

news

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE
GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

Grand final
Bonnyrigg White Eagles –
Marconi Stallions
Monday 1st of October, 2012
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
3:00 PM kick-off.

2012 Premiers Bonnyrigg White Eagles have the chance to claim the double when the side lines up in the finals series grand final on Monday against Marconi Stallions.

The White Eagles have been ruthless in 2012 with a phenomenal regular season campaign that saw the side finish fifteen-points clear of second-placed Sydney Olympic.

Bonnyrigg possess an intimidating front third of the field with top goal scorer Robbie Younis leading the attack – the White Eagles also feature the goal scoring prowess of Chris Payne and Harris Gaitatzis. Out of midfield the White Eagles can rely on the creativity of Mitchell Long, meanwhile Ken Chun, Adrian Ucchino and Aleksander Canak have the side's forward movement in some very capable hands.

Captain Chris Tadrosse will be the side's engine down the left-flank, however his partner in crime on the opposite wing, Tynan Diaz, will be out of the final following his uncharacteristic red card offence in the Major semi-final. The Stallions' run into the grand final has been equally impressive with Nathan Elasi and Joey Gibbs leading the charge for Luke Casserly's men. Marconi in-fact would have felt hard done by when these two sides met a fortnight ago in the Major semi-final where the Stallions dominated the closing 25' minutes of the encounter, only to leave the field with a 0-1 loss.

Captain Nahuel Arrarte carries a massive amount of experience, and his midfield partners in the middle of the park – both former Bonnyrigg players - Shane Webb and Jamie McMaster have been in equally impressive form.

With both sides not shy about scoring goals, fireworks will certainly be seen at Bonnyrigg Sports Club on Monday, October long weekend.

James Chronopoulos
(Marconi Stallions)



On Marconi's recent run of form: "The last 5-7 weeks have been good for us, we have kept a couple of clean sheets which has been great so we are happy with the way things have been going. The important thing is that we keep the intensity the same."

On the shot-stopper's return from injury: "I did miss a couple of weeks of football which was disappointing, though I am happy with the way I have come back. We have kept some clean sheets which I am happy about; however there is a little bit of disappointment with the two goals we conceded last weekend against Blacktown City FC." On the grand final opponent: "Bonnyrigg is a great side, the League ladder at the end of the season shows that. In the recent finals match against them I thought we dominated possession throughout the match, and even deserved to win it at the end – instead we went down 1-0."

On the approach to the grand final: "We will look to approach the match in much the same way and look to use the confidence we built in that match to help us give the final a really good shot. If we manage to continue with the same approach and intensity we have shown in this second part of the season I am hopeful that we can pull it off on Monday."

Brian Brown
(Bonnyrigg White Eagles)



On the opponent: "I thought Marconi did very well in the second-half against Blacktown City and I am looking forward to a very exciting match next weekend."

They have some dangerous players, including Webby (Shane Webb) with that tremendous goal (against Blacktown City FC). We will need to approach the match with some caution, though I know what my players are capable of and we need to play the way we have played all year. Should we do this, then I am sure we will be right.

On home ground advantage: "We are looking forward to the final, it has been a great season for the club – players and supporters – and I am sure that the supporters will be very excited about this match. We will be looking to continue the way we have throughout the regular season, and I am sure that the boys will keep the momentum and intensity going for the final."

On the importance of winning the final: "At the end of the day it is a game of football. It will be great for the players, great for the club, and to go on and finish off the great season we have, bringing it all home would be tremendous."

Disappointment of 2010 grand final loss: "I think it is always disappointing to lose a final and yes it wasn't a pleasant feeling at all in 2010 when we lost against Blacktown City. I know my players are up for this final and I hope that this time around we will be the happy ones following the final whistle."

Luke Casserly
(Marconi Stallions)



On reaching the grand final: "I am extremely happy with the results we have obtained in order to get to the grand final, the boys have done really well."

"From Round 2 of the competition we hadn't been able to field the same starting eleven which made things difficult, though over the past 6 weeks or so things have really been good for us as we have been able to string results, and performances, together."

"The players have shown a good understanding about what we have worked on and how we want to play, and this has been seen in our performances at the back end of the season."

On the belief in his players:

"This year we have had many new players - we analysed last season and looked to introduce players like Shane Webb and Nathan Elasi – these guys were easy to integrate as I had played with them before, so I knew what I was getting as opposed to the previous year where I didn't know enough of the players perhaps."

We lost Milorad Simonovic and Brenton Rhodes – these were huge losses, though we have been comfortable with the boys brought in and at the moment we have everyone else on deck."

On the grand final opponent:

"I thought we did well against them in the Major semi-final. They have set the benchmark this season with a great run in the League and they deserve to be in the grand final and start it as the favourites."

On how to approach the White Eagles: "The reality is that they are ruthless. They give little away at the back, and up front they take their chances."

"Should we cough up the chances we did against Blacktown City then I know they will bury us so it is vitally important that we remain with a high level of concentration for the entire duration of the match in order to have a shot in the final."

Harris Gaitatzis
(Bonnyrigg White Eagles)



On his first season as a Bonnyrigg player: "I have really enjoyed myself since returning from overseas. This club is a great club and to play under Brian Brown and Cliff Pointer, I could not have asked for anything better."

On the White Eagles' defining moment of the season: "At the start of the season, not many people would have given us a chance and to be honest I didn't think we could do as well as we had. In saying that, after the first few matches we gelled really well together, and we have continued to improve ever since."

On returning home to Australia following a stint in Europe: "I enjoyed my time in Europe, I got to experience football in some big footballing countries including Italy, Greece and Germany. My goal was to return home and get a look-in at the A-League and I think joining a club like Bonnyrigg can give me every chance of achieving that." On the final: "Marconi is a very good team, they always have been. We have beaten them quite convincingly twice in the regular season, though in the semi-final they really pushed us so we know that the grand final will not be easy."

On what a grand final win will mean: "To come back to Australia and win in my first season, on a personal level, would be fantastic. Then, to win for such a passionate group of supporters would be very very special, though the job ahead of us will be a very difficult one as Marconi cannot be underestimated."