

KICKOFF

2021 - ROUND 15



**ALBERT BUTLER
MEMORIAL PARK**

**NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES
NSW**

**SUNDAY
6TH JUNE
2.30PM**

CORPORATE PARTNERS



WOLLONGONG WOLVES COACHING STAFF & MANAGEMENT

1st Team Coach	Luke Wilshire
1st Grade Assistant Coach	Stephen O'Connor
Senior Manager	Mark Wilshire
Under 20s Coach	Matheus Scapin
Under 20s Assistant Coach	Daniell Zeleny
Under 20s Manager	Jorge Perez
GK Coach	John Krajnovic
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WOLVES SHOP
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FROM THE COACH



L A W Y E R S

Welcome to our round 15 clash against Sydney Olympic FC.

We are coming off a disappointing 3-0 loss against Mount Druitt on a cold Saturday night last week. We were in control of that game for large parts of it and missed a penalty just after half time which would have put us one nil up. After that we displayed some poor defending off basic long balls and conceded some disappointing goals. I expect us to defend a lot better than we did in those situations.

That loss drops us to sixth, one point out of the top 5 with 8 games to play. This match against Sydney Olympic is crucial as they are only one point behind us.

We managed a 1-0 win against Olympic in the first round and I expect our squad to be eager to start well today. I am expecting a real response to last weeks loss. Some players are playing for a contract next season and a chance to play finals football in a couple of months time. There is plenty to play for and I look forward to seeing some goals scored and a tight defensive display.

I hope you enjoy the match and look forward to seeing you at The Fraternity Club after the game.

MAJOR SPONSOR



MATCH PREVIEW

v Sydney Olympic FC

Wollongong Wolves welcome Sydney Olympic for today's Round 15 fixture at Albert Butler Park in 2021 NPL NSW Mens 1 competition with this promising to be an alluring affair. Olympic and the Wolves have attained twenty-five and sixteen against each other at a goal per game average of 1.56 and 1.0 respectively from the sixteen matches played since 2013.

THE OPPOSITION TODAY - SYDNEY OLYMPIC

The Sydney Olympic coach Ante Juric, has renewed his squad with the addition of Marley Peterson and Brendan Cholakian from Manly United, Mohamed Adam and Fabian Monge from Western Sydney Wanderers, together with Luke Kairies from Wollongong Wolves, Japanese player Yu Hasegawa and Daniel Dias.

One of many honours for Sydney Olympic was being the 1960 Second Division Premiership winner, finishing one point to the good of Polonia to take the honours and win promotion the first division. The team (Pan Hellenic then) advanced to the Grand Final to play Polonia, but were denied the double, losing 2-1. Captain coach was Themis Toussis and together with Sotirios Patrinos were former Greek first division players who turned out for the team. Patrinos became the designated penalty kick taker and against the club, Concordia, a penalty kick ensued. No-one would step up except for Patrinos. He took the kick and duly converted. He was overwhelmed so much that he planted a kiss on the referee and was summarily dismissed.

Sydney Olympic completed the 2020 Reboot season finishing in fourth place on twenty-one points from six wins and three draws. The team conceded ten goals but scored seventeen for a goal difference of plus seven. The best result sequence without loss was three, accomplished three times, win, win, win Rounds 1-3, draw win, win Rounds 5-7 and draw win draw from Rounds 9-11. The top scorer was Charles Lokoli Ngoy with five goals with five other players joining him on the scorers' list. Only twice did the team neglect to score with the best result was 4-2 in Round 7 while 1-0 was the least impressive score line. Lokoli Ngoy scored the quickest goal, in the eleventh minute of Round 7 versus APIA.

Sydney Olympic has finished in 4th, 6th, 7th, 1st and 6th position in the previous five seasons.

THE MATCH -UP

The top scorer for each club at this stage of the season is Jason Madonis (SO) and Mohamed Adam (SO) with four each and Lachlan Scott (WW) with five goals, with each team scoring fifteen and nineteen respectively.

The scorer of the team's previous goal is Oliver Puflett (SO) and Liam Wille (WW)

Sydney Olympic has fourteen wins to the Wolves' twelve in their league match-ups since the 2004/05 season with the Wolves running out winners 2-0. Olympic has achieved a tally of fifty-two goals since 2004/05 to the Wolves thirty-eight.

Wollongong has scored and conceded most goals this season in the 61st to the 74th minute and 16th to 30th time periods respectively, while Olympic statistics in this regard are both in the 61st to 75th time periods. The Wolves have been kept scoreless on five occasions compared to Olympic's four.

In the previous round, Olympic drew with APIA 1-1 and the Wolves succumbed 3-0 to Mt Druitt Town Rangers.

Sydney Olympic is positioned eight on the ladder with eighteen points while the Wolves are two places ahead and one point to the good.

The result sequence in the previous five games is SO - win, loss, loss, draw and draw, WW - win, win draw, win and loss.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Olympic's Oliver Puflett is a player on the rise. He is a fast attacker and formerly played for Western Sydney Wanderers in the Youth League. He has already found the net on one occasion this season in the most recent game and will be eager to add to his tally.

Wolves' Shot stopper Hayden Durose is a Wolves' player who is drawn on to make crucial saves in the course of the ninety plus minutes. He does this time and again with excellent timing and positioning. He possesses a strong clearing kick, which sometimes leads to goals. So far this season, he has saved three spot kicks with the third being last week versus Manly, though in the follow up Manly equalised.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

In the 2001/02 season in Round 21 the Wolves comprised of Dean Anastasidis, Alvin Ceccoli, Robert Stanton, David Cervinski, Alex Castro, Stuart Young, Naum Sekulovski, Con Anthopoulos, Ben Blake, Dino Menillo and Dustin Wells. Greg Sharland, Zeljko Babic and David Huxley replaced Castro, Sekulovski and Blake respectively with the coach being Ron Corry. The Sydney Olympic personnel were Clint Bolton, Stephen Laybutt, Tom Pondeljak, Dylan Macallister, Troy Halpin, Jade North, Jeremy Harris, Andrew Packer, Andrew Durante, Hiroyuki Ishida, and Ante Juric. Fred Agius, Wayne Shropj and Elias Augerinos subbed on for Harris, Durante and Ishida respectively.

Olympic opened the scoring in the seventeenth minute through Packer and Laybutt increased the lead three minutes after the half hour. Olympic were composed and their defence coped admirably with the Wolves could conjure up in attack. Packer slotted home after Ishida had out sped the Wolves defence before crossing. The ball rebounded off Anastasiadis for Packer to react. Wells unfortunately put the ball wide when he had a golden opportunity to score. A minute later, Ishida played in another targeted cross allowing Laybutt go through with space to spare and convert the chance. The Wolves responded in the second half with the away team applying sustained pressure. However, Olympic

held firm. The Wolves finally got one back through Wells with ten minutes to go for his debut goal. However, despite both teams throwing the dice the 2-1 result stood with Olympic the victors.

SCORES AND SCORERS FROM THE PREVIOUS FIVE LEAGUE MEETING

1. 2018. Wollongong Wolves 0 defeated by Sydney Olympic 4 (Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez x2, Nick Tsattalios, Max Burgess)
2. 2019. Sydney Olympic 0 defeated by Wollongong Wolves 2 (Lachlan Scott, Darcy Madden)
3. 2019. Wollongong Wolves 2 (Lachlan Scott x2) def Sydney Olympic 0
4. 2020. Wollongong Wolves 1 (Takeru Okada) def Sydney Olympic 0
5. 2021. Sydney Olympic 0 Wollongong Wolves 1 (Lachlan Scott)

TWO SELECTED TOP SCORERS FOR SYDNEY OLYMPIC - PABLO CARDOZO and ANTE MILICIC

A tally of eighteen goals was Pablo Cardozo's haul in the 1998/99 NSL season from twenty-eight appearances with a goal per game average of 0.64. His first goal of this season was in the Round 1 Northern Spirit game with his goal coming in the fifty-sixth minute.



In the 2002/03 N.S.L. season, Milicic attained nineteen goals from twenty-eight games, scoring his initial season goal in Round 1 versus Melbourne Knights, in the forty-seventh minute. His goal per game ratio for this season was 0.67

TWO SELECTED TOP SCORERS FOR WOLLONGONG WOLVES - PATRICK ANTELMi and PAT BRODNIK

One season striker Antelmi in 2017 scored eleven goals from twenty-one matches with a goal per game ratio of 0.52. His first goal was in Round 1 Parramatta Eagles match scoring in the forty-eighth minute even though the match result was reversed due to fielding ineligible players and the Eagles were given the points. It was not until the Round 5 APLA Leichardt game that his first official 2017 goal was achieved.

Brodnik achieved six goals on the top of the scorers list in 1985 with his first in Round 4 against Inter Monaro in the eighty-fifth minute. He played eighteen times with goal per game ratio of 0.33.

TWO SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTH CLUBS - SEBASTIAN SINOZIC and TROY HALPIN

Sinozic, the defender, played three seasons for Olympic from 1999/00 to the 2001/02 season, making thirty-six appearances. His debut was as substitute in Round 9 Melbourne Knights match in the 1999/00 season coming on for Scott Thomas on eighty-four minutes.

Prior to his Olympic stint, he played three seasons for the Wolves from the 1996/97 to 1998/99 season attaining twenty-one appearances. His debut was in Round 26, the final match of the 1997/97 season, versus Collingwood Warriors.

Halpin, the midfield player, made ninety-three appearances for Olympic with a four goal tally from 2000-2004. Earlier in his career, he played in four matches with the Wolves in the 1994/95 season, consisting of three starts and one as a replacement. His initial Wolves game was in the Round 2 clash with Melbourne Knights, while his Olympic debut was in Round 1 versus Football Kingz.

By Malcolm Rowney



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CLEAR IT OUT

On occasions when a custodian is beaten, defenders manage to spare the blushes when they can 'clear it out', by preventing the ball from entering their province with a clearance off the line. A number such instances will be highlighted with the players concerned with one such player featuring in three of these. In addition these players have been brought to attention.

The latest of these clearances occurred in the 2021 Rockdale Ilinden match in Round 12 at Albert Butler Memorial Park. Rockdale's Alec Urosevski's pass set forth Brayden Sorge into the box. Wolves' custodian Hayden Durose came off his line and dived at the feet of Sorge. He then eluded Durose on the right side of the goal area and played the ball to his left to the goal. In an instant debut Wolves' defender, Dax Kelly (elevated from the Under 18s team), was perfectly positioned to prevent the ball from entering the Wolves' domain at the near post to save a certain goal.

In 2011 in Round 1, Sydney Olympics' Chris Triantis free kick flew across the goal eluding the Wolves' custodian Brody Crane. Central defender Dave Abel was in a paramount position to thwart, doing so in a timely manner.

In the 1989/90 season, Jeff Allport was on the line versus Marconi on December 13th. Wolves' goalkeeper Dragan Pupovac could not reach Marconi's Robbie Wheatley's header. Allport was there, perfectly positioned to rebuff.

In the 2013 Round fixture, Wolves' custodian Daniel Collison in the twenty-third minute misjudged Rockdale's Brendan Gan's corner kick in the windy conditions. The ball was cleared off the line with the player concerned unfortunately not identified in the match reports.

Mitchell Duke for Blacktown City in 2011 eluded a defender on his run into the box to gain a more optimum position to pull the trigger. Wolves' goalkeeper, Brody Crane could not get the ball despite his good attempt. However, central defender Jacob Timpano was fortuitously positioned on the line at the post to project the ball away to keep his team in the hunt.

In the fourteenth minute of the match versus Mount

Druitt Town Rangers at WIN Stadium in 2019, the away team's Alex Boyadjian's strong shot had beaten the Wolves' custodian Justin Pasfield, only for central defender Nikola Djordjevic to be at the ready. He managed to tidy up by preventing the ball from entering the domain before kicking the ball away to safety.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles in Round 2, 2009, had Daniel Willoughby attempting an audacious back heel in an attempt to score. The Wolves' goalkeeper, Alex Augusto could not make the save, leaving captain Steve Hayes to intervene and save a certain goal from his on line position.

Sydney Crescent Star, a team in the NSW Premier League for only one season, played for the initial time against the Wolves in the 2004/05 season in Round 12 at WIN Stadium. Three minutes following the resumption of second half play, central defender George Souris got the ball away off his line. The ball unfortunately fell to Ersin Avni and he sent it straight back between Souris and custodian Scott Whalan to chalk up a goal.

With Bankstown Lions being the opposition in this 2010 Round 16 clash, it was Chris Godoy Bascur's effort in the eighty plus minutes, trying to bring up his brace after scoring three minutes earlier, that put the cat among the pigeons. His shot eluded custodian Brody Crane with captain Lisandro Berbis being on hand to save the day.

Sutherland Sharks and the Wollongong Wolves had some huge tussles in 2008 and in the final fixture, Round 22, with the Premiership hanging in the balance, midfielder Steve Hayes, as custodian Michael Turnbull was beaten, intervened on the line to keep the Sharks from going two goals up. His attempted clearance hit a Sharks attacker before rebounding away for a goal kick.

With Marconi being the opposition striker Mark Jankovic's shot in this 1985 match-up, evaded Wolves' custodian Sean Billington. Defender David Green was to the fore to ferociously clear to keep the goal in tact.

Sydney United's Mile Jedinak looked to scored in the seventy-fourth minute for Sydney United and bring up his hat trick in this Round 4 encounter at John

Crehan Park in 2007. Goalkeeper Zlatko Josevski was breached, though Steve Hayes was in a prime place on the line to deny.

In Round 5 of the Wolves - Parramatta Eagles fixture in 2004/05 season, Wolves' custodian, Scott Whalan, could not thwart a Mark Bridge shot that zoomed in, in the second half. Central defender Robert Cazzoli prevented the Parramatta effort by cleaning up in the fifty-second minute.

Dragan Vasic, a player for Footcray, played a shot into Jim Preston's sphere in Round 23 in 1981. It

eluded the Wolves shot stopper allowing captain Chris Dunleavy on the line at the post, to reject the goal attempt, five minutes before half time.

The actions of these players certainly prevented the opposition teams from scoring and kudos to these generally unsung heroes, Dave Abel, Jeff Allport, Lisandro Berbis, Robert Cazzoli, Nikola Djordjevic, Chris Dunleavy, David Green, Steve Hayes x3, Dax Kelly, George Souris and Jacob Timpano, plus the unidentified player.

By Malcolm Rowney



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FEATURE STORY

SO THE STORY GOES

As assistant coach for the Wollongong Wolves in 2021, this man previously has had many varied roles within the game as a top-notch defensive player and as coach held in high regard. He now brings his expertise and knowledge to his current appointment at this club in order to greatly benefit the players. 'So the story goes' that as a player he appeared in the strong Sydney City side in the National Soccer League (and prior in the NSW First Division) and later with St George and APIA, winning premierships and championships and appearing for the Socceroos on fifteen occasions in 'A' internationals and twenty-seven Non 'A' internationals. He is also an inductee in the Australia Football Hall Of Fame in 2003 and was the 1987 Australian Soccer Press 'Player Of The Year'. As a coach he was influential in shaping many of the big names in Australian football such as Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka and Alex Brosque at the Australian Institute Of Sport in Canberra amongst many others. This man is none other than Steve O'Connor.



O'Connor has ventured to the club for the 2021 campaign after first being appointed in 2020 but that season was affected by the pandemic. 'Of course, I've known Luke a long time, from the Socceroos, the AIS, and as a coach. Luke was coaching Wollongong Uni at the University Games at the Gold Coast (in 2019) and I was coaching Macquarie Uni. Luke asked if I was interested in doing some coaching with the Wolves and that they were an ambitious club. So here I am and I'm really happy to be working with the club and assisting Luke.'

When the Wolves played Rockdale in the 2021 Round 13 encounter at Albert Butler Memorial Park, Warrawong, the Wolves for the first time in years played a five-man backline to counter the strong Rockdale attack. Just as a sounding board. Luke and I had discussed playing five at the back because of injuries and conceding goals. So it was seen as a reasonable adjustment.' Similarly, under the coaching of Frank Arok, the Socceroos employed this formation. 'Yes, Frank used this formation a lot during my time with the Socceroos. We had two very attacking fullbacks and Frank wanted us strong through the centre as most teams played with two strikers.'

In his junior career O'Connor started out at Revesby Rovers when he was seven years old and represented Bankstown a year later and up until the age of sixteen. A senior call up to Bankstown first grade team was in the offing and he took this up, relinquishing his basketball career at which he was no slouch.

Following he joined Hakoah, making his debut at seventeen in 1972, playing the NSW Division One competition and lasting until 1976. The year 1977 saw the advent of the National Soccer League and the defender went on to play a total of two hundred and eighty eight appearances and scored eleven goals in an auspicious career in this Australia wide competition. One goal he scored was in 1978 the second year of the NSL. Against Canberra City, he got on the score sheet in the sixty-sixth minute in the Round 11 match played at Wentworth Park. His final goal for Sydney City was in the Round 10 St.George match played on 16th June 1986 at Sydney Athletic Field. It was a 7-0 rout with O'Connor joining

Barnes, Eli Ohana together with a John Kosmina treble plus an own goal. In the match with Melita Eagles in 1984, O'Connor scored a brace with the first two goals of a six team tally in the sixteenth and thirty-fifth minutes also at Sydney Athletic Field. At the club a nickname of 'Rocky' was bestowed upon O'Connor and it stuck. 'Doing the one arm push-ups when the movie first came out.' Sylvester Stallone's character 'Rocky' did this action in the gym in the 1976 film with 'Gonna Fly Now' being played.

When Sydney City came to Wollongong Showground for the first time on 23rd August 1981, the Wolves succumbed 5-0 in the Round 27 fixture and O'Connor was in the opposition personnel. According to one report, O'Connor impressed with his display in defence together with Murray Barnes and Joe Watson in attack. In the 1983 Round 7 clash at Ziems Park, Corrimal, the Wolves strikers at that time were Phil O'Connor and Roy Cotton and it was a close 3-2 victory to Sydney City. 'Phil and I were good mates from the Soccerroos but you had to keep a close eye on him and mark him tight. He could be sharp and tricky. Roy was experienced and dangerous as well. I was lucky in terms of being quick, physical and strong and was usually able to get the better of most strikers.'

Six premierships were won with Sydney City with three in successive seasons, 1980,1981,1982 plus 1977, 1984 and 1986 'We had a very strong side for many years. All the players were very competitive and often our training sessions and training games against each other were fiercer than the weekend games. The whole club, players, coaches, and Andrew Lederer, were all very competitive. Losing wasn't really an option. We expected to win and were expected to win.... Probably the inaugural premiership in 1977 was the most memorable. I think it went down to the wire with Marconi, they were very strong.' Both teams concluded the season on thirty-seven points but Sydney City won because of a superior goal difference, plus 24 as against plus 21.

Strong central defensive duos are the backbone of good teams. It is 'very important in terms of not conceding goals easily, organizing the players in front of you and dominating the opposing strikers.' With Sydney City, combinations at the back with

Eddie Thompson and Alec Robertson stood the team in good stead. 'Yes, very strong partnerships. Eddie taught me a lot about playing at the back and of course became the Sydney City coach. Of course Alec, a natural leftie and I partnered at the back for a long time, pretty successfully.'

Following, O'Connor achieved another Championship, this time with St. George in 1987 when the team defeated APIA, the premierships winners, 4-0. An O'Connor free kick went to Scott Ollerenshaw and with a twist and a turn the striker duly scored the second goal. The sterling defensive work of O'Connor shone out in this encounter and together with Mike O'Shea, David Green and Mike Grbevski kept the APIA champions scoreless. 'When Sydney City folded, players were being snapped up everywhere. Frank Arok had started a re-build at St. George but had a very young squad. When myself, and Kevin Hagan the New Zealand striker became available, Frank saw us as an opportunity to get experienced players in to bolster the squad. They had lost most of their early games and were struggling and needed some steadying influences....I think we had two draws with APIA during the season, which I think they went through undefeated. We were playing well and went into the Grand Final after beating Preston, I think. Though to win 4-0 was unexpected, though I think that highlighted what a strong squad it was. If I remember, Ollie scored two and Kevin Hagan also with two.'

In his Soccerroo 'A' appearances from 1979-1985 he played against New Zealand, England, Scotland, Taiwan and South Korea amongst others while also playing versus club sides such as PSV Eindhoven, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspurs. Three goals were achieved by O'Connor in these 'B' Soccerroo international matches with club sides all in the same year, 1984 in the twenty-second minute v Glasgow Rangers at the Sydney Cricket Ground, sixty-ninth minute Nottingham Forest Lang Park, Brisbane game and against Italy's Juventus at Sydney Cricket Ground in the sixty-first minute.

In the World Cup Qualifier First Leg versus Scotland played at Hampden Park in Glasgow on 20th November 1985, Scotland had in their midst players of the calibre of Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness,

Frank McAvennie, Terence Cooper, Roy Aitken and Gordon Strachan. 'It was a great occasion and the atmosphere was fantastic. Scotland didn't really know what to expect from these Aussie 'mad dogs'. To be in a proper football country and see what it is like for a game like this was new to a lot of us. Even just walking around Glasgow in the days leading up to the game was electric with the place buzzing. I remember the Scottish people being really friendly. Scotland had a very strong team, probably one of their strongest for a long time, but it did not really bother us. We thought we could beat them. I remember running out on the ground and they were singing, 'you can sticks your Fosters lager up your a'. Pretty funny. We did OK, I think we just lacked experience playing at that level. Things were happening pretty quick on the field.'

In the commentary of the telecast that was beamed to Australia at the time, it was said that Australia would adapt physical tactics. How did Australia measure up? - 'Not bad. Things were just happening

quicker than we were used to, so we really had to concentrate. Unfortunately we conceded two goals which really hurt us.' Following this match O'Connor was unfortunately suspended for the second leg in Melbourne and subsequently retired from the national team.

For the Socceroos, O'Connor partnered Charlie Yankos and Ratcliffe and also with Peter Wilson at the outset of his Socceroo days. . 'I played two games at the back with Peter Wilson, which was a great experience. One was in Auckland with the pitch being underwater with Rudi Gutendorf being the coach. The game should have been called off... Peter played more as a sweeper and I picked up the striker. Under Arok, Dave and I man marked and Charlie played as a sweeper.'

O'Connor was the head coach at the AIS from 1996-2008 following his stint as assistant coach from 1990-1994 and apart from the players mentioned earlier developed other players such as Luke



Wilkshire, Vince Grella, Mark Bresciano, Sebastian Ryall, Simon Colosimo, Matt Jurman, Josh Kennedy and Brett Emerton amongst others. In between his stints at the AIS he was NSW Technical Director from 1995-96. 'I spent sixteen years in total at the AIS and the changes program came at a time when I had moved on to a role in the A-League. The coaching and development system in Canberra had always been very successful and had helped develop many of the players who beat Uruguay that memorable night in the World cup Qualifier (in 2006). It was disappointing to see the program change to something that did not reflect all of the achievements of the past.'

The Under 20s Young Socceroos came under his umbrella and he was responsible for the team playing the first round of the Asian qualifiers in 2007 with victories emanating against Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Republic and defeats to China, and South Korea in the Qualifying Final.

From there, O'Connor went on to be appointed Youth Coach at Sydney FC and Technical Director in addition. He took the team to win the A-League Youth premiership and championship titles. His Sydney FC team won thirteen of eighteen games



with two draws, scoring forty-three goals with twenty-two against. The victory in the 21st February Grand Final was a 2-0 win over Adelaide United. Players in the team included Kofi Danning, Chris Payne, Vedran Janjetovic, Chris Triantis, Robert Mileski and Ibrahim Haydar.

His record with the U20s Young Socceroos and Sydney is certainly a testament to his influential coaching.

In some way players who become coaches usually take the best of these methods and incorporate these into their own coaching. After being under the influences of coaches such as Gerry Chialdi, Eddie Thompson, Rudi Gutendorf, Frank Arok and Mike Urukalo, O'Connor has developed his own style. 'My coaching philosophy is still about developing young players who set themselves high standards (if you don't want to be the best, what are you doing here?). Players who are technically strong under pressure who are physically efficient and are mentally focused on improvement and have a strong work ethic and a winning mentality. That's all I ask.'

Having watched Steve O'Connor in his playing days with his teams Sydney City (Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs), St. George, APIA and Australia, the writer observed that he was a consummate defender of the highest order with good positioning, a tough expert tackler without fouling (most of the time) and used his body well to shield the ball and could push players off the ball. He made timely headers to defend crosses, aerial passes and set pieces. He enacted effective passes whether close to feet or long passes through the air and would react under pressure calmly and assuredly. He worked effectively well with his fellow defensive partners to defray offensive manoeuvres with speed being another one of his additional skills.

Steve O'Connor, 'so the story goes' has achieved greatly in his playing career and has made telling contributions as a coach. He will be making further strides to impart his coaching wisdom as time ticks on.

By Malcolm Rowney

(Many thanks and appreciation to Steve for his time in responding to my questions)

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HIGH ENOUGH

Which club has played the most games against the Wollongong Wolves in competition games, both in league, cup and finals with a tally that was 'high enough' to finish ahead than any other team? The club in question is Sydney Olympic and there have been seventy-six league meetings and two finals appearance since 1981. In fact, Sydney Olympic was the Wolves' first opposition in competition.

The first meeting was played at the Wollongong Showground on 15th February 1981 with coaches Ken Morton and Tommy Docherty for the Wolves and Olympic respectively. The team line-ups were Wolves - Jim Preston (GK), John Fleming, Chris Dunleavy, Bill de Graaf, Tony Dickinson, Jim McBreen, Lee Adam, John Lathan, Peter Tredinnick, Brian Turner and Clive Campbell. Glen Fontana came on for Turner in the seventieth minute. Olympic - Gary Meier (GK), Danny Moulis, Greg Ankudinoff, Ken Wilson, Derek Laing, Jim Ziras, Peter Katholos, Hussein Hussein, Mark Koussas, Graham Jennings and David Cork. Mike Cross substituted for Cork on seventy-five minutes. With a 5930 crowd in attendance, the Wolves went to a lead in the twentieth minute. Midfielder McBreen scored after a free kick was deflected onto the post. The rebound fell to McBreen and the Showground crowd went wild. New Zealand striker Campbell, with a second half brace on fifty-five and sixty-two minutes added to the tally. Olympic's Koussas got one back in the seventy-ninth minute and nearly had another through a header, though the bar denied his shot. If it wasn't the goal frame that thwarted, Preston made some good saves to deny both Koussas and Jennings during the proceedings. It was a great beginning for the Wolves. At the end of this season, Olympic finished in ninth position compared to the Wolves, two places lower.

The biggest score for each club was 5-0 for Olympic in Round 24 2003/04 and 4-0 for the Wolves in Round 20, 2010. The goal scorers in these matches were Tom Pondlejak, Andrew Packer, Franco Parisi with a brace and Greg Owens (SO), Mark Piccolini, Tynan Diaz, Shaun Van Rooyen and Samet Kaynak. (WW)

The finals match-up occurred in 2008 and 2015 with a win to both sides.

In 2008, the John Turner coached team consisted of Justin Pasfield (GK), Ben Blake (Capt.), Alfredo Estevez, Chris Price, Tynan Diaz, Matthew Bailey, Steve Hayes, Michael Hawrysiuk, Ballamodou Conde, Ilija Prenzoski and Mitchell Long. Samet Kaynak replaced Conde. Olympic, coached by Milan Blagojevic was Sam Emmamouil (GK) Nathan Sherlock, Emmanuel Zunino, Mirko Jurilj, Matt Jurman, Anthony Doumanis, Paul wither, Matthew Mayora, Milorad Simonovic, Siraj Al Tall and Chris Triantis. Emmanuel Giannaros and Mario Musemeci came on for Zunino and Doumanis.

It was the Wolves and home team that took the lead in the thirteenth minute. A Conde through pass found Prenzoski who made a determined run before powering the ball home. It took Olympic time to find their feet as Mayora, Simonovic and Sherlock each had opportunities but were spurned. In the second half Olympic dominated for long periods of time. It was in the seventy-first minute that Al Tall, the tall central defender converted a Mayora cross with a looping header. Diaz had cleared the ball off the line two minutes later. However, Mayora pounced on the stray ball and his subsequent powerful right-footed shot zoomed into the goal beating the despairing Pasfield. The Wolves however, restored parity seven minutes from fulltime. Following a Hawrysiuk cross, Bailey rose to nod the ball into the goal. With the minutes ticking by extra time loomed. Bailey, who copped whack straight away, headed a Hawrysiuk penetrating cross on. Prenzoski was on hand to project the winning goal on ninety minutes to achieve his brace. The Wolves by virtue of this victory were into the Grand Final Qualifying Semi-Final while Olympic moved on to the Preliminary Final. Turner - Great credit to the boys. Never say die.' Bailey - 'we were under the pump with two quick goals from Olympic. We needed one to lift our spirits. We finished the game off from there.' Prenzoski - 'we sort of dropped our heads after they went 2-1 up. We got on a bit of a roll and got another one then got the winner.'

In 2015 the line-ups were - Olympic, coached by Grant Lee - Paul Henderson, Brayden Sorge, Petar Markovic, (Capt.), Brendan Hooper, Yianni Spyradakis, Dimitri Hatzimouratis, Taiga Soeda, Michael Gaitatzis, Scott Balderson, Harris Gaitatzis. Go Shirai, Nick Tssatalios and Jason Madonis came



on for M.Gaitatzis, Tssatalios and H.Gaitazis. - Wolves, coached by Jacob Timpano - Tom Manos (GK), Darcy Madden, James Baldacchino, James O'Rourke, Chris Price (Capt.), Zac Mackenzie, Sam Matthews, Brendan Griffin, Peter Simonoski, Jordan Murray Ben Zucco. Joseph Lavalle and Brett Wilson subbed on for Griffin and Zucco.

Early on as Olympic attacked O'Rourke interceded a H. Gaitazis cross and Manos saved a good Hatzimouratis projectile. Thirty-six minutes in Olympic struck. Hatzimouratis got on to the end of a M. Gaitatzis cross and slid with a defender in tow to slot the ball into the goal. The Wolves in the second half applied some pressure though Markovic and Henderson stood firm. With eight minutes left on the clock, Olympic added a second goal. H. Gaitatzis burst through the defence before letting go of a rocket attempt that zoomed home. This made sure of the victory.

Timpano - 'It was always going to be tough. What Olympic showed today is that they are a good side. .. I think our boys turned it around in the second half and probably had the better of them'. Manos - ' It was a frustrating game. When they got their goal they sat off and allowed us to play. .. I stopped a few.'

The Wolves bowed and Olympic moved forward to face another hurdle.

Players who have turned out for both sides over the years include in alphabetical order, Nahuel Arrarte, Lissandro Berbis, George Bouhoutsos, Jacob

Boutoubia, Ken Chun, Kevin Hagan, Troy Halpin, Brett Hughes, Mirko Jurilj, Luke Kairies, Derek Laing, Zac Mackenzie, Tallan Martin, Esala Masi, James Monie, Angelo Petratos, David Ratcliffe, Sebastian Sinozic, George Souris, Marshall Soper, Michael Turnbull and Joe Vrkic.

In a head to head record, Olympic has thirty-eight wins to the Wolves twenty- three with fifteen matches being drawn.

Seven was the highest number goals scored in a single match and it was a 5-2 score line that occurred twice. These results occurred in the 2003/04 and 2009 seasons. The scorers were Zenon Caravella, Pablo Cardozo x2, Jim Nikas, George Goutzioulis (SO) Osagie Nwaogazi and John Majuroski (WW) in 2002/03 and in 2009, it was Tolgay Ozbey x2, Matthew Mayora x2, Adam Biddle (SO), Ilija Prenzoski and James Lawrence (WW).

'The number of matches between Wollongong Wolves and Sydney Olympic was 'high enough' that other clubs were not in the running, save for Sydney United and Marconi, which were the next in line. There will be many confrontations in the future, which will alter the information.

By Malcolm Rowney

(Coach's and players' comments were taken from interviews conducted at the time for the writer's match reports at the time. The information is current up to Round 11, 2021.)

1ST GRADE TEAM LISTS



- 1 Aidan Munford (GK)
- 2 Taylor McDonald
- 3 Darcy Madden
- 4 Nikola Djordjevic
- 5 Joshua Alcorn
- 6 Ethan Kambisios
- 7 Marcus Beattie
- 8 Brendan Griffin
- 11 Leroy Jennings
- 12 Harrison Taranto
- 13 Stefan Dimoski
- 15 Daniel Loe
- 16 Fletcher McFarlane
- 17 James Stojcevski
- 19 Bilal Belkadi
- 20 Liam Wille
- 23 Hayden Durose (GK)
- 24 Lachlan Scott

Head Coach: Luke Wilkshire

Assistant Coach: Stephen O'Connor

Team Manager: Mark Wilkshire

Asst Team Manager: EgorDolgoplov

GK Coach: John Krajnovic

Video Analysis: Anthony Tugrul



- 1 Nicholas Sorras
- 2 Tom Whiteside
- 3 Billy Patramanis
- 4 Ben Van Meurs
- 5 Michael Glassock
- 6 Nicola Kuleski
- 7 Will Angel
- 8 Jason Madonis
- 9 Oliver Puflett
- 10 Brendan Cholakian
- 11 Adam Parkhouse
- 12 Zac Mackenzie
- 14 Peter Kekeris
- 17 Marley Peterson
- 18 Yu Hasegawa
- 19 Darcy Burgess
- 20 Luke Kairies
- 21 Fabian Monge
- 22 Fabio Ferreira
- 23 Daniel Dias
- 24 Hagi Gligor
- 25 James Cakovski
- 27 Šimun Miličević
- 30 Brody Mackay
- 35 Mohamed Adam
- 70 Chris Parsons

Head Coach: Ante Juric

Assistant Coach: Steve Bozinovski

Goal Keeper Coach: Paul Henderson

Physio: Sam Mahabady

Manager: Parry Hatzi

Equipment: Paul Oliveri

Referee:

T. Danaskos

Assistant Referees:

J. Adabjou and E. Kocbek

Fourth Official:

L. Lavigne

*TEAM LISTINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1ST GRADE LADDER

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Sydney United 58 FC	14	8	4	2	29	14	15	28
2	Blacktown City FC	14	8	3	3	27	13	14	27
3	Rockdale Ilinden FC	14	6	6	2	25	15	10	24
4	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	14	5	5	4	18	19	-1	20
5	Manly United FC	14	5	5	4	17	20	-3	20
6	Wollongong Wolves FC	14	5	4	5	19	25	-6	19
7	APIA Leichhardt FC	14	5	3	6	17	18	-1	18
8	Sydney Olympic FC	14	5	3	6	16	17	-1	18
9	Marconi Stallions FC	14	2	9	3	21	22	-1	15
10	Northbridge Bulls FC	14	3	5	6	27	25	2	14
11	Sutherland Sharks FC	14	2	5	7	16	27	-11	11
12	Sydney FC	14	2	4	8	22	39	-17	10





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TEAM OF THE WEEK



STEWART



HATFIELD



PUFFLETT



DE ROBILIARD



BANDIERA



CONTIGIANI



MCILLHATTON



PAULL



WARREN



MUATA MARLOW



NIZIC

ROUND 14

#NPLNSW

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Patrick Antelmi	Sydney United 58	13
Alec Urosevski	Rockdale Illinden	11
James Andrew	Sutherland Sharks	8
Jack Stewart	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	8
Kyle Cimenti	Rockdale Ilinden	7
Travis Major	Blacktown City	7
Marko Jesic	Marconi	7
Chris Payne	Sydney United 58	6
Dejan Pandurevic	Manly United	6
Matt Sim	Sydney United 58	5
Lachlan Scott	Wollongong Wolves	5



TEAM LISTS

UNDER 18s

1	Luke	Morgan
2	Alex	Casella
3	Luke	Dearsley
4	Dax	Kelly
5	Logan	Mathie
6	Luke	Darjani
7	Thomas	Dunn
8	Flynn	Madden
9	Sebastian	Stanojevic
10	Denim	Nou
11	James	Quinn
12	Ben	Giason
13	Joshua	Galevski
14	Jake	almond
15	Samuel	Starcic
16	Jack	Duffy
17	Luke	Palermo

UNDER 16s

1	Spyro	kyriazidis
2	Jayden	Branovski
3	Benjamin	Caroutas
4	Harry	Churchill
5	James	Ciot
6	Koray	Gokturk
7	Damon	Gray
8	Edvard	Grujevski
9	Cooper	Kerridge
10	Zak	Markovski
11	Dylan	Martos
12	William	Milinkovic
13	Joel	Palermo
14	Cooper	Schofield
15	Sebastian	Tomasiello
16	Kalani	Vella

UNDER 15s

1	Max	Cunial
2	Liam	Ball
3	Zane	Basi
4	Kristian	Butkovic
5	Jude	Christie
6	Sebastian	Dobre
7	Jacob	Fakhoury
8	Cassander	Grujevski
9	Baxter	Hanley
10	Adam	Kairis
11	Roman	Kalmanidis
12	Tyler	King
13	Martin	Kolevski
14	Liam	Mavridis
15	Lucas	Trajceviski
16	Christian	Vujic

UNDER 14s

1	Hudson	Beddow
2	Luca	Beattie
3	Rocco	Booth
4	Riley	Dwyer
5	Tzar	Harb
6	Oscar	Kiely
7	Dylan	King
8	Kiho	Luke
9	Cameron	Luton
10	Michael	Marijan
11	Ryan	Molnar
12	Oliver	Morgan
13	Samuel	Palermo
14	Joshua	Rathbone
15	Zane	Stroemer

UNDER 13s

1	Bailey	Trunzo
2	Christian	Beleski
3	James	Benedetti
4	Lucas	Dubowski
5	Noah	Hewett
6	Khaled	Houchaymi
7	Isaac	Kostovski
8	Cooper	Markovic
9	Conor	Mathie
10		Millet
11	Lucas	Moreira
12	Jet	Sanders
13	Jordan	Sirijovski
14	Noah	Smart
15	Luca	Spaseski
16	Lachlan	Taylor

UNDER 12s

1	Noah	Petrolo GK
2	Jaxon	Bojlevski
3	Kahuitara	Te Ra Chase
4	Finley	Cole
5	Oscar	Dwyer
6	Fabian	Gaudiosi
7	Kristian	Graovac
8	Leo	Halios-Lewis
9	William	Heininger
10	Jack	Johanson
11	Travis	Kosevic
12	Max	Linton
13	Jarrah	Longbottom
14	Zachary	McNeill
15	Jared	Mihajlovic
16	Novak	Novakovic
17	Lachlan	Rayner
18	Henry	Sargent
20	Cohen	Martins GK

TEAM LISTS

UNDER 11s

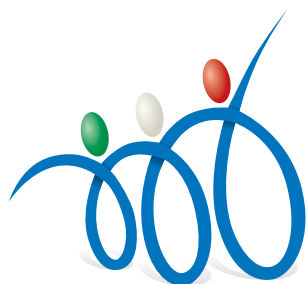
1	Loucas	Makowski
1	Ricardo	Vega
2	Harley	Bermudez
3	Ayden	Celebi
4	Austin	Craig
5	Leron	Elmazi
6	Xavier	Godbee
7	Wil	Leddy
8	Bailey	Mitchell
9	Jett	Nadj
10	Adam	Nikoloski
11	Samuel	Perez
12	Jordi	Prenzoski
13	Aidan	Rayner
14	Cash	Sanders
15	Haydon	Sharman
16	Max	Smith
17	Dean	Srbinoski
18	Lewis	Tomlinson
19	Christian	Ugonotti
20	Samuel	Ugonotti

UNDER 10s

3	Nickolas	Balgovind
4	Orlando	Beer
5	Callum	Cajar
6	Parker	Dumbrell
7		Everingham
8	Jackson	Fraser
9	Ethan	George
10	Julian	Giorgio
11	Ethan	Mathie
12	Jonas	McDermott
13	Kynan	Merola
14	Jake	Mulhall
15	Alex	Popovski
16	Travis	Potter
17	Rocco	Scaglia
18	Hugo	Spaseski
19	Preston	Taylor
20	Cristian	Vidal
21	Jonny	Antoniou

UNDER 9s

2	Gianni	Arbolino
3	Tyler	Bailey
4	Lachlan	Cram
5	Leon	Gavriloski
6	Nicholas	Giorgio
7	Isaac	Gizzi
8	Lohithan	J Avinash
9	Taylor	Lombardi
10	Parker	Mayer
11	Harley	Sanders
12	Jacob	Saunders
13	Flynn	Saville
14	Preston	tanevski
15	Zayne	Thompson
16	Nash	Tweddle
17	Archer	vian



THE
Fraternity
CLUB

U20 TEAM LISTS



- 1 Tomas Butkovic
- 2 Evan Ball
- 3 Brendan Low
- 4 Jacob Garner
- 5 Luca Danzo
- 6 Fletcher McFarlane
- 7 Noah Vidler
- 8 Jake Lavalle
- 9 Lewis Grimshaw

- 10 Nico Duarte
- 11 Mason Mavridis
- 12 Rocky Lavalle
- 13 Paul Soravia
- 14 Jarvis Patterson
- 15 Jayden Smileski
- 17 Nav Darjani
- 19 Deakin Brownlee
- 21 Keegan Matias

Coach: Matheus Scapin
Assistant Coach: Daniell Zeleny
Team Manager: Jorge Perez



- 28 Kerim Farhat
- 29 Chan Deng
- 32 Juan Da Silva
- 33 Jaeryun Kim
- 36 Matthew Scarcella
- 37 Dimitri Gremos

- 38 Frank Puric
- 39 Peter Politis
- 40 Matteo Scali
- 41 Blair Smith
- 42 Ali Niski
- 43 Mohammed Khamis

Head Coach: Jim Patikas
Manager: Con Haramis

U20 LADDER

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Manly United FC	14	11	0	3	30	13	17	33
2	Sydney Olympic FC	14	8	2	4	28	14	14	26
3	Sydney FC	14	7	5	2	19	8	11	26
4	Marconi Stallions FC	14	7	2	5	26	17	9	23
5	Blacktown City FC	14	6	3	5	25	14	11	21
6	Wollongong Wolves FC	13	6	2	5	21	21	0	20
7	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	14	5	3	6	24	31	-7	18
8	APIA Leichhardt FC	14	4	4	6	18	26	-8	16
9	Sutherland Sharks FC	13	4	3	6	18	25	-7	15
10	Sydney United 58 FC	14	4	3	7	23	32	-9	15
11	Northbridge Bulls FC	14	4	2	8	19	26	-7	14
12	Rockdale Ilinden FC	14	0	5	9	11	35	-24	5

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

CLUB	PLAYED	U20's	1st	TOTAL
Blacktown City FC	28	42	108	150
Manly United FC	28	66	80	146
Sydney United 58 FC	28	30	112	142
Sydney Olympic FC	28	52	72	124
Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	28	36	80	116
Wollongong Wolves FC	27	40	76	116
Marconi Stallions FC	28	46	60	106
Rockdale Ilinden FC	28	10	96	106
APIA Leichhardt FC	28	32	72	104
Sydney FC	28	52	40	92
Northbridge Bulls FC	28	28	56	84
Sutherland Sharks FC	27	30	44	74

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NEXT ROUND FIXTURES

**MANLY UNITED FC VS
APIA LEICHHARDT FC**
 7:00 PM / FRI 11 JUN
 CROMER PARK NO.1

**ROCKDALE ILINDEN FC VS
BLACKTOWN CITY FC**
 3:00 PM / SUN 13 JUN
 ROCKDALE ILINDEN SPORTS CENTRE

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC VS
SYDNEY FC**
 5:30 PM / SAT 12 JUN
 BELMORE SPORTS GROUND

**SYDNEY UNITED 58 FC VS
MARCONI STALLIONS FC**
 3:00 PM / SUN 13 JUN
 SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE

**MT DRUITT TOWN RANGERS FC VS
SUTHERLAND SHARKS FC**
 7:00 PM / SAT 12 JUN
 POPONDETTA PARK NO.1

**NORTHBRIDGE BULLS FC VS
WOLLONGONG WOLVES FC**
 3:00 PM / MON 14 JUN
 SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE

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2021 HOME FIXTURES

**HOME GROUND - Albert Butler Memorial Park
Shellharbour Rd, Warrawong**

wollongongwolves.com.au

ROUND 2	07/03/21 (Sun)	13:00	WIN Stadium - Manly United
ROUND 3	14/03/21 (Sun)	14:30	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC
ROUND 5	28/03/21 (Sun)	13:00	WIN Stadium - Northbridge Bulls FC
ROUND 8	18/04/21 (Sun)	14:30	Blacktown City FC
ROUND 11	09/05/21 (Sun)	14:30	Sutherland Sharks FC
ROUND 12	16/05/21 (Sun)	14:30	Rockdale Ilinden FC
ROUND 15	06/06/21 (Sun)	14:30	Sydney Olympic FC
ROUND 17	20/06/21 (Sun)	14:30	Marconi Stallions FC
ROUND 18	27/06/21 (Sun)	14:30	Sydney United 58 FC
ROUND 20	11/07/21 (Sun)	14:30	APIA Leichhardt FC
ROUND 21	18/07/21 (Sun)	14:30	Sydney FC

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