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2019 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 15 (29/30 JUNE)

By Alistair Kennedy & Lachlan Herd

FIRST GRADE SCORES

AVOCA	7	WYOMING	5
WOONGARRAH	2	BERKELEY VALE	1
EAST GOSFORD	3	TOUKLEY	0
TERRIGAL	5	THE ENTRANCE	1
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	4	GOSFORD CITY	0
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	2	KANWAL	1

SUMMARY

- Yet another shuffle of places in the top half of the Battlewin Premier League table following Round 15 with five of the six teams changing places and only Killarney District staying where they were ... on top by 3 points with a game in hand. Wyoming drop from 2nd to 4th after a 12-goal epic match against Avoca; Southern-Ettalong move back to 2nd where they'd been for most of the season; Terrigal go back up to 3rd; while Woongarra (now up 5th) and Berkeley Vale (down to 6th) continue the battle they've been having for the past month. Avoca's win over Wyoming keeps them in contention for the playoffs 4 points behind fifth place.
- A late brace to Keith Gumbs saw him take his season's tally to 16 and extend his lead in the race for the 2019 Battlewin Golden Boot to six with Wyoming's Jared McNee and Pat Mills and Erik Riquelme from Terrigal all scoring single goals to join Jesse Parnell in equal second place with 10 goals each. In other individual scoring news Avoca's Stuart Adams became the eighth player to score a hat-trick this season.
- Last week's deferred match between Killarney District and Toukley has been re-scheduled for Wednesday 31 July at Plum Park.

AVOCA 7 WYOMING 5

- Plum Park 2 was abuzz after what was easily the stand-out match of the season to date – indeed many seasons. Those with longish memories recalled The Entrance's 7-4 win over Berkeley Vale in the 2014 Grand Final although that didn't have the quality of most of the 12 goals that were scored here. As the score updates were being sent around the BPL SMS network during the match comments were coming back such as "How many players on the pitch?", "Do they both have goalkeepers" and "Are both teams playing a 1-2-7 formation?" The answers to which were "22", "Yes" and "No".

- Avoca's seven goals were all sensational with most scored from at least 20 metres out and most from wide angles. The pattern of the match was set when Wyoming struck the Avoca crossbar in the 9th minute and the Sharks immediately countered with their shot wide. Two minutes later Stuart Adams opened the scoring with a superb strike in the 11th minute from wide on the left into the top corner. Wyoming then equalised in the 21st minute with a penalty from Jared McNee and then took a 2-1 lead five minutes later with a perfect free-kick from Ian McAndrew that wrong-footed Avoca keeper Brendan Avis. The play then settled for a short while before Ben Green decided that anything his teammate Adams could do he could do just as well with an identical strike from exactly the same spot for 2-2. Shane Knight then tried to join the party with what was arguably the best shot of the match only to be greeted by the save of the match from Wyoming keeper Thomas Coventy. Ben Farrell then restored the Tigers lead slicing through the defence and finishing clinically. Wyoming 3-2 up ... but not for long with Nixon Jowett making it 3-3 with yet another superb strike two minutes before the break.
- Half-time provided a breather for players, officials and fans alike. What proved to be the pivotal point of the match came with Avoca's Roan Brown sending over a perfect cross that was volleyed on the full by Ben Green for his second goal followed almost from the kick off with a second by Stuart Adams after a typical weaving run through the Wyoming defence and neat finish. Adams then looked to have decided the result in the 67th minute with a perfect free-kick to give his team a 6-3 lead and a personal hat-trick. But almost from the kick-off Wyoming hit back with Ian McAndrew finding Ben Farrell to score his second goal. Having scored previously from a Roan Brown cross Ben Green now returned the favour by setting up the young Shark for his second goal of the season. Yet again another goal followed within a minute with Farrell breaking down the right wing and crossing for Pat Mills to score the final goal in a sensational match.
- Capping off a memorable game was that it was played in excellent spirit and sportsmanship between two teams with a great deal of respect for each other. And for the record no blame for any of Avoca's magnificent seven goals could be placed on Wyoming keeper Thomas Coventy. Matt Ryan could have been there and they would all still have gone in!
- Searching for consolation Wyoming have claimed a 13-9 aggregate win from the two clashes between them and Avoca this season! 22 goals in two matches is surely a Premier League record.
- Avoca now have the ultimate 'hard act to follow' when they take on Toukley next Sunday although it is on their home turf at Pluim Park. Wyoming should have a big and vocal crowd when they host traditional rivals Southern-Ettalong in their annual Reunion Day at Alan Davidson Park.

WOONGARRAH 2 BERKELEY VALE 1

- Hamlyn Terrace hosted a big clash in reference to the finals race on Sunday afternoon as the Wildcats welcomed Berkeley Vale looking to extend their unbeaten run to four matches. After an even opening 10 minutes, the visitors found the back of the net to take the lead with Troy Mumford scoring from close range after just 14 minutes with his ninth goal of the season. Only 15 minutes later the 'Cats levelled the match, with striker Kane Woolston scoring from 8-10 yards after a clever square ball picked him out. The equalising goal really brought the game to life, with Berkeley Vale almost regaining the lead in the 30th minute, denied only by a smart save from Woongarra custodian Matt Wilson. The sides continued to trade chances as the first half neared its completion, with Jamie Bartlett spurning a good chance to give his side the lead in the 41st minute. Lachlan Jones got free down the left

before picking Bartlett out with a nicely weighted pass, however the midfielder couldn't hit the target.

- The half-time break appeared to have crushed the momentum of both sides, with neither able to fashion any significant opportunities within the opening 15 minutes of the second half, until Wombats 'keeper Steve Grimmitt was forced to make a good stop after Kane Woolston found himself in behind the Berkeley Vale defensive line and one-on-one with the shot-stopper. This was just the first of a number of big second half saves that saw Grimmitt keep his side in the match, with the second coming in the 67th minute, denying another good Woongarra chance with a big stop. In a period that saw the 'Bats come under significant pressure, they were also provided a gift after 'Cats keeper Matt Wilson was adjudged to have taken down Michael Tawyer in the penalty area, a strange decision from the shot-stopper as Tawyer looked to be posing little threat to goal as he attempted to retrieve a loose ball that looked likely to roll behind for a goal kick. Troy Mumford stepped up to give his side the lead against the run of play, however he couldn't convert, dragging his attempt wide to the left.
- The penalty miss appeared to have significantly boosted the Woongarra side and they were unlucky to be held out a mere three minutes later, with three separate attempts blocked on the line, the first from Grimmitt before a number of defenders managed to recover and scramble the forthcoming efforts away. Called into action again, Grimmitt was on hand to deny Jamie Bartlett in the 79th minute after the ball fell to him at the back post from a corner, before the 'Cats finally found the breakthrough in the 83rd minute, with Alex Govorcin finding the net after another goal mouth scramble saw the ball fall to him, firing past Grimmitt at his near post to cue mass celebration on the Woongarra bench.
- Berkeley Vale pushed hard in the closing 10 minutes for the equalising goal, with 'Cats captain Chris Gavin almost scoring an unfortunate own goal after wrong-footing his keeper with a back pass only to recover in time to clear off the line. An inviting ball into the area then saw Reece Caira draw another good stop from Matt Wilson as the referee blew full-time on an entertaining match.
- The match was to end in unfortunate circumstances after Woongarra's David McPherson was issued a second yellow card following an incident after full-time.
- Round 16 will see Woongarra tested again when they host third-placed Terrigal next Sunday while Berkeley Vale's light grasp on the top-five will be at risk when they take on Killarney in their derby match at EDSACC.

EAST GOSFORD 3 TOUKLEY 0

- The East Gosford Rams headed to Harry Moore Oval for a clash with Toukley, a match carrying much more significance for the Gunners than the Rams due to their respective positions on the Club Championship table. Both sides started the match well resulting in an extremely tight and competitive opening 20 minutes, however the Rams were to make the breakthrough mid-way through the half after Rob Walton found the net to give his side a valuable half-time lead.
- After the deluge of rain that fell at Harry Moore Oval last weekend it was no surprise that the pitch would begin to deteriorate as the game progressed, making it difficult for both sides to keep hold of possession. The Gunners worked hard throughout the second period as they looked for a goal to bring them level however East Gosford remained resolute, wearing down their opposition before two late goals to David McKellar and Michael Lackner

sealed their third win of the season, bringing them to within one point of their eighth placed opponents.

- Commenting on the match, Rams coach Chris Powell added: 'Tight first half, we created a few good chances and scored mid-way through the first half. I felt we again dominated possession throughout the second half and as they eventually tired we found more space on a difficult pitch and ran over the top of them in the final 10 minutes'.
- Most things that could go wrong have gone wrong for both East Gosford and Kanwal this season. After finishing 5th and 6th in 2018 they're now down to 11th and 9th respectively although at least they do have some consolation in that one or other (or both) will come away with points when they meet next Sunday at Wadalba Sports Complex. Toukley will be hoping that Avoca's sensational goal scoring from last Saturday night deserts them when the two teams meet at Pluim Park on Sunday.

TERRIGAL 5 THE ENTRANCE 1

- In a match initially scheduled for Duffy's, wet weather forced the clash between Terrigal United and The Entrance to be relocated to Pat Morley Oval. A slip-up by Wyoming the night before saw Terrigal head into Sunday's clash knowing a win could take them as high as second place on the BPL table, and they made the perfect start to the match after a nicely struck cross from Jai McNamara was deflected into the The Entrance's net from one of their own players within the opening minute.
- Looking to regroup after conceding such an early goal, The Entrance began to grow into the match, however they found themselves two goals down in the 20th minute after Ben Flakus skillfully created a yard in the penalty area before finishing neatly to propel his side into a 2-0 lead. Two nil became three just 10 minutes later after a Terrigal corner was met with a stray punch by The Entrance 'keeper Adam Parkinson, leading to the ball crashing into his own net off of the upright.
- A commanding 3-0 half-time lead saw Terrigal in control of this fixture, and similarly to the first, they found an early second half goal after Anthony Pace scored direct from a corner to extend their lead. Threatening to run away with the match, Terrigal found a fifth after 65 minutes with top-scorer Erik Riquelme netting his tenth of the season after capitalising on a stray clearance from Parkinson to give his side an emphatic 5-0 lead. The Entrance did manage to pull a goal back through Matt Page, however the damage was already done as they crashed to their eleventh loss of the season.
- Terrigal manager Martyn Griffiths was pleased with how his side started Sunday's match, adding: "A comfortable victory for us this weekend. We started the game very well again this week and it's something we have talked about as a squad. We've been tested recently with injuries and absentees, but we have much better depth this year and going 8 unbeaten is testimony to it".
- Both teams have tough matches next Sunday at opposite ends of the ladder with Terrigal up against Woongarra at Hamlyn Terrace and The Entrance at home to Gosford City.

SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 4 GOSFORD CITY 0

- A comfortable win on paper for Southern-Ettalong but the match was much closer than the 4-0 scoreline suggests with the young Dragons in contention until the last eight minutes. In fact take out the first five minutes of each half and the match could have been scoreless until then. As it was Gosford paid the price for slow starts with their former player Sam

Matthews scoring in the third minute of the first half and James Caban on target even earlier in the second stanza. The clinching goal and the final one came within a two-minute period from the usual suspect – Keith Gumbs – who floated above the Gosford defenders to head home from close in.

- After leap-frogging the Wyoming Tigers back into second place the SEU Lions will be looking to ensure that the reverse doesn't happen next Sunday in the Battle of the Big Cats at Alan Davidson Park. Just as important at the opposite end of the table Gosford City will fancy their chances of grabbing their second win of the season when they travel to Pat Morley Oval to play 10th-placed The Entrance.

KILLARNEY DISTRICT 2 KANWAL 1

- Kanwal's frustrating season continues as, for the second time this season, they've gone down to the odd goal against the short-priced competition favourites. It was their seventh loss of the season by that margin which, together with four draws, leaves last season's semi-finalists sitting in second-last place. As is the norm by this part of the season both teams went in without regular first-graders. Kanwal were missing Brad Porter, Ryan Walker, Rick Lea, Callum Dunkerley and Aaron Hammond while Killarney were missing all three Halls, Andy Klijn, Bryce Fielder Blake Silvers and both first-choice goalkeepers. The depth of talent at Killarney has been unmatched by any other club for the past four seasons but is now being tested to the extent that they've been beaten twice in their past three Reserve Grade matches including a 2-1 loss here to Kanwal. These things are relative though and there's no sign of panic in the Terriers kennel, they're still on top of the ladder in all three grades and the club championship!
- Kanwal had an early chance through their 17-year-old flier Joey Liddle but it was Killarney who took the lead in the 14th minute with set-piece specialist John Whelpdale striking a low hard free-kick that skipped past Kanwal keeper Jay Johnson. Kanwal had a couple of chances late in the first half through Brendan Hodges and Liddle. Killarney missed similar scoring opportunities early in the second half before Daniel Rodger converted from close range to double his team's lead in the 60th minute. Kanwal hit back in the 68th minute when a long throw by Brendan Hodges deflected off Terrier defender Sam Kirk's head into his own net. Shortly afterwards Kanwal missed a great chance to equalise when Killarney goalkeeper Cameron Smith saved a one-on-one against Jason Cozens and although the visitors pressed strongly for the remainder of the match the locals held on for a 2-1 win.
- Both teams will be at home next Sunday with Killarney playing their big derby match against Berkeley Vale and Kanwal hosting East Gosford in what will be a crucial match for the Bulls.

	<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	14	11	2	1	43	14	29	35
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	15	10	2	3	43	30	13	32
TERRIGAL	15	9	4	2	47	24	23	31
WYOMING	15	10	0	5	43	25	18	30
WOONGARRAH	15	8	4	3	33	28	5	28
BERKELEY VALE	15	8	2	5	29	18	11	26
AVOCA	15	7	3	5	35	35	0	24
TOUKLEY	14	4	2	8	22	36	-14	14
EAST GOSFORD	15	3	4	8	15	27	-12	13
THE ENTRANCE	15	2	2	11	26	38	-22	8
KANWAL	15	1	4	10	21	33	-12	7
GOSFORD CITY	15	1	1	13	16	54	-38	4

	<i>P</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>U21</i>	<i>Points</i>
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	43	105	68	35	208
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	44	96	68	27	191
TERRIGAL	45	93	56	31	180
WYOMING	45	90	42	35	167
WOONGARRAH	45	84	26	29	139
BERKELEY VALE	45	78	42	11	131
AVOCA	45	72	26	31	129
EAST GOSFORD	45	39	62	17	118
KANWAL	45	21	50	17	88
THE ENTRANCE	45	24	38	15	77
TOUKLEY	44	42	28	3	73
GOSFORD CITY	45	12	6	7	25

16	Keith Gumbs (Southern-Ettalong)
10	Jared McNee (Wyoming), Pat Mills (Wyoming), Jesse Parnell (Gosford City), Erik Riquelme (Terrigal)
9	Matt Hall (Wyoming), Troy Mumford (Berkeley Vale)
8	Stuart Adams (Avoca), Daniel Rodger (Killarney District), Ben Runge (Woongarra), Kane Woolston (Woongarra)
7	James Caban (Southern-Ettalong), Ben Farrell (Wyoming), Ben Flakus (Terrigal), Cameron Wilkinson (Terrigal)
6	Alex Govorcin (Woongarra), Ben Green (Avoca), Rob Walton (East Gosford)
5	Jacob Caban (Southern-Ettalong), Sam Dooley (Wyoming), Brendan Hall (Killarney District), Matt Hall (Killarney District), Jai Kelly (Toukley), Tim Knight (Killarney District), Anthony Pace (Terrigal), James Steer (Southern-Ettalong),

	Ryan Walker (Kanwal),
4	Steve Harpur (East Gosford), Ashley Henderson (Woongarra), Damien Lobb (Berkeley Vale), Josh Menzies (Terrigal), Ryan Oehm (Kanwal), Troy Runge (Toukley), Oliver Twyford (Avoca)

BPL ROUND 16 FIXTURES

SUNDAY 7 JULY			
KANWAL	vs	EAST GOSFORD	Wadalba Sports Complex
WOONGARRAH	vs	TERRIGAL	Hamlyn Terrace
AVOCA	vs	TOUKLEY	Pluim Park 1
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	vs	BERKELEY VALE	EDSACC North
THE ENTRANCE	vs	GOSFORD CITY	Pat Morley Oval
WYOMING	vs	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	Alan Davidson Park

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE SCORES

WOY WOY	2	GWANDALAN	1
KARIONG	0	WYONG	0
UMINA	6	DOYALSON	1
BUDGEWOI	5	OURIMBAH	2
KINCUMBER	Bye		

DIVISION ONE COMPETITION TABLE

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
WOY WOY	11	7	1	3	1	39	19	20	22
BUDGEWOI	10	5	2	3	1	35	21	14	17
KINCUMBER	10	5	2	3	2	21	15	6	17
UMINA	10	4	4	2	2	34	17	17	16
WYONG	11	4	4	3	1	23	18	5	16
KARIONG	10	5	1	4	1	18	15	3	16
OURIMBAH	10	5	0	5	2	31	27	4	15
GWANDALAN	11	4	2	5	1	28	23	5	14
DOYALSON	11	0	0	11	1	7	81	-74	0

DIVISION ONE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	<i>Played</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>Total</i>
UMINA	20	48	54	102
BUDGEWOI	21	51	50	101
WOY WOY	22	66	28	94
WYONG	22	48	38	86
GWANDALAN	22	42	38	80
KINCUMBER	20	51	26	77
OURIMBAH	20	45	20	65
KARIONG	21	48	16	64
DOYALSON	22	0	2	2