

Scott McDonald won't line up for Brisbane Roar against his former club Western United due to a transfer clause rarely used by A-League clubs. That and more talking points in Duva's XI.

Scott McDonald barred from facing old club Western United due to Brisbane Roar transfer clause



Scott McDonald rues a missed opportunity during his short stint with Western United.

Western United has set the scene for another fiery clash with A-League finals rival Brisbane Roar by blocking striker Scott McDonald from featuring in the crunch fixture.

McDonald exited Western United last month to link up with Robbie Fowler's Roar after tensions rose between the veteran attacker and boss Mark Rudan.

McDonald won't have the chance to get one over his old employer due to a clause inserted in the deal which sent him north.

Plus, the latest talking points from world football including Mile Jedinak's future, Kevin Muscat's start to life in Belgium and could Lionel Messi really leave Barcelona?

RETURN OF THE JEDI?

Mile Jedinak has not played since leaving Aston Villa last May, but the former Socceroos skipper has not yet retired.

Jedinak, 35, is training solo with a view to playing on, and has been using the facilities at Villa, where his two older kids – Andre, nine and Alex, six – are training at the Premier League club's academy.

Central Coast, Jedinak's first A-League club, Melbourne Victory, Western Sydney and A-League expansion club Macarthur Rams, who enter next season, headline the A-League clubs who have tried to sign him.

However Birmingham-based Jedinak's preference is to remain abroad, for family reasons and because he has an eye on a potential coaching career.

Jedinak is completing his UEFA A License, and has a big future in coaching, having worked under Australia's best in Ange Postecoglou, Tony Popovic and Graham Arnold, plus stints under several international managers.

He's a student of the game and began setting his sights on coaching after joining Crystal Palace in 2011.

MCDONALD'S RETURN BLOCKED

Western United took the extraordinary step of inserting a clause in ex-Socceroo Scott McDonald's contract when he left the club for Brisbane

Former Socceroos skipper Mile Jedinak hasn't retired despite not playing since last May



Mohamed Toure became the A-League's third youngest debutant on Saturday



Roar last month.

The clause blocks him from facing United on Sunday in Ballarat.

The clause is common for loan moves abroad, less so for outright transfers.

It's understandable considering they are competing for a finals spot Brisbane overtook United in sixth at the weekend however it underlines the tension between McDonald and Western United boss Mark Rudan.

There is no love lost between the clubs and Rudan had a war of words with Brisbane coach Robbie Fowler in the teams last meeting at Suncorp Stadium. Ding, ding.

MORE FOOTBALL NEWS:

MATILDAS LIFT

The Matildas have lifted a level since the 2019 World Cup, although Thursday's clash with China will be their big Olympic qualifying test.

The Europe-bound crew starred, with Caitlin Foord netting a hat-trick in place of late substitute Sam Kerr and stand-in skipper Steph Catley, who could also be joining her at Arsenal, scoring a rare goal in the 7-0 win over Chinese Taipei.

Melbourne City attacker Kyah Simon impressed in her first appearance in 16 months. Matildas coach Ante Milicic and assistant Ivan Jolic have worked hard to rectify the issues from the World Cup.

YOUNG GUN TOURE II

Mohamed Toure – younger brother of 2019-20 breakout sensation Al Hassan Toure – produced one of the best debut performances from a teenager in Saturday night's loss to Brisbane Roar.

Age 15 years and 320 days, Toure became the A-League's third youngest debutant and caused Brisbane Roar huge issues in a stunning

10-minute with his speed, directness, trickery and work ethic.

Born in Guinea, the younger Toure will be targeted by Liberia as his older brother was. But he is on the radar of Australia's youth team coaches.

Melbourne City almost signed him a few months ago.

5 MOOY MAGIC

Aaron Mooy produced another top midfield display in Brighton's decisive draw with fellow relegation scrapper Watford.

A loss would have left the Seagulls just one point above the drop zone, but a late equaliser ensured a three-point buffer from Watford and West Ham.

Socceroos teammate Mat Ryan was solid in goals, as they solidify their burgeoning Premier League reputations.

AUSSIE COACHES ABROAD

Kevin Muscat's sizzling start to Belgium's Pro League continues, with Sint-Truiden smashing AS Eupen 5-2, after recovering from a 2-1 deficit.

Muscat's team has won three of four games since he arrived last month, scoring an impressive 10 goals.

Meanwhile Ange Postecoglou's Yokohama F. Marinos continued their entertaining ways, losing the Japanese Super Cup in an outrageous shootout (nine straight penalties missed) after a 3-3 draw against Andres Iniesta's Vissel Kobe.

SOCCEROOS WATCH

England's League One is piquing the interest of Socceroos boss Graham Arnold, with fringe duo Ryan Williams and Bailey Wright impressing yesterday.

Winger Williams scored in Portsmouth's 2-0 away win while Wright has made a sudden impact with fellow promotion aspirants Sunderland, leading the Black Cats to a second clean sheet in three games.

The 1-0 win over Ipswich Town took Sunderland to sixth spot.

Arnold has 35-40 players on his radar for the March World Cup qualifiers against Kuwait and Nepal.

Winger Craig Goodwin scored a brace in Saudi Arabia over the weekend, while Ajdin Hrustic (Groningen) featured in his Dutch side's vital win.

Match Centres


MCY **FINAL** **MVC**
2 **Stats** **1**


BRI **FINAL** **ADL**
2 **Stats** **1**


PER **FINAL** **WEL**
4 **Stats** **2**


NEW **FINAL** **CCM**
4 **Stats** **3**