

## Premium Sporting Products

### 2019 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 21 (18 AUGUST)

*By Alistair Kennedy & Lachlan Herd*

#### **FIRST GRADE SCORES**

WOONGARRAH	1	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	0
WYOMING	3	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	2
KANWAL	3	BERKELEY VALE	0
THE ENTRANCE	2	AVOCA	1
TERRIGAL	10	TOUKLEY	1
EAST GOSFORD	2	GOSFORD CITY	0

#### **SUMMARY**

- The penultimate round of the 2019 Battlewin Premier League competition has answered a number of questions but asked several others. The first matter to be settled was the composition of the top five with Woongarra, Killarney District, Terrigal, Wyoming and Southern-Ettalong now all guaranteed finals football. Also decided are the two relegated clubs with Gosford City and Toukley now returning to Division One after seven and four seasons respectively in the Premier League. And, after all the debate over the merits of first grade versus club championship as the basis for promotion and relegation the end result in both cases has proved the same.
- While the make-up of the top five has been decided the order in which they finish will go right down to the wire with just four points separating first and fifth places compared with the 14 points last season. The biggest movements within the five came through losses by both Killarney and Southern, the sixth round in a row that these two teams have had identical results. The effect was that the Terriers, who were beaten by Wyoming, have lost top spot for just the second time in the past four years (and then only briefly) to be replaced by Woongarra, who have now extended their unbeaten run to 10 matches including wins in their last seven matches.
- In a promoter's dream the battle for the League Championship will go down to the final round with Woongarra and Killarney meeting at Plum Park. Regardless of the result a significant milestone will be reached. Should the Terriers win they will join Wyoming as the only club to win four straight league titles while a win or a draw for the Wildcats will make them the first club ever to top the league championship in their first season following promotion. Three clubs, Gosford in 1995, Ourimbah (1998) and The Entrance (2014) have won grand finals in their first year up but none of them won the league.

- The title of the BPL's leading goal scorer is all but decided with Southern-Ettalong's Keith Gumbs being measured up for his second Golden Boot despite the claim from the two Matt Halls that their combined total to date of 25 goals is five more than Keith's tally of 20 and that the Tiger and the Terrier should share the Boot between them. Good luck with that one lads!

### **WOONGARRAH 1 SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 0**

- Two points off the Battlewin Premier League lead, Hamlyn Terrace hosted another huge Premier League match as newly promoted Woongarra hosted third-placed Southern and Ettalong United, with both sides looking for a victory to keep their league championship hopes alive. Six victories in a row had seen the hosts storm into contention with the side looking to continue tapping into this rich vein of form with the finals series looming large.
- Unfortunately, the blustery conditions at Woongarra often made continued spells of quality football difficult to attain, however the hosts were to threaten first. After receiving the ball on the edge of the area, top-sorer Ben Runge managed to turn his man before rifling off a powerful shot across the goal of Lions 'keeper Luke Carnevale who was forced into a smart stop low to his right-hand side. A number of half-chances were to follow for both sides throughout the opening half, however none threatening enough to concern either 'keeper as the sides remained locked at 0-0 at half-time.
- Needing a victory to keep their hopes of the league championship alive, Southern started the second period brightly, almost finding the breakthrough in the 50th minute after a corner found the head of lively striker Keith Gumbs, however he could only direct his header into the side netting. The Lions began to enjoy prolonged periods of possession throughout the second half, however the well-organised Woongarra side led by skipper Chris Gavin ensured they created no significant goal-scoring opportunities. The hosts eventually made the crucial breakthrough mid-way through the second period after striker Kane Woolston found himself one-on-one with Carnevale. Woolston made no mistake with his finish, taking him to 10 goals for the season as the 'Cats looked to close in on Killarney at the top of the Battlewin Premier League table.
- Southern looked to respond after falling behind as they piled the pressure on the hosts, however they struggled to carve out any clear-cut opportunities. That would change in the 86th minute, however, as striker Keith Gumbs latched onto a ball over the top of the 'Cats defence. With Woongarra 'keeper Bryce Goldsworthy caught off his line and a defender closing on the cover Gumbs looked to dink the ball over the 'Cats custodian and into an empty net, however Goldsworthy managed to backpedal quick enough to produce an acrobatic finger-tip save, pushing the ball onto the roof of the net to secure a famous victory for the hosts.
- The victory was made all the more emphatic after news of Killarney's loss filtered around the ground, with the result meaning Woongarra will carry a one-point competition lead into the massive clash between the two sides to decide the League Championship next Saturday night at Pluim Park.

### **WYOMING 3 KILLARNEY DISTRICT 2**

- The largest crowd for many years at Alan Davidson Park was on hand for what was a crucial match for both teams with Wyoming still needing points to guarantee a finals spot while Killarney, depending on the result between Woongarra and Southern, could wrap up the league championship with a win.

- Killarney had the best early chances with a couple of free kicks within scoring range from set-piece specialist John Whelpdale either being saved by Wyoming keeper Tom Coventry or striking the defensive wall. The Tigers then countered with Matt Hall and Jared McNee having half chances saved before breaking the deadlock in the 15th minute with McNee passing to Ben Farrell who in a replay of their opening goal against Terrigal the previous week the young winger beating one defender and crossing to Pat Mills to score from a wide angle. Three minutes later Wyoming doubled their lead, this time with a corner from Ian McAndrew finding an unmarked McNee to head the ball into the Killarney net.
- The match then became an arm-wrestle with both teams playing quality attacking football mixed with tenacious defence. Twice in the first half Killarney were denied goals after desperate goalmouth clearances while the speedy Farrell was a constant threat for Wyoming creating a number of chances that could well have sealed the match. Instead the next goal came at the other end of the field in the 59th minute with Killarney's Matt Hall heading in after a corner kick. With the momentum now clearly swinging the visitors' way the same player had a chance to equalise just two minutes later only for Coventry to save the shot. Killarney's pressure eventually told in the 85th minute when substitute Daniel Rodger scored from close quarters after another goalmouth scramble. Just on the 90th minute Killarney went down to 10 men with Daniel Moffett getting a straight red card for swearing at the referee. Then three minutes into added time Pat Mills capped an excellent match with a typical weaving run inside the Terriers box where he was tackled and a penalty award leaving the ever-reliable Matt Hall to clinch the win in front of the ecstatic home crowd.
- The win cemented Wyoming's place in the semi-finals joining Woongarra – the first time ever that both promoted clubs have qualified for the play-offs in their first season up. The challenge now is to try and escape the sudden-death Elimination Semi-Final. To do so they'll need to beat a confident Kanwal outfit next Sunday at Wadalba who have won three of their past four matches including a big win over Berkeley Vale and then hope that others results go their way.
- While Killarney's big goal difference ensures that can't finish lower than third they will be desperate to bounce back from the loss here and defeat Woongarra to claim their fourth straight League Championship. Although it's the Terriers home match it has been transferred to Pluim Park.

### **KANWAL 3 BERKELEY VALE 0**

- It's been a disappointing season for both teams, semi-finalists in 2018 – indeed Berkeley Vale were grand finalists – and now ending in the bottom half of the competition. While most would class the result as an upset recent form suggests otherwise with Kanwal going into the game on the back of three wins in their previous five matches and Berkeley Vale with back-to-back losses and the disappointment of missing the play-offs.
- Kanwal showed their intentions with a chance to score from a corner inside the first two minutes. The first clear chance fell to Berkeley Vale in the 10th minute with Kanwal goalkeeper Kyle Price making a great reflex save from a Michael Tawyer shot followed by another attack which struck the Kanwal post. The breakthrough came shortly afterwards but at the other end of the field with Jason Cozens beating the Wombats defence and putting over a perfect cross for Brett Adcock to finish with a neat header. Berkeley had another first half chance with former Kanwal junior Jayden Laugwitz narrowly missing with a chip over the goalkeeper.

- The match remained in the balance until the 72nd minute when a foul by Laugwitz on Jason Cozens gave the winger his second assist when his low free kick was cleverly deflected into the Berkeley Vale net by Rick Lea. The Wombats have been plagued by an inability to convert scoring chances and it continued here, hampered by the absence of their top scorer Troy Mumford. The clinching goal came five minutes from time with a mis-timed tackle leaving Brad McLean free to beat an off-balance Berkeley keeper Steve Grimmett.
- The win moved Kanwal up to a season-high eighth place just one place (but 14 points) behind Berkeley Vale who miss the semi-finals for just the second time since the 2008 season. Kanwal can influence the top five positions when they meet Wyoming at home next Sunday and do have the consolation of having their Reserve Grade guaranteed a play-off spot. Berkeley Vale will need to be on their guard in their final match against the young Gosford team who, despite their barren season have been putting in some decent performances of late.

### **THE ENTRANCE 2 AVOCA 1**

- A similar story to the Berkeley Vale/Kanwal situation with Avoca now out of contention for the semi-finals after a six-match winning streak had their hopes up and The Entrance battling to avoid possible relegation all season long. That latter threat was overcome in an excellent day out for the Sea Eagles with the maximum 18 club championship points guaranteeing their survival in the top grade where they'd won three premierships in the previous nine seasons.
- All three goals came in the final quarter of the match with Adam Blunden scoring on the back post from a corner kick in the 67th minute. The Sharks equalised three minutes later through a Stuart Adams penalty before Corey Jones struck the winner in the 83rd minute.
- Avoca is another team that can affect the structure of the semis when they meet third-placed Terrigal at Duffys Oval. The Sharks do have some youthful talent waiting in the wings with teams in both the Under 21 and 18A competition finals. Likewise there is plenty of potential at The Entrance among the 69 players who took the field for them in the three BPL grades during the season. Their last match is at home against East Gosford.

### **TERRIGAL 10 TOUKLEY 1**

- Toukley's continued bid to avoid relegation to the division one competition for the 2020 season saw them host Terrigal United on Sunday afternoon at Harry Moore Oval. With Club Championship points of greater importance than first grade points, the Gunners expectedly fielded a weakened first grade side after picking up a win and a draw in the lower grades earlier in the day, of which Terrigal United took full advantage of.
- The visitors opened the scoring within four minutes after Ben Flakus found a way past Gunners keeper Robert Ryan. The one goal lead was quickly doubled after Josh Menzies scored in the 15th minute, before Menzies found the net for a second time to see his side three goals to the good after 30 minutes. Ben Flakus then grabbed his second of the afternoon and eleventh of the season in the 35th minute with Toukley's Troy Runge pulling one back for the hosts as they found themselves 4-1 down at half-time.
- Despite having the three points all but secured by half-time, Terrigal appeared determined to put together a strong 90-minute performance in the lead up to the finals series with Anthony Pace adding his side's fifth after barely one second half minute had elapsed. After managing a first half double Josh Menzies grabbed a third goal in the 51st minute before Pace grabbed his second on the hour mark to extend the lead to 7-1.

- The final 30 minutes saw the visitors pile on another three goals, with Erik Riquelme grabbing his 12th goal of the season from the penalty spot in the 70th minute, Josh Menzies netting his fourth of the match in the 75th minute and Daniel Tuddenham rounding out the scoring in the 78th to see Terrigal run out big 10-1 winners.
- Unfortunately for Toukley the five Club Championship points they accrued on Sunday afternoon was not enough, with The Entrance picking up the full 18 available points from their matches with Avoca to see them open up an unassailable lead and seeing the Gunners relegated for the 2020 season. Toukley's last match of the BPL season will see them travel south to James Browne Oval to face Southern and Ettalong United, whilst Terrigal United face Avoca with the side able to finish anywhere from position two to five on the competition table dependent on other results.

### EAST GOSFORD 2 GOSFORD CITY 0

- Without a win in their previous five matches the East Gosford Rams hosted their city rivals Gosford City at Hylton Moore Oval as they looked to finish the season on a positive note. After recording a 3-0 victory in their meeting earlier in the season the Rams started the match on the front foot, opening the scoring through Oscar Perricone after barely 10 minutes had passed. A one-nil lead became two mid-way through the opening half after Mitch Marlin found the net as the hosts headed into the half-time break in control of the fixture.
- After two goals in the first period the second would remain scoreless, with the Dragons unable to find an avenue back into the contest, falling to their 19th defeat of the season. Despite picking up the three points East Gosford were unable to rise up into eighth position on the competition table after Kanwal picked up a victory in their match, however they'll have another opportunity to so when they face The Entrance this weekend, with the Bulls facing off against the in-form Wyoming. They can also look forward to a presence in the finals series with their strong Reserve Grade team currently sitting in second place. Gosford City, meanwhile, conclude their season with a home match against Berkeley Vale as they look to sign off from the top-flight with a victory.

<b>battlewin</b>		<b>POINTS TABLE</b>						
	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
WOONGARRAH	21	14	4	3	46	33	13	46
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	21	14	3	4	65	25	40	45
TERRIGAL	21	13	4	4	67	33	34	43
WYOMING	21	14	0	7	57	33	24	42
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	21	13	3	5	55	34	20	42
AVOCA	21	11	3	7	48	44	4	36
BERKELEY VALE	21	10	3	8	36	27	9	33
KANWAL	21	5	4	12	32	41	-9	19
EAST GOSFORD	21	4	6	11	19	35	-16	18
THE ENTRANCE	21	5	3	13	26	54	-28	18
TOUKLEY	21	4	2	15	27	62	-35	14
GOSFORD CITY	21	1	1	19	19	75	-56	4

## battlewin<sup>\*</sup> PL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	<i>P</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>U21</i>	<i>Points</i>
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	63	135	96	51	282
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	63	126	80	40	246
TERRIGAL	63	129	74	38	241
WYOMING	63	126	60	42	228
WOONGARRAH	63	138	38	37	213
AVOCA	63	108	38	39	185
EAST GOSFORD	63	54	82	29	165
BERKELEY VALE	63	99	50	14	163
KANWAL	63	57	76	27	160
THE ENTRANCE	63	54	54	24	132
TOUKLEY	63	42	56	15	113
GOSFORD CITY	63	12	8	7	27

## battlewin<sup>\*</sup> LEADING GOAL SCORERS

20	Keith Gumbs (Southern-Ettalong)
14	Troy Mumford (Berkeley Vale)
13	Matt Hall (Wyoming), Jared McNee (Wyoming)
12	Stuart Adams (Avoca), Pat Mills (Wyoming), Matt Hall (Killarney District), Erik Riquelme (Terrigal) Ben Runge (Woongarra)
11	Ben Flakus (Terrigal), Jesse Parnell (Gosford City)
10	Kane Woolston (Woongarra)
9	James Caban (Southern-Ettalong), Alex Govorcin (Woongarra), Daniel Rodger (Killarney District), Cameron Wilkinson (Terrigal)
8	Brendan Hall (Killarney District), Josh Menzies (Terrigal), Anthony Pace (Terrigal), Troy Runge (Toukley), James Steer (Southern-Ettalong)
7	Ben Farrell (Wyoming), Ben Green (Avoca), Matt Kenny (The Entrance), Tim Knight (Killarney District), Ryan Walker (Kanwal)
6	Jacob Caban (Southern-Ettalong), Sam Dooley (Wyoming), Blake Silvers (Killarney District), Oliver Twyford (Avoca), Rob Walton (East Gosford)
5	Beycan Irmako (Terrigal), Jai Kelly (Toukley), Damien Lobb (Berkeley Vale), Brad McLean (Kanwal), Ryan Oehm (Kanwal)
4	Adam Blunden (The Entrance), Ethan Hall (Killarney District), Steve Harpur (East Gosford), Ashley Henderson (Woongarra), Joey Liddle (Kanwal), Brenton Westley (Berkeley Vale)

## ROUND 22 BPL MATCHES

### SATURDAY 24 AUGUST

KILLARNEY DISTRICT	vs	WOONGARRAH	Pluim Park
--------------------	----	------------	------------

### SUNDAY 25 AUGUST

THE ENTRANCE	vs	EAST GOSFORD	Pat Morley Oval
KANWAL	vs	WYOMING	Wadalba Sports Complex
GOSFORD CITY	vs	BERKELEY VALE	Gavenlock Oval
TERRIGAL	vs	AVOCA	Duffys Oval
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	vs	TOUKLEY	James Browne Oval

## DIVISION ONE

### FIRST GRADE SCORES

No matches this weekend

### DIVISION ONE COMPETITION TABLE

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
WOY WOY	16	11	1	4	<b>2</b>	67	28	39	34
UMINA	15	8	5	2	<b>2</b>	48	22	26	29
GWANDALAN	15	8	2	5	<b>2</b>	45	27	18	26
KARIONG	15	8	2	5	<b>2</b>	28	21	7	26
KINCUMBER	15	7	2	6	<b>2</b>	28	21	7	23
OURIMBAH	15	7	0	8	<b>2</b>	41	39	2	21
BUDGEWOI	15	5	4	6	<b>2</b>	41	36	5	19
WYONG	15	4	4	7	<b>2</b>	29	39	-10	16
DOYALSON	15	0	0	15	<b>2</b>	10	104	-94	0

### DIVISION ONE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	<i>Played</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>Total</i>
UMINA	30	87	84	171
WOY WOY	30	102	52	154
GWANDALAN	30	78	48	126
BUDGEWOI	30	57	58	115
KINCUMBER	30	69	44	113
KARIONG	30	78	22	100
WYONG	30	48	50	98
OURIMBAH	30	63	26	89
DOYALSON	30	0	4	4