

Mulvey needing to find quick answers



ROUGH START: Joshua Risdon of the Glory is tackled by Steven Lustica and, (inset) Henrique celebrates his stunning goal. Picture: WILL RUSSELL/GETTY IMAGES

MARCO MONTEVERDE

BRISBANE Roar are facing the dreaded prospect of opening their A-League title defence with a hat-trick of defeats if they fail to fix the defensive frailties that haunted them yesterday in their 3-2 loss to Perth Glory.

The unbeaten Sydney FC visit Suncorp Stadium on Friday night and deserve favouritism on the basis of the opening two weeks of the season. The Roar led twice yesterday, but inspired by Irish striker Andy Keogh, the



Glory scored three goals in the second half to maintain their 100 per cent record.

In contrast, the Roar have opened a season with successive defeats for the first time in the club's history.

Brisbane coach Mike Mulvey was last night adamant his side would hit back hard.

"We want to win every game but the bottom line is you can't, as has been proved in the past two weeks," Mulvey said. "We're gutted, we're absolutely devastated by it, but we'll bounce back."

"I thought it was a top performance (against Perth) ex-

A-LEAGUE ROUND 2		
	GLORY	3
	ROAR	2
PERTH: Andy Keogh (49min pen, 90+2min), James Donachie (74min, og). ROAR: Mensur Kurtishi (39min), Henrique (55min). CROWD: 8789 at nib Stadium.		

cept for the fact that we leaked a few goals. We didn't control the game in the second half as well as we could."

Selection-wise Mulvey made the right call in drop-

ping Liam Miller and including Henrique in one of two changes he made to the team that lost 2-1 at home to Adelaide United. The other change was the inclusion of Steve Lustica for suspended Socceroo Matt McKay.

While Lustica did not stand out, Henrique was Brisbane's best, scoring a second-half cracker and setting up Mensur Kurtishi for the Macedonian international's first A-League goal.

However, the Roar looked ordinary in defence. Centre-back Jade North struggled after suffering from gastro

during the week, while James Donachie continues to adapt to life as a right back. North conceded the penalty that gave the Glory their first goal after bringing down Keogh, who converted from the spot.



Keogh also played a part in the Glory's second goal in the 74th minute, turning North before unleashing with a shot that took a wicked deflection off Donachie before finding the net.

And just when it seemed the points would be shared, Keogh rose high above a statue-like defence to head home a stoppage-time corner.



PICTURES PLEASE: David Villa with fans after the draw.

Villa in the piece saves day for City

A-LEAGUE ROUND 2		
	CITY	1
	JETS	1
MELBOURNE: David Villa (87min). NEWCASTLE: Edson Montano (62min). CROWD: 15,717 at AAMI Park.		

JUST as Melbourne City appeared destined for defeat yesterday, who else but David Villa stepped up to salvage a crucial point.

With three minutes of normal time left Villa tried to release Damien Duff, but a Jets intercept found Mate Dugandzic, who cleverly laid it off to the Spaniard to blast it home from the edge of the box.

It was nothing less than City deserved in front of 15,717 at AAMI Park, though in fairness they failed to convert possession into clear-cut chances.

They attacked without success, firing 16 shots compared to Newcastle's seven.

"Of course it's frustrating," mused coach John van't Schip.

"We were not ready to give the finishing punch.

"Dominating is not enough for three points ... the goals are the ones that count."

Not even Villa, Spain's all-time leading goal scorer, was immune. The World Cup winner fired over the crossbar in the 61st minute and hit his 48th-minute shot directly at goalkeeper Mark Birighitti.

But there was little Birighitti could do 26 minutes later. "He needs only a little moment," van't Schip said of Villa, who played the full game.

Newcastle's burly Ecuadorean striker Edson Montano was the most unpopular man in Melbourne for a moment as his clinical second-half goal looked set to give the Jets a snatch-and-grab win, before their second late goal in as many weeks cost them points.



TOP FORM: Caitlin Bassett on the attack against England.

Clean sweep will give Diamonds' season extra shine

AUSTRALIAN coach Lisa Alexander says the Diamonds won't be celebrating a commanding international season until they fulfil their final mission in Wednesday's second Test against England.

After the Diamonds continued their winning streak with a 55-37 thrashing of England in the first Test at Bendigo Stadium yesterday, Alexander said her team would not be satisfied until they had completed a

clean sweep of their six international fixtures in Canberra.

Already this year the Diamonds have claimed the Commonwealth Games gold medal with an 18-goal win over New Zealand and scored a 4-0 series win in the Constellation Cup against the Silver Ferns.

The Diamonds will achieve a perfect calendar year – the first time since 1999 – if they can beat England in the second Test.

AUSTRALIA	55
ENGLAND	37

"We're very focused on what we have to do," Alexander said after the big win.

"We think the Australian public really deserve us to put our heads down and work hard and have a great performance on Wednesday night.

"It's actually going to mean

quite a lot (to achieve a clean sweep)."

Alexander praised the Diamonds' powerful 18-6 opening quarter – the team's biggest of this international season – which set up the victory.

"We've been doing a lot of work on that since that Comm Games game and to see it there out on court ... was wonderful," Alexander said.

But Alexander said the Diamonds expected the English,

who suffered one goal-losses to both Australia and New Zealand at the Games, to be stronger on Wednesday.

Without injured captain Laura Geitz, the Diamonds led comfortably at every change and withstood a third-quarter fightback from England.

Goal shooter Caitlin Bassett continued her strong form, scoring 29 from 32, with goal attack Nat Medhurst (18/25) providing solid support.