

Premium Sporting Products

2019 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS – WEEK 3

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BPL RESULTS – PRELIMINARY FINALS

FIRST GRADE	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	1	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	0
RESERVE GRADE	EAST GOSFORD	2	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	1
UNDER 21	KILLARNEY DISTRICT	3	WOONGARRAH	0

BPL GRAND FINALS – SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

FIRST GRADE	WOONGARRAH vs KILLARNEY DISTRICT	5 PM
RESERVE GRADE	EAST GOSFORD vs SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	2.30 PM
UNDER 21	AVOCA vs KILLARNEY DISTRICT	12 PM

DIVISION ONE RESULTS – GRAND FINALS

FIRST GRADE	UMINA	2	KARIONG	0
RESERVE GRADE	UMINA	4	BUDGEWOI	2

SUMMARY

- After 22 rounds followed by three weeks of the final series the 2019 Battlewin Premier League premiership will be decided next Saturday with a total of five different clubs represented, the most since the three grade Premier League format was re-introduced in 2012.
- Killarney District will be looking to win their fourth straight First Grade grand final in addition to their four consecutive league championships, a record unmatched since the CCF senior competition began in 1972. Standing in the way are the season's surprise packets, the Woongarra Wildcats who will be looking to join Gosford City (1995), Ourimbah (1998) and The Entrance (2014) as the only clubs to have taken out a premiership in the same season that they were promoted. In Woongarra's case it will also be their first year ever in the Premier League.
- The Reserve Grade decider will see Southern-Ettalong take on East Gosford with both looking to end a long drought in that grade, SEU having last won in 1997 and East in 2009.
- The second ever Under 21 grand final will see Killarney looking to repeat their 2018 success while Avoca will contest the club's first ever appearance in a Premier League decider.

- Wet weather again disrupted the scheduling of the finals series with the preliminary final between Killarney District and Southern Ettalong, already deferred once to last Wednesday night being put back again until Saturday and forcing the grand final back until next Saturday
- Umina United have wrapped up a highly successful season taking out both first and reserve grade grand finals as well as the major prize for any second tier club, promotion to the 2020 Battlewin Premier League. It's been a disappointing four-year period for the former Premier League giants who were relegated for the first time in the club's history in 2016, went back up in 2018 only to drop back down at the end of that season.
- For Kariong United, although beaten in the Division One grand final, it was their best season since joining the senior grade competition in 2007 and will no doubt give them plenty of confidence in the seasons ahead.

PRELIMINARY FINAL – KILLARNEY DISTRICT 1 SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 0

- The biggest surprise in the match came even before the opening whistle when it was revealed that Southern's talisman and Battlewin Gold Boot winner, Keith Gumbs, was not on the team sheet having travelled to the Gold Coast where he was employed as a coach with the West Ham Youth Academy.
- The peninsula team had the earliest chance when a corner kick somehow went through both sets of players. In the 18th minute Killarney's Brendan Hall squared the ball to Terrier striker Daniel Rodger whose shot was cleared by the Lions defence. Some end-to-end football saw Southern create another chance before, in the 22nd minute, Rodger scored what would prove to be the decisive goal when he ran onto a pass on the right side of the field, cut back inside a defender then sidestepped the SEU keeper, and his near namesake Daniel Rogers, to score. In what was proving to be the most attractive match to date in an otherwise dour finals series both teams had half chances during the remainder of the first period with both Rogers and his Terriers opposite number, Declan Drake, getting plenty of touches.
- The second half continued to be closely contested with Tim Knight drawing a fine save from Rogers in the 55th minute matched shortly afterwards when Drake made an excellent save to a powerful 30-metre free kick by Jacob Caban. Southern's Theo Forsberg then came even closer when his free-kick was deflected onto Killarney's right upright. With time now running out KDS gradually took control of the match although the game was halted for almost five minutes with a serious head clash forcing Killarney's Cameron Donovan to be stretchered off and taken to hospital. The defending premiers should have sealed the win with two relatively easy chances to Rodger inside added time scuffing the first one wide and having the second saved by Rogers. A further injury delay, this time to Matt Hall, saw the match go 10 minutes overtime but the Terriers had done enough and were through to their fourth straight grand final and their fifth in eight seasons.
- It was another disappointing end to the season for Southern although their stocks continue to grow season by season progressing one match further in first grade after being eliminated in the minor semi-final last season and – more significantly – reaching the semi finals in all three grades with a real chance of winning their first Premier League grand final since 2003 when they take on East Gosford in the Reserve Grade decider.