

## NSW Premier League Round 3 Review

Sydney United moved into equal first-place on the NSW Premier League ladder with an astounding 6-1 defeat of a ten-man Rockdale City Suns on Sunday afternoon. Played in some very difficult conditions following a huge downpour prior, and during, the match, the Reds overcame some early Suns dominance of possession to record 2011's biggest win of the season, thus far. Ben Vidaic opened the scoring on 14' minutes, before Elsid Barkhousir was on hand to volley home for 2-0; 1' minute after the Suns were denied a penalty claim. Man of the Match Steve Hayes setup Barkhousir for his second 1' minute later before Sash Tirovski reduced the deficit prior to the break. Hayes added his name to the score sheet with a fabulous strike into the top left-hand corner from 20-yards. The Suns afternoon got worse as Joshua Lawson was shown a straight red card in the 62' minute. Barkhousir then completed his hat-trick in the 88' minute before Luka Glavas chimed in with a goal of his own to round out the 6-1 result. At Seymour Shaw, Sydney Olympic's 100% record came to an end with the side falling 2-1 against Sutherland Sharks in an entertaining 90' minutes of football. The Sharks, who consequently move into equal first-place on the League ladder with this win, skipped to a two-goal lead following strikes by Sam Awad and Matt Bailey after the break, though Alex Smith's fifth goal of the campaign 5' minutes from the end made the final stages very nerve wracking for the home side. Despite Sydney Olympic's best efforts in getting men forward, the Sharks' defence, led marvelously by captain George Souris, administered proceedings to record a tremendous victory for Sutherland. The Sharks again proved that Seymour Shaw will certainly be a difficult venue for opponents to visit and take points, meanwhile Sydney Olympic will be sweating on the fitness of playmaker Robbie Mileski who was forced to leave the field moments prior to half-time with a hamstring injury. Blacktown City FC dominated proceedings against Parramatta FC on Sunday, though could only take one-point from Melita Stadium following a frustrating afternoon in front of goal. Blacktown City took the lead in the 71' minute courtesy of Mitchell Duke's well taken diagonal effort across Anthony Costa and inside the Parramatta FC goalkeeper's right-hand post. Despite creating a plethora of goalscoring chances – and hitting the frame of the goal three times during the 90' minutes – the visitors failed to kill off the match as Kataiba Elrich won his side a penalty 12' minutes from the end. Experienced campaigner Chris Camilleri stepped up for the spot-kick and comfortably slotted home to secure his side a point in some very difficult, wet, conditions at Melita Stadium. Defending Premiers Bonnyrigg White Eagles remain winless after three rounds following their third consecutive draw of the season on Saturday evening against Bankstown City. In a fierce, fast-paced encounter where both defensive lines stood strong and left very little space for their adversaries, neither side was capable of carving out any real clear cut opportunities. Shannon Burgin created the first real goalscoring attempt 10' minutes into the second-half, though his long-range effort was well dealt with by Phil Zabaks in the White Eagles goal. Nathan Elasi replied for Bonnyrigg after combining with Brad Boardman, though the speedy striker forced his effort across the face of goal. In the closing stages of the match, both teams were reduced to 10-men as Peter Peralta first, for Bankstown City, picked up his second yellow card in the 85' minute, before Brad Boardman too was shown a second yellow card in the 90' minute, ruling the striker out of Bonnyrigg's clash against Sydney United next weekend. At Marconi Stadium, the Stallions squandered a two-goal lead and had to settle for a point against a strong finishing Manly United FC. Manly United has made a real habit of finishing matches strongly, and overturning deficits in the closing stages of matches, with the side recording three consecutive 2-2 draws to-date. New Stallions' signing Matthew Mayora grabbed his first goals for the season with an impressive brace after the break, though Craig Midgley's introduction of Justin Hayward paid immediate dividends after the 70' minute mark. Hayward headed Manly United back into the match in the 77' minute, before drawing his side level 5' minutes later with a firm drive past Stallions' shot-stopper James Chronopoulos for a share of the spoils. South Coast Wolves secured a very impressive 3-2 victory away from home against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers to further demonstrate the side's ambitions to challenge for finals football this season. The visiting Wolves mastered the wet conditions quickest, running to a 2-0 lead courtesy of Sasho Petrovski and Chris Nathaniel before the break. Despite a much better showing by the Tigers in the second-half, the Leichhardt side had to wait until the 85' minute to breach the Wolves goal. The Wolves' Nick Littler fouled Sam Messam inside the penalty-area, and Chris James stepped up to convert the penalty. Despite the momentum purely in favour of the home side, South Coast Wolves re-instated their two goal lead via Chris Littler's long-range rifle. Tigers' substitute Anthony Hartshorn came off the bench to head home for the Tigers in injury-time, though the home side could not find an equaliser to avoid defeat.

-By Joseph Carlucci



The Sharks, who consequently move into equal first-place on the League ladder with this win, skipped to a two-goal lead following strikes by Sam Awad (photo with Brett Stadman) and Matt Bailey

# Around the Grounds

## Sharks condemn Olympic to first loss for 2011

Sam Awad scored the deciding goal against a well drilled Sydney Olympic at Seymour Shaw Park when latching onto a delightful through ball from Nick Tsattalios to fire a thunderous shot past the exposed Paul Henderson. The goal cut the legs of the Sydney Olympic players as the Blues fell to their first loss of the season. Sydney Olympic, a perfect six points from their opening two fixtures, missed a gilt-edged opportunity in the 3' minute when Chris Triantis fired in a cross to be met powerfully by the head of Alex Smith, though directed straight into the arms of the grateful Nathan Denham. Sutherland countered when Michael Katz crossed for an attempt by Tsattalios that was blocked and fell back to the midfielder who saw his second effort deflected for a corner as the Sharks sought to gain the ascendancy and combat the neat, fast attacking play of Olympic. Sharks midfielder Nick Stavroulakis was adjudged to have fouled Bill Tsanidis, himself involved in the wars and sporting a head swathed in bandages, to give away a free-kick right on the edge of the penalty-area. Alex Smith lined up the attempt, though he was unable to clear the wall. Back came Sutherland at the other end and from a free-kick of their own, the ball was put straight into the arms of Henderson. Sadly for the visitors, Robert Mileski limped off a minute before the break with a hamstring injury in a cruel twist of fate that went some way to deciding the outcome of the game, though the visiting NSW Premier League leaders went into the break all-square in a goalless first period. Nikas received a caution almost immediately on the resumption of play and Sydney Olympic appeared to be hitting the same vein of form they displayed in the opening half when William Angel sent over a cross that was again just too high for Todd Bamber to nod home. Nikas then slipped Awad in who drew a couple of defenders before laying it off for Matt Bailey to coolly finish off from 12-yards out to open the scoring, with Henderson again exposed at the back and unable to stop the effort after 56' minutes. Triantis went into the book for Sydney Olympic and received stern words from the official for dangerous play against Bakis and he was soon joined by the Sharks' industrial midfielder Stavroulakis before referee Delovski called both captains to the centre of the field for a word about telling their respective sides to calm it down when in reality it was no more than a hard but fair encounter with the spice. No sooner had Tsanidis been replaced by Phil Makrys for Olympic, the Sharks were 2-0 to the good and forced up the tempo further. They pushed hard but left themselves open to the counterattack and, perhaps, should have been caught out on a couple of occasions but the flat back four stood firm and their endeavour paid off with 5' minutes remaining. Another cross from the left, this time by David Gullo, found Smith with enough space to loop a header over Denham, who injured himself in attempting the save. Sutherland defended deep and invited Olympic to almost constantly search for an equaliser, though the home side showed plenty of experience in keeping the visitors out, even though there were one or two scary moments along the way. Syd-

ney Olympic coach, Peter Tsekenis, now coaching the club he supported as a boy and served loyally for 9-years, was pragmatic in his appraisal afterwards when saying: "I think that when we went a goal down, against the run of play to be honest, I thought the heads went down a bit and that was probably the worst part of the game for us. "Then we went two down and you cannot afford to give a tough side like Sutherland a two-goal lead. "We had to make some forced changes but like you said, we didn't take our chances tonight and the Sharks are no slouch's and stick in there and are very hard to peg back when they get in front, but our final ball in wasn't great and we had at least four clear cut chances to go in front and didn't take them but that's football and you have to expect that sometimes. "I'm not going to make excuses because we didn't take our chances although we had some great passages of play, but the disappointing thing is we let our heads drop when we conceded and allowed another to go in." Robbie Stanton was relieved at the final whistle and stated afterwards: "Both teams looked a little flat in the first-half I thought, and maybe we all just came to the game thinking we're one and two on the table so the result will just come but it's never like that in this fixture. "It's obviously only early in the season but both sides looked cautious and I expected them to press us harder which surprised me when they didn't in the opening part of the first-half but when they did I had to change a few things after the break. "It was a tough, tough win for us and it was a hard but fair match and never what you would call dirty at any stage. "It was a good battle that, thankfully we won on the night and we can take stock of that and hopefully build further from here." The previously undefeated Sutherland Sharks in the Grade-20 division finished with a 2-1 loss against Sydney Olympic.

### Match Stats

Sutherland Sharks	2 (Bailey 56, Awad 73)
Sydney Olympic	1 (Smith 85)
Saturday, 9th April 2011 Seymour Shaw, Miranda	
Referee:	Strebrel Delovski
Assistant Referees:	Lance Greenshields and Nathan Wotton
Fourth Official:	Samuel Grasso

### Sutherland Sharks

1.Nathan Denham; 2.George Souris (C), 6.Sam Awad (11.Todd Halloran 85), 7.Jimmy Bakis, 8.Chris Price, 10.Matt Bailey, 12.Hayden Morton, 14.Nick Stavroulakis, 15.Michael Katz, 23.Panni Nikas, 33.Nick Tsattalios (37.Ehsan Popal 92)  
**Substitutes Not Used:** 3.Tyson Rhodes, 19.Huseyin Jasli, 22.Jack Duncan  
**Yellow Cards:** Price 41, Nikas 48, Stavroulakis 62  
**Red Cards:** Nil

### Sydney Olympic

1.Paul Henderson (C); 2.Emmanuel Giannaros, 3.Brett Studman, 4.Ibrahim Haydar, 6.Alex Smith, 8.Chris Triantis, 9.Hussein Akil (19.David Gullo 55), 11.Robert Mileski (15.Todd Bamber 44), 12.Bill Tsanidis (7.Phil Makrys 70), 14.William Angel, 16.Peter Triantis  
**Substitutes Not Used:** 22.Nenad Vekic, 5.Ritchie Luksic  
**Yellow Cards:** Chris Triantis 59, Makrys 92  
**Red Cards:** Nil

### Player Ratings

3 – Sam Awad (SS)  
 2 – Matt Bailey (SS)  
 1 – George Souris (SS)

-By Micky Brock

\*All articles courtesy of Football NSW.  
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