



By George Stavroulakis

# ROUND 20 PREVIEW — NPL 3 NSW

The heat is on in the run in towards the Finals series of the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition, with all fourteen teams no doubt beginning to throw caution to the wind as we approach Round Twenty, due to be played this weekend.

**Last weekend** we enjoyed 28 goals across just 6 matches, an indication that some teams won't die wondering, whilst others may display some cracks under pressure, so sit back and enjoy the show as well as more goal mouth action as each club tries to make a positive run home.

**Arlington Oval's tenants in common will do battle for residency bragging rights when Dulwich Hill entertain Stanmore Hawks on Saturday night at 7pm.**

**Dully are** struggling to make any inroads towards the finals, with three losses in their past four outings seeing them drop to 10 points behind 6th place.

**Stanmore on** the other hand are going from strength to strength, now sitting 5 points in front at the top of the league, and have a real belief and plenty of motivation towards winning the title.

**The first** time these two sides met back on April 20, Stanmore prevailed by 2-1. The scorers that day for the Hawks were Jovan Blagojevic and Peter Yannopoulos, who have continued to be instrumental in Stanmore's rise to first position. Blagojevic is currently second of the list of the competition's top goalscorers with 20 goals to his name, whilst Yannopoulos has contributed a healthy 14 goals of his own, and is fifth on the same list.

**On paper** it looks likely to be a Stanmore triumph, however, we all know that derbies are not normal games, and usually dish up the unexpected.

**Footnote: as** in previous years, Dulwich Hill FC have once again chosen to devote a day in the football calendar to supporting the McGrath Foundation, a charity which offers support and assistance to individuals



experiencing breast cancer, as well as their families, and this season it is this week's encounter against Stanmore Hawks. It has been and is a fantastic initiative, and one that the entire football community should and could support in any number of ways. Dulwich Hill will put aside their usual playing strips, and wear a specially made pink playing strip, from the Under 13s fixture right through to the 1st Grade fixture which will kick off at 7pm.

**The day** will be celebrated with a carnival atmosphere, with plenty of food and drink available throughout the day, so let's make sure the football community gets behind a great initiative.

**It is a clash of two of the league's heavyweights at Christie Park for the only match of the round to be**



**played on Sunday, with Gladesville Ryde Magic up against Bankstown City Lions at 3pm.**

**Separated by** a single point on the ladder, with Magic 3rd on 37 points and the Lions 4th on 36 points, this game promises to be a classic as both teams strive to stay in touch with the top two.

**Gladesville Ryde Magic** have hit a bump in the road in the past fortnight, losing two games on the trot and conceding 10 goals in the process, a statistic made all the more remarkable by the fact they had conceded just 23 goals in the preceding 17 games.

**An issue** with the lights at Jensen meant

that Bankstown City had no game last weekend, but they are scheduled to play this fixture against SD Raiders on Wednesday, July 17, meaning a shorter turnaround. Prior to last weekend, the Lions had beaten Camden to snap a losing streak themselves that had extended to three games.

**In the** Round 7 encounter earlier this season, it was Bankstown City who won comfortably to the tune of 4-1 at Jensen Park, so Gladesville will be out to exact some sort of revenge in the return fixture.

**With so** many attacking weapons on either side, and with so much at stake, get out to Christie Park to see some heavy hitters put on a spectacle not to be missed.

## Wanderers FC v Leeds United

The Western Sydney Wanderers will step out on to Bankwest Stadium for the very first time this Saturday 20 July to face iconic English football club Leeds United.

The historic first football game at the Stadium is set to be a celebration of the game with two passionate fan groups going head-to-head in the stands while the players battle it out on the pitch.

Don't miss out on being part of this special occasion when the Wanderers take on Leeds at Bankwest Stadium.

