

# KICKOFF



## 2022 GRAND FINAL



**SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE**  
**UNDER 20S - 12PM • FIRST GRADE - 3PM**

# MATCH PREVIEW

It was written in the stars! After we were unable to separate them points wise on the premiership table and after a Semi Final which went deep into extra time, St George City and Central Coast Mariners meet once again in the League One Men's Grand Final this weekend with a championship on the line.

In their three meetings this season, a game hasn't been decided within 90 minutes with an injury time goal deciding the first, a goalless draw the second and a period of extra time in the third. So strap in as we take a look at how either side are coming into the big one.

Let's start with the team who qualified first for the Grand Final in St George City. Undefeated since mid-June while also keeping it tight at the back, they come into the game as the form side. And that's not to mention their positive record against this weekend's opponents including in the semi-final just a fortnight ago.

Indeed that was the last time we saw them take the field, with City producing a memorable comeback with goals coming in both injury and extra time.

Their opposition Central Coast Mariners have taken the harder route (although they did have a week off earlier in the finals series). After their loss against St George City a fortnight ago which broke a seven-match unbeaten run, they produced a clinical performance against Northern Tigers last weekend in which they proved a class above.

Lachlan Bayliss and Sasha Kuzevski scored the goals, but it really was an all-round performance where no player put a foot wrong.



So let's break a bit from tradition and take you through teams before the big one.

St George City have quality across the park and a big strength of theirs is their mentality. Mackenzie Syron is a mainstay in goals, Alexander Kyriacou has slotted in seamlessly in recent weeks replacing Brendan Hooper in centre back who picked up an injury. His joined by Nicholas Kalogerou who you could make a good case for being signing of the season. Troy Danaskos is ever-present on the left side of defense while Matthew Keremelevski has replaced an injured Stephen Athanaseris on the right.

Further up the park, Tarik Ercan is their fearless leader in defensive midfield. Jakub Prajza, Alex Malfara, and Paolo Mityr will play their respective roles in midfield. While Nathan Roberts and Reuben Awaritefe are both in form up front and they can challenge any defense.

That's not to discount the influence of Jordan Morfitis, Damian German, Josh Keremelevski and Antonio Saracino who have all played their part in the season. (Hope that's everyone, let me know Saturday if I missed you, haha).

Central Coast Mariners have plenty of experience in the big occasion with a potential eight of their players appearing in either the U20's or first grade grand final back in 2020.

Harry McCarthy and Cameron Windust played in the first grade that day, while Sasha Kuzevski, Lachlan Bayliss, Joshua Hong, Dean Larson, Bradley Tapp and Ben Duncan all played in the 20's (a side which also featured Reuben Awaritefe).



Elsewhere, Marko Bulic has quickly claimed the No.1 goalkeeper spot, Jakub Cresnar plays a pivotal role in the side, while Jackson Khoury, Dor Jok and Maksim Kasalovic provide the excitement. They also possess a strong bench with names like Nicholas Duarte and Jordan Segreto available to make a difference.

It's enough to whet the appetite, isn't it? And we only have to wait three days to the conclusion of the 2022 season which you can catch at Sydney United Sports Centre. Or via NPL.TV with Alex Molchanoff on the call for the big game (best we don't tell you what happened the last time we covered a grand final).



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# UNDER 20S

## TEAM LISTS



1	Marco	Bulic
7	Dylan	Susovic
16	Harry	Talbot
17	Nikola	Skataric
18	Andre	Parkes
20	Alex	Parkes
23	Ethan	Beaven
24	Zac	Zoricich
25	Bailey	Brandtman
26	Adrian	Delmoni
28	Teng	Kuol
31	Max	Middleby
32	Ezra	Palombini
34	Aidan	Milicevic
35	Caleb	Trowbridge
36	Zac	Waddell
37	Toby	Peil
39	Riley	Byrn

Head Coach: Lucas Vilela  
Assistant Coach: Luke Wilkshire  
Physio: Jayden McCurdy  
Team Manager: Ian Duncan  
Head of Football: Ken Schembri



2	Daanish	Awaz
3	Liam	Bonetig
6	George	Daniel
7	Marcus	Younis
8	Oliver	Randazzo
9	Thomas	Lopez
10	Miguel	Di Pizio
11	Gianni	Di Pizio
14	Jakov	Malbasa
15	Jesse	Photi
17	Dean	Bosnjak
18	Luca	Pecora
19	Ryley	Hollingdale
20	Jack	Gibson
30	Anthony	Pavlesic
62	Owen	Henderson
83	Ayman	Gulasi

Head Coach: Geoff Abrahams  
Assistant Coach: Peter Kofinas  
Team Manager: Adrian Talevski

Referee: Rebecca Mackie  
Assistant Referees: Jamie Ewin and Mujtaba Ebrahimi  
Fourth Official: Jake Rose

# FIRST GRADE

## TEAM LISTS



1	Mackenzie	Syron
3	Troy	Danaskos
5	Nicholas	Kalogerou
6	Tarik	Ercan
7	Nathan	Roberts
8	Alexander	Malfara
9	Mark	Moric
10	Paolo	Mitry
11	Jordan	Morfitis
13	Evan	Davis
14	Antonio	Saracino
15	Reuben	Awaritefe
16	Jakub	Prajza
17	Joshua	Keremelevski
18	Alexander	Kyriacou
20	Damian	German
24	Matthew	Keremelevski

Head Coach: Mirko Jurilj

Assistant Coach: Adrian Webster

Team Manager: Steve Keremelevski



1	Marco	Bulic
2	Sasha	Kuzevski
3	Josh	Hong
4	Dean	Larson
5	Jakob	Cresnar
6	Bradley	Tapp
8	Lachlan	Bayliss
9	Dor	Jok
10	Harry	McCarthy
11	Jackson	Khoury
13	Stefan	Nikolic
14	Nicholas	Duarte
15	Jordan	Segreto
20	Alex	Parkes
21	Maksim	Kasalovic
22	Cameron	Windust
24	Zac	Zoricich
27	Ben	Duncan

Head Coach: Luke Wilkshire

Assistant Coach: Lucas Vilela

Physio: Jayden McCurdy

Team Manager: Ian Duncan

Head of Football: Ken Schembri

Referee: Sam Kelly

Assistant Referees: Brodie Merchant and Matt Staples

Fourth Official: Danny Horstead

## NATHAN ROBERTS KEEN ON SPOILING MARINERS' PARADE

A club on the rise with a top tier appearance on the horizon, St George City are no strangers to the final game of the season. And approaching this weekend's League One Men's Grand Final, we caught up with one of their stars in the lead up to the big game.

Having had a rough start to the season with injury, Nathan Roberts have played a crucial role in the run home scoring six goals in the last two months of the season. We chatted to him about the season past, the big game this weekend and beyond as we prepare for Saturday afternoon.

Roberts who joined the club in 2020 sensed something was building at the club from the get-go.

"I wasn't sure where I was going to end up when I was looking for my fresh start, I met with Aytek Genc and Mirko Jurilj and straight away felt that we shared the same passion and hunger to succeed.

"Come the first pre-season session, I saw the quality in the squad that had been assembled, and I knew I had made the right decision."

Asked about how this season has gone for him personally, Roberts told Football NSW.

"On a personal note my season hasn't been easy. Started the season with a two-week suspension, then at training I tore 2 ligaments in my ankle which put me out for another 4 weeks.

"So I did feel a little underdone for the first half of the season, but felt I've come good in the second half of the season and just happy I can help the team and club achieve what we all set out to achieve at the start of the year."

On a team note, there has been plenty to be proud about from a City perspective as he continues.

"We started the season well with a few good results & we have been fairly consistent throughout the year. Every single player has played there part throughout, they have all pulled their weight in one game or another."

And overall it's been a successful season no doubt. Achieving promotion, finishing equal top on points, and being the first team to qualify for the grand final is something to be proud of.

Crucial to their success though has been how they have come together as a group as Roberts continued.

"Honestly the boys are all legends, such a tight group. You can barely get a word in in the changeroom



with all the banter getting thrown around and all the laughter. We all get along so well (apart from at training when we are on opposite teams) that's just because we are all so competitive.

"The semi-final was just another showing of the teams never say die attitude, could be all that last goal wins at training."

Looking ahead, an NPL NSW Men's berth most likely awaits the club and the excitement is palpable.

"The club has been knocking on the door to the NPL NSW Men's the last few years, but Covid hasn't let us in. We all turned that negative outcome of last season into a driving force for this season and it paid off."

But first, there's the grand final to look forward to and they want to farewell the division on top.

"After a tough thrilling game in the semi-final vs the Mariners, I reckon everyone was hoping to see a rematch. It's only fair to say that the teams who finished equal 1st together get to go at it once and for all in the big dance.

"We are all buzzing for it."

## KUZEVSKI HAS EYES ON CLINCHING THE DOUBLE

After another successful season for the Central Coast Mariners academy, they go into this weekend's League One Men's grand final looking to claim the double

A key figure in the team this year, Sasha Kuzevski is just one of a long production line coming out of the Mariners. And in anticipation of the grand final coming up this Saturday, we caught up with him to discuss the match this weekend and the season gone by.

Claiming the premiership, we firstly asked Kuzevski about the season gone by.

"Been a very good season from a team perspective, the boys have worked hard over the past few seasons which have been tough due to covid. We set our goals at the start of the season with our main two goals being to retain our 2020 season double, so we can't wait for this weekend's final.

"From an individual perspective I have been happy with my season and hope for another strong performance this weekend."

Key to that Premiership win has been a winning mentality instilled into the academy as Sasha reflects.

"Monty and Serge have embedded winning habits and winning mentality since they took over the Academy. The boys know that with team success comes individual success, and as we all have ambitions of playing at the highest level, this is used as extra motivation to perform consistently.

"Our side isn't built around any individual players, each player is and has an important role in the squad, the reason we won the league title and are in the grand final is due to consistent performances from

everyone involved."

Kuzevski's performances saw him get his first taste at first team action in a recent friendly game against Capital All-Stars.

"The preseason game I was involved in was amazing for me. Although it was a friendly, it was still my first start for the senior side and definitely a game I won't forget.

"The whole week in Canberra was a fantastic opportunity for us to bond and become closer as teammates, so I am very grateful and humble to have been given that experience."

But of course, the League One Men's Grand final is next on the agenda and Kuzevski as well as some of his team mates can call on some experience from the 20's grand final victory in 2020.

"My memories of the 2020 Grand Final were awesome, of course we managed to come away with the win in both 20s and first grade so that winning feeling is something I'm hoping to experience again on Saturday. Grand finals are rare and don't happen every season so I'm hoping that it's another memorable day for myself and the club.

"St George City are a good side with good individual players, so we need to respect them.

"However we are very confident going into this week's game and know that we have the quality to hurt the opposition at any given time. If we stick to our game plan, I have no doubt we will be crowned Champions."







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