



CHRIS TRIANTIS: Taking on his ex comrades

Sydney United 58's midfielder Chris Triantis gets ready to face his ex Sydney Olympic teammates.

The former National Soccer League side have opened their IGA National Premier Leagues NSW Men 1 competition with victories over Manly United, Rockdale City Suns and South Coast Wolves.

Triantis said the team were gelling well together and credited coach Mark Rudan for the positive start to the season.

"We've won three games and are going well and I think we can improve even more so it is a good start for us," he said.

"(Rudan) concentrates on anything that we need work on week by week.

"He wants us to play our natural game and express ourselves on the pitch in attack while keeping solid in defence.

"The team is gelling together and we are all getting use to the environment.

Despite winning three from three, United has had to battle for their victories coming from behind twice.

"We've got (Mirjan) Pavlovic to thank for our last gasp wins," Triantis said.

"Hopefully we can get an early lead and hang onto it instead of chasing a game.

"I guess winning games from behind shows the character in our team though, playing until the last minute."

The former Newcastle Jets midfielder has struck an impressive partnership with Glen Trifiro in the middle of the park for United.

After leaving Sydney Olympic in

the off-season, Triantis said he was enjoying playing with different players.

"Glen is a good player, he is tactical and technically very good so our games match each other," he said.

"We have a lot of good movement off the ball which is what the coach wants.

"It has taken time to adapt to new players and styles than what I am used to but it has been good so far."

Triantis will come up against his former side for the first time this weekend when Sydney United 58 hosts Sydney Olympic at Lily Homes Stadium this Sunday at 3pm.

Although eager to play against his former teammates, the 2012 IGA National Premier Leagues NSW Mens 1 player of the year said it would be a "weird" feeling scoring against Olympic.

"Hopefully we get the win. It will be good to see all my mates again," he said.

"Olympic has a strong team again under Tseka (Peter Tsekenis) and Flea (Peter Papoythis).

"It would be quite weird to score against them but as long as we get the win I don't care who scores.

"I am not expecting an easy game at all against them.

"We are hoping the pitch is ready soon for us to play at home in front of our fans soon but hopefully we get a good crowd to come out to watch us against Olympic."

-By Chris Georges



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