



# Pre-Season Match Reports

FINAL ROUND TRANSACT CUP

9 May 2009

EAGLES V QUEANBEYAN



## COLTS

A beautiful day for football at sunny Nicholls. The crowds had gathered to see Frenchie's young eagles take on the might of the Queanbeyan colts.

There were a good number of players who had gathered to enjoy the fray against the top team from last season. The contest began with a smart move by Queanbeyan which resulted in a converted try. Not to be outdone the young Eagles quickly replied. They drove play down into the Queanbeyan quarter and with sustained pressure, Alex Roland charged down a kick and followed through to score the try. Sam Needs then kicked the conversion.

The second quarter saw no further score from either team. The Eagles took it up to Queanbeyan who started to lose discipline and give away penalties to the home side.

The third and last quarter saw Queanbeyan cross the line on a number of occasions after a lot of sustained pressure on the Gungahlin line.

The boys put a lot of guts into their game but with a mixture of new players and new season rustiness were not able to carry the day. There was enough to show that the young Eagles should be a force in the 2009 Colts competition as they get their talons sharpened by the coaching staff.

**RESULT** Eagles 7  
Queanbeyan 26

**Player Match Points:** 3 Sam Needs                      2 James Lovell                      1 Terry McEwen

## RESERVE GRADE

Sunny Nicholls was the venue for this end of preseason contest between the 2008 Reserve Grade grand finalists. As was demonstrated in last year's encounters, the match started with the same defensive commitment from both sides. The Eagles scrum dominated early and by the end of the match had taken a couple of tight heads and lineouts of the Whites' pack.

The first points of the match was a try to James Herbert who beat the defence with some sharp foot work and then turned on the after burners to sprint 75 metres to the line.

Eagles quickly pushed up into the Whites' half following the kick off, but a penalty on the back of a free kick had us well into our territory. After committed defence and following sustained attack Queanbeyan crossed for their first try.

The scorer was kept busy during the first half with two more Eagles tries to Xavier Duffy and Tim Donnellan. Both scored through neat passes from Brendon Pye. Xavier's speed and line running split the defence 20 metres out for a dash to the line. Tim's try included a palm off, a side step that left their No.15 spellbound and a sprint of 20 metres to score (reminds me of another Donnellan chap I once saw play). Queanbeyan had also put two more tries on the board during what was a very even first half .

However Queanbeyan stepped up in the second half and scored another four tries to one. Eagles Iveni Tuitupou scored after great phase play kept the pressure on the Whites' defence. During the second half, Eagles defensive pattern was put under pressure when down to fourteen men for two separate 10 minute intervals.

The season proper opens next week against Unis/Norths and reserve grade is looking forward to sustaining the first half effort of last week for the full 70 minutes.

**Player Match Points:** 3 Chris Connelly      2 Tim Donnellan      1 James Herbert

## EAGLES T3

It was back to the footy this weekend at Home base Nicholls Oval for the Eagles Club, where we played hosts to the Queanbeyan Whites for the final round of the TransACT Club Shield.

The Whites team that took to the field for the game against the Eagles T3 consisted of a very large pack of forwards, who certainly gave them a weight advantage against our scrawny bunch. This they used to their advantage with good go forward assisted by the number of penalties that T3 gave away. This enabled the Whites to gain easy yardage, which they used to run in two tries and a conversion to go to any easy lead of 12-0.

However the Eagles T3 then started to settle down after their slow start and began to gain good field advantage and take play into the Whites' red zone. With good work by the forwards, we pushed over the try line, and when all players finally got to their feet Eagles half Simon Carey was on top of the ball and awarded our first points. Play was evenly balanced and at half time the Whites were in front 12-5.

With the start of the second half the Eagles T3 began to outplay the Whites, especially in the forwards. Good field position and attack resulted in Luke McGrath crashing over after good lead up work again by the forwards, which closed the gap to 10-12 to the Whites. Again good work by the T3 players saw the ball go along the back line, with centre Damien Hawes taking a pass at pace to split the Whites' defence and place the ball under the black dot. Leigh Redmayne converted and the Eagles went to a 15-12 lead.

We then saw both teams attack and defend strongly, but unable to add points on the board, until the Whites scored, aided by a number of penalties they received, giving them easy yardage resulting in the try. This locked the score up at 17 all, and both teams battled hard to get the advantage. In the closing stages of the match we saw a good back line move which resulted in Eagles winger James Kyburz taking the final pass, skirting the side line with his pace, beating the cover defence to score in the corner. With Redders kick unsuccessful, the final whistle blew to give the Eagles T3 a 22-17 win.

This win gave the Eagles T3, 3 wins in this competition and undefeated, with the trial win over Uni-Norths. It was a very successful lead up to the 2009 competition. In all games we have fielded a number of players and it is good to see the old faces back and a number of new ones. I am sure that both coaches Glenn Carey and Miky Adam were pleased with the talent they have to work with this year, in both 3rd and 4th grades.

So boys the real work starts next week with the start of the 2009 competition, so how about giving the coaches a fair go for the time they put into the teams, and get to training and I feel sure that the Eagles will be in for another great season.

<b>Result</b>	Eagles	22	Simon Carey, Luke McGrath, Damien Hawes, James Kyburz tries Leigh Redmayne conversion
	Queanbeyan	17	3 tries 1 conversion

**Player Match Points:** 3 Tim Deacon    2 Damien Hawes      1 Matthew Brown