



By George Stavroulakis

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Derby day delight for Bankstown United who sent shockwaves across the league as they handed their rivals Bankstown City FC their first defeat in nine games.



The Lions derby disappointment means that they have both Stanmore Hawks and Gladesville Ryde Magic hot on their heels, with only two points the difference between 1st and 3rd place.

Western NSW Mariners fell to a 5-0 defeat in their encounter against Dulwich Hill at Proctor Park; Inter Lions added to Parramatta's woes as they ran out 4-2 winners at Valentine Sports Park; Stanmore Hawks and Hawkesbury City shared the points in a tight 1-1 draw at Arlington Oval; SD Raiders proved too good for Dunbar Rovers as they secured a 2-0 victory at home; Gladesville Ryde Magic enjoyed a reasonably comfortable 2-0 win away to Granville Rage at Garside Park; whilst Camden Tigers comprehensively beat Sydney Uni with 4-1 the final score at Ron Dine Stadium.

The second instalment of the

much-anticipated Bankstown derby did not fail to disappoint with Football NSW in attendance at Jensen Park to see who would claim the bragging rights from the contest.

Stanmore Hawks FC – Hawkesbury City FC 1-1

Stanmore Hawks spurned their chance to go top of the league table after they came from behind to draw 1-1 with Hawkesbury City at Arlington Oval on Saturday night.

Hawkesbury opened the scoring in the 12th minute from Joaquin Velizcoccoco's peach of a free kick – his second goal in consecutive weeks.

Another signature corner routine Alberto Perea Henche provided the home side's equaliser after Oliver Stickland rose highest to head the ball past

Hawkesbury's custodian Daniel Schwarzer.

A controversial call with five minutes left to go saw the away side stripped of a goal after the referee reversed his decision to award it after consultation with the linesman.

The Hawkesbury player was deemed to have handballed the Stanmore keeper's clearance before he powered past the shot stopper and it tucked it away into the open goal.

An unfortunate decision for Dean Bertenshaw's side was almost compounded with the last kick of the game when the woodwork came to his side's rescue after a Stanmore header struck the post.

A point in the end was enough to see Stanmore maintain 2nd position, up to 32 points, while Hawkesbury drop down to 10th on 17 points.

Granville Rage – Gladesville Ryde Magic 0-2

Gladesville Ryde Magic returned from Garside Park with all three points as they overcame Granville Rage 2-0 on Saturday night.

The first of their goals arrived via the boot of Chris Gaitatzis after his long-range strike struck the ground just before reaching the hands of the outstretched Samuel Bortolazzo in goal.

Peter Voukidis doubled his side's lead with a peach of a volley which left Bortolazzo watching on helplessly as it looped over his head into the net.

The visitors kept Rage at bay in the second half as they held onto the 2-goal advantage and kept a highly desirable clean sheet in the process.

The loss sees Granville remain in 12th position on 10 points, whilst Magic keep pace with the top two as they move up to 31 points and hold onto 3rd position.



Andrew Durante joins Western United

Former Wellington Phoenix skipper Andrew Durante has been confirmed as the latest signing for Western United.

Durante, 37, left Phoenix last week and was widely tipped to be joining the A-League new boys for next season under his former Phoenix coach Mark Rudan.

Today the move back to Australia for the veteran defender was finally sealed and reunion also with former Phoenix teammates Filip Kurto and Max Burgess at United.

"Joining a brand-new club is an exciting challenge for me. I'm looking forward to stepping out of my comfort zone and into a new environment where I believe I can add significant value," said Durante.

"First and foremost, I'm keen to get out on the pitch and getting started with the team. The playing squad is looking really strong already. Given my experience, if the club sees value in having me assist the football department, then I'd be proud to help in any way I can.

"Already, the club's vision to be successful has appealed to me, and ultimately, I couldn't pass up an opportunity to move closer to my family."

WUFC Football Director Steve Horvat welcomed the signing. **"It is** fantastic that despite being new, we're able to catch the attention of great people within the industry," he said.

"Attracting influential and talented individuals like Mark Rudan, John Anastasiadis, John Hutchinson, Frank Juric and now Andrew Durante, in the twilight of his career, is a significant testament of the potential of Western United.

"Andrew will be a great asset across all facets of our club from playing and mentoring younger players, helping our football administration plan for expansion, and interacting with our community," Horvat said.