



NSW Premier League Round 18 Review

Sydney Olympic re-emphasised their 2011 ambition with a strong performance to see off the challenge of Bankstown City and further strengthen their grip on first-place at the top of the NSW Premier League competition. Played at the end of a very difficult week for the club following the passing of Mr. Triantis – the father of Chris and Peter Triantis, two stand-out performers for the club so far this season – the Blues players lifted their games to ensure the week would close with a win. Chris Triantis took to the field for the Blues, and scored an absolute screamer of a goal to make it 2-0 following Robbie Mileski's opener. Bankstown City's afternoon was made almost impossible following Steve Liavas' second yellow card in the 38' minute, leaving the Lions with ten-men for the remainder of the encounter. Despite the Lions best efforts in the second-half, Sydney Olympic wrapped up proceedings with a late third goal, in injury-time, to rubber stamp the win. Sydney United lost their chance to keep pace with the Blues heading into the top of the table clash next weekend following their narrow loss to Sutherland Sharks on Saturday evening. In arguably the best match of football in the NSW Premier League this season, where both sides played an exceptional short, quick passing game, the Sharks closed the gaps on the second-placed Reds with a Chris Price goal 2' minutes into the second-half. Both sides held a monopoly on possession at different stages throughout the encounter, though it was the Sharks that created the clear-cut scoring chances. A late penalty miss by Panni Nikas sparked a Sydney United final flurry in the attacking third with Elsid Barkhousir first, and Michael Cindric late in injury-time, threatening to find an equaliser. At Bonnyrigg Sports Club, the White Eagles survived the entire second-half with ten men against Manly United FC following Chris Tadrosse's dismissal at the start of the second period. Bonnyrigg failed to capitalise on some positive scoring chances in the first-half before the visiting Northern Beaches side found their stride. Craig Midgley's men squandered a golden chance to take the lead following Tadrosse's red card for hand ball. Adam Foti lined up the penalty though was denied by an exceptional Andrew Bazi save, ensuring the White Eagles secured a point from the encounter. At John Crehan Park, South Coast Wolves scored a very impressive 4-1 win over Rockdale City Suns. In

an exceptional 4' minute spell at the end of the first-half, the Wolves scored three goals much to the delight of the home supporters. Debutant Sean Robertson opened the scoring for the Wolves, anticipating Dion Shaw to give the home side the lead. John Martinovski doubled the lead with a well-taken effort before Andres Gomez's shot from the edge of the penalty-area took a wicked deflection before beating Shaw. Rockdale City pulled a goal back courtesy of Shay Spitz midway through the second-half, though experienced campaigner Sasho Petrovski killed off any hopes of a late comeback with a ferocious effort in the 84' minute beating Shaw in the Suns goal and sealing a memorable 4-1 victory. In the battle between bottom-placed Parramatta FC and A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers at Melita Stadium, the Eagles came out victorious adding further momentum to a side that has shown great progress over the past month with some very good results. First-half goals to Ben Jurman and Daniel Fogarty proved enough to defeat the Tigers – the team from Leichhardt still struggling to find results in what has been a disastrous season for the former NSL giant. At Lily Homes Stadium, Blacktown City FC and Marconi Stallions shared the spoils following an entertaining 1-1 draw. Keith Shevlin was on the spot to drive home a fumbled ball by Blacktown City goalkeeper Symon Jaeger – the shot-stopper couldn't handle the power of Nahuel Arrarte's long-range drive, leaving Shevlin with the easiest of tasks to slot home. Blacktown City found their equaliser before the break via Milorad Simonovic. The experienced midfielder latched onto an exceptional through ball by Mitchell Long before curling his shot past James Chronopoulos to secure his side a point.

NSW Premier League Round 19 Preview

The NSW Premier League commences its run home with some eagerly anticipated clashes to come this weekend.

Arguably the match of the round happens on Sunday afternoon at Belmore Sports Ground where 'first meets second' when Sydney Olympic and Sydney United lock horns. The Blues have shown their ability to play fluid football across the park – something that has come even easier for Peter Tsekenis' men at home. The Blues have enjoyed the positive run of form of Robbie Mileski and David Gullo, two very important components in a team that does not

possess an out and out striker at the moment. The Blues will need to be on their game with the Reds from Edensor Park playing their way into some very positive form despite the narrow loss at Sutherland last weekend. Jean-Paul De Marigny's men have shown their ability to continue playing attacking football, regardless of the opponent, and more of the same will be expected at Belmore on Sunday. The Reds will need more penetration from front pairing Luka Glavas and Elsid Barkhousir, with the midfield line comprising Mitchell Thompson and Steve Hayes adding their weight when the side gets forward. A win for the Blues will almost certainly see Sydney Olympic seal first spot on the League ladder, meanwhile a win for Sydney United will make for a very close finish to the regular season over the coming month. At Cromer Park, Manly United FC need points to ensure they remain in touch with the top-five when another side in serious need of points, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers, visit. The Northern Beaches side sits five-points outside of the top-five, their bid for finals football not helped by the recent midweek loss to Sydney United at home in a Round 12 catch-up match. Manly United meet a Tigers team that has not won since Round 9 of the competition – the side's last point arrived in the Round 10 2-2 draw against Sydney United. With the Tigers now sitting in bottom-spot on the ladder, much urgency is required from their players in what will be a difficult test at a very difficult venue for visitors to get results. Rockdale City Suns host Blacktown City FC in another important three-pointer for both sides. Blacktown City FC can really confirm their Top-Five placing should they grab the points, meanwhile the Suns cannot settle for anything less than a win if their finals aspirations are to remain alive. Last weekend's loss against South Coast Wolves certainly did hurt the Suns who have shown a fine progression with important victories over the past month. Striker Jason Naidovski and James Monie need to be on their game this weekend, as will the defensive line that leaked four goals – three of them in the closing stages of the first-half last weekend. Mark Crittenden's Blacktown City were held at home by the Stallions in their last outing though the consistent performances of Mitchell Duke, Travis Major and Milorad Simonovic – alongside captain Luke Roodenburg – have the side looking strong to consolidate a spot in the top-five to defend their title. At

Jensen Park, Bankstown City will be out to end their horror run of results against Parramatta FC. The heavy loss at Blacktown City in Round 16 left some big scares on the side, not helped by the 3-0 loss at Sydney Olympic last weekend. Blagoja Kuleski will be without Steve Liavas this weekend, with Hussein Salameh expected to lead the charge in the attacking third. Parramatta FC have been impressive in the second-half of the season, and the Melita Stadium side has no intention of slowing down now. The win against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers last weekend has seen Parramatta FC move off the bottom of the ladder, as the side aims to collect more wins to get as far up the ladder before the season's close. Marconi Stallions play for their finals series hopes against Sutherland Sharks on Sunday at Marconi Stadium. The Stallions have certainly fallen off the pace over the past month, with last weekend's draw at Lily Homes Stadium not helping the side at all. Wins are required for Luke Casserly's men, and the likes of Nahuel Arrarte and Giosue Sama will need to lead the attacking third. Defensively, the Stallions too have leak goals this season, though the talents of James Chronopoulos have definitely saved the side on a number of occasions. Sutherland Sharks are playing some of their best football of the season at the moment, as coach Robbie Stanton looks for confirmation of the side's constant improvement. Defensively, the Sharks have been brilliant with George Souris and Hayden Morton, meanwhile in the attacking third Sam Awad has been keeping busy with some unselfish running alongside Matt Bailey and Panni Nikas. Todd Halloran has been in some great touch on the right-flank, leaving Stanton with a selection headache as experienced campaigner Jim Bakis returns from injury. In the only Saturday evening clash for the weekend, South Coast Wolves meet Bonnyrigg White Eagles at John Crehan Park. Trevor Morgan's Wolves will still be buzzing following the emphatic showing against Rockdale City Suns last weekend, though the challenge to be posed by the White Eagles will need all Wolves' hands on deck on Saturday. South Coast Wolves have Bankstown City in their sights as Sasho Petrovski & Co. attempt to halt Bonnyrigg's late charge for a top-two finish. Brian Brown will be without Chris Tadrosse for the match, with Brendan Gan expected to carry much weight out of midfield for the visitors.

By Joseph Carlucci