

winners.

Payne showed yet again why he has been so successful in this competition and will be salivating at the chance of taking on a defence low on confidence after two sapping defeats.

Coach John Calleja could have some tough selection decisions to make with Paul Galimi excelling at centre back against United 58 in place of usual starter Josh Symons who was on the bench.

Young midfielder Sam McIllhatton has also been a handy player for APIA off the bench and he will also be pushing for a starting berth.

The club will also unearth a new weapon in former Kiwi International Andre De Jong. The ace attacker was one of Hakoah Sydney City East's finest stars and he will certainly add more spark to what is a pretty strong attack.

Rockdale on the other hand have had a horror fortnight and come into the match after two heartbreaking losses to Hakoah Sydney City East and Mount Druitt Town Rangers.

The most frustrating thing for Paul Reid and his team has been that they have dominated both matches and should've claimed big wins if they were able to make the most of their plethora of chances.

Jordan Figon made a return to the starting line-up to replace Jonathan Grozdanovski last week but he too struggled to find the score sheet.

Star signing Panny Nikas missed last week with injury and Rockdale will be hoping he can make a speedy return – however early prognosis has hinted that he may be spending a weeks on the sidelines.

Reid will be desperate to find the answer to his side's struggles but a grudge match against a high flying APIA won't give him much room for error.

Rockdale will need to get out of their funk fast if they're to take home any points from this encounter especially with a fired up APIA looking stronger by the week.

Sydney Olympic FC v Wollongong Wolves, 4pm Sunday at Belmore Sports Ground

It's not been Sydney Olympic's best start to a season and the reigning Premiers will have a point to prove when they host league leaders Wollongong Wolves at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday

Olympic finally clinched their first win of the campaign last week in a dour and physical encounter against Hakoah Sydney City East.

Against The Wolves they will need to bring even more with the pressure on star Spanish striker Alex Sanchez to rediscover the goal scoring prowess which saw him take the league by storm last season.

Jinya An and Nikola Kuleski will be hoping to make a return to the Olympic starting side after performing well coming off the bench last week.

The Wolves come into the contest off the back of their third win in four games as they remain undefeated to start the season.

However, it's not all sunny for Wollongong who nearly blew a 4-1 lead last week before clinging on to a 4-3 victory against Sydney FC.

They will be without coach Luke Wilkshire for this clash after he was shown a red card for a tirade against the match officials.

Thomas James has been the star performer for the Wolves and he will need to continue carrying the attack especially against a disciplined Olympic back line.

It will be a blockbuster clash and a brilliant chance for either side to prove their title credentials.

Marconi Stallions v Hakoah Sydney City East, 7pm Sunday at Marconi Stadium

Marconi Stallions will be looking to bounce back from last week's dramatic late defeat to Manly United when they host Hakoah Sydney City East at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

The Stallions would've thought they were on track for a 1-1 draw against Manly before conceding a penalty deep into added time. Brendan Cholakian duly converted the spot kick and condemned Marconi to their second loss of the campaign.

While they may boast one of the most star studded line-up on paper, Marconi has been unable to convert that into results.

NPL 2 NSW MEN'S

Canterbury Bankstown v Central Coast Mariners Academy Saturday 6 April 7pm, The Crest Athletic Centre

A crazy 5-5 draw against Mounties on the opening day of the season put the Berries in the headlines but sadly, four losses since sees them bottom of the table and already onto their second coach. But as Branko Culina has shown on numerous occasions, not least at Canterbury last year, he will be certain of being able to drag the Berries back up the ladder, with

the faithful hoping that it starts this Saturday against the Central Coast Mariners. Since that flurry in that opening round, the goals seem to have dried up, but if they can reproduce that opening performance, anything is possible.

The Mariners will back up after their visit to Valentine Park on Wednesday, for which a positive result would see

the Central Coast side move into the top half of the table. They will not want to get ahead of themselves though as a bruised Berries side will be needing to gain some points of their own if they are not to lose touch with those clubs above. There are not likely to be too many goals in this one, the Mariners' tight defence being somewhat matched by a less than fruitful attack.

NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

Bankstown United FC - Gladesville Ryde Magic Jensen Park 7pm.

Jensen Park will be the venue for what is sure to be a thrilling encounter as Bankstown United FC do battle with top of the table Gladesville Ryde Magic at 7pm.

Having already secured a point against cross city rivals Bankstown City and an unlikely win against SD Raiders,

Bankstown United will be more than pleased with their start to life in the NPL 3 and will enter this fixture with the belief that they can come away with a result.

It may be far too early to call it, but it appears that Magic may be crowned champions come the end of the campaign

with their early season form showing no signs of faltering.

The visitors are leading the goalscoring charts with 12 goals from their first four games with the trio of Chris Triantis, Christos Tomaras and Rosario Occhipinti largely to thank for that impressive goal haul.

A LEAGUE Results 23 ROUND

Central Coast Mariners - Adelaide United 0-1
Perth Glory - Melbourne Victory 0-2
WS Wanderers - Melbourne City 3-0
Wellington Phoenix - Newcastle Jets 4-1
Brisbane Roar - Sydney FC 1-3

A - LEAGUE Table 23 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	23	51	15	6	2	47	22	25
2	Sydney FC	23	45	14	3	6	39	25	14
3	Melbourne Victory	23	44	13	5	5	46	28	18
4	Wellington Phoenix	23	37	10	7	6	41	31	10
5	Adelaide United	23	34	9	7	7	28	28	0
6	Melbourne City	23	33	9	6	8	28	28	0
7	Newcastle Jets	23	26	7	5	11	29	32	-3
8	WS Wanderers	23	23	6	5	12	38	46	-8
9	Brisbane Roar	23	15	3	6	14	31	55	-24
10	Central Coast Mariners	23	10	2	4	17	27	59	-32



Next Round 24

Next Games Round 5
05.04.2019

Melbourne City - Brisbane Roar
06.04.2019
Newcastle Jets - WS Wanderers
Sydney FC - Melbourne Victory
07.04.2019
Adelaide United - WellingtonPhoenix
Central Coast Mariners - Perth Glory

Coach Peter Tsekenis will be asking much more from his sides big name signings.

They will be without Nathan Millgate for this weekends match after he was sent off against Manly for dissent.

Hakoah were given a bit of a reality check last week against Sydney Olympic after winning their previous two matches.

Goalkeeper Ryan Norval has been an incredible addition to the Eastern Suburbs side this season with his performances between the sticks a big part of Hakoah's success.

Amaury Gauthier has been another bright spot for Hakoah with the striker in fine fettle.

Gavin Rae's side have shown so far this season that they like to sit deep and pounce on the counter attack.

Their dogged defence is hard to break down and for the most part they have taken advantage of the few chances which have come their way in attack.

Expect much more of the same against the Stallions.

Marconi's star power filled line-up should, on paper, beat any team in the competition.

But, football isn't played on paper and Hakoah could very easily cause an upset if the Stallions don't play to their full potential.