

2011 NSW Premier League Highlights show online now

The 2011 NSW Premier League highlights show has returned once more for the new season with a number of vast improvements with enhanced features. 2011 will see edited highlights from two NSW Premier League matches along with the results, table and fixtures shown in the fourteen minute showpiece to be viewed on the NSW Premier League website (www.nswpl.com.au) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/nswpl). The debut of the show will feature Saturday's first match for 2011 where Sutherland Sharks defeated 2010 NSW Premier League Champions Blacktown City FC 2-1 at Seymour Shaw Park. Sharks new recruit Matt Bailey grabbed the honours of notching up the competition's first goal of the year while Travis Major equalised from the spot for the visitors before substitute youngster Todd Halloran grabbed the decisive winning goal. In the show's other match at Ilinden Sports Centre, Rockdale City Suns hosted the APIA Leichhardt Tigers with the match ending in a 1-1 draw. Keep a close eye on the lovely strike from 30-yards by Suns midfielder Adem Kir which would feature prominently on any football show across the globe as one of the goals of the season. Highlights from the remaining NSW Premier League matches will be uploaded each and every week with this weekend's cameras going out to Marconi Stadium on Saturday with former NSL giants Marconi Stallions clashing with staunch rivals Sydney United for the Capitol Hill Cup. Finally on Sunday, Football NSW cameras will be at Lily Homes Stadium with 2010 Champions Blacktown City FC hoping to erase their round 1 performance by tackling one of the hottest side's in the competition Sydney Olympic. The Blues commenced their 2011 season in style with a 3-0 victory against the South Coast Wolves at John Crehan Park with Alex Smith starring notching up a fantastic hat-trick. Be sure to also check out two features over the weekend with Football NSW's Media and Communications Department providing live score updates from all matches in the NSW Premier League on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/nswpl>) – make sure you 'like' the page to see the full extent of all the information and scores provided. Lastly, you can also be kept up to date with live scores by clicking onto our interactive tab on the NSW Premier League website and scrolling down to Live Scores. For all you keen statisticians don't forget to also view each respective NSW Premier League club's page on www.nswpl.com.au by keeping up with how each individual players are travelling throughout the 2011 season – also keep your eyes peeled for the 'Team of the Week' featured in the Statistics section.

Around the Grounds

Panny Nikas – Home at the Sharks

After a couple of sometimes grueling seasons in the A-League Panny Nikas has returned to Sutherland Sharks this season to take up his familiar attacking midfield role and is looking forward to getting a full 90-minutes under his belt. "I haven't played a full match for about two months now so I'm looking forward to getting back into the swing of things and doing my best for the Sharks." Playing a couple of seasons, albeit with very short breaks during the previous NSW State League campaigns, has surely seen a number of changes both for and in the lad and he readily admits this is the case: "The pace of the game is faster in the A-League and physically and mentally tougher so I have been hardened to a higher standard for want of a better term but being back at Sutherland is like coming home really as most of the players are still here and I just want to do my best for the team and let the A-League side of things sort themselves out so I can concentrate on my football. "I hope I can impose the experience in games I've learnt and adopt the same attitude to matches I've always had hopefully carry on in the right manner." The differences are plain to see going from part-time football to full-time training although missing the better part of the 1st half of the A-League season has inured a discipline that has seen him put on a little more muscle and in pre-season games shown a quicker reaction time, better reading of the game and not a little extra pace: "Yeah, full-time training certainly quickens you up and physically and mentally makes you sharper so hopefully I can put that to good use." Sutherland Sharks took on another powerhouse NSW Premier League side and reigning Champions in Blacktown City for the season opener at Seymour Shaw Park and he wasn't about to underestimate them: "They are always a hard team to play and have lost a couple of players and with a new coach they are unlikely to be any easier to beat this season than any other and we are usually quite slow starters but we'll look for the three points and if we do the right things we can certainly get them but I am expecting a tough first game back." The match however went the home side's way with Nikas playing an influential role alongside the likes of Nick Stavroulakis, Jim Bakis, Matt Bailey and Sam Awad with a 2-1 victory at the Sharks



palace. Nikas, for all the ups and downs of A-League experiences during the last two summers, has returned the same level headed and delightful young man he has always been and that surely goes down to his parents who are equally endearing and no doubt wishing Panni all the best for the campaign, as all fans will be. The NSW Premier League is all the better for the likes of Nikas playing in it and moving on to higher grades which is why, in many cases, it can rival bigger competitions as everyone who plays in it wants to achieve so much more.

-By Micky Brock

Marconi Stallions set to battle Sydney United for Capitol Hill Cup

The rivalry between two of the country's most well-known football clubs is set to continue, when the Marconi Stallions and Sydney United do battle in Round 2 of the NSW Premier League, this Saturday, at Marconi Stadium 7.30pm. More than just the usual three competition points are on the line for the two local combatants, with the match also acting as the first leg in the traditional Capitol Hill Estate Cup, which is now in its eighth year. The Capitol Hill Estate Cup and the NSW Premier League Premiership trophy hold prime positions in the Sydney United trophy cabinet, results of a great season enjoyed by United in 2010. Luke Casserley's men will certainly be aiming to put a stop to this with a huge game expected at Marconi Stadium against Jean Paul de Marigny's squad.

The Capitol Hill Estate Cup was formed as part of a tribute to the two Clubs' most famous contest, the 1988 National Soccer League (NSL) Grand Final. In one of the most pulsating and edge-of-your-seat matches ever played in the NSL, the Stallions prevailed 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out, after the scores were locked together at 2-2. Both teams scored goals in extra-time and had players sent off, during the marathon match played in front of packed crowd at Parramatta Stadium. The Marconi Stallions will be out to challenge Sydney United for the Cup ownership and bragging rights for 2011. Whilst the Stallions did reach the 2009 Grand Final in spectacular fashion with the 4-2 drubbing at the expense then Premiers Sydney United and the jubilation of winning the McDonalds Cup, the Capitol Hill Estate

Cup has left a vacant and wanting space in our trophy cabinet. This match has a lot to offer to the football fans like first encounter between the Coaching Master, De Marigny and the Coaching Novice, Casserley. The deadly finishing of Matthew Mayora and Luka Glavas, to the shot stopping exploits of Goalkeeper of the Year James Chronopoulos and the keen eye of his opposite Vedran Janjetovic. The football fans can bank on another TITANIC battle for early bragging rights in the 2011 campaign. The first leg of the Capitol Hill Estate Cup will be played at Marconi Stadium this Saturday, 2nd April. The second leg will be played at Sydney United Sports Centre on Sunday 19th June. For the record Sydney United have taken out the Cup four times while the Stallions three.