

NSW Premier League Round 22 Preview

By Joseph Carlucci

Sydney Olympic and Bonnyrigg White Eagles open Round 22 proceedings this weekend in what could potentially be a finals series fixture come early.

Both sides have sealed their spots in the top five, and both will be after wins to gather some form ahead of the do-or-die finals matches. Sydney Olympic has gone off the boil following their lightning run over the first three-quarters of the season. The Blues have struggled with a number of injuries and suspensions, though Peter Tsekenis will need to quickly re-group his players as their stronghold on top spot is no longer a foregone conclusion. The Blues have failed to find the cohesion in the final third, with the defence leaking a number of goals over the past fortnight. Out of the Bonnyrigg squad, it is a totally different frame of mind with the side entering this clash full of confidence after elegantly disposing of Sutherland Sharks last weekend. The White Eagles showed they still can find the back of the net in the 5-2 win, with the midfield line playing a near perfect 90' minutes. Defensively, the side has shown some frailties over the past month with the goals conceded column on the League ladder increasing at a faster rate. Brian Brown will be aware of Sydney Olympic's drop in momentum, and the White Eagles will certainly be out to further inflict damage to the Blues on Sunday. At Jensen Park, Bankstown City FC need points when Sydney United visit. The Lions need a number of results to go their way on the Club Championship ladder, with the side staring at the possibility of relegation at the end of the season. The Lions performed well in patches against Manly United last weekend, though a number of sufficed chances went punished by



the Northern Beaches outfit. Once again, the experienced players like Zlatko Joseski, Steve Liavas and Hussein Salameh will need to be on their game to lead the rest of the squad in front of their home supporters. Sydney United need the win if catching Sydney Olympic on the League ladder is to become a reality. The Reds fell against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers at home last weekend, a huge chance gone begging following Sydney Olympic's draw against Rockdale City. Coach Jean-Paul De Marigny will be looking for more consistency across the park from his charges as we close in on finals football. In the 'Italian Derby' be-

tween two of Australia's biggest club sides with huge history, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers will be looking for their fourth win on the trot following a disastrous 2011 season. Franco Parisi & Co. have managed to turn the corner over the past month, much to the relief of the Tigers supporters. The Stallions faint hopes of reaching the finals series all ended last weekend following the home draw against Parramatta FC. Meetings between these two sides always provide emotion and action aplenty, and more of the same is expected at Lambert Park on Sunday. At Lily Homes Stadium, Blacktown City FC needs a win to continue their

push for a potential second-spot finish. The side has secured a spot in the top-five with some very impressive performances over the second half of the season, though a shot at a home final will cap off the regular season. The visiting Manly United FC pose a massive challenge with Craig Midgley's men causing all adversaries a real challenge this season. With the side claiming some silverware earlier in the campaign, in the form of the Waratah Cup, Manly United FC will look to finish the season with as many points as possible, despite finals football now being out of reach. Parramatta FC and Rockdale City Suns meet at Melita Stadium with the Eagles hoping to make one last-ditch attempt to move off the bottom of the ladder with two matches remaining. Parramatta FC ended the Stallions' finals hopes last weekend, and Manny Spanoudakis' side will be again looking at veteran Evangelos Petratos to lead the side with another stirring performance. Petratos & Co. will need to be at their best if they are to secure the points, with Rockdale City Suns showing their worth this season, especially in the fine first-half showing at Sydney Olympic last weekend. In the final match of the weekend, Sutherland Sharks and South Coast Wolves meet at Seymour Shaw as the Sharks hope to pick-up points and capitalise on any potential shortcomings of the teams above them on the ladder. The Sharks have been a huge obstacle for visitors to overcome at Seymour Shaw, and the Wolves will be facing mammoth task on Sunday. Mark Picciolini and Sasho Petrovski will lead the lines for the Wolves as George Souris and Hayden Morton look to re-confirm the Sharks sturdy backline following the setback last weekend at Bonnyrigg.

Bankstown Districts Amateur Football Association form alliance with West Sydney Berries

BDAFA (Bankstown District Amateur Football Association) and NSW Super League side West Sydney Berries have announced that they have formed an official alliance with the goal of promoting football in the Bankstown District.

The BDAFA will be working together with the Berries to create a pathway for juniors, to improve the standard of football in the district, and to entice new players to the area. The West Sydney Berries will be the preferred club for juniors in the area to progress to representative football once they have reached that level. BDAFA believe that within two to four years the standard of football in the Bankstown District will be one of the strongest in Sydney. Both parties are

looking forward to an exciting future working towards the development of juniors and the betterment of football within Bankstown.

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