



OFC MEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2024

NATIONAL PLAY-OFFS



SAT 16 MAR, 2PM
MARTIN LUCKIE PARK



OFC
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE



Holmes
Construction NZ
EST 1997

BUOY
SALON & SPA



weston
design

SPONSORED BY

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME



I would like to welcome Auckland City to Martin Luckie Park today in what should be an exciting second leg of the OFC Champions League NZ Play-off. Big stakes out there today and I'm sure both sides are ready to give it their all.

Paul and Ekow and his staff have been working hard with the squad in a lead up to this play-off series.

The surface today at Martin Luckie is looking brilliant, a big thanks to Sarah, Gaurav and the rest of the team at the Wellington City Council who have done a great job and giving us such a pristine ground for this match to be played on.

A massive thank you to all those that helped in the working bee at the Clubrooms a few weeks ago. We made excellent progress. Thank you to George B, Basil & Lesley, Bas & Jane, Andy & Bindy, John S, Nina, Dave G and Andrew H who was visiting from Aussie (got him on the tools also).

Our first Central League home game will be on Sunday 7th April against Wests. Put that in your calendars.

Good luck to both teams today.

I hope to see you all back at our Olympic Clubrooms (570 Adelaide Road) after the match, players, supporters and officials all welcome. It's only a 300metres downhill walk from Martin Luckie.

Paul Kotrotsos

FROM THE COACH



Another warm welcome to Martin Luckie Park.

Since the last time I wrote in the programme, we have lifted our first trophy of the season - the newly formed Charity Cup. This was a great way to start this season's campaign and I was very happy with the application of the players as we triumphed over my former club and last season's Chatham Cup winners, Christchurch United.

A big thanks to everyone at the club that did so much work behind the scenes to make sure the day was a big success! It was a game played in good spirits and I believe it was the perfect game to get us ready for our two-legged playoff against Auckland City FC.

Welcome to my old friend Albert Riera and his Auckland City squad who we host today, after a very tough away game saw us come out on the losing side. Even though

we lost, I felt that we were always a threat and that the game could have gone either way!

I always thought that we would have to win at home to progress and I feel a 1-0 deficit is obtainable if we get things right today with our very vocal supporters behind us. We are under no illusion as to the task at hand as we face the most successful club in the country. Games of this magnitude are what we as players and staff love, and I can promise we will leave everything out there as we try to qualify for a maiden O-League campaign.

Please get behind the players as I really feel you could be the difference today!

Paul Ifill



THE HISTORY OF THE OFC MEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The OFC Men's Champions League as it is now, can trace its roots back as far as the 1980s when the Oceania Club Championship was held in 1987. Reigning Australia National Soccer League champions, Adelaide City, became the inaugural champions, defeating New Zealand's Mount Wellington in the final.

The tournament was held intermittently, with Australian sides dominating up until the creation of the OFC Champions League in 2007 following Football Australia's move to the Asian Football Confederation the previous year.

Since then, New Zealand teams have won the competition on a consistent basis, with Auckland City FC holding the record of 11 titles. Waitakere United (2007 & 2008) and Team Wellington (2018) have also lifted the trophy.

Notable exceptions to New Zealand dominance came in 2010 when Papua New Guinea's Hekari United overcame Waitakere United in the final, and 2019 when

two New Caledonia sides, Hienghène Sport and AS Magenta, contested the final – marking the first time in the competition's history that no New Zealand team was present.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the OFC Champions League was postponed for a two year period, with no competition held from 2019 to 2022.

When it returned, it brought with it a new format with the group stage and knockout stage now all played in a single host country, with 2022 held in New Zealand and 2023 in Vanuatu. The 2024 edition will be hosted by Tahiti.

Up until 2023, the winner of the OFC Champions League would represent OFC at the FIFA Club World Cup. From this year however, the winner will compete in the newly created FIFA Intercontinental Cup with the FIFA Club World Cup moving to a quadrennial format beginning next year, the OFC representative for which is determined by performances over a four year period.



Photos courtesy of Phototek



WELLINGTON OLYMPIC AFC



After a crushing 0-1 loss in the first leg of this OFC Nationals Playoff at Kiwitea Street last week, Olympic will need to pull out all the stops and bring the results home today.

Today's match should be an exciting one from start to finish. We need our supporters to be as loud and as vocal as we were in Auckland for the National League Grand Final. Keep that bell ringing, flags flying and let our Boys in Blue know we have their backs. We are not just a Club, we're a family. Auckland City FC are no strangers to the 90 minute chanting and drums banging from their own supporters. Quite frankly, it both buoyos the players and makes for an exciting game.

One thing that we can all agree is the respect we hold for Auckland City FC in doing what no other Club in New Zealand has achieved. The fact that they've won the OFC Men's Champions League 11 times is, in itself, an incredible feat, let alone getting to the FIFA Club World Cup, and we congratulate them on putting their Club and New Zealand on the football map.

But we know Auckland City are not unbeatable – we bet them twice last season. Our decisive 2-0 win in the 2023 NZ National League Grand Final proves we are more than capable in bringing City to their knees. We are no longer the David to Auckland's Goliath but we are instead equals in a mighty battle. The 0-1 loss last week is not out of our reach to change the final result today.

Paul and his team have been working hard with the players to tighten the defensive line and create more attacking opportunities. There's no room for complacency. Today, it's "all or nothing", and "nothing" is just not in our resolve.





AUCKLAND CITY FC



Auckland City FC was formed in 2004 to participate in the New Zealand Football Championship's inaugural 2004-05 season under then coach Allan Jones. Nicknamed the 'Navy Blues', or simply 'City', Auckland City FC won three NZFC titles between 2004 and 2007 under Jones and then Paul Marshall, Jones also winning the club's first OFC Champions League title in 2006.

City appeared at the first of 11 FIFA Club World Cups starting in Japan 2006 where it lost to Jeonbuk Motors (0-3) and Al Ahli (0-2) and would have to wait until 2009 before it won a game at a FIFA world event after beating UAE's Al Ahli (2-0) and TP Mazembe (3-2) to clinch fifth place.

Since then the club has won nine National League titles, 11 OFC Champions League titles, three Northern League titles, the OFC President's Cup and a Chatham Cup title with over 30 players representing New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu or Papua New Guinea during the last 18 years.

Notable Players

Notable players to appear for City include former South African internationals Keryn Jordan and Grant Young, the most capped All White of all time, Ivan Vicolich, fellow All Whites David Mulligan, Clayton Lewis, Te Atawhai Hudson-Wihongi, Jacob Spoonley, Tamati Williams, Cam Howieson, Adam Mitchell, Sam Brotherton, Ben Sigmund and Ryan De Vries.

The highwater mark for Auckland City FC came at the 2014 FIFA Club World Cup when the Navy Blues won

a bronze medal after wins over Moghreb Tetouan (4-2 on pens), ES Setif (1-0) and Cruz Azul (1-1 - 4-3 on pens) and a narrow loss to South American champions San Lorenzo (1-2). The club's leading goalscorer of all time is Emiliano Tade who has scored 152 goals in 237 games for the club between 2011 and 2023.

International Adventures

The club participated at the OFC Champions League in Vanuatu winning the title after two nail-biting games with Ifira Black Bird and Suva FC. City played at the FIFA Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia in December last year, losing 3-0 to a star-studded Al Ittihad side that featured FIFA World Cup and UEFA Champions League winners, Karim Benzema and N'golo Kante.

2024 Season

Coach Albert Riera has added seven new faces to his squad with former England age group international Joe Ridley arriving from England, and six youngsters including Riley Sexton, goalkeeper Areya Prasad, Fiji international Nabil Begg, Oscar Duffy, Caleb Moosbally, and New Zealand age group international Stipe Ukich featuring in the club's OFC Champions League U-23 squads.



Photo courtesy of Phototek



Holmes

Construction NZ

EST 1957



Established over 65 years ago, Holmes Construction is a family-run business built on traditional Kiwi values. Our commitment to quality, consistency, and communication has established us as one of the most respected residential and commercial construction companies in Wellington and the Wairarapa.

Level 5, 25 Victoria Street Petone 5012 | 150 Main Street Greytown 5712
0800 566 664 | office@holmes.co.nz

For more information, visit holmes.co.nz



SQUAD LISTS

Scott Basalaj (GK)	1	Conor Tracey (GK)
Gabriele Matanisiga	2	Mario Ilich
Adam Supyk	3	Adam Mitchell
Dylan Wood	4	Christian Gray
Justin Gulley	5	Timothy Boulet
Tor Davenport Petersen	6	Riley Sexton
Jesse Randall	7	Cam Howieson (C)
Edward Wilkinson	8	Gerard Garriga
Hamish Watson	9	Angus Kilkolly
Oliver Colloty	10	Dylan Manickum
Kailan Gould	11	Ryan De Vries
Chris Kotrotsos (RGK)	12	Regont Murati
William Vincent	13	Nathan Lobo
Jack-Henry Sinclair	14	Jordan Vale
Ben Mata (C)	15	Caleb Moosbally
Joshua Apaapa-Preston	16	Joe Lee
Devon Thurston	17	Joe Ridley
Luke Tongue	18	Areya Prasad
Samuel Mitrakas	19	Liam Gillion
Tamupiwa Dimairo	20	
Isa Prins	21	Adam Bell
Lukas Halikias	22	Tong Zhou
Gavin Hoy	23	Alfie Rogers
Jonty Roubos	24	Joe Wallis (GK)
Joel Coustrain	25	Michael Den Heijer
Oliver Davies	26	Rayan Tayeb
Kaelin Nguyen	27	Stipe Ukich
Josh Rudland	28	Oscar Duffy
Alex Britton (RGK)	41	
Matthew King (RGK)	42	
	COACH	Albert Riera
Paul Ifill	ASSISTANT	Ivan Vicelich
Ekow Quainoo	ASSISTANT	
Taylor Hall-Jones	GK COACH	Enaut Zubikarai
Alex Britton	S&C COACH	Adria Casals
	PHYSIO	Matt Payne
Brogan Treanor	MANAGER	
Matt Kolic	GEAR MANAGER	
Dave Graham	LOGISTICS	Keith Coton

REFEREE
CK Kawana-Waugh

1ST ASSISTANT
Isaac Trevis

2ND ASSISTANT
Mark Rule

4TH OFFICIAL
Cory Mills