



By George Stavroulakis

ROUND 19 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

After a week off we're back in action in the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition and with the finish line in sight Round 19 is set to be another thrilling week of fixtures.

Marconi Stallions took out the Waratah Cup last week with a hard fought 2-1 win against Sydney United 58, however in the league they are locked in a seven team battle for the remaining two finals spots.

United 58, Sydney Olympic, Manly United, Rockdale City Suns, Sutherland Sharks, Mt Druitt Town Rangers and the Stallions are split by only six points with every single result impacting the playoff picture.

At the competition summit, **Wollongong Wolves** need only two wins from their final four games to secure the Premiership and they could wrap it up should APIA lose.

APIA still hold out hope of a miraculous late run to snatch top spot but they will need to win all four of their remaining games and hope Wollongong drop points in nearly all of theirs.

It's a long shot but crazier things have happened in this competition.

Wollongong Wolves v Sutherland Sharks, 6pm Saturday at WIN Stadium

With one hand already on the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's Premiership trophy, Wollongong Wolves will be out to

move a step closer to a near flawless season with victory against Sutherland Sharks on Sunday.

The **Luke** Wilshire coached outfit has led the league from week one and needs only five points from the remaining four matches to clinch the title.

Finding a way to win when things aren't going their way has been the Wolves secret



NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

Round 18 Results

Blacktown City - APIA Tigers 1-1

Manly United - Sydney Olympic 1-2

Wollongong Wolves - Hakoah Sydney 1-0

Mt Druitt Rangers - Sydney United 0-0

Sydney FC Youth - Rockdale City Suns 3-1

Sutherland Sharks - Marconi Stallions 0-3

Next Games Round 19

20.07.2019

Marconi Stallions - Mt Druitt Rangers

21.07.2019

Wollongong Wolves - Sutherland Sharks

APIA Tigers - Sydney Olympic

Rockdale City Suns - Blacktown City

Hakoah Sydney - Manly United

Sydney United - Sydney FC Youth

Premier League NSW 1 Table 16 round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	18	42	13	3	2	45	14	31
2	APIA Tigers	18	35	10	5	3	35	23	12
3	Blacktown City	18	31	9	4	5	24	19	5
4	Sydney United	18	27	7	6	5	24	27	-3
5	Sydney Olympic	18	26	7	5	6	29	27	2
6	Marconi Stallions	18	23	7	2	9	35	27	8
7	Manly United	18	23	6	5	7	22	27	-5
8	Rockdale City Suns	18	23	7	2	9	21	33	-12
9	Sutherland Sharks	18	22	5	7	6	25	23	2
10	Mt Druitt Rangers	18	21	5	6	7	31	39	-8
11	Sydney FC Youth	18	17	5	2	11	28	43	-15
12	Hakoah Sydney	18	10	3	1	14	10	27	-17

this season. Boasting two of the league's most prolific strikers has also helped the team from the NSW South Coast.

Thomas James and **Lachlan Scott** create major headaches for opposition defences. While it was golden boot leader James who was having the most luck in front of goals at the start of the year, the extra attention he has received from opposition teams in recent weeks has given Scott more time and space to operate.

The Sharks will have their work cut out for themselves this week and come into the game on the back of their first defeat in 10 weeks.

They will also have to do so without star defender **Liam McGing** who has linked up with A-League club **Wellington**.

How Sutherland coach **Terry Palapanis** reshapes his backline in McGing's absence will be vital to their playoff chances.

The Sharks are four points outside the top five and will need to almost win out their remaining games to sneak into the finals.

Sutherland has shown they are a very different team to the one which went 10 games without a win at the start of the season and against Wollongong it will take nothing short of their best.

The Wolves will be favourites for this contest but anything can happen with so much on the line.

Marconi Stallions v Mt Druitt Town Rangers, 7pm Saturday at Marconi Stadium

Newly crowned Waratah Cup Champions Marconi Stallions will be hoping their recent success can kickstart a late run into the finals, starting on Saturday night against Mt Druitt Town Rangers.

Hopefully it is proof the Stallions are finding form at the right time as they remain three points outside the top five and a place in the playoffs.

In league action they have only one win and two losses from their past four matches.

They will once again be without suspended star **Mitch Mallia** who still has two games to serve of his four game ban though **Marko Jesic** has been on absolute fire.

They will take on at Mt Druitt side which remain an outside chance of making the finals in their first season in the NSW state league top flight.

They come into the game on the back of a two game skid after winning their previous four.

Goalkeeper Carlos Saliadarre saved the day against Sydney United 58 in Round 18 to earn himself a spot in the team of the week. If he