



Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League: Round 17 Review

Summary:

Round seventeen of the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League saw a number of shock results, the biggest of which saw 14 match unbeaten Southern and Ettalong United denied the League Championship for at least another week after they were beaten by finals rivals Gosford City in a five goal thriller. East Gosford kept their finals hopes alive after a fourth successive victory set them up for a final day shootout with Umina for the fourth semi-final position after the Eagles failed to claim all three points from their clash with Toukley. Elsewhere, previously second last Woongarra put ten goals past Kariong United to move into eighth position while Kanwal maintained their top two position thanks to a routine victory over Kincumber.

Round Seventeen Results:

East Gosford FC	2	1	Terrigal United FC
Woongarra FC	10	0	Kariong United FC
Kanwal FC	2	0	Kincumber Roos FC
Southern and Ettalong United FC	2	3	Gosford City FC
Toukley FC	2	2	Umina United SC

East Gosford FC 2 vs 1 Terrigal United FC:

Goals: Kelly Hogan (EGO), Erica Fardy (EGO), Chloe Smith (TER).

After stringing together three successive wins over recent weeks to keep their finals hopes alive the East Gosford Rams entered Sundays match with Terrigal United full of confidence, knowing that a fourth successive victory was necessary if they were to remain in the hunt for a finals position next weekend. The last time the sides met delivered an entertaining 4-3 thriller, a result that was unlikely to be achieved again given the blustery conditions that swept across the Central Coast on Sunday afternoon.

It became apparent quite early on that Sundays match at Hylton Moore wasn't going to provide a similar goal-return as the previous meeting, with chances few and far between throughout the opening half. A scoreless first half saw both sides emerge for the second looking to take control of the match, and it wasn't long before the East Gosford side with their season on the line found the breakthrough. A clever ball into the area found top-scorer Kelly Hogan who finished first-time past the 'keeper to give the Rams the advantage.

Intent on wrapping up the three points East Gosford went in search of a second goal as Naomi Abbott, Sheri Moody, and Kelly Hogan each had chances thwarted by the Terrigal defence. Eventually, however, the second goal did come, arriving in somewhat fortuitous

circumstances. A long ball from the Terrigal side was met near half-way by Rams captain Erica Fardy who then returned the favour, launching a high ball back into the Terrigal half that was misjudged by the keeper and bounced into the net. Terrigal did manage to pull a goal back late in the match after Chloe Smith scored a well taken header however East Gosford managed to hold on for a crucial victory that sees their finals hopes come down to this weekend's clash with Umina.

Coach Matt Tranmer added on his sides performance: 'A special day and four wins on the bounce, wearing pink shirts and yellow ribbons the Rams girls worked so hard knowing another win will take it to the last game against Umina for that last finals spot. Our work rate at present is fantastic and we cannot wait for next week'. That game against Umina is set to be a blockbuster, with both sides locked on 29 competition points heading into the final round of the season. The winner of Sundays clash will take the fourth and final semi-final position, whilst the loser will miss out on a finals berth. Despite being eliminated from finals contention, Terrigal will look to end the season on a positive note when they travel to Kanwal.

Woongarra FC 10 vs 0 Kariong United FC:

Goals: Emma Hurley x6 (WGA), Alisha Rais x2 (WGA), Tarra Southern (WGA), Nyah Small (WGA).

Woongarra headed into Sundays clash with Kariong United boosted by the fact that they had taken four points from a possible six over the previous two weeks against top-four calibre sides as they looked to end the season on a positive note. Their opponents Kariong United would have been targeting Sundays clash with the ninth placed 'Cats as their best opportunity to ensure they didn't finish the season without a competition point.

Unfortunately for Kariong, Woongarra were well and truly up for Sundays clash at Hamlyn Terrace as they piled on ten unanswered goals to run out resounding 10-0 victors, a scoreline made all the more incredible by the fact Woongarra as a team had only managed 16 goals in their 16 matches so far this season. Top-scorer Emma Hurley thrust herself into contention for the 2019 Golden Boot award after she managed six goals in Sundays clash, joining Kanwal's Hayley Green and East Gosford's Kelly Hogan as the only players to score five or more in a match this campaign. Alisha Rais added two goals whilst both Tarra Southern and Nyah Small also got on the scoresheet as Woongarra recorded an emphatic win that saw them rise into eighth position on the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League table.

Woongarra finish the season with a trip to seventh placed Toukley, of whom they'll leapfrog if they can pick up another victory, whilst Kariong United face an in-form Gosford City outfit where they'll look to avoid an 18th consecutive defeat.

Kanwal FC 2 vs 0 Kincumber Roos FC:

Goals: Hayley Green (KAN), Jennifer Tatum (KAN).

After bouncing back in emphatic fashion following back-to-back defeats second placed Kanwal welcomed eighth placed Kincumber to Wadalba Sports Complex as they looked to

get their top two ambitions back on track. The Bulls got off to a great start in Sundays match as they routinely pressured the visitors defensive line, however they were made to wait until the 20th minute to find the opening goal of the match. After a string of matches without a goal, Bulls top-scorer Hayley Green managed to get back on the scoresheet, squeezing a header underneath the Kincumber 'keeper for what was her 16th goal of the season leaving her just two off the lead in the golden boot race.

Kincumber responded positively to falling behind in the weekends match and could count themselves unlucky not to have received a penalty only minutes after conceding. They continued to pressure the Kanwal side who remained defensively resolute before the hosts doubled their advantage after some smart work from Larissa Bundy saw her present Jennifer Tatum with the easiest of finishes. Unfortunately, the Kincumber 'keeper sustained a nasty injury in the aftermath of the second goal leading to her replacement. 'Roos coach John Manners extended his gratitude to the Kanwal side and in particular forward Hayley Ballard for her assistance during the injury stoppage, adding: 'Her sportsmanship is a credit to Kanwal and to the sport of football'.

With a replacement goal-keeper in place for the visitors both sides returned for the second half and Kanwal resumed control of the fixture, continuing to dominate the ball and manufacture a majority of the goal-scoring opportunities. Kincumber remained dangerous on the counter-attack, however neither side managed to find the net in the second period as the hosts ran out 2-0 winners.

The victory ensured Kanwal remain in second position heading into the final weekend of the season, however with just a two point gap between themselves and Gosford City in third they'll likely need to take all three points from their clash with Terrigal this weekend to hold onto a top two finish as the Dragons face last placed Kariong United. Kincumber face another tough test to close out the season, travelling to James Browne Oval to face competition leaders Southern and Ettalong United.

Southern and Ettalong United FC 2 vs 3 Gosford City FC:

Goals: Elaine Delaney (SEU), Shannon Arnfield (SEU), Jessica Dominello (GOS), Michelle Brett (GOS), Julia Hogan (GOS).

In what was undoubtedly the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League Match of the Round, Southern and Ettalong United hosted third placed Gosford City with a win enough to secure the League Championship with one match to spare for the Lionesses. Unbeaten in their last 14 matches, Southern looked to cap off an outstanding season to date by securing the league championship at home on Sunday afternoon, however they knew they'd face a tough task against a Gosford City side who've won four of their last five leading into the finals series.

The hosts started the match brightly, creating a number of opportunities throughout the early stages of the first half however ultimately couldn't convert whilst in front of goal. They were made to pay for not turning these early chances into goals when Gosford City opened the scoring in the 25th minute after Julia Hogan picked out Jessica Dominello with a quality through ball, of which Dominello tucked away brilliantly to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Southern, however, showed that you can never count out a champion side, responding in the 40th minute after a cross-come-shot from Elaine Delaney nestled inside the far post to ensure the sides remained level at the half-time break.

The start of the second half saw Gosford City come flying out of the blocks as they placed the competition leaders under significant early pressure. This pressure was telling, with the visitors nabbing their second goal of the match through Michelle Brett with her eighth of the season. In a match that was played at a remarkably quick tempo, Southern responded strongly as they tried to find the goals required to secure the League Championship with one week to spare. This period in the second half saw them fire off several shots that were either saved or narrowly off target, whilst also rattling the woodwork on numerous occasions.

Despite all this second-half pressure, Gosford City were to strike the decisive blow as Julia Hogan, after assisting the opening goal, capitalised on a defensive mix-up to put her side 3-1 up in the 80th minute. Southern did manage to find a second goal in the 88th minute to ensure a tense final few minutes to the clash however it was ultimately too little too late as Gosford City held on for a memorable victory, one that keeps their chances of a top two finish well and truly alive heading into the final weekend of the season.

Gosford City coach Pete Edwards was elated with his sides performance, adding: 'We're playing some of the best football and executing game plans brilliantly, right at the important stage of the season coming into finals. Really looking forward to the games ahead and finals football'.

Despite the loss, Southern coach Craig Thackray remained positive, adding: 'The girls played well and with this game only our second loss for the season, we're left feeling a little deflated. We look forward to next week's game'.

Thackray's side will get another opportunity to secure the League Championship when they host Kincumber in the final match of the season next weekend, whilst Gosford City will look to finish the regular season with a bang when they host last-placed Kariong United at Gavenlock Oval.

Toukley FC 2 vs 2 Umina United SC:

Goals: Aimee Cogger x2 (TOU), Tarni Black (UMI), Kate Styles (UMI).

Following two disappointing results fourth placed Umina travelled north to Harry Moore Oval to face seventh placed Toukley knowing that, dependent on other results, a win could see them secure a finals position. A narrow loss to Woongarra was followed up with a heavy loss to Kanwal as the peninsula-based side continue to leave the finals door ajar for the East Gosford Rams in fifth position.

The blustery conditions were somewhat of a theme across the Central Coast on Sunday afternoon, however despite this both sides managed to play out a rather open and entertaining match. A brace from Toukley's Aimee Cogger was cancelled out by goals to both Tarni Black and Kate Styles, with Styles netting her 14th of the season. Knowing a draw

would be enough to hang onto fourth position heading into the final week of the season, the visitors were understandably reluctant to commit too many numbers forward towards the end of the match, ensuring they didn't finish the match empty handed and relinquish the all-important fourth position to East Gosford in the process.

The result sets up a mouth-watering clash between the two sides on Sunday afternoon at Umina Oval. Sitting fourth and fifth on the competition table heading into the final match of the season, both find themselves locked on 29 competition points with Umina only sitting in fourth due to their superior goal difference (+15 compared to East Gosford's +5). Umina will head into this weekend's clash knowing a win or draw will be enough to seal a finals position, however a loss will see them eliminated on the final day after continuously occupying a finals position for the previous 14 weeks. Toukley conclude the season with a match against Woongarra in which they'll look to ensure that they hang onto seventh position.

Round Eighteen Fixtures:

Sun 18/8 2:30pm	Southern and Ettalong United FC	Kincumber Roos FC	James Browne Oval
Sun 18/8 2:30pm	Umina United SC	East Gosford FC	Umina Oval
Sun 18/8 2:30pm	Kanwal FC	Terrigal United FC	Wadalba Sports Complex
Sun 18/8 2:30pm	Toukley FC	Woongarra FC	Harry Moore Oval
Sun 18/8 2:30pm	Gosford City FC	Kariong United FC	Gavenlock Oval

Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League First Grade Ladder:



CENTRAL COAST FOOTBALL

Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League

Club	GP	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 - Southern & Ett FC	17	12	3	2	+36	39
2 - Kanwal Rovers FC	17	11	3	3	+22	36
3 - Gosford City FC	17	11	1	5	+24	34
4 - Umina United SC	17	9	2	6	+15	29
5 - East Gosford FC	17	9	2	6	+5	29
6 - Terrigal United FC	17	7	2	8	+3	23
7 - Toukley FC	17	4	7	6	+2	19
8 ▲ Woongarah FC	17	5	3	9	+4	18
9 ▼ Kincumber Roos FC	17	5	1	11	-4	16
10 - Kariong United FC	17	0	0	17	-107	0




Golden Boot Standings:

Goals	Player
18	Tahlor Thackray (SEU).
17	Brittni Nicol (GOS).
16	Hayley Green (KAN), Kelly Hogan (EGO), Emma Hurley (WGA).
14	Kate Styles (UMI).
12	Hayley Ballard (KAN).
10	Kate Cheyne (TER).
9	Amber Mangan (UMI), Jessica Dominello (GOS).
8	Michelle Brett (GOS).
7	Jordyn Toms-Wedge (KIN), Emily Smith (KIN), Alana Currie (SEU), Elaine Delaney (SEU).