

WARATAH CUP FINAL

Joseph Carlucci

Football NSW's Cup competition – the Waratah Cup – concludes this Sunday as two teams remain following a hard fought journey featuring NSW Premier League, NSW Super League, League One and Conference League clubs. In an FA Cup style competition, Manly United FC and Mounties Wanderers will battle it out for Cup supremacy at Bonnyrigg Sports Club.

Grand-Final • Waratah Cup 2011 Final // Sunday 10th July, 2011 • Bonnyrigg Sports Club Manly United FC (NSW Premier League) v Mounties Wanderers (State League One)

The 2011 Waratah Cup grand-final sees the NSW Premier League place their reputation on the line against the NSW State League One, as the might of Manly United FC squares up against Mounties Wanderers. The Cromer Park side has shown their constant growth this season with the side also in a positive League position to reach the finals series.

Coach Craig Midgely has assembled a very talented group of youngsters, led by experienced campaigners Mark Richards and Robbie Cattanach. The side faced their most difficult challenge in the semi-final where the South Coast Wolves provided a stern test, though despite the long trip down to the South Coast on a cold Wednesday evening, Manly United FC came up trumps with a sensational display to reach the Cup final. Mounties Wanderers have lived a sensational Cup run thus far, entering the competition at the Round 2 stage. Rather uncomplicated victories in the first two matches set the Mounties up for the start of their fairytale ride, as the Wanderers have taken the scalps of West Sydney Berries, Sydney Olympic and Blacktown Spartans to secure their grand-final berth. Mounties have scored 18 goals in the competition thus far, conceding an average of a goal a game in the process. A rather formidable setup, with a good mix of experience across the park, stands the State League One side in with a good chance of success on Sunday.

Road to semi-finals

Manly United FC

- R3 – 3-2 win v Dandaloo FC
 - R4 – 3-0 win v Fraser Park
 - QF – 2-1 win over Hills Brumbies
 - SF – 3-2 win v Blacktown City FC
- #### Mounties Wanderers
- R2 – 7-0 win v Como West Janali
 - R3 – 2-0 win v FC Gazy Lansvale
 - R4 – 3-1 win v West Sydney Berries
 - QF – 3-2 win v Sydney Olympic
 - SF – 4-1 win v Blacktown Spartans

Key player match-ups

Manly United FC

Robbie Cattanach – An experienced goal scorer, goal creator and all round leader on the football field, Cattanach will play a vital role in Manly United's bid to win some silverware this season. A player who has been at the club for a number of years now, Cattanach is very familiar with his role of leader in a team featuring a number of very young players. The striker has an exceptional ability to find the back of the net, though has been equally impressive in the role of 'assist man', providing his teammates with a number of goals in the both the Cup and League this season.



Mounties Wanderers

1. Ali Akbal 2. Eli Squillacioti 3. Tim Salvaggio
4. Greg Baldock 5. Joel Rodden-Ward 6. Troy McColl
7. Paul Crisp 8. Joseph Andriano 9. Mathew Viera
10. Daniel Willoughby 11. Peter Day 14. Mark Symington
16. Scott Goodwin 17. Daniel McCann
18. Mark D'Alessandro 19. Ian McAndrew
20. Reece Iredale RGK. Gareth Jamieson
- (2 to be Omitted)

Coaches: **Aidan Desmond - Glenn Lockhart**

Manager: **Cliff Ballhouse**

Fitness Coach: **John Ambrose**



Manly United

1. Kang Ho Lee 2. Jimmy Oates 3. Shaun Bowden
4. Graeme Forbes 5. Marc Richards 6. Michael Daly
7. Scot Balderson 8. David Dodd 9. Robbie Cattanach
10. Adam Foti 11. Justin Hayward 12. Mitch Macedo
14. Seung Soo Lee 15. Samuel Jacob 16. Thibault Marchal
17. Matthew Sim 18. Colin Iley 19. Johnny Hall
- 20 Nick Swart 21. Joey Gibbs 23. Craig Midgley

Coach: **Craig Midgley**

Asst. Coach: **Richie Williams**

Manager: **Col May**

Mounties Wanderers

Daniel McCann – Captain Daniel McCann has been in exceptional touch for his side in both the League and Cup competitions. McCann has pitched in with some very nice goals en-route to the grand-final, playing a massive part in the creation of many of his side's other goals thus far. With a fine eye and dead accu-

racy off his right boot, McCann will be one of the men Manly United FC need to contain out of midfield if the Mounties are to be shut down in the final.

Comments from the Coaches

Craig Midgely (Manly United FC) – “It has been a great run for the squad and I am very pleased with the boys efforts so

far. We are a club with a great youth set-up and we look to continually develop players to reach their full potential. From last season, we lost a large number of players and that obviously meant that we needed to get our younger boys to step up and be counted, and this they have done so very well. “In our win against South Coast Wolves, we had nine of the squad players were Manly United juniors, and we are very proud of this.

“We've been a bit up and down this season, though again that comes down to the fact that we lost so many players last season, and that we are trying to build the squad with so many youngsters. Our older heads Marc Richards and Robbie Cattanach have been exceptional in leading the young boys, and I am pleased to say that we have certainly moved in the right direction. “A win in the Cup final would be tremendous for the boys and for the club. Our intention is to give the final everything. Our goal is to win the Cup final, then aim to finish the League season in style. Although it may be tough to challenge for the League title, we are taking one game at a time, so the Cup is our next objective. Following the Cup though, we will be working as hard as possible to finish in the Top-Five and push on from there.”

Aiden Desmond (Mounties Wanderers)

– “It is an honour for this club to be playing in the Final of the Waratah Cup. Our run has been tremendous in the tournament, and to think that we have made it to the final two clubs in a competition that has featured so many clubs from across the State – the majority playing in a higher League than us – is testament to the efforts of this group of players. “The expectation of the team on Sunday is exactly the same as what it has been throughout this competition. We want the players to go out there and give it their best shot. We will work on a game plan heading into the match, and we'll hope to execute it as well as we possibly can. If we can manage this, then we are certainly in with a chance.

“The beauty of this club is the ambition the players have shown. We've had some huge influence from our more experienced boys, though we have also made a point of giving the younger boys a go in the first team, and they have performed wonderfully well.

“We have had fabulous results to-date, despite losing the League match against Schofields Scorpions last weekend. I'm not too fussed with that loss as the boys did give a good account of themselves, despite the heavy fixture list of the past two months. “As we have done to date, we'll be out to give this Cup final a real shot on Sunday, no doubt.”