



By George Stavroulakis

ROUND 21 PREVIEW – NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

The race for finals football is in full swing in the National Premier Leagues 3 NSW Men's competition with round 21 just around the corner. The action will be spread over four timeslots throughout the weekend with six matches on Saturday while the solitary tie on Sunday night will wrap up proceedings.

A resurgent Parramatta FC will be hoping to heap further misery on Gladesville Ryde Magic when they welcome them to Mellita Stadium at 6:30pm on Saturday night.

Prior to last week's defeat against Raiders, Parramatta recorded back to back victories for the first time this season, against the Mariners and Dulwich Hill respectively.

The mid-season pick up of Sheldon Tweedie has proved a revelation for the Eagles with the midfielder having registered six goals in his last three outings.

Magic's season has derailed of late, the 4th placed outfit have suffered three straight defeats and are at risk of falling out of contention of finals football if the rot continues any longer.

They have uncharacteristically shipped an alarming 14 goals over the last three rounds and have now joined the fight for 4th and 5th place opposed to battling out at the top of the table, as they had been doing for most of the season.



Parramatta were unfortunate not to come away with a result the time these two sides met at Christie Park with Magic running out 1-0 winners in that fixture back in round 8.

A captivating tie is set to take place at Ron Dine Stadium as Stanmore Hawks

FC make the trip to the Tigers' den to face Camden Tigers FC on Saturday night at 7pm.

Down the years, Camden have been notorious for their incredible home record thanks to their vocal supporters. This year has seen

been no different, with the Tigers home record pivotal to their current 7th placed standing. **They have** suffered just the solitary defeat at home this season and will be more than confident that they can claim another scalp when league leaders Stanmore come to town.

The Hawks have been on a spectacular run of form of late and sit top of the ladder with 47 points with a healthy five-point lead over 2nd placed Bankstown City.

These two sides played out arguably the most entertaining fixture that we have seen in the competition this year when they last met, the match ended all square at 3-3 at Arlington Oval at the end of April.

Stanmore stormed to a 3-0 lead at half time and were on course to record a routine victory before a second half resurgence saw the Tigers restore parity.

This match is sure to provide us with plenty of action and surprises this weekend and will be a stern test for the Hawks as their rivals watch on to see how they handle one of the league's most difficult away trips.



FFA CUP

***Adelaide Olympic - Floreat Athena 4-3 (0-2)**

Bulleen Lions - Moreland Zebras* 1-1 (p.2-3)

Darwin Olympic - Edgeworth Eagles* 0-3 (0-2)

***Magpies Crusaders - Coomera Colts 2-1 (1-0)**

Mt Druitt Rangers - Manly United* 2-2 (p.2-4)

***Olympic FC QLD - Bayswater City 5-2 (3-0)**

Filopoulos on shortlist for FFA CEO position

Football Victoria CEO Peter Filopoulos is believed to be on a shortlist of candidates for the position of FFA CEO, following the announcement last week that the incumbent FFA CEO David Gallop will vacate the post at the end of the year.

Gallop is leaving after seven years in charge during which he counts as the FFA's major achievements: the introduction of the FFA Cup, the Socceroos winning the AFC Asian Cup, participation in the FIFA Mens and Womens World Cups, securing a six year broadcast deal with Foxtel, expanding the A-League and seeing the growth in participation in the sport.

As he himself explained, the change to an A-League run independently of the FFA, means a significant narrowing of the role of the FFA CEO.

"With the NLWG recommendations to bring about fundamental changes to Australia's professional

competitions – the Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League and Foxtel Y-League (the Leagues) and FFA, the chief executive's role as it currently exists will be a very different, narrower role. It makes sense for everyone to have time to openly determine what that new role and new leadership looks like," Gallop said on FFA.com.au.

Filopoulos is believed to be on a shortlist alongside PFA CEO John Didulica and Sydney FC CEO Danny Townsend. All three are seen as football people who understand the game and its culture. The previous three FFA CEOs including Gallop and his predecessors Ben Buckley and



John O'Neill were recruited from other codes.

Filopoulos has been Football Victoria CEO for the last 14 months and prior to that was Perth Glory CEO for three years.

Yet his first involvement in soccer administration dates back to 1992 when he became South Melbourne FC's first General Manager.

Since that time he has also

gained extensive experience as a sports executive working with North Melbourne and Hawthorn Australian Rules Football clubs, Etihad Stadium, and Swimming Australia.