

Premium Sporting Products

2019 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 3 (6/7 APRIL)

By Alistair Kennedy & Lachlan Herd

FIRST GRADE SCORES

WOONGARRAH	3	KANWAL	2
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	4	TOUKLEY	1
WYOMING	3	GOSFORD CITY	0
THE ENTRANCE	1	BERKELEY VALE	0
AVOCA	1	EAST GOSFORD	0
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	2	TERRIGAL	0

SUMMARY

- Three matches into the 2019 Battlewin Premier League competition and only two teams remain with the maximum nine points, down from four after the previous round. No surprise that competition favourites, Killarney District, are one of them but, less predictable, is that the other are the Woongarra Wildcats who have made a perfect start to their first-ever BPL campaign following a last-gasp win over Kanwal in their Saturday night encounter.
- In other matches Avoca, The Entrance and Wyoming broke through for their first wins, over East Gosford, Berkeley Vale and Gosford City. This leaves only Kanwal and East Gosford without a point, although the Rams do have a game in hand.
- All four surviving Central Coast clubs are scheduled to compete in FFA Cup matches this week. Berkeley Vale finally get to play their deferred Round 3 match against Marayong FC at Valentine Park on Wednesday night. The Coast surprise packet Gwandalan also get a big challenge, taking on North Shore Mariners on the synthetic pitch at Northbridge Oval while Killarney District shouldn't be troubled by St George Association club Lugarno FC. Terrigal have drawn the short straw and take on NPL1 heavyweights vs Blacktown City although the match has now been put back a week to enable it to be played at Plum Park.

WOONGARRAH 3 KANWAL 2

- Although it doesn't have the long history of derbies such as those on the peninsula between Southern and Umina which go back to the 1980s there are few more intense clashes nowadays than those between Kanwal and its breakaway club Woongarra. Between 2014 and 2017 they faced off nine times culminating in their last match, the 2017 Division One Preliminary Final.
- In balmy conditions the Saturday night match drew an enthusiastic crowd estimated at between 500 and 800 people, easily the most ever at the Wadalba ground. They were joined by an unknown number who watched the live stream of the match on Kanwal's Facebook page. It's still there for anyone who missed it. Spectators certainly got their

money's worth with a fast-moving, energetic (11 yellow cards) and long (105 minutes) match.

- The Bulls took an early lead with Jason Cozens floating a 40-metre free-kick from a narrow angle over Woongarra goalkeeper Scott Douglas in the sixth minute. The visitors then equalised 15 minutes later when Lachlan Jones was pushed over inside the penalty box allowing Ben Runge to score from the spot. Although the 'Cats dominated possession it was Kanwal who regained the lead three minutes into the second half when, after an impromptu fireworks display, a cross from the edge of the Woongarra box by club legend Brett Adcock found an unmarked Callum Dunkerley whose left-foot shot found the left hand corner of the 'Cats net.
- Despite Woongarra dominating possession and field position the score remained at 2-1 throughout the second half although the match was held up for about five minutes with an injury to Kanwal goalkeeper Aaron Hammond. The Wildcats launched numerous attacks before the Bulls received a golden opportunity to seal the match with a penalty in the 85th minute which was saved by 'keeper Douglas. Spurred on by the reprieve Woongarra continued to attack as the game extended into added time eventually equalising through Blake Small in the 99th minute before Jamie Bartlett scored what proved to be the winner in the 103rd minute.
- Both teams have their biggest tests to date next Sunday when they each take on one of last season's grand finalists with Woongarra up against Berkeley Vale at Mingara and Kanwal playing Killarney District at Wadalba.



Photos courtesy of Dianne Fathers

WYOMING 3 GOSFORD CITY 0

- This was the second big derby match of the round but one with a difference in that the composition of the two teams was virtually unrecognisable from that of last season. Back in BPL after two seasons in Division One Wyoming is made up of a mix of continuing players and a large number of experienced ones who followed new coach Ian McAndrew to the Tigers. Likewise Gosford's new coach Errol Baker had a number of players follow him from his previous club Woy Woy and merged with returning Dragons' players.
- In front of a big crowd the young Gosford team put plenty of pressure on early without seriously threatening the Wyoming goal. Matt Hall made the breakthrough with a perfectly placed free-kick from 35 metres in the 18th minute for the only goal of the first half. The experience of the Tigers told and they exerted control from the start of the second term with the result effectively decided when Ben Farrell capped an excellent match with a well-taken goal just on the hour mark. Some good saves from Gosford 'keeper Jack Arigho and a lack of composure by Wyoming in front of goal kept the scoreline at 2-0 until Pat Mills scored just on full-time.

- Wyoming coach Ian McAndrew commented on the match: "It was a hard-fought, typical derby match for much of the first half. Gosford defended well but seemed to tire late. We played patiently and stuck to our game plan throughout. Matt Gravas who's dropped back to our defensive line was excellent as were Matt Hall and Todd Johnson in the spine of the team. It was good to get maximum club championship points and set a platform for the rest of the season".
- Wyoming play their first home match of the season at Alan Davidson Park next Sunday against an Avoca team that will have gained confidence from their first win of the season. Gosford City travel to the peninsula for what should be a tough match against a re-invigorated Southern-Ettalong at James Browne Oval.

THE ENTRANCE 1 BERKELEY VALE 0

- The Entrance and Berkeley Vale met at Bloodtree Oval on Sunday afternoon in a match that, given early season form, many would have expected Berkeley Vale to navigate comfortably. The Entrance have struggled for goals in their opening fixtures, only managing one, whilst the Wombats have only conceded one goal in their opening two fixtures. However, it was The Entrance that managed the only goal of the game through striker Adam Blunden. The Entrance keeper, long-time Gosford custodian, Adam Parkinson came in for praise from coach Andrew Ollier who said "apart from saving a penalty (he) was rock solid all afternoon". Ollier also added that he thought all his players were outstanding, in what he described as a "hard, even contest".
- The win will provide a great boost to The Entrance who face a fourth-round contest with Terrigal United on Sunday afternoon at Duffys Oval. Berkeley Vale will be looking to dust themselves down quickly before their third-round FFA Cup matchup with Marayong FC at Valentine Sports Park on Wednesday night. The Wombats will then face a short turnaround before hosting the high flying Woongarra at Mingara Club Oval on Sunday afternoon.

SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 2 TERRIGAL 0

- Sunday afternoon saw an in-form Terrigal United side face off with Southern and Ettalong United at Duffy's Oval as they looked to extend their unbeaten start to the season to three matches. The young Terrigal side led by coach Martyn Griffiths have had no problems in front of goal in the early stages of the season, notching up 10 goals in their opening two matches, with both Ben Flakus and Cameron Wilkinson occupying second spot in the Golden Boot standings with three apiece. Southern and Ettalong United on the other hand were coming off a disappointing second round result against high-flying Killarney, going down 6-0.
- Early season form suggested that Terrigal would head into this contest as favourites however it was Southern who managed to come away with a 2-0 result. Goals to Todd Balneaves and Jacob Caban were ultimately enough to see the Lions past Terrigal United, in a performance that would have provided the side with a huge boost after last week's disappointing result. Coach Dale Eggleton said "After last week's result against Killarney we had to improve and we showed some good signs, especially defensively, keeping Terrigal scoreless after scoring 10 goals in their first two games".
- Southern look forward to a match-up with Gosford City this weekend at Gavenlock Oval. Terrigal, with their FFA Cup match now deferred until Wednesday week at Plum Park, return to Duffy's Oval for a clash with The Entrance, with both games scheduled for a 2:45pm kick off on Sunday afternoon.

KILLARNEY DISTRICT 4 TOUKLEY 1

- Killarney and Toukley faced off in round three of the Battlewin Premier League on Sunday afternoon at EDSAAC North, with the Terriers looking to extend their unbeaten start to the season to three games, whilst the gunners looked to bounce back after surrendering a three-goal lead to drop points against Gosford City last weekend. Killarney started the better of the two sides, with the first big chance of the match arriving in the 17th minute as Matt Hall found space in the penalty area, with his effort taking a slight deflection and striking the upright. Only two minutes later they were to find the breakthrough as Ethan Hall received the ball outside the area before slaloming past two Toukley defenders and finishing neatly into the bottom right corner of the net. The goal was a just reward for the pressure the Terriers had applied on Toukley in the early stages of the match, and it could be argued that that pressure played its part in the second as Toukley conceded a spectacular own goal, with left full-back Lachlan Buxton chipping keeper Robert Ryan with a back-pass from the best part of 25 yards.
- Killarney began to really assert their dominance over proceedings and should have been at least 4-0 up at the half as both Ethan Hall and Andy Klijn failed to convert great chances for the Terriers, before Bryce Fielder almost scored direct from a corner on the stroke of half-time as his effort rattled the far upright. The sides entered the sheds at 2-0, with the gunners barely hanging in the contest, and it didn't take the Terriers long from the restart to grab the third goal with Matt Hall directing a smart header back across the keeper and into the net. This goal seemed to spark a procession of high-quality opportunities for Killarney with both Daniel Rodger and Matt Hall having great efforts thwarted by keeper Robert Ryan in the following ten minutes.
- Terriers keeper Andy Sheldon was having a rather quiet afternoon before he was adjudged to have fouled a Toukley player in the penalty area to concede a penalty. Sheldon almost redeemed himself, pulling off a brilliant full length save to deny Jai Kelly from the spot, however the rebound fell back to Kelly who then dispatched easily to potentially provide Toukley with an avenue back into the match. However only two minutes later it was Killarney who were awarded a penalty after a foul in the area. Tim Knight stepped up to take and hit it hard to his right, but keeper Robert Ryan prevailed, making a full length save, pushing the ball out for a corner.
- In a match in which the Terriers probably should have scored six or seven, they finally found their fourth in injury time, with substitute Blake Silvers breaking free down the middle of the pitch and slotting easily past Ryan to see the full-time score finish 4-1.
- Killarney will be travelling to Sydney on Wednesday night for their Round 4 FFA Cup match ahead of their match-up with winless Kanwal this weekend, whilst Toukley face a trip to struggling East Gosford.

AVOCA 1 EAST GOSFORD 0

- An important clash between two clubs desperate for their first points of the season. Avoca have had the toughest draw to date with matches against last year's grand finalists, Killarney District and Berkeley Vale. East Gosford are desperate for game time after a pre-season disrupted by rain and then having last week's match against Wyoming washed out after going down to Woongarra in the opening round.

- The only goal came 15 minutes into the match with Ben Green scoring from a Jake Elder cross. Avoca went into the match without one of their key players in Stuart Adams who is still recovering from injury but were boosted by the return to first grade of Shaun Izzard.
- Neal Hide, Avoca's coach commented that "Such heat so early in the season clearly drained players on both sides and wasn't conducive to quality football. It wasn't a free-flowing match and so not much of a spectacle. Nevertheless we ground out a win that I thought that on balance we deserved".
- Rams coach Chris Powell agreed on the difficult conditions but added "It did help us with some much-needed match fitness. Avoca were sharp early and grabbed that lead but we fought back well in the second half and probably deserved to salvage a point. We were missing a couple of key players in Paul Crisp and Keiron Simmonds but so were Avoca. We're getting there but we'll be a work-in-progress until we reach full fitness."
- Toukley will be making their annual trek down from Harry Moore Oval to Hylton Moore Oval for their next match against East Gosford while Avoca will take on Wyoming at Alan Davidson Park.

battlewin POINTS TABLE

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	3	3	0	0	14	3	11	9
WOONGARRAH	3	3	0	0	10	3	7	9
TERRIGAL	3	2	0	1	10	4	6	6
BERKELEY VALE	3	2	0	1	6	2	4	6
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	3	2	0	1	5	8	-3	6
TOUKLEY	3	1	1	1	7	9	-2	4
WYOMING	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
THE ENTRANCE	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
AVOCA	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
GOSFORD	3	0	1	2	5	13	-8	1
KANWAL	3	0	0	3	5	10	-5	0
EAST GOSFORD	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0

battlewin LEADING GOAL SCORERS

4	Jesse Parnell (Gosford City)
3	Ben Flakus (Terrigal), Daniel Rodger (Killarney District), Ben Runge (Woongarra), Cameron Wilkinson (Terrigal)
2	Bryce Fielder (Killarney District), Ethan Hall (Killarney District), Matt Hall (Killarney District), Mitch Harrison (Avoca), Lachlan Jones (Woongarra), Brad McLean (Kanwal), Troy Mumford (Berkeley Vale), Erik Riquelme (Terrigal), Troy Runge (Toukley), Michael Tawyer (Berkeley Vale), Kane Woolston (Woongarra), Adam Blunden (The Entrance)

BPL ROUND 4 FIXTURES

SUNDAY 14 APRIL			
BERKELEY VALE	vs	WOONGARRAH	Mingara Club Oval
KANWAL	vs	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	Wadalba Sports Complex
GOSFORD CITY	vs	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	Gavenlock Oval
WYOMING	vs	AVOCA	Alan Davidson Park
EAST GOSFORD	vs	TOUKLEY	Hylton Moore Park
THE ENTRANCE	vs	TERRIGAL	Duffys Oval

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE SCORES

BUDGEWOI	5	DOYALSON	0
KARIONG	2	GAWNDALAN	0
UMINA	2	WOY WOY	1
KINCUMBER	3	WYONG	1
OURIMBAH	Bye		

COMPETITION TABLE

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
BUDGEWOI	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
KINCUMBER	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
KARIONG	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
UMINA	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
OURIMBAH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WOY WOY	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
WYONG	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
GWANDALAN	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
DOYALSON	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0