



By George Stavroulakis

Marconi Stallions - Sydney Olympic 0-2

The match was riddled with audacious shots, brilliant goalkeeping, tricks, flicks, and a spot of controversy in what was a highly entertaining affair for the healthy crowd of spectators in attendance.

Goals to Spanish sensation Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez and Jason Madonis were the difference as Olympic's impressive run of form continued.

The defeat was Marconi's second of the week with the newly promoted side desperate to break free of their early season struggles.

The game was hardly a minute old when a cross from the right completely bamboozled the Marconi defence and Sanchez-Lopez put the ball into the back of the net.

It was a gift from the Stallions to the former La Liga player and one that would have had Marconi coach Peter Tsekenis, himself a former legend at Sydney Olympic, very disappointed indeed.

In the 10th minute though Marconi came very close to equalising.

A long ball forward was perfect for Judah Cleur who hit a beautiful volley that sailed just over the crossbar.

Two minutes later Marconi went very close again. Marko Jasic galloped through the middle and delightfully beat his opponents until reaching a point where he fired in a low shot that was well saved by Paul Henderson down to his right. What more can be said of Henderson – a goalkeeper of true quality who never seems to age.

In the 26th minute a very accurate free-kick from Sean Rooney beat all and sundry except for Henderson who managed to gather the ball in two attempts. Marconi were pressing but without luck.

In the 32nd minute Sydney Olympic came roaring back with an attempt of their own. A delightful cross from the left by Radovan Pavicevic was met by a Max Burgess drive that most definitely would have hit the intended target, except for a neat save by Nenad Vekic to deny him.

The game didn't offer much more in the first stanza of play as that early goal divided the two teams heading into the break.

Early in the second half there was a double for Sydney Olympic in the 52nd minute when a beautiful header by Pavicevic on the left brought out a great save by 'keeper Vekic; as the ball made its way out to Burgess he decided to curl one back towards goal only to just shave the post.

Sydney Olympic didn't have to wait too long though to score again because in the 60th minute Jason Madonis made it two for the visitors. A long cross from the left reached him unmarked in the centre of the field and, from just outside the box, he unleashed a shot that gave 'keeper Vekic no chance. It was enough to break Marconi's heart but no without some merit from the visitors though.

In the 82nd minute Marconi should really have had one back themselves when the



ball bobbed into the box but substitute Braden Cheng hit a weak volley that didn't end up where it perhaps should have.

After the game coach Abbas Saad, a former Sydney Olympic player of the highest quality himself, was delighted with his team's performance.

"I was very pleased with the performance," he said. "We won every battle on the field, created so many chances and we should have won by about four goals clear today. **It was** all down to the mindset and our belief. That's now our fourth win in a row, including the cup, and it breeds confidence. That's what is getting the boys over the line at the moment.

"We have been fairly consistent this year but this tonight was our biggest test and our best performance because we played well for the full 90 minutes."

Meanwhile over in the Marconi dressing room Peter Tsekenis was putting the loss into perspective.

"We lost two games leading into tonight and we were a bit down," he said. "We had a very physical game midweek and we are also down on troops at the moment.

"We conceded a goal in the first 30 seconds and things like that happen when you are down, but when you are up those things go for you.

"We have a tough schedule coming up and it's going to be difficult, but we will re-group, re-focus and come through this period because I really believe in this group. Once that happens we will be tough to beat."

Match Stats

Marconi Stallions 0

Sydney Olympic FC 2

(Sanchez-Lopez 1', Madonis 60')

Saturday, April 7th 2018

Marconi Stadium, Bossley Park

Referee: M. Weiner

Assistant Referees: J. Park, H. Carwardine

Fourth Official: V. Vine

MARCONI STALLIONS: 1. Nenad Vekic, 4. Troy Danaskos (38. Yianni Nicolau 68'), 5. Michael Beauchamp, 6. Sean O'Connell, 8. Sean Rooney, 9. Shane Webb (2. Braden Cheng 58'), 10. Marko Jasic, 11. Judah Cleur (25. Emanuel Ponce 65'), 14. Peter Pelekanos, 22. Brandon Vella, 23. Chris Nunes

Substitutes not used: 16. Martin Lo, 21. Kristian Sekutkoski

Yellow Cards: Webb 16', Danaskos 66'

Red Cards: Nil

SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC: 1. Paul Henderson, 2. Thomas Whiteside, 4. George Timotheou, 6. Nikola Kuleski, 7. William Angel, 8. Jason Madonis (33. Niko Tsattalios 83'), 9. Radovan Pavicevic (23. Riley Woodcock 69'), 10. Max Burgess (19. Darcy Burgess 87'), 11. Jinya An, 14. Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, 24. Christopher Gligor.

Substitutes not used: 20. Ezequiel Consoni, 26. Billy Patramanis

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Card: Nil

Player Ratings

3- Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez (SO)

2 - Max Burgess (SO)

1 - Sean Rooney (MS)

NPL NSW Men's 1st

Latest results

Hakoah Sydney	1-2	Wollongong Wolves
Sydney FC Youth	3-3	Bonnyrigg WE
Blacktown City	1-1	Manly United
Marconi Stallions	0-2	Sydney Olympic
Rockdale City Suns	0-5	APIA Tigers
Sutherland Sharks	0-3	Sydney United

Current Ladder ROUND 5th

Pos.	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	APIA Tigers	5	12	4	0	1	12	4	8
2	Sydney Olympic	5	12	4	0	1	18	5	3
3	Blacktown City	5	11	3	2	0	8	1	7
4	Wollongong Wolves	5	10	3	1	1	15	5	0
5	Sydney United	5	9	3	0	2	11	7	4
6	Sutherland Sharks	5	7	2	1	2	7	7	0
7	Rockdale City Suns	5	6	2	0	3	7	12	-5
8	Hakoah Sydney	5	4	1	1	3	8	9	-1
9	Sydney FC Youth	5	4	1	1	3	11	13	-2
10	Manly United	5	4	1	1	3	7	10	-3
11	Marconi Stallions	5	4	1	1	3	5	10	-5
12	Bonnyrigg WE	5	2	0	2	3	8	14	-6

NEXT ROUND 6th

14.04.2018

[Bonnyrigg WE](#) - [Sutherland Sharks](#)

[Manly United](#) - [Rockdale City Suns](#)

[Marconi Stallions](#) - [Hakoah Sydney](#)

[Sydney United](#) - [Wollongong Wolves](#)

15.04.2018

[Sydney Olympic](#) - [Blacktown City](#)

[APIA Tigers](#) - [Sydney FC Youth](#)