

MEN'S



The Young Sky Blues have the chance at ending Sydney Olympic's finals hopes when the two sides face off on Sunday at Lambert Park.

Sydney Olympic need to win and hope Sydney United 58 lose in their match if the reigning championship winners are to have a shot at defending their title.

Sydney FC have been battling with senior squad commitments to field a team in the NPL as coach Jim van Weeren has turned to youth academy players to help carry the load. **While the** scoreline of a 4-0 defeat is never flattering, rookie shot stopper Matteo Scali had a performance to be proud of as he made numerous clutch saves to deny sure goals.

Utility Harry van der Saag was one of the few players who backed up after the match against French giants PSG in China and his experience will be important if they are to win.

Olympic come into this game on the back of a narrow 2-1 win against rivals United 58 and will be desperate to keep their season alive.

Club captain Jason Madonis is one of only three players in the team to have started every match this season for the club and his determination and never say die attitude will be vital for Olympic.

Olympic will be favourites for this match but

Sydney FC have shown they are capable of pulling off an upset.

Mt Druitt Town Rangers v APIA Leichhardt Tigers, Sunday 3pm at Popondetta Park

Mt Druitt Town Rangers have a chance of an incredible finals berth in their first season in the NPL NSW but first they must defeat APIA Leichhardt Tigers.

The Rangers have found their groove over the second half of the campaign and could sneak into fifth spot with a win and if other results go their way.

Last week Mt Druitt cruised to a dominant 4-0 win against Hakoah Sydney City East but APIA will be a far tougher task.

The Aidan Desmond coached side boast a quality attack with plenty of scoring options including John Roberts, Mirjan Pavlovic and Toufic Alameddine.

Pulling the strings is Fabricio Fernandez who is just as likely to score as he is to create goals.

APIA's defence will need to be up to their best for this match but they haven't earned their second spot on the table without knowing



how to stop the opposition from scoring.

With their spot on the table secured as well as finals football APIA have the possibility of rotating their squad to freshen their legs ahead of the post season.

Don't be surprised if coach John Calleja calls on some of his younger players for this match. With a couple of players walking the tight rope with yellow cards, some fresh new faces could be seen as well as the introduction of Nick Stavroulakis who may return.

Striker Chris Payne will be looking to add to his tally of 20 goals as the race for the golden boot goes down to the wire. Since moving from Sydney United 58 where he was let go, Payne has relished his time at the Tigers and has been on fire in front of goals.

Mt Druitt have a lot riding on this match and will be tough to beat at home. If APIA go with a full strength squad they will be favourites but if not the result could be wide open.

Sydney United 58 v Manly United, Sunday 3pm at Sydney United Sports Centre

Finals football is only one game away for Sydney United 58 and they will need all three points when they host Manly United on Sunday to confirm their place in the playoffs.

However, recent form hasn't been too positive for United 58 and they will need a big turn around if they are to get the job done against Manly on Sunday.

United 58 have struggled to find the back of the net during the second half of the season and the pressure will be on Matt Sim, Peter Simonoski and Patrick Antelmi to find the back of the net.

Their opponents Manly United have been doing it just as tough and are out of the finals race after a 1-0 loss to APIA last week.

Paul Dee's side have struggled to reach their best form this season but have a chance of

changing the finals picture with an upset win this weekend.

Look to Brendan Cholakian, Charles Mendy and Scott Balderson as Manly's game changers in this fixture.

United 58 have a lot riding on this result and will need to elevate their performance if they are to get the points.

Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Stallions, Sunday 3pm at WIN Stadium

Newly crowned Premiers Wollongong Wolves will have the chance to wrap up a near flawless regular season with a win when they host Marconi Stallions on Sunday.

The Wolves bounced back from a stumble against Blacktown City to cement the title which they've had one hand on for a good part of the season.

In their final game of the season coach Luke Wilkshire will be tempted to rotate his troops ahead of a gruelling finals campaign.

Star striker Thomas James will be hoping to win the Golden Boot award and with APIA's Chris Payne closing in expect the English man to be hungry for more goals.

Looking to stop Hunger and Wollongong is an in-form Marconi Stallions team which secured their place among the other top five with a win against Blacktown City.

Coach Peter Tsekenis will also have a chance to rotate his squad so don't be surprised to see some new names on the team sheet. A few players are walking suspension tight-ropes and with a round of 16 FFA Cup clash around the corner, this could be an ideal time for Tsekenis to rest some of his stars.

One player deserving of some extra minutes is young Damien Tsekenis who dazzled in his late cameo last week – the young gun has been in fine form and has been the talk of the NPL NSW Men's competition of late.

While no finals implications are riding on this match it is still sure to be a blockbuster.