



## Ten man Sydney United claim victory at Olympic

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**Second placed Sydney United have clawed their way back to within three-points of NSW Premier League leaders Sydney Olympic with a resilient 4-2 win at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday afternoon.**

A stunning brace from Steve Hayes put the visitors in control after Chris Triantis cancelled out Michael Cindric's superb early goal.

United were then reduced to ten men late in the first-half as Mitchell Thompson received his marching orders before a Phil Makrys penalty brought the hosts back into the contest.



Action shown from Sunday's top of the table clash between Sydney Olympic v Sydney United (Photos by Gavin Leung)

Luka Glavas sealed the win for United on the counter in the second half as the result ensures a tight run into the finals.

The ominous clouds lurking around Sydney held off for the kick off as the match began in ideal conditions for the top of the table clash.

Sydney United were first out of the blocks, taking the early ascendancy when Cindric volleyed home Ufuk Talay's early corner to break the deadlock in the opening minutes.

Cindric was in the thick of it at the other end minutes later; producing a textbook sliding challenge in his own 6-yard box to deny Takayumi Omi's goalscoring chance after Robbie Mileski found the attacker in the box.

Olympic found themselves level on 13' minutes when a miscommunication between Vedran Janjetovic and his backline provided Chris Triantis with the simplest of finishes to equalise.



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Mileski went close to grabbing the lead shortly after, volleying Chris Triantis' cross over the bar from the edge of the box before Mitchell Thompson volleyed over at the other end after fine lead up play from Elsid Barkhousir.

Chris Triantis went close to capitalising on another defensive error when he stole possession from Anthony Golec and fired the ball into the side netting from 18-yards.



United reclaimed the lead on 25' minutes as Luka Glavas' blocked effort fell to Hayes, who calmly controlled the ball and fired it past Paul Henderson to restore his side's advantage.

Janjetovic did exceptionally well to maintain the visitors' lead in the following minutes, twice producing spectacular diving saves to deny Chris Triantis' goal-bound free-kicks at the expense of corners.

Hayes doubled both United's advantage and his tally for the afternoon in spectacular fashion of the half hour mark, receiving the ball 30-yards from goal and launching a spectacular drive beyond Paul Henderson's reach with a genuine contender for goal of the season.

Both sides went close to scoring direct from free-kicks as Chris Triantis and Talay's efforts flashed wide of the post from long-range.

The match took an intriguing twist late in the half as Thompson was shown a straight red card for a reckless late challenge on Mileski.

Olympic then earned themselves a penalty from the ensuing free kick; Makrys stepped up to the spot to draw the home side to bury the ball into the back of the net and get his side back into the match just before the interval.

The skies opened during the break as the heavy downpour ensured the second-half would be played in slippery conditions and low visibility.

Now holding a man advantage, Olympic pushed forward early in the second period while United sat deep in an effort to maintain their advantage, absorbing wave after wave of attacks while occasionally threatening to extend their lead on the counterattack.





Janjetovic continued his exceptional form between the sticks, denying David Gullo, Mileski, and Chris Triantis at bay with a series of crucial saves.

Despite the hosts' efforts it was the visitors who extended their advantage on 72' minutes as Glavas slipped in behind the Olympic defence to collect Talay's through ball and slot the ball past Henderson.

With that the visitors sat back in their third to hold out for the win and keep their premiership hopes alive.

Sydney United coach Jean-Paul De Marigny was pleased with the effort of his side in securing all three points in this afternoon's clash:

"We deserved it," said De Marigny.

"We scored four great goals and we did really well.

"After the penalty things could have gone 50-50, but things don't go 50-50 at the moment for us.

"In the second-half I thought we outsmarted them and killed them off with a great goal from Luka (Glavas).

"I thought we did very well, frustrated them, and forced them to play balls they wouldn't really appreciate.

"What we came here to do is make a statement, and I think we've done that very well."

Sydney Olympic coach Peter Tsekenis was disappointed by the result after his side were repeatedly frustrated by their opposition, namely custodian Vedran Janjetovic:

"They scored an early goal, which was a quality goal, and it was disappointing to start that way," said Tsekenis.

"They just took their chances – I believe they only had four chances.

"I believe their goalkeeper was the best player on the park, and if you look at it in that light that tells you the story of the game.

"We were up against a really good side that were desperate to stay in the race, and I thought we carved out some really good chances and couldn't take them.

"We fell asleep on a couple of instances and they punished us."

With four rounds to go and a three-point lead Tsekenis stated his delight in the effort of his side thus far as they look to keep their form up on the run in to the finals:

"I'd be happy to be anywhere near the lead at this stage of the year," laughed Tsekenis.



"If you rewind back to the beginning of the season we weren't even mentioned to be in the top-five and Sydney United were among the favourites.

"The fact that we're leading the comp by three points with four games to go – I'm very happy.

"The balls in our court – not in anyone else's – I'd rather be in this position," Tsekenis concluded.

## Match Stats

**Sydney Olympic 2** (Chris Triantis 13', Phil Makrys 40' pen)

**Sydney United 4** (Michael Cindric 2', Steve Hayes 25', 30', Luka Glavas 72')

**Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Belmore Sports Ground, Belmore**

**Referee:** Kris Griffiths-Jones

**Assistant Referees:** Scott Edeling and Nick Backo

**Fourth Official:** Nathan Roberts

**Sydney Olympic:** 1.Paul Henderson; 18.Jerry Kalouris, 3.Brett Studman, 8.Chris Triantis, 16.Peter Triantis, 4.Ibrahim Haydar, 7.Phil Makrys (10. Anthony Doumanis 84'), 11.Robbie Mileski, 19.David Gullo (14.Will Angel 72'), 5.Richard Luksic (c), 23.Takayumi Omi

**Substitutes Not Used:** 9.Hussein Akil, 12.Bill Tsanidis, 21.Sam Emmanouil

**Yellow Cards:** Nil

**Red Cards:** Nil

**Sydney United:** 1.Vedran Janjetovic; 3.Mitchell Spear, 4.Michael Cindric, 5.Anthony Golec (38.Tom Mijic 50'), 21.Mark Rudan, 15.Ufuk Talay, 23.Ivo Bosnar, 19.Mitchell Thompson, 10.Steve Hayes, 9.Elsid Barkousir (14.Petar Markovic 60'), 11.Luka Glavas (25.Arron Peterson 90')

**Substitutes Not Used:** 18.Daniel Rezo, 20.Ryan Norval

**Yellow Cards:** Ivo Bosnar 71', Ufuk Talay 77'

**Red Cards:** Mitchell Thompson 38'

**-By Michael Shoolman**

