

# ROUND 8 REVIEW

## NPL NSW MEN'S

**Round 9 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Competition is in the books at it Wollongong yet again at the top of the pile.**

The Wolves have stretched their incredible unbeaten run to nine weeks and have been the league leaders from the opening day of the season.

Second placed APIA reversed their recent downturn in form on Saturday night to keep the heat on Wollongong while Sydney United 58 cemented their claim to third spot with a narrow win on Sunday night.

Marconi suffered their first defeat in weeks against a resurgent Sydney Olympic, while Rockdale continue to gather momentum after claiming their fourth straight league win.

With the midway point of the season only two weeks away the pressure is building and the battle for finals spots is only going to get tougher from here.

### SYDNEY FC 1 – APIA LEICHHARDT TIGERS 3 AT LAMBERT PARK

**Chris Payne** helped APIA Leichhardt Tigers return to winning form with two goals in their 3-1 win over Sydney FC on Saturday night.

**Payne scored** either side of halftime before setting up Franco Parisi for APIA's third.

**Benjamin Koop** came on late to score a consolation goal for the hosts.

**The Tigers** were made to work for their win, with Ivan Necevski putting in a particularly impressive performance between the sticks.

**The result** keeps APIA in second position only ahead of Sydney United 58 on goal difference

### MARCONI STALLIONS 1 – SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 AT MARCONI STADIUM

**An Alejandro** Sanchez brace has helped Sydney Olympic put an end to Marconi's four game unbeaten run with a 3-1 victory at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

**Sanchez was** in inspired form for the reigning champions to help Olympic to consecutive wins for only the second time this season.

**It appeared** as if Marconi were on their way to another high scoring performance when Anthony Frangie gave the home side the lead inside two minutes.

**However, Sanchez** struck back immediately for Olympic

before finding the back of the net again midway through the second half to give his side the lead.

**Nikola Kuleski** wrapped up the result in the dying stages with a sublime free-kick to condemn Marconi to their first defeat in over a month.

### MT DRUITT TOWN RANGERS 1 – SUTHERLAND SHARKS 1 AT POPONDETTA PARK

**Mt Druitt** has fought back to claim a valuable point in a 1-1 draw against Sutherland Sharks at Popondetta Park on Saturday night.

**Mount Druitt** again showed they are meant for this level, as the home side matched it with Sutherland equalising with a moment of magic from Fabricio Fernandez on the hour mark.

**The Rangers** couldn't find the vital second goal to avoid back-to-back draws.

**For Sutherland** Sharks, it was a missed opportunity to get themselves off the bottom of the ladder. Jeremy Cox drilled home the opener, as the visitors held sway for the first half but much like the home side, their finishing deserted them.

### WOLLONGONG WOLVES 4 – BLACKTOWN CITY 0 AT WIN STADIUM

**Wollongong Wolves** turned on the style to fire past Blacktown City with a 4-0 victory at WIN Stadium on Sunday.

**A brace** from leading scorer Thomas James and goals to



Taylor McDonald and Nicholas Litter helped the Wolves to their first win over Blacktown City since June 2010.

**The win** ensures Luke Wilkshire's side maintain their four-point lead at the top of the 2019 National Premier League NSW Men's ladder

**For Blacktown** it was a tough day at the office as they continued their struggles in front of goal before falling away defensively in the second half.

### ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 2 – MANLY UNITED 1 AT ILINDEN SPORTS CENTRE

**Rockdale City** Suns incredible midseason turnaround has added another chapter with a 2-1 comeback win against Manly United at Ilinden Sports Centre on Sunday.

**It was** Rockdale's fourth straight league win and sixth overall since interim boss Nick Porecca took charge of the Suns helping lift them into the top five for the first time since round two.

**A brilliant** solo effort from Manly's Brendan Cholakian gave the visitors the perfect start but it wasn't to be as the home side found their rhythm in the closing stages of the first half when Jordan Figon levelled the score.

**A brilliant** header from Sasa Macura midway through the second half wrapped up the win for Rockdale and a vital three points.

### SYDNEY UNITED 58 2 – HAKOAH SYDNEY CITY EAST 0 AT SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE

**Sydney United** 58 recorded a 2-0 win over Hakoah Sydney City East in the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's at Sydney United Sports Centre on Sunday

**United forced** their way above Sydney Olympic into third spot thanks to a cracking strike from the dead ball by Matthew Bilic while Glen Trifiro wrapped up the result in the dying stages of the clash with a goal to secure the 2-0 win.

**The loss** means Hakoah remain in ninth spot and extending their winless run to six matches.

## ➔ ROUND 9 REVIEW – NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

**Another slip** up at the top of the table could pave the way for new leaders by the time Wednesday comes around. For the first time since round two we could see a new face at the top of the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition after Stanmore Hawks powered past Gladesville Ryde Magic to put themselves one point behind the league leaders with a game in hand. Dunbar Rovers went down 2-0 to Dulwich Hill at Hensley Athletic Field; Hawkesbury City were on the right end of a 2-1 score line at home to Parramatta at David Bertenshaw Field; Bankstown City triumphed 5-1 over Western NSW Mariners at Proctor Park; Stanmore Hawks' unbeaten run remains intact as they overcame Gladesville Ryde Magic 2-0 at Arlington Oval; Granville Rage and Camden Tigers could not be split as they played out a 0-0 stalemate at Garside Park while SD Raiders recorded a 4-0 victory against Inter Lions at Valentine Sports Park in the final match of the round on Sunday night. This week's match of the round took place at Jensen Park with Football NSW in the stands to see how the midtable clash between Bankstown United and Sydney University would unravel.

## Stanmore Hawks FC – Gladesville Ryde Magic 2-0

**Stanmore Hawks** proved too good for Gladesville Ryde Magic as they recorded a 2-0 win in their encounter at Arlington Oval on Saturday night.

**The Hawks** stepped it up a gear as they inflicted a second defeat on Magic in an entertaining contest which saw chances a plenty for both sides.

**With the scores** locked at 0-0 for most of the encounter, it took a flash of brilliance for the hosts to open the scoring as Conor Quilligan popped up with his first of the night in the 85th minute after a smart pick out from Jovan Blagojevic.

**Stanmore's** second and Quilligan's brace arrived on the stroke of full time after his effort flew into the back of the net following a darting run from right back Timothy Wohlfel whose cross fell perfectly to the attacker.