

NSW Premier League Round 21 Review

By Joseph Carlucci

Sydney United squandered a golden chance to draw level with League leader Sydney Olympic on Sunday afternoon as the Reds fell 1-0 against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers at Edensor Park following the Blues 1-1 draw with Rockdale City. The Tigers further confirmed their return to form following a horror two-month period as the Leichhardt-based side scored their third win on the trot courtesy of David D'Apuzzo's late winner.

Chris James provided D'Apuzzo the opening on 71' minutes with a fine assist that the Tigers left-sided midfielder took with open arms. A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt controlled the closing stages perfectly to grind out the result and further strengthen their position on the League ladder. Sydney Olympic's difficult moment continued with more points dropped at home, this time against the Suns, though most positive for Peter Tsekenis was the side's ability to fight back from a goal down and go close to grabbing a winner late on. The Suns started strongly and deservedly found an opening goal on 26' minutes as Shay Spitz blasted Sash Trajcevski's searching ball to make it 1-0.

Sydney Olympic, despite being outplayed for much of the opening half, found an equaliser just before the break courtesy of Phil Makrys. The experienced midfielder's free-kick packed a real punch and finished over the head of Suns goalkeeper Dion Shaw.

Late in the match, the Blues squandered chances via David Gullo and Tod Bamber before the referee brought a close to proceedings with the two sides left to settle for a share of the spoils.

Marconi Stallions faint hopes of playing finals football in 2011 ended with the side held to a 1-1 draw at home by Parramatta FC. The Stallions played some good football



Action shown between Parramatta FC defender Angelo Petratos and Stallions striker Giosue Sama

and will be kicking themselves for the late goal conceded. Parramatta FC's best on the park was veteran defender Evangelos Petratos. The experienced campaigner was instrumental leading the Eagles defensive line as he also managed to get forward and salvage his side a point with a well taken goal. Nico Sama sent the Stallions into the

lead on 68' minutes with a strong finish from close-range before Petratos rose highest inside the penalty-area to head home Peter Crevani's corner delivery.

Blacktown City FC remain in fourth-spot following their 1-1 draw against South Coast Wolves at Lily Homes Stadium. Luke Austin's 74' minute goal seemed enough for the

home side to claim victory and seal the points, though youngster John Martinoski got forward 8' minutes from time to score a fine equaliser for the Wolves.

At Jensen Park, Bankstown City's battle to avoid relegation took a further turn for the worst as Manly United FC handed the side a 1-0 defeat. Justin Hayward's match winner arrived midway through the second-half, leaving Bankstown City now in desperate need of points with two weekends of football remaining. The Lions fought hard to salvage a point late-on, though it wasn't to be as Manly United administered the closing stages of the match perfectly to seal the win.

On Saturday evening, Bonnyrigg White Eagles confirmed their spot in the Top-Five with an emphatic win over Sutherland Sharks at Bonnyrigg Sports Centre. In arguably the White Eagles most impressive performance to-date, a first-half hat-trick to Jared Lum had the side on the right track, despite Matt Bailey momentarily reducing the score to 1-2. The Sharks dominated the opening 20' minutes of the second-half, and deservedly pulled a goal back via substitute Todd Halloran who combined with Lachlan Cahill.

Bonnyrigg ensured there wouldn't be any sort of set-back as Brad Boardman first, then Brendan Gan, both added their names to the score sheet to confirm the points for their side.

Most important for coach Brian Brown was the fine midfield performance of Brendan Gan and Alex Canak, with the influence of captain Chris Tadrosse adding an additional outlet to the White Eagles attacking play. Youngster Jared Lum once again proved his ability with his exceptional pace, finesse on the ball and clinical finishing in-front of goal – much needed if Bonnyrigg is going to improve on last season's grand-final disappointment.

Bankstown City FC to take on Sydney FC this Wednesday

NSW Premier League side Bankstown City FC will take on Hyundai A-League side Sydney FC on Wednesday 24th of August at Jensen Park with kick-off set for 7.30pm. Gates are set to open at 6pm with Adults \$10, Concession \$5 and kids entry will be a gold coin donation – From every adult ticket sold, \$1 will be donate to the Children's hospital.

APIA Leichhardt Tigers v Newcastle Jets - Postponed

NSW Premier League side APIA Leichhardt Tigers v Newcastle Jets has been postponed.



Sutherland Sharks to take on Sydney FC on 31st August

NSW Premier League side Sutherland Sharks will tackle Hyundai A-League outfit Sydney FC on Wednesday 31st August at Seymour Shaw, Miranda with kick



off set for 7.30pm. Sydney FC are currently in the middle of its official pre-season campaign and are taking on opponents from both the NSW Premier and Super League competitions with the Sharks being the next target. It will be a chance to see the likes of

Nick Carle, Mark Bridge, Karol Kisel, Michael Beauchamp and Pascal Bosschaart to name a few lock horns with some quality Sharks players on show. Robbie Stanton's men will be looking towards finishing the season strongly prior to the NSW Premier League Finals Series and will have the likes of Panny Nikas, Matt Bailey, Nick Stavroulakis and Hayden Morton to name a few itching to tackle their A-League opponents.

Match Details
Sutherland Sharks v Sydney FC
Wednesday 31st August
Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda
7:30pm

Admission: Adults \$10 – Kids Under 16 Free
*Canteen, bbq and bar facilities will be available on the evening