

news

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 5 – PREVIEW

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South Coast Wolves v Blacktown Spartans, Saturday 28th, 7:00 pm John Crehan Park**Last Week: Sydney United 58 FC 1 South Coast Wolves 2 Blacktown Spartans 0 Blacktown City FC 1**

South Coast Wolves will be out to consolidate the three points won at Sydney United last weekend when Trevor Morgan's team returns home to face Blacktown Spartans. The Wolves have steamrolled into second spot on the League ladder following the opening day loss against Bonnyrigg White Eagles, and the side has shown no sign of slowing up anytime soon. Despite the Wolves being outplayed against Sydney United in the second-half last weekend, Sasho Petrovski & Co. managed to frustrate last season's runner-up and find a late winner via the boot of Peter Simonovski. South Coast will be hoping to have Jacob Timpano ready for the encounter after he was forced to leave the field at half-time last weekend, as the Wolves supporters are starting to believe 2012 may well deliver finals football for the club.

The visiting Spartans will have nothing to lose in this fixture, and Ben DeHaan's men will be expected to attack from the opening whistle. Lord Darkoh and Chris Bedzo will be hoping for more goal scoring chances this weekend, as the Spartans' Premier League resolve is tested in one of the most difficult away trips of the season.

A win for either side will certainly make a major statement in both clubs' bids for a good 2012 campaign.

Sutherland Sharks v Sydney United 58 FC, Saturday 28th, 7:00 pm Seymour Shaw Park**Last Week: Rockdale City Suns 1 Sutherland Sharks 1 Sydney United 58 FC 1 South Coast Wolves 2**

Sutherland Sharks will be without captain George Souris this weekend when Sydney United visit Seymour Shaw, as both sides have failed to kick-start their respective campaigns thus far. The Sharks draw against Rockdale City last weekend was disappointing for Robbie Stanton's men as the match was technically an away match, though played at Seymour Shaw. Panni Nikas and Matt Bailey appear to be creating the chances and finding goals, though the side's inability to keep clean sheets has proven their undoing. The Sharks only clean sheet to date arrived in Round 1 as the side defeated APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 1-0 – incidentally the Sharks' only win this season.

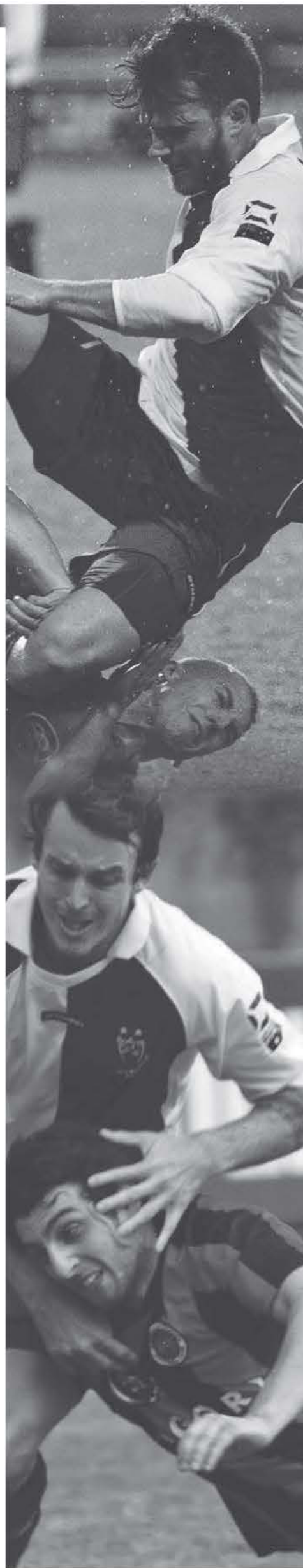
Sydney United's run over the past fortnight has been a little disappointing in terms of results. The Reds squandered a one-goal lead away at ten-man Blacktown City, conceding in the 95' minute to take only one-point from the match before the side conceded another late goal at home in Round 4 to lose a match they should have wrapped up earlier against South Coast Wolves.

Two points separate these two sides on the ladder with a win for either outfit to boost morale in what has been a nervy opening to the season for both sides.

Sydney Olympic v Parramatta FC, Sunday 29th, 3:00 pm Belmore Sports Ground**Last Week: Marconi Stallions 0 Sydney Olympic 1 Parramatta FC 1 APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2**

Defending champions Sydney Olympic returned to winning ways last weekend with a dramatic late goal to seal three-points at Marconi Stadium. The match saw both sides create chances, though it was super sub Sam Awad who stole the show with a thunderbolt strike late-on with virtually his first touch of the ball.

Awad will be pressing for a starting spot after his goal as the Blues look to find some consistency after a rather indifferent run of results since the opening Round win against Rockdale City Suns. The visiting Parramatta FC have struggled to secure points this season, though the side has definitely created chances in each of their matches to-date. Coach Lee Sterrey will need his defence to maintain concentration for the full 90' minutes to avoid late goals being conceded, meanwhile in the front third, the side needs to be a lot more clinical with their finishing. With all the pressure on Sydney Olympic to get the result this Sunday, the scene may just be set for the Eagles to play with minimal pressure and perhaps take something from this encounter.

**Rockdale City Suns v Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Sunday 29th, 3:00 pm Linden Sports Centre****Last Week: Rockdale City Suns 1 Sutherland Sharks 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Manly United FC 1**

Rockdale City Suns have a mammoth task ahead of them this weekend if they are going to record their first win of the season as the high-flying Bonnyrigg White Eagles come to town. The White Eagles have been unstoppable thus far, securing twelve points from the opening twelve points on offer – a far cry from the White Eagles outfit that had a poor run in 2011.

Striker Robbie Younis has been in tremendous form, fitting in nicely ahead of Jordan Simpson, Mitchell Long and Ken Chun who have all been magnificent in the early part of the season. Coach Brian Brown may need to do without Long after the midfielder was forced to leave the field against Manly United FC last weekend with a groin strain, though the side in general seems very settled and capable to adapt to playing without their experienced playmaker.

The Suns season to-date has been a difficult, with the results not forthcoming. Wally Savor's men have played some decent football, though have lacked the finesse and killer instinct in the final third of the field. Sash Tirovski's performances have been promising for the club, as has the influence of new signing Huseyin Jasli who scored against his former club Sutherland Sharks last weekend.

Currently occupying bottom-spot on the ladder, the Suns could certainly give their season a 'shot in the arm' with victory against Bonnyrigg this weekend.

APIA-Leichhardt Tigers v Manly United FC, Sunday 29th, 3:00 pm Lambert Park**Last Week: Parramatta FC 1 APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Manly United FC 1**

APIA-Leichhardt got their first taste of victory last season with a last gasp effort at Melita Stadium against Parramatta FC, and the Tigers will be eager to make it back-to-back wins when they return to Lambert Park to face Manly United FC.

The Tigers have played some decent football this season, though due to lapses in concentration and some wayward finishing, the side sat on zero points going into last weekend's match.

Coach John Turner has obviously had a positive influence on the side's style of play, and the win against the Eagles may just have been the 'ice breaker' for the Leichhardt-based side this season.

The visiting Manly United FC arrive following a strong second-half showing against Bonnyrigg White Eagles, where Craig Midgley's men dominated the larger part of the second-half before succumbing to a 3-1 defeat.

The Manly side has been hit with a long list of injuries, though the likes of Scott Balderson, Colin Iley and Michael Daly have all shown their potential up-front. A point separates these two sides as Manly United's run of away matches continue, in anticipation of Cromer Park's new synthetic surface unveiling.

Blacktown City FC v Marconi Stallions, Sunday 29th, 3:00 pm Lily Homes Stadium**Last Week: Blacktown Spartans 0 Blacktown City FC 1 Marconi Stallions 0 Sydney Olympic 1**

Third meets fourth on Sunday afternoon at Lily Homes Stadium as Blacktown City FC look to close the gap on the high-flying Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Visiting Lily Homes Stadium will be Marconi Stallions. Luke Casserly's men fell in the closing stages at home against Sydney Olympic last weekend, in the side's first loss of the season.

The Stallions have proven they can score goals with some fine displays over the first fortnight of the competition, however the goals have dried up since following a scoreless draw at Parramatta FC before the Sydney Olympic loss.

Blacktown City will be without Daniel Bragg following his straight red card for a clumsy foul in the Blacktown derby last weekend. Coach Mark Crittenden will again be looking at his new acquisitions Yuchi Yamauchi and Ryuji Miyazawa to impress, with hard working Luke Roodenburg to lead the front line.

An entertaining encounter is expected in arguably the most anticipated match of the weekend.