



# MURRAY UNITED BULLETIN

MUFC NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 1

## Latest News...

### Murray United claims entertaining victory against Goulburn Valley

Murray United grabbed its first win at Shepparton against arch-rivals Goulburn Valley Suns on Saturday night.

The Border outfit won an entertaining contest, 4-2, to move into sixth spot in the NPL 2 eastern league.

Zac Walker found the back of the net twice to take his season tally to six, Tom Morrison made it four goals from seven games this season, while Gonzalo Freddi made a return from injury and scored three minutes into the second half.

Both teams had several clear-cut chances, but it was Walker who put the visitors in front 10 minutes in. Former Cobram Roar star Billy Marshall levelled the contest five minutes later as the sides went into the break locked at 1-1.

Freddi was brought on at half-time and made an instant impact with a goal in the 48th minute, only for Goulburn Valley coach Craig Carley to nod one in from the back post three minutes after to lock the scores at 2-2.

Connor Caponecchia created an opening for Tom Morrison to put Murray back in front and the frustration showed for the Suns when Jordan Montagner was sent from the field in the 67th minute.

Murray was eventually able to capitalise on the player advantage with Walker adding a second in the 89th minute to seal a memorable victory.

Coach Elliot Jones admitted the game was worthy of derby.

"For the neutral, I'm sure it was a fantastic game to watch, but as a coach, you really don't want to sit through too many of those that's for sure," he said.

"We really embraced the hype and the build-up of the game and spoke about the pressure that's attached to a game like that.

"Pressure is a privilege and big clubs and big players really stand up and perform in the big games and that's what we wanted to do.



"It was really pleasing as a group to go out and perform in that pressure situation.

"It only adds to our belief as a side moving forward."

Jones admitted Carley and Marshall caused plenty of headaches throughout the night.

"If those two get on the ball together, it's really dangerous and they were good enough to get back in it," he said.

"Sometimes you can go out not to lose those derby games and it can be a bit of a dour affair.

"What you saw was two sides going out for the win and what resulted was a really free-flowing game.

"There was plenty of cards and plenty of free kicks, it was a crazy game to be honest and it was great to get out the other side of it.

"That's three wins in a row and four out of the last five and we feel like we're really starting to click into gear." Jones admitted captain Ashley Dunn was the standout, continuing his excellent season.

"He keeps standing up as a captain and leads with effort and endeavour," Jones said.

"We couldn't be happier with how Ash has been going this year, I think he's playing the best football he's played since being at the club."

Freddi was sore after his first game back, but will be a chance to return to the starting lineup next weekend. The ladder after round seven is: Dandenong City 16, Moreland City 15, Melbourne City 12, Springvale White Eagles 10, Langwarrin 10\*, Murray United 10, Box Hill United 9, Eastern Lions 7, Goulburn Valley Suns 7, Nunawading City 3\*.

**STORY BY- Beau Greenway @ Border Mail**

## Women in Soccer, Murray Says Yes!

Waiting for soccer training to start, it's obvious Sarsha Smith lives and breathes the world game. Now 15, the teenager started playing soccer almost eight years ago.



"It's been pretty forward since then, I started rep at ten, and then played state the year after that, Riverina soccer for school, and then started moving forward."

Having played in the senior women's side for Hotspurs in the Albury Wodonga Football Association for the past two years (she won Best and Fairest last year, and came runner up the year before), the Albury High student's now playing with Murray United's under fifteens boys' side. "I'd heard so much about the quality at the club, how good it is and where kids can go from it and I thought it was just the new experience I needed", says Sarsha

And, she's relishing the challenge. "The biggest differences are the speed, which is a lot faster, and the skill levels a lot higher."  
"Coming from Club soccer to a National Premier League side, you can notice the effort everyone puts in. Everyone at Murray wants to be there."

The teenager's also enjoying the physicality of the game, playing against boys, who have embraced her as part of their soccer family.

Since starting kicking around a soccer ball at age eight, Sarsha has gone from strength to strength, and was recently chosen to trial for the Victorian state team, which she says is all thanks to her new club. "Murray's improved my skill level, and I really think it's created a pathway for not only boys, but also girls to go further."

But, Sarsha's ambition doesn't stop there. She's focused on W-League as her next step, and wants to go even further. "Playing for Australia – that's the dream", the midfielder says. And the path's already been paved.

"Girls here previously have gone on to big things. Molly-Mae Ramsey was at Murray and now plays for South Melbourne in the NPL. And there's Christina Stefanou. It's good because I actually played in a team with Christina, I actually played rep with her, so it's great to see her go onto a higher lever and play in Melbourne."



Sarsha hopes a women's NPL team on the Border could also soon become a reality. "I feel like we could actually work towards it, we are already really close to it, with a girl in every age group at Murray United already making it closer."

And there's little doubt should that women's team come to fruition, the year ten student will be there front and centre.

**STORY BY: Kelly Klappis @ Nine News**

## New Coach, New Approach

Soccer is a growing sport in Australia. The most recent study taken in 2016 shows a 46% rise from 2001 to 2016 and anticipation of another 10% rise this year as we see the 2018 FIFA Soccer World Cup in Russia. Turning focus to the growing sport of Soccer, Murray United Football Club is encapsulating New South Wales Southern Riverina and North East Victoria, competing in the national premier leagues.

Heading the 2018 team is Elliot Jones, the new senior head coach for the season. Elliot brings a great understanding of the local footballing landscape and has proven coaching success in the NPL with two years as MUFC U20's coach, which included leading the team to the runners up position in 2016 and third position in 2015.

"Murray United continues to support local talent in this region, and has always strived to give its people the opportunity to develop themselves in a state wide competition" said Darren Yates, Chairman of Murray United FC.



"Elliot is the right personality and the right character to lead the senior playing group. He is a very good communicator and knows the club and senior players well. He's a perfect fit within the club's culture and future vision and we're excited to have him back to the club as our senior coach"

Elliot said his role as senior coach is to set high standards in everything Murray United Football Club do and build on the strength of the team in 2018.

"I will encourage improvement with a focus on developing the character of our players and the culture of our club." Before coaching with MUFC, Elliot played with Albury United for 13 seasons and helped them to 6 league titles and 6 cup wins. Throughout his career Elliot has represented the region and played at many junior national championships.

Elliot is highly regarded and well respected within the local football community, his passion and support in assisting and providing opportunities for others demonstrates his commitment to advanced coaching and the NPL framework, something MUFC take into serious consideration in delivering each competition.

**STORY BY: *Bernadette Torresan @ Go Local Magazine***

## Chairmans Report

It gives me great pleasure to be addressing club members in our new newsletter format. We hope you enjoy it!

The club (from top to bottom) has made a really positive start in 2018. Elliot Jones has settled in well as our new senior coach with the senior team picking up a respectable 7 points from our first 6 games and winning our Round 4 FFA Cup Game. It is so pleasing to see Fletcher Caponecchia and Azia Feltrin become further success stories getting minutes in our senior team this year after starting with the club in our Under 15's in our inaugural season in 2015.

Adam Carty and our junior coaches are continuing their great work with our junior player development with noticeable improvement evident as each week passes. There is plenty of positive energy around the club at the moment and the players and parents appear to be very much enjoying being part of our learning environment.

Our U8 to U11 Bright Red SAP head coach Gonzalo Freddi and his team have just completed a successful Term 1 program with players enjoying the experience of two tournaments playing at Fawkner in February and Bendigo in March. We look forward to our numbers increasing when Bright Red SAP Term 2 commences on 30 April.

Congratulations to Alec Mills being one of the twelve finalists in the Norske Skog Young Achiever of the Year Award. That is a significant achievement as very few footballers have been recognised in this award in its history and we're delighted that Alec represented the club, the sport and his family with distinction.

Thankyou to all our club members for continuing to set the NPL benchmark in terms of behaviour and thankyou also to Belinda Murrell, Serena Brejcha and our matchday team for setting the NPL benchmark with our canteen menu in 2018.

Keep on marching!

**Darren Yates**  
**MUFC Chairman.**

## Catching up with the Technical Director

In its simplest form, Murray United Youth football programme exists because players have a dream of become better footballers. Our purpose therefore, centres on the requirement to create learning environment in which players learn.

An obsolete statement without a tangible measurement of what success actually looks like.

However, before doing so, we must first resolve the issue many neutral observers must first come to terms with: the difference between *performance* and *results* in youth football.

Up to 20 years of age, the imperative is for players to learn how to play effectively as adults. The focus must be on the style and manner of play rather than results. This being said, if certain elements of individual and team performance are executed well enough, the results will likely take care of itself.

Therefore, the measurement of success is so much more than the traditional method of just measuring an individual player's technical development.

If we are to consider the earlier statement as a purpose statement, we need to consider measurements of success that incorporate more than a player's ability to display the consistent execution of core skills....

We must consider the team and focus on maximising team development and subsequently accelerating player learning.

I truly believe, player become better, when they are good team mates. They learn more, they can work through complex problems easier, they observe better and their work ethic improves. Tragically, we are told in life, we must stand out to be notices, which is counter intuitive in a team environment.

Our vision is to drive high performance through the development of high performing teams. Teams who have self-belief who have with self-purpose and self-worth.

Vision without actions is a day-dream; action without vision is a nightmare. So, to deliver on this we must;

- Create high performing teams
- Build trust among players and coaches
- Challenge poor behaviour and bad playing habits through genuine conversations; and
- Continuously improve each element of individual and team performance.

**Adam Carty**  
**Technical Director**

# Team Reports

## U12's

The coaching group is pleased with the individual development that is occurring within the U12 squad.

We have a relatively young squad and this is the first year of NPL football for the majority of our players and they are quickly realising the difference in speed, technical ability and physicality of opponents.



We continue to work hard on developing the four core skills and lifting our intensity at training.

Players are getting the opportunity to experience different positions on the field and are enjoying the challenges that are presented to them each week. We look forward to continuing the learning journey with them in the weeks ahead.

**Daryl, Darren, Kye & Jordan**  
**Coaches**



## U15's

Round 1 Vs Box Hill at home

Played well for the first 28 minutes. We were able to soak up the pressure and get up the other end. . On our 3rd attack we scored which was promising.

Second half was just a dominant display from box hill. They turned the screws and the boys just had their heads down. We had a couple of chances to score again which was good considering they conceded a few goals.

Round 2 vs Heidelberg

Started off well, kept possession very well. Heidelberg were able to scramble 2 goals in before half time.

After half time we were confident we could make a come back but they scored right after the break. To the boys credit they answered back with a goal of their own and fought really well till the end of the game. The 5-1 deficit showed how clinical Heidelberg were.



Round 3 vs Nunawading

We are quite disappointed with the result considering we felt we were the better team for a large part of the game. A well drilled nunawading side kept the ball well but struggled to create too many chances. 2 questionable offside decisions didn't stop us from fighting on and creating chances. A penalty miss and 4 or 5 missed one v ones showed we needed to be more clinical just as nunawading were. Overall this team is improving immensely and is close to its first win in 2 years!

Round 4 vs Eastern Lions

Game started off pretty slow, we were knocking the ball around well and everyone kept positive, one small mistake caused the first goal before another goal in quick succession, proud of the group to only go into half time two goals down against the wind, second half saw a new eastern lions side with 4 quick goals and the group just dropped their heads but never gave up, some promising signs.

Round 5 vs Springvale

1st half was a strong half for Springvale, they capitalised on a couple of mistakes and we didn't punish them for theirs. Second half would be this team's best half of the year. An inspiring half and if this team were to play like that for a whole game the opposition would be in trouble

**Aaron Williams**  
**Coach**



## U20's



MU20 have had a slow but competitive start to the year, 6 rounds in.

We have been in a place to win 5 of the 6 games but due to basic errors in the back 3rd and not taking the multitude of chances we have had in every game, we have only taken 1 win and 1 draw from the first 6 games.

It's very positive being competitive and we need to turn around the close games into our favour. This takes team work and work rate from individual for the team, which we saw last game V Nunawading which we took all 3 points.

The ability to hold structure and be disciplined for the team is imperative to being successful in coming weeks against higher positioned teams.

Individuals need to concentrate being the best they can on the day, within the structure the team is working on. This will culminate in individuals that are focused on a team performance that will deliver results to MU.

**Darrel Mills**  
**Coach**



## Announcements



# BRIGHT RED

FOOTBALL IN  
THE COMMUNITY

### MUFC 2018 BRIGHT RED SAP PROGRAM

Monday and Wednesday - TERM 2 begins 30 April

In 2018 the Murray United Bright Red SAP Program will move to a year-round program for 7 to 12 year old boys and girls designed to prepare players for NPL junior competition.

Held two nights per week for 9 weeks (18 sessions) during each school term, the program is for players wanting to further develop technique and skills. Players will also play up to 5 Gala Days in 2018 against other regional Victorian NPL Clubs to complement their Bright Red SAP training and will also play at Murray United senior games as pre-match and half-time entertainment. One parent of each player will receive a complimentary Murray United 2018 year membership.

Sessions are based on the Skill Acquisition phase of FFA Curriculum and are carefully structured to achieve the correct balance between the technical, tactical, physical and educational components according to age and stage of development.

The program is delivered by MUFC Senior player Gonzalo Freddi, assisted by qualified and experienced MUFC coaching staff.

Places are limited with coaching ratios of 1 coach to 12 players. Players can opt in and out each term and are allocated to groups in the first week of each term based on current ability level (not age) so all players reap full benefit from the program.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS:

Venue: Kelly Park, Lawrence St, Wodonga	Sessions: 2 x 1 hr session per week
Duration: 9 weeks	Monday and Wednesday nights 4:30pm - 5:30pm (1 <sup>st</sup> Group) 5.30pm - 6.30pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> Group)
Term 2 - 2018: Mon 30 April to Wed 27 June	Cost: \$200 per term (payment is upfront for the term)  Extra: Compulsory Training Uniform additional cost

**BOOKINGS:** Term 2 <https://form.jotform.co/80768003449864>

**ENQUIRIES:** Deanne Sweetland - 0468 772 848 or [info@murrayunitedfc.com.au](mailto:info@murrayunitedfc.com.au)

Learn new skills, techniques and develop as a player with MUFC Bright Red SAP Program!

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# First Team



Isaac Read



Joshua Mulcahy



Alexander West



Abdulkerim Koc (GK)



Lewis Greenwood



Tom Morrison



Ashley Dunn



Fletcher Caponecchia



Gonzalo Freddi



Halil Gur



Ryan Giles



Sean Pye



Harry Drummond



Connor Caponecchia



Zac Walker



Melkie Woldemichael