



November 10, 2021 – Daniel Renfrey

Former Socceroos player to lead new Soccer subject

The teaching appointment of professional soccer player Daniel Mullen and introduction of a Specialist Soccer stream at Rostrevor College will deliver one of the most comprehensive soccer programs for young players in South Australia.

In response to large and growing interest in the sport, the College will deliver the specialist soccer stream as part of its Physical Education Curriculum to be taught by Mullen, who is an experienced secondary teacher and former Socceroo and Adelaide United A-League player.

Daniel's sporting accomplishments include 185 professional games, a distinguished 10-year career in the A-League, two FIFA Club World Cups and representing Australia in its U20, U23 and Socceroos sides. He currently plays for Campbelltown City's NPL side in a semi-professional capacity.

"First and foremost, I want to be a good role model for the boys," Mullen said.

"Many of my students will aspire to have soccer in their lives in the future in some shape or form. I hope to model that professionalism, commitment and dedication that is needed to be a good representative of your team whether that be a school, club or higher level.

"I also aim to bring some experience and knowledge in the field of soccer development and what it takes to be a professional or semi-professional player."

Mullen will be backed by Rostrevor's first Director of Soccer, Terry Frangakis. He is the Technical Director at North Eastern MetroStars; a role he has held for the past five years with a strong focus on developing players' technique and tactical understanding through performance analysis using the latest Veo sport camera technology and post-match video reviews.

Rostrevor's comprehensive Soccer Program will:

- Deliver a holistic approach to soccer, focusing on not only player development but personal development at a deeper level through College teams and the PE Curriculum.
- Capitalise on the position that soccer currently holds on the world stage and enable students to be inspiring participants and influence their peers in a positive manner.
- Create opportunities for students to be involved with soccer as not only a player but referee, official or coach.
- Integrate tactical advancements, game philosophy, play practice and sportsmanship through both the Program and Curriculum.



Frangakis is also First XI Coach at Rostrevor, which is Adelaide's most successful soccer school – having won nine Championships in the Sports Association for Adelaide Schools (SAAS) competition. Frangakis has coached the side to both State and Divisional titles in recent years.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to elevate Soccer even further at the College and provide clear and coordinated pathways for young players of all ages and all levels of ability," he said.

Frangakis will work alongside coaches from the Junior Years through to Year 12 to embed a professional and contemporary skills development and training ethos across the College's 18 Soccer teams.

"Working closely with the clubs is the key," he said.

"Rostrevor College educates players from MetroStars, Campbelltown City, Modbury Jets, Adelaide City, Croatia Raiders and Adelaide Blue Eagles and these boys face many training and playing commitments while balancing soccer with their studies.

"By taking a coordinated and professional approach, we can improve their sporting performance, limit injuries and ensure the players are not under stress or struggling with competing demands."

Acting Principal Frank Ranaldo said he had been keen to introduce a dedicated Soccer Program following the success of the College's AFL Program under the leadership of Football Director and three-time Magarey Medalist James Allan.

"As soccer continues to increase in popularity and standard among students, the College felt the time was right to strengthen the skills development and opportunities for developing players, while ensuring their education and wellbeing needs are met," Mr Ranaldo said.

Rostrevor First XI players making their mark

Rostrevor has two players representing Adelaide United, Adam Leombruno (Yr 12) and Fabian Talladira (Yr 10), while Matthew Maio (Yr 12) has recently been included in Adelaide City's senior NPL side. Year 12 Alessio Ruggiero was part of the successful MetroStars NPL Reserves squad.

Year 12 Elian Pirone captained his Adelaide Blue Eagles' U18 NPL side to victory in this year's FFSA Championship and was joined in the campaign by Rostrevor's 2021 First XI Co-captain Lachlan Fusco.

Adelaide United's NPL team is captained by Noah McNamara, who is assistant Coach at Rostrevor College, from which he graduated in 2020.

Year 12s Aidan Schirripa and Dion Meggetto were named in the 2021 SAAS Team of the Year, while Matthew Maio received the "Golden Boot" award for the most goals scored (9) in this year's Division 1 Soccer season.

The College has been home to several soccer greats including Socceroos players John and Ross Aloisi. John Aloisi is current head coach of A-League club Western United after a stellar international career, while former Adelaide United captain Ross led two Asian Champions League campaigns.

Paul Izzo, who is the professional goalkeeper for Greek Super League 2 club Xanthi also began his soccer at Rostrevor before being recruited by Adelaide United and, later, Xanthi.