



V-LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

ROUND 13 REVIEW

Wednesday the 16th of December
by Adam Hussein

Round 13– Twists and turns for the title and Mass Exodus for Metro

Doncaster FC 5 vs. 7 FC Essendon FC 6:30pm

The thermostat hit 38° Celsius inside the Futsal Oz Victoria Street Stadium as the relegation battlers in orange, Doncaster took on the champions in their summery white & red striped kits. Doncaster welcomed back classy Jim Drossos into the side, and he set the tempo and dictated the ebb & flow of Doncaster's play. It was a tight affair in a goal for goal shoot out. It was a timely return of Ivan Zilic for FC Essendon who helped score some early goals to get Essendon off the mark.

They missed a plethora of chances throughout the game, and this gave Doncaster a real sense of belief that they could snatch a point or three out of the game. Bill Giannikos got on the scoresheet yet again but it wasn't enough to stop the champions, Alexander Stevanovic scoring an absolute pearler to restore parity late in the second half and seal the deal. He dragged Con Makris (DFC GK) from his line and curled and shot high into the top left corner. The win leaves Essendon 3 points clear of uncharted relegation territory. Doncaster sink to the bottom of the table after another unfortunate & untimely loss.

Referees: Nectar Karalis & Ricardo Arajuo

Goal Scorers:

Doncaster FC: Zaya Younan 2, Ari Vlahos 1, Jason Kounnas 1, Bill Giannikos 1

FC Essendon: Alexander Stevanovic 4, Ivan Zilic 3

Albert Park FC 3 vs. 6 FC Carlton 7:15pm

The next clash of the night saw Albert Park, a side who looked like title contenders early but self implode over previous weeks take on a Carlton side boasting 3 new recruits from Metropolitan, Mus Alor, Eren Ozdemir & Brenno Polatti. Weeks of disharmony in the Metropolitan camp finally came to an end with 6 Metro players making use of the transfer window. Albert Park, still in all sorts, dropped the Redzepovic brothers for this clash due to some untimely friction.

It was a shame because Alia had scored in almost every game he played in the royal blue, Marjan & Dejan improved on last weeks performance but still weren't up to par and Iggy (Ignat Filipovic) is going through the worst patch of form. Take nothing away from Carlton, a strong and united team with Hamid, Hooman & Eren all scoring valuable doubles. Every player is a constant threat and Carlton could have a late surge towards the top. With some of the Futsal they've played Fitzroy & Pascoe Vale need to keep a close eye over their shoulder.

Referees: Ricardo Arajuo & Duck Farah

Goal Scorers:

Albert Park FC: Ignjat Filipovic 1, Marjan Gorgiev 1, Dejan Dragic 1

FC Carlton: Hamid Hassanikhoo 2, Hooman Shekari 2, Eren Ozdemir 2

Pascoe Vale FC 7 vs. 10 FC Prahran 8:00pm

Pascoe Vale FC had won 8 in a row before they faced Prahran at prime time. Prahran had title contenders Fitzroy on the ropes two weeks ago and also battled resiliently against a North Melbourne side with now overseas Fernando De Moraes. They were always going to be a speed hump, and in the first minute of the game a series of freak incidents had the ball spin between G. Laskaris legs and into the back of the net, 1-0 Prahran. A down pour of nutmegs flooded an expected Laskaris and Prahran steam rolled the black and white stripes of Pascoe Vale.

PV was without quiet achiever Marko Kuna who is one of the most technically gifted Futsal players in Victoria but welcomed in the other half of the metropolitan team in Marcos Barbosa Junior & Victor Mesquita who sat out this one. It took a while for Pascoe Vale to get going and they never hit 5th gear,

Maxim & Haider were unbelievable up front, and Maxim scored a rip roaring header to drill the point home. Greg Laskaris was having a nightmare, fair to say he'd been terrific in the previous 8 PV games. Clint Mogai & Sanjin Lazetic was impeccable at the back for a Prahran side that really epitomize team spirit. Its not luck that won Prahran the souvlaki hut weeks ago, but sheer determination and uncompromising hardness at the ball often seen by goal keeper Dima Shakhanov. It got them over the line in this game, and the score line flattered Pascoe Vale who scored three late consolation goals to salvage their remarkable goal difference.

Referees: Nectar Karalis & Duck Farah

Goal Scorers:

Pascoe Vale FC: Simon Lamanda 2, Ernie Simsek 2, Juan Sastre 1, Tomislav Grigic 1

FC Prahran: Haider Noor 4, Maxim Avram 3, Ben Armstrong 1

Fitzroy FC 3 vs. 5 North Melbourne FC 8:45pm

The crowd was building after every game, and it climaxed when North Melbourne took on Fitzroy in a top of the table grudge match. These two teams never disappoint, and they provided a really good spectacle. North Melbourne used the 5th man rarely in this clash, not taking any chances, and with Jon Barrientos firing up forward they looked dangerous at every opportunity. Bill Mihelakis scored a screamer into the top corner that decided a game that was always in the balance.

Kargas was good in goal for North, as was Flo for Fitzroy. The low scoring game not representing the plethora of chances that fell to both sides. Both teams played well defensively and cleanly with few fouls & few cards. This was somewhat of a farewell game for Dimitri Vithoulkas who is off to Germany to play football professionally in the New Year; he scored a cheeky free kick that went straight through the wall. Mirza Pedic (NMFC) was a nuisance up front, and it was his clever half volley on the counter that put Hussein and two minds, to block the cross or allow it to run to Barrientos, in the end, Hussein headed into the top corner of his own goal, sabotaging Fitzroy's title hopes in a real 6 pointer that could've gone either way.

Referees: Ricardo Arajuo & Nectar Karalis

Goal Scorers:

Fitzroy FC: Leonardo Correa 1, Luciano Bessa 1, Dimitri Vithoulkas 1

North Melbourne FC: Jon Barrientos 2, Bill Mihelakis 1, Colby Waterfield 1, Own Goal (Hussein)

FC Geelong 2 vs. 8 Ashburton FC – 9:30pm

Both teams had important single inclusions this week, Geelong had signed Geelong local Ravel Tavares from Pascoe Vale FC & Ashburton welcomed dangerous left foot striker Bill Nalpantidis from FC Carlton. Both made impressive debuts. Ravel Scored a neat double for troublesome Geelong, that never looked liked beating a green hot Ashburton side, with in form Anthony Ramzy & Irzad Spijodic scoring a double each and Assaeda & Dixon with solitary goals. Anthony Cianflone played well for Ashburton in goals, he pulled off a few neat saves and his distribution was fantastic.

Geelong has the hunger, pace & passion but lack the technical ability of the top sides in the V-League. D'Antino (FCG) was solid at the back, but the Pink Panther (FCG) in goal behind him struggled flapping at several opportunities before being knocked out and replaced! Ashburton keep within the top 3 and go into the break sitting in 4th place on 25 points, Geelong are 10th on 13 points.

Referees: Ricardo Arajuo & Duck Farah

Goal Scorers:

FC Geelong: Ravel Tavares 2

Ashburton FC: Irzad Spijodic 2, Anthony Ramzy 2, Bill Nalpantidis 2, Diego Assaeda 1, Michael Dixon 1

Metropolitan FC 3 vs. 5 Melbourne University FC - 10:15pm

Mass exodus at Metropolitan that saw it lose its entire side was always going to be costly even if they were playing Melbourne University. Metropolitan assembled a pub side for this clash, Lizandro Sanabria from Colombia, ex Fitzroy players Serar Issa & Daya Ahmed also made the move, young gun Ibrahim El Houli was also brought in, while Jason Ng played in goal and Marco Barisic was the solitary defender at the back. Serar had a point to prove and scored an early double that must've left Melbourne University bewildered. 3 seasons in the V-League, training twice a week & a Futsal coach with little to show last on 4 points.

Melbourne University have been missing talisman Duke Duva and engine Udit Dahwan the past few games but they weren't required this week, Eric Huynh was impressive and played some terrific Futsal and he was aided and abetted by Melbourne University Futsal Club president Jamie Truong with a solitary goal. Ibbly impressed on debut for metro and scored a lethal left foot cracker, but it wasn't enough in the end, two sides counting their lucky stars they have 4 weeks to get things together if they want to be playing V-League next season.

Referees: Nectar Karalis & Duck Farah

Goal Scorers:

Metropolitan FC: Serar Issa 2, Ibbly El Houli 1

Melbourne University FC: Eric Huynh 4, Jamie Truong 1

www.futsaloz.tv for highlights and www.futsaloz.com.au/vleague.html for ladder