



Unfortunately this season we have not been able to showcase our strength due to pre-season and early-season ending injuries to our First Grade players. At no point during the season have we ever had our strongest team on the pitch. The vast majority of the season we have played with only six or seven First Grade players with four or five Reserve players in the starting line up every week. Despite these set backs, we finished runners up in the league and made the Grand Final. This was a monumental effort by the whole squad and one to be proud of. It also shows the strength and heart of our Reserve players (some playing 180 mins) to back up their First Grade team mates, along with the determination of the First Grade players to hold it together and continue taking points from our opposition.

I know our players are fully committed to this game and expressed their disappointment for reasons beyond their control at not being able to display their full potential this season.

I expect the strikers battle to be one to watch with Gosford striker Jess Dominello taking out the Golden Boot and our striker (Kate Styles) only two goals behind despite missing the first four games of the season with injury.

Gosford are the obvious favourites going into this game and will be expecting to take out the Grand Final to cap off their season. With our club and supporters behind us I am sure we will do them and ourselves proud on the day. For us, this game will be like playing the goal keeper role in a penalty shootout, the penalty taker is expected to score but penalties have been saved. I believe they will be saved on Sunday.

Mick Penn
Umina Eagles WPL Coach





2018 will long be remembered by all of us at Gosford City and beyond as a year that saw us smash our goals and achieve something that the club has never done before by taking out both First and Reserve Grade league titles and making both Grand finals. It is unbelievable that a squad that has had to endure so much in the past 3 years with multiple players suffering season long injuries, has been able to regroup time and time again. 2018 had its ups and down and like most SWL squads mid-season saw Gosford's available squad numbers drop to between 16-20 players for a 6 week period. This, I believe, helped us grow as a squad knowing that we had enough talented players to fill multiple positions when needed. Something that come grand final day we might need.

All year we trained as one squad with one goal- to make and win both Grand Finals. With so much hard work and belief hopefully we will accomplish this come Sunday. With both squads having the leagues top goal scorers in Laura Mundy 29 goals and Jessica Dominello 19 goals, you know that Gosford's league best attack (132 goals in 42 games) will be hard to contain. However, it's the little things that sometimes don't get the attention they deserve, with both grades also having the league's best defense (conceding only 43 goals in 42 games).

Come Sunday we know we will have 2 teams that will lift and try and push us to our limits. In Reserve Grade we face a well-organised and defensive Kanwal, who play a ball possession game that is similar to ours. With all 3 games this year ending in draws the Grand Final is shaping up to be very tight and it would not be surprising that a single goal will be the difference come Sunday.

In First grade we will have a chance to put the pain from last year behind us as we face the familiar faces of Umina. Although we have won all 4 games against Umina in 2018 we know how dangerous their quick counter attack can be with Kate Styles chasing all their long balls with speed and determination. There is no question our defense will be asked similar questions this Sunday and again a single goal might be all it takes to win this game. We will definitely not be taking Umina for granted, they know how to win games as proven this time last year.

**Jorge Chavez,
Gosford City WPL Coach**

