

# THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



**MANLY WARRINGAH**  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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2008 – Issue 29 – August 15



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 NSW Premier League

## TeleChoice Championship Series Round 1 Preview

As the TeleChoice Premier League regular season wound down to a close just over a week ago, attentions have now been fixed on the TeleChoice Championship Series.

This weekend, Manly United and Sydney United face elimination as the two sides do battle in a 'life and death' encounter at Cromer Park on Friday evening. Both sides have experienced an indifferent run home into the finals series following a very impressive first part of the season, and any mistake can bring their season to an end on the night. Manly United boss Phil Moss is still hoping to see the best of Robbie Cattanach who has had a lean time in-front of goal in recent weeks. The normally reliable goalscorer has gone without a goal since his strike against West Sydney Berries in mid June. Craig Midgley's presence alongside Cattanach will be telling, as the pairing caused many difficulties for opposing defences. At the back, Phil Moss has made adjustments with the release of Beau Busch to the Newcastle Jets in the A-League. Roberto Hamad and Pascal Julliard will be called upon to keep a steady rear-guard in-front of goalkeeper Brad Swancott.

Sydney United enter the encounter with a 'bone to pick' following the penultimate Round loss to Manly United three-weeks ago. The Reds on that evening battled gallantly with eight-men against Manly, though succumbed 1-0 after conceding a late penalty. The Reds already stared elimination in the face against Sydney Olympic last weekend when stand-out performer, goalkeeper Vedran Janjetovic, produced a series of saves to keep his side in the clash – none more important than the point-blank header from Anthony Hartshorn. Ivan Petkovic will have the luxury of fielding both Damon Collina and Josip Moric following their one-match suspension, meanwhile Mark Robertson's fitness battle should be won by the talented midfielder as he will be given until the last minute to prove his fitness. Big name absentees for the Reds include midfielder Todd Brodie who still has a two-match suspension to serve, meanwhile the exceptional talent of Petar Markovic will be missing for the remainder of the season with a spinal injury.

The loser of the Manly United v Sydney United encounter will pack their bags and take a long break in anticipation of next season, meanwhile the winner will meet the loser of Wollongong FC's battle with Sydney Olympic.

John Turner's men will have the advantage of playing the match in Wollongong – at the WIN Stadium – meanwhile the list of suspensions and absentees for Milan Blagojevic's Sydney Olympic stand the Wolves in good stead. Turner will be without Dez Giraldo (released to Sydney FC in the A-League), Michael West (after a serious spleen injury suffered in the Wolves 1-1 draw against the Sharks in Round 22) and Osagie Ederaro out with a long-term injury. Once more, the weight of expectation in attack will be carried by Ilija Prenzovski who has enjoyed a tremendous campaign for the Wollongong side. Ballamadou Conde's influence out of midfield with captain courageous Ben Blake's leadership qualities have the Wolves in a good position to have a shot at Sutherland Sharks one-week later.

Sydney Olympic's preparations were dealt a blow as the Blues lost the Tiger Turf Cup Final against Bankstown City Lions last weekend. In a heavy defeat, not only in-terms of result, Sydney Olympic will have suspensions to key figures for the clash with Wollongong. Both Roger Galayini and Anthony Hartshorn will be out of the clash, meanwhile the inspirational Shannon Cole played his last match against the Lions before joining Sydney FC. There's also the loss of club captain Peter Zorbas who underwent a knee operation last week which has sidelined the Blues star for at least six months. Milan Blagojevic will have his work cut out to lift the morale of his players, though the return of Emmanuel Zunino should add some strength to the left-side of defence, the avenue cleverly exploited by Bankstown City on three occasions – producing three goals - in the Cup Final. Matthew Mayora will return to lead the front-line with his physical presence, and Jordanian International Siraj Al-Tall may be called upon to use his height and experience in attack.

**TeleChoice Championship Series  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

**Wollongong FC v Sydney Olympic  
WIN Stadium – 7.30 pm**

**Manly United v Sydney United  
Cromer Park – 7.45 pm**

## Manly United leads the way in youth development

Progressive TeleChoice Premier League club Manly United this week expanded its impressive full-time coaching department in a bid to ensure it stays at the forefront of youth development. Apart from its on-field success that sees the first grade, 20s, 16s and 13s in the finals series for the second year in succession and the club finish second on the Club Championship in 2008, the Northern Beaches outfit

now has a fulltime football department of three highly qualified coaches. Led by head coach Phil Moss, first grade players Richy Williams and Craig Midgley are now also based at Cromer Park on a full-time basis and run several community-based programs aimed at maximising brand awareness and continuing a fantastic player pathway that leads all the way from local under-6 grassroots to the A-League and abroad. Williams, who has captained the first grade side for the past three seasons, will hang up the boots at the end of this finals series to concentrate on his coaching while Midgley will continue to combine both roles in 2009.



*Manly United's full-time Coaching & Youth Development staff (L-R) Richy Williams, Phil Moss and Craig Midgley*

Among the programs Manly United offers - in an area where 17,000 players are registered under the Manly Warringah Football Association banner – are after-school training, school holiday camps, Community Centres and Elite Training Academies. The football department employs players from its first grade (men and women's) sides, Grade 20 and older youth league sides to coach the programs under the watchful eyes of Moss, Williams and Midgley. Moss said the bold move to have three full-time coaches employed at a semi-professional level was a credit to the Manly United and Manly-Warringah Football Association boards.

"This is an association and club that works well in unison and clearly has no desire to stand still and admire what they have achieved so far," Moss said.

"Manly United has come along way in the past five years but what allows us to keep progressing is the fact that we are all here for the players – from first grade to the kid in the local under-6s – and we want to provide the best opportunities for them.

"It's not all about the elite players either – it gives us great satisfaction to help local club players improve their game so they are better players at their respective levels as well."

With Moss having completed his FFA A-Licence earlier this year and Williams and Midgley halfway through theirs – Part B of their A-Licence takes place at the AIS in Canberra early next year – it is a highly qualified and highly motivated coaching department at Cromer Park. The Elite Training Program sits above the other programs on the Manly United Player Pathway which also includes the MUFC After-School Initiative, Community Centres (both run during school term) and MUFC School Holiday camps (representative and local club).

"Richy and Craig are excellent development coaches in their own right and they have run similar programs when they played back in the UK," Moss said.

"It's always been my objective to build a football department at Manly that leads the way in the NSW TeleChoice Premier League and I think we are moving in the right direction.

"To have two current players at the coaching A-Licence level is rare and I want to make sure Manly utilizes that and in turn provides jobs for two very good, very motivated football people.

"It's crucial we ensure our products are top shelf so we will never let quantity rule over quality but we are continually looking at ways to improve what we offer and how we deliver it."

Manly United's various programs also cater for players who narrowly miss selection in its NSW Premier Youth League sides (boys and girls) and the club is in its third year of the Lucas Neill Scholarship Scheme – a unique initiative introduced by the current Soccerroos skipper and ex-Manly United junior that allows for up to two players from the club's under-14s-16s to travel to the UK for three weeks to train at Premier League clubs. New Sydney FC signing Chris Payne, 17, was the inaugural winner of the scholarship two years ago and now looks set to make his A-League debut in this weekend's opener against Melbourne Victory.

"We have sent Chris Payne and Simon Beer overseas so far through the scheme and neither let themselves or the club down," Moss said.

"Lucas has always been very conscious of putting something back into the game and particularly the club that first gave him his chance. We are in the process now of finalising a potential winner or two this season."

Manly United's senior teams kickstart their finals campaign at Cromer Park this weekend with first grade taking on Sydney United on Friday night (7.45pm KO) and the Grade 20s meeting Marconi on Saturday (12.30pm KO).

## Payne to handle debut with ease

SYDNEY FC midfielder Steve Corica has tipped Narrabeen student Chris Payne will have no problems overcoming his first match nerves when he makes his professional debut in the A-League opener on Saturday night. Payne will start up front in Sydney FC's opening match against Melbourne Victory at the Sydney Football Stadium. The 17-year-old is currently completing his High School Certificate at Narrabeen Sports High. But before he completes those studies, he faces a much sterner test, against Victory.

"I think he will be all right," Corica said late yesterday, it's going to be a big occasion for him, probably a decent size crowd for him as well.

"He's a very good player for a young boy and I'm sure he will be all right. But it's not going to be easy for him, playing up front by himself."

## Sydney FC out for Victory in clash of A-League heavyweights

Following months of training, trials and the Pre-Season Cup, Sydney FC's focus has shifted entirely towards the opening round of the Hyundai A-League, and its encounter with old foes, the Melbourne Victory this Saturday, August 16. With marquee signing John Aloisi headlining a list of Sydney FC stars sidelined through injury, Olyroos Mark Bridge and Stuart Musialik fighting for gold in Beijing and three players serving suspensions earned in the Pre-Season Cup, the diminished FC squad will have a difficult task on its hands matching up against one of its fiercest rivals.

"We are a bit light on for players for the opening match," Sydney FC coach John Kosmina admitted, the game is going to be tough, but in saying that I believe we have the talent to rise to the challenge."

To further complicate Kosmina's selection puzzle, niggling injuries to Sydney FC captain Tony Popovic, first choice goalkeeper Clint Bolton and defender Jacob Timpano have also placed them in doubt for Saturday's season opener.

"It's going to be touch and go as to whether they will be fit to play," said Kosmina. "The season is about having depth in your squad, ours will be severely tested, but its part and parcel of how seasons turn out sometimes."

Despite being faced with a long list of unavailable stars, Kosmina is reluctant to throw recently crowned 'Football Superstar' winner Adam Hett straight into the starting line-up.

"I wouldn't do that to him," he said. "However there is a strong possibility that he could be on the bench for the first game."

Fellow teenage sensation, 17 year old Chris Payne is also likely to make his official debut for the perennial A-League favourites against Melbourne, with the former Manly United striker the only out-and-out forward at Kosmina's disposal. Whilst lacking personnel for the opening game, Kosmina remains confident Sydney will be among the leading title contenders.



*John Kosmina*

"It's a long season, we've got 20 games after the match on Saturday and we should have at least 3 or 4 players back for the following week."

After guiding FC to its third-straight finals appearance in his first season at the club, Kosmina's expectations lie well beyond simply making the final four.

"It's very even this season but you don't enter a competition to come second, we want to win it and we'll give it our best," he said.

With the team down on troops Sydney will be hoping for a large home crowd to help give it an edge against the might of Melbourne. Saturday night's Hyundai A-League season opener against the Victory

kicks-off at the Sydney Football Stadium 7pm, with tickets currently on sale through [Ticketek](http://Ticketek).

## All over for Olyroos

The **Olyroos** have crashed out of the 2008 Olympic Games at the group stage after losing 1-0 to **Cote d'Ivoire**, Chelsea striker Salomon Kalou grabbing a late winner for the Ivorians. Needing a win to qualify for the quarter-finals, the Olyroos were sunk by Kalou's 81st-minute effort. Australia's best chance came in the 20th minute when David Carney went through, but although his shot beat goalkeeper Vincent Angban, defender Souleymane Bamba somehow cleared on the line. Defeat brought to an end a forgettable campaign for Australia, who started with a 1-1 draw with Serbia before losing 1-0 to Argentina.



*Olyroos striker Nikita Rukavytsya shows his frustration in Tianjin*

"We had nerves in our first game, but against Argentina we were outstanding and we were outstanding again today," Olyroos coach Graham Arnold was quoted as saying afterwards on [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)

"The difference in the game was Kalou. He's a big player and he made all the difference today.

"We've had problems scoring with this team. This is generally a problem with all levels of Australia's national teams. Disappointment aside, I am proud of the work the players put in and I think we have developed as a team."

Victory meanwhile was enough to propel Cote d'Ivoire into the quarter-finals, along with group winners **Argentina**, who defeated **Serbia** 2-0 in the other Group A match.

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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](mailto:mossy@mwfa.com.au) While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

**RED CARD:** THE goalposts in Beijing must have had force fields around them when the Olyroos met Argentina and Ivory Coast in this week's Olympic Games group matches. As hard a group as it was going to be to get out of, Australia created enough chances to win both games after their defence set a solid platform. True enough it was a poor performance against Serbia in the first game but the lads did us proud in the last two games. But it wasn't to be on the scoreboard and proved once again why quality, goal-scoring strikers are paid so much money.



**GOOAAAL:** PITTWATER confirmed their status as "Cup Kings" after taking out their fourth straight MWFA Cup with a commanding 4-0 victory over Wakehurst at Cromer Park on Wednesday night. Captain Roland Webber led his team around the park superbly ensuring coach Glenn Wood secured some silverware in his first season at Kitchener Park.



**BEWARE** and be warned, the MWFA is clamping down severely on the rules governing player ID prior to kick-off of weekend games. Both teams must come to the halfway line to have their ID cards checked by managers of both teams before the game starts. Teams will be penalised 1 competition point for not doing it correctly and it may cost them a place in the finals – or worse still a premiership! "The rules were formalised with the agreement of each member club to stop illegal or suspended players playing which has caused us many legal problems in the past," MWFA president Ray Fanning told Mumbblings this week.

"All teams have been warned – do it correctly or face a deduction of points, each weekend all MWFA directors are out there at grounds checking that it is being done correctly."

It would be a horrible way for your season to unravel..



**GRAHAMS** Reserve will play host to an intriguing premiership decider on Saturday as Forest-Killarney and Wakehurst go head-to-head for the under-18/1s title. Forest is on 34 points, one ahead of Wakehurst. The Orange and Blacks won the first round encounter 1-0 before Forest replied with a resounding 4-1 victory in the second round. Forest has not lost in 12 matches and has shown a dramatic turnaround from last year when they won just 3 games (this year they have only lost 3)! Both teams have been fierce rivals since the under-14's and this promises to be a ripper of a game.

Kick-off at Grahams Reserve #2 is at 1pm.



A **BIG** cheerio to long-serving Pittwater and MWFA official Lorna Gale following a couple of recent visits to hospital. Unfortunately she was bedridden during the week and didn't get to see her beloved Green and Whites hoist the MWFA Cup at Cromer Park on Wednesday night. Best wishes Lorna for a speedy and full recovery.



THE mighty Dee Why AL/7s this week mounted an audacious bid to take on Manly United's first grade side in a scratch match at Cromer Park. The Swans are within striking distance of the premiership and wanted to shore up a match as preparation for their finals.

"It might be crucial preparation for Manly United to play us - we wouldn't take it easy on your boys," Swans star Mark Devries told Mumbblings.

"We could even get all the boys to throw in \$10 or \$20 which could go towards some worthwhile cause like the Cromer Park bar.

"Also think of the patronage to the game, it would draw tens of people, besides it might be the only time your boys get to play and have a beer at the same time."

The approach was regrettably knocked back for two reasons – fear of failure and what will hopefully be a steady stream of NSWPL finals matches over the next few weeks!

Good luck for the finals lads!



**MANLY** United will be alive and kicking when the fourth season of the Hyundai A-League kicks off this weekend. Sydney FC striker Chris Payne will fly the flag of the Northern Beaches NSWPL club. Payne has attracted plenty of media attention this week after coach John Kosmina drafted him into his starting XI for the clash with Melbourne to cover for a mountain of injuries.

Best of luck Payne!



**SPEAKING** of Chris Payne, Sydney FC coach John Kosmina didn't hold back this week when he described the 17-year-old as "the next Mark Viduka". Here's hoping there is not too much pressure heaped on the kid too early in his career. He has all the attributes to make it in the game but he needs the time to develop and learn his trade.



**REFEREE'S** Corner last week posed the following Q&As.

Q. The referee can expel a team official from?

- A. The field of play and its immediate surroundings
- B. Only from the technical area
- C. Only from the field of play:

Answer: A. The field of play and its immediate surroundings

Q. Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity involves a player?

- A. Moving forwards in any direction
- B. Moving in any direction
- C. Moving towards the opponents' goal

Answer: C. Moving towards the opponents' goal

This week's questions are:

Q. Thermal undershorts (cycling shorts) are part of a players' basic equipment?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Only if they are the same main colour as the shorts

Q. During the taking of a penalty kick, the penalty taker's team-mate (No. 9), who remains outside of the penalty area, moves in front of the penalty mark before the ball is kicked. The ball rebounds from the goalkeeper and goes to team-mate (No. 9) who scores a goal?

- A. The goal is allowed
- B. An indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team
- C. The penalty kick is retaken



THERE have been some examples of "Pitiful Pitches" in recent weeks so now let's look at a playing field at the other end of the spectrum. Allambie Heights Oval is marked and dressed to perfection each week for the AL and O35 teams lucky enough to frequent it. And it's all down to two young local lads - Liam Watson and Ben Kernick. The pair is doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award and, as part of their community service, they approached Manly Allambie to put the nets up and down and mark the field each week for the season.

"They've done a very good job," Manly-Allambie's Trevor Watson told Mumbblings.



**REFEREE** Chris Baker is never short of a word or two while officiating local premier league games and he was at his very best last weekend during the Forest-Killarney v Pittwater clash at Melwood Oval. After awarding a free kick to Forest close to the technical area after a Pittwater player was adjudged to have "taken out the legs of his Forest opponent", the Forest player taking the kick asked referee Baker where the spot was.

"Just where his legs are," came the quick-as-you-like response to roars of laughter from the sideline.



**SEAFORTH** FC has to be one of the real boutique clubs of the MWFA now that the new clubhouse is operational. With majestic views of the city skyline and plasma screens (with Fox Sports) inside the building, there is also a great viewing deck that looks out over the main field – a field where Seaforth AL1 have turned themselves into premiers and all but assured of a spot in a revamped 10-team premier league in 2009. It's all roses and champagne up Seaforth way at the moment!



**DON'T** miss NSW Premier League action at Cromer Park tonight (Fri) when Manly United hosts Sydney United in the elimination semi-final. KO is 7.45pm.





## **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 1<sup>st</sup> session  
Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only

**COACHES:** Sharon Egger – MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach  
Susan Wheatley – MUFC 1<sup>st</sup> grade player  
Staff coaches

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## **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 [bjeronimo@gmail.com](mailto:bjeronimo@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](mailto:mossy@mwfa.com.au)

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

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## **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](mailto: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)