

## news

## NSW Premier League Round 4 Preview

**Blacktown Spartans v Blacktown City FC, Saturday 21st, 7:00 pm Blacktown Football Park**  
**Last Week: Blacktown Spartans 2 Sydney Olympic 2 Blacktown City FC 1 Sydney United 58 FC 1**

The major focus this Saturday evening turns to Blacktown Football Park where the first ever NSW Premier League 'Blacktown derby' takes place. The newly promoted Spartans have shown already that they are in the top flight to give the competition a big shake and not only make up numbers - Saturday evening's test will prove their biggest to-date. Ben Dehaan's Spartans put their unbeaten home record on the line following victory against Parramatta FC and a draw against Sydney Olympic last weekend. The visit of Blacktown City FC poses a major test for de Haan's men, with Luke Roodenburg & Co. in no mood to lose the first-up derby encounter. Blacktown City have played some great football this season, though the side has been forced to come from behind in each of their matches to-date. Japanese imports Yuchi Yamauchi and Ryuji Miyazawa have definitely added their influence to the side with fine displays of skill and finesse on the ball, something the former champions will be hoping to show plenty of to get a win over Chris Bedzo & Co. on Saturday evening.

**Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Manly United FC, Saturday 21st, 7:00 pm Bonnyrigg Sports Club**  
**Last Week: APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3**

**Sutherland Sharks 2 Manly United FC 2**

The only team to hold a 100% win record this season thus far is Bonnyrigg, and the White Eagles return home this weekend to face Manly United FC on Saturday evening.

The White Eagles have proven solid this season with the additions of Mitchell Long and Robbie Younis certainly paying off in the early part of the season. Coach Brian Brown appears to have re-kindled the winning mentality that somehow went missing last season at the club, with the likes of Alex Mansueto and Tynan Diaz also playing a major role this season.

Manly United's season has not started too badly, despite the side sitting on two points from the opening three matches. Craig Midgley's men suffered a loss against the Wolves in Round 2, though have clinched points at both Blacktown City FC and Sutherland Sharks, with the Northern Beaches side playing all their matches until May, away from home due to the new synthetic surface being laid at Cromer Park.

Manly United have played some very direct football this season, and the side will need to be at their best to cause an upset against the high-flying White Eagles. Chris Payne and Justin Hayward will be looking to make a nuisance of themselves amongst the Bonnyrigg defenders as Manly United FC return to the scene of their emphatic 2011 Waratah Cup grand final triumph.

**Parramatta FC v APIA-Leichhardt Tigers, Saturday 21st, 7:00 pm Melita Stadium**  
**Last Week: APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3**

**White Eagles 3**

**Parramatta FC 0 Marconi Stallions 0**

Parramatta FC, fresh from their maiden point for the season last weekend, will be out to ensure the visiting APIA-Leichhardt Tigers remain routed to the bottom of the ladder this weekend on zero points when they meet at Melita Stadium on Saturday night. Lee Sterrey's men fought hard to share the spoils against the Stallions last weekend - the side forced to play the last half hour with ten-men following Graz Trimboli's sending off. Despite the numerical disadvantage, the Eagles still created chances and Lee Sterrey will again be looking at the likes of Bruno Pivato and Kwabena Appiah-Kubi to create goal scoring opportunities. The Tigers start to the season has been woeful - if one only looks at the results - though the performances to-date suggest the side is closing in on their first points of the season. Coach John Turner has assembled a new playing group and his influence on the squad is already starting to shine through. The performances of Andrew Bevin, Wandi Jajaw and Brad Bartels have been very impressive, though it will be the experienced campaigners that will need to lead the way to get the Tigers' season into gear. Franco Parisi, Michael Hawrysiuk, Mark Byrnes and Adel El Jamal will have that honour bestowed upon their shoulders in a must win match for APIA-Leichhardt to lift morale.

**Rockdale City Suns v Sutherland Sharks, Saturday 21st, 7:00 pm Seymour Shaw**  
**Last Week: South Coast Wolves 3 Rockdale City Suns 0**

**Sutherland Sharks 2 Manly United FC 2**

Very much like APIA-Leichhardt, Rockdale City's start to the season has been disastrous when looking at their results. The side however has played some good football over the first three rounds, thwarted only by lapses in concentration during the 90' minutes. The task at hand this weekend is by no means an easy one, as the Suns play their second 'home' match of the season away at Seymour Shaw. Unfortunately for Wally Savor's men, the clash is against the Sharks at a venue where Sutherland very rarely drop points.

The Suns will also need more discipline following the two red cards collected by Ricky Perinich and Pece Cvetanovski. Savor will need his men to be patient and more destructive in the front-third, to be led again out of midfield by the in-form Sash Tirovski.

Sutherland Sharks season has not been too consistent with the side still to find their stride thus far. The fine performances of Panni Nikas and Nick Stavroulakis have led the side, even though Nikas' penalty miss in injury-time last weekend against Manly United FC will still be playing on the star playmaker's mind. Defensively the side has also struggled to find their usual confidence, conceding five goals from the past two matches something coach Robbie Stanton will hope to have addressed this weekend.

**Marconi Stallions v Sydney Olympic, Saturday 21st, 7:00 pm Marconi Stadium**  
**Last Week: Parramatta FC 0 Marconi Stallions 0 Blacktown Spartans 2 Sydney Olympic 2**

Old NSL heavyweights Marconi Stallions and Sydney Olympic lock horns at Marconi Stadium in what also promises to be an intriguing battle between two sides that have already laid claim for a shot at the title this season.

The Stallions' off-season recruits have certainly worked a treat with Luke Casserly cleverly assembling the likes of Shane Webb, Jamie McMaster and Daniel Severino into the Stallions setup. The Stallions stumbled last weekend in the draw against Parramatta FC, the Fairfield based side failed to overpower the Eagles despite creating the chances and playing the final 30' minutes of the encounter with an extra man.

Marconi's silverware ambitions will certainly be tested this weekend by the reigning champions. Sydney Olympic's season has hit a slight bump with the side collecting four points from a possible nine on offer thus far. The side is certainly still reeling from the loss to Sydney United in the 2011 grand final replay, as they would be about drawing at new boys Blacktown Spartans. Coach Peter Tsekenis has imposed his philosophy and style of play, and the new acquisitions have already shown their ability in the matches to-date. The champions have given the impression that a win, especially against a title contender like Marconi, could definitely kick-start their campaign. Action aplenty is expected on Saturday evening at Marconi Stadium.

**Sydney United 58 FC v South Coast Wolves, Sunday 22nd, 4:00 pm Sydney United Sports Centre**  
**Last Week: Blacktown City FC 1 Sydney United 58 FC 1**

**South Coast Wolves 3 Rockdale City Suns 0**

Only a point separates Sydney United and South Coast Wolves on the League ladder, and the Wolves will be eager to get one over their more fancied rival on Sunday afternoon.

The Wolves have played some great football this season, albeit all at John Crehan Park. The side's first match on the road will be a massive test, especially against a Reds outfit that is difficult to break down at home.

Fabian Iacovelli and Peter Simonovski have proven immense talents, and these boys will be hoping to continue their good run of form this weekend. Established players Sasho Petrovski and Mark Picciolini will be expected to lead the attack against a rather ruthless Sydney United rearguard.

The Reds give very little away defensively, and anything that seems to pass the backline is cleaned up by Vedran Janjetovic. The Sydney United shot-stopper has been in sensational form this season, increasing his chances of picking up an offer from an A-League side.

Coach Jean-Paul De Marigny will have Steve Hayes back for selection after the playmaker was suspended for the trip to Blacktown City last weekend, meanwhile the continual progression of Ante Tomic and Daniel Rezo adds much more choice for the coach to look at in midfield.

Despite the Reds starting overwhelming favourites, the scene is certainly set for the Wolves to show they are serious finals contenders this season with a good showing on Sunday.

-By Joseph Carlucci

