

## Around the Grounds NSW Premier League Round 15 Preview

Parramatta FC will be looking to build on the momentum created last weekend with the win at Blacktown City when Sutherland Sharks visit Melita Stadium on Saturday evening. The Eagles have only two wins on the ladder and the signs are positive for the side to state their case to get off the foot of the table. In their way in the opening Round 15 fixture is a Sharks side equally desperate to return to winning ways after a heartbreaking injury-time goal conceded against Sydney Olympic last weekend opened a seven-point gap with the frontrunner. The Sharks will again be looking to their experienced players to lead the side meanwhile Niko Tsattalios' fine run of form is of equal importance. Parramatta FC have a new found confidence wing as in the earlier part of the campaign. Brian Brown's Bonnyrigg slipped up somewhat surprisingly against the across the group and new coach Manny Spanoudakis will be hoping his charges can produce a win for the home supporters this weekend. Sitting five-points behind A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers and South Coast Wolves, a win at home this weekend is imperative for the side to commence a charge away from bottom spot. Sydney United and Bonnyrigg White Eagles face off with the latter holding bragging rights after a victory in the reverse fixture earlier in the season. Sydney United returned to the winner's list with a come from behind defeat of Rockdale City last weekend, though the performances of Jean-Paul De

Marigny's men have not been as free-floLions last weekend, though the satisfying thing for the club and supporters alike was their fighting spirit to salvage a point, despite playing with a man down for over 30' minutes. A win for the Reds will keep the side in touch with Sydney Olympic, meanwhile a White Eagles win will see Bonnyrigg surpass the Reds and mount a serious charge for a top-two finish. On Sunday afternoon, Sydney Olympic meet Manly United FC at Belmore Sports Ground with the Blues eager to keep the distance over closest rivals Sydney United and the Sharks. The Blues have been boosted with the addition of another playmaker who does get amongst the goals, Daniel Severino, following the departure of Alex Smith and coach Peter Tsekens will be hoping to get many goals from his latest acquisition through until the end of the season. Defensively, the Blues have been rock solid with Brett Studman and Richard Luksic growing from strength to strength each week. Manly United enter the clash full of confidence following one of their best performances this season against Marconi Stallions in Round 14. Craig Midgley's men were ruthless after going behind against the Stallions, scoring three unanswered goals in a ruthless display. For the visitors to get a result at Belmore, Scott Balderson, Robbie Cattanach & Co. need to be on their game. As for the Blues, their ability to close out the Premiership with a seven point lead after fifteen matches will be put to the test – supporters at

Belmore will not settle for anything less than the Premiership trophy from this point forward. At Jensen Park, Bankstown City plays host to South Coast Wolves in another must win match for both sides. With two points separating the two sides, a win for the Lions will keep their slim finals chances alive, meanwhile a victory for the Wolves will move Trevor Morgan's side a step further away from the bottom of the ladder. Aman Hadid will again carry the flag up front for the Lions alongside Hussein Salameh and Frederick Graham, meanwhile the Wolves will look to striker pairing Sasho Petrovski and Mark Picciolini. With both sides desperate to make a positive run home towards the end of the regular season, an exciting encounter is expected in Sefton on Sunday. Another two sides in desperate need for a victory are A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers and Blacktown City FC. The latter risks losing touch of the top three sides on the ladder, meanwhile the Tigers sit at the wrong end of the ladder, much to the disappointment of their supporters. Blacktown City's fine run at the end of May/start of June, where the side scored victories against Bonnyrigg White Eagles, South Coast Wolves, Manly United FC and Sutherland Sharks, has hit a real snag with losses against Sydney Olympic, and more surprisingly Parramatta FC last weekend, have seen the defending champions slip to fifth-spot on the ladder. The Tigers' month of June has so far been very unsuccessful with losses against Marconi

Stallions, Bonnyrigg White Eagles and South Coast Wolves leaving the side in tenth-spot. The return of Robbie Younis, who is still working on his match fitness following a month break, will be vital to the side's success as will the influence of playmaker and captain, Nick Rizzo and Franco Parisi. Defensively, the Tigers have proven their worth, though the number of sloppy goals conceded have hurt the side thus far. Over at Marconi Stadium, the Stallions will be looking to bounce back following the slip up at Cromer Park last weekend. Marconi have turned the corner following an indifferent start to the season and eight matches out from the regular season's end, the side sits one-point outside the top-five. Matthew Mayora and Giosue Sama's goals will be vital to the Stallions run home this season, as will the return to full form of Adel El Jamal after a stint on the sidelines due to injury. The Stallions opponents Rockdale City Suns still have a chance to make a bid for finals football, though the side will need to start adding wins on the ladder if that dream is to become a reality. New coach Wally Savor saw his side play a strong match against Sydney United last weekend, though late goals in the encounter saw the side cough up a 1-0 lead to go 2-1 down. In what will prove a massive test for the Suns, this encounter could provide Rockdale City with the shot in the arm that is required to make a finals series push.

*By Joseph Carlucci*

## Alex Tobin appointed Football NSW State Technical Director

Highly decorated former Soccerroo Alex Tobin has been appointed as Football NSW's State Technical Director. In what is a major coup for Football NSW, the former Australian Captain brings not only a wealth of playing experience but the AFC and FFA coaching qualifications that make Tobin the ideal candidate in delivering the National Curriculum.

Tobin was elated with the appointment and is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. "It's fantastic to be on board with Football NSW. I am really looking forward to the challenge. Both the FFA and Football NSW recognise that the quality of players being produced needs to be raised. My aim will be to create a culture in youth football and with all registered coaches in NSW where elite development is the absolute priority.

"I understand that the road is long but working with the football community I can make a positive impact in this role."

Football NSW CEO Eddie Moore has seen the appointment of Tobin as a landmark decision in the development of future football stars. "Football NSW is delighted to have someone with the experience and reputation of Alex on board. There were a number of highly qualified candidates and Football



Football NSW Media Manager Mark Stavroulakis shown with new Football NSW State Technical Director Alex Tobin at Valentine Sports Park earlier this year

NSW would like to thank all applicants for their time and effort. "Alex's contribution I'm sure will be a significant plus for the development of the sport and all elite footballers – both boys and girls in NSW." The 45-year-old will be working in a number of key areas and will play a key role in assisting the National (FFA) Technical Director in establishing a talent identification network within NSW as well as undertak-

ing the management of the whole Football NSW representative program including Academy programs, NSW coaching appointments and developing and implementing talented player pathway plans. This will build on the highly regarded Project 22 initiatives developed in recent years. Alex commences his duties as Football NSW Technical Director on Monday July 4th 2011.

### Alex Tobin Fact File

Full name: **Alexander Hugh Tobin**

Born **3rd November 1965**

Place of Birth: **Adelaide**

#### Playing Experience (Club)

1984 – 2000 – **Adelaide City Soccer Club** 436 games 27 goals

2000 – 2002 – **Parramatta Power FC**

48 games 4 goals

2002 – 2004 – **Northern Spirit FC** 38 games

#### National Soccer League

(Played 21 seasons, 522 games, 31 goals)

#### 5 NSL Grand Finals

#### 2 Joe Marston Medals

#### Country

1988-1999 **Australian National Team**

113 games 3 goals (87 'A' Internationals, 26 Non 'A' Internationals)

1996 – 1999 **Captain of the Australian National Team** (30 games)

1988 – **Olympic Games** (South Korea)

1985 – **Australian National Team**

#### Under 20's Tertiary Education

**Bachelor of Architectural Studies**

(Adelaide University)

#### Coaching Qualification