

SYDNEY UNITED 58 FC - APIA LEICHHARDT TIGERS 1-1 (4-5)

**Match Stats**

Sydney United 58: 1 (Trifiro 43 ) APIA Leichhardt Tigers FC: 1 (S Symons 83")  
 Saturday, September 1 2018 Sydney United Sports Centre, Edensor Park  
 Referee: S Lucas Assistant referees: J Park & J Bell Fourth official: T Danaskos  
 Sydney United 58 FC: 21. Thomas MANOS, 3. Jordan ROBERTS, 5. Anthony VRILIC (6. Chris PAYNE), 8. Matthew SIM, 11. Yianni PERKATIS, 12. Shannon COLE, 13. Sam PERRE (7. Mohamed RAHIMI 79'), 14. Nick STAVROULAKIS, 15. Tariq MAIA, 18. Glen Trifiro, 22. Yianni FRAGOIANNIS. Substitutes not used: 1. John HALL, 4. Luke VLASTELICA, , 20, Petar MARKOVIC  
 Yellow Cards: Payne 47', Cole 66  
 APIA Leichhardt Tigers FC: 1. Ivan NECEVSKI, 2. Nathan MILLGATE, 3. Paul GALIMI, 7. Howard FONDYKE, 10. Franco PARISI, 13. David D'APUZZO, 15. Themba MUATA-MARLOW, 16. Sean SYMONS, 17. Sam GUILISANO (21. Dom NASRABADI80 ), 18. Adrian UCCHINO, 20. Tatsuku SEKIYA  
 Substitutes not used: 22. Blake TUXFORD 5. Stefan ADATTINI, 12. Benjamin MCCARRON, 14. Jack ARMSON



With the game locked at 1-1 after 90 minutes the game was sent into extra-time. United 58 had the first chance of extra time with Necevski denying Payne in the 96th minute. The home side were unlucky to find a winner after 99 minutes when a diving Necevski at full stretch tipped a rifled shot from Mohamed Rahimi. APIA had their own chance at the end of the first period of extra time but Manos was up to the task of saving a driven effort from Fondyke. The Reds raced out of the blocks at the resumption of extra time and Payne was inches away from giving his side the lead when his near post header went wide. Necevski made two major saves in quick succession to keep his side in the game with the game heading towards penalties. The veteran shot stopper raced out to deny Sim in the 111th minute before making a diving save to stop a curling Trifirio free-kick APIA had one final roll of the dice through Tasuku Sekiya who lined up over a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area however it went wide ensuring the game would be decided from the penalty spot.

**Both teams** had a number of outstanding performers with the hosts skipper Nick Stavroulakis playing the captain's role superbly running the midfield with young gun Tariq Maia causing issues as well as Trifiro. While for the visitors Themba Muata Marlow was outstanding in the Tigers backline as well as bombing on as was the experienced Parisi whose calmness really paved the way for APIA's victory on the night. APIA captain Symons was ecstatic after the full time whistle and paid homage to the fighting spirit of his teammates. **"We were** under the pump once again and once again we have found a way to

win," he said. "Everyone fought so hard in normal time and then in extra time. It is such a relief to get the result. "When the game went to penalties I was very nervous as I don't think i've been involved in a win from the penalty spot in my entire time with the club. "When Ivan made the save I knew we had done enough." United 58 coach Miro Vlastelica was in an understandably sombre mood after his side's defeat but paid tribute to their performance. "That's football, what more can I said. "Penalty shootouts are a lottery. Somedays the luck goes your way and others, like today, it goes the way of the opposition. "The boys worked so hard today and it's disappointing to go out this way. They can be very proud of their efforts." APIA Leichhardt Tigers will now take on Premiers Sydney Olympic at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday 9th September at 4pm to see who will be crowned 2018 NPL NSW Men's Champions.



PHOTOS  
 byloopii  
 Transforming your moments in sports & leisure into timeless photos.  
 www.photosbyloopii.com.au  
 0422 21 77 66 george@loopii.com.au