

THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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NSW Premier League

TeleChoice Premier League Round 22 Preview

By 5:00 PM this Sunday afternoon, the 2008 TeleChoice Premier League Premiership will be decided as the Top-Five will be confirmed with finals-series football to become the focus for five clubs. With each match kicking off at 3:00 PM on Sunday – to not give any advantage to one side over another – the curtain will be drawn on an enthralling regular season. Eyes will be focused on each of the six-fixtures on Sunday for many different reasons.

The biggest clash – in-terms of Premiership title – takes place at Seymour Shaw as League Leader from Round 1 Sutherland Sharks host Wollongong FC. Both sides enter the match with 43 points apiece, the Sharks holding a +9 advantage on goal difference over the Wolves. The Sharks have been in great form all season, though it is their run home that has caused concern amongst supporters. Brian Brown's men have lost three of their last four matches – Blacktown City Demons and Marconi Stallions in the League, before bowing out of the Tiger Turf Cup at the semi-final stage on penalties against Sydney Olympic. The Sharks recorded a morale boosting 6-0 win against West Sydney Berries to get the winning feeling back last weekend, and most importantly, their 'man mountain' in attack Brad Boardman made a huge return to the scorer's list with an impressive hat-trick. Wollongong FC in fact has won one more match than Sutherland this season, testament to the exceptional work of John Turner at the club. The Wolves were made to suffer against Marconi Stallions last weekend, arguably an important test in-sight of a season defining match such as the clash with Sutherland. As has been often the case this season, Ilija Prenzovski will carry much of the weight in attack for the Wolves, though some concerns do surround captain Ben Blake who was forced from the field against Marconi last weekend. At Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney Olympic will be 'champing at the bit' to secure second-spot as a desperate Sydney United visits the Blues.

Sydney Olympic will have a Wednesday evening clash against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers to complete, following the abandonment of the match on Sunday due to bad weather, though do remain in the hunt for second-spot should maximum points be taken from Lambert Park.

Sydney United on the other-hand has a much tougher task to secure a Top-Five berth with Ivan Petkovic's side now relying on other results to go their way.

A win for A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt against Sydney Olympic in midweek will see the Tigers leap-frog the Reds going into the last Round, a situation that would have been unthinkable one-month ago. The Reds will be without the services of experienced campaigners Josip Moric, Todd Brodie and Damon Collina through suspension, meanwhile Petar Markovic's spinal injury has all but ended his campaign. The battle between two great NSL club-sides of yesteryear will certainly deliver fireworks on Sunday. A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers' task at hand will be made clearer following the midweek catch-up match against Sydney Olympic, though a Sunday visit to Penrith-Nepean United should not cause John Romeo's men too many difficulties.

Penrith-Nepean has suffered in the latter part of the season due largely to the shorter playing roster in comparison to other sides, though Abbas Saad and his men have certainly fought 'tooth and nail' throughout the season. With a one-point advantage over bottom-placed Blacktown City Demons, Penrith-Nepean need points to avoid the wooden-spoon. The Tigers' strong finish to the regular season stand them in good stead for the points at the CUA Stadium, though anything less than a win for the Leichhardt side would almost certainly spell the end of their campaign.

At Cromer Park Manly United FC has an important encounter with Macarthur Rams in their bid to find form heading into the finals-series. Manly consolidated their spot in the Top-Five last weekend with a 1-0 victory against an 8-man Sydney United; following a series of defeats. Manly's successes to-date have revolved around the form of Robbie Cattnach and Craig Midgley. Both players have shown important signs of returning to their best form at the right time of the season. Macarthur Rams collected their fourth win of the season against Penrith-Nepean last weekend and would need at least one-point against Manly to stand a chance of avoiding the wooden-spoon. For Manly United, it is the perfect match to lift team-morale with a finals campaign around the corner.

Two of the pre-season favourites Marconi Stallions and Bankstown City will be playing for pride when they meet at Marconi Stadium. Both sides have been disappointing in a season that promised so much in the build-up. The Stallions have very little to play for in this campaign as 'stand-in' coach Luke Casserly takes control of the team for the final time this season. Promising signs for the Stallions have been the great form of captain courageous Nahuel Arrarte, along with the return from injury of Jay Lucas – the striker scoring twice in his first two matches back following a nightmare two-and-a-half years with injury.

Although Bankstown City has little to play for in-terms of the league, Peter Tsekenis' men have a Tiger Turf Cup Final on August 10. With Sydney Olympic awaiting the Lions in the Cup Final, a good showing is a must against the Stallions. Bankstown has been arguably one of the most spectacular sides in-terms of ball movement and one-touch football, yet their results have told a totally different story. In the final match of the Round, defending TeleChoice Premier League Champions Blacktown City Demons face season debutants West Sydney Berries. In a must win match for the Demons, if there is to be a remarkable last day leap off the bottom of the table, Ken Schembri's men will look to take morale following the late equaliser against Bankstown City in Round 21. Paul Karbon scored on that day, salvaging a point against their fierce rivals. West Sydney Berries' campaign has been filled with 'ups and downs' though the side's debut season in the Premier League has been very positive. A win at home against the Demons will ensure a top-eight finish with, potentially, seventh-spot still up for grabs.

Australian Deaf Team v Celebrity Team

Telechoice NSW Premier League.
Manly United FC v Macarthur Rams - 3pm

Australian Deaf Team v Celebrity Team - 1.45pm

Celebrities will include - Adam Spencer, John Waters, Layne Beachley, Colin Scotts, Cliff Lyons, Jon Moss, Robbie Slater to name but a few.....

Under 20's kick-off 11.30am Sunday 3 August
2008At Cromer Park Stadium

CCs within strike of upsetting Blues

A LAST minute own goal from CC Strikers defender Luke Van Wensveen saw Brookvale steal three points after a seven goal thriller at St Matthews Farm on Saturday. As Strikers were the only team to take points off the Blues in the league with a 2-2 draw earlier in the season, it always promised to be an entertaining clash. Whippet-like marksman Peter Wye opened the scoring on 10 minutes after capitalising on an error from Brookie 'keeper Frank Chiarella. Dave Pascuzzo equalised midway through the first half to leave the game in the balance at half-time. As they so often do Vince Santarosa's men lifted the intensity after the break and found themselves 3-1 up with 25 minutes remaining.

Right back Marius Solberg thumped home a speculative effort from 30m which was followed by a

converted penalty from Steve Riches. Seemingly down and out, the home side responded with goals to Van Wensveen and Sean Walsh only for the league leaders to steal the three points at the death. In the space of three minutes Van Wensveen went from hero to villain after his attempted clearance flew into the top corner following a Riches freekick for a foul on Frank Gigliotti.

CC Strikers coach Nigel Mahoney said his team didn't deserve to lose and feels they can upset the Blues if they meet for a third time in the semi-finals.

"We have done better than everyone else in the competition by getting a point against them and now losing in the last minute," he said.

"Once we got it back to 3-3, I thought we would hold on for a point. We know we can give them a run for their money."

In other games Pittwater consolidated second spot following a 2-1 win over Beacon Hill, Manly Allambie remain entrenched in the top four following a 5-1 victory over Narrabeen, Wakehurst brushed aside Dee Why 3-0, Mosman overcame Manly Vale 1-0 and Forest Killarney edged out BTH Raiders 2-1.

Kudos for United is good but it doesn't pay the bills

LET'S get one thing straight right from the start - Manly United has never and will never stand in the way of a player going to the next level. And any accusations to the contrary, such as Newcastle Jets coach Gary Van Egmond's in the Newcastle press last week with regards to defender Beau Busch, is just ludicrous.

The only issue in Beau moving to Newcastle from our point of view was not if, it was when. And, given we were playing for our season on Saturday night and had an injury crisis in defence, we simply asked for a delay of a week or two. The win over Sydney United secured us a finals' berth and Beau has now gone to Newcastle on loan for three months with our full blessing.

I'm not here to air dirty laundry through the media I'm here to highlight the major issues we have within our player pathway at the second top tier - that is NSW Premier League players going to the A-League. Truth be known, the country's richest breeding ground for A-League talent is in real danger of collapse.

Let's name names. John Hutchinson, Alex Wilkinson, Matthew Osman, Ryan Griffiths, Adam Griffiths, Hamilton Thorp, Tom Willis, Nikolai Topor-Stanley, Chris Payne and now Beau Busch have all had stints at Manly United before heading to the next level - either the old NSL or the new A-League - over the past seven years. Throw in Robbie Cattinach - who signed a short-term contract with Sydney FC last season - for good measure.

May as well add Brent Fisher as well who moved from Cromer Park to massive German first division outfit Energie Cottbus a few years back. And the grand total of financial compensation Manly United has received so far is a whopping \$0-00! The club may receive \$3000 for Payne when he departs after this weekend's final regular season clash with Macarthur.

And while we are at it, coaches Glenn Sterrey, John Kosmina, Tony Pezzano and Van Egmond himself have all got their chance at professional coaching after learning their trade at Manly. Not that you expect financial compensation for coaches but it still proves the theory that Manly is not a stumbling block but rather a springboard in the careers of players and coaches alike. Bear in mind that it costs the club around \$700,000 a year to compete in the

NSWPL with playing and coaching wages, fees and everything else that goes with it and if we won all four competitions on offer - the pre-season Johnny Warren Cup, Tiger Turf Cup, the league and the grand final - you stand to make just \$70, 000 back in prizemoney (most of which goes to the players in bonuses).

Hardly a feasible return on your investment and trust me, we are one of the lower budget clubs in the league? While A-League clubs have to take some responsibility to compensate state league clubs for the time and effort that goes into developing players, it is the FFA and Football NSW who really need to step up to the plate.

As it stands, A-League clubs don't have to pay a cent in compensation for players who sign as short term injury replacements. Topor-Stanley, whose career was at the crossroads when Belconnen were dumped from the NSWPL, joined Manly for just one season. But that season saw him establish himself in the Olyroos squad and then sign several short-term contracts with Sydney FC before moving on to Perth.

Fisher, worse still, went to a massive club in Germany but had Manly United dared ask for a transfer fee the deal was off and they would find someone else.

Emotional blackmail.

I'm a massive advocate of young players staying in Australia until such time as they are ready to play regular first team football in a major foreign league. Brett Emerton is a prime example. Starred on a weekly basis for Sydney Olympic in the old NSL, captained his country at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and then went to Feyenoord to play regularly almost from the get-go. But how can the state league clubs encourage players to go to the A-League when financially it just doesn't make sense? Sure there is some kudos for Manly United when a player goes to the next level but it doesn't pay bills.

Phil Moss
MWFA Director of Coaching & Youth Development
Head Coach - Manly United FC

Trial dates for Futsal

Trials for the representative futsal (indoor soccer) sides will be held over the next few weeks at:

Curl Curl Community Hall.
Abbott Rd, Curl Curl

Sat 2nd August:
U13 Girls (9.15 to 10.30 am)
U16 Girls and open women (10.30 to 12.00 noon)

Sun 10 August & Sunday 17 August
U12 Boys (12.00 to 1.15 pm)
U14 Boys (1.15 to 2.30 pm)
U16 Boys (2.30 to 3.45 pm)
Youth Men (3.45 to 4.45 pm)
Open Men (4.45 to 6.00 pm)

Please arrive 15 minutes early to complete nomination form.

Enquiries: Boys/Men - Janie Parsons 0414 993 273.
Girls/Women - Cathie Sweeny 0410 106 428.

Arnold: Messi saga will unsettle Argentina

Australia Under-23 coach Graham Arnold believes the club-versus-country war being waged over Lionel Messi may unsettle Argentina's preparations for the Olympics. Argentina is awaiting a FIFA ruling on the availability of the diminutive Barcelona forward. Australia is pooled with Argentina, Cote d'Ivoire and Serbia for the opening phase of the football

tournament in Beijing. Arnold, who is readying his side for a final warm-up meeting against a Korean under-23 side in Seoul on Thursday, said the situation could upset the South American Powerhouse.

"I am pretty happy he won't be there if he's not going to be there," Arnold said from the team's Korea training base on Wednesday. "He is getting a lot of pressure from the Argentine press and even Diego Maradona has come out and said he's got to make the decision.

"It could be unsettling for Argentina but I don't really care about them at this stage. I am just worried about us and things are going along fine for us." Arnold has his three allowed overage players with the squad already.



Olyroos coach Graham Arnold

David Carney linked with his team-mates earlier in the week and joins Jade North and Archie Thompson as the elder statesmen of the side. Arnold is pleased that there was no drama in gathering his troops for the Games.

"People say things back at home about why didn't I get all of the overseas-based overage boys from their clubs, but I communicated with the clubs two months ago and I knew that they would not have been released," he said. "There is no FIFA rule for over-aged played. It's not possible.

"I got my European-based players only probably because I went across to their clubs three months ago and gave them their training programs."

Carney is set to play in the friendly on Thursday night but Thompson will be rested after picking up a knock in training. North may also sit out the clash following last week's loss to Japan.

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MOSSY'S MUMBLINGS



MUMBLINGS is a column based on true events and real people. While we have eyes and ears everywhere please feel free to email your short story – funny, quirky, sad, stupid, hilarious, down right ridiculous or otherwise – to mossy@mwfa.com.au While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

RED CARD: PEOPLE who deem it necessary to go direct to the media every time there is a disturbance at a football game. The back page headlines and ensuing story in this week's *The Manly Daily* with regards the CC Strikers-Brookvale MWFA premier league match last weekend was a mixture of football bashing and journalistic sensationalism. Club officials were reportedly happy to deal with the issues in-house but other sections of their clubs went public. Airing dirty laundry in the media is not the way to go. There are no winners, only losers!



GOOAAAL: MANLY United duo Richy Williams and Micky Williams will play their last regular season game for the club at their beloved Cromer Park on Sunday after deciding to call it quits at the end of the 2008 season. Affectionately known as the "Williams Sisters", the elder statesmen of the United squad have given fantastic service over the past five years and the players and coaching staff will be doing everything in their power to send them out as winners when the finals series starts in a fortnight. Their legacy within the playing group will remain long after they have gone!



MANLY United will be hosting a "Festival of Football" to see out the regular season at Cromer Park on Sunday when a desperate Macarthur Rams make the trek to the Northern Beaches. The Rams are fighting to avoid relegation while Manly United – who secured their place in the finals last weekend – still face the prospect of a top three finish. Prior to the main game, the Australian Deaf squad will take on a Celebrity XI featuring the likes of multiple world surfing champion Layne Beachley, former Sea Eagles great Cliffy Lyons, actor John Waters, ex-Socceroo Robbie Slater, ex-NFL star Colin Scotts and radio star Adam Spencer. The Grade 20s clash with Macarthur will kick-off at 11.30am followed by the Celebrity Match at 1.45pm and the main game at 3pm. It promises to be a fantastic day of action so don't miss it.



REFEREE Paul Franklin has seen the good, the bad and the ugly during his time in the middle. But he couldn't wait to contact Mumbblings this week with a ripper of a story. It's a compliment to two teams he refereed last weekend - Pittwater RSLFC and CC Strikers FC under-18/3 sides - at Jacksons Road.

"In the 38 years I have been refereeing this was the most sporting match I have ever refereed," he said. "It was a tough but fair match without one single foul in the opening 45 minutes and only a couple in the second half."

The game left such an impression on Paul that he felt compelled to call both teams in along with the parents and team officials to congratulate them on their performance. The 80–100 spectators lining the sideline also made plenty of noise to ensure a great atmosphere accompanied a great match. Is that not what it's all about?

Well done to all concerned.



SEVERAL Manly United youngsters have covered themselves in glory this season with state selection. Leigh Egger (boys 15s) was last week named in the NSW side to contest the national titles in October. It follows hot on the heels of Jack Green and Callum Elder wearing the NSW jersey for the 13s in the Friendship Games during the recent July school holidays while in the girls, Luseanne Cook and Sophie Carlberg (13s) – the latter unfortunately broke her arm two weeks before the tournament and couldn't compete at Nationals - Asimina Zervos and Jess Wharepouri made the 15s and Tiarn Powell the 17s. Zervos was also terribly unlucky to have suffered a season-ending knee injury that required a full reconstruction and also had to forgo the tournament in Coffs Harbour during the July holidays. Wharepouri though had an outstanding tournament and has been invited to a trial at the AIS for the 2010 U17 Australian women's team next week. Best of luck Jess!



THE unbelievably popular Referee's Corner is back for another week. Here are last week's Q&A's:

Q. The team that kicks off at the start of the second half, is?
A. The team that wins the coin toss
B. Decided by the toss of a coin before the second half starts
C. The team that loses the coin toss
Answer: A. The team that wins the toss at the start of the game.

Q. During the taking of a penalty kick, a team mate of the player taking the kick enters into the penalty area before the ball is kicked. The ball rebounds off the crossbar and is touched by the team mate. What action should the Referee take?
A. Award an indirect free kick to the defending team
B. Allow play to continue
C. Award a retake of the penalty kick
Answer: A. Award an indirect free kick to the defending team

Q. During the taking of a throw-in, the thrower projects the ball directly into his own goal. The result is?
A. Corner kick
B. A goal
C. A goal Kick
Answer: A corner kick

This week's Laws of the Game trivia beauties are:

Q. The ball becomes defective whilst not in play at a throw-in, the game is restarted with?
A. A drop ball
B. An indirect free kick
C. A throw-in:

Q. If a player taking a kick-off handles the ball before it has been touched by another player - what is the correct restart?
A. Drop ball
B. Indirect free kick to the opposing team
C. Direct free kick to the opposing team



OUR piece last week about the all-conquering Metropolitan North State Title-winning side (boys) attracted some feedback with one reader, Diane Turner, alerting us to the magnificent performance

in October 2006 of the Metropolitan North Ladies 12s, 14s and 16s – all of whom took out their State Title campaigns and came home with the silverware. The treble was the first time such a feat had been achieved in the history of the State Titles. Many of the players involved in those teams were plying their trade for Manly United at the time.



NARRABEEN FC were this week celebrating two premierships after the U16 ladies took out both the division 2 and 4 competitions with weeks to spare. The club only has three ladies competition sides and two have taken out silverware! Of the two squads almost half have been playing for only the past two years and many still qualify for the 14s but want to play up an age group with their friends. Super coaches Larry Duke and Steve Euers have taken these girls from Zero to Hero!

Congrats to all..



YOU just can't beat dedication to the cause and Manly United "kit lady" Ida Rigoni has it in spades. Last weekend's vital clash with Sydney United was not a game she was going to miss – not for the world. Not even for her daughter Vanessa's 30th birthday it seems. Ida – a devoted family woman – moved Vanessa's party to the Sunday afternoon primarily so she could make the trek to Edensor Park on the Saturday night (but don't tell Vanessa).

"I told her it would be better for the grandkids if the party was Sunday afternoon and not Saturday night," grinned Ida – who is also heavily involved as a player for CC Strikers and Futsal. Love your work Ida.



NARRABEEN officials have been handed a set of security keys lost at Boondah Reserve recently. They are presumably of value to somebody! They can be collected by contacting club president Denis Hole on 0416 110 556 or at president@narrabeenfc.com.au



FORMER SBS football reporter Liz Deep-Jones has turned her hand to writing books with her first – a kid's book called Lucy Zeezou's Goal - due out next month. And Mumbblings can assure you it's a great read! There will be a competition giveaway right here in Mumbblings so stay tuned.



SYDNEY FC star Steve Corica continues to fly the flag for the A-League with some outstanding community work. This week he was putting Narrabeen's premier league squad through their paces at Boondah Reserve till late on Wednesday night as they fight to avoid relegation over the closing weeks of the season. The Beanie boys gave him plenty of stick for allowing Mark Bosnich to save his penalty last weekend too!





MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM **TERM 3 – 2008**

INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)

MWFA CLUB PLAYERS

Boys and girls - aged 6-13yrs (NEW YOUNGER AGE GROUPS)

NOTE: Open to all players aged 6-9yrs and 10-13yrs playing MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)

Dates: Monday August 4 – Monday September 22
Times: 4.15pm – 5.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
Cost: \$160/player for 8 weekly sessions + *\$20 for training kit + ball)

(*optional for players with MUFC training kit from previous camps)

Payment: \$160 or \$180 due on July 28 at 1st session
Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only

COACHES: Sharon Egger – MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach
Susan Wheatley – MUFC 1st grade player
Staff coaches

SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING

With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC GK COACH)

Dates: **WEDNESDAY** July 30 – Wednesday September 17
Times: 6pm–7.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
(Synthetic-grassed cage)
Cost: \$35/player per session
Bookings: BRUNO on **0421 131 051** or email bjgeronimo@gmail.com

Open to all goalkeepers aged 9-18yrs playing representative youth league or MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)



MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM **TERM 3 – 2008**

INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)

REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS
Boys and girls - aged 10-15yrs

Dates: Tuesday August 5 – Tuesday September 23
Times: 4.15pm – 5.30pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
Cost: \$160 for eight sessions (\$20/player per session)
Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only
Payment plans available

Coaches: Phil Moss (MUFC Head Coach)
Sharon Egger (MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach)

Program: Technique, 1v1, 2v2, specific game-related positional play

Bookings: Essential email mossy@mwfa.com.au

Wet Weather: Call 9982-6228 after Noon on day of program

SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING

With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC). Every **WEDNESDAY** night (6pm–7.30pm) from **July 30 – September 17** in the synthetic-grassed cage at Cromer Park. Cost \$35/session. Bookings call BRUNO on **0421 131 051** or email bigeronimo@gmail.com

Open to all goalkeepers aged 10-18yrs playing representative youth league or MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)