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7.30PM**

FIXTURES, LADDERS

MATCH PREVIEW

REVIEWS, TEAM LISTS



2022 - ROUND 20

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CLUB WELCOME



This week we welcome the players, officials, and supporters of Marconi Stallions FC to WIN Stadium for our round 20 fixture in the NPL competition.

This is a very special match for the club as it looks to celebrate NAIDOC week. Last weeks away fixture to Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC did not allow the club to properly celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Wolves will be wearing their Indigenous jerseys for this match to mark the occasion and there will also be a smoking ceremony and welcome to country prior to the first grade match.

The last fortnight has been disappointing for the Wolves, recording two loses against Rockdale Ilinden FC (2-1) and Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC (4-3). Unfortunately, these results confirm that the 1st grade team will not be playing finals football this season. Last week against Mt Druitt Town, the team conceded 4 goals which has been the major issue all season. However, the Wolves continue to score goals which is extremely positive.

The Wolves sit in 9th position on the ladder with 18 points. The remaining 3 games of the season are extremely important as the players will be playing for contracts and will be looking to take maximum points and finish the season on a positive note.

Our under 20's have been outstanding this season and currently sit inside the top five. The 20's lost 1-0 to Mt Druitt Town Rangers last week and will be looking to bounce back with a win to stay in touch with the leaders. Please arrive early and support our 20's team.

The club wants to acknowledge and thank each and every one of our wonderful and loyal sponsors. Without their support, the club does not exist. I also want to acknowledge and thank our wonderful volunteers who turn up at every home game and carry out their roles with a minimum of fuss.

Good luck to both teams and hope you enjoy the match. "C'mon you Wolves".

Strebre Delovski
Chief Executive Officer
Wollongong Wolves FC



MATCH PREVIEW

VS MARCONI STALLIONS

Marconi Stallions are the opponents for the Wollongong Wolves in this Round 20 rendezvous. Though the clubs met on many occasions in the National Soccer League Of Australia, the first meeting in NSW Premier League was in the Round 8 in the 2004/05 season. This match occurred on the 29th January with a 7p.m. kick off at Marconi Stadium. The result was a 1-1 draw with Shane McGirr (WW) and Jason Kencevski (MS) being the goal scorers.

THE OPPOSITION TODAY – MARCONI STALLIONS

Marconi as a club has been accredited with many honours since the beginning of the club in 1958 and one example is the National Cup. It was

in 1980 that Marconi was victorious in this competition. In the first match with Heidelberg-Alexander in Melbourne it concluded in a nil stalemate after extra time. In the return match in Sydney, Marconi reigned victorious as Gary Byrne scored from the penalty spot to begin the scoring, with Ernie Krncevic and Peter Sharne adding the others in fine style.

New players to the Peter Tsekenis coached club are former Wolves players Taylor McDonald and Thomas James together with Charles Lokolingoy from Wellington Phoenix (he has now left) and from St.George City, Dominic Brischetto. With these players added to the current strong roster, it augurs well for Marconi in 2002.

Marconi in the seventeen rounds of 2021 that was impacted by the pandemic concluded in ninth position on nineteen points. Achieved from three wins and ten draws, scoring twenty-four goals and conceding twenty-five. The goals per game ratio was 1.41. Marko Jesic was the top scorer with nine for his tally and seven others contributors with goals. Four games were played with a nil score for the team which was the third highest in the competition. The best result was 2-0, which was attained on two occasions in Rounds 5 and 14, over Sydney United 58 and Rockdale Ilinden. The least impressive result was 2-4 in Round 10 versus Blacktown City .The quickest goal was in the seventh minute of Round 10 scored by Nathan Millgate. Jesic was the only multiple scorer in a single game with a brace against

the Wolves in Round 6. The best sequence of results without loss was seven games, Rounds 2-8, draw, draw, draw, win, draw, draw and draw. Seven players were selected in the "Team Of The Week" with Chris Hatfield, Jesic and Connor Evans topping the count with two apiece with Anthony Frangie, Nenad Vekic, Nathan Millgate and Mason Ingram with one each.

THE MATCH UP

Thus far in the 2022 campaign, Marconi sit in the top position and the Wolves occupy ninth position on thirty-six and eighteen points respectively. Marconi has scored forty goals at a 2.1 goals per game ratio while the Wolves' ratio is 1.73.

The top scorers are Marko Jesic and Lachlan Scott with fifteen and thirteen goals respectively. Marconi has one nil score compared to the Wolves' three. Ten players plus an own goal have contributed to Marconi's tally of goals while the Wolves number ten as well.

Most of the Wolves' goals are scored in the second half i.e. 59.3%, with the majority scored in the 76'-90+' time frame with most conceded equally in the 16'-30' and 61'-75' period. Conversely 68.4% of Marconi's goals are also scored in the second half with most in the 76'-90+' period. The highest tally of conceded goals fall in the 16'-30' and 76-90+' frames and most in the second half.

The last players to have scored for each team are Banri Kanaizumi (WW) and Marko Jesic (MS). Marconi's fast goal was in the fifth minute in Round 8 Sydney United 58 fixture scored by Charles Lokoli Ngoy. Leroy Jennings in the fourth minute was the quickest goal scorer in 2022, this achievement in the Round 14 Sydney FC encounter.

The result sequence for the previous five rounds is WW - draw, draw, draw, draw and loss. MS - draw, loss, win, draw and win.

In the previous match the Wolves suffered a 4-3 defeat to Mount Druitt Town Rangers and Marconi defeated Sydney United 1-0.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Brendan Griffin (WW) has played in the midfield in the last couple of matches after returning from

injury. His high work rate stands the team in good stead with his winning of the ball, his passing and distribution assist in defence and attacking manoeuvres and he can lay on crosses that can lead to goals. His experience aids the team.

Senna Stevenson (WW) has been in the midfield of late and his work rate has been high. He imposes himself in midfield battles and tracks back to help out the defence. He chases down the ball with persistence and chimes in when his team attacks.

Robert Speranza (MS) is a solid defender that has scored four goals this season. He is adept at cutting out passes both aerial and on the ground. He positions himself for opposition attacks in an experienced manner and combines well with his teammates.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

In Round 5 of the 1990/91 season at Brandon Park, the two sides met. Marconi's personnel were Bob Catlin, Mark Jones, Jean-Paul De Marigny, Robert Wheatley, Ian Gray, David Lowe, Paul Okon, Tom McCulloch, Peter Katholos, John Markovski and David Seal. Zlatko Nasteovski and Steve Calderan subbed on for Katholos and Seal respectively with the coach being Berti Mariani. The Wolves consisted of George Bouhoutsos, David Green, Zivko Hristovski, Charlie Yanks, Mike Hollifield, Jock Morlando, David Skeen, Paul Farmer, Richard Lloyd, Mladin Kuc, Jason Oldridge, Pat Brodnik and Lawrie McKinna replaced Oldridge and Kuc. The coach was David Ratcliffe.

This was an action packed game and ten minutes in, Kuc was in a position to score. After turning the defender, he attempted to side foot the ball into the goal. However, it did not have requisite force allowing the defence to clear. Lloyd played an incisive pass for Kuc but the offside flag put paid the good move. Oldridge put one over before Gray responded for Marconi, though Bouhoutsos blocked the shot through diving but could retrieve. This allowed Seal to steal into slot home. With three minutes to go before the break, The Wolves restored parity. Skeen latched onto a loose ball and from twenty-five metres to rifle the ball into the net. Eight minutes after played resumed following half time, the Wolves went into the lead for the first time in

the match. Hollifield on the left side swept a cross in. Lloyd met the ball with his header lodging into the top right corner of the goal. The Wolves were in control until a second yellow card was hoisted in front of Hristovski and he subsequently marched. The home team was now a man less but battled on to keep Marconi at bay.

SCORES AND SCORERS FROM THE PREVIOUS FIVE LEAGUE MEETINGS

1. 2019. Wolves 1 (Thomas James) defeated Marconi 0
2. 2020. Wollongong Wolves 0 defeated by Marconi 1 (Anthony Frangie) '
3. 2021. Marconi 2 (Marko Jesic x2) drew with Wolves 2 (Darcy Madden, Stefan Dimoski)
4. 2021. Wollongong Wolves 0 def by Marconi 1 (Marko Jesic)
5. 2022. Marconi 2 (Marko Jesic, Robert Speranza) def Wolves 0

THREE SELECTED GOALKEEPERS FOR MARCONI STALLIONS - MARK SCHWARZER, ALLAN MAHER and BOB CATLIN.

Maher was between the sticks from 1977 to 1982 for the Stallions amassing one hundred and fifty-nine appearances after signing from Sutherland Sharks. In the NSL, he achieved fifty-six clean sheets with a ratio of 0.35. In 1974, he was part of the Australian 1974 World Cup squad. In 1979 he was part of the Grand Final winning team. He was a member of Marconi's championship side in 1979, with this being his final club.

From 1991/92 season to the 1993/94 Schwarzer played fifty-six times attaining twenty clean sheets and was a member of the victorious 1993/94 season team. 0.35 was his return. He ventured to Dynamo Dresden from Marconi and from then on at FC Kaiserslauten, Bradford City, Middlesbrough FC, Fulham, Chelsea and Leicester City and a World Cup Socceroo.

Catlin played two hundred and eleven league games from 1987 to the 1996/97 season achieving seventy clean sheets. On leaving the club, he went to Warringah Dolphins, Notts County, Birmingham

City (on loan), Sydney Olympic, APIA Leichardt, Newcastle Breakers, Newcastle United, Marconi for a second stint, APOIA again, Canterbury-Marrickville and Manly-Warringah Dolphins in 2004 as his final club.

THREE SELECTED GOALKEEPERS FOR WOLLONGONG WOLVES - JOHN FILAN, NATCH VARDAREFF and DANIEL NASH.

Filan played twenty-nine games from season 1991/92 to 1992/93 and attained a total of fourteen clean sheets with a ratio of 0.48. His first game was in Round 7 at Brandon Park against Brisbane Strikers with his final outing being the Round 6 versus Heidelberg in the following season. From the Wolves, Filan went Cambridge United in England then onto Nottingham Forest, Coventry City, Blackburn Rovers, Wigan athletic, Doncaster Rovers then finally back at Wigan Athletic.

Vardareff was in the team from 1981 to 1984 with sixty-six appearances with eleven clean sheets, a ratio of 0.16 plus several cup games. His starting debut was in the Round 8 West Adelaide match, with his last being the Round 27 Newcastle fixture in 1983.

Nash played one league game and that was the 2008 Round 2 Sydney Olympic match and one cup game versus Granville Rage, one game that culminated in a penalty shoot-out. Nash, in the game had to move quickly to take the ball from the boots of a Rage striker, Bobo in the very first minute that showed alertness. He went on to play for Sutherland Sharks.

A SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTH CLUBS - JAMES BALDACCHINO and TAYLOR McDonald

Central defender Baldacchino played ninety-six league games including eleven as a replacement with twelve cup appearances and one finals game. All up, it was a hundred and eight appearances for the club. In his final season with the Wolves after the Round 17 loss to Sydney United he stated –‘in the first half, we defended very well and they didn’t have too many clear-cut opportunities. We had plenty of chances in the first half but going in at one all, we should have had a couple more. We had a plan to go by. It was a key part of the game

and he (Michael Robinson) having been playing well together. Darcy did well coming there. (Robinson was replaced on forty-six minutes). We needed to adapt.’ Baldacchino went to Floriana in Malta before signing for Marconi for the 2019 season to make two appearances. Following on he was at Rockdale Ilinden and then Hakoah Sydney City East and at Sutherland Sharks in 2022.

Wing/back McDonald played for the Wolves from 2018-2021 achieving sixty-three games comprising forty-eight league, nine cup preliminary rounds, six NPL NSDW Mens 1 finals and three FFA Cup finals. He has scored four goals, three in the league and one in the cup. He captained the team on four occasions in league and cup games. In 2021 after the Northbridge Bulls defeat in Round 5 he stated –‘It was a frustrating ninety minutes, that’s for sure, and it was a disappointing result...It definitely was a lack of concentration and unfortunately we were punished for it. We were not good enough on the day.... One day you might get a penalty, another day you won’t, that’s the way it is.’ McDonald with the team, qualified for the NPLNSW Mens 1 finals on two occasions, and qualified for the FFA Cup Rounds of 32 and 16. He was also present the FFA NPL finals winning team in extra time against Lions FC. He stated post match- ‘They put in the effort and we put in the hard yards and never gave up.’ In 2018 in his first season in his initial interview he stated after the Round 16 Hakoah Sydney City East encounter –‘The boys have been fantastic today, hanging in there for ninety-five minutes of the game. We played with spirit and kept going to get the three points. I’m more than happy to be back in the team, for sure. We are on a roll and looking forward for the rest of the season... I was denied by the post but that’s how it goes. Some-one has got to get up there.’

By Malcolm Rowney

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What is the thinking behind a coach's decision in having a 'big' squad for the league? Is the enlargement of the squad team conducive to the team being more successful or is it sometimes to bring in a better class of players in order to get more positive results and to give more selection options or is it the finances of the club that could influence it. On occasions it could be due to a contingent of players leaving before the conclusion of the season or if too many players sustain long-term injuries or indeed suspensions. In the seasons past of the Wolves squads, numbers have fluctuated from a low sixteen to a high twenty-nine with the average being twenty-four.

The smallest number of players in a season was sixteen and this was in the 1982 season. The players were Lee Adam, Jeff Ainsworth, Arno Bertogna, Roy Cotton, Chris Dunleavy, John Fleming, Glen Fontana, Larry Gaffney, Phil Kerr, Jock Morlando, Phil O'Connor, Jim Preston, Peter Tredinnick, Ray Vlietstra, Alan Waldron and Peter Willis. Most of the players in this season had played in the previous season with two strikers of renown being added for this season, those being O'Connor and Cotton. A couple of under 20s players were promoted and this was a settled squad that qualified for the Play-Off Finals Series, a successful team.

Conversely, the highest number of twenty-nine players were utilized in the 2009 Wollongong Community Football Club season with the players being Dave Abel, Alex Augusto, Matt Brandalise, Ben Bronneberg, Lachlan Cahill, Ballamodou Conde, Daniel Cortez, Bryce Daenell, Keiran Deane, Steven Dimitrievski, Jake Duczynski, Alfredo Estevez, Corey Gameiro, Steve Hayes, Corey Horner, Samet Kaynak, Brendan Kearns, Jack Keating, James Lawrence, Nick Littler, James Monie, Chris Nathaniel, Jamie Pitt, Ilija Prenzoski, Josh Price, Peter Simonoski, Brian Vanega, James Vaughn and Aden Wade. This was predominantly young side with a smattering of senior experienced players but the results were not flattering. The coach at the beginning of the season, Tony Pace was replaced due to blowout results, even though the team had won its only game under him. A new coach, Glen Fontana entered the fray as a temporary measure

but stayed until the seasons end in order to turn things around. Many players were used in an effort to steady the ship as it were with more experienced personnel were signed late in the season for a small number of matches in order to stave off relegation. However, despite all the good intentions and experience the results while not being blowouts were considerably improved with a least amount of goal being conceded. Two fifteen years made their debuts and both have blossomed as players since, those being Gameiro and Simonoski. This was a season on a veritable shoestring budget and avoided relegation due to another club being unfinancial with the team concluding the season in the cellar position.

The second highest tally was a twenty-eight member squad that was assembled in the 2004/05 season, the NSW Premier League, following the demise of the National Soccer League. The players used were Ned Aleksic, Daniel Aliffi, Daniel Beltrame, Chad Bishop, Ben Blake, Mineo Bonetig, Robert Cazzoli, Alvin Ceccoli, Michael Clare, Danial Cummins, Tynan Diaz, Paul Gaffney, Pewter Gaffney, Paul Harris, Adam Hughes, David Kerr, Jordan Lando, Dominic Longo, Daniel McDonald, Shane McGirr, Craig Morton, Michael Prentice, Chris Price, George Souris, Nick Stavroulakis, Jacob Timpano, Matt Werasko and Scott Whalan. This squad was selected with a number of players from the Illawarra Premier League being signed with some players continuing on from the previous season. A number of players left the team after four of five games to go the new A-League competition teams and one left to go back to IPL from whence he came. A player returned to Australia from overseas and he was a mid season addition to the Adrian Alston coached team and number of junior players got their chance. The team finished in third position in the Challenger Group, as distinct from the eight team Championship Group, a group that was determined from the results of the sixteen team's first eight matches. The team avoided relegation, which was a positive.

The second lowest number was eighteen and it was in the 1986 season that this was so. The coach was a former player in John Fleming with Leonel Arcosa, David Batten, Pat Brodnik, John Brown, Reg Chilby,

Bryan Cokely, Larry Gaffney, Robert Giraldi, Bernie Godzik, David Green, Peter Kotamanidis, Jock Morlando, Willie Murray, Richard Piel, Saul Rivero, Rade Stefanovski, Ray Vlietstra and Warwick Young being the squad members. This was the season that the club was relegated from the N.S.L., not because of the finishing position but for the reason that the league was reduced in size and the Wolves were one of the clubs deemed to go.

By way of contrast the numbers for the Championship winning sides of 1987, 1999/00, 2000/01 and 2008 were nineteen, twenty-four, twenty-three and twenty-one respectively and in the Premiership winning team of 1988 it was twenty-one. In the least

successful seasons of 1983 and 2002/03, twenty and twenty-one were the tallies beside those of 2009. In the 2019 FFA NPL Finals winning side consisted of twenty-two players.

So what conclusions can be drawn about squad sizes? Successful teams had a large group of core players that played often and the 'big' squad is not necessarily the successful one as shown in the examples. Successful teams focus on excellence, team chemistry, expertise, mental toughness, trust and confidence and the size of the squad does not exclude these things from happening. Bigger isn't better.

By Malcolm Rowney



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES NSW

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FEATURE STORY

FOR THE FIRST TIME - WOLLONGONG WOLVES' SCORERS ON DEBUT

There have been quite a number of players for the Wollongong Wolves who have indeed scored their initial goal 'for the first time' - in their debut appearance. With the first match in 1981 it is not surprising that whoever scored in this match would be candidate for inclusion within this criteria. There was also the circumstance when a player scored in his first match but the result was overturned due to ineligible players being played. Notwithstanding, he will be still will be feted. In addition, a guest player from Scotland also achieved this feat. These are twenty of such achievers.

Three minutes following half time, this striker in the 2017 Round 1 match-up scored a brace against Parramatta FC at Melita Stadium on 11th March. A low hard effort from Patrick Antelmi brought up pay dirt. However, this was later expunged from the records. Antelmi was at Wollongong for one season with twenty-one league games and one cup appearance. He scored ten official goals with two others in the league.

A Chilean striker graced the turf in 2016 and on the 13th March, he scored in the eighty-first minute with his first appearance in the red and white. From close quarters Nicolas Bernal latched onto a Ben Zucco cross to head home beating the Hakoah Sydney City East custodian. Bernal played two seasons, 20016 and 2017, appearing in twenty-nine league and four cup games, scoring nine league and two cup goals.

It was former Ipswich Town striker of UEFA cup fame and Scottish international Alan Brazil, who goaled in Round 1 in 1988. He totalled four goals in his twelve game guest stint. On the 1st February, Brazil was positioned at the far post as fellow Scot Danny Crainie put the ball across the face of goal on this rainy night. On meeting the ball, Brazil drove it forcefully into the St George domain on twenty-eight minutes

New Zealand international, Clive Campbell earned the plaudits on his debut. He also played two seasons, 1981 and 1982 with the club, making twenty-seven appearances with two goals in the kick. At Wollongong Showground in the fifty-fourth minute on 15th February, Campbell made a breakaway and scored in the final wash-up with a well-directed shot into the Sydney Olympic goal.

On the 19th February 2006 in Round 1, this striker moved in quickly to intercept the ball. The Sutherland Shark custodian did not hold a defender's back pass securely. Once gaining possession, Adam Casey composed himself, considered his options before placing his shot beyond the custodian into the goal in the thirty-first minute. Casey played a single season with the club with six appearances, five starts and one from the bench, achieving a six-goal tally.

At John Crehan Park, Cringila, a skilful midfield player in Round 1 on 4th November 2004, scored his teams only goal and the third one of five in the match against Bonnyrigg White Eagles. Michael Clare, in his only season, got the ball over the line to post the Wolves' first goal back in the NSW Premier League. The midfielder went on to accrue twenty league games and two-cup games with six league and two cup goals. In this match Alvin Ceccoli had played an enticing cross from the left flank. At the far post Adam Hughes nodded the ball back and down. It fell fortuitously for Clare and he dispatched it accordingly.

In his debut match against Uruguayan-Penrith on the 7th March 1987 in Round 1at Cook Park, Frank Demertzis directed a penalty kick home for the first goal in the club's first foray in the NSW Premier League. With this being his debut and his first goal it was also his only appearance for the club.

It was at Lambert Park in Leichhardt that Dominic Giannone achieved the first of his three goals on the 10th March 1985. He sent the ball into the APIA goal in the fifty-sixth minute. He played only one season at the club appearing twelve times, eleven starts and one from the bench.

A striker from England via Canberra came to the Wolves for the 2019 campaign. On the 10th March, at Albert Butler Park, Warrawong, he scored a brace in his first appearance in Round 1 Manly United clash. Four minutes after the half hour mark, Thomas James duly got onto the scoreboard. Teammate, Takeru Okada worked into position on the left side for a cross. It subsequently flew across the face of goal with nary a touch except for James. He made sure it would count. 'It was a good first game...it was the first of many hopefully but I should have had a few more... I was not going to miss from six yards.'

James made twenty-six league game appearances in 2019 and 2020 with twenty-four goals. Two further appearances were in the cup with a two goal tally. He also played in six finals matches with four goals attained.

A single season for this striker eventuated in the 1990/91 NSL season. In Round 1 on the 7th October 1990 Mladin Kuc scored his initial goal of four for the club. It emanated in the thirteenth minute against Preston at Connor Reserve. Kuc seized upon a defender error to round the custodian and tap the ball home. This was the first of five total goals for the match. Kuc played twenty times with four goals attained.

It was in Round 8 of the 2014 season that this striker came on as a substitute in the seventy-ninth minute to score a brace against Manly United. 'It was unbelievable and on my first grade debut. I'm proud, I'm pretty happy and can't thank the coaches enough.' It was on 3rd May that Jordan Murray

achieved his initial goal in the seventieth minute. He took a number of skilful touches to elude a desperate defender before setting forth for the goal. With only the custodian in his way, Murray's subsequent shot passed him to enter the goal. He went on to score six more league goals with a goal per game ratio of 0.66. In addition, he accrued two goals in the cup. Twenty-one league appearances were achieved in 2015 with another eight league goals and two in the cup. He also made a finals appearance.

In the match against Sydney Olympic played at the Wollongong Showground on 15th February 1981 it was Jim McBreen who scored the very first league goal of the eight hundred and seventy-one goals scored. (Up to the end of 2020) McBreen played forty-eight times in the league for the Wolves in 1981 and 1983 with nine goals in his scoring tally. In his debut, he scored after twenty minutes when free kick was deflected off the post. The ball rebounded to the McBreen and he dispatched it with vigour into



the goal. Murray went on to score six more goals that season from twelve matches, a goal per game ratio of 0.66. He played in four cup games with two goal accrued.

In the 1990/91 season, this player scored in the Round 1 clash with Preston Makedonia at Connor Reserve. On the October 7th, Jason Oldridge scored his team's second goal. It was a tremendous curling effort from his position narrowly outside the penalty area that flew past the custodian to lodge in the top left corner of the goal. Oldridge made a further six starting appearances and one from the bench in his only season.

This particular striker played a solitary season with the club and scored in the 1993/94 Round 1 Newcastle match played at Brandon Park on 5th October. Scott Ollerenshaw scored his team's third goal with a fine shot in the seventy-third minute with Matthew Horsley's direct running assisting. Ollerenshaw scored a further five goals from his twenty-two games with a goal per game ratio of 0.27.

With Bonnyrigg White Eagles being the adversary in this Round 1 fixture, Andrew Paine was through on goal in the twenty-second minute of April 3rd. A defender threw down the gauntlet to scythe Paine down, as he was the last defender he was consequently marched. Paine took the spot kick to send the custodian the opposite way to where the ball was going. He totalled fourteen appearances in his only season at the club in 2010 with two goals in his tally.

A midfield player who played one season with the club in 2011 scored his debut goal in Round 2 versus Parramatta FC at Crehan Park. As Stjepan Paric did not appear in the Round 1 fixture and with nine minutes left on the clock in Round 2 on the 3rd April, Paric dispossessed a defender. With a position to the right of centre and narrowly outside the penalty area, he picked his spot. His ensuing sterling effort beat the custodian with the ball lodging at the back and inside of the goal.

A striker who had three stints at the club scored on his debut on the 7th October 1995. Tony Perenich scored the fifth goal of the match and the Wolves only one as a consolation. It was in the Round 1

Morwell Falcons' game played at Falcons Park (now Latrobe City Stadium). From close range he struck in the sixty-fourth minute. Perenich played in the 1995/96, 1996/97, 2001/02 and 2006 seasons scoring in all those seasons with a combined total of thirteen goals.

It was a seven games stint for a Uruguayan player in 1986. It was the skilful Saul Rivero who scored a brace in his debut and doubled this for his final goal achievement. His career at the Wolves was unfortunately curtailed by a bad injury he sustained while playing against Marconi. On the 31st March in Round 1, Rivero headed home a Peter Kotamanidis cross in the seventh minute at the Wollongong Showground with Marconi being the opposition.

A mid season signing in 2002/03 season saw a debut in Round 22 for this midfielder in the Parramatta Power game on the 31st January. Stuart Young beat two defenders after receiving a pass from Osagie Nwaogazi on the left side. He then provided a cross for Nick Sabljak who hit his effort superbly into the goal. This midfielder played five games in total with two goals attained.

Thirty-eight games were achieved in the 1996/97 and 1997/98 seasons by quicksilver midfielder Sonny Sevin. His first of four goals was achieved in his debut on 13th October 1996 at Sydney United Sports Centre, Edensor Park. In the fifteenth minute, he produced a long and high cross from the right side. The opposition 'keeper got a glove to it but could not get it going over the goal line with striker Nick Jusevski putting pressure on.

Patrick Antelmi, Nicolas Bernal, Alan Brazil, Clive Campbell, Adam Casey, Michael Clare, Frank Demertzis, Dominic Giannone, Thomas James, Mladin Kuc, Jordan Murray, Jim McBreen, Andrew Paine, Jason Oldridge, Scott Ollerenshaw, Stjepan Paric, Tony Perenich, Saul Rivero, Nick Sabljak and Sonny Sevin all achieved a first strike in their first outing.

(Player quotes were taken from interviews taken by the writer for inclusion in match reports at the time.)

By Malcolm Rowney

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1ST GRADE TEAM LISTS



- 1 Hayden Durose
- 2 Daniel Goni
- 3 Darcy Madden
- 4 Nikola Djordjevic
- 5 Banri Kanaizumi
- 6 Senna Stevenson
- 8 Brendan Griffin
- 9 Peter Simonoski
- 10 Takumu Tsujimura
- 11 Josh Macdonald
- 12 Harrison Taranto
- 13 Tomas Butkovic
- 14 Nicholas Duarte
- 15 Nick Littler
- 16 Guy Knight
- 17 James Stojcevski
- 18 Evan Ball
- 19 Jake Lavalle
- 20 Kuot Maliet
- 21 Jacob Madden
- 22 Leroy Jennings
- 24 Lachlan Scott
- 25 Nav Darjani

Coach: Luke Wilkshire

Assistant Coach: Matheus Scapin

Senior Managers: Chris Keller and Mark Wilkshire

Equipment Manager: Egor Dolgopolov

GK Coach: John Krajnovic



- 1 Nenad Vekic (GK)
- 2 Nathan Millgate
- 3 Giorgio Speranza
- 4 Roberto Speranza
- 6 Domenico Costanzo
- 7 Christopher Hatfield
- 8 Connor Evans
- 9 Thomas James
- 10 Marko Jesic
- 11 Charles Lokolingoy
- 13 Samuel Gulisano
- 14 Jarrod Mckinley
- 16 Liam Youlley
- 17 Martin Fernandez
- 18 Adrian Valenti
- 19 Zac Cairncross
- 20 Dion Shaw (GK)
- 22 Taylor Mcdonald
- 23 Brandon Vella
- 24 Dominic Brischetto

Head Coach: Peter Tsekenis

Assistant Coach: Peter Papoythis

Assistant Coach: Manny Spanoudakis

Team Manager: Frank Mammoliti

Strength & Conditioning Coach:
Brett Studman

Gear Stewards: Rob Filipin, Rob Tolomeo
and Liborio Bivona

Sports Physio: Andrew Hughes

Referee:

Michael Weiner

Assistant Referees:

Ivica Covic and Aaron Bloch

Fourth Official:

Joel Crawford

*TEAM LISTINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1ST GRADE LADDER

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Marconi Stallions FC	19	10	6	3	40	28	12	36
2	Blacktown City FC	19	10	4	5	38	22	16	34
3	Sydney FC	19	8	8	3	52	39	13	32
4	APIA Leichhardt FC	19	9	5	5	38	29	9	32
5	Sydney Olympic FC	19	9	5	5	34	25	9	32
6	Manly United FC	19	9	5	5	27	21	6	32
7	Rockdale Ilinden FC	19	9	5	5	35	30	5	32
8	Sydney United 58 FC	19	6	5	8	26	37	-11	23
9	Wollongong Wolves FC	19	4	6	9	33	35	-2	18
10	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	19	3	7	9	32	47	-15	16
11	Northbridge Bulls FC	19	4	2	13	27	51	-24	14
12	Sutherland Sharks FC	19	3	2	14	23	41	-18	11





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TEAM OF THE WEEK



TEAM
OF THE
WEEK

ROUND 19



BUL JUACH



JAIKEN KUCHARSKI



ALEC UROSEVSKI



DOMENIC COSTANZO



MARIO SHABOW



BRANDON VELLA



JACKSON BANDIERA



GRANT LYNCH



NATHAN DIMOU



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FEATURE STORY

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE - THE MEETINGS OF WOLLONGONG WOLVES AND MARCONI STALLIONS

The Wollongong Wolves versus Marconi Stallions games have been on going since 1981 with 1987, 2016, and 2017 being the exceptions due to relegation. There have been seventy-three league matches all up with the Wolves winning twenty-two and Marconi with thirty-two.

In the last meeting in 2022, Marconi won 2-0 over the Wolves with and the initial meeting in 1981 was a 1-1 draw with Lee Adam (WW) and Ernie Krncevic (MS) earning the plaudits.

The best winning sequence was - Wolves with six victories from 2015 and 2018-2019 being 1-0, 2-0, 1-0, 3-0, 3-0 and 1-0 with Marconi having four matches from 1984-1985 being 4-0 3-1, 6-1 and 3-2. Marconi's best result sequence was six, 5-4, 1-1, 4-0, 3-1, 6-1, 3-2 from 1983 to 1986. Nine results from 2013 - 2015, 2018-2019, were the Wolves' best with the results being 4-1, 1-1, 4-1, 1-0, 2-0, 1-0, 3-0, 3-1, and 1-0.

The most goals scored in a single match was nine, a 5-4 victory to Marconi in 1983, and there have been four 0-0 games. Twenty home wins have been achieved by the Wolves and thirty-two by Marconi. The highest score for each team is 7-0 to Marconi in 2009 and 5-1 to the Wolves in the 1997/98 season. There have been twelve score draws with 3-3 being the highest score draw and there were two occurrences both in the NSL seasons of 1998/99 and 2003/04.

The most prevalent score line was the combined 1-0 and 0-1 with eleven occurrences while there were nine instances of 2-1 combined with 1-2 in the runners-up position. Once off high tally scores, with the Wolves goals first and Marconi' second include 0-6, 0-7, 5-1, 1-6, 2-4, 2-5, 3-4, 3-5 and 4-5.

Marconi and the Wolves have scored most goals against each in the 76'-90+' time period and in the second half in addition, 56 per cent for Marconi and 58 per cent for Wollongong.

The Wolves' and Marconi's top scorer in these games have both achieved seven goals with the Wolves' Peter Simonoski (WW) from 2012 to 2018 and David Lowe from seasons 1984-1990/91, ahead of Rod Brown and Alex Brosque with six apiece.

The second placed Wollongong player was Mark Picciolini with four.

Multiple scorers in a single match have been John Lathan, Saul Rivero, Scott Chipperfield, Ray Younis, Sasho Petrovski, Frank Bate, Vaughan Coveny, Naum Sekulovski, Stuart Young, Chris Price, Mark Picciolini, Peter Simonoski and Takeru Okada for the Wolves with Rod Brown, Tom McCulloch, David Lowe, Fred De Jong, Andy Harper, Alex Brosque, Alex Canak, Tony Faria, Vuko Tomasevic, Keith Shelvin, achieving likewise for the Stallions. Some of these aforementioned players achieved the deed more than once.

Players who have scored for the Wolves in these encounters have been, Dave Abel, Lee Adam, Martin Akers, Daniel Aliffi, Grant Bard, Frank Bate, Pat Brodnik, Alex Bundalo, Adam Casey, Alvin Ceccoli, Reg Chilby, Scott Chipperfield, Brian Cokely, Jason Connolly, Roy Cotton, Vaughan Coveny, Mitchell Del Turco, Scott Dickson Sasho Dimoski, Stefan Dimovski, Osagie Ederaro, Paul Farmer, John Fleming, Larry Gaffney, Michael Hawrysiuk, Matt Horsley, Thomas James, Mario Jermen, Peter Kotamanidis, John Lathan, Joseph Lavalley, Richard Lloyd, Darcy Madden, John Majuroski, Dez Marton, Esala Masi, Dino Menillo, Jock Morlando, Jordan Murray, Jim McBreen, Shane McGirr, Chris Nathaniel, Nick Naumovski, Chimaobi Nwaogazi, Takeru Okada, Scott Ollerenshaw, Tony Perenich, Sasho Petrovski, Mark Picciolini, Chris Price, Ilija Prenzoski, Sean Robertson, Paul Reid, Saul Rivero, Naum Sekulovski, Sonny Sevin, David Skeen, Peter Simonoski, Anthony Surjan, Yuzo Tashiro, Peter Tredinnick, Ray Vliestra, Peter Willis, Charlie Yankos, Ray Younis, Stuart Young, Ricky Zucco plus own goal.

Marconi's goal achievers were Erick Anabalon, Nahuel Arrarte, Francis Awaritefe, Sean Babic, Matthew Bingley, Vic Bozanic, Alex Brosque, Rod Brown, Royce Brownlie, Alex Canak, Attilio Carbone, Christian Care, Nick Carle, Luke Casserly, Steve Corica, Angelo Costanzo, Fred De Jong, Tony Faria, Frank Farina, Anthony Frangie, Joey Gibbs, Gerry Gomez, Matthew Gordon, Ian Gray, Troy Halpin, Andrew Harper, Robert Hooker, Nathan Jagelman, Bruce James, Mark Jankovics,

Marko Jesic, Jason Kencevski, Ousane Koure, Ernie Krncevic, Rene Licata, David Lowe, Jay Lucas, Jared Lum, Tom McCulloch, Tim McGowan, John Maisano, Brad Maloney, John Markovski, Tallan Martin, Craig Mason, Zlatko Nastevski, Chris Nunes Sean O'Connell, Anthony Proia, Tadhag Purcell, Brenton Rhodes, David Seal, Keith Shelvin, Milorad Simonovic, Mike Smith, Roberto Speranza, Marshall Soper, Kimon Taliodoros, Kris Trajanovski, Vuko Tomasevic, Peter Tredinnick Garry Van Egmond,

Robert Wheatley, Steve Winn, Vlado Zoric and own goal.

With plenty of history between the two clubs Wollongong Wolves and Marconi over thirty-eight years, it was time to scrutinize the incidences in a little more depth and place them 'under the microscope'.

By Malcolm Rowney





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FEATURE STORY

HATS OFF TO LARRY'

There have only been two players with the first name of Larry since 1981 and these players are the focus of this article, 'Hats Off To Larry'.

Larry Gaffney was a five season midfielder at the club after playing five seasons in Queensland with Brisbane City from 1977-1981 where he made one hundred and twenty-three appearances and scored twelve goals. With the Wolves, the industrious player made a hundred and six appearances, from 1982 to 1986, including seven as a replacement and with the achievement of two goals. He is one of the Wolves' 'Hundred' club, and in addition, his son turned out for the Wolves in later years. His debut was in the Round 1 South Melbourne encounter played at Middle Park on the 14th February 1982.

Gaffney's initial goal came in Round 10 in the 2-2 draw with St.George coming in on the quarter of an hour mark, two minutes after his team's first goal on the 18th April.

His other strike occurred in 1983 in Round 19. The opposition was South Melbourne played at Ziems Park, Corrimal on the 24th July. The lead-up began with John Fleming's free kick on the left side flew in, to be headed down by Scott Dickson. Gaffney was in a position to gain possession and from the edge of the penalty area, he let fly. The ball zoomed in, giving the South Melbourne custodian no chance of denying. This gave his team a two-goal cushion but the opposition scored two to equalize in the second half.

Gaffney was a defensive midfielder with steel in his tackling and winning of the ball, was energetic and indefatigable and was a box-to-box player.

His final game for the club was on the Sunday, 15th September 1986 at Sydney Athletic Field with the opposition being Sydney City. It was 2-0 victory and an apt result to go out on. He was in team that qualified for a Finals Series when the team did so in 1983.

Larry Beringer played in the 1987 NSW State League competition with the Wolves and he won a Premiership medal. The midfielder/defender played six matches as a starting player and came on once as a replacement. His debut was in the Round 1 Uruguayan-Penrith match played at Cook Park. He

was also a starting player in Rounds 2-4, 11 and 12 with his replacement appearance in Round 10 versus Melita Eagles.

Beringer was a player who could hold his position well as he broke down attacking movements and had the ability to draw more advanced players into the play. His final Wolves game was in the Round 12 Inter-Monaro fixture with the venue being the Marco Polo Ground, Queanbeyan and he signed off in a 3-3 draw.

'Hats Of to Larry' - to the Larry's, Gaffney and Beringer.

By Malcolm Rowney



U20 TEAM LISTS



- 1 Tommy Butkovic
- 2 Ben Giason
- 3 Ryan Mrvic
- 4 Dax Kelly
- 5 Senna Stevenson
- 6 Nicholas Kalule
- 7 Thomas Dunn
- 8 Luke Dearsley
- 9 Denim Nou
- 10 Nico Duarte
- 11 Josh Fields
- 12 Michael Manyoun

Coach: Aaron Kellaway
Assistant Coach: Juan Chazaretta
Manager: Warren McWhirter
GK Coach: John Krajnovic



- 27 Dean Efstathiou
- 28 Jordan Ford
- 29 James Hilton (GK)
- 31 Dylan Kanjo
- 32 Marcelo Martellotta
- 33 Matthew Martignago
- 34 Johnny Tsimigos
- 35 Justin Vidic
- 36 Cooper Widdup
- 38 Stefano D'Amico

Head Coach: Ante Moric
Assistant Coach: Peter Vrilic
Team Manager: Frank Mammoliti
Sports Physio: Andrew Hughes

U20 LADDER

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Blacktown City FC	18	13	4	1	47	13	34	43
2	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	16	12	2	2	49	24	25	38
3	Sydney FC	17	11	3	3	44	18	26	36
4	Wollongong Wolves FC	19	9	4	6	31	23	8	31
5	Marconi Stallions FC	18	8	3	7	31	29	2	27
6	Sydney Olympic FC	17	8	2	7	26	23	3	26
7	Northbridge Bulls FC	19	7	2	10	23	33	-10	23
8	APIA Leichhardt FC	19	5	6	8	28	37	-9	21
9	Manly United FC	19	6	2	11	25	33	-8	20
10	Sutherland Sharks FC	19	5	3	11	20	40	-20	18
11	Rockdale Ilinden FC	19	4	5	10	28	47	-19	17
12	Sydney United 58 FC	18	3	0	15	17	49	-32	9

GOLDEN BOOT TALLY

Name (Team)	Goals
Alec Urosevski (Rockdale Ilinden)	19
Jaiden Kucharski (Sydney FC)	18
Roy O'Donovan (Sydney Olympic)	16
Marko Jesic (Marconi)	15
Lachlan Scott (Wollongong Wolves)	13
Jason Romero (APIA)	10
Sean Symons (APIA)	10
Bruno Mendes (Manly United)	10
Jack Stewart (Mt Druitt Town Rangers)	10
Adrian Segecic (Sydney FC)	9
Jordan Smylie (Blacktown City)	8
Chris Payne (Sydney United 58)	8



NEXT ROUND FIXTURES

MT DRUITT TOWN RANGERS FC VS SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC 7:00 PM / FRI 22 JUL POPONDETTA PARK
SUTHERLAND SHARKS FC VS NORTHBRIDGE BULLS FC 4:30 PM / SAT 23 JUL SEYMOUR SHAW
SYDNEY UNITED 58 FC VS MANLY UNITED FC 3:00 PM / SUN 24 JUL SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE

BLACKTOWN CITY FC VS WOLLONGONG WOLVES FC 3:00 PM / SUN 24 JUL BLACKTOWN CITY SPORTS CENTRE
ROCKDALE ILINDEN FC VS SYDNEY FC 4:00 PM / SUN 24 JUL ROCKDALE ILINDEN SPORTS CENTRE
APIA LEICHHARDT FC VS MARCONI STALLIONS FC 5:15 PM / SUN 24 JUL LAMBERT PARK

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FIXTURES

2022 HOME GAMES



HOME GROUND - WIN Stadium 46 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

Fri, 18th Mar	7:30 PM	Sydney FC	R3
Fri, 25th Mar	7:30 PM	Sydney Olympic FC	R4
Fri, 22nd Apr	7:30 PM	Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC	R8
Fri, 6th May	7:30 PM	Blacktown City FC	R10
Sun, 22nd May	3:00 PM	Sydney United 58	R10
<i>Albert Butler Memorial Park</i>			
Fri, 27th May	7:30 PM	Northbridge Bulls FC	R13
Fri, 17th Jun	7:30 PM	APIA Leichhardt FC	R16
Sat, 25th Jun	6:00 PM	Manly United FC	R17
Fri, 1st Jul	7:30 PM	Rockdale Ilinden FC	R18
Fri, 15th Jul	7:30 PM	Marconi Stallions FC	R20
Sun, 31st Jul	3:00 PM	Sutherland Sharks FC	R22



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