

# KICKOFF



## 2022 GRAND FINALS



**VALENTINE SPORTS PARK**  
**SATURDAY 17TH - SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER**

# MATCH PREVIEW

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It all comes down to this one on Sunday afternoon at Valentine Sports Park as the Macarthur Rams take on the Northern Tigers in the #NPLWNSW Grand Final.

Since mid-April, 12 teams fought tooth and nail to find themselves playing on the final day of the season with the opportunity to be crowned Champions of the competition.

When the semi-final pairings were made last week, neither of these teams were considered favourites against their opponents but both definitely showed they have the quality and class to play for the ultimate prize.

These two have played twice this season, the first game ending in a 1-0 victory for the Tigers courtesy of an early Ash Brodigan goal.

The second ended in a draw at Lynwood Park, again, the Tigers took an early lead through Isabel Gomez before Patty Charalambous equalised on the half hour mark, the match ending in a 1-1 draw.

## MACARTHUR RAMS

The Macarthur Rams needed an extra 30 minutes to get over and defeat APIA Leichhardt at Lambert Park with veteran Leena Khamis playing a key role in that victory.

What is more, they showed fight and grit after losing the week before to the same opponent to put up a match winning performance.

The Rams have peaked at the right time and been in fine form, losing only two games since July and shooting up the ladder and booking their finals place.

### The Coach

Stephen Peters is experienced at this level after spending time at NWS Spirit and the Blacktown Spartans. The title eluded him back in 2016 when he lost the grand final with the NWS Spirit (Koalas at the time) and will be keen to go one better this time around.

He has managed to put together an excellent team and build a squad with the players he selected, strong enough to go all the way.

### Key Player(s)

It's the spine of this team that makes it as strong as it is. Sham Khamis is one of the best goal keepers in the competition, Madison McComasky has grown next to the experienced Alex Huynh in defence making their defensive core strong.

The midfield pairing of Beth Gordon and Mel Caceres compliment each other adding to both the team's stability and creativity.

Leena Khamis is a terror for defences. Her aggressive defence from the front puts oppositions under pressure but her intelligence to assist her team mates and score makes her extremely difficult to defend.

### X-Factor

It's hard to pick between Laura Murtagh and Patty Charalambous but the latter gets the nod due to her dangerous set pieces.

Charalambous has been involved with a high amount of the Rams' goals this season, not only are her corners deadly but she can also strike a precise cross into the box or shot on goal.

## NORTHERN TIGERS

Two weeks ago, they looked down and they looked out. Sydney Uni quite literally dismantled them and almost put them out of the finals. Showing true Tigers' courage and bravery, they came out and did what-ever Uni did to them the week before to knock out the Premiers.

The Tigers form moving into the finals was not exactly where they would have liked it to be but rose at the right time. They only won two games of their last 10 before the Uni semi final match but definitely have the quality to go all the way.

They lost some important players throughout the campaign, none more important than their young super-star Aideen Keane who has missed the season due to injury.

### The Coach

In his first season at the helm as head coach, Jake Stephenson could not have wished for a better start to his first-grade coaching career.

As mentioned previously, he has had to deal with losing key players throughout the campaign but also leaders from the team from the previous season.

### Key Player(s)

Stars all over the park and similarly to their opponents, their goal keeper Morgan Aquino is fantastic and important part of their team.

Isabel Gomez and Malia Steinmetz have been standouts this season and will be key in both defence and midfield in not just breaking up play but also creating for their team mates.

Hannah McNulty and Maddie Bart add heart to this Tigers squad while all eyes will be on top scorer Ash Brodigan who will be entrusted with doing what she does best, finding the back of the net.

### X-Factor

It has to be Shadeene Evans. Always promising so much quality and when she is on, Evans is extremely difficult to stop. Just ask Sydney Uni. She was fantastic last weekend and should she put up another performance like that, the Rams will have their hands full.

She's fast, skilful and can score, a real 'x-factor' for the Northern Tigers in this one.

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator  
Nikola Pozder*



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# FIRST GRADE TEAM LISTS

SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER - KICKOFF 3PM



1	Morgan	Aquino
2	Josie	Wilson
4	Abbey	Green
5	Ariella	Cabezas
6	Izzy	Gomez
7	Hannah	McNulty
8	Maddie	Bart
9	Shadeene	Evans
10	Malia	Steinmetz
13	Ella	Tonkin
14	Beth	Bernardi
15	Sienna	Fraser
16	Tess	Rickard
17	Lily	McMahon
18	Ashlee	Brodigan
19	Teal	Kilbride
36	Sabine	Montenegro
41	Danielle	Bartels

Coach: Jake Stephenson

Team Manager: Verity Stone



1	Shamiran	Khamis (GK) (C)
2	Holly	Williams
5	Lauren	Keir
7	Chloe	Gordon
9	Leena	Khamis
10	Kylie	Ledbrook
11	Patricia	Charalambous
12	Laura	Murtagh
14	Miku	Sunaga
15	Sophie	Macalpine
19	Olivia	Sloan
20	Chrystal	Duggan
22	Alexandra	Huynh
25	Darcey	Malone
26	Melissa	Caceres
27	Jasmine	Limon
30	Danielle	Bishop
32	Bethany	Gordon
36	Isabella	Foletta
40	Madison	McComasky
41	Brianna	Clarke (GK)

Coach: Stephen Peters

Assistant Coaches: Pete Nowakowski,

Theo Laspatzis, Carlos Guajardo

Team Manager: Claire Mcfadden

**Referee:**

**Chloe Gray**

**Assistant Referees:**

**Alexis Johnson and Matt Staples**

**Fourth Official:**

**Harriet Gee**

**Assessor:**

**Jenny Bray**

\*TEAM LISTINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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**FOOTBALL  
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# NORTHERN TIGERS

## STEINMETZ FOCUSED ON GRAND FINAL GLORY WITH TIGERS

Malia Steinmetz has grown into one of the Northern Tigers' best players and an important part of their fantastic results in the #NPLWNSW competition.

When the Kiwi international transitioned from the midfield to centre back, the move may have raised some eyebrows, but in fact, she has been colossal for the Tigers.

The Tigers new-made centre back has looked a natural with her tenacity and intelligent play in what has not been an easy season for the side from North Turrumurra.

"The season has for sure been up and down for us, but we have come together stronger because of it," Steinmetz said.

Steinmetz leads from the back and will have to do the same Sunday in the grand final in what she knows will be a tough game.

"We're expecting it to be a tough game with a good physical opponent so hopefully we all stick to our roles and perform how we know we can and get that golden result."

Speaking about their opponents, Steinmetz knows the quality and danger they possess.

"Rams are a good, cohesive team with good leaders and will be hard to break down. No matter what the score line, I know both of us won't back down so it'll be a tough energetic game right through to the end."

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator  
Nikola Pozder*



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**FOOTBALL  
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A debut season dreams are made of at Lynwood Park and the Macarthur Rams for Madison McComasky in the #NPLWNSW competition.

Born in Sydney, McComasky spent a large amount of her football career in the United States within the college system before returning home and putting on the Rams jersey.

She has definitely caught the eye with the Rams playing in both midfield and defence, showing fine composure and control on the ball.

"From when I first got to the club I knew there were high expectations and a goal to achieve. It's my first season at the Rams and I have loved every moment of it. There is great experience at the club and I have grown and learnt to so much from the players around me," McComasky said.

There is still work to do for McComasky and her team mates though.

"The job isn't done yet, but the girls have proven we deserve to be in the final and I hope to take it all the way with them."

McComasky will more than likely line up in the centre of defence next to the experienced Alex Huynh on

Sunday and she believes that the Rams need to keep composed and they can get the job done.

"The expectations ahead of the final is to just keep going how we have been. We have been gaining momentum and have gotten stronger each week. I think our semi-final against APIA was a great test and preparation for the final where we showed hunger and desire down to the last minute," she said.

"The girls know it's not going to be an easy game and are ready to go all the way."

Standing in their way of claiming the Championship are a strong and well drilled Northern Tigers outfit who won't make it easy.

"Tigers are a strong side to come up against in the final. It's going to be a tough battle from the beginning. I don't think people were expecting a Rams v Tigers final but both teams have worked so hard to be here and won't go down easy."

Celebrating her 23rd birthday in just over a week or so, it would be the ultimate gift for the talented youngster who is yet to be picked up by an A-League Women's outfit for the 2022-23 season.

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator  
Nikola Pozder*



# NORTHERN TIGERS

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## STEPHENSON PREPARING HIS TIGERS TROOPS FOR A SHOT AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

In his first season at the helm, Jake Stephenson is only one game away from winning the #NPLWNSW Championship when they face the Macarthur Rams in the Grand Final.

The last time the Tigers were here was in 2019 under the tutelage of Jason Eagar, that day went the way of Sydney University as the Tigers fell in a penalty shoot-out.

Stephenson will look to go one better than his predecessor when they travel to Valentine Sports Park on Sunday afternoon.

The Tigers were in the top four for most of the season but almost missed out on a finals place on the last day of the season where Uni dismantled them.

Only seven days later and the Tigers returned the favour where it hurt most, in the semi-final.

"The players lifted themselves and wanted to perform at the highest level. They're great people so we openly acknowledged the areas to improve then did not dwell on the result," the Tigers coach said.

"We analysed the game, outlined the problems and then coached the solution. We focused heavily on 'the what if's' of the game and worked on scenarios. We also had a team pizza night, that always helps!"

Stephenson and his team enjoyed the victory on Sunday, in particular in front of a healthy crowd with a large number of Northern Tigers juniors.

"The Senior players enjoyed their moment after Sunday's win, particularly as they very much wanted to perform to their potential in the lead up to the game all week."

"As we also look to inspire the next generation of players, it was fantastic to see many young Tigers players and fans at VSP supporting the team and playing their part in the First Grade making a grand final."

The Tigers come up against a difficult and in form opponent in the Macarthur Rams and Stephenson has full confidence in his team to get the job done.

"Our expectations are to be as competitive as possible going into a grand final. We have respect



for Macarthur Rams and for the season they have had," Stephenson said.

"They are a strong opponent with technical players. Yet if we play to our strengths and embrace the opportunity we hope to come out victorious and create history for Northern Tigers."

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator  
Nikola Pozder*

# MACARTHUR RAMS

## PETERS DREAMING OF CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS WITH RAMS

What a season it has been for the Macarthur Rams and for their head coach Stephen Peters as they prepare for their first grand final appearance since 2018 when they won the Championship.

Since that grand final victory, the Rams did not make the finals for two consecutive seasons, something that did not happen for a very long time at Lynwood Park.

Peters though has managed to steady the ship, build a competitive team and get his team playing good football and winning games.

Finishing third in the regular season after dropping a place and losing to APIA Leichhardt on the final day, the Rams had to face the same opponents again only a week later.

The Rams put in a fine performance and got the job done in a gruelling fixture after 120 minutes of football.

"A fantastic team performance driven by a deep burning desire to get back to the Grand Final and fight for the title. Every single player that took the pitch did the club proud," Peters said.

How much it meant to the Rams was obvious with the post-game celebrations, something Peters tried to describe.

"Pure elation, the tight nature of the game and how it was won brought everyone to a massive high and hopefully we can ride that high this week going into the biggest game of the season!"

"For us it was just about keeping it simple, not over complicating things and staying focused on what we believe in and how we want to play the game. We felt that we had a strong showing the week before which laid the foundation to take the game on with confidence."

The young Rams coach is hoping his team can take that positivity and confidence into Sunday afternoons fixture.

"Our expectations for the Grand Final are to win! It's the showpiece game of the competition, something we have worked towards for two years and we can't wait to get out there," Peters said.



Peters has high praise for his opposite number Jake Stephenson and the Tigers squad.

"Northern Tigers are a well-coached, well drilled outfit with some very classy players across the park. We will need to be at our best to repel them and to put our best foot forward to try and win the Championship."

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator  
Nikola Pozder*

# NORTHERN TIGERS

## SKIPPER MADDIE BART HOPING TO LAND CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Maddie Bart is part of the furniture at the Northern Tigers and one of the most important players that wears the green and white every week in the #NPLNSW competition.

It took until the last day of the season for the Northern Tigers to secure their finals place in what Bart says has been a fantastic campaign.

"The competition has hit a new level this year and I've loved being a part of it. Like all teams, we've had our ups and downs, struggling at times with injuries and availability but I'm extremely proud of the fight we've shown to earn a spot in Sunday's final," Bart said.

Spoken like a true leader, the Tigers captain has been impressed by a number of her team mates this season.

"I've been very impressed with Hannah McNulty who has had a breakout season in 2022, and of some of our emerging players like Tess Rickard and Lily McMahon who have debuted and played a crucial role in our squad. We've hit form at the right time and confidence is at an all-time high at Turramurra – we believe we can do it and can't wait to get stuck in," said Bart.

This week, Bart will take part in her second grand final in the last three seasons (no finals in 2021) and look to lift the Championship as the Tigers captain.

That penalty shoot-out in 2019 was a tough defeat to take but after the season the Tigers have had, Bart and her team will be confident they can go one better in 2022.

"We are full of excitement heading into Sunday's grand final and are expecting a tough and physical game. We will come out firing and expect nothing less from the Rams. I'm looking forward to a hard fought battle to close out season 2022," said the Tigers captain.

On their opponents in Sunday's grand final, the Macarthur Rams, Bart has been impressed with the season they have had and says they earned their place in the biggest game of the year.

"Rams are a strong club and have been a major threat in the competition for many years. They have plenty of talent and experience in the group and have had a fantastic 2022 season. They showed some real fight in their semi last week and are very deserving of their spot in the final."

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator  
Nikola Pozder*



# MACARTHUR RAMS

## LEGENDARY LEENA KHAMIS BELIEVES IN RAMS SPIRIT

Leena Khamis is one of the veterans of the #NPLWNSW competition and a Macarthur Rams legend who is gunning for her second Championship in four seasons with the Rams.

Her quality is unprecedented and her work rate is second to none but most importantly, she is the Macarthur Rams' longest serving player.

Starting her career at the club from 14, she is now playing her 22nd season for the Macarthur Rams and is still going strong.

Khamis has been pleased with how this 22nd season has unfolded for her team and was impressed with how strong the competition was.

"I've really enjoyed this season, it's been one of, if not, the most competitive NPL season that I've played in," Khamis said.

"We knew it would be a very challenging year but our goal was to make the Top Four and we did. As a club we are very happy with what we have achieved so far this season."

After missing out on finals for two consecutive seasons, it wasn't something Khamis and the Rams were used to. They set out to amend that in 2022 and were successful.

"We've worked very hard the last two years to get here. The club hasn't made finals or the grand final for 4 years. The last time we won the championship was in 2018 so we miss that feeling."

"For some of our squad it's the first time they've been a part of a grand final so it's exciting for them and for others we've been fortunate enough to know what it's like to come into a big game like this."

"We are all looking forward to the challenge. We will enjoy the lead up to the game this week at training and the game itself, which should be a great final," the veteran said.

Khamis won't take the Tigers lightly, in fact expects a very tough game against a fantastic opponent who they didn't beat in their two battles this season.

"It's going to be a very tough and physical game. We've had two close games against Northern Tigers so far this season."

"We know that they will be ready for our style of play and what we'll bring on Sunday. They're a confident team with some in-form players but I believe we've prepared well and have peaked in time for finals."

*By NPL NSW Women's Chief Writer and Commentator Nikola Pozder*



# RESERVE GRADE

SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER - KICKOFF 12PM



77	Siena	Arrarte
78	Tegan	Bertolissio
79	India	Breier
80	Maddie	Caspers
81	Maya	Lobo
82	Tamara	Lukanovic
83	Olivia	Lysiak
84	Donnelle	Moore
85	Libby	Morris
86	Ava	Piazza
87	Avaani	Prakash
88	Annalise	Rasmussen
89	Anika	Stajcic
90	Peta	Trimis
91	Alessandra	Valle
92	Aimee	Hall
77	Siena	Arrarte
78	Tegan	Bertolissio

Coach: Jaime Gomez

Assistant Coach: Greg Kokoviades



13	Zoe	Bartley
17	Georgia	Pollitt
18	Kate	Stanbridge
19	Anna	Hunt
20	Holly	Duncan
22	Emily	Jensen
23	Tara	Baudana
24	Torah	Christie
25	Ashley	Dribbus
26	Lucia	White
27	Ella	Gattorna
28	Ella	Harmata
29	Heidi	Caspers
30	Alyse	Jensen
31	Nadine	Knight
32	Stephanie	Augoustis
33	Clementine	Flanery

Coach: Xavier Taylor

Team Manager: Sara Al-Shameri

**Referee:**

**Harriet Gee**

**Assistant Referees:**

**Annaliese Phipps and Zoe Benjamin**

**Fourth Official:**

**Matt Staples**

**Assessor:**

**Joseph Rovella**

# UNDER 14

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - KICKOFF 8.30AM



1	Annabelle	Croll
2	Claudia	Boys
3	Charlotte	Bradshaw
4	Claire	Corbett
5	Kyani	Dos Santos
6	Freya	Earle
7	Lana	Elkordi
8	Ellie	Enlund
9	Sharlene	Ferreira Leau
10	Gia	Gaudiello
11	Mikaela	Gavranic
12	Lola	Greenberg
13	Imogen	Jacobson
14	Charlise	Kairouz
15	Daria	Raguz
16	Stella	Tassarotti
18	Taya	Hurcum

Coach: Bronwyn Kiceec  
Assistant Coach: Tom Milicevic



99	Caoimhe	Bray (GK & C)
83	Charley	Cornwall
97	Annika	Driscoll
95	Charlee	Fahey
91	Julianne	Fox
88	Azarlah	Grant
92	Ella	Hunter
93	Macy	Johnson
90	Sophie	Johnson
33	Mia	Jones
89	Lil	Lewis
67	Lillia	Rae
85	Peyton	Scollay
84	Layla	Sharpe
87	Amaya	Shaw
94	Mikayla	Standen

Coach: Craig Soper  
Assistant Coach: Rebekah Stuart  
Team Manager: Kim Bray  
Goalkeeper Coach: Greg Lowe

**Referee:** Molly Godsell  
**Assistant Referees:** Nina Cortese and Carina Cortese  
**Fourth Official:** Siobhan Gregory

# UNDER 15

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - KICKOFF 10.15AM



FOOTBALL  
NSW  
INSTITUTE

19	Chiara	Iurlo
20	Derelle	Avery
21	Ruby	Betro
22	Emily	Cumming
23	Laura	Errichiello
24	Hayley	Hazouri
25	Chloe	Holden
26	Sophia	Kelleher
27	Liana	Luong
28	Talia	McDonald
29	Lauren	Nada
30	Gemma	Odes
31	Olivia	Segafredo
32	Milla	Singleton
33	Maya	Trekofski
34	Esra	Turudu
35	Gabriella	White
36	Catalina	Wyrzynski

Coach: Matias Martinez

Assistant Coach: Sam McGowan



2	Chevonne	Kim
3	Amber	Luchtmeijer
4	Ava	Walker
5	Tamsyn	Rose
6	Tahlia	Martin
7	Sienna	Gahagan
8	Tataya	Curry-Jones
9	Hannah	Alfred
10	Ciarrah	Henry
11	Rita	Di Martino
12	Poppy	Channing
13	Alyssa	Mckenzie
14	Adrijana	Prostran
15	Angelina	Scamardella
16	Layelle	Quadran
17	Halle	Thomas
42	Molly	Ewer
45	Chloe	Sankey

Coach: Atila Stibinger

Coach: Milan Jovanovic

Team Manager: Trish Aldred

**Referee:**

**Lara Hogan**

**Assistant Referees:**

**Molly Godsell and Ella Cortese**

**Fourth Official:**

**Mia Velarde**

# UNDER 16

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - KICKOFF 12PM



2	Olivia	Truong
3	Charlotte	Owen
4	Isabella	Spagnolo
5	Alannah	Putica
6	Neve	Burns
7	Caterina	Mazzotta
8	Angelina	Graiche
9	Kitwala	Mkali
10	Liana	Panayi
11	Helena	Daniele
12	Charli	Leafe
14	Grace	Steinwede
15	Angelina	Warton
16	Isabelle	Wilson
17	Amber	Luchtmeijer
18	Leilani	Matovina
42	Molly	Ewer
44	Samantha	Edwards

Coach: Milan Jovanovic

Assistant Coach: Pablo Gonzalez

Team Manager: Nicole Edwards



1	Baylee	Broomhead
2	Elizabeth	Bieri
3	Kaia	Hole
4	Clare	Molesworth
5	Zara	Glover
6	Sienna	Havill
7	Charlotte	Hogan
8	Jennifer	Kokoris
9	Siena	Hawkins
10	Layla	Etherington
11	Jayla	Li On Wing
12	Petria	Phillips
13	Eliza	Muir
14	Mali	Stanton
15	Georgia	Bromfield
16	Stephanie	Tour

Coach: Amy Shepherd

Assistant Coach: Sara Al-Shameri

Team Manager: Nicole Morath

**Referee:**

**Charlotte Flynn**

**Assistant Referees:**

**Siobhan Gregory and Nina Cortese**

**Fourth Official:**

**Molly Godsell**



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# UNDER 18

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - KICKOFF 2PM



55	Jasmine	Black
56	Bonny	Adams
57	Milly	Boughton
58	Jaime	Clarke
59	Molly	Crawford
60	Leah	De Oliveira
61	Indiana	Dos Santos
62	Mia	Golding
63	Zanthe	Juric
64	Shereen	Karnib
65	Christina	Kiceec
66	Savannah	Murray
67	Tiana	Petkovski
68	Alexia	Saltirov
70	Maria	Tsavalias
72	Anita	Zordan
73	Hannah	Callaghan
74	Adelaide	Wryzynski

Coach: Thomas Haythornthwaite  
Assistant Coach: Greg Hartge



36	Amelia	Feeney
37	Poppy	Tay
38	Sydney	Mcquillan
39	Frances	Lechner
40	Tayla	Cvetkovski
41	Chelsea	Hromek
42	Katie	Tyo
43	Tess	Quilligan
44	Charlotte	Hampshire
45	Zayra	Plebani
46	Sarah	Farrow
47	Jaime	Beaufils
48	Emily	Brewster
49	Aimee	Longhurst
50	Giuliana	Nicholas
51	Talia	Kapetanellis
52	Tayla	Agostino
53	Eloise	Paine
54	Amelia	Kirby

Coach: Emily Husband  
Assistant Coach: Matthew  
Hutchinson  
Team Manager: Alison Green

**Referee:** Mia Velarde  
**Assistant Referees:** Lara Hogan and Siobhan Gregory  
**Fourth Official:** Charlotte Flynn



# OFFICIAL MATCH BALL



FOOTBALL  
NSW

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