



The Eagle Times



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CONGRATULATIONS to **Jeremy Fooks** who brought up his 200th game for the club against Queanbeyan last Saturday. Since joining the club from St Josephs College, Hunters Hill in 1992, Jeremy has played 135 first grade games and another 65 lower grade games. He was also a member of the 1995 1st Grade runners-up team that played Tuggeranong Vikings. Jeremy is well known in ACT Rugby circles for the hard way he plays the game and the fact other Eagles players are happy he is on our side and not the opposition's! Jezza is a true clubman, current fourth grade player, assistant colts coach and a valuable sponsor. The "Eagles" would like to thank Jezza for the great service and loyalty he has given the club and hope he can lift up a premiership cup in the not too distant future.



CONGRATULATIONS to **Tyronne Anderson** and his wife - the proud new parents to a baby girl Milana Anderson born 25 May 2009.

MATCH REPORTS

Eagles Vs Queanbeyan @ Campese
23 May 2009

FIRST GRADE

First grade marked their maiden victory of the season with a tough, gritty & hard fought victory. The Eagles set the standard early with some fearsome physical defense with Thompson, O'Neill & Tavita prominent defensively. The Whites were eager to play expansively at any opportunity but were unable to execute their wide game plan, due to the Eagles stubborn resistance & uncompromising defence.

The Eagles dominated the set pieces taking a total of 13 opposition throws as well as 2 tight heads in the scrum. Hogan was busy around the fringes of the breakdown and his lineout throwing was first class. In attack, Tavita proved to be a handful, with each possession beating the first line of defence and breaking tackles with every carry. Anderson was strong in the mid field while Dawes and Connachie threatened to open up the opposition defence regularly.

RESULT: **Eagles 12**
 QBN 11

POINTS: 3 - O'Neill 2 – Tavita 1 - Thompson.

COLTS

The Eagles colts gathered for the fray against the pink coated Queanbeyan colts (the pink jumpers part of a Queanbeyan club fund raising day for breast cancer). The Eagles showed plenty of enthusiasm in warming up for the match. They had the uphill run and the wind against them for the first half. The first 15 minutes saw the teams involved in an arm wrestle with a particularly fine tackle from Joe Walsh one of the highlights. The Eagles were particularly challenged in the lineout as the Queanbeyan side had plenty of tall timber. There were plenty of penalties being handed out and following one of these Queanbeyan scored out wide but failed to convert.

From the commencement of play again the Eagles players drove the play into Queanbeyan territory. A penalty was awarded and Queanbeyan were again able to turn the Eagles boys around and score again. They were not able to convert but the score was now ten nil to Queanbeyan. The blood was beginning to flow. Alex Rowland came to the blood bin followed shortly by the referee who got mixed up in the action. With a patched bloody face and very impressive blood stained jumper the referee blew his whistle for the action to begin again (he continued to later also run the line in the first grade game). Toward the end of the second half Needsy had a shot at goal from just inside the half line. It had the distance but not the accuracy. Half time was declared and the coaches moved in.

The whistle blew and the boys were into it again. The young Eagles were the first to score as Dennis Lamb broke the line to put the ball down for a try that was not converted. This was soon followed by two tries from Queanbeyan which resulted from errors by the Eagles near their own line. The Eagles boys were stung into action with James Lovell leading the way. A good backline run saw the ball taken down into Queanbeyan territory. A scrum was set and due to great pressure from the Eagles players Dennis Lamb was again able to go over for a try which was converted. The Eagles boys continued to apply the pressure without further reward. Toward the end of the game the Queanbeyan side was able to cross the Eagles line again. The final score was;

RESULT **QBN 31**
 Eagles 12

POINTS 3 - Dennis Lamb 2 - Dan Kane 1 - Joey Walsh

RESERVE GRADE

Following the 47-22 loss to the reigning premiers a fortnight earlier the Eagles Reserve grade had a major challenge before them on arriving at David Campese Oval on Saturday. Two good training sessions during the week had the team in a positive frame of mind for what was expected to be a very tough match.

Running down hill and with the wind it was most important that the Eagles got points on the board first, early and consistently during the first half. So following the script to the letter Eagles scored first with a try to Xavier Duffy following sustained pressure in the Whites quarter. The successful Daniel Callaghan conversion had us off to a good start.

Scoring opportunities in rugby can sometimes evolve in strange ways as was the case with the second try of the match. A well placed kick into the in goal area was easily retrieved by the Queanbeyan defender who was then joined by Justin Corkran. As they stood side by side, Juddy decided that the referee was of the mind that the ball was still in play and had not been forced. A quick steal of the ball, press to the ground, TRY to Justin Corkran. Conversion successful.

Queanbeyan continued to fight the elements and the uphill run and pulled back the 14-0 deficit with a try in the top right hand corner. But with half time approaching a penalty goal by Daniel Callaghan had Eagles up 17-5.

As all visiting teams know maintaining a lead at Queanbeyan with your backs to the creek in the second half is always a big ask. Our cause was aided by scoring first with another penalty goal to Daniel Callaghan. Territory and possession were hard fought for by both teams with half breaks just pulled up by the defence. A 20-5 lead was looking comfortable until Queanbeyan hit back with a converted try. Score 20-12.

With time running out the Whites knew there was a bonus point in the offing at least. However as is often the case in playing catch up rugby an intercept try snapped up by James Herbert sealed their fate to coming away empty handed. The Callaghan conversion was again successful.

The impressive aspect of this win was the way the territory and pace of the game was controlled. A great team effort.

RESULT **Eagles 27**
 QBN 12

POINTS 3 - Xavier Duffy 2 - Daniel Mannix 1 - Daniel Callaghan

EAGLES T3

Coming off a disappointing Round 1 loss to Uni Norths, the Eagles T3 travelled to QBN with a good Thursday night training session under it's belt and an air of confidence from both team and coach. T3 put in a much better individual and team performance, unfortunately it was not enough going down 21-10 to a pretty handy opposition. The first half started badly with the QBN outside centre running into a yawning gap & stepping a few players to score adjacent to the posts (QBN 7-0), however the early set back did little to dampen the Eagles enthusiasm and an arm wrestle ensued for the next 30 minutes before Eagles fullback John Osborne scored in the corner on the stroke of half time. (QBN 7-5).

A huge penalty count in our favour, and the dishing out of some cards to QBN players by the referee, saw the Eagles team with plenty of possession, and overlaps, in the second half. Unfortunately a couple of long range tries saw QBN skip out to a 21-5 lead. A slight glimmer of hope came for the Eagles with 10 minutes remaining when winger Leigh Redmayne scored a try near the sideline to bridge the gap slightly (QBN 21-10). The final 10 minutes saw the Eagles attack on a number of occasions however they were unable to break a very strong QBN defensive line.

The Eagles have a number of things to work on at training before our next game, including midfield defence and free kick options, but overall a much-improved performance from Round 1.

RESULT **Eagles 10** (Osborne & Redmayne tries)
 QBN 21 (3tries, 3 conversions)

POINTS 3 – John Power 2- James Kyburz 1 – John Osborne

EAGLES T 4

A new look side took the field against Queanbeyan on Saturday, eager to make it back to back wins. The boys were again competitive at the breakdown against a typically overgrown Queanbeyan side. Queanbeyan had all the early possession and soon found holes in our defence crossing for two early tries. A large bench saw early changes with Sam Wellings-Booth and Nick Edwards being brought on to add aggression to the forward pack. It proved a wise move as the Eagles began to turn over possession and the backs began to get some consistency in their attack. Josh Wallace and Stacey Tauima showed strong signs in his first game for the Eagles. The Eagles were soon pressuring Queanbeyan's line and a change to the centre combo had Queanbeyan scrambling. Continual pressure and hard running by Andrew Cook and Matt Cousins put us over the line, when Cousins busted two tackles for a great try. Queanbeyan were able to put a third try on us, after Jakobasic had been sent to the bin for contentious decision. Matt Holden was in everything and was leading the way in the forwards and constantly stealing ball at the breakdown.

In case we didn't have enough aggression on the field Jeremy Fooks was brought on to celebrate his 200th game and was immediately in the mix and causing havoc at the breakdown. The Eagles Enforcer was playing like it was his first game until he saw yellow for a slight disagreement with the ref.

The Eagles continued to play aggressive rugby and further changes were made with some new and old faces being brought on. Despite continual changes to the side due to the large numbers, the team still showed great composure and played hard until the whistle.

In the end Queanbeyan ran out 27-5 winners, but it was still a strong effort by T4 considering the new combinations. With some consistency and match fitness, this side will be in the mix come finals time.

RESULT **Eagles 5** (Tries: Matt Cousins)
 QBN 27

POINTS 3 – Matt Holden – Strong all round game, always in the thick
 2 – Andrew Cook – Hard running and aggressive defence
 1– Matt Cousins – Tireless defence and attack