

Comments from the Coaches

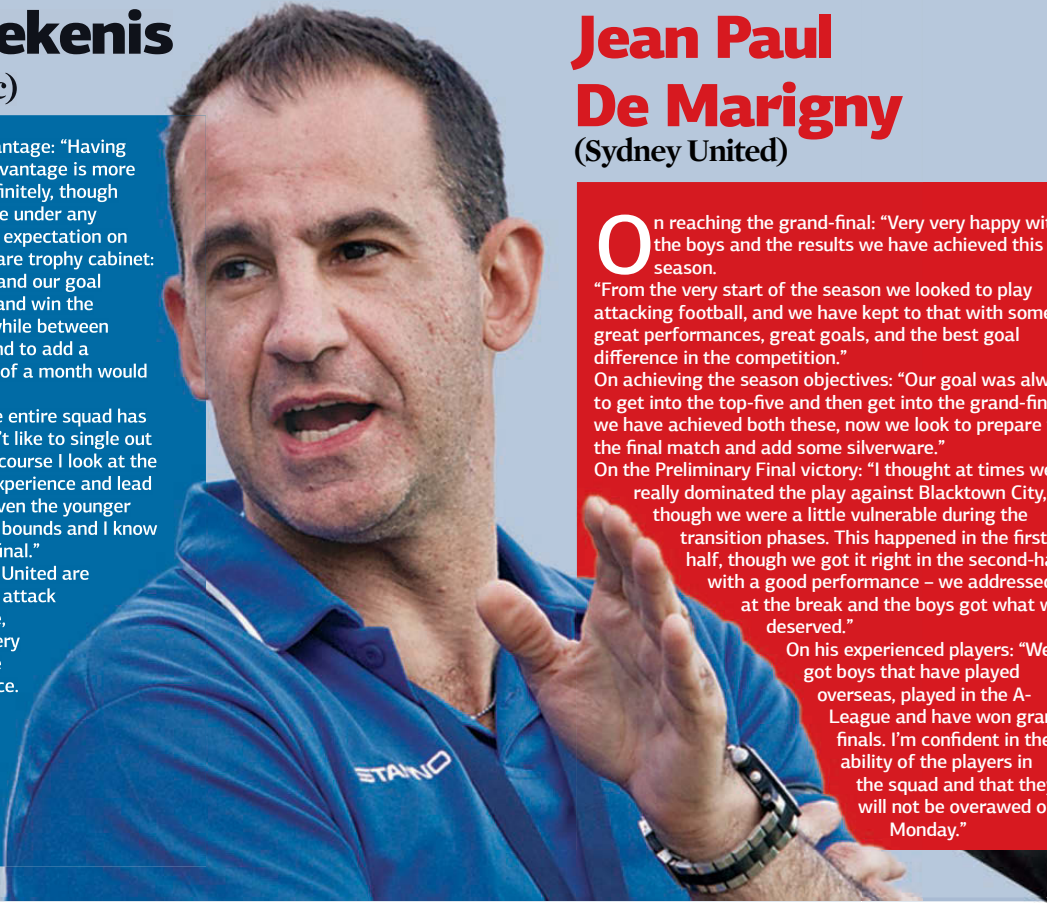
Peter Tsekenis

(Sydney Olympic)

On home ground advantage: "Having the home ground advantage is more of an advantage definitely, though I don't think it means we are under any additional pressure with all expectation on us." On Sydney Olympic's bare trophy cabinet: "We are in the grand-final, and our goal now is to finish off the job and win the trophy. It has been a long while between trophy wins for this club, and to add a second trophy in the space of a month would be tremendous."

On his players' season: "The entire squad has been great all season, I don't like to single out any player in particular. Of course I look at the senior boys to show their experience and lead the younger boys, though even the younger guys have grown leaps and bounds and I know I can count on them in the final."

On Sydney United: "Sydney United are a great side, their ability to attack and find goals is impressive, their midfield players are very solid, and the defensive line possesses a lot of experience. "I thought they had a little too much for Blacktown City in the match last Monday evening, as the result showed, mainly because of the experience across the park."



Jean Paul De Marigny

(Sydney United)

On reaching the grand-final: "Very very happy with the boys and the results we have achieved this season."

"From the very start of the season we looked to play attacking football, and we have kept to that with some great performances, great goals, and the best goal difference in the competition."

On achieving the season objectives: "Our goal was always to get into the top-five and then get into the grand-final - we have achieved both these, now we look to prepare for the final match and add some silverware."

On the Preliminary Final victory: "I thought at times we really dominated the play against Blacktown City, though we were a little vulnerable during the transition phases. This happened in the first-half, though we got it right in the second-half with a good performance - we addressed it at the break and the boys got what was deserved."

On his experienced players: "We've got boys that have played overseas, played in the A-League and have won grand-finals. I'm confident in the ability of the players in the squad and that they will not be overawed on Monday."



2011 ENCOUNTERS

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NSW Premier League - Round 8

Sydney United - Sydney Olympic 2-3

Sydney Olympic consolidated top-spot on the League ladder with a very impressive 3-2 defeat of Sydney United away from home. The Blues couldn't have asked for a better start at Sydney United Sports Centre as Emmanuel Giannaros opened the scoring for in only the 4' minute with a powerful 30-metre drive. Luka Glavas had the Reds level in the 13' minute after winning his side a penalty. The striker dusted himself off and converted the spot-kick - the ball finished in the back of the net after hitting the underside of the crossbar. Sydney Olympic restored their lead prior to the break courtesy of a cool Robbie Mileski finish, though the Reds were level again after the interval with another well taken goal by Glavas. In an entertaining, and very tense, closing period, Sydney Olympic

were awarded a penalty following Shane Lyons' foul on Mileski. The experienced Phil Makrys stepped up to the spot and coolly converted to hand Sydney Olympic three-points and a one-point lead over Sutherland Sharks on the League ladder.

NSW Premier League - Round 19

Sydney Olympic - Sydney United 2-4

Sydney United cut Sydney Olympic's lead to three-points at the top of the ladder with four league matches remaining following an entertaining 4-2 win at Belmore Sports Ground. Played at a frantic pace - with the Reds going down to ten men following Mitchell Thompson's 38' minute red card - it was Michael Cindric who volleyed from Ufuk Talay's corner to open the scoring after only 2' minutes. Chris Triantis equalised with ease on 13' minutes following a mix-up in the Sydney United defence to draw level before the Steve

Hayes show commenced.

Hayes had the Reds back in front with a fine finish on 25' minutes, before adding his second of the afternoon on the half hour, an absolute screamer of a goal from 30-yards - arguably a contender for goal of the season.

Sydney United's Thompson was shown a straight red card on 38' minutes for a late challenge on Robbie Mileski, moments before the Blues pulled a goal back via the penalty-spot courtesy of Phil Makrys.

After the break, the ten-man Reds held their own to hold out the Blues charge. Despite the numerical disadvantage the Edensor Park side found a fourth goal in the 72' minute when Luka Glavas ran onto Talay's through pass. Glavas showed his composure and class to finish past Paul Henderson and secure his side three-points against the League leaders.

NSW Premier League - Preliminary Semi-Final

Sydney Olympic - Sydney United 2-0

Premiers Sydney Olympic booked their spot in the 2011 NSW Premier League Grand-Final following an inspirational team performance against Sydney United in the Preliminary semi-final. The Blues didn't miss a beat in an entertaining encounter against the Reds as defenders Richard Luksic and Emmanuel Giannaros



sealed the deal with well taken goals in-front of a boisterous home crowd. Luksic headed home Chris Triantis' corner prior to half-time before the captain diverted a David Gullo cross, shortly after the re-start, into the path of Giannaros who converted from close-range to double the Blues' lead. Sydney Olympic administered proceedings perfectly as the defensive line limited Luka Glavas & Co. to seeing very little of the ball. Elsid Barkhousir had a chance late on to grab a consolation for the Reds, though the striker failed to hold onto the ball following Ben Vidaic's

forward lob. Sydney Olympic will now enjoy a weekend off from official duties to prepare the Monday long weekend Grand-Final, as Sydney United will need to bounce back quickly against a confident Blacktown City FC side that has eliminated both

the Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Sutherland Sharks over the first fortnight of the finals series.

*All articles courtesy of Football NSW. To visit the website log onto www.footballnsw.com.au as well as www.nswpl.com.au for your NSW Premier League fix.

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