

ROUND 9 PREVIEW

NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

Several blockbuster ties await us in round nine of the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition with the league leader's credentials set to be put under the spotlight. The round kicks off in the eastern suburbs of Sydney at 3pm before two fixtures take place later that afternoon; three more matches will commence at 7pm that night while the sole encounter on Sunday night will conclude round nine.



Last week's defeat to SD Raiders came at an even greater cost for the Hawks as key personnel succumbed to injuries throughout that encounter.

Parramatta arrive into this contest after four straight defeats which has left them in second last on the league table.

A spirited showing against league leaders Gladesville Ryde Magic would have acted as a small boost for the Eagles and if they are able to replicate such a performance this weekend then they could be in with a good shout for claiming the win on Saturday.

Strugglers Western NSW Mariners play host to Bankstown City FC at Proctor Park this Saturday with proceedings set to get

underway from 5:30pm.

A controversial red card for Western in last weekend's match against Dunbar forced a back to the walls performance from the home side and despite the loss there were plenty of positives to take away as well as lessons learnt for Mark Rooke's side.

Opponents Bankstown have been riding a wave of late with three convincing wins on the trot which has seen them score a standout 14 goals in the process.

They will be relishing the trip to Bathurst as they prepare to face the leakiest defence in the competition.

A highly entertaining clash is set to take place at Arlington Oval as Stanmore Hawks

FC go to battle against Gladesville Ryde Magic at 7pm on Saturday night.

The Hawks will still be reeling from their surprise 3-3 draw to Camden last round which saw them give away a three-goal lead. **They will** need to be switched on for the whole 90 minutes this time around and be hoping that their leading goalscorer Peter Yannopoulos has his shooting boots on this weekend.

Saturday's visitors returned to business last week at home when they registered a slim 1-0 win over Parramatta however a trip to Arlington Oval could see them come unstuck with Arlington becoming somewhat of a fortress for Stanmore.

Granville Rage will be looking to return to winning ways when they welcome Camden Tigers FC to Garside Park at 7pm on Saturday night.

Week In, week out Granville have been apart of the lowest scoring fixtures. They have found goals hard to come by with six goals from their first six games however they can be proud of the fact that they have conceded only eight times throughout those matches.

All seemed lost for Camden in last week's contest against the Hawks but an inspiring second half performance saw them share the points and they will no doubt enter this clash with plenty of confidence.



Round 5 Results

Berkeley Vale	APIA Tigers* 1-3 (1-2)
Coledale Waves	Wollongong Wolves* 0-11 (0-5)
*Dulwich Hill	Tarrawanna Blueys 3-1 (1-1)
*Hakoah Sydney	Western NSW Mariners 6-0 (4-0)
*Rockdale City Suns	Wollongong United 3-2 (1-1)
*Sydney Olympic	Stanmore Hawks 2-0 (2-0)
*Sydney United	Woonona Sharks 3-0 (2-0)
Terrigal United	Blacktown City* 2-3 (2-1)
West Pennant HC	St George City* 0-4 (0-1)
*Westgate FC	Sydenham Park 4-1 (2-0)
SWQ Thunder	Logan Lightning* 1-3 (1-1)

Simonoski sizzles with Sydney United 58

Sydney United 58's Peter Simonoski has hit the ground running with his new club despite an injury-affected start to the campaign.



Recovering from a stress fracture to the foot suffered in pre-season, the 25-year-old has wasted no time endearing himself to the United faithful; inspiring his side to a couple of vital victories with five goals in two games.

Simonoski captured the headlines with a Round 7 hat-trick on debut against Mt Druitt Town Rangers, before backing up his impressive opening with a brace against Sydney FC at the weekend.

The Wollongong junior is no stranger to finding the back of the net in the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition, having notched an impressive 12 league goals last time out.

This tally led Miro Vlastelica to identify the former Wolves sharpshooter as the man to fill his side's goal scoring void vacated by Chris Payne, who made the move to rivals APIA Leichhardt prior to the 2019 season.

Simonoski revealed that relocating to Edensor was a fairly straightforward decision.

"I personally felt as though I needed a fresh start," he said.

"It was a big moment for me.

"Sydney United 58 are such a huge, historic club, so when they came calling it was an offer I couldn't turn down."

Despite his dream return from injury, Simonoski remains focused on his team's fortunes.

"I worked hard during pre-season to try and keep fit and get back as soon as possible.

"It's been a good start for me, but full credit must go to my teammates who pretty much put the goals on a platter.

"I just want to try and put in good performances week in week out and hopefully help the club as much as I can.

"Two wins on the bounce have been massive for our season."

It was a busy off-season at Edensor Park, with Simonoski joined by Liam Rose and former Uruguayan youth international Sebastian Gallegos as notable incomings to replace the sizeable departures of Payne and Panny Nikas.

Both Simonoski and Gallegos found themselves in the Round 8 Ultra Football Team of the Week; a combination that is sure to excite the United faithful moving forward.

"Seb (Gallegos) has been quality for us, and he's just come back from injury as well," Simonoski said.

"He's a really great player with a lot of skill, ability and experience overseas."

With Sydney United 58 sitting third after eight rounds, four points off top, Simonoski sent out an ominous warning to the competition.

"As a team we go out every week trying to win and set our standards very high.

"We want to take everything out: Grand Final, Minor Premiership and the whole lot; going as far as we can in the Cup as well.

"We're starting to build up some momentum now and with everyone coming back from injuries I'm sure we can step it up some more.

"That is starting to show now with a few wins that we've picked up and hopefully will continue to show in the weeks to come."

United 58 with a red-hot Simonoski leading the line will prove to be a tough prospect for all opponents over the coming weeks, starting with Hakoah Sydney City East who they face at Sydney United Sports Centre on Sunday.