



By George Stavroulakis

# ROUND 16 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

Round 16 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition has arrived and it is sure to be another big week of action around the grounds.

Finals implications are set to impact nearly every match from this point on with every competition point making a difference.

**Wollongong Wolves have been on top of the table for an incredible 15 weeks and will be out to stretch it to 16 when they host reigning premiers Sydney Olympic on Sunday. While there is only one game on Saturday night this week, a clash between Sydney FC and Mt Druitt Town Rangers at Lambert Park, Sunday will be a football feast with five matches taking place. The Match between second placed APIA Leichhardt Tigers and rivals Rockdale City Suns at Ilinden is the pick of the days action.**

## Sydney FC v Mt Druitt Town Rangers, 7pm Saturday at Lambert Park

**Sydney FC** will be out to end a three game skid when they host an in-form Mt Druitt Town Rangers side on Saturday night at Lambert Park.

**Jimmy van Weeren's** side has slumped to defeat in their last three games and will be hoping a return home will help them in their battle to avoid relegation.

**What's even** more concerning for the Young Sky Blues has been how poor they have been defensively over the past three matches conceding 12 goals while only scoring three.

**The loss** of key players Liam McGing and Jerry Skotadis is sure to have had a major impact on Sydney FC's structure in both midfield and defence.

**Against Wollongong** in Round 15, Sydney held strong against the league's best attack during the first half but fell away in the second stanza.

**Van Weeren** will be pushing his players at training this week so they can go the full 90 minutes against Mt Druitt.

**FC's rising** young keeper Thomas Heward-



## NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

### Round 15 Results

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

### Next Games Round 16

**22.06.2019**  
 Sydney FC Youth - Mt Druitt Rangers  
**23.06.2019**  
 Blacktown City - Manly United  
 Wollongong Wolves - Sydney Olympic  
 Rockdale City Suns - APIA Tigers  
 Hakoah Sydney - Marconi Stallions  
 Sydney United - Sutherland Sharks

### Premier League NSW 1 Table 15 round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	15	33	10	3	2	38	13	25
2	APIA Tigers	15	28	8	4	3	26	21	5
3	Blacktown City	15	24	7	3	5	19	17	2
4	Sydney United	15	24	7	3	5	23	26	-3
5	Manly United	15	23	6	5	4	21	19	2
6	Rockdale City Suns	15	23	7	2	6	19	24	-5
7	Sydney Olympic	15	20	5	5	5	26	24	2
8	Marconi Stallions	15	19	6	1	8	32	26	6
9	Sutherland Sharks	15	18	4	6	5	19	19	0
10	Mt Druitt Rangers	15	17	4	5	6	25	32	-7
11	Sydney FC Youth	15	14	4	2	9	21	34	-13
12	Hakoah Sydney	15	7	2	1	12	9	23	-14

Belle has no doubt played a role in keeping the Sky Blues at bay and will need to be at his best on Saturday.

**The Rangers** come into this game with back to back wins and have been unbeaten from their last three matches.

**It has** been a rapid turnaround for the Popondetta Park based side who have struggled at times this campaign to match it with the competition's top teams.

**Mt Druitt** has been active in the transfer market and it appears to have given the team a new vigour.

**Last week's** 2-0 upset of Rockdale City Suns was evidence of this and coach Aiden Desmond will be hoping his side can make it a treble of wins against Sydney.

**Fabricio Fernandez** and John Roberts were the goal scorers last week with the former Wanderer's striker helping give the Uruguayan midfielder a new lease on life.

**Mt Druitt** can be a formidable attacking force on it's day so Sydney will need to be at their best.

**The departure** of Rangers captain Matthew Clowes hasn't had as big of an impact as fans anticipated but the midfield will face a challenging test this week against a young and energetic opponent.

**Mt Druitt** will hold the title of favourite coming into this contest but it very well could go either way.

## Blacktown City FC v Manly United, 3pm Sunday at Lily Homes Stadium

**A shock** defeat last week will have Blacktown City driven to bounce back in a big way when they host Manly United at Lily Homes Stadium on Sunday.

**Blacktown City** were stunned by a resurgent Sharks outfit and would've been shut out completely if it wasn't for a late goal from new recruit Lachlan Campbell.

**Former Western** Sydney Wanderers youth prospect Campbell has been an inspired acquisition from City coach Mark Crittenden and looks like the club's next big star if recent performances are anything to go by.

**Crittenden will** surely lean on the young defender once again this week as they face off against the skilful and pacy attack on Manly United.

**One issue** for City has been the lack of goals and Crittenden hopes both Joey Gibbs and Leroy Jennings can find their way to goal come Sunday.

**Manly United** snatched a narrow 1-0 at home last week and come into this game in solid form with three wins from their past five matches.