

Premium Sporting Products

2019 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS – WEEK 1

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RESULTS

ELIMINATION FINALS (4th vs 5th)				
FIRST GRADE	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	2	WYOMING	0
RESERVE GRADE	KANWAL	2	TERRIGAL	1
UNDER 21	WOONGARRAH	2	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	1

QUALIFYING FINALS (2nd vs 3rd)				
FIRST GRADE	WOONGARRAH	1	TERRIGAL	0
RESERVE GRADE	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	1	EAST GOSFORD	0
UNDER 21	AVOCA	3	WYOMING	2

SUMMARY

- Week One of the 2019 Battlewin Premier League Finals Series got under way under sunny skies after the torrential rain that had seen all matches postponed from the previous weekend. As had been the case in 2018 Killarney District had the weekend off as a reward for taking out the league championship in all three grades.
- With just one competition point separating the four teams both the Elimination and Qualifying semis were always going to go down to the wire. In the Saturday night knockout encounter between Wyoming and Southern-Ettalong a goal almost from the kickoff to SEU effectively decided Wyoming's fate while in Sunday's second-chance match one goal was enough for Woongarra to continue their outstanding debut season in the BPL with a hard-fought win over Terrigal, one that moves them within one match of the grand final.
- In Division One the young Gwandalan team's excellent season was ended at the hands of Kariong while Umina qualified for the grand final with a 4-2 win over peninsula rivals Woy Woy.

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL: SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 2 WYOMING 0

- A disappointing end to Wyoming's first season back in the top league since 2016 but one that indicated that they will once again be serious title contenders in the next few years. They could not have got off to a worse start conceding what is believed to be the quickest goal in BPL history. It came just 11 seconds after the opening whistle with James Caban sending a long ball down the left wing which Keith Gumbs ran onto and sent a first-time cross into the Wyoming goalmouth. The attempted clearance by a Tigers defender skewed off his boot off the crossbar and down into the path of Caban who scored.

- If there's one consolation about conceding an early goal it's that you have plenty of time to recover - 89 minutes in Wyoming's case – and they did so to such an extent that they dominated possession and territory for much of the first hour of the match. Both teams used the width and field quality of Pluim to play some attractive team football with the Tigers launching numerous attacks down the wings through Pat Mills and Ben Farrell but unable to capitalise through excellent defensive work by Sam Matthews and Josh Caban with keeper Luke Carnevale dominant in the air.
- Wyoming's task became even harder with the dismissal of defender Andrew Watts in the 61st minute although they did continue to threaten while keeping the ever-dangerous Keith Gumbs in check. Eventually the numerical disadvantage together with constant pressure had the Lions dominant and they eventually doubled the lead in the 82nd minute with Todd Balneaves volleying into the Wyoming goal from a corner kick. Shortly afterwards they looked set to go 3-0 from the penalty spot but James Caban struck the crossbar. Late in the match Wyoming were reduced to nine men with Jared McNee sent off.
- The result and that from Sunday's Qualifying final sets the scene for a repeat of last season's Minor Semi-Final between Southern-Ettalong and Terrigal with the Lions looking for revenge on their 1-4 scoreline in that match. They play on Saturday, kicking off at 6pm.

QUALIFYING SEMI-FINAL: WOONGARRAH 1 TERRIGAL 0

- Pluim Park hosted the BPL's qualifying final on Sunday afternoon as Terrigal United and Woongarra met for the third time this campaign, with the winner booking a spot in the competitions major semi-final next weekend alongside Killarney District. After heading into the final weekend of the season atop of the Battlewin Premier League table and in prime position to enjoy a break over the opening weekend of the finals, the 'Cats were undone in the final minutes of the season thanks to a spectacular overhead kick from Killarney's Matt Hall, with the result opening the door for Terrigal United to sneak into second position come the competitions final standings.
- Keen to atone, the 'Cats looked to make a confident start to Sunday afternoons match as they faced off with one of their two top five competitors who had been unable to beat them so far this season, however Terrigal United appeared to enjoy the better of the early chances. A number of balls into the Woongarra penalty area saw 'keeper Bryce Goldsworthy called into action as he was forced to either come and claim or punch away, confidently dealing with any close calls. One effort that was cleared off the 'Cats goal-line drew significant appeals for handball from the Terrigal faction, however these were quickly waived away by the officials. Woongarra began to grow into the contest as the opening half wore on and they found the breakthrough in the 40th minute from the boot of midfielder Alex Govorcin. After being played through on goal, Govorcin swiveled and fired past Aaron Zavolokin in the Terrigal goal to give his side a 1-0 half-time lead.
- With just 45 minutes separating the side from a position in the major semi-final, Woongarra looked to kick-on in the second half, however they were dealt a significant early blow after a challenge in the Woongarra penalty area was deemed enough to warrant the award of a spot-kick. With the opportunity to draw the sides level, Terrigal's Josh Menzies stepped up to the spot, however his effort was saved by Goldsworthy in the Woongarra goal. Retaining their 1-0 lead, Woongarra began to gain the upper-hand in the clash, with Terrigal 'keeper Zavolokin forced into a number of full-stretch saves to deny the Cats from extending their lead.

- Unable to extend their lead, the Woongarra side would have been forgiven for casting their minds back to the match with Killarney two weeks ago as Terrigal began to throw everything they had at them in the final 15 minutes. A number of goalmouth scrambles saw Terrigal almost find an equaliser, however Goldsworthy was more often than not on hand to diffuse the situation, ensuring his side capped off an incredibly competitive match on the winning side.
- The win sees Woongarra set up another clash with Killarney in the major semi-final this Sunday afternoon at Pluim Park, with the winner of that clash securing a spot in the grand-final. Despite the narrow loss, Terrigal remain in finals contention as a result of their top three finish, with the side facing off with Southern and Ettalong United on Saturday night in a must win clash, also at Pluim Park.

BPL FINALS SERIES WEEK 2 (PLUIM PARK 1)

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER – MINOR SEMI-FINALS		
FIRST GRADE	TERRIGAL vs SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	6 PM
RESERVE GRADE	KANWAL vs EAST GOSFORD	4 PM
UNDER 21	WOONGARRAH vs WYOMING	2 PM

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER - MAJOR SEMI-FINALS		
FIRST GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs WOONGARRAH	4 PM
RESERVE GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	2 PM
UNDER 21	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs AVOCA	12 PM

DIVISION ONE

RESULTS

MINOR SEMI-FINALS (3rd vs 4th)				
FIRST GRADE	KARIONG	3	GWANDALAN	0
RESERVE GRADE	WOY WOY	2 p6	WYONG	2 p5

MAJOR SEMI-FINALS (1st vs 2nd)				
FIRST GRADE	UMINA	4	WOY WOY	2
RESERVE GRADE	BUDGEWOI	3	UMINA	2

DIVISION ONE FINALS SERIES WEEK 2

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – PRELIMINARY FINALS AT PLUIM PARK 2		
FIRST GRADE	WOY WOY vs KARIONG	3 PM
RESERVE GRADE	UMINA vs WOY WOY	1 PM