



DERBY DAY

SAT 25 MAR, 3.45PM, WAKEFIELD PARK



MEN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE | ROUND 01

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CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME – PAUL KOTROTSOS



What a massive pre-season the club has had being involved in the OFC Play-off over the last two weekends.

The planning for this started before Christmas and has taken a huge amount of time and effort. Although the result didn't go our way, the team and staff have done our Club exceptionally proud.

The 2nd Leg had two minutes of madness that turned the entire game. Is that why they call it the "Beautiful Game"? I'd say that is true for the side who has the fortune of winning and maybe the neutral spectator, but for the team on the receiving end, I'm not quite sure what to call it. This chapter has now closed and we start again today with Game 1 of the CL. It's good to be back at Wakefield today and would like to welcome Miramar for the opening round of CL. Over the last few seasons we've played Miramar much later in the round and as it turned out both games were to determine the CL title.

Wakefield Park has also had its re-turf completed and is looking good. The players can all look forward to playing on a much kinder turf than they have had to

experience over the past few years, and hopefully less injuries.

Our Capital Prem team also kicks off today. They had a strong top-four finish last year and Taylor and his team are making it their goal to take us to the top.

Our third team, Cap 1, ended on a high as they celebrated as champions of the 2022 season. This year, Johnny Gerondis has taken over the reins and we're all looking forward to another exciting year for them. They kicked off last night (they play home games on Friday nights here, at Wakefield Park) against Horowhenua Coastal. Our other seniors, the Cosmos (Div 1) and our masters, TFTs will kick off their season next week, with our Women's, youth and juniors all starting towards the end of April. Good Luck to all the teams.

Our Clubrooms will be open and our kitchen and bar staff are looking forward to welcoming you back for the new season. We also invite all players, supporters and officials back for our after-match hospitality.

COACH'S COMMENTS – RUPERT KEMEYS

After a very intense pre-season with the OFC qualifiers, our boys are intent on starting the Central League campaign well.



It was a heartbreaking end to our National League/O-league run last year and I know the squad will be wanting to bounce back straight away.

Sometimes we all need to take a step back and appreciate success and even though we fell short last weekend, I have to take my hat off to this group of players who have achieved so much in the last 12 months. To get to the O-league qualifiers is a massive achievement in itself and the Club as a whole deserves praise for making it this far.

We welcome our cross town rivals, Miramar, back to Wakefield Park and for the first time in three years, this game won't decide the title. I'm sure Miramar will be out for blood and looking to start their campaign with an upset, however I'm very confident in this group of players to bounce back in a big way.

We are wanting to put on a show for our supporters and let everyone know just why we made it to the O-league qualifiers in the first place.

CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS – BEN MATA

We are in to week 1 of the Central League and it already seems to have been a bit of a whirlwind of a year.



We came into preseason on the 30th of Jan, and after 6 or so weeks we were playing the first leg of the OFC Qualifiers.

With a lot of new players, a quick turn around before one of the biggest games of our season, the situation was truly a strange one, but one we took with both hands, determined to put our best foot forward. Unfortunately the result didn't go our way, but we have put ourselves in a fantastic place heading into another

lengthy season, with a lot to play for. We welcome Miramar to Wakefield Park for around One, and I know they will be coming here with high hopes of pulling off an upset.

We look forward to the game today, and see it as an opportunity to bounce back off a tough result last weekend.

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ROUND 01 PREVIEW

FIRST TEAM FIXTURE



WELLINGTON OLYMPIC AFC vs MIRAMAR RANGERS

Saturday 25th March, 3.45pm Kick Off, Wakefield Park

OTHER FIXTURES

RESULTS

 	STOP OUT SPORTS CLUB vs NAPIER CITY ROVERS	Saturday 25th March, 2.30pm, Hutt Park	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>
 	WHANGANUI ATHLETIC vs PETONE FC	Saturday 25th March, 2.30pm, Wembley Park	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>
 	PHOENIX RESERVES vs WATERSIDE KARORI	Saturday 25th March, 3.00pm, Fraser Park Turf	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>
 	NORTH WELLINGTON vs WESTERN SUBURBS	Saturday 25th March, 3.00pm, Alex Moore Turf	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>



14. JACK-HENRY SINCLAIR



Q&A SESSION

Nickname:	JHS
D.O.B / Age:	23/02/1998
Nationality:	New Zealand
Previous Clubs:	Team Wellington, Phoenix Reserves
Right / Left Footed:	Right Footed
Honours / Trophies:	U17 OFC Winner OFC Champions League Winner National League Winner 2 x Central League Winner

QUICKFIRE FAVOURITES

Pro Team:	Manchester United
Player:	Ronaldo
Food:	Steak
Travel Destination:	Mount Maunganui
Movie / TV Series:	All Marvel Films
Hobbies:	Surfing
Book:	Andre Agassi 'Open'
Podcast:	Between Two Beers
Music Genre:	All, no favourite in particular
Pre-Game Song:	Whatever is on the speaker
Quote:	Look good, feel good, play good

Q&A SESSION

Where were you most recently playing before Wellington Olympic?

I was playing at Team Wellington before the league changed, last game was the National League Final.

How many seasons have you played at Wellington Olympic?

This will be my fourth season.

Best football memory?

Playing at the Club World Cup with Team Wellington and celebrating each of our three goals.

Best goal scored / save made?

For Team Wellington against Canterbury United Dragons at David Farrington a few years back

What is your main work-on for this season?

More goals!

Who's the one team you look forward to playing against most and why?

Auckland City in the National League, or Miramar in the Central League. Auckland City got the better of us three times last year in very tight games. Miramar is always a great game, a few good friends play there and the rivalry is great.

Best player you've ever played with or against and why?

Played against, Allan Saint-Maximin. Very very quick and skillful, quite the handful.

Dream 5-side team, you and who else?

Dani Alves, Ronaldo, Messi, Scott Basalaj

If you could meet anyone in the world?

Ronaldo, favourite player.

How would you describe yourself as a player?

Very attacking in a box to box role. Happy to get forward but not so much to get back.

If you could play another position for a game, where would it be and why?

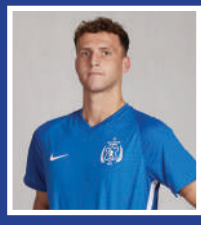
Centre Forward, think I'd be able to run in behind a lot.

Biggest influence on your career? Biggest influence on my career has been my parents and my partner. My parents always let me do what I wanted with my sport and my football and supported me massively in getting to those places. They get to a lot of my games and always want to know how trainings have been during the week too. My partner is at every game in Wellington without fail and is always there for me through the highs and lows of football, we even used to train together when we were younger.

CENTRAL LEAGUE SQUAD



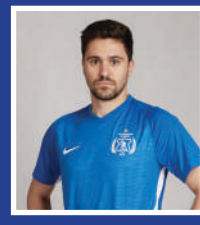
1 SCOTT
BASALAJ



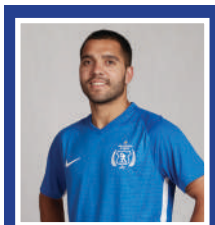
2 JOSH
ROGERSON



3 JOE
HOPPER



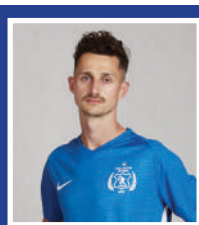
4 ALEX
PALEZEVIC



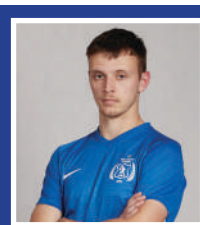
5 JUSTIN
GULLEY



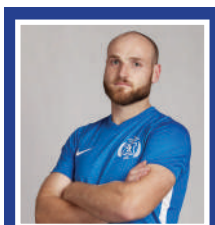
6 TOR
DAVENPORT-PETERSON



7 JOEL
STEVENS



8 OLLIE
VAN RIJSSEL



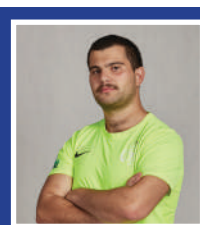
9 HAMISH
WATSON



10 KAILAN
GOULD

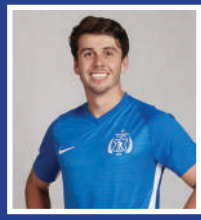


11 NATHANAEL
HAILEMARIAM



12 CHRIS
KOTROTOSOS

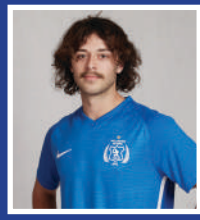
WELLINGTON OLYMPIC AFC



14 JACK-HENRY
SINCLAIR



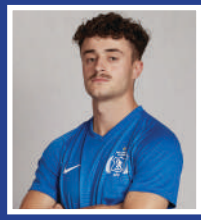
15 BEN
MATA



17 DEVON
THURSTON



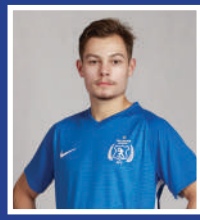
18 THEO
ETTEMA



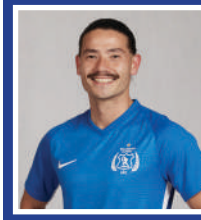
19 SAMUEL
MITRAKIS



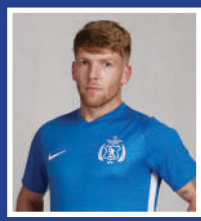
20 TAM
DIMAIRO



21 RYAN
FUETZ



23 GAVIN
HOY



24 CONOR
READY



33 BIRHANU
TAYE

PHOTO GALLERY

COURTESY OF
PHOTOMAC

Check out a range of images from our recent home game against Auckland City FC, courtesy of Photomac!



1-1



**Oceania Champions League Play-Off (First Leg),
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15. BEN MATA (FIRST TEAM CAPTAIN)

Q&A SESSION

Nickname:	Mata
D.O.B / Age:	10/08/1998
Nationality:	Cook Island / Maori
Previous Clubs:	Onehunga Sports Phoenix Reserves
Right / Left Footed:	Right
Honours / Trophies:	TBC

QUICKFIRE FAVOURITES

Pro Team:	Manchester United
Player:	Van Dijk
Food:	Salmon Sushi Roll
Travel Destination:	Queenstown
Movie / TV Series:	Peaky Blinders
Hobbies:	Hanging out with mates
Book:	Can't Hurt Me – David Goggins
Podcast:	Joe Rogan Experience
Music Genre:	2000s RnB
Pre-Game Song:	Dreams & Nightmares - Meek Mill
Quote:	Football is about having fun, but I've never had fun and lost

Q&A SESSION

Where were you most recently playing before Wellington Olympic?

I wasn't playing. Stopped for 2 years before coming to Olympic.

How many seasons have you played at Wellington Olympic?

This will be season number five.

Best football memory?

Representing the Cook Islands at the World Cup Qualifiers

Best goal scored / save made?

Header vs Miramar in extra time of Chatham Cup a couple years ago

What is your main work-on for this season?

Comfortable distribution with both feet.

Who's the one team you look forward to playing against most and why?

Auckland City. You have to beat the best if you want to be the best

Best player you've ever played with or against and why?

This one's hard, so many great players. He was only 14 at the time but Chris Willock was unreal

Dream 5-aside team, you and who else?

Neuer, Myself, Maldini, Messi and John Gerondis

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Just chill out with mates, play PlayStation, go to the beach, drink beers, just the standard stuff

If you could meet anyone in the world?

I think meeting David Goggins would be pretty cool. He's a super intense individual but I'm sure I'd come away with some pretty good advice.

How would you describe yourself as a player?

I'd say I'm vocal, have a good presence, and win the ball in the air a lot

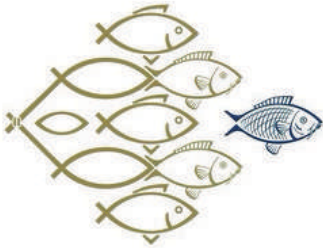
If you could play another position for a game, where would it be and why?

Number 9, 4-4-2, hit the big man up top and play off the seconds

Biggest influence on your career?

Probably my dad, he put me in football to begin with





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CENTRAL LEAGUE

WELLINGTON OLYMPIC 2023 FIXTURES

H	01 VS MIRAMAR RANGERS	SAT 25 MAR	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
A	02 VS WATERSIDE KARORI	SAT 1 APR	2.30PM	KARORI PARK
A	03 VS PHOENIX RESERVES	FRI 7 APR	3.00PM	FRASER PARK
H	04 VS WHANGANUI ATHLETIC	SAT 15 APR	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
H	05 VS PETONE FC	SAT 22 APR	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
H	06 VS NORTH WELLINGTON	SAT 29 APR	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
A	07 VS STOP OUT	SAT 6 MAY	2.30PM	HUTT PARK
H	08 VS NAPIER CITY ROVERS	SAT 20 MAY	1.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
A	09 VS WESTERN SUBURBS	SUN 28 MAY	2.00PM	ENDEAVOUR PARK
A	10 VS MIRAMAR RANGERS	SAT 10 JUN	2.30PM	DAVID FARRINGTON
H	11 VS WATERSIDE KARORI	SAT 24 JUN	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
A	12 VS WHANGANUI ATHLETIC	SAT 1 JUL	2.30PM	WEMBLEY PARK
H	13 VS PHOENIX RESERVES	SAT 15 JUL	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
A	14 VS PETONE FC	SAT 22 JUL	3.30PM	PETONE MEMORIAL
A	15 VS NORTH WELLINGTON	SAT 5 AUG	3.00PM	ALEX MOORE TURF
H	16 VS STOP OUT	SAT 12 AUG	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK
A	17 VS NAPIER CITY ROVERS	SUN 27 AUG	2.00PM	BLUEWATER STADIUM
H	18 VS WESTERN SUBURBS	SAT 2 SEP	3.45PM	WAKEFIELD PARK

H = HOME A = AWAY

TOP 3 TEAMS AND WELLINGTON PHOENIX RESERVES (AUTO-QUALIFICATION)
QUALIFY FOR NZ NATIONAL LEAGUE

SQUAD LISTS | ROUND 01

**WELLINGTON
OLYMPIC**



**MIRAMAR
RANGERS**

SCOTT BASALAJ	1
JOSH ROGERSON	2
JOE HOPPER	3
ALEX PALEZEVIC	4
JUSTIN GULLEY	5
TOR DAVENPORT-PETERSON	6
JOEL STEVENS	7
OLLIE VAN RIJSSEL	8
HAMISH WATSON	9
KAILAN GOULD	10
NATHANAEL HAILEMARIAM	11
CHRIS KOTROTSOS	12
JACK-HENRY SINCLAIR	14
BEN MATA	15
JOSH APAAPA-PRESTON	16
DEVON THURSTON	17
THEO ETTEMA	18
SAMUEL MITRAKIS	19
TAM DIMAIRD	20
RYAN FUETZ	21
GAVIN HOY	23
CONOR READY	24
MERLIN LUKE-MINY	25
DYLAN WOOD	32
BIRHANU TAYE	33
WILL VINCENT	34

1	JACK DE GROOT
2	JOE CHIARI
3	TIHNN MANUEL
4	LIAM WOOD
5	LUKE SEARLE
6	JOE HARRIS
7	RYEN LAWRENCE
9	KEN AKAMATSU
10	SEB BARTON-GINGER
11	SPENCER CAMERON
12	ANDY BEVIN
13	SCOTT MIGLEY
14	SAM MASON-SMITH
15	ANDRON KAGRAMANYAN
17	JACOB HARRIS
19	BLAKE INDER
20	BRAD WHITWORTH
22	REUBEN DRAY
24	JONTY ROUBOS
27	HARRY CHOTE

Olympic Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Rupert Kemeys

Assistant Coach: Jamie O'Connor

Assistant Coach: Scoota Roche

Team Manager: Matt Kolic

Trainer: James Mac Aodagain

GK Coach: Steve Dimakis

Physiotherapist: Brogan Treanor

Video Analyst: Jonathan Thompson

Gear Manager: Dave Graham