

# THE GRAND-FINAL 2011

## Comments from the Players

### Phil Makrys (Sydney Olympic)

On the season to-date: "The belief amongst the boys has been one that we could go this far, from the very start of the season. We knew what our abilities were, and we also knew that not many people rated our chances of doing well, so we have enjoyed being the quiet achievers." On the Blues 'x factor': "I think our x factor has been Alex Smith. Not too many people knew much about him, and that has been great as he has taken the competition by storm with some fantastic performances, and many goals." On delivering the club the title: "A win for the club will be massive as Sydney Olympic has not won too much in recent seasons. Winning the Premiership trophy was brilliant, though adding the grand-final on Monday will be just sensational, something the club and the supporters certainly deserve. On the Blues defensive line: "Defensively I feel that we have been the most complete side in the competition. Brett Studman I feel is the best defender in the competition, and playing alongside him Richard Luksic carries a lot of experience. The goals we have conceded during the season seemed to arrive over 3-4 matches where we did concede a lot of goals in those specific matches - in all though, we have been very strong. On the Blues slip-up late in the season: "We did have a bit of a reality check towards the end of the season as we did concede goals and dropped a lot of points - it worked in our favour as it was a reality check and bounced back by turning up to play with the winning mentality we showed from the start of the season."

### Ufuk Talay

(Sydney United)

On the Reds 2011 run: "It's been a very good season for us and we are obviously very happy to be in Monday's grand-final. We've worked very hard throughout the season and it has paid off. On the Reds playing style: "We are a team that likes to play football. Obviously we got to show off exactly how well we can play with the ball on the floor against Blacktown City at Sutherland on the perfect surface which was great, though even more impressive is that we overcame a dangerous side that has proven already this season just how good they are, especially in the matches we have played against them. On Sydney Olympic: "Against Sydney Olympic it is going to be tough. They are a good side, they have been very consistent and will be a big match for us. It is a final, so being a one off match anything can happen - we'll need to make sure that we are switched on and ready to play. On the Reds game plan: "They (Sydney Olympic) possess some talented players. Rather than focus on individual players in their team we need to get our game right. If we play like we did against Blacktown and we get the ball moving in the front-third, we are going to be a difficult side for them - if we get this right, then I am confident we can be the side holding up the trophy at the end of the match."

### Luka Glavas (Sydney United)

Sydney United's prolific goal scorer is never overawed by the big occasion, demonstrated perfectly in Sydney United's 2006 NSW Premier League triumph. The lanky striker scored four goals on that day to push aside Blacktown City in a sensational showing at Marconi Stadium. Glavas' speed and finishing is of the highest level, and must really be contained by the Blues defenders if the home side is to triumph.

### Mitchell Thompson (Sydney United)

Another element of the Sydney United midfield, Thompson possesses a real passion when he takes the field. A hard worker in getting back to cover when his side loses possession, Thompson has a knack for popping up with some exceptional goals. The most tantalising of strikes no doubt was the midfielder's dipping effort that saw off Blacktown City last week to set-up a shot at Sydney Olympic. Very capable with the set-pieces too, a duty he and Ufuk Talay have made their own this season.

### Steve Hayes (Sydney United)

The Reds playmaker has complemented the Reds strikers nicely this season with his hand constantly seen in the Reds forward forays. A tireless player who still finds the energy to play a defence splitting pass even in the closing stages of a match, Hayes will be expected to get forward for the Reds in the final.



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