

## NSW MEN'S 1

helped Blacktown to back-to-back wins to start this campaign.

**Blacktown have** been difficult to breakdown and have made the most of limited chances going forward.

**The Mark** Crittenden coached side are well disciplined and will give the Sharks very little.

**Even though** City went into the year minus a few big names with Joey Gibbs signing overseas and Daniel Araujo suspended, Crittenden has been able to marshal his squad very well.

**Their opponents** Sutherland have had a harder start to the 2020 season with a loss and a draw from their two games.

**They did** well too bounce back with a draw last week against Rockdale after being thrashed by Marconi in the opening round.

**New club** captain Blake Powell showed off his clinical finishing skills against Rockdale and will be very dangerous if given chances.

**Dutch defender** Joey Groenbast is starting to find his feet and has shown flashes of what he is capable of.

**Sutherland will** need to score early and force Blacktown to fight their way back. But if they don't, Blacktown will be more than happy to grind out another win with their suffocating defence.

**Prediction:** Blacktown City 1 Sutherland Sharks 0

### Rockdale Ilinden FC v APIA Leichhardt FC, Sunday 4.30pm at Ilinden Sports Centre

**Rockdale Ilinden** will be out to end seven years of struggles when they take on APIA Leichhardt at Ilinden Sports Centre on Sunday.

**The home** side boast an absolutely horrific record against APIA in recent years and have not beaten them in the league since 2013 with APIA winning 11 of their past 14 clashes and drawing the other three.

**The past** six matches between these two sides makes even worse reading for Rockdale fans with APIA scoring an insane 31 goals and conceding only four.

**However, all** is not lost for the Ilinden faithful with the Steven Zoric coached side fired up to put this shocking record to bed.

**Japanese import** Tomiki Wada is one such player that can light up the home crowd faithful and will be one to look out for come game day.

**Ironically it** is a former APIA player who could be the difference maker with Sam Gulisano proving to be a dangerous player for Rockdale after joining the club during the off-season.

**APIA won't** be taking this game lightly even though they've had the wood over their rivals for such a long time.

**Their win** against Sydney Olympic last week demonstrated that the reigning Champions still remain one of the teams to beat.

**Chris Payne** has quickly rediscovered his shooting boots and was in the right place at the right time last weekend, while Josh Symons is leading from the front with back-to-back stand-out performances in the club's backline alongside Themba Muata Marlow.

**Zoric has** pledged a new era at Rockdale and there is no better way to prove that by shaking off the weight of this horror record.

**Prediction:** Rockdale Ilinden 1 APIA Leichhardt 3

## ROUND 2 PREVIEW - NPL 3 NSW MEN'S

**Strap yourselves in for another exhilarating weekend, as we turn our attention to round two of the 2020 National Premier Leagues 3 NSW competition.**

### SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SFC - STANMORE HAWKS FC...

**Sydney University SFC** will make the trip to VSP for the second week running as they prepare to face off against Stanmore Hawks FC at 7pm on Saturday. Many of the Hawks' highlights last season arrived against Uni, the inner west outfit secured the 2019 premiership the last time they met when they won 1-0 at the back end of August. The reigning premiers also enjoyed their biggest win of the 2019 campaign against the 'students' after they thrashed them 8-0 at Arlington Oval at the end of May. A similar result this Saturday seems unlikely, both sides drew their first-round encounters and will enter this fixture on an even footing with either side possessing the potential to escape with the three points.

### MACARTHUR RAMS FC - CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN FC...

**Macarthur Rams FC** cap off Saturday's action at Lynwood Park when they go head to head against Canterbury Bankstown FC at 7:30pm.

**This will** be the first time that these two teams meet in this competition with this fixture previously a staple in the NPL 2.

**Both sides** have made significant changes to their squads following their start to life in this league so it will be interesting to see how their new players fare in this contest.

**Saturday's match** will be the showcase event at Lynwood Park as the Rams celebrate their season launch so the spectators will be hoping that the players put on a show as they prepare to get treated to a bumper crowd.



### BANKSTOWN CITY FC - GLADESVILLE RYDE MAGIC...

**Both Bankstown City FC** and Gladesville Ryde Magic will be searching for their first wins of the season when they meet at Jensen Park at 5pm on Sunday.

**Ex-Magic stars** Chris Triantis and Chris Tomaras will face off against their former club in what is sure to be an electrifying contest.

**Tomaras got** off the mark for Bankstown with a double last weekend against Inter while the tested and proven attacking pair of Ante Tomic and Nikola Todoroski will grace Jensen Park for the first time this season.

**Gladesville would** have felt hard done by last weekend after they walked away with a point against Stanmore despite leading the Hawks 2-0 up until the last five minutes of the encounter.

**On the positive side,** Harris Gaitatzis announced himself onto the NPL 3 scene with a brace in that frustrating draw.

**Sunday's match** will prove to be a difficult task for the visitors, they shipped eight goals against the Lions last season, going down 4-1 and 4-0 in their two match-ups last year.

## NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES NSW MEN'S 1



Round 2 Team of the Week and it did not take long for Wollongong Wolves Football Club's Thomas James to etch himself in the 11 with a brace over the weekend.

Marconi Stallions FC had two players that shone with Anthony Frangie and Nathan Millgate grabbing the headlines while Sydney United 58 FC's Patrick Antelmi was a man on a mission as he sunk the Rangers with a double while teammate Thomas Manos not only saved a spot kick but made sure his team kept a clean.

Three players appeared for the second successive week with North Shore Mariners quality midfielder Emmanuel Peters, APIA Leichhardt FC's Josh Symons and Blacktown City FC Matt Lewis keeping up their consistent performances for their clubs.

It was a debut in the 'Team of the Week' for Sydney Olympic FC's Adam Parkhouse, Sutherland Sharks FC's Joey Groenbast and Rockdale City Suns Football Club - Ilinden's Samuel Gulisano.

Congrats to everyone for making our headlines this week!