

# THE WANDERER





**WANDERERS  
vs CITY**

**FRI 22 NOV  
KICK-OFF 7:30PM  
BANKWEST STADIUM**

**🔍 [WANDERLAND.COM.AU](http://WANDERLAND.COM.AU)**







# THIS MATCH

## FEATURES

### A FIGHTER BORN FROM ADVERSITY 8

You see it in the way he goes about it in his training - meticulous and focussed.

### CHAMPIONS INCOMING 14

Kristen Hamilton, Denise O'Sullivan and Lynn Williams will don the Red & Black this season.

### A MEETING 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING 20

Babbel and Fowler face off for the first time since their playing years.

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## THE WANDERER

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## BELINDA WOOLFORD

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE officer of Ronald McDonald House Westmead it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to tonight's match between our Western Sydney Wanderers and the Brisbane Roar. Over the past six seasons the Wanderers and Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney have developed a meaningful and strong partnership. The Wanderers players, staff and Executive visit the House, speak with the families and show their support – their impact on the families is priceless. We are proud that this ongoing relationship is creating such a strong legacy – just this month Wanderers staff and Ambassadors Mitchell Duke, Dylan McGowan, Patrick Ziegler along with the rest of the team, cooked dinner for our guests as part of our Meals from the Heart program which the club has done for the past four years. While major moments like our Meals program, Christmas Party and Halloween celebrations are always well attended by Wanderers players the partnership goes beyond that. It's the regular visits and ongoing engagement that makes our relationship so valuable to the House and the families within. The families and kids that make every day at the House so special and empowering really do appreciate everything the Wanderers do and match days like Saturday in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney are so important as part of our investment in the lives of families who come from our region and beyond. In 2019 alone, we have had over 1500 families stay at our House in Westmead, as we continue to support families with a seriously ill child, I look forward to doing more and more with the club to ensure that the lives of our families get that distinctive magic that a Wanderers visit provides to everyone in the house. To get involved you can donate via [75cents.com.au](http://75cents.com.au) or sign-up to cook a meal for the families with Meals from the Heart – email: [arani.duggan@rmhcs.org.au](mailto:arani.duggan@rmhcs.org.au).

From everyone at the house, we sing for Wanderers!



# MATCH PREVIEW

IT'S A RIVALRY that has never been short of excitement, action and plenty of goals and there's nothing to suggest that the Wanderers v Brisbane Roar fourth round Hyundai A-League clash at Bankwest Stadium will be any different.

The Wanderers are riding high at the top of the table, the only team to notch three from three wins in what is their best start to a season since they came into the competition in 2012.

Head coach Markus Babbel has the competition leaders playing with character, confidence and a belief they can be a big player come the business end of the season.

It was there for all to see last week when the Wanderers withstood everything Sydney FC could throw at them to emerge with a remarkable 1-0 in the first Sydney Derby of the season.

While it might not have been the Wanderers' best performance, it showed that there is

much more substance and resilience than what we have seen in recent seasons. There are also plenty of signs that the team are only going to get better as the season progresses.

Interestingly, Babbel, who is in his second season with the club, will be opposed on the sideline by Roar coach Robbie Fowler. They were teammates at famous English club Liverpool in the early 2000s and, as fate would have it, now find themselves coaching in the Hyundai A-League.

Fowler joined the Roar in pre-season amid suggestions the club was taking a risk signing him on as head coach given his lack of experience coaching at a senior level.

But, while they have managed just a draw and a loss in their opening two games, the Roar are showing signs of developing as a decent side under the former England international.

After a late goal secured a draw against Perth Glory, the Roar were unfortunate to go down 1-0 at home to Melbourne Victory last week.

If past games between the two sides are any indication, we could be in for some real excitement as both teams like to get forward as often as they can and have players who are very dangerous in the final third of the field.

The Wanderers have had the better of the Queenslanders in recent seasons having recorded three wins and two draws from the last five encounters.

Babbel will have some interesting selection headaches this week with Bruce Kamau likely to be included in the squad after spending sometime on the sidelines with an injury while new signing Nicolai Muller will have had a week to acclimatise. **W**



(Top to bottom) Matthew Jurman and Mitchell Duke warming up at Bankwest Stadium

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# FIELD REPORTER

CATHERINE CANNULI  
 @CANNULI\_13

How GOOD WAS last weekend!

After 980 days of pain and suffering, it was incredible to see our Hyundai A-League team finally take the bragging rights for the Sydney Derby.

The passion, emotion and football was great to watch and I hope that our Westfield W-League team can this season replicate not only the result but the dedication and determination on the field.

As a team last week, we headed on a Westfield W-League team camp for the first time in the club's history.

The purpose of the camp was more than just to play a few trial games ahead of the season which starts on Thursday 14 November.

The purpose was to bring together the whole team for a weekend and bond, get to know each other and outline our upcoming goals for the season as a group.

There are no excuses for us this season and Dean Heffernan, Michael Beauchamp and I have recruited a strong team that we are sure will make you proud.

We recently announced the signings of National Women's Soccer League stars Kristen Hamilton, Denise O'Sullivan and Lynn Williams who together will be a force to be reckoned with.

They will arrive at the Centre of Football soon and all three players featured in North Carolina Courage's match over the weekend where they defeated Chicago Red Stars 4-0 to be named Champions for the second season in a row.

On the home front, it has been awesome to have a Wanderer also named in the Matildas this week.

New recruit Amy Harrison was named in the 21-player squad for the Matildas forthcoming international friendlies against Chile here at Bankwest Stadium and Adelaide.

So while we all wait in anticipation for the Westfield W-League season to start, get behind Amy Harrison and the Matildas and their friendlies on 9 and 12 November! **W**

# ON THIS DAY



ON THIS DAY in 2014, thousands of Wanderers shut down the arrivals terminal at Sydney International Airport to welcome home the first ever Australian club who was crowned AFC Asian Champions. The Red & Black had just returned home from a flight from Saudi Arabia where they defeated Al Hilal 1-0 thanks to a lone goal from Tomi Juric. **W**

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# A FIGHTER BORN FROM ADVERSITY

RAY GATT  
@GATTY54

YOU SEE IT in the way he goes about it in training - meticulous, focussed, the attention to even the minutest of detail a lesson for any aspiring footballer.

You see it where it counts most, on game day alongside his teammates - hard nosed, possessed, single-minded and defiant.

It is little wonder Western Sydney Wanderers midfielder Pirmin Schwegler talks about mentality.

Yes, it is fine to have quality, to excite the fans with a piece of individual brilliance but, sometimes, he says, that is not enough to get you through the tough times during an important game.

We saw What he was talking about in the Sydney Derby last week as the Wanderers clawed their way to a 1-0 win against the odds.

The former Swiss international used every bit of his 13 years experience plying his trade in the German Bundesliga to guide the Red & Black to their third win of the season and first against the arch rival since 2017.

Without the ball, he led by example, the tackling fierce but precise.

Schwegler isn't the captain but he led by his actions with his never-say-die mantra and his words.

From one end of the field to the other, he made his presence felt.

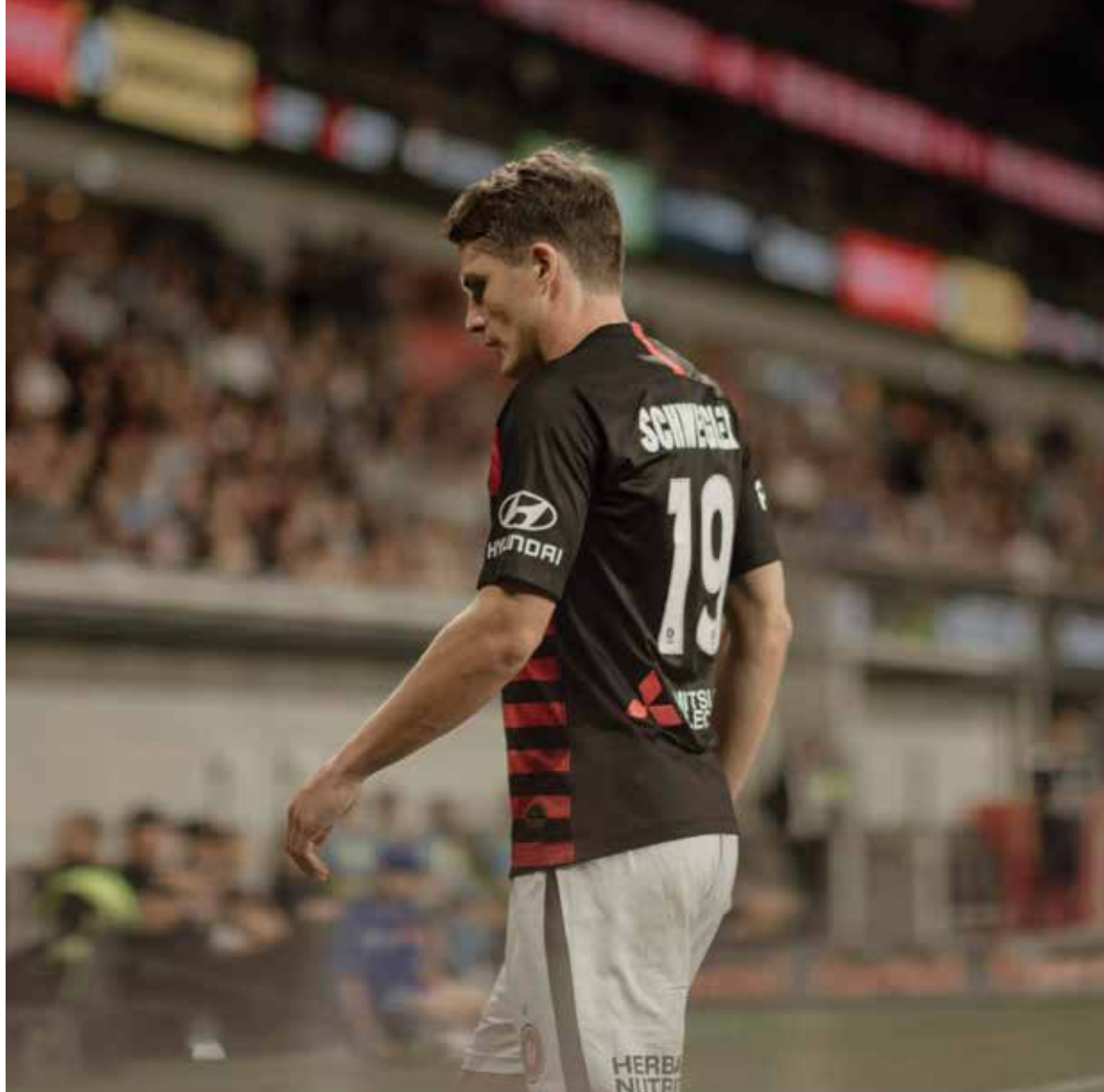
The fire that has driven him during his highly decorated football career is no surprise because to understand Pirmin Schwegler you need to delve into a part of his early life of which he has no recollection.



“I don't really know why I survived. I am a fighter.”

*(Previous Page) Staying calm in the moment.  
(Left from right) Pirmin celebrates a Derby win with Alex Meier; Pirmin walking to take a corner during the 22nd Sydney Derby.*





At the age of 16 months, he was rushed to the children's hospital in Bern, pale and with bruises on his legs. He was eventually diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

In his own words: "I speak Swiss-German, German, French and a little Spanish. No matter Swiss or English, AML is the same in both. Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

"The first years were very difficult and different, especially for my parents. My parents were told I had a 10 per cent chance to survive.

"I don't really know why I survived. I am a fighter."

It wasn't until his mid-teenage years that he found out how sick he had been.

At just 19, a time when most teenagers are thinking more about lifestyle and material things, Schwegler opted to start telling his story to the media.

He had a mission to try and help other children and their families "to understand what it means and the possibilities you have to go back to a normal life".

A 2008 reunion with Dr Annette Ridolfi, who provided great support to his family at the time of his illness, inspired Schwegler

to start the Childhood Cancer Foundation at Bern hospital.

"I started it because I wanted to make a difference for the children and the parents," said Schwegler.

"We have raised a lot of money, and while that is important, it is more important for me to be able to tell my story to those affected because I think my words can be a great help."

Football wise, Schwegler has a wonderful CV.

He started his professional career with Swiss club FC Luzern in 2003 before moving to Young Boys in 2005.

Schwegler impressed enough to earn a contract with German club Bayer Leverkusen, spending three seasons there before joining Eintracht Frankfurt, where he went on to spend many productive seasons.

It was while he was at Eintracht that he earned his first cap for Switzerland, going on to play 14 times for his country.

After several seasons with 1899 Hoffenheim and Hannover 96, he decided on a sea change and accepted an offer to join the Wanderers under head coach Markus Babbel, who was well aware of his qualities.

"I knew it was going to be tough coming to Australia. I knew about the Socceroos through the World Cups and came across a number of Australian players like Tomi Juric, Mathew Leckie and Robbie Kruse," he said.

Schwegler's performances in the opening three rounds of the season have already made him a favourite of the Wanderers faithful who love nothing better than seeing one of their own throw their heart and soul into the team.

But, his effort in the Sydney Derby went a long way to defining him as he appeared to make it his business to take on several key players in the opposition.

"We had a good mentality (against Sydney FC) and sometimes mentality beats quality," Schwegler said. "Of course, we had a bit of luck, but we worked for this.

"We knew we needed this mentality because Sydney have plenty of quality. They have been together three or four years, have structure and good players.

"You have to defend, never give up and to fight. We did this.

"I like it, I love it that you can win with this quality." ❏

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# PLAYER TO WATCH

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**3**  
GAMES PLAYED  
THIS SEASON



**80.5%      72.8%**

PASSING ACCURACY

**1      0**

ASSISTS

**37      10**

DUELS

**174      55**

TOUCHES

**61.5%      0%**

TACKLES



**2**  
GAMES PLAYED  
THIS SEASON

**PIRMIN  
SCHWEGLER**  
#19 MIDFIELDER

**BRADDEN  
INMAN**  
#10 MIDFIELDER

# CHAMPIONS INCOMING

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS  
KRISTEN HAMILTON, DENISE O'SULLIVAN AND LYNN  
WILLIAMS WILL DON THE RED & BLACK THIS SEASON.

ALL THREE PLAYERS featured in North Carolina Courage's match over the weekend where they defeated Chicago Red Stars 4-0 to be named Champions for the second season in a row.

Attacker Kristen Hamilton comes to the club with a wealth of experience having plied her trade in the national competition since 2012, signing her first professional contract with Colorado Rapid Womens.

After featuring in 20 matches over two seasons for the Rapids, Hamilton made the switch to Western New York Flash before the club was relocated to North Carolina and became the Courage.

Hamilton has made over 50 appearances for the Courage and this season has had a career-best after playing in 24 matches and scoring nine goals.

The forward has a number of accolades to her name and has won the NWSL on three occasions – in 2016, 2018 and 2019 respectively,

and has also won the Women's International Champions Cup in 2018.

It can be argued that 2019 was Hamilton's year, with the forward scoring the first hat-trick of her career followed by a four-goal game against Houston to tie the league record for most goals in a single match.

Hamilton was also called into the United States senior team for the first time in her career and earned her first cap in a friendly against Portugal.

This Westfield W-League season with the Wanderers will be Hamilton's first season outside of the United States.

Irish international midfielder Denise O'Sullivan signs with the club on a guest stint for the upcoming Westfield W-League season.

Having started her youth career in her native country at Wilton United, O'Sullivan worked her way through the Women's National League with clubs such as Peamount



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(Left from right) Hamilton at training with North Carolina Courage, O'Sullivan representing the Republic of Ireland, Williams celebrating a goal at Courage

United, Cork and Scottish Champions Glasgow City before moving to Houston Dash in the NWSL.

The gifted midfielder played in 29 matches for Houston Dash before also moving to North Carolina in 2017 where she has played for the last three seasons.

O'Sullivan has represented the Republic of Ireland since 2011 and played in eight matches in Ireland's qualification run to the FIFA Women's World Cup.

This will be O'Sullivan's second stint in the Westfield W-League having signed as a guest player last season for Canberra United.

US striker Lynn Williams also joins the club this season and will no doubt dazzle during her time with the club.

The lethal forward started her professional career at Western New York Flash where she made 36 appearances, scoring 15 goals.

During her stint with the Flash, not only was Williams crowned a Champion of the NWSL competition, but the striker on a personal note won the Golden Boot, Most Valuable Player and was named in the Best XI of the national competition.

In 2017, Williams like Hamilton followed the club's move to North Carolina and since then has been a force to be reckoned with.

During the 2017 season Williams scored nine goals, before matching her personal best with 15 in 2018 and 12 in 2019. 

**CATCH THE WANDERERS WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE TEAM IN THEIR FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON ON THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER WHEN THEY TAKE ON ADELAIDE UNITED AT MARCONI STADIUM.**

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SCORE



SQUAD

S	B	#	NAME	POSITION	SPONSOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	DANIEL LOPAR	GOALKEEPER	MCDONALD'S
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	DYLAN MCGOWAN	DEFENDER	ACCESS FIRE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	DANIEL GEORGIEVSKI	DEFENDER	VACCARO GROUP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	MATTHEW JURMAN	DEFENDER	MATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	MITCHELL DUKE	DEFENDER	PEPPER MONEY
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	JORDAN O'DOHERTY	MIDFIELDER	JD SPORTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	NICOLAI MÜLLER	FORWARD	STULZ
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	RADOSLAW MAJEWSKI	MIDFIELDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	BRUCE KAMAU	FORWARD	CASTLE HILL HYUNDAI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	TASS MOURDOUKOUTAS	DEFENDER	CENTURIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	ALEX MEIER	FORWARD	TURNER FREEMAN LAWYERS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	MATHIEU CORDIER	DEFENDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	KEANU BACCUS	MIDFIELDER	BEST SIGNS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	PIRMIN SCHWEGLER	MIDFIELDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	VEDRAN JANJETOVIC	GOALKEEPER	JOE BLACK
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	TAREK ELRICH	DEFENDER	CLUB MARCONI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	NICHOLAS SULLIVAN	MIDFIELDER	A.S.S. FENCING
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	KOSTA GROZOS	MIDFIELDER	GPP EXCAVATIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27	KWAME YEBOAH	FORWARD	REES ELECTRICAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	FABIAN MONGE	MIDFIELDER	INDUSTRIAL HARVEST
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	DANIEL WILMERING	MIDFIELDER	WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	DANIJEL NIZIC	GOALKEEPER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31	NOAH PAGDEN	DEFENDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	TATE RUSSELL	DEFENDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34	PATRICK ZIEGLER	DEFENDER	MULTIQUIP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35	MOHAMED ADAM	FORWARD	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37	JAKE TREW	FORWARD	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40	NICHOLAS SUMAN	GOALKEEPER	HERTZ
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	JACK GREENWOOD	GOALKEEPER	

COACH

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LABINOT HALITI  
DAVIDE DEL GIOVINE

SUBSTITUTES

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5	WESTERN UNITED FC
6	MELBOURNE VICTORY
7	ADELAIDE UNITED
8	CENTRAL COAST MARINERS
9	NEWCASTLE JETS
10	BRISBANE ROAR FC
11	WELLINGTON PHOENIX

P PLAYED W WINS D DRAW L L

ROUND 3 MATCHES



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CORRECT AS OF ROUND 3

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
3	3	0	0	5	2	3	9
3	2	1	0	4	2	2	7
3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
3	0	0	3	2	5	-3	0

SS GF GOALS FOR GA GOALS AGAINST GD GOAL DIFFERENCE PTS POINTS



VS



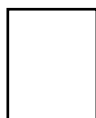
VS



SCORE

SCORE

SCORE



SQUAD

#	NAME	POSITION	S	B
1	MAX CROCOMBE	GOALKEEPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	SCOTT NEVILLE	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	DANIEL BOWELS	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	TOM ALDRED	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	MACAULAY GILLESPEY	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	JAI INGHAM	FORWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	JACOB PEPPER	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	ROY O'DONOVAN	FORWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	BRADDEN INMAN	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	AIDEN O'NEILL	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	STEFAN MAUK	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	GEORGE MELS	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	AARON REARDON	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	JAKE HINGERT	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	AARON AMANDI-HOLLOWAY	FORWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	JAMIE YOUNG	GOALKEEPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	JAKE McGING	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	DYLAN WENZEL-HALLS	FORWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	CONNOR O'TOOLE	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	RAHMAT AKBARI	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	JAY O'SHEA	MIDFIELDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	KAI TREWIN	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	IZAACK POWELL	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	JORDAN COURTNEY-PERKINS	DEFENDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	MACKLIN FRECKE	GOALKEEPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COACH

ROBBIE FOWLER

ASSISTANT COACHES

DARREN DAVIES

TONY GRANT

SUBSTITUTES

OFF

ON



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## JUNIOR WANDERER OF THE MATCH

This week's Junior Wanderers is eight year old Alyssa O'Connor!

Alyssa always stays after the match to say thank you to the players even when they turn the lights off at the stadium.

### WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!

Send your answer to [competitions@wswanderersfc.com.au](mailto:competitions@wswanderersfc.com.au). The most passionate answer wins!

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the five differences below?



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS: 1. Nick Sullivan's drink is red; 2. The text on the big screen is missing; 3. The star on Mitchell Duke's jersey is missing; 4. The Wanderers logo is missing from the LED in the background; 5. Daniel Georgievski's number is missing from his top. 3. JUNIOR QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Mitchell Duke, 2. Kristen Hamilton, Denise O'Sullivan, Lynn Williams, 3. Western United, 4. Switzerland Baumjohann.



## GRAB YOUR ANTHEM JACKET

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# THE CORNER POST

WE LOVE THIS time of the year!

Things are ramping up on all fronts with our Hyundai A-League team four rounds in while our Westfield W-League and Foxtel Y-League teams are getting ready to get started!

We will never forget last weekend, what a night it was!

We couldn't believe how loud the crowd was and the amount of noise they were making.


You couldn't hear the person next to you!

It was awesome to meet so many of our Miniroos at half time as well as our Walking Football participants who also played in the middle of the pitch.



You wouldn't believe it but the Wanderers Walking Football Team also won the Sydney Derby 1-0!

Tonight we're hoping the boys can continue their undefeated run against one of our biggest opponents - Brisbane Roar.

Come on you Wanderers! 



## JUNIOR QUIZ

1. Which Wanderer has scored in every home game this season?
2. Name the three National Women's Soccer League Champions the Wanderers signed this week.
3. Who will the Wanderers play for the first time in Round 4 of the Hyundai A-League?
4. What country does Dani Lopar and Pirmin Schwegler originate from?



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# A MEETING 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING.

IF YOU HAD TOLD MARKUS BABEL AND ROBBIE FOWLER 19 YEARS AGO THAT THEY WOULD ONE DAY COACH AGAINST EACH OTHER IN AUSTRALIA, YOU WOULD HAVE NO DOUBT GOT SOME CRAZY LOOKS.

AT THE TIME, they were teammates at famous English club Liverpool FC and coaching let alone being in Australia for football, would not have even registered on their radar given their careers were in full force.

But, as we know, football often throws up strange situations and this will be the case when the former Reds pals meet on the sideline at Bankwest Stadium – Babel as coach of the unbeaten Western Sydney Wanderers and Fowler on the other end with Brisbane Roar.

While their focus will be squarely on the Hyundai A-League fourth round clash, there is no doubt they will find some time to reminisce at some stage about their days in the English Premier League.

Fowler, the man the Liverpool faithful call “God”, was already an entrenched star at Merseyside when Babel joined for the 2000/2001 season. Fowler was the goalscoring freak while Babel was the hard nut German defender.

They were regulars in the starting XI that season though, for one reason or another, their time together on the field the following season was limited before Fowler eventually joined Leeds United late in 2001.

The highly decorated Englishman, who played 550 games and scored 236 goals, went on to play for Manchester City, Cardiff City and Blackburn Rovers before being lured to the A-League in 2009 to play with North Queensland. He also had a stint with Perth Glory in the 2011/12 season.

Illness curtailed Babel's career at Liverpool, forcing him out of the game for a year before stints with Blackburn Rovers and VfB Stuttgart.

Former German international Babel was quick to turn to coaching, first as an assistant at his old club VfB Stuttgart for the 2007/08 season then in the main role the following season.

Babel is now an old hand at coaching having also taken charge of Hertha Berlin and 1899 Hoffenheim in the German Bundesliga and Swiss club FC Luzern, where he had terrific success before joining the Red & Black at the beginning of last season.

For Fowler, however, this job with the Roar is his first real taste of senior coaching. Despite his undoubted credentials he was overlooked for several jobs in the A-League before the Queenslanders came knocking this season.

While most eyes will no doubt be on the game between the Wanderers and the Roar, the interaction between the two on the sideline will be sure to attract much attention, both from the media and fans.

The best part, though, will likely come when the two catch up in the dressing rooms after the game for a chat. There will be some players cranking their necks to listen in on some of the old stories the two will reminisce about. **W**





# CONTAGIOUS, EMOTIONAL AND LOUD

## INSIDE THE WANDERERS' MARCH TO THE SYDNEY DERBY

IT'S 6:15PM ON Saturday at The Crown on Church Street, Parramatta's busiest strip of restaurants, bars cafés.

For Western Sydney Wanderers fans, it's time to march to Bankwest Stadium ahead of the first Sydney derby against fierce rivals Sydney FC.

The cross-city rivals have not squared off at the Wanderers spiritual Parramatta home since January 2016.

It is why this march toward Bankwest Stadium, one of the most important pre-game rituals for the club's active support group, the Red and Black Bloc, carried

special significance for lifelong Wanderers fan Sarah Hutchinson.

"This was probably the most emotional one," said Hutchinson, who cannot count how many times she has made the 750-metre charge to the stadium.

"And the most memorable. It just had that feeling and so many things came together because of it. The energy there was contagious."

While Hutchinson is a veteran of the Wanderers' pre-game march, her friend, Lauren Dias, was in attendance for the very first time.

She could feel something special brewing as police arrived outside The Crown to clear the street, as a fan began to converge from all angles.

"I didn't know what I was walking into," she said. "I thought there would be some chanting

here and there but that's not what happened.

"It's very contagious. The atmosphere is what really took you because there were so many people around you, it felt very easy to join in, march and sing with them. I felt very welcome and felt like I had been going for ages."

Western Sydney is one of Australia's most ethnically diverse region, as a quick glance at the Red and Black Bloc shuffling down Church Street on match day would demonstrate.

There also supporters of all ages making their way to the stadium amid a conclave of noise and colour.

"It was incredible. Every person was singing their absolute loudest. There was no one there that was embarrassed or half singing. Everyone was singing, everyone was smiling, everyone was enjoying it," said Dias.



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"At times everyone was jumping, so I started jumping because everyone was. You just get swept up in it. You are around people that are smiling and happy and just enjoying it. It was pretty emotional."

"It was something I thought I would see in Europe but I didn't expect to see it here in Sydney."

The carnival atmosphere outside the stadium continued inside, with the match living up to the pre-match hype and the players putting on a show worthy of Derby fare.

The constant noise and sea of Red and Black certainly inspired the Wanderers players, who gave their fans the perfect gift with a 1-0 win over the fierce foes.

Mitchell Duke's first-half goal – and some ferocious last-ditch defending – was enough to hand the Wanderers just

their second win in the last 17 derbies in the Hyundai A-League.

But it wasn't just the result that left a mark for newcomer Dias.

"Genuinely there wasn't a time in the game where you didn't hear someone singing. Whether it was the Wanderers fans or the Sydney fans, or whether it was at the same time, the stadium was loud the whole time," she said.

"That comes down to Bankwest Stadium being such a great place to watch football in. Being so close to the action was insane. Watching the game live was totally different to watching it on TV and then the noise level just added to the derby."

"The whole experience made me aware that the active supporter groups are out and alive. I felt very welcome that I can easily go back and do it as many times as I want and be a part of it. The atmosphere, the fans and

the stadium just topped everything off for me and it was a great game as well."

And for Hutchinson, the joy of victory was significant also, and not just for the fact of beating the club's main rivals.

"It just feels like we're onto something. It's a new stage. I feel like we've come full circle and it's a new start," she said.

"It's almost like it's a new slate for us, new fans, new team, new attitude on and off the pitch. It's exciting to go every week because that excitement is back."

"It's not like 'OK we're competitive', it's 'we're going to win the league.' It's that sort of feeling and momentum. We've won against Sydney and Victory and those are the clubs you want to be winning against." ❏

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## DANI LOPAR ON OUR CONFIDENCE ON AND OFF THE PITCH.

IT'S ALWAYS NICE to win a Derby but now we have to look forward and we've been looking closely at tonight's match against Brisbane Roar.

It wouldn't be a Derby match without some controversy and the ball did cross the line, but not fully in my opinion.

The game was so quick and I tried to continue the game and the luck was on our side on that day so it was a good outcome for us.

The reason why Markus has brought in foreigners like Pirmin Schwegler, Alex Meier, Nicolai Muller and myself is to give something special to the team.

We want to improve every day, helping the team and improving ourselves.


Every game is different here in Australia and Brisbane Roar had a lot of changes this season like us.

We don't think too much about the opposition and rather just focus on ourselves, so we will see what happens tonight.

I have a good goalkeeper coach (Davide Del Giovine) who have helped me a lot to adapt to this league and at the moment my time at the Wanderers has been good, but we have to improve as a team as well as our own individual performances.

You can feel the confidence in the change rooms and on the pitch but there are still a lot of things we need to improve on but everything we do starts with confidence.

We have to continue working because football changes quickly.

For now, it's very nice but we have to continue. 



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# MEALS FROM THE HEART

THE WESTERN SYDNEY Wanderers have continued their yearly tradition of cooking meals for sick kids and their families at Ronald McDonald House Greater Western Sydney ahead of tonight's special match dedicated to the house.

Most of us take a home-cooked meal for granted and the Meals From The Heart Program provides a much-needed service to families who are supporting their sick kids and often don't have the time, funds or energy to prepare a healthy home-cooked meal.

Tonight's match is Ronald McDonald House Greater Western Sydney's annual match, which aims to support the house and thank them for their incredible work in keeping families together.

The Red & Black will also be part of Australia's largest national fundraiser, McHappy Day.

A portion of the proceeds from every Big Mac purchase goes towards keeping families with sick kids together.

You can also purchase a pair of red and white Ronald McDonald socks to show your support as Ronald McDonald House Charities Australia looks to build on the millions that were raised last year. [W](#)

**TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT**  
**RMHC.ORG.AU**



# HELPING OUT

THIS WEEK OUR Centuria Wandercrew of the week is volunteer Matthew Squadrito!

Matthew volunteers at every Wanderers Hyundai A-League match as part of our promotional team and you'll often see him when you walk into Wanderland handing out The Wanderer and greeting our members.

Each season we have over 70 passionate volunteers give up their time on Wanderers Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League and Foxtel Y-League games to give back to the community and help us with match day.

These volunteers are part of the Centuria Wandercrew workforce and roles range from helping with our activations to taking care of the hundreds of Minirooms that take to the field every week at half-time. [W](#)

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# THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE Westmead provides a warm and supportive home-away-from-home for families of children travelling to The Children's Hospital at Westmead for treatment. The Western Sydney Wanderers are proud to have supported Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney for six years.

Over the course of our partnership, Wanderers players and club officials have regularly given their time in support of the various events and programs the charity provides for families throughout the year. A favourite day in the Wanderers calendar is when the players and staff visit the House and cook a healthy home cooked meal for families who have spent a long day on the hospital ward with their seriously ill child. It is a chance for players and staff to meet families, hear their stories and offer a little support during their journey.

Almost two years ago Ronald McDonald House Westmead completely transformed into a purpose-built, 60 room accommodation facility, catering to more families in need.

In 2019, it is expected to accommodate and support over 1,500 families with a seriously ill child, allowing parents and carers to focus on the health of their child when they need it most.

Belinda Woolford, CEO RMHC GWS said "We're forever grateful to the Wanderers for their ongoing support of seriously ill children and their families. When the players visit the house, you can see the impact immediately, spirits are lifted, which is priceless"

Western Sydney Wanderers CEO John Tsatsimas said "The Wanderers are so proud of our long standing relationship with RMHC GWS, when we visit the House, we all work away with a little more perspective and are

grateful for the opportunity to bring a smile to the faces of the children in the House" 🙏

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