

## FOOTBALL NSW

# Gladesville Ryde Magic 2011 a Great Season

*Season 2011 for Gladesville Ryde Magic Football Club's u/16's squad was one that they will remember for some time to come. With 3 grades from the club achieving Grand Final status, (u/16's, u/18's and 1st grade) the u/16's and u/18's went on to win the title. Both these 2 squads also become Competition Premiers, coming 1st in their respective grades.*

**W**e caught up with u/16's coach Vince Capizzi and asked him about the u/16's 2011 season. Here's some of what Vince had to say...

Firstly, let me say congratulations to Steve Diles u/18's for taking out the double title as well, they are deserving champions in their age group and to George Ganiatsas and his 1st grade squad, they were close but unfortunately fell short on the day, but overall throughout the season they were very competitive and to finish in 3rd place and then go on to the Grand Final at this level was a brilliant achievement.

As for my u/16's, well they were simple outstanding. Both Hans Madritsch (assistant coach) and myself invested many intense hours of training in the preseason and it paid off. We did have our fair share of injuries throughout the season but when we called upon our u/15's to help out, they slotted into our squad very comfortably.

Our success this year lies mainly due to our ability to defend and defend tightly as a unit. We had the best defensive record in our age group conceding only 15

goals and 3rd best in the whole competition, credit for this goes to our defenders Sam Powell, Cameron Newton, Thomas Ball, Gil Sheldon and the 'take no prisoners' attitude and captain Yusuf Aknar who lead by example, all these guys were rock solid. In goals, Aaron Madritsch did his part when asked upon. Our centre midfielders were work horses, Daniel Stern, Mikey Subel and Emre Gungor laid the path for our attack and out wide Johnathan Aukett, Josh Ginges and Cameron Shirifi just kept on crossing the ball inside the box for our Strikers Augustine Calcagno, Liam Giblin and Oscar Lewis to have a go.

The season was close only 3 points separated us at the top and when the final match of the season came with a 4-0 win to us off Stanmore, there was so much joy and relief from all of us and at that point we were officially crowned Competition Premiers. The grand final was fantastic, Hakoah were a worthy opponent and with the game locked at 1-1 a piece at fulltime, it was in extra time that we won the match 2-1 off a Sam Powell free kick. I have to say when extra time was over it was as if all the weight in the world



was lifted off my shoulders (I didn't want to lose), it sure was a great feeling!

Our squad was a very tight nit side, this attributes to all our 16's parents who throughout the year supported both Hans and myself and the boys acknowledged this by giving it their all for us thus reaping the rewards. Every team needs a good organiser and this year Therese Ball went

beyond expectations, whether it was arranging team functions, filling in the cards on game day or sending sms or emails every week to all the players about game day and training changes etc, Therese was always on top of it and I must thank her for all her hard work. And to my main right hand man Hans, his fitness contribution and his 'magic' water was just what the team

needed.

Also I want to thank both George Ganiatsas (Director of Football) and Peter Chiarello (Football Manager Youth League Coordinator) for their support this year. These 2 guys are irreplaceable as they don't do this for any recognition, they do it for the club and its players. Gladesville Ryde Magic is a great club; in its 4 years of existence it

has come a long way. Each season we have had teams in grand finals with 4 teams to date winning the title and 4 teams that have become competition premiers, not bad in 4 years!

In finishing to all the players thanks for a memorable season and I wish you all the best in the years to come and for those coming back to GRM I hope to catch up with you then.

## NSW PREMIER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

**The final act of the 2011 NSW Premier League season takes place on Monday the 3rd of October as two clubs with a massive history draw swords at Belmore Sports Ground**

**T**he competition's top two sides kept true to the regular season's findings as Premiers Sydney Olympic again line-up against Sydney United following the Reds' dramatic 4-2 defeat of Blacktown City FC.

The Reds were forced to dig deep against the reigning champions last Monday, using their experience to overpower Blacktown in the final 20' minutes. Jean Paul De Marigny's men proved unyielding with a strong second-half defensive display, meanwhile the men up-front were full of energy in creating chances. In the end, exceptional strikes by Mitchell Thompson and Ufuk Talay proved enough to secure the Reds another shot at the Premiers, a chance Luka Glavas & Co. will be keen to grasp with both hands.

Sydney Olympic's preparation for the final has been impressive, with a win over A-League side Sydney FC and an impeccable showing in the Major semi-

final against the Reds demonstrating their ability.

The two sides have met three times this season with the Blues holding a 2-1 head-to-head record. An equally entertaining 3-2 win at Sydney United Sports Centre kick-started the Blues season, though the Reds exacted some revenge in Round 19 with a very impressive 4-2 win at Belmore. The most recent outing at Belmore saw Sydney Olympic hit the accelerator with a very proficient showing.

Both sides' abilities in the attacking third propose an entertaining battle on Monday with Sydney Olympic's front-line to be led by influential striker Alex Smith. The England-born front-man possesses a great touch of the ball, tremendous aerial strength and a keen eye for the back of the net. Backed by the likes of Robbie Mileski, Chris Triantis and Phil Makrys from midfield, the Reds defensive line will need to be on their game.

The Blues' have conceded little in defence all season, apart from a drop in form at the back end of the campaign that included the 2-4 loss to Sydney United. Brett Studman and Richard Luksic are immovable at the back - something Luka Glavas will be hoping to overcome following the little time he on the ball in the Major semi-final.

Sydney Olympic have also shown their dead-ball creativity, and in a tense grand-final showdown, Chris Triantis, Makrys and Mileski have all shown their flair from the set-piece.

Mark Rudan and Michael Cindric will be given the job of marshalling the Reds defensive line with the flanks expected to be worked by Tomislav Mijic and Mitchell Spear.

Sydney United's ability to quickly turn defence into attack arises from the work rate of captain Ivo Bosnar. The screening of the defensive line, and exceptional skill on the ball, allows the Reds to quickly

get the ball forward to Steve Hayes who has been instrumental for Sydney United this season. Hayes' understanding with the likes of Glavas, Ben Vidaic and Elsid Barkhousir has grown throughout the season, and when these men are on their game, the Reds are unstoppable.

Glavas will carry the weight of expectation in the goal scoring department, though with potential match winners throughout their squad, Sydney United will be out to attack from the opening whistle on Monday.

In what promises to be an entertaining battle between two sides that have stuck to their attacking football philosophies all season, a memorable encounter is anticipated at Belmore Sports Ground. Encounters between these two sides stem back to the NSL days, and the passion and support of those days are expected to be re-lived on Monday.

-By Joseph Carlucci