

# Reds' calm before storm

WARREN PARTLAND

ADELAIDE United coach Josep Gombau has given his buoyant squad a well-earned break, free from soccer commitments, before the side launches an assault on the second half of the season.

The Reds, coming off a 2-1 triumph over ladder-leading Perth Glory in oppressive heat in Perth on Monday night, will have six days away from the club before preparing for the next challenge against Newcastle at Coopers Stadium on January 24.

The victory over the Glory lifted United to third on the premiership table and Jimmy Jeggo, whose first goal for the club 48 minutes into the contest proved the winner, described the result as massive after the side had dropped two of its previous three games.

"The heat was tough — it was extremely hot but we were probably better off after having a couple of extra days to prepare," Jeggo said. "It was one of those things and there was nothing you could do about it."

"The way we play, we like to have a lot of the ball so it suited us more than them."

"We'll have five or six days off to relax and forget about football, then have two weeks leading up to the game against Newcastle. The break will do everyone good to recharge our

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batteries and get ready to go again."

Jeggo joined United this year after his opportunities were limited in four seasons with Melbourne Victory and he has thrived in the Adelaide system under Gombau.

The attacking midfielder said the most satisfying aspect of his move to South Australia was playing week-in, week-out and being able to contribute to the side's encouraging season.

"It was good to get on the score sheet and help get the result," Jeggo said.

"I'm really enjoying playing in a team which plays the (style of) football we do."

"I'm loving it here."

"Josep has created a really good, relaxed environment and everyone is enjoying the way we play. We are confident we can beat anyone in the league but we have got to make sure we don't slip up, it is such a competitive league."



UNDER PRESSURE: Adelaide's Bruce Djite takes on Perth's Michael Thwaite at nib Stadium.

## Celtic closes in on leader

CELTIC has closed to within one point of Aberdeen at the top of the Scottish Premiership with a comfortable 2-0 win over Kilmarnock at Rugby Park.

The score didn't reflect the dominance of the Hoops, who twice hit the crossbar through Kris Commons before Emilio Izaguirre volleyed the Glasgow giant ahead with only his third goal for the club.

Killie survived a number of chances for Celtic, while also coming close through Robbie Muirhead, before Stefan Sce-povic added a second goal in the 71st minute.

## Gerrard will be missed



STEVEN Gerrard gave Liverpool fans an instant reminder of what it will be missing next season. Playing in his first game since announcing he will leave the club, Gerrard scored twice to give Liverpool a surprisingly hard-fought 2-1 win over fourth-tier Wimbledon in the third round of the FA Cup.

Gerrard scored with a header in the 12th minute and curled in a trademark free kick in the 62nd minute to secure the win. Adebayo Akinfenwa had equalised in the 36th.

Burnley held Tottenham to a 1-1 draw to force a replay.

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