



By George Stavroulakis

## APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 - Sydney Olympic FC 0

The game was delayed until 6pm for kick off due to Sydney's unusual autumnal heat but given the end-to-end action it was certainly worth waiting around for as APIA Leichhardt defeated Sydney Olympic 2-0 thanks to goal in each half.

A George Howard penalty broke the deadlock and Sean Symons doubled the score in the second half for the home side to claim all three points despite a gallant effort from Sydney Olympic in a fairly balanced affair. In the 5th minute a slow moving Ivan Necevski allowed Jinya An to get in behind the ball but his shot lacked power and George Timotheou was allowed to clear off the line. APia replied two minutes later when Adrian Uchino crossed from the right only to see the veteran Paul Henderson punch the ball away. In the 17th minute the ball fell nicely to Jordan Murray who volleyed, though straight at Henderson who made the comfortable save. The heat was certainly taking its toll and the players really appreciated the drinks break midway through the first half. In the 33rd minute the best chance of the game so far favoured APia Leichhardt when Tasuku Sekiya laid the ball on from the left for George Howard who fired a rocket in Henderson's direction, but the veteran gloves-man saved with aplomb. However, APia didn't have to wait too long to score because in the 39th minute Jason Madonis brought Sekiya down in the box and a penalty was duly awarded. Howard, the former Melbourne Victory player, made no mistake from the spot despite Henderson diving the correct way. Right on the stroke of halftime Sydney Olympic were nearly back even thanks to a Nikola Kuleski shot, after some scrappy defending from a corner, but Necevski pulled off a great reflex to deny the visitors. In the second half the first chance was APia's when Sean Symons in the 55th minute on the turn fired over the crossbar from close range. Sydney Olympic replied in the 57th minute when a lovely ball forward found Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez who only just missed the intended target with his shot. A few minutes later Nikolas Tsattalios with a header from close range forced Necevski into a good save but APia replied on the counter-attack in the 63rd minute when Murray dazzled his way into the box, sidestepping two defenders before seeing his shot well blocked by an ever alert Henderson. APia doubled their lead in the 70th minute when a delightful and accurate cross from Murray reached Sean Symons in the box and his glancing header ended up in the back of the net. In the 78th minute the ball fell nicely to Murray who fired from outside the box but Henderson, winding back the years, got down well to turn the

ball away. Both sides had their fair share of chances in what was a really entertaining and high-quality game of football. APia Leichhardt's affable coach Billy McColl was after the game was justifiably delighted. "That was a great game and we played very well," he said. "We took our chances and both goalkeepers had great games. "We are well-organised, we are disciplined and we are fit but today also we had luck on our side and that's a reward because of all of our hard training." Meanwhile over in the Sydney Olympic dressing room coach Abbas Saad was upbeat but still trying to work out how his side didn't manage at least a point. "APia had five chances and they scored two and we had about six chances from inside the five yards and the 'keeper saved them all," he said. "In football you need to take your chances and the penalty made a difference as we were unlucky. "In the first half we were comfortable but got caught on a long-ball [for the penalty] but we have some young boys - not in a footballing sense because they have been playing a while but in years of age - so we will get better, we will get fitter and we'll definitely improve."

**APIA Leichhardt Tigers** 2 (Howard 39' pen., S.Symons 72') - Sydney Olympic FC 0

**Lambert Park, Leichhardt**

**Referee:** T. Danaskos

**Assistant Referees:** D. Stack, P. Teleki

**Fourth Official:** T. Plasto

**APIA LEICHHARDT TIGERS:** 1. Ivan Necevski, 2. Nathan Millgate, 4. Joshua Symons, 7. Howard Fondyke (6. Zachary Mackenzie 60'), 9. George Howard (8. Corey Biczo 77'), 11. Jordan Murray, 15. Themba Marta-Marlow, 16. Sean Symons, 18. Adrian Uchino, 19. Brandon Lundy, 20. Tasuku Sekiya. **Substitutes not used:** 3. Paul Galimi, 10. Franco Parisi, 22. Blake Tuxford **Yellow Cards:** Millgate 52'

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC:** 1. Paul Henderson, 2. Thomas Whiteside, 4. George Timotheou, 6. Nikola Kuleski, 7. William Angel (9. Radovan Pavicevic 76'), 8. Jason Madonis (5. Rafael Jimenez 70'), 10. Max Burgess, 11. Jinya An, 19. Darcy Burgess (33. Nikolas Tsattalios 54'), 14. Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, 24. Christopher Gligor.

**Substitutes not used:** 20. Ezequiel Consoni, 21. Stephen Athanasieris. **Yellow Cards:** Whiteside 26', Madonis 37', Kuleski 75'

**Player Ratings** ... 3. Jordan Murray - 2. Sean Symons - 1. Paul Henderson



### Αποτελέσματα 2ης Αγωνιστικής

Αγωνιστική ημέρα: 21			
18.03. 10:00	Μπόνιριγκ Ουάιτ Ηγκλς	Μαρκόνι Στάλιονς	1 : 1
18.03. 09:00	ΑΠΙΑ Τάιγκερς	Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ	2 : 0
18.03. 08:30	Χακόα Σίδνεϊ	Μάνλι Γιουνάιτεντ	3 : 0
18.03. 06:00	Ουόλονγκονγκ Γουλβς	Ρόκντεϊλ Σίτι Σανς	1 : 0
17.03. 10:30	Σίδνεϊ Γιουν.	Μπλακτάουν Σίτι	0 : 1
17.03. 09:30	Σάδερλαντ Σαρκς	Σίδνεϊ U21	2 : 1

### Η επόμενη αγωνιστική

Αγωνιστική ημέρα: 3		
24.03. 08:45	Σίδνεϊ U21	Ουόλονγκονγκ Γουλβς
24.03. 10:00	Μαρκόνι Στάλιονς	ΑΠΙΑ Τάιγκερς
24.03. 10:00	Μπλακτάουν Σίτι	Μπόνιριγκ Ουάιτ Ηγκλς
24.03. 10:00	Χακόα Σίδνεϊ	Σάδερλαντ Σαρκς
25.03. 07:00	Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ	Μάνλι Γιουνάιτεντ
25.03. 09:00	Ρόκντεϊλ Σίτι Σανς	Σίδνεϊ Γιουν.

### Βαθμολογία 2ης Αγωνιστικής

ΟΜΑΔΕΣ	ΑΓ.	Ν.	Ι.	Η.	ΔΙΑΦ.	ΒΑΘΜ.
1 ΑΠΙΑ Τάιγκερς	2	2	0	0	4:1	6
2 Μαρκόνι Στάλιονς	2	1	1	0	2:1	4
3 Μπλακτάουν Σίτι	2	1	1	0	1:0	4
4 Ουόλονγκονγκ Γουλβς	2	1	1	0	1:0	4
5 Σίδνεϊ U21	2	1	0	1	4:3	3
6 Ρόκντεϊλ Σίτι Σανς	2	1	0	1	1:1	3
7 Σάδερλαντ Σαρκς	2	1	0	1	2:2	3
8 Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ	2	1	0	1	2:3	3
9 Χακόα Σίδνεϊ	2	1	0	1	4:3	3
10 Μπόνιριγκ Ουάιτ Ηγκλς	2	0	1	1	2:3	1
11 Σίδνεϊ Γιουν.	2	0	0	2	0:2	0
12 Μάνλι Γιουνάιτεντ	2	0	0	2	1:5	0