



By George Stavroulakis

## ROUND 18 PREVIEW NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

The National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition will continue to produce its usual dose of thrills and spills this weekend with Round Eighteen spread over two timeslots, four matches at 7pm on Saturday, whilst the remaining three games will take place at the more traditional kick off time of 3pm on Sunday afternoon.



## MARCONI TO TAKE ON SYDNEY UNITED 58 IN TAFE NSW WARATAH CUP FINAL

Two former National Soccer League giants in the form of the Marconi Stallions and Sydney United 58 will lock horns for this year's first piece of silverware, namely the TAFE NSW Waratah Cup Final to be played on Sunday 14th July, after winning their semi-final matches respectively on Wednesday evening.

**Hensley Athletic** Field played host to the Marconi Stallions and Manly United clash and it was Peter Tsekenis men who put away their inconsistent NPL NSW Men's form with a solid 2-0 victory.

**The first** goal came via the penalty spot in the 17th minute as Richie Cardozo was brought down by youngster Lachlan McGrath, who was deputizing for the suspended Travis Oughtred. Up stepped Marko Jesic who smashed his shot in the top left corner leaving Dylan Mitchell with no chance pushing the Stallions to a 1-0 lead.

**It was** game, set and match in the 72nd minute when a strong James Andrew run saw his shot deflect off a Manly foot to all but assure the Stallions were taking part in a Waratah Cup Final, their first since 2010 where they won it thanks to a 7-6 penalty shootout win over Spirit FC.

**It was** a five-goal thriller across Sydney's West at Edensor Park as Sydney United 58 needed a 90th minute winner to secure their spot in the big dance.

**The game** turned to life in the second half as all five goals were incredibly scored when Patrick Antelmi struck first in the 50th minute after a goal mouth scramble off a Sebastian Gallegos free-kick. Antelmi reacted first to the scene and put the home team in front.

**That lead** lasted till the 61st minute when Saints skipper Hussein Akil scored a great goal that rocked the United 58 defence.

**Antelmi was** at it again in the 74th minute when his near post run was well spotted by Peter Simonoski who drove in a neat ball with the attacker bagging his second of the game.

**Wally Savor's** men just wouldn't let go however and with his first touch, Saints substitute Kevin Lopes banged home yet another equaliser and it was game on once more.

**With the** game destined for extra-time, United 58 threw one last hurrah and it was an incredible Matt Sim long ball that found Peter Simonoski lurking outside the box, with the former Wolves marksman controlling superbly, composing himself finishing off well beyond Anthony Costa's net to book the Reds a ticket to the Cup Final on Sunday 14th of July.

**It will** be an opportunity for Sydney United 58 to clinch their seventh Waratah Cup after taking it out in 1974, 1995, 1996, 2005, 2015 and 2016 – with the possibility of equaling Hakoah Sydney City East's record of seven Waratah Cup triumphs.

**Both teams** have met twice already in the NPL NSW Men's competition with the Stallions smashing United 58 5-0 in their round 6 home clash before both teams played out a scoreless draw in their round 17 encounter at Edensor Park.

**Football NSW** will announce full details of the 2019 TAFE NSW Waratah Cup Final in the coming days.



### League frontrunners,

Stanmore Hawks, will have a tricky match on Saturday night at 7pm when they entertain Dunbar Rovers at 7pm...The Hawks have proven a formidable unit this season, with just the solitary loss across 17 rounds of football. But with Gladesville Ryde Magic and SD Raiders breathing down their neck and within a win of Stanmore, the home side can ill afford a slip up if they wish to remain perched at the top of the ladder. But Dunbar Rovers remain a test for any team on their day, and will always provide an honest showing of themselves. Backing up after a confidence boosting win over Camden Tigers last week, Dunbar find themselves just six points outside the top six, and with plenty to play for. Stanmore's Jovan Blagojevic cancelled out Jacob Sullivan's goal for Dunbar when the two teams met earlier this season in a 1-1 draw, so expect a similar battle royale at Arlington come Saturday night.

**In a** match between two teams who are well and truly in form, Gladesville Ryde Magic battle Bankstown United in what

promises to be an arm wrestle at Christie Park at 3pm on Sunday...With Magic sitting 2nd on 37 points and Bankstown United 5th on 30 points, this clash looms as a real six pointer between two semi final aspirants, both hoping to consolidate their position near the top. Gladesville have now won 4 games on the bounce, and are unbeaten in 8, in a real show of strength as they gear up for a powerful run home. With Tomaras, Triantis and Chris Gaitatzis joined by Dimitrios Sialmas in attack, you can see why any opponent will have to be on their game defensively if they are to take anything away from playing Magic. But Bankstown United will be quietly confident of springing a surprise at Christie Park, they themselves on the back of a run of just one loss in their past 7 matches. With Eros Bergamin pulling the strings in the midfield, and Mitchell Cross consistently finding the net – 16 goals in 16 games is a healthy return in anyone's books – don't be shocked if United walk away with something from Sunday's match.

### NSW Waratah Cup Semi Finals

\*Marconi Stallions - Manly United 2-0 (1-0)

\*Sydney United - St George Saints 3-2 (0-0)