



By George Stavroulakis

# ROUND 17 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

It's round 17 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition and with only six weeks to go until the end of the regular season the pressure is mounting with the battle for the Premiership and finals set to go down to the wire.

**This week's fixtures get underway on Saturday night as first placed Wollongong Wolves travel north to take on a resurgent Mt Druitt Town Rangers at Popondetta Park.**

**Sunday will feature five matches starting at Cromer Park as Manly United take on Sutherland Sharks, Round 17 will also feature two big derby matches as Sydney Olympic take on Rockdale City Suns, while Sydney United 58 host Marconi Stallions in the final match of the weekend at Sydney United Sports Centre.**

## Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Wollongong Wolves, 7pm Saturday at Popondetta Park

**A resurgent** Mt Druitt Town Rangers will be hoping to make it four wins on the trot with an upset victory against competition front runners Wollongong Wolves at Popondetta Park on Saturday night.

**They've been** one of the form side's of the competition and one not too many of the top five teams would want to face come the latter stages of the competition.

**The Rangers** have been in inspired form in June with three wins and a draw from their

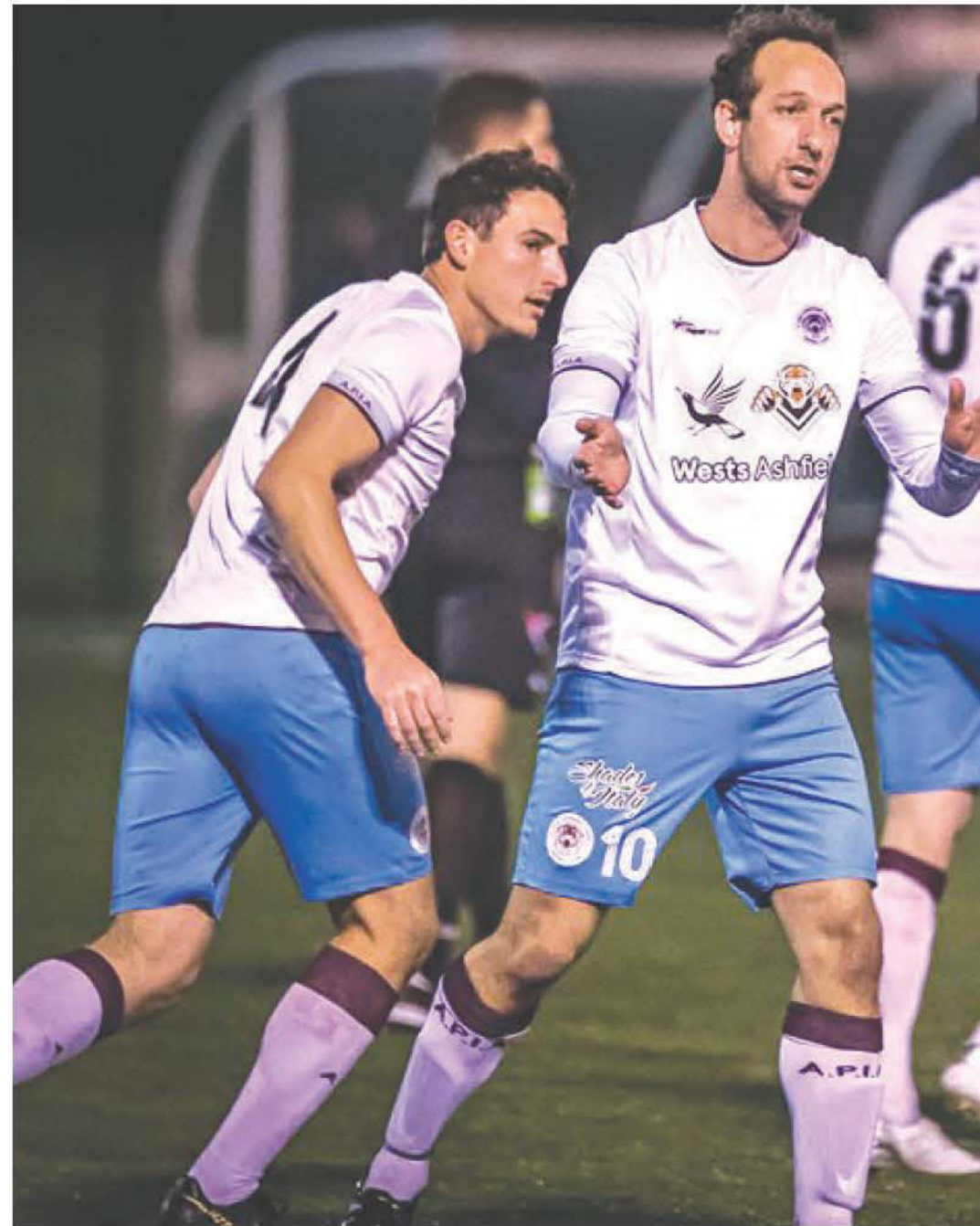
past four matches to move only three points outside of the top five.

**However, the** Aidan Desmond coached side will face a major test against the Wolves who have lost only two games this season and hold a five point lead over second place.

**A mid-season** reshuffle has been a big part of Mt Druitt's recent success with the acquisition of strikers Mirijan Pavlovic and John Roberts helping kick start the Rangers late season run.

**The form** of Uruguayan Fabricio Fernandez has also played a major role and his hat-trick last week against Sydney FC was his best performance of the season.

**Expect Desmond** to give the trio of Pavlovic, Roberts and Fernandez plenty of opportunities to take over the match and challenge a disciplined Wollongong defence.



## NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

### Round 16 Results

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

### Next Games Round 17

**29.06.2019**  
 19:00 Mt Druitt Rangers - Wollongong Wolves  
**30.06.2019**  
 15:00 Blacktown City - Sydney FC Youth  
 15:00 Manly United - Sutherland Sharks  
 15:30 APIA Tigers - Hakoah Sydney  
 16:00 Sydney Olympic - Rockdale City Suns  
 17:00 Sydney United - Marconi Stallions

### Premier League NSW 1 Table 16 round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	16	36	11	3	2	40	13	27
2	APIA Tigers	16	31	9	4	3	31	22	9
3	Blacktown City	16	27	8	3	5	20	17	3
4	Sydney United	16	25	7	4	5	24	27	-3
5	Manly United	16	23	6	5	5	21	20	1
6	Rockdale City Suns	16	23	7	2	7	20	29	-9
7	Sydney Olympic	16	20	5	5	6	26	26	0
8	Mt Druitt Rangers	16	20	5	5	6	30	35	-5
9	Marconi Stallions	16	19	6	1	9	32	27	5
10	Sutherland Sharks	16	19	4	7	5	20	20	0
11	Sydney FC Youth	16	14	4	2	10	24	39	-15
12	Hakoah Sydney	16	10	3	1	12	10	23	-13

**The Wolves** come into the match after defeating Sydney Olympic 2-0 to notch their 11th win of the season

**After years** of failing to live up to their potential, Wollongong has finally delivered and it's taken a rebuild from former Socceroos defender Luke Wilkshire to achieve the highs their fans have been craving for years.

**The goalscoring** of English striker Thomas James has been a big part of their success this season, but last week former Wanderers striker Lachlan Scott chipped in with a brace to prove the Wolves attack is far from one dimensional. **Wollongong's defence** shouldn't go unnoticed either with the unit led by Nick Littler and Nikola Djordjevic along with Taylor McDonald helping their side concede less than a goal a game so far this campaign.

**The two** defeats suffered by the Wolves this season have been at home with the side maintaining a perfect record on the road.

**Saturday's match** against a very much in-form Mt Druitt team could end that record if Wilkshire's Wolves outfit don't come prepared for a battle.

**Wollongong will** be the favourites but if the Rangers last three matches are any to go by, their new attacking trio could prove game changers yet again.

## Manly United v Sutherland Sharks, 3pm Sunday at Cromer Park

**It's been** a roller-coaster season for Manly United and the Northern Beaches based side will be looking to bounce back yet again when they host Sutherland Sharks on Sunday at Cromer Park.

**Inconsistency has** plagued Manly in 2019 with the only constant in their season being their ability to follow a big win with a defeat. **The Paul** Dee coached side has struggled to string together back to back wins and it has hampered their finals chances.

**Manly clung** onto their spot in the top five despite a 1-0 loss on the road against Blacktown City last round.

**Dee has** stayed strong with a familiar line-up for most of the season only rotating his attacking weapons in Dejan Pandurevic, Adam Parkhouse, Scott Balderson, Brad McDonald and Charles Mendy.

**Expect more** of the same against the Sharks. **Sutherland come** into this match on the back of a heartbreaking draw against Sydney United 58 where they conceded in the dying seconds to miss out on a valuable three points.