

## TIGER TURF CUP SEMI-FINALS

Football NSW's answer to England's FA Cup, the TigerTurf Cup, enters the semi-final stage this coming weekend – Sunday 19th of July, 2009 – with four TeleChoice Premier League sides reaching the final four of the competition. The competition, that does offer the winner a substantial monetary prize, commenced back in April with clubs from the NSW Super League, Division 1, Conference and Association clubs joining the TeleChoice Premier League sides for a shot at glory.



**Semi-Final 1**  
**Manly United-Blacktown City Demons.**  
 Sunday, 19th of July, 2009  
 12:00 PM kick-off.



Match Officials  
**Referee:** Gerard Parsons  
**Assistant Referees:** Matthew Samson & Alex Long

The opening semi-final offers Blacktown City Demons arguably their only chance of claiming silverware in season 2009. The side's recent loss against Penrith-Nepean United at home has all but ended their chances of finals football in the league, leaving Ken Schembri and his players with the Cup as the number one priority.

The Demons possess a fine mix of youth and experience with the likes of Joel Chianese, Matt Lewis and Ray Miller performing well alongside the experience of Luke Casserly, Daniel Wilkinson and Adam Kwasnik, though despite some impressive showings this season the side has failed to remain consistent with results.

A rather lean spell in-front of goal was overcome with an emphatic 5-0 drubbing of Fraser Park in TigerTurf Cup Quarter-Final action, and more of the same will be required if a spot in the Grand-Final is to become a reality.

The Demons strengths shine through via the flanks with the quick pace of Matt Lewis and Adam Kwasnik constantly forcing opponents on the back foot. Coach Ken Schembri will be eager to expose the Manly United FC wide men as the side's central defensive unit comprises a mountain of muscle with the likes of Matthew Bingley, Spencer Prior and Joel Grennell.

Manly United FC's campaign has been hindered by the side's endless list of injuries. Coach Phil Moss has been without regular goal scorers Robbie Cattanach and Craig Midgley for the greater part of the season, and the strain has started to show in recent weeks.

The side though does possess a fine passing game, and captain Joey Schrippa will be vital to the side's success in the run home.

A recent return to victory against Wollongong Community FC has boosted the morale amongst the squad in-sight of this encounter, as the signs of a return to early season form do appear evident.



Angelo Petratos' side, Penrith Nepean United, will face Sutherland Sharks



**Semi-Final 2**  
**Sutherland Sharks-Penrith Nepean Utd.**  
 Sunday, 19th of July, 2009  
 2:30 PM kick-off.



Match Officials  
**Referee:** Kris Griffiths-Jones  
**Assistant Referees:** Matthew Colquhoun & Adam Coombes

The second semi-final pits Sutherland Sharks and Penrith-Nepean United together with the Sharks holding home ground advantage.

The two sides met in Round 11 at the same venue and only after some Jim Bakis brilliance did the Sharks seal the points (2-1 final result).

The Sharks have been struggling for goals in recent weeks, with the side not recording a win since the TigerTurf Cup quarter-final defeat of Bankstown City. Sutherland comes off three consecutive League draws and in real danger of losing their Top-Five spot in the TeleChoice Premier League.

Penrith-Nepean on the other-hand has grown since the appointment of Ante Juric as coach. The side is undefeated since Juric took over the player/coach reigns, with the side displaying a lot of confidence in recent weeks. A nail-biting extra-time win in the quarter-final ensured the side a spot in the final four of the Cup competition, the side certainly up for a big push in the competition as all hopes of finals football in the League have vanished.

The side has a good mix of youth and experience, and the father-son combination of Evangelos and Dimitrios Petratos could well prove to be significant for Penrith-Nepean's chances of success in this tie.

### Road to semi-finals

#### Manly United FC

Rd. 1	Bye
Rd. 2	Bye
Rd. 3	3-0 win v Pacific Hills/Dural.
Rd. 4	1-0 win v Spirit FC.
Quarter-Final	3-0 win v Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

#### Blacktown City Demons

Rd. 1	Bye
Rd. 2	Bye
Rd. 3	2-1 win v Dulwich Hill.
Rd. 4	7-3 win v Granville Rage.
Quarter-Final	5-0 win v Fraser Park FC.

#### Sutherland Sharks

Rd. 1	Bye
Rd. 2	Bye
Rd. 3	2-1 win v Sydney University.
Rd. 4	4-1 win v Marconi Stallions.
Quarter-Final	2-1 win v Bankstown City Lions.

#### Penrith-Nepean United

Rd. 1	Bye
Rd. 2	Bye
Rd. 3	5-3 win (after extra-time) v Roosters FC.
Rd. 4	5-4 win (on penalties) v Rockdale City Suns.
Quarter-Final	2-1 win (after extra-time) v Wollongong Community FC.

## Comments from the Coaches

**Phil Moss (Manly United FC)** – “We've had a busy schedule heading into this match with matches against Wollongong Community FC and Bonnyrigg White Eagles during the week. “Our form has been a little up and down, though we've had a number of injuries to contend with – plus the matches we've needed to catch up on following the wet weather. “It's that time of the year where every game is important and we'll be doing everything possible to qualify for our second Cup final in three years – the memory of losing the 2007 final to Wollongong still hurts so a shot at redemption would be nice.”

**Ken Schembri (Blacktown City Demons)** – “I am happy that we have made it to this stage in the competition, no doubt about that. “Manly United will be a tough opposition, though at this stage, each of the teams in the semi-finals are capable of playing well, and they have reached this stage because they deserve to be here. “Our run has been indifferent, and we've been too inconsistent to ensure finals football in the League. This competition is now our biggest priority and we hope to progress into the final. We will need to be at our best across the park in-order to get past Manly United.”

**Robbie Stanton (Sutherland Sharks)** – “It is great to be challenging on both the League and Cup front and I am really happy to be still in the running. Our results have not been too consistent in recent weeks which has been a little disappointing. “Our work rate is one of the highest in the competition, and we are doing this with the smallest player roster across all Premier League sides. “To be honest in regards to the draw I didn't care who we got. We played the likes of Bankstown and Marconi prior to the semi-finals so we were happy getting anyone. “I know Penrith-Nepean United will push us till the end and it will be a tough battle on the day. “At the end of the day it is a semi-final and you want to win it as you are one win away from the Final so I will be encouraging the locals to come out and support the day as it will be a fantastic event at Seymour Shaw.”

**Ante Juric (Penrith-Nepean United)** – “It's no secret that Sutherland are probably one of the strongest sides left in the TigerTurf Cup but in saying that we will be up for it. “It is something we know we have a chance to win as anything can happen in a game of football but now that we are out of the TeleChoice Premier League Championship series we will be concentrating for that elusive victory. “We have hit a bit of momentum of late and know that the players themselves will be taking this very seriously. “I have been happy with the way the boys have all worked in recent weeks – I think we have done well dominating sides for spells throughout matches so with a good showing against Sutherland, I am sure we can get through to the Final.”