



By George Stavroulakis

ROUND 13 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

Round 13 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition has arrived and another six blockbuster matches are on the menu.

Wollongong Wolves have served up a near perfect season so far and will be out to make it 13 weeks on top of the table when they host second placed APIA Leichhardt this week

The Tigers will be hungry to knock their South Coast rivals from their perch in what is the biggest match of the round.

However, fans won't be battling for scraps across the weekend's other games with a football feast on offer including grudge matches between Marconi Stallions and Rockdale City Suns as well as Sydney United 58 and Blacktown City.

Sydney FC v Manly United FC, Saturday 1pm at Lambert Park

Three wins on the trot will be the goal for Sydney FC this weekend when the host Manly United FC at Lambert Park on Saturday afternoon.

Hard fought wins against Sydney Olympic and Hakoah Sydney City East has the confidence brimming over for the Young Sky Blues.

And with the pressures of the club's A-League and Asian Champions League commitments done, NPL team coach Jimmy van Weeren will have a near full strength side at his disposal once again.

Luke Ivanovic and Joel King's return has given Sydney FC a boost while goalkeeper Thomas Heward-Belle is doing his chances of a full-time A-League call up no harm thanks to a run of incredible performances between the sticks.

Hamish Lambertson and Jerry Skotadis are another two who have been key players in recent weeks as Sydney has lifted themselves from the bottom of the ladder to only two games outside finals football.

However, this week they will need to do so without defender Liam McGing who has made



NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

Results 12 round

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

Next Games Round 13

01.06.2019
 Sydney FC Youth - Manly United
02.06.2019
 Wollongong Wolves - APIA Tigers
 Sydney Olympic - Mt Druitt Rangers
 Rockdale City Suns - Marconi Stallions
 Hakoah Sydney - Sutherland Sharks
 Sydney United - Blacktown City

Round 11 Table

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	12	27	8	3	1	29	11	18
2	APIA Tigers	12	24	7	3	2	23	15	8
3	Sydney United	12	21	6	3	3	19	20	-1
4	Blacktown City	12	20	6	2	4	13	12	1
5	Rockdale City Suns	12	20	6	2	4	13	17	-4
6	Manly United	12	17	4	5	3	16	16	0
7	Sydney Olympic	12	15	4	3	5	22	21	1
8	Sydney FC Youth	12	14	4	2	6	18	22	-4
9	Marconi Stallions	12	13	4	1	7	22	21	1
10	Sutherland Sharks	12	11	2	5	5	13	15	-2
11	Mt Druitt Rangers	12	10	2	4	6	19	29	-10
12	Hakoah Sydney	12	7	2	1	9	8	16	-8

the move to Sutherland Sharks. It will force a reshuffle at the back for van Weeren.

Their opponents Manly United will be desperate to bounce back after going down 4-0 at the hands of league leaders Wollongong on Sunday.

Manly has struggled for consistency this season an appeared to be on the right track before last week's heartbreaking defeat.

Expect a bit of a reshuffle from coach Paul Dee as he attempts to tighten his defence as well as get the most out of his extremely talented but under performing front line.

Wollongong Wolves v APIA Leichhardt Tigers, Saturday 6pm at WIN Stadium

Top spot goes on the line as league leaders Wollongong Wolves play host to second placed APIA Leichhardt Tigers at WIN Stadium on Saturday night.

It is building to be a real clash of the titans with this fixture likely set to play a big part in deciding who claims the Premiership.

Wollongong come into the game firing on all cylinders after dismantling Manly United 4-0 last week and Marconi Stallions 3-1 in Round 11.

It has been the perfect return to form for the Luke Wilkshire coached team after they suffered

their first defeat of the campaign in Round 10 against Rockdale.

Thomas James remains the primary threat to opposition defences with the UK born striker going from strength to strength after yet another Team of the Week selection.

Former Western Sydney Wanderers front man Lachlan Scott has proven to be the perfect foil for James and was on the scoresheet last week against Manly.

Hoping to stop Wollongong's free-scoring attack will be an APIA side which has seemingly overcome their own mid season struggles.

A 4-2 win against Marconi last week was the perfect tonic for the Tigers coming into this weekend's blockbuster clash.

Squad depth has proven to be a major curse for APIA coach John Calleja this campaign and while he has a full contingent of fit players to pick from expect the side to do well.

However, injuries took their toll earlier in the campaign and could do so again if the club doesn't bolster their stocks.

Backup keeper Blake Tuxford departed the club during the week so expect to see usual starter Ivan Necevski to feature once again in the line-up.

Franco Parisi has wound back the years this season after returning to a more prominent role under Calleja. His experience will be vital in helping the Tigers in such a big match.

Also keep an eye out for in form winger Corey