



# ROUND 12

## Match Reports



8 August 2009

### Eagles Vs Easts

At Griffith

Saturday 15 August Gungahlin vs Wests at NICHOLLS

#### FIRST GRADE

**RESULT:** Eagles 61  
Easts 22

**COLTS: Bye - No Easts Colts side**

#### RESERVE GRADE

Reserve Grade had good reason celebrate at the Red and Black Ball after their win over Royals promoted them to second place on the ladder leading into this week's encounter with last placed Easts. The sobering reality, come Sunday, was that three points separate second and sixth. This in mind, this match against Easts required nothing less than a bonus points performance.

The target of a bonus point win was launched by a slick back line move on the Easts 22 with Daniel Callaghan's straight run slicing the defence for a converted try. This seventh minute try was to set the pattern for the first half. Dominance in the forward exchanges and good tactical kicking had Eagles applying pressure on the opposition try line. A well controlled five metre scrum resulted in a push over try to Steve Jones. Plenty of possession gave our backs numerous ball in hand opportunities. Josh Shea as usual was carting the ball up, busting tackles and carrying half the opposition down field. This eventually proved too much for the defence as Josh slipped through, over and past many "would be" tacklers to run 50 metres for a converted try. Half time was looming and the possibility of a bonus point first half was on the cards. Eagles continued pressure in the Easts' territory resulted in a free kick 25 metres out. Iveni was first receiver and proceeded to emulate Josh Shea's deeds - all be it over half the distance and at half the speed. Another conversion and drinks were taken with Eagles up 26-0.

Sustaining the same high standard of play into the second half did not appear to be a problem especially as it took only 1 minute to post our next try. James Herbert's speed out wide, resulted in a converted try before the team management had time to return to their seats. Territory for the remainder of the half was not a problem either. However, execution was. Another 17 minutes passed before a Shannon Pye converted try got the score moving again. The final points of the day were a converted try by Luke Maher who scooted 25 metres untouched. Defence had been a major contributor in the dominance of the Eagles' performance by not allowing Easts out of their half during the second period. For a team that did not miss many tackles Michael Lovell was a standout.

**RESULT:** Eagles 47 Callaghan, Jones, Shea, Tuitupou, Herbert, Pye, Maher tries. Conv: Daniel Callaghan (6)  
Easts 0

**POINTS:** 3 - Michael Lovell 2 - Josh Shea 1 - Shannon Pye

#### 3RD GRADE - Eagles T3

This week the Eagles T3 travelled south to Griffith Oval for their return clash with Easts. It was a very pleasant day with little wind, bright sunshine and the temperature a little on the warm side. Easts after having suffered a 38-17 defeat in our first round clash, and sitting last on the points table with nine straight losses from nine games, probably wondered what there was to look forward to with this game.

Wrong! This game for the Eagles T3 has to go down probably as the worst game for the season, in what only can be described as Easts turned up to play, and the Eagles T3, well they are still turning up. The Eagles T3 although suffering many defeats this season always went down fighting in games played, and it was their solid defence which deprived their opponents from winning by greater margins.

Not today. The Easts players ran riot over the Eagles by throwing the ball around and cutting their non-existent defence to ribbons. Easts quickly ran to a 19-0 lead. But then there was light at the end of the tunnel, when the Eagles used the limited possession they had and from some good attacking play hit back with tries to Leigh Redmayne and John Melhado. With the conversion from Redders, things were looking up and it appeared the Eagles were coming back at 19-12. Just as things were looking up it all turned sour, when an Eagles clearing kick was charged down, and with no one covering the back, Easts beat us to the ball and scored again. So the Eagles went to the break down 26-12.

The Eagles came out all fired up for the second half, but Easts quickly put out the fire with a glut of possession. Throwing the ball around, Easts ran in three tries, assisted by the Eagles poor defence, dropped ball and giving away numerous penalties. With full time approaching the Eagles scored a consolation try by Luke Maher, but by this time the game was over and Easts had their first win of the season, avenging their 38-17 loss in the first round encounter against the Eagles at home.

It was a hard game for the Eagles T3 coach, (Mr. COOLI) Glen Carey who was unable to work out what went wrong for the Eagles, considering the way the boys played in previous matches. With the two remaining games for the year against two of the top placed teams on the ladder, it could be a long two weeks for the T3's, but I know they have a fighting spirit and will make these teams work hard to collect a win.

**RESULT:** Eagles 17 Tries: Redmayne, Melhado, Maher, Redmayne (G)  
Easts 41 (7 tries, 3 goals)

**POINTS** 3 - Redmayne 2 - Jackobasic 1 - Ryan

#### 4TH GRADE - Eagles T4

T4 clashed against the top of the table Easts in an epic battle. After handing a 2nd placed Wests team a 40 point hiding the week before, we knew the Easts stream train would be hard to slow.

The breakdown was hotly contested from the whistle and the hard working back row of Masto, Disco and Edwards did not let us down. Unfortunately a lack of consistency kept us out of the game and unable to mount any pressure. Defending for majority of the first half, we were unable to stop Easts from breaking away to an early 14-0 lead. Booher made sure he stuck to his weekly ritual of tackling everything till his head bled (literally). Big Tama came on after 30 minutes and made a big impact off the bench. Unable to put any real pressure on Easts, T4 went into the break trailing 19-0.

The 2nd half saw more entertaining, razzle-dazzle rugby. This could be because T4 actually had some possession. The forwards clearly won the battle of the piggies in the second half. Big Joe Baird was relentless in defence and made some damaging runs. With more ball in hand, the backs were explosive. Breaking the line several times, only to be shut down by a last ditch effort. 'Knuckles' Osbourne was outstanding from the back, launching several counter attacks and helped put the flying Marco away for our first. Marco continued to threaten with every touch and brilliant play from our outside backs put T4 back within striking range. Aaron Fox came midway through the second. Not to be outdone by the backs he slipped through a gap beating 2 "would-be" tacklers on his way to the line.

Trailing 26-4 with minutes to go, T4 threw the ball around looking for that bonus point try. It came in emphatic style when Osbourne slipped through a gap, getting tackled 5 metres out. Quick hands spread it wide and big Whits came charging through and busted over the line.

**RESULT:** Eagles 19 Tries: Mencina, Fox, Whittaker Conv: Dencio (2)  
Easts 26

**POINTS:** 3 - Sam Wellings-Booth 2 - Joe Baird 1 - John Osbourne, Peter Masterman