

news

-By Joseph Carlucci

NSW Premier League Round 5 Review

Bonnyrigg White Eagles remain unbeaten after five rounds of the competition with the side recording their fifth straight win of the season. Meanwhile, at the other end of the League ladder, Rockdale City Suns and Parramatta FC occupy the bottom spots with only one-point to show for their efforts thus far.



Sutherland Sharks 1 Sydney United 58 FC 1

At Seymour Shaw on Saturday evening, Sydney United FC were forced to dig deep late-on in the encounter to secure a share of the spoils following a big second-half performance by the Sharks in-front of their home supporters.

The Reds had taken the lead early in the match via Ben Vidaic – the experienced striker was on hand to divert the ball home after Luka Glavas' effort hit the post – much to the disappointment of the striker's former supporters.

Despite the Sharks playing without captain George Souris due to suspension, the Sharks created a number of chances to draw level in the first period, denied only by an in form Vedran Janjetovic in the Sydney United goal.

The Reds shot-stopper continued to frustrate the home side in the second-half, though was helpless in the 82' minute as Chris Price's delivery from the left picked out Panni Nikas who headed home to ensure the Sharks a point from the match.

South Coast Wolves 2 Blacktown Spartans 1

South Coast Wolves continued their climb up the ladder with another impressive home showing against Blacktown Spartans. The home side was in control of proceedings for parts of the match, though did need to absorb enormous pressure in the latter stages of the encounter as the Spartans finished strongly. Cameron Littler had the Wolves

ahead early in the second-half after driving home Jack Keating's centre. Peter Simonovski doubled the Wolves lead in the 54' minute when his effort on goal following a short corner beat goalkeeper Carlos Saliadarre at his near post. The visitors then took control of proceedings with a plethora of chances. On 68' minutes, Louis Bozanic continued his fine run in front of goal with a well taken header to re-open the contest. Despite the possessional domination, and the chances to draw level, the Wolves held on for the three-points, consolidating their hold on second-spot on the League ladder.

Rockdale City Suns 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2

Bonnyrigg White Eagles further confirmed their strong hold on top spot with a fifth consecutive win against Rockdale City Suns on Sunday afternoon. On an afternoon where the Suns supporters enjoyed many festivities for the official opening of the new grandstand cover, the Suns were disjointed and failed to make an impression on the field.

Bonnyrigg started slowly though managed to score the opening goal 2' minutes short of half-time. Tynan Diaz's set-piece delivery from the right met the head of David Vrankovic – the defender in superb form for the White Eagles – to head home his glancing attempt past the outstretched arm of Ryan Norval. The task at hand was made difficult for the Suns just after the hour when

Josh Lawson was shown a second yellow card for an incident off the ball.

The result was put beyond doubt midway through the second-half as Robbie Younis was on hand to tap home from close-range after Norval dropped a corner delivery from the right.

Sydney Olympic 2 Parramatta FC 1

Sydney Olympic added further woe to Parramatta FC's start to the season with a 2-1 win at Belmore Sports Ground. The Blues dominated for much of the match, even though a late goal for the Eagles did make the closing moments a little nervy for the reigning champions. Phil Makrys' incredible corner delivery finished inside the top right-hand corner on 28' minutes to open the scoring for the Blues, before Chris Triantis combined with David Gullo midway through the second-half to double the lead.

The Blues should have killed off the match in the second 45' minutes, instead a 90' minute headed goal to Mark O'Reilly re-opened proceedings. Sydney Olympic kept strong in defence however, and an unlikely fairytale for the Eagles did not eventuate.

APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2 Manly United FC 2

APIA-Leichhardt Tigers squandered another good opportunity for maximum points with a rather wasteful display against Manly United FC at home on Sunday. A defensive blunder by the Tigers on 16' minutes gave Adam Foti the chance to open the scoring for the Northern Beaches side – a chance he would not pass on as he cleverly chipped Anthony Costa for the lead. The Tigers fought hard to get back into the match and on 35' minutes Hirofumi Moriyasu released Andrew Bevin who blasted home the

equaliser.

The Tigers took the lead immediately after the second-half restart as Bevin again beat Dylan Mitchell in the Manly United goal with a diagonal effort. Seemingly in control, the disappointment around Lambert Park was immense when Chris Payne found an equaliser via the penalty-spot. Another defensive blunder saw the Tigers concede a penalty, leaving the former Sydney FC striker to secure his side a point from their trip to the inner west.

Blacktown City FC 1 Marconi Stallions 1

'Come back kings' Blacktown City FC again left it late to find an equaliser to secure a point from their home match against Marconi Stallions on Sunday.

Trailing the Stallions by a goal after Joseph Gibbs' 43' minute strike, the home side were saved again in injury-time by Japanese import Yuchi Yamauchi.

The former champions were again forced to chase the match with ten men following their fourth red card of the season midway through the first-half. Following a melee between both sets of players, captain Luke Roodenburg was shown a straight red card for his involvement. Despite trailing by a goal, Blacktown City showed their fighting spirit in the second-half, going close on multiple occasions to an equaliser before Yamauchi's strike.

The result keeps both these sides in the Top-Five, Blacktown City FC one-point clear of the Stallions.

