



By George Stavroulakis

YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS AND FORMER SOCCEROOS COACH ANGE POSTECOGLOU SAYS HIS JAPANESE CLUB CAN IMPROVE IN A LOT OF AREAS AFTER AN IMPRESSIVE 4-0 WIN OVER SYDNEY FC

POSTECOGLOU NO TEAM ANYWHERE WILL PLAY LIKE US

They might be chilling words to a chastened Sydney FC, but Yokohama F. Marinos coach Ange Postecoglou is adamant his team can improve in a lot of areas, after their 4-0 home thrashing of the Sky Blues on Wednesday.

Following the one-sided Asian Champions League game, the former Socceroos coach talked about his Japanese club's fearless approach and his desire for them to play a unique style of football which will get everyone talking.

They certainly were after a brutal Asian Champions League mauling of Sydney, with former Socceroos goalkeeper and Fox Sports pundits Mark Bosnich and Robbie Slater both rating Yokohama's performance as one of the best they had seen in the ACL.

Postecoglou was understandably happy with his side's impressive performance, as they were 3-0 up after just 33 minutes against the runaway A-League leaders and made it two wins from two to set the pace in their four-team group.

"We started the game well, we took control of the game and we dominated," Postecoglou said.

"I think we were really disciplined today in making sure that we played our football in the opposition's half and put them under pressure and we got the rewards and the scoreline I think reflects how dominant we were in the game."

His reigning J1 league champions start their title defence next weekend and Postecoglou is convinced they have yet to hit their peak.

"We can improve in a lot of areas," he said.

"The important thing for us is the players now really believe in our football and they play without fear and it makes a big difference."

He stressed Yokohama were trying to play a different type of game to any other club.

"I don't think any team anywhere will play like us," Postecoglou said.

"I think some teams press aggressively but don't have the ball much, they play direct and other teams have the ball but don't press.

"We try to be both, which is not easy."

NO EXCUSES'

SYDNEY'S BIG PRAISE FOR POSTECOGLOU

Captain Alex Wilkinson wants Sydney FC to forget Wednesday's 4-0 Asian Champions League away loss to Yokohama F. Marinos and move on quickly.

A smarting and rusty Sydney FC will look to regroup quickly after a rare defensive horror show in their humbling 4-0 Asian Champions League away loss to Ange Postecoglou's Yokohama F. Marinos.

The much-anticipated showdown between the Australian and Japanese champions produced a fizzer with Yokohama 3-0 up by

halftime on Wednesday.

Their speed and movement was too much for a Sydney side off the pace after almost three weeks without a game due to a couple of postponements.

Some of the Sky Blues' woes in their ACL opener were self-inflicted, with coach Steve Corica and captain Alex Wilkinson targeting



uncharacteristically sloppy defence as well as the layoff as factors in their loss.

"We weren't good enough today no doubt about that," centre back Wilkinson said.

"I think especially in the first half we didn't keep the ball well enough. They pressed really well, we didn't deal with it well enough.

"I thought we were a little bit rusty, not playing a game in three weeks has probably worked against us a little bit.

"But no excuses, they were the better team.

"The first goal was a deflection, a bit unlucky and then a couple of others were a bit soft I thought, so we've got to be a bit stronger defensively as well.

"We've got a game on Sunday, so a quick turnaround, forget it and move forward."

Unbeaten in their last 12 A-League games, Sydney have a 10-point-lead at the top of the table and three games in hand over second-placed Melbourne City.

They travel to Gosford to play the last-placed Mariners, who have 27 fewer points and have lost their last five games.

Corica credited Yokohama for playing well, but said a couple of their goals came from Sydney errors.

"They play a very high tempo with the ball, without the ball and that probably surprised us because we haven't played for three weeks," Corica said.

"We were put under a lot of pressure, we didn't adapt very well to it and the goals that we conceded really were disappointing, they were uncharacteristic for us."