



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

**2 September 2010**

**Thursday 2 Sept – Team Photos and Pie Night**

**Bring game shorts and socks!**

**18 September PRESENTATION NIGHT**

**7:30pm @ The Rex \$60 per head (tbc)**

**Congratulations to the Eagles COLTS!**

First Eagles team into the 2010 Grand Final

**PRELIMINARY FINALS 4 September 2010**

**Viking Park**

**3.10pm First Grade** EAGLES vs QUEANBEYAN  
**1.35 pm Reserve Grade** EAGLES vs WESTS  
**12.00pmColts** QUEANBEYAN vs VIKINGS  
**12.05pm 3rds** EAGLES vs HALL  
**10.30am 4ths** EAGLES vs EASTS

## **MATCH REPORTS**

### **FIRST GRADE**

1st grade went into the major semi final against Tuggeranong undermanned but confident. The late withdrawal of Dave King had an emergency SOS sent out to the backs' coach Michael McMahon who had been dominating the 3rd & 4th grade scene all season. The first half had the Eagles right in the game.

Despite the Vikings having a mountain of possession the Eagles were able to come away with points every time they were able to get inside the Vikings 22m zone. Excellent lead up work by the Eagles' big men in the set piece, lead to tries by Ben McGee and Anthony Dawes after periods of sustained pressure in the Vikings red zone.

Macca added to the scoring by slotting a penalty goal as well as converting the 2 first half tries. The Eagles then lapsed in their concentration moments just before the half time break to let in a soft try to the Vikings and a score line of 19-17 resulted. In the second half, the Eagles simply could not get their hands on the ball, and could not establish any decent field position from which to launch their attack. The momentum and weight of possession started to take its toll, with the Eagles having to defend wave after wave of attack and defend against a constant pressure of multi phase football. The Eagles' cause was not helped by injuries to Anthony Dawes (grade 2 medial ligament tear) and Tyrone Anderson (broken ribs & concussion) which forced the men in black into several positional changes. What cannot be questioned was the effort and application of the Eagles.

Anyone that knows anything about the game of rugby will tell you, it is much easier physically to play the game attacking with the ball rather than having to defend, and the Eagles had to defend for approximately 70 minutes out of an 80 minute game of semi final football.

The Eagles live to fight another day and must now beat a confident Queanbeyan side on Saturday. These 2 teams have had some great battles over the last couple of years and Saturday's preliminary final to get into the grand final is shaping up as another classic. See you there.

**EAGLES 17**

**VIKINGS 55**

### **2nd GRADE**

Finals time for the Gungahlin Eagles has proved to be the most exciting in many years. One minor premiership, three teams in second spot on the ladder and fourths fighting their way into the minor-semi. Reserve Grade, the proud holders of the minor premiership trophy, prepared well through the week for their encounter with Queanbeyan. With a win each during the season today's winner could take the bragging rights directly to the grand final.

The opening minutes saw the spoils shared with a penalty each. Territory was very much in the Whites' favour in the early stages of the match. From this, they were able to capitalize with an unconverted try at about the ten minute mark. Queanbeyan continually tested the Eagles' defence but was held out until their fleet-footed fullback evaded at least six defenders to score in the right hand corner. The conversion was unsuccessful. An aspect of the Eagles' game that was not helping their game plan was the continual flow of penalties against them. Minutes before half time Queanbeyan was able to take advantage of this and added three points to their score. Half time score Queanbeyan 16 Eagles 3.

The Eagles responded well after the half time break and appeared to be matching Queanbeyan until a loose ball allowed the Whites to snap up a try against the run of play. The score had now jumped out to 21-3 but to their credit the Eagles continued to put pressure on the Queanbeyan defence. Eagles hit back quickly with a try to James Gregory after our scrum smashed the Whites on their own feed five metres out from their line. Daniel Griffin successfully converted the try. Queanbeyan struck back quickly with a try that came from a poor clearing kick. Missed opportunities and a red card to Iveni dogged the Eagles' attempts to pull back the deficit any further. Queanbeyan kicked a penalty in the late stages of the half to take the score to 29-10.

**EAGLES 10** Tries: James Gregory  
Conv: Griffin Pen: Griffin

**QBN 29**

### **COLTS**

The Colts ran out at Viking Park in the major semi final against Queanbeyan who completed the season as undefeated minor premiers. Our boys were primed for an all out effort. Queanbeyan went straight into attack with all the confidence you would expect from a team with their record so far this season. They soon won a penalty and took a successful kick for goal. The score 3-0. The intensity of the play continued and Queanbeyan had to replace two players through injury. The Eagles' boys charged into the opposition led by a good run by Sam Needs. They were awarded a penalty near the Queanbeyan line, took a tap and were held up over the line. Queanbeyan survived and drove the ball back to the Eagles 22 and again, some desperate defence was required. Queanbeyan took another shot at goal from a penalty which

was not successful a further unsuccessful attempt followed. The pressure continued on the Eagles' line. A further penalty allowed Queanbeyan to finally succeed in the penalty shots and the score went out to 6-0. When play commenced again the Eagles had a penalty shot but it also missed. Constant pressure on the opposition line brought another penalty opportunity which was successfully kicked by Daniel Mannix and the score was 6-3. This remained the score till half time.

Directly after the start of the second half, the Eagles pressured the Queanbeyan line without success. Following a penalty to Queanbeyan, the Eagles needed some desperate defence to save their line. Eventually Queanbeyan were able to break the line and score a try. The score was now out to 11-3 to Queanbeyan. This brought the Eagles right back in a concerted attempt to claw back the Queanbeyan lead. In a good backline movement Thomas Hyland was able to go over for a try. The conversion was not successful but the score was now 11-8. A good reply. The atmosphere was very tense. Queanbeyan again resumed pressure on our line with the clock becoming the enemy. The Eagles made a good break which brought play into the opposition 22. The pressure continued and Samuel Elliot finally got the ball over for an Eagles try. The score now read 11-13 to Eagles and a big upset was possible. Queanbeyan threw everything back at Eagles as time was very short for them to save the day and their unbeaten record. Our boys held well. Finally, to the great jubilation of the Eagles' camp, full time was called by the referee.

A great win which the players will remember for some time. The win puts us straight into the Grand Final. A big day for the team and club. We need everybody out at Viking Park on Grand Final day to cheer on our boys to a premiership win. They have shown that they can do it.

**EAGLES 13**  
**QBN 11**

### **T3**

This week the Eagles T3's travelled south once more to Viking Park Erindale for their Major Semi Final against the Tuggeranong Vikings. A day which could be called "Black Saturday" for the Eagles Club, as they were only able to manage one win from four teams. The T3's would like to congratulate the Colts' team in successfully defeating the undefeated Queanbeyan side to go straight to the Grand Final. The Eagles T3's game was going to be tough as the Vikings are a well-drilled team. Each side shared possession in the half and points were difficult to come by. The Eagles defence stood up well to the Vikings onslaught, and they were only able to cross the Eagles line once, and with the conversion and penalty goal, went to a 10-0 lead. The Eagles tried hard to put on points but were unable to break the Vikings defence, although they went close. So the Vikings went to a 10-0 lead at half time, which was not beyond the Eagles.

However the second half turned into a very disappointing performance by the Eagles T3's, who seemed to switch off. As a result our normally solid defence was nonexistent, giving the Vikings a glut of possession which they used to their advantage. They cut us to ribbons by running through and adding twenty-six points. It was a very disappointing result as I firmly believe that the team can play better than that. Everything the Eagles tried, failed to come off, and it was just not their day.

So we enter the finals next week against the Minor Semi winner Hall. Although the Eagles T3's defeated them by a large margin when we played them during the competition rounds, I believe that Hall will be pumped up and come out firing to avenge that defeat. It will be a very tough encounter for our boys. Also due to the fact that all teams suffered injuries in the Major Semis, together with possible suspensions and player availability, it could be a hard day at the office for these teams trying to gain entry to the Grand Finals the next week.

**EAGLES 0**  
**VIKINGS 36**

### **T4**

It is finals time and for the first time in over 20 years, the Mighty Gungahlin Eagles have 5 grades playing for a spot in the GF. Saturday saw mixed emotions for our players, a gutsy win by our Colts sees them straight to the GF, gutsy performances by the rest of our boys was not enough on the day.

Sunday came; a glorious day for Rugby. T4 made the long trip deep into the rough side of town to face their demons. A minor semi final game against Royals Molonglo, a team who earlier in the season had won a close encounter. The focus and desire to win was evident and for the first time we had players show up on time! (most of them anyway) some of which showed up and waited for the gate to open, all kitted up (Dallas McGee, YOU LEGEND!!).

My apologies for this report, the excitement of the game and seeing my T4 team mates play a brilliant defensive and gutsy game may contribute to the inaccurate account of details. This is just how I saw the game.

A not so desired start saw us give a penalty from the kick off which subsequently meant that after a few minutes Royals Molonglo scored a try, but missed the conversion. Our boys fought hard in defence for most of the first half. Great defensive effort by Danny, Peter B, Luke and in fact everyone in the team led to Eagles finally getting a chance to attack and subsequently awarded a penalty, deciding to take the points which was not to be the case! A missed attempt should have deflated our boys but NO! Showing their huge hearts the boys fought back with 5 minutes to go before half time and once again showed the passion and strength in numbers that is the core of the Mighty Eagles. Lee "El Presidento" O'Sullivan took his opportunity with the support of the whole pack to push over the line for our first and only try of the game! Conversion was subsequently missed.

Half time talk was to focus on the little things and how we needed to give that extra effort which is what finals footy is all about! There was no better example of this than Danny Evers who was all over the field giving that extra effort. All our boys dug deep and continue to play hard and keep pressure on the opposition which led to them making mistakes and being penalised. These penalties saw our boys convert 2 penalties which made our lead 11-5 with 12 minutes to go, and which was to be the final score in a hard fought TEAM win.

T4 would like to thank all physios and team support for showing up on the day.

**EAGLES 11**  
**QBN 5**

## EAGLES MERCHANDISE

Some merchandise still available

**\$55 Hoodies**

Black/White & Navy/White sizes L, XXL

**\$44 Tracksuit pants**

Black/White & Black/Grey sizes M, L, XL, XXL

**\$88 Hoodie/Tracksuit pants**

**\$33 Eagles Backpacks**

Preferred payment is by direct debit.

**Account name:** Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Union Club Inc

**Account no:** 040008912      **BSB:** 112-908

**Please do not forget to put your name and size as your bank narration when direct debiting your money.**

**Contact Johnny Power.**

