



IGA NSW NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES MENS 1 ROUND 1 REVIEW

Olympic begins season on the right foot

Sydney Olympic, Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Blacktown City FC and Sydney United 58 FC all lived up to their 'pre-season favourites' tag with wins in the opening round of the IGA NSW National Premier Leagues Mens 1 competition.

The new boys from the Central Coast showed they are not going to be pushovers as both Rockdale City Suns and APIA-Leichhardt Tigers stumbled at home in opening round action.

SOUTH COAST WOLVES 0 SUTHERLAND SHARKS 4

A tremendous Panni Nikas hat-trick setup a fine Sutherland Sharks win in Wollongong on Saturday evening. Nikas' three strikes carved the way to a 4-0 triumph on the road, the Sharks sending an ominous warning to the rest of the playing field.

Nikas opened the scoring moments before the break when he latched onto Klim Gjorseski's cross from the left to slot home past Daniel Collison.

The Sharks started the second-half on the front-foot though a defensive blunder by Chris Nathaniel saw new Sharks' signing Jamie McMaster swoop on the mistake before round his marker and slam the ball home.

Another positive spell for the Wolves came undone just after the hour mark when Nikas grabbed his second for the night, making the most of a lapse in concentration by the Wolves rearguard.

The result was capped off with Nikas' third 2' minutes from the end, securing the Sharks a very impressive first-up win for the season.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 CENTRAL COAST MARINERS ACADEMY 1

New boys Central Coast Mariners Academy showed they were not overawed about facing one of the competition's best performing sides in recent seasons, giving a good account at Belmore Sports Ground on Saturday

night, despite going down 2-1.

The Blues used their experience to seal the deal, though the Mariners certainly proved they will be a thorn in the side of many opponents in 2013.

Will Angel and Petar Markovic were both impressive early on for the Blues as the opening goal of the evening arrived on 26' minutes. Angel's headed attempt back across goal struck the arm of the Mariners' Ridge Mapu, leaving the referee with no option but to award a penalty. Blues' captain Phil Makrys, in great form again tonight, coolly slotted home for the lead.

Makrys doubled the Blues' lead soon after, again from the penalty-spot, this time following a rash challenge on Hussein Salameh.

Former Sydney FC striker Chris Payne orchestrated Central Coast's ticket back into the match when he cut the ball back into the path of Scott Pettitt to drill home.

Late drama saw both teams lose a man each - the Blues' new signing Luke Grima saw a straight red for a late tackle as Adam Biddle was given an early shower for his two yellow cards for the Mariners.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 0 BLACKTOWN CITY FC 2

Sean Rooney and new signing Harris Gaitatzis sealed the deal for Blacktown City at a windy Ilinden Sports Centre on Sunday. Played in some difficult conditions, two defensive errors - the second somewhat controversial - proved the difference.

Rooney made the most of some poor defending to put Blacktown City ahead before Gaitatzis somehow dispossessed Rockdale City Suns goalkeeper Diego Barcena, when he seemingly had the ball in his hands, before slotting home to put the result out of reach.

The Suns' best efforts to get back into the contest went begging late on, on a luckless afternoon for the side.



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