

Premium Sporting Products

2018 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS – WEEK 2

By Alistair Kennedy

RESULTS

MINOR SEMI-FINALS				
FIRST GRADE	TERRIGAL	4	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	1
RESERVE GRADE	UMINA	2	EAST GOSFORD	1
THIRD GRADE	EAST GOSFORD	2	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	1

MAJOR SEMI-FINALS				
FIRST GRADE	BERKELEY VALE	3	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	1
RESERVE GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	1	BERKELEY VALE	0
THIRD GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	1 (5)	UMINA	1 (3)

SUMMARY

- Berkeley Vale have caused a minor upset in the Battlewin Premier League Major Semi-Final becoming just the second team all season to defeat league champions Killarney District and so progress through to the Grand Final. It will be Berkeley's first appearance in a decider since 2014 and their sixth in the past 10 seasons. In the Minor Semi-Final Terrigal has bounced back from their loss in the Qualifying Final with a big win over Southern-Ettalong that saw the end of the Lions most successful season since rejoining the BPL in 2015.
- Ourimbah have continued their charge in Division One defeating Wyoming in the Preliminary Final and making the Grand Final for the first time since taking out the premiership in 2015..

TERRIGAL 4 SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 1

- Any thoughts that Terrigal were going to rest on their laurels after reaching the finals for the first time in nearly 20 years were quickly laid to rest when Jack Rodger scored in the 4th minute from a corner to give his team a lead that they never surrendered. Jai McNamara extended the lead, also from a corner, in the 27th minute. Southern rallied strongly in the second half and pulled a goal back in the 63rd minute with a fine team goal and narrowly missed equalising from a free kick on the edge of the penalty box. Two goals from Erik Requelme in four minutes the first from a through ball by Dan Tuddenham, the second from a defensive error then sealed the result.
- Despite the disappointment of being eliminated it's been an excellent season for Southern-Ettalong reaching the semi-finals, and the top four, for the first time since 2006. With the relegation of Umina and Woy Woy's last round loss in Division One they will once again be the sole BPL club in 2019.

BERKELEY VALE 3 KILLARNEY DISTRICT 1

- These two teams have a history of outstanding final series contests in recent years, most memorably their 25-shot penalty shootout in the 2014 minor semi-final. Berkeley Vale eventually won that match and the preliminary final on their way to what was the most recent of their five grand final appearances. Either side of that they had downed the Terriers in the 2013 and 2015 semis making this the Berker's fourth straight win in finals matches.
- The match itself was a cracked with both teams reveling in being able to play on a quality surface after months of drought-ravaged council grounds. The first 15 minutes was evenly contested with no clear scoring chances. Killarney had the first when a powerful strike by Andy Kiljn drew a diving save from Berkeley Vale goalkeeper Steve Grimmitt. Two minutes later Berkeley made the breakthrough following a long right side run and cross from defender Simon Vella found Troy Mumford who scored. The veteran Wombat striker has been in brilliant form throughout the second half of the season and but for a brilliant save by Killarney `keeper Declan Drake he would have doubled the lead five minutes later. Killarney then launched a series of attacks that stretched the solid Berkeley defence before Mumford did score with a clinical finish this time from a left-side attack from Tyler Burnes.
- As happens so often the five minutes either side of half-time proved pivotal. Two minutes before the break Killarney were awarded a penalty, taken by Tim Knight and brilliantly saved by Man of the Match Grimmitt. Then immediately after the resumption Simon Vella again proved the provider with his cross slotted away by Paul McGinley for a 3-0 lead.
- A goal to winger Blake Silvers right on the hour mark raised the Terriers' hopes but the defences of both sides held with a perfectly-timed sliding tackle by Cameron Donovan prevented what looked like being Mumford's hat-trick before an ankle injury ended his chances in the 75th minute.
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BPL PRELIMINARY FINALS

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – PRELIMINARY FINALS AT PLUIM PARK 1		
FIRST GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs TERRIGAL	4.30 PM
RESERVE GRADE	BERKELEY VALE vs UMINA	2.30 PM
THIRD GRADE	UMINA vs EAST GOSFORD	12.30 PM

DIVISION ONE

RESULTS

PRELIMINARY FINALS				
FIRST GRADE	OURIMBAH	4	WYOMING	1
RESERVE GRADE	WYOMING	2	WOONGARRAH	1

DIVISION ONE GRAND FINALS

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER – GRAND FINALS AT PLUIM PARK 1		
FIRST GRADE	WOONGARRAH vs OURIMBAH	6 PM
RESERVE GRADE	OURIMBAH vs WYOMING	4 PM