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MARCONI STALLIONS 2019 WARATAH CUP CHAMPIONS

The Marconi Stallions have been crowned 2019 TAFE NSW Waratah Cup champions after a brilliant brace from captain Marko Jesic led the side to a 2-1 win against a ten-man Sydney United 58 at Lily's Football Stadium on Sunday.

It was a brilliant performance from the Stallions who fought back from 1-0 down early on to claim their first top flight trophy since 2012.

It was an absolutely inspired performance from Jesic who scored a stunning header to level the scores at 1-1 going into the half after Simonoski gave United 58 the lead 28 minutes in.

A crude challenge from Matthew Bilic meant he was sent for an early shower midway through the second half with Marconi make

the most of the player advantage.

A penalty kick in the dying minutes secured the win for Marconi with Man of the Match Jesic notching his second from the penalty spot and the Waratah Cup title.

United 58 made a fast start to the game and nearly claimed an early lead.

A sloppy Marconi back pass seven minutes in was pounced on by Simonoski but his effort was saved by Vekic.

The contest was traveling at lightning pace with both sides trading chances early with

the action going from end to end.

After 28 minutes Simonoski found the breakthrough with a perfect volley.

A looping cross into the box found Antelmi but he was unable to control the ball which deflected wide and into the path of the United 58 striker to bury into the back of the net.

Momentum was well and truly on Marconi's side in the closing stages of the half.

Defender Milgate was unlucky not to have given the Stallions the lead in the 41st minute when his looping header was cleared off the line by a well timed Mathew Bilic header.

However, Marconi were not going to be denied in the 44th minute.

Jesic finding the back of the net with an absolute sublime looping header to ensure both sides went into the break locked at 1-1.

United came out of the blocks with intent and Antelmi nearly did the damage when

he hit the post from the edge of the penalty area.

Marconi turned the tables a few moments later as Manos was forced to rush out of his net to deny Jesic.

A mazy run from Andrew sliced through the United 58 defence but he fired high and wide.

Vekic pulled off an incredible diving save in the 65th minute from a curling Sim free-kick

The game took a dramatic turn after 67 minutes when Bilic was sent off after receiving a second yellow card for cutting town Andrew. **With the** man advantage, Marconi pushed to find the lead and were saved more than once by the quick thinking of Manos.

Marconi's pressure finally paid off when they were awarded a penalty after a handball from Adrian Vlastelica.

Jesic stepped up to the spot and fired past the keeper to give the Stallions a 2-1 lead with only 10 minutes left on the board.

United threw everything forward with the clock winding down.