

# KICKOFF

2021 - ROUND 01



MARCONI  
STADIUM

NATIONAL  
PREMIER LEAGUES  
NSW

FRIDAY  
26TH FEBRUARY  
7.45PM

The Board of Directors at Club Marconi warmly welcome Sydney FC to our “Palace” for the start of the 2021 NPL NSW Men’s Season.

As part of the “Football Family” we are all hoping for a more “normal” season given the extreme difficulties faced by all Australians both “on and off” the field in 2020.

Marconi Stallions FC Coach Peter Tsekenis has maintained the bulk of his squad. He has added some “firepower” going forward with the acquisitions of former Dandenong Thunder (Victoria) attacker Chris Hatfield and youthful former West Sydney Wanderers attacker Stefan Nikolic. The 17-year-old is earmarked for big things – he has the ability and aspirations to play abroad in the future.

The youngster has joined at late notice after “key signing” Charles Lokolingoy was “snapped up” by A-League Club Wellington Phoenix. The big striker looked a great fit in pre-season matches and will be missed – he played as a replacement for the Phoenix in their drawn match last weekend against Western Sydney Wanderers.

Tsekenis has also added two youngsters from the U20 squad – Mason Ingram and Paolo Laxamana. Both have had a taste of senior football in the last two seasons.

The Stallions are well prepared having played nine trial matches, the most recent in Canberra against Monaro Panthers.

The coach is comfortable with where his squad is at. “We have kept the core of the squad which is really important for team cohesion. I am really looking forward to giving this season a real big shake.” he added.

“Sydney FC always have good talent so we know what we will be up against.”

The youthful Sydney City FC under Jimmy Van Weeren will be a difficult task first up.

Their squad is identical to last season, they are aiming at a first time run into the final series. In last season’s reduced competition they finished fifth, just missing the semi-finals.

“All of our Sydney FC squad are either retained or promoted from younger age groups within the Academy Program” according to coach Van Weeren.

They are aiming to be competitive in every match this season.

Sydney FC has managed to retain key players including NPL NSW Men’s competition top goal scorer Patrick Wood who finished with 11 goals in 2020, as well as Jordi Swibel, Callum Talbot and Calem Nieuwenhof, all of which have made first team appearances in Steve Corica’s A-League side this year.

Both sides will be keen to start the season on a winning note.

At half time in NPL matches played at Marconi Stadium Under 6/7/8 teams from surrounding clubs will play in the Markka Cup.

It is a club initiative aimed at putting the youngest players on centre stage during the season. It will start in the coming weeks once competing clubs are known.

## MAJOR SPONSORS



## CORPORATE PARTNERS



# 1ST GRADE TEAM LISTS



- 1 Nenad Vekic
- 2 Nathan Millgate
- 3 Giorgio Speranza
- 4 Roberto Speranza
- 5 Mason Ingram
- 6 Mark Rodic
- 7 Chris Hatfield
- 8 Connor Evans
- 9 Anthony Costa
- 10 Marko Jesic
- 11 Mitchell Mallia
- 12 Stefan Nikolic
- 14 Anthony Frangie
- 16 Liam Yulley
- 17 Martin Fernandez
- 19 Zach Cairncross
- 20 Dion Shaw
- 23 Brandon Vella
- 24 Paolo Laxamana

Head Coach: Peter Tsekenis

Manager: Peter Papoythis



- 1 Levi Kaye
- 2 Cameron Fong
- 3 Aaron Gurd
- 5 Tom Fay
- 6 Thomas Main
- 8 Patrick Yazbek
- 9 Antonio Saracino
- 10 Jaiden Kucharski
- 11 Adrian Segecic
- 12 Jake Girdwood-Reich
- 14 Aiden Mostofi
- 15 Scott Browning
- 17 Jayden Trenkoski
- 19 Joseph Calusic
- 20 Max Vartuli
- 21 Patrick Wood
- 22 Calem Nieuwenhof
- 23 Callum Talbot
- 24 Luke Ivanovic
- 25 Harry van der Saag
- 26 Patrick Flottman
- 27 Jordan Swibel
- 30 Tom Heward-Belle

Head Coach: Jim Van Weeren

Assistant Coach: Howard Fondyke

**Referee:**

**A. Arndt**

**Assistant Referees:**

**N. Wotton and M. Allum**

**Fourth Official:**

**H. Al-Nakeeb**

\*TEAM LISTINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## MATCH PREVIEW

The National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition is back, and round one of the 2021 season is set to kick-off the season with a bang. The opening round will be dedicated to Rockdale Illinden's Idriss El-Hafiane, a fan favourite and much admired and adored by many in the Football Family, each club will be observing a minute's silence paying respect to the energetic attacker.

A big statement win to open the season will be a significant motivator for Marconi Stallions on Friday night as they host Sydney FC at Marconi Stadium.

A disappointing finish to their 2020 campaign would have stung a proud club such as Marconi so expect coach Peter Tsekenis to have his team firing for this match after a long off-season.

A lot will be expected from Club captain Marko Jesic who will be required to carry a lot of the attack after the departure of James Andrew and Charles Lokolingoy, who the Wellington Phoenix snapped up despite only making a move to Marconi Stadium earlier this year.

Tsekenis has managed to keep the core of his squad from 2020 and hope that the team's consistency will be duplicated in their performances and results.

Nenad Vekic will again be the man between the posts while the Speranza brothers and Mitch Mallia will also be in action, ensuring there is still plenty of star power in the Stallions line-up.

They will face off against a Sydney FC team, one of the genuine surprise packets in 2020.

The Young Sky Blues, under the leadership of returning coach Jim Van Weeren, narrowly missed out on a spot in the finals in what was their best campaign in the NSW State League top flight.

Van Weeren has managed to hold onto the majority of the squad and will be determined to build on their impressive 2020 form this time around.

Blessed with quality young guns coming through the ranks, expect to hear the likes of names such as Cameron Fong, Antonio Saracino, Stevan Stanic-Floody and Jaiden Kucharaski delivering big performances each week.

Friday's game will be a big test for both sides, so expect plenty of action in what will be a thrilling clash.



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OFFICIAL MATCH BALL OF NPL NSW

PURCHASE FROM:



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## U20 TEAM LISTS



30 Jordan Ford  
31 Daniel Helweh  
32 Jarred McKinley  
22 Andrew Holder  
25 Blake Ilitch  
18 Dimos Vlachos  
35 Jeremy Dinh  
36 Jarrod Galea

Coach: Steve Appleby  
Manager: Patrick Gatt

38 Jesse Hirschowitz  
39 Jay Hirschowitz  
40 Luka Zepina  
41 Ahmad Taleb  
42 James Hilton  
43 Jackson Andrews  
44 Adrian Neoklis



4 Nathan Grimaldi  
7 Aidan Simmons  
13 Clayton Taylor  
16 Stevan Stanic-Floody  
18 Oscar Priestman  
Corey Hollman  
Hunter Elliott  
Kai Kamikura

Coach: Howard Fondyke  
Assistant Coach: Liam Fitz-Gerald

Lachlan Mills  
Nathan Paull  
Nikola Skataric  
Phillip Gigliotti  
Aleksandar Duricic  
Andrew Vlahadamis  
Brae Ovens  
Hayden Matthews

*\*Sydney FC have indicated that all Under 20's shirt numbers will change weekly.*

## NEXT ROUND FIXTURES

**SUTHERLAND SHARKS FC VS  
MARCONI STALLIONS FC**

**3:30 PM / SAT 6 MAR  
SEYMOUR SHAW**

**BLACKTOWN CITY FC VS  
NORTHBRIDGE BULLS FC**

**3:00 PM / SUN 7 MAR  
LILY HOMES STADIUM**

**MT DRUITT TOWN RANGERS FC VS APIA  
LEICHHARDT FC**

**7:00 PM / SAT 6 MAR  
POPONDETTA PARK NO.1**

**ROCKDALE ILINDEN FC VS  
SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC**

**3:00 PM / SUN 7 MAR  
ROCKDALE ILINDEN SPORTS CENTRE**

**WOLLONGONG WOLVES FC VS  
MANLY UNITED FC**

**2:30 PM / SUN 7 MAR  
ALBERT BUTLER MEMORIAL PARK**

**SYDNEY UNITED 58 FC VS  
SYDNEY FC**

**4:00 PM / SUN 7 MAR  
SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE**

# IDRISS EL-HAFIANE TO BE HONOURED

The National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition recently lost one of its favourite sons in Rockdale Ilinden's well adored and admired star Idriss El-Hafiane.

A player who had strong connections with a number of our current and past NPL NSW Men's players and clubs as well as ties with the Football family, the 27-year-old was one of the competition's bright sparks that always gave his all for the game.

To honour Rockdale's number 12, each round 1 NPL NSW Men's match will observe a minute's silence to pay respect to a player that was famous for the #NoDrizzyNoParty saying.

Rockdale Ilinden will be hosting a special tribute to their star prior to its round 1 clash this Sunday against the Wollongong Wolves at the Ilinden Sports Centre. In what will be a touching tribute to the fallen star, his family will be in attendance, as will his many friends in what will be a special moment for all involved.

Football in NSW is one tight knit community, we are here to help each other no matter what the result is.

Rockdale Ilinden's inspirational skipper and close friend of Idriss, Daniel Petkovski best summed it up in a recent interview with Football NSW's Media Manager Mark Stavroulakis.

"He was a brother to all of us, I grew up and played alongside him.

"Idriss was a fantastic teammate and was the first one to encourage all us players and coaches and was quite simply the life of the party.

"We continue to miss him each and every day."

**ROUND 1**  
**NPL NSW MEN'S**

*Dedicated to*

**IDRISS  
EL-HAFIANE**





# 2021 HOME FIXTURES

**HOME GROUND - Marconi Stadium**  
**121-133 Prairie Vale Road, Bossley Park**

**[clubmarconi.com.au/marconi-stallions](http://clubmarconi.com.au/marconi-stallions)**

ROUND 1	26/02/21 (Fri)	19:45	Sydney FC
ROUND 3	13/03/21 (Sat)	18:00	Rockdale Ilinden FC
ROUND 5	27/03/21 (Sat)	18:00	Sydney United 58 FC
ROUND 6	02/04/21 (Fri)	16:00	Wollongong Wolves FC
ROUND 8	17/04/21 (Sat)	16:00	Sydney Olympic FC
ROUND 9	24/04/21 (Sat)	16:00	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC
ROUND 10	01/05/21 (Sat)	16:00	Blacktown City FC
ROUND 13	22/05/21 (Sat)	16:00	Sutherland Sharks FC
ROUND 15	05/06/21 (Sat)	16:00	Northbridge Bulls FC
ROUND 18	26/06/21 (Sat)	16:00	APIA Leichhardt FC
ROUND 22	25/07/21 (Sun)	15:00	Manly United FC

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT**  
**[NPLNSW.COM.AU](http://NPLNSW.COM.AU)**

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