



By George Stavroulakis

NPL 1 NSW Men's 2018 ROUND 10 Preview

Round 10 in the National Premier Leagues NSW season has arrived and pressure is starting to mount on all sides battling to lock down a spot in the top five.

Sydney Olympic go into this round on top of the table for the first time this season and they will need to continue their winning ways with APIA Leichhardt Tigers determined to overtake them and reclaim first position. Blacktown City are back to their winning ways after a three week slump. This week they are at home against cellar dwellers Sydney FC with a win vital if they are to keep up with Olympic and APIA. Manly United have slowly been rediscovering the form which helped them take out last year's grand final and they will need to put that on display when they host Sydney United 58. Round ten will feature four games on Saturday night before two big matches on Sunday to close out another big weekend of action.

#Bonnyrigg White Eagles v APIA Leichhardt Tigers, 7pm Saturday at Bonnyrigg Sports Club

A battle against competition front runners APIA Leichhardt Tigers will be a sure test for a resurgent Bonnyrigg White Eagles. Despite a loss last week to Hakoah Sydney City East, Bonnyrigg has show solid improvement in recent weeks including a win against fierce rivals Sydney United 58. Club captain Ray Miller has been one of the reasons for Bonnyrigg's improvement with the classy midfielder in fine form. Against APIA, Miller will need to continue that run of form with his ability to create for strikers Aaron Peterson and Dean Bereveskos key to breaking down a solid Tigers defence. APIA will be driven to bounce back after last week's shock loss to Sydney United 58 which allowed Sydney Olympic lead frog them into top spot.

After his incredible A-League grand final return with the Newcastle Jets, Ivan Necevski resumes his spot between the sticks for APIA which is a major boost for their defence.

Billy McColl's APIA team go into the match as clear favourites but with the support of their home crowd and a new found confidence could be enough to inspire Bonnyrigg to a memorable upset.

#Manly United FC v Sydney United 58 FC, 7pm Saturday at Cromer Park

Reigning National Premier Leagues NSW Champions Manly United are finding form and will be out to continue their climb up the ladder with a win against Sydney United 58 on Saturday.

Manly are back at home for only the fourth time this season so far and will be using their passionate support to boost them to victory. **After losing** three matches to start the season, Manly have gone undefeated over their past six games.

Last week they were forced to settle for a draw against Wollongong Wolves but the signs are still positive for Paul Dee's side.

Defender Keiran Paull was a star performer for Manly in the previous round with his dangerous crosses into the box helping to create chance after chance.

United 58 last week proved they are fighting on despite recent off field instability which included the resignation of former coach Jason Culina.

Patrick Antelmi delivered on his great promise up front to score the winner against APIA. United 58 also proved they can find a way to win without Panny Nikas who has carried the team this season with his impressive performances in midfield.

A win could see Manly leapfrog United 58 into fourth position on the table.

With the likes of Chris Payne, Yianni Fragogiannis, Tom Manos, Petar Markovic as well as the return of skipper Nick Stavroulakis, the club will look towards getting another vital three points on the road.

There is plenty on the line for both teams and it is sure to be a thrilling match up

#Blacktown City FC v Sydney FC, 7pm Saturday at Lilly Homes Stadium

Blacktown City is back in the winners circle and they will be out to make a statement when they host bottom side Sydney FC on Saturday.

City took home all three points in an eight goal thriller against Rockdale in Round 9 with Mitch Mallia scoring a hat trick.

Despite the win, coach Mark Crittenden will be conceded with his side's defence which has conceded seven goals in four weeks after starting the campaign with four straight clean sheets.

In attack Blacktown have little to worry about with Mallia, Joey Gibbs and Devante Clut all a threat going forward.

Sydney FC's young defence will surely have their work cut out if they are to spring an upset.

Strikers Jeremy Cox and Hassan Jalloh have been great for the Young Sky Blues this season but they will need to find the back of the net this week if Sydney FC are to stand a chance.

Duro Dragacevic in the Sydney goal is also set for one of his biggest tests yet. Sydney FC will also be without Jerry Skotadis who is suspended.

Blacktown will be clear cut favourites at home and it will be a major challenge for Sydney FC but stranger things have happened in football so an upset shouldn't be written off.

#Marconi Stallions v Sutherland Sharks, 7pm Saturday at Marconi Stadium

Marconi Stallions host Sutherland Sharks in a mid table battle with both sides desperate to break into the top five.



ULTRA FOOTBALL TEAM OF THE WEEK for Round 9 and we have a double entry from Hakoah Sydney City East FC with Andre de Jong and Michael Kouta earning their spots as did Sydney United 58 FC's experienced defender Petar Markovi-. Wollongong Wolves Football Club keeper Justin Pasfield had a fantastic match underneath the sticks while Sydney FC's rising young star Hassan Jalloh was solid up-front. Blacktown City FC's Mitchell Mallia strolled in with his three goals as did fellow City teammate Devante Clut while Sydney Olympic FC also had two inclusions in Jason Madonis and Riley Woodcock. - μαζί με Michael Kouta, Hassan Jalloh, Kieren Paull, Riley Woodcock, Mitchell Mallia, Jason Madonis, Sean Rooney, Petar Markovi-, Andre de Jong, Devante Clut και Justin Pasfield

Marconi have been solid if not inconsistent this season, while it has been similar story for Sutherland this campaign.

The Stallions snatched a 2-2 draw last round against bottom side Sydney FC after Sean Rooney's curling free kick ensured they didn't suffer a shock defeat.

Injury has plagued Marconi so far but they have relied on the experience and talent of veterans such as Sean Rooney and Marko Jesic.

The pair have been leading lights in attack

and will be challenged against a competitive Sutherland defence.

A 3-0 defeat to Sydney Olympic last round was a harsh reality check for Grant Lee's Sharks team and they will be working hard to bounce back with a win.

Central defenders Jacob Tratt and Hayden Morton will need to solidify the defensive line if they are to stand a chance.

Only one point apart on the NPL NSW ladder, this match will be a must win for both teams if they are to maintain their finals aspirations.

Current Ladder 9th Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Sydney Olympic	9	22	7	1	1	15	7	8
2	APIA Tigers	9	19	6	1	2	22	10	12
3	Blacktown City	9	17	5	2	2	16	8	8
4	Sydney United	9	15	5	0	4	15	11	4
5	Manly United	9	12	3	3	3	15	16	-1
6	Marconi Stallions	9	12	3	3	3	11	14	-3
7	Hakoah Sydney	9	11	3	2	4	15	13	2
8	Sutherland Sharks	9	11	3	2	4	14	15	-1
9	Wollongong Wolves	9	11	3	2	4	8	13	-5
10	Rockdale City Suns	9	8	2	2	5	16	24	-8
11	Bonnyrigg WE	9	8	2	2	5	11	20	-9
12	Sydney FC Youth	9	5	1	2	6	14	21	-7