

Round 13 Review - NPL 3 NSW Men's

And just like that, we've ticked over the halfway point of the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition.

The competition is seriously starting to heat up and we are finally starting to get an idea of who will and won't make the cut when finals football comes knocking down the line. Inter Lions registered a comprehensive 5-1 victory away to Western NSW Mariners at Proctor Park; Hawkesbury City and Dulwich Hill took a share of the spoils as they drew 1-1 at David Bertenshaw Field; Stanmore Hawks recorded the same score line at home to Bankstown United; Sydney University punished Granville Rage with an emphatic 6-0 victory away from home; Bankstown City escaped with a 5-2 win against Dunbar Rovers in a high scoring affair at Jensen Park while Camden Tigers beat Parramatta FC 2-1 in their encounter at Ron Dine Stadium. Melita Stadium was the venue for the match of the round this week as high-flying SD Raiders and Gladesville Ryde Magic battled it out on Saturday night.

SD Raiders 1 Gladesville Ryde Magic 1

Gladesville Ryde Magic ensured a happy return home as they salvaged a draw 1-1 with SD Raiders at Melita Stadium on Saturday night.

A fiery affair between two of the competition's heavyweights made for exciting viewing as two quality outfits went ahead to ahead on a brisk Saturday night at Melita Stadium.

The hosts were a threat down the right wing from the outset with pacey number seven Daniel Bittar providing all sorts of



problems for Magic's defence.

Raiders enjoyed the upper hand for the first quarter of the hour and their goal arrived on 16 minutes via none other than Anthony Proia after the lethal front man slotted it through the Magic shot stopper's legs at the near post after being played through by Matias Toro Suazo on the right flank.

A dead ball opportunity for Magic saw them come close to restoring parity only three minutes later as Chris Triantis' free kick on the edge of the box floated just over the crossbar.

The visitors came out of the sheds firing and matched the hosts' intensity for the second half with the passion from both sides clear to see with a host of robust challenges and contentious tackles evident after the restart.

Triantis was at it again for the hosts on the hour mark, when he stung the palms of Raiders' goalkeeper Michael Rutherford with a driven effort from just inside the 18-yard area.

Ben Welch and Proia combined for the hosts on 72 minutes to force quite a stunning double save from the Magic custodian.

Magic's equaliser eventually arrived on the 84th minute and came via the penalty spot after Triantis stepped up and fired the ball into the centre of the goal.

The visitor's penalty came under quite controversial circumstances as substitute Damien Smith was deemed to hand ball in the box. Not only did this lead to the penalty but it also marked the end of the game for the Raiders' man with referee Roberto Mattei issuing a straight red card for the infringement.

The hosts felt hard done by the decision and thought that they may have done enough to regain the lead with three minutes remaining as Daniel Marjanovic's header appeared to strike the arm of Magic's Kosta Nikas.

Their penalty shouts fell on deaf ears and the game ended at one a piece which was enough for Magic to keep Raiders at bay in fourth while they remain in third position.

Match Stats

National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's
SD RAIDERS FC 1 (Proia 16') GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC 1 (Triantis 84' pen.)

GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC; , 33.K.Tohouroglou(gk). 2.C.Newton, 3.S.Tarazona, 4.A.Khan, 5.L.Harte, 6.Z.Kolundzic(15.K.Nikas 67'), 9.C.Gaitatzis(34.M.Suzuki 90'), 11.C.Triantis, 13.B.Kerr, 14.A.Mickael, 18.C.Haddad

Substitutions Not Used - 1.G.Koliomihos, 12.A.Jolly.

Yellow Cards - 9.C.Gaitatzis 67', 11.C.Triantis 70'.

Red Cards - N/A.

Stanmore Hawks FC - Bankstown United FC 1-1

Stanmore Hawks lost ground on first place as they took a share of the points with a 1-1 draw against Bankstown United on Saturday night.

Stanmore opened the scoring on 17 minutes via captain Jovan Blagojevic after the ball fell kindly to him following a rebound off a Bankstown defender.

United restored parity with the last kick of the first half and what a strike it was. Mark Kamara banged it in from 25 yards out after the Hawks defence attempted to rid the danger following a United corner.

Statement from Football Federation Australia re Alen Stajcic

On 19 January 2019 Football Federation Australia (FFA) made the decision to terminate the contract of the Matildas head coach, Alen Stajcic.

Since that time there has been considerable commentary and speculation about why Alen Stajcic's contract was terminated.

FFA by this statement wishes to make clear that Alen Stajcic's contract was not terminated on the basis that he had breached his contract or had engaged in any misconduct. Any inference that has been drawn about these being reasons for Alen's contract termination is wrong. Alen's contract was terminated by FFA exercising

its contractual right of termination by making a pre-agreed payment in lieu of notice. FFA's decision to do this was reached simply because its Board formed the view, following a process undertaken by management, that the Matildas would benefit from a new coach for the FIFA World Cup in France.

FFA acknowledges that some of the speculation about the termination of Alen's contract was caused by statements made by one of its directors, Heather Reid. These statements were not made on behalf of FFA and

did not reflect the decision of the Board or the reasons why it made that decision.

Heather has withdrawn those comments and issued an apology to Alen for having made them.

FFA and Alen in the interests of the Matildas have also agreed to resolve their differences and move forward and neither will be making any further comment on these issues. FFA gratefully acknowledges the significant contribution that Alen has made to women's football in Australia and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

