



ROUND 5

Match Reports

13 June 2009

Eagles Vs Easts

At Nicholls



VALE PAT MATHEWS - *Queanbeyan Whites*

Pat Mathews passed away last Saturday 13 June after completing another game for Queanbeyan in the 600+ games that he had accumulated in over 37 years of senior rugby in ACT. 154 of Pat's games were in the top grade. Most people associated with ACT Rugby would have met, known or have certainly heard of Pat. This is not surprising as Pat had played all of his games in the front row. He joined the Whites in 1973 and never stopped playing.

Pat's funeral will be held this Friday 19 June at 1:30pm at St Mary's Catholic Church in Bungendore, 28 Turallo Tce. Following the service, the burial will be at the Bungendore Cemetery. The wake will be held at the Bowling Club, which is next door to St Mary's. All are welcome.

FIRST GRADE

Finally....Eagles posted their first win of the season?? or second win if you don't work for the Canberra Times, who consistently continue to forget about our outstanding 12 - 11 win over Queanbeyan in Round 2 in order to spice up their Rugby articles.

With Eagles needing a bonus point win to get their season back on track, and Easts strengthened by the return of both Vanderglas brothers looking to help their club to their first win of the season, it was always going to be a great game out at the Eagles' Nest. Both teams started the game well, and for the first 10 minutes there was not much between the sides.

Possession started favouring the Eagles after Ben "Big Red" McGee stole most of the Easts' lineouts and the Eagles' pack won nearly every tight-head scrum feed. Not long after, Eagles converted their possession into points after a great set piece move off a lineout saw Kurt "Wheels" Mulcahy dive over the line in the corner for the first try of the match and to take the lead 5 - 0. Eagles managed to continue dominating possession and after 3 penalties in East's 22 failed to see Eagles break East's defensive line, they opted for the 3 points to take an 8 - 0 lead. Eagles seemed to have the game under control, however they continued to find them selves in trouble after countless poor decisions coming off their own line which resulted in an East's field goal and an a try to level the score.

Eagles were not fussed by the score and Captain Derek "D-Train" Leffe took a quick tap 10m out and scored under the posts to regain the lead 15 - 8 just before halftime.

Second half started and Eagles were out to claim the game. Some more great scrum and lineout work from the pigs saw the Eagles dominated the possession again and this time with the wind behind their backs, the game was played in the East's half for most of the half. East's manage to defend up well, but couldn't stop Jimmy "JC" Campbell from crossing the line after a great pick and drive of the back of a few phases. Conversion successful and the lead went out to 22 - 8. However, another fumble at the back saw East's strike back quickly with a try under the posts, and with a plenty goal shortly after, the lead reduced to 22-18.

Eagles continued to plug the ball into the corners and backed their lineout to come up with the steal. Pressure amounted and East's pushed back until a chip and chase from Anthony "Shrimpa" Dawes was regathered and he crossed the line from Danny "Bucket" Callahan to convert. Eagles weren't happy with the score 29 - 18 and romped in another try to Andrew "Bazza" Barrell who charged over his winger to score in the corner and another to Wheels who showed great pace to burn around his winger to end the game 44 - 18.

All in all a great performance from the Eagles and a much needed bonus point win to keep them on the heels of West's and Queanbeyan who are Tied for 3rd spot.

And from the Coach...

First grade scored 5 tries in their 44 -18 victory. Last minute reshuffles due to injuries and illness meant that the Eagles ran out to face Easts with no pre-game preparation and with some untried combinations - Herbert & King in the centres, 9-10 combination of Dawes & Connochie in the halves & and an untried back three unit of Callaghan, Barrell and Mulcahy. The Eagles put these disruptions aside to play some attacking rugby and score some wonderful tries. Barrell, Mulcahy & Dawes scored tries and were the benefactors of the dominant performance their forward pack provided. Kurt Mulcahy played his best game to date and is developing into a class finisher. The front row of Leefe, Hogan & Campbell were present in the forward exchanges, carrying the ball aggressively into contact and physically strong defensively around the break down. Good victory against a much improved Easts now at full strength.

RESULT: Eagles 42 Tries - 2 K Mulchay, 1 D Leffe, 1 J Campbell, 1 A Dawes, 1 A Barrell
Conv - 3 A Dawes, 1 D Callahan, Pen - 2 A Dawes

Easts 18

POINTS: 3 - Matt Hogan 2 - Derek Leefe 1 - Jimmy Campbell.

COLTS - No game this week

RESERVE GRADE

A return to Nicholls for the first time since Round One was met with the usual chilly conditions. The other constant appears to be the pre-match team changes. Again players displayed great club spirit by running on after playing third grade. A big thank to Luke McGrath and Matt Power.

The match opened with no indication of the pre-match disruptions when Brad Exton skirted the right hand touch for our first try with only two minutes on the clock. Constant pressure was applied in Easts' territory with no impact on the score sheet. A neatly potted Daniel Mannix field goal was the only reward for our efforts over the next 15 minutes.

Easts made a number of raids into our territory during the first half with a converted try being their points for the half and as it turned out, for the match. James Lovell added to our score sheet with a try in the left corner. With both our conversion attempts unsuccessful the half time score was Eagles 13 Easts 7.

With Easts still very much in the match the second half started in similar fashion to the first with a try to Luke McGrath in the opening minutes. The next twenty-five minutes of play was a contest for territory and possession with no score from either side. Having already scored a field goal and conversion, Daniel Mannix collected the trifecta with a try shortly before full time. Dan converted his try to bring up the closing score line of Eagles 27 Easts 7.

RESULT: Eagles 27 Tries - Brad Exton, James Lovell, Luke McGrath, Daniel Mannix. 2G, 1FG - Mannix
Easts 7

POINTS: 3 - Brendon Pye 2 - James Lovell 1 - Wil Connors

3RD GRADE - Eagles T3

This week the Eagles T3 were at our home ground Nicholls Oval for their game against Easts, and with some player replacements, player availability, injuries and grade movements, it would be prove to be an interesting game.

With the wind in the first half giving Easts an advantage, the Eagles took the ball well into their territory. It was not long before they put points on the board with good work by the forwards. After the good lead up work by the forwards, fly-half Tim Deacon took the ball and weaved his way through the Easts' defence to place the ball over the line. Deaks got a roar from the crowd with his fancy footwork in getting to the line, and with Leigh Redmayne converting, the Eagles went to a 7-0 early lead.

However Easts hit back with some good go-forward by their pack and scored from some poor Eagles defence. The Eagles hit back shortly after and with some good attacking play by both the forwards and backs. They were able to get into the Easts' red zone, with fullback Justin Corkran taking the final pass to score. With the conversion successful, the Eagles went to the break leading 12-5.

In the second half the Eagles got straight back to business and showed what they were capable of with some good attacking play from the forwards and backs. They then began to cut the Easts' defence to pieces by scoring a further four tries. With good lead up work, the Eagles took the ball well into Easts' red zone. With continued good work by the forwards, the old workhorse and Captain, Leigh Hancock, crashed through the Easts' solid defence to score. He was unlucky not to score again from a quick tap by Deaks. Leigh burst onto the ball only to be pulled down inches from the line. The other tries were scored by Peter Judge, who deserved one from his solid play, and fullback Juddy who was able to take the final pass from some good attacking play on two occasions to score. Redders also added three conversions, two of which were outstanding after the ball fell of the kicking tee, Redders just picked up the ball and potted it over from two great drop kicks.

The final score of 38-17 did not indicate the performance by the Eagles T3, as Easts were awarded a penalty try from a silly indiscretion, and after my clock sounded the ball was still in play and the ensuing clearing kick did not find the line, with Easts gaining possession they ran the ball wide and scored.

All in all a very promising performance by all team player, although our ball retention still caused problems, from good attacking play the final pass went to ground with the try line wide open, perhaps the players tend to rush their play. However it was a good all round effort by all players with a very satisfying result, so well done boys you really showed what you are all capable of. Thanks also to those T4 players who stood by as reserves and who were called upon to make replacements by the coach during the game.

RESULT: Eagles 38 Tries Corkran -3, Hancock, Judge, Deacon. 4 conv - Redmayne
Easts 17 3 tries 1 conversion

POINTS: 3 - Redmayne 2 - Judge 1 - Deacon

4TH GRADE - Eagles T4 - No report

RESULT: Eagles 25
Easts 29