



Around the Grounds

NSW Premier League Round 10 Preview

Sutherland Sharks and Bonnyrigg White Eagles kick-start Round 10 NSW Premier League action this weekend with both sides needing points for very different reasons.

The Sharks currently sit one point behind League leader Sydney Olympic, and up against a struggling White Eagles outfit, Robbie Stanton's men will be eager to inflict further pain into last season's Premiers. The Sharks were made to sweat it out last weekend against Rockdale City Suns, scoring a late equaliser to keep their unbeaten 2011 run intact. The sign of a good side is one that can grind out results even in matches where they are second best, and the Sharks showed just that against the Suns. Robbie Stanton's men have been consistent this season with the likes of Sam Awad, Panni Nikas and Matt Bailey leading the scorer's list, though the promising sign is the impact of fringe players coming off the bench to make an impact. Huseyin Jasli's last-ditch effort against Rockdale City is certainly a guarantee off the bench for Stanton. Bonnyrigg White Eagles' season is quickly losing steam with the side now ten points behind Sydney Olympic. Brian Brown's men have only managed two wins from their nine matches, a statistic that has all followers of the competition in complete shock. Not assisted by a run of suspensions and injuries in the squad, Brian Brown will need to lift the morale of his players ahead of a return to his old stomping ground, Seymour Shaw. Brad Boardman too returns to the club where he won his Gold Medal, and the burly striker will need to find the back of the net if the White Eagles are going to put an end to the wretched run of results. A very exciting match is expected with both sides in a big need of points. On Sunday afternoon at Linden Sports Centre, League leader Sydney Olympic faces a tough test against a very capable Rockdale City Suns. The Blues have grown from strength-to-strength since the start of the season, and their performances are reflected by their current League standing. Coach Peter Tsekakis will be without suspended Chris Triantis, though the impact of Robbie Mileski—who has found his feet following a slow start to his Sydney Olympic career—has played a huge part in the recent run of results. The Blues will be tested by a very well organised Lee Sterney side. Sterney's Suns are very well structured defensively with Askin Oygur forging a strong understanding alongside Miroko Jurij and Joshua Lawson. The overlapping runs of Giorgio Speranza on the left have added a positive dimension to the sides attacking prowess, though the Suns will need to start converting the chances created in their matches if a serious run towards finals football is to be made. This match provides the Suns with a perfect chance to move into the Top-Five, meanwhile it will also be a strong indication of just how good the Blues are against a side that has proven a handful for the 'bigger' teams this season. South Coast Wolves and Blacktown City FC will do battle at John Crehan Park on Sunday afternoon. The Wolves will look to bring the giant killing form witnessed in the final 10' minutes of their clash at Manly United last weekend where the side, trailing 2-0 with 10' minutes remaining, managed to salvage a draw with late goals to John Martinovski and Mark Picciolini. The Wolves best results have come away from home this season, though Sasho Petrovski & Co. will be looking to land a victory for the South Coast supporters this weekend. Mark Crittenden's Blacktown City FC recorded a morale boosting victory over Bonnyrigg White Eagles in Round 9 though the side will need to find consistency now and carry on with the task of retaining their League title. Blacktown City's season has been marred with some poor finishing to-date, leaving the side with some very inconsistent results. A win on Sunday against the Wolves will mean the start of a winning streak for

Blacktown City FC, a streak that is needed if the side is to make a challenge for the title this season. At Lambert Park, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers too will look to gain a bit of momentum when with a second consecutive win when Sydney United visit Lambert Park. The Tigers were able to dictate play for large spells in the recent win at Bankstown City as Franco Parisi and Nicola Rizzo will lead the side on Sunday. Without the services of Robbie Younis over the coming three-weeks, the impact of Stephen Kayes and Anthony Hartshorn too out of midfield will be vital to the Tigers chances. Defensively, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt seem well set with John Kebo and Cole Tinkler forming a strong partnership in front of a very experienced shot-stopper, Jose Bello-Arriaga. The Reds have been the front-runners this season with the attacking football philosophy instilled by coach Jean-Paul DeMarigny. Sydney United are three points off top spot, and a win on Sunday at Lambert Park will send a strong message to Sydney Olympic and Sutherland Sharks. The Reds will be looking at front trio Luka Glavas, Elsid Bakhouir and Ben Vidaic for goals up front, though the impact of Steve Hayes and Ante Tomic out of midfield will be of equal importance. Some concerns do surround the fitness of Tomic following a heavy fixture list over the past week, though the speed and composure of the youngster will be very helpful to Sydney United's hopes of victory against the Tigers. At Melita Stadium, Parramatta FC need points against Marconi Stallions. The Eagles have shown their ability to match it with their Premier League adversaries, though victories have been few and far between—one win from nine matches. Brian Dene's men scored an emphatic win over Manly United FC, one that saw the side approach the Sydney United match last weekend with no fear. The Eagles were visibly disappointed with the 1-0 loss against the Reds, in a match where the side really did lift their game and where a draw was certainly there for the taking. Marconi's season has been a bumpy one thus far, with the side failing to find the kick-start they need to get their season going. Luke Casserly has found some positives with the likes of Graziano Triboli showing his worth for the Stallions, meanwhile a few more goals from the likes of Giosue Sama and Matthew Mayorawill certainly go a long way for the side. Another positive statistic for the Stallions is that a win on Sunday could send the side up to fifth-spot on the ladder—testament that NSW Premier League season 2011 is one of the closest contests in recent memory. In the final match of the round with kick off set for 4pm, Manly United FC play host to Bankstown City at Cromer Park. The home side will need to quickly forget about the horrid final 10' minutes against South Coast Wolves where the side squandered a two-goal lead to draw the match 2-2. Coach Craig Midgley will look to lift his players for this match against a Bankstown City side that has proven they can play good football. With both camps fielding a number of inexperienced players, the team that settles quickest on Sunday will possess the best chance of sealing the points. With only one point separating the two teams on the League ladder, a win for either side will make a big statement in their respective bids to sneak into the Top-Five for finals football this season.

—By Joseph Carlucci

Football NSW appoints new CEO

Football NSW Chairman Robert Sestan today announced the appointment of Eddie Moore as their new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Eddie's experience spans over sixteen years in sports administration, marketing and event management. He has worked with the Sydney 2000 Bid, the Sydney Olympic Games, Rugby World Cup, FFA, Triathlon Australia, Hill and Knowlton and Australian Rugby. "We conducted an extensive search and we are confident that Eddie brings the skills set required to lead Football NSW through its next phase of growth and development," Sestan said. "We look forward to working with and supporting Eddie to deliver our long term goal of building Football NSW into the dominant participation sport for both men and women in NSW". "As we undertake our Strategic Review, The Board is of the belief that Eddie is the ideal person to lead FNSW as we seek to establish a common vision for the development of the game in NSW, and to build an organisation that can deliver this vision." Moore said that the next phase in the growth of Football administration is vital to the health of the Game. "I am honoured to fill this role and am committed to work with the Board, our Members and the broader Football community in NSW to ensure we are able to provide a professional environment to support, grow and develop the game" Moore said. Eddie has held senior management positions with Australian Rugby (Head of Operations), Hill and Knowlton (Asia Pacific Director of Sports Marketing), the FFA (Event Director for the Women's AFC Championships), SOCOG and the Sydney 2000 Bid. Eddie also has a junior football coaching license. He will commence working with Football NSW on Monday 30th May.

—Football NSW Media Release



Mark Rudan

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