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Sports World

With **LAKIS KONISTIS**

MINOR PREMIERS BITE THE DUST!

The NSW Premier League has concluded with both the 2008 Minor Premiers losing in their Grand Final.

Neither the Sutherland Sharks (1st Grade) nor Sydney Olympic (U/20's) could manage that elusive 'double' in 2008.

Pity, but the Champion teams Wollongong (1sts) and Marconi (U/20's) deserved their victories on the day.

WOLVES 1ST GRADE "CHAMPIONS"

A meeting early Sunday morning with Wollongong Wolves Assistant coach Tony Pace was enough to convince me that the Wolves were ready for the game of their lives.

"The weekend off did us the world of good and we are ready for it" said Tony Pace as he filled up the car with unleaded. "Just watch us go" was his ominous warning- and how right he was!

Wollongong FC later that afternoon were crowned TeleChoice Premier League Champions for 2008 at the CUA Stadium, Penrith.

It was a fitting finale- the best two teams in 2008 fighting it out in a magnificent Grand Final that produced six goals- a 4-2 victory for the Wolves in the end.

It was the Sutherland Sharks however who opened the scoring, thanks to Nick Stavroulakis.

But the Wolves were back on level terms after Matt Bailey's glancing header went just past



Sharks keeper Phillip Zabaks. The Wolves then went 2-1 up thanks to a great free kick from Tynan Diaz.

A converted penalty then saw the Wolves extend their lead to 3-1 and the final was all but over after just one hour.

To their credit, the Sharks fought hard and were rewarded late in the game with a goal to Neil Jablonski- but the Wolves made it number four thanks to super sub Samet Kaynak to give the Wolves a deserved 4-2 final scoreline.

COACHES' VIEWS.....

John Turner (Wollongong Wolves):

"This is a tremendous result for this club and for all the people of Wollongong. I am extremely proud of the efforts of each and every player in my side and it has been a real privilege to work with this group. I believe that this side won the Grand Final two weeks ago when (against Sutherland) we 'made-do' with a side that carried a lot of injuries and we managed to fight our way through to the Grand Final; it has been a great ride".

Brian Brown (Sutherland Sharks):

"It is tough to lose a Grand Final, the boys are all very disappointed in the dressing sheds. We gave it a good shot, and we took an early lead which was pleasing. Unfortunately though, we conceded some scrappy goals. Some slack marking on the first goal, then a goal from a set-piece along with the penalty was our downfall. Our season on the whole has been great - no one expected Sutherland to do as well as we have and it was ultimately a season where we needed to win everyone's respect and make others take notice of us. We won the Premiership, Grand Finalist in the Johnny Warren Cup and semi-finalist in the Tiger Turf Cup; I think we have achieved that".

CAPTAINS' COMMENTS.....

Ben Blake (Wollongong Wolves):

"I am very happy to get the win today with this great team, great club and wonderful supporter group. I have played in Finals before and they never get any easier, even if you have more experience. This match today is my final match. I have enjoyed my time playing football though I don't have the hunger I previously had. For this reason, I have decided to call time on my playing career".

George Souris (Sutherland Sharks):

"It has been a great season for Sutherland as we have come pretty-much from a mid-table side to one that has played incredible football and produced excellent results this season. A big thank you must go to our coaching staff, both Brian Brown and Cliff Pointer for their efforts. These two are real champions and a lot is owed to them both for turning this club's fortunes around".

SHOCK LOSS FOR OLYMPIC YOUNGSTERS

It could almost be called the 'unloseable Grand Final'.

Especially after the Sydney Olympic U20's annihilated Marconi in the semi only weeks ago by 3-0!

Alas, that is what Grand Finals are about- rising to the challenge. And full credit to Marconi for turning up ready to play.

The Grade-20 Grand Final saw the Stallions defeat Minor Premiers Sydney Olympic 2-0 to secure yet another U/20's title. The Stallions have now won back-to-back titles.

Goals by striker Daniel Ott and Brodie Mooy set up the victory in a flawless football display by the Stallions.

Sydney Olympic's U/20's can still hold their heads high after a great 2008 in which they at least secured the Minor Premiership.

A-LEAGUE TRIVIA.....

1. The 21 goals scored in Round 3, and 19 scored in Round 2, are ranked in the top five of the most goals scored in a single Hyundai A-League round.

2. Adelaide United is aiming to maintain their run of undefeated matches, when they take on Melbourne Victory tonight. Leading into Round 4, the Reds have played 13 matches without defeat in all official matches, which includes the last round of the 2007-08 Hyundai A-League season, the group stage of the 2008 AFC Champions League, the 2008 Pre-Season Cup campaign, plus the first three rounds of the current season.

3. The longest winning streak set by a Hyundai A-League club in one season was 12, set by the Central Coast Mariners who had a consecutive 12 league and finals games, undefeated in the 2005-06 season.

4. The next goal scored by Newcastle Jets in the Hyundai A-League competition will be the club's 100th goal.

5. Other clubs to have already reached 100 Hyundai A-League goals milestone are Melbourne Victory (113 goals, 69 games), Sydney FC (107 goals, 73 games), Adelaide United (106 goals in 73 games) and the Central Coast Mariners (100 goals, 73 games).

6. Melbourne Victory's Michael Theoklitos joined the 3-year club this week. He made his A-League debut on 9 September 2005.

A-Λιγκ - 4η αγωνιστική

Μέλμπουρν Βίκτορι-Αντελάιντ Γιουνάιτεντ
Σήμερα, 20:00, Telstra Dome

Νιούκαστλ Τζετς-Σίδνεϊ FC
Αύριο, 19:00, EnergyAustralia Stadium

Περθ Γκλόρι-Κούνσλαντ Ρόαδ
Κυριακή 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, 15:00,
Members Equity Stadium

Ουέλινγκτον Φοίνιξ-Σέντραλ Κοστ Μάρινερς
Κυριακή 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, 17:00,
Westpac Stadium

Σούπερ Λιγκ - τελική φάση

Μεγάλος ημιτελικός

Μπόνιριγκ-Μελίτα
Αύριο, 19:30, Bonnyrigg Sports Club

Μικρός ημιτελικός

Μπόσι Λίβερπουλ-Ροκντέιλ
Κυριακή 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, 14:00,
Ernie Smith Reserve