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2019 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE
ROUND 5 (22 APRIL)

By Alistair Kennedy & Lachlan Herd

FIRST GRADE SCORES

SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	4	WYOMING	2
TERRIGAL	2	WOONGARRAH	2
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	2	BERKELEY VALE	0
AVOCA	2	TOUKLEY	1
EAST GOSFORD	2	KANWAL	1
THE ENTRANCE	5	GOSFORD CITY	1

SUMMARY

- Results in Round 5 of the 2019 Battlewin Premier League threw up no major surprises with Killarney District repeating their 2018 grand final win over Berkeley Vale while Southern-Ettalong, courtesy of a Keith Gumbs masterclass, moved into clear second place with their win over Wyoming. East Gosford broke through for their first win leaving Gosford City and Kanwal as the only teams without a win.

- Next Wednesday night (May 1st) will be a big occasion at Pluim Park with Round 4 FFA Cup matches on both Fields One and Two both featuring local BPL clubs up against NPL1 opponents. On Field 1 Berkeley Vale will take on APIA Leichhardt and, at the same time (7.30 pm), Terrigal will be up against Blacktown City.

SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 4 WYOMING 2

- The battle between two of the BPL Big Cats with the Southern-Ettalong Lions hosting the Wyoming Tigers at James Browne Oval. SEU made all the early running attacking strongly and earning three free-kicks within scoring distance inside the first 10 minutes. The constant pressure eventually told with the awarding of a penalty in the 15th minute which was taken by Keith Gumbs but saved by Wyoming 'keeper Thomas Coventry. It was to be the only lapse by the former St Kitts international who proceeded to dominate the match making a mockery of his 46 years with a brace of goals, a goal assist, covering every inch of the field in the process including dropping back to defend.

- While Coventry's penalty save sparked Wyoming into action they did fall behind with Gumbs on hand for a 32nd-minute tap-in goal after a strong SEU attack down the right wing. That was the only goal in the opening half although Wyoming could have equalised six minutes later when they were awarded a penalty only to see Southern's goalie Luke Carnevale save Matt Hall's shot. As it was Wyoming did eventually level the score through a brilliant 30-metre strike from Jared McNee. The next 10 minutes proved crucial with the home team attacking strongly. Only a sensational diving save from the Tigers Man of the Match Coventry kept the scores level before a defensive error allowed James Steer to see the Lions

regain the lead. It was quickly followed by a second goal from Gumbs on the hour-mark which gave his team what proved to be a match-winning lead.

- Wyoming weren't finished though and a foul on Pat Mills on the edge of the box saw Matt Hall score from a typically powerful free kick. The clinching goal appropriately enough was set up by Gumbs whose perfect cross allowed James Caban to restore his team's two-goal margin with five minutes to play.

- It doesn't get any easier for the Tigers as they go into another catfight next Sunday against Woongarrah at Alan Davidson Park while Southern-Ettalong will be looking to consolidate their clear second spot when they take on the improving Entrance outfit in an 'away' match at James Browne Oval.

TERRIGAL 2 WOONGARRAH 2

- Terrigal United and Woongarrah met at Duffy's Oval on Easter Monday as they both looked to keep pace with leaders Killarney in the Battlewin Premier League. Terrigal came into the match on the back of a 3-0 victory over The Entrance whilst Woongarrah were looking to bounce back after suffering their first defeat of the season to Berkeley Vale. Terrigal started the brighter of the two sides as they opened the scoring through Cameron Wilkinson after some quality work by Ben Flakus saw him cut the ball back to the midfielder for the opening goal.

- The sides headed to the sheds at 1-0, however only minutes after the restart Wildcats striker Kane Woolston restored parity. In what was described by 'Cats boss Luke Rogers as "an end to end, fast paced game", Terrigal managed to regain the lead with a well taken free kick from Jack Rodger, but Kane Woolston was again on hand for Woongarrah to equalise for the second time in the match as he netted his second in the 75th minute. A nervy last 15 minutes ensued before the referee blew full time on what was a thoroughly entertaining contest, with both sides taking a share of the spoils.

- Both teams are away next Sunday with Terrigal taking on East Gosford at Hylton Moore Park and another Big Cats match between Woongarrah and Wyoming at Alan Davidson Park. Terrigal then back up the following Wednesday (1st May) with their big Cup clash with Blacktown City at Pluim Park 2.

KILLARNEY DISTRICT 2 BERKELEY VALE 0

- The newly renovated Mingara facility saw the marquee fixture of the BPL season to date played between last season's Grand-Finalists Berkeley Vale and Killarney District. In what was the first time the two sides had faced off since the Killarney's grand final win back in September, excitement and expectation was rife as a big crowd packed out the new grandstand at Mingara. The first big chance of the match fell to Killarney as they attacked down the right through Tim Knight, firing a powerful shot across goal that Wombats keeper Tim Cliff managed to palm away, however he could only push the ball back out to midfielder Andy Klijn who's finish was blocked on the line by Cliff as he managed to recover his position quickly to prevent the opening goal. Killarney looked to be the first side to settle into the match as they began to assert their dominance over the fixture, and the opening goal followed as Andy Klijn netted in the 18th minute to give the Terriers a deserved lead.

- Killarney continued their dominance throughout the first half without creating too many clear-cut opportunities to threaten the Wombats goal, however in the 30th minute Andy Klijn managed to net his second of the match as he lashed home a powerful shot after the ball fell to him inside the penalty area. The sides entered the sheds at half-time with the Terriers

holding a deserved 2 goal lead, dominating the ball and nullifying Berkeley Vales potent attacking threat.

- Berkeley Vale came out of the sheds for the second half looking much sharper and more threatening than they had before the break, and they almost found a route back into the match minutes after the restart as winger Michael Tawyer broke free of his man, however bearing down on goal he produced a relatively tame finish with Terriers keeper Andy Sheldon collecting comfortably. As the second half wore on Killarney's game management came to the fore, as they restricted chances at either end and controlled the pace of the match. As such, the Wombats struggled to manufacture quality chances to get back into the contest. The last five minutes provided some excitement as Berkeley Vale threw everything they had at the Terriers, with a string of successive corners putting pressure on the competition leaders however 'keeper Andy Sheldon, with the help of his defensive line, managed to deal with the pressure effectively.

- Killarney coach Chris Ackerley added: "Good strong performance against one of the favourites for the title. Pleased with a good start to the season winning 5 out of 5, now to knuckle down with an FFA Cup game sandwiched between Gosford City and East Gosford". That Cup match is next Thursday night (May 2nd) against Hazelbrook FC at Summerhays Park, Winmalee.

- Berkeley Vale also have a tight schedule playing Toukley at Mingara followed by their Wednesday night (1st May) Cup clash with APIA Leichhardt at Pluim Park 1.

AVOCA 2 TOUKLEY 1

- A tight and even match between two teams struggling for consistency. Avoca had to make a late change when new dad James Monie was forced out with a quad strain during warm-up. Toukley took the lead midway through the first half when Jai Kelly scored from a neat cross from the right wing. Mitch Harrison then equalised early in the second half when his penalty attempt was parried by the Toukley goalkeeper but fortunately for Harrison he was able to recover and score. The Sharks' winner came five minutes from full-time with a spectacular bicycle kick from Darcy Brown who had only just come from the bench.

- Ben Nichols commented that "it was a good open match that neutrals would have enjoyed. We struggled with player shortages but that was probably the same for most clubs on the holiday weekend. At the end of the day we had our chances to grab the win and couldn't while Avoca did."

- Toukley now meet Berkeley Vale at Mingara next Sunday while Avoca will be at home against Kanwal.

THE ENTRANCE 5 GOSFORD CITY 1

- Gosford City hosted The Entrance at Gavenlock Oval with both sides desperate for a victory after slow starts to the season. The Entrance had only managed one victory from their first four matches, a surprise victory over last season's grand-finalists Berkeley Vale, whilst Gosford City have only accrued a single point so far this campaign after a 4-4 draw with Toukley in round two. However, it was The Entrance who managed to secure the points in this round five fixture with a dominant display, netting five goals in the process, easing their early season struggles in front of goal. The goals were spread throughout the side as Jayden Nakhoul managed a brace, whilst Nathan Blunden, Matt Kenny, and Jack Goldsmith all managed to get on the scoresheet. The 5-1 victory was a performance that will surely

provide the side with a confidence boost as they head into this weekend's round six fixture against the in-form Southern and Ettalong United.

- It was another heavy defeat for Gosford City as they look to turn their season around after a poor start. In a match that certainly would have been targeted as a great opportunity for the Dragons to pick up some points by coach Errol Baker, they'll be disappointed that they couldn't capitalise. Things don't get any easier for the Dragons either, with a trip to Pluim Park this weekend for their round six fixture with Killarney District. The sides will not only be competing for competition points, as they also battle it out for the Coast Shelter Cup, an annual event held by the Dragons to raise funds for 'Coast Shelter'.

EAST GOSFORD 2 KANWAL 1

- Despite it being so early in the season this was a crunch match for two clubs languishing without points at the foot of the table and desperate for a morale-boosting win. It's been a frustrating first month of the season for the both teams with five of their combined seven losses being by single-goal margins although East do have a game in hand (their deferred Round 1 match against Wyoming is scheduled for Wednesday May 8).

- East Gosford opened the scoring in the 21st minute when a training move worked allowing Stephen Harpur to slip past the Kanwal defence and beat the 'keeper with a neat finish into the left corner of the net. The Rams controlled much of the play during the first half but were set back in the 35th minute when Bulls right back Jackson Torpy made a long run from halfway beating two defenders before being brought down inside the penalty box leaving Callum Dunkerley to equalise from the resultant spot kick.

- Having suffered from a disrupted pre-season and their opening round wash-out East have struggled to reach the required fitness level. With that problem now looking to be behind them they were able to continue to control the match during the second half although the score did remain at 1-1 with both teams unable to capitalise on several chances. The deciding goal came in the 80th minute and from the Rams 'usual suspect' with Rob Walton launching his bid for an unprecedented third straight BPL Golden Boot scoring his first of the season.

- East Gosford will now approach next week's match against Terrigal at Hylton Moore Oval with renewed confidence while Kanwal travel to Erina High for their encounter with Avoca.

battlewin POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	5	5	0	0	19	5	14	15
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	5	4	0	1	14	11	3	12
TERRIGAL	5	3	1	1	15	6	9	10
WOONGARRAH	5	3	1	1	12	7	5	10
BERKELEY VALE	5	3	0	2	8	4	4	9
TOUKLEY	5	2	1	2	9	11	-2	7
WYOMING	4	2	0	2	13	9	4	6
THE ENTRANCE	5	2	0	3	7	8	-1	6
AVOCA	5	1	0	3	8	16	-8	6
EAST GOSFORD	4	0	0	3	3	8	-5	3
GOSFORD	5	0	1	4	7	23	-16	1
KANWAL	5	0	0	5	8	15	-7	0

battlewin CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	U21	Reserve	First	Points
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	15	13	26	45	84
TERRIGAL	15	13	20	30	63
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	15	3	18	36	57
WOONGARRAH	14	7	14	30	51
THE ENTRANCE	15	7	22	18	47
WYOMING	11	9	18	18	45
BERKELEY VALE	14	1	6	27	34
AVOCA	15	9	6	18	33
EAST GOSFORD	11	5	18	9	33
TOUKLEY	15	0	8	21	29
KANWAL	15	7	12	0	19
GOSFORD CITY	15	3	0	3	6

battlewin LEADING GOAL SCORERS

7	Pat Mills (Wyoming)
5	Ben Flakus (Terrigal), Keith Gumbs (Southern-Ettalong)
4	Jesse Parnell (Gosford City), Cameron Wilkinson (Terrigal), Kane Woolston (Woongarrah)
3	Bryce Fielder (Killarney District), Ethan Hall (Killarney District), Matt Hall (Wyoming), Mitch Harrison (Avoca), Daniel Rodger (Killarney District), Ben Runge (Woongarrah).

BPL ROUND 6 FIXTURES

SATURDAY 27 APRIL			
GOSFORD CITY	vs	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	Pluim Park No 1

SUNDAY 28 APRIL			
EAST GOSFORD	vs	TERRIGAL	Hylton Moore Park
BERKELEY VALE	vs	TOUKLEY	Mingara Club Oval
THE ENTRANCE	vs	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	James Browne Oval
WYOMING	vs	WOONGARRAH	Alan Davidson Park
AVOCA	vs	KANWAL	Erina High School