

One thing is certain ... Sydney FC players would have slept well overnight after tuning into the dour draw between their immediate threats to winning this year's championship.

Melbourne City tough it out to keep Perth Glory scoreless

A-League leaders Sydney FC won't be quaking in their boots after Saturday night's battle for second, but both sides will take a point from the high quality, low-risk affair.

Melbourne City's scoreless draw with Perth Glory leaves them two points ahead of the rapidly improving WA side.

Ex City hero Bruno Fornaroli was predictably involved in the game's most controversial moment at AAMI Park, which correctly involved VAR intervention.

City only have themselves to blame for awakening the sleeping giant Glory seven weeks ago in the 3-0 loss Tony Popovic's teams' first clean sheet of the season and City coach Erick Mombaerts was satisfied after focusing on the defence.

"It's a good start today against Perth a clean sheet, we were strong. I want to congratulate our team on our defensive performance," Mombaerts said.

"It was a very tough game two good teams. We had to adapt with two new players. We can improve."

BRUNO'S BACK II

It was Fornaroli's second City homecoming and second half trickery had City on the back foot.

Referee Daniel Elder pointed to the penalty spot when Josh Brillante hacked down Fornaroli. But VAR correctly intervened when Fornaroli was clearly offside.

Fornaroli was not as impactful or emotional as his last match here, but he is getting sharper with every outing and will clearly add to his eight goals.

CAN ANYONE BEAT SYDNEY FC?

City and Glory are best placed to challenge the Sky Blues, and they will take heart from Saturday night, while knowing they each must improve, especially in attack.

Glory has swept all before it, since their last meeting, keeping another four clean sheets in five games, while blasting home 15 goals while climbing up to third.



Nathaniel Atkinson and Glory's Neil Kilkenny contest the ball.

A-League Round 16 preview: Marco Rojas could play for Victory v Sydney FC

Marco Rojas has finally signed with Melbourne Victory and could feature for his former club as early as Friday's mega clash against Sydney FC.

Johnny Warren medallist Marco Rojas could make a sensational Melbourne Victory appearance in Friday's mega clash against Sydney FC, after a visa spot was released.

Victory finally agreed a mutual termination with Austrian attacker Kristijan Dobras, enabling Rojas to be officially signed.

Rojas is understood to have agreed to a two-and-a-half year deal just over a week ago.

However, he could not officially sign the deal until Dobras was released.

The Kiwi winger will join the Victory squad on Thursday for his first session. He has stayed fit by training on his own for the past week.

Rojas, 28, played as recently as December 15, with his Danish club SonderjyskE understood to have offered him a contract extension. His preference was to return "home".

He rejected an offer from Melbourne City and Wellington Phoenix to sign for Victory, where he spent three seasons, scoring 28 goals in 75 games in all competitions.

He has scored five times in 40 New Zealand internationals.

Dobras, 27, departs after scoring two goals in nine games, the most recent in the 3-2 loss to Central Coast – Marco Kurz's last game.

Rojas' return is welcome news for Victory fans and interim coach Carlos Salvachua.



Marco Rojas is back at Melbourne Victory.

Melbourne Victory slips further into mire with Sydney FC mauling but there is still a pulse

Melbourne Victory fans took sledging of former favourite Kosta Barbarouses to new levels at AAMI Park last night, throwing rubber snakes onto the pitch at AAMI Park.

The star striker shrugged off constant booing, scoring Sydney FC's second goal in a 3-0 win.

Barbarouses formed a deadly partnership with Ola Toivonen at Victory last season but was forced to leave for salary cap restrictions.

The "snake" tag has taken on a life of its own on social media with Barbarouses tagged "Kosta the Cobra". Even his teammates are getting in on the act.

Barbarouses took it in his stride last night, with Sydney FC coach Steve Corica adding to the theatre by giving him an exuberant hug as he came off.

Match Centres

	WEL	FINAL	NEW
2		Stats	1
	MVC	FINAL	SYD
0		Stats	3

	CCM	FINAL	BRI
0		Stats	1
	MCY	FINAL	PER
0		Stats	0
	WUN	FINAL	ADL
3		Stats	4