

PRELIMINARY FINAL SYDNEY UNITED 58 V APIA LEICHHARDT TIGERS, 7.30PM AT SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE

A rematch of the finals week one epic between Sydney United 58 and APIA Leichhardt Tigers will decide who will take on Sydney Olympic in this season's National Premier Leagues NSW Grand Final on Sunday September 9.

It will all go on the line on Saturday night at Sydney United Sports Centre with defeat signalling the end of the season for either APIA or United 58.

These proud clubs have their eyes focused on grand final glory, but first they must make it through what is set to be a grueling contest.

Sydney United 58 v APIA Leichhardt Tigers..

There are no more second chances as Sydney United 58 and APIA Leichhardt Tigers fight it out for the last spot in this season's National Premier Leagues NSW grand final.

There won't be any love lost as these fierce rivals go head to head in a rematch of their clash from week one of the finals series.

United 58 come into this game after a one sided 4-0 thumping at the hands of Premiership winners Sydney Olympic and will need a big bounce back performance to return to the winners circle.

APIA on the other hand are in inspired form thrashing Rockdale 8-2 in last week's minor semi-final only days after their shock 3-2 win against A-League Champions Melbourne Victory in the FFA Cup.

After their penalty shootout win against APIA in week one of the finals, United 58 were given a swift reality check by Olympic.

The 4-0 loss would've not impressed coach Miro Vlastelica who now has to find a way to get his team firing on all cylinders once again.

Reds shot stopper Thomas Manos was almost unbeatable in his last game against APIA but had a hard day at the office last week.

How the young keeper rebounds will have a big say in his side's chances against a rejuvenated APIA attack.

Chris Payne was free to play last week after his red card was rescinded for a case of mistaken identity and he will be once again free to play.

The striker's ability to press and challenge the APIA defence had them struggling in their last clash with Vlastelica sure to employ this strategy again.

Payne will need to be at his best in finishing off goalscoring opportunities, something he failed to do last week against Olympic so expect a big match from the tough attacker.

Two big wins on the trot have APIA believing in themselves again and it shows.

Japanese striker Tasuku Sekiya seems to have truly taken the weight of APIA's attack and the midfield is once again firing on all cylinders.



The Tigers' experienced midfield has shown both brute force and panache in recent performance which could be a far tougher challenge for United 58 to conquer this time around.

United 58 and APIA have met in the league three times this season including The Red's 5-3 penalty shootout win from the preliminary semi-final.

That result went against APIA's dominance during their two meetings in the regular season.

In Round 9 APIA claimed the victory with a 1-0 win before thrashing United 58 6-2 in the reverse fixture at Lambert Park in round 20.

Both sides are as hungry as ever to lift the Championship trophy so expect a fierce encounter that is set to go down to the wire.

Probable Line-ups

Sydney United 58: Manos, Gonzales, Roberts, Payne, Sim, Perkatis, Cole, Stavroulakis, Maia, Trifiro, Fragogiannis

APIA Leichhardt Tigers: Necevski, Millgate, Galimi, J Symons, Fondyke, Parisi, Muata-Marlow, S Symons, Uchino, Sekiya, Guilisano



Sydney United Sports Centre Saturday 1st September

U18

Rockdale City Suns FC v Blacktown City FC 2:30pm

U20

Blacktown City FC v Sutherland Sharks FC 5:00pm

1st Grade

Sydney United 58 FC v APIA Leichhardt Tigers FC 7:30pm

Sydney United Sports Centre will be the setting this coming Saturday (1st of September) as either Sydney United 58 or APIA Leichhardt Tigers will fight out for the final spot in the 2018 National Premier Leagues NSW Men's Grand Final to be played on Sunday 9th of September at Leichhardt Oval to face Premiers Sydney Olympic.

It will be the first day of Spring which will see a titanic battle take shape in Sydney's West and at one of Australian football's most iconic spots where a number of former National Soccer League legends and Socceroos graced Sydney United Sports Centre with two iconic teams going at it for that final spot.

Whatever the result will be, the 2018 NPL NSW Men's Grand Final will be one not to be missed as it will be Sydney Olympic, a club steeped in history taking on either Sydney United 58 or APIA Leichhardt Tigers.

It will be a feast of football on Saturday as two big matches will take place prior to the big one at 7:30pm as Rockdale City Suns face Blacktown City at 2:30pm in the Grade 18's while at 5pm Sutherland Sharks battle Blacktown City – the winners of both ties will face Sydney FC in both grades in the 2018 NPL NSW Men's Grand Final.