

L NSW MEN'S



campaign but the win against rivals APIA could be a turning point for Abbas Saad and his players.

At home Marconi will be favourites for this clash but an Olympic side at full strength will be tough to beat.

Mount Druitt Town Rangers v Sutherland Sharks, 7pm Saturday at Popondetta Park

It may be a little premature to talk about this game being a battle of the cellar dwellers but Mount Druitt Town Rangers clash against Sutherland Sharks at Popondetta Park on Saturday has all the makings of a thrilling encounter.

Both team's come into this clash after holding league leaders Marconi and Wollongong to draws last round.

Sutherland claimed a very credible 2-2 result against top team Wollongong Wolves while Mt Druitt were held to a thrilling 3-3 draw against Marconi.

Toufic Alameddine was again a star performer for Mt Druitt in his second game back from injury and is sure to remain a key part of the Rangers line-up in weeks to come.

Sutherland have not tasted victory in seven weeks and will have earmarked this clash as a perfect opportunity to break their winless

streak.

Former A-League star midfielder Matteo Poljak made a late cameo for Sutherland last week. Expect Terry Palapanis to use him a more featured role when he is back to full fitness.

Rising star Quivi Fowler also made a late cameo as he too completed his return from injury.

Despite their struggles this season, Sutherland and Mt Druitt have shown glimpses of what they are capable of and will be wanting to put on a show this Saturday night.

Wollongong Wolves v Blacktown City FC, 3pm Sunday at WIN Stadium

League leaders Wollongong Wolves can stretch their undefeated streak to nine games with victory against Blacktown City at WIN Stadium on Sunday.

Luke Wilkshire's side escaped with a draw thanks to a spectacular diving scorpion kick goal from Nikola Djordjevic against bottom side Sutherland Sharks that gained national attention on social media.

However, Wollongong's result still allowed them to stretch their lead at the top of the competition to four points.

Wilkshire has had the luxury of keeping a constant lineup each week and few, if

any, changes are likely for the game against Blacktown.

City travel to Wollongong after a frustrating 1-0 loss to Rockdale City Suns.

A lack of goals has been an issue for Blacktown this season however a watertight defence has kept them in the running for finals football.

Mark Crittenden may look to shake up his attack this week after failing to hit the back last week.

A trip to Wollongong is always a tough away game and no more so than now while the Wolves are at the top of their game.

Blacktown will need a big bounce back performance in what is sure to be a hard fought encounter.

Rockdale City Suns FC v Manly United FC, 4.30pm Sunday at Ilinden Sports Centre

Interim boss Nick Porecca will hope to inspire his Rockdale City Suns side to their fourth straight league win when they host Manly United at Ilinden Sports Centre on Sunday.

Porecca has helped transform Rockdale back into a finals contender after the side battled through horror run of results to start the season which cost former coach Paul

Reid his job.

The Suns have looked like a different side in their last three matches with more discipline in both attack and defence.

Injury has plagued Rockdale this season but they are slowly returning to full strength with Panny Nikas' comeback from injury the one Suns' fans are anticipating the most.

Alec Urosevski has been kept in cotton wool as he recovers from a groin injury but his impact off the bench, including last week's match winner, has been a big part of Rockdale's recent success. a return to the starting lineup is surely imminent.

Manly have climbed back into the top five and will be determined to stay there with another win.

While a late own goal helped them past Hakoah last round, United have been flying under the radar with solid performances this season to remain in contention for the finals.

Manly coach Paul Dee has been fairly consistent with his selections so far and using Nikola Taneski and Charles Mendy as weapons off the bench.

Expect an exciting clash with a spot in the top five going on the line.

Sydney United 58 FC v Hakoah Sydney City East FC, 5pm Sunday at Sydney United Sports Centre

Sydney United 58 will be looking to add to Hakoah Sydney City East's struggles when they face off at Sydney United Sports Centre on Sunday.

The 5-0 loss to Marconi has been long forgotten by United 58 as they've climbed up to third position with a run of much improved performances.

Peter Simonoski has been a major addition to Miro Vlastelica's squad with five goals in two games after his return from injury.

Uruguayan Sebastian Gallegos had his best game in a Sydney United jersey last week against Sydney FC and has gone a step further to cement his spot as a must start player.

Hakoah has gone off the boil after a strong start to the campaign and coach Gavin Rae will be doing everything he can to return the team to winning ways.

Last week's defeat to Manly after Hakoah scored a late own goal was a heartbreaking result and is sure to have had a big hit to team confidence.

Amaury Gauthier's return to the point of the attack has given Hakoah some extra bite back when they go forward and Rae would likely be looking to feed the frontman as much as possible.

Shohel Okuna is another man to keep an eye on with his dribbling skills able to open up a game and create chances for Hakoah.

United 58 will be favourites at home but Hakoah have the formula to frustrate opponents and could be able to pull off an upset.