



By George Stavroulakis



Round 1 Preview – NPL 3 NSW Men's

After what was a thrilling 2018 season in the NSW National Premier Leagues 3 Men's competition, we look forward to the upcoming season and all the likely thrills and spills.

This competition continues to deliver the goods.

This season will be no different as we look forward to what is sure to be another captivating season.

After an incredible 2018 campaign which saw St George City FA crowned club champions, we wish them the best of luck as they venture into new territory as they prepare for life in the NSW NPL 2 Men's competition.

This campaign we will be without Fraser Park FC as they drop down to the Men's State League after what was a challenging 2018 season for the club.

With many of the same sides still battling out in NPL 3 we welcome two new outfits to the league as a rejuvenated Parramatta FC led by new coach Tony Basha will look to book an instant return to the NSW NPL 2.

Meanwhile, Bankstown United FC have wrestled their way into this year's competition after securing promotion from the State League on the final match-day last season.

Round One kicks off at 6:30pm on Saturday night with new boys Parramatta FC hosting Dunbar Rovers FC at Melita Stadium.

We welcome new boys Parramatta FC to the league as they look to rebuild and find some consistency after several turbulent years for the club.

Familiar face Tony Basha returns to the competition as technical director for the Eagles while he has brought with him the experienced Spanish coaching duo of Sharaf Ferrando and Angel Dominguez.

With a key change in personnel we will hopefully see a new brand of football being played by Parramatta and

look forward to some cracking encounters at Melita Stadium this year.

Last year's semi finalists Dunbar Rovers welcome back Will Cullen as head coach after he returns from a short spell with Sydney University.

Two key import signings join the club in Irishman Connor Earley and Japanese Jay Takahashi. Both players are expected to set the league alight as they unleash their skills and talent in this year's competition while expect things from technical midfielder Nick Mouzourakis.

There are a total of five matches scheduled for a 7pm kick off, one being Granville Rage welcoming Hawkesbury City FC to Garside Park.

Granville Rage will be keen to snatch all three points from Hawkesbury in this encounter. After missing out on finals football for the last couple of seasons they will be hoping for better fortunes.

Hawkesbury City will look to build upon last season's heroics as they look to youth in a bid to bridge the gaps left behind by seasoned veterans Mick McCrory, Prash Sharma and David Gardiner who hung up their boots at the end of last season.

Three players have made the step up to the NSW NPL 2 with Daniel Zahra the notable name on that list after joining Rydalmere FC.

With so many of last year's big names players leaving the club it will be a testing start to the campaign for Dean Bertenshaw's side.

Bankstown United FC will kick off their inaugural season

in the league with a visit to Ron Dine Stadium on Saturday night as they go head to head with Camden Tigers FC.

Camden will look to make a push for the finals this season after a respectful eight placed finish last campaign. The Tigers have promoted a host of players from their under 20's side with two new recruits from the Illawarra Premier League, Bradley Durrant and Dayne Morley who made the switch to NPL 3.

Ace striker Jayden Russell will look to build upon his impressive form in front goal after an impressive 2018 campaign which saw him hit the back of the net on 29 occasions.

After late drama on the final matchday of last season, Bankstown United will be raring to go as they prepare for their first season in the NPL 3 competition.

Captain Steven Wright has re-signed with the club for the upcoming campaign while the ever-present Jovan Miladinovic enters his fourth year with the club.

Bankstown United welcome the return of their inaugural first grade captain Andreas Kartsoulis with the addition of high-profile signing Eros Bergamin who made the switch from Marconi Stallions.

Stanmore Hawks FC and Inter Lions SC clash at Arlington Oval on Saturday night with both sides looking to build upon their disappointing 2018 campaigns.

Under the guidance of new coach Ben Rollison, Stanmore have recruited well in the off season with 21-year old Tim Wohlfiel returning to Australia to join the Hawks after a lengthy spell in England.