

Here's what our new recruit - Jason Lockard, NPL U16 Head Coach said about himself and his new adventure with Monaro Panthers and Premier League Program.

" I was a U15s NSW state representative and played a large part of my senior playing career at various clubs in the Illawarra Premier League. During my prime playing days, I played at clubs such as Lysaghts, Kiama, Bulli & Coniston Lions in the IPL.

I played for the Navy Men's open team from 2002 – 2014 and on a number occasions represented at ADF level. Most notable was a tour of South East Asia in 2001, where I experienced playing against professional and national military teams.

I started coaching in 2014 and have coached a variety of age groups, including Mini Roos, girls and boy's youth teams, combined with some brief experience at senior level.

This year I achieved FFA C Licence accreditation whilst coaching the Monaro Panthers U16 Div 1 Development squad, and have recently been appointed as the Navy FFA Women's Head Coach for the next 12 months.

I'm extremely passionate about football and try to pass on my love of the game to the players I coach. My philosophy and playing style is underpinned by the key principles of hard work, discipline, and teamwork. I believe that if a coach can establish these principles within a football team, then he or she can implement any playing style that suits the player's collective strengths.

I have accepted the MPFC U16 NPL Head Coach Role for 2019 season for a number of reasons. However, the key factors that have influenced my decision, center on the support I experienced coaching at Monaro during the 2018 season. I was really impressed by the professionalism of the TD Adam Firych and all the NPL coaching staff at the club, who always made time to share their experience and ideas. Most importantly, I'm extremely lucky to have a Wife who provides strong support on the home front, looking after our 3 young children, keeping me grounded, and allowing space to focus on training nights and match days.

Adam said " It's great having Jason involved. He is a hard-working coach who knows what he wants and what to expect from his team. I met Jason last year at one of the coaching courses and then after a few conversations I offered him U16s Div 1 Development squad in 2017. He did a great job there, finishing top 4 and after seeing his professionalism and passion I was sure that he is ready to take over Premier League side. Jason provided a lot of discipline and tactical understanding to all our players and these factors are vital when you deal with young players. I strongly believe that Jason and all the boys will enjoy their football adventure in 2019 ".

Well done Jason. We all wish you the very best of luck!