

SYDNEY DERBY SELL OUT WARNING

Western Sydney Wanderers veteran Mark Bridge expects a sell-out crowd for Saturday night's FFA Cup Sydney Derby semi-final at Penrith Stadium.

Saturday's cup clash will be the first time a Sydney Derby has been played at the 22,500 capacity venue, which has previously hosted A-League, W-League and FFA Cup matches.

Penrith Stadium also attracted more than 15,000 fans last year for a women's international friendly between the Matildas and Brazil, showing the region's appetite for football.

Last season's three A-League Sydney Derbies attracted crowds of only 36,057, 36,433 and 25,211 but the novelty of a knockout game in Penrith may assist achieving a sell-out.

Bridge, 32, said he expected a full house on Saturday evening with a spot in the FFA Cup decider up for grabs.

"To play Sydney FC in the semis makes it even bigger," Bridge said. "We're looking to play here on Saturday in front of a full house."

He added: "It's a great venue for football. We take a big crowd wherever we go as a club."

"Having this full on the weekend, it's going to be loud, it's going to be full of Red and Black and it's going to be amazing for our club."



Wanderers have never reached the FFA Cup Final, although they were semi-finalists last year.

"We've been doing extremely well so far in pre-season," Bridge said. "We've recruited very well and the squad is looking very good."

"We're a young club but we're a successful club. We've achieved a lot in a short space of time but this is a thing that's got away from us."

"We'll be looking to add it to our cabinet this time around."

The Parramatta Eagles junior added that the Wanderers squad was feeling "confident, strong and fit" and hopeful of giving the Penrith crowd something to remember.

"It's exciting to have something out here," he said.

"The people out here deserve it. Hopefully we can give them a result and get through to the final of the cup."

Kick-off is at 7:30pm AEST on Saturday evening

CANOSA APPOINTED MACARTHUR RAMS HEAD COACH

National Premier Leagues 2 NSW Men's side Macarthur Rams has officially appointed experienced Argentine coach Claudio Canosa for the 2019 season.

A FIFA Pro-License holder as well as a former National Soccer League player, Canosa has returned to Lynwood Park after holding coaching positions with Bankstown United FC as well as Canberra outfit Gunghalin United. Canosa was part of the Rams setup as the senior coach in 2009. Following on from the appointment of Canosa, the club also moved swiftly to sign club stalwart Craig Cooley for another season with the club hoping to push for promotion into the NSW's top flight competition in 2020.

