



veteran defender Travis Oughtred to bolster the backline. **One big** omission from the team is Uruguayan ace midfielder Fabricio Fernandez who has since returned back to his country of birth. **Mt Druitt** have shown they can mix it with the best and with a little bit of consistency and an improved defensive showing they can easily finish the season at the top end of the table. **Mt Druitt** Town Rangers 2020: Carlos Saliadarre, Jake Mamone, Solomon Monahan-Vaiika, Blake Thompson, Lord Darkoh, Alex Boyadjian, Josh Gould, Toufic Alameddine, Cooper Coskerie, Ismail Hares, Mateo Poljak, Travis Oughtred, Aaron Avery, Hussein Jasli, Daniel Fogarty, Mirjan Pavlovic, Robert Fanella, Luke Clifford.

NORTH SHORE MARINERS

Coach: Joe Haywood
2019 finish: NPL2 Premiers
Major signings: Panny Nikas, Emmanuel Peters, Danial Dias, Keanu Imic, Charlie Cox
Star of the Future: Emmanuel Peters
Player to Watch out for: Brian Jamba
It will be a case of sink or swim for competition new boys North Shore Mariners in 2020.

Newly promoted after finishing on top of NPL2 in 2019, The Mariners will need results fast if they are to stay in the NSW top flight past this season. **Mercurial midfielder** Panny Nikas will be the main attraction this season for North Shore but their hopes could ride on whether the talented playmaker can ditch the injury woes which have held him back over the past 18 months. However an unfortunate facial injury during a pre-season match has seen the club lose the former NPL NSW Men’s Player of the Year’s services for the first two to three rounds. **North Shore** Mariners 2020: Ryan Wood, Joel Tinker, Jesse Piriz, Rainer Smahel, Chris Lindsay, Hugo Forlico, Daniel Saric, Brian Jamba, Sean Eve, Marquin Smith, Mitch Smith, Braden Cheng, Damir Prodanovic, Emmanuel Peters, Danial Dias, Keanu Ismic, Charlie Cox, Panny Nikas

ROCKDALE ILLINDEN FC

Coach: Steven Zoric
2019 finish: tenth
Major signings: Mitchell Stamatellis, Dimi Petratos, James Baldacchino, Tomislav Arcaba, Tomoki Wada, Banri Kanaizumi
Star of the Future: Mark Moric
Player to Watch out for: Alec Urosevski
It was a horror season for Rockdale in 2019 with coach Paul Reid sacked in the opening weeks of the campaign with the coaching change doing little to inspire the side as the slumped to a tenth place finish. **New boss** Steven Zoric will have a lot of work to do if he is to get the Suns back on track this season with finals football expected at the club. **Rockdale has** moved on after the failed Panni Nikas

experiment and will hope Japanese playmaker Tomoki Wada can be the spark which helps them rediscover their groove. **Rockdale Illinden** FC 2020: Banri Kanaizumi, James Baldacchino, Tomislav Arcaba, Jordan Figon, Brayden Sorge, Nikola Taneski, Alec Urosevski, Matthew Lecce, Patrick Savor, Jake Trajkovski, Michael Neill, David Bradasevic, Daniel Petkovski, Amaury Gauthier, Mark Moric, Tomoki Wada, Sam Gulisano, Mitchell Stamatellis, Dimi Petratos.

SUTHERLAND SHARKS FC

Coach: Nick Dimovski
2019 finish: eighth
Major signings: Blake Powell, Peter Simonoski, Jonathan Grozdanovski, Oliver Green, Joey Groenbast
Star of the Future: Harry Sutherland
Player to Watch out for: Mason Versi
Change is afoot at Seymour Shaw park and a new look Sutherland Sharks team hopes they can end the club’s long finals drought in 2020. **Rookie coach** Nick Dimovski has been lifted into the top job at the Sharks after finding success with their Under-20 teams. **He has** made some big signings, including former NPL NSW Golden Boot Blake Powell, to bolster what is quickly becoming a squad opposition teams shouldn’t take lightly. **Adding to** that least is former Dutch defender Joey Groenbast who is hoping he can put through a big year for the club to gain the attention of A-League clubs. **2019 was** a rollercoaster ride for Sharks fans and if Dimovski can get his team rolling expect more highs than lows in the Shire. **Sutherland Sharks** 2020: Marc Warren, Lachlan Everett, Blair Brown, Adam Massoud, Brodie Clarkson, Harry Sutherland, James Temelkovski, Thomas Papa, Patrick O’Shea, Jarred Wiley, James Carlie, Mario Aleksic, Blake Powell, Peter Simonoski, Jonathan Grozdanovski, Oliver Green, Ryan Norval, Mason Versi, Bradley Walker, Gabriel Contigianni, Connor Shaddock, Joey Groenbast

SYDNEY FC

Coach: Jim van Weeren
2019 finish: Eleventh
Major signings: Yinka Sunmola, Jaiden Kucharski
Star of the Future: Anton Mlinaric
Player to Watch out for: Adam Pavlesic
Sydney FC could be set to face their biggest test in the NPL NSW competition in 2020.

The Young Sky Blues have always punched above their weight and made life very difficult for the league’s heavy hitters. **Expect more** of the same from Jim van Weeren’s side this year but they might need to do a little bit more if they are to avoid relegation. **Without the** security blanket of Club Championship points, Sydney FC will need to ask even more of their academy of rising stars as they look to maintain their place in the NSW top flight. **Sydney FC** 2020: Yinka Sunmola, Jordi Swibel, Benjamin Koop, Jaiden Kucharski, Marco Tilio, Ryan Teague, Thomas Fay, Callum Talbot, Jake Hollman, Calem Nieuwenhof, Aaron Gurd, Fletcher McFarlane, Scott Browning, Thomas Main, Adam Pavlesic, Levi Kaye, Cameron Peupion, Anton Mlinaric, Cameron Fong, Jayden Trenkoski

SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC

Coach: Terry Palapanis
2019 finish: sixth
Major signings: Anthony Bouzanis, Raul Beneit Romero, Adam Parkhouse, Fabio Ferreira, Sebastian Ryall, Bai Antoniou, Charles Lokolingoy, Shato Kohnno, James Cakovski
Star of the Future: Giovanni Panuccio
Player to Watch out for: Jason Madonis

Sydney Olympic mean business in 2020 and new coach Terry Palapanis is determined to get the Belmore based side back to the top of the NPL NSW **Palapanis has** not held back in the recruitment stakes bringing in a number of big name signings including former A-League winger Fabio Ferreira, Spanish playmaker Raul Beneit Romero and former Wellington Phoenix flyer Adam Parkhouse. **The recruitment** spree will help make up for the loss of star striker Alejandro Sanchez while talismanic shot stopper Paul Henderson has also stepped aside after his incredible tenure between the posts with Anthony Bouzanis taking the number one jersey this season. **On paper** Olympic will be tough to beat but the challenge for Palapanis will be whether he get his star studded side performing to their potential each week. **Sydney Olympic** 2020: Anthony Bouzanis, Bai Antoniou, Raul Beneit Romero, Alexander Lopez, Will Angel, Jason Madonis, Adam Parkhouse, Hagi Gligor, Nicola Kuleski, Darcy Burgess, Jack Stewart, Zac Mackenzie, Tom Whiteside, Nik Tsattalios, Bill Patramanis, Peter Kekeris, Giovanni Panuccio, Shato Kohnno, James Cakovski

SYDNEY UNITED 58 FC

Coach: Zjelko Kalac
2019 finish: Fourth (Grand Final runners-up)
Major signings: Daniel Nizic, Devante Clut, Adrian Vranic, Jacob Esposito
Star of the Future: Michael Ruhs
Player to Watch out for: Liam Rose
It could be an exciting year at Sydney United Sports Centre with a new coach and some new faces hoping to build on last season’s grand final defeat. **Former AC** Milan and Socceroos shot stopper Zjelko Kalac returns to lead United this campaign and has pledged to put it all on the line as he makes his head coaching debut. **Talented playmaker** Devante Clut makes the move to Edensor Park this season while striker Adrian Vranic returns after two seasons away. **Sydney United’s** run to the 2019 grand final was incredible, however it glossed over what was a fairly inconsistent year from what is a very talented team. **Expect Kalac** to have his team playing exciting football as they set out to go one better in 2020. **Sydney United** 58 2020: Thomas Manos, Jordan Roberts, Yianni Fragogiannis, Adrian Vlastelica, Christian Gonzalez, Adrian Vranic, Matthew Bilic, Anthony Tomelic, Patrick Antelmi, Glen Trifiro, Yianni Perkatis, Tariq Maia, Matthew Sim, Liam Rose, Joshua Macdonald, Daniel Nizic, Jacob Esposito, Devante Clut, Michael Ruhs, Luke Vlastelica.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES FC

Coach: Luke Wilkshire
2019 finish: First
Major signings: Hamish Lamberton, Ethan Kambisios, Marcus Beattie, Hayden Duros
Star of the Future: Hamish Lamberton
Player to Watch out for: Thomas James
The sleeping giant awoke last season with Wollongong Wolves taking the NPL NSW by storm in a big way en route to winning the Premiership. **Although falling** short in the finals, coach Luke Wilkshire has returned and will have his side determined to prove their success wasn’t just a flash in the pan. **Wilkshire has** once again raided the Illawarra Premier League for undiscovered gems while also keeping star striker Thomas James. **While they** won’t have the surprise factor this season, Wollongong will be the team to beat. **Wollongong Wolves** 2020: Brendan Griffin, Chris Price, Darcy Madden, Guy Knight, Harry Callahan, Justin Pasfield, Lachlan Scott, James Stojcevski, Nicholas Littler, Nikola Djordjevic, Stefan Dimoski, Taylor McDonald, Takeru Okada, Thomas James, Ethan Kambisios, Marcus Beattie, Hayden Durose, Hamish Lamberton, Liam Wille, Bul Juach.