



By George Stavroulakis

ALBERT BUTLER PARK SET FOR NPL FINALS SERIES SEMI BETWEEN WOLVES AND PERTH SC

Football Federation Australia (FFA) confirmed the match details for the Semi Finals of the National Premier Leagues (NPL) 2019 Finals Series with NPL NSW Men's Premiers Wollongong Wolves taking on Football West's Perth SC this Sunday at Albert Butler Park with kick-off scheduled for 2:30pm.



The winner of this match will play the winner of the other semi between Maitland FC and Lions FC who are playing on Saturday 28 September at Cooks Square Park.

The NPL 2019 Finals Series brings together the eight teams who finished top of their respective NPL standings at the end of their regular seasons to determine Australia's best NPL side.

Once again, Mitre is the Official Match Ball Supplier of the NPL 2019 Final Series.

2019 marks the seventh edition of the NPL Finals Series, which was won last year by South Australian club Campbelltown City SC. Sydney United 58 FC won the inaugural competition in 2013 and in 2016, while MetroStars SC from South Australia (2014), Blacktown City FC from New South Wales (2015) and Heidelberg United FC from Victoria (2017) have also been crowned Champions of the series in the past.

The winner of the NPL 2019 Finals Series will receive automatic entry into the FFA Cup 2020 Final Rounds, providing an added incentive for the eight clubs taking part.

Every match in the NPL 2019 Finals Series will be streamed LIVE on www.nationalpremierleagues.com.au as well as via the official Hyundai A-League Facebook page (www.facebook.com/aleague).

| MATCH | National Premier Leagues 2019 Elimination Finals | | | | Venue | Kick-Off (Local) |
|-------|--|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Sunday 22 September 2019 | Lions FC (QLD) | 2:1 | Campbelltown City SC (SA) | Lions Stadium, Richlands, QLD | 1:00 PM AEST |
| 2 | Saturday 21 September 2019 | Maitland FC (NSW) | 3:2 | Devonport Strikers (TAS) | Cooks Square Park, Maitland, NSW | 1:00 PM AEST |
| 3 | Saturday 21 September 2019 | Wollongong Wolves (NSW) | 5:1 | Canberra Olympic (ACT) | Albert Butler Park, Primbee, NSW | 3:00 PM AEST |
| 4 | Sunday 22 September 2019 | Heidelberg United FC (VIC) | 2:3 (aet) | Perth SC (WA) | JL Murphy Reserve, Port Melbourne, VIC | 4:30 PM AEST |
| | National Premier Leagues 2019 Semi Finals | | | | Venue | Kick-Off (Local) |
| 5 | Saturday 28 September 2019 | Maitland FC (NSW) | vs | Lions FC (QLD) | Cooks Square Park, Maitland NSW | 2:30 PM AEST |
| 6 | Sunday 29 September 2019 | Wollongong Wolves (NSW) | vs | Perth SC (WA) | Albert Butler Park, Primbee, NSW | 2:30 PM AEST |

ABC 'set to show A-League'

“ The ABC are set to show Saturday night football on their main channel in a TV rights coup for football in Australia, says the Daily Telegraph. Fox Sports and the national broadcaster are in talks to finalise a deal for the 5.15 game to be shown live on the ABC's main channel every Saturday night for the first time in A-League history.

Recent free to air A-League TV deals have only seen 10 and SBS broadcast matches on their subsidiary channels to a limited audience, but W-League games on the ABC regularly attracted higher viewing figures than A-League games on Fox Sports.

And hopes are high the move to ABC primetime could help revitalise the competition this year. It comes as A-League owners and the FFA finalise the deal to formally separate.

A completed deal was supposed to have been signed off by August 1 but the legal details are still being pored over before the handover can be done.

However Paul Lederer – Western Sydney Wanderers owner and chairman of the Australian Professional Football Clubs Association taking over the A-League – today insisted the deal would be done before the season starts, despite concerns state member federations were blocking the move.

