

ROUND 22 – NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES 3 NSW MEN’S REVIEW

Jitters and nerves were prevalent on the weekend when none of the league’s top three sides registered a win following the completion of Round Twenty Two in the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men’s competition.

Dunbar Rovers jumped into 6th spot following a 3-0 triumph over Camden Tigers on Saturday afternoon; Hawkesbury City dropped two valuable points, scoring late on to snatch a draw against a gallant Fraser Park; Stanmore Hawks overcame Dulwich Hill by the odd goal in three at Arlington Oval on Saturday night; league leaders, St George City FA, came from 0-2 and a man down at half time to grab a point in a 2-2 draw against Sydney University at Marrickville; Granville Rage produced an upset at Garside Park, toppling Bankstown City 1-0 to extend their unbeaten run to five games; SD Raiders dismantled Inter Lions 8-2 on Sunday evening with John Fahmi helping himself to a hatrick. Football NSW took their seat at Christie Park in Marsfield to see the battle between Gladesville Ryde Magic and the Western NSW Mariners.

GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC – WESTERN NSW MARINERS 7-0

Gladesville Ryde Magic made light work of a disappointing Western NSW Mariners on Sunday afternoon, winning 7-0 in a canter at Christie Park.

Michael Gaitatzis helped himself to a four goal haul, which means he is now perched at the top of the NSW NPL 3 Mens goalscorers charts with a remarkable 28 goals this campaign thus far.

Magic got on the board as early as the 10th minute.

Chris Triantis squeezed a delightful pass in to the box for Chris Gaitatzis to run onto. The Magic skipper got to the ball before the advancing Mariners’ keeper, Brock Logan, but showed unselfishness to slip a short pass inside in to the path of Nick Ioannides who stroked the ball in to an empty net to open proceedings.

Ioannides almost doubled his and his team’s advantage on 15 minutes, seizing on another Triantis pass to round Logan in the Mariners’ goal before striking the upright from the tightest of angles.

17 year old Ioannides was having a field day at this stage, and he turned provider in the 25th minute. The tall flanker showed quick feet and a neat touch to leave two defenders in his wake, reaching the goal line before his square pass was bundled over the line by Michael Gaitatzis.

It took half an hour for the Gaitatzis brothers to combine for a goal, with Michael delivering a superbly weighted cross from the left for brother, Chris, to guide home with a neat volley and make it 3-0 to Gladesville.

The Mariners were at sixes and sevens at this stage and simply couldn’t cope with the attacking prowess of the home side.

The visitors did however muster two opportunities just after the half hour mark that could easily have dragged them back in to the encounter.

A cross from the left channel in the 34th minute was flicked on by Adam Scimone and landed at the feet of Jaiden Culbert, whose close range snapshot was diverted for a corner by Magic custodian, Gabriel Koliomihos.

Koliomihos was deputising for veteran, Kiriakou Tohouroglou, and was intent on keeping a clean sheet for Magic.

Culbert had another effort on goal in the 40th minute, blasting a shot from the edge of the box that Koliomihos did ever so well to finger tip over the cross bar.

That was all she wrote in the first half, but Gladesville showed no remorse after the break, extending their lead to 4-0 in the 53rd minute.

Ioannides showed good vision to slip a pass in to the right channel for Michael Gaitatzis to run onto, and the Magic striker struck clinically, angling his low drive under Brock Logan in the Mariners goal to bag his second of the match.

Jayden McLeod was then adjudged to have fouled Michael Gaitatzis inside the penalty area in the 62nd minute, leaving referee, Mr Roberto Mattei, with no option but to award the spot kick.

Michael Gaitatzis netted, only to be called upon to retake the kick due to encroachment. Gaitatzis found the back of the net for the second time with an emphatic finish, nabbing his hatrick in the process and extending his side’s lead to 5-0.

Lachlan Thomas fired a 25 yard free kick inches wide in the 64th minute as the Mariners searched for a consolation, but the visitors struggled to impose themselves in the front third with the Magic back line holding firm throughout.

Chris Triantis then made way for Chris Tomaras on 59 minutes, simply passing the creative baton on from one playmaker to another, and the number 10 continued on with the show, producing the goal of the match in the 64th minute to tick the scoreboard over to 6-0.

Receiving the ball out wide near the left sideline, Tomaras began a slalom run that any snow skier would be proud of, weaving in and out of three Mariners’ defenders as he entered the penalty box at speed before slotting the ball past Brock Logan in the Mariners’ goal, much to the delight of the local contingent. Gladesville weren’t finished just yet, and they grabbed goal number 7 in the 82nd minute. Nick Ioannides raced along the goal line before finding Michael Gaitatzis with his firmly struck cut back.

Gaitatzis was unmarked, and took a touch before placing his shot into the net to round off the proceedings for the day.

The 7-0 win was an example of the attacking weapons that Gladesville Ryde Magic possess, with the experience of Triantis, Tomaras and Chris Gaitatzis supplemented by the clinical finishing of Michael Gaitatzis and youthful speed of Nick Ioannides. With a solid backline and hard working midfield behind the potent front third, Gladesville are starting to hit some ominous form at the right end of the season. The win and three points moves Magic on to 45 points, and in to 2nd place on the ladder, just 2 points adrift of the league leaders, St George City FA, who are surely looking over their shoulder as we move towards the last few rounds of the competition proper.

GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC 7 (Ioannides 10’, M. Gaitatzis 25’ / 53’ / 62’ pen / 82’, C.Gaitatzis 30’, Tomaras 66’)

WESTERN NSW MARINERS 0

Christie Park, Marsfield

Referee – Roberto Mattei

Assistant Referees – Alex Danzel and Hugh Cowardine

GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC;

21.G.Koliomihos, 2.C.Newton, 3.S.Tarazona, 4.L.Harte (6.A.Mickael 46’), 5.A.Khan, 8.J.Martinez, 9.C.Gaitatzis (capt) (19.F.Calcagno 75’), 11.C.Triantis (10.C.Tomaras 59’), 13.B.Kerr, 17.M.Gaitatzis, 34.N.Ioannides.

Substitutes Not Used – 23.Z.Hando, 33.K.Tohouroglou.



BLACKTOWN CITY FC ANNOUNCE NEW HEAD OF FOOTBALL

Blacktown City FC are proud to announce the appointment of Mark Crittenden as the club’s new Head of Football.

Mark will oversee the Skill Acquisition Program (SAP), Boys Youth League (BYL), Girls Conference League (GCL) and Men’s National Premier League (NPL) football programs and will also continue to coach the clubs First Grade men’s team.

Club President Vince Camera believes the appointment of Crittenden as the clubs Head of Football will provide players and coaches a fantastic opportunity to develop and improve.

“Mark is one of the best coaches this club has ever had and his record speaks for itself. Mark was the ideal choice as the clubs new Head of Football as he understands the club culture and he will work hard to build on that to create great opportunities to young players and coaches.”

Brett Seager the Club’s Chairman was equally as excited about the appointment

“Critto has a positive energy and attitude that is infectious, and this will bring the best out of everyone at the club”.

Mark started coaching when he was just 16 years old at Greystanes FC and went from youth coaching to 1st grade coach in 1996 in the old state league 2, winning promotion to the 1st division. He then went on to spend time at Marconi Stallions working as an assistant to Zoran Matic and Frank Farina in the old National Soccer League (NSL). In 2003 he became the under 20’s coach at Bankstown City Lions before moving to Blacktown City FC in 2004 where started as the Under 11’s Metro League coach. Mark worked his way up at Blacktown City and took over as the first grade coach in 2011. Since that time the Mark has overseen many successful years.

- NPL1 Championship – 2014 and 2016
- NPL1 Premiers – 2015
- FFA NPL Champions – 2015
- FFA Cup Round of 32 – 2014 and 2015
- FFA Cup Quarter Finals – 2016 and 2017

“I am very excited to take on this new role with Blacktown City FC. I am looking forward to working with the club’s younger players and coaches to develop not just great footballers and coaches but great people too”.