Be the difference – Stefan’s story

Stefan: I’m Stefan and I play for Melbourne City in the Youth Team. I’ve always loved the game. I couldn’t stop playing it in the backyard, and when I get home from training I just want to play more in the backyard.

I began at Brighton and then moved to South Melbourne when I was about eight or nine. Then moved to Melbourne City when I was about seventeen. They’ve got great facilities, great coaches, and the players are all top class so it seemed great for development.

Callum: My name’s Callum. I’m the Football Operations Coordinator for Melbourne City. I studied a Bachelor of Business (Sports and Leisure Management) at La Trobe Uni, Bundoora.

With the partnership La Trobe Uni has with, Melbourne Heart it was back then, now Melbourne City, one of my lecturers recommended to take up a placement with the club, which was also a requirement as part of my course. If it wasn’t for that partnership, I may not have had that opportunity to come here and volunteer to start with. I reckon I was coming in forty hours a week. I just wanted to be around the club all the time.

Stefan: He always puts the club first. Knows when it’s time to have laugh he has a laugh, and when it’s time to knuckle down he’s serious. He helps assure that you’re doing well at school but also doing well on the field.

If there’s any conflicting commitments with school or university, you can talk to him about it and he can sort of work around it with training times and that, and even speak to the school or university and let them know of the workload and he helps to mediate that.

Where there’s issues at home, you can speak to him. Or issues on the field you don’t really want to approach the coaches about. He’s like a guardian for all the boys on the team.

Callum: As a player Stefan’s really quick. He’s one of those players who can really win you a game. He wants to reach certain level in his football career. His dad used to play for the Socceroos as well, so he may feel a bit of personal pressure with that too. What better motivation than to be at Melbourne City.

Stefan: My dream would be to debut in the A-League. Playing in the A-League has been a dream for the past two years since moving to Melbourne City.

Callum: Personally I’d recommend La Trobe Uni. The practical element of the course was a massive positive for me. It’s all well and good reading stuff from text books but to actually be thrown into the sports industry, that was a massive positive. It’s quite rewarding when you see a youth player get called up to the senior team. You feel like you’ve been a part of that and hopefully you’ve helped them along the journey.