



gungahlin **EAGLES** **MEDIA RELEASE**

1 JULY 2010

FOR THE DIARY

24 JULY - SPONSORS DAY @ Nicholls
Eagles vs Uni-Norths
7 AUGUST - RED & BLACK BALL

A word from the President

At the official half-way mark of the Premier Division season the Eagles will enjoy the bye this weekend following last Saturday's physical away games against Queanbeyan. It was a tough task taking on the Whites who have been one of the form clubs early in the season. Both the Whites seconds and Colts teams were undefeated after the first five rounds.

First Grade certainly had their work cut out for them against a fast improving Whites side. With Queanbeyan enjoying the majority of possession in the first half it was a great team effort to keep them out for much of the first 40. The strong crowd which included a strong contingent of Eagles family and friends could sense this would be one game that would go right down to the wire so to finish off the day with a one point win was a great effort from all involved.

Our Premier Division 2nd Grade side faced an undefeated Queanbeyan outfit without four of their regular starters either unavailable through injury, promotion to the top grade or overseas. This game highlighted the character shown by the entire club in the early rounds with a hard fought 25 - 10 victory. As mentioned in the match preview it was always going to be a test of the clubs depth. I would like to make special mention of club legend Matty Power, who could retire if he had a dollar for every time he has told the coaching staff he does not want to play up the grades. Another fine performance along with his brother John Power, Michael Edwards, Paul Watson and Chris Connolly who all stepped up after being rewarded with strong performances in the 3rds.

After a good start to the season our Colts faced another competition heavy weight, in what was to be their toughest test to date. Our young Eagles competed well at the set piece and the breakdown but in a very physical contest went down 5-19. I am sure next round will not be the last time these two teams meet in 2010.

Our First Division sides are also half way through their respective competitions with our First Division 2nd Grade side facing Royals in a game they needed to win to consolidate their place in the top four. Unfortunately they went down 15-19 but luckily secured a bonus point to hang on to fourth spot.

Our First Division 1st Grade side that had lost five of their most consistent players to second grade, used one of their get out of jail free cards to defeat the Whites. After trailing 12 nil until late in the second half, they secured a 15-12 victory

thanks to a Luke Maher penalty goal with seconds remaining. The game was marred by a serious injury to half back Chris Ryan who is recovering from a ruptured spleen in hospital. All the Eagles wish him a safe and speedy recovery. Chris joined us this year from Bateman's Bay and has been a consistent performer in our first division teams. Good luck to our first division sides which travel up to Goulburn this Saturday to take on the Reds at Poidevin Oval.

I am not sure when was the last time our first grade side went through the first round undefeated along with our twos and threes both being on top of the table in their respective competitions. In addition to this our Colts and 4ths are third and fourth respectively. This is a promising sign of the depth and strength that has been built at the club. The challenge now is for continued improvement right the way through to the finals. We have set the benchmark for the competition and from here on all clubs will be lifting their game each week to knock us off in all grades. If we are to be successful in September we must ensure we continue to raise the bar on and off the field. I would like to congratulate all those involved with the club on all your hard work to date. There is plenty more ahead and the rewards will be there if we maintain our discipline at training and in games and continue to enjoy the camaraderie that is building at our club.

Lee O'Sullivan

MATCH REPORTS

1st Grade

What is it about games involving the Eagles and Whites that always seem to go down to the wire? Both teams like to play positive and expansive football and always provide great entertainment. In last year's 2 fixtures both teams recorded 1 point victories each with each teams winning their game away from home, and this year proved that nothing much has changed. This was a game the Eagles targeted as a crucial game, that if won, would provide them with an unprecedented first round of games that would have them undefeated heading into the second round.

The Eagles elected to take their chances run against the big wind and the slope in the first half, and it seemed like the Eagles couldn't get out of their own 22 metre area in this period with the Queanbeyan dominating possession and territory and having all the momentum.

The Eagles had to withstand wave after wave of attack and had to make do without any quality possession or field position and the belief within the group at half-time was that we could claw our way back from the 8-0 deficit.

The second stanza started with the Eagles finally getting their share of the ball and playing the ball down the opposition end. The momentum certainly seemed to swing back and the Eagles went on the attack.

The first score was the result of some sustained pressure and patient ball recycling with the Eagles hammering the opposition try line. Some excellent forwards play built up after 7 phases close to the Queanbeyan had Dave King taking on the defence before managing to slip a great ball to Nua Alone supporting around for the Eagles first try. Immediately after the kick off restart, Matt Hawke decided to back himself with a chip and chase play before putting away Andrew Barrell with a nice no-look pass for the Eagles second score.

Anthony Dawes was the beneficiary of a great off-load from big Mick Lund who just happened to be sea gulling out wide and put Shrimp away on a 20m run to the line for the Eagles third try. The last 5 minutes of injury time seemed to last an hour and had the Whites going on an out and out attacking blitz to try and win the game at the death, but time after time and phase after phase the Eagles stood tough and kept knocking them over showing plenty of character and ticker. The referee blowing full time with the Eagles holding on to win 19-18.

This was by far the biggest test to date for the Eagles. The Whites having played and won 2 of the last 3 grand finals were up for this game and challenged the Eagles in every aspect. The match was a highly contested, highly physical and played with a high intensity for the full 80 mins. Defensively both teams wanted to rip into each other and the physicality and battle at the break down was a real highlight and ultimately what won the game for the Eagles.

There were great contributions everywhere for the Eagles. The front row of Derek, Patto & Jimmy had their toughest outing to date in the scrum and were made to work hard all game and all fronted up well in the physical stakes, while the back 3 had to cover plenty of territory in both attack and defence to nullify the conditions.

Dawes and King controlled the game well, and in the mid field of Tyrone and Tevita defended well as a unit. The combination of Hawke, Alone and Barrell worked hard in counter attack as well as on defence and look to attack on the kick return with Baz now the leading try scorer in the competition with 7 tries to date.

The back row of Winton, McGee & O'Neill were outstanding at the tackle contest and at the breakdown and set the platform for the win. O'Sullivan continues to impose himself physically in defence and at the ruck.

Mick Lund playing his first game in 1st grade had some excellent involvements stealing 2 crucial opposition throws in the lineout as well as setting up the eagles third score, this was especially surprising as these involvements all occurred in the last 25mins of the game, when Mick was knocked out and still can't recall anything after 11am on Saturday.

Well done boys.

Eagles 19

Qbn 18

3 points - Brendan O'Neill

2 points - Matt Hawke

1 point - Liam Winton

2nd Grade

The top of the table clash between Eagles and Queanbeyan produced one of the toughest games seen at this level for many years. The score line of 28 – 10 to Eagles did not reflect how hard fought this contest for first place on the ladder was,

at the end of round one. This win emphasised the extraordinary depth of player talent the club is experiencing this year. Four changes were made to the forward pack and two in the back line with only Thursday night to work as a team. This situation brought the best out in every player, especially those who had stepped up from third grade. So congratulations to Chris Connolly, Paul Watson, Michael Edwards, John Power and Matthew Power for a fantastic effort.

The early stages of the match indicated that the Eagles' team was here to play. Sustained pressure in Queanbeyan territory produced two penalty opportunities, which were confidently turned into points by James Lovell. Queanbeyan took til the 20 minute mark before they could reply to the Eagles 6-0 lead. Their converted try was the only moment in the match that the Whites were not met with full force of the Eagles defence (in other words- a soft try).

The confidence and commitment of the Eagles players in dealing with the wind and the uphill run was rewarded with an excellent unconverted try to Daniel Griffin, who was on the end of a fine combination from Matt Power and James Lovell. Queanbeyan kicked a penalty just on half time to take the score to Eagles 11 Qbn 10.

The second half opened with the Eagles forwards camped on the Whites try line with continuous pick and drive moves eventually allowing a quick transfer of ball to the backs for James Lovell to beat the defence for a fine converted try out wide. The Eagles forwards were on a roll and had established another strong field position in the Queanbeyan 22. This time Shannan Pye was able to bust the defence after the forwards had set a platform to work from. Shannan's try was converted by J Lo. The Whites at no stage gave up trying to pull back the difference but were continually thwarted by determined defence. James Lovell finished the scoring for the day with a penalty late in the half.

This match was won through a great team effort and a tremendous club effort. The forwards were fantastic and the backs, patient and clinical.

Eagles 28

Tries: Daniel Griffin, James Lovell, Shannan Pye

James Lovell 2 conv.3 pen.

Queanbeyan 10

Points 3 James Lovell 2 Matt Hogan 1 Paul Watson

COLTS

The Eagles Colts headed out to Campese oval to take on Queanbeyan Colts which they knew would be their toughest task this season so far. The two teams were tied at 22 points each on the table with the Eagles being on top due to bonus points. The Queanbeyan side was undefeated.

The Gungahlin boys began the game running uphill with the wind and sun against them. The Queanbeyan side quickly showed why they had not yet been defeated in this competition. Our defence was sorely tested but held on well. The Queanbeyan side camped in our half. The Gungahlin boys fought hard but when they looked like getting the game into the Queanbeyan half they were let down by some poor execution and gave away penalties that allowed the opposition to use the wind advantage to get the game back to our end of the ground. There were many good try saving tackles and one in particular from the Eagles Number 7 and some good runs by the team captain Sean Connochie. After

20 minutes there had been no score from either side. Unfortunately for our side, the constant pressure on the Eagles line resulted in a try to the opposition in the 29th minute. The try was converted so our boys were 7 points behind. This seemed to unsettle our team and with the lapse of concentration Queanbeyan scored again three minutes later. This try was also converted giving a half time score of 14 nil to the opposition. The Eagles had a number of opportunities on the opposition line in the first half but let themselves down with the execution of play at critical times. Their intensity needed to improve in the second half.

The second half began with a good kick off but the opposition continued the pressure that they had applied in the first half. They attempted a kick at goal which was not successful and the score remained at 14 nil to Queanbeyan. The intensity from both sides remained and in the 15th minute the Eagles were rewarded with a try to Xavier Duffy who charged over the line. The conversion was not successful. The score was then 14 - 5 to Queanbeyan but the Eagles supporters were hopeful that this was the beginning of a charge for the lead. It was not to be, as both sides kept up intensive play a nice move by the Queanbeyan side saw them go in for another try which was not converted. This left the final score at 19 - 5 to the opposition.

A tough game for the Eagles boys but a good lesson for the second and critical half of the season. The opposition in this game showed the standard the Eagles Colts have to reach and maintain if they wish to take out the premiership. They have shown they have the skills and can play at this level so heads down and on with the second round.

Samuel Needs	3
Thomas Hyland	2
Dan Mannix	1
Ryan O'Sullivan	1

T3

This week the Eagles T3's crossed the NSW border to take on the Queanbeyan Whites at Campese Oval. We had some disruption to our regular side with players being called up to the seconds or unavailable due to injury; however we have been fortunate this season by having such depth in the Club, and were able to call on the fourth grade players to step up into the thirds. In the first half it was all Queanbeyan who had their fair share of possession, and territory advantage unfortunately in the Eagles half of the field, which enabled the Whites to run in two tries and a conversion. The Eagles had opportunities to put on points, but some good attacking moves went begging when the ball went to ground, or the player being penalised, which handed the ball back to the Whites. The first half saw the Eagles scoreless with the Whites going to a 12-0 lead at the break.

In the second half the Eagles T3 began to settle down and improve as the game went on, and with some good attacking play gained valuable territory to come close to the Whites try line. From an ensuing ruck our half Chris Ryan was able to gather the ball to cross for our first points. With Andrew Cook's conversion

successful the Whites lead was reduced to 12-7. The next try by the Eagles was one of the best, which started in their own half when centre Damien Adler took the ball forward. Backing up by the players really put us on an attacking move with Damien handling a number of times, taking the final pass to

score under the posts. However, Cookies attempt right in front was waved away, and the score locked at 12 all. The Eagles T3 were then starting to click, bringing the ball back into the Whites red zone, and from a set scrum the ball came back our way. However the Whites half came around and really flattened our half Chris Ryan who had to leave the field injured. As a result the referee penalised the Whites player and replacement Luke Maher stepped forward for the pressure kick, which he potted to give the Eagles a 15-12 win.

Over the last two games the Eagles T3's form, has seemed to falter and they have failed to show the solid attacking play and defence we witnessed in the games played at the start of the season. They will need to regain that form in the coming week's game against Goulburn, who will be at home and running close to the

top on the leaders Board, if they are to remain in the top position. However with the Premier Division teams having the bye, the Eagles T3's should be able to field a team of regular T3 players.

Just on a sad note I was informed by Tim Power on Tuesday that our half back Chris Ryan had to go to the Hospital Emergency as a result of the injury he sustained, and was admitted to the intensive care unit. On behalf of the T3 players we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on the paddock with us in the near future. Get well Chris from all of us..

Eagles: 15 Tries: Ryan, Adler

Cook conv., Luke Maher pen goal

Qbn: 12

Points: Damien Adler 3, Tim Sedgwick 2, Terry McEwan 1.

WOMEN'S

The season has been the "year of unbelievable injuries". One MUST start by saying, that the welcome mat laid out to me personally and the ladies in reforming the team this year was most warming if not surprising.

At the start of the year we had very good numbers but the injury toll has been all but fatal. Having only 15 players on one occasion this season! Only last week against Royals did we have more players than

the opposition. But at no time has the girls' enthusiasm wavered. On the day we played ADFA, for the second time in 4 days, we started with only 11 players. We were down 12-nil after 5 minutes, and as coach I thought "here goes". And here goes alright! The girls started to play - and play they did. 12-10 at half time. Just after half time leading 15-12 with 10 players, Lou sustained a broken leg, but the girls continued. Ange injured her knee (lucky her Mum & Dad were there to see that) and Kylie H had damaged her shoulder while we were caring for Ang. We were now down to 8 players! On 2 occasions I spoke with the rest of the girls and suggested we call the game off. The Girls would not have a bar of it, playing on with only 8 players. This is the sign of the commitment that these young ladies possess and is the solid foundation that our team will

build on. There are only two games left this season; we travel to Jindabyne this weekend and then Tuggies in a fortnight. We have made a commitment to Cobar and will head out there to play in a 10's tournament on the October long weekend. As the coach of these fine young ladies it is very pleasing to see the development of a devoted team of players.

JUNIOR EAGLES

With School holidays and an extended break from rugby just around the corner, the time is right for a quick update on our progress.

Round 7:

U/18s V Yass - 34 to 10 win (great win with only 14 players).

U/15s V Broulee - 43 to 20 loss (a hard fought loss).

U/12s V Queanbeyan - 20 to 5 loss (things didn't go our way).

U/11s V St Edmunds - 39 all draw (our boys converted a try, from wide out, after the hooter to snatch the draw).

U/10s (Div 3) V Burgmann - 30 to 27 loss (almost got there).

U/10s (Div 1) - Bye.

U/9s V Uni Norths - 40 to 5 loss (stiff opposition).

U/8s and U/7s - enjoying their rugby.

Thanks to Cathie Leaudais and the Junior Eagles who took part in the first McDonald's Fun Night - it looked like a lot of fun.

For those who would like to see where our U/18s through to U/9s sit, on their respective ladders, please use the following website <http://actjru2.leaguerepublic.com/>

The ladder is normally fully updated by Wednesday of each week.

James Willemsen

President Gungahlin Eagles Juniors

Player profile: DEREK LEEFE

Player Sponsor: SMARTLINE PERSONAL MORTGAGE ADVISERS

Date of birth: 14/05/1978

Height: 183cm

Weight: 125kg

Position: Physical Characteristics dictate Prop, however have the vision of a First Five

Rep. Honours: Ngati Porou East Coast N.P.C 1999 - 2004

New Zealand Divisional XV 2001 - 2004

Poverty Bay/East Coast Vs Scotland 2000

ACT Senior Team 2006 - 2010

Junior clubs: Flaxmere Barbarians

Previous clubs: Tokomaru Bay (East Coast)

Hikurangi Sports Club (East Coast)

Horouta Sports Club (East Coast)

Clive (HawkesBay)

What age did you start playing union? From the age of 5, but had a break for several years so I could pursue a soccer career.

Who are your footy heroes? Anyone who wears a Black jersey with a silver fern on it.

Who's been the biggest influence on your career? 3 people- my father, my wife Margaret and my brother in law Wirihana. My father shaped me into what I am today, to be humble and play as best as you can. My wife Margaret, has supported me through the many highs and lows of my career, she provides me with real feedback after my game and has made many sacrifices in order for me to continue playing rugby. My brother in law Wirihana opened new opportunities for me and gave me a fresh start, without his help I would not have achieved the things I have to date.

Celebrity you would most like to meet: Adam Sandler, cause Rob Schneider is also guaranteed to be there.

Pre-match rituals Not sure if I should comment on this one...

What would you spend your last \$20 on? Bread and Fizzy Drink



Most annoying team mate: Sully, when he is late to team meetings!

Favourite movie: Happy Gilmore - no matter how many times I watch that movie it always makes me laugh

Favourite TV show: Underbelly

Favourite band: Don't have one, listen to just about anything.

2010 goals: Obviously to win a Grand Final and remain injury free for the rest of the year. Oh. and to surpass Needsy as the Top try scorer for the club

Player profile: SAM NEEDS

Date of birth: 18/02/1991

Height: 1780mm

Weight: 107kg

Position: Hooker

Rep. honours: ACT Colts 2010

Junior clubs South West Rocks Gaolers, Smithtown Tigers

Previous clubs: South West Rocks Gaolers, Smithtown Tigers

What age did you start playing union? 8

Who are your footy heroes? Matthew Burke, John Eales

Who's been the biggest influence on your career Mum and dad and Grandad

Celebrity you would most like to meet: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Pre-match rituals: Write on wrist tape

What would you spend your last \$20 on Skittles

Most annoying team mate: FANG "el-dihnio"*

Favourite movie: X-Men origins: Wolverine

Favourite TV show: Friends / Scrubs

Favourite band: The Beatles

2010 goals: Win the premiership. Continue to embarrass Hawkie by scoring more tries



Comments from members on our Mailing list.

I look forward to receiving the Eagles News every week. It's great to be part of the Eagles family all the way from Atlanta, Georgia and even better to hear how well the teams are doing this year. Keep up the good work!

Duncan Cole

Old Boys News

It was pleasing to see one of our old boys, James O'Callaghan, recognised for outstanding public service in the recent Queen's Birthday 2010 honours list. Jim's medal recognises his excellent leadership, particularly in recent years in South East Asian region driving improvements in Australia's policy and operational responses to the irregular movement of people, managed migration and humanitarian protection. James played with Daramalan Rugby Club in the seventies and continues to be a great supporter of the Eagles. Well done James!!!





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