

news

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 22 PREVIEW

-By Joseph Carlucci

Joseph Carlucci reviews the final round of the NSW Premier League as all six matches take place this Sunday afternoon kicking off at 3pm.

Sydney Olympic v Manly United FC, Sunday 2nd of September, 3:00 pm Belmore Sports Ground

Sydney Olympic will be keen to finish the regular season with a win and consolidate second-spot on the Ladder when Manly United FC visits Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday. The Blues have corrected the indifferent start to the season with some marvellous performances over the second part of the season, reminiscent of the championship winning run of 2011. The Blues however are coming off a heavy loss against Bonnyrigg and the side will be looking to gain some confidence ahead of the finals series. Peter Tsekenis' men did create chances early on against the White Eagles in Round 21, though the side's inability to be clinical in-front of goal allowed Bonnyrigg to run riot. The visiting Manly United will feel no pressure heading into this encounter, with the side out of the running for finals football. Craig Midgley has been a little short on playing personnel in recent weeks, and the coach's confidence in his younger players bodes the club well for the coming years. With a Sydney Olympic outfit looking to lift its confidence and a Manly United side with little to play for, an open game is expected on Sunday.

South Coast Wolves v Sutherland Sharks, Sunday 2nd of September, 3:00 pm John Crehan Park

Finals bound South Coast Wolves are in desperate need of a win on Sunday when Sutherland Sharks visit John Crehan Park. The Wolves have been one of the form sides this season, however four losses on the trot has the side very low on confidence heading into the finals. The Wolves risk losing fourth spot this weekend in case of a loss, and should this outcome become a reality it will definitely make the side's finals series charge a tough one. Strikers Ricky Zucco and Mark Picciolini will need to be at their best in the attacking third, meanwhile captain Jacob Timpano's experience in defence is vital for the Wolves. The visiting Sharks still have a mathematical chance of reaching the finals series, though Robbie

Stanton's men will need to win by a good margin and hope that Blacktown City falter at home against Bonnyrigg, also by a good margin.

APIA-Leichhardt Tigers v Blacktown Spartans, Sunday 2nd of September, 3:00 pm Lambert Park

The roaring APIA-Leichhardt Tigers enter their final match of the season full of confidence following a sensational past four weeks. The side, under the guidance of club favourite Billy McColl, has turned its poor fortunes around with four consecutive wins to put an end to the horrid League campaign up to that point. The Tigers will be without playmaker Franco Parisi due to an ankle injury and defender Adel El Jamal due to suspension, though the side's confident run at the moment stands it in good stead. The visiting Spartans have enjoyed a wonderful first season in the NSW Premier League with the side giving a great account of itself. Coach Ben De Haan would like nothing less than to add the Tigers scalp to its list of victories for a second time this season – the Spartans clinched a 2-1 win in Round 11 – and the recent performances from the side suggest it could well spring a surprise. Most impressive for the Spartans has been Jacob Ott, however the side will need to contend with another bumpy surface this weekend, much like at Sydney United in Round 21.

Blacktown City FC v Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Sunday 2nd of September, 3:00 pm Lily Homes

Blacktown City FC needs at least a point this weekend to kill off Sutherland Sharks slim hopes of reaching the finals this season when the newly crowned Premiers, Bonnyrigg White Eagles, visit Lily Homes. The 2010 champions have had a bit of a bumpy ride this campaign and the loss at Sutherland last weekend means the side will need at least a share of the spoils on Sunday. Mark Crittenden will be hoping Yuchi Yamauchi and Ryuji Miyazawa are on their games, with big performances required from Travis Major and Luke Roodenburg. Bon-

nyrigg's run this season has been near perfect, and the showing Adrian Ucchino, Tynan Diaz and Robbie Younis put together last weekend would certainly raise concerns amongst the Blacktown City faithful. With the Premiership title already secured, Bonnyrigg could well take this match 'easy', though with each squad member wanting a starting spot come finals football, one can be certain that the eleven selected by coach Brian Brown to take the field will be well up for a strong showing.

Marconi Stallions v Sydney United 58 FC, Sunday 2nd of September, 3:00 pm Marconi Stadium

Perennial rivals – a rivalry that stems back to the old NSL days – Marconi Stallions and Sydney United 58 FC will lock horns on Sunday afternoon. The Stallions have secured a spot in the finals-series and, pending on other results, could finish as high as second after Round 22. Luke Casserly's men were way too strong for Rockdale City last weekend, and the fine form of attacking midfielder Nathan Elasi is something the Stallions will look to capitalise on. Sydney United's season has been marred by a long list of injuries, especially in the front third. The Reds created a plethora of chances against the Spartans last weekend, though were not clinical enough to take advantage of. Mirjan Pavlovic will be the 'go to' man up front this weekend as Ivo Bosnar & Co. will be eagerly seeking to get one over Marconi and finish the season with a three-pointer.

Parramatta FC v Rockdale City Suns, Sunday 2nd of September, 3:00 pm Melita Stadium

Parramatta FC and Rockdale City Suns sign off for 2012 this Sunday afternoon at Melita Stadium. The Eagles have experienced a mixed season. Results wise, the side has finished in bottom-spot on the ladder however, on a positive note, coach Lee Sterrey has unearthed a wealth of young talent. The Eagles have secured some important victories in recent weeks, a complete reversal to the run experienced by Rockdale over the same period. The Suns have lost the momentum they carried throughout the middle part of the season as Mark Rudan's men flirted with a finals berth until last weekend. Sunday will be Rockdale City captain Peter Apolevski's last match for the side he has represented for 25-years, meanwhile the Eagles players will be eager to collect a win to add points to Parramatta FC's club championship points tally.

THE 2012
GOLD MEDAL
DINNER WILL
BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 8TH
OF SEPTEMBER
AT BONNYRIGG
SPORTS CLUB

WHERE THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE PLAYER OF THE
YEAR WILL BE OFFICIALLY
STATED AS WELL AS THE
2012 ALL-STAR TEAM OF
THE YEAR, COACH OF THE
YEAR, GOALKEEPER OF
THE YEAR, GOLDEN BOOT
AWARD WINNER AND
GRADE 20S PLAYER OF
THE YEAR.



NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

THE 2012
GOLD MEDAL DINNER

THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF FOOTBALL NSW
TAKE PLEASURE IN INVITING

o KOSMOS

SATURDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2012

AT
BONNYRIGG SPORTS CLUB
610-618 ELIZABETH DRIVE
BONNYRIGG
FROM 7:00PM

PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON SITE
SEMI FORMAL ATTIRE

RSVP TO RACHEL MORRIS BY 17/8/2012
TO 8814 4414 OR RACHELM@FOOTBALLNSW.COM.AU