

KICKOFF

2022



SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST
BLACKTOWN CITY FOOTBALL CENTRE
KICK-OFF 1PM

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2022 Waratah Cup Final, an opportunity that will see both NWS Spirit FC and Sydney United 58 battle for Football NSW's first piece of silverware.

It's been an amazing year for the 2022 Waratah Cup and it all will come to a climax today at the Blacktown City Football Centre.

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID locking down our competitions, it is with great pleasure we look forward to a wonderful match with a real 'David v Goliath' feel.

NWS Spirit FC will compete in its second ever Waratah Cup Final after narrowly missing out in 2010 going down on penalties to the Marconi Stallions while Sydney United 58 are on the verge of making history should they win their seventh ever Waratah Cup joining Hakoah Sydney City as the most successful team in this amazing historic knockout Cup competition.

Cup Finals always produce an entertaining spectacle and this year's combatants will be no exception. I would like to extend a huge congratulations to all teams involved in this season's Waratah Cup for their participation and support of this historic tournament.

Finally a big thank you to the fans for your tremendous support today and throughout the season. Good luck to both teams and I hope this year's Waratah Cup Final lives long in your memory.

Stuart Hodge
Chief Executive Officer
Football NSW



Football NSW would like to acknowledge Deploy Football, the official ball sponsors of the Waratah Cup.

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TEAM LISTS



- 1 Christopher Marques (GK)
- 2 Brian Jamba
- 3 Musashi Kokubo
- 4 Kota Odakura
- 5 Jordan Gomez
- 6 Corey Kavanagh
- 7 Goffry Lino
- 8 Grant Cornwell
- 9 Richard Darko
- 10 Louis Bozanic
- 11 Mitchell Davidson
- 12 Blake Ilitich
- 13 Luke Cotten (GK)
- 14 Jack Berte
- 15 Ronan Connolly
- 18 Jake Mamone
- 19 Dominic Johns
- 21 Aidan Taouil
- 22 Christian Cirino
- 23 Michael Konestabo

Head Coach: David Perkovic
Assistant Coach: Luca Falcone
Team Manager: Anthony Lazaro
Football Manager: Geoffrey Macfadyen
Conditioning Coach: Gary Rafferty
Physiotherapist: Brodey Castle



- 1 Danijel Nizic (GK)
- 2 Cristian Gonzalez
- 3 Jordan Roberts
- 4 Adrian Vlastelica (C)
- 5 Anthony Tomelic
- 6 Christopher Payne
- 7 Taisei Kaneko
- 8 Kyle Cimenti
- 9 Patrick Antelmi
- 10 Devante Clut
- 11 Yianni Perkatis
- 13 Jordan Ivancic
- 14 Andrea Agamemnonos
- 15 Tariq Maia
- 16 Jacob Poscoliero
- 17 Matthew Bilic
- 18 Glen Trifiro
- 19 Mihael Marcic
- 22 Yianni Fragogiannis

Head Coach: Miro Vlastelica
S/C Coach: Todd Brodie
Goalkeeper Coach: Vitas Males
Gear Steward: Ray Gerrie

Referee:

Craig Fisher

Assistant Referees:

Joon Park and Matt Staples

Fourth Official:

Adrian Arndt

*TEAM LISTINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MATCH PREVIEW

When NWS Spirit FC and Sydney United 58 FC face off in the final of the 2022 Waratah Cup, it will be a clash of two sides, in two different divisions, with two very different seasons.

For Sydney United 58, a change of coaching staff via the appointment of Miro Vlastelica came after a tough run of results for the club in the early stages of the NSW National Premier league season.

After taking over the reins in May, Vlastelica took the club on a run of just 4 defeats in 18 across all competitions, narrowly short of a NSW National Premier League finals berth.

However, given the position they were in, to now be competing for silverware in such a short period is a “massive achievement,” according to Vlastelica who admits the turnaround was “just about going back to basics.”

“This is one of the best groups I’ve worked with in a long time. It’s a top change room.

“It was just about putting a smile on their face, getting them to enjoy football again.

Now, with NWS Spirit FC standing between them and glory, Vlastelica knows of the dangers this side faces with the likes of goalscorers Goffry Lino, Michael Konestabo and Richard Darko.

“Our opponents have done very well in their league this season. Clinching promotion into the NSW National Premier League is a huge achievement for their club.

“We’re expecting a very tough fixture, but I’m confident the determination our boys have shown this season to turn things around will be vital come Sunday’s final.”

For David Perkovic, his NWS Spirit FC side couldn’t be better prepared for Sunday.

Coming off the back of 20 games undefeated in all competitions, and clinching promotion to the NSW National Premier League for the first time, Perkovic admits his side is “doing really well.”

However, Perkovic understands that form goes out the window in contests such as the Waratah Cup Final and that his opponents shouldn’t be taken lightly.

“They’ve got a very experienced squad, with constant threats up top like Chris Payne, Kyle Cimenti and Patrick Antelmi so we’ll be very wary of them.”

“But you know, we’ll go in there and play the way we play and attempt to keep most of the ball.

“If we can control the game with a ball and control the tempo of the game, then it will go a long way to for us having a really good chance of lifting some silverware.”

Road to the 2022 Waratah Cup Final

Both clubs have made their way to the final by way of the Australia Cup which subsequently qualified them for the Waratah Cup semi finals, the final match on each of their runs.

For Sydney United 58, victories over Quakers Hill Junior SC, Rockdale Ilinden FC, Hurstville FC & Northern Tigers & FC Bonnyrigg White Eagles FC.

Similarly for NWS Spirit FC, they came through the Australia Cup with victories against Hills United FC, Parramatta FC & NSW National Premier League outfit, Wollongong Wolves FC and Wollongong United FC.

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KONESTABO HOPING FOR A 'CUPSET' ON SUNDAY

NWS Spirit can add to what has already been a history-making season for the club by lifting the Waratah Cup against Sydney United 58 on Sunday.

This year, the side has already gained promotion to the National Premier Leagues NSW competition as well as earning a place in the Round of 32 of the Australia Cup.

Star attacker Michael Konestabo believes that matches against NPL opposition like Sydney United 58 provide a taste of what is to come for Spirit in 2023.

"Sydney United are a great team, and this can just be a test for what we're going to deal with next year and where we have to improve and how we can compare ourselves to NPL teams," he said.

"We obviously have to respect them. We respect every team.

"We just want to play our football and show them what we can do."

The side has already had some success against State top-flight opposition in 2022 knocking out 2019 Premiers Wollongong Wolves in Round 7 of the Australia Cup in June.

"That game just really proved that we can battle with NPL teams and that gives us a lot of confidence that we can do that going into the Cup final," he said.

Konestabo explained how strength in depth will be key for the side this week.

"Having a good bench is very important, so it's going to help us through this tough week we've got ahead," he said.

"We have a lot of depth in our team as well, and we can mix it up."

With the team still competing on multiple fronts including the FNSW League One finals series, Konestabo was excited heading into Sunday's match.

"I think with the Waratah Cup, picking up silverware could be the first of a couple with finals coming up," he said.

"It would mean everything. Any bit of silverware we can win, we want to take it.

"I think we've got a lot of positivity, especially with our unbeaten run in the league.

"I think the boys will be up for it, and hopefully we can go sing that song and lift the trophy."





Sydney United 58 can equal Hakoah Sydney City East's record of seven Waratah Cups with a victory against NWS Spirit on Sunday.

United forward Kyle Cimenti explained how lifting the trophy would be the best of finishes to what has been an underwhelming league season for the side finishing eighth.

"I think this year as a whole has been an up-and-down year," he said.

"It's massive for me and the whole team to get something out of this season.

"For us to win any competition is massive so all our focus is on that, and it's a good achievement for the club."

The side defeated Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the semi-finals coming from two goals at haltime to claim a place in Sunday's match.

"I thought we showed good character that game, obviously to go down as we were and then in the second half pick things up and really rally from there," he said.

"It shows the team's character and their will to

win and to go the whole way and win the whole competition."

Cimenti acknowledged the challenge posed by NWS Spirit this Sunday with the newly promoted NPL side proving to be a tricky outfit this season.

"They're a very good side," he said.

They have a great coach. Their style of play is a good brand of football as well, and I think it's going to be a tough game for us on Sunday."

The forward believed the side would put their best foot forward this weekend given there is silverware on the line for the six-time winners.

"The last few weeks, we've taken some good results and we've had some good performances and I think we're going to carry that into Sunday," he said.

"I think we've got that extra will to win. Being a cup final this weekend, everyone's going to put 110% into the game.

"To win any sort of silverware for the club is a massive honour for such a big club as well just to add to the trophy cabinet would just be great."



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