

Round 21 Previews

By Stuart Flint

Round 21

31 Jul 10 7:00PM Eastern Suburbs v Souths United (Heath Park)

The compass derby promises excitement once again. Easts are the hosts but come off a 4-0 defeat, which Craig Slaughter thought was harsh on the team given their performance. Easts have now conceded seven in two games and will look to rectify that heading into the finals.

Souths come in off the back of a poor run. Not surprisingly the makeshift backline struggled in the 3-2 loss to Hills. The game was going Souths way until a pearler from Jamal Spelta tied up the game heading into the sheds. Souths were the second best in the second half conceding two more. Steve Glockner's side are now right back in the relegation fight.

31 Jul 10 7:00PM Mount Gravatt v Peninsula Power (Dittmer Park)

Mt. Gravatt got back on track with a very welcome 3-2 win away at Redlands United. The Hawks struck at important times en route to victory, with goals early in both halves as well as the critical (as Americans would say) 'go-ahead goal' just before the half-time break. The key to the victory may have been the performance by Duncan Short who kept Redlands to only two goals. Vinny Leite has been scoring goals for Jeff Hogan's side and will be relied on to get the goals to lead to Premier League survival.

The Hawks entertain Power who were beaten by their opponents on home turf. That saw the beginning of a barren run and so Saturday's game could be payback. Power's downfall last week against Capalaba was failing to only score a single goal, even when Power had the man advantage for over 20 minutes. The Power backline featured Brandon Jenkins and Rob Buhmann, both making impressive first-team debuts.

31 Jul 10 7:00PM Pine Hills v Olympic (James Drysdale Res...)

Jamal Spelta's hatrick was a dream for coach Rod Brown as the 16-year old covered for the loss of Andrew Shephard and Mark Battistin to suspension. 'Batts' will miss another 3 games, and Hills could be without Antonio Invincible who suffered from a bad concussion during the 3-2 win at Souths. A metro 2 player, Ian Shaw, came on as a substitute after the incident with Invincible tested the Pythons depth.

Olympic travel to Pine looking to maintain the desired 2nd spot. Michael Butters and Evan Papadopoulus were both on target as Jim Bellas maintained an unbeaten start in the league under his tutelage.

31 Jul 10 7:00PM Pine Rivers United v Redlands United (Wendy Allison Park)

Things went bad to worse for Rivers, having lost to Olympic at the same time relegation rivals Mt Gravatt captured 3 points, sending John Cartwright's team bottom of the table. That was a bad result for Redlands who remain mixed up in the wrong part of the league.

Peter Bannon's side maintained the intensity from a cup win at Olympic to create many chances, which the Mt. Gravatt keeper did well to stop. The Devils should have turned the dominant patches into a win. This game becomes crucial as all the teams at the bottom; a Rivers win would see the bottom of the table more congested than the Brisbane public around Eka time. Nick Serra will not be an option off the bench after he was sent off despite only joining last week's game 12 minutes from the end.

31 Jul 10 7:00PM Rochedale Rovers v Brisbane Wolves (Underwood Park)

Rochedale were pleased with the clean sheet against an attack-minded Taringa last weekend. Rochedale have been free-scoring all season with three players in double figures Carl Tabulo (23), Rhys Hastings (11) and Steve Unsworth (10). They could wrap up the title this weekend, however Wolves offer a threat to whether they can go through 2010 undefeated. Rovers will be missing Terry Hughes through suspension, but may welcome back Ryan Love who has been out with a knee injury.

Wolves have notched two 4-0 wins with goals shared around the attack and midfield. Sam Saif stated it was his side's best half of football in the first stanza against Easts, however it took until midway through the second half for Wolves to ice that contest.

1 Aug 10 3:00PM Brisbane City v Taringa Rovers (Spencer Park)

City were involved in a blockbuster with Beenleigh last week. Eddie Tesoro's side looked to have the game won after blitzing the Lions with 3 goals in 5 minutes. Toru Seki and Julian Zullo's pace up front caused the Beenleigh defence headaches. The second half saw Beenleigh make changes which sparked a spell of 3 goals in 5 minutes themselves. That forced City to hold on at the death to an entertaining 5-4 win. That result should end all relegation talk surrounding City.

Taringa have been defeated twice now in back-to-back games and remain threatened with relegation. Joe Fenech thought that against Rochedale they acquitted themselves well and played some very confident and purposeful football. It was Steven Chester's goals that helped their tremendous run through June; however, his goals have dried up of late.

1 Aug 10 4:00PM Capalaba v Beenleigh (John Fredericks Park)

Capalaba are still vying for the 2nd spot in the table, but will have to enter the game against Beenleigh without Moses Petelo. Against Power, Petelo was dismissed after a sideline scuffle and put his side on the back foot, minutes after he'd scored. Thankfully, for Petelo his goal was the winner, and his was a solid result which keeps a good run going. Power have scored a lot of late, so most pleasing was only a single goal conceded, especially when Power were throwing everything at them.

Beenleigh's horrendous spell cost them dearly in their 5-4 home loss to City leading to the Lions finally slipping into the bottom 2. Beenleigh improved after Nick Morris rang the changes during the break. The second half performance, which included doubles for Aaron Noble and Jack Phillips, should bring confidence into this game.