



ROUND 13

Match Reports



15 August 2009

Eagles Vs Wests

At Nicholls

Saturday 22 August Gungahlin vs Vikings at Viking Park

FIRST GRADE

A disappointing result for the Eagles saw their season come to an end after losing to Wests 25–7. The game started well, with both teams enthusiastic and aggressive right from the start of the game. Wests saw themselves with the majority of possession for the first part of the game but the Eagles defence was too strong and Wests were only able to come away with 2 penalty goals which put them in front 6–0.

Eagles were confident with the way they had defended and went on the attack and built pressure in Wests' 22. After Wests held them out for quite some time, big boy Andrew Barrell broke through several tackles and scored a great try under the posts to put Eagles in front 7-6. Wests hit back just before half time with a nice set piece, which saw them cross over in the corner to go into the break up 13–7.

Eagles had the wind behind them in the 2nd half but unfortunately like most of the season, they failed to retain the ball, and turned over possession cheaply throughout the rest of the game. Wests were able to capitalise on the Eagles mistakes and ran in another 2 tries to seal the win 25–7.

Eagles now take on Tuggies this Saturday, but no longer have a chance to make the semis.

RESULT: Eagles 7 Tries: A Barrell Conv: D Callaghan
 Wests 25

COLTS:

The Colts gathered for a home game at the Eagles nest, Nicholls oval. This match was vital to the Colts chances of making the finals, needing their fifth win in a row against second place Wests - the only Colts team they had not yet conquered this season. Each game from now has to be treated as a grand final. The weather was fine but the usual wind was blowing down the field. The Eagles ran with the wind in the first half so knew that they would have to establish a good lead before the second half change. The game began well with Eagles being awarded a penalty in the first few minutes and a successful kick by Sean Connochie meant the Eagles led 3 nil from early on. This was followed by a try scored by James Lovell, from an intercept where he outpaced the Wests' defenders. The try was converted by Sean and the Eagles lead went out to 10 nil.

The Eagles players continued the great form they have been developing over the past few weeks. Every player in the side responded to all the challenges put to them by Wests, which resulted in a further three tries being scored in the first half - two of them to Joey Walsh on the wing from good backline movements. Two of these tries were converted. The much needed bonus point had been gained, so the boys had only to retain their superiority in the second half to complete another magic Saturday.

The second half saw a dour struggle as Eagles ran into the wind but their defences held on, causing a lot of frustration to their opponents. This resulted in a loss of discipline by Wests resulting in two yellow cards being issued to their players. Wests tried to use the wind with some searching kicks but they were returned as Eagles ran the ball back at them. Wests were, however, able to run in two tries one of which was converted. The final score was 32-12 to Eagles. Such was the dominance of Eagles that the Wests' players seemed surprised that the score against them "was only" 32 points. Congratulations to all the Eagles players.

So on to next week at Viking Park to take on the Vikings Colts at their home ground in a vital game for both teams. The Vikings Colts are one point ahead of Eagles on the ladder and the winner will take the fourth place and will move into the finals. The losing side will have to watch from the sidelines for the rest of the season. Player points for the game proved very difficult to allocate as all players were deserving.

RESULT: Eagles 32
 Wests 12

POINTS: 3 - Brent Skaines 2 - Gregory James 1 - Joey Walsh

RESERVE GRADE

With five teams contesting second to fourth on the ladder, today's round of matches in the reserve grade competition was vital to the Eagles maintaining a place in the four. A win over visitors Wests would take the pressure off relying on other results.

The game started with the wind having an immediate impact, when Wests over cooked the kick off. This was to be about the only significant error by the visitors in a half of rugby that had them on the board after only four minutes and a bonus point fourth try by the fifteenth minute. To their credit the Eagles players worked hard to stem the flow of points and kept Wests out till the thirty minute mark. Some territorial gains were being made and the scrum was proving to be very competitive. Right on half time the first ray of hope for the Eagles' players came, after a passing exchange saw Wil Connors touch down for an unconverted try. Five tries and four conversions to one try was not a pretty score sheet. Half time Eagles 5 Wests 33.

The second half was going to require a mighty effort if the Eagles were going to chase down a twenty eight point deficit. The first sign that a come back was possible came when the Wests' defence was breached after five minutes with a converted try to Luke Maher. It was now a twenty one point wind with thirty minutes to go. However to be successful in chasing down a big lead you need to keep the opposition scoreless. This we failed to do. Wests ran in two more converted tries. A four try bonus point was all we could hope for on the day. Luke Maher struck again with another converted try but time was against us crossing for the fourth try.

RESULT: Eagles 19
 Wests 47

POINTS: 3 - Andrew Webber 2 - Wil Connors 1 - Matt Power

3RD GRADE - Eagles T3

This week the Eagles T3 were at Nicholls Oval for their final home game of the season against Wests. As I said last week after the Eagles T3 humiliating defeat by Easts (the last team on the points table who had their first win this year against the Eagles T3), that our last two games were against two of the top four teams on the competition ladder.

What a statement this turned out to be against third placed Wests. This game turned out to be like a game of touch footy, rather than a game of Rugby. Eagles T3 kicked off with Wests receiving the ball and attacked by throwing the ball around backing up to score and convert straight away. This procedure continued all throughout the first half, and Wests went to a 42-0 lead at half time.

The second half continued the same way as the first, with Wests cutting our defence to ribbons, taking out the game at 77-7. There was not much joy for the Eagles T3. When they looked like mounting a good attacking platform, the poor ball-control kicked in with the ball going to ground. At other times the ball was surrendered in the ruck and mauls, or penalties away providing Wests with three quarters of possession which they used to their advantage in attacking the Eagles try line. Eagles defence was terrible and led to a heavy points tally.

The only bright time for the Eagles T3 was when the forwards provided good lead up work for the backs to mount an attack on Wests. This resulted in a try to fullback Leigh Weston who chimed into the backline on the burst, broke through Wests' defence and with speed, outpaced the Wests cover defence to post our only try of the match.

This defeat was the highest for quite a number of seasons for the Eagles T3's, and with the coming week's game against the competition leaders Tuggeranong Vikings, I cannot think what is store for them. But here's hoping the T3's can put this defeat behind them and give the Vikings a run for their money.

RESULT: Eagles 7 Tries: Leigh Weston (1) Conv. Leigh Redmayne
 Wests 77

POINTS: 3 - Leigh Redmayne 2 - Andrew Cook 1 - David Bode

4TH GRADE - Eagles T4 – No report received

RESULT: Eagles 8
 Wests 21