

# Lest We Forget



By Mark Stavroulakis

Wednesday 25th of April – Anzac Day – marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War, a day that the nation commemorates our fallen soldiers who died fighting for our country as well as our freedom. Football in NSW played a key role acting as a recruiting agent in securing its players to contribute to the war effort. In 1916, 1200 of the 1500 players registered within the Metropolitan Association enlisted to fight for our country. With over 75% of the players responding to the country's call, the Metropolitan Association decided to suspend the competition for

senior football for the duration of the war. One courageous soldier and Pymont Football Club player Private Frederick Doodson, known to his mates as 'Curly', was the first Sydney football player killed in action in Gallipoli. He was only 19. Following Doodson's death a further six players from the Sydney District Club including Private A.P. Blackham, R. Rasell, W. Carlson, W. Wyber, W. Wyber and the Herford brothers also lost their lives fighting for the country at the front in 1918. Lest We Forget to the thousands of brave men and women who risked and gave up their lives serving this wonderful country of ours.

THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.



Ultra Football Team of the Week for Round 7 and what a weekend it was. Sutherland Sharks FC's red hot striker Adrian Vranic again took his place in the line-up while former Western Sydney Wanderers FC skipper and now Marconi Stallions FC player Michael Beauchamp featured for the first time this year after a sterling performance in the back. Check out this week's Team of the Week..... μαζί με Sean Symons, Riley Woodcock, Bai Antoniou, Adrian Vranic, David Bradasevic, Travis Oughtred, Andre de Jong, Michael Beauchamp και Sasa Macura

## Avgoustou keen to earn her stripes in the big league

**After a rocky start to the National Premier Leagues NSW Women's campaign, promising young goalkeeper Chloe Avgoustou is keen to prove Sutherland Shire FA have earned their promotion into the top flight.**

McIlhatton's performances have been outstanding to say the least this year and one must think that this youngster does have the potential to go onto bigger things capturing a senior Sky Blues contract in the not too distant future.

At home, Sydney Olympic will be favourites to win this match but anything can happen especially against an energetic and determined Young Sky Blues.

### **APIA Leichhardt Tigers FC v Wollongong Wolves FC, 4.15pm Sunday at Lambert Park - Live streamed on Facebook**

League leaders APIA Leichhardt Tigers will be determined to return to winning ways when they host Wollongong Wolves at Lambert Park on Sunday.

Billy McColl's side were held 3-3 in a topsy turvy shootout against Sutherland last week and will be hoping to have more control on proceedings against Wollongong.

Sutherland really stretched APIA's defence and it paid dividends for the Shire based side. The Tigers will surely address that at training this week as they look to strengthen their backline.

One thing which can't be questioned is APIA's prolific attack which has been on song in all but one of their matches this campaign. Sean Symons and Jordan Murray will again shoulder the load going forward with Murray surely fired up to take on his former club. Murray has banged in the goals for the Tigers and his lethal presence up-front will be a feature for McColl's team as will his famous 'Salmon' celebration should he hit the back of the net.

Wollongong have hit a few hurdles in recent weeks after a strong start to the year.

A shock home loss in front of a very healthy crowd to Bonnyrigg White Eagles is sure to have not gone down well for the Jacob Timpano coached team.

Josh MacDonald was a livewire in attack for the Wolves last week and was very unlucky not to have found himself on the scoresheet. Timpano is sure to be wanting more from his high profile attacking players Yuzo Tashiro and Takuya Nozawa who have not been at their influential best.



former National Premier Leagues 2 NSW Women's Goalkeeper of the Year recipient, Avgoustou is quickly learning that life in the top tier is a whole new ball game.

For Avgoustou, this is her first season playing for the Sutherland Shire team and with seven rounds in, the Shire side are beginning to find their feet in a brand-new league.

"Between Women's 2 and the top tier, there's a really big difference in the game's intensity and speed of play. I think as a team we really have to adjust to that."

"In Women's 2 we were so used to setting the pace and tempo, but in the top flight there are a lot of teams who have some big-name players and are more experienced in playing together." Currently the Shire side are sitting at the foot of the ladder but are hoping to get the runs on the board in moving off the bottom.

With the team still in its infancy, Avgoustou stated they are still ironing out early stage teething issues. Working on their cohesion is the biggest focus for the team, with several women playing together for the first time this season.

Being able to find their rhythm and learn each other's style of play will be crucial to their future success.

"We are working on bringing our team together because we are such a new

team.

"I've only joined this year and there are a couple of other girls in the same boat, so we are working on playing as one team which does take time."

"We are also focusing on picking up the tempo and keeping up with our opponents because we want to show people that we deserve to be here." When asked about her trademark pink head-gear, Chloe shared how it ended up as a permanent staple on match days.

"When I was 11, I got knocked unconscious during a game, but I have no memory of it and I've worn it ever since."

"It's more so that it makes my Dad feel better, but now I'm used to it and wear it in every game."

"It's become a bit of a fashion accessory, I made sure that I had a pink jersey to match the pink head gear."

In relation to the rapid growth of the women's game recently, Chloe says she believes it is heading in the right direction.

"The Matildas were very unlucky not to win the Women's AFC Asian Cup over the weekend but getting all of that support and momentum behind them is so good and I hope to see that continue. "The women's game deserves to be viewed as equal to the men's game – we work just as hard to get where we are and we achieve just as much."