



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

## **Newsletter**

### **Eagles vs Uni North 29 May 2010**

Video highlights of last weeks game available on [YouTube](#).

### **Presidents Word**

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Last Saturday's results produced another clean sweep for the Eagles, the second of the season after only 3 rounds. A big thanks to the family and friends whose support helped get our teams across the line, we hope to play plenty of entertaining rugby to keep you coming back. Clean sweeps are often hard to come by especially against the very strong Uni-Norths Club who had their colts and third grade sides compete in last year's grand finals. Congratulations to all players, coaches, and management for this achievement, let's hope there are plenty more to come!

On behalf of the club I would like to welcome back former first grade prop Aaron Watkins to the Eagles coaching ranks as the colts's forwards coach. Aaron will assist good friend Tony Whittaker in helping guide our very promising under 20's side through the season. Aaron brings with him a wealth of playing experience as a member of the 1995 and 2003 first grade grand final teams as well as playing a few seasons of over in Ireland.

This week the Eagles first and second grade squads had the opportunity to train at Griffith Oval running opposition against the Fijian National Team which will play the Wallabies this Saturday night at Canberra Stadium. It was a unique opportunity for our players to train against and learn from an international team which boasts so much natural talent. After the session the teams exchanged gifts and a few words. Hopefully last night's session might convince Rupeni Caucaunibuca to play his club rugby at Gungahlin if he eventually signs with the Brumbies for 2011!

All the Best to all the teams playing this weekend.

**1st Grade V Easts @ Griffith 3:10pm**

**2nd Grade V Easts @ Griffiths 1:30pm**

**Colts V Easts @ Griffith 12:15pm**

**1st Division 1st Grade v Cooma @ Nicholls 1:00pm**

**1st Division 2nd Grade v Cooma @ Nicholls 2:30pm**

### **Player milestone - Leigh Hancock 250 grade games**

Leigh Hancock played his 250th grade game for the Eagles last Saturday when he came from the bench in 2nd grade. Leigh commenced playing for the Eagles in 1993 and has played every year except for three when he was living overseas.

As a testament to his durability and dedication, Leigh has

averaged just under 17 games per year for the 15 years he has played, accumulating 16 1st grade games and 234 other grade games (many in 2nd grade). He achieved 100 games in 1998 and 200 games in 2007.

Leigh's value to the club cannot be understated as he has played all those games in the front row providing toughness and stability – and scoring a pie every now and then. Regardless of his huge frame, Leigh has always been one of the gentlemen of the club and is highly respected by all.

There are only a few players that have accumulated more than 250 games and it seems Leigh is intent on mowing them all down – Peter O'Neill 255, Leigh Donnellan 261, Greg Ward 262, Adam Gresham 265 (and still counting), Phil Johnstone 275, John Cullen 280 and Terry Fox 319. Well done Leigh and all the best for the future.

### **1st Grade**

1st grade continued their good start to the season grinding out a hard fought 20-17 against a highly motivated and committed Uni's team.

In abysmal conditions the Eagles started the match well dominating in the physical exchanges and setting up camp in the Owls 22 area for the vast majority of the 1st half.

Once again it was the Eagles dominating the set piece contest at scrum and lineout time, as well having the better of exchanges in the defence around the ruck and tackle areas.

The Owls struggled to win their own ball at the set piece with Eagles lineout well on top and taking 7 of the opposition throws at crucial stages in the match while the Eagles scrum dominance had the Owls unable to launch any decent attacking raid to play off and were constantly under pressure and scrambling to win their own ball.

This proved to be decisive and the difference between the two teams throughout the match, as both teams struggled to play a game plan that suited the wet and slippery conditions which was dominated by the large amounts kicking and handling.

The eagles scored 3 first half tries with Kurt Mulchay using his pace to beat the cover defence to go over for the eagles 1st try. Patto Noriega benefitted from the Eagles pack dominating the rumble area contest, finishing off some excellent forward play and barging over from close range to get the Eagles 2nd score. Anthony Dawes elected to put up a bomb from a free kick inside his own half, the Owls hesitated to defuse the aerial threat and Dawes, on hand to chase his own kick showed good pace and footwork to out run the defence to go

over for the Eagles 3rd score.

After the break the eagles struggled to get a handle on playing for territory, pushing far too many risky passes in attack and failing to take advantage of the greater majority ball being supplied with an inaccurate kicking game.

Anthony Dawes slotted a penalty goal for the only other score in the 2nd half.

The Owls while not creating opportunities themselves in attack were able to feed off the Eagles inaccuracies and get themselves in the back in the contest and claw themselves back into the game.

The Eagles got caught up in the Owls negative and spoiling tactics which distracted them from their task, and resulted in them getting caught up several dust ups - all of which went against the Eagles and added to the Owls momentum and fight back.

The Eagles superior physicality in the collision contest and excellent goal line defence proved to be the difference and in the end won them the game.

As the game was coming to a close in the last 4 minutes, the referee awarded the Owls 5 consecutive penalties from close range, and the Owls, fancying their chances of pulling off a surprise victory elected to play on each occasion. Showing a determined stubbornness to refuse to submit, the Eagles defence muscled up, was up to the challenge and kept knocking over attack after attack which ultimately resulted in the match winning turnover that won them the game.

This was a win that showed plenty of character and demonstrated a willingness to never give up.

**Eagles 20**  
**Vikings 17**

Tries: Noriega, Dawes, Mulcahy

Con: Dawes Pen: Dawes

Patricio Noriega 3  
Derek Leefe 2  
Tevita Halaifonua 1

## **2nd Grade**

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Wet weather rugby has not been all that common in recent years but overnight rain certainly suggested that the team that could handle the conditions would come out on top. Reserve grade were two from two coming into this match against Unis Norths and looking to collect its third bonus point win.

Unis Norths were first to score with a penalty after only one minute of play. Eagles hit back quickly with a typical Iveni Tuitupou try, a ruck five metres out, spinning in the tackle and over. The try was converted by James Lovell from near the touch line. The ten minute mark had not been reached before Eagles struck again after a Uni Norths turnover on half way. Quik hands had the ball with flying winger Leigh Weston who slipped the cover to score yet another try for the season. J Lo converted and Eagles had jumped to a 14 -3 lead. It appeared that the Eagles were going to begin a try fest. However, Uni

Norths started to dominated a lot of field position due to the Eagles conceding numerous free kicks and penalties and clever kicking in the wet conditions. Only resolute defence kept Uni Norths tryless for the half.

During the break Eagles were instructed to pick up the intensity, maintain possession and field position but most of all not give away penalties. It took only five minutes of the second half for the Eagles to respond with an unconverted try to Daniel Griffin. This try was again generated from around the halfway mark and added to Daniel's record of having scored in each of his games this year. Uni Norths put Eagles under pressure with constant possession which they converted into points. A try and conversion had them back in the match trailing 19-10. Eagles were searching for points to keep Uni Norths out of reach and also obtain the bonus point for a fourth try. Momentum was swinging the Eagles way in the final ten minutes and a blind side break produced an unconverted try to J Lo. With the full time whistle not far off a penalty goal to J Lo brought up the final score of Eagles 27 – Uni Norths 10.

**Eagles 27**  
**Vikings 10**

Tries: Tuitupou, Weston, Griffin, J Lovell

Con: J Lovell (2) Pen: J Lovell

James Lovell 3  
Shannan Pye 2  
James Gregory 1

## **Colts**

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Coming off a last minute loss to Vikings in the previous round the Colts were eager to get on with business in this round against Uni Norths.

The conditions were far from perfect to play expansive rugby and the Colts were struck a blow in the first minute of the game with a spilt ball off the

kick off leading to a try to Uni Norths. The first half continued on with mistakes and penalties before No. 10 Dan Mannix, returning from his stint in firsts, slid through the Uni defence to score next to the posts. Mannix converted his own try bringing the score to 7 all. Minutes later Mannix slotted a penalty goal to bring the lead out to 3.

As the first half came to a close, Captain and half back Sean Connochie ran through the defence and scored next to the posts. Mannix converted the try to give the Gungahlin boys a 17-7 lead.

The Colts came out firing in the second half and were on the board with an excellent back line move leading to a try to centre Ryan O'Sullivan.

The Colts continued to maintain pressure on the Uni team with dominant forward play by Sam Needs, Xavier Duffy, Taylor Hartwig and man of the match Jeremy Reinhart.

This pressure led to the try of the match and with a team and close to length of the field effort that was eventually scored by half back turned winger Ben Dencio. This try was

converted by Mannix to bring the score out to 29-7.

Uni continued to fight on scoring a late converted try before the Colt's responded minutes from full time with a try of their own to Xavier Duffy.

Time was called and the boys came away with a scrappy five tries bonus point win.

**Eagles 34**  
**Vikings 14**

Tries: Mannix, Connochie, O'Sullivan, Dencio, Duffy

Con: Mannix (3) Pen: Mannix

Jeremy Reinhart	3
Taylor Hartwig	2
Dan Mannix	1

### **T3**

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Firstly I must correct an error I made in last week match report, when I credited Luke McGrath scoring two tries for the game, when they should have been credited to Chris "Frank" Connolly, who was quick to bring to my attention arriving at the ground this week. So Frank I apologise to you for the error I made.

With heavy overnight rain we arrived this week at ANU Oval for our game against Uni-North Owls, with a heavy track, and were lucky to only get a short shower during the game. The Eagles gave away weight to the bigger Owl forwards who had the advantage of the heavy field. As a result they had a good share of the ball, even when we fed it at times, but we were compensated in the line outs with our tall jumpers Luke McGrath and Jordan Skaines obtaining good possession from them.

In the first half neither side was unable to crack their opponents try line with good attacking play, but with the slippery ball they broke down with the ball going to ground due to the conditions. The Owls added by the frequent penalties awarded by the Newcastle Referee, had ample opportunities to score but were unable to break the Eagles solid defence, and when the Owls players made a break and looked like scoring, the Eagles defence seemed to come from nowhere to halt the movement. With twenty five of play proceeding without result, the Eagles mounted a good attack by taking the ball well into the Owls red zone, and from a strong push over Hooke Bodie touched down for the first points, with Andrew Cook's conversion just failing, the Eagles went to the break 5-0 up.

The second half was much the same as the first one, with both sides attacking but unable to score points, however the Owls did get inches to the Eagles line from a good attack but were unable to score because of the Eagles very solid defence. Once again the Owls mounted attacks on the Eagles line, but they were driven back each time, and with a number of penalties each time the Owls tried they were still unable to cross the Eagles line, in frustration the referee gave Luke Wild a yellow card, and even with a player short the Eagles line held.

The referee then gave some penalties to the Eagles, and from

one Cookie kicked a penalty goal, and from good attacking play and backing up we saw Terry McEwan take the final pass to score in the corner, which sealed the game for the Eagles 13-0.

Another good win against another top team which still leaves the Eagles T3's on top of the table, but there is a long way to go yet. So keep up your good work by playing as a team with all players doing their share of the work, and keep coming to training.

**Eagles 13**  
**Vikings 10**

Tries: Bode, McEwan

Pen: Cook

Matty Power	3
Brent Skaines	2
David Bode	1

### **T4**

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Greetings Eagles supporters, what a sensational win for T4 and a cracking way to start the Eagles off on a comprehensive all grades display on the day! The men of T4 were coming off a hard fought loss to Tuggies the week before and were pitting their talent against an ANU outfit that were sitting comfortably ahead of the Eagles on the ladder in 3rd spot. Eagles vs ANU T4 derbies are always gritty close affairs and this game was no different. ANU started the better of the two teams by gaining solid possession and field position early and a pushover try from a lineout was the result. This seemed to snap the forwards out of a somewhat slumber, the boys started to get stuck in and we hit back with a well earned try.

As against Tuggies the week before, T4 seem to lose focus (*Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow*) after scoring a try and let a couple of easy tries in. Timothy Deacon aka Fog Horn was yelling instructions from the sideline which seemed to rev the boys (and the ref) back into gear and we closed back with two tries before half time. A special mention must go out to Leigh "Redders" Redmayne – this bloke is a fantastic, rugged and skilled rugby player however he is far too pretty to be playing rugby, even in the backs, so the T4 management have decided to enter him into miss Australia – the club wishes you well mate.

The second half saw the Eagles start to win an even amount of possession and field position, we began to pressurise the ANU defence and they split open towards the end of the second half. A fantastic charge down from Gresh on the oppositions 40 metre line saw him chase the ball, shin it closer to the line, slide from 10metres out, retrieve the pill and glide over for a superlative try that was magnificent to watch – you haven't lost it Gresh. The coaching staff deserve a big rap for making some great substitutions, everyone got some game time and contributed to the bonus point win. T4 are now in the top four on the ladder so well done lads and keep it going!

Sideline comments from others on the sideline include:

- Macca produced a super kick and regather in wet conditions to score

- Lomu doing some great hit ups being tackled by 3 or 4 blokes at a time (just quietly some cut out balls would have been ideal here)
- great kicking game from Macca
- great hits by Redders.

**Eagles 27**

**Vikings 14**

Tries: Watson, Gresham (2), McMahon, Donaldson

Con: Newcombe

Justin Corkran 3

Peter Judge 2

Leigh Redmayne 1

## Ladders

P=Played W=Wins D=Draws L=Losses F=Points For

A=Points Against Df=Points Difference

BP 4t=Four Tries BP <7p=Close Losses Pts=Ladder Points

### 1st Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
Gungahlin	3	3	0	0	87	63	24	2	0	14
Wests	2	2	0	0	66	23	43	1	0	13
Tuggeranong	2	1	0	1	72	46	26	2	1	11
Queanbeyan	3	1	0	2	76	83	-7	1	0	5
Easts	3	1	0	2	42	67	-25	0	1	5
Uni-Norths	2	0	0	2	36	68	-32	0	1	5
Royals	3	1	0	2	45	74	-29	0	0	4

### 2nd Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
Queanbeyan	3	3	0	0	115	22	93	3	0	15
Gungahlin	3	3	0	0	104	48	56	3	0	15
Wests	2	2	0	0	87	7	80	2	0	14
Tuggeranong	2	0	0	2	29	70	-41	1	0	5
Uni-Norths	2	0	0	2	17	63	-46	0	0	4
Easts	3	1	0	2	39	98	-59	0	0	4
Royals	3	0	0	3	19	102	-83	0	0	0

### Colts

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
Queanbeyan	3	3	0	0	97	25	72	2	0	14
Gungahlin	3	2	0	1	90	60	30	3	1	12
Wests	2	1	0	1	37	19	18	1	1	10
Tuggeranong	2	1	0	1	40	38	2	1	1	10
Royals	3	2	0	1	54	49	5	0	0	8
Uni-Norths	2	0	0	2	19	84	-65	0	0	4
Easts	3	0	0	3	13	75	-62	0	0	0

## First Division - First Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
Gungahlin	4	4	0	0	177	19	158	3	0	23
Tuggeranong	5	4	0	1	169	93	76	4	0	20
Hall	5	3	0	2	123	88	35	4	1	17
Goulburn	4	2	0	2	147	84	63	3	1	16
Uni-Norths	4	2	0	2	80	72	8	3	0	15
Wests	4	2	0	2	51	84	-33	1	0	13
Cooma	4	2	0	2	74	62	12	2	1	11
Queanbeyan	5	2	0	3	95	127	-32	2	0	10
Easts	5	2	0	3	112	207	-95	2	0	10
ADFA	3	0	0	3	64	96	-32	2	1	7
Royals	5	1	0	4	66	226	-160	2	0	6

## First Division - Reserve Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
Tuggeranong	5	5	0	0	242	86	156	5	0	25
Easts	5	5	0	0	126	50	76	3	0	23
Royals Molongo	5	3	0	1	127	70	57	3	1	21
Gungahlin	4	2	0	2	91	67	24	2	1	15
Uni-Norths	4	2	0	2	81	77	4	1	0	13
Hall	5	2	1	2	96	78	18	2	0	12
Wests	4	1	0	3	65		-41	0	1	9
Cooma	4	0	1	2	51	46	5	0	1	8
ADFA	3	1	0	2	36	95	-59	0	0	8
Royals	5	0	0	3	26	132		0	0	0
Goulburn	4	0	0	4	45	179	-134	0	0	0

## Women

Team	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	Total
Tuggeranong	3	3	0	0	2	97	12	14
Uni-Norths	3	2	1	0	3	101	10	11
ADFA	2	1	1	0	1	50	35	5
Gungahlin	3	1	2	0	1	35	70	5
Royals	1	0	1	0	0	7	29	0
Jindabyne	2	0	2	0	0	0	134	0

## Player profile - Chris 'Frank' Connelly



**Date of Birth:** 29 November 1979

**Height:** 185cm

**Weight:** 105kg and counting

**Position:** Second row, prop eventually

**Rep. Honours:** None. Politics kept me out of the rep teams.

**What age did you start playing union?**

21 or so. I played one or two games at Dara but didn't start really playing until I was about 21. I am still trying to learn the rules to be honest.

**Who are your footy heroes?**

(In no particular order) George Smith, Ritchie McCaw, Lee O'Sullivan, Matty Power, Sebastien Chabal, Greg Inglis.

**Who has had the biggest influence on your career?**

My wife, who still lets me play.

**Celebrity you would most like to meet?**

Anthony Dawes.

**Pre-match rituals?**

I have a Powerade and a packet of lollies. I triple check that I've got all my kit before I leave home. I always put on my left sock, left boot, then right sock, right boot.

**What would you spend your last \$20 on?**

Since Leroy is asking the questions my answer is I'd pay it towards my Eagles rego. My real answer is I'd spend it on food or beers. (For the record I have paid my rego).

**Most annoying team mate?**

Herbie. Ever since that poker night a few years ago. It's not that he's annoying, I just don't like him.

**Favourite movie?**

Die Hard, Anchorman, Old School.

**Favourite TV show?**

Dallas.

**Favourite band?**

Chili Peppers, Dave Matthews Band.

**2010 goals?**

Get a few more tries. Be part of an Eagles Premiership winning side. See the Eagles win all 5 Premierships. Start building a house in September.

## Eagles merchandise now available

Gungahlin 2010 Tracksuits (Hoodies/Tracksuit pants) are now available.

Be quick limited sizes available. First in best dressed! There will be updated list of sizes and colours remaining at the end of each week.

\$55 – Hoodies – black/white & navy/white sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

\$55 – Tracksuit pants – black/white & black/grey sizes M, L, XL, XXL

\$88 – Hoodie/tracksuit pants

\$110 – Hoodie/tracksuit pants & Adidas training shirt

Preferred payment is by direct debit details as per below.

Account name: Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Union Club Inc

BSB: 112-908

Account number: 040008912

Please do not forget to put your name and size as your bank narration when direct debiting your money. Gear will be available after Thursday night's training and game days from Johnny Power.

## Club membership drive

Being a signed-up member of Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Club gives you the right to participate in decisions on who runs your club and how it is run.

Some important changes to the club's constitution are being prepared and will be put before the membership for decision later this year. If you want to have a say in these decisions you need to be a current member.

Under normal arrangements there is a one-off joining fee and a small annual fee. However, because we want as many as possible voting on the proposed constitutional changes, the joining fee and the annual fee have been set at zero for the next few weeks.

If you want to become a member at no cost, please print off and complete the attached membership application form below and return it by **30 June 2010**.

You can post your completed form to **PO Box 30 Gungahlin ACT 2912** or hand it to any club official on a game day.





**gungahlin**  
**EAGLES**  
Gungahlin Eagles  
Rugby Union Club Inc  
PO Box 126  
Gungahlin ACT 2912  
ABN: 32 641 007 601

**APPENDIX 1 – Subrule 3(1)**  
**Application for membership**

I, .....

(full name of applicant)

of .....

(address)

hereby apply to become a member of the above named incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

.....

(Signature of Applicant)

Date .....

I, .....

(full name)

a member of the association, nominate the applicant who is personally known to me for membership of the association.

.....

(Signature of Nominator)

Date .....

I, .....

(full name)

a member of the association, second the nomination of the applicant who is personally known to me for membership of the association.

.....

(Signature of Secunder)

Date .....



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