

White Eagles ready to turn it up in 2018

Bonnyrigg White Eagles coach Brian Brown has proclaimed 2018 as the year his side returns to the top of the PlayStation®4 National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition.

Cursed by injury and handed more than their fair share of bad luck last season, Bonnyrigg suffered through one of their worst campaigns in recent history.

However, now in his tenth season in charge at Bonnyrigg Sports Club, Brown has left no stone unturned in an attempt to get his side back to their dominating best.

"It has been like coming into a new club this season because of all the changes we have made in the offseason," Brown said.

"We have seven new players in the squad, our backroom staff has been completely changed and we have a new assistant coach in Milan Susak. We have also had a number of players depart the club.

"Last season I think we lost our identity and let our standards drop below the levels this club has always strived towards.

"This year is about going back to what

Bonnyrigg does best and fighting for silverware."

Joining Brown's revival at Bonnyrigg will be David Bradasevic, Ben Tosi, James O'Rourke, Brady Smith and Dean Bereveskos.

The signing of Bereveskos from Hakoah Sydney City East was one the veteran coach was especially excited about.

"Dean has been unbelievable at training since arriving at the club," he said.

"If he is able to that form into games and be consistent he will prove to be an incredible addition to the squad."

One name Bonnyrigg fans are sure to get excited about is the return of 2015 Championship winning defender Tynan Diaz.

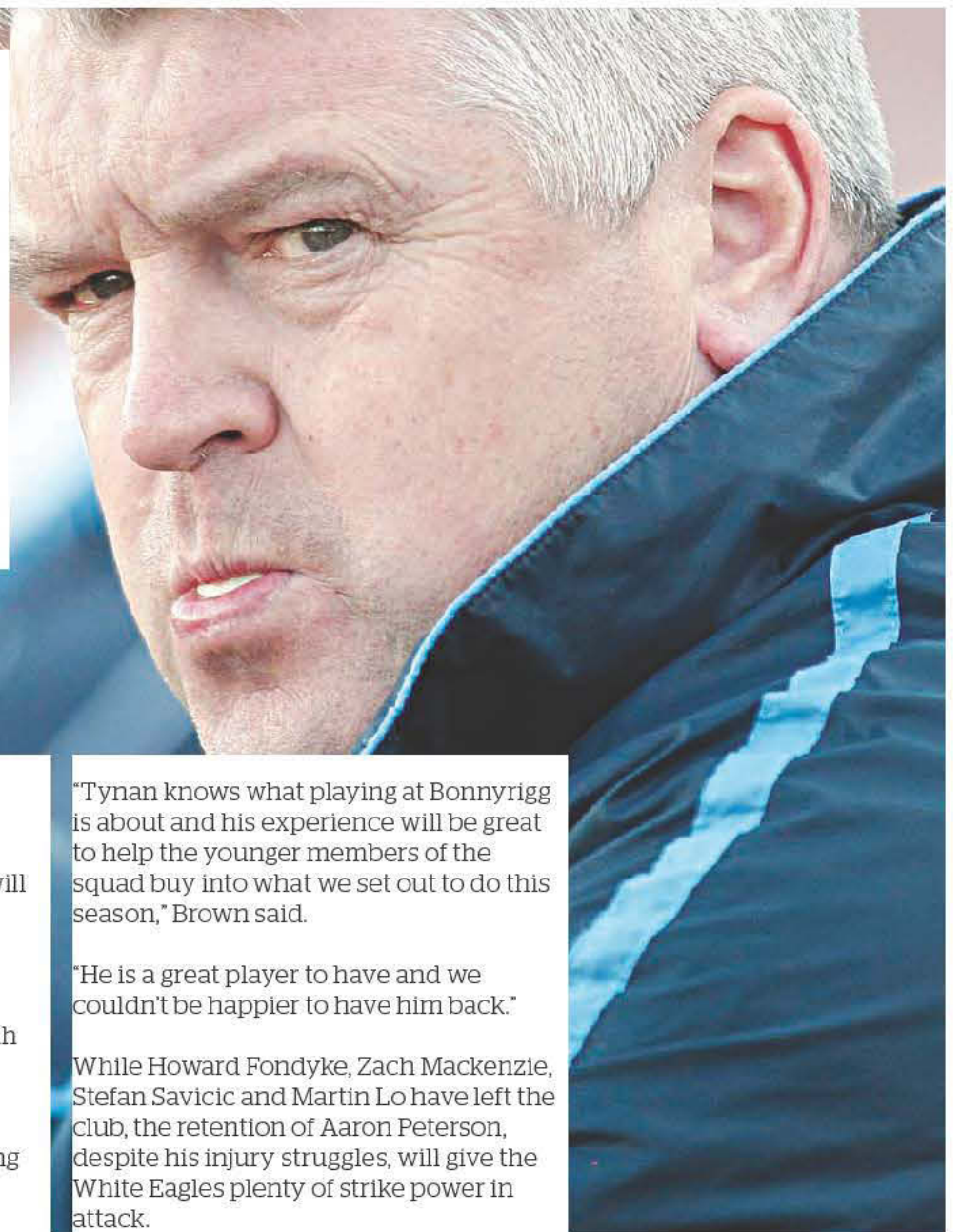
"Tynan knows what playing at Bonnyrigg is about and his experience will be great to help the younger members of the squad buy into what we set out to do this season," Brown said.

"He is a great player to have and we couldn't be happier to have him back."

While Howard Fondyke, Zach Mackenzie, Stefan Savicic and Martin Lo have left the club, the retention of Aaron Peterson, despite his injury struggles, will give the White Eagles plenty of strike power in attack.

"We want to get back to playing exciting football this season," Brown said.

"I think the pieces we have in place will allow us to do that. For us now the challenge is to stay fit and healthy and perform to our best on match day."



Bonnyrigg White Eagles coach Brian Brown

JOURNEY TO THE FFA CUP 2018

The FFA Cup 2018 kick off last Saturday as the excitement of Australia's national knockout competition continues to grow across the country.

The first FFA Cup 2018 Preliminary Round match will take place in Victoria with Keilor Wolves SC making the trip to IYU Reserve to challenge fellow Men's State League 5 (Victoria) side Pakenham United FC. Five days later FFA Cup action will kick off in Queensland with an all Football Brisbane clash set for Thursday, 15 February between Pine Rivers FC and Moggill FC. "Just three months ago we celebrated the FFA Cup's showpiece with an enthralling Final at Allianz Stadium in Sydney," said FFA CEO David Gallop. "And this weekend the FFA Cup will return to the grassroots as preliminary round games commence across the country."

"The FFA Cup gives clubs and teams at a range of levels in Australian football the opportunity to dream about winning a major national title, and exposes players and coaches to a variety of new opponents to develop their game."

"There was no shortage of drama in 2017

with major upsets, exciting fixtures, and intriguing storylines adding to the unique and inimitable fabric of the competition. We're sure this will continue in 2018 as we aim to enhance the professionalism of the competition while maintaining a clear connection to the grassroots."

"The early signs suggest that there is a strong chance of surpassing the 732 clubs that competed in last year's FFA Cup, which was ultimately won by Sydney FC," concluded Gallop.

Clubs competing in the FFA Cup Preliminary Rounds range from clubs in grassroots lower leagues up to the second tier of Australian football, the National Premier Leagues (NPL). Registrations are still open in many State/Territory Member Federations.

As in 2017 leading sports equipment brand Mitre® will be the 'Official Ball Supplier' for this

year's FFA Cup. Once again, Mitre® will include the name of every club that competed in the FFA Cup in 2017 onto the official match ball from the Round of 32 onward. This year's official match ball, the Mitre® Delta Max, will be unveiled at a later date.

Slot allocations for the FFA Cup 2018 Round of 32 will remain unchanged in 2018 with Football NSW receiving five (5) slots, Football Queensland and Football Federation Victoria four (4) slots, Northern NSW Football and Football West two (2) slots, and Football Federation South Australia, Football Federation Tasmania,

Capital Football (ACT) and Football Federation Northern Territory each getting one (1) slot.

The ten Hyundai A-League clubs will enter the FFA Cup 2018 at the Round of 32. The remaining Member Federation slot will be taken by Heidelberg United FC. Heidelberg received automatic entry into the FFA Cup 2018 Round of 32 after being crowned NPL Champion of Australia in 2017.

The final number of registered clubs plus draws and match dates for the Preliminary Rounds in all States and Territories will be confirmed in due course.

State/Territory	Start Date	Number of allocated spots in Round of 32
Victoria	Saturday, 10 February 2018	4
Queensland	Thursday, 15 February 2018	4
Northern New South Wales	Friday, 23 February 2018	2
Tasmania	Saturday, 3 March 2018	1
New South Wales	Saturday, 10 March 2018	5
Western Australia	Sunday, 11 March 2018	2
South Australia	TBC	1
Capital Football	TBC	1
Northern Territory	TBC	1