

NSW Premier League Round 12 • Preview

Bonnyrigg White Eagles will be out to keep their positive moment of form on track when Parramatta FC visits Bonnyrigg Sports Club on Saturday evening. The White Eagles have welcomed back a large contingent of players that have missed large parts of the opening half of the season through injury and suspension, and the stability amongst the group seems to have returned – the comprehensive 3-0 defeat of League leader Sydney Olympic last weekend, the perfect example of the side's return to form. Brian Brown's men will also be out to avenge the opening round draw at Melita Stadium, where the newly promoted Parramatta FC frustrated Bonnyrigg throughout the 90' minutes. The performance of the Eagles on that afternoon did lift the expectations of supporters about the side's return to the top flight, though the South Granville team has struggled to get going this season. The departure of Brian Dene following Round 10 action has promoted Pat Marando into the top job on a caretaker basis. Marando, who led Sydney Olympic's first team for part of season 2010 will be aiming to lift his troops for a decent shot at the competition with the second-half of the season commencing this weekend. At Marconi Stadium, the Stallions will be full of confidence as they head into their clash with Bankstown City FC following an impressive showing against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers last weekend. The Stallions will be hoping to see more of the same from Matthew Gordon this season, following the attacking midfielder's exceptional 'Messi like' effort against the Tigers last weekend. With Matthew Mayora and Giosue Sama forging a good partnership up front, the side is certainly improving as the season progresses. Bankstown City has proven their in-experienced players are really coming of age with some fine performances against their more fancied opponents. Blagoja Kuleski's side has produced some of their better results away from home this season, as the side could perhaps feel a little unlucky not to have taken maximum points from Sydney United last weekend. Much concern still surround experienced campaigner Steve Liavas who was stretchered from the field following a heavy tackle which injured his lower shin. Scans following the match cleared the midfielder of any break in the leg, and the Lions' faithful will be hoping to have Liavas back on board very soon.

An interesting encounter is certainly on the cards in Bossley Park as the Stallions have a strong chance of making their mark in the top five. On Sunday afternoon at Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney Olympic plays their first home match following the redevelopment of the venue. The Blues play host to South Coast Wolves, and Peter Tsekenis' men will be out for a first-up home win to continue the side's impressive campaign. The Blues will need to quickly forget the slip-up at Bonnyrigg last weekend, a match where some missed chances after going behind early went punished as the White Eagles finished the match strong-

ly. Striker Alex Smith has slowed down with his goalscoring spree, though a big turnout on Sunday will spur Smith and the Blues for a strong performance. The Wolves have continued to show their ability in this competition, though lapses in their matches have prevented the side from collecting more points from the opening eleven rounds. Trevor Morgan will be asking more of midfielders Andres Gomez and John Martinoski, meanwhile Mark Picciolini will again be an outlet in the attacking third. At Cromer Park, Manly United will be out to bounce back following the 3-0 loss against Blacktown City FC last weekend. The side will hope to use home ground advantage though the visiting Sydney United will certainly pose a huge challenge. A lethargic side following Waratah Cup action last week succumbed to Blacktown City, though Craig Midgley will this week hope that the visiting Reds have some tired legs with a midweek fixture on Wednesday.

Jean-Paul DeMarigny still has a long list of first grade players on the sidelines, though the side's ability to still grind out results has been impressive. With Blacktown City and Marconi Stallions breathing down the third-placed Reds' neck, a win at Cromer Park on Sunday is a must to remain in touch with Sydney Olympic and Sutherland Sharks. A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers too need to quickly bounce back following their loss at Marconi in what will again be a very hectic week of football. The Tigers face a confident Rockdale City Suns this Sunday, though following last week's exhausting 120' Cup win against Macarthur Rams and the League match with the Stallions, the side has another midweek clash before the Suns. Once more, the experience of Franco Parisi and Nicola Rizzo will be vital, as will a strong performance by the side's backline. The Suns striking duo of James Monie and Jason Naidovski found their groove against Parramatta FC as the side scored four goals to record a much needed win. Coach Lee Sterrey will be asking his players to take advantage of the Tigers heavy fixture list by pressuring the side from the opening whistle on Sunday. In the final match of the round, the defending champions face a tough task against the high flying Sutherland Sharks, though Luke Roodenburg & Co. will fancy their chances following some strong performances over the past fortnight.

Blacktown City FC were infallible against Manly United FC – coach Mark Crittenden has been able to instill the confidence in the group after last season's Championship winning squad lost some important elements of that squad.

The visiting Sharks will be hoping to welcome back Nick Stavroulakis following a foot injury that kept him out of the win against South Coast Wolves as the side will need all hands on deck to leave Lily Homes Stadium with the points this weekend.



POS	TEAM	P	W-L-D	F-A	GD	PTS
1	Sydney Olympic	11	7-2-2	21-11	10	23
2	Sutherland Sharks	11	6-1-4	17-13	4	22
3	Sydney United	11	5-2-4	21-13	8	19
4	Blacktown City FC	11	5-4-2	16-11	5	17
5	Marconi Stallions	11	4-3-4	15-9	6	16
6	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	4-3-4	18-14	4	16
7	Rockdale City Suns	11	4-5-2	11-15	-4	14
8	Manly United FC	11	3-3-5	17-22	-5	14
9	APIA Leichhardt Tigers	11	3-4-4	15-19	-4	13
10	Bankstown City	11	3-6-2	15-20	-5	11
11	South Coast Wolves	11	3-7-1	12-20	-8	10
12	Parramatta FC	11	1-8-2	11-22	-11	5

Round 12

TIME	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	VENUE
5:00 PM Sat 11/Jun	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	vs Parramatta FC	Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7:30 PM Sat 11/Jun	Marconi Stallions	vs Bankstown City	Marconi Stadium
3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun	Sydney Olympic	vs South Coast Wolves	Belmore Sports Ground
3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun	Manly United FC	vs Sydney United	Cromer Park
3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun	APIA Leichhardt Tigers	vs Rockdale City Suns	Lambert Park
3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun	Blacktown City FC	vs Sutherland Sharks	Lily Homes

Compiled by Mark Stavroulakis and all photos courtesy of Football NSW.
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