



By George Stavroulakis

# ROUND 5 NPL NSW MEN'S

The National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition is in full flight after four weeks and it's going to heat up even more this weekend when Round 5 kicks-off on Saturday night.

**Wollongong Wolves** have had an electric start to the season and sit at the top of the pile with three wins and a draw from their first four games.

**The round** gets under way on Saturday with two matches as Sutherland Sharks host Sydney United 58 while Sydney FC go west to take on Mount Druitt at Popondetta Park.

**Sunday will** feature four big matches including a grudge match between APIA Leichhardt Tigers and Rockdale City Suns.

**Other matches** on Sunday include Manly's clash against Blacktown City, Sydney Olympic taking on Wollongong while Marconi Stallions' game against Hakoah Sydney City East closes out the Round 5 action.

## Sutherland Sharks v Sydney United 58, 6.30pm Saturday at Seymour Shaw

**Three losses** from their first four games is not the way Sutherland Sharks would've wanted to start their season but they will have a chance to make amends when they host Sydney United 58 at Seymour Shaw on Saturday.

**A narrow** 1-0 loss to Blacktown City in round four was another painful defeat for the Terry Palapanis coached side.

**Despite their** poor results, Sutherland have shown plenty of potential and should've come away with much more from their past three matches.

**Against Blacktown** City last Sunday, new recruit Caoimhin Fowler and Lachlan Everett stole the show and were unlucky not to find the back of the net with their attacking displays.

**Momentary lapses** have proved costly for the Sharks and if they can keep it together will be a good chance of snapping their losing streak.

**United 58** come into the game off the back of defeat as well with the Reds suffering a 3-1 loss to APIA Leichhardt Tigers last week.

**It was** their first defeat of the season as they were undone by their former star striker, now playing for APIA, Chris Payne.

**Injuries to** Petar Markovic and Patrick Antelmi will give coach Miro Vlastelica plenty to ponder going into this weekend's match.

**The Reds** are hoping that their Uruguayan star Sebastian Gallegos could be ready to go this Saturday after an injury lay-off in pre-season.

**United 58** will be the favourites for this clash but Sutherland have the players to cause an upset as they did so against 2018 Premiers and Champions Sydney Olympic in round 1.

## Mount Druitt Town Rangers v Sydney FC, 7pm Saturday at Popondetta Park

**Mount Druitt** Town Rangers will be pushed to their limits on Saturday night as they kit up for their third game in seven days when they take on Sydney FC at Popondetta Park.

**The competition** new boys have made a good showing of their time in the NSW top flight and will be a contender for finals football if they keep up their early season form.

**Coach Aidan** Desmond will need to find a way to get the most from his fatigued players in a match the club will view as a must win contest.

**Cooper Coskerle** had a breakout performance in the Rangers win against Rockdale City Suns last weekend, scoring the match winning goal in a brilliant showing for Mount Druitt.

**Coskerle has** shown he can be a dangerous customer in attack and Desmond may call on him more and more as the

season progresses.

**Goalkeeper Carlos** Saliadarre's name has earned plenty of column inches since the start of the season with the experienced shot stopper making an inspired return to the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition.

**Expect another** big week from the former Blacktown Spartans keeper.

**Their opponents** Sydney FC come into the game on the back of a 4-3 defeat at the hands of league leaders Wollongong Wolves.

**While the** Young Sky Blues conceded four goals, coach Jimmy van Weeren will be pleased with how his side played until the final whistle to nearly snatch a point.

**While the** excitement of their round one win against Hakoah has worn off, Sydney FC haven't completely fallen away despite the results not going their way in the preceding three matches.

**Marco Tilio** and Jordan Swibel have proven to be a reliable option in attack and will again be expected to lead the charge.

**Neither side** go into the match as outright favourites but Mount Druitt as the home team might hold the upper hand.

**Either way** it is sure to be an exciting contest.

## Manly United FC v Blacktown City FC, 3pm Sunday at Cromer Park

**Back to** back wins will be the goal for Manly United when they host Blacktown City at Cromer Park this Sunday.

**Buoyed by** their last minute win against Marconi last week, the boys from the Northern Beaches will be full of confidence as they take on a City outfit still finding its feet after an off season roster overhaul.

**It's been** a mixed start to the season for Manly but they've shown plenty of promise and have only lost one game from their opening four.

**Coach Paul** Dee will want more consistency from his troops as well as improved composure on match day.

**Defender Travis** Oughtred was a rock at the back against the Stallions and a similar performance will be needed to stop Blacktown.

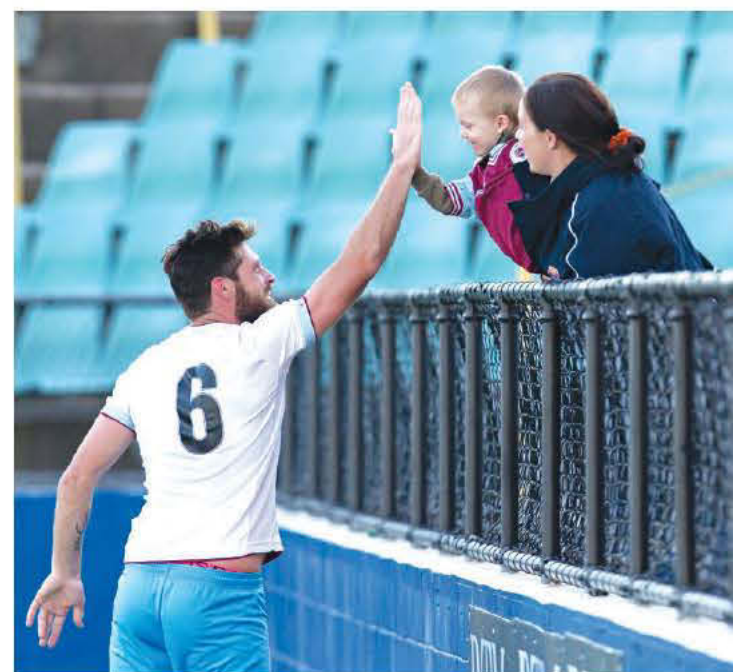
**In attack** Manly boast plenty of options with the return of Dejan Pandurevic and Adam Parkhouse, as well as the signing of Charles Mendy, giving the team multiple ways to sting their opponent.

**The ever** elusive Brendan Cholakian has also been a menace for Manly in the front

third and he will be in and amongst all the action on Saturday.

**Their opponents** Blacktown City will be up for this match and determined to keep their winning form alive.

**While resilience** and a little



bit of luck was the secret to their narrow 1-0 win against Sutherland Sharks last week, Blacktown has shown their roster overhaul has not seen them drop their standards on the pitch.

**Leroy Jennings** has been a shrewd acquisition for the Seven Hills based side while club veterans Matt Lewis, Grant Lynch and Joey Gibbs continue to perform.

**Both teams** have the players to turn the game into a shootout so goals could be on the menu in Manly this Sunday.

## APIA Leichhardt Tigers v Rockdale City Suns, 3.30pm Sunday at Lambert Park

**APIA Leichhardt** Tigers will be looking to add to the misery of a struggling Rockdale City Suns team when the two sides face off at Lambert Park on Sunday.

**The Tigers** claimed a huge statement victory last round with a 3-1 triumph against Sydney United 58 thanks to a masterclass from star signing Chris Payne who netted a hat-trick against his former club.

**Sunday's performance** was APIA's best so far this year and a big statement of intent from last season's Waratah Cup

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### Round 4 Results

**Hakoah Sydney** - Sydney Olympic 0-1  
**Sydney United** - APIA Tigers 1-3  
**Rockdale City Suns** - Mt Druitt Rangers 0-2  
**Blacktown City** - Sutherland Sharks 1-0  
**Marconi Stallions** - Manly United 1-2  
**Sydney FC Youth** - Wollongong Wolves 3-4

### Next Games Round 5

**07.04.2019**  
 Marconi Stallions - Hakoah Sydney  
 Mt Druitt Rangers - Sydney FC Youth  
 Sutherland Sharks - Sydney United  
**08.04.2019**  
 APIA Tigers - Rockdale City Suns  
 Manly United - Blacktown City  
 Sydney Olympic - Wollongong Wolves

### Round 4 Table

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	4	10	3	1	0	11	6	5
2	APIA Tigers	4	9	3	0	1	6	5	1
3	Blacktown City	4	7	2	1	1	5	4	1
4	Hakoah Sydney	4	6	2	0	2	5	3	2
5	Manly United	4	5	1	2	1	6	6	0
6	Sydney United	4	5	1	2	1	4	5	-1
7	Mt Druitt Rangers	3	4	1	1	1	4	3	1
8	Sydney Olympic	3	4	1	1	1	4	4	0
9	Sydney FC Youth	4	4	1	1	2	6	8	-2
10	Rockdale City Suns	4	4	1	1	2	2	6	-4
11	Marconi Stallions	4	3	1	0	3	4	5	-1
12	Sutherland Sharks	4	3	1	0	3	2	4	-2