

ROUND 8 REVIEW NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

Once again, the latest round of the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition has tossed up some unpredictable results.



Gladesville Ryde Magic remain perched at the top of the table but there were a few results which affected the league standings of the chasing pack. Stanmore Hawks and Camden Tigers played out a game for the neutral with the contest ending at 3-3 at Arlington Oval on Saturday night; SD Raiders triumphed 2-0 against Hawkesbury City at Ernie Smith Reserve; Bankstown United enjoyed a 1-0 win over Granville Rage at Jensen Park; Bankstown City put five past Sydney University as they registered a 5-1 victory away at Sydney University Football Ground; Dunbar Rovers enjoyed a fruitful return from Orange as they defeated Western NSW Mariners 3-1 at Sir Jack Brabham Park while Inter Lions posted a 4-2 win against Dulwich Hill at Valentine Sports Park on Sunday night. Football NSW made the trip to Christie Park on Saturday night to see how the league leaders Gladesville Ryde Magic would respond against Parramatta FC after they were dealt their first loss of the campaign last time out.

GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC 1 PARRAMATTA FC 0

Gladesville Ryde Magic grinded out a tight 1-0 win against Parramatta FC on a chilly Saturday night out at Christie Park. In a match where opportunities were few and far between, it took one flash of brilliance to ensure that the hosts ran away with the three points. **The visitors** started the brighter of the two sides with the striking pair of Ahmad Elrich and Justin Micallef putting the Magic defence on notice in the opening ten minutes. **Magic produced** their first effort through Rosario Occhipinti after the marksman linked up with fellow attacker Chris Triantis. **Great interplay** between Occhipinti and Chris Tomaras stirred up plenty of danger in the Parramatta penalty area with Khalid Allybokus stepping in with a last-ditch clearance to prevent his side from going behind at the quarter hour mark. **There were** very few opportunities and chances of note for the remaining thirty minutes of the first half, with much of the play taking place in the center of the pitch with the ball camped out in the midfield. **Aside from** a powerful shot from Occhipinti which sailed agonisingly close over Parramatta's crossbar, 0-0 at half time was a fair reflection on events.

The second half began with a bang as the hosts took the lead through Tomaras after the number 10 slotted it past keeper Stefan Giglio after he latched onto a hopeful long ball from defence. **Some more** intelligent link up play from Magic between Tomaras and captain Chris Gaitatzis forced a parry from Giglio with a golden opportunity falling to Occhipinti however the inform striker amazingly failed to convert his chance from point blank range. **The home** side had another chance on the hour mark through Triantis after he smashed the ball over the crossbar after Gaitatzis' cut back from the byline found him in space on the edge of the opponent's six-yard area. **The Gladesville** captain had an opportunity of his own with just over ten minutes to go when his effort stung the palms of the Parramatta shot stopper. **With 10** minutes to go and the score line still swinging in favour of the hosts it was only natural that they pushed forward in search of the elusive goal. **However, their** many attempts led to no end product and it was Magic who were able to expose the Parramatta's thin defence in the closing exchanges. **Jordan Barrett** was unfortunate not to put the game to bed after his side footed effort beat Giglio before also going just wide of the right-hand corner of the goal. **Barrett continued** to test Giglio's resolve and an inspired

double save from the Parramatta keeper only two minutes later ensured that the substitute would not find his way onto the score sheet in this contest. **Parramatta did** manage to shape one last chance via Zac Watters as the striker's volley from the right-hand corner of the 18-yard area flashed across Magic's penalty area in the dying moments of injury time. **National Premier** League's 3 NSW Men's **Round Eight** **Saturday, April 27, 2019**
GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC 1 (Tomaras 47')
PARRAMATTA FC 0
GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC; 2.C.Newton, 4.A.Khan, 6.Z.Kolundzic(15.K.Nikas 45'), 9.C.Gaitatzis (capt), 10.C.Tomaras, 11.C.Triantis(16.J.Barrett 70'), 12.A.Jolly, 13.B.Kerr, 14.A.Mickael, 18.R.Occhipinti(8.P.Voukidis 76'), 33.K.Tohouroglou.
Substitutions Not Used – 1.G.Koliomihos.
Yellow Cards – 18.R.Occhipinti 54'.

STANMORE HAWKS FC – CAMDEN TIGERS FC 3-3

Camden Tigers clawed their way back from 3-0 down to record a 3-3 draw in their thrilling encounter with Stanmore Hawks at Arlington Oval on Saturday night. **A dominant** first half display saw Stanmore open the scoring after 16 minutes through captain Jovan Blagojevic while Peter Yannopoulos added a second eight minutes later. **Blagojevic scored** his side's third goal of the evening early in the second half and the Hawks would have thought that they could remain in cruise control for the remainder of the contest with such a score line. **However, a** spectacular comeback from the Tigers saw the Hawks forfeit their three-goal advantage. **Mitchell Brooker** reduced the deficit with his effort on the 57th minute mark before Dayne Morley scored his side's second of the evening while Eric Mcguire's strike with 15 minutes left on the clock restored parity and ensured that the visitors got an unlikely share of the spoils.

➔ Diego Castro wins Alex Tobin Medal

Perth Glory playmaker Diego Castro has pipped Milos Ninkovic and Roy Krishna for the Alex Tobin Medal in the last game of the 2018/19 regular season. **Castro was** tied with Sydney FC's Ninkovic on 25 points going into tonight's game against Krishna's Wellington Phoenix. **But a** goal by Castro in the 5-0 rout of Phoenix at HBF Park saw the Spaniard pick up Man of the Match honours and the three points to grab the award. **The 36-year-old** is the first A-League player to win the medal twice. **A winner** of the 2015-16 Johnny Warren Medal, Castro scored seven goals this season and signed a two-year contract extension with Glory earlier this week after another impressive campaign pulling the strings for the attack. **Isaias (Adelaide United)** and Kosta Barbarouses (Melbourne Victory) rounded out the top five. Medal points are awarded 3,2,1 for matchday performances. **Krishna, who** was sitting on 24 points, was rested in the first half of tonight's match and had little opportunity to close the gap. **But the** Fijian international picked up the coveted Golden Boot award with 18 goals, beating out Sydney FC's Adam Le Fondre who finished his first campaign in the A-League with 16 to his name.

