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Premium Sporting Products

2018 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE PRELIMINARY FINALS

By Alistair Kennedy

RESULTS

PRELIMINARY FINALS				
FIRST GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	3	TERRIGAL	2
RESERVE GRADE	BERKELEY VALE	4	UMINA	1
THIRD GRADE	UMINA	4	EAST GOSFORD	3

GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

- When the new 22-round Battlewin Premier League kicked off in mid-March most pundits were predicting a derby Grand Final between Killarney District and Berkeley Vale. Now, after 137 matches, that's what we'll be seeing next Saturday evening at Pluim Park with the two most experienced teams, led by two of the most experienced coaches, facing off against each other.
- Surprisingly, while one or other of the two clubs has played in nine of the past 10 Grand Finals it will be the first occasion that they've met in the decider. For Killarney it will be their fifth appearance overall for three wins (2003, 2016 and 2017) and one loss (2012) while Berkeley Vale have the unwanted record of having been beaten in all five of their previous matches (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014).
- The two-club dominance is even stronger in Reserve Grade where one or other will have played in all eight Grand Finals since 2011 although in this case they have met twice with Berkeley successful in 2013 and Killarney in 2017. In Third Grade, although Berkeley Vale aren't there this year, they've both played in all six previous seasons since the grade was re-introduced in 2012 with each recording two wins, Berkeley Vale in 2013 and 2014 and Killarney District in 2016 and 2017.
- Killarney's win in First Grade means that the Terriers become the first club to contest all three Grand Finals in three straight seasons.
- In Division One Woongarra have won their second straight premiership, this time without the controversy that marred their 2017 title, with a comfortable 3-0 win over Ourimbah. In what was an almost perfect season the Wildcats won 19 of their 20 matches and will take their place in the BPL competition for the first time next season. They will be joined by Wyoming who capped an outstanding run in the latter part of the season by defeating Ourimbah 2-0 in the Reserve Grade grand final.

KILLARNEY DISTRICT 3 TERRIGAL 2

- Killarney went into the match without two key players in midfielder John Whelpdale and defender Cameron Pryse-Jones and then saw Andy Klijn succumb to a hamstring strain in the 15th minute. The match was played at a frantic pace but without the quality of the previous week's match between Killarney and Berkeley Vale with all five goals coming between the 22nd and 45th minutes. Brendan Hall opened the scoring when left unmarked in front of the Terrigal goal. Daniel Bird then equalised four minutes later heading home from a corner kick. A brilliant goal from a narrow wide angle by Tim Knight then restored the Terriers' lead in the 33rd minute before a second defensive error from another corner allowed Erik Requelme to again see Terrigal draw level in the 41st minute. The final goal came just before the break, a brilliant 20-metre drive by Ethan Hall.

BPL GRAND FINALS

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – PRELIMINARY FINALS AT PLUIM PARK 1		
FIRST GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs BERKELEY VALE	4.00 PM
RESERVE GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs BERKELEY VALE	1.30 PM
THIRD GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT vs UMINA	11.00 AM

DIVISION ONE

RESULTS

GRAND FINALS				
FIRST GRADE	WOONGARRAH	3	OURIMBAH	0
RESERVE GRADE	WYOMING	2	OURIMBAH	0