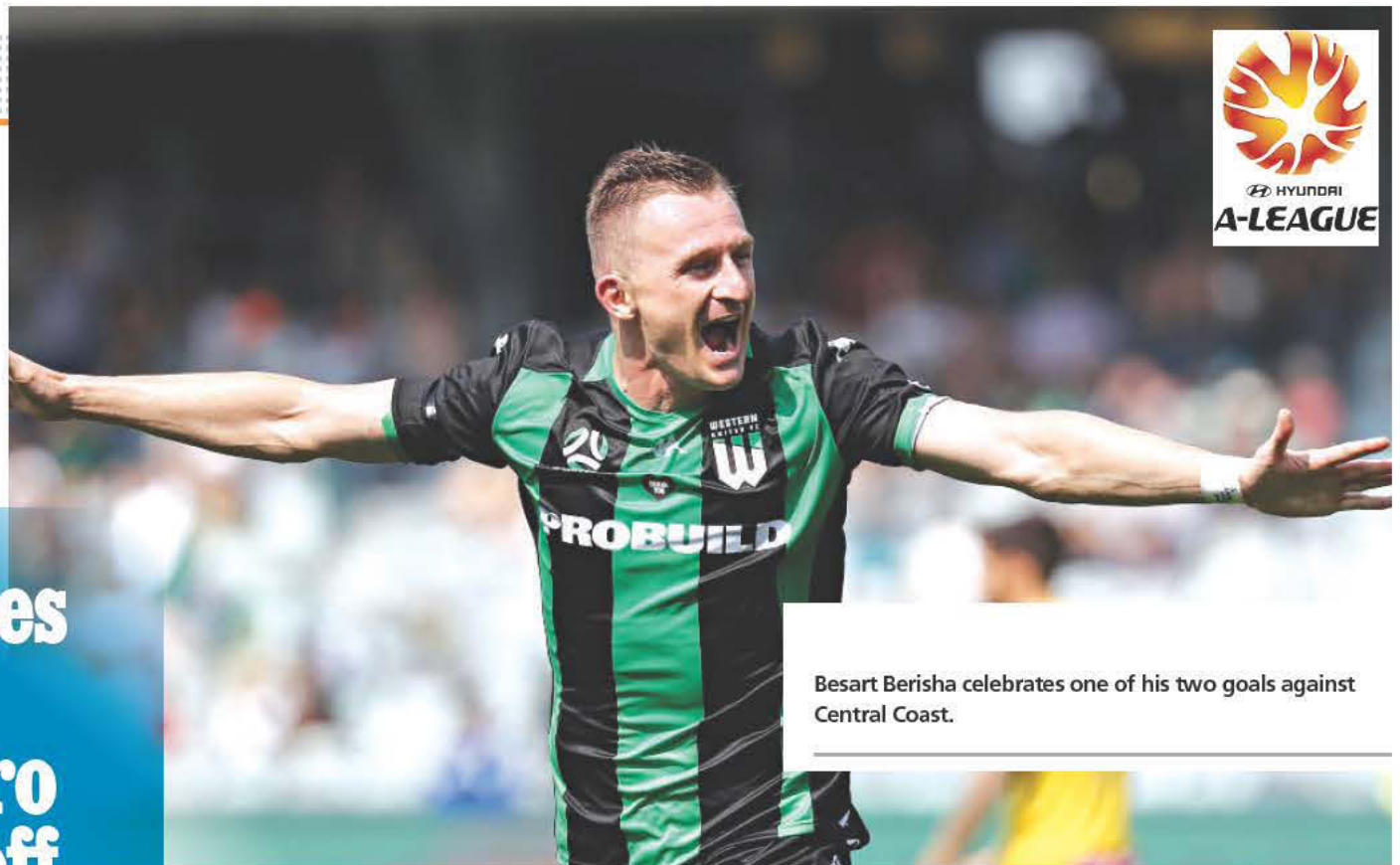
Despite a lengthy VAR review, the offside call stood.

Birighitti stood tall to make a strong save late in the first half then, in the closing seconds, Murray looked to inspire the Mariners with a dramatic bicycle kick but his attempt went wide.

In the 55th minute, a delightful ball from Burgess released Pain, who recovered his smothered shot to cut the ball back to Panagiotis Kone, who hit the bar.

Central Coast's best chance came in the 61st minute when Murray's close-range shot beat the United defence, but Filip Kurto scrambled to gather the ball. From there, the game settled into a holding pattern, with United sealing their first win in more than a month.

The victory keeps United entrenched in fifth place while the Mariners remain 10th.



Besart Berisha celebrates one of his two goals against Central Coast.



Quality Craig Noone strike drives Melbourne City to victory against Newcastle Jets

A sensational strike from Craig Noone has set up a strong win over a committed Newcastle Jets as Melbourne City strengthened its hold on second position on the A-League table.

Melbourne City has consolidated second spot in the A-League with a 2-0 victory over Newcastle Jets at AAMI Park.

Craig Noone handed the home side the lead in the eighth minute before Jamie Maclaren converted a penalty in the 63rd to wrap up three points.

Maclaren went on a surging run down the left wing then cut the ball back to Noone, who curled home a left-foot strike from outside the box. In the 32nd minute, Noone lobbed a ball over Newcastle's defence to Maclaren, but his shot couldn't beat Lewis Italiano, who made a fine save.

Newcastle improved as the game went on and Abdiel Arroyo had the ball in the net in the 57th minute but was offside.

City made it 2-0 after a penalty was awarded against Jets captain Nikolai Topor-Stanley.

The centre-back was in an aerial duel with Harrison Delbridge, with the City defender heading the ball into Topor-Stanley's arm.

Referee Kate Jacewicz who also became the first woman to referee an A-League match didn't immediately award a penalty but after a VAR review, pointed to the spot, with Maclaren then powering the ball into the bottom corner.

In the 73rd minute, Dimi Petratos forced a goal line clearance from Harrison Delbridge, while Kaine Sheppard should have pulled back a goal in the 83rd minute but blasted his close-range shot over the bar.

Former Wales midfielder and ex-Vancouver Whitecaps coach Carl Robinson, who is believed to be the frontrunner to take on the Newcastle head coaching



Craig Noone celebrates after his brilliant strike against Newcastle Jets.

role, was in the stands alongside Jets chief executive Lawrie McKinna.

City fans got their first look at Spanish signing Markel Susaeta late in the piece, with the former Athletic Bilbao attacker greeted with rapturous applause when he made his debut in the 86th minute.

Newcastle had a penalty shout when Scott Jamieson clattered into Johnny Koutroumbis in the 91st minute then City almost made it 3-0 less than a minute later when Adrian Luna went on a bursting run and found Susaeta.

The new recruit chipped the ball to Maclaren, who headed a great chance over the bar, leaving City to settle for a 2-0 win increasing the gap on Perth Glory to five points.

MELBOURNE CITY 2 (Noone 8, Maclaren PEN 63)
NEWCASTLE JETS 0

City (4-3-3): Bouzanis; Atkinson, Delbridge, Good, Jamieson; Brillante, Luna, Berenguer (Griffiths 64), Wales (Susaeta 86), Noone (Colakovski 90), Maclaren.
Jets (4-2-3-1): Italiano; Miller, Jackson, Topor-Stanley, Burns; Ugarkovic, Kantarovski (Sheppard 64), Hoffman, Petratos, Fitzgerald (Thurgate 64); Arroyo (Koutroumbis 81).

Referee: Kate Jacewicz

Red cards: Nil.

Match Centres

	ADL	FINAL	MVC	
1		Stats	0	
	BRI	FINAL	WEL	
1		Stats	0	

	MCY	FINAL	NEW	
2		Stats	0	
	WUN	FINAL	CCM	
3		Stats	0	
	WSW	FINAL	PER	
0		Stats	1	