



By George Stavroulakis

ROUND 10 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

Round 10 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition has arrived with six more thrilling match-ups set to take place this weekend.

The 2019 season is nearly at the mid way point with consistent results vital to securing finals football in August.

Wollongong Wolves come into this next week of fixtures on top of the table and have been there since round one.

They face off against a resurgent Rockdale side this week in the opening clash of the round on Saturday.

Second placed APIA Leichhardt take on finals challengers Manly United in a game which is sure to feature plenty of end to end action.

One of the most captivating games of Round 9 will be Blacktown City hosting Marconi Stallions on Sunday.

There is plenty of feeling between these two sides since the mass defection of Blacktown's stars to join Marconi in the off season.

Closing out the weekend is another derby clash as traditional rivals Sydney United 58 go up against Sydney Olympic.

Wollongong Wolves v Rockdale City Suns, 6pm Saturday at WIN Stadium

Wollongong Wolves will be out to continue

their near flawless season when they host a resurgent Rockdale City Suns at WIN Stadium on Saturday.

Wollongong have gone from strength to strength this season under new coach Luke Wilkshire and it was none more evident than last week's emphatic 4-0 thrashing of Blacktown City.

The Wolves have been in first spot on the table since week one and now have a four point lead over second placed APIA Leichhardt Tigers.

While overall performance and team chemistry have helped Wollongong reach new heights this season, the contribution of league best goalscorer Thomas James can't be overlooked.

James added another two goals to his tally against Blacktown and has been in such good form he is seemingly odds on to find the back of the net in every match he plays. His goal scoring efforts have caught the attention of A-League scouts who are sure to snare the star attacker should he continue his goalscoring spree.

Along with attack the club has also been healthy in defence led by experienced keeper Justin Pasfield and the defensive stars such as Nick Littler, Taylor McDonald and Nikola Djordjevic.

Wilkshire's side have been very lucky in the



NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

Round 9 Results

Sydney United - Hakoah Sydney 2-0
Rockdale City Suns - Manly United 2-1
Wollongong Wolves - Blacktown City 4-0
Marconi Stallions - Sydney Olympic 1-3
Mt Druitt Rangers - Sutherland Sharks 1-1
Sydney FC Youth - APIA Tigers 1-3

Next Games Round 10

11.05.2019
 Sutherland Sharks - Sydney FC Youth
 APIA Tigers - Manly United
12.05.2019
 Blacktown City - Marconi Stallions
 Wollongong Wolves - Rockdale City Suns
 Hakoah Sydney - Mt Druitt Rangers
 Sydney United - Sydney Olympic

Round 8 Table

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	9	21	6	3	0	22	9	13
2	APIA Tigers	9	17	5	2	2	15	10	5
3	Sydney United	9	17	5	2	2	15	14	1
4	Rockdale City Suns	9	16	5	1	3	9	13	-4
5	Sydney Olympic	9	14	4	2	3	19	14	5
6	Marconi Stallions	9	13	4	1	4	19	13	6
7	Manly United	9	13	3	4	2	12	11	1
8	Blacktown City	9	11	3	2	4	7	11	-4
9	Hakoah Sydney	9	7	2	1	6	7	12	-5
10	Sydney FC Youth	9	7	2	1	6	13	19	-6
11	Mt Druitt Rangers	9	7	1	4	4	14	21	-7
12	Sutherland Sharks	9	6	1	3	5	8	13	-5

injury stakes so far this campaign with the former Socceroos star able to name an almost unchanged side each week.

Their opponents Rockdale come into this match on a massive upswing in form winning six of their last six games including four straight league matches.

It was a very different story for the Suns only a month ago with coach Paul Reid sacked after a run of horror results and an injury toll which had sidelined a number of the clubs biggest stars.

Interim coach Nick Porecca has helped Rockdale's players rediscover their confidence and make the most of their abilities on the park as they did in last round's comeback 2-1 win against Manly United.

Panny Nikas made his long awaited return to the team against Manly with a cameo appearance off the bench while Jordan Figon scored his first goal of the season after a difficult start to the campaign.

Alec Urosevski also made a return to the starting lineup after being eased back into the team following a chronic groin injury.

Veteran defenders Brayden Sorge and Trent McClenehan remain two big names who are still sidelined but are edging closer to a return.

Wollongong has always been a tough road trip and the Wolves form will only make this away match tougher than ever for Rockdale.

Expect a tough game between two teams who are sure to be a fixture come finals time.

Sutherland Sharks v Sydney FC, 6.30pm Saturday at Seymour Shaw

Sutherland Sharks will have a chance to fight their way off the bottom of the ladder when they host Sydney FC at Seymour Shaw on Saturday.

It has been eight games without a win for a Sutherland team struggling to find form.

Back to back draws have been a sign of improvement for the Terry Palapanis coached side but they still have a long way to go if they're to be anything more than the league's whipping boys.

One player that may make his Sharks debut is big tall attacker Charles Lokolingoy. Ironically Charles played for Sydney FC as well as the Brisbane Roar in the A-League before being snapped up by the Shire team - his return to Seymour Shaw, an ex-player of the Sharks, may spark up a much needed revival for Palapanis and co.

Their opponents Sydney FC have had their own flashes of brilliance this season but not enough to lift them out of the bottom half of the table.

The Young Sky Blues sit only one point ahead of last placed Sutherland and could drop to the bottom of the pile with a loss on Saturday.

It has been a mixed campaign for Jim van Weeren and his team of future stars with their ability to perform for the full 90 minutes costing