

news

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE
ROUND 10 REVIEW

-By Joseph Carlucci

The situation in the middle of the ladder is very compressed as six points separate fourth-placed Sydney Olympic and eleventh-placed Manly United FC, meanwhile Parramatta FC's challenging season continues following another home loss, this weekend at the hands of Manly United FC.

Sydney Olympic 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1

The spoils were shared at a wet Belmore Sports Ground as Mitchell Long's early go-ahead goal for the White Eagles was cancelled out by a tremendous Phil Makrys attempt early in the second-half. The visitors dominated the opening half and deserved their lead at the break. Long's goal arrived in the 11' minute as he cleverly turned his marker inside the penalty-area before slotting the ball home with his left foot. Bonnyrigg should have killed off the match with a number of goal scoring opportunities in the opening period, however the heroics of Paul Henderson kept the Blues in the encounter. In the second period, it was Sydney Olympic to take control. The Blues found the equaliser via a Phil Makrys corner that curled into the back of the net, much to the relief of the home supporters. In some very difficult playing conditions, it was a mighty effort by both sets of players.

Blacktown City FC 1 Sutherland Sharks 0

Blacktown City maintained South Coast Wolves step to maintain a share of second-spot after pipping Sutherland Sharks with a late Luke Austin goal. The former champions were perhaps second best on the afternoon as Sutherland took the match to Blacktown City, however the perseverance of Mark Crittenden's men, and fabulous level of fitness, ensured the side would battle for the full 90' minutes. Luke Austin's goal arrived on 85' minutes following a loose pass by the Sharks, allowing the midfielder to get in behind the Sharks defenders and blast his effort past Nathan Denham. Blacktown City goalkeeper Brody Crane also deserves a big mention for his performance. The shot-stopper was in great tough throughout the match, producing a double save in the closing stages – the second from point-blank range – to secure the home side the three-points.

South Coast Wolves 3 APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2

South Coast Wolves further strengthened its grip on second spot on the League ladder with an emphatic come-from-behind win

at home against APIA-Leichhardt on Saturday evening. Played in difficult conditions due to the heavy rain, the Tigers took complete control from the opening whistle as Danial Cummins found the go-ahead goal on 3' minutes with a good finish. New Tigers' signing Adam Casey doubled the lead 3' minutes into the second-half with a slick finish into the top corner, however from there it was the Wolves that took over. A penalty for the home side saw Mark Picciolini denied by Anthony Costa at the first attempt, though the rebound was swept up by Sasho Petrovski who drove the ball home. Picciolini did make amends for the penalty miss only moments later as he volleyed Chris Nathaniel's cross into the back of the net to draw his side level. The Tigers did have a chance to restore the lead as Andrew Bevin was given the opportunity from the penalty-spot – Wolves' goalkeeper Daniel Collison, however, made a fine save. With 10' minutes remaining, Peter Simonovski completed the Wolves comeback with a fabulous finish, drilling home Cameron Littler's square pass to seal his side the three-points.

Blacktown Spartans 3 Sydney United 58 FC 0

New boys, Blacktown Spartans, added the scalp of Sydney United 58 FC to their list of wins in their debut NSW Premier League season with a well earned, much deserved, 3-0 win at home on Saturday evening. The persistent rain made conditions difficult for both sets of players, though the synthetic surface at Blacktown Football Park did certainly hold up nicely. Greg Kondek had the Spartans ahead early in the encounter as he latched onto Luke Boyd's defence-splitting pass to slot home past Vedran Janjetovic. Despite the Reds best efforts to find an equaliser, it was the home side that doubled its advantage shortly after half-time. Janjetovic uncharacteristically spilt a headed back pass by Michael Cindric into the path of Kondek – the goalkeeper made a point-blank save to deny him, however Christopher Gomez was on hand to pounce on the rebound. Late-on, Steven Veleski's long-range attempt for the Spartans



was parried by Janjetovic, again into the path of Gomez who drove the ball home to seal the 3-0 win. The Reds did make a serious push to re-open the contest up until the third goal, though the heroics of Spartans' goalkeeper Carlos Salidarre ensured there would be no late drama at Blacktown Football Park.

Parramatta FC 1 Manly United FC 3

Manly United FC took a big step away from bottom spot on the League ladder with a hard fought 3-1 win at bottom-placed Parramatta FC. The 3-1 win was well-deserved by Craig Midgley's men who will be looking to make a serious charge towards finals football in the second part of the season, when the side will have eleven home matches to play at Cromer Park. Colin Iley opened the scoring for the Northern Beaches side in the 3' minute with a neat side-footed effort, converting Jordan Edwards' centre from the right. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi used his pace and skill to dispossess the Manly United rearguard and create a one-on-one chance with Dylan Mitchell. The striker didn't disappoint the home fans as he slotted the ball home nicely to restore parity. The joy was short-lived for the Eagles however, as Graeme Forbes converted Scott Balderson's corner delivery to put the visitors into the lead once more. The result was put beyond doubt in the 79' minute as Iley bagged his second of the evening, combining with Justin Haywood for the finish.

Marconi Stallions 2 Rockdale City Suns 0

Marconi Stallions returned to winning ways at home on Saturday evening with a good showing in its 2-0 defeat of Rockdale City Suns – the loss for the visitors incidentally, the first since Mark Rudan took over the coaching reigns. It was a match of two halves as the Stallions made the most of their fine first period of play. Joey Gibbs had Marconi ahead on 28' minutes as he converted from inside the box – the midfielder required two attempts, though finished nicely for the opening goal. Winger Nathan Elasi then doubled the lead with another well-taken attempt, the youngster definitely one of the big talents on show in the NSW Premier League this season. Rockdale threw everything at the Stallions in the second-half, though Pece Cvetanovski & Co. couldn't find a break through to re-open the contest.

Waratah Cup Quarter
Finals this Wednesday

-By Mark Stavroulakis

First cab off the rank was Illawarra Premier League champions Dapto Dandaloo Fury who were drawn to face NSW Super League side Bankstown City Lions. Second match saw Sutherland Sharks take on Blacktown City FC followed by the clash between Marconi Stallions v APIA Leichhardt Tigers. The final match that was announced was NSW Premier League side Bonnyrigg White Eagles tackling NSW Super League side Bankstown Berries. All matches will take place on Wednesday 6th of June 2012.

Dapto Dandaloo Fury (IPL) v Bankstown City Lions (SL) - Wetherall Park, Primbee (7.30pm)

Sutherland Sharks (NSWPL) v Blacktown City FC (NSWPL) - Seymour Shaw Park (7.15pm)

Marconi Stallions (NSWPL) v APIA Leichhardt Tigers (NSWPL) - Marconi Stadium (7pm)

Bonnyrigg White Eagles (NSWPL) v Bankstown Berries (NSWPL) - Bonnyrigg Sports Centre (7.30pm)

