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PAUL OKON TO COACH APIA IN 2009

The BIG rumour at present is that former Soccerroo Paul Okon is set to take the reins at Apia Leichhardt in the NSW Premier League in 2009. A major coup for the Tigers and a great boost for the local game. Paul Okon is also the likely appointment as an assistant coach to Miron Bleiberg at Gold Coast United, which should give the newcomers added credibility to attract players.

TSEK STAYING PUT!

Just as we rightly (and firstly) wrote....
Peter Tsekis IS staying put at the Bankstown City Lions.
End of conversation!

BERRIES COACH?

Eye spy with my little eye....
Who will the next Berries coach be?
It WON'T BE Aytec Genc.
And IT WON'T BE Abbas Saad.
Bad guessing fellas.
So who WILL IT BE?
Someone with the initials JC!

SHARKS ADVANCE TO GRAND FINAL

In the end it is the Sutherland Sharks who will be meeting Wollongong in this weekend's Grand Final after overcoming an unlucky Sydney Olympic at Seymour Shaw park 2-1.

The win in the end was courtesy of a Nick Stavroulakis goal in the 25th minute.

Sharks coach Brian Brown said afterwards: "Olympic played very well again tonight and you would have to say that it was our desire that won us the game, we simply wanted it more on the day."

Olympic Coach Milan Blagojevic agreed, "We always knew Sutherland would be hard to beat tonight especially as they were at home. With a bit of luck we would be playing again next weekend but we didn't get any in-front of goal and it turned out to be another match where we just couldn't find the net even though we created plenty of chances. Take nothing away from the Sharks performance, they were hungrier for the result but I was proud of our second-half showing and with the way the boys played. Good luck to both sides in the Grand Final."

Sydney Olympic can hold its head high of what it has achieved as a club in 2008.

SHARKS DESERVE CHANCE AT "DOUBLE"

Before the NSW Premier League finals series started "Sportsworld" went out on a limb and boldly predicted that the regning Minor Premiers, the Sutherland Sharks, would struggle to make it to the Grand Final.

We were half way there when the Sharks were beaten by Wollongong FC- who became the first team into the Grand Final.

BUT....

We were also wrong when the Sharks beat Sydney Olympic last Sunday to reach to the Grand Final- and deservedly so.

That's the good part about this column. It is not afraid to voice its opinion and generate interest in the game- and it is certainly not slow in admitting- we got it wrong!

Congratulations to the Sharks. They deserve the chance now of winning the "double".

U20's STILL ALIVE

Sydney Olympic's U/20's however remain alive and will be meeting the Marconi Stallions in the U/20's Grand Final this weekend.

The youngsters easily accounted for the Stallions only weeks ago by 3-0 and will be hoping to the same again in the Grand Final now. They are Sydney Olympic's only remaining team left.

The Stallions defeated Manly United 2-0 to get a second crack at Sydney Olympic at Penrith's CUA Stadium.

HAWKS STUN WANDERERS

What an incredible performance by the Stanmore Hawks in their elimination semi final appearance against the Sydney Wanderers over the weekend....

Stanmore gave up the chance for a home semi and instead went to Hajduk Stadium- and after 61' minutes found themselves 2-0 down!

But the Hawks did not give up. First through the league's top-goalscorer Chevaz, the Hawks grabbed one goal back, and the Hawks were right back in contention.

Stanmore refused to give up, and as the game reached the 90 minutes mark, they gave it one last throw of the dice. That man Chavez, swooped on the ball, and whipped a cross towards the back post for skipper, Theodorakopoulos, to net a remarkable equaliser.

One minute later the Hawks found themselves in front courtesy of an own goal in an amazing comeback!

Stanmore coach Nick Orlic, was obviously ecstatic with his team's gutsy win. "We settled down after the first 45 minutes of football, kept possession, played to the wings, and showed a lot of spirit to win. "I thought we conceded two cheap goals, but we



With LAKIS KONISTIS

Sports World

changed a few things, and our quality, collectively, saw us through."

Sydney Wanderers coach, Stewart Porter said, "At 2-0 we probably thought we had won the game, but our inexperience and naivety may have cost us the game, and in the end we just ran out of steam.

STANMORE HAWKS 3
(Chavez 64', Theodorakopoulos 90', o.g. 91')
SYDNEY WANDERERS 2
Ciampa 15', Pannowicz 61')

Stanmore Hawks -1. Tolios, 5. Yildiz (19. Espejel 53'), 12. Scicluna, 14. Stojicic (2. Doney 70'), 45. James, 38. Gibson, 16. Katsoulas, 18. Theodorakopoulos ©, 10. Ali, 9. Chavez, 13. Theodosiou.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRAND FINALS 2008

The Premier Youth League Grand Finals were played and won at Gabbie Stadium last weekend as well and congratulations to the following winners in their respective divisions:

- U/13's Grand Final**
Marconi (0) def. by Sutherland Sharks (1)
- U/14's Grand Final**
Sutherland Sharks (2) def. Blacktown City (0)
- U/15's Grand Final**
Wollongong Fc (0) def. by Marconi Stallions (2)
- U/16's Grand Final**
Marconi Stallions 1 (5) def. by Blacktown City 1 (6)
- U/18's Grand Final**
Blacktown City (0) def. by Apia Leichhardt Tigers (2)



MINOTAURS U/10's GRAND FINAL

What the Minotaurs senior teams could not achieve in 2008, it's U/10's might this weekend. The juniors are involved in a Grand Final tomorrow against Kogarah Waratahs. Good luck to them.