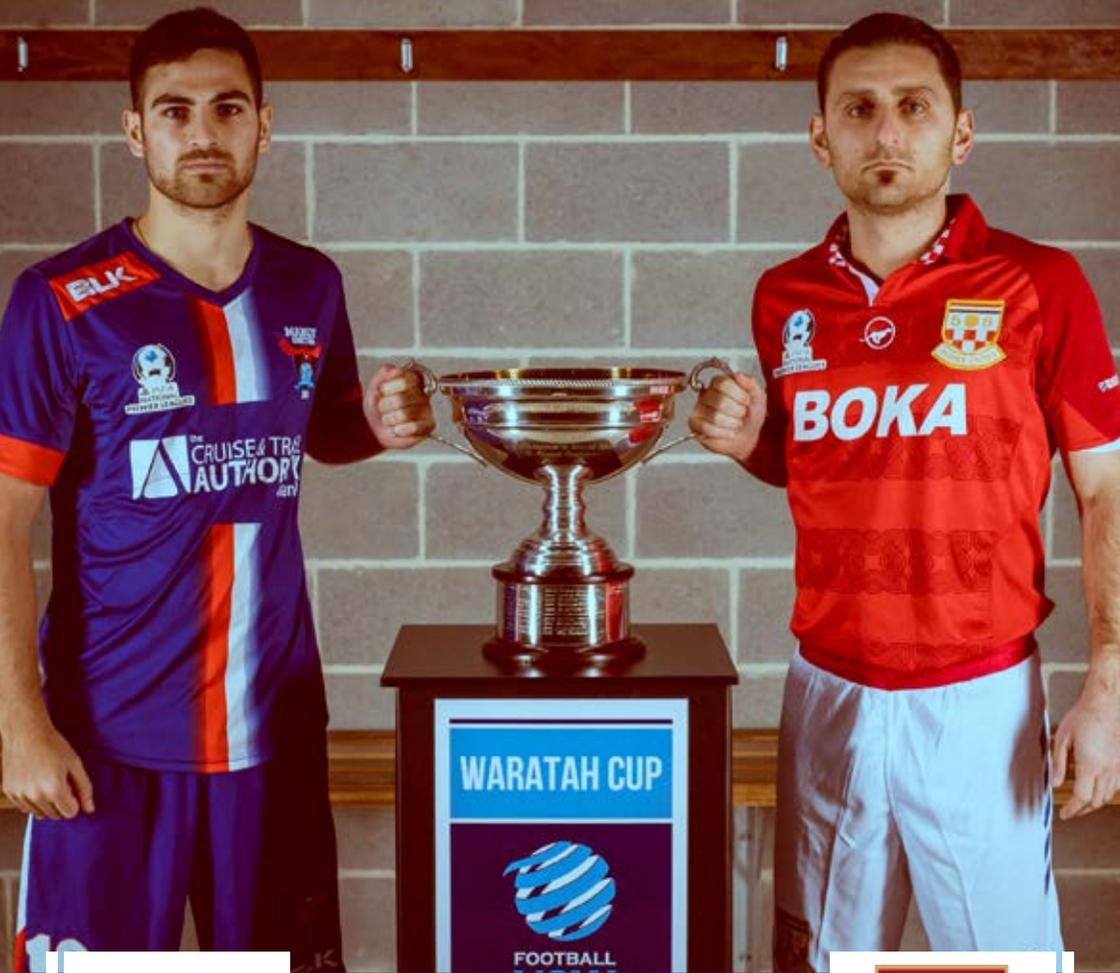


# KICKOFF



WARATAH CUP  
LAMBERT PARK

SUN 10TH JULY 2016  
KICKOFF 3PM



MANLY UNITED FC

VS  
SYDNEY UNITED 58 FC





It's been an amazing year for Football NSW's historic Waratah Cup and it all will come to a climax today at APIA Leichhardt Tigers' home venue, Lambert Park.

Over 100 clubs – including Association teams from across NSW and teams from the PlayStation4 NPL NSW Men's, PlayStation4 NPL NSW Men's 2, PlayStation4 NPL NSW Men's 3 and Men's State League, participated in what has been a great campaign to date.

The Waratah Cup represents the wonderful history of the game in New South Wales, and each year there are fairytale stories of local association teams beating their more favoured State League opposition.

Steeped in history, the Waratah Cup was first played in 1971 and, following

a 20 year hiatus, recommenced in 1991 where Blacktown City took home the silverware.

Today only two teams remain, both of whom are PlayStation4 NPL NSW Men's clubs. Current Waratah Cup Champions Sydney United 58 FC face top five outfit Manly United in what promises to be a titanic battle between two talented teams. Cup Finals always produce an entertaining spectacle and this year's combatants will be no exception.

I would like to wish both teams the best of luck in the up and coming Westfield FFA Cup with the teams facing quality opposition.

A special thanks needs to be mentioned for Football NSW sponsors PlayStation4, PUMA, 7 News, Wholesale Trophies and Powerade for their continual support of football in NSW.

Furthermore, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to all teams involved in this season's Waratah Cup for their participation and support of this historic tournament.

Finally a big thank you, the fans, for your tremendous support today and throughout the season.

Good luck to both teams and I hope this year's Waratah Cup Final lives long in your memory.

**Eddie Moore**  
**Football NSW CEO**



S	B	#	NAME	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	MITCHELL	Dylan (GK)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	PAULL	Kieren
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	LOBB	Jamie
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	OUGHTRED	Travis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	WILLIAMS	Rhys
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	CARDOZO	Richard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	CHOLAKIAN	Brendan (C)
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Coach: Paul Dee  
 Assist Coach: Bob Catlin  
 Manager: Ida Rigoni

S	B	#	NAME	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	VLISMAS	Kristopher
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	MOCHIZUKI	Masato
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	BOSNAR	Eddy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	PAYNE	Chris
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	SHIN	Yutaro
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	MILESKI	Robert (C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	TANESKI	Nikola
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	BILIC	Matthew
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	USKOK	Tomislav
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	MANOS	Thomas (GK)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	FRAGOIANNIS	Yianni
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	NIKAS	Panagiotis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24	TRATT	Jacob
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	BABIC	Luke (GK)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	SHERLOCK	Nathan

Coach: Mark Rudan  
 Assistant: Jerry Bilokapic  
 Assistant: Tom Vidovic  
 GK Coach: Vitas Males

Referee: S. Lucas

Assistant Referees: L. Greenshields & K. Robinson

4th Official: B. Abraham

**K**nockout football is a ruthless endeavour.

It is quick to weed out the mentally weak and sometimes, being the best just is not good enough.

But every now and then there is a team that does not need the luck of the draw or a lucky break in a game.

Sometimes, a team like Sydney United 58 FC comes along and takes luck out of the equation.

And that is exactly what they have done in 2016, making for a tough task for opponents Manly United FC.

Mark Rudan's side have put away 23 goals in five matches en route to the 2016 Football New South Wales Waratah Cup final, beating fellow PlayStation 4 National Premier Leagues New South Wales Men's 1 sides Sutherland Sharks (4-0) and Sydney Olympic (2-1) along the way.

A 5-1 semi-final thrashing of Marconi Stallions, only relegated to the second tier last season, booked their spot in the final.

United have travelled for every game with the exception of their semi-final win.

Manly, on the other hand, have had a slightly easier draw, but they have looked convincing throughout.

An 8-1 win away to the Gladesville Ravens got the cup campaign off to the best possible start, before they knocked off the Glebe Gorillas 3-1 and Killarney Districts 4-1.

They could only manage a narrow 1-0 win over the Mounties Wanderers in the quarter-finals, but if that result was somewhat underwhelming, they showed their true colours in the semi-final against reigning NPL NSW Men's 1 champions Blacktown City FC.

Manly knocked off last year's finalists – and the team that beat them in the 2014 final with a 6-2 thrashing – to extract some long awaited cup revenge and book their spot in the final and they will need to repeat that performance again if they are to get their hands on their first piece of silverware since 2011.





Rd 4: 8-1 Gladesville Ravens  
Rd 5: 3-1 Glebe Gorillas  
Rd 6: 4-1 Killarney Districts  
Rd 7: 1-0 Mounties Wanderers  
Semi-Final: 2-1 Blacktown City FC



Rd 4: 4-0 Sutherland Sharks  
Rd 5: 6-0 Bankstown City Lions FC  
Rd 6: 6-1 Hawkesbury City  
Rd 7: 2-1 Sydney Olympic  
Semi-Final: 5-1 Marconi Stallions



## DEE SETS HIS SIGHTS ON SILVERWARE



There is a quiet confidence about the new-look Manly United FC and at the heart of it is coach Paul Dee.

In just his second full season in charge of the PS4 National Premier League Men's mainstays, he has already overseen a stark improvement in his team.

Winning Sunday's Waratah Cup final against Sydney United 58 FC would be a fine way to make their ongoing development.

"We had the Waratah Cup down as one of our goals, and winning it would be a remarkable achievement for the we are forging," Dee said.

"We are continuing to evolve and playing in these matches in these competitions is part of the evolution from Manly."

The current squad is largely different to the one that last played in a Waratah Cup final, a 6-2 drubbing at the hands of Blacktown City FC, but Dee said for those that played in that final and those that did not, his message has not to take these opportunities for granted.

"A lot of players go through their careers without winning one trophy, so this is an opportunity we need to take," he said.

"But we are just a humble, hardworking club. Nothing comes easy but what you see in our team is a lot of hard work and we are enjoying executing the plan.

"We are a grounded side, but we have a lot of quiet confidence and self-belief."

And they will need every bit of self-belief to overcome Sydney United.

"We played well against Sydney United in the league. I think we like playing against these teams," he said.

"They are a star-studded team. This is probably the toughest test you can have in the state league.

"They have the best defence in the league, the best attacking record and they play a great brand of football.

"But we have match-winners too, our defence is much improved too."

Dee thinks Sydney United coach Mark Rudan's preference for an open, expansive game will suit his team who like to play attacking football themselves.

"I think because of the prize on offer, there is going to be some tension and some added emphasis on defence to not lose it, but you will see a positive game of football," Dee said.

"But we learned [in the semi-final win over Blacktown City after extra-time] that as long as you stay in the contest, you can win it."

*By Matt Galea*

## RUDAN LOOKING FORWARD TO WARATAH CUP DAY



**M**ark Rudan's Sydney United 58 FC have navigated a long, hard road to the Waratah Cup final this Sunday.

Now, he just wants his players to take the reward their efforts deserve.

The former Sydney FC man makes no secret that PlayStation 4 National Premier Leagues NSW Mens glory is his chief priority this season, but he would hate to pass up another opportunity to win yet another Waratah Cup final for his club.

"It's always nice to be vying for the cup and we've won a few in the last few years so we're looking forward to this one," Rudan said.

"This year, the league is the priority, but it's a bonus for us to have made the Waratah Cup final. Like most other teams we just set out to prepare as well as we could for every game, be it the league or the cup.

"It was a tough draw for us, but like anything if you want to go all the way you have to beat what is in front of you."

And what lay in front of them was four away ties almost exclusively against teams from the state's top-two tiers.

First were Sutherland Sharks, dispatched with a 4-0 win, then second-tier outfit Bankstown City Lions, who were demolished 6-0, before they annihilated state league outfit Hawkesbury City 6-1.

Sydney Olympic awaited next and provided the toughest contest, which Sydney United

58 FC won 2-1, before Marconi Stallions were smashed 5-1 in the Waratah Cup semi-finals, all the while winning their league games - they have only lost once this season - to sit on top of the table.

"[The results] are a credit to the players because they've backed those up in the league as well," Rudan said.

"Their attitude is perfect at training and games. They have a hunger to do well in every game they play.

"The atmosphere is great, everyone is happy and this is the tightest-knit dressing room I've been a part of and that's going back a long way."

Rudan refused to speculate on what Manly's somewhat easier road to the final would mean in terms of the contest, but was pleased to have the preparation of tough games.

"I don't know about their passage, but the tougher the game the more you improve and the more you learn about yourself," Rudan said.

"We've had to learn to break down packed defences, how to cope when you are under the pump.

"But at the end of the day this is a cup final and anything can happen.

And Rudan says that old cliché rings especially true against Paul Dee's Manly United outfit.

"I think they gave us our strongest test in the league on a cold Saturday night in Manly," Rudan said.

"They showed themselves as a good time and that's not surprise to me. They're going well.

"They've signed Richie Cardozo, which shows the intent at Manly, so they're making the right moves and signing the right players. They're not just those little battlers anymore.

"There are match winners all over the park for both sides so it should be a wonderful day for everyone to enjoy." **By Matt Galea**

## KILLER CARDOZO WANTS TROPHIES

Many might have thought Manly United FC were lucky to sign Richie Cardozo when the journeyman striker decided to continue his playing career in New South Wales.

But Cardozo thinks he was lucky to land at Manly.

The former Sydney United 58 FC and Rockdale City Suns striker, was fresh off a stint in the Maltese Premier League with Naxxar when moves to Armenia and the United States fell through.

By then, the PlayStation 4 National Premier Leagues New South Wales Men's 1 season had already started, player point quotas had been filled and Cardozo was stuck in a tricky spot.

Enter Paul Dee and Manly United.

"I just put the feelers out to see who had the points available and who was interested and Paul called me straight away," Cardozo said.

"They had been in touch with me for the last two or three years, so now I suppose it was just perfect timing.

"But they were doing well in the league as well, they have some great young players, some great experienced players too so it just looked like a great place to be.



"Paul explained where they are at, the direction they want to go in and you could already see the culture they have built.

"Add in the great facilities, the great dressing room, it was just the whole package."

Cardozo has made an instant impression, too.

Two goals in his most recent outing – against the Wollongong Wolves in which he scored a spectacular bicycle kick – was just the latest reminder of the instant quality Cardozo brings to Dee's outfit.

The brace took him to five goals in seven league games and holds him in fine stead ahead of the cup final.

"Any time you have a chance to win silverware is good," Cardozo said.

"I was around United last year when they won it, I got to play in a grand final with Rockdale as well, these are the games everyone wants to play and to have a chance to win silverware so soon with Manly is a wonderful opportunity."

And Cardozo is keen to help Manly show they are ready to take big strides forward as a club.

"I think Manly has always been that team that everyone sort of fears in that they think they have potential, but they never quite get there," he said.

"But this year they have really set a standard that they want to change that. We play good, attractive football, they've upped the standards and that's a credit to them, not to me. That was in place before I got here.

"I'm just happy I've landed here. The club and the players and the coaching staff deserve to be here. We all do.

"Hopefully we can use this as a platform to kick on and push in the FFA Cup and in the league as well."

*By Matt Galea*

## NIKAS GUNNING FOR WARATAH CUP GLORY

Panagiotis "Panni" Nikas has been there and done that – as has most of the Sydney United 58 FC team – where the Waratah Cup final is concerned.

But that does not mean finishing this season's edition as a runner up is in anyway an acceptable outcome for Nikas and Co.

The United danger man has sparkled for Mark Rudan's side this season and he is driven to helping his side record back-to-back Waratah Cup wins as he and his teammates chase glory on all fronts this season.

Last year's Waratah Cup win was the sole success in an inconsistent league season, but this year they have managed to marry league consistency with their usual cup ruthlessness.

And it all comes down to wanting one thing. Dominance.

"We are just trying to impose our style on our opponents and dominate with and without the ball," Nikas said.

"We have done that from the start of the season.

"Everything we have set out to do is basically about making progress on the goals we want to achieve and that was to go out and win all four cups we play off.

"This final is the first step in achieving that goal."

United have had the tougher draw between themselves and fellow cup-finalists Manly United, but they have still managed to make lighter work of it.

Nikas' side have smashed 23 goals past their five opponents en route to the final, among them Sutherland Sharks, Sydney Olympic and Marconi Stallions, conceding just three, but he insists it has been harder than the results suggest.

"It has not been easy playing Sunday, Wednesday and Saturdays and having to travel like we have," Nikas said.

"We haven't had it as easy as some other teams, so for us this is a good chance to enjoy the occasion and appreciate the tough schedule which got us there."

The midfielder said the overall contribution had been crucial in taking them to the final and would be crucial to them winning it, particularly against a well-drilled Manly United side.

"We're just travelling along well, in a good head space," Nikas said.

"All respect to Manly, they've been doing a good job, playing good football and I think it will be a good footballing contest, which you do not always see on these occasions.

"They are similar to us in that they have their structures and work well as a team. Whichever team plays better as a unit will have their individuals shine through."

*By Matt Galea*



## CHOLAKIAN READY FOR SUNDAY SHOWDOWN

A Waratah Cup final win would mean more for Brendan Cholakian than most at Manly United FC.

On a personal note, it would be a fine reward for his near four years of service to a club he has come to love and would finally take an edge off the pain he still feels from a 6-2 Waratah Cup final drubbing at the hands of Blacktown City FC just two years ago.

But more than that, some much-needed silverware would be the perfect way to mark the incredible strides Manly have taken this season and prove once and for all that Cholakian and Co. are no longer happy to simply play the role of mid-table battlers.

"I think in years gone by, we've been taken a little bit for granted," Cholakian said.

"We've just been seen as a mid-to-bottom table team.

"But this season we're sneaking up behind those teams a bit higher up. We are still going under the radar a bit – I think we've gotten to the final without a whole lot of headlines – but winning this would be a real statement of intent and our progress."



That progress has not come overnight, either.

Cholakian was keen to praise the club and coach Paul Dee for the hard yards put in over the last two years in particular to build a squad and a culture that could be set to push Manly to another level and make the club a more attractive proposition to players like star acquisition Richie Cardozo – who arrived to much acclaim earlier this season.

"Richie is different class. He's a class above this league," Cholakian said.

"He scores goals and he brings others into play and I think the fact that we got him shows how far we have come.

"We would not have dreamed of getting a player like him before, but with the squad Paul and I have been trying to develop over the last two or three years we're able to attract players of that quality.

"Paul is a great coach. He works us hard and puts in a lot of work not just on training night but on other nights as well to make sure we're all prepared and ready to give our best for the club."

Cholakian said he believes it is Manly's time to win, but he knows that nothing can be taken for granted in the cup final, particularly against a side like Sydney United 58 FC.

"We feel like if we play our best this could be a big day for our club," he said.

"After what happened two years ago, I feel like the fact we've got back here, shows we deserve it.

"But we're happy to be the underdog and we know there will be key battles all over the field.

"We know they've got good boys up front and Panni Nikas has been on fire but we've got a dangerous three or four attackers as well who can all be match winners, so we're happy to take them on."

*By Matt Galea*

## WARATAH CUP FINAL A PRIVILEGE FOR STAVROULAKIS

Sydney United 58 FC star Nick Stavroulakis learned the hard way that just crossing the white line week in, week out is a privilege in itself.

And that is why, after much of a season out after a horror injury that had Stavroulakis doubt he would ever return to play, he is more determined than ever to get his hand on the Waratah Cup for a third time.

"I was at a point in my life where it all could have been cut short for me," Stavroulakis said.

"I'm privileged to be playing, but at the end of the day a final is a final and you just want to be a part of it.

"As a club and as a team, we are in a season that, at the moment, could turn into something extraordinary.

"But we take it week by week."

Despite the seriousness of his injury last season, suffered in a preliminary Westfield FFA Cup game against APIA Leichhardt, and the incredible feat of returning to the field in time for the first round of this season, Stavroulakis wants to ensure the focus is on the team and not him.

But he cannot help but be incredibly thankful to Sydney United 58 FC for their support during his toughest hours.

"My self-focus is working on myself and getting my body right to play week in, week out," he said.

"But I can't speak highly enough of United and what they did for me, the way they conducted themselves during the toughest time of my career. They were second to none.

"[Coach Mark Rudan] 'Rudes' was there alongside Sam Krslovic who I have to mention and the president Mark Ivancic and Michael Irga, everyone was supportive.

"Even the fans, they had a message for me at the ground the week after my surgery when we played Parramatta FC. I'll never forget what they did."

And 'the little warrior' as he is referred to by a few of his peers, is delighted to be fighting for his third Waratah Cup final with such an experienced side, many of whom played in last year's triumph for Sydney United 58 FC or have won it elsewhere.

"The majority of us have played plenty of finals

and I think that helps in all aspects," Stavroulakis said.

"For me, I am just buzzing to be a part of it.

"I play every game like a final, but now that there is a trophy up for grabs you want to earn the right to lift it. You just have to go for it.

"And for us, this is a great chance for us to continue our preparation for the end of the season. After this we have seven big games left in the league, so this is a great chance to condition ourselves for that high-pressure football.

"We've got a really tight knit group and I know the boys will be well up for this one on Sunday."

Not that he is expecting anything to come easy against Manly United.

"I know [Manly coach] Paul [Dee] well, and what he has done there is nothing short of quality," he said.

"They are contenders for many things. I have a lot of respect for Paul as a person and as a coach.

"The way he has gone away things with his structure and got them playing is quality.

"You don't get guys like [new signing Richie] Cardozo go to a club for no reason.

"It's good for New South Wales football in general to see clubs like Manly United push up the league and do well because the more we can establish our league the better it is for everyone."

*By Matt Galea*



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