



By George Stavroulakis

ROUND 21 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

It's the penultimate round of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's season for 2019 and the stakes couldn't be higher.

The finals race is set to go down to the wire with as many as six teams set to slug it out for two remaining finals spots.

Wollongong Wolves also have the chance to wrap up the title in Round 21 after an unexpected slip up last week. The need only one point from their remaining two games to secure the Premiership.

Action gets underway on Saturday night at Lambert Park with Sydney FC against Sutherland Sharks while Mt Druitt will also host Hakoah Sydney City East.

The biggest game of Saturday's fixtures is a grudge match between Marconi Stallions and Blacktown City at Marconi Stadium.

Sunday will feature three matches including Manly United hosting APIA Leichhardt Tigers and Sydney Olympic against rivals Sydney United 58 at Belmore Sports Ground.

The weekend's action wraps up at Ilinden Sports Centre as Rockdale City Suns face off against league leaders Wollongong Wolves.

Sydney FC v Sutherland Sharks FC, Saturday 7pm at Lambert Park

An undermanned Sydney FC squad will be determined to continue their strong close season form when they host Sutherland Sharks at Lambert Park on Saturday.

The Young Sky Blues have exceeded expectations over the past fortnight with big results against Sydney United 58 and APIA Leichhardt Tigers despite a number of players unavailable.

Coach Jim van Weeren has been required to call on players from the club's under-18 team but it has not stopped them from playing some of their best football of the campaign. **Tom Heward-Belle** and Marco Tilio will be required to lead the charge for Sydney FC in their match as they set out to well and truly end Sutherland Sharks finals hopes.

While Benjamin Koop will also be in around the action after his equaliser last weekend.

The Terry Palapanis coached side has lost their last three games conceding 11 goals and scoring only two.

Veterans Marc Warren and Mateo Poljak will need to use all their experience to inspire



NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

Results 20 Round

Hakoah Sydney - Sydney United 0-3
Sydney Olympic - Marconi Stallions 0-1
Blacktown City - Wollongong Wolves 2-0
Manly United - Rockdale City Suns 0-2
APIA Tigers - Sydney FC Youth 2-2
Sutherland Sharks - Mt Druitt Rangers 2-4

Next Games Round 21 03.08.2019

Marconi Stallions - Blacktown City
 Mt Druitt Rangers - Hakoah Sydney
 Sydney FC Youth - Sutherland Sharks

04.08.2019

Manly United - APIA Tigers
 Sydney Olympic - Sydney United
 Rockdale City Suns - Wollongong Wolves

Premier League NSW 1 Table 20 round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Wollongong Wolves	20	45	14	3	3	49	16	33
2	APIA Tigers	20	39	11	6	3	40	26	14
3	Blacktown City	20	37	11	4	5	30	21	9
4	Sydney United	20	30	8	6	6	27	29	-2
5	Marconi Stallions	20	29	9	2	9	40	29	11
6	Sydney Olympic	20	26	7	5	8	30	31	-1
7	Manly United	20	26	7	5	8	24	30	-6
8	Rockdale City Suns	20	26	8	2	10	25	37	-12
9	Mt Druitt Rangers	20	24	6	6	8	37	45	-8
10	Sutherland Sharks	20	22	5	7	8	27	31	-4
11	Sydney FC Youth	20	21	6	3	11	32	45	-13
12	Hakoah Sydney	20	10	3	1	16	11	32	-21

the Shire based side to victory and finish the season on a high note after their finals dream was scuppered last week.

Sutherland won't go down without a fight but Sydney FC have shown their enthusiasm and energy can be a handful for even the best teams in the league.

Marconi Stallions v Blacktown City FC, Saturday 7pm at Marconi Stadium

The finals hopes of Marconi Stallions go on the line as they take on Blacktown City at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

The Stallions hold onto fifth spot after three straight wins and victory this round will all but secure their place in the playoffs.

They have seemingly found their groove at just the right time after an up and down season.

Mitch Malla's return from suspension proved to be game changing last week as the former Perth Glory and Sydney FC player scored the winner.

Against his former side he will be required to lead the charge in what is sure to be a thrilling sub plot.

Blacktown City are another team hitting their peak when it matters most as was proven

in their upset of Wollongong Wolves last Sunday.

Few expected Mark Crittenden's side to be so high up the ladder at this point of the season but the veteran coach has built a squad which is both hard to break down and is stocked with match winners.

Marconi will be a big test for City but they will be determined to prove themselves against a team stocked with so many of their former stars.

Expect a few fireworks in a match with so much riding on it.

Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC v Hakoah Sydney City East, Saturday 7pm at Popondetta Park

Mt Druitt Town Rangers will be hoping to cap off a brilliant first season in the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition with a finals berth and the must beat Hakoah Sydney City East to make it reality.

The Rangers are five points out of the top five and will need to win both of their last two games while also hope results go their way.

The pressure will be on their experienced