



Around the Grounds

NSW Premier League Round 8 Review

Sydney Olympic consolidated top-spot on the League ladder with a very impressive 3-2 defeat of Sydney United away from home. The Blues couldn't have asked for a better start at Sydney United Sports Centre as Emmanuel Giannaros opened the scoring for the Blues in only the 4' minute with a powerful 30-metre drive. Luka Glavas had the Reds level in the 13' minute after winning his side a penalty. The striker dusted himself off and converted the spot-kick – the ball finished in the back of the net after hitting the underside of the crossbar. Sydney Olympic restored their lead prior to the break courtesy of a cool Robbie Mileski finish, though the Reds were level again after the interval with another well taken goal by Glavas. In an entertaining, and very tense, closing period, Sydney Olympic were awarded a penalty following Shane Lyons' foul on Mileski. The experienced Phil Makrys stepped up to the spot and coolly converted to hand Sydney Olympic three-points and a one-point lead over Sutherland Sharks on the League ladder. At Seymour Shaw, despite their dominance of play over the 90' minutes, Sutherland Sharks were forced to really work for the win against Marconi Stallions on Saturday. With the Sharks calling all the shots in the first-half, the Stallions surprisingly took the lead in the 42' minute on one of their very few forward forays. Sutherland failed to deal with a fine build up on the left and Graziano Trimboli was on hand to fire home and send the Stallions in at the break with the lead. The resumption of play signalled further onslaught from the Sharks, though the Stallions defence seemed to soak up the pressure until Adel El Jammal was forced to leave the field with an injury. The Sharks found their equaliser shortly after courtesy of Nick Tsattalios who blasted his effort into the back of the net. Sutherland took the lead 3' minutes later as Sam Awad toe-poked a ball over the goal line following a fumbled effort by Marconi goalkeeper James Chronopoulos. Despite the Stallions protests, the goal was given and Sutherland saw out the remainder of the match to keep pace at the top of the League ladder behind Sydney Olympic. Bonnyrigg White Eagles returned to the winner's list with a good 3-1 win over South Coast Wolves. Despite the win, supporters did not leave Bonnyrigg Sports Club in happy spirits as goalkeeper Phil Zabaks was taken to hospital early in the second-half following a collision with a Wolves player after leaving his line to claim a cross. Concern fell over the venue as Zabaks hit his head upon impact with the surface, raising huge concern following his very serious head injury in the same goalmouth last season. White Eagles assistant coach however stated that Phil was resting at home.

"Phil is at home after spending four hours in hospital on Saturday, the CT scans had come up all clear which we are all thankful for, thank you to everyone who passed on their well wishes as well as Football NSW." Bonnyrigg hit the lead midway through the first-half courtesy of a Daniel Severino penalty following David Abel's foul on Jamie McMaster. Severino provided the assist for the White Eagles' second shortly after the re-start as David Vrankovic headed his first goal of the season into the back of the net. Despite Mark Picciolini pulling a goal back for the Wolves shortly after, Severino added his second of the evening with a fine chip over a stranded Brody Crane to secure the three-points. Parramatta FC's difficult re-introduction into top flight NSW Premier League competition continued on Saturday with the South Granville-based side falling to a heavy 3-0 win at home against Bankstown City. Former Parramatta FC player Frederick Graham almost singlehandedly decided the encounter with an impressive hat-trick. Graham was unchallenged for the opener after receiving a pinpoint pass from Aman Hadid before slotting past Anthony Costa. Despite Parramatta FC's best efforts, chances to Almir Dizdagic and Matt Osman failed to reap any reward and the visitors extended their lead in the 69' minute. Graham picked up the scraps from a poorly dealt with corner and fired home with a strong finish. The hat-trick was completed in the 86' minute as Graham latched onto a fine through ball and had no problem in slotting home past an oncoming Anthony Costa to round out the 3-0 result. Rockdale City Suns notched up their third win of the season with the very impressive scalp of Blacktown City FC at Lily Homes Stadium. The Suns squandered chances early on in the match before Blacktown City found their feet to create a number of their own chances in front of their home crowd. In the end, the Suns found the winner in the 67' minute courtesy of Shay Spitz. A poor clearance by the Blacktown City defence had the ball fall to the feet of Spitz. The Suns player did not require a second invitation as he blasted the ball past Symon Jaeger to seal the deal for Rockdale City. Manly United FC left Lambert Park with a vital three-points after defeating A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers 2-1 on Sunday. Trailing by a goal after 15' minutes courtesy of Tigers captain Franco Parisi, Manly United drew level 60" seconds later via Adam Foti who converted a Robbie Cattanach centre into the back of the net. Joseph Gibbs found Manly United's winner shortly before the interval as he slotted home from close-range following Foti's powerful drive that was parried by Tigers' goalkeeper Jose Bello-Amigo. In the end, a rather flat Tigers showing failed to give the visitors any grief, as Manly United move into fifth-spot on the League ladder.

-By Joseph Carlucci

Sydney Olympic outwit Reds to retain top spot



Sydney Olympic has climbed to the top of the NSW Premier League ladder after a hard fought 3-2 victory against Sydney United at Edensor Park on Sunday. In a fiery showdown between the second-placed Sydney Olympic and the third placed Sydney United, it was the visitors who walked away from Sydney United Sports Centre with the valuable three points. Phil Makrys penalty in the 82' minute proved the difference, allowing Olympic to move one point clear of Sutherland at the top of the table. After giving Sydney Olympic a first crack at goal through Robert Mileski with a fundamental mistake from the kick-off, United went on the counterattack soon after through Luka Glavas. Glavas and Elsid Barkhousir charged forward with the added advantage of a two-on-one attack but Glavas' through ball was a fraction too late and Barkhousir was called offside. In a brutal blow to the home side's chances, Emmanuel Giannaros left his mark on the game with a stunning goal, less than 4' minutes into the contest. Giannaros was given too much space and time down the right flank and made United pay with a powerful 30-metre drive that gave an outstretched Vedran Janjetovic no chance of stopping it. Just as it appeared the match was beginning to settle after a frenetic opening 10' minutes, United were welcomed back into the game with a penalty. A well-timed Petar Markovic through ball put Glavas through on goal, but an untoward tackle from behind by Richard Luskic forced the referee to point to the spot. Glavas stepped up and smashed the crossbar with his powerful shot, but thankfully for the Reds the ball landed in the back of the net to level it up at 1-1 after 13' minutes. A Mark Rudan mistake deep in his own half soon after almost cost United dearly. Chris Triantis sprinted away with the ball but a finger-tip save from Janjetovic was enough for the ball to trickle narrowly past the post and away for a corner. Triantis redeemed himself in the 35' minute when his cross-field pass over the United defence put Robert Mileski through on goal. The pin-point accurate pass brought Janjetovic off his line, but Mileski had enough pace to get a foot to it and poke it into the back of the net to give the visitors a 2-1 lead heading into the break. Alex Smith had a golden chance to make it 3-1 a couple of minutes later when Janjetovic again came charging off his line. Smith's shot deflected off the chest of Janjetovic towards former White Eagle David Gullo at halfway. Gullo fired his long-range effort towards an open goal but it bounced wide of the intended target. On the stroke of half-time, Smith had another chance to extend the margin with a free-kick to the left of the penalty area. But Janjetovic's desperate tap saw the ball sail narrowly over the crossbar and away from danger. Early in the second-half it was all United, and the home side capitalised on their dominance through Luka Glavas in the 54' minute. Glavas latched on to a lovely ball over the top of the Olympic defence from Mitchell Thompson, making no mistake with his left foot shot across the front of Henderson and into the bottom right hand corner. United should have made it 3-2 moments later when Glavas put a ball across Henderson towards an unmarked Barkhousir in the six-yard box. But the Reds' no.9 failed to make solid contact and missed the target from close-range, squandering a golden opportunity to take the lead. Sydney Olympic again forced Janjetovic off his line in the 71' minute and on this occasion Smith managed to get around the United custodian. But desperate cover defence from the United defenders brought a halt to Smith's long range shot into an empty goal. With the game hanging in the balance, Mileski could have become the hero for Olympic when he drilled his shot on the volley towards goal. Janjetovic could do nothing but stand and watch as the ball thumped into the post, denying Olympic the match

winner. Just as it looked like the round eight epic would be heading for a draw, there was another twist in the tale when Mileski was brought down in the box by Shane Lyons. An injured Phil Makrys stepped up and made no mistake, sending Janjetovic the wrong way to bring up a 3-2 advantage in the 82' minute. Petar Markovic had several consecutive shots at goal in a last ditch effort for the equaliser, but his third and final attempt lacked the accuracy to trouble Henderson, leaving United to rue an afternoon of missed opportunities. Sydney Olympic coach Peter Tsekis was a delighted man after the match, pleased to come away from the hostile United Sports Centre with the points: "It's always a tough place to come," he said. "I thought the boys did well in the first-half and dominated the half. "In the second-half we knew United would come out hard. "It was a closer half but we got the late penalty which I think was a just reward for the effort and dominating most of the game." Sydney United coach Jean-Paul De Marigny, who admitted he was pleased with the effort from his side for the majority of the match, said fundamental errors hurt his side's hopes of victory: "There were a couple of crucial errors there that cost us a little bit," he said. "We fought back well and we had a great chance to really kick-off the game but we didn't take it. "The start was a little bit disappointing, a bit lethargic. I think we reacted well to going 1-0 down but we didn't take our chances."

Match Stats

Sydney United 2 (Luka Glavas 13', 54')
 Sydney Olympic 3 (Emmanuel Giannaros 4', Robert Mileski 35', Phil Makrys 82')
Sunday May 15th, 2011
Sydney United Sports Centre, Edensor Park
 Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones
 Assistant Referees: Steven Nguyen and Christian Mehl
 Fourth Official: Jamie Gavin
 Crowd: 800 Approx.
Sydney United: 1.Vedran Janjetovic; 19.Mitchell Thompson (15.Ufuk Talay 71'), 5.Damon Collina (6.Milan Bosnar 80'), 21.Mark Rudan, 4.Michael Cindric, 23.Ivo Bosnar, 10.Steve Hayes (8.Shane Lyons, 45'), 29.Ante Tomic, 14.Petar Markovic, 9.Elsid Barkhousir, 11.Luka Glavas
 Substitutes Not Used: 18.Daniel Rezo, 20.Keresimir Valdum
 Yellow Cards: Ivo Bosnar 40', Vedran Janjetovic 72', Shane Lyons 77'
 Red Cards: Nil
Sydney Olympic: 1.Paul Henderson; 2.Emmanuel Giannaros, 6.Alex Smith, 5.Richard Luskic, 8.Chris Triantis, 7.Phil Makrys, 11.Robert Mileski (23.Takayumi Omi 88'), 19.David Gullo (14.William Angel 65'), 18.Jerry Kalouris, 16.Peter Triantis, 3.Brett Studman
 Substitutes Not Used: 12.Bill Tsanidis, 21.Nenad Vekic, 9.Hussein Akil,
 Yellow Cards: Richard Luskic 12', Phil Makrys 23', Jerry Kalouris 49'
 Red Cards: Nil
 Player Ratings:
 3 – Robert Mileski (SO)
 2 – Luka Glavas (SU)
 1 – Chris Triantis (SO)

-By Michael Chammas

*All articles and photos courtesy of Football NSW. To visit the website log onto www.footballnsw.com.au as well as www.nswpl.com.au for your NSW Premier League fix.