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Man City chases UAE football star Omar Abdulrahman



British football club Manchester City is chasing UAE player Omar Abdulrahman, the club's academy chief Brian Marwood has told UAE based Sport360°.

Abdulrahman, who currently plays for the UAE's al-Ain team, spent two weeks on trial in Manchester last August. The possibility of a cross-country move was halted due to work permit regulations, however Marwood revealed the club has remained in touch with the 21-year-old player.

"There are some real challenges getting a player like him to be able to play in England which is very frustrating because it's one that we would seriously look at," lamented Marwood.

"We had seen him at various tournaments but obviously we saw him closer to home at the Olympics and he did very, very well," said Marwood after his appearance at a football development workshop held by the Abu Dhabi Sports Council.

Manchester City officials then invited the promising mid-fielder to spend some time at their club headquarters. "I think he enjoyed the experience, we enjoyed having him with us. He is a very talented young player."

City may have made the first move, but they are not the only club interested in the young up-and-comer. According to Sport360° Arsenal, Barcelona, Malaga and Hamburg are all watching Abdulrahman closely.

When asked about the possibility of making the move west-wards Abdulrahman said, "it is the dream of all football players in the world to play professionally in Europe, but I cannot decide that because I have a contract with al-Ain and I am sure they will take the right decision that will benefit all parties —me, the club and the national team," reported Gulf News.

His apprehension has not stopped critics raving about his performance.

“Technically, he is very, very good so he has those components, those ingredients. Obviously, it’s a much more physical game but he’s still young, he can develop those aspects of his performance,” said Marwood.

“He played at a very good level at the Olympics and he did very well when he came to us on trial. He impressed everybody, a very nice young man, and he showed a lot of respect for the club.”

Abdulrahman and his team-mates departed the UAE for Iran on Sunday to prepare themselves for Wednesday’s clash with Iranian team Esteghlal.