

Oliver Bozanic



Oliver Bozanic was born in Sydney 1989, and moved to the Central Coast with his parents at the age of two and first started playing local football at the age of five with Avoca F.C.

At the age of ten he was selected to play for the Central Coast Lightning Representative Under 11 team, before joining Sydney Olympic U12's and then Parramatta Eagles U13's. During his junior career Oliver mainly played in a mid-field role. At the age of 14 Oliver won a scholarship to trial with Manchester United and went to England in 2003. Oliver said this was an excellent experience despite no offer being forthcoming at that time. He did however see Manchester United v Chelsea which was a "mind blowing" experience.

Oliver returned to Parramatta Eagles where he worked hard at his game and in 2004 toured Northern Island with the U15's team where he played in a tournament similar to the English League {Milk} Cup. He played against Manchester United in this competition and really got a taste for English

football.

On returning to Australia he signed for Blacktown City Demons in 2005 for one season and then returned to England for a trial with Reading FC. Reading offered Oliver a two year scholarship but unfortunately he was not allowed to stay in the country because he was under the age of 18. Oliver was then signed by The Central Coast Mariners on a short term contract for the 2006-2007 season at the age of 17.

On turning 18 in 2007 he returned to Reading where he stayed for two years and six months. In his first season he mainly played Reserve Grade football. This was a very successful year and a major highlight of his time at Reading as the team won the league that year. Another highlight that year was being selected as a first grade substitute against Stoke in the Carling Cup. In 2009 Oliver was on loan with first Woking { 18 appearances, 2 goals} and then Cheltenham {4 appearances, 0 goals} before being loaned to Aldershot Town. {25 appearances, 2 goals}.

In 2009 Oliver was a member of the Australian FIFA U20 World Cup development squad which competed in and won a four team tournament in Japan. He was a member of all the lead-up squads for the 2009 U20 World Cup, but missed out on his place at the tournament due to injury. He made a total of 17 appearances for the U20 National team scoring two goals, and said that playing at U20 level at the age of 17 under Ange Postecoglou was a great experience and a great thrill. In August 2009 he received his first full international call up for a friendly international against the Republic of Ireland, and was again included in a 50 man preliminary squad for the 2011 Asian Cup.

In 2010 he was selected for the U23 National team and later went on to captain the team. Oliver found that playing at this level was much tougher and a big step up. However, when coach Aurelio Vidmar offered him the captaincy he was delighted at such an honour and relished the challenge.

Despite the disappointment of not qualifying for the London Olympics Oliver said that playing for the U20's and U23's were major highlights in his career so far, along with playing for The Mariners in the 2010/11 Grand Final against Brisbane, and winning the Premiership in 2011/12.

Oliver wanted to pay tribute to his family, mum (Angie), dad (Vic), brother (Louie) and sister (Siahn), all of whom have given him so much support, and sacrificed so much for him during his career.

Oliver Bozanic has to be regarded as one of the Central Coast's most successful footballers with a glittering career so far. At the age of 24, surely he will achieve his ambitions for the future of playing for the Socceroos, and continuing to play at the highest level in Australia, Asia, or even back in Europe.