



ROUND 7

Match Reports

4 July 2009

Eagles Vs Vikings

At Nicholls



As most of you are aware it takes a considerable amount of money to run a rugby club. Players' fees are one of the most important means of keeping a club financial.

If you have not yet paid your PLAYER REGISTRATION please do so ASAP. Contact Luke McGrath.

COMING EVENTS

- Saturday 11 July Eagles vs UNI-NORTHS at ANU
- Saturday 18 July **LADIES DAY Champagne and Snacks provided** Home Game vs QBN
- Saturday 25 July Bye
- Saturday 1 August **25th Anniversary of 1sts & 2nds Premiership wins.** Home Game Vs ROYALS
Lunch and drinks provided for the 1984 team members
RED and BLACK BALL-West Belconnen Leagues Club. Get a table organised NOW!

RSVP: 23 July 2009 Cath - 0439 362 589 or content@eaglesrugby.com.au
Pay via Internet/Bank - GERUC BSB: 112-908 A/c No. 455 221 0

FIRST GRADE

The weather this year has held off and has been quite good with clear sunny days and reasonable viewing temperatures. However, winter finally set in this week and after raining during the week, players ran out on Nicholls oval to find little grass, a lot of mud, and gale force winds. The winter though, didn't turn off the supporters, who braved the conditions and were rewarded with a great game of rugby which went down to the final whistle.

Eagles kicked off running against the wind and immediately the two teams entered into a wrestle with both teams make inroads in both attack and defence. It wasn't long until the forwards realised that scrums and lineouts were going to be a challenge, with most scrums being moved to better ground, and the wind making it extremely hard to hit the mark in the lineouts. But both teams persisted and after around 15 minutes Vikings were the first to score after a good counter attack off an Eagles kick. Vikings were unsuccessful with the conversion and but took the lead 5-0.

The game went back into a wrestle again, and we saw much of the same action, dropped balls from both teams, dominant scrums from the Eagles who stole around 4 tight heads throughout the match, and many 2 ball lineouts to negate the wind. Vikings managed to come out on top again and score another unconverted try to extend their lead 10-0.

Eagles regained the ball off the kick off and started to apply some of their own pressure in the Vikings 22. Forwards pick and drove their way closer to the line with Iveni and Hoags leading the way. However, the Vikings defence was too strong and Eagles opted to take the 3 points before half time to go to the break down 10-3.

2nd half and the Eagles had the wind behind their backs and went on the attack straight away. Plugged down in the Vikings 22, Eagles were given another penalty right in front to reduce Vikings lead to 10-6. The game then went back into a wrestle, with Vikings continually grubbering the ball out off the back of their scrums and the Eagles continually breaking the Vikings backline defence with strong runs from Tevita and Hawkie.

After some poor defence from the Eagles on their line, the Vikings were able to pick and drive their way over the line to get the first points in the 2nd half and extend their lead to 17-6.

About 30 minutes into the 2nd half when Eagles scored from half way after a pass from Dawes was blown forward by the wind (went back to start with) and which Hawkie pounced on and ran down the middle of the field. With the Viking defence running Hawkie down, he put in a well weighted grubber for Flyer Kurt who easily won the race to the ball to get the 5 points. Dawes converted and the score went to 17-13.

The last 10 minutes had Vikings playing safe and kicked the ball out to chew up the clock. A few calls from the ref went against the Eagles when they were in great attacking position and a few drop balls hurt them. Eagles were unable to score in the end but managed a bonus point going down 17-13.

RESULT: Eagles 13 Tries: K Mulcahy Conv: 1 - A Dawes Pen: 2 - A Dawes
Vikings 17

POINTS: 3 - A Dawes 2 - M Hogan 1 - Iveni Tuitupou

COLTS

Saturday presented a cold and windy day at our home ground at Nicholls - just the day to greet the Vikings Colts. The Eagles boys kicked off at 12.20 into the strong breeze and were immediately on the defence as Vikings came at them hard. This brief action resulted in a converted try to Vikings, not the start we wanted. The home side was stung into action as play recommenced and drove into the Vikings danger zone. Our scrum began to dominate theirs in the 5 metre zone including winning tight heads. There were many attacking runs at the line and only a wet muddy ball stalled the Eagles' boys from putting points on the board. Eventually the pressure was too much for the Vikings and James Lovell put the ball over to complete a great team try. The wind made for a difficult conversion attempt that was not successful so the score remained 7-5 to Vikings. The game continued with great intensity for the rest of the half without further score from either side. At half time it was clear that the Vikings' boys knew that they were in trouble as they moved off with heads down whilst the Eagles' boys had heads high as they turned to run with the wind in the second half.

They were soon rewarded for their pressure applied to the opposition, being awarded a penalty which was successfully taken. The score was then 8-7 to Eagles. The game continued with great enthusiasm by the Eagles but against the run of play, Vikings were given a penalty which was successful bringing the score to 10-8 to the Vikings. The home supporters were not too concerned as it seemed only a matter of time before the Eagles put some more points on the board. The boys threw everything at the Vikings. The pressure was maintained resulting in a penalty being given to the home team in kickable distance right on full time. The wind made it no sure thing. With a kicker's dream opportunity, the ball was put over and Eagles won 11-10. A great and thrilling finish to a game where the Eagles' players were rewarded for the great determination they had applied. The coaching staff were unable to single out individual players in a game which was a true team effort. Three points were awarded to all members. On to the next game where, with our new spirit we take on Uni/North's at their home ground. Uni/Norths lead the points table in this grade as an unbeaten side.

RESULT: Eagles 11
Vikings 10

POINTS: 3 - Xavier Duffy 2 - James Gregory 1 - Daniel Mannix

RESERVE GRADE

A windy, cold and boggy Nicholls Oval greeted all on Saturday for the final match of the first round against Vikings. As usual, disruptions to team lists, resulted in two players doubling up from Colts. However, Xavier Duffy and Kai Leonard were probably still pumped enough from the exciting win in Colts to go around again. Thanks boys, great club spirit! Liam McGrath replaced Kai in the later stages to add to his first cap in Colts.

Lady luck was on our side at the toss of the coin, as running into the wind was our preferred option in the first half. Considering the conditions, the opening stages of the game displayed good controlled rugby. As the fight for ball and territory dominated the early part of the game, it was apparent the Eagles' Reserve Grade was here to play. Phases of controlled play, strong set pieces and well organised defence were evident from the whistle.

It was all of the above factors that led to the opening try to Justin Corkran. Daniel Callaghan was successful with the conversion. Daniel's kicking in general play was instrumental in keeping Vikings in their territory for long periods, even though they had the wind at their backs. Vikings countered with an unconverted try. Again Eagles made good use of the slippery pill and were rewarded with a converted try to Xavier Duffy after forcing their way into Tuggeranong's quarter.

The second half was about Eagles using the wind to their advantage. However, Vikings still managed to take us back into our half to add two more tries and a conversion to hold a 17-14 lead. Possession and field position did come our way but only to be rewarded with a successful penalty to Daniel.

RESULT: Eagles 17
Vikings 17

POINTS: 3 - Xavier Duffy 2 - Josh Shea 1 - Brendon Pye

3RD GRADE - Eagles T3

This week the Eagles T3 were back at home ground Nicholls Oval for their match against the undefeated competition leaders Tuggeranong Vikings, which was the final match for Round 1. This match was a back to back match where the Eagles T3 were unable to put points on the board, and again finished with a zero score. Things have been difficult this season for T3 with injuries and unavailability of players in higher grades. This necessitates the movement of players to higher grades to fill the vacancies, which in turn results in the Eagles T3 not being able to field the same team each week. Also the wet weather we have experienced this year has not helped with the players attending training.

Having said that, I must point out that every player who has taken the field for the Eagles T3 so far this season, has given their all, and they certainly try hard, which makes their opponent's have to work hard to get a win. This was evident in this week's match as the Eagles T3 went close on a number of occasions to score. It was only the final pass that went to ground or turned over with aggressive work by the Vikings in the rucks. At times the try line so close, but at the end of the first half, the Vikings went to the break leading 14-0.

In the second half the Vikings had a strong wind behind them which they used to their advantage with kicks giving them good field possession. However, the Eagles T3 kept up their intensity with hard work but was unable again to score. Although they kept the pressure up on the Vikings, they were unable to find any success in crossing their line.

In all, it showed why the Vikings are on top of the competition. They must train and play with much the same team each week, which was evident from the match results. However, credit must go to all those Eagles players who took part in this match, as they kept at it, tried hard and never gave up regardless of the score. Well done boys! You certainly showed the great fighting spirit, which seems to run right through this club, and you deserve to be congratulated by all our supporters for your efforts this week.

RESULT: Eagles 0
Vikings 33 (5 tries, 4 conversions)

POINTS: 3 - John Power 2 - Liam Smyth 1 - Mitch Ryan

4TH GRADE - Eagles T4

Well what can be said that could do justice to the way Gungahlin T4 played against Tuggeranong on Saturday...The first half was a torrid affair with the Eagles running into the notorious Nicholls wind...Tuggeranong took an early lead, opting for a penalty goal due to the defensive effort of a dedicated Eagles team. Johnno Osbourne was inspirational at the back saving at least 3-4 tries, holding up players for his team mates to get around. Gungahlin forwards then started to get on a roll believing in each other and getting to isolated players and making it very difficult for Tuggeranong to secure their own ball.

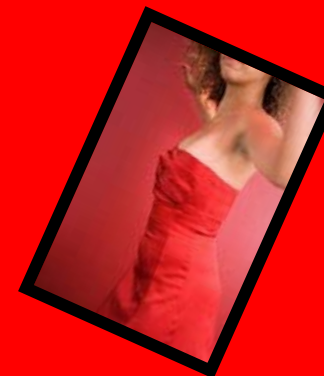
The Eagles scored a very well constructed try out wide allowing us to go to the break ahead 5-3.

The second half was all about controlling the tempo and putting the ball in the corner. Matt Cousins was outstanding delivering this game plan. A big welcome back to Ryan O'Hagan who was devastating at outside centre and Pete "Hoppy" Hopman was dazzling with the ball in hand. Young Colt Ben played a smart game and was making sniping runs and T4 had all the confidence to close this game out. We scored further points all on the back of solid forward pack. Chris Curran, Matty Holden and Luke Wild formed a dominant front row and took three tight heads. Joe Baird was partnered with Pots, Josh Grant and Grant Myburgh and the back three of Nick Edwards, Pete Masterman and Sam Wellings-Booth all had huge games tackling ferociously and disrupting any go forward from the Vikings.

T4 won this game 22-8. It is the best performance from a Gungahlin fourth grade team in many years. All we ask now is for all fourth grade players make a commitment to each other and the club - Get to training and see out the second half of the season as fierce competitors as you all showed you are on Saturday....GO YOU EAGLES...!!!!

RESULT: Eagles 22
Vikings 8

POINTS: 3 - Sam Wellings-Booth 2 - Ben Dencio 1 - Nick Edwards



Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Union Club

Red & Black Ball

Saturday 1 August 2009

7:30pm

West Belconnen Leagues Club

Hardwick Cres Holt

Dinner ~ Drinks ~ Dancing

\$100 per person

Pay via Internet

Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Union Club

BSB: 112-908 A/c No. 455 221 088

RSVP: 23 July 2009

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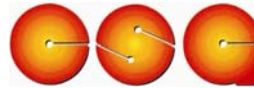
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