

KICKOFF



**NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES**
NSW



NPL NSW MEN'S GRAND FINAL



MARCONI STADIUM • 3PM • SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2020

FIXTURES - FIRST GRADE



3PM • SUN 25 OCT • MARCONI STADIUM



Referee: Adrian Arndt
Assistant Referees: Lance Greenshields, Emma Kocbek
Fourth Official: Craig Fisher



FIXTURES - UNDER 20'S



6PM • SAT 24 OCT • VALENTINE SPORTS PARK



Referee: Hugh Fenton-White
Assistant Referee: Brodie Merchant
Assistant Referee: Aaron Bloch

PLAY IT SAFE AND REDUCE THE RISK



**PREPARE AND
DRESS FOR GAMES
AT HOME**



**WASH OR SANITISE YOUR
HANDS BEFORE AND
AFTER YOUR GAME**



**SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE
IMPLEMENTED AT ALL TIMES**



**DO NOT SHAKE HANDS,
HIGH FIVE OR HUG OTHER
PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, TEAM
OFFICIALS OR SPECTATORS**



**FILL AND BRING YOUR OWN
CLEARLY LABELLED DRINK
BOTTLE FROM HOME.
DO NOT SHARE DRINK BOTTLES.**

**DO NOT ATTEND
IF YOU EXHIBIT
ANY OF THESE
SYMPTOMS**



FEVER



COUGH



FATIGUE



SORE THROAT



**SHORTNESS OF
BREATH**

NPL NSW MEN'S GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

After 12 weeks, the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition all comes down to this. The Big dance. The decider. The grand final.

The biggest game of the season has arrived to decide the season's biggest prize with two fierce rivals in Rockdale Ilinden FC and Sydney United 58 going head to head for championship glory.

Rockdale Ilinden FC have qualified for the club's first grand final in seven seasons and will look to clinch the championship and premiership double when they take on a United 58 team returning for their second decider in as many seasons.

It was a historic season for Rockdale as they finished the season in first place to end a 51-year wait for a premiership title, while United 58 finished the year in third before stunning second-place Wolves last week to earn their place in the grand final.

Both teams have been in top form for the majority of the 11-week reboot season with each side coming back stronger after the enforced 20 week COVID shutdown.

Neither Rockdale or Sydney United has tasted grand final success this decade with United 58's last win

coming 14 years ago when they defeated Blacktown City in 2006.

For Rockdale, the wait has been even longer with the Ilinden Sports Centre based outfit last winning the championship in 1984.

It has been a very different path to Marconi Stadium for Rockdale and United 58.

Ilinden turned on a masterclass in both attack and defence to easily account for the high-powered offence of Sydney Olympic with a 3-0 drubbing at Ilinden Sports Centre

Goals to Mickey Neill, Tomoki Wada and Jaden Casella was the difference as the Steven Zoric coached outfit carried on from where they left off in the regular season to secure their place in the final.

It was a win which Zoric said was the culmination of a season built on hard work.

"The semi-final win against Sydney Olympic was the perfect showcase of what this team can do," he said.

"Olympic expected us to play it safe and try to stifle their attack but we took the game to them from the opening whistle and showed we can take it to any team in this competition.



"This grand final means everything to this club and I know the boys are ready to give their biggest performance of the year to bring the trophy home."

United 58 had a more dramatic path with a 3-1 win against Wollongong Wolves in a match which included both team's playing more than a half of football a man down after an all-in brawl that led to two straight red cards.

As a result the Red's will be without their superstar striker Patrick Antelmi for Sunday's clash as he serves his suspension for being sent off.

Coach Anthony Crea praised his side's resilience after they battled their way to victory despite testing circumstances.

"No matter what was thrown at the boys they had an answer for it. They kept their composure when the pressure was on and found a way to win against tough opposition," he said.

"Yes, Patrick has been a big part of our attack this season but our success was more than just one player and we will prove that again.

"This group of players know what it takes to win these big games and they're determined to make

the most of their opportunity."

On the park both teams are bristling with talent.

Rockdale is packed with talent on every line with their team unity and balance across the park one of their biggest strengths.

The Ilinden midfield is the powerhouse which drives the team with Japanese import Tomoki Wada at the centre of everything they do.

Coach Steven Zoric has helped mould the side's defence into a miserly unit which gives very little away. Captain Daniel Petkovski alongside Banri Kanaizumi marshal the centre of the backline with authority and will be a tough unit to break down.

The transformation of Mickey Neill from defender to goalscoring winger has been another Zoric masterstroke with the talented wide man playing a pivotal role in his side's attack.

And the ace in the hand is Rockdale's talismanic striker Alec Urosevski who would have to be the most talented super-sub to play in an NPL NSW grand final. His involvement off the bench could very well decide the match.

United 58 are not short on talent themselves.



NPL NSW MEN'S GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

The midfield is where the Red's shine with Yianni Perkatis, Glen Trifiro, Devante Clut and Anthony Tomelic all boasting their own unique skillsets which when combined can dominate the opposition.

Veteran wide man Matt Sim gets better with age and continues to leave defenders struggling to stop his mazy dribbling and savvy runs into the box.

The absence of Antlemi creates the biggest selection headache facing coach Anthony Crea. Who will replace the man responsible for nearly 50 per cent of the team's goalscoring output in the regular season?

This game presents a number of key matchups which will surely play a big part in deciding who will be triumphant at the final whistle.

Will Rockdale's lack of big-game experience come back to hurt them against a United 58 team which has been a regular fixture at this point of the season?

Will United 58 suffer the grand final yips yet again or can they end their streak of six defeats from their past six grand final appearances?

Can Anthony Crea find a way to fill the absence of Antlemi and keep the United 58 attack firing on all cylinders?

Rockdale and Sydney United have faced off only one other time this season with the boys from Ilinden fighting back from 2-0 down to snatch a 2-2 draw.

It was a result which proved vital in their successful premiership title chase, while also scuppering United' 58's in the process

United 58 have proven they fear nobody and have the ability to beat anyone on the day. However, will they have enough left in the tank to beat premiers Rockdale Ilinden FC in the biggest match of the season?

Whatever the outcome, one thing for sure is that there will be plenty of foals excitement and entertainment on the menu.

Because when it's all said and done, only one team can be crowned champion.



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NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

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INTEGRITY IN SPORT

All participants in the National Premier Leagues NSW are bound by a variety of rules and regulations, including Football Federation Australia's CODE OF CONDUCT, NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING POLICY and SPORTS BETTING AND MATCH FIXING GUIDELINES



**NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES
NSW**

An extensive list of resources is available on the competition website at mens.nplnsw.com.au/integrity_resources

You're not alone - GAMBLING HELP LINE 1800 858 858

1ST GRADE LADDER

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Rockdale City Suns FC	11	7	3	1	20	9	11	24
2	Wollongong Wolves FC	11	8	0	3	24	14	10	24
3	Sydney United 58 FC	11	7	1	3	26	20	6	22
4	Sydney Olympic FC	11	6	3	2	17	10	7	21
5	Sydney FC	11	6	1	4	26	19	7	19
6	Blacktown City FC	11	4	3	4	19	15	4	15
7	Marconi Stallions FC	11	4	2	5	14	14	0	14
8	Manly United FC	11	3	3	5	14	18	-4	12
9	North Shore Mariners FC	11	2	4	5	11	18	-7	10
10	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	11	2	3	6	11	22	-11	9
11	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	11	2	2	7	14	22	-8	8
12	APIA Leichhardt FC	11	2	1	8	12	27	-15	7

U20 LADDER

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Sydney FC	11	8	1	2	26	10	16	25
2	Blacktown City FC	11	7	3	1	28	12	16	24
3	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	11	7	0	4	26	18	8	21
4	Rockdale City Suns FC	11	7	0	4	22	22	0	21
5	Marconi Stallions FC	11	5	2	4	13	17	-4	17
6	Sydney Olympic FC	11	4	4	3	21	22	-1	16
7	Manly United FC	11	3	4	4	21	12	9	13
8	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	11	3	4	4	15	15	0	13
9	Sydney United 58 FC	11	4	1	6	17	26	-9	13
10	Wollongong Wolves FC	11	2	4	5	13	14	-1	10
11	North Shore Mariners FC	11	2	2	7	10	29	-19	8
12	APIA Leichhardt FC	11	1	1	9	7	22	-15	4

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

CLUB	PLAYED	U20's	1st	TOTAL
Rockdale City Suns FC	22	42	96	138
Sydney FC	22	50	76	126
Wollongong Wolves FC	22	20	96	116
Sydney Olympic FC	22	32	84	116
Sydney United 58 FC	22	26	88	114
Blacktown City FC	22	48	60	108
Marconi Stallions FC	22	34	56	90
Manly United FC	22	26	48	74
Western Sydney Wanderers FC	22	42	32	74
Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	22	26	26	62
North Shore Mariners FC	22	16	40	56
APIA Leichhardt FC	22	8	28	36

Club championships for all NPL Men's and Women's are available online:

Men's: <https://mens.nplnsw.com.au/club-championship/>

Women's: <https://womens.nplnsw.com.au/club-championship-nsw-womens/>

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RANKING

Football NSW will use the following process when ranking the Clubs within each Competition:

NPL NSW Men's, NPL 2 NSW Men's, NPL 3 NSW Men's and NPL 4 NSW Men's – senior club championship with points calculated from all Premiership Matches in all grades using the following system;

POINTS MULTIPLIER

1st Grade - Premiership Points X 4

U20 - Premiership Points X 2

YOUNG GUN CASELLA READY FOR CROWNING MOMENT

It's been an unforgettable National Premier Leagues NSW Men's season for 20-year-old entertaining attacker midfielder Jaden Casella who has had a breakout season for the 2020 Premiers and is sure to be one to watch out for.

The former Sutherland Sharks and Western Sydney Wanderers youth star has sent many chins wagging with his performances in the Red and Black this year following his move back to Sydney after the young gun spent some time with Spanish outfit Mislata CF before COVID hit and that paved the way to signing with Rockdale.

"It turned out to be a great season for me.

"Due to COVID, I had to come back from playing overseas in Spain and was fortunate enough to have been given the chance to restart the football season with Rockdale Ilinden which has been a great experience.

"The boys have had a very eye-catching season and it has just been great being a part of it all."

Casella, who managed to score three goals this year, became one of Steve Zoric's game changers with the youngster rising to the challenge and occasion with the aim of playing as many matches as possible during the rebooted season.

"I knew from the beginning that there would be a lot of pressure on the coaches in regards to choosing the squad.

"That in itself was going to be a challenge to start matches as all the boys put in 110% at training.

"However this motivated me more to work hard and to do my best to be noticed."

And notice they did, part of Rockdale's memorable 2020 season saw the club lift its first piece of NPL NSW Men's silverware, something Casella was very proud to have been a part of.

"I never doubted the boys into having such a great season.

"Despite the shorter rounds and changes to the competition, we took this league very seriously and constantly pushed each other to play the best we can.

"I think personally looking back at it all, that is why we got to the position we are in today, but it is always

a great feeling to win a Premiership."

There were no signs of a Premiership hangover as Rockdale asserted its authority from the get go knocking out rivals Sydney Olympic 3-0 last Saturday evening in the crucial semi-final clash that booked their ticket to the big dance with Casella scoring the third and final goal of the match.

"The Semi-Final against Sydney Olympic was our best performance of the season.

"Yes it is always good to get on the score-sheet but what was so great about that match is that every single player had a great performance and we all worked together to grab a well-deserved spot into this Sunday's Grand Final."

Standing in Casella and the club's way will be iconic Australian club Sydney United 58 who will pose a major threat with Anthony Crea's men looking to spoiling Rockdale's party.

"This Final will be a tough match – of course it's the biggest game of the year for both teams, Sydney United 58 obviously have had a great season as well so it won't be easy.

"The last time we played each other was in round 10 where we grabbed a point away from home but this Sunday I am more than confident that we will pull off another 5-star performance hopefully to see us lift the trophy for the club and our fans."



COVID-19 may have forced a very different season in 2020, but Rockdale Ilinden FC flyer Mickey Neill is adamant victory will be no less special if his side clinches grand final glory.

It has been a historic season for Rockdale as they clinched their first Premiership in 51 years after narrowly edging Wollongong Wolves in a dramatic final day of the regular season.

Now making their first grand final appearance in seven years, defender turned winger Neill says it has been the sacrifices made off the pitch by his teammates which has made their successes extra special.

"With all the challenges faced by the players this season it really goes to show the passion of everyone in the team," he said.

"With everything going on in the world with this pandemic it would've been very easy to take it easy and coast through this season.

"But that is not what this team is about and it has really been evident at training and in matches. It has been the hardships which have not only brought us closer together but they are also the reason why success will be even sweeter if we get the job done."

Neill has been one of Rockdale's outstanding performers this season after returning to the squad following a three-month stint with A-League outfit Newcastle Jets earlier this year.

The 26-year-old said working under former Jets coach Carl Robinson has been one of the best learning experiences of his career and has given him extra motivation to push for an A-League return next season.

"I'm a very hungry player and I've been working towards this (an A-League contract) for the past three years," Neill said.

"It was great to be given the opportunity to return to playing the game professionally, albeit only for a few months,

"I have never learnt as much in a short period of time as I did during my time working under Carl Robinson at the Jets.

"Hopefully that experience and my form with Rockdale will keep me on the radar of A-League

clubs ahead of next season when they are looking to fill their roster."

While his A-League dream may be a driving force, Neill said his immediate focus is clinching a historic premiership and championship double with a grand final win against Sydney United.

"Playing in a grand final is the big occasion you look forward to as a player and you want to give everything for the team and the club," he said.

"The feeling around the place since we won the premiership has been electric and as a team we've been feeding off that.

"Rockdale is a very special club so as a player it has been very special to deliver the success the fans have craved for so long.

"It has been an incredible season and we all want to cap it off with grand final success."



TRIFIRO: FROM SURGERY TO FINALIST

For Sydney United 58 midfielder Glen Trifiro, a grand final victory will be worth much more than silverware.

Victory against Rockdale would cap off what has been an incredible recovery for the veteran playmaker, who at the start of this season was unable to walk after suffering a serious ligament tear in his ankle during the final round of the 2019 season.

He was forced to watch on from the sidelines as his United 58 side suffered a heartbreaking 2-1 loss at the hands of APIA in last season's decider.

However, the disappointment of grand final defeat would not compare to the struggles faced by Trifiro during his six-month recovery which he says completely changed his outlook on the game and life.

"At first I didn't think the injury was that bad and it wasn't until after my surgery that it dawned on me how serious the whole situation was," he said.

"The biggest wake-up call for me was realising how quickly everything can be taken away from you.

"I run a football academy so I need to be on my feet all day coaching kids. This injury hit me harder off the pitch than it did on it as for a good few months my everyday life was flipped upside down."

The thought of returning to the pitch with Sydney United 58 was secondary for the veteran playmaker instead his focus was set on returning to work at the Futboltec Academy he runs with his brother Jason Trifiro.

Without the luxury of being able to commit to a full rehabilitation schedule, Trifiro said he just did whatever he could to get his body right as quickly as possible.

"As a semi-professional player you can't afford to spend months in rehab and getting yourself back to peak fitness," he said.

"You have work and family and other commitments which need to take priority and that is exactly what the case was for me.

"I just did whatever bits and pieces I needed to do which would let me get back on my feet and back to work."

Trifiro returned to the pitch in March and admitted

the forced COVID shutdown of the league allowed him extra time to get his body right.

The man known as Tricky has since gone on to have one of his best seasons for United 58 and is determined to make it a historic campaign for the club he has called home for over a decade.

"It has been a crazy season but this is a great group of players and it has shown with the way they have given everything this year to get the club to another grand final," he said.

"Over the years this club has had success winning everything from premierships to national titles but the one which has evaded us is a grand final win.

"It would mean so much to the club to lift the trophy and I would love to help them achieve that."



Sydney United 58's towering defender Adrian Vlastelica knows how it feels and the pain that comes with losing a Grand Final.

Having had such a tremendous run in 2019, Sydney United 58 fell short at the last hurdle bowing out to eventual Grand Final winners APIA Leichhardt FC at Bankwest Stadium.

It is that feeling alone that the 25-year-old hopes to not revisit when the skipper sets his sights on spoiling 2020 Premiers Rockdale Ilinden's party this Sunday in this year's Grand Final at Marconi Stadium.

"Of course the pain of losing any final is always tough to take and I know how much it would mean to the club to lift the Championship trophy once more.

"I think it will be huge for not only the players and staff but our loyal supporters who turn up in large numbers week in week out home and away should we get that successful result this Sunday.

"Also, having not won the NPL NSW Men's Grand Final since 2006 and coming so close last year, it would be a huge achievement for everyone involved."

Ultra-proud of his club colours, Vlastelica has thoroughly enjoyed taking the captain's armband week in week out in an NPL year that's seen so much drama and excitement.

"It's been an honour to do this week in week out.

"The job has been made easy with all the experience and top-quality players we have in our squad it must be said.

"Hopefully we can finish the job off and get the result on Sunday."

The former Hurstville Zagreb junior was at his commanding best when he and his troops dug in deep to record a memorable 3-1 Semi-Final victory over the Wollongong Wolves last Sunday, setting up a Grand Final date with Rockdale Ilinden.

"We knew going into that match that we had a good record against Wollongong.

"Like last season, we managed to beat them at this stage of the competition, so the confidence was there to get the result again.

"We had a game plan and we stuck to that, played our style of football and a few moments of quality helped get the result that sent us through."

Sunday's opponents Rockdale Ilinden have really come of age during the 2020 rebooted season.

Coach Steve Zoric has been instrumental in Rockdale's success but Vlastelica, although respecting his opposition, understands that his side will give it their all in bringing that elusive Championship trophy back to the King Tom Club on Sunday night.

"Rockdale have been very consistent this year and a tough side to beat.

"It will be a tough game as every final is.

"We played out a 2-2 draw less than a month ago so come Sunday we will have our game plan and hopefully come away with the win.

"You can expect us to play our attacking free flowing football as we have all season.

"I think it will be a great game to watch with two quality sides going at it.

"Last year's final gives us extra motivation to get it over the line come Sunday you can be sure of that."



CONGRATULATIONS PATRICK WOOD

**2020
GOLDEN BOOT
WINNER**



NAME & CLUB	GOALS SCORED
Patrick Wood (Sydney FC)	11
Patrick Antelmi (Sydney United 58)	9
Josh Bingham (Wollongong Wolves)	6
Amaury Gauthier (Rockdale Ilinden)	6
Marko Jesic (Marconi)	5
Hassan Jalloh (Blacktown City)	5
Charles Lokolingoy (Sydney Olympic)	5

2020 GOAL SCORERS

NAME & CLUB	# GOALS
Leroy Jennings (Blacktown City)	4
Lachlan Scott (Wollongong Wolves)	4
Anthony Frangie (Marconi)	4
Adam Parkhouse (Sydney Olympic)	4
Tomoki Wada (Rockdale Ilinden)	4
Rory Jordan (Western Sydney Wanderers)	4
Mitchell Smith (North Shore Mariners)	4
Brendan Cholakian (Manly United)	4
Takeru Okada (Wollongong Wolves)	4
Jordan Swibel (Sydney FC)	4
Ali Auglah (Western Sydney Wanderers)	4
Matt Sim (Sydney United 58)	4
Jack Stewart (Mt Druitt Town Rangers)	4
Alec Urosevski (Rockdale Ilinden)	4
Marcus Beattie (Wollongong Wolves)	4
Thomas Fay (Sydney FC)	3
John Roberts (Mt Druitt Town Rangers)	3
Matthew Bilic (Sydney United 58)	3
Bul Juach (Wollongong Wolves)	3
Fabio Ferriera (Sydney Olympic)	3
Chris Payne (APIA Leichhardt)	3
Devante Clut (Sydney United 58)	3
Dejan Pandurevic (Manly United)	3
Hagi Gligor (Sydney Olympic)	2
Jake Hollman (Sydney FC)	2
Charles Mendy (Blacktown City)	2
Sean Symons (APIA Leichhardt)	2
Jeremy Cox (APIA Leichhardt)	2
Michael Neill (Rockdale Ilinden)	2
Luca Kmet (Manly United)	2
Antonio Saracino (Sydney FC)	2
Michael Jeffrey (Mt Druitt Town Rangers)	2
Jordan Devries (Manly United)	2
Lawrence Frederick (North Shore Mariners)	2
Martin Fernandez (Marconi)	2
Adam Berry (Blacktown City)	2
Jason Madonis (Sydney Olympic)	2
Daniel Collins (Blacktown City)	2
Jackson Khoury (Sydney United 58)	2
Matt Lewis (Blacktown City)	2

NAME & CLUB	# GOALS
Thomas James (Wollongong Wolves)	1
Thomas Main (Sydney FC)	1
Charles Williams (North Shore Mariners)	1
Nelson Pyl (North Shore Mariners)	1
Paul Galimi (APIA Leichhardt)	1
Tynan Diaz (APIA Leichhardt)	1
Nathan Millgate (Marconi)	1
Richie Cardozo (Manly United)	1
James Georgaklis (Manly United)	1
Peter Kekeris (Sydney Olympic)	1
Aidan Simmons (Sydney FC)	1
Adrian Segcic (Sydney FC)	1
Lachlan Sepping (Marconi)	1
Nikola Taneski (Rockdale Ilinden)	1
Kyle Cimenti (Rockdale Ilinden)	1
Michael Ruhs (Sydney United 58)	1
Tariq Maia (Sydney United 58)	1
Cooper Coskerie (Mt Druitt Town Rangers)	1
Stefan Nikolic (Western Sydney Wanderers)	1
Chris Lindsay (North Shore Mariners)	1
Josh Symons (APIA Leichhardt)	1
Nick Littler (Wollongong Wolves)	1
Solomon-Johnn Monahan Vaiika (Mt Druitt Town Rangers)	1
Lochlan Constable (Western Sydney Wanderers)	1
Josh McDonald (Sydney United 58)	1
Jordan Casella (Rockdale Ilinden)	1
Kosta Grozos (WSW)	1
Peter Grozos (WSW)	1
Glenn Trifiro (Sydney United 58)	1
Aidan Mostofi (Sydney FC)	1
Franco Parisi (APIA Leichhardt)	1
Mitchell Gibbs (APIA Leichhardt)	1
Tass Mourdakoutas (Western Sydney Wanderers)	1
Suleyman Bangura (Blacktown City)	1
Rhett DaSilva (Blacktown City)	1
Lochlan Constable (WSW)	1
Scott Balderson (Manly)	1
Eddie Caspers (NSM)	1

FINALS SERIES ROUND 1 REVIEW

The stage is set for the 2020 National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition Grand Final with fierce rivals Rockdale Ilinden FC and Sydney United 58 set to go head to head at Marconi Stadium.

It will be a battle of first against third after newly-crowned Premiers Rockdale and United 58 confirmed they place in the decider with thrilling semi-final wins.

Rockdale was the first to earn their ticket to Marconi Stadium with a 3-0 victory against Sydney Olympic on Saturday night as they progressed to their first grand final appearance since 2013.

On Sunday it was United 58 who came out on top as they claimed a 3-1 victory against Wollongong Wolves in a drama-filled clash on Sunday to secure a second grand final berth in as many years.

It is set to be a massive week for both clubs as they prepare for the biggest game of the season.

Rockdale Ilinden 3 (Neill 29', Wada 43', Casella 57') – Sydney Olympic 0 at Ilinden Sports Centre

Newly crowned 2020 National Premier Leagues NSW Men's Premiers Rockdale Ilinden have booked their Grand Final ticket with a comprehensive 3-0 win against Sydney Olympic at Ilinden Sports Centre on Saturday night.

Steve Zoric's men brought their season form into the crucial semi-final clash as they proved far too hungry for their opponents whose defensive errors ended up being their downfall.

Rockdale kicked things off with a great opening goal in the 29th minute thanks to a stunning Michael Neil strike.

It was some decent build-up play from the Ilinden back-line that saw Banri Kanaizumi

launch a long ball forward that saw Patrick Savor expertly nod it through to a rampaging Neill who ripped the leather off the ball with a venomous strike sending the home fans into raptures.

Neill then turned the game on its head with two minutes remaining before the break after picking up a loose ball and playing a lovely one-two, was brought down in the box by Olympic's Jason Madonis.

Referee Katie Patterson had no hesitation but awarded the penalty which was expertly dispatched by Japanese import Tomoki Wada.

It was a hammer blow for the Blues who went into the half knowing they needed a herculean effort in the second to get back into the match.

It wasn't to be for Ante Juric's men as it was Game, Set and Match in the 57th minute when young gun Jaden Casella pounced on yet another defensive blunder by Olympic.

Benjamin Van Meurs gave a poor ball away which was picked up by the elusive Amaury Gauthier. The ace marksman slipped Casella through who did well to finish a crafty move and it was then and there the hosts realised they'd be playing at next Sunday's NPL NSW Men's Grand Final.

The day's earlier match in the Grade 20s Semi-Final saw Sydney FC prove too strong for Rockdale Ilinden coming home with a 3-1 victory.

A brace from 16-year-old sensation Aiden Mostofi and Anton Milnaric cancelled out Nathan Manno's goal that sent the Sky Blues into next Sunday's Grade 20 Grand Final.

Wollongong Wolves 1 (Beattie 34') – Sydney United 58 3 (Antelmi 15', Trifiro 74', Sim 84')

Sydney United 58 have secured their second Grand Final berth in as many years with a

3-1 victory against Wollongong Wolves in a drama-filled clash at Albert Butler Memorial Park on Sunday.

In a repeat of the same game last season, United 58 was too good on the road as they once again denied Wollongong a place in the decider

It was a chaotic clash with both teams reduced to 10-men just before half-time after two separate off the ball incidents from United 58's Patrick Antelmi and Thomas James of the Wolves.

A brilliant strike from Glen Trifiro and a clinical finish from Matt Sim in the second stanza was the difference with United 58 now set for a winner takes all clash against fierce rivals Rockdale Ilinden in next week's decider.

Sydney United 58 didn't hold back as they took the contest to Wollongong right from the opening whistle.

The visitors earlier pressure paid off when they were awarded a penalty after Matt Sim's shot from the edge of the box was blocked by the arm of Wollongong defender Nikola Djordjevic.

Striker Antelmi made sure of the opportunity blasting the ball into the back of the net from the spot to give United 58 a 1-0 lead after only 15 minutes.

Despite falling behind the home side were not to be written off and found an equaliser through Marcus Beattie ten minutes from the break to level the score at 1-1.

The pressure was rising as the match closed in on half-time with the difficult conditions and physical play getting players on edge.

Tensions boiled over in the 38th minute with the game exploding into chaos after dirty play off the ball by Antelmi and Wollongong's Thomas James caused an all in-brawl.

The moment of madness proved costly for both

sides with Referee Michael Weiner brandishing a straight red card for both Antelmi and James that reduced the two teams to ten-men.

Wollongong raced out of the block with Okada driving the home side's attack forward.

The home side was desperate for an equaliser but struggled to find the finishing touch required.

A moment of brilliance from Trifiro gave the visitors the lead in the 74th minute when the midfield fired a rocket into the top left corner from the edge of the penalty box.

The Wolves season was on the line and they pushed ahead in search of an equaliser.

But again the United 58 counter-attack was too much with Sim finding the back of the net after a brilliant cutting pass in behind the backline to stretch the visitors lead to 3-1 with only minutes left in the match.

It proved to be the final blow for United 58 with the final whistle confirming their place in the grand final and the end to Wollongong's season.

In the day's earlier match Blacktown City confirmed their place in the U20's grand final with a 3-1 win against Western Sydney Wanderers.

They will take on Sydney FC in next week's U20's grand final.



UNDER 20's



1	Adam	Pavlesic
4	Anton	Mlinaric
5	Thomas	Fay
12	Fletcher	McFarlane
14	Thomas	Main
17	Callum	Talbot
20	Levi	Kaye
23	Nathan	Grimaldi
25	Clayton	Taylor
27	Antonio	Saracino
28	Patrick	Yazbek
32	Oscar	Priestman
33	Aidan	Simmons
34	Nikola	Skataric
35	Stevan	Stanic-Floody
36	Aiden	Mostofi
38	Jake	Girdwood-Reich

Coach: Howard Fondyke

Assistant Coach: Liam Fitz-Gerald

Team Manager: Jarek Pacholski

26	Michael	Adomako
27	Alec	Purves
28	Blake	Richards
30	Thomas	Bienasz
31	Stuart	Gosling
32	Ryan	Attard
34	Kai	Mclaughlin
35	Ryan	Duffy
36	Caleb	Jackson-Brown
37	Jacob	Casha
40	Jacob	Gjorsevski

Coach: Andy Montgomery

Assistant: Dean Montgomery

Manager: Steve Crawhall



CORPORATE PARTNERS



CORPORATE PARTNERS



1ST GRADE



1	David	Bradasevic
2	Daniel	Petkovski
3	Michael	Neill
4	Mitchell	Stamatellis
5	Jake	Trajkovski
6	Banri	Kanaizumi
7	Alec	Urosevski
8	Tomoki	Wada
9	Dimi	Petratos
10	Amuary	Gauthier
11	Nicola	Taneski
14	Brayden	Sorge
16	Mo	Ahmed
18	Samuel	Gulisano
19	Patrick	Savor
20	Jaden	Casella
39	Andrew	Di Biasio
24	Zander	Regan
26	Joshua	Jenicek
41	Nathan	Manno

Coach: Steve Zoric

Assistant Coach: Gary Deprato

Head of Football: Matthew Ribarovski

Team Manager: Sam Contestable

Physio: Michael Koutzoumis

GK Coach: Jose Bella Migo

1	Danijel	Nizic
2	Cristian	Gonzalez
3	Jordan	Roberts
4	Adrian	Vlastelica
5	Anthony	Tomelic
8	Mathew	Sim
10	Devante	Clut
11	Yianni	Perkatis
14	Jackson	Khoury
15	Tariq	Maia
17	Mathew	Bilic
18	Glen	Trifiro
20	Adrian	Vranic
21	Thomas	Manos
22	Yianni	Fragogiannis
23	Luke	Vlastelica
28	Anthony	Krilic
99	Joshua	Macdonald

Coach: Anthony Crea

Assistant Coach: Petar Markovic

Team Manager: Raymond Gerrie

Physio: Denana Kadric





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