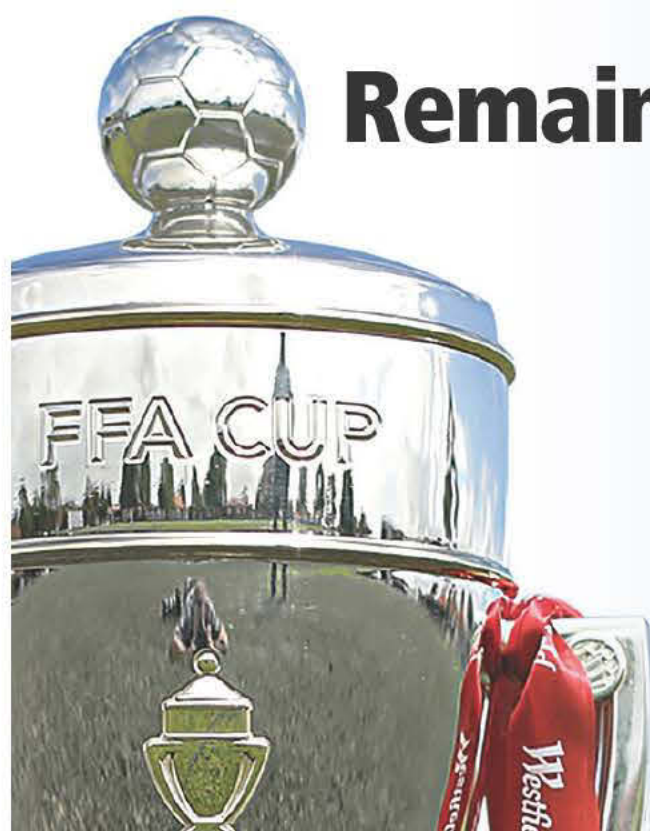


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By George Stavroulakis



## FFA Cup

## Remaining FFA Cup Round 4 Fixtures

#TUESDAY 16TH APRIL

**St George Saints Football Club** v SD Raiders Football Club – 5Sports Caringbah – 7:45pm  
**Lugarno FC** v Killarney District Soccer Club – Valentine Sports Park 2 – 8pm  
**Gerrigong Breakers Football Club** v Sutherland Sharks FC – Ian McClennan Park – 8:30pm

#WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL

**Lindfield FC** v Sydney Olympic FC – Charles Bean Sports Ground –  
**Umina United** v Forest Killarney Football Club – Pluim Park – 7:30pm  
**Banksia Tigers Football Club** v Mount Druitt Town Rangers FC – St George Stadium – 7:30pm  
**Dulwich Hill Football Club** v Wollongong Olympic FC – Valentine Sports Park 3 – 7:45pm  
**Inter Lions FC 1983** v Hakoah Sydney City East FC – Valentine Sports Park 2 – 7:30pm

#WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY

**Terrigal United Football Club** v Blacktown City FC – Pluim Park – 7:30pm  
**Berkeley Vale** v APIA Leichhardt Tigers FC – Pluim Park 1 – 7:30pm

## A-League v2 edges closer...

**The breakaway** A-League v2.0 came a step closer this morning with Football Federation Australia endorsing the recommendations of the New Leagues Working Group.

**The FFA** have accepted the group's finding but warns there is still plenty of negotiating ahead as they greenlight the next stage of talks.

**The new** deadline of June 30 has been confirmed with the intention of having the new body – which will also oversee the W-League and Y-League – in place for the start of next season.

**But the** process has been complicated with Brexit-style deals needing to be made to unlock the A-League structure from the FFA governance model of the past 15 years.

**Today FFA** chairman Chris Nikou appointed directors Crispin Murray and Joseph Carrozzi to oversee the next stage of talks, with the help of members of the FFA senior management team, including CEO David Gallop.

**“Endorsement of the NLWG Recommendations was, in the directors' view, in the best interests of FFA,”** Nikou said.

**“This is** the beginning of the journey and we must all work together and continue to participate in negotiations regarding a new professional leagues model.

**“The recommendations** of the NLWG will be considered during negotiations, but there is still plenty to discuss and negotiate.

**“The adoption** of any new professional leagues model and agreement to enter into any legal agreements to give effect to such a model would be a matter for the FFA Board's subsequent decision.”

**The FFA** said recommendations of the NLWG will now pass to the Member Federations and Women's Football Council Members appointed by Member Federations for their endorsement.

**An FFA** statement added: "It is envisaged that formal negotiations regarding the leagues governance model will commence thereafter with a targeted completion date of 30 June 2019."

## Rockdale City Suns - Sydney Olympic FC 2-1

**Rockdale City** Suns secured their second win of the season over a 10-man Sydney Olympic at Illinden Sports Centre on Sunday evening.

**A goal** to Khanh Hoon Cho and a penalty to Patrick Savor cancelled Olympic's lone goal from Dimi Petratos to secure the victory for the home side.

**The win** was crucial to the Suns campaign after the departure of coach Paul Reid earlier in the week.

**Both teams** looked competitive in the opening stages of the match, with opportunities culminating at each end of the field.

**Olympic suffered** a big blow in the 21st minute, when Hagi Gligor was forced off the field with an injury.

**The visitors** took another hit just minutes later as their star striker Alex Sanchez was also forced to hit the sheds with an injury.

**Things went** from bad to worse for the boys in blue as Nikola Kuleski was ejected from the game, after receiving his second yellow of the night for his verbal exchange with referee Craig Fisher in the 45th minute.

**The first** half departures weren't enough to keep Olympic down, with the visitors coming out firing after the break with only 10 men.

**Petratos was** the star for Olympic in the opening moments of the second stanza, playing off a stellar ball from Tom Whiteside to score the opener.

**He weaved** his way through the field to tap the ball out of reach of a diving Bradasevic and send a shot into the back of the net in the 49th minute.

**The equalizer** came in the 65th minute for the Suns, with Cho making a speedy run in behind Olympic to send the ball out of Henderson's reach and into the net.

**Rockdale continued** to mount pressure of the visitors late in the second half and took the lead in the 83rd minute after being awarded a penalty from a challenge between Olympic defender Mitchell Stamatellis and Rockdale attacker Alec Urosevski.

**Patrick Savor** stepped up to the spot and sent his penalty

shot past Henderson to take the home side to two and secure all three points from the game.

**Interim head** coach Nick Porreca was happy to secure the win and hoped his team could use it as momentum moving forward.

**“Hopefully we** can kick on from here,” he explained.

**“It was** a lot of pressure from the whole club.

**“It was** a good win on Wednesday night in the FFA Cup and today, so I think now we can kick on from here.”

**Olympic coach** Abbas Saad was disappointed to lose three crucial players during the game but was pleased with his side's effort to stay competitive despite being a man down.

**“They tried** their heart out with 10 players,” he said.

**“We still** had chances to score.

**“We've just** got to re-group and other players get their opportunity to come into the team and join the form.”

**Match Stats**

**Rockdale City** Suns 2 (Khang Hoon Cho 65', Patrick Savor 85')

**Sydney Olympic** FC 1 (Dimi Petratos 49')

**Sunday 14th** April, 2019

**Illinden Sports** Centre

**Referee:** Craig Fisher

**Sydney Olympic** FC: 1. Paul Henderson, 2. Thomas Whiteside, 4. Mitchell Stamatellis, 6. Nikola Kuleski, 7. Will Angel, 8. Jason Madonis, 10. Harris Gaitatzis, 11. Jinya An, 14. Alex Sanchez (25. Dimi Petratos (22. Michael Gaitatzis)), 24. Hagi Gligor (17. Jack Stewart), 33. Nikolas Tsattlios

**Substitutes Not Used:** 20. Ezequiel Consoni, 23. Troy Danaskos,

**Yellow Cards:** Nikola Kuleski 35' 46', Dimi Petratos 33', Mitchell Stamatellis 83', Will Angel 93'

**Red Cards:** Nikola Kuleski 46'

**3** – Michael Neill

**2** – Harris Gaitatzis

**1** – Khang Hoon Cho

**Written by Madeline Ri**