

PAST BLACKTOWN CITY TO KEEP



Blacktown pumped long balls into the box looking to test United 58's central defenders, but it failed to create the breakthrough the home team was looking for.

After eight minutes of extra time the flash-point arrived.

Antelmi lived up to his reputation as a super-sub by running onto a dangerous cross not the box and tapping it past the keeper to give United 58 a shock lead.

Before Blacktown could process what had happened, the visitors were up 5-3 thanks to a spectacular wonder strike from Maia.

The midfielder found the top bins with a sublime dipping effort from thirty yards out which Prendergast was unable to stop.

City needed to find a goal fast and were unlucky not to cut their deficit to only one when Manos made a great stop to parry a powerful driven shot from Dakota Askew.

Uskok needed to head the ball off the line early in the second period of extra-time as Blacktown's desperate attacking raids moved closer and closer to finding the back of the net.

Time was becoming Blacktown's greatest enemy and they there everyone forward to get the goals they needed.

But the plan backfired with Matt Sim striking twice on the counter attack to end Blacktown City's season and secure their spot in Saturday's preliminary final clash against Wollongong.

United 58 coach Miro Vlastelica said no body could've

ever predicted a game like this and praised the efforts of his club's veteran stars.

"The opening 20 minutes was completely crazy and the fact we have been able to fight back from that and get such a big result is a testament to these boys," he said, **"I told** them at half time to use the time to regain their composure and come back out ready.

"Come extra-time the team stood up when the pressure was really mounting. They have overcome a lot of adversity in this match to get the win and they should be very proud of their efforts."

A sombre Mark Crittenden looked back at a match which had everything but a happy ending for his Blacktown City side.

"We fell apart a bit in extra time and they took advantage. It is as simple as that," he said.

"It was a wild end to end start to the match and I felt we were the better team for the most part.

"We lost our way and paid the price. Obviously we had to throw everything forward then and United 58 made the most of that.

"At the start of the year a lot of people wrote off this team so even though we have been knocked out tonight I still think it is important to point out how this group has proven many people wrong.

"This team is packed full of talent and they are only going to get better."

Sydney United 58 will now face the 2019 NPL NSW Men's Premiers Wollongong Wolves at WIN Stadium this Saturday as they hope to continue its good fortunes

in the finals series by booking a spot into the 2019 Grand Final at Bankwest Stadium on Saturday 31st of August where APIA Leichhardt Tigers will be waiting for them.

Match Stats

Blacktown City: 3 (Lewis 7', Lynch 13', Jennings 19')

Sydney United 58: 7 (Simonoski 3', 17', Uskok 73', Antelmi 98', Maia 100', Sim 117', 118')

Wednesday, 21 August 2019

Lily Homes Stadium, Seven Hills

Referee: K Ams

Assistant Referees: L Greenshields & P Teleki

Fourth Official: M Weiner

Blacktown City: 1. Tristan Prendergast, 3. Daniel Collins (10. James Demetriou), 4. Yianni Spyarakis, 5. Grant Lynch, 6. Matthew Lewis, 8. Daniel Araujo (12. Lachlan Campbell 64), 9. Joey Gibbs, 15. Mason Versi (13. Rhett Desilva 87'), 17. Dakota Askew, 22. Leroy Jennings (7. Devante Clut 110)

Substitutes not used: 20. Dylan Niski

Yellow Cards: Grant Lynch 57, Daniel Collins

Sydney United 58: 21. Thomas Manos, 4. Adrian Vlastelica, 7. Peter Simonoski (5. Anthony Tomelic, 96'), 8. Matthew Sim, 11. Yianni Perkatis (9. Patrick Antelmi 58'), 12. Liam Rose, 14. Tomislav Uskok, 15. Tariq Maia (6. Petar Markovic 109), 17. Matthew Bilic (3. Jordan Roberts 104), 20. Cristian Gonzalez, 22. Yianni Fragogiannis

Substitutes not used: 1. Daniel Sadaka,

Yellow Cards: Tomislav Uskok 34', Adrian Vlastelica 85