



By George Stavroulakis

# ROUND 14 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

It's Round 14 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition with another six big matches set for this weekend.

With Wollongong Wolves holding a seven point lead at the top of the table will any challengers be able to close the gap?

The highlight clash of the round is Blacktown City taking on Sydney Olympic on Sunday. Blacktown are on an upward trajectory if current form is anything to go by while Olympic are desperate to revive their stuttering campaign.

This week's fixtures get underway on Saturday night in Mt Druitt as the Rangers host Manly United.

Round 14 features a super Sunday of matches with five games taking place across Sydney and Wollongong.

## Mount Druitt Town Rangers v Manly United FC, Saturday 7pm at Popondetta Park

A big splash in the transfer market this week could help turn around Mt Druitt's form starting with a match against Manly United on Saturday night.

**Veteran Striker** Mirjan Pavlovic has made the move up the M7 from Marconi Stallions to join the Rangers focused purely on finding the back of the net for his new team.

**It is** an injection of class into a struggling Mt Druitt team and shows they are set to put up a fight to retain their spot in the NSW top flight.

**Last week** they claimed a draw against a stuttering Sydney Olympic and will want to build off that result.

**Coach Aidan** Desmond still has issues with a leaky defence but expect the injection of Pavlovic to get opposition sides to sit a little deeper when they play the Rangers.

**Their opponents** Manly United found their scoring touch again as they fought back against Sydney FC to win 3-1.

**Manly has** scored six goals from their last



## NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

### Results 13 round

**Hakoah Sydney** - Sutherland Sharks 1-2  
**Sydney United** - Blacktown City 2-4  
**Rockdale City** Suns - Marconi Stallions 2-5  
**Sydney Olympic** - Mt Druitt Rangers 2-2  
**Wollongong Wolves** - APIA Tigers 4-0  
**Sydney FC Youth** - Manly United 1-3

### Next Round 14

08.06.2019

Marconi Stallions - Sydney FC Youth

09.06.2019

Blacktown City - Sydney Olympic  
 Wollongong Wolves - Sydney United  
 APIA Tigers - Sutherland Sharks  
 Hakoah Sydney - Rockdale City Suns  
 Mt Druitt Rangers - Manly United

### Premier League NSW 1 Table 13 round

|    | Team               | GP | Pts | W | D | L  | GF | GA | +/- |
|----|--------------------|----|-----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1  | Wollongong Wolves  | 13 | 30  | 9 | 3 | 1  | 33 | 11 | 22  |
| 2  | APIA Tigers        | 13 | 24  | 7 | 3 | 3  | 23 | 19 | 4   |
| 3  | Blacktown City     | 13 | 23  | 7 | 2 | 4  | 17 | 14 | 3   |
| 4  | Sydney United      | 13 | 21  | 6 | 3 | 4  | 21 | 24 | -3  |
| 5  | Manly United       | 13 | 20  | 5 | 5 | 3  | 19 | 17 | 2   |
| 6  | Rockdale City Suns | 13 | 20  | 6 | 2 | 5  | 15 | 22 | -7  |
| 7  | Marconi Stallions  | 13 | 16  | 5 | 1 | 7  | 27 | 23 | 4   |
| 8  | Sydney Olympic     | 13 | 16  | 4 | 4 | 5  | 24 | 23 | 1   |
| 9  | Sutherland Sharks  | 13 | 14  | 3 | 5 | 5  | 15 | 16 | -1  |
| 10 | Sydney FC Youth    | 13 | 14  | 4 | 2 | 7  | 19 | 25 | -6  |
| 11 | Mt Druitt Rangers  | 13 | 11  | 2 | 5 | 6  | 21 | 31 | -10 |
| 12 | Hakoah Sydney      | 13 | 7   | 2 | 1 | 10 | 9  | 18 | -9  |

three games but have conceded five, although four arrived in a 4-0 drubbing at the hands of league leaders Wollongong.

**Brendan Cholakian** continues to be the ever constant force for the Northern Beaches side and silencing him goes a long way to holding Manly's attack in check.

**He has** scored seven goals this campaign as well as providing plenty of assists.

**Coach Paul** Dee will have his eye on closing down Mt Druitt's new attacking threat but is surely going to target their paper thin defence.

**This game** could feature goals with both sides capable of putting the ball in the back of the net with ease.

## Blacktown City FC v Sydney Olympic FC, Sunday 3pm at Lily Homes Stadium

**The top** of the table is back within reach and Blacktown City will be driven to close the gap even more with a win against Sydney Olympic FC on Sunday.

**Third placed** Blacktown have hit their straps through the mid season mark and have shook off any doubt in their ability to compete following their off-season player exodus to Marconi.

**The big** secret to Blacktown's reemergence

has been quite simply goals.

**The league's** worst attack for large parts of the opening 11 rounds, Blacktown has rediscovered their shooting boots scoring eight goals in their past two games.

**Blacktown's** also feature a handy defence which boasts the second least number of goals conceded behind only league leaders Wollongong.

**It sets** up a challenging prospect for their opponents Sydney Olympic who are very much in the midst of a Premiership hangover this season.

**The Abbas** Saad coached team sit in eighth spot on the ladder after 13 weeks four points outside fifth spot and goal of finals football.

**While scoring** goals hasn't been an issue for Olympic, it has been stopping the other team which has really held them back.

**Too many** times has Olympic dropped points after taking an early lead.

**The round** three clash between these two sides was one of the games of the season so far with Olympic fighting back late to snatch a point in a 3-3 draw.

**This fixture** really could go anyway but if one thing is for sure it will be a must watch.

**The Blues** will be sweating on the injury to their star Spaniard Alejandro Sanchez who came off injured in last weekend's draw to the Rangers.